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Studies on Intermolecular Complex Formation. III. Crystal Structure of Thymine-*N,N*-Diethylmelamine Complex Monohydrate

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The crystal and molecular structure of the thymine-*N,N*-diethylmelamine complex monohydrate has been solved by means of the direct method. The crystals are monoclinic, with the space group of $P2_1/c$ and with $a=7.167$, $b=16.123$, $c=13.179$ Å, and $\beta=104.2^\circ$. The final R -factor for 1612 reflections is 0.087. These two components are hydrogen-bonded by a $\text{NH}\cdots\text{N}$ and two $\text{NH}\cdots\text{O}$ bonds with distances of 2.881, 2.821, and 3.006 Å. The complex formation ability for thymine and uracil has also been tested for some other organic compounds with amino and nitrogen heterocycles.

Intermolecular interactions in crystalline fields have recently come into focus after Hoogsteen displayed some model complexes of DNA.¹⁾ The pairing mechanism has been interpreted as being due to special features in the purine and pyrimidine structures, in which the atoms in these molecules are arranged in appropriate combinations of so-called "complementary hydrogen bond."²⁻¹⁸⁾ Such arrangements would have a bearing on the biological duplication mechanism. Subsequently, we have been trying to determine some role for the intermolecular complex formation between nucleotide bases and organic compounds.^{19,20)} It has been found that cytosine and adenine exhibit a rather strong affinity for many organic compounds, while

thymine and/or uracil are less reactive and bind only with a few organic compounds that have a —C=N—C=N— $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{NH}_2 & \text{NH}_2 \\ | & | \end{smallmatrix}$

grouping or a few other basic groups. In this paper we wish to describe the crystal structure of the thymine-*N,N*-diethylmelamine monohydrate complex and the general ability of complex formation in some organic compounds that can produce a complex with thymine and/or uracil. The biological importance of the melamine molecule and its derivatives has already been discussed in several places.^{21,22)} These studies may make it possible to project an illustrative intermolecular spatial system.

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

[illegible]

Experimental

Equivalent moles of nucleotide bases and some nitrogen heterocycles were dissolved in hot 70% aqueous ethanol, and then allowed to stand for several days in a refrigerator. The X-ray diffraction of the materials obtained and of each component were measured up to $2\theta=50^\circ$ (Cu K α) with a Rigaku model D6C diffractometer.

The single crystals of thymine-*N,N*-diethylmelamine thus obtained, which were suitable for X-ray analysis, were used for the intensity measurements. A crystal measuring $0.5 \times 0.3 \times 0.2$ mm was chosen for recording the crystal data and the intensities. Preliminary Weissenberg photographs showed that the crystals belong to the monoclinic system, with the space group of $P2_1/c$. The lattice parameters from the diffractometer are: $a=7.167(9)$, $b=16.123(18)$, $c=13.179(15)$ Å, $\beta=104.2(1)^\circ$, $D_{\text{obsd}}=1.39$, and $D_{\text{calcd}}=1.44$ g/cm 3 . The three-dimensional intensities were collected on a Rigaku Denki four-circle automatic diffractometer with a FACOM-R computer system up to a 2θ limit of 60° using Mo K α radiation and the $2\theta/\theta$ scan mode at a scan speed of 2° min $^{-1}$. A crystal was mounted along the a -axis, and a total of 1612 independent reflections were collected. Three standard reflections were used to monitor the crystal stability during the measurement. The data were corrected for the usual Lorentz and polarization factors, but no corrections were made for absorption.

Structure Analysis and Refinement

The reiterative application of Sayre's equation²³⁾ was used to determine the phases of 270 reflections having $E \geq 1.50$. Three reflections (1,2,-3; 1,3,-3; 3,14,0) were chosen for specifying the origin, and three other reflections (0,0,16; 0,0,3; 5,5,6), were denoted by the symbols A, B and C respectively. The B and C symbols were uniquely determined to be $-A$ and A respectively by subsequent calculations. Then the structure was satisfactorily solved by an interpretation of the E -map based on these phases. The atomic parameters were refined by the method of least-squares, using the block-diagonal least-squares program. When the R -factor was reduced to 0.18, the difference synthesis was calculated in order to determine the positions of the hydrogen atoms; the six atoms attached to C(11) and C(13) were vague because of disorder. The final R -factor reached was 0.087 for the structure factors listed in Table 1. The atomic parameters are given in Tables 2, 3 (a), and 3 (b).

TABLE 2. FRACTIONAL ATOMIC COORDINATES IN THYMINE—*N,N*-DIETHYLMELAMINE COMPLEX MONOHYDRATE

Atom	x/a	y/b	z/c
N (1)	0.2413	0.9612	0.1210
C (2)	0.2674	0.8827	0.2221
N (3)	0.3082	0.7341	0.2485
C (4)	0.3255	0.6529	0.1588
N (5)	0.3004	0.7143	0.0527
C (6)	0.2607	0.8669	0.0402
N (7)	0.2361	0.9381	-0.0659
N (8)	0.2501	0.9688	0.3085
N (9)	0.3911	0.9615	0.6868
C (10)	0.4744	1.0368	0.8682
C (11)	0.3855	1.0960	0.7857
C (12)	0.4360	1.0545	0.5953
C (13)	0.3631	1.1886	0.5557
N (14)	0.0926	0.9770	0.4310
C (15)	0.1288	1.1377	0.4535
N (16)	0.1573	1.1997	0.5644
C (17)	0.1503	1.0989	0.6507
C (18)	0.1151	0.9334	0.6321
C (19)	0.0864	0.8757	0.5175
O (20)	0.0483	0.7180	0.4931
O (21)	0.1365	1.2362	0.3774
W	0.0098	0.9488	0.1899
H (7A)	0.204	0.552	0.771
H (7B)	0.274	0.602	0.887
H (8A)	0.216	0.445	0.427
H (8B)	0.246	0.620	0.376
H (16)	0.191	0.313	0.594
H (17)	0.173	0.164	0.714
H (18)	0.120	0.416	0.717
H (20A)	0.021	0.675	0.411
H (20B)	0.055	0.628	0.581

Results and Discussion

Intermolecular Interactions and Hydrogen-bond Systems.

The cytosine and adenine molecules have a strong tendency to bind with acidic organic compounds, especially with molecules containing a carboxylic acid moiety. However, few organic compounds can bind with thymine or uracil under these experimental conditions. In such circumstances, we have tried to un-

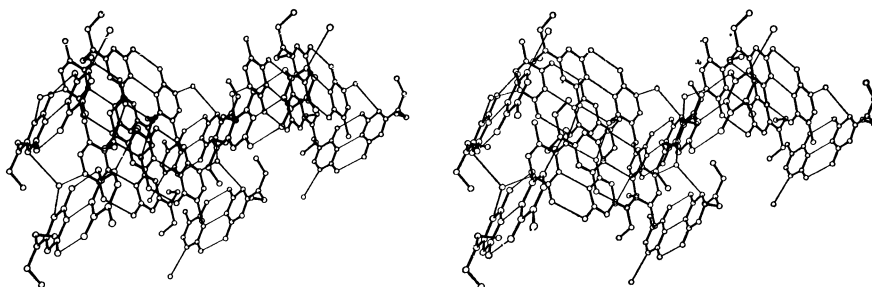


Fig. 1. Stereoscopic view of the packing and hydrogen bonding. Molecular bonds are drawn thick and hydrogen bonds thin.

TABLE 3(a). ANISOTROPIC THERMAL PARAMETERS IN THYMINES-*N,N*-DIETHYLMELAMINE
COMPLEX MONOHYDRATE

The thermal parameters are given in the form

$T = \exp[-(B_{11}h^2 + B_{22}k^2 + B_{33}l^2 + 2B_{12}hk + 2B_{13}hl + 2B_{23}kl)].$

Atom	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{12}	B_{13}	B_{23}
N (1)	0.00356	0.01109	0.00485	0.00081	0.00162	0.00021
C (2)	0.00326	0.01237	0.00448	-0.00025	0.00158	0.00043
N (3)	0.00335	0.01149	0.00435	0.00062	0.00155	0.00012
C (4)	0.00318	0.01402	0.00542	0.00077	0.00163	0.00013
N (5)	0.00353	0.01401	0.00439	0.00107	0.00133	-0.00108
C (6)	0.00277	0.01152	0.00450	0.00071	0.00097	0.00034
N (7)	0.00487	0.01332	0.00473	0.00112	0.00231	-0.00020
N (8)	0.00422	0.01475	0.00501	0.00021	0.00209	0.00069
N (9)	0.00649	0.02709	0.00912	-0.00394	0.00313	-0.00202
C (10)	0.00670	0.02456	0.01369	0.00013	0.00180	0.00063
C (11)	0.00672	0.02299	0.00962	-0.00329	0.00235	-0.00127
C (12)	0.01205	0.02420	0.01401	-0.00234	0.00253	-0.00085
C (13)	0.00601	0.04780	0.01340	-0.00072	0.00244	-0.00559
N (14)	0.00249	0.00944	0.00383	-0.00026	0.00119	-0.00029
C (15)	0.00224	0.00996	0.00345	0.00043	0.00101	-0.00010
N (16)	0.00336	0.01152	0.00377	-0.00002	0.00148	-0.00041
C (17)	0.00283	0.01233	0.00347	0.00044	0.00086	-0.00025
C (18)	0.00270	0.01055	0.00384	-0.00035	0.00137	0.00058
C (19)	0.00252	0.01150	0.00360	-0.00005	0.00109	-0.00000
O (20)	0.00423	0.01532	0.00652	0.00088	0.00159	-0.00058
O (21)	0.00338	0.01293	0.00436	-0.00077	0.00133	0.00058
W	0.00362	0.01530	0.00420	-0.00008	0.00076	-0.00032

TABLE 3(b). ISOTROPIC THERMAL PARAMETERS OF SOME HYDROGEN IN THYMINES-*N,N*-DIETHYLMELAMINE
COMPLEX MONOHYDRATE

Atom	B_{iso}	Atom	B_{iso}	Atom	B_{iso}
H (7A)	5.64	H (8B)	3.99	H (18)	9.06
H (7B)	4.57	H (16)	2.36	H (20A)	4.76
H (8A)	4.20	H (17)	1.12	H (20B)	5.30

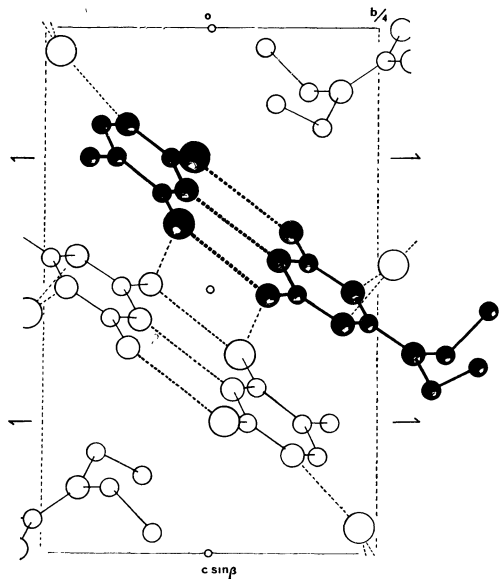


Fig. 2. Molecular packing and hydrogen bonding in thymine-*N,N*-diethylmelamine complex monohydrate.

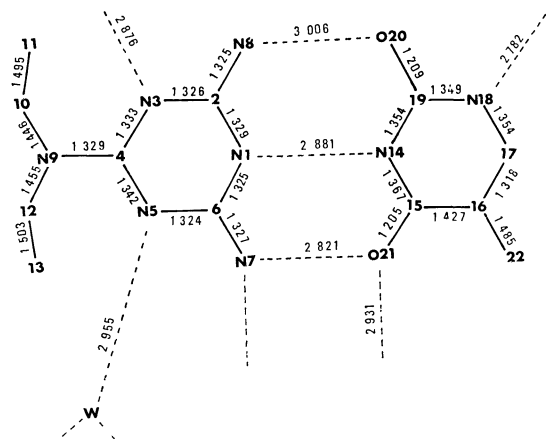


Fig. 3(a). Interatomic distances in thymine-*N,N*-diethylmelamine complex monohydrate.

TABLE 4. INTERMOLECULAR COMPLEX FORMATION BETWEEN SOME NITROGEN HETEROCYCLES AND NUCLEOTIDE BASES

		A	C	T	U			A	C	T	U
	2,6-diamino-pyridine	—	—	—	—		3-amino-1,2,4-triazine	—	—	—	—
	3,4-diamino-pyridine	—	—	—	—		5-amino-tetrazole	—	—	—	—
	2-amino-3-hydroxy pyridine	—	—	—	—		3-amino-1,2,4-triazole	—	—	—	—
	isocytosine	+	?	—	—		3-amino-5-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole	—	—	—	—
	2,4-diamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine	—	+	+	+		6-aminoindazole	—	—	—	—
	6-azauracil	+	—	—	—		5-aminoindole	—	—	—	—
	aminopyrazine	—	—	—	—		5,6-diamino-indazole	—	—	—	—
	4,5-diamino-pyrimidine	—	—	—	—		4-hydroxy pyrazolo-[3,4d]pyrimidine	+	—	—	—
	4-chloro-2,6-diaminopyrimidine	—	—	+	+		4-aminopyrimido [4,5d]pyrimidine	—	—	—	—
	cyanuric chloride	+	+	—	—		2-amino-6,7-dimethyl-4-hydroxypteridine	—	—	—	—
	2,4-diamino-6-phenyl-5-triazine	+	+	—	+		4-amino-6-mercapto pyrazolo[3,4d]-pyrimidine	—	—	—	—
	2,4,6-triamino N,N-diethyl-1,3,5-triazine	+	+	+	+						

cover some specific atomic arrangement or any molecule that can associate with thymine or uracil by means of hydrogen bonding. Table 4 shows the materials tested in this experiment. Some molecules with a number of exocyclic amino groups in combination with endocyclic $\text{N}=\text{N}$ parts, especially in an arrangement which corresponds to a $\text{NH}_2\text{N}=\text{N}$ group, were found to



be able to associate with these molecules. Therefore, combining this finding with the results for cytosine and

adenine, it can be said that at least a partially molecular basicity or acidity plays an important role in binding the two components, presumably a so-called acid-and-base interaction. From this point of view, adenine, cytosine, thymine, and uracil can be classified into two groups; cytosine and adenine act as basic nucleotide bases which can bind with acidic components, such as carboxylic acids, while the other two are acidic nucleotide bases which can bind with basic components, such as melamine. However, the binding force is sometimes seriously affected by some other molecular

Table 5. The molecular complexes of similar hydrogen-bonding arrangements have been reported by Sobell *et al.*¹⁴⁾ and Rich *et al.*¹⁸⁾ These facts suggest that an atomic arrangement such as that in I(A) is one of the fundamental combination schemes for binding among molecules. The paired-molecular complex formed in this manner is connected by the remaining

TABLE 7. INTERATOMIC BOND DISTANCES AND ANGLES IN THYMINE-*N,N*-DIETHYLMELAMINE MONOHYDRATE

COMPLEX			
N (1)-C (2)	1.329 Å	C (2)-N (1)-C (6)	114.1°
N (1)-C (6)	1.325	N (3)-C (2)-N (8)	116.7
C (2)-N (3)	1.326	N (1)-C (2)-N (3)	126.2
C (2)-N (8)	1.325	N (1)-C (2)-N (8)	117.0
N (3)-C (4)	1.333	C (2)-N (3)-C (4)	114.3
C (4)-N (5)	1.342	N (3)-C (4)-N (5)	124.7
C (4)-N (9)	1.329	N (3)-C (4)-N (9)	118.2
N (5)-C (6)	1.324	N (5)-C (4)-N (9)	117.1
C (6)-N (7)	1.327	C (4)-N (5)-C (6)	114.7
N (9)-C (10)	1.446	N (1)-C (6)-N (5)	125.7
N (9)-C (12)	1.455	N (5)-C (6)-N (7)	117.2
C (10)-C (11)	1.495	N (1)-C (6)-N (7)	117.0
C (12)-C (13)	1.503	C (4)-N (9)-N (10)	121.9
N (14)-C (15)	1.367	C (4)-N (9)-C (12)	120.4
N (14)-C (19)	1.355	C (10)-N (9)-C (12)	117.7
C (15)-C (16)	1.427	N (9)-C (10)-C (11)	114.7
C (16)-C (17)	1.318	N (9)-C (12)-C (13)	112.9
C (17)-N (18)	1.354	C (15)-N (14)-C (19)	126.5
N (18)-C (19)	1.349	N (14)-C (15)-C (16)	116.1
C (19)-O (20)	1.209	C (16)-C (15)-C (21)	123.9
C (16)-O (22)	1.485	N (14)-C (15)-C (21)	120.0
C (15)-C (21)	1.205	C (15)-C (16)-C (17)	117.4
		C (17)-C (16)-C (21)	124.5
		C (15)-C (16)-C (21)	118.2
		C (16)-C (17)-N (18)	123.2
		C (17)-N (18)-C (19)	122.8
		N (14)-C (19)-N (18)	114.0
		N (18)-C (19)-O (20)	123.8
		N (14)-C (19)-O (20)	122.2

NH...O hydrogen bond at a distance of 2.931 Å, and such units are stacked in such a way that they are parallel to the alternate (0, 1, 1, and 0, 1, -1) crystallographic planes. One water molecule is associated by means of hydrogen bonds between these triazine-ring systems in the direction of the *a*-axis. The component molecules are almost coplanar, and the dihedral angle of both least-squares planes is 4.9°. Parallel sheets of the component molecules are separated from each other at an average spacing of 3.35 Å, since the maximum deviation between the atoms in some charge-transfer complexes is 3.26 Å.²⁴ Therefore, for the complex formation of this series, in some way the molecular stacking or van der Waals forces are second-order in importance. Sakurai *et al.*^{25,26} reported some charge-transfer complexes between the molecules of thymine and quinone, which would imply that stacking forces between these hygroscopic moieties play an important role in the complex formation.

In the three-hydrogen-bond system the distances of the two bondings on the outside differ by about 0.2 Å

TABLE 8. DEVIATIONS OF THE ATOMS FROM THE LEAST-SQUARES PLANES (Å)

<i>N,N</i> -Diethylmelamine		Thymine	
N (1)	-0.004	N (14)	-0.0141
C (2)	0.004	C (15)	-0.002
N (3)	-0.016	C (16)	-0.004
C (4)	0.000	C (17)	-0.012
N (5)	0.033	N (18)	-0.014
C (6)	-0.004	C (19)	0.003
N (8)	-0.009	O (20)	0.010
N (9)	-0.008	C (21)	0.024

even though *N,N*-diethylmelamine is a fairly symmetric molecule. It is hard to explain why hydrogen bonding between the atoms N(8) and O(20) is weak in such symmetrical three-hydrogen bonds. The other intermolecular atomic distances are shown in Table 6.

Description of the Molecular Structure. The intramolecular atomic bond lengths and angles are shown in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) and in Table 7. As was discussed earlier, the existence of a hydrogen atom attached to nitrogen may be indicated by its bond angle, in the manner of Singh;²⁷ the usual -NH- angle is 125°, while for -N= it is 116°. In this complex both components agree well with this hypothesis, since the mean C-N-C bond angle of melamine is 114.4° and that of thymine is 124.7°. The difference synthesis at the *R*-factor, 0.14, indicated that there are no protons around the triazine nitrogen hetero-atoms, while there are two protons attached to N(14) and N(18) in the thymine molecule. The bond lengths of the endocyclic part of thymine differ significantly from those found in the literature; *i.e.* the C=O distances of 1.209 and 1.205 Å are slightly shorter than those found in thymine monohydrate²⁸ (1.234 and 1.231), methylthymine²⁹ (1.237 and 1.214 Å) and uracil (1.230 and 1.241 Å). The mean bond length of all the N-C distances in *N,N*-diethylmelamine is 1.330 Å, and that in thymine is 1.356 Å. These values are slightly shorter than the expected values between 1.37 and 1.38 Å observed for uracil,³⁰ thymine monohydrate,²⁸ barbiturate derivatives,^{31,32} but they are compatible with those in melamine³³ and purine,³⁴ with values from 1.34 to 1.35 Å. The deviations of atoms from each molecular plane are listed in Table 8.

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