

## 125-Tellurium and 77-Selenium Multinuclear Magnetic Resonance Studies of $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ , $\text{Te}_{4..n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$ , $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , and $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}$ Polyatomic Cations

By GARY J. SCHROBILGEN\*

(Chemistry Department, Guelph University, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1, Canada)

ROBERT C. BURNS

(Chemistry Department, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4M1, Canada)

and PIERRE GRANGER

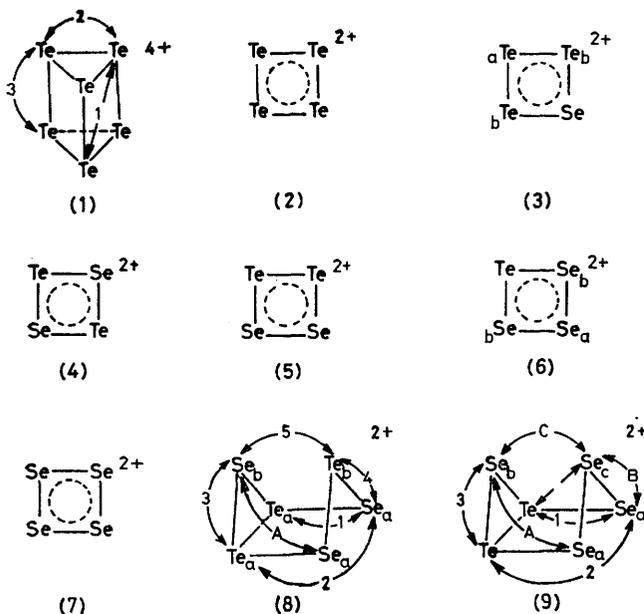
(Département de Chimie, I.U.T. de Rouen, 76130 Mont-Saint-Aignan, France)

*Summary* High-resolution  $^{125}\text{Te}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  Fourier transform n.m.r. spectroscopy has been used to characterize the previously known  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$  cations for the first time and several new mixed species in the  $+1/2$  ( $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}^{2+}$ , *cis*- and *trans*- $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_2^{2+}$ , and  $\text{TeSe}_3^{2+}$ ) and

$+1/3$  ( $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}$ ) oxidation states; the  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{123}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$ , and  $^{77}\text{Se}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$  spin-spin couplings have been observed in both natural abundance and 94.4%  $^{77}\text{Se}$  enriched preparations and used to assign the structures.

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It has been known for some time that selenium and tellurium will dissolve in oleums to give yellow-green and red-violet solutions, respectively.<sup>1,2</sup> It is difficult to isolate solids from oleum solutions, but selective oxidation of the elements with  $\text{AsF}_5$ ,  $\text{SbF}_5$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_6\text{F}_2$ , or with the halide of the element in molten  $\text{NaAlCl}_4$  has allowed the isolation of salts of the polyatomic cations  $\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Se}_3^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_3^{2+}$  and determination of their structures by X-ray crystallography.<sup>3-6</sup>



Both selenium and tellurium possess naturally abundant spin 1/2 isotopes,  $^{77}\text{Se}$  (7.50%),  $^{125}\text{Te}$  (7.03%), and  $^{123}\text{Te}$  (0.89%). In the present study, we have undertaken the characterization of the previously known cations  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$  by means of  $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{125}\text{Te}$  Fourier transform n.m.r. spectroscopy and investigation of the existence of hitherto unreported mixed tellurium-selenium species in the +1/2 and +1/3 oxidation states.<sup>7</sup>

The  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  cation has recently been shown to consist of a distorted trigonal prism in the solid state<sup>4</sup> while  $\text{Se}_4^{2+}$  and  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$  have been shown to be square-planar.<sup>3</sup> Solutions of  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  and  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$  have been prepared by quantitatively oxidizing tellurium powder in 30% oleum and 100%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , respectively. It has been possible to observe both long-range and directly bonded natural abundance  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{123}\text{Te}$  spin-spin couplings in both cations. The square-planar  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$  cation exhibits both *cis*- and *trans*- $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{123}\text{Te}$  couplings whose component lines have relative intensities of 2:1, respectively (Table). The  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{123}\text{Te}$  coupling pattern observed for  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  (Figure) is consistent with a rigid, *regular* trigonal prismatic species in solution and, as such, the  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  cation exhibits three couplings: two unique directly bonded *cis*-couplings along the triangular edges and unique rectangular edges and a long-range *trans*-coupling across the rectangular face of the prism (Table). The respective intensities of the component lines are 2:1:2.

Oxidation of equimolar quantities of  $^{77}\text{Se}$  (94.4% enriched) and natural abundance tellurium in  $\text{SO}_2$  solvent with  $\text{AsF}_5$

followed by dissolution of the dry product in 98%  $\text{D}_2\text{SO}_4$  gives rise to a mixture of predominantly +1/3 oxidation state species. Both  $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{125}\text{Te}$  n.m.r. spectra have been recorded and the principal species present have been identified with the aid of the observed  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$  spin-spin coupling patterns. In addition to  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , whose crystal structure has been reported,<sup>5</sup> we have been able to identify a new +1/3 oxidation state species,  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}$ , in these solutions (Table).

Equimolar mixtures of tellurium and selenium powders in 30% oleum and solutions of  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  and a substance tentatively formulated as  $[\text{Te}_4\text{Se}_3^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2]$  in 68% oleum are readily oxidized, giving rise to new resonances which occur at considerably higher  $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{125}\text{Te}$  frequencies relative to the +1/3 oxidation state species. These new environments can be assigned, with the aid of natural abundance  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$  couplings, to the series of hitherto unreported square-planar species  $\text{TeSe}_3^{2+}$ , *cis*- and *trans*- $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_2^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}^{2+}$  (Table).

Interestingly, mixtures of  $\text{Te}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  and  $\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  in 68% oleum show no evidence for selenium-tellurium scrambling even after several days at room temperature. However, mixtures of selenium and tellurium powders dissolved in 30% oleum initially show the presence of a substantial concentration of  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$  which is slowly oxidized over a period of *ca.* two days to give  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$  species. Likewise, samples of  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  dissolved in 68% oleum are remarkably stable and are only slowly oxidized to  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$  species at room temperature, requiring *ca.* one day to go to completion. This reaction yields mainly selenium-rich species. In contrast, the solid formulated as  $[\text{Te}_4\text{Se}_3^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2]$  is oxidized almost instantaneously in 68% oleum to give predominantly the tellurium-rich  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$  species, showing no evidence for +1/3 oxidation state species. We conclude that formation of mixed +1/3 oxidation state cations is a necessary precursor to the formation of mixed +1/2 square-planar cations in strong oleums and that selenium-tellurium scrambling among +1/2 square-planar cations is not mechanistically significant in these media.

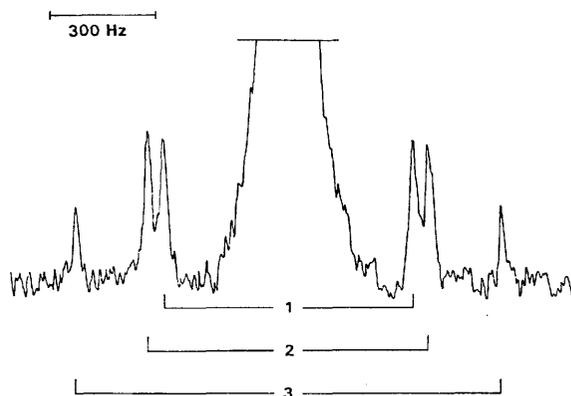


FIGURE. The natural abundance  $^{125}\text{Te}$  n.m.r. spectrum of the  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  cation [ $0.155 \text{ mol kg}^{-1} \text{ Te}_6^{4+}(\text{HS}_2\text{O}_7^-)_4$  in 30% oleum;  $\delta(^{125}\text{Te}) = -559 \text{ p.p.m.}$  with respect to  $(\text{HO})_6\text{Te}$ ] showing the three  $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{123}\text{Te}$  couplings of the trigonal prism: (1) *trans*-coupling across the rectangular faces, (2) *cis*-coupling along the triangular edges, and (3) *cis*-coupling along the unique rectangular edges.

TABLE  $^{125}\text{Te}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  n.m.r. parameters for the  $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$  polyatomic cations.<sup>a</sup>

Cation	$^{125}\text{Te}$	$\delta/\text{p.p.m.}^b$	$^{77}\text{Se}$	Coupling constants/Hz <sup>c</sup> ( $^{77}\text{Se}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$ , $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{77}\text{Se}$ , $^{125}\text{Te}$ - $^{125}\text{Te}$ )
(1)	-559 <sup>d</sup>			Te-Te: <sup>d</sup> 701(1), 791(2), 1196(3)
(2)	1949 <sup>e</sup>			Te-Te: <sup>e</sup> 604 ( <i>trans</i> ), 608 ( <i>cis</i> )
	1912 <sup>f</sup>			
	2093 <sup>g</sup>			
	2100 <sup>h</sup>			
(3)	2173(a), 2294(b) <sup>f</sup>		129.6 <sup>f</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>f</sup> 207 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2219(a), 2290(b) <sup>f</sup>			
(4)	2417 <sup>f</sup>		362.2 <sup>f</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>f</sup> 531 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2376 <sup>g</sup>		391.1 <sup>g</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>g</sup> 554 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2391 <sup>h</sup>		360.9 <sup>h</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>h</sup> 550 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2409 <sup>i</sup>			
(5)	2539 <sup>f</sup>		340.4 <sup>f</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>f</sup> 195 ( <i>trans</i> ), 470 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2538 <sup>f</sup>		336.0 <sup>f</sup>	
(6)	2641 <sup>f</sup>		455.2(a), 566.3(b) <sup>f</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>f</sup> 757 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2632 <sup>h</sup>		444.8(a), 592.2(b) <sup>h</sup>	Se-Se: <sup>h</sup> 188
(7)			457.0(a), 561.2(b) <sup>i</sup>	Te-Se: <sup>h</sup> 597 ( <i>trans</i> ), 750 ( <i>cis</i> )
	2643 <sup>i</sup>			
(8)			637.3 <sup>f</sup>	
			645.7 <sup>h</sup>	
			636.1 <sup>i</sup>	
(9)	586.8(a), 217.7(b) <sup>j</sup>	-700.5(a), -1149.6(b) <sup>j</sup>		Se-Se: <sup>j</sup> 17.4(A)
				Te-Se: <sup>j</sup> 157(1), 96(2), 140(3), 231(4), 48(5)
(9)	595.4 <sup>k</sup>		-483.9(a), -1186.9(b), -622.6(c) <sup>k</sup>	Se-Se: <sup>k</sup> 13(A), 92(B), 39(C)
				Te-Se: <sup>k</sup> 168(1), 95(2), 122(3), 95(4)

<sup>a</sup>  $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{125}\text{Te}$  spectra were recorded in the Fourier transform mode at 17.19 and 28.43 MHz, respectively, on a Bruker WH-90 multinuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer using quadrature phased detection.  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  was used as the external  $^2\text{H}$ -lock substance. Between 100,000 and 300,000 scans were accumulated in 16K of memory using a spectral width of 35,000 Hz, yielding a resolution of 4.38 Hz per data point and a pulse repetition time of 0.229 s. The respective pulse widths used for all  $^{77}\text{Se}$  and  $^{125}\text{Te}$  spectra were 17 and 20  $\mu\text{s}$ . Line broadenings of 3–5 Hz were applied in the exponential smoothing of the free induction decays. <sup>b</sup> The 'high-frequency positive sign' convention for chemical shifts as outlined in the I.U.P.A.C. convention (*Pure Appl. Chem.*, 1972, 29, 627) has been employed. <sup>c</sup>  $^{125}\text{Te}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  chemical shifts have been referenced with respect to external samples of saturated aqueous  $(\text{HO})_6\text{Te}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{SeO}_3$ , respectively, at 26 °C. Conversions to chemical shifts (p.p.m.) with respect to neat  $\text{Me}_2\text{Se}$  and  $\text{Me}_2\text{Te}$  at 26 °C are given by  $\delta(\text{Me}_2\text{Se}) = \delta(\text{H}_2\text{SeO}_3) + 1302.6$ , and  $\delta(\text{Me}_2\text{Te}) = \delta[(\text{HO})_6\text{Te}] + 710.9$ . <sup>e</sup> Numbers and letters in parentheses refer to the chemical shifts and couplings indicated in the structural formulae. <sup>d</sup> 0.155 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$   $\text{Te}_6^{4+}$  in 30% oleum; prepared *in situ* by oxidizing tellurium powder with  $\text{SO}_3$ . <sup>e</sup> 0.250 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$   $\text{Te}_4^{2+}$  in ca. 100%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ; prepared *in situ* by oxidizing tellurium powder with 100%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . <sup>f</sup> 0.126 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  ( $^{125}\text{Te}$  sample) and 0.115 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  ( $^{77}\text{Se}$  sample) ' $\text{Te}_4\text{Se}_2^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$ ' in 68% oleum. The solute was prepared by oxidizing stoichiometric amounts of tellurium and selenium powders at room temperature with 1.50 mol. equiv. of  $\text{AsF}_5$  in liquid  $\text{SO}_2$  solvent followed by removal of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{AsF}_5$  *in vacuo* after several days. <sup>g</sup> 0.204 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$   $\text{Te}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  and 0.168 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$   $\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{HS}_2\text{O}_7^-)_2$  in 100%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . <sup>h</sup> The sample was prepared by dissolving a mixture of equimolar amounts of tellurium and selenium powders in 30% oleum; 0.10 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Te' and 0.10 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Se'. <sup>i</sup> 0.335 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  ( $^{125}\text{Te}$  sample) and 0.211 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  ( $^{77}\text{Se}$  sample)  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  in 68% oleum. The method of solute preparation was identical to that used in (f) above. <sup>j</sup> An equimolar mixture of natural abundance tellurium and 94.4%  $^{77}\text{Se}$ -enriched selenium powders was allowed to react at room temperature with 0.75 mol. equiv. of  $\text{AsF}_5$  in liquid  $\text{SO}_2$  for 2 days. Isolation of the solid material, consisting largely of  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_4^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  and  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$  was followed by dissolution in 98%  $\text{D}_2\text{SO}_4$  (also used as the  $^2\text{H}$ -lock substance). 0.155 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Te' and 0.155 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Se'. <sup>k</sup> Sample preparation was identical to (j) above except that the relative molar amount of  $\text{AsF}_5$  was increased to 1.50 and oxidation allowed to proceed for 10 days. 0.187 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Te' and 0.187 mol  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  'Se'. The n.m.r. spectra showed that the sample was essentially free of  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}(\text{AsF}_6^-)_2$ .

Chemical shifts among tellurium- and selenium-containing polyatomic cations are very large, ranging from +2650 to -560 p.p.m. for  $^{125}\text{Te}$  and from +650 to -1200 p.p.m. for  $^{77}\text{Se}$  in the present study. It may, therefore, be concluded that paramagnetic contributions dominate the chemical shift trends. A monotonic decrease in  $^{77}\text{Se}$  chemical shift and a parallel increase in  $^{125}\text{Te}$  chemical shift with increasing selenium number in the series  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$  is consistent with the higher effective electronegativity of selenium (Table). Although the  $^{125}\text{Te}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  chemical shifts of the +1/3 oxidation state species,  $\text{Te}_3\text{Se}_3^{2+}$  and  $\text{Te}_2\text{Se}_4^{2+}$ , occur at lower frequencies than the series of +1/2 oxidation state species,  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$ , the frequency of

$\text{Te}_6^{4+}$ , the only known example of a +2/3 oxidation state species, shows that the  $^{125}\text{Te}$  environment is considerably more shielded than those of the aforementioned lower oxidation states. Several new resonances not reported here have also been observed and can be reasonably associated with a new series of mixed  $\text{Te}_{6-n}\text{Se}_n^{4+}$  species.

It is clear that high-resolution multinuclear magnetic resonance techniques will continue to prove invaluable for the identification of new diamagnetic polyatomic cations in oleums and other non-aqueous solvents and for pin-pointing the conditions and reaction mechanisms operative in their formation.

*Added in proof.* A  $^{125}\text{Te}$  n.m.r. study of the  $\text{Te}_{4-n}\text{Se}_n^{2+}$

cations is reported in the preceding communication.

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<sup>7</sup> The structure of the *trans*-Te<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> cation has been determined by X-ray crystallography in the compound (Te<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>)(Sb<sub>3</sub>F<sub>14</sub><sup>-</sup>) (SbF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>); P. Boldrini, I. D. Brown, R. J. Gillespie, E. M. Maharajh, and D. R. Slim, unpublished observations.