

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

Trigonal-Prismatic Coordination: The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Tris(*cis*-1,2-diphenylethene-1,2-dithiolato)vanadium

BY RICHARD EISENBERG^{1a} AND HARRY B. GRAY^{1b}

Received April 27, 1967

The crystal and molecular structure of tris(*cis*-1,2-diphenylethene-1,2-dithiolato)vanadium, $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$, has been determined from three-dimensional single-crystal X-ray data collected by standard film techniques. The structure has been refined by least-squares methods to a conventional R factor of 0.077 for 1516 nonzero reflections. The neutral complex crystallizes in space group $C2/c$ of the monoclinic system with a cell of dimensions $a = 19.25$, $b = 11.31$, $c = 18.01$ Å; $\beta = 106.3^\circ$; $V = 3763$ Å³. An experimental density of 1.36 ± 0.04 g/cm³ is in good agreement with a calculated value of 1.37 g/cm³ for four molecules in the unit cell ($Z = 4$). $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ is crystallographically required to possess a twofold symmetry axis with vanadium occupying the 4(e) special positions of the space group. The six sulfur donor atoms surround the vanadium in a trigonal-prismatic coordination. As such, $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ is the first example of trigonal-prismatic coordination in a molecular six-coordinate complex containing a first-row transition metal. The dimensions of the prism are strikingly similar to those found for complexes of second- and third-row metals. Average intra- and interligand S-S distances are approximately equal (3.058 and 3.064 Å, respectively), but there is a slight distortion of the prism about the threefold axis. A detailed comparison of the molecular structures of $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$, $Re(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$, and $Mo(S_2C_2H_2)_3$ is presented which reinforces the previously suggested notion of interligand bonding as a stabilizing factor in trigonal-prismatic coordination.

Introduction

The discovery of trigonal-prismatic coordination has opened a new area of study in structural inorganic chemistry. The existence of this unusual coordination geometry in monomeric complexes was initially established by the structure determination of the neutral complex $Re(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$.² The subsequent structural study by Smith and co-workers³ on $Mo(S_2C_2H_2)_3$ extended the trigonal-prismatic geometry to complexes of a second-row transition metal. In addition, spectroscopic and X-ray powder measurements strongly suggest a trigonal-prismatic coordination for the complexes $M(tdt)_3$ and $M(bdt)_3$ with $M = Re, W$, and Mo .⁴⁻⁶ As with the square-planar bis complexes of the bidentate sulfur-donor ligand systems, the tris complexes readily undergo reversible electron-transfer reactions.^{6,7} For example, the $Re(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ and $Re(tdt)_3$ systems have been observed polarographically to possess four reversible oxidation-reduction waves.⁶ Differences in the electronic spectra of the well-established trigonal-prismatic complexes of Re, W , and Mo and the analogous complexes of the first-row transition metals led to the conclusion that a detailed structure determination would be necessary in order to establish unequivocally the coordination geometry of the first-row complexes. This result was achieved with the structural study of the neutral complex $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$,⁸ which was reported in a preliminary com-

munication.⁹ In this complex, vanadium is located at the center of a slightly distorted trigonal-prismatic array of sulfur donor atoms. On the basis of isomorphism studies and spectroscopic measurements, the trigonal-prismatic geometry was also assigned to the analogous $Cr(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex and the $[V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3]^-$ monoanion. In this paper, the structure determination of $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ is described in detail.

Collection and Reduction of the X-Ray Data

The complex $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ was prepared in a manner similar to that described by Davison, *et al.*,^{8c} and beautiful purple-black crystals were grown from methylene chloride solution. The crystals were examined by optical goniometry and Weissenberg and precession photography. On the basis of these examinations, the crystals were found to belong to the monoclinic system with a cell of dimensions: $a = 19.25 \pm 0.03$, $b = 11.31 \pm 0.02$, $c = 18.01 \pm 0.03$ Å; $\beta = 106.3 \pm 0.2^\circ$; $V = 3763$ Å³. The observed extinctions, hkl for $h + k$ odd and $h0l$ for l odd, are consistent with the two space groups $C2/c$ and Cc . A negative piezoelectric test¹⁰ indicated the presence of a center of symmetry, and the satisfactory agreement which was ultimately obtained between observed and calculated structure factors confirms $C2/c$ as the correct choice. An experimental density of 1.36 ± 0.04 g/cm³ obtained by flotation in zinc chloride solutions agrees well with a calculated value of 1.37 g/cm³ for four molecules in the unit cell. Thus, vanadium is required to occupy one of the fourfold special positions of the space group.

Intensity data were collected at room temperature by

(1) (a) NSF Predoctoral Fellow, 1964-1966; present address: Department of Chemistry, Brown University, Providence, R. I. 02912; (b) Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow; Gates and Crellin Laboratories, Department of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. 91109.

(2) R. Eisenberg and J. A. Ibers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 3776 (1965); *Inorg. Chem.*, **5**, 411 (1966).

(3) A. E. Smith, G. N. Schrauzer, V. P. Mayweg, and W. Heinrich, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 5798 (1965).

(4) $tdt =$ toluene-3,4-dithiolate; $bdt =$ benzene-1,2-dithiolate.

(5) E. I. Stiefel and H. B. Gray, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 4012 (1965).

(6) E. I. Stiefel, R. Eisenberg, R. C. Rosenberg, and H. B. Gray, *ibid.*, **88**, 2956 (1966).

(7) A. Davison, N. Edelstein, R. H. Holm, and A. H. Maki, *ibid.*, **86**, 2799 (1964).

(8) (a) G. N. Schrauzer, H. W. Finck, and V. P. Mayweg, *Angew. Chem.*, **76**, 715 (1964); (b) J. H. Waters, R. Williams, H. B. Gray, G. N. Schrauzer, and H. W. Finck, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **86**, 4199 (1964); (c) A. Davison, N. Edelstein, R. H. Holm, and A. H. Maki, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 55 (1965).

(9) R. Eisenberg, E. I. Stiefel, R. C. Rosenberg, and H. B. Gray, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **88**, 2874 (1966).

(10) The authors are grateful to Dr. J. A. Ibers for performing this measurement.

the equiinclination Weissenberg technique using Zr-filtered Mo K α radiation. A spherical crystal of radius 0.21 mm was mounted along the *b* axis and the layers *h*0*l* to *h*10*l* were recorded on multiple films. The intensities of 2146 independent reflections accessible within the angular range $\theta_{M_0} \leq 22^\circ$ were estimated visually using a calibrated intensity strip. The usual Lorentz-polarization factors were then applied to these intensities to yield F_o^2 values where F_o is the observed structure amplitude. Absorption effects were constant for all reflections ($\mu R = 0.13$).¹¹ The F_o values were subsequently brought to an approximate absolute scale through a modification of Wilson's procedure.¹²

Solution and Refinement of the Structure

The positions of the V and S atoms were readily determined from a three-dimensional Patterson function. We find vanadium to be located in the 4(e) special positions of the space group $[(0, y, 1/4; 0, \bar{y}, 3/4) + (0, 0, 0; 1/2, 1/2, 0)]^{13}$ and thus the molecule possesses a twofold axis of symmetry. The positional parameters of the V and three independent S atoms, along with variable isotropic temperature factors assigned to them, were refined through several cycles of least squares. All carbon atoms were then located in a difference Fourier based on phases obtained from the heavy atoms.

The structure was refined by a least-squares procedure. The function minimized was $\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2$ where the weights *w* were assigned in the following way: $I < 5$, $w = (I/5)^2$; $5 \leq I \leq 180$, $w = 1$; $I > 180$, $w = (180/I)^2$, where *I* is the average raw intensity of the reflection. The neutral atom scattering factors which have been tabulated by Ibers¹⁴ were used. The anomalous parts of the V and S scattering factors were obtained from Templeton's tabulation¹⁵ and included in the calculated structure factors.¹⁶

In the initial round of calculations, all atoms were assigned individual isotropic temperature factors. This refinement of 109 positional, scale, and thermal parameters rapidly converged to a conventional *R* factor ($R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$) of 0.093 and a weighted *R* factor R' ($R' = (\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2 / \sum w F_o^2)^{1/2}$) of 0.106. A difference Fourier based on this refinement provided evidence for anisotropic thermal motion of the heavy atoms.

After correction of several indexing errors, a further refinement was carried out in which the V and S atoms were allowed to vibrate anisotropically, while all other atoms were restricted to isotropic vibration. This refinement, in which the individual level scale factors

were not varied, converged to a conventional *R* factor of 0.083 and a weighted *R* factor R' of 0.079 for 1516 independent nonzero reflections. In a difference Fourier based on this refinement, reasonable positions for 14 of the 15 independent phenyl hydrogen atoms were determined. In the last cycles of least squares, fixed hydrogen atom contributions were added to the calculated structure factors. The anisotropic thermal parameters and the individual level scale factors were refined on alternate cycles of the least squares. In this refinement, no anisotropic thermal parameter changed by more than one standard deviation. The final refinement for 116 positional and thermal parameters converged to conventional and weighted *R* factors of 0.077 and 0.070, respectively. A final difference Fourier showed no peaks higher than 0.27 e/A³ (about 15% the height of a C atom).

The parameters obtained in this final round of calculations are taken as the final parameters of the structure and are given in Table I. Standard deviations, as obtained from the inverse matrix, are also given. In Table II, the values of F_o and $|F_c|$ (in electrons $\times 10$) are given for the 1516 observed reflections. The $|F_c|$ values for the unobserved reflections are omitted from Table II, since none of the intensities calculated for the unobserved but accessible reflections exceeds the minimum observable intensity value.

The anisotropic thermal parameters can be interpreted in terms of the real amplitudes of vibration since they are essentially uncorrelated with the scale factors. It should be noted that in the partial anisotropic refinement, 21 carbon atoms representing a reasonable fraction of the scattering power in the asymmetric unit were restricted to isotropic vibration. In Table III the principal values of the root-mean-square amplitudes of vibration are listed. The orientations of the thermal ellipsoids which may be derived from the parameters in Table I are not given.

Description of the Structure

The structure described by the parameters of Table I, the unit cell constants, and the symmetry operations of the space group consists of the packing of discrete molecules of the neutral $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex. The vanadium atoms are well separated with nearest neighbors being over 10 Å apart. The closest intermolecular approaches to vanadium are made by phenyl hydrogens from adjacent molecules. However, all intermolecular contacts appear normal.

The crystallographically required twofold symmetry axis of the molecule bisects one of the five-membered metal-chelate rings. The six sulfur donor atoms of the complex are equidistant from vanadium and surround the central metal in a trigonal-prismatic coordination. The average V-S bond length is 2.338 Å and the average S-V-S bond angle is 81.7°. All principal intramolecular distances and angles are tabulated in Table IV. In addition, a perspective drawing of an isolated molecule of the complex is shown in Figure 1. The S_6 trigonal prism is slightly but significantly

(11) "International Tables for X-ray Crystallography," Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1965, Vol. 2, Table 5.3 6B.

(12) The computing for this structure determination was carried out on Columbia's IBM 7094 computer. The main programs used in this work were Brookhaven modifications of Zalkin's FORDAFER Fourier program, the Busing-Levy ORFLS least-squares program, and the Busing-Martin-Levy ORFFE function and error program. Other programs from the Brookhaven Crystallographic Library were also employed.

(13) Reference 11, Vol. 1, p 101.

(14) J. A. Ibers, ref 11, Vol. 3, Table 3.3.1A.

(15) D. H. Templeton, ref 11, Vol. 3, Table 3.3.2.B.

(16) J. A. Ibers and W. C. Hamilton, *Acta Cryst.*, **17**, 781 (1964).

TABLE I
FINAL PARAMETERS FOR $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$
Positional and Isotropic Thermal Parameters

Atom	x	y	z	$B, \text{\AA}^2$
V	0.0000	0.2196 (2) ^a	0.2500	...
S ₁	-0.0445 (1)	0.3762 (2)	0.1647 (2)	...
S ₂	-0.1145 (1)	0.1520 (2)	0.1814 (1)	...
S ₃	-0.0336 (1)	0.1345 (2)	0.3531 (1)	...
C ₁ ^b	-0.0220 (5)	0.5069 (9)	0.2098 (5)	3.6 (2)
R ₁ C ₁	-0.0483 (6)	0.6148 (9)	0.1660 (6)	4.2 (2)
R ₁ C ₂	-0.0435 (5)	0.6290 (9)	0.0921 (6)	4.4 (2)
R ₁ C ₃	-0.0670 (7)	0.733 (1)	0.0510 (7)	6.1 (3)
R ₁ C ₄	-0.0973 (7)	0.821 (1)	0.0851 (8)	7.2 (3)
R ₁ C ₅	-0.1060 (8)	0.809 (1)	0.1573 (8)	7.5 (3)
R ₁ C ₆	-0.0806 (6)	0.703 (1)	0.2019 (7)	5.7 (3)
C ₂	-0.1557 (5)	0.0910 (8)	0.2433 (5)	3.4 (2)
R ₂ C ₁	-0.2310 (5)	0.0503 (8)	0.2071 (5)	3.3 (2)
R ₂ C ₂	-0.2803 (5)	0.1232 (8)	0.1578 (6)	3.8 (2)
R ₂ C ₃	-0.3493 (6)	0.0825 (9)	0.1209 (6)	4.9 (2)
R ₂ C ₄	-0.3697 (6)	-0.033 (1)	0.1343 (7)	5.6 (3)
R ₂ C ₅	-0.3229 (6)	-0.102 (1)	0.1843 (7)	5.3 (3)
R ₂ C ₆	-0.2531 (6)	-0.0624 (9)	0.2226 (6)	4.1 (2)
C ₃	-0.1194 (5)	0.0815 (8)	0.3210 (5)	3.2 (2)
R ₃ C ₁	-0.1510 (5)	0.0268 (8)	0.3791 (5)	3.5 (2)
R ₃ C ₂	-0.2173 (6)	0.069 (1)	0.3850 (7)	5.3 (3)
R ₃ C ₃	-0.2499 (7)	0.014 (1)	0.4392 (8)	6.8 (3)
R ₃ C ₄	-0.2148 (7)	-0.081 (1)	0.4790 (7)	5.6 (3)
R ₃ C ₅	-0.1516 (7)	-0.119 (1)	0.4763 (7)	5.7 (3)
R ₃ C ₆	-0.1181 (6)	-0.0639 (9)	0.4241 (6)	4.2 (2)

Anisotropic Thermal Parameters

Atom	β_{11}^c	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
V	0.00244 (8)	0.0053 (2)	0.00243 (9)	0.0000	0.00074 (7)	0.0000
S ₁	0.00291 (9)	0.0061 (2)	0.0030 (1)	0.0001 (1)	0.00039 (8)	0.0004 (1)
S ₂	0.00248 (9)	0.0080 (2)	0.0024 (1)	-0.0011 (1)	0.00068 (8)	-0.0001 (1)
S ₃	0.00264 (9)	0.0077 (2)	0.0026 (1)	-0.0000 (1)	0.00080 (8)	0.0005 (1)

^a Numbers in parentheses here and in succeeding tables are estimated standard deviations in the least significant digit. ^b C₁ refers to the carbon bonded to S₁, R₁C₁ refers to the phenyl carbon bonded to C₁, etc. ^c The form of the anisotropic thermal ellipsoid is $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$.

distorted about the threefold axis with independent interligand S-S values of 2.927, 3.088, and 3.178 Å. It should be noted, however, that despite the distortion, the average inter- and intraligand S-S distances are approximately equal with values of 3.064 and 3.058 Å, respectively.¹⁷

The one crystallographically independent metal-chelate ring does show significant deviations from planarity in the ethylene carbons of the ligand. These deviations, though significant, are still quite small. The best weighted least-square plane¹⁸ through the five-membered metal-chelate ring is given by the equation $8.800x - 9.885y - 5.159z = 3.455$ in monoclinic coordinates. The deviations of atoms V, S₂, S₃, C₂, and C₃ from this plane are -0.006 (2), 0.009 (3), 0.009 (3), -0.070 (9), and -0.058 (9), respectively. The three intraligand VS₂ planes of the complex coincide with the dihedral mirrors about the threefold axis in D_{3h} symmetry. The independent dihedral angles between the

VS₂ planes are calculated to be 119.5° (between the VS₁S_{1'} and VS₂S₃ planes) and 120.9° (between the VS₂S₃ and VS₂/S_{3'} planes).

The four-atom S-C-C-S ligand unit is definitely planar. The average S-C and C-C bond lengths of 1.69 and 1.41 Å, respectively, indicate multiple-bond character and extensive π delocalization over the ligand unit. However, the phenyl rings are twisted out of the planes of the chelate rings and are not conjugated with the inner π -bonding network of the complex. The calculated dihedral angles between phenyl rings 1, 2, and 3 and their respective chelate rings are 46.2, 46.7, and 57.0° with estimated standard deviations of 0.4° for the three values. The orientation of the phenyl rings with respect to the inner coordination geometry is clearly illustrated in Figure 1. The C-C bond lengths in the phenyl rings exhibit a normal distribution with an average value of 1.387 Å. The C-C ring distances are presented in Table V.

Discussion

The structure of $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ clearly establishes the existence of trigonal-prismatic coordination in the complexes containing first-row transition metals. Furthermore, on the basis of previously reported isomorphism measurements,^{2,3} the $Cr(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex is

(17) The exact nature of the distortion in the coordination prism of the $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex is rather unclear at this time. Calculated values of the intermolecular distances in the crystal indicate no unusual intermolecular contacts or packing effects. Although it is possible to attribute the distortion to electronic effects such as a static Jahn-Teller distortion, such an assignment would certainly be premature. For the comparison of the three structures, we believe an averaging of the interligand S-S values in $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ to be valid despite the fact that these distances are significantly different in the structure.

(18) W. C. Hamilton, *Acta Cryst.*, **14**, 185 (1961).

TABLE III
 ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE AMPLITUDES OF VIBRATION (IN Å)

Atom	Minimum	Intermediate	Maximum
V	0.185 (4)	0.190 (4)	0.205 (4)
S ₁	0.192 (4)	0.211 (4)	0.242 (4)
S ₂	0.185 (4)	0.190 (4)	0.246 (3)
S ₃	0.193 (4)	0.214 (4)	0.228 (4)

 TABLE IV
 PRINCIPAL INTRAMOLECULAR DISTANCES AND ANGLES

Distances, Å		Angles, deg	
V-S ₁	2.343 (4)	S ₁ -V-S ₁ '	81.8 (2)
V-S ₂	2.331 (4)	S ₂ -V-S ₃	81.6 (1)
V-S ₃	2.338 (4)	V-S ₁ -C ₁	110.5 (4)
S ₁ -S ₁ ' ^a	3.069 (7)	V-S ₂ -C ₂	109.5 (4)
S ₂ -S ₃	3.052 (6)	V-S ₃ -C ₃	109.6 (3)
S ₁ -S ₂	2.927 (5)	S ₁ -C ₁ -C ₁ '	118.6 (3)
S ₁ -S ₃ '	3.178 (5)	S ₂ -C ₂ -C ₃	120.2 (7)
S ₂ -S ₃ '	3.089 (5)	S ₃ -C ₃ -C ₂	119.0 (7)
S ₁ -C ₁	1.68 (1)	S ₁ -C ₁ -R ₁ C ₁	118.0 (7)
S ₂ -C ₂	1.69 (1)	S ₂ -C ₂ -R ₂ C ₂	114.7 (7)
S ₃ -C ₃	1.70 (1)	S ₃ -C ₃ -R ₃ C ₃	117.4 (7)
C ₁ -C ₁ '	1.46 (2)		
C ₂ -C ₃	1.38 (1)		
C ₁ -R ₁ C ₁	1.46 (1)		
C ₂ -R ₂ C ₂	1.49 (1)		
C ₃ -R ₃ C ₃	1.49 (1)		

^a S₁' refers to the sulfur which is related to S₁ by the twofold symmetry axis, etc.

 TABLE V
 CARBON-CARBON PHENYL RING DISTANCES, Å

R ₁ C ₁ -R ₁ C ₂	1.37 (1) ^a
R ₁ C ₂ -R ₁ C ₃	1.39 (2)
R ₁ C ₃ -R ₁ C ₄	1.38 (2)
R ₁ C ₄ -R ₁ C ₅	1.37 (2)
R ₁ C ₅ -R ₁ C ₆	1.45 (2)
R ₁ C ₆ -R ₁ C ₁	1.42 (1)

Average value for ring 1 1.397

R ₂ C ₁ -R ₂ C ₂	1.38 (1)
R ₂ C ₂ -R ₂ C ₃	1.39 (1)
R ₂ C ₃ -R ₂ C ₄	1.40 (2)
R ₂ C ₄ -R ₂ C ₅	1.34 (1)
R ₂ C ₅ -R ₂ C ₆	1.40 (1)
R ₂ C ₆ -R ₂ C ₁	1.40 (1)

Average value for ring 2 1.385

R ₃ C ₁ -R ₃ C ₂	1.40 (1)
R ₃ C ₂ -R ₃ C ₃	1.44 (2)
R ₃ C ₃ -R ₃ C ₄	1.36 (2)
R ₃ C ₄ -R ₃ C ₅	1.30 (1)
R ₃ C ₅ -R ₃ C ₆	1.43 (1)
R ₃ C ₆ -R ₃ C ₁	1.35 (1)

Average value for ring 3 1.380

^a As is quite commonplace in least-squares refinements, the estimated standard deviations of the C-C bond lengths may be slightly optimistic. A detailed statistical analysis in order to establish confidence intervals for these values can be easily carried out. See, for example, W. C. Hamilton, "Statistics in Physical Science," Ronald Press, New York, N. Y., Chapter 3.

constancy is observed in the average interligand S-S distance around 3.07 Å [3.064 Å in V(S₂C₂(C₆H₅)₂)₃, 3.050 Å in Re(S₂C₂(C₆H₅)₂)₃, and 3.11 Å in Mo(S₂C₂(H₂)₃)]. This average S-S value is relatively short for distances between nonbonded ligands and is taken as an indication of inter-donor atom bonding forces which

help stabilize the trigonal-prismatic coordination in these complexes. In addition, a similar average S-S value has been observed in the structures of the bis-planar complexes involving related ligand systems.¹⁹⁻²³

A second rather remarkable feature of the three structures can be viewed as a direct consequence of the phenomenon of interligand S-S bonding. We observe in these complexes that there is no significant difference between the V-S bond length of 2.338 Å and the Re-S and Mo-S distances of 2.325 and 2.33 Å, respectively, despite the fact that both the covalent and ionic radii of vanadium are at least 0.07 Å shorter than the corresponding radii for rhenium and molybdenum.²⁴

We now direct our attention to the electronic structure of the V(S₂C₂(C₆H₅)₂)₃ complex and propose a tentative assignment of its ground-state configuration. We have previously suggested⁶ a level scheme for second- and third-row trigonal-prismatic complexes in which the ordering of molecular orbitals of interest for the assignment of ground and low excited states is 4e' < 2a₂' < 3a₁' < 5e' < 4e''. The ground state suggested for Re(S₂C₂(C₆H₅)₂)₃ is thus (4e')⁴(2a₂')²(3a₁')¹ = ²A₁'. This energy level scheme in some respects differs significantly from the one recently proposed by Schrauzer and Mayweg²⁵ for V(S₂C₂H₂)₃, primarily because of differences in the estimation of starting ligand orbital energies.²⁶ The energy level ordering that we have proposed for second- and third-row trigonal-prismatic complexes may be used with only slight modification as the basis for describing the electronic structures of the first-row complexes. In suggesting a modification of the Re(S₂C₂(C₆H₅)₂)₃ molecular orbital ordering, we take cognizance of the fact that antibonding levels of d symmetry and character are more stable in first-row complexes than in analogous second- and third-row situations. For example, the ordering WO₄²⁻ > MoO₄²⁻ > CrO₄²⁻ is observed in the position of the lowest L→M charge transfer in the absorption spectra of these oxyanions.³⁰

Thus it is reasonable to suggest that an inversion of the 2a₂'-3a₁' order occurs in going to the first-row

(19) R. Eisenberg, J. A. Ibers, R. J. H. Clark, and H. B. Gray, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **86**, 113 (1964); R. Eisenberg and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 605 (1965).

(20) J. D. Forrester, A. Zalkin, and D. H. Templeton, *ibid.*, **3**, 1500 (1964).

(21) J. D. Forrester, A. Zalkin, and D. H. Templeton, *ibid.*, **3**, 1507 (1964).

(22) C. J. Fritchie, *Acta Cryst.*, **20**, 107 (1966).

(23) D. Sartain and M. R. Trutter, *Chem. Commun.*, 382 (1966).

(24) See L. Pauling, "The Nature of the Chemical Bond," 3rd ed, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1960, Chapters 7 and 13.

(25) G. N. Schrauzer and V. P. Mayweg, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **88**, 3235 (1966).

(26) The main difference in the two calculations appears to be the value of diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements chosen for the ligands. Schrauzer and Mayweg use -82,000 cm⁻¹ for the energy of an sp² hybrid orbital on sulfur, whereas we take -110,000 cm⁻¹ for this quantity. Both methods claim to include some consideration of interatomic Coulomb terms which stabilize the ligand orbitals with respect to the metal diagonal elements. The need for this correction in simple MO methods has been pointed out by several investigators.²⁷⁻²⁹ We believe our estimates for the diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements of the ligand orbitals to be more realistic relative to the metal orbital energies.

(27) H. Basch and H. B. Gray, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 639 (1967).

(28) R. F. Fenske, K. G. Cauton, D. D. Radtke, and C. C. Sweeney, *ibid.*, **5**, 951, 960 (1966).

(29) C. K. Jørgensen, "Orbitals in Atoms and Molecules," Academic Press, New York and London, 1964.

(30) A. Viste and H. B. Gray, *Inorg. Chem.*, **3**, 664 (1964).

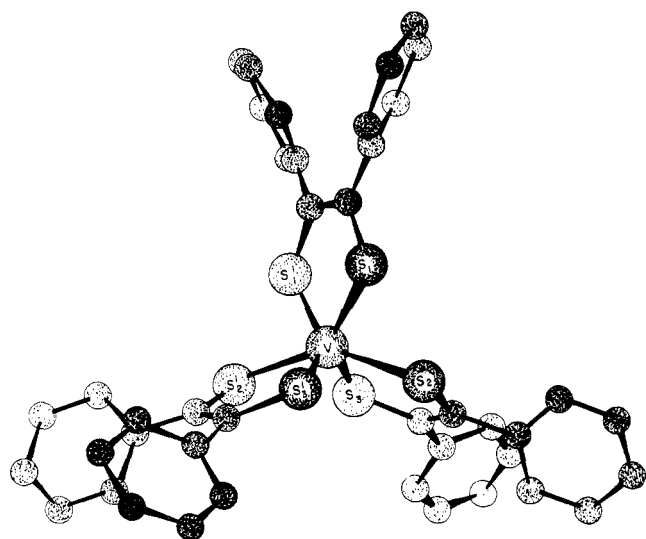


Figure 1.—A perspective drawing of an isolated molecule of the $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex. Phenyl hydrogens are not shown.

$M(S_2C_2R_2)_3$ systems, such that we have $4e' < 3a_1' < 2a_2' < 5e' < 4e''$. The proposed ground state for $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ is therefore . . . $(4e')^4(3a_1')^1 = {}^2A_1$.³¹ This means that if the $4e'$ level is assigned to the ligand (as is traditional), the complex is formally a d^1 complex of V(IV) and $[(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3]^{4-}$ and the ligand system is fully oxidized by two electrons from its classical trisdithiolate state. A second, equally arbitrary formalism

(31) According to the Schrauzer-Mayweg scheme, the ground state for the undistorted $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex should be ${}^2E'$. If this assignment is correct, the observed distortions in the coordination geometry can be accommodated from Jahn-Teller considerations. However, it is on the strength of the available solution esr data that we suggest the ${}^2A_1'$ ground state, as discussed in the text. More detailed studies including a single crystal esr investigation of the $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex doped into the isomorphous $Cr(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex and the calculation of spin Hamiltonian parameters appear necessary in order to establish firmly the ground-state configuration of $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$.

for the complex may be derived by assigning the filled $4e'$ level to the metal. In this formulation $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ is a d^5 V(0) complex with an uncharged $[(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3]$ ligand unit. Although the V(IV)- $[L_3^{4-}]$ formulation may seem more appealing in view of the average C-C distance of 1.41 Å, the average C-S distance of 1.69 Å suggests C=S and thus is more compatible with a V(0) $[L_3]$ model. However, in either case it is clear that the ligand system is at least partially oxidized and the $4e'$ level is strongly delocalized over the MS_2C_2 chelate ring.

It is also worth noting that the assignment of the unpaired electron to $3a_1'$ ($s + z^2$) is not in conflict with the esr data which show a nearly isotropic g value of 1.99 and a substantial isotropic ${}^{51}V$ hyperfine splitting of 61.6 gauss.^{8b,8c} In this respect the proposed electronic structure is superior to . . . $(4e')^4(2a_2')^1 = {}^2A_2'$, in which the unpaired electron would be entirely out on the ligands. In any event, further studies are needed to help elucidate the electronic structures of the first-row systems.^{31,32}

Acknowledgments.—We gratefully acknowledge the support of the National Science Foundation. We wish to thank Mr. Zvi Dori and Mr. Edward Stiefel for their timely remarks in discussion, and Mr. Sam La Placa of Brookhaven National Laboratory for his helpful advice in matters relating to the solution of the structure.

(32) In a preliminary communication of their work on the trisdithioglyoxa complexes [G. N. Schrauzer, V. P. Mayweg, and W. Heinrich, *Chem. Ind. (London)*, 1464 (1965)], Schrauzer, *et al.*, suggested the energy level ordering $4e' < 3a_1' < 2a_2' < 5e' < 4e''$ for the neutral third row complex $Re(S_2C_2H_2)_3$. This ordering agrees qualitatively with our proposed energy-level scheme for the first-row $V(S_2C_2(C_6H_5)_2)_3$ complex. However, Schrauzer and Wayweg²⁵ now suggest ${}^2E'$ ground states for the neutral V and Re complexes on the basis of their subsequent calculations.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS,
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044

Reactions of Potassium Hexacyanochromate(III) and Some Transition Metal Cyanonitrosyls with Molecular Hydrogen at Elevated Temperatures

BY DAVID F. BANKS AND JACOB KLEINBERG

Received June 15, 1967

The reactions of potassium hexacyanochromate(III) and a number of pentacyanonitrosyl complexes with molecular hydrogen at moderately elevated temperatures have been investigated. At 400°, potassium hexacyanochromate(III) is reduced to a compound of the empirical formula $K_3Cr(CN)_4$. The same substance is formed when potassium pentacyanonitrosylchromate(I) is treated with hydrogen at the same temperature. Reaction of hydrogen and potassium pentacyanonitrosylferate(II) monohydrate at 230° yields a substance of the composition $K_2Fe(CN)_4$. From the interaction of potassium pentacyanonitrosylmanganate(I) with hydrogen at 330° there is isolated a material of the approximate composition $Mn(CN)_{2.1}$. At 200°, potassium pentacyanonitrosylvanadate(-I) monohydrate is converted by hydrogen to a compound corresponding to the composition $K_5V(CN)_5$. Infrared spectra and magnetic moments indicate the presence of bridging cyanide groups in all of the products. All but the vanadium-containing product are water insoluble.

In a previous report from our laboratory¹ the reduction of some transition metal cyano complexes by molecular hydrogen at moderately elevated temperatures

(1) J. S. Yoo, E. Griswold, and J. Kleinberg, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 365 (1965).

was described. This technique yielded, by removal of one or two cyanide ligands as hydrogen cyanide, complexes containing the transition metals in low oxidation states. The current paper extends the previous