

TABLE VI
ANGULAR DISTORTIONS OF $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$ AND
 $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$ FROM IDEALIZED FIVE-COORDINATE GEOMETRIES

Atoms	Angles, deg			
	Trigonal bipyramid	$\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$	$\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$	Tetragonal ^a pyramid
$\text{P}_1\text{-Ni-P}_2^b$	120	113.0 ^c	107.4	100
$\text{P}_1\text{-Ni-P}_3$	120	113.5	111.5	100
$\text{P}_2\text{-Ni-P}_3$	120	133.5	141.2	160
$\text{C}_1\text{-Ni-C}_2$	180	170.8	172.8	180
$\text{P}_1\text{-Ni-C}_1$	90	93.4	92.3	100
$\text{P}_1\text{-Ni-C}_2$	90	95.7	94.4	100
$\text{P}_2\text{-Ni-C}_1$	90	89.8	89.3	88
$\text{P}_2\text{-Ni-C}_2$	90	88.7	91.3	88
$\text{P}_3\text{-Ni-C}_1$	90	87.4	89.5	88
$\text{P}_3\text{-Ni-C}_2$	90	87.0	85.6	88

^a These angles represent the average values for the tetragonal pyramid formed by $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$, in which the Ni atom lies 0.34 Å above the plane of the four C atoms and 0.55 Å above the plane of the four N atoms.⁹ These values appear to be normal for tetragonal pyramids involving first-row transition metals, in which the metal atom has been found to lie 0.3–0.6 Å above the tetragonal plane: see, for example, B. F. Hoskins, R. L. Martin, and A. H. White, *Nature*, **211**, 627 (1966). A purely electrostatic model with five equivalent ligands gives an L(apical)–M–L (basal) angle of 104°: J. Zemann, *Z. Anorg. Allgem. Chem.*, **324**, 241 (1963). ^b Or the corresponding C–Ni–C angle for the $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$ ion. ^c The standard deviations of these angles range from 0.2 to 0.8°.

and the indirect evidence again indicates a trigonal-bipyramidal structure with axial cyanide groups. We feel that this fact, coupled with the close similarities be-

tween this compound and the $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$ ion, tend to preclude such an argument based on steric grounds alone.

It is of interest to view this intermediate structure in relation to the infrared evidence and other similar structures. Although the symmetry of the inner coordination sphere in this case is halfway between the D_{3h} of a trigonal bipyramid and C_{2v} of a tetragonal pyramid, the infrared spectrum of the crystalline solid still exhibits a single C–N stretching frequency. This is, of course, one of the many examples of the ineffectiveness of band counting in the determination of important deviations from idealized symmetries. Moreover, it is just these small differences, inaccessible by nondiffraction means, that often present the clues to changes in chemical bonding on change of ligands. Clearly it is necessary to examine other $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{PR}_3)_3$ structures in an attempt to understand possible causes for the distortion from idealized geometry observed here. The following paper discusses the structure of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$.

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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Dicyanotris(phenyldimethylphosphine)nickel(II), $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$

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The crystal and molecular structure of dicyanotris(phenyldimethylphosphine)nickel(II), $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data collected by counter methods. The structure has been refined by least-squares techniques to a final *R* factor on *F* of 4.9%. The material crystallizes in space group $C_1^1\text{-P}\bar{1}$ of the triclinic system, with two molecules in a cell of dimensions $a = 8.907$ (8), $b = 16.292$ (15), $c = 9.876$ (9) Å, $\alpha = 97^\circ 58' (1)'$, $\beta = 102^\circ 40' (1)'$, and $\gamma = 86^\circ 40' (1)'$. (Reduced cell: $a = 8.907$, $b = 16.292$, $c = 17.842$ Å, $\alpha = 146^\circ 46'$, $\beta = 93^\circ 55'$, and $\gamma = 93^\circ 20'$.) The observed and calculated densities are 1.26 ± 0.01 and 1.260 g/cm³, respectively. The inner coordination about the Ni is trigonal bipyramidal with the two cyanides at the apices and the three phosphines in the basal plane. There is a slight but significant distortion toward a tetragonal-pyramidal geometry, which is discussed in relation to the far more distorted structure of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$. The Ni–P bond lengths are 2.261 (3), 2.223 (3), and 2.223 (3) Å, and the Ni–C distances are 1.84 (1) and 1.86 (1) Å.

Introduction

In the preceding paper¹ the structure of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$ was described. It was found that the geometry about the Ni atom is a highly distorted trigonal bipyramid, with a distortion remarkably similar to that found for one of the $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$ ions in

$[\text{Cr}(\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2)_3][\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5] \cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$.² This paper describes the structure of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$. Both $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$ and $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2$ should have similar steric requirements, but the latter phosphine is more basic and hence capable of transferring more electrons to the $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2$ system. Thus any differences be-

(1) J. K. Stalick and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **8**, 1084 (1969).

(2) K. N. Raymond, P. W. R. Corfield, and J. A. Ibers, *ibid.*, **7**, 1362 (1968).

tween the two $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{PR}_3)_3$ structures should result from the effects of electronic changes to a far greater extent than from the effects of steric changes.

Collection and Reduction of the Intensity Data

Dark red-orange crystals of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$ were prepared by Dr. E. Alyea and were kindly supplied by Professor D. W. Meek.³ The material was recrystallized from benzene, yielding a few many-faceted crystals. A crystal of approximate dimensions $0.20 \times 0.15 \times 0.25$ mm was attached to the end of a small glass fiber and mounted on a eucentric goniometer head. Preliminary precession photographs did not indicate any special symmetry or systematic absences, and a unit cell was defined assigning the b^* reciprocal lattice vector along the direction of the spindle axis. A Delaunay reduction failed to indicate any hidden symmetry, indicating space groups $\text{C}_1^1\text{-P}\bar{1}$ or $\text{C}_1^1\text{-P1}$ of the triclinic system. A convenient choice of a cell was made, with cell parameters as determined from diffractometer measurements using Mo $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation (λ 0.7093 Å) of $a = 8.907$ (8), $b = 16.292$ (15), $c = 9.876$ (9) Å, $\alpha = 97^\circ 58$ (1)', $\beta = 102^\circ 40$ (1)', and $\gamma = 86^\circ 40$ (1)' (at 22°). The corresponding reduced cell parameters are $a = 8.907$, $b = 16.292$, $c = 17.842$ Å, $\alpha = 146^\circ 46'$, $\beta = 93^\circ 55'$, and $\gamma = 93^\circ 20'$. The reduced cell was not used because of the inconveniently large value for α . The calculated density of 1.260 g/cm³ for two molecules per cell agrees well with the experimental value of 1.26 ± 0.01 g/cm³ obtained by flotation in $n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{16}\text{-CF}_2\text{ClCCl}_2\text{F}$ solution.

The cell parameters and orientation angles for the Picker four-circle automatic diffractometer were determined from a least-squares refinement of the setting angles of 16 carefully centered reflections as previously described.⁴ Mo $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation was used for data collection. The diffracted beams were filtered through a 3.0-mil Nb foil, and the intensities were collected by the θ - 2θ scan technique at a takeoff angle of 1.2° . A scan range of 0.4° on the low-angle side of the $\text{K}\alpha_1$ peak to 0.4° on the high-angle side of the $\text{K}\alpha_2$ peak was found to be sufficient for all reflections; this gives an indication of the low mosaic spread of the crystal. The scan rate was $1.0^\circ/\text{min}$. Stationary-crystal, stationary-counter background counts of 10 sec were taken at each end of the scan. The counter was placed 29 cm from the crystal and had an aperture of 7.0×7.0 mm.

A unique data set having $2\theta \leq 36^\circ$ was initially collected. The intensities of four reflections at different positions in reciprocal space were monitored as standards after every 250 reflections had been collected, and each of these standards remained constant within experimental error throughout the data collection process. A second shell for $36^\circ < 2\theta \leq 37^\circ$ showed little intensity. In all, 2076 reflections were observed. The crystal was carefully measured by means of a micrometer eyepiece in preparation for the application of an absorption correction, and the 14 faces of the forms $\{100\}$,

$\{010\}$, $\{001\}$, $\{110\}$, $\{1\bar{1}0\}$, $\{01\bar{1}\}$, and $\{1\bar{1}\bar{1}\}$ and the face $(\bar{1}\bar{1}1)$ were identified with the aid of an optical goniometer.

The data were corrected for background and standard deviations were assigned as previously described.⁴ A value of 0.04 was assigned for p , and a later statistical analysis of the discrepancy factors indicated that this choice was reasonable. The data were also corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects at this time. Of the 2076 reflections, 1802 were greater than one standard deviation above background. Only the 1556 reflections for which $F_o^2 \geq 3\sigma(F_o^2)$ were used in the solution and refinement of the structure.

Solution and Refinement of the Structure

A three-dimensional Patterson map was computed⁵ which readily yielded the positions of the Ni and three P atoms and the two CN groups. Two cycles of least-squares refinement assuming the centric space group $\text{P}\bar{1}$ resulted in discrepancy factors $R_1 = \Sigma||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma|F_o|$ and $R_2 = (\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \Sigma w F_o^2)^{1/2}$ of 32.3 and 39.9%, respectively, where the weights w were taken as $4F_o^2 / \sigma^2(F_o^2)$. In this and succeeding refinements the function minimized was $\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$. The atomic scattering factors for Ni, P, N, and C were those tabulated by Ibers,⁶ and those of Stewart, *et al.*,⁷ were used for H. The values given by Cromer⁸ for $\Delta f'$ and $\Delta f''$ were used for the anomalous scattering by Ni and P.⁹ A difference Fourier map gave the positions of the remaining 24 nonhydrogen atoms. Two cycles of least-squares refinement assigning isotropic temperature factors to all atoms and treating the phenyl rings as rigid groups¹⁰ of known geometry and dimensions with a single group thermal parameter lowered the R_1 and R_2 values to 10.3 and 12.4%.

The intensities were then corrected for absorption, using a calculated absorption coefficient of 8.88 cm^{-1} for Mo radiation. The corresponding transmission factors ranged from 0.80 to 0.92. One cycle of least-squares refinement allowing the Ni and P atoms to vibrate anisotropically and assigning individual temperature factors to the C atoms of the phenyl rings was followed by the inclusion of the structure factor contributions of the phenyl group H atoms ($\text{C-H} = 1.0$ Å) added as fixed contributions to the calculated structure factors. The R_1 and R_2 values dropped to 7.7 and 9.8%, respectively. Next, anisotropic vibrations were permitted for all nongroup atoms. Two full cycles of refinement resulted in values for R_1 and R_2 of 6.4 and 7.8%. A difference Fourier map yielded the positions of the 18 H atoms associated with the methyl groups. There was no evidence of rotational disorder. The H

(5) Programs used in this refinement included local modifications of Zalkin's FORDP Fourier program, Hamilton's GONO9 absorption correction program, the Busing-Levy ORFLS least-squares and ORFFE error function programs, and Johnson's ORTEP plotting program.

(6) J. A. Ibers, "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," Vol. 3, The Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1962, Table 3.3.1A.

(7) R. F. Stewart, E. R. Davidson, and W. T. Simpson, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **42**, 3175 (1965).

(8) D. T. Cromer, *Acta Cryst.*, **18**, 17 (1965).

(9) J. A. Ibers and W. C. Hamilton, *ibid.*, **17**, 781 (1964).

(10) S. J. La Placa and J. A. Ibers, *ibid.*, **18**, 511 (1965); R. Eisenberg and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 773 (1965).

(3) D. W. Meek and E. Alyea, unpublished results.

(4) P. W. R. Corfield, R. J. Doedens, and J. A. Ibers, *Inorg. Chem.*, **6**, 197 (1967).

TABLE I

OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE AMPLITUDES (X10) (IN ELECTRONS) FOR Ni(CN)2(P(C2H5)(CH3)2)3

Table with columns for K, L, F0, Fc, K, L, F0, Fc, K, L, F0, Fc, K, L, F0, Fc, K, L, F0, Fc, K, L, F0, Fc. The table contains observed and calculated structure amplitudes for Ni(CN)2(P(C2H5)(CH3)2)3.

TABLE II
 FINAL ATOMIC AND GROUP PARAMETERS FOR Ni(CN)₂(P(C₆H₅)(CH₃)₂)₃

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	β_{11}^a	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}			
Ni	0.16510 (12) ^b	0.25920 (7)	-0.13657 (11)	0.01529 (22)	0.00361 (6)	0.01259 (19)	-0.00110 (8)	0.00422 (15)	0.00174 (8)			
P ₁	0.13354 (31)	0.13346 (16)	-0.08585 (29)	0.02131 (53)	0.00479 (14)	0.01755 (45)	-0.00360 (22)	-0.00074 (38)	0.00407 (20)			
P ₂	0.36419 (28)	0.33129 (15)	0.00091 (26)	0.01771 (47)	0.00404 (13)	0.01365 (39)	-0.00230 (19)	0.00252 (34)	0.00189 (18)			
P ₃	0.02584 (28)	0.32073 (16)	-0.31209 (28)	0.01569 (46)	0.00480 (13)	0.01687 (44)	0.00006 (20)	0.00305 (36)	0.00307 (20)			
N ₁	0.3571 (11)	0.1820 (6)	-0.3353 (10)	0.0326 (22)	0.0085 (6)	0.0217 (17)	0.0045 (9)	0.0137 (17)	0.0016 (8)			
N ₂	-0.0461 (12)	0.3302 (7)	0.0511 (12)	0.0306 (23)	0.0159 (10)	0.0283 (21)	0.0008 (12)	0.0208 (19)	-0.0019 (11)			
C ₁	0.2843 (11)	0.2116 (6)	-0.2579 (10)	0.0181 (19)	0.0052 (5)	0.0115 (15)	0.0014 (8)	0.0043 (14)	0.0016 (7)			
C ₂	0.0340 (12)	0.3042 (6)	-0.0209 (11)	0.0221 (22)	0.0071 (7)	0.0161 (18)	-0.0015 (9)	0.0075 (16)	0.0005 (8)			
C ₃	0.0892 (16)	0.1266 (7)	0.0820 (10)	0.0614 (37)	0.0095 (8)	0.0121 (15)	-0.0162 (15)	-0.0012 (19)	0.0040 (9)			
C ₄	0.2939 (12)	0.0621 (6)	-0.0820 (16)	0.0223 (22)	0.0051 (6)	0.0596 (38)	-0.0006 (9)	-0.0100 (23)	0.0096 (12)			
C ₅	0.3142 (12)	0.4303 (6)	0.0947 (11)	0.0292 (22)	0.0036 (5)	0.0226 (18)	-0.0006 (8)	-0.0035 (16)	0.0001 (8)			
C ₆	0.5093 (11)	0.3802 (7)	-0.0840 (11)	0.0211 (19)	0.0105 (8)	0.0224 (19)	-0.0083 (10)	0.0017 (15)	0.0072 (10)			
C ₇	-0.1641 (11)	0.3639 (7)	-0.2954 (12)	0.0158 (18)	0.0111 (8)	0.0318 (24)	0.0050 (10)	0.0077 (17)	0.0099 (11)			
C ₈	-0.0169 (12)	0.2560 (6)	-0.4798 (10)	0.0284 (21)	0.0067 (6)	0.0153 (16)	-0.0059 (9)	-0.0040 (15)	0.0018 (8)			
Group	<i>x</i> _c ^c	<i>y</i> _c	<i>z</i> _c	δ	ϵ	η	<i>B</i> ₁	<i>B</i> ₂	<i>B</i> ₃	<i>B</i> ₄	<i>B</i> ₅	<i>B</i> ₆
Ring 1	-0.1503 (5)	0.0416 (3)	-0.2965 (4)	0.839 (5)	-2.567 (4)	0.589 (5)	4.4 (2)	5.6 (2)	7.1 (3)	7.5 (3)	7.6 (3)	6.6 (3)
Ring 2	0.5356 (5)	0.2238 (2)	0.2416 (5)	1.384 (5)	-2.413 (4)	-0.960 (5)	4.0 (2)	5.8 (2)	7.6 (3)	6.9 (3)	7.0 (3)	5.6 (2)
Ring 3	0.2120 (4)	0.4729 (3)	-0.3608 (4)	0.715 (6)	-2.316 (4)	2.795 (5)	4.5 (2)	6.1 (2)	7.1 (3)	7.0 (3)	6.7 (2)	5.6 (2)

^a The form of the anisotropic thermal ellipsoid is $\exp[-\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl]$. ^b The standard deviations of the least significant figures are given in parentheses. ^c The angles δ , ϵ , and η (in radians) which bring about alignment (except for translation) of an internal coordinate system within the ring with a fixed external coordinate system have been defined in previous papers.¹⁰ *B_i* is the isotropic thermal parameter (in Å²) of atom *i* in a given ring.

atom coordinates were idealized to fit best the known geometry (C-H = 1.09 Å, H-C-H = 109° 28') and were added as additional fixed contributions to the calculated structure factors. There was an immediate drop in the values of *R*₁ and *R*₂ to 5.9 and 7.1%, and two cycles of least-squares refinement resulted in final values of *R*₁ = 4.9% and *R*₂ = 6.0% for the 1556 reflections for which *F*_o² ≥ 3σ(*F*_o²).

An analysis of the weighting scheme applied showed no systematic variations of *R*₂ with the magnitude of *F*_o or λ⁻¹ sin θ. The error in an observation of unit weight was 1.76. This rather high value indicates that the values for σ(*I*) assigned to all reflections were probably underestimated, although the relative weights are acceptable. A final difference Fourier map computed using all 1954 reflections above background (*F*_o² ≥ σ(*F*_o²)) contained no peak higher than 0.74 e⁻/Å³, compared with an average value of 2.75 e⁻/Å³ for a C atom. There was no evidence for extinction.

Table I presents the values of 10|*F*_o| and 10|*F*_c| (in electrons) obtained from the final refinement. The positional, thermal, and group parameters are presented in Table II, along with the corresponding standard deviations in these parameters as estimated from the inverse matrix. Table III gives the positional parameters of the group carbon atoms which may be derived from the data in Table II.

The orientations of the thermal ellipsoids are indicated in the figures. The anisotropy is especially evident for the N atoms, which are vibrating perpendicular to the C-N bonds, and for the methyl carbon atoms.

Description of the Structure

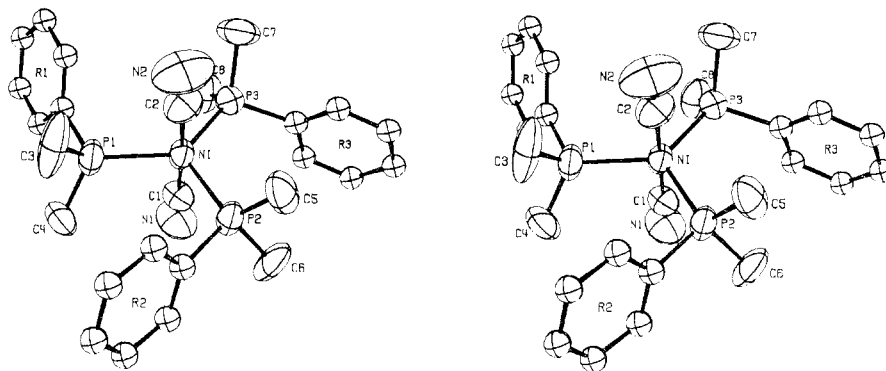
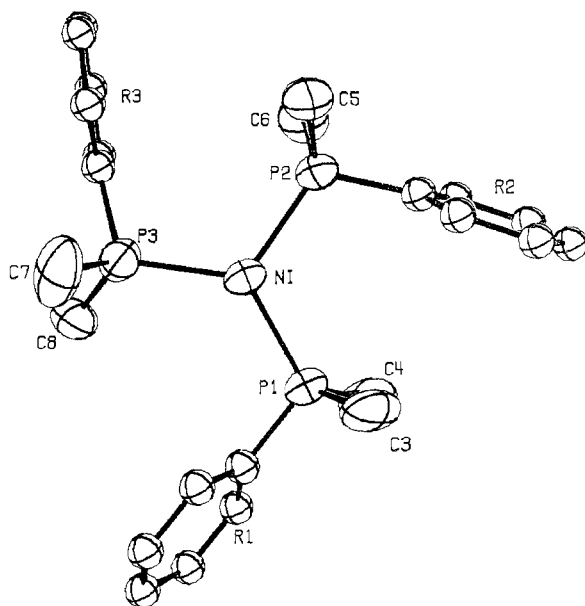
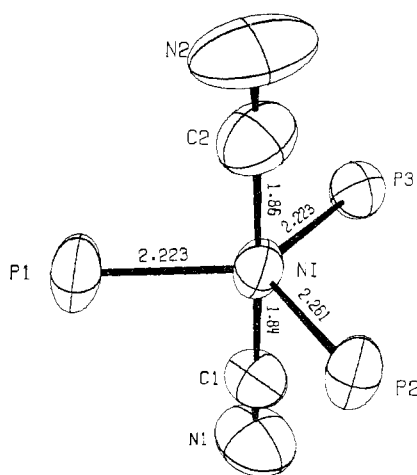
The crystal structure consists of discrete monomeric molecular units. The closest Ni-Ni distance is 8.42 Å. All intermolecular contacts appear to be normal, with the closest approaches between hydrogen atoms of two adjacent molecules being 2.40 and 2.45 Å, respectively. Figure 1 shows a stereoscopic view of the molecular structure. Interatomic distances and angles and their

 TABLE III
 DERIVED PARAMETERS FOR GROUP CARBON ATOMS

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Ring 1			
C ₁ ^a	-0.0253 (6) ^b	0.0809 (5)	-0.2059 (6)
C ₂	-0.0012 (6)	0.0128 (4)	-0.3014 (7)
C ₃	-0.1262 (8)	-0.0265 (3)	-0.3919 (6)
C ₄	-0.2754 (7)	0.0023 (5)	-0.3870 (7)
C ₅	-0.2995 (5)	0.0704 (5)	-0.2916 (8)
C ₆	-0.1744 (8)	0.1097 (3)	-0.2010 (6)
Ring 2			
C ₁	0.4668 (9)	0.2744 (4)	0.1412 (6)
C ₂	0.6029 (7)	0.2304 (3)	0.1292 (6)
C ₃	0.6717 (7)	0.1798 (5)	0.2295 (8)
C ₄	0.6044 (9)	0.1733 (5)	0.3419 (7)
C ₅	0.4683 (8)	0.2172 (4)	0.3540 (6)
C ₆	0.3995 (6)	0.2678 (5)	0.2537 (7)
Ring 3			
C ₁	0.1244 (10)	0.4083 (4)	-0.3451 (7)
C ₂	0.2298 (9)	0.3942 (3)	-0.4315 (7)
C ₃	0.3174 (6)	0.4588 (5)	-0.4473 (6)
C ₄	0.2996 (11)	0.5376 (4)	-0.3766 (8)
C ₅	0.1942 (10)	0.5517 (3)	-0.2901 (7)
C ₆	0.1066 (6)	0.4870 (4)	-0.2744 (6)

^a The rings are numbered so that C₁ is attached to P; C₄ is *para* to C₁. ^b Estimated standard deviations are derived from those of the group parameters. Intra-ring distances are fixed (C-C = 1.392 Å).

standard deviations as computed from the final parameters and the correlation matrix are presented in Table IV. It can be seen that the molecular geometry is essentially trigonal bipyramidal, with cyanide groups axial and the phosphine ligands occupying the equatorial plane. Although no symmetry is imposed upon the molecule, it very nearly possesses a threefold rotation axis, as shown in Figure 2. There is, however, a slight but significant distortion from the idealized trigonal-bipyramidal geometry; this distortion is again in the direction of a tetragonal-pyramidal configuration, as for Ni(CN)₂(P(C₆H₅)(OC₂H₅)₂)₃, but much less pronounced. Figure 3 shows the inner coordination sphere

Figure 1.—Stereoscopic view of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$.Figure 2.—Equatorial plane of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$.Figure 3.—Inner coordination sphere of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2)_3$.

about the Ni atom; selected bond lengths are also presented. Again one of the Ni-P bonds in the equatorial plane is longer than the other two, and the angle opposite this long bond has expanded somewhat; the Ni-P₂ bond of 2.261 (3) Å is significantly longer than the other two distances of 2.223 (3) and 2.223 (3) Å, and the P₁-Ni-P₃ angle is 127.0 (1)° instead of 120°. The

TABLE IV
SELECTED DISTANCES (Å) AND ANGLES (DEG)

Atoms	Distance	Atoms	Angle
Ni-P ₁	2.223 (3)	C ₁ -Ni-P ₁	88.6 (3)
Ni-P ₂	2.261 (3)	C ₁ -Ni-P ₂	92.4 (3)
Ni-P ₃	2.223 (3)	C ₁ -Ni-P ₃	87.8 (3)
Ni-C ₁	1.836 (11)	C ₂ -Ni-P ₁	90.0 (3)
Ni-C ₂	1.860 (12)	C ₂ -Ni-P ₂	91.1 (3)
C ₁ -N ₁	1.146 (9)	C ₂ -Ni-P ₃	90.5 (3)
C ₂ -N ₂	1.140 (10)	Ni-P ₁ -C ₃	117.3 (4)
P ₁ -C ₃	1.806 (10)	Ni-P ₁ -C ₄	116.7 (4)
P ₁ -C ₄	1.786 (11)	Ni-P ₂ -C ₅	116.1 (3)
P ₂ -C ₅	1.828 (10)	Ni-P ₂ -C ₆	116.7 (4)
P ₂ -C ₆	1.803 (9)	Ni-P ₃ -C ₇	118.2 (4)
P ₃ -C ₇	1.826 (9)	Ni-P ₃ -C ₈	115.3 (3)
P ₃ -C ₈	1.813 (10)	Ni-P ₁ -R ₁ C ₁	112.6 (3)
P ₁ -R ₁ C ₁ ^a	1.807 (6)	Ni-P ₂ -R ₂ C ₁	111.6 (3)
P ₂ -R ₂ C ₁	1.821 (7)	Ni-P ₃ -R ₃ C ₁	111.6 (3)
P ₃ -R ₃ C ₁	1.819 (9)	C ₃ -P ₁ -C ₄	100.8 (7)
		C ₃ -P ₁ -R ₁ C ₁	102.3 (5)
		C ₄ -P ₁ -R ₁ C ₁	105.3 (4)
		C ₅ -P ₂ -C ₆	102.3 (5)
		C ₅ -P ₂ -R ₂ C ₁	103.1 (4)
		C ₆ -P ₂ -R ₂ C ₁	105.6 (4)
		C ₇ -P ₃ -C ₈	102.2 (5)
		C ₇ -P ₃ -R ₃ C ₁	103.8 (5)
		C ₈ -P ₃ -R ₃ C ₁	104.3 (4)

^a R_iC₁ refers to carbon atom 1 on phenyl ring *i*.

cyanide groups are also bent away from this long bond, with a C-Ni-C angle of 176.5 (4)°. Thus the Ni(CN)₂-(P(C₆H₅)(CH₃)₂)₃ molecule exhibits the same type of distortions from a trigonal bipyramid as does Ni(CN)₂-(P(C₆H₅)(OC₂H₅)₂)₃, but all of the distortions are decreased in magnitude. Table V summarizes these distortions along with those for the Ni(CN)₃³⁻ ion.

The Ni atom lies nearly on the plane of the three P atoms; the greatest distance of a P atom from the best weighted least-squares plane through these four atoms is 0.018 (3) Å for P₁. Both of the Ni-C-N linkages are essentially linear, with an average C-N distance of 1.14 Å. The P-C distances and C-P-C angles are within the range reported for phosphine complexes of transition metals. The average P-CH₃ distance is 1.81 Å. If the six P-CH₃ bonds are assumed to be equivalent, the standard deviation of a given distance from the mean is 0.016 Å, while the computed standard deviations range from 0.009 to 0.011 Å; hence the error in these bond lengths may have been slightly underesti-

TABLE V
DISTORTIONS OF $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2\text{X}_3$ COMPLEXES FROM
A TRIGONAL-BIPYRAMIDAL GEOMETRY

	X			Trigonal bipyramid
	CN ⁻	$\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$	$\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2$	
	Angle, ^a deg			
$\text{X}_1\text{-Ni-X}_2$	107.4 (5)	113.0 (2)	116.8 (1)	120
$\text{X}_1\text{-Ni-X}_3$	111.5 (5)	113.5 (2)	116.2 (1)	120
$\text{X}_2\text{-Ni-X}_3$	141.2 (5)	133.5 (2)	127.0 (1)	120
$\text{C}_1\text{-Ni-C}_2$	172.8 (5)	170.8 (8)	176.5 (4)	180
$\text{X}_1\text{-Ni-C}_1$	92.3 (5)	93.4 (5)	92.4 (3)	90
$\text{X}_1\text{-Ni-C}_2$	94.4 (5)	95.7 (6)	91.1 (3)	90
$\text{X}_2\text{-Ni-C}_1$	89.3 (5)	89.8 (6)	88.6 (3)	90
$\text{X}_2\text{-Ni-C}_2$	91.3 (5)	88.7 (5)	90.0 (3)	90
$\text{X}_3\text{-Ni-C}_1$	89.5 (4)	87.4 (5)	87.8 (3)	90
$\text{X}_3\text{-Ni-C}_2$	85.6 (4)	87.0 (5)	90.5 (3)	90
	Distance, Å			
Ni-X ₁	1.992 (14)	2.289 (5)	2.261 (3)	
Ni-X ₂	1.913 (13)	2.205 (6)	2.223 (3)	
Ni-X ₃	1.902 (13)	2.189 (6)	2.223 (3)	

^a The three X ligands lie in the equatorial plane, with Ni-X₁ being the longest bond in each case.

mated. However, the distortions of the molecule remain highly significant.

The derived bond distances can be corrected for the effects of thermal motion,¹¹ the most reasonable assumption appearing to be that of a "riding" model. The calculated bond lengths increase slightly; for example, the Ni-P₃ distance increases from 2.223 to 2.231 Å, but the relative differences in bond lengths remain essentially the same.

The variation in Ni-P bond lengths is similar to that cited in the preceding paper, but less extreme: the values of 2.223, 2.223, and 2.261 Å can be compared with those of 2.189, 2.205, and 2.289 Å in $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2\text{-}(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$. The average Ni-C distance of 1.85 Å, however, is closer to the axial Ni-C bond

(11) W. R. Busing and H. A. Levy, *Acta Cryst.*, **17**, 142 (1964).

length in $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_5^{3-}$ of 1.84 Å than to the 1.88 Å in $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_3$. This seems to be a consequence of the more idealized geometry: the C-P nonbonded interactions in the two $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{PR}_3)_3$ complexes are approximately the same, but the less distorted trigonal bipyramid permits shorter Ni-C bonds while keeping the same C-P interactions.

At this time the trends away from an idealized trigonal-bipyramidal configuration toward a tetragonal-pyramidal configuration displayed in Table V are difficult to interpret. Thus although the basic properties of various phosphines have been determined by indirect means,¹² there appears to be no definitive information on where one might place CN⁻ in this scheme. If indeed one is seeing the effects of decreasing σ donation in approaching the tetragonal pyramid, then one could conclude that CN⁻ has decreased σ -donation character over the phosphite ligand. In fact, comparative studies of $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{PR}_3)_3$ systems may provide a sensitive and direct measure of such donating properties. Nevertheless, there are obvious steric factors in these systems: steric factors must be the reason that the compound $\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_2(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_3$ is not formed, since $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3$ is less basic than $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)_2$ but more basic than $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_3$.

Further chemical and structural studies are in progress which may provide additional insight into the factors involved in the determination of the distortions of related five-coordinate complexes of Ni(II).

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Preparation and Spectral Studies of a Series of Rhodium(III)-Acetonitrile Complexes

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A series of rhodium(III)-acetonitrile complexes of the general formula $\text{RhCl}_m(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_n^{3-m}$ have been prepared and characterized by their visible, infrared (4000–70 cm^{-1}), and proton nmr spectra. The preparation of the *trans*- $\text{RhCl}_4(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2^-$ is reported for the first time. The configurations of the two geometrical isomers of the complex $\text{RhCl}_3(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3$ are elucidated on the basis of their proton nmr spectra. The visible and far-infrared spectra of these rhodium(III) acetonitrile complexes are quite similar to those exhibited by the analogous rhodium(III) pyridine complexes, thus indicating the considerable strength of acetonitrile as a ligand for second-row transition metals.

Introduction

The reactions between transition metal halides and various nitriles and the characterization of the resulting metal complexes have attracted a great deal of attention.¹ However, there is relatively little known about

nitrile complexes of rhodium(III), although Lebedinskii and Fedorov² have reported the synthesis of the species

(1) R. A. Walton, *Quart. Rev.* (London), **19**, 126 (1965), and the references quoted therein.

(2) V. V. Lebedinskii and I. A. Fedorov, *Ann. Inst. Platine* (U.S.S.R.), **12**, 87 (1935).