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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of μ -Oxalato-bis(tetrapyridineruthenium(II)) Fluoroborate

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The crystal structure of μ -oxalato-bis(tetrapyridineruthenium(II)) fluoroborate, $[\text{Ru}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_4\text{C}_2\text{O}_4\text{Ru}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_4](\text{BF}_4)_2$, has been determined. The compound crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/c$ with $a = 10.926$ (5), $b = 16.740$ (7), $c = 13.732$ (5) Å, and $\beta = 116.51$ (1)° with two molecules per unit cell. $\rho_{\text{obsd}} = 1.60$ and $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.62$ g cm⁻³ for $Z = 2$. Least-squares refinement of 3165 observed reflections collected by counter methods has yielded a final conventional R factor of 0.071 and a weighted R factor of 0.069. The two ruthenium atoms of the molecule are linked to a centrosymmetric planar tetradentate oxalate ligand. The coordinating ligands form slightly distorted octahedra about each ruthenium atom consisting of two oxygen atoms from the oxalate ligand and four nitrogen atoms from the pyridine ligands. Several features of the structure indicate that the arrangement of four pyridine molecules in the cis configuration causes significantly greater steric interaction than in comparable *trans*-tetrapyridine complexes. This result is in accord with the observed experimental difficulties in preparing *cis*-tetrapyridine complexes. The fluoroborate anion is disordered about one of the threefold B-F axes of the tetrahedron. The unique undisordered fluorine atom is probably held in position by means of a hydrogen bond to an α hydrogen of one of the pyridine rings. The bond lengths and angles of the oxalate ligand are not significantly different from those of the oxalate ion in potassium oxalate monohydrate. The average Ru-N bond distance of 2.08 Å is significantly shorter than that of 2.13 Å in chlorotetraammine(sulfur dioxide)ruthenium(II) chloride.

Introduction

Dinuclear transition metal complexes containing a bridging tetradentate oxalate ligand have been known for several years. The first conclusive evidence was presented in 1938¹ when a partial X-ray analysis of the tri-*n*-butylphosphine complex $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3\text{P}(\text{Cl})\text{PdC}_2\text{O}_4\text{-Pd}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3\text{P}(\text{Cl})^0$ revealed the Pd...Pd distance to be 5.48 Å. This is quite close to the required distance of 5.3 Å for a bridging oxalate. This result refuted the earlier postulate of bridging chloro ligands which would require a Pd...Pd separation of only 3.4 Å.

The first complete structure analysis of a molecule containing a bridging oxalate was that of the mineral humboldtine, $\text{FeC}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, in 1957.² The iron atoms are linked by planar bridging tetradentate oxalate ligands, forming planar polymeric chains with the two water molecules completing the octahedron about each iron. Preliminary reports on the structures of the complexes $\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$,³ $(\text{NH}_4)_2[(\text{UO}_2)_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3]$,⁴ and $\text{Ti}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ⁵ have also shown the oxalate ligand to be four-coordinate. In the uranyl complex, two-thirds of the oxalates are tridentate. Tetradentate oxalate complexes have also been claimed for several other transition metals.⁶⁻⁸

Almost every two- or three-valent transition metal which supports an octahedral configuration of ligands forms complexes with the stoichiometry $\text{M}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_4\text{X}_2^{n+}$ where X is an anionic ligand and n is 0 or 1.^{9,10} Despite

several attempts and claims of preparation,¹¹⁻¹³ only one of these complexes displays *cis-trans* isomerism: dichlorotetrapyridineiridium(III) chloride.¹¹

In an attempt to prepare *cis*-tetrapyridine complexes of ruthenium(II), hexapyridineruthenium(II) salts were treated with oxalic acid. Since ruthenium(II) has a low affinity for oxygen donor ligands it was hoped that oxalate could be readily displaced under mild conditions forming *cis* complexes. Physical data indicated that the complex formed was probably $[(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_4\text{-RuC}_2\text{O}_4\text{Ru}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})_4](\text{BF}_4)_2$.¹⁴ The oxalate could not be displaced from this complex without employing reaction conditions which brought about accompanying loss of pyridine.

It was decided that an X-ray structural analysis of this complex would present an excellent opportunity to study both the bridging tetradentate oxalate ligand and the configuration and interactions of four pyridine ligands in the *cis* octahedral configuration.

Experimental Section

The complex crystallizes overnight from methanol solution as large, deep-red parallelepipeds. The crystals are invariably twinned but after partial re-solution in methanol single-crystal fragments can be obtained.

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_8\text{O}_4\text{Ru}_2\text{B}_2\text{F}_8$: C, 45.99; H, 3.65; N, 10.22; Ru, 18.45. Found: C, 46.34; H, 3.76; N, 10.13; Ru, 18.68.

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TABLE II
ATOMIC COORDINATES AND THERMAL PARAMETERS $\times 10^4$ ^a

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Ru	82.9 (7)	317.1 (5)	1911.0 (6)	68 (0.7)	21 (0.2)	34 (0.4)	1 (0.6)	24 (0.4)	-1 (0.4)
C ₁	-261 (11)	1714 (6)	3306 (7)	148 (16)	42 (5)	41 (7)	20 (8)	36 (9)	-2 (5)
C ₂	267 (12)	2384 (6)	3962 (8)	194 (19)	34 (5)	60 (8)	2 (8)	55 (11)	-4 (5)
C ₃	1618 (12)	2634 (7)	4322 (8)	161 (18)	32 (5)	72 (9)	17 (8)	33 (11)	13 (6)
C ₄	2412 (11)	2209 (6)	3967 (8)	131 (15)	27 (4)	71 (9)	-6 (7)	22 (10)	1 (5)
C ₅	1878 (10)	1543 (6)	3246 (7)	91 (12)	29 (4)	49 (7)	-10 (6)	7 (8)	3 (4)
C ₆	-743 (12)	-1074 (5)	2922 (7)	136 (14)	24 (4)	34 (6)	-12 (6)	22 (8)	1 (4)
C ₇	-1456 (11)	-1548 (6)	3338 (8)	145 (16)	37 (5)	49 (8)	-15 (7)	21 (9)	6 (5)
C ₈	-2550 (11)	-1232 (7)	3485 (8)	143 (16)	54 (6)	59 (8)	-11 (8)	52 (10)	-1 (6)
C ₉	-2903 (10)	-417 (7)	3178 (7)	128 (14)	50 (6)	50 (7)	-4 (8)	39 (8)	0 (6)
C ₁₀	-2147 (9)	34 (6)	2778 (7)	93 (12)	42 (5)	62 (8)	-1 (6)	55 (8)	-0 (5)
C ₁₁	2209 (10)	-294 (7)	4001 (8)	147 (15)	31 (4)	58 (7)	-4 (8)	26 (8)	3 (6)
C ₁₂	3380 (11)	-729 (7)	4697 (8)	140 (17)	50 (6)	70 (9)	32 (8)	14 (10)	7 (6)
C ₁₃	4080 (11)	-1147 (7)	4228 (9)	132 (17)	56 (7)	75 (10)	32 (9)	12 (11)	15 (6)
C ₁₄	3600 (11)	-1117 (8)	3101 (9)	121 (16)	64 (7)	101 (11)	36 (9)	49 (11)	29 (7)
C ₁₅	2438 (10)	-669 (7)	2458 (9)	117 (14)	51 (6)	89 (10)	34 (8)	67 (10)	14 (6)
C ₁₆	-1865 (11)	1689 (6)	588 (9)	176 (18)	26 (4)	88 (10)	19 (8)	77 (12)	9 (5)
C ₁₇	-3017 (12)	2041 (7)	-213 (9)	150 (17)	44 (6)	78 (10)	19 (8)	50 (11)	5 (6)
C ₁₈	-4202 (12)	1593 (8)	-778 (9)	131 (17)	62 (7)	87 (10)	31 (9)	59 (11)	9 (7)
C ₁₉	-4247 (11)	766 (8)	-575 (8)	116 (15)	58 (7)	71 (9)	24 (8)	41 (10)	11 (6)
C ₂₀	-3038 (19)	427 (7)	252 (7)	71 (11)	62 (9)	57 (7)	-11 (7)	25 (7)	-2 (6)
C ₂₁	390 (8)	398 (5)	59 (6)	78 (10)	24 (4)	42 (6)	-2 (6)	27 (6)	0 (4)
N ₁	556 (7)	1291 (4)	2942 (6)	98 (10)	27 (4)	54 (6)	-2 (5)	29 (7)	3 (4)
N ₂	-1079 (7)	-282 (5)	2668 (5)	95 (9)	36 (3)	43 (5)	11 (6)	36 (6)	8 (4)
N ₃	1750 (7)	-263 (5)	2895 (6)	107 (10)	29 (3)	52 (5)	4 (6)	35 (6)	-1 (4)
N ₄	-1888 (7)	880 (5)	817 (5)	74 (9)	35 (4)	48 (6)	5 (5)	20 (6)	-5 (4)
O ₁	747 (6)	783 (4)	917 (4)	101 (8)	28 (2)	56 (5)	1 (4)	43 (5)	1 (3)
O ₂	-608 (6)	-600 (3)	736 (5)	113 (9)	25 (3)	57 (5)	-3 (4)	50 (5)	-2 (3)
F ₁	6338 (8)	1691 (5)	2697 (7)	174 (12)	84 (5)	193 (10)	26 (7)	40 (10)	-17 (6)
F ₂	4646 (17)	1000 (9)	1553 (13)	367 (36)	80 (14)	186 (35)	58 (20)	88 (36)	-86 (16)
F _{2B}	4640 (39)	1355 (28)	1123 (23)	506 (81)	223 (54)	148 (37)	-59 (58)	231 (48)	-22 (31)
F ₃	4508 (16)	2266 (9)	1564 (11)	295 (30)	74 (9)	141 (20)	6 (13)	26 (19)	15 (11)
F _{3B}	4209 (25)	2216 (14)	2094 (20)	275 (47)	54 (11)	144 (32)	96 (19)	69 (30)	22 (15)
F ₄	4621 (14)	1650 (12)	2925 (11)	267 (29)	148 (13)	138 (18)	-50 (17)	106 (19)	-54 (14)
F _{4B}	4605 (23)	1007 (15)	2614 (21)	221 (45)	72 (13)	124 (35)	41 (22)	10 (32)	28 (18)
B	4985 (15)	1606 (9)	2145 (10)	119 (18)	39 (6)	57 (12)	10 (9)	20 (13)	0 (6)

^a The temperature factor is of the form: $T(hkl) = \exp(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)$.

scan range of about 3° which was adjusted to account for α_1 - α_2 splitting. The takeoff angle used was 0.16° . Throughout the course of the data collection there was no significant deviation in the two standard reflections 032, 087 which were remeasured after every 50 reflections. The esd in F_o^2 was taken as $\sigma(F_o^2) = [(Lp)^{-2} + CF_o^4]^{1/2}$ with $C = 0.02$, chosen arbitrarily to make allowance for systematic errors. Of the 4000 independent reflections measured, 3165 were considered significant on the criterion $|F_o| < \sigma(F_o)$.

The linear absorption coefficient μ for Cu K α is 64.4 cm^{-1} . Considering the small crystal size and the fact that the maximum variation in count rate from the mean for several ϕ sweeps was $\pm 8\%$, no absorption corrections were applied. The structure refinement was carried out using the xFLS¹⁵ program which allows for anomalous dispersion. Hartree-Fock atomic scattering factors were used.¹⁶

Determination and Refinement of the Structure

Standard Patterson and Fourier techniques led to the location of all except hydrogen atoms in the cell. Anisotropic least-squares refinement yielded a conventional R factor of 0.076. A difference Fourier map revealed the positions of all 20 hydrogen atoms associated with the pyridine rings. Due to the large amount of computer time required for each least-squares cycle, the hydrogen atoms were not included in the refinement nor in F_o . The map indicated disordering about one of the threefold axes of the BF_4^- tetrahedron. The three disordered fluorine atoms were found to be in two sets; site occupancies 0.65 and 0.35

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gave the lowest residual. Refinement, including the $[\text{BF}(\text{F}_{0.65})_3(\text{F}_{0.35})_3]^-$ entity, yielded a final conventional R of 0.071 and a weighted R of 0.068. F_o and F_c are listed in Table I.

A final difference Fourier showed no large areas of electron density greater than $0.4 \text{ e}^- \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ in the region of the fluoroborate anion. The peaks assignable to hydrogen atoms varied from 0.8 to $0.4 \text{ e}^- \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ with an average value of $0.6 \text{ e}^- \text{ \AA}^{-3}$.

Description of the Structure

The structure consists of discrete centrosymmetric

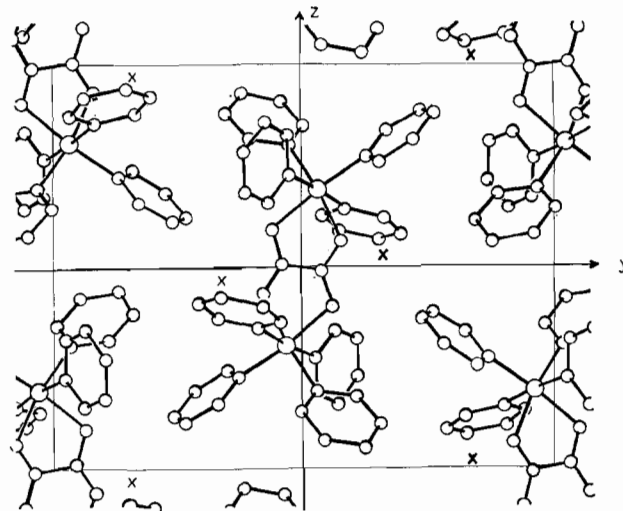


Figure 1.—Structure in x projection. \times 's mark BF_4^- ions.

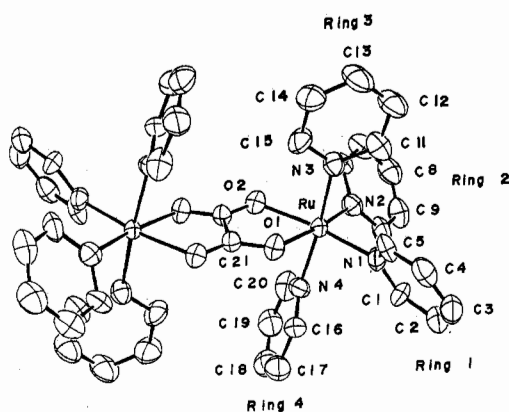


Figure 2.—Atomic numbering scheme and thermal ellipsoid plot.

dimeric cations and fluoroborate anions, Figure 1. The ruthenium ions lie ± 0.0404 (8) Å from the plane $x = 0$ and the boron atoms ± 0.007 (16) Å from the plane $x = 1/2$.

Figure 2 shows an isolated cation and indicates the lettering for Tables II through V. The pyridine and oxalate ligands form a slightly distorted octahedron about each ruthenium atom. The maximum deviation

TABLE III

(a) Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) in Pyridine Rings

Bond Lengths					
N- α C		α C- β C		β C- γ C	
N ₁ -C ₁	1.395 (11)	C ₁ -C ₂	1.392 (13)	C ₂ -C ₃	1.396 (14)
N ₁ -C ₅	1.378 (11)	C ₄ -C ₅	1.431 (12)	C ₃ -C ₄	1.368 (14)
N ₂ -C ₆	1.350 (10)	C ₆ -C ₇	1.400 (12)	C ₇ -C ₈	1.429 (14)
N ₂ -C ₁₀	1.378 (11)	C ₉ -C ₁₀	1.399 (13)	C ₈ -C ₉	1.402 (14)
N ₃ -C ₁₁	1.372 (10)	C ₁₁ -C ₁₂	1.410 (13)	C ₁₂ -C ₁₃	1.389 (14)
N ₃ -C ₁₅	1.337 (11)	C ₁₄ -C ₁₅	1.398 (13)	C ₁₃ -C ₁₄	1.397 (14)
N ₄ -C ₁₆	1.393 (12)	C ₁₅ -C ₁₇	1.391 (13)	C ₁₇ -C ₁₈	1.394 (15)
N ₄ -C ₂₀	1.373 (11)	C ₁₉ -C ₂₀	1.421 (13)	C ₁₈ -C ₁₉	1.417 (15)

In-Plane Bending Angles			
Ru-N ₁ -C ₁	124.8 (6)	Ru-N ₃ -C ₁₁	120.3 (6)
Ru-N ₁ -C ₅	115.8 (6)	Ru-N ₃ -C ₁₅	120.9 (6)
Ru-N ₂ -C ₆	122.8 (6)	Ru-N ₄ -C ₁₆	119.6 (6)
Ru-N ₂ -C ₁₀	117.0 (6)	Ru-N ₃ -C ₂₀	119.7 (6)

Out-of-Plane Bending Angles			
Ru-ring 1	1.1	Ru-ring 3	4.6
Ru-ring 2	6.1	Ru-ring 4	5.4

Bond Angles			
N vertex		α C vertex	
C ₁ -N ₁ -C ₅	119.2 (8)	N ₁ -C ₁ -C ₂	119.6 (10)
C ₆ -N ₂ -C ₁₀	119.7	N ₁ -C ₅ -C ₄	119.8 (10)
C ₁₁ -N ₃ -C ₁₅	118.5	N ₂ -C ₆ -C ₇	119.7
C ₁₆ -N ₄ -C ₂₀	119.6	N ₂ -C ₁₀ -C ₉	121.1
		N ₂ -C ₁₁ -C ₁₂	122.7
		N ₃ -C ₁₅ -C ₁₄	112.6
		N ₄ -C ₁₆ -C ₁₇	119.7
		N ₄ -C ₂₀ -C ₁₉	120.9
β C vertex		γ C vertex	
C ₁ -C ₂ -C ₃	122.5 (10)	C ₂ -C ₃ -C ₄	117.2 (10)
C ₃ -C ₄ -C ₅	121.9 (10)	C ₇ -C ₈ -C ₉	117.3
C ₆ -C ₇ -C ₈	120.1	C ₁₂ -C ₁₃ -C ₁₄	119.2
C ₈ -C ₉ -C ₁₀	120.5	C ₁₇ -C ₁₈ -C ₁₉	121.6
C ₁₁ -C ₁₂ -C ₁₃	118.0		
C ₁₃ -C ₁₄ -C ₁₅	120.1		
C ₁₅ -C ₁₇ -C ₁₈	119.9		
C ₁₈ -C ₁₉ -C ₂₀	117.0		

(b) Shortest α C... α C Distances (Å)

C ₉ -C ₁₁	3.17	C ₁ -C ₁₅	3.34
C ₁₀ -C ₁	3.37	C ₅ -C ₁₁	3.21
C ₁₀ -C ₂₀	3.22		

TABLE IV
OTHER BOND LENGTHS (Å) AND ANGLES (DEG)

Bond Lengths			
Ru-N ₁	2.069 (7)	B-F ₁	1.335 (15)
Ru-N ₂	2.066 (7)	B-F ₂	1.247 (17)
Ru-N ₃	3.089 (7)	B-F _{3B}	1.348 (31)
Ru-N ₄	2.095 (7)	B-F ₃	1.327 (18)
Ru-O ₁	2.096 (5)	B-F _{3B}	1.309 (23)
Ru-O ₂	2.113 (5)	B-F ₄	1.300 (17)
C ₂₁ -C _{21'}	1.551 (6)	B-F _{4B}	1.352 (26)
C ₂₁ -O ₁	1.244 (9)	Av B-F	1.317
C _{21'} -O ₂	1.262 (9)		

Bond Angles			
O ₁ -Ru-O ₂	79.8 (2)	O ₁ -C ₂₁ -C _{21'}	118.4 (10)
O ₂ -Ru-N ₂	90.4 (2)	O ₁ -C ₂₁ -O _{1'}	125.7 (9)
N ₂ -Ru-N ₁	97.6 (3)	O ₂ -C _{21'} -O _{2'}	125.7 (9)
N ₁ -Ru-O ₁	92.3 (3)	F ₁ -B-F ₂	113 (1)
N ₃ -Ru-O ₁	84.7 (3)	F ₁ -B-F _{3B}	110 (2)
N ₃ -Ru-O ₂	86.1 (3)	F ₁ -B-F ₃	107 (1)
N ₃ -Ru-N ₂	92.3 (3)	F ₁ -B-F _{3B}	118 (2)
N ₃ -Ru-N ₁	93.4 (3)	F ₁ -B-F ₄	101 (1)
N ₄ -Ru-O ₁	91.5 (3)	F ₁ -B-F _{4B}	108 (2)
N ₄ -Ru-O ₂	90.7 (3)	F ₂ -B-F ₄	118 (2)
N ₄ -Ru-N ₂	90.9 (3)	F ₃ -B-F ₄	115 (1)
N ₄ -Ru-N ₁	89.4 (3)	F ₃ -B-F ₂	111 (2)
Ru-O-C ₂₁	112.4 (5)	F _{4B} -B-F _{3B}	108 (2)
Ru-O ₂ '-C _{21'}	112.2 (5)	F _{2B} -B-F _{4B}	105 (2)
		F _{3B} -B-F _{4B}	106 (2)

TABLE V

EQUATIONS OF BEST LEAST-SQUARES PLANES,
WHERE X, Y, AND Z ARE REAL ORTHOGONAL
COORDINATES WITH AXES X ALONG x AND Z ALONG z^*

Ring 1	$0.0616X + 0.5960Y - 0.8006Z - 1.672 = 0$
Ring 2	$-0.2363X - 0.2776Y - 0.9312Z - 2.242 = 0$
Ring 3	$-0.5883X - 0.8021Y - 0.1024Z - 0.0900 = 0$
Ring 4	$0.6958X - 0.2223Y - 0.6830Z - 2.791 = 0$
Oxalate	$-0.7708X + 0.4944Y - 0.4017Z = 0$
Octahedral plane	$-0.6731X + 0.4720Y - 0.5692Z - 0.2196 = 0$

tion from the best least-squares equatorial plane (Table V) is 0.026 Å. As the oxalate ligand has a bite of only 80°, the other bond angles in the plane are somewhat greater than 90° (Table IV). The angle between the two axial Ru-N bonds above and below the equatorial plane is 177.8 (8)°. Pyridine rings 3 and 4 are at 81° to each other with ring 3 approximately parallel and ring 4 approximately perpendicular to the Ru-Ru axis of the dimer (see Figure 2). Rings 1 and 2 are inclined such that their normals cut the equatorial plane at 46 and 56°, respectively.

In the pyridine rings, the N-C bonds seem to be significantly longer than those reported in other crystal structures containing pyridine derivatives where the bond length is usually about 1.35 Å. In addition the C-N-C angle is usually about 118° and N-C-C about 122° whereas in the present case, for reasons which are not clear, these angles are both closer to 120° (see Table IIIa). Since the rings are all essentially planar with no deviations as great as 2 σ from the best planes and there is no apparent lengthening of the β - γ carbon-carbon bonds, it is concluded that there is no observable contribution from quinoid type structures which would result from d π -p π back-bonding.

The Ru-N bonds of the equatorial pyridine rings 1 and 2 are 2.069 (7) and 2.066 (7) Å, which are 3 σ shorter than the Ru-N bonds of the pyridine rings 3 and 4 (2.089 (7) and 2.095 (7) Å). Since oxalate is a

better π donor and poorer π acceptor than pyridine,¹⁷ the Ru-N bonds of the equatorial pyridine ligands would be expected to be shortened due to increased electron density available for back-donation relative to the case of two competing axial pyridine ligands. The difference, although slight, is in accord with the trans effect.

No Ru-N bond is quite coplanar with its pyridine ring, Ru atoms being as much as 0.2 Å out of the plane. In addition, the equatorial pyridine rings exhibit significant in-plane bending; that is, the two α C-N-Ru angles differ by 9° for ring 1 and by 5° for ring 2. These deviations are most readily accounted for by steric interactions discussed below.

As in previously reported complexes^{2,5} the bridging oxalate ligand is planar, in the present case to within 0.000 (8) Å. The bond lengths and angles of the oxalate ligand are not significantly different from those of the free oxalate ion.¹⁸ Any C-O bond lengthening which might result from the formation of the four Ru-O donor bonds is too small to be detected. The Ru-O bond lengths of 2.113 (5) and 2.096 (5) Å differ by 3σ and the C-O bond lengths at 1.244 (9) and 1.262 (9) differ only by 2σ . However, the longer C-O bond is associated with the longer Ru-O bond, suggesting that there is no chemical significance attributable to the variation in Ru-O bond lengths.

The Ru atoms bridged by the oxalate ion lie above and below the oxalate plane such that the plane formed by the two Ru-O bonds cuts the oxalate plane at an angle of 169.6 (6)°. This out-of-plane bending increases the distance between the H atom attached to C₁₅ and the carbons of the oxalate ligand. These distances in the complex are 2.69 and 2.64 Å, somewhat less than the sum of their van der Waals radii which is *ca.* 2.9 Å.

The Ru-N bond lengths are significantly shorter than the Ru-N bond length of 2.127 (7) Å in the complex *trans*-[Ru(NH₃)₄ClSO₂]Cl.¹⁹ In many metal-amine and metal-pyridine complexes of cobalt, nickel, and copper the metal-amine and metal-pyridine bond lengths are effectively equal. The relative shortness in the present case indicates the ability of the Ru(II) ion to form strong bonds with the "weak" base pyridine. Ir spectra of several ruthenium(II)-pyridine complexes have exhibited bands in the region of 300 cm⁻¹ which have been tentatively assigned to the Ru-N stretching mode.¹⁴ This quite high value is in accord with the observed shortness of the Ru(II)-N bonds in this complex.

The BF₄⁻ anion is disordered about a threefold axis of the tetrahedron. Each set of three disordered fluorine atoms subtends bond angles equal to the tetrahedral angle within experimental error. However, their large vibrational amplitudes may imply that disorder is more extensive than the model used here. The unique, ordered, fluorine atom F(1) is perhaps hydrogen bonded to the hydrogen atom attached to C(10) (Figure 3). The F...H distance is 2.28 Å (sum of

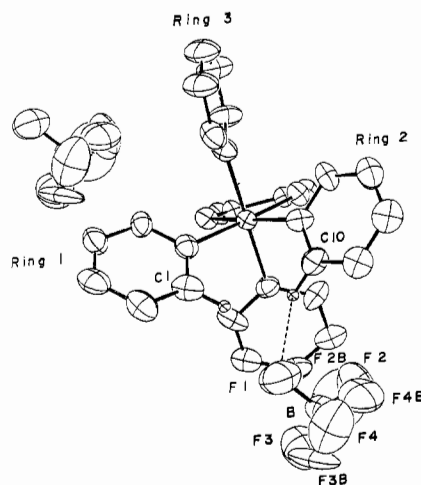


Figure 3.—Perspective view of molecule showing (a) disordering of BF₄⁻ ion and (b) possible C-H...F hydrogen bond.

van der Waals radii about 2.43 Å) with an F(1)-H-C(10) angle of 141° and B-F(1)-H angle of 115°.

In the complex diiodocarbomethoxycarbonyl(2,2'-bipyridyl)iridium(III),²⁰ the carbomethoxy ligand is considered to be held in the equatorial plane by means of an α -C-H...O hydrogen bond with H...O distance of length 2.0 Å and angle 139°. Although the proposed C-H...F hydrogen bond in our complex is longer, the possibility of sufficient interaction to prevent complete disordering of the fluoroborate anion exists. There are no other short H...F contacts and all F...C distances are normal.

It has been suggested²¹ that *cis*-tetrapyridine complexes are thermodynamically unstable relative to *trans* due to steric interactions, possibly between hydrogen atoms attached to α -carbon atoms. As far as the α -carbon atoms themselves are concerned they are no closer together in the present complex than the 3.21 Å in the typical *trans* complex Ni(3,5-(CH₃)₂py)₄(ClO₄)₂²² (see Table IIb). However, in the case of one pair of adjacent rings, 1 and 2 (Figure 3), the calculated separation between hydrogen atoms attached to α -carbon atoms C(1) and C(10) is only 1.8 Å. (The latter hydrogen atom appears on the difference map in the predicted position; the peak for the C(1) hydrogen atom is, however, too broad for its position to be assigned in this way.) No other pairs of hydrogen atoms attached to α -carbon atoms are at all close. Thus this one H...H interaction may contribute to the instability of *cis* complexes relative to *trans*. In the latter, no such close H...H interactions are to be expected. There is some pmr evidence¹⁴ that the pyridine rings are librating in solution. This may give rise to further H...H interactions.

The close contact between α -carbon atoms appears to be the cause of the Ru-N bonds of rings 1 and 2 being subject to bending in the plane of the ring ("in-plane bending") and the cause of out-of-plane bending (*i.e.*, Ru is displaced from the mean ring plane) in rings 2, 3, and 4. All these distortions are such as to reduce the interaction between α -carbon atoms of adjacent rings.

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Thus, overall, the cis complex appears to be subject to more internal strain than a comparable trans complex. In addition, the oxalate ligand, having a bite of only 80° , allows the N-Ru-N bond angle for the equatorial pyridine rings to expand to 98° . Thus if the oxalate ligand were replaced by two chlorine atoms, the resultant cis complex, requiring a larger Cl-Ru-Cl angle, would certainly be more crowded

and thus would be expected to be unstable relative to the trans complex.

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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Dichlorobis(4-methylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II), Yellow Modification

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The crystal structure of the yellow modification of dichlorobis(4-methylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II), $[(C_6H_7NO)_2CuCl_2]_2$, has been determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction methods. Counter methods were used to collect 1469 nonzero reflections. The complex crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/n$ with two dimeric molecules per unit cell. The cell dimensions are $a = 7.368$ (10), $b = 19.857$ (5), $c = 10.773$ (5) Å, and $\beta = 111^\circ 25$ (10)'. The observed and calculated densities are 1.60 and 1.59 g cm⁻³, respectively. The structure was refined by least-squares methods to a conventional R factor of 0.061%. The molecules consist of oxygen-bridged dimer units. The coordination around the copper ion may be described as a highly distorted square-based pyramid with a chlorine atom at the apical site at a distance of 2.354 (3) Å. The oxygen bridging system contains unequal Cu-O bond lengths of 1.957 (6) and 2.153 (6) Å, and the magnetic moment should be larger than those observed for the 1:1 dimeric species. The unstable dimeric molecule of the yellow modification is postulated to be an intermediate in the formation of the thermodynamically stable trans 2:1 monomer.

Introduction

The various types of 2:1 aromatic *N*-oxide complexes of copper(II) have been discussed in previous papers.^{1,2} The infrared spectra have been reported for many of these complexes, and copper(II) coordination geometries were predicted from a consideration of the metal-chlorine stretching modes.³ The green form of the 2:1 4-methylpyridine 1-oxide complex was shown to have a trans square-planar geometry about the copper(II) ions.² The monomers are isolated units which show little intramolecular steric interaction and exhibit normal magnetic moments from 77°K to well above room temperature. This form is thermodynamically the most stable, and all 2:1 green crystalline forms are predicted to be trans square planar.

The yellow form of the dichlorobis(2,6-dimethylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II) complex was shown to have a geometry intermediate between tetrahedral and cis square planar.⁴ This is consistent with the prediction of Hatfield and Morrison⁵ based upon the diffuse reflectance spectrum of dibromobis(2,6-dimethylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II). The magnetic moments of these two complexes were normal. In general, only small quantities of the yellow form can be prepared, and the infrared spectra and magnetic moments of only a few of the complexes have been reported. The dichlorobis(pyridine 1-oxide) copper(II)

complex has been shown to be an oxygen-bridged dimer,⁶ and the complex has a magnetic moment around 0.5 BM.⁷ The corresponding bromide and dibromobis(4-methylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II) complexes have magnetic moments of 1.4⁷ and 1.33⁸ BM, respectively. Since the 1:1 dimeric bromide complexes usually have lower magnetic moments than the corresponding chloride complexes, these intermediate moments are not consistent with the known structures in this series. A dimeric structure was predicted,² but some significant differences in geometry must exist.

We wish to report the structure of the yellow form of dichlorobis(4-methylpyridine 1-oxide)copper(II) and rationalize the physical properties in terms of this structure.

Experimental Section

Small quantities of the yellow 2:1 complex were prepared by mixing an excess of 4-methylpyridine 1-oxide with the 1:1 complex in boiling ethanol. The solution was allowed to evaporate slowly at room temperature, and a few yellow crystals were found together with a large excess of the green form. Attempts to improve the yield of yellow modification were unsuccessful. The crystals were unstable, and the small quantities of sample hindered the complete chemical and physical characterization of this material.

The yellow complex was irreversibly converted to the green form above 73°, and the converted green form retained its color on returning to room temperature. An infrared spectrum was obtained of the yellow form pressed into a KBr pellet. Two

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