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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of the Adduct of Bis(O,O'-diethyldithiophosphato)nickel(II) with Pyridine

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The crystal and molecular structure of the bis-pyridine adduct of bis(O,O'-diethyldithiophosphato)nickel(II), Ni(dtp)₂·2py, has been determined by three-dimensional X-ray analysis. The adduct forms monoclinic crystals, space group P2₁/c, $a = 8.11$ Å, $b = 17.89$ Å, $c = 9.94$ Å, $\beta = 104.8^\circ$, and $z = 2$. The molecule has virtually D_{2h}-mmm symmetry. The nickel atom occupies a center of symmetry and lies on the plane formed by the four sulfur atoms. Formation of the *trans*-bis-pyridine adduct distorts the chelate rings in Ni(dtp)₂ without affecting the coplanarity of the two rings. The Ni-S distance increases, the S-Ni-S angle decreases, and the S-P-S angle increases in comparison with the corresponding values in the Ni(dtp)₂ chelate. The distance between the nitrogen atom in the coordinated pyridine molecules and the nickel atom is 2.11 Å.

Introduction

Metal chelates in which the metal ion is coordinatively unsaturated can act as electron acceptors and form adducts with neutral molecules which are electron donors. Adduct formation reactions have been found useful for a wide variety of purposes. In a recent study, a tetracoordinated nickel chelate was used as a reference acceptor molecule in the determination of thermodynamic constants for donor-acceptor reactions.^{1,2} In certain liquid-liquid extractions of metal chelates, it has often been claimed that the extractability of the metal chelate into an organic phase is increased by the formation of hydrophobic adducts with neutral donor molecules.^{3,4} Certain structures that have been postulated for even the simplest metal chelate adducts involved in liquid-liquid extraction have been controversial.^{5,6} No attempts have been made, however, to determine the structures of such adducts, probably because of the difficulties experienced in isolating them and because many are unstable in air.

In recent investigations on the behavior of the analytically important ligand, O,O'-diethyldithiophosphoric acid (dtp), and its metal chelates, especially the nickel(II) chelate, in solution, it was observed that the metal-sulfur bond was disrupted in water or other solvents of high dielectric constant.^{7,8} An X-ray crystallographic structure determination of the nickel(II) chelate of dtp showed no abnormalities in the structure that could explain this unusual behavior of Ni(dtp)₂ in aqueous solution.⁹ Although the tetracoordinated chelate, Ni(dtp)₂, can be readily isolated from organic solvents, there is little doubt that, in polar solvents, the metal ion is hexacoordinated. It is possible that the solvent molecules that complete the coordination sphere of the metal ion affect the struc-

ture of the metal chelate in such a manner that the chelate rings in the resulting adduct are readily disrupted. In order to test this hypothesis, we have prepared Ni(dtp)₂·2py, the diadduct of Ni(dtp)₂ with pyridine, and have carried out a single-crystal three-dimensional X-ray structure determination on the compound.

Experimental Section

Crystal Data.—Single crystals of the adduct of Ni(dtp)₂ with pyridine were prepared by the addition of pyridine to a solution of Ni(dtp)₂ in ethanol until the solution changed from purple to pale green. Green, needle-shaped crystals of Ni(dtp)₂·2py were obtained in a few hours. On exposure of these crystals to air, pyridine was lost from the complex and the crystals reverted to the original purple color of Ni(dtp)₂. The crystals used in the X-ray work were therefore coated with a thin layer of paraffin wax to prevent the loss of pyridine.

Laue symmetry and systematic extinctions of $0k0$ reflections with k odd and $h0l$ reflections with l odd showed that the crystals belong to the monoclinic system, space group P2₁/c-C_{2h}⁹. The cell dimensions were determined by superimposing sodium chloride lines on Weissenberg photographs: $a = 8.11 \pm 0.02$ Å, $b = 17.89 \pm 0.02$ Å, $c = 9.94 \pm 0.02$ Å, and $\beta = 104.8^\circ$. No density measurements were made because of the instability of the compound. The unit cell contains two molecules and each molecule is required to have a center of symmetry.

Structure Determination and Refinement.—Intensity data ($0kl$ and $hk0$) were obtained at the beginning of the structure analysis from Weissenberg photographs by means of the multiple-film technique. The approximate positions of two sulfur atoms and one phosphorus atom were obtained from Patterson syntheses. An approximate molecular structure was obtained by successive Fourier syntheses until the R factors for the ($0kl$) and ($hk0$) reflections were 0.16 and 0.15, respectively.

Three-dimensional data were obtained with a Buerger automated X-ray diffractometer. The operation of the instrument has been described previously.⁹ Cu K α radiation was used and diffractometer data were collected about the x axis from $h = 0$ through 5; 1340 independent reflections were obtained. Lorentz and polarization corrections were applied in the usual manner. No absorption or extinction corrections were applied ($\mu_r = 0.4$). The fine needle-shaped crystals could not be cut into an appropriate shape in order to obtain intensity data around the y and z axes. Interlayer scale factors were therefore determined empirically by a comparison of F_o and F_c values.

The structure was refined by three-dimensional differential Fourier syntheses. After the first three refinement cycles with isotropic temperature factors, the value of R was 0.180. At this stage interlayer scale factors were calculated and used to obtain

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a new set of F_o values. Two more refinement cycles reduced R to 0.145. The scale factors were recalculated (the changes in the scale factors were very small) and a new set of F_o values was obtained; two more refinement cycles gave a value of 0.125 for R . In the final refinement, the changes in the atomic coordinates were well within their estimated standard deviations.

Table I gives the final atomic coordinates and temperature factors that were obtained. F_o and F_c are listed in Table II. The scattering factors were obtained from the "International Tables" with the values for nickel corrected for the real part of the dispersion.

TABLE I
ATOMIC COORDINATES $\times 10^4$ ^a

	x	y	z	$B, \text{Å}^2$
Ni	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.8 (0.1)
S(1)	2501 (5)	660 (1)	-461 (3)	4.4 (0.1)
S(2)	878 (5)	721 (1)	2221 (3)	4.7 (0.2)
P	2708 (5)	1106 (1)	1401 (3)	4.4 (0.1)
O(1)	2810 (19)	1993 (6)	1380 (12)	7.2 (0.7)
O(2)	4543 (16)	1012 (4)	2429 (11)	5.9 (0.6)
N	1572 (14)	-895 (4)	933 (9)	3.6 (0.4)
C(1)	1405 (36)	2446 (7)	492 (27)	9.2 (1.5)
C(2)	1947 (38)	3224 (9)	671 (19)	8.7 (1.4)
C(3)	5201 (22)	279 (7)	2945 (16)	6.9 (1.0)
C(4)	6928 (32)	374 (11)	3852 (21)	7.8 (1.2)
C(5)	1479 (18)	-1200 (5)	2146 (13)	4.6 (0.6)
C(6)	2384 (31)	-1792 (8)	2723 (18)	6.8 (1.0)
C(7)	3565 (29)	-2131 (8)	2040 (19)	8.4 (1.3)
C(8)	3730 (30)	-1820 (7)	808 (23)	5.8 (0.8)
C(9)	2718 (18)	-1206 (5)	276 (13)	4.7 (0.6)

^a The formulas given by Cruickshank have been used to calculate the standard deviations given in parentheses: D. W. J. Cruickshank, *Acta Cryst.*, **2**, 65 (1949).

Results

The calculated values of the bond distances and bond angles are given in Tables III and IV, respectively. The projection of the structure down the z axis is shown in Figure 1 and a perspective drawing of the molecule in Figure 2. In the latter figure three planes—(1), (2), and (3)—are also shown which simplify the interpretation of the structure. No weighting factors were used in the calculation of all least-squares planes.

Plane (1) consists of the two pyridine molecules and the nickel atom. The equation of the best least-squares plane (1) is

$$0.597X + 0.635Y + 0.491Z = 0 \quad \text{plane (1)}$$

(In the equations of best planes, the orthogonal coordinates $X = x$, $Y = y$, and Z directed along z^* are used together with absolute values of the orthogonal coordinates.) The atom C(7) shows the maximum deviation of 0.04 Å from this plane. The two sulfur atoms S(1) and S(2') are 1.81 and 1.95 Å, respectively from this plane.

Plane (2) is formed by the two chelate rings and the equation of the best plane through these rings is

$$0.503X - 0.755Y + 0.421Z = 0 \quad \text{plane (2)}$$

The phosphorus atom shows a maximum deviation of 0.001 Å from this plane. Both atoms O(1) and O(2) are 1.16 Å from this plane.

The group of atoms C(2), C(1), O(1), P, O(2), C(3),

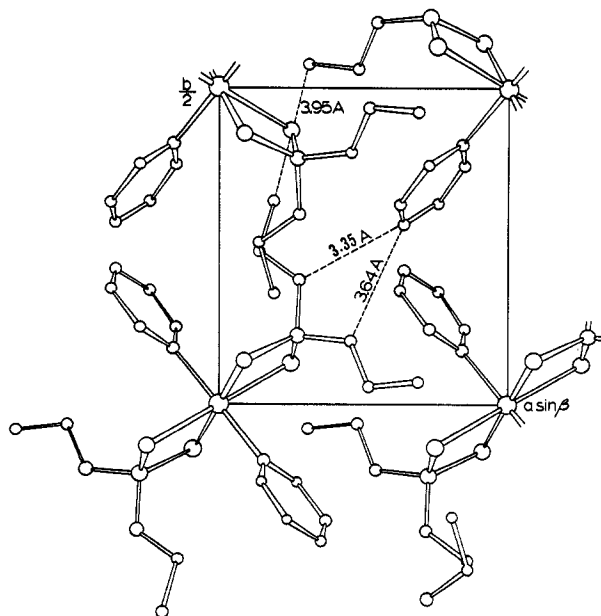


Figure 1.—Projection of the structure of $\text{Ni}[\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2]_2 \cdot 2\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$ along the z axis.

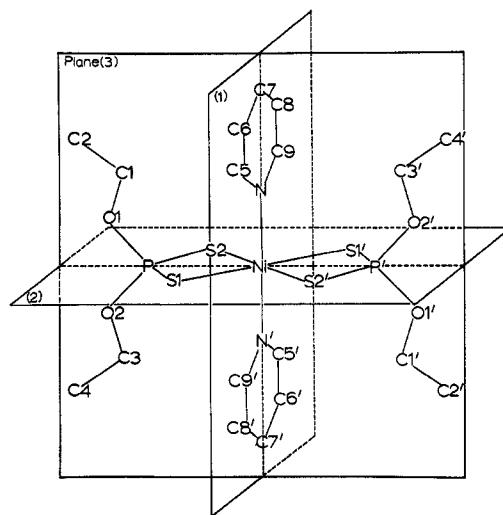


Figure 2.—Molecular structure and numbering scheme of $\text{Ni}[\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2]_2 \cdot 2\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$.

and C(4), together with the centrosymmetrically related atoms (which are primed in Figure 2) and the nickel atom constitute plane (3). Its equation is

$$-0.622X + 0.050Y + 0.781Z = 0 \quad \text{plane (3)}$$

The atoms with the largest deviations from this plane are C(7), C(2), and C(3), and the deviations are 0.14, 0.09, and 0.08 Å, respectively. The atoms S(1) and S(2) are 1.62 and 1.64 Å from this plane.

The angles between planes (1), (2), and (3) are: 88.4° (between planes (1) and (2)), 88.8° (between planes (2) and (3)), and 87.5° (between planes (1) and (3)). Hence, the symmetry of the molecule approximates to D_{2h} -mmm within the limits of error. This was confirmed by the calculation of the distances of the atoms O(1), C(1), C(2), and the mirror-related atoms O(2'), O(3'), and C(4') from plane (1); the distances of the atoms O(1), C(1), C(2), and the mirror-

TABLE II
LIST OF F_0 VALUES ON AN ABSOLUTE SCALE

O			N			C			S			Ni			Cl			I			
h	k	l	h	k	l	h	k	l	h	k	l	h	k	l	h	k	l	h	k	l	
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2
3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3
4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4
5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5
6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6
7	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7
8	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	8
9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9
10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10
11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11
12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	12
13	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	13
14	0	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	14
15	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	15
16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16
17	0	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	17
18	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	18
19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0	19
20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20
21	0	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	21
22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	22
23	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23
24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	24
25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25
26	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	26
27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0	0	27
28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28
29	0	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	29
30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30
31	0	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	31
32	0	0	32	0	0	32	0	0	32	0	0	32	0	0	32	0	0	32	0	0	32
33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33
34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34
35	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	35
36	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	36
37	0	0	37	0	0	37	0	0	37	0	0	37	0	0	37	0	0	37	0	0	37
38	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38
39	0	0	39	0	0	39	0	0	39	0	0	39	0	0	39	0	0	39	0	0	39
40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40
41	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	41
42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	0	42
43	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	43
44	0	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	44
45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0	45
46	0	0	46	0	0	46	0	0	46	0	0	46	0	0	46	0	0	46	0	0	46
47	0	0	47	0	0	47	0	0	47	0	0	47	0	0	47	0	0	47	0	0	47
48	0	0	48	0	0	48	0	0	48	0	0	48	0	0	48	0	0	48	0	0	48
49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	49	0	0	49
50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50

related atoms O(2), C(3), and C(4) from plane (2); and the distances of the atoms C(5), C(6), and the mirror related atoms C(8) and C(9) from plane (3).

Further least-squares planes were calculated through selected portions of the molecule. The equation of the plane formed by the pyridine ring is

$$0.611X + 0.611Y + 0.504Z = 0$$

The nitrogen atom of the pyridine ring shows a maximum deviation of 0.01 Å from this plane. The carbon atoms C(3') and C(1) are 3.73 and 3.65 Å from this plane.

The equation of the plane formed by the atoms C(1), O(1), P, O(2), and C(3) is

$$-0.634X + 0.062Y + 0.771Z = 0.002$$

The atoms with the largest deviations from this plane are O(2), with a deviation of 0.03 Å and the two termi-

nal carbon atoms C(2) and C(4), with deviations of 0.04 and 0.04 Å.

Discussion

In Ni(dtp)₂, the nickel-sulfur bond distance is 2.21 Å, which is the value expected for a tetracoordinated, planar, diamagnetic complex of nickel(II). In the hexacoordinated paramagnetic compound, Ni-(dtp)₂·2py, the nickel-sulfur distance is increased to 2.49 Å. In other nickel(II) complexes with similar octahedral configurations, the nickel-sulfur bond lengths lie between 2.4 and 2.6 Å; e.g., 2.46 Å in [Ni-(thiourea)₄]Cl₂,¹⁰ and an average value of 2.54 Å in Ni(thiourea)₂(NCS)₂.¹¹

The formation of the bis-pyridine adduct of Ni(dtp)₂

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TABLE III

BOND DISTANCES IN Ni(dtp)₂·2py (ESD'S IN ÅNGSTROMS; LATTICE ERRORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CALCULATIONS OF THE ESD'S)

Ni-S(1)	2.49	(0.01)
Ni-S(2)	2.50	(0.01)
Ni-N	2.11	(0.01)
S(1)-P	1.98	(0.01)
S(2)-P	1.99	(0.01)
P-O(1)	1.59	(0.01)
P-O(2)	1.58	(0.01)
O(1)-C(1)	1.49	(0.03)
O(2)-C(3)	1.46	(0.02)
C(1)-C(2)	1.46	(0.02)
C(3)-C(4)	1.47	(0.03)
N-C(5)	1.34	(0.02)
N-C(9)	1.38	(0.02)
C(5)-C(6)	1.33	(0.02)
C(8)-C(9)	1.39	(0.02)
C(6)-C(7)	1.44	(0.03)
C(8)-C(7)	1.38	(0.03)

TABLE IV

BOND ANGLES (DEGREES) IN Ni(dtp)₂·2py (ESD'S IN DEGREES)

S(1)-Ni-S(2)	81.7	(0.1)
S(1)-Ni-N	90.7	(0.3)
S(2)-Ni-N	90.0	
Ni-S(1)-P	84.2	
Ni-S(2)-P	83.7	(0.2)
S(1)-P-S(2)	110.4	(0.3)
S(1)-P-O(1)	112.5	
S(2)-P-O(1)	113.4	
S(1)-P-O(2)	113.7	(0.6)
S(2)-P-O(2)	112.0	
O(1)-P-O(2)	94.0	(0.7)
P-O(1)-C(1)	121.1	(1.5)
P-O(2)-C(3)	121.4	
O(1)-C(1)-C(2)	106.6	(2.2)
O(2)-C(3)-C(4)	108.5	
C(5)-N-C(9)	117.4	(1.2)
N-C(5)-C(6)	124.0	(1.7)
N-C(9)-C(8)	122.7	
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	119.4	(2.0)
C(9)-C(8)-C(7)	118.2	
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	118.2	(2.0)

not only increases the nickel-sulfur bond distance, but also causes significant variations in the bond angles in the chelate ring. The S-Ni-S angle in Ni(dtp)₂ is decreased from 88 to 81.7° in Ni(dtp)₂·2py; the S-P-S angle is increased from 103° in Ni(dtp)₂ to 110.4° in the adduct. It is possible to interpret these results on the basis of a simple electrostatic model. Adduct formation reduces the net positive charge on the nickel atom and increases the net negative charge on the sulfur atoms. The latter effect results in an increase in the S-P-S angle while the former effect lengthens the Ni-S distance and decreases the S-Ni-S angle. It is conceivable that if these effects become more pronounced, the chelate ring will be disrupted. The disruption of the chelate rings in Ni(dtp)₂ in aqueous solutions is probably brought about by water molecules that form strong coordinate bonds with the nickel atom thereby causing the Ni-S distance and the S-P-S angle to increase to such an extent that the Ni-S bonds are disrupted.

It has been shown recently by X-ray analysis that in the complex, Te[(CH₃O)₂PS₂], the ligand, O,O'-dimethyldithiophosphate, is monodentate.¹² Nevertheless, with the exception of the bond angles around the phosphorus atom, the bond angles and bond lengths in the rest of the ligand do not deviate significantly from the corresponding values found in the chelate, Ni(dtp)₂, or its adduct, Ni(dtp)₂·2py. In the tellurium complex the S-P-S angle is 106.9° and the O-P-O angle is 100.6°, whereas in the adduct, Ni(dtp)₂·2py, these angles are 110.4 and 94.0°, respectively. The repulsion between the pyridine molecules and the methylene groups is probably responsible for the large decrease in the O-P-O angle in Ni(dtp)₂·2py. The proximity of the methylene groups to the plane formed by the pyridine molecule is apparent from the distances of the carbon atoms C(1) and C(3') from this plane. These distances (3.62 and 3.78 Å, respectively) are slightly smaller than the sum of the van der Waals radii of the two groups, 2.0 Å for the methylene group and 1.85 Å for the half-thickness of an aromatic group.

The P-O-C angles (121.1 and 121.4°) in the adduct compare well with the values for the corresponding angles (119 and 122°) found in dibenzylphosphoric acid¹³ and in the tellurium complex (120.8°).¹² The P-O distances in the adduct (1.58 and 1.59 Å) are very similar to those found in the tellurium complex (1.57 and 1.59 Å),¹² in L-serine phosphate¹⁴ (1.608 Å), and in Ni(dtp)₂ (1.63 Å).⁹ The P-S bond distances are slightly larger than the average value of 1.97 Å that has been found in Ni(dtp)₂, but the differences are not significant. The O-C distances in the adduct (1.46 and 1.4 Å), in dibenzylphosphoric acid¹³ (1.464 and 1.465 Å), and in L-serine phosphate (1.466 Å)¹⁴ agree within experimental error. The two independently measured bond lengths, C(1)-C(2), in the adduct show fair agreement, but are significantly shorter than the accepted value for a C-C single bond. This is attributable to experimental errors; for example, no attempt was made to correct errors caused by rotation-oscillation effects.¹⁵

The shortest intermolecular distance was found to be 3.35 Å, between an oxygen atom and the C(7) carbon atom in pyridine. The broken lines in Figure 1 connect the methyl groups and the atoms closest to them.

The nickel-nitrogen bond in the adduct does not have any double-bond character and the bond distance (2.11 Å) agrees well with the distances found in [Ni(en)₃](NO₃)₂ (2.120 Å)¹⁶ and in NiYH₂·H₂O (2.08 and 2.03 Å),¹⁷ where Y = EDTA. Appreciably shorter nickel-nitrogen distances have been found in bis(salicylaldimine)nickel(II) (1.84 Å), in bis(N-methylsalicylaldimine)nickel(II) (1.90 Å),¹⁸ and in biacetylbis-

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(mercaptoethylimine)nickel(II) (1.85 and 1.86 Å).¹⁹ Undoubtedly, the nickel–nitrogen bonds in these compounds have double-bond character.

The accuracy of this structure determination was not sufficiently high to detect any structural changes in the pyridine molecule that could be attributed to coordination with the nickel atom.

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Electronic and Circular Dichroism Spectra of Polynuclear 2-Aminoethanethiol Complexes¹

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The cations hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) and hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)dicobalt(III)zinc(II) have been prepared in *meso* and optically active forms. The electronic and circular dichroism (CD) spectra are reported for the optical isomers. Only the terminal cobalt(III) ions contribute to the visible CD spectrum of the heterometallic complex ion. This spectrum was subtracted from that for the tricobalt(III) complex to obtain the CD spectrum of the central cobalt. Opposite configurations about the central and terminal cobalt ions are assigned from the CD spectra.

Werner's verification of his octahedral stereochemical model for coordination compounds by resolving the completely inorganic complex $[\text{Co}((\text{OH})_2(\text{NH}_3)_4\text{Co})_6]^{5+}$ climaxed the preparation and resolution of numerous cobalt(III) complexes including several novel binuclear $[(\text{en})_2\text{Co} \langle \begin{smallmatrix} \text{X} \\ \text{Y} \end{smallmatrix} \rangle \text{Co}(\text{en})_2]^{n+}$ species. These binuclear complexes may be considered as combinations of two discrete monomeric compounds. If each of the latter is optically active, the binuclear product will exist in optically active and *meso* isomers.

Mathieu² examined Werner's $[(\text{en})_2\text{Co} \langle \begin{smallmatrix} \text{X} \\ \text{Y} \end{smallmatrix} \rangle \text{Co}(\text{en})_2]^{n+}$ binuclear complexes, concluding that the absolute configurations of the polynuclear complexes were inaccessible from either the ORD or CD measurements. Recently, Garbett and Gillard³ have reexamined the optical properties of some of these compounds and their monomeric derivatives. By comparing the binuclear compound $[(\text{en})_2(\text{NH}_3)\text{Co}(\text{NH}_2)\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)(\text{en})_2]^{5+}$ with the products of its reaction with HCl, $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_2\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}]^{2+}$ and $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_2(\text{NH}_3)_2]^{3+}$, these authors established that the L configuration of the binuclear complex corresponds to the combination of two monomeric units of L configuration.

There has been little work reported on the optical properties of new polynuclear complexes since Werner's

classic work of 1915. Indeed, even the completely inorganic complex prepared by Werner is, by that author's account, too unstable to lend itself easily to more detailed study. We are reporting the results of an examination of the electronic spectra, circular dichroism, and optical rotatory dispersion of hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) bromide (Figure 1), the synthesis of which was first reported by Busch and Jicha.⁴

Experimental Section

Commercially available salts and solvents of CP grade or better were used without further purification.

Preparation of Hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) Bromide, $[\text{Co}(\text{Co}(\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S})_6)_2]\text{Br}_3$.—The procedures given by Busch and Jicha⁴ were employed, giving identical products by either route. *Anal.* Calcd for $[\text{Co}_3(\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S})_6]\text{Br}_3$: C, 16.50; H, 4.58; N, 10.60; Br, 27.45. Found: C, 16.37; H, 4.40; N, 9.77; Br, 27.20.

Resolution of the Hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) Cation, $[\text{Co}_3(\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S})_6]^{3+}$.—Three grams of silver antimony *d*-tartrate (0.0075 mole) suspended in 100 ml of water was added to a solution of 8.4 g (0.01 mole) of hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) bromide in 500 ml of water at 65°. The solution was heated with stirring for 0.5 hr and then filtered to remove the silver bromide. The filtrate was concentrated to about 300 ml, whereupon the mixed *meso*- and (–)-hexakis(2-aminoethanethiolo)tricobalt(III) antimonyl tartrates (the sign of the major CD peak in the low-energy absorption band is given) began to crystallize from the solution. Methanol (500 ml) was added and the mixture allowed to stand for several hours. The antimonyl tartrates were filtered and an excess of potassium iodide (10 g) was added to the filtrate to precipitate *meso*- and

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