

The Crystal Structure of $\text{Mg}_2\text{EDTA}\cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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The crystal structure of $\text{Mg}_2\text{EDTA}\cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been determined using 2102 independent reflections measured by a single crystal counter diffractometer ($\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation). The general conclusions are similar to those of an independent determination using film data [2] but the present investigation is very much more accurate, and all the hydrogen atoms have been located. The crystals are orthorhombic, space group $Pbcn$, with $a = 11.617(1)\text{\AA}$, $b = 9.495(1)\text{\AA}$, $c = 19.238(2)\text{\AA}$. The structure was refined to a conventional R of 0.048 and wR of 0.037. Standard deviations in bond distances are 0.002–0.003 \AA for C–C and C–O bonds and 0.03–0.04 \AA for C–H and O–H bonds.

The structure consists of a cation, $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$, which is very close to regular octahedral geometry, and an anion, $(\text{MgEDTA OH}_2)^{2-}$ in which the Mg atom is heptacoordinated by four O and 2 N atoms of the EDTA and one water molecule. The anion coordination sphere is close to pentagonal bipyramidal geometry and the details of the structure are discussed in comparison with other heptacoordinated EDTA complexes. One water molecule is not included in either the cation or the anion, and the whole structure is linked by a tight network of hydrogen bonds, utilizing every proton of the water molecules.

Introduction

Crystals of $\text{MgYH}_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}^*$ and $\text{Mg}[\text{Mg}(\text{OH}_2)\text{Y}]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ were grown at different pH values (4.5 and 10, respectively). These compounds differed markedly in solubility and other properties, suggesting a different type of coordination of the metal atoms. An X-ray crystallographic investigation was therefore begun in order to elucidate the details of coordination and conformation in both crystals. Both structures were solved. The low pH crystal, where growth conditions would inhibit ionization of the carboxylic acid residues, is a very interesting one with a cation

*Y represents ethylenediaminetetraacetate.

$\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$ and an anion YH_2^{2-} which is hydrogen bonded to the water molecules of the cation coordination sphere and not directly bonded to the magnesium atom. However, while refinement was in progress, a very accurate structure determination of this crystal was published by Hoard [1] and our work was discontinued as being merely duplicative.

At about the same time Pozhidaev *et al.* [2] published a structure determination of $\text{Mg}[\text{Mg}(\text{OH}_2)\text{Y}]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ based on visual intensity estimates of film X-ray data. Since the accuracy of work was quite low (the final R was 0.113 and the hydrogen atoms were not located) and the analysis of the results was not extensive, our determination based on counter-diffractometer data was refined to completion and is reported on fully in the present paper. In this compound the cation is $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$ while the anion $[\text{Mg}(\text{OH}_2)\text{Y}]^{2-}$ is a 7-coordinate hexadentate chelate with one water molecule occupying a site of the coordination sphere and the other water molecules involved in hydrogen bonding only and not direct coordination.

A structurally similar but non-identical anion has been found in $\text{Na}_2[\text{Mg}(\text{OH}_2)\text{Y}]\cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [3]. Our results are compared in some detail with those obtained from this structure. Other 7-coordinate complexes involving EDTA are those formed with Fe [4] and Mn [5]. In addition DCTA* also forms a 7-coordinate complex with Fe [6].

Experimental

Crystal Data: $\text{Mg}_2\text{C}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{17}\text{H}_{30}$, $M = 470.95$. Orthorhombic, $a = 11.617(1)\text{\AA}$, $b = 9.495(1)\text{\AA}$, $c = 19.238(2)\text{\AA}$; systematically absent spectra: $0kl$ with k odd, $h0l$ with l odd, $hk0$ with $h + k$ odd; space group $Pbcn$; $d_{\text{obs}} = 1.55 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.55 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$.

*DCTA represents 1,2-diaminocyclohexane- N,N' -tetraacetic acid.

**Here and throughout this paper numbers included in brackets represent standard deviations referred to the last figure quoted of the immediately preceding number.

cm^{-3} ; $Z = 4$. $F(000) = 1000$; μ ($\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation) = 17.9 cm^{-1} .

The crystals were hard, white and roughly cube-shaped. The density was determined by flotation using solutions of n-hexane and carbon tetrachloride. This, and all other experimental measurements, were carried out at room temperature ($\sim 27^\circ\text{C}$). Accurate cell dimensions were determined by a least square fit of high angle reflections on the Enraf-Nonius CAD4 single crystal automated diffractometer.

For intensity data collection a crystal measuring $0.10 \times 0.15 \times 0.17 \text{ mm}$ was selected and determined to be of good quality by photographic methods.

The ω - 2θ scanning mode was used with Ni-filtered $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation and all symmetry independent reflections were measured up to $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0.627$. The intensities of two periodically monitored reflections showed no systematic trend and had random variations of $\pm 2\%$. The net intensities were reduced to relative amplitudes by Lorentz-Polarization corrections. Absorption corrections were not applied in view of the small crystal size. Calculation from the crystal shape showed that the maximum errors in F due to absorption would be $\pm 3\%$ for a few low angle reflections.

The intensities of 2333 reflections were measured. Using the criterion $I/\sigma_I > 3.0$, 114 of these were rejected as not being significantly above background leaving 2219 observed reflections. The ratio of observed data to structural parameters (anisotropic thermal parameters, positional parameters and scale factor for non-hydrogen atoms only) was $2219/216 = 10.27$. The overall isotropic temperature factor with $B = 2.13 \text{ \AA}^2$ was determined from a Wilson plot [7].

Structure Determination and Refinement

A three-dimensional Patterson map sharpened to point atoms was calculated. Since the unit cell contains 8 Mg atoms there could be either equivalent Mg atoms in general positions or two nonequivalent Mg atoms in special positions. No set of vectors could be found corresponding to the first possibility, but peaks in the Patterson map were consistent with a structure in which one Mg atom was at 0,0,0 (at a symmetry center) and the other at $1/2, 0.092, 1/4$ (on a 2-fold axis). An electron density map was then calculated based on the phase angles calculated from the positions of the two Mg atoms. Since the scattering power of the Mg atoms is only 16.3% of that of the whole structure, the first electron density map was very rough. For selection of other atoms the criteria of chemical plausibility, agreement with the Patterson map and significant reduction of R were used. After several repetitions of the process, adding

new postulated atoms into the phasing calculations and generating new electron density maps, all the non-hydrogen atoms were located.

Full matrix least squares refinement was then carried out using the Busing-Levy program [8]. At the beginning of the refinement R was 0.359. After 3 cycles refining scale, overall B and position parameters, R was reduced to 0.126. Individual B's for each atom were then refined, together with scale and positional parameters and 2 cycles reduced R to 0.071.

An error analysis of the observed and calculated structure factor agreement as a function of $\sin^2\theta$ was then made [9]. This indicated that the low angle data was less reliable than the rest and the reflections for which $\sin^2\theta$ were less than 0.2 were removed from the refinement process. In addition, 14 other reflections which looked suspicious, probably because of extinction or Renninger effects, were removed leaving a total of 2102 reflections. Three cycles of refinement reduced R to 0.052 and the esd's of the atomic positions improved considerably. A difference electron density map was calculated in order to locate the hydrogen atoms. For the six hydrogen atoms in the asymmetric unit attached to carbon atoms, the positions of which are predictable assuming tetrahedral bonding, the program CALCAT [10] was used. The calculated positions agreed very well with the electron density maxima and CALCAT coordinates were used in refinement. Nine remaining hydrogen atoms, in water molecules, were located from the difference map.

The 15 hydrogen atoms were then added into the structure factor calculations and one refinement cycle was carried out varying the isotropic thermal parameters for the hydrogen atoms alone. Refinement was next carried out using isotropic thermal parameters for the hydrogen atoms, but resetting these to the current value of the corresponding isotropic thermal parameter of the C or O atom to which the H atoms were bonded. Anisotropic thermal parameters for all other atoms, and all positional parameters were allowed to vary. Convergence was reached after 2 cycles with a final R of 0.048 and wR of 0.037. Introduction of the unobserved reflections into the refinement made the standard deviations slightly worse and therefore the results of the previous refinement were taken as the final ones. The weighting scheme used was based on the weights calculated from counting statistics and the function minimized was $w(F_{\text{obs}} - k |F_{\text{calc}}|)^2$.

Final values of the observed and calculated structure factors are given in Table I. The atomic scattering factors used are those given in the International Tables [11]. The refined positional and thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms are given in Table II. The refined hydrogen atoms positions and isotropic thermal parameters are given in Table III.

TABLE II. Positional and Thermal Parameters of the Non-hydrogen Atoms. The Temperature Factor Used is $\exp[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{23}kl + 2\beta_{13}hl)]$. Values of β_{ij} are multiplied by 10^5 .

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Mg ₁	0.0	0.0	0.0	273(5)	421(7)	127(2)	-005(5)	-016(2)	021(3)
Mg ₂	0.0	0.58948(7)	0.25000	252(5)	371(7)	146(2)	0	049(2)	0
N	0.08083(12)	0.38807(14)	0.30703(7)	415(9)	507(14)	115(3)	008(9)	018(4)	031(5)
O ₁	0.15171(9)	0.56165(12)	0.19975(5)	325(8)	625(12)	142(3)	103(7)	040(3)	073(5)
O ₂	0.32815(11)	0.47209(15)	0.1978(7)	370(8)	1120(17)	273(4)	233(10)	093(5)	161(6)
O ₃	0.08118(11)	0.65264(12)	0.35663(6)	598(10)	499(12)	185(3)	030(1)	-014(4)	044(5)
O ₄	0.12442(10)	0.58559(13)	0.46473(6)	502(9)	640(13)	169(3)	014(9)	-070(4)	-036(5)
O _{w1}	0.0	0.80626(18)	0.25000	386(11)	466(16)	183(4)	0	024(5)	0
O _{w2}	0.10000(12)	0.16557(14)	0.03153(7)	376(8)	532(13)	232(3)	-050(8)	-071(4)	045(6)
O _{w3}	0.51696(13)	0.43274(15)	0.10279(6)	628(11)	732(14)	145(3)	-076(10)	-036(4)	073(5)
O _{w4}	0.35722(12)	0.37361(14)	-0.00650(7)	335(8)	598(14)	280(4)	076(8)	032(4)	087(6)
O _{w5}	0.17258(11)	0.62737(14)	0.06136(8)	480(8)	648(13)	152(3)	-021(9)	037(4)	056(5)
C ₁	0.22921(13)	0.47895(17)	0.22166(8)	318(10)	551(17)	141(3)	070(10)	007(5)	-005(6)
C ₂	0.20084(16)	0.38277(23)	0.28241(10)	445(1)	886(2)	201(5)	222(13)	045(6)	123(9)
C ₃	0.09728(13)	0.56128(17)	0.40217(8)	272(10)	546(16)	150(4)	-007(10)	-003(5)	017(6)
C ₄	0.07856(17)	0.40902(18)	0.38253(8)	587(14)	540(17)	115(4)	-051(13)	-004(6)	031(7)
C ₅	0.01497(18)	0.26073(17)	0.28829(8)	736(15)	393(16)	147(4)	-031(13)	-009(6)	010(6)

TABLE III. Positional and Isotropic Thermal Parameters for the Hydrogen Atoms. The B values correspond to those in the final isotropic temperature factors of the C or O atoms to which the hydrogen atoms are bonded.

Atom	x	y	z	B(A ²)
H ₁	0.2518(30)	0.4148(34)	0.3210(16)	2.62
H ₂	0.2210(29)	0.2913(40)	0.2682(16)	2.62
H ₃	0.0051(31)	0.3845(31)	0.3980(15)	2.17
H ₄	0.136(27)	0.3504(32)	0.4049(15)	2.17
H ₅	-0.0589(29)	0.2611(32)	0.3161(15)	2.31
H ₆	0.0554(28)	0.1725(37)	0.2972(15)	2.31
H ₇	0.0531(29)	0.8596(35)	0.2364(15)	2.11
H ₈	0.1037(27)	0.2365(41)	0.008(17)	2.31
H ₉	0.1673(34)	0.1501(33)	0.0468(17)	2.31
H ₁₀	0.4617(32)	0.4467(35)	0.1312(18)	2.61
H ₁₁	0.5397(29)	0.3568(42)	0.1186(17)	2.61
H ₁₂	0.2960(35)	0.3934(36)	-0.0174(17)	2.46
H ₁₃	0.3533(27)	0.2992(40)	0.0185(17)	2.46
H ₁₄	0.1668(27)	0.6109(34)	0.1014(20)	2.33
H ₁₅	0.1486(27)	0.5611(38)	0.0354(17)	2.33

The O-H and C-H distances indicated a systematic error displacing the hydrogen atom towards the O or C atoms due to close overlap of the H 1s orbital and the p or sp³ orbital of the other atom. Therefore the hydrogen-acceptor distances (Table IV) are probably slightly lengthened by this experimental effect.

Description of the Structure

Molecular Packing

The relative arrangement of anions and cations in the structure is determined by a complex three-

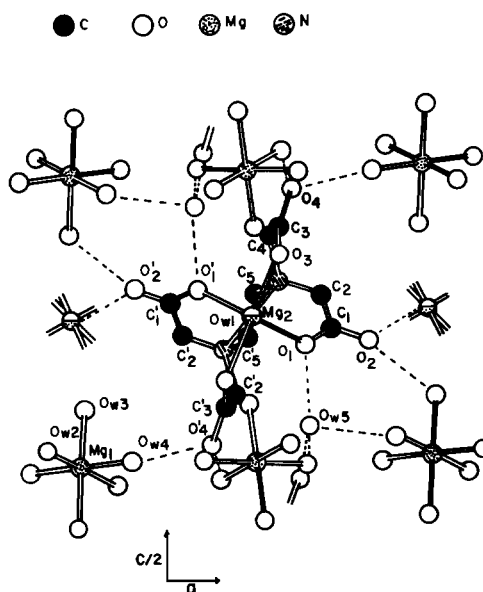


Figure 1. The arrangement of one anion and six cations viewed in the direction of the crystal *b* axis. To minimize overlap the second anion in the half cell is indicated only by the central Mg atom and O_{w1} with bonds from the Mg atom. Hydrogen bonds are shown by broken lines.

dimensional network of hydrogen bonds. This is illustrated in Figure 1 which is a perspective view of one anion and neighbouring cations viewed in the direction of the crystal *b* axis. Details of the hydrogen bond distances are given in Table IV.

The efficiency of the hydrogen bonding system is illustrated by the fact that every proton of the five independent waters is utilized in H bonding. The oxygen atom O_{w5} belongs to an isolated water mole-

TABLE IV. Distances and Angles Involved in Hydrogen Bonding.

D-H...A ^a	Distance D...A (Å)	Distance H...A (Å)	Angle D-H-A (Degrees)
O _{w1} -H ₇ ...O ₂	2.734(2)	1.90(3)	175(3)
O _{w2} -H ₈ ...O ₄	2.705(2)	1.90(4)	171(3)
O _{w2} -H ₉ ...O _{w5}	2.728(2)	1.89(4)	168(4)
O _{w3} -H ₁₀ ...O ₂	2.880(2)	2.03(4)	178(3)
O _{w3} -H ₁₁ ...O ₃	2.870(2)	2.05(4)	170(3)
O _{w4} -H ₁₂ ...O ₄	2.787(2)	2.03(4)	169(4)
O _{w4} -H ₁₃ ...O _{w5}	2.700(2)	1.85(4)	170(3)
O _{w5} -H ₁₄ ...O ₁	2.745(2)	1.96(4)	178(3)
O _{w5} -H ₁₅ ...O ₄	2.803(2)	1.97(3)	168(3)

^aDonor atoms are represented by D and acceptor atoms by A.

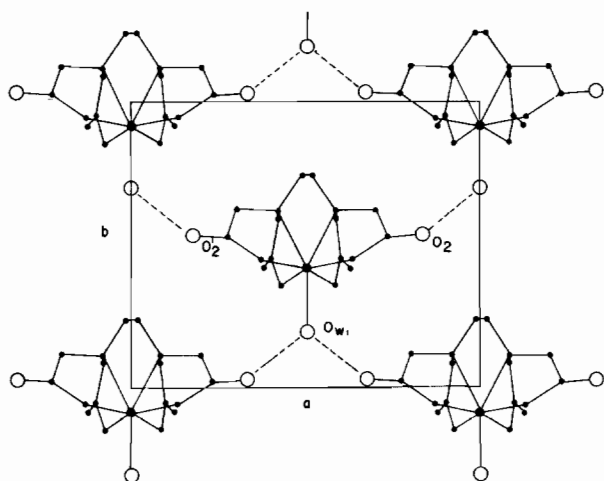


Figure 2. A sheet of anions linked directly by hydrogen bonding via O₂ and O_{w1}, as viewed in the direction of the crystal *c* axis.

cule outside the coordination spheres of both anion and cation. However, this water molecule has a key position in the structure since it is tetrahedrally hydrogen bonded to O_{w2} and O_{w4} of the cation and O₁ and O₄ of the anion.

Atom O_{w1} lies on a 2-fold axis and is in the water molecule bonded to Mg₂ and completes the anion coordination sphere. This water molecule forms two hydrogen bonds to the atoms O₂ in neighbouring anions. Thus a chain of anions directly connected by hydrogen bonding runs through the crystal in the *x* direction as illustrated in Figure 2. The hardness of the crystals and relatively small values of the thermal vibration parameters are undoubtedly due to the tightness of the hydrogen bonded system.

Molecular Geometry

The cation Mg(H₂O)₆²⁺ is very close to regular octahedral geometry. The dimensions are given in Table V. The Mg-O bond distances average 2.061 Å with an average deviation of 0.017 Å, while the

average deviation of the O-Mg-O bond angles from 90° is 1.2°.

The geometry of the anion is more complex. Mg₂ is heptacoordinated by four oxygen atoms O₁, O₃, O_{1'} and O_{3'} and two nitrogen atoms N and N' of the EDTA. The coordination is completed by O_{w1} which lies on a crystallographic 2-fold axis as does Mg₂. These coordinating atoms lie at the vertices of a pentagonal bipyramid (Figure 3).

The anion includes five rings which are located on one side of a plane passing through Mg₂ and parallel to (010). The other side of this plane is occupied only by O_{w1}. Following the standard notation described for EDTA complexes [12, 13] these may be divided into an E ring (ethylenediamine and metal ring), two G rings and two R rings. Both the G and R rings are formed by the glycinate arm of the EDTA complexing to the metal through nitrogen and oxygen. In an R ring the metal-oxygen bond is roughly perpendicular to the nitrogen-metal-nitrogen plane while in a G ring it is roughly parallel to this plane. In the case of Mg(OH₂)Y²⁻ there are only three crystallographically independent rings since the two

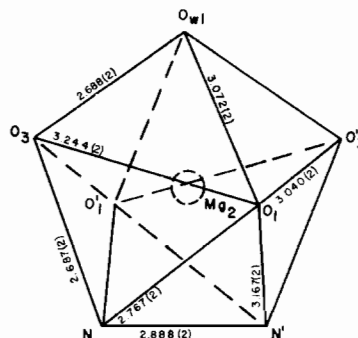


Figure 3. Coordination sphere atoms forming a pentagonal bipyramid around the central Mg atom.

*In the anion primed atomic names are used to indicate atoms in the same ion related by the 2-fold axis, in the cation atoms in the same ion related by the symmetry center.

TABLE V. Dimensions of the Cation, $Mg(H_2O)_6^{2+}$ and of the Anion, $Mg(OH_2)Y^{2-}$.

a) Cation			
Atoms	Bond Distance (Å)	Atoms	Angle (Degrees)
$Mg_1-O_{w_2}$	2.047(1)	$O_{w_1}-Mg_1-O_{w_3}$	90.45(5)
$Mg_1-O_{w_3}$	2.087(1)	$O_{w_2}-Mg_1-O_{w_4}$	89.51(5)
$Mg_1-O_{w_4}$	2.051(1)	$O_{w_3}-Mg_1-O_{w_4}$	92.57(5)
$O_{w_1}-H_7$	0.84(3)	$O_{w_2}-O_{w_3}-O_{w_4}$	58.26(5)
$O_{w_2}-H_8$	0.81(4)	$O_{w_3}-O_{w_2}-O_{w_4}$	61.85(5)
$O_{w_2}-H_9$	0.85(4)	$O_{w_3}-O_{w_4}-O_{w_2}$	59.89(5)
$O_{w_3}-H_{10}$	0.85(4)	Atoms	Second Neighbour Distance (Å)
$O_{w_3}-H_{11}$	0.83(4)	$O_{w_2}-O_{w_3}$	2.935(2)
$O_{w_4}-H_{12}$	0.76(4)	$O_{w_2}-O_{w_4}$	2.885(2)
$O_{w_4}-H_{13}$	0.86(4)	$O_{w_3}-O_{w_4}$	2.991(2)
$O_{w_5}-H_{14}$	0.79(4)	$O_{w_2}-O_{w_3}$	2.912(2)
$O_{w_5}-H_{15}$	0.85(3)	$O_{w_2}-O_{w_4}$	2.910(2)
		$O_{w_3}-O_{w_4}$	2.860(2)
b) Anion			
Atoms	Bond Distances (Å)	Atoms	Angles (Degrees)
$Mg_2-O_{w_1}$	2.058 (2)	$O_1-Mg_2-O_3$	95.81 (5)
Mg_2-O_1	2.027 (1)	$O_1-Mg_2-O_{w_1}$	97.49 (4)
Mg_2-O_3	2.336 (1)	$O_3-Mg_2-O_{w_1}$	75.13 (4)
Mg_2-N	2.396 (1)	O_1-Mg_2-N	76.92 (5)
C_1-O_1	1.267 (2)	O_3-Mg_2-N	69.18 (5)
C_1-O_2	1.239 (2)	$Mg_2-O_1-C_1$	122.7 (1)
C_3-O_3	1.247 (2)	$Mg_2-O_3-C_3$	119.9 (1)
C_3-O_4	1.265 (2)	$O_1-C_1-O_2$	124.7 (2)
C_1-C_2	1.519 (3)	$O_3-C_3-O_4$	125.4 (1)
C_3-C_4	1.510 (2)	$O_1-C_1-C_2$	118.3 (1)
C_5-C_5'	1.514 (2)	$O_3-C_3-C_4$	118.0 (1)
C_2-N	1.473 (2)	$C_2-C_1-O_2$	117.0 (1)
C_4-N	1.466 (2)	$C_4-C_3-O_4$	116.7 (1)
C_5-N	1.476 (2)	$N-C_2-C_1$	115.6 (2)
C_2-H_1	1.00 (3)	$N-C_4-C_3$	112.0 (1)
C_2-H_2	0.94 (4)	Mg_2-N-C_2	104.5 (1)
C_4-H_3	0.93 (4)	Mg_2-N-C_4	109.8 (1)
C_4-H_4	0.97 (3)	Mg_2-N-C_5	109.8 (1)
C_5-H_5	1.01 (3)	C_2-N-C_5	112.6 (1)
C_5-H_6	0.98 (3)	C_4-N-C_5	110.1 (1)
		$N-C_5-C_5'$	110.9 (1)
		$N-Mg_2-N'$	74.10 (5)

fold axis through the center of the ion relates the two G rings and the two R rings to each other. These rings are shown in Figures 1 and 4 and consist of the following atoms: E ring— Mg_2 , N, C_5 , C_5' , N' ; G ring— Mg_2 , N, C_4 , C_3 , O_3 ; R ring— Mg_2 , N, C_2 , C_1 , O_1 . The least squares mean plane for the three rings and also for the equatorial plane of the pentagonal bipyramid are given in Table VI. All these groups

show considerable deviations from planarity. The relief of strain by these deviations is discussed further below. The conformations of the rings are most conveniently expressed by the torsion angles about each bond and these are given in Table VII.

A notation specifically developed for analysis of the conformational types of EDTA complexes has been given by Lee [14]. The different five membered

TABLE VI. Weighted Least Squares Mean Planes. The Equations of the Planes are $AX + BY + CZ + D = 0$, where X, Y, and Z are the Crystallographic Directions in A, and A, B, C are the Direction Cosines of the Plane Normal.

Plane 1 E ring			Plane 2 G ring				
	Atoms	Displacements (Å)		Atoms	Displacements (Å)		
A	0.795	Mg ₂	0.0	A	0.920	Mg ₂	-0.0120 (1)
B	0.0	N	0.081 (1)	B	0.116	O ₃	-0.160 (1)
C	-0.606	N'	-0.081 (1)	C	-0.373	C ₄	-0.322 (2)
D	2.918	C ₅	-0.309 (2)	D	1.134	C ₃	-0.096 (1)
		C ₅ '	0.309 (2)			N	0.221 (1)
Plane 3 R ring			Plane 4 R ring carboxylate				
	Atoms	Displacements (Å)		Atoms	Displacements (Å)		
A	-0.410	Mg ₂	-0.0065 (4)	A	-0.304	C ₁	0.007 (2)
B	-0.629	O ₁	0.076 (1)	B	-0.703	C ₂	-0.003 (2)
C	-0.660	C ₁	-0.078 (1)	C	-0.643	O ₁	-0.001 (1)
D	6.691	C ₂	-0.140 (2)	D	6.754	O ₂	-0.002 (1)
		N	0.087 (1)				
Plane 5 G ring carboxylate			Plane 6 Equatorial planes of pentagonal bipyramid				
	Atoms	Displacements (Å)		Atoms	Displacements (Å)		
A	0.965	C ₃	0.013 (2)	A	0.873	N	0.284
B	-0.066	C ₄	-0.005 (2)	B	0.0	N'	-0.284
C	-0.253	O ₃	-0.003 (1)	C	-0.488	O _{w1}	0
D	1.237	O ₄	-0.003 (1)	D	2.347	O ₃	-0.179
						O ₃ '	0.179

TABLE VII. Torsion Angles in the Three Anion Rings.

	Bonded Atoms	Attached Atoms	Torsion Angle (Degrees)
E ring	Mg ₂ -N	N', C ₅	-14.5
	N-C ₅	Mg ₂ , C ₅	41.7
	C ₅ -C ₅	N, N'	-57.4
G ring	Mg ₂ -N	O ₃ , C ₄	27.9
	N-C ₄	Mg ₂ , C ₃	-34.5
	C ₄ -C ₃	N, O ₃	18.9
	C ₃ -O ₃	C ₄ , Mg ₂	8.4
	O ₃ -Mg ₂	C ₃ , N	-20.6
R ring	Mg ₂ -N	O ₁ , C ₂	11.6
	N-C ₂	Mg ₂ , C ₁	-11.6
	C ₂ -C ₁	N, O ₁	4.3
	C ₁ -O ₁	C ₂ , Mg ₂	8.4
	O ₁ -Mg ₂	C ₁ , N	-11.5

rings in a complex are classified according to relations between "ruffling parameters", *i.e.* rotations of certain bonds out of the rings plane about another bond. On this basis the anion is described as $\delta\lambda\lambda\lambda$, the same conformation found in $\text{Fe}(\text{OH}_2)\text{Y}^{2-}$ [4] which also has a pentagonal bipyramidal structure. The coordinates given above actually define the enantiomer of this configuration but because of the glide planes both enantiomers exist in the crystal.

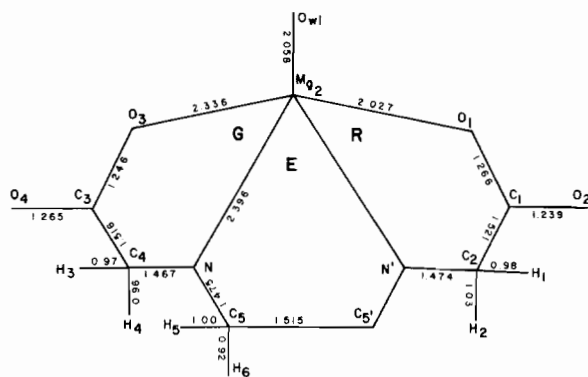


Figure 4. Schematic diagram showing the E, G and R Rings of the anion.

Thermal Motion

Figure 5 shows the ellipsoids expressing anisotropic thermal vibration for the non-hydrogen atoms of the anion as given by ORTEP [15]. No corrections for thermal motion were made to the bond distances, since neither the anion nor the cation can be regarded as simple librating molecules because of the strong hydrogen bonding involved. In any case the bond distances found in other structures with which our values are compared in the succeeding section are also not corrected for thermal motion. Every atom in the

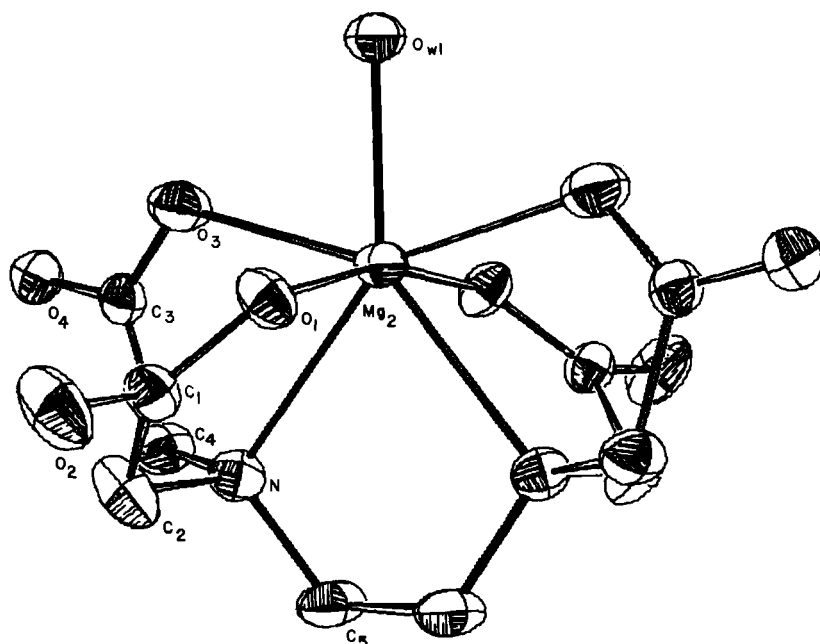


Figure 5. ORTEP drawing of the anion showing the ellipsoids corresponding to the anisotropic vibration parameters of Table II.

R ring vibrates with a larger amplitude than its counterpart in the G ring except for atoms O₁ and O₃ which have isotropic B's of 1.94 Å and 2.51 Å respectively. This reversal is due to the relative strength of the bonds formed with Mg₂. The larger thermal parameters of the R ring atoms result from the lower strain in the R ring relative to the G ring.

Discussion

The coordination of magnesium in the cation is completely normal, illustrating the very strong tendency of magnesium to form octahedral bonds. In fact, as noted above, in MgYH₂·6H₂O [1] this is the only coordination type of the magnesium atoms. The influence of the cation on the geometry of the anion can therefore be only indirect, *via* the hydrogen bond network, but it may nevertheless be profound. The anion itself exists because of the high complexing power of EDTA, in this instance a hexadentate ligand. The formation of six bonds between the metal atom and EDTA necessarily introduces some strain into the ion, since complete planarity of the rings would introduce large repulsive forces.

In a crystal structure of this type the conformation adopted is a compromise between strain minimization and maximum hydrogen bonding. The more fundamental question is the preferred conformation of the anion outside of a rigid hydrogen bonding system *i.e.* in solution. The relative stabilities of two basic conformations, the pentagonal bipyramid and the capped trigonal prism have been

discussed for several 7-coordinate ions by Hoard [3, 4, 6]. We now compare the results of the present structure analysis with those obtained from these closely related structures.

Comparison with Na₂Mg(OH₂)Y

Na₂Mg(OH₂)Y and Mg[Mg(OH)₂Y]·8H₂O, have chemically identical complex anions.* However, the conformational differences between the anions are extensive. The anion of MgI is a capped trigonal prism whereas that of MgII is a distorted pentagonal bipyramid. In Figure 1 the line N–N' would be parallel to the bisector of O₁–O', and O₃–O₃' for the monocapped trigonal prism and at 45° to it for the pentagonal bipyramid. The measured angle is 30.8° indicating slightly greater than two-thirds pentagonal bipyramidal character. This distortion in the direction of the monocapped trigonal prism is also shown by the criteria of Muetterties and Guggenberger [16]. The average dihedral angle between adjacent faces on the same side of the girdle is 51.1° rather than the ideal value of 54.4°. The difference between the two anions must be due to differences in the three dimensional networks in the two structures.

In MgII these networks are formed entirely by hydrogen bonding. However, in MgI three of the four crystallographically independent carboxylate atoms are bonded to Na⁺ ions. Two of these are also bonded

*To distinguish between the two crystal structures Na₂[Mg(OH₂)Y]·5H₂O will be designated MgI and Mg[Mg(OH)₂Y]·8H₂O will be designated MgII.

to Mg atoms. Thus there is a much more direct cation-anion influence in MgI than in MgII and the anion in the former structure must be regarded as more constrained. The oxygen atoms O₃ and O₄ of the same carboxyl group are coordinated directly in MgI to Na⁺ ions. This in turn places limits on the rotation of the E ring about the two-fold axis which would be required to bring the two anions into geometrical coincidence.

In discussing the relative stabilities of the two structures three major contributions must be taken into account. These are: (a) strain energy, including both repulsive interactions and angular strain *i.e.* deviations of the rings from planarity; (b) the relative strengths of the bonds formed within the two anions; (c) bond energies external to the anion, in this case hydrogen bonding for MgII and Na-O bonds for MgI.

Repulsive energies may be compared by totalling the differences from the sum of the van der Waals [17] radii for all contacts within the coordination polyhedra which are less than the sum of the radii in one or both of the anions. These totals are 1.063 Å for MgI and 1.036 Å for MgII. The angular distortion strain may be evaluated by comparing the sums of the angles of the G, E and R rings in MgII with the corresponding rings in MgI. The ideal sum of the internal bond angles is 540°.

The total deviation from 540 in all three rings is 13.8° for MgI and 12.6° for MgII. One further steric effect is the fact that in MgII the Mg atom is not significantly displaced from the mean plane of the pentagonal bipyramid girdle resulting in the very long Mg-N distance of 2.396 Å.

One marked difference between the two structures is the inequality in the carbon-oxygen distances within each carboxyl group in MgII. These are 1.267 Å and 1.239 Å for C₁-O₁ and C₁-O₂ respectively, and 1.247 Å and 1.265 Å for C₃-O₃ and C₃-O₄ respectively, whereas in MgI these pairs are very close to equality. Such inequalities are usually indicative of high complexing power since the longer C-O bond is to the more negatively charged oxygen atom which in turn can form a stronger bond to the positive metal. This is well illustrated in the case of Fe(OH₂)-Y²⁻ [4] where all four oxygen atoms of the longer C-O bonds form tight bonds to the Fe atom. However, the situation in MgII is rather different. Atoms O₁ and O₁' do form very strong bonds measuring 2.027 Å to Mg₂. These are the strongest Mg-O bonds in either complex being 0.051 Å shorter than the corresponding bonds in MgI. In the G ring on the other hand, where bonds to the metal are usually weaker, it is O₃ and O₃', the less negative of the carboxyl oxygens which bond to Mg₂, forming bonds of 2.336 Å, 0.066 Å longer than the corresponding bonds in MgI. For all seven Mg-O bonds in the complex those in MgII average 0.009 Å longer in MgII than in MgI. Using the empirical constants of

Brown and Wu [18], in MgII the bond valences of the bonds from Mg₂ to O₁, O₃ and O_{w1} are 0.38, 0.21 and 0.36 respectively, and by subtraction the bond valence of Mg₂-N is 0.23.

In MgII the more negative oxygen atom on C₃, O₄ exhibits its complexing power not by binding to Mg₂ but by forming three hydrogen bonds to O_{w2} (2.705 Å), O_{w4} (2.787 Å) and O_{w5} (2.803 Å). The first of these is the shortest hydrogen bond found in the whole structure. Thus there is, in fact an external compensation for the weakening of the Mg-O₃ bond in the anion itself.

In summary we conclude that the anion in MgII is less strained than that of MgI. This is achieved at the cost of a slight weakening of the average bonding to Mg₂ itself, although the strongest Mg-O bond in either anion is found in MgII, and by increasing the inequality of the ligands. In neither crystal structure is there really a completely free anion. That in MgII is much closer to this concept since it does not have the constraints imposed by bonding to Na⁺ ions that occur in MgI. Nevertheless, in the overall minimization of the crystal energy of MgII with respect to MgI (experimentally the former is more stable since the crystals did not require to be sealed in capillaries to prevent deterioration) the rigid hydrogen bonding framework may be decisive. It does not therefore seem possible to answer the question of whether the capped trigonal prism or the pentagonal bipyramid is more stable in solution.

Comparison of MgII to Other 7-Coordinate Complexes

The structures of Mn(OH₂)₂Y²⁻ [5], Mg(OH₂)Y²⁻ (MgI) [3] and Fe(OH₂)DCTA⁻ [6] are monocapped trigonal prismatic. Those of Fe(OH₂)Y²⁻ [4] and Mg(OH₂)Y²⁻ (MgII) are pentagonal bipyramidal. In general the differences between the G and R rings increase on changing from the monocapped trigonal prism to the pentagonal bipyramid as shown by the differences between M-O₁, and M-O₃. This is a maximum in MgII but is actually less in Fe(OH₂)Y²⁻ than in MgI in contrast to the general trend. The closest equality of the ligands is found in Mn(OH₂)Y²⁻ but this is believed to be due to a large amount of electrostatic bonding and the stability of the complex arises from the larger size of the Mn²⁺ ion which can accommodate itself to the monocapped trigonal prismatic geometry with little strain. The M-N distance in MgII is the largest found in any of these complexes.

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