

Structural Investigation on Dihalide Diaquo N,N,N',N'-
Tetramethyl *o*-Phenylenediamine Nickel(II) ComplexesG. Bombieri, E. Forsellini, G. Bandoli, L. Sindellari, R. Graziani,
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The studies on the isomorphous pair $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') and $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') (where N-N' is N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*o*-phenylenediamine, $\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{(N(CH}_3)_2)_2$) have been carried out by three-dimensional single-crystal X-ray diffraction, infrared, visible and ultraviolet techniques. The nickel atom shows a distorted octahedral coordination configuration with the nitrogen atoms of the ligand and the halogen atoms lying in layers parallel to (001) and with the two water molecules in apical positions. The Ni-N bond lengths were found to be 2.12 Å and 2.15 Å and the Ni-O 2.12 Å and 2.04 Å in the chloride and bromide respectively. All other distances are reasonable. The existence of molecular chains hydrogen-bonded parallel to *c*-axis is inferred from the results of spectral studies.

Introduction

In the last few years an increasing number of studies has been devoted to metal complexes with bidentate tertiary amines.

For various nickel(II) complexes with N- and C-substituted ethylenediamines planar, octahedral and tetrahedral configurations have been proposed, on the basis of spectrophotometric and magnetic measurements^{1,2} or of X-ray diffraction data.³

However no systematic investigation has been made on the ability of N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*o*-phenylenediamine (N-N') to form complexes of the type MLX_2 with salts of transition metals, except for the complex $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{N-N}')$ prepared by Stewart,⁴ in which (N-N') is believed to act as a chelating agent.

We have prepared the complexes $\text{NiX}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') where X=Cl, Br, I, NO_3 , NO_2 , SCN.

The present note reports the structural analysis of the $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') and $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') complexes.

Experimental Section

Preparation of the compounds. $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') was prepared by the reaction of $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with tetramethyl *o*-phenylenediamine and was recrystallized from ethanol.⁵ $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -(N-N') was prepared by

the reaction of a solution of 10 mmoles of the (N-N') ligand with 10 mmoles of $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in 30 ml of ethanol at room temperature. After a few hours a crystalline green precipitate was obtained. The compound was purified by recrystallization from acetone solution and dried on P_2O_5 .

Analysis for the latter new compound: % Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{Br}_2\text{Ni}$: C, 28.70; H, 4.70; N, 6.70. % Found: C, 28.78; H, 4.74; N, 6.56.

Spectral Measurements

Visible and ultraviolet spectra. A Beckman DK2A spectrophotometer was used to record the spectra of solid and solutions (in methanol).

Infrared spectra. The spectra were obtained with a Perkin-Elmer 621 Infracord double-beam spectrophotometer using a Rock salt prism. The Nujol mull technique was employed.

Description of Crystals. The crystals of the nickel chloride complex obtained by recrystallization from ethanol solution are pale green with prismatic *c* habit. The crystals of the bromide complex, recrystallized from acetone solution are green with prismatic *c* habit. The densities for both compound were determined by flotation in carbon tetrachloride-bromoform mixture.

Crystal data. Dibromo diaquo N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*o*-phenylenediamine nickel(II), $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{N}_2(\text{CH}_3)_4$, *M.W.* = 418.8, orthorhombic, *a* = 14.71 ± 0.02 Å, *b* = 11.21 ± 0.02 Å, *c* = 8.93 ± 0.02 Å. (The errors given are three times the standard errors of the averages of a number of measurements). *V* = 1473 \AA^3 , *D_c* = 1.89 g.cm^{-3} for four formula units per cell, *D_m* = 1.88 g.cm^{-3} . Total number of electrons per unit cell *F*(000) = 832. Systematic absences *hkl* *h*+*k* = 2*n*+1, *h0l* *l* = 2*n*+1. Space group *Cmcm* or *Cmc2₁*.

Dichloro diaquo N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl *o*-phenylenediamine nickel (II), $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{N}_2(\text{CH}_3)_4$, *M.W.* = 329.9, orthorhombic, *a* = 14.28 ± 0.02 Å, *b* = 10.93 ± 0.02 Å, *c* = 8.90 ± 0.02 Å. (The errors given are three times the standard errors of the averages of a number of measurements). *V* = 1384 \AA^3 , *D_c* = 1.58 g.cm^{-3} for four formula units per cell, *D_m* = 1.56 g.cm^{-3} . Total number of electrons per unit cell *F*(000) = 688. Systematic absences *hkl* *h*+*k* = 2*n*+1, *h0l* *l* = 2*n*+1. Space group *Cmcm* or *Cmc2₁*.

- (1) D. W. Meek, *Inorg. Chem.*, **4**, 250 (1965).
- (2) L. Sacconi and I. Bertini, *Inorg. Nucl. Chem. Letters*, **2**, 29 (1966).
- (3) M. G. B. Drew and D. Rogers, *Chem. Com.*, **20**, 476 (1965).
- (4) F. H. C. Stewart, *Chem. and Ind.*, 264 (1958).
- (5) L. Sindellari, *Ann. Chim.*, **56**, 386 (1966).

Results and Discussion

The structure of the isomorphous pair $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{N}-\text{N}')$ (hereafter called NIC) and $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{N}-\text{N}')$ (hereafter called NIB) consists of an octahedral configuration with two water molecules bonded to the nickel atom in the apical position. The metal atom, the chelate ligand and the two halogen atoms are coplanar and are situated in planes $z=1/4, 3/4$. The molecular symmetry is mm.

A perspective drawing of the elementary cell is shown in Figure 1. Figures 2 and 3 show a perspective view of the octahedron of coordination and the molecular plane.

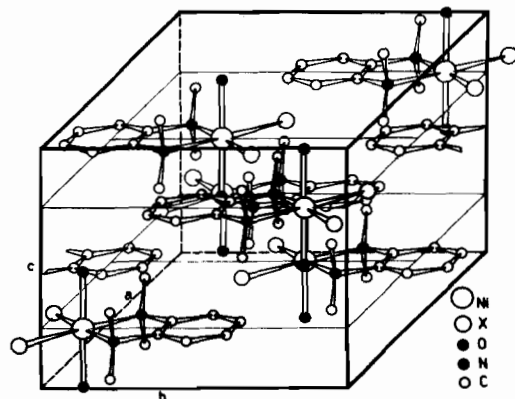


Figure 1. A perspective drawing of the elementary cell.

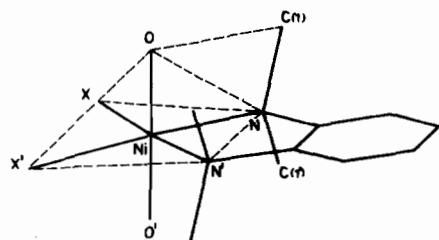


Figure 2. A perspective view of the octahedron of coordination.

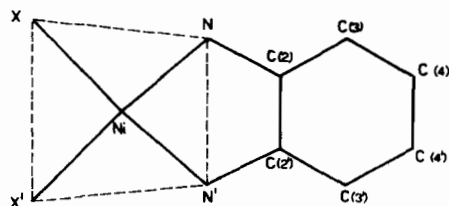


Figure 3. Molecular plane.

The bond lengths and angles of the two complexes are listed in Table V. The Ni—Cl and Ni—Br distances are 2.43 Å and 2.61 Å respectively. This indicates that in both compounds the nature of these bonds is more covalent than ionic (Pauling 1960).¹¹ The Ni—N distances of 2.12 Å and 2.15 Å in NIC and NIB respectively agree

with the Ni—N(en) bond lengths in $\text{Ni}(\text{Me}_4\text{en})(\text{NO}_2)_2$ of 2.087 Å,³ in $\text{Ni}(\text{en})_3(\text{NO}_3)_2$ of 2.12 Å,¹² in $\text{Ni}(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{NO}_3)_2$ of 2.08 Å¹³ and in $\text{Ni}(\text{en})_2(\text{NCS})_2$ of 2.10 Å.¹⁴

Table V. Interatomic Distances, Angles α and Errors

Distances, Å			
Ni—Cl	2.435 (9)	Ni—Br	2.606 (3)
Ni—O	2.123 (13)	Ni—O	2.036 (11)
Ni—N	2.118 (9)	Ni—N	2.151 (9)
Cl—Cl'	3.497 (3)	Br—Br'	3.754 (3)
Cl—N	3.288 (10)	Br—N	3.406 (9)
Cl—O	3.219 (9)	Br—O	3.282 (8)
Cl—C(1)	3.484 (8)	Br—C(1)	3.594 (10)
O—N	3.010 (12)	O—N	2.986 (11)
O—C(1)	2.928 (9)	O—C(1)	2.890 (13)
N—C(1)	1.511 (13)	N—N'	2.936 (18)
N—N'	2.831 (17)	N—C(1)	1.485 (14)
N—C(2)	1.494 (15)	N—C(2)	1.529 (14)
C(1)—C(1')	2.494 (20)	C(1)—C(1')	2.484 (19)
C(1)—C(2)	2.441 (14)	C(1)—C(2)	2.428 (15)
C(2)—C(2')	1.386 (21)	C(2)—C(2')	1.380 (21)
C(2)—C(3)	1.412 (18)	C(2)—C(3)	1.417 (18)
C(3)—C(4)	1.383 (20)	C(3)—C(4)	1.344 (21)
C(4)—C(4')	1.371 (37)	C(4)—C(4')	1.377 (32)
Ni—C(1)	3.025 (9)	Ni—C(1)	3.020 (12)

Angles, deg.			
Cl—Ni—Cl'	91.8 (1)	Br—Ni—Br'	92.1 (1)
Cl—Ni—O	89.6 (1)	Br—Ni—O	89.1 (2)
Cl—Ni—N	92.2 (3)	Br—Ni—N	90.9 (2)
O—Ni—N	90.4 (1)	O—Ni—N	90.9 (2)
N—Ni—N'	83.9 (4)	N—Ni—N'	86.0 (4)
Ni—N—C(2)	109.1 (6)	Ni—N—C(2)	106.4 (6)
Ni—N—C(1)	111.8 (4)	Ni—N—C(1)	111.0 (5)
C(1)—N—C(1')	106.7 (8)	C(1)—N—C(1')	113.6 (9)
C(1)—N—C(2)	108.7 (5)	C(1)—N—C(2)	107.3 (5)
N—C(2)—C(2')	118.9 (8)	N—C(2)—C(2')	120.6 (8)
N—C(2)—C(3)	120.9 (9)	N—C(2)—C(3)	121.4 (9)
C(3)—C(2)—C(2')	120.7 (10)	C(3)—C(2)—C(2')	118.0 (10)
C(2)—C(3)—C(4)	118.6 (11)	C(2)—C(3)—C(4)	122.3 (12)
C(3)—C(4)—C(4')	121.2 (12)	C(3)—C(4)—C(4')	119.7 (13)

^a Standard deviations in the least significant digits are shown in parentheses.

The sum of the nickel(II) octahedral radius (1.39 Å) and the single bond covalent radius for nitrogen (0.70 Å) (Pauling 1960)¹¹ gives an octahedral nickel(II)-nitrogen bond length of 2.09 Å which is in agreement with the measured values for these compounds.

The N—C(2) distances of 1.49 Å (NIC) and 1.53 Å (NIB) are not significantly different from a single bond length.

The increased distance between N—N' (from 2.83 Å (NIC) to 2.93 Å (NIB)) with consequent deformation of the angles of the chelate ring could be explained on the basis of the stronger interaction of the bromine atom with the methyl group. This causes a decrease in the symmetry around the nitrogen atom with increasing p character in the Ni—N bond.

All other distances in the base plane are normal.

The bond distances Ni—OH₂ are 2.12 Å in NIC and 2.04 Å in NIB respectively.

We conclude from the Ni—OH₂ distances in the two complexes that the water molecules are coordinated to the Ni.

(12) L. N. Swink and M. Atoji, *Acta Cryst.*, 13, 639 (1960).

(13) G. Simmons, private communication to Prof. E. C. Lingafelter.

(14) B. W. Brown and E. C. Lingafelter, *Acta Cryst.*, 16, 753 (1963).

(11) L. Pauling, "The Nature of the Chemical Bond", 3rd edn., Ithaca, Cornell Univ. Press (1960).

We have also examined the electronic spectra of these complexes in the solid state (by reflectance) and in methanol solution. Figure 4 shows the band maxima of the solutions. They are the same as those found in the corresponding solids indicating that the octahedral structure is maintained in solution.

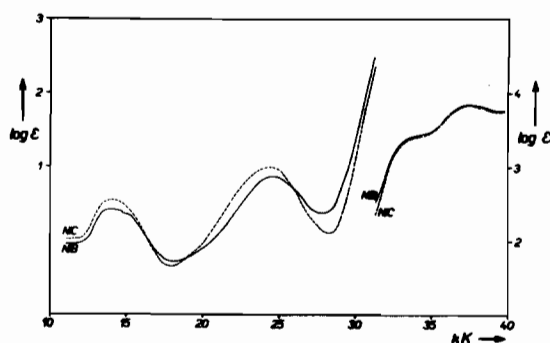


Figure 4. Spectra of NIC and NIB in methanolic solutions.

Moreover, these solution spectra are similar to those of other nickel(II) complexes¹⁵ and, particularly the pattern of absorption of $\text{NiX}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{N}-\text{N}')$ is strikingly similar to that of $\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$. In fact the chromophores $\text{Ni}^{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{X}_2$ have, effectively, O_h -micro-symmetry and the spectrochemical effect of $(\text{N}+\text{Br})/2$ is known to be very similar to that of oxygen.^{16,17}

No assignments can be made for bands of higher energy and higher intensity as they occur in a region where the organic ligand shows pronounced absorption.

As can be seen from Figure 4, the d-d transitions in NIC and NIB differ in intensity. This effect can be attributed to the difference in Ni-O bond-distance in NIC and NIB¹⁸ and explained in terms of molecular orbital theory.

The d-d bands are mainly determined by the $t_{2g} \rightarrow e_g$ transitions; now, if we do not consider the π ligand effect, the $t_{2g}(xy, zx, zy)$ molecular orbitals are all 3d atomic orbitals, while $e_g(z^2, x^2-y^2)$ m.o.'s are for the most part 3d a.o.'s, but with a small contribution of the σ ligand's orbitals.¹⁹ It is known that the intensity of a

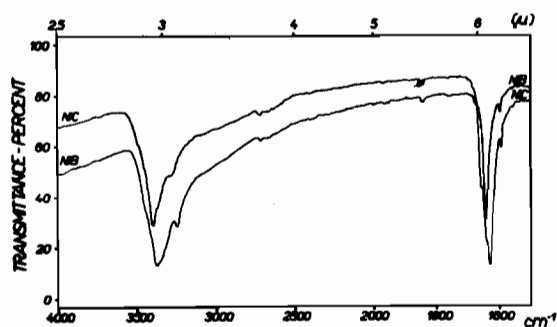


Figure 5. Infrared spectra of NIC and NIB

(15) C. K. Jørgensen, "Orbitals in atoms and molecules", Academic Press, London (1962).

(16) C. E. Schäffer and C. K. Jørgensen, *Mat. fys. Medd. Dan. Vid. Selsk.*, 34, n. 13 (1965).

(17) C. K. Jørgensen, *Journal de Physique*, 26, 825 (1965).

(18) C. K. Jørgensen, private communication.

(19) C. K. Jørgensen, "Absorption Spectra and Chemical Bonding in Complexes", Pergamon Press Oxford (1964).

d-d type band increases as the ligand contribution increases. Therefore NIC seems to have a greater σ mixing than NIB. Keeping in mind that the t_{2g} and e_g m.o.'s are antibonding orbitals, it appears that the σ ligand operates more in NIB than in NIC in the bonding m.o.'s.

Table VI. Frequencies of IR spectra of NIC, NIB, and H_2O (gas)²⁰

Compound	O-H Stretching frequencies, cm^{-1}	O-H Bending frequencies, cm^{-1}
H_2O (gas)	3756, 3657	1595
NIC	3395, 3285	1640
NIB	3370, 3240	1627

A parallel study of the infrared spectra of the two solids in a Nujol mull is shown in Figure 5. Table VI shows the values of the frequencies of the band maxima of Figure 5, together with the corresponding frequencies of water in the gas state. It can be seen that the OH stretching modes of the water molecules in NIC and NIB are shifted down (with respect to water gas) and the bending modes are shifted up indicating that hydrogen bonds exist in the solid state in these compounds. Their most probable locations are between the oxygen atoms of the water molecules and the halogen atoms of molecules, related by the c-glide plane, as shown in Figure 6.

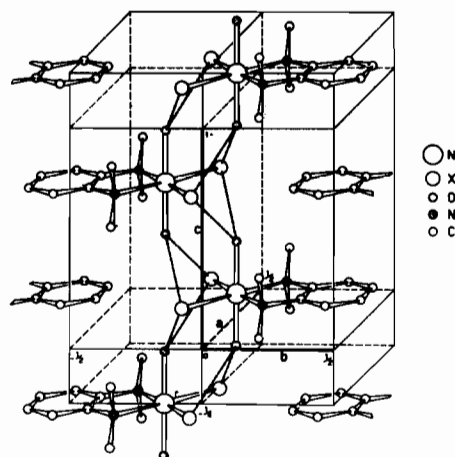


Figure 6. A perspective view of the molecules which are believed to be involved in weak hydrogen bond (broken lines).

In fact from X-ray analysis we have found the following intermolecular contact: $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{Cl}$ 3.26 Å and the corresponding $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{Br}$ 3.40 Å, showing that the contact is made between the oxygen and halogen atoms.

In addition there is a diffuse positive density in the final difference-synthesis in the oxygen-halogen intermolecular approach direction, at a distance from the oxygen atom which could be consistent with the presence of a hydrogen atom, if it is assumed that the oxygen of the coordinated water is in sp^3 hybridization state.

(20) K. Nakamoto, "Infrared Spectra of Inorganic and Coordination Compounds", J. Wiley & Sons, New York (1962).

Hence the structure of the two complexes may be described in terms of hydrogen-bonded chains parallel to the *c* axis. The stability of these structures is shown by the relatively high density of the crystals and by the fact that the anhydrous crystals quickly revert to the hydrate on exposure to air.

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