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The Crystal Structure of 1, 3, 5-Trithiane: A Refinement*

BY G. VALLE, V. BUSETTI AND M. MAMMI

Centri di Strutturistica e di Chimica delle Macromolecole del CNR, Istituto di Chimica Organica dell'Università, 35100 Padova, Italy

and G. Carazzolo

Centro Ricerche Resine, Montecatini-Edison, 21053 Castellanza (Varese), Italy

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The crystal structure of 1,3,5-trithiane (orthorhombic, space group $Pmn2_1$, a=7.668, b=7.003, c=5.285 Å; Z=2) has been refined by the full-matrix least-squares method with photographic threedimensional data. Final values of the molecular parameters are: $C-S=1.814\pm0.009$ Å, C-S-C=98.9 $\pm0.6^{\circ}$, $S-C-S=114.7\pm0.7^{\circ}$. R index, 6.9%. The crystal packing is discussed also in connexion with the observed anisotropic thermal vibrations.

Introduction

A knowledge of the structure of trithiane was a basic requirement for the investigation of the solid-state polymerization of trithiane (Lando & Stannett, 1964; Carazzolo & Mammi, 1964) and for the correlation of the crystallographic features of the polymer and the monomer (Mammi, Carrazzolo & Valle, 1965; Mammi, Valle & Carazzolo, 1968 and references therein). The structure, first determined by Moerman & Wiebenga (1937) and later confirmed by Valle, Carazzolo & Mammi (1965), has now been refined by three-dimensional data.

Experimental

The single crystals of trithiane used in the analysis were obtained by sublimation at $180 \,^{\circ}$ C in the form of long transparent prisms elongated along the *c* axis and with nearly square cross-sections. Cell parameters were determined on Weissenberg and precession photographs, with Cu K\alpha and Mo K\alpha radiations.

Crystal data

Trithiane, C₃H₆S₃, F.W. 138·3, m.p. 215°C. Orthorhombic, space group $Pmn2_1-C_{2v}^7$. $a=7.668 \pm 0.005, b=7.003 \pm 0.005, c=5.285 \pm 0.005$ Å,

1432

^{*} Work carried out with CNR aid. A report has been given at the VIIth International Congress of I.U.Cr., Moscow, 1966, paper 8.66.

$$V = 284 \text{ Å}^3$$
. $D_m = 1.59$, $D_x = 1.618 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$, $Z = 2$,
 $F(000) = 144$. $\mu_{Cu K\alpha} = 104$, $\mu_{Mo K\alpha} = 12 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

hkl reflexions (l=0,...5) from a single crystal 0.07 mm thick were recorded on equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs (multiple films, Cu Ka). The integrated intensity of 324 reflexions, out of the 349 possible in the collected layers, were measured by a recording microdensitometer. Correction was made

for non-linear behaviour of the X-ray films (Ilford Industrial G) (Mammi, Bardi & Bezzi, 1963; Morimoto & Uyeda, 1963) and the usual Lorentz and polarization factors were applied. Interlayer scaling was carried out by use of the hk0, 0kl and h0l absolute intensity values used in the previous two-dimensional analysis (Valle *et al.*, 1965). Unobserved reflexions were given half the minimum observed intensity and were not used in the refinement.

Table 1. Final coordinates, anisotropic thermal parameters ($\times 10^4$) and e.s.d.'s (in parentheses)

The expression for the temperature factor is: exp $\left[-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)\right]$.

S(1) S(2) C(1) C(2)	x/a 0·1994 (3) 0 0·1794 (13) 0	y/b 0·3230 (3) 0·0064 (6) 0·1744 (14) 0·4603 (22)	z/c 0·1520 (3) -0·1195 (5) -0·1282 (14) 0·1195 (19)	β_{11} 68 (3) 86 (5) 119 (18) 124 (27)	β_{22} 115 (4) 95 (6) 93 (19) 80 (26)	β ₃₃ 198 (7) 190 (15) 119 (34) 260 (102)	β_{12} -7 (3) 0 -26 (15) 0	β_{13} -29 (10) 0 46 (24) 0	β_{23} - 19 (10) - 49 (9) - 65 (31) - 10 (42)
H(1) H(2) H(3) H(4)	0·299 0·161 0 0	0·095 0·266 0·570 0·525	-0.150 -0.289 0.262 -0.065	B 2·5 Å ² 2·5 2·5 2·5					

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors

Unobserved reflexions are marked by an asterisk. Colums are: $h,|10 \times F_{obs}|,|10 \times F_{calc}|,10 \times A_{calc},10 \times B_{calc}|$

н,о,о	2 231 231 231 0	2 213 204-187 83	3 73 67 55 -39	2 79 73 0 -73	8 101 107 14 107	4 57 50 -28 -42	H,6,4
2 208 181-181 0	3 202 203 0 203	3 263 211 211 -1	4 00 02 -20 44 5 66 64 40 -48	3 209 209 200 21			0 230 211-207 -42
4 298 294 294 0	4 45 35 35 0	4 81 80 58 -56	9 00 04 43 -40	4 109 105 2-105	H,2,3	H,U,4	1 20- 27-27 4
6 256 281 281 0	5 120 108 0-108	5 159 173 -3 -173		5 101 101-174 -51	0 182 200 151-132	0 305 404-396 80	2 60 52 40 34
8 76 78 -78 0	6 61 57 57 0	6 93 90 89 -14	H,0,1	6 75 79 5 -79	1 88 93 -48 -81	2 100 109 67 67	3 30 33 27 -19
	7 109 101 0 101	7 144 138 136 24	0 90 92 90 -23	7 124 131 131 16	2 141 140 -01-115	4 159 160-160 -9	4 14 11 -11 -0
н,1,0	8 5*107 107 0	8 111 101 -91 45	1 75 67 15 -66	8 25 29 -4 -29	3 244 242-240 -31	6 145 149-147 -25	
0 21 20 20 0		9 80 70 37 -60	2 33 24 -17 18		4 61 63 44 46		0 E) E9 E6 17
1 224 266 0 266	H,6,0		3 92 90 90 -3	n,7,2	5 99 100 51 -87	П,1,4 О бЕ Еб ЭА АБ	1 68 65 6 6
2 220 221 221 0	0 3 36 340 340 0	H, 3, 1	4 0* 32 31 -0	0 288 321 31-320	6 40 37 30 22	1 77 97 20 95	1 00 09 -0 -09
3 346 373 0 -373	1 15 13 0 -13		402	2 44 44 21 22 4	8 66 75 -24 -67	2 1 22 1 42 - 1 20 - 22	¥ 0 5
4 60 57 57 0	2 14 10 -10 0	1 115 116 113 -29	0 195 172 00 140	2 44 44 -31 32	0 00 19 - 34 -01	2 132 142-139 -32	1 70 80 86 26
5 281 305 0 300	3 50 41 0 41	2 12 63 -24 59	2 220 246 85-226	3 10 19 -10 -29			2 148 141 -32 138
6 67 68 60 0	4 133 123 123 0	3 334 361 -13 -361	4 120 8 3 8	4 122 130 3-130	n, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	6 182 180 62-160	5 106 110 -02 -62
7 125 136 0 =130	5 56 51 0 -51	4 32 23 20 13	6 62 66 -42 -52	6 110 122 8 122	1 120 126-124 -58	6 62 58 -55 21	, 100 110 -, L -02
	6 146 132 132 0	5 210 210 175 117	8 147 160 44-154	7 59 59 59 10	2 65 72 - 20 - 66	7 81 92 -41 84	# 1 5
9 18 29 0 29	1 40 42 0 42	7 182 176 . 28 172	0 141 100 44-114	/)0)0 -)0 -10	3 101 102 45-187	, 01)) -41 04	0 96 114 105 -46
	470	9 39 26 -14 24	812	462	4 18 14 -4 -14	H 2 A	1 90 110 -44 101
0 70 63 69 0		0 00 70 45 24	0 454 454 14-454	0 40 40 -26 18	5 186 105-104 23	0 63 64 18 62	2 103 100 -94 35
		9 9-13 69 -34	1 95 73 - 60 - 42	1 70 70 70 -10	6 18 9 -9 -3	1 46 47 -39 27	3 45 34 -33 -11
2 427 512 513 0	2 100 85 85 0		2 70 72 -20 -65	2 180 182 29-180	7 111 123 53-111	2 224 228-227 - 30	4 24# AB A2 -25
2 427 515 515 0	2 100 05 55 0	0 338 361 330 106	2 106 154 134 77	2 100 102 23-100	8 20 31 -7 -31	3 102 94 69 -65	5 125 110 -20 116
A 154 149 149 0	A B) 77 77 0	1 125 120 95 -102	A 220 102 _3_102	A 26 20 1 -20	0 29 51 -1 -51	A 75 7A -72 20	6 18* 10 10 3
4 194 149 149 0 5 174 176 0 176	5 100 176 0 176	2 231 260 236 -110	5 102 184-175 -58	5 84 84 84 2	H.A.3	5 110 108 -65 87	· 1· 1· 1· j
6 67 61 61 0	6 52 49 49 0	3 154 161 154 -47	6 168 169 6-169	6 44 48 -17 -45	0 173 174 -87-151	6 44 49 -44 22	8.2.5
7 116 110 0 110	0 52 45 45 0	A A7 A5 -9 A5	7 124 127 126 18	0 44 40 27 47	1 86 90 -63 -65	7 66 71 18 -69	0 149 173-173 11
8 178 187 187 0	480	5 112 100 35 -94	8 32 25 -20 -16	H 7 2	2 152 154 108 110	,	1 91 96 -63 73
9 48 42 0 -42	0 72 76 -76 0	6 63 51 -51 3	9 53 49 -49 7	0 87 92 3 -92	3 131 133-122 -53	H. 3.4	2 100 102 102 -1
, 10 12 0 15	1 8 5 0 -5	7 88 86 82 -29	, ,, ,, ,, ,	1 28 30 -21 -22	4 53 61 -11 -61	0 224 226-200-106	3 82 71 -71 2
H. 3.0	2 149 154 154 0	8 135 126 116 -50	H.2.2	2 52 54 -1 -54	5 60 60 -18 -58	1 27 24 -19 -15	4 44 38 -31 23
0 352 360 360 0	3 43 35 0 35		0 264 275 78-264	3 80 74 69 28	6 30 27 -3 -27	2 78 69 17 67	5 111 104 -32 100
1 8* 10 0 10	4 27 26 26 0	H.5.1	1 162 160 160 10	4 52 60 -3 -60	7 59 67 -64 -22	3 53 47 -1 -47	6 16* 60 -59 -13
2 82 74 -74 0		0 124 136 95 -98	2 47 41 -41 -5	5 69 86 -79 -34		4 125 125-125 -2	
3 118 114 0 114	H.O.1	1 152 158 57 -148	3 226 223-216 -56		н,5,3	5 22* 25 -25 6	н,3,5
4 199 192 192 0	1 427 408 402 -70	2 141 146 -69 129	4 162 158 0-158	H,8,2	0 104 102 10 102	6 64 73 - 56 - 47	0 42 29 -27 -12
5 40 25 0 -25	3 286 221 -69-210	3 136 130 121 48	5 240 242 239 38	0 135 136 35-132	1 93 101 -42 -92	7 24 28 3 - 28	1 23* 36 - 36 - 4
6 114 113 113 0	5 337 336 321 100	4 39 30 30 5	6 97 94 27 -91	1 59 58 58 -6	2 130 136 -39-131		2 24* 8 8 -3
7 54 49 0 49	7 186 179 -24-178	5 197 185 -10 -185	7 93 99 -96 -26	2 10*21 -21 -5	3 124 123-122 -20	H,4,4	3 197 199 -42 195
8 39 41 - 41 0	9 13* 73 73 5	6 23 24 20 -14	8 24 25 - 25 0	3 8* 34 -28 -20	4 18* 13 8 -11	0 37 43 - 35 26	4 23 19 -19 -1
96•808		7 98 93 93 13	9 8*24 24 -4		5 103 104 32 -99	1 38 35 28 -21	5 101 93 -34 -87
	н,1,1			н,0,3	6 25 26 -14 23	2 140 140-140 -8	
Н,4,0	0 439 459-216 406	Н,6,1	H, 3, 2	1 280 242-235 -59		3 113 110 -88 66	H,4,5
0 78 73 73 0	1 238 323 71-316	0 103 119 112 -41	0 219 205 -69 194	3 213 177 138-111	Н,6,3	4 69 71 -71 4	0 128 144 144 6
1 54 46 0 46	2 250 281 1 69- 225	1 118 128 122 -40	1 11* 12 0 12	5 323 307-307 8	0 64 43 35 25	5 99 103 60 -84	1 75 70 -44 55
2 2 3 1 2 3 9 2 3 9 0	3 134 124 123 -17	2 33 91 - 17 27	2 431 427 37-426	7 104 105 47 -95	1 115 122-112 -49	6 35 43 -41 14	2 144 139-138 18
3 152 143 0 -143	4 96 99 - 80 59	3 151 147 -44 -141	3 48 52 -41 -32		2 51 48 7 -48		3 68 73 -70 23
4 124 117 117 0	5 220 229 5-229	4 48 47 42 -22	4 84 79 -15 -78	H,1,3	3 103 101 77 -66	H,7,4	4 19 0 3 -0
5 170 167 0 167	6 79 71 -26 67	5 165 160 157 35	5 34 37 34 16	0 342 324 -72-316	4 20 20 24 11	0 12 15 -6 15	
6 85 72 72 0	7 102 95 92 -24	6 46 42 42 -2	6 31 28 26 11	1 149 150 -03-145	5 133 198-198 -10	1 35 34 -33 11	n,7,7
7 126 125 0 -125	8 121 118 83 -85	7 91 98 -15 -97	1 28 33 -32 -9	2 2 30 207 50 201	473	2 174 139-129 -74	1 03 80 -38 81
8 110 111 111 0	9 64 57 15 -56		0 1// 201 29-199	3 109 172-143 -72	$n_{1}(r_{3})$	A 108 24 _24 O	2 57 47 20 -28
		n, (,1	44.2	4 00 00 44 - 70 5 1 38 1 36 81 3≮	1 72 69 -44 -54	5 71 70 -45 66	3 59 58 -34 -48
H,5,0	H,2,1	0 109 112 -03 101	лу чу с 0 162 164 7.164	6 85 01 5 01	2 73 77 18 75	, ii ii, 00	5 77 70 -54 -40
0 36 29 -29 0	0 391 307 307-124	1 00 02 79 -57	1 57 58 50 10	7 00 08 -04 -30	2 13 11 10 13		
T T4 T0 0 -T0	T TOA TIQ TSA-TSA	5 TO 102 OL -03	T 01 00 -00 -30	1 70 70 -94 - 30	5 75 75 -49 -22		

Refinement and discussion

The cyclic molecules are in the special position m, so that half a ring corresponds to the asymmetric unit.

The atomic coordinates of the two-dimensional determination (Valle *et al.*, 1965) were first refined by four cycles of differential synthesis (Nardelli, Musatti, Domiano & Andreetti, 1965), which gave shifts as large as 0.05 Å in z and less than 0.01 Å in the x and y coordinates, the isotropic thermal parameters being kept constant. The residual R decreased from 12.4 to 8.6%.

A fixed contribution for the hydrogen atoms, with coordinates calculated from a model and B=2.5 Å², was then introduced in two cycles of full-matrix least-squares refinement of the anisotropic thermal parameters. The Cruickshank (1961) weighting scheme was used in the Busing, Martin & Levy ORFLS program (1962), as adapted in the X-ray 63 Program System for X-ray Crystallography (1965), on an IBM 7094/7040 DCS computer. The refinement fully converged without significant changes in the atomic coordinates and reduced the residual to 6.9% (7.1% without the H atom contribution or 8.2% without accounting for anisotropic vibrations).

The final coordinates, anisotropic thermal parameters and estimated standard deviations so obtained are given in Table 1 and the observed and calculated structure factors in Table 2. Atomic scattering factors by Forsyth & Wells (1959) were used.

Intramolecular distances and angles are listed in Table 3. Their standard deviations were calculated according to Ahmed & Cruickshank (1953) and Darlow (1960), respectively. The values do not deviate significantly from symmetry 3m, the averages being C-S, $1\cdot814$ Å; C-S-C, $98\cdot9^{\circ}$; S-C-S, $114\cdot7^{\circ}$ (the previous corresponding values of the two-dimensional analysis were $1\cdot812$ Å, $100\cdot6^{\circ}$ and $115\cdot7^{\circ}$).

Table 3. Intramolecular distances (Å) and angles (°), with e.s.d.'s (in parentheses)

The asterisk denotes the atoms related by mirror plane, at \bar{x} , y, z.

S(1)-C(2) S(1)-C(1) S(2)-C(1)	1·814 (8) 1·816 (8) 1·811 (10)	$\begin{array}{c} C(2)-S(1)-C(1)\\ C(1)-S(2)-C(1^*)\\ S(2)-C(1)-S(1)\\ S(1)-C(2)-S(1^*) \end{array}$	98·9 (5) 98·9 (6) 114·6 (5) 114·9 (8)
S(1)-S(1*)	3·058 (5)	S(2)-S(1)-S(1*)	59·9 (1)
S(1)-S(2)	3·052 (6)	S(1)-S(2)-S(1*)	60·1 (1)
C(1)-C(1*)	2·751 (22)	C(2)-C(1)-C(1*)	60·1 (4)
C(1)-C(2)	2·759 (24)	C(1)-C(2)-C(1*)	59·8 (4)

The value of the carbon valence angle, larger than the tetrahedral, is not unusual for this type of cyclic molecule; *e.g.* 114.5° has been found in 1,3,5-trithioacetaldehyde (Hassel & Viervoll, 1947), 112.5° in 1,4-dithiane (Marsh, 1955), and 114.5° in the isostructural 1,3,5-triselenane (Mammi, Carazzolo, Valle & Del Pra, 1968).

The plane of the three sulphur atoms and that of the three carbon atoms in the chair molecule are nearly parallel to each other (0.3°) at a distance of 0.67 Å. The molecular plane is tilted by ~33° from the *ab* plane. The internal rotation angles of the bonds C(2)–S(1), S(1)–C(1) and C(1)–S(2) are 66.1°, 66.5°, 66.9° respectively. The same value (66.0°) was also found in the corresponding polymer chain, where conformational constraints are much less than in the cyclic structure (Carazzolo & Valle, 1966).

Table 4 gives the principal axes of the ellipsoids: although a detailed analysis for rigid body motion has not been carried out, a large translational tensor component in the direction normal to the molecular plane is quite evident (Fig. 1). Moreover, the minimum thermal vibration axis of each atom lies nearly in the plane of its two ring-bonds and is not directed along any of its C---S intermolecular contacts.

Table 4. Principal axes of the vibration ellipsoids

Root mean square displacements U_i and angles θ with the crystallographic axes.

	Axis(i)	U_i	θ_{ia}	$ heta_{ib}$	θ_{ic}
	1	0∙1255 Å	31·7°	77·1 °	61.6°
S(1)	2	0.1666	68.9	155-2	102.5
	3	0.1811	112.6	110.8	31.5
	1	0.1289	90.0	36.4	53.6
S(2)	2	0·1572	180.0	90.0	90.0
	3	0.1849	90.0	126.4	36.4
	1	0.0759	95.6	53.6	37.0
C(1)	2	0.1560	131.6	129.5	66-9
	3	0.2168	42.2	119-5	62.9
	1	0.1469	90.0	12.9	77•1
C(2)	2	0.1741	180.0	90.0	90.0
	3	0.2143	90.0	102.9	12.9

In fact, five C---S contacts are observed for each C and each S atom, in the range from 3.7 to 4.0 Å (Table 5 and Fig. 2). Their correlation with the polymerization geometry in the crystalline state has been already discussed (Valle et al., 1965; Mammi, Valle & Carazzolo, 1968). The crystal packing also shows contacts between like atoms, shorter than 3.8 Å; all the other non-hydrogen distances are longer than 4.6 Å. so that a total number of 46 contacts results for each molecule. Further, there are a large number of distances involving hydrogen atoms (46 per molecule) in the range from 2.9 to 3.4 Å (see Table 5). Intermolecular contacts between hydrogen atoms are not observed, the H---H distances being longer than 2.8 Å. The S---S contacts of 3.478 Å are rather short and must be noted; their occurrence in the crystal is in agreement with the directions of the lowest thermal vibration of the S atoms.

Table 5. Shortest intermolecular distances from atoms of the asymmetric unit to neighbouring molecules numbered as indicated below

3·704 Å	$C(2)S(1^{VIII})$	C(2)S(1 ¹¹)	S(1)C(2 ^I)
3.788	$C(1)S(1^{1v})$ $C(1)S(2^{1v})$	$S(1)C(1^{111})$ $S(2)C(1^{111})$	$S(2)C(1^{\vee})$
3.822	S(1)C(1 ^I)	$C(1)S(1^{II})$	2(2) 0(1)
3.857	$C(1)S(2^{111})$	$S(2)C(1^{1V})$	$S(2)C(1^{V1})$
3.942	$C(2)S(1^{V11})$	$C(2)S(1^{1})$	$S(1)C(2^{11})$
3·947 4·028	$S(1)C(1^{A})$ $C(2)S(2^{X1})$	S(2)C(2XII)	
1020			C (1) C (BUIL)
3.478	$S(2)S(11^{v})$	$S(2)S(1^{V1})$	$S(1)S(2^{111})$
3.706	$S(1)S(1^{1})$	$S(1)S(1^{11})$	
3.758	C(1)C(1)	C(1)C(11)	COCUMIN
3.790	$C(1)C(2^{n})$	$C(2)C(1^{*})$	$C(2)C(1^{m})$



Fig.1. Vibrational ellipsoids in the trithiane molecule viewed perpendicularly to the c axis and nearly along the a axis. The asterisk denotes atoms related by a mirror plane.



Fig. 2. View of the trithiane molecule (with atoms at x, y, z) and of the eight surrounding molecules in the alternative orientation. The numbers I to VIII indicate the half-molecules whose equivalent positions are listed in Table 5.

Tal	bl	e	5 ((cont.)	
14	U,		5	(0000.)	

Distances involving hydrogen atoms.

2·95 Å 3·00	$S(1)H(4^{I})$ $S(1)H(2^{X})$	$H(4)S(1^{11})$ $H(2)S(1^{11})$	H(4)S(1 ^{VIII})
3.01	$S(1)H(2^{11})$ $S(2)H(1^{111})$	$S(2)H(1^{v})$	$H(1)S(2^{IV})$
3·10	$C(1)H(2^{11})$	$H(2)S(1^{11})$ $H(3)C(1^{1})$	H(3)C(1 ^{VII})
3.16	$S(1)H(1^{III})$ $C(1)H(1^{III})$	$H(1)S(1^{V})$ $H(1)C(1^{V})$	
3·18 3·27	$S(1)H(3^{11})$ C(2)H(2 ¹)	$H(3)S(1^{1})$ C(2)H(2 ^{V11})	$H(3)S(1^{VII})$ $H(2)C(2^{II})$
3·28 3·34	$S(2)H(1^{1V})$ C(1)H(1^{1V})	$S(2)H(1^{VI})$ $H(1)C(1^{III})$	$H(1)S(2^{111})$
3.38	S(2)H(4 ^{XII})	$H(4)S(2^{XI})$	
		$-x, 1-y, \frac{1}{2}, -x, 1-y, -\frac{1}{2}$	+ z + z
		$-x, -y, \frac{1}{2}, -x -y - 1$	+ <i>z</i> + <i>z</i>
	$V -\frac{1}{2}$ $V -\frac{1}{2}$	$+x, -y, \frac{1}{2}$	+ <i>z</i> + <i>z</i>
	$\begin{array}{c} VII & -\frac{1}{2} \\ VIII & -\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	+x, y, y', y'' = y'' + x, 1-y, y'' = y'' + y''' + y''' + y'''' + y''' + y'''' + y''' + y'''' + y''''' + y''''''''	+ z + z
	IX X	x, y, -1	+ <i>z</i>
		x, y, y, 1 x, 1+y, x - 1 + y	τ 2 Ζ
	711I	$x, = 1 \pm y,$	2

The above considerations of the approach between molecules, the high value (0.80) of the packing coefficient (Kitaigorodskii, 1961) and the remarkably low thermal vibration are supporting evidence for a very rigid structure in the trithiane crystals.

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The Crystal Structure of (\pm) -Elaeocarpine Hydrobromide

By J.A. WUNDERLICH

Division of Applied Chemistry, C.S.I.R.O., Chemical Research Laboratories, Box 4331, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia

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The structure of elaeocarpine ($C_{16}H_{19}NO_2$), the first member of a new class of indolizidine alkaloids, has been determined as its hydrobromide salt. The crystals are triclinic with a=12.46, b=7.38, c=8.05 Å; $\alpha=96.1$, $\beta=92.8$, $\gamma=94.0^{\circ}$. Since the space group, determined by the N(z) versus z test, is PT the base is a racemate. The bromine, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen and fifteen hydrogen atom sites were determined from the Patterson, electron density and difference maps respectively and refinement was carried out by full-matrix least-squares methods to a final R value of 0.131.

The structure and relative stereochemistry are shown below:



The two *trans* ring junctions result in a roughly flat molecule. Steric interaction between the carbonyl and methyl groups results in an out-of-plane distortion of the carbonyl group as well as an in-plane angular distortion of the bond between the methyl group and the aromatic ring.

Introduction

Several *Elaeocarpus* species, large trees of the rain forests of New Guinea, have been found to contain as many as five different alkaloids (Johns, Lamberton & Sioumis, 1968*a*). Preliminary chemical studies indicated that these alkaloids were closely related structurally and represented the first members of a new class of indolizidine alkaloids. It was therefore decided to determine the structure of one base by X-ray crystallography in the hope that the structures of the other bases could be established from their relationship to the known alkaloid, with the use of standard chemical and spectroscopic, especially nuclear magnetic resonance, techniques. The base chosen for the crystal structure analysis, named elaeocarpine, was extracted from