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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of *p*-Methylaminophenol Sulphate (Metol)

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A three-dimensional X-ray study of p-methylaminophenol sulphate (metol) has been accomplished by Patterson and Fourier methods. The crystals are monoclinic (space group C2/c or Cc) with four molecules in the unit cell of dimensions: $a=23\cdot16$ (6), $b=5\cdot87$ (1), $c=14\cdot71$ (4) Å. Without considering the hydrogen atoms, two models of the structure, based on the two possible space groups, can be postulated: both give $R=11\cdot5\%$. The location of the hydrogen atoms is possible only with the model based on the C2/c space group, in which there is a disordered arrangement of the SO₄²⁻ group; the introduction of the hydrogen atoms improves the R value to 10.5\%. Packing and hydrogen bonding are discussed.

Introduction

p-Methylaminophenol sulphate (metol) is a compound largely used in photographic work as a reducing agent. Although it is very common in X-ray laboratories, the available information on its crystal structure concerns only the morphological and optical properties and preliminary X-ray powder diffraction data (McCrone, Cook, Whitney, Corvin & Tull, 1948). The X-ray structural analysis of this compound was started in our laboratory as long ago as 1955, in order to study the hydrogen bonding system formed by the protonated methylamino and the hydroxyl phenolic groups with the oxygen atoms of the anion. This work was interrupted owing to the difficulties found in the solution of the two-dimensional structure. The three-dimensional analysis taken up recently showed that the trouble was due to the existence of two models, which are equivalent apart from the SO_4^{2-} situation, both giving nearly equal R values.

Experimental

Single crystals suitable for X-ray work were grown by slow cooling from aqueous solutions of the commercial

product. In this way monoclinic prisms elongated along the b axis were obtained. Cell constants, determined from Weissenberg and rotation photographs, are as follows:

 $(C_{7}H_{9}ON)_{2} \cdot H_{2}SO_{4}; M = 344 \cdot 4$ $a = 23 \cdot 16 \pm 0.06, b = 5 \cdot 87 \pm 0.01, c = 14 \cdot 71 \pm 0.04 \text{ Å}$ $\beta = 126^{\circ}42' \pm 7'$ $V = 1603 \text{ Å}^{3}, Z = 4, D_{x} = 1 \cdot 422, D_{m} = 1 \cdot 416 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, \mu = 22 \cdot 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Cu K α).

Space group C2/c or Cc (from systematic absences). These data agree well with those previously given in the literature if the crystal axes are changed according to the trasformation matrix: $\overline{101}/010/001$.

A set of intensity data was obtained up to the 5th layer around [010] and up to the 13th layer around [001] on an integrating Weissenberg camera by means of the multiple-film technique and Ni-filtered Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. 1764 independent reflexions were collected out of the 1976 possible ones contained in the limiting sphere; 333 were too weak to be measured. For the photographs taken around [010] the crystal used was a prism with nearly rectangular cross-section (0.014 × 0.021 cm), while for the data taken around [001] a

Table 1. Final atomic fractional coordinates (\times 10⁴) with e.s.d.'s, thermal parameters (\times 10 Å²*) and ratios (e.s.d.)/(coordinate shift)

	x/a	у/b	z/c	B_{11}	B_{22}	B33	B_{23}	B_{13}	B_{12}	r(x)	r(y)	r(z)
S	0	2367 ± 2	2500	18	19	31	0	12	0		6	
O(1)	-407 ± 23	1356 ± 49	1334 ± 28	79	86	34	- 35	18	- 37	58	4	2
O(2)	699 ± 11	1401 ± 13	3199 ± 18	16	36	67	7	12	12	11	5	14
O(3)	-425 ± 12	1778 ± 13	2968 <u>+</u> 24	60	32	97	9	69	9	6	7	59
O(4)	0	4853 <u>+</u> 8	2500	29	27	58	- 7	28	1		7	
O(5)	1169 ± 4	8287 ± 10	4985 <u>+</u> 8	19	66	48	5	14	3	9	14	7
Ν	4154 ± 4	7491 ± 6	7801 ± 7	21	29	34	-2	16	- 1	11	6	18
C(1)	3097 <u>+</u> 5	6849 <u>+</u> 8	4341 ± 7	20	40	27	-4	13	- 1	∞	7	12
C(2)	2684 ± 6	5104 ± 9	4316 ± 9	28	32	31	1	17	-2	11	5	43
C(3)	1933 ± 5	5341 ± 7	3603 ± 7	24	27	32	1	15	- 2	6	4	6
C(4)	1627 ± 4	7268 ± 6	2954 <u>+</u> 6	22	23	29	- 5	16	2	42	21	7
C(5)	2037 ± 5	9008 ± 9	2971 ± 8	27	30	31	2	17	-4	13	29	8
C(6)	2787 <u>+</u> 6	8786 ± 11	3680 ± 9	27	42	39	1	20	7	15	12	4
C(7)	531 ± 7	7112 ± 18	979 ± 11	27	92	38	-14	9	3	24	∞	28

* The B_{ij} 's refer to the thermal factor in the form:

 $\exp\left[-\frac{1}{4}(B_{11}h^2a^{*2}+B_{22}k^2b^{*2}+B_{33}l^2c^{*2}+2B_{12}hka^*b^*+2B_{13}hla^*c^*+2B_{23}klb^*c^*)\right].$

Table 2. Atomic fractional coordinates $(\times 10^4)$ and isotropic thermal parameters of the hydrogen atoms

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	x/a	y/b	z/c	В
H(1)	1083	9333	4667	3∙1 Ų
H(2)	2917	3500	4751	2.9
H(3)	1583	4067	3417	3.6
H(4)	4250	6500	7333	5.0
H(5)	1834	167	2500	5.0
H(6)	3083	10000	3667	2.7
H(7)	4333	8667	7667	2.8
H(8)	667	5333	1000	2.8
H(9)	84	7000	500	4.0
H(10)	750	8333	667	5.0

rectangular fragment (cross-section: 0.018×0.051 cm) was selected. Discontinuous absorption effects were corrected graphically using Albrecht's (1939) method and the shape of the spots of non-equatorial layers was taken into account following Phillips (1956). The structure amplitudes, derived by the usual formulae, were put on the same relative scale by the least-squares cross-correlation method of Rollett & Sparks (1960). The absolute scale factor was determined first by Wilson's method, then by correlating the observed with the calculated values.

Table 3. Atomic peak heights (e.Å⁻³) and curvatures (e.Å⁻⁵)

		Q	$-A_{hh}$	$-A_{kk}$	-Au	Akl	Ani	Ank
S	Obs	38.0	387	387	328	- 3	208	0
	Calc	38.0	387	387	328	-4	208	0
O(1)	Obs	3.6	17	20	19	2	9	7
- (-)	Calc	3.7	18	20	19	3	9	- 7
O(2)	Obs	5.8	41	48	36	-1	24	- 1
	Calc	5.8	41	48	36	- 1	24	0
O(3)	Obs	5.3	33	54	24	-1	16	4
()	Calc	5.4	33	53	24	- 1	15	4
O(4)	Obs	11.6	103	86	73	-2	53	1
. ,	Calc	11.4	103	85	73	- 1	53	1
O(5)	Obs	10.5	92	68	67	1	43	- 3
• /	Calc	10.3	91	68	67	0	43	-2
Ν	Obs	11.4	106	104	95	-4	63	2
	Calc	11.3	106	104	95	-4	73	2
C(1)	Obs	9.4	87	77	87	- 5	52	1
	Calc	9.4	88	75	86	- 5	52	2
C(2)	Obs	8.9	74	79	76	- 1	45	3
	Calc	8.9	75	79	75	0	45	2
C(3)	Obs	9.7	89	86	84	- 1	52	-7
	Calc	9.6	89	86	84	- 1	52	- 8
C(4)	Obs	10.6	100	98	101	- 6	62	3
	Calc	10.6	100	98	102	6	62	3
C(5)	Obs	9.3	86	83	82	4	53	4
	Calc	9.3	86	84	83	4	53	5
C(6)	Obs	8.6	80	68	73	4	48	- 10
	Calc	8.6	80	67	73	4	47	- 10
C(7)	Obs	6.4	55	32	49	-6	29	5
	Calc	6.3	55	32	48	-4	28	3
	E.s.d.	0.5	2	2	2	1	1	1

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors

A minus sign after an F₀ means 'less than'.

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Structure analysis and refinement

The first step in solving the structure was a two-dimensional analysis based on the assumption of the C2/cspace group. This analysis carried out on the (010) projection gave the location of the organic molecule, but was unsuccessful in determining the orientation of the SO₄²⁻ group. A 0.22 value for the R(h0l) index was obtained by putting the SO₄²⁻ tetrahedron on the twofold axis, and it was impossible to improve this value by changing the coordinates of the oxygen atoms.

The analysis resumed with a three-dimensional Pat-

terson synthesis showed that the SO_4^{2-} tetrahedron must have an S-O direction parallel to [010]. Therefore there were two possibilities connected with the space group choice:

(i) There are no symmetry restrictions on the SO_4^{2-} orientation and the space group is Cc.

(ii) The SO_4^{2-} tetrahedron is oriented in such a way that an S-O bond is on a twofold axis in the C2/c space group, with a disordered distribution around that axis of the tetrahedron which degenerates into an hexagonal pyramid. This last hypothesis was suggested by the presence in the two-dimensional projections of a ringconcerned only the orientation of the SO₄²⁻ groups. The R value being equal, the centrosymmetrical model is always more reliable. The introduction of the hydrogen only for the centrosymmetrical model, atom contributions in the last structure factor calculips, Rogers & Wilson, 1950; Hamilton, 1965) that, the when $F_c > F_{\min}$ for unobserved reflexions, multiplicities served reflexions only: $R' = 13 \cdot 1 \%$ assuming $F_o = \frac{1}{2} F_{\min}$ lation improved the R(hkl) value to 10.4% (for ob-(ii) A better hydrogen-bonding scheme, (iii) The well known fact (see e.g. Wilson, 1950; Phil-

atoms which was achieved in the final $F_o - F_c$ synthesis

like region of electron density, around the sulphur peak, having a radius consistent with the projection of the S-O bond.

eters improved the R index to 11.5% in both cases differential syntheses with anisotropic thermal paramboth hypotheses independently. Fourier and Booth's two refinements the differences between the two models (not considering the hydrogen atoms). At the end of the The structural analysis was then carried out assuming

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19 3 2 119 117 20 0 2 111 -124 21 1 3 50 -50 22 2 7 58 68 23 3 13 194 -176 25 1 3 307 27 1 13 47	-56
19 5 2 319 20 0 2 402 -399 21 3 4 2425 22 4 7 108 74 23 1 14 4217 25 3 3 76 -170 27 1 15 136	-172
19 1 <u>3</u> 152 158 20 2 <u>2</u> 37- −24 21 1 <u>5</u> 126 125 22 0 <u>8</u> 177 153 23 3 <u>14</u> 50 59 25 1 <u>9</u> 164 161 28 0 <u>6</u> 48	65
19 1 3 411 -405 20 2 2 118 132 21 3 5 47 -44 22 2 5 125 -173 23 1 <u>15</u> 69 -60 25 3 <u>9</u> 156 -163 28 0 8 53 .	71
19 2 3 154 133 20 4 2 180 -163 21 1 6 313 -304 22 4 6 20 83 23 3 <u>15</u> 94 102 25 <u>1 10</u> 116 136 28 2 <u>9</u> 19-	-2
19 5 3 88 -110 20 2 3 42- 18 21 3 6 151 143 22 2 9 3736 23 1 16 457 25 3 10 17- 22 28 2 10 134	-145
19 1 4 1211 20 4 3 178 148 21 5 6 1720 22 4 9 146 -120 23 3 15 32 26 25 1 11 246 -255 28 2 10 137	141
19 1 4 50 45 20 5 4 262 234 21 1 2 54 47 22 0 10 573 -656 23 1 17 36- 50 2513 11 81 84 28 2 11 69	- /5
19 3 4 125 -122 20 2 4 242 -231 21 3 7 54 69 22 2 10 140 144 24 0 0 106 134 25 1 12 36 37 28 6 12 144	132
19 5 4 18- 20 20 4 4 90 79 21 5 7 23 -43 22 4 10 173 -159 24 0 2 154 -152 25 3 12 2211 28 2 12 33	-41
19 1 5 69 51 20 2 5 7 c - 7 21 1 5 7 - A 22 2 11 75 76 24 2 2 129 157 25 1 13 349 340 28 5 14 320	-325
19 3 2 2 19 20 4 2 9, - 103 21 3 6 /6 - 29 22 4 1 15 16 24 2 3 29 - 23 25 3 13 117 - 115 29 1 9 69 .	/9
177 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	- 22
17 0 340 320 20 2 0 40 50 50 51 1 2 02 70 52 52 50 500 24 2 4 131 -145 22 3 14 2355 22 1 11 52 19 7 2 017 300 20 4 5 150 -155 51 3 5 52 -75 254 20 16 30 52 5 25 -15 10 54 55 50 - 54 55 50 1 10 5 5	-22
	111

Table 5. Bond distances and angles for the SO_4^{2-} tetrahedron

S-O(1)	$1.49 \pm 3\text{\AA}$	O(1) - S - O(2)	$109.0 \pm 2.1^{\circ}$
S-O(2)	1.43 ± 2	O(1) - S - O(3)	107·4 ± 2·3
S-O(3)	1.52 ± 3	O(1) - S - O(4)	116.6 ± 1.2
S-O(4)	1.46 ± 1	O(2) - S - O(3)	110.3 ± 1.4
•		O(2) - S - O(4)	112.0 ± 0.7
		O(3) - S - O(4)	$101 \cdot 1 \pm 0.6$

tions (Cruickshank, 1949) are given in Tables 1 and 2 and the comparison between observed and calculated peak shapes is shown in Table 3. The F_c values reported in Table 4 are calculated with the final parameters of Tables 1 and 2 using the scattering factors of Dawson (1960) for S, of Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry & Veenendaal (1955) for O, N and C and McWeeny (1951) for H. For the hydrogen atoms the isotropic *B* values used were derived from those of the attached atoms.

The standard deviations, quoted in the next section, are calculated from the formulae of Ahmed & Cruick-shank (1953) for bond lengths and of Darlow (1960) for angles.

Discussion

Even if the centrosymmetrical model is more reliable for the reasons already given, it is interesting to compare the results of the two independent analyses. From the two projections on (010) shown in Fig. 1(*a*) and (*b*) it is possible to see the way in which the organic cations are packed together which is practically the same for both models; the only appreciable differences concern their interactions with the SO_4^2 - groups.

Bond distances and angles in the organic cations

quoted in Fig. 2 show that the differences are not significant, but the values in the centrosymmetrical model are more uniform and have a better correspondence with those reported in the literature for similar compounds. The benzene rings are strictly planar in both cases and the hydroxyl oxygen atom and the amine nitrogen atom lie in the benzene plane.

Fig. 3 shows the location of the hydrogen atoms of the organic cation for the centrosymmetrical model; the bond distances concerning the hydrogen atoms agree satisfactorily with the values generally found in X-ray determinations with the exception of the hydroxyl hydrogen atom, which is too near to the oxygen atom. It is interesting to observe that this hydrogen atom participates in a strong hydrogen bond $[O(5)-H(1)\cdots O(1')=2.46$ Å].

The environment of the nitrogen atom is tetrahedral as expected; the angles around N and C(7) are as follows:

$C(4)-N-C(7)=113\cdot 2^{\circ}$	$N(1)-C(7)-H(8) = 100.6^{\circ}$
C(4) - N - H(4) = 96.1	N(1)-C(7)-H(9) = 119.5
C(4) - N - H(7) = 115.7	N(1)-C(7)-H(10) = 112.3
C(7) - N - H(4) = 125.3	H(8)-C(7)-H(9) = 98.1
C(7) - N - H(7) = 115.2	H(8)-C(7)-H(10) = 115.6
H(4) - N - H(7) = 88.6	H(9)-C(7)-H(10) = 109.9

Bond distances and angles for the SO_4^{2-} tetrahedron in the centrosymmetrical model are quoted in Table 5; the e.s.d.'s are such that the differences in bond distances are not significant. Fig. 4 (a) and (b) shows two clinographic projections of the centrosymmetrical structure, drawn from two different points of view, showing the packing of the molecules and hydrogen bonding. The angles formed in the these bonds are as follows:





Fig.1. (a) Projection of the centrosymmetrical model on (010). (b) Projection of the non-centrosymmetrical model on (010).

$O(4)-H(4)-N = 142.1^{\circ}$	
O(2'')-H(7)-N=155.8	$O(5)-H(1)-O(2'') = 146 \cdot 1^{\circ}$
O(3')-H(7)-N = 144.7	O(5)-H(1)-O(1') = 143.6
$x, y+1, \frac{1}{2}-z$	
x, y+1, z	

It appears that the H(1) and H(7) hydrogen atoms lie between two oxygen atoms of two disordered tetrahedra. All other packing distances are longer than 3.5 Å.

All the calculations were performed on the Olivetti Elea 6001/S computer of the Centro di Calcolo Elettronico della Università di Parma with the programs of Nardelli, Musatti, Domiano & Andreetti (1964, 1965). This work was done with the financial support of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Roma).

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Fig. 2. Distances and angles in the organic cations for the two models of the structure: (a) centrosymmetrical, (b) non-centrosymmetrical.



Fig.3. The bond distances involving the hydrogen atoms of the organic cation for the centrosymmetrical model.



Fig.4. Clinographic projections of the centrosymmetrical structure drawn from two different points of view.



Fig. 4 (cont.)

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