

$\alpha$ -Ni<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (Łukaszewicz, 1967) seems anomalous. In the case of  $\alpha$ -Zn<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> only that anion not containing a crystallographic twofold axis is considered (Robertson & Calvo, 1970). Aside from  $\alpha$ -Ni<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> the anion geometry does not deviate significantly with change of cation, although the size of the estimated standard deviations precludes any conclusion concerning the effects of electronegativity on the bond lengths. The predicted values, obtained from Baur's (1970) relationship, agree only qualitatively and, since it contains no distance dependency, fails to predict the characteristic distortions between the two halves of the anion.

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## Short Communications

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**Corrigendum: the crystal and molecular structure of bismuth trichloride.** By S. C. NYBURG, G. A. OZIN and J. T. SZYMAŃSKI,\* *Lash-Miller Chemical Laboratories, University of Toronto, Toronto, 181, Ontario, Canada*

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Corrected atomic fractional coordinates and thermal parameters are given for the structure of bismuth trichloride previously reported.

In the recent report on the structure of bismuth trichloride (Nyburg, Ozin & Szymański, 1971), an undetected error in a program which transformed coordinates within a unit cell resulted in an incorrect set of parameters being published, these being different from the ones used in the refinement. The corrected set is given here (Table 1).

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### Reference

- NYBURG, S. C., OZIN, G. A. & SZYMAŃSKI, J. T. (1971). *Acta Cryst.* **B27**, 2298.

Table 1. *Atomic fractional coordinates (e.s.d.'s in parentheses)*

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Bi	-0.04678 (5)	-0.25*	-0.02328 (7)
Cl(1)	0.0567 (4)	-0.2505 (15)	0.3484 (7)
Cl(2)	0.1762 (9)	-0.0647 (09)	-0.1382 (17)
Cl(3)	0.1750 (9)	-0.4332 (09)	-0.1509 (16)

\* Defines origin.

Table 1 (cont.). *Thermal parameters (e.s.d.'s in parentheses)*

Temperature factor =  $\exp [-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)]$ .

	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
Bi	0.00636 (7)	0.00683 (6)	0.01125 (12)	-0.00138 (13)	-0.00106 (5)	0.00180 (21)
Cl(1)	0.0083 (4)	0.0087 (5)	0.0124 (7)	-0.0003 (12)	-0.0009 (4)	-0.0011 (14)
Cl(2)	0.0108 (10)	0.0041 (6)	0.0177 (17)	0.0007 (6)	0.0012 (10)	-0.0011 (7)
Cl(3)	0.0103 (10)	0.0063 (8)	0.0137 (14)	-0.0012 (7)	0.0050 (9)	0.0002 (9)