

The Crystal Structure of the Bis-(5,5'-diethylbarbiturato)bispicoline Complex of Zinc(II)

BY LUIGI NASSIMBENI AND ALLEN RODGERS

Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Cape Town, South Africa

(Received 11 April 1974; accepted 16 April 1974)

The crystal structure of the title compound has been determined from single-crystal X-ray diffraction data collected on a four-circle diffractometer. The analysis was carried out with 3343 independent reflexions by Patterson and Fourier methods and the structure refined by full-matrix least-squares methods to an R of 0.029. The complex crystallizes in the space group $P\bar{1}$ with $a = 13.013$ (5), $b = 11.748$ (5), $c = 10.842$ (5) Å, $\alpha = 114.4$ (2), $\beta = 90.9$ (2), $\gamma = 90.3$ (2)°, $Z = 2$. The zinc atom is tetrahedrally bonded to the deprotonated nitrogen atoms of the barbital anions [Zn-N, 2.006 (3) and 1.987 (3) Å] and to the nitrogen atoms of the picolines [Zn-N, 2.095 (3) and 2.069 (3) Å]. The molecules are linked by N-H...O hydrogen bonds.

Introduction

The structure of the title compound is the fourth in our series of investigations of compounds of the general formula $M(II)(\text{barb})_2L_2$, where M is a transition metal, barb is the anion of a substituted barbituric acid and L is an organic base, such compounds being important in the clinical detection and identification of drugs. The first X-ray determination on compounds of this type was carried out by Wang & Craven (1971) who elucidated the structures of the bis-(5,5-diethylbarbiturato)bisimidazole complexes of cobalt(II) and zinc(II). We have subsequently reported the crystal structures of the bis-(5,5'-diethylbarbiturato)bispyridine complex of copper(II) (Caira, Fazakerley, Linder & Nassimbeni, 1973), the bis-(5,5'-diethylbarbiturato)-bispicoline dihydrate complex of copper(II) (Fazakerley, Linder, Nassimbeni & Rodgers, 1974a) and the bis-[5-allyl-5-(2-bromoallyl)barbiturato]bispyridine dihydrate complex of copper(II) (Fazakerley, Linder, Nassimbeni & Rodgers, 1974b).

Levi & Hubley (1956) have suggested on the basis of infrared spectral data on a series of complexes of the type $\text{Cu}(\text{barb})_2(\text{pyridine})_2$ that the barbiturate ligand is bound to the copper through an oxygen atom. However, all the above crystal structure analyses have shown the coordinating site to be a deprotonated nitrogen atom.

Hydrogen bonding has been a prominent feature in the crystal structures of barbiturates and their salts (Berkling & Craven, 1971; Craven, Vizzini & Rodrigues, 1969) as well as the complexes mentioned above.

The present analysis was undertaken as part of a general programme established to ascertain the exact coordination site on the barbiturate and to investigate the nature of any hydrogen bonding which might prevail.

Experimental

The complex was formed by mixing dilute aqueous solutions of ZnSO_4 , sodium barbital and β -picoline in

the molar ratio 1:2:2 at room temperature. After a few days, 2 drops of 1M NaOH were added. Large, block-like transparent crystals formed after a further 24 hours. Microanalysis showed that they had the composition $\text{ZnC}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$ corresponding to the formulation $\text{Zn(II)}(5,5'\text{-diethylbarbiturato})_2(\beta\text{-picoline})_2$.

A single crystal of dimensions $0.25 \times 0.25 \times 0.375$ mm was selected for the X-ray investigation. Its density was determined with a density gradient column containing the components *m*-xylene ($\rho = 0.86$ g cm⁻³) and carbon tetrachloride ($\rho = 1.60$ g cm⁻³), which was precalibrated with aqueous caesium chloride solutions. The lattice constants (Table 1) were obtained from a least-squares analysis of the settings of 25 reflexions measured on a four-circle diffractometer with Mo $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.7107$ Å).

Table 1. Crystal data

Molecular formula	$\text{ZnC}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$
Molecular weight	617.4
Space group	Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$
$a = 13.013$ (5) Å	$V = 1509.16$ Å ³
$b = 11.748$ (5)	$D_m = 1.368$ g cm ⁻³
$c = 10.842$ (5)	$D_c = 1.341$ g cm ⁻³ for $Z = 2$
$\alpha = 114.4$ (2)°	$\mu(\text{Mo } K\alpha) = 8.92$ cm ⁻¹
$\beta = 90.9$ (2)	$F(000) = 648$
$\gamma = 90.3$ (2)	

The intensities were collected at the National Physics Research Laboratory of the CSIR on a Philips PW 1100 computer-controlled four-circle diffractometer operating in the ω -scan mode (scan width = 1.20° and scan speed = 0.04° s⁻¹).

With Zr-filtered Mo $K\alpha$ radiation 3687 reflexions up to $2\theta = 44^\circ$ were measured. A reflexion was taken as being above background if $I_{\text{rel}} > 1.65\sigma(I_{\text{rel}})$. 344 reflexions did not satisfy this criterion and were omitted as unobserved. Three reference reflexions were measured after every 57 reflexions to monitor stability of operation and crystal decomposition. The variation in

intensity of a reference reflexion was observed to be less than 2% of its mean value. Lorentz-polarization corrections were applied. However, absorption corrections were ignored as the variation in μR for the crystal selected was between 0.11 and 0.20 with corresponding A^* values of 1.18 and 1.40 for the θ range scanned. This was regarded as insignificant.

Solution and refinement of the structure

The position of the zinc atom was determined from a Patterson map. From the subsequent Fourier synthesis all 41 non-hydrogen atoms of the molecule were located. Scattering factors were those of Cromer & Mann (1968). The zinc was treated as Zn^0 and the anomalous dispersion correction ($\Delta f' = 0.3$) was applied. Each reflexion was assigned unit weight. Before refinement R was 0.245. After three cycles, the isotropic refinement [CRYLSQ: X-RAY system (1972)] terminated at an R of 0.089. Anisotropic temperature factors were then introduced and after 2 cycles of refinement

R dropped to 0.054. For the anisotropic refinement the thermal parameters were of the form

$$T = \exp [-2\pi^2(U_{11}h^2a^{*2} + U_{22}k^2b^{*2} + U_{33}l^2c^{*2} + 2U_{12}hka^*b^* + 2U_{13}hla^*c^* + 2U_{23}klb^*c^*)].$$

All 36 hydrogen atoms were located in difference syntheses and were assigned the isotropic temperature factors of the atoms to which they were bonded. After a further four cycles of non-hydrogen refinement, the average e.s.d. in the positional and anisotropic temperature factors was about 12 times the average parameter shift. After the last refinement cycle in which the hydrogen atomic positions were varied, the average e.s.d. in these parameters was about three times the average parameter shift. The last cycle of refinement yielded an R of 0.029. A final difference map was practically featureless. The positional and thermal parameters for the non-hydrogen atoms are listed in Table 2 and the positional parameters for the hydrogen atoms in Table 3. Table 4 lists the observed and calculated structure factors.

Table 2. Non-hydrogen atoms: fractional atomic coordinates and their e.s.d.'s ($\times 10^4$) and anisotropic temperature factors and their e.s.d.'s ($\times 10^3$)

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{13}	U_{23}
Zn	2266 (0.3)	2347 (0.3)	3761 (0.3)	23 (0.2)	23 (0.2)	25 (0.2)	-3 (0.1)	-2 (0.1)	11 (0.2)
N(1)	1968 (2)	2109 (2)	5449 (2)	20 (1)	28 (1)	24 (1)	-9 (1)	-6 (1)	14 (1)
N(2)	1208 (2)	1269 (3)	5331 (3)	21 (2)	28 (2)	27 (2)	-3 (1)	-4 (1)	14 (1)
C(3)	1087 (2)	849 (2)	6340 (3)	29 (1)	43 (2)	35 (2)	-19 (1)	-11 (1)	25 (1)
C(4)	1703 (2)	1168 (3)	7474 (3)	34 (2)	47 (2)	36 (2)	-8 (2)	-6 (2)	26 (2)
C(5)	2554 (2)	2126 (3)	7681 (3)	30 (2)	44 (2)	30 (2)	-14 (2)	-14 (1)	20 (2)
C(6)	2581 (2)	2623 (3)	6581 (3)	27 (2)	32 (2)	29 (2)	-7 (1)	-2 (1)	13 (1)
C(7)	2405 (3)	3228 (4)	9072 (4)	80 (3)	62 (3)	33 (2)	-23 (2)	-15 (2)	20 (2)
C(8)	1407 (5)	3928 (5)	9192 (5)	134 (5)	83 (4)	56 (3)	29 (3)	23 (3)	14 (3)
C(9)	3594 (3)	1507 (4)	7678 (4)	37 (2)	80 (3)	73 (3)	-9 (2)	-17 (2)	53 (3)
C(10)	3812 (3)	363 (5)	6412 (6)	58 (3)	103 (4)	106 (4)	33 (3)	17 (3)	66 (4)
O(2)	614 (2)	888 (2)	4349 (2)	32 (1)	53 (1)	35 (1)	-21 (1)	-14 (1)	25 (1)
O(4)	1571 (2)	702 (3)	8269 (3)	64 (2)	97 (2)	61 (2)	-37 (2)	-23 (1)	63 (2)
O(6)	3183 (2)	3471 (2)	6707 (2)	52 (2)	55 (2)	41 (1)	-36 (1)	-16 (1)	25 (1)
N(11)	3715 (2)	3051 (2)	3593 (2)	23 (1)	30 (1)	30 (1)	-4 (1)	-1 (1)	12 (1)
C(12)	4571 (2)	2865 (3)	4186 (3)	31 (2)	38 (2)	37 (2)	3 (2)	0 (2)	17 (2)
C(13)	5512 (2)	3326 (3)	4028 (3)	22 (2)	50 (2)	44 (2)	0 (2)	-6 (2)	16 (2)
C(14)	5586 (2)	3986 (3)	3244 (3)	24 (2)	46 (2)	40 (2)	-9 (2)	-1 (1)	12 (2)
C(15)	4715 (2)	4171 (3)	2602 (3)	33 (2)	37 (2)	33 (2)	-11 (1)	-2 (1)	13 (2)
C(16)	3803 (2)	3687 (3)	2817 (3)	26 (2)	36 (2)	32 (2)	-7 (1)	-6 (1)	14 (2)
C(17)	4754 (3)	4871 (4)	1714 (4)	52 (2)	84 (3)	78 (3)	-28 (2)	-13 (2)	57 (3)
N(18)	2124 (2)	734 (2)	2140 (2)	26 (1)	27 (1)	25 (1)	-2 (1)	-5 (1)	8 (1)
C(19)	1279 (2)	404 (3)	1302 (3)	31 (2)	31 (2)	28 (2)	-4 (1)	-7 (1)	9 (1)
N(20)	1130 (2)	-836 (2)	417 (3)	45 (2)	27 (2)	44 (2)	-3 (1)	-24 (1)	2 (1)
C(21)	1770 (3)	-1788 (3)	262 (4)	67 (3)	27 (2)	42 (2)	-2 (2)	-17 (2)	8 (2)
C(22)	2783 (3)	-1454 (3)	1061 (3)	46 (2)	27 (2)	37 (2)	4 (2)	-5 (2)	12 (2)
C(23)	2829 (2)	-117 (3)	2136 (3)	32 (2)	34 (2)	32 (2)	-2 (1)	-4 (1)	16 (2)
C(24)	2966 (3)	-2370 (3)	1730 (4)	76 (3)	38 (2)	68 (3)	-1 (2)	-16 (2)	30 (2)
C(25)	2172 (5)	-2298 (5)	2744 (6)	125 (5)	100 (4)	105 (4)	-20 (3)	3 (4)	77 (4)
C(26)	3672 (3)	-1601 (4)	71 (4)	68 (3)	54 (2)	49 (2)	19 (2)	12 (2)	16 (2)
C(27)	3647 (4)	-713 (5)	-609 (4)	74 (3)	86 (3)	60 (3)	9 (3)	17 (2)	38 (3)
O(19)	642 (2)	1173 (2)	1323 (2)	37 (1)	33 (1)	45 (1)	4 (1)	-20 (1)	2 (1)
O(21)	1554 (2)	-2860 (2)	-520 (3)	102 (2)	28 (1)	87 (2)	0 (1)	-46 (2)	1 (1)
O(23)	3526 (2)	209 (2)	2993 (2)	43 (1)	43 (1)	52 (2)	0 (1)	-22 (1)	17 (1)
N(28)	1488 (2)	3916 (2)	3870 (2)	26 (1)	28 (1)	33 (1)	0 (1)	4 (1)	15 (1)
C(29)	894 (3)	3960 (3)	2866 (3)	38 (2)	40 (2)	42 (2)	2 (2)	-3 (2)	22 (2)
C(30)	440 (3)	5047 (4)	2966 (4)	55 (3)	55 (2)	62 (3)	16 (2)	-4 (2)	34 (2)
C(31)	604 (3)	6126 (3)	4114 (4)	44 (2)	43 (2)	74 (3)	14 (2)	11 (2)	32 (2)
C(32)	1222 (2)	6116 (3)	5163 (4)	32 (2)	28 (2)	54 (2)	-2 (1)	18 (2)	8 (2)
C(33)	1645 (2)	4976 (3)	4992 (3)	30 (2)	32 (2)	41 (2)	-1 (1)	5 (1)	13 (2)
C(34)	1444 (4)	7279 (4)	6412 (4)	82 (3)	34 (2)	71 (3)	3 (2)	2 (2)	3 (2)

All computations were performed on a Univac 1106 computer.

Description of the structure and discussion

The structure of the molecule is shown in Fig. 1 (ORTEP: Johnson, 1965). The intramolecular bond lengths and angles and their associated e.s.d.'s are given in Tables 5 and 6 respectively. The parameters were calculated with the X-RAY system (1972) program

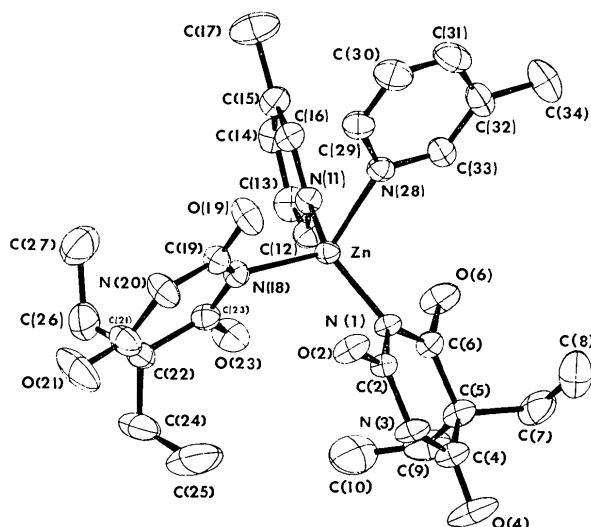


Fig. 1. Structure of the molecule.

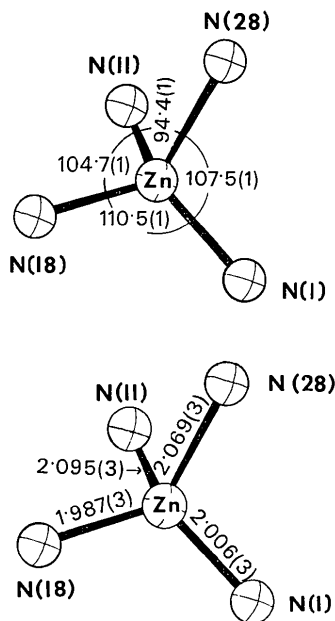


Fig. 2. Bond lengths and angles in the zinc coordination sphere. $N(1)-Zn-N(11) = 118.4(1)^\circ$ and $N(18)-Zn-N(28) = 121.1(1)^\circ$.

Table 3. Hydrogen atoms: fractional atomic coordinates ($\times 10^3$) and their e.s.d.'s ($\times 10^3$)

	x	y	z
H(3)	60 (2)	32 (3)	620 (3)
H(7,1)	243 (3)	287 (3)	975 (4)
H(7,2)	293 (3)	382 (3)	924 (4)
H(8,1)	137 (4)	427 (4)	859 (5)
H(8,2)	82 (4)	325 (4)	907 (5)
H(8,3)	142 (4)	460 (4)	8 (5)
H(9,1)	414 (3)	217 (3)	782 (4)
H(9,2)	359 (3)	132 (3)	844 (4)
H(10,1)	333 (3)	-28 (4)	627 (4)
H(10,2)	379 (3)	56 (4)	570 (4)
H(10,3)	448 (3)	4 (4)	643 (4)
H(12)	449 (2)	238 (3)	469 (3)
H(13)	609 (2)	318 (3)	445 (3)
H(14)	622 (2)	434 (3)	315 (3)
H(16)	318 (2)	385 (3)	246 (3)
H(17,1)	430 (3)	550 (4)	199 (4)
H(17,2)	539 (3)	512 (3)	161 (4)
H(17,3)	456 (3)	435 (4)	86 (4)
H(20)	62 (2)	-100 (3)	-11 (3)
H(24,1)	302 (3)	-329 (3)	93 (4)
H(24,2)	369 (3)	-220 (3)	215 (4)
H(25,1)	205 (4)	-140 (5)	349 (5)
H(25,2)	138 (4)	-243 (5)	237 (5)
H(25,3)	233 (4)	-285 (5)	306 (5)
H(26,1)	434 (3)	-145 (3)	55 (4)
H(26,2)	366 (3)	-247 (3)	-58 (4)
H(27,1)	302 (3)	-75 (4)	-99 (4)
H(27,2)	371 (3)	30 (4)	17 (4)
H(27,3)	427 (3)	-89 (4)	-113 (4)
H(29)	78 (2)	315 (3)	206 (3)
H(30)	-1 (3)	515 (3)	230 (4)
H(31)	29 (3)	695 (3)	426 (4)
H(33)	207 (2)	487 (3)	572 (3)
H(34,1)	65 (3)	777 (4)	689 (4)
H(34,2)	166 (3)	704 (4)	707 (4)
H(34,3)	154 (3)	797 (4)	627 (4)

BONDLA. Table 7 lists least-squares planes with the distances of various atoms from these planes as well as their intersection angles. The four independent moieties of the molecule have been numbered 1 to 4.

Environment of the zinc atom

The zinc atom is tetrahedrally coordinated to the barbital anions *via* the deprotonated nitrogen atoms N(1) and N(18) and to the β -picoline moieties *via* the nitrogen atoms N(11) and N(28). The respective bond lengths are 2.006(3) and 1.987(3) Å for Zn-N(barb) and 2.095(3) and 2.069(3) Å for Zn-N(picoline). These are in good agreement with the analogous Zn-N distances [2.009(2) and 2.023(2) Å respectively] reported by Wang & Craven (1971), and the bond angles of the complex lie within the same range as those found by the latter authors. All bond lengths and angles involving the zinc coordination sphere are shown in Fig. 2.

In the β -picoline moieties the average C-C and C-H bond lengths are 1.380 and 0.97 Å respectively. Both rings are planar (planes V and VI), the greatest deviations being C(14) and C(29) at 0.007 and 0.005 Å respectively. The two planes intersect at an angle of 76.43° .

Table 4 (cont.)

A large table with multiple columns containing numerical data, organized into groups labeled M, B, F, and C. Each group has a header row with sub-labels and a series of rows of numbers. The table is dense and spans most of the page.

The conformations of the two trioxypyrimidine rings are shown in Fig. 3. The dotted line is a trace of the least-squares plane through the six ring atoms only (planes I and II). Each pyrimidine ring is almost planar but slight puckering is evident. This is a little more pronounced than that previously observed in the complexes $\text{Cu}(\text{barbital})_2(\text{pyridine})_2$ and $\text{Cu}(\text{barbital})_2(\beta\text{-picoline})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Planes I and II intersect at 69.96° . The exocyclic oxygen atoms and the pyrimidine ring atoms are almost coplanar as can be gauged by the small intersection angles (1.65 and 2.32°) of planes I and III, and II and IV. (Planes III and IV are those

calculated for the atoms of the trioxypyrimidine rings.) C(7), C(8), C(9) and C(10) of the two ethyl groups as well as C(5) to which they are attached lie in the same plane (plane VII) which is almost perpendicular (88.68°) to the pyrimidine ring plane (plane I) with which it is associated. Similarly, C(24), C(25), C(26) and C(27) as well as C(22) lie in the same plane (plane VIII) which is at 88.77° to the pyrimidine ring plane (plane II) with which it is associated. These results are consistent with those found in our earlier structures. The hydrogen atoms of the ethyl groups are in the staggered configuration.

 Table 7. *Least-squares planes*

The equations of the planes are expressed in orthogonalized space as $PI + QJ + RK = S$.

Plane I		Through the 6 atoms of pyrimidine ring (1)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(1)	C(2)	N(3)	C(4)	C(5)	C(6)	O(2)	O(4)	O(6)
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	0.039	0.005	-0.032	0.015	0.024	-0.052	-0.013	0.047	-0.158
Equation	$0.65107I - 0.73344J - 0.19539K = -1.05638$								
Plane II		Through the 6 atoms of pyrimidine ring (2)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(18)	C(19)	N(20)	C(21)	C(22)	C(23)	O(19)	O(21)	O(23)
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	-0.007	-0.033	0.011	0.044	-0.076	0.062	-0.080	0.123	0.204
Equation	$-0.49553I - 0.19789J + 0.84575K = 0.16436$								
Plane III		Through the 9 atoms of the trioxypyrimidine ring (1)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(1)	C(2)	N(3)	C(4)	C(5)	C(6)	O(2)	O(4)	O(6)
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	0.082	0.011	-0.056	-0.003	0.048	0.002	-0.017	0.002	-0.070
Equation	$0.66810I - 0.71424J - 0.20856K = -1.07862$								
Plane IV		Through the 9 atoms of the trioxypyrimidine ring (2)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(18)	C(19)	N(20)	C(21)	C(22)	C(23)	O(19)	O(21)	O(23)
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	-0.021	-0.008	0.022	0.004	-0.162	-0.006	-0.006	0.075	0.102
Equation	$-0.52778I - 0.17888J + 0.83033K = 0.07560$								
Plane V		Through the 6 atoms of the β -picoline ring (3)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(11)	C(12)	C(13)	C(14)	C(15)	C(16)	C(17)		
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	0.006	-0.005	-0.002	0.007	-0.005	-0.001	-0.018		
Equation	$-0.18200I + 0.85223J + 0.49049K = 3.09456$								
Plane VI		Through the 6 atoms of the β -picoline ring (4)							
Atoms defining the plane	N(28)	C(29)	C(30)	C(31)	C(32)	C(33)	C(34)		
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	-0.002	0.005	-0.003	-0.003	0.005	-0.003	0.046		
Equation	$0.80921I + 0.21277J - 0.54763K = 1.12472$								
Plane VII		Through the 4 atoms of the diethyl group and C(5) to which it is attached							
Atoms defining the plane	C(5)	C(7)	C(8)	C(9)	C(10)				
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	-0.024	0.019	0.004	-0.024	0.025				
Equation	$-0.43932I - 0.59964J + 0.66890K = 2.14875$								
Plane VIII		Through the 4 atoms of the diethyl group and C(22) to which it is attached							
Atoms defining the plane	C(22)	C(24)	C(25)	C(26)	C(27)				
Atoms not included in the plane									
Distance from the plane, Å	-0.042	0.005	0.021	-0.014	0.030				
Equation	$0.54010I + 0.67677J + 0.50028K = 1.86887$								
Intersection angles									
Planes							Planes		
I and II	69.96						II and IV	2.32	
I and III	1.65						II and V	70.34	
I and V	32.92						II and VI	25.01	
I and VI	61.46						II and VIII	88.77	
I and VII	88.68						V and VI	76.43	

In the structure $\text{Zn}(\text{barbital})_2(\text{imidazole})_2$, Wang & Craven reported that each barbiturate ring is almost coplanar with an adjacent imidazole ligand and that this configuration is stabilized by $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ intramolecular interactions involving carbon atoms of imidazole and carbonyl oxygen atoms of barbital. In the structure reported here neither of these two effects was observed.

Hydrogen bonding

The intermolecular hydrogen bonding is shown as dotted lines in Fig. 4; the [100] projection of the structure and the geometry of the interactions are shown in Fig. 5. All relevant bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 8. Each discrete molecule of the complex is linked to two other molecules by $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ hydrogen bonds which form pairs of double links along *c*. The hydrogen bonds between $\text{H}(3)$ and $\text{O}(2^1)$, and $\text{H}(3^1)$ and $\text{O}(2)$ constitute one such double link while the other arises from the bonding between $\text{H}(20)$ and $\text{O}(19^1)$, and $\text{H}(20^1)$ and $\text{O}(19)$. There are thus four crystallographically distinct hydrogen bonds emanating in pairs from each molecule. Any one pair links adjacent molecules along *c*.

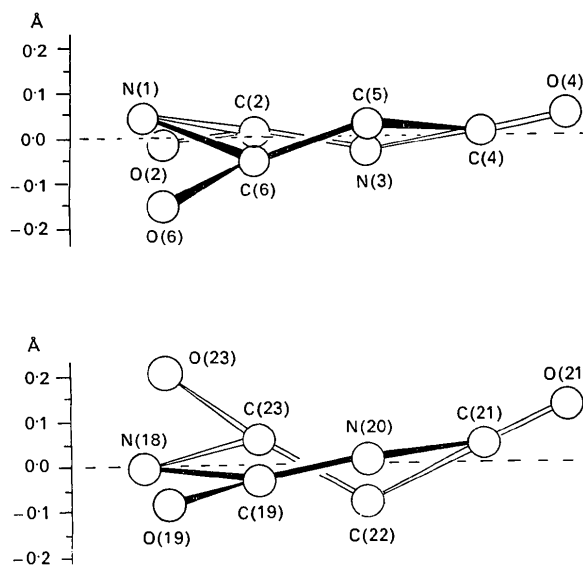


Fig. 3. The conformation of the two trioxypyrimidine rings. The dotted line is a trace of the least-squares plane through the six ring atoms only.

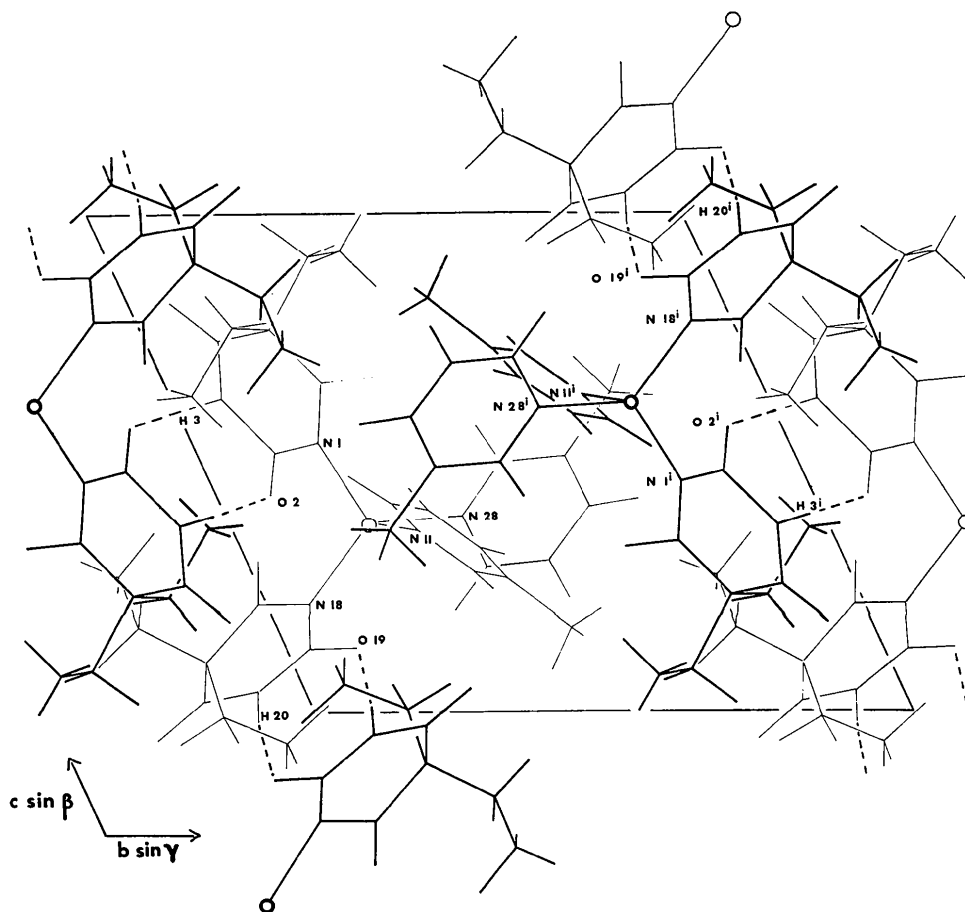


Fig. 4. The [100] projection of the structure. The dotted lines represent the intermolecular hydrogen bonding.

The hydrogen-bond distances are all in good agreement with the corresponding distances in hydrogen-bonded compounds containing donor ring-NH groups and acceptor carbonyl oxygen atoms while the hydro-

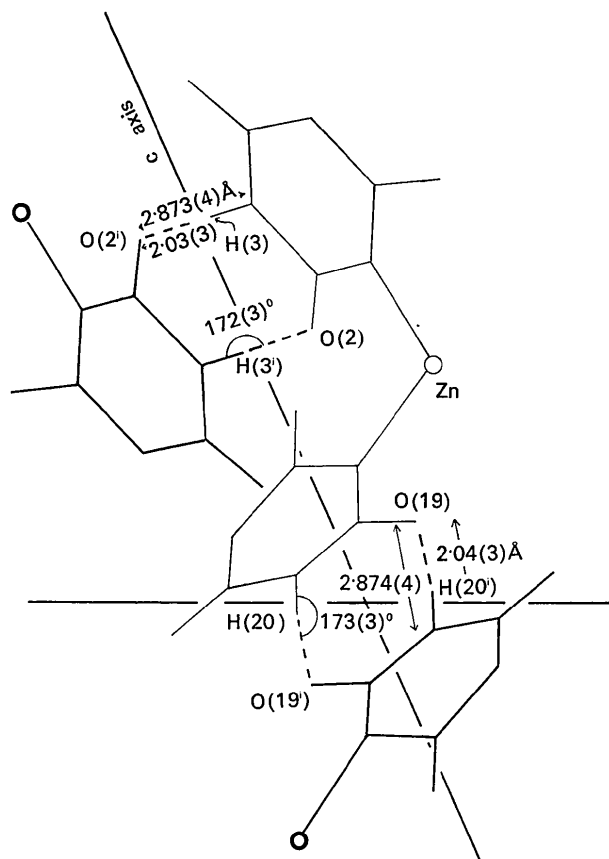


Fig. 5. The geometry of the hydrogen-bonding interactions.

Table 8. Bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) and their *e.s.d.*'s involved in the hydrogen bonding

N(3)-O(2')	2.873 (4)	N(20)-O(19')	2.874 (4)
H(3)-O(2')	2.03 (3)	H(20)-O(19')	2.04 (3)
N(3)-H(3)-O(2')	172 (3)	N(20)-H(20)-O(19')	173 (3)

gen-bond angles are well within the maximum allowed deviation from 180° (Donohue, 1968).

We thank the South African CSIR for the diffractometer data collection. The work was supported by the CSIR and the University of Cape Town's research grants.

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Crystallographic Studies of Metal-Nucleotide Base Complexes.

III. Dichlorobis-(9-methyl-6-oxypurine)diaquocopper(II) Trihydrate

BY EINAR SLETTEN

Department of Chemistry, University of Bergen, 5014 Bergen, Norway

(Received 6 April 1974; accepted 8 April 1974)

$[(C_6H_6N_4O)_2CuCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O] \cdot 3H_2O$ crystallizes as deep-blue prisms from an acidic solution. The space group is $C2/c$ with $a = 16.858$, $b = 8.541$, $c = 14.293$ Å, $\beta = 91.02^\circ$, $Z = 4$. The structure determination is based on diffractometer data measured with Nb-filtered Mo $K\alpha$ radiation. Final R is 0.027 for the 2029 observed reflexions. The copper ion is located at a centre of symmetry and binds to the purine ring through nitrogen N(7); Cu-N = 2.054 Å. The copper coordination is (4+2) with a pair of centrosymmetrically related water molecules completing the equatorial coordination, Cu-O = 1.972 Å, and the axial sites occupied by chloride ions, Cu-Cl = 2.787 Å. The water molecules in the coordination sphere form intramolecular hydrogen bonds to the carbonyl substituent on C(6).

Introduction

The purine bases incorporated in the nucleic acids have several potential coordination sites. The nitrogen

atoms N(1), N(3) and N(7) are more or less exposed, and so is the substituent in the 6-position. In the reversible unwinding and rewinding of DNA strands caused by certain transition elements, the coordination