# Structure of $1,2,3-\mathrm{Tri}-O$-acetyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- $\beta$-d-glucopyranosyl)-6-O-tri-phenylmethyl- $\alpha$-D-glucopyranose ( $\mathbf{6}^{\prime}$ - $O$-Trityl- $\alpha$-cellobiose Heptaacetate) 

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Abstract. $\mathrm{C}_{45} \mathrm{H}_{50} \mathrm{O}_{18}$, monoclinic, $P 2_{1}, a=22 \cdot 70$ (13), $b=9.11$ (6), $c=12.56$ (9) $\AA, \beta=108.4$ (4) ${ }^{\circ}, V=$ $2464.6 \AA^{3}, Z=2, D_{x}=1.184 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, \mu=0.99$ $\mathrm{mm}^{-1}, \lambda($ Mo $K a)=0.70926 \AA$. The structure was refined to $R=0.088$ for 2337 observed reflexions. The torsion angles around the $\beta 1 \rightarrow 4$ glycosidic bonds are $131.7(9)^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$ and $158.0(8)^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)$. A short $\mathrm{O}\left(3^{\prime}\right) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ non-bonding contact $[3 \cdot 34(2) \AA]$ was observed between the two glucopyranosyl residues. The trityl group on the reducing residue (primed) has an intramolecular van der Waals contact with the nonreducing residue (unprimed).

Introduction. The molecular conformation of the title compound, which was prepared from cellobiose (Koizumi \& Utamura, 1978), has received attention, particularly with respect to the torsion angles about the $\beta 1 \rightarrow 4$ glycosidic bonds in relation to the structures of polysaccharides, $\beta 1 \rightarrow 4$ glucans. A transparent single crystal was obtained by recrystallization from ethanol. The reflexion data were collected on a four-circle diffractometer with monochromatized Mo $K \alpha$ radiation, using a spherical crystal ( 0.24 mm diameter). The unit-cell parameters were refined by the leastsquares method using 15 high-angle reflexions, and the intensity data were collected by means of the $\omega-2 \theta$ scanning technique with a scan rate of $4^{\circ}(\omega) \min ^{-1}$. The structure was solved by the direct method with MULTAN (Main, Woolfson, Lessinger, Germain \& Declercq, 1977). The complete structure was obtained by successive Fourier syntheses. All H atoms, except for those of the acetyl groups, were revealed in the difference Fourier maps. The anisotropic blockdiagonal least-squares refinement reduced the $R$ value to 0.088 for 2337 observed reflexions $[F / \sigma(F)>3.0]$. Atomic scattering factors of all atoms were obtained from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1974). The final structure parameters are listed in

Tables 1 and 2.* The molecular and crystal structures are depicted in Figs. 1 and 2 respectively. The atomic

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Fig. 1. A stereoscopic view of the molecule down the $b$ axis.


Fig. 2. A perspective drawing of the crystal structure. Axes for the unit cell are $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c} \rightarrow$, and $\mathbf{b}$ is out of the page.
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Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates $\left(\times 10^{4}\right)$ and thermal parameters of the non-hydrogen atoms with estimated standard deviations in parentheses
The thermal parameters are the isotropic equivalents of the anisotropic thermal parameters (Hamilton, 1959).

|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $B_{\text {eq }}\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C(1) | 2442 (5) | 2708 (15) | 6 (9) | 3.28 |
| C(2) | 1883 (5) | 3523 (15) | -805 (10) | 3.07 |
| C(3) | 1351 (5) | 2417 (17) | -1367 (9) | 3.65 |
| C(4) | 1581 (5) | 1137 (17) | -1910 (10) | 3.95 |
| C(5) | 2183 (6) | 447 (16) | -1041 (10) | 3.90 |
| C(6) | 2465 (6) | -741 (17) | -1642 (11) | 4.69 |
| C(7) | 1524 (7) | 6023 (19) | -557 (12) | 5.57 |
| C(8) | 1353 (8) | 7030 (20) | 254 (17) | 7.27 |
| C(9) | 265 (6) | 3137 (20) | -2310 (12) | 5.34 |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)$ | -159 (7) | 4092 (24) | -3250 (13) | 7.01 |
| C(11) | 838 (7) | -355 (24) | -3247 (12) | 6.54 |
| C(12) | 367 (8) | -1664 (23) | -3399 (13) | 7.53 |
| C(13) | 3216 (7) | -1846 (18) | -27 (14) | 6.41 |
| C(14) | 3909 (8) | -2149 (23) | 554 (18) | 9.67 |
| O(1) | 2935 (3) | 3709 (0) | 451 (6) | 3.34 |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 1665 (4) | 4595 (10) | -145 (7) | 3.58 |
| $\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 874 (4) | 3238 (11) | -2249 (7) | 4.45 |
| O(4) | 1111 (4) | -19 (12) | -2193 (7) | 4.81 |
| O(5) | 2640 (4) | 1590 (10) | -637 (7) | 4.09 |
| O(6) | 3105 (5) | -1143 (12) | -981 (8) | 5.74 |
| O(7) | 1540 (6) | 6353 (14) | -1499 (9) | 7.75 |
| O(9) | 84 (5) | 2399 (19) | -1694 (10) | 9.53 |
| $\mathrm{O}(11)$ | 907 (7) | 348 (24) | -4028 (10) | 17.04 |
| $\mathrm{O}(13)$ | 2809 (5) | -2179 (16) | 398 (10) | 8.64 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ | 4406 (6) | 4288 (21) | 3411 (10) | 5.48 |
| C( $2^{\prime}$ ) | 4533 (6) | 3219 (19) | 2548 (11) | 4.64 |
| C(3') | 4043 (5) | 3462 (16) | 1410 (10) | 3.56 |
| C(4') | 3390 (5) | 3268 (14) | 1504 (8) | 2.34 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(5^{\prime}\right)$ | 3316 (5) | 4292 (14) | 2459 (9) | $3 \cdot 18$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(6^{\prime}\right)$ | 2708 (6) | 4018 (16) | 2690 (11) | 3.87 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(7^{\prime}\right)$ | 4997 (8) | 6654 (27) | 3831 (14) | 8.43 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(8^{\prime}\right)$ | 4983 (11) | 8270 (21) | 3488 (16) | 9.51 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(9^{\prime}\right)$ | 5622 (9) | 2781 (26) | 3111 (16) | $9 \cdot 10$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(10^{\prime}\right)$ | 6249 (7) | 3178 (29) | 2950 (19) | 10.87 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(11^{\prime}\right)$ | 4251 (7) | 2812 (18) | -311 (12) | 5.39 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(12^{\prime}\right)$ | 4313 (8) | 1464 (22) | -1023 (14) | 7.29 |
| C(13') | 2240 (6) | 2119 (15) | 3592 (10) | 3.51 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(14^{\prime}\right)$ | 2326 (6) | 432 (15) | 3889 (11) | 3.42 |
| C(15') | 1967 (8) | -233 (18) | 4463 (13) | 5.85 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(16^{\prime}\right)$ | 2050 (8) | -1746 (22) | 4729 (13) | $6 \cdot 48$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(17^{\prime}\right)$ | 2490 (10) | -2647 (20) | 4472 (14) | 7.83 |
| C(18') | 2839 (10) | -1935 (19) | 3886 (18) | 9.26 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(19^{\prime}\right)$ | 2770 (9) | -452 (17) | 3600 (15) | 6.56 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(20^{\prime}\right)$ | 1572 (6) | 2405 (18) | 2739 (10) | 4.36 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(21^{\prime}\right)$ | 1279 (8) | 1284 (21) | 1969 (13) | 6.53 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(22^{\prime}\right)$ | 701 (8) | 1538 (25) | 1112 (13) | 8.26 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(23^{\prime}\right)$ | 426 (7) | 2977 (26) | 1017 (14) | 8.00 |
| C(24') | 720 (7) | 4064 (25) | 1750 (14) | 7.25 |
| C(25') | 1291 (6) | 3847 (19) | 2604 (11) | 4.79 |
| C(26') | 2378 (6) | 2949 (16) | 4736 (10) | 3.80 |
| C(27) | 1913 (6) | 3419 (18) | 5199 (10) | 4.71 |
| C(28') | 2057 (7) | 4113 (18) | 6236 (12) | 5.32 |
| C(29') | 2676 (8) | 4355 (21) | 6825 (12) | 7.18 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(30^{\prime}\right)$ | 3161 (7) | 3961 (21) | 6431 (11) | 5.53 |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(31^{\prime}\right)$ | 2992 (6) | 3236 (18) | 5353 (11) | 4.59 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ | 4503 (4) | 5805 (13) | 3138 (7) | 5.58 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(2^{\prime}\right)$ | 5157 (4) | 3554 (12) | 2455 (7) | $5 \cdot 10$ |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$ | 4134 (4) | 2373 (11) | 646 (7) | 4.20 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(5^{\prime}\right)$ | 3809 (4) | 4113 (12) | 3491 (6) | 4.51 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(6^{\prime}\right)$ | 2695 (3) | 2502 (10) | 3039 (7) | 3.47 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(7^{\prime}\right)$ | 5410 (6) | 6000 (21) | 4615 (12) | 11.91 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(9^{\prime}\right)$ | 5586 (6) | 1938 (21) | 3843 (14) | 13.53 |
| $\mathrm{O}\left(11^{\prime}\right)$ | 4290 (6) | 4101 (15) | -543 (9) | 8.10 |


(a)

(b)

Fig. 3. A schematic diagram of the molecule showing (a) atomic numbering and bond lengths $(\AA)$, and $(b)$ bond angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$. The e.s.d.'s of the bond lengths range from 0.014 to $0.32 \AA$, and of the bond angles from 0.8 to $2.0^{\circ}$.
numbering, and bond lengths and bond angles are given in Fig. 3.

Discussion. As is evident in Fig. 1, the two pyranose rings have the normal ${ }^{4} C_{1}$ conformation. The bond lengths and angles in the pyranose rings are in good agreement with the average values for $a$ - and $\beta$ pyranoses determined to date (Jeffrey \& French, 1978). Table 3 lists the bond lengths, bond angles and torsion

Table 2. Atomic coordinates $\left(\times 10^{3}\right)$ of the hydrogen atoms, except for those of acetyl groups, with estimated standard deviations in parentheses

|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ |  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}(1)$ | $229(5)$ | $215(14)$ | $60(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(15^{\prime}\right)$ | $165(5)$ | $32(14)$ | $472(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(2)$ | $203(5)$ | $405(15)$ | $-136(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(16^{\prime}\right)$ | $175(5)$ | $-226(14)$ | $504(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(3)$ | $120(5)$ | $206(14)$ | $-76(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(17^{\prime}\right)$ | $249(5)$ | $-371(14)$ | $468(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(4)$ | $170(5)$ | $148(14)$ | $-261(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(18^{\prime}\right)$ | $312(5)$ | $-255(14)$ | $367(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(5)$ | $208(5)$ | $-4(15)$ | $-38(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(19^{\prime}\right)$ | $301(5)$ | $2(14)$ | $315(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(6,1)$ | $219(5)$ | $-167(15)$ | $-175(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(21^{\prime}\right)$ | $147(5)$ | $17(14)$ | $198(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}(6,2)$ | $247(5)$ | $-30(14)$ | $-241(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(22^{\prime}\right)$ | $52(5)$ | $72(14)$ | $54(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ | $472(5)$ | $403(15)$ | $414(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(23^{\prime}\right)$ | $3(5)$ | $325(14)$ | $45(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(2^{\prime}\right)$ | $452(5)$ | $216(14)$ | $285(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(24^{\prime}\right)$ | $53(5)$ | $506(14)$ | $171(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$ | $410(5)$ | $449(14)$ | $113(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(25^{\prime}\right)$ | $149(5)$ | $464(14)$ | $310(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(4^{\prime}\right)$ | $333(5)$ | $217(14)$ | $166(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(27^{\prime}\right)$ | $147(5)$ | $321(14)$ | $473(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(5^{\prime}\right)$ | $330(5)$ | $530(14)$ | $214(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(28^{\prime}\right)$ | $172(5)$ | $442(14)$ | $654(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(6,1^{\prime}\right)$ | $272(5)$ | $472(14)$ | $333(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(29^{\prime}\right)$ | $277(5)$ | $484(14)$ | $753(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{H}\left(6,2^{\prime}\right)$ | $234(5)$ | $432(14)$ | $206(9)$ | $\mathrm{H}\left(30^{\prime}\right)$ | $363(5)$ | $421(14)$ | $695(9)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\mathrm{H}\left(31^{\prime}\right)$ | $332(5)$ | $295(14)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  | $506(9)$ |  |  |

Table 3. Bond lengths $(\AA)$, bond angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ and torsion angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ about $\beta 1 \rightarrow 4$ glycosidic bonds in $\beta$-cellobiose and its derivatives

|  |  | Methyl $\beta$ - <br> cellobioside | $\beta$-Cellobiose <br> peracetate | This work |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $1.397(4)$ | $1.390(5)$ | $1.382(15)$ | $1.415(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $1.446(4)$ | $1.437(5)$ | $1.450(15)$ | $1.454(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)$ | $116.1(2)$ | $115.8(3)$ | $116.8(7)$ | $115.3(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$ | 106.4 | 80.3 | 133.5 | $131.7(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(5^{\prime}\right)$ | -132.3 | -160.7 | -103.8 | $-109.7(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 166.5 | 152.0 | 165.2 | $158.0(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | -76.3 | -91.1 | -77.1 | $-84.4(11)$ |

angles around the $\beta 1 \rightarrow 4$ glycosidic bonds with the corresponding values for $\beta$-cellobiose (Chu \& Jeffrey, 1968), methyl $\beta$-cellobioside (Ham \& Williams, 1970), and $\beta$-cellobiose peracetate (Leung, Chanzy, Pérez \& Marchessault, 1976). The anomeric $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}$ (1) bond is significantly shorter than $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)$. The difference of $0.041 \AA$ agrees with those of the other three within experimental errors. Although the $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)$ bond angle of $115.3(8)^{\circ}$ in the title compound is smaller than for the other three compounds, the $\mathrm{C}(1) \cdots \mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)$ distances are in good agreement throughout the four compounds. The torsion angles around $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ and $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ most resemble those of $\beta$-cellobiose peracetate. The largest disagreement of the torsion angles from those of $\beta$-cellobiose and methyl $\beta$-cellobioside is found in the angle about bond $\mathrm{C}\left(4^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{O}(1)$. This disagreement may be caused by the $\mathrm{O}\left(3^{\prime}\right) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ intramolecular hydrogen bond formed in the unacetylated cellobioses. $\mathrm{O}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$ and $\mathrm{O}(5)$ in the present compound have a short contact [ 3.34 (2) $\AA$ ], but they are unable to form a hydrogen bond.

The torsion angles $\mathrm{O}(5)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{O}(6)$ and $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{O}(6)$ are 46.3 (14) and $164.9(10)^{\circ}$ respectively (gauche-trans). The corresponding angles in the primed moiety are $-64.0(12)$ and $60.3(11)^{\circ}$
(gauche-gauche). The $g t-g g^{\prime}$ conformation for the whole molecule differs from the $g t-g t^{\prime}$ of $\beta$-cellobiose and from the $g g-g t^{\prime}$ of $\beta$-cellobiose peracetate. The energy difference between the $g t$ and $g g$ conformations may, therefore, be small as estimated by Sundaralingam (1968). The torsion angle $\mathrm{C}\left(5^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(6^{\prime}\right)-$ $\mathrm{O}\left(6^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(13^{\prime}\right)$ is $163.5(8)^{\circ}$. The bulky trityl group approaches the unprimed pyranose moiety; $\mathrm{C}\left(24^{\prime}\right)$ has the shortest $\mathrm{C} \cdots \mathrm{C}$ nonbonding contact $[3.82$ (3) $\AA$ ] with $\mathrm{C}(8)$ and the shortest $\mathrm{C} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ nonbonding contact [ 3.71 (3) $\AA$ ] with $\mathrm{O}(2)$. The intramolecular van der Waals interactions between these atoms may contribute to stabilize the $g g^{\prime}$ conformation about the $\mathrm{C}\left(5^{\prime}\right)-$ $\mathrm{C}\left(6^{\prime}\right)$ bond.

All acetyl groups have good planarity, and the deviation of each atom from the mean plane is less than $0.04 \AA$. The $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}$ (acetyl) bond in each acetyl group has the usual eclipsed form (Leung \& Marchessault, 1973), except for that of the O(6) acetyl group. In this form the $\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O})$ atom approaches the ring H atom (2.30-2.44 $\AA$ ). Even at the $\mathrm{O}(6)$ acetyl group the $\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{C}=0)$ atom is close to the ring $\mathrm{H}(5)$ atom ( $2.55 \AA$ ). Thus the attractive interactions between these O and H atoms must make a large contribution to the stability of the established acetyl conformation. The torsion angle $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{O}(6)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ is $67.5(15)^{\circ}$. This gauche conformation is unique for the acetyl groups whose ester oxygen takes a gt position about the $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ bond. The same conformation has been found twice before, viz in $\beta$-cellobiose peracetate (Leung, Chanzy, Pérez \& Marchessault, 1976) and 6-O-acetylglucopyranose (Lindberg, 1976). As indicated in Fig. 2, the molecules are packed in the structure with van der Waals contacts. The $\mathrm{O}(6)$ acetyl group is approached by the $O(2)$ acetyl group of the neighbouring molecules which are packed along the $b$ axis. The shortest intermolecular distance $[3.23$ (3) $\AA]$ is found between $C(7)$ and $O(13)$ of these groups. Such packing interactions may have some effects on the
side-chain conformations, especially on the $O(6)$ acetyl conformation.

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# Tetraphenyldiphosphine Disulphide (Tetraphenyl-1,2-dithioxodi- $\lambda^{s}$-phosphane), $\mathbf{P h}_{2} \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{S}) \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{S}) \mathbf{P h}_{2}{ }^{*}$ 

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#### Abstract

C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}\), monoclinic, $P 2_{1} / c, a=9.628$ (3), $b=15.798(11), c=14.304$ (4) $\AA, \beta=96.29$ (3) ${ }^{\circ}$, $V=2162.6$ (17) $\AA^{3}, D_{o}=1.38$ (displacement), $D_{c}=$ $1.34 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=4$. The final $R$ is 0.045 for 2259 reflections. The unit cell contains two independently oriented pairs of trans $-\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{S}) \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{S}) \mathrm{Ph}_{2}$ molecules in two sets of $\left(C_{t}\right)$ special positions. The $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{P}$ bond [2.263 (4) $\AA$ (mean)] is significantly longer than that found ( $2.21 \AA$ approximately) in corresponding alkyl compounds.


Introduction. The IR spectrum of tetraphenyldiphosphine disulphide contains only one identifiable SPPS stretching absorption, assigned to $v_{\text {as }} \mathrm{PS}$, and is consistent with a planar trans SPPS conformation similar to that found in various related tetraalkyl compounds (Cowley \& White, 1966). The highest-symmetry

[^1]conformation possible for an $R_{2} \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{S}) \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{S}) R_{2}$ molecule is $C_{2 h}$, but in practice this appears to be achieved only in the tetramethyl compound (Pedone \& Sirigu, 1967; Lee \& Goodacre, 1971). In other compounds for which detailed structural information is available [tetraethyldiphosphine disulphide (Dutta \& Woolfson, 1961); bis(cyclotetramethylene)diphosphine disulphide (Lee \& Goodacre, 1969); bis(cyclopentamethylene)diphosphine disulphide (Lee \& Goodacre, 1970)] the alkyl groups are not symmetrically oriented relative to the SPPS plane and the molecules belong to the $C_{i}$ point group. The $C_{2 h}$ and $C_{i}$ conformations cannot be distinguished reliably using vibrational data alone and crystallographic analysis of the tetraphenyl compound was therefore desirable in order to confirm the proposed trans structure, to determine the orientation of the phenyl groups and to provide information for a more detailed examination of the vibrational spectrum.

Tetraphenyldiphosphine disulphide was prepared as colourless square prismatic, almost cubic, crystals from the reaction of tetraphenyldiphosphine with sulphur


[^0]:    * Lists of structure factors and thermal parameters have been deposited with the British Library Lending Division as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 35819 ( 14 pp .). Copies may be obtained through The Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CHI 2HU, England.

[^1]:    * Diphosphine derivatives. VII. Part VI: Blake, McQuillan \& Oxton (1980).
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