

Structural characterization of rare intramolecularly (1,4-Te···N) bonded diorganotellurides and their monomeric complexes with mercury(II) halides: Metal assisted C–H···X (Hg) interactions leading to supramolecular architecture

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Received 22 October 2005; received in revised form 15 December 2005; accepted 3 January 2006

Available online 3 March 2006

Abstract

Monomeric tellurides 4-RC₆H₄(SB)Te [SB = 2-(4,4'-NO₂C₆H₄CH=NC₆H₃-Me); R = H, **1a**; Me, **1b**; OMe, **1c**], which incidentally represent the first example of a telluride with 1,4-Te···N intramolecular interaction, have been prepared and characterized by solution and solid-state ¹²⁵Te NMR, ¹³C NMR and X-ray crystallography. Interplay of weak C–H···O and C–H···π interactions in the crystal lattice of **1b** and **1c** are responsible for the formation of supramolecular motifs. These tellurides undergo expected oxidative addition reactions with halogens and interhalogens and also interact coordinatively with mercury(II) halides to give 1:2 complexes, HgX₂[4-RC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂ (X = Cl, R = H, **2a**; Me, **2b**; OMe, **2c** and X = Br, R = H, **3a**; Me, **3b**; and OMe, **3c**) with no sign of Te–C bond cleavage, as has been reported for some 1,5-Te···N(O) intramolecularly bonded tellurides. The complexes **2a** and **3c** are the first structurally characterized monomeric 1:2 adducts of mercury(II) halides with Te ligands. The 1,4-Te···N intramolecular interactions in the solid-state are retained in the complexes highlighting simultaneously the Lewis acid and base character of the Te(II) atom. Packing of molecules in the crystal lattice of **2a** and **3c** reveals that non-covalent C–H···Cl/Br interactions involving metal-bound halogen atoms possess significant directionality and in combination with coordinative covalent interactions may be of potential use in creating inorganic supramolecular synthons.

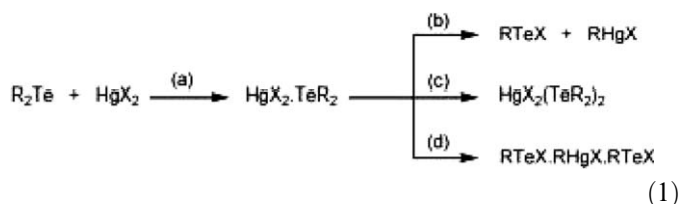
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Keywords: Intramolecular bonding; Non-covalent interactions; Mercury halide complex; Tellurium ligands; Crystal engineering; C–H···X interaction

1. Introduction

The role of intermolecular secondary bonding interactions (SBIs) as associative forces and that of intramolecular SBIs in the stability and reactivity of organotellurium compounds has been a subject of continuous investigations since the time of Alcock's observations and reviewed periodically [1–3]. The latter interactions also appear to influ-

ence the mode of reaction of the tellurides (R₂Te) with d⁸ and d¹⁰ metal acceptors. At least four different products have been isolated in the reactions with mercury(II) halides as per the following equation:



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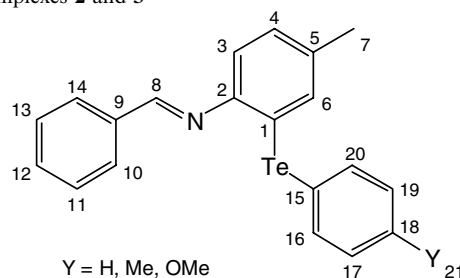
Formation of the transmetallation (reaction 1b) [4] and inclusion products (reaction 1d) [5] involve cleavage of a Te–C bond and have been suggested to be the consequence of intramolecular 1,5-Te···N(O) interactions leading to weakening of the *trans* Te–C bond. The 1:1 adducts (reaction 1a) are oligomeric and have been structurally characterized in a few cases [6]. Comparatively, fewer cases of the formation of 1:2 monomeric complexes, HgX₂(R₂Te)₂ (reaction 1c), have been observed and surprisingly none appears to have been crystallographically characterized so far. In this communication the synthesis and structural characterization of functionalized diorganotellurides involving 1,4-type intramolecular Te(II)···N interactions and their 1:2 complexes with mercury(II) halides are discussed. Our interest in 1,4-type intramolecular SBIs stems from a recent observation [7] that 1,4-Te···O interactions are present in the Te(IV) compounds (4-RC₆H₄COCH₂)₂-TeX₂, but do not exist in the corresponding tellurides (4-RC₆H₄COCH₂)₂Te, which are stabilized by intermolecular Te···Te interactions in the solid-state. On the other hand, 1,5-Te···N(O) intramolecular SBIs have been found to be present in both Te(IV) and Te(II) derivatives. We were therefore interested to know (i) if 1,4-Te(IV)···N intramolecular interactions observed in the unsymmetrical diorganotellurium dihalides (4-MeOC₆H₄)[2-(4,4'-NO₂C₆H₄-CHNC₆H₃Me)]TeX₂, R(SB)TeX₂ [8], are retained in the corresponding diorganotellurides, R(SB)Te and (ii) if such an interaction also leads to weakening of Te–C bond *trans* to the nucleophilic nitrogen atom in the telluride and (iii) if

so, is path (b) or (d) (Eq. (1)) followed. If formed, solid-state structural characterization of the 1:2 adduct (path 1c) was also an incentive due to the lack of previous crystallographic studies. An added interest in this study was investigation of the solid-state molecular packing of compounds **1a–c**, which are organotellurium(II) derivatives of 4-nitro-4'-methylbenzylideneaniline (NMBA), an organic substrate known to possess second-order non-linear (NLO) properties [9].

2. Results and discussion

The asymmetrical tellurides **1a–c** were prepared by the bisulfite reduction of the corresponding dichlorides, (4-RC₆H₄)(SB)TeCl₂. All the three tellurides are sharp melting red crystalline solids which are soluble in ether, dichloromethane and chloroform. The IR spectra of **1a–c** show an absorption band at ~1586 cm⁻¹ due to ν(C=N) while the ¹H NMR spectra consist of, in addition to CH₃/OCH₃ and/or aryl protons, a low field (~8.7 ppm) signal for the methine proton. In the ¹³C NMR spectra the methine carbon atom appears at ~144 ppm (Table 1). The signal at ~123 ppm can be assigned to the tellurated C atom of the nitrogen ring which is, as expected, deshielded compared to the free Schiff base (111.1 ppm). ¹²⁵Te chemical shifts of the tellurides **1a–c** and their mercury(II) halide complexes are listed in Table 2 which also includes data on the three bis(4-substituted benzoylmethyl)tellurides (preparation and characterization of which have been reported earlier

Table 1
¹³C NMR data of tellurides **1** and their HgX₂ complexes **2** and **3**



Entry no.	1a	2a	3a	1b	2b	3b	1c	2c	3c
C7	21.2	20.6	20.6	21.1	20.6	20.7	21.2	20.7	20.7
C21				21.5	21.0	21.0	55.2	54.9	54.8
C15	113.6	113.2	113.2	109.4	109.0	109.2	102.8	102.7	102.3
C3	115.7	116.1	116.1	115.5	116.1	116.6	115.8	116.3	116.0
C1	124.1	122.3	122.4	124.0	123.8	122.7	124.0	123.7	123.7
C10,11,13,14	128.8	128.3	128.3	128.2	128.1	128.3	128.2	128.8	128.3
C4	129.5	129.6	129.4	129.4	129.4	128.6	129.4	129.5	129.4
C9	129.9	132.3	132.2	131.0	131.9	131.9	132.9	132.2	132.0
		135.3	135.4		138.3	137.6			
C5	139.3	138.4	138.4	139.0	138.4	138.6	139.2	138.5	138.4
C6	141.4	141.1	141.1	141.5	140.9	141.3	141.4	141.1	141.1
C16,17,19,20	141.4	140.5	140.6	141.5	141.2	141.0	143.3	142.1	142.3
C2	146.5	146.1	146.1	146.5	146.0	146.2	146.3	146.1	145.9
C12	149.2	148.7	148.8	146.5	148.8	148.9	146.3	148.7	148.8
C8	154.3	155.8	155.9	154.2	155.9	156.5	154.8	156.3	155.8
C18	139.3	138.8	138.8	139.0	139.0	138.7	160.4	160.2	160.1

Table 2
Solution (*d*₆-DMSO) and solid-state ¹²⁵Te NMR chemical shifts for some tellurides and HgX₂ complexes **2** and **3**

Compound	δ (ppm)	δ _{iso} (ppm)
(PhCOCH ₂) ₂ Te	484	
(4-MeC ₆ H ₄ COCH ₂) ₂ Te	487	
(4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ COCH ₂) ₂ Te	493	
Ph(SB)Te (1a)	593	573
4-MeC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te (1b)	575	574
4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te (1c)	564	
[Ph(SB)Te] ₂ HgCl ₂ (2a)	572	438, 467
[4-MeC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te] ₂ HgCl ₂ (2b)	559	
[4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te] ₂ HgCl ₂ (2c)	533	417
[Ph(SB)Te] ₂ HgBr ₂ (3a)	573	
[4-MeC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te] ₂ HgBr ₂ (3b)	556	
[4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ (SB)Te] ₂ HgBr ₂ (3c)	538	

[7b]). ¹²⁵Te NMR spectra of all the tellurides (Table 2) consist of a single resonance indicating that the asymmetric molecules **1a–c** do not undergo disproportionation to the corresponding symmetric species in solution. In accordance with the increased electron density around Te in the tellurides, the ¹²⁵Te NMR chemical shifts for the tellurides are shifted to lower frequency in comparison to the Te(IV) dihalides [8] and also appear to follow the expected trend of alkyl tellurides, [(4-RC₆H₄COCH₂)₂Te] being lower than the aryl tellurides **1a–c**. The ¹²⁵Te CP MAS NMR spectra of Ph(SB)Te (**1a**) and 4-MeC₆H₄(SB)Te (**1b**) revealed isotropic chemical shifts at 573 and 574 ppm, respectively, which are close to those observed for their DMSO solutions.

The tellurides (**1a–c**) are readily oxidized by SO₂Cl₂, Br₂ and I₂ at 0 °C to the corresponding Te(IV) dihalides, [4-RC₆H₄(SB)TeX₂], which had earlier been prepared by a transmetallation reactions between (SB)HgCl and (4-RC₆H₄)TeCl₃ (in the case of X = Cl) or by the halide exchange between (4-RC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂ and KBr or KI. Reactions with interhalogens (IX; X = Cl, Br) afford the respective mixed halides (4-RC₆H₄(SB)TeX, which tend to disproportionate in solution on standing. Surprisingly, the pseudo halogen, thiocyanogen failed to react with **1a–c** at room temperature.

Presence of the 1,4-Te···N coordinative interaction (vide infra) in hybrid tellurides **1a–c** is also expected to enhance (at least marginally) the electron density at the Te center. Reactions of **1a–c** were therefore, carried out with Pt(II) and Hg(II) halides. Reactions with mercury halides afforded the pale orange crystalline adducts HgX₂[4-RC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂, **2a–c** (X = Cl) and **3a–c** (X = Br) but PtCl₂(PhCN)₂ failed to react in refluxing chloroform. Attempts to prepare the 1:1 adduct by reacting equimolar quantities of **1a–c** and HgCl₂ failed, producing only **2a–c** and unreacted HgCl₂. This is interesting as most of the tellurides either afford 1:1 adduct or both 1:1 and 1:2 adducts with HgX₂. Even heating of the adducts **2**, **3** in refluxing chloroform does not lead to cleavage of Te–C bond as reported in case of adducts formed by tellurides that involve 1,5-Te···N(O) intramolecular interactions. It appears that the σ-donor strength of the tellurides **1** is bet-

ter than the halide resulting in the formation of 1:2 adducts instead of 1:1, which invariably involve bridging halide ligands. However, quantitative displacement of **1c** from **3c** by PPh₃, clearly suggests that the tertiary phosphine (pK_a 2.73) [10] is a stronger donor than the telluride ligands. Such a displacement reaction thereby provides a route to purify the tellurides, at least in case of **1**. The IR spectrum of **2c** contains a sharp signal corresponding to C=N at 1610.3 wave number, which is somewhat higher than that in the telluride **1c** (1586.5). There is little change in the methine ¹H NMR chemical shift between tellurides and the mercury adducts. The solution ¹²⁵Te NMR spectra of **2a–c** and **3a–c** show a single resonance which are slightly more shielded (by between 16 and 31 ppm) than the tellurides **1a–c**. Solid-state ¹²⁵Te CP MAS NMR of **2a** shows two isotropic shifts at 438 and 467 ppm, which is consistent with the crystal structure (vide infra). Only one isotropic shift is observed for **2c** at 417 ppm, indicating that the two tellurium atoms are symmetry related, as in the crystal structure of the bromine analogue, **3c**. For both **2a** and **2c**, the solid-state ¹²⁵Te NMR signals are shifted by between 105 and 134 ppm to lower frequency than the solution state signals, most likely as a result of the presence of intermolecular interactions in the solid-state.

2.1. Crystal structures of **1b** and **1c**

ORTEP diagrams of the molecular structures of **1b** and **1c** are shown in Fig. 1 and the relevant bond parameters included in Table 3. The Te–C bond lengths and the included angle in **1b** and **1c** are characteristic of diaryltellurides and their solid-state molecular structures are almost superimposable, differing only in the orientation of the nitro-substituted benzene ring. An interesting feature of the molecular structures of these tellurides is the presence of a 1,4-type intramolecular SBI between Te and the imine N atoms. The fact that the Te···N distance (2.924(4) Å in **1b**, 3.107(4) Å in **1c**) is smaller than the sum of their van der Waals radii (3.61 Å) is not a mere geometrical consequence.¹ The attractive interaction between Te(II) and the *ortho* substituted azomethine nitrogen atom becomes obvious from the bending of N1–C2 and Te–C1 bonds towards each other resulting in the appreciable angular distortions in Te–C1–C2 and N1–C2–C1 bond angles that are reduced to 114.2(3), 113.9(3)° in **1b** and 116.0(3), 117.5(3)° in **1c** compared to the ideal value of 120°. The Te–C15 bond *trans* to Te···N is also coplanar with the four-membered heterocyclic ring (distance of C15 from the Te, C1, C2, N1 mean plane is 0.0671 Å in **1b**, 0.1166 Å in **1c**), although the C15–Te···N1 angle is far from being linear (149.8(1)° in **1b**, 145.5(1)° in **1c**). In the diorganotellurium compounds involving 1,5-Te···N/O SBIs, coplanarity of the *trans* Te–C bond with the heterocyclic ring has invariably been

¹ Te···N1 distance calculated from the observed Te–C1, C1–C2, C2–N1 bond lengths and assuming bond angles Te–C1–C2 and N1–C2–C1 each to be 120° is 3.18 Å in **1b** and 3.23 Å in **1c**.

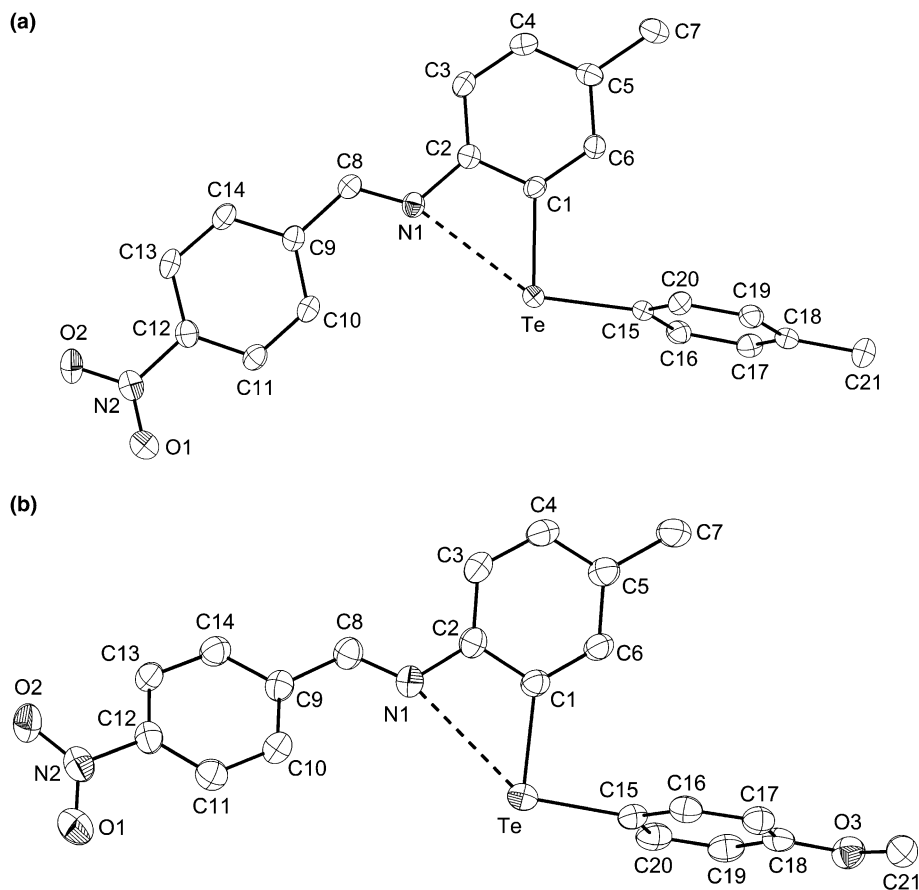


Fig. 1. Molecular structures showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the crystallographic numbering scheme (a) **1b** and (b) **1c**.

Table 3
Selected bond parameters (Å, °) for **1b**, **1c**, **2a** and **3c**

	1b	1c	2a		3c	
			X = A	X = B		
Hg–TeX			2.800(1)	2.773(1)	Hg–Te	2.797(3)
Hg–ClX			2.496(2)	2.457(2)	Hg–Br	2.656(2)
Te1–N1	2.924(4)	3.106(4)	2.898(7)	2.959(7)	Te1–N1	2.941(4)
Te1–C1	2.122(4)	2.144(5)	2.125(8)	2.102(8)	Te1–C1	2.110(4)
Te1–C15	2.132(4)	2.148(5)	2.104(8)	2.098(8)	Te1–C15	2.114(4)
N1–C2	1.425(5)	1.430(6)	1.41(1)	1.41(1)	N1–C2	1.411(5)
N1–C8	1.281(5)	1.292(6)	1.26(1)	1.27(1)	N1–C8	1.274(5)
C1–C2	1.406(6)	1.437(5)	1.40(1)	1.39(1)	C1–C2	1.402(5)
TeA–Hg–TeB			108.67(2)		Te–Hg–Te ⁱ	137.29(1)
TeX–Hg–ClA			100.58(5)	117.14(5)	Te–Hg–Br	91.80(1)
TeX–Hg–ClB			116.09(5)	106.54(5)	Te–Hg–Br ⁱ	110.59(1)
ClA–Hg–ClB			108.19(7)		Br–Hg–Br ⁱ	116.53(1)
Hg–Te–N1			78.9(1)	88.5(1)	Hg–Te–N1	85.32(6)
Hg–Te–C1			94.3(2)	95.5(2)	Hg–Te–C1	108.12(9)
Hg–Te–C15			102.0(2)	99.2(2)	Hg–Te–C15	102.9(1)
N1–Te–C1	53.3(1)	51.8(1)	53.9(3)	52.7(3)	N1–Te–C1	52.9(1)
N1–Te–C15	149.8(1)	145.5(1)	150.0(2)	149.1(2)	N1–Te–C15	147.8(1)
C1–Te–C15	96.5(2)	93.9(1)	96.4(3)	96.6(3)	C1–Te–C15	95.2(1)
Te–N1–C2	78.6(2)	74.8(2)	78.2(4)	76.8(4)	Te–N1–C2	77.6(2)
Te–N1–C8	158.6(3)	147.5(3)	145.6(6)	151.3(6)	Te–N1–C8	161.1(3)
C2–N1–C8	122.5(3)	118.8(4)	120.1(7)	119.8(7)	C2–N1–C8	119.8(3)

Symmetry operation used to generate equivalent atoms: (i) $-x, y, -0.5 - z$.

observed and the C–Te···N/O triad is reported to attain an almost linear alignment (C–Te···N/O angles fall in the range 157–170°). Coplanarity of the C15–Te bond with the N1–C2–C1–Te plane in **1b** and **1c** makes $n_N \rightarrow \sigma_{(Te-C)}^*$ interaction feasible but due to non-linearity of N···Te–C15 triad, the orbital overlap is insufficient to cause Te–C bond cleavage upon interaction with mercury(II) halides. Such SBIs, however, contribute to the overall stability of low valent compounds of chalcogens as has been inferred from ab initio MO and DFT calculations on intramolecular 1,4-type non-bonded interactions between oxygen and chalcogen elements [11]. Similar 1,4-Te···N intramolecular SBIs among the other structurally characterized diorganotellurides with more flexible ethylene spacers between tellurium and nitrogen was either absent or not looked into [12].

The crystal structures of **1b** and **1c** are devoid of any intermolecular SBIs involving Te(II), which appears to be due to the reduced Lewis acidity of tellurium center (as compared to the corresponding Te(IV) dihalides [8]) as well as its involvement in the intramolecular Te···N interaction. The supramolecular architecture in the crystalline phase of **1b** formed under self-assembly conditions represents a fascinating case of molecular tectonic approach [13] of crystal engineering. Each molecule behaves as a multipoint self-complementary tecton (Chart 1, A) and the topological

properties of intermolecular reciprocity C13–H13···O2 interaction results in the formation of zero-dimensional centrosymmetric dimers as the supramolecular synthon (Chart 1, B) which is common among the organic molecular crystals [14]. The other C19–H19···O1 H-bond in cooperation with the C8–H8··· π (CH=N) interaction organizes these synthons into an extended array that bears a centre of inversion. The C11–H11··· π (aryl) interactions then weave these double stranded molecular chains into a three-dimensional supramolecular motif (Fig. 2). In **1c**, on the other hand, interactions between the more acidic methyl protons and π -electron density of Te-substituted benzene ring or that of azomethine bond (methoxy)C–H··· π (Te substituted C₆H₃/CH=N) appears to be the only molecular associative forces responsible for the observed crystal lattice. As the chances of forming a dimer using this particular interaction in a reciprocal manner appear limited the observed catemer seems to be the energetically favored choice. The overall packing of molecules in both the tellurides conforms to the centrosymmetric space groups $P2_1/n$ and $P2_1/c$, respectively. Consequently, all putative second-order NLO effects (reported for the monoclinic modification of NMBA, space group Pc) are nullified in case of **1b** and **1c** which precludes their application as NLO materials.

2.2. Crystal structures of **2a** and **3c**

ORTEP diagrams of the molecular structures of **2a** and **3c** are shown in Fig. 3 and the relevant bond parameters included in Table 3. The geometry of the HgX₂Te₂ units in these complexes is distorted tetrahedral. The angular distortion around the central Hg(II) atom in **2a** is limited over a small range, 100.16(5)–117.11(5)° and values of the bond angles Cl–Hg–Cl, 108.19(7)° and Te–Hg–Te, 108.67(2)° are close to the ideal tetrahedral value. The observed Hg–Cl and Hg–Te bond lengths are comparable

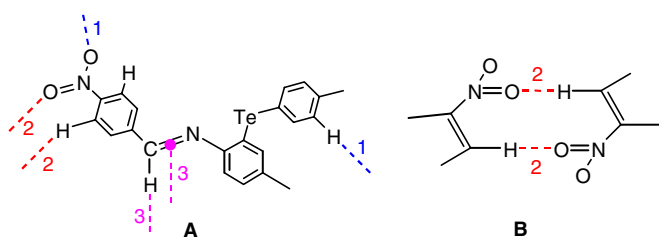


Chart 1.

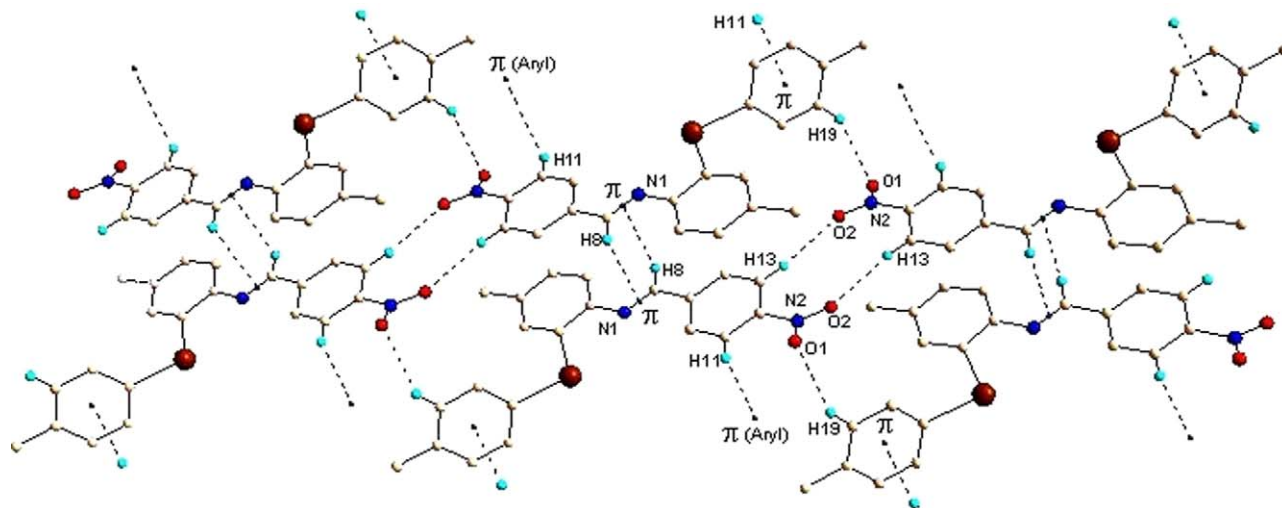


Fig. 2. View of the 1D Chain of 4-MeC₆H₄(SB)Te (**1b**) consisting of a pair of anti-parallel rows of molecules via C–H···O and C–H··· π interactions.

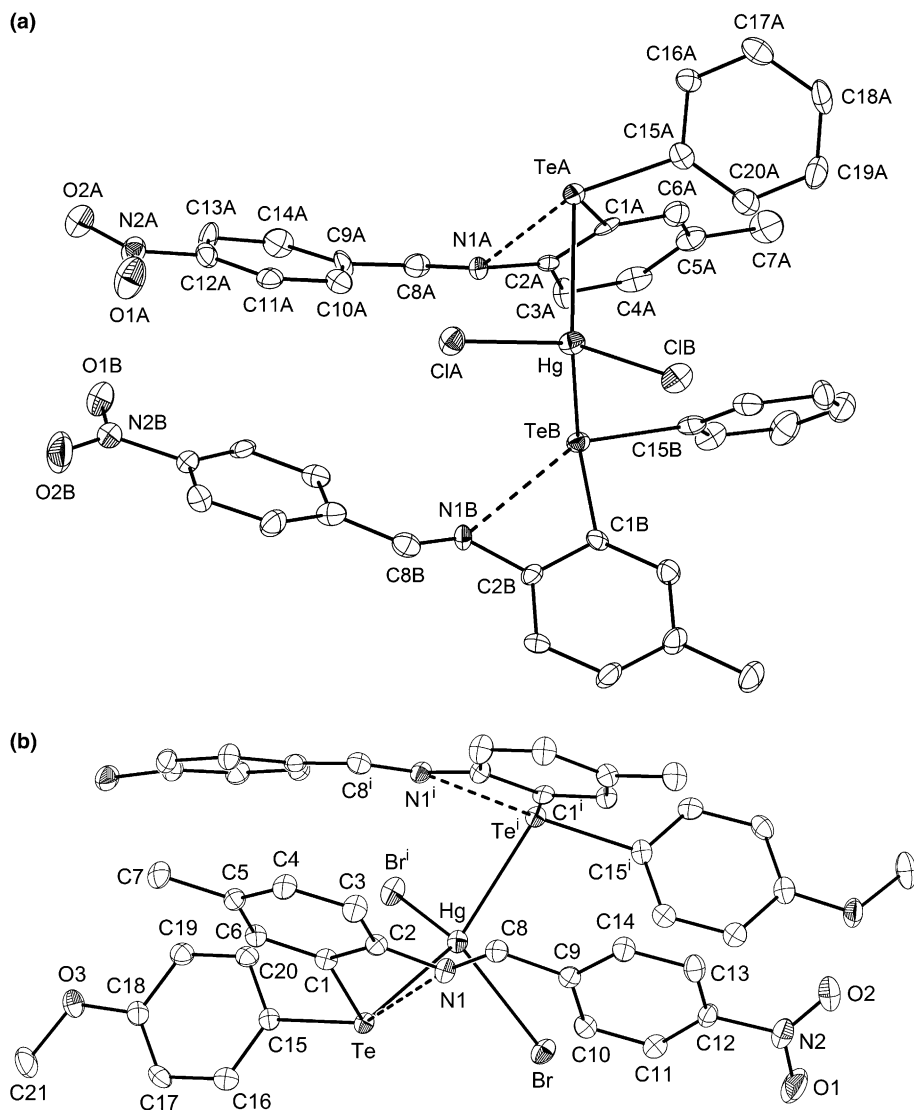


Fig. 3. Molecular structures showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the crystallographic numbering scheme (a) **2a** and (b) **3c**.

to the corresponding values reported for the HgCl_2 complex of chelating bis(telluride), 1,6-bis(2-butyltellurophenyl)-2,5-diazahexa-1,5-diene [15]. The HgBr_2Te_2 unit in **3c** comprises of two symmetry related ($i = -x, y, -0.5 - z$) halves with $\text{Hg}-\text{Br}$ and $\text{Hg}-\text{Te}$ bond distances of 2.656(2) and 2.797(3) Å, respectively. Steric bulk of the Br atoms in this complex, however, causes greater repulsion among electron rich ligands and distorts the coordination tetrahedron of the mercury atom considerably, resulting in a $\text{Te}-\text{Hg}-\text{Te}'$ angle as large as $137.29(1)^\circ$. Almost similar values for $\text{Hg}-\text{Te}$ bond lengths in the two independent molecules of **2b** as well as in **3c** indicate insignificant role of the electronic factor of halogen atoms attached to Hg(II) on its geometry. The observed difference in the orientation of the ligand atoms around the central mercury atoms in the two complexes (**2a** and **3c**) could be a manifestation of steric bulk of X ligands together with the variation of nature and strength of intermolecular SBIs in the solid-state.

It has been recognized that M–Cl moieties are good anisotropic H-bond acceptors. The acceptor strength of metal-bound Cl atoms towards O–H, N–H [16] and C–H [17] donors parallels that of Cl^- anion and the directionality and predictability of intermolecular $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}_{(2-3)}-\text{M}$ interactions have been compared with coordinative covalent interactions [18]. The crystal packings in the neutral complexes **2a** and **3c** have, therefore, been analyzed to ascertain the role of mercury-bound halogen atoms, if any, in the formation of supramolecular motifs via weak $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{X}$ interactions. While the $\text{C}4\text{A}-\text{H}4\text{A}\cdots\text{Cl}1\text{B}$ interaction in **2a** arrange the identically oriented molecules in a row, the other reciprocal $\text{C}8\text{A}-\text{H}8\text{B}\cdots\text{Cl}1\text{A}$ interaction connects two such *anti*-parallel rows to form zero-dimensional dimers with a center of inversion between symmetry related molecules from the two rows. The intermolecular $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ (nitro) interactions link these extended arrays into three-dimensional motifs.

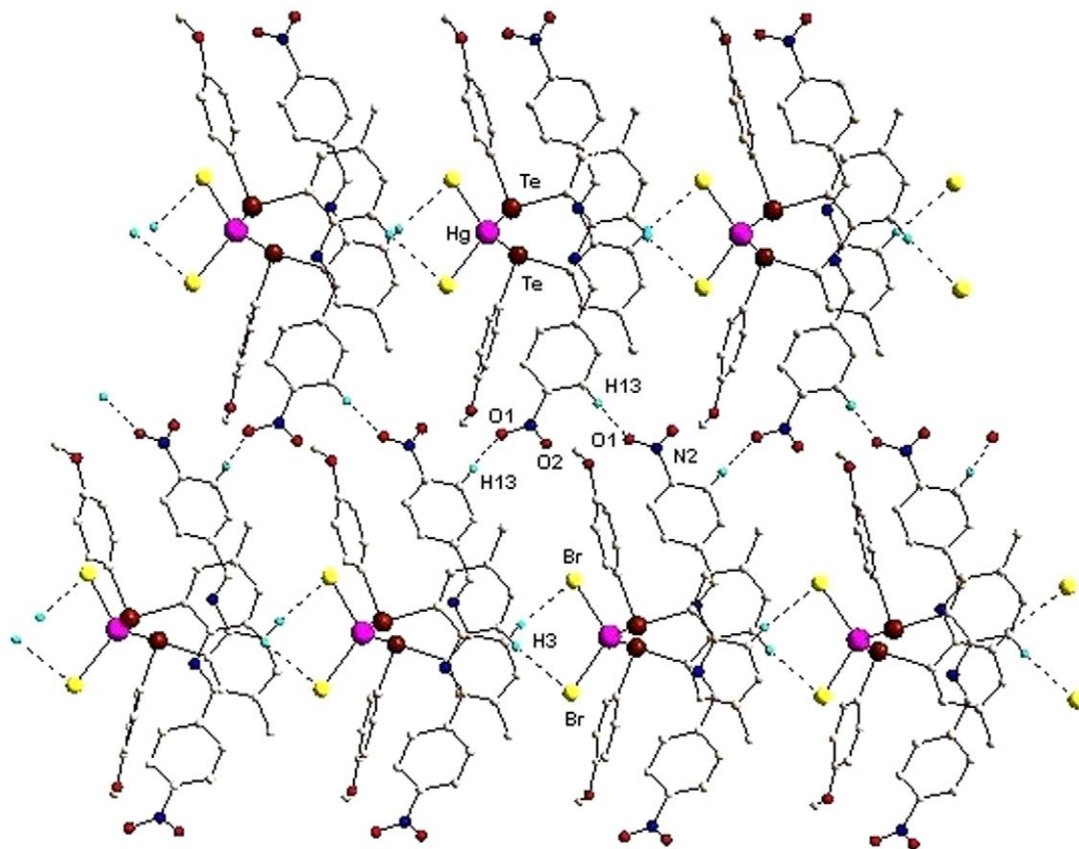


Fig. 4. View of the 1D supramolecular motif comprising of C–H···O interlinked pair of rows which are formed by a combination of coordinative Hg–Te and C3–H3···Br interactions of [4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂HgBr₂ (**3c**).

The role of mercury bound bromine atoms in the formation of supramolecular structure in the crystal lattice of **3c** is equally important in context of recent strategies to combine analogous C–H···Cl–M interaction with transition metal coordination chemistry to create metal containing supramolecular synthons for the molecular recognition in the area of inorganic crystal engineering [19,20]. The C–H···Br intermolecular interaction in **3c** appear to possess the desired directionality and significance for supramolecular architecture. The one-dimensional supramolecular motif formed by a balanced combination of coordinative covalent (Hg–Te) and (C3–H3···Br) SBIs in **3c** (Fig. 4) may be compared with the 1D directional coordination network based upon self-assembly of a bridging ligand and metal halide [21].

2.3. Conclusions

The tellurides **1** possess rare intramolecular 1,4-Te···N interaction which is retained and does not lead to Te–C bond cleavage upon coordination to mercury(II) halides as observed earlier for some 1,5-Te···N(O) containing tellurides. Complete displacement of **1** from adducts **2** by PPh₃, though not very surprising, is of interest as a route to purify **1**. The crystal packings of tellurides, **1b** and **1c**, illustrate the dominance of C–H···O/C–H···π interactions

over SBIs involving Te in the formation of supramolecular synthons. Identification of metal assisted C–H···X–M interactions in the crystal lattice of **2a** and **3c**, indicates that these interactions, though weak in strength, possess the desired directionality and predictability. Such observations may be useful in designing the building blocks for crystal engineering so as to achieve the dream of rationally constructing functionalized supramolecular architecture in molecular solids, which is still a daunting task.

3. Experimental

3.1. Material and instruments

The organotellurium halides, 4-RC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂, were prepared by transmetallation reactions between (SB)HgCl and 4-RC₆H₄TeCl₃, as reported earlier [8]. IBr and (SCN)₂ were prepared by literature methods whereas iodine monochloride and methyl iodide were procured from Merck (Germany) and were distilled before use. Melting points were recorded in capillary tubes and are uncorrected. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 300.13 MHz in CDCl₃ on a Varian DRX 300 Spectrometer using TMS as internal standard. Solution ¹³C (100.54 MHz) and ¹²⁵Te (126.19 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded in *d*₆-DMSO on a JEOL Eclipse Plus 400 NMR spectrometer,

using Me₄Si and Me₂Te as internal standards. Solid-state ¹²⁵Te (126.19 MHz) CP MAS NMR spectra were acquired on the same instrument with a 6 mm MAS probe operating at spinning frequencies between 5 and 10 KHz. Experimental condition: 1 μs pulse width, 5 s relaxation delay, 10000 transients. The isotropic chemical shifts are referenced against Me₂Te using solid Te(OH)₆ as the secondary reference (δ_{iso} 692.1, 685.5) [22]. IR spectra were examined as KBr pellets using a Perkin–Elmer RX1 Spectrometer. Elemental carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen analyses were performed on a Carlo Erba 1108 make analyzer. Tellurium was estimated volumetrically and the halogen content gravimetrically as silver halide.

3.2. Synthesis

3.2.1. Reduction reactions

3.2.1.1. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)Te (1c). A solution of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂ (1.09 g, 2 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 mL) was shaken with an aqueous solution of Na₂S₂O₅ (0.57 g, 3 mmol) for 15 min. The organic layer gradually turned reddish orange. It was separated, washed (4 × 50 mL) with water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ overnight. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the residue was crystallized from chloroform/diethyl ether to give red rhombus crystals of **1c**. Yield: 0.7 g, 74%. M.p.: 120 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃Te: C, 53.21; H, 3.83; N, 5.91; Te, 26.92. Found: C, 53.00; H, 3.96; N, 6.05; Te, 26.10%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1586.5 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.19 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 6.78–8.35 (m, 11H, Arom), 8.55 (s, 1H, CH=N).

3.2.1.2. Synthesis of 4-MeC₆H₄(SB)Te (1b). A solution of 4-MeC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂ (1.06 g, 2 mmol) in chloroform and Na₂S₂O₅ (0.57 g, 3 mmol) in water gave red crystals of **1b** by following the same procedure as in **1.1**. Yield: 0.6 g, 66%. M.p.: 140 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₂Te: C, 57.07; H, 3.96; N, 6.12; Te, 27.86. Found: C, 56.90; H, 4.09; N, 6.37; Te, 27.00%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1586.5 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.34 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.50 (s, 3H, CH₃), 7.39–8.39 (m, 11H, Arom), 8.87 (s, 1H, CH=N).

3.2.1.3. Synthesis of Ph(SB)Te (1a). Compound Ph(SB)TeCl₂ (0.9 g, 2 mmol) and Na₂S₂O₅ (twofold) were shaken in two phase solvent system (CH₂Cl₂/H₂O) for 5 min. The organic layer slightly turned orange. It was separated and washed (2 × 50 mL) with water. It was again treated with Na₂S₂O₅ thrice successively (single step reduction was avoided to prevent decomposition). The organic layer was finely separated and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ for 1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was crystallized from chloroform/petroleum ether to give red crystals of **1a**. Yield: 0.55 g, 62%. M.p.: 118 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂Te: C, 54.11; H, 3.63; N, 6.31; Te, 28.74.

Found: C, 54.30; H, 3.52; N, 6.12; Te, 28.53%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1590.2 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 7.23–8.37 (m, 12H, Arom), 8.75 (s, 1H, CH=N).

3.2.2. Reaction of tellurides, **1** with HgX₂ (X = Cl, Br)

3.2.2.1. [4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂HgCl₂ (2c). To a solution of **1c** (1.9 g, 4 mmol) in acetonitrile (100 mL), mercury(II) chloride (0.54 g, 2 mmol) in the same solvent (50 mL) was added slowly. A yellow solid gradually separated during the addition. After stirring for 3 h the solid was filtered, washed with acetonitrile and dried. Light yellow solid was recrystallized from DMF to give orange yellow needles of **2c**. Yield: 2.17 g, 89%. M.p.: 222 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₂H₃₆N₄O₆Cl₂HgTe₂: C, 41.37; H, 2.98; N, 4.59; Te, 20.93. Found: C, 41.50; H, 3.02; N, 4.40; Te, 20.21%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1610.3 (νH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.20 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 3.87 (s, 6H, 2OCH₃), 6.81–8.36 (m, 22H, Arom), 8.57 (s, 2H, 2CH=N).

The following adducts were prepared similarly.

3.2.2.2. [4-MeC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂HgCl₂ (2b). Yield: 91%. M.p.: 228 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₂H₃₆N₄O₄Cl₂HgTe₂: C, 42.48; H, 3.06; N, 4.72; Te, 21.49. Found: C, 42.30; H, 3.11; N, 4.59; Te, 22.00%. ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.22 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 2.42 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 6.87–8.35 (m, 22H, Arom), 8.56 (s, 2H, 2CH=N).

3.2.2.3. [Ph(SB)Te]₂HgCl₂ (2a). Yield: 78%. M.p.: 240 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₀H₃₂N₄O₄Cl₂HgTe₂: C, 41.44; H, 2.78; N, 4.83; Te, 22.01. Found: C, 41.90; H, 2.60; N, 4.92; Te, 22.02%. ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.21 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 6.87–8.34 (m, 24H, Arom), 8.58 (s, 2H, 2CH=N).

3.2.2.4. [4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂HgBr₂ (3c). Yield: 2.17 g, 82%. M.p.: 220 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₂H₃₆N₄O₆Br₂HgTe₂: C, 38.56; H, 2.77; N, 4.28; Te, 19.51. Found: C, 38.22; H, 2.59; N, 4.56; Te, 20.20%. ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.96 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 3.87 (s, 6H, 2OCH₃), 6.79–8.36 (m, 22H, Arom), 8.57 (s, 2H, CH=N).

3.2.2.5. [4-MeC₆H₄(SB)Te]₂HgBr₂ (3b). Yield: 87%. M.p.: 235 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₂H₃₆N₄O₄Br₂HgTe₂: C, 39.52; H, 2.84; N, 4.39; Te, 19.99. Found: C, 39.80; H, 2.99; N, 4.28; Te, 19.67%. ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.21 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 2.23 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 6.83–8.30 (m, 22H, Arom), 8.49 (s, 2H, CH=N).

3.2.2.6. [Ph(SB)Te]₂HgBr₂ (3a). Yield: 91%. M.p.: 236 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₄₀H₃₂N₄O₄Br₂HgTe₂: C, 38.49; H, 2.58; N, 4.49; Te, 20.44. Found: C, 38.22; H, 2.69; N, 4.68; Te, 20.90%. ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.23 (s, 6H, 2CH₃), 6.86–8.32 (m, 24H, Arom), 8.59 (s, 2H, CH=N).

3.2.2.7. Attempted preparation of 1:1 adduct. Mercury(II) chloride (1.08 g, 4 mmol) in acetonitrile (~80 mL) was added slowly to a solution of **1c** (1.9 g, 4 mmol) in acetonitrile (~100 mL). A light yellow solid gradually separated during the addition. After stirring for 3 h the solid was filtered, washed with acetonitrile and dried. It was found to be **2c**. The filtrate on concentration afforded unreacted HgCl₂ (0.5 g).

3.2.3. Oxidative addition reactions of **1**

3.2.3.1. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeBr₂: 1c. (0.47 g, 1 mmol) was dissolved in carbon tetrachloride (20 mL) and a solution of bromine (0.18 mL, 1.2 mmol) in the same solvent was slowly added with stirring. A light yellow colored solid separated which was filtered, dried and recrystallized with CHCl₃ to give 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeBr₂. Yield: 0.52 g, 82%. M.p.: 180 °C (lit [8], 180 °C). Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃Br₂Te: C, 39.80; H, 2.86; N, 4.42; Br, 25.21; Te, 20.13. Found: C, 39.73; H, 2.64; N, 4.60; Br, 24.10; Te, 21.07%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1583.08 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.36 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.15–8.41 (m, 11H, Arom), 8.89 (s, 1H, CH=N).

3.2.3.2. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeI₂. Iodine (0.26 g, 1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (10 mL) was

added dropwise to a solution of **1c** (0.47 g, 1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (10 mL) with stirring. A dark solid gradually formed which after 0.5 h, was collected by filtration, washed with pet ether and characterized as 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeI₂. Yield: 0.63 g, 86%. M.p.: 196 °C (lit [8], 196 °C). Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃I₂Te: C, 34.66; H, 2.49; N, 3.85; I, 34.87; Te, 17.53. Found: C, 34.88; H, 2.54; N, 4.03; I, 34.52; Te, 17.07%.

3.2.3.3. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeICl. To the solution of **1c** (0.47 g, 1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (20 mL) was added a solution of iodine monochloride (0.81 g, 1.1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride with stirring at room temperature. A light yellow colored solid was obtained which was filtered, washed with carbon tetrachloride and recrystallized from chloroform to give yellow needles of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeICl. Yield: 0.44 g, 59%. M.p.: 216 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃IClTe: C, 39.64; H, 2.85; N, 4.40; ICl, 25.51; Te, 20.05. Found: C, 39.62; H, 2.69; N, 4.46; ICl, 26.03; Te, 21.07%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1593.5 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.34 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.15–8.35 (m, 11H, Arom), 8.87 (s, 1H, CH=N). ¹³C NMR: δ 21.54, 55.61, 114.15, 116.46, 118.71, 124.27, 130.52, 130.09, 133.82, 137.30, 144.21, 156.60, 162.38. ¹²⁵Te NMR: δ 884.8 ppm.

Table 4
Crystal data and structure refinement for **1b**, **1c**, **2a** and **3c**

	1b	1c	2a	3c
Formula	C ₂₁ H ₁₈ N ₂ O ₂ Te	C ₂₁ H ₁₈ N ₂ O ₃ Te	C ₄₀ H ₃₂ Cl ₂ HgN ₄ O ₄ Te ₂	C ₄₂ H ₃₆ Br ₂ HgN ₄ O ₆ Te ₂
Formula weight (g mol ⁻¹)	457.97	473.97	1159.39	1308.36
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Crystal size (mm)	0.10 × 0.45 × 0.85	0.10 × 0.65 × 0.95	0.08 × 0.18 × 0.52	0.25 × 0.50 × 0.75
Space group	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /c	P2 ₁ /n	C2/c
a (Å)	7.318(1)	9.1659(14)	15.334(2)	30.254(6)
b (Å)	13.558(3)	22.191(3)	9.166(2)	9.324(2)
c (Å)	19.370(4)	9.8526(15)	28.156(1)	14.926(3)
α (°)	90	90	90	90
β (°)	96.686(3)	99.803(3)	92.077(1)	97.844(3)
γ (°)	90	90	90	90
V (Å ³)	1908.7(6)	1974.8(5)	3954.7(10)	4171.3(13)
Z	4	4	4	4
D _{calcd} (Mg m ⁻³)	1.594	1.594	1.947	2.083
T (K)	103(2)	148(2)	93(2)	103(2)
μ (mm ⁻¹)	1.575	1.529	5.519	7.029
F(000)	904	936	2200	2472
θ Range (°)	2.2–27.5	2.2–27.5	1.4–27.5	2.3–27.5
Index ranges	-8 ≤ k ≤ 9; -16 ≤ l ≤ 17; -23 ≤ h ≤ 25	-11 ≤ k ≤ 11; -28 ≤ l ≤ 25; -12 ≤ h ≤ 12	-19 ≤ k ≤ 19; 0 ≤ l ≤ 11; 0 ≤ h ≤ 36	-39 ≤ k ≤ 35; -12 ≤ l ≤ 11; -19 ≤ h ≤ 18
Number of reflections collected	13 127	14 217	12 124	14 604
Completeness to θ _{max} (%)	99.4	99.6	99.8	99.5
Number of independent reflections/R _{int}	4355	4510	12 124	4765
Number of reflection observed with (I > 2σ(I))	3356	4077	10 246	4461
Number of refined parameters	235	244	480	259
GOF (F ²)	1.053	1.198	1.091	1.056
R ₁ (F) (I > 2σ(I))	0.038	0.046	0.058	0.030
wR ₂ (F ²) (all Data)	0.094	0.108	0.157	0.073
(Δ/σ) _{max}	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0009(1)	<0.0061(5)
Largest difference in peak/hole (e Å ⁻³)	1.708/-0.697	0.799/-1.174	2.157 (near Hg)/-1.491 (near Hg)	2.812 (near Hg)/-2.486 (near Hg)

3.2.3.4. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeIBr. A freshly prepared solution of iodine monobromide (0.21 g, 1.1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride was slowly added to the solution of **1c** (0.47 g, 1 mmol) in the same solvent. Orange red product separated during addition. It was filtered, washed with carbon tetrachloride and recrystallized with CHCl₃ to give 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeIBr. Yield: 0.43 g, 63%. M.p.: 190 °C. Anal. Calc. for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃IBrTe: C, 37.05; H, 2.66; N, 4.11; IBr, 30.38; Te, 18.74. Found: C, 36.86; H, 2.54; N, 4.09; IBr, 31.03; Te, 18.07%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1598.6 (CH=N). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 2.38 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.01–8.43 (m, 11H, Arom), 8.89 (s, 1H, CH=N). ¹³C NMR: δ 21.53, 55.58, 115.98, 116.69, 124.30, 130.15, 131.72, 133.81, 140.41, 144.15, 156.24, 162.20. ¹²⁵Te NMR: δ 841.9 ppm.

3.2.4. Synthesis of 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂

To a solution of **1c** (0.47 g, 1 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (30 mL), sulfuryl chloride (0.5 mL) was added dropwise with stirring at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to come to the room temperature and stirred for 15 min. Concentration under reduced pressure and addition of pet-ether afforded the colorless crystalline 4-MeOC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂. Yield: 0.42 g, 70%.

4-MeC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂ and Ph(SB)TeCl₂ were prepared similarly from **1b** and **1a**, respectively, in 70–75% yield. All these dichlorides, 4-RC₆H₄(SB)TeCl₂ were authenticated by their melting points and IR spectra [8].

Reaction of 3c with Ph₃P. To a suspension of **3c** (1.3 g, 1 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was added dropwise a solution of Ph₃P (0.53 g, 2 mmol) in the same solvent at room temperature. The reaction mixture changed to a dark red suspension. It was filtered to remove the (Ph₃P)₂HgBr₂ complex and washed with ether. The dark red filtrate on concentration afforded **1c** in quantitative yield (0.87 g, 1.9 mmol).

3.3. Crystallography

Single crystals of **1b**, **1c**, **2a** and **3c** suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained by slow evaporation of chloroform solutions. Intensity data were collected on a Bruker PS4 diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo Kα (0.7107 Å) radiation. Data were reduced and corrected for absorption using the programs SAINT and SADABS [23]. The structures were solved by direct methods and difference Fourier synthesis using SHELXS-97 implemented in the program WINGX 2002 [24]. Full-matrix least-squares refinements on F², using all data, were carried out with anisotropic displacement parameters applied to all non-hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms were included in geometrically calculated positions using a riding model and were refined isotropically. Crystallographic parameters and details of the data collection and refinement are given in Table 4. Figures were created using DIAMOND [25].

4. Supplementary material

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structural analyses have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC Nos. 289963 (**1b**), 246744 (**1c**), 289962 (**2a**) and 289961 (**3c**) (Supporting Information). Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336 033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>).

Acknowledgements

The financial assistance by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, India is gratefully acknowledged. P.S. is grateful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, India for the award of JRF.

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