

845. The Crystal Structure of 9-Phenyl-9-arsafluorene (Monoclinic Form).

By D. SARTAIN and MARY R. TRUTER.

(Appendix on its Preparation, by D. M. HEINEKEY and I. T. MILLAR.)

The compound crystallises in two forms, (i) monoclinic ($a = 18.67$, $b = 5.79$, $c = 13.93$ Å, $\beta = 102^\circ$) with space group $P2_1$ and two molecules in the asymmetric unit, and (ii) orthorhombic ($a = 8.04$, $b = 6.02$, $c = 30.2$ Å) with space group $P2_12_12_1$.

A partial three-dimensional *X*-ray crystal-structure analysis of the monoclinic form has shown that the molecule consists of a planar arsafluorene group with As-C = 1.98 Å and angle C-As-C 88°; the arsenic atom has a pyramidal configuration with As-C(phenyl) = 2.02 Å and the angle C(phenyl)-As-C 98°. The molecule is symmetrical about a plane which passes through the As-C(phenyl) bond and which is perpendicular to the planes of the arsafluorene and the phenyl groups; the angle between the normals to the phenyl ring and the tricyclic planar arsafluorene system is 80°. For the carbon-carbon bonds the lengths are not significantly different from those in fluorene and benzene.

Crystallographic data are reported for 9-phenyl-9-arsafluorene oxide dihydrate.

DERIVATIVES of fluorene in which the CH₂ group has been replaced by a group V atom (I) have been subjected to extensive chemical investigation. Resolution of the 9-*p*-carboxyphenyl-2-methoxy-9-arsafluorene indicated¹ that either the arsafluorene was not planar or the group R (in this example, *p*-carboxyphenyl) did not lie in the plane of the arsafluorene. Failure² to resolve the 9-*p*-carboxyphenyl-9-arsafluorene into optically active isomers supported the latter interpretation. Thermochemical measurements³ on the hypothetical conversion of (I) into (II) show that the five-membered ring is associated with strain when X is C or N but with stabilisation when X is P.



Preliminary investigation showed that 9-phenyl-9-phosphafluorene, and its oxide, decomposed in the *X*-ray beam. We have examined the arsenic compound to establish its stereochemistry and particularly the relationship between the phenyl group and the arsafluorene group.

METHODS AND RESULTS

In the original sample there were needles and equant crystals. Recrystallisation from ethanol gave only equant crystals. Examination under the microscope showed that the different crystals represented polymorphic forms, not just variations in habit; the needles melted at 81° and were weakly birefringent, while the equant crystals melted at 86° and were strongly birefringent. The weakly birefringent form was metastable with respect to the other one. Both forms were examined by *X*-ray diffraction, to determine the unit cell dimensions and space groups.

Crystal Data.—C₁₈H₁₃As, $M = 304.2$.

¹ Campbell and Poller, *J.*, 1956, 1195.

² Campbell, *J.*, 1950, 3109; 1952, 4448.

³ Bedford, Heinekey, Millar, and Mortimer, *J.*, 1962, 2932.

Needle form: Monoclinic, $a = 18.67 \pm 0.04$, $b = 5.79 \pm 0.01$, $c = 13.93 \pm 0.03$ Å, $\beta = 102 \pm 1^\circ$, $U = 1473$ Å³, $D_m = 1.40$ (by flotation), $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.37$, $F(000) = 616$. Space group $P2_1(C_2^2, \text{No. } 4)$ determined by structure analysis. Cu- K_α radiation, single-crystal oscillation, and Weissenberg photographs, absorption coefficient $\mu = 33$ cm.⁻¹, no absorption correction applied. No molecular symmetry required, two molecules in the asymmetric unit.

Equant form: Orthorhombic, $a = 8.04 \pm 0.05$, $b = 6.02 \pm 0.02$, $c = 30.2 \pm 0.2$ Å, $U = 1460$ Å³, $D_m = 1.40$, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.38$. Space group $P2_12_12_1(D_2^4, \text{No. } 19)$. No molecular symmetry required.

Space-group Determination of Monoclinic Form.—We chose to investigate the monoclinic form for which the systematic absences were consistent with the space groups $P2_1/m$ or $P2_1$. If the space group were $P2_1/m$ the results would be more accurate than those which are possible

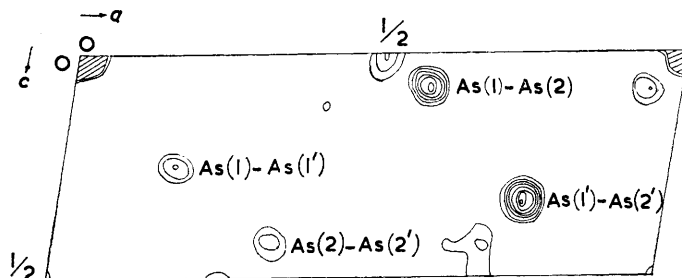


FIG. 1. Patterson projection down [010]. Contours at equal arbitrary intervals.

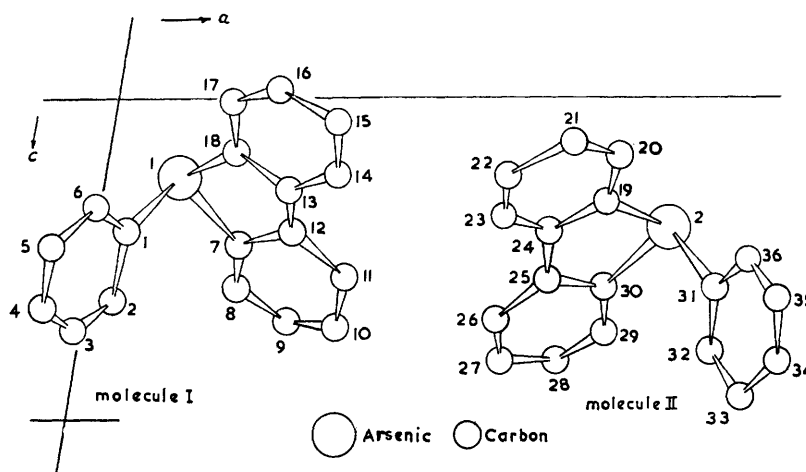


FIG. 2. The two molecules of the asymmetric unit as seen projected down [010].

in the non-centrosymmetric structure with space group $P2_12_12_1$. If it were $P2_1$, however, there would be two molecules in the asymmetric unit, so that the heavy atoms would not give rise to false symmetry in the early stages of structure determination, and comparison of the two molecules would give a check on the correctness of the structure.

A Patterson projection down the b -axis enabled us to distinguish between the possible space groups. For $P2_1/m$ there would be one large peak in addition to the origin but for $P2_1$ there would be two pairs of peaks, one twice the height of the other, in addition to the one at the origin. The projection and its interpretation are shown in Fig. 1, and clearly indicate that the space group is $P2_1$ with one arsenic atom, As(1) at $x/a = 0.092$, $z/c = 0.125$, and the other As(2), at $x/a = 0.675$, $z/c = 0.208$. Structure factors for $F(h0l)$ were calculated with the atoms in these positions and a satisfactory value of R , 0.35, was obtained.

Structure Determination.—There were 36 carbon atoms to be located in addition to the two arsenic atoms, so it was necessary to use three-dimensional data to give a reasonable ratio of

TABLE I.

Observed structure amplitudes and calculated structure factors (F₀ = A + iB) × 10.
Reflections too weak to be observed have been omitted.

Table with 18 columns: h, k, l, |F₀|, A, B, h, k, l, |F₀|, A, B, h, k, l, |F₀|, A, B. It lists observed structure amplitudes and calculated structure factors for various reflections.

Refinement by least squares, with allowance for anisotropic motion for arsenic and isotropic motion for carbon, reduced R to 0.10; the origin for the y co-ordinates was adjusted to be half-way between the arsenic atoms. The final observed and calculated structure amplitudes and phases are shown in Table 1. A three-dimensional difference Fourier synthesis showed no peaks greater than $\pm 0.5 e/\text{\AA}^3$ (compared with a standard deviation of $\pm 1 e/\text{\AA}^3$), indicating that the structure was correct. No evidence for the positions of the hydrogen atoms was given by this synthesis.

Results.—The structure is shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Table 2 shows the fractional co-ordinates, the corresponding standard deviations in \AA , the co-ordinates, X' , Y , and Z' , in \AA referred to orthogonal axes parallel to the crystallographic a , b , and c^* axes; also shown are the values of U , the mean square amplitudes of vibration, and their standard deviations. For

TABLE 2.

	Atomic parameters.										
	x/a	y/b	z/c	$\sigma(x)$ (10^{-2}\AA)	$\sigma(y)$ (10^{-2}\AA)	$\sigma(z)$ (10^{-2}\AA)	X' (\AA)	Y (\AA)	Z' (\AA)	U (10^{-3}\AA^2)	$\sigma(U)$ (10^{-3}\AA^2)
As(1)	0.0932	-0.1973	0.1265	0.4 ₅	0.6 ₅	0.4 ₅	1.374	-1.142	1.723		
As(2)	0.6782	0.1971	0.2042	0.4	0.6	0.4	12.070	1.142	2.783		
C(1)	0.0426	-0.0025	0.2093	4	4	4	0.19	-0.02	2.85	33	9
C(2)	0.0432	-0.0651	0.3209	5	5	5	-0.12	-0.38	4.37	69	15
C(3)	0.0038	0.0910	0.3678	4	4	3	-0.99	0.53	5.01	29	10
C(4)	-0.0375	0.2813	0.3320	3	4	3	-1.66	1.63	4.52	36	10
C(5)	-0.0433	0.3283	0.2355	4	6	4	-1.49	1.90	3.21	65	13
C(6)	0.0004	0.1843	0.1717	4	5	4	-0.49	1.07	2.34	45	10
C(7)	0.1778	-0.2764	0.2317	3	4	3	2.65	-1.60	3.16	25	8
C(8)	0.1865	-0.4725	0.3002	5	6	5	2.61	-2.74	4.09	65	13
C(9)	0.2535	-0.5172	0.3548	4	4	4	3.70	-2.99	4.83	35	10
C(10)	0.3124	-0.3536	0.3632	4	6	4	4.78	-2.05	4.95	64	14
C(11)	0.3108	-0.1783	0.2833	3	4	3	4.98	-1.03	3.86	27	8
C(12)	0.2382	-0.1369	0.2119	4	5	4	3.83	-0.79	2.89	60	12
C(13)	0.2253	0.0513	0.1468	4	4	4	3.78	0.30	2.00	38	11
C(14)	0.2772	0.2264	0.1214	4	6	4	4.83	1.31	1.65	73	14
C(15)	0.2652	0.3752	0.0400	4	5	4	4.84	2.17	0.54	55	12
C(16)	0.1894	0.3875	-0.0090	4	5	4	3.56	2.24	-0.12	57	13
C(17)	0.1368	0.2173	0.0063	5	8	5	2.54	1.26	0.09	96	18
C(18)	0.1532	0.0358	0.0856	4	5	4	2.61	0.21	1.17	48	11
C(19)	0.5994	0.4291	0.1645	4	5	4	10.71	2.48	2.74	53	12
C(20)	0.6036	0.6169	0.0925	4	5	4	11.00	3.57	1.26	49	12
C(21)	0.5468	0.7549	0.0721	4	6	4	10.00	4.37	0.98	59	13
C(22)	0.4769	0.7399	0.1240	4	5	4	8.55	4.28	1.69	53	11
C(23)	0.4819	0.5671	0.1865	4	4	4	8.46	3.28	2.54	42	11
C(24)	0.5383	0.4114	0.2095	3	4	3	9.45	2.38	2.85	26	9
C(25)	0.5498	0.2183	0.2867	3	4	3	9.44	1.26	3.91	32	9
C(26)	0.4976	0.1353	0.3489	4	4	4	8.28	0.78	4.75	38	10
C(27)	0.5126	-0.0397	0.4142	4	5	4	8.37	-0.23	5.64	55	13
C(28)	0.5829	-0.1824	0.4130	4	5	4	9.69	-1.06	5.63	51	12
C(29)	0.6284	-0.1032	0.3698	5	6	5	10.66	-0.60	5.04	82	17
C(30)	0.6159	0.0652	0.2970	3	4	3	10.64	0.38	4.05	27	9
C(31)	0.7482	0.4127	0.2979	4	4	4	13.11	2.39	4.06	33	10
C(32)	0.7571	0.3725	0.3983	4	5	4	12.98	2.16	5.43	51	11
C(33)	0.8032	0.5395	0.4689	4	5	4	13.64	3.12	6.39	53	13
C(34)	0.8368	0.7221	0.4131	4	6	4	14.43	4.18	5.63	56	12
C(35)	0.8229	0.7324	0.3160	5	7	5	14.45	4.24	4.31	90	17
C(36)	0.7789	0.5858	0.2531	4	4	4	13.81	3.39	3.45	38	11

the arsenic atoms the anisotropic vibration parameters (with standard deviations in parentheses) in \AA^2 were:

	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{12}	U_{23}	U_{13}
As(1)	42(3)	63(5)	45(3)	3(2)	-11(2)	4(2)
As(2)	30(2)	41(4)	45(2)	0(2)	-5(2)	10(2)

No physical significance should be attached to these results because, as the larger values for the standard deviation of U_{22} (which is parallel to b^*) indicates, our observations did not cover a sphere of reciprocal space.

The bond lengths and angles were calculated together with their estimated standard

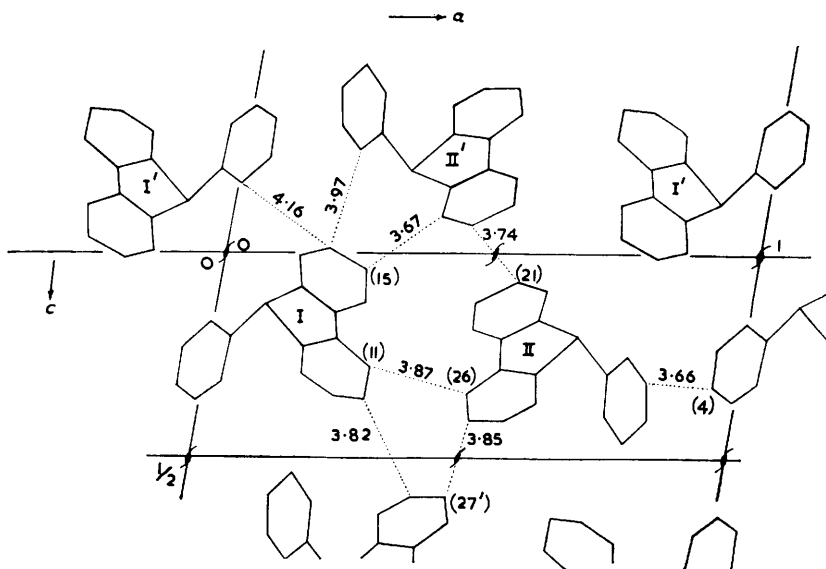


FIG. 3. Projection of the structure along $[010]$. The numbers are distances in \AA between the atoms joined by the dotted lines. Molecules I' and II' are related to I and II , respectively, by screw axes.

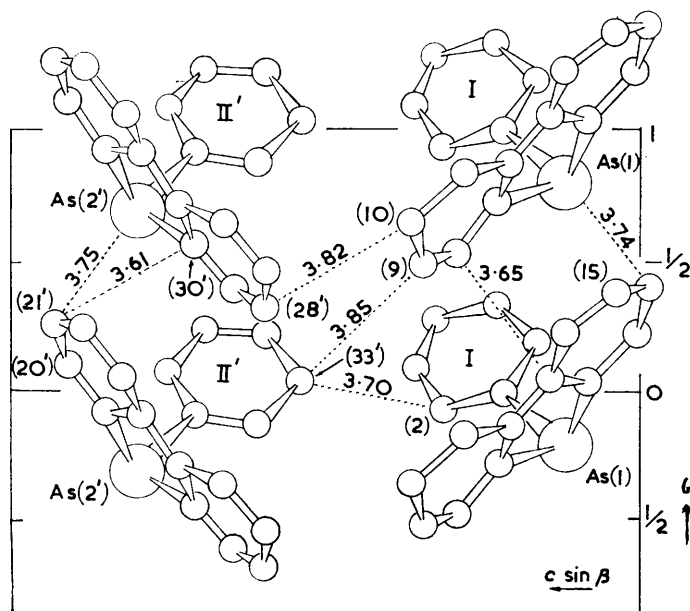


FIG. 4. Projection of half the structure down $[100]$, showing molecules for which most atoms have $x/a < 0.5$. The numbers are distances in \AA between atoms joined by dotted lines.

deviations which were ± 0.04 Å for As-C bonds, ± 0.05 – 0.06 Å for carbon-carbon bonds, and 1° for C-As-C angles and 3 – 4° for C-C-C angles. The two molecules were identical within experimental error and each had a plane of symmetry; for molecule I, this passes through C(1), C(4), As(1), and between C(13) and C(12), while for molecule II the plane passes through C(34), C(31), As(2), and between C(24) and C(25). This repetition of measurement has been used to determine the dimensions of a mean molecule as shown in Fig. 5.

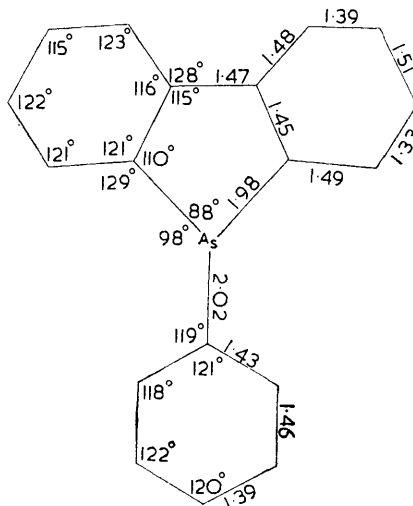


FIG. 5. Dimensions of the mean molecule; standard deviations are ± 0.03 Å for C-C bond lengths, ± 0.02 Å for As-C bond lengths, $\pm 2^\circ$ for C-C-C angles, and $\pm 1^\circ$ for As-C-C and C-As-C angles.

Planes were calculated for the carbon atoms of the fluorene groups, of the constituent six-membered rings, and of the phenyl groups. In each case the arsenic atom was not included in the calculation, but its distance from the plane of the carbon atoms was found.

For molecule I the plane through the fluorene group is given by

$$0.414X' - 0.637Y - 0.651Z' - 0.160 = 0.$$

As(1) lies 0.01 Å from this plane and the largest deviation of a carbon atom is 0.13 Å for C(9), the constituent six-membered rings have an angle of 3° between their normals. For molecule II the plane through the fluorene group is given by

$$-0.309X' - 0.617Y - 0.724Z' + 6.491 = 0.$$

As(2) lies 0.04 Å from this plane and the largest deviation for a carbon atom is 0.08 Å for C(29), the angle between the normals to the constituent six-membered rings is zero.

The plane of the phenyl group C(1)-C(6) is

$$-0.762X' - 0.592Y - 0.264Z' + 0.868 = 0,$$

with a maximum deviation of 0.03 Å for C(5) and As(1) at 0.04 Å from this plane. The plane of the phenyl group C(31)-C(36) is

$$0.813X' - 0.583Y - 0.009Z' + 9.225 = 0,$$

with a maximum deviation of 0.02 Å for C(33) and As(2) at 0.1 Å from this plane.

The angle between the normal to the fluorene group and the normal to the phenyl group is 77° for molecule I and 83° for molecule II.

As a check the planes of the five-membered heterocyclic rings were calculated, including the arsenic atoms weighted suitably. The largest deviation of any carbon atom from the appropriate plane was 0.09 Å which is twice the mean standard deviation in the co-ordinates of this atom, C(12); for molecule II the largest deviation was only 0.03 Å.

All the interatomic distances of less than 4.5 Å were calculated. No unreasonably short intermolecular distances were found; the shortest ones for each kind of intermolecular contact

are shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Within the molecules the distances between the *ortho*-carbon atoms of the phenyl groups, atoms (2), (6), (32), and (36), and the nearest atoms in the fluorene rings, (7), (18), (30), and (19), respectively, lay in the range 3.25–3.44 Å.

DISCUSSION

Our results show that the configuration about the arsenic atom is pyramidal, in agreement with the deductions of Campbell and her co-workers.^{1,2} This may be the result of sp^3 hybridisation, with the lone pair occupying the fourth position. As both the orthorhombic and the monoclinic form have enantiomorphous space groups, the molecules might be expected to have no plane of symmetry. In fact, however, each molecule in the monoclinic form has a mirror plane, within experimental error, and the deviations from this follow different patterns in the two molecules, indicating that they are experimental error and not of chemical significance. This mirror plane arises from the orientation of the phenyl group which could, in principle, undergo free rotation about the As–C bond. There are two possible explanations for the observed orientation; it may be a purely steric effect or it may indicate $d_{\pi}-p_{\pi}$ bonding. In the observed structure the nearest approach of an *ortho*-carbon atom on the phenyl group to an atom of the fluorene group is 3.25 Å; rotation about the As–C bond could reduce this to a minimum of 3.0 Å but would result in a hydrogen–carbon distance of 2.5 Å. However, further rotation to make the plane of the phenyl group coincide with the plane of symmetry would give a compact molecule with no overcrowding. Thus on purely steric grounds two configurations seem equally probable.

In the observed orientation, if the z -direction is taken as the bisector of the five-membered ring, there is fairly good overlap between the d_{z^2} orbital and the π -orbitals of the phenyl group and between the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital and the π -orbitals on the fluorene group. The other sterically stable position would give overlap with only the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital for both organic groups.

The dimensions in the fluorene molecule have been determined by two-dimensional methods;⁴ the molecule is planar and the mean bond length in the six-membered rings is 1.40 ± 0.01 Å, compared with our mean value of 1.44 ± 0.02 Å. For benzene a three-dimensional analysis⁵ gave a mean bond length of 1.39 ± 0.01 Å which can be compared with our mean value of 1.42 ± 0.03 Å. Although in both organic groups the bond lengths are longer in the arsenic compound, as expected for $d_{\pi}-p_{\pi}$ bonding, they are not significantly longer and our results cannot be taken as evidence for such bonding.

The As–C–C angle in the five-membered ring is the same as the corresponding one in fluorene⁴ but the C–C–C bond angle is 7° larger, so that there may be less strain in the heterocyclic ring than in fluorene.

Few As–C bond lengths have been reported. For trimethylarsine spectroscopic methods⁶ gave 1.98 Å and a three-dimensional crystal structure analysis⁷ of arsenomethane pentamer gave a mean value of 1.95 ± 0.02 Å, but these represented a range from 1.92 to 1.97 Å, each ± 0.05 Å, and similarly our results varied over wide limits, 1.91–2.06 Å. Two-dimensional investigation of the hexameric arsenobenzene⁸ gave 1.92–2.01 Å, and of chlorodiphenylarsine⁹ gave 1.97 ± 0.04 Å. The largest intermolecular separation is between molecule I and I' (see Fig. 3), otherwise the structure is efficiently packed and there are several contacts nearly as close as the minimum ones shown in the Figures. The nearest neighbour to an arsenic atom is a carbon atom in the same molecule in the unit cell along the b axis; this contact does not represent the direction of the lone pair.

⁴ D. M. Burns and Iball, *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, 1955, *A*, **227**, 200.

⁵ Cox, Cruickshank, and Smith, *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, 1958, *A*, **247**, 1.

⁶ Siebert, *Z. anorg. Chem.*, 1953, **273**, 161.

⁷ J. H. Burns and Waser, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1957, **79**, 859.

⁸ Hedberg, Hughes, and Waser, *Acta Cryst.*, 1961, **14**, 369.

⁹ Trotter, *Canad. J. Chem.*, 1962, **40**, 1590.

EXPERIMENTAL

The compound, and its oxide were prepared by Heinekey and Millar as described in the Appendix to this paper.

All X-ray photographs were taken with Cu- K_{α} radiation. Equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken about the b axis for the 0th to 3rd layers inclusive and the zero layer line about the a axis. Intensities were estimated visually with the aid of a calibration strip and corrected for Lorentz and polarisation factors on the Leeds University Ferranti Pegasus computer with a programme written by Mr. J. G. F. Smith. No absorption correction was applied; the crystals set about the b axis were 1 mm. long 0.06×0.27 mm. in cross-section. The values of $F(0kl)$ were used to correlate the layer lines and give a set of 987 independent $F(hkl)$ on an arbitrary scale; the scale factor was one of the parameters of the refinement.

The scattering factors were those of Berghuis *et al.*¹⁰ for arsenic and carbon. Refinement was carried out by the method of least squares on the Pegasus computer with programmes written by Cruickshank *et al.*¹¹ The function minimised was $R' = w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$, where w was taken as 1/24 for $|F_o| < 32$ and as $1/(|F_o| + 0.2|F_o|^2)$ for $|F_o| > 32$. Three-dimensional Fourier synthesis and calculations of interatomic distances and angles were also carried out on the Pegasus computer; ¹¹ a programme written by Mr. J. G. F. Smith was used to compute the standard deviations in bond lengths and angles.

Crystal Data for 9-Phenyl-9-arsafluorene Oxide Dihydrate.— $C_{18}H_{17}AsO_3 \cdot 2H_2O$. M , 355.6. Monoclinic, $a = 21.4 \pm 0.2$, $b = 14.00 \pm 0.05$, $c = 14.0 \pm 0.1$ Å, $\beta = 131^\circ$, $U = 3208$ Å³, $D_m = 1.47$, $Z = 8$, $D_c = 1.47$. Space group $C2/c$ (C_{2h}^6 , No. 15), no molecular symmetry required, or Cc (C_s^4 , No. 9) with two molecules in the asymmetric unit.

We thank Dr. I. T. Millar for the crystals, Dr. N. H. Hartshorne for help with optical work, Mr. J. G. F. Smith and other colleagues¹¹ for the use of their programmes, and the Director of the Leeds University Electronic Computing Laboratory for computation facilities. One of us (D. S.) thanks the D.S.I.R. for financial support. Some of the equipment was provided by the Royal Society and Imperial Chemical Industries Limited.

DEPARTMENT OF INORGANIC AND STRUCTURAL CHEMISTRY,
THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.

[Received, March 22nd, 1963.]

APPENDIX

9-Phenyl-9-arsafluorene and its derivatives.

By D. M. HEINEKEY and I. T. MILLAR.

9-Phenyl-9-arsafluorene.—This compound was prepared by the general method described previously.^{3,12}

2,2'-Di-iodobiphenyl (10 g.) in dry ether (150 ml.) was added with stirring during $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. to fine lithium foil (1.5 g.) under nitrogen, and the solution of 2,2'-dilithiobiphenyl was decanted from insoluble material. A solution of dichlorophenylarsine (3.5 g.) in benzene (50 ml.) was added to the solution of 2,2'-dilithiobiphenyl during 20 min. After refluxing for 1 hr., the mixture was hydrolysed with cold, air-free water. The organic layer was separated, the solvents were evaporated, and the residue was distilled, yielding *9-phenyl-9-arsafluorene*, b. p. $182-186^\circ/0.3$ mm. (2.3 g., 50%), which after recrystallisation from ethanol had m. p. 86° (Found: C, 70.9; H, 4.05. $C_{18}H_{15}As$ requires C, 71.05; H, 4.3%).

A sample in acetone with hydrogen peroxide deposited *9-phenyl-9-arsafluorene oxide dihydrate*, m. p. $152-153^\circ$ after recrystallisation from aqueous ethanol (Found: C, 60.65; H, 4.8. $C_{18}H_{19}AsO_3$ requires C, 60.7; H, 4.8%). Another sample, heated in a sealed tube at 100° with an excess of methyl bromide, gave *9-methyl-9-phenyl-9-arsafluorenonium bromide monohydrate*, m. p. $164-165^\circ$ (decomp.) after recrystallisation from ethanol (Found: C, 54.2; H, 3.8. $C_{19}H_{18}AsBr$ requires C, 54.6; H, 4.3%).

¹⁰ Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry, and Veenendaal, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 478.

¹¹ Cruickshank, Pilling, and (in part) Bujosa, Lovell, and Truter, "Computing Methods and the Phase Problem in X-ray Crystal Analysis," Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1961, p. 32.

¹² Heinekey and Millar, *J.*, 1959, 3101.