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# THE CIRCULAR DICHROISM OF THE TRIS[DI- $\mu$-HYDROXO-BIS(PROPYLENEDIAMINE)COBALT(III)]COBALT(III) ION ${ }^{1}$ 

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Circular dichroism spectra are reported for two isomers of $\left\{\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$. It is suggested that earlier assignments of the CD peaks in the region of absorption of the $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ chromophore be reversed. Assignments based upon intensities are without support where intensities are extraordinarily great, but the usual order of energy levels is expected. Absolute configurations are assigned based upon this interpretation of CD spectra.

## INTRODUCTION

The resolution of the tris [di- $\mu$-hydroxo-tetraamminecobalt(III)]cobalt(III) ion(I) was important in establishing Werner's views of the stereochemisty of metal complexes. ${ }^{2,3}$ Interest has continued in this and the corresponding compound containing ethylenediamine(II). ${ }^{4,5,6,7}$ These compounds are of particular interest with respect to their absorption and circular dichroism (CD) spectra ${ }^{5,7}$ because of possible metal-metal interaction. The CD spectra of (I) and (II) are surprisingly similar in view of the presence of only three chelate rings in (I). The corresponding complex containing optically active propylenediamine(III) is of interest with respect to the CD spectra and absolute configurations. Other polynuclear cobalt complexes containing propylenediamine have been investigated recently. ${ }^{8}$

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

## Resolution of Propylenediamine

The optical isomers were obtained by resolving commercial propylenediamine by Dwyer's method. ${ }^{9}$ The active pn, recovered from the chlorotartrate salt, $\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{3}\right] \mathrm{Cl}(+)-\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{6} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, after 4 recrystallizations, gave $\alpha_{D}=+0.62^{\circ} \quad(1.828 \%$ solution in benzene), $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}=+33.9^{\circ},+34.0^{\circ}$ reported. The $(+)-\mathrm{pn}$ recovered from the $(+)-$ tartrate salt of pn after 10 recrystallizations gave
$\alpha_{\mathrm{D}}=-0.69^{\circ} \quad(1.980 \%$ solution in benzene), $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}=-34.8^{\circ},-34.2^{\circ}$ reported.
$\left[\mathrm{Co} \mathrm{pn} 2(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$. Complex ion(III). was prepared as the nitrate salt by a modification of Werner's method ${ }^{4}$ for the synthesis of the corresponding en complex(II). To 45.8 g of $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2} \cdot$ $6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ in 47 ml of water was added 95 ml of an aqueous solution containing 12 g of $(+)$-pn [or $(-)-\mathrm{pn}]$. The mixture was allowed to stand for 30 min with stirring at room temperature and then filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to 70 ml by bubbling compressed air through the solution at room temperature. The solution was cooled in an ice bath and 105 ml of $95 \%$ ethanol was added dropwise. A gummy precipitate resulted if ethanol was added too rapidly. The precipitate was filtered and washed 2 or 3 times with a small amount of $95 \%$ ethanol and then air dried. Yield: 28 g . The nitrate salt can be recrystallized by dissolution in 100 ml . of $60 \%$ ethanol at $70-80^{\circ}$ followed by cooling in an ice bath.

The perchlorate salt was obtained by dissolving 28 g of the nitrate salt in 35 ml of water followed by the addition of 22.2 g of $\mathrm{NaClO}_{4} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ in 20 ml of water. The resulting solution was cooled in an ice bath, the precipitate was filtered, washed with cold $70 \%$ ethanol, then $95 \%$ ethanol, and air dried. Yield: 22.3 g . The complex as the perchlorate salt can be recrystallized by dissolution in the minimum amount of water at $65^{\circ}$, followed by cooling in an ice bath. The air dried perchlorate salt contained about 7 molecules of water of hydration which were lost upon drying for analysis at $70^{\circ}$ over
$\mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{5}$. Anal. Calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{CO}_{4}(\mathrm{pn})_{6}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ : Co, 17.10; pn, 32.25; C, 15.70; H, 4.83. Found: Co, 16.92; pn, 32.0; C, 15.71; H, 5.55.

## Resolution of the Complex

Mellor's method ${ }^{6}$ for the resolution of the en complex(II), using the antimonyl tartrate salt of the complex ion, gave an intractable gummy precipitate which was not easily handled when used for III. The nitrate salt was very soluble and was not well suited for fractional separation of optical isomers. The perchlorate salt was fractionally recrystallized to yield the desired optical isomers without a resolving agent. The perchlorate salt of the complex was dissolved in water at $27-30^{\circ}$ ( 5 ml for each g of complex) and the solution was filtered to remove any residue. The solution was allowed to stand for 1 hour at $0^{\circ}$ and the precipitate (fraction 1) was centrifuged, keeping the temperature below $5^{\circ}$. The precipitate was washed with $95 \%$ ethanol using one half of the volume of water used todissolve the complex. To the filtrate was added $95 \%$ ethanol (one fifth of the volume used to dissolve the complex), and the resulting mixture was cooled in an ice bath for one hour to yield fraction 2. To the filtrate from fraction 2 was added $95 \%$ ethanol (one half of the volume of water used to dissolve the complex) to give fraction 3. Fractions 2 and 3 were centrifuged, washed, and air dried as for fraction 1. Four grams of the complex used in the resolution gave $1.90,0.82$, and 0.14 g of the respective fractions.

Fraction 1 was purified by a similar recrystallization procedure. The rotation was constant after 4 or 5 recrystallizations. Upon purification, the apparent solubility in water decreases since larger volumes of water are required for each successive recrystallization, in the approximate ratios 6:7:8. The pure complex separates as a gellatinous precipitate which was dried in a vacuum desiccator over $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ at room temperature. About 1 g of pure $(+)$-isomer was obtained from 11 g of the complex perchlorate salt, $[M]_{\mathrm{D}}=+37,500^{\circ}$.

Fraction 3 was recrystallized in the same way as fraction 1 , using 6 ml of water for each gram of complex. About 20 mg of the ( - )-isomer was obtained from 4 g of the complex perchlorate salt, $[M]_{\mathrm{D}}=-29,600^{\circ}$. It was more difficult to isolate pure products from fraction 2. This was the only observation which might suggest that additional isomers were present in the initial product.

Analyses were performed at Osaka University, Faculty of Engineering.

## Measurements

The CD spectra were obtained in aqueous solution using a Roussel-Jouan Dichrograph. Optical rotations were measured in aqueous solution in a 1 dm tube at room temperature. Absorption spectra were recorded on a Cary Model 14 spectrophotometer.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Only one pair of isomers was isolated for the complex $\left[\mathrm{Co}(+) \mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ and only the more easily purified ( - )-isomer was isolated for the corresponding complex containing $(-)-\mathrm{pn}$. The possible isomers (for one active isomer of pn$)$ include $\Delta(\Delta \Delta \Delta), \Delta(\Delta \Delta \Lambda), \Delta(\Delta \Lambda \Lambda)$, $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ and those of opposite chirality, in addition to the geometrical isomers resulting from different positions for the methyl groups. Recent work with binuclear complexes ${ }^{8}$ indicates that the stereoselectivity of active pn should limit the isomers formed and make it possible to assign absolute configurations.
Kern and Wentworth ${ }^{7}$ reported that 4 of the 8 possible isomers of $\left[\mathrm{en}_{2} \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{6+}$ were formed, and only 2 of these were resolved under their conditions. The absorption bands at 16,000 and $20,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (Table I, Figure 1) correspond to those of the en complex which have been assigned to the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~A}_{1} \rightarrow{ }^{1} \mathrm{~T}_{1}\left(\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{b}}\right)$ transitions for the $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{CoN} \mathrm{N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ groups, respectively ${ }^{5,7}$. The CD peaks at ca. 16,300 and $20,100 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ correspond closely to those of the en complex ${ }^{5,7}$ assigned as the $E_{a}$ components for the $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{CoN}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ groups, respectively. The weaker CD peakat ca. $14,500 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ corresponds to that assigned as the $A_{2}$ component for $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ for the en complex ${ }^{5,7}$ (II). This assignment ( $A_{2}$ at lower energy than $E_{\mathrm{a}}$ for $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ ) was based upon the expected greater intensity of $E_{a}$. The $E_{a}$ component is usually at lower energy than $\mathrm{A}_{\mathbf{2}}$ for complexes with trigonal compression, while the reverse order was reported ${ }^{10}$ for $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{tn})_{3}{ }^{3+}$, where the angle subtended by the chelatering at the central metal ion is greater than $90^{\circ}$. Strong trigonal compression resulting from the 4 -membered chelate rings is expected for $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$, suggesting that $E_{\mathrm{a}}$ should be at lower energy thn $A_{2}$, or the reverse of the earlier assignment ${ }^{5,7}$. For $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{3}{ }^{3-}$, polarized crystal spectra ${ }^{11}$ indicate that $E_{\mathrm{a}}\left(16,350 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$


FIGURE 1. Absorption (upper curve) and circular dichroism spectra for $(+) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}(-)$ and $(-) \mathrm{D}_{-}\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}(-)$ and $(-)_{\mathrm{D}}-\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}(---$.$) The sum of these$ two CD curves $(\cdots \cdot)$ and the difference curve ( $-\cdot-\cdot$ ) for one half of the sum curve subtracted from the CD curve for ( + ) $\mathbf{D}$-isomer are also plotted.
is at lower energy than $A_{2}\left(16,500 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$. For the larger chelate ring in the case of Co (acetylacetonate) $)_{3}$ the reverse order has been given. ${ }^{12}$
The CD peak intensities observed for compounds of the type $\left[\mathrm{CoN}_{4}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{6+}$ are much larger than usual for the $d-d$ absorption region, suggesting possible metal-metal interaction, and that the usual intensity criteria for assignments might not apply. The spectra are remarkably similar for the
series of complexes containing $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$, en, ( - - pn , or ( + )-pn (Table I). This is particularly surprising for the $\mathrm{CoN}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ group where the replacement of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ by diamines has only a slight effect. For the en complex, ${ }^{7}$ the configuration of the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}$ group was considered to be opposite that of all, or at least 2 out of 3 , of the $\mathrm{CoN} \mathrm{N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ groups. It seems even more reasonable to exclude the possibilities where the $\mathrm{CoN}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ groups do not have the same configuration in the case of the complex containing active $\mathrm{pn} .{ }^{8}$ The results presented here are consistent with this assumption, but an X-ray structure determination would be required for final proof.

The $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{a}}$ component is usually more intense than $A_{2}$ for tris(bidentate) complexes, but the reverse is true ${ }^{13}$ for $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}(-)-\mathrm{pn}^{3+}$, where the optical activity arises from the presence of the optically active ligand. Let us assume as a working hypothesis, that the $\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}+$ units have the preferred lel or $\Lambda^{14}$ configuration with the pn ring conformations $\delta\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right.$ groups equatorial). ${ }^{8}$ The two internal diastereomers are $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ and $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ (Figure 2). As noted by Kern and Wentworth, ${ }^{7}$ these isomers have strikingly different stereochemical configurations. Models show that $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ is the height of one octahedron, very wide and flat (3:1 ratio for width:height), with the pseudo $C_{3}$ axes parallel for all four octahedra. The pn rings project outward from the edges of the terminal octahedra, so that the amine hydrogens and the $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$groups are unblocked, allowing easy access by solvent molecules. The model of the $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ diastereomer is much higher and not as wide (3:2 ratio). The pseudo $C_{3}$ axes of the $\mathrm{Co}(+)-$ $\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{+}$octahedra define a left spiral about the $\mathrm{C}_{3}$ axis of the $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ octahedron. Three of the pn rings project above the plane of the four $\mathrm{Co}^{3+}$ ions and three of them project below this plane. The amine hydrogens and $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$groups are blocked to a

TABLE I
Comparison of Circular Dichroism Data for [ $\left.\mathrm{Co} \mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ and Related Complexes

| Complex | $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ | $\Delta \epsilon_{\text {max }}$ | $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ | $\Delta \epsilon_{\max }$ | $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ | $\Delta \epsilon_{\max }$ | $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ | $\Delta \epsilon_{\text {max }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $(+) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pr}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ | 14,500 | $+1.3$ | 16,300 | $-13.3$ | 20,100 | + 24.4 | 25,900 | $-1.7$ |
| $(-) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ | 14,300 | - 1.1 | 16,200 | + 10.8 | 20,200 | $-15.3$ | 25,600 | $+0.4$ |
| $(-) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co}(-)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{6}$ | 14,500 | - 1.5 | 16,300 | + 13.2 | 20,100 | - 24.2 | 25,900 | +1.9 |
| $(+) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co} \mathrm{en} 2(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{6+7}$ | 14,600 | $+5.0$ | 16,500 | -16.0 | 20,200 | + 20.4 | 25,600 | $-1.0$ |
| $(-) \mathrm{D}-\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right] \mathrm{Co}^{6+5}$ | 14,700 | $(-4)^{\text {a }}$ | 16,500 | $(+16)^{2}$ | 20,000 | $(-14)^{\text {a }}$ | 25,500 | $(+1)^{\text {a }}$ |

[^0]greater extent, restricting access by solvent molecules. The $(-)$-isomer is much more soluble than the $(+)$-isomer and one might expect the more soluble one to have the wide, flat arrangement which offers more opportunities for solvation.

If the isomers of the $(+)-\mathrm{pn}$ complex are $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ and $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$, adding their CD curves (Figure 1) should give a resultant curve for the contribution of six $\Lambda-\left[\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]^{+}$units, since the contributions of the $\Delta$ - and $\Lambda-\left[\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}\right]$ units should cancel. If the CD peak at $20,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for the resultant curve is $E_{\mathrm{a}}$, its positive sign is consistent with the $\Lambda$ configuration for $\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2^{-}}$ $(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{+}$, expected for $(+)-\mathrm{pn}$. The opposite signs of the CD peaks at $20,100 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for the two isomers do not require opposite configurations for the $\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{+}$groups. CD peaks of comparable intensities and opposite signs are also observed in this region for the two isomers of the corresponding ammonia complex(I), so that the same dominant factor will determine the sign of this peak for the $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$, en, and pn complexes.

The CD peaks of the resultant curve in the $\mathrm{CoO}_{6}$ absorption region are the result of the induced activity from the presence of the three active
$\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}+$ ligands. Using the assignment $E_{2}$ at lower energy than $A_{2}$, the greater intensity of the $A_{2}$ peak $\left(16,300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ is not unexpected for a "vicinal effect" curve. ${ }^{13}$

If the $14,500 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} \mathrm{CD}$ peak is the $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{a}}$ component, its negative sign for the $(-)$-isomer indicates the $\Delta$ configuration for the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}$ or, from the assignment of the $\Lambda$-configuration to the $\mathrm{Co}(+)-\mathrm{pn}_{2^{-}}$ $(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{+}$groups, this would be the $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ isomer. This assignment is consistent with the greater solubility expectation for the wide, flat configuration, as already noted. On the same basis the less soluble ( + )-isomer would have the $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ configuration.
Earlier assignments of the two CD peaks in the first band region $\left(\mathrm{CoO}_{6}\right)$ were based upon relative intensities, even though the intensities for the complexes I, II and III are very unusual. It seems more reasonable to expect the usual order, $E_{\mathrm{a}}$ at lower energy then $A_{2}$, for complexes with significant trigonal compression. On this basis, the sign of the $E_{\mathrm{a}}$ component $\left(20,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ of the $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}-$ $(\mathrm{OH})_{2}+$ groups for I (Table I) is the same as that of the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}$ group, which is the center of the optical activity of I. Variations in the intensity of


FIGURE 2. Views of the $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ and $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ isomers of the [ $\left.\mathrm{CO}_{( }(\text {diamine })_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{3}+$ ion looking down the $\mathrm{C}_{3}$ axis of the central $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OH})_{6}$ group. The diamine chelate rings project outward horizontally for $\Delta(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$ and upward or downward for $\Lambda(\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda)$.
the $20,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ peak for the active pn complex (III) are consistent with the expected contribution from the preferred $\Lambda$ configuration of the $\mathrm{Co}(+)-$ $\mathrm{pn}_{2}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{+}$groups.

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[^0]:    a Data estimated from figure.

