

THE STRUCTURE OF DIMETHYLBIS(QUINUCLIDINE)BERYLLIUM

C. D. WHITT AND J. L. ATWOOD*

Department of Chemistry, University of Alabama, University, Alabama 35486 (U.S.A.)

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SUMMARY

The structure of $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot 2\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13}$ has been determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction methods. Four monomeric molecules crystallize in a monoclinic unit cell of dimensions $a = 11.82 \pm 0.02$, $b = 12.71 \pm 0.02$, $c = 12.00 \pm 0.02$ Å, and $\beta = 113.1^\circ \pm 0.3^\circ$. The space group is $P2_1/c$. Least-squares refinement resulted in a final R value of 13.2% for the 671 visually observed reflections. A distorted tetrahedral coordination is found about the beryllium atom. The average beryllium-carbon bond distance is 1.83 Å, and the beryllium-nitrogen bond distance is 1.91 Å. The nitrogen-beryllium-nitrogen bond angle is 110.8° compared to the methyl carbon-beryllium-methyl carbon angle of 118.3° .

INTRODUCTION

Dimethylberyllium is well-known to form coordination complexes with monodentate ligands¹. The stoichiometry of the compounds appears to be a function of the donor properties and steric requirements of the coordinating group. Pyridine reacts with dimethylberyllium to yield a crystalline complex² involving two donor molecules, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot 2\text{NC}_5\text{H}_5$. With trimethylamine both the 1/1 complex³, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot \text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, and the 1/2 complex⁴, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot 2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, have been reported. In each case, however, structural information on the nature of the bonding of the beryllium atom is lacking.

Toney and Stucky⁵ have recently reported the preparation and structure of the 1/2 complex of dimethylmagnesium and 1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane: $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Mg} \cdot 2\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13}$. About the magnesium atom, certain structural parameters show evidence of large steric interactions between the quinuclidine molecules and the methyl groups. It was therefore of interest to study the analogous beryllium compound in which such interactions must be even larger.

EXPERIMENTAL

Dimethylbis(quinuclidine)beryllium was prepared by reacting dimethylberyllium with quinuclidine (1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane) in benzene. The solution was

(continued on p. 20)

* To whom correspondence concerning this publication should be addressed.

TABLE I
OBSERVED AND CALCULATED STRUCTURE FACTORS

h	k	l	h ²	k ²	l ²	hkl	obs	calc	h	k	l	h ²	k ²	l ²	hkl	obs	calc	h	k	l	h ²	k ²	l ²	hkl	obs	calc	
0	0	0	0	0	0	000	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	000	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	000	100	100
0	0	1	0	0	1	001	100	100	0	0	1	0	0	1	001	100	100	0	0	1	0	0	1	001	100	100	100
0	1	0	0	1	0	010	100	100	0	1	0	0	1	0	010	100	100	0	1	0	0	1	0	010	100	100	100
0	1	1	0	1	1	011	100	100	0	1	1	0	1	1	011	100	100	0	1	1	0	1	1	011	100	100	100
1	0	0	1	0	0	100	100	100	1	0	0	1	0	0	100	100	100	1	0	0	1	0	0	100	100	100	100
1	0	1	1	0	1	101	100	100	1	0	1	1	0	1	101	100	100	1	0	1	1	0	1	101	100	100	100
1	0	2	1	0	4	102	100	100	1	0	2	1	0	4	102	100	100	1	0	2	1	0	4	102	100	100	100
1	1	0	1	1	0	110	100	100	1	1	0	1	1	0	110	100	100	1	1	0	1	1	0	110	100	100	100
1	1	1	1	1	1	111	100	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	111	100	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	111	100	100	100
1	2	0	1	4	0	120	100	100	1	2	0	1	4	0	120	100	100	1	2	0	1	4	0	120	100	100	100
1	2	1	1	4	1	121	100	100	1	2	1	1	4	1	121	100	100	1	2	1	1	4	1	121	100	100	100
1	2	2	1	4	4	122	100	100	1	2	2	1	4	4	122	100	100	1	2	2	1	4	4	122	100	100	100
2	0	0	4	0	0	200	100	100	2	0	0	4	0	0	200	100	100	2	0	0	4	0	0	200	100	100	100
2	0	1	4	0	1	201	100	100	2	0	1	4	0	1	201	100	100	2	0	1	4	0	1	201	100	100	100
2	0	2	4	0	4	202	100	100	2	0	2	4	0	4	202	100	100	2	0	2	4	0	4	202	100	100	100
2	1	0	4	1	0	210	100	100	2	1	0	4	1	0	210	100	100	2	1	0	4	1	0	210	100	100	100
2	1	1	4	1	1	211	100	100	2	1	1	4	1	1	211	100	100	2	1	1	4	1	1	211	100	100	100
2	1	2	4	1	4	212	100	100	2	1	2	4	1	4	212	100	100	2	1	2	4	1	4	212	100	100	100
2	2	0	4	4	0	220	100	100	2	2	0	4	4	0	220	100	100	2	2	0	4	4	0	220	100	100	100
2	2	1	4	4	1	221	100	100	2	2	1	4	4	1	221	100	100	2	2	1	4	4	1	221	100	100	100
2	2	2	4	4	4	222	100	100	2	2	2	4	4	4	222	100	100	2	2	2	4	4	4	222	100	100	100
3	0	0	9	0	0	300	100	100	3	0	0	9	0	0	300	100	100	3	0	0	9	0	0	300	100	100	100
3	0	1	9	0	1	301	100	100	3	0	1	9	0	1	301	100	100	3	0	1	9	0	1	301	100	100	100
3	0	2	9	0	4	302	100	100	3	0	2	9	0	4	302	100	100	3	0	2	9	0	4	302	100	100	100
3	1	0	9	1	0	310	100	100	3	1	0	9	1	0	310	100	100	3	1	0	9	1	0	310	100	100	100
3	1	1	9	1	1	311	100	100	3	1	1	9	1	1	311	100	100	3	1	1	9	1	1	311	100	100	100
3	1	2	9	1	4	312	100	100	3	1	2	9	1	4	312	100	100	3	1	2	9	1	4	312	100	100	100
3	2	0	9	4	0	320	100	100	3	2	0	9	4	0	320	100	100	3	2	0	9	4	0	320	100	100	100
3	2	1	9	4	1	321	100	100	3	2	1	9	4	1	321	100	100	3	2	1	9	4	1	321	100	100	100
3	2	2	9	4	4	322	100	100	3	2	2	9	4	4	322	100	100	3	2	2	9	4	4	322	100	100	100
4	0	0	16	0	0	400	100	100	4	0	0	16	0	0	400	100	100	4	0	0	16	0	0	400	100	100	100
4	0	1	16	0	1	401	100	100	4	0	1	16	0	1	401	100	100	4	0	1	16	0	1	401	100	100	100
4	0	2	16	0	4	402	100	100	4	0	2	16	0	4	402	100	100	4	0	2	16	0	4	402	100	100	100
4	1	0	16	1	0	410	100	100	4	1	0	16	1	0	410	100	100	4	1	0	16	1	0	410	100	100	100
4	1	1	16	1	1	411	100	100	4	1	1	16	1	1	411	100	100	4	1	1	16	1	1	411	100	100	100
4	1	2	16	1	4	412	100	100	4	1	2	16	1	4	412	100	100	4	1	2	16	1	4	412	100	100	100
4	2	0	16	4	0	420	100	100	4	2	0	16	4	0	420	100	100	4	2	0	16	4	0	420	100	100	100
4	2	1	16	4	1	421	100	100	4	2	1	16	4	1	421	100	100	4	2	1	16	4	1	421	100	100	100
4	2	2	16	4	4	422	100	100	4	2	2	16	4	4	422	100	100	4	2	2	16	4	4	422	100	100	100
5	0	0	25	0	0	500	100	100	5	0	0	25	0	0	500	100	100	5	0	0	25	0	0	500	100	100	100
5	0	1	25	0	1	501	100	100	5	0	1	25	0	1	501	100	100	5	0	1	25	0	1	501	100	100	100
5	0	2	25	0	4	502	100	100	5	0	2	25	0	4	502	100	100	5	0	2	25	0	4	502	100	100	100
5	1	0	25	1	0	510	100	100	5	1	0	25	1	0	510	100	100	5	1	0	25	1	0	510	100	100	100
5	1	1	25	1	1	511	100	100	5	1	1	25	1	1	511	100	100	5	1	1	25	1	1	511	100	100	100
5	1	2	25	1	4	512	100	100	5	1	2	25	1	4	512	100	100	5	1	2	25	1	4	512	100	100	100
5	2	0	25	4	0	520	100	100	5	2	0	25	4	0	520	100	100	5	2	0	25	4	0	520	100	100	100
5	2	1	25	4	1	521	100	100	5	2	1	25	4	1	521	100	100	5	2	1	25	4	1	521	100	100	100
5	2	2	25	4	4	522	100	100	5	2	2	25	4	4	522	100	100	5	2	2	25	4	4	522	100	100	100
6	0	0	36	0	0	600	100	100	6	0	0	36	0	0	600	100	100	6	0	0	36	0	0	600	100	100	100
6	0	1	36	0	1	601	100	100	6	0	1	36	0	1	601	100	100	6	0	1	36	0	1	601	100	100	100
6	0	2	36	0	4	602	100	100	6	0	2	36	0	4	602	100	100	6	0	2	36	0	4	602	100	100	100
6	1	0	36	1	0	610	100	100	6	1	0	36	1	0	610	100	100	6	1	0	36	1	0	610	100	100	100
6	1	1	36	1	1	611	100	100	6	1	1	36	1	1	611	100	100	6	1	1	36	1	1	611	100	100	100
6	1	2	36	1	4	612	100	100	6	1	2	36	1	4	612	100	100	6	1	2	36	1	4	612	100	100	100
6	2	0	36	4	0	620	100	100	6	2	0	36	4	0	620	100	100	6	2	0	36	4	0	620	100	100	100
6	2	1	36	4	1	621	100	100	6	2	1	36	4	1	621	100	100	6	2	1	36	4	1	621	100	100	100
6	2	2	36	4	4	622	100	100	6	2	2	36	4	4	622	100	100	6	2	2	36	4	4	622	100	100	100
7	0	0	49	0	0	700	100	100	7	0	0	49	0	0	700	100	100	7	0	0	49	0	0	700	100	100	100
7	0	1	49	0	1	701	100	100	7	0	1	49	0	1	701	100	100	7	0	1	49	0	1	701	100	100	100
7	0	2	49	0	4	702	100	100	7	0	2	49	0	4	702	100	100	7	0	2	49	0	4	702	100	100	100
7	1	0	49	1	0	710	100	100	7	1	0	49	1	0	710	100	100	7	1	0	49	1	0	710	100	100	100
7	1	1	49	1	1	711	100	100	7	1	1	49															

heated for an hour at 50°. Clear, colorless crystals of the air-sensitive compound were deposited upon cooling. All manipulations were carried out in an inert atmosphere box.

Preliminary Weissenberg (Cu $K\alpha$) and precession (Mo $K\alpha$) photographs of a needle-like crystal of $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be}\cdot 2\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13}$ showed the crystal system to be monoclinic. Systematic absences ($h0l$, $l \neq 2n$; $0k0$, $k \neq 2n$) uniquely determined the space group to be $P2_1/c$. The unit cell parameters are: $a = 11.82 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$; $b = 12.71 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$; $c = 12.00 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$; $\beta = 113.1 \pm 0.3^\circ$; $V = 1658 \text{ \AA}^3$. With $Z = 4$, the calculated density is 1.05 g/cm^3 .

Eight layers of multiple-film equi-inclination Weissenberg data ($hk0$ to $hk7$) were obtained with Ni-filtered Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. 671 independent reflections were visually estimated by comparison with a calibrated intensity scale. Individual layers were scaled together by exposure time.

Calculations were made with an IBM 360/50 computer. Lorentz, polarization, and spot size corrections reduced the observed intensities to squared structure factors. The crystal had dimensions of $0.20 \times 0.20 \times 0.50 \text{ mm}$ and a linear absorption coefficient of 4.45 cm^{-1} for Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. The maximum and minimum transmission factors differ by less than 2% and absorption corrections were not applied. Fourier calculations were made with the Argonne program of Gvildys⁶. Full-matrix least-squares refinement was carried out using the Busing and Levy program ORFLS⁷. The function $\sum \omega (|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ was minimized. Neutral atom scattering factors were taken from the compilations of Ibers⁸ for hydrogen, beryllium, carbon, and nitrogen. Final bond distances, angles, and errors were computed with the aid of the Busing, Martin, and Levy ORFFE program⁹.

STRUCTURE DETERMINATION

The realization of the isomorphism of dimethylbis(quinuclidine)beryllium and dimethylbis(quinuclidine)magnesium allowed the direct solution of the structure.

The fractional coordinates of the non-hydrogen atoms given for the magnesium analogue afforded a discrepancy factor of $R_1 = [\sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|] \times 100\% = 42\%$. Several cycles of difference Fourier refinement and least-squares refinement on the scale factors and positional parameters lowered R_1 to 24%. Refinement of isotropic temperature factors followed by positional parameter refinement reduced R_1 to 18.4%. At this point hydrogen atoms were placed on the quinuclidine molecules in calculated positions based on the geometry of the carbon-nitrogen-beryllium skeleton at a distance of 0.95 \AA from the associated carbon atoms. After each successive cycle of refinement of atomic coordinates, the hydrogen atom positions were recalculated. This produced a final R_1 value of 13.9% and $R_2 = [\sum \omega (|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum \omega |F_o|^2]^{1/2} \times 100\%$ of 13.2%. Anisotropic refinement of the structure did not produce significantly different results from the isotropic refinement. The final weighting scheme was an empirical one based on Cruickshank's criterion¹⁰ that data should be weighted so as to make $\omega (|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ constant over the entire range of $|F_o|$ values. The final cycle of refinement showed no parameter shift greater than 0.04 of one estimated standard deviation. A final difference Fourier map did not unambiguously reveal the location of the hydrogen atoms on the methyl groups and had no other feature greater than 0.5 e/\AA^3 . The estimated standard deviation for an observation of unit

TABLE 2

FINAL FRACTIONAL COORDINATES AND TEMPERATURE FACTORS

Atom	x/a	y/b	z/c	B
Be	0.2563(16)	0.0852(15)	0.2328(20)	2.45
C(15)	0.1840(14)	-0.0213(14)	0.1219(15)	5.29
C(16)	0.2848(13)	0.0619(11)	0.3901(14)	3.82
N(1)	0.1467(9)	0.2011(8)	0.1801(11)	1.91
N(2)	0.4132(8)	0.1199(8)	0.2304(10)	1.65
C(1)	0.1091(14)	0.2333(12)	0.0560(16)	3.99
C(2)	0.0078(16)	0.3189(15)	0.0114(18)	5.74
C(3)	0.0277(12)	0.1602(11)	0.1925(13)	2.87
C(4)	-0.0695(15)	0.2496(13)	0.1572(16)	4.96
C(5)	0.1850(14)	0.2950(13)	0.2530(16)	4.45
C(6)	0.0849(14)	0.3872(13)	0.2220(15)	4.44
C(7)	-0.0264(13)	0.3492(11)	0.1148(15)	3.44
C(8)	0.4820(16)	0.1955(15)	0.3144(16)	5.69
C(9)	0.6215(16)	0.2036(14)	0.3352(18)	6.27
C(10)	0.4132(21)	0.1473(18)	0.1147(24)	8.94
C(11)	0.5508(20)	0.1749(18)	0.1243(22)	8.88
C(12)	0.4797(14)	0.0209(13)	0.2610(16)	4.96
C(13)	0.6111(14)	0.0273(13)	0.2632(15)	4.44
C(14)	0.6381(13)	0.1381(12)	0.2406(16)	4.05
H1[C(15)]	0.1783	0.0074	0.0454	4.00
H2[C(15)]	0.2412	-0.0784	0.1410	4.00
H3[C(15)]	0.1102	-0.0390	0.1211	4.00
H4[C(16)]	0.3207	0.1221	0.4341	4.00
H5[C(16)]	0.2118	0.0432	0.3975	4.00
H6[C(16)]	0.3428	0.0039	0.4174	4.00
H7[C(1)]	0.1787	0.2588	0.0436	4.00
H8[C(1)]	0.0785	0.1718	0.0069	4.00
H9[C(2)]	-0.0648	0.2912	-0.0501	4.00
H10[C(2)]	0.0354	0.3780	-0.0165	4.00
H11[C(3)]	-0.0013	0.0999	0.1436	4.00
H12[C(3)]	0.0466	0.1410	0.2747	4.00
H13[C(4)]	-0.0949	0.2650	0.2180	4.00
H14[C(4)]	-0.1399	0.2261	0.0862	4.00
H15[C(5)]	0.2574	0.3201	0.2457	4.00
H16[C(5)]	0.2075	0.2724	0.3358	4.00
H17[C(6)]	0.1221	0.4404	0.2088	4.00
H18[C(6)]	0.0685	0.4001	0.2949	4.00
H19[C(7)]	-0.0858	0.4098	0.0958	4.00
H20[C(8)]	0.4459	0.2659	0.2793	4.00
H21[C(8)]	0.4754	0.1886	0.3861	4.00
H22[C(9)]	0.6679	0.1779	0.4109	4.00
H23[C(9)]	0.6433	0.2749	0.3270	4.00
H24[C(10)]	0.3627	0.2114	0.0833	4.00
H25[C(10)]	0.3819	0.0952	0.0553	4.00
H26[C(11)]	0.5640	0.1461	0.0581	4.00
H27[C(11)]	0.5576	0.2528	0.1177	4.00
H28[C(12)]	0.4371	-0.0334	0.2109	4.00
H29[C(12)]	0.4905	0.0033	0.3437	4.00
H30[C(13)]	0.6149	-0.0159	0.1990	4.00
H31[C(13)]	0.6713	0.0040	0.3364	4.00
H32[C(14)]	0.7203	0.1408	0.2426	4.00

TABLE 3

BOND DISTANCES FOR $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot (\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13})_2$

Bond	Distance (Å)	Bond	Distance (Å)
Be-C(15)	1.85(3)	Be-N(1)	1.90(2)
Be-C(16)	1.81(3)	Be-N(2)	1.92(2)
N(1)-C(1)	1.44(2)	N(2)-C(8)	1.40(2)
N(1)-C(3)	1.56(2)	N(2)-C(10)	1.43(3)
N(1)-C(5)	1.44(2)	N(2)-C(12)	1.45(2)
C(1)-C(2)	1.55(2)	C(8)-C(9)	1.57(3)
C(3)-C(4)	1.55(2)	C(10)-C(11)	1.62(3)
C(5)-C(6)	1.60(2)	C(12)-C(13)	1.55(2)
C(2)-C(7)	1.50(3)	C(9)-C(14)	1.48(3)
C(4)-C(7)	1.52(2)	C(11)-C(14)	1.45(3)
C(6)-C(7)	1.51(2)	C(13)-C(14)	1.49(2)
<i>Nonbonded distances (Å)</i>			
N(1)-N(2)	3.14(1)	N(2)-C(15)	3.08(2)
N(1)-C(15)	2.98(2)	N(2)-C(16)	2.97(2)
N(1)-C(16)	2.99(2)	C(15)-C(16)	3.14(2)
C(15)-C(1)	3.37(2)	C(16)-C(3)	3.28(2)
C(15)-C(3)	3.27(2)	C(16)-C(5)	3.37(2)
C(15)-C(10)	3.48(2)	C(16)-C(8)	3.29(2)
C(15)-C(12)	3.28(2)	C(16)-C(12)	3.29(2)
C(1)-C(10)	3.56(3)		

TABLE 4

BOND ANGLES FOR $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot (\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13})_2$

Angle	Degrees (°)	Angle	Degrees (°)
C(15)-Be-C(16)	118.3(1.0)	N(1)-Be-N(2)	110.8(1.2)
C(15)-Be-N(1)	105.3(1.0)	C(16)-Be-N(2)	105.6(0.9)
C(16)-Be-N(1)	107.3(0.7)	C(15)-Be-N(2)	109.4(1.4)
Be-N(1)-C(1)	117.4(1.1)	Be-N(2)-C(8)	116.0(1.2)
Be-N(1)-C(3)	103.5(1.1)	Be-N(2)-C(10)	116.0(1.4)
Be-N(1)-C(5)	115.3(1.2)	Be-N(2)-C(12)	103.3(1.2)
N(1)-C(1)-C(2)	116.2(1.6)	N(2)-C(8)-C(9)	115.9(1.7)
N(1)-C(3)-C(4)	109.2(1.3)	N(2)-C(10)-C(11)	111.4(1.7)
N(1)-C(5)-C(6)	115.6(1.6)	N(2)-C(12)-C(13)	113.6(0.8)
C(1)-C(2)-C(7)	108.6(1.4)	C(8)-C(9)-C(14)	106.7(0.9)
C(3)-C(4)-C(7)	112.9(0.8)	C(10)-C(11)-C(14)	108.3(1.7)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	106.3(0.9)	C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	109.3(1.5)
C(1)-N(1)-C(3)	105.7(1.0)	C(8)-N(2)-C(10)	108.0(1.4)
C(1)-N(1)-C(5)	106.7(1.0)	C(8)-N(2)-C(12)	108.0(1.1)
C(3)-N(1)-C(5)	107.4(0.9)	C(10)-N(2)-C(12)	104.5(1.4)
C(2)-C(7)-C(4)	107.2(1.0)	C(11)-C(14)-C(13)	110.9(1.6)
C(2)-C(7)-C(6)	111.0(1.4)	C(9)-C(14)-C(11)	107.3(1.3)
C(4)-C(7)-C(6)	105.9(1.1)	C(9)-C(14)-C(13)	106.8(1.0)

weight after the last cycle of refinement was 2.47. The final calculated and observed structure factors are listed in Table 1. Final atomic parameters and standard deviations are tabulated in Table 2. Interatomic distances, angles, and errors are listed in Tables 3 and 4.

DISCUSSION OF STRUCTURE

The structure consists of monomeric $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Be} \cdot 2\text{NC}_7\text{H}_{13}$ molecules (Fig. 1) in which the coordination about the beryllium atom is distorted tetrahedral. The average beryllium-carbon bond distance (1.83 Å) is short compared to the beryllium-carbon distance (1.93 Å) in dimethylberyllium¹¹. This reflects the difference between a

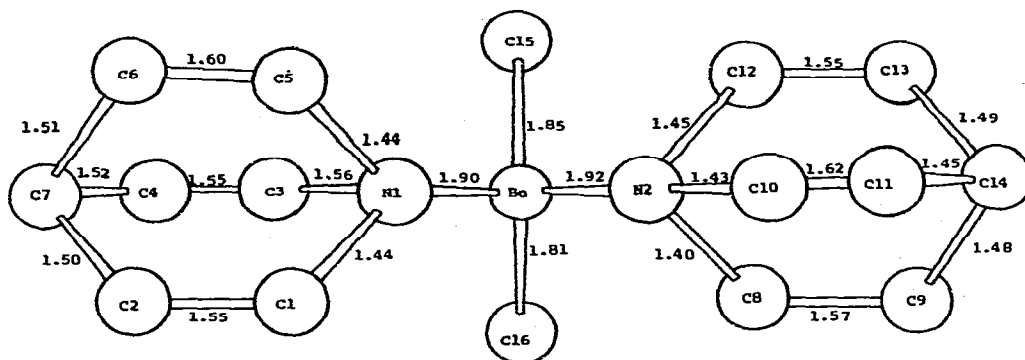


Fig. 1. Structure of dimethylbis(quinuclidine)beryllium.

terminal methyl and a bridge methyl bond length, and is in keeping with the results of structural studies on aluminum compounds^{12,13}. The value agrees favorably with the beryllium-carbon length of 1.80 Å reported¹⁴ in $[\text{NaO}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2] \cdot [(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{Be}_2\text{H}_2]$. Both are, however, significantly larger than the 1.70 Å beryllium-carbon length found from an electron diffraction study of di-tert-butyl beryllium¹³. The average beryllium-nitrogen bond length of 1.91 Å is quite long with reference to those found in bis(dimethylamino)beryllium where¹⁵ the beryllium-nitrogen distance involving both four-coordinate species is 1.78 Å.

The most important structural feature of the molecule is the large C(15)-Be-C(16) bond angle (118°) compared to the N(1)-Be-N(2) bond angle (111°). It is most easily explained in terms of the relatively short beryllium-carbon distance and the resulting demand placed on the methyl-methyl approach. The C(15)-C(16) distance is 3.14 Å with the 118° angle. Methyl-methyl distances of the same magnitude (3.12 Å) are found in bis(dimethylamino)beryllium and are believed to be reasonable since the substance is trimeric rather than polymeric¹⁵. If the C(15)-Be-C(16) bond angle were to approach 109° , and the Be-C bond length were to remain 1.83 Å, the C(15)-C(16) nonbonded distance would be much smaller than even 3.14 Å. Thus, steric factors alone are sufficient to explain the carbon-beryllium-carbon bond angle.

The same reasoning does not apply to the magnesium analogue (where the carbon-magnesium-carbon bond angle is 129°). Table 5 contains a comparison of

TABLE 5

COMPARISON OF SHORTEST NONBONDED DISTANCES (Å)

Distance	(CH ₃) ₂ Be·2NC ₇ H ₁₃	(CH ₃) ₂ Mg·2NC ₇ H ₁₃
Methyl-methyl	3.14	3.96
Methyl-methylene	3.27	3.58
Methylene-methylene	3.56	3.88

the nonbonded distances in the two compounds. Methyl-methyl repulsions must now be of minor importance. Toney and Stucky propose two possible explanations⁵. The first entails a forcing apart of the methyl groups by interactions with the methylene groups on the quinuclidine molecules. The second is based on a possible difference in *s* and *p* character in the magnesium bonds to carbon and nitrogen. While the methyl-methylene interactions are not severe in the magnesium compound compared to the beryllium compound, they may be a contributory factor. The secondary hybridization argument seems less likely in view of the magnitude of the electronegativity difference in reference to the large deviation of the carbon-magnesium-carbon angle from the tetrahedral value. Certainly, the results of the (CH₃)₂Be·2NC₇H₁₃ structure do not support the idea that electronic effects are of primary importance in determining the geometry about the metal atom. A further consideration that has received no attention is the possibility that the origin of the distortion might be based on interactions between molecules in the lattice. The final explanation of the carbon-magnesium-carbon bond angle will probably be found in a weighted combination of steric, electronic, and lattice effects.

In the quinuclidine molecules the average nitrogen-carbon distance (1.45 Å), carbon-carbon distance (1.57 Å), carbon-terminal carbon distance (1.49 Å), and the symmetry of the cage are not significantly different from those in the magnesium analogue⁵.

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