

compounds with metal ions, it was found advisable to devise a system for the classification of chelating groups present in various organic compounds to serve as a basis of comparison. The available classifications, in particular that of Diehl,¹ are too unwieldy for rapid grouping and comparison. In addition to classifying the organic compounds now known, any system should also present information concerning possible re-

agents. The common method of indicating the number of members in the completed chelate ring is too cumbersome, in view of the recent increases in both number and variety of compounds possessing groups capable of chelation.

In this classification the two functioning groups, which supply the primary and secondary valences involved in the general formation of a chelate ring, and the atom or atoms linking these two groups form the basis of the system. Compounds with identical chelating groups have the same group designation, regardless of the structure of the remainder of the molecule. The group designation is derived as follows: (a) The atom or atoms connecting the two functional groups are expressed by their conventional symbols, arranged alphabetically. (b) The functioning groups are given by their symbolic representations in alphabetical order of the atoms by which they are attached to the original compound before chelation.

In salicylaldehyde, for example, the functional groups are linked by three carbon atoms, and these functional groups are the oxime and hydroxyl radicals. Consequently, the classification is C,C,C-NOH, OH.

The accompanying list gives in order of increasing complexity the designations of the more common chelating groups and the names of representative compounds containing such groupings. For the sake of clarity, structural formulas illustrating some of the inner complexes formed are also given. It is evident that exact knowledge of the structure of the chelate compound formed is not essential for this method, insofar as the primary and secondary valence connections are concerned. No attempt is made to designate these linkages as to type, and compounds are arranged solely on the basis of general structure.

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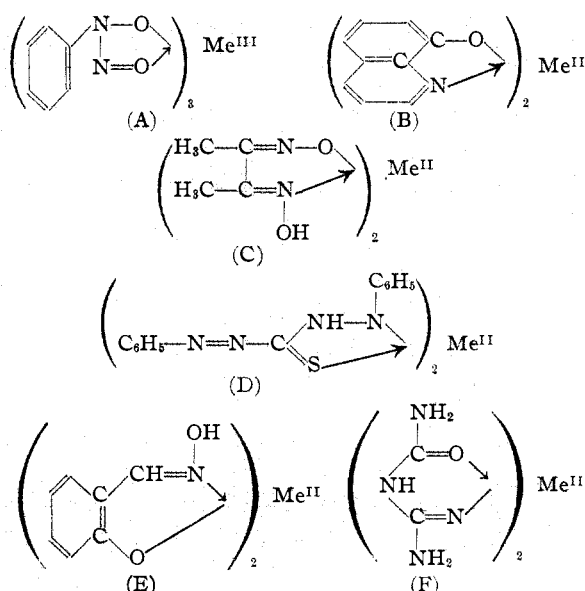
Dynamic Isomerism of Acetaldehyde 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazone

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In earlier papers the writer^{1,2} presented conclusive evidence based on optical crystallographic measurements that there are at least two distinct crystalline modifications of acetaldehyde 2,4-

TABLE I

Group designation	Representative compound
C-N, SH	Mercaptobenzothiazole
C-NH, SH	Rubanic acid
C-NOH, OH	Benzohydroxamic acid
N-NONH, O	Cupferron (A)
C,C-N, NOH	Phenyl α -pyridyl ketoxime
C,C-N, OH	8-Quinolinol (B)
C,C-N, SH	8-Quinolinethiol
C,C-NH, SH	Thionalide
C,C-NH ₂ , OH	Glycocoll
C,C-NOH, NOH	Dimethylglyoxime (C)
C,C-NOH, O	α -Nitroso- β -naphthol
C,C-O, OH	Oxalic acid
C,C-O, SH	Thioglycolic acid
C,C-OH, OH	Catechol
C,C-OH, S	Thiohydantoic acid
C,N-NH, NOH	Nitrosoguanidine
C,N-NH ₂ , OH	Hydrazinecarboxylic acid
C,N-NH ₂ , SH	Dithizone (D)
C,C,C-N, NH	Chlorophyll type
C,C,C-NOH, OH	Salicylaldehyde (E)
C,C,C-O, OH	Alizarin
C,C,N-N, NH	Phthalocyanine
C,C,N-NH, NH	Biguanidine
C,C,N-NH, NH ₂	Biuret
C,C,N-NH, O	Dicyandiamidine (F)



(1) H. Diehl, *Chem. Rev.*, **21**, 39-111 (1937).

(1) Bryant, *This Journal*, **55**, 3201 (1933).

(2) *Ibid.*, **58**, 2335 (1936).