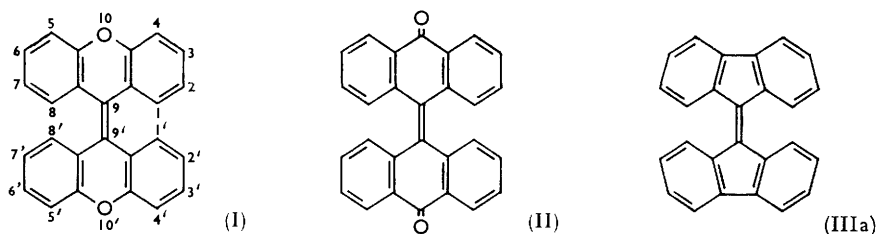


#### 49. Thermochromism and Related Effects in Bixanthenylidenes and Bianthronylidenes. Part I. Crystal Structure Analyses.

By J. F. D. MILLS and S. C. NYBURG.

Two polymorphic forms of 9,9'-bixanthenylene,  $\beta$  (yellow) and  $\alpha$  (blue-green), have been subjected to X-ray analysis and shown to contain molecules in the same "doubly bent" conformation.

9,9'-BIXANTHENYLIDENE (I) belongs to a class of organic compounds sometimes called "thermochromic ethylenes" because, in the crystalline state and in solution, it changes colour with rise in temperature. We defer the detailed discussion of this and related phenomena to the following paper where the reasons for undertaking the crystal structure analyses of these two polymorphs will be made clear. Briefly, a widely held view is that thermochromic ethylenes can exist in at least two, and in some cases three, different molecular conformations. One of these conformations is regarded as the normal state of the molecule and in this it has either no colour absorption or, at most, only a pale colour. The other two conformations are associated with thermal excitation and irradiation of the material, respectively, and then the molecules exhibit strong absorption in the visible spectrum. To the normal form is ascribed the "doubly bent" conformation established by X-ray structure analysis for the closely related molecules bianthronyl<sup>1</sup> (II) and 9,9'-bi-



fluorenylidene<sup>2</sup> (IIIa), whereas the other conformations are said to have each half of the molecule planar (instead of bent) but to be twisted to a greater or lesser extent about the central double bond. It appeared that an X-ray crystal structure analysis of the pale yellow and of the deep blue-green crystals of 9,9'-bixanthenylidene would throw some light on the general problem of thermochromism.

When we commenced these X-ray analyses we held the view that because of steric interaction it would be impossible for hydrogen atoms in the 1,1'- or 8,8'-positions to pass each other in order for the twisted conformation to be attained. Scale drawings indicate the extent of the conflict (following paper). However, we have recently been informed of the careful experimental work of Theilacker and his collaborators<sup>3</sup> on the optical activity of certain derivatives of bixanthenylidene and bianthronylidene. The results are discussed in more detail in Part II, but the most important observations concern the two optically active enantiomorphs of 9,9'-bithioxanthenylidene-4-carboxylic acid, the sulphur analogue of the corresponding bixanthenylidenecarboxylic acid. That these optically active isomers can be prepared is not itself surprising since neither the doubly bent nor the twisted conformation would be superimposable on its mirror image. What is surprising is that these acids, which have large specific rotations of the order of 280°, racemise

<sup>1</sup> Harnik and Schmidt, *J.*, 1954, 3295.

<sup>2</sup> Nyburg, *Acta Cryst.*, 1954, 7, 779.

<sup>3</sup> Theilacker, personal communication.

spontaneously in dioxan. This can only be explained if the outer benzene rings "flip over" to occupy the opposite side of the mean molecular plane.

Had we known of these experimental details we should have had less confidence in assuming that the molecules in the two crystalline forms of bixanthenylidene both had doubly bent conformations. In the event, however, this assumption proved correct.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

9,9'-Bixanthenylidene was generously provided as a gift in powder form by Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Dyestuffs Division. Harnik *et al.*<sup>4</sup> reported on the unit-cell dimensions and possible space groups for two crystalline forms of bixanthenylidene, but did not give details as to how the crystals were obtained. We have prepared two forms and the unit-cell dimensions and systematically absent *X*-ray reflections agree with those given by Harnik *et al.*

Good crystals of the  $\beta$ -form (yellow) were obtained by slowly cooling *m*-xylene solutions. Unlike Harnik *et al.*, we never obtained blue crystals concurrently with yellow crystals from solution.

The  $\alpha$ -crystals (deep blue-green) were obtained by subliming the  $\beta$ -form in a 250—130° gradient at about 10<sup>-3</sup> mm. No extensive study of the best experimental conditions was carried out, and those blue-green crystals that we did obtain were always accompanied by a certain amount of the yellow  $\beta$ -form. The outcome of sublimation was not highly reproducible, repeated trials under ostensibly the same conditions not always giving the required blue-green form.\* It was, however, possible from successful sublimations to pick out clean single crystals suitable for *X*-ray analysis which showed no diffraction effects due to  $\beta$ -contamination. Measurement of the unit-cell dimensions and observation of the systematic absences indicated that these blue-green crystals were of the polymorph examined by Harnik *et al.* Our crystals, however, unlike theirs, appeared to be stable indefinitely.

(Yellow)  $\beta$ -Bixanthenylidene.—(a) On the basis of crystallographic axes allocated as below, the crystals grown from *m*-xylene solution were acicular along the *z*-axis, the only predominant forms being {110} and {001}. The measured unit-cell dimensions were in accord with those found by Harnik *et al.*, and since these workers cite a greater accuracy than can be claimed for our measurements we cite theirs.

The usual multiple-film technique was used for recording *X*-ray reflections on a (Leeds) Weissenberg goniometer. Unfiltered Cu-*K*<sub>α</sub> radiation was generated from a demountable *X*-ray tube of the type described by Rymer and Hambling.<sup>5</sup> In measuring intensity values corrections for spot extension were made by Phillips's graphical method.<sup>6</sup>

The crystal data for this form are as follows. Formula C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, *M* = 360.4. Crystal system monoclinic, point group 2/*m*; cell dimensions (*y*-axis unique), *a* = 14.87 ± 0.15, *b* = 12.90 ± 0.13, *c* = 9.41 ± 0.09 Å,  $\beta$  = 95°15' ± 30'; unit-cell volume 1797 (±54) Å<sup>3</sup>, density measured by flotation in ether-carbon tetrachloride, 1.32<sub>6</sub> at 20°C. For *Z* = 4, calculated density is 1.30<sub>9</sub>. *F*(000) = 336, systematic absences were *hkl* absent for *h* + *k* odd, *h*0*l* absent for *h* odd (and *l* odd), 0*k*0 absent for *k* odd. Whence the space group is either C2/*c*, C2/*n*, C*c*, or C*n*.

Crystals for *X*-ray analysis were cut as nearly cubic in shape as possible and were about 0.5 mm. in maximum dimension. For this size, errors in intensity values due to absorption are estimated to be less than 3% for any one reflection. The crystals were dipped in liquid air before the *X*-ray examination.

To distinguish between the centric and the acentric space groups, the zero-moment test<sup>7</sup> was applied to the *h**k*0 intensity values. The distribution found was hypercentric, indicating, as found by Harnik *et al.*,<sup>8</sup> either C2/*c* or C2/*n*. The centres of symmetry additional to those

\* Harnik *et al.*<sup>4</sup> remark that they obtained the blue form "only once."

<sup>4</sup> Harnik, Herbstein, Schmidt, and Hirshfield, *J.*, 1954, 3288.

<sup>5</sup> Rymer and Hambling, *J. Sci. Instr.*, 1952, 29, 192.

<sup>6</sup> Phillips, *Acta Cryst.*, 1954, 7, 746; 1956, 9, 819.

<sup>7</sup> Howells, Phillips, and Rogers, *Acta Cryst.*, 1950, 3, 210.

<sup>8</sup> Harnik, Herbstein, and Schmidt, *Nature*, 1951, 168, 158.

required by either of these space groups were later traced to the fact that the molecules lie almost normal to the  $z$ -axis; in this projection each half of the molecule has virtually an additional centre of symmetry at the centre of the inner heterocyclic ring.

The Leeds Weissenberg goniometer used limited the range of accessible Bragg angle to  $\sin^{-1} \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}$ . Of the approximately 1400 reflections lying within this angle, some 951 were estimated for intensity. A Wilson plot of all the intensity data gave a mean temperature factor of  $5.8 \text{ \AA}^2$ .

(b) *Structure analysis.* Since we believed that the molecules in both crystal modifications of bixanthenylidene had the doubly bent conformation or a closely related conformation and that elementary stereochemical considerations would enable us to assign this conformation with some certainty, the most suitable method of structure analysis seemed to be by way of the Fourier (molecular) transform obtained optically.<sup>9</sup> Because the molecules are not planar

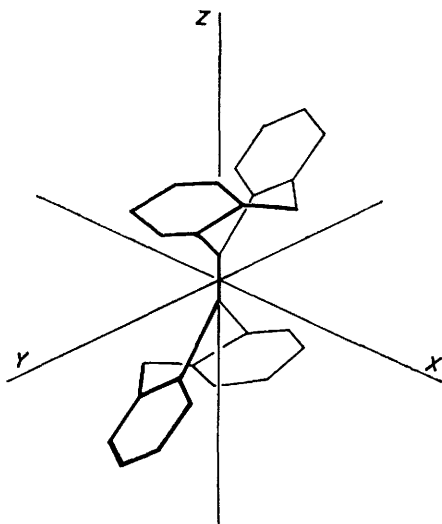


FIG. 1. Molecular axes assigned to 9,9'-bixanthenylidene.

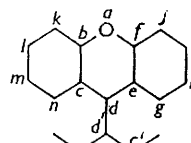


FIG. 2. Lettering scheme.

we were not applying the method at its simplest, but in fact we did not encounter any undue difficulties.

The initial conformation chosen for the molecule in both crystal modifications was assigned on the basis of considerations arising out of the  $X$ -ray crystal structure analysis<sup>1</sup> of bianthrnylidene (II). We could find no previous studies which would guide us as to the extent to which the replacement of the  $C=O$  group in bianthrnylidene by an oxygen atom in bixanthenylidene would change the stereochemistry. Our guess was that the heterocyclic ring would have a boat conformation, just as the corresponding ring in bianthrnylidene has and, again as in bianthrnylidene, that the 1,1'- and 8,8'-carbon atoms would be in as close conflict as their non-bonded atomic radii would permit. In the event, this guess proved quite accurate.

The considerations leading to a trial structure were straight forward. In  $C2/c$  or  $C2/n$  with  $Z = 4$ , the  $y$ -projected cell can be divided into four sub-cells each containing one projected molecule in the same orientation. The problem with a molecule of assumed stereochemistry thus resolves into the assigning of three parameters, the two angles needed to specify the orientation of the central double bond with respect to the crystallographic co-ordinate frame plus the angle of rotation of the molecule around this central double bond. Molecular axes  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  were assigned as in Fig. 1, which is self-explanatory. Elementary packing considerations suggested that the crystallographic  $y$ -axis lay near the  $YZ$  molecular plane. Accordingly

<sup>9</sup> Lipson and Taylor, "Fourier Transforms and  $X$ -Ray Diffraction." Macmillan, London, 1958.

masks were punched which gave, to scale, the atomic positions of the molecule as they would be observed in projection along various lines lying in the  $YZ$  molecular plane. Four such masks were made representing projections viewed  $0^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $60^\circ$ , and  $90^\circ$  from the  $Z$ -molecular axis and the agreement of the optical transform with the weighted reciprocal lattice for the  $30^\circ$  mask was found on rotation in its own plane to be sufficiently encouraging for us to attempt its refinement. By slight angular variations from this projection a very satisfactory fit was ultimately attained. The agreement was further improved by use of the variable structure factor graph.<sup>10</sup>

At this stage it was possible to distinguish between  $C2/c$  and  $C2/n$  which, of course, give identical  $y$ -projections. Calculation of a few  $F(hkl)$  values based on atomic co-ordinates now established by the optical transform showed the true space group to be unambiguously  $C2/c$ .

From this point calculations of structure factors and of electron density were carried out on a Deuce computer with programmes devised by Dr. J. S. Rollett<sup>11</sup> and atomic scattering factors for carbon and oxygen given by Berghuis *et al.*<sup>12</sup> Computing times were about 75 min. for 1400  $F(hkl)$  values and 90 min. for 7750 electron density points based on these  $F(hkl)$  values.

Initially 300  $F(hkl)$  values in the range  $0 < \sin \theta < 0.5$  were computed. There were no calculated  $F(hkl)$  values giving outstandingly bad agreement with observed values, and the residual  $R$  was 0.44. Five cycles based on the full 1400  $F(hkl)$  values brought  $R$  down to 0.20, this calculated with the omission of a few low-order reflections clearly subject to extinction and with non-observed reflections taken as half the minimum observable. At the last cycle, there were 24 sign changes, almost all for non-observed reflections. The observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 1.

In order to avoid confusion with the various chemical atomic numbering schemes, the atoms have been assigned letters as in Fig. 2. Atoms related to these by the centre of symmetry at the midpoint of  $dd'$  are given corresponding primed letters.

The fractional atomic co-ordinates found for the  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene molecule centred on the origin were as set out in Table 2. In addition to fractional atomic co-ordinates, co-ordinates in Å are also given for orthogonal axes. These are chosen such that  $X$  lies along  $x$ ,  $Y$  along  $y$  (thus  $Z$  subtends  $\beta - \pi/2$  with  $z$ ).\*

Stereochemical implications of these atomic co-ordinates are discussed below.

*Blue-green  $\alpha$ -9,9'-Bixanthenylidene.*—(a) The blue-green crystals picked out from the sublimate were not usually sufficiently well-formed for their normal habit to be obvious; some were tabular. Within an hour of preparation, the colour of the crystals faded slightly from the initial deep blue-green to a somewhat paler shade but did not change subsequently. The  $X$ -ray photographs were free from any sign of powder either as  $\beta$ -contaminant or from decomposition: they were also free from signs of disordering. The largest crystal examined by  $X$ -rays was  $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.25$  mm. Intensity data were collected as for  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene. Cell dimensions agreed with those determined by Harnik *et al.* and these are given below.

The crystal data for this form are as follows. Crystal system monoclinic, crystal point group probably  $2/m$ ; cell dimensions ( $y$ -axis unique),  $a = 15.19 \pm 0.15$ ,  $b = 6.26 \pm 0.06$ ,  $c = 18.93 \pm 0.19$  Å,  $\beta = 93^\circ 9' \pm 30'$ . Unit cell volume 1798 ( $\pm 54$ ) Å<sup>3</sup> (note close correspondence with that of  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene); density measured by flotation in ether-carbon tetrachloride, 1.34<sub>2</sub>; for  $Z = 4$ , calculated density 1.30<sub>9</sub>.  $F(000) = 336$ . Systematic absences were  $hkl$  absent for  $h + l$  odd,  $h0l$  for  $h$  odd,  $0k0$  for  $k$  odd. Space group  $A2/a$ ,  $A2/n$ ,  $Aa$ , or  $An$ .

Crystals were dipped in liquid air before  $X$ -ray examination. The zero-moment test gave a centric distribution indicating  $A2/a$  or  $A2/n$ . Of the 1400 accessible  $F(hkl)$  values, 1095 were measured. These gave an average temperature factor of 4.0 Å<sup>2</sup>.

(b) *Structure analysis.* The same molecular conformation was used as a trial structure as that used for  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene. Also, just as for  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene, the unit cell in  $y$ -projection can be divided into four subcells in each of which the molecules have the same orientation. In this case, however, the  $b$  repeat is short so that the molecules cannot lie with their mean planes close to the crystallographic  $xy$ -plane. Thus the molecular  $Z$ -axis lies close

\* These axes are not to be confused with molecular axes of Fig. 1.

<sup>10</sup> Morley and Taylor, *J. Sci. Inst.*, 1957, **34**, 54.

<sup>11</sup> Rollett, "Computing Methods and the Phase Problem in X-ray Analysis," ed. R. Pepinsky *et al.*, Pergamon, Oxford, 1961.

<sup>12</sup> Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry, and Veenendaal, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 478.







TABLE 1. (Continued.)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	
13	5	2-	44	-41	14	0	6-	16	-17	14	4	3-	55	-49	15	1	3-	20	-18	15	5	1	<18	1	
		1-	68	-43			4-	95	97			2-	34	-27			2-	34	-33			2	<17	9	
		0	<22	20			2-	26	-34			1-	90	-87			1-	<20	-3						
		1	21	32			0	<15	1			0	37	29			0	29	-28	16	0	4-	42	-40	
		2	44	60			2	22	-21			1	<20	-33			1	<20	-8			2-	<15	6	
		3	<20	9			4	28	18			2	<20	-17			2	<20	21			0	<15	-3	
		4	21	35	14	2	6-	<17	-5			3	<17	-11			3	<17	-14			2	<12	3	
13	7	5-	29	-28			5-	29	19			4	<15	9	15	3	4-	<15	-1	16	2	3-	21	-19	
		4-	<15	-12			4-	57	44	14	6	4-	<15	-6			3-	60	-42			2-	12	13	
		3-	28	-22			3-	20	13			3-	<17	4			2-	18	22			1-	<20	15	
		2-	37	20			2-	57	-57			2-	<20	-10			1-	<20	7			0	26	-16	
		1-	<20	-12			1-	<20	15			1-	20	6			0	<20	10			1	<17	11	
		0	35	-26			0	<21	1			0	<18	-1			1	<20	19	16	4	2-	<17	11	
		1	20	21			1	44	78			1	<20	-5			2	<20	11			1-	<17	13	
		2	<17	-1			2	<20	-31			2	<17	-5			3	<17	2			0	<17	-9	
		3	<17	-11			3	<20	27			3	<17	-5	15	5	3-	<17	-3						
13	9	2-	55	37			4	7	6								2-	20	14						
		1-	54	-29	14	4	5-	16	-16	15	1	5-	16	11			1-	18	-5						
		0	<20	-14			4-	<17	1			4-	<15	-8			0	<17	-3						

$\Sigma F_o = 75,800$ .  $\Sigma F_c = 75,989$ .  $R = (\Sigma F_o - \Sigma F_c) / \Sigma F_c = 0.20$ .

Values suffering from extinction such as 110, 111, and 20 $\bar{2}$  are not included in the data when calculating the residual, but unobserved reflections are included as half their minimum observable value. The scale of the *F*'s tabulated here is  $\frac{1}{2} \times F_{\text{absolute}} \times 10$ . The observed values are thought to be accurate to about 10%.

TABLE 2.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>
<i>a</i>	0.143 <sub>7</sub>	0.205 <sub>5</sub>	0.041 <sub>0</sub>	2.10 <sub>1</sub>	2.65 <sub>1</sub>	0.38 <sub>4</sub>	<i>h</i>	0.229 <sub>2</sub>	0.053 <sub>8</sub>	0.269 <sub>0</sub>	3.17 <sub>2</sub>	0.69 <sub>4</sub>	2.52 <sub>0</sub>
<i>b</i>	0.051 <sub>3</sub>	0.227 <sub>4</sub>	0.041 <sub>8</sub>	0.72 <sub>8</sub>	2.93 <sub>3</sub>	0.39 <sub>1</sub>	<i>i</i>	0.289 <sub>2</sub>	0.026 <sub>8</sub>	0.253 <sub>8</sub>	4.07 <sub>7</sub>	0.34 <sub>8</sub>	2.37 <sub>8</sub>
<i>c</i>	0.012 <sub>5</sub>	0.148 <sub>1</sub>	0.044 <sub>7</sub>	0.22 <sub>5</sub>	1.91 <sub>0</sub>	0.41 <sub>9</sub>	<i>j</i>	0.258 <sub>0</sub>	0.112 <sub>6</sub>	0.172 <sub>6</sub>	3.68 <sub>4</sub>	1.45 <sub>3</sub>	1.61 <sub>7</sub>
<i>d</i>	0.023 <sub>3</sub>	0.040 <sub>8</sub>	0.035 <sub>9</sub>	0.31 <sub>4</sub>	0.52 <sub>8</sub>	0.33 <sub>7</sub>	<i>k</i>	0.027 <sub>6</sub>	0.331 <sub>1</sub>	0.041 <sub>0</sub>	0.37 <sub>4</sub>	4.27 <sub>1</sub>	0.38 <sub>4</sub>
<i>e</i>	0.113 <sub>4</sub>	0.031 <sub>5</sub>	0.118 <sub>7</sub>	1.58 <sub>2</sub>	0.40 <sub>8</sub>	1.11 <sub>2</sub>	<i>l</i>	0.060 <sub>6</sub>	0.357 <sub>8</sub>	0.053 <sub>9</sub>	0.94 <sub>8</sub>	4.61 <sub>8</sub>	0.50 <sub>5</sub>
<i>f</i>	0.171 <sub>3</sub>	0.113 <sub>5</sub>	0.109 <sub>8</sub>	2.45 <sub>1</sub>	1.46 <sub>4</sub>	1.02 <sub>9</sub>	<i>m</i>	0.125 <sub>0</sub>	0.281 <sub>0</sub>	0.069 <sub>2</sub>	1.92 <sub>0</sub>	3.62 <sub>8</sub>	0.68 <sub>4</sub>
<i>g</i>	0.139 <sub>7</sub>	0.052 <sub>0</sub>	0.205 <sub>3</sub>	1.89 <sub>7</sub>	0.67 <sub>1</sub>	1.92 <sub>4</sub>	<i>n</i>	0.099 <sub>0</sub>	0.176 <sub>6</sub>	0.064 <sub>1</sub>	1.52 <sub>8</sub>	2.27 <sub>8</sub>	0.60 <sub>0</sub>

Atomic co-ordinates for β-9,9'-bixanthenylidene, half-molecule centred on origin at  $\bar{1}$  on glide plane *c*. First three columns are fractional co-ordinates on crystallographic axes; second three columns are distances in Å along orthogonal axes oriented as given in the Text.

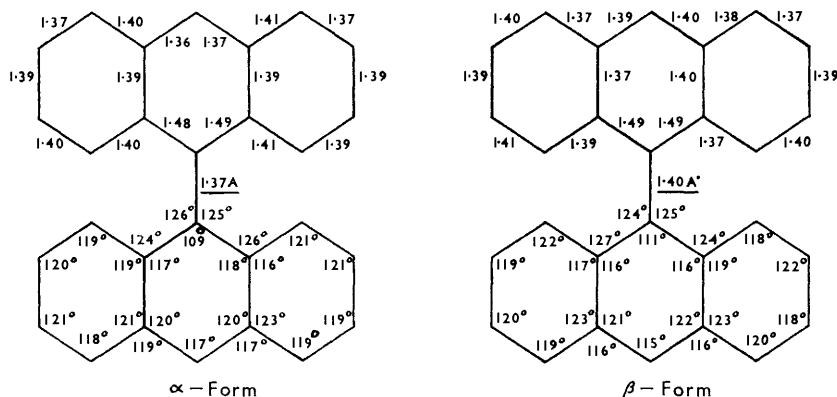


FIG. 3. Bond lengths and interbond angles in the two polymorphs.

the results to be fully refined a comparison of the two molecular structures would be of interest, such refinement was outside the scope of our immediate programme.

Both analyses obey the usual qualitative criteria for reliability in that in neither case is there any bad agreement between *F*<sub>o</sub> and *F*<sub>c</sub>, there are no spurious electron-density peaks or large



negative voids and there are no intermolecular atomic distances of unusually short length. The bond lengths and interbond angles calculated from the atomic co-ordinates are shown for both molecules in Fig. 3. What differences there are between the molecules probably lie within the limits of experimental error. Certainly the two molecules appear to be virtually identical in conformation. Since in the absence of unusual intermolecular contacts, the effect of intermolecular environment on bond lengths is generally very small it seems reasonable to assume that the observed differences between the molecules in the present analyses are due entirely to errors. If so, a comparison between the two suggests a probable error in bond lengths of about  $\pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$ , being half the largest difference between the lengths of corresponding bonds, which occurs in bonds *eg.* Similar considerations suggest a probable error in bond angles of about  $\pm 1.5^\circ$ .

TABLE 3.

Observed and calculated structure factors for  $\alpha$ -9,9'-bixanthenylidene.

(Values five times absolute.)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F<sub>o</sub></i>	<i>F<sub>c</sub></i>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F<sub>o</sub></i>	<i>F<sub>c</sub></i>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F<sub>o</sub></i>	<i>F<sub>c</sub></i>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F<sub>o</sub></i>	<i>F<sub>c</sub></i>			
0	0	2	587	753	0	7	1	26	-29	1	3	19	77	67	2	0	12	247	269			
		4	102	-76						1	4	16-	<22	6			14	162	154			
		6	221	-203								14-	119	73			16	<21	3			
		8	306	210	1	1	21-	<6	17			12-	196	180			18	77	-104			
		10	289	240			19-	-63	-60			10-	<14	4			20	<43	53			
		12	17	-11			17-	255	-201			8-	26	60	2	1	19-	77	68			
		14	<9	15			15-	<22	9			6-	68	-99			17-	60	-65			
		16	26	-20			13-	145	108			4-	77	56			15-	26	23			
		18	<9	15			11-	136	117			2-	34	19			13-	60	53			
		20	<9	7			9-	476	361			0	126	102			11-	43	-32			
0	1	1	179	-201			7-	<8	9			2	<1	13			9-	213	-267			
		3	272	262			5-	94	109			4	<17	24			7-	136	-164			
		5	221	-158			3-	264	-231			6	<17	24			5-	36	-23			
		7	26	7			1-	349	297			8	<9	6			3-	230	276			
		9	204	160			1	43	-37			10	102	-58			1-	485	-585			
		11	60	97			3	187	-189			12	238	-209			1	757	-1084			
		13	60	-46			5	34	22			14	<21	11			3	179	-199			
		15	68	70			7	153	118			16	<21	1			5	60	48			
		17	34	14			9	128	136	1	5	13-	<22	8			7	196	232			
		19	43	-46			11	136	-133			11-	77	-77			9	128	-164			
0	2	0	340	360			13	77	63			9	<21	3			11	162	-155			
		2	323	311			15	111	-76			7-	26	6			13	<17	17			
		4	102	124			17	94	-73			5-	170	202			15	85	92			
		6	94	-72			19	<26	12			3-	<17	5			17	60	-75			
		8	221	-214	1	2	20-	51	33			1-	68	-39			19	<17	5			
		10	<12	5			18-	111	67			1	77	-62	2	2	20-	17	24			
		12	51	30			16-	119	87			3	85	88			18-	<16	4			
		14	145	123			14-	162	125			5	85	74			16-	162	172			
		16	68	-64			12-	17	25			7	26	-12			14-	102	94			
		18	9	13			10-	85	93			9	34	32			12-	85	-97			
		20	77	70			8-	102	-123			11	26	28			10-	<10	3			
0	3	1	77	68			6-	94	124			13	<22	33			8-	111	103			
		3	170	-128			4-	44	53	1	6	10-	<29	11			6-	196	175			
		5	179	-185			2-	289	-287			8-	-60	37			4-	51	39			
		7	196	-190			0	51	95			6-	77	-77			2-	85	56			
		9	34	-29			2	258	293			4-	111	-107			0	128	139			
		11	17	28			4	94	-63			2-	77	64			2	128	-136			
		13	34	22			6	128	160			0	51	18			4	26	-80			
		15	<17	20			8	102	79			2	60	46			6	43	4			
		17	77	-70			10	<9	2			4	43	-51			8	51	-18			
		19	51	-48			12	34	-4			6	60	67			10	17	-12			
0	4	0	23	34			14	60	-62			8	60	-15			12	102	94			
		2	34	-44			16	94	81			10	34	40			14	111	171			
		4	34	-23			18	43	45	1	7	1-	43	-30			16	50	-75			
		6	51	-37			20	<26	20			1	34	-24			18	<17	31			
		8	26	9	1	3	19-	<21	8								20	51	-56			
		10	85	-85			17-	<22	10								2	3	17-	17		
		12	187	-175			15-	77	53								15-	26	22			
		14	<17	15			13-	34	32	2	0	20-	43	46			13-	<17	13			
		16	<17	1			11-	213	221			18-	34	66			11-	20	-20			
0	5	1	68	103			9-	111	88			16-	34	-14			9-	68	-85			
		3	111	91			7-	204	178			14-	43	78			7-	136	138			
		5	162	-158			5-	77	102			12-	115	-111			5-	179	214			
		7	68	-81			3-	26	-31			10-	68	91			3-	85	-104			
		9	17	-8			1-	68	95			8-	213	-236			1-	247	-232			
		11	<17	26			1	179	-194			6-	204	300			1	153	-150			
		13	17	-19			3	272	-326			4-	221	-224			3	264	-302			
		15	43	-24			5	445	140			2-	315	382			5	199	-108			
0	6	0	17	-29			7	61	36			0	476	521			7	111	116			
		2	51	-70			9	119	75			2	323	-306			9	128	137			
		4	77	105			11	<20	42			4	553	635			11	221	-196			
		6	<17	31			13	51	-67			6	94	-38			13	153	-137			
		8	43	54			15	43	84			8	221	212			15	43	-62			
		10	26	-29			17	43	48			10	136	144			17	<17	4			
																				15	153	-124





TABLE 3. (Continued.)

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>F</i> <sub>o</sub>	<i>F</i> <sub>c</sub>
13	3	3	-42	-24	14	0	8	51	86	14	2	2	<26	50	15	1	5	77	-72	15	3	3	43	48
	5		43	-37		10		<17	41		4		51	-33		3		110	-90		6		16	34
	7		111	-101	14	1	11	60	63		6		153	-102		1		<26	26	16	0	6	-	34
	9		<17	5		9		51	54		8		<13	23		1		<26	22		4		4	-34
13	4	6	-60	-61		7		<17	6	14	3	9	<52	48		3		<21	14		2		2	-60
	4		43	60		5		26	32		7		34	-34		5		<17	35		0		<34	1
	2		<21	10		3		<17	18		5		<26	22		7		43	-35		2		<26	47
	0		<33	11		1		44	37		3		<26	36	15	2	8	-	0		4		4	-34
	2		17	21		1		43	63		1		<26	7		6		51	-56	16	1	7	-	17
	4		<26	33		3		<26	40		1		85	64		4		<26	1		5		5	-77
						5		<29	12		3		85	84		2		<26	14		3		<72	14
14	0	10	-	43		7		<13	1		5		<17	10		0		<26	14		1		34	-36
	8		60	-68		9		<17	4		7		<14	19		2		<26	17		1		<27	23
	6		94	-83	14	2	10	<14	6	14	4	2	-	16		4		51	-44		3		<22	28
	4		77	-84		8		17	13		0		<34	8		6		77	-92		5		<17	36
	2		<26	10		6		60	72						15	3	5	-	0	16	2	4	-	26
	0		68	-99		4		<31	10							3		<21	20		2		<27	13
	2		102	-106		2		94	-107	15	1	9	-	77		1		<17	34		0		<26	5
	4		136	-140		0		<34	20		7		68	-70		1		38	40		2		<18	13
	6		60	-47																				

$\sum F_o = 98,256$ .  $\sum F_c = 99,066$ .  $R = (\sum F_o - F_c)/F_o = 0.20_8$ .

Values suffering from extinction, such as 211, 402, are not included in the data when the residuals are calculated, but unobserved reflections are included as half their minimum observable value. The scale of the *F*'s tabulated here is  $\frac{1}{2} \times F_{\text{absolute}} \times 10$ . The observed values are thought to be accurate to about 10%.

TABLE 4.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>
<i>a</i>	0.097 <sub>5</sub>	0.447 <sub>9</sub>	0.063 <sub>0</sub>	1.41 <sub>4</sub>	2.80 <sub>4</sub>	1.19 <sub>1</sub>	<i>h</i>	0.081 <sub>5</sub>	0.020 <sub>0</sub>	0.212 <sub>1</sub>	1.01 <sub>0</sub>	0.12 <sub>5</sub>	4.00 <sub>9</sub>
<i>b</i>	0.123 <sub>0</sub>	0.383 <sub>3</sub>	0.001 <sub>7</sub>	1.86 <sub>8</sub>	2.39 <sub>9</sub>	0.03 <sub>2</sub>	<i>i</i>	0.106 <sub>8</sub>	0.184 <sub>7</sub>	0.232 <sub>8</sub>	1.37 <sub>2</sub>	1.15 <sub>6</sub>	4.40 <sub>0</sub>
<i>c</i>	0.097 <sub>0</sub>	0.184 <sub>7</sub>	0.028 <sub>3</sub>	1.44 <sub>3</sub>	1.15 <sub>8</sub>	0.53 <sub>5</sub>	<i>j</i>	0.110 <sub>0</sub>	0.341 <sub>3</sub>	0.182 <sub>3</sub>	1.47 <sub>5</sub>	2.13 <sub>7</sub>	3.44 <sub>8</sub>
<i>d</i>	0.034 <sub>4</sub>	0.060 <sub>7</sub>	0.013 <sub>5</sub>	0.50 <sub>8</sub>	0.38 <sub>0</sub>	0.25 <sub>6</sub>	<i>k</i>	0.177 <sub>7</sub>	0.518 <sub>3</sub>	0.039 <sub>3</sub>	3.12 <sub>1</sub>	3.24 <sub>5</sub>	0.74 <sub>3</sub>
<i>e</i>	0.056 <sub>8</sub>	0.091 <sub>7</sub>	0.089 <sub>8</sub>	0.76 <sub>7</sub>	0.57 <sub>4</sub>	1.69 <sub>7</sub>	<i>l</i>	0.208 <sub>0</sub>	0.445 <sub>7</sub>	0.101 <sub>8</sub>	3.26 <sub>9</sub>	2.79 <sub>0</sub>	1.92 <sub>4</sub>
<i>f</i>	0.085 <sub>5</sub>	0.292 <sub>9</sub>	0.111 <sub>8</sub>	1.17 <sub>9</sub>	1.83 <sub>4</sub>	2.11 <sub>0</sub>	<i>m</i>	0.192 <sub>2</sub>	0.237 <sub>5</sub>	0.124 <sub>7</sub>	3.05 <sub>4</sub>	1.48 <sub>7</sub>	2.35 <sub>7</sub>
<i>g</i>	0.055 <sub>5</sub>	0.066 <sub>7</sub>	0.142 <sub>2</sub>	0.69 <sub>0</sub>	0.41 <sub>8</sub>	2.68 <sub>8</sub>	<i>n</i>	0.132 <sub>0</sub>	0.111 <sub>7</sub>	0.091 <sub>2</sub>	2.10 <sub>3</sub>	0.69 <sub>9</sub>	1.72 <sub>3</sub>

Atomic co-ordinates for  $\alpha$ -dixanthenylidene, half-molecule centred on origin at  $\bar{1}$  on glide plane *n*. Column headings as for Table 2.

DISCUSSION

The distances between the conflicting carbon atoms *g* and *n'* are 3.01 Å for  $\alpha$ - and 2.97 Å for  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene which in view of the assumed experimental errors could be identical. This is as close as non-bonded carbon atoms can approach and indicates strain in the molecule. This view is confirmed by a comparison with the results of the crystal structure analysis of rubrofusarin<sup>13</sup> (IIIb). Here the heterocyclic ring has a weak boat conformation, atoms C-15 and C-16 being only 0.051 and 0.077 Å, respectively, out of the plane of the other four ring atoms. In both bixanthenylidene molecules this distance is about 0.6 Å (*i.e.*, the oxygen atom *a* is about 0.3 Å from the *bcef* plane) and this, compared with rubrofusarin, indicates strain. The boat conformation is, of course, favoured rather than the chair because both in bixanthenylidene and in rubrofusarin there is a need to preserve planarity of the two halves of the ring formed by the diagonal through the oxygen atom (Fig. 4). This would not be satisfied by a ring in the chair conformation; compare, for example, the chair conformation of 1,4-dithiin<sup>14</sup> (IV) with the boat conformation of 1,4-dithiin. (V).

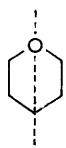
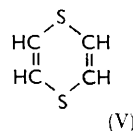
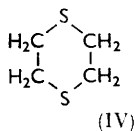
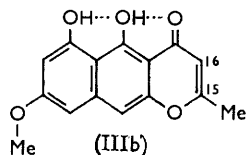


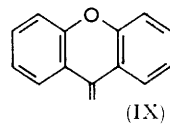
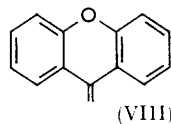
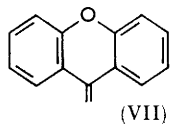
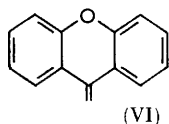
FIG. 4.

Apart from the central bond, the bond lengths are adequately explained on the basis of four bond structures (VI)—(IX). The mean length of 1.49 Å for *cd* and *de* compares well with a similar formally single C-C *sp*<sup>2</sup>-bond of 1.477 Å in the more accurate analysis

<sup>13</sup> Stout and Jensen, *Acta Cryst.*, 1962, **15**, 451.  
<sup>14</sup> Marsh, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 91.



of *p*-benzoquinone<sup>15</sup> and of 1.478 Å in anthraquinone.<sup>16</sup> The mean C-O distance of 1.38 Å compares well with 1.37 Å for rubrofusarin. Possibly the only surprising bond length is the mean value of 1.38<sub>5</sub> Å for the central *dd'* bond, where one might have expected



a length closer to 1.34 Å found in ethylene. However, there may be significant differences in the double-bond lengths found between two carbon atoms depending upon whether these atoms are bonded to other carbon atoms or not. In this connection, as Cruickshank<sup>17</sup> has pointed out, an accurate redetermination of the C=C length in tetramethylethylene would be of interest. In the two-dimensional analysis<sup>1</sup> of bianthronylidene (II) a central bond length of 1.31 Å was recorded. However, this analysis shows other features that do not agree well with ours, such as longer *cd*-type bonds of 1.53 Å. In view of the inevitably lower accuracy of this two-dimensional analysis it is difficult to assign much weight to the measured short central bond. The mean values found for bond lengths in the outer rings, namely, 1.37, 1.38<sub>5</sub> Å in the  $\beta$ -form and 1.39, 1.39<sub>3</sub> Å in the  $\alpha$ -form, are in accord with the average of 1.38<sub>5</sub> Å found in anthraquinone, when the errors in our analysis are borne in mind.

The differences in mode of molecular packing for the two polymorphs are shown by Figs. 5 (a) and (b). In both polymorphs the  $\beta$ -angle is close to 90°, so that in the *z*-projection for  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene (Fig. 5b) and in the *x*-projection for  $\alpha$ -bixanthenylidene the C-centred and A-centred layers, respectively, lie virtually in the plane of projection. In both these Figures the molecules drawn in full lines are those which have their midpoints lying in the centre layer containing the origin. The molecules in broken lines are those which have their midpoints lying in centred layers half a cell above (or below) the origin plane.

In  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene the molecules lie rather flatter in the plane of projection than they do in the  $\alpha$ -form but the molecular orientations are sufficiently similar for direct comparison. The essential difference in packing is that in the  $\beta$ -form the molecular centres all lie along the axes of projection whereas in the  $\alpha$ -form they do not. In both cases, however, there is a tendency for the outer rings of the molecules to stack on top of each other in columnar array. In  $\alpha$ -bixanthenylidene the heterocyclic rings are also stacked this way, but with the oxygen atoms alternating from left to right. Because of the manner in which the molecules are crossed in  $\beta$ -bixanthenylidene the heterocyclic rings do not lie in columns.

The closest distances between atoms in adjacent molecules which do not exceed 3.70 Å are listed in Tables 5(a) and (b). In Table 5(a) the atoms listed in the extreme left hand column refer to a molecule centred on the origin and the co-ordinates for these are given in Table 1. The molecule to which the other atom of the pair belongs is indicated by a parenthetic Roman numeral thus: (I)  $\frac{1}{2} + x, y - \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (II)  $x, \bar{y}, \frac{1}{2} + z$ ; (III)  $\frac{1}{2} + x, \frac{1}{2} + y, z$ . The

<sup>15</sup> Trotter, *Acta Cryst.*, 1960, **13**, 86.

<sup>16</sup> Murty, *Z. Krist.*, 1960, **113**, 445.

<sup>17</sup> Cruickshank, *Tetrahedron*, 1962, **17**, 155.

Roman numerals are appropriately marked on Fig. 5(b) together with the letters appropriate to the atoms. To avoid confusion the shortest distances are not marked in.

Analogous remarks apply to Table 5(b) which lists the closest contacts for  $\alpha$ -bixanthenylidene. The Roman numerals refer to co-ordinates as follows: (I)  $x, y + 1, z$ ; (II)  $x + \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - y, z$ . The fewer number of short contacts in this case is very marked.

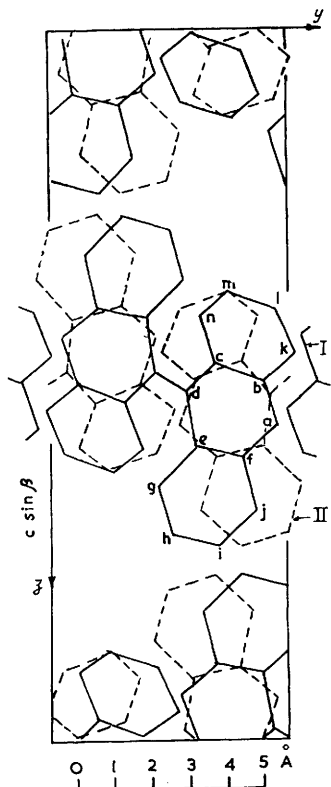


FIG. 5(a).  $\alpha$ -Bixanthenylidene in  $x$ -projection.

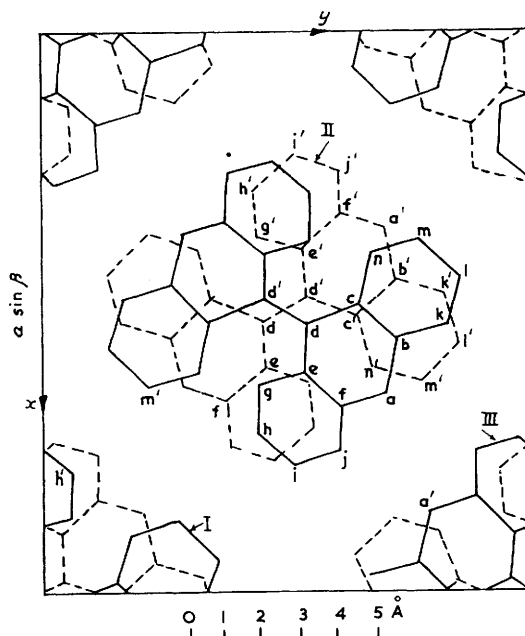


FIG. 5(b).  $\beta$ -Bixanthenylidene in  $z$ -projection.

TABLE 5(a).

	$\text{\AA}$		$\text{\AA}$
$n-f'$ (II)	3.44	$h-a$ (II)	3.55
$h-f$ (II)	3.48	$e-n'$ (II)	3.55
$j-a'$ (III)	3.50	$j-n'$ (II)	3.67
$a-a'$ (III)	3.52	$m'-h'$ (I)	3.68

TABLE 5(b).

	$\text{\AA}$
$a-g$ (I)	3.46
$b-a'$ (I)	3.64
$l-e'$ (II)	3.68

Non-bonded close contacts for (a)  $\beta$ - and (b)  $\alpha$ -9,9'-bixanthenylidene, which are smaller than 3.70  $\text{\AA}$ . Atom  $a$  is oxygen; the others are carbon. Significance of Roman numerals is given in the Text and in Figs. 5(a) and (b).

We believe the differences in packing cause the differences in colour of the crystals but we are unable to specify what features of the packing are responsible.

We thank Professor H. Lipson and members of his staff for allowing us to use an optical diffractometer and for advice about the techniques involved, and the English Electric Company for their generous allowance of computing time on their Deuce computer. A maintenance grant from the Distillers' Company to J. F. D. M. is gratefully acknowledged.

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[Received, July 25th, 1962.]