

**59. The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Dithio-oxamide
(Rubeanic Acid).**

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The structure of rubeanic acid (dithio-oxamide) has been determined by three-dimensional X-ray diffraction methods. The crystals are triclinic with $a = 5.858$, $b = 10.757$, $c = 3.936 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 92^\circ 30'$, $\beta = 102^\circ 45'$, $\gamma = 92^\circ 19'$. The space group is $P\bar{1}$ with two molecules in the unit cell, each lying on a centre of symmetry. The molecular parameters obtained from a least-squares refinement of 832 independent reflexions ($R = 7.1\%$) show significant differences between the C-S and C-N distances in the two non-equivalent molecules. The central C-C bonds both have lengths equal to the standard distance between sp^2 -hybridized carbon atoms.

A preliminary account of the structure of dithio-oxamide, $\text{H}_2\text{N}\cdot\text{CS}\cdot\text{CS}\cdot\text{NH}_2$, has appeared.¹ The present paper describes a more accurate determination of the cell dimensions, atomic co-ordinates, and thermal parameters. Since its first preparation by Gay-Lussac,² dithio-oxamide has played a considerable part in the early development of theories of tautomerism,³ and has been useful as a chelating agent.⁴ The molecule is of considerable theoretical interest since, as far as the number of valency electrons is concerned, it is isoelectronic with diboron tetrachloride, oxamide, the oxalate ion, and dinitrogen tetroxide.

EXPERIMENTAL

$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{N}_2\text{S}_2$, $M = 120.2$, Triclinic, $a = 5.858 \pm 0.003$, $b = 10.757 \pm 0.005$, $c = 3.936 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 92^\circ 30' \pm 0.5'$, $\beta = 102^\circ 45' \pm 1.0'$, $\gamma = 92^\circ 19' \pm 0.5'$, $U = 241.7 \text{ \AA}^3$, $D_m = 1.66$, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.651$, $F(000) = 124$. Space group $P\bar{1}$ (C_i^1 , No. 2). Single-crystal Weissenberg and Straumanis photographs. The specimen was a commercial sample recrystallized from pyridine.

The cell dimensions were determined from Straumanis photographs. Fourteen different reflexions were measured, and an iterative procedure applied in order to produce the most consistent results. Independent observations of the same reciprocal cell dimensions agreed extremely well, and it is thought that the errors quoted above for the real cell dimensions, which were obtained with λ for $\text{Cu}-K_{\alpha 1} = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$, are the maximum possible.

Equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken with $\text{Cu}-K_{\alpha}$ radiation round the three principal axes with the multiple-film technique. Small crystals with a maximum dimension of 0.1 mm. were obtained by cutting and dissolution in order to minimize errors due to absorption ($\mu = 88.1 \text{ cm.}^{-1}$). The different layer lines were placed on the same relative scale by the method previously described.⁵ 832 independent reflexions out of a possible 1070 were observed to be non-zero.

The structure was solved in projection down the $[a]$ and $[c]$ axes by Patterson and Fourier transform methods. Considerable time was spent in reaching the conclusion that the asymmetric unit consisted of two half-molecules rather than one whole molecule. After the solution of the phase problem, each projection was refined by Fourier and difference syntheses to R -factors of 11.5% and 14.1% for the $hk0$ and $0kl$ projections, respectively. The resulting co-ordinates were then refined by differential syntheses on the Manchester University (Mark II) computer with the programmes of Ahmed and Cruickshank.⁶ Isotropic temperature factors were used, and the R -factor at this stage was 10.8%. Recently the structure was completely refined with anisotropic temperature factors on an Elliott 803 computer with the programmes of Daly,

¹ Long, Markey, and Wheatley, *Acta Cryst.*, 1954, **7**, 140.

² Gay-Lussac, *Ann. Chim.*, 1815, **95**, 136.

³ Wollner, *J. prakt. Chem.*, 1884, **29**, 129.

⁴ Ray, *Z. analyt. Chem.*, 1929, **79**, 94; Ewens and Gibson, *J.*, 1949, 431; Malyuga, *Zhur. analyt. Khim.*, 1955, **10**, 107.

⁵ Wheatley, *Acta Cryst.*, 1954, **7**, 68.

⁶ Ahmed and Cruickshank, *Acta Cryst.*, 1953, **6**, 765.

Stephens, and Wheatley.⁷ The least-squares programme uses the block diagonal approximation, and standard deviations were obtained from the 3×3 and 6×6 inverse error matrices. The final *R*-factor for the 832 observed reflexions was 7.1%. The scattering factors were taken from International Tables.

RESULTS

The final atomic co-ordinates are given in Table 1, together with the orthogonal co-ordinates referred to a set of axes in which $[b']$ coincides with the original triclinic axis $[b]$; $[a']$ is the projection of the original $[a]$ on to the plane perpendicular to $[b]$, and $[c']$ is perpendicular to $[a']$ and $[b']$. The thermal parameters are given in Table 2. Table 3 gives structure factors obtained from the parameters in Tables 1 and 2. The two planes marked by an asterisk were omitted from the refinement cycles because of the low calculated values.

TABLE 1.

Atomic co-ordinates and orthogonal co-ordinates in Å. Each co-ordinate is followed by its standard deviation quoted as units in the last place; thus, 1.0224 (45) means 1.0224 ± 0.0045 .

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>X'</i>	<i>Y'</i>	<i>Z'</i>
S(1)	-1.7500 (12)	-1.4007 (12)	-0.4260 (14)	-1.6537	-1.3114	-0.4149
S(2)	-1.3350 (12)	3.9164 (12)	0.6618 (14)	-1.4813	3.9415	0.6445
N(1)	-1.0832 (47)	1.0224 (45)	-1.1797 (51)	-0.8197	1.1176	-1.1489
N(2)	-1.4624 (46)	6.3652 (46)	1.6253 (55)	-1.8231	6.3534	1.5829
C(1)	-0.7316 (44)	-0.0465 (48)	-0.4492 (49)	-0.6310	0.0027	-0.4375
C(2)	-0.7471 (46)	5.3052 (49)	1.5547 (49)	-1.0926	5.2676	1.5142

TABLE 2.

Thermal parameters in Å². Each parameter is followed by its standard deviation quoted as units in the last place; thus, 0.0076 (11) means 0.0076 ± 0.0011 .

	<i>U</i> ₁₁	<i>U</i> ₂₂	<i>U</i> ₃₃	<i>2U</i> ₁₂	<i>2U</i> ₂₃	<i>2U</i> ₁₃
S(1)	0.0245 (5)	0.0318 (6)	0.0374 (7)	-0.0059 (9)	0.0076 (11)	0.0017 (10)
S(2)	0.0289 (6)	0.0313 (6)	0.0359 (7)	0.0000 (9)	-0.0123 (11)	-0.0020 (11)
N(1)	0.0327 (22)	0.0331 (22)	0.0448 (28)	0.0072 (34)	0.0234 (41)	-0.0004 (40)
N(2)	0.0302 (21)	0.0361 (23)	0.0517 (29)	0.0129 (35)	-0.0105 (43)	0.0023 (41)
C(1)	0.0231 (23)	0.0314 (22)	0.0239 (23)	0.0050 (33)	-0.0072 (36)	0.0072 (38)
C(2)	0.0268 (24)	0.0306 (22)	0.0233 (23)	0.0038 (34)	0.0061 (37)	0.0083 (39)

The bond lengths and angles obtained from the co-ordinates in Table 1 are shown in Table 4 with their standard deviations, for the two independent molecules. The most striking fact is that the lengths of the C-S and C-N bonds appear to be different in the two molecules. In molecule 2 both bonds are shorter than the corresponding bonds in molecule 1, the C-S bond significantly so. There seems to be no obvious physical reason for this. It is unlikely, in view of the low temperature factors (the overall isotropic temperature factor *B* is only 2.35 Å²), that rotational and vibrational corrections⁸ could account for the differences. The similarity in thermal factors and in orientations of the two molecules implies that any such corrections would have to be applied equally to both molecules. It is, perhaps, possible that the close approach of two carbon atoms to the nitrogen atom of molecule 1 in some way extracts electron-density from the π-bonded system, thus weakening and lengthening the C-S and C-N bonds. However, this hypothesis is not advanced with any great seriousness, and one is left with one of two discouraging conclusions: either there are systematic errors in the observed intensities that are not reflected in the standard deviations of the atomic positions, or these differences in bond lengths are real but for a reason that is not clear. In view of this uncertainty, it was thought justifiable to obtain the means of the values of the parameters obtained for the two molecules to give the results shown in Fig. 1.

⁷ Daly, Stephens, and Wheatley, 1963, Monsanto Research S.A. (MRS) Final Report No. 52.

⁸ Cruickshank, *Acta Cryst.*, 1956, **9**, 754, 757.

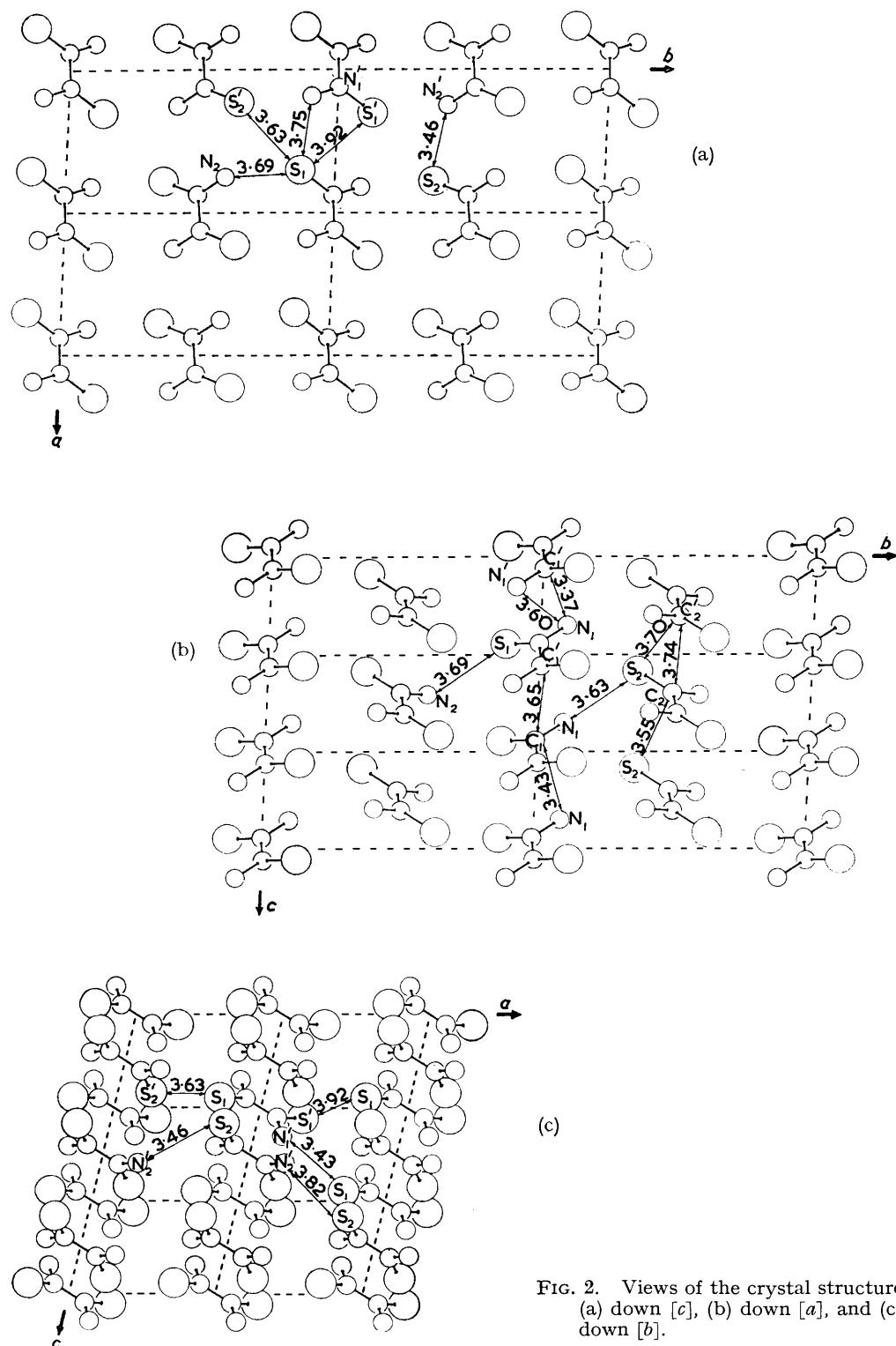


FIG. 2. Views of the crystal structure
(a) down [c], (b) down [a], and (c)
down [b].

thiourea,¹⁰ or in ethylenethiourea.¹¹ On the other hand, the mean C–N length agrees well with that in the above three molecules. The C–C length is in good agreement with that in oxamide,¹² and indeed with that in a number of isoelectronic molecules that have been listed and discussed.¹³ It is still not clear why these molecules should be planar and yet have a central bond with the length of a single bond.

Both molecules are accurately planar. The equations for the weighted least-squares planes, in terms of the orthogonal axes, are:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Molecule 1} & -0.51175X' + 0.40512Y' + 0.75762Z' = 0; \\ \text{Molecule 2} & +0.47891X' + 0.37663Y' - 0.79297Z' = +0.26365. \end{aligned}$$

No atom departs significantly from its plane, the largest deviation for molecule 1 being -0.007 \AA for C(1), and for molecule 2 being -0.004 \AA for C(2). The molecular planes make an angle of 46.1° with each other. The angles that the molecular planes make with the three orthogonal axes are given in Table 5.

TABLE 5.

Orientation of the two independent molecules with respect to the three orthogonal axes.

	Molecule 1	Molecule 2		Molecule 1	Molecule 2
[a]	59.2°	61.4°	[c']	40.8°	37.5°
[b] = [b']	66.1	67.9			

The molecules are separated by the [c] translation, 3.936 \AA . There are seventeen van der Waals contacts less than this. The two shortest, 3.371 and 3.431 \AA , are between carbon and nitrogen atoms, in each case the nitrogen atom involved being that in molecule 1. The next shortest contacts, 3.432 and 3.456 \AA , are between nitrogen and sulphur atoms. There is thus some indication of the presence of N–H \cdots S hydrogen bonds, though the evidence is not as convincing as in thioacetamide,⁹ where the shortest contact distance, 3.396 \AA , is between a nitrogen and a sulphur atom. The shortest contact between two sulphur atoms is 3.629 \AA . Fig. 2, which shows views of the crystal structure down the three principal triclinic axes, includes some of the shorter van der Waals contacts.

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¹⁰ Kunchur and Truter, *J.*, 1958, 2551.

¹¹ Wheatley, *Acta Cryst.*, 1953, **6**, 369.

¹² Ayerst and Duke, *Acta Cryst.*, 1954, **7**, 588.

¹³ Wheatley, *J.*, 1956, 868.