

cules in the unit cell gives a calculated density of 1.52 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

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## Space Groups and Molecular Symmetries of Two Thiocyanates

OLAV FOSS

*Institutt for uorganisk kjemi, Norges tekniske høgskole, Trondheim, Norway*

The unit cells and space groups of two simple, covalent thiocyanates have been determined from single-crystal oscillation and Weissenberg photographs, using copper radiation,  $\lambda(\text{CuK}\alpha) = 1.542 \text{ \AA}$ .

*Sulphur dithiocyanate*<sup>1</sup>,  $\text{S}(\text{SCN})_2$ . Orthorhombic bipyramidal,  $a = 10.12 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 12.83 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 4.34 \text{ \AA}$ . Four molecules per unit cell; density, calc. 1.75, found 1.76 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Systematic absences,  $0kl$  when  $k + l$  is odd,  $hk0$  when  $h$  is odd. The unit cell dimensions, the absences, and the relative intensities of the reflections show that the crystals are isomorphous with those of selenium dithiocyanate<sup>2</sup>,  $\text{Se}(\text{SCN})_2$ , and selenium diselenocyanate<sup>3</sup>,  $\text{Se}(\text{SeCN})_2$ . The space group is thus  $D_{2h}^{16} \cdot Pnma$ . From the known structures of the selenium analogues<sup>2,3</sup> it follows that the sulphur dithiocyanate molecule has an unbranched chain structure, with the middle sulphur atom located in a crystallographic mirror plane.

The compound was prepared from sulphur dichloride by reaction with an excess of silver thiocyanate suspended in carbon disulphide, and was recrystallized from the same solvent. Silver thiocyanate was found to react better than mercuric thiocyanate<sup>4</sup>. The crystals occur as plates {010}, bounded by {110} and {111}, and usually very thin. The bulk of crystals became yellow in the

course of a day, due to the formation of an insoluble polymer<sup>1,4</sup>, but individual crystals could be picked which were sufficiently stable.

*Ethylene thiocyanate*,  $(\text{CH}_2\text{SCN})_2$ . Orthorhombic bipyramidal,  $a = 7.39 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 7.81 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 11.48 \text{ \AA}$ . Four molecules per unit cell; density, calc. 1.45, found 1.42 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Systematic absences,  $0kl$  when  $k$  is odd,  $h0l$  when  $l$  is odd,  $hk0$  when  $h$  is odd. The space group is thus  $D_{2h}^{15} \cdot Pbca$ , which has eightfold general positions, and two fourfold sets of symmetry centres as special positions. With four molecules per unit cell, it follows that the ethylene thiocyanate molecules are centrosymmetric in the crystals. This agrees with the finding from infrared measurements<sup>5</sup> that the compound exists in *trans* configuration in the solid state.

Recrystallized from chloroform, the compound was obtained as plates {010}, or as perfect bipyramids {111} with, also here, {010} developed.

Further work on the crystal structures of the two thiocyanates is intended.

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## "Trans" Naphthodioxan Characterized by its Mercuric Chloride Compound

O. HASSEL and CHR. RØMMING

*Universitetets Kjemiske Institutt, Blindern-Oslo, Norway*

In 1950 Furberg and Hassel<sup>1</sup> determined the crystal structure of the lower melting compound (m. p. 111° C) found in the reaction between 2,3-dichloro-1,4-dioxan and ethylene glycol. They found

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