

The Crystal Structure of Tellurium Bis(dimethyldithiophosphate)

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The crystal structure of tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate) has been determined, and refined by three-dimensional X-ray methods. The crystals are built up of $(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_2\text{P}(\text{S})-\text{S}-\text{Te}-\text{S}-(\text{S})\text{P}(\text{OCH}_3)_2$ molecules, with tellurium atoms on twofold symmetry axes. The molecule contains a P-S-Te-S-P chain in the *trans* form, with a STeS/TeSP dihedral angle of 90.7° . Other molecular dimensions are $\text{Te}-\text{S}_2 = 2.44 \text{ \AA}$, $\text{P}-\text{S}_2 = 2.09 \text{ \AA}$, $\text{P}-\text{S}_1 = 1.92 \text{ \AA}$ and $\angle \text{S}_2-\text{Te}-\text{S}_1' = 98.3^\circ$.

The molecules are joined together in layers by weak intermolecular $\text{Te}\cdots\text{S}_1$ bonds of length 3.31 \AA . Each tellurium atom participates in two such bonds at a S-Te-S angle of 85.5° . As these weak bonds are *trans* to, and nearly collinear with the $\text{Te}-\text{S}_2$ bonds, there is a tendency to square-planar coordination around tellurium.

This structure determination is part of a study of compounds of divalent tellurium and selenium with dithio anions.¹ The main objective is to investigate the configuration around the tellurium and selenium atoms. From analogy with square-planar divalent tellurium complexes studied by Foss *et al.*,² and with square-planar nickel(II) complexes with dithio anions, a tendency to square-planar configuration around the central tellurium or selenium atom appeared possible also in compounds of divalent tellurium and selenium with dithio anions.¹

CRYSTAL DATA

Preparation, and unit cell and space group data for tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate), $\text{Te}[(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_2\text{PS}_2]_2$, have been reported earlier.¹ The crystals are orthorhombic with $a = 10.37 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 11.51 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 12.56 \text{ \AA}$, $Z = 4$; space group $D_{2h}^{14}-Pbcn$. The accuracy of the cell constants is probably within 0.5%. The molecules possess, by space group requirements and systematic weak reflections, a twofold axis of symmetry passing through the tellurium atom.

For the structure determination, intensities of $0kl$, $2kl$, $4kl$, $hk0$, $hk1$, and $hk2$ reflections were estimated visually from integrated zero-layer and equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs. $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation was used for all layers. The cross-sections of the crystals used were about $0.08 \times 0.08 \text{ mm}^2$. The crystals appeared to decompose very slowly with liberation of tellurium when exposed to X-rays for a while; this, however, did not appear to impair the quality of the X-ray photographs. 644 out of 822 accessible reflections with $\sin\theta \leq 0.985$ were observed and measured. They were corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors, but no absorption correction was applied to the data.

The least squares refinements were carried out on an IBM 1620 computer, using a program by Mair.³ The weighting scheme No. 3 in this program, was applied in the refinement.

STRUCTURE ANALYSIS

As the twofold axis through the tellurium atom is parallel to the b axis, only the y coordinate of this atom is unknown. A Patterson projection along the c axis gave this coordinate. Subsequent Fourier refinements of the projections along the a and c axes and use of a model of the dimethyldithiophosphate anion⁴ yielded the positions of the lighter atoms.

Further refinement by $(F_o - F_c)$ syntheses greatly improved the structure and led to entirely new positions for two of the light atoms. At the end, temperature factors were assigned to the different types of atoms.

The observed structure factors from all layers were then brought to a common scale by comparison with the calculated values. All the unobserved reflections were removed from the material. Reflections common to two layers were removed from the data obtained by a -axis rotation. These, rather than common reflections from c -axis rotation were removed because of the higher observed intensities of the latter. The crystal structure was further refined by means of successive least squares refinements based on the remaining material. Anisotropic temperature factors were used for tellurium, sulphur, and phosphorus. The reflections 002, 020, 023, 221, 404, 110, 310, 112, and 102 which had consistently much higher calculated than observed values, were removed from the data after the fifth cycle, as this effect was attributed to secondary extinction. After this cycle, the observed structure factors for the different layers were rescaled in relation to each other by comparison with the calculated values. After the twelfth and final least squares refinement cycle, the reliability index $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ had converged to 0.080.

A final structure factor calculation using the parameter output from the last refinement, was then made for all reflections with $\sin\theta \leq 0.985$, except the common reflections removed earlier. The R -value for this material with non-observed reflections included only when F_c exceeds the observable limit, is 0.088. The final observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 1. The calculated values are based on atomic scattering factors for tellurium by Thomas and Umeda,⁵ for sulphur by Dawson,⁶ for phosphorus by Freeman and Watson,⁷ and for oxygen and carbon by Hoerni and Ibers.⁸

H	K	L	FO	FC	H	K	L	FO	FC	H	K	L	FO	FC	H	K	L	FO	FC
8	7	2	83	90	9	6	2	117	-118	10	6	2	132	-114	11	7	2	< 51	6
8	8	2	240	-254	9	7	2	176	-162	10	7	2	< 62	-23	12	0	2	181	-188
8	9	2	< 65	51	9	8	2	137	110	10	8	2	165	-152	12	1	2	193	-202
8	10	2	161	-172	9	9	2	291	-309	10	9	2	115	-126	12	2	2	< 59	26
8	11	2	73	72	9	10	2	< 49	-9	11	0	2	166	-140	12	3	2	97	-85
9	0	2	< 69	4	10	0	2	411	-428	11	1	2	352	-342	12	4	2	244	-248
9	1	2	204	-184	10	1	2	93	84	11	2	2	173	-172	12	5	2	109	-128
9	2	2	229	226	10	2	2	105	-79	11	3	2	105	90	13	0	2	< 42	30
9	3	2	300	264	10	3	2	85	-75	11	4	2	115	-98	13	1	2	115	-136
9	4	2	87	74	10	4	2	294	294	11	5	2	275	-277	13	2	2	49	-65
9	5	2	302	268	10	5	2	87	60	11	6	2	57	-23					

Table 2. Final atomic coordinates for tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate), in fractions of cell edges. Origin at a centre of symmetry.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Te	0.5000	0.6131	0.2500
S ₁	0.8636	0.3240	0.1112
S ₂	0.6026	0.4744	0.1298
P	0.7852	0.4450	0.1945
O ₁	0.8573	0.5644	0.1985
O ₂	0.7654	0.4207	0.3183
C ₁	0.9243	0.6062	0.1095
C ₂	0.7102	0.3191	0.3685

Table 3. Final temperature parameters $\beta_{ij} \times 10^3$. The expression used is $\exp -(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + kl\beta_{23} + hl\beta_{13} + hk\beta_{12})$.

	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{23}	β_{13}	β_{12}
Te	4.14	4.84	5.66	0.00	-1.37	0.00
S ₁	7.93	5.08	4.30	-1.68	-1.97	-3.80
S ₂	4.07	5.92	3.59	-1.40	-0.41	-0.23
P	4.52	4.19	1.62	-0.50	-1.09	1.29

For the carbon and oxygen atoms, a temperature factor $\exp -B(\sin^2\theta/\lambda^2)$ was used, with $B = 2.96, 3.92, 3.84$ and 3.71 for O₁, O₂, C₁, and C₂, respectively.

The atomic parameter output from the final least squares refinement is listed in Tables 2 and 3.

STRUCTURE OF TELLURIUM BIS(DIMETHYLDITHIOPHOSPHATE) AND THE CONFIGURATION AROUND TELLURIUM

The crystals are built up of tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate) molecules, with the tellurium atoms located on the twofold symmetry axes which run through the crystals parallel to the *b* axis. The molecules are connected through weak, intermolecular Te...S₁ bonds, to form two-dimensional polymeric layers. The bond lengths and angles in the molecule, calculated from the coordinates of Table 2, are listed in Table 4 together with the calculated standard deviations. The uncertainties in cell edges add to the quoted standard deviations. Other interatomic distances and angles are included in this table.

Table 4. Bond lengths and angles.

$\text{Te}-\text{S}_2$	$2.440 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}$	$\angle \text{S}_2'-\text{Te}-\text{S}_2$	$98.3 \pm 0.3^\circ$
$\text{P}-\text{S}_2$	2.089 ± 0.007	$\angle \text{Te}-\text{S}_2-\text{P}$	105.1 ± 0.3
$\text{P}-\text{S}_1$	1.923 ± 0.007	$\angle \text{S}_2-\text{P}-\text{S}_1$	106.8 ± 0.3
$\text{P}-\text{O}_1$	1.57 ± 0.02	$\angle \text{S}_2-\text{P}-\text{O}_1$	107.6 ± 0.6
$\text{P}-\text{O}_2$	1.59 ± 0.02	$\angle \text{S}_2-\text{P}-\text{O}_2$	106.9 ± 0.7
O_1-C_1	1.40 ± 0.03	$\angle \text{S}_1-\text{P}-\text{O}_1$	116.9 ± 0.6
O_2-C_2	1.45 ± 0.03	$\angle \text{S}_1-\text{P}-\text{O}_2$	117.3 ± 0.6
		$\angle \text{P}-\text{O}_1-\text{C}_1$	120.8 ± 1.4
		$\angle \text{P}-\text{O}_2-\text{C}_2$	128.2 ± 1.4
		$\angle \text{O}_1-\text{P}-\text{O}_2$	100.6 ± 0.8

Other interatomic distances and angles.

S_1-O_1	$2.98 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$	$\angle \text{S}_2-\text{Te}-\text{S}_1'(\text{I})$	$88.1 \pm 0.3^\circ$
S_1-O_2	3.01 ± 0.02	$\angle \text{S}_2-\text{Te}-\text{S}_1(\text{II})$	173.0 ± 0.3
S_2-O_1	2.97 ± 0.02	$\angle \text{S}_1(\text{I})-\text{Te}-\text{S}_1(\text{II})$	85.5 ± 0.3
S_2-O_2	2.97 ± 0.02	$\angle \text{P}'(\text{I})-\text{S}_1'(\text{I})-\text{Te}$	115.2 ± 0.3
$\text{P}-\text{C}_1$	2.43 ± 0.03		
$\text{P}-\text{C}_2$	2.58 ± 0.03		
O_1-O_2	2.74 ± 0.02		
$\text{Te}-\text{S}_1'(\text{I})$	3.306 ± 0.005		

I and II denote molecules generated from the one in Table 1 by a centre of symmetry in $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and then by twofold screw axes parallel with c through $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$ in Fig. 2, respectively.

The P—S—Te—S—P chain has a *trans* configuration. Both *cis* and *trans* configurations have been reported for pentathionic compounds.⁹

The molecule, seen along the normal to the least-squares plane through the tellurium atom and the four closest sulphur atoms with tellurium given triple weight, is shown in Fig. 1. Based on atomic coordinates in \AA units, this plane has the equation $0.7927x - 0.6096z + 1.9142 = 0$. Two of the four closest sulphur atoms belong to the molecule proper, and the other two, more weakly bonded ones, belong to two different neighbouring molecules. The two sulphur atoms closest to tellurium are 0.08 \AA on each side of this plane, and the other two are 0.05 \AA on each side, with the tellurium atom exactly in the plane. The S—Te—S angles are all near 90 or 180° as shown in Fig. 1. Thus this compound might be considered a distorted square-planar complex of divalent tellurium. In the plane, the short Te—S bonds are *cis* to each other, but *trans* to and nearly collinear with the long ones. This effect is found in square-planar *cis* tellurium(II) complexes, where a thiourea sulphur atom bonded to tellurium has a pronounced lengthening effect on the tellurium-halogen bond *trans* to it.² If in these compounds, the Te—S and Te—X bonding occur mainly through overlap of atomic p -orbitals in the bond direction² as proposed for trihalides and related compounds,^{10,11} this type of bonding should lead to lengthening of the bonds involved, relative to single, covalent bonds. Using a "half p -bond" radius of 1.64 \AA for tellurium,² the S—Te...S system, if symmetrical would be expected to have a total length of about 5.36 \AA which is equal to the corresponding length found in symmetrical square-planar *trans* tellurium(II) complexes.² Table 4 actually yields a distance

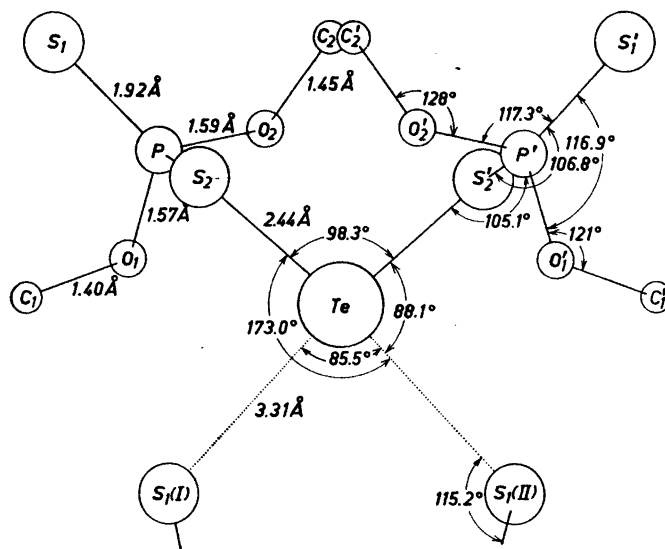


Fig. 1. The tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate) molecule, and the configuration around the tellurium atom, seen along the normal to the least squares plane through the tellurium atom and the four closest sulphur atoms.

of 5.75 Å, but then, the asymmetry is rather pronounced. Similar asymmetry has earlier been found in connection with extra long three-atomic systems of this type.^{2,12}

The intramolecular Te—S bond of 2.44 Å is a little longer than a single covalent bond of 2.41 Å or the Te—S bonds of about 2.35 Å found in some telluropentathionic compounds.⁹ The weak intermolecular Te...S bond has a length of 3.31 Å which is considerably shorter than the sum of van der Waals radii, which according to Pauling¹³ is 4.05 Å.

In the dimethyldithiophosphate group, there are two significantly different P—S bonds, of lengths 2.09 Å and 1.92 Å. The sulphur atoms in these bonds participate in the short and long Te—S bonds, respectively. The long P—S bond has the same length as the P—S single bond found in various phosphorus sulphides.¹⁴ The short P—S bond length of 1.92 Å is shorter than the bond length of 1.96 Å found in potassium dimethyldithiophosphate dihydrate,³ or the average bond length of 1.95 Å found for the P=S double bond in the phosphorus sulphides,¹⁴ but these differences are hardly significant.

The C₁—O₁—P—O₂—C₂ group is nearly planar, C₁ and C₂ being 0.35 and 0.08 Å away from the plane through O₁, P, and O₂. The interplanar angle O₁PO₂/S₂PS₁ is 90.5°. The P—O₁ and P—O₂ bonds are 1.57 and 1.59 Å, but the difference is not significant. The short P—O bond length implies a considerable amount of double bond character. This is probably due to overlap of *p*-orbitals of the oxygens with *d*-orbitals on phosphorus as proposed for phosphates by Cruickshank.¹⁵

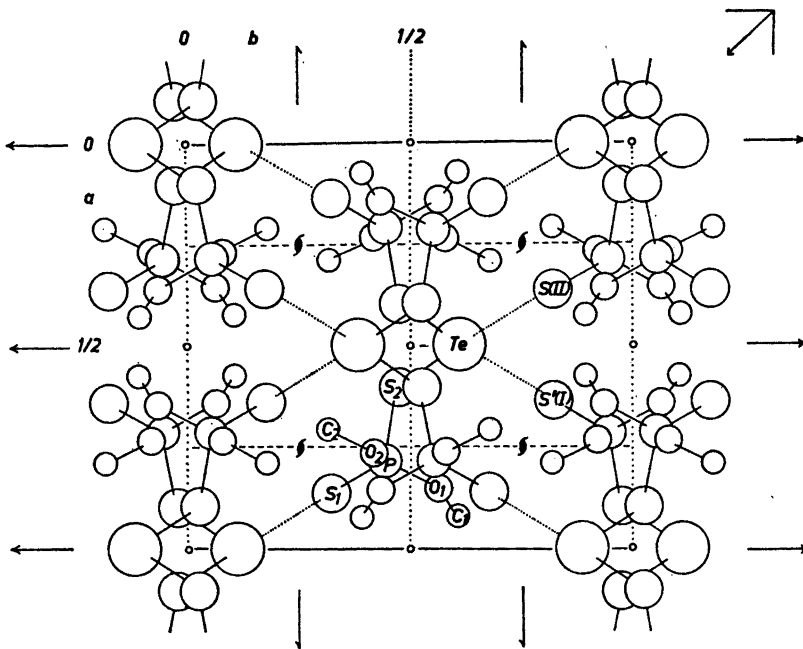


Fig. 2. The molecular arrangement of tellurium bis(dimethyldithiophosphate) seen along the c -axis.

The dihedral angle $\text{PS}_2\text{Te}/\text{S}_2\text{TeS}_2'$ and the interplanar angle $\text{S}_2'\text{TeS}_2/\text{S}_2\text{PS}_1$ are 90.7 and 92.3° , respectively. The primed letters denote atoms in the other half of the molecule which are related to the first half (Table 2) by a twofold symmetry axis.

THE PACKING IN THE CRYSTALS

The molecular arrangement seen along the c axis is shown in Fig. 2. Two and two molecules are related through centres of symmetry, glide planes and twofold screw axes. The weak, intermolecular $\text{Te}\cdots\text{S}$ bonds indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2, give rise to two-dimensional molecular layers parallel with (110).

The short, non-bonded intramolecular $\text{S}-\text{S}$ distance in the dimethyldithiophosphate group in relation to the large covalent radius of tellurium of 1.37 \AA ¹³ probably makes mono-nuclear complex formation difficult. Thus, instead of discrete mono-nuclear complex molecules with both sulphur atoms of a thiophosphate anion bonded to the same tellurium atom, the result is the polymeric network of Fig. 2. In the trivalent arsenic¹⁶ and antimony¹⁷ ethylxanthates, the same situation arises, but there both sulphur atoms of one anion form greatly asymmetric bonds to the same arsenic or antimony atom.

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