

The Molecular and Crystal Structure of Tris(1,2-ethanediol)-copper(II) Sulphate; $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$

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The crystal structure of $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$ has been determined and refined from three-dimensional X-ray data. The unit cell is monoclinic with the following cell dimensions and corresponding standard deviations: $a = 10.166 \pm 0.001$ Å, $b = 9.013 \pm 0.001$ Å, $c = 15.365 \pm 0.001$ Å and $\beta = 115.666 \pm 0.006^\circ$ at 25°C. The space group is $P2_1/c$; there are four formula units per unit cell and all atoms occupy general fourfold positions. The intensity material was collected using conventional Weissenberg technique, and the intensities were estimated visually. The structure was solved by routine heavy-atom methods and refined by full matrix least squares methods. The copper atom is octahedrally surrounded by the six glycol* oxygen atoms, and these $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3^{2+}$ ions are linked through sulphate groups in long parallel sheets by means of hydrogen bonds.

A number of authors¹⁻³ have stated that cations such as Cu^{2+} will increase the enzymatic decarboxylation of oxaloacetate to pyruvate and CO_2 , a reaction of importance in biochemistry. Bontchev, Yordanov and Michaylova⁴ have shown that this catalytic ability of Cu^{2+} is further increased in a solvent such as dioxan, ethanol, or glycerol. They assume that this is due to complex formation between Cu^{2+} and the oxygen containing solvent because the effective charge of the metal ion is increased when water is substituted by the organic molecules. EPR and electronic spectra give evidence for the relationship between complex formation and the increase in rate of decarboxylation. The kinetic investigations were carried out earlier by the same authors. They concluded that the configuration of the complexes is square-planar, or more probably, pseudooctahedral with a strong distortion along the Z -axis. Their studies also indicated that the bond $\text{Cu}-\text{O}$ in the complexes with ethanol and dioxan is more covalent and in the copper(II)-glycerol complexes more ionic than in $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ aqua complexes.

* Throughout this paper 1,2-ethanediol will be referred to as glycol.

To make further investigations of this type of complex formation between Cu^{2+} and polyols we are studying such complexes in solutions and in the solid state. This work concerns complex formation between Cu^{2+} and glycol.

EXPERIMENTAL

Crystal preparation and analyses. The crystals were prepared according to the method of Gomer and Tyson⁵ by dissolving as much as possible of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (*p.a.*) in 5 g glycol (*p.a.* Merck) on the water-bath. Unlike their procedure the saturated solution obtained was kept in a desiccator over sulphuric acid for a few days, after which time a pale blue crystal mass was obtained. Crystals from this first preparation were used as seeds to obtain suitable crystals from another saturated copper-glycol-sulphate solution. This gave pale blue crystals shaped as thin rectangular plates. The copper content of the crystals was determined electrolytically to be 17.44 %. Calc. for $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$ 18.5 %. No other analyses were made.

Crystal data and space group. From rotation photographs around the *a*- and *b*-axes and the corresponding Weissenberg photographs (zero and first layers) taken with $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation, it was concluded that the crystals are monoclinic. The cell dimensions were calculated and refined from a powder photograph giving 63 lines in a focusing camera of Guinier-Hägg type. The following parameters and their corresponding standard deviations were obtained (as internal standard Si was used): $a = 10.166 \pm 0.001$ Å; $b = 9.013 \pm 0.001$ Å; $c = 15.365 \pm 0.001$ Å; $\beta = 115.666^\circ \pm 0.006^\circ$.

By the flotation method, using bromoform and carbon tetrachloride, the density was determined to be 1.82 g/cm³. Four formula units in the unit cell gave a calculated density of 1.81 g/cm³. The following conditions limiting possible reflections were found.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} hkl \\ hk0 \\ 0kl \\ h00 \end{array} \right\} \text{no conditions} \qquad \begin{array}{l} 0k0; k = 2n \\ h0l; l = 2n \end{array}$$

which are characteristic for the space group $P2_1/c$ (No. 14).⁶

Intensity data. The crystals were very hygroscopic, and during the data collection, they were kept in a sealed capillary of Lindeman glass. Equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken with $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation. The crystal was rotated around the *b*-axis and 9 layers (*h0l*–*h8l*) were recorded. The intensities of 1945 independent reflections were estimated visually using the multiple film technique (four films). The number of possible reflections in the copper sphere is 2906.

No correction for absorption was made. The computer programs used were the same as in a paper by Antti and Lundberg.⁷

Structure determination and refinement. The copper and sulphur atoms were located from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis and the other atoms were found by standard Fourier methods. The atomic parameters and the atomic temperature factors were refined using full matrix least-squares techniques, and the reflection material was weighted according to the method suggested by Cruickshank,⁸ using the constants $A = 8.0$ and $C = 0.1$.

The atomic scattering factors for Cu^{2+} , S, O, and C used were taken from the International Tables.⁹ The refinement using isotropic temperature factors was terminated at a final R -value = $(\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||) / \sum |F_o| = 0.124$.

All parameter shifts in the final cycle were less than 10 % of the estimated standard deviations. During the final refinements eight strong reflections which suffer severely from secondary extinction were excluded. Further refinements were performed with anisotropic temperature factors for all atoms. This reduced R to 0.098. In spite of the decrease in R -value when the reflection material was refined with anisotropic temperature factors, there were no significant changes in the atomic positional parameters. Since no absorption correction has been made even though the linear absorption coefficient is 44.2 cm⁻¹ we prefer to present the results obtained using isotropic temperature factors.

As a final check the unobserved reflections were included in one cycle of refinement ($R = 0.112$). They were given F_o -values equal to half the threshold value for each separate layer. This increased the number of the independent reflections to 2518, but those where $0.49 > F_o/F_c > 2.01$ were given zero weight. The number of reflections thus included in the refinement was 2276. From the excluded reflections 140 calculated structure factors were less than one fourth of the threshold values and the rest between one to two times the threshold values.

A final difference Fourier synthesis was calculated in which no abnormalities could be detected. The final atomic parameters are given in Table 1. A comparison between observed and calculated structure factors is reported in Table 2.

Table 1. The atomic positional fractional parameters ($\times 10^4$) and the isotropic thermal parameters. (Standard deviations for the least significant figure are shown in parentheses.)

	X	Y	Z	B
Cu	2528 (1)	2044 (2)	3224 (1)	2.88 (5)
O(11)	3653 (8)	2255 (8)	4636 (5)	3.58 (13)
O(12)	861 (8)	1250 (8)	3798 (5)	3.75 (13)
O(21)	1336 (8)	1798 (8)	1836 (5)	3.90 (13)
O(22)	3030 (8)	9909 (8)	3093 (5)	3.66 (13)
O(31)	4415 (8)	3072 (8)	2959 (5)	3.80 (14)
O(32)	1970 (9)	4222 (9)	3080 (6)	4.02 (14)
C(11)	3056 (11)	3373 (13)	269 (7)	3.75 (18)
C(12)	1411 (12)	1835 (13)	4741 (8)	4.08 (20)
C(21)	1505 (12)	440 (13)	1444 (8)	3.94 (19)
C(22)	1887 (13)	9246 (14)	2209 (9)	4.38 (21)
C(31)	4302 (13)	4624 (14)	3027 (9)	4.51 (21)
C(32)	2690 (13)	5037 (14)	2608 (9)	4.30 (21)
S	2425 (2)	7387 (3)	4731 (2)	2.70 (5)
O(1)	3559 (8)	7897 (8)	4410 (5)	3.69 (13)
O(2)	1077 (8)	8202 (8)	4124 (5)	3.79 (13)
O(3)	2909 (9)	7198 (9)	754 (6)	4.01 (14)
O(4)	2191 (8)	5797 (9)	4588 (6)	4.08 (15)

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure is built up from discrete $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]^{2+}$ -ions and SO_4^{2-} -ions. The SO_4^{2-} -ions link the $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]^{2+}$ -ions through hydrogen bonds, forming sheets, which are parallel with the b -axis and approximately with the diagonal between a and c . (Fig. 1). The parallel sheets with displacement $c/2$ are held together through van der Waals bonds.

The coordination around Cu. In the $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]^{2+}$ -ions the copper atom is octahedrally surrounded by six oxygen atoms from three glycol molecules. The arrangement is shown in Fig. 2 and distances and angles are given in Table 3. Four of the oxygen atoms form a nearly square plane around the copper atom and this plane is almost parallel to the xy -plane of the unit cell. The equation for the plane is $0.9543x + 0.2613y - 0.1452z + 0.2611 = 0$ and the atoms O(11) and O(21) are 0.063 Å and 0.076 Å below the plane, respectively, while O(22) and O(32) are 0.070 Å and 0.069 Å above the plane. The copper

Table 2. Continued.

H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L
K+	8	-6	3	98	105	-8	6	51	59	0	8	255	244
		-6	2	155	144	-8	4	140	136	0	10	56	40
		-6	1	154	141	-8	3	71	74	0	12	52	59
		-7	1	96	103	-8	2	68	65	1	0	71	42
		-7	2	80	97	-8	1	65	63	1	1	223	254
		-7	3	47	49	-9	4	65	78	1	2	96	106
		-7	4	115	122	-9	5	96	110	1	3	188	184
		-7	5	158	146	0	1	173	193	1	4	115	172
		-7	6	47	37	0	2	212	223	1	5	186	193
		-7	10	125	133	0	3	97	110	1	7	99	92
		-7	11	80	69	-7	11	106	100	0	4	49	48
		-6	9	47	54	-7	11	106	100	0	4	49	48
		-6	8	170	155	-7	13	64	67	0	5	44	47
		-6	7	214	183	-8	8	98	133	0	6	124	117
		-6	6	170	144	-8	7	191	118	0	7	291	295
										1	11	64	47
										3	5	135	125
										3	6	48	55
										3	7	89	75
										1	9	75	90
										1	10	67	111
										4	8	61	69
										4	7	107	107
										4	5	82	61
										4	4	69	54
										3	3	85	85
										4	2	231	218
										4	1	227	236
										5	0	60	55
										5	1	160	175
										4	3	68	53
										5	4	238	225
										5	5	105	120
										6	5	42	32
										6	3	105	103
										6	2	136	130
										6	1	188	189
										7	0	53	64
										7	1	143	167
										7	3	41	56
										7	4	59	85
										8	1	61	99

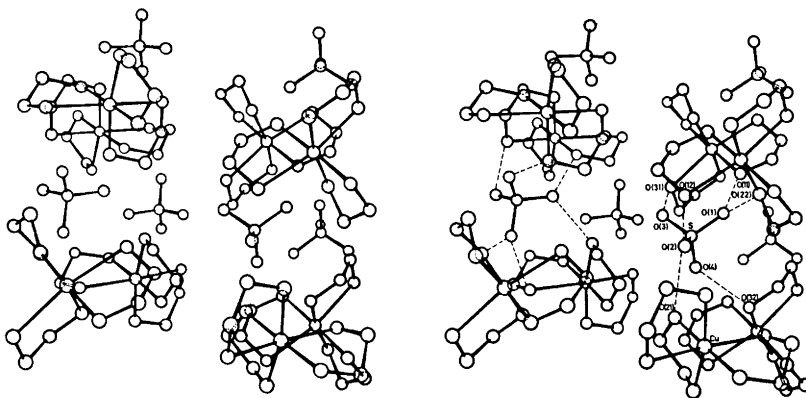
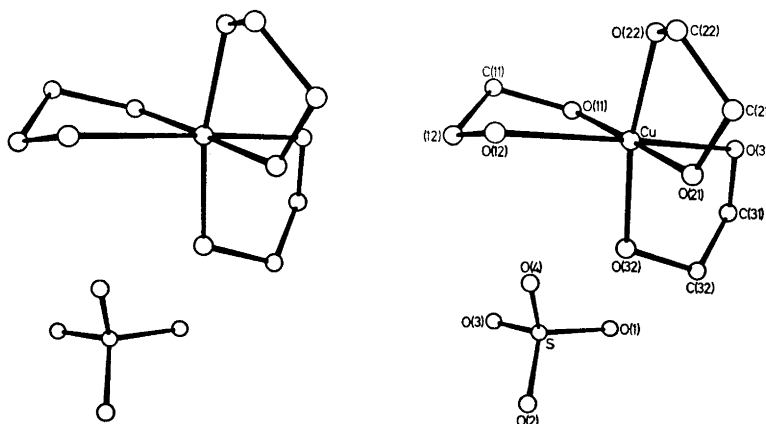
Fig. 1. A stereoscopic illustration of the molecular packing of $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$ viewed along the b -axis.

Fig. 2. A stereoscopic illustration of the atoms in the asymmetric unit, showing the coordination around copper.

Table 3. Bond lengths and bond angles and their estimated standard deviations for the arrangement around copper.

Bond	l , Å	Angle	θ°
Cu—O(21)	1.957 (8)	O(11)—Cu—O(21)	177.3 (4)
Cu—O(11)	1.975 (7)	O(22)—Cu—O(32)	168.6 (3)
Cu—O(22)	2.023 (7)	O(31)—Cu—O(12)	168.2 (3)
Cu—O(32)	2.030 (8)	O(11)—Cu—O(32)	91.6 (4)
Cu—O(31)	2.320 (8)	O(32)—Cu—O(21)	88.7 (4)
Cu—O(12)	2.335 (7)	O(21)—Cu—O(22)	81.2 (3)
		O(22)—Cu—O(11)	98.6 (3)

atom is 0.023 Å below the plane. The Cu—O distances to these four oxygen atoms range between 1.957 and 2.030 Å. One may note that two of the oxygen atoms in the plane, O(21) and O(22), belong to the same glycol molecule, whereas O(11) and O(32) belong to different glycol molecules. The distances from copper to the oxygen atoms above and below the plane are 2.328 Å and 2.335 Å. Within the octahedron the angles O(11)—Cu—O(21) and O(22)—Cu—O(32) are 177.3° and 168.6°, respectively, while the angle O(31)—Cu—O(12) is 168.2°. Thus the octahedron around the copper atom is distorted. This is what could be expected for an octahedral complex containing Cu^{2+} , due to its d^9 electron configuration. Furthermore this octahedral arrangement with four short and two long bonds is in agreement with what has been found in most other octahedral copper complexes.¹⁰

Prout *et al.*¹¹ have reported distances between copper and carboxy-oxygens and hydroxy-oxygens, respectively. They have found the bonds between copper and carboxy-oxygens (1.924 Å) to be significantly shorter than the bonds between copper and hydroxy-oxygens (1.970 Å). In the copper-glycol complex the mean value of the four short Cu—O distances of 1.997 Å also shows a significant difference from the reported copper—carboxy-oxygen distances but is of the same order of magnitude as the copper—hydroxy-oxygen distances.

The glycol ligands. These form a chelate with the copper atom, with the oxygen atoms at the corners of a distorted octahedron as described above. As already mentioned one of the ligands Glycol II, has its two oxygen atoms in the square plane surrounding the copper atom, while the other two glycol ligands (I and III) have one of their oxygen atoms in this plane and the other above, respectively below, the plane. This arrangement makes Glycol II more distorted in its configuration compared to Glycol I and III. The angles between connected planes in the glycol ligands (for each ligand one plane is defined by one oxygen atom and the two carbon atoms and the other plane defined by the two carbon atoms and the other oxygen atom), are 52.9°, 45.9°, and 55.3° for Glycol I, II, and III, respectively. The equations for these planes are given in Table 4. In order to obtain the most stable configuration at the same time as it is chelated to copper in the way described above, the glycol molecule should be in its *gauche* conformation,¹² *i.e.* the angle between

Table 4. The equations for the planes 1–6 in the glycol molecules. The numbering of the planes is the same as in Table 5.

$$\begin{aligned} 1: & 0.3147x + 0.8858y - 0.3410z - 1.3156 = 0 \\ 2: & 0.1164x - 0.8912y - 0.4385z - 4.5532 = 0 \\ 3: & -0.9325x - 0.1946y - 0.3042z - 1.2162 = 0 \\ 4: & 0.9023x - 0.3498y - 0.2519z - 0.1286 = 0 \\ 5: & 0.4154x + 0.1086y - 0.9031z - 2.3541 = 0 \\ 6: & 0.0893x - 0.7300y - 0.6776z - 5.6724 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

these planes should be $\approx 55^\circ$. The deviations increase in the series III \rightarrow I \rightarrow II. These deviations are reflected in the differences in the tetrahedral angles O–C–C in the glycol ligands. Glycol III shows a mean value of 109.6° , Glycol I 108.4° and Glycol II 107.8° . The deviations from the tetrahedral arrangement are the consequence of the octahedral configuration which gives different O–O distances in the glycol ligands. For Glycol III, I, and II these distances are 2.773 Å, 2.714 Å, and 2.591 Å, respectively. Thus, in order to fit into the arrangement around the copper atom the glycol molecule that has its two oxygen atoms in the square plane has to change from its most stable conformation. For a complete list of distances and angles in the glycol ligands, see Table 5.

Table 5. Bond lengths and bond angles and their estimated standard deviations in the three glycol molecules. The roman figures I, II, and III refer to the glycol ligands I, II, and III, respectively.

Bond	l , Å	Angle	θ°
I		I	
O(12)–C(12)	1.410 (13)	(plane 1) O(12)–C(12)–C(11)	110.9 (9)
C(12)–C(11)	1.521 (15)	(plane 2) O(11)–C(11)–C(12)	105.9 (9)
C(11)–O(11)	1.465 (13)	plane 1–plane 2	52.9
II		II	
O(21)–C(21)	1.408 (14)	(plane 3) O(21)–C(21)–C(22)	108.9 (9)
C(21)–C(22)	1.515 (17)	(plane 4) O(22)–C(22)–C(21)	105.2 (9)
C(22)–O(22)	1.478 (14)	plane 3–plane 4	45.9
III		III	
O(31)–C(31)	1.410 (15)	(plane 5) O(31)–C(31)–C(32)	108.6 (10)
C(31)–C(32)	1.525 (17)	(plane 6) O(32)–C(32)–C(31)	110.6 (10)
C(32)–O(32)	1.436 (14)	plane 5–plane 6	55.3

Since there is no crystal structure determination of ethylene glycol, it is not possible to compare the bond distances within the glycol ligands with those in the free glycol molecule and to see to what extent the chelation affects the bond distances. However, comparisons can be made with some

polyols and some carboxylate complexes containing a chelating OH-group. For β -D-mannitol¹³ are reported C–C and C–O distances with mean values of 1.516 Å and 1.437 Å, respectively; galactitol¹⁴ has the corresponding mean values of 1.520 Å and 1.449 Å and arabitol¹⁵ 1.523 Å and 1.434 Å. For the carboxylate complexes mentioned above¹¹ the mean value for the C–C bonds is 1.545 Å and the mean value for the C–O bonds is 1.426 Å. We have found values for C–C and C–O bonds which range between 1.515–1.525 Å and 1.408–1.478 Å, respectively. The chelation does not seem to significantly affect these bond lengths.

The sulphate group and the hydrogen bonds. The sulphur-oxygen distances found in this structure range from 1.454 to 1.509 Å with three distances around 1.47 Å and one longer at 1.509 Å. As a result of the unequal lengths of the S–O distances the tetrahedral angles range from 105.8° to 111.6° with a mean value of 109.4°.

In earlier reports on S–O distances in sulphate groups, the four S–O distances are of the same order of magnitude and around 1.47 Å.¹⁶ In order to explain the significantly longer distance of 1.509 Å obtained in this work one can study the list of sulphur-oxygen distances and compare it to the list of hydrogen bonds (Tables 6 and 7). The oxygen atom which lies farthest away from the sulphur atom, *i.e.* O(1), is in fact the same atom which gives two short hydrogen bonds 2.570 Å, 2.593 Å to oxygen atoms lying in the plane around copper. These comparatively strong interactions could be an explanation of the longer S–O distance.

Table 6. Bond lengths and bond angles and their estimated standard deviations in the sulphate group.

Bond	<i>l</i> , Å	Angle	θ°
S–O(1)	1.509 (8)	O(1)–S–O(2)	105.8 (5)
S–O(2)	1.476 (8)	O(1)–S–O(3)	108.8 (5)
S–O(3)	1.477 (8)	O(1)–S–O(4)	110.4 (5)
S–O(4)	1.454 (9)	O(2)–S–O(3)	109.7 (5)
		O(2)–S–O(4)	110.4 (5)
		O(3)–S–O(4)	111.6 (5)

Table 7. Hydrogen bond lengths and their estimated standard deviations.

Bond	<i>l</i> , Å
O(11)–H...O(1)	2.570 (10)
O(12)–H...O(2)	2.784 (11)
O(21)–H...O(2)	2.581 (11)
O(22)–H...O(1)	2.593 (10)
O(31)–H...O(3)	2.696 (11)
O(32)–H...O(4)	2.642 (11)

As mentioned before sulphate groups link $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]^{2+}$ -ions through hydrogen bonds. This results in parallel sheets which are held together by hydrogen bonds (Fig. 1). Between the sheets no hydrogen bonds appear, merely van der Waals contacts. A list of the hydrogen bonds is given in Table 7. Each sulphate group seems to give six different hydrogen bonds, O(1) and O(2) give two hydrogen bonds each and O(3) and O(4) one each.

As discussed earlier by Raymond *et al.*¹² it is possible to establish different conformations for the ethylenediamine rings in tris(ethylenediamine)metal complexes being in their *gauche* conformation. In tris(ethylenediamine)-chromium(III) pentacyanonickelate(II) sesquihydrate¹⁷ there are two different chromium(III) ions, both with a distorted octahedral configuration, and the conformations of the ions are $\delta\lambda\lambda$ for Cr_1 and $\delta\delta\lambda$ for Cr_2 . The fact that the less stable $\delta\lambda\lambda$ and $\delta\delta\lambda$ conformations arise is due to the possibility of a greater number of hydrogen bonds between the amine nitrogens and the surrounding complex cyanide anions and water of crystallization than in tris(ethylenediamine)copper(II)sulphate¹⁸ which evidently can crystallize in the more stable $\delta\delta\delta$ conformation.¹⁹ In tris(1,2-ethanediol)copper(II) sulphate, the subject of this report, it is also possible to define the conformation for the copper(II) ion in the way described by Raymond *et al.*,¹² and it is approximately the same as that for Cr_2 in the structure described above, *i.e.* $\delta\delta\lambda$. Compared to tris(ethylenediamine) copper(II) sulphate the change in this case from δ to λ conformation could be a consequence of the formation of stronger hydrogen bonds between hydroxyl oxygens and sulphate oxygens as compared with hydrogen bonds between amine nitrogens and sulphate oxygens. As described Glycol II is more distorted in its configuration than Glycol I and III and has in fact a λ conformation. This is achieved by short hydrogen bond distances (see Table 7). For Glycol I there is one short (2.570 Å) and one long (2.784 Å) hydrogen bond, and this glycol ligand is expected to have a conformation somewhat less stable than the δ conformation, which is also indicated earlier. In this case it would perhaps be more adequate to describe the conformation for the copper(II) ion as something between $\delta\delta\lambda$ and $\delta\lambda\lambda$.

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