

The Crystal Structure of L-Mimosine Sulphate Hydrate

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The structure of L-mimosine sulphate hydrate, $C_8H_9(OH)_2NHC_2CH(NH_3^+)COOH \cdot SO_4 \cdot (H_2O)_{1.5}$ has been determined by X-ray methods using 2451 observed reflections collected by counter methods. The crystals are orthorhombic, space group $P2_12_12_1$, with unit cell dimensions $a = 6.42_3$ Å; $b = 13.88_6$ Å; $c = 14.48_7$ Å. The refinements yielded a conventional R -factor of 0.051. The crystal structure is discussed and the bond lengths and angles are compared to those found in the un-protonized mimosine molecules.¹ The conformation of the amino acid is similar to that of L-tyrosine, the α hydrogen atom being in *trans* position relative to the aromatic part.

A previous structure determination¹ showed the anhydrous form of L-mimosine to exist in the crystals as an intermediate between the structures I and II of Fig. 1.

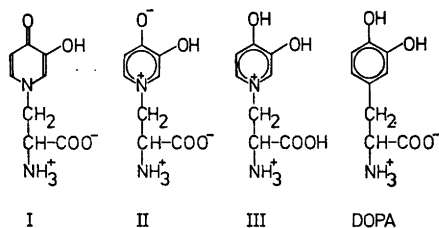


Fig. 1.

L-Mimosine forms a dibasic salt with sulphuric acid.² The protonized form is assumed to have the structure indicated by III which closely corresponds to the structure of L-DOPA. In order to investigate a molecule of this kind we have studied the sulphate of L-mimosine which is reported to crystallize with 1.5 molecule H_2O per formula unit and to have a melting point nearly $100^\circ C$ below that of mimosine itself.²

A sample of L-mimosine was kindly given to us by Dr. M. P. Hegarty (The Cunningham Laboratory, CSIRO, Australia).

EXPERIMENTAL

Single crystals of the compound were formed by slow evaporation of a solution of L-mimosine in diluted sulphuric acid. A single crystal of approximate dimensions $0.3 \times 0.3 \times 0.17$ mm³ was used in all the X-ray experiments.

Weissenberg photographs indicated orthorhombic symmetry; systematically absent reflections proved the space group to be $P2_12_12_1$. Unit cell dimensions were determined from diffractometer measurements on 15 general reflections using $MoK(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å).

The intensity data were recorded with the use of a SYNTEX PI diffractometer with graphite crystal monochromated MoK radiation. 3269 independent reflections with $2\theta < 70^\circ$ were measured using the $\omega - 2\theta$ scanning mode with the 2θ scan speed varying from 2 to $12^\circ \text{ min}^{-1}$ depending on the intensity. The scan range was from 1° below $2\theta(\alpha_1)$ to 1° above $2\theta(\alpha_2)$ and background counts were taken for half the scan time at each of the scan range limits. Three standard reflections were measured after every 50 reflections; they showed no systematic variation during the experiment.

The estimation of the standard deviation of the intensities was based on counting statistics with 2.5% addition in order to account for other errors. The 2451 reflections with intensity larger than $2.5\sigma(I)$ were considered to be observed; the remaining data were excluded from the structure refinement procedure.

The structure was determined by the use of the program MULTAN written by P. Main, M. M. Woolfsen and G. Germain. All other computer programs applied are described in Ref. 3. Atomic form factors applied were those of Doyle and Turner⁴ for sulphur, oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon atoms and of Stewart, Davidson and Simpson⁵ for hydrogen.

CRYSTAL DATA

L-Mimosine sulphate hydrate, $C_8H_9N_2O_4 \cdot H_2SO_4 \cdot 1.5H_2O$, m.p. $143 - 143.5^\circ C$, with decom-

position.³ Orthorhombic; $a = 6.423(0.001)$ Å, $b = 13.886(3)$ Å, $c = 14.487(3)$ Å. Figures in parentheses are estimated standard deviations. $V = 1292.1$ Å³; formula weight 323.29; $F(000) = 676$; $Z = 4$; $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.662$ g cm⁻³. Absent reflections: ($h00$) for h odd, ($0k0$) for k odd, ($00l$) for l odd; space group $P2_12_12_1$.

STRUCTURE DETERMINATION

After being corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects the data were put on an approximate absolute scale by Wilson's statistical method and normalized structure amplitudes were calculated. 472 reflections with E -values greater than 1.25 were used as input in the program assembly MULTAN.⁶ Of the solutions obtained the one with the highest ab-

solute figure of merit was used as the basis for an E -map in which all except three of the non-hydrogen atoms were localized. After one Fourier refinement cycle two of the missing heavy atoms appeared in the electron density map. The trial structure was refined by a few least-squares cycles and the approximate positions of the hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon were calculated. A couple of cycles of alternating least-squares refinements and difference Fourier syntheses yielded the positions of the oxygen atom of the "half" water molecule as well as the remaining hydrogen atoms of the mimosine ion and the other water molecule.

In the subsequent full-matrix least-squares refinement the 2451 observed reflections were included; the function minimized was $\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2$, the weight assigned to each reflection was

Table 1. Fractional coordinates and thermal parameters ($\times 10^5$) with estimated standard deviations (in parentheses). The temperature factor is given by $\exp -(B_{11}h^2 + B_{22}k^2 + B_{33}l^2 + B_{12}hk + B_{13}hl + B_{23}kl)$.

ATOM	X	Y	Z	B ₁₁	B ₂₂	B ₃₃	B ₁₂	B ₁₃	B ₂₃
S	57974(14)	29430(4)	19350(4)	1603(17)	215(3)	161(2)	+201(15)	-62(13)	10(4)
OS1	48321(60)	39820(16)	20693(17)	4236(100)	230(10)	408(12)	3(67)	+1391(75)	-93(18)
OS2	51624(50)	27049(16)	9461(12)	2686(72)	464(12)	169(7)	-632(64)	154(40)	13(15)
OS3	70037(52)	26244(24)	23960(17)	2359(81)	685(19)	276(11)	866(65)	-91(52)	50(23)
OS4	32973(54)	24479(24)	23313(19)	2740(87)	711(19)	272(10)	-1473(70)	656(56)	+270(24)
O1	19476(46)	22596(15)	39970(14)	2760(75)	226(10)	257(9)	-22(40)	201(46)	+20(15)
O2	18809(41)	22291(16)	50139(14)	2040(62)	327(11)	234(9)	222(40)	104(43)	124(16)
O3	-4467(47)	52435(21)	22453(18)	2516(82)	653(18)	253(9)	+260(61)	377(40)	-295(21)
O4	-31974(41)	51010(17)	31652(15)	2044(63)	402(12)	293(10)	+566(60)	25(46)	+210(18)
OV1	919(99)	33975(32)	9902(29)	2126(126)	301(21)	340(19)	56(121)	125(100)	50(34)
OV2	-15220(50)	52901(20)	2626(19)	2418(70)	465(14)	490(13)	+243(59)	-475(59)	+298(23)
N1	16592(41)	40089(17)	44000(15)	914(52)	211(10)	212(9)	80(42)	+23(39)	22(16)
N2	-18714(48)	62907(17)	44109(16)	1407(65)	232(11)	222(10)	-20(46)	-210(46)	+102(17)
C1	17777(52)	39776(20)	39950(17)	1566(72)	245(12)	170(9)	-63(56)	162(40)	-1(19)
C2	10351(49)	31037(20)	44409(18)	1182(66)	255(13)	229(11)	90(52)	122(40)	0(19)
C3	17692(49)	30003(21)	54163(18)	1091(64)	301(14)	230(11)	60(55)	102(47)	20(20)
C4	16130(55)	39523(23)	50012(10)	1601(77)	377(16)	193(10)	170(63)	57(51)	+112(22)
C5	15609(56)	47926(22)	54170(19)	1523(75)	206(14)	227(11)	142(57)	-9(51)	+111(21)
C6	17131(56)	57553(20)	39866(20)	1509(76)	222(12)	296(12)	-102(55)	-14(56)	03(21)
C7	-3992(48)	60934(19)	36516(17)	1596(80)	196(11)	211(10)	-50(51)	07(40)	10(10)
C8	-13065(55)	54257(20)	29409(20)	1012(81)	237(12)	235(12)	95(53)	-232(54)	9(20)

Table 2. Fractional coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and the isotropic thermal parameter B for hydrogen atoms. Figures in parentheses are standard deviations.

ATOM	X	Y	Z	B
H01	2340(65)	2434(29)	3340(31)	3,3(,8)
H02	1600(02)	2202(42)	6371(42)	4,9(1,4)
H04	-3770(84)	4655(39)	2746(36)	4,2(1,0)
H1V2	-1502(87)	5014(40)	259(34)	5,7(1,0)
H2V2	-1127(74)	5205(32)	874(33)	6,0(,9)
H1N2	-2475(58)	5064(27)	4620(22)	2,7(,6)
H2N2	-1435(53)	6546(23)	4746(19)	1,6(,6)
H3N2	-2017(92)	6775(41)	4279(34)	6,3(1,1)
HC1	1007(60)	4051(26)	3330(26)	3,0(,6)
HC4	1502(51)	3000(21)	6592(21)	2,3(,5)
HC5	1496(78)	5446(32)	5686(29)	3,2(,8)
H1C6	2302(31)	6246(14)	4351(13)	1,0(,3)
H2C6	2914(72)	5544(30)	3565(28)	2,5(,8)
HC7	-265(59)	6756(26)	3418(24)	1,2(,7)

Table 3. Observed and calculated structure factors ($\times 10$).

h	k	l	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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Table 3. Continued.

9	80	58	H=	8,K=	7	10	59	56	5	44	34	5	74	68	H=	9,K=	5	1	48	40	4	46	24
10	66	64	1	59	64	11	48	44	7	70	67	5	45	40	0	43	34	H=	9,K=	9	5	42	35
12	46	49	4	102	94	H=	R,K=	9	H=	8,K=	12	7	38	34	3	99	99	2	51	54	H=	10,K=	2
13	39	28	5	64	61	1	55	62	0	60	58	9	41	50	4	42	42	3	43	38	0	99	92
14	40	44	7	51	53	2	69	74	2	75	75	H=	9,K=	2	8	160	47	5	39	31	1	51	38
H=	8,K=	6	8	65	50	5	61	55	3	64	70	0	41	53	9	53	60	6	63	51	H=	10,K=	3
1	54	58	9	44	50	6	51	54	H=	8,K=	13	2	51	32	H=	9,K=	6	H=	9,K=	10	1	42	36
2	52	49	10	40	45	7	68	64	2	60	58	3	64	62	0	93	91	0	58	44	3	45	39
3	42	53	11	75	77	9	49	48	3	61	57	7	40	31	5	44	33	1	50	54	4	41	39
4	45	52	12	67	58	H=	8,K=	10	5	65	58	8	49	49	7	45	49	4	40	43	H=	10,K=	4
5	40	55	H=	8,K=	8	1	39	36	H=	9,K=	0	9	52	56	8	52	65	H=	9,K=	11	2	49	42
6	53	45	0	80	75	2	78	76	1	68	68	H=	9,K=	3	H=	9,K=	7	1	47	45	H=	10,K=	6
8	61	62	2	79	79	4	49	42	6	52	45	6	55	53	0	66	59	2	48	51	1	43	39
9	72	72	3	36	17	6	57	38	10	42	31	11	40	40	2	41	22	H=	10,K=	0	H=	1,K=	2
10	51	61	6	50	42	7	40	39	H=	9,K=	1	H=	9,K=	4	5	49	41	1	86	98	1	1105	1104
11	90	87	6	42	30	H=	8,K=	11	1	72	78	0	70	65	8	48	45	H=	10,K=	1	H=	9,K=	11
12	40	47	7	51	56	0	110	120	2	58	53	2	44	45	H=	9,K=	8	2	55	58	1	47	45
13	51	50	8	53	41	1	46	54	3	44	41	9	38	34									

Table 4. R.m.s. amplitudes of vibration (\bar{u}^2)^{1/2} and B-values (Å²) along the principal axes of vibration given by the components of a unit vector e in fractional coordinates (× 10⁴).

	(\bar{u}^2) ^{1/2}	B	e _x	e _y	e _z		(\bar{u}^2) ^{1/2}	B	e _x	e _y	e _z
S	.187	2,77	-1474	224	65	N1	.152	1,82	187	352	597
	.140	1,54	501	674	103		.147	1,71	933	475	- 315
	.130	1,33	64	- 123	680		.132	1,38	1233	- 413	148
OS1	.328	8,51	1341	22	- 351	N2	.184	2,68	1308	144	- 349
	.185	2,70	755	- 253	554		.163	2,10	736	- 524	345
	.147	1,71	240	675	218		.130	1,33	416	474	487
OS2	.257	5,22	1283	- 407	38	C1	.184	2,67	1499	- 102	161
	.189	2,83	661	592	99		.154	1,87	200	713	48
	.132	1,38	195	64	- 683		.131	1,35	375	27	- 670
OS3	.283	6,32	858	684	14	C2	.168	2,22	1143	317	358
	.194	2,96	-1220	362	254		.159	1,99	58	- 567	425
	.168	2,22	465	- 155	642		.144	1,64	-1057	312	410
OS4	.321	8,14	974	- 528	187	C3	.175	2,42	480	644	227
	.175	2,41	1025	491	223		.158	1,98	717	- 318	532
	.149	1,75	654	17	- 627		.145	1,66	-1297	63	378
O1	.243	4,66	1524	- 15	142	C4	.201	3,18	695	625	- 155
	.162	2,06	318	159	- 659		.180	2,55	1370	- 273	199
	.148	1,73	- 42	703	152		.135	1,45	- 257	234	643
O2	.216	3,68	1336	304	203	C5	.186	2,75	1095	446	- 242
	.178	2,51	- 795	555	266		.171	2,32	1086	- 359	357
	.145	1,67	101	346	- 605		.141	1,56	- 227	438	540
O3	.278	5,75	624	- 689	245	C6	.186	2,73	- 992	301	448
	.224	3,96	1392	321	37		.177	2,46	1112	2	484
	.142	1,59	- 315	213	645		.138	1,50	454	655	- 207
O4	.238	4,46	1015	- 497	220	C7	.184	2,67	1530	- 52	121
	.190	2,84	1041	233	- 463		.149	1,75	- 242	157	666
	.144	1,63	568	468	463		.137	1,49	167	701	- 141
OV1	.214	3,62	1408	180	240	C8	.200	3,17	1456	80	- 233
	.196	3,03	- 628	559	338		.155	1,90	256	511	474
	.183	2,64	230	419	- 553		.148	1,72	490	- 503	445
OV2	.258	5,26	611	337	- 547						
	.232	4,26	1248	- 430	31						
	.166	2,17	704	470	421						

taken as the inverse of the variance of the observed structure factor. The parameters refined were the scale factor, 105 positional parameters, 189 anisotropic thermal parameters for the heavy atoms, and 14 isotropic thermal parameters for the hydrogen atoms.

L-Mimosine sulphate was reported to contain 1.5 molecules of water per formula unit.³ The X-ray crystallographic study revealed the position of one water molecule which is firmly hydrogen bonded to mimosine ions and for which the hydrogen positions were determined. Another position was found for an additional water molecule where only weak interactions with the surrounding molecules are possible; the occupancy for this water molecule is probably less than one per position. When allowed to vary during the least-squares refinement the occupancy factor for the oxygen atom of this water molecule (OV1) refined to 0.6. The thermal parameters associated with the atom were rather large, however, and highly correlated with the occupancy factor. When fixing the occupancy factor at 0.5 the thermal parameters refined to values comparable to those of the other water molecule (*cf.* Table 4). Because of the correlation we cannot decide whether this is correct or if the molecule has larger fractional population and thermal parameters.

The refinement converged with a final conventional *R*-factor of 0.051 ($R_w = 0.050$). The corresponding atomic parameters are listed in Tables 1 and 2. A comparison of observed and calculated structure factors is given in Table 3.

Magnitudes and directions of the principal axes of vibration for the heavy atoms are given in Table 4. As may be seen from these values the amplitudes of thermal vibration along the main axes for the oxygen atoms of the sulphate ion are quite large. A rigid-body analysis showed that the thermal motion of the ion could to a good approximation be interpreted in terms of translational and librational oscillations. A corresponding analysis for the entire mimosine ion was far less satisfactory; omitting the alanine part of the ion in the analysis seemed to give adequate agreement between observed and calculated *U*-values.

Bond lengths and angles, and some intermolecular distances are given in Table 5. Bond lengths corrected for thermal librations are given where such corrections seem to be justified.

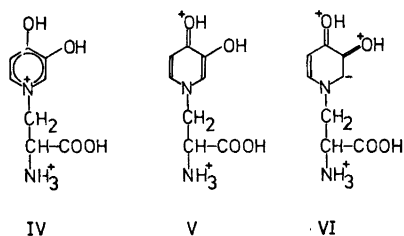
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Standard deviations in distances and angles were calculated from the correlation matrix.

DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

A drawing of the protonized form of L-mimosine as found in the crystals of the sulphate is presented in Fig. 2 where also the numbering of the atoms is indicated. The bond lengths and angles arrived at in the present analysis are indicated in this figure and may also be found in Table 5. The standard deviations in the bond lengths are 0.003 Å for S–O bonds, 0.004–0.005 for bonds between C, N, and O atoms, and 0.04–0.05 Å for bonds involving hydrogen atoms. The standard deviations in angles are 0.2–0.3°.

The six-membered ring of the hydroxypyridyl part of the molecule is planar. The distances from various atoms to a least-squares plane through the ring atoms are indicated in Fig. 2c. O1 and O2 are situated slightly out of the plane and the N1–C6 bond is bent out from the C3–N1 direction. The two C–N bonds in the pyridyl ring are of equal lengths (1.354 Å and 1.358 Å) and comparable to the mean value (1.356 Å) of the corresponding bonds in mimosine.¹ For the latter structure it was concluded that the contributions from the two resonance structures I and II of Fig. 1 are about equal. If an analogous simple valence bond picture is applied to the doubly protonized form the contributions from the structures IV–VI seem to be of importance.



The contribution from VI explains the rather short C–O bonds (1.339 Å and 1.317 Å, as compared to the C–O bonds in phenols, 1.36–1.38 Å) and also that C4–C5 (1.347 Å) is shorter than C1–C2 (1.375 Å). The difference between the C–O bond lengths may be explained by the contribution from V, which also

Table 5. Bond lengths (Å), bond angles (°) and some intermolecular distances in mimosine sulphate hydrate. Distances given in parentheses are corrected for thermal libration.

Bond	Corr.	Angle	Hydrogen bonds
S-OS1	1.467	OS1-S-OS2	OS1...HO4-O4 (1+x, y, z) 2.557
S-OS2	1.472	OS1-S-OS3	OS2...H2N2-N2 ($\frac{1}{2}-x, 1-y, -\frac{1}{2}+z$) 2.831
S-OS3	1.463	OS1-S-OS4	OS2...H3N2-N2 (-x, - $\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$) 2.926
S-OS4	1.462	OS2-S-OS3	OS3...HO2-O2 ($\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, 1-z$) 2.601
N1-C1	1.354	OS2-S-OS4	OS4...HO1-O1 (x, y, z) 2.577
C1-C2	1.375	OS3-S-OS4	O1...H1V2-OV2 (-x, - $\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$) 2.940
C2-C3	1.414	N1-C1-C2	O3...H2V2-OV2 (x, y, z) 2.955
C3-C4	1.389	C1-C2-C3	OV2...H1N2-N2 ($-\frac{1}{2}-x, 1-y, -\frac{1}{2}+z$) 2.734
C4-C5	1.347	C2-C3-C4	
C5-N1	1.358	C3-C4-C5	Distances involving the half
C2-O1	1.339	C4-C5-N1	water molecule (less than 3.2 Å)
C3-O2	1.317	C5-N1-C1	OV1...OS3 (-1+x, y, z) 3.040
N1-C6	1.497	C1-C2-O1	OV1...OS4 (x, y, z) 3.123
C6-C7	1.515	O1-C2-C3	OV1...O3 (x, y, z) 3.162
C7-N2	1.487	C2-C3-O2	OV1...OV2 (x, y, z) 3.025
C7-C8	1.524	O2-C3-C4	OV1...OV2 (- $\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, -z$) 3.196
C8-O3	1.202	C5-N1-C6	OV1...N2 (- $\frac{1}{2}-x, 1-y, -\frac{1}{2}+z$) 3.104
C8-O4	1.289	C1-N1-C6	OV1...N2 (-x, - $\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$) 3.186
O1-HO1	1.00	N1-C6-C7	OV1...HC7 (-x, - $\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$) 2.438
O2-HO2	0.83	C6-C7-N2	
O4-HO4	0.94	C6-C7-C8	
OV2-H1V2	0.72	C8-C7-N2	
OV2-H2V2	0.93	C7-C8-O3	
N2-H1N2	0.77	C7-C8-O4	
N2-H2N2	0.65	O3-C8-O4	
N2-H3N2	0.92		
C1-HC1	0.97		
C4-HC4	1.03		
C5-HC5	0.99		
C6-H1C6	0.96		
C6-H2C6	1.03		
C7-HC7	0.98		

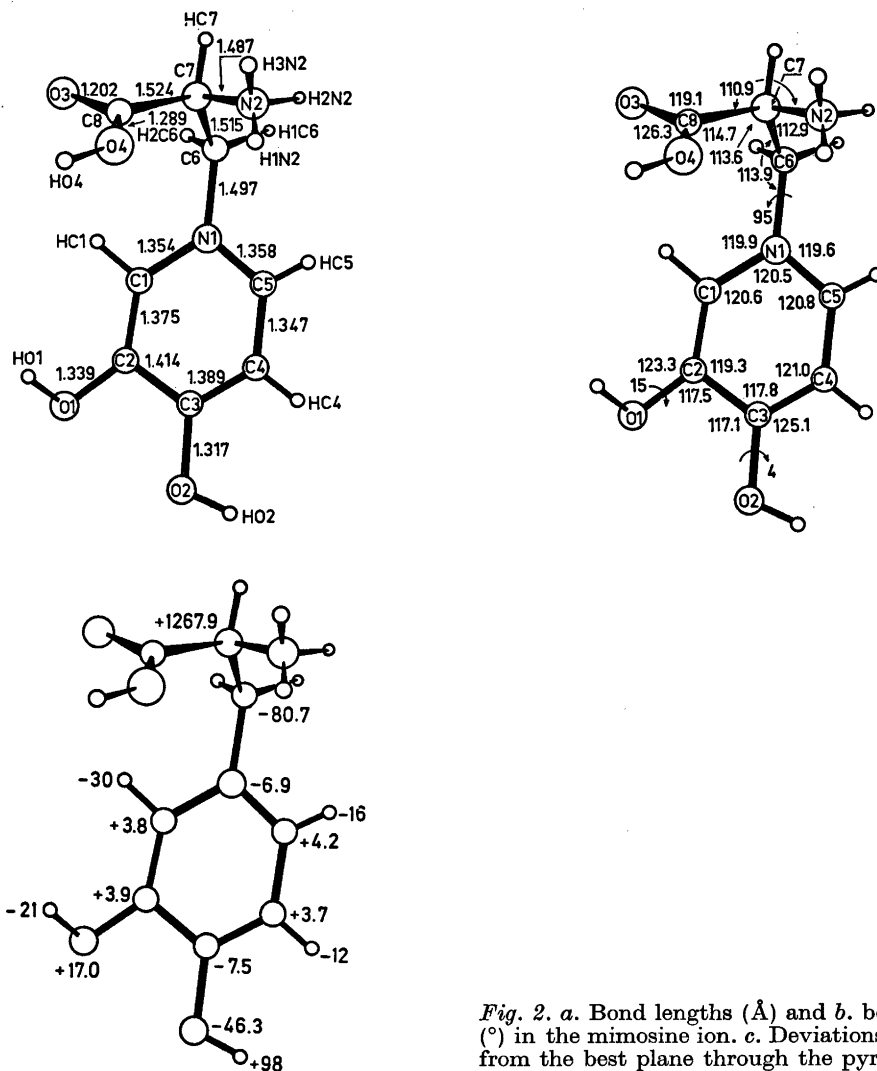


Fig. 2. a. Bond lengths (Å) and b. bond angles (°) in the mimosine ion. c. Deviations ($\times 10^3$ Å) from the best plane through the pyridine ring.

accounts for the shortness of the C1–C2 and the C4–C5 bonds relative to the aromatic C–C bond as found in pyridine. In accordance with the resulting charge distribution the two phenolic oxygen atoms act as hydrogen donors in fairly short hydrogen bonds (2.601 Å and 2.577 Å to oxygen atoms of the sulphate ion).

The external angles at the carbon atoms carrying the hydroxyl groups exhibit the characteristics commonly found in hydrogen bonded phenols and catechols: the angles “*cis*” to the hydrogen atoms are greater than 120° (123.3°

and 125.1° for O1 and O2, respectively) whereas the angles “*trans*” are less than 120° (117.5° and 117.1°), even if the consequence is a rather small O–O nonbonded separation. The phenolic hydrogen atoms are close to the plane of the pyridyl ring, the dihedral angles C–C–O–H being 15° (O1) and 4° (O2).

The N1–C6 bond connecting the hydroxypyridyl ring to the alanine moiety is found to be somewhat longer (1.497 Å) than in mimosine (1.478 Å). The bond lengths found within the alanine part of the ion correspond closely to

those given by Sundaralingam and Putkey⁷ as the mean values for a number of protonized amino acids. As for the bond angles the agreement is also good with the exception of the two C-C-O angles which show a significant difference. Their figures are based on amino acids having the normal conformation, however, with the nitrogen atom situated close to plane of the carboxyl group and in the *anti* position relative to the hydroxyl oxygen atom. In the present structure the conformation is *syn*, resulting in a 3.5° opening of the C-C-OH angle and a corresponding decrease in the C-C=O angle relative to the values given in the paper referred to; the O-C-O angle remains unchanged. The nitrogen atom is situated close to the plane through C_α-CO₂ (0.13 Å); the dihedral angle O(H)-C-C-N is 5.6°. The conformation about the C-N bond is staggered.

The conformation of the mimosine ion with respect to the C_α-C_β bond is different from

that found for L-mimosine but is the same as that reported for L-tyrosine.⁸ The carboxyl and the amino groups are both in *gauche* positions relative to the pyridyl-ring with torsional angles N1-C6-C7-N2 and N1-C6-C7-C8 equal to 64.6° and -62.8°, respectively. The angle between the ring plane and the plane through N1, C6, and C7 is 85.0° in good agreement with the corresponding angles in several phenylalanine derivatives with this specific conformation (83-86°).

The oxygen atoms of the sulphate ion are tetrahedrally arranged around the sulphur atom with O-S-O bond angles in the range 107.4° to 110.7°. The S-O bond lengths are equal, mean value 1.466 Å (1.482 Å corrected for thermal motion). This agrees well with the average S-O bond length of 1.473 Å (1.486 Å corrected) as given by Taesler and Olovsson from a number of structure determinations of the sulphate ion.⁹

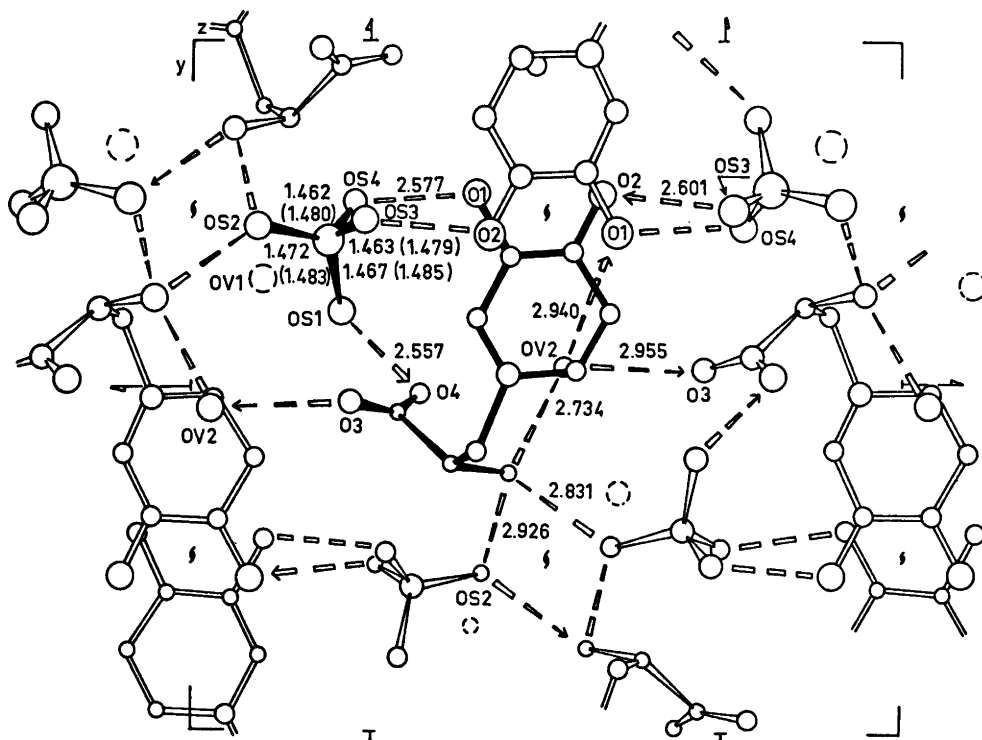


Fig. 3. The crystal structure of mimosine sulphate hydrate as seen down the *a* axis. Hydrogen bonds are indicated by broken lines, arrows indicate hydrogen bonds to atoms in another unit cell.

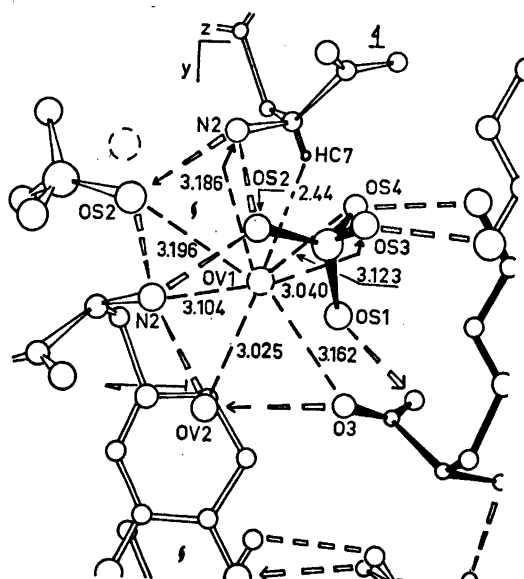


Fig. 4. The cavity containing the "half" water molecule.

The positions of the water molecules may be seen from Fig. 3. OV2 is involved in three hydrogen bonds; two as a hydrogen donor and one (to an ammonium nitrogen atom) as an acceptor. Fig. 4 illustrates the cavity containing the "half" water molecule. The molecule is surrounded by three sulphate ions, two ammonium groups, one water molecule and a carboxyl oxygen atom; there are eight oxygen or nitrogen atoms in distances between 3.0 and 3.2 Å from the OV1 atom. Four of these have lone pairs available for hydrogen bond formation. Since we were not able to localize the hydrogen atoms in this water molecule we are unable to determine which of the hydrogen bonds are established, and there may indeed exist different bonds in different unit cells in a statistical disordered way.

The crystal structure, packing and hydrogen bonding is illustrated in Fig. 3. From this drawing it may be seen that each mimosine ion is coordinated to five sulphate ions in a distorted trigonal bipyramidal arrangement. Each sulphate ion is surrounded by and hydrogen bonded to five mimosine residues. There is no direct contact between mimosine ions.

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The molecular units are tied together in the crystal in an extensive three-dimensional hydrogen bond network, with the possible exception of the "half" water molecule. All hydrogen atoms bonded to hetero atoms are engaged in hydrogen bonds. The strongest of these occur between the oxygen atoms of the sulphate ion and the three hydroxyl groups in the mimosine ion, 2.557 Å (OS1–O4), 2.577 Å (OS4–O1) and 2.601 Å (OS3–O2). The carbonyl oxygen atom is rather weakly hydrogen bonded to the water molecule (2.955 Å). The other hydrogen atom of this water molecule is engaged in a weak hydrogen bond to the phenolic oxygen atom O1 (2.940 Å). The N2 atom is involved as a hydrogen donor in three hydrogen bonds, one of 2.940 Å to one sulphate oxygen atom, one of 2.831 Å to another and a third of 2.734 Å to the oxygen atom of the water molecule.

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