

## Structural Studies on the Rare Earth Carboxylates

### 17. The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Hexa-aquo Tris-malonato Di-neodymium(III) Dihydrate

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The crystal and molecular structure of  $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has been determined from three-dimensional, photographic, X-ray intensity data. The crystals are orthorhombic with  $a = 11.258(3)$  Å,  $b = 12.602(3)$  Å, and  $c = 14.689(3)$  Å.  $Z = 4$ . The space group is *Pbcn*. The structure is a three-dimensional neodymium-malonate network. Each neodymium ion is coordinated by six carboxylate and three water oxygens which form a monocapped square antiprism. The Nd-O bonds are in the range 2.41–2.72 Å. There are two independent malonate ions in the structure. They are both nonplanar. One of them has strict twofold symmetry and is bonded to four neodymium ions by six Nd-O bonds, *i.e.* two of its oxygens form two Nd-O bonds each. The other malonate ion forms a six-membered chelate ring with neodymium and one bridge of the type Nd-OCO-Nd. The chelate ring has boat conformation. The water molecules are hydrogen bonded with O-O distances in the range 2.63–2.85 Å.

Thermodynamic studies of the lanthanoid oxalate and malonate complexes formed in solution<sup>1,2</sup> show that the five-membered chelate ring of the oxalate complexes is more stable than the six-membered ring of the malonate complexes. Further a maximum of four oxalate groups are coordinated to the lanthanoids while the corresponding number of malonate groups is three. Knowledge of the structures of some related solid compounds would facilitate the understanding of these differences.

The structures of some lanthanoid oxalates,  $\text{M}_2\text{ox}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{lanthanoid}$ ,  $\text{ox} = \text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ ) have been reported previously.<sup>3,4,5</sup> The oxalate ions form planar five-membered chelate rings with the lanthanoids with a ligand bite, *i.e.* intra-ring distance between the two donor atoms, of about 2.65 Å.

The ligand bite of the malonate ion depends on its conformation and with normal bond distances and angles it may range from about 2.5 Å for a completely planar ion to about 3.5 Å when the carboxylate groups are twisted 90° out of the plane of the three carbon atoms. The only X-ray study of coor-

dinated malonate ions previously reported deals with malonate complexes of Co(III) and Cr(III).<sup>6</sup> The malonate ions in these complexes form six-membered chelate rings and are nonplanar with bites larger than 2.65 Å.

The compounds  $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{mal} = \text{CH}_2(\text{COO})_2^{2-}$ ) were chosen for a X-ray structure analysis in order to determine the conformation of the malonate ion when coordinated to the lanthanoids and to study the resulting coordination geometry around the lanthanoid ion. Azikov *et al.*<sup>7</sup> have studied the IR-spectra of these solids. Their interpretation of the spectra indicates the presence of six-membered chelate rings in the complexes.

The lanthanoid malonates,  $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , can be divided into three different isostructural groups; one with  $n=8$  and  $M = \text{Ce} - \text{Gd}$  (referred to as octahydrate type I below), another with  $n=6$  and  $M = \text{Ce} - \text{Eu}$ , and a third type with  $n=8$  and  $M = \text{Eu} - \text{Lu}$  (octahydrate type II). This paper deals with the structure of  $\text{Nd}_2(\text{CH}_2(\text{COO})_2)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (NDO). The two other structure types will be reported in following communications.

## EXPERIMENTAL

*Preparation.* The lanthanoid malonates,  $M_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , were precipitated from solutions of the various lanthanoid chlorides (10 mM) and malonic acid (15 mM) with the pH adjusted to about 5 by the addition of 0.1 M sodium hydroxide. Slow evaporation at room temperature resulted in the octahydrate type I for the elements Ce–Gd and the octahydrate type II for the elements Tb–Lu. The octahydrate type II with  $M = \text{Eu}$  and Gd were obtained by evaporation under a heating lamp. The hexahydrates with  $M = \text{Ce} - \text{Eu}$  form at low temperature (5°C) but also by chance at higher temperatures, *e.g.*  $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has been obtained at 70°C.

The compounds  $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (type I),  $\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and  $\text{Eu}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (type II) were analysed for M, C, and H with the following results (%):

		M	C	H
$\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	39.1	14.6	3.2
	Calc.	39.0	14.6	3.0
$\text{Nd}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	41.1	15.1	2.6
	Calc.	40.9	15.3	2.6
$\text{Eu}_2\text{mal}_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Found	40.5	14.9	3.2
	Calc.	40.2	14.3	2.9

The different phases of the other lanthanoid malonates were then identified by their X-ray powder patterns. When precipitated from the solutions described the crystals of the various phases are also easily recognized by their habits. The crystals of the octahydrates are orthorhombic; thick tabular (001) bounded by the faces {001}, {010}, and {110} for type I and acicular elongated  $b$  for type II, while the hexahydrate crystals are monoclinic and thick tabular (001) bounded by the faces {001}, {010}, and {100}.

All the hexahydrates and the octahydrates type II with  $M = \text{Eu}$  and Gd are transformed to octahydrate type I when stored in the mother liquor at room temperature for a long time (sometimes more than two years). Thus the octahydrate type I is the stable phase for  $M = \text{Ce} - \text{Gd}$  under these conditions.

*X-Ray diffraction work.* A crystal of the dimensions  $0.22 \times 0.13 \times 0.13 \text{ mm}^3$  mounted along the 0.22 mm edge was used in recording the layers  $0kl - 14kl$ , with the integrated, Weissenberg, multi-film technique. Zr-filtered Mo-radiation was used. The intensities of 1876 independent reflexions were measured visually by comparison with a calibrated scale. 1390 of these reflexions were within the copper sphere representing 53 % of the possible number.

The intensities were corrected for the Lorentz, polarisation and absorption effects. The linear absorption coefficient,  $\mu$ , is  $50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the transmission factors, evaluated by numerical integration, were in the interval 0.54–0.61.

The powder photographs were taken at room temperature in a Guinier-Hägg focusing camera with  $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$ ). Lead nitrate (cubic  $a = 7.857 \text{ \AA}$ ) was used as internal standard.

### UNIT CELL AND SPACE GROUP

The crystals of NDO are orthorhombic with  $a = 11.258(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 12.602(3) \text{ \AA}$ , and  $c = 14.689(3) \text{ \AA}$  and  $Z = 4$ . The accurate values of the cell parameters were determined from powder data by least squares refinement, as described in Ref. 5. The observed values of  $\sin^2 \theta$  are compared with those calculated in the last cycle of refinement in Table 1.

Table 1. Powder data for  $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Observed and calculated values of  $10^5 \sin^2 \theta$  are given together with the observed powder intensities.

$hkl$	obs	calc	$I_{\text{obs}}$	$hkl$	obs	calc	$I_{\text{obs}}$
1 1 0	847	843	s	1 4 2	7576	7558	w
0 0 2		1102		2 4 0	7861	7863	w
1 1 1	1101	1119	vs	4 1 1		8152	
0 2 0	1499	1497	w	3 2 3	8161	8196	m
2 0 0	1880	1876	w	4 0 2	8609	8604	w
1 1 2	1948	1945	m	3 3 2	8687	8690	vw
1 2 1	2237	2241	vs	1 2 5	8885	8853	m
2 1 1	2523	2525	s	2 4 2		8965	
2 0 2	2972	2978	w	4 2 0	8990	8999	m
1 2 2	3063	3068	vw	2 1 5	9118	9137	vw
2 2 0	3370	3372	w	0 0 6	9923	9918	vw
2 2 1	3645	3648	w	4 1 3		10356	
0 0 4		4408		1 0 6	10384	10387	m
1 2 3	4446	4445	s	0 4 4		10395	
2 2 2	4595	4594	w	1 1 6	10770	10761	w
2 1 3	4732	4729	m	4 0 4	11888	11910	vw
1 0 4	4868	4877	w	3 3 4	11992	11996	vw
1 3 2	4930	4939	w	2 3 5	12121	12131	s
1 1 4	5246	5251	s	3 2 5	12607	12604	vw
2 3 1	5514	5519	s	0 6 0		13471	
3 1 2	5699	5696	s	4 4 0	13487	13490	s
2 2 3	5846	5852	vw	5 2 1		13495	
0 4 0		5987		3 5 0	13572	13575	w
3 2 1	5994	5992	m	2 5 3	13719	13710	vw
1 4 1	6731	6732	vw	1 3 6		13755	
3 2 2	6816	6819	vw	1 6 1		14216	
0 4 2	7082	7089	s	1 5 4	14210	14232	m
4 0 0	7510	7502	w				

Weissenberg photographs show the systematic absences  $0kl$ :  $k \neq 2n$ ,  $h0l$ :  $l \neq 2n$  and  $hk0$ :  $h + k \neq 2n$  and thus the only possible space group is  $Pbcn$  (No. 60).<sup>8</sup>

## DETERMINATION AND REFINEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure was determined by the heavy atom method. The position of neodymium was obtained from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis and a subsequent difference electron density calculation revealed the positions of the remaining 15 non-hydrogen atoms.

The preliminary atomic coordinates and isotropic temperature factors together with the inter layer scale factors were improved by full-matrix least squares refinement. The quantity minimized was  $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$  with

Table 2. Analysis of the weighting scheme  $w = 1/(40 + |F_o| + 0.005|F_o|^2 + 0.0001|F_o|^3)$ . The averages  $w\overline{\Delta^2}$ , where  $\Delta = |F_o| - |F_c|$ , are normalized.

Interval $ F_o $	Number of reflexions	$\overline{w\Delta^2}$	Interval $\sin \theta$	Number of reflexions	$\overline{w\Delta^2}$
0 - 40	155	0.84	0.00 - 0.28	322	0.94
40 - 46	174	0.96	0.28 - 0.35	289	0.98
46 - 49	171	0.97	0.35 - 0.40	242	0.90
49 - 54	176	0.96	0.40 - 0.44	201	0.94
54 - 61	177	1.08	0.44 - 0.48	188	0.97
61 - 71	179	0.95	0.48 - 0.51	166	0.98
71 - 85	184	0.99	0.51 - 0.53	108	0.95
85 - 103	181	0.97	0.53 - 0.56	74	0.77
103 - 140	182	1.09	0.56 - 0.58	59	1.41
140 - 423	171	1.19	0.58 - 0.60	40	1.17

Table 3. Atomic parameters with estimated standard deviations for the compound  $\text{Nd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{C}_3\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Atom	Group	$x \times 10^4$	$y \times 10^4$	$z \times 10^4$	$B/\text{\AA}^2$
Nd		1491.7(6)	1134.3(5)	74.1(3)	(1.37) <sup>a</sup>
O(1)	COO <sup>-</sup>	1038(12)	850(10)	1750(8)	2.8(2)
O(2)	COO <sup>-</sup>	-167(9)	-88(8)	911(7)	2.1(2)
O(3)	COO <sup>-</sup>	2199(10)	-697(9)	307(7)	2.4(2)
O(4)	COO <sup>-</sup>	3147(12)	-2155(11)	752(8)	3.1(2)
O(5)	COO <sup>-</sup>	3545(11)	1162(9)	604(7)	2.7(2)
O(6)	COO <sup>-</sup>	5343(15)	711(13)	952(10)	4.1(3)
O(7)	H <sub>2</sub> O	-515(10)	2028(9)	188(6)	2.4(2)
O(8)	H <sub>2</sub> O	1368(16)	2403(11)	-1195(9)	3.7(2)
O(9)	H <sub>2</sub> O	2780(12)	662(10)	-1242(8)	2.9(2)
O(10)	H <sub>2</sub> O	3551(17)	2565(10)	-1958(10)	4.3(3)
C(1)		0	-527(18)	1/4	2.2(3)
C(2)		325(13)	131(11)	1675(9)	2.0(2)
C(3)		3032(12)	-1160(12)	764(8)	1.8(2)
C(4)		3855(18)	-494(16)	1362(13)	3.3(3)
C(5)		4295(17)	546(15)	966(11)	2.8(3)

<sup>a</sup> The anisotropic thermal parameters for neodymium, calculated from the expression:  $\exp(-h^2\beta_{11} + 2hk\beta_{12} + \dots)$  are  $\beta_{11} = 0.00269(6)$ ,  $\beta_{22} = 0.00186(5)$ ,  $\beta_{33} = 0.00185(3)$ ,  $\beta_{12} = 0.00007(4)$ ,  $\beta_{13} = 0.00005(2)$ , and  $\beta_{23} = -0.00000(2)$ , resulting in root mean square displacements along the principal axis of the thermal ellipsoid  $R_1 = 0.142$  (Å),  $R_2 = 0.122$  (Å), and  $R_3 = 0.132$  (Å).



Table 4. Continued.

Table with multiple columns of numerical data and categorical labels such as H=-7 K=, H=-6 K=, H=-5 K=, H=-4 K=, H=-3 K=, H=-2 K=, and H=-1 K=.

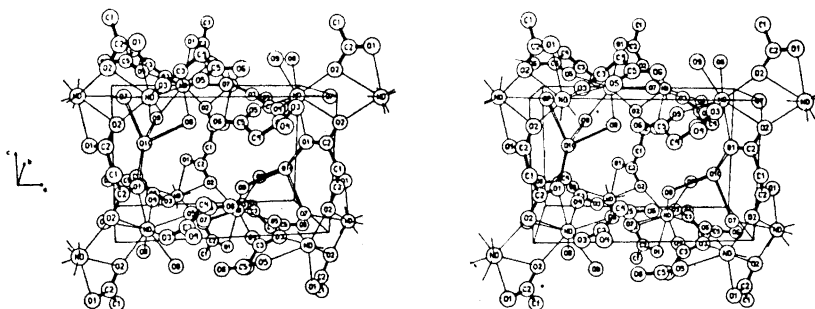


The final atomic parameters with their estimated standard deviations are given in Table 3. The electron density maps of a difference synthesis based upon these parameters showed a peak of about  $4.5 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$  at the position of neodymium, and only spurious peaks less than  $2 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$  in the other regions. The observed and calculated structure factors are compared in Table 4.

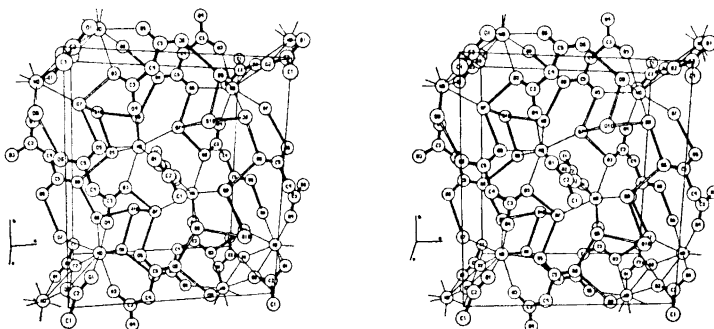
All computations were performed on the UNIVAC 1108 computer at Lund, Sweden, using the programs DRF, LALS, DISTAN, PLANE, CELSIUS, and ORTEP.<sup>12</sup>

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The general features of the structure of NDO are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Interatomic distances and angles are given in Table 5; some of them are also indicated in Figs. 4 and 5. The numbering of the atoms constituting the two



*Fig. 1.* A stereoscopic pair of drawings showing part of two adjacent neodymium-malonate networks and the bonding between them. Bonds within the malonate ions are filled, hydrogen bonds are open, and Nd-O bonds are single lines. The intra-network hydrogen bonds are omitted for clarity. The box outlined is  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 1/2$ ,  $0 \leq z \leq 1/2$ .



*Fig. 2.* A stereoscopic pair of drawings illustrating the neodymium-malonate network around  $z=0$ . The bonds are indicated in the same way as in Fig. 1. The box outlined is  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ ,  $-1/4 \leq z \leq 1/4$ .



Table 5. Selected distances (Å) and angles (°) with their estimated standard deviations.

A. The coordination polyhedron			
Nd—O(1)	2.54(1)	O(2 <sup>i</sup> )—O(7)	3.03(2)
Nd—O(2 <sup>i</sup> )	2.46(1)	O(2 <sup>i</sup> )—O(8)	3.24(2)
Nd—O(3)	2.47(1)	O(2 <sup>i</sup> )—O(9)	3.07(2)
Nd—O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )	2.41(1)	O(2 <sup>i</sup> )—O(2)	2.71(2)
Nd—O(5)	2.43(1)	O(3)—O(5)	2.83(2)
Nd—O(7)	2.53(1)	O(3)—O(9)	2.92(2)
Nd—O(8)	2.46(1)	O(3)—O(2)	2.91(2)
Nd—O(9)	2.49(1)	O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )—O(5)	2.86(2)
Nd—O(2)	2.72(1)	O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )—O(7)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(3)	3.16(2)	O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )—O(8)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )	3.05(2)	O(5)—O(8)	3.93(2)
O(1)—O(5)	3.31(2)	O(5)—O(9)	2.92(2)
O(1)—O(7)	3.24(2)	O(7)—O(8)	2.97(2)
O(1)—O(2)	2.18(2)	O(7)—O(2)	2.90(2)
O(2 <sup>i</sup> )—O(3)	3.07(2)	O(8)—O(9)	2.71(2)
B. Ligand 1			
C(1)—C(2)	1.51(2)	∠C(2)—C(1)—C(2 <sup>ii</sup> )	113(2)
C(2)—O(1)	1.22(2)	∠O(1)—C(2)—O(2)	122(1)
C(2)—O(2)	1.28(2)	∠C(1)—C(2)—O(1)	120(1)
		∠C(1)—C(2)—O(2)	119(1)
C. Ligand 2			
C(4)—C(3)	1.53(2)	∠C(3)—C(4)—C(5)	117(1)
C(4)—C(5)	1.52(3)	∠O(3)—C(3)—O(4)	121(1)
C(3)—O(3)	1.29(2)	∠C(4)—C(3)—O(3)	119(1)
C(3)—O(4)	1.26(2)	∠C(4)—C(3)—O(4)	120(1)
C(5)—O(5)	1.26(2)	∠O(5)—C(5)—O(6)	123(2)
C(5)—O(6)	1.20(3)	∠C(4)—C(5)—O(5)	118(2)
		∠C(4)—C(5)—O(6)	119(2)
D. Possible hydrogen bonds			
O(7)—O(3 <sup>i</sup> )	2.63(2)	O(8)—O(10)	2.71(2)
O(7)—O(5 <sup>v</sup> )	2.77(2)	O(9)—O(6 <sup>iii</sup> )	2.76(2)
O(7)—O(10 <sup>v</sup> )	2.85(2)	O(9)—O(10)	2.76(2)
O(8)—O(6 <sup>v</sup> )	2.67(2)	O(10)—O(1 <sup>viii</sup> )	2.79(2)

structurally independent malonate ions, referred to as ligand 1 and ligand 2, is shown in Fig. 4. The superscripts (i)–(x) refer to the following equivalent sites in the structure:

$x, y, z$	(iv)	$1/2 + x, 1/2 - y, \bar{z}$	(viii)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, z - 1/2$
(i) $\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$	(v)	$x - 1/2, 1/2 - y, \bar{z}$	(ix)	$x, \bar{y}, 1/2 + z$
(ii) $\bar{x}, y, 1/2 - z$	(vi)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 + y, z$	(x)	$1/2 - x, y - 1/2, z$
(iii) $1 - x, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$	(vii)	$1/2 - x, 1/2 - y, 1/2 + z$		

where  $x, y, z$  are the atomic coordinates given in Table 3.

The neodymium ions are situated at  $z \approx 0$  and  $z \approx 1/2$ . Those at the same  $z$ -level are coupled in pairs by oxygen bridges  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}(2)-\text{Nd}$ , where  $\text{O}(2)$  is a carboxylate oxygen of ligand 1, as shown in Fig. 1. The methylene carbon of this ligand is situated on the twofold axis  $x=0$ ,  $z=1/4$ , and hence ligand 1 connects the neodymium pairs in the  $z$ -direction. Ligand 2 links the neodymium pairs in layers parallel to (001) by bridges of the type  $\text{Nd}-\text{OCO}-\text{Nd}$ . As illustrated in Fig. 2, each neodymium pair is bonded in this way to four adjacent pairs.

There is a system of hydrogen bonds within the layer, formed by the coordinated water molecules  $\text{O}(7)$ ,  $\text{O}(8)$ , and  $\text{O}(9)$  with the carboxylate oxygens of ligand 2 as acceptors. The uncoordinated water molecule  $\text{O}(10)$  is situated between the layers at  $z \approx 1/4$  (see Fig. 1). It is hydrogen bonded to the coordinated water molecules in one layer and to the carboxylate oxygen  $\text{O}(1)$  in an adjacent layer. The layers are thus held together by ligand 1 as described above and by hydrogen bonds *via*  $\text{O}(10)$ .

*The coordination polyhedron.* The coordination around the pair of neodymium ions is shown in Fig. 3, and the dimensions of the coordination poly-

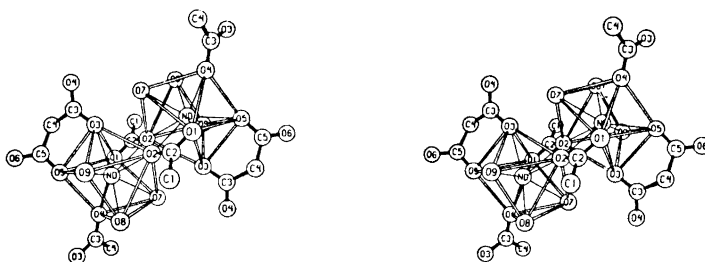


Fig. 3. A stereoscopic pair of drawings showing the coordination polyhedra around the neodymium ions  $\text{Nd}$  and  $\text{Nd}'$ .  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}$  bonds are single lines, the bonds within the malonate ions are filled and the edges of the square antiprism are open.

hedron are given in Table 5 A. Each neodymium ion is coordinated by six carboxylate oxygens, from four malonate ions, and by three water oxygens. These nine oxygens form a distorted monocapped square antiprism.

The carboxylate oxygens  $\text{O}(2)$  and  $\text{O}(2')$  form asymmetric oxygen bridges between the two neodymium ions; the distances  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}(2)$  and  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}(2')$  are 2.72 Å and 2.46 Å, respectively. The other  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}$  bond distances are in the range 2.41–2.54 Å and the average of the nine  $\text{Nd}-\text{O}$  distances, 2.50 Å, is compatible with those found in other structures containing neodymium coordinated by nine oxygens.<sup>13</sup>

The "square" faces of the coordination polyhedron are  $\text{O}(8)-\text{O}(4'')-\text{O}(5)-\text{O}(9)$  and  $\text{O}(7)-\text{O}(1)-\text{O}(3)-\text{O}(2')$ . The distant oxygen  $\text{O}(2)$  caps the latter square, which is larger than the first one, the edge lengths being in the intervals 2.71–2.97 Å and 3.02–3.24 Å, respectively. The "square" faces are approximately planar (see Table 6) and the least-squares planes through the atoms forming the "squares" are parallel. The neodymium ion is 0.2 Å closer to the capped square than to the uncapped one. The mean "contact"

Table 6. Deviations in Å from least squares planes within the malonate ions and the coordination polyhedron. The atoms defining the plane are in each case given above the asterisk.

A. The malonate ions							
Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance
C(1)	-0.00	C(4)	-0.00	C(4)	0.01	C(3)	-0.03
C(2)	0.00	C(3)	0.01	C(5)	-0.03	C(5)	0.03
O(1)	-0.00	O(3)	-0.01	O(5)	0.01	O(3)	0.03
O(2)	-0.00	O(4)	-0.01	O(6)	0.01	O(5)	-0.03
*		*		*		*	
Nd	0.67	Nd	-0.03	Nd	0.49	Nd	-0.42
Nd	0.03	Nd <sup>x</sup>	0.82			C(4)	-0.50

B. The coordination polyhedron			
Atom	Distance	Atom	Distance
O(3)	0.22	O(8)	0.08
O(1)	-0.20	O(4 <sup>vi</sup> )	-0.08
O(7)	0.21	O(5)	0.08
O(2 <sup>i</sup> )	-0.23	O(9)	-0.08
*		*	
Nd	1.19	Nd	-1.38

distance between oxygens not belonging to the same malonate ion is 3.00 Å as compared to 2.98 Å in  $\text{Nd}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot 10.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .<sup>2</sup> Only two of the O—O distances are shorter than 2.8 Å, *viz.* O(2)—O(2<sup>i</sup>) and O(8)—O(9), both being 2.71 Å.

Ligand 2 forms a six-membered chelate ring with neodymium. Its bite is 2.83 Å. The ring has a boat conformation with the four atoms O(3), C(3), C(5), and O(5) coplanar within  $\pm 0.03$  Å and the atoms Nd and C(4) situated 0.42 and 0.50 Å at the same side of this plane (Table 6). A similar conformation is found for the two structurally independent malonate rings of the complex  $\text{Comal}_2\text{en}^-$  ( $\text{en} = \text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ ), while the three equivalent rings of  $\text{Crmal}_3^{3-}$  have the methylene carbon 0.69 Å out of the plane formed by the other five atoms.<sup>5</sup>

The polyhedra around Nd and Nd<sup>i</sup> share the edge O(2)...O(2<sup>i</sup>) and the distance Nd...Nd<sup>i</sup> is relatively short, 4.42 Å. The carboxylate group C(2)O(1)O(2) may be described as bridging-chelating, *i.e.* both oxygens are bonded to the same metal ion in a four-membered ring and one of them, O(2), forms an additional bond to the second metal ion. This type of bridge is not uncommon in lanthanoid carboxylate structures. It is found, *e.g.*, in  $\text{Nd}(\text{OCOCH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{OCO})\text{Cl} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,<sup>14</sup>  $\text{K}_2\text{Ce}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_5 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,<sup>15</sup> and  $\text{Ce}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_3 \cdot 0.7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .<sup>16</sup> The next shortest Nd...Nd distance, 6.70 Å, is between the neodymium ions Nd and Nd<sup>vi</sup> which are connected by the bridging carboxylate group O(3)C(3)O(4) (see Fig. 2).

*The malonate ions.* The dimensions of the malonate ions are given in Table 5 B,C and in Fig. 4. The corresponding bond distances and angles in the two ions are equal within the limits of errors. There are no previous reports giving the

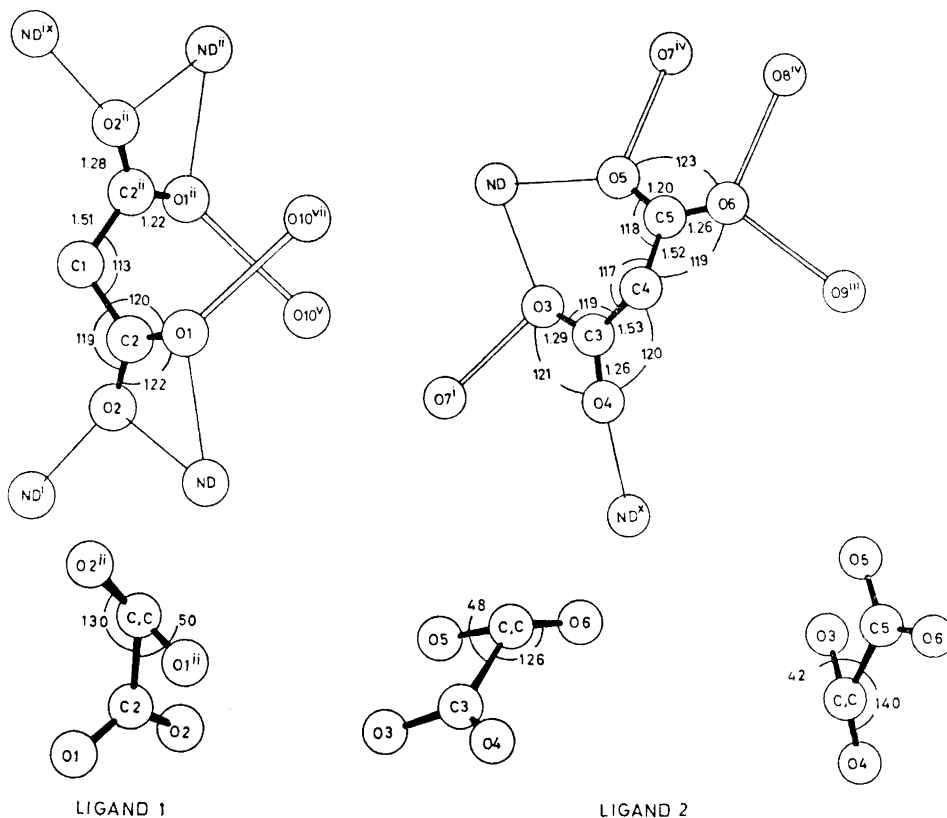


Fig. 4. The two malonate ions and their immediate surroundings, together with projections of each malonate ion along its C-C bonds. The angles indicated in the projections are the dihedral angles C-C-C-O.

dimensions of malonate ions. (The report of  $\text{Comal}_2\text{en}^-$  and  $\text{Crmal}_3^{3-}$  referred to above is only preliminary and contains no distances or atomic coordinates.) A comparison with the malonate residue in the compound  $\text{KOOCH}_2\text{COOH}$ <sup>17</sup> shows significant differences in the C-C-O bond angles attributable to the non-equivalence of the two C-O bonds in the hydrogen malonate ion, but otherwise the dimensions of the ions are compatible.

The three independent C-COO groups are planar within the limits of errors (Table 6) while the malonate ions are both nonplanar. In ligand 1 the dihedral angle  $\text{C}(2^{\text{ii}}) - \text{C}(1) - \text{C}(2) - \text{O}(2)$  is  $130^\circ$ . Since the methylene carbon is situated on a two-fold axis, this means that the two COO-groups are twisted  $50^\circ$  in opposite directions out of the plane of the three central carbon atoms. Thus the two C-COO-planes are almost perpendicular to each other and the oxygens of the two COO-groups are well separated; the shortest distances are  $\text{O}(1) \cdots \text{O}(1^{\text{ii}})$ : 3.24 Å and  $\text{O}(1) \cdots \text{O}(2^{\text{ii}})$ : 3.78 Å.

In ligand 2, which forms the six-membered chelate ring, the dihedral angles  $O(3)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)$  and  $C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-O(5)$  are  $42^\circ$  and  $48^\circ$ , respectively, *i.e.* the two COO-groups are twisted in the same direction out of the plane of the carbon atoms by about  $45^\circ$ . This twist results in one short O—O distance, *viz.* the ligand bite  $O(3)\cdots O(5)$  which is 2.83 Å.

The conformations of the malonate ions may be compared with those found for the malonate residues in malonic acid<sup>18</sup> and potassium hydrogen malonate.<sup>17</sup> In malonic acid one COO-group but not the other is twisted about  $90^\circ$  out of the plane of the carbon atoms while the atoms of the malonate group in potassium hydrogen malonate are almost coplanar. In the latter compound, the shortest intramolecular separation of oxygens belonging to different COO-groups is 2.80 Å.

*The hydrogen bonds.* The possible hydrogen bond distances, *i.e.* the  $(H_2)O-O$  distances shorter than 3.20 Å, between oxygens not belonging to the same coordination polyhedron<sup>19</sup> are given in Table 5 D. There is just one suitable distance for each of the active hydrogen atoms, and the longest of these distances is 2.85 Å. Thus the choice of a probable hydrogen bond system seems to be unequivocal even though the positions of the hydrogen atoms have not been located. The hydrogen bond system is illustrated in Fig. 5.

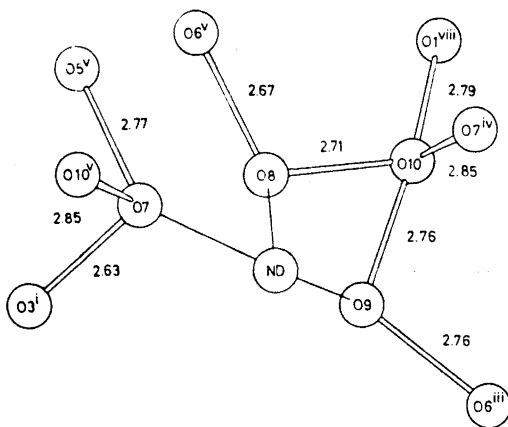


Fig. 5. The immediate surroundings of the four water molecules. Hydrogen bonds are open and Nd—O bonds are single lines.

The water molecule O(7) forms two hydrogen bonds to carboxylic oxygens within the neodymium malonate layer, *viz.*  $O(7)\cdots O(3^i)$  and  $O(7)\cdots O(5^v)$ , and accepts one hydrogen bond from the uncoordinated water molecule O(10). The donor angle  $O(5^v)-O(7)-O(3^i)$  is  $98^\circ$ . The three hydrogen bonds and the bond Nd—O(7) are approximately tetrahedrally arranged around O(7) and the “tetrahedral” angles are in the range  $95-133^\circ$ . The oxygens O(7) and O(3<sup>i</sup>) belong to different coordination polyhedra of an edge-sharing pair and thus the bond  $O(7)\cdots O(3^i)$  constitutes an additional link between these polyhedra.

The water molecules O(8) and O(9) each form one intra-layer hydrogen bond to a carboxylic oxygen, viz. O(8)...O(6<sup>iii</sup>) and O(9)...O(6<sup>iii</sup>), and one to the water molecule O(10). The donor angles O(6<sup>iii</sup>)–O(8)–O(10) and O(6<sup>iii</sup>)–O(9)–O(10) are 111° and 112° respectively and the sum of the three bond angles is 341° around O(8) and 335° around O(9).

The uncoordinated water molecule O(10) is situated between the neodymium malonate layers and forms the only inter layer hydrogen bonds. It is bonded to the water oxygens O(8), O(9) and O(7<sup>ii</sup>) of one layer and to the carboxylic oxygen O(1<sup>vii</sup>) of an adjacent layer (see Fig. 1). These four oxygens form a distorted tetrahedron around O(10) with the "tetrahedral" angles in the range 59–159°. The donor angle O(1<sup>vii</sup>)–O(10)–O(7<sup>ii</sup>) is 116°.

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