

The Crystal and Molecular Structure of *cis*-Dichloro-bis(1,2-ethanediol)manganese(II) $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$

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The crystal structure of $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ has been determined and refined from three-dimensional X-ray diffraction data. The crystals are monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$, with the following cell dimensions and their estimated standard deviations; $a = 9.491 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 7.223 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 14.213 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$ and $\beta = 92.229 \pm 0.007^\circ$. There are four formula units per unit cell and each atom occupies a general fourfold position. The intensity material was collected with the Weissenberg equi-inclination technique from the b -axis using a linear diffractometer and $\text{MoK}\alpha$ -radiation. With anisotropic temperature factors for all the non-hydrogen atoms the refinement terminated at a final conventional R -value of 0.053. The Mn^{2+} ion is octahedrally surrounded by the four glycol * oxygens and the two chlorine atoms. In this way neutral molecules $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ are formed and these are held together through hydrogen bonds of the type $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$. A tentative proposal for the positions of the hydrogen atoms is given.

An investigation of complexes between polyols and divalent transition metal ions is currently in progress in this department. The first work in this series, a crystal structure determination of $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$, was recently published by the author.¹ The crystal structure determination $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ which is presented below forms the second paper in the series.

EXPERIMENTAL

Crystal preparation and analyses. The crystals were prepared by dissolving 7.5 g $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in 7 g glycol by heating on a water bath. The solution obtained was placed over sulphuric acid *in vacuo*. Pink crystals, in the form of somewhat irregular hexagonal plates, separated after a short time. The chlorine content of the crystals was determined gravimetrically to be 27.14 %. (Calculated for $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$, 28.36 %.) 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) it was concluded

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

that the crystals are monoclinic. The cell dimensions were refined from a powder photograph taken in a camera of Guinier-Hägg type and with Si as internal standard. (To avoid fluorescence the $\text{CuK}\alpha$ -radiation was filtered through copper foil before being diffracted in the crystal powder.) The following parameters and their corresponding standard deviations were obtained $a = 9.491 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 7.223 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 14.213 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$ and $\beta = 92.229 \pm 0.007^\circ$. The density of the crystals was determined by the flotation method using bromoform and xylene. The experimental value was 1.68 g/cm^3 and the value calculated for four formula units in the unit cell was 1.70 g/cm^3 . Systematic extinctions were found for $h0l$ when l is odd and for $0k0$ when k is odd. This is characteristic for the space group $P2_1/c$ (No. 14).²

Intensity data. The intensities from the crystal $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ were collected and measured with an automatic linear diffractometer, PAILRED, and $\text{MoK}\alpha$ -radiation. The crystal used was hygroscopic and therefore it was enclosed in a capillary of Lindeman glass during the measurements. It was rotated around the b -axis and intensities for $h0l-h8l$ were measured. Reflexions with a total number of counts less than 4000 during one scan interval were measured twice. The half-scan interval for reflexions with $\theta \geq 22^\circ$ (Ω_1) varied between $0.9^\circ-1.2^\circ$ and for those with $\theta \leq 22^\circ$ (Ω_2) between 1.8° and 2.1° for $h0l-h3l$. From $h3l$ to $h8l$, Ω_1 was 1.2° and Ω_2 was 2.1° . The scan speed used was $1^\circ/\text{min}$. Background intensities, B_1 and B_2 , were measured during 40 sec (t_B) before and after each scan. The intensity for a reflexion, TI , was calculated from the measured total intensity, T , (peak + background) by subtracting the background counts B_1 and B_2 according to the relation

$$TI = T/TN - [t_T/(t_B/60)](B_1 + B_2)$$

where t_T stands for the total scanning time [Ω_1 or Ω_2 /(scan speed/min)] and TN is the number of times the reflexion is measured. The relative counting statistical error of each reflexion $\Delta T/TI$, was calculated using the formula

$$\frac{\Delta T}{TI} = \frac{[T/TN^2 + t^2(B_1 + B_2) + T^2/TN^2 \times 0.0001]^{1/2}}{T/TN - t(B_1 + B_2)}$$

where $t = t_T/(t_B/60)$ and $T^2/TN^2 \times 0.0001$ is a term that corrects for the linear error in the diffractometer. Out of a total of 3291 measured intensities those with $\Delta T/TI > 0.5$ were omitted leaving 1969 independent reflexions for the refinement.

Besides the normal correction for Lorentz and polarization factors absorption correction was also made. The linear absorption coefficient was 19.1 cm^{-1} and the greatest difference in transmission was 18 %. When the refinement was terminated, structure factors for all the omitted reflexions within the copper sphere were calculated. These were all weak reflexions, weaker or equal to the threshold value of the intensity material.

The diffractometer data correction program used was the modified version of a program originally written by Ivarsson and Lundberg.³ The computer programs used were the same as described by Antti and Lundberg.⁴

STRUCTURE DETERMINATION AND REFINEMENT

The manganese and chlorine atoms were located from a three-dimensional Patterson synthesis, and all the other atoms were found by standard Fourier methods.

The atomic parameters and the atomic temperature factors were refined by full matrix least-squares techniques. The reflexion material was weighted according to the method proposed by Cruickshank,⁵ with $a = 50$, $c = -0.015$ and $d = 0.0001$. The atomic scattering factors for Mn^{2+} , Cl^- , O , and C were used and taken from the International Tables⁶ and account was taken of the real parts of the dispersion corrections for the manganese and the chlorine atoms. With isotropic temperature factors for all atoms the refinement converged to a conventional R -value of 0.083. A final refinement including

anisotropic temperature factors for all atoms resulted in a final R -value of 0.053. All parameter shifts in the last refinement were less than 10 % of the estimated standard deviations.

Finally a difference Fourier synthesis was calculated. From the twenty highest peaks which appeared in this map twelve corresponded to reasonable positions for the twelve independent hydrogen atoms in general positions. Four of the hydrogen atoms, those bound to oxygen atoms, were suitably located for hydrogen bonding to chlorine atoms.

After two cycles of least-squares refinement of the positional parameters for all the hydrogen atoms the R -value decreased to 0.046. During this refinement the isotropic thermal parameters of the hydrogen atoms and the positional and anisotropic thermal parameters of all the other atoms were kept constant. The scattering factors for the hydrogen atoms used were those proposed by Stewart, Davidson and Simpson.⁷ When the non-hydrogen atoms were refined in two further cycles, while the hydrogen atom positions were kept constant, there was a further decrease in the R -value to 0.044.

The significance of this decrease in R -value from 0.053 to 0.044 was tested by a method proposed by Hamilton (1965)⁸ and somewhat simplified by Pawley (1970).⁹ The decrease proved to be significant with more than 99 % certainty. The present material gave an R -ratio of 1.205 which should be compared with the calculated ratio $\mathcal{R}_{48,1821,0.01} = 1.017$. The indices 48, 1821, and 0.01 refer to the dimension of the hypothesis, the degrees of freedom, and the significance level, respectively. Although the determination of the hydrogen atom positions cannot be considered especially accurate, the introduction of them made the values of the estimated standard deviations for all the non-hydrogen atoms 16 to 23 % lower.

Under these circumstances it seems to be justified to include the hydrogen atom positions. A last difference Fourier map was then calculated in which no abnormalities could be detected. A list of the final positional parameters and the thermal parameters is given in Tables 1 *a* and 1 *b*. The observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 2.

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure is built up from discrete molecules $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$, which are held together through weak hydrogen bonds and van der Waals contacts. The hydrogen bonds are of the type $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{O}-\text{H}$. A drawing illustrating the packing and the hydrogen bond contacts is shown in Fig. 1.

In the molecule $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ manganese(II) coordinates to four oxygen atoms and two chlorine atoms in a somewhat distorted octahedral arrangement as can be seen in Fig. 2. The chlorine atoms, which are in *cis*-positions, are at nearly equal distances, 2.463 Å and 2.464 Å, respectively, from the manganese atom. The distances between the oxygen and manganese atoms are very similar and lie between 2.184 Å and 2.247 Å. The angles within the octahedron show a rather wide variation around the ideal value. For example, the angles that should be 90° in a regular octahedron, *i.e.* the angles $L-M-L$ where the L 's stand for ligands in adjacent corners and M is the

Table 1a. The atomic positional fractional coordinates and the anisotropic thermal parameters. All values have been multiplied by 10^4 . (Standard deviations for the last significant figure are given in parentheses). Anisotropic temperature factors have been calculated according to the formula $\exp [-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + hk\beta_{12} + hl\beta_{13} + kl\beta_{23})]$.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Mn	2510(1)	1621(1)	4293(0.4)	62(1)	108(1)	30(0.3)	-10(1)	-4(1)	3(1)
Cl(1)	2062(1)	1399(2)	5984(1)	101(1)	197(2)	29(0.4)	-44(3)	5(1)	1(2)
Cl(2)	2981(1)	6680(1)	9004(1)	100(1)	107(2)	50(1)	-7(2)	-6(1)	1(2)
O(11)	4586(3)	2841(5)	4587(2)	74(3)	210(8)	38(2)	-44(8)	-13(3)	14(5)
O(12)	3430(3)	2324(5)	2904(2)	104(4)	188(7)	29(1)	-44(8)	-4(3)	34(5)
O(21)	1583(3)	4463(4)	4231(2)	87(3)	126(6)	57(2)	8(7)	-7(4)	10(5)
O(22)	371(3)	1362(5)	3657(2)	70(3)	164(7)	54(2)	-29(7)	-21(4)	4(5)
C(11)	4536(5)	8155(8)	1203(4)	72(5)	229(12)	57(3)	42(12)	24(5)	-12(9)
C(12)	4513(5)	3715(7)	2987(3)	103(5)	165(10)	48(2)	-15(11)	42(6)	35(7)
C(21)	448(6)	4623(8)	3550(4)	119(7)	182(12)	63(3)	97(14)	-23(7)	16(9)
C(22)	494(5)	8005(8)	1326(4)	74(5)	234(14)	78(4)	-61(12)	-19(7)	23(10)

Table 1 b. Atomic positional fractional coordinates for the hydrogen atoms. All values have been multiplied by 10^3 . (Standard deviations for the last significant figure are given in parentheses). The thermal parameters have not been refined.

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>B</i>
H(O11)	506(5)	258(8)	12(4)	4.0
H(O12)	298(5)	238(8)	236(3)	4.0
H(O21)	207(5)	574(8)	423(3)	4.0
H(O22)	12(5)	537(8)	110(3)	4.0
H(C11)1	409(6)	683(9)	138(4)	5.0
H(C11)2	381(6)	914(9)	108(4)	5.0
H(C12)1	406(6)	497(9)	310(4)	5.0
H(C12)2	501(6)	381(8)	243(4)	5.0
H(C21)1	89(6)	467(9)	281(4)	5.0
H(C21)2	-11(6)	589(9)	363(4)	5.0
H(C22)1	94(6)	807(9)	70(4)	5.0
H(C22)2	126(6)	806(9)	180(4)	5.0

central atom, vary between 72.4° and 104.7° . For a complete list of distances and angles within the octahedron, see Table 3.

A comparison can be made between $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$, the subject of this report, and the structure of $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$.¹⁰ It is interesting to observe that the manganese atom has retained its configuration although water has been substituted by glycol. In $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ there are also discrete molecules or octahedra where the manganese atom coordinates two chlorine atoms at an average distance of 2.488 Å and four oxygen atoms at an average distance of 2.206 Å. These distances should be compared with those obtained from the structure $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$, which are 2.464 Å and 2.215 Å respectively. The average Mn-Cl distance of 2.464 Å in the glycol compound is significantly shorter

Table 2. Continued.

H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L	H	L		
K*	8	8	8	59	45	6	3	129	129	4	-9	144	141		
		8	9	77	75	6	9	57	37	4	-7	71	67		
9	7	77	77	7	13	67	54	5	14	63	41	4	-5	225	235
9	6	73	64	7	7	95	87	5	13	65	53	4	-3	150	167
9	5	67	76	7	6	89	73	5	10	91	92	4	-1	48	58
9	4	58	29*	7	1	119	116	5	7	110	116	4	3	76	75
9	1	101	109	7	0	92	91	5	6	103	97	4	11	85	67
9	0	59	41	7	-1	121	122	5	5	63	60	4	13	76	93
9	-1	111	111	7	-2	61	62	5	4	117	117	3	15	72	79
9	-5	71	75	7	-4	55	67	5	1	124	131	3	13	91	88
9	-7	89	68	7	-5	91	82	5	0	60	80	3	10	89	69
9	-13	62	44	7	-7	136	133	5	-1	169	186	3	9	88	87
8	-11	76	75	7	-3	71	76	5	-3	82	77	3	8	105	101
8	-9	100	102	7	-4	70	45	5	-5	77	95	3	7	123	126
8	-8	67	24*	6	-14	60	18*	5	-7	175	183	3	5	69	76
8	-7	61	41	6	-11	118	127	5	-9	70	80	3	4	117	122
8	-5	126	127	6	-9	155	163	5	-13	57	69	3	2	143	146
8	-3	155	158	6	-5	195	206	4	-17	74	74	3	1	106	101
8	1	132	132	6	-3	189	192	4	-11	149	153	3	0	54	43
8	3	138	156	6	1	143	152	4	-10	55	23*	3	-1	160	161
												3	-2	159	168
												2	6	88	93
												2	7	52	60
												2	11	113	116
												2	13	105	104
												2	17	74	75
												1	15	65	68
												1	13	85	86
												1	10	78	67
												1	9	104	111
												1	8	160	156
												1	7	82	89
												1	4	235	218
												1	3	56	69
												1	2	124	137
												1	-2	179	193
												1	-3	68	67
												1	-4	120	123
												1	-5	79	60
												1	-6	57	54
												1	-7	147	162
												1	-8	66	60

than the 2.488 Å separation in the tetrahydrate, while the Mn–O distances in both the compounds are of about the same order of magnitude. It seems that the exchange from water to glycol has had some effect on the Mn–Cl bond. In both structures the chlorine atoms are adjacent to each other and participate in hydrogen bonds to oxygen atoms in neighbouring octahedra. Evidently the exchange from water to glycol increases the distortion of the octahedral arrangement around the manganese atom. In $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ the angles between opposite corners *via* the central atom are very near 180°. One angle differs from this value by 11° and the other two by 6° and 3°, respectively. In $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ none of these angles differs by less than 16° and by more than 22°.

Comparisons can also be made with the dihydrate of MnCl_2 .¹¹ This compound consists of polymeric chains of metal and chlorine ions arranged in a near square planar configuration with each chlorine ion shared by two metal ions. The water molecules which fill the remaining octahedral positions around the metal ion also link adjacent chains through hydrogen bonding. In this compound the Mn–Cl distances of 2.515 Å and 2.592 Å are significantly longer than in the glycol compound while the Mn–O distance of 2.150 Å is significantly shorter than the Mn–O distances in the glycol compound. There seems to be a tendency for the Mn–Cl distance to decrease in the series $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow [\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ and at the same time the Mn–O distances increase. In the same series the Cl–Cl distances within the coordination octahedra vary from 3.530 Å and 3.691 Å for $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to 3.708 Å for the tetrahydrate and 3.717 Å for $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$. The angles Cl–Mn–Cl show the same trend; they are 87°, 96°, and 98° respectively.

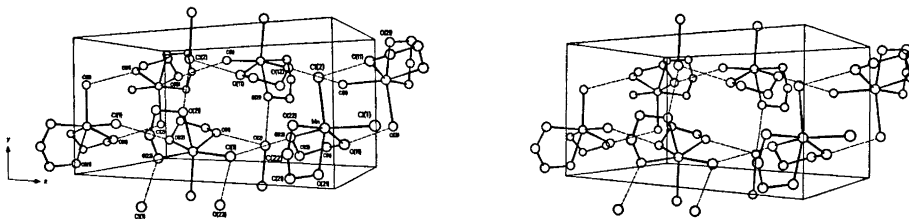


Fig. 1. A stereoscopic illustration of the molecular packing and the hydrogen bond contacts in a unit cell of $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$.

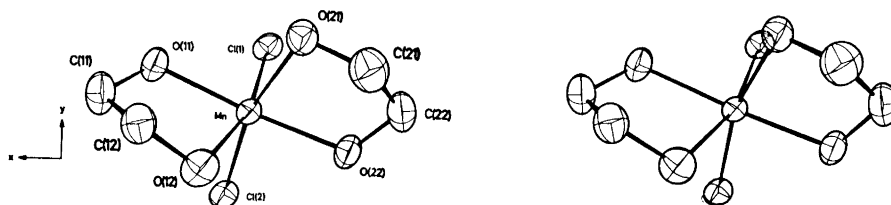


Fig. 2. A stereoscopic view of the atoms in the asymmetric unit, showing the coordination around manganese. Thermal ellipsoids are scaled to enclose 50% probability.

The greatest differences in angles and distances occur between $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ on the one hand and $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ on the other. It is also between the two MnCl_2 -hydrates that a structural change occurs from polymeric chains to discrete octahedra, the latter being retained in $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$.

The glycol molecules act as bidentate ligands coordinating to the manganese atom through the two *vicinal* hydroxyl groups. As can be seen from Fig. 2 the glycol molecules do not expand in the same plane but are twisted in relation to each other. This is a natural consequence of the *cis*-configuration of the molecule. The angles between connected planes¹ in the two glycol ligands are nearly the same, 52.3° and 52.1° for Glycol I and II, respectively. The equations for these planes are given in Table 4. In the structure $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_3]\text{SO}_4$ these angles varied between 45.9° to 55.3° for the three glycol ligands.¹ When the glycol molecule is unstrained the carbon-carbon bond is twisted in such a way

Table 3. Dimensions of the octahedron around manganese in $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$. (Standard deviations for the last significant figure are given in parentheses.)

Atoms	Distance, Å.	Atoms	Angle(°)	Atoms	Angle(°)
Mn—Cl(1)	2.463(1)	Cl(1)—Mn—Cl(2)	98.0(0.4)	O(11)—Mn—O(21)	89.3(1)
Mn—Cl(2)	2.464(1)	Cl(1)—Mn—O(11)	91.6(1)	O(11)—Mn—O(22)	157.7(1)
Mn—O(11)	2.184(3)	Cl(1)—Mn—O(21)	90.9(1)	O(11)—Mn—O(12)	72.4(1)
Mn—O(12)	2.247(3)	Cl(1)—Mn—O(22)	101.8(1)	O(21)—Mn—O(22)	72.9(1)
Mn—O(21)	2.233(3)	Cl(1)—Mn—O(12)	163.7(1)	O(21)—Mn—O(12)	85.6(1)
Mn—O(22)	2.197(3)	Cl(2)—Mn—O(11)	104.7(1)	O(22)—Mn—O(12)	92.4(1)
		Cl(2)—Mn—O(21)	163.1(1)		
		Cl(2)—Mn—O(22)	91.1(1)		
		Cl(2)—Mn—O(12)	89.6(1)		

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 1: & \quad 0.584587x - 0.523141y - 0.620146z - 1.627167 = 0 \\
 2: & \quad -0.093764x - 0.959094y - 0.267110z - 4.092643 = 0 \\
 3: & \quad 0.549048x - 0.521635y - 0.653027z - 4.908709 = 0 \\
 4: & \quad -0.116435x - 0.060177y - 0.991374z - 5.225780 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 5. Dimensions of the two glycol ligands I and II. (Standard deviations of the last significant figure are given in parentheses.)

Atoms	Distance, Å	Plane	Atoms	Angle(°)
I				
O(11)–C(11)	1.442(6)	1	O(11)–C(11)–C(12)	107.0(3)
O(12)–C(12)	1.439(6)	2	O(12)–C(12)–C(11)	106.5(4)
C(11)–C(12)	1.490(7)	1–2		52.3
II				
O(21)–C(21)	1.425(6)	3	O(21)–C(21)–C(22)	107.3(4)
O(22)–C(22)	1.444(6)	4	O(22)–C(22)–C(21)	107.4(4)
C(21)–C(22)	1.486(8)	3–4		52.1

Table 6. Hydrogen bond distances and their estimated standard deviations. (All distances represent hydrogen bonding between atoms in different octahedra).

Bond	Distance, Å
O(11)–H...Cl(2)	3.112(3)
O(12)–H...Cl(1)	3.116(3)
O(21)–H...Cl(2)	3.108(3)
O(22)–H...Cl(1)	3.109(3)

as to achieve a *staggered* conformation and this angle is approximately 55° . In $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ the glycol molecules are evidently somewhat strained in order to achieve a molecular packing with lowest possible energy. This fact is also reflected in the O–C–C angles in the glycol ligands, which deviate significantly from the tetrahedral angle of 109.5° . The mean values of the O–C–C angles for Glycol I is 106.8° and for Glycol II 107.4° . With regard to the interatomic distances within the glycol ligands, there are no significant deviations from earlier reported values.¹ A complete list of bond distances and angles in the two glycol ligands is presented in Table 5.

As mentioned earlier the whole structure is held together by weak hydrogen bonds and van der Waals contacts. Each oxygen atom in the two glycol ligands is involved in a hydrogen bond to a chlorine atom in a neighbouring molecule. The hydrogen bond distances are listed in Table 6.

The O–H distances calculated from the parameters listed in Tables 1a and 1b are 0.92 Å, 0.87 Å, 1.04 Å, and 0.93 Å for O(11), O(12), O(21), and O(22), respectively. The C–H distances are 1.08 Å and 1.00 Å for C(11); 1.02 Å and 0.94 Å for C(12), 1.15 Å and 1.07 Å for C(21), and 1.00 Å and 0.97 Å for C(22). No detailed list of distances and angles concerning the hydrogen atoms is represented because of the limited accuracy of the hydrogen parameters.

In octahedral complexes of the type MeA_4B_2 there are two possible ways of arranging the atoms, which lead to the *cis*- and *trans*-form, respectively.¹²

This also holds true when A_4 represents the four coordinating atoms from two bidentate chelating agents as in $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ the subject of this report. Thus it would appear possible that the *trans*-form of this compound may also be found.

$\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ appears in two monoclinic crystal modifications.^{13,14} One of them, the α -form, is stable at room temperature and the other, the β -form, is metastable at room temperature. When preparing the $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ crystals the α -form was used. In α - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ the chlorine atoms are in the *cis*-position as mentioned earlier and the derived compound $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ has retained this *cis*-configuration. β - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is isomorphous with $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$,¹⁴ the structure of which has been determined by Penfold and Grigor.¹⁵ In this structure the chlorine atoms are in the *trans*-position, and thus should also be so in the isomorphous compound β - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$. It therefore seems possible that the *trans*-form of $[\text{MnCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2)_2]$ should arise if the crystals are prepared from β - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and glycol. The metastability of β - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ would serve as an explanation for the failure of the *trans*-compound to form at room temperature.

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