

The Crystal Structure of L-Mimosine Sulphate Hydrate

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The structure of L-mimosine sulphate hydrate, $C_8H_{13}(OH)_2NHC_2CH(NH_3^+)COOH \cdot SO_4 \cdot (H_2O)_{1.5}$, 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 $a = 6.42$ Å; $b = 13.88$ Å; $c = 14.48$, 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.

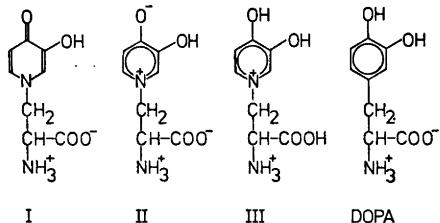


Fig. 1.

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°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. Woolfson 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, $C_8H_{13}N_2O_4 \cdot H_2SO_4 \cdot 1.5H_2O$, m.p. 143–143.5°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 $\exp - (B11h^2 + B22k^2 + B33l^2 + B12hk + B13hl + B23kl)$.

ATOM	X	Y	Z	B11	B22	B33	B12	B13	B23
S	58974(14)	29434(4)	19360(4)	1683(17)	215(3)	161(2)	+201(15)	+62(13)	18(4)
O1	48321(68)	39828(18)	20693(17)	4236(168)	238(10)	488(12)	3(67)	+1391(75)	-93(18)
O2	51624(56)	27049(16)	9461(12)	2686(72)	464(12)	169(7)	-632(64)	154(48)	13(15)
O3	70337(52)	26244(24)	23968(17)	2359(81)	685(19)	276(11)	886(65)	+91(52)	58(23)
O4	32976(54)	24479(24)	23133(19)	2748(87)	711(19)	272(7)	+1473(70)	656(56)	+278(24)
C1	19476(46)	22595(15)	39970(14)	2768(75)	226(10)	257(9)	+22(48)	281(46)	-28(15)
C2	18889(41)	22921(16)	58139(14)	2840(62)	327(11)	234(9)	+22(48)	184(43)	124(16)
C3	-4467(47)	52435(21)	22453(15)	2516(82)	653(18)	253(9)	+288(61)	377(48)	+295(21)
C4	-31974(41)	51010(17)	31652(15)	2044(63)	402(12)	293(10)	+566(60)	25(46)	+218(18)
Ov1	919(99)	33975(32)	9982(29)	2126(128)	361(21)	348(19)	56(121)	125(108)	58(34)
Ov2	-15228(58)	52981(20)	2626(19)	2418(78)	465(14)	498(13)	+243(59)	+475(59)	+298(23)
N1	16592(41)	48089(17)	44888(15)	914(52)	211(10)	212(9)	88(42)	+23(39)	22(16)
N2	-18714(48)	62947(17)	44189(16)	1487(65)	232(11)	222(10)	+28(46)	+218(46)	+182(17)
C1	17777(52)	39776(20)	39958(17)	1566(72)	245(12)	178(9)	+63(56)	162(48)	-1(19)
C2	18381(49)	31037(28)	44489(18)	1182(66)	255(13)	229(11)	98(52)	122(48)	+8(19)
C3	17692(49)	38843(21)	54163(18)	1091(64)	381(14)	238(11)	86(55)	102(47)	28(28)
C4	16138(55)	39523(23)	58812(18)	1601(67)	377(16)	193(18)	170(63)	57(51)	+112(22)
C5	15609(56)	47926(22)	54170(19)	1523(75)	286(14)	227(11)	142(57)	+9(51)	+111(21)
C6	17131(59)	57553(20)	39866(18)	1509(76)	222(12)	296(12)	-182(55)	+14(56)	83(21)
C7	-3997(48)	69934(19)	36516(17)	1596(80)	196(11)	211(10)	+50(51)	87(48)	10(18)
C8	-13865(55)	54257(20)	29409(28)	1812(81)	237(12)	235(12)	95(53)	-232(84)	9(28)

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)	3348(31)	3.3(.8)
H02	1608(302)	2282(42)	6371(42)	4.9(1.4)
H04	-3770(84)	4655(39)	2746(36)	4.2(1.0)
H1V2	-1582(87)	5814(40)	259(34)	5.7(1.0)
H2V2	-1127(74)	5205(32)	874(33)	6.0(.9)
H1N2	-2475(58)	5864(27)	4620(22)	2.7(.6)
H2N2	-1435(53)	6546(23)	4746(19)	1.6(.6)
H3N2	-2817(92)	6775(41)	4279(34)	6.3(1.1)
Hc1	1887(60)	4051(26)	3330(26)	3.0(.6)
Hc4	1582(51)	3888(21)	6592(21)	2.3(.5)
Hc5	1496(78)	5446(32)	5686(29)	3.2(.8)
Hc6	2382(31)	6246(14)	4351(13)	1.8(.3)
Hc6	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	a, K_a	0	3	427	448	16	91	95	15	47	43	14	115	123	1	234	218	4	150	148	H	i, K_i	19	
2	88	2	4	72	70	18	100	113	11	158	148	16	87	89	2	35	42	5	198	202	3	136	130	
4	11	171	6	249	241	19	49	53	2	44	40	18	86	92	3	430	427	6	132	140	4	48	52	
6	1073	1054	6	249	19	20	74	74	2	44	40	18	86	92	5	307	301	7	131	149	5	115	114	
8	624	7	106	137	H	$0, K_0$	11	4	138	133	19	123	118	6	204	201	8	82	82	6	50	43		
10	411	444	8	85	86	1	264	255	6	49	35	21	75	63	7	236	250	9	182	186	9	56	50	
12	145	145	9	164	147	2	123	126	7	63	64	23	54	45	8	176	178	11	99	106	11	41	36	
14	191	212	10	244	240	3	399	394	8	98	92	He	$1, K_1$	3	9	143	146	12	90	85	12	46	43	
16	32	24	11	71	71	4	30	28	9	100	105	0	120	113	10	42	48	13	86	89	1	1, K ₁	20	
18	124	123	12	280	279	5	333	356	10	86	85	1	391	422	11	212	216	14	94	90	0	40	44	
20	223	215	14	83	80	6	176	178	11	84	88	2	615	602	12	192	195	15	91	88	1	80	82	
22	142	143	15	91	94	7	31	31	12	79	79	3	140	143	13	180	188	16	91	90	2	65	58	
He	$0, K_0$	1	20	120	114	9	57	46	He	$0, K_0$	19	4	172	156	14	101	96	17	73	74	3	44	45	
1	130	158	22	59	58	11	157	162	2	62	51	5	633	606	15	77	70	18	63	50	7	73	67	
2	32	394	22	114	118	12	127	134	3	51	54	6	343	329	16	80	78	19	93	90	9	69	63	
3	116	660	H	$0, K_0$	13	151	155	4	50	46	7	303	306	17	98	97	H	$1, K_1$	13	H	$1, K_1$	21		
4	64	64	0	307	346	14	85	54	5	58	60	8	193	222	18	102	97	0	163	166	2	43	43	
5	825	816	1	133	143	15	243	293	6	110	109	9	57	59	19	41	39	1	127	138	4	88	81	
6	327	335	2	410	371	16	83	92	7	85	87	10	140	134	21	94	98	2	73	77	5	37	21	
7	303	311	3	319	305	19	66	78	8	55	58	19	69	68	H	$1, K_1$	8	3	144	146	6	101	105	
8	119	118	4	331	306	12	10	78	77	12	144	148	0	495	492	4	124	124	H	$1, K_1$	22			
9	277	294	6	473	481	0	256	260	He	$0, K_0$	20	13	135	128	1	183	186	5	85	85	0	43	36	
10	272	283	7	97	75	2	34	37	1	64	57	18	71	71	2	192	195	5	121	119	1	99	94	
12	65	71	8	353	352	3	45	44	2	131	140	18	59	51	3	100	101	7	88	88	2	44	34	
13	124	119	9	209	215	10	45	44	13	45	45	18	50	51	4	224	226	8	38	35	3	44	54	
14	159	157	10	270	278	6	110	113	4	45	30	17	63	65	5	121	130	9	32	26	H	$2, K_2$	0	
15	148	148	11	211	212	8	243	248	6	86	90	19	70	76	6	46	47	10	73	73	0	451	452	
16	55	46	12	214	220	9	106	113	7	68	55	20	114	111	7	235	229	12	146	146	1	1260	1226	
18	41	28	13	103	102	10	120	114	8	49	39	21	79	76	8	227	235	13	82	75	2	893	888	
19	99	102	15	119	110	12	148	148	9	64	72	22	103	94	9	74	71	14	97	101	3	221	218	
20	77	75	16	124	123	13	70	60	10	70	73	23	47	51	10	245	238	15	85	79	4	117	90	
21	117	120	17	242	245	14	67	65	He	$0, K_0$	21	12	70	75	H	$1, K_1$	4	11	71	68	16	62	66	
22	47	57	19	64	64	15	89	84	3	119	109	0	29	59	12	70	75	H	$1, K_1$	14	6	451	460	
23	117	120	19	74	74	16	97	103	1	51	45	1	324	325	13	107	101	0	181	180	7	35	35	
He	$0, K_0$	2	H	$0, K_0$	7	17	42	34	5	80	80	20	164	164	3	104	104	2	72	157	154	8	44	44
0	450	16	1	310	310	18	86	85	4	87	84	3	457	454	15	96	94	2	84	82	10	440	438	
1	156	79	2	341	345	19	40	40	He	$0, K_0$	22	4	483	446	16	95	100	4	56	54	11	29	1	
2	379	349	3	305	395	H	$0, K_0$	13	52	52	5	235	234	17	88	88	8	92	100	12	175	169		
3	390	555	4	318	341	1	208	210	1	39	24	6	113	118	18	127	127	6	98	98	14	110	107	
4	357	357	5	309	293	4	107	110	2	48	38	7	132	121	19	67	67	6	114	115	15	229	239	
5	131	144	6	311	273	5	104	97	He	$1, K_1$	8	8	264	279	20	87	95	139	139	16	76	80		
6	720	672	7	98	86	6	164	164	1	508	538	9	115	113	H	$1, K_1$	9	9	65	65	18	168	168	
7	35	25	8	26	22	7	134	146	2	43	58	10	217	219	0	266	261	10	64	68	21	65	63	
8	86	67	9	84	66	9	97	111	3	578	563	11	149	164	1	305	276	11	68	70	23	51	50	
9	349	376	10	165	167	10	56	47	4	260	269	12	106	107	2	101	92	12	66	65	H	$2, K_2$		
10	223	199	11	514	544	12	68	87	6	395	394	13	97	97	3	235	235	21	91	91	0	101	101	
12	205	153	12	203	203	13	158	156	7	281	279	14	102	102	4	245	256	17	84	83	1	957	899	
13	39	47	13	237	237	229	H	$0, K_0$	14	8	57	60	16	127	126	6	186	185	H	$1, K_1$	16			
14	68	80	15	63	62	1	70	67	9	508	507	17	112	113	7	143	146	0	70	70	4	324	325	
15	94	89	20	66	64	3	131	127	11	106	102	19	96	99	10	125	126	2	109	101	6	462	455	
17	66	56	22	110	110	4	80	81	12	123	126	20	84	84	11	100	97	3	34	33	7	313	309	
18	149	158	H	$0, K_0$	8	5	73	73	13	115	123	22	46	46	12	147	156	4	114	111	8	356	355	
19	39	43	0	414	422	7	96	94	14	55	50	23	51	46	13	112	115	9	181	181	1	181	181	
20	101	93	1	599	601	8	131	126	15	90	95	0	571	561	14	215	211	7	63	63	11	410	409	
21	72	67	2	82	71	9	61	59	16	103	104	11	57	57	6	257	257	6	68	68	11	55	55	
22	173	172	17	101	99	4	156	191	9	84	93	12	203	203	6	77	83	2	94	94	H	$2, K_2$		
23	55	68	18	49	55	5	61	49	6	506	504	12	269	270	8	92	84	5	45	45	0	101	98	
24	132	133	11	94	84	3	84	84	10	750	786	9	152	163	6	386	386	15	51	57	10	324	323	
25	155	803	12	155	140	8	49	43	19	48	48	3	59	59	H	$1, K_1$	16	51	51	14	167	173		
26	450	460	13	175	180	8	79	85	20	107	106	4	122	118	0	471	477	7	111	115	3	153	141	
3	87	60	15	65	60	7	67	109	21	102	98	5	638	523	1	117	125	9	39	38	5	314	296	
4	686	629	17	79	74	9	65	69	22	141	142	6	147	126	2	259	256	11	137	133	16	101	105	
5	116	108	18	85	81	10	166	162	23	69	64	7	153	168	3	75	79	12	44	44	16	146	136	
6	256	246	H	$0, K_0$	10	11	55	52	He	$1, K_1$	2	8	167	175	4	258	258	13	112	111	19	96	88	
7	117	125	0	487	483	13	83	84	0	750	786	9	152	163	6	386	386	15	51	57	20	131	130	
8	103	118	2	66	63	16	57	53	2	570	551	10	465</											

Table 3. Continued.

10	181	184	18	84	53	9	60	42	5	398	388	4	226	213	14	88	53	3	93	93	18	86	83	
11	206	306	19	74	74	10	61	57	6	337	318	8	200	193	15	131	125	6	46	36	19	81	70	
12	183	189	Hs	2, Ks	15	9	13	56	55	7	274	242	6	180	138	16	49	51	7	42	53	1	61	58
13	153	151	0	194	180	14	58	56	8	100	108	7	107	104	Hs	3, Ks	12	Hs	3, Ks	21	1	1	183	
14	144	151	1	151	145	15	44	45	9	131	131	8	372	381	0	473	489	4	68	256	2	258	250	
15	100	96	2	183	170	16	40	37	10	249	263	9	159	162	1	250	253	Hs	4, Ks	0	3	137	136	
16	99	100	3	283	285	17	60	53	11	160	170	10	104	106	2	62	64	0	189	208	4	195	192	
17	80	58	4	184	174	Hs	2, Ks	15	12	228	235	11	210	215	3	143	152	1	787	759	5	141	142	
21	64	61	5	351	355	1	69	69	13	38	47	12	169	170	4	53	56	2	383	370	6	114	117	
22	87	78	6	281	286	2	108	106	14	171	179	13	133	142	5	66	31	3	65	67	7	82	85	
23	Hs	2, Ks	4	7	278	266	3	38	30	15	120	123	14	91	82	6	128	133	4	145	136	8	150	154
0	379	340	6	75	75	4	98	98	16	178	186	14	178	175	7	188	183	5	286	280	9	91	93	
1	609	609	9	75	72	5	45	47	18	63	66	17	113	111	8	133	144	6	46	46	10	106	100	
2	172	117	10	137	142	6	73	79	19	140	136	19	47	46	9	137	140	7	125	128	11	213	213	
3	142	170	12	126	126	8	82	84	20	90	83	20	85	81	11	85	88	8	116	119	7	124	74	
4	223	229	13	85	83	8	33	34	Hs	3, Ks	7	Hs	3, Ks	7	77	79	76	1	74	74	6	91	94	
5	204	180	14	63	71	9	35	26	0	397	394	1	284	250	15	79	80	10	242	253	14	88	86	
7	107	78	15	123	120	10	64	58	1	112	130	2	62	52	17	87	87	11	171	163	16	62	63	
8	137	129	16	59	57	11	88	82	2	261	263	3	108	131	Hs	3, Ks	13	13	152	160	17	59	49	
9	266	273	17	40	46	13	43	41	3	134	124	4	305	282	0	113	110	15	101	100	18	72	63	
10	147	153	21	63	60	14	105	99	4	35	39	5	37	37	1	107	113	16	89	83	19	81	79	
11	253	265	Hs	2, Ks	10	Hs	2, Ks	16	5	416	403	6	93	94	2	202	204	17	48	52	20	86	79	
13	38	36	0	213	220	0	96	96	6	111	97	7	264	254	3	68	73	18	108	107	Hs	4, Ks	6	
14	65	61	1	214	214	1	139	144	7	222	230	8	115	114	4	57	61	21	123	119	0	87	74	
15	79	78	3	361	369	2	72	74	8	164	168	9	88	85	5	111	114	Hs	4, Ks	1	291	297		
17	106	111	3	73	77	5	56	50	10	182	188	6	148	145	0	379	341	2	92	97	97	97		
18	47	43	4	165	165	5	86	83	11	165	166	7	101	101	1	367	379	3	159	154	154			
19	114	107	5	34	51	5	86	83	11	165	166	9	94	94	55	331	303	4	138	135	135			
20	53	49	6	140	149	6	46	35	12	111	112	13	81	81	10	74	70	3	256	261	5	251	245	
21	37	22	7	205	203	7	95	96	13	30	26	14	33	29	12	60	57	4	230	249	6	49	55	
22	Hs	2, Ks	5	8	84	80	8	76	75	14	66	67	15	96	97	13	40	40	5	144	149	7	165	162
23	297	318	9	134	134	9	63	65	15	97	100	16	53	54	54	14	114	113	6	291	281	6	100	98
1	299	313	10	145	140	10	53	38	16	59	65	17	56	64	15	65	61	7	213	211	9	253	257	
2	340	337	11	71	69	11	66	61	17	81	85	20	58	55	Hs	3, Ks	14	8	239	235	10	61	69	
3	177	177	12	131	131	12	72	72	18	94	93	21	83	81	1	108	111	9	73	62	11	214	216	
4	320	323	13	38	38	15	64	66	19	85	83	Hs	3, Ks	8	2	68	75	10	95	101	12	102	98	
5	229	216	14	64	67	Hs	2, Ks	17	20	64	58	0	267	278	3	43	37	11	143	144	13	85	96	
6	150	151	15	71	71	0	57	52	22	66	67	1	350	345	4	53	56	12	40	52	15	85	88	
7	88	86	16	122	123	12	64	64	81	Hs	3, Ks	2	150	154	5	64	65	13	140	141	15	107	100	
8	103	99	17	35	35	2	122	122	10	105	115	3	277	260	7	27	26	15	72	70	17	111	109	
9	210	209	18	110	109	3	94	94	7	169	167	4	27	24	9	54	48	15	81	81	19	110	102	
10	205	198	19	70	63	4	176	172	2	127	123	5	77	74	10	77	88	16	35	35	Hs	4, Ks	7	
11	250	260	20	41	41	5	80	81	3	318	307	6	132	141	14	50	50	45	17	69	68	1	80	86
12	112	112	Hs	2, Ks	11	6	73	75	4	105	103	8	90	92	15	47	41	19	56	47	2	257	261	
13	118	117	0	374	377	7	50	43	5	181	171	9	104	100	16	39	25	20	47	46	3	172	170	
14	147	145	1	234	232	8	73	69	6	163	150	10	244	246	Hs	3, Ks	15	21	86	85	4	194	188	
15	43	48	2	184	185	9	88	92	7	191	197	11	76	78	2	71	60	Hs	4, Ks	2	5	127	127	
16	152	144	3	194	199	19	180	164	8	187	185	12	67	61	2	45	45	50	0	549	536	6	195	193
17	130	139	4	96	97	11	66	67	9	140	141	13	33	39	3	140	130	1	287	290	7	100	103	
18	56	57	5	170	169	16	98	98	10	165	165	10	180	180	15	32	32	20	41	41	3	178	178	
19	114	110	6	98	98	14	33	34	11	140	141	10	124	125	15	33	33	13	111	110	9	100	98	
20	73	63	7	147	148	14	85	75	12	211	211	17	122	122	3	78	78	54	4	66	66	10	183	184
21	122	117	9	60	67	1	105	107	14	124	123	19	54	54	11	109	96	6	119	115	12	186	195	
22	218	216	10	64	67	2	60	57	15	111	112	20	59	63	13	56	61	7	192	197	13	79	78	
23	142	138	12	87	91	4	46	39	17	120	120	6	167	162	16	50	46	17	34	32	4	41	38	
24	186	186	19	44	46	13	53	53	20	160	163	6	167	162	16	50	46	17	34	32	4	41	38	
25	336	336	Hs	2, Ks	12	12	60	61	3	20	20	7	143	143	16	50	46	18	106	94	5	39	37	
26	161	167	0	178	180	13	55	50	4	198	203	8	143	142	12	50	50	6	108	95	18	106	105	
27	143	148	2	244	251	Hs	2, Ks	19	5	258	256	9	80	81	8	156	158	19	77	80	6	76	73	
28	100	108	3	230	232	2	40	46	21	244	247	10	66	65	10	51	50	10	54	48	Hs	4, Ks	9	
29	119	117	6	173	172	4	125	119	8	233	215	13	87	81	12	71	71	9	79	79	0	32	32	
30	171	169	7	162	166	5	101	95	9	138	132	14	38	34	13	51	51	1	166	167	10	87	95	
31	119	115	9	44	38	7	61	50	11	167	175	14	43	39	Hs	3, Ks	17	3	175	182	10	103	103	
32	190	191	10	142	144	8	95	95	3	439	416	10	94	94	12	81	81	8	161	162	35	35	123	
33	110	115	12	179	179	5	144	145	11	164	165	12	48	40	5	47	47	16	36	36	8	69	65	
34	149	142	7	140	147	5	116	116	6	152	152	13	40	34	2	49	49	6	70	71	0	177	183	
35	100	94	9	67	67	2	39	38	16	113	122	7	98	98	3	41	46	7	178	181	1	225	225	
36	67	60	5	105	105	15	113	122	7	98	98	20												

Table 3. Continued.

11	47	50	9	91	93	10	114	115	0	174	173	5	138	135	4	65	74	7	87	89	7	55	61
12	110	102	H ₂	4, K ₂	19	11	65	69	1	145	150	6	46	54	5	68	70	9	57	54	8	41	52
13	90	83	3	41	45	12	110	104	2	121	138	7	65	66	6	62	59	10	49	45	11	76	73
14	56	51	4	44	43	13	103	119	3	42	44	4	47	47	7	39	37	9	57	54	14	45	43
15	34	33	5	61	37	15	80	82	4	49	43	9	104	108	8	66	64	13	80	71	H ₂ , K ₂	10	
16	83	81	6	75	76	15	59	55	5	45	53	10	12	102	9	52	65	14	81	79	0	57	55
H ₂	4, K ₂	11	H ₂	4, K ₂	20	17	40	24	5	150	152	11	49	49	11	43	46	16	59	62	1	111	112
0	165	163	0	61	64	16	44	47	7	123	124	12	61	65	12	76	78	17	42	36	3	51	45
1	195	203	2	43	33	H ₂	5, K ₂	6	8	60	63	16	95	54	13	106	107	H ₂ , K ₂	2	6	65	58	
2	228	223	H ₂	5, K ₂	0	0	186	184	9	119	117	H ₂	6, K ₂	3	15	41	35	1	145	155	7	49	53
3	120	128	1	316	312	1	60	53	11	95	90	0	157	149	16	46	44	2	61	66	9	79	77
5	134	146	2	67	68	2	177	171	12	44	48	1	41	38	H ₂	6, K ₂	10	4	103	99	10	70	66
6	153	155	3	352	346	4	113	103	13	39	36	2	130	129	0	186	193	6	72	70	11	70	62
7	95	102	4	151	160	5	154	157	7	73	62	1	32	24	7	86	87	13	48	43	4	74	77
8	65	71	6	208	215	6	33	41	15	46	47	4	167	164	3	58	56	8	47	48	H ₂ , K ₂	11	
9	75	79	19	105	97	14	79	69	7	58	61	11	54	46	12	59	59	15	41	44	6	39	52
17	44	45	20	77	71	18	113	113	9	43	46	12	125	120	14	44	42	17	46	41	12	49	46
18	56	62	H ₂	5, K ₂	1	19	39	27	10	57	55	13	39	26	H ₂	6, K ₂	11	H ₂	7, K ₂	3	H ₂	7, K ₂	
H ₂	4, K ₂	12	0	161	168	H ₂	5, K ₂	7	83	90	14	60	64	0	68	66	1	79	77	1	137	144	
0	90	98	1	173	170	1	71	65	H ₂	5, K ₂	14	16	40	24	1	111	111	2	77	71	2	40	45
2	98	103	2	180	175	1	71	65	H ₂	5, K ₂	14	16	41	43	2	34	34	5	59	60	4	95	87
3	21	25	3	84	84	3	200	206	5	54	52	32	161	160	4	154	152	4	53	53	5	59	57
6	75	65	4	291	287	4	80	56	1	51	52	0	161	185	4	34	27	5	59	50	7	52	40
7	121	126	5	48	55	5	183	188	2	44	47	1	171	173	5	163	159	6	42	41	9	65	63
8	104	6	204	211	6	88	90	5	54	51	2	57	56	6	54	54	7	49	47	H ₂	7, K ₂	13	
9	35	43	7	96	91	7	95	95	5	70	72	3	48	47	11	88	93	8	73	73	0	37	40
10	59	73	8	159	155	6	84	80	7	67	66	4	105	115	12	51	56	11	100	101	1	71	69
11	63	60	9	55	62	9	43	48	8	84	87	5	55	49	13	52	50	12	64	58	2	46	45
14	45	38	10	66	68	10	104	105	9	56	61	6	57	43	15	117	113	13	41	38	3	45	44
16	102	96	12	122	126	11	99	102	H ₂	5, K ₂	15	7	50	58	H ₂	6, K ₂	12	15	43	34	5	67	60
H ₂	4, K ₂	13	55	59	13	127	130	1	81	73	8	86	85	0	84	81	16	47	51	6	42	46	
0	44	39	14	74	72	12	120	117	2	43	43	9	108	166	1	44	43	17	42	43	0	51	42
1	51	49	15	62	67	15	59	59	3	55	56	10	45	45	2	66	66	1	56	56	0	56	51
2	41	43	16	39	30	16	52	53	8	55	56	49	50	4	41	41	26	0	55	62	0	51	49
3	115	117	20	51	53	17	62	69	6	39	41	12	71	79	4	37	31	1	49	42	1	51	40
4	132	141	H ₂	5, K ₂	8	6	7	79	78	5	42	42	6	61	64	2	73	68	2	45	46		
5	200	118	13	134	136	0	311	320	12	52	48	14	42	50	8	107	110	5	82	81	4	47	47
6	103	103	1	251	244	1	80	91	13	66	60	16	38	40	9	37	41	6	65	60	8	39	43
7	61	65	2	151	144	2	111	112	H ₂	5, K ₂	16	17	76	76	10	49	81	7	44	44	H ₂	7, K ₂	15
10	36	30	3	75	83	3	97	102	0	37	39	H ₂	6, K ₂	5	8	61	57	8	96	100	2	42	30
11	81	81	4	125	125	4	58	65	2	65	62	1	101	104	13	58	59	9	40	35	3	43	43
12	52	55	5	130	136	5	58	58	3	55	48	2	106	108	H ₂	6, K ₂	13	11	44	49	5	63	61
13	73	61	6	37	38	7	141	137	7	45	46	3	110	113	0	48	41	12	65	63	6	42	37
14	103	102	7	159	152	16	125	129	6	55	58	13	52	58	5	59	59	10	50	49	H ₂	7, K ₂	16
15	47	47	7	77	76	10	184	185	15	73	77	6	100	94	2	49	49	16	52	53	2	52	51
H ₂	4, K ₂	14	10	63	69	11	64	65	11	73	64	6	39	42	6	44	48	H ₂	7, K ₂	5	H ₂	8, K ₂	
0	116	125	11	41	37	13	96	91	H ₂	5, K ₂	17	9	77	75	7	65	67	0	55	45	0	105	111
1	45	60	12	42	47	14	60	68	1	37	30	10	51	55	8	58	56	1	67	68	1	74	86
2	43	43	14	53	51	21	57	67	3	78	78	11	44	41	9	46	52	2	128	127	2	120	120
3	94	98	16	63	72	16	49	49	5	73	67	12	159	164	12	40	42	3	93	94	3	85	97
5	64	17	46	55	57	14	32	32	7	42	40	13	54	48	5	59	59	4	69	68	6	116	118
6	61	45	18	53	52	18	76	73	H ₂	5, K ₂	18	14	51	56	H ₂	6, K ₂	14	5	86	88	7	47	44
7	86	87	19	90	96	0	36	38	17	54	50	1	50	52	7	68	68	10	104	108	8	48	38
8	82	88	20	39	31	0	129	126	2	52	48	18	56	51	2	49	38	9	47	50	11	62	66
9	77	77	2	64	64	5	63	63	5	56	54	6	50	51	3	45	37	10	51	49	8	52	51
10	24	24	0	77	76	7	70	75	5	56	52	9	59	59	9	60	57	10	97	95	0	72	85
11	79	81	1	186	190	3	109	108	8	64	64	3	139	139	3	62	60	13	68	68	9	95	102
13	54	50	2	160	162	4	83	86	H ₂	5, K ₂	19	3	30	32	6	42	40	15	49	47	2	87	83
14	46	42	3	159	159	5	111	102	1	39	23	4	115	109	8	73	66	10	107	103	0	36	30
15	44	40	8	101	101	10	114	106	10	114	105	17	81	83	H ₂	6, K ₂	13	13	65	65	2	60	65
16	75	75	15	74	74	11	110	115	12	69	72	H ₂	6, K ₂	7	1	46	44	16	46	41	6	65	65
17	10	195	201	H ₂	5, K ₂	11	6	66	54	4	46	47	11	165	174	H ₂	6, K ₂	8	H ₂	7, K ₂	0	39	52
1	40	33	11	43	43	0	123	130	7	92	92	15	48	28	H ₂	6, K ₂	0	2	70	67	10	53	45
2	90	96	13	47	39	1	80	88	8	58	56	10	117	117	15	49	32	14	48	35	7	69	59
3	44	48	16	45	46	2	144	144	9	89	97	H ₂	6, K ₂	8	7	73	75	6	62	46	13	49	40
4	118	116	17	56	44	4	117	114	10	42	39	1	134	127	8	76	72	7	50	52	14	43	36
5	75	78	19	93	93	5	80	81	11	69	69	3	65	71	9	92	97	8	91	91	H ₂	8, K ₂	
6	65	69	20	57	55	6	103	102	12	35	44	8	37										

Table 3. Continued.

9	60	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	6	45	40	0	43	34	H#	9, K#	9	5	42	35
12	46	49	4	102	94	H#	8, 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	59	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	6	39	31	1	51	38
H#	9, K#	6	6	65	55	5	61	55	3	64	70	0	41	53	9	53	60	6	53	51	H#	10, K#	3
1	54	55	9	44	50	9	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	9	58	54	2	54	58	3	64	62	0	51	51	0	56	44	3	45	39
3	42	53	11	75	77	9	49	44	3	61	58	7	40	31	5	44	33	1	50	54	4	41	39
4	45	52	12	67	58	H#	8, K#	10	5	66	58	8	49	49	7	46	49	4	40	43	H#	9, K#	4
5	40	45	H#	8, K#	8	1	39	36	H#	9, K#	0	9	52	56	8	52	55	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	35	17	6	57	39	10	42	31	11	40	40	2	41	22	H#	10, K#	0	H#	1, K#	2
10	51	61	5	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	55	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 (\AA^2) along the principal axes of vibration given by the components of a unit vector \mathbf{e} in fractional coordinates ($\times 10^4$).

	$(\bar{u}^2)^{1/2}$	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	850	664	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	228	C7	.184	2.67	-1530	-52	121
	.190	2.84	1041	233	-463		.149	1.75	-242	157	666
	.144	1.63	560	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	-625	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.

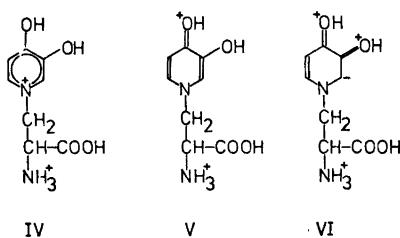
Bond lengths and angles, and some intermolecular distances are given in Table 5. Bond lengths corrected for thermal librations are given where such corrections seem to be justified.

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 (\AA), bond angles ($^\circ$) 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 (1.485)	OS1—S—OS2	OS1...HO4—O ₄ 1+x, 1—x, y, z)
S—OS2	1.472 (1.483)	OS1—S—OS3	OS2...H2N2—N ₂ 1+x, 1—x, 1+y, z)
S—OS3	1.463 (1.479)	OS1—S—OS4	OS2...H3N2—N ₂ 1+x,— 1+y, 1—z, z)
S—OS4	1.462 (1.480)	OS2—S—OS3	OS3...H02—O ₂ 1+x, 1+y, 1—z, z)
N1—C1	1.354 (1.359)	OS2—S—OS4	OS3...H01—O ₁ x, y, z)
C1—C2	1.375 (1.378)	OS3—S—OS4	01...H1V2—OV2 —x,— 1+y, 1—z, z)
C2—C3	1.414 (1.421)	N1—C1—C2	03...H2V2—OV2 x, y, z)
C3—C4	1.389 (1.393)	C1—C2—C3	OV2...H1N2—N ₂ —1—x, 1—y, —1+z, z)
C4—C5	1.347 (1.350)	C2—C3—C4	2.734
C5—N1	1.358 (1.364)	C3—C4—C5	117.8
C2—O1	1.339 (1.342)	C4—C5—N1	121.0
C3—O2	1.317 (1.319)	C5—N1—C1	120.5
N1—C6	1.497 (1.499)	C1—C2—O1	123.3
C6—C7	1.515	O1—C2—C3	117.5
C7—N2	1.487	C2—C3—O2	117.1
C7—C8	1.624	O2—C3—C4	125.1
C8—O3	1.202	C5—N1—C6	119.6
C8—O4	1.289	C1—N1—C6	119.9
O1—H01	1.00	N1—C6—C7	113.9
O2—H02	0.83	C6—C7—N2	112.9
O4—H04	0.94	C6—C7—C8	113.6
OV2—H1V2	0.72	C8—C7—N2	110.9
OV2—H2V2	0.93	C7—C8—O3	119.1
N2—H1N2	0.77	C7—C8—O4	114.7
N2—H2N2	0.65	O3—C8—O4	126.3
N2—H3N2	0.92		
C1—HCl	0.97		
C4—HC4	1.03		
C5—HC5	0.99		
C6—H1C6	0.96		
C6—H2C6	1.03		
C7—HC7	0.98		

Distances involving the half water molecule (less than 3.2 \AA)

OVI...OS3

(—1+x,

y,
z)

OVI...OS4

(—1+x,

y,
z)

OVI...O3

(—1+x,

y,
z)

OVI...OV2

(—1+x,

y,
z)

OVI...OS2

(—1+x,
—y,
—z)

OVI...N2

(—1—x,
1—y,
—1+z,
z)

OVI...N2

(—x,—
1+y,
1—z,
2.438

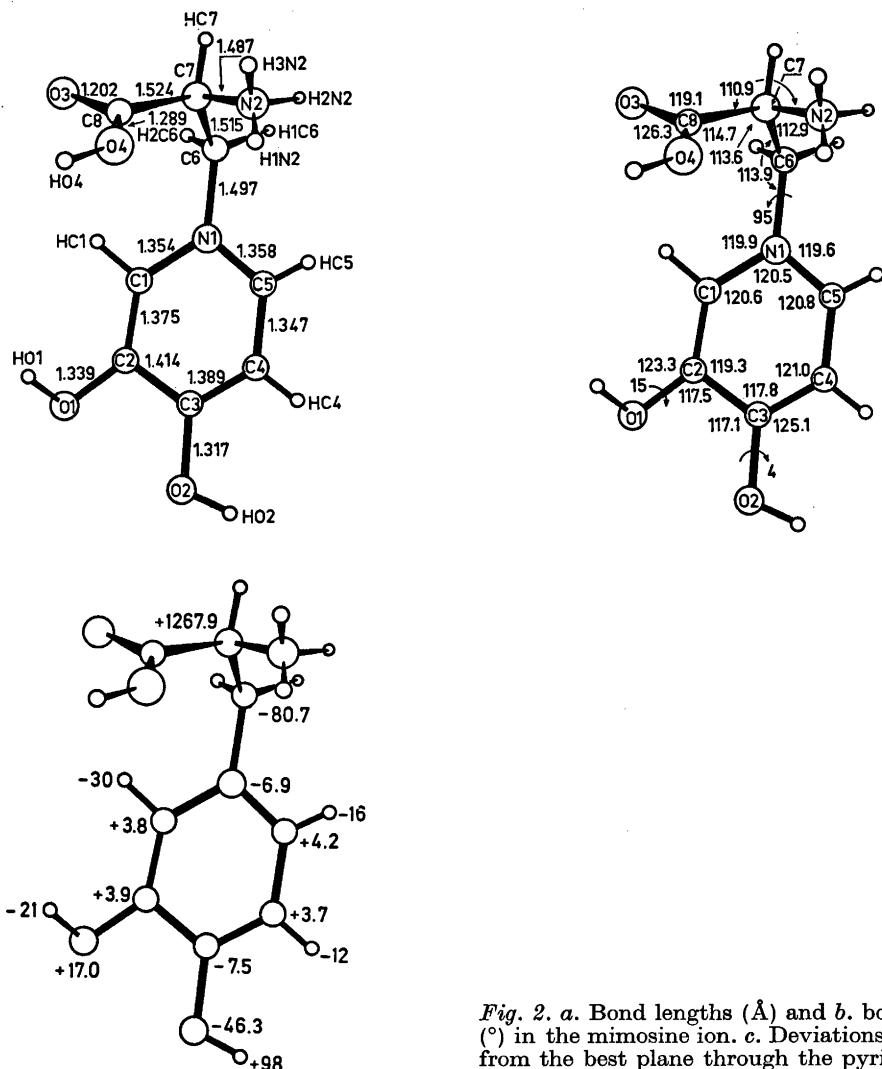


Fig. 2. a. Bond lengths (\AA) and b. bond angles ($^\circ$) in the mimosine ion. c. Deviations ($\times 10^3 \text{ \AA}$) from the best plane through the pyridine ring.

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 \AA and 2.577 \AA 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 $^\circ$

and 125.1 $^\circ$ for O1 and O2, respectively) whereas the angles "trans" are less than 120° (117.5 $^\circ$ and 117.1 $^\circ$), 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 $^\circ$ (O1) and 4 $^\circ$ (O2).

The N1—C6 bond connecting the hydroxypyridyl ring to the alanine moiety is found to be somewhat longer (1.497 \AA) than in mimosine (1.478 \AA). 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

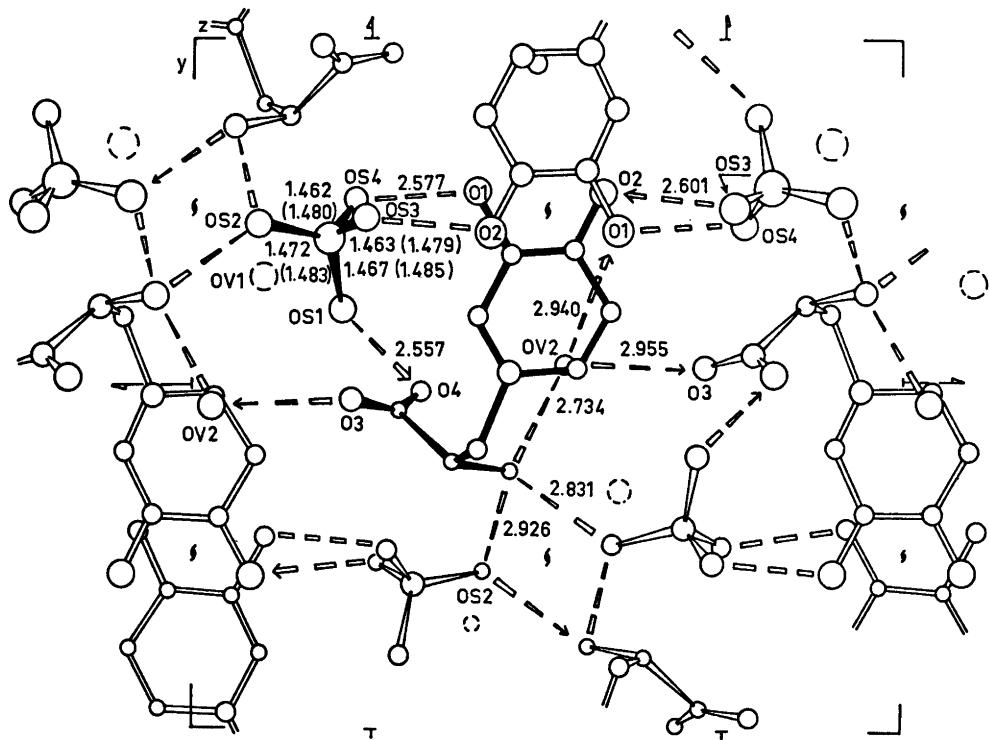


Fig. 3. The crystal structure of mimosine sulphate hydrate as seen down the α axis. Hydrogen bonds are indicated by broken lines, arrows indicate hydrogen bonds to atoms in another unit cell.

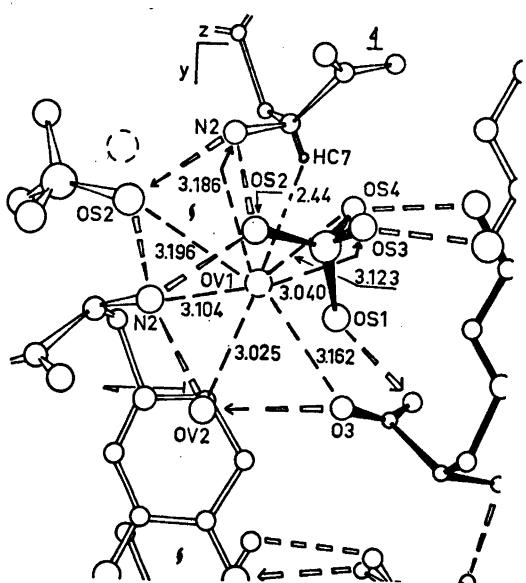


Fig. 4. The cavity containing the "half" water molecule.

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.

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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