

The Crystal Structure of Thallium(I) Diisobutyldithiocarbamate

HELGA ANACKER-EICKHOFF, PER JENNISCHE and ROLF HESSE

Institute of Chemistry, University of Uppsala, Box 531, S-751 21 Uppsala, Sweden.

The crystal structure of thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate, $\text{Tl(I)S}_2\text{CN(C}_4\text{H}_9)_2$, has been determined from three-dimensional X-ray data. The crystals are triclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$. Unit cell parameters:

$$a = 7.866(2) \text{ \AA}, b = 13.945(3) \text{ \AA}, c = 6.218(2) \text{ \AA}, \\ \alpha = 89.27(1)^\circ, \beta = 93.06(1)^\circ, \gamma = 103.29(2)^\circ.$$

There are two formula units per elementary cell. The structure may be regarded as consisting of dimers with the composition $[\text{TlS}_2\text{CN(C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_2$ linked by thallium-sulfur coordination in linear strings in the c direction. The thallium-sulfur coordination is five-fold. The metal-metal distance within the dimer is $3.678(2) \text{ \AA}$, whereas the shortest distance between metal atoms in different dimers is $5.193(2) \text{ \AA}$. The metal atom arrangement thus consists of distinct pairs. The dimeric unit is rather similar to that of thallium diisopropyldithiocarbamate, but the orientation of the dimers in the strings and the metal atom arrangement are quite different. The difference between the structures is discussed with respect to the space requirement of the alkyl ligands.

The structures of several thallium(I) dialkyldithiocarbamates have been determined by the present research group.^{1–5} All of these compounds may be considered as built from dimeric molecules linked by thallium-sulfur coordination. The nature of the linkage is, however, rather different, apparently depending on the length of the alkyl ligands. The resulting metal atom arrangement changes from a two-dimensional network of metal atoms in the methyl compound to chains in the two propyl compounds. The coordination numbers also decrease in the series. Since it could be expected that this process would continue with still larger ligands the present compound has been investigated.

UNIT CELL AND SYMMETRY

Formula unit: $\text{Tl(I)S}_2\text{CN(C}_4\text{H}_9)_2$

Crystal system: triclinic

Unit cell parameters:

$$a = 7.866 \pm 0.002 \text{ \AA}, b = 13.945 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}, \\ c = 6.218 \pm 0.002 \text{ \AA}, \alpha = 89.27 \pm 0.01^\circ \\ \beta = 93.06 \pm 0.01^\circ \quad \gamma = 103.29 \pm 0.02^\circ$$

Volume of unit cell: 662.8 \AA^3

Density (measured): 2.034 g cm^{-3}

Number of formula units per unit cell: 2

Density (calculated): 2.049 g cm^{-3}

Space group: $P\bar{1}$

EXPERIMENTAL

Crystals of thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate were prepared according to the method published by Åkerström.⁶ They were crystallized from acetone and benzene (1:1) as long pale yellow needles with the needle axis parallel to the c axis. Their density was determined by the flotation method using an aqueous solution of K_2HgI_4 . The unit cell dimensions were determined from a Guinier-Hägg powder photograph taken with $\text{CrK}\alpha_1$ radiation ($\lambda = 2.2896 \text{ \AA}$) with silicon ($a = 5.4305 \text{ \AA}$)⁷ as internal standard.

For the intensity data, $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation was used. The X-ray reflections were recorded on equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs using the multiple film technique (five films). With the crystal rotating about the needle axis the layers $0 \leq l \leq 4$ were recorded. The crystals were found to decompose slowly in the X-ray beam, and for that reason four crystals were used for the exposures. Details of the crystals are given in Table 1. In all 1409 independent reflections were recorded.

The relative intensities of the reflections were measured with an automatic film scanner SAAB AFS MK II,^{8,9} connected on-line to an IBM 1800 processor controller at this Institute. They were corrected for Lorentz and polarisation effects but not for absorption and extinction.

Table 1. Crystals used for the exposures.

Crystal	Dimensions in mm			Layers recorded	Number of reflections
1	0.038	0.045	0.150	$hk0, hk1$	547
2	0.050	0.060	0.154	$hk2, hk3$	613
3	0.038	0.033	0.108	$hk4$	222
4	0.020	0.028	0.108	interlayer scaling	81

The usual orientation of the film, with the central line parallel to the scanning direction, allows an interval of 185° to be measured. In order to obtain sufficient overlap for the scaling of the two halves of each layer from the triclinic crystal it was necessary to increase the scanning area. By scanning the film with the central line normal to the scanning direction, *i.e.* parallel to the drum axis, it was possible to measure the entire recorded area, corresponding to a crystal rotation of 220° . The indexing was then performed by hand. For the calculation of the integrated intensities the computer programs written by Werner⁹ were used. The parameters for the integration procedure were the same as those used in a previous determination at this Institute.¹ A correction factor (FK=0.5) for the intensities of the strong reflections was applied as suggested by Werner¹⁰ from a study of film factors. The area of integration for each reflection was large enough to include both the α_1 and the α_2 component. The film factors were initially calculated using standard methods, but they differed somewhat from those usually

obtained. After the determination of the atomic positions the film factors were therefore systematically varied as will be described later.

Interlayer scale factors were obtained by exposing reflections from all the layers on the same film set. Only small changes in these values were noticed when the individual scale factors were included in the final refinement.

DETERMINATION OF THE ATOMIC POSITIONS

The approximate positions of the thallium and sulfur atoms were found from three-dimensional Patterson syntheses. The coordinates of these atoms were refined by the method of least squares. The nitrogen and carbon atoms were located in a three-dimensional difference synthesis. No attempt was made to locate the hydrogen atoms.

Table 2. Atomic coordinates and thermal parameters, listed as isotropic B or anisotropic b_{ij} . The anisotropic temperature factor is defined as $\exp(-b_{11}h^2 - 2b_{12}hk \dots)$. The standard deviation corresponding to the last digit is shown in parentheses.

Atom	x	y	z	B (\AA^2)		
Tl	0.1897(1)	-0.01149(7)	-0.1499(2)			
S ₁	0.1014(7)	0.1834(4)	-0.0441(10)			
S ₂	0.1790(8)	0.0604(4)	0.3218(11)			
C ₀	0.2099(23)	0.1742(13)	0.1995(37)			2.2(3)
N	0.3237(19)	0.2525(11)	0.2865(30)			2.2(3)
C ₁₁	0.3479(26)	0.3505(14)	0.1868(37)			3.9(4)
C ₂₁	0.4292(26)	0.2436(15)	0.4870(40)			2.8(4)
C ₁₂	0.2078(28)	0.4047(16)	0.2418(43)			3.2(4)
C ₂₂	0.5925(27)	0.2042(15)	0.4434(41)			2.9(4)
C ₁₃	0.2381(38)	0.5037(21)	0.1312(52)			4.8(6)
C ₂₃	0.6876(47)	0.1914(27)	0.6606(65)			6.8(8)
C ₁₄	0.2000(37)	0.4176(21)	0.4891(53)			5.0(6)
C ₂₄	0.7136(35)	0.2728(20)	0.2888(51)			4.6(6)
Atom	b_{11}	b_{22}	b_{33}	b_{12}	b_{13}	b_{23}
Tl	0.0140(2)	0.00370(5)	0.0135(37)	0.00071(5)	0.0009(1)	-0.0015(1)
S ₁	0.0171(10)	0.0068(3)	0.0068(43)	-0.0004(4)	-0.0047(11)	-0.0001(5)
S ₂	0.0208(12)	0.0025(2)	0.0084(44)	-0.0018(4)	-0.0075(11)	-0.00002(50)

Table 3. Observed and calculated structure amplitudes. Reflections marked with an asterisk were not included in the refinement.

h.k.l		I		O		I/O	
001	001	100	100	100	100	100	100
002	002	100	100	100	100	100	100
003	003	100	100	100	100	100	100
004	004	100	100	100	100	100	100
005	005	100	100	100	100	100	100
006	006	100	100	100	100	100	100
007	007	100	100	100	100	100	100
008	008	100	100	100	100	100	100
009	009	100	100	100	100	100	100
010	010	100	100	100	100	100	100
011	011	100	100	100	100	100	100
012	012	100	100	100	100	100	100
013	013	100	100	100	100	100	100
014	014	100	100	100	100	100	100
015	015	100	100	100	100	100	100
016	016	100	100	100	100	100	100
017	017	100	100	100	100	100	100
018	018	100	100	100	100	100	100
019	019	100	100	100	100	100	100
020	020	100	100	100	100	100	100
021	021	100	100	100	100	100	100
022	022	100	100	100	100	100	100
023	023	100	100	100	100	100	100
024	024	100	100	100	100	100	100
025	025	100	100	100	100	100	100
026	026	100	100	100	100	100	100
027	027	100	100	100	100	100	100
028	028	100	100	100	100	100	100
029	029	100	100	100	100	100	100
030	030	100	100	100	100	100	100
031	031	100	100	100	100	100	100
032	032	100	100	100	100	100	100
033	033	100	100	100	100	100	100
034	034	100	100	100	100	100	100
035	035	100	100	100	100	100	100
036	036	100	100	100	100	100	100
037	037	100	100	100	100	100	100
038	038	100	100	100	100	100	100
039	039	100	100	100	100	100	100
040	040	100	100	100	100	100	100
041	041	100	100	100	100	100	100
042	042	100	100	100	100	100	100
043	043	100	100	100	100	100	100
044	044	100	100	100	100	100	100
045	045	100	100	100	100	100	100
046	046	100	100	100	100	100	100
047	047	100	100	100	100	100	100
048	048	100	100	100	100	100	100
049	049	100	100	100	100	100	100
050	050	100	100	100	100	100	100
051	051	100	100	100	100	100	100
052	052	100	100	100	100	100	100
053	053	100	100	100	100	100	100
054	054	100	100	100	100	100	100
055	055	100	100	100	100	100	100
056	056	100	100	100	100	100	100
057	057	100	100	100	100	100	100
058	058	100	100	100	100	100	100
059	059	100	100	100	100	100	100
060	060	100	100	100	100	100	100
061	061	100	100	100	100	100	100
062	062	100	100	100	100	100	100
063	063	100	100	100	100	100	100
064	064	100	100	100	100	100	100
065	065	100	100	100	100	100	100
066	066	100	100	100	100	100	100
067	067	100	100	100	100	100	100
068	068	100	100	100	100	100	100
069	069	100	100	100	100	100	100
070	070	100	100	100	100	100	100
071	071	100	100	100	100	100	100
072	072	100	100	100	100	100	100
073	073	100	100	100	100	100	100
074	074	100	100	100	100	100	100
075	075	100	100	100	100	100	100
076	076	100	100	100	100	100	100
077	077	100	100	100	100	100	100
078	078	100	100	100	100	100	100
079	079	100	100	100	100	100	100
080	080	100	100	100	100	100	100
081	081	100	100	100	100	100	100
082	082	100	100	100	100	100	100
083	083	100	100	100	100	100	100
084	084	100	100	100	100	100	100
085	085	100	100	100	100	100	100
086	086	100	100	100	100	100	100
087	087	100	100	100	100	100	100
088	088	100	100	100	100	100	100
089	089	100	100	100	100	100	100
090	090	100	100	100	100	100	100
091	091	100	100	100	100	100	100
092	092	100	100	100	100	100	100
093	093	100	100	100	100	100	100
094	094	100	100	100	100	100	100
095	095	100	100	100	100	100	100
096	096	100	100	100	100	100	100
097	097	100	100	100	100	100	100
098	098	100	100	100	100	100	100
099	099	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The coordinates and isotropic temperature factors of all but the hydrogen atoms were refined by the method of least squares using a full matrix program. In the expression minimized, $\sum \omega(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$, the weights, ω , were calculated according to the equation suggested by Cruickshank *et al.*¹¹ $\omega = 1/(\alpha + |F_o| + c|F_c|^2 + d|F_o|^3)$. The constants used were $\alpha = 40.0$, $c = 0.0154$, $d = 0.0$. Atomic scattering factors for the neutral elements obtained from Hanson *et al.*¹²

were used with addition of the real part of the dispersion correction.¹³ The discrepancy index $R = \sum(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \sum |F_o|$, was then 0.114. The nine scale factors and the anisotropic temperature factors for the thallium and sulfur atoms were then included in the refinement. The imaginary part of the dispersion correction for thallium was then applied.¹³ The least-squares calculations were continued until the shifts on the parameters were less than one percent of

Table 3. Continued.

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
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the estimated standard deviations. At this stage of the refinement the discrepancy index *R* was 0.087.

As mentioned above the film factors seemed to be somewhat lower than those usually observed, e.g. 2.3 for the zero layer. The errors appeared to be associated with a systematic underestimation of the intensities of the strong reflections. New sets of observed intensities were calculated using the film factors 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 3.1 for the zero layer. The film factors for the layers *l*=1,2,3 were determined by interpolation between the selected value for *l*=0 and the film factor for *l*=4 which was held constant at the observed value 3.25. For each of these sets of intensities three additional cycles of refinement were run. The *R* value decreased continuously to 0.063 for the zero-layer film factor 3.1 but was only slightly higher, 0.065, for the

film factor 2.9. The film factor 2.9 which agrees well with the published value 2.93 for the film used,¹⁴ Ilford Industrial G, was then selected as the final value. Changes in the atomic coordinates were negligible.

The final atomic and thermal parameters are shown in Table 2. The observed and calculated structure amplitudes are listed in Table 3 and the interatomic distances and angles in Table 4.

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE

General features. The structure consists of centrosymmetric dimeric molecules [TIS₂CN-(C₄H₉)₂]₂. There is one such molecule in the unit cell. The molecule is shown in Fig. 1 which also shows the notation of the atoms. The arrangement of the molecules is illustrated in Fig. 2.

Table 4. Distances and angles. The notation used is shown in Fig. 1. Atoms which have been transformed according to the centrosymmetry are denoted by a bar. An asterisk represents the translation $-c$.

(a) Metal-metal distance

Atoms	Distance(Å)
Tl— $\bar{\text{Tl}}$	3.678(2)

(b) Distances and angles of coordination.

Atoms	Distance(Å)	Atoms	Angle(°)	Atoms	Angle(°)
Tl—S ₁	3.043(5)	S ₁ —Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_1$	107.6(1)	S ₂ —Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_2$	105.7(2)
Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_1$	3.184(5)	S ₁ —Tl—S ₂	57.2(2)	$\bar{\text{S}}_1$ —Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_2$	57.3(2)
Tl—S ₂	3.123(6)	$\bar{\text{S}}_1$ —Tl—S ₂	77.8(2)	S ₁ —Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_2$	82.5(2)
Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_2$	2.966(6)	S ₁ —Tl—S ₂ *	86.6(2)	$\bar{\text{S}}_1$ —Tl—S ₂ *	123.2(2)
Tl—S ₂ *	3.424(7)	S ₂ —Tl—S ₂ *	143.5(2)	$\bar{\text{S}}_2$ —Tl—S ₂ *	71.5(2)

(c) Distances and angles in the dithiocarbamate ligand

Atoms	Distance(Å)	Atoms	Angle(°)	Atoms	Angle(°)
S ₁ —C ₀	1.72(2)	Tl—S ₁ —C ₀	85.4(6)	Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_1$ —C ₀	83.0(6)
S ₂ —C ₀	1.72(2)	Tl—S ₂ —C ₀	82.8(8)	Tl— $\bar{\text{S}}_2$ —C ₀	89.9(7)
C ₀ —N	1.34(2)	S ₁ —C ₀ —S ₂	118(1)	S ₁ —C ₀ —N	121(2)
N—C ₁₁	1.47(3)	S ₂ —C ₀ —N	121(2)	C ₀ —N—C ₁₁	121(2)
N—C ₂₁	1.48(3)	C ₀ —N—C ₂₁	121(2)	C ₁₁ —N—C ₂₁	117(2)
C ₁₁ —C ₁₂	1.53(3)	N—C ₁₁ —C ₁₂	113(2)	N—C ₂₁ —C ₂₂	112(2)
C ₁₂ —C ₁₃	1.51(4)	C ₁₁ —C ₁₂ —C ₁₃	111(2)	C ₁₁ —C ₁₂ —C ₁₄	112(2)
C ₁₂ —C ₁₄	1.56(4)	C ₁₃ —C ₁₂ —C ₁₄	110(2)		
C ₂₁ —C ₂₂	1.55(3)	C ₂₁ —C ₂₂ —C ₂₃	108(2)	C ₂₁ —C ₂₂ —C ₂₄	112(2)
C ₂₂ —C ₂₃	1.54(5)	C ₂₃ —C ₂₂ —C ₂₄	112(2)		
C ₂₂ —C ₂₄	1.55(4)				

(d) Intermolecular distances less than 4.0 Å. The relation of the second atom to the coordinates x, y, z of Table 2 is shown.

Atoms		Distance (Å)
Tl	S ₂ ($x, y, z-1$)	3.424
S ₁	C ₂₃ ($x-1, y, z-1$)	3.674
S ₂	S ₂ ($-x, -y, 1-z$)	3.750
S ₂	C ₂₃ ($1-x, -y, 1-z$)	3.887
C ₁₂	C ₂₄ ($x-1, y, z$)	3.924
C ₁₁	C ₁₁ ($x, y, z-1$)	3.950
C ₁₃	C ₁₃ ($-x, 1-y, -z$)	3.984

It follows from the triclinic space group that all of the molecules are parallel. The central parts of the molecules are located close to the ca plane. The bulky organic ligands project from both sides of this plane to completely exclude any other interaction than van der Waals forces between dimers in different planes. In these planes the dimers are linked together by metal-sulfur interaction to form linear strings running in the c direction.

The dimer. The distances and angles in the

dimeric unit are presented in Table 4. The two formula units are related by a centre of symmetry. The thallium and sulfur atoms in the central part of the dimer can be described as a bipyramid with a sulfur parallelogram as the common basis. This parallelogram has nearly rectangular shape; the corner angles are 87.9 and 92.1°, and the length of the edges 3.96 and 2.95 Å. The shorter edge corresponds to the sulfur-sulfur distances within the dithiocarbamate ligand. The distances from each metal

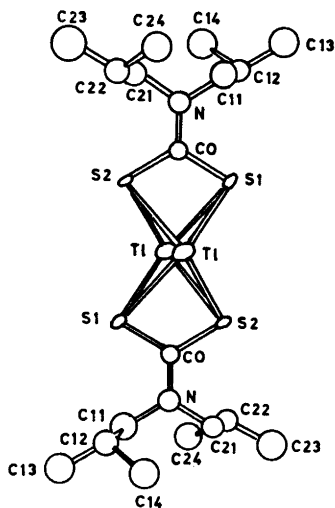


Fig. 1. The dimeric molecule in thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate. The sulfur plane coincides with the paper plane. The atomic notation is shown.

atom to the four sulfur atoms are 2.966(6), 3.043(5), 3.123(6), and 3.184(5) Å. (see Table 4b and Fig. 3). The line connecting the two thallium atoms is nearly perpendicular to the plane of the sulfur atoms (angle plane-line 87.7°). The metal-metal distance in the dimer is 3.678(2) Å.

The central part (S_1 , S_2 , C_0 , N , C_{11} , C_{21}) of the dithiocarbamate ligand is almost planar; none of the atoms deviates more than 0.05 Å from the calculated least-squares plane (see Table 5). This plane is inclined by 6.6° (dihedral angle) to the central sulfur plane of the dimer. It passes close (0.23 Å) to the centre of the dimer. As is seen from Table 5 the outer parts of the isobutyl groups are situated on opposite sides of the central ligand plane. The nitrogen atom and the atoms C_{11} , C_{13} , C_{13} and C_{21} , C_{23} , respectively, form almost planar zig-zag chains (see also Fig. 1). The dihedral angles between these planes and the central ligand plane are almost equal, 83.3 and 82.5°, respectively.

Coordination. The metal atoms have five-fold sulfur coordination. The coordination poly-

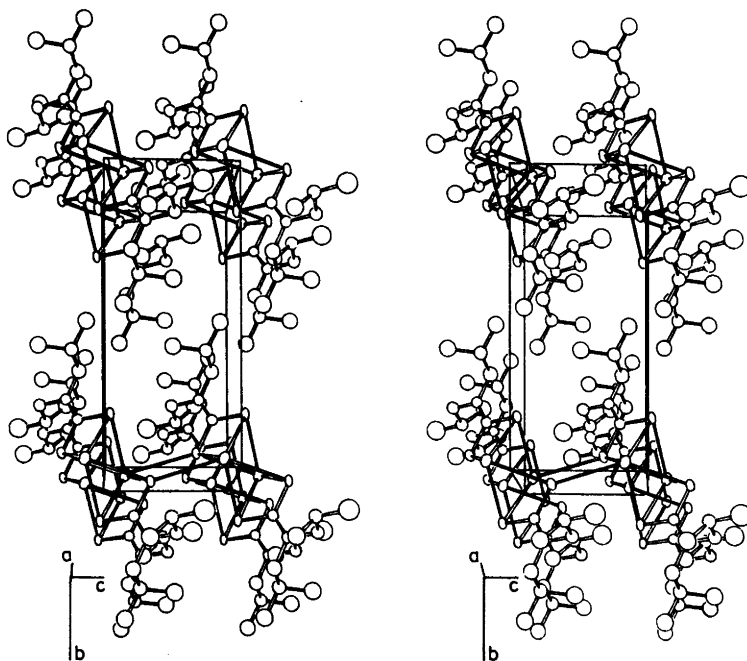


Fig. 2. Stereoscopic illustration of the unit cell. Eight dimers are shown. The linkage is indicated by solid lines between one pair of dimers.

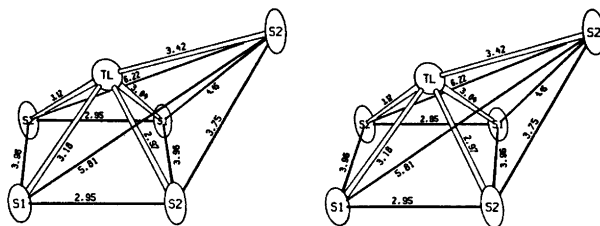


Fig. 3. Stereoscopic illustration of the coordination polyhedron.

hedron is a skew tetragonal pyramid as shown in Fig. 3. The four sulfur atoms in the dimer form the basal plane. The more distant fifth atom belongs to another dimer which is related by a unit translation in the c direction. All other sulfur atoms are more than 5.7 Å away. The coordination is such that more than half of the coordination sphere of the thallium atom is empty.

The irregular coordination environments known for a number of thallium(I) compounds have been associated with the outer pair of s -electrons ($6s^2$).¹⁵ Mixed s - p metal orbitals may give stabilisation energy in antisymmetric environments. One example is salicylato-(1,10-phenanthroline)thallium(I)¹⁶ where the metal coordination in the dimeric molecules is five-fold, and the coordinated atoms are all situated in one half sphere around the metal atom. The large region free from coordination was attributed to the presence of a stereochemically active $6s^2$ electron pair. This compound is similar to thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate as to the presence of large ligands.

It is interesting to note that the coordination number increases in the dialkyldithiocarbamates of thallium(I) as the length of ligands decreases. The coordination numbers are thus six and

seven, respectively, in the ethyl and methyl compounds. Also the coordinated atoms become more regularly disposed in space. The shorter ligands allow the metal atoms to coordinate sulfur atoms from other dimeric molecules more easily. This group of compounds evidently represents a case where the irregular coordination environment of thallium(I) may not be attributed solely to the inert electron pair. The packing characteristics of the dimeric molecules strongly influence the structure as will be shown below.

The metal atom arrangement and the linking of the dimers. As mentioned above, the distances between the two thallium atoms in the dimeric unit is 3.68 Å, which is somewhat longer than the interatomic distance in metallic thallium (3.41 Å).¹⁷ There are no other metal-metal distances shorter than 5 Å in the present compound. The metal arrangement thus consists of distinct pairs of thallium atoms.

The thallium dialkyl dithiocarbamates investigated by this research group all contain dimers with similar central parts.¹⁻⁵ It is then interesting to find that the arrangements of the metal atoms are quite different. Of the compounds studied the pair arrangement observed in thallium diisobutyldithiocarbamate apparent-

Table 5. Deviations from the least squares planes I, II and III defined by the atoms $S_1, S_2, C_0, N, C_{11}, C_{21}$ (I); $N, C_{11}, C_{12}, C_{13}$ (II); $N, C_{21}, C_{22}, C_{23}$ (III).

Plane I		Plane II		Plane III	
Atoms	Dev. (Å)	Atoms	Dev. (Å)	Atoms	Dev. (Å)
S_1	0.047	N	0.007	N	0.022
S_2	-0.027	C_{11}	-0.007	C_{21}	0.023
N	-0.004	C_{12}	-0.006	C_{22}	0.019
C_0	-0.026	C_{13}	0.006	C_{23}	-0.020
C_{11}	-0.038				
C_{21}	0.049				

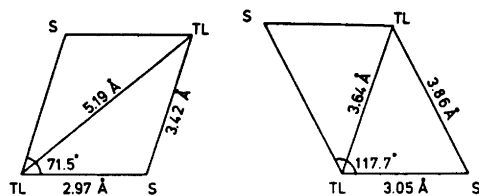


Fig. 4. The linking parallelograms in thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate (left) and thallium(I) diisopropyldithiocarbamate (right).

ly represents an end point in a breaking-up process starting with the two-dimensional net arrangement found in thallium dimethyldithiocarbamate.¹ The zig-zag chains found in the ethyl,² propyl,³ and the isopropyl⁴ compounds are intermediate steps in this process. The metal atom arrangement in these compounds is thus found to change in a consistent way with the length of the alkyl ligands. Apparently the orientation of the dimers with respect to each other is strongly influenced by the ligands.

An interesting comparison can be made between the isopropyl and the isobutyl com-

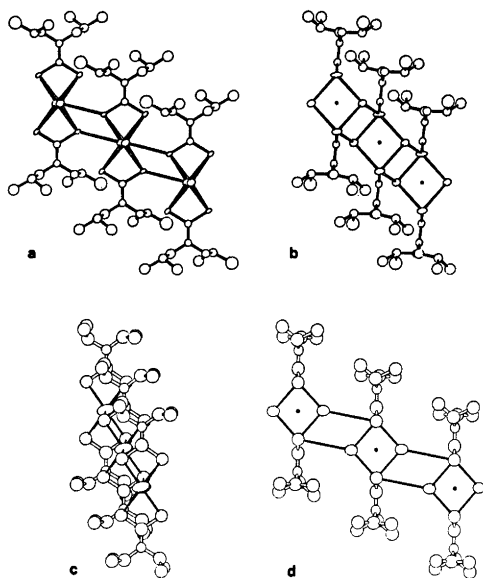


Fig. 5. The strings of dimers in thallium(I) diisobutyldithiocarbamate (a,b) and thallium(I) diisopropyldithiocarbamate (c,d). The sulfur planes are parallel to the paper in the left figures (a,c) and normal to the paper in the right figures (b,d).

pounds. In both cases the dimers are related by translation to form strings along the *c*-axis. Each thallium atom is coordinated to one sulfur atom in an adjacent dimer at a distance of 3.86 Å in the isopropyl and 3.42 Å in the isobutyl compound. Although the distances between the centres of the dimers are nearly the same, 6.31 Å in the isopropyl and 6.22 Å in the isobutyl compound, the thallium-thallium distances are quite different, 3.64 Å and 5.19 Å, respectively, as shown in Fig. 4. The parallelograms in the figure comprise the two thallium and two sulfur atoms involved in the linkage of each pair of dimers. The edges are similar, but the thallium-thallium distances are considerably different. The difference in orientation of the dimers within the strings is associated with the different space requirements of the ligands as is illustrated by Fig. 5 (a–d). Two mutually perpendicular projections of the isopropyl string are shown in Fig. 5 c and d. The sulfur parallelograms of the dimers are normal to the paper plane in d and the two figures show that the string makes only a small angle (12°) with that plane. The string of isobutyl dimers is shown in Fig. 5 a and b in the same orientation as c and d, respectively. Here the string makes a large angle (49°) with the paper plane of b. This change in direction of the string with respect to the dimers allows the ligands to slide on top of one another. The same molecular separation, the *c*-axis, as in the isopropyl string is then maintained despite the larger space requirement of the isobutyl ligands. The inclination of the string results in the skew coordination pyramid around the metal atom, Fig. 3, in the isobutyl compound. The coordination pyramid in the isopropyl compound is straight and the bond to the apical sulfur atom is almost normal to the sulfur parallelogram. This clearly demonstrates the connection between molecular packing and metal coordination in this group of compounds.

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