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# A purple odyssey: synthesis and structure of 3-amino-4-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohexa-2,4-dien-1-iminium chloride monohydrate

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In the cation of the title hydrated molecular salt,  $C_6H_7N_2O_2^+ \cdot Cl^- \cdot H_2O$ , the sixmembered ring shows unequal bond lengths consistent with delocalization of electrons over two separate  $6\pi$  systems with single bonds between them. In the crystal, the components are linked by  $N-H \cdot \cdot Cl$ ,  $N-H \cdot \cdot O$ ,  $O-H \cdot \cdot \cdot Cl$  and  $O-H \cdot \cdot \cdot O$  hydrogen bonds, generating double layers propagating in (100).

#### 1. Chemical context

In the course of our ongoing studies (Plater & Harrison, 2013, 2014*a,b*; Plater & Jackson, 2014) on new conjugated products obtained from the oxidation of aromatic amines, we attempted the oxidation of 1,2,4,5-tetraaminobenzene, **1**. As long ago as 1887, it was demonstrated (Nietzki & Hagenbach, 1887) that this compound undergoes aerial oxidation to form 2,5-diamino-1,4-benzoquinonediimine, **2**. More recently, Braunstein *et al.* (2003) have studied the oxidation of compound **1** and the related compound 2,4-diaminoresorcinol, **3**, to synthesize (1E)-N-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-[(2,2-dimethylpropyl)amino]-2-hydroxy-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-iminium chloride,**4**, which generates the zwitterion**5**when treated with base.



By careful oxidation of the tetrahydrochloride salt of amine **1** with potassium dichromate, we isolated and crystallized the chloride salt of the parent 3-amino-4-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohexa-2,4-dien-1-iminium cation, **8**, as a monohydrate  $[C_6H_7N_2O_2^+\cdot Cl^-\cdot H_2O, (I)]$  in the form of purple needles. This reaction must proceed *via* the elusive intermediate **6** which spontaneously hydrolyses. The first hydrolysis product should be intermediate **7**. This contains a conjugated iminium salt and a vinylogous amide, which must hydrolyse rapidly, possibly because of the stability of the acidic enol formed. It appears to be a rapid hydrolysis for an amide under mild conditions and so stabilization of a tetrahedral intermediate by the positive iminium salt might occur.





 Table 1

 Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

J 8 8 8 8	,			
$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
N1-H2 $n$ ···O1	0.81 (5)	2.33 (5)	2.653 (4)	105 (4)
N2-H4 $n$ ···O2	0.84 (4)	2.23 (5)	2.595 (4)	107 (4)
$N1-H1n\cdots Cl1$	0.80(5)	2.45 (5)	3.238 (3)	169 (4)
$N1 - H2n \cdot \cdot \cdot O3^{i}$	0.81(5)	2.25 (5)	3.011 (4)	156 (4)
$N2-H3n \cdot \cdot \cdot Cl1^{ii}$	0.93 (4)	2.22 (4)	3.149 (3)	177 (4)
N2-H4 $n$ ···Cl1 <sup>iii</sup>	0.83(5)	2.44 (5)	3.231 (3)	158 (4)
O2−H1 <i>o</i> ···O3	0.92(5)	1.65 (5)	2.548 (4)	165 (4)
$O3-H1w\cdots O1^{iv}$	0.88(5)	1.98 (5)	2.801(4)	154 (4)
$O3-H2w\cdots Cl1^{v}$	1.00 (5)	2.11 (5)	3.116 (3)	176 (4)

Symmetry codes: (i) x, y, z + 1; (ii) x,  $-y + \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (iii) x, y, z - 1; (iv) x,  $-y + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (v) -x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1.

#### 2. Structural commentary

The asymmetric unit of (I) consists of one essentially planar  $C_6H_7N_2O_2^+$  cation (r.m.s. deviation for the non-hydrogen atoms = 0.028 Å), a chloride counter-ion and a water molecule of crystallization (Fig. 1). Despite being a nominal  $6\pi$  aromatic system, the bond lengths of the C1–C6 ring in (I) are far from equal and are split into three groups of two: the shortest are C1–C6 [1.354 (5)] and C3–C4 [1.381 (5)], followed by C4–C5 [1.406 (5)] and C1–C2 [1.436 (5) Å]. Finally, the C2–C3 [1.532 (4)] and C5–C6 [1.500 (5) Å] lengths are those expected for a C–C  $\sigma$  bond.



The short C3-C4 and C4-C5 bonds correlate with the approximately equal C3-N1 [1.320 (4)] and C5-N2 [1.306 (4) Å] bond lengths, which imply equal delocalization of the positive charge of the cation over atoms N1 and N2, mediated *via* the C-N and C-C bonds between them. In terms of the 'oxygen side' of the cation, the C6-O2 bond [1.320 (4) Å] is short for a C-O single bond whereas C2-O1



Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I) showing 50% displacement ellipsoids. Hydrogen bonds are shown as double-dashed lines.

[1.227 (4) Å] is slightly lengthened for a nominal C=O double bond. This in combination with the C1–C2 and C1–C6 bond lengths again implies a degree of delocalization over these five atoms. However, the long C2–C3 and C5–C6 bonds imply little, if any, conjugation between the two delocalized components (O2/C6/C1/C2/O1 and N2/C5/C4/C3/N1) of the cation.

The cation features two intramolecular N-H···O hydrogen bonds, *viz.* N1-H2n···O1 and N2-H4n···O2 (Table 1), which both close S(5) rings.

#### 3. Supramolecular features

In the crystal, the components are linked by N-H···Cl, N-H···Cl, O-H···Cl and O-H···O hydrogen bonds (Table 1). If the cation and chloride anion are considered together, then [001] chains arise (Fig. 2) in which adjacent cations are related to each other by *c*-glide symmetry. Each link in the chain comprises two cations and two anions and  $R_4^2(12)$  loops are apparent.

When the cation and water molecule are considered together, an [001] chain also arises (Fig. 3). The water molecule plays a key role in terms of both accepting hydrogen bonds from O2 and N1 and donating a hydrogen bond to O1 (it also acts as a donor to the chloride ion). The end result is a chain





Detail of the crystal structure of (I) showing the formation of [001] chains of cations and chloride ions linked by  $N-H\cdots Cl$  hydrogen bonds. Symmetry codes as in Table 1.



#### Figure 3

Detail of the crystal structure of (I) showing the formation of [001] chains of cations and water molecules linked by  $O-H\cdots O$  and  $N-H\cdots O$  hydrogen bonds. Symmetry codes as in Table 1.

featuring  $R_4^4(12)$  loops (counted *via* the intramolecular N1-H2n···O1 hydrogen bond).

When all components are considered together, (100) double sheets result (Fig. 4), with the water-O3 $-H2w\cdots$ Cl1 hydrogen bond providing the key link between the sheets. Overall, the chloride ion accepts four hydrogen bonds (three N $-H\cdots$ Cl and one O $-H\cdots$ Cl interactions) in an irregular geometry.

#### 4. Database survey

The compound (1E)-N-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-[(2,2-dimethylpropyl)amino]-2-hydroxy-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-iminium chloride chloroform monosolvate (CCDC refcode: VASVER; Braunstein *et al.*, 2003) was noted in the chemical context section above: these authors discuss its electronic structure in detail including its potentially anti-aromatic character. The crystal structure of the parent unprotonated zwitterion 3-oxo-4-amino-6-iminiophenolate monohydrate (HAZQUV; Yang *et al.*, 2005) is known as are those of a number of its alkylated/functionalized derivatives (Braunstein *et al.*, 2009; Tamboura *et al.*, 2009; Kauf & Braunstein, 2011) and metal complexes (Paretzki *et al.*, 2010). The carbon-carbon bond lengths in the six-membered ring in all these compounds are similar to those seen in (I).

#### 5. Synthesis and crystallization

1.2.4.5-Benzenetetraamine tetrahydrochloride (200 mg. 0.7 mmol) in distilled water (75 ml) was treated with an excess of K<sub>2</sub>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (140 mg, 0.48 mmol, 0.6 eq) and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The brown mixture was neutralized with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> giving a brown or red precipitate, which was then extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 × 50 ml). The yellow extracts were combined, decanted, then stirred with methanol (50 ml) containing five drops of conc. HCl(aq). The yellow solution turned purple. This was evaporated to dryness, then the product was dissolved in methanol (50 ml) to yield a red solution and recrystallized by slow evaporation to leave the title compound (15 mg, 8%) as purple needles: m.p. > 473 K;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (ethanol)/nm 503 (log  $\varepsilon$  2.90) and 325(3.99);  $\nu$  (diamond anvil)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2953br, 1688s, 1547vs, 1401vs, 1310vs, 1251vs, 1141vs, 871vs, 853s, 711vs, 654vs, 579vs, 454s and 420s; m/z (orbitrap ASAP) 139.0498 ( $M^+$ , 100%), C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires 139.0502. The UV/visible spectrum of (I) is shown in Fig. 5.



The packing in (I) viewed along [001] showing the formation of (100) double layers.



Figure 5 UV/visible spectrum of (I)  $(2.3 \times 10^{-4} M \text{ solution in ethanol}).$ 

#### 6. Refinement

Crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details are summarized in Table 2. The C-bound H atoms were geometrically placed (C-H = 0.95 Å) and refined as riding atoms. The N- and O-bound H atoms were located in difference maps and their positions were freely refined. The constraint  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.2 U_{\rm eq}({\rm carrier})$  was applied in all cases. The crystal studied was found to be a twin with the components related by a 180° rotation about [001].

#### Acknowledgements

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<b>Table 2</b> Experimental details.	
Crystal data	
Chemical formula	$C_6H_7N_2O_2 \cdot Cl \cdot H_2O$
Mr	192.60
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$
Temperature (K)	100
a, b, c (Å)	6.3070 (7), 14.9614 (18), 8.9198 (11)
β (°)	93.457 (1)
$V(Å^3)$	840.15 (17)
Z	4
Radiation type	Μο Κα
$\mu \text{ (mm}^{-1})$	0.42
Crystal size (mm)	$0.11 \times 0.04 \times 0.03$
Data collection	
Diffractometer	Rigaku Mercury CCD
Absorption correction	_
No. of measured, independent and observed $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ reflections	3102, 3102, 2789
R <sub>int</sub>	?
$(\sin \theta / \lambda)_{\rm max} ({\rm \AA}^{-1})$	0.651
Refinement	
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.072, 0.159, 1.22
No. of reflections	3102
No. of parameters	131
H-atom treatment	H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement
$\Delta \rho_{\rm max}, \Delta \rho_{\rm min}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.57, -0.40

Computer programs: CrysAlis PRO (Rigaku, 2015), SHELXS97 and SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 2008), ORTEP-3 (Farrugia, 2012) and publCIF (Westrip, 2010).

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# supporting information

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A purple odyssey: synthesis and structure of 3-amino-4-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohexa-2,4-dien-1-iminium chloride monohydrate

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### **Computing details**

Data collection: *CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku, 2015); cell refinement: *CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku, 2015); data reduction: *CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku, 2015); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3* (Farrugia, 2012); software used to prepare material for publication: *publCIF* (Westrip, 2010).

3-Amino-4-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohexa-2,4-dien-1-iminium chloride monohydrate

Crystal data	
$C_{6}H_{7}N_{2}O_{2} \cdot Cl \cdot H_{2}O$ $M_{r} = 192.60$ Monoclinic, $P2_{1}/c$ $a = 6.3070 (7) Å$ $b = 14.9614 (18) Å$ $c = 8.9198 (11) Å$ $\beta = 93.457 (1)^{\circ}$ $V = 840.15 (17) Å^{3}$ $Z = 4$	F(000) = 400 $D_x = 1.523 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo Ka radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$ Cell parameters from 1747 reflections $\theta = 3.2-27.5^{\circ}$ $\mu = 0.42 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 100  K Rod, purple $0.11 \times 0.04 \times 0.03 \text{ mm}$
Data collection	
Rigaku Mercury CCD diffractometer ω scans 3102 measured reflections 3102 independent reflections	2789 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.6^{\circ}, \ \theta_{\text{min}} = 2.7^{\circ}$ $h = -8 \rightarrow 8$ $k = -19 \rightarrow 19$ $l = -7 \rightarrow 11$
Refinement	
Refinement on $F^2$ Least-squares matrix: full $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.072$ $wR(F^2) = 0.159$ S = 1.22 3102 reflections 131 parameters 0 restraints	Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods Hydrogen site location: difference Fourier map H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0472P)^2 + 1.7994P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$ $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.56$ e Å <sup>-3</sup> $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.39$ e Å <sup>-3</sup>

#### Special details

**Geometry**. All esds (except the esd in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell esds are taken into account individually in the estimation of esds in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between esds in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell esds is used for estimating esds involving l.s. planes.

**Refinement**. Refined as a 2-component twin (180° rotation about [001])

	x	у	Ζ	$U_{ m iso}$ */ $U_{ m eq}$	
C1	0.2403 (6)	0.3972 (2)	0.3386 (4)	0.0152 (7)	
H1	0.2413	0.3419	0.2865	0.018*	
C2	0.2473 (6)	0.3979 (2)	0.4998 (4)	0.0132 (7)	
C3	0.2536 (6)	0.4888 (2)	0.5792 (4)	0.0120 (7)	
C4	0.2459 (6)	0.5671 (2)	0.4970 (4)	0.0155 (7)	
H4	0.2493	0.6233	0.5468	0.019*	
C5	0.2332 (6)	0.5632 (2)	0.3392 (4)	0.0133 (7)	
C6	0.2324 (6)	0.4747 (2)	0.2601 (4)	0.0133 (7)	
N1	0.2648 (6)	0.4838 (2)	0.7271 (3)	0.0165 (7)	
Hln	0.265 (7)	0.527 (3)	0.779 (5)	0.020*	
H2n	0.270 (7)	0.436 (3)	0.770 (5)	0.020*	
N2	0.2212 (6)	0.6344 (2)	0.2543 (4)	0.0162 (7)	
H3n	0.227 (7)	0.690 (3)	0.300 (5)	0.019*	
H4n	0.216 (7)	0.629 (3)	0.161 (5)	0.019*	
01	0.2459 (4)	0.33037 (17)	0.5778 (3)	0.0184 (6)	
O2	0.2219 (5)	0.48297 (18)	0.1125 (3)	0.0201 (6)	
H1o	0.230 (7)	0.430 (3)	0.063 (5)	0.024*	
Cl1	0.22638 (16)	0.67344 (6)	0.89828 (10)	0.0208 (3)	
O3	0.3077 (5)	0.34226 (17)	-0.0329 (3)	0.0223 (6)	
H1w	0.247 (8)	0.294 (3)	-0.001 (5)	0.027*	
H2w	0.458 (8)	0.334 (3)	0.008 (6)	0.027*	

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters  $(Å^2)$ 

Atomic displacement parameters  $(Å^2)$ 

<b>T 1</b> 1					
U	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
0.019 (2)	0.0121 (15)	0.0149 (17)	0.0016 (14)	0.0001 (14)	-0.0023 (13)
0.0134 (18)	0.0119 (15)	0.0146 (17)	-0.0007 (14)	0.0013 (14)	-0.0015 (13)
0.0101 (17)	0.0119 (15)	0.0137 (16)	0.0012 (13)	-0.0030 (13)	-0.0036 (12)
0.0170 (19)	0.0134 (16)	0.0161 (17)	-0.0001 (15)	0.0001 (14)	-0.0038 (13)
0.0118 (18)	0.0113 (15)	0.0168 (17)	-0.0006 (14)	0.0005 (14)	0.0021 (13)
0.0105 (18)	0.0179 (16)	0.0112 (16)	0.0006 (14)	-0.0014 (13)	-0.0031 (13)
0.0243 (19)	0.0150 (14)	0.0101 (15)	0.0015 (14)	-0.0005 (13)	-0.0001 (12)
0.0246 (19)	0.0122 (13)	0.0120 (15)	-0.0015 (13)	0.0038 (13)	-0.0003 (12)
0.0271 (15)	0.0137 (11)	0.0143 (12)	0.0001 (12)	0.0017 (11)	0.0015 (10)
0.0335 (18)	0.0165 (13)	0.0103 (12)	0.0016 (12)	0.0008 (11)	-0.0001 (10)
0.0343 (5)	0.0136 (4)	0.0144 (4)	-0.0010 (4)	-0.0010 (4)	0.0012 (3)
0.0368 (18)	0.0133 (13)	0.0170 (14)	-0.0015 (12)	0.0034 (12)	0.0015 (10)
	0.019 (2) 0.0134 (18) 0.0101 (17) 0.0170 (19) 0.0118 (18) 0.0105 (18) 0.0243 (19) 0.0246 (19) 0.0271 (15) 0.0335 (18) 0.0343 (5) 0.0368 (18)	$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0.019(2) & 0.0121(15) \\ 0.0134(18) & 0.0119(15) \\ 0.0101(17) & 0.0119(15) \\ 0.0170(19) & 0.0134(16) \\ 0.0118(18) & 0.0113(15) \\ 0.0105(18) & 0.0179(16) \\ 0.0243(19) & 0.0150(14) \\ 0.0246(19) & 0.0122(13) \\ 0.0271(15) & 0.0137(11) \\ 0.0335(18) & 0.0165(13) \\ 0.0343(5) & 0.0133(13) \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Geometric parameters (Å, °)

C1—C6	1.354 (5)	C5—C6	1.500 (5)
C1—C2	1.436 (5)	C6—O2	1.320 (4)
C1—H1	0.9500	N1—H1n	0.80 (5)
C2—O1	1.227 (4)	N1—H2n	0.81 (5)
C2—C3	1.532 (4)	N2—H3n	0.93 (4)
C3—N1	1.320 (4)	N2—H4n	0.83 (5)
C3—C4	1.381 (5)	O2—H1o	0.92 (5)
C4—C5	1.406 (5)	O3—H1w	0.88 (5)
C4—H4	0.9500	O3—H2w	1.00 (5)
C5—N2	1.306 (4)		
C6—C1—C2	120.6 (3)	N2—C5—C6	116.6 (3)
C6-C1-H1	119.7	C4—C5—C6	120.4 (3)
C2-C1-H1	119.7	O2—C6—C1	126.4 (3)
01—C2—C1	124.1 (3)	O2—C6—C5	112.6 (3)
O1—C2—C3	118.0 (3)	C1—C6—C5	120.9 (3)
C1—C2—C3	117.9 (3)	C3—N1—H1n	122 (3)
N1-C3-C4	125.2 (3)	C3—N1—H2n	121 (3)
N1—C3—C2	114.2 (3)	H1n—N1—H2n	117 (4)
C4—C3—C2	120.6 (3)	C5—N2—H3n	119 (3)
C3—C4—C5	119.6 (3)	C5—N2—H4n	120 (3)
C3—C4—H4	120.2	H3n—N2—H4n	121 (4)
С5—С4—Н4	120.2	C6—O2—H1o	114 (3)
N2—C5—C4	123.0 (3)	H1w—O3—H2w	102 (4)
C6—C1—C2—O1	176.9 (4)	C3—C4—C5—N2	178.6 (4)
C6—C1—C2—C3	-2.2 (5)	C3—C4—C5—C6	-1.3 (6)
01—C2—C3—N1	2.4 (5)	C2-C1-C6-O2	-178.8 (4)
C1-C2-C3-N1	-178.5 (3)	C2-C1-C6-C5	0.7 (6)
O1—C2—C3—C4	-177.1 (4)	N2C5C6O2	0.8 (5)
C1—C2—C3—C4	2.0 (5)	C4—C5—C6—O2	-179.3 (3)
N1—C3—C4—C5	-179.7 (4)	N2-C5-C6-C1	-178.8 (4)
C2—C3—C4—C5	-0.3 (5)	C4—C5—C6—C1	1.1 (6)

## Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °)

	D—H	Н…А	D····A	D—H…A
N1—H2 <i>n</i> ···O1	0.81 (5)	2.33 (5)	2.653 (4)	105 (4)
N2—H4 <i>n</i> ···O2	0.84 (4)	2.23 (5)	2.595 (4)	107 (4)
N1—H1 <i>n</i> ···Cl1	0.80 (5)	2.45 (5)	3.238 (3)	169 (4)
N1—H2 $n$ ···O3 <sup>i</sup>	0.81 (5)	2.25 (5)	3.011 (4)	156 (4)
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O2—H1 <i>o</i> ···O3	0.92 (5)	1.65 (5)	2.548 (4)	165 (4)

# supporting information

$O3$ — $H1w$ ···· $O1^{iv}$	0.88 (5)	1.98 (5)	2.801 (4)	154 (4)
O3—H2w····Cl1 <sup>v</sup>	1.00 (5)	2.11 (5)	3.116 (3)	176 (4)

Symmetry codes: (i) *x*, *y*, *z*+1; (ii) *x*, -*y*+3/2, *z*-1/2; (iii) *x*, *y*, *z*-1; (iv) *x*, -*y*+1/2, *z*-1/2; (v) -*x*+1, -*y*+1, -*z*+1.