organic compounds

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$P.P'$ -Diphenylethylenediphosphinic acid dihydrate

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Key indicators: single-crystal X-ray study; $T = 173$ K; mean σ (C–C) = 0.004 Å; R factor = 0.039; w R factor = 0.109; data-to-parameter ratio = 16.9.

The title compound, $C_{14}H_{16}O_4P_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, possesses a crystallographic inversion center where two $-P(=O(OH)(C_6H_5))$ groups are joined together *via* two $-CH₂$ groups. In the crystal, the acid molecules are linked by the water molecules via O— H \cdots O hydrogen bonds, leading to the formation of a twodimensional network lying parallel to (101).

Related literature

For background on related phosphine macrocycles, see: Caminade & Majoral (1994); Swor & Tyler (2011). For related syntheses, see: Lambert & Desreux (2000). For literature related to the use of phosphine complexes as N_2 scrubbers, see: Miller et al. (2002). For a related structure, see: Costantino et al. (2008). For literature related to the macrocycle effect, see: Melson (1979).

Experimental

Crystal data $C_{14}H_{16}O_4P_2.2H_2O$

 $M_r = 346.24$

Data collection

 $Z = 2$

Mo $K\alpha$ radiation $\mu = 0.27$ mm⁻¹ $T = 173 K$

 $0.27 \times 0.23 \times 0.12$ mm

Refinement

Table 1 Hydrogen-bond geometry (\mathring{A}, \degree) .

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

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXTL; molecular graphics: SHELXTL; software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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Supplementary data and figures for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: BV2207).

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supplementary materials

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*P***,***P***′-Diphenylethylenediphosphinic acid dihydrate**

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Comment

In a recent publication, we showed that complexes of the type *trans*-Fe(P₂)₂Cl₂ (P₂ = a bidentate phosphine) will react with dinitrogen at high pressure to form *trans*-[Fe(P₂)₂(N₂)Cl]⁺ (Miller *et al.*, 2002). This reaction is potentially useful as a way to scrub dinitrogen from natural gas contaminated with dinitrogen. Unfortunately, the phosphine ligands in these dinitrogen-scrubbing complexes slowly dissociate in aqueous solution, leading to degradation of the complexes. This prevents a practical pressure-swing process from being developed. One potential method to obtain complexes that are more robust is to use a phosphine macrocycle in place of the two bidentate ligands. (The "macrocycle effect" predicts that the binding constant for a macrocyclic ligand is orders of magnitude higher than the binding constant for two bidentate ligands (Melson, 1979)).

In addition to their usefulness in the N₂-scrubbing scheme described above, macrocyclic phosphine compounds are sought after in general as ligands for transition metal complexes because of their strong binding properties. However, the synthesis of phosphine macrocycles is a relatively underdeveloped area. One approach to macrocyclic phosphines is a template synthesis in which two secondary bidentate phosphines are coordinated to a common metal center and then covalently linked. The title molecule is both a precursor in the synthesis of the secondary bidentate phosphine 1,2-bis- (phenylphosphino)ethane (MPPE, used in our laboratory for subsequent conversion into a macrocyclic phosphine ligand) and the oxidation product of MPPE. The X-ray structure of the title molecule recrystallized from ethanol has been reported (Costantino *et al.*, 2008). As might be expected, the structure has an extensive hydrogen bonding network involving oxygen atoms (in the P=O and –OH groups) and H atoms (in the O—H groups). In contrast to the method used in this previous report, the structure reported here was recrystallized from water, which resulted in a different structure due to solvent water molecules.

The title compound has a centrosymmetrical structure where two $-P(=O)(OH)(C₆H₅)$ groups are joined together *via* two –CH₂ groups. The terminal –OH group forms a very strong $O(2)$ —H(1O)···O(1 s) H-bond with the solvent water molecule (Figure 1 and Table 1): the $O(2)$ ···(O1s), $O(2)$ —H(10) and $O(1 \text{ s})$ ···H(10) distances are 2.459 (2), 1.06 (3) and 1.40 (3) Å, respectively and the O(2)—H(10)···O(1 s) angle is 173 (3)°.

Experimental

The title molecule was prepared serendipitously while attempting to synthesize a phosphine macrocycle using a Cu(I) template. 1,2-Bis(phenylphosphino)ethane (MPPE) (2 equiv.) was reacted with Cu(MeCN)₄PF₆ (1 equiv.) in acetonitrile to yield the corresponding $Cu(MPPE)_{2}PF_{6}$ complex. A similar complex (with trifluoromethanesulfonate counter anion) was reported to be relatively air-stable for several months (Lambert & Desreux, 2000). However, after several weeks of exposure to air, the Cu(MPPE)₂PF₆ complex decomposed and the phosphine ligands were fully oxidized, yielding the title compound. The crude oxidized phosphine was recrystallized from water, yielding crystals of the title molecule. Note that the title compound can be reduced back to the starting secondary bis-phosphine.

Refinement

The structure was solved using direct methods and refined with anisotropic thermal parameters for non-H atoms. H atoms in the main molecule were positioned geometrically and refined in a rigid group model, $C-H = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ for $-CH_2$ and –CH groups. H atoms in the terminal –OH group and in a solvent water molecule involved in intermolecular H-bonds were found from the residual density and refined with isotropic thermal parameters. There are some alongations of thermal parameters of the carbon atoms in the phenyl rings indicating that the phenyl rings in the structure are flexible.

Computing details

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008).

Figure 1

A fragment of the crystal structure of *P*,*P*′-diphenylethylenediphosphinic acid with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme. [Symmetry code (A): -*x*,-*y*,-*z*].

*P***,***P***′-Diphenylethylenediphosphinic acid dihydrate**

T = 173 K Block, colorless

Data collection

Refinement

 $0.27 \times 0.23 \times 0.12$ mm

9251 measured reflections 1888 independent reflections 1696 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$

 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.0^{\circ}, \theta_{\text{min}} = 2.4^{\circ}$

 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.021$

 $h = -13 \rightarrow 13$ $k = -7 \rightarrow 7$ *l* = −16→16

Special details

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

treatment of cell e.s.d.'s is used for estimating e.s.d.'s involving l.s. planes.

Refinement. Refinement of F^2 against ALL reflections. The weighted *R*-factor wR and goodness of fit *S* are based on F^2 , conventional *R*-factors *R* are based on *F*, with *F* set to zero for negative F^2 . The threshold expression of $F^2 > \sigma(F^2)$ is used only for calculating *R*-factors(gt) *etc*. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. *R*-factors based on *F*² are statistically about twice as large as those based on *F*, and *R*- factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å²)

H5A	0.4910	0.5519	0.2827	$0.114*$	
C ₆	0.6673(3)	0.5807(5)	0.3356(2)	0.0762(8)	
H ₆ A	0.6861	0.7047	0.2961	$0.091*$	
C7	0.7566(2)	0.4916(4)	0.40205(17)	0.0526(5)	
H7A	0.8366	0.5537	0.4076	$0.063*$	
O ₁ S	0.8284(2)	0.6587(3)	0.69946(14)	0.0622(5)	
H ₁ O	0.875(2)	0.491(4)	0.6401(19)	$0.062(7)$ *	
H1S	0.792(3)	0.621(5)	0.756(3)	$0.086(10)*$	
H2S	0.801(3)	0.783(6)	0.670(3)	$0.092(10)*$	

Atomic displacement parameters (Å2)

Geometric parameters (Å, º)

Symmetry code: (i) −*x*+2, −*y*, −*z*+1.

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, º)

Symmetry codes: (ii) −*x*+3/2, *y*+1/2, −*z*+3/2; (iii) *x*, *y*+1, *z*.