

# Chemical preparation and crystal structure of an adduct between potassium cyclooctaphosphate and telluric acid: $\text{Te(OH)}_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

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**Abstract.**  $\text{Te(OH)}_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$  is the first example of an adduct between telluric acid and a cyclooctaphosphate. We report its chemical preparation and its atomic arrangement. The title compound is triclinic  $P\bar{I}$ ,  $Z = 1$  with the following unit cell dimensions:

$$a = 11.315(9), b = 10.67(1), c = 7.547(3) \text{ \AA} \\ \alpha = 108.72(5), \beta = 100.30(2), \gamma = 66.80(5)^\circ$$

Crystal structure was determined and refined to final  $R = 0.028$  for 7265 independent reflections. The atomic arrangement is mainly characterized by the coexistence of independent units of  $[\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}]^{8-}$  ring anions and of  $\text{Te(OH)}_6$  groups, both centrosymmetric.

The hydrogen bond scheme is described. In addition, the internal symmetries and the geometries of the rare  $[\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}]^{8-}$  ring anions presently investigated are discussed.

## Introduction

The progress in chemistry of cyclophosphates with large ring anions, cyclohexa-, cycloocta-, cyclodeca- and cyclododecaphosphates, whose existence was clearly proved by the thin layer chromatography technique as early as 1955 proceeded slowly. Only when Schülke and Kayser (1985) published a convenient process for the preparation of large amounts of  $\text{Li}_6\text{P}_6\text{O}_{18}$  the crystal chemistry of cyclohexaphosphates could be developed

**Table 1.** Crystal data and experimental parameters used for the intensity data collection. Strategy and final results of the structure determination.

### I. Crystal data

Formula:  $\text{Te}(\text{OH})_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Crystal system: triclinic

$a = 11.315(9)$ ,  $b = 10.67(1)$

$c = 7.547(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 108.72(5)$

$\beta = 100.30(2)$ ,  $\gamma = 66.80(5)^{\circ}$

Refinement of unit cell parameters:

$\text{gpal.} = 2.537 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$

Linear absorption factor:

Morphology: short stout triclinic prism

Space group:  $P\bar{1}$

$E_{\text{av}} = 1210.256$

$V = 792(2) \text{ \AA}^3$

$Z = 1$

19 reflections ( $10.2 < \theta < 14.6^{\circ}$ )

$F(000) = 590$

$\mu(\text{AgK}\alpha) = 1.292 \text{ mm}^{-1}$

Crystal size:  $0.24 \times 0.40 \times 0.35 \text{ mm}$

### II. Intensity measurements

Temperature:  $294 \text{ K}$

Diffractometer: Philips PW 1100

Monochromator: graphite plate

Scan speed:  $0.02^{\circ} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$

Measurement area:  $\pm h, \pm k, l$

Total background measuring time:

Scan width:  $1.20^{\circ}$

Theta range:  $3 - 30^{\circ}$

$h_{\text{max}} = 20$ ,  $k_{\text{max}} = 18$ ,  $l_{\text{max}} = 13$

10 s

Total number of scanned reflections:

9904

Total number of non-zero reflections:

8445

Total number of independent reflections:

8004 ( $R_{\text{int.}} = 0.01$ )

Two intensity and orientation reference reflections: no variation

### III. Structure determination

Lorentz and polarization corrections

Program used: SDP [1]

Determination:

Hydrogen atoms from difference-Fourier syntheses

Thermal displacement parameters:

Unique reflections included:

Weighting scheme: unitary

Unweighted agreement factor  $R$ :

Weighted agreement factor  $R_w$ :

E.s.d.: 0.845

Drawings made with STRUPLO [3]

Wavelength:  $\text{AgK}\alpha$  (0.5608 Å)

Scan mode:  $\omega$

Scan width:  $1.20^{\circ}$

Theta range:  $3 - 30^{\circ}$

$h_{\text{max}} = 20$ ,  $k_{\text{max}} = 18$ ,  $l_{\text{max}} = 13$

10 s

Total number of scanned reflections:

9904

Total number of non-zero reflections:

8445

Total number of independent reflections:

8004 ( $R_{\text{int.}} = 0.01$ )

Two intensity and orientation reference reflections: no variation

No absorption correction

Computer used: Micro-Vax II

Direct methods with MULTAN [2]

anisotropic for non-H atoms

isotropic for H-atoms

7265 with  $I > 4 \sigma(I)$

Refined parameters: 243

0.028

0.032

Largest shift/error = 0.05

[1] Structure Determination Package (1979).

[2] Main, P., et al. (1977).

[3] Fischer, R. X. (1985).

in a systematic way. Today, crystal structures of more than fifty cyclohexaphosphates are known. A recent survey, unfortunately already obsolete, of their crystal chemistry has been published by Averbuch-Pouchot and Durif (1991).

In the field of cyclooctaphosphates, things are a little different. As early as 1968 (a, b), Schülke reported a process for the preparation of convenient amounts of hexahydrate of the sodium salt,  $\text{Na}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ , but in spite of the possibility to use this salt as starting material, the rare

### Chemical preparation and crystal structure

**Table 2.** Final atomic coordinates for the atomic arrangement of  $\text{Te}(\bullet\text{OH})_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ .  $B_{\text{eq}}$  are given for non-hydrogen atoms,  $B_{\text{iso}}$  for hydrogen atoms. Estimated standard deviations are given in parentheses.  $B_{\text{eq.}} = 4/3 \sum_i \sum_j \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j \cdot \beta_{ij}$

Atoms	$x$	$y$	$z$	$B_{\text{eq.}}$
Te	0	0	0	1.025(2)
K(1)	0.43872(4)	0.89184(4)	0.25603(6)	1.849(7)
K(2)	0.97620(4)	0.38360(4)	0.08076(6)	1.923(7)
K(3)	0.35586(4)	0.58668(4)	0.18047(6)	1.809(7)
K(4)	0.85018(5)	0.91491(5)	0.36957(7)	2.217(8)
P(1)	0.28028(4)	0.28185(4)	0.43350(6)	1.137(7)
P(2)	0.13583(4)	0.57864(4)	0.43053(6)	1.048(7)
P(3)	0.32757(4)	0.16799(4)	0.37264(6)	1.104(7)
P(4)	0.46645(4)	0.80441(4)	0.70866(6)	1.128(7)
O(1)	0.8625(2)	0.1659(1)	0.9581(2)	1.79(3)
O(2)	0.9751(2)	0.0687(1)	0.2625(2)	1.61(2)
O(3)	0.1156(1)	0.0975(2)	0.0236(2)	1.97(3)
•(L11)	0.3283(2)	0.3206(2)	0.6334(2)	1.99(3)
O(E12)	0.7579(1)	0.8444(1)	0.6360(2)	1.82(3)
•(L12)	0.8396(1)	0.5875(1)	0.6141(2)	1.25(2)
O(L14)	0.3798(1)	0.2693(2)	0.2977(2)	1.75(2)
O(E21)	0.0327(1)	0.6328(1)	0.2944(2)	1.64(2)
O(E22)	0.1220(2)	0.6474(2)	0.6346(2)	1.83(3)
O(L23)	0.7269(1)	0.4350(1)	0.6194(2)	1.87(3)
O(E31)	0.2217(2)	0.8197(1)	0.3887(2)	1.80(3)
O(E32)	0.5928(2)	0.3811(2)	0.7906(2)	2.17(3)
O(L34)	0.5803(2)	0.3168(1)	0.4391(2)	1.97(3)
O(E41)	0.4219(1)	0.9328(1)	0.6414(2)	1.74(2)
•(E42)	0.5618(2)	0.1902(2)	0.1053(2)	2.27(3)
O(W)	0.7776(2)	0.6371(3)	0.0425(3)	4.60(6)
				$B_{\text{iso}}$
H(1)	0.160(4)	0.8540(5)	0.155(7)	4(1)
H(2)	0.946(4)	0.143(5)	0.281(6)	3(1)
H(3)	0.158(4)	0.113(5)	0.119(6)	4(1)
H(1W)	0.242(5)	0.371(5)	0.841(7)	4(1)
H(2W)	0.728(5)	0.683(5)	0.961(7)	4(1)

cyclooctaphosphates well investigated since that date have been characterized either during elaborations of phase-equilibrium diagrams or during the investigations of various systems by flux methods. At first a series of four isotopic  $\text{Cu}_3\text{M}_2\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$  compounds was characterized during the elaboration of the  $\text{MPO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}_2\text{P}_4\text{O}_{12}$  phase-equilibrium diagrams for  $\text{M} = \text{Rb}$ ,  $\text{Cs}$  and  $\text{Tl}$  by Laügt et al. (1968), Laügt and Martin (1972), Laügt (1974a, 1974b) and for the ammonium salt during an investigation of the  $\text{CuO} \cdot \text{P}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot \text{NH}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  system by Laügt and Guitel (1975), afterwards other

**Table 3.** Main interatomic distances (Å) and bond angles (°) in the associated cation polyhedra, the Te(OII)<sub>6</sub> group and the hydrogen bond scheme

The KOn polyhedra				
K(1)–O(E1)	2.916(1)	K(1)–O(E32)	2.975(2)	
K(1)–O(E12)	2.789(1)	K(1)–O(E41)	2.829(2)	
K(1)–O(E31)	3.239(2)	K(1)–O(E41)	2.748(2)	
K(1)–O(H42)	2.582(2)			
K(2)O <sub>4</sub> polyhedron				
K(2)–O(1)	2.909(2)	K(2)–O(E21)	2.881(2)	
K(2)–O(3)	2.757(1)	K(2)–O(E21)	2.766(2)	
K(2)–O(L12)	2.842(1)	K(2)–O(E22)	2.749(2)	
K(2)–O(W)	2.816(3)	K(2)–O(W)	2.997(3)	
K(3)O <sub>8</sub> polyhedron				
K(3)–O(1)	3.002(1)	K(3)–O(L23)	3.386(2)	
K(3)–O(E11)	2.877(2)	K(3)–O(E32)	2.710(1)	
K(3)–O(E22)	2.768(2)	K(3)–O(E32)	2.678(2)	
K(3)–O(L34)	2.926(2)	K(3)–O(F42)	2.773(2)	
K(4)O <sub>8</sub> polyhedron				
K(4)–O(2)	2.904(2)	K(4)–O(E21)	2.842(1)	
K(4)–O(2)	3.106(1)	K(4)–O(E31)	2.723(1)	
K(4)–O(3)	3.015(2)	K(4)–O(E41)	2.860(1)	
K(4)–O(F12)	2.836(2)	K(4)–O(W)	3.472(3)	
The Te(OII) <sub>6</sub> group				
2×Te–O(1)	1.915(1)			
2×Te–O(2)	1.910(1)			
2×Te–O(3)	1.922(2)			
The hydrogen bonds				
O–H...O	O–H	H...O	O–H...O	O–O
O(1)–H(1)...O(E31)	0.82(5)	1.88(5)	156(5)	2.652(2)
O(2)–H(2)...O(E22)	0.71(4)	1.97(4)	172(4)	2.677(2)
O(3)–H(3)...O(E12)	0.80(4)	1.93(4)	173(5)	2.719(2)
O(W)–H(1W)...O(E11)	0.98(6)	1.82(5)	157(3)	2.746(3)
O(W)–H(2W)...O(L14)	0.89(5)	2.20(5)	162(4)	3.062(3)
H(1W)–O(W)–H(2W)	131(4)			

compounds of general formula  $M_2K_2P_8O_{24}$  ( $M = Al, Fe, Ga, V$ ) were discovered by Grunze et al. (1983), Lavrov et al. (1981) and Palkina et al. (1979) during investigations of the corresponding  $K_2O \cdot P_2O_5 \cdot M_2O_3$  systems by flux methods. In all these cases, the true nature of the anion was recognized during the structural investigations. Recently, we started a systematic investigation of this family of salts and described crystal structures of two of them,  $Na_3P_8O_{24} \cdot 6 H_2O$  (Schülke et al., 1992a) and  $Ag_2NaP_8O_{24}(NO_3)_2 \cdot 4 H_2O$  (Averbuch-Pouchot and Durif, 1992). In the present study, we describe the first example of an adduct between a cyclooctaphosphate and telluric acid,  $Te(OH)_6 \cdot K_8P_8O_{24} \cdot 2 H_2O$ , provid-

**Table 4.** Main interatomic distances (Å) and bond angles (°) in the four independent  $PO_4$  tetrahedra building the ring anion. Estimated standard deviations are given in parentheses

The P(1)O <sub>4</sub> tetrahedron				
P(1)–O(H1)	1.479(1)	P(1)–O(E12)	1.484(2)	
P(1)–O(L12)	1.609(1)	P(1)–O(L14)	1.605(2)	
O(E11)–P(1)–O(E12)	119.2(1)	O(E12)–P(1)–O(L12)	106.75(8)	
O(E11)–P(1)–O(L12)	111.25(7)	O(E12)–P(1)–O(L14)	108.70(9)	
O(E11)–P(1)–O(L14)	110.7(1)	O(L12)–P(1)–O(L14)	98.08(8)	
The P(2)O <sub>4</sub> tetrahedron				
P(2)–O(L12)	1.611(1)	P(2)–O(E22)	1.485(1)	
P(2)–O(E21)	1.474(1)	P(2)–O(L23)	1.604(2)	
O(L12)–P(2)–O(E21)	106.31(8)	O(E21)–P(2)–O(L22)	120.17(8)	
O(L12)–P(2)–O(E22)	109.63(9)	O(E21)–P(2)–O(L23)	111.3(1)	
O(L12)–P(2)–O(E23)	98.95(7)	O(E22)–P(2)–O(L23)	108.34(9)	
The P(3)O <sub>4</sub> tetrahedron				
P(3)–O(L23)	1.595(2)	P(3)–O(E31)	1.484(1)	
P(3)–O(E32)	1.474(2)	P(3)–O(L34)	1.605(1)	
O(L23)–P(3)–O(I:31)	110.32(9)	O(I:31)–P(3)–O(F32)	118.1(1)	
O(L23)–P(3)–O(E32)	107.9(1)	O(F31)–P(3)–O(L34)	110.38(7)	
O(L23)–P(3)–O(L34)	99.16(9)	O(E32)–P(3)–O(L34)	109.19(9)	
The P(4)O <sub>4</sub> tetrahedron				
P(4)–O(I:14)	1.605(1)	P(4)–O(H41)	1.483(2)	
P(4)–O(L34)	1.612(2)	P(4)–O(E42)	1.474(2)	
O(L14)–P(4)–O(L34)	101.84(7)	O(L34)–P(4)–O(E41)	110.50(8)	
O(L14)–P(4)–O(E41)	109.3(1)	O(L34)–P(4)–O(E42)	105.8(1)	
O(I:14)–P(4)–O(F42)	105.07(9)	O(H41)–P(4)–O(H42)	122.30(9)	
P(1)–P(2)	2.9465(6)	P(1)–O(L12)–P(2)	132.43(9)	
P(1)–P(4)	2.9388(7)	P(1)–O(L14)–P(4)	132.6(1)	
P(2)–P(3)	2.9255(8)	P(2)–O(L23)–P(3)	132.25(8)	
P(3)–P(4)	2.9532(6)	P(3)–O(L34)–P(4)	133.3(1)	
P(2)–P(1)–P(4)	107.43(2)			
P(1)–P(2)–P(3)	105.14(2)			
P(2)–P(3)–P(4)	117.49(2)			
P(1)–P(4)–P(3)	101.10(2)			

The O–O distances have been deposited.<sup>1</sup>

ing a new example of a  $P_8O_{24}$  ring geometry and showing by this first example the generality of the formation of such adducts with all kinds of water soluble alkali phosphates.

The larger phosphoric anion,  $[P_{10}O_{30}]^{10-}$ , was first separated and first characterized in  $Ba_2Zn_3P_{10}O_{30}$  by Bagieu-Beucher et al. (1981, 1982). Schülke developed a reproducible process for the preparation of a good starting material,  $K_{10}P_{10}O_{30} \cdot 4 H_2O$ . The crystal structure of this compound was recently determined by the authors (Schülke et al., 1992b).

**Table 5.** Least-squares plane for the phosphoric ring anion.

Crystallographic equation of the mean-plane for phosphorus atoms only and atom distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) from this plane:  
 $2.211x + 2.157 - 7.473z = 0$

$$\text{P(1)} - 0.474 \quad \text{P(2)} - 0.116 \quad \text{P(3)} 0.959 \quad \text{P(4)} 0.977$$

Crystallographic equation of the mean-plane for both phosphorus atoms and bonding oxygen atoms. Atom distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) from this plane are reported below its equation:  
 $2.646x + 2.790 - 7.506z = 0$

P(1) - 0.706	O(L12) - 0.286
P(2) - 0.223	O(L23) 0.530
P(3) 1.002	O(L34) 0.158
P(4) 0.806	O(L14) 0.556

No general process of preparation exists for the highest observed rings  $[\text{P}_{12}\text{O}_{36}]^{12-}$ , up to now observed in only one class of compounds, whose crystal structure was solved using  $\text{V}_3\text{Cs}_3\text{P}_{12}\text{O}_{36}$ , (Lavrov et al., 1981).

A comparison of the geometries of the rings observed in the previously investigated cyclooctaphosphates with that found in the title compound will be given in the last section of the present work.

## Experimental

### Chemical preparation

Chemical preparation of this adduct was performed in two steps. In the first stage, an aqueous solution of  $\text{Na}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was transformed at room temperature into cyclooctaphosphoric acid by using an Amberlite IRN 77 ion-exchange resin. This acid was then immediately neutralized by a stoichiometric amount of potassium carbonate. The so obtained aqueous solution of potassium cyclooctaphosphate was then concentrated by slow evaporation at room temperature during several days and finally added in stoichiometric proportion to a concentrated aqueous solution of telluric acid. After some days of controlled evaporation, at room temperature, the resulting solution produces large stout triclinic prisms of  $\text{Te(OH)}_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

### Crystal structure determination

The parameters used for the X-ray diffraction data collection as well as the strategy for the crystal structure determination and its final results are reported in Table 1.

The final atomic coordinates, the values of  $B_{eq}$  for non-H atoms and  $B_{iso}$  for H-atoms are given in Table 2. The values of the thermal anisotropic

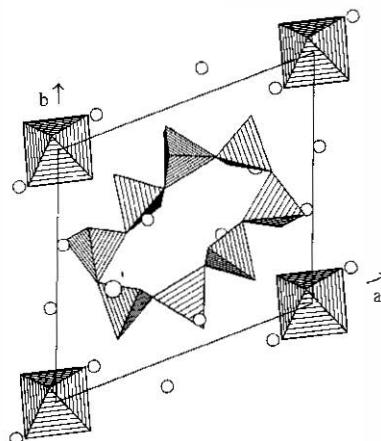


Fig. 1. Projection of the atomic arrangement of  $\text{Te(OH)}_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  along  $c$ . The smaller empty circles represent the potassium atoms and the larger ones water molecules.

displacement parameters refined for non-H atoms and the list of structure factors are deposited.<sup>1</sup>

### Structure description

As always observed in adducts between monovalent cation phosphates and telluric acid, the phosphoric anion and the  $\text{Te(OH)}_6$  group are independent entities and so do not share any oxygen atom.

In the present atomic arrangement, the  $\text{Te(OH)}_6$  group is located around the inversion centre  $(0, 0, 0)$ . The six oxygen atoms build an almost regular octahedron around the central tellurium atom with three Te-O distances ranging from 1.910 to 1.922  $\text{\AA}$  and O-Te-O angles spreading between 87.61 and 89.18° (Table 3). The three observed Te-O-H angles, 105, 106 and 120° are in accordance with all the values previously observed in such groups.

<sup>1</sup> Additional material to this paper can be ordered referring to the no. CSD 54239, names of the authors and citation of the paper at Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, D-7514 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen 2, FRG.

Four independent  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra build the centrosymmetric  $\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$  ring anion located around the inversion centre ( $1/2, 1/2, 1/2$ ). Inside this ring the four independent  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra have geometrical features quite comparable with all previously reported condensed phosphoric anions. Table 4 summarizes their main characteristics. We shall compare, in the last section of this article, the main features of the present ring with the few other examples of such anions. Table 5 gives the equations of the least-squares planes of the ring calculated for phosphorus atoms only and for a set of atoms including both phosphorus and bonding oxygen atoms. Atom distances from the L. S. planes are in both cases less than 1.002 Å.

Figure 1 gives in projection along the c direction the respective locations of the main components of this atomic arrangement.

The main numerical values observed for distances and bond angles in the hydrogen bond network are reported in Table 3. The telluric groups are not interconnected by such bonds, all their hydrogen atoms establish, in a three dimensional way, H-bonds with external oxygen atoms of their adjacent phosphoric rings. So, H(1) and H(2) establish H-bridges connecting  $\text{Te}(\text{OH})_6$  and  $\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$  entities along the c direction, while H(3) performs the same type of connections in the (a, b) plane. The two hydrogen atoms of the water molecule connect phosphoric rings along the c direction. It is worth reporting that one of the two hydrogen bonds involving the water molecule is established with a bonding oxygen atom of the phosphoric ring, O(L14), this type of oxygen is rarely observed as acceptor in condensed phosphate crystal chemistry.

The four independent potassium atoms have, within a range of 3.50 Å for the K—O distance, sevenfold for K(1) and eightfold coordinations for K(2), K(3) and K(4). Inside these various polyhedra, the K—O distances vary from 2.582 to 3.472 Å (Table 3). The water molecule is involved in the K(2)O<sub>8</sub> and K(4)O<sub>8</sub> coordination polyhedra.

### The $\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$ ring anion

As said above, only four structural studies of cyclooctaphosphates have been reported before. What we consider as the main geometrical features of a ring framework, P—P distances, P—O—P and P—P—P angles for the five  $\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$  rings presently known are reported in Table 6. In front of so few examples, any kind of discussion similar to what was possible with a large number of examples for other smaller rings,  $\text{P}_6\text{O}_{18}$ , for instance (Averbuch-Pouchot and Durif, 1991) seems here fruitless. Nevertheless, one can notice that among the five rings presently investigated two have a 2/m internal symmetry and three are centrosymmetric. Among the numerical data reported in Table 6 the P—P distances ranging from 2.818 to 3.018 Å and the P—O—P angles spreading from 123.1 to 146.3° are within

Table 6. Main geometrical features in the five  $[\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}]^{8-}$  ring anions presently investigated.

Formula	P—P—P (°)	P—O—P (°)	P—P (Å)	Symmetry	Ref.
$\text{K}_2\text{Ga}_2\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$	131.4	123.1	2.818	2/m	[1]
	138.0	134.4	2.933		
		136.0	2.947		
$\text{Cu}_3(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$	119.9	129.1	2.888	1	[2]
	92.1	134.8	2.928		
	112.2	146.3	2.930		
	123.3	134.9	3.018		
$\text{Na}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	123.9	138.4	3.011	1	[3]
	121.0	126.3	2.880		
	147.8	127.3	2.891		
	146.7	128.5	2.902		
$\text{Ag}_2\text{Na}\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	102.5	133.9	2.958	2/m	[4]
	108.7	129.5	2.889		
		128.8	2.900		
$\text{Te}(\text{OH})_6 \cdot \text{K}_8\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	107.4	132.4	2.946	1	[5]
	105.1	132.6	2.939		
	117.5	132.2	2.925		
	101.1	133.3	2.953		

[1] Palkina et al. (1979) [2] Laügt et al. (1975) [3] Schüle et al. (1992a, in press) [4] Averbuch-Pouchot et al. (1992, in press) [5] Present work.

the ranges commonly observed in the cyclophosphate crystal chemistry. The angular deviations of the P—P—P angles from their ideal value for a planar regular ring (135°) are more interesting to examine. In small rings,  $\text{P}_3\text{O}_9$ ,  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{12}$ , such angles never depart of more than some degrees from their ideal values, 60 or 90°, but when the ring size increases the deviations become very important. So, the P—P—P angles for the  $\text{P}_6\text{O}_{18}$  anions in cyclohexaphosphates (Averbuch-Pouchot and Durif, 1991) vary from 85.9 to 142.8° and are in fact quite comparable with those observed in the few examples of  $\text{P}_8\text{O}_{24}$  rings reported in Table 6 where they spread from 92.1 to 146.7°. These large deviations can be interpreted by the fact that the geometric strains decrease when the ring size increases and so favour the tendency of rings to twist as to become as compact as possible.

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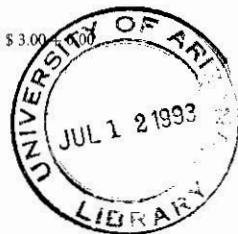
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## X-ray powder diffraction of $\text{Ag}_2\text{Te}$ at temperatures up to 1123 K

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**Ag<sub>2</sub>Te / X-ray diffraction / Rietveld refinement / Fast ion conductors / Anharmonic temperature factors**

**Abstract.** X-ray powder diffraction was performed on  $\beta$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te at room temperature, on ion conducting  $\alpha$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te at 523 K, 723 K and 923 K respectively and on  $\gamma$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te at 1123 K.

Rietveld profile refinement of  $\beta$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te confirmed the space group  $P2_1/c$  and the positional parameters of the model of Fröhle (Z. Kristallogr. 112 (1959) 44–52).

For the  $\alpha$ -modification in space group  $Fm\bar{3}m$ , best results were obtained for a model with a statistical distribution of Ag ions: about 60% of the available Ag ions were placed into  $32f(x\bar{x}\bar{x})$  positions around the tetrahedral  $8c(\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{4})$  sites and the remainder on the  $48i(x\bar{x}\frac{1}{2})$  positions. The probability density function (PDF) calculated with these formal structure parameters suggests next neighbour jumps of Ag ions via the  $48i$  sites.

The first structure refinement of  $\gamma$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te showed it to crystallize in space group  $I\bar{m}\bar{3}m$  and to be iso-structural to  $\alpha$ -AgI. Third order anharmonic coefficients of the temperature factor of the Ag ions could be refined from our X-ray powder data. Corresponding PDF maps show Ag-densities bridging next nearest as well as second next nearest neighbours.

## Introduction

Fast silver ion conductors exhibiting the cubic body centered structure like  $\alpha$ -AgI and its structural derivatives,  $\alpha$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>S or  $\alpha$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Se, have attracted much attention (Chandra, 1981). The cubic face centered compound  $\alpha$ -Ag<sub>2</sub>Te however, was investigated to a much lesser extent. According to