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The synthesis ...

... of glyoxal bis(amidiniumhydrazone) sulfate (shown in red) was first reported by the German chemist Johannes Thiele in 1898. Now, R. Custelcean et al. describe in their Communication on page 10525 ff. the crystal structure of this salt, which contains extended hydrogen-bonded sulfate—water clusters (shown on the right). Competitive crystallization of these clusters provides the basis for a new and effective approach to sulfate separation from water.

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