The Crystal Structure of 8, 8-Dicyanoheptafulvene

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8, 8-Dicyanoheptafulvene (I) is a stable derivative of heptafulvene, which is a sort of the non-alternant hydrocarbon. This compound has been studied by several groups of workers in recent years.1-5)

The present investigation was undertaken in order to reveal its molecular parameters by X-ray analysis.

This compound crystallizes in a monoclinic unit cell with dimensions: a=7.84 Å, b=13.14 Å, c=3.99Å, and $\beta=97.9$ °. The space group is P2₁ or P2₁/m. Since intensity statistics showed the existence of a center of symmetry, it was decided that the space group was the latter. There are two molecules in the unit cell, and the molecule should have a mirror plane in it.

Multiple-film equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken for layers 0 to 3 about the c axis with $Cu-K\alpha$ radiation, and the integrated intensities were estimated visually against a standard scale.

The structure was solved by the interpretation of Patterson projections along the c and b axes and Harker section P(u, 1/2, w). The positional and thermal parameters of each atom

so obtained were refined by the least-squares method. The final electron density projection along the c axis is shown in Fig. 1. molecule is planar and lies approximately parallel to the (101) plane; the interplanar spacing is 3.4Å. A crystallographic mirror plane normal to the b axis passes through the atoms C₇ and C₈ and is perpendicular to the molecular plane.

A detailed account of this work will be presented in the near future.

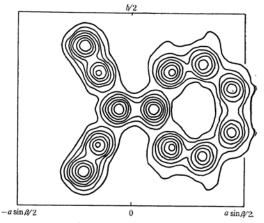


Fig. 1. The final electron density projection on the (001). Contours at intervals of 1.0 e. $Å^{-2}$. the lowest being at 1.0 e. Å⁻².

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