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## The First Perselenoborate with a Novel Three-Dimensional Anion Network

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The lithium perselenoborate  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  was prepared from stoichiometric amounts of lithium selenide  $\text{Li}_2\text{Se}$ , amorphous boron and selenium in an evacuated carbon-coated silica tube by solid state reaction at 800 °C. The crystal structure was refined from single crystal X-ray diffraction data. The new compound contains a novel three-dimensional boron-selenium network in which lithium cations are situated between. The boron atoms are in a tetrahedral  $\text{BSe}_4$  coordination. Lithium cations are surrounded by five selenium atoms in a range of 2.543 Å to 2.824 Å.

**Keywords:** selenoborates; perselenoborates; network structures; boron

### INTRODUCTION

The chemistry of selenoborates represents a relatively new and still unexplored research field. Only a dozen boron selenium compounds of alkali metal and of monovalent thallium are structurally characterized by single crystal X-ray structure analysis [1]. This fact is surprising considering the multitude of oxo- and thioborates which contain a very

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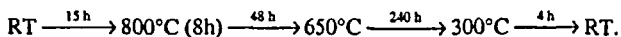
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large number of structural features showing boron in three different chalcogen coordinations. Binary boron selenide  $[\text{BSe}_2]_n$  [2] and the thallium selenoborate  $\text{Tl}_3\text{BSe}_3$  [3] contain boron in only trigonal-planar coordination by selenium. Boron tetrahedrally surrounded by selenium can be found in polymeric chain [4] or layered structures [5]. Novel isolated  $[\text{B}_{12}(\text{BSe}_3)_6]^{8-}$ -anions exist in the ternary and quaternary compounds  $\text{M}_8[\text{B}_{12}(\text{BSe}_3)_6]$  and  $\text{M}_4\text{Hg}_2[\text{B}_{12}(\text{BSe}_3)_6]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}$ ) [6]. These anions consist of  $\text{B}_{12}$  *clos**o*-clusters completely saturated with selenium by six  $\text{BSe}_3$  entities.

In this work we report the synthesis and crystal structure of the new lithium perselenoborate  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$ . This is the first example of a boron-selenium compound containing a 3D-anion network structure.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The lithium perselenoborate was prepared in a silica tube coated with an inner surface of glassy carbon, which can be manufactured by slowly turning the ampoule filled with acetone vapour helically through the flame of an oxygen-hydrogen operated welding torch at about 1300 K. For the synthesis of  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  stoichiometric amounts of  $\text{Li}_2\text{Se}$ , amorphous boron and elementary selenium were mixed and filled into the silica tube which was thereafter sealed off at a pressure of approximately 6 Pa. The sample was heated in a horizontal one-zone furnace following the specified temperature program:



$\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  is air and moisture sensitive and has to be handled under a dry argon atmosphere.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The lithium selenoborate contains a novel three-dimensional anionic boron-selenium network of general composition  $[(\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5)^2]_n$  and coordinating lithium cations. The boron atoms are tetrahedrally surrounded by selenium. Each  $\text{BSe}_4$  tetrahedron is connected via three corners to neighboring entities forming polymeric boron-selenium layers running parallel to the a-b plane. Figure 1 represents a part of one layer in projection along the c-axis. These two-dimensional layers exhibiting macrocyclic twelve-membered  $\text{B}_6\text{Se}_6$  rings, are bridged via diselenide

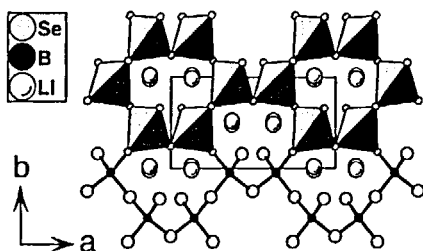


FIGURE 1: Projection on a boron-selenium layer in  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  along [001]

contacts to form a polymeric framework (Figure 2).

The average B-Se-bond length in the crystal structure of  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  [7] amounts to 2.061 Å which is significantly longer than

those observed in other alkali metal perselenoborates with tetrahedrally coordinated boron ( $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_7$ : 2.048 Å [1],  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_7$ : 2.044 Å [4],  $\text{K}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_7$ : 2.050 Å [4],  $\text{Rb}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_7$ : 2.049 Å [1]). A comparison to bond length in selenoborates with trigonal-planar coordinated boron indicates clear differences. The latter range from 1.90 Å (i.e. in  $[\text{BSe}_2]_n$  [2]) to 2.02 Å (i.e. in  $\text{M}_4\text{Hg}_2[\text{B}_{12}(\text{BSe}_3)_6]$  (M = Rb, Cs) [6]). The Se-Se distance is calculated to be 2.378 Å. Lithium cations are five-fold coordinated by selenium in the range of 2.543 Å to 2.824 Å. They form a slightly distorted square pyramid (Figure 3).

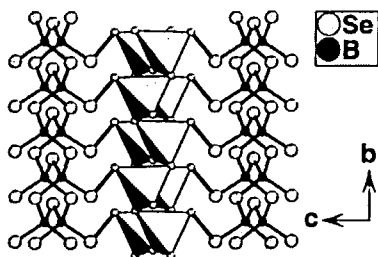


FIGURE 2: View of the anionic framework in the crystal structure of  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  along [100]

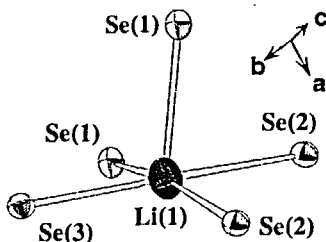


FIGURE 3: Ellipsoid-plot of the lithium coordination in  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$  (50% probability)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- [7]  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_2\text{Se}_5$ ; monoclinic; space group:  $\text{C2/c}$ ;  $a = 10.616(2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 5.318(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 12.382 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 109.97(3)^\circ$ ;  $V = 657.0(2) \text{ \AA}^3$ ;  $\mu = 27.4 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ;  $Z = 4$ ;  $R1 = 0.0207$  for 710 reflections with  $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ;  $wR2 = 0.0572$  for all 775 unique reflections;  $\text{MoK}\alpha$ -radiation; graphite monochromator; structure solution with SHELXS-97; refinement with SHELXL-97 (G. M. Sheldrick, University of Göttingen). Further details of the crystal structure investigations may be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany, (Fax: (+49)7247-808-666, e-mail: crysdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de) on quoting the depository number CSD-411410.