

# Homochiral and pseudoracemic 3,3- and 1,2-dimethyldiaziridine-silver nitrate complexes

Remir G. Kostyanovsky,<sup>\*a</sup> Konstantin A. Lyssenko<sup>b</sup> and Vasily R. Kostyanovsky<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> N. N. Semenov Institute of Chemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, 117977 Moscow, Russian Federation.

Fax: +7 095 938 2156; e-mail: kost@center.chph.ras.ru

<sup>b</sup> A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds, Russian Academy of Sciences, 117977 Moscow, Russian Federation.

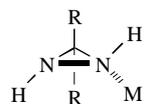
Fax: +7 095 135 5085; e-mail: kostya@xray.ac.ru

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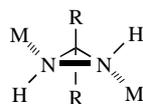
Diaziridine molecules in the title complexes **1** and **2**, respectively, are bidentate ligands and form coordination polymers in which silver ions are coordinated to the *trans*-oriented nitrogen lone pairs of the ligands; complex **1** is homochiral (space group  $P2_12_12_1$ ), whereas **2** is a pseudoracemate (space group  $Pbca$ ) in which the alternation of ligands with opposite configurations is statistically disordered.

Molecular assembling by metal coordination and, in particular, by coordination polymerisation is an important tool in supramolecular chemistry<sup>1–4</sup> and crystal engineering.<sup>5–11</sup> Diaziridines (see ref. 12 for a recent review) are bidentate ligands suitable for coordination polymerisation because the *trans*-oriented lone pairs of nitrogen cannot be coordinated to the same metal ion. All monocyclic diaziridines are chiral (with the exception of *cis*-1,2-dimethyl-3-*tert*-butyldiaziridine<sup>13</sup>); we resolved them into enantiomers for the first time;<sup>14–21</sup> however, there is no data concerning their spontaneous resolution.

The data on coordinated complexes are limited (see refs. 22–25 and references therein). According to the X-ray diffraction analysis of mixed complexes such as **A**<sup>22</sup> and **B–D**<sup>23</sup> and of complex **E**,<sup>24</sup> they do not form coordinated polymers in crystals. It should be emphasised that complex **C** is homochiral.<sup>23</sup>



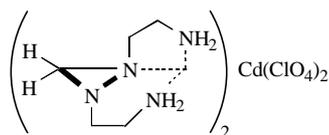
**A:**  $R_2 = \text{Bu}^t\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2$   
 $M = \text{RhCl}(\text{cod})$   
 cod = cyclooctadiene  
 space group  $P2_1/c$  ( $z = 4$ )



**C:**  $R_2 = (\text{CH}_2)_5$   
 $M = \text{PtCl}_2(\text{Et}_3\text{P})$   
 space group  $P2_1$  ( $z = 2$ )

**B:**  $R_2\text{C} = 2,2$ -adamantylidene  
 $M = \text{PtCl}_2(\text{Et}_3\text{P})$   
 space group  $Pbca$  ( $z = 8$ )

**D:**  $R_2\text{C} = 2,2$ -adamantylidene  
 $M = \text{PtCl}_2(\text{Et}_3\text{P})$   
 Space group  $P2_1/n$  ( $z = 4$ )

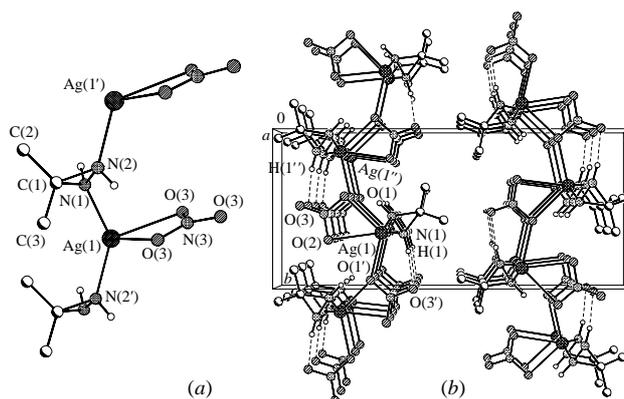


**E:** space group  $Pbc2_1$  ( $z = 4$ )

In this work, we synthesised<sup>†</sup> complex **1** of 3,3-dimethyldiaziridine with  $\text{AgNO}_3$  for the first time and found by X-ray diffraction analysis of a single crystal<sup>‡</sup> that **1** is a homochiral (space group  $P2_12_12_1$ ) coordinated polymer (Figure 1). Complex **2** of 1,2-dimethyldiaziridine with  $\text{AgNO}_3$  was prepared earlier; however, the relevant structural data reported were inadequate.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>†</sup> **1** was prepared by the procedure given below. 3,3-Dimethyldiaziridine was purified by freezing from *n*-hexane, mp 40 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ )  $\delta$ : 1.31 (s, 6H,  $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ), 2.26 (br. s, 2H, 2HN). A mixture of 0.2 g of 3,3-dimethyldiaziridine and 0.4 g of  $\text{AgNO}_3$  in 5 ml of absolute MeOH was kept at 4 °C for 10 h; the precipitate (0.5 g, 88%) was separated and crystallised from absolute MeCN to give 0.3 g of colourless transparent bright crystals in 52.6% yield, mp 137 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ )  $\delta$ : 1.44 (s, 6H,  $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ), 3.26 (br. s, 2H, 2HN). Found (%): N, 17.46. Calc. for  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{Ag}$  (%): N, 17.37.

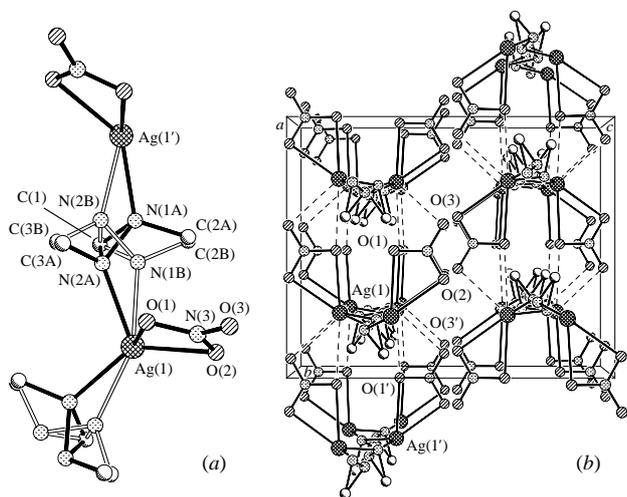
**2** was prepared by the known method,<sup>25</sup> mp 136 °C (MeCN). The product with  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 27.9^\circ$  ( $c$  2.5, MeCN) was obtained from partly enriched (+)-1,2-dimethyldiaziridine,<sup>29</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 9.5^\circ$  ( $c$  2.2, MeCN) after the treatment with a half-mole quantity of  $\text{AgNO}_3$  in MeCN, the separation of **2** and the distillation of the mother liquor into a cold trap (-80 °C).



**Figure 1** The crystal structure of **1**: (a) the Ag-coordinated homochiral polymeric chain directed along the crystallographic axis *a*; (b) the arrangement of chains into 'walls' laying in the crystallographic plane *ab*.

The repeated X-ray determination of the structure of **2** confirmed that the complex is a heterochiral coordination polymer (space group  $Pbca$ ). However, in contrast to data,<sup>25</sup> we found

<sup>‡</sup> Crystallographic data for **1** and **2**: at -80 °C, crystals of  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{AgN}_3\text{O}_3$  **1** are orthorhombic, space group  $P2_12_12_1$ ,  $a = 5.2023(9)$ ,  $b = 7.921(1)$ ,  $c = 17.653(3)$  Å  $V = 726.7(2)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $d_{\text{calc}} = 2.212$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu = 2.778$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $M = 241.99$ ,  $F(000) = 472$ ; crystals of  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8\text{AgN}_3\text{O}_3$  **2** are orthorhombic, space group  $Pbca$ ,  $a = 10.192(3)$ ,  $b = 10.678(4)$ ,  $c = 13.339(4)$  Å  $V = 1451.6(9)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 8$ ,  $d_{\text{calc}} = 2.215$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu = 2.731$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $M = 241.99$ ,  $F(000) = 944$ . The intensities of 1498 reflections for **1** and 2143 reflections for **2** were measured on a Syntex P2<sub>1</sub> diffractometer at -80 °C ( $\lambda$ MoK $\alpha$  radiation,  $\theta/2\theta$ -scan technique,  $2\theta_{\text{max}} < 60^\circ$  and  $70^\circ$  for **1** and **2**, respectively). The structures were solved by a direct method and refined by a full-matrix least squares technique against  $F^2$  in the anisotropic-isotropic approximation. The positions of hydrogen atoms were calculated from the geometrical point of view with the exception of the nitrogen atoms in **1**, which were located from the difference Fourier synthesis and refined in the isotropic approximation. An analysis of difference electron density syntheses in the structure of **2** revealed additional electron density maxima which were interpreted as the disorder of diaziridine molecules. The refinement of the occupancies for two positions of nitrogen atoms resulted in the 1:1 ratio. The absolute *S*-configurations for the N(1) and N(2) atoms in **1** were confirmed by estimating the Flack absolute structure parameter  $x$ ,<sup>30</sup> is equal to zero with a rather small *esd* [-0.00(11)] in the case of the *S*-configuration for N(1) and N(2). The refinement converged to  $wR_2 = 0.1668$  and COF = 1.133 for 1396 reflections [ $R_1 = 0.0699$  was calculated against  $F$  for the 1308 observed reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] for the structure of **1** and to  $wR_2 = 0.1892$  and COF = 1.10 for all independent reflections [ $R_1 = 0.0689$  was calculated against  $F$  for the 1852 observed reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] for the structure of **2**. All calculations were performed using the SHELXTL PLUS 5.0 program on an IBM PC/AT. Atomic coordinates, bond lengths, bond angles and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC). For details, see 'Notice to Authors', *Mendeleev Commun.*, Issue 1, 2000. Any request to the CCDC for data should quote the full literature citation and the reference number 1135/62.



**Figure 2** The crystal structure of **2**: (a) the superposition of enantiomers in the Ag-coordinated heterochiral polymeric chain directed along the crystallographic axis *a*; (b) the arrangement of chains into 'walls' laying in the crystallographic plane *ab*.

that diaziridine ligands are statistically disordered (each ligand position is randomly occupied by the opposite enantiomers) leading to a chain-type structure containing AgNO<sub>3</sub> with the superposition of diaziridine enantiomers [Figure 2(a)]. Thus, complex **2** is a rare example of a pseudoracemate.<sup>26</sup>

The Ag–N bond lengths in complexes **1** and **2** are slightly different and equal to 2.228(6)–2.238(6) and 2.279(8)–2.336(5) Å respectively. For comparison, the Ag–N bond lengths in the polymeric complexes of AgBF<sub>4</sub> and AgSbF<sub>6</sub> with pyrazine<sup>27</sup> and of CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>Ag with a methionine derivative<sup>28</sup> are 2.459(9)–2.519(8) and 2.219(4)–2.378(5) Å, respectively.

In both structures, within the above chain directed along the crystallographic axis *a*, NO<sub>3</sub> acts as a bidentate ligand with some shortening of the Ag–O bond lengths in the case of **2** [2.508(3), 2.590(3) Å], as compared with **1** [2.622(4), 2.643(6) Å]. Additional chain-to-chain interactions between Ag and NO<sub>3</sub> in **1** and **2** are different. In complex **1**, NO<sub>3</sub> acting as a monodentate ligand links adjacent chains to 'walls' laying along the crystallographic plane *ab* [Ag(1)–O(1') (*x*–1, *y*–1/2, *z*–1/2) 2.528(6) Å] [Figure 1(b)]. The additional interaction of the O(1) atom with two silver atoms results in elongation of the N(3)–O(1) bond [1.264(6) Å], as compared with the N(3)–O(2) bond [1.243(6) Å]. At the same time, the formation of similar 'walls' (also laying in the crystallographic plane *ab*) in **2** is accomplished by weak interactions of NO<sub>3</sub>, which acts as a bidentate ligand [Ag(1)–O(1') (3/2–*x*, 1/2+*y*, *z*) 2.853(4) Å and Ag(1)–O(2') (3/2–*x*, 1/2+*y*, *z*) 2.733(4) Å] [Figure 2(b)].

Thus, both of the structures are build up from the chains assembled into 'walls' by means of the Ag⋯(NO<sub>3</sub>) interactions. Note that the 'walls' in complex **1** are more compact because of the above chain-to-chain interactions. This can be illustrated by a comparison between the Ag⋯Ag distances in a chain [5.202(2) and 5.407(3) Å] and between chains [4.534(2) and 5.531(2) Å] in complexes **1** and **2**, respectively. The higher density of **2** can be explained by more tightly packed 'walls' in this compound, as compared with **1**.

The observed difference in the layer architecture of complexes **1** and **2** is probably due to the presence of a bulky substituent at nitrogen in **2**. In addition, the homochiral crystal packing in complex **1** is stabilised by the formation of hydrogen bonds [N(1)–H(1)⋯O(3') distances of 3.01(1) and 2.13 Å] between the diaziridine molecule of a chain and the NO<sub>3</sub> ligand of the adjacent chain. Thus, favourable steric conditions of the ligand and hydrogen bonding probably lead to the formation of conglomerate **1**.

As was presumed earlier,<sup>25</sup> the formation of racemic complex **2** can be used for increasing the optical purity of partially enriched (+)-1,2-dimethyldiaziridine. The treatment with a half-mole quantity of AgNO<sub>3</sub> resulted in an increase in the optical

purity by a factor of about three.<sup>†</sup> Similarly, we used chloral for increasing the optical purity of 1-methyl-3,3-pentamethylene-diaziridine, which forms a racemic adduct with this compound.<sup>14(c)</sup>

The attempts to separate an optically active NH-diaziridine from homochiral complex **1** (and also perhaps from compound **C23**) were unsuccessful because of the easy racemization due to proton exchange. Thus, we attempt to prepare homochiral complexes of AgNO<sub>3</sub> with 1,3-dimethyl- and 1,3,3-trimethyldiaziridines.

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