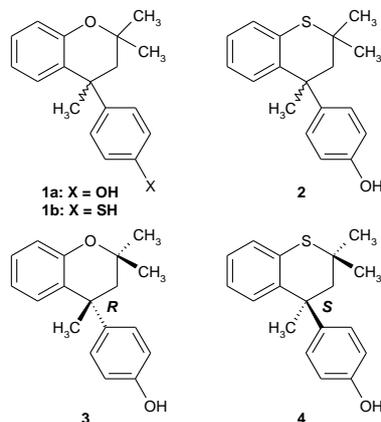


Engineering Robust Polar Chiral Clathrate Crystals†

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The *R*-(+)-enantiomeric form of Dianin's compound and the *S*-(+)-enantiomeric form of its direct thiachroman analogue both obtained chromatographically employing a cellulose tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate) column, are shown to undergo supramolecular assembly to form a polar clathrate lattice which is stable even in the absence of a consolidating guest component.

Crystal engineering is a major theme of current chemical research¹. In particular the design of clathrates, in a classical sense cage-type multimolecular crystalline inclusion compounds, has not only inherent scientific interest but is also important for the supramolecular assembly of new systems with applications in, for example, drug delivery, isomer separation, optical resolutions, storage of toxic and reactive materials and second harmonic generation. It has now been firmly established that judicious modification of an appropriate host molecule, based on a knowledge of the crystal structure of the parent host lattice, can lead to new inclusion compounds² of both the channel³ and true closed-cage clathrate^{4,5} types.



Scheme 1 Dianin's compound and structural variants

The present work is concerned with crystal engineering related to Dianin's compound **1a**, (Scheme 1), the remarkable inclusion properties of which were first reported in 1914 by A.P. Dianin⁶, a student and biographer of the chemist and composer Alexander Borodin. The parent host **1a**, which does not possess an enforced intramolecular cavity, is particularly attractive from the viewpoint of carefully chosen structural modification. It offers multiple points of substitution, variation of the two functional groups and of crucial importance to the present work is chiral and can be resolved into its two enantiomers⁷. At the end of the 1960's it was established that both compound **1a**⁸ and its thia analogue 4-*p*-hydroxyphenyl-2,2,4-trimethylthiachroman, (ThiaDianin's compound), **2**^{9,10}, (Scheme 1), form isomorphous and isostructural clathrates in the centrosymmetric space group $R\bar{3}$, with the two host lattices being stable even in the absence of a guest. Further packing modes involving **1a**, demonstrating the breakdown of the isomorphous and isostructural behaviour of Dianin's compound along with computational stability studies on the host lattice have also been studied¹¹. In a recent paper Jacobs *et al.* presented a quasiracemic organic host prepared from the cocrystallisation of the resolved enantiomers of Dianin's compound **1a** and its mercapto analogue **1b**¹³. Cocrystallisation of (*R*)-**1a** and (*S*)-**1b** from CCl_4 produced a CCl_4 clathrate structure in the polar and chiral space group $R3$ featuring an $[\text{SH}\cdots\text{OH}]_3$ hexamer replacing the $[\text{OH}]_6$ and $[\text{SH}]_6$ hexamers of racemic **1a** and **1b** respectively. The reduction in symmetry from $R\bar{3}$ to $R3$ allowed for the polar ordering of the CCl_4 guest molecules, (two per cage), such that a preferential alignment of the C-Cl bonds along the polar axis toward the host phenolic moiety was achieved in the ratio of 85 : 15. Desolvation of this material however resulted in spontaneously resolved (*R*)-**1a** and (*S*)-**1b** demonstrating that the incorporation of a stabilising guest is crucial for the host lattice stability.

Herein we now report the first optical resolution of **2**, employing the homochiral column material cellulose tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate), as well as the first chromatographic resolution of parent **1a** to yield

enantiomerically pure samples of both *R*-(+)-Dianin's compound, **3**[‡] and *S*-(+)-ThiaDianin's compound, **4**[‡], as well as their optically pure antipodes¹². The resolved enantiomers of **1** have m.p. 142-142.5°C, (Lit.⁷ 140°C), and those of **2** m.p. 118-120°C.

Cocrystallisation of equimolar quantities of **3** and **4** from CCl₄ is shown to form a novel polar clathrate, **5**[‡], which is of potential interest for Second Harmonic Generation whilst cocrystallisation from *n*-decane yields a quasiracemic polar host structure, **6**[‡], that has an unoccupied cavity demonstrating that guest incorporation is not required in this particular case for host lattice stability. As described below the absolute configurations of enantiomerically pure **3** and **4** have been determined in their orthorhombic molecular crystals, in which the molecular conformations observed are quite distinct from those found in the new polar crystal, further details contained within the ESI. The preparation

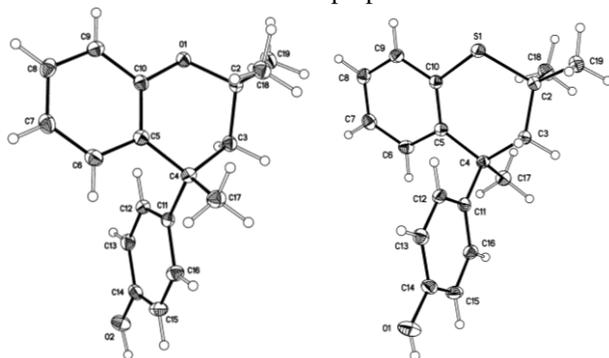


Fig. 1 ORTEP views of the single enantiomers of **3** and **4**.

and optical resolution of **1a** and **2** by chromatographic methods was performed as outlined in Ref. 13 and in each case the enantiomer with the *R* configuration was eluted first from the column.

The crystal structures of both **3** and **4**, (Fig. 1), were determined to prove the absolute configuration and conformation of the resolved enantiomers prior to performing the cocrystallisation to prepare polar clathrates. The results for the former analysis on dextrorotatory **3** which has the *R* configuration (*vide infra*) are in complete accordance with the elegant assignment by Collet and Jacques¹⁴ of the absolute configuration for *S*-(-)-Dianin's compound, the opposite enantiomer; and also consistent with the crystal structure of the *S*-enantiomer prepared from (*S,S*)-4-(2,2,4-trimethylchroman-4-yl)phenyl camphanate¹⁵. The crystal structures of **3** and **4**, (Figures 1a and 1b), are both isostructural and isomorphous with each other and also with the enantiomerically pure forms of 4-(2,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylchroman¹⁶, *R*-4-(4-aminophenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylchroman¹⁷ and *S*-4-(4-aminophenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylthiachroman structures¹⁷ in the orthorhombic space group *P*2₁2₁2₁, with *Z* = 4. For both compounds the heterocyclic chroman ring adopts an envelope conformation or *E*-form with atom C2 displaced from the mean plane defined by atoms O1/S1, C10, C5, C4, C3 by -0.647 and -0.805(2) Å respectively which is directly comparable with the displacements of -0.649, -0.647, -0.641 and -0.809 Å found for atom C2 in the crystal structures of *S*-Dianin's compound, 4-(2,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylchroman, *R*-4-(4-aminophenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylchroman and *S*-4-(4-amino-phenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylthiachroman respectively.

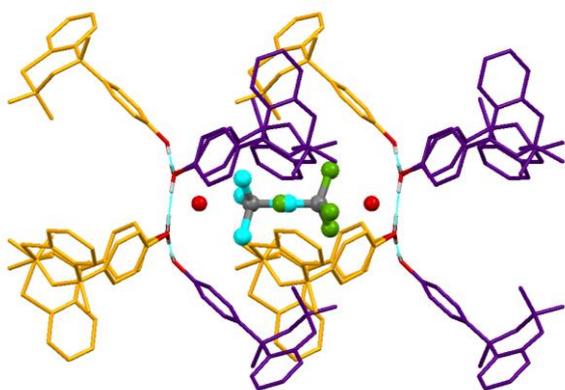


Fig. 2 Crystal structure of **5** viewed down the *b*-axis. Individual molecules of **3** and **4** are shown in purple and yellow respectively. Hydrogen bonds are shown as blue dashed lines.

Cocrystallisation of equimolar amounts of **3** and **4** from CCl_4 gave the novel polar CCl_4 clathrate, (one CCl_4 per cage), **5**, with the trigonal lattice parameters of $a = 27.3283(4)$, $c = 10.8327(2)\text{\AA}$. In addition to the single disordered CCl_4 , the structure also contains a disordered water molecule on the three-fold axis at each end of the cavity, Fig. 2. The occupancy of the oxygen atom on the special position was fixed at 0.083 yielding an overall hemihydrate stoichiometry, the hydrogen atoms of the water molecule could not be located in the difference map owing to the disorder of this moiety over three potential hydrogen bond positions. The quasiracemic structure is closely related to the parent centrosymmetric $R\bar{3}$ structure with the exception that it exists in the lower symmetry polar space group $R3$ with the two independent enantiomeric components **3** and **4** directed to opposing ends of the crystal along the polar trigonal axis. The absolute configuration was determined both from an *a priori* knowledge of the configuration of the starting components and from the anomalous dispersion experiment which yielded a Flack parameter and its uncertainty for this structure of $0.032(9)^{18-20}$. The hydroxyl oxygen atoms in structure **5** are

referred to as O2A and O2B for the chroman and thiachroman components respectively. Alternating molecules of **3** and **4** self-assemble to form the expected $R_6^6(12)$, $[\text{OH}]_6$ hydrogen bonded hexamer at each end of the classical 'hourglass' cavity with $\text{O2A}_{\text{donor}} \cdots \text{O2B}_{\text{acceptor}}$ and $\text{O2B}_{\text{donor}} \cdots \text{O2A}_{\text{acceptor}} = 2.821(2)$ and $2.901(2)\text{\AA}$ respectively. The single CCl_4 guest moiety is disordered over two sites on the three-fold axis within the hourglass cavity. Owing to the polar nature of the structure the disorder of the CCl_4 guest is not a statistical 50 : 50 as would be the case in the centrosymmetric $R\bar{3}$ example and refinement of the occupancy of the two components yields a 70 : 30 ratio favoured in the projection of the axial C-Cl bond directed towards the three *p*-hydroxyphenyl moieties of the three molecules of the thiachroman, **4**, involved in forming the clathrate cage. The 70 : 30 components are shown in dark green and light blue respectively in Figure 2.

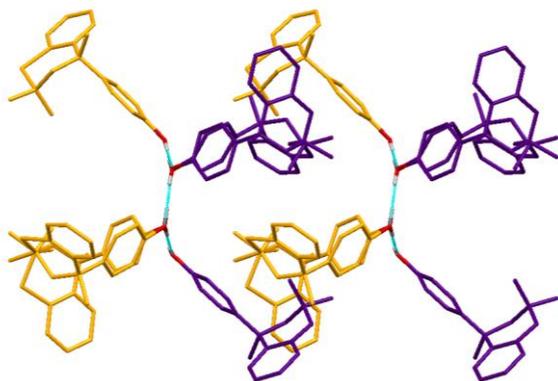


Fig. 3 Crystal structure of **6** viewed down the *b*-axis. Individual molecules of **3** and **4** are shown in purple and yellow respectively. Hydrogen bonds are shown as blue dashed lines.

The water molecule is located within a realistic hydrogen bonding distance from each $[\text{OH}]_6$ hydrogen bonded hexamer and is disordered about the three fold axis yielding a hydrogen bond distance of $\text{O1}_{\text{water donor}} \cdots \text{O2A}_{\text{acceptor}} = 3.092\text{\AA}$ and $\text{O2}_{\text{water donor}} \cdots \text{O2B}_{\text{acceptor}} = 3.031\text{\AA}$.

Cocrystallisation of equimolar amounts of **3** and **4** from *n*-decane yields the novel polar host structure **6**, Fig. 3. This assembly is unique in the respect that it is the first quasiracemic polar host lattice structurally elucidated in the absence of a guest molecule. The structure demonstrates a completely empty hourglass cavity with a void space calculated to be 237.5 Å³ using the solvent accessible surface method in the program Mercury²¹ with a probe radius of 1 Å. This is in good agreement with the value of 240 Å³ reported previously for the centrosymmetric *R* $\bar{3}$ Dianin's and ThiaDianin's host compounds. As mentioned above the conformations of **3** and **4** exhibit a marked change on passing from their molecular crystals to the new quasiracemic rhombohedral lattice; for the 'empty' cage form both molecules have a distorted half-chair conformation for the heterocyclic rings with atoms C2 and C3 displaced from the mean plane of the remaining four ring atoms, with respective displacements of +0.299(3) and -0.376(3) Å for **3** and +0.476(3) and -0.280(3) Å for **4**. Finally, an attractive possibility, currently under investigation, is the construction of what one might term pseudoquasi racemates where a single enantiomer of Dianin's compound, **1a**, can potentially self assemble with a partner which is not inherently chiral but which exists as chiral conformations such as suitable molecules related to the parent host which correspond to (formal) opening of its heterocyclic ring.

Notes and references

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† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Absolute stereochemistry determination for compounds **3** and **4**. CCDC 933470-933473 For ESI and crystallographic data in cif or other electronic format See DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/ Financial support from the Malaysia HIR MOHE, Grant No. : F000009-21001, is gratefully acknowledged. We wish to thank also Ainnul Hamida Syahadah (Malaysia) and Mrs. Kim Wilson (Glasgow) for valuable technical assistance.

‡ Crystal data for **3**: C₁₈H₂₀O₂, *M* = 268.34, *a* = 10.0279(1) Å, *b* = 10.4702(1) Å, *c* = 13.2012(1) Å, α = 90.00°, β = 90.00°, γ = 90.00°, *V* = 1386.05(2) Å³, *T* = 100(1) K, space group *P*2₁2₁2₁, *Z* = 4, μ (Cu K α) = 0.646 mm⁻¹, 24324 reflections measured, 2825 independent reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0245). The final *R*_i values were 0.0254 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0684 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *R*_i values were 0.0255 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0684 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*² was 1.007. Flack parameter = -0.03(15)¹⁸⁻²⁰. Crystal data for **4**: C₁₈H₂₀OS, *M* = 284.40, *a* = 10.5486(1) Å, *b* = 10.5395(1) Å, *c* = 13.1045(2) Å, α = 90.00°, β = 90.00°, γ = 90.00°, *V* = 1456.92(3) Å³, *T* = 100(1) K, space group *P*2₁2₁2₁, *Z* = 4, μ (Cu K α) = 1.896 mm⁻¹, 7286 reflections measured, 2957 independent reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0171). The final *R*_i values were 0.0259 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0700 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *R*_i values were 0.0269 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0704 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*² was 1.006. Flack parameter = 0.015(13)¹⁸⁻²⁰. Crystal data for **5**: 3(C₁₈H₂₀OS)•3(C₁₈H₂₀O₂)•(CCl₄)•0.5(H₂O), *M* = 1821.04, *a* = 27.3283(4) Å, *b* = 27.3283(4) Å, *c* = 10.8327(3) Å, α = 90.00°, β = 90.00°, γ = 120.00°, *V* = 7006.4(2) Å³, *T* = 100(1) K, space group *R*3, *Z* = 3, μ (Cu K α) = 2.254 mm⁻¹, 13784 reflections measured, 6061 independent reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0201). The final *R*_i values were 0.0323 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0980 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *R*_i values were 0.0332 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.1037 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*² was 1.001. Flack parameter = 0.032(9)¹⁸⁻²⁰. Crystal data for **6**: C₁₈H₂₀OS•C₁₈H₂₀O₂, *M* = 552.74, *a* = 27.2258(4) Å, *b* = 27.2258(4) Å, *c* = 10.8365(2) Å, α = 90.00°, β = 90.00°, γ = 120.00°, *V* = 6956.3(2) Å³, *T* = 90(1) K, space group *R*3, *Z* = 9, μ (Cu K α) = 1.183 mm⁻¹, 17968 reflections measured, 6250 independent reflections (*R*_{int} = 0.0296). The final *R*_i values were 0.0352 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0952 (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)). The final *R*_i values were 0.0374 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*²) values were 0.0975 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*² was 1.002. Flack parameter = 0.002(12)¹⁸⁻²⁰. All crystal structures were solved and refined using the SHELX suite of programs²².

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