



Pseudo-polymorphic forms of new molecular salts of the antiplatelet drug with thienopyridine structure S(+)-Clopidogrel

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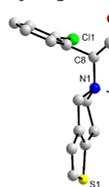
Introduction

Clopidogrel hydrogen sulfate (ClopH⁺•HSO₄⁻) is a potent platelet anti-aggregation drug acting as a selective and irreversible inhibitor of ADP-induced platelet aggregation, or more specifically a thienopyridine class inhibitor of the P2Y₁₂ ADP platelet receptors found on the membranes of platelet cells. Chemically is a (S)-(+)-methyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(6,7-dihydro-4H-thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-5-yl)acetate hydrogen sulfate. Clopidogrel hydrochloride is another salt form of clopidogrel that is available in its generic pharmaceutical formulations.

The clopidogrel molecule exists in two enantiomeric forms, the R(-) and S(+) isomers, out of which the dextrorotatory one is more active and better tolerated in pharmaceutical use.[1] The S(+)-clopidogrel hydrogen sulfate salt is commercialized as PLAVIX[®] by Sanofi and Bristol-Myers Squibb, as well as under several generic brand names, and is one of the top-selling drugs in the world. Some different polymorphic and pseudo-polymorphic forms of this drug are known, however, only polymorphs I and II are used in pharmaceutical formulations.[2] X-ray crystal structures for both polymorphs, the monoclinic form I [3] and the orthorhombic form II [4], have been previously reported (CSD refcodes FUQMOU1 and FUQMOU). Because only another structure of S(+)-clopidogrel salt is known so far, the S(+)-clopidogrel isopropylsulfate (refcode YEXHOZ) [5], a systematic co-crystallization screening for molecular salts of clopidogrel with strong organic acids has been performed, in order to obtain new salts of this important drug.

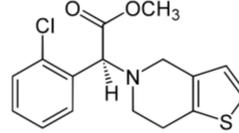
Compounds Studied

S(+)-ClopH⁺•HSO₄⁻ polymorph II

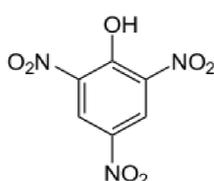


pKa: 4.62 (est.)

S(+)-Clop (free base):



PicA



pKa: 0.36 (NIST)

Salt formation:

Medium-strong H-bonded (N-H...O⁻) ionic couples [6-9]

$$\Delta pK_a = pK_a(D-H) - pK_a(A-H^+) = -4.26$$

Sample Preparation

Compound 1 with Structure 1:

S(+)-ClopH⁺•HSO₄⁻: PicA = 1 : 2 M/M in 98% ethanol

Compound 2 with the structure 2:

S(+)-Clop : PicA = 1 : 1 M/M molar ratio in a methanol/*n*-pentanol mixture (50% v/v)

S(+)-Clop (free base): Oily liquid
[α]₂₀^D = ~ +57° (c = 1.06, methanol)

Liquid-liquid extraction of Clop in methylenchloride from aqueous solution of S(+)-ClopH⁺•HSO₄⁻ treated with NaHCO₃

Methods

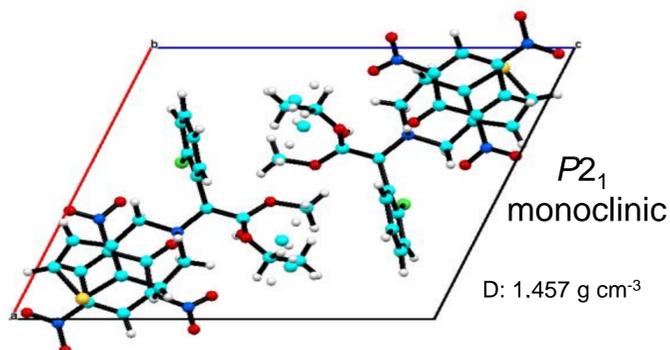
Single yellow crystals of PCC were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent:

Characterization of PCC

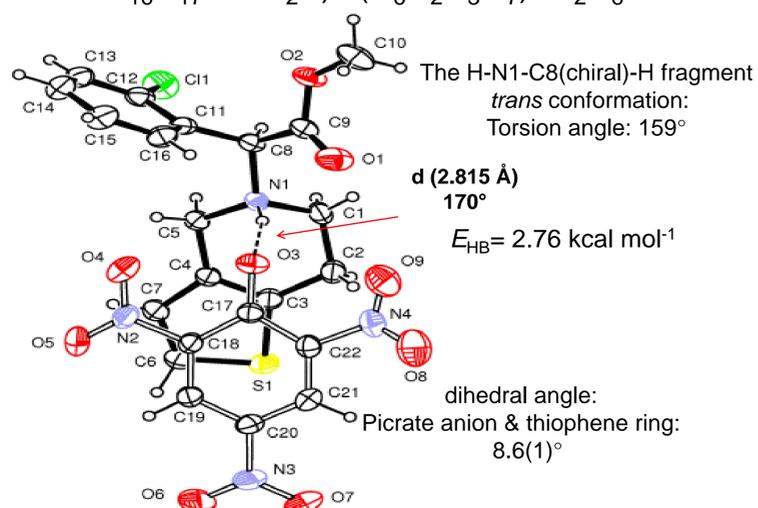
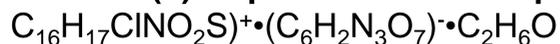
Structure determination was performed by Single Crystal X-Ray Diffraction Analysis confirming the structure 1 and structure 2 to be molecular salt forms of New Chemical Entity (NEC) not so far deposited in the Cambridge Structure Database CCDC.

Crystal Structures

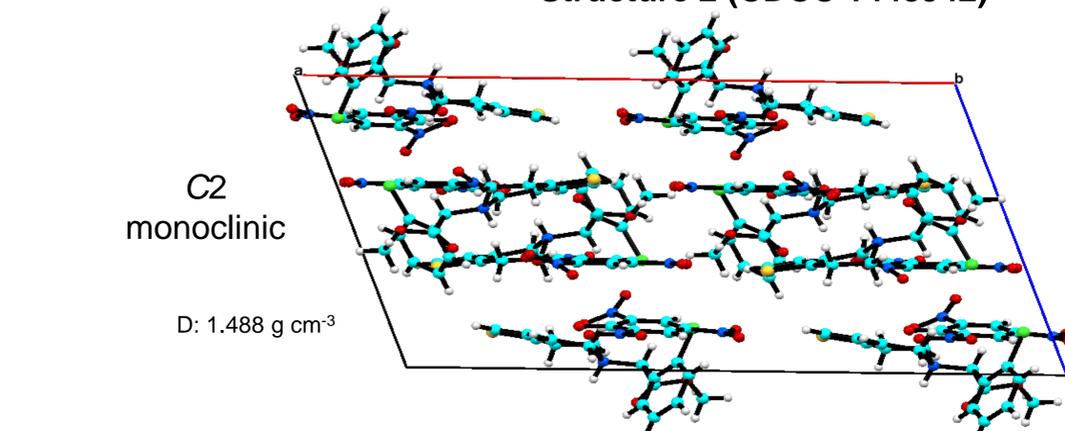
Structure 1 CDCC (1448941)



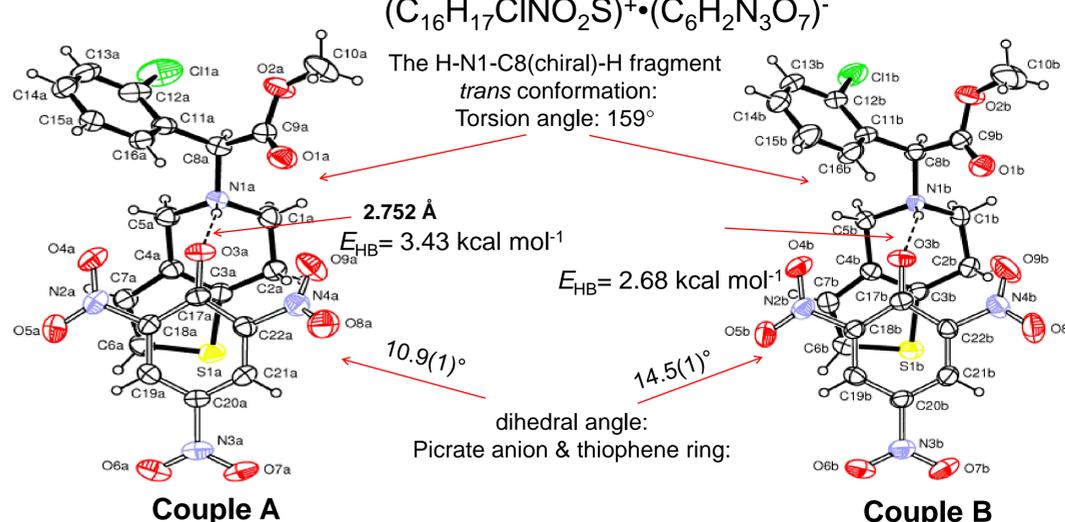
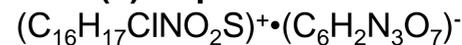
Discrete S(+)-ClopH⁺•Pic⁻ ionic couple



Structure 2 (CDCC 1448942)



2 independent S(+)-ClopH⁺•Pic⁻ ionic couples A & B



Work in Progress

The systematic analysis of the molecular geometries and crystal packing, and the study of the thermodynamic properties are expected to Structure-Properties Relationships for the aforementioned salts of clopidogrel.

References

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