

A new polymorph of magnesium oxalate dihydrate

Xue-An Chen,^{a*} Fang-Ping Song,^a Xin-An Chang,^a He-Gui Zang^a and Wei-Qiang Xiao^b

^aCollege of Materials Science and Engineering, Beijing University of Technology, Ping Le Yuan 100, Beijing 100124, People's Republic of China, and ^bInstitute of Microstructure and Properties of Advanced Materials, Beijing University of Technology, Ping Le Yuan 100, Beijing 100124, People's Republic of China
Correspondence e-mail: xueanchen@bjut.edu.cn

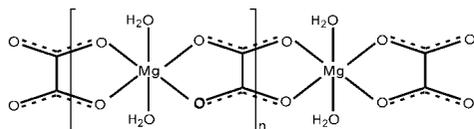
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Key indicators: single-crystal X-ray study; $T = 290$ K; mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$ Å; R factor = 0.035; wR factor = 0.110; data-to-parameter ratio = 17.9.

In the asymmetric unit of the title compound, *catenapoly*[[diaquamagnesium(II)]- μ -oxalato], $[\text{Mg}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]_n$, there is one Mg atom in an octahedral coordination with site symmetry 222, a unique C atom of the oxalate anion lying on a twofold axis, an O atom of the anion in a general position and a water O atom at a site with imposed twofold rotation symmetry. The Mg^{2+} ions are ligated by water molecules and bridged by the anions to form chains that are held together by $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ hydrogen bonds. The structure of the title compound has already been reported in a different space group [Lagier, Pezerat & Dubernat (1969). *Rev. Chim. Miner.* **6**, 1081–1093; Levy, Perrotey & Visser (1971). *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* pp. 757–761].

Related literature

For related literature, see: Basso *et al.* (1997); Caric (1959); Deyrieux *et al.* (1973); Echigo *et al.* (2005); Huang & Mak (1990); Lagier *et al.* (1969); Le Page (1987); Lethbridge *et al.* (2003); Levy *et al.* (1971); Neder *et al.* (1997); Schefer & Grube (1995); Tazzoli & Domeneghetti (1980); Vanhoyland, Bouree *et al.* (2001); Vanhoyland, Van Bael *et al.* (2001).



Experimental

Crystal data

$[\text{Mg}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$
 $M_r = 148.36$
Orthorhombic, *Fddd*
 $a = 5.3940$ (11) Å

$b = 12.691$ (3) Å
 $c = 15.399$ (3) Å
 $V = 1054.1$ (4) Å³
 $Z = 8$

Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
 $\mu = 0.29$ mm⁻¹

$T = 290$ K
 $0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.15$ mm

Data collection

Rigaku AFC-7R diffractometer
Absorption correction: ψ scan
(Kopfmann & Huber, 1968)
 $T_{\text{min}} = 0.915$, $T_{\text{max}} = 0.962$
1110 measured reflections
483 independent reflections

321 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.054$
3 standard reflections
every 150 reflections
intensity decay: 1.1%

Refinement

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.034$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.110$
 $S = 0.97$
483 reflections

27 parameters
All H-atom parameters refined
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.89$ e Å⁻³
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.48$ e Å⁻³

Table 1

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$\text{O2}-\text{H2}\cdots\text{O1}^{\dagger}$	0.84 (3)	1.97 (2)	2.761 (1)	158 (2)

Symmetry code: (i) $x - \frac{1}{4}, y + \frac{1}{4}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$.

Data collection: *Rigaku/AFC Diffractometer Control Software* (Rigaku, 1994); cell refinement: *Rigaku/AFC Diffractometer Control Software*; data reduction: *Rigaku/AFC Diffractometer Control Software*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: *ATOMS* (Dowty, 1999); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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Supplementary data and figures for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: PV2083).

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supporting information

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S1. Comment

Oxalates are of considerable interest because many of them are natural minerals and in addition, the oxalate anion can adopt different coordination modes to bind metals to form infinite chains, sheets and networks, leading to the rich structural chemistry. For instance, in the system of MO (M = alkali-earth metal)–H₂C₂O₄–H₂O, at least eight phases have been structurally characterized, including Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O (Lagier *et al.*, 1969; Levy *et al.*, 1971), Ca(C₂O₄).H₂O (Echigo *et al.*, 2005), Ca(C₂O₄).2.375H₂O (Tazzoli & Domeneghetti, 1980), Ca(C₂O₄).3H₂O (Basso *et al.*, 1997), SrH(C₂O₄)(C₂O₄)_{0.5} (Vanhoyland, Van Bael *et al.*, 2001), SrH(C₂O₄)(C₂O₄)_{0.5}.H₂O (Vanhoyland, Bouree *et al.*, 2001), Ba(C₂O₄).H₂O (Huang & Mak, 1990), and Ba(C₂O₄).3.5H₂O (Neder *et al.*, 1997). Among them, Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O (which we call α -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O later) was reported to have one-dimensional (1D) magnesium oxalate chains, Ca(C₂O₄).3H₂O has a layered structure, and others contain three-dimensional metal oxalate frameworks. During our exploratory syntheses of novel hydrated borate materials, we have unexpectedly obtained a new Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O polymorph [called β -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O in this work], (I), as a byproduct. It crystallizes in a space group different from those of other oxalates of similar stoichiometry. We describe its synthesis and crystal structure here for the first time.

The title structure contains Mg²⁺ cations, [C₂O₄]²⁻ anions, and H₂O molecules as the fundamental structural building units (Fig. 1). The anions are bridged by octahedral Mg²⁺ centers to generate a 1D infinite polymeric chain, and H₂O molecules are located on the two sides of the chains and coordinated to the Mg²⁺ centers to complete the octahedral coordination sphere (Fig. 2). The [Mg(C₂O₄)(H₂O)₂] chains extend along the [100] direction, and are held together *via* O—H...O hydrogen bonds (Table 1).

The Mg atom occupies one crystallographically distinct octahedral site with site symmetry 222. Each Mg²⁺ is coordinated by six O atoms, four of which are from two oxalate ions and the others from two H₂O molecules. The Mg—O distances are very reasonable when compared with those observed in Mg(NO₃)₂.6H₂O, where octahedrally coordinated Mg²⁺ is also found (Schefer & Grube, 1995). The unique C atom of the anion lies on a 2-fold axis and an O-atom on a general position. The unique O atom of H₂O lies on a 2-fold axis. The oxalate ion is nearly planar, with a mean deviation of 0.0134 Å, and the bond geometries of [C₂O₄]²⁻ are in accord with those observed in other oxalate compounds (Lethbridge *et al.*, 2003).

In the previously reported oxalates, no one is exactly isotypic with the title compound. Several compounds including M(C₂O₄).2H₂O (M = Mg, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn) (Levy *et al.*, 1971; Caric, 1959; Deyrieux *et al.*, 1973) also contain topologically identical [M(C₂O₄)(H₂O)₂] chains, but crystallize in the monoclinic space group *C2/c*. An examination of positional parameters of these compounds using the program MISSYM (Le Page, 1987) did not show potential additional symmetry. In fact, the space group *C2/c* of α -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O as well as the isostructural analogs is a "translationengleiche" subgroup (index 2) of the group *Fddd* adopted by β -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O. The lattice vectors of α -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O (**a**₁, **a**₂ and **a**₃) are related to those of its β -form (**a**, **b** and **c**) in the following manner: **a**₁ = **b**, **a**₂ = **a**, and **a**₃ = -0.5**b** - 0.5**c**. The other compound, Mn(C₂O₄).2H₂O, was also reported to exist in two forms. The α -phase (Deyrieux *et*

al., 1973) is isostructural with α -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O, while the β -phase crystallizes in the space group $P2_12_12_1$ (Lethbridge *et al.*, 2003). The crystal structure of β -Mn(C₂O₄).2H₂O also consists of chains of oxalate-bridged Mn²⁺ centers, but MnO₆ octahedra in these chains are interconnected through sharing O corners and each oxalate ion acts as a tri-dentate ligand. This is different from the situation in other members of the M(C₂O₄).2H₂O family of compounds, where MO₆ octahedra are separated from each other and the oxalate ions act as tetra-dentate ligands. It is the difference in the coordination modes of the oxalate ions that is responsible for the structural versatility of M(C₂O₄).2H₂O.

S2. Experimental

β -Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O was first obtained from a hydrothermal reaction in an attempt to prepare novel hydrated borates. For the preparation of MgB₆O₁₀, a stoichiometric mixture of MgO and B₂O₃ was heated at 873 K for two weeks with several intermediate re-mixings and the resulting product was identified to be the pure phase of MgB₆O₁₀ based on the powder XRD analysis. A 0.300 g (3.376 mmol) sample of MgB₆O₁₀, 3 ml pyridine, 0.5 ml 14.5 M (65%) HNO₃, and 0.5 ml H₂O were sealed in an 15-ml Teflon-lined autoclave and subsequently heated at 453 K for one week, then cooled slowly to room temperature. The product consisted of colorless, block-like crystals with the largest having dimensions of 0.6 × 0.6 × 0.8 mm³ in pale yellow mother liquor. The final pH of the reaction system was about 1.0. The crystals were isolated in about 30% yield (based on Mg) by washing the reaction product with deionized water and anhydrous ethanol followed by drying with anhydrous acetone. X-ray structural analysis indicated that the formula of this compound may be Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O. It is unclear how the oxalate groups are formed.

Subsequently, a separate set of experiments was conducted, in which the starting materials were: 0.2718 g (6.7403 mmol) MgO, 0.8497 g (6.7400 mmol) H₂(C₂O₄).2H₂O, and 3 ml H₂O, and the heating and isolation procedures were the same as those described above. The reaction resulted in pure colorless crystals. The powder XRD pattern of the ground crystals in this experiment was in good agreement with that calculated from the single-crystal data of Mg(C₂O₄).2H₂O from the former experiment, confirming that the same phase had been obtained.

S3. Refinement

H-atom positions were located in a difference Fourier map and all associated parameters were refined freely.

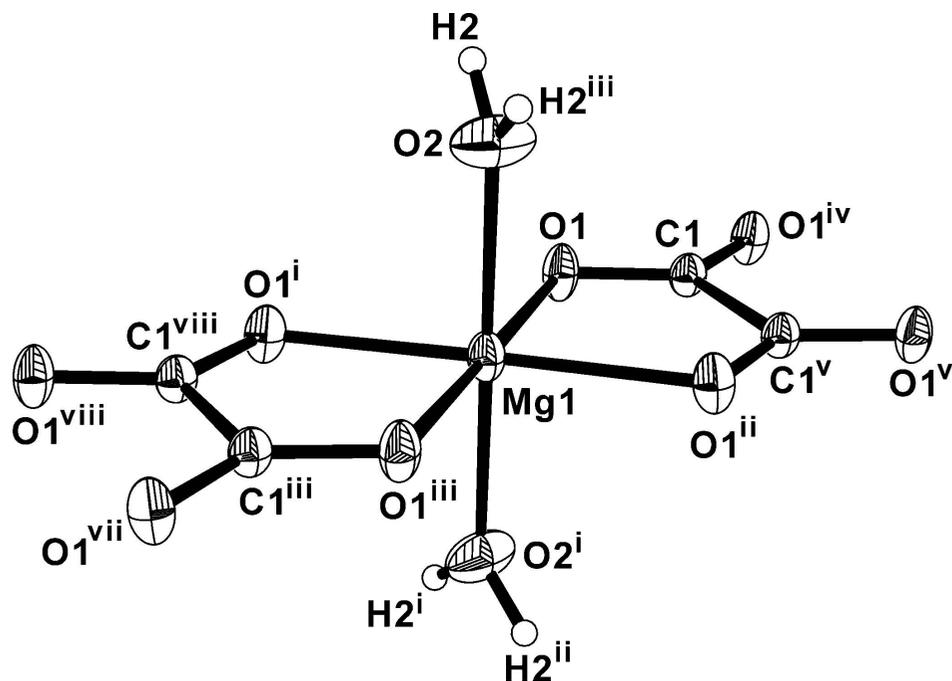
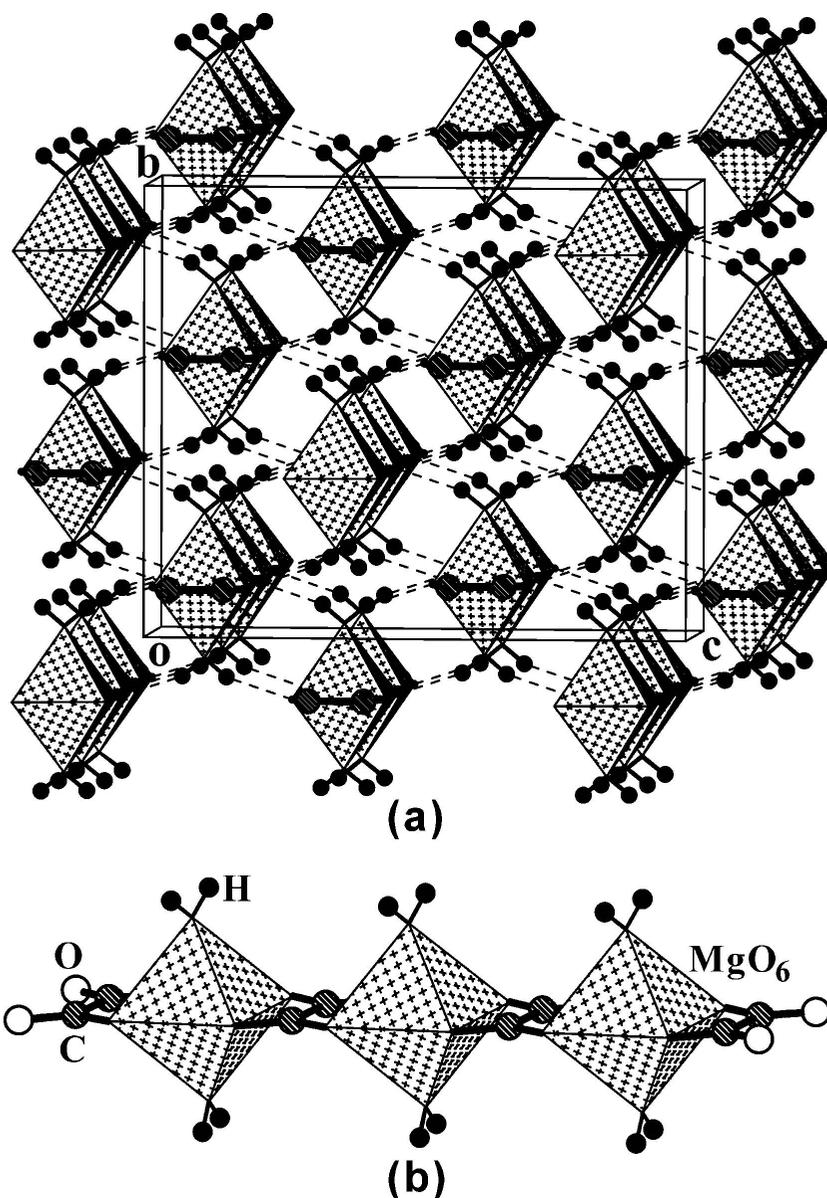


Figure 1

The coordination geometry of Mg1 in (I) with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. Symmetry codes: (i) $3/4 - x, 3/4 - y, z$; (ii) $x, 3/4 - y, 3/4 - z$; (iii) $3/4 - x, y, 3/4 - z$; (iv) $7/4 - x, 3/4 - y, z$; (v) $7/4 - x, y, 3/4 - z$; (vii) $-1 + x, 3/4 - y, 3/4 - z$; (viii) $-1 + x, y, z$.

**Figure 2**

The crystal structure of (I) projected approximately along the [100] direction (a) as well as the single chain of [Mg(C₂O₄)(H₂O)₂] (b); the H₂...O₁ contacts are shown as dashed lines.

catena-poly[[diaquamagnesium(II)]- μ -oxalato]

Crystal data

[Mg(C₂O₄)(H₂O)₂]
 $M_r = 148.36$
 Orthorhombic, *Fddd*
 Hall symbol: -F 2uv 2vw
 $a = 5.3940$ (11) Å
 $b = 12.691$ (3) Å
 $c = 15.399$ (3) Å
 $V = 1054.1$ (4) Å³
 $Z = 8$

$F(000) = 608$
 $D_x = 1.870$ Mg m⁻³
 Mo $K\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å
 Cell parameters from 25 reflections
 $\theta = 13.0$ – 19.6°
 $\mu = 0.29$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 290$ K
 Block, colourless
 $0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.15$ mm

Data collection

Rigaku AFC-7R diffractometer	483 independent reflections
Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube	321 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
Graphite monochromator	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.054$
$2\theta/\omega$ scans	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 32.5^\circ$, $\theta_{\text{min}} = 4.2^\circ$
Absorption correction: ψ scan (Kopfmann & Huber, 1968)	$h = 0 \rightarrow 8$
$T_{\text{min}} = 0.915$, $T_{\text{max}} = 0.962$	$k = 0 \rightarrow 19$
1110 measured reflections	$l = 0 \rightarrow 23$
	3 standard reflections every 150 reflections
	intensity decay: 1.1%

Refinement

Refinement on F^2	Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map
Least-squares matrix: full	Hydrogen site location: difference Fourier map
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.034$	All H-atom parameters refined
$wR(F^2) = 0.110$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0683P)^2]$
$S = 0.97$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
483 reflections	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$
27 parameters	$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.89 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
0 restraints	$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.48 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods	

Special details

Geometry. All esds (except the esd in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell esds are taken into account individually in the estimation of esds in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between esds in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell esds is used for estimating esds involving l.s. planes.

Refinement. Refinement of F^2 against ALL reflections. The weighted R-factor wR and goodness of fit S are based on F^2 , conventional R-factors R are based on F , with F set to zero for negative F^2 . The threshold expression of $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ is used only for calculating R-factors(gt) etc. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. R-factors based on F^2 are statistically about twice as large as those based on F , and R-factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$
Mg1	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.0163 (2)
C1	0.8750	0.3750	0.32406 (10)	0.0153 (3)
O1	0.66783 (15)	0.37630 (11)	0.28779 (5)	0.0202 (3)
O2	0.3750	0.53689 (11)	0.3750	0.0343 (4)
H2	0.399 (6)	0.578 (2)	0.3335 (16)	0.050 (7)*

Atomic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{12}	U^{13}	U^{23}
Mg1	0.0117 (4)	0.0237 (4)	0.0136 (4)	0.000	0.000	0.000
C1	0.0149 (6)	0.0199 (6)	0.0110 (6)	-0.0001 (8)	0.000	0.000
O1	0.0145 (4)	0.0342 (5)	0.0120 (4)	0.0012 (4)	-0.0014 (3)	-0.0018 (4)
O2	0.0631 (11)	0.0228 (7)	0.0169 (6)	0.000	0.0086 (10)	0.000

Geometric parameters (Å, °)

Mg1—O2 ⁱ	2.0546 (15)	Mg1—O1	2.0734 (9)
Mg1—O2	2.0546 (15)	C1—O1	1.2494 (11)
Mg1—O1 ⁱ	2.0734 (9)	C1—O1 ^{iv}	1.2494 (11)
Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱ	2.0734 (9)	C1—C1 ^v	1.569 (3)
Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱⁱ	2.0734 (9)	O2—H2	0.84 (3)
O2 ⁱ —Mg1—O2	180.0	O2 ⁱ —Mg1—O1	90.45 (4)
O2 ⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱ	89.55 (4)	O2—Mg1—O1	89.55 (4)
O2—Mg1—O1 ⁱ	90.45 (4)	O1 ⁱ —Mg1—O1	99.26 (5)
O2 ⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱ	89.55 (4)	O1 ⁱⁱ —Mg1—O1	80.75 (5)
O2—Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱ	90.45 (4)	O1 ⁱⁱⁱ —Mg1—O1	179.09 (8)
O1 ⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱ	179.09 (7)	O1—C1—O1 ^{iv}	126.89 (14)
O2 ⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱⁱ	90.45 (4)	O1—C1—C1 ^v	116.56 (7)
O2—Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱⁱ	89.55 (4)	O1 ^{iv} —C1—C1 ^v	116.56 (7)
O1 ⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱⁱ	80.75 (5)	C1—O1—Mg1	113.06 (8)
O1 ⁱⁱ —Mg1—O1 ⁱⁱⁱ	99.26 (5)	Mg1—O2—H2	128.7 (19)

Symmetry codes: (i) $-x+3/4, -y+3/4, z$; (ii) $x, -y+3/4, -z+3/4$; (iii) $-x+3/4, y, -z+3/4$; (iv) $-x+7/4, -y+3/4, z$; (v) $-x+7/4, y, -z+3/4$.

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °)

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
O2—H2 \cdots O1 ^{vi}	0.84 (3)	1.97 (2)	2.761 (1)	158 (2)

Symmetry code: (vi) $x-1/4, y+1/4, -z+1/2$.