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**Crystal structure of hexaglycinium dodecaiodotriplumbate**

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The crystal structure of hexaglycinium tetra- $\mu$ -iodido-octaiodidotriplumbate,  $(C_2H_6NO_2)_6[Pb_3I_{12}]$  or  $(GlyH)_6[Pb_3I_{12}]$ , is reported. The compound crystallizes in the triclinic space group  $\overline{PI}$ . The  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anion is discrete and located around a special position: the central Pb ion located on the inversion center is holodirected, while the other two are hemidirected. The supramolecular nature is mainly based on  $C-H \cdot \cdot I$ ,  $N-H \cdot \cdot I$ ,  $O-H \cdot \cdot I$  and  $N-H \cdot \cdot \cdot O$  hydrogen bonds. Dimeric cations of type  $(A^+ \cdot A^+)$  for the amino acid glycine are observed for the first time.

### **1. Chemical context**

Various inorganic and organic–inorganic hybrid materials are used in third-generation photovoltaic devices as solar energy converters (Peng *et al.*, 2015; Ahmed *et al.*, 2015; Zhou *et al.*, 2018).

Haloplumbates were also considered to be 'solar' materials (Kojima *et al.*, 2009; Nazarenko *et al.*, 2018), but it turned out that plumbates have unfavorable properties, such as instability and toxicity. However, these compounds may have applications in other interesting areas: white–light emitting materials (Peng *et al.*, 2018), luminescent sensing (Wang *et al.*, 2019; Wang, 2020; Martínez Casado et al., 2012), ferroelectric materials (Gao *et al.*, 2017), non-linear optical materials (Chen *et al.*, 2020) and semiconductors (Terpstra *et al.*, 1997).

Our research group has been studying various amino acid salts for a long time (Fleck & Petrosyan, 2014), and we assumed that amino acids could be used to synthesize organic– inorganic hybrid materials. After the successful synthesis of (GlyH)PbBr3 (Tonoyan *et al.*, 2024), efforts were focused on obtaining  $(GlyH)PbI<sub>3</sub>$ .

These compounds are also interesting for lead chemistry. Pb<sup>2+</sup> has an electronic configuration of  $[Xe]6s^2 4f^{14} 5d^{10}$ . The 6s<sup>2</sup> electrons determine the stereochemistry of Pb<sup>II</sup>. Upon hybridization of the *s* and *p* orbitals, the stereochemically active 6*s* <sup>2</sup> electron pair occupies a position in the coordination sphere of the metal (hemidirected coordination). In this case, such hybridization does not occur, the 6*s* <sup>2</sup> electron pair has only *s* character and is stereochemically inactive (holodirected coordination) (Casas *et al.*, 2006; Seth *et al.*, 2018). As the lead ion has released its two  $6p^2$  electrons,  $\sigma$ -hole interactions are possible. These interactions are known among elements of group IVand usually include the tetrel bonding interaction. In other words, the hemidirectional nature of lead(II) centers is the basic reason for different tetrel bonding interactions such



as  $Pb \cdots O$  (S, N, Cl, Br, I), which lead to the formation of supramolecular assemblies.



Instead of  $(GlyH)PbI_3$  crystals, those of  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_3I_{12})$ were formed unexpectedly. The  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anion is already known (Wang *et al.*, 2015, 2017; Lemmerer & Billing, 2012); it has three lead centers, which can be stereochemically different. In the  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^6$ <sup>-</sup> anion of  $\{(tbp)_2[Pb_3I_{12}]\}_n$  obtained by Wang *et al.* (2015), the lead centers are holodirected, coordinated by six iodine atoms, and have an octahedral geometry. In  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_{3}I_{12})$ , the Pb1 center has a holodirected coordination and is bound to six I atoms, while the Pb2 centers with hemidirected coordination are linked to five I atoms. The anion described by Lemmerer & Billing (2012), as well as that reported by Wang *et al.* (2017) both correspond to our case considering the long Pb1—I6 distance [3.482 (1)  $\AA$ ]; however, these authors misinterpreted the coordination as holodirected or six-coordinate.

### **2. Structural commentary**

The title salt  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_3I_{12})$  crystallizes in the triclinic space group  $\overline{P1}$  with the asymmetric unit containing half of the formula unit. Selected bond lengths are given in Table 1 and the molecular structure is shown in Fig. 1. In  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_3I_{12})$ the  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anion is discrete. The Pb1 center has a holodirected coordination with six I atoms, thus forming an octahedron. The two Pb2 centers have hemidirected coordinations with five I atoms, forming distorted tetragonal pyramids. These hemidirected lead ions have stereochemically active lone pairs. Despite this, any donor–acceptor, covalent or tetrel



**Figure 1** Molecular structure of  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_{3}I_{12})$ . Symmetry code: (i)  $-x + 1$ ,  $-y + 1, -z + 1.$ 





bonds are missing. The lead centers are connected with each other *via* Pb—I—Pb covalent bonds (Fig. 2). The anions are located parallel to each other, and the glycinium cations crosslink the entire structure through  $C-H \cdot \cdot I$ ,  $N-H \cdot \cdot I$  and  $O-H \cdot \cdot I$  hydrogen bonds (Fig. 3).

#### **3. Supramolecular features**

The crystal structure is consolidated *via*  $O-H \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ ,  $O-H \cdot \cdot \cdot I$ ,  $N-H\cdots$ O,  $N-H\cdots$ I and  $C-H\cdots$ I hydrogen bonds (Table 2). The carboxyl group of the glycinium cation *A* forms a hydrogen bond  $[O1A - H1A \cdots O2A, 2.637 (3) \text{ Å}]$  with a symmetry-related glycinium *A* cation; the same is the case for the cation *B*:  $O1B - H1B \cdot \cdot \cdot O2B$  [2.667 (3) Å]. However, the carboxyl group of the glycinium cation *C* establishes a hydrogen bond  $O1C-H1C \cdot \cdot \cdot 15$  [3.445 (3) A<sup> $\right]$ </sup> with the anion. Thus, the *A* and *B* glycinium cations form centrosymmetric  $(A^+ \cdots A^+)$  type dimeric cations, which so far have not been reported for glycine (Fleck & Petrosyan, 2014).

The NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> groups form rather strong: N1*A* - H11*A* $\cdots$ I4  $[3.549 (3)$  Å], N1*A*  $-H12A \cdots$  15 [3.588 (3) Å], N1*B*  $-H11B \cdots$  $13$   $[3.648 (3)$  Å,  $N1B-H12B \cdot \cdot \cdot I1$   $[3.647 (3)$  Å,  $N1C-$ 



The packing of  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_3I_{12})$ .

# **research communications**



**Figure 3**

Parallel anions in the packing of  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_{3}I_{12})$  viewed along the *a* axis.

 $H13C \cdots I3$  [3.628 (3) A<sup>†</sup> and weak:  $N1A - H11A \cdots I6$  $[3.655 (3)$  Å], N1*A*  $-H13A \cdots$  [4 [3.605 (3) Å], N1*B*  $-H12B \cdots$ I1  $[3.647 (3) \text{ Å}]$ , N1*C*—H11*C* $\cdots$ I1  $[3.711 (3) \text{ Å}]$ , N1*C*—  $H11C \cdots I2$  [3.640 (3) Å], N1*C*—H12*C* $\cdots$ 12 [3.779 (3) Å] hydrogen bonds with the anions. There are also  $C-H \cdot \cdot \cdot I$ -type contacts:  $C2A - H21A \cdot \cdot \cdot I1$  [3.669 (3) A<sup> $\dot{A}$ </sup>],  $C2B - H21B \cdot \cdot \cdot I2$ [3.976 (3)  $\AA$ ], and C2*C*—H21*C* $\cdots$ 13 [4.068 (3)  $\AA$ ], which can be considered as very weak hydrogen bonds. Thus, these glycinium cations cross-link the entire structure and consolidate it.

#### **4. Database survey**

A survey of the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD2023.2.0, version 5.45, November update; Groom *et al.*, 2016) revealed several similar structures. Currently, the Cambridge Structural Database contains 23 entries for the  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6}$  anion, which can exist in both discrete and polymeric forms that also have different subtypes. In particular, the discrete type has three subtypes: when the middle lead atom of the trinuclear  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anion has one (Leng *et al.*, 2023), two, or three (Wang *et al.*, 2015; Yue *et al.*, 2019; Zhang *et al.*, 2022) bridging iodine atoms. When there are one or two bridging iodine atoms, the central lead center has a holodirected coordination and the outer lead atoms have a hemidirected coordination. The anions presented in these works





Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x+2, -y+1, -z$ ; (ii)  $x+1, y, z$ ; (iii)  $-x+1, -y, -z$ ; (iv)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z$ ; (v)  $x, y+1, z$ ; (vi)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z+1$ ; (vii)  $x-1, y, z$ ; (viii)  $-x+1, -y, -z+1$ ; (ix)  $-x+2, -y+1, -z+1$ .

(Lemmerer & Billing, 2012; Wang *et al.*, 2017; Cheng *et al.*, 2023) correspond to our case, where the central lead atom has two bridging iodine atoms and the lead centers have different stereochemistry: holodirected (six-coordinate) and hemidirected (five-coordinate). The polymeric  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anion can be linear (Liang *et al.*, 2023) or cross-linked (Michael & Harald, 2018; Nazarenko *et al.*, 2018; Passarelli *et al.*, 2020). In summary, 15  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^{6-}$  anions from the 23 entries in the CSD are discrete, 7 are polymeric and one case is remarkable (Yao *et al.*, 2022) with both a polymer and a discrete  $[Pb_3I_{12}]^6$ anion being present in the crystal structure.

### **5. Synthesis and crystallization**

As initial reagents we used amino acid glycine (99%) and hydriodic acid (57% w/w, distilled, stabilized with <1.5% hypophosphorous acid, 99.95%). Initially, lead and hydriodic acid were taken in a 1:3 stoichiometric ratio. When the amount of acid in the solution decreases, the reaction between metal and acid slows and eventually almost stops (when no  $H<sub>2</sub>$  gas is released). At this point, the amount of obtained lead(II) iodide  $(PbI<sub>2</sub>)$  and remaining acid (HI) was calculated (1:6 stoichiometric ratio). Next, the appropriate amount of glycine was added and mixed. The final stoichiometric ratio of Gly, PbI<sub>2</sub> and HI was 1:1:6. Instead of the desired compound  $(GlyH)PbI_3$ , only  $(GlyH)_6(Pb_3I_{12})$  was obtained. Light-red, needle-shaped crystals were obtained by solvent evaporation in a closed container, using silica gel as an absorber.  $(GlyH)_{6}(Pb_{3}I_{12})$  is very hygroscopic: in the IR spectrum the absorption band at  $3524 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the  $\nu(\text{OH})$ stretching modes of the hygroscopic water molecules. The band with a peak at 3036 cm<sup>-1</sup> is caused by  $\nu(NH)$  of the NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> groups of glycinium cations. The peaks at  $2916 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and



**Figure 4** FTIR spectrum of the title compound.

2854 cm<sup> $-1$ </sup> are assigned to  $\nu$ (CH) of the CH<sub>2</sub> groups, and the strong band at 1716 cm<sup>-1</sup> to  $\nu$ (C=O) of the carboxyl groups.

An attenuated total reflection Fourier-transform infrared spectrum (ATR-FTIR) was recorded on an Agilent Cary 630 spectrometer using a germanium (Ge) ATR sampling module (Ge crystal, Happ–Genzel apodization, ATR distortion corrected, 64 scans,  $4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution). The IR spectrum is shown in Fig. 4.

### **6. Refinement**

Crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details are summarized in Table 3. Hydrogen atoms were treated as riding on their parent atoms  $[C-H = 0.99 \text{ Å}, N-H = 0.91 \text{ Å};$  $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(C)$  or  $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(N)$ ] except those of the carboxyl group, which were refined with the restraint  $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(C)$ .

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**Table 3** Experimental details.

Crystal data			
Chemical formula	$(C_2H_6NO_2)$ <sub>6</sub> $Pb_3I_{12}$		
$M_{r}$	2600.84		
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, P1		
Temperature (K)	200		
$a, b, c (\AA)$	8.5437 (5), 11.2672 (7), 14.8534 (9)		
$\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ (°) $V(\text{\AA}^3)$	$105.900(2)$ , 92.647 $(2)$ , 111.477 $(2)$		
	1262.40 (13)		
Z	1		
Radiation type	Mo $K\alpha$		
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	17.36		
Crystal size (mm)	$0.1 \times 0.08 \times 0.06$		
Data collection			
Diffractometer	Bruker APEXII CCD		
Absorption correction	Multi-scan (SADABS; Krause et al., 2015)		
$T_{\min}, T_{\max}$	0.548, 0.746		
No. of measured, independent and observed $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ reflections	54402, 9640, 8389		
$R_{\rm int}$	0.029		
$(\sin \theta/\lambda)_{\text{max}} (\text{\AA}^{-1})$	0.771		
Refinement			
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.022, 0.039, 1.03		
No. of reflections	9640		
No. of parameters	215		
H-atom treatment	H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement		
$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}}$ , $\Delta \rho_{\text{min}}$ (e $\AA^{-3}$ )	$2.29, -2.49$		

Computer programs: *APEX5* Bruker (2024), *SHELXT2018/2* (Sheldrick, 2015*a*), *SHELXL2019/2* (Sheldrick, 2015*b*), *Mercury* (Macrae *et al.*, 2020) and *ShelXle* (Hübschle *et al.*, 2011).

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# **supporting information**

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# **Crystal structure of hexaglycinium dodecaiodotriplumbate**

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**Computing details** 

**Hexaglycinium tetra-***µ***-iodido-octaiodidotriplumbate** 

### *Crystal data*

 $(C_2H_6NO_2)_6[Pb_3I_{12}]$  $M_r = 2600.84$ Triclinic, *P*1  $a = 8.5437(5)$  Å  $b = 11.2672(7)$  Å  $c = 14.8534(9)$  Å  $\alpha$  = 105.900 (2)<sup>o</sup>  $\beta$  = 92.647 (2)<sup>o</sup>  $\gamma = 111.477(2)$ °  $V = 1262.40(13)$  Å<sup>3</sup>

### *Data collection*



## *Refinement*

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup> Least-squares matrix: full *R*[ $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ ] = 0.022  $wR(F^2) = 0.039$  $S = 1.03$ 9640 reflections 215 parameters 0 restraints Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map

*Z* = 1  $F(000) = 1128$  $D_x$  = 3.421 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> Mo *Kα* radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å Cell parameters from 9918 reflections  $\theta$  = 2.6–32.9°  $\mu = 17.36$  mm<sup>-1</sup> *T* = 200 K Block, yellow  $0.1 \times 0.08 \times 0.06$  mm

9640 independent reflections 8389 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.029$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 33.2^{\circ}, \theta_{\text{min}} = 2.1^{\circ}$  $h = -13 \rightarrow 13$  $k = -17 \rightarrow 17$ *l* = −22→22

Hydrogen site location: inferred from neighbouring sites H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  $w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F_o^2) + (0.0087P)^2 + 2.5693P]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.002$  $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$  = 2.29 e Å<sup>-3</sup>  $\Delta\rho_{\rm min} = -2.48 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: *SHELXL2019/2* (Sheldrick 2015b), Fc\* =kFc[1+0.001xFc2 *λ*3 /sin(2*θ*)]-1/4 Extinction coefficient: 0.00049 (2)

## *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.



*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>)* 

# **supporting information**







*Geometric parameters (Å, º)*



# **supporting information**



Symmetry code: (i) −*x*+1, −*y*+1, −*z*+1.

$D$ —H	$H\cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D$ —H… $A$
0.79(5)	1.85(3)	2.638(4)	171(4)
0.99	3.10	3.669(3)	118
0.99	3.33	4.271(4)	160
0.91	3.05	3.549(3)	116
0.91	3.27	3.983(3)	137
0.91	3.04	3.655(3)	126
0.91	2.69	3.588(3)	170
0.91	2.75	3.605(3)	156
0.82(4)	1.85(4)	2.667(3)	176(4)
0.99	3.03	3.976(3)	161
0.99	3.18	3.775(3)	120
0.91	2.82	3.648(3)	151
0.91	3.11	3.647(3)	119
0.91	2.49	3.320(4)	151
0.91	2.79	3.528(3)	139
0.90(5)	2.57(3)	3.445(3)	164(4)
0.91	3.09	3.711(3)	127
0.91	3.13	3.640(3)	117
0.91	3.31	3.868(3)	122
0.91	3.00	3.779(3)	145
0.91	2.73	3.628(3)	170
0.99	3.14	4.068(3)	156

*Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, º)*

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z+1$ ; (ii)  $-x+2$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z$ ; (iii)  $x+1$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ; (iv)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y$ ,  $-z$ ; (v)  $-x+1$ ,  $-y+1$ ,  $-z$ ; (vi)  $x$ ,  $y+1$ ,  $z$ ; (vii)  $x-1$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ; (viii)  $-x+1$ , −*y*, −*z*+1; (ix) −*x*+2, −*y*+1, −*z*+1.