

*Short note*

# Triphenylphosphine-(*N,N*-dimethyldithiocarbamato)-gold(I) Methanol Solvate

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**Abstract:** A gold(I) complex with a triphenylphosphine and a monodentate *N,N*-dimethyldithiocarbamate ligand was synthesized and characterized by Raman spectroscopy and single crystal X-ray diffraction. DFT calculations (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz) were undertaken for a single complex in the gas-phase. The DFT-optimized structure is in good agreement with the crystal structure and the DFT-calculated Raman spectrum also is in excellent agreement with the experimental spectrum. Assignments of the Raman peaks are based on these DFT calculations. Frontier molecular orbitals were calculated and their nature is discussed.

**Keywords:** au(I) dithiocarbamate and phosphine complex; Raman spectroscopy; single crystal X-ray diffraction; DFT calculations

## 1. Introduction

Materials based on  $d^{10}$  configured Au(I) centers, often as coordination polymers, are of interest to modern applications, e.g. as luminescent sensors[1,2]. Dithiocarbamate (dtc) complexes are attractive due to their simple structures and wide variation of luminescence properties[3-5]. In this note we describe a monometallic gold(I) compounds with Au-dtc coordination, an example of a molecular structure without Au(I)-Au(I) interactions. Its frontier molecular orbitals characterize an electronic structure without aurophilic effects.

## 2. Results and Discussion

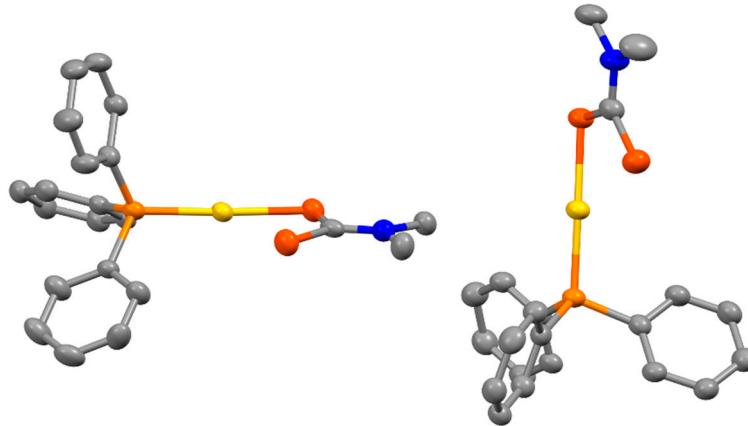
### 2.1. X-ray Structures

The complex crystallizes in the triclinic space group P-1 along with a methanol solvent molecule (Figure 1). The crystal structure of the 2 (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)•CH<sub>3</sub>OH system features two inequivalent complexes in the asymmetric unit with a linear coordination geometry (average S-Au-P angle of 174°) for the gold(I) center. It is noteworthy however that corresponding Au-S, Au-P, C-S or P-C bond lengths for the two inequivalent complexes are identical within three standard deviations. There are no substantial aurophilic interactions present in the crystal structure as the shortest Au-Au distance is ca. 5.11 Å[6].

The average Au-S and Au-P bond lengths are ca. 2.33 Å and 2.26 Å, respectively. These values are comparable within three standard deviations to ca. 2.34 and 2.25 Å measured for the ethyl-substituted analogue (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)[7]. The dithiocarbamate ligand is coordinated in a monodentate fashion and the two C-S bond lengths for a single complex are barely equivalent within three standard deviations. The average C-S bond length for the dithiocarbamate sulphur coordinated to the gold(I) center is ca. 1.75 Å, whereas it is ca. 1.70 Å for the uncoordinated sulphur. Similar values are obtained for the ethyl-substituted analogue[7] with ca. 1.75 and 1.68 Å for the dithiocarbamate sulphurs coordinated to the gold(I) center and uncoordinated respectively. Additionally, P-C and C-N (dtc) bond lengths (average value of ca. 1.82 and 1.33 Å) compare well with the (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)[7] system with corresponding average values of ca. 1.81 and 1.33 Å.

Interestingly, the Au-S bond lengths are longer than the corresponding ones for  $\text{Au}_2(\text{S}_2\text{CNET}_2)_2[8]$  (average bond length of 2.29 Å) where the dithiocarbamate (dtc) moiety acts as a Au(I)-Au(I)-bridging bidentate ligand. This is in contrast to C-S and C-N (dtc) bond lengths which are undistinguishable within three standard deviations to  $\text{Au}_2(\text{S}_2\text{CNET}_2)_2[8]$  (average C-S and C-N (dtc) bond lengths of 1.72 and 1.34 Å respectively).

DFT calculations were performed on a single complex of the crystal structure in the gas-phase and the DFT-optimized structure is in good agreement with the experimental structure (Table 1 and Table S1).



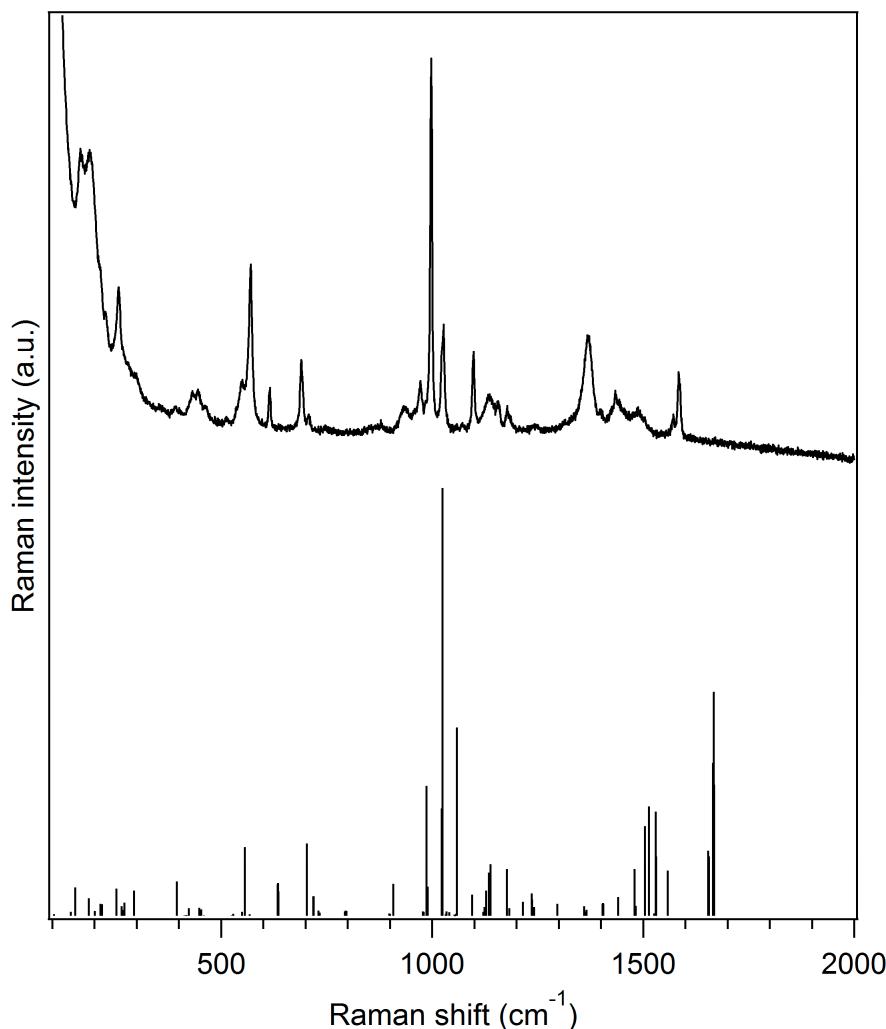
**Figure 1.** Asymmetric unit of the crystal structure of 2 (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)•CH<sub>3</sub>OH with ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. Solvent molecules and hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity.

**Table 1.** Selected bond lengths for the complex (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>) obtained from the crystal structure and from a DFT optimization in gas-phase (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz).

Bonds	Crystal structure		DFT (PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz)		
	Exp. bond lengths (Å)	Avg. bond length (Å)	Calc. bond lengths (Å)	Avg. bond length (Å)	Difference (%)
Au-S	2.3371(15)		2.427	2.427	4.0
	2.3322(15)	2.335			
Au-P	2.2524(15)		2.364	2.364	4.8
	2.2576(14)	2.255			
C-S (S coord. to Au)	1.756(6)		1.809	1.809	3.2
	1.750(7)	1.753			
C-S (S not coord. to Au)	1.696(6)		1.743	1.743	2.4
	1.708(7)	1.702			
C-P	1.815(5)		1.864		
	1.813(6)				
	1.820(6)		1.862	1.863	2.4
	1.833(6)	1.820			
C-N (dtc)	1.820(6)		1.864		
	1.820(6)				
	1.331(8)		1.357	1.357	1.9
	1.333(8)	1.332			

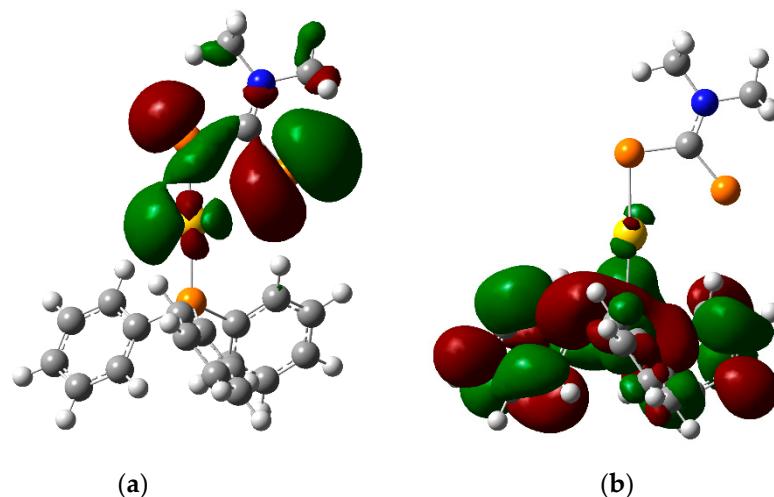
## 2.2. Raman Spectroscopy

The title compound is characterized by vibrational (Raman) spectroscopy (Figure 2). Some typical vibrations can be observed such as the C-N (dtc) stretching vibration ( $1488\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )[9], the P-C stretching vibration ( $1098\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )[10], the antisymmetric C-S stretching vibration ( $972\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )[9] or the symmetric C-S stretching vibration ( $570$  and  $550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )[9]. Moreover, the most intense Raman peak, located at  $998\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , can be ascribed to a in-plane C-C-C angle deformation vibration for the phenyl rings of the triphenylphosphine moiety. Maxima with detailed assignments obtained by DFT are given in Table S2 and a comparison of the experimental Raman spectrum with spectra of the precursors is also shown in Figure S1. The general agreement between the DFT-calculated Raman spectrum and the experimental one is good which confirms, along with the crystal structure, the identity of the synthesized complex.



**Figure 2.** Experimental Raman spectrum of  $2\text{ (Ph}_3\text{P)Au(S}_2\text{CNMe}_2\text{)}\bullet\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (black solid line, top) along with a DFT-calculated spectrum on a single molecule of  $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})\text{Au}(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)$  (stick plot, bottom) in the gas-phase (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz).

### 2.3. Frontier orbitals



**Figure 3.** Isodensity plots (0.02 atomic units) of (a) HOMO and (b) LUMO for  $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})\text{Au}(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)$  calculated by DFT in the gas-phase (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz).

The HOMO (Figure 3) is centered on the sulphur atoms of the dithiocarbamate moiety with some contribution from a gold d orbital. In contrast, the LUMO (Figure 3) is centered on the triphenylphosphine ligand and exhibits  $\pi^*$  character. The nature of the lowest-energy excited state can thus be ascribed to a LL'CT state, formed upon a transfer of electronic density from the dithiocarbamate ligand to the triphenylphosphine moiety. This is in stark contrast to the electronic structure in the presence of aurophilic interactions, where the frontier orbitals have strong M-M character[4,5]. The calculated HOMO-LUMO gap at the PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz level of theory in the gas-phase is  $32100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (312 nm), suggesting a high-lying first excited state.

## 3. Materials and Methods

### 3.1 General Methods and Physical Measurements

Raman spectra were measured using a Renishaw InVia spectrometer coupled to an imaging microscope (Leica). The excitation wavelength used was 785 nm for all Raman spectra. A single crystal of 2  $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})\text{Au}(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)\bullet\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  was measured on a Bruker Venture Metaljet diffractometer. The crystal was kept at 105 K during data collection. Using Olex2[11], the structure was solved with the XT[12] structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the XL[13] refinement package using least squares minimisation.

### 3.2 Synthesis of 2 $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})\text{Au}(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)\bullet\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received without further purification. Sodium dimethyldithiocarbamate monohydrate ( $\text{NaS}_2\text{CNMe}_2\bullet\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) was purchased from Aldrich and Chloro(triphenylphosphine)gold(I) ( $\text{Ph}_3\text{PAuCl}$ , 99.99% metals basis) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. Dichloromethane and methanol were of certified ACS grade and were purchased from Fisher Scientific.

The procedure used was inspired by a literature procedure[3] and was initially applied to obtain X-ray quality single crystals of the Au(I) dithiocarbamate  $\text{Au}_2(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)_2$ . A first solution of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{PAuCl}$  (0.20 mmol, 0.1005 g) in ca. 2 mL of dichloromethane was prepared at room temperature. A second solution of  $\text{NaS}_2\text{CNMe}_2\bullet\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.20 mmol, 0.0329 g) in ca. 2 mL of methanol was prepared at room temperature. The first solution was added to the second solution at ambient temperature.

Upon mixing, the resulting solution became of a pale, faint yellow color. The resulting solution was then left to stir for ca. 19 hours. After 19 hours of stirring, the cloudy yellow solution was filtered off on a Büchner funnel to remove colorless triphenylphosphine crystals. The filtered solution was collected and was left to evaporate slowly at room temperature. A suitable X-ray quality crystal was then picked and used for X-ray diffraction.

2 (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)•CH<sub>3</sub>OH: Raman (room temperature, solid-state, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 168 (m), 189 (m), 214 (weak, sh), 225 (weak, sh), 257 (m), 299 (weak, sh), 391 (vw), 401 (vw), 433 (w), 445 (w), 463 (w), 513 (vw), 550 (m), 570 (s), 615 (m), 690 (m), 707 (w), 873 (vw), 935 (w), 972 (w), 998 (s), 1023 (m, sh), 1027 (m), 1072 (vw), 1098 (m), 1136 (w), 1156 (w), 1179 (w), 1207 (vw), 1244 (vw), 1314 (vw), 1370 (m), 1399 (vw), 1435 (w, br), 1488 (w, br), 1571 (w), 1585 (m). Single crystal X-ray diffraction for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>46</sub>Au<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> (M = 1190.93 g/mol): triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2),  $a = 10.7735(7)$  Å,  $b = 13.7435(10)$  Å,  $c = 14.5456(10)$  Å,  $\alpha = 90.024(3)$ °,  $\beta = 94.461(2)$ °,  $\gamma = 93.349(3)$ °,  $V = 2143.5(3)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$ ,  $T = 105$  K,  $\mu(\text{GaK}_\alpha) = 10.570$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.845$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 48401 reflections measured ( $5.302^\circ \leq 2\Theta \leq 110.428^\circ$ ), 8169 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0588$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0360$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0394 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1064 (all data). CCDC 1533239 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html> (or from the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44 1223 336033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)

### 3.3 DFT calculations

All DFT calculations were undertaken using the Gaussian 09 (Gaussian Inc.)[14] software package with methods as implemented in the software. All results of calculations were visualized with Gaussview (5.0.9 release, Gaussian Inc.)[14]. A ground-state geometry optimization was performed on a single molecule of (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>) in the gas-phase using one of the two inequivalent complexes in the asymmetric unit of the crystal structure presented in this report as a starting point. This optimization was carried out with the hybrid exchange-correlation functional PBE1PBE[15] along with the relativistic basis set Lanl2dz[16] with effective core potentials for all atoms using the default convergence criterion. A subsequent frequency calculation was performed on the optimized structure to obtain the calculated Raman spectrum presented in this work and revealed no imaginary frequencies. Additionally, molecular orbitals were also calculated for this optimized structure.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at [www.mdpi.com/link](http://www.mdpi.com/link), Figure S1. Raman spectra of the synthesized compound 2 (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)•CH<sub>3</sub>OH and of its precursors. Raman spectra were measured at room temperature with an excitation wavelength of 785 nm are offset along the vertical axis for clarity. Table S1. Atoms' coordinates of the DFT-optimized ground-state structure of (Ph<sub>3</sub>P)Au(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>) in the gas-phase (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz). Table S2. Comparison between experimental and DFT-calculated (Gaussian 09, PBE1PBE/Lanl2dz) Raman shifts for the main Raman peaks.

**Acknowledgments:** We thank the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC, Canada) for research grants and for graduate scholarships to N. B.-D.

**Author Contributions:** Nicolas Bélanger-Desmarais did the synthetic work and performed the measurements and the DFT calculations. Nicolas Bélanger-Desmarais and Christian Reber wrote the manuscript.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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