

Review



Exploring the Topological Landscape Exhibited by Binary Zinc-triad 1,1-dithiolates

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Abstract: The crystal chemistry of the zinc-triad binary 1,1-dithiolates, that is, compounds of xanthate $[-S_2COR]$, dithiophosphate $[-S_2P(OR)_2]$, and dithiocarbamate $[-S_2CNR_2]$ ligands, is reviewed. Owing to a wide range of coordination modes that can be adopted by 1,1-dithiolate anions, such as monodentate, chelating, μ_2 -bridging, μ_3 -bridging, etc., there exists a rich diversity in supramolecular assemblies for these compounds, including examples of zero-, one-, and two-dimensional architectures. While there are similarities in structural motifs across the series of 1,1-dithiolate ligands, specific architectures are sometimes found, depending on the metal centre and/or on the 1,1-dithiolate ligand. Further, an influence of steric bulk upon supramolecular aggregation is apparent. Thus, bulky R groups generally preclude the close approach of molecules in order to reduce steric hindrance and therefore, lead to lower dimensional aggregation patterns. The ligating ability of the 1,1-dithiolate ligands also proves crucial in determining the extent of supramolecular aggregation, in particular for dithiocarbamate species where the relatively greater chelating ability of this ligand reduces the Lewis acidity of the zinc-triad element, which thereby reduces its ability to significantly expand its coordination number. Often, the functionalisation of the organic substituents in the 1,1-dithiolate ligands, for example, by incorporating pyridyl groups, can lead to different supramolecular association patterns. Herein, the diverse assemblies of supramolecular architectures are classified and compared. In all, 27 structurally distinct motifs have been identified.

Keywords: crystal engineering; coordination polymers; structural chemistry; zinc; cadmium; mercury; xanthate; dithiophosphate; dithiocarbamate

1. Introduction

The monofunctional 1,1-dithiolate ligands included in this review are the most well-studied of this class of ligand and have been around for a long time [1]; the chemical structures for the anions covered in this review are illustrated in Figure 1. The first of these, the dithiocarbonate anion, comprises alkyl esters of dithiocarbonic acid, (RO)C(=S)SH, which are quite unstable, but their alkali metal salts are both stable and easily prepared, usually from the reaction of ROH, CS₂, and MOH. The common name for these anions is "xanthates". While this term is useful to distinguish these anions from the dithiocarbamates (see below), the name xanthate was actually introduced by the Danish chemist Zeise around 1820. The name is derived from the Greek "xanthos" and was coined in response to the yellow appearance of lead xanthates [2]. Dithiophosphates made their appearance about one century later, being made from the reaction of P₂S₅, ROH, and a base [3]. Particularly pertinent to this review is the fact that zinc(II) dithiophosphates came to the fore in the 1940's as a versatile class of compounds that were employed in various oils and grease as anti-wear additives, as corrosion inhibitors, and even function as anti-oxidants [4]. The aetiology of the dithiocarbamates is not as well defined [5], as opposed to xanthates and dithiophosphates. Dithiocarbamates have probably been

around for over 150 years as Dobus is reported to have described the synthesis of dithiocarbamic acids in 1850 [6] and Delépine, the synthesis of metal salts of dithiocarbamates in 1907 [7].



Figure 1. Chemical diagrams for 1,1-dithiolate ligands covered in this survey: (**a**) xanthate (O-alkyldithiocarbonate); (**b**) dithiophosphate; and (**c**) dithiocarbamate. R, R' = alkyl, aryl.

While this bibliographic review has as its focus the structural characteristics of the binary zinc-triad 1,1-dithiolates, it should be acknowledged that many investigations into these compounds were motivated by a broad range of practical applications such as their use as lubricants, pesticides, in the vulcanisation of rubber, beneficiation reagents of minerals, biological remediation of toxic elements, synthetic precursors for chemical vapour deposition of metal sulphide nanomaterials, and even in medicine as potential therapeutics. In short, the utility of this class of compound has ensured that many X-ray structural studies have been conducted over recent decades. Summaries of the applications and structural chemistry of the binary zinc-triads are found in early reviews on metal 1,1-dithiolates [8–10], in general reviews covering specific classes of 1,1-dithiolate anions [5,11–15], and in more specialist reviews dedicated to the zinc-triad elements only [16,17], with the last of these published in 2003. Since then, interest in these compounds has not waned and it is opportune to summarise the known structures at this time, especially as new structural motifs have been discovered over the past 15 years (see below).

2. Methodology and Organisation

As for a recent bibliographic survey on zinc and cadmium 1,1-dithiolates with potentially bridging bipyridyl-type ligands [18], the structures included in this survey were extracted in the form of crystallographic information files (CIF's) from the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD, Version 5.39, November 2017 release) [19]. Data were routinely analysed using PLATON [20] and original diagrams were drawn with the graphics program, DIAMOND [21]. The review is arranged so that xanthate structures are discussed first, followed by dithiophosphates and then dithiocarbamates. Within each of these categories, zinc structures are discussed before cadmium and mercury structures. Then, the structures are usually discussed in terms of the smallest R substituent to the largest. The focus of the discussion is upon a description of the modes of coordination of the 1,1-dithiolate ligands leading to the resultant aggregation patterns. The interested reader is referred to the original publication for precise details of geometric parameters, which are not discussed in detail. Similarly, descriptions of molecular packing of the aggregates are not included. In all, among the xanthates, there are four, six, and 10 zinc-, cadmium-, and mercury-containing structures, respectively. For dithiophosphates there are four, seven, and four examples, and for the more numerous dithiocarbamates, there are 65, 41, and 44 examples, respectively.

3. Discussion

3.1. Zinc-Triad Binary Xanthate Structures

There are four, six, and 10 zinc, cadmium, and mercury structures to be described in this category. Starting from zinc, with three distinct structural motifs, it is obvious that an enormous structural diversity is evident among the known crystal structures as, often for these compounds, the xanthate ligand adopts a bidentate bridging mode of coordination. The compounds, coordination donor sets, and structural motifs/designations are summarised in Table 1.

Compound	R/R′	Donor set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
1	Et	S_4	layer	А	[22]
2	n-Pr	S_4	chain	В	[23]
3	i-Pr	S_4	tetramer	С	[24]
4^{1}	n-Bu	S_4	tetramer	С	[25]
5	Me	S ₆	chain	D	[26]
6 ²	Et	S_4	layer	А	[27]
7 ³	Et	S_4	layer	А	[28]
8	i-Pr	S_4	layer	А	[29,30]
9	n-Bu	S_4	layer	А	[31]
10	CH ₂ CH ₂ OMe	S_6	chain	D	[32]
11	Me	S_3	chain	Е	[33]
12 4	Et	S_4	layer	А	[34]
13 ³	Et	S_4	layer	А	[35]
14	n-Pr	S_4	layer	А	[36]
15	i-Pr	S_4	layer	F	[37]
16	n-Bu	S_4	layer	А	[38]
17	$(CH_2)_2C(H)Me_2$	S_4	layer	А	[38]
18	$(CH_2)_2CMe_3$	S_4	layer	А	[38]
19	Pent	S_4	layer	А	[38]
20	$C(H)[(CH_2)_2]_2NCH_2Ph$	n S ₅	chain	G	[39]

Table 1. Summary of the general features of $M(S_2COR)_2$, M = zinc (1-4), cadmium (5–10), and mercury (11–20), structures.

¹ Three benzene molecules of solvation per tetramer; ² Pa polymorph; ³ P2₁/c polymorph; ⁴ P2₁ polymorph.

3.1.1. Zinc Xanthates

There are four binary zinc xanthate structures in this category, 1–4 [22–25], and key features of these are summarised in Table 1 along with the other cadmium and mercury structures included in this Section. In 1, that is, with R = Et [22], both xanthate ligands are bidentate, bridging two zinc centres laterally, with the result that a two-dimensional array ensues. As shown in Figure 2a, the layer, with a flat topology, comprises interconnected, 16-membered {–ZnSCS}₄ rings. The zinc atom exists within an S₄ donor set with each sulphur atom derived from a different xanthate ligand; the S₄ coordination geometry approximates a tetrahedron. This structural motif, motif **A**, is repeated in several cadmium and many mercury analogues (see below). Crucial for the discussion below, is the observation that the ethyl groups are directed above and below the layer.

In what might be thought of as a trivial chemical change, that is, changing R = ethyl in 1 to n-Pr in **2** [23], a major structural change is brought about, which is unprecedented in the analogous chemistry of transition metal xanthates [11-13]. The common features of the two structures are tetrahedral S₄ coordination geometries and the formation of 16-membered {-ZnSCS}4 rings. However, in the case of **2**, there are both bridging and chelating xanthate ligands. The observed supramolecular chain comprises corner shared 16-membered {-ZnSCS}₄ rings, as shown in Figure 2b, and is assigned as structural motif **B**. Yet another major change in structure is found in isomeric **3**, in which the straight chains of 2 are replaced by branched i-Pr groups [24]. As for 1 and 2, S₄-tetrahedra and 16-membered {-ZnSCS}₄ rings prevail in the structure of **3**, but the clear difference is evident from Figure 2c, namely, the structure is an isolated tetramer, motif C. The different structures arise owing to the different ratios of bridging and chelating xanthate ligands: in 1, all ligands are bridging, in 2 the ratio is 2:1, and in 3 there are equal numbers of bridging and chelating xanthate ligands. A qualitative explanation has been offered to rationalise the appearance of the three distinct structural motifs described thus far. This explanation is based on the relative steric bulk of the R groups. In short, the bulkier the R substituent, the less likely it is that supramolecular aggregation will occur. This concept is now well established in the structural chemistry of main group element 1,1-dithiolates [17,40–42] and in the structural chemistry of related organotin carboxylates [43–45], where bulky groups can disrupt

secondary bonding interactions [18,46–48]. Further, it should be stressed that the nature of R, at least that present in the overwhelming majority of zinc-triad xanthate structures, does not exert a significant influence upon the electronic structure of the xanthate anion [49]. In the present series, the relatively bulky i-propyl groups define a three-dimensional exclusion zone around the tetramer in **3**, precluding additional bridging. In **2**, the exclusion zone defined by the n-propyl groups is two-dimensional so that chains can be formed in the third dimension. Finally, in **1**, there is a one-dimensional exclusion zone leading to the layer motif. The final structure in this category, namely $[Zn(S_2CO-n-Bu)_2]_4$ (**4**), was isolated as a benzene solvate [25]. The structural motif is as for **1**, that is, layer motif, **A**.



Figure 2. Aggregation in the crystals of (a) $[Zn(S_2COEt)_2]_n$ (1); (b) $[Zn(S_2CO-n-Pr)_2]_n$ (2); and (c) $[Zn(S_2CO-i-Pr)_2]_4$ (3). Colour code in this and subsequent diagrams: zinc or cadmium or mercury, orange; sulphur, yellow; oxygen, red, carbon, grey. Non-acidic hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules have been omitted in all diagrams.

3.1.2. Cadmium Xanthates

There are five different xanthate compounds to be described in this Section, **5–10** [26–31], with structures **6** and **7** being polymorphs. The immediate coordination geometry of the cadmium centre in $[Cd(S_2COMe)_2]_n$ (**5**) [26] is square-planar, a geometry defined by four sulphur atoms derived from two chelating xanthate ligands, Figure 3a; the cadmium atom lies on a crystallographic centre of inversion. Significant supramolecular aggregation occurs via secondary Cd…S bonding, leading to a 4 + 2 distorted octahedral coordination geometry. It should be noted that the Cd–S bond lengths in the square-plane are not that much shorter than those in the axial positions, that is, 2.64 Å compared with 2.89 Å. The result is the formation of a linear supramolecular chain and is designated as structural motif **D**. Structures **6–9** uniformly adopt layer motif **A** in the solid-state, but with minor variations in

the orientations of the alkyl substituents and in the geometric parameters. Structures **6** [27] and 7 [28] have the common composition $[Cd(S_2COEt)_2]_n$ but, are polymorphs, crystallizing in the Pa and P2₁/c space groups, respectively. The relationship between the polymorphs is readily seen from the views normal to the layers shown in Figure 3b,c. In **6**, the ethyl substituents are orientated to leave voids within the 16-membered {-CdSCS}₄ rings. While this pattern is also apparent in Figure 3c for 7, this only occurs in alternate rows going across the page, and the ethyl groups in the other rows are orientated to block the voids in the rings. This change in symmetry is reflected in the doubling of the relevant crystal axis in 7 compared with **6**. In $[Cd(S_2CO-i-Pr)_2]_n$ (**8**) [29,30] and $[Cd(S_2CO-n-Bu)_2]_n$ (**9**) [31], the same layer motif appears, with that of **8** being the only example with the cadmium atom lying on a special position, in this case a 2-fold axis symmetry, leading to an aesthetically pleasing two-dimensional array, Figure 3d. The last structure in this section, $[Cd(S_2COCH_2CH_2OMe)_2]_n$ (**10**) [32], closely resembles the structure of **5**, being a linear supramolecular polymer with a 4 + 2 coordination geometry for the cadmium atom which lies on a centre of inversion; this is motif **D**. In this case, there is a greater disparity in the Cd–S bond lengths compared to those in **5**, with those in the square-plane of 2.63 and 2.64 Å being significantly shorter than those in the axial positions of 3.02 Å.



Figure 3. Aggregation in the crystals of (**a**) [Cd(S₂COMe)₂]_n (**5**); (**b**) [Cd(S₂COEt)₂]_n (**6**); (**c**) [Cd(S₂COEt)₂]_n (**7**); and (**d**) [Cd(S₂CO-i-Pr)₂]_n (**8**).

3.1.3. Mercury Xanthates

There are 10 mercury xanthate structures to be described in this Section, 11-20 [33–39], with structures 12 and 13 being polymorphs. A new structural motif, motif E, is realised in the

crystal of $[Hg(S_2COMe)_2]_n$ (11) [33], being based on a helical chain and propagated by crystallographic 2_1 symmetry, Figure 4a. Here, one xanthate ligand is bidentate bridging albeit asymmetrically (Hg–S: 2.38 and 2.92 Å), while the other is monodentate with Hg–S of 2.37 Å. The two sulphur atoms forming the shorter bond lengths are linearly disposed (S–Hg–S is 165°), while the less strongly bound sulphur is in a position orthogonal to the S-Hg-S vector so that the mercury atom has a (planar) T-shaped geometry; the two proximate intra-chain oxygen atoms are disposed well above the HgS3 plane and with Hg \cdots O separations of 2 \times 2.93 Å are not considered as significant bonding interactions [33]. Both P2₁ (12) [34] and P2₁/c (13) [35] polymorphs of $[Hg(S_2COEt)_2]_n$ have very similar structures and unit cell dimensions, but with the c-axis in 13 being approximately double the a-axis in 12. Each adopts the two-dimensional motif, motif A. The major difference between the polymorphs rests with the symmetry of the two-dimensional grid defined by the mercury atoms, which is marginally squarer in appearance in **12**, as judged by the distances between diagonally opposite mercury atoms within the 16-membered {-HgSCS}4 rings, that is, 6.90 and 9.10 Å for 12 and 6.69 and 9.30 Å for 13, indicating that the latter has a more diamond-like appearance. The structures of 12 and 13, with open or accessible voids in the 16-membered rings, resemble the situation in $[Zn(S_2COEt)_2]_n$ (1) [22] and $[Cd(S_2COEt)_2]_n$ (6) [27], Pa polymorph, meaning [Cd(S₂COEt)₂]_n 7 [28], the P2₁/c polymorph, is the exceptional structure, with half the voids being partially blocked. It is noted that there are no correlations between the space group and congestion about the voids in the 16-membered rings.



Figure 4. Aggregation in the crystals of (a) $[Hg(S_2COMe)_2]_n$ (11); (b) $[Hg(S_2CO-i-Pr)_2]_n$ (15); and (c) $[Hg\{S_2COC(H)[(CH_2)_2]_2NCH_2Ph\}_2]_n$ (20). Additional colour code: nitrogen, blue.

Two-dimensional arrays are also found in the crystals of $[Hg(S_2COR)_2]_n$, for R = n-Pr (14) [36], i-Pr (15) [37], n-Bu (16), CH₂CH₂C(H)Me₂ (17), CH₂CH₂CMe₃ (18), and Pentyl (19) [38]. With the exception of 15, the structures adopt the common motif **A** and with obvious voids in the structure when viewed normal to the plane of the array; congestion obviously increases with the size of the R substituent, especially in 17 and 18. A new structural motif is found for $[Hg(S_2CO-i-Pr)_2]_n$ (15) [37], designated as **F**. This motif has features found for the majority of the zinc-triad binary xanthates in that one of the two independent mercury atoms is tetrahedrally coordinated by four sulphur atoms derived from four bridging xanthate ligands, that is, characteristic of motif **A**. By contrast, the second independent mercury atom has its tetrahedral S₄ donor set defined by a chelating xanthate ligand, as well as two sulphur atoms derived from two bridging xanthates, that is, reminiscent of the zinc xanthate motifs **B** and **C** (see above). As all bridging xanthate ligands extend laterally, the overall structure is two-dimensional, as shown in Figure 4b.

The final structure to be described in this section has a non-conventional oxygen-bound substituent, that is, 1-benzylpiperidin-4-yl to yield $[Hg{S_2COC(H)[(CH_2)_2]_2NCH_2Ph}_2]_n$ (20) [39]. In the crystal, this is a coordination polymer with five-coordinate mercury atoms, Figure 4c. Thus, the mercury atom is coordinated by two chelating xanthate ligands, one of which simultaneously bridges a symmetry-related mercury atom to generate the chain. A measure of the nature of the coordination geometry for five-coordinate systems is the value of τ , which is 0.0 for an ideal square-pyramidal geometry and 1.0 for an ideal trigonal-pyramid [50]. In 20, the S₅ coordination geometry approximates a square-pyramid with $\tau = 0.20$. In this description, the less tightly bound sulphur atom involved in forming the bridge occupies the apical position. In acknowledgement of the different coordination mode/geometry of the linear coordination polymer in 20, this structure is assigned as motif G.

3.2. Zinc-Triad Binary Dithiophosphate Structures

The zinc-triad binary dithiophosphates comprise the smallest number of structures of the 1,1-dithiolates surveyed herein. Nevertheless, new and unprecedented structural motifs occur, with the common feature of all motifs being an S_4 donor set for the central element; all structures crystallised solvent-free. Data for the 15 zinc-triad binary dithiophosphate structures, **21–35** [51–63], discussed in this section are presented in Table 2.

Compound	R	Donor set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
21	Me	S ₄	Н	chain	[51]
22	i-Pr	S_4	Ι	dimer	[52]
23	i-Bu	S_4	Ι	dimer	[53]
24	Су	S_4	Ι	dimer	[54]
25	Me	S_4	J	chain	[55]
26	n-Pr	S_4	J	chain	[56]
27	i-Pr	S_4	Ι	dimer	[52]
28	n-Bu	S_4	J	chain	[56]
29	i-Bu	S_4	J	chain	[57]
30	s-Bu	S_4	Ι	dimer	[58]
31	Су	S_4	K	dimer	[59]
32	Me	S_4	А	layer	[60]
33 ¹	i-Pr	S_4	L	chain	[61]
34 ²	i-Pr	S_4	L	chain	[62]
35	c-Pentyl	S_4	L	chain	[63]

Table 2. Summary of the general features of $M[S_2P(OR)_2]$, M = zinc (21–24), cadmium (25–31), and mercury (32–35), structures.

¹ C2/c polymorph; ² P2₁/c polymorph.

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3.2.1. Zinc Dithiophosphates

Of the four known zinc dithiophosphates, **21–24** [51–54], two distinct and thus far, unprecedented structural motifs, are observed. For the structure with the smallest R substituent, $\{Zn[S_2P(OMe)_2]_2\}_n$ (**21**) [51], a zig-zag supramolecular chain is formed in the crystal as the result of bidentate bridging dithiophosphate ligands propagated by glide symmetry matched by equal numbers of chelating ligands, Figure 5a. This new motif is designated motif **H**. The second motif for zinc dithiophosphates is found for each of $\{Zn[S_2P(O-i-Pr)_2]_2\}_2$ (**22**) [52], $\{Zn[S_2P(O-i-Bu)_2]_2\}_2$ (**23**) [53], and $\{Zn[S_2P(OCy)_2]_2\}_2$ (**24**) [54], and also features equal numbers of bridging and chelating ligands, but in this case leading to a dimeric aggregate, as illustrated for **24** in Figure 5b. The aggregates in **22** and **24** have crystallographic 2-fold symmetry while that in **23** approximates 2-fold symmetry. This motif is assigned as motif **I**. As indicated below, many of the zinc-triad dithiocarbamates adopt a very similar motif, but often these feature quite significant transannular M…S interactions and are centrosymmetric. In motif **I**, the zinc atom coordination geometries are distorted tetrahedrally based on S₄ donor sets, indicating the absence of transannular Zn…S interactions.



Figure 5. Aggregation in the crystals of (**a**) $\{Zn[S_2P(OMe)_2]_2\}_n$ (**21**) and (**b**) $\{Zn[S_2P(OCy)_2]_2\}_2$ (**24**). Additional colour code: phosphorus, pink.

3.2.2. Cadmium Dithiophosphates

There are seven structures in this category and these adopt two distinct structural motifs in the solid-state, one of which is new. The new motif, J, is found in the crystals of four compounds, namely $[Cd[S_2P(OR)_2]_2]_n$ for R = Me (25) [55], Figure 6a; n-Pr (26) [56]; n-Bu (28) [56]; and i-Bu (29) [57]. Here, all dithiophosphate ligands are bidentate bridging, leading to eight-membered {-SPSCd}₂ rings that are linked at the cadmium atom to form a twisted chain; the chain in 25 has crystallographic 2-fold symmetry. The eight-membered ring in motif J has the form of a boat with two sulphur atoms above and two below the plane through the Cd_2P_2 atoms. The remaining three structures, $Cd[S_2P(OR)_2]_2$ for R = i-Pr (27) [52]; s-Bu (30) [58], Figure 6b; and Cy (31) [59], adopt motif I. A distinguishing feature of **31** is that the dimeric aggregate is disposed about a centre of inversion as opposed to 2-fold symmetry for 27 and 30. In order to distinguish between the two symmetries for the dimer, dimeric aggregates with 2-fold symmetry, approximate or crystallographically-imposed, are designated as I, while those disposed about a centre of inversion or close to this are designated as **K**. Finally, in terms of the two structural motifs adopted by cadmium dithiophosphates, that is, to a first approximation dimeric or polymeric, it is noted that for the three derivatives with branching at the alpha-carbon atom, the dimer form is adopted, again suggesting a significant steric influence in determining the ultimate motif found in the crystal.



Figure 6. Aggregation in the crystals of (a) $Cd[S_2P(OMe)_2]_2$, (25) and (b) $Cd[S_2P(O-s-Bu)_2]_2$ (30).

3.2.3. Mercury Dithiophosphates

There are four structures to be described in this section, but only three compounds as a pair are polymorphic. The structure of $\{Hg[S_2P(OMe)_2]_2\}_n$ (**32**) [60] is a two-dimensional layer as all dithiophosphate ligands are bidentate bridging. As seen in Figure 7a, the resemblance between this structure, with edge-shared 16-membered $\{-HgSPS\}_4$ rings, and those of many of the zinc-triad xanthates is obvious and accordingly, this is an example of motif **A**. The three remaining examples, that is, polymorphic $\{Hg[S_2P(O-i-Pr)_2]_2\}_n$ (**33**) [61] and (**34**) [62], adopting C2/c and P2₁/c space groups, respectively, and $\{Hg[S_2P(O-c-Pentyl)_2]_2\}_n$ (**35**) [63], Figure 7b, also adopt a previously described structural motif. Thus, linear chains arising from equal numbers of chelating and bridging dithiophosphate ligands are found, akin to motif **H**. However, in motif **H**, the chains have a zig-zag topology, whereas in **33–35**, a helical topology is evident as the coordination polymers are propagated by 2₁-screw symmetry in each case. In acknowledgment of the distinct topologies, those with 2₁-screw symmetry are labelled as **L**. The differences between the polymorphs of $\{Hg[S_2P(O-i-Pr)_2]_2\}_n$ primarily relate to differences in Hg–S bond lengths, with the range of Hg–S bond lengths in the C2/c polymorph of 2.39–2.89 Å [61] being greater than in the P2₁/c form of 2.44–2.83, corresponding to $\Delta(Hg–S)$ values of 0.50 and 0.39, respectively.



Figure 7. Aggregation in the crystals of (a) $\{Hg[S_2P(OMe)_2]_2\}_n$ (32) and (b) $\{Hg[S_2P(O-c-Pentyl)_2]_2\}_n$ (35).

3.3. Zinc-Triad Binary Dithiocarbamate Structures

By far the most numerous structures included in this review are the zinc-triad binary dithiocarbamates. While these generally adopt mononuclear or more likely binuclear motifs (see below), the presence of a heteroatom in the organic substituents can lead to further aggregation in the solid-state.

3.3.1. Zinc Dithiocarbamates

Data for the 65 $Zn(S_2CNRR')_2$ structures discussed in this section, **36–100** [25,64–110], are collected in Table 3. The first motif noted is monomeric and designated **M**. The zinc atom in those structures adopting motif **M** is chelated by two dithiocarbamate ligands which are generally coordinating in a symmetric mode, for example, 2.32 and 2.35 Å in the structure of $Zn(S_2CNCy_2)_2$ (37) [25], illustrated in Figure 8a. This structure has the zinc centre located on a 2-fold symmetry axis; similar symmetry is also found in **38** [65] and **44** [71]. The coordination geometry is based on distorted tetrahedral S_4 environments as the ZnS₂C chelate planes are approximately orthogonal to each other. The assignment of monomeric structures is based on the lack of intermolecular Zn…S associations less than the sum of the van der Waals radii of zinc and sulphur, taken as 4.05 Å [20]. This is true for most of the examples, but in four structures, Zn…S less than the sum of the van der Waals radii is evident, that is, **42** (3.93 Å), **45** (3.86 Å), **39** (3.58 Å), and **43** (3.44 Å). Such alignment of molecules gives the potential for dimerization, leading to binuclear motifs **N** (**39**) and **O** (**42**, **43** and **45**), as discussed below. Such a potential dimerization is illustrated in Figure 8b for **39**.

Compound	R/R′	Donor Set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
36	CH ₂ CH ₂ OMe/CH ₂ CH ₂ OMe	S ₄	М	monomer	[64]
37	Cy/Cy	S_4	М	monomer	[25]
38	Benzyl/Benzyl	S_4	М	monomer	[65]
39	Me/Cy	S_4	М	monomer	[66]
40	n-Pr/CH(Me)Et	S_4	М	monomer	[67]
41	NRR' = 3,4-dihydroquinoline	S_4	М	monomer	[68]
42	n-Bu/5-t-Bu-3-Me-2-OH-benzyl	S_4	М	monomer	[69]
43	$CH_2CH_2OH/CH_2(ferrocenyl)$	S_4	М	monomer	[70]
44	(CH ₂) ₃ OEt/3,5-di-t-Bu-4-OH-benzyl	S_4	М	monomer	[71]
45	Benzyl/CH ₂ (1-Me-pyrrol-2-yl)	S_4	М	monomer	[72]
46	Benzyl/4-OMe-benzyl	S_4	М	monomer	[73]
47	Benzyl/R ¹¹	S_4	М	monomer	[74]
48	$CH_2(4-OMe-phenyl)/CH_2(2-furyl)$	S_4	М	monomer	[75]
49	Me/Me	$S_4 + 1$	Ν	dimer	[76]
50 ²	n-Bu/n-Bu	$S_4 + 1$	Ν	dimer	[77]
51 ³	n-Bu/n-Bu	$S_4 + 1$	Ν	dimer	[78]
52	Me/CH ₂ (ferrocenvl)	$S_{4} + 1$	Ν	dimer	[74]
53	Et/Et	$S_{4} + 1$	0	dimer	[79]
54	n-Pr/n-Pr	$S_{4} + 1$	0	dimer	[80]
55	i-Pr/i-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[81]
56	$CH_2C(H)=CH_2/CH_2C(H)=CH_2$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[82]
57 ⁴	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[83]
58 ²	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[84]
59 ⁵	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[85]
60	$R + R' = (CH_2)_4$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[86]
61	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[87]
62	$R + R' = (CH_2)_6$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[88]
63	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5 - 4 - Me$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[89]
64	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5 - 4 - C (= O)OEt$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[72]
65 ⁶	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5 - 4 - C(=O)ON[C(=O)CH_2]_2$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[90]
66	$R + R' = (CH_2CH_2)_2NEt$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[91]
67	$R + R' = (CH_2CH_2)_2NPh$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[92]
68	$R + R' = (CH_2CH_2)_2NC_6H_4$ -3-OMe	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[93]
69	$R + R' = (CH_2CH_2)_2NC_6H_4$ -4-OMe	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[93]
70	Me/Et	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[94]
71	Me/n-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[94]
72	Me/i-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[94]
73	Me/n-Bu	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[94]
74	Me/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[95]
75 ⁷	Me/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[96]
76 ⁸	Me/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[83]
77	Me/CH ₂ C(=O)OMe	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[97]
78	Me/CH ₂ C(H)(OMe) ₂	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[98]
79 ⁹	Me/R ²⁹	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[74]
80	Et/i-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[99]

Table 3. Summary of the general features of Zn(S₂CNRR')₂ structures 36–100.

Compound	R/R′	Donor Set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
81	Et/n-Bu	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[100]
82	Et/Cy	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[25]
83 ³	Et/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[101]
84 ⁵	Et/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[102]
85	Et/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[83]
86	n-Pr/i-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[103]
87 ¹⁰	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[96]
88	c-Pr/CH ₂ C ₆ H ₄ -4-OMe	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[104]
89	n-Bu/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[105]
90	Benzyl/(CH ₂) ₁₃ Me	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[106]
91 ⁹	Benzyl/R ²⁹	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[74]
92	$CH_2(2-furyl)/CH_2C_6H_4-4-Cl$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[75]
93	$CH_2(2-furyl)/R^{29}$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[74]
94	$CH_2C_6H_4$ -4-OMe/(CH_2) ₂ N(CH_2CH_2) ₂ O	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[74]
95	i-Bu/i-Bu	S_4	М	monomer	[107]
		$S_4 + 1$	0		
96	$R + R' = (CH_2)_4 NMe$	NS_4	Р	polymer	[108]
97 ¹¹	Benzyl/CH ₂ (3-py)	NS_4	Q	dimer	[72]
98	$CH_2(ferrocenyl)/CH_2(3-py)$	NS_4	Q	dimer	[109]
99 ¹²	Et/CH ₂ (4-py)	NS_4	Р	polymer	[110]
100 ¹³	CH ₂ (ferrocenyl)/CH ₂ (4-py)	N_2S_4	R	layer	[109]

Table 3. Cont.

¹ R¹ is 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-yl)CH₂; ² C2/c polymorph; ³ P2₁/c polymorph; ⁴ Pbcn polymorph; ⁵ P⁻¹ polymorph; ⁶ tetra-acetonitrile solvate; ⁷ di-hydrate; ⁸ methanol solvate; ⁹ R² is 1,3-benzodioxol-5-CH₂; ¹⁰ hydrate; ¹¹ ethanol solvate; ¹² di-4-methylpyridine solvate; ¹³ dimethylformamide solvate.



Figure 8. (a) Molecular structure of $Zn(S_2CNCy_2)_2$ (37) where the the zinc atom lies on a 2-fold axis; (b) supramolecular association via $Zn\cdots S$ interactions (3.58 Å) between two molecules disposed about a 2-fold axis of symmetry in the crystal of $Zn[S_2CN(Me)Cy]_2$ (35); (c) molecular structure of $\{Zn(S_2CNMe_2)_2\}_2$ (49) where the molecule has 2-fold symmetry; and (d) molecular structure of $\{Zn(S_2CNEt_2)_2\}_2$ (53) where the molecule is disposed about a centre of inversion. The dashed bonds in (c) and (d) represent transannular $Zn\cdots S$ interactions.

The vast majority of the binary zinc dithiocarbamates are binuclear, adopting one of two motifs. The common feature of each motif is that there are equal numbers of chelating and bidentate bridging dithiocarbamate ligands, resulting in central, eight membered [-SCSZn]₂ rings. Transannular Zn···S interactions are noted within these rings. The differences between the motifs arise as a result of the relative disposition of the chelating ligands. In motif **N**, illustrated in Figure 8c for [Zn(S₂CNMe₂)₂]₂ (**49**) [76], both chelating rings are on the same side of the molecule, that is, the molecules have 2-fold or

close to 2-fold symmetry. In motif **O**, illustrated in Figure 8d for $[Zn(S_2CNEt_2)_2]_2$ (**53**) [79], the chelating molecules lie on opposite sides of the central ring, that is, the molecules are disposed around a centre of inversion or are close to centrosymmetric. In terms of the central [-SCSZn]_2 rings, in motif **N**, they adopt a boat form, whereas in motif **O**, they have the form of a chair. Of the 46 binuclear structures, four adopt motif **N** and 42 adopt motif **O**.

Motif **N** is adopted by four molecules, with **49**, **50**, and **52** each having crystallographically-imposed 2-fold symmetry, whereas **51** has pseudo 2-fold symmetry only. That there is a fine balance between the symmetry in the structures conforming to motif **N** is found in the polymorphs of $\{Zn(S_2CN(n-Bu)_2)_2\}_2$, whereby **50** [77] is strictly symmetric and **51** [78] is not. The chelating dithiocarbamate ligands form very similar Zn-S bond lengths, with differences between them typically less than 0.1 Å, but those formed by the bidentate bridging ligands are even more symmetric. A common feature of each structure is the formation of transannular Zn···S interactions involving the bridging-sulphur atoms with separations normally in the range of 2.9–3.1 Å. Hence, the coordination geometry is described as S₄ + 1. With τ [50] values between 0.39 (**49**) and 0.64 (**51**), the resultant coordination geometries are intermediate between the ideal square-pyramidal ($\tau = 0.0$) and trigonal-bipyramidal ($\tau = 1.0$).

The majority of the binary zinc(II) dithiocarbamates adopt the binuclear motif O, with the overwhelming majority of these molecules being disposed about a crystallographic centre of inversion. There is only one exception to this rule, whereby the binuclear molecule found in $\{Zn[S_2CN(Me)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_2$ (76) [83] is disposed by a non-crystallographic inversion centre. This structure is a methanol solvate [83]. The same binuclear molecule is found in a di-hydrate (75) and is centrosymmetric [96]. The persistence of the centrosymmetric motif is also seen in the structures of $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2CH_2)_2NPh]_2\}_2$ (67) [92] and $\{Zn[S_2CN(Me)Et]_2\}_2$ (70) [94] for each of which there are two crystallographically independent binuclear molecules, each disposed about a centre of inversion. The general trend in the observed Zn-S bond lengths for structures adopting motif N is also found for molecules adopting motif **O**, in that the bridging dithiocarbamate ligands form more symmetric Zn-S bonds than the chelating ligands. There are two sets of solvato-polymorphs amongst the compounds adopting motif **O**. The first, {Zn[S₂CN(Et)Ph]₂}₂, is dimorphic, crystallising in monoclinic $(P2_1/c)$ and triclinic (P⁻¹) space groups, that is, 83 [101] and 84 [102], respectively. The second set of polymorphs is found for trimorphic $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2CH_2OH)_2]_2\}_2$, which crystallises in orthorhombic (Pbcn; 57) [83], monoclinic (C2/c; 58) [84], and triclinic (P⁻¹; 59) [85] space groups. The molecules with motif N adopt S₄ + 1 coordination geometries that are highly distorted. Using the values of τ [50] as a measure, the coordination geometry most closely resembling an ideal square-pyramidal geometry $(\tau = 0.0)$ is found in the triclinic polymorph of $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2CH_2OH)_2]_2\}_2$ (59) [85], with $\tau = 0.16$, and the one with a geometry resembling a trigonal-bipyramid ($\tau = 1.0$) is found in the structure of $\{Zn[S_2CN(Me)CH_2-5-1,3-benzodioxol]_2\}_2$ (79) [74], with $\tau = 0.62$.

The adoption of motif mononuclear **M** as opposed to binuclear **N** and **O** can be partially explained in terms of the steric bulk of the nitrogen-bound substituents. For example, $Zn(S_2CNCy_2)_2$ (**37**) [25], with bulky cyclohexyl groups, is mononuclear, but when one cyclohexyl group is substituted by a smaller ethyl group to give { $Zn[S_2CN(Et)Cy]_2$ } (**82**) [25], the binuclear **O** motif is formed. That other factors coming into play are evidenced by the structure of { $Zn[S_2CN(Me)Cy]_2$ } (**39**) [66], where the ethyl group of **82** is replaced by a methyl group, as **39** adopts mononuclear motif, **M**. This fine balance is no better exemplified by the structure of { $Zn[S_2CN(i-Bu)_2]_2$ } (**95**) [107], whereby two independent molecules comprise the crystallographic asymmetric unit, one mononuclear (motif **M**), and the other binuclear (motif **O**); neither molecule has crystallographic symmetry.

The five remaining structures to be described in this section carry potential nitrogen donor atoms in their nitrogen-bound substituents. In $\{\text{Zn}[\text{S}_2\text{CN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NMe}]_2\}_n$ (96) [108], one of the nitrogen atoms of the 4-methylpiperazine residue coordinates a symmetry-related zinc atom to generate a one-dimensional coordination polymer with a zig-zag topology, as illustrated in Figure 9a. The resulting NS₄ donor set is intermediate between the ideal square-pyramidal ($\tau = 0.0$) and trigonal-bipyramidal ($\tau = 1.0$) coordination geometries, as seen in the value of $\tau = 0.56$ [50].

The structure of **96** is assigned motif **P**. Two structures, $\{Zn[S_2CN(Benzyl)CH_2(3-py)]_2\}_n$ (**97**) [**72**], Figure 9b, and $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2ferrocenyl)CH_2(3-py)]_2\}_n$ (**98**) [**10**9], adopt motif **Q**, which is binuclear and located about a centre of inversion. Here, only one of the dithiocarbamate ligands employs the nitrogen atom in coordination with the second pyridyl-nitrogen atom being non-coordinating. In motif **Q**, the resulting aggregate is a dimer. The NS₄ donor set in **97** is close to a square-pyramid with $\tau = 0.20$ and the nitrogen atom occupying the apical position. With a value of $\tau = 0.36$, the coordination geometry in **98** is less regular than in **97**. A coordination polymer with a zig-zag topology is found in the crystal of $\{Zn[S_2CN(Et)CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ **99** [**110**] as one of the dithiocarbamate ligands is bridging in a μ_2 - κ^3 coordination mode via two sulphur atoms and the pyridyl-nitrogen atom, Figure **9**c; the other dithiocarbamate ligand for each of the two independent $Zn[S_2CN(Et)CH_2(4-py)]_2$ residues is chelating. The NS₄ coordination geometries are based on square-pyramidal geometries with $\tau = 0.23$ and 0.32 [**110**]. Despite having a pyridyl- rather than an amine-nitrogen donor, the structure of **99** is assigned to motif **P** as for **96**.



Figure 9. (a) One-dimensional coordination polymer in $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2CH_2)_2NMe]_2\}_n$ (96); (b) molecular structure of dimeric $\{Zn[S_2CN(Benzyl)CH_2(3-py)]_2\}_n$ (97); and (c) one-dimensional coordination polymer in $\{Zn[S_2CN(Et)CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ (99).

The final binary zinc dithiocarbamate structure to be described, $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2ferrocenyl) CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ (100) [109], also carries pyridyl-nitrogen atoms in the organic substituents and in this case, both participate in coordination to symmetry-related zinc atoms. The resulting aggregation is

of a two-dimensional layer. As seen in the upper view of Figure 10, the layer is flat, with the ferrocenyl residues lying to either side. The N_2S_4 donor set in motif **R** is trans-octahedral.

3.3.2. Cadmium Dithiocarbamates

Several of the motifs adopted by the binary cadmium(II) dithiocarbamates, **101–141** [98,111–137], are closely related to those observed for their zinc counterparts. Over and above these, are several unprecedented polymeric structures. There is a complete lack of mononuclear, tetrahedral structures (motif **M**), reflecting the propensity of cadmium(II) to increase its coordination number. Data for the 41 known Cd(S₂CNRR')₂ structures are collated in Table 4.

Compound	R/R′	Donor set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
101	n-Bu/n-Bu	S ₅	Ν	dimer	[111]
102	Et/Et	S_5	0	dimer	[112,113]
103	n-Pr/n-Pr	S_5	О	dimer	[114]
104	i-Pr/i-Pr	S_5	О	dimer	[115]
105	$CH_2C(H)=CH_2/CH_2C(H)=CH_2$	S_5	0	dimer	[116]
106	i-Bu/i-Bu	S_5	0	dimer	[117]
107 1	Cy/Cy	S_5	0	dimer	[118]
108 ²	Benzyl/Benzyl	S_5	0	dimer	[119]
109 ³	Benzyl/Benzyl	S_5	0	dimer	[120]
110	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S_5	0	dimer	[121]
111	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5$	S_5	О	dimer	[122]
112 ⁴	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5$	S_5	0	dimer	[123]
113	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5 Me$	S_5	0	dimer	[124]
114	$\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R}' = (\mathbf{CH}_2)_6$	S_5	0	dimer	[125]
115	Me/Ph	S_5	0	dimer	[126]
116	Et/Cy	S_5	0	dimer	[118]
117	n-Pr/i-Pr	S_5	0	dimer	[127]
118 ⁵	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S_5	0	dimer	[128]
119 ⁶	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S_5	0	dimer	[129]
120 ⁷	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S_5	0	dimer	[129]
121	Benzyl/CH ₂ (2-furyl)	S_5	0	dimer	[130]
122	Benzyl/CH ₂ C ₆ H ₄ -3-Cl	S_5	0	dimer	[131]
123	Benzyl/CH ₂ C ₆ H ₄ -4-Cl	S_5	0	dimer	[73]
124	$Me/(CH_2)_3NMe_2$	NS_4	Q	dimer	[132]
125	$CH_2(3-py)/R^{1.8}$	NS_4	Q	dimer	[133]
126	$CH_2C_6H_4$ -4- $Cl/CH_2(furyl)$	$2 \times S_5 + S_6$	S	trimer	[131]
127	$CH_2C_6H_4$ -4-Me/CH ₂ (furyl)	$2 \times S_5 + S_6$	S	trimer	[133]
128	$Me/(CH_2)_2NMe_2$	NS_4	Т	polymer	[134]
129 ⁹	$Et/CH_2(4-py)$	N_2S_4	U	double-layer	[135]
130	Benzyl/CH ₂ (3-py)	N_2S_4	R	layer	[133]
131	CH ₂ (furyl)/CH ₂ (3-py)	N_2S_4	R	layer	[133]
132	CH ₂ (thiophen-2-yl)/CH ₂ (3-py)	N_2S_4	R	layer	[133]
133	$CH_2(ferrocenyl)/CH_2(3-py)$	N_2S_4	R	layer	[109]
134	CH ₂ (3-py)/CH ₂ (3-py)	N_2S_4	R	layer	[133]
135	Me/Me	S_6	V	polymer	[136]
136 ¹⁰	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S ₆	V	polymer	[129]
137	Benzyl/R ²¹¹	S ₆	V	polymer	[131]
138	CH ₂ (furyl)/CH ₂ C ₆ H ₄ -4-F	S ₆	V	polymer	[131]
139	CH ₂ (furyl)/CH ₂ C ₆ H ₄ -4-NO ₂	S ₆	V	polymer	[131]
140	$Me/CH_2C(H)(OMe)_2$	S ₆	W	polymer	[98]
141 ¹²	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S ₆	W	polymer	[128]

Table 4. Summary of the general features of Cd(S₂CNRR')₂ structures 101–141.

¹ di-dichloromethane solvate; ² P2₁/n polymorph; ³P⁻¹ polymorph; ⁴ mono-benzene solvate; ⁵ di-ethanol solvate; ⁶ di-acetonitrile solvate di-hydrate; ⁷ 1:2 co-crystal with 3-isopropyl-1,3-oxazolidine-2-thione; ⁸ R¹ is 1H-indol-3-ylmethyl; ⁹ 3-methylpyridine solvate; ¹⁰ ethanol hemi-solvate; ¹¹ R² is 1,3-benzodioxol-5-CH₂; ¹² 1/₃ acetonitrile solvate.



Figure 10. Two views (**a**) side-on and (**b**) perpendicular to the two-dimensional layer in the structure of $\{Zn[S_2CN(CH_2 \text{ferrocenyl})CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ (**100**).

There is a sole example of a cadmium dithiocarbamate adopting motif **N**, that is, a 2-fold symmetric, binuclear structure with equal numbers of chelating and bridging dithiocarbamate ligands. This structure, $\{Cd[S_2CN(n-Bu)_2]_2\}_2$ (101) [111], Figure 11a, exhibits a very narrow range of Cd-S bond lengths, 2.55 and 2.59 Å for the chelating ligand and 2.51 and 2.61 Å for the bridging ligand. The transannular Cd-S interaction is considerably shorter at 2.89 Å than the equivalent interaction observed for the zinc analogues and therefore, the cadmium centre can be considered as five-coordinate. The S₅ donor set, with a value of $\tau = 0.50$, is exactly intermediate between ideal square-pyramidal ($\tau = 0.0$) and trigonal-pyramidal ($\tau = 1.0$) geometries [50].

A considerably larger number of binuclear $[Cd(S_2CNRR')_2]_2$ structures, that is, 22, adopt the centrosymmetric analogue of motif **N**, that is, motif **O**, with archetypical $[Cd(S_2CNEt_2)_2]_2$ (**102**) [112,113] shown in Figure 11b. In most structures, the range of chelating and bridging Cd-S bond lengths is quite narrow, with the narrowest range of 2.58 to 2.59 Å being found in $\{Cd[S_2CN(CH_2)_5-4-Me]\}_2$ (**113**) [124]. There is only one exceptional structure where the Cd-S bond lengths span a considerably greater range, that is, in $\{Cd[S_2CN(i-Pr)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_2$ (**120**), isolated in a 1:2 co-crystal with 3-isopropyl-1,3-oxazolidine-2-thione [129], where the Cd-S bond lengths span a range of about 0.30 Å, that is, with bridging Cd-S bond lengths of 2.42 and 2.56 Å, and chelating bonds of 2.51 and 2.71 Å. The latter structure also presents the longest transannular contact of 3.05 Å. In the rest of the structures, these interactions are usually less than 2.85 Å, and as short as 2.74 Å, as in $\{Cd[S_2CN(i-Pr)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_2$ (**119**) [129], isolated as a di-acetonitrile solvate, di-hydrate. The coordination geometries tend to be closer to square-pyramidal for the molecules in this category. The most extreme coordination geometry is found in $\{Cd[S_2CN(Benzyl)CH_2(2-furyl)]_2\}_2$ (**121**) [130] with $\tau = 0.0$, with the bridging-sulphur atom occupying the apical position. Only three of the molecules have values of $\tau > 0.50$, for example, $\{Cd[S_2CN(n-Pr)-i-Pr]_2\}_2$ (**117**) [127] ($\tau = 0.51$) and {Cd[S₂CN(n-Pr)CH₂C₆H₄-3-Cl]₂}₂ (**122**) [131] ($\tau = 0.62$). The third structure, {Cd[S₂CN(CH₂)₅]₂}₂ (**111**) [122], has two independent molecules in the crystallographic asymmetric unit, with one of the molecules having $\tau = 0.54$ and the other having $\tau = 0.39$. The {Cd[S₂CN(Benzyl)₂]₂}₂ compound has been characterised in two polymorphs. In the triclinic form, **108** [119], $\tau = 0.54$, and in the monoclinic form, **109** [120], with two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit, the values of τ compute to 0.01 and 0.42.

The flexibility in the $[Cd(S_2CNRR')_2]_2$ molecules adopting motif **O** is clearly appreciated when one compares the pairs of structures **108** and **109** (coordination geometries), and **118** and **119** (Cd-S bond lengths).

Two molecules, that is, $\{Cd[S_2CN(Me)(CH_2)_3NMe_2]_2\}_2$ (124) [134], Figure 11c, and $\{Cd[S_2CNCH_2 (3-py)(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)]_2\}_2$ (125) [133], adopt binuclear motif **Q** owing to the coordination of a nitrogen atom of an organic substituent to a symmetry related cadmium atom; both binuclear species are centrosymmetric. The five-coordinate indicator, τ , is 0.22 for 124 with the nitrogen atom in the apical position, and 0.42 for 125, indicating a more distorted geometry.

A new motif, trinuclear motif **S**, is found in two structures, namely {Cd[S₂CN(CH₂C₆H₄-4-X) CH₂(furyl)]₂}₃, for isostructural X = Me (**126**) [131] and X = Cl (**127**) [133], Figure 11d. The motif sees a central Cd(dithiocarbamate)₂ residue associated with two other residues so that the cadmium atoms in the outer molecules have S₅ coordination geometries, resembling the situation in motif **O**. By contrast, the central cadmium atom is six-coordinate within a S₆ donor set; each trinuclear molecule is located on a centre of inversion. In **126**, the range of Cd-S bond lengths for the five-coordinate cadmium atom is 2.55 to 2.65 Å with the transannular distance being 2.71 Å, and the value of τ is 0.30. The Cd-S bond lengths for the central cadmium span a wider range, that is, 2.59 to 2.89 Å. The equivalent parameters in **127** present very similar features and the same value for τ .



Figure 11. Molecular structures of (a) dimeric (2-fold symmetry) $Cd[S_2CN(n-Bu)_2]_2$ (101), (b) dimeric (inversion symmetry) $Cd[S_2CN(n-Bu)_2]_2$ (102), (c) dimeric $Cd[S_2CN(Me)(CH_2)_3NMe_2]_2$ (124), and (d) trimeric $Cd[S_2CN(CH_2C_6H_4-4-Me)CH_2(furyl)]_2$ (127).

The remaining binary cadmium dithiocarbamate structures are polymeric owing to coordination by amine- or pyridyl-nitrogen atoms or by bridging dithiocarbamate ligands. In {Cd[S₂CN(Me) (CH₂)₂NMe₂]₂_n (**128**) [134], a one-dimensional array is formed as a result of the coordination of an amine-nitrogen atom to a symmetry-related cadmium atom, Figure 12a. This chain resembles motif **P**, except that the topology in **128** is helical so it is assigned as motif **T**. The NS₄ donor set is almost perfectly between the ideal square-pyramidal (t = 0.0) and trigonal-bipyramidal (τ = 1.0), having a value of τ = 0.53 [50]. A new motif, motif **U**, is found in the crystal of {Cd[S₂CN(Et)CH₂(4py)]₂}_n (**129**) [135]. Here, both dithiocarbamate ligands are S,S-chelating one cadmium atom and at the same bridging different cadmium atoms so as to form a double-layer, Figure 12b. This arrangement defines square channels in which solvent 3-methylpyridine molecules reside (not shown). The resultant N_2S_4 donor set is based on an octahedron and, crucially, the nitrogen donors occupy mutually cis-positions. In a clear difference, the remaining five structures with potential pyridyl-nitrogen atoms feature trans- N_2S_4 donor sets. This arrangement allows for the formation of two-dimensional arrays reminiscent of motif **R**, and an exemplar, Cd[S₂CN(Benzyl)CH₂(3-py)]₂]_n (130) [133], is illustrated in Figure 12c.



Figure 12. Images of (**a**) one-dimensional $\{Cd[S_2CN(Me)(CH_2)_2NMe_2]_2\}_n$ (**128**); (**b**) the double-layer in $\{Cd[S_2CN(Et)CH_2(3-py)]_2\}_n$ (**129**); and (**c**) two-dimensional $\{Cd[S_2CN(Benzyl)CH_2(3-py)]_2\}_n$ (**130**).

The distinctive feature in the seven crystals of **135–141** [98,128,129,131,136] is that each of the dithiocarbamate ligands adopts a $\mu_2 \kappa^3$ -coordination mode, leading to octahedral S₆ coordination geometries and one-dimensional chains. Five of the structures feature 2-fold symmetry with the cadmium atom located on the axis, whereas the chains are propagated by crystallographic inversion symmetry in the remaining two structures. Two views of the chain for [Cd(S₂CNMe)₂]_n (**135**) [136], being an exemplar for motif **V**, are shown in Figure 13a, and equivalent views for {Cd[S₂CN(i-Pr)CH₂CH₂OH]₂}_n (**141**) [128], motif **W**, are shown in Figure 13b. The key difference between the chains, both of which have twisted topologies, is found in the orientation of the nitrogen-bound substituents, which are directed in the same direction in motif **V**, reflecting the

2-fold symmetry, but in different directions for motif **W**, this time reflecting the inversion symmetry. The chains found in **136** [129] and **141** [128], that is, adopting motifs **S** and **T**, respectively, are supramolecular isomers [137], suggesting relatively small energy differences between the motifs. Further, solutions of each of **136** and **141** converted over time, within hours, into the dimeric motif **O**, that is, into **118** [128] and **119** [129], respectively, are consistent with the notion that the commonly observed binuclear motif is the thermodynamic outcome of the crystallisation of these compounds.



Figure 13. Side- and end-on views of one-dimensional chains in the crystals of (**a**) $[Cd(S_2CNMe)_2]_n$ (135) and (**b**) $\{Cd[S_2CN(i-Pr)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_n$ (141). Additional colour code: hydrogen, green.

3.3.3. Mercury Dithiocarbamates

Unlike the foregoing binary zinc(II) and cadmium(II) dithiocarbamates, the structural chemistry of the mercury(II) analogues features quite extensive supramolecular association based on secondary Hg \cdots S interactions [138]. Key geometric data for the 44 Hg(S₂CNRR')₂ structures, **142–185** [39,70,101,105,139–163], described in this section are listed in Table 5. The exceptional series of structures, at least in terms of forming intermolecular Hg \cdots S interactions, are strictly monomeric **142–145** [139–142], illustrated for Hg[S₂CN(i-Pr)₂]₂ (**142**) [139] in Figure 14a, as there are no intermolecular Hg \cdots S contacts less than 4.0 Å in their respective crystals. Each of the four structures has the mercury atom lying as a 2-fold axis of symmetry and conforms to motif **M**, that is, distorted tetrahedral geometry within an S₄ donor set. In Hg(S₂CNCy₂)₂ (**143**) [140], the dithiocarbamate ligand chelates the mercury centre with symmetric Hg-S bond lengths of 2.53 and 2.54 Å, and the widest S-Hg-S angle is 142°. At the other extreme, for Hg(S₂CNBenzyl₂)₂ (**144**) [141], the dithiocarbamate ligand coordinates with asymmetric Hg-S bond lengths of 2.40 and 2.79 Å, and with the widest angle of 160° formed between the more tightly bound sulphur atoms.

Compounds 146–155 [39,70,101,105,143–147] also adopt motif **M**, but lack the symmetry exhibited by 142–145. The dithiocarbamate ligands generally coordinate with disparate Hg-S bond lengths, with the differences between the short and long bonds usually being 0.3–0.4 Å. Supramolecular molecular association between centrosymmetrically-related molecules is always found in 146–155, with intermolecular Hg[…] S separations ranging from a short 3.18 Å in Hg[S₂CN (CH₂CH₂OH)CH₂(ferrocenyl)]₂ (155) [70] to a long 3.85 Å in Hg[S₂CN(Benzyl)CH₂(1-Me-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)] (152) [146], much in the same way as discussed above for the transition of zinc dithiocarbamates between motifs **M** and **O**, see Figure 8. For mercury and sulphur, the sum of the van der Waals radii is assumed to be 3.35 Å [20]. An exemplar for the tendency towards dimerization in the mercury dithiocarbamates is shown in Figure 14b for Hg[S₂CN(CH₂)₄NCH₂C(H)=C(H)Ph] (147) [144].

Mononuclear motifs are also found for **156–160** [72,148–151], with the major difference being that the S₄ donor set is strictly square-planar, with the mercury atom located on a crystallographic centre of inversion in all cases except for $Hg[S_2CN(CH_2CH_2OH)_2]_2$ (**160**) [151]. Accordingly, this

series is assigned motif **U**. The dithiocarbamate ligands for motif **U** coordinate in an asymmetric mode, with the differences between long and short Hg-S bonds being around 0.6 Å; this contrasts with the symmetric square-planar geometries observed for motif **D**. The widest angle in the square-plane is 180° for all structures adopting motif **X**, including for non-symmetric Hg[S₂CN(CH₂CH₂OH)₂]₂ (**160**) [151]. The alteration in geometry and increased asymmetry in the Hg-S bond lengths correlates with the formation of two intermolecular Hg···S interactions, leading to linear supramolecular chains in the respective crystals. The Hg···S separations range from 3.18 Å for one of the contacts in Hg[S₂CN(CH₂CH₂OH)₂]₂ (**160**) [151] to 3.40 Å in Hg(S₂CNMe)₂ (**156**) [148]. This supramolecular association is shown in Figure 14c for Hg(S₂CNEt₂)₂ (**157**) [150]. The extended coordination geometry is S₄ + S₂, with the weakly associated sulphur atoms mutually trans.

Compound	R/R′	Donor Set	Motif	Designation	Ref.
142	i-Pr/i-Pr	S ₄	М	monomer	[139]
143	Cy/Cy	S_4	М	monomer	[140]
144	Benzyl/Benzyl	S_4	М	monomer	[141]
145	$R + R' = (CH_2)_4$	S_4	М	monomer	[142]
146	i-Bu/i-Bu	S_4	K	monomer	[143]
147	$R + R' = (CH_2)_4 NCH_2 C(H) = C(H)Ph$	S_4	Μ	monomer	[144]
148	$N(RR') = R^{11}$	S_4	М	monomer	[145]
149 ²	Et/Ph	S_4	М	monomer	[101]
150	i-Pr/Cy	S_4	М	monomer	[143]
151 ³	Me/Ph; n-Bu/Ph	S_4	М	monomer	[105]
152	Benzyl/CH ₂ (1-Me-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)	S_4	М	monomer	[146]
153	Benzyl/CH ₂ (ferrocenyl)	S_4	М	monomer	[147]
154	$CH_2(3-py)/CH_2(1-Me-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)$	S_4	М	monomer	[39]
155	$CH_2CH_2OH/CH_2(ferrocenyl)$	S_4	Μ	monomer	[70]
156	Me/Me	S_4	Х	monomer	[148]
157	Et/Et	S_4	Х	monomer	[149]
158	$Benzyl/CH_2(3-py)$	S_4	Х	monomer	[72]
159	$Benzyl/CH_2(4-py)$	S_4	Х	monomer	[150]
160	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	S_4	Х	monomer	[151]
161	n-Bu/CH ₂ (1H-pyrrol-2-yl)	S_4	Y	monomer	[152]
162	CH ₂ (4-py)/CH ₂ (1H-pyrrol-2-yl)	S_4	Z	monomer	[146]
163	Et/Et	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[149,153]
164	i-Pr/i-Pr	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[154]
165	n-Bu/n-Bu	$S_4 + 1$	Ν	dimer	[143]
166	$\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R}' = (\mathbf{CH}_2)_4$	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[155]
167	$R + R' = (CH_2)_5Me$	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[156]
168	$\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R}' = (\mathbf{CH}_2)_6$	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[157]
169	$CH_2(2-furyl)/CH_2(2-furyl)$	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[158]
170	Me/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[159]
171	$Me/(CH_2)_2Ph$	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[160]
172	Et/Cy	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[143]
173	Et/Ph	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[161]
174	i-Pr/CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	$S_4 + 1$	О	dimer	[162]
175	Benzyl/CH ₂ (2-furyl)	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[158]
176	$(CH_2)_2 Ph/CH_2(2-furyl)$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[163]
177	(CH ₂) ₂ Ph/CH ₂ CH ₂ (thiophen-2-yl)	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[163]
178	$CH_2(3-py)/CH_2(ferrocenyl)$	$S_4 + 1$	0	dimer	[109]
179 ³	$CH_2(3-py)/CH_2(1-naphthyl)$	NS_4	Q	dimer	[39]
180 ⁴	$NRR' = R^{25}$	$2 \times S_5 + S_6$	S	trimer	[145]
181	$Me/CH_2(4-py)$	NS_4	Z	polymer	[72]
182	CH ₂ (3-py)/CH ₂ (1,3-benzodioxo-5-yl)	NS_4	Р	polymer	[72]
183	$CH_2(4-py)/CH_2(2-furyl)$	N_2S_4	R	layer	[72]
184	$(CH_2)_2Ph/CH_2(3-py)$	NS_5	AA	polymer	[72]
185	(CH ₂) ₂ Ph/CH ₁₄₃ (1H-pyrrol-2-yl)	S ₆	V	polymer	[152]

Table 5. Summary of the general features of Hg(S₂CNRR')₂ structures 142–185.

 1 R¹ is 3,4-dihydroquinoline-1(2H); 2 tolyl hemi-solvate; 3 mono-ethanol solvate; 4 mono-pyridine solvate; 5 R² is 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline.



Figure 14. (a) Molecular structure of monomeric Hg[S₂CN(i-Pr)₂]₂ (**142**). Supramolecular association via Hg \cdots S secondary bonding interactions: (b) loosely associated dimer in Hg[S₂CN(CH₂)₄ NCH₂C(H)=C(H)Ph] (**147**) (Hg \cdots S = 3.47 Å); (c) linear supramolecular chain in the crystal of Hg(S₂CNEt₂)₂ (**157**) (Hg \cdots S = 3.29 Å); (d) twisted chain in Hg[S₂CN(n-Bu)CH₂(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)] (**161**) (Hg \cdots S = 3.48 and 3.61 Å); and (e) twisted chain in Hg[S₂CN[CH₂(4-py)]CH₂(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)] (**162**) (Hg \cdots S = 3.82 Å). The dashed Hg \cdots S bonds in (**b**–**e**) represent secondary bonding interactions.

Supramolecular aggregation via intermolecular Hg \cdots S secondary bonding interactions is also found in each of Hg[S₂CN(n-Bu)CH₂(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)] (**161**) [152] and Hg{S₂CN[CH₂(4-py)]CH₂(1Hpyrrol-2-yl)} (**162**) [146]. In **161**, relatively small differences in the Hg-S bond lengths, that is, 2.48 to 2.65 Å, are noted in the distorted tetrahedral geometry, with the widest angle being 138°. The sulphur atoms forming the shorter Hg-S bonds form bridging interactions (Hg \cdots S = 3.48 and 3.61 Å) to symmetry-related molecules to sustain a weakly associated chain with a twisted topology, Figure 14d. The molecule in **162** has the mercury atom located on a 2-fold axis of symmetry, with the dithiocarbamate chelating with similar Hg-S bond lengths of 2.50 and 2.64 Å and the widest angle being 142°. Molecules also self-associate via very weak Hg \cdots S interactions of 3.82 Å to form a twisted one-dimensional aggregation pattern, as shown in Figure 14e. Each of the independent supramolecular synthons in **161** is symmetric, four-membered { \cdots S-Hg}₂, and with a rectangular appearance. By contrast, in **162**, the synthon is non-symmetric { \cdots S-Hg-S \cdots Hg} and has the appearance of a distorted diamond. With these differences, the structures found in **161** and **162** are assigned as motifs **Y** and **Z**, respectively.

The familiar binuclear motif seen in the zinc and cadmium dithiocarbamates is adopted by 16 mercury dithiocarbamate structures, **163–178** [109,143,149,153–163]. Being 2-fold symmetric, $\{Hg[S_2CN(n-Bu)_2]_2\}_2$ (**165**) [143] is assigned motif **N**, with the rest of the molecules being motif **O**. With two exceptions, the molecules adopting motif **O** are centrosymmetric; in $\{Hg[S_2CN(Benzyl) CH_2(2-furyl)\}_2$ (**175**) [158], two independent centrosymmetric molecules comprise the asymmetric unit, and in $\{Hg[S_2CN(Me)CH_2Ph]_2\}_2$ (**171**) [160], the molecule crystallises across a non-crystallographic

centre. The mercury containing structures resemble the zinc analogues more than the cadmium structures, as the transannular Hg... S interaction is generally long, at least when compared to the sum of the van der Waals radii of 3.35 Å [20]. Hence, the coordination geometry is best described as being based on an $S_4 + 1$ arrangement. The values calculated for τ [50] indicate geometries tending towards square-pyramidal ($\tau = 0.0$), with the minimum value of 0.01 being found for $\{Hg[S_2CN(i-Pr)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_2$ (174) [162], and with all other structures, but one, having t < 0.32. The exceptional structure, $[Hg[S_2CN[CH_2(3-py)]CH_2(2-ferrocenyl)]_2]_2$ (178) [109], has a τ value of 0.52. $\{Hg[S_2CN(n-Bu)_2]_2\}_2$ (165) [143], having motif L, had a value of $\tau = 0.48$. There are non-systematic variations in the Hg-S bond lengths although the range of the Hg-S bond lengths is relatively narrow, as exemplified by the aforementioned $\{Hg[S_2CN(Benzyl)CH_2(2-furyl)]_2\}_2$ (175) [158] structure, with two independent molecules, where the range of Hg-S bond lengths of 2.46 to 2.73 Å encompasses most of the Hg-S separations in the other structures, with two exceptions. Before discussing these, it is relevant to note the range of transannular interactions within the eight-membered {-HgSCS}₂ ring, that is, 3.03 Å in $[Hg{S_2CN[CH_2(2-furyl)]_2}_2]_2$ (169) [158] to 3.25 Å for one of the independent molecules in 175. The exceptional structures are $\{Hg[S_2CN(Et)Ph]_2\}_2$ (173) [161] and $\{Hg[S_2CN(i-Pr)CH_2CH_2OH]_2\}_2$ (174) [162], whereby the transannular interactions are shorter than the bridging Hg-S bond to the symmetry-related mercury atom. Under these circumstances, these structures represent a transition from motif **M** to motif **O**, but are assigned to the latter as all Hg-S separations are less than the sum of the respective van der Waals radii.

The capricious behaviour relating to coordination geometries, Hg-S bond lengths, and supramolecular association via Hg...S secondary bonding interactions is no better illustrated than for the pair of structures, mononuclear and square-planar Hg(S₂CNEt₂)₂ (**157**) [149], which self-associates into a supramolecular chain via Hg...S contacts, Figure 14c, and binuclear {Hg(S₂CNEt₂)₂ (**163**) [149,153], Figure 15a; that is, the same compound can adopt either motif **X** or **O**, respectively. Similarly, strictly mononuclear Hg[S₂CN(i-Pr)₂]₂ (**142**) [149], motif **M**, in one polymorph can also adopt binuclear motif **O** in another, as in **164** [154].



Figure 15. Molecular structures of (a) binuclear $[Hg(S_2CNEt_2)_2]_2$ (163); (b) binuclear $[Hg\{S_2CN [CH_2(3-py)]CH_2(1-naphthyl)\}_2]_2$ (179); and (c) trinuclear $[Hg(S_2CNR^2)_2]_3$ (180), where NR² is 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline. The dashed Hg \cdots S bonds represent weak interactions.

The two remaining zero-dimensional aggregates among the binary mercury dithiocarbamates have precedents in their lower congenors. The centrosymmetric binuclear compound, [Hg{S₂CN $[CH_2(3-py)]CH_2(1-naphthyl)]_2$ (179) [39], Figure 15b, has one chelating dithiocarbamate ligand and one bridging ligand, whereby one end chelates a mercury atom and bridges another via the pyridyl-nitrogen atom; this structure conforms to motif \mathbf{Q} . The NS₄ coordination geometry is almost intermediate between the ideal square-pyramidal ($\tau = 0.0$) and trigonal-bipyramidal ($\tau = 1.0$) as the value of τ is calculated to be 0.48. The molecule of $[Hg(S_2CNR^2)_2]_3$ (180) [145] is trinuclear, Figure 15c, and allowing for differences in M-S separations, closely resembles motif S; NR² is 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline. The central mercury atom in 180 is located on a centre of inversion, is coordinated asymmetrically (2.37 and 2.95 Å) by two dithiocarbamate ligands, and is connected to the two outer $Hg(S_2CNR^2)_2$ residues by $Hg\cdots S$ contacts of 3.05 and 3.37 Å, that is, within and just outside the sum of the van der Waals radii value of 3.35 Å [20]. Thus, the coordination geometry for the central mercury atom resembles that seen in motif X, which is best described as $S_4 + S_2$ with the weakly bound sulphur atoms in trans positions. The outer mercury atoms adopt heavily distorted five-coordinate geometries, as seen in the value of $\tau = 0.33$, resembling the geometries found for the majority of structures adopting motif **O**.

There are five binary mercury dithiocarbamate structures that adopt one- or two-dimensional aggregation patterns in their crystals. The first of these, $\{Hg[S_2CN(Me)CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ (181) [72], features an S,S-chelating dithiocarbamate ligand and another which chelates the same mercury atom while at the same time bridging a symmetry-related ligand to form a linear one-dimensional polymer, Figure 16a. The resulting NS₄ donor set is based on a square-pyramidal geometry, with the calculated value of τ being 0.07 compared to the ideal value for a square-pyramid of $\tau = 0.0$ [50]. In this description, the nitrogen atom occupies an apical position. This linear aggregation does not have a precedent herein, so is assigned motif Z. In [Hg{S_2CN[CH_2(4-py)]CH_2(1,3-benzodioxo-5-yl)}_2]_n (182) [72], which has only one pyridyl-nitrogen donor atom per repeat unit, compared with two in 181, a different aggregation pattern is found, Figure 16b. The modes of coordination of the dithiocarbamate ligands in 182 are as for 181 but, in the former, these generate zig-zag chains being propagated by glide-symmetry. The NS₄ donor set is also as for 181 but, the distortion is greater from the ideal geometry, with τ being 0.20. This coordination polymer, with precedents, is assigned as motif P.



Figure 16. One-dimensional aggregation in (a) $\{Hg[S_2CN(Me)CH_2(4-py)]_2\}_n$ (181) and (b) $[Hg\{S_2CN[CH_2(4-py)]CH_2(1,3-benzodioxo-5-yl)\}_2]_n$ (182).

In $\{Hg[S_2CN[CH_2(4-py)]CH_2(2-furyl)]_2\}_n$ (183) [72], both pyridyl-nitrogen atoms are involved in the coordination to mercury, Figure 17, in contrast to the situation in each of 181 and 182. The extra participation of the pyridyl-nitrogen atoms results in a trans-N₂S₄ donor set, a distorted octahedral geometry, and a two-dimensional array with a flat topology, that is, an aggregation pattern conforming to motif **R**.



Figure 17. Two-dimensional aggregation in $\{Hg[S_2CN[CH_2(4-py)]CH_2(2-furyl)]_2\}_n$ (183).

A distinct motif, motif **AA**, is found in the crystal of $[Hg{S_2CN[(CH_2)_2Ph]CH_2(3-py)}_2]_n$ (184) [72]. There are two independent $Hg{S_2CN[(CH_2)_2Ph]CH_2(3-py)}_2$ units in the asymmetric unit and these are connected into a supramolecular polymer. As viewed from Figure 18a, the coordination geometry for each is very similar, with the independent bridging Hg-S distances being 2.90 and 2.92 Å. The relationship to motif **O** is apparent in that each repeat unit participates in one accepting and one donating Hg-S interaction, but in motif **AA**, these occur on either side of the molecule to generate a chain rather than a dimer, as in **O**. The values of τ for each of the independent mercury atoms are equal at 0.57, consistent with highly distorted S₅ coordination geometries. The last structure to be described, that is, $[Hg{S_2CN[(CH_2)_2Ph]CH_2(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)}_2]_n$ (185) [152], conforms to motif **V**, being a linear coordination polymer, Figure 18b, as each dithiocarbamate ligand is tri-connective, chelating one mercury atom while simultaneously bridging another; the mercury atom lies on a 2-fold axis.



Figure 18. One-dimensional aggregation in (a) $[Hg{S_2CN[(CH_2)_2Ph]CH_2(3-py)}_2]_n$ (184) and (b) $[Hg{S_2CN[(CH_2)_2Ph]CH_2(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)}_2]_n$ (185).

4. Overview and Conclusions

The foregoing bibliographic overview highlights the diverse structural chemistry exhibited by the binary zinc-triad 1,1-dithiolates, with 27 distinct structural motifs documented. The observed diversity

in their crystals is correlated, in part, with the different bonding requirements of the zinc, cadmium, and mercury centres. The nature of the 1,1-dithiolate ligand also plays a determining role, with bridging propensities being the greatest for xanthate and dithiophosphate ligands. Dithiocarbamates, by virtue of the significant contribution (40%) of the 2 -S₂C=N⁺RR' anion to the overall electronic structure, are very effective chelators for metal centres and tend to be less likely to be engaged in extensive bridging interactions. In the context of the design of extended networks, this shortcoming can be overcome by incorporating other potential donor atoms in the organic substituents in the ligands, most notably pyridyl-nitrogen donors, to promote supramolecular aggregation. Steric effects exerted by the organic substituents can influence the supramolecular aggregation, in particular by militating weaker M-S bonds/M ··· S secondary bonding interactions. The above notwithstanding, very significant differences are evident among the 27 identified structural motifs, that is, between closely related compounds or even between polymorphs, and the challenge remains to rationalise the appearance of these and ultimately to use this information to predict structures based on chemical composition.

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