

Crystal structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride Form I,  $C_{21}H_{27}ClN_2O_3Cl_2$ James A. Kaduk<sup>1,2,a)</sup>, Amy M. Gindhart,<sup>1,2</sup> and Thomas N. Blanton<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>Illinois Institute of Technology, 3101 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois 60616, USA<sup>2</sup>North Central College, 30 N. Brainard St., Naperville, Illinois 60540, USA<sup>3</sup>ICDD, 12 Campus Blvd., Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073-3273, USA

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The crystal structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride Form I has been solved and refined using synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction data and optimized using density functional techniques. Levocetirizine dihydrochloride Form I apparently crystallizes in space group  $P2_1/n$  (#14) with  $a = 24.1318(21)$ ,  $b = 7.07606(9)$ ,  $c = 13.5205(7)$  Å,  $\beta = 97.9803(4)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2286.38(12)$  Å<sup>3</sup>, and  $Z = 4$ . The crystal structure consists of interleaved double columns of cations and anions along the short  $b$ -axis. The hydrogen bonds link the cations and anions along this axis. Each protonated nitrogen atom forms a strong N–H...Cl hydrogen bond to one of the chloride anions. The carboxylic acid group also forms an H-bond to Cl156, resulting in a ring with a graph set  $RI,2(10)$ . The centrosymmetric  $P2_1/n$  model for the crystal structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride is better than the non-centrosymmetric  $P2_1$  model, even though levocetirizine is a chiral molecule; the sample exhibits weak second-harmonic generation, and three weak peaks which violate the glide plane are observed. The centrosymmetric model is better by statistical, graphical, and energetic measures, as well as by chemical reasonableness. To accommodate the chiral molecule in a centrosymmetric space group, the chiral central carbon atom was disordered over two half-occupied positions, so that each cation site could be occupied by a cation of the correct chirality. A powder pattern from a Le Bail extraction of this synchrotron data set is included in the Powder Diffraction File™ as entry 00-066-1627. © The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of International Centre for Diffraction Data. [doi:10.1017/S0885715621000245]

Key words: levocetirizine dihydrochloride, Xyzal, powder diffraction, Rietveld refinement, density functional theory

## I. INTRODUCTION

Levocetirizine dihydrochloride is an antihistamine used to treat symptoms of hay fever and hives of the skin by reducing the effects of the natural chemical histamine in the body (Xyzal, Levazyr, Levrix). Levocetirizine dihydrochloride is the levorotatory *R*-enantiomer of cetirizine dihydrochloride (Zyrtec). The systematic name (CAS Registry Number 130018-87-0) is 2-(2-{4-[(*R*)-4-chlorophenyl](phenyl)methyl}piperazin-1-yl)ethoxy acetic acid, dihydrochloride salt. A two-dimensional molecular diagram is shown in Figure 1. Low-precision powder patterns of cetirizine dihydrochloride, dextrocetirizine dihydrochloride, and levocetirizine dihydrochloride are included in the Powder Diffraction File™(PDF®) (Gates-Rector and Blanton, 2019) as entries 00-058-1973, 00-058-1974, and 00-058-1975, respectively (Reddy *et al.*, 2004a). Reddy *et al.* (2004a) is equivalent to US Patent Application 2004/0186112 A1 (Reddy *et al.*, 2004b), which claims both crystalline and amorphous forms of levocetirizine dihydrochloride. Acetic acid solvates (with different powder patterns) are claimed in US Patent 8,049,011 B1 (Tihi *et al.*, 2011). A pattern from a Le Bail extraction of the synchrotron data set from the present study is included in the PDF as entry 00-066-1627 (with an incomplete structure), and a star-quality

pattern from laboratory data is included as entry 00-068-0812 (no crystal structure) (Heno, 2016).

This work was carried out as part of a project (Kaduk *et al.*, 2014) to determine the crystal structures of large-volume commercial pharmaceuticals and include high-quality powder diffraction data for them in the PDF (Gates-Rector and Blanton, 2019).

## II. EXPERIMENTAL

Levocetirizine dihydrochloride was a commercial reference standard, purchased from the U.S. Pharmacopeia (Lot

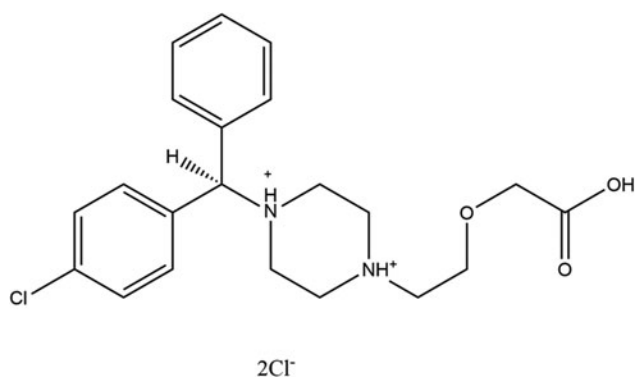


Figure 1. The molecular structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

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#F02180), and was used as-received. The white powder was packed into a 1.5 mm diameter Kapton capillary and rotated during the measurement at  $\sim 50$  Hz. The powder pattern was measured at 295 K at beamline 11-BM (Antao *et al.*, 2008; Lee *et al.*, 2008; Wang *et al.*, 2008) of the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory using a wavelength of 0.414157 Å from 0.5 to 50  $2\theta$  with a step size of  $0.001^\circ$  and a counting time of  $0.1 \text{ s step}^{-1}$ . The high-resolution powder diffraction data were collected using 12 silicon crystal analyzers that allow for high-angular resolution, high precision, and accurate peak positions. A silicon (NIST SRM 640c) and alumina (SRM 676a) standard (ratio  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ : Si = 2:1 by weight) were used to calibrate the instrument and refine the monochromatic wavelength used in the experiment. It is worth noting that the levocetirizine dihydrochloride peaks are much broader than the instrumental line widths and that the intensities die out fairly rapidly with increasing angle, limiting the amount of useful data. The pattern was indexed on a primitive monoclinic unit cell having  $a = 13.536$ ,  $b = 7.080$ ,  $c = 24.070$  Å,  $\beta = 97.9$ ,  $V = 2284.9$  Å<sup>3</sup>, and  $Z = 4$  using Jade (MDI, 2014) and N-TREOR in EXPO2014 (Altomare *et al.*, 2013). Both of these programs, as well as FOX (Favre-Nicolin and Černý, 2002), suggested that the space group was  $P2_1/n$ , which is unexpected for a chiral molecule. A reduced cell search in the Cambridge Structural Database (Groom *et al.*, 2016) combined with the chemistry “C H Cl N O only” yielded 7 hits, but no crystal structure for levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

A connectivity search in the CSD yielded the dipicrate salt WADPIC (Jasinski *et al.*, 2010). The cation was extracted from the structure using Materials Studio 8.0 (Dassault, 2014), saved as a mol2 file, and converted to a Fenske-Hall Z-matrix file using OpenBabel (O’Boyle *et al.*, 2011). The structure was solved in  $P2_1/n$  with FOX (Favre-Nicolin and Černý, 2002) and DASH (David *et al.*, 2006) using the cation and two Cl as fragments.

Although a reasonable refinement could be obtained, the refinement was of a nominally chiral molecule in a

centrosymmetric space group. A second-harmonic generation (SHG) test revealed a weak (though definite; Figure 2) signal, demonstrating that the sample was indeed non-centrosymmetric. A close examination of the powder pattern revealed that peaks indexed as 100 and 20-1 (which violate the  $n$ -glide) were present, though very weak and broader than the strong peaks (Figure 3; the peak at  $1.54^\circ$  is from the Kapton capillary). The 102 peak is also present but is narrower than the other two violating peak peaks. The true symmetry may thus be  $P2_1$ .

The chirality occurs at the central carbon atom of the molecule and is determined by on which side of the carbon the hydrogen atom lies. Difficulty in establishing the chirality using X-ray powder diffraction data might then be expected. The  $P2_1/n$  structure was converted to  $P1$  using Materials Studio (Dassault, 2014). The chirality of the  $S$ -enantiomer molecules was inverted manually, and the symmetry transformed to  $P2_1$ . The lower symmetry means that the asymmetric unit is larger: two levocetirizine dications and four Cl ions.

Density functional geometry optimizations (fixed experimental unit cell) were carried out for both the  $P2_1/n$  and  $P2_1$  models using CRYSTAL14 (Dovesi *et al.*, 2014). The basis sets for the H, C, N, and O atoms were those of Gatti *et al.* (1994), and the basis set for Cl was that of Peintinger *et al.* (2013). The calculations were run on 8 2.1 GHz Xeon cores (each with 6 GB RAM) of a 304-core Dell Linux cluster at IIT, used 8  $k$ -points and the B3LYP functional. Density functional geometry optimizations (fixed experimental unit cell) were also carried out using VASP (Kresse and Furthmüller, 1996) through the MedeA graphical interface (Materials Design, 2016). The calculations were carried out on 16 2.4 GHz processors (each with 4 GB RAM) of a 64-processor HP Proliant DL580 Generation 7 Linux cluster at North Central College. The calculations used the GGA-PBE functional, a plane wave cutoff energy of 400.0 eV, and a  $k$ -point spacing of  $0.5 \text{ Å}^{-1}$  leading to a  $2 \times 2 \times 1$  mesh for  $P2_1/n$  and a  $1 \times 2 \times 1$  mesh for  $P2_1$ . Both CRYSTAL14 and

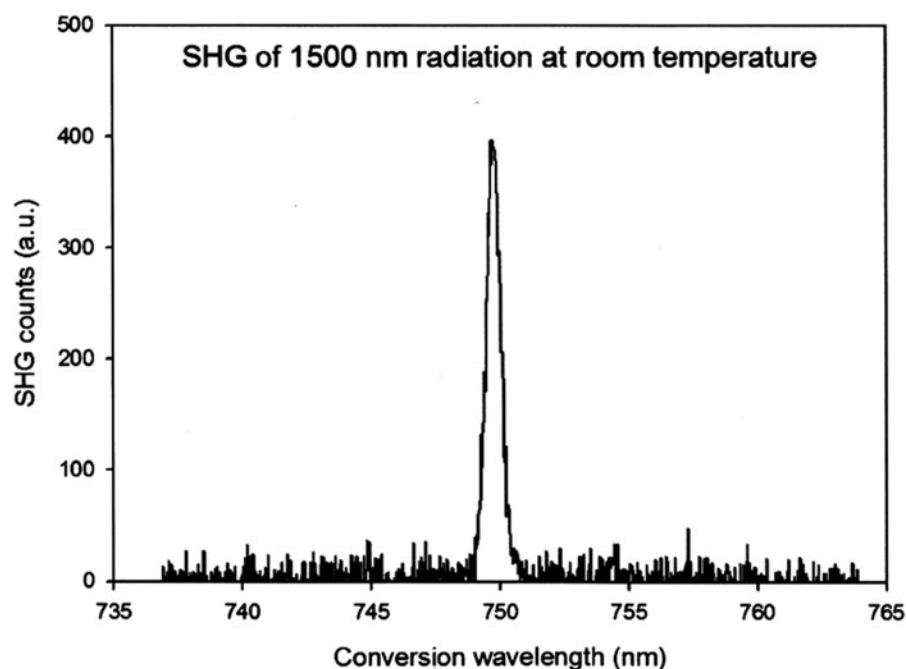


Figure 2. The second-harmonic generation (SHG) signal from levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

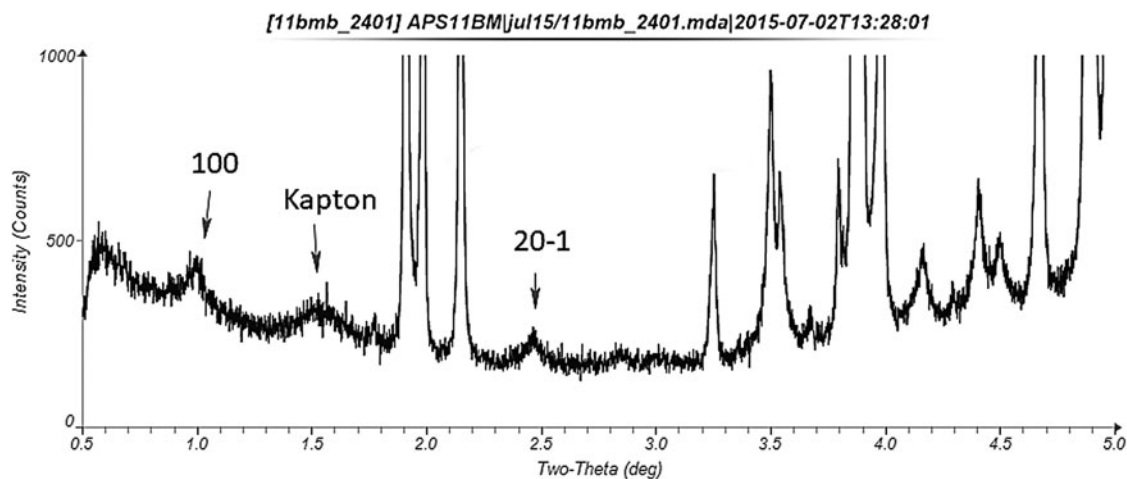


Figure 3. An expanded view of the low-angle portion of the synchrotron powder pattern of levocetirizine dihydrochloride, showing the symmetry-forbidden peaks in  $P2_1/n$ .

VASP suggested that the  $P2_1/n$  structure was lower in energy, by 1.1 and 5.6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

A Rietveld refinement was carried out for the  $P2_1$  model. Despite the larger number of variables (156), it yielded higher residuals ( $R_{wp} \sim 16\%$ ) and unreasonable geometry. The chirality of one of the central carbon atoms inverted from *R* to *S*, and the phenyl-carbon distances to this carbon atom refined to very long values, even though restrained. The refinement also yielded several too-short (overlapping) chloride-atom distances. Either this model is wrong or the limited diffraction data do not support refinement of this more-complex model.

The Rietveld refinement of the  $P2_1/n$  model was carried out using GSAS-II (Toby and Von Dreele, 2013). Only the 1.7–25.0° portion of the pattern was included in the refinement ( $d_{min} = 0.957 \text{ \AA}$ ). The phenyl rings were refined as vector rigid bodies. To permit occupation of site of both chirality by only *R*

molecules, the central carbon atom C22 was modeled as two disordered half-occupancy atoms (along with the bond H atoms). All (non-rigid body) non-H bond distances and angles were subjected to restraints, based on a Mercury/Mogul Geometry Check (Bruno *et al.*, 2004; Sykes *et al.*, 2011) of the molecule. The Mogul average and standard deviation for each quantity were used as the restraint parameters. The restraints contributed 49.9% to the final  $\chi^2$ ; most of this contribution involved the bonds and angles around the disordered central carbon atom. The hydrogen atoms were included in calculated positions, which were recalculated during the refinement using Materials Studio (Dassault, 2014). The  $U_{iso}$  were grouped by chemical similarity; the  $U_{iso}$  for the chloride anions were constrained to be the same. The Cl1 on the phenyl ring was refined anisotropically, even though the refinement yielded a strange ellipsoid. The background was modeled using a 3-term shifted Chebyshev polynomial, along with a

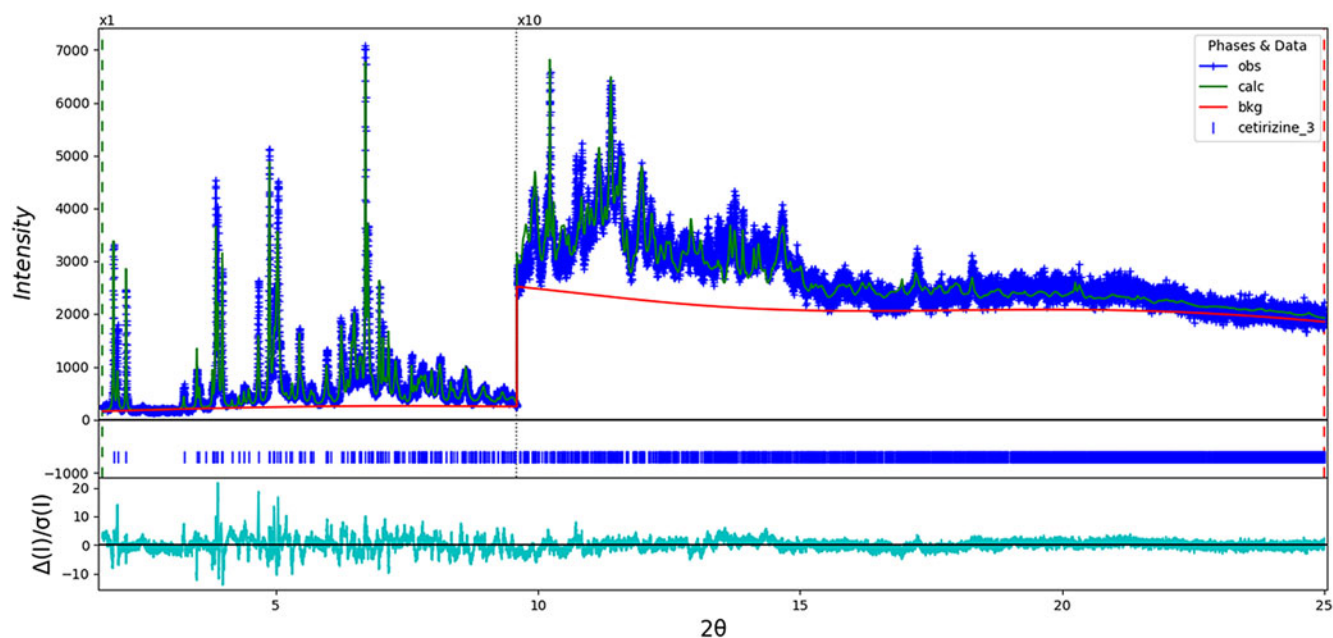


Figure 4. The Rietveld plot for the refinement of levocetirizine dihydrochloride. The blue crosses represent the observed data points, and the green line is the calculated pattern. The cyan curve is the normalized error plot. The vertical scale has been multiplied by a factor of 10× for  $2\theta > 9.6^\circ$ .

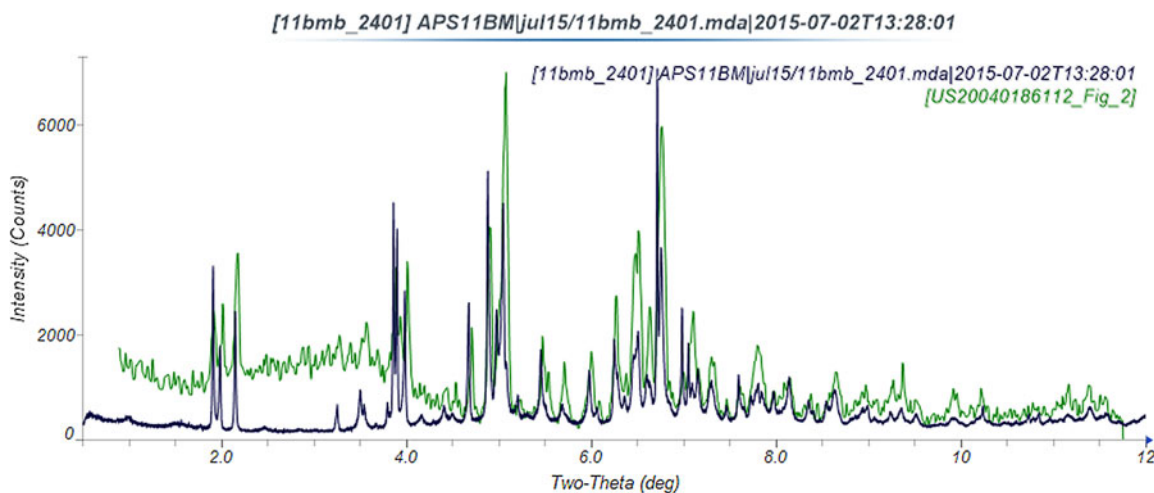


Figure 5. Comparison of the synchrotron pattern from this study of levocetirizine dihydrochloride to the pattern of form I reported by Reddy *et al.* (2004b). The published pattern was digitized using UN-SCAN-IT (Silk Scientific, 2013) and scaled to the synchrotron wavelength of 0.414157 Å using MDI JADE Pro (MDI, 2019).

4-term Debye function to model the scattering from the Kapton capillary and the amorphous component of the sample. The peak profiles were described using the generalized microstrain model, and a spherical harmonic preferred orientation model was included.

The final refinement of 105 variables using 23 302 observations and 49 restraints yielded the residuals  $R_{wp} = 0.1106$  and  $GOF = 3.15$ . The largest peak (0.18 Å from C155) and hole (1.60 Å from C19) in the difference Fourier map were 0.68 and  $-0.40(10) e\text{Å}^{-3}$ , respectively. The magnitudes of the peaks and holes are less than a hydrogen atom, and their locations do not suggest any chemical interpretation. The largest errors in the fit (Figure 4) are in the intensities and shapes of the strong peaks and indicate the approximate nature of this model.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This synchrotron powder pattern is similar enough to that reported for Form I (Figure 5) to conclude that the current sample is the same as that made by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. Several weak broad peaks indicate the presence of at least one poorly crystalline impurity. The background is higher than several other samples measured at the same time, suggesting that an amorphous phase is also present.

The refined atom coordinates of ( $P2_1/n$ ) levocetirizine dihydrochloride and the coordinates from the density functional theory (DFT) optimizations ( $P2_1/n$  and  $P2_1$ ; both CRYSTAL14 and VASP) are reported in the CIFs which have been deposited with ICDD. The asymmetric unit (with atom numbering) is illustrated in Figure 6, and the crystal structure is presented in Figure 7.

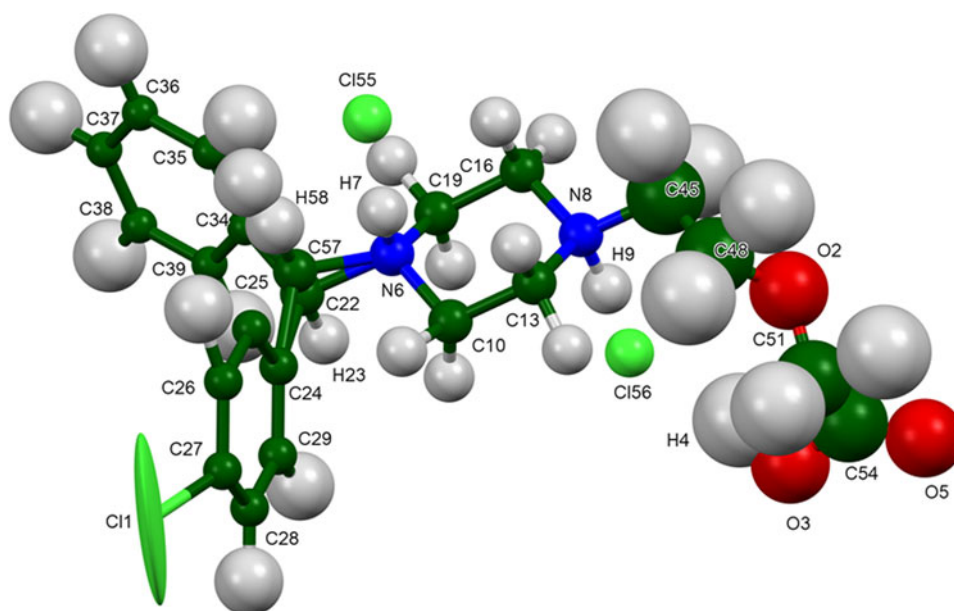


Figure 6. The asymmetric unit of levocetirizine dihydrochloride, with the atom numbering. The atoms are represented by 50% probability spheroids. The methyne groups C22/H23 and C57/H58 are half-occupied.

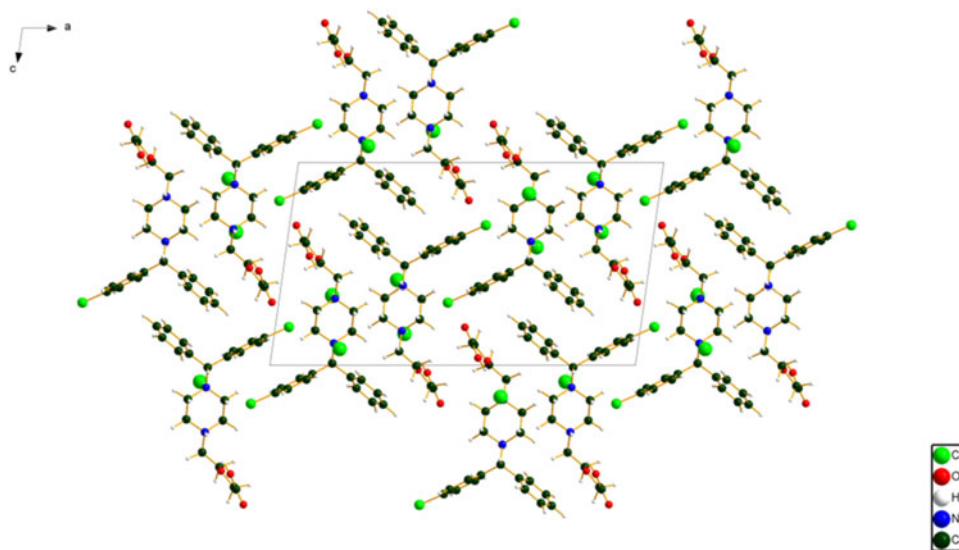


Figure 7. The crystal structure of levocetirizine hydrochloride, viewed down the *b*-axis.

The root-mean-square (rms) Cartesian displacement of the non-hydrogen atoms in the Rietveld-refined and CRYSTAL14-optimized structures of the cations is 0.325 Å (Figure 8). The agreement is at the top end of the normal range expected for correct structures (van de Streek and Neumann, 2014). The mis-fits are spread throughout the cations. The rms displacement between the CRYSTAL14- and VASP-optimized structures is only 0.027 Å, showing that the two programs yielded equivalent structures. The rest of the discussion will emphasize the experimental and CRYSTAL14 structures.

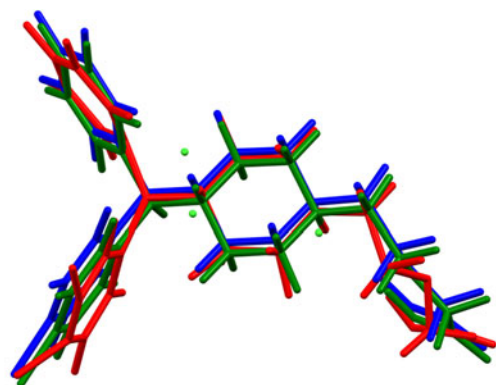
The Mercury/Mogul Geometry check (Macrae *et al.*, 2020) utility was used to analyze the refined and optimized structures (Table I). Most of the bond distances, angles, and torsion angles in the refined structure fall within the normal ranges, but a few were flagged as unusual. All of the bonds, angles, and torsions in the DFT-optimized structure fell within the normal ranges. The bonds between the phenyl rings and the central carbon atom C22 are exceptionally long (Figure 9), even though they were strongly restrained at the

Mogul average value. Several of the angles involving this area of the molecule are also unusual (an example in Figure 10), as well as the C26–C27–C11 angle. A number of the torsion angles lie on the tails of distributions of similar torsion angles, but those involving rotation of the C54–C51 bond are truly unusual (Figure 11). The conformation of the carboxylic acid end of the molecule is unusual. The refinement was started from the DFT-optimized structure, so the data drove the structure this way. This anisotropic displacement ellipsoid of C11 is chemically unreasonable, even though including it led to a better fit. Perhaps the unusual shape is an indication of photolysis of the C27–C11 bond in the X-ray beam.

Similar Mogul analysis of the DFT-optimized  $P2_1$  structure yielded no unusual geometrical features, even though starting a refinement from this model yielded a strange geometry (Figure 12).

TABLE I. Unusual geometrical features (Mogul) in levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

Feature	Rietveld			DFT
	Value	Average	Z-Score	
C24–C22	1.622(3) Å	1.519(10) Å	10.1	None
C34–C22	1.613(3)	1.519(10)	9.2	
C19–N6–C22	114.0(9)°	110.8(11)°	3.0	None
C34–C22–C24	133.8(9)	112.1(17)	12.3	
C25–C24–C22	112.1(9)	120.5(27)	3.1	
C260–C27–C11	112.5(9)	119.3(16)	4.3	
		Comment		
C51–O2–C48–C45	–143.0°	Tail of major <i>trans</i> pop.		None
C48–O2–C51–C54	146.0	Tail of major <i>trans</i> pop.		
C24–C22–N6–C10	34.5	Tail of major <i>gauche</i> pop.		
C24–N22–N6–C19	157.9	Tail of major <i>trans</i> pop.		
C48–C45–N8–C13	41.4	Tail of minor <i>gauche</i> pop.		
O2–C48–C45–N8	106.9	Tail of major <i>gauche</i> pop.		
O3–C54–C51–O2	–91.5	Unusual		
O5–C54–C51–O2	105.5	Unusual		



Riet = red; CRYSTAL = blue; VASP = green

Figure 8. Comparison of the Rietveld-refined (red), CRYSTAL14-optimized (blue), and VASP-optimized (green) structures of levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

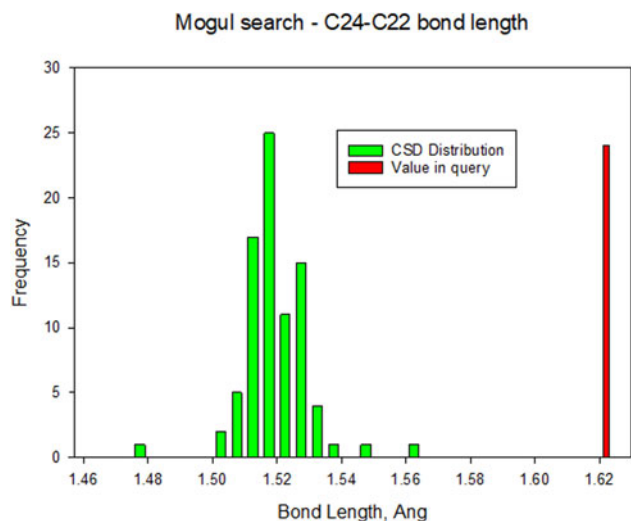


Figure 9. Histogram showing how the unusual refined C24–H22 distance of 1.622 Å compares to the distribution of similar distances in Mogul.

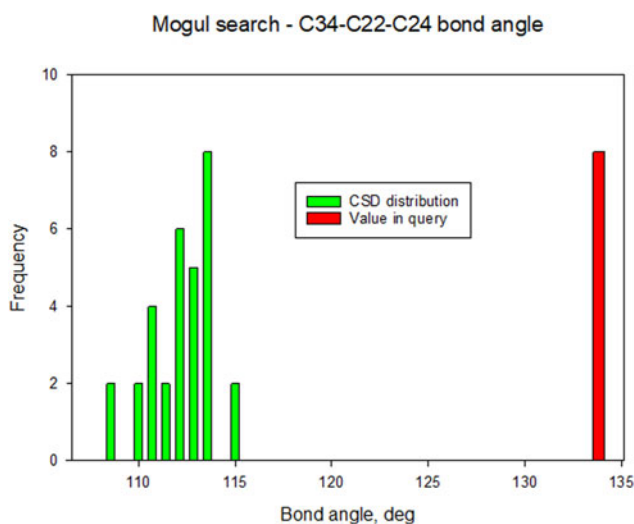


Figure 10. Histogram showing how the unusual refined C34–C22–C24 angle of 133.8° compares to the population of similar angles in Mogul.

Quantum chemical geometry optimization of the levocetirizine cation (DFT/B3LYP/6-31G\*/water) using Spartan '18 (Wavefunction, 2020) indicated that the observed solid-state conformation is 5.9 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> higher in energy than the local minimum (Figure 13). The differences lie mainly in the orientations of the phenyl rings and the end of the carboxylic acid side chain. The global minimum-energy conformation (Figure 14; which is equivalent in energy to the local minimum) has a different orientation of the carboxylic acid. These differences show that solid-state interactions, particularly the hydrogen bonding to the chloride anions, influence the observed conformation.

The crystal structure (Figure 7) consists of interleaved double columns of cations and anions along the short *b*-axis. The hydrogen bonds link the cations and anions along this axis. The saturated C<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub> rings lie approximately parallel to the *ac*-plane. Most of the intermolecular interactions appear to be van der Waals. Phenyl–phenyl stacking is prominent, but there is no evidence from the population analysis for  $\pi\cdots\pi$  overlaps.

Analysis of the contributions to the total crystal energy using the Forcite module of Materials Studio (Dassault, 2014) suggests that bond and angle distortion terms dominate the intramolecular deformation energy. The intermolecular energy is dominated by electrostatic attractions, which in this force-field-based analysis include cation coordination and hydrogen bonds. The hydrogen bonds are better analyzed using the results of the DFT calculation.

As expected, hydrogen bonds (Table II) are important in the crystal structure. Each protonated nitrogen atom forms a strong N–H $\cdots$ Cl hydrogen bond to one of the chloride anions. The carboxylic acid group also forms an H-bond to C156, resulting in a ring with a graph set (Etter, 1990; Bernstein *et al.*, 1995; Shields *et al.*, 2000) *R1,2(10)*. The carboxylic acid H5 also forms an intramolecular O–H $\cdots$ O bond to the ether oxygen O2. The energy of the O–H $\cdots$ O hydrogen bond was calculated using the correlation of Rammohan and Kaduk (2018). These hydrogen bonds almost certainly influence the solid-state conformation of the levocetirizine cation. Several C–H $\cdots$ Cl/O hydrogen bonds contribute to the crystal

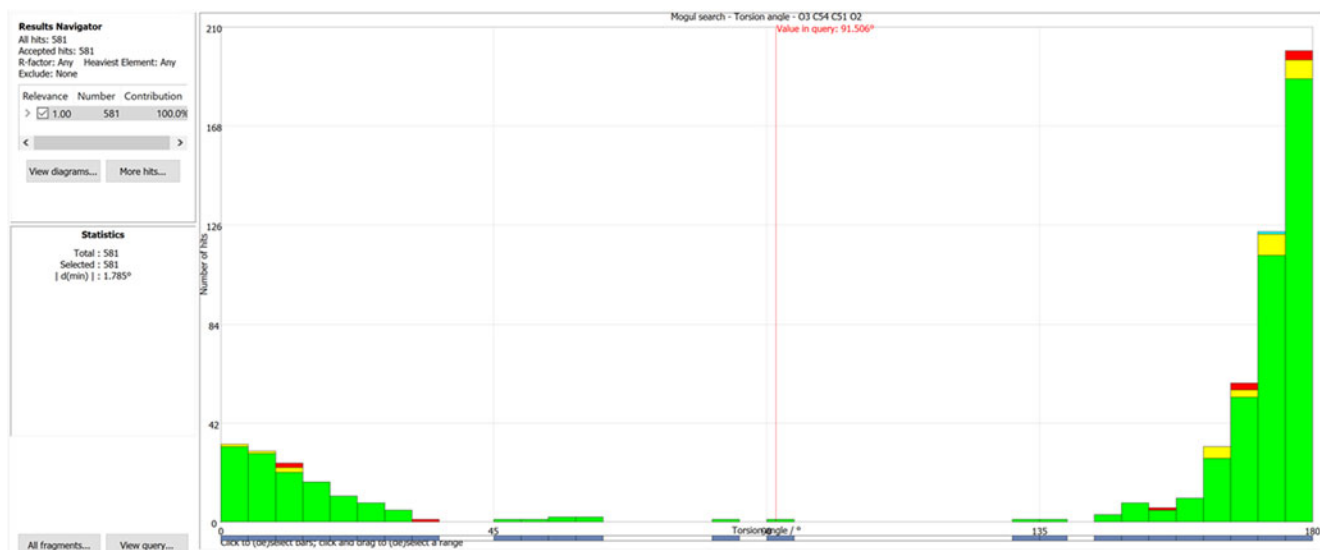


Figure 11. Histogram showing how the unusual refined O3–C54–C51–O2 torsion angle of 91.5° compares to the population of similar torsions in Mogul.

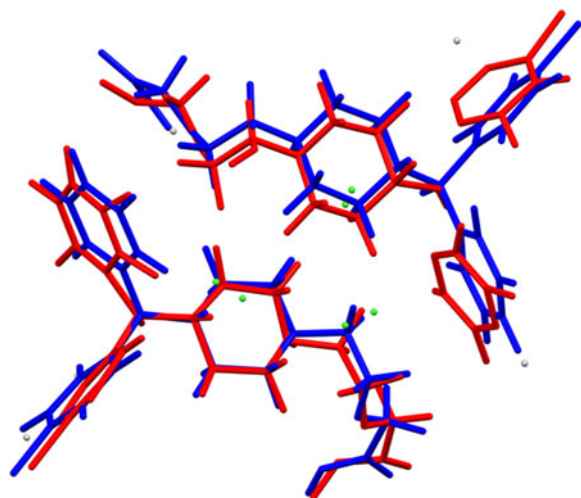
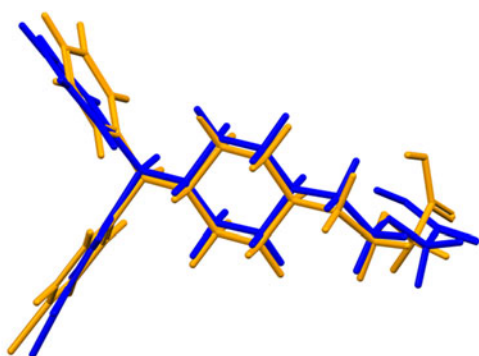


Figure 12. Comparison of the Rietveld-refined (red) and DFT-optimized (blue) structures of levocetirizine dihydrochloride in space group  $P2_1$ .

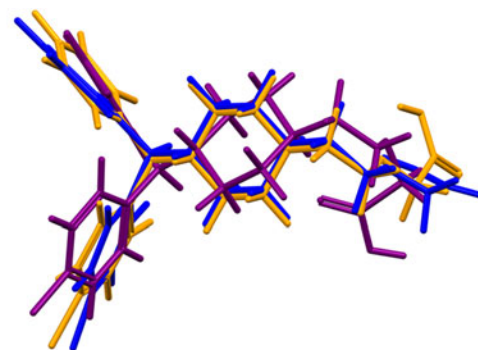


DFT = blue; local min = orange

Figure 13. Comparison of the DFT-optimized (blue) and local-minimum (orange) conformations of the cation in levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

energy, and there are weak interactions between the methylene groups adjacent to the ether oxygen O2.

In the DFT-optimized  $P2_1$  structure, only three of the four protonated nitrogen atoms form N–H...Cl hydrogen bonds to



Global min = purple

Figure 14. Comparison of the DFT-optimized (blue), local-minimum (orange), and global minimum (purple) conformations of the cation in levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

the chloride anions (Table III). (For the atom numbering of the  $P2_1$  structure, consult the deposited files *cetirizine\_4\_DFT.cif* and *cetirizine\_4\_VASP.cif*.) There are three apparent strong C–H...Cl hydrogen bonds, as well as the usual O–H...O, C–H...O, and C–H...Cl hydrogen bonds. This hydrogen bond pattern is not chemically reasonable and provides a reason to discount this structure as unreasonable.

The volume enclosed by the Hirshfeld surface (Figure 15; Hirshfeld, 1977; Turner *et al.*, 2017) is  $562.82 \text{ \AA}^3$ , 98.50% of 1/4 the unit cell volume. The packing density is, thus, fairly typical. All of the significant-close contacts (red in Figure 15) involve the hydrogen bonds. The volume/non-hydrogen atom is  $19.7 \text{ \AA}^3$ , reflecting the larger size of Cl compared with C, N, and O.

The Bravais–Friedel–Donnay–Harker (Bravais, 1866; Friedel, 1907; Donnay and Harker, 1937) morphology suggests that we might expect an elongated morphology for levocetirizine dihydrochloride, with [010] as the long axis. A 4th-order spherical harmonic model for preferred orientation was incorporated into the refinement. The texture index was 1.043(2), indicating that the preferred orientation was slight in this rotated capillary specimen. The powder pattern of levocetirizine dihydrochloride from a Le Bail extraction of this synchrotron data set is included in the Powder Diffraction File™ as entry 00-066-1627.

TABLE II. Hydrogen bonds (CRYSTAL14) in the  $P2_1/n$  structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

H-Bond	D–H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	D–H...A (°)	Overlap ( $e$ )	$E$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> )
N6–H7...Cl55	1.061	2.004	3.063	175.1	0.110	
N8–H9...Cl56	1.060	2.021	3.073	171.3	0.105	
O3–H4...Cl56	1.000	2.099	3.020	152.1	0.075	
O3–H4...O2	1.000	2.187*	2.665	107.5	0.014	6.5
C13–H15...O5	1.090	2.171	3.148	147.9	0.030	
C25–H26...Cl55	1.087	2.715	3.690	149.0	0.029	
C28–H32...O5	1.082	2.630	3.375	125.4	0.010	
C35–H40...Cl55	1.086	2.434	3.484	162.1	0.041	
C51–H52...H50	1.096	2.456*	2.600	84.9	0.010	
C51–H53...H49	1.102	2.518*	2.706	87.6	0.010	

\* = intramolecular.

TABLE III. Hydrogen bonds (CRYSTAL14) in the  $P2_1$  structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride.

H-Bond	D-H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	D-H...A (°)	Overlap ( $e$ )	$E$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> )
N6-H109...Cl29	1.057	2.110	3.144	165.3	0.104	
N7-H110...Cl1	1.047	2.256	3.243	156.4	0.096	
N34-H107...Cl57	1.051	2.174	3.208	167.2	0.098	
N35-H108...?						
C39-H92...Cl1	1.100	2.352	3.408	160.0	0.075	
C53-H111...Cl58	1.092	2.227	3.124	138.0	0.063	
O32-H84...Cl58	0.984	2.377	3.140	134.9	0.057	
O4-H59...O3	0.985	1.794	2.654	144.0	0.052	12.5
O32-H84...O31	0.984	2.284*	2.755	108.2	0.012	6.0
C20-H73...Cl29	1.086	2.381	3.407	157.2	0.042	
C55-H105...O32	1.101	2.459	3.535	165.0	0.013	
C53-H103...O33	1.088	2.222	3.251	156.9	0.023	
C45-H96...O33	1.081	2.428	3.298	136.6	0.017	
C43-H95...O33	1.082	2.208	3.2141	153.7	0.021	
C37-H88...O33	1.088	2.161	3.091	142.0	0.013	
C36-H86...C41	1.089	2.436*	2.789	97.1	0.011	
C17-H71...O5	1.084	2.792	3.667	137.7	0.012	
C9-H63...O3	1.087	2.345*	3.043	120.4	0.012	

\* = intramolecular.

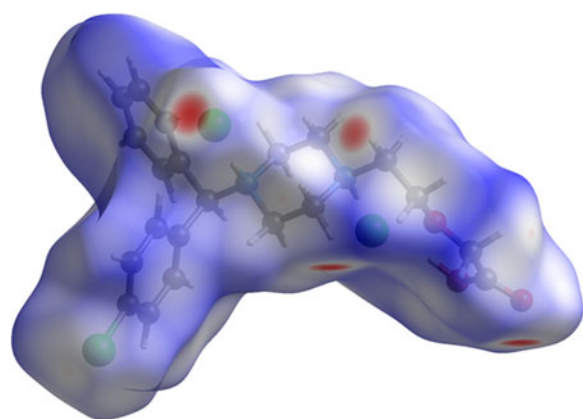


Figure 15. The Hirshfeld surface of levocetirizine dihydrochloride. Intermolecular contacts longer than the sums of the van der Waals radii are colored blue, and contacts shorter than the sums of the radii are colored red. Contacts equal to the sums of radii are white.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The centrosymmetric  $P2_1/n$  model for the crystal structure of levocetirizine dihydrochloride is better than the non-centrosymmetric  $P2_1$  model, even though levocetirizine is a chiral molecule, the sample exhibits weak SHG, and three weak peaks which violate the glide plane are observed. The centrosymmetric model is better by statistical, graphical, and energetic measures, as well as by chemical reasonableness. To accommodate the chiral molecule in a centrosymmetric space group, the chiral central carbon atom was disordered over two half-occupied positions, so that each cation site could be occupied by a cation of the correct chirality. It is, of course, possible that the weak SHG arose from an impurity, and that the sample is truly a racemate.

#### V. DEPOSITED DATA

The Crystallographic Information Framework (CIF) files containing the results of the Rietveld refinement (including the raw data) and the DFT geometry optimization were

deposited with the ICDD. The data can be requested at [info@icdd.com](mailto:info@icdd.com).

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#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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