

Tris(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium Salts: 2,8,9-Trihydroprotatranes

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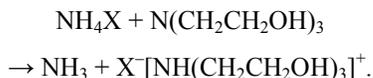
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Abstract—New method of synthesis of tris(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium salts, 2,8,9-trihydroprotatranes $X^-[HN(CH_2CH_2OH)_3]^+$, based on the reaction of tris(2-hydroxyethyl)amine (triethanolamine) with ammonium salts NH_4X ($X = F, Cl, Br, I, NO_3, ClO_4$) was developed. $^1H, ^{13}C, ^{15}N$ NMR and IR spectra of these protatranes were investigated, as well as those of their analogs with $X = RCH_2COO$ ($R = H; 2-MeC_6H_4O; 2-Me-4ClC_6H_3O; 2-MeC_6H_4S; 4-ClC_6H_4S; 4-ClC_6H_4SO_2; 3-IndS; 3-(PhCH_2-IndS)$) prepared from the corresponding acids RCH_2COOH and triethanolamine. The parameters of IR and NMR spectra of the studied protatranes were governed by the nature of substituent X , which also determined the character of the intra and intermolecular hydrogen bonds $NH\cdots O$ and $OH\cdots O$ in the protatrane framework.

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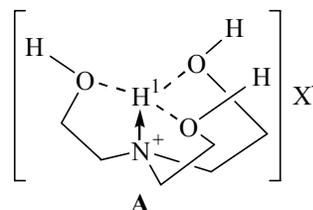
We developed a novel original method of synthesis of tris(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium salts of general formula $X^-[NH(CH_2CH_2OH)_3]^+$, where $X = F$ (**I**), Cl (**II**), Br (**III**), I (**IV**), NO_3 (**V**), ClO_4 (**VI**) based on the reaction of triethanolamine (TEA) with the corresponding ammonium salts NH_4X both in aqueous or nonaqueous medium as well as in the absence of a solvent:



Reaction of TEA with NH_4F [1] proceeded in an unusual way: the product was a very viscous liquid corresponding to the composition $TEA \cdot 3HF$. This is not surprising since similar hydrofluorides are formed in the reaction of tertiary amines ($Me_3N, Et_3N, pyridine$) with HF . They have low (below $0^\circ C$) melting point and correspond to the composition $R_3N \cdot nHF$ ($n = 3-6$). The molecules of HF in these hydrofluorides are linked by hydrogen bonds [2].

From the XRD analysis [3–14], the triethanolammonium salts have tricyclic atrane structure **A** closed by three intramolecular trifurcate hydrogen

bonds. Following Verkade [15], we called them protatranes (PA), more correctly, 2,8,9-trihydroprotatranes, of the formula:



The earlier known method of synthesis of PA (for example, compound **VI**) [10] was the reaction of TEA with the corresponding acid. Using this method, we have earlier first synthesized PA, which are triethanolammonium salts of carboxylic acids of general formula $RCH_2COO^-[NH(CH_2CH_2OH)_3]^+$, where $R = H$ (**VII**); $2-MeC_6H_4O$ (**VIII**); $2-Me-4ClC_6H_3O$ (**IX**); $2-MeC_6H_4S$ (**X**); $4-ClC_6H_4S$ (**XI**); $4-ClC_6H_4SO_2$ (**XII**); $3-IndS$ (**XIII**); $3-(PhCH_2-IndS)$ (**XIV**) [16–20].

Compounds of this type are not only of theoretical but also of practical interest since they have unique biological activity substantially exceeding or different from the action of the starting biologically active acids.

Such compounds include, first of all, triethanolammonium salts of 2-methylphenoxyacetic acid **VIII**, “trecrezan” preparation, which have already found wide application in medicine [3, 16–33], and also 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid (**IX**), “chloro-crezacin” [17, 31], etc. Under the name “crezacin,” trecrezan is successfully used in agriculture (in plant-growing, cattle-breeding, breeding of useful insects) [34–38]. It was also shown to be a stimulator of microbiological synthesis [37].

Crystal structure of PA was first established by the XRD method during our studies of their biological activity [3, 4]. Later on, the crystal structure of PA with X = SH [5], Cl [5], Br [6–8], NO₃ [9], ClO₄ [10], HSeO₃ [11], BPh₄ [12], 2-(2,3-Me₂C₆H₃)NHC₆H₄COO [13], 2-HCOC₆H₄COO [14] was examined. Their crystals are formed by layers of cations and anions linked by hydrogen bonds. Inside each layer, the cation and anion are linked by hydrogen bridges O–H...X⁻. In PA containing the anion of functionally substituted carboxylic acid, the bonding with the anion can be accomplished by means of the functional group.

The protatrane cation [HN(CH₂CH₂OH)₃]⁺ has tricyclic structure with the N→H directed inward the protatrane framework. The length of this bond depends on the nature of the anion and varies from 0.88 Å (X = Cl) [5] to 1.01 Å (X = 4-ClC₆H₄SCH₂COO) [4]. For comparison, the N–H bond length in organic ammonium salts R₃NHX lies within 0.87–0.89 Å [2]. Three oxygen atoms in the cations of PA form the surrounding of the hydrogen atom of NH group resulting in trifurcate hydrogen bond.

The effect of the anion's nature on the protatrane cation is first studied by us using the methods of NMR and IR spectroscopy.

The resonance signals of the NCH₂ and OCH₂ groups in the ¹H NMR spectra of solutions of all PA in

DMSO-*d*₆ are broadened, and their fine structure cannot be observed. Only at a low concentration of the solutions (when the intensity of the signals are comparable with those of the residual protons of DMSO-*d*₆) the signals appear as multiplets: triplet of NCH₂ (³J_{HH} 4.7 Hz), doublet of triplets of OCH₂ (³J 5.0, 4.7 Hz), triplet of OH. In all ¹H NMR spectra separate signals are observed which belong to the traces of water in DMSO-*d*₆ at 3.48–3.63 ppm, OH groups at 4.4–5.3 ppm, and NH groups at 8.5–8.7 ppm. The data of Table 1 suggest that the chemical shifts of protons of the NCH₂ and OCH₂ groups are shifted downfield relative to the initial TEA by 0.76 and 0.34 ppm, respectively. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of the protatrane cation in the spectra of the studied PA are displaced upfield relative to TEA by 2 ppm for the NCH₂ and by 4 ppm for the OCH₂ group. The ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of these groups in the spectra of PA **II–VI** are very close.

Protonation of nitrogen atom in tertiary amines is known to be followed by a downfield shift of the ¹⁵N resonance (4–16 ppm) [39]. The chemical shifts in the ¹⁵N NMR spectra of PA **II–VI** are shifted downfield relative to TEA by 20 ppm, which is indicative of the positive charge on the nitrogen atom.

In the ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁵N NMR spectra of PA **VII–XIV**, which are the derivatives of carboxylic acids (Table 2), chemical shifts of the NCH₂ and OCH₂ groups show no regular dependence on the nature of substituent RCH₂. The internal chemical shift (the difference between the chemical shifts of these groups) is 0.5–0.6 ppm. The signals of the carbon atoms of the protatrane cation are shifted upfield by 2.2–2.4 ppm on going from acetate **VII** to PA (**IX**). The ¹⁵N NMR chemical shift in the spectra of PA **VII–XIV** is displaced downfield relative to free TEA, on the average, by 14 ppm (–354.5 ppm). Moreover, variation of this chemical shift in the spectra of PA **VII–XIV**

Table 1. Parameters of ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁵N NMR spectra of PA [HN(CH₂CH₂OH)₃]⁺X⁻ (**II–VI**) and triethanolamine (TEA) in DMSO-*d*₆

Comp. no.	X ⁻	pK _a of HX [21]	δ _H , ppm				δ _C , ppm		δ _N , ppm
			NCH ₂	OCH ₂	OH	NH	NCH ₂	OCH ₂	
II	Cl	–	3.29	3.75	5.35	9.31	55.46	55.49	–330.07
III	Br	–9	3.27	3.70	5.13	7.27	55.30	55.38	–330.71
IV	I	–11	3.28	3.72	5.18	8.7	55.24	55.24	–331.57
V	NO ₃	–1.64	3.29	3.74	5.30	8.7	55.38	55.43	–331.54
VI	ClO ₄	–8	3.27	3.73	5.24	8.5	55.51	55.47	–332.17
TEA	–	–	2.52	3.39	4.44	–	57.42	59.54	–354.50

Table 2. ^1H , ^{13}C , ^{15}N NMR spectra of PA **VII–XIV** (20% solutions in D_2O , 25°C)

Comp. no.	δ_{H} , ppm					δ_{C} , ppm ^a					δ_{N} , ppm
	CH_2N	CH_2O	CH_2CO	Ar; CH_2Ph	Me	Me	CH_2N	CH_2O	CH_2CO	CO	
VII ^b	3.25	3.85	–	–	1.94	23.21	57.01	57.46	–	179	–341.4
VIII	3.42	3.92	4.48	6.80(H^6) 6.95(H^4) 7.21(H^5) 7.25(H^3)	2.26	15.51	54.89	55.14	66.94	177.00	–339.0
IX	3.44	3.93	4.45	6.70(H^6) 7.11(H^5) 7.18(H^3)	2.21	15.33	54.77	55.03	66.98	176.51	–338.6
X	3.41	3.9	3.63	7.16(H^4) 7.24($\text{H}^{3,5,6}$)	2.34	19.23	54.91	55.16	37.13	176.88	–340.5
XI	3.46	3.94	3.64	7.30($\text{H}^{2,6}$) 7.35($\text{H}^{3,5}$)	–	–	54.93	55.19	38.15	176.71	–338.9
XII	3.48	3.95	4.19	7.66($\text{H}^{2,6}$) 7.89($\text{H}^{3,5}$)	–	–	54.94	55.21	62.90	167.63	–338.9
XIII	3.36	3.88	3.38	7.22–7.30 ($\text{H}^{6,7}$) 7.52(H^5) 7.51(H^2) 7.79(H^8)	–	–	54.86	55.11	41.43	178.16	–339.1
XIV	3.19	3.78	3.41	4.66(CH_2) 6.66($\text{H}^{6,7}$) 6.74($\text{H}^{5,o}$) 6.78(H^m) 6.89(H^p) 7.20(H^2) 7.64(H^8)	–	–	55.08	55.08	41.96	177.20	–340.1

^a Chemical shifts of aromatic carbons: **VIII**: 111.39(C^6); 130.90(C^3); 121.05(C^4); 156.02(C^1); 126.78(C^2); 127(C^5). **IX**: 112.31(C^6); 124.64(C^5); 126.09(C^2); 128.66(C^4); 130.08(C^3); 154.61(C^1). **X**: 125.72(C^4); 126.31(C^5); 126.76(C^6); 130.05(C^3); 135.26(C^2); 136.63(C^1). **XI**: 128.97($\text{C}^{3,5}$); 129.33($\text{C}^{2,6}$); 131.25(C^1); 134.68(C^4). **XII**: 129.54($\text{C}^{3,5}$); 129.59($\text{C}^{2,6}$); 136.15(C^1); 140.58(C^4). **XIII**: 102.88(C^3); 112.21(C^8); 118.59(C^6); 120.17(C^5); 122.40(C^7); 128.30(C^4); 130.67(C^2); 136.15(C^9). **XIV**: 103.46(C^3); 110.36(C^8); 119.18(C^6); 120.17(C^5); 122.17(C^7); 126.61(C^o); 127.28(C^4); 128.40(C^m); 129.41(C^p); 133.44(C^2); 136.13(C^9); 137.09(C^1). ^b In CD_3OD .

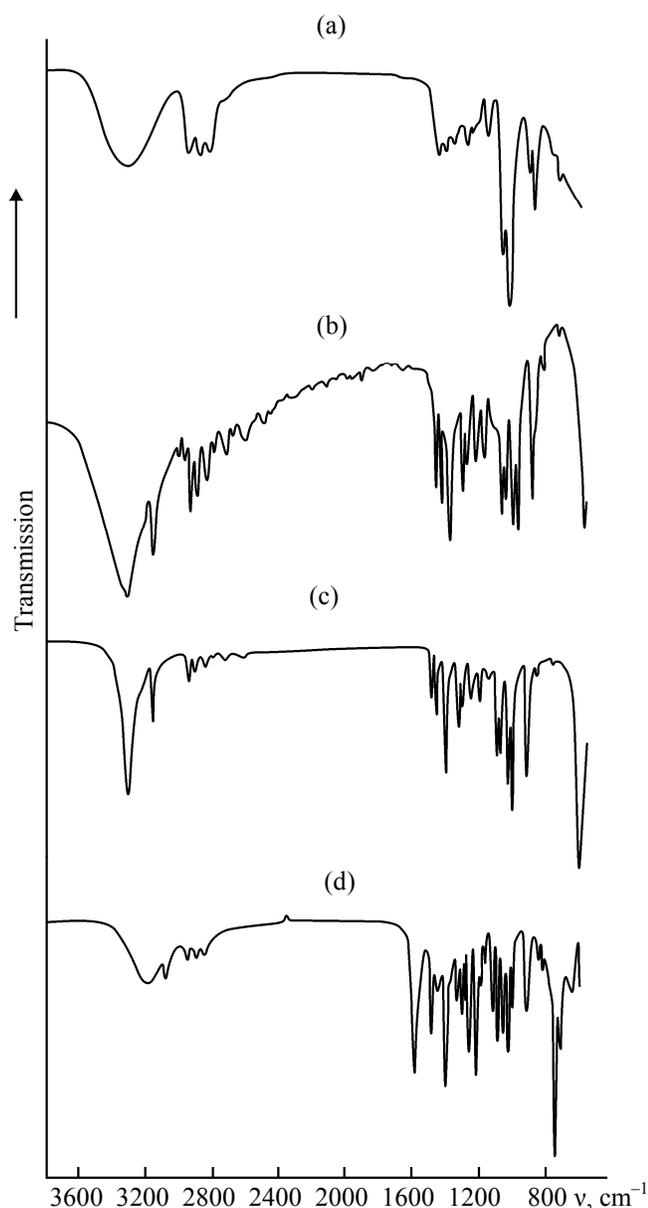
allows to rank them in the following sequence, which corresponds to the strength of acids RCH_2COOH (Table 2): **VII** < **X** < **XIV** < **XIII** < **VIII** < **XI** = **XII** < **IX**.

The ^{15}N NMR chemical shift of PA **II–VI**, which are derivatives of inorganic acids, is more displaced downfield than that of their organic analogs **VII–XIV**. This is due to stronger protonating ability of inorganic acids HX , precursors of PA **II–VI**. Unlike the observed for PA **VII–XIV** dependence of δ_{N} on the strength of the carboxylic acid, the ^{15}N NMR chemical shift of PA derived from inorganic acids (330–332 ppm) is practically independent on the strength of acid HX [40] (Table 1).

Apparently, for strong acids this dependence is leveled out due to the presence of H-bonds between their anions and the protatrane cation.

In the IR spectroscopic study of crystalline PA **II–VI** in comparison with TEA we have investigated their spectra of absorption and FTIR (see the figure) in order to exclude the effect of pressing of compounds in KBr pellets. In the absorption IR spectra (KBr pellets) of these PA a wide ammonium band $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{H})$ is observed with a number of separate maxima in the range of 2500–3000 cm^{-1} . In the FTIR spectra of PA **II–VI** the intensity of this band is substantially lower relative to the absorption spectra. In the spectrum of liquid TEA the strong band at 3311 cm^{-1} of half-width

$\Delta\nu_{1/2} \sim 400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ corresponds to the stretching vibrations of the OH groups involved in intramolecular hydrogen bonds. In the spectra of chloro- (**II**), bromo- (**III**) and iodoprotatranes (**IV**) the strong $\nu(\text{OH})$ band is much narrower than in TEA itself ($\Delta\nu_{1/2} \sim 25 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). This band is due to vibrations of the three hydroxy groups of the cation whose oxygen atoms form intramolecular hydrogen bonds with the endocyclic hydrogen atom of the N^+H group whereas their hydrogen atoms form hydrogen bonds with anions **X**. The form of this band is defined by high symmetry of



FTIR spectra: (a) TEA, (b) TEAH^+Cl^- (**II**) (absorption spectrum in KBr), (c) TEAH^+Cl^- (**II**), and (d) $\text{TEAH}^+\text{O}(\text{O})\text{CCH}_2\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_3$ (**VII**).

the molecules of these salts. The decrease in the frequency in its maximum in the spectra of protatranes from 3380 (**IV**) to 3346 (**III**) and further to 3306 cm^{-1} (**I**) is due to an increase in the strength of the formed $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{X}$ bonds with the electronegativity of the halogen atom ($\text{I} < \text{Br} < \text{Cl}$). In the spectrum of PA **V** ($\text{X} = \text{NO}_3$), three $\nu(\text{OH})$ bands are present (3440, 3400, and 3255 cm^{-1}) corresponding to its structure with different in strength hydrogen bonds between the OH groups and the oxygen atoms of the NO_3 anion. Three bands at 3480, 3350 and 3276 cm^{-1} in the spectrum of PA **VI** are also due to vibrations of the OH groups involved in the formation of hydrogen bonds with ClO_4^- anion.

The bands of TEA observed in the range of 1500–700 cm^{-1} of the IR spectrum are due to the stretching vibrations of the C–C, C–O, and C–N bonds and the bending vibrations of the C–H and O–H bonds [41]. IR spectra of isostructural PA **II–IV** in this range are similar and differ only in the range 1100–900 cm^{-1} by the ratio of intensities of separate bands having the same frequencies in their maxima. They differ from the spectrum of TEA mainly by the presence of an intense band at 1402 cm^{-1} caused by mixed bending vibrations of the CH, OH and N^+H groups in the molecules. In the spectra of these salts the bands of bending vibrations of the methylene groups are shifted to high-frequencies up to 1490–1400 cm^{-1} relative to TEA (1450–1360 cm^{-1}). The band of stretching vibrations of the C–N bonds which in the spectrum of TEA appears at 1152 cm^{-1} is shifted in the spectra of PA **II–IV** to 1090 cm^{-1} , and the band of C–C stretching vibrations at 1067 cm^{-1} is split in two components. The most intensive band $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ in the spectrum of TEA at 1030 cm^{-1} is also split in two components with maxima at ~ 1030 and $\sim 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The spectra of PA **V** and **VI** contain strong bands at 1390 and 1060 cm^{-1} , respectively, corresponding to vibrations of anions NO_3^- and ClO_4^- [41]. Changes of the bands in these spectra as compared with TEA are identical to those observed in the spectra of PA **II–IV**. This is indicative of similarity of their structure in spite of different strength of hydrogen bonds.

In the FTIR spectra of protatranes **VII–XIV** containing organic anions, as well as in those of PA **II–VI**, the vibration band $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{H})$ is weaker than in the absorption spectra (see the figure). The interaction between the cations and anions in these molecules affects the frequencies of the symmetrical and asymmetrical vibrations $\nu(\text{COO})^-$, as well as $\nu(\text{OH})$

vibrations (Table 3). This was demonstrated earlier on the example of PA **VIII** and *O*-hydrometalloatrane [42], for which the difference between the corresponding frequencies of the negatively charged carboxylic group $\Delta\nu = \nu(\text{C}=\text{O}) - \nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ was used to study structural features of the molecules and their complexes [43]. Thus, in the spectrum of 2-methylphenoxyacetic acid the doublet band of the C=O group stretching vibrations with maxima at 1737, 1702 cm^{-1} and a wide band $\nu(\text{OH})$ in the range 3000–2500 cm^{-1} are due to participation of the corresponding groups in the hydrogen bonds $\text{OH}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$ forming its chain and cyclic self-associates. The distances between the carbon and oxygen atoms of the acetate group COO^- of this acid in the molecule of PA **VIII** are very similar (1.265 and 1.238 Å). This suggests uniform charge distribution between the oxygen atoms [3]. In the IR

spectrum the bands of stretching vibrations of the carboxylate ion of molecule **VII** appear at 1590 and 1404 cm^{-1} , and the value of $\Delta\nu$ 186 cm^{-1} corresponds to structure **B**, where each cation, judged from the XRD data [3], is connected with two oppositely charged carboxylate groups by hydrogen bond $\text{OH}\cdots\text{O}$.

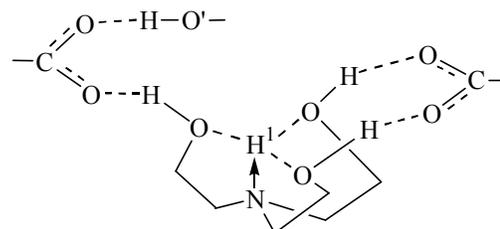
**B**

Table 3. Stretching vibration frequencies of the carboxylic and hydroxy groups in the FTIR spectra of PA **VII–XIV** $[\text{HN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_3]^+\text{X}^-$ and values of $\Delta\nu = \nu(\text{C}=\text{O}) - \nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$

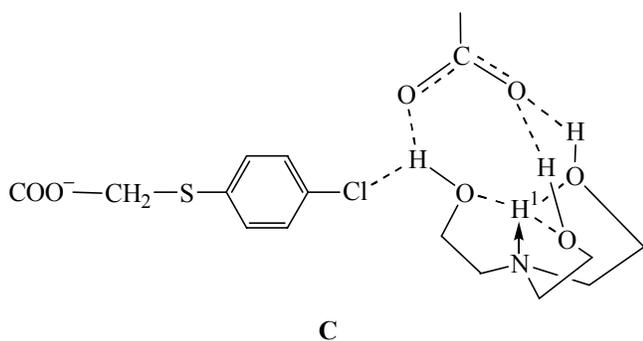
Comp. no.	X ⁻	$\nu(\text{COO}^-)$, cm^{-1}		$\Delta\nu$, cm^{-1}	$\nu(\text{OH})$, cm^{-1}
VII	MeCOO	1574	1400	174	3133
VIII		1590	1404	186	3182
IX		1606	1397	209	3156
X		1589	1368	221	3177
XI		1588	1362	226	3150
XII		1620	1380	240	3190
XIII		1588	1367	221	3181
XIV		1589	1364	225	3173

Table 4. Elemental analysis of PA I–VI $[\text{HN}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_3]^+\text{X}^-$

Comp. no.	X^-	Elemental analysis, %		mp, °C
		found	calculated	
I	F	C 32.55; H 7.61; F 26.58; N 7.01	(for adduct TEA·3HF) C 34.45; H 8.60; F 27.22; N 6.76	–
II	Cl	C 35.92; H 8.01; Cl 19.20; N 7.46	C 38.82; H 8.69; Cl 19.10; N 7.54	160
III	Br	C 31.38; H 6.73; Br 36.20; N 6.42	C 31.32; H 7.01; Br 34.73; N 6.09	180
IV	I	C 25.94; H 5.83; I 47.42; N 5.02	C 26.01; H 5.82; I 45.80; N 5.05	125
V	NO_3	C 31.65; H 7.27; N 12.13	C 33.96; H 7.60; N 13.20	75
VI	ClO_4	C 26.33; H 6.21; Cl 15.11; N 5.46	C 28.87; H, 6.46; Cl 14.20; N 5.61	250 (decomp)

Similar structure, apparently, has PA **VII** with $\text{X} = \text{CH}_3\text{COO}$, for which the value of $\Delta\nu(\text{COO})$ in the IR spectrum is 174 cm^{-1} .

In the spectra of PA **IX–XIV** the values of $\Delta\nu(\text{COO})$ ($209\text{--}240\text{ cm}^{-1}$) are higher than in PA **VII**, **VIII**, being characteristic of the same structure **C**, established for PA **XI** by the XRD method [4]. The oxygen atoms of the carboxylic group in these PA form nonequivalent H-bonds: one with two OH groups of the cation, and another, with that OH group, whose hydrogen atom is also involved in the $\text{OH}\cdots\text{Cl}$ bonding with the second molecule of the anion.



A wide vibration band $\nu(\text{OH})$ in the IR spectra of PA **VII–XIV** is located at lower frequencies ($3130\text{--}3190\text{ cm}^{-1}$) than that of PA **II–VI** containing an inorganic anion X^- . This is indicative of a larger strength of hydrogen bonds of the hydroxy groups with the carboxylate anion. The largest strength of this bond in PA **VII** corresponds to the lowest frequency of 3133 cm^{-1} .

The shifts of vibration bands of TEA in the range $1500\text{--}700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the spectra of PA **VII–XIV** are similar to those observed in the spectra of PA **II–VI** containing inorganic anions X^- . This fact points to the similarity of structure of the cation in all PA **II–XIV** regardless of the character of hydrogen bonds formed by its OH groups.

EXPERIMENTAL

^1H , ^{13}C , ^{15}N NMR spectra of solutions of PA **II–XIV** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ were registered on a Bruker DPX 400 spectrometer (400.13, 100.61 and 40.56 MHz, respectively). IR absorption spectra (KBr pellets) and FTIR spectra were taken on a Varian 3100 FT–IR spectrophotometer.

PA **II** was prepared by the reaction of TEA with saturated boiling aqueous solution of NH_4Cl (molar ratio of the reagents 1:1) until the evolution of ammonia ceased. After evaporation of water, the crystals of PA **II** were kept for one more day over P_2O_5 in a vacuum. The yield of PA **II** was quantitative. Note that with butanol as a solvent as well as under solvent-free conditions (finely dispersed powder of NH_4Cl was heated with TEA on a water bath) the yield of PA **II** also exceeded 95%.

PA **I** [1], **III–V** were synthesized similarly by the reaction of TEA with the corresponding ammonium salt. The elemental composition and the properties of PA **I–VI** are given in Table 4.

Compounds **VII–XIV** were synthesized by the reaction of TEA with acetic acid, 2-methylphenoxy-, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxy-, 2-methylphenylsulfanyl-, 4-chlorophenylsulfanyl-, 4-chlorophenylsulfanyl-, indol-3-ylsulfanyl-, and 1-benzylindol-3-ylsulfanylacetic acids [16–20].

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