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Synthesis, crystal structure, and antibacterial activity of tricyclohexyltin salicylates

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Abstract: Three tricyclohexyltin salicylates, 3-X-5-Y-2-HOC₆H₄COOSn(C₆H₁₁-c)₃ (where X, Y=H, **1**; H, NO₂ **2**; NO₂, NO₂ **3**), have been synthesized and characterized by means of elemental analysis, IR, and ¹H NMR spectra. The crystal structures of compounds **1–3** are determined by X-ray single crystal diffraction. In these compounds, the carboxylate is monodentate, and the tin atom adopts distorted tetrahedral coordination geometry. In **2** and **3**, the neighboring molecules are connected into a one-dimensional supramolecular chain by the intermolecular Sn...O weak interactions between tin and oxygen of nitro group. Bioassay results have shown that the compounds have good *in vitro* antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*.

Keywords: antibacterial activity; crystal structure; organotin; organotin salicylate; salicylic acid.

Introduction

Organotin carboxylates have received considerable attention due to their structural interest and various applications in the last few decades (Tiekink, 1991, 1994; Davies et al., 2008). Some organotin carboxylates possess potent activities against tumors, fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms (Davies et al., 2008; Hadjikakou and Hadjiliadis, 2009; Tian et al., 2013; Amir et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2014; Mao et al., 2015). The study of structure-activity relationships has shown that organotin moiety and carboxylates appear to play an important role in determining their biological activity (Davies et al., 2008; Hadjikakou and Hadjiliadis, 2009; Amir et al., 2014; Tian et al., 2014). Thus, to synthesize new organotin carboxylates by the combination of organotin moiety with carboxylic acid

with biological activity will be a good selection. Salicylic acid is widely used as a plant growth regulator and preservative in food products. It has antiseptic and antifungal properties and is widely used in organic synthesis. Several groups have reported the syntheses, structures, and biological activities of some organotin salicylates such as trimethyltin salicylate (Smith et al., 1986), triphenyltin salicylate (Vollano et al., 1984), triphenyltin 5-((*E*)-2-phenyl-1-diazenyl)salicylate (Basu Baul et al., 2001), dimethyltin bisalicylate (Basu Baul et al., 1996), di-*n*-butyltin bisalicylate (Narula et al., 1992), and di-*n*-butyltin bis(5-chlorosalicylate) (Gielen et al., 1994). However, less attention has been paid to tricyclohexyltin salicylates. In order to continue to expand the structural chemistry and therapeutic potential of organotin salicylates, we synthesized three tricyclohexyltin salicylates, 3-X-5-Y-2-HOC₆H₄COOSn(C₆H₁₁-c)₃ (where X, Y=H, **1**; H, NO₂ **2**; NO₂, NO₂ **3**), and determined their crystal structures and *in vitro* antibacterial activity (Scheme 1).

Results and discussion

Synthesis

Compounds **1–3** are prepared by the reaction of tricyclohexyltin hydroxide with salicylic acid in equal mole ratio in anhydrous toluene with the yield of 85%–91% (Scheme 1).

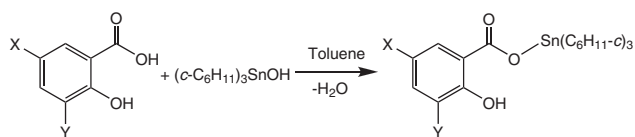
These compounds are white or yellow crystals, air stable, and soluble in common polar organic solvents such as methanol, chloroform, acetone, and *N,N*-dimethylformamide, but insoluble in water and saturated hydrocarbons such as *n*-hexane and petroleum ether.

Spectroscopic characterization

In the IR spectra of compounds **1–3**, the ν(O-H) band of phenolic hydroxyl appears at ~3200 cm⁻¹, whereas the broad band of 3300–2600 cm⁻¹ assigned to ν(O-H) of COOH of free salicylic acid does not appear, which indicates the deprotonation of the carboxyl of salicylic acid

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X, Y = H, H (**1**); NO₂, H (**2**); NO₂, NO₂ (**3**)

Scheme 1: Synthesis of compounds **1–3**.

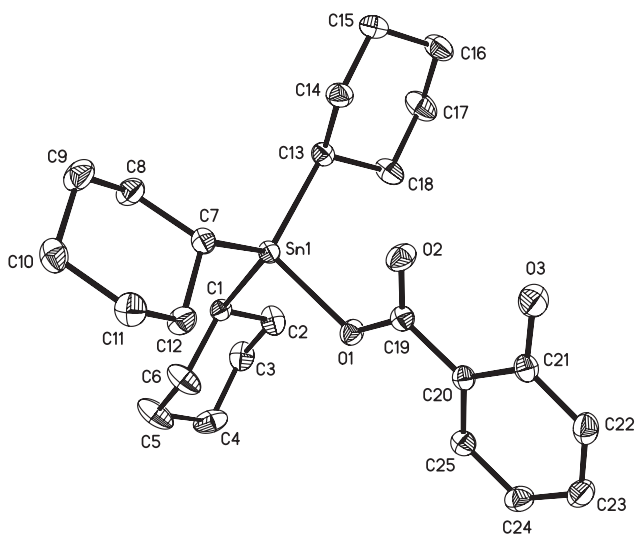


Figure 1: The molecular structure of **1**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

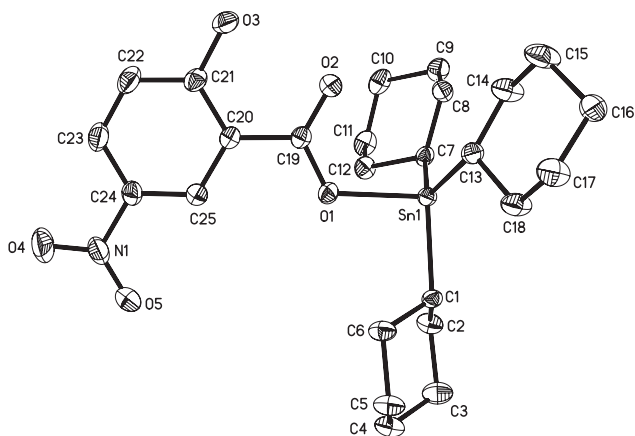


Figure 2: The molecular structure of **2**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

on complexation with the tin atom (Deacon and Phillips, 1980; Tian et al., 2015a,b). The strong bands at ~1635 and ~1315 cm⁻¹ are assigned to the asymmetrical stretching vibration, $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{COO}^-)$, and symmetrical stretching vibration, $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{COO}^-)$, of the salicylate, respectively. The difference between the $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{COO}^-)$ and $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{COO}^-)$ bands, $\Delta\nu(\text{COO}^-)$,

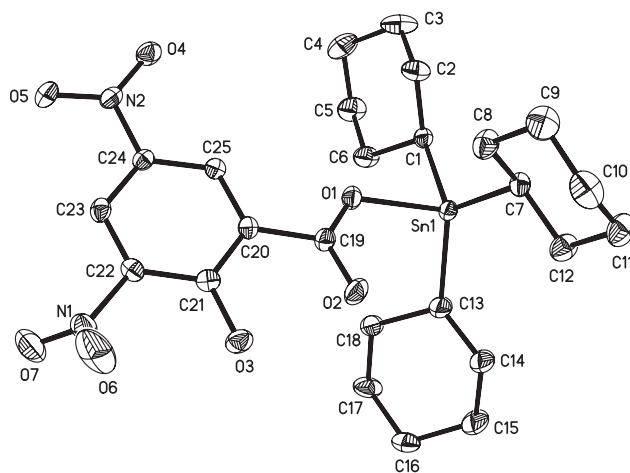


Figure 3: The molecular structure of **3**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

is 326 cm⁻¹ for **1**, 318 cm⁻¹ for **2**, and 320 cm⁻¹ for **3**, which is obviously larger than that observed in the sodium salt of free acid (227 cm⁻¹ for sodium salicylate, 249 cm⁻¹ for sodium 5-nitrosalicylate, and 240 cm⁻¹ for 3,5-dinitrosalicylate), indicating that the carboxylate group is coordinated to tin in monodentate mode in the solid state (Deacon and Phillips, 1980; Szorcisk et al., 2004; Li et al., 2010).

In the ¹H NMR spectra of **1–3**, the single resonances of phenolic OH appear at ~12 ppm, and the resonances of COOH of the free ligands are not observed at ~15 ppm, which further confirms the replacement of the carboxylic acid protons by the tricyclohexyltin moiety on complex formation (Tian et al., 2015a,b; Zhang et al., 2015). Complexes **1–3** show the multiplets in the range of 1.25–2.09 ppm due to the cyclohexyl protons. The proton resonances of the benzene ring of **1–3** appear in the range of 6.86–9.02 ppm.

Crystal structure of **1–3**

The structures of complexes **1–3** are shown in Figures 1–3, and the selected geometric parameters are given in Table 1. Compound **1** crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *P*2₁/*c*. The tin atom is four-coordinated, and the coordination geometry is a distorted tetrahedron shaped by three carbon atoms of cyclohexyl groups and one carboxyl O(1) from the carboxylate ligand. The bond angles around the tin atom are in the range of 94.74(7)°–117.80(8)°. The separation between the carbonyl O(2) atom of the carboxylate ligand and the Sn atom is Sn(1)···O(2) 2.971(4) Å. This distance is shorter than the sum of the Van der Waals radii of tin and oxygen (3.73 Å) and much longer than the sum of the covalent radii of tin and oxygen (2.14 Å) (Hu et al., 2003). Distortions from the ideal geometry may be

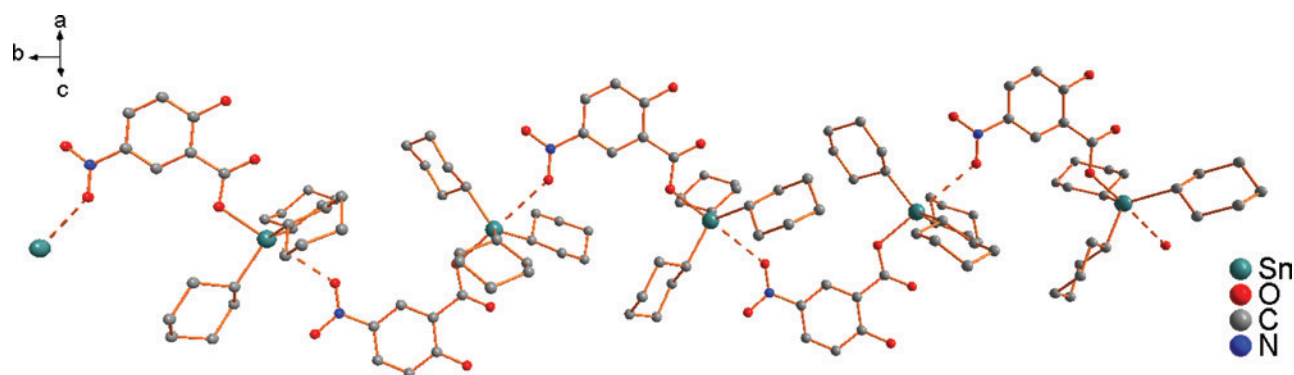
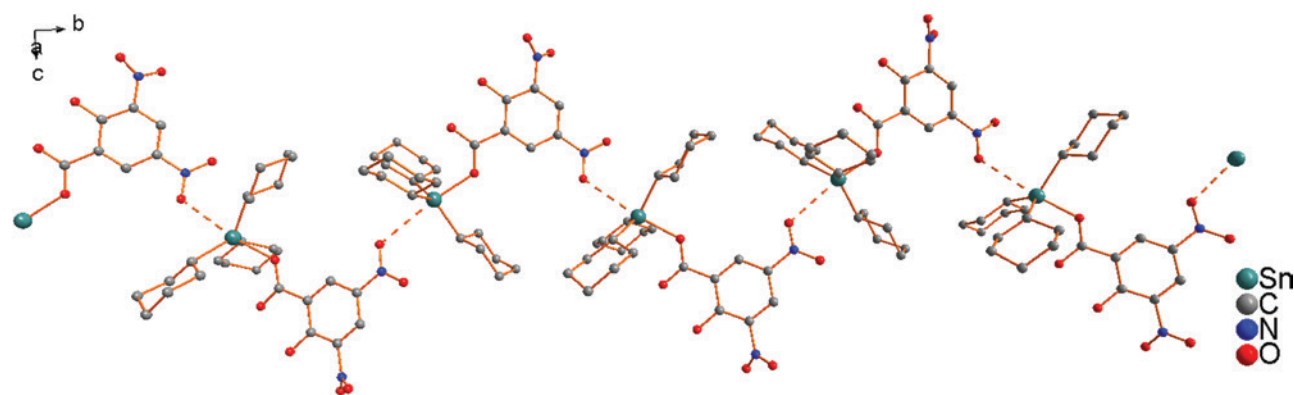
Table 1: Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 1–3.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bond (Å) | | | |
| Sn(1)–O(1) | 2.0890 (16) | 2.115 (3) | 2.126 (3) |
| Sn(1)–C(1) | 2.162 (2) | 2.154 (4) | 2.144 (4) |
| Sn(1)–C(7) | 2.154 (2) | 2.151 (4) | 2.156 (4) |
| Sn(1)–C(13) | 2.155 (2) | 2.156 (4) | 2.143 (4) |
| C(19)–O(1) | 1.293 (3) | 1.292 (5) | 1.267 (5) |
| C(19)–O(2) | 1.235 (3) | 1.236 (5) | 1.248 (4) |
| Angles (°) | | | |
| O(1)–Sn(1)–C(1) | 94.74 (7) | 94.66 (14) | 90.80 (12) |
| O(1)–Sn(1)–C(7) | 105.94 (8) | 99.85 (14) | 100.60 (13) |
| O(1)–Sn(1)–C(13) | 107.49 (8) | 101.60 (15) | 102.66 (16) |
| C(1)–Sn(1)–C(7) | 117.80 (8) | 115.76 (16) | 119.10 (15) |
| C(1)–Sn(1)–C(13) | 113.05 (8) | 111.52 (15) | 112.47 (19) |
| C(7)–Sn(1)–C(13) | 114.92 (9) | 125.61 (17) | 122.40 (17) |

rationalized partly by the weak Sn(1)···O(2) interaction. The monodentate mode of coordination of carboxylate is also reflected in two disparate C–O bond lengths (C(19)–O(1) 1.293(3) Å, C(19)–O(2) 1.235(3) Å) of the carboxylate ligand (Table 1). The four bond lengths around Sn are similar to those found in other reported tricyclohexyltin

carboxylates, such as tricyclohexyltin indole-3-acetate (Molloy et al., 1986), 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutyrate (Song et al., 2003), ferrocenecarboxylate (Dong et al., 2014), and phenoxyacetate (Zhang et al., 2015).

Compounds **2** and **3** crystallize in the monoclinic space group $C2/c$ and $P2_1/n$, respectively. The structures of **2** and **3** are similar to compound **1**, and the tin atom also has a distorted tetrahedral geometry with the angles in the range of $94.66(14)^\circ$ – $125.61(17)^\circ$ for **2** and $90.80(12)^\circ$ – $122.40(17)^\circ$ for **3**, respectively. In **2** and **3**, there is a long Sn(1)···O(4)ⁱ contact (3.090(4) Å for **2** and 3.039(4) Å for **3**) (symmetry operation $i=1.5-x, 0.5+y, 0.5-z$ for **2** and $1.5-x, -0.5+y, 1.5-z$ for **3**) between the tin atom and the O(4) atom of nitro (N(1)O(4)O(5)) from an adjacent molecule. Through the intermolecular interaction molecules are connected to each other into a one-dimensional supramolecular chain (Figures 4 and 5). The atom O(4)ⁱ exerts a steric influence on the atom Sn(1) from the opposite side of the atom O(1), and thus contributes to the distortion of the tetrahedral geometry around the Sn atom, by opening up the C–Sn(1)–C angles ($111.52(15)^\circ$ – $125.61(17)^\circ$ for **2** and $112.47(19)^\circ$ – $122.40(17)^\circ$ for **3**) and contracting the O(1)–Sn(1)–C angles ($94.66(14)^\circ$ – $101.60(15)^\circ$ for **2** and $90.80(12)^\circ$ – $102.66(16)^\circ$

**Figure 4:** The zigzag chain of **2** formed by the intermolecular Sn···O interaction.**Figure 5:** The zigzag chain of **3** formed by the intermolecular Sn···O interaction.

for **3**). The hydroxy group (O(3)H) in each molecule of compounds **1–3** forms an intramolecular hydrogen bond with the carboxylate carbonyl oxygen atom (O(2)) of the same ligand (Table 2), and the O(2)–C(19)–C(20)–C(21)–O(3) in each molecule is essentially planar.

Antibacterial activity

The antibacterial activity of compounds **1–3**, tricyclohexyltin hydroxide, the free acids and the reference drugs, penicillin sodium (sodium (2*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-6-[(phenylacetyl)amino]-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylate) and cefazolin sodium (sodium (6*R*,7*R*)-7-amino-8-oxo-3-[[[(1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-sulphanyl]methyl]-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-ene-2-carboxylate), is listed in Table 3. The results showed that compounds **1–3** against *Escherichia coli* are active, and the activity is better than that of the substrate (C₆H₅SnOH), the ligand (free acid), and penicillin sodium, but is weaker than that of cefazolin sodium. Compared with the reported tricyclohexyltin carboxylates such as 2-phenyl-1,2,3-triazole-4-carboxylate [minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)=13.50 µg mL⁻¹] (Tian et al., 2005), ferrocenecarboxylate (MIC=23.98 µg mL⁻¹) (Dong et al., 2014), and phenoxyacetate (MIC=25.22 µg mL⁻¹) (Zhang et al., 2015), these salicylates are more active. The activity of the three compounds decreased in the order **3**>**2**>**1** under experimental

conditions. Thus, the carboxylate ligand of trioganotin carboxylates appears to play an important role in determining their antibacterial activity, and further structure modification of organotin compounds by selecting a suitable carboxylate ligand is valuable for enhancing activity.

Conclusions

Three tricyclohexyltin salicylates have been synthesized and characterized. In **1–3**, the carboxylate is in monodentate coordination to the tin atom, and the tin atom possesses a distorted tetrahedral geometry. In **2** and **3**, molecules are connected to each other into a zigzag supramolecular chain by the intermolecular Sn...O interaction between the tin atom and the oxygen atom of nitro from an adjacent molecule. The compounds have good activity against *Escherichia coli*, and can be considered as antibacterial compounds to further study.

Experimental details

General

All chemicals used in the syntheses were of analytical grade and purchased from commercial sources (Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Company Limited, Shanghai, China) and used as received. Carbon and hydrogen analyses were determined using a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II elemental analyzer (Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA). IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Nexus 470 FT-IR spectrophotometer using KBr disks in the range of 4000–400 cm⁻¹ (Thermo Nicolet Corporation, Madison, WI, USA). ¹H NMR spectral data were collected using a Bruker Avance DPX300 NMR spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Switzerland) with CDCl₃ as solvent and tetramethylsilane as internal standard.

Synthesis of the complexes

Tricyclohexyltin salicylate (1): To a suspension of tricyclohexyltin hydroxide (0.77 g, 2 mmol) in 50 mL of toluene was added salicylic acid (0.28 g, 2 mmol). Under electromagnetic stirring, the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 5 h with a Dean-Stark separator, and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The solution was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure by a rotary evaporator. The resulting white solid was recrystallized from methanol and dried in a vacuum dryer for 24 h to afford a colorless crystal of **1** (0.92 g, 91%). M.p. 105–106°C. Anal. calcd. for C₂₅H₃₈O₃Sn (%): C, 59.43; H, 7.58. Found: C, 59.54; H, 7.52. IR (KBr): 3195 [br, ν(OH)], 1632 [ν(COO⁻)_{as}], 1306 [ν(COO⁻)_s] cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.25–1.99 (m, 33H, c-C₆H₁₁), 6.86–6.99 (m, 2H, Ar-H-3 and H-5), 7.42 (dt, *J*=8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-4), 7.80 (dd, *J*=8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-6), 11.49 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.

Table 2: Hydrogen bond O(3)–H(3)···O(2) distances in compounds **1–3**.

| | O(3)–H(3) (Å) | H(3)···O(2) (Å) | O(3)···O(2) (Å) | O(3)–H(3)···O(2) (°) |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 0.82 | 1.860 | 2.579 (4) | 145.8 |
| 2 | 0.82 | 1.799 | 2.526 (4) | 147.0 |
| 3 | 0.82 | 1.778 | 2.511 (3) | 147.8 |

Table 3: Antibacterial activity (MIC, µg mL⁻¹) of the compounds.

| Compound | <i>Escherichia coli</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 6.04 |
| 2 | 5.40 |
| 3 | 3.85 |
| (c-C ₆ H ₁₁) ₃ SnOH | 31.23 |
| 2-HOC ₆ H ₄ COOH | 25.74 |
| 5-NO ₂ -2-HOC ₆ H ₃ COOH | 24.04 |
| 3,5-(NO ₂) ₂ -2-HOC ₆ H ₂ COOH | 15.15 |
| Penicillin sodium | 8.03 |
| Cefazolin sodium | 2.01 |

MIC, Minimum inhibitory concentration.

Table 4: Crystallographic data and structure refinement for 1–3.

| Compound | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Empirical formula | C ₂₅ H ₃₈ O ₃ Sn | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₅ Sn | C ₂₈ H ₃₉ N ₂ O ₇ Sn |
| Formula weight | 505.24 | 550.25 | 634.30 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Monoclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | <i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> | <i>C</i> 2/ <i>c</i> | <i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i> |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 17.0790 (12) | 16.2724 (12) | 10.7198 (15) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 9.3944 (7) | 17.4651 (12) | 18.013 (3) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 15.8293 (11) | 18.5199 (13) | 15.025 (2) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 92.028 (2) | 92.762 (2) | 94.962 (2) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Volume (Å ³) | 2425.1 (3) | 5257.2 (6) | 2890.4 (7) |
| <i>Z</i> | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| <i>D_c</i> (g·cm ⁻³) | 1.384 | 1.390 | 1.458 |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 1.075 | 1.005 | 0.930 |
| <i>R</i> (000) | 1048 | 2272 | 1308 |
| θ range | 2.50–25.99 | 1.71–26.00 | 1.77–26.00 |
| Crystal size (mm) | 0.46×0.42×0.36 | 0.36×0.36×0.22 | 0.24×0.16×0.12 |
| Unique reflections | 20 551 (<i>R</i> _{int} =0.023) | 16 613 (<i>R</i> _{int} =0.027) | 22 123 (<i>R</i> _{int} =0.033) |
| Reflections [<i>I</i> >2 σ (<i>I</i>)] | 4769 | 5174 | 5678 |
| Goodness of fit on <i>F</i> ² | 1.050 | 1.034 | 1.025 |
| <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> >2 σ (<i>I</i>)] | <i>R</i> =0.025, <i>wR</i> =0.065 | <i>R</i> =0.044, <i>wR</i> =0.118 | <i>R</i> =0.043, <i>wR</i> =0.103 |
| <i>R</i> indices (all data) | <i>R</i> =0.029, <i>wR</i> =0.067 | <i>R</i> =0.058, <i>wR</i> =0.128 | <i>R</i> =0.054, <i>wR</i> =0.110 |
| $\Delta\rho_{\max}$, $\Delta\rho_{\min}$ (e, Å ⁻³) | 0.478, -0.338 | 0.969, -0.353 | 1.040, -0.614 |

Tricyclohexyltin 5-nitrosalicylate (2): This compound was prepared in the same way as **1** by the reaction of tricyclohexyltin hydroxide (0.77 g, 2 mmol) with 5-nitrosalicylic acid (0.37 g, 2 mmol). Yield 0.95 g (86%). M.p. 112–113°C. Anal. calcd. for C₂₅H₃₇NO₅Sn (%): C, 54.57; H, 6.78; N, 2.55. Found: C, 54.39; H, 6.56, N, 2.52. IR (KBr): 3210 [br, ν (OH)], 1638 [ν (COO⁻)_{as}], 1320 [ν (COO⁻)_s] cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.37–2.09 (m, 33H, *c*-C₆H₁₁), 7.03 (d, *J*=9.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-3), 8.27 (dd, *J*=9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-4), 8.79 (d, *J*=2.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-6), 12.57 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.

Tricyclohexyltin 3,5-dinitrosalicylate (3): Complex **3** was prepared by the same procedure as **1** by the reaction of tricyclohexyltin hydroxide (0.77 g, 2 mmol) with 3,5-dinitrosalicylic acid (0.46 g, 2 mmol). Yield 1.01 g (85%). M.p. 134–135°C. Anal. calcd. for C₂₅H₃₆N₂O₇Sn (%): C, 50.44; H, 6.10; N, 4.71. Found: C, 50.39; H, 6.05, N, 4.72. IR (KBr): 3208 [br, ν (OH)], 1635 [ν (COO⁻)_{as}], 1315 [ν (COO⁻)_s] cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.34–2.04 (m, 33H, *c*-C₆H₁₁), 8.87 (d, *J*=3.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-6), 9.02 (d, *J*=3.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-H-4), 12.69 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.

X-ray crystallography

The colorless single crystals of **1–3** were obtained from methanol by slow evaporation at room temperature. Diffraction measurements were performed on a Bruker Smart Apex imaging-plate area detector fitted with graphite monochromatized MoK α radiation (0.71073 Å) using the φ and ω scan technique at 295(2) K. Empirical corrections for absorption effects were made using the SADABS program (Sheldrick, 1996). The structures were solved by direct methods and refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure based on *F*² using SHELXL-97 (Sheldrick, 2008). The non-hydrogen atoms were refined

anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions in the riding model approximation, with C-H=0.93 Å for aromatic and formyl H atoms, C-H=0.97 Å for methylene H atoms, C-H=0.98 Å for methine H atoms, and O-H=0.82 Å for hydroxy H atoms. Crystal data, collection procedures, and refinement results are shown in Table 4. The crystallographic data of compounds **1–3** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 1471305, 1471306, and 1471307.

Antibacterial activity

The antibacterial activity of compounds **1–3** against *Escherichia coli* was determined by a microcalorimetric method according to the literature (Zhang et al., 2004, 2015). A 2277 Thermal Activity Monitor (Thermometric AB, Sweden) was used to determine the power-time curves of bacterial growth at 310 K. Based on the data of power-time curves and theoretical model, the growth rate constants were calculated (Zhang et al., 2004). The relationship between the growth rate constants (μ) and concentration (*C*) of organotin medicine was fitted by using a computer (see the μ -*C* curves in Figures S-1–S-7 in the online supplementary material). When the growth rate constant was 0, the MIC was confirmed.

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