The title compd., [HgCl₂(C₁₄H₁₂N₂)], consists of one 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (dmphen) ligand chelating the Hg²⁺ ion and two chloride ligands coordinating to the Hg²⁺ ion, forming a distorted tetrahedral environment. The dmphen ligand is nearly planar (root-mean-square deviation = 0.0225 Å). The dihedral angle between the normal to the plane defined by the Hg²⁺ atom and the two Cl atoms and the normal to the plane of the dmphen ring is 81.8(1)°. Crystallog. data and at. coordinates are given.