A metadata file was invalid.

Erroneous code example:

```
use ::foo; // error: found invalid metadata files for crate `foo`
```

When loading crates, each crate must have a valid metadata file. Invalid files could be caused by filesystem corruption, an IO error while reading the file, or (rarely) a bug in the compiler itself.

Consider deleting the file and recreating it, or reporting a bug against the compiler.