

The Crystal Structure of *N*-Methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one

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N-Methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one, $C_{10}H_8NO_2Br$, crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/n$ with cell dimensions $a=7.551$, $b=18.310$, $c=7.626$ Å and $\beta=100.85^\circ$. There are four molecules in the unit cell. The structure, solved with the 'heavy atom' method after localization of the bromine atom from Patterson maps, was refined by three-dimensional anisotropic full-matrix least-squares analysis. A final R index of 0.065 for 1008 observed reflexions was obtained. Bond lengths and angles are normal; the planes of the phenyl and isoxazolinone rings contain a dihedral angle of 50.4° . The results are compared with those for *N*-methyl-4-phenylisoxazolin-5-one in order to explain the differences found in the solid phase between 3-aryl and 4-aryl derivatives of *N*-methylisoxazolin-5-one.

Introduction

In the solid phase the 4-aryl derivatives of *N*-methylisoxazolin-5-one exhibit different physical properties from those of the 3-aryl derivatives. In the preceding paper (Sabelli & Zanazzi, 1969) the crystal structure of *N*-methyl-4-phenylisoxazolin-5-one, a member of the former group of compounds, is reported. The main purpose of the present investigation is to obtain information on the crystal structure of 3-aryl substituted *N*-methylisoxazolin-5-ones, in order to give an interpretation of the differences found.

The crystal structure of *N*-methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one, which has been briefly described elsewhere (Cialdi & Sabelli, 1967), was therefore refined, and the results, as well as the general conclusions, are reported in this paper.

Experimental and structure determination

Suitable crystals for X-ray investigation were obtained by recrystallizing from alcohol the material kindly

supplied by Dr De Sarlo of the Istituto di Chimica Organica of Florence University. The crystals are monoclinic, with:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 7.551 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA} \\ b &= 18.310 \pm 0.009 \\ c &= 7.626 \pm 0.005 \\ \beta &= 100.85 \pm 0.07^\circ \\ \text{Space group: } &P2_1/n \\ \text{Cell contents: } &4C_{10}H_8NO_2Br \\ D_m &= 1.61 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, D_x = 1.63 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}. \end{aligned}$$

The lattice parameters were determined at room temperature. 1431 reflexions from $hk0$ to $hk4$ were collected by the Weissenberg method, with $[001]$ as rotation axis (Cu $K\alpha$ radiation); of these, 423 were too weak to be measured. These unobserved reflexions were given an intensity value just below the minimum observed and they were included in least-squares refinement, as indicated later. The layer lines were put on the same scale by the method used in the previous paper.

Table 1. Fractional coordinates of non-hydrogen atoms and thermal parameters

The estimated standard deviations are given in parenthesis and refer to the last decimal places of the respective values. The temperature factors are in the form:

$$T = \exp [-(\beta_{11}h^2 + \beta_{22}k^2 + \beta_{33}l^2 + 2\beta_{12}hk + 2\beta_{13}hl + 2\beta_{23}kl)].$$

	x	y	z	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Br	0.6731 (1)	0.3827 (1)	0.6544 (2)	0.0164 (1)	0.0035 (1)	0.0272 (4)	0.0010 (1)	0.0096 (2)	-0.0017 (1)
O(1)	0.6972 (6)	0.5596 (3)	0.7463 (9)	0.0131 (9)	0.0034 (2)	0.0183 (19)	-0.0026 (3)	0.0055 (9)	-0.0007 (4)
O(2)	0.4207 (6)	0.5562 (2)	0.8155 (8)	0.0136 (8)	0.0022 (1)	0.0149 (18)	-0.0014 (3)	0.0066 (9)	-0.0014 (3)
N	0.2905 (6)	0.5006 (3)	0.8212 (9)	0.0107 (10)	0.0022 (2)	0.0129 (23)	-0.0009 (3)	0.0049 (10)	-0.0007 (4)
C(1)	0.2058 (12)	0.3336 (4)	0.5746 (15)	0.0250 (18)	0.0031 (2)	0.0046 (31)	-0.0008 (5)	0.0044 (17)	-0.0015 (6)
C(2)	0.0975 (14)	0.2677 (5)	0.5717 (22)	0.0294 (22)	0.0041 (3)	0.0215 (45)	-0.0021 (7)	0.0062 (23)	-0.0062 (10)
C(3)	0.0371 (12)	0.2455 (4)	0.7176 (16)	0.0252 (18)	0.0028 (2)	0.0108 (40)	-0.0013 (5)	0.0084 (19)	0.0013 (7)
C(4)	0.0661 (11)	0.2854 (4)	0.8692 (17)	0.0181 (15)	0.0029 (2)	0.0199 (40)	-0.0018 (5)	0.0017 (16)	0.0012 (7)
C(5)	0.1639 (10)	0.3488 (4)	0.8816 (15)	0.0161 (12)	0.0023 (2)	0.0120 (35)	0.0008 (4)	0.0048 (14)	0.0015 (5)
C(6)	0.2364 (8)	0.3721 (3)	0.7389 (12)	0.0116 (10)	0.0027 (2)	0.0022 (26)	-0.0009 (3)	0.0011 (12)	0.0000 (5)
C(7)	0.3454 (8)	0.4391 (3)	0.7519 (11)	0.0109 (9)	0.0020 (2)	0.0033 (24)	0.0001 (3)	0.0023 (10)	0.0002 (4)
C(8)	0.5140 (8)	0.4503 (3)	0.7152 (11)	0.0133 (11)	0.0027 (2)	0.0042 (25)	-0.0009 (4)	0.0024 (11)	-0.0011 (5)
C(9)	0.5656 (8)	0.5238 (3)	0.7536 (10)	0.0146 (11)	0.0022 (2)	0.0064 (25)	-0.0009 (3)	0.0056 (12)	0.0000 (4)
C(10)	0.1107 (8)	0.5332 (5)	0.7736 (17)	0.0108 (12)	0.0036 (3)	0.0264 (35)	0.0009 (4)	0.0094 (14)	-0.0008 (7)

The positions of the bromine atoms in the cell were readily found from a three-dimensional Patterson function. Oxygen, nitrogen and carbon atoms in the structure were then located by means of subsequent Fourier syntheses. After the improvement of atomic coordinates by a final more detailed electron density map, the R index, defined as $\Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$, was 0.17.

Refinement of the structure

The crystal structure of *N*-methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one was refined three-dimensionally by the least-squares method on the IBM 7090 computer* with the program of Busing & Levy adapted by Stewart (1964). The function minimized was $\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$, where $1/w = 1$ for observed reflexions with $F < 4F_{\min}$ and for unobserved reflexions for which $F_c > F_{\min}$; $1/w = 4F_{\min}/F$ for observed reflexions with $F \geq 4F_{\min}$ and $1/w = 0$ for unobserved reflexions with $F_c < F_{\min}$ and for some strong reflexions with low value of $\sin \theta/\lambda$, which showed extinction. Two cycles of full-matrix least-squares refinement using individual isotropic temperature factors, each followed by a proper rescaling of F_o 's, reduced the R index to 0.15. Individual anisotropic thermal parameters were then applied and R dropped to 0.076 in two cycles. At this stage a difference Fourier synthesis was computed. On the maps small peaks were found at, or very close to, the positions expected for hydrogen atoms. With the contribution of these atoms, to which an overall isotropic thermal parameter of 5 \AA^2 was assigned, R reached the value 0.065 for all the observed reflexions included in the refinement. The atomic coordinates and thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms are listed in Table 1. The positional parameters of hydrogen atoms are given in Table 2. The observed and calculated structure factors are shown in Table 3. The atomic scattering factors used for Br, O, N, C and H were those from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962).

Discussion

Fig. 1 shows the structure of *N*-methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one projected along the c axis. The bond lengths and angles with their e.s.d.'s are listed in Table 4.

The equations of the best planes through the six carbon atoms of the phenyl group and through the five atoms of the isoxazolinone ring are respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} 5.961x - 9.617y + 1.246z + 1.264 &= 0 \\ 1.952x - 4.821y + 6.590z - 3.537 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where x , y , and z are fractional atomic coordinates referred to the monoclinic axes. The deviations of the atoms from these planes appear in Table 5. As in the

Table 2. *Fractional coordinates of hydrogen atoms*

	x	y	z
H(1)	0.260	0.345	0.440
H(2)	0.070	0.255	0.420
H(3)	-0.040	0.200	0.730
H(4)	0.015	0.270	0.960
H(5)	0.160	0.375	0.980
H(6)	0.070	0.565	0.880
H(7)	0.095	0.545	0.630
H(8)	0.000	0.500	0.810

case of *N*-methyl-4-phenylisoxazolin-5-one (Sabelli & Zanazzi, 1969), both rings are planar within the experimental limits. A significant difference was found for the dihedral angle between phenyl and isoxazolinone planes. This angle is 50.4° .

The phenyl ring has a mean observed C-C bond distance of 1.385 Å. The interatomic distances in the isoxazolinone ring are similar to those found for the 4-phenyl derivative: the bond lengths lie between the corresponding single and double bond values, so confirming the presence of resonance in the ring.

The bond length between the bromine atom and C(8) is 1.843 Å, in agreement with the value of 1.85 Å given by *International Tables* (1962) for bromine bound to the aromatic ring. The displacement of Br from the isoxazolinone plane (0.24 Å) has to be attributed to the steric hindrance of the phenyl group: the resultant distances between bromine and C(1) and H(1) are 3.58 and 3.31 Å respectively.

It is worth pointing out that the distance between the nitrogen atom and the carbon atom of the methyl group, which has a value of 1.464 Å, nearly the normal value for the single N-C bond, is somewhat longer than the corresponding distance found in the 4-phenyl compound, 1.421 Å. This carbon atom, C(10), shows a considerable deviation (0.79 Å) from the mean isoxazolinone plane. Most likely this displacement is a consequence of the steric hindrance between the methyl and phenyl groups: the interatomic distances are 3.48 Å for C(10)-C(5), 3.28 Å for C(10)-H(5), 3.04 Å for H(8)-C(5) and 2.79 Å for H(8)-H(5). This strained position of the methyl group could account for the exceptional behaviour of the compound when heated in alkaline solution: the reaction yields 3-phenylisoxazolin-5-one, thus showing that a demethylation occurs at the N atom (De Sarlo & Renzi, 1966).

The C=O bond, 1.200 Å long, is somewhat shorter than that (1.217 Å) in the 4-phenyl derivative, and this feature agrees with the higher value of the infrared C=O stretching frequency.

The interatomic C(6)-C(7) distance between the two rings is 1.470 Å, greater than the corresponding distance in the 4-phenyl compound (1.455 Å). This difference was expected, because of the higher value of the tilt angle between phenyl and isoxazolinone rings in *N*-methyl-3-phenyl-4-bromoisoxazolin-5-one, which does not allow the two rings to be conjugated in the same way as in the 4-phenyl derivative. However, the

* The calculations were carried out at the Centro Nazionale Universitario di Calcolo Elettronico of Pisa University.

Table 3 (cont.)

M _{1,3,3}	-2 105 -81	-5 99 92	-3 168 163	M _{1,1,4}	5 194 173	1 309 302	M _{1,15,4}
-1 467 -537	3 134 -106	6 67* 23	4 92 95	0 228 328	-5 88* -32	-1 96 -96	0 240 -236
2 53* -2	-7 175 -180	-4 219 208	-4 184 -186	1 433 524	6 82* -57	2 95 95	-1 88* 35
-2 725 -751	-4 274 272	7 67 66	5 55 -56	-1 315E -476	-6 175 -163	-2 80* -56	-1 89* -5
3 63* 17	-4 71* -31	-7 236 -253	-5 69* -61	2 304 310	-7 155 164	3 175 -177	-2 86* -70
-3 494 470	-5 173 -157	-8 56* -55	-6 56* 55	-2 535 -517	-1 164 -162	-3 150 -161	-2 134 132
4 98 -93	6 78* -46			3 211 183	-9 133 -162	-4 164 -169	3 81* -49
-4 119 -92	-6 82* -44	M _{1,12,3}	M _{1,17,3}	-3 221 239		-4 205 199	5 82* 48
5 252 -226	7 65* -30	0 82 -80	0 175 -168	4 209 -182	M _{6,6,4}	5 82* 48	-3 88* -58
-5 350 312	-7 303 315	1 332 329	1 96 -108	-4 322 286	0 59* -42	6 67* -40	-4 110 124
6 139 120	-8 88 94	-1 109 98	-1 80* -34	5 90* -64	1 226 -226	0 166 -173	5 53* -1
-6 180 181	-9 92 -97	7 37* -11	2 243 232	-5 80* 41	-2 146 192	-7 76* -59	-5 76* 65
7 245 252		-2 305 -296	-2 207 216	-6 178 169	2 73* -52	-8 68 87	-5 73* -9
-7 217 -207	M _{1,8,3}	3 259 -263	3 70* 23	-7 225 -209	-2 145 133		
-8 154 -142	0 58* -19	4 85 -76	4 61* 24	-8 181 -192	3 309 310	M _{1,11,4}	
-9 67 57	1 425 -414	-4 150 147	-4 87 90	-9 93 112	-3 405 387	0 220 217	M _{1,7,6,4}
	-1 58* -26	5 76* 65	5 44* -20		4 88* -29	-7 75* -41	0 87* 30
	2 74 -62	-5 295 299	-5 62* 36	M _{1,2,4}	5 89* -63	1 106 -106	-1 193 -196
0 51 52	-2 208 194	6 63* 1	-6 173 -195	0 279 328	-5 380 -353	2 88* -63	-2 132 132
-1 475 522	3 515 512	-6 111 -108	-6 171 -108	1 691 793	6 80* -69	-2 437 -435	-2 208 -208
-1 207 228	-3 310 309	7 37* -11	7 37* -11	-1 185 -217	-6 90* -4	3 137 -144	-2 132 132
2 183 183	4 193 184	-7 70 81	-7 70 81	2 184 182	-7 86* 24	-3 150 160	-3 84* 17
-2 45* -10	-4 244 -228	-8 42* -20	-8 42* -20	-2 162 -170	-8 72* -12	4 87* -0	-4 63* -14
-3 781 -788	-5 80* -44			-3 252 -235	-9 82 101	5 99* -15	-5 132 -162
4 95 -82	6 76* 0	M _{1,13,3}	M _{1,18,3}	4 99* -80	M _{1,7,4,4}	-5 117 -110	-6 60* -07
-4 208 202	-6 140 140	0 467 473	-2 160 -177	5 90* -15	0 206 -229	6 70 95	
5 311 299	7 63 -64	1 164 -143	1 164 -143	4 99* -15	-1 69* -17	-6 93 94	M _{1,17,4}
-5 449 -430	-7 78* 7	-1 78* -69	-3 80 114	-5 535 480	-1 554 -346	-7 71* -66	0 83* 55
6 91 88	-8 64* 34	2 265 -263	4 53 -61	-6 139 -129	1 146 156	-8 120 -133	1 222 -236
-6 614 614	-9 124 169	-2 211 -184	-2 211 -184	-8 178 52	-2 429 419	3 86* -11	-2 76* -63
7 71* 2		3 82* -70	3 82* -70	-9 59 -78	-3 409 391	4 169 147	-3 88* 66
-7 82* 21	M _{1,9,3}	-3 81* -40	-3 81* -40		4 169 147	-1 182 -179	-3 84 88
-8 73* -8	0 448 -451	-4 82* 3	-4 82* 3	M _{1,3,4}	0 440 535	5 160 -149	-4 53* 9
-9 183 -180	1 107 117	5 72* 32	5 72* 32	1 53* 97	-1 269 298	6 78* -78	-5 61* -23
	-1 219 -197	-5 80* -58	-5 80* -58	2 289 273	-2 289 273	-6 234 -226	-6 40 45
0 785 884	2 375 373	-6 225 242	-6 225 242	3 101 -89	-3 255 -244	-8 211 244	0 88* 64
1 408 -423	3 119 -104	-7 59* -1	-7 59* -1	4 40* 3	-4 57* -47	5 74* 67	-2 69* 71
-1 444 474	-3 106 -81	M _{1,14,3}	M _{1,19,3}	4 325 273	-4 325 273	6 55* 42	-3 88* 66
2 250 -246	4 185 164	0 159 -163	0 159 -163	5 187 176	-5 187 176	3 89* -24	-4 53* 9
-2 561 -569	-4 180 185	-1 81* -14	-1 81* -14	-7 187 172	-7 187 172	-5 154 -165	-5 61* -23
3 674 -645	-5 188 -115	1 104 106	1 104 106	-8 216 -238	-8 216 -238	-6 85* 17	-6 40 45
3 126 122	-6 164 -164	-1 81* -14	-1 81* -14	-9 74 -101	-9 74 -101	4 85* 17	0 88* 64
4 109 -88	6 220 -208	2 174 -178	2 174 -178			-5 164 153	-1 139 149
-4 111 -95	6 104 -104	-1 81* -14	-1 81* -14	M _{1,20,3}	M _{1,13,4}	-7 87 -92	-1 78* -63
5 93 67	-6 214 -208	2 174 -178	2 174 -178	0 64* -48	0 390 -387	1 171 -166	-2 69* 71
-5 340 -313	6 74 83	3 130 -119	3 130 -119	1 68 64	-2 325 327	-1 145 140	-2 77* -64
6 132 104	-7 75* -52	-3 246 -252	-3 246 -252	1 65 61	2 325 327	2 325 327	3 58* -64
-6 397 382	-8 149 164	-1 81* -14	-1 81* -14	2 61 70	-2 71* 12	3 148 135	-3 162 -168
7 69* 10	M _{1,10,3}	-4 275 -269	-4 275 -269	2 61* -6	-3 76* -3	4 103 107	-5 55 74
-7 306 296	0 131 -135	5 67* 51	5 67* 51	3 80 -96	4 103 107	2 40* -9	
-8 254 -257	-1 285 -278	-5 204 202	-5 204 202	3 80 -96	4 103 107	2 40* -9	M _{1,19,4}
-9 50* -13	-1 67* 2	-6 69* 50	-6 69* 50	-4 62 81	0 457 506	5 147 145	0 70* 42
	2 174 163	-7 66 -72	-7 66 -72	-1 252 -254	-1 252 -254	3 211 -212	-1 66* 39
0 194 -171	3 174 168	M _{1,15,3}	M _{1,21,3}	-2 241 226	-2 241 226	5 325 -315	-2 143 -158
1 135 126	-3 73* -37	0 82* 4	0 92 117	4 378* 60	4 378* 60	5 101 106	-2 59* 27
-1 155 -168	4 110 -118	1 122 -122	1 122 -122	-3 106 93	-3 106 93	6 86* 8	-2 54* 18
2 508 -515	-4 545 545	-1 50* -57	-1 50* -57	5 90* -53	5 90* -53	6 86* 8	-2 59* -2
-2 655 643	5 80* 57	-1 238 227	-1 238 227	-5 533 -500	-5 533 -500	6 86* 8	-3 63* 27
3 114 -107	-5 103 -88	-2 82* -4	-2 82* -4	-5 110 95	-5 110 95	6 86* 8	-4 53* 41
-3 271 -272	6 71 -2	-2 82* -20	-2 82* -20	6 189 191	6 189 191	6 86* 8	
4 178 166	-6 81* -48	3 79* 7	3 79* 7	-6 339 292	-6 339 292	6 86* 8	M _{1,20,4}
-4 495 -472	7 53* -24	-3 202 -207	-3 202 -207	-8 161 -170	-8 161 -170	6 86* 8	0 60* 9
5 324 315	-8 121 119	4 73* 19	4 73* 19	-8 76* -43	-8 76* -43	6 86* 8	-1 61 107
-5 238 232	4 150 140	5 111 130	5 111 130	-9 51* 31	-9 51* 31	6 86* 8	-2 62* -67
6 123 120	5 111 130	-2 84* 93	-2 84* 93			6 86* 8	-2 45* 18
-6 417 407	M _{1,11,3}	-6 84 -89	-6 84 -89	M _{1,5,4}	M _{1,14,4}	4 90* 9	-3 54* -67
7 67* 19	0 114 99	-7 98 109	-7 98 109	0 54* 25	0 54* 25	4 90* 9	
-7 130 -132	1 272 272			1 128 116	1 128 116	4 90* 9	M _{1,21,4}
-8 127 120	-2 449 -444	M _{1,16,3}	M _{1,22,3}	2 470 505	2 470 505	4 90* 9	0 46* 28
-9 80* -19	2 86 94	0 82* 67	0 82* 67	-2 180 -192	-2 180 -192	4 90* 9	-1 50 62
	-2 191 -173	1 87* -83	1 87* -83	4 84* -13	4 84* -13	4 90* 9	-2 42* -32
0 278 -283	3 178 175	-1 119 115	-1 119 115	-4 641 573	-4 641 573	4 90* 9	
1 329 -320	-3 134 145	-2 161 -169	-2 161 -169	-3 298 -273	-3 298 -273	4 90* 9	
-1 644 677	4 101 95	-2 82* 9	-2 82* 9	4 158 144	4 158 144	4 90* 9	
2 64* 13	5 136 -135	3 76* 55	3 76* 55	-4 75* 2	-4 75* 2	4 90* 9	

C(6)-C(7) bond length is shortened in relation to a single C-C bond, and this is indicative of a small double bond character.

The mean C-H bond length is 1.06 Å.

The intermolecular distances are listed in Table 6. The shortest contact involving a bromine atom is Br-H(8) (a) with a value of 3.07 Å.

Because of the type of data rescaling, anisotropic thermal parameters are only of semiquantitative value. In Table 7 the axes of thermal ellipsoids, with angles relative to the cell edges, are listed. All the atoms were found to vibrate with marked anisotropy, but the

thermal motion is lower than that in *N*-methyl-4-phenylisoxazolin-5-one (previous paper) and the rigid body molecular displacement is not so evident.

Conclusions

In the preceding paper and in the *Introduction* to the present one, it was pointed out that the 3-aryl and 4-aryl derivatives of *N*-methylisoxazolin-5-one have similar physical properties in solution, but some differences arise in the crystalline state, as can be seen in the following table (after De Sarlo, Fabbrini & Renzi, 1966):

No.	Compound		Solubility in ether at 18°C (mg.ml ⁻¹)	ν _{C=O} (cm ⁻¹)		Dipole moments in benzene solution
	R	R'		Solid	CCl ₄ soln.	
1	C ₆ H ₅	H	43-45°	1743	1751	6.00 Debyes
2	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	67-69°	1730	1745	5.73
3	C ₆ H ₅	Br	108-109°	26	1760	6.20
4	H	C ₆ H ₅	144-146°	1.5	1700	5.40
5	CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	112-113°	4.2	1706	5.65
6	H	<i>p</i> -Br-C ₆ H ₄	173-174°	1.4	1680	5.83

(R is the substituent in position 3 and R' the substituent in position 4 in the isoxazolinone ring).

Table 4. Bond distances and angles with their standard deviations

C(7)–C(8)	1.369 (8) Å	C(7)–C(8)—Br	128.7 (4)°
C(8)—Br	1.843 (6)	C(9)–C(8)—Br	121.5 (4)
C(8)–C(9)	1.416 (7)	C(7)–C(8)—C(9)	109.3 (5)
C(9)–O(1)	1.200 (7)	C(8)–C(9)—O(1)	135.0 (6)
C(9)–O(2)	1.402 (7)	O(2)–C(9)—O(1)	119.3 (5)
O(2)–N	1.421 (6)	C(8)–C(9)—O(2)	105.7 (5)
N—C(10)	1.464 (8)	C(9)–O(2)—N	107.2 (4)
N—C(7)	1.342 (8)	O(2)–N—C(10)	108.3 (5)
C(7)–C(6)	1.470 (7)	C(7)–N—C(10)	125.8 (6)
C(6)–C(1)	1.418 (11)	C(7)–N—O(2)	108.8 (5)
C(1)–C(2)	1.455 (12)	C(8)–C(7)—N	108.8 (5)
C(2)–C(3)	1.342 (17)	C(8)–C(7)—C(6)	129.9 (5)
C(3)–C(4)	1.350 (14)	N—C(7)—C(6)	121.1 (6)
C(4)–C(5)	1.369 (10)	C(7)–C(6)—C(1)	118.1 (7)
C(5)–C(6)	1.374 (12)	C(6)–C(1)—C(2)	115.0 (9)
		C(1)–C(2)—C(3)	121.1 (1.1)
		C(2)–C(3)—C(4)	121.3 (8)
		C(3)–C(4)—C(5)	121.1 (1.0)
		C(4)–C(5)—C(6)	119.9 (9)
		C(5)–C(6)—C(1)	121.5 (6)
		C(5)–C(6)—C(7)	120.5 (7)
C(1)–H(1)	1.19	C(6)–C(1)—H(1)	130
C(2)–H(2)	1.16	C(2)–C(1)—H(1)	115
C(3)–H(3)	1.03	C(1)–C(2)—H(2)	100
C(4)–H(4)	0.90	C(3)–C(2)—H(2)	138
C(5)–H(5)	0.90	C(2)–C(3)—H(3)	127
C(10)–H(6)	1.09	C(4)–C(3)—H(3)	111
C(10)–H(7)	1.10	C(3)–C(4)—H(4)	118
C(10)–H(8)	1.11	C(5)–C(4)—H(4)	121
		C(4)–C(5)—H(5)	114
		C(6)–C(5)—H(5)	125
		H(6)–C(10)—H(7)	130
		H(6)–C(10)—H(8)	77
		H(7)–C(10)—H(8)	114
		N—C(10)—H(6)	114
		N—C(10)—H(7)	104
		N—C(10)—H(8)	115

On the basis of the determination of the crystal structure of *N*-methyl-4-phenylisoxazolin-5-one (number 4 in the table) and of *N*-methyl-3-phenyl-4-

bromoisoxazolin-5-one (number 3 in the table) as representative members of the two series of compounds, it is possible to make an allowances for the differences in physical behaviour.

Table 5. Deviations from the least-squares planes

The equations of the planes were computed with the first six and first five atoms for the phenyl and isoxazoline rings respectively.

Phenyl	C(1)	–0.001 Å
	C(2)	–0.016
	C(3)	0.019
	C(4)	–0.003
	C(5)	–0.014
	C(6)	0.016
	C(7)	0.039
	H(1)	0.04
	H(2)	–0.25
	H(3)	0.01
	H(4)	–0.05
	H(5)	–0.17
Isoxazolinone	O(2)	–0.022
	N	–0.029
	C(7)	–0.024
	C(8)	0.009
	C(9)	0.008
	C(6)	0.001
	O(1)	0.05
	C(10)	–0.79
	Br	0.24

Table 6. Shortest intermolecular distances

Distances are less than 3.5 Å for non-hydrogen atoms; less than 3 Å for contacts involving carbon, nitrogen and oxygen atoms with hydrogen atoms; and less than 2.7 Å for contacts between hydrogen atoms.

(a)	$x-1, y, z$	
(b)	$-x+\frac{1}{2}, y-\frac{1}{2}, -z+\frac{3}{2}$	
(c)	$-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$	
(d)	$-x+1, -y+1, -z+2$	
(e)	$-x, -y+1, -z+2$	
	O(2)–O(2) (d)	3.51 Å
	N—O(1) (d)	3.46
	N—O(2) (d)	3.35
	C(1)–O(1) (c)	3.32
	C(3)–O(2) (b)	3.50
	C(5)–O(1) (d)	3.29
	C(7)–O(2) (d)	3.44
	C(8)–O(2) (d)	3.52
	C(9)–N(d)	3.25
	C(10)–O(1) (a)	3.13
	H(1)–O(1) (c)	2.31
	H(5)–O(1) (d)	2.47
	H(8)–O(1) (a)	2.50
	H(6)–H(5) (e)	2.42

The most significant difference between these two substances is the value of the dihedral angle between the two rings of the molecule, *i.e.* between phenyl and isoxazolinone planes. This angle is $\simeq 50^\circ$ for compound 3 and $\simeq 12^\circ$ for compound 4. This feature may be explained on the basis of general considerations on the thermodynamic stability of organic crystals, according to the theory of Kitajgorodskij (1965). This stability is reached when the free vibrational energy, as a sum

of intra- and intermolecular energies, corresponds to a minimum. In substances such as these the energies involved are the potential energy, depending on the effects between the atoms forming the molecule, the resonance energy and the lattice energy. The first term reaches a minimum when the phenyl ring is perpendicular to the isoxazolinone ring. On the contrary, the other two energy terms attain a minimum when the two rings are coplanar.

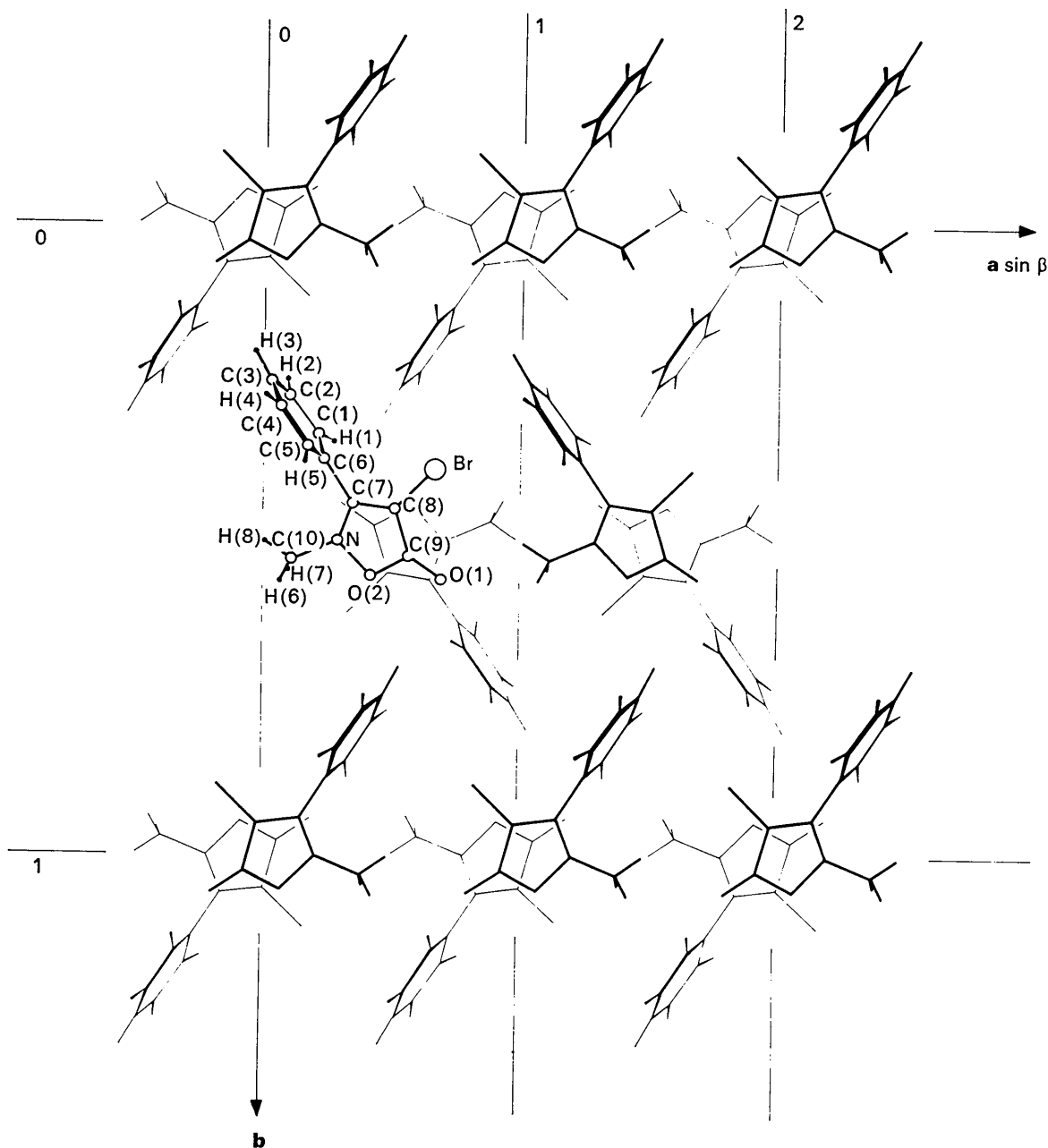


Fig. 1. Projection of the structure along the c axis.

Table 7. *Principal axes of thermal ellipsoids*

The root mean square displacement U_i (Å) corresponds to the i th principal axis of the ellipsoid and $\theta_{ia}, \theta_{ib}, \theta_{ic}$ are the angles ($^\circ$) between the i th axis and the crystallographic axes a, b, c respectively. The B_i are equal to the corresponding $8\pi^2 U_i^2$.

	B_i	U_i	θ_{ia}	θ_{ib}	θ_{ic}
Br	4.87	0.25	60.5	32.9	82.2
	6.66	0.29	79.3	111.1	30.2
	2.37	0.17	31.6	113.9	119.0
O(1)	3.92	0.22	94.0	67.5	23.3
	5.46	0.26	117.0	35.9	106.1
	1.92	0.16	27.3	63.5	106.3
O(2)	2.35	0.17	91.8	38.2	52.2
	4.52	0.24	60.2	121.6	54.0
	2.04	0.16	29.8	70.7	121.9
N	2.60	0.18	83.2	42.5	50.8
	3.62	0.21	114.6	49.8	123.4
	1.79	0.15	25.6	78.3	123.0
C(1)	4.14	0.23	108.5	159.0	77.3
	5.62	0.27	20.6	106.3	88.0
	0.72	0.10	98.8	77.3	12.7
C(2)	6.13	0.28	16.6	77.9	111.8
	8.74	0.33	106.6	44.9	125.4
	1.74	0.15	89.8	47.5	43.5
C(3)	4.08	0.23	84.4	28.3	63.9
	5.88	0.27	24.7	105.6	81.7
	1.37	0.13	114.0	113.0	27.5
C(4)	3.96	0.22	120.2	74.3	135.2
	5.62	0.27	127.0	55.2	48.5
	2.86	0.19	51.8	39.1	103.8
C(5)	2.98	0.19	141.1	53.5	69.7
	4.16	0.23	53.8	54.2	64.1
	1.96	0.16	102.3	123.6	33.8
C(6)	2.37	0.17	156.9	112.6	84.2
	3.79	0.22	112.6	22.6	87.0
	0.48	0.08	94.3	90.5	6.5
C(7)	2.39	0.17	13.8	96.3	88.4
	2.72	0.19	84.3	6.7	87.5
	0.65	0.09	102.6	92.2	2.9
C(8)	2.69	0.18	154.7	115.1	82.4
	3.92	0.22	113.9	27.7	98.5
	0.77	0.10	97.5	78.9	11.4
C(9)	2.72	0.19	63.5	34.1	75.4
	3.69	0.22	40.2	123.3	79.1
	0.90	0.11	117.8	96.3	18.2
C(10)	4.84	0.25	75.5	17.4	83.3
	6.21	0.28	79.2	102.4	24.9
	1.50	0.14	18.1	101.9	113.9

The molecular configuration in the crystal depends, of course, on the equilibrium of these terms. In 3-aryl compounds the most important term is the potential energy of the molecule, and the steric hindrance between the methyl group linked to the nitrogen atom of the isoxazolinone ring and the phenyl group in the 3 position rules out the possibility of the molecule being planar. In 4-aryl compounds, however, the pressure exerted by the crystalline field upon the molecule gives a tendency towards planarity and, though the molecular energy is increased, the total free energy decreases in agreement with the decrease of the lattice energy, because of the possibility of a closer packing of molecules. This fact is responsible for the higher melting points and the lower solubility in ether of 4-aryl compounds in comparison with the 3-aryl ones.

As regards the shift in the keto group stretching frequency, it could be said that it is in agreement with differences in C=O bond lengths for both the compounds whose structures have been solved. However, the shift is not easily explained on the basis of the different conjugation between the phenyl and the isoxazolinone rings. It might be thought that the shift of $\nu_{C=O}$ in the 4-aryl compounds is to be attributed to crystal intermolecular interactions; this could also be ascribed to the different packing possibilities of the molecules of the two series of compounds.

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