

36.9 (12)°, respectively, show that in the N(1)-methyl-substituted molecule there is a greater degree of twist out of the benzo plane as noted previously (Chananont *et al.*, 1981). In the methyl-substituted molecule the boat conformation is also distorted to a slightly greater extent from the ideal cycloheptatriene-like shape.

The major conformational difference between the title compounds is in the orientation of the 5-aryl ring. The angle between the mean plane of the 5-aryl ring and the 'benzo' plane is 60.3 (6)° in bromazepam and 75.5 (9)° in flunitrazepam. The latter value falls within the range of angles found in 5-phenyl-1,4-benzodiazepines where the 5-phenyl ring carries an *ortho* substituent and the former is typical of structures containing an unsubstituted 5-phenyl ring (Chananont, Hamor & Martin, 1980).

NMR studies of bromazepam in solution by Sarrazin, Faure, Aubert & Vincent (1980) have led these authors to suggest that the 5-(2-pyridyl) ring is involved in an intramolecular hydrogen bond C(6)—H...N(2') at room temperature. The present study indicates that in the solid state any such interaction can only be very weak. The pertinent lengths are C(6)...N(2') 2.996 (7), H(6)...N(2') 2.65 (5) Å and the H(6)—C(6)...N(2') angle is 59 (3)° with H(6) displaced by 2.30 (5) Å from the plane of the pyridyl ring. In the solid state N(2') prefers to form an intermolecular hydrogen bond with N(1) of a centrosymmetrically related molecule, N(1)...N(2') 3.108 (5),

H(1)...N(2') 2.24 (5) Å, angle H(1)—N(1)...N(2') 9 (3)°.

Other intermolecular contact distances in this structure, and those in flunitrazepam, correspond to normal van der Waals interactions.

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