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Acta Cryst. (1993). **C49**, 1786–1789

X-ray Diffraction Analysis of Two Hexahydropyrido[2,1-*b*][1,3,4]oxadiazines: Evidence for the Effect of Steric Congestion on Anion Formation at the Aminonitrile Centre

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(Received 9 December 1992; accepted 24 February 1993)

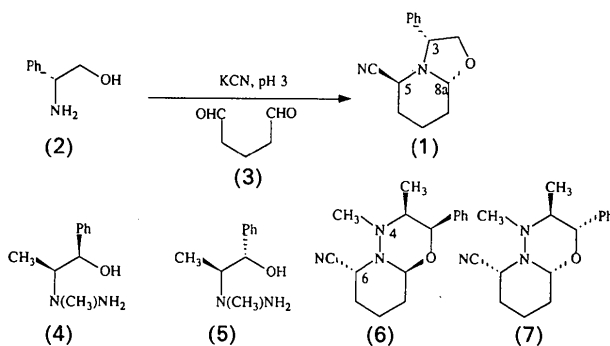
Abstract

The X-ray crystal structures of (2*R*,3*S*,6*R*,9*aS*)- and (2*S*,3*S*,6*R*,9*aR*)-3,4-dimethyl-2-phenyl-3,4,7,8,9,9a-hexahydro-2*H*,6*H*-pyrido[2,1-*b*][1,3,4]oxadiazine-6-carbonitrile, (6) and (7), respectively, revealed that the six-membered rings are chair shaped and the ring junctions are *cis*. Furthermore, it was found that the C6 H atom is hindered by the axial methyl group substituted at C3 in (6) and that the C6 H atom in compound (7) is similarly protected by the presence of the equatorial methyl group on N4. These results provide insight into the reactivity of these molecules.

Comment

The versatility of 3-phenyl-2,3,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-5*H*-oxazolo[3,2-*a*]pyridine-5-carbonitrile (1) as a monochiral 1,4-dihydropyridine equivalent is illustrated by the concise enantioselective synthesis of a variety of different piperidine alkaloids (Guerrier, Royer, Grierson & Husson, 1983; Yue, Royer & Husson, 1990; Lienard, Royer, Quirion & Husson, 1991; Rubiralta, Giralt & Diez, 1991). This compound is obtained as a crystalline solid in a high-yielding one-step procedure involving condensation of (-)-2-amino-2-phenylethanol (2) with glutaraldehyde

(3) in the presence of KCN (Bonin, Grierson, Royer & Husson, 1991). An essential feature of the reactivity of (1) is that the N atom of aminophenylethanol is incorporated into the piperidine ring of the target molecule, and that once the role of the chiral benzylic carbon centre C3 has been fulfilled, the piperidine N atom can be liberated conveniently under hydrogenolysis conditions. An alternative strategy which permits both liberation of the piperidine N atom and recovery of the aminoalcohol component intact involves the use of the hydrazine based compounds (6) and (7). These monochiral compounds were prepared in an analogous fashion to (1) from the hydrazine derivatives (4) and (5) of (1*R*,2*S*)-(-)-ephedrine and (1*S*,2*S*)-(+)-pseudoephedrine, respectively (Takahashi, Senda & Higashiyama, 1991). Interestingly, problems were encountered during attempts to generate and alkylate the anion formed at C6 through reaction of (6) and (7) with alkyl lithium bases or lithium diisopropylamide. To corroborate our view that the C6 position in these compounds is highly congested, thus prohibiting both efficient anion formation and subsequent approach of the electrophile to the anion centre, we have determined the structures of compounds (6) and (7) by X-ray diffraction.



In the asymmetric unit of compound (7) there are two independent molecules which adopt identical conformations. A systematic comparison of all bond distances, bond angles and torsion angles gave r.m.s. deviations of 0.006 Å, 0.5 and 3.1°, respectively.

In the structures of (6) and (7), the six-membered rings are chair shaped and the junctions of these rings are *cis*. However, the conformations of the two molecules (6) and (7) are quite different. The H atom at C9a and the lone pair at N5 point in different directions, being below the general plane of the molecule in (6) and above this plane in (7). The phenyl group is equatorial in the two molecules while the position of the cyano group at C6 is equatorial in (6) and axial in (7). The methyl groups at N4 and C3 are axial in (6) and equatorial in (7). The steric environment of H6 in compounds (6) and (7) is clearly depicted in the figures. In compound (6) (Fig. 1), H6, which is in an axial position, is in close contact with the methyl group C17 (linked to C3); H6...C17 2.61 and H6...H17a 2.09 Å.

In compound (7), H6, now in an equatorial position, is in close proximity to the methyl group C18 which is linked to N4. The short intramolecular contacts are H6...C18 (molecule *A* 2.47, molecule *B* 2.49 Å) and H6...H18c (molecule *A* 2.05, molecule *B* 2.08 Å). These observations confirm that C6 is in a sterically crowded environment and support our hypothesis concerning the non-reactivity of compounds (6) and (7).

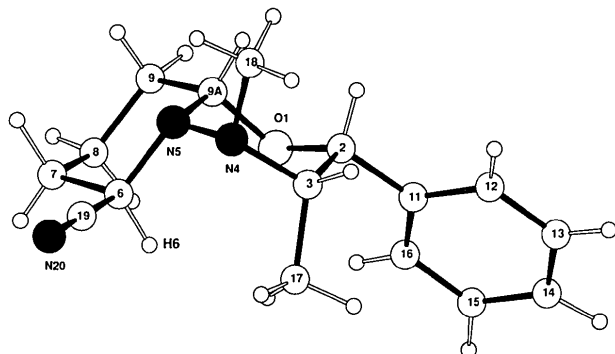


Fig. 1. Perspective view of compound (6).

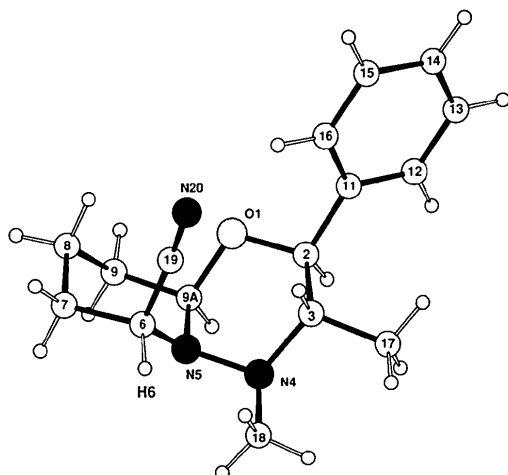


Fig. 2. Perspective view of compound (7).

Experimental

Compound (6)

Crystal data

$C_{16}H_{21}N_3O$

$M_r = 271.36$

Orthorhombic

$P2_12_12_1$

$a = 8.934 (3) \text{ \AA}$

$b = 11.556 (4) \text{ \AA}$

$c = 14.884 (6) \text{ \AA}$

$V = 1536.6 (9) \text{ \AA}^3$

$Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.17 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$

Cu $K\alpha$ radiation

$\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$

Cell parameters from 24 reflections

$\theta = 5.9\text{--}45.6^\circ$

$\mu = 0.56 \text{ mm}^{-1}$

$T = 293 \text{ K}$

Prism

$0.20 \times 0.30 \times 0.50 \text{ mm}$

Colourless

Data collection

Philips PW1100 diffractometer

$\theta/2\theta$ scans

Absorption correction: none

5557 measured reflections

1618 independent reflections

1473 observed reflections

$[I > 3.0\sigma(I)]$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.044$

$\theta_{\text{max}} = 67.94^\circ$

$h = -10 \rightarrow 10$

$k = -13 \rightarrow 13$

$l = 0 \rightarrow 17$

3 standard reflections

frequency: 180 min

intensity variation: none

Refinement

Refinement on F

Final $R = 0.041$

$wR = 0.060$

$S = 0.82$

1473 reflections

244 parameters

Only coordinates of H atoms refined

Calculated weights

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F) + 0.0053F^2]$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.09$

$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.14 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.19 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Atomic scattering factors

from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1974, Vol. IV)

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters (\AA^2) for (6)

$$U_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_i \sum_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_j^* a_i \cdot a_j$$

	x	y	z	U_{eq}
O1	0.0003 (2)	0.5026 (1)	0.4570 (1)	0.058 (1)
C2	-0.1324 (3)	0.5661 (2)	0.4349 (1)	0.053 (2)
C3	-0.1913 (3)	0.6257 (2)	0.5208 (1)	0.050 (2)
N4	-0.2102 (2)	0.5411 (2)	0.5957 (1)	0.054 (2)
N5	-0.0894 (2)	0.4592 (2)	0.6050 (1)	0.058 (2)
C6	0.0293 (3)	0.5080 (2)	0.6602 (2)	0.058 (2)
C7	0.1541 (4)	0.4188 (3)	0.6768 (2)	0.077 (3)
C8	0.2169 (5)	0.3811 (4)	0.5868 (2)	0.093 (4)
C9	0.0931 (5)	0.3310 (3)	0.5297 (2)	0.087 (4)
C9a	-0.0385 (4)	0.4123 (2)	0.5189 (2)	0.065 (2)
C11	-0.1001 (3)	0.6514 (2)	0.3606 (1)	0.051 (2)
C12	-0.2189 (3)	0.6993 (2)	0.3131 (2)	0.058 (2)
C13	-0.1934 (4)	0.7825 (2)	0.2482 (2)	0.067 (2)
C14	-0.0490 (4)	0.8193 (2)	0.2303 (2)	0.070 (3)
C15	0.0702 (3)	0.7702 (3)	0.2756 (2)	0.071 (3)
C16	0.0448 (3)	0.6869 (2)	0.3406 (2)	0.062 (2)
C17	-0.0956 (3)	0.7292 (2)	0.5485 (2)	0.057 (2)
C18	-0.3539 (4)	0.4803 (3)	0.5925 (2)	0.072 (3)
C19	-0.0351 (3)	0.5475 (2)	0.7457 (2)	0.062 (2)
N20	-0.0763 (3)	0.5790 (3)	0.8138 (2)	0.084 (3)

Table 2. Geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$) for (6)

O1—C2	1.432 (3)	C6—C19	1.469 (3)
O1—C9a	1.435 (3)	C7—C8	1.516 (5)
C2—C3	1.544 (3)	C8—C9	1.510 (6)
C2—C11	1.509 (3)	C9—C9a	1.514 (5)
C3—N4	1.493 (3)	C11—C12	1.390 (3)
C3—C17	1.527 (3)	C11—C16	1.391 (3)
N4—N5	1.442 (3)	C12—C13	1.383 (4)
N4—C18	1.464 (4)	C13—C14	1.385 (5)
N5—C6	1.455 (3)	C14—C15	1.382 (4)
N5—C9a	1.464 (3)	C15—C16	1.384 (4)
C6—C7	1.539 (4)	C19—N20	1.138 (4)
C2—O1—C9a	108.7 (2)	C6—C7—C8	108.6 (3)
O1—C2—C3	108.7 (2)	C7—C8—C9	109.7 (3)
O1—C2—C11	110.2 (2)	C8—C9—C9a	113.0 (3)
C3—C2—C11	112.3 (2)	O1—C9a—N5	111.6 (2)
C2—C3—N4	111.4 (2)	O1—C9a—C9	109.4 (2)
C2—C3—C17	112.5 (2)	N5—C9a—C9	112.2 (2)
N4—C3—C17	112.0 (2)	C2—C11—C12	119.2 (2)
C3—N4—N5	114.6 (2)	C2—C11—C16	121.8 (2)
C3—N4—C18	112.9 (2)	C12—C11—C16	119.0 (2)

N5—N4—C18	110.2 (2)	C11—C12—C13	120.5 (2)	C9aA	0.6669 (2)	0.5838 (3)	0.4209 (1)	0.043 (2)
N4—N5—C6	110.2 (2)	C12—C13—C14	120.1 (3)	C11A	0.6683 (2)	0.4366 (3)	0.6233 (1)	0.041 (2)
N4—N5—C9a	113.0 (2)	C13—C14—C15	119.8 (3)	C12A	0.5817 (2)	0.3867 (4)	0.6647 (2)	0.057 (2)
C6—N5—C9a	114.3 (2)	C14—C15—C16	120.1 (3)	C13A	0.6069 (3)	0.2858 (5)	0.7322 (2)	0.069 (3)
N5—C6—C7	111.1 (2)	C11—C16—C15	120.5 (2)	C14A	0.7184 (3)	0.2324 (4)	0.7596 (2)	0.066 (3)
N5—C6—C19	108.9 (2)	C6—C19—N20	175.8 (3)	C15A	0.8049 (2)	0.2750 (4)	0.7174 (2)	0.057 (2)
C7—C6—C19	110.6 (2)			C16A	0.7797 (2)	0.3777 (4)	0.6498 (1)	0.049 (2)
N5—C9a—O1—C2	-65.6 (2)	C6—C7—C8—C9	-58.1 (3)	C17A	0.6206 (3)	0.8343 (5)	0.6258 (2)	0.074 (3)
O1—C2—C3—N4	-53.1 (2)	C7—C8—C9—C9a	54.5 (3)	C18A	0.7119 (3)	1.0266 (4)	0.5011 (2)	0.069 (3)
C2—C3—N4—N5	42.9 (2)	C8—C9—C9a—N5	-49.3 (3)	C19A	0.9186 (2)	0.6717 (4)	0.5109 (1)	0.049 (2)
C3—N4—N5—C9a	-43.3 (2)	C9—C9a—N5—C6	50.1 (2)	N20A	0.9795 (2)	0.6123 (4)	0.5624 (1)	0.064 (2)
N4—N5—C9a—O1	54.1 (2)	O1—C2—C11—C12	163.1 (3)	O1B	0.8466 (1)	1.2373 (2)	0.1804 (1)	0.039 (1)
C9a—N5—C6—C7	-55.6 (2)	N5—C6—C19—N20	169.6 (4)	C2B	0.7439 (2)	1.1369 (3)	0.1822 (1)	0.040 (2)
N5—C6—C7—C8	59.0 (3)			C3B	0.7485 (2)	0.9561 (3)	0.1416 (1)	0.041 (2)
				N4B	0.8590 (2)	0.8707 (3)	0.1745 (1)	0.042 (2)
				N5B	0.9595 (2)	0.9789 (3)	0.1726 (1)	0.040 (2)
				C6B	0.9972 (2)	1.0043 (4)	0.0969 (2)	0.055 (2)
				C7B	1.1094 (2)	1.1100 (5)	0.1096 (2)	0.070 (3)
				C8B	1.0913 (2)	1.2880 (5)	0.1466 (2)	0.069 (3)
				C9B	1.0503 (2)	1.2568 (4)	0.2245 (2)	0.055 (2)
				C9aB	0.9457 (2)	1.1386 (3)	0.2168 (1)	0.039 (2)
				C11B	0.6417 (2)	1.2466 (4)	0.1453 (1)	0.048 (2)
				C12B	0.5436 (2)	1.2571 (6)	0.1803 (2)	0.069 (3)
				C13B	0.4501 (3)	1.3568 (7)	0.1470 (2)	0.087 (4)
				C14B	0.4500 (3)	1.4439 (6)	0.0781 (3)	0.087 (4)
				C15B	0.5461 (3)	1.4355 (5)	0.0423 (2)	0.073 (3)
				C16B	0.6416 (2)	1.3364 (4)	0.0752 (2)	0.056 (2)
				C17B	0.6500 (3)	0.8412 (5)	0.1579 (2)	0.066 (3)
				C18B	0.8753 (3)	0.6951 (4)	0.1433 (2)	0.063 (3)
				C19B	0.9141 (2)	1.0895 (4)	0.0316 (1)	0.058 (2)
				N20B	0.8602 (2)	1.1538 (5)	-0.0209 (1)	0.075 (3)

Compound (7)*Crystal data*C₁₆H₂₁N₃O*M_r* = 271.36

Monoclinic

*P*2₁*a* = 11.756 (4) Å*b* = 7.564 (3) Å*c* = 17.261 (8) Å β = 99.78 (5)°*V* = 1512.6 (10) Å³*Z* = 4*D_x* = 1.19 Mg m⁻³Cu K α radiation λ = 1.5418 Å

Cell parameters from 24 reflections

 θ = 5.0–47.6° μ = 0.57 mm⁻¹*T* = 293 K

Prism

0.60 × 0.70 × 0.50 mm

Colourless

Data collection

Philips PW1100 diffractometer

 $\theta/2\theta$ scans

Absorption correction: none

3055 measured reflections

2968 independent reflections

2861 observed reflections

 $[I > 3.0\sigma(I)]$ *Refinement*Refinement on *F*Final *R* = 0.052*wR* = 0.064*S* = 0.51

2842 reflections

180 parameters

H-atom parameters not refined

R_{int} = 0.008 θ_{\max} = 67.93°*h* = -14 → 13*k* = 0 → 9*l* = 0 → 20

3 standard reflections

frequency: 180 min

intensity variation: none

Calculated weights

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F) + 0.0004F^2]$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.18$ $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.24 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$ $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.24 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Atomic scattering factors

from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1974, Vol. IV)Table 3. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters (Å²) for (7)

	$U_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_i \sum_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_j^* a_i \cdot a_j$			
	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>U_{eq}</i>
O1A	0.6912 (1)	0.4760 (1)	0.4904 (1)	0.040 (1)
C2A	0.6429 (2)	0.5554 (3)	0.5527 (1)	0.039 (2)
C3A	0.6884 (2)	0.7448 (3)	0.5694 (1)	0.042 (2)
N4A	0.6738 (2)	0.8424 (3)	0.4945 (1)	0.047 (2)
N5A	0.7228 (2)	0.7550 (3)	0.4337 (1)	0.043 (2)
C6A	0.8484 (2)	0.7553 (4)	0.4399 (1)	0.052 (2)
C7A	0.8816 (3)	0.6667 (6)	0.3670 (2)	0.071 (3)
C8A	0.8339 (3)	0.4809 (5)	0.3586 (2)	0.073 (3)
C9A	0.7042 (3)	0.4842 (4)	0.3540 (1)	0.061 (3)

Table 4. Geometric parameters (Å, °) for (7)

O1A—C2A	1.430 (2)	O1B—C2B	1.432 (3)
O1A—C9aA	1.438 (3)	O1B—C9aB	1.436 (3)
C2A—C3A	1.539 (3)	C2B—C3B	1.541 (3)
C2A—C11A	1.502 (3)	C2B—C11B	1.509 (3)
C3A—N4A	1.474 (3)	C3B—N4B	1.475 (3)
C3A—C17A	1.517 (4)	C3B—C17B	1.513 (4)
N4A—N5A	1.441 (3)	N4B—N5B	1.443 (3)
N4A—C18A	1.462 (4)	N4B—C18B	1.459 (4)
N5A—C6A	1.463 (3)	N5B—C6B	1.462 (3)
N5A—C9aA	1.451 (3)	N5B—C9aB	1.453 (3)
C6A—C7A	1.534 (4)	C6B—C7B	1.526 (4)
C6A—C19A	1.496 (3)	C6B—C19B	1.505 (4)
C7A—C8A	1.511 (6)	C7B—C8B	1.521 (5)
C8A—C9A	1.514 (5)	C8B—C9B	1.522 (4)
C9A—C9aA	1.505 (4)	C9B—C9aB	1.507 (3)
C11A—C12A	1.392 (3)	C11B—C12B	1.392 (4)
C11A—C16A	1.385 (3)	C11B—C16B	1.389 (4)
C12A—C13A	1.381 (4)	C12B—C13B	1.376 (5)
C13A—C14A	1.376 (5)	C13B—C14B	1.359 (6)
C14A—C15A	1.386 (4)	C14B—C15B	1.380 (5)
C15A—C16A	1.391 (4)	C15B—C16B	1.388 (5)
C19A—N20A	1.135 (3)	C19B—N20B	1.125 (4)
C2A—O1A—C9aA	109.9 (1)	C2B—O1B—C9aB	109.9 (2)
O1A—C2A—C3A	111.3 (2)	O1B—C2B—C3B	111.4 (2)
O1A—C2A—C11A	108.0 (2)	O1B—C2B—C11B	108.2 (2)
C3A—C2A—C11A	112.9 (2)	C3B—C2B—C11B	112.6 (2)
C2A—C3A—N4A	108.4 (2)	C2B—C3B—N4B	108.1 (2)
C2A—C3A—C17A	109.4 (2)	C2B—C3B—C17B	109.8 (2)
N4A—C3A—C17A	110.1 (2)	N4B—C3B—C17B	109.2 (2)
C3A—N4A—N5A	114.1 (2)	C3B—N4B—N5B	114.4 (2)
C3A—N4A—C18A	114.9 (2)	C3B—N4B—C18B	114.8 (2)
N5A—N4A—C18A	109.8 (2)	N5B—N4B—C18B	110.4 (2)
N4A—N5A—C6A	118.0 (2)	N4B—N5B—C6B	118.0 (2)
N4A—N5A—C9aA	107.1 (2)	N4B—N5B—C9aB	107.1 (2)
C6A—N5A—C9aA	116.0 (2)	C6B—N5B—C9aB	116.0 (2)
N5A—C6A—C7A	109.5 (2)	N5B—C6B—C7B	109.0 (2)
N5A—C6A—C19A	117.9 (2)	N5B—C6B—C19B	117.9 (2)
C7A—C6A—C19A	107.8 (2)	C7B—C6B—C19B	108.6 (2)
C6A—C7A—C8A	110.1 (3)	C6B—C7B—C8B	110.2 (3)
C7A—C8A—C9A	110.1 (3)	C7B—C8B—C9B	108.8 (3)
C8A—C9A—C9aA	113.0 (2)	C8B—C9B—C9aB	113.0 (2)
O1A—C9aA—N5A	111.0 (2)	O1B—C9aB—N5B	110.9 (2)
O1A—C9aA—C9A	108.3 (2)	O1B—C9aB—C9B	108.6 (2)

N5A—C9aA—C9A	112.3 (2)	N5B—C9aB—C9B	112.2 (2)
C2A—C11A—C12A	121.2 (2)	C2B—C11B—C12B	120.5 (2)
C2A—C11A—C16A	120.4 (2)	C2B—C11B—C16B	121.3 (2)
C12A—C11A—C16A	118.4 (2)	C12B—C11B—C16B	118.2 (3)
C11A—C12A—C13A	120.8 (3)	C11B—C12B—C13B	120.8 (3)
C12A—C13A—C14A	120.5 (3)	C12B—C13B—C14B	120.9 (4)
C13A—C14A—C15A	119.4 (3)	C13B—C14B—C15B	119.4 (4)
C14A—C15A—C16A	120.0 (3)	C14B—C15B—C16B	120.6 (3)
C11A—C16A—C15A	120.7 (2)	C11B—C16B—C15B	120.1 (3)
C6A—C19A—N20A	174.5 (3)	C6B—C19B—N20B	173.6 (3)
N5A—C9aA—O1A—C2A	64.0 (2)		
O1A—C2A—C3A—N4A	50.5 (2)		
C2A—C3A—N4A—N5A	-52.8 (2)		
C3A—N4A—N5A—C9aA	58.9 (2)		
N4A—N5A—C9aA—O1A	-63.0 (2)		
C9aA—N5A—C6A—C7A	54.8 (2)		
N5A—C6A—C7A—C8A	-57.5 (3)		
C6A—C7A—C8A—C9A	57.3 (3)		
C7A—C8A—C9A—C9aA	-52.9 (3)		
C8A—C9A—C9aA—N5A	48.3 (2)		
C9A—C9aA—N5A—C6A	-50.3 (2)		
O1A—C2A—C11A—C12A	-130.7 (3)		
N5A—C6A—C19A—N20A	-177.5 (4)		
N5B—C9aB—O1B—C2B	64.3 (2)		
O1B—C2B—C3B—N4B	50.4 (2)		
C2B—C3B—N4B—N5B	-52.3 (2)		
C3B—N4B—N5B—C9aB	58.6 (2)		
N4B—N5B—C9aB—O1B	-62.9 (2)		
C9aB—N5B—C6B—C7B	55.3 (2)		
N5B—C6B—C7B—C8B	-59.0 (3)		
C6B—C7B—C8B—C9B	58.7 (3)		
C7B—C8B—C9B—C9aB	-53.6 (3)		
C8B—C9B—C9aB—N5B	48.7 (2)		
C9B—C9aB—N5B—C6B	-50.3 (2)		
O1B—C2B—C11B—C12B	-135.6 (3)		
N5B—C6B—C19B—N20B	171.2 (5)		

Isotropic temperature factors for H atoms were assigned as $1.10 \times U_{eq}$ of the bonded atom. Data collection: Philips PW1100/20 software (1974). Data reduction: *PHIL* (Riche, 1981). Program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS86* (Sheldrick, 1985). Program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELX76* (Sheldrick, 1976). Molecular graphics: *R3M* (Riche, 1983); *ORTEP* (Johnson, 1965). Software used to prepare material for publication: *ACTACIF* (Riche, 1992).

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic thermal parameters, H-atom coordinates and complete geometry including bond distances and angles involving H atoms have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 71197 (22 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: PA1042]

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Acta Cryst. (1993). **C49**, 1789–1792

β -Cytidine, C₉H₁₃N₃O₅

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(Received 20 April 1992; accepted 7 April 1993)

Abstract

β -Cytidine exhibits extensive three-dimensional hydrogen-bonding interactions in its crystal structure; every H atom bonded to an N or O atom (five in total) is involved and each β -cytidine molecule contributes to ten intermolecular hydrogen bonds. The O...O and O...N distances range from 2.707 (4) to 2.947 (4) Å. An intramolecular C—H...O interaction is observed with a C...O distance of 3.245 (5) Å.

Comment

The crystal structure of β -cytidine has been reported by Furberg (1950) and by Furberg, Petersen & Rømming (1965). Both studies used photographic data and reported *R* factors of 0.17–0.19 and 0.056, respectively. The present structure determination of β -cytidine was performed as part of a study of new designs and materials for X-ray collimators (Ward, 1992); it used data collected by a modern automated diffractometer and led to *R* = 0.029. As the previous studies used data collection and computational methods that are no longer considered adequate, and as no other structure report of β -cytidine was discovered, it was decided to report the present structure. The crystal structure determination of α -cytidine, which used diffractometer data and led to an *R* factor of 0.033, was reported by Post, Birnbaum, Huber & Shugar (1977).

The description of the molecular structure by Furberg *et al.* (1965) applies to the present structure, if one allows