

P(3)—N(2)	1,71 (1)	P(9)—N(8)	1,687 (9)
P(3)—N(4)	1,653 (9)	P(9)—N(10)	1,665 (9)
N(1)—N(2)	1,39 (2)	N(7)—N(8)	1,40 (1)
N(4)—N(5)	1,42 (1)	N(10)—N(11)	1,38 (1)
C(6)—O(6)	1,22 (1)	C(12)—O(12)	1,19 (1)
C(6)—N(5)	1,37 (1)	C(12)—N(1)	1,39 (2)
C(6)—N(7)	1,37 (2)	C(12)—N(11)	1,39 (1)

C—C (Phenyl) 1,38 (2) (Mittelwert)
Bereich: 1,34 (2)–1,41 (2)

C(Methyl)—N 1,47 (3) (Mittelwert)
Bereich: 1,43 (2)–1,50 (2)

S(1)—P(3)—O(1)	117,3 (3)	S(2)—P(9)—O(2)	117,9 (3)
O(1)—P(3)—N(2)	96,4 (5)	O(2)—P(9)—N(8)	96,4 (4)
O(1)—P(3)—N(4)	106,9 (4)	O(2)—P(9)—N(10)	107,2 (4)
N(2)—P(3)—N(4)	105,0 (4)	N(8)—P(9)—N(10)	103,8 (4)

C(1)—N(1)—N(2)—C(2)	–74 (1)
C(12)—N(1)—N(2)—P(3)	–89 (1)
C(1)—N(1)—N(2)—P(3)	61 (1)
C(12)—N(1)—N(2)—C(2)	136 (1)
C(4)—N(4)—N(5)—C(5)	–74 (1)
P(3)—N(4)—N(5)—C(6)	–106,8 (9)
C(4)—N(4)—N(5)—C(6)	75 (1)
P(3)—N(4)—N(5)—C(5)	104,2 (8)
C(7)—N(7)—N(8)—C(8)	–73 (1)
C(6)—N(7)—N(8)—P(9)	–84 (1)
C(7)—N(7)—N(8)—P(9)	65 (1)
C(6)—N(7)—N(8)—C(8)	138 (1)
C(10)—N(10)—N(11)—C(11)	–76 (1)
P(9)—N(10)—N(11)—C(12)	–100 (1)
C(10)—N(10)—N(11)—C(12)	72 (1)
P(9)—N(10)—N(11)—C(11)	112,9 (8)
C(1)—N(1)—C(12)—O(12)	–8 (1)
N(2)—N(1)—C(12)—O(12)	142 (1)
C(1)—N(1)—C(12)—N(11)	171,1 (9)
N(2)—N(1)—C(12)—N(11)	–38 (1)
C(11)—N(11)—C(12)—O(12)	135 (1)
N(10)—N(11)—C(12)—O(12)	–10 (2)
C(11)—N(11)—C(12)—N(1)	–45 (1)
N(10)—N(11)—C(12)—N(1)	171,2 (9)
C(7)—N(7)—C(6)—O(6)	–5 (2)
N(8)—N(7)—C(6)—O(6)	144 (1)
C(7)—N(7)—C(6)—N(5)	172 (1)
N(8)—N(7)—C(6)—N(5)	–39 (1)
C(5)—N(5)—C(6)—O(6)	137 (1)
N(4)—N(5)—C(6)—O(6)	–9 (2)
C(5)—N(5)—C(6)—N(7)	–40 (1)
N(4)—N(5)—C(6)—N(7)	174,1 (9)
N(1)—N(2)—P(3)—N(4)	143,0 (8)
N(5)—N(4)—P(3)—N(2)	–45,9 (8)
N(7)—N(8)—P(9)—N(10)	146,0 (7)
N(11)—N(10)—P(9)—N(8)	–51,8 (7)

Die Struktur wurde mit direkten Methoden gelöst (*MULTAN*; Main, Lessinger, Woolfson, Germain & Declercq, 1977). Eine sinnvolle Lösung der Struktur in der zentrosymmetrischen Raumgruppe *Pnma* konnte nicht erhalten werden. Diese Raumgruppe hätte bei $Z = 8$ und somit einem halben Molekül in der asymmetrischen Einheit eine Spiegelebene oder ein Symmetriezentrum im Molekül erfordert. Wie die gelöste Struktur zeigt, ist keine dieser Bedingungen auch nur annähernd erfüllt. Alle anderen Rechnungen wurden mit dem Programmsystem *Xtal2.6* (Hall & Stewart, 1989) durchgeführt. Die gegen Ende der Verfeinerungen versuchte Verfeinerung der H-Atomlagen der Methylgruppen mit isotropen Temperaturfaktoren führte zwar zu einer Verbesserung der *R*-Werte, ergab aber keine sinnvollen Atomlagen. Diese H-Atome wurden deshalb unter Annahme einer jeweils gestaffelten Anordnung der Methylgruppen geometrisch gesetzt. Den betreffenden H-Atomen wurden die isotropen Temperaturfaktoren der an sie gebundenen C-Atome zugewiesen. Die Positionen der Phenyl-H-Atome wurden dage-

gen mit verfeinert mit festen isotropen Temperaturfaktoren. In der endgültig erhaltenen Struktur liegt die polare Achse in einer Richtung parallel zur gewellten 'Ringebe'ne'. Eine Rechnung mit den Atomkoordinaten *-z* ergab demzufolge kein abweichendes Ergebnis.

Wir danken Herrn Kollegen D. Lenz für die Hilfe bei den Messungen. Dem Fonds der Chemischen Industrie gilt unser Dank für finanzielle Unterstützung.

Die Liste der Strukturaktoren, anisotropen Verschiebungsfaktoren, H-Atom Koordinaten und vollständigen geometrischen Daten sind bei dem British Library Document Supply Centre (Supplementary Publication No. SUP 71650: 21 pp.) hinterlegt. Kopien sind erhältlich durch: The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF Aktenzeichen: SH1063]

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Structural Investigations of a Tetracyclic *endo*-Norborenyl Derivative

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Abstract

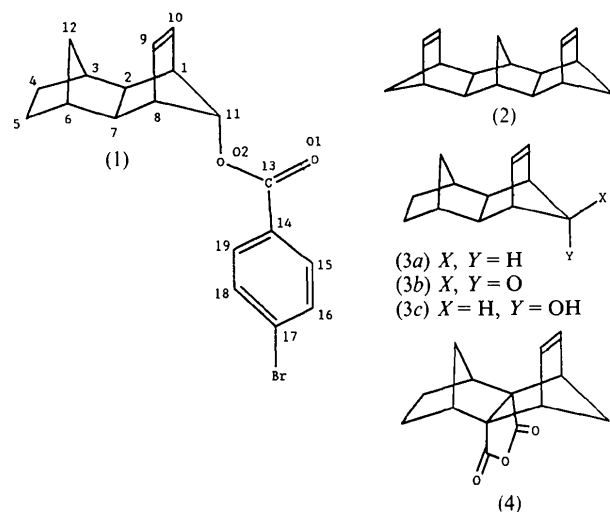
The X-ray crystal structure of *endo,exo*-tetracyclo-[6.2.1.1^{3,6}.0^{2,7}]dodec-9-en-*anti*-11-yl *p*-bromobenzo-

† Deceased 8 July 1991.

ate, C₁₉H₁₉BrO₂ (1), was determined at 148 K. The molecule consists of norbornene with an *anti-p*-bromobenzoate substituent at the methano bridge and an *exo*-norbornyl unit *endo*-fused to the ethano bridge. Structural comparisons are made with another derivative and steric interactions examined. The distance from the norbornyl methano bridge to the norbornene etheno bridge is consistent with laticyclic hyperconjugation in (1).

Comment

Recently, much theoretical and experimental work has gone into understanding the origins of long-range non-conjugated π -orbital interactions (Jordan & Paddon-Row, 1992; Elsässer, Hassenrück, Martin, Mayer, Lutz & Prinzbach, 1991). In this regard, laticyclic hyperconjugation contributes to substantial π splitting (0.52 eV) in the hydrocarbon (2) and raises the π energies in both (2) and (3a) relative to ethene (Paddon-Row, 1985).



An abundance of theoretical and spectroscopic data exists for compounds containing the tetracyclic hydrocarbon framework (3). However, a search of the Cambridge Structural Database (1992) showed that X-ray structural data are limited to a few polychlorinated derivatives (Paddon-Row, Englehardt, Skelton, White, Jørgensen & Patney, 1987; Mackenzie, Miller, Muir & Manojlović-Muir, 1983) and an anhydride derivative (4) (Bartlett, Combs, Le, Watson, Galloy & Kimura, 1982).

Molecular orbital energies are often sensitive to small variations of structural parameters (Angermund, Claus, Goddard & Krüger, 1985; Ermer, Bell & Mason, 1989; Zahn & Ziegler, 1986). It would be desirable, therefore, to determine the structure of the tetracyclic entity (3) as unencumbered as possible by extraneous functional groups.

Single crystals of the hydrocarbon (2) could not be obtained for X-ray analysis (Paddon-Row, Englehardt, Skelton, White, Jørgensen & Patney, 1987). It has not yet been possible to obtain suitable crystals of norbornene (Ermer, Bell & Mason, 1989) or norbornane (Doms, Van Hemelrijk, Van de Mieroop, Lenstra & Geise, 1985). The hydrocarbon (3a) is an oil at 298 K (Stille & Witherell, 1964).

The structure of the *anti-7-p*-bromobenzoate derivative of norbornene has been reported (McDonald & Trotter, 1965) but the precision was low. More recently, the structure of the *anti-7-p*-nitrobenzoate derivative of norbornene was determined (Jones, Kirby & Parker, 1992).

The *p*-bromobenzoate ester (1) was prepared in connection with solvolysis studies of *anti*-norbornene derivatives (Lloyd, 1985) and X-ray analysis proved possible (Coots, 1983).^{*} We have now redetermined the structure at a lower temperature. An ORTEP (Johnson, 1965) drawing of (1) is shown in Fig. 1. There are no non-hydrogen intermolecular contacts shorter than the sum of the respective van der Waals radii (Bondi, 1964; Gordon & Ford, 1972). There are three short intermolecular hydrogen contacts affecting the tetracyclic hydrocarbon entity [H1ⁱ...H15ⁱⁱ 2.20 (6), H4^a...H4^b 2.44 (6) and H4^b...H5^a 2.44 (7) Å].

^{*} Non-standard numbering of the atoms was used in structure (1) in order to facilitate comparison with other structures.

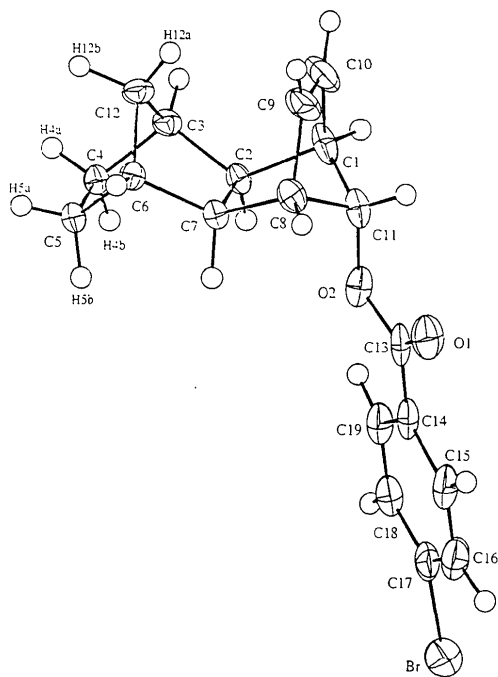


Fig. 1. ORTEP (Johnson, 1965) drawing of the non-H atoms of one of the enantiomers of (1) with displacement ellipsoids shown at the 30% probability level.

The tetracyclic hydrocarbon framework contains a non-crystallographic mirror plane defined by $M(C2-C7)$, $M(C4-C5)$, $M(C9-C10)$, $C(11)$ and $C(12)$, where M is the midpoint of the respective bond. The bond $C11-O2$ is at an angle of 2.53° to the least-squares mirror plane, with $O2$ $0.063(3)$ Å out of the plane. The differences in length between the bonds $C1-C11$ and $C8-C11$ (0.014 Å) and the bonds $C2-C3$ and $C6-C7$ (0.011 Å) are near to the experimental uncertainty. Other differences between symmetry-related bonds are insignificant (≤ 0.007 Å). The bond angles $C1-C2-C3$ and $C6-C7-C8$ differ by 1.4° , while $C1-C11-O2$ and $C8-C11-O2$ differ by 4.9° . All other differences between symmetry-related bond angles are $\leq 0.9^\circ$.

The differences between corresponding bond lengths in (1) and (4) are ≤ 0.023 Å, while differences between corresponding bond angles are $\leq 2.4^\circ$. The e.s.d.'s are smaller in (1) than in (4) by a factor of ~ 2 .

Some structural differences between (1) and (4) are revealed by a comparison of angles between least-squares planes [given for (1) in the side-view *PLUTO* (Motherwell & Clegg, 1978) drawing shown in Fig. 2]. Plane 1 is defined by atoms $C1$, $C11$ and $C8$. Atoms $C1$, $C10$, $C9$, $C8$ (plane 2) are very nearly coplanar, as are $C1$, $C2$, $C7$, $C8$ (plane 3). Although atoms $C3$, $C2$, $C7$, $C6$ (plane 4) and $C3$, $C4$, $C5$, $C6$ (plane 6) approach co-planarity to a lesser extent than the atoms in planes 2 and 3, they are coplanar to within 3σ . The slight puckering may be the result of the intermolecular hydrogen contacts noted above.

The interplanar angles $1^{\wedge}2$, $3^{\wedge}4$ and $4^{\wedge}6$ are nominally smaller by 3.4 , 0.4 and 2.3° , respectively, in (1) than in (4). The interplanar angles $1^{\wedge}3$, $2^{\wedge}3$, $4^{\wedge}5$ and $5^{\wedge}6$ are larger in (1) than in (4) by 1.6 , 1.8 , 1.5 and 0.8° , respectively. The interplanar angle $4^{\wedge}6$ is smaller in (1) than in (4), which is consistent with the greater steric size of the anhydride unit in (4)

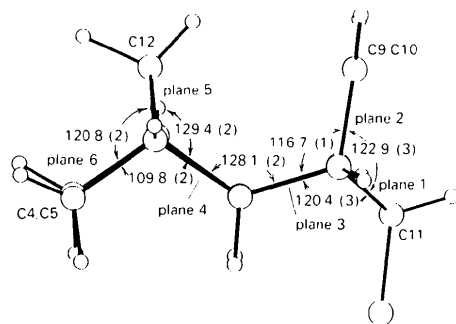


Fig. 2. *PLUTO* (Motherwell & Clegg, 1978) side view, looking down the $C5-C4$ and $C9=C10$ bonds, giving the interplanar angles ($^\circ$) with e.s.d.'s.

compared to that of $H2$ and $H7$ in (1). The $C4-C5$ bridge is tilted upwards in (4) compared to (1). This tilting is probably limited by $H4a-C4-C5-H5a \cdots H12b-C12$ and $C12-H12a \cdots H9-C9=C10-H10$ steric interactions on the opposing (top) face. The $H12a \cdots C9$ and $H12a \cdots C10$ non-bonding distances are $2.56(5)$ and $2.57(4)$ Å, respectively, in (1) and 2.48 Å in (4). Also, the $C12 \cdots C9$ and $C12 \cdots C10$ distances [both $3.087(5)$ Å] are less than the sum of van der Waals radii in (1). These data are consistent with laticyclic hyperconjugation (Jordan & Paddon-Row, 1992) in this compound.

Interestingly, the interplanar angle $1^{\wedge}3$ is larger and the angle $1^{\wedge}2$ is compressed in (1) compared to (4). The non-bonding distances $C2 \cdots O2$, $C7 \cdots O2$, $H2 \cdots O2$ and $H7 \cdots O2$ are $2.752(3)$, $2.792(3)$, $2.53(4)$ and $2.56(4)$ Å, respectively. These contacts are consistent with a steric interaction that could widen angle $1^{\wedge}3$ and compress angle $1^{\wedge}2$ in (1) with respect to (4).

Although the compression of angle $1^{\wedge}2$ in (1) relative to (4) is small, it is statistically significant and in the same direction as in a norbornenyl carbocation (Laube, 1989). The smaller $1^{\wedge}2$ angle in (1) *cf.* (4) could be a manifestation of a $C9=C10$ π -bond interaction with the negative phase lobe of the $C11$ sp^3 orbital used in bonding to $O2$. This effect is apparently small, however, in the *anti-7*-norbornenyl system (Jones, Kirby & Parker, 1992). Furthermore, the $C11-O2$ bond in (1) is shorter than the analogous bond in the *anti-7*-norbornenyl 4-nitrobenzoate ester. The opposite would be expected if the above effect were important. Thus, steric factors seem to be responsible for the major differences between the structures of (1) and (4).

Experimental

The ketone (*3b*) was synthesized using the procedure reported by McCulloch, Rye & Wege (1974). It was reduced to the *anti*-alcohol (*3c*) with $LiAlH_4$ in ether (Franz & Snyder, 1965; Gassman & Pape, 1964). The overall yield of (*3c*) from norbornadiene was 26%. After purification by gas chromatography, (*3c*) was esterified with *p*-bromobenzoyl chloride in dry pyridine (Coots, 1983). The crude ester (1) was recrystallized from hexane in 72% yield, m.p. $357-358$ K; 1H NMR (90 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.47-0.73 (1*H*, *m*), 1.01-1.80 (5*H*, *m*), 1.97-2.25 (4*H*, *m*), 2.90-3.06 (2*H*, *m*), 4.37 (1*H*, *t*), 5.97 (2*H*, *t*), 7.58 (2*H*, *d*), 7.86 (2*H*, *d*). Analysis: calculated for $C_{19}H_{19}BrO_2$ C 63.52, H 5.33%; found C 63.42, H 5.30%. Compound (1) was recrystallized twice more from hexane and then from ether/pentane (1:2 v/v). A small sample (32.2 mg) was placed in a 9 mm \times 85 cm Pyrex tube. The ester was sublimed from 298 to 390 K (0.7 Pa) for 72 h using a 61 cm gradient tube heater (Scientific Instrument Accessories, Austin, TX, USA); a single crystal was obtained.

Crystal data

$C_{19}H_{19}BrO_2$
 $M_r = 359.27$

Cu $K\alpha$ radiation
 $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å

Tetragonal $I\bar{4}$	Cell parameters from 25 reflections
$a = 22.461 (1) \text{ \AA}$	$\theta = 12-20^\circ$
$c = 6.191 (1) \text{ \AA}$	$\mu = 3.6314 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$V = 3123.23 \text{ \AA}^3$	$T = 148 \text{ K}$
$Z = 8$	Prism
$D_x = 1.528 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$	$0.25 \times 0.22 \times 0.16 \text{ mm}$
	Colorless
Data collection	
Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer	1514 observed reflections
$\theta/2\theta$ scans	$[I \geq 3\sigma(I)]$
Absorption correction: empirical, ψ scan	$\theta_{\max} = 65^\circ$
$T_{\min} = 0.729$, $T_{\max} = 0.9833$	$h = 0 \rightarrow 26$
3094 measured reflections	$k = 0 \rightarrow 26$
3054 independent reflections	$l = 0 \rightarrow 7$
	2 standard reflections
	frequency: 60 min
	intensity variation: <3%
Refinement	
Refinement on F	$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.244 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
$R = 0.0256$	$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.270 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
$wR = 0.0262$	Extinction correction: $F_c \text{ corr} = F_c/[1 + xF_c^2 \sin^2(\theta)]^{1/4}$
$S = 1.625$	Extinction coefficient: $x = 1.18 (2) \times 10^{-6}$
1514 reflections	Atomic scattering factors from <i>International Tables for X-ray Crystallography</i> (1974, Vol. IV)
257 parameters	
Only coordinates of H atoms refined	
Unit weights applied ($\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.003$	

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$)

Br—C17	1.903 (3)	C6—C7	1.549 (4)
O1—C13	1.211 (4)	C6—C12	1.540 (4)
O2—C11	1.437 (3)	C7—C8	1.562 (4)
O2—C13	1.336 (4)	C8—C9	1.524 (5)
C1—C2	1.566 (5)	C8—C11	1.548 (5)
C1—C10	1.521 (5)	C9—C10	1.331 (6)
C1—C11	1.534 (4)	C13—C14	1.478 (5)
C2—C3	1.538 (4)	C14—C15	1.401 (5)
C2—C7	1.566 (4)	C14—C19	1.395 (5)
C3—C4	1.546 (4)	C15—C16	1.380 (5)
C3—C12	1.543 (4)	C16—C17	1.380 (5)
C4—C5	1.557 (4)	C17—C18	1.375 (5)
C5—C6	1.539 (4)	C18—C19	1.394 (5)
C11—O2—C13	116.7 (2)	C9—C8—C11	96.8 (2)
C2—C1—C10	110.2 (3)	C8—C9—C10	107.8 (3)
C2—C1—C11	99.8 (2)	C1—C10—C9	108.3 (3)
C10—C1—C11	97.0 (3)	O2—C11—C1	110.9 (3)
C1—C2—C3	121.5 (2)	O2—C11—C8	115.8 (2)
C1—C2—C7	102.7 (2)	C1—C11—C8	95.1 (2)
C3—C2—C7	103.6 (2)	C3—C12—C6	95.0 (2)
C2—C3—C4	105.4 (2)	O1—C13—O2	123.7 (3)
C2—C3—C12	104.7 (2)	O1—C13—C14	123.9 (3)
C4—C3—C12	99.0 (2)	O2—C13—C14	112.3 (3)
C3—C4—C5	103.3 (2)	C13—C14—C15	118.5 (3)
C4—C5—C6	103.5 (2)	C13—C14—C19	122.5 (3)
C5—C6—C7	105.6 (2)	C15—C14—C19	119.0 (3)
C5—C6—C12	99.9 (2)	C14—C15—C16	120.9 (3)
C7—C6—C12	104.1 (2)	C15—C16—C17	118.7 (3)
C2—C7—C6	102.9 (2)	Br—C17—C16	119.2 (3)
C2—C7—C8	103.5 (2)	Br—C17—C18	118.5 (3)
C6—C7—C8	122.9 (2)	C16—C17—C18	122.2 (4)
C7—C8—C9	110.4 (2)	C17—C18—C19	118.9 (4)
C7—C8—C11	99.2 (2)	C14—C19—C18	120.3 (3)

The structure was solved and refined using the direct-methods package *SDP* (Frenz, 1978).

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

	$B_{\text{eq}} = (8\pi^2/3) \sum_i \sum_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_j^* a_i \cdot a_j$			
	x	y	z	B_{eq}
Br	0.03743 (2)	0.42030 (2)	0.01986 (9)	3.858 (8)
O1	0.2050 (1)	0.2351 (1)	-0.6196 (5)	3.19 (6)
O2	0.1947 (1)	0.1795 (1)	-0.3201 (4)	2.54 (5)
C1	0.2540 (2)	0.0916 (2)	-0.2288 (7)	2.79 (8)
C2	0.1916 (1)	0.0626 (1)	-0.1879 (6)	1.74 (6)
C3	0.1855 (2)	-0.0024 (1)	-0.1133 (6)	1.82 (6)
C4	0.1187 (1)	-0.0111 (1)	-0.0628 (5)	1.67 (6)
C5	0.0891 (1)	-0.0100 (1)	-0.2901 (6)	1.68 (6)
C6	0.1421 (1)	-0.0029 (1)	-0.4450 (6)	1.70 (6)
C7	0.1631 (1)	0.0624 (1)	-0.4187 (6)	1.61 (6)
C8	0.2124 (2)	0.0909 (1)	-0.5636 (6)	2.24 (7)
C9	0.2674 (2)	0.0511 (2)	-0.5692 (7)	3.09 (8)
C10	0.2915 (2)	0.0515 (2)	-0.3728 (8)	3.33 (9)
C11	0.2372 (2)	0.1373 (2)	-0.4023 (7)	2.57 (7)
C12	0.1894 (1)	-0.0394 (2)	-0.3229 (6)	1.99 (6)
C13	0.1855 (2)	0.2284 (2)	-0.4388 (6)	2.46 (7)
C14	0.1486 (2)	0.2729 (2)	-0.3250 (6)	2.31 (7)
C15	0.1325 (2)	0.3250 (2)	-0.4350 (6)	2.78 (7)
C16	0.0988 (2)	0.3683 (2)	-0.3350 (7)	3.10 (8)
C17	0.0813 (2)	0.3596 (2)	-0.1237 (7)	2.75 (7)
C18	0.0957 (1)	0.3089 (2)	-0.0107 (8)	2.70 (7)
C19	0.1298 (2)	0.2652 (2)	-0.1120 (6)	2.56 (7)
H4a†	0.113 (2)	-0.049 (2)	0.01 (1)	4.0
H4b†	0.102 (2)	0.019 (2)	0.03 (1)	4.0
H9†	0.283 (2)	0.027 (2)	-0.68 (1)	4.0
H10†	0.323 (2)	0.030 (2)	-0.33 (1)	4.0
H12a†	0.227 (2)	-0.043 (2)	-0.384 (9)	4.0
H12b†	0.173 (2)	-0.083 (2)	-0.28 (1)	4.0

† Located from the final Fourier synthesis and refined with a fixed isotropic displacement parameter.

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Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, H-atom coordinates, least-squares-planes data, torsion angles and a packing diagram have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 71639 (27 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: HH1063]

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Structural Comparisons of a Perpendicular Diene with Known Derivatives

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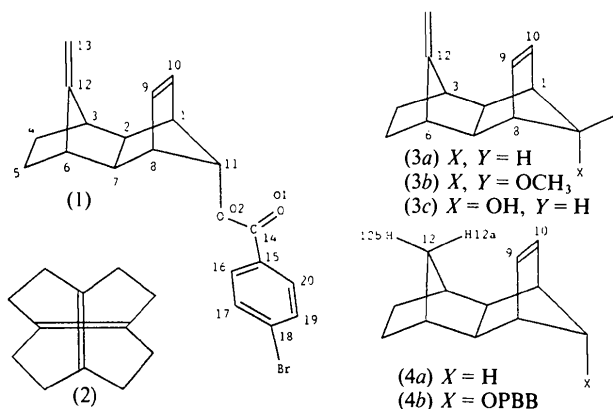
Abstract

The X-ray crystal structure determination of *endo,exo*-12-methylenetetraacyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6}.0^{2,7}]dodec-9-en-*anti*-11-yl *p*-bromobenzoate, C₂₀H₁₉BrO₂ (1), is reported. The molecule consists of norbornene with an *anti-p*-bromobenzoate substituent at the methano bridge and an *exo*-methylenenorbornyl unit *endo*-fused to the ethano bridge. The ring C atom of

the exocyclic double bond is pyramidalized significantly. Steric interactions are examined and some structural comparisons are made with other derivatives.

Comment

Parallel laticyclic π - π molecular orbital interactions (Goldstein & Hoffman, 1971) have been studied theoretically, spectroscopically (Elsässer, Hassenrück, Martin, Mayer, Lutz & Prinzbach, 1991; Martin & Mayer, 1983) and crystallographically (Ermer, Bödecker & Preut, 1984). Although a number of compounds exist which show perpendicular longicyclic π - π interactions (Paquette, Shen & Engel, 1989; Pinkerton, Schwarzenbach, Birbaum, Carrupt, Schwager & Vogel, 1984; Siemionko & Berson, 1980), an attempt to synthesize a perpendicular laticyclic diene (2) was unsuccessful (McMurry, 1989). However, the X-ray crystal structure of a perpendicular almost laticyclic benzo derivative has been reported (Butler, Gupta, Ng & Nyberg, 1980). The hydrocarbon (3a) is known (Lap & Paddon-Row, 1979), but it is a liquid at 268 K and polymerizes slowly at 298 K.



The low-temperature X-ray crystal structure of the diene acetal (3b), whose π bonds are perpendicular and almost laticyclic, was reported recently (Lloyd, Arif & Allred, 1992). The dihedral angle between the least-squares plane of atoms C3, C6, C12 and that of atoms C1, C8, C9, C10 is 10.6(5)° in (3b). The values of the intramolecular contacts C9...C12 [2.946(2) Å] and C10...C12 [2.977(2) Å] for (3b) are within the sum of the respective van der Waals radii (Bondi, 1964; Gordon & Ford, 1972). In addition, π splitting of 1.2 eV is observed in the He (*I_α*) photoelectron spectrum of (3a) (Gleiter, Jähne, Allred & Lloyd, 1993).

The two C—H σ bonds of the H12b—C12—H12a unit in the structure of (4) together have similar phase symmetry to that of an atomic 2p orbital (Jordan & Paddon-Row, 1992; Paddon-Row, Engle-

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