- Davis, D. E. & Storr, R. C. (1984). Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry, Vol. 7, edited by W. Lwowski, p. 247. New York: Pergamon.
- McGregor, D. N. (1984). Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry, Vol. 7, edited by W. Lwowski, pp. 300–301. New York: Pergamon.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1985). SHELXS86. Program for the Solution of Crystal Structures. Univ. of Göttingen, Germany.

Sheldrick, G. M. (1994). J. Appl. Cryst. In preparation.

- Spek, A. L. (1990). Acta Cryst. A46, C-34.
- Spek, A. L. (1993). *HELENA. Program for Reduction of CAD-4 Data.* Utrecht Univ., The Netherlands.
- Steen, F. H. van der, Kleijn, H., Jastrzebski, J. T. B. H. & van Koten, G. (1991). J. Org. Chem. 56, 5147-5158.
- Steen, F. H. van der, Kleijn, H., Spek, A. L. & van Koten, G. (1990). J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. pp. 503–504.
- Vliet, M. R. P. van, Jastrzebski, J. T. B. H., Klaver, W. J., Goubitz, K. & van Koten, G. (1987). *Recl Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas*, **106**, 132–134.

Acta Cryst. (1994). C50, 1935-1938

Two N-Aminoazolylmethylene Derivatives of Meldrum's Acid

Alexander J. Blake, Robert O. Gould, Iain Irving, Hamish McNab and Mark Morrow

Department of Chemistry, The University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JJ, Scotland

(Received 23 May 1994; accepted 23 June 1994)

Abstract

The structures of two derivatives of Meldrum's acid, 2,2-dimethyl-5-[N-(1-pyrrolyl)aminomethylene]-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione, C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₄, (1), and 2,2-dimethyl-5-[N-(1-pyrazolyl)aminomethylene]-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione, C₁₀H₁₁N₃O₄, (2), which differ only at one position in the five-membered ring, are described.

Comment

The title compounds (1) and (2) were synthesized as part of a pyrolysis study aimed at the preparation of novel heterocyclic compounds (Blake, Mc-Nab, Morrow & Rataj, 1993). The crystal structures were determined because of the current interest in the structures of *N*-aminoazoles (de la Concepcion Foces-Foces, Cano, Claramunt, Sanz, Catalan, Fabero, Fruchier & Elguero, 1990; Salazar, Espada, Sanz, Claramunt, Elguero, Garcia-Granda, Diaz & Gomez-Beltran, 1993) and because of our interest in hydrogen bonding in aminomethylene Meldrum's acid derivatives (Blake, Hunter & McNab, 1989).



The *N*-aminopyrrolyl derivative (1) crystallized with two molecules in the asymmetric unit. One of these, designated by unprimed atoms, showed the effects of slight disorder, which gave less reliable molecular parameters for the region around C7. Fortunately, no such problem occurred in the other molecule, which is defined by primed atoms.

The aminomethylene Meldrum's acid moiety shows no significant differences between structures (1) and (2). The presence of hydrogen bonding between O4 and H8 $[O4 \dots N8 2.746(5)]$ and 2.710(3) Å in (1) and (2), respectively] induces detectable asymmetry in the Meldrum's acid unit; C4-O4 is significantly longer than C6-O6 and C4-C5 is significantly shorter than C5-C6 in both cases. This asymmetry is also reflected in the bond angles around C5. [Note that the atomic coordinates and bond lengths for (2) should be compared with the equivalent primed atomic coordinates and bond lengths in (1) because of the disorder affecting the molecule defined by unprimed atoms in (1).] In methylaminomethylene Meldrum's acid (3) the quality of the diffraction data were generally inadequate to identify such deviations (Blake et al., 1989). The bond lengths within the N-aminopyrazolyl unit are very similar to those reported for N-(pyrazol-1-yl)formamide (4) (Salazar et al., 1993).

There are some significant differences between the valence angles involving the N-aminoazole units in (1) and (2), particularly at the ring heteroatom N9. The angles within the pyrazole ring in (2) are, however, very similar to those in the formamide (4) (Salazar *et al.*, 1993).

The atoms O4, C4, C5, C6, O6, C7 and N8 show small r.m.s. deviations from their best planes of 0.04 (5) and 0.013 (3) Å for (1) and (2), respectively. The corresponding deviations from the planes defined by N8, N9, C10, C11, C12 and C13 in (1) and N8, N9, N10, C11, C12 and C13 in (2) are 0.004 (6) and 0.003 (4) Å, respectively. The interplanar angles of 70.3 (2) and 41.26 (5)° in (1) and (2), respectively, are much smaller than the value of 85.5° seen in *N*-(pyrazol-1-yl)formamide (4) (Salazar *et al.*, 1993). These lower values may reflect the fact that the Meldrum's acid group promotes more extensive delocalization of the N8 lone pair than does the formyl group.

In (1) and (2) there is both intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bonding, the latter linking molecules related by a crystallographic inversion centre to form centrosymmetric dimers, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.



Fig. 1. A view of one hydrogen-bonded dimer of (1). The molecules are related by inversion through $(0, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$. The intramolecular $O4' \cdots N8'$ and $O4' \cdots H8'$ distances are 2.746 (5) and 2.12 (5) Å, respectively, and the $O4' \cdots N8^*$ and $O4' \cdots H8^*$ intermolecular contacts are 2.917 (5) and 2.12 (5) Å, respectively. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.



Fig. 2. A view of the hydrogen-bonded dimer of (2). The molecules are related by inversion through $(\frac{1}{2}, 0, -\frac{1}{2})$. The intramolecular O4...N8 and O4...H8 distances are 2.710 (3) and 2.14 (2) Å, respectively, and the O4...N8' and O4...H8' intermolecular contacts are 2.902 (3) and 2.12 (2) Å, respectively. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

Experimental

Compound (1)

Crystal data

$C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_4$	Cu $K\alpha$ radiation
$M_r = 236.23$	$\lambda = 1.54184 \text{ Å}$

Monoclinic $P2_1/c$

$$a = 16.7900 (11) \text{ Å}$$

$$b = 12.6423 (8) \text{ Å}$$

$$c = 11.1014 (6) \text{ Å}$$

$$\beta = 94.31 (6)^{\circ}$$

$$V = 2349.8 (2) \text{ Å}^{3}$$

$$Z = 8$$

$$D_{x} = 1.335 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$$

Data collection

Stoe Stadi-4 diffractometer ω -2 θ scans Absorption correction: none 3088 measured reflections 3088 independent reflections 1915 observed reflections $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$

Refinement

01

C4

C6

N8 N9 C10

C11

C12

C13 01' C2'

C2A' C2B' O3' C4' O4' C5' C6'

06'

Refinement on F^2 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.0563$ $wR(F^2) = 0.1475$ S = 1.1923087 reflections 315 parameters H atoms placed in calculated positions except for H8 and H8' $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0717P)^2]$ + 1.7512P] where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.086$

Cell parameters from 30 reflections $\theta = 17 - 18^{\circ}$ $\mu = 0.871 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 293 (2) K Needle $0.62 \times 0.10 \times 0.08 \text{ mm}$ Yellow

- $\theta_{\rm max} = 59.33^{\circ}$ $h = 0 \rightarrow 14$ $k = 0 \rightarrow 12$ $l = -12 \rightarrow 12$ 3 standard reflections frequency: 120 min intensity variation: <1%
- $\Delta \rho_{\text{max}} = 0.672 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ $\Delta \rho_{\text{min}} = -0.274 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: SHELXL93 (Sheldrick, 1993) Extinction coefficient: 0.0013(2)Atomic scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (1992, Vol. C, Tables 4.2.6.8 and 6.1.1.4)

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($Å^2$) for (1)

$U_{\text{eq}} = (1/3) \sum_i \sum_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_i^* \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j.$

x	у	Z	U_{eo}
0.18522 (15)	0.0447 (2)	0.5331 (3)	0.0675 (8)
0.2254 (2)	-0.0012 (3)	0.6387 (4)	0.0580(11)
0.2485 (3)	0.0832 (3)	0.7302 (4)	0.0681 (12)
0.1695 (3)	-0.0830 (4)	0.6821 (4)	0.0806 (14)
0.2956 (2)	-0.0570 (2)	0.6080 (2)	0.0599 (8)
0.3459 (2)	-0.0059 (3)	0.5373 (4)	0.0579 (11)
0.4138 (2)	-0.0372 (2)	0.5355 (3)	0.0789 (9)
0.3115 (2)	0.0796 (3)	0.4662 (4)	0.0580(11)
0.2273 (3)	0.0994 (4)	0.4559 (4)	0.0641 (11)
0.1911 (2)	0.1569 (3)	0.3840 (3)	0.0992 (12)
0.3560 (3)	0.1510 (4)	0.3970 (4)	0.085 (2)
0.4296 (3)	0.1475 (3)	0.3916 (4)	0.0862 (12)
0.4623 (3)	0.2377 (4)	0.3338 (4)	0.0885 (13)
0.4982 (4)	0.2322 (6)	0.2286 (5)	0.113 (2)
0.5191 (4)	0.3296 (7)	0.2016 (6)	0.114(2)
0.4950 (4)	0.3964 (5)	0.2889 (8)	0.119 (2)
0.4575 (3)	0.3396 (5)	0.3705 (6)	0.092 (2)
0.31446 (14)	-0.0024 (2)	0.0485 (3)	0.0620 (8)
0.2772 (2)	-0.1038 (3)	0.0605 (4)	0.0613 (11)
0.2680 (3)	-0.1273 (4)	0.1912 (4)	0.089 (2)
0.3273 (3)	-0.1815 (4)	-0.0026(5)	0.091 (2)
0.20018 (14)	-0.1043 (2)	-0.0063(2)	0.0590 (8)
0.1509 (2)	0.0223 (3)	0.0107 (3)	0.0488 (10)
0.07989 (15)	-0.0331 (2)	-0.0206(2)	0.0618 (8)
0.1857 (2)	0.0724 (3)	0.0601 (3)	0.0474 (9)
0.2716 (2)	0.0853 (3)	0.0721 (4)	0.0569 (10)
0.3073 (2)	0.1662 (2)	0.0954 (3)	0.0792 (10)

BLAKE, GOULD, IRVING, McNAB AND MORROW

C7' N8' N9' C10' C11' C12' C12'	0.1400 (2) 0.0614 (2) 0.0244 (2) -0.0173 (3) -0.0435 (3) -0.0158 (3) 0.0264 (3)	0.1556 (0.1613 (0.2479 (0.3201 (0.3928 (0.3645 (0.2747 (3) 0.0914 (3) 3) 0.0842 (3) 3) 0.1302 (3) 5) 0.0653 (5) 5) 0.1412 (5) 5) 0.2541 (5) 5) 0.2477 (4)	0.0523 (10) 0.0580 (9) 0.0589 (9) 0.109 (2) 0.101 (2) 0.104 (2) 0.092 (2)
Tabl	e 2. Selecte	d geometri	c parameters (Å	, °) <i>for</i> (1)
01-C6 01-C2 C2-O3 C2-C2/C2 C2-C2/C2 C2-C2/C2/C2 C2-C2/C2/C2 C3-C4 C4-C5 C5-C6 C5-C6 C5-C6 C7-N8 N9-C12 C10-C12	3 3 0 11 12 13 -03 -C5 -C7 -C4 -01 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C5 -C10	$\begin{array}{c} 1.343 \ (5) \\ 1.430 \ (5) \\ 1.436 \ (4) \\ 1.500 \ (5) \\ 1.504 \ (6) \\ 1.360 \ (5) \\ 1.208 \ (5) \\ 1.208 \ (5) \\ 1.208 \ (5) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.432 \ (6) \\ 1.209 \ (5) \\ 1.242 \ (5) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.355 \ (6) \\ 1.321 \ (8) \\ 113.7 \ (9) \\ 1.348 \ (8) \\ 118.9 \ (4) \\ 125.4 \ (4) \\ 115.7 \ (3) \\ 113.4 \ (4) \\ 122.1 \ (4) \\ 124.5 \ (4) \\ 117.9 \ (4) \\ 127.1 \ (4) \\ 115.0 \ (4) \\ 124.3 \ (5) \\ 114.0 \ (5) \\ 120 \ (3) \\ 124 \ (3) \\ 110.4 \ (5) \\ 125.9 \ (5) \\ 123.6 \ (5) \\ 106.9 \ (6) \\ 109.0 \ (6) \\ 109.2 \ (6) \\ 109.2 \ (6) \\ -0.7 \ (7) \\ -169.8 \ (4) \\ -0.7 \ (7) \\ -169.8 \ (4) \\ -115.4 \ (6) \\ 60.1 \ (7) \\ \end{array}$	01' - C6' 01' - C2' C2' - 03' C2' - C2B' C2' - C2A' 03' - C4' C4' - 04' C4' - 04' C4' - C5' C5' - C6' C5' - C6' C6' - 06' C7' - N8' N8' - H9' N8' - H9' N8' - H2' N9' - C10' N9' - C13' C10' - C11' C11' - C12' C12' - C13' 04' - C4' - C5' C7' - C5' - C4' C7' - N8' - H8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - N9' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N8' N9' - C10' - C11' - C12' C13' - N9' - N8' - N9' - C13' C10' - N8' - N9' - C13' C1' - N8' - N9' - C13' C7' - N8' -	$\begin{array}{c} 1.359 (5) \\ 1.436 (5) \\ 1.442 (4) \\ 1.500 (6) \\ 1.501 (6) \\ 1.349 (4) \\ 1.224 (4) \\ 1.424 (5) \\ 1.363 (5) \\ 1.446 (5) \\ 1.204 (4) \\ 1.318 (5) \\ 1.375 (4) \\ 0.90 (4) \\ 1.330 (6) \\ 1.345 (5) \\ 1.343 (7) \\ 1.352 (7) \\ 1.344 (7) \\ 118.0 (3) \\ 124.4 (4) \\ 117.5 (3) \\ 124.4 (4) \\ 117.5 (3) \\ 124.4 (4) \\ 117.7 (4) \\ 120.6 (3) \\ 118.2 (3) \\ 126.4 (4) \\ 115.4 (3) \\ 126.4 (4) \\ 125.4 (4) \\ 125.4 (4) \\ 125.5 (4) \\ 108.3 (5) \\ 107.1 (5) \\ 108.7 (5) \\ 108.7 (5) \\ 108.7 (5) \\ 108.7 (5) \\ 106.8 (4) \\ 8' 1.5 (6) \\ 9' 173.9 (4) \\ 10' 112.1 (5) \\ 10' $
Compo	ound (2)			
Crysta	l data			
$C_{10}H_{11}$ $M_r = 2$	N₃O₄ 37.22		Mo $K\alpha$ radiation $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å	1

Refinement

-	
Refinement on F^2	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.198 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.0318$	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.139 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
$wR(F^2) = 0.0691$	Extinction correction:
S = 0.181	SHELXL93 (Sheldrick,
1964 reflections	1993)
159 parameters	Extinction coefficient:
H atoms placed in fixed,	0.0303 (25)
calculated positions except	Atomic scattering factors
for H8N	from International Tables
$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.1000P)^2]$	for Crystallography (1992,
+ 10P]	Vol. C, Tables 4.2.6.8 and
where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$	6.1.1.4)
$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.225$	

Table 3. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters $(Å^2)$ for (2)

$U_{\rm eq} = (1/3) \Sigma_i \Sigma_j U_{ij} a_i^* a_j^* \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j.$					
	x	у	Z	U_{eq}	
01	0.3845 (2)	0.33589 (12)	0.53163 (11)	0.0451 (3)	
C2	0.2829 (3)	0.3651 (2)	0.6519 (2)	0.0400(4)	
C2A	0.1407 (3)	0.4778 (2)	0.6619 (2)	0.0503 (4)	
C2B	0.5046 (3)	0.4020 (2)	0.7641 (2)	0.0561 (5)	
03	0.1148 (2)	0.24049 (12)	0.65565 (11)	0.0446 (3)	
C4	-0.0623 (3)	0.1646 (2)	0.54585 (15)	0.0364 (4)	
O4	-0.2431 (2)	0.08212 (12)	0.55771 (11)	0.0486(3)	
C5	-0.0186 (3)	0.1819 (2)	0.42169 (15)	0.0350 (3)	
C6	0.2205 (3)	0.2664 (2)	0.4139 (2)	0.0398 (4)	
06	0.2894 (3)	0.27468 (14)	0.31268 (12)	0.0605 (4)	
C7	-0.1803 (3)	0.1019 (2)	0.3042 (2)	0.0361 (3)	
N8	-0.3938 (2)	0.01040 (14)	0.29094 (13)	0.0376 (3)	
N9	-0.5191 (2)	0.07735 (14)	0.16566 (12)	0.0369 (3)	
N10	-0.3816 (3)	-0.1272 (2)	0.07411 (14)	0.0464 (4)	
C11	-0.5589 (3)	-0.2050 (2)	-0.0310(2)	0.0511 (5)	
C12	-0.8036 (3)	-0.2061 (2)	-0.0057 (2)	0.0512 (5)	
C13	-0.7716 (3)	-0.1219 (2)	0.1224 (2)	0.0457 (4)	

Table 4. Selected geometric parameters (Å, °) for (2)

Compound (2)		01C6	1.362 (2)	C6O6	1.209 (2)
		01—C2	1.434 (2)	C7—N8	1.315 (2)
Crystal data		C2O3	1.446 (2)	N8—H8N	0.87 (2)
Coller	Mo Ka radiation	C2—C2A	1.502 (2)	N8—N9	1.383 (2)
		C2—C2B	1.501 (2)	N9—N10	1.344 (2)
$M_r = 237.22$	$\lambda = 0.71073$ A	O3C4	1.350 (2)	N9—C13	1.341 (2)
Triclinic	Cell parameters from 20	C4—O4	1.220 (2)	N10-C11	1.324 (2)
PĪ	reflections	C4—C5	1.435 (2)	C11-C12	1.388 (3)
a = 5.4407.(10) Å	$A = 10, 11^{\circ}$	C5C7	1.373 (2)	C12-C13	1.358 (2)
u = 3.4407 (10) A	$\theta = 10 - 11$	C5—C6	1.450 (2)		
b = 10.341 (2) Å	$\mu = 0.112 \text{ mm}^{-1}$	04	118.03 (14)	N10-N9-N8	119.14(12)
c = 10.714 (2) Å	T = 295 (2) K	04-C4-C5	124.35 (14)	C13—N9—N8	127.01 (13)
$\alpha = 107.351 (7)^{\circ}$	Tablet	O3—C4—C5	117.55 (13)	C11-N10-N9	102.89 (13)
$\beta = 96.814 (11)^{\circ}$	$0.85 \times 0.42 \times 0.22$ mm	C7—C5—C4	121.20 (14)	N10-C11-C12	112.3 (2)
$\alpha = 100.000 (15)^{\circ}$	Dale vellow	C7—C5—C6	117.54 (14)	C13-C12-C11	105.2 (2)
$\gamma = 100.900 (13)$	rale yellow	C4—C5—C6	120.39 (14)	N9-C13-C12	105.74 (15)
V = 555.1 (2) A ³		C4C5C7N8	46(3)	C7N8N9N10	369(2)
Z = 2		C6-C5-C7-N8	1739(2)	C7 - N8 - N9 - C13	-1438(2)
$D_x = 1.419 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$		C5C7N8N9	-170.62 (14)		115.6 (2)

In both structures the H atoms on N were located from a ΔF synthesis; the positions of these H atoms were allowed to refine with $U_{\rm iso} = 1.2 \times U_{\rm eq}$ of the corresponding N atom. Data collection and cell refinement: DIF4 (Stoe & Cie, 1988a). Data reduction: *REDU4* (Stoe & Cie, 1988b). Structure solution: *SHELXS86* (Sheldrick, 1990). Structure refinement: *SHELXL93* (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics: *SHELXTL/PC* (Sheldrick, 1992).

We thank the SERC for provision of a four-circle diffractometer and Lonza Ltd for a gift of Meldrum's acid.

References

- Blake, A. J., Hunter, G. A. & McNab, H. (1989). J. Chem. Res. (S), pp. 118-119; J. Chem. Res. (M), pp. 0921-0943.
- Blake, A. J., McNab, H., Morrow, M. & Rataj, H. (1993). J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. pp. 840-842.
- Concepcion Foces-Foces, M. de la, Cano, F. H., Claramunt, R. M., Sanz, D., Catalan, J., Fabero, F., Fruchier, A. & Elguero, J. (1990). J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2, pp. 237-244.
- Salazar, L., Espada, M., Sanz, D., Claramunt, R. M., Elguero, J., Garcia-Granda, S., Diaz, M. R. & Gomez-Beltran, F. (1993). J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2, pp. 377–383.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1990). Acta Cryst. A46, 467-473.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1992). SHELXTL/PC. Version 4.3. Siemens Analytical X-ray Instruments Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1993). SHELXL93. Program for the Refinement of Crystal Structures. Univ. of Göttingen, Germany.
- Stoe & Cie (1988a). DIF4. Diffractometer Control Program. Version 7.09/DOS. Stoe & Cie, Darmstadt, Germany.
- Stoe & Cie (1988a). REDU4. Data Reduction Program. Version 7.03/DOS. Stoe & Cie, Darmstadt, Germany.

Acta Cryst. (1994). C50, 1938-1940

α -Pyrone at 150 K

Alexander J. Blake,* Robert O. Gould, Steven G. Harris, Hamish McNab and Simon Parsons

Department of Chemistry, The University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JJ, Scotland

(Received 6 June 1994; accepted 23 June 1994)

Abstract

We have determined the crystal structure of the lowmelting α -pyrone (2-pyrone, C₅H₄O₂) at 150 K. The C--C bond distances within the ring exhibit substantial bond-length alternation, indicating that the molecule may be described largely in terms of a localized bond model. The α -pyrone molecules are packed in a herringbone fashion in the unit cell.

Comment

We are involved in determining the structures of fundamental parent compounds which are the simplest representatives of their class. Apart from their inherent interest, these obviously fulfil a valuable role as reference structures, for example in molecular modelling and theoretical studies. The effort required to obtain single crystals from liquid samples such as α -pyrone, (1), is therefore justified.



 α -Pyrones are valuable synthetic reagents in organic chemistry; for example, they can behave as dienes in Diels-Alder reactions (Boulton & McKillop, 1984). However, inferences regarding their electronic structure have been drawn largely from chemical and spectroscopic data, as the crystal structures of α -pyrones determined so far have been of analogues incorporating π active functional groups which perturb the pyrone ring.

The crystal structure of α -pyrone consists of discrete C₄H₅O₂ molecules (Fig. 1). Although the C—C bond distances within the ring are shorter than formal C_{sp²}—C_{sp²} single bonds (typically 1.48 Å), there is substantial bond-length alternation, consistent with C3— C4 and C5—C6 being strongly π -bonded [1.339 (4) and 1.338 (4) Å, respectively] and C2—C3 and C4—C5 being more weakly so [1.439 (4) and 1.424 (4) Å, respectively]. This imples that of the three formal valence canonical forms which define the electronic structure of α -pyrone shown in the scheme below, form I is dominant, with only minor contributions from forms II and III. The electronic structure of α -pyrone is, therefore, essentially localized.



These features are reminiscent of the structure of furan (C—C 1.34 and 1.42 Å; C—O 1.36 Å), for which they have also been interpreted as being symptomatic of rather limited delocalization. These results not withstanding, there are considerable differences between the bond lengths of the lactone function in α -pyrone and standard values for δ -lactones derived from the analysis of structures in the Cambridge Structural Database (Schweizer & Dunitz, 1982; Norskov-Lauritsen, Bürgi,

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, Hatom coordinates and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: HA1120). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.