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## Methyl 3,5-Dinitro-*trans*-cinnamate

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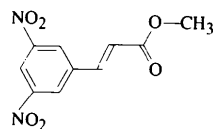
### Abstract

The title compound, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, forms C—H···O hydrogen-bonded inversion dimers in the crystal with a calculated (AM1) energy of  $-8.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  (1 cal = 4.184 J). These dimers in turn form a planar sheet structure which is stacked along the [100] direction.

### Comment

The C—H···O hydrogen bonds were found to be structure determining in the crystal structure of 3,5-dinitrocinnamic acid, (2), wherein the carboxyl groups were related by the uncommon twofold axis rather than the expected inversion centre (Desiraju & Sharma, 1991). Furthermore, one of the nitro groups in this molecule is involved in a C—H···O self-recognition motif (Sharma, Panneerselvam, Pilati & Desiraju, 1993). To further investigate the C—H···O bond-forming ability

of the 3,5-dinitrocinnamyl skeleton, we undertook the structure determination of the corresponding methyl ester, (1).



(1)

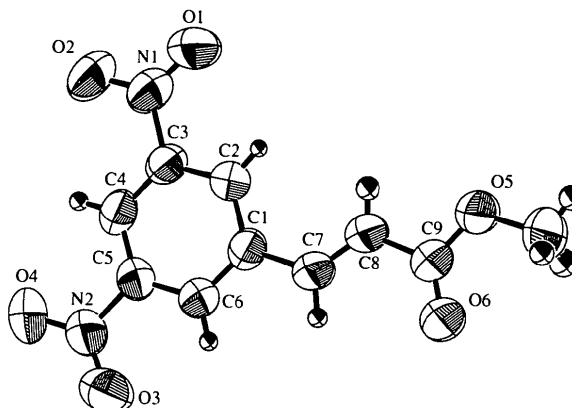


Fig. 1. An ORTEP (Johnson, 1976) diagram of compound (1). Displacement ellipsoids are plotted at the 50% probability level. For clarity, H atoms are drawn as small circles.

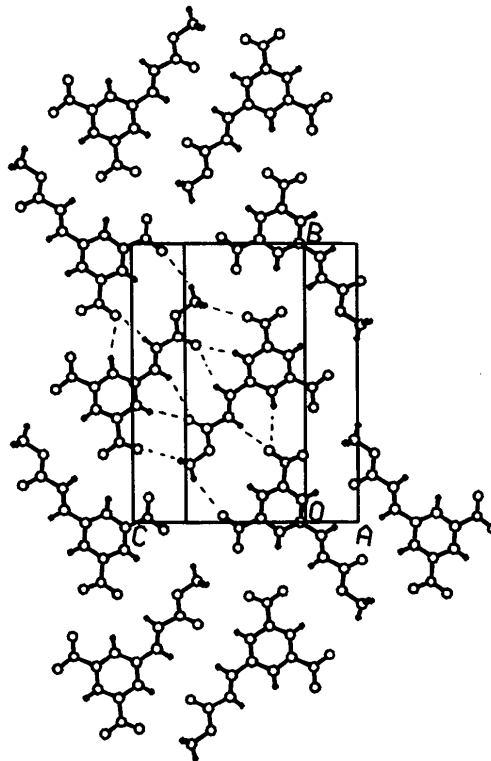


Fig. 2. The crystal structure of (1) along the [100] direction showing the planar structure.

An ORTEPII (Johnson, 1976) diagram of the structure is shown in Fig. 1. The crystal structure of (1) contains an inversion dimer that is stabilized by two types of bifurcated-acceptor (Jeffrey & Saenger, 1991) C—H...O bonds (Fig. 2). The carbonyl O atom interacts with two alkene H atoms [C...O 3.285 (3) and 3.699 (3) Å, C—H...O 168 (2) and 148 (2)°], while the nitro O atom, O3, interacts with two methyl H atoms, albeit weakly [C...O 3.247 (5) Å, C—H...O 96 (3) and 117 (3)°]. These dimer units in turn form C—H...O bonds with surrounding dimers through other lateral C—H...O interactions leading to a planar structure along the [100] direction. The crystal structure of (1) is, in effect, two-dimensional compared to that of the parent acid, (2), which is three-dimensional. The strength of the inversion dimer was approximated using AM1 molecular-orbital calculations and found to be  $-8.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  (Turi & Dannenberg, 1993).

## Experimental

The title compound was prepared by reacting 3,5-nitrocinnamic acid with diazomethane in dry ether.

### Crystal data

$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$   
 $M_r = 252.18$   
 Monoclinic  
 $P2_1/n$   
 $a = 4.842 (2) \text{ \AA}$   
 $b = 16.848 (4) \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 13.489 (3) \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta = 90.56 (2)^\circ$   
 $V = 1100.4 (6) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $Z = 4$   
 $D_x = 1.522 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ \AA}$   
 Cell parameters from 25 reflections  
 $\theta = 10\text{--}20^\circ$   
 $\mu = 0.129 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $T = 293 (2) \text{ K}$   
 Needle  
 $0.33 \times 0.20 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}$   
 Pale yellow

### Data collection

Nicolet Siemens P3 diffractometer  
 $\omega/2\theta$  scans  
 Absorption correction: none  
 1932 measured reflections  
 1932 independent reflections  
 1136 observed reflections  
 $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$

$\theta_{\max} = 24.97^\circ$   
 $h = 0 \rightarrow 5$   
 $k = 0 \rightarrow 20$   
 $l = -15 \rightarrow 16$   
 3 standard reflections monitored every 200 reflections  
 frequency: 100 min  
 intensity decay: 2.5%

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R(F) = 0.0476$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.1295$   
 $S = 0.998$   
 1932 reflections  
 195 parameters  
 H atoms refined isotropically  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0695P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.247 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.176 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 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 ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )

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

	x	y	z	$U_{\text{eq}}$
C1	0.4867 (5)	0.00069 (14)	0.1782 (2)	0.0519 (6)
C2	0.2879 (5)	-0.0321 (2)	0.2409 (2)	0.0557 (6)
C3	0.1450 (4)	0.01628 (14)	0.3045 (2)	0.0542 (6)
C4	0.1867 (5)	0.0964 (2)	0.3094 (2)	0.0582 (7)
C5	0.3844 (5)	0.12769 (14)	0.2486 (2)	0.0576 (6)
C6	0.5339 (5)	0.08187 (15)	0.1836 (2)	0.0568 (6)
C7	0.6499 (5)	-0.0470 (2)	0.1086 (2)	0.0563 (6)
C8	0.6507 (6)	-0.1237 (2)	0.0999 (2)	0.0664 (8)
C9	0.8277 (5)	-0.1658 (2)	0.0291 (2)	0.0624 (7)
C10	0.9649 (10)	-0.2915 (3)	-0.0301 (3)	0.0898 (11)
N1	-0.0642 (4)	-0.0193 (2)	0.3690 (2)	0.0684 (6)
N2	0.4429 (5)	0.21349 (13)	0.2529 (2)	0.0740 (7)
O1	-0.0855 (5)	-0.09054 (14)	0.3697 (2)	0.1015 (8)
O2	-0.2077 (4)	0.02533 (12)	0.4179 (2)	0.0849 (6)
O3	0.6481 (6)	0.23766 (12)	0.2135 (2)	0.1272 (11)
O4	0.2862 (5)	0.25531 (11)	0.2984 (2)	0.0991 (8)
O5	0.7900 (4)	-0.24360 (11)	0.03205 (14)	0.0806 (6)
O6	0.9876 (4)	-0.13403 (11)	-0.02541 (15)	0.0859 (7)

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

C1—C6	1.388 (3)	C7—C8	1.298 (3)
C1—C2	1.401 (3)	C8—C9	1.472 (3)
C1—C7	1.472 (3)	C9—O6	1.199 (3)
C2—C3	1.376 (3)	C9—O5	1.324 (3)
C3—C4	1.366 (3)	C10—O5	1.444 (4)
C3—N1	1.470 (3)	N1—O1	1.204 (3)
C4—C5	1.372 (3)	N1—O2	1.221 (3)
C5—C6	1.378 (3)	N2—O3	1.202 (3)
C5—N2	1.474 (3)	N2—O4	1.207 (3)
C6—C1—C2	118.1 (2)	C8—C7—C1	127.2 (2)
C6—C1—C7	118.9 (2)	C7—C8—C9	122.7 (3)
C2—C1—C7	123.0 (2)	O6—C9—O5	123.4 (2)
C3—C2—C1	119.7 (2)	O6—C9—C8	124.5 (3)
C4—C3—C2	122.8 (2)	O5—C9—C8	112.1 (2)
C4—C3—N1	118.5 (2)	O1—N1—O2	124.1 (2)
C2—C3—N1	118.8 (2)	O1—N1—C3	118.1 (2)
C3—C4—C5	117.1 (2)	O2—N1—C3	117.8 (2)
C4—C5—C6	122.6 (2)	O3—N2—O4	123.6 (2)
C4—C5—N2	119.2 (2)	O3—N2—C5	118.3 (2)
C6—C5—N2	118.2 (2)	O4—N2—C5	118.1 (2)
C5—C6—C1	119.9 (2)	C9—O5—C10	117.0 (3)

Table 3. Hydrogen-bonding geometry ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ )

D—H...A	D—H	H...A	D...A	D—H...A
C2—H2...O4 <sup>i</sup>	0.87 (2)	2.78 (2)	3.637 (3)	168 (2)
C6—H6...O6 <sup>ii</sup>	0.86 (2)	2.42 (3)	3.285 (3)	168 (2)
C7—H7...O6 <sup>ii</sup>	0.94 (3)	2.87 (3)	3.699 (3)	148 (2)
C8—H8...O4 <sup>i</sup>	0.89 (3)	2.38 (3)	3.251 (4)	167 (3)
C10—H101...O2 <sup>i</sup>	0.87 (4)	2.84 (4)	3.662 (5)	157 (3)
C10—H102...O3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.95 (4)	2.70 (4)	3.247 (5)	117 (3)
C10—H103...O3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.95 (4)	3.01 (4)	3.247 (5)	96 (3)
C10—H102...O4 <sup>iii</sup>	0.95 (4)	2.91 (4)	3.854 (6)	171 (3)
C10—H103...O4 <sup>iv</sup>	0.95 (4)	2.94 (4)	3.431 (5)	114 (3)

Symmetry codes: (i)  $\frac{1}{2} - x, y - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - z$ ; (ii)  $2 - x, -y, -z$ ; (iii)  $1 - x, -y, -z$ ; (iv)  $\frac{1}{2} - x, \frac{1}{2} + y, \frac{1}{2} - z$ .

Data collection: Nicolet Siemens P3 diffractometer software. Cell refinement: Nicolet Siemens P3 diffractometer software. Program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS86* (Sheldrick, 1990). Program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL93* (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976) and *PLUTO* (Motherwell & Clegg, 1978). Software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL93*.

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Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, H-atom coordinates and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: SE1059). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

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## Construction of the Tetracyclic Skeleton of Leucothol A. 1,2,4a,5,6,7,8,9,10,10a,11,11a-Dodecahydro-11-hydroxy-11-methyl-7-phenylthiomethyl-5aH-5a,8-methanocyclohepta[b]naphthalen-10-one

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### Abstract

The title compound, C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, is a tetracyclic intermediate for the synthesis of leucothol A and the first example of an ethanoanthracene skeleton to be synthesized. The single-crystal X-ray structure of this compound is presented.

### Comment

Leucothol A, (1), is a novel diterpene isolated from the leaves of *Leucothol grayana* (Hikino, Koriyama & Take-

moto, 1973). Although structurally different members of this family, such as the grayanotoxins, have been synthesized previously, the ethanoanthracene skeleton has not. The significant central nervous system activity of closely related products and the novel structural elements contained within the leucothol A skeleton combine to make it a worthwhile synthetic objective. We have recently completed the first synthetic pathway leading to an ethanoanthracene product. The title compound, (2), is formed in a seven-step synthetic sequence that is initiated by a novel bridgehead connection. The details of the synthesis are published elsewhere (Kraus & Su, 1994).

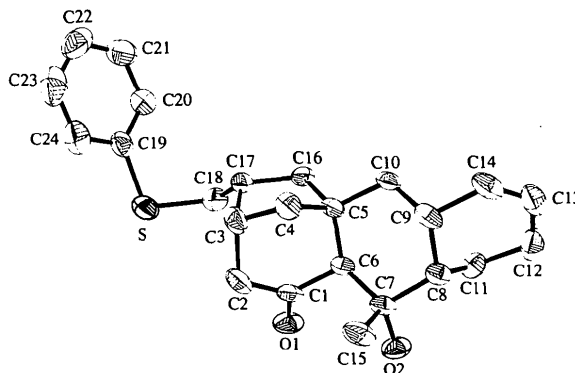
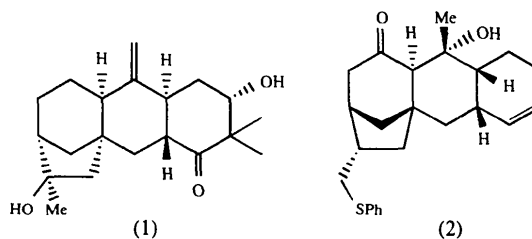


Fig. 1. The structure of the title compound showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

## Experimental

### Crystal data

C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S  
M<sub>r</sub> = 382.54  
Monoclinic  
P2<sub>1</sub>/c  
a = 5.976 (1) Å  
b = 13.146 (1) Å  
c = 25.883 (3) Å  
β = 93.84 (1)°  
V = 2028.8 (4) Å<sup>3</sup>  
Z = 4  
D<sub>x</sub> = 1.252 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Cu Kα radiation  
λ = 1.54178 Å  
Cell parameters from 25 reflections  
θ = 20.9–26.9°  
μ = 1.529 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
T = 213 (1) K  
Monoclinic  
0.50 × 0.45 × 0.15 mm  
Colorless