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5-Phenylindazole

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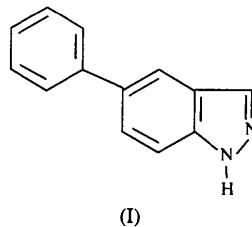
Abstract

The title compound, C₁₃H₁₀N₂, packs in chains along the *a* axis via N—H···N hydrogen bonds that are stronger and more linear than those observed in unsubstituted indazole. These chains are linked by C—H···N and C—H···phenyl contacts along **b**, giving rise to a wave-like structure.

Comment

We are interested in the proton tautomerism (prototropy) and the intermolecular hydrogen bonding of NH-pyrazoles (Llamas-Saiz, Foces-Foces & Elguero, 1994; Aguilar-Parrilla *et al.*, 1995; Elguero, Jagerovic *et al.*, 1995); the NH-indazoles are a subgroup of these compounds (Llamas-Saiz, Foces-Foces & Elguero, 1994). With regard to tautomerism, the literature suggests that only the 1*H*-tautomer is present in NH-indazoles, the 2*H*-tautomer being much less stable (Catalan, de Paz & Elguero, 1996). Two types of hydrogen-bonding

network are possible for NH-indazoles, catemers and trimers. In the first group, indazole molecules (Escande & Lapasset, 1974) are linked by N—H···N hydrogen bonds while in 1*H*-indazole-3-carboxylic acid (Benetollo & Del Pra, 1993), the molecules are bonded through N—H···O bonds reinforced by O—H···N interactions. Trimers are formed *via* N—H···N bonds in 3-phenyl-5-methyl-1*H*-indazole (Dvorkin *et al.*, 1989) and *via* N—H···O/N three-centre bonds in 3-methoxycarbonyl-1*H*-indazole (Glaser, Mummert, Horan & Barnes, 1993).



The molecular structure of the title compound (I) (Fig. 1) compares well with that reported for indazole itself (Escande & Lapasset, 1974). There are no significant differences in terms of the achieved precision as tested by half-normal probability plots (Abrahams & Keve, 1971). There is also good agreement with the results of the *ab initio* calculation at MP2/6-31G** level for the 1*H*-indazole (Catalan, de Paz & Elguero, 1996), but some differences are worth noting. The free molecule presents a greater degree of charge delocalization in the five-membered ring. The N1—N2 and N2—C3 bonds appear to be longer and shorter, respectively, in the present compound. The differences in the C5—C6 and C6—C7 bonds, however, could be due to the phenyl ring attached to C5 which is twisted by 23.8 (4)° with respect to the indazole plane. The *ipso* angle at the phenyl ring as well as the C4—C5—C6 angle (Table 2) in the indazole moiety reflects the σ-withdrawing influence of the indazole and phenyl moieties (Domenicano & Vaciago, 1979).

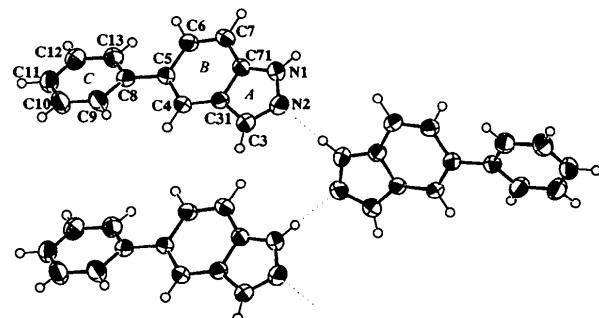


Fig. 1. The structure of 5-phenylindazole as projected along the *c* axis showing the atom labelling and the hydrogen-bonding system. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level. The ring centroids are denoted by *A*, *B* and *C*. Dotted lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

