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## 5'-[2-(*N*-*tert*-Butylethanal nitrone)]-1,3,3'-trimethylspiro[indoline-2,3'-naphtho[2,1-*b*][1,4]oxazine]†

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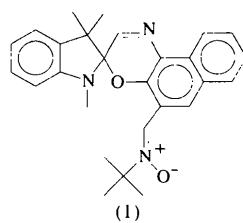
## Abstract

The title compound, C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, is photochromic with spin-trapping properties.

## Comment

Photochromic compounds are able to undergo light-induced reversible colour changes (Bertelson, 1971). One of the major problems encountered in their use is their irreversible degradation (Baillet *et al.*, 1993), probably involving radical species. In order to increase the life of these compounds, a spin trap (nitronate) is added to the molecule (Campredon *et al.*, 1997).

† Alternative name: spiro[1,3,3'-trimethylindoline-2,3'-naphtho[2,1-*b*][1,4]oxazine]-5'-methylidene-*tert*-butylamine *N*-oxide.



All geometric parameters of the title compound, (1), correspond to the expected values. The orientation of the nitronate with respect to the phenyl ring is characterized by the torsion angle C8—C9—C11—N12 [168.6(2)°].

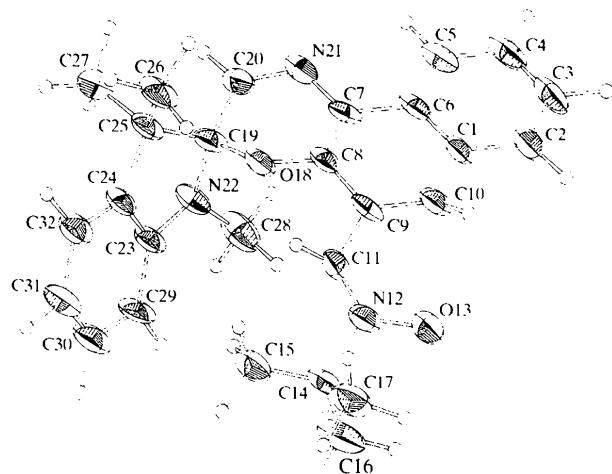


Fig. 1. ORTEPII (Johnson, 1976) drawing of (1) with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level. H atoms are drawn as small circles of arbitrary radii.

## Experimental

Nitronate (1) was prepared (Campredon *et al.*, 1997) by oxidation of the corresponding hydroxymethyl derivative with 1,1,1-triacetoxy-1,1-dihydro-1,2-benzodioxol-3(1*H*)-one according to the Dess–Martin procedure (Dess & Martin, 1983) followed by condensation of the resulting aldehyde with *tert*-butylhydroxylamine (yield 41%). Colourless pseudo-hexagonal prismatic crystals were obtained by dissolving (1) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and saturating this solution with pentane to give a 5:95 mixed solvent.

## Crystal data

C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Mo <i>K</i> α radiation
<i>M</i> <sub>r</sub> = 427.53	λ = 0.71069 Å
Monoclinic	Cell parameters from 25 reflections
<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	θ = 9–15°
<i>a</i> = 8.580 (1) Å	μ = 0.077 mm <sup>−1</sup>
<i>b</i> = 13.901 (2) Å	<i>T</i> = 293 (2) K
<i>c</i> = 19.977 (3) Å	Pseudo-hexagonal prism
β = 98.57 (2)°	0.5 × 0.3 × 0.3 mm
<i>V</i> = 2356.1 (6) Å <sup>3</sup>	Colourless
<i>Z</i> = 4	
<i>D</i> <sub>1</sub> = 1.205 Mg m <sup>−3</sup>	
<i>D</i> <sub>m</sub> not measured	

