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# 2-Methylphenyl 2-methoxyacridine-9-carboxylate

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The title compound,  $C_{22}H_{17}NO_3$ , crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$  with four molecules per unit cell. The molecules are arranged in centrosymmetric pairs, joined *via* the C and attached H atoms in the *meta* position relative to the methoxy group. These pairs are bonded in the crystalline phase as a result of non-specific dispersive interactions, and through a network of  $C-H\cdots O$  interactions involving the non-bonded O atom of the carboxy group and, to some extent, the O atom of the methoxy group. The methoxy substituent lies in the plane of the almost planar acridine moiety and is directed towards the phenyl ester group. The phenyl ester group itself is twisted by 35.9 (5)° relative to the mean plane of the acridine moiety.

## Comment

9-Carboxy-10-methylacridinium phenyl esters constitute the chemiluminogenic fragments of chemiluminescent labels (Rak *et al.*, 1999), which have found numerous applications in



immunoassays (Zomer *et al.*, 1991; Dodeigne *et al.*, 2000), and which can potentially be used in environmental, biochemical and medical analyses (Dodeigne *et al.*, 2000). Upon preparation of one such label, we synthesized, as an intermediate product, the title compound, (I), and obtained it in a crystalline form. This prompted us to carry out X-ray measurements in order to determine its structure. Examination of the Cambridge Structural Database (Version of April 2001; Allen & Kennard, 1993) shows that this is the first structure containing an acridine-9-carboxylic acid phenyl ester fragment.

The structure of (I) is shown in Fig. 1, and selected geometric parameters are given in Table 1. The O and C atoms of the methoxy group lie almost in the plane of the acridine moiety, which is itself almost planar, while the carboxy group is twisted relative to the acridine skeleton at an angle of 56.8 (5)°. The 2-methylphenyl ester group is twisted from the mean plane of the acridine moiety by  $35.9 (5)^{\circ}$ . The 2-methylphenyl fragment is almost perpendicular to the plane



## Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme and 50% probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms are drawn as small spheres of arbitrary radii.



## Figure 2

The arrangement of the molecules of (I) in the unit cell, viewed along the [100] axis. Short C-H···O interactions are represented by dashed lines and long C-H···O interactions or C-H···C contacts by dotted lines (Table 2). [Symmetry codes: (i) x, y, z; (ii) 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z; (iii)  $1 - x, \frac{1}{2} + y, \frac{1}{2} - z$ ; (iv)  $x, y - \frac{1}{2}, z - \frac{1}{2}$ .]



## Figure 3

A stereoview of the packing of (I) viewed along the z axis. Short C- $H \cdots O$  interactions (Table 2) are represented by dashed lines.

formed by the atoms of the carboxy group; the angle between the respective mean planes is  $87.3 (5)^{\circ}$ .

In the crystalline phase, the molecules of (I) are arranged in centrosymmetric pairs, joined through the C4 atoms and the attached H atoms, *via* a pair of  $C-H\cdots C$  contacts, with  $C\cdots C$  3.58 Å,  $H\cdots C$  3.01 Å and  $C-H\cdots C$  119.7° (Fig. 2). These pairs are bonded as a result of non-specific dispersive interactions, and through a network of  $C-H\cdots O$  interactions involving the O18 non-bonded atoms of the carboxy group and the H atoms attached to C6 [ $H\cdots O$  2.475 Å, which is a short  $C-H\cdots O$  interaction (Table 2)] and, to some extent, the O15 atoms of the methoxy group and the H atoms attached to C16 from neighbouring molecules [the shortest  $H\cdots O$  distance is 3.42 Å, which is a long  $C-H\cdots O$  interaction (Table 2)].

The packing in the crystalline phase reveals that the molecules of (I) are in a regular arrangement and the acridine moieties are situated either parallel or perpendicular to each other; the angles between the respective mean planes are 0.0 (5) or 84.0 (5)° (Fig. 3).

## Experimental

2-Methoxyacridine-9-carboxylic acid, and subsequently (I), were synthesized following the procedures outlined by Zomer *et al.* (1991) and Batmanghelich *et al.* (1991). Light-yellow crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray investigations were grown from cyclohexane.

Crystal data

| C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> | $D_x = 1.303 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$        |
|---|--|
| $M_r = 343.38$                                  | Mo $K\alpha$ radiation                 |
| Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$                            | Cell parameters from 50                |
| a = 13.393 (3) Å                                | reflections                            |
| b = 9.233 (2) Å                                 | $\theta = 3.0-60.1^{\circ}$            |
| c = 14.162 (3) Å                                | $\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$           |
| $\beta = 91.81 (3)^{\circ}$                     | T = 293 (2)  K                         |
| V = 1750.4 (7) Å <sup>3</sup>                   | Plate, yellow                          |
| Z = 4   | $0.6 \times 0.5 \times 0.3 \text{ mm}$ |
| Data collection                                 |  |
| Kuma KM-4 diffractometer                        | $h = -18 \rightarrow 18$               |
| $\theta/2\theta$ scans                          | $k = -13 \rightarrow 0$                |
| 7169 measured reflections                       | $l = 0 \rightarrow 19$                 |
| 5108 independent reflections                    | 3 standard reflections                 |
| 2994 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$          | every 200 reflections                  |
| $R_{\rm int} = 0.027$                           | intensity decay: 1.2%                  |

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.027$  $\theta_{\rm max} = 30.1^{\circ}$ 

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

| C2-O15              | 1.361 (2)    | O15-C16         | 1.426 (2)   |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| C9-C11              | 1.406 (2)    | C17-O18         | 1.1955 (17) |
| C9-C17              | 1.494 (2)    | C17-O19         | 1.3474 (19) |
| N10-C12             | 1.342 (2)    | O19-C20         | 1.4121 (18) |
|                     |              |                 |             |
| C1-C2-O15           | 125.33 (17)  | C17-O19-C20     | 118.74 (11) |
| C2-O15-C16          | 117.23 (14)  | O18-C17-O19     | 123.33 (14) |
| C9-C17-O18          | 126.57 (14)  | O19-C20-C21     | 117.90 (14) |
| C9-C17-O19          | 110.07 (12)  | C20-C21-C26     | 122.10 (16) |
| C11-C9-C17          | 120.82 (14)  |                 | . ,         |
| C1 C2 C15 C16       | 0.0 (2)      | 011 00 017 010  | 5( 27 (10)  |
| C1 - C2 - O15 - C16 | 0.8 (3)      | CII_C9_CI/_O19  | 56.37 (18)  |
| C9-C17-O19-C20      | 174.73 (13)  | C17-O19-C20-C21 | -87.90(18)  |
| C11-C9-C17-O18      | -125.80 (17) | O19-C20-C21-C26 | 8.6 (2)     |
|                     |              |                 |             |

## Table 2

Geometry of short contacts (Å,  $^{\circ}$ ).

| $D - H \cdots A$                              | D-H          | $H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$ | $D \cdots A$           | $D - H \cdots A$ |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| $C6-H6A\cdots O18^{i}$ $C4-H4A\cdots C4^{ii}$ | 0.96<br>0.96 | 2.47<br>3.01            | 3.199 (3)<br>3.584 (2) | 132<br>120       |
| $C16-H16B\cdots O15^{iii}$                    | 0.96         | 3.41                    | 3.916 (2)              | 115              |

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

#### Refinement

| Refinement on $F^2$             | $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0646P)^2]$                    |
|---------------------------------|--|
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.053$ | + 0.3081P]   |
| $wR(F^2) = 0.153$               | where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$                             |
| S = 1.03                        | $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$                        |
| 5108 reflections                | $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.19 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$  |
| 236 parameters                  | $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.17 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ |
| H-atom parameters constrained   | Extinction correction: SHELXL97                            |
|                                 | Extinction coefficient: 0.020 (2)                          |

All H atoms were placed in idealized positions and treated as riding, with C-H = 0.96 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ .

Data collection: *KM*-4 *Software* (Kuma Diffraction, 1989); cell refinement: *KM*-4 *Software*; data reduction: *KM*-4 *Software*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP*II (Johnson, 1976).

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: GD1177). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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