Acta Crystallographica Section C
Crystal Structure
Communications
ISSN 0108-2701

## 2,6-Diiodopyridine

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Received 11 June 2002
Accepted 19 August 2002
Online 21 September 2002
The title compound, $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{I}_{2} \mathrm{~N}$, crystallizes in the polar space group Fmm2, with crystallographic $m m 2$ symmetry imposed on the molecule. Molecules are linked through $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{N}$ hydrogen bonding to form chains which are, in turn, joined through weak I $\cdots$ I halogen-bonding interactions to form layers. The pyridine ring lies parallel to the polar $z$ axis and has the N atom pointing in the $+z$ direction. The layers stack in a polar fashion normal to the $a$ axis and the absolute structure has been determined.

## Comment

Haloaromatic compounds are important for synthetic purposes, especially cross-coupling reactions with organometallic reagents (Li \& Gribble, 2000; Finet, 1998). Iodoaromatics typically display increased reactivity compared with their bromo and chloro counterparts. Disubstituted iodoheteroaromatic compounds are useful for the preparation of multifunctional ligands, but few are available due to the difficulty of their formation (Smith \& Ho, 1990; Yang et al., 1986).

This paper reports the preparation and crystal structure of 2,6-diiodopyridine, (I), which will be used as a more reactive base unit in an alternate synthesis of acetylene-expanded tridentate ligands (Holmes et al., 2002). This appears to be only the second reported structure analysis of an iodopyridine, and the first of a diiodo derivative. Similar to the first reported example, 4-iodopyridine (Ahrens \& Jones, 1999), (I) crystallizes in a polar space group, viz. Fmm 2 for (I) versus Fdd2 for 4-iodopyridine.

(I)

The molecule of (I) lies on a crystallographic $m m 2$ site (Fig. 1), with the molecular plane coincident with one mirror and the molecule bisected by the other. Atoms N1 and C3 lie
on the twofold rotational axis at the intersection of the mirrors.

The geometric parameters for (I) (Table 1) are somewhat distorted relative to those found in both pyridine (Mootz \& Wussow, 1981) and 4-iodopyridine, with expansion of the ring angle at atoms C1 and C3 and contraction at atoms N1 and C2. This could be due to steric and electronic factors associated with the large electron-dense substituents, but may also be the result of low precision in the positional parameters of the light atoms (which comprise only $27 \%$ of the scattering power of the unit cell).

The molecules of (I) form linear chains along the $c$ axis through $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{N}$ hydrogen-bonding interactions (Table 2). These chains are linked through weak halogen bonding between I atoms (Walsh et al., 2001; Bailey et al., 2000; Bosch \& Barnes, 2002) to form planar layers normal to the $a$ axis (Fig. 2). The I $\cdots$ I distance (Table 1) is at the limit of the van der Waals contact distance, which has been estimated to be


Figure 1
The molecular structure of (I). Displacement ellipsoids are at the 50\% probability level and H atoms are of arbitrary radii. [Symmetry code: (i) $-x, 1-y, z$.]


Figure 2
The molecular packing in (I), viewed down the $a$ axis. Atoms are shown with arbitrary radii. Thick dashed lines represent $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{N}$ hydrogen bonds, while thin dashed lines represent I $\cdots \mathrm{I}$ halogen-bonding contacts.
$4.30 \AA$ by Pauling (1960), $3.96 \AA$ by Bondi (1964) and $4.00 \AA$ by Rowland \& Taylor (1996), but the angular orientation of the interactions fits the standard description of a type-II interaction quite well (Desiraju \& Parthasarathy, 1989). Each I atom undergoes two close contacts with neighboring I atoms within the layer, with one being nearly linear with respect to the $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{I} 1$ bond and the other being closer to a tetrahedral angle (Table 1). The layers are parallel to each other, with all of the N atoms aligned in the same absolute direction. Alternating layers are staggered by one half translation along the $c$ axis. The absolute direction of the polar axis has been determined successfully.

## Experimental

2,6-Diiodopyridine was synthesized by reacting commercially available 2,6-dibromopyridine with six equivalents of ethylmagnesium bromide in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting pyridyl dimagnesium bromide was quenched with iodine to afford the desired white solid in $42 \%$ yield following purification by chromatography on silica (hexane/dichloromethane) and recrystallization (hexane/chloroform). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \delta, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, p.p.m.): $7.67(d, J=7.88 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 6.93(t, J=7.75 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75 \mathrm{MHz}, \delta, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, p.p.m.): $138.36(\mathrm{CH}), 134.19(\mathrm{CH}), 116.21$. Diffraction-quality crystals of 2,6diiodopyridine were obtained by slow evaporation of a xylene solution at room temperature.

## Crystal data

$\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{I}_{2} \mathrm{~N}$
$M_{r}=330.88$
Orthorhombic, Fmm 2
$a=6.8039$ (14) $\AA$
$b=17.011$ (3) $\AA$
$c=6.1959$ (12) $\AA$
$V=717.1$ (2) $\AA^{3}$
$Z=4$
$D_{x}=3.065 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$

> Mo $K \alpha$ radiation
> Cell parameters from 1322 $\quad$ reflections
> $\theta=4.6-26.4^{\circ}$
> $\mu=8.67 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
> $T=148 \mathrm{~K}$
> Prism, colorless $0.17 \times 0.05 \times 0.05 \mathrm{~mm}$

## Data collection

Mercury AFC-8S diffractometer $\omega$ scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan
(REQAB; Jacobson, 1998)
$T_{\text {min }}=0.300, T_{\text {max }}=0.660$
1721 measured reflections
406 independent reflections

## Refinement

Refinement on $F^{2}$
$w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}{ }^{2}\right)+(0.0341 P)^{2}\right]$
where $P=\left(F_{o}{ }^{2}+2 F_{c}{ }^{2}\right) / 3$
$(\Delta / \sigma)_{\max }<0.001$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.67 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {min }}=-0.58 \mathrm{e}^{\AA^{-3}}$
Absolute structure: Flack (1983), 180 Friedel pairs
Flack parameter $=0.00(8)$
Data collection: CrystalClear (Rigaku/MSC, 2001); cell refinement: CrystalClear; data reduction: CrystalClear; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXTL-Plus (Sheldrick, 2000); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXTL-Plus; molecular graphics: SHELXTL-

Table 1
Selected geometric parameters $\left(\AA^{\circ},{ }^{\circ}\right)$.

| $\mathrm{I} 1-\mathrm{C} 1$ | $2.112(5)$ | $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $1.388(8)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{I} 1-\mathrm{I} 1^{\mathrm{i}}$ | $4.1038(7)$ | $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 3$ | $1.383(19)$ |
| $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{C} 1$ | $1.319(7)$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{I} 1-\mathrm{I} 1^{\mathrm{i}}$ | $98.84(17)$ | $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{I} 1$ | $115.9(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{I} 1-\mathrm{I} 1^{\mathrm{ii}}$ | $163.13(18)$ | $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{I} 1$ | $118.5(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{I} 1^{\mathrm{i}}-\mathrm{I} 1-\mathrm{I} 1^{i}$ | $98.03(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 1$ | $115.5(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{C} 1^{\mathrm{iii}}$ | $116.1(7)$ | $\mathrm{C} 2{ }^{\mathrm{iii}}-\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $122(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 2$ | $125.7(5)$ |  |  |
| Symmetry codes: (i) $-x, \frac{1}{2}-y, z-\frac{1}{2} ;($ iii $)-x, \frac{1}{2}-y, \frac{1}{2}+z ;($ (iii) $-x, 1-y, z$. |  |  |  |

Table 2
Hydrogen-bonding geometry ( $\mathrm{A},{ }^{\circ}$ ).

| $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots A$ | $D-\mathrm{H}$ | $\mathrm{H} \cdots A$ | $D \cdots A$ | $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots A$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{H} 3 A \cdots \mathrm{~N} 1^{\mathrm{i}}$ | 0.93 | 2.51 | $3.44(4)$ | 180 |

Symmetry code: (i) $x, y, z-1$.

Plus; software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTLPlus.

The financial support of the National Science Foundation for the purchase of the CCD-based X-ray system used in this study (CHE-9808165), and of the NASA/Space grant program (NCC5-575) provided by SC/EPSCoR is gratefully acknowledged.

Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: LN1141). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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