# organic compounds

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# 9-(2,6-Difluorophenoxycarbonyl)-10methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate and its precursor 2,6-difluorophenyl acridine-9-carboxylate: C—H···O, C—F··· $\pi$ , S—O··· $\pi$ and $\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking interactions

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The title compounds,  $C_{21}H_{14}F_2NO_2^+ \cdot CF_3SO_3^-$ , (I), and  $C_{20}H_{11}F_2NO_2$ , (II), form monoclinic and triclinic crystals, respectively. Adjacent cations of (I) are oriented in a 'head-to-tail' manner and are linked to one another *via* networks of C-H···O, C-F··· $\pi$ , S-O··· $\pi$  and multidirectional  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions. Adjacent molecules of (II) are also arranged in a 'head-to-tail' manner and are linked *via* networks of C-H···O and multidirectional  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions. The mean planes of the acridine moieties lie parallel in the lattices of both compounds. The benzene rings are also parallel. However, the acridine and difluorophenyl rings are mutually oriented at an angle of 17.3 (2)° in (I) and 5.8 (2)° in (II). This mutual orientation in various phenyl acridine-9-carboxylates and related compounds is strongly influenced by the nature of the substituents on the phenyl fragment.

# Comment

Most commercially available immunoassay tests utilizing chemiluminescence employ derivatives of acridine-9carboxylic acid (Weeks *et al.*, 1986; Rongen *et al.*, 1994; Razawi & McCapra, 2000*a,b*; Smith *et al.*, 2000). Sensitivities at the attomole level are available with this method, which makes acridine-based labels more profitable than standard radioisotopic techniques (*e.g.* <sup>125</sup>I or <sup>3</sup>H) (Zomer & Jacquemijns, 2001). Among the most frequently used of these derivatives are the phenyl esters of the 10-methylacridinium-9-carboxylic acid cation (Dodeigne *et al.*, 2000), although other compounds, like hydroxamic or sulfohydroxamic esters, have been tested in order to develop new assay options (Renotte *et al.*, 2000). These compounds react with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in alkaline media to produce molecules of electronically excited 10-methyl-9acridinone (Rak et al., 1999), which emits light. The intensity of the light is related directly to the concentration of the entity assayed and this is the foundation for the analytical application of chemiluminescence. Nevertheless, the use of acridinium esters for labelling biomolecules entails certain disadvantages. Although their chemiluminescence efficiency in aqueous solutions is relatively high (up to 10%), they are not very stable (Rak et al., 1999; Razawi & McCapra, 2000a,b); they can react relatively fast with OH<sup>-</sup>, which attacks the C atom in position 9. Many attempts have been made to enhance their resistance to hydrolysis, since this reaction competes with the chemiluminescence pathway in alkaline media, yielding a non-luminescent product, namely the non-excited 10-methyl-9-acridinone (Hammond et al., 1991). Since the phenyl fragment is removed during oxidation of phenyl 10-methylacridinium-9-carboxylates, it is thought that the phenyl ring substituents exert the greatest influence on the ability to chemiluminesce and on the properties of this group of compounds (Sato, 1996; Rak et al., 1999). Wilson et al. (2001) noted that reduction of 9-(2,6-difluorophenoxycarbonyl)-10methylacridinium (the title cation) yielded the corresponding ester of acridan, which is not susceptible to nucleophilic substitution (and thus hydrolysis). In this case, chemiluminescence was triggered by the cathodic oxidation of the acridan, which regenerates to the original acridinium salt and decomposes to the electronically excited 10-methyl-9acridinone (a light emitter). It can thus be expected that the presence of F atoms in the phenyl ring will improve the resistance of such compounds to alkaline hydrolysis and enhance their susceptibility to oxidation and their chemiluminescence ability. These were the premises for undertaking investigations on the title chemiluminogens, namely 9-(2,6-difluorophenoxycarbonyl)-10-methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate, (I), and 2,6-difluorophenyl acridine-9carboxylate, (II).



In this paper, we present the results of our crystal structure investigations, which were paralleled by laboratory studies on the relationship between the structural and chemiluminogenic properties of this group of compounds.

Parameters characterizing the geometry of the central ring of the acridine moiety and the carboxyl fragment in (I) are given in Table 1. The acridine moiety, with an average deviation from planarity for its constituent atoms of 0.015 Å, and the phenyl ring in (I) are mutually oriented at an angle of 17.3 (2)° (denoted by  $\delta$ , this is the angle between the mean planes delineated by all the non-H atoms of the acridine and phenyl moieties) (Fig. 1). The carboxyl group is twisted at an angle of 67.6 (2)° relative to the acridine skeleton (denoted by  $\varepsilon$ , this is the angle between the mean planes delineated by all the non-H atoms of the acridine moiety and atoms C15, O16 and O17). The H atoms of the methyl group are disordered over two orientations, twisted through 60° with respect to one another, each with an occupancy of 0.5.

In the crystalline phase, two adjacent cations of (I), arranged in a 'head-to-tail' manner and related by a centre of symmetry, are linked *via* two C-H···O interactions to yield dimers, which are, in turn, linked to anions *via* C-H···O interactions to form strips (Fig. 2 and Table 2). These strips are linked by networks of two types of C-H···O, C-F··· $\pi$ , S-O··· $\pi$  and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  transverse interactions involving F atoms, O atoms from the anion, and the acridine or phenyl rings (Fig. 2, and Tables 3 and 4). This variety of interactions, rare in other acridine derivatives, accounts for the stability of the crystalline phase of (I).

Parameters characterizing the geometry of the central ring of the acridine moiety and the carboxyl fragment in (II) are given in Table 5. Angle  $\delta$  between the acridine (average deviation from planarity for its constituent atoms = 0.003 Å) and phenyl moieties in (II) is 5.8 (2)° (Fig. 3). The carboxyl group in (II) is twisted at an angle  $\varepsilon$  = 78.8 (2)° relative to the acridine skeleton. Comparison of the  $\delta$  and  $\varepsilon$  angles for (I) and (II) yields an inverse relationship.



#### Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme and 25% probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

Arranged in a 'head-to-tail' manner and related by a centre of symmetry, two adjacent molecules of (II) are linked *via* two C-H···O interactions [as in (I)] to produce dimers (Fig. 4 and Table 6). These are further linked by a network of multidirectional  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions involving the central acridine ring, one of the lateral acridine rings and the phenyl ring (Fig. 4 and Table 7), all of which makes for a stable molecular crystal lattice.



#### Figure 2

The arrangement of the ions of (I) in the unit cell. The C-H···O interactions are represented by dashed lines, and the  $Y-X \cdots \pi$  and  $\pi-\pi$  interactions by dotted lines. H atoms not involved in C-H···O interactions have been omitted. [Symmetry codes: (i) x - 1, y, 1 + z; (ii) 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z; (iii) 1 - x, -y, 1 - z; (iv) x,  $\frac{1}{2} - y$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (v) 1 + x,  $\frac{1}{2} - y$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ ; (vi) x,  $\frac{1}{2} - y$ ,  $z - \frac{1}{2}$ .]



#### Figure 3

The molecular structure of (II), showing the atom-labelling scheme and 25% probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.





The arrangement of the molecules of (II) in the unit cell. The  $C-H\cdots O$ interactions are represented by dashed lines and the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions by dotted lines. H atoms not involved in C-H···O interactions have been omitted. [Symmetry codes: (i) -1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z; (ii) -x, 1 - y, -z; (iii) -x, 1-y, 1-z.]

The geometry of the molecules in the crystalline phase is the product of intramolecular forces and intermolecular interactions. If some fragments are rigid, as with the acridine, phenyl and carboxyl (O=C-O-) moieties in compounds (I) and (II), the molecules can exist in a variety of structures as a result of rotation around the single bonds, in the present case C9-C15 and O16-C18. This provides the opportunity to investigate the influence of the structure of the molecular fragments on their mutual arrangement and on the structure of the whole molecules. Table 8 lists the angles  $\delta$ , reflecting the mutual arrangement of the acridine and phenyl rings, and the angles  $\varepsilon$ , representing the relative arrangement of the acridine ring and the carboxyl (or vinyl) group, for a series of phenyl acridine-9-carboxylates, their relevant 10-methylacridinium cations and related compounds. The angles  $\delta$  are the largest in two known structures of styrylacridines. They are quite large if bulky groups (Et) or atoms (Br, I) are ortho-substituted in the phenyl ring of phenyl acridine-9-carboxylates. As far as the halogen-disubstituted compounds are concerned, the angle  $\delta$ in the fluoro derivatives of phenyl acridine-9-carboxylates and their 10-methylacridinium cations is relatively small and increases with the size of the halogen atom. All of the angles  $\varepsilon$ listed in Table 8 are larger than 50° and are not correlated with either the angles  $\delta$  or the size and number of the substituents in the phenyl fragment. The angles  $\varepsilon$  are most probably the outcome of the most efficient crystal packing. A property which does not arise directly from the  $\delta$  values listed in Table 8, but which emerges from a meticulous analysis of crystal phase structures, is that there is a relatively large number and variety of intermolecular interactions in the difluoro derivatives, which may be a consequence of the nearly parallel mutual orientation of the acridine and phenyl rings.

# **Experimental**

Compound (II) was prepared by heating anhydrous acridine-9carboxylic acid with a tenfold molar excess of thionyl chloride, followed by esterification of the resulting acid chloride with an equimolar quantity of 2,6-difluorophenol (Sato, 1996). The reaction was carried out in anhydrous dichloromethane in the presence of triethylamine (1.5 molar excess) and a catalytic quantity of 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine. The crude product was subsequently washed with dilute HCl, NaHCO3 and saturated saline, and then purified chromatographically with silica gel as the stationary phase and cyclohexane–ethyl acetate (1:1 v/v) as the mobile phase (yield 79%). Analysis calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S: C 71.6, H 3.3, N 4.2%; found: C 71.5, H 3.3, N 25.1%. Yellow crystals of (II) suitable for X-ray analysis were grown from cyclohexane (m.p. 454-455 K). Compound (I) was synthesized by treating compound (II) dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane with a fivefold molar excess of methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate dissolved in the same solvent (under an Ar atmosphere at room temperature for 4 h). The crude salt was purified by repeated precipitation from an ethanol-diethyl ether (1:20 v/v) solution (yield 86%). Pale-yellow crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray investigations were grown from absolute ethanol (m.p. 504-506 K).

# Compound (I)

# Crystal data

$C_{21}H_{14}F_{2}NO_{2}^{+} \cdot CF_{3}O_{3}S^{-}$ $M_{r} = 499.40$ Monoclinic, $P_{2_{1}}/c$ a = 11.382 (2) Å b = 14.048 (3) Å c = 13.162 (3) Å $\beta = 91.16$ (3)° V = 2104.1 (8) Å <sup>3</sup> Z = 4	$D_x = 1.576 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo K $\alpha$ radiation Cell parameters from 50 reflections $\theta = 2.1-25.0^{\circ}$ $\mu = 0.23 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 290 (2) K Prism, yellow $0.5 \times 0.3 \times 0.2 \text{ mm}$
Data collection	
Kuma KM-4 diffractometer $\theta/2\theta$ scans 3874 measured reflections 3700 independent reflections 1760 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.029$ $\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^{\circ}$	$h = -13 \rightarrow 13$ $k = 0 \rightarrow 16$ $l = 0 \rightarrow 15$ 3 standard reflections every 200 reflections intensity decay: 4.5%
Refinement	
Refinement on $F^2$ $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.048$ $wR(F^2) = 0.144$ S = 0.97 3700 reflections 309 parameters H-atom parameters constrained	$ \begin{split} & w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_{\rm o}^2) + (0.0693P)^2 \\ & + 0.9523P] \\ & \text{where } P = (F_{\rm o}^2 + 2F_{\rm c}^2)/3 \\ & (\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001 \\ & \Delta\rho_{\rm max} = 0.27 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ & \Delta\rho_{\rm min} = -0.32 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ & \text{Extinction correction: } SHELXL97 \\ & (\text{Sheldrick, 1997}) \\ & \text{Extinction coefficient: } 0.0096 (9) \end{split} $

# Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å,  $^{\circ}$ ) for (I).

N10-C12 N10-C14 C15-O16 C15-O17	1.367 (5) 1.363 (5) 1.355 (4) 1.179 (4)	O16-C18 C19-F24 C23-F25	1.401 (4) 1.336 (5) 1.352 (4)
C9-C15-O16	111.9 (3)	C9-C15-O17	124.6 (3)
C11-C9-C15-O17	-64.2 (5)	C15-O16-C18-C19	-96.3 (4)

## Table 2 Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °) for (I).

$D-\mathrm{H}\cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
$\begin{array}{c} C4{-}H4{\cdots}O29^i\\ C5{-}H5{\cdots}O28^{ii} \end{array}$	0.93 0.93	2.54 2.59	3.225 (5) 3.417 (5)	131 148
$C22-H22\cdots O17^{iii}$	0.93	2.52	3.316 (5)	144

Symmetry codes: (i) x - 1, y, z + 1; (ii) 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z; (iii) 1 - x, -y, 1 - z.

## Table 3

 $Y - X \cdots \pi$  interactions in (I) (Å, °).

Cg1 is the centroid of ring C9/C11/C12/N10/C14/C13, Cg2 of ring C1-C4/C12/ C11, Cg3 of ring C5-C8/C13/C14 and Cg4 of ring C18-C23.

Y - X	Cg	$X \cdots Cg$	$Y \cdots Cg$	$Y - X \cdots Cg$
C19-F24	$2^{iv}$	3.874 (3)	4.109 (4)	90.5 (2)
C23-F25	4 <sup>iii</sup>	3.977 (3)	4.383 (4)	98.4 (2)
S27-O28	$1^{v}$	3.511 (3)	3.708 (2)	86.74 (13)
S27-O28	$2^{v}$	3.374 (3)	4.080 (2)	110.17 (14)
S27-O29	$1^{v}$	3,569 (4)	3.708 (2)	84.22 (14)
S27-O29	3 <sup>v</sup>	3.835 (4)	4.740 (2)	121.64 (16)

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

#### Table 4

 $\pi - \pi$  interactions in (I) (Å, °).

The centroids are as in Table 3. The dihedral angle is between the CgI and CgJplanes and the interplanar distance is the perpendicular distance of CgI from ring J and the offset is the perpendicular distance of ring I from ring J.

CgI	CgJ	$Cg \cdots Cg$	Dihedral angle	Interplanar distance	Offset
1	$4^{vi}$	3.620 (2)	7.8	3.424 (2)	1.841 (2)
3	$4^{vi}$	3.940 (3)	6.4	3.482 (3)	1.003 (3)
4	$1^{iv}$	3.620 (2)	7.8	3.530 (2)	1.037 (2)
4	$3^{iv}$	3.940 (3)	6.4	3.527 (3)	1.570 (3)

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

## Compound (II)

### Crvstal data

$C_{20}H_{11}F_2NO_2$	Z = 2
$M_r = 335.30$	$D_x = 1.460 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Triclinic, P1	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
a = 8.306 (2)  Å	Cell parameters fro
b = 9.057 (2) Å	reflections
c = 11.423 (2) Å	$\theta = 2.5 - 25.0^{\circ}$
$\alpha = 69.94 \ (3)^{\circ}$	$\mu = 0.11 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 77.80 \ (3)^{\circ}$	T = 290 (2)  K
$\gamma = 72.16 \ (3)^{\circ}$	Prism, yellow
V = 762.9 (3) Å <sup>3</sup>	$0.4 \times 0.3 \times 0.2 \text{ mm}$
Data collection	

Kuma KM-4 diffractometer  $\theta/2\theta$  scans 2875 measured reflections 2681 independent reflections 1314 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\rm int} = 0.023; \, \theta_{\rm max} = 25.0^{\circ}$ 

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.042$  $wR(F^2) = 0.129$ S = 1.012681 reflections 227 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

ation ters from 50 ıs -1 K 0.2 mm  $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$  $k=-10\rightarrow 10$ 

 $l = 0 \rightarrow 13$ 3 standard reflections every 200 reflections intensity decay: 1.0%

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (0.0607P)^2]$ + 0.1152P] where  $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$ -3  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.18 \text{ e} \text{ \AA}$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.16 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: SHELXL97 Extinction coefficient: 0.0025 (4)

#### Table 5

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °) for (II).

N10-C12	1.339 (3)	O16-C18	1.395 (2)
N10-C14	1.337 (3)	C19-F24	1.342 (3)
C15-O16	1.352 (3)	C23-F25	1.347 (3)
C15-O17	1.180 (3)		
C9-C15-O16	110.6 (2)	C9-C15-O17	125.9 (2)
$C_{11} = C_{9} = C_{15} = O_{17}$	781(3)	C15 - O16 - C18 - C19	104.9(3)
011-05-017	70.1 (5)	010-010-010-017	104.9 (3)

#### Table 6

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å,  $^\circ)$  for (II).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
$C22-H22\cdots O17^{i}$	0.93	2.55	3.395 (4)	151
Symmetry codes: (i) $-x - 1, 1 - y, 1 - z$ .				

# Table 7

## $\pi - \pi$ interactions in (II) (Å, °).

The centroids are as in Table 3. The dihedral angle is between the CgI and CgJ planes and the interplanar distance is the perpendicular distance of CgI from ring J and the offset is the perpendicular distance of ring I from ring J.

CgI	CgJ	$Cg \cdots Cg$	Dihedral angle	Interplanar distance	Offset
1	2 <sup>ii</sup>	3.912 (2)	1.1	3.459 (3)	1.472 (2)
1	$4^{iii}$	3.735 (2)	6.3	3.469 (3)	1.413 (2)
2	$1^{ii}$	3.912 (2)	1.1	3.427 (3)	1.740 (2)
2	$2^{ii}$	3.514 (2)	0.0	3.444 (3)	1.634 (2)
2	4 <sup>iii</sup>	3.787 (2)	6.3	3.406 (3)	1.472 (2)
4	$1^{iii}$	3.735 (2)	6.3	3.535 (3)	1.413 (2)
4	2 <sup>iii</sup>	3.787 (2)	6.3	3.527 (3)	1.740 (2)

Symmetry codes: (ii) -x, 1 - y, -z; (iii) -x, 1 - y, 1 - z.

#### Table 8

The angles between the acridine and phenyl rings ( $\delta$ ,  $^{\circ}$ ), and between the acridine ring and the carboxyl or vinyl fragment ( $\varepsilon$ , °), in substituted phenyl acridine-9-carboxylates, their relevant 10-methylacridinium cations and related compounds.

Compound	δ	ε	Reference
(I)	17.3 (2)	67.6 (2)	This work
(II)	5.8 (2)	78.8 (2)	This work
(III)	35.9 (2)	56.5 (2)	Meszko et al. (2002)
(IV)	30.2 (2)	57.9 (2)	To be published
(V)	62.1 (2)	67.3 (2)	Sikorski et al. (2005a)
(VI)	35.7 (2)	68.1 (2)	Sikorski et al. (2005a)
(VII)	9.3 (2)	77.2 (2)	Sikorski et al. (2005b)
(VIII)	41.2 (2)	51.0 (2)	Sikorski et al. (2005d)
(IX)	45.5 (2)	54.3 (2)	To be published
(X)	27.2 (2)	89.0 (2)	To be published
(XI)	33.4 (2)	62.0 (2)	Sikorski et al. (2005b)
(XII)	35.9 (3)	60.6 (3)	Sikorski et al. (2005c)
(XIII)	67.1 (2)	55.5 (2)	Sgarabotto et al. (1989)
(XIV)	73.7 (3)	69.9 (3)	Sgarabotto et al. (1989)

Compounds: (I) 9-(2,6-difluorophenoxycarbonyl)-10-methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate; (II) 2,5-difluorophenyl acridine-9-carboxylate; (III) 2-methylphenyl 2-methoxyacridine-9-carboxylate; (IV) 2-methylphenyl acridine-9-carboxylate; (V) 2-ethylphenylacridine-9-carboxylate; (VI) 2,5-dimethylphenyl acridine-9-carboxylate; (VII) 2,5-dichlorophenyl acridine-9-carboxylate; (VIII) 2,5-dibromophenyl acridine-9carboxylate; (IX) 2,5-diiodophenyl acridine-9-carboxylate; (X) 9-(2-methylphenoxycarbonyl)-10-methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate; (XI) 9-(2,6-dichlorophenoxycarbonyl)-10-methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate; (XII) 9-(2,6-dibromophenoxycarbonyl)-10-methylacridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate; (XIII) (E)-9-styrylacridine; (XIV) (Z)-9-(2,5-dimethylstyryl)acridine.

The methyl H atoms in (I) were located in difference Fourier syntheses and refined as a rigid rotating group, with C-H = 0.96 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5U_{eq}(C)$ . These H atoms were assumed to have two unique disordered orientations with an occupancy factor of 0.5. All other H atoms in (I) and (II) were placed geometrically and refined using a riding model, with C-H distances of 0.93 Å and with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ .

For both compounds, data collection: *KM-4 Software* (Kuma, 1989); cell refinement: *KM-4 Software*; data reduction: *KM-4 Software*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97* and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: LN1184). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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