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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 296\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.006\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.055  
 $wR$  factor = 0.168  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 15.8

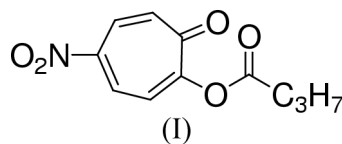
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## 2-Butanoyloxy-5-nitrotropone

In the title compound, 4-nitro-7-oxocyclohepta-1,3,5-trienyl butanoate,  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_5$ , the tropolone ring is approximately perpendicular to the ester plane [dihedral angle  $71.8(1)^\circ$ ] and the paraffin chain has *trans* and *gauche* conformations. Intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between the tropolone planes are observed in the crystalline state.

## Comment

Troponoids have been an important building block for constructing liquid crystals (Mori & Takeshita, 1995). Recently, we prepared liquid crystals with a troponoid core which has enhanced the formation of smectic phases when compared with the corresponding benzenoids (Mori & Takeshita, 1995; Hashimoto *et al.*, 2000). The crystal structures of cores such as tropolone, 5-nitrotropolone and 5-cyanotropolone rings have been elucidated by X-ray analyses (Shimanouchi & Sasada, 1973; Kubo *et al.*, 2001). In order to reveal the effect upon crystal packing of substitution at O2 of 5-nitrotropolone, we now report the structure of the title compound, (I), as shown in Fig. 1.



The seven-membered ring in (I) is nearly planar; the respective deviations of each atom from the least-squares plane *A*, defined by atoms C1–C7/O1/O2, are 0.033 (4), 0.064 (4), 0.048 (4),  $-0.031$  (5),  $-0.064$  (4), 0.022 (4), 0.083 (5),  $-0.040$  (3) and  $-0.015$  (3)  $\text{\AA}$ . The dihedral angle between the least-squares planes through *A* and *B* [defined by atoms O2, O5 and C8] is  $71.8(1)^\circ$ , which is similar to that in tropolonyl *p*-chlorobenzoate,  $71.5^\circ$  (Shaefer & Reed, 1971). The C–C bond lengths of the seven-membered ring of (I) are similar to those of tropone (Barrow *et al.*, 1973), but are distinct from 5-nitrotropolone (Kubo *et al.*, 2001). The paraffin chain has *trans* and *gauche* conformations.

Intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions are observed between the tropolone dimer planes (head-to-tail) of (I) (Fig. 2). The distance between intermolecular tropolone planes is  $3.461(5)\text{ \AA}$  for C1–C4<sup>i</sup> [symmetry code: (i)  $1 - x, -y, 1 - z$ ], which is similar to the distance of  $3.40\text{ \AA}$  found in 5-nitrotropolone (Kubo *et al.*, 2001). However, the packing in (I) is distinct from that of 5-nitrotropolone (Kubo *et al.*, 2001), which features intermolecular  $\text{NO}_2 \cdots \pi$ - $\pi$  interactions. Thus, the substitution at O2 results in a different crystal-packing arrangement.

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## Experimental

Compound (I) was prepared by esterification of 5-nitrotropolone with butanoyl chloride. The single crystals of (I) were obtained by recrystallization from a chloroform solution of the compound.

### Crystal data

$C_{11}H_{11}NO_5$

$M_r = 237.21$

Monoclinic,  $P2_1/a$

$a = 12.8585$  (14) Å

$b = 10.7092$  (11) Å

$c = 8.3657$  (14) Å

$\beta = 103.052$  (11)°

$V = 1122.2$  (3) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.404$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

Cell parameters from 21 reflections

$\theta = 9.1\text{--}18.1^\circ$

$\mu = 0.11$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 296$  (2) K

Prism, yellow

$0.33 \times 0.23 \times 0.23$  mm

### Data collection

Enraf–Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer

$\omega$ - $2\theta$  scans

$\psi$  scan (North *et al.*, 1968)

$T_{\min} = 0.981$ ,  $T_{\max} = 1.000$

2559 measured reflections

2450 independent reflections

953 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.073$

$\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.0^\circ$

$h = 0 \rightarrow 16$

$k = -13 \rightarrow 0$

$l = -10 \rightarrow 10$

3 standard reflections

frequency: 120 min

intensity decay: 0.1%

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.055$

$wR(F^2) = 0.168$

$S = 0.95$

2450 reflections

155 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0673P)^2]$

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$

$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.19$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.18$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

Extinction correction: *SHELXL97*

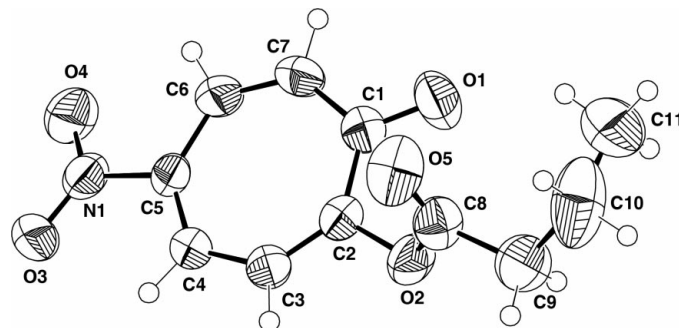
Extinction coefficient: 0.018 (3)

All H atoms were fixed at ideal positions and restrained with  $U_{\text{iso}}$  held fixed to  $1.2U_{\text{eq}}$  of the parent atoms.

Data collection: *CAD-4 Software* (Enraf–Nonius, 1989); cell refinement: *CAD-4 Software*; data reduction: *MolEN* (Fair, 1990); program(s) used to solve structure: *SIR97* (Altomare *et al.*, 1999); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *Xtal\_GX* (Hall & du Boulay, 1995); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

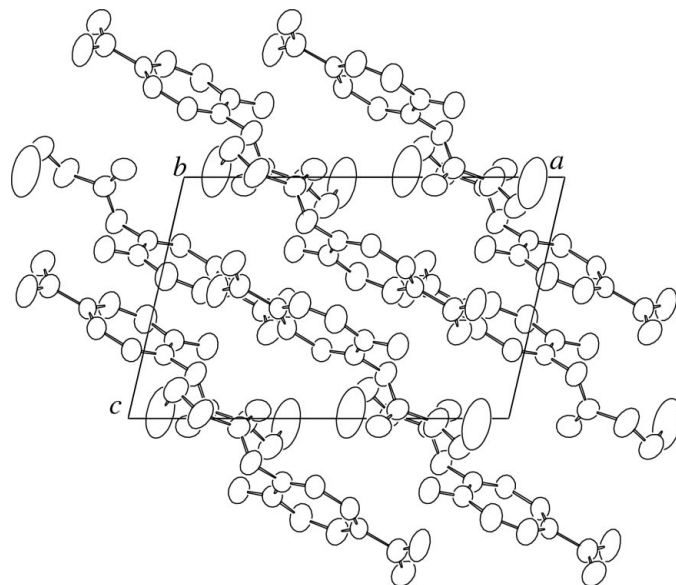
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**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of (I) showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids (Johnson, 1976).



**Figure 2**

Packing diagram of (I) viewed down the  $b$  axis. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

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