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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.004 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.046 wR factor = 0.122 Data-to-parameter ratio = 12.8

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

# 2-(2-Methoxyphenylhydrazono)-3-oxobutanoic acid

The crystal structure of the title compound,  $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_4$ , contains two crystallographically independent molecules in the asymmetric unit. The molecules exist in the stereoisomeric Z form, with the NH group forming an intramolecular N-H···O hydrogen bond with the carbonyl O atom of the carboxyl group. It is also confirmed that the compound exists in the hydrazone form and not the azo form.

## Comment

As part of our project to study the crystal structures of a series of phenylhydrazones and their stereochemistry, the crystal structure of the title compound, (I), has been determined. These compounds can exist either in the normal hydrazone form (Ph-NH-N=C<) or in the azo form (Ph-N=NH-CH<) and have been extensively investigated by various workers, using both chemical and a range of instrumental methods (Prasad & Sahay, 1993).



The asymmetric unit of (I) contains two molecules; the corresponding bond lengths and angles of these two molecules agree with each other. The superposition of the non-H atoms of these two molecules (one molecule inverted) resulted in an r.m.s. deviation of 0.04 Å. The C6-C1-N1-N2  $[-7.6 (3)^{\circ}]$  and C6'-C1'-N1'-N2'  $[5.4 (3)^{\circ}]$  torsion angle values show that these two molecules are slightly distorted from planarity. The structure determination shows that both molecules exist in the stereoisomeric Z form, with the NH group forming an intramolecular N-H···O hydrogen bond with the carbonyl O atom of the carboxyl group (Fig. 1). The carbonyl O atom of the carboxyl group is involved in an intramolecular O-H···O hydrogen bond with the carboxyl group (Table 2). In the crystal structure, the inversion-related pairs of the molecules are stacked along [121].

### **Experimental**

The title compound, supplied by Dr N. Prasad, Department of Chemistry, B. R. Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur, India, was prepared by partial hydrolysis of ethyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl-hydrazono)-3-oxobutyrate by the action of strong acids (Prasad *et al.*, 1994) and was recrystallized from methanol at room temperature.

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### Figure 1

A plot (Farrugia, 1997) of the asymmetric unit of (I), with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids.

 $D_x = 1.388 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo K $\alpha$  radiation Cell parameters from 25 reflections  $\theta = 8.4 - 11.0^{\circ}$   $\mu = 0.11 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 293 (2) K

Elongated plate, clear light yellow

 $0.33 \times 0.25 \times 0.05 \ \text{mm}$ 

every 50 reflections

intensity decay: none

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 25.0^{\circ}$ 

 $k = -13 \rightarrow 12$ 

 $l = -16 \rightarrow 16$ 3 standard reflections

 $h = 0 \rightarrow 9$ 

Z = 4

Crystal data

#### Data collection

Enraf-Nonius CAD-4
diffractometer
$\omega$ –2 $\theta$ scans
Absorption correction: none
4142 measured reflections
3962 independent reflections
2114 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
$R_{int} = 0.042$

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	H-atom parameters constrained
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.046$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0719P)^2]$
$wR(F^2) = 0.122$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 0.88	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$
3962 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.18 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
309 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.13  {\rm e}  {\rm \AA}^{-3}$

### Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

O2-C8	1.216 (3)	O2′-C8′	1.209 (3)
O3-C8	1.311 (3)	O3'-C8'	1.319 (3)
O4-C9	1.234 (2)	O4′-C9′	1.228 (3)
N1-N2	1.302 (2)	N1′-N2′	1.299 (2)
N1-C1	1.406 (2)	N1′-C1′	1.409 (3)
N2-C7	1.310 (2)	N2′-C7′	1.308 (3)
C7-C9	1.465 (3)	C7′-C9′	1.464 (3)
C7-C8	1.481 (3)	C7′-C8′	1.473 (3)
N2-N1-C1-C6	-7.6 (3)	N2'-N1'-C1'-C6'	5.4 (3)
C11-O1-C2-C3	-2.4 (3)	C11' - O1' - C2' - C3'	-1.0 (3)

Table 2		
Hydrogen-bonding geometry	(Å,	°).

$\overline{D-\mathrm{H}\cdots A}$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
N1-H1N···O2	0.86	1.98	2.628 (2)	132
O3-H3O···O4	0.82	1.80	2.554 (2)	152
$N1' - H1'N \cdot \cdot \cdot O2'$	0.86	1.98	2.633 (3)	132
O3′-H3′O···O4′	0.82	1.79	2.544 (3)	152

After location in a difference map, all the H atoms were placed at calculated positions and were allowed to ride on their respective parent atoms, using *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997) defaults.

Data collection: *CAD-4 EXPRESS* (Enraf–Nonius, 1994); cell refinement: *CAD-4 EXPRESS*; data reduction: *MolEN* (Fair, 1990); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-*3 (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL*97.

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