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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study

$T = 120$  K

Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.006$  Å

$R$  factor = 0.055

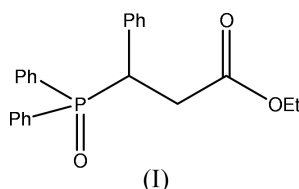
$wR$  factor = 0.110

Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.8

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

## Ethyl 3-(diphenylphosphinoyl)-3-phenylpropionate

The title compound,  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}(\text{Ph})\text{CH}_2\text{COOEt}$  or  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3\text{P}$ , (I), assembles into columns extending down the  $a$  axis, via  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds. Compound (I) was isolated as a by-product in studies related to the development of a novel cyclization reaction [Evans *et al.* (2002). *Tetrahedron Lett.* **43**, 299–301] and was synthesized independently to confirm its structure.



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### Experimental

The title compound was prepared in 70% yield by the reaction of ethyl propiolate with triphenylphosphine under reflux in a tetrahydrofuran–water mixture; this is similar in nature to the method reported previously by Richards & Tebby (1971).

#### Crystal data

$\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3\text{P}$

$M_r = 378.38$

Orthorhombic,  $P2_12_12_1$

$a = 5.788$  (5) Å

$b = 17.499$  (5) Å

$c = 19.463$  (5) Å

$V = 1971.3$  (19) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.275$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

Cell parameters from 3383

reflections

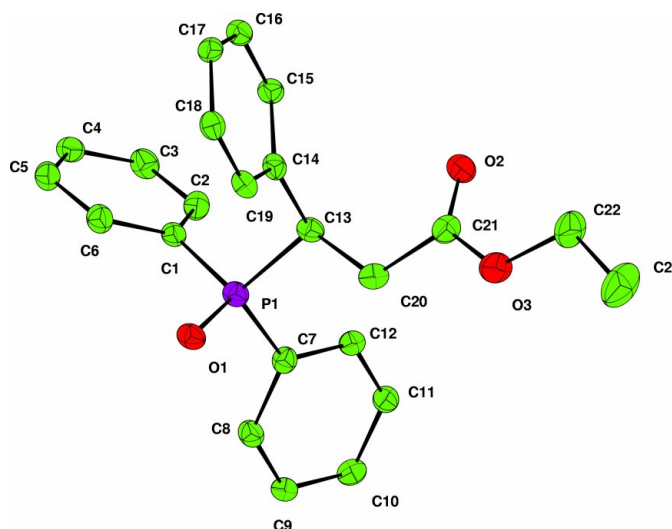
$\theta = 3.1$ – $25.0^\circ$

$\mu = 0.16$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 120$  (2) K

Rod, colourless

$0.15 \times 0.04 \times 0.03$  mm



**Figure 1**

View of the title compound, showing the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 35% probability level. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

## Data collection

Bruker–Nonius Kappa CCD area-detector diffractometer  
 $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans  
 10 345 measured reflections  
 3383 independent reflections  
 2169 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.096$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^\circ$   
 $h = -6 \rightarrow 6$   
 $k = -19 \rightarrow 20$   
 $l = -22 \rightarrow 23$

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.055$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.110$   
 $S = 0.98$   
 3383 reflections  
 246 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0301P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.16 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.22 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$   
 Extinction correction: *SHELXL97*  
 Extinction coefficient: 0.0034 (9)  
 Absolute structure: Flack (1983)  
 Flack parameter = 0.66 (17)

Table 1

Hydrogen-bonding geometry ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
$C13-H13 \cdots O1^i$	1.00	2.60	3.588 (5)	171
$C12-H12 \cdots O1^i$	0.95	2.49	3.366 (5)	154
$C2-H2 \cdots O1^i$	0.95	2.68	3.463 (5)	140
$C19-H19 \cdots O2^{ii}$	0.95	2.47	3.385 (6)	163

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

Despite the measurement of 67% of Friedel equivalents and the presence of phosphorus in the crystal structure the refined value of the Flack (1983) parameter did not allow the determination of the absolute configuration of the title compound in the crystal. 1387 Friedels were used in the refinement]

Data collection: *COLLECT* (Hooft, 1998); cell refinement: *DENZO* (Otwinowski & Minor, 1997); data reduction: *DENZO*, *COLLECT* and *MAXUS* (Mackay *et al.*, 1998); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1990); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *CAMERON* (Watkin *et al.*, 1993); software used to prepare material for publication: *WinGX* (Farrugia, 1998).

## References

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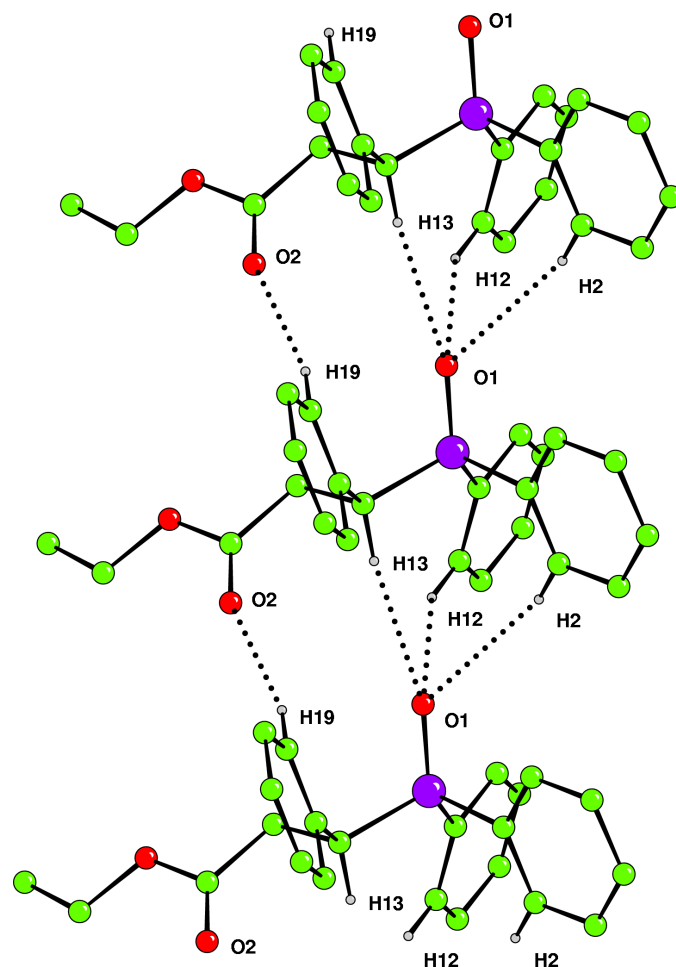


Figure 2

The C–H $\cdots$ O hydrogen-bonded column extending down the  $a$  axis. H atoms not involved in C–H $\cdots$ O bonds have been omitted.

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