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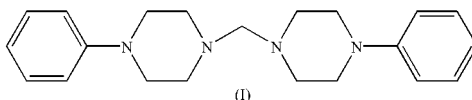
Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 298\text{ K}$
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.005\text{ \AA}$
 R factor = 0.060
 wR factor = 0.181
Data-to-parameter ratio = 15.2For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

Bis(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)methane

The title compound, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4$, was synthesized. It is an unusual example of a $Z' = 4$ structure without obvious pseudosymmetry. The molecules are linked by numerous $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ and $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$ hydrogen bonds; there are many $\text{H}\cdots\text{H}$ short contacts.

Comment

Crystal structures containing several molecules in the asymmetric unit ($Z' > 1$) include widely distributed species of hydroxy-containing compounds forming strong hydrogen-bonded assemblies in crystals (Kuleshova *et al.*, 2003; Lehmler *et al.*, 2002). Approximate symmetry relationships between independent molecules are apparent in many structures with $Z' > 1$, such as 4-biphenylol ($Z' = 2$) (Brock & Haller, 1984) and 2-cyclopentyl-2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetic acid ($Z' = 2$) (Bats *et al.*, 2003). 4-Chloro-2'-biphenyl, a $Z' = 4$ structure without obvious pseudosymmetry, is an unusual example discovered recently (Lehmler *et al.*, 2002). The title compound, (I), can be regarded as a symmetric molecule; however, the crystal structure has $Z' = 4$ without obvious pseudosymmetry. The molecules are linked by many $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ and $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$ hydrogen bonds; there are many $\text{H}\cdots\text{H}$ short contacts (Steiner, 2002).

Experimental

The title compound was synthesized by reacting diiodomethane and the sodium salt of 1-phenylpiperazine, which was prepared *in situ* by a modification of the literature method (Garrard & Partridge, 1993), in dry DMF at 303 K for 12 h. Work-up gave the desired product (yield 73.2%), which was purified by recrystallization from hot alcohol, yielding white crystals of (I) (m.p. 397–399 K). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz): δ 2.69 (*t*, $J = 4.93$ Hz, 8H), 3.04 (*s*, 2H), 3.20 (*t*, $J = 4.93$ Hz, 8H), 6.83–7.28 (*m*, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz): δ 49.1, 51.5, 80.9, 116.0, 119.5, 129.0, 151.4; IR (KBr): ν 2957, 2880, 2821, 1600, 1503, 1452, 1371, 1237, 1147, 1014, 924, 756, 689 cm^{-1} . EI-MS m/z (%): 337 (M^+ , 1.8), 174 (69.8), 120 (100), 77 (47.5).

Crystal data

 $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4$
 $M_r = 336.47$
Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$
 $a = 19.049$ (5) \AA
 $b = 9.758$ (8) \AA
 $c = 41.950$ (10) \AA
 $\beta = 99.49$ (2) $^\circ$
 $V = 7691$ (7) \AA^3
 $Z = 16$ $D_x = 1.162\text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Cell parameters from 5814 reflections
 $\theta = 2.2\text{--}20.9^\circ$
 $\mu = 0.07\text{ mm}^{-1}$
 $T = 298$ (2) K
Parallelepiped, colourless
0.30 \times 0.30 \times 0.20 mm

Data collection

Siemens SMART CCD area-
detector diffractometer
 ω scans
Absorption correction: none
31805 measured reflections
13700 independent reflections

6119 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.059$
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.1^\circ$
 $h = -22 \rightarrow 22$
 $k = -11 \rightarrow 11$
 $l = -49 \rightarrow 35$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.060$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.181$
 $S = 0.94$
13700 reflections
902 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0808P)^2]$
where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.14 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.13 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

H atoms were refined isotropically. All H atoms were located by geometry calculations riding on their parent atoms.

Data collection: *SMART* (Siemens, 1995); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Siemens, 1995); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97/2* (Sheldrick, 1997).

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References

Bats, J. W., Walter, M. & Noe, C. R. (2003). *Acta Cryst.* **E59**, o72–o74.

