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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 150 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.002 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.055 wR factor = 0.144 Data-to-parameter ratio = 25.6

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

# 8-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3,5-bis[(*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methylidene]-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrodicyclopenta[*b*,e]pyridine

At 150 K, the tricyclic core of the title compound,  $C_{34}H_{31}NO_3$ , is close to planar. One of the three 4-methoxyphenyl substituents is twisted out of the plane of the tricyclic core due to steric congestion.

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# Comment

The title compound, (I) (Fig. 1), is observed to be mildly fluorescent in hydrocarbon solvents due to the extended conjugation of the pyridine and 4-methoxyphenyl groups.



In the solid state, the central tricyclic core is close to planar, with a maximum deviation from the least squares plane of 0.1454 (19) Å for the methylene atom C10. The angles between the least-squares planes of the pyridine ring and the three 4-methoxyphenyl groups are 43.65 (5), 12.56 (5) and 18.24 (5)°, respectively. Thus, steric congestion causes a substantial twist of the central unique 4-methoxyphenyl group, but packing effects also bend this group out of the plane of the



#### Figure 1

View of the molecule of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme. The displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are represented by circles of arbitary size.

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molecule (Fig. 2). The molecules pack in layers (Fig. 3) and these out-of-plane 4-methoxyphenyl groups occupy the gaps in the neighbouring layers.

# **Experimental**

The title compound, (I), was prepared by the method of Kneeland *et al.* (1993). Suitable crystals were grown by recrystallization from toluene. Spectroscopic analysis, IR (KBr disk,  $v \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ): 2835 (*w*), 1605 (*m*), 1510 (*s*), 1291 (*m*), 1251 (*s*), 1238 (*m*), 1176 (*m*), 1035 (*m*), 822 (*w*), 807 (*w*), 590 (*w*), 528 (*m*); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, p.p.m.): 7.64 (*br s*, 2H), 7.54 (*d*, 4H), 7.31 (*d*, 2H), 6.99 (*d*, 2H), 6.94 (*d*, 4H), 3.87 (*s*, 3H), 3.84 (*s*, 6H), 3.12 (*m*, 4H), 2.96 (*m*, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, p.p.m.): 161.0, 159.3, 158.4, 143.3, 139.5, 136.3, 131.0, 130.4, 129.5, 121.4, 113.9, 55.3, 29.4, 27.9; analysis calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C 81.41, H 6.23, N 2.79%; found: C 81.15, H 6.31, N 2.87%.

Z = 2

 $D_x = 1.320 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Cell parameters from 13469

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 2.0-32.3^{\circ}$  $\mu = 0.08 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 150 (2) K

Needle, yellow

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.086$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 32.3^{\circ}$  $h = -7 \rightarrow 8$ 

 $k = -16 \rightarrow 16$ 

 $l=-31\rightarrow 31$ 

 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\text{max}} = 0.33 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.28 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ 

 $0.60\,\times\,0.20\,\times\,0.20$  mm

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0619P)^2]$ 

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

Extinction correction: SHELXL97

Extinction coefficient: 0.025 (3)

#### Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{34}H_{31}NO_{3} \\ M_{r} = 501.60 \\ \text{Triclinic, } P\overline{1} \\ a = 5.8866 \ (7) \ \text{\AA} \\ b = 10.8186 \ (12) \ \text{\AA} \\ c = 20.898 \ (2) \ \text{\AA} \\ \alpha = 75.096 \ (9)^{\circ} \\ \beta = 85.572 \ (10)^{\circ} \\ \gamma = 78.964 \ (10)^{\circ} \\ V = 1261.8 \ (2) \ \text{\AA}^{3} \end{array}$ 

### Data collection

Stoe IPDS–II area-detector diffractometer  $\omega$  scans 27 584 measured reflections 8874 independent reflections 4469 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.055$   $wR(F^2) = 0.144$  S = 0.928874 reflections 347 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

#### Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

N1-C5	1.343 (2)	C4-C5	1.401 (2)
N1-C1	1.344 (2)	C5-C9	1.478 (2)
C1-C2	1.400(2)	C6-C18	1.336 (2)
C1-C6	1.481 (2)	C9-C25	1.339 (3)
C2-C3	1.405 (2)	C18-C19	1.470 (2)
C3-C4	1.401 (2)	C25-C26	1.467 (2)
C3-C12	1.490 (2)		
C5 - N1 - C1	114.00 (14)	N1 - C5 - C4	124.88 (15)
N1-C1-C2	125.69 (14)	N1-C5-C9	124.14 (15)
N1-C1-C6	123.32 (15)	C18-C6-C1	121.67 (15)
C1-C2-C3	119.65 (15)	C25-C9-C5	122.91 (14)
C4-C3-C2	114.97 (14)	C6-C18-C19	132.16 (15)
C5-C4-C3	120.56 (14)	C9-C25-C26	130.15 (15)
C1-C6-C18-C19	173.69 (17)	C5-C9-C25-C26	176.12 (17)

All H atoms were initially located in a difference Fourier map. The methyl H atoms were then constrained to an ideal geometry, with C-



The molecular packing of one layer of (I).

H distances of 0.98 Å, but each group was allowed to rotate freely about its X-C bond. All other H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions, with C-H distances of 0.95–0.9 Å.  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H})$  was set to  $1.2U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$  for all H atoms.

Data collection: X-AREA (Stoe & Cie, 2001); cell refinement: X-AREA; data reduction: X-RED (Stoe & Cie, 2001); program(s) used to solve structure: X-STEP32 (Stoe & Cie, 2001) and SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: WinGX (Farrugia, 1999) and SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: WinGX.

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