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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study

$T = 293\text{ K}$

Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ \AA}$

Disorder in main residue

$R$  factor = 0.052

$wR$  factor = 0.185

Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.3

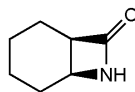
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## *cis*-7-Azabicyclo[4.2.0]octan-8-one

Under the strain of the quasi-planar  $\beta$ -lactam moiety, the rigid cyclohexane ring in the title compound,  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$ , can assume either a flexible boat form (77%) or a flexible half-chair form (23%). These two forms can be present simultaneously. The racemic crystals, isostructural with the *cis*-6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one homologue [Reck *et al.* (1990). *Acta Cryst.* **C46**, 720–722], are characterized by  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$  hydrogen bonds that are formed along the screw axes of the similar monoclinic unit cell.

### Comment

The alicyclic  $\beta$ -amino acids and their  $\beta$ -lactam forms are important intermediates in the syntheses of saturated and partly saturated heterocyclic compounds that have been studied from a pharmaceutical aspect (Fülöp *et al.*, 1998). They occur in antibiotics and they have been introduced into modified peptides in order to increase their stability, *i.e.* biological activity (Fülöp, 2001). The racemic crystals of alicyclic (cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane and cyclooctane)  $\beta$ -amino acids with the common space group  $P\bar{1}$  are isostructural (Kálmán *et al.*, 1993). This phenomenon can be attributed to the robustness of their close packing due to three hydrogen bonds of the  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$  type formed between the zwitterionic molecules (Fábíán *et al.*, 2004). The corresponding  $\beta$ -lactams contain only one hydrogen bond, which invariably develops homochiral helices in space group  $P2_1/c$  or  $P2_12_12_1$ .



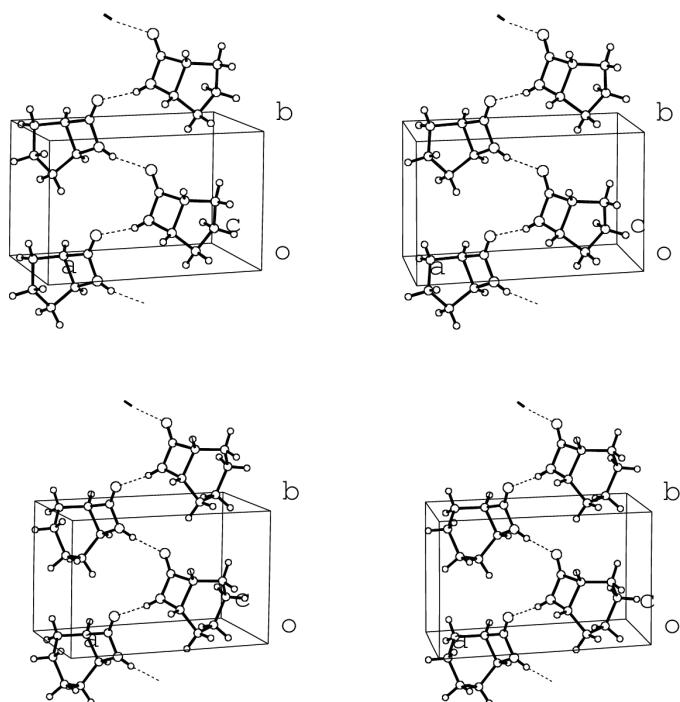
(2)

The crystals of the cyclopentane (1) (Reck *et al.*, 1990) and cyclohexane (2) homologues are isostructural (Fig. 1), but their packing is different from that of the cycloheptane homologue (3). In (1) and (2), the space group is  $P2_1/c$ , and in (3) it is  $P2_12_12_1$  (Argay *et al.*, 2004). In the racemic crystals of (1) and (2), the enantiomers are organized in homochiral helices with antiparallel orientation. A similar close packing is exhibited by 4-methyl-10-aza-*trans*-bicyclo[7.2.0]undeca-2,5,7-trien-11-one, (4) (Paquette *et al.*, 1973). In these crystal structures, hallmarked by the common  $\beta$ -lactam ring, antiparallel helices are formed along the similarly short  $b$  axes: 6.147 (1), 6.474 (2) and 5.706 (4) Å; the differences in the cycloalkane (five-, six- and nine-membered) rings account for the different  $a$  and  $c$  axes. The parameters of the  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  bond in (2) are  $d(D\cdots A) = 2.878$  (2) Å,  $d(\text{H}\cdots A) = 2.03$  Å,  $\angle(D-\text{H}\cdots A) = 171^\circ$ . The crystals of (1) and (2) display a high degree of isostructurality ( $\Pi = 0.045$  and

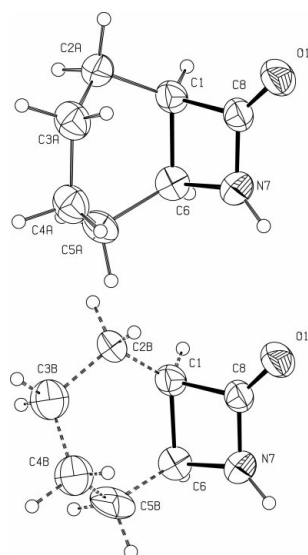
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**Figure 1**  
Stereoscopic views of the crystal structures of the cyclopentane homologue (Reck *et al.*, 1990) and the dominant conformer of the title compound, viewed along the *c* axis, showing their isostructurality.



**Figure 2**  
A perspective view of the disordered molecules, with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 30% probability level. Only non-H atoms are labelled.

$I_v = 82\%$ ; Fábián & Kálmán, 1999), while (4), with its much larger cycloalkane ring, is merely homostructural (Kálmán & Párkányi, 1997) with them. The rigid  $\beta$ -lactam moiety *cis*-fused to the cycloalkane ring in (1) causes the flexible cyclopentane ring to assume an envelope shape (pseudorotation; Altona *et al.*, 1968); the molecule is almost perfectly bisected by a non-centrosymmetric mirror plane ( $C_s$ ).

In the title compound, (2), the effect of the  $\beta$ -lactam moiety twists the cyclohexane ring from the rigid chair conformation

into an almost perfect boat shape (puckering parameters:  $Q = 0.65 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\varphi = 243^\circ$  and  $\theta = 92^\circ$ ; Cremer & Pople, 1975), (Fig. 2*a*). However, as revealed by the positional disorder of atoms C2, C3, C4 and C5, 23% of the molecules assume another canonical form, a likewise flexible half-chair (Fig. 2*b*) with puckering parameters  $Q = 0.55 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\varphi = 157^\circ$  and  $\theta = 53^\circ$ . The predominant boat conformer is characterized by a mirror plane which passes through C2A and C5A, while the half-chair form has a twofold ( $C_2$ ) axis which bisects the C1–C6 and C3B–C4B bonds.

## Experimental

Bestian *et al.* (1968) reported the synthesis of the title compound, (2), under the name *cis*-3,4-tetramethylene-azetidinone, with m.p. 330–331 K. The product that we prepared and crystallized from ethyl acetate melts at 329–330 K.

### Crystal data

$C_7H_{11}NO$   
 $M_r = 125.17$   
Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$   
 $a = 11.333 (1) \text{ \AA}$   
 $b = 6.474 (1) \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 10.181 (1) \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta = 112.00 (1)^\circ$   
 $V = 692.59 (14) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.200 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$   
Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation  
Cell parameters from 25 reflections  
 $\theta = 29.3\text{--}32.3^\circ$   
 $\mu = 0.64 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $T = 293 (2) \text{ K}$   
Prism, colourless  
 $0.50 \times 0.35 \times 0.30 \text{ mm}$

### Data collection

Enraf–Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer  
 $\omega$ – $\theta$  scans  
Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (North *et al.*, 1968)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.766$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.822$   
1554 measured reflections  
1433 independent reflections  
1256 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.010$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 75.6^\circ$   
 $h = -14 \rightarrow 7$   
 $k = -1 \rightarrow 8$   
 $l = -12 \rightarrow 12$   
3 standard reflections  
frequency: 60 min  
intensity decay: 8%

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.052$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.185$   
 $S = 1.30$   
1433 reflections  
108 parameters  
H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.101P)^2 + 0.05P]$   
where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.23 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.15 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
Extinction correction: *SHELXL97*  
Extinction coefficient: 0.012 (3)

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ).

C1–C2A	1.519 (4)	C4A–C5A	1.519 (4)
C1–C8	1.524 (2)	C5A–C6	1.521 (4)
C1–C6	1.555 (2)	C6–N7	1.4710 (19)
C2A–C3A	1.516 (5)	N7–C8	1.334 (2)
C3A–C4A	1.519 (4)	C8–O1	1.2232 (19)

**Table 2**

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

$D\text{--}H\cdots A$	$D\text{--}H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D\text{--}H\cdots A$
N7–H7 $\cdots$ O1 <sup>i</sup>	0.86	2.03	2.8781 (17)	171

Symmetry code: (i)  $1 - x, y - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2} - z$ .

All H atoms were positioned geometrically and allowed to ride on their parent atoms, with C–H = 0.97–0.98 Å and N–H = 0.86 Å, and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.3U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C/N})$  for all H atoms.

Data collection: *CAD-4 EXPRESS* (Enraf–Nonius, 1992); cell refinement: *CAD-4 EXPRESS*; data reduction: *XCAD4* (Harms, 1996); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3* (Farrugia, 1997) and *RPluto* in CSD (Allen, 2002); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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