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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 298 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.004 Å R factor = 0.063 wR factor = 0.176 Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.2

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

## 2,6-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-4-methylphenol benzylidene 1,2-acetal

The title compound,  $C_{16}H_{16}O_3$ , is an intermediate compound in the synthesis of polypodal binucleating ligands which are suited for the preparation of dinuclear complexes, employing two non-equivalent complexation sites. There are two weak intramolecular  $C-H \cdots O$  hydrogen bonds generating a ring of pattern S(5), and an intermolecular  $O-H \cdots O$  hydrogen bond.

### Comment

The title compound, (I), is an intermediate compound in the synthesis of polypodal binucleating ligands which are suited for the preparation of dinuclear complexes employing two non-equivalent complexation sites (Belle *et al.*, 1994).



Selected geometric parameters of (I) are listed in Table 1. The molecular conformation and crystal packing are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. The molecule has two weak intramolecular C-H···O hydrogen bonds (Pálinkó, 1999), with C···O distances of 2.777 (4) and 2.709 (3) Å, generating an S(5) pattern, with the hydroxy O atoms as two acceptors and two aromatic CH groups acting as donors (Bernstein *et al.*,



#### Figure 1

A view of the molecular structure of (I), with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii. Two molecules are shown, with the pair of hydrogen bonds (dashed lines) linking them across an inversion centre.

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The packing of the title compound, viewed down the b axis.

1995). The pairs of enantiomers related by the inversion centre are linked by two  $O-H \cdots O$  hydrogen bonds between their OH groups (Fig. 1, Table 2). Specifically, the  $O-H \cdots O(\frac{1}{2} - x, \frac{3}{2} - y, -z)$  hydrogen bond, with a distance of 2.721 (4) Å (Table 2), is formed. This generates a ring with motif  $R_1^1(4)$  (Bernstein *et al.*, 1995). The lamellar structure is dominated by van der Waals interactions in the packing of the molecules. Within the molecule, atom C10 deviates by 0.0853 (4) Å from the C11/C12/C13/C14/C15/C16 plane. Atoms O2 and O3 deviate by 0.7762 (4) and 0.2811 (5), respectively, from the C11/C12/C13/C14/C15/C16 plane; the offsets are 0.0116 (3) and 0.4233 (4), respectively, from the C1/C2/C3/C4/C5/C6 plane.

## Experimental

The title compound was synthesized according to a literature method (Belle *et al.*, 1994). The compound (100 mg) was dissolved in hexane/ ethyl acetate (8:1, 10 ml) and the solution was allowed to evaporate slowly at room temperature over a period of several months. Colourless crystals, suitable for X-ray crystallography studies, were formed. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ , p.p.m.): 2.26 (*s*, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.65–5.20 (*dd*, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.80–7.90 (*m*, 7H, ArH), 6.01 (*s*, 1H, OH); m.p. 368 K.

## Crystal data

$D_x = 1.307 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Cell parameters from 14967
reflections
$\theta = 2.4-22.6^{\circ}$
$\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
T = 298 (2)  K
Rod, colourless
$0.60\times0.30\times0.10~\mathrm{mm}$

#### Data collection

Bruker SMART 1K CCD area- detector diffractometer ω scans Absorption correction: multi-scan ( <i>SADABS</i> ; Sheldrick, 1996) <i>T</i> <sub>min</sub> = 0.948, <i>T</i> <sub>max</sub> = 0.991 5974 measured reflections		2287 independent reflections 1542 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ $R_{int} = 0.087$ $\theta_{max} = 25.0^{\circ}$ $h = -21 \rightarrow 27$ $k = -5 \rightarrow 5$ $l = -27 \rightarrow 24$		
Refinement on $F^2$ $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.063$ $wR(F^2) = 0.177$ S = 1.04 2287 reflections 173 parameters		H-atom parameters constrained $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0889P)^2]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$ $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.25 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.22 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$		
Table 1 Selected geometric para	meters (Å, °)			
O2-C1	1.392 (3)	C2-C9	1.505	
O2-C10	1.433 (3)	C10-C11	1.502	
O3-C10	1.379 (3)	C4-C7	1.502	

02-C10	1.433 (3) C10-C11		1.502 (3)
O3-C10	1.379 (3)	C4-C7	1.502 (4)
O3-C9	1.431 (3)	C8-O1	1.418 (3)
C6-C8	1.500 (4)		
C1-O2-C10	112.32 (18)	O3-C10-O2	111.1 (2)
C10-O3-C9	110.93 (19)	O3-C10-C11	110.0 (2)
C5-C6-C8	123.0 (2)	O2-C10-C11	108.4 (2)
C1-C6-C8	119.7 (2)	C5-C4-C7	120.7 (2)
C2-C1-O2	121.1 (2)	C3-C4-C7	121.4 (3)
O2-C1-C6	117.0 (2)	O3-C9-C2	110.3 (2)
C1-C2-C9	120.0 (2)	O1-C8-C6	111.4 (2)
C3-C2-C9	121.1 (2)		

(3)

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

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
O1-H1···O1 <sup>i</sup>	0.82	2.11	2.721 (4)	132
C5−H5···O1	0.93	2.42	2.777 (4)	102
C16−H16···O3	0.93	2.38	2.709 (3)	101

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

All H atoms on  $Csp^3$  atoms were treated as riding, with C–H = 0.96–0.98 Å and  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.5U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$  of the parent atom. The H atoms on  $Csp^2$  atoms were treated as riding, with C–H = 0.93 Å and  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.2U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$ . The hydroxyl H atom was obtained from a difference Fourier map and was constrained to maintain a bond distance of 0.82 Å and  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.5U_{\rm eq}({\rm O})$ .

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 1999); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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