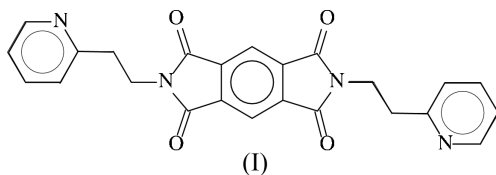
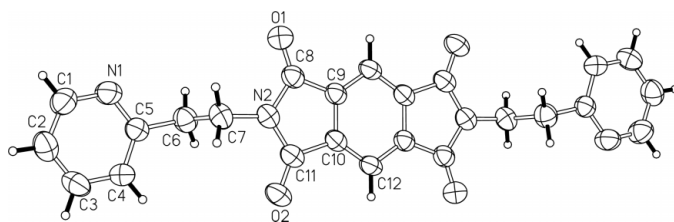
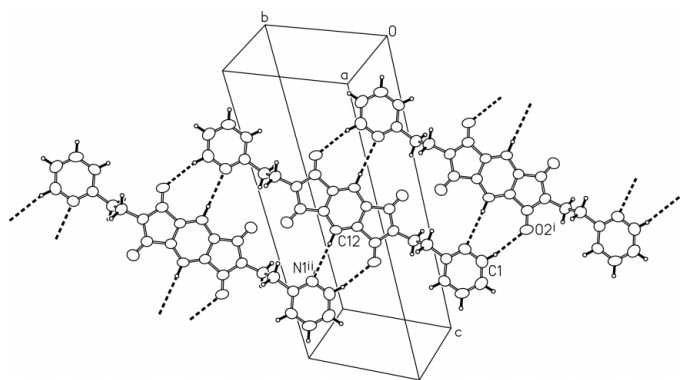


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**Key indicators**Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 298\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.043  
 $wR$  factor = 0.124  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 15.0For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.***N,N'*-Bis(2-pyridylethyl)pyromellitic diimide***N,N'*-Bis(2-pyridylethyl)pyromellitic diimide,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$ , exists as a centrosymmetric monomeric molecule. Adjacent molecules are linked by weak  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$  interactions into a linear ribbon-like structure. The  $\text{C}_{\text{pyridyl}}-\text{C}_{\text{methylene}}-\text{C}_{\text{methylene}}-\text{N}_{\text{imido}}$  fragment is in an *anti* conformation [torsion angle =  $168.3(2)^\circ$ ].**Comment**A previous report has documented the structure of *N,N'*-bis(2-pyridylmethyl)pyromellitic diimide (Lü *et al.*, 2003), a compound whose heterocyclic portion is separated from the rigid aromatic system by a methylene linkage; the linkage permits free rotation of the heterocyclic rings. The centrosymmetric bidentate title compound, (I) (Fig. 1), possesses two ethylene linkages and is expected to be much more flexible. The coordination behaviour of the compound is being investigated. As the  $\text{C}_{\text{pyridyl}}-\text{C}_{\text{methylene}}-\text{C}_{\text{methylene}}-\text{N}_{\text{imido}}$  fragment is in an *anti* conformation [torsion angle =  $168.3(2)^\circ$ ], the molecule is best described as being in an extended form. Selected bond distances and angles are given in Table 1.In the crystal structure, adjacent molecules interact *via* weak  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$  interactions, giving rise to a linear ribbon-like structure (Fig. 2).**Experimental**The title compound was prepared from the condensation of pyromellitic dianhydride and aminoethyl-2-pyridine in dimethylformamide (DMF), as described for the synthesis of *N,N'*-bis(2-pyridylmethyl)pyromellitic diimide by Lü *et al.* (2003). The resulting**Figure 1**

A view of (I), showing the labelling scheme and displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. H atoms are drawn as spheres of arbitrary radii.



**Figure 2**  
A packing diagram, showing the C—H...O interactions that link the molecules into a chain [ $C1 \cdots O2^i = 3.419(2) \text{ \AA}$  and  $C12 \cdots N1^{ii} = 3.519(2) \text{ \AA}$ ]. [Symmetry codes: (i)  $x - 1, y - 1, z$ ; (ii)  $1 + x, 1 + y, z$ .]

brown compound was purified by recrystallization from DMF and a second time from chloroform, giving pure colourless (I) in 70% yield.

#### Crystal data

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| $C_{24}H_{18}N_4O_4$         | $D_x = 1.422 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$           |
| $M_r = 426.42$               | Mo $K\alpha$ radiation                    |
| Monoclinic, $P2_1/n$         | Cell parameters from 748 reflections      |
| $a = 5.2484(7) \text{ \AA}$  | $\theta = 2.7\text{--}26.5^\circ$         |
| $b = 8.125(1) \text{ \AA}$   | $\mu = 0.10 \text{ mm}^{-1}$              |
| $c = 23.398(3) \text{ \AA}$  | $T = 298(2) \text{ K}$                    |
| $\beta = 93.422(2)^\circ$    | Block, colorless                          |
| $V = 996.0(2) \text{ \AA}^3$ | $0.50 \times 0.17 \times 0.15 \text{ mm}$ |
| $Z = 2$                      |   |

#### Data collection

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Bruker SMART area-detector diffractometer | 1469 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ |
| $\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans              | $R_{int} = 0.023$                      |
| Absorption correction: none               | $\theta_{max} = 27.0^\circ$            |
| 6073 measured reflections                 | $h = -6 \rightarrow 6$                 |
| 2171 independent reflections              | $k = -8 \rightarrow 10$                |
|   | $l = -29 \rightarrow 29$               |

#### Refinement

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Refinement on $F^2$             | $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0666P)^2 + 0.0976P]$ |
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.043$ | where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$                    |
| $wR(F^2) = 0.124$               | $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$                   |
| $S = 1.03$                      | $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.13 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$      |
| 2171 reflections                | $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.26 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$     |
| 145 parameters                  |   |
| H-atom parameters constrained   |   |

**Table 1**

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

|           |          |                           |          |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| O1—C8     | 1.201(2) | C3—C4                     | 1.373(3) |
| O2—C11    | 1.206(2) | C4—C5                     | 1.377(2) |
| N1—C1     | 1.335(2) | C5—C6                     | 1.505(2) |
| N1—C5     | 1.331(2) | C6—C7                     | 1.517(2) |
| N2—C11    | 1.383(2) | C8—C9                     | 1.485(2) |
| N2—C7     | 1.456(2) | C9—C10                    | 1.386(2) |
| N2—C8     | 1.398(2) | C9—C12 <sup>iii</sup>     | 1.385(2) |
| C1—C2     | 1.365(2) | C10—C11                   | 1.492(2) |
| C2—C3     | 1.362(3) | C10—C12                   | 1.379(2) |
| C1—N1—C5  | 117.7(2) | O1—C8—N2                  | 125.0(2) |
| C7—N2—C8  | 124.6(1) | O1—C8—C9                  | 129.4(2) |
| C7—N2—C11 | 123.2(1) | N2—C8—C9                  | 105.6(1) |
| C8—N2—C11 | 112.2(1) | C8—C9—C10                 | 108.4(1) |
| N1—C1—C2  | 124.0(2) | C8—C9—C12 <sup>iii</sup>  | 128.9(2) |
| C1—C2—C3  | 118.1(2) | C10—C9—C12 <sup>iii</sup> | 122.7(2) |
| C2—C3—C4  | 118.9(2) | C9—C10—C11                | 107.7(1) |
| C3—C4—C5  | 119.8(2) | C9—C10—C12                | 122.6(1) |
| N1—C5—C4  | 121.5(2) | C11—C10—C12               | 129.8(1) |
| N1—C5—C6  | 117.6(2) | O2—C11—N2                 | 124.8(2) |
| C4—C5—C6  | 120.9(2) | O2—C11—C10                | 129.1(2) |
| C5—C6—C7  | 111.1(1) | N2—C11—C10                | 106.1(1) |
| N2—C7—C6  | 112.1(1) |                           |          |

Symmetry code: (iii)  $1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z$ .

H atoms were placed in calculated positions in the riding-model approximation ( $C-H = 0.93 \text{ \AA}$  for aromatic H atoms and  $C-H = 0.97 \text{ \AA}$  for aliphatic H atoms), and their  $U_{iso}$  values were set to  $1.2U_{eq}$  (parent C atom).

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1999); cell refinement: *SAINTE* (Bruker, 1999); data reduction: *SAINTE*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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