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**Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 T = 273 K  
 Mean  $\sigma(C-C)$  = 0.014 Å  
 R factor = 0.052  
 wR factor = 0.113  
 Data-to-parameter ratio = 20.7

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

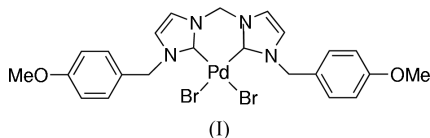
**Dibromo[2,2',3,3'-tetrahydro-3,3'-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)-1,1'-methylenedi-1H-imidazole- $\kappa^2C^2,C^{2'}$ ]-palladium(II)**

The structure of the title compound,  $[PdBr_2(C_{23}H_{24}N_4O_2)]$ , was determined at 273 K. It crystallizes in the non-centrosymmetric trigonal space group  $P3_2$ . Non-classical hydrogen bonds of types  $C-H \cdots Br$  and  $C-H \cdots O$  exist in the structure.

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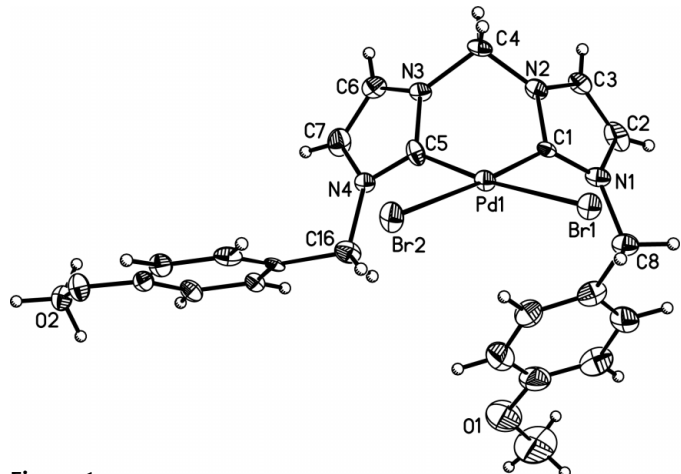
**Comment**

N-Heterocyclic carbene (NHC) ligands have been shown to have wide applicability in coordination chemistry and catalysis. The use of chelating bis(NHC) ligands is also receiving much attention because they can provide extra air and moisture stability for the metal centers. For example, palladium complexes of bis(NHC) carbenes have been found to be efficient catalysts in C–C coupling reactions (Herrmann *et al.*, 1998; Zhang & Trudell, 2000; Lee *et al.*, 2004).



The crystal structures of palladium complexes with bis(NHC) ligands have been reported by Herrmann *et al.* (1999), Schwarz *et al.* (2000), Douthwaite *et al.* (2002), Herdtweck *et al.* (2003), Bonnet *et al.* (2003) and Lee *et al.* (2004). We present here the structure of dibromo[2,2',3,3'-tetrahydro-3,3'-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)-1,1'-methylenedi-1H-imidazole]palladium(II), (I). The 3-methoxybenzyl isomer, (II), was reported recently by us (Lee *et al.*, 2004).

The title compound, (I), crystallizes in the non-centrosymmetric trigonal space group  $P3_2$ . The refined Flack (1983)



**Figure 1**  
 The structure of (I), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids for non-H atoms.

parameter is 0.029 (11). The palladium center is in a square-planar geometry (Fig. 1). The dihedral angle between the two methylene-linked imidazole rings is  $75.8(3)^\circ$ . The molecular dimensions in (I) are similar to those in (II).

Some intermolecular non-classical hydrogen bonds of types C—H...Br and C—H...O are present in the crystal structure (Table 1). Fig. 2 illustrates the honeycomb-like structure, viewed along the *c* axis.

## Experimental

The title compound was prepared according to the literature procedure of Lee *et al.* (2004). Suitable crystals were obtained by slow diffusion of diethyl ether into a dimethylformamide solution of the palladium complex at room temperature.

### Crystal data

[PdBr<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)]  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 654.68  
 Trigonal, *P*3<sub>2</sub>  
*a* = 15.41 (3) Å  
*c* = 8.617 (12) Å  
*V* = 1772 (5) Å<sup>3</sup>  
*Z* = 3  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.840 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo *K*α radiation  
 Cell parameters from 3022 reflections  
 $\theta = 2.6\text{--}28.8^\circ$   
 $\mu = 4.20\text{ mm}^{-1}$   
*T* = 273 (2) K  
 Prism, colorless  
 0.23 × 0.20 × 0.19 mm

### Data collection

Bruker SMART 1000 diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 2002)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.401, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.453  
 13 263 measured reflections

5870 independent reflections  
 4809 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.064  
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 28.4^\circ$   
*h* = -20 → 20  
*k* = -14 → 20  
*l* = -11 → 11

### Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R* [*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.052  
*wR* (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.113  
*S* = 1.02  
 5870 reflections  
 283 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0373P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.002$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 1.19\text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -1.49\text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 Absolute structure: Flack (1983)  
 2914 Friedel pairs  
 Flack parameter = 0.029 (11)

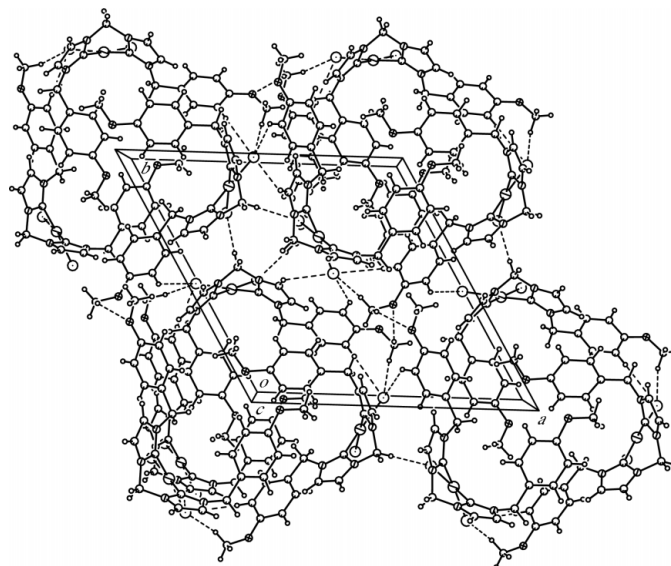
**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

| <i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>       | <i>D</i> —H | H... <i>A</i> | <i>D</i> ... <i>A</i> | <i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| C3—H3A...Br1 <sup>i</sup>     | 0.93        | 2.78          | 3.645 (9)             | 155                     |
| C4—H4B...Br2 <sup>ii</sup>    | 0.97        | 2.78          | 3.751 (9)             | 177                     |
| C23—H23B...Br1 <sup>iii</sup> | 0.96        | 2.81          | 3.491 (12)            | 128                     |
| C23—H23C...O2 <sup>iv</sup>   | 0.96        | 2.45          | 3.175 (13)            | 133                     |

Symmetry codes: (i) *x*, *y*, 1 + *z*; (ii) -*x* + *y*, 1 - *x*,  $\frac{1}{3}$  + *z*; (iii) -*x* + *y*, -*x*,  $\frac{1}{3}$  + *z*; (iv) 1 - *x* + *y*, 1 - *x*,  $\frac{1}{3}$  + *z*.

All H atoms were positioned geometrically [C—H = 0.97 (CH<sub>2</sub>) and 0.93 Å (other H atoms)] and refined using a riding model, with *U<sub>iso</sub>*(H) = 1.5*U<sub>eq</sub>*(C) for methyl H atoms and 1.2*U<sub>eq</sub>*(C) for all other H



**Figure 2**

A view of the packing of (I) along the *c* axis; weak interactions are indicated by dashed lines.

atoms. The highest peak (1.19 e Å<sup>-3</sup>) is 0.96 Å from Pd1 and the deepest hole (-1.49 e Å<sup>-3</sup>) is 0.91 Å from Pd1.

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2001); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 1998); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXTL; molecular graphics: SHELXTL; software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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