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**Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 T = 293 K  
 Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004 \text{ \AA}$   
 R factor = 0.040  
 wR factor = 0.117  
 Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.1

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

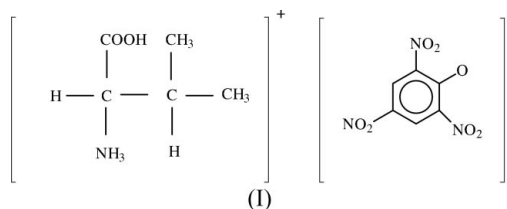
**L-Valinium picrate**

In the title compound,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2^+ \cdot \text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}_7^-$ , the carboxyl group of the valinium residue is engaged in a strong hydrogen bond with the picrate anion. The amino group of the L-valinium cation and the picrate anion are held together by an intermolecular hydrogen bond. The valine residue is involved in a zigzag (Z1) head-to-tail sequence.

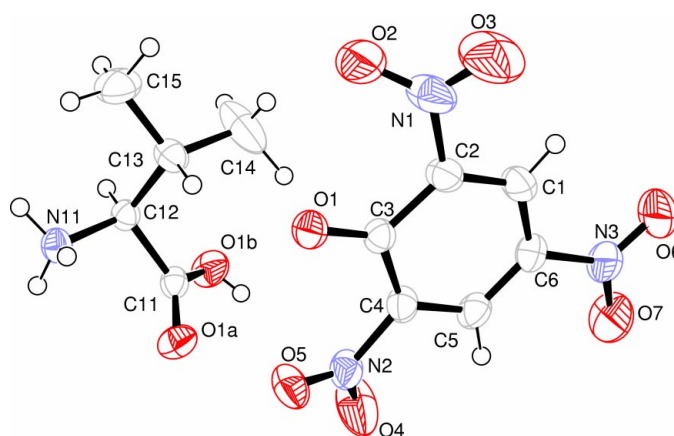
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**Comment**

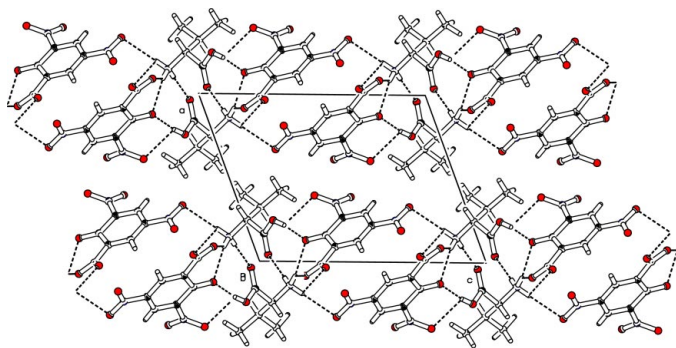
Valine is an essential amino acid. The crystal structures of L-valine (Torii & Iitaka, 1970), DL-valine (Mallikarjunan & Rao, 1969), L-valine hydrochloride monohydrate (Rao, 1969), L-valine hydrochloride (Parthasarathy, 1966; Ando *et al.*, 1967), DL-valine hydrochloride (Di Blasio *et al.*, 1977), L-valinium nitrate (Srinivasan *et al.*, 1997), L-valine L-valinium perchlorate monohydrate (Pandiarajan *et al.*, 2001), DL-valinium nitrate (Srinivasan *et al.*, 2002) and DL-valinium perchlorate (Sridhar *et al.*, 2003) have been reported. The crystal structure of picric acid (Soriano-Garcia *et al.*, 1978; Srikrishnan *et al.*, 1980; Duesler *et al.*, 1978) has also been reported. In the present work, the crystal structure of L-valine with picric acid is reported, viz. (I).



In the valinium ion of (I), the unsymmetrical carboxyl bond distances and angles [1.212 (3)/1.297 (3) Å and 120.9 (2)/



**Figure 1**  
 The molecular structure of title compound, showing the atom-numbering scheme and 50% probability displacement ellipsoids.



**Figure 2**  
Packing diagram of the title compound, viewed down the *b* axis. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines.

112.5 (2)°] clearly indicate protonation of the carboxyl group (Fig. 1). With regard to the backbone conformation angles,  $\psi^1$  is in the *cis* form and  $\psi^2$  is in the *trans* form. All three rotational isomers of the valinium molecule, *viz.* *gauche-I/gauche-II*, *gauche-I/trans* and *gauche-II/trans*, have been found in the crystalline state (Torii & Itaka, 1970). With regard to the side-chain conformation angles,  $\chi^{11}$  is in the *trans* form and  $\chi^{12}$  is in the *gauche-II* form. Atoms C11 and N11 are *trans* to C15 and C14, respectively, indicating a *trans* isomer for the present valinium residue.

In the picrate anion, the nitro groups play a vital role in forming hydrogen bonds. There is no relationship between the C–N bond distances and the amount of twisting of the nitro groups from the mean benzene plane (Soriano-Garcia *et al.*, 1978). In the picrate anion, one nitro group [C5–C6–N3–O7 = 2.6 (5)°] is almost coplanar with the plane of the benzene ring, while the other two nitro groups [C1–C2–N1–O3 = –34.0 (5)° and C3–C4–N2–O5 = –23.8 (4)°] are twisted away from the ring.

The valinium cation and picrate anion are linked by strong O–H···O hydrogen bonding. The amino N atom of the L-valinium cation forms N–H···O hydrogen bonds with the O atoms of the picrate anion. In addition, an intermolecular N–H···O hydrogen bond with the carbonyl O atom is observed. Two three-centred hydrogen bonds and one two-centred hydrogen bond are observed, leading to a class III hydrogen-bonding pattern (Jeffery & Saenger, 1991). A zigzag (Z1) head-to-tail sequence is observed (Vijayan, 1988), leading to the formation of a helix along the *b* axis. The amino group links three different picrate anions into an infinite chain along the *b* axis [N11–H11A···O4<sup>iii</sup> and N11–H11C···O1/O5<sup>iv</sup>; symmetry code: (iii)  $-x, \frac{1}{2} + y, -z$ ; (iv)  $-x, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z$ ]. Across the  $x = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $z = \frac{1}{2}$  planes, no hydrogen bonding is observed, leading to some of the O atoms of the picrate anion not being involved in hydrogen bonding (O2, O3 and O7) (Fig. 2). These O atoms are also found to have large  $U_{eq}$  values.

## Experimental

The title compound was crystallized by slow evaporation, under ambient conditions, of an equimolar solution of L-valine and picric acid.

## Crystal data

C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>·C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>–</sup>  
 $M_r = 346.26$   
 Monoclinic,  $P2_1$   
 $a = 9.9714$  (13) Å  
 $b = 6.2930$  (5) Å  
 $c = 12.6480$  (9) Å  
 $\beta = 110.50$  (1)°  
 $V = 743.40$  (13) Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 2$   
 $D_x = 1.547$  Mg m<sup>–3</sup>  
 $D_m = 1.540$  Mg m<sup>–3</sup>

$D_m$  measured by flotation in a mixture of carbon tetrachloride and xylene  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 Cell parameters from 25 reflections  
 $\theta = 10.0$ – $14.0$ °  
 $\mu = 0.14$  mm<sup>–1</sup>  
 $T = 293$  (2) K  
 Plate, yellow  
 $0.35 \times 0.20 \times 0.12$  mm

## Data collection

Nonius MACH3 four-circle diffractometer  
 $\omega$ – $2\theta$  scans  
 Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (North *et al.*, 1968)  
 $T_{min} = 0.942$ ,  $T_{max} = 0.999$   
 2454 measured reflections  
 1766 independent reflections  
 1564 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{int} = 0.021$   
 $\theta_{max} = 27.0$ °  
 $h = -1 \rightarrow 12$   
 $k = -1 \rightarrow 8$   
 $l = -16 \rightarrow 16$   
 3 standard reflections  
 frequency: 60 min  
 intensity decay: none

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.040$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.117$   
 $S = 1.16$   
 1766 reflections  
 217 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.1203P)^2 + 0.2829P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.47$  e Å<sup>–3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.22$  e Å<sup>–3</sup>

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

O1A–C11	1.212 (3)	O1B–C11	1.297 (3)
O1A–C11–O1B	126.6 (2)	O1B–C11–C12	112.5 (2)
O1A–C11–C12	120.9 (2)		
C1–C2–N1–O3	–34.0 (5)	O1A–C11–C12–N11	–28.3 (3)
C1–C6–N3–O6	4.3 (5)	O1B–C11–C12–N11	153.1 (2)
C3–C2–N1–O2	–41.8 (4)	N11–C12–C13–C15	–59.9 (3)
C3–C4–N2–O5	–23.8 (4)	N11–C12–C13–C14	175.7 (3)
C5–C4–N2–O4	–23.8 (4)	C11–C12–C13–C15	–178.8 (2)
C5–C6–N3–O7	2.6 (5)	C11–C12–C13–C14	56.9 (3)

**Table 2**

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>
O1B–H1B···O1 <sup>i</sup>	0.82	1.87	2.678 (3)	167
N11–H11A···O6 <sup>ii</sup>	0.89	2.46	3.233 (3)	146
N11–H11A···O4 <sup>iii</sup>	0.89	2.40	2.898 (4)	115
N11–H11B···O1A <sup>iii</sup>	0.89	1.96	2.825 (3)	164
N11–H11C···O1 <sup>iv</sup>	0.89	2.20	2.807 (3)	125
N11–H11C···O5 <sup>iv</sup>	0.89	2.06	2.872 (4)	150

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x, y - 1, z$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z - 1$ ; (iii)  $-x, \frac{1}{2} + y, -z$ ; (iv)  $-x, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z$ .

The carboxyl H atom was fixed in the position found in a difference map, and all other H atoms were placed in calculated positions and included in the refinement in the riding-model approximation, with  $U_{iso} = 1.2U_{eq}$  of the carrier atom (1.5 $U_{eq}$  for methyl and ammonium H atoms). 649 Friedel pairs were merged in the final cycle of refinement, and the absolute configuration was assumed from that of L-valine.

Data collection: *CAD-4 EXPRESS* (Enraf–Nonius, 1994); cell refinement: *CAD-4 EXPRESS*; data reduction: *XCAD4* (Harms & Wocadlo, 1995); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976) and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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