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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 153 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.002 Å R factor = 0.047 wR factor = 0.177 Data-to-parameter ratio = 18.2

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

# 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylterphenyl

Molecules of the title compound,  $C_{22}H_{22}$ , crystallize in space group  $P2_1/c$  and are located on crystallographic inversion centers. The structure reveals a twisted molecule with a dihedral angle of 31.9 (2)° between the central and outer benzene rings.

#### Comment

The title compound, (I), is used for the synthesis of 3,3',5,5'terphenyltetracarboxylic acid, which can be incorporated into porous metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) for their potential applications in gas storage, separation, molecular recognition, magnetism and catalysis (Eddaoudi *et al.*, 2001; Kitagawa & Kondo, 1998; Yaghi *et al.*, 2003; Janiak, 2003; Chen *et al.*, 2001).



The molecule of (I) is centrosymmetric, with no intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions between benzene rings, and significantly twisted with a dihedral angle of 31.9 (2)° between the central and outer rings, as shown in Fig. 1. As expected, the C1-C7 bond distance of 1.489 (2) Å is longer than the aromatic C-C bond distances [1.387 (2)-1.402 (2) Å]. These structural features are normal and comparable to those found in *p*-terphenyl (Baudour *et al.*, 1986) and 3,3'-dimethylterphenyl (Avery *et al.*, 1998).

#### **Experimental**

The title compound was synthesized according to the modified procedure of Oh *et al.* (2002) by the reaction of 1,4-diiodobenezene and 3,5-dimethylphenylboronic acid at 323 K. Crystals of the title



## Figure 1

The structure of (I), showing the atom-numbering scheme and displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. Atom labels having suffix A are related to their counterparts without A by the symmetry operation 2 - x, -y, -z.

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compound were collected by recrystallization of the crude product from dichloromethane-hexane (1:2) in 56% yield.

 $D_x = 1.178 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo *K* $\alpha$  radiation

reflections  $\theta = 2.2-27.6^{\circ}$ 

 $\mu = 0.07 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 153 (2) K

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.073$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 27.6^{\circ}$ 

 $h = -15 \rightarrow 15$ 

 $k = -11 \rightarrow 12$  $l = -9 \rightarrow 9$ 

Prism, colourless  $0.40 \times 0.10 \times 0.09 \text{ mm}$ 

Cell parameters from 4518

1574 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

#### Crystal data

$C_{22}H_{22}$
$M_r = 286.42$
Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$
a = 11.9264 (13)  Å
b = 9.2297 (10)  Å
c = 7.6075 (8) Å
$\beta = 105.381 \ (2)^{\circ}$
$V = 807.42 (15) \text{ Å}^3$
Z = 2
Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: none 7844 measured reflections 1854 independent reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	H-atom parameters constrained
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.047$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.2P)^2]$
$wR(F^2) = 0.177$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_o^2)/3$
S = 0.74	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$
1854 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\rm max} = 0.35 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
102 parameters	$\Delta\rho_{\rm min} = -0.16 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

H atoms were generated as spheres and constrained to riding the coordinates of their parent atoms.

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2003); cell refinement: SAINT-Plus (Bruker, 2003); data reduction: SAINT-Plus; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL*97.

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