Acta Crystallographica Section E Structure Reports Online

ISSN 1600-5368

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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 KMean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.045 wR factor = 0.120 Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.4

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

# Benzyl 2-(3,4-dicyanophenoxy)benzoate

The title compound,  $C_{22}H_{14}N_2O_3$ , contains three planar aromatic rings arranged in a U-shaped conformation. There are weak intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen-bond interactions stabilizing the crystal structure.

Received 18 April 2005 Accepted 6 May 2005 Online 21 May 2005

## Comment

Substituted phthalonitriles are generally used for preparing symmetrically and unsymmetrically peripherally substituted phthalocyanine complexes and subphthalocyanines. For many years, these compounds and their substituted analogues have attracted great interest in various research fields, such as chemical sensors, electrochromism, batteries, semiconductors, molecular metals, catalysts, photochemical hole burning, liquid crystals and non-linear optics (McKeown, 1998; Leznoff & Lever, 1989–1996).



The title compound, (I), contains three planar sixmembered aromatic rings (A C1–C6, *B* C9–C14 and *C* C15– C20) arranged in a U-shaped conformation (Fig. 1). The dihedral angles formed by these rings are A/B = 74.28 (7), A/C = 10.03 (7) and B/C = 76.60 (5)°.

Selected bond lengths and angles are quoted in Table 1. The C=N, C=O and C-O bond lengths are consistent with those found in similar compounds (Ocak *et al.*, 2004; Iskeleli & Ağar, 2005; Erdem, Atalay, Akdemir, Ağar & Kantar, 2004; Erdem, Atalay, Akdemir, Ağar & Özil, 2004).

The crystal structure is stabilized by weak intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen-bond interactions (Table 2).

# **Experimental**

Benzyl 2-hydroxybenzoate (1.77 g, 7.75 mmol) and 4-nitrophthalonitrile (1.0 g, 5.78 mmol) were dissolved in dry dimethylformamide (50 ml). After stirring for 30 min at room temperature, dry finepowdered potassium carbonate (2.40 g, 17.39 mmol) was added portionwise over 2 h with stirring. The reaction was stirred for 48 h at

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# organic papers

room temperature and poured into ice–water (200 g). The product was filtered off and washed with (10% *w/w*) NaOH solution and water until the filtrate was neutral. Recrystallization from ethanol gave a white product (yield 1.70 g, 83.01%). Single crystals were obtained from absolute ethanol at room temperature *via* slow evaporation (m.p. 358 K); elemental analysis calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C 74.57, H 3.98, N 7.91%; found: C 74.70 H 3.96 N 7.80%. IR ( $\nu_{max}$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3045–3025 (Ar-CH), 2966–2842 (CH), 2225 (CN).

 $D_x = 1.313 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo *K* $\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 1.9-28.0^{\circ}$  $\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 293 (2) K

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.168$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 26.0^{\circ}$ 

 $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$ 

 $k = -22 \rightarrow 22$ 

 $l = -15 \rightarrow 15$ 

Prism, colourless  $0.56 \times 0.42 \times 0.22$  mm

Cell parameters from 25 200

3521 independent reflections

2557 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

## Crystal data

| $C_{22}H_{14}N_2O_3$           |
|--------------------------------|
| $M_r = 354.35$                 |
| Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$           |
| a = 7.5535(5) Å                |
| b = 18.3764 (9)  Å             |
| c = 12.9216 (9) Å              |
| $\beta = 91.979 \ (6)^{\circ}$ |
| $V = 1792.53 (19) \text{ Å}^3$ |
| Z = 4                          |

#### Data collection

Stoe IPDS-2 diffractometer  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: by integration (*X*-*RED32*; Stoe & Cie, 2002)  $T_{min} = 0.989, T_{max} = 0.996$ 25 200 measured reflections

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0641P)^2$  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.045$ + 0.0771P] $wR(F^2) = 0.120$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ S = 1.02 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$ 3521 reflections $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.17$  e Å $^{-3}$ 245 parameters $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.17$  e Å $^{-3}$ H-atom parameters constrainedExtinction correction: SHELXL97Extinction coefficient: 0.078 (5)

| Table 1  |                      |     |    |
|----------|----------------------|-----|----|
| Selected | geometric parameters | (Å, | °) |

| C7-O1    | 1.4659 (18) | C15-O3     | 1.3649 (17) |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| C8-O2    | 1.2023 (18) | C21-N1     | 1.135 (2)   |
| C8-O1    | 1.3284 (19) | C22-N2     | 1.141 (2)   |
| C14-O3   | 1.3963 (18) |            |             |
| O2-C8-O1 | 124.08 (14) | C8-O1-C7   | 116.35 (13) |
| O2-C8-C9 | 122.12 (14) | C15-O3-C14 | 119.30 (11) |
| 01-C8-C9 | 113.80 (13) |            |             |

# Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

| $D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$ | $D-\mathrm{H}$ | $H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$ | $D \cdots A$ | $D - H \cdots $ |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| C13-H13···O2 <sup>i</sup>   | 0.93           | 2.48                    | 3.308 (2)    | 149             |
| $C17-H17\cdots O2^{n}$      | 0.93           | 2.36                    | 3.289 (2)    | 173             |

Symmetry codes: (i) 1 + x, y, z; (ii) -x, 1 - y, 1 - z.

All H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model. C–H distances were set at 0.93 (aromatic H) and 0.97 Å (methylene H).  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H})$  values were constrained to be 1.2 times  $U_{\rm eq}$  of the carrier atom. The poor quality of the crystal may account for the rather high  $R_{\rm int}$  value.



## Figure 1

A view of (I), showing the atom-numbering scheme and 50% probability displacement ellipsoids.



## Figure 2

PLATON (Spek, 2003)/PLUTON (Spek, 1997) plot of the crystal packing, viewed along the *a* axis. Hydrogen bonds occurring between centrosymmetrically related molecules are shown as dashed lines.

Data collection: X-AREA (Stoe & Cie, 2002); cell refinement: X-AREA; data reduction: X-RED32 (Stoe & Cie, 2002); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996); software used to prepare material for publication: WinGX (Farrugia, 1997), PARST (Nardelli, 1995) and PLATON (Spek, 2003).

The authors thank the Turkish Government and The University of Ondokuz Mayıs for research grant F343.

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