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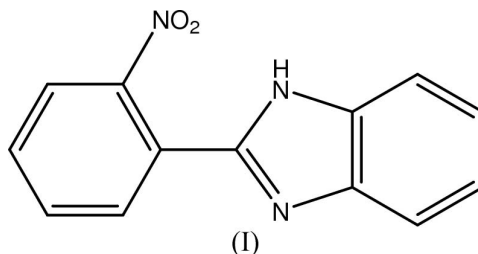
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Key indicatorsSingle-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 293$ K
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$ Å
 R factor = 0.044
 wR factor = 0.113
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.8For details of how these key indicators were
automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**2-(2-Nitrophenyl)-1H-benzimidazole**

In the title compound, $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$, the dihedral angle between the benzimidazole moiety and the benzene ring is $40.08(6)^\circ$. The molecules are linked into chains along the b axis by intermolecular $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ hydrogen bonds. The chains are interlinked into a two-dimensional network by $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ hydrogen bonds.

Comment

We have reported the synthesis and crystal structure of 6-methoxycarbonyl-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-3-ium nitrate hemihydrate (Ding *et al.*, 2004). In our ongoing studies of benzimidazole derivatives, the title compound, (I), was obtained in the reaction of *o*-diaminobenzene and 2-nitrobenzoyl chloride.



The bond lengths and angles in (I) are within normal ranges (Allen *et al.*, 1987) and comparable with those in the related compound *N*-methyl-2-(*o*-nitrophenyl)benzimidazole (Das *et al.*, 2003). The benzimidazole moiety is essentially planar, with a dihedral angle of $1.7(1)^\circ$ between the planes of the benzene ring and its fused imidazole ring. The whole molecule is non-planar; the benzimidazole ring makes an angle of $40.08(6)^\circ$ with the C8–C13 benzene ring. In the crystal structure, the molecules of (I) are linked into chains along the b axis by $\text{N1}-\text{H1N}\cdots\text{N2}^i$ intermolecular hydrogen bonds. The chains are interlinked into a two-dimensional network by $\text{C12}-\text{H12}\cdots\text{O1}^{ii}$ hydrogen bonds (Fig. 2; symmetry codes as in Table 2). The packing is further stabilized by van der Waals forces.

Experimental

Compound (I) was synthesized according to the method of Fekner *et al.* (2004). A solution of 2-nitrobenzoyl chloride (3.71 g, 20 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (40 ml) was added dropwise over 2 h to a solution of *o*-diaminobenzene (2.16 g, 20 mmol) and Et_3N (3.6 ml) in CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml). After the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred at 273 K for 1 h and at room temperature for 3 h. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to give an off-white solid. The solid was refluxed in glacial AcOH (50 ml) in the presence of AcONa (1.64 g,

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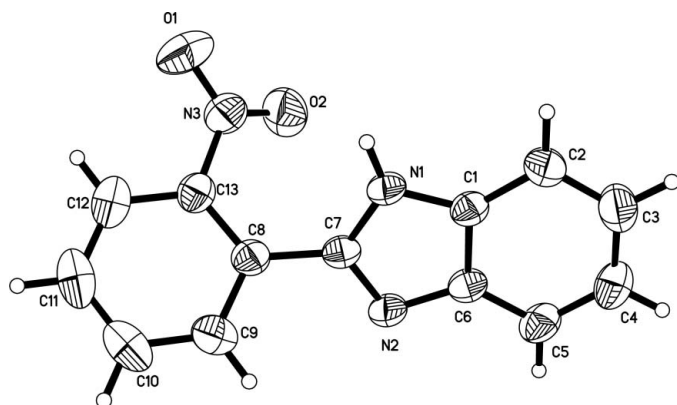


Figure 1
The structure of (I), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

20 mmol) for 15 h. The resulting brown oil was partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 and water. The organic extracts were evaporated *in vacuo* to give a yellow solid. Single crystals of (I) were obtained from a CH_2Cl_2 solution over a period of 2 d.

Crystal data

$\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$
 $M_r = 239.23$
Orthorhombic, *Pbca*
 $a = 7.806$ (2) Å
 $b = 9.901$ (3) Å
 $c = 29.307$ (8) Å
 $V = 2265.1$ (11) Å³
 $Z = 8$
 $D_x = 1.403$ Mg m⁻³

Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Cell parameters from 2718 reflections
 $\theta = 2.8$ – 23.4°
 $\mu = 0.10$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 293$ (2) K
Needle, yellow
 $0.43 \times 0.17 \times 0.12$ mm

Data collection

Siemens SMART 1000 CCD area-detector diffractometer
 ω scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Sheldrick, 1996)
 $T_{\min} = 0.959$, $T_{\max} = 0.988$
11735 measured reflections

2256 independent reflections
1808 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.036$
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.2^\circ$
 $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$
 $k = -12 \rightarrow 10$
 $l = -36 \rightarrow 32$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.044$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.113$
 $S = 1.06$
2256 reflections
163 parameters
H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0479P)^2 + 0.6337P]$
where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.18$ e Å⁻³
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.17$ e Å⁻³

Table 1
Selected interatomic distances (Å).

N1—C7	1.3509 (19)	N2—C6	1.388 (2)
N1—C1	1.3713 (19)	N3—C13	1.469 (2)
N2—C7	1.3236 (19)		

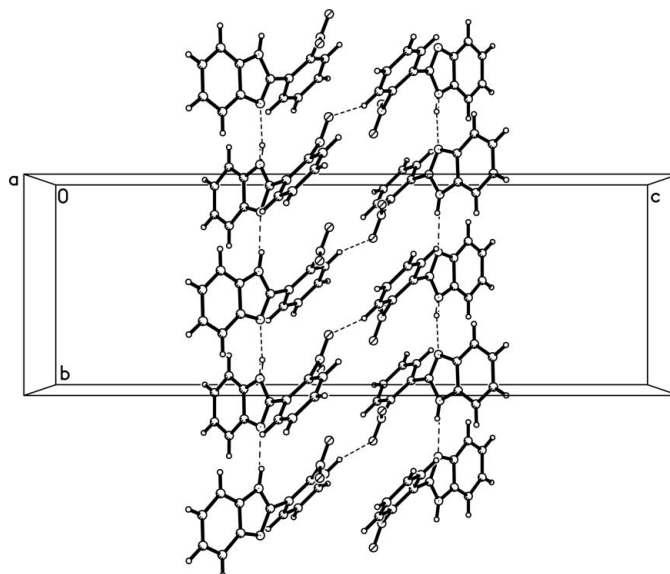


Figure 2
Part of the two-dimensional network in (I), viewed down the *a* axis. Hydrogen bonds are indicated by dashed lines.

Table 2

Hydrogen-bond 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>
N1—H1N···N2 ⁱ	0.86	1.99	2.823 (2)	163
C12—H12···O1 ⁱⁱ	0.93	2.54	3.285 (3)	137

Symmetry codes: (i) $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, z$; (ii) $x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{3}{2}, -z$.

After their location in a difference Fourier map, all H atoms were positioned geometrically (N—H = 0.86 Å and C—H = 0.93 Å) and refined as riding, with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{parent atom})$.

Data collection: *SMART* (Siemens, 1996); cell refinement: *SAINTE* (Siemens, 1996); data reduction: *SAINTE*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL*; molecular graphics: *SHELXTL*; software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*, *PARST* (Nardelli, 1995) and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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