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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 296 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.005 Å R factor = 0.054 wR factor = 0.151 Data-to-parameter ratio = 12.9

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

The title compound, C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, was synthesized from the reaction of 2,5-dibenzoylterephthalamide and sodium hypochlorite solution. The asymmetric unit contains one halfmolecule, the molecule being centrosymmetric. Intra- and intermolecular N-H···O hydrogen bonds are highly effective in forming a two-dimensional layer structure.

2,5-Dibenzoyl-1,4-phenylenediamine

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# Comment

2,5-Dibenzoyl-1,4-phenylenediamine, (I), is a significant material in the synthesis of extended lattice compounds with a centrosymmetric system. It is also an important compound in preparation of electron-transport materials (Tonzola et al., 2003). The synthesis of 2,5-dibenzoyl-1,4-phenylenediamine has been reported (Imai et al., 1975).



The molecular structure of (I) is shown in Fig. 1 and selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 1. The asymmetric unit contains one half molecule, the whole molecule being centrosymmetric.

The crystal packing is stabilized by intra- and intermolecular  $N-H \cdots O$  hydrogen bonds (Table 2), forming a two-dimensional layer structure (Fig. 2).

# **Experimental**

Sodium hypochlorite solution (10 ml, 5.25%) was added with stirring to a mixture of 2,5-dibenzoylterephthalamide (1 g, 2.7 mmol) and potassium hydroxide solution (30 ml, 10.45%) cooled in an ice-water bath for half an hour. The mixture was stirred for an additional hour at 343-353 K and the precipitate began to separate. The resulting precipitate was filtered off, washed with hot water and dried under reduced pressure. The crude product was obtained by slow evaporation of a solution in benzene (yield: 0.6 g, 71%; m.p. 492 K).

## Crystal data

$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_2$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$M_r = 316.35$	Cell parameters from 25
Orthorhombic, Pcab	reflections
a = 7.4651 (15)  Å	$\theta = 9-12^{\circ}$
b = 13.0034 (16) Å	$\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
c = 15.9759 (18) Å	T = 296 (2) K
V = 1550.8 (4) Å <sup>3</sup>	Prism, brown
Z = 4	$0.3 \times 0.3 \times 0.1 \text{ mm}$
$D_r = 1.355 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$	

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# organic papers

### Data collection

Enraf–Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer  $\omega/2\theta$  scans Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (*XPREP* in *SHELXTL*; Bruker, 2000)  $T_{min} = 0.974, T_{max} = 0.991$ 1519 measured reflections 1519 independent reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.054$   $wR(F^2) = 0.151$  S = 1.021519 reflections 118 parameters H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement

 Table 1

 Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

O-C4	1.231 (4)	N-C1	1.393 (4)
C10-C4	1.478 (5)	C3-C4	1.491 (4)
C2-C1-N	120.1 (3)	$C1^{i}-C3-C4$	120.7 (3)
C1-C2-C3	122.4 (3)	C10-C4-C3	120.9 (3)

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

every 200 reflections

intensity decay: none

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0432P)^2]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ 

Extinction correction: SHELXL97

Extinction coefficient: 0.0047 (19)

 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.19 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.18 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ 

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

 $h = 0 \rightarrow 9$ 

 $k = 0 \rightarrow 16$ 

 $l = 0 \rightarrow 19$ 3 standard reflections

Symmetry code: (i) -x, -y, -z.

## Table 2

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D-{\rm H}$	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - H \cdots A$
$\overline{N-H1\cdots O^{i}}$ $N-H1\cdots O^{ii}$	0.87(4) 0.87(4)	2.25 (4) 2.61 (4)	2.855 (5) 3.220 (5)	127 (3) 128 (3)
0 ( 1 ()		N1 1.		

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

Atoms H1 and H3 were located in a difference synthesis and refined freely [N-H = 0.87 (4)-0.95 (5) Å]. The remaining H atoms were positioned geometrically (C-H = 0.93 Å) and refined as riding, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}$  (parent atom).

Data collection: *CAD-4 Software* (Enraf–Nonius,1989); cell refinement: *CAD-4 Software*; data reduction: *XCAD4* (Harms, 1995); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.



### Figure 1

A drawing of (I), with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds. [Symmetry code for unlabelled atoms: -x, -y, -z.]



#### Figure 2

The two-dimensional layer structure of (I). Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

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