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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.006 Å R factor = 0.045 wR factor = 0.103 Data-to-parameter ratio = 12.0

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

# Tetrakis( $\mu$ -2-nitrobenzoato- $\kappa^2 O:O'$ )bis-[(pyridine- $\kappa N$ )zinc(II)]

In the centrosymmetric title compound,  $[Zn_2(C_7H_4NO_4)_4(C_5H_5N)_2]$ , the Zn atom has a distorted square-pyramidal coordination, formed by four carboxylate O atoms and one pyridine N atom. Two Zn atoms are linked by four bridging bidentate 2-nitrobenzoate ligands to form a paddle-wheel cage structure.

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## Comment

One strategy in the synthesis of coordination compounds is the building-block approach (Ikeda *et al.*, 2004; Wen *et al.*, 2005), *i.e.* appropriate ligands are combined together. The combination of 2-nitrobenzoic acid and zinc hydroxide in the presence of pyridine furnishes the centrosymmetric dinuclear title compound, (I) (Fig. 1).



The Zn atom is five-coordinated by four O atoms of the carboxylate groups from four different 2-nitrobenzoates and the N atom of pyridine in a square-pyramidal geometry. The Zn lies 0.403 (2) Å out of the basal plane in the direction of the apical N atom. The dinuclear molecule features a paddle-wheel  $[Zn_2O_8]$  unit with a  $Zn \cdots Zn^i$  (symmetry code as in Table 1) separation of 3.0299 (8) Å. Another such paddle-wheel dizinc structure has recently been reported (Yang *et al.*, 2005).

## **Experimental**

A mixture of  $Zn(OH)_2$  (0.099 g, 1 mmol), 2-nitrobenzoic acid (0.335 g, 2 mmol) and water (20 ml) was sealed in a 30 ml Teflon-lined stainless steel reactor and heated to 413 K for 48 h. A colourless solution was obtained after cooling the reaction to room temperature.

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## metal-organic papers

Pyridine (0.16 g, 2 mmol) was added dropwise to the above solution with constant stirring for 2 h. Colourless single crystals were obtained after 5 d.

Z = 1

 $D_x = 1.668 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Cell parameters from 2612

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 1.7-25.2^{\circ}$  $\mu = 1.35 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 293 (2) K

Prism, colourless

 $0.25 \times 0.13 \times 0.11 \text{ mm}$ 

## Crystal data

$$\begin{split} & [\text{Zn}_2(\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{NO}_4)_4(\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{N})_2] \\ & M_r = 953.39 \\ & \text{Triclinic, } P\overline{1} \\ & a = 7.9627 \ (9) \text{ Å} \\ & b = 10.4988 \ (12) \text{ Å} \\ & c = 12.3751 \ (14) \text{ Å} \\ & \alpha = 76.616 \ (2)^\circ \\ & \beta = 87.507 \ (2)^\circ \\ & \gamma = 70.685 \ (2)^\circ \\ & V = 949.18 \ (19) \text{ Å}^3 \end{split}$$

### Data collection

ons
$\sigma(I)$

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0445P)^2]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.045$	+ 0.6749P]
$wR(F^2) = 0.103$	where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 1.04	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$
3360 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.52 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
280 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.28 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
H-atom parameters constrained	

### Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Zn1-N3	2.026 (3)	Zn1-O5 <sup>i</sup>	2.060 (2)
Zn1-O1 <sup>i</sup>	2.030 (2)	Zn1-O6	2.065 (2)
Zn1-O2	2.040 (2)	$Zn1-Zn1^{i}$	3.0299 (8)
N3-Zn1-O1 <sup>i</sup>	102.34 (11)	O2-Zn1-O5 <sup>i</sup>	88.69 (11)
N3-Zn1-O2	100.62 (11)	N3-Zn1-O6	96.67 (10)
O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O2	157.04 (10)	O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O6	89.49 (10)
N3-Zn1-O5 <sup>i</sup>	105.89 (10)	O2-Zn1-O6	87.56 (10)
$O1^i - Zn1 - O5^i$	85.36 (11)	$O5^i - Zn1 - O6$	157.44 (10)

Symmetry code: (i) -x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1.

The H atoms were positioned geometrically and refined using a riding model [C-H = 0.93 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ ].

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2002); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2002); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics:



#### Figure 1

A view of the molecule of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme, with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 30% probability level. H atoms have been omitted for clarity [symmetry code: (i) 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z].

*SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2002); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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