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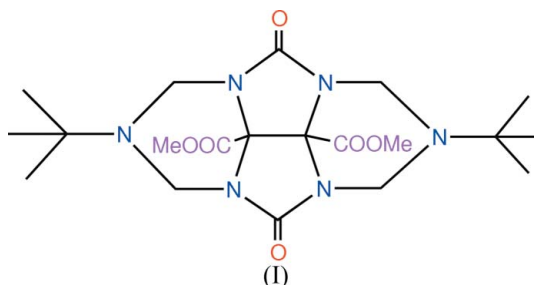
Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 292\text{ K}$
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.003\text{ \AA}$
 R factor = 0.049
 wR factor = 0.148
Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.2For details of how these key indicators were
automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.Dimethyl 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4,8-dioxo-1,2,5,6-
tetrahydro-2,3a,4a,6,7a,8a-hexaazacyclopenta-
[def]fluorene-8b,8c-dicarboxylate

The title compound, $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$, is a glycoluril derivative. The molecule is built up from four fused rings, namely two nearly planar imidazole five-membered rings and two non-planar triazine six-membered rings. In the five-membered imidazole rings, the $\text{N}-\text{C}_{\text{carbonyl}}$ bond distances are much shorter than the other $\text{N}-\text{C}$ distances, indicating $\pi-\pi$ conjugation within the nearly planar ring. Both six-membered rings display chair conformations.

Comment

Glycoluril derivatives have applications in many fields, such as explosives, slow-release fertilizers, crosslinkers, iodogens, stabilisers of organic compounds against photodegradation and reagents in combinatorial chemistry (Wu *et al.*, 2002). As part of our ongoing investigation of glycoluril derivatives (Li & Wu, 2005), we present here the structure of the title compound, (I).



The molecular structure of (I) is shown in Fig. 1. The molecule is built up from four fused rings, namely two nearly planar imidazole five-membered rings and two non-planar triazine six-membered rings. Within the nearly planar five-membered ring, the $\text{N}-\text{C}_{\text{carbonyl}}$ bond distances are much shorter than the other $\text{N}-\text{C}$ distances (Table 1). This is due to the occurrence of $\pi-\pi$ conjugation.

Experimental

tert-Butylamine (0.73 g, 10 mmol) and formaldehyde (1.2 g, 40 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of 2,5-dioxotetrahydroimidazo[4,5-*d*]imidazole-3a,6a-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (1.29 g, 5 mmol) in acetonitrile (50 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated to dryness and the compound was purified by column-chromatography to yield (I) (2.03 g, 90%) as a colourless solid. Colourless block-like crystals of (I) suitable for data collection were obtained by slow evaporation of an ethyl acetate solution at 283 K.

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Crystal data

$C_{20}H_{32}N_6O_6$
 $M_r = 452.52$
 Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$
 $a = 14.6448$ (15) Å
 $b = 12.4388$ (12) Å
 $c = 13.2805$ (14) Å
 $\beta = 98.362$ (2)°
 $V = 2393.5$ (4) Å³
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.256$ Mg m⁻³
 Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
 Cell parameters from 5173 reflections
 $\theta = 2.3$ – 27.8 °
 $\mu = 0.09$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 292$ (2) K
 Block, colourless
 $0.40 \times 0.30 \times 0.20$ mm

Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer
 φ and ω scans
 Absorption correction: none
 11778 measured reflections
 4210 independent reflections

3444 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{int} = 0.023$
 $\theta_{max} = 25.0$ °
 $h = -16 \rightarrow 17$
 $k = -11 \rightarrow 14$
 $l = -15 \rightarrow 15$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.049$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.148$
 $S = 1.06$
 4210 reflections
 297 parameters
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0815P)^2 + 0.5234P]$
 where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.28$ e Å⁻³
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.20$ e Å⁻³

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

C4–N1	1.497 (3)	C8–N3	1.368 (2)
C5–N1	1.443 (3)	C8–N5	1.393 (3)
C5–N2	1.477 (2)	C9–N3	1.442 (2)
C7–N2	1.368 (2)	C9–N2	1.443 (2)
C7–N4	1.375 (3)		
N2–C7–N4	108.57 (15)	N3–C8–N5	108.26 (15)

All H atoms were treated as riding on their parent C atoms. The methyl H atoms were constrained to an ideal geometry, with C–H distances of 0.96 Å and $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5U_{eq}(C)$, whereas methylene H atoms were constrained to C–H = 0.97 Å with $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5U_{eq}(C)$.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve

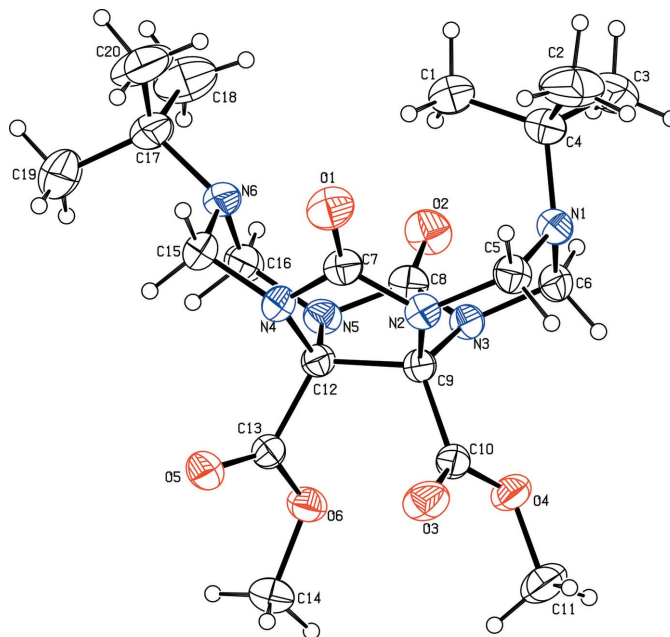


Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), with the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level and H atoms are represented as spheres of arbitrary radii.

structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2000); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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