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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
T = 293 K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004 \text{ \AA}$   
R factor = 0.047  
wR factor = 0.136  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 11.4

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

## 1,13-Dimethyl-6*H*,7*H*,8*H*-chromeno-[3',4':5,6]pyrano[3,2-*c*]chromene-6,8-dione

The title compound,  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5$ , is a pentacyclic chromene derivative. The dihedral angle between the two outer benzene rings is  $30.3 (1)^\circ$ . The pyran and one of the pyranone rings adopt twist-boat conformations. The crystal packing is stabilized by  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$  and  $\pi-\pi$  interactions

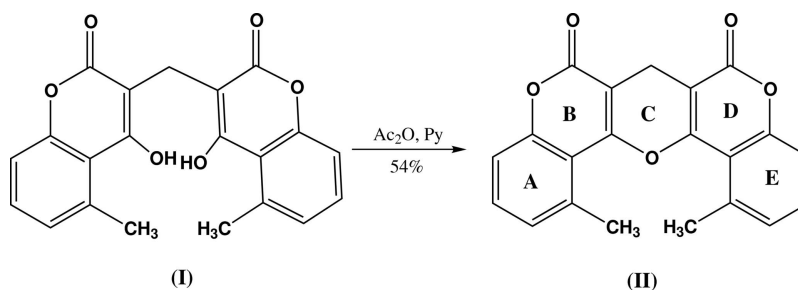
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#### Comment

*Diospyros canaliculata* De Wildeman (Ebenaceae) is a tree up to 15–20 m tall (Letouzey & White, 1970) found throughout the forest zone of West and Central Africa (Jeffreys *et al.*, 1983). The bark extract is poisonous and causes blistering and gangrene around wounds, and is a common ingredient of the Guere (Ivory Coast) arrow poisons (Irvine, 1961). Previous investigation of the stem bark of this plant led to the isolation of gerberinol, (I) (Sengupta *et al.*, 1985; Paknikar *et al.*, 1996; Tangmouo *et al.*, 2005). In the present work, we have undertaken the X-ray structure determination of the title compound, (II) (Sengupta *et al.*, 1985), derived from (I).



The bond lengths in compound (II) show normal values (Allen *et al.*, 1987). The molecule is non-planar, with the outer benzene rings *A* and *E* forming a dihedral angle of  $30.3 (1)^\circ$ . The pyranone ring *B* is planar, with a weighted average absolute torsion angle ( $\tau$ ) of  $4.1^\circ$ . The pyran ring *C* and pyranone ring *D* are slightly puckered and adopt twist-boat conformations; the Cremer and Pople (1975) puckering parameters  $Q$ ,  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$  are  $0.185 (2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $82.6 (6)^\circ$  and  $157.0 (8)^\circ$  for ring *C*, and  $0.182 (2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $89.6 (9)^\circ$  and  $30.9 (8)^\circ$  for ring *D*, respectively. The  $\text{C}1-\text{C}14\text{B}-\text{C}14\text{A}$  [ $128.3 (2)^\circ$ ] and  $\text{C}13-\text{C}13\text{A}-\text{C}13\text{B}$  [ $128.30 (2)^\circ$ ] angles are larger than  $120^\circ$  as a result of steric interactions between the methyl groups at the *C*1 and *C*13 positions.

As shown in Fig. 1, the  $\text{C}16-\text{H}16\text{C}\cdots\text{O}3$  and  $\text{C}15-\text{H}15\text{C}\cdots\text{O}3$  hydrogen bonds generate rings of graph-set motif  $S(6)$  (Bernstein *et al.*, 1995). The crystal packing is stabilized by  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$  (Table 1) and  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions. The  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions involve rings *A*, *B* and *E* of inversion-related molecules with  $\text{C}g2\cdots\text{C}g2^{\text{ii}} = 3.593 (3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\text{C}g1\cdots\text{C}g1^{\text{iii}} = 3.544 (3) \text{ \AA}$  and  $\text{C}g3\cdots\text{C}g3^{\text{iii}} = 3.790 (4) \text{ \AA}$  [symmetry codes:

(ii)  $1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z$ ; (iii)  $1 - x, 2 - y, 1 - z$ ; (iii)  $1 - x, 1 - y, -z$ ], where  $Cg1$ ,  $Cg2$  and  $Cg3$  are the centroids of rings *A*, *B* and *E*, respectively. The C—H... $\pi$  interaction involves ring *A*. A view of the molecular packing is shown in Fig. 2.

## Experimental

Compound (II) was prepared from gerberinol (I) using the literature method of Sengupta *et al.* (1985). A solution of (I) (15 mg) in pyridine (0.5 ml) and acetic anhydride (0.5 ml) was stirred for 2 d at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated and the resulting solid pink residue was crystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3$ – $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (1:1 v/v) to afford compound (II) as shiny pink crystals (yield 54%, 8 mg; m.p. 523 K).

### Crystal data

$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5$	$Z = 2$
$M_r = 346.32$	$D_x = 1.495 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$a = 8.052$ (6) Å	Cell parameters from 3408 reflections
$b = 8.492$ (7) Å	$\theta = 1.7$ – $25.0^\circ$
$c = 12.544$ (10) Å	$\mu = 0.11 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\alpha = 91.441$ (13) $^\circ$	$T = 293$ (2) K
$\beta = 106.324$ (13) $^\circ$	Plate, pink
$\gamma = 109.489$ (13) $^\circ$	$0.24 \times 0.12 \times 0.06 \text{ mm}$
$V = 769.2$ (11) Å <sup>3</sup>	

### Data collection

Siemens SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer	2695 independent reflections
$\omega$ scans	1842 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.036$
$T_{\text{min}} = 0.975$ , $T_{\text{max}} = 0.994$	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^\circ$
6917 measured reflections	$h = -9 \rightarrow 9$
	$k = -10 \rightarrow 10$
	$l = -14 \rightarrow 14$

### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0615P)^2 + 0.1079P]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.047$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$wR(F^2) = 0.136$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$
$S = 1.05$	$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.25 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
2695 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.19 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
237 parameters	
H-atom parameters constrained	

**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å,  $^\circ$ ).

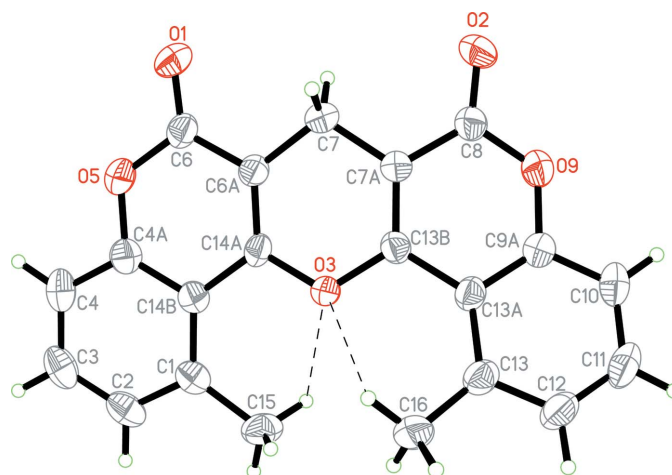
$Cg1$ ,  $Cg2$  and  $Cg3$  are the centroids of rings *A*, *B* and *E*, respectively.

$D$ —H... $A$	$D$ —H	H... $A$	$D$ ... $A$	$D$ —H... $A$
C2—H2A...O1 <sup>i</sup>	0.93	2.57	3.442 (4)	155
C15—H15C...O3	0.96	2.43	2.848 (4)	106
C16—H16C...O3	0.96	2.37	2.937 (4)	117
C7—H7A...Cg1 <sup>ii</sup>	0.97	2.84	3.583 (4)	134

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

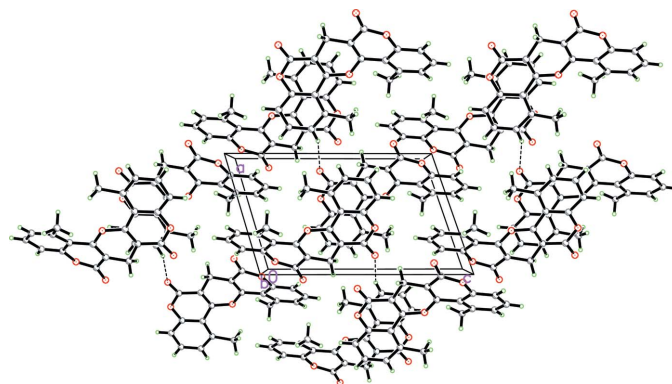
All H atoms were positioned geometrically and allowed to ride on the parent carbon atoms, with C—H distances in the range 0.93–0.97 Å, and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  for methyl H atoms and  $1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  for other H atoms.

Data collection: SMART (Siemens, 1996); cell refinement: SAINT (Siemens, 1996); data reduction: SAINT; 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 and PLATON (Spek, 2003).



**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of (II), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.



**Figure 2**

The crystal packing of (II), viewed approximately along the *b* axis. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

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