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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 298 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.002 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.042 wR factor = 0.116 Data-to-parameter ratio = 17.1

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

# 10-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3,7-dimethyl-1*H*,9*H*,10*H*dipyrano[3,4-e:4',3'-b]pyran-1,9-dione

The title compound,  $C_{20}H_{16}O_6$ , was synthesized by the reaction of 4-methoxybenzaldehyde with triacetic acid lactone in ethylene glycol catalyzed by KF–alumina. The pyran ring adopts a boat conformation and the benzene ring is perpendicular to the mean plane through the fused ring system.

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## Comment

The utility of fluoride salts as potential bases in a variety of synthetic reactions has been recognized in recent years (Ando & Yamawaki, 1981; Clark, 1980). The condensation reaction of carbonyl compounds with active methylene compounds is one of the most important synthetic methods leading to substituted alkenes (Yamawaki *et al.*, 1983). In our earlier paper (Wang *et al.*, 2003), we have reported that alumina coated with potassium fluoride is a versatile solid-supported reagent for the Knoevenagel reaction and Michael addition condensation. In the present paper, we report the crystal structure of the title compound, (I).



In (I), the pyranone rings are each essentially planar. The pyran ring adopts a boat conformation, with atoms O1 and C6 deviating from the C5/C1/C7/C11 plane by 0.076 (3) and 0.183 (3) Å, respectively (Fig. 1). The methoxy group is almost coplanar with the benzene ring, with a C20–O6–C17–C16 torsion angle of 8.8 (3)°. The C14–C19 benzene ring is perpendicular to the C5/C1/C7/C11 plane [dihedral angle 89.14 (7)°].

### **Experimental**

Compound (I) was prepared by the reaction of 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (1 mmol) with triacetic acid lactone (2 mmol) in ethylene glycol catalyzed by KF-alumina. Single crystals of (I)

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## organic papers

suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by slow evaporation of a 95% aqueous ethanol solution (yield 85%; m.p. 545–547 K). IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1735, 1636, 1604, 1381; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.24 (6H, *s*, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75 (3H, *s*, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.78 (1H, *s*, CH), 5.98 (2H, *s*, 2CH), 6.79 (2H, *d*, ArH), 7.25 (2H, *d*, ArH).

 $D_x = 1.390 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Cell parameters from 3166

 $0.49 \times 0.47 \times 0.43~\text{mm}$ 

4076 independent reflections

2601 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\begin{array}{l} \theta = 2.3 – 27.8^{\circ} \\ \mu = 0.10 \ \mathrm{mm}^{-1} \end{array}$ 

T = 298 (2) K

Block, white

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.032$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 28.3^{\circ}$ 

 $h = -8 \rightarrow 12$ 

 $k = -14 \rightarrow 14$ 

 $l = -20 \rightarrow 19$ 

#### Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{20}H_{16}O_6\\ M_r = 352.33\\ \text{Monoclinic, } P2_1/n\\ a = 9.7018 \ (18) \ \text{\AA}\\ b = 11.090 \ (2) \ \text{\AA}\\ c = 15.757 \ (3) \ \text{\AA}\\ \beta = 96.839 \ (3)^\circ\\ V = 1683.2 \ (5) \ \text{\AA}^3\\ Z = 4 \end{array}$ 

Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Sheldrick, 1996)  $T_{min} = 0.951, T_{max} = 0.957$ 12075 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (0.0425P)^2]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.042$	+ 0.4864P]
$wR(F^2) = 0.116$	where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 1.02	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$
4076 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.22 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
238 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.17 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
H-atom parameters constrained	Extinction correction: SHELXL97
	Extinction coefficient: 0.0150 (14)

All H atoms were positioned geometrically and treated as riding, with C–H distances of 0.93–0.98 Å, and with  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.5U_{\rm eq}$  for methyl H atoms and  $1.2U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$  for others.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1998); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 1999); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 1999); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.





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