

Yu-Xing Gao, Hua Fang, Qing-Le Zeng,\* Wei-Zhu Chen and Yu-Fen Zhao

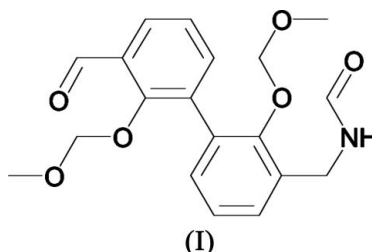
Department of Chemistry, The Key Laboratory for Chemical Biology of Fujian Province, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, People's Republic of China

Correspondence e-mail: qlzeng@xmu.edu.cn

## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 273\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.066  
 $wR$  factor = 0.207  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.5For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.***N*-{[3'-Formyl-2,2'-bis(methoxymethoxy)biphenyl-3-yl]methyl}formamide**The title compound,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_6$ , was obtained by *ortho*-lithiation of 2,2'-bis(methoxymethoxy)biphenyl, followed by quenching with *N,N*-dimethylformaldehyde. The molecular packing is stabilized by van der Waals forces.Received 2 March 2006  
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## Comment

The title compound, (I), is the intermediate of a chiral salicylaldehyde, which can be converted into a chiral Schiff base used in enantioselective sulfoxidation (Zeng, Wang, Wang *et al.*, 2005; Zeng, Wang, Weng *et al.*, 2005). Bond lengths and angles in (I) are in agreement with values reported for a similar compound (Chen *et al.*, 2006). The dihedral angle between the planes of the benzene rings C6–C1 and C14–C19 is  $62.8(4)^\circ$ .

## Experimental

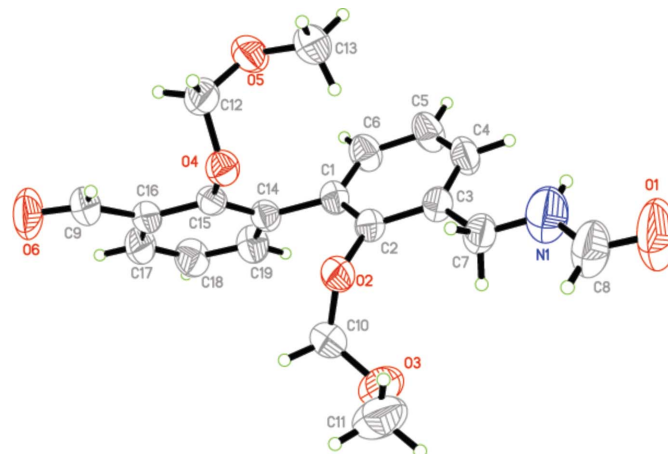
To a solution of 2,2'-bis(methoxymethoxy)biphenyl (4.12 g, 15 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (35 ml) in an ice-salt bath, a 1.6 *M* LiBu solution (11 ml) was added. After 3 h, *N,N*-dimethylformaldehyde (5 ml) was added to the mixture. After another 3 h, the reaction was

Figure 1

A plot of (I), with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

quenched by adding saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ . The organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under vacuum. The residual liquid was purified by column chromatography to give the title compound (62% yield). Single crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a petroleum ether–ethyl acetate solution (5:1  $v/v$ ).

*Crystal data*

$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_6$	$V = 917.3 (6) \text{ \AA}^3$
$M_r = 359.37$	$Z = 2$
Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$	$D_x = 1.301 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
$a = 8.101 (3) \text{ \AA}$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$b = 9.640 (3) \text{ \AA}$	$\mu = 0.10 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$c = 12.419 (5) \text{ \AA}$	$T = 273 (2) \text{ K}$
$\alpha = 90.588 (7)^\circ$	Block, colourless
$\beta = 101.626 (6)^\circ$	$0.48 \times 0.25 \times 0.11 \text{ mm}$
$\gamma = 104.636 (6)^\circ$	

*Data collection*

Bruker APEX area-detector diffractometer	4642 measured reflections
$\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans	3178 independent reflections
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2001)	2485 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
$T_{\min} = 0.955, T_{\max} = 0.989$	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.017$
	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^\circ$

*Refinement*

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.1084P)^2 + 0.3792P]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.066$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$wR(F^2) = 0.207$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$
$S = 1.07$	$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.41 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
3178 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.41 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
235 parameters	
H-atom parameters constrained	

All H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with C–H = 0.95–0.98 Å and N–H = 0.86 Å, and with  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}, \text{N})$  for aromatic, methylene and imine H atoms, or  $1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  for methyl H atoms.

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2001); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEP-3 (Farrugia, 1997) and VIEWERPRO (Accelrys, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97.

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