Acta Crystallographica Section E Structure Reports Online

ISSN 1600-5368

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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 299 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.003 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.038 wR factor = 0.106 Data-to-parameter ratio = 11.5

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e. The title compound,  $C_8H_4F_4N_2O_4$ , crystallizes on a site of crystallographic inversion symmetry.

1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3,6-bis(nitromethyl)benzene

Received 21 March 2006 Accepted 29 March 2006

## Comment

Interest in the field of crystal engineering, with the prediction of crystal structures and the design of organic compounds with specific properties, has increased significantly in the last few years. In the last decade, interactions of fluorine substituents in a variety of organic compounds have gained interest in life sciences and solid-state materials (Reichenbächer *et al.*, 2005).



In the crystal structure of the centrosymmetric title compound, (I), the C1-F1, C2-F3 and C4-N1 bond distances (Table 1) are in quite good agreement with those found in the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD; Version 5.27, 2006 release; Allen, 2002); for the compound with refcode DOBQAM (Martin *et al.*, 1999), C-F bond distances fall in the range 1.329–1.346 Å and C-N = 1.498 Å, and in an analogous compound containing aromatic rings, C-F distances are in the range 1.340–1.349 Å (CSD refcode LABROW; Krebs *et al.*, 2003).

The crystal structure is stabilized by weak intramolecular and intermolecular  $C-H\cdots F$  and  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen bonds.



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### Figure 1

The numbering scheme of (I). Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 10% probability level. [Symmetry code: (i) 2 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z.]



Packing diagram of (I), viewed along the c axis. Hydrogen-bonding interactions are indicated by dashed lines. Symmetry code as in Table 2.

## **Experimental**

Nitromethane (5.9 g, 0.097 mol) in DMSO (15 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of NaH (2.32 g, 0.097 mol) in DMSO (50 ml) with stirring. After the bubbling had subsided (*ca* 1 h), hexafluorobenzene (3 g, 0.016 mol) was added; the mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature and then poured into ice–water, acidified with 6 *M* HCl, then extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was washed with water and brine and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation of the solvent in a vacuum gave a residue (mixture of mono- and disubstitued derivatives), which was separated by column chromatography to afford 1.6 g of 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluoro-6-(nitromethyl)benzene (44%) and 1.07 g of (I) (25%). The product was recrystallized from ethanol to afford 1.07 g of (I).

Z = 4

 $D_x = 1.848 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

Block, colourless

 $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.32 \text{ mm}$ 

 $\mu = 0.20 \text{ mm}^-$ T = 299 (2) K

Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_8H_4F_4N_2O_4\\ M_r = 268.13\\ \text{Monoclinic, } C2/c\\ a = 17.570 \ (4) \ \text{\AA}\\ b = 7.2870 \ (15) \ \text{\AA}\\ c = 8.5746 \ (17) \ \text{\AA}\\ \beta = 118.62 \ (3)^\circ\\ V = 963.7 \ (4) \ \text{\AA}^3 \end{array}$ 

#### Data collection

Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur CCD diffractometer  $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  scans Absorption correction: analytical (Clark & Reid, 1995)  $T_{\rm min} = 0.877, T_{\rm max} = 0.958$ 

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.038$   $wR(F^2) = 0.106$  S = 1.05977 reflections 85 parameters H-atom parameters constrained 2981 measured reflections 977 independent reflections 825 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.016$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.4^{\circ}$ 

$$\begin{split} &w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0525P)^2 \\ &+ 0.7257P] \\ &where \ P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3 \\ (\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001 \\ \Delta\rho_{\rm max} = 0.23 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3} \\ \Delta\rho_{\rm min} = -0.20 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3} \end{split}$$

Table 1		
Selected	geometric	parameters

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O1-N1-O2 F2-C3-C2	123.6 (2) 119.8 (2)	F1-C1-C2	119.5 (2)
N1-O2	1.200 (2)	C2-C4	1.495 (2)
N1-01	1.198 (2)	C2-C3	1.377 (3)
F2-C3	1.337 (2)	C2-C1	1.376 (2)
F1-C1	1.339 (2)	N1-C4	1.494 (2)

 $(\mathring{A} \circ)$ 

Table 2			
Hydrogen-bond ge	eometry (	(Å, '	°).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
$C4-H4A\cdots F2$	0.97	2.54	2.830 (3)	97
$C4-H4B\cdots F1$	0.97	2.48	2.826(2)	101
$C4-H4A\cdots O2^{i}$	0.97	2.54	3.435 (5)	153

Symmetry code: (i)  $-x + \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $y + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-z + \frac{1}{2}$ .

H atoms were positioned geometrically and allowed to ride on their corresponding parent atom at a distance of 0.97 Å, with  $U_{\rm iso}$  values freely refined.

Data collection: *CrysAlis CCD* (Oxford Diffraction, 2001); cell refinement: *CrysAlis CCD*; data reduction: *CrysAlis RED* (Oxford Diffraction, 2005); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *DIAMOND* (Brandenburg, 1998); software used to prepare material for publication: *enCIFer* (Allen *et al.*, 2005).

The authors thank the Grant Agency of the Slovak Republic (grant Nos. 1/2449/05, 1/1379/04 and APVT-20–007304), as well as the Structural Funds, Interreg IIIA.

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