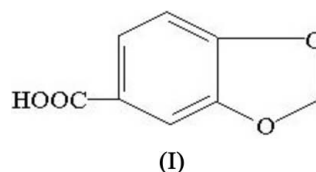


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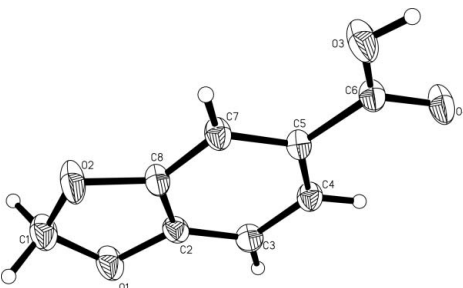
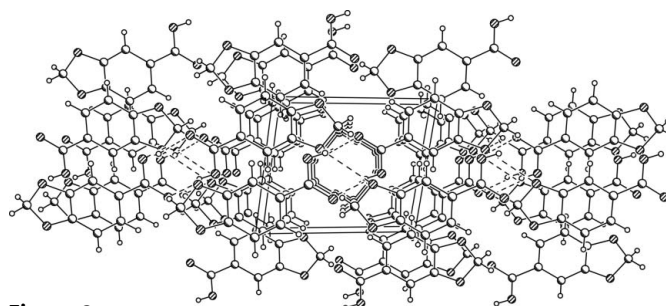
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**Key indicators**Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 298\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.043  
 $wR$  factor = 0.134  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.8For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**3,4-Methylenedioxybenzoic acid**The crystal structure of the title compound,  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{O}_4$ , consists of layers of characteristic dimers formed by intermolecular  $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds.Received 14 February 2006  
Accepted 23 March 2006.**Comment**

3,4-Methylenedioxybenzoic acid (I), an important intermediate in the synthesis of some types of inhibitor (Shen, 2001) and antibiotics such as Cinoxacin, is also used in the production of some spices and dyes.

An intermolecular hydrogen bond, involving  $\text{O}3-\text{H}3\text{B}$  as donor and  $\text{O}4$  as acceptor, links the molecules into dimers (Table 1 and Fig. 2).**Experimental**

The most common method for the synthesis of 3,4-methylenedioxybenzoic acid was followed, in which 3,4-(methylenedioxy)benz-

**Figure 1**  
A view of the molecule of (I). Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level.**Figure 2**  
The packing of (I). Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines.

aldehyde is prepared by oxidation of isoxafrole (200 ml) in a pressure vessel with an ozone pressure of 1.0 MPa. 3,4-Methylenedioxybenzoic acid was obtained by further oxidation with potassium permanganate (Shriner & Kleiderder, 1930).

Crystal data

$C_8H_6O_4$   $Z = 2$   
 $M_r = 166.13$   $D_x = 1.555 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$   
 Triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$  Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $a = 7.0685 (14) \text{ \AA}$  Cell parameters from 2904 reflections  
 $b = 7.1553 (14) \text{ \AA}$   $\theta = 3.2\text{--}27.5^\circ$   
 $c = 8.1436 (16) \text{ \AA}$   $\mu = 0.13 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $\alpha = 90.39 (3)^\circ$   $T = 298 (2) \text{ K}$   
 $\beta = 107.51 (3)^\circ$  Column, colorless  
 $\gamma = 114.06 (3)^\circ$   $0.37 \times 0.26 \times 0.15 \text{ mm}$   
 $V = 354.67 (12) \text{ \AA}^3$

Data collection

Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID IP area-detector diffractometer 1613 independent reflections  
 $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  scans 1158 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 Absorption correction: multi-scan  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.027$   
 SADABS  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^\circ$   
 $T_{\text{min}} = 0.954, T_{\text{max}} = 0.981$   $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$   
 3553 measured reflections  $k = -8 \rightarrow 9$   
 $l = -10 \rightarrow 10$

Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  H-atom parameters constrained  
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.043$   $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.085P)^2]$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.134$  where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $S = 1.03$   $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 1613 reflections  $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.23 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 109 parameters  $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.26 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Hydrogen-bond geometry ( $\text{\AA}, ^\circ$ ).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
$O3-H3B \cdots O4^i$	0.82	1.81	2.618 (2)	167

Symmetry code: (i)  $-x, -y + 1, -z + 1$ .

H atoms were positioned geometrically ( $O-H = 0.82, C-H = 0.93\text{--}0.97 \text{ \AA}$ ) and refined as riding, with  $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(C,O)$ .

Data collection: *RAPID-AUTO* (Rigaku, 2004); cell refinement: *RAPID-AUTO*; data reduction: *RAPID-AUTO*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL/NT* (Bruker, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL/NT*.

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