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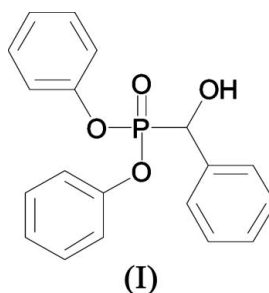
## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 273$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.051  
 $wR$  factor = 0.142  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.2For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## Diphenyl (hydroxyphenylmethyl)phosphonate

The title compound,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4\text{P}$ , was obtained as colorless  
block-shaped crystals by the reaction of diphenyl phosphite  
and benzaldehyde. The crystal structure is stabilized by strong  
intermolecular  $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds.Received 14 March 2006  
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## Comment

Some  $\alpha$ -hydroxyphenylmethylphosphonic esters and their  
derivatives are compounds of significant biological and phar-  
maceutical interest, affording properties such as inhibition of  
inositol monophosphatase (Maier & Diel, 1994). They are  
useful reagents for the synthesis of enol ethers and  $\alpha$ -  
ketophosphonates (Babak & Rahman, 2001). Bond lengths  
and angles in the title compound, (I), are in agreement with  
the values reported in the literature (Lane *et al.*, 1996; Fang *et al.*,  
2006). The hydroxy group is involved in hydrogen-bonding  
interactions with the phosphoryl O atom of a neighboring  
molecule [ $\text{O}\cdots\text{O} = 2.691$  (2) Å] (Table 1 and Fig. 2).

## Experimental

To a solution of benzaldehyde (5.3 g, 50 mmol) and diphenyl phos-  
phite (11.7 g, 50 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (30 ml) at 268 K was  
added triethylamine (1 ml). The mixture was left to stand at ambient  
temperature for 24 h, during which time a precipitate separated. The  
precipitate was filtered off and rapidly washed with benzene (Walsh,  
1959). Single crystals were obtained by crystallization from benzene  
and ethanol (6:1 *v/v*) solution.

## Crystal data

 $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4\text{P}$   
 $M_r = 340.30$   
Monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$   
 $a = 10.349$  (3) Å  
 $b = 7.881$  (2) Å  
 $c = 20.362$  (6) Å  
 $\beta = 102.075$  (5)°  
 $V = 1624.0$  (8) Å<sup>3</sup> $Z = 4$   
 $D_x = 1.392$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 0.19$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 273$  (2) K  
Block, colourless  
0.29 × 0.20 × 0.18 mm

## Data collection

Bruker APEX area-detector diffractometer  
 $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2001)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.947$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.967$

7898 measured reflections  
 2857 independent reflections  
 2472 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.043$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^\circ$

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.051$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.142$   
 $S = 1.03$   
 2857 reflections  
 217 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0849P)^2 + 0.3832P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.36 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.39 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

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

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$O1-H1B\cdots O4^i$	0.82	1.87	2.691 (2)	178

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

All H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions and treated as riding on their parent atoms, with  $C-H = 0.93 \text{ \AA}$  (aromatic) or  $0.98 \text{ \AA}$  (CH),  $O-H = 0.82 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  and  $1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{O})$ .

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 PLATON (Spek, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97.

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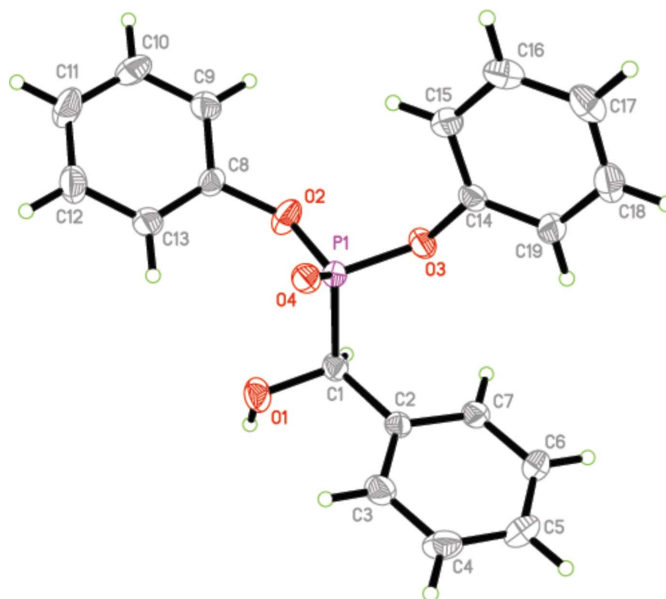


Figure 1

A molecular view of (I), with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

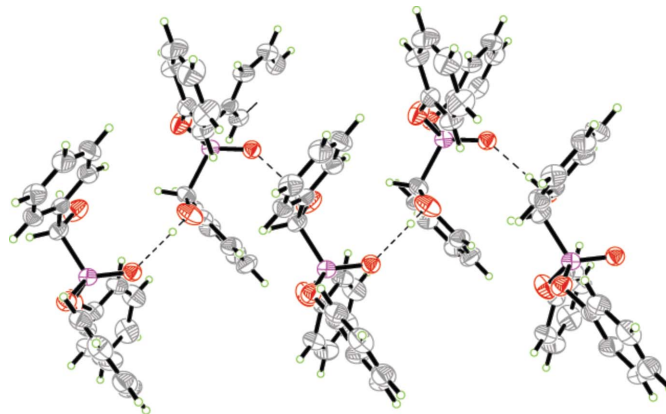


Figure 2

Packing diagram of (I), showing the  $O-H\cdots O$  interactions as dashed lines. [Symmetry code: (i)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ .]

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