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## Key indicators

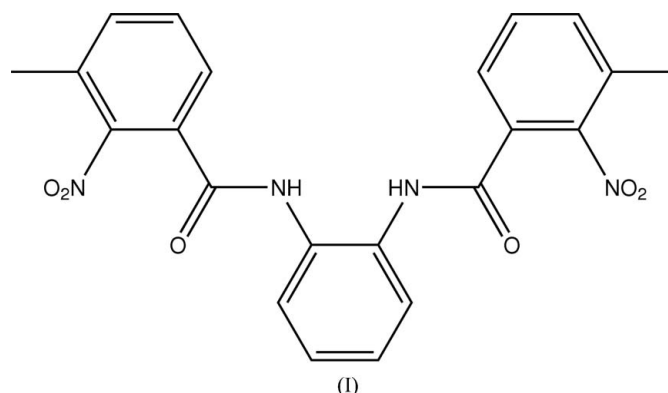
Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 293 \text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004 \text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.063  
 $wR$  factor = 0.186  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.6For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.3,3'-Dimethyl-2,2'-dinitro-*N,N'*-(*o*-phenylene)-  
dibenzamide

In the crystal structure of the title compound,  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$ , molecules are linked into ribbons along the  $a$  axis by  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds. The packing is further stabilized by a  $\pi-\pi$  interaction.

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## Comment

We have previously reported the structure of an amide-type acyclic polyether with 1,3-dihydroxybenzene as the backbone (Wen *et al.*, 2004). In our ongoing studies of polyamide-type compounds, the title compound, (I), has been synthesized.



The bond lengths and angles in (I) show normal values (Allen *et al.*, 1987). The dihedral angles between the central benzene ring (C8–C13) and the two outer benzene rings (C1–C6 and C15–C20) are 19.7 (1) and 8.9 (1)°, respectively, while the two outer benzene rings make a dihedral angle of 13.1 (1)°. Both methyl groups are involved in intramolecular C–H $\cdots$ O interactions with the nitro O atoms (Table 1). In the crystal structure, molecules are linked into ribbons along the  $a$  axis (Fig. 2) via  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds (Table 1). The packing is further stabilized by a  $\pi-\pi$  interaction between the C15–C20 benzene rings; the distance between the centroids,  $\text{Cg}\cdots\text{Cg}^{\text{iii}}$ , and the interplanar distance are 3.806 (2) and 3.422 (2) Å, respectively [symmetry code: (iii)  $2 - x, -y, 1 - z$ ].

## Experimental

A solution of 3-methyl-2-nitrobenzoyl chloride (3.71 g, 30 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (40 ml) was added dropwise over a period of 2 h to a solution of *o*-diaminobenzene (3.24 g, 30 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (8.3 ml) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50 ml). After the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was stirred at 273 K for 1 h and at room temperature for 3 h. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to give an off-white solid. Single crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a glacial AcOH solution at room temperature over a period of one week.

Crystal data

C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 434.40  
 Triclinic, *P* $\bar{1}$   
*a* = 9.607 (2) Å  
*b* = 10.542 (2) Å  
*c* = 11.408 (3) Å  
 $\alpha$  = 86.301 (3)°  
 $\beta$  = 65.394 (3)°  
 $\gamma$  = 77.029 (3)°

*V* = 1023.1 (4) Å<sup>3</sup>  
*Z* = 2  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.410 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo *K*α radiation  
 $\mu$  = 0.11 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 293 (2) K  
 Column, pale yellow  
 0.34 × 0.26 × 0.23 mm

Data collection

Siemens SMART 1000 CCD area-detector diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Sheldrick, 1996)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.965, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.976

5827 measured reflections  
 3943 independent reflections  
 3019 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.013  
 $\theta_{\max}$  = 26.1°

Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R*[*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.063  
*wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.186  
*S* = 1.03  
 3943 reflections  
 289 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0944P)^2 + 0.5433P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.73 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.31 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H	H... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> ... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>
N2—H2A...O4 <sup>i</sup>	0.86	2.19	3.044 (3)	169
N3—H3A...O3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.86	2.17	2.950 (3)	151
C21—H21C...O1	0.96	2.44	2.914 (5)	110
C22—H22A...O5	0.96	2.26	2.934 (4)	126

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 2, -y + 1, -z + 1$ ; (ii)  $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1$ .

All H atoms were located in difference Fourier maps and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with C—H = 0.93–0.96 Å, N—H = 0.86 Å and *U<sub>iso</sub>*(H) = 1.2*U<sub>eq</sub>*(C,N) or 1.5*U<sub>eq</sub>*(methyl C).

Data collection: *SMART* (Siemens, 1996); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Siemens, 1996); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL*; molecular graphics: *SHELXTL*; software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*, *PARST* (Nardelli, 1995) and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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References

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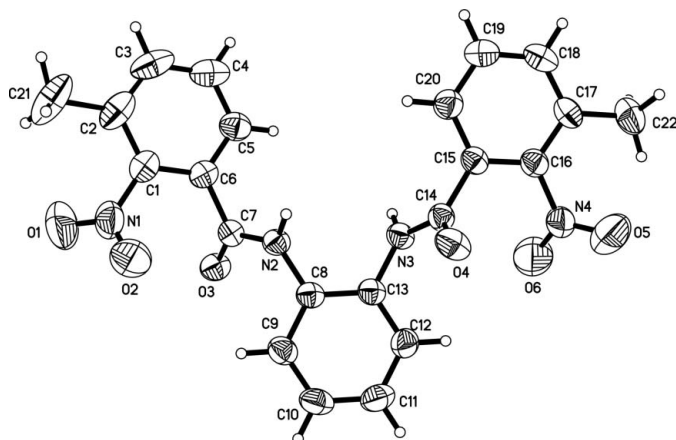


Figure 1  
 The molecular structure of (I), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

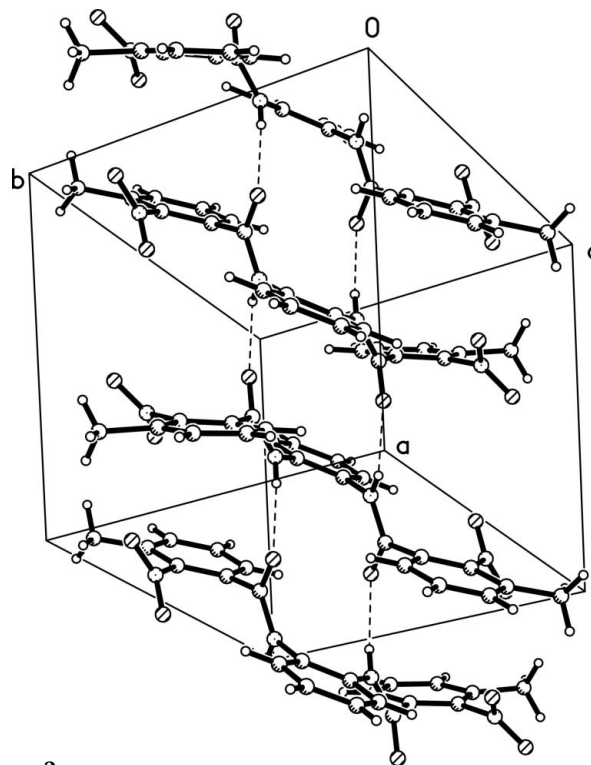


Figure 2  
 The molecular ribbon of (I) along the *a* axis. Hydrogen bonds are indicated by dashed lines.

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