## organic papers

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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.039 wR factor = 0.102 Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.6

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

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## (*E*)-*N*'-(4-Chlorobenzylidene)-3,6-dichloropicolinohydrazide

The title compound,  $C_{13}H_8Cl_3N_3O$ , shows the substituted pyridine ring to be twisted by about  $10^\circ$  from the rest of the essentially planar molecule.

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#### Comment

3,6-Dichloropyridine-2-carboxylic acid is a herbicide which is effective against a variety of weeds (Gaiser, 1989). However, it is also damaging to sensitive plants, including popular agricultural and garden crops such as tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, peas, beans, clover, alfalfa and sunflower, at very low concentrations, down to, and sometimes below, 10 p.p.b. (Lucas & Lobb, 1987; Rynk, 2003). The title compound, (I), has been prepared for evaluation as a substitute for 3,6-dichloropyridine-2-carboxylic acid (Kucukguzel *et al.*, 2003).



The molecular structure of (I) (Fig. 1) is essentially planar, albeit with a small twist about the C1–C9 bond. This is substantiated by the values of the C1–N1–N2–C2, N2–C2–C3–C4 and N1–C1–C9–N3 torsion angles of –178.9 (2), –179.5 (2) and –10.7 (3)°, respectively. The N1–N2, N1–C1, N2–C2 and C1–O1 bond distances (Table 1) are suggestive of limited delocalization of  $\pi$ -electron density over the central chromophore.

The H atom bound to atom N1 is involved in an intramolecular interaction with atom N3 of the pyridine ring, with H1···N3 = 2.21 Å, N1···N3 = 2.609 (3) Å and N1-H1···N3 = 108°. This atom also forms a weak intermolecular N1-H1···Cl3<sup>i</sup> interaction, with H1···Cl3<sup>i</sup> = 2.87 Å, N1···Cl3<sup>i</sup> = 3.515 (2) Å and N1-H1···Cl3<sup>i</sup> = 134° [symmetry code: (i) x - 1, y, z].

The carbonyl atom O1 is situated in a pocket defined by three aromatic H atoms, being separated from each by 2.6– 2.7 Å. The closest interaction between  $\pi$ -systems is 3.70 Å, between the ring centroids of N3/C9–C13 and C3–C8<sup>ii</sup> [symmetry code: (ii)  $-x, \frac{1}{2} + y, \frac{1}{2} - z$ ]. This leads to stacks of molecules along the *c* direction. It appears that the primary connections between stacks are mediated by Cl···Cl interactions, with the closest of these [3.2737 (14) Å] occurring



Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme and with displacment ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level.

between atom Cl1 and the centrosymmetrically related atom Cl1<sup>iii</sup> [symmetry code: (iii) 1 - x, -y, 1 - z]. Indeed, as seen from Fig. 2, there are distinct chloride-rich regions in the unit cell, where four Cl atoms in the shape of a skewed diamond are connected *via* three Cl···Cl interactions. The aforementioned Cl1···Cl1<sup>iv</sup> interactions [symmetry code: (iv) x, y + 1, z] are internal to the diamond and the two short edges are defined by Cl1···Cl2<sup>iii</sup> contacts of 3.6272 (15) Å. The Cl···Cl separations of the remaining edges are >4 Å.

#### **Experimental**

A mixture of 3,6-dichloropyridine-2-carboxylic acid hydrazide (1 g, 4.85 mmol) and 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (0.68 g, 3.32 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (20 ml) was stirred vigorously at reflux for 0.5 h, following the literature procedure of Kucukguzel *et al.* (2003). The reaction mixture was then filtered and washed with ethanol (30 ml) to give 1.12 g (70.2%) of (I). Yellow crystals (m.p. 491–493 K) were obtained by slow evaporation of an anhydrous ethanol solution of (I) after 5 d at room temperature.

#### Crystal data

 $C_{13}H_8Cl_3N_3O$   $M_r = 328.57$ Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$  a = 6.6081 (18) Å b = 14.072 (4) Å c = 15.133 (4) Å  $\beta = 92.985$  (6)° V = 1405.3 (7) Å<sup>3</sup>

#### Data collection

Siemens SMART CCD areadetector diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: none 7694 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.039$   $wR(F^2) = 0.102$  S = 1.062469 reflections 181 parameters H-atom parameters constrained Z = 4  $D_x = 1.553 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo K $\alpha$  radiation  $\mu = 0.65 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ T = 293 (2) K Block, yellow  $0.42 \times 0.41 \times 0.37 \text{ mm}$ 

2469 independent reflections 2128 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{int} = 0.019$  $\theta_{max} = 25.0^{\circ}$ 

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_{\rm o}{}^2) + (0.0459P)^2]$
+ 0.6002P]
where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$
$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.28 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.29 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$



#### Figure 2

The crystal packing in (I), viewed down the *a* axis. Colour code: Cl atoms are cyan, O red, N blue, C grey and H green.

# Table 1 Selected geometric parameters (Å, $^{\circ}$ ).

Cl1-C6	1.736 (2)	C1-N1	1.348 (3)
Cl2-C10	1.736 (2)	C2-N2	1.269 (3)
Cl3-C13	1.731 (2)	N3-C9	1.345 (3)
N1-N2	1.377 (2)	N3-C10	1.314 (3)
C1-O1	1.210 (3)		
N2-N1-C1	120.04 (18)	O1-C1-C9	123.6 (2)
N1 - N2 - C2	115.51 (19)	N1-C1-C9	112.68 (18)
O1-C1-N1	123.8 (2)		

The H atoms were included in the riding-model approximation, with C-H(aromatic) = 0.93 Å and C-H(methyl) = 0.96 Å, and with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2$  and  $1.5U_{eq}(C)$  for aromatic and methyl-H, respectively.

Data collection: *SMART* (Siemens, 1996); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Siemens, 1996); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SIR92* (Altomare *et al.*, 1994); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976) and *DIAMOND* (Brandenburg, 2006); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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