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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 292 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.002 Å Disorder in main residue R factor = 0.058 wR factor = 0.164 Data-to-parameter ratio = 18.0

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

# 2-(Dipropylamino)-4-[(4-methoxyphenyl)methylene]-1-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-5(4*H*)-one

In the title compound,  $C_{23}H_{27}N_3O_2$ , the packing of the molecules in the crystal structure appears to be influenced by  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen-bonding interactions.

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## Comment

Imidazolinones are important heterocyclic compounds possessing remarkable biological activities (Hu *et al.*, 2004). Many derivatives of imidazolinone have been prepared and their biological activities studied in recent years (Ding *et al.*, 2004). As part of our ongoing studies in this area, we obtained the title compound, (I) (Fig. 1), which may be used as a new precursor for obtaining bioactive molecules. Its crystal structure is presented here.



The five-membered imidazolone ring (N1/N2/C9/C10/C17) in (I) is planar. Phenyl ring C11–C16 is twisted with respect to the imidazolone ring, making a dihedral angle of 57.5 (2)°. One of the dipropylamino alkyl side chains (C21–C22–C23) is disordered over two positions. As well as a possible intramolecular C–H···N interaction, there are intermolecular C–H···O bonds (Table 1) which may help to stabilize the crystal packing (Fig. 2).

## **Experimental**

Phenyl isocyanate (3 mmol) was added to a solution of iminophosphorane (1.44 g, 3 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (15 ml) under nitrogen at room temperature. After standing for 6 h at room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and diethyl ether/petroleum ether (1:2, 20 ml) was added to precipitate triphenylphosphine oxide. After filtration, the solvent was removed to give the carbodiimide, which was used directly without further purification. To a solution of the carbodiimide prepared above in dichloromethane (15 ml) was added dipropylamine (3 mmol). After the reaction mixture had been allowed to stand for 6 h, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was recrystallized from dichloromethane/petroleum ether (1:4) to give the title compound in 80% yield (m.p. 438 K). Suitable crystals of (I) were obtained by vapour diffusion of ethanol into a solution in dichloromethane at room temperature.

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### Figure 1

View of (I), with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 40% probability level. H atoms are represented by spheres of arbitrary size. Only the major disorder component of the C21/C22/C23 chain is shown. The possible  $C-H \cdots N$  interaction is shown as a dashed line.

Z = 8

 $D_x = 1.190 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo *K* $\alpha$  radiation

 $\mu = 0.08 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 292 (2) K

 $R_{\rm int}=0.063$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 28.3^{\circ}$ 

Block, colorless  $0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}$ 

40947 measured reflections

5130 independent reflections

3292 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

Crystal data

$C_{23}H_{27}N_3O_2$
$M_r = 377.48$
Orthorhombic, Pbca
a = 8.2388 (7)  Å
b = 19.9018 (17) Å
c = 25.697 (2) Å
V = 4213.4 (6) Å <sup>3</sup>

#### Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Sheldrick, 2003)  $T_{\min} = 0.977, T_{\max} = 0.992$ 

### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	H-atom parameters constrained		
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.059$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F_0^2) + (0.0891P)^2]$		
$wR(F^2) = 0.164$	where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$		
S = 1.02	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$		
5130 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.22 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$		
285 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.28 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$		

### Table 1

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
$\begin{array}{c} C8-H8\cdots O2^{i}\\ C6-H6\cdots N1\\ C1-H1A\cdots O1^{ii} \end{array}$	0.93	2.48	3.361 (2)	159
	0.93	2.43	3.074 (2)	126
	0.96	2.55	3.493 (3)	168

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

The C21/C22/C23 fragment (and attached H atoms) is disordered over two positions in a 0.677 (5):0.323 (5) population ratio (sum



Figure 2

Packing diagram of (I), showing the  $C-H\cdots O$  associations (dashed lines). H atoms not involved in these interactions have been omitted.

constrained to unity). H atoms were placed at calculated positions (C-H = 0.93-0.98 Å) and refined as riding, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$  or  $1.5U_{eq}$ (methyl C).

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: *PLATON* (Spek, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2001).

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