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## Key indicators

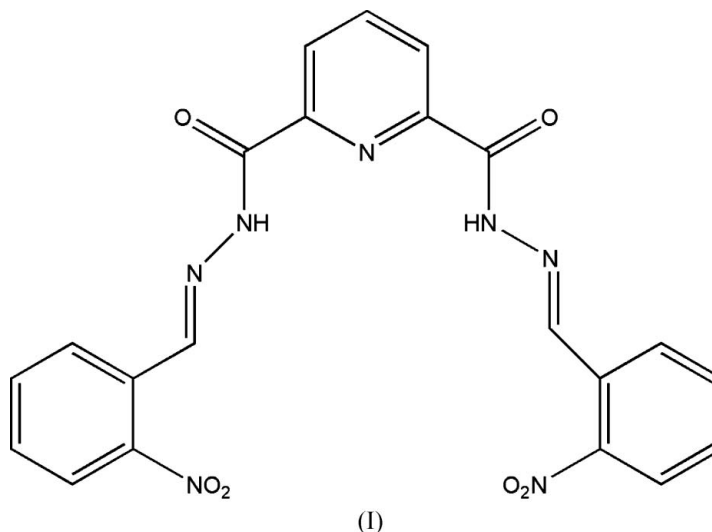
Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 292$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$  Å  
Disorder in main residue  
 $R$  factor = 0.056  
 $wR$  factor = 0.132  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.9For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.2,2'-Bis(2-nitrobenzylidene)pyridine-  
2,6-dicarbohydrazide

The title molecule,  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_7\text{O}_6$ , has crystallographic twofold symmetry. In the crystal structure, intermolecular  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds [ $\text{H}\cdots\text{O} = 2.125(17)$  Å] link the molecules, forming one-dimensional chains along [001].

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## Comment

Tridentate ligands containing the 2,6-dipicolinoylhydrazone group have been intensively studied due to their interesting coordination modes (Chen *et al.*, 1997; Thompson, 2002; Zhao *et al.*, 2004). We report here the synthesis and crystal structure of a new tridentate ligand, (I).

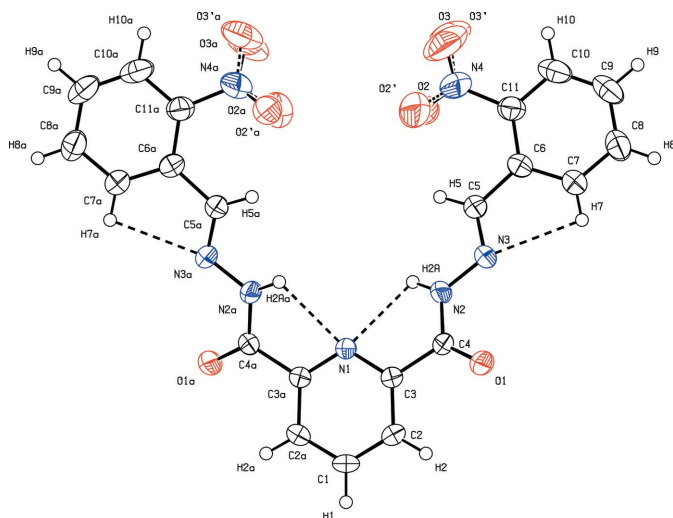


The molecule of (I) (Fig. 1) has crystallographic twofold symmetry. The dihedral angle between the planes formed by the pyridine and nitrobenzene rings is  $10.88(1)^\circ$ .

In the crystal structure, intermolecular  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds link the molecules, forming one-dimensional chains running parallel to the  $c$  axis. These chains are further reinforced by weak intermolecular  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds (Fig. 2 and Table 1).

## Experimental

To a solution of 2-nitrobenzaldehyde (1.66 g, 11 mmol) in absolute ethanol (40 ml), a suspension of 2,6-dipicolinoylhydrazone in the same solvent (50 ml) was added at 323 K. The mixture was refluxed for 6 h. The product, as yellow needles, was then filtered off, washed with hot ethanol (20 ml portion) three times, and dried *in vacuo*. Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained from a solution of (I) in dimethylformamide:methanol (3:1  $v/v$ ) over a period of about three weeks.

**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of (I), showing 30% probability displacement ellipsoids. The dashed lines indicate intramolecular hydrogen bonds or, with respect to the N–O bonds in the nitro groups, they indicate the minor component of disorder. Atoms labelled with suffix 'a' are related by the symmetry operator  $(-x, y, -z - \frac{1}{2})$ .

**Crystal data**

$C_{21}H_{15}N_7O_6$   
 $M_r = 461.40$   
 Monoclinic,  $C2/c$   
 $a = 19.889$  (3) Å  
 $b = 12.5106$  (17) Å  
 $c = 8.3010$  (11) Å  
 $\beta = 92.861$  (3)°  
 $V = 2062.9$  (5) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$   
 $D_x = 1.486$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 0.11$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 292$  (2) K  
 Needle, yellow  
 $0.20 \times 0.10 \times 0.06$  mm

**Data collection**

Bruker SMART APEX CCD  
 diffractometer  
 $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: none  
 9263 measured reflections

2454 independent reflections  
 1578 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{int} = 0.129$   
 $\theta_{max} = 28.0^\circ$

**Refinement**

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.056$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.133$   
 $S = 0.92$   
 2454 reflections  
 177 parameters

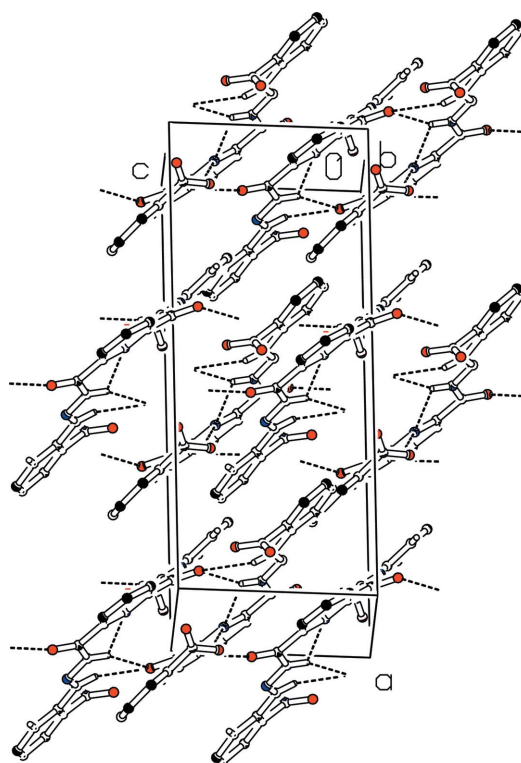
H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0515P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.31$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.31$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$C5-H5\cdots O2$	0.93	2.26	2.839 (3)	120
$C5-H5\cdots O1^i$	0.93	2.49	3.199 (2)	134
$N2-H2A\cdots O1^i$	0.893 (17)	2.125 (17)	2.9612 (19)	155.8 (15)
$N2-H2A\cdots N1$	0.893 (17)	2.322 (17)	2.6690 (15)	103.0 (12)
$C7-H7\cdots N3$	0.93	2.49	2.801 (2)	100

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

**Figure 2**

Partial packing plot of (I), with dashed lines indicating hydrogen bonds.

Initially all H atoms were visible in the difference map, but H atoms bonded to C atoms were subsequently placed in calculated positions with  $C-H = 0.93$  Å and included in the riding-model approximation, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ . The positional parameters of the H atom bonded to N2 were refined freely, with  $U_{iso} = 1.2U_{eq}(N)$ . The O atoms of the nitro group were refined freely with the sum of the occupancies restrained to be 1. The occupancy of the major component is 0.67 and the minor 0.33.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: *SAINT-Plus* (Bruker, 2001); data reduction: *SAINT-Plus*; 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: *PLATON*.

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