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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.005 Å R factor = 0.062 wR factor = 0.153 Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.8

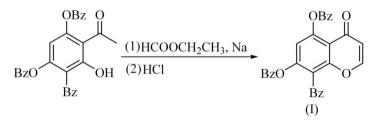
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e. In the title compound,  $C_{30}H_{24}O_4$ , the chromone system is essentially planar. There are intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$  and  $C-H\cdots \pi$  interactions in the crystal structure.

8-Benzyl-5,7-bis(benzyloxy)-4H-benzopyran-4-one

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## Comment

5,7-Dihydroxychromone, which is a germination and growth inhibitor (Spencer & Tjarks, 1985), is a flavanoid decomposition product that has been found as a constituent in certain plant extracts (Pendse *et al.*, 1973). In the process of its preparation, we obtained the intermediate (I). As part of this study, we have undertaken the X-ray crystallographic analysis of (I) in order to elucidate the conformation and configuration of this intermediate (Fig. 1 and Table 1).



The geometrical parameters of the chromone system in (I) are comparable to those of the related structures reported earlier (*e.g.* Hao *et al.*, 2006). The chromone system is essentially planar. The benzyl group attached at atom O3 is almost coplanar with the chromone system, with a dihedral angle of 7.4 (3)°, while the other benzyl groups, at atoms O4 and C8, are twisted away from it, with dihedral angles of 79.7 (3) and 71.8 (3)°, respectively.

In the crystal structure, the molecular packing is stabilized by intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$  and  $C-H\cdots \pi$  interactions (Table 2) involving the aromatic rings.

## **Experimental**

A mixture of 5-benzyl-2,4-bis(benzyloxy)-6-hydroxyacetophenone (3.9 g) and sodium (0.9 g) in ethyl formate (15 ml) was stirred at 263 K for 6 h. After addition of methanol (5 ml) and ice-water (30 ml), the mixture was acidified with acetic acid. The excess of ethyl formate was removed by a current of air. The mixture was filtered and the solid was dissolved in ethanol. After the solution was acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid, (I) was isolated by column chromatography of the residue after evaporation of the solvent on silica gel, using  $CH_2Cl_2$  as eluent. Single crystals of (I) were obtained by slow evaporation of a petroleum ether-CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1:1  $\nu/\nu$ ) solution (yield 65%).

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#### Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{30}H_{24}O_4 \\ M_r = 448.49 \\ \text{Monoclinic, } P_{2_1}/c \\ a = 9.723 \ (2) \ \text{\AA} \\ b = 9.746 \ (2) \ \text{\AA} \\ c = 24.698 \ (5) \ \text{\AA} \\ \beta = 95.15 \ (3)^\circ \\ V = 2330.9 \ (8) \ \text{\AA}^3 \end{array}$ 

#### Data collection

Enraf–Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer  $\omega/2\theta$  scans Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (XCAD4; Harms & Wocadlo, 1995)  $T_{\rm min} = 0.959, T_{\rm max} = 0.983$ 4828 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.062$   $wR(F^2) = 0.153$  S = 1.004549 reflections 308 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

**Table 1** Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

с I			
O2-C3 O3-C5	1.229 (4) 1.355 (3)	O4-C7	1.358 (3)
C1-O1-C9 C5-O3-C10	118.3 (3) 119.8 (2)	C7-O4-C17	118.7 (2)
O3-C10-C11-C12 O4-C17-C18-C19	-0.4 (4) 90.5 (3)	C8-C24-C25-C26	-104.8 (3)

#### Table 2

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
$C19-H19\cdots O2^{i}$	0.93	2.63	3.453 (3)	148
$C20-H20\cdots O2^{ii}$	0.93	2.61	3.250 (3)	127
$C2-H2\cdots CgA^{iii}$	0.93	2.99	3.545 (4)	120
$C17 - H17A \cdots CgB^{iv}$	0.97	2.95	3.430 (3)	112

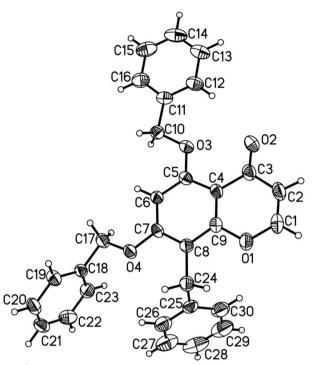
Symmetry codes: (i) -x + 1, -y, -z; (ii) x + 1, y - 1, z; (iii) -x + 1,  $y + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-z + \frac{1}{2}$ ; (iv) -x + 2, -y, -z. *CgA* and *CgB* denote the centroids of aromatic rings C25–C30 and C18–C23, respectively.

H atoms were positioned geometrically and refined as riding on their parent C atoms, with C-H distances constrained to 0.93

Z = 4  $D_x$  = 1.278 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> Mo K $\alpha$  radiation  $\mu$  = 0.08 mm<sup>-1</sup> T = 293 (2) K Block, colourless 0.35 × 0.32 × 0.21 mm

4549 independent reflections 2228 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{int} = 0.078$  $\theta_{max} = 26.0^{\circ}$ 3 standard reflections every 200 reflections intensity decay: none

$$\begin{split} &w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.052P)^2 \\ &+ 0.32P] \\ &where \ P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3 \\ (\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001 \\ \Delta\rho_{max} = 0.17 \ e^{\ A^{-3}} \\ \Delta\rho_{min} = -0.18 \ e^{\ A^{-3}} \\ Extinction \ correction: \ SHELXTL \\ Extinction \ coefficient: \ 0.0250 \ (15) \end{split}$$





The structure of (I), showing 30% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

(aromatic CH) or 0.97 Å (methylene CH<sub>2</sub>), and with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}$ (carrier C).

Data collection: *CAD-4 Software* (Enraf–Nonius, 1989); cell refinement: *CAD-4 Software*; data reduction: *XCAD4* (Harms & Wocadlo, 1995); 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* and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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