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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 298 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.003 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.056 wR factor = 0.187 Data-to-parameter ratio = 17.9

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

# (*E*)-Dimethyl 4-butylamino-5-(4-methylstyryl)furan-2,3-dicarboxylate

The title compound,  $C_{21}H_{25}NO_5$ , was synthesized *via* a thiazole carbene-mediated multicomponent reaction. Without  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking or other weak intermolecular interactions, the crystal packing is controlled by van der Waals forces.

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# Comment

Substituted furans play an important role in organic chemistry, not only as key structural units in many natural products and important pharmaceuticals (Dean, 1963; Nakanishi *et al.*, 1974), but also as useful building blocks in synthetic chemistry (Lipshutz, 1986; Raczko & Jurcak, 1995). Recently, we reported a facile synthesis of polysubstituted 3-aminofurans *via* a thiazole carbene-mediated multicomponent reaction (Ma *et al.*, 2005). In this paper, we report the crystal structure of a compound belonging to this class of heterocycles, (I).



Fig. 1 shows the structure of (I). There are no obvious  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking or other weak intermolecular interactions in (I), and the crystal packing is controlled by van der Waals forces.

# **Experimental**

To a suspension of NaH (1.2 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 ml), a solution of 3-butyl-4-methylthiazolium bromide (1.0 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 ml) was added at 195 K under nitrogen. After 10-15 min, a mixture of 4-methylcinnamaldehyde (0.5 mmol) and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (0.75 mmol) in CH2Cl2 (2 ml) was added over a period of 10 min, and the mixture was stirred at this temperature for 2 h. Afterwards, the reaction temperature was raised slowly to 273 K within 1 h, and kept at 273 K for an additional 5 h. The resulting mixture was carefully poured in to an ice-cooled aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and then extracted with CH2Cl2 (10 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting oil was purified by column chromatography [on Merck silica gel Kieselgel 60 (300-400 mesh) with a hexane-ethyl acetate mixture (2:1)] to afford the product, (I) (65 mg, yield 35%). Compound (I) was recrystallized from EtOAc as orange crystals (m.p. 391–392 K).

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### Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{21}H_{25}NO_5\\ M_r = 371.42\\ Triclinic, P\overline{1}\\ a = 5.446 \ (3) \ \mathring{A}\\ b = 10.454 \ (7) \ \mathring{A}\\ c = 18.386 \ (12) \ \mathring{A}\\ \alpha = 77.94 \ (3)^{\circ}\\ \beta = 88.97 \ (2)^{\circ}\\ \gamma = 78.68 \ (2)^{\circ} \end{array}$ 

#### Data collection

Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer ω scans Absorption correction: none 9965 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.056$   $wR(F^2) = 0.187$  S = 1.074536 reflections 253 parameters H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  $V = 1003.5 (11) Å^{3}$  Z = 2  $D_{x} = 1.229 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo K\alpha radiation  $\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$  T = 298 (2) KPrism, orange  $0.4 \times 0.35 \times 0.12 \text{ mm}$ 

4536 independent reflections 2368 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.033$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^{\circ}$ 

 $w = 1/[\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2}) + (0.0923P)^{2}]$ where  $P = (F_{o}^{2} + 2F_{c}^{2})/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$  $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.22 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$  $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.25 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997) Extinction coefficient: 0.014 (4)

Atom H1, attached to N1, was found in a difference Fourier map and refined freely. The methyl H atoms were constrained to an ideal geometry [C-H = 0.96 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5U_{eq}(C)$ ] and were allowed to rotate freely about the C-C bonds. The H atoms of the methylene groups and of the aromatic ring were placed in calculated positions, with C-H distances of 0.97 and 0.93 Å, respectively, and were included in the final cycles of the least-squares refinement as riding on their carrier atoms, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ .

Data collection: *PROCESS-AUTO* (Rigaku, 1998); cell refinement: *PROCESS-AUTO*; data reduction: *CrystalStructure* (Rigaku/ MSC, 2004); program(s) used to solve structure: *SIR97* (Altomare *et al.*, 1999); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3 for Windows* (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *WinGX* (Farrugia, 1999).



#### Figure 1

The molecular structure of compound (I). Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

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