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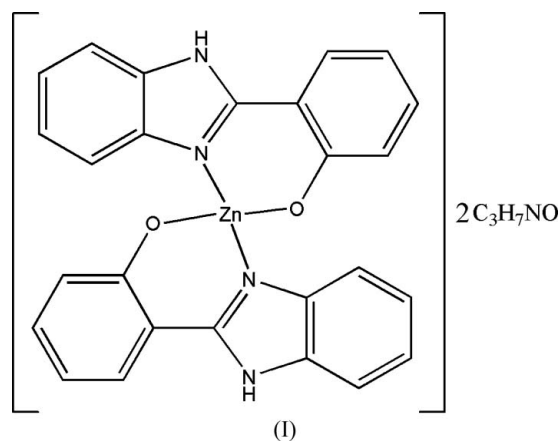
## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 293$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.029  
 $wR$  factor = 0.069  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 18.1For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.Bis[2-(2-oxidophenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole- $\kappa^2\text{N}^3,\text{O}$ ]zinc(II) dimethylformamide disolvateIn the title compound,  $[\text{Zn}(\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O})_2] \cdot 2\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}$ , the  $\text{Zn}^{\text{II}}$  ion is located on a twofold axis and chelated by two 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole ligands with a distorted tetrahedral geometry.

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## Comment

2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole (Hbzim) complexes have shown potential applications in the fabrication of organic electroluminescent devices. Several complexes incorporating Hbzim have been reported previously (Tong & Li, 2004; Tong *et al.*, 2005; Bu *et al.*, 2005; Xi *et al.*, 2005). Recently, we prepared the new title complex, (I), with the Hbzim ligand, and determined its crystal structure.

The molecular structure of (I) is shown in Fig. 1. The  $\text{Zn}^{\text{II}}$  ion is located on a twofold axis and is chelated by two planar, deprotonated 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole ligands in a distorted tetrahedral coordination geometry. The dihedral angle between the two ligand planes is  $80.0(2)^\circ$ . The bond angles at Zn1 range from  $94.48(5)$  to  $125.70(7)^\circ$ , indicating considerable distortion from a normal tetrahedron (Table 1).

The solvent dimethylformamide (DMF) molecules link with the complex *via*  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonding (Fig. 1 and Table 2).

## Experimental

2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole was synthesized according to the procedure reported by Addison & Burke (1981). An ethanol solution (15 ml) of zinc acetate dihydrate (0.11 g, 0.5 mmol), 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzimidazole (0.21 g, 1 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (0.04 g, 1 mmol) was refluxed for 2 h. The resulting white precipitate was filtered off, dried and then dissolved in DMF. Colorless single crystals of (I) were obtained after one month.

Crystal data

[Zn(C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>·2C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 630.01  
 Orthorhombic, *Pbcn*  
*a* = 15.4137 (11) Å  
*b* = 8.7799 (6) Å  
*c* = 22.0554 (15) Å  
*V* = 2984.8 (4) Å<sup>3</sup>

*Z* = 4  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.402 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo *K*α radiation  
 $\mu$  = 0.87 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 293 (2) K  
 Block, colorless  
 0.33 × 0.23 × 0.21 mm

Data collection

Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID  
 diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan  
 (ABSCOR; Higashi, 1995)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.762, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.838

17219 measured reflections  
 3562 independent reflections  
 2229 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.048  
 $\theta_{max}$  = 28.3°

Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R* [*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.029  
*wR* (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.069  
*S* = 1.00  
 3562 reflections  
 197 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0281P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 ( $\Delta/\sigma$ )<sub>max</sub> = 0.001  
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.19 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.45 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$

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

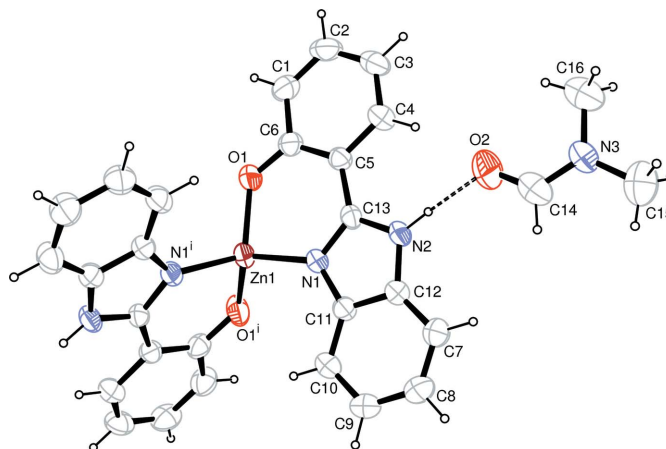
Zn1—O1	1.9171 (11)	Zn1—N1	1.9721 (12)
O1—Zn1—O1 <sup>i</sup>	125.70 (7)	O1—Zn1—N1	94.48 (5)
O1—Zn1—N1 <sup>i</sup>	111.15 (5)	N1 <sup>i</sup> —Zn1—N1	122.52 (7)

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

**Table 2**  
 Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

<i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H	H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> ··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i>
N2—H2N···O2	0.86	1.94	2.7729 (18)	162

Methyl H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C—H = 0.96 Å, and torsion angles were refined to fit the electron density, with *U<sub>iso</sub>*(H) = 1.5*U<sub>eq</sub>*(C). Other H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C—H = 0.93 Å and N—H = 0.86 Å, and refined in riding mode, with *U<sub>iso</sub>*(H) = 1.2*U<sub>eq</sub>*(C,N).



**Figure 1**  
 The molecular structure of (I) shown with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids (arbitrary spheres for H atoms) [symmetry code: (i)  $-x, y, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ ]. The dashed line indicates the hydrogen bond.

Data collection: *PROCESS-AUTO* (Rigaku, 1998); cell refinement: *PROCESS-AUTO*; data reduction: *CrystalStructure* (Rigaku/MSK, 2002); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL-Plus* (Sheldrick, 1990); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL-Plus*.

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