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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 123 KMean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.003 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.034 wR factor = 0.088 Data-to-parameter ratio = 10.7

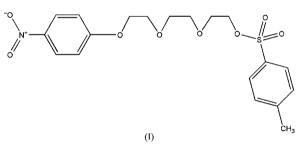
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

# 2-{2-[2-(4-Nitrophenoxy)ethoxy]ethoxy}ethyl toluene-4-sulfonate

The title compound,  $C_{19}H_{23}NO_8S$ , an important asymmetric alkylating agent, contains a polyether linkage and two substituted benzene rings, which make a dihedral angle of 79.95 (7)°. In the crystal structure, there are  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen bonds.

#### Comment

Acyclic polyethers bearing functionalized terminal groups have received considerable attention because of their binding abilities with alkali metal ions (Hayashita & Takagi, 1996). In particular, the tosylates of oligoethylene glycols are significant alkylating agents for constructing receptors such as crown ethers and related structures in supramolecular chemistry (Saadioui *et al.*, 1997). We report here the structure of an asymmetric derivative, (I), of triethylene glycol, in which nitrophenyl and tosyl groups are attached to the ends of the polyether chain.



The title compound, (I), contains a triethylene glycol bridge and two substituted benzene rings (Fig. 1). The nitro-substituted benzene ring and tosyl group are linked to the polyether chain; the benzene rings form a dihedral angle of 79.95 (7)°. The whole molecule looks like a hook or a spoon. In the crystal structure of (I), there are intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$ hydrogen bonds (Table 1 and Fig. 2). Other dimensions are as expected.

# **Experimental**

To a mixture of 2-{2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)ethoxy]ethoxy]ethoxy}ethanol (2.17 g, 8 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (0.48 g, 12 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF, 10 ml) together with water (2 ml) cooled in an icewater bath, was added dropwise a solution of *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (1.72 g, 9 mmol) in THF (10 ml). The resulting mixture was stirred at 273 K for 6 h under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, and diluted with ethyl acetate (5 ml) and water (5 ml). The organic layer was separated and washed with 5% HCl, saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure gave the product (I) as a transparent oil in 95% yield. Single crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by evaporation of a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution at 273 K.

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#### Crystal data

 $C_{19}H_{23}NO_8S$   $M_r = 425.44$ Monoclinic, *Cc a* = 11.515 (2) Å *b* = 11.765 (2) Å *c* = 14.883 (3) Å *β* = 97.117 (3)° *V* = 2000.7 (6) Å<sup>3</sup>

### Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: multi-scan (*SADABS*; Bruker, 1999)  $T_{\min} = 0.883, T_{\max} = 0.940$ 

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.034$   $wR(F^2) = 0.088$  S = 1.062808 reflections 263 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

Table 1	
Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å,	°).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
$C5-H5\cdots O3^i$	0.95	2.45	3.271 (3)	145
$C7 - H7A \cdots O8^{ii}$	0.99	2.35	3.261 (3)	152
$C10-H10A\cdots O6^{i}$	0.99	2.42	3.400 (3)	173
C17-H17···O5 <sup>iii</sup>	0.95	2.46	3.401 (3)	169
$C19-H19A\cdots O2^{iv}$	0.98	2.59	3.567 (4)	176
-				

Z = 4

 $D_x = 1.412 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

Block, colourless

 $0.55 \times 0.43 \times 0.30$  mm

5051 measured reflections

2808 independent reflections

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0551P)^2]$ 

Absolute structure: Flack (1983),

+ 0.3667*P*] where  $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.23 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

952 Friedel Pairs Flack parameter: 0.09 (7)

 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.28 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

2739 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

 $\mu = 0.21 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 123 (2) K

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.035$ 

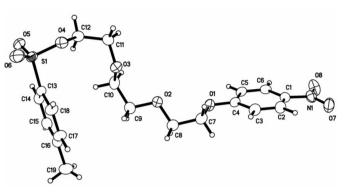
 $\theta_{\rm max} = 25.5^{\circ}$ 

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x + \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (ii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y + \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (iii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (iv)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{3}{2}, z - \frac{1}{2}$ .

Methyl H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C–H = 0.98 Å and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5U_{eq}(C)$ . Other H atoms were placed in calculated positions with C–H = 0.95 (aromatic) and 0.99 Å (methylene), and refined in riding mode, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ .

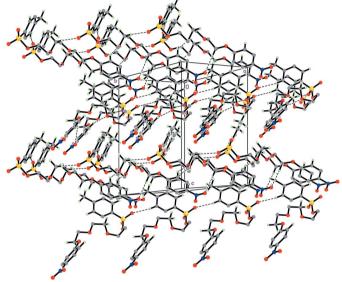
Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1999); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 1999); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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#### Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I). Displacement ellipsoids for non-H atoms are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.



# Figure 2

A view of the packing of (I), showing the  $C-H \cdots O$  contacts (dashed lines). H atoms not involved in hydrogen bonding have been omitted.

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