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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 291$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.005$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.061  
 $wR$  factor = 0.109  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.7For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

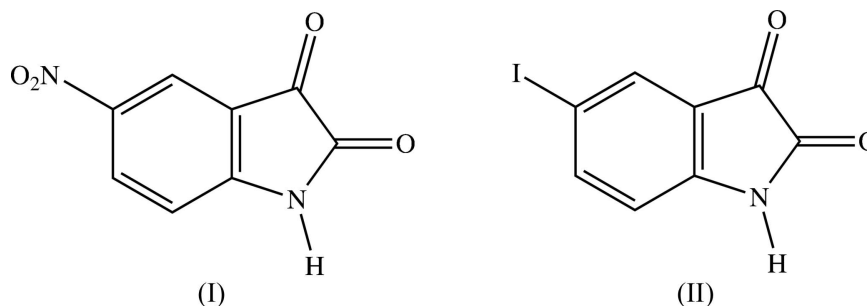
## A hydrogen-bonded chain of edge-fused rings in 5-nitroisatin

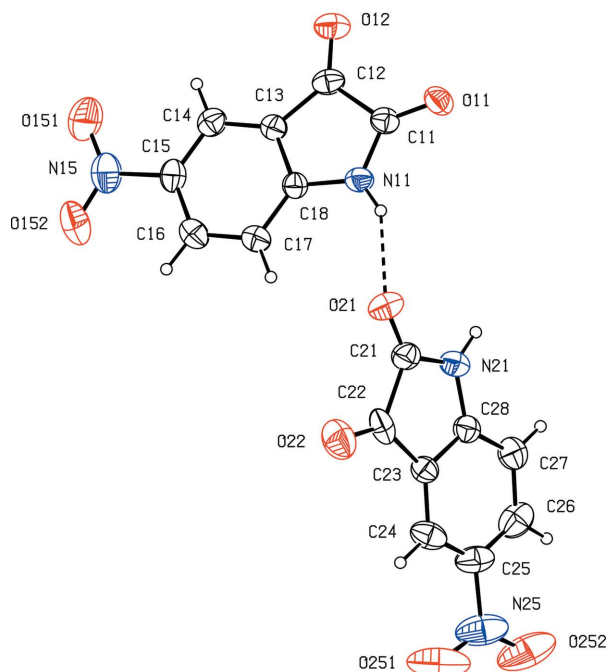
The title compound,  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ , crystallizes with  $Z' = 2$ . The molecules are linked by a combination of  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds into chains of edge-fused  $R_4^4(16)$  and  $R_4^4(26)$  rings.

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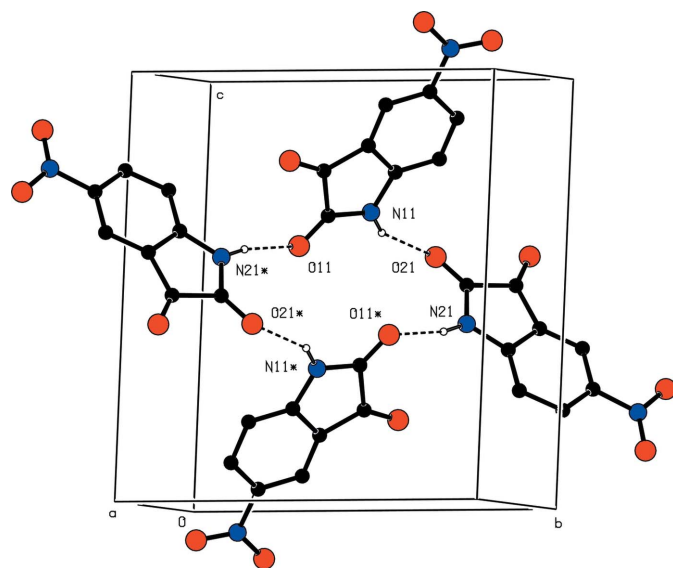
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## Comment

We report here the molecular and supramolecular structure of 5-nitroisatin (I), whose behaviour is briefly compared with that of 5-iodoisatin (II), which we reported recently (Garden *et al.*, 2006).Compound (I) crystallizes with  $Z' = 2$  in the space group  $P\bar{1}$  (Fig. 1), and the two molecules have very similar dimensions. Both exhibit long bonds, C11—C12 and C21—C22, between the two carbonyl groups (Table 1), as typically found in isatins (Palenik *et al.*, 1990; Garden *et al.*, 2006), while the dihedral angles between the nitro groups and the adjacent aryl rings are  $10.4(2)^\circ$  in molecule 1 and  $7.4(2)^\circ$  in molecule 2.The molecules are linked into chains of edge-fused rings by a combination of  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds (Table 2). The  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds link groups of four molecules, two of each type, into centrosymmetric  $R_4^4(16)$  rings (Bernstein *et al.*, 1995) (Fig. 2), and these tetramolecular aggregates are linked by a single  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bond into a chain of edge-fused rings along  $[001]$ , with  $R_4^4(16)$  rings centred at  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2})$  ( $n = \text{zero or integer}$ ) alternating with  $R_4^4(26)$  rings centred at  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, n)$  ( $n = \text{zero or integer}$ ) (Fig. 3).These chain of rings are weakly linked by a sheared, parallel (type III, Allen *et al.*, 1998) carbonyl—carbonyl interaction. Atom O11 in the molecule at  $(x, y, z)$ , which lies in the chain along  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, z)$ , makes a short dipolar contact with atom C22 in the molecule at  $(-x, 1 - y, 1 - z)$ , which is part of the chain along  $(0, \frac{1}{2}, z)$ ; the key dimensions are  $\text{O11}\cdots\text{C22}^i = 2.835(4)$  Å,  $\text{O11}\cdots\text{O22}^i = 3.266(3)$  Å,  $\text{C11}-\text{O11}\cdots\text{C22}^i = 145.8(2)^\circ$  and  $\text{C11}-\text{O11}\cdots\text{O22}^i = 163.9(2)^\circ$  [symmetry code: (i)  $-x, 1 - y, 1 - z$ ]. Propagation by inversion of this interaction links the chains into sheets parallel to  $(010)$ .

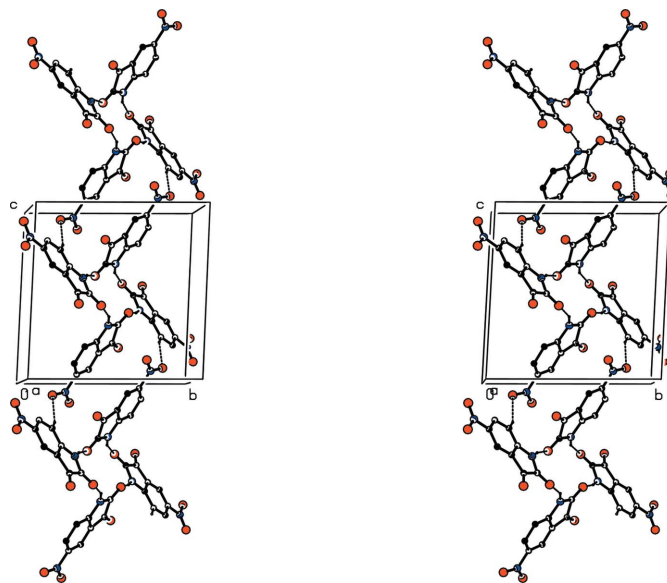
**Figure 1**

The two independent molecules of compound (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme and the hydrogen-bond (dashed line) within the selected asymmetric unit. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level.

**Figure 2**

Part of the crystal structure of compound (I), showing the formation of a centrosymmetric tetramolecular aggregate built from N—H...O hydrogen bonds. For the sake of clarity, H atoms bonded to C atoms have been omitted. Atoms marked with an asterisk (\*) are at the symmetry position (1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z), and hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines

In 5-iodoisatin, (II), by contrast, which crystallizes with  $Z' = 1$ , the molecules are linked by a combination of one N—H...O hydrogen bond, one C—H...O hydrogen bond and one iodo-carbonyl interaction into sheets containing alternating

**Figure 3**

A stereoscopic view of part of the crystal structure of compound (I), showing the formation of a chain of edge-fused  $R_4^1(16)$  and  $R_4^1(26)$  rings along [001]. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines, and for the sake of clarity, H atoms not involved in the motifs shown have been omitted.

columns of  $R_2^2(9)$  and  $R_4^3(16)$  rings, while in isatin itself, the molecules are linked by paired N—H...O hydrogen bonds into  $R_2^2(8)$  dimers which are themselves linked into sheets by aromatic  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions (Garden *et al.*, 2006).

## Experimental

A commercial sample (Aldrich) of 5-nitroisatin was recrystallized from ethanol.

### Crystal data

$C_8H_4N_2O_4$   
 $M_r = 192.13$   
 Triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$   
 $a = 5.5595$  (6) Å  
 $b = 12.0772$  (13) Å  
 $c = 12.2795$  (14) Å  
 $\alpha = 87.322$  (3)°  
 $\beta = 87.355$  (3)°  
 $\gamma = 83.049$  (3)°

$V = 816.85$  (16) Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 4$   
 $D_x = 1.562$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 0.13$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 291$  (2) K  
 Thick plate, colourless  
 $0.28 \times 0.12 \times 0.07$  mm

### Data collection

Bruker SMART 1000 CCD area-detector diffractometer  
 $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2000)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.954$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.991$

6130 measured reflections  
 4096 independent reflections  
 1331 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.040$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 28.5^\circ$

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.061$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.109$   
 $S = 1.00$   
 4096 reflections  
 253 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0209P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.47$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.17$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

C11—C12	1.558 (4)	C21—C22	1.552 (4)
C14—C15—N15—O151	−11.5 (5)	C24—C25—N25—O251	8.0 (6)
C14—C15—N15—O152	169.8 (3)	C24—C25—N25—O252	−173.5 (4)

**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>
N11—H11...O21	0.86	2.11	2.888 (3)	151
N21—H21...O11 <sup>i</sup>	0.86	2.03	2.875 (3)	168
C27—H27...O152 <sup>ii</sup>	0.93	2.43	3.272 (4)	151

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z - 1$ .

All H atoms were located in difference maps and then treated as riding atoms, with C—H = 0.93 Å, N—H = 0.86 Å and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}, \text{N})$ .

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINT*; 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: *SHELXL97* and *PRPKAPPA* (Ferguson, 1999).

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