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**Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 T = 298 K  
 Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004 \text{ \AA}$   
 Disorder in main residue  
 R factor = 0.038  
 wR factor = 0.117  
 Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.7

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

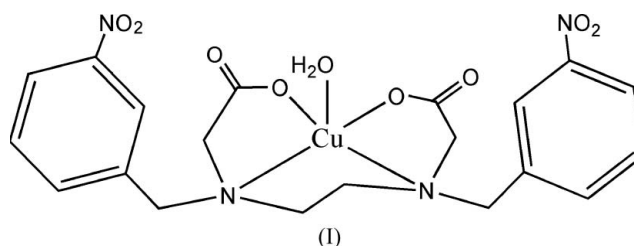
**Aqua(*N,N'*-ethane-1,2-diylbis[*N*-[(3-nitro-  
 phenyl)methyl]glycinato})copper(II)**

In the title complex,  $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8)(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$ , the Cu atom has a distorted trigonal–bipyramidal coordination environment defined by an  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  donor set; the Cu and water O atoms lie on a twofold axis. In the crystal structure, extensive hydrogen bonding links molecules into a two-dimensional network.

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**Comment**

Previously we have synthesized and characterized the title complex, (I) (Xu *et al.*, 2004). In (I) (Fig. 1), the Cu ion is five-coordinated by two secondary amine N ( $\text{N}2$  and  $\text{N}2^i$ ) and two carboxylate O atoms ( $\text{O}4$  and  $\text{O}4^i$ ) atoms (symmetry code in Table 1), all derived from the tetradentate *N,N'*-ethane-1,2-diylbis[*N*-[(3-nitrophenyl)methyl]glycinate ligand, and by an O atom ( $\text{O}5$ ) from a coordinated water molecule. Complex (I) has crystallographic twofold symmetry with atoms Cu and  $\text{O}5$  lying on a twofold axis. The coordination geometry is distorted trigonal–bipyramidal and selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 1.



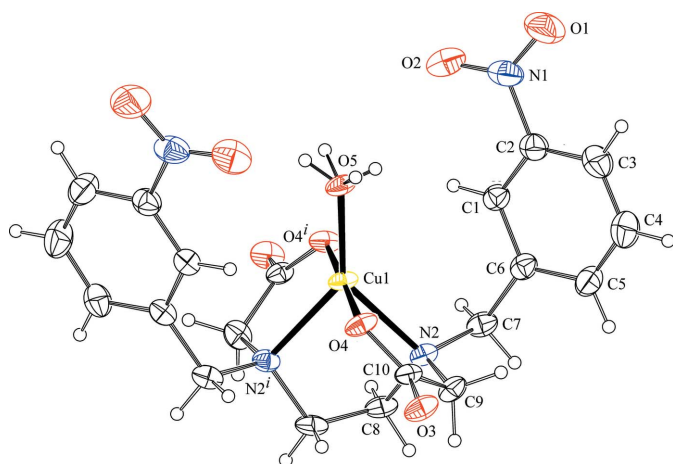
In the crystal structure (Fig. 2), a variety of C–H···O and O–H···O hydrogen bonds (Table 2) consolidate the crystal packing into a two-dimensional array.

**Experimental**

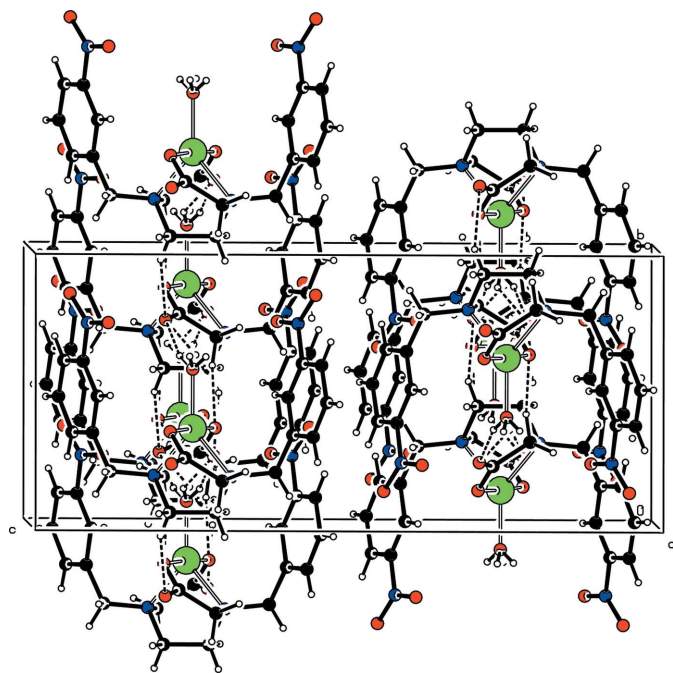
Complex (I) was synthesized according to a literature method (Xu *et al.*, 2004). Crystals were obtained by slow evaporation (two weeks) of a methanol solution.

*Crystal data*

$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8)(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	$Z = 4$
$M_r = 525.96$	$D_x = 1.610 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Monoclinic, $C2/c$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$a = 11.5227 (11) \text{ \AA}$	$\mu = 1.07 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$b = 9.1244 (9) \text{ \AA}$	$T = 298 (2) \text{ K}$
$c = 20.782 (2) \text{ \AA}$	Prism, blue
$\beta = 96.757 (2)^\circ$	$0.23 \times 0.20 \times 0.20 \text{ mm}$
$V = 2169.8 (4) \text{ \AA}^3$	



**Figure 1**  
The molecular structure of (I), showing 30% probability displacement ellipsoids. Both positions of the disordered water H atoms are shown. [Symmetry code: (i)  $1 - x, y, \frac{3}{2} - z$ .]



**Figure 2**  
Packing diagram for (I), viewed approximately down the  $c$  axis. Dashed lines denote hydrogen bonds.

#### Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer	7022 measured reflections
$\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans	2360 independent reflections
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 2001)	2090 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
$T_{\min} = 0.769, T_{\max} = 0.850$	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.027$
	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.0^\circ$

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.038$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.117$   
 $S = 1.13$   
 2360 reflections  
 161 parameters  
 H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement

$$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0705P)^2 + 0.483P]$$

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.43 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.35 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}, ^\circ$ ).

Cu1—O4	1.9253 (16)	Cu1—N2	2.1601 (18)
Cu1—O5	1.956 (2)		
O4 <sup>i</sup> —Cu1—O4	176.97 (9)	O5—Cu1—N2 <sup>i</sup>	136.95 (5)
O4 <sup>i</sup> —Cu1—O5	91.51 (4)	O4 <sup>i</sup> —Cu1—N2	94.14 (7)
O4—Cu1—O5	91.52 (4)	O4—Cu1—N2	83.64 (7)
O4 <sup>i</sup> —Cu1—N2 <sup>i</sup>	83.64 (7)	O5—Cu1—N2	136.95 (5)
O4—Cu1—N2 <sup>i</sup>	94.14 (7)	N2 <sup>i</sup> —Cu1—N2	86.09 (10)

Symmetry code: (i)  $-x + 1, y, -z + \frac{3}{2}$ .

**Table 2**

Hydrogen-bond geometry ( $\text{\AA}, ^\circ$ ).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
C8—H8A $\cdots$ O3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.97	2.54	3.457 (3)	157
C9—H9B $\cdots$ O4 <sup>ii</sup>	0.97	2.54	3.443 (3)	155
O5—H5C $\cdots$ O3 <sup>iii</sup>	0.818 (10)	1.91 (3)	2.696 (2)	161 (7)
O5—H5C $\cdots$ O3 <sup>iii</sup>	0.818 (10)	1.91 (3)	2.696 (2)	161 (7)

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

Water H atoms were modeled as disordered over two sites with fixed occupancies of 0.5 and refined so that  $O-H = 0.818$  (10)  $\text{\AA}$  and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{O})$ . The remaining H atoms were included in the riding-model approximation, with  $C-H = 0.93\text{--}0.97$   $\text{\AA}$  and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ .

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: SAINT-Plus (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: SAINT-Plus; 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: PLATON.

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