# organic papers

Acta Crystallographica Section E Structure Reports Online

ISSN 1600-5368

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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 294 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.043 wR factor = 0.119 Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.1

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

# 2-[2-(2,4-Dinitrophenoxy)ethoxy]-3-methoxybenzaldehyde

In the title compound,  $C_{16}H_{14}N_2O_8$ , the *o*-vanillin group makes a dihedral angle of 15.75 (8)° with the dinitrobenzene ring. The crystal structure is stabilized by weak non-classical intermolecular C-H···O=N hydrogen-bonding interactions, forming one-dimensional extended chains.

Received 16 October 2006 Accepted 31 October 2006

## Comment

There has been a steady growth of interest in the structure and reactivity of Schiff bases due to their potential biological activities, such as antibacterial and antitumour properties (Klayman *et al.*, 1979). As part of our interest in the coordination properties of Schiff bases functioning as ligands, we have investigated the title compound, (I), which is used as a precursor in the preparation of Schiff bases.



In the title molecule (Fig. 1), bond lengths and angles are within normal ranges (Allen *et al.*, 1987). The *o*-vanillin group (atoms C2–C8/O1/O3) is essentially planar, with an r.m.s. deviation for fitted atoms of 0.0185 Å. This group makes a dihedral angle of 15.75 (8)° with the benzene ring (C11–C16). The two nitro groups and their attached aromatic ring are not coplanar; the dihedral angles between them are 19.40 (15) and 7.91 (16)° for O5/N1/O6 and O7/N2/O8, respectively.

The crystal structure is stabilized by weak non-classical intermolecular  $C-H\cdots O$  N hydrogen-bonding interactions (Table 1), forming one-dimensional extended chains (Fig. 2).

## Experimental

An anhydrous acetonitrile solution (50 ml) of 2-hydroxy-3methoxybenzaldehyde (1.52 g, 10 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution (100 ml) of 1-(2-bromoethoxy)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (2.91 g, 10 mmol) and potassium carbonate (1.38 g, 10 mmol) in acetonitrile over a period of 30 min. The mixture was then refluxed for 24 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. The solvent was removed and the resulting mixture poured into ice–water (100 ml). The yellow precipitate was isolated and recrystallized from acetonitrile, then dried in a vacuum to give the pure compound in 81% yield. Yellow single crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of an acetonitrile solution.

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#### Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{16}H_{14}N_2O_8\\ M_r=362.29\\ Monoclinic, \ P2_1/c\\ a=13.192\ (2)\ \text{\AA}\\ b=8.4397\ (16)\ \text{\AA}\\ c=14.673\ (3)\ \text{\AA}\\ \beta=94.990\ (3)^\circ\\ V=1627.5\ (5)\ \text{\AA}^3 \end{array}$ 

### Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX CCD area-
detector diffractometer
$\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan
(SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)
$T_{\min} = 0.943, T_{\max} = 0.976$

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0557P)^2]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.043$	+ 0.1477P]
$wR(F^2) = 0.119$	where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 1.02	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$
3339 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.22 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
236 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.23 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
H-atom parameters constrained	

Z = 4

 $D_x = 1.479 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

 $0.32 \times 0.24 \times 0.20$  mm

8940 measured reflections3339 independent reflections

2001 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

 $\mu = 0.12 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 294 (2) K

Block, yellow

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.033$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 26.4^\circ$ 

#### Table 1

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
C16-H16···O6 <sup>i</sup>	0.93	2.56	3.378 (3)	147
a	. 3 . 1			

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

H atoms were included in calculated positions and refined using a riding-model approximation. Constrained C–H bond lengths and isotropic  $U_{iso}(H)$  parameters: 0.93 Å and  $1.2U_{eq}(C)$  for  $Csp^2$ , 0.97 Å and  $1.2U_{eq}(C)$  for methylene, and 0.96 Å and  $1.5U_{eq}(C)$  for methyl H atoms.

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

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#### Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), with displacement ellipsoids for non-H atoms drawn at the 30% probability level.



Figure 2 Intermolecular hydrogen-bonding interactions (dashed lines) in (I).

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