Received 12 November 2006 Accepted 21 November 2006

Acta Crystallographica Section E Structure Reports Online

ISSN 1600-5368

# Gui-Qin Shang,<sup>a</sup> Yu-Xing Gao,<sup>b</sup> Xia Gao,<sup>a</sup> Zhi-Hui Yu<sup>a</sup> and Hong Zheng<sup>a</sup>\*

<sup>a</sup>The Key Laboratory of Analytical Sciences, Ministry of Education, Department of Chemistry, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, People's Republic of China, and <sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, The Key Laboratory for Chemical Biology of Fujian Province, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, People's Republic of China

Correspondence e-mail: hzheng@xmu.edu.cn

#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 223 KMean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.048 wR factor = 0.139 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.

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  2006 International Union of Crystallography All rights reserved

The title compound,  $C_{37}H_{36}N_4O_2$ , has been obtained by the reaction of 2-[3,6-bis(diethylamino)-9*H*-xanthen-9-yl]benzoyl chloride with 8-aminoquinoline. The molecular packing in the crystal structure is stabilized by weak  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen bonding.

## Comment

The pH determination of a solution is very important in all areas of chemistry and biochemistry, but the measurement of pH at extreme values is still a problem (Safavi *et al.*, 2003). We have therefore synthesized the title compound, (I), and investigated its spectral responses to pH values in the range 0.8–4.0.



The molecular structure of (I) is shown in Fig. 1. Bond lengths and angles are in agreement with those reported for similar compounds (Kwon *et al.*, 2005). The dihedral angle between isoindoline and xanthene mean planes is 88.9 (3)°. The dihedral angle between the isoindoline mean planes is 59.0 (2)°. Weak  $C-H\cdots O$  hydrogen bonding helps to stabilize the crystal structure (Table 1).

## **Experimental**

To a solution of 3',6'-bis(diethylamino)-3*H*-spiro[isobenzofuran-1,9'xanthen]-3-one (1.0 g, 2.3 mmol) in dry 1,2-dichloroethane (8.0 ml) at room temperature, phosphorus oxychloride (1.1 g, 6.9 mmol) was added dropwise over a period of 5 min. After being refluxed for 4 h, the reaction mixture was cooled and concentrated under vacuum to give 2-(3,6-bis(diethylamino)-9*H*-xanthen-9-yl)benzoyl chloride. The chloride salt was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (10 ml). This solution was added dropwise to a solution of 8-aminoquinoline (2.0 g, 14 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (6.0 ml) containing triethylamine (8.0 ml). After stirring for 4 h at room temperature, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate–dichloromethane, 1:20) to give (I) as a white solid in 70% yield. Single crystals of (I) were obtained by slow evaporation of a dichloromethane/acetonitrile solution (20:1  $\nu/\nu$ ).



## Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), shown with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids (arbitrary spheres for H atoms).

Crystal data

 $C_{37}H_{36}N_4O_2$   $M_r = 568.70$ Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$  a = 10.634 (2) Å b = 23.577 (4) Å c = 12.614 (2) Å  $\beta = 111.222$  (3)° V = 2948.1 (9) Å<sup>3</sup>

#### Data collection

Bruker APEX area-detector diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: none 15966 measured reflections Z = 4  $D_x$  = 1.281 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> Mo K $\alpha$  radiation  $\mu$  = 0.08 mm<sup>-1</sup> T = 223 (2) K Block, colorless 0.41 × 0.41 × 0.40 mm

5771 independent reflections 4748 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.025$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.0^{\circ}$ 

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0876P)^2]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.048$	+ 0.4047P]
$vR(F^2) = 0.139$	where $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 1.00	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$
771 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.27 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
92 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.21 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
I-atom parameters constrained	

Table 1		
Hydrogen-bond	geometry (Å, <sup>c</sup>	).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
$C36-H36A\cdots O2^{i}$	0.98	2.56	3.521 (2)	166
Symmetry code: (i) r –	$v + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{7}$			

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

Methyl H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C–H = 0.96 Å, and torsion angles were refined,  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.5 U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$ . Other H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C–H = 0.93 (aromatic), 0.98 (methine) and 0.97 Å (methylene), and refined in riding mode, with  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.2 U_{\rm eq}({\rm C})$ .

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2001); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3 for Windows* (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

The authors thank the Science Research Foundation of Xiamen University (No. E43011) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 20275033) for supporting this work. We also thank Mr S.-Y. Yang and Mr Z.-B. Wei for technical assistance.

## References

- Bruker (2001). SAINT (Version 6.22) and SMART (Version 5.625). Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
- Farrugia, L. J. (1997). J. Appl. Cryst. 30, 565.
- Kwon, J. Y., Jang, Y. J., Lee, Y. J., Kim, K. M., Seo, M. S., Nam, W. & Yoon, J. (2005). J. Am. Chem. Soc. 127, 10107–10111.
- Safavi, A. & Bagheri, M. (2003). Sens. Actuators B, 90, 143-150.

Sheldrick, G. M. (1997). SHELXS97 and SHELXL97. University of Göttingen, Germany.