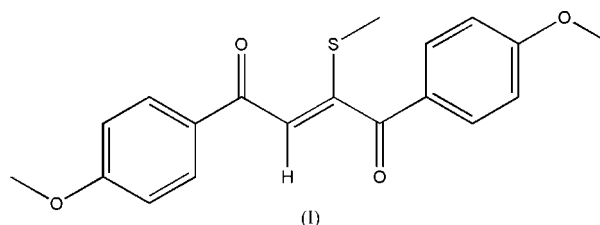


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Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 298$ K
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.003$ Å
 R factor = 0.050
 wR factor = 0.129
Data-to-parameter ratio = 16.8For details of how these key indicators were
automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**(Z)-1,4-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(methyl-
sulfanyl)but-2-ene-1,4-dione**The title compound, $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{S}$, displays a *trans* configuration with respect to the central $\text{C}=\text{C}$ double bond. The dihedral angle between the two aromatic rings is $81.67(5)^\circ$.Received 27 November 2006
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Comment

1,4-Dicarbonyl compounds are widely used as synthetic building blocks for further elaboration into substituted cyclopentenones, such as jasmones, rethorolones, cuparenones and prostaglandins, and five-membered heterocyclic compounds, such as furans, pyrroles, thiophenes and pyridazines (Ellison, 1973; Yuguchi *et al.*, 2004). We report here the structure of the title compound, (I) (Fig. 1).The molecule contains two planar fragments, O1/O2/C1–C8 and S1/O3/O4/C9–C18, which are almost perpendicular to each other, forming a dihedral angle of $84.22(4)^\circ$.The crystal packing is stabilized by a weak π – π interaction between the C2–C7 benzene rings at (x, y, z) and $(2 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z)$, with their centroids separated by $3.6997(12)$ Å.

Experimental

Compound (I) was prepared according to the method described by Yin *et al.* (2006). Single crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a CH_2Cl_2 – CH_3OH (1:1, v/v) solution at 283 K.

Crystal data

$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{S}$	$Z = 4$
$M_r = 342.39$	$D_x = 1.338$ Mg m $^{-3}$
Monoclinic, $P2_1/n$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$a = 5.6728(6)$ Å	$\mu = 0.21$ mm $^{-1}$
$b = 17.9498(18)$ Å	$T = 298(2)$ K
$c = 16.6998(16)$ Å	Block, yellow
$\beta = 92.225(2)^\circ$	$0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$ mm
$V = 1699.2(3)$ Å 3	

Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer	3694 independent reflections
φ and ω scans	2975 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
Absorption correction: none	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.024$
9848 measured reflections	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.0^\circ$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.050$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.129$
 $S = 1.06$
 3694 reflections
 220 parameters
 H-atom parameters constrained

$$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0606P)^2 + 0.3174P]$$

where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = 0.005$
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.25 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.19 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$

All H atoms were refined using a riding model, with C–H = 0.93 Å and $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ for aromatic H, and C–H = 0.96 Å and $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ for methyl H atoms.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1997); 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: *PLATON* (Spek, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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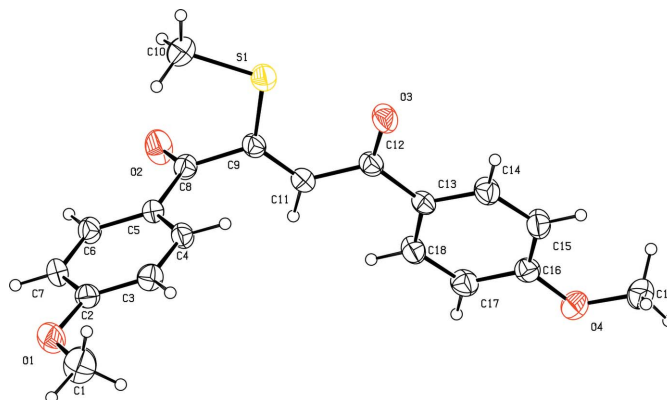


Figure 1
 The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

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