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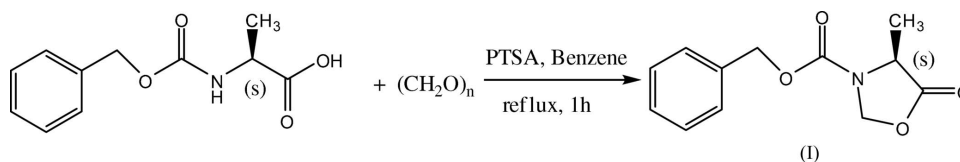
Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 273$ K
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.007$ Å
 R factor = 0.056
 wR factor = 0.139
Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.1For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.(4*S*)-Benzyl 4-methyl-5-oxo-1,3-oxazolidine-3-carboxylateIn the title compound, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_4$, the phenyl and oxazolidine rings make a dihedral angle of $65.0(1)^\circ$. Weak $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ hydrogen-bonding interactions lead to the formation of a chain parallel to the a axis.

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Comment

The title compound, (I), has been used to synthesize dipeptides and N -methyl- α -amino acids (Dorow & Gingrich, 1999). It can also be used in the synthesis of a series of biologically active molecules.The phenyl and the oxazolidine rings make a dihedral angle of $65.0(1)^\circ$ (Fig. 1). The absolute configuration (S) of the stereocentre C3 remains unchanged during the synthetic procedure. The occurrence of weak $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ hydrogen-bonding interactions leads to the formation of a linear chain parallel to the a axis (Table 1). Bond lengths and angles are in agreement with values reported in the literature (Thompson *et al.*, 1999).

Experimental

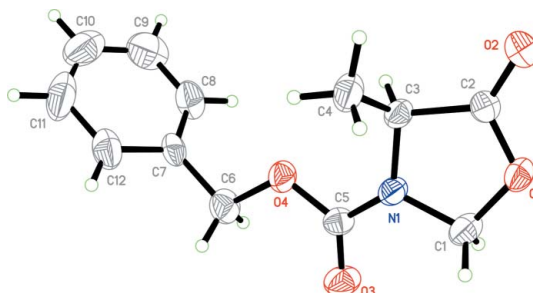
N-Cbz-L-alanine (6.69 g, 3 mmol), paraformaldehyde (1.8 g, 6 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (PTSA, 0.35 g, 1.8 mmol) were dissolved in benzene (250 ml). The solution was refluxed for 1 h with a Dean–Stark trap. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was washed with 0.3 M aqueous K_2CO_3 solution, water, and saturated aqueous NaCl solution, then dried over Mg_2SO_4 (Reddy *et al.*, 2000). A white solid was obtained after evaporation of the solvent. Single crystals were obtained by recrystallization from ethanol.

Figure 1

The molecular structure of the title compound with the atom-labeling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. H atoms are represented as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

Crystal data

$C_{12}H_{13}NO_4$
 $M_r = 235.23$
 Orthorhombic, $P2_12_12_1$
 $a = 6.1357 (19) \text{ \AA}$
 $b = 8.568 (3) \text{ \AA}$
 $c = 22.758 (7) \text{ \AA}$
 $V = 1196.4 (7) \text{ \AA}^3$

$Z = 4$
 $D_x = 1.306 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
 Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
 $\mu = 0.10 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
 $T = 273 (2) \text{ K}$
 Chunk, colorless
 $0.48 \times 0.32 \times 0.21 \text{ mm}$

Data collection

Bruker APEX area-detector diffractometer
 φ and ω scans
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2001)
 $T_{\min} = 0.954, T_{\max} = 0.980$

5764 measured reflections
 1258 independent reflections
 1209 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.049$
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.0^\circ$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.056$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.139$
 $S = 1.20$
 1258 reflections
 155 parameters
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0454P)^2 + 0.3568P]$
 where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.18 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.18 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

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

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$C1-H1A\cdots O2^i$	0.97	2.49	3.319 (5)	144

Symmetry code: (i) $x + 1, y, z$.

All H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions and treated as riding on their parent atoms, with C–H = 0.93 (aromatic), 0.98 (CH), 0.97 (CH₂) or 0.96 Å (CH₃), and $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{aromatic, CH and CH}_2)$ or $1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{methyl C})$. In the absence of significant anomalous scattering effects, Friedel pairs were merged; the absolute configuration was assumed from the synthesis.

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: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996) and ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97.

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