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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.004 Å R factor = 0.049 wR factor = 0.143 Data-to-parameter ratio = 15.9

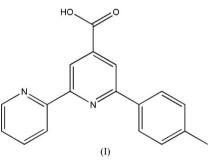
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e. The title compound  $C_{18}H_{14}N_2O_2$ , forms centrosymmetric dimers *via* intermolecular  $O-H\cdots N$  hydrogen bonds, with an  $O\cdots N$  distance of 2.688 (3)Å and an  $O-H\cdots N$  angle of 163°.

6-p-Tolyl-2,2'-bipyridinyl-4-carboxylic acid

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### Comment

Hydrogen-bonding studies on pyridine carboxylic acid derivatives have received considerable attention due to the various interaction modes available (Crispini et al., 2002). The most common packing motif is based on the formation of an intermolecular O-H···N hydrogen bond between the carboxyl group and the pyridine N atom of a second molecule. In such systems, the hydrogen bonding usually results in the formation of a chain (Blackburn et al., 1996; Dobson et al., 1998). However, in 2,6-diphenylpyridine-4-carboxylic acid (Crispini et al., 2002), hydrogen bonding occurs only between carboxylic acid groups, leading to the formation of centrosymmetric dimers. In the title compound, (I), the carboxylic acid group forms a hydrogen bond with the N atom of a second molecule, forming a cyclic hydrogen-bonded  $R_2^2(16)$ dimer (Bernstein *et al.*, 1995), with  $O2 \cdot \cdot N1^{i} = 2.688$  (3) Å,  $O2-H2 = 0.82 \text{ Å}, H2 \cdots N1^{i} = 1.89 \text{ Å} \text{ and } O2-H2 \cdots N1^{i} =$  $163^{\circ}$  [symmetry code: (i) -x + 1, -y + 2, -z]. Weaker C- $H \cdots O$  interactions augment this hydrogen bond. All other bond distances and angles fall within normal ranges.



## Experimental

The title compound, (I), was prepared as described in our previous paper (Cao *et al.*, 2004). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were recrystallized from methanol.

Crystal data  $C_{18}H_{14}N_2O_2$   $M_r = 290.31$ Monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$  a = 14.699 (3) Å b = 3.9680 (8) Å c = 24.914 (5) Å  $\beta = 105.67$  (3)° V = 1399.1 (5) Å<sup>3</sup>

Z = 4  $D_x$  = 1.378 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> Mo K $\alpha$  radiation  $\mu$  = 0.09 mm<sup>-1</sup> T = 293 (2) K Block, colorless 0.40 × 0.30 × 0.20 mm

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Bruker APEX-II diffractometer  $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans Absorption correction: none 13472 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.049$   $wR(F^2) = 0.143$  S = 0.793208 reflections 202 parameters H-atom parameters constrained 3208 independent reflections 1093 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.096$  $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^{\circ}$ 

$$\begin{split} w &= 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0684P)^2] \\ \text{where } P &= (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3 \\ (\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001 \\ \Delta\rho_{\text{max}} &= 0.23 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ \Delta\rho_{\text{min}} &= -0.20 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ \text{Extinction correction: SHELXL97} \\ \text{Extinction coefficient: } 0.0121 (17) \end{split}$$

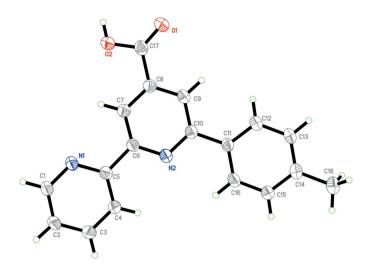
H atoms were positioned geometrically (C-H = 0.93–0.96, O-H = 0.82 Å) and refined as riding with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$  or  $1.5U_{eq}(methyl C,O)$ 

Data collection: *APEX2* (Bruker, 2005); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2005); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2005); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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#### Figure 1

The molecular structure of the title compound. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level.

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