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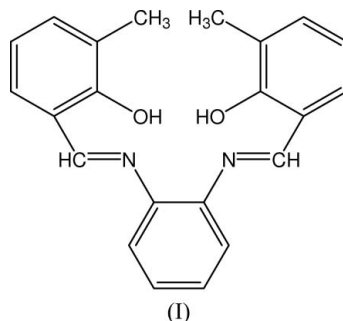
## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 100$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.001$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.057  
 $wR$  factor = 0.169  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 37.4For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## 6,6'-Dimethyl-2,2'-[1,2-phenylenebis-(nitrilomethylidyne)]diphenol

The crystal structure of the title compound,  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ , is stabilized by intramolecular  $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$  hydrogen bonds and intermolecular  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$  interactions.Received 5 January 2007  
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## Comment

A number of Schiff bases exhibit a variety of pharmacological activities: anticancer (Dao *et al.*, 2000), anti-HIV (Sriram *et al.*, 2006), antibacterial and antifungal (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2006). In addition, some Schiff bases may be used as analytical reagents for the determination of trace elements (Eltayeb & Ahmed, 2005*a,b*).Bond lengths and angles in (I) have normal values (Allen *et al.*, 1987). The dihedral angles between the benzene rings C1–C6 and C8–C13, C1–C6 and C15–C20, and C8–C13 and C15–C20 are 49.04 (5), 39.45 (5) and 12.44 (5)°, respectively (Fig. 1). The intramolecular  $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$  interactions generate  $S(6)$  ring motifs (Table 1) (Bernstein *et al.*, 1995). The crystal structure is further stabilized by intermolecular  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$  interactions (Table 1).

## Experimental

To a solution of *o*-phenylenediamine (0.216 g, 2 mmol) in ethanol (20 ml) was added 3-methylsalicylaldehyde (0.5 ml, 4 mmol). The mixture was refluxed with stirring for 0.5 h. The resultant orange solution was filtered and allowed to evaporate slowly at room temperature to produce X-ray quality crystals of (I). (Yield 0.55 g, 79.94%, m.p. 380–381 K).

## Crystal data

$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$	$Z = 4$
$M_r = 344.40$	$D_x = 1.310$ Mg m <sup>-3</sup>
Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$a = 10.7922$ (4) Å	$\mu = 0.09$ mm <sup>-1</sup>
$b = 7.7650$ (3) Å	$T = 100.0$ (1) K
$c = 23.3440$ (8) Å	Needle, orange
$\beta = 116.789$ (2)°	$0.42 \times 0.21 \times 0.12$ mm
$V = 1746.30$ (11) Å <sup>3</sup>	

## Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX2 CCD  
diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
Absorption correction: multi-scan  
(SADABS; Bruker, 2005)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.880$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.990$

45277 measured reflections  
9156 independent reflections  
6376 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.065$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 37.5^\circ$

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.057$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.169$   
 $S = 1.04$   
9156 reflections  
245 parameters  
H atoms treated by a mixture of  
independent and constrained  
refinement

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0906P)^2 + 0.125P]$   
where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.63 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.28 \text{ e } \text{Å}^{-3}$

Table 1

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

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$O1-H1A\cdots N1$	0.95 (2)	1.74 (2)	2.611 (1)	151 (2)
$O2-H2A\cdots N2$	0.90 (2)	1.75 (2)	2.591 (1)	154 (2)
$C17-H17A\cdots O1^i$	0.93	2.58	3.298 (2)	134
$C21-H21C\cdots Cg1^{ii}$	0.96	2.87	3.673 (1)	141

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ ; (ii)  $-x, y - \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ . Cg1 is the centroid of the C8–C13 ring.

O-bound H atoms were located in difference maps and refined isotropically. The remaining H atoms were positioned geometrically and treated as riding, with  $C-H = 0.93$  or  $0.96 \text{ Å}$  and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  or  $1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{methyl C})$ .

Data collection: APEX2 (Bruker, 2005); cell refinement: APEX2; data reduction: SAINT (Bruker, 2005); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 1998); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXTL; molecular graphics: SHELXTL; software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL and PLATON (Spek, 2003).

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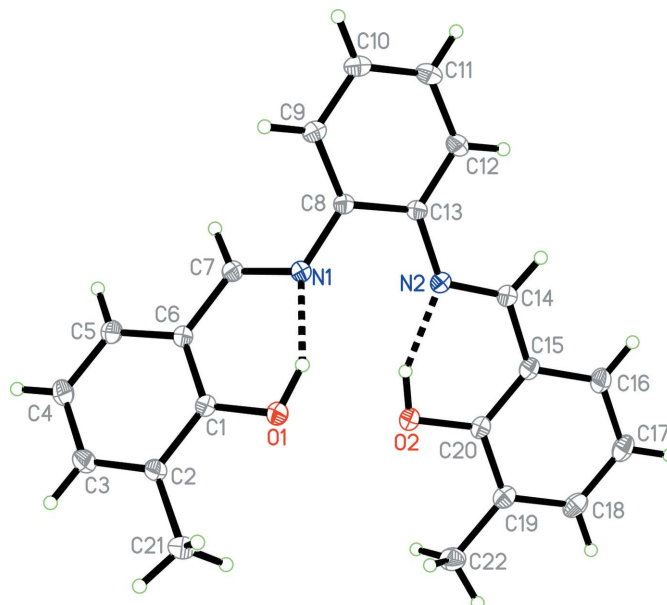


Figure 1

The molecular structure of (I), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atomic numbering. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines.

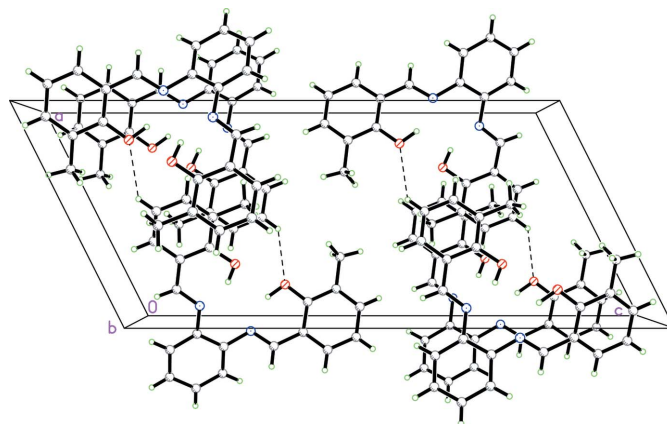


Figure 2

The crystal packing of (I), viewed down the  $b$  axis. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines.

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