

Crystal Structure of *N-n*-Propylalcohol-2-oxo-5-nitro-1-benzylidene-methylamine

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The title compound, C₁₀H₁₂N₂O₄, adopts the *keto*-amine tautomeric form and displays two intramolecular N-H...O hydrogen bonds. The *keto*-amine structure is favored by through-molecule conjugation between the hydroxyl O atom and the imine N atom. The title compound crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *P*₂₁/*c* with the following unit-cell parameters: *a* = 10.953(2) Å, *b* = 5.5272(6) Å, *c* = 18.754(4) Å, β = 108.306(16)° and *V* = 1077.9(3) Å³. The crystal structure of this compound contains two molecules in an asymmetric unit, and each molecule exists as part of an O-H...O hydrogen-bonded centrosymmetric dimer.

(Received May 16, 2008; Accepted July 25, 2008; Published on web March 10, 2009)

The extensive application of Schiff bases in industry and analytical determinations has attracted attention for decades. Schiff-base compounds display interesting photochromic and thermochromic features, and can be classified by them; these properties are caused by proton transfer from the hydroxy O atom to the imine N atom.¹ In general, Schiff bases display two possible tautomeric forms, the phenol-imine (N...H-O) and *keto*-amine (N-H...O) forms. It is claimed that phenol-imine tautomerism is dominant in salicylaldimine, while the *keto*-amine form is preferred in naphthaldimine Schiff bases, depending on the solvent polarities. However, in the solid state, it is specified that *keto*-amine tautomerism is present in naphthaldimine, while the phenol-imine form exists in salicylaldimine Schiff bases.² The title compound, *N-n*-propylalcohol-2-oxo-5-nitro-1-benzylidene-methylamine, is in the *keto*-amine tautomeric form (Fig. 1).

The compound *N-n*-propylalcohol-2-oxo-5-nitro-1-benzylidene-methylamine was prepared by refluxing a mixture of a solution containing 2-hydroxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.0574 g 0.34 mmol) in 20 ml of ethanol and a solution containing 3-amino-1-propanol (0.0423 g 0.34 mmol) in 20 ml of ethanol. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h under reflux. Crystals of *N-n*-propylalcohol-2-oxo-5-nitro-1-benzylidene-methylamine suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained from ethanol by slow evaporation (yield %, 41; m.p., 445 – 446 K).

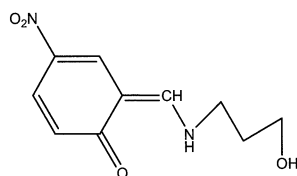


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of the title compound.

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The structure was solved by direct methods using the program SHELXS-97; the refinement and all other calculations were carried out using SHELXL-97.⁶ All H atoms were positioned geometrically and treated using a riding model, while fixing the aromatic C-H distances at 0.93 Å and the O-H distances at 0.82 Å, except for the H1 atom involved in the N-H...O hydrogen bond, which was found from a difference map of the electron density in the unit-cell, and was refined freely. The data-collection conditions and parameters of the refinement process are listed in Table 1. Selected inter-atomic parameters are given in Table 2.

Table 1 Crystal and experimental data

Formula: C ₁₀ H ₁₂ N ₂ O ₄	
Formula weight: 224.22	
Crystal system: monoclinic	
Space group: <i>P</i> ₂ ₁ / <i>c</i>	<i>Z</i> = 4
<i>a</i> = 10.953(2) Å	
<i>b</i> = 5.5272(6) Å	β = 108.306(16)°
<i>c</i> = 18.754(4) Å	
<i>V</i> = 1077.9(3) Å ³	
Density = 1.3817(4) g cm ⁻³	
<i>T</i> = 296(2) K	
Prism, yellow	
No. of reflections used = 15718	
2 $\theta_{\max}$ = 52.00° Mo <i>K</i> α	
<i>R</i> = 0.0719	
($\Delta\rho$) _{max} = 0.0000	
($\Delta\rho$) _{max} = 0.127 e Å ⁻³	
($\Delta\rho$) _{min} = -0.153 e Å ⁻³	
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ² = 1.084	
Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.072, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.111
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.161, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.137
Measurement: STOE IPDS II	
Program system: STOE X-RED	
Structure determination: direct methods	
Refinement: full matrix	
CCDC number: CCDC 687467	

Table 2 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°)

Bond distances			
C1-O1	1.266(4)	C4-N2	1.447(4)
C7-N1	1.288(4)	N2-O2	1.220(3)
C8-N1	1.468(4)	N2-O3	1.224(4)
C10-O4	1.406(4)		
Bond angles			
O1-C1-C2	122.9(3)	O4-C10-C9	109.1(3)
O1-C1-C6	121.6(3)	C7-N1-C8	125.9(3)
C5-C4-N2	119.7(3)	O2-N2-O3	122.4(3)
C3-C4-N2	119.6(3)	O2-N2-C4	119.3(4)
N1-C7-C6	125.5(3)	O3-N2-C4	118.4(3)
N1-C8-C9	111.6(3)		

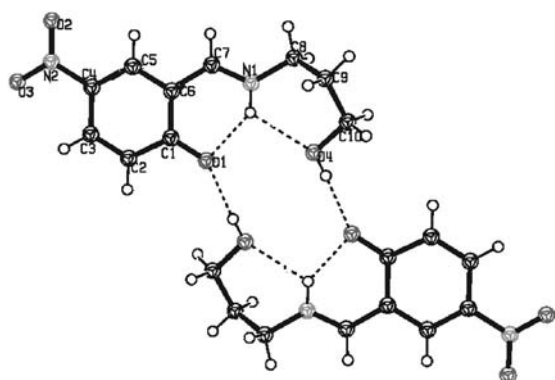


Fig. 2 Molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-numbering scheme. The dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

The molecular structure is shown in Fig. 2, with the atom-numbering scheme. The compound exists in the *keto*-amine tautomeric form with strong intra-molecular N1-H1...O1 and N1-H1...O4 bifurcated hydrogen bonds [$N\cdots O = 2.649(4)$ and $2.767(4)$ Å, respectively]. These types of strong intra-molecular hydrogen bonds are a common feature of *o*-hydroxysalicylidene systems. The N1-H1...O1 hydrogen-bonded ring is planar with an adjacent ring, with an N1-C7-C6-C1 torsion angle of $0.6(5)^\circ$. The C1=O1 bond length is $1.266(4)$ Å and consistent with another C=O double bond [1.274 Å] in 1-[*N*-(2-pyridyl)amino-methylidene]-2(1*H*)-naphthalenone.³ The *keto*-amine form of

Table 3 Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å)

D-H...A	D-H	H...A	D...A	D-H...A
N1-H1...O1	0.88(4)	1.92(4)	2.649(4)	139(3)
N1-H1...O4	0.88(4)	2.23(4)	2.767(4)	120(3)
O4-H4...O1 ⁱ	0.82	1.90	2.705(3)	165
C7-H7...O2 ⁱⁱ	0.93	2.40	3.296(5)	163
C10-H10A...O3 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.97	2.57	3.521(5)	167

Symmetry code: (i) $-x, -y, 1-z$, (ii) $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$, (iii) $-1+x, 1/2-y, -1/2+z$

the title compound is supported by the bond length of the N1-C7 bond [$1.288(4)$ Å], this value is in agreement with another C-N bond length [$1.288(4)$ Å] in the literature.⁴ The N2-O2 and N2-O3 bond lengths are as expected for a nitro group (Table 3). Similar to this compound, a very related structure was reported in the literature.⁵ For both molecules, the bond lengths and angles are very close; but in the other structure,⁵ due to the fact that one CH₂ chain length is missing, the inter-molecular hydrogen bond is inhibited. The asymmetric unit of the title compound contains two crystallographically independent molecules, and each molecules exist as an O4-H4...O1 hydrogen-bonded centrosymmetric dimer with an $R_2^6(8)$ ring. There are also two inter-molecular C-H...O hydrogen bonds, the details of which are given in Table 3. The crystal packing is stabilized by inter-molecular C-H...O hydrogen bonds.

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