

Acta Crystallographica Section E

## Structure Reports

Online

ISSN 1600-5368

# Di-tert-butyl 3,3'-(2,2'-bi-1*H*-imidazole-1,1'-diyl)diopropanoate

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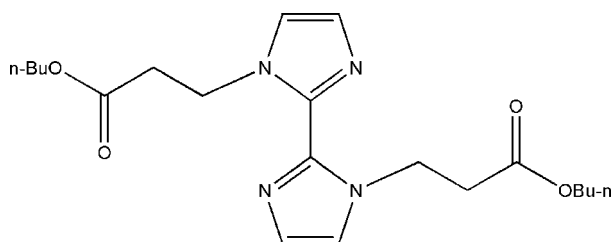
Received 3 April 2009; accepted 5 June 2009

 Key indicators: single-crystal X-ray study;  $T = 295$  K; mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.005$  Å;  $R$  factor = 0.077;  $wR$  factor = 0.190; data-to-parameter ratio = 19.2.

In the title compound,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$ , the complete molecule is generated by a crystallographic centre of symmetry. The conformation is stabilized by two intramolecular  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$  links.

## Related literature

For the background to 2, 2'-biimidazole derivatives, see: Barnett *et al.* (1999, 2002); Liang *et al.* (2009); Zhang & Liang (2009); Zhang, Zhang, Ren *et al.* (2009); Zhang, Zhang, Xu *et al.* (2009). For the synthesis, see: Barnett *et al.* (1999).



## Experimental

### Crystal data

$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$   
 $M_r = 390.48$   
 Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$   
 $a = 7.0321$  (14) Å  
 $b = 17.484$  (4) Å  
 $c = 8.9681$  (18) Å  
 $\beta = 100.80$  (3)°

$V = 1083.1$  (4) Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 2$   
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 0.08$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 295$  K  
 $0.48 \times 0.42 \times 0.14$  mm

### Data collection

Rigaku R-Axis RAPID diffractometer  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (ABSCOR; Higashi, 1995)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.960$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.988$

9620 measured reflections  
 2453 independent reflections  
 1474 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.077$

### Refinement

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.077$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.190$   
 $S = 1.02$   
 2453 reflections

128 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained  
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.32$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.24$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D-\text{H}\cdots A$	$D-\text{H}$	$\text{H}\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-\text{H}\cdots A$
$\text{C10}-\text{H10B}\cdots\text{N2}^i$	0.97	2.46	2.960 (3)	111

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

Data collection: *RAPID-AUTO* (Rigaku, 1998); cell refinement: *RAPID-AUTO*; data reduction: *CrystalStructure* (Rigaku/MS, 2004); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 2008); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

This project was sponsored by the Scientific Research Foundation of the State Education Ministry for Returned Overseas Chinese Scholars (2006701), the Critical Projects in Science and Technology Department of Zhejiang Province (2007 C21113), the Education Committee of Zhejiang Province (20061696, 2008934), the Natural Science Foundation of Ningbo City (2007 A610021) and the K. C. Wong Magna Fund of Ningbo University. We thank Professor X. Li for helpful discussions about the crystal structure and Mr W. Xu for collecting the crystal data.

Supplementary data and figures for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: FB2148).

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## supporting information

*Acta Cryst.* (2009). E65, o1577 [doi:10.1107/S1600536809021369]

**Di-*tert*-butyl 3,3'-(2,2'-bi-1*H*-imidazole-1,1'-diyl)dipropoanoate**

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**S1. Comment**

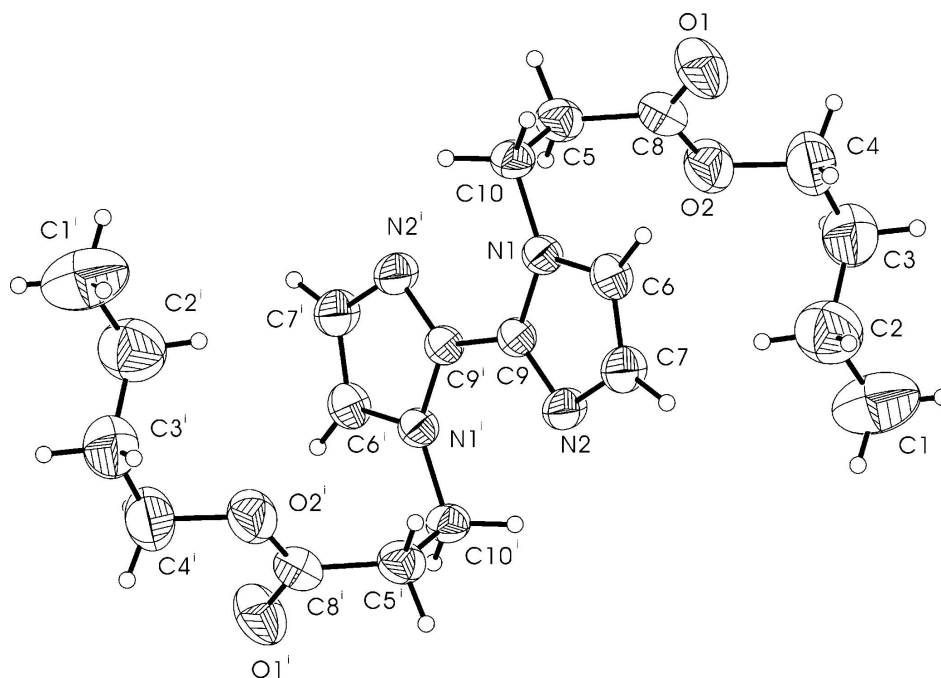
Biimidazole is a potentially polydentate ligand, but its chemistry is less developed in comparison to the imidazole chemistry. The reason may be a limited solubility of biimidazole in common organic solvents. Although several new disubstituted 2,2'-biimidazoles have been recently synthesized (Barnett *et al.*, 1999; Barnett *et al.*, 2002), a few metal complexes based on biimidazole derivatives are reported (Zhang, Zhang, Ren *et al.*, 2009). In the course of our ongoing study, we have successfully synthesized a series of biimidazole derivatives with terminal carboxylic, hydroxyl, phosphino, imino groups which can be used as ligands in the coordination chemistry (Zhang & Liang, 2009; Zhang, Zhang, Xu *et al.*, 2009) and cross-coupling reactions (Liang *et al.*, 2009). These ligands exhibit rich coordination patterns and catalytic properties. Here we report the synthesis and the crystal structure of the title compound which is an intermediate of those above mentioned ligands. As shown in Fig. 1, the biimidazole ring atoms (C6, C7, C9, N1, N2 and their inversion-related partners) exhibit essentially coplanar mutual orientation [the dihedral angle is 0.00 (1)°], and the value of the torsion angle C9—N1—C10—C5 is -77.53 (30)°. In the crystal structure, there are weak C-H⋯N interactions (Tab. 1, Fig. 2).

**S2. Experimental**

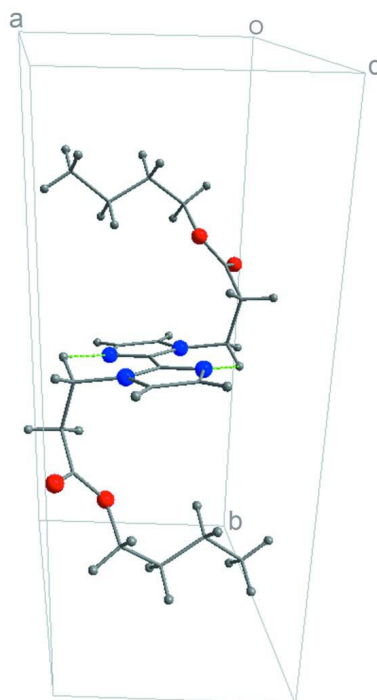
The title compound was prepared according to a published procedure (Barnett *et al.*, 1999). 0.2 g (5 mmol) of NaOH was added to a suspension of 3 g (22.4 mmol) of 2,2'-biimidazole in 100 ml of DMF (dimethylformamide) at 80°C. The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min. In the course of this time the mixture gradually turned into a clear pale yellow solution. 7.12 g (55.6 mmol) butyl acrylate in 10 ml of DMF was added dropwise in several minutes to the solution and the reaction was stirred at 80°C for 8 h until the heating was stopped. The DMF was removed *via* vacuum distillation in a hot oil bath at 100°C. The resulting black brown oil was dissolved in water (30 ml) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layer was washed with water, and then evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a white product (7.4 g, 85%). The product was dissolved in 95% ethanol (30 ml) and cooled slowly in a refrigerator to afford colourless block crystals of average size 1.5 mm×1.2 mm×0.5 mm that were suitable for the X-ray analysis.

**S3. Refinement**

All the hydrogens were discernible in the difference electron density map. Nevertheless, the hydrogens were situated into the idealized positions. The C-H distances were constrained to 0.93, 0.96 and 0.97 Å for aryl, methylene and methyl hydrogens, respectively.  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}_{\text{aryl}})$ ;  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}_{\text{methylene}})$ ;  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}_{\text{methyl}})$ .

**Figure 1**

View of the title molecule with the displacement ellipsoids at the 45% probability level. The labelling of the non-H atoms is also given. The symmetry code (i):  $-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$ .

**Figure 2**

A section of the title structure. The C-H...N hydrogen bonds (Tab. 1) are shown as dashed lines.

**Di-tert-butyl 3,3'-(2,2'-bi-1H-imidazole-1,1'-diyl)dipropionate***Crystal data*C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> $M_r = 390.48$ Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ 

Hall symbol: -P 2ybc

 $a = 7.0321$  (14) Å $b = 17.484$  (4) Å $c = 8.9681$  (18) Å $\beta = 100.80$  (3)° $V = 1083.1$  (4) Å<sup>3</sup> $Z = 2$  $F(000) = 420$  $D_x = 1.197$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å

Cell parameters from 1478 reflections

 $\theta = 3.0$ – $27.5^\circ$  $\mu = 0.08$  mm<sup>-1</sup> $T = 295$  K

Plate, colourless

 $0.48 \times 0.42 \times 0.14$  mm*Data collection*

Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID

diffractometer

Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube

Graphite monochromator

Detector resolution: 0 pixels mm<sup>-1</sup> $\omega$  scans

Absorption correction: multi-scan

(ABSCOR; Higashi, 1995)

 $T_{\min} = 0.960$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.988$ 

9620 measured reflections

2453 independent reflections

1474 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.077$  $\theta_{\max} = 27.5^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{\min} = 3.2^\circ$  $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$  $k = -22 \rightarrow 22$  $l = -11 \rightarrow 10$ *Refinement*Refinement on  $F^2$ 

Least-squares matrix: full

 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.077$  $wR(F^2) = 0.190$  $S = 1.02$ 

2453 reflections

128 parameters

0 restraints

59 constraints

Primary atom site location: structure-invariant  
direct methodsSecondary atom site location: difference Fourier  
map

Hydrogen site location: difference Fourier map

H-atom parameters constrained

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0718P)^2 + 0.3943P]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$  $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.32$  e Å<sup>-3</sup> $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.24$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>*Special details*

**Geometry.** All e.s.d.'s (except the e.s.d. in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell e.s.d.'s are taken into account individually in the estimation of e.s.d.'s in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between e.s.d.'s in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell e.s.d.'s is used for estimating e.s.d.'s involving l.s. planes.

**Refinement.** Refinement of  $F^2$  against ALL reflections. The weighted  $R$ -factor  $wR$  and goodness of fit  $S$  are based on  $F^2$ , conventional  $R$ -factors  $R$  are based on  $F$ , with  $F$  set to zero for negative  $F^2$ . The threshold expression of  $F^2 > \sigma(F^2)$  is used only for calculating  $R$ -factors(gt) etc. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement.  $R$ -factors based on  $F^2$  are statistically about twice as large as those based on  $F$ , and  $R$ -factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>)*

	$x$	$y$	$z$	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$
N1	0.3460 (3)	0.51573 (11)	0.30746 (19)	0.0410 (5)
N2	0.6689 (3)	0.51901 (13)	0.3698 (2)	0.0522 (6)
C10	0.1400 (3)	0.50398 (14)	0.3101 (3)	0.0454 (6)

H10A	0.0628	0.5297	0.2237	0.054*
H10B	0.1099	0.5268	0.4016	0.054*
O2	0.2468 (3)	0.32667 (12)	0.1854 (2)	0.0717 (6)
O1	0.0366 (3)	0.40123 (12)	0.0365 (2)	0.0774 (7)
C9	0.5051 (3)	0.50815 (13)	0.4210 (2)	0.0415 (6)
C8	0.1171 (4)	0.38275 (15)	0.1612 (3)	0.0525 (6)
C7	0.6104 (4)	0.53329 (17)	0.2169 (3)	0.0568 (7)
H7A	0.6939	0.5428	0.1501	0.068*
C6	0.4159 (4)	0.53160 (15)	0.1774 (2)	0.0504 (6)
H6A	0.3431	0.5396	0.0809	0.061*
C5	0.0864 (4)	0.41992 (15)	0.3056 (3)	0.0520 (6)
H5A	0.1644	0.3940	0.3914	0.062*
H5B	-0.0484	0.4147	0.3144	0.062*
C4	0.2854 (6)	0.2868 (2)	0.0492 (4)	0.0905 (11)
H4A	0.3139	0.3238	-0.0242	0.109*
H4B	0.1724	0.2577	0.0027	0.109*
C3	0.4524 (6)	0.2349 (2)	0.0943 (5)	0.0958 (12)
H3A	0.4239	0.2005	0.1722	0.115*
H3B	0.4664	0.2039	0.0072	0.115*
C2	0.6387 (6)	0.2728 (2)	0.1520 (5)	0.1045 (13)
H2B	0.6290	0.3010	0.2434	0.125*
H2C	0.6653	0.3092	0.0770	0.125*
C1	0.8074 (6)	0.2163 (3)	0.1876 (7)	0.1289 (18)
H1A	0.9241	0.2435	0.2285	0.193*
H1B	0.8229	0.1904	0.0962	0.193*
H1C	0.7809	0.1795	0.2605	0.193*

Atomic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
N1	0.0380 (10)	0.0516 (11)	0.0319 (9)	0.0030 (9)	0.0030 (7)	0.0023 (8)
N2	0.0407 (11)	0.0834 (16)	0.0336 (10)	0.0013 (10)	0.0097 (8)	0.0031 (10)
C10	0.0364 (11)	0.0564 (15)	0.0413 (12)	0.0045 (11)	0.0017 (9)	0.0019 (10)
O2	0.0728 (13)	0.0805 (15)	0.0564 (12)	0.0151 (11)	-0.0018 (9)	-0.0074 (10)
O1	0.0988 (16)	0.0791 (15)	0.0457 (11)	0.0097 (12)	-0.0087 (10)	0.0001 (9)
C9	0.0377 (11)	0.0553 (14)	0.0304 (11)	0.0037 (11)	0.0033 (8)	-0.0010 (9)
C8	0.0518 (14)	0.0532 (15)	0.0491 (15)	-0.0082 (12)	0.0006 (11)	0.0019 (11)
C7	0.0522 (15)	0.086 (2)	0.0343 (12)	-0.0015 (13)	0.0134 (10)	0.0047 (12)
C6	0.0539 (14)	0.0675 (17)	0.0289 (11)	0.0016 (12)	0.0051 (10)	0.0033 (11)
C5	0.0474 (13)	0.0629 (16)	0.0444 (13)	-0.0046 (12)	0.0054 (10)	0.0044 (12)
C4	0.100 (3)	0.098 (3)	0.069 (2)	0.020 (2)	0.0058 (18)	-0.0199 (19)
C3	0.097 (3)	0.095 (3)	0.098 (3)	-0.005 (2)	0.026 (2)	-0.021 (2)
C2	0.101 (3)	0.095 (3)	0.115 (3)	-0.006 (2)	0.013 (2)	-0.001 (2)
C1	0.087 (3)	0.101 (3)	0.198 (5)	0.000 (2)	0.025 (3)	0.031 (3)

## Geometric parameters (Å, °)

N1—C9	1.371 (3)	C6—H6A	0.9300
N1—C6	1.376 (3)	C5—H5A	0.9700
N1—C10	1.468 (3)	C5—H5B	0.9700
N2—C9	1.331 (3)	C4—C3	1.480 (5)
N2—C7	1.378 (3)	C4—H4A	0.9700
C10—C5	1.516 (3)	C4—H4B	0.9700
C10—H10A	0.9700	C3—C2	1.473 (5)
C10—H10B	0.9700	C3—H3A	0.9700
O2—C8	1.329 (3)	C3—H3B	0.9700
O2—C4	1.475 (4)	C2—C1	1.531 (5)
O1—C8	1.199 (3)	C2—H2B	0.9700
C9—C9 <sup>i</sup>	1.460 (4)	C2—H2C	0.9700
C8—C5	1.500 (4)	C1—H1A	0.9600
C7—C6	1.347 (3)	C1—H1B	0.9600
C7—H7A	0.9300	C1—H1C	0.9600
C9—N1—C6	106.13 (18)	C10—C5—H5B	109.3
C9—N1—C10	130.15 (19)	H5A—C5—H5B	108.0
C6—N1—C10	123.53 (18)	O2—C4—C3	108.9 (3)
C9—N2—C7	104.6 (2)	O2—C4—H4A	109.9
N1—C10—C5	112.1 (2)	C3—C4—H4A	109.9
N1—C10—H10A	109.2	O2—C4—H4B	109.9
C5—C10—H10A	109.2	C3—C4—H4B	109.9
N1—C10—H10B	109.2	H4A—C4—H4B	108.3
C5—C10—H10B	109.2	C2—C3—C4	115.3 (4)
H10A—C10—H10B	107.9	C2—C3—H3A	108.4
C8—O2—C4	116.1 (2)	C4—C3—H3A	108.4
N2—C9—N1	111.59 (19)	C2—C3—H3B	108.4
N2—C9—C9 <sup>i</sup>	124.5 (2)	C4—C3—H3B	108.4
N1—C9—C9 <sup>i</sup>	123.9 (2)	H3A—C3—H3B	107.5
O1—C8—O2	122.7 (3)	C3—C2—C1	112.7 (4)
O1—C8—C5	124.7 (3)	C3—C2—H2B	109.0
O2—C8—C5	112.6 (2)	C1—C2—H2B	109.0
C6—C7—N2	110.9 (2)	C3—C2—H2C	109.0
C6—C7—H7A	124.5	C1—C2—H2C	109.0
N2—C7—H7A	124.5	H2B—C2—H2C	107.8
C7—C6—N1	106.7 (2)	C2—C1—H1A	109.5
C7—C6—H6A	126.6	C2—C1—H1B	109.5
N1—C6—H6A	126.6	H1A—C1—H1B	109.5
C8—C5—C10	111.6 (2)	C2—C1—H1C	109.5
C8—C5—H5A	109.3	H1A—C1—H1C	109.5
C10—C5—H5A	109.3	H1B—C1—H1C	109.5
C8—C5—H5B	109.3		

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

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*Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °)*

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<i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H	H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> ··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i>
C10—H10B···N2 <sup>i</sup>	0.97	2.46	2.960 (3)	111

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