

## 6-Amino-2-methyl-8-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-5,7-dicarbonitrile

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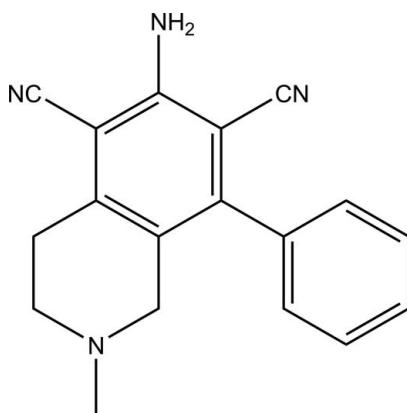
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Key indicators: single-crystal X-ray study;  $T = 143\text{ K}$ ; mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ \AA}$ ;  $R$  factor = 0.045;  $wR$  factor = 0.112; data-to-parameter ratio = 15.0.

In the title compound,  $C_{18}H_{16}N_4$ , the dihedral angle between the benzene and phenyl rings is  $61.40(4)^\circ$ . In the crystal, molecules are linked by  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ (nitrile) hydrogen bonds, forming inversion dimers. The dimers are further linked by  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ (amine) hydrogen bonds, and both units are arranged almost perpendicular to each other [angle between dimer mean planes =  $84.43(12)^\circ$ ]. This arrangement is extended to form a ladder-like structure parallel to the  $c$  axis.

### Related literature

For background to natural products containing an isoquinoline backbone, see: Marchand *et al.* (2006); Cho *et al.* (2007); Van Quaquebeke *et al.* (2007). For related structures, see: Rong *et al.* (2010); Balamurugan *et al.* (2011).



### Experimental

#### Crystal data

$C_{18}H_{16}N_4$   
 $M_r = 288.35$   
Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$   
 $a = 17.5630(5)\text{ \AA}$   
 $b = 6.25208(19)\text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 13.7963(4)\text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta = 93.209(3)^\circ$   
 $V = 1512.53(8)\text{ \AA}^3$

$Z = 4$   
Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 0.08\text{ mm}^{-1}$

$T = 143\text{ K}$   
 $0.38 \times 0.35 \times 0.25\text{ mm}$

#### Data collection

Agilent Xcalibur Eos diffractometer  
Absorption correction: multi-scan (*CrysAlis PRO*; Oxford Diffraction, 2009)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.960$ ,  $T_{\max} = 1.000$

6799 measured reflections  
3089 independent reflections  
2414 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.034$

#### Refinement

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.045$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.112$   
 $S = 1.05$   
3089 reflections  
206 parameters  
4 restraints

H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.19\text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.22\text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**  
Hydrogen-bond geometry ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ).

$D-\text{H}\cdots A$	$D-\text{H}$	$\text{H}\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-\text{H}\cdots A$
N4—H4A $\cdots$ N2 <sup>i</sup>	0.89 (1)	2.21 (1)	3.052 (2)	157 (2)
N4—H4B $\cdots$ N1 <sup>ii</sup>	0.87 (1)	2.21 (1)	3.0261 (19)	155 (2)

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1$ ; (ii)  $x, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z + \frac{1}{2}$ .

Data collection: *CrysAlis PRO* (Oxford Diffraction, 2009); cell refinement: *CrysAlis PRO*; data reduction: *CrysAlis PRO*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 2008); molecular graphics: *OLEX2* (Dolomanov *et al.*, 2009) and *Mercury* (Macrae *et al.*, 2008); software used to prepare material for publication: *OLEX2*.

We thank the Analytical and Testing Center of Sichuan University for the X-ray measurements.

Supplementary data and figures for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: BH2477).

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# supporting information

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## 6-Amino-2-methyl-8-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-5,7-dicarbonitrile

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### S1. Comment

Various natural products containing an isoquinoline backbone have received considerable attention over the past years, because of their different kinds of bioactivities (Marchand *et al.*, 2006; Cho *et al.*, 2007; Van Quaquebeke *et al.*, 2007). The development of efficient synthetic methods for isoquinoline and related derivatives is continuously attracting the attention of many chemists (Rong *et al.*, 2010; Balamurugan *et al.*, 2011). As a part of our current studies on the development of new routes in organic synthesis and the screen of anticancer drugs, in this article, we report the crystal structure of the title compound (Fig. 1).

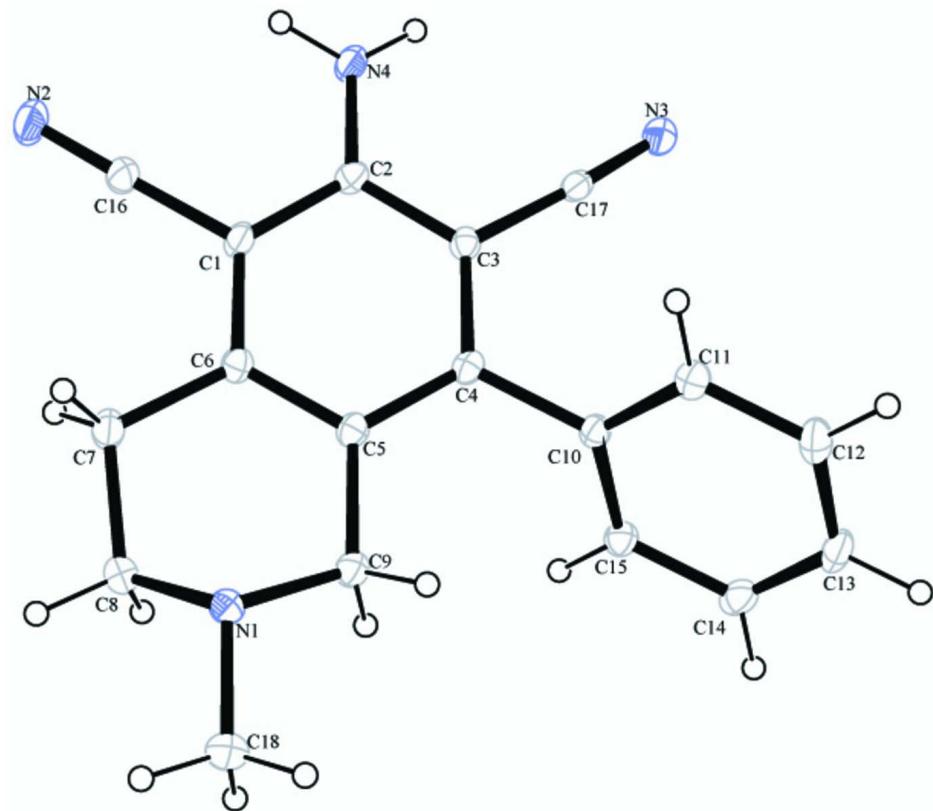
The dihedral angle between the benzene and the phenyl rings is  $61.40(4)^\circ$ . In the crystal (Fig. 2), two kinds of hydrogen bonds are formed, *i.e.*,  $N—H\cdots N$ (nitrile group) and  $N—H\cdots N$ (amine) hydrogen bonds, connecting molecules in different directions. The  $N—H\cdots N$ (nitrile group) hydrogen bonds are involved in the formation of centrosymmetric dimers, and this basic unit is linked by  $N—H\cdots N$ (amine) hydrogen bonds to four other symmetry-related units, which are parallel to each other. Non-parallel units are arranged almost perpendicular to each other [angle between unit mean planes:  $84.43(12)^\circ$ ] forming a ladder structure, that can extend into infinite sheets through the vertical direction of the step cross section. On the step cross section, the distance between the centers of two units is  $6.252(13)$  Å.

### S2. Experimental

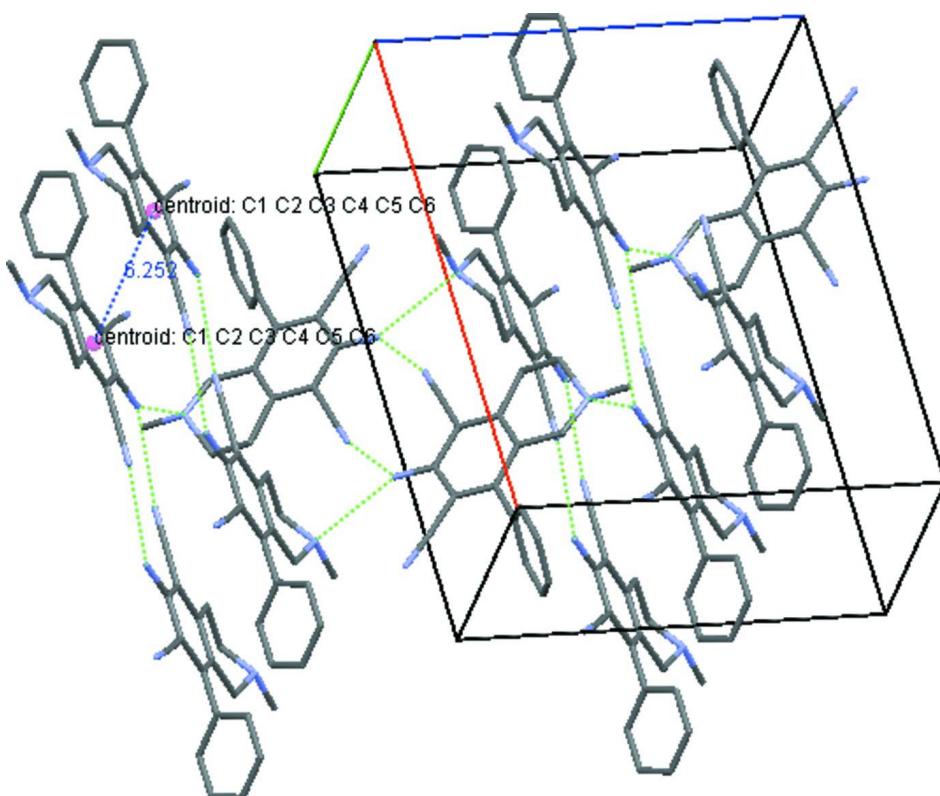
Benzaldehyde (1 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 1-methyl-4-piperidone (1 mmol) and tetrahydro pyrrole (1.2 mmol) in dichloromethane. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 4 h to obtain a  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone as an intermediate. Subsequently, this  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone (1 mmol) was reacted with malononitrile (2 mmol) under strong basic conditions (Rong *et al.*, 2009), monitoring the reaction progress by TLC. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography. Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution in methanol and dichloromethane (4:1).

### S3. Refinement

Carbon-bound H-atoms were placed in calculated positions [ $C—H = 0.95$ – $0.99$  Å,  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2$ – $1.5U_{eq}$ (parent atom)] and were allowed to ride on their parent atoms. The amino-H atoms H4A and H4B were located in a difference map, and subsequently refined freely, with  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(N4)$ .

**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of the title compound, with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 30% probability level.

**Figure 2**

The crystal packing of the title compound. H atoms not involved in hydrogen bonding are omitted for clarity.

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#### Crystal data

$C_{18}H_{16}N_4$   
 $M_r = 288.35$   
 Monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$   
 $a = 17.5630 (5)$  Å  
 $b = 6.25208 (19)$  Å  
 $c = 13.7963 (4)$  Å  
 $\beta = 93.209 (3)^\circ$   
 $V = 1512.53 (8)$  Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 4$

$F(000) = 608$   
 $D_x = 1.266 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$   
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.7107$  Å  
 Cell parameters from 2345 reflections  
 $\theta = 3.0\text{--}29.0^\circ$   
 $\mu = 0.08 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $T = 143$  K  
 Block, colourless  
 $0.38 \times 0.35 \times 0.25$  mm

#### Data collection

Agilent Xcalibur Eos  
 diffractometer  
 Radiation source: Enhance (Mo) X-ray Source  
 Graphite monochromator  
 Detector resolution: 16.0874 pixels mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan  
 (*CrysAlis PRO*; Oxford Diffraction, 2009)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.960$ ,  $T_{\max} = 1.000$

6799 measured reflections  
 3089 independent reflections  
 2414 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.034$   
 $\theta_{\max} = 26.4^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{\min} = 3.0^\circ$   
 $h = -21 \rightarrow 21$   
 $k = -7 \rightarrow 7$   
 $l = -16 \rightarrow 17$

*Refinement*Refinement on  $F^2$ 

Least-squares matrix: full

$$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.045$$

$$wR(F^2) = 0.112$$

$$S = 1.05$$

3089 reflections

206 parameters

4 restraints

0 constraints

Primary atom site location: structure-invariant  
direct methodsSecondary atom site location: difference Fourier  
mapHydrogen site location: inferred from  
neighbouring sitesH atoms treated by a mixture of independent  
and constrained refinement

$$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0403P)^2 + 0.3434P]$$
$$\text{where } P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$$

$$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$$

$$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.19 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$$

$$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.22 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$$

*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )*

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$
N1	0.29081 (7)	-0.2394 (2)	0.20203 (9)	0.0244 (3)
N2	0.50947 (9)	0.2855 (3)	0.43619 (13)	0.0498 (5)
N3	0.14961 (8)	0.4536 (2)	0.57681 (10)	0.0308 (3)
N4	0.34160 (8)	0.4642 (2)	0.53715 (11)	0.0323 (4)
H4A	0.3908 (8)	0.501 (3)	0.5410 (12)	0.039*
H4B	0.3136 (9)	0.524 (3)	0.5798 (11)	0.039*
C1	0.36603 (8)	0.1934 (2)	0.41825 (11)	0.0234 (3)
C2	0.31623 (9)	0.3112 (2)	0.47415 (11)	0.0223 (3)
C3	0.23791 (8)	0.2589 (2)	0.46164 (10)	0.0201 (3)
C4	0.21118 (8)	0.0990 (2)	0.39679 (10)	0.0199 (3)
C5	0.26291 (8)	-0.0177 (2)	0.34345 (10)	0.0207 (3)
C6	0.34051 (8)	0.0294 (2)	0.35473 (10)	0.0221 (3)
C7	0.39820 (9)	-0.0919 (3)	0.29916 (12)	0.0288 (4)
H7A	0.4417	-0.1330	0.3440	0.035*
H7B	0.4179	0.0024	0.2486	0.035*
C8	0.36428 (9)	-0.2911 (3)	0.25165 (12)	0.0274 (4)
H8A	0.3994	-0.3483	0.2043	0.033*
H8B	0.3572	-0.4021	0.3015	0.033*
C9	0.23529 (9)	-0.1913 (2)	0.27405 (11)	0.0238 (4)
H9A	0.2251	-0.3227	0.3113	0.029*
H9B	0.1868	-0.1457	0.2403	0.029*
C10	0.12744 (8)	0.0567 (2)	0.38652 (10)	0.0205 (3)
C11	0.07739 (9)	0.2175 (3)	0.35361 (11)	0.0251 (4)
H11	0.0967	0.3541	0.3374	0.030*
C12	-0.00049 (9)	0.1790 (3)	0.34448 (11)	0.0300 (4)
H12	-0.0343	0.2889	0.3217	0.036*
C13	-0.02895 (9)	-0.0187 (3)	0.36837 (11)	0.0306 (4)
H13	-0.0823	-0.0446	0.3623	0.037*
C14	0.02015 (9)	-0.1791 (3)	0.40108 (11)	0.0292 (4)
H14	0.0005	-0.3152	0.4174	0.035*
C15	0.09809 (9)	-0.1418 (2)	0.41021 (11)	0.0243 (4)
H15	0.1316	-0.2526	0.4328	0.029*
C16	0.44596 (9)	0.2426 (3)	0.42808 (12)	0.0311 (4)

C17	0.18663 (8)	0.3655 (2)	0.52358 (11)	0.0221 (3)
C18	0.26348 (10)	-0.4182 (3)	0.14143 (12)	0.0344 (4)
H18A	0.2595	-0.5464	0.1817	0.052*
H18B	0.2993	-0.4447	0.0909	0.052*
H18C	0.2132	-0.3833	0.1111	0.052*

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

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
N1	0.0234 (7)	0.0257 (7)	0.0243 (7)	-0.0017 (6)	0.0042 (5)	-0.0057 (5)
N2	0.0229 (8)	0.0629 (11)	0.0644 (11)	-0.0121 (8)	0.0114 (7)	-0.0318 (9)
N3	0.0234 (7)	0.0328 (8)	0.0363 (8)	-0.0017 (6)	0.0042 (6)	-0.0068 (6)
N4	0.0208 (7)	0.0385 (8)	0.0383 (8)	-0.0093 (7)	0.0084 (6)	-0.0166 (7)
C1	0.0173 (8)	0.0276 (8)	0.0255 (8)	-0.0043 (6)	0.0033 (6)	-0.0005 (7)
C2	0.0215 (8)	0.0235 (8)	0.0222 (8)	-0.0039 (6)	0.0021 (6)	0.0006 (6)
C3	0.0191 (8)	0.0206 (8)	0.0207 (7)	-0.0003 (6)	0.0029 (6)	0.0023 (6)
C4	0.0185 (7)	0.0207 (8)	0.0204 (7)	-0.0016 (6)	0.0008 (6)	0.0056 (6)
C5	0.0198 (8)	0.0219 (8)	0.0205 (7)	-0.0014 (6)	0.0018 (6)	0.0025 (6)
C6	0.0202 (8)	0.0246 (8)	0.0217 (7)	-0.0009 (6)	0.0033 (6)	0.0008 (6)
C7	0.0206 (8)	0.0365 (9)	0.0298 (9)	-0.0008 (7)	0.0044 (6)	-0.0061 (7)
C8	0.0242 (9)	0.0277 (9)	0.0306 (9)	0.0022 (7)	0.0046 (7)	-0.0037 (7)
C9	0.0214 (8)	0.0255 (8)	0.0248 (8)	-0.0027 (6)	0.0034 (6)	-0.0015 (6)
C10	0.0186 (8)	0.0250 (8)	0.0180 (7)	-0.0007 (6)	0.0021 (6)	-0.0029 (6)
C11	0.0228 (8)	0.0285 (9)	0.0239 (8)	-0.0003 (7)	0.0009 (6)	0.0007 (7)
C12	0.0203 (8)	0.0426 (10)	0.0271 (9)	0.0060 (7)	-0.0002 (6)	-0.0023 (7)
C13	0.0160 (8)	0.0494 (11)	0.0265 (8)	-0.0053 (7)	0.0036 (6)	-0.0102 (8)
C14	0.0267 (9)	0.0336 (9)	0.0281 (9)	-0.0095 (7)	0.0080 (7)	-0.0065 (7)
C15	0.0228 (8)	0.0256 (8)	0.0246 (8)	-0.0022 (7)	0.0039 (6)	-0.0009 (7)
C16	0.0234 (9)	0.0353 (9)	0.0353 (9)	-0.0050 (7)	0.0071 (7)	-0.0142 (8)
C17	0.0189 (8)	0.0210 (8)	0.0260 (8)	-0.0042 (6)	-0.0011 (6)	0.0005 (7)
C18	0.0331 (10)	0.0334 (10)	0.0369 (10)	-0.0041 (8)	0.0037 (7)	-0.0119 (8)

*Geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $\text{^\circ}$ )*

N1—C8	1.463 (2)	C7—H7B	0.9900
N1—C9	1.4618 (19)	C7—C8	1.514 (2)
N1—C18	1.4607 (19)	C8—H8A	0.9900
N2—C16	1.147 (2)	C8—H8B	0.9900
N3—C17	1.1483 (19)	C9—H9A	0.9900
N4—H4A	0.893 (12)	C9—H9B	0.9900
N4—H4B	0.874 (12)	C10—C11	1.394 (2)
N4—C2	1.3510 (19)	C10—C15	1.390 (2)
C1—C2	1.406 (2)	C11—H11	0.9500
C1—C6	1.406 (2)	C11—C12	1.388 (2)
C1—C16	1.436 (2)	C12—H12	0.9500
C2—C3	1.415 (2)	C12—C13	1.380 (2)
C3—C4	1.405 (2)	C13—H13	0.9500
C3—C17	1.439 (2)	C13—C14	1.381 (2)

C4—C5	1.405 (2)	C14—H14	0.9500
C4—C10	1.4931 (19)	C14—C15	1.387 (2)
C5—C6	1.394 (2)	C15—H15	0.9500
C5—C9	1.510 (2)	C18—H18A	0.9800
C6—C7	1.509 (2)	C18—H18B	0.9800
C7—H7A	0.9900	C18—H18C	0.9800
C9—N1—C8	109.38 (12)	C7—C8—H8B	109.7
C18—N1—C8	110.60 (12)	H8A—C8—H8B	108.2
C18—N1—C9	109.63 (12)	N1—C9—C5	112.08 (12)
H4A—N4—H4B	115.4 (16)	N1—C9—H9A	109.2
C2—N4—H4A	120.3 (11)	N1—C9—H9B	109.2
C2—N4—H4B	124.1 (11)	C5—C9—H9A	109.2
C2—C1—C16	118.09 (14)	C5—C9—H9B	109.2
C6—C1—C2	122.51 (14)	H9A—C9—H9B	107.9
C6—C1—C16	119.40 (14)	C11—C10—C4	120.20 (13)
N4—C2—C1	122.05 (14)	C15—C10—C4	120.79 (13)
N4—C2—C3	121.70 (14)	C15—C10—C11	119.01 (14)
C1—C2—C3	116.25 (13)	C10—C11—H11	119.9
C2—C3—C17	117.18 (13)	C12—C11—C10	120.30 (15)
C4—C3—C2	122.01 (13)	C12—C11—H11	119.9
C4—C3—C17	120.65 (13)	C11—C12—H12	119.9
C3—C4—C5	120.01 (13)	C13—C12—C11	120.15 (15)
C3—C4—C10	118.59 (13)	C13—C12—H12	119.9
C5—C4—C10	121.39 (13)	C12—C13—H13	120.0
C4—C5—C9	120.75 (13)	C12—C13—C14	120.00 (15)
C6—C5—C4	119.25 (13)	C14—C13—H13	120.0
C6—C5—C9	120.00 (13)	C13—C14—H14	119.9
C1—C6—C7	118.93 (13)	C13—C14—C15	120.17 (15)
C5—C6—C1	119.93 (13)	C15—C14—H14	119.9
C5—C6—C7	121.13 (13)	C10—C15—H15	119.8
C6—C7—H7A	109.2	C14—C15—C10	120.37 (15)
C6—C7—H7B	109.2	C14—C15—H15	119.8
C6—C7—C8	111.98 (13)	N2—C16—C1	178.82 (19)
H7A—C7—H7B	107.9	N3—C17—C3	175.71 (15)
C8—C7—H7A	109.2	N1—C18—H18A	109.5
C8—C7—H7B	109.2	N1—C18—H18B	109.5
N1—C8—C7	109.66 (13)	N1—C18—H18C	109.5
N1—C8—H8A	109.7	H18A—C18—H18B	109.5
N1—C8—H8B	109.7	H18A—C18—H18C	109.5
C7—C8—H8A	109.7	H18B—C18—H18C	109.5
N4—C2—C3—C4	-179.53 (14)	C6—C1—C2—C3	-1.3 (2)
N4—C2—C3—C17	-4.0 (2)	C6—C1—C16—N2	147 (9)
C1—C2—C3—C4	-0.3 (2)	C6—C5—C9—N1	-20.08 (19)
C1—C2—C3—C17	175.24 (13)	C6—C7—C8—N1	46.68 (18)
C1—C6—C7—C8	167.68 (14)	C8—N1—C9—C5	54.58 (16)
C2—C1—C6—C5	1.8 (2)	C9—N1—C8—C7	-69.32 (16)

C2—C1—C6—C7	−178.69 (14)	C9—C5—C6—C1	179.00 (13)
C2—C1—C16—N2	−34 (9)	C9—C5—C6—C7	−0.5 (2)
C2—C3—C4—C5	1.3 (2)	C10—C4—C5—C6	179.26 (13)
C2—C3—C4—C10	−178.81 (13)	C10—C4—C5—C9	−0.3 (2)
C2—C3—C17—N3	−19 (2)	C10—C11—C12—C13	0.3 (2)
C3—C4—C5—C6	−0.9 (2)	C11—C10—C15—C14	0.1 (2)
C3—C4—C5—C9	179.50 (13)	C11—C12—C13—C14	−0.3 (2)
C3—C4—C10—C11	61.30 (18)	C12—C13—C14—C15	0.1 (2)
C3—C4—C10—C15	−118.16 (16)	C13—C14—C15—C10	0.0 (2)
C4—C3—C17—N3	157 (2)	C15—C10—C11—C12	−0.2 (2)
C4—C5—C6—C1	−0.6 (2)	C16—C1—C2—N4	−1.3 (2)
C4—C5—C6—C7	179.86 (13)	C16—C1—C2—C3	179.48 (14)
C4—C5—C9—N1	159.53 (13)	C16—C1—C6—C5	−179.03 (14)
C4—C10—C11—C12	−179.67 (14)	C16—C1—C6—C7	0.5 (2)
C4—C10—C15—C14	179.53 (13)	C17—C3—C4—C5	−173.99 (13)
C5—C4—C10—C11	−118.85 (16)	C17—C3—C4—C10	5.9 (2)
C5—C4—C10—C15	61.68 (19)	C18—N1—C8—C7	169.84 (13)
C5—C6—C7—C8	−12.8 (2)	C18—N1—C9—C5	176.02 (13)
C6—C1—C2—N4	177.97 (15)		

*Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °)*

D—H···A	D—H	H···A	D···A	D—H···A
N4—H4 <i>A</i> ···N2 <sup>i</sup>	0.89 (1)	2.21 (1)	3.052 (2)	157 (2)
N4—H4 <i>B</i> ···N1 <sup>ii</sup>	0.87 (1)	2.21 (1)	3.0261 (19)	155 (2)

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$ ; (ii)  $x, -y+1/2, z+1/2$ .