



# supporting information

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## 1,4-Bis{(+)-(S)-[1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl]iminomethyl}benzene

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### S1. Comment

There is an increased interest in the use of environmentally benign reagents and conditions particularly to solvent-free procedures. Thus, avoiding organic solvents during the reactions in organic synthesis leads to clean, efficient and economical technology: safety is largely increased, working is considerably simplified, cost is reduced, increased amounts of reactants can be used, *etc.* Also, reactivities and sometimes selectivities are enhanced (Jeon *et al.*, 2005; Noyori, 2005; Tanaka & Toda, 2000). On the other hand, bis-imines have lately attracted much attention, mostly due to their versatile coordination behavior and the interesting properties of their metal complexes. These compounds are particularly interesting since they can potentially act in a variety of coordination modes. Continuing our work on the synthesis and characterization of this kind of compounds (Tovar *et al.*, 2007; Espinosa Leija *et al.*, 2009), we synthesized the title compound under solvent-free conditions and report herein its crystal structure.

The molecule (Fig. 1) is constructed of a benzene ring *para*-substituted by two identical chiral fragments including imine functionality. The conformation stabilized in the solid-state has both imine groups displaying *E* configuration, previously observed in related systems (*e.g.* Allouchi *et al.*, 1994). Naphthyl groups, which are potentially free to rotate about their  $\sigma$  bonds C1—C11 and C21—C23, show different orientations with respect to the central benzene ring. The dihedral angles between the central benzene ring C14···C19 and the naphthyl rings C1···C10 and C23···C32 are 21.4 (2) and 78.83 (14) $^{\circ}$ , respectively. The naphthyl systems make a dihedral angle of 73.69 (10) $^{\circ}$ . As a consequence, the molecule has  $C_1$  point symmetry rather than  $C_2$ , and is not a good candidate for coordination to transition metals. In contrast, other related bis-imines based on a *para*-substituted benzene core approximate the  $C_2$  point symmetry (*e.g.* Hamaker & Oberts, 2006).

The crystal structure features a number of C—H $\cdots$  $\pi$  intermolecular interactions of variable strength, involving all available aromatic rings (Fig. 2). Although no  $\pi$ — $\pi$  contacts contribute to the stabilization of the crystal structure, the molecules are efficiently packed along the short [100] axis in the crystal. As a consequence, no voids are available for lattice solvent insertion, a situation contrasting with that observed for an isomeric system previously described (Espinosa Leija *et al.*, 2009): for the *meta*-substituted molecule, a 1:1 solvate was crystallized with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, with solvent molecules filling large voids generated by the molecular conformation.

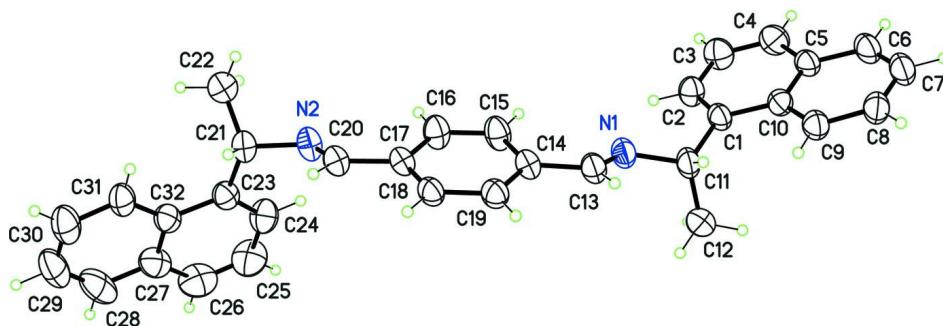
Interestingly, the enantiomer of the title compound has been registered (Watanabe & Fukuda, 2008; CAS registry number: 1021327–88-7) as a chiral dopant for nematic or cholesteric liquid crystals for generating large helical twisting power. This use is consistent with the high optical rotation measured for this molecule (see *Experimental*).

**S2. Experimental**

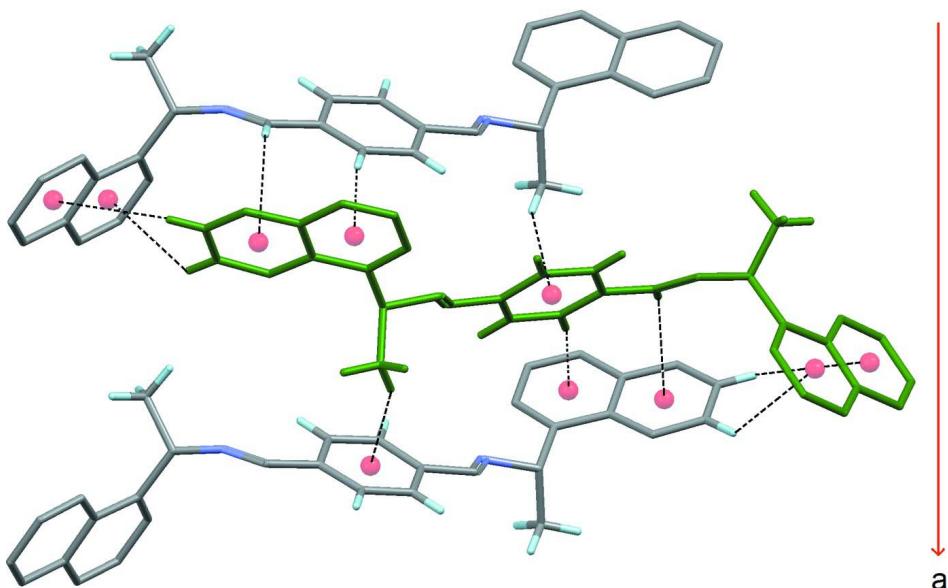
Under solvent-free conditions, a mixture of benzene-1,4-dicarboxaldehyde (0.12 g, 0.93 mmol) and (*S*)-(−)-1-naphthylethylamine (0.32 g, 1.8 mmol) were mixed at 298 K, giving a white solid. The crude material was recrystallized twice from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, affording colorless crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction. Yield: 87%; m.p. 438 K (165 °C); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = +413.3 (c 1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr): 1632 cm<sup>−1</sup> (C=N). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS): δ = 1.73 (d, 6 H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.35 (q, 2H, CH), 7.45–8.24 (m, 18 H, Ar), 8.42 (s, 2 H, HC=N). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS) δ = 24.4 (CCH<sub>3</sub>), 65.6 (CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.5 (Ar), 124.0 (Ar), 125.3 (Ar), 125.6 (Ar), 125.8 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 128.4 (Ar), 128.9 (Ar), 130.5 (Ar), 133.9 (Ar), 138.3 (Ar), 140.9 (Ar), 159.1 (HC=N). MS—EI: *m/z* = 440 (*M*<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>.

**S3. Refinement**

All H atoms were placed in idealized positions with C—H bond lengths fixed to 0.93 (aromatic), 0.96 (methyl) or 0.98 Å (methine), and with methyl groups allowed to rotate about their C—C bonds. A riding refinement was applied, and isotropic displacement parameters were computed as  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{carrier atom})$  for the methyl groups and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{carrier atom})$  otherwise. Friedel pairs (1571) were merged and the absolute configuration inferred from that of the commercial optically pure amine used as starting material.

**Figure 1**

The title molecule with displacement ellipsoids for non-H atoms shown at the 30% probability level.

**Figure 2**

A part of the crystal structure of the title compound, with the asymmetric unit shown in green. Dashed lines represent C—H $\cdots$  $\pi$  interactions in the crystal, and centroids of involved  $\pi$  systems have been represented with red spheres. Some H atoms not involved in the network of contacts have been omitted for clarity.

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#### Crystal data

C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>  
*M*<sub>r</sub> = 440.56  
 Orthorhombic, *P*2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>  
 Hall symbol: P 2ac 2ab  
*a* = 8.391 (3) Å  
*b* = 15.102 (5) Å  
*c* = 19.569 (7) Å  
*V* = 2479.6 (14) Å<sup>3</sup>  
*Z* = 4  
*F*(000) = 936

#### Data collection

Siemens P4  
 diffractometer  
 Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube  
 Graphite monochromator  
 $\omega$  scans  
 6140 measured reflections  
 2491 independent reflections  
 1445 reflections with *I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)

*D*<sub>x</sub> = 1.180 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Melting point: 438 K  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda$  = 0.71073 Å  
 Cell parameters from 100 reflections  
 $\theta$  = 4.8–11.4°  
 $\mu$  = 0.07 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T$  = 298 K  
 Needle, colorless  
 0.6 × 0.2 × 0.2 mm

*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.162  
 $\theta_{\max}$  = 25.1°,  $\theta_{\min}$  = 2.1°  
 $h$  = -9→6  
 $k$  = -17→17  
 $l$  = -23→22  
 3 standard reflections every 97 reflections  
 intensity decay: 2.5%











C13—C14—C15—C16	177.6 (6)	C24—C23—C32—C31	179.7 (6)
C14—C15—C16—C17	1.1 (9)	C21—C23—C32—C31	-0.9 (8)
C15—C16—C17—C18	1.4 (9)	C24—C23—C32—C27	1.9 (7)
C15—C16—C17—C20	179.5 (6)	C21—C23—C32—C27	-178.8 (5)

*Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °)*

D—H···A	D—H	H···A	D···A	D—H···A
C7—H7A···Cg1 <sup>i</sup>	0.93	3.29	4.042 (6)	140
C8—H8A···Cg2 <sup>i</sup>	0.93	3.14	3.797 (5)	129
C12—H12A···Cg3 <sup>ii</sup>	0.96	2.79	3.677 (6)	154
C18—H18A···Cg4 <sup>ii</sup>	0.93	2.62	3.520 (5)	163
C20—H20A···Cg5 <sup>ii</sup>	0.93	2.98	3.681 (5)	133

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x-1/2, -y+3/2, -z$ ; (ii)  $x+1/2, -y+3/2, -z$ .