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Crystal structure, Hirshfeld surface analysis, DFT and molecular docking studies of ethyl 5-amino-2 bromoisonicotinate

Harish Kumar Mahadevaiah,^a Harishkumar Shivanna,^b Anil Kumar Hanumaiah,^c Devarajegowda Hirehalli Chikkegowda^a and Palakshamurthy Bandrehalli Siddagangaiahd *

a Department of Physics, Yuvaraja's College, University of Mysore, Mysore, 570005, Karnataka, India, **^b** Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka, 577451, India, **^c** Department of Physics, Government First Grade College, Chikkabalapura, Karnataka-562101, India, and **^d** Department of PG Studies and Research in Physics, Albert Einstein Block, UCS, Tumkur University, Tumkur, Karnataka 572103, India. *Correspondence e-mail: palaksha.bspm@gmail.com

In the title compound, $C_8H_9BrN_2O_2$, the $C-O-C-C$ torsion angle between isonicotine and the ethyl group is $180.0 \,(2)^\circ$. Intramolecular N-H $\cdot \cdot$ O and $C-H \cdots$ O interactions consolidate the molecular structure. In the crystal, $N-H \cdots N$ interaction form *S*(5) zigzag chains along [010]. The most significant contributions to the Hirshfeld surface arise from $H \cdots H$ (33.2%), Br \cdots H/ $H \cdots Br$ (20.9%), O $\cdots H/H \cdots O$ (11.2%), C $\cdots H/H \cdots C$ (11.1%) and N $\cdots H/H$ $H \cdot \cdot W$ (10%) contacts. The topology of the three-dimensional energy frameworks was generated using the B3LYP/6–31 G(d,p) model to calculate the total interaction energy. The net interaction energies for the title compound are E_{ele} = 59.2 kJ mol⁻¹, $E_{pol} = 15.5$ kJ mol⁻¹, $E_{dis} = 140.3$ kJ mol⁻¹ and $E_{rep} = 107.2$ kJ mol⁻¹ with a total interaction energy E_{tot} of 128.8 kJ mol⁻¹. The molecular structure was optimized by density functional theory (DFT) at the B3LYP/6–311 $+G(d,p)$ level and the theoretical and experimentally obtained parameters were compared. The frontier molecular orbitals HOMO and LUMO were generated, giving an energy gap ΔE of 4.0931 eV. The MEP was generated to identify active sites in the molecule and molecular docking studies carried out with the title compound (ligand) and the covid-19 main protease PDB ID: 6LU7, revealing a moderate binding affinity of -5.4 kcal mol⁻¹.

1. Chemical context

The derivatives of isonicotinate are enantiomerically enriched in the *R* and *S* configuration. The molecules associated with 2-methylalkyl isonicotinate and nicotinate exhibit *R* and *S* configurations at the molecular level. These compounds demonstrate a good anti-fungal activity against different phytopathogenic fungi species and they play significant role in the reduction of the damage at the plant cell and chloroplast levels (Huras *et al.*, 2017). Isonicotinate ligands with an organoruthenium(II) ion form organometallic complexes that exhibit anti-cancer activities (Liu *et al.*, 2012). Silver complexes with nicotinate-based ligands exhibit anti-bacterial activity against clinically isolated pathogens (Abu-Youssef *et al.*, 2007). Various metal complexes with nicotinate moieties have been used to develop phytopathogenic drugs. Most importantly, organotin isonicotinate derivatives are extensively used in the development of antiproliferative drugs, which play a significant role at the innermost layer of cells lining blood vessels and lymphatic vessels (Vieriu *et al.*, 2021). These drugs are used in drug-eluting stents to inhibit vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation possesses, exhibit consider-

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able vasodilator properties and are also used to boost endothelial protective properties (Girgis *et al.*, 2006). The isonicotinate-derived *meso-*tetraarylporphyrin exhibits antioxidant, anti-fungal and allelopathic activities (Dardouri *et al.*, 2024). As part of our studies of this family of materials, we now present the synthesis, structure and Hirshfeld surface analysis of the title compound.

2. Structural commentary

The molecular structure of title compound, which crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *P*21/*c*, is shown in Fig. 1. The amino-2-bromoisonicotinate ring system is essentially planar, with an r.m.s deviation of 0.043 (2) Å. The whole molecule is essentially planar, the dihedral angle between the mean planes defined by the isonocotine moiety and the side chain being 4.30 (2)^{\degree}. The C6-O1-C7-C8 torsion angle of 175.2 (2)^{\degree} indicates that the ethyl group is in a planar orientation with the isonocotine ring [see also: $C1 - C6 - O1 - C7 =$ -178.0 (2)° and N2–C2–C1–C6 = -1.2 (4)°]. The molecular

Figure 1

The title molecule with the atom-labeling scheme and 50% probability displacement ellipsoids.

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

structure is consolidated by $N2-H2B\cdots O2$ and $C5-H5\cdots$ O1 intramolecular interactions (Table 1).

3. Supramolecular features

In the crystal, $N2-H2A\cdots N1$ interactions (Table 1) link the molecules into *S*(5) zigzag chains along [010] as shown in Fig. 2*a* and makes molecular sheets through $N-H \cdot \cdot \cdot N$ interactions between the four independent molecules in the unit cell, as shown in Fig. 2*b*.

4. Database survey

A search of the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD, version 5.42, update of November 2020; Groom *et al.*, 2016) was undertaken for molecules containing ethyl 3-amino-

Figure 2

(*a*) The three-dimensional molecular packing of the title compound. Dashed lines indicate $N-H \cdot \cdot \cdot N$ intermolecular hydrogen bonds forming zigzag chains along [010]. (*b*) Perspective view of the molecular sheets.

Figure 3

The Hirshfeld surface mapped over d_{norm} with red spots corresponding to the electronegative site of the nitrogen of the molecule.

isonicotinate, 5-amino-2-bromoisonicotinic acid and ethyl 2 bromoisonicotinate fragments, but no hits were found. However, 29 hits were found in a search for molecules containing an ethyl isonicotinate fragment. Among those, in the structures with CSD refcodes ROMMIQ (Wang *et al.*, 2009), SILPOT (Wan *et al.*, 2007), XEZDEM (Han *et al.*, 2007) and XIMBIF (Li *et al.*, 2007), the C—C—O—C torsion angles associated with the isonicotinate are 177.93 (2), -168.46 (3), -168.46 (3) and 176.82 (2)^o, respectively, with the same *anti* conformation as in the title compound where the comparable torsion angle is $180.0\ (2)^\circ$.

5. Hirshfeld surface analysis and interaction energies

CrystalExplorer17.5 (Turner *et al.*, 2017) was used to perform a Hirshfeld surface analysis to quantify the various intermolecular interactions. Fig. 3 illustrates the Hirshfeld surface mapped over d_{norm} with red spots corresponding to electronegative site of the nitrogen through which a short contact $N2-H2A\cdots N1$ forms a hydrogen-bonded chain. The fingerprint plots in Fig. 4 indicate that the major contributions to the Hirshfeld surface of the crystal structure are from $H \cdot \cdot \cdot H$ (33.2%) , Br \cdots H/H \cdots Br (20.9%) , O \cdots H/H \cdots O (11.2%) , $C \cdots H/H \cdots C$ (11.1%) and $N \cdots H/H \cdots N$ (10%) contacts. The characteristic spikes in the $N \cdot \cdot H/H \cdot \cdot \cdot N$ plot indicate the presence of the $N2-H2A\cdots N1$ hydrogen bond listed in Table 1. The three-dimensional interaction energy between the molecules of the title compound were computed using the basis set B3LYP/6-31G(d,p). The net interaction energies are $E_{\text{ele}} = 59.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$, $E_{\text{pol}} = 15.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$, $E_{\text{dis}} = 140.3 \text{ kJ}$ mol^{-1} , $E_{\text{rep}} = 107.2 \text{ kJ} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ with a total interaction energy E_{tot} of 128.8 kJ mol⁻¹. The topology of the energy frameworks along the *a*, *b* and *c* axes for the different contributions (Coulombic energy, dispersion energy and total energy) are shown in Fig. 5.

Figure 4

The fingerprint plots of the title molecule, showing the major contributions to the Hirshfeld surface from $H \cdot \cdot \cdot H$ (33.2%), $Br \cdot \cdot \cdot H/H \cdot \cdot \cdot Br$ (20.9%), O \cdots H/H \cdots O (11.2%), C \cdots H/H \cdots C (11.1%) and N \cdots H/ $H \cdot \cdot \cdot N$ (10%) contacts.

The topology of the energy frameworks along the *a*, *b* and *c* axes for interaction energies.

6. DFT Studies

Table 2

The title compound was studied by DFT calculations in the gas phase at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of theory with *Gaussian 09W* (Frisch *et al.*, 2009). *GaussView 5.0* was used to generate the optimized molecular structure (Fig. 6). The optimized bond parameters obtained are in good correlation with those obtained from SCXRD analysis (Table 2). The small deviations observed may be attributed to the gas phase (theoretical calculations) compared to the solid phase of SCXRD analysis. The calculated energies of the frontier molecular orbitals are -6.2700 eV and -2.1769 eV . The energy gap ΔE was found to be 4.0931 eV (Fig. 7). The reactivity descriptors calculated from the energy gap value, ionization energy (*I*), electron affinity (*A*), electronegativity (χ) , chemical hardness (η) , chemical potential (μ) , electrophilicity index (ω) and chemical softness (S) are 6.2700,

Figure 6

The optimized molecular structure of the title compound generated using *Gaussian 09W*.

Figure 7

The frontier molecular orbitals HOMO and LUMO energy levels, with the energy gap $\Delta E = 4.0931$ eV.

2.1769, 4.2234, 2.0465, -4.2234 , 4.3580 eV and 0.2440 eV⁻¹ respectively.

The MEP surface of the optimized structure of the title compound is depicted in Fig. 8. Nucleophilic and electrophilic reactive sites of the molecule are represented by red- and blue-colored regions on the MEP surface. In the MEP surface of the title compound, the pale red color covering the oxygen and nitrogen atoms of the isonicotinate fragment and the pale-

Figure 9 A graphical view of the three-dimensional and two-dimensional docking between the ligand and the receptor protein (covid-19 main protease).

blue color over the amino group are active sites for nucleophilic and electrophilic attack, respectively.

7. Molecular docking studies

The interaction of the ligand with the target receptor, covid-19 main protease (PDB ID: 6LU7) was performed using *Autodock Vina 4.2* (Morris *et al.*, 2009) software. *Biovia Discovery Studio* (Biovia, 2017) was used for visualizing the interactions present between ligand and receptor. The docking results of the ligand with the receptor protein reveal that the ligand has a good binding affinity of -5.4 kcal mol⁻¹ and the 2D interaction view shows conventional hydrogen bonding of GLU A:166, LEU A:141, CYS A:145 and SER A:144 with nitrogen and oxygen atoms, van der Waals interactions between the HIS A:163, ASN A:142 amino residues and ethyl -5 -amino 2-bromoisonicotinate, Fig. 9. The binding affinity of the title compound with the receptor protein (covid-19 main protease) suggests it to be a potential candidate for pharmaceutical applications. Meanwhile, we have gone through the literature in order to study the efficiency of the title ligand. The docking results of imidazole-anchored azo-imidazole derivatives with the 6LU7 receptor also exhibit a binding affinity of -5.4 kcal mol^{-1} (Chhetri *et al.*, 2021)

8. Synthesis and crystallization

To a stirred a solution of ethyl 3-aminoisonicotinate (800 mg, 1.0 eq) in DMF (8 mL), *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS; 0.937 mg. 1.1 eq) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC (30% EA: hexane) and it confirmed that the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was then quenched with water and extracted into ethyl acetate. The organic layer was separated and concentrated to obtain the crude product and purified through Combi-Flash chromatography using 30%

EA. Hexane–ethyl acetate was used as mobile phase to obtain the pure compound as a pale-yellow crystal, yield: 98%. A suitable single crystal was used to collect the X-ray data.¹H NMR (500 Hz) in CDCl3, *�* 7.96 (*s*, 1H, Ar-H), 7.78 (*s*, 1H, Ar-H), 5.69 (*s*, 2H, NH2), 4.36 (*t*, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H, OCH2), 1.42 (*t*, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H, –CH3) ppm. 13C NMR, 125 Hz: *�* 165.8, 144.1, 140.3, 126.9, 118.8, 61.6, 14.2 ppm.

9. Refinement

Crystal data, data collection and structure refinement details are summarized in Table 3. The hydrogen atoms attached to N were located in difference maps. The distances H2*A*/H2*B*—N2 were restrained to 0.82 (2) A \AA . All other H atoms were positioned with idealized geometry and refined using a riding model with C—H = 0.93–0.97 Å and $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$ or $1.5U_{eq}$ (methyl C).

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Crystal structure, Hirshfeld surface analysis, DFT and molecular docking studies of ethyl 5-amino-2-bromoisonicotinate

Harish Kumar Mahadevaiah, Harishkumar Shivanna, Anil Kumar Hanumaiah, Devarajegowda Hirehalli Chikkegowda and Palakshamurthy Bandrehalli Siddagangaiah

Computing details

Ethyl 5-amino-2-bromopyridine-4-carboxylate

Crystal data

 $C_8H_9BrN_2O_2$ $M_r = 245.08$ Monoclinic, *P*21/*c* $a = 4.1538(9)$ Å $b = 8.9978(16)$ Å $c = 25.487(5)$ Å β = 92.468 (7)[°] $V = 951.7$ (3) Å³ $Z = 4$

Data collection

```
Bruker SMART APEXII CCD 
  diffractometer
Radiation source: fine-focus sealed tube
Graphite monochromator
Detector resolution: 0.97 pixels mm-1
\varphi and \Omega scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan 
  (SADABS; Krause et al., 2015)
T_{\text{min}} = 0.225, T_{\text{max}} = 0.401
```
Refinement

Refinement on *F*² Least-squares matrix: full $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.032$ $wR(F^2) = 0.069$ $S = 1.04$ 2353 reflections 126 parameters 0 restraints 0.12 constraints Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods

 $F(000) = 488$ $D_x = 1.710$ Mg m⁻³ Mo *Kα* radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å Cell parameters from 2367 reflections θ = 2.5–29.0° μ = 4.29 mm⁻¹ $T = 567$ K Prism, pale yellow $0.32 \times 0.27 \times 0.21$ mm

21643 measured reflections 2353 independent reflections 1910 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.037$ $\theta_{\text{max}} = 28.3^{\circ}, \theta_{\text{min}} = 2.8^{\circ}$ $h = -5 \rightarrow 5$ $k = -11 \rightarrow 11$ *l* = −33→33

Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map Hydrogen site location: mixed H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement $w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F_o^2) + (0.0216P)^2 + 0.6676P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$ Δ*ρ*max = 0.53 e Å−3 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.45$ e Å⁻³

Special details

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

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å²)

Atomic displacement parameters (Å2)

	U^{11}	L^{22}	U^{33}	U^{12}	U^{13}	L^{23}
Br1	0.07039(19)	0.04411(15)	0.0714(2)	0.00444(12)	$-0.01747(13)$	$-0.01644(12)$
O ₁	0.0718(11)	0.0421(8)	0.0399(8)	0.0006(7)	$-0.0200(7)$	$-0.0075(7)$
O ₂	0.1044(15)	0.0396(9)	0.0572(11)	0.0078(9)	$-0.0225(10)$	$-0.0068(8)$
N ₂	0.102(2)	0.0467(12)	0.0519(14)	0.0056(12)	$-0.0313(13)$	0.0091(10)
C ₁	0.0475(12)	0.0382(10)	0.0304(10)	$-0.0056(9)$	$-0.0048(9)$	0.0015(8)
C ₂	0.0559(13)	0.0426(11)	0.0359(11)	$-0.0058(10)$	$-0.0073(9)$	0.0083(9)
C ₃	0.0625(15)	0.0560(14)	0.0334(11)	$-0.0075(11)$	$-0.0139(10)$	0.0050(10)
N ₁	0.0569(12)	0.0513(11)	0.0349(9)	$-0.0085(9)$	$-0.0090(8)$	$-0.0041(8)$
C ₄	0.0460(12)	0.0399(11)	0.0394(11)	$-0.0056(9)$	$-0.0026(9)$	$-0.0042(9)$
C ₅	0.0488(12)	0.0414(11)	0.0331(10)	$-0.0033(9)$	$-0.0090(9)$	0.0005(8)
C ₆	0.0589(14)	0.0401(11)	0.0367(11)	$-0.0036(10)$	$-0.0069(10)$	$-0.0005(8)$
C7	0.0683(16)	0.0557(14)	0.0418(12)	$-0.0052(12)$	$-0.0159(11)$	$-0.0167(11)$
C8	0.080(2)	0.091(2)	0.0478(15)	$-0.0032(17)$	$-0.0203(14)$	$-0.0065(14)$

Geometric parameters (Å, º)

$Br1-C4$	1.903(2)	$C3 - N1$	1.318(3)
$O1 - C6$	1.335(3)	$C3-H3$	0.9300
$O1 - C7$	1.454(2)	$N1 - C4$	1.327(3)
$O2 - C6$	1.204(3)	$C4 - C5$	1.368(3)
$N2-C2$	1.354(3)	$C5 - H5$	0.9300
$N2 - H2A$	0.82(3)	$C7-C8$	1.478(4)
$N2 - H2B$	0.87(3)	$C7 - H7A$	0.9700
$C1 - C5$	1.393(3)	$C7 - H7B$	0.9700
$C1-C2$	1.405(3)	$C8 - H8A$	0.9600
$C1-C6$	1.483(3)	$C8 - H8B$	0.9600
$C2-C3$	1.409(3)	$C8 - H8C$	0.9600
$C6 - O1 - C7$	117.00(18)	$C1-C5-H5$	120.5
$C2 - N2 - H2A$	117(2)	$O2-C6-O1$	123.0(2)
$C2 - N2 - H2B$	115.9(19)	$O2-C6-O1$	123.0(2)
$H2A - N2 - H2B$	127(3)	$O2-C6-C1$	125.0(2)
$C5-C1-C2$	118.54(19)	$O2-C6-C1$	125.0(2)
$C5-C1-C6$	120.56(19)	$O1 - C6 - C1$	112.08(19)
$C2-C1-C6$	120.9(2)	$O1 - C7 - C8$	107.4(2)
$N2 - C2 - C1$	124.5(2)	$O1 - C7 - H7A$	110.2
$N2 - C2 - C3$	119.3(2)	$C8-C7-H7A$	110.2
$C1-C2-C3$	116.2(2)	$O1-C7-H7B$	110.2
$N1-C3-C2$	125.1(2)	$C8-C7-H7B$	110.2
$N1-C3-H3$	117.4	$H7A - C7 - H7B$	108.5
$C2-C3-H3$	117.4	$C7-C8-H8A$	109.5
$C3-M1-C4$	116.92(19)	$C7-C8-HBB$	109.5
$N1-C4-C5$	124.2(2)	H8A-C8-H8B	109.5
$N1-C4-Br1$	116.65(15)	$C7-C8-H8C$	109.5
$C5-C4-Br1$	119.19(16)	H8A-C8-H8C	109.5
$C4-C5-C1$	119.1(2)	Н8В-С8-Н8С	109.5
$C4-C5-H5$	120.5		
$C5 - C1 - C2 - N2$	179.0(2)	$C6 - C1 - C5 - C4$	179.9(2)
$C6 - C1 - C2 - N2$	$-1.2(4)$	$C7 - 01 - C6 - 02$	$-0.6(4)$
$C5-C1-C2-C3$	0.2(3)	$C7 - 01 - C6 - 02$	$-0.6(4)$
$C6-C1-C2-C3$	$-180.0(2)$	$C7 - 01 - C6 - C1$	180.0(2)
$N2 - C2 - C3 - N1$	$-179.0(3)$	$C5 - C1 - C6 - 02$	179.6(2)
$C1-C2-C3-N1$	$-0.1(4)$	$C2 - C1 - C6 - 02$	$-0.2(4)$
$C2-C3-N1-C4$	0.1(4)	$C5 - C1 - C6 - 02$	179.6(2)
$C3 - N1 - C4 - C5$	$-0.2(3)$	$C2 - C1 - C6 - 02$	$-0.2(4)$
$C3-M1-C4-Br1$	178.77(18)	$C5 - C1 - C6 - O1$	$-1.0(3)$
$N1 - C4 - C5 - C1$	0.3(4)	$C2 - C1 - C6 - O1$	179.1(2)
$Br1-C4-C5-C1$	$-178.67(16)$	$C6 - O1 - C7 - C8$	175.2(2)
$C2 - C1 - C5 - C4$	$-0.2(3)$		

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, º)

Symmetry code: (i) −*x*, *y*+1/2, −*z*+1/2.