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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 173\text{ K}$   
 Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ Å}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.029  
 $wR$  factor = 0.068  
 Data-to-parameter ratio = 18.7

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## *N*-[(2'-Cyanobiphenyl-4-yl)methyl]-L-valine methyl ester hydrochloride: an intermediate in the synthesis of valsartan

The title compound {systematic name: methyl 2-[(2'-cyanobiphenyl-4-yl)methylammonio]-3-methylbutanoate chloride},  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+\cdot\text{Cl}^-$ , is a key intermediate in the synthesis of valsartan. It crystallizes with two ion pairs in the asymmetric unit, related pseudocentrosymmetrically to each other. The two cations differ only in the orientation of the isopropyl group.

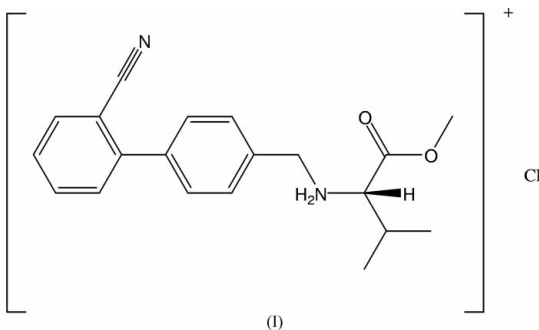
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#### Comment

The title compound, (I),  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2$ , is a key intermediate for the synthesis of valsartan, which belongs to the class of angiotensin II receptor antagonists (Black *et al.*, 1997). In view of the importance of (I), a crystal structure determination has been carried out.

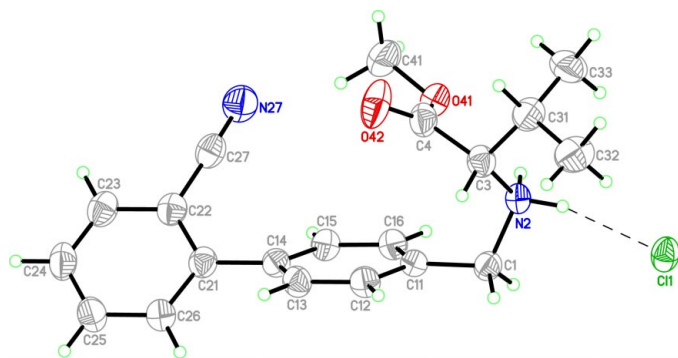


Perspective views of the title compound are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Bond lengths and angles can be regarded as normal (Cambridge Crystallographic Database, Version 1.6 plus three updates; Mogul Version 1.0; Allen, 2002). The dihedral angles between the two aromatic rings are 43.27 (5) and 41.83 (5)°, respectively, for the two cations in the asymmetric unit, which are related to each other by pseudo-inversion symmetry. Bond lengths and angles in the two cations are essentially equal. The cations differ only in the orientation of the isopropyl group with respect to the amine N atom. Whereas the tertiary H atom is *anti* to the N atom in one cation, it is *gauche* in the other (Table 1). The crystal packing is stabilized by several  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  hydrogen bonds (Table 2).

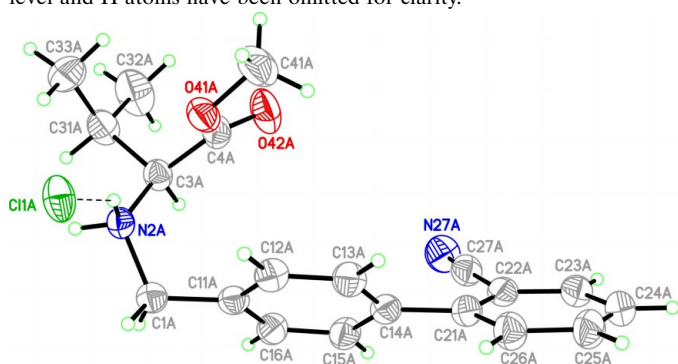
The appearance of quasi-racemate crystal structures has been found previously (for example, Noguchi *et al.*, 1978; Nozaki, 1979; Giordano & Lanzetta, 1989; Kim *et al.*, 1989; Moon *et al.*, 1992; Bolte, 1996).

#### Experimental

An equimolar mixture of 4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-carbonitrile (1.36 g, 0.005 mol), L-valine methyl ester (0.655 g, 0.005 mol) and



**Figure 1**  
Perspective view of the asymmetric unit of title compound, with the atom numbering. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms have been omitted for clarity.



**Figure 2**  
Perspective view of the asymmetric unit of the title compound, with the atom numbering. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.745 g, 0.0054 mol) in DMF (3.0 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The product formed was filtered, dried and converted to hydrochloride by adding isopropyl alcohol–hydrochloric acid. The product was then recrystallized from ethanol to give colourless prisms of the title compound, which melts at 459 K (Buhlmayer, 1991). Analysis calculated: C 66.93, H 6.46, N 7.81%; found: C 66.82, H 6.49, N 7.85%.

#### Crystal data

$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+\cdot\text{Cl}^-$

$M_r = 358.85$

Monoclinic,  $P2_1$

$a = 15.6095$  (8) Å

$b = 6.8297$  (4) Å

$c = 18.6854$  (9) Å

$\beta = 103.739$  (4)°

$V = 1935.02$  (18) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.232$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

Cell parameters from 43 202

reflections

$\theta = 2.6$ – $27.3^\circ$

$\mu = 0.21$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 173$  (2) K

Block, colourless

$0.33 \times 0.27 \times 0.19$  mm

#### Data collection

Stoe IPDS II two-circle

diffractometer

$\omega$  scans

Absorption correction: multi-scan  
(*MULABS*; Spek, 2003; Blessing,  
1995)

$T_{\min} = 0.871$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.981$

56 436 measured reflections

8739 independent reflections

1170 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.075$

$\theta_{\max} = 27.4^\circ$

$h = -20 \rightarrow 20$

$k = -8 \rightarrow 8$

$l = -22 \rightarrow 24$

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.029$

$wR(F^2) = 0.068$

$S = 0.90$

8739 reflections

467 parameters

H atoms treated by a mixture of  
independent and constrained  
refinement

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0376P)^2]$   
where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

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

$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.14$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.21$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

Absolute structure: Flack (1983),  
3990 Friedel pairs

Flack parameter =  $-0.06$  (3)

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

C1–N2	1.509 (2)	C1A–N2A	1.499 (2)
N2–C3	1.5005 (19)	N2A–C3A	1.4926 (19)
C4–O42	1.193 (2)	C4A–O42A	1.199 (2)
C4–O41	1.327 (2)	C4A–O41A	1.333 (2)
O41–C41	1.445 (2)	O41A–C41A	1.446 (2)
C22–C27	1.441 (3)	C22A–C27A	1.444 (2)
C27–N27	1.148 (2)	C27A–N27A	1.140 (2)
C3–N2–C1	115.09 (12)	C3A–N2A–C1A	117.04 (12)
N2–C3–C31–H31	169.99	N2A–C3A–C31A–H31A	–52.69

**Table 2**

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D\cdots H\cdots A$	$D\cdots H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D\cdots H\cdots A$
N2–H2B $\cdots$ Cl1	0.920 (19)	2.243 (19)	3.1199 (13)	159.0 (15)
N2–H2A $\cdots$ Cl1 <sup>i</sup>	0.91 (2)	2.28 (2)	3.1168 (14)	153.1 (18)
N2A–H2C $\cdots$ Cl1A	0.96 (2)	2.19 (2)	3.0700 (14)	151.1 (16)
N2A–H2D $\cdots$ Cl1A <sup>ii</sup>	0.901 (19)	2.185 (19)	3.0676 (14)	166.0 (15)

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

H atoms bonded to C atoms were refined with fixed individual displacement parameters [ $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  or  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}_{\text{methyl}})$ ] using a riding model, with C–H = 1.00, 0.99, 0.98 and 0.95 Å, for tertiary CH, secondary CH, methyl and aromatic CH, respectively. H atoms bonded to N atoms were refined freely. A check for overlooked symmetry with *PLATON* (Spek, 2003) produces the warning that 88% of the structure can be described in  $P2_1/c$ . The reflections that should be unobserved if a  $c$  glide plane were present are significantly weaker [mean  $I = 1.2$ , mean  $I/\sigma(I) = 2.7$ ] than the reflections indicating a possible  $a$ -glide plane [mean  $I = 10.1$ , mean  $I/\sigma(I) = 13.0$ ]; for comparison the values for the  $2_1$  screw axis are mean  $I = 0.2$ , mean  $I/\sigma(I) = 0.4$ . However, since both chiral C atoms (C31 and C31A) have the same absolute configuration, *viz.* *S*, the space group must be  $P2_1$ .

Data collection: *X-Area* (Stoe & Cie, 2001); cell refinement: *X-Area*; data reduction: *X-Area*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1990); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *XP* in *SHELXTL-Plus* (Sheldrick, 1991); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97* and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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