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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 173 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.028 wR factor = 0.070 Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.8

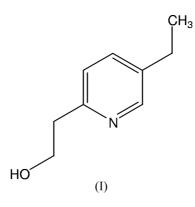
For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

# 2-(5-Ethylpyridin-2-yl)ethanol

The title compound,  $C_9H_{13}NO$ , is the key intermediate for the synthesis of the antidiabetic drug pioglitazone and it is used as a versatile intermediate in the synthesis of a number of biologically active novel heterocycles. Both side-chains are located on the same side of the aromatic ring. The molecules are connected by  $O-H\cdots N$  hydrogen bonds into ribbons which show a herring-bone-like pattern.

## Comment

The title compound, (I), is the key intermediate for the synthesis of the antidiabetic drug pioglitazone and also finds use as a versatile intermediate in the synthesis of a number of biologically active novel heterocycles (Sohda *et al.*, 1982, 1990, 2002).



A perspective view of (I) is shown in Fig. 1. Bond lengths and angles can be regarded as normal (Cambridge Structural Database, Version 1.6 plus three updates; MOGUL Version 1.0; Allen, 2002). Both side-chains attached to the pyridyl ring are located on the same side of the aromatic ring. The conformation of the hydroxyethyl chain is *trans* [C2–C21– C22–O23 = 176.65 (16)°]. In the crystal structure, the molecules are connected by O–H···N hydrogen bonding between the hydroxy H atom and the N atom of the pyridine ring into ribbons which propagate in the direction of the *c* axis. These ribbons are arranged in a herring-bone-like pattern (Fig. 2).

## Experimental

A mixture of 5-ethyl-2-methylpyridine (12.1 g, 0.1 mol), formaldehyde (4.0 g, 0.13 mol) and a catalytic amount of dibutylamine was heated at 443 K in an autoclave under nitrogen pressure. The product formed was steam-distilled to obtain an oil, which was left overnight in *n*-hexane to produce the title compound. This was recrystallized as hygroscopic colourless prisms from ethanol and the crystals were stored under nitrogen.

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### Crystal data

C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO  $M_r = 151.20$ Tetragonal,  $P\overline{4}2_1c$  a = 14.692 (2) Å c = 8.0106 (13) Å V = 1729.1 (4) Å<sup>3</sup> Z = 8 $D_x = 1.162$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

#### Data collection

Stoe IPDS-II two-circle diffractometer ω scans Absorption correction: none 4259 measured reflections 925 independent reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0444P)^2]$  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.028$ where  $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $wR(F^2) = 0.070$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.11 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ S = 0.98 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min}$  = -0.10 e Å<sup>-3</sup> 925 reflections Extinction correction: SHELXL97 105 parameters Extinction coefficient: 0.012 (2) H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement

#### Table 1

### Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdots A$	D-H	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot A$
$O23-H23\cdots N1^i$	0.88 (3)	1.93 (3)	2.802 (2)	171 (3)
Summer at my and any (i) a				

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 3.8-25.7^{\circ}$  $\mu = 0.08 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 173 (2) K

 $R_{\rm int}=0.047$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max}=25.7^\circ$ 

 $l = -6 \rightarrow 9$ 

 $h = -17 \rightarrow 15$ 

 $k = -17 \rightarrow 13$ 

Block, colourless

 $0.26 \times 0.22 \times 0.19 \ \mathrm{mm}$ 

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

Cell parameters from 3889

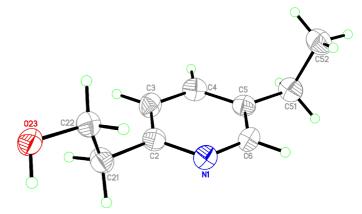
Symmetry codes: (i)  $y + \frac{1}{2}, x - \frac{1}{2}, z + \frac{1}{2}$ .

H atoms were geometrically positioned and refined with fixed individual displacement parameters  $[U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$  or  $1.5U_{eq}(C_{methyl})]$  using a riding model [C-H = 0.99, 0.98 and 0.95 Å for methylene, methyl and aromatic CH groups, respectively]. The hydroxy H atom was refined isotropically. In the absence of significant anomalous dispersion effects, Friedel pairs were averaged.

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).

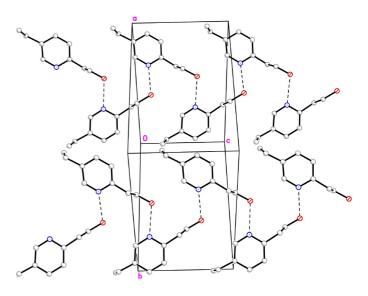
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#### Figure 1

Perspective view of the title compound showing the atom numbering and displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level.



#### Figure 2

Packing diagram of the title compound, viewed along  $(\overline{110})$ . H atoms have been omitted for clarity. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines.

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