Two act as one: unexpected dimers of catechol direct a solid-state [2+2]

photodimerization in a six-component hydrogen-bonded assembly

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Reagents

Catechol and nitromethane were purchased from Acros Organics. 1,2-bis(2pyridyl)ethylene was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Acetonitrile was purchased from Fisher Scientific. All chemicals were used as received and without further purification.

Experimental

Solid-state photodimerizations: UV-irradiation experiments were performed by placing single crystals of **1** on a watch glass or finely-ground samples of **1** between two pyrex plates and regularly turning the samples to ensure uniform irradiation.

Reported angles for *gauche* hydroxyl groups of **cat** in *syn-gauche* conformation were measured as the dihedral angle defined in scheme below. When viewed along the O-C bond, a clockwise rotation of the O-H group was defined to have a positive value.



Scheme S1. Measured dihedral angle of *syn-gauche* catechols.

2) Single-Crystal X-ray diffraction Measurements

Single-crystal XRD data were collected on a Nonius Kappa CCD single-crystal X-ray diffractometer using MoK_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). Using Olex2,¹ structure solution and refinement were accomplished using SHELXS-97 and SHELXL-97, respectively.² All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms associated with carbon atoms were refined in geometrically constrained positions.

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 1.

Empirical formula	$C_{24}H_{22}N_2O_4$
Formula weight	402.43
Temperature/K	190.15
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
a/Å	7.3687(7)
b/Å	19.169(2)
c/Å	14.7014(15)
α/°	90
β/°	102.277(5)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90
Volume/Å ³	2029.1(4)
Ζ	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.317
µ/mm ⁻¹	0.090
Crystal size/mm ³	0.38 imes 0.1 imes 0.1
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.7107$)
Reflections collected	16490
Independent reflections	4648 [$R_{int} = 0.0357$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0370$]
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.099
Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0425, wR_2 = 0.1164$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0739, wR_2 = 0.1485$
CCDC Deposition Number	1025307

Empirical formula	$C_{24}H_{22}N_2O_4$
Formula weight	402.43
Temperature/K	298.15
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
a/Å	7.4665(8)
b/Å	19.1328(19)
c/Å	14.8336(15)
α/°	90
β/°	102.249(5)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90
Volume/Å ³	2070.8(4)
Ζ	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.291
μ/mm^{-1}	0.089
Crystal size/mm ³	0.3 imes 0.21 imes 0.2
Radiation	MoKa ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
Reflections collected	10870
Independent reflections	$3631 [R_{int} = 0.0324, R_{sigma} = 0.0301]$
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.152
Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0589, wR_2 = 0.1442$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0827, wR_2 = 0.1548$
CCDC Deposition Number	1025308

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for 1 (SCSC).

Empirical formula	$C_{42}H_{38}N_4O_6$
Formula weight	694.76
Temperature/K	293.15
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	11.9841(12)
b/Å	12.6106(13)
c/Å	13.7902(14)
α/°	109.918(5)
β/°	103.137(5)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	102.958(5)
Volume/Å ³	1801.6(3)
Z	2
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.281
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.087
Crystal size/mm ³	$0.33 \times 0.3 \times 0.12$
Radiation	MoKa ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
Reflections collected	9665
Independent reflections	5711 [$R_{int} = 0.0192$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0337$]
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.139
Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0512$, $wR_2 = 0.1451$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0779, wR_2 = 0.1776$
CCDC Deposition Number	1025309

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for **2**.

3) Powder X-ray Diffraction

Powder X-ray diffraction data were collected from samples mounted on glass slides using a Siemens D5000 X-ray diffractometer using $CuK_{\alpha 1}$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.54056$ Å) (scan type: locked coupled; scan mode: continuous; step size: 0.02°).

Figure S1. Experimental X-ray powder pattern of 1 (before reaction).





Figure S2. Experimental X-ray powder pattern of **1** (after reaction).

4) ¹H NMR spectroscopy

¹H NMR data were collected on an AVANCE Bruker NMR spectrometer operating at 300 MHz using DMSO-d₆ as the solvent.

Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** (prior to reaction).



Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** (following exposure to broadband Hg lamp).







Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2**.



References

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- 2. G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Crystallogr. 2008, A64, 112.