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christian.nielsen@risoe.dk**Key indicators**Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 122$ K
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002$ Å
 R factor = 0.024
 wR factor = 0.057
Data-to-parameter ratio = 22.7For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-phenanthro[9,10-*d*]imidazole**

In the title compound, $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2$, the phenanthrene moiety is slightly skewed. The dihedral angle between the phenanthro[9,10-*d*]imidazole mean plane and the benzene ring is 37.78 (6)°. The crystal packing is stabilized mainly by aromatic interactions, though a weak intermolecular $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ hydrogen bond is also observed.

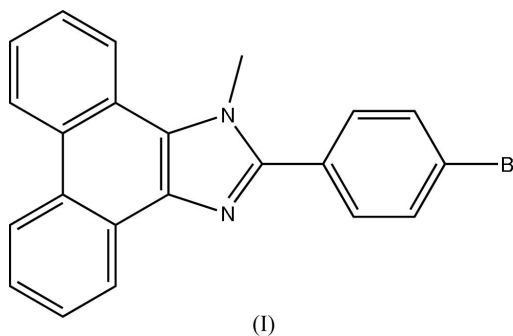
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Comment

The title compound, (I) (Fig. 1), was prepared for use as a building block in the syntheses of oligo-phenylene vinylenes for non-linear optical studies. In (I), the imidazole ring is slightly bent from the skewed phenanthrene ring, with atom C16 located 0.092 (2) Å out of the least-squares plane of the phenanthro[9,10-*d*]imidazole system. The dihedral angle between the phenanthro[9,10-*d*]imidazole mean plane and the benzene ring is 37.78 (6)°. This rotation is most probably due to the adjacent *N*-methyl group.



The crystal packing (Fig. 2) is stabilized mainly by aromatic interactions. A herring-bone pattern is formed by the phenanthrene rings at $y = \frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$, along with stacking of bromobenzene rings in the planes at $y = 0$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. A weak intermolecular $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{N}$ hydrogen bond (Table 1) is observed in the crystal structure.

Experimental

The title compound was prepared in accordance with a known procedure (Krebs & Jørgensen, 2001).

Crystal data $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2$
 $M_r = 387.27$
Orthorhombic, $Pna2_1$
 $a = 6.0163$ (4) Å
 $b = 29.332$ (3) Å
 $c = 9.1726$ (8) Å
 $V = 1618.7$ (2) Å³
 $Z = 4$
 $D_x = 1.589$ Mg m⁻³Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Cell parameters from 26555
reflections
 $\theta = 2.3$ – 31.0 °
 $\mu = 2.55$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 122$ (1) K
Plate, pale yellow
 $0.55 \times 0.46 \times 0.08$ mm

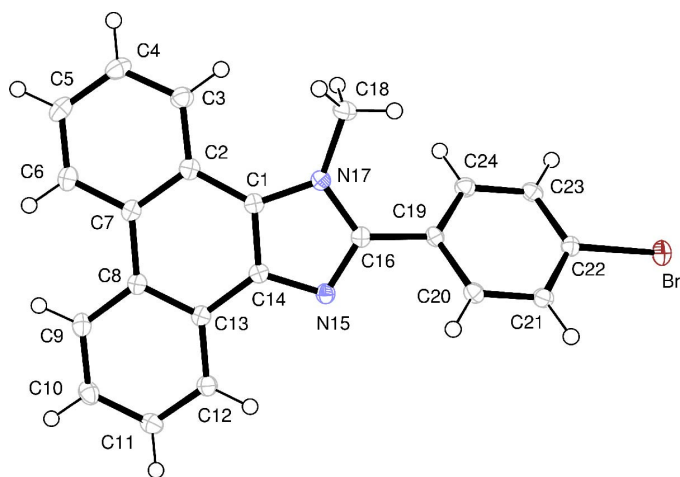


Figure 1
View of (I), with displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. H atoms are shown as spheres of arbitrary radius.

Data collection

Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer ω and φ scans	4771 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
Absorption correction: Gaussian integration (Coppens, 1970)	$R_{\text{int}} = 0.046$
$T_{\text{min}} = 0.365$, $T_{\text{max}} = 0.903$	$\theta_{\text{max}} = 31.0^\circ$
36851 measured reflections	$h = -8 \rightarrow 8$
5137 independent reflections	$k = -42 \rightarrow 42$
	$l = -13 \rightarrow 13$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0299P)^2 + 0.9474P]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.024$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
$wR(F^2) = 0.057$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$
$S = 1.15$	$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.45 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
5137 reflections	$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.34 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
226 parameters	Absolute structure: Flack (1983),
H-atom parameters constrained	2414 Friedel reflections
	Flack parameter = $-0.009(6)$

Table 1

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (\AA , $^\circ$).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
$C23-H23 \cdots N15^i$	0.95	2.54	3.419 (2)	154

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

All H atoms were located in a difference Fourier map and refined using a riding model, with fixed individual displacement parameters set at 1.2–1.5 times U_{eq} of the parent atom ($C-H = 0.95\text{--}0.98 \text{ \AA}$).

Data collection: COLLECT (Nonius, 1999); cell refinement: DIRAX (Duisenberg, 1992); data reduction: EvalCCD (Duisenberg *et al.*, 2003); program(s) used to solve structure: SIR97 (Altomare *et al.*, 1999); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97.

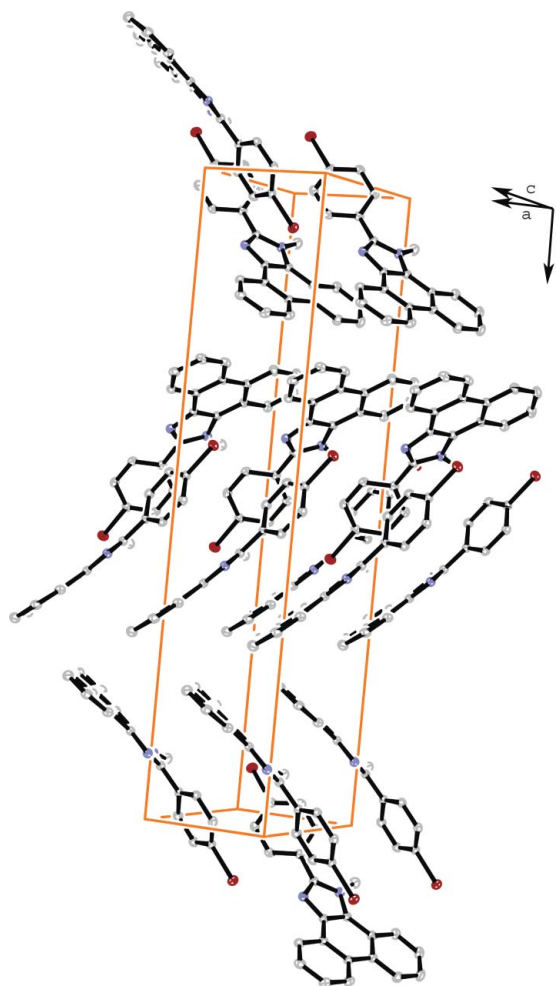


Figure 2
The crystal packing of (I). H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

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