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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 84\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.002\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.040  
 $wR$  factor = 0.107  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 15.9For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.5,8'-Dimethoxy-3*H*-1-benzofuran-2-spiro-  
2'-chroman

The crystal structure of the title compound,  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ , has been investigated to establish the relative stereochemistry at the spiro ring junction. Each of the O atoms adjacent to the junction is an axial substituent of the neighboring ring; the adoption of this conformation is likely to be due to anomeric effects.

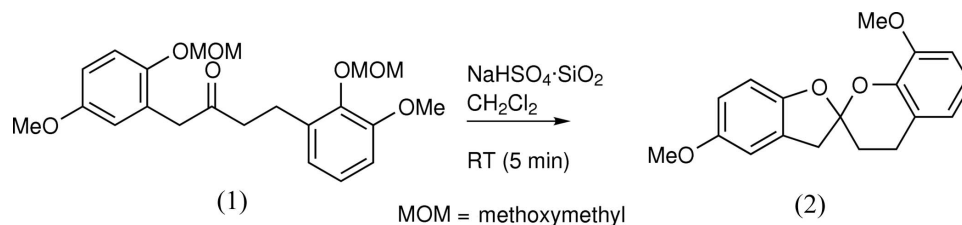
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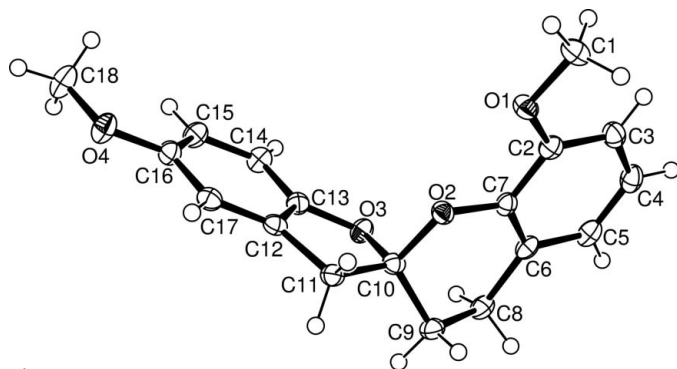
## Comment

Telomerase activity is seen as a potential target for cancer therapy. The rubromycins inhibit telomerase and HIV-1 reverse transcriptase and are cytostatically active against certain tumor cell lines. In particular,  $\beta$ -rubromycin (Brockmann *et al.*, 1969; Brockmann & Zeeck, 1970) is a microbial secondary metabolite (Puder *et al.*, 2000) that inhibits human telomerase with 50% inhibitory concentrations of  $3\text{ }\mu\text{M}$  (Ueno *et al.*, 2000). It contains naphthoquinone and isocoumarin rings linked to a 5,6 spiroacetal unit. Following on from the synthesis of 5-methoxyspiro[1-benzofuran-2(3*H*),2'-chroman] (Clark *et al.*, 2005), the title compound, (2), was synthesized to explore the ability of various 5,6-aryl spiroacetal units to inhibit human telomerase. The conformation of this 5,6-aryl spiroacetal in the crystal structure is reported here. Bond lengths and angles in the molecule are generally unremarkable. Those near the spiro junction are listed in Table 1, where the major differences from idealized geometry types occur; for example, the angle  $\text{C}7-\text{O}2-\text{C}10$  is  $116.61(10)^\circ$  whereas  $\text{C}10-\text{O}3-\text{C}13$  is only  $107.35(10)^\circ$ . Similar values were observed in 5-methoxyspiro[1-benzofuran-2(3*H*),2'-chroman].



## Experimental

To a stirred solution of ketone (1) (0.48 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (10 ml) was added  $\text{NaHSO}_4 \cdot \text{SiO}_2$  (766 mg) which had been heated at 393 K for 48 h before use (Breton, 1997). After stirring of the reaction mixture at room temperature for 5 min, the catalyst was filtered off and washed with dichloromethane (50 ml). The combined washings were concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow residue. Purification by flash column chromatography with hexane–ethyl acetate (80:20) as eluant afforded (2) as an off-white powder that was recrystallized from ethyl acetate to give colorless needles (85 mg, 60%, m.p. 412–414 K). MS (EI, %): 298 ( $M^+$ , 43), 209 (9), 161 (100), 137 (47), 135 (14), 118 (6), 91 (3), 77 (4). HR-MS (EI): found  $M^+$ ,



**Figure 1**  
Structure of (2), showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids for the non-H atoms and arbitrary spheres for the H atoms.

298.12017,  $C_{18}H_{18}O_4$  requires 298.12051. IR (film,  $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{max}$  3053, 2986 (CH, s, aromatic), 1586, 1482 (C=C, aromatic), 1421, 1265 (C—O), 1180, 1080, 1030, 1004, 896.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  2.15–2.19 (1H, m, H-3'ax), 2.29 (1H, ddd,  $J_{3'eq,4'eq} = 2.6$  Hz,  $J_{3'eq,4'ax} = 6.0$  Hz and  $J_{gem} = 13.3$  Hz, H-3'eq), 2.81 (1H, ddd,  $J_{4'eq,3'eq} = 2.6$  Hz,  $J_{4'eq,3'ax} = 6.0$  Hz and  $J_{gem} = 16.4$  Hz, H-4eq), 3.22–3.30 (1H, m, H-4'ax), 3.28 (1H, d,  $J_{gem} = 16.6$  Hz, H<sub>A</sub>-3), 3.55 (1H, d,  $J_{gem} = 16.6$  Hz, H<sub>B</sub>-3), 3.75 (6H, s, 2 × OMe), 6.62–6.74 (4H, m, H-6, H-7, H-5' and H-7'), 6.78 (1H, s, H-4), 6.84 (1H, t,  $J_{6',5'} = 7.8$  Hz and  $J_{6',7'} = 7.8$  Hz, H-6').  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4'), 30.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-3'), 42.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-3), 55.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, OMe), 56.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>, OMe), 109.2 (quat., C-2), 109.7 (CH, Ar—C), 110.1 (CH, Ar—C), 111.0 (CH, Ar—C), 113.0 (CH, Ar—C), 120.7 (CH, Ar—C), 121.1 (CH, Ar—C), 122.4 (quat., C-4'a), 126.3 (quat., C-3a), 142.0 (quat., C-7a), 148.5 (quat., C-8'a), 152.1 (quat., C-8'), 154.5 (quat., C-5).

#### Crystal data

$C_{18}H_{18}O_4$   
 $M_r = 298.32$   
 Triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$   
 $a = 5.7593$  (1) Å  
 $b = 10.6881$  (1) Å  
 $c = 12.3122$  (1) Å  
 $\alpha = 98.857$  (1)°  
 $\beta = 100.208$  (1)°  
 $\gamma = 95.510$  (1)°  
 $V = 731.05$  (2) Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 2$   
 $D_x = 1.355$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 Cell parameters from 5034 reflections  
 $\theta = 1.9$ – $27.1$ °  
 $\mu = 0.10$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 84$  (1) K  
 Plate, colorless  
 $0.42 \times 0.34 \times 0.12$  mm

#### Data collection

Siemens SMART CCD diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)  
 $T_{min} = 0.961$ ,  $T_{max} = 0.989$   
 7358 measured reflections  
 3156 independent reflections  
 2619 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{int} = 0.040$   
 $\theta_{max} = 27.1$ °  
 $h = -7 \rightarrow 7$   
 $k = -13 \rightarrow 13$   
 $l = -15 \rightarrow 15$

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.040$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.107$   
 $S = 1.02$   
 3156 reflections  
 199 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0516P)^2 + 0.3055P]$$

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.34$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.21$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

O2—C10	1.4349 (16)	C9—C10	1.5103 (18)
O3—C10	1.4520 (15)	C10—C11	1.5361 (18)
C7—O2—C10	116.61 (10)	O3—C10—C9	107.98 (10)
C13—O3—C10	107.35 (10)	O2—C10—C11	106.24 (10)
O2—C10—O3	107.60 (10)	O3—C10—C11	106.39 (10)
O2—C10—C9	111.10 (11)	C9—C10—C11	117.09 (11)

H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using riding constraints [with C—H 0.93–0.97 Å, and  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(C)$  or  $1.5U_{eq}(C)$ ].

Data collection: SMART (Siemens, 1995); cell refinement: SAINT (Siemens, 1995); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL (Siemens, 1995).

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