

Article

Synthesis, Single Crystal X-ray, Hirshfeld and DFT Studies of 1,8-Dichloro-9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethanoanthracene-11-carboxylic Acid

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Abstract: In this paper, synthesis, single-crystal X-ray structure, Hirshfeld and DFT studies of 1,8-dichloro-9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethanoanthracene-11-carboxylic acid are discussed. Different intermolecular contacts affecting the crystal stability are studied using Hirshfeld calculations. The H . . . Cl and O . . . H contacts are the most significant, showing corresponding interaction distances of 2.731 Å (Cl2 . . . H10) and 1.681 Å (H1 . . . O1), 2.328 Å (O1 . . . H13), 2.510 Å (O1 . . . H12) based on Hirshfeld calculations. DFT calculations are carried out to study the electronic behavior, as well as the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra of the synthesized compound. The computed NMR chemical shifts show excellent correlation with the experimental data ($R^2 = 0.9884\text{--}0.9705$).

Keywords: Anthracenes; ethanoanthracenes; single-crystal X-ray; DFT; Hirshfeld

1. Introduction

Anthracene and its derivatives are well-known aromatic hydrocarbons with wide applications, including in organic optoelectronics [1–5], as well as in the pharmaceutical sciences [6–14]. In particular, derivatization at the C9/C10 leads to formation of the ethano-bridge of the anthracene core structures, compounds that are considered significant for development in terms of drug discovery, which have exhibited anti-malarial activities [15,16], anti-multi-drug resistance for cancer [17], anti-depressant properties [18] and high efficacy against cancer treatments [10,11].

In constructing this ethano-bridge of the anthracene-privileged structure, one of the most efficient and powerful protocols is the Diels–Alder reaction. Several representative examples have been reported in the literature regarding their synthesis and applications in different areas. Barton and his team reported on the selectivity of the host behavior of the roof-shaped compounds based on the ethanoanthracene dicarboxylic acids and their derivatives using mixed solvent systems such as ethylbenzene and xylene as guest solutions. The study revealed that these compounds worked selectively as roof-shaped compounds [19].

A recent review reported the development of highly efficient materials for fluid separation in between these studies on anthracene derivatives [20]. Li et al. reported on the

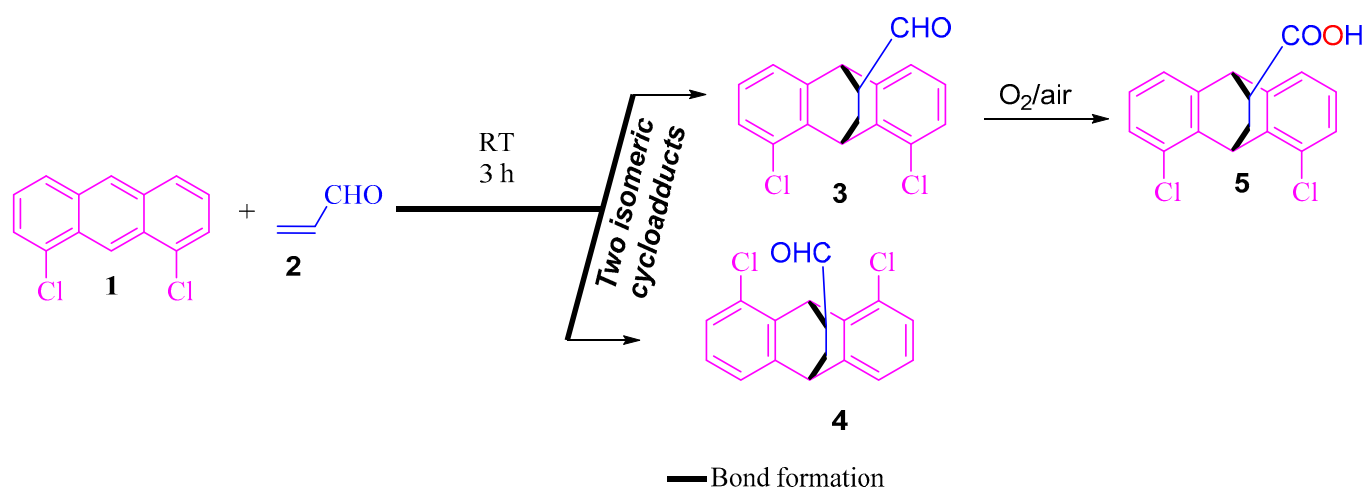
synthesis and application of europium metal complexes containing an ethanoanthracene derivative as the binding ligand, which proved to have excellent water-quenching-resistant capability [21]. Another representative example reported by Lane and Capuano involved substituted ethanoanthracene, which worked effectively as an allosteric modulator of the dopamine D1 receptor [22].

The synthesis of new molecules and the elucidation of their molecular and supramolecular structures via single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis are topics of great interest. We have previously studied ethanoanthracenes and published several articles in this field, which have been shown the biological importance of these compounds [23–27]. In this paper, we synthesize and elucidate the molecular and supramolecular structures of 1,8-dichloro-9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethanoanthracene-11-carboxylic acid. DFT calculations are performed to predict the spectral (NMR) and electronic properties of the synthesized compound.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Synthesis of 1,8-dichloro-9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethanoanthracene-11-carboxylic acid 5

The precursor 3 was initially prepared following the methodology reported in the literature [18], then precursor 3 was left on the bench to air-oxidize, providing compound 5 (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Synthesis of 5.

IR (KBr): $\nu = 3423, 2939, 1705, 1580, 1452, 1244, 1169, 927, 772 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO, 500 MHz): $\delta = 1.82\text{--}1.88$ (m, H-12, 1H), 1.97–2.02 (m, H-12, 1H), 2.73–2.77 (m, H-11, 1H), 4.81 (d, $J = 2.5\text{Hz}$, H-10, 1H), 5.16 (t, $J = 2.5$, H-9, 1H), 7.08–7.37 (m, ArH, 6H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (DMSO, 125 MHz): $\delta = 28.49$ (C12), 36.48 (C11), 42.95 (C10), 46.67 (C9), 122.82, 124.08, 126.14, 126.20, 127.22, 127.46, 127.81, 128.24, 139.73, 139.84, 143.04, 145.51, 173.88 ppm.

2.2. Single-Crystal X-ray Measurements of 5

The full analysis, data collection and refinement protocol is provided in the Supplementary Materials and summary of these details are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Crystal data for 5.

5	
empirical formula	$\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{Cl}_2$
fw	319.17
temp (K)	293(2)
λ (Å)	1.54184
cryst syst	Triclinic
space group	P-1
a (Å)	7.735(2)

Table 1. Cont.

	5
b (Å)	8.0225(12)
c (Å)	12.0928(16)
α (deg)	88.430(14)
β (deg)	82.549(13)
γ (deg)	70.46(2)
V (Å ³)	701.2(3)
Z	2
ρ_{calc} (Mg/m ³)	1.512
μ (Mo K α) (mm ⁻¹)	4.171
No. reflns.	17655
Unique reflns.	2534
GOOF (F ²)	1.081
R _{int}	0.0303
R1 (I \geq 2 σ)	0.0316
wR2 (I \geq 2 σ)	0.0838
CCDC No.	2100042

2.3. Hirshfeld Surface Analysis and Computational Methods

“Hirshfeld surface analysis was carried out using Crystal Explorer 17.5 [28]. Calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 software package [29,30] utilizing the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) method. Natural charges were calculated using the NBO 3.1 program as implemented in the Gaussian 09W package [31]. The self-consistent reaction-filed (SCRF) method [32,33] was used to calculate the optimized structure of **5** considering the solvent effects (DMSO). Then, the NMR chemical shifts for the protons and carbons were computed using the GIAO method [34]”.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Chemistry

According to the literature [18], cycloadducts **3** and **4** were obtained as a result of the BF₃-OEt₂-catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction of 1,8-dichloroanthracene **1** with acrolein **2** at room temperature. This step was considered to be the most important in the total synthesis of pharmaceutical agents such as maprotiline and benzoctamine [35,36]. The purified carbaldehyde **3** was air-oxidized into its corresponding carboxylic acid **5**.

3.2. Crystal Structure Description of **5**

The molecular structure of **5** is shown in Figure 1. The structure is in agreement with the spectral analyses and confirms the aerobic oxidation of the aldehyde to the corresponding carboxylic acid **5**. The geometrical parameters for compound **5** are broadly similar to those of related 9,10-bridged anthracene derivatives [37–39]. The two chloro-substituted benzene rings (C4–C9), (C1/C2/C11–C14) are both essentially planar (r.m.s. deviations from the least-squares planes are 0.011 Å and 0.003 Å, respectively). The studied anthracene system has a bridge at the positions 9 and 10, while the dihedral angle between these rings is typically 57.21°. The three six-membered rings of the bicyclic core of **5** C1/C2/C3/C4/C9/C10, C3/C4/C9/C10/C16/C15, and C1/C2/C3/C15/C16/C10 are all forced into boat form. The carboxylic acid substitution at C16 shows no unusual features. Table 2 summarizes some of the selected bond angles and bond lengths of the studied compounds.

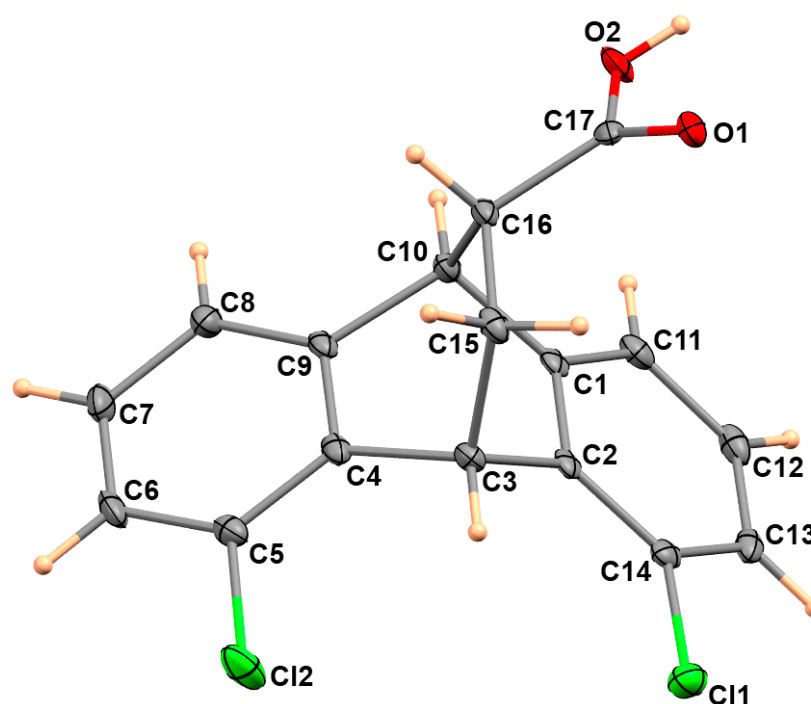


Figure 1. Molecular structure of **5** with anisotropic displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level.

Table 2. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **5**.

Atoms	Distance	Atoms	Distance
C11-C14	1.7472(18)	C4-C9	1.400(2)
Cl2-C5	1.7386(18)	C5-C6	1.394(2)
O1-C17	1.223(2)	C6-C7	1.384(3)
O2-C17	1.320(2)	C7-C8	1.393(2)
C1-C11	1.386(2)	C8-C9	1.390(2)
C1-C2	1.403(2)	C9-C10	1.513(2)
C1-C10	1.516(2)	C10-C16	1.564(2)
C2-C14	1.384(2)	C11-C12	1.397(3)
C2-C3	1.515(2)	C12-C13	1.386(3)
C3-C4	1.517(2)	C13-C14	1.397(2)
C3-C15	1.559(2)	C15-C16	1.552(2)
C4-C5	1.385(2)	C16-C17	1.522(2)
Atoms	Angle	Atoms	Angle
C11-C1-C2	121.39(15)	C9-C4-C3	113.38(14)
C11-C1-C10	125.67(15)	C4-C5-C6	121.31(16)
C2-C1-C10	112.91(14)	C4-C5-Cl2	120.54(13)
C14-C2-C1	118.51(15)	C6-C5-Cl2	118.12(13)
C14-C2-C3	127.99(15)	C7-C6-C5	119.51(15)
C1-C2-C3	113.49(14)	C6-C7-C8	120.54(16)
C2-C3-C4	106.94(13)	C9-C8-C7	119.02(16)
C2-C3-C15	106.42(13)	C8-C9-C4	121.38(15)
C4-C3-C15	106.96(13)		
C5-C4-C9	118.19(15)		
C5-C4-C3	128.42(15)		

The structure of **5** is stabilized by the three intramolecular hydrogen bonding interactions, C3-H3...Cl1, C3-H3...Cl2, and C15-H15B...O1, with hydrogen-acceptor distances of 2.76, 2.78, and 2.42 Å, respectively. The corresponding donor-acceptor distances are 3.211(2), 3.226(2), and 2.873(2)°, respectively (Table 3). In addition, its supramolecular structure is controlled mainly by the intermolecular O2-H1...O1, C10-H10...Cl2, and

C15-H15B...O1 hydrogen bonding interactions, with donor–acceptor distances of 2.662(2), 3.611(2), and 3.394(2) Å, respectively (Figure 2). The intermolecular O2-H1 ... O1 bonds lead to the formation of centrosymmetric dimers forming the eight-membered ring comprising the atoms O1C17O2H1O1C17O2H1, as shown in Figure 2.

Table 3. Hydrogen bonds for **5** [Å and °].

D-H...A	d(D-H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	<(DHA)
O2-H1...O1 ^a	0.82	2.48	2.662(2)	176
C3-H3...Cl1	0.98	2.76	3.211(2)	109
C3-H3...Cl2	0.98	2.78	3.226(2)	108
C10-H10...Cl2 ^b	0.98	2.81	3.611(2)	140
C13-H13...O1 ^c	0.93	2.48	3.394(2)	168
C15-H15B...O1	0.97	2.42	2.873(2)	108

Note: ^a $-x - y + 2, -z$; ^b $-1 + x, y, z$ and ^c $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z$.

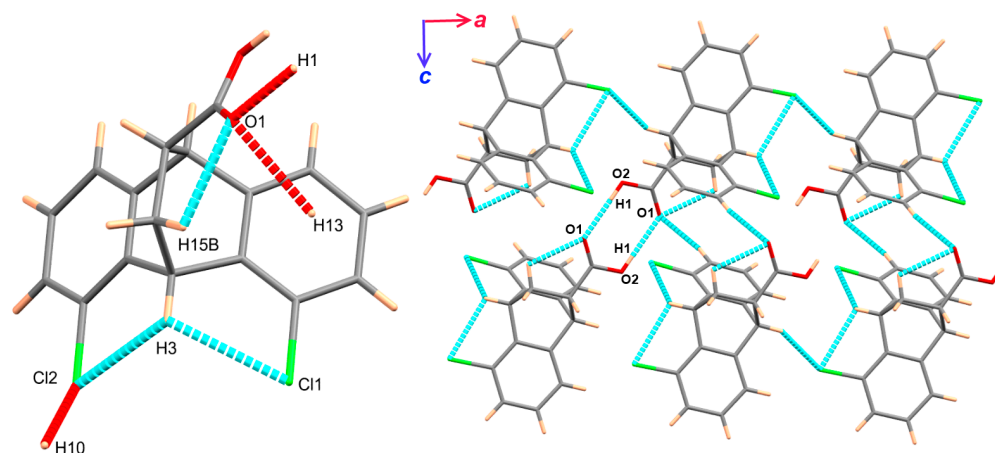


Figure 2. Hydrogen bond contacts (**left**) and packing of molecular units via hydrogen bonding interactions (**right**).

3.3. Analysis of Molecular Packing

In the solid-state crystalline structure, the molecular units are held together by intermolecular contacts, which have great impact on the crystal stability. In this study, the crystal stability was affected by different intermolecular contacts, which was analysed using Hirshfeld surface analysis (Figure 3). In the d_{norm} map, the short significant contacts appeared as red spots, while the less important intermolecular interactions appeared as blue or white areas. The percentage contributions of each contact were determined based on the decomposition of the fingerprint plot (Figure 4). A summary of the intermolecular contacts is depicted in Figure 5.

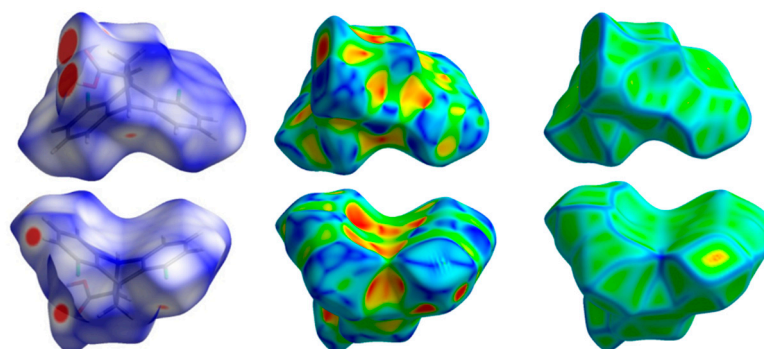


Figure 3. Hirshfeld surfaces of **5**.

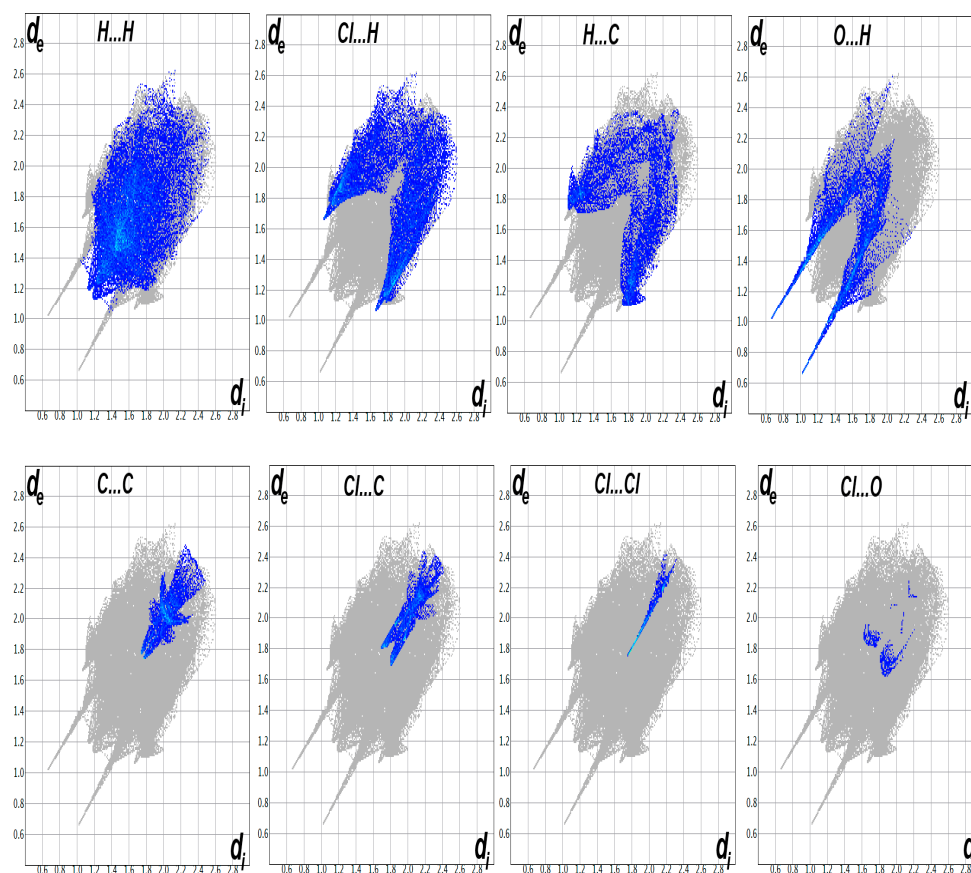


Figure 4. Fingerprint plots for all interactions in 5.

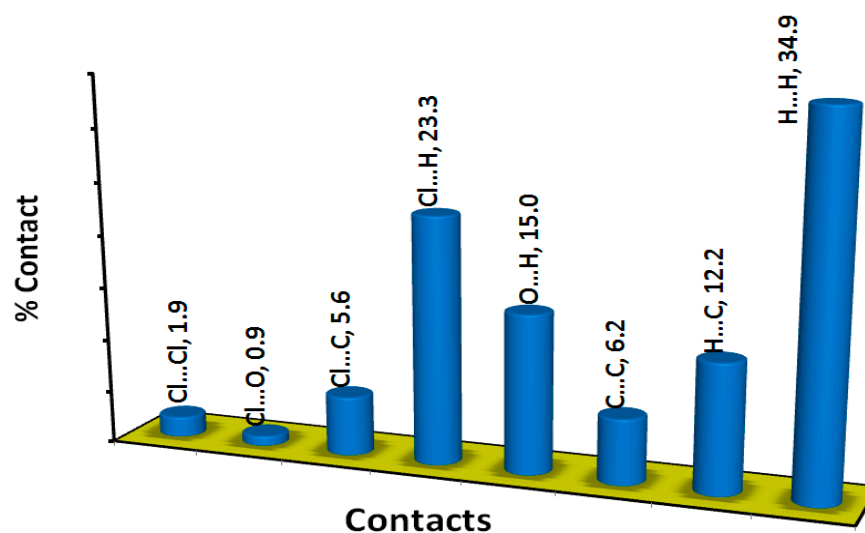


Figure 5. Percentages and intermolecular interaction summary for 5.

In the d_{norm} Hirshfeld surface of 5, several significant contacts appeared as red regions. These interactions were due to O...H and H...Cl, as shown in Figure 6. The percentages of these interactions were 23.3 and 15.0%, respectively. In addition, these interactions revealed intense staples in the decomposed fingerprint plots, which could be considered another feature of short, significant contacts. The corresponding interaction distances based on the Hirshfeld analysis were 1.681 Å (H1...O1), 2.328 Å (O1...H13), 2.510 Å (O1...H12), and 2.731 Å (Cl2...H10).

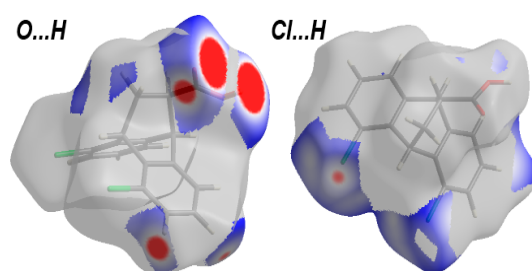


Figure 6. Decomposed d_{norm} maps of the important interactions in **5**.

3.4. DFT Studies

The structure of **5** is shown in Figure 7A. The structure is overlaid with the results obtained from the single-crystal X-ray analysis, as shown in Figure 7B. Table S1 (Supplementary Materials) shows that the geometric parameters of the studied compound are in harmony between the computed and experimental data. The presence of slight differences may be due to the crystal packing effects. In addition, the relation between the computed and experimental geometric parameters clearly shows the high correlation coefficients for the bond distances ($R^2 = 0.9947$; Figure 7C) and angles ($R^2 = 0.9644$; Figure 7D).

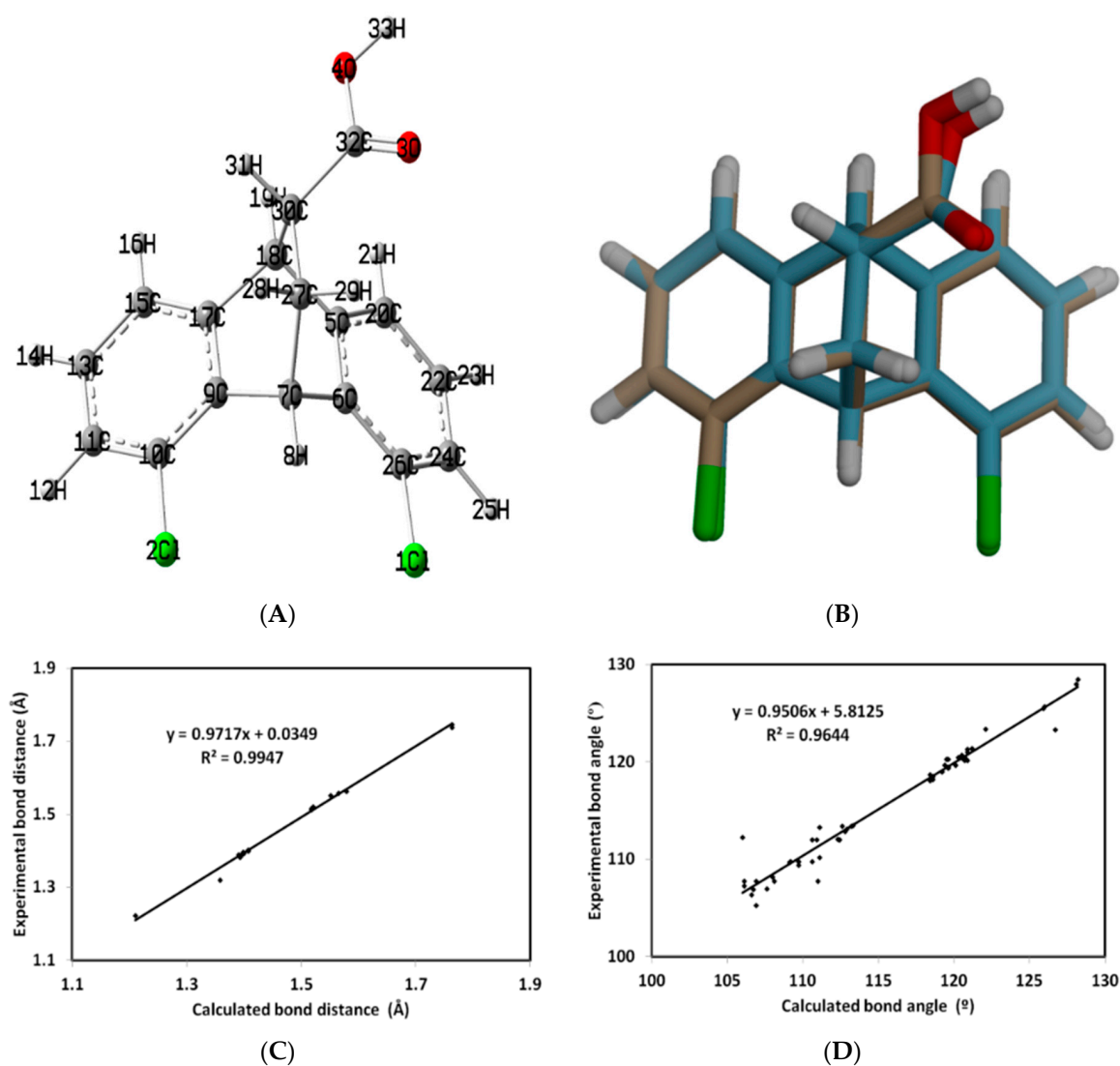


Figure 7. The optimized structure (A), overlaid with the experimental single-crystal X-ray analysis results, (B) as well as correlation graphs between the calculated and experimental bond distances (C) and angles (D) for **5**.

The natural population analysis was used to calculate the atomic charges at the different atomic sites. The results are presented graphically in Figure 8. The figure shows two slightly negative chlorine atoms with very close natural charges (-0.0067 and -0.0073 e). On the other hand, the oxygen atoms of the $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ group are strongly electronegative, with natural charges of -0.5915 and -0.7223 e for the carbonyl and hydroxyl oxygen atoms, respectively. The carboxylic group has the most electronegative atom and the most electropositive atomic sites, which are the oxygen of the OH group and carbon atom of the carbonyl group, respectively. The latter has a natural charge of 0.8463 e, while the rest of the carbon atoms are electronegative. In contrast, the OH proton is the most positive hydrogen site, with a natural charge of 0.5059 e. The molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) map shown in Figure 9 reveals the high negative charge density related to the carbonyl oxygen and the high positive charge related to the OH proton. Additionally, the presence of an intense red region close to the carbonyl oxygen atom and a blue region close to the OH proton shed light on the most probable hydrogen bond acceptor and donor sites, respectively. These results are in agreement with the observed X-ray structure of the studied system. The calculated dipole moment is 4.2782 Debye, indicating a highly polar molecule, while the direction of the dipole moment vector is presented in the left part of Figure 9.

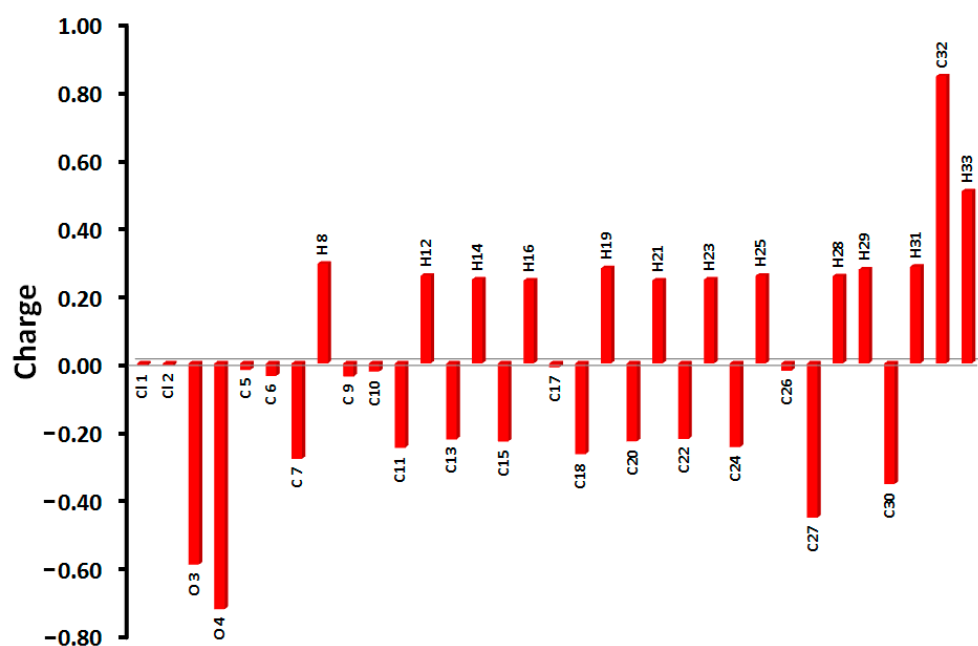


Figure 8. Natural atomic charge populations for 5.

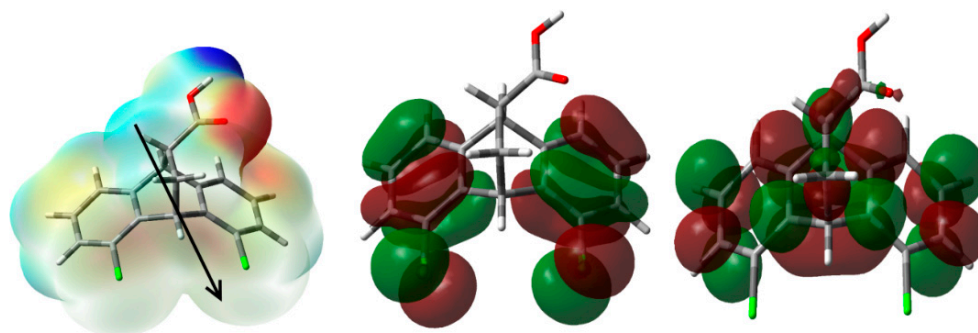


Figure 9. The MEP, HOMO and LUMO of 5.

Figure 9 presents the HOMO and LUMO levels of the studied compound 5. The π -system exists mainly in the studied compound; hence, the HOMO–LUMO intramolecular

charge transfer could be portrayed as mainly π - π^* excitation. The following indices were calculated, namely $I = -E_{\text{HOMO}}$ (ionization potential), $A = -E_{\text{LUMO}}$ (electron affinity), $\mu = -(I + A)/2$ (chemical potential), $\eta = (I - A)/2$ (hardness), and $\omega = \mu^2/2\eta$ (electrophilicity) [40–45], giving values of 6.635, 0.687, -3.661 , 5.948, and 1.127 eV, respectively. It was believed that these electronic parameters play important roles in the biomolecular reactivity.

3.5. NMR Spectra

DFT calculations were also used to calculate the NMR spectra of **5** (Table S3, Supplementary Data). Indeed, the chemical shifts in the NMR spectra were computed and compared with the values obtained experimentally. The resulting straight line plots were found to have high correlation coefficients (R^2). The R^2 values were 0.9884 and 0.9705 for the bond angles and distances, respectively, indicating harmony between the computed and experimental results (Figure 10).

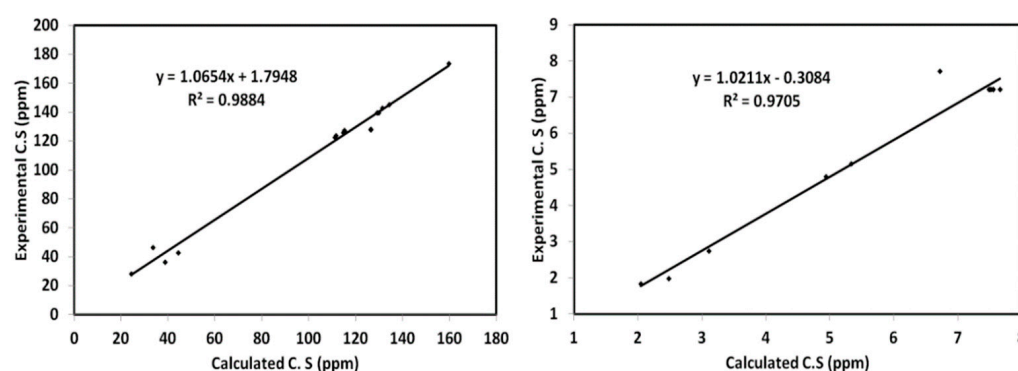


Figure 10. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR diagrams, indicating harmony between the computed and experimental results.

4. Conclusions

In summary, the synthesis and single-crystal X-ray structure of 1,8-dichloro-9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethanoanthracene-11-carboxylic acid were reported. The molecular structure of the studied compound was elucidated via single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. Additionally, Hirshfeld calculations were computed and the electronic properties were assessed, such as the dipole moment, atomic charge, HOMO and LUMO levels and NMR spectra. The calculated NMR chemical shifts revealed a high level of harmony in the experimentally obtained results.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/cryst11101161/s1>: Table S1–S3: The calculated geometric parameters, natural charges and nuclear magnetic resonance chemical shifts (^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR) of the studied compound **5**.

Author Contributions: M.S.A., A.B. and M.A.S. designed the study. S.M.S. carried out the computational study. S.Y. and I.A. carried out the X-ray diffraction analysis. I.S. and M.A.S. carried out the chemical analysis and methodology investigation. M.S.A. acquired funding. All authors helped in the writing, editing and approval of the final manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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