



Research Article

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Synthesis and crystal structure studies of amino derivatives of
4-chlorophenacyl benzoate

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ABSTRACT

Phenacyl benzoates attract commercial importance due to their various applications in the field of synthetic and photo-chemistry. They play vital role as protecting groups for carboxylic acids in organic synthesis. These are also the photosensitive blocking groups with the ease of cleaving under mild conditions. Amino derivatives of 4-chlorophenacyl benzoate (**2a-c**) are synthesized by reacting 4-chlorophenacyl bromide with ortho-, meta- and para-amino substituted benzoic acids separately using a slight excess of potassium carbonate in *N,N*-dimethylformamide medium at room temperature. These reactions offered convenience, mild conditions, high purity and good yield.

Key words: Benzoates, synthesis, crystal structure, high yield and purity.

INTRODUCTION

Phenacyl benzoate is a derivative of an acid which is formed by the reaction between an acid and a phenacyl bromide. They play a key role as protecting groups for carboxylic acids in organic synthesis and biochemistry [1,2]. The advantage of using these photosensitive blocking groups is that they can easily be cleaved under completely neutral and mild conditions [1-3] and therefore used for the identification of organic acids. Phenacyl bromide derivatives have found vital application for decades in the field of synthetic chemistry [4] such as in the synthesis of imidazoles and oxazoles [5] as well as benzoxazepine [6].

Encouraged with the above observations and in continuation of our work [7], the present study was focused to study the substituent effect on the geometrical features, to understand the molecular conformation and intermolecular interactions which holds the assembly of molecules in the crystal lattice. For the present work, we have synthesized those 4-chlorophenacyl benzoates with strong activating $-NH_2$ group at different positions ($-o$, $-m$ and $-p$) on the phenyl ring.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Chemicals and instrumentation

The reagents and solvents for the synthesis were obtained from the Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co., and were used as received without additional purification. Melting point was determined by Stuart Scientific (UK) apparatus. The purity of the compound was confirmed by thin layer chromatography using Merck silica gel 60 F254 coated aluminium plates.

X-ray Crystallography

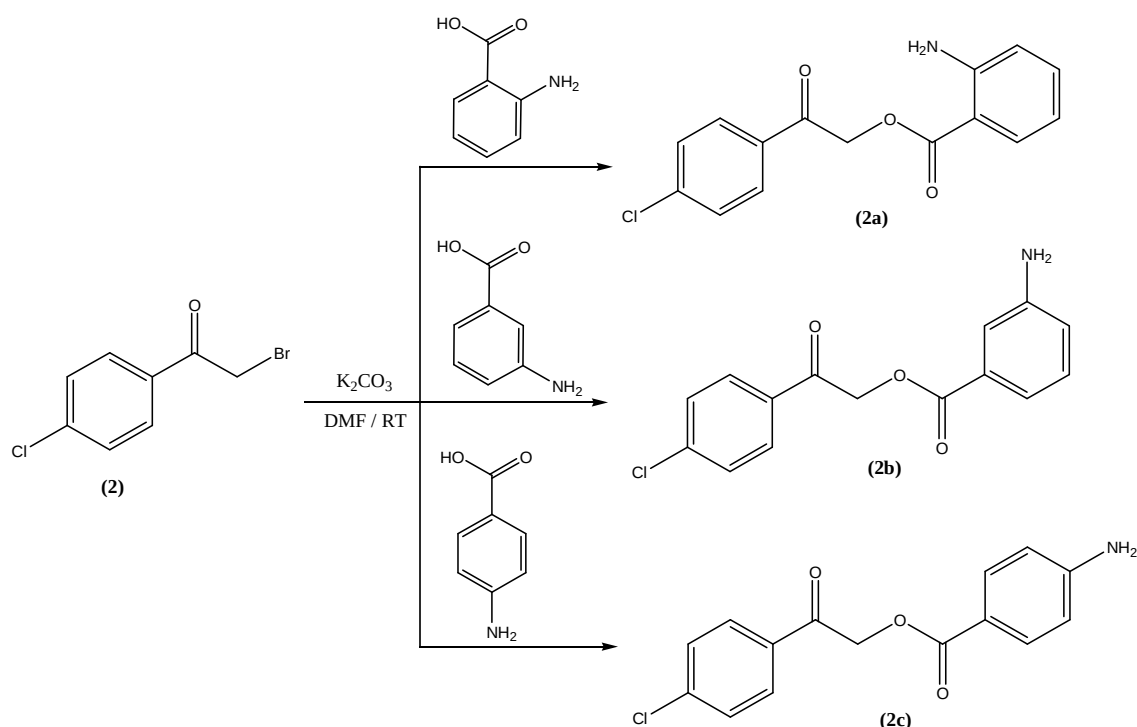
X-ray analysis was done using either Bruker SMART Apex II or Apex DUO CCD diffractometer. The data were processed with SAINT and corrected for absorption using SADABS [8]. The structures were solved by direct method using the program SHELXTL [9], and were refined by full-matrix least squares technique on F^2 using anisotropic displacement parameters. The crystallographic data of compound **2a** and **2b** were collected at 100.0(1) K using the Oxford Cryosystem Cobra low temperature attachment [10] whereas compound **2c** was collected under room temperature. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All N bound H atoms were located from the difference map and were fixed at their found positions with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{N})$. [$\text{N}-\text{H} = 0.88(2)-0.90(3) \text{ \AA}$]. The hydrogen atoms bounded to C atoms were positioned geometrically [$\text{C}-\text{H} = 0.93$ or $0.97 \text{ \AA}$] with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$. The crystallographic data for the reported compounds are given in Table 1. Crystallographic data have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. CCDC No: 944073, 944074 and 944075 for compounds (**2a**), (**2b**) and (**2c**) respectively. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK. Fax: +44-(0)1223-336033 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

Table 1: Crystal data and parameters for structure refinement of **2a**, **2b** and **2c**

Compound	2a	2b	2c
CCDC	944073	944074	944075
Molecular formula	$\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClNO}_3$	$\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClNO}_3$	$\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClNO}_3$
Molecular weight	289.71	289.71	289.71
Temperature/K	100	100	297
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/c$	$P2_12_12_1$
a (Å)	14.9029 (17)	7.993 (2)	5.2076 (9)
b (Å)	9.6590 (11)	10.725 (3)	8.2380 (13)
c (Å)	9.2955 (12)	16.701 (4)	31.941 (5)
α (°)	90	90	90
β (°)	93.503 (3)	110.801 (10)	90
γ (°)	90	90	90
V (Å ³)	1335.6 (3)	1338.4 (6)	1370.3 (4)
Z	4	4	4
D_{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	1.441	1.438	1.404
Crystal Dimensions (mm)	$0.75 \times 0.41 \times 0.10$	$0.39 \times 0.38 \times 0.06$	$0.72 \times 0.50 \times 0.20$
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.29	0.29	0.28
Radiation λ (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Reflections measured	10360	11660	8896
Ranges/ indices	-12, 19; -11, 12; -12, 12	-10, 10; -12, 13; -15, 21	-5, 7; -11, 11; -45, 29
θ limit (°)	2.5-27.5	2.3-27.5	2.6-30.3
Unique reflections	3050	3057	4100
Observed reflections	2488	2273	3074
($I > 2\sigma(I)$)			
Parameters	189	181	189
Goodness of fit on F^2	1.05	1.07	1.02
$R1, wR2$ ($I \geq 2\sigma(I)$)	0.039, 0.117	0.066, 0.186	0.046, 0.139

Synthesis of amino derivatives of 4-chlorophenacyl benzoate'

4-Chlorophenacyl benzoate derivatives were obtained *via* two-step reaction reported earlier [11]. 2-bromo-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanone (0.002 mol) was reacted with amino substituted benzoic acids (0.003 mol) in presence of potassium carbonate in dimethyl formamide (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for about 2 h (Scheme 1). The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was poured into ice-cold water. The solid obtained was filtered and washed with water, recrystallized with ethanol and dried to get the pure product (**2a-c**).



Scheme 1: Reaction scheme for the synthesis of amino derivatives of 2-chlorophenacyl benzoate

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

X-ray Single Crystal Structure Description of Compounds 2a, 2b & 2c

X-ray quality crystals of the compounds, 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 2-aminobenzoate (**2a**), 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 3-aminobenzoate (**2b**) and 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 4-aminobenzoate (**2c**) were obtained from their solution in acetone/methanol (1:1 v/v) by the slow evaporation method. Fig. 1 shows the molecular structures of the compounds, which differ from each other with respect to the -NH_2 substituent at different positions ($-o$, $-m$ and $-p$) on the benzene ring. H-bonding interactions are listed in Table 2. The compounds crystallize in monoclinic system, space group $P2_1/c$ (**2a** and **2b**) and orthorhombic system, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (**2c**). The two benzene rings are almost perpendicular to each other in all compounds as indicated by the dihedral angles of 83.08° (8°) in compound **2a**, 83.45° (15°) in compound **2b** and 76.97° (10°) in compound **2c**. Among the three, the compound **2a** appears unique with $S(6)$ ring motif which is generated by the intra-molecular $\text{N—H}\cdots\text{O}$ bond as shown in Fig. 1.

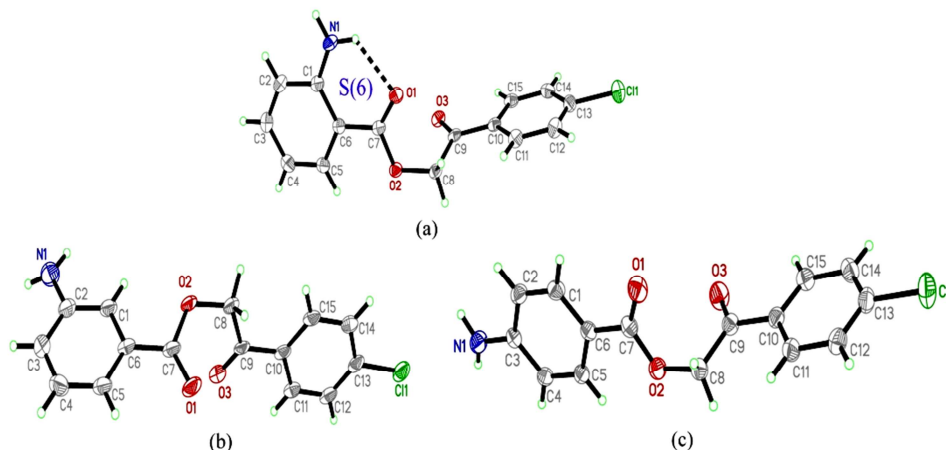
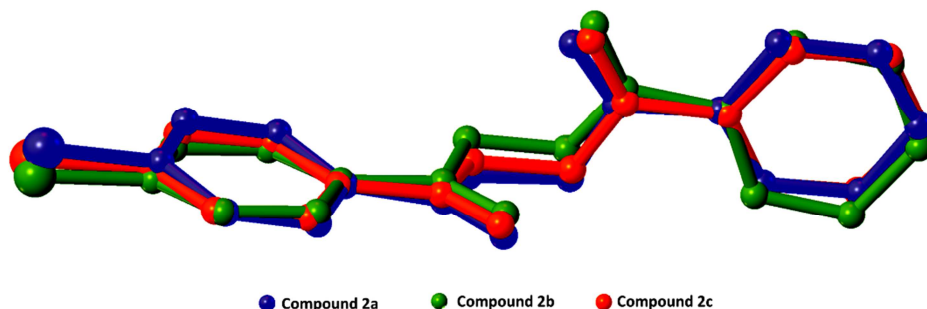


Figure 1: Molecular structure of compounds (a) **2a**, (b) **2b** and (c) **2c**, with atom numbering schemes. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level in compounds **2a** and **2b** and 30% probability level in compound **2c**. The dashed line represents the intramolecular hydrogen bonds

The conformations of the three compounds are very analogous as illustrated in Fig. 2(a). The r.m.s. value for the overlay between all non-H atoms in the compounds **2a/2b**, **2a/2c** and **2b/2c** are 0.233, 0.319 and 0.229 Å, respectively, when terminal amide groups at different positions ($-o$, $-m$ and $-p$) on the phenyl rings are excluded. In the compound **2b**, a weak intermolecular $\text{C12—H12A}\cdots\text{N1}$ hydrogen bond (Table 2) between the nitrogen atom of the terminal amide group and one of the carbon atoms of the chloro-substituted benzene ring ensures a

favorable orientation that the atoms N1 and C12 are on the same side in the crystal packing (Fig. 4a) which causes the benzene ring plane to rotate by nearly 180° with respect to the compounds **2a** and **2c** (Fig. 2b).

(a)



(b)

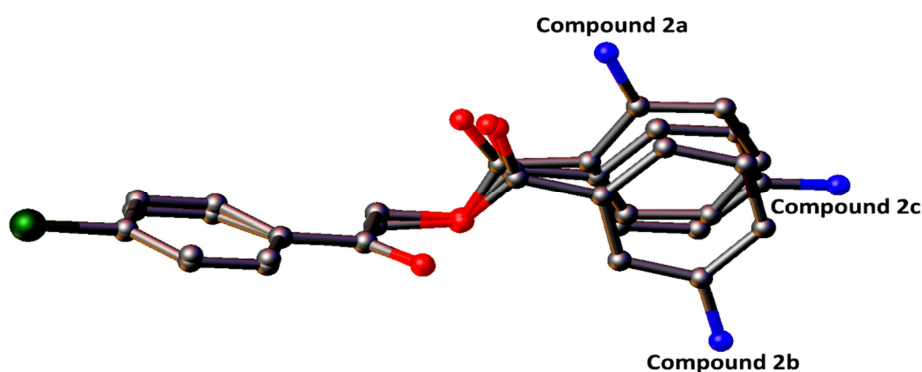


Figure 2: (a) Overlay of all non-H atoms, excluding the terminal amide groups. (b) Overlays were calculated using the 4-chlorobenzoate moiety in compounds **2a**, **2b** and **2c**. Hydrogen atoms have been removed for clarity

In compound **2a** and **2b**, molecules are linked *via* intermolecular N1—H...O3 hydrogen bonds into zig-zag chains (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4a) running along *c* and *b* axis, respectively. However molecules in compound **2c** are connected with intermolecular N1—H...O1 hydrogen bonds into C(8) chain motifs along *b*-axis as shown in Fig. 5a. In the crystal packing of all the three compounds, the neighboring zig-zag chains are aligned in anti-parallel fashion. These anti-parallel chains are further interconnected into 2D corrugated sheet running along (011) *via* weak intermolecular C8—H8B...O1 hydrogen bonds in compound **2a**, generating $R_2^2(10)$ graph-set motifs [12] (Fig. 3). Formation of two-dimensional framework (Fig. 4b) and two-molecules-thick two dimensional network (Fig. 5b) parallel to the *ab* plane *via* intermolecular N1—H2...O1 and C12—H12A...N1 hydrogen bonds in compound **2b** and intermolecular N1—H2N1...N1 hydrogen bonds in compound **2c** are observed. In addition, the crystal structure stability of compound **2b** is consolidated by C—H... π interactions, involving the C8 atom and the centroid of the benzene rings (C1-C6 and C10-C15) and weak π - π stacking interactions are also observed between C10-C15 benzene rings. The distance between the centroids of interacting rings is 3.753(2) Å with the symmetry code -*x*, 1-*y*, -*z*. All above interactions as well as Van der Waals interactions play significant roles in stabilizing these three crystal structures.

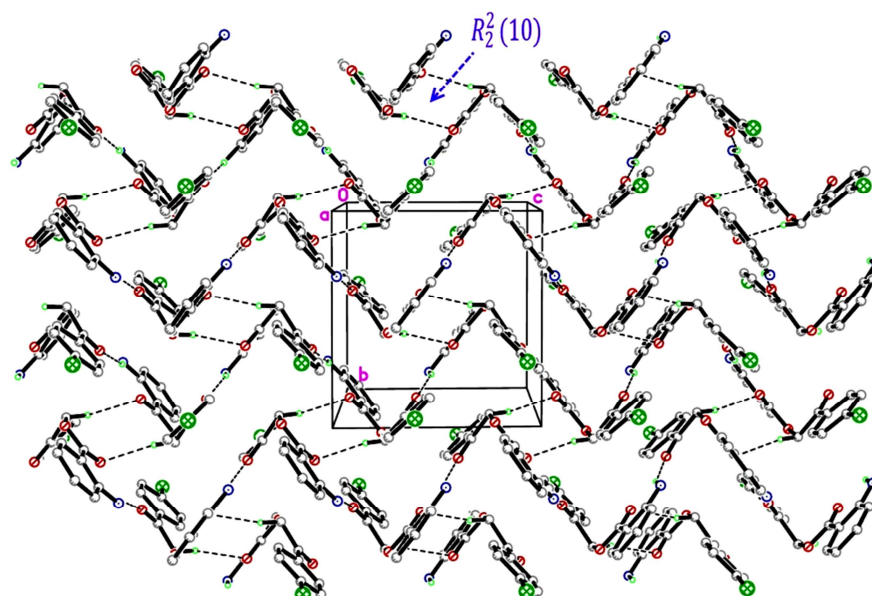


Figure 3: Crystal packing of compound 2a with intermolecular hydrogen bonding shown as dashed lines. Hydrogen atoms not involved in intermolecular interactions have been omitted for clarity

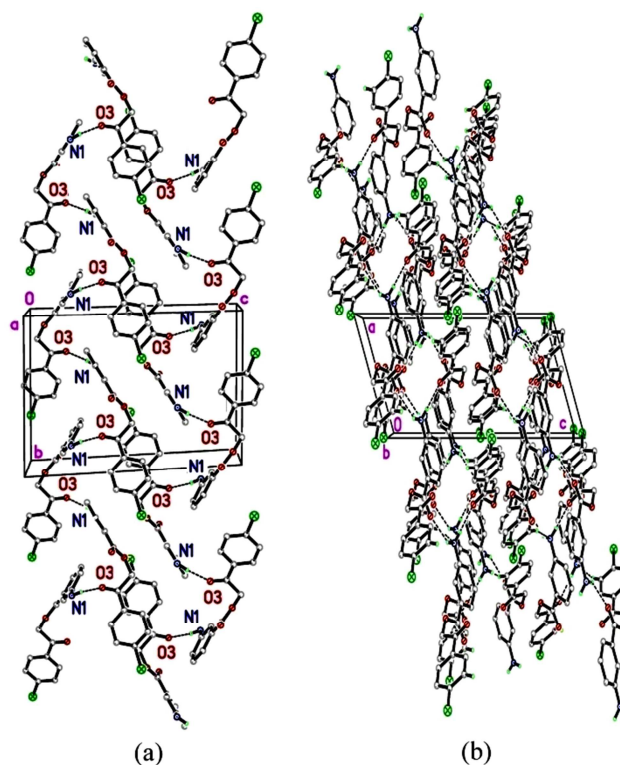


Figure 4: (a) Anti-parallel zigzag chains mediated by N1—H...O3 hydrogen bonds in compound 2b. (b) Packing diagram of compound 2b with N—H...O and C—H...N intermolecular hydrogen bonds shown as dash lines. For clarity sake, hydrogen atoms not involved in hydrogen bonding have been omitted

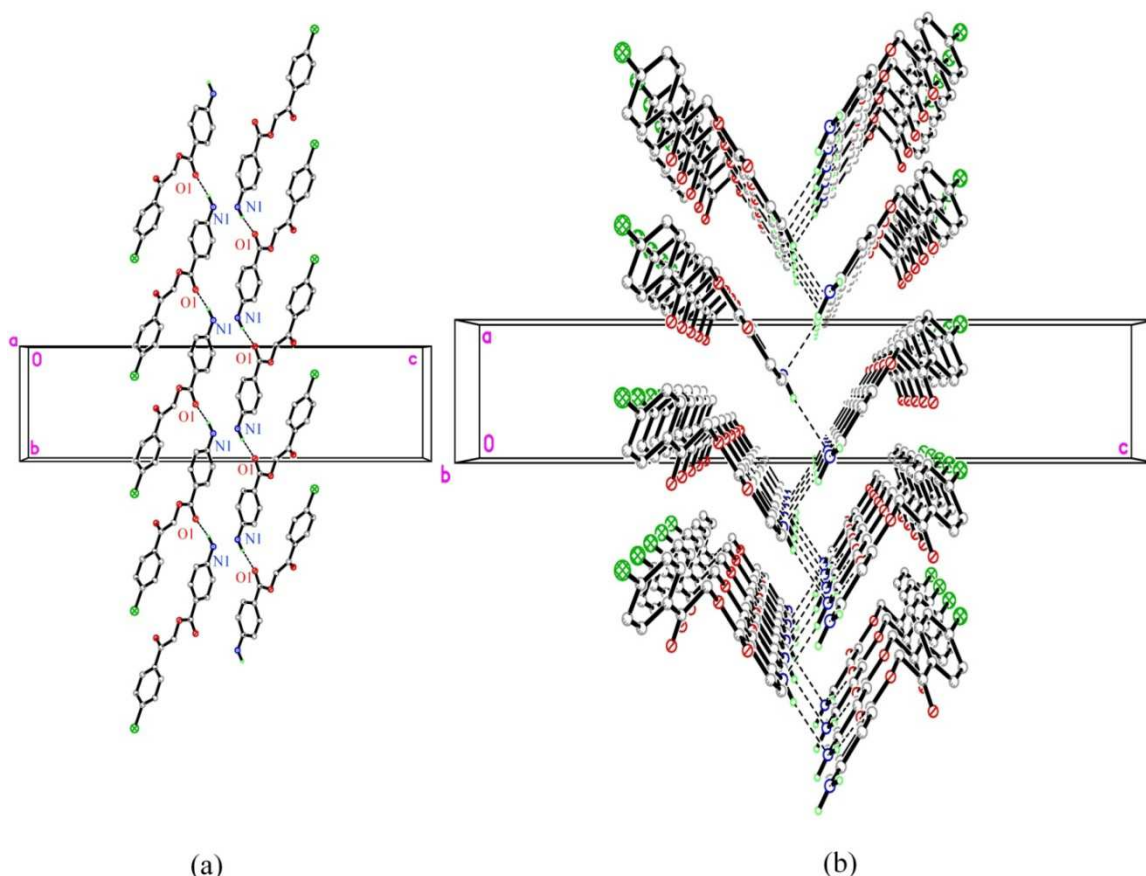


Figure 5: (a) View showing the C(8) chain motifs pack in anti-parallel pattern running along *b*-axis via intermolecular N1—H...O1 hydrogen bonds in compound 2c. (b) Crystal structure of compound 2c with intermolecular hydrogen bonding patterns shown as dashed lines. Hydrogen atoms not participating in intermolecular interactions have been omitted for clarity

Table 2: Hydrogen bond geometries for compounds 2a, 2b and 2c

<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>	<i>d</i> (<i>D</i> —H) (Å)	<i>d</i> (H... <i>A</i>) (Å)	<i>d</i> (<i>D</i> ... <i>A</i>) (Å)	Angle (<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>) (°)
(2a)				
N1—H1N1...O1	0.889 (19)	2.077 (19)	2.6914 (18)	1254 (16)
N1—H1N1...O3	0.889 (19)	2.296 (19)	3.0900 (18)	148.7 (16)
C8—H8B...O1 ⁱⁱ	0.97	2.53	3.4913 (19)	169
(2b)				
N1—H1...O3 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.88	2.06	2.939 (4)	173
N1—H2...O1 ^{iv}	0.88	2.41	3.147 (4)	142
C12—H12A...N1 ^v	0.93	2.62	3.506 (5)	159
(2c)				
N1—H2N1...N1 ^{vi}	0.90(3)	2.37 (3)	3.257 (2)	170 (2)
N1—H1N1...O1 ^{vii}	0.88(2)	2.13 (2)	2.967 (2)	160 (2)

Symmetry code: (i) $x, -y+1/2, z+1/2$; (ii) $-x+2, -y+1, -z+1$; (iii) $-x+2, y-1/2, -z+1/2$; (iv) $-x+1, y, z$; (v) $x-1, y+1, z$; (vi) $x+1/2, -y+5/2, -z+2$; (vii) $x, y+1, z$.

CONCLUSION

Synthesis, single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies and reducing power assay of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 2-aminobenzoate (**2a**), 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 3-aminobenzoate (**2b**) and 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl 4-aminobenzoate (**2c**) have been described. The reaction offered convenient, mild conditions, high purity and good yield. The crystal structure stability is consolidated by C—H... π interactions and weak π — π stacking interactions in compound **2b** whereas the stability is mainly due to Van der Waals interactions in compounds **2a** and **2c**.

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