IOCC 2026 Conference
The 5th International Online Conference on Crystals
15–17 June 2026 | Online
MDPI

Crystal Structure, Supramolecular Assembly, and Molecular Arrangement of Mansorin A: A Bioactive Natural Product from *Mansonia gagei*

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Mansorin A is a naphthofuran-type secondary metabolite isolated from the heartwood of *Mansonia gagei*, widely recognized for its remarkable pharmacological properties, particularly its antifungal and cytotoxic effects. Despite its documented therapeutic potential, the physicochemical characterization of its solid state and the study of its crystal engineering have been frequently overlooked in biological screenings. This paper systematically correlates existing crystallographic data to elucidate how molecular structure dictates the material properties of the compound. The primary objective is to identify the structure-property relationships governing the bioavailability of this natural product, thereby providing the foundational theoretical framework necessary for designing advanced delivery systems.

METHOD

This work adopts a methodology based on a comprehensive review and systematic analysis of the current state of knowledge regarding the crystalline architecture of Mansorin A. The approach relies on the rigorous collection and categorization of previously reported crystallographic data from the literature, integrating structural, chemical, and pharmacological parameters. By synthesizing these multidisciplinary data, the methodology aimed to map lattice interactions and critically identify gaps in current research, specifically focusing on the relationship between solid-state structure and the compound's bioavailability.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Supramolecular Assembly and Crystal Packing

Structural analysis reveals that the planar topology of the naphthofuran skeleton sterically drives a compact self-assembly with high lattice space efficiency. Solid-state cohesion is governed by a clear hierarchy of non-covalent interactions: π-π stacking motifs between the extended conjugated aromatic systems—which establish strong attractive forces at short interplanar distances and define the anisotropy of crystal growth—coupled with a three-dimensional, cooperative network of weak C-H···O hydrogen bonds. These contacts correlate adjacent layers, rigidify the crystalline edifice, and restrict conformational freedom in the solid state.

Impact of Polymorphism and Solvation

Data indicate a high susceptibility of Mansorin A to conformational polymorphism and pseudopolymorphism (solvate formation). Geometric variations in the unit cell parameters and the reconfiguration of hydrogen bond networks between different crystalline phases induce significant differences in lattice free energy. These variations control long-term thermodynamic stability and govern phase transitions under the impact of temperature or relative humidity. Furthermore, the presence of solvates alters the activation barrier to dissolution, critically influencing the emergence of transient supersaturation states and the release kinetics of the active substance.

Structure-Property Relationships and Bioavailability

The synthesis highlights a critical gap in current research: the absence of predictive models linking solid-state molecular arrangement to *in vivo* absorption. Macroscopic properties, such as apparent solubility and intrinsic dissolution rate, directly depend on lattice energy. In the case of Mansorin A, the high energetic barrier imposed by aromatic interactions and tight C-H···O networks limits solvation in aqueous media, constituting the major restrictive factor for systemic bioavailability. Rational manipulation of polymorphism is therefore indispensable for optimizing pharmacokinetic performance through crystal engineering techniques.

CONCLUSIONS

Elucidating the crystal engineering aspects of Mansorin A is mandatory to overcome its hydrophobic barriers and pharmacokinetic limitations. Rigorous control of polymorphic transitions and an understanding of supramolecular networks provide the necessary predictive tools to optimize both physical stability and apparent solubility. The outcomes of this synthesis serve as an essential conceptual resource for the rational design of future pharmaceutical formulations and effective vectorization systems capable of maximizing the therapeutic potential of Mansorin A-based compounds.

FUTURE WORK/ REFERENCES/ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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