

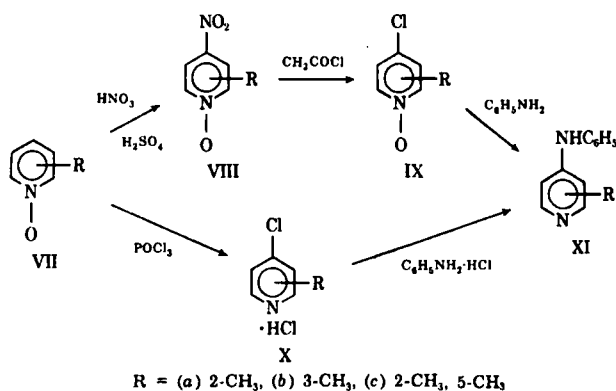
R = (a) CH₃, (b) C₆H₅CH₂, or (c) C₆H₅CH₂CH₂

These considerations prompted this study of the effect of ring methylation in conjunction with 1-substitution on the analgesic activity of the 4-propanilidopiperidines. The 1-substituted 2-methyl analogs (IV) possess structural features shown to confer high analgesic activity on the acyclic basic anilides. The 1-substituted 3-methyl-4-propanilidopiperidines (V) and 2,5-dimethyl-4-propanilidopiperidines (VI) exhibit structural features important for potent analgesic activity in the 4-phenylpiperidine class.

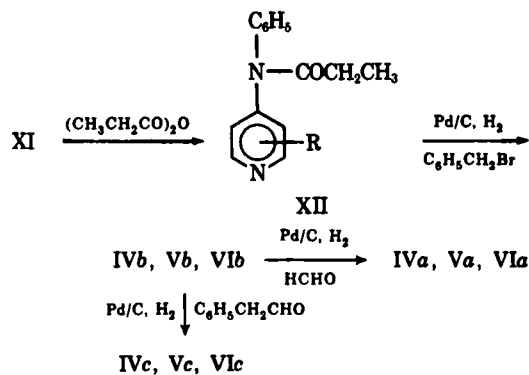
SYNTHESIS

Literature schemes for the synthesis of 4-anilidopiperidines usually proceed through the 1-substituted 4-piperidones with the formation of the Schiff base with aniline, followed by reduction and subsequent acylation of the 4-anilino moiety (5, 8). In this study, however, the desired 4-anilidopiperidines were most readily accessible *via* the appropriate 4-anilinopyridines (XI, Scheme I). These key intermediates were prepared according to literature procedures (9) *via* nucleophilic displacement of chloride by aniline from the appropriate 4-chloropyridine *N*-oxides (IX) or 4-chloropyridine hydrochlorides (X). Syntheses of X proved to be more facile than the preparation of IX, and treatment of X with aniline hydrochloride gave higher yields of the desired 4-anilinopyridines.

The propanilides (XII, Scheme II) were obtained by heating the 4-anilinopyridines (XI) in propionic anhydride. Hydrogenation of the pyridine ring in XII was achieved using 10% palladium-on-charcoal in glacial acetic acid in a catalyst to a compound ratio of 1:3. The use of platinum oxide as a catalyst in this conversion proved unsatisfactory because of partial pyridine ring reduction and reduction of the aniline ring.



Scheme I



Scheme II

The ring-methylated 4-propanilidopiperidines obtained from the reduction of the 4-anilidopyridines proved very difficult to purify. Preparation of the 1-benzyl-4-propanilidopiperidines provided products that could be easily purified by adsorption chromatography. The other two series of 1-substituted 4-propanilidopiperidines were conveniently prepared by catalytic hydrogenolysis of the 1-benzyl derivatives in the presence of either formaldehyde or phenylacetaldehyde.

The synthetic procedures employed for the preparation of the ring-methylated 4-anilidopiperidines of this study undoubtedly gave rise to diastereomeric mixtures of the products. Isomeric mixtures were indicated in certain cases by separation during chromatographic purification. However, in all cases that this was observed the isomers were combined to give homogeneous products with regard to elemental analyses. The results with adsorption chromatography will be of value in future studies of the isomers of these compounds.

ANALGESIC ACTIVITY

The analgesic activity of the ring-methylated 4-anilidopiperidines prepared in this study was determined in rats by the D'Amour-Smith (10) tail-flick method. The compounds were tested as the hydrochloride salts and were dissolved in normal saline immediately prior to intraperitoneal injection. The ED₅₀ value for the compound studied is defined as the dose of the drug which, in 50% of the animals tested, increased the reaction time by 50% at 40 min. postinjection. Compounds were deemed inactive if the rats did not exhibit significant analgesia at dose levels of 100 mg./kg.

EXPERIMENTAL¹

4-Anilino-2-methylpyridine (XIa)—A mixture of 8.2 g. (0.05 mole) of 4-chloro-2-methylpyridine hydrochloride (Xa) [prepared by standard procedures by treatment of 2-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (VIIa) with phosphorus oxychloride] and 10.3 g. (0.08 mole) of aniline hydrochloride was placed in a sealed vessel and heated for 4 hr. at 130°. The resulting tarry material was purified by steam distillation. After 800 ml. of distillate had been collected, the residue was filtered and the filtrate was treated with charcoal and filtered through diatomaceous earth². The filtrate was extracted with chloroform and the chloroform was dried (sodium sulfate) and evaporated *in vacuo*, leaving 5.2 g. (56%) of XIa as white crystals, m.p. 146–147°; NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.40 (d, 1, C-6 H), 7.45–7.85 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 7.28 (s, 1, C-3 H), 7.20 (d, 1, C-5 H), 6.78 (broad s, 1, N—H), and 2.50 (s, 3, C-2 CH₃).

¹ All melting points were determined on a Thomas-Hoover melting-point apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra for all compounds were as expected. The NMR spectra were taken using a C-60HL Jeolco instrument, using tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed by Chemlytics, Inc., Tempe, Ariz. Hydrochloride salts of amine oxides were formed by dissolving the amine oxide in dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid and evaporating *in vacuo*.

² Celite.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{15}H_{15}N_3$: C, 78.26; H, 6.52; N, 15.22. Found: C, 78.21; H, 6.67; N, 14.64.

4-(*N*-Propananilido-2-methylpyridine) (XIIa)—An 18.4-g. (0.10-mole) sample of XIa was dissolved in 100 ml. of propionic anhydride and heated at 80° for 12 hr. The excess propionic anhydride was removed *in vacuo*, and the dark residue was purified in 10-g. quantities by passage through a 1000 × 25-mm. chromatographic column packed with 190 g. of silica gel. Elution was carried out with ethyl acetate and 30-ml. fractions were collected. Fractions 11–20 were found to contain the product. This procedure gave 19.5 g. (81%) of XIIa as a light oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 8.40 (d, 1, C-6 H), 7.40–7.85 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 7.31 (s, 1, C-3 H), 7.25 (d, 1, C-5 H), 2.54 (s, 3, C-2 CH₃), 2.48 (m, 2, COCH₂CH₃), and 1.25 (t, 3, COCH₂CH₃). The hydrochloride salt was prepared by standard procedures and recrystallized from ethanol-ether, m.p. 152°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{15}H_{15}N_3O \cdot HCl$: C, 65.10; H, 6.15; N, 10.13. Found: C, 64.91; H, 6.22; N, 9.64.

1-Benzyl-2-methyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (IVb)—A 15.6-g. (0.064-mole) sample of XIIa was dissolved in 150 ml. of glacial acetic acid, and 4.0 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal was added to the solution. The mixture was hydrogenated for 24 hr. at 75°. The catalyst was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was carefully basified with sodium hydroxide and then extracted with chloroform. The chloroform extract was dried (sodium sulfate) and concentrated *in vacuo*, giving a viscous oil. This oil was dissolved in acetonitrile, and 13.3 g. (0.078 mole) of benzyl bromide was added. The solution was refluxed for 11 hr. followed by concentration *in vacuo*. The residual oil was taken up in a saturated solution of potassium carbonate and extracted with chloroform. The chloroform extract was dried (sodium sulfate) and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a yellow oil, which was then passed through a 500 × 25-mm. chromatographic column packed with 90 g. of silica gel. Elution with ethyl acetate gave 10.5 g. (48%) of IVb as a clear oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.20–7.75 (m, 10, N—C₆H₅ and N—CH₂C₆H₅), 4.50–5.05 (m, 1, C-4 H), 3.15 and 4.33 (AB quartet, 2, N—CH₂C₆H₅), and 0.80–1.45 (m, 6, COCH₂CH₃ and C-2 CH₃). The picrate of IVb was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 210–212°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{22}H_{29}N_3O \cdot C_6H_5N_2O_7$: C, 59.46; H, 5.50; N, 12.38. Found: C, 59.72; H, 5.40; N, 12.36.

1-(2-Phenylethyl)-2-methyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (IVc)—A 3.0-g. (0.009-mole) sample of IVb was mixed with 1.44 g. (0.012 mole) of phenylacetaldehyde and 0.5 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal in ethanol and hydrogenated for 4 hr. at room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*, leaving a dark oil. The oil was purified by passing it through a 500 × 25-mm. chromatographic column packed with 90 g. of silica gel. Elution with ethyl acetate provided 2.24 g. (71%) of IVc as an oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.20–7.85 (m, 10, N—C₆H₅ and N—CH₂CH₂C₆H₅), 4.33–4.80 (m, 1, C-4 H), and 0.80–1.50 (m, 6, COCH₂CH₃ and C-2 CH₃). The oil formed a picrate which was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 207–208°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{24}H_{30}N_3O \cdot C_6H_5N_2O_7$: C, 60.09; H, 5.74; N, 12.08. Found: C, 59.90; H, 5.75; N, 12.12.

1,2-Dimethyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (IVa)—A mixture of 2.0 g. (0.006 mole) of IVb, 0.90 g. (0.01 mole) of 37% formaldehyde solution, and 0.5 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal was hydrogenated for 4 hr. The reaction mixture was filtered, concentrated *in vacuo*, and passed through a 250 × 20-mm. chromatographic column packed with silica gel. Elution with ethyl acetate gave 1.2 g. (79%) of viscous oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.20–7.75 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 4.50–5.00 (m, 1, C-4 H), 2.07 (s, 3, N—CH₃), and 0.80–1.50 (m, 6, COCH₂CH₃ and C-2 CH₃). The oil formed a picrate which was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 194–196.5°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{14}H_{19}N_3O \cdot C_6H_5N_2O_7$: C, 53.98; H, 5.56; N, 14.31. Found: C, 54.00; H, 5.68; N, 14.76.

4-Anilino-3-methylpyridine (XIb)—A mixture of 7.2 g. (0.05 mole) of 4-chloro-3-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (IXb), prepared by standard procedures from the 4-nitro derivative (VIIIb) (9), and 9.3 g. (0.10 mole) of aniline was heated in a sealed vessel at 130° for 4 hr. The deep-violet tar obtained from this procedure was purified as described in the synthesis of XIa, leaving a green crystalline solid which was recrystallized from ethanol-water (1:3) to yield 3.51 g. (38%) of product, m.p. 119–120° [lit. (9) m.p. 122°].

4-(*N*-Propananilido)-3-methylpyridine (XIIb)—A 20.3-g. (0.11-mole) sample of 4-anilino-3-methylpyridine (XIb) dissolved in 100 ml. of propionic anhydride was stirred and heated at 80° for 12 hr.

Purification by the procedure described for XIIa gave 21.1 g. (80%) of a light-yellow oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 8.63 (d, 1, C-6 H), 8.70 (s, 1, C-2 H), 7.55–7.80 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 7.35 (d, 1, C-5 H), 2.45 (m, 2, COCH₂CH₃), and 1.20 (t, 3, COCH₂CH₃). The hydrochloride salt of XIIb was formed in the usual way and recrystallized from ethanol-ether, m.p. 136–137°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{15}H_{15}N_3O \cdot HCl$: C, 65.09; H, 6.15; N, 10.12. Found: C, 64.94; H, 6.25; N, 9.98.

1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (Vb)—A 9.6-g. (0.04-mole) sample of XIIb was dissolved in 100 ml. of glacial acetic acid, and 4.0 g. of 10% palladium-on-charcoal was added to the solution. The mixture was hydrogenated for 24 hr. at 75°. After filtration, basification, and concentration, the residual oil was refluxed with 11.9 g. (0.07 mole) of benzyl bromide in acetonitrile. The oil obtained by this procedure was purified as described for IVb, yielding 7.8 g. (58%) of Vb as a clear oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.45 (s, 5, CH₂C₆H₅), 7.30–7.80 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 4.45–4.80 (m, 1, C-4 H), 3.55 (s, 2, N—CH₂C₆H₅), and 1.10 (d, 3, C-3 CH₃). The hydrochloride salt of Vb was prepared and recrystallized from ethanol-ether, m.p. 202.5–204°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{22}H_{29}N_3O \cdot HCl \cdot H_2O$: C, 67.59; H, 7.99; N, 7.17. Found: C, 67.83; H, 7.55; N, 7.02.

1-(2-Phenylethyl)-3-methyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (Vc)—A 4.0-g. (0.012-mole) sample of Vb was mixed with 1.0 g. (0.016 mole) of phenylacetaldehyde and treated according to the procedure described for the synthesis of IVc, resulting in 3.32 g. (79%) of Vc as a clear oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.42 (s, 5, N—CH₂CH₂C₆H₅), 7.30–7.77 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 4.40–4.80 (m, 1, C-4 H), and 1.10 (d, 3, C-3 CH₃). The hydrochloride salt of Vc was prepared and recrystallized from ethanol-ether, m.p. 164–166°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{24}H_{30}N_3O \cdot HCl$: C, 71.38; H, 8.08; N, 7.24. Found: C, 71.01; H, 8.24; N, 6.95.

1,3-Dimethyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)piperidine (Va)—A mixture of 4.0 g. (0.012 mole) of Vb and 0.13 g. (0.015 mole) of formaldehyde solution (37%) was treated according to the procedure described in the preparation of IVa to yield 2.6 g. (82%) of Va as a clear oil; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.10–7.65 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 4.24–4.75 (m, 1, C-4 H), 2.23 (s, 3, N—CH₃), and 1.10 (d, 3, C-3 CH₃). The picrate of Va was prepared in the usual manner, m.p. 164°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{16}H_{21}N_3O \cdot C_6H_5N_2O_7$: C, 53.98; H, 5.56; N, 14.31. Found: C, 54.04; H, 5.56; N, 14.73.

4-Chloro-2,5-dimethylpyridine (Xc)—A 154.5-g. (0.88-mole) sample of 2,5-dimethylpyridine *N*-oxide hydrochloride was prepared by standard procedures and added to 475 g. (3.10 moles) of phosphorus oxychloride. The reaction was heated to 120° for 1 hr. and then refluxed for 4 hr. The solution was allowed to cool and poured into ice. The solution was basified (potassium carbonate) and extracted with ether, and the ethereal extracts were dried (sodium sulfate) and concentrated *in vacuo*, leaving an impure liquid which was distilled at 40–50° (1 mm.) to give 89.7 g. (72%) of Xc; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 8.60 (s, 1, C-6 H), 7.15 (s, 1, C-3 H), 2.50 (s, 3, CH₃), and 2.40 (s, 3, CH₃). The hydrochloride of Xc was prepared, m.p. 240–241°.

Anal.—Calc. for $C_7H_9ClN \cdot HCl$: C, 47.21; H, 5.09; N, 7.69. Found: C, 47.29; H, 5.55; N, 7.74.

4-Anilino-2,5-dimethylpyridine (XIc)—Following the procedure used to prepare XIa, 81.6 g. (0.63 mole) of aniline hydrochloride and 80.1 g. (0.45 mole) of Xc·HCl reacted to yield XIc as a gray solid. Recrystallization from dioxane yielded 61.2 g. (49%) of a white solid, m.p. 145°; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.05–7.90 (m, 6, C-3 H and N—C₆H₅), 2.50 (s, 3, CH₃), and 2.40 (s, 3, CH₃).

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{13}H_{14}N_2$: C, 78.78; H, 7.07; N, 14.14. Found: C, 78.70; H, 7.15; N, 14.16.

4-(*N*-Propananilido)-2,5-dimethylpyridine (XIIc)—A 29.7-g. (0.15-mole) sample of XIc was heated in 150 ml. of propionic anhydride for 12 hr. at 80°. The reaction was worked up as described for XIIa to give 31.7 g. (83%) of XIIc as an oil which solidified on standing at room temperature. Recrystallization of this solid from ether gave white crystals, m.p. 87–89°; NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 8.15 (s, 1, C-6 H), 7.20–7.55 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 7.13 (s, 1, C-3 H), 2.57 (s, 3, C-2 CH₃), 2.26 (s, 3, C-5 CH₃), 2.33 (m, 2, COCH₂CH₃), and 1.16 (t, 3, COCH₂CH₃).

Anal.—Calc. for $C_{16}H_{19}N_3O$: C, 75.79; H, 7.09; N, 11.02. Found: C, 75.53; H, 6.90; N, 10.77.

1-Benzyl-4-(*N*-propananilido)-2,5-dimethylpiperidine (VIb)—A solution of 10.1 g. (0.04 mole) of XIIc in 120 ml. of glacial acetic acid was hydrogenated and then treated with 8.5 g. (0.05 mole) of

Table I—Analgesic Activities of 4-Propananilidopiperidines

| 1-Substituent | ED ₅₀ , mg./kg. ^{a,b} | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| | 2-CH ₃ (IV) | 3-CH ₃ (V) | 2-CH ₃ , 5-CH ₃ (VI) |
| (a) CH ₃ | Inactive | 14.34 | Inactive |
| (b) C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ | Inactive | 36.67 | 65.14 |
| (c) C ₆ H ₄ (CH ₂ CH ₃) | 0.665 | 0.004 | 0.803 |

^a The ED₅₀ of fentanyl hydrochloride as determined in these studies was 0.04 mg./kg. ^b Significance level: $\alpha = 0.05$.

benzyl bromide, as previously described for the preparation of IVb, to yield 7.3 g. (52%) of VIb as a clear oil; NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.20–7.75 (m, 10, N—C₆H₅ and N—CH₂C₆H₅), 4.30–4.75 (m, 1, C-4 H), 2.95–4.20 (AB quartet, 2, N—CH₂C₆H₅), and 0.80–1.40 (m, 9, C-2 CH₃, C-5 CH₃, and COCH₂CH₃). The oil formed a picrate which was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 209–210°.

Anal.—Calc. for C₂₃H₃₀N₂O·C₆H₅N₃O₇: C, 60.09; H, 5.74; N, 12.08. Found: C, 59.71; H, 5.68; N, 11.81.

1-(2-Phenylethyl)-2,5-dimethyl-4-(N-propananilido)piperidine (VIc)—A solution of 1.0 g. (0.008 mole) of phenylacetaldehyde and 2.0 g. (0.006 mole) of VIb was hydrogenated over 10% palladium-on-charcoal. The product was purified, as previously described in the preparation of IVc, to provide 1.16 g. (53%) of VIa as a clear oil; NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.35–7.75 (m, 10, N—C₆H₅ and N—CH₂CH₂C₆H₅), 4.30–4.75 (m, 1, C-4 H), and 0.80–1.40 (m, 9, C-2 CH₃, C-5 CH₃, and COCH₂CH₃). The oil formed a hydrochloride salt which was recrystallized from ethanol-ether, m.p. 235.5–237°.

Anal.—Calc. for C₂₄H₃₂N₂O·HCl: C, 71.88; H, 8.30; N, 6.99. Found: C, 71.70; H, 8.24; N, 6.96.

4-(N-Propananilido)-1,2,3-trimethylpiperidine (VIa)—Two grams (0.006 mole) of VIb and 0.9 g. (0.01 mole) of formaldehyde were hydrogenated. The product was purified, as previously described in the preparation of IVa, to yield 1.28 g. (78%) of VIa as a clear oil; NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.20–7.75 (m, 5, N—C₆H₅), 4.30–4.75 (m, 1, C-5 H), 2.07 (s, 3, N—CH₃), and 0.80–1.40 (m, 9, C-2 CH₃, C-5 CH₃, and COCH₂CH₃). The oil formed a picrate which was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 242–244°.

Anal.—Calc. for C₁₇H₂₆N₂O·C₆H₅N₃O₇: C, 54.86; H, 5.81; N, 13.91. Found: C, 55.86; H, 5.95; N, 14.13.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analgesic activities of the ring-methylated 4-propananilidopiperidines prepared in this study are given in Table I. The results of analgesic activities of the 4-propananilidopiperidines in this study are in accord with previous findings of structure-activity relationships for morphinomimetic compounds in that phenethylation of a basic nitrogen in these agents provides compounds of the highest analgesic activity. The results further indicate that 3-methylation of the piperidine ring of the 4-propananilidopiperidines significantly enhances analgesic activity, whereas 2-methylation and 2,5-dimethylation lead to a significant reduction in analgesic activity. It is interesting to correlate the effect of 1-substitution on the analgesic activities of the 4-propananilidopiperidines. In the fentanyl (I) and the 2,5-dimethylated (VI) series, potency is observed to decrease in the order C₆H₅CH₂CH₃ > C₆H₅CH₃ > CH₃, whereas in the 3-methylated series (V) the dependence of analgesic activity on the 1-substituent is in the order C₆H₅CH₂CH₃ > CH₃ > C₆H₅CH₂. These relationships suggest that introduction of a methyl substituent in the piperidine ring of the 4-propananilidopiperidine analgesics results in a fundamental alteration of the analgesic ac-

tivity of these compounds which is possibly related to the mode of binding of the molecules at the analgesic receptor.

A meaningful interpretation of the nature of the interaction of the 4-propananilidopiperidines with the analgesic receptor is rather difficult to derive from the analgesic activities given in Table I. In addition to reflecting differences in receptor affinities, these results also reflect differences in distribution and metabolism of the various compounds. These latter factors can result in significant differences in biophase concentrations and, hence, apparent differences in analgesic activities (11).

Introduction of a ring methyl into the 4-propananilidopiperidines results in chiral molecules. In view of the reported stereoselectivity of the narcotic analgesic receptor (12), it is anticipated that separation of the geometric and optical isomers of the compounds in this study will provide even more potent compounds and will afford pertinent information with regard to the nature of the drug-receptor interaction. Studies on stereostructure-activity relationships for the ring-methylated 4-propananilidopiperidines are currently underway in these laboratories.

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