

# Synthesis, characterization and biological activity evaluation of novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives as carbonic anhydrase inhibitors

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## ABSTRACT

In the current study some derivatives of naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine were synthesized and possible in vitro hCA I and II enzymes inhibition effects were investigated. The designed compounds were synthesized by condensation of phenylhydrazine with 1-naphthaldehyde or 6-methoxy-2-naphthaldehyde and eight compounds (1a-h) were obtained. The novel Schiff bases derivatives (compounds 1a-1h) were effective inhibitors of the cytosolic carbonic anhydrase I and II isoforms (hCA I and II) with  $K_i$  values in the range of  $80.60 \pm 17.90$  to  $492.53 \pm 95.23$  nM for hCA I,  $102.88 \pm 18.44$  to  $461.09 \pm 102.50$  nM for hCA II. If compound shows a remarkable inhibitory effect of hCA I and hCA II isoenzymes among the new synthesized compounds. The new derivatives of naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine can be a potent inhibitor of both cytosolic CA isoenzymes which are commonly used in the pharmaceutical industries and medical areas.

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## 1. Introduction

Metalloenzymes are a combination of a metal ion or several metal ions in which the metal ion is strongly held in a protein. Using the enzyme as a scaffold for transition metal complexes, it becomes possible to carry out chemical transformations with selectivity. It should be well known which metal ions bind strongly to proteins. Knowing which metal ions are bound to proteins will contribute greatly to enzymatic analysis [1,2]. Metalloenzymes are central to a wide range of essential biological activities, including detoxification, nucleic acid modification, protein degradation, and many others [2,3]. The role of metalloenzymes in these processes also makes them central for the progression of many diseases and, as such, makes metalloenzymes attractive targets for therapeutic intervention [3].

Human carbonic anhydrase enzyme (hCA; Carbonate hydrolyses, EC 4.2.1.1) is a member of metalloenzyme family which are

contain sixteen isoenzymes in mammals (CAI-CAXVI). Since most carbonic anhydrase enzymes contain zinc ions, they are classified as metalloenzymes. Human carbonic anhydrase enzymes are catalyzed the reversible hydration of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), which generates a proton ( $\text{H}^+$ ) and bicarbonate anion ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) lead to expressed as pH regulating enzyme in most tissues, especially in erythrocytes [4–9]. Many such CA isozymes which make these functions are important therapeutic targets with the potential to be inhibited/activated for the treatment of diseases such as glaucoma, edema, obesity, osteoporosis, epilepsy and cancer [5–11]. CA inhibitors (CAIs) such as acetazolamide (AZA), zonisamide (ZNS), methazolamide (MZA) and topiramate (TPM) are utilized in clinic as diuretics and factors for glaucoma-relevant intraocular hypertension [12,13].

Inhibitory effects of different phenols [14], anions [15], metal ions [16], sulfonamides [17], schiff bases and their amines [18], 1H-indazole molecules [19], amides [20], some chalcones [21], pyrimidine-thiones [22], some aminomethyl derivatives [23] which are specific inhibitors have been investigated against many CAs up to now. CA II inhibitors are used for various objectives like treatment of epilepsy, glucoma, antitumor agents/diagnostic tools or diuretics [8,24–26].

Nowadays, scientists are interested in discovery of novel CA

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inhibitors [8,14,24–27]. Recent studies are demonstrated that various derivatives of phenols [8,14], salicylic acid derivatives [28], different benzenes and bisphenols which have antioxidant properties and their various derivatives [29,30] are potential inhibitor of CA I and II isozymes.

In the current study, naphthalene ring which substituted with formation of imine were synthesized. All synthesized schiff bases compounds except 1e [31] were new compounds. Furthermore, the compounds 1c and 1d have CAS registry numbers, but no information exist in the literature related to the biological activity of 1c and 1d. The synthesized compounds were characterized on the basis of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, mass spectra and elemental analyses. The CA inhibitory effect of the new synthesized compounds on CA I and II isoenzymes which isolated from human erythrocytes was performed by two different values,  $\text{IC}_{50}$  and  $\text{K}_i$ .  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values were calculated by determining percent activity at various inhibitor concentrations, with substrate concentrations kept constant, and then determining the concentration of inhibitor causing 50% inhibition graphically. The results were compared with acetazolamide (AZA).

## 2. Material and methods

This study was designed to synthesize, characterize and investigate the possible in vitro CA I and II enzyme inhibitory effect of new naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives. The designed compound was synthesized by condensation of phenylhydrazine with 1-naphthaldehyde or 6-methoxy-2-naphthaldehyde. All new imines were obtained by using a methodology similar to that in a previous study [32] (Fig. 1). Two series of new compounds were synthesized (Table 1). First group are 1-substituted phenyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl methylene)hydrazine and second group are 1-substituted phenyl-2-(6-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl methylene)hydrazine. Substituted naphthalene ring in second group help us to evaluate the effect of substituents in the naphthalene rings.

### 2.1. Chemistry – experimental and instruments

Uncorrected melting points were determined with a Stuart melting point SMP30 apparatus. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were

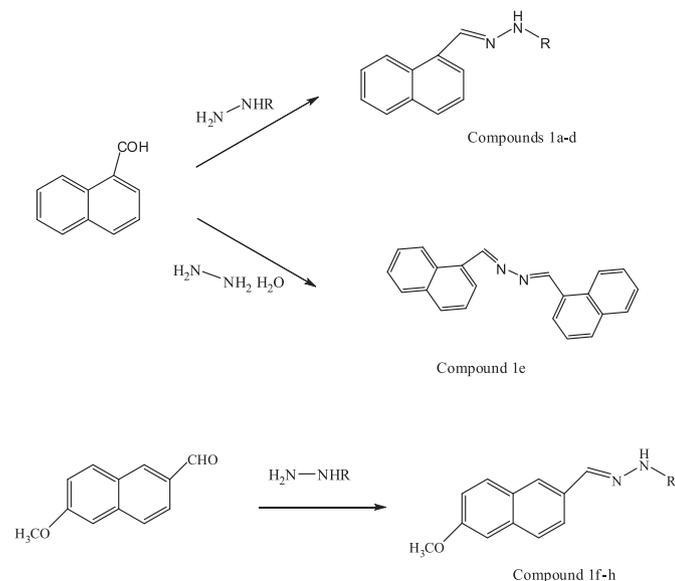


Fig. 1. Synthetic route to obtain new naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives.

measured with a Varian 400 MHz spectrometer device (Palo Alto, CA) using TMS as an internal standard and  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as solvent. ESI mass spectra were determined by a Waters Micromass ZQ device. Elemental analyses were performed using a CHNS-932 instrument (Leco Corporation, St. Joseph, MI). All spectral analyses were performed at the Central Laboratory of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Ankara University. Chromatography was carried out using Merck silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh ASTM). Sepharose-4B, indazole molecules, and chemical substances used for electrophoresis were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. L-tyrosine was obtained E. Merck. The chemical reagents that were used in synthesis and other chemical substances were purchased from Sigma (Germany) and Aldrich (USA).

### 2.2. General procedure for synthesis of compounds 1a-h

1 mmol of 1-naphthaldehyde or 6-Methoxy-2-naphthaldehyde and 1.2 mmol of phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride or its derivatives were dissolved in absolute ethanol (20 mL) and heated for 60 min on a hot water bath in the presence of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$  (0.4 g). After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The precipitate was collected, washed with cold EtOH and recrystallized from EtOH to achieve 1a-1h (except 1e) with 70.79%–94% yield. For synthesis of 1e compound, the solution of 1-naphthaldehyde (2 mmol) and hydrazine hydrate (1 mmol) in EtOH (25 mL) was heated for 4 h on a hot water bath. After cooling, the precipitate was collected then washed with cold EtOH to give 1,2-bis(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine (1e) in 40.90% yield.

#### 2.2.1. 1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine (1a)

Yield 84.76%, m.p. 154–155 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  6.75–8.67 (m, 11H ArH); 9.12 (s, 1H, HC=N); 9.80 (s, 1H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  106.02, 114.34, 120.38, 123.60, 124.91, 125.67, 125.67, 126.01, 126.79, 128.71, 128.88, 130.09, 130.67, 132.63, 133.56, 139.85, 142.30 (C=N); MSI MS  $m/z$  325 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100%). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2$ : C, 62.79%; H, 4.03%; N, 8.61%. Found: C, 62.48%; H, 4.11%; N, 8.72%.

#### 2.2.2. 1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine(1b)

Yield 70.79%, m.p. 101–102 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  6.90–8.68 (m, 11H ArH); 8.55 (s, 1H, HC=N); 10.65 (s, 1H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  111.08, 114.15, 121.16, 122.48, 122.48, 123.75, 125.55, 125.65, 126.01, 126.83, 128.72, 129.76, 130.54, 131.16, 133.59, 137.48, 146.77 (C=N); MSI MS  $m/z$  325 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100%), 327 ( $\text{M}+2$ , 97%). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2$ : C, 62.79%; H, 4.03%; N, 8.61%. Found: C, 62.42%; H, 3.96%; N, 8.61%.

#### 2.2.3. 1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine(1c)

Yield 86.79%, m.p. 138–139 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  7.05–8.71 (m, 11H ArH); 8.53 (s, 1H, HC=N); 10.60 (s, 1H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  109.65, 113.04, 123.87, 125.51, 125.62, 126.00, 126.83, 128.56, 128.70, 128.38, 129.70, 130.67, 131.83, 133.61, 137.04, 144.50 (C=N); MSI MS  $m/z$  325 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100%), 327 ( $\text{M}+2$ , 80%). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2$ : C, 62.79%; H, 4.03%; N, 8.61%. Found: C, 62.74%; H, 3.96%; N, 8.67%.

#### 2.2.4. 1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine (1d)

Yield 89.14%, m.p. 132–133 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  6.78–8.65 (m, 11H, Ar-H), 9.06 (s, 1H, HC=N), 9.99 (s, 1H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  113.88, 116.16, 119.69, 123.59, 124.99, 125.67, 126.02, 126.82, 128.17, 128.72, 128.87, 129.41, 130.05, 130.66, 133.57, 139.74, 141.28 (C=N); MSI MS  $m/z$  281 ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ , 100%), 283 ( $\text{M}^+ + 2$ , 35%). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2$ : C, 72.73%; H, 4.67%; N, 9.98%. Found: C, 72.94%; H, 4.84%; N, 9.99%.

**Table 1**  
Chemical structures of newly synthesized compounds.

R		R	
1a		1f	
1b		1g	
1c		1h	
1d			
1e			

#### 2.2.5. 1,2-bis(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)hydrazine (1e)

Yield 40.90%, m.p. 153–154 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 7.61–9.18 (m, 14H ArH); 9.42 (s, 2H, HC=N); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 125.06, 125.54, 126.44, 127.60, 128.77, 129.19, 130.36, 131.93, 133.55, 161.98 (C=N); MSI MS *m/z* 309 (M + H, 100%), 308 (M<sup>+</sup>, 55%). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 85.69%; H, 5.23%; N, 9.08%. Found: C, 85.10%; H, 5.27%; N, 9.02%.

#### 2.2.6. 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)methylene)hydrazine (1f)

Yield 85.03%, m.p. 206–207 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.03–7.92 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 7.96 (s, 1H, HC=N), 10.32 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 55.20 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 106.31, 112.85, 115.48, 115.70, 118.83, 123.01, 125.72, 127.15, 128.46, 129.39, 131.31, 134.17, 136.88, 142.08 (C=N), 154.65, 156.97, 157.49 (O-C); MSI MS *m/z* 295 (M + H, 100%), 296 (M<sup>+</sup>+1, 28%). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 73.45%; H, 5.14%; N, 9.52%. Found: C, 73.63%; H, 5.32%; N, 9.61%.

#### 2.2.7. 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)methylene)hydrazine (1g)

Yield 83.87%, m.p. 220–221 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 7.07–7.92 (m, 10H, ArH); 7.97 (s, 1H, HC=N); 10.46 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 55.21 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 106.32, 113.34, 118.86, 121.79, 123.01, 126.00, 127.17, 128.42, 128.88, 129.44, 131.09, 134.28, 137.67, 144.28 (C=N), 157.57 (O-C); MSI MS *m/z* 311 (M + H, 100%), 312 (M<sup>+</sup>+1, 32%). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O: C, 69.56%; H, 4.86%; N, 9.01%. Found: C, 69.61%; H, 5.08%; N, 9.13%.

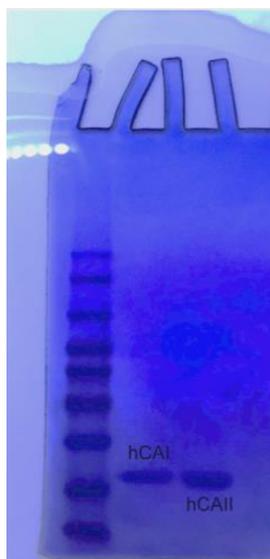
#### 2.2.8. 1-((6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)methylene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1h)

Yield 90.68%, m.p. 229–230 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 6.72–7.93 (m, 11H, ArH); 7.97 (s, 1H, HC=N); 10.29 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 55.20 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 106.31, 111.94, 118.60, 118.82, 123.03, 125.69, 127.15, 128.46, 129.10, 129.40, 131.38, 134.16, 136.79, 145.40 (C=N), 157.47 (O-C); MSI MS *m/z* 277 (M + H, 100%). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 78.24%; H, 4.584%; N, 10.14%. Found: C, 60.78%; H, 4.37%; N, 8.04%.

### 3. Experimental – biochemical activity

#### 3.1. Purification of carbonic anhydrase isoenzymes and inhibition studies

The whole purification procedure was performed according to our previous studies [28–30]. Briefly, red blood cells which were isolated from fresh blood were hemolyzed and the pH of the obtained hemolysate was adjusted to 8.7 with solid Tris at 4 °C. Human erythrocyte hemolysate was applied to the Sepharose 4BL-tyrosine-sulfanilamide affinity column. The human carbonic anhydrase isozymes (hCA-I and hCA-II) were eluted with 1.0 M NaCl/25mMNa<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (pH 6.3) and 0.1M NaCH<sub>3</sub>COO/0.5M NaClO<sub>4</sub> (pH 5.6), respectively. For purity of both isoenzymes sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE) was applied and obtained single band (Fig. 2). The protein determination in the effluents showing activity were evaluated



**Fig. 2.** PAGE of the purified CA isozymes. Lane 1: Standard proteins (24.5–116 kDa), lane 2: CA I, lane 3: CA II.

spectrophotometrically at 595 nm using the Bradford method [33]. CA isoenzymes activities were obtained in conforming to the procedure of Verpoorte et al. [34]. The increase in absorbance of the reaction medium was spectrophotometrically obtained at 348 nm. The esterase activity procedure was utilized for ascertaining the inhibition agents by the Lineweaver–Burk procedure [35] CA activity (%) versus inhibitory concentration and  $1/V$  versus  $1/[S]$  graphs were drawn.

Bovine serum albumin was used as standard protein as given previously in details [28–30]. For the designation of the inhibition efficacy of each novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives (1a–h) on both hCA isoenzymes, a percent activity versus inhibitor (naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine) concentration graph was drawn. The  $IC_{50}$  values were obtained from these graphs. For the calculation of  $K_i$  values, three different novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine concentrations were used. In this study, they were given graphs which are drawn for the compound showing the most effective inhibition (Fig. 3).

#### 4. Results and discussion

As a result of inhibition studies on CA enzyme activity, it can be used in the treatment of glaucoma. In these inhibition studies, the catalytic mechanisms of CA enzyme have been tried to be elucidated. The distribution of the enzyme in tissues and their vital functions in these tissues has been revealed as a result of these studies. As a result of all these developments, studies of synthesizing inhibitors and activators of the enzyme have increased rapidly. Therefore, many types of enzyme inhibitors have been synthesized and used as primarily medicines for the treatment of glaucoma. As well as glaucoma, it is also currently used in clinics as antitumor, analgesic, epilepsy, antiulcer, diuretics, antibiotics and neurological disease drugs [36].

The new compounds based on Schiff bases were synthesized and the inhibition effect on CA enzyme was observed. Compounds with the structure of  $-C=N-$  (azomethine group) which are usually synthesized from the condensation of primary amines and active carbonyl groups are known as Schiff bases. Schiff bases and their derivatives were investigated in many studies and established to be associated with a variety of biological activities like anticonvulsant

[37] antiproliferative [38], anticancer [39], cytotoxic [40] antifungal and other activities [41]. In this study we investigated, whether the inhibition effect of some naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives on CA I and II isoenzymes isolated from human erythrocytes. As part of our ongoing research, we were synthesized eight new compounds of naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives to investigate their possible in vitro CA I and II enzymes inhibitory effects.

In our study, the inhibitory effect of naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives was determined by two different values of  $IC_{50}$  and  $K_i$ .  $IC_{50}$  were calculated by determining percent activity at various inhibitor concentrations, with substrate concentrations kept constant, and then determining the concentration of inhibitor causing 50% inhibition graphically. For hCA-I, the obtained  $IC_{50}$  values are respectively 106.30, 116.60, 129.70, 160.27, 172.55, 201.57, 207.05, 248.71, 424.33 nM for 1f, 1g, 1h, 1c, 1b, 1a, 1d, 1e and AZA compounds. Also, the obtained  $IC_{50}$  values for hCA-II enzyme are respectively 79.50, 93.20, 113.37, 141.50, 142.05, 162.32, 167.53, 202.67, 232.48 nM for 1f, 1g, 1c, 1h, 1b, 1a, 1d, 1e and AZA compounds. Among the synthesized compounds, 1f demonstrated a potent inhibitory effect for both hCA I and hCAII (Table 2).

To determine the  $K_i$  constant, Lineweaver–Burk graphs were drawn, and  $K_i$  constants and inhibition types were determined from these graphs. The  $K_i$  constant is a value which indicates the binding affinity of the inhibitor to the enzyme. The cytosolic enzyme hCA I was inhibited by the novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives (1f, 1g, 1h, 1c, 1b, 1a, 1d, 1e), with  $K_i$  values ranging between  $80.60 \pm 17.90$  and  $492.5330 \pm 95.23$  nM.  $K_i$  values of newly molecules except 1e are better than those of the standard used drug AZA ( $K_i$   $446.83 \pm 149.27$  nM) (Table 2 and Fig. 3). Accordingly, 1f ( $K_i$ :  $80.60 \pm 17.90$  nM) had a high binding affinity for hCA I.

The cytosolic enzyme hCA II was inhibited by the novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives (1f, 1g, 1h, 1c, 1b, 1a, 1d, 1e), with  $K_i$  values ranging between  $126.70 \pm 33.20$  and  $461.09 \pm 102.50$  nM. Accordingly, 1g ( $K_i$ :  $126.70 \pm 33.20$  nM) had a high binding affinity for hCAII. The clinically and standard used drug acetazolamide (AZA) calculated a  $K_i$  value of  $332.18 \pm 78.44$  nM. Thus, the evaluated novel naphthalenylmethylen hydrazine derivatives except 1e showed considerable inhibitory profiles when compared to the AZA molecule (Table 2 and Fig. 3).

#### 5. Conclusion

The investigated compounds exhibited more effective inhibitory profiles compared to AZA used as standard drug. Therefore new compounds inhibited the hCA I and hCA II activities at more low concentrations. When the most effective compounds (1f and 1g) are assessed, two important properties of these compounds stand out. The first one is that naphthalene ring have methoxy group in sixth position and second one is the phenyl group on hydrazine molecule are para-halogenated. It is believed that, the oxygen in the methoxy group and the halogen in the para position of the phenyl ring may made hydrogen bond with CAs enzymes.

In the study of heterocyclic series of aromatic sulfonamides binding to CA, the halogenated benzene ring significantly enhanced the observed affinities as it increased the fraction of deprotonated ligand [42,43]. In this study, the derivatives with a halogenated benzene ring, particularly on the para-position demonstrated more activity. In addition, one of the sulfonamide oxygens which is making ionic interaction with existing zinc ion in the active site of the enzyme was reported in other studies [43,44]. In the present study, when the compound of 1f and 1g, whose activity is very high, was examined, it was observed that a naphthalene ring has a

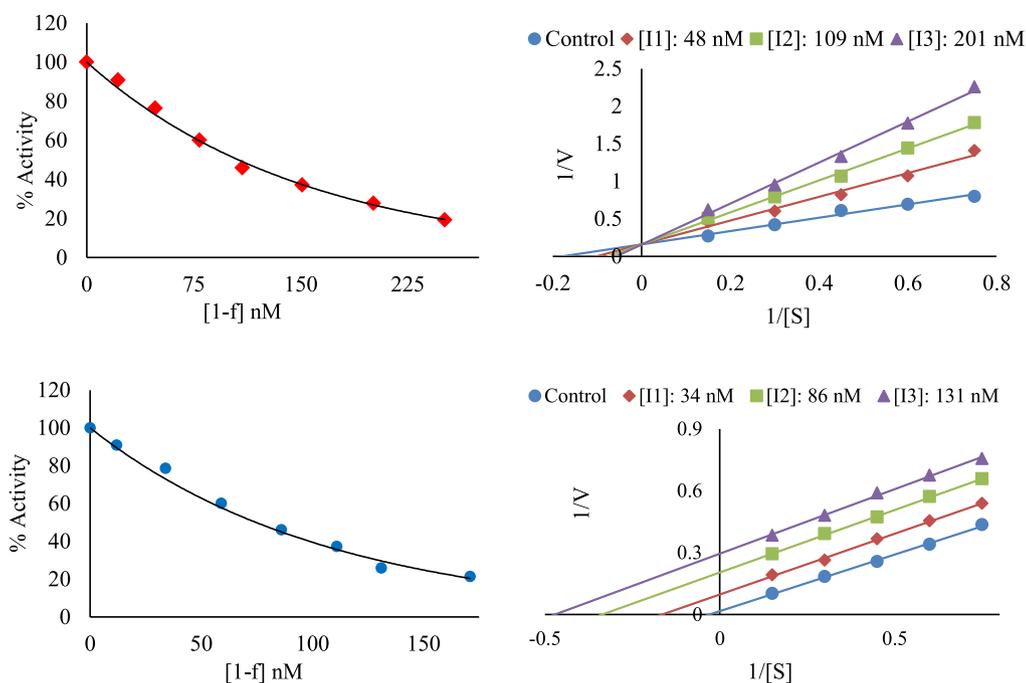


Fig. 3. Determination of % Activity/[1f] curve and Lineweaver–Burk graphs for excellent inhibitors of hCA I and hCA II isoenzymes.

Table 2

IC<sub>50</sub> and K<sub>i</sub> values of hCA I and hCA II with compounds and AZA, by an esterase assay.

Compounds	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)		K <sub>i</sub> (nM)			
	hCA I	r <sup>2</sup>	hCA II	r <sup>2</sup>	hCA I	hCA II
1a	201,57	0.977	162,32	0.984	194.18 ± 51.30	136.17 ± 36.22
1b	172,55	0.992	142,05	0.995	201.29 ± 42.44	152.83 ± 51.22
1c	160,27	0.990	113,37	0.979	149.43 ± 30.03	102.88 ± 18.44
1d	207,05	0.988	167,53	0.994	232.18 ± 23.45	147.81 ± 23.48
1e	248,71	0.972	202,67	0.981	259.07 ± 28.01	217.45 ± 48.51
1f	106,30	0.996	79,50	0.987	80.60 ± 17.90	129.70 ± 29.10
1g	116,60	0.982	93,20	0.993	116.20 ± 22.50	126.70 ± 33.20
1h	129,70	0.990	141,50	0.986	148.80 ± 9.97	135.30 ± 7.16
Acetazolamide (AZA)	424,33	0.981	232,48	0.972	446.83 ± 149.27	332.18 ± 78.44

Mean from at least three determinations. Errors in the range of 3–5% of the reported value (data not shown).

methoxy group at the 6th position. Presumably, the oxygen's ionic bonding with zinc in the active site of the enzyme played an important role in making the compound much more effective than AZA.

Although our results are promising, in order to obtain a perfect and reliable hCA I and II enzyme inhibitor, we intend to undertake advanced studies to explain the cytotoxicity and action mechanism of these compounds. Thus, we believe that these novel naphthalenyl methylene hydrazine derivatives compounds are hopeful as leading compounds to improve as CA inhibitors.

#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Hanif Shirinzadeh:** Writing - review & editing, Funding acquisition, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Project

administration, Resources, Supervision. **Esra Dilek:** Writing - review & editing, Methodology, Investigation, Validation, Visualization.

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#### Appendix. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version, at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molstruc.2020.128657>. These data include MOL files and InChIKeys of the most important compounds described in this article.

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