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# Synthesis and Plant Growth Regulating Activity of New Triazolo- and Pyrazolopyrimidine Derivatives Of Aminomethyl, Aminoalkyloxymethyl Dimethylphosphine Oxides and (Aminomethane)Phosphonic Acid Esters

Elena Stanoeva , Sabi Varbanov , Vera Alexieva , Iskren Sergiev , Vesselina Vasileva , Marieta Rashkova & Angelina Georgieva

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## SYNTHESIS AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATING ACTIVITY OF NEW TRIAZOLO- AND PYRAZOLOPYRIMIDINE DERIVATIVES OF AMINOMETHYL-, AMINOALKYLOXYMETHYL DIMETHYLPHOSPHINE OXIDES AND (AMINOMETHANE)PHOSPHONIC ACID ESTERS

## ELENA STANOEVA<sup>a\*</sup>, SABI VARBANOV<sup>b</sup>, VERA ALEXIEVA<sup>c</sup>, ISKREN SERGIEV<sup>c</sup>, VESSELINA VASILEVA<sup>b</sup>, MARIETA RASHKOVA<sup>a</sup> and ANGELINA GEORGIEVA<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Sofia, Faculty of Chemistry, I, J. Bourchier av., 1126 Sofia, Bulgaria, <sup>b</sup>Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Polymers and <sup>c</sup>Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Plant Physiology, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

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New triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidine and pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine derivatives of aminomethyland aminomethyloxymethyl dimethylphosphine oxides 8-14 as well as of esters of (aminomethane) phosphonic acid 18-20 were synthesized. The structure of the compounds prepared was confirmed by means of elemental analysis, IR, <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectroscopy. Tertiary phosphine oxides 8, 9 and 12 as well as phosphonate 20 showed herbicidal and plant growth regulating activity.

Keywords: Triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidines; pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidines; tertiary phosphine oxides; (aminomethane)phosphonates; herbicidal activity; plant growth regulating activity

<sup>\*</sup> Author to whom correspondence should be sent: e-mail: estanoeva@chem.uni-sofia.bg

#### INTRODUCTION

Recently we have published the synthesis and anticytokinine activity data of a series of 7-substituted 3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidines of type 1 and 4-substituted 1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidines of type  $2^{[1]}$ . Compounds 1 and 2 were easily prepared by a nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine in 7-chloro-3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidine (3)<sup>[2]</sup> and 4-chloro-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine (4)<sup>[3]</sup> by means of primary and secondary amines containing additional functionality. According to the phytochemical tests, the anticytokinine activity was better expressed by compounds with piperazino- and morpholinosubstituents. The triazolopyrimidines 1 were in general more active than the pyrazolopyrimidines  $2^{[1]}$  (Scheme 1). In continuation of our investigations on the structure - phytochemical activity relationship in the group of purine analogs, isomers and related compounds[1,4,5], we undertook the synthesis of tertiary phosphine oxides and esters of phosphonic acids, which are derivatives of triazolo[4,5-d]-and pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidines. It is well known that numerous heterocyclic compounds of different types. modified with phosphorous containing substituents exhibit biological activity. Thus, phosphoric, thiophosphoric, phosphonic, thiophosphonic acids, esters and amides thereof, as well as tertiary phosphine oxides including heterocyclic substituents were shown to possess various biological activity: insecticide, fungicide, acaricide and herbicide activity<sup>[6-11]</sup>. antiviral<sup>[12]</sup>, antileucotic<sup>[13–15]</sup>, antihystamine and vasodilator<sup>[16]</sup>, analgesic<sup>[17]</sup>, tranquilizing<sup>[18]</sup>, antihypertensive<sup>[19]</sup> activity, and they are Ca-antagonists<sup>[20]</sup>.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The tertiary phosphine oxides **8** – **14** were prepared in analogy to lit.<sup>[1]</sup> by means of nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine atoms in  $3^{[2]}$ , resp.  $4^{[3]}$  by the known (aminomethyl)dimethylphosphine oxide **5** (Y=CH<sub>2</sub>)<sup>[21]</sup> and (aminoalkyloxymethyl)dimethylphophine oxides **5** [(Y=(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>,(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>[22]</sup>. The starting chlorides **3** and **4** were synthesized from the pyrimidinone **6**, resp. **7** by a modification of the reaction conditions utilized in lit.<sup>[2]</sup> (Scheme 2). The chloride **4** obtained by us





exhibited a substantially different m.p. than that given in the lit.<sup>[3]</sup>. However, its elemental analysis, IR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral data were in agreement with the structure expected.

The reaction of the chloride 3, resp. 4 and the selected amines 5 was carried out in the presence of triethylamine using 1:1:1 molar ratio of the reagents in dry tetrahydrofurane (THF) at room temperature (Scheme 3). Thus the following compounds were prepared: 7-[(dimethylphosphinylmethyl)amino]-3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidine (8): 4-[(dimethylphosphinylmethyl)amino]-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimi-7-[2-(dimethylphosphinylmethoxy)ethylamino]-3-bendine (9): zyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidine (10): 4-[2-(dimethyl phosphinylmethoxy)ethylamino]-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine 7-[3-(dimethylphosphinylmethoxy)propylamino]-3-ben-(11): zyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidine (12); 4-[3-(dimethylphosphinyl methoxy)propylamino]-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine (13) and 4-[5-(dimethylphosphinylmethoxy)pentylamino]-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine (14). The phosphine oxides 8, 9 and 12 were purified by a recrystallization, while 10, 11, 13 and 14 - by means of column chromatography of the crude reaction products, followed by a recrystallization, except for 14, which was an oily product. Yields, m.ps. and elemental analysis data of 8 - 14 are given in Table I.

					Elementa	l analysi.	5
No	Yield, (%)	M.p., °C (Solvent for recr.)	General formula (Mol. mass)	%	C	%	Н
				Calcd.	Found	Calcd.	Found
8	67	199-200	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>6</sub> OP	53.15	52.88	5.42	5.18
		(Ethanol)	(316.3)				
9	82	206-208	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>5</sub> OP	57.13	57.00	5.75	6.06
		(Benzene)	(315.3)				
10	66	114-117	$C_{16}H_{21}N_6O_2P$	53.32	53.05	5.87	5.87
		(Ethylacetate)	(360.4)				
11	84	115-117	$C_{17}H_{22}N_5O_2P$	56.81	57.11	6.17	6.25
		(Benzene-n-Hexane)	(359.4)				
12	76	105-106.5	$C_{17}H_{23}N_6O_2P$	54.54	54.24	6.19	6.44
		(n-Hexane)	(374.4)				
13	47	128-129	$C_{18}H_{24}N_5O_2P$	57.89	58.06	6.48	6.44
		(Benzene-n-Hexane)	(373.4)				
14	96	Oil	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P	-	-	-	-
			(401.4)				
18	71	139-140	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P	48.27	48.61	4.92	4.80
		(Ethylacetate)	(348.3)				
19	59	151-152	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P	51.00	51.62	5.58	5.56
		(Ethylacetate)	(376.4)				
20	68	163-165	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P	51.87	52.23	5.22	5.22
		(Benzene-n-Hexane)	(347.3)				

TABLE I Preparative and analytical data of tertiary phosphine oxides 8-14 and phosphonates 18-20

The starting methyl and ethyl esters of the (aminomethane)phosphonic acid 15 (R = CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) as hydrochlorides were prepared from the known trityl derivatives  $17^{[23]}$  thereof. The synthesis of 17 was performed by us using the following approach. Thus, dialkyl (trimethylsilyl)phosphite pre-



For 3 and  $6^{[2]}$ : X = N For 4 and  $7^{[3]}$ : X = CH

#### SCHEME 2

pared in situ from the corresponding dialkyl phosphite, trimethylchlorosilane and triethylamine according to<sup>[24]</sup>, underwent a smooth addition to N-methylene-N-tritylamine  $16^{[23]}$  in a refluxing dichloromethane solution to give the known<sup>[23]</sup> dialkyl N-(tritylaminomethane)phosphonate 17. In this way, the preparation of 17 was carried out under milder reaction conditions than those utilized in lit.<sup>[23]</sup>. Its deprotection<sup>[23]</sup> afforded hydrochlorides 15. (Scheme 4). The spectral data of 17, as well as of 15 are in good agreement with those reported in the lit.<sup>[23]</sup>.

The reaction of the chloride 3, resp. 4 with the hydrochlorides of the phosphonates 15 was carried out in the presence of triethylamine using 1:1:2 reagents ratio in a mixture of dry THF and abs. ethanol at room temperature (Scheme 2). The following compounds were prepared: dimethyl ester of N-[(3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidin-7-yl)aminomethane]phosphonic acid (18); diethyl ester of N-[(3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidin-7-yl)aminomethane]phosphonic acid (18); diethyl ester of N-[(3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-d]pyrimidin-7-yl)aminomethane]phosphonic acid (19) and dimethyl ester of N-[(1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)aminomethane]phosphonic acid (20). The phosphonates 18-20 were purified by means of recrystallization of the crude reaction products. Yields, m.ps. and elemental analysis data of 18-20 are given in Table I.

The IR, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectra of the newly prepared tertiary phosphine oxides 8–14 and phosphonates 18–20 were measured and compared with the spectra of the starting amines 5 and 15, as well as with the previously studied 1 and 2. The investigation of the spectral data of 8–



#### SCHEME 3

14 and 18-20 shows that they are in agreement with the structures expected.

In the IR spectra of the tertiary phosphine oxides 8–14 measured as KBr pellets (Table II) are present characteristic bands of the phosphoryl group (P=O) at 1150–1177 cm<sup>-1</sup> and of CH<sub>3</sub>-P at 1291–1322 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which are in accordance with the previously observed values for the starting aminocompounds of type  $5^{[21,22]}$  as well as for some derivatives of  $5^{[25]}$ . Additional bands of the P=O-group have been observed in the spectra of compounds 8 and 9. This phenomenon can be ascribed to two kinds of

phosphoryl groups: the first one bonded, and the second one – nonbonded with hydrogen bonds<sup>[26,27]</sup>. In the IR spectra of the phosphonates **18–20** (Table II) the P=O-band appears at 1233–1259 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the ether P-O-R-band is at 1027–1065 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The IR frequences observed are in accordance with the literature data<sup>[27]</sup>. Bands of the NH-group of compounds **8–14** and **18–20** are in the region of 1616–1637 cm<sup>-1</sup>, as well as 3254-3454 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

No	P=O	CH <sub>3</sub> P	P-O-R	NH	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>
8	L177(s)	1314(vs)	-	1620(vs)	1497(m)
	1150(s)			3435(b)	1589(s)
9	1176(vs)	1305(m)	-	1623(vs)	1487(m)
	1151(m)			3254(b)	1572(m)
10	1160(s)	1316(s)	-	1626(vs)	1498(m)
				3435(b)	1587(m)
11	1166(vs)	1322(s)	-	1637(vs)	1496(m)
				3422(b)	1589(m)
12	1155(vs)	1315(m)	-	1629(vs)	1497(m)
			•	420(b)	1578(s)
13	1166(s)	1291(m)	-	1616(vs)	1496(m)
				3420(b)	1572(m)
14	1166(s)	1292(m)	-	1617(vs)	1496(m)
				3272(b)	1572(m)
18	1233(s)	-	1027(m)	1615(s)	1497(m)
			1041(m)	3454(b)	1587(m)
19	1236(s)	-	1034(s)	1632(vs)	1493(m)
			1064(s)	3448(b)	1586(m)
20	1259(s)	-	1032(m)	1618(b)	1487(m)
			1052(s)	3262(b)	1569(m)

TABLE II Characteristic infrared frequences  $(cm^{-1})$  of phosphine oxides 8-14 and phosphonates 18-20

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	Jul lui		8	+43.79		+43.64		+42.84	+43.08	+41.81	+41.78	+43.32
		NHª	s	8.33(bs)		8.44(bs)		6.97(bs)	۰,	7.09(bs)	2.75(bs)	6 22(bs)
Hz)		C-CH=N	ø	I		8.20(s)		I	8.06(s)	I	8.10((s)	7.99(s)
ð in ppm, J in		N-CH=N	ø	8.46(s)		8.38(s)		8.52(s)	8.41(s)	8.47(s)	8.36(s)	8.38(s)
e oxides <b>8-14</b> (		C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Q	7.3-7.4(m)		7.2-7.4(m)		7.4–7.6(m)	7.2-7.4(m)	7.2–7.7(m)	7.2–7.3(m)	7.3-7.4(m)
of phosphin	MK	CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	S	5.72(s)		5.55(s)		5.79(s)	5.56(s)	5.76(s)	5.76(s)	5.56(s)
data data	NH,	С-СН2-С	Q	1		I		3.9(m)	3.9(m) <sup>2</sup> Ј <sub>НР</sub> ≕6.8 <sup>с</sup>	I.95(m)	1.9–2.0(m)	1.6–1.7(m)
III 'H- and		6	<sup>2</sup> ЈнР	6.2	6.3	5.4	5.4	6.7	3.8	6.8 <sup>d</sup>		
TABLE		$CH_2P=0$	Q	4.23(1)	4.23(d) <sup>b</sup>	4.13(1)	4.13(d) <sup>b</sup>	3.84(d)	<b>3.83(d)</b>	3.7–3.9(m) <sup>c</sup>	3.7–3.8(m) <sup>c</sup>	3.7–3.8(m) <sup>c</sup>
		P=0	<sup>2</sup> J <sub>HP</sub>	12.8		12.6		13.1	12.9	13.1	12.9	13.1
		(CH <sub>J</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	ø	1.63(d)		(p)09.1		(p)\$\$.1	1.40(d)	1 <i>.57</i> (d)	1.54(d)	(P)05.1
		No	I	30		•		10	Π	12	13	14

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Explanations: bs-broad singlet, d-doublet, s-singlet, m - multiplet.
a. The signals of these protons disappeared after D<sub>2</sub>O exchange.
b. After D<sub>2</sub>O exchange.
c. The signals overdapped with the signals of N-CH<sub>2</sub>- and C-CH2
d. Identified approximately.
e. Overlapped with the signals of aromCH protons.

The signals overlapped with the signals of N-CH2- and C-CH2O- protons.

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·				<sup>I</sup> H-NMR						Julial
No	$CH_{2^{1}}$	P=0	$(CH_3O)_2P=O^a$ or $(CH_3CH_2)$	q0=d(0	СН <sub>2</sub> Рћ	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	N-CH=N	C-CH=N	NHc	
•	ø	<sup>2</sup> JHP <sup>3</sup> JHH	8	4H <sub>L</sub> E	8	Ş	δ	ø	δ	Ś
18	4.26(dd)	11.6/6.2	3.84(d)	10.8	5.80(s)	7.3-7.5(m)	8.56(s)	1	6.64(bs)	+25.49
	4.26(d) <sup>d</sup>	11.6 <sup>d</sup>								
19	4.1-4.3(m) <sup>c</sup>	U	1.34(t, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> 7.0)	U	<b>5.8</b> 0(s)	7.3-7.5(m)	8.55(s)	I	6.60(bs)	+22.88
20	4.20(dd)	11.6/5.1	3.81(d)	10.9	5.56(s)	7.3-7.4(m)	8.45(s)	8.05	6.73(bs)	+26.44
Expl	anations: d – de	oublet, dd - do	ublet of doublet, m - multiplet,	s - singlet,	t – triplet.					ł

1 in U-V TABLE IV <sup>1</sup>H. and <sup>31</sup>D/<sup>1</sup>H1.NMP data of physiche

- In compounds 18 and 20.
  - In compound 19.
- ن زت زن فس به
- The signals of these protons disappeared after  $D_2O$  exchange. After  $D_2O$  exchange. Overlapped with the signals of  $P(O)OCH_2CH_3$  protons; <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> and <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> cannot be measured.

The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the tertiary phosphine oxides 8–14 (Table III) and phosphonates 18–20 (Table IV) exhibit signals of protons of the heterocyclic moiety as well as of the phosphorous – containing side chain at the pyrimidine ring. Thus, the singlets of the benzylic CH<sub>2</sub>-protons are at 5.55–5.80 ppm, while the phenyl multiplets are in the region of 7.2–7.5 ppm. The pyrimidine ring protons (-N-CH=N-) exhibit singlets at 8.36–8.56 ppm and the pyrazole ring protons (-C-CH=N-) of the pyrazolopyrimidines 9, 11, 13, 14 and 20 are singlets in the stronger field at 7.99–8.20 ppm. Similar chemical shifts of the heterocyclic moiety protons are observed in the spectra of the previously studied compounds 1 and 2<sup>[1]</sup>.



In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of 8–14, the CH<sub>3</sub>-protons at P=O (Table III) appear as doublets at 1.40–1.63 ppm with <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> 12.6–13.1 Hz. The methylene group protons CH<sub>2</sub>P=O are at 3.70–4.23 ppm. Except for compounds 13 and 14 having a longer side chain, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> of CH<sub>2</sub>P=O can be measured and it is in the region of 3.6–6.8 Hz. Similar values of the chemical shifts of (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>P=O and CH<sub>2</sub>P=O, as well as of <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub>have been observed previously for the starting amines  $5^{[21,22]}$ . The signals of <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} of 8–14 are singlets and appear in the range of +41.78 to +43.79 ppm, which is typical for tertiary phosphine oxides containing methyl and methylene groups at the phosphorous atom<sup>[25]</sup>.

The <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR data of the phosphonates **18–20** are given in Table IV. In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of dimethyl phosphonates **18** and **20** the doublets of the methoxy groups protons are at 3.84, resp. 3.81 ppm with <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> 10.8, resp. 10.9 Hz. The signals of CH<sub>2</sub>P=O in the compounds **18** and **20** are doublets of doublets centered at 4.26, resp. 4.20 ppm, due to additional spin-spin coupling. The signals of <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} of **18–20** are singlets and appear in the range of +22.88 to +26.44 ppm similarly to other esters of (aminoalkane)phosphonic acids<sup>[26,27]</sup>.

#### Phytochemical experiments

Compounds 8, 9, 12 and 20 were tested for plant growth regulating activity. They strongly inhibited the growth of both cucumber and wheat seedlings at preemergence application. The effect was better expressed in relation to the dicotyledonous plant object (Table V). Thus,  $\Delta pI_{50}$  value of the pyrazolopyrimidines 9 and 20 showing the selectivity of herbicide action, was 1.15 and 1.09, respectively. In comparison to glyphosate, the preemergent herbicidal activity of compounds 9 and 12 is much higher. Both triazolopyrimidines studied – 8 and 12, possessed lower activity and selectivity.

Compound		Herbicia	lal activity pl <sub>50</sub> ª	[M]	
	Сиси	mher	Wh	eat	Δp1 <sub>50</sub> <sup>b</sup>
	Shoot, mm	Root, mm	Shoot, mm	Root, mm	-
Glyphosate	4.09	3.94	3.93	3.79	0.16
8	2.53	2.42	2.15	1.81	0.38
9	4.35	4.20	3.20	2.16	1.15
12	2.98	2.72	2.65	2.61	0.33
20	4.18	4.21	3.09	3.59	1.09

TABLE V Effect of the compounds tested on the growth of cucumber and wheat seedlings grown in the dark

a. pl<sub>50</sub> value was defined under Experimental.

b.  $\Delta pl_{50}$  was calculated as a difference between  $pl_{50}$  of the shoots.

The data obtained from preemergence test system were confirmed using intact pea plants at postemergence treatment (Table VI). Application of the compounds tested at 1 and 2 mM concentrations provoked typical herbicide effects – inhibition of the growth of the whole plants. The growth suppression was accompanied with a decrease of leaf pigments and soluble protein content (Table VII). The tertiary phosphine oxide 9 showed similar activity as the standard glyphosate, while the phosphonosubstituted pyrazolopyrimidine 20 exceeded the activity of the standard. Compared to them, both triazolopyrimidines studied – 8 and 12, were found to be less active.

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TABLE VI Effect of 8, 9, 12 and 20 and glyphosate on the growth of young pea plants

	Санс.		Length c	of the seedlin,	s S	<u>.</u>	resh weigi	ht of the see	llings	1	Dry weight	of the seed	ings
Compounds		Re	stoc	Above grou	md part	Ro	ots	Above gro	und part	Ro	ots	Above gro	und part
	[WW]	uuu	8	um	r	Sm	r	BW	8	Sm	ઝ	8m	se Se
Control	ı	16	100.0	106	100.0	218	100.0	656	100.0	16.3	100.0	46.2	100.0
Glyphosate	2	75	82.4	70	66.0	133	61.0	388	59.1	8.9	54.6	25. 1	54.3
<b>3</b> 0	-	92	101.1	011	103.7	161	87.6	560	85.4	13.6	83.4	40.2	87.0
	2	80	87.9	86	92.4	142	65.1	422	64.3	10.8	66.2	39.6	85.7
6	-	73	80.2	79	74.5	178	81.6	486	74.1	10.1	62.0	29.8	64.5
	2	11	78.0	68	64.2	170	78.0	402	61.3	8.8	54.0	27.8	60.2
12	I	88	92.3	103	97.2	183	83.9	494	75.3	14.3	87.7	39. 1	84.6
	2	84	92.3	94	88.7	147	67.4	387	59.0	11.2	68.7	37.3	80.7
20	-	62	68.1	65	613	136	62.4	411	62.6	9.2	56.4	31.5	68.2
	2	76	83.5	69	65.1	Ξ	50.9	365	55.6	8.1	49.7	24.2	52.4
LSD <sup>a</sup> %		و		6		14		29		8.0		8.1	

a. LSD: lowest significant difference

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Compound	Conc. [mM]	Chl. a	Chl. B	Carotenoides	Soluble protein
Glyphosate	2	65.6	59.2	63.7	75.4
8	1	86.4	78.1	81.1	89.2
	2	76.9	69.5	72.8	75.8
9	1	73.5	63.8	76.5	62.2
	2	59.2	52.2	61.3	51.3
12	1	82.7	77.8	83.5	90.3
	2	74.9	73.6	70.8	83.1
20	1	69.4	62.8	65.3	67.5
	2	49.1	41.1	44.8	49.5

TABLE VII Effect of glyphosate and compounds tested on leaf pigment content and soluble protein in pea seedlings. The data are presented as a % to the relative control<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Fresh weight values of the controls: Chl. a (chlorophyll a) - 1.761 mg/g; Chl. b (chlorophyll b) - 0.640 mg/g; carotenoides - 1.293 mg/g; soluble protein - 14.32 mg/g.

The results obtained are in an agreement with the data of other authors about the herbicidal and plant growth regulating activity of the pentavalent derivatives of phosphorous – phosphoric and phosphonic acid derivatives<sup>[28–31]</sup>.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

Melting points (m.p. uncorrected): microhot stage Boetius PHMK 05. IR spectra: Bruker IFC 25 (KBr pellets). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra: Bruker Spectrospin WM-250 (250 MHz), <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectra: Bruker Avance (81 MHz). CDCl<sub>3</sub> as a solvent. Chemical shifts are measured towards TMS as internal standard (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra) or 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectra). TLC: "Merck" Silicagel 60F<sub>254</sub> on aluminium sheets, layer thickness 0.2 mm. Mobile phase: ethylacetate:hexane=1:2. Column chromatography: "Acros Chimica" Silicagel, particle size 0.2–0.06 mm using 1:50 product:silicagel ratio. The eluents are used in the following order: 1. Ethylacetate:light petroleum (b.p. 40–60°): aq. NH<sub>3</sub> = 4:1:0.1; 2. Ethylacetate; 3. Methanol.

#### **Phytochemical experiments**

#### Preemergent Herbicidal Activity

Seedlings of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L., cv. Sadovo-1) and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L., cv. Levina) were used in this type of experiment. The seeds were put on two layers filter paper moistened with test compound solutions. After 96 h incubation in the dark (25°C) shoot and root lengths of the test-objects were measured. The inhibitory action of the compounds was calculated as a % to the relative control. The herbicidal activity was expressed by  $pI_{50}$  value (logarithm of the reciprocal of molar concentration at which 50% inhibition of the growth is obtained).

#### Postemergent Herbicidal Activity

Pea (*Pisum sativum* L., cv. Citrina) seedlings with a fully developped second leaf grown in a climatic chamber at 25°C under daylight conditions (25°C, 12 h photoperiod, light intensity approximately 70  $\mu$ mol.cm<sup>-2</sup>.sec<sup>-1</sup>) were sprayed with an emulsified solution of a test compound containing an emulsifier (0.5%, v/v), prepared with Tween 80. The growth parameters (length, fresh and dry weight, chlorophyll and soluble protein content) were determined 7 days after the treatment. Glyphosate (N-phosphonomethylglycine) was used as a standard.

All biological experiments were performed 3 times, each in 3 replications at least. The data were evaluated statistically by Fisher *t*-criteria.

### Preparation of 7-chloro-3-benzyl-3H-1,2,3-triazolo[4, 5-d]pyrimidine (3) and 4-chloro-1-benzyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine (4) (General Procedure)

To a stirred and boiled suspension of 10 mmol triazolopyrimidinone  $6^{[2]}$ , resp.  $7^{[3]}$  in thionylchloride (11.5 ml, 160 mmol) is added dropwise dimethylformamide (1.2 ml, 16 mmol). The reaction mixture is heated under reflux until clear, and then additionally 1 h more, after that it is stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The volatile components are removed in vacuo at 30°. The residue, cooled to 0°C, is treated with ice and neutralized to pH 7 by slow addition of 10 % NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The solid product is filtered, air dried and recrystallized from light petroleum (b.p. 40–60°C).

Chloride 3: Yield 60 %, m.p. 94-95°C. Lit.<sup>[2]</sup>: m.p. 92°C (from light petroleum, b.p. 60-80°C).

Chloride 4: Yield 80 %, m.p. 75°C. Lit.<sup>[3]</sup>: m.p. 245°C (from methanol). Calcd. for  $C_{12}H_9ClN_4$  (244.5): C, 58.90 %; H, 3.71 %. Found: C, 58.65 %; H, 4.01 %.

IR (nujol): no bands for C=O and NH.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (80 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 5.50 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 7.16 (s, 5H, CHarom), 7.88 (s, 1H, -C-CH=N-); 8.10 (s, 1H, -N-CH=N-).

#### Synthesis of phosphine oxides 8-14 (General procedure)

A solution of (aminoalkyl)dimethylphosphine oxide of type  $5^{[21,22]}$  (2 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) is added dropwise to a stirred solution containing chloride 3, resp. 4 (2 mmol) and triethylamine (0.28 ml, 2 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) at room temperature. The reaction mixture is stirred until the starting chloride is consumed completely according to TLC (ca. 48 hrs). The mixture is evaporated under reduced pressure, water (10 ml) is added to the residue and it is extracted with dichloromethane. The extract is dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent is removed. Compounds 8, 9 and 12 are recrystallized. Compounds 10, 11, 13 and 14 are purified by means of column chromatography. They are eluted from the column with eluent 3. The eluate is evaporated to dryness, the residue is dissolved in dichloromethane and filtered. After evaporation of the filtrate, the residue is recrystallized, with the exception of 14, which is an uncrystallizable oil.

#### Synthesis of phosphonates 18-20 (General procedure)

1. Preparation of dimethyl-, resp. diethyl ester of N-(tritylaminomethane)phosphonic acid 17 ( $R = CH_3$ ,  $C_2H_5$ ).

A solution of dimethyl, resp. diethyl phosphite (2 mmol) and triethylamine (0.35 ml, 2.5 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (50 ml) is treated with trimethylchlorosilane (0.32 ml, 2.5 mmol) at 0°C under argon as it is described in the lit.<sup>[24]</sup>. To this mixture a solution of N-methylene-N-tritylamine (16)<sup>[23]</sup> (0.542 g, 2 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (5 ml) is added dropwise at 0°C. The solution is brought to room temperature, after which it is refluxed for 1 h. After cooling, it is poured into water (50 ml) and the organic products are extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts are dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated to afford dimethyl, resp. diethyl N-(tritylaminomethane)phosphonate of type 17 (R = CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), which is purified by recrystallization. 17 (R = CH<sub>3</sub>): Yield 87 %; m.p. 214–217°C (from ethylacetate). Acc. to lit.<sup>[23]</sup>, m.p. 210–211°C (from methanol-chloroform).

17 (R = C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>): Yield 88 %; m.p. 115–117°C (from methanol-chloroform). Acc. to lit.<sup>[23]</sup>, m.p. 115–117°C (from methanol-chloroform).

#### 2. Deprotection of 17 to 15, and reaction of the latter with 3, resp. 4.

A mixture of dialkyl N-(tritylaminomethane)phosphonate 17 (2 mmol) and a 1M solution of HCl in methanol (8 ml) is refluxed for 15 min. acc. to the lit.<sup>[23]</sup>to give the hydrochloride of dialkyl N-(aminomethane)phosphonate of type 15 ( $R = CH_3$ , resp.  $C_2H_5$ ), identical in <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data with those cited in the lit.<sup>[23]</sup>. The phosphonate hydrochloride 15, thus prepared is dissolved in abs. ethanol (5 ml) and the solution is added dropwise to a stirred solution containing chloride 3, resp. 4 (2 mmol) and triethylamine (0.56 ml, 4 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) at room temperature. The reaction mixture is stirred until the staring chloride is consumed completely according to TLC (ca. 48 hrs). The mixture is worked up as in the synthesis of componds 8–14. The compounds 18–20 are purified by means of recrystallization.

Yields, m.p. and elemental analysis data of compounds 8–14 and 18–20 are given in Table I.

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