

## 3,4-Dihydroquinazoline derivatives as novel selective T-type $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ channel blockers

Yong Sup Lee,<sup>a</sup> Bum Hoon Lee,<sup>a,b</sup> Seong Jun Park,<sup>a,b</sup> Soon Bang Kang,<sup>a</sup> Hyewhon Rhim,<sup>a</sup> Jin-Yong Park,<sup>c</sup> Jung-Ha Lee,<sup>c</sup> Seong-Woo Jeong<sup>d</sup> and Jae Yeol Lee<sup>e,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Life Sciences Division, Korea Institute of Science & Technology, PO Box 131, Cheongryang, Seoul 130-650, South Korea

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, Korea University, 1-Anamdong, Seoul 136-701, South Korea

<sup>c</sup>Department of Life Science, Sogang University, Shinsu-1-Dong, Seoul 121-742, South Korea

<sup>d</sup>Department of Physiology and Institute of Basic Medical Science, Yonsei University, Wonju College of Medicine, Ilsan-Dong 162, Wonju, Kangwon-Do 220-701, South Korea

<sup>e</sup>Research Institute for Basic Sciences and Department of Chemistry, College of Sciences, Kyung Hee University, 1 Hoegi-Dong, Seoul 130-701, South Korea

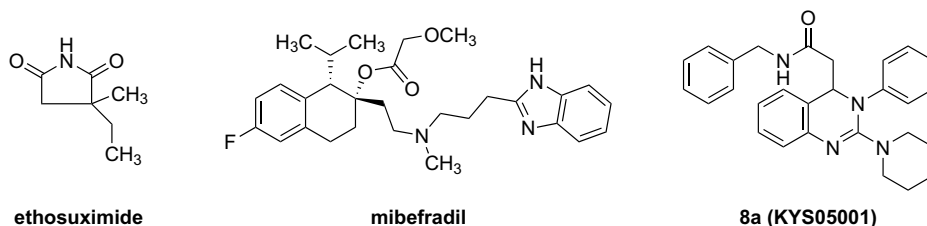
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**Abstract**—For LVA T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blockers, 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives as new scaffolds were prepared and evaluated for the inhibitory activity against two members of the recombinant T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel family. Among them, **8a** (KYS05001,  $\text{IC}_{50} = 0.9 \mu\text{M}$ ) was nearly equipotent with mibefradil ( $\text{IC}_{50} = 0.84 \mu\text{M}$ ) and inhibited LVA T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel with greater efficacy than HVA  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel.

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Low voltage-activated (LVA)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels are strongly associated with the generation of rhythmical firing patterns in the mammalian CNS.<sup>1–3</sup> Furthermore, many reports have suggested that T-type channels are implicated in pathogenesis of epilepsy and neuropathic pain.<sup>4–7</sup> This view is supported by an antiepileptic drug that is known to alleviate the generation of neuronal hyperexcitability in the brain: Ethosuximide (Zarontin®), a succinimide derivative, is an anticonvulsant effective in the treatment of absence epilepsy (Fig. 1).<sup>8,9</sup>

Until recently, three genes encoding T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel pore-forming subunits were identified and designated  $\text{Ca}_v3.1$  ( $\alpha_{1G}$ ),  $\text{Ca}_v3.2$  ( $\alpha_{1H}$ ), and  $\text{Ca}_v3.1$  ( $\alpha_{1I}$ ).<sup>10–13</sup> However, only limited progress has been made to date in the quest to identify both potent and selective compounds for T-type channel blockade. Only Kurtoxin ( $\text{IC}_{50} = 15 \text{ nM}$ ) isolated from the scorpion and mibefradil ( $\text{IC}_{50} = 1 \mu\text{M}$ ) developed by Roche have been known as most potent T-type channel antagonists (Fig. 1).<sup>14–16</sup> However, Kurtoxin also inhibits the HVA  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$



**Figure 1.** Structures of T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blockers.

**Keywords:** 3,4-Dihydroquinazolines; T-type calcium channel; Blockers; Mibefradil.

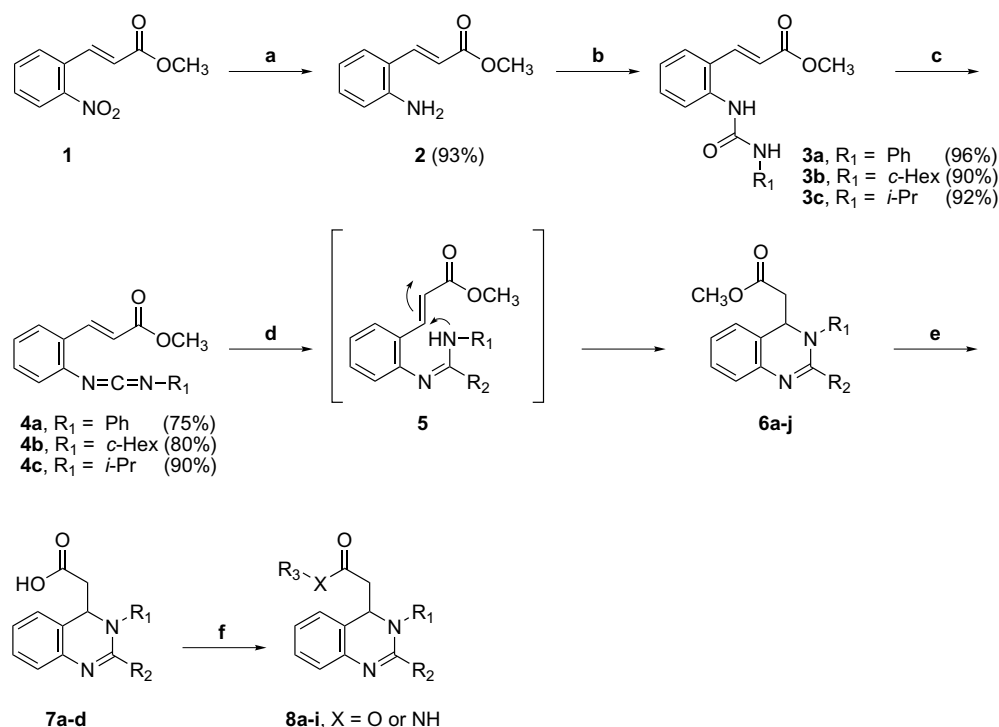
\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +82-2-9610726; fax: +82-2-9663701; e-mail: [ljy@khu.ac.kr](mailto:ljy@khu.ac.kr)

channels and its peptide nature (63 amino acids) has a problem for the therapeutic agent.<sup>17</sup> In the meanwhile, mibefradil is nonselective as well and regarded as a broad spectrum ion channel blocker with activities on HVA  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels,  $\text{Na}^{+}$  channels,  $\text{K}^{+}$  channels, and  $\text{Cl}^{-}$  channels.<sup>18–21</sup> As a result, mibefradil was withdrawn from U.S. market in May 1988 due to the toxicity from drug–drug interaction. Therefore, new T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blockers having new scaffolds are needed in understanding the exact role of T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel in cellular functions. Herein we describe the synthesis and in vitro T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blocking effects of 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives for the development of both potent and selective T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blockers (Fig. 1).

The 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives (**6**) were prepared by using a known method, as illustrated in Scheme 1.<sup>22</sup> Thus, carbodiimide (**4**), an intermediate of this reaction, was prepared by the reaction of urea (**3**) with  $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}\cdot\text{Br}_2$  and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ .<sup>23</sup> The urea (**3**) was prepared in two steps starting from methyl 2-nitrocinnamate (**1**) according to a published procedure.<sup>24</sup> The regioselective addition of secondary amine into the carbodiimide (**4**) followed by intramolecular conjugate addition of the resulting amine species (**5**) to an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ester finally afforded the 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivative (**6**). The methyl ester group of compound **6** was hydrolyzed with  $\text{LiOH}$  to provide the free carboxylic compound **7** in quantitative yield. The acid compound **7** was coupled with alcohol or amine by using EDC and HOBT to give the respective ester or amide as illustrated in Scheme 1.<sup>25</sup> The structure and yield of each step for all compounds were summarized in Table 1.

The in vitro calcium channel blocking activities of 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives (**6a–j**, **7a–d**, and **8a–i**) were determined in T-type channels expressed *Xenopus* oocytes ( $\alpha_{1\text{H}}$ ) or HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1\text{G}}$ ). As preliminary assays, all synthetic compounds (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were evaluated for their inhibitory effects on  $\alpha_{1\text{H}}$  T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels expressed in *Xenopus* oocytes by a two-electrode voltage clamp method.<sup>26</sup> The compounds shown more than 50% inhibition were re-evaluated for the blocking effects on  $\alpha_{1\text{G}}$  T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels expressed in HEK293 cells at 10  $\mu\text{M}$  concentration by whole-cells patch clamp methods.<sup>27</sup> The molar concentrations ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ ) of test compounds required to produce 50% inhibition of  $\alpha_{1\text{G}}$  T-type currents were determined from fitting raw data into dose–response curves. In vitro blocking effects of all 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives were summarized in Table 1.

Irrespective of the kinds of substituents at  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  position, as a glance, compounds (**6a–j**, **7a–d**, and **8f–i**) possessing methyl or benzyl ester and free carboxylic group at 4-position of quinazoline ring showed poor inhibitory activities (0.0–32.7% inhibition range) against the  $\alpha_{1\text{H}}$  T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel with exception of compound **6d** (51.5% inhibition), which has the phenyl rings at  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  position.<sup>28</sup> On the other hand, compounds (**8a–d**) having a benzyl amide substituent always showed good efficacies (63.8–91.9% inhibition range) except for **8e** (14.8%), which was obtained from compound **6d**. Among them, the compound **8d** (91.9%) bearing a piperidine ring at  $\text{R}_2$  position and a 4-nitrobenzylamide functional group at 4-position of quinazoline ring was particularly more potent than the reference drug mibefradil (86%). This result implies that both *N*-heterocycles



**Scheme 1.** Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{SnCl}_2\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{EtOAc}$ ,  $70^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h; (b)  $\text{R}_1\text{NCO}$ , benzene, rt, 12 h; (c)  $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}\cdot\text{Br}_2$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h; (d)  $\text{R}_2\text{H}$  or  $\text{R}_2\text{MgBr}$ , THF, rt or reflux; (e)  $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{THF-H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1),  $60^\circ\text{C}$ , 2 h; (f)  $\text{R}_3\text{OH}$  or  $\text{R}_3\text{NH}_2$ , HOBT, EDC, rt, 5 h.

**Table 1.** In vitro calcium channel blocking effects of 3,4-dihydroquinazolines derivatives

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| Compound <sup>a</sup> | Yield <sup>b</sup> (%) | R <sub>1</sub> | R <sub>2</sub> | R <sub>3</sub> | X | <i>Xenopus</i> oocyte ( $\alpha_{1H}$ ) | HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1G}$ )         |                                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                       |                        |                |                |                |   | % Inhibition (100 $\mu$ M) <sup>c</sup> | % Inhibition (10 $\mu$ M) <sup>c</sup> | IC <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu$ M) <sup>d</sup> |
| <b>8f</b>             | 74                     |                |                |                | O | 14.2                                    |                                        |                                          |
| <b>8g</b>             | 86                     |                |                |                | O | 15.6                                    |                                        |                                          |
| <b>8h</b>             | 88                     |                |                |                | O | 20.9                                    |                                        |                                          |
| <b>8i</b>             | 70                     |                |                |                | O | 32.7                                    |                                        |                                          |
| Mibefradil            |                        |                |                |                |   | 86.0                                    | 95.9 $\pm$ 1.7                         | 0.84                                     |

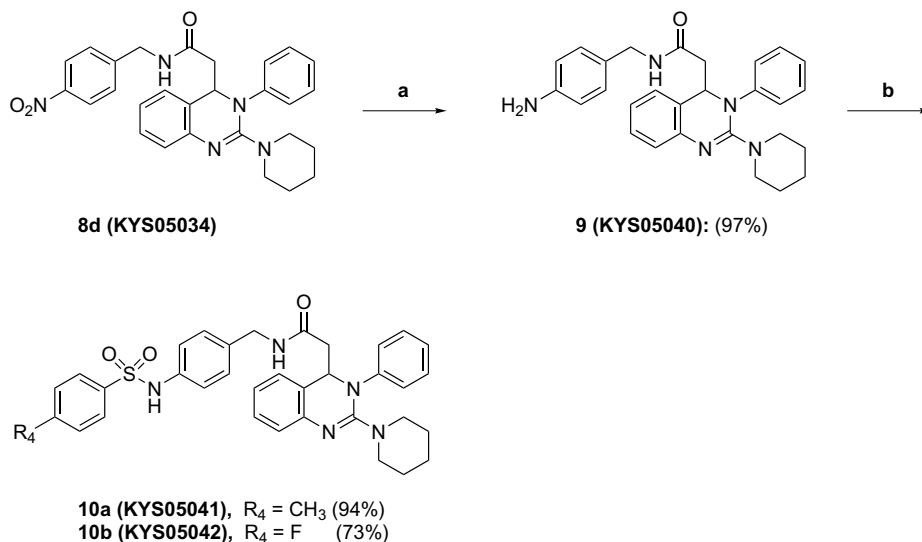
<sup>a</sup> All compounds were obtained as racemates.<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.<sup>c</sup> % Inhibition value ( $\pm$ SEM) was obtained by repeated procedures ( $n \geq 3$ ).<sup>d</sup> IC<sub>50</sub> value was determined from the dose–response curve.<sup>e</sup> Compound obtained from our previous work.<sup>28</sup>

at R<sub>2</sub> position and benzylamide group at 4-position of quinazoline ring would be the essential pharmacophores for calcium entry blocking activity.

Next, the effective compounds (**6a**, **6d**, and **8a–d**) were further evaluated in HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1G}$ ) at lower concentration (10  $\mu$ M). Our experimental results are summarized as follows. First, the inhibitory effects of compounds were quite similar in HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1G}$ ) as *Xenopus* oocyte ( $\alpha_{1H}$ ) except for the compound **8c**, which displayed surprisingly the decreased magnitude of inhibition ( $29.0 \pm 0.80\%$ ) compared with the inhibitory activity on the  $\alpha_{1H}$  expressed in *Xenopus* oocytes (70.3%). Secondly, the structure–activity relationships showed that the relative potency order was piperidine (**8a**, **8d**) > morpholine (**8b**) > 4-methylpiperazine (**8c**) with respect to R<sub>2</sub> substituent and the compound **8a**

(KYS05001) and **8d** (KYS05034) were nearly equipotent ( $90.1 \pm 2.3$ ,  $92.3 \pm 1.3\%$  inhibition) comparable with mibefradil ( $95.9 \pm 1.7\%$  inhibition). With respect to the IC<sub>50</sub> values, however, the compound **8a** (KYS05001, IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.9  $\mu$ M) was shown to be 2.8-fold more potent than **8d** (KYS05034, IC<sub>50</sub> = 2.5  $\mu$ M) and nearly equipotent with mibefradil (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.84  $\mu$ M).

Based on the SAR data, we embarked on the synthesis of **8d** (KYS05034) analogs in order to increase the potency and the pharmacological profile, as illustrated in Scheme 2. Hydrogenation of the nitro group of compound **8d** using 10% Pd(C) in MeOH afforded *N*-(4-aminobenzylamido)-3,4-dihydroquinazoline (**9**, KYS05040) in 97% yield, which was coupled with the respective phenylsulfonyl chloride in the presence of pyridine to provide the sulfonamido-3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivative **10a**



**Scheme 2.** Reagents and conditions: (a) 10% Pd(C), MeOH, rt, 2 h; (b) *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>-PhSO<sub>2</sub>Cl (for **10a**), or *p*-F-PhSO<sub>2</sub>Cl (for **10b**), pyridine, 0 °C to rt, 24 h.

(KYS05041) and **10b** (KYS05042), respectively, in 94% and 73% yields. Calcium blocking effects of these analogs (**9**, **10a**, and **10b**) were determined using two calcium channel isoforms ( $\alpha_{1H}$  and  $\alpha_{1G}$ ) and also their  $IC_{50}$  values for inhibition of HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1G}$ ) were determined from the dose–response curve. In addition, these compounds were screened against  $Na^+$  channels and high voltage-activated (HVA)  $Ca^{2+}$  channels of major pelvic ganglion (MPG) neurons for the evaluation of ion channel selectivity including compounds **8a** and **8d**.<sup>29</sup> All inhibitory activity data of these compounds were summarized in Table 2.<sup>30</sup>

Compared with the parent compound **8d**, the current inhibition by the reduced compound **9** was decreased in both *Xenopus* oocytes (66.8% inhibition) and HEK293 cells ( $43.5 \pm 4.5\%$  inhibition). The  $IC_{50}$  value ( $14.4 \mu M$ ) for the compound **9** was also higher than that of compound **8d** ( $2.5 \mu M$ ). In the meanwhile, compound **10a** (KYS05041) and compound **10b** (KYS05042) showed increased potencies, and were 3.4- and 4.2-fold more potent ( $IC_{50} = 0.25$  and  $0.20 \mu M$ , respectively) than mibefradil ( $IC_{50} = 0.84 \mu M$ ).

As shown in Table 2, all compounds generally showed less inhibitory potencies in major pelvic ganglion (MPG) neurons than *Xenopus* oocytes and HEK293 cells and these results would be caused by the dilution effect connected with their nonspecific binding affinities for the present background of MPG neurons. With respect to calcium channel selectivity, all compounds except **8a** showed similar blocking effects against both LVA T-type and HVA  $Ca^{2+}$  channel expressed in MPG neurons at  $10 \mu M$  concentration, as shown in Table 2. On the other hand, compound **8a** (KYS05001) bearing simple benzylamide exhibited the higher selectivity for LVA T-type over HVA  $Ca^{2+}$  channel, although its  $IC_{50}$  value ( $0.9 \mu M$ ) was similar to that of mibefradil ( $0.84 \mu M$ ). More importantly, all compounds (**8a**, **8d**, **9**, **10a**, and **10b**) did not exhibit  $Na^+$  channel blocking effect in MPG neurons (the data were not shown) and also had no cytotoxicities on HEK293 cells at  $10 \mu M$  concentration as confirmed using MTT assay method (the data were not shown). Therefore, it is likely that compound **8a** (KYS05001) would be regarded as a new potent and selective T-type  $Ca^{2+}$  channel blocker based on these biological data.

**Table 2.** The inhibitory activities and selectivity data for some 3,4-dihydroquinazolines

| Compound                 | Structure | <i>Xenopus</i> oocyte<br>( $\alpha_{1H}$ ) | HEK293 cells ( $\alpha_{1G}$ )              |                                    | MPG neuron assay<br>(% inhibition; $10 \mu M$ ) |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
|                          |           | % Inhibition<br>( $100 \mu M$ )            | % Inhibition<br>( $10 \mu M$ ) <sup>a</sup> | $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu M$ ) <sup>b</sup> | LVA (T-type)                                    | HVA (N-type)      |
| <b>8a</b> (KYS05001)     |           | 77.0                                       | $90.1 \pm 2.3$                              | 0.90                               | 76.0 <sup>c</sup>                               | 12.0 <sup>c</sup> |
| <b>8d</b> (KYS05034)     |           | 91.9                                       | $92.3 \pm 1.3$                              | 2.50                               | 37.7                                            | 32.2              |
| <b>9</b> (KYS05040)      |           | 66.8                                       | $43.5 \pm 4.5$                              | 14.40                              | 4.7                                             | 18.4              |
| <b>10a</b><br>(KYS05041) |           | 84.7                                       | $89.9 \pm 1.3$                              | 0.25                               | 29.0                                            | 38.7              |
| <b>10b</b><br>(KYS05042) |           | 80.5                                       | $89.0 \pm 2.3$                              | 0.20                               | 49.6                                            | 50.8              |

<sup>a</sup> % Inhibition value ( $\pm$ SEM) was obtained by repeated procedures ( $n \geq 3$ ).

<sup>b</sup>  $IC_{50}$  value was determined from the dose–response curve.

<sup>c</sup> The values were obtained at  $50 \mu g/mL$  concentration.

In summary, 3,4-dihydroquinazoline derivatives as novel scaffolds for nonpeptidic T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel blocker were prepared and evaluated for the blocking effects against two isoforms of T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel subfamily. Among them, compound **8a** (KYS05001) has a great potential as chemical platform for the future development of useful pharmacophores without the side effects resulting from nonselective blocking on HVA  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels and other types of ion channels.

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- Spectra data of selected compounds, **8a** (KYS05001): mp 168 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71 (br, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Ph}$ ), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H, aromatic), 7.29–7.19 (m, 5H, aromatic), 7.16–7.03 (m, 5H, aromatic), 6.96–6.92 (m, 2H, aromatic), 5.18 (dd,  $J = 5.0$  and 10.1 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{N}-$ ), 4.53 (dd,  $J = 6.0$  and 14.4 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Ph}$ ), 4.42 (dd,  $J = 6.3$  and 14.4 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Ph}$ ), 3.17 (br, 4H, piperidiny), 2.68 (dd,  $J = 10.1$  and 14.0 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 2.23 (dd,  $J = 5.0$  and 14.1 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 1.37–1.33 (m, 2H, piperidiny), 1.18 (br, 4H, piperidiny);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.4, 153.9, 146.1, 143.2, 138.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.0, 125.2, 124.9, 124.4, 123.2, 122.8, 122.3, 61.1, 47.4, 43.9, 41.9, 25.3, 24.7; HRMS (FAB, M+H) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_4\text{O}$  439.2498, found 439.2534; **10a** (KYS05041):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.66 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, aromatic), 7.58–7.73 (m, 3H, aromatic), 7.28–7.21 (m, 3H, aromatic), 7.18–6.95 (m, 12H, aromatic), 5.19 (dd,  $J = 5.2$  and 10.1 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{N}-$ ), 4.35 (dd,  $J = 6.1$  and 14.2 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 4.24 (dd,  $J = 5.5$  and 14.8 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 3.28 (br, 4H, piperidiny), 2.82 (dd,  $J = 10.5$  and 14.4 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 2.36 (dd,  $J = 5.2$  and 14.0 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 2.29 (s, 3H,  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{C}_4\text{H}_4-\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.33 (br, 2H, piperidiny), 1.20 (br, 4H, piperidiny);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.4, 154.0, 144.9, 143.6, 138.9, 136.9, 136.7, 134.7, 129.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 127.3, 126.2, 125.9, 125.4, 124.4, 124.0, 121.1, 121.0, 61.7, 48.6, 43.2, 41.9, 24.8, 24.2, 21.7; HRMS (FAB, M+H) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$  608.2695, found 608.2680; **10b** (KYS05042):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.66–7.62 (m, 2H, aromatic), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H, aromatic), 7.20–7.06 (m, 9H, aromatic), 7.04–6.90 (m, 4H, aromatic), 6.72 (br, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 5.19 (dd,  $J = 6.0$  and 9.9 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{N}-$ ), 4.41 (dd,  $J = 6.1$  and 14.8 Hz,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 4.24 (dd,  $J = 5.5$  and 14.8 Hz,  $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 3.28 (br, 4H, piperidiny), 2.74 (dd,  $J = 9.6$  Hz and 14.1 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 2.44 (dd,  $J = 6.0$  and 14.1 Hz, 1H,  $-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 1.39 (br, 2H, piperidiny), 1.25 (br, 4H, piperidiny);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.1, 166.7, 153.9, 145.3, 141.7, 135.9, 135.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.4, 126.7, 125.2, 124.8, 123.2, 121.5, 116.3, 116.0, 61.4, 47.9, 43.3, 42.0, 25.2, 24.6; HRMS (FAB, M+H) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{35}\text{FN}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$  612.2445, found 612.2436.