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Design, synthesis and anti-influenza virus activity of furan-substituted spirothiazolidinones

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ABSTRACT

A new series of *N*-(3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)carboxamides have been designed, synthesized and evaluated as antiviral agents. The compounds were prepared by condensation of 2-methylfuran-3-carbohydrazide, appropriate carbonyl compounds and sulfanyl acids. The new molecules were characterized by IR, ^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, mass spectrometry and elemental analysis. Six analogues proved to be active against influenza A/H3N2 virus, the two most protent analogues, **3c** and **3d**, having an EC_{50} value of about 1 μM. These findings help to define the SAR of spirothiazolidinone-based inhibitors of the influenza virus membrane fusion process.

1. Introduction

Influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by human influenza A, B and C viruses which belong to the *Orthomyxoviridae* family. Characteristic symptoms are: sudden fever, muscle pain, weakness, chills, headache and dry cough [1]. In some patients, this can evolve into acute viral or secondary bacterial pneumonia. The annually occurring influenza epidemics are explained by antigenic drift of the virus [2]. Besides, influenza A viruses with a zoonotic origin cause sporadic pandemics with high morbidity and mortality. In the last 100 years, four influenza pandemics have occurred: the H1N1 Spanish influenza in 1918; H2N2 Asian influenza in 1957; H3N2 Hong Kong influenza in 1968; and swine-origin H1N1 influenza in 2009 [3].

Influenza A, B and C viruses exhibit differences in the nucleoprotein and matrix proteins. The further subtyping of influenza A virus is based on two envelope glycoproteins: hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). At the moment, the treatment of influenza relies on three classes of FDA-approved antiviral drugs (Fig. 1), targeting the M2 proton channel, neuraminidase enzyme or viral polymerase complex [4]. The influenza A virus-specific M2 inhibitors amantadine and rimantadine are no longer recommended, due to widespread viral resistance against these agents [5,6]. The neuraminidase inhibitors oseltamivir, zanamivir and peramivir inhibit influenza A and B viruses. In the past few years, two polymerase inhibitors, i.e. favipiravir and baloxavir marboxil, have been approved in a few countries. Favipiravir inhibits the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase function of the viral PB1 protein [7], while baloxavir marboxil targets the cap-dependent endonuclease activity of the PA protein [8]. The latter drug shows superior clinical efficacy [9], which seems threatened by growing concerns on emergence of baloxavir-resistant mutant viruses [10]. Arbidol (umifenovir) has been reported to inhibit hemagglutinin (HA)-mediated fusion by preventing the conformational change of HA at low pH. An indole-based small molecule, arbidol, has been licensed in Russia and China for prophylaxis and treatment of influenza and other viral respiratory infections (Fig. 1). It is in clinical influenza trials in the USA [11,12].

About ten years ago, our research team identified a structurally unique class of spiro compounds, exerting strong inhibition of the HA-mediated membrane fusion process [13]. Subsequently, several series of structural analogues were synthesized, which enabled quite detailed insight in the structure-activity relationship (SAR) (Fig. 2) [13–18]. The lead compound is encoded as **4c** in [Ref.[13]]; [6-methyl-*N*-(2,8-dimethyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)imidazo[2,1-*b*][1,3]thiazole-5-carboxamide] (Fig. 2). The general structure consists of an aromatic ring that is linked, via an amide bridge, to a non-aromatic spirocyclic system. In this spirothiazolidinone part, the methyl substituents at positions 2 and 8 proved to be important for antiviral activity. Mechanistically, these molecules act by preventing the low pH-induced conformational change of HA, that occurs after uptake of the virus in endosomes and that is crucial for membrane fusion and release of the viral genome. Resistance studies [13] and HA docking analyses [18] provided an explanation for the HA binding mode and H3 HA-subtype specificity of these fusion inhibitors. In the present study, we

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report the design and synthesis of a new series of spirothiazolidinone derivatives carrying a 3-furancarboxamide moiety. The newly synthesized compounds were evaluated for *in vitro* antiviral activity against influenza A and B viruses.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Chemistry

The synthetic pathway for the preparation of compounds (**2**, **3**) is shown in Scheme 1. Refluxing a mixture of hydrazide (**1**) and the appropriate cyclic ketone with sulfanylacetic acid or 2-sulfanylpropanoic acid in dry toluene using a Dean-Stark apparatus, afforded the target compounds **2, 3**. The structures of the new compounds were confirmed by microanalysis, IR, ^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and mass spectrometry.

The IR spectra of the **2a-f** and **3a-f** derivatives have N—H stretching bands at 3427–3224 cm^{-1}. Observation of new lactam C═O bands (1715–1685 cm^{-1}) characteristic for such structures besides C═O amide bands (1681–1658 cm^{-1}) in the IR spectra of compounds **2** and **3** supported the targeted cyclization. In the ^{1}H NMR spectra, the N—H protons appeared in the region of 10.09–8.55 ppm. The C2-H protons of **2a-f** were observed 3.58–3.64 ppm as singlets, while C2-H protons of **3a-f** resonated at 3.75–3.79 ppm as quartets. Also, ^{13}C NMR spectra of **2b** and **3a-f** confirmed formation of the expected spirothiazolidinones.

Further spectral details are available in the experimental section.

2.2. Biological activity

The new compounds were evaluated in Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells infected with influenza A/H1N1, A/H3N2 or B virus. The antiviral procedure estimated inhibition of virus-induced cytopathic effect (CPE), using microscopy and MTS cell viability assay. These two methods also allowed to determine compound cytotoxicity in mock-infected cell cultures. Most molecules were devoid of toxicity at 100 μM, the highest concentration tested. Six analogues, i.e. **2b**, **2d**, **2e, 3b, 3c** and **3d** were found to inhibit influenza A/H3N2 virus (Table 1). Compounds **3c** and **3d** demonstrated the highest inhibitory activity, with antiviral EC_{50} values of 0.95 μM and 0.93 μM, respectively (values based on the MTS readout). These analogues bear a methyl group at position 2 (R^1), besides an ethyl (**3c**) or propyl (**3d**) substituent at position 8 (R). This SAR fully agrees with earlier analyses on the spirothiazolidinone compounds [13]. An important new insight was that the anti-influenza virus activity is unchanged when imidazothiazole system in **4c** is replaced by a furan moiety. With regard to the spiro part, substitution at position 2 or 8 seems essential. A methyl group at position 2 (in type 3) is obviously required for higher activity since the analogues **2b**, **2c** and **2d** lacking this group are less active than their 2-methylated counterparts **3b**, **3c** and **3d** (except **2e** and **3e**). Regarding position 8 of the spiro ring, a larger alkyl group is preferable over a smaller alkyl substituent for higher activity (i.e., *n*-propyl in **3d** > ethyl in **3c** > methyl in **3b**). Interestingly, **3c** and **3d** were about 8-fold more active than our initial lead molecule (compound **4c** in Table 1), which was instrumental to identify the antiviral mechanism of action of the spirothiazolidinone derivatives [16]. This means that the 2-methylfuran moiety of **3c** and **3d** is superior to the imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazol part of **4c**. Besides, also these new furan analogues exhibit A/H3N2-specificity, since no antiviral activity was seen against influenza A/H1N1 virus and influenza B virus.

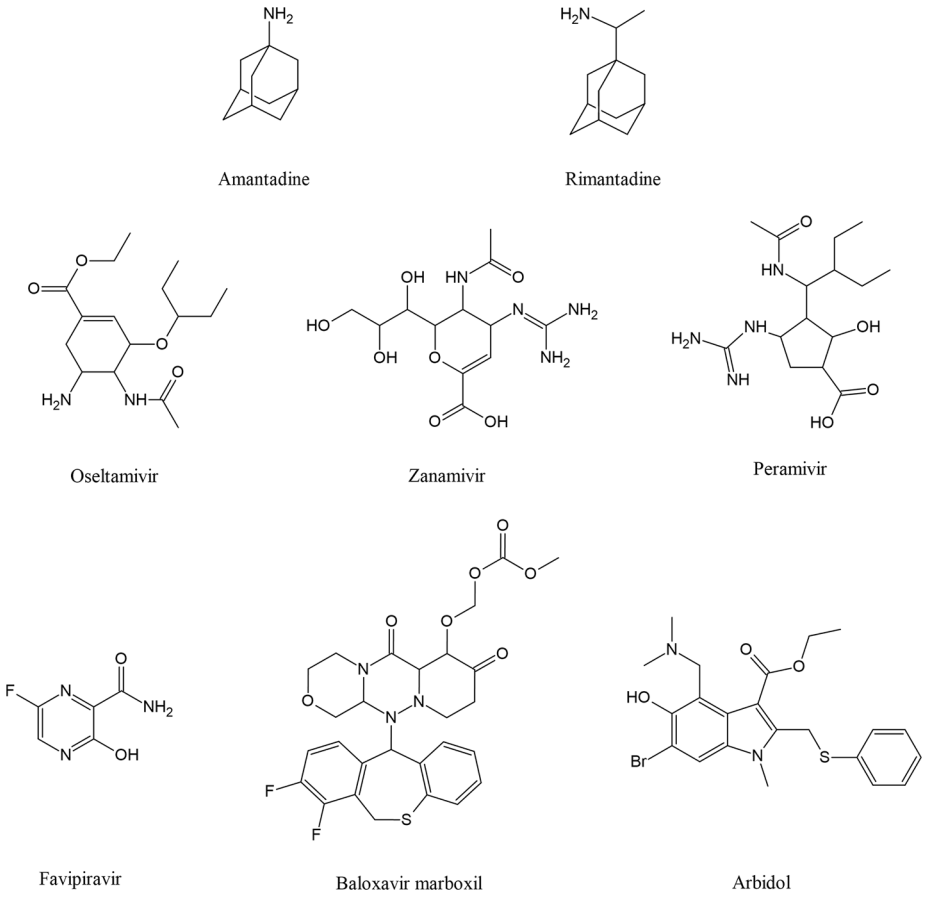


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of FDA-approved antiviral drugs and arbidol.

3. Conclusion

A new series of *N*-(3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)carboxamides were obtained by using a three-component one-pot cyclocondensation method. The structures of the new compounds were characterized and confirmed by spectrometric methods and elemental analysis. Analogues **3c** and **3d** had superior activity against influenza A/H3N2 virus, consistent with the importance of the 2- and 8-substituents in the spirothiazolidinone system. In addition, this new series shows that the aromatic part of this class of H3 HA-specific fusion inhibitors tolerates much variation.

4. Experimental

4.1. Materials

Chemicals were obtained from Merck and Aldrich. Melting points (mp) were determined on a Buchi B-540 capillary melting point apparatus in open capillaries and uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in KBr discs on a Shimadzu IR Affinity-1 FTIR and ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) spectra were run on a Varian^{UNITY} INOVA-500 MHz and Varian^{MERCURY}-400 MHZ spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts are reported as δ (ppm) relative to TMS as internal standard and coupling constants (*J*) are given in hertz (Hz). Microanalyses were performed on a Thermo Finnigan Flash EA 1112 elemental analyzer. ESI/MS were determined on Finnigan LCQ Advantage Max spectrophotometer (sp: spirothiazolidinone, frn: furan, ax: axial, eq: equatorial).

4.2. Chemical synthesis

4.2.1. 2-Methylfuran-3-carbohydrazide (1)

0.26 mol hydrazine hydrate (98%) was added to a solution of 0.026 mol methyl 2-methylfuran-3-carboxylate in 12 ml alcohol (96%) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 16 h. The resulting residue was allowed to stand overnight. The solid thus obtained was washed with ice water, dried and used without purification.

4.2.1.1. General procedure for the synthesis of (2, 3). A solution of **1** (0.005 mol) and appropriate ketone (0.01 mol) in 30 ml of dried toluene were refluxed for 2 h, using a Dean Stark water separator. After 2 h, sulfanylacetic acid or 2-sulfanylpropanoic acid (1.5 ml) was added and the mixture was refluxed during 12–16 h. Toluene was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was neutralized with saturated sodium bicarbonate and allowed to solidify. The crude product was filtered and recrystallized from appropriate solvent or solvent mixtures.

4.2.2. N-(3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2a)

Yield: 68%. mp: 206–208 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3224 (N—H), 1693 (C═O), 1662 (NHC = O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/500 MHz): 1.01–1.05 (1H, m, sp-8$_{ax}$-H), 1.40–1.43 (2H, m, sp-7$_{ax}$-H ve sp-9$_{ax}$-H), 1.52–1.54 (1H, d, ^3J = 13 Hz, sp-8$_{eq}$-H), 1.70–1.82 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7$_{eq}$-H sp-9$_{eq}$-H and sp-10-H), 3.29 (3H, s, frn-2-CH$_3$), 3.58 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.93 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.57 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.01 (1H, s, NH). Anal. calcd. for $C_{15}H_{20}N_2O_3S$ (294.36) C: 57.12, H: 6.16, N: 9.52. Found C: 56.69, H: 6.04, N: 9.72.

4.2.3. N-(8-methyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2b)

Yield: 71%. mp: 180–183 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3304 (N—H), 1701 (C═O), 1678 (NHC = O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/500 MHz): 0.85 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-8-CH$_3$), 1.12–1.28 (3H, m, sp-7$_{ax}$-H, sp-8-H and sp-9$_{ax}$-H), 1.66–1.80 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7$_{eq}$-H, sp-9$_{eq}$-H and sp-10-H), 3.29 (3H, s, frn-2-CH$_3$), 3.59 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.92 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.57 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.00 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (proton decoupled) (DMSO-d_6/125 MHz): 14.00 (frn-C2-CH$_3$), 22.55 (sp-C8-CH3), 28.59 (sp-C8), 31.17 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 32.07 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 37.63 (sp-C2), 72.83 (sp-C5), 109.67 (frn-C4), 113.97 (frn-C3), 141.81 (frn-C5), 158.22 (frn-C2), 163.16 (NHCO), 168.53 (sp-C3). Anal. calcd. for $C_{15}H_{20}N_2O_3S$ (308.39) C: 58.42, H:6.54, N: 9.08. Found C: 58.54, H: 6.45, N: 9.28.

4.2.4. N-(8-ethyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2c)

Yield: 74%. mp: 168–170 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3427 (N—H), 1685 (C═O), 1658 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/500 MHz): 0.82 (3H, t, ^3J

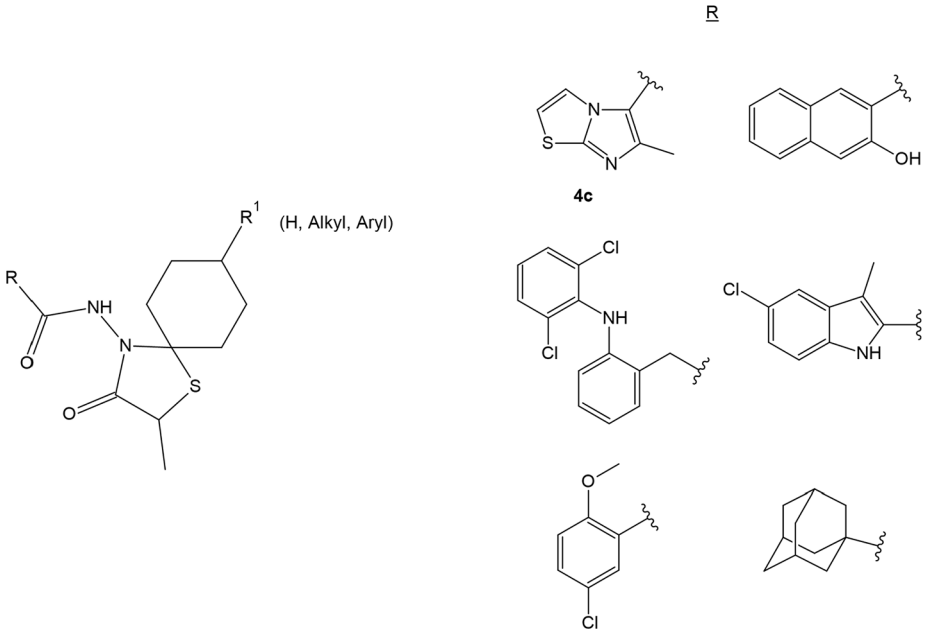
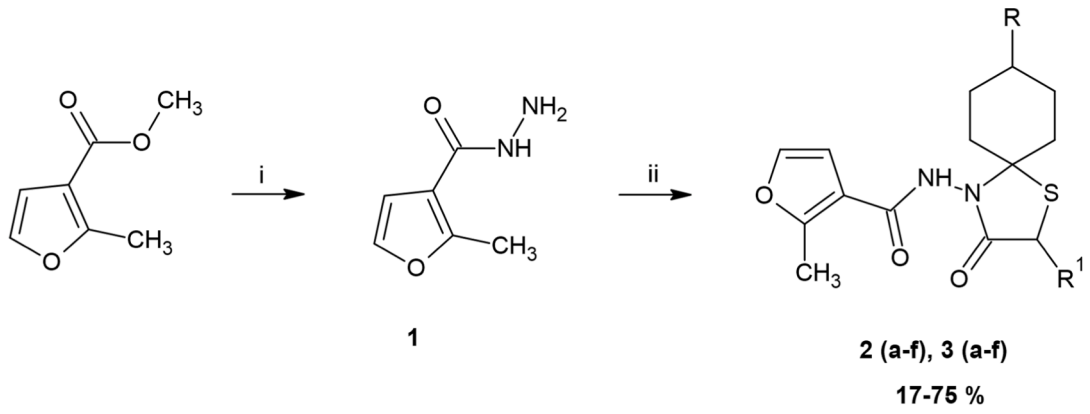


Fig. 2. Chemical structures of previously reported spirothiazolidinone inhibitors of influenza virus fusion [13–18].



Compound	R	R^1	Yield (%)	Compound	R	R^1	Yield (%)
2a	H	H	68	**3a**	H	CH_3	45
2b	CH_3	H	71	**3b**	CH_3	CH_3	17
2c	C_2H_5	H	74	**3c**	C_2H_5	CH_3	52
2d	C_3H_7	H	**77**	**3d**	C_3H_7	CH_3	40
2e	$C(CH_3)_3$	H	68	**3e**	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_3	56
2f	C_6H_5	H	75	**3f**	C_6H_5	CH_3	60

Scheme 1. Synthesis of compounds **2, 3**. Reagents and conditions: (i) hydrazine hydrate, ethanol, reflux, 16 h; (ii) (non)substituted ketone, sulfanylacetic acid or 2-sulfanylpropanoic acid, toluene, 12–16 h.

Table 1
Anti-influenza virus activity of compounds **2a-f** and **3a-f**.

Compound[a]	R	R^1	Antiviral EC_{50}[b] (μM)						Cytotoxicity[c] (μM)	
			A/H1N1		A/H3N2		Influenza B		MCC	CC_{50}
			CPE	MTS	CPE	MTS	CPE	MTS		
2a	H	H	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
2b	CH_3	H	>100	>100	>100	44	>100	>100	>100	>100
2c	C_2H_5	H	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	≥20	45
2d	C_3H_7	H	>100	>100	21	6.6	>100	>100	>100	>100
2e	$C(CH_3)_3$	H	>100	>100	7.9	3.5	>100	>100	≥100	>100
2f	C_6H_5	H	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	100	43
3a	H	CH_3	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
3b	CH_3	CH_3	>100	>100	12	8.5	>100	>100	>100	>100
3c	C_2H_5	CH_3	>100	>100	1.4	0.95	>100	>100	100	>100
3d	C_3H_7	CH_3	>100	>100	0.80	0.93	>100	>100	60	43
3e	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_3	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
3f	C_6H_5	CH_3	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
4c [13]	CH_3	CH_3	>100	>100	6.8	9.0	>100	>100	>100	>100
ZAN	–	–	0.44	0.48	0.043	0.012	0.072	0.063	>100	>100
RBV	–	–	8.9	8.4	8.9	10	8.3	8.1	≥20	>100
AMT	–	–	58	75	0.80	0.70	>500	>500	≥500	>500
RMT	–	–	2.7	2.5	0.044	0.042	>500	>500	500	218

[a] Reference compounds: ZAN, zanamivir; RBV: ribavirin; AMT: amantadine; RMT: rimantadine.
[b] EC_{50}: 50% effective concentration giving 50% inhibition of virus-induced cytopathicity, as estimated by microscopic inspection of the CPE (left columns) or by the MTS cell viability assay (right columns). Virus strains: A/PR/8/34 (A/H1N1); A/HK/7/87 (A/H3N2 and B/HK/5/72.
[c] MCC: minimum cytotoxic concentration, based on microscopic inspection of cell morphology; CC50: 50% cytotoxic concentration, based on the MTS cell viability assay.

= 7 Hz, sp-8-CH_2**CH_3**), 1.00–1.30 (5H, m, sp-7_{ax}-H, sp-8-H, sp-9_{ax}-H and sp-8-CH_2),1.60–2.50 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7_{eq}-H and sp-9_{eq}-H, sp-10-H), 3.30 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.58 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.92 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.57 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.01 (1H, s, NH). Anal. calcd. for $C_{16}H_{22}N_2O_3S$ (322.42) C: 59.60, H: 6.88, N: 8.69. Found C: 59.39, H: 6.77, N: 8.97.

4.2.5. N-(3-oxo-8-propyl-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]decan-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2d)

Yield: 77%. mp: 205–207 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3234 (N—H), 1699

(C═O), 1670 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/500 MHz): 0.83 (3H, t, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-8-CH_2CH_2**CH_3**), 1.11–1.20 (5H, m, sp-8-**CH_2**CH_2CH_3, sp-7_{ax}-H, sp-9_{ax}-H and sp-8-H), 1.23–1.27 (2H, m, sp-8-CH_2**CH_2**CH_3), 1.72–1.82 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7_{eq}-H and sp-9_{eq}-H, sp-10-H), 3.29 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.58 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.92 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.57 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.01 (1H, s, NH). Anal. calcd. for $C_{17}H_{24}N_2O_3S$ (336.44) C: 60.69, H: 7.19, N: 8.33. Found C: 60.89, H: 7.27, N: 8.52.

4.2.6. N-(8-tert-butyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2e)

Yield: 68%. mp: 180–182 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3236 (N—H), 1701 (C═O), 1670 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/500 MHz): 0.81 (9H, s, sp-8-C$(CH_3)_3$), 0.85–0.93 (1H, m, C_8-H), 1.18–1.22 (2H, m, sp-7_{ax}-H and sp-9_{ax}-H), 1.70–2.20 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7_{eq}-H and sp-9_{eq}-H, sp-10-H), 3.30 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.58 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.92 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.57 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.02 (1H, s, NH). Anal. calcd. for $C_{18}H_{26}N_2O_3S{\cdot}H_2O$ (368.47) C: 58.67, H: 7.66, N: 7.99. Found C: 58.50, H: 7.46, N: 7.86.

4.2.7. N-(3-oxo-8-phenyl-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (2f)

Yield: 75%. mp: 224–226 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3296 (N—H), 1703 (C═O), 1681 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6/400 MHz): 1.64–1.67 (2H, m, sp-7ax-H and sp-9ax-H), 1.85–2.20 (6H, m, sp-6-H, sp-7 eq-H, sp-9 eq-H and sp-10-H), 2.46–2.48 (1H, m, sp-8-H and DMSO-d_6), 3.31 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3 and DMSO-H_2O), 3.64 (2H, s, sp-2-H), 6.96 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.14–7.32 (5H, m, phenyl H), 7.60 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 10.11 (1H, s, NH).

4.2.8. N-(2-methyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (3a)

Yield: 45%. mp: 173–175 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3294 (N—H), 1708 (C═O), 1660 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 0.93–1.04 (1H, m, sp-8_{ax}-H), 1.36–1.51 (2H, m, sp-7_{ax}-H and sp-9_{ax}-H), 1.49 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-2-CH_3), 1.51–1.58 (1H, m, sp-8_{eq}-H), 1.65–1.72 (2H, m, sp-7_{eq}-H and sp-9_{eq}-H), 1.73 (1H, d, ^3J = 13 Hz, sp-10_{eq}-H), 1.74 (1H, d, ^2J = 13 Hz, sp-6_{eq}-H), 1.82 (1H, d, ^2J = 13 Hz, sp-10_{eq}-H), 1.85–2.00 (1H, m, sp-6_{ax}-H), 2.39 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.79 (1H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, SCH), 6.65 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.07 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 8.85 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (DEPT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 13.79 (frn-C2-CH_3), 20.12 (sp-C2-CH3), 23.25 and 23.73 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 24.59 (sp-C8), 37.82 (sp-C2), 37.63 and 38.80 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 108.75 (frn-C4), 140.28 (frn-C5). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 307 ([M−H]$^-$, 38.8), 263 (18.82), 235 (46.94), 219 (1 0 0), 141 (75.00). Anal. calcd. for $C_{15}H_{20}N_2O_3S$ (308.39) C: 58.42, H: 6.54, N: 9.08. Found C: 58.52, H: 6.19, N: 9.02.

4.2.9. N-(2,8-dimethyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (3b)

Yield: 17%. mp: 168–169 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3234 (N—H), 1708 (C═O), 1673 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 0.82 (3H, d, ^3J = 6 Hz, sp-8-CH_3), 1.08–1.26 (3H, m, sp-7ax-H, sp-9ax-H and sp-8-H), 1.49 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-2-CH_3), 1.60–1.68 (2H, m, sp-7 eq-H and sp-9 eq-H), 1.73 (1H, d, ^2J = 13 Hz, sp-6 eq-H), 1.76–1.85 (2H, m, sp-10 eq-H and sp-10ax-H), 1.92–1.96 (1H, m, sp-6ax-H), 2.39 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.79 (1H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, SCH), 6.64 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.08 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 8.87 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (DEPT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 12.55 (frn-C2-CH_3), 18.88 (sp-C2-CH_3), 20.79 (sp-C8-CH_3), 30.02 (sp-C8), 30.44 and 30.95 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 36.60 (sp-C2), 36.12 and 37.30 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 107.52 (frn-C4), 139.03 (frn-C5). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 321 ([M−H]$^-$, 14.90), 277 (12.15), 249 (40.83); 233 (1 0 0), 141 (70.46). Anal. calcd. for $C_{16}H_{22}N_2O_3S$ (322.42) C: 59.60, H: 6.88, N: 8.69. Found C: 59.54, H: 6.84, N: 8.55.

4.2.10. N-(8-ethyl-2-methyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxyamide (3c)

Yield: 52%. mp: 160–162 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3227 (N—H), 1705 (C═O), 1678 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 0.78 (3H, t, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-8-CH_2**CH_3**), 0.93–1.03 (1H, m, sp-8-H), 1.03–1.28 (2H, m, sp-7ax-H and sp-9ax-H), 1.15 (2H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-8-CH_2), 1.49 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-2-CH_3), 1.68–1.81 (4H, m, sp-6 eq-H, sp-10ax-H, sp-7 eq-H and sp-9 eq-H), 1.83 (1H, d, ^2J = 13 Hz, sp-10 eq-H), 1.90–1.96 (1H, m, sp-6ax-H), 2.39 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.79 (1H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, SCH), 6.64 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.07 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 8.89 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (APT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 10.43 (sp-C8-CH_2**CH_3**), 12.54 (frn-C2-CH_3), 18.91 (sp-C2-CH_3), 28.10 (sp-C8-CH_2), 28.05 and 28.56 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 36.61 (sp-C2), 36.66 (sp-C8), 36.13 and 37.30 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 71.60 (sp-C5), 107.54 (frn-C4), 111.62 (frn-C3), 139.02 (frn-C5), 158.07 (frn-C2), 162.05 (NHCO), 172.12 (sp-C3). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 335 ([M−H]$^-$, 18.82), 291 (26.80),263 (48.48), 247 (1 0 0), 141 (43.28). Anal. calcd. for $C_{17}H_{24}N_2O_3S$. 0.5 H_2O (345.45) C: 59.10, H: 7.29, N: 8.11. Found C: 59.68; H: 7.17; N: 8.23.

4.2.11. N-(2-methyl-3-oxo-8-propyl-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (3d)

Yield: 40%. mp: 172–174 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3234 (N—H), 1704 (C═O), 1675 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 0.79 and 0.81 (3H, tt, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-8-CH_2CH_2**CH_3**), 1.10 (2H, m, sp-C8-CH2), 1.05–1.27 (3H, m, sp-7ax-H, sp-9-ax-H and sp-8-H), 1.20 (2H, m, sp-8-CH_2CH_2), 1.49 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sp-2-CH_3), 1.66–1.73 (2H, m, sp-7 eq-H and sp-9 eq-H), 1.73–1.81 (2H, m, sp-6 eq-H and sp-10ax-H), 1.83 (1H, d, ^2J = 13 Hz sp-10 eq-H), 1.88–1.97 (1H, m, sp-6ax-H), 2.41 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.79 (1H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, SCH), 6.60 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.10 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 8.56 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (APT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 13.78 (frn-C2-CH3), 14.42 (sp-C8-$CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 20.14 (sp-C2-CH3), 20.20 (sp-C8-CH_2CH_2), 29.66 and 30.16 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 35.82 (sp-C8), 37.84 (sp-C2), 37.39 and 38.55 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 38.92 (sp-C8-CH2), 72.81 (sp-C5), 108.76 (frn-C4), 112.84 (frn-C3), 140.27 (frn-C5), 159.32 (frn-C2), 163.30 (NHCO), 173.33 (sp-C3). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 349 ([M−H]$^-$, 18.32), 305 (14.27), 277 (28.17), 261 (1 0 0), 141 (35.56). Anal. calcd. for $C_{18}H_{26}N_2O_3S$. 0.25 H_2O (354.97) C: 60.90, H: 7.52, N: 7.89. Found C: 60,81, H: 7.40, N: 7.52.

4.2.12. N-(8-tert-buthyl-2-methyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (3e)

Yield: 56%. mp: 226–228 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3319 (N—H), 1715 (C═O), 1671 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 0.77 (9H, s, sp-8-C$(CH_3)_3$), 0.85 (1H, tt, ^3J = 12 Hz, ^3J = 3 Hz, sp-8-H), 1.15–1.32 (2H, m, sp-7ax-H and sp-9ax-H), 1.50 (3H, d, ^3J = 7 Hz, sty-2-CH_3), 1.69–1.77 (2H, m, sp-7 eq-H and sp-9 eq-H), 1.77–1.85 (2H, m, sp-6 eq-H and sp-10ax-H), 1.85–1.98 (2H, m, sp-6ax-H and sp-10 eq-H), 2.42 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.79 (1H, q, ^3J = 7 Hz, SCH), 6.60 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-4-H), 7.10 (1H, d, ^3J = 2 Hz, frn-5-H), 8.55 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (HMBC) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 12.58 (frn-C2-CH_3), 19.00 (sp-C2-CH_3), 22.92 and 23.37 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 26.45 (sp-C8-C$(CH_3)_3$), 31.23 (sp-C8-C), 36.61 (sp-C2), 36.56 and 37.68 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 45.35 (sp-C8), 71.37 (sp-C5), 107.47 (frn-C4), 111.63 (frn-C3), 139.13 (frn-C5), 158.12 (frn-C2), 162.12 (NHCO), 171.98 (sp-C3). ^{13}C NMR (DEPT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 12.57 (frn-C2-CH_3), 19.00 (sp-C2-CH_3), 22.91 and 23.36 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 26.44 (sp-C8-C$(CH_3)_3$), 36.60 (sp-C2), 36.54 and 37.67 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 45.34 (sp-C8), 107.45 (frn-C4), 139.12 (frn-C5). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 363 ([M−H]$^-$, 8.52), 319 (11.26), 291 (48.27), 275 (1 0 0), 141

(33.87). Anal. calcd. for $C_{19}H_{28}N_2O_3S$ (364.50) C: 62.61, H: 7.74, N: 7.69. Found C: 62.76, H: 7.46, N: 7.16.

4.2.13. N-(8-phenyl-2-methyl-3-oxo-1-thia-4-azaspiro[4.5]dec-4-yl)-2-methylfuran-3-carboxamide (3f)

Yield: 60%. mp: 218–220 °C; IR (KBr) υ (cm^{-1}): 3233 (N—H), 1701 (C═O), 1670 (NHC═O). ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$/500 MHz): 1.53 (3H, d, $^3J = 7$ Hz, sp-2-CH_3), 1.65–1.83 (2H, m, sp-7ax-H and sp-9ax-H), 1.85–1.94 (3H, m, sp-6 eq-H, sp-7 eq-H and sp-9 eq-H), 1,94–2,04 (2H, m, sp-10 eq-H and sp-10ax-H), 2.10–2.18 (1H, m, sp-6ax-H), 2.38 (1H, tt, $^3J = 12$ Hz, $^3J = 3$ Hz, sp-8-H), 2.42 (3H, s, frn-2-CH_3), 3.75 (1H, q, $^3J = 7$ Hz, SCH), 6.66 (1H, d, $^3J = 2$ Hz, frn-4-H), 7.08–7.17 (4H, m, phenyl-2-H, phenyl-6-H, phenyl-4-H and frn-5-H), 7.19–7.27 (2H, m, phenyl-3-H and phenyl-5-H), 8.79 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR (DEPT) ($CDCl_3$/125 MHz): 12.59 (frn-C2-CH_3), 18.94 (sp-C2-CH_3), 29.53 and 30.06 (sp-C7 and sp-C9), 36.73 (sp-C2), 36.45 and 37.59 (sp-C6 and sp-C10), 41.45 (sp-C8), 107.53 (frn-C4), 125.32 (phenyl-C4), 125.69 (phenyl-C2 and phenyl-C6), 127.45 (phenyl-C3 ve phenyl-C5), 139.09 (frn-C5). ESI (-) MS *m/z* (%): 383 ([M−H]$^-$, 16.05), 339 (13.70), 311 (38.89), 295 (1 0 0), 141 (28.16). Anal. calcd. for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2O_3S$ (384.49) C: 65.60, H: 6.29, N: 7.29. Found C: 65.39, H: 6.17, N: 8.59.

4.3. Biological methods to assess anti-influenza virus activity

The molecules were evaluated in a cytopathic effect (CPE) reduction assay in influenza virus-infected Madin Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells [19]. As control compounds, zanamivir, ribavirin, amantadine and rimantadine were included. MDCK cells were seeded into 96-well plates at 7,500 cells per well. On the next day, serial compound dilutions were added to the cells, together with influenza virus [multiplicity of infection: fifty 50% cell culture infective doses ($CCID_{50}$) per well]. The mock-infected plate received the same compound dilutions but medium instead of virus. After three days incubation at 35 °C, microscopy was performed to determine antiviral activity, expressed as the concentration producing 50% inhibition of virus-induced CPE (50% effective concentration [EC_{50}]), as well as compound cytotoxicity, expressed as the concentration causing minimal changes in cell morphology (MCC). Next, the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)–2H-tetrazolium (MTS) reagent was added [CellTiter 96 AQueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay from Promega]. After 4 h incubation, absorbance was measured at 490 nm and the spectrophotometric data were used to calculate the EC_{50} and 50% cytotoxic concentration (CC_{50}).

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.

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

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