# Novel Piperidine Derivatives. Synthesis and Anti-Acetylcholinesterase Activity of 1-Benzyl-4-[2-(N-benzoylamino)ethyl]piperidine Derivatives

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A series of 1-benzyl-4-[2-(N-benzoylamino)ethyl]piperidine derivatives was synthesized and evaluated for antiacetylcholinesterase (anti-AChE) activity. Substituting the benzamide with a bulky moiety in the para position led to a substantial increase in activity. Introduction of an alkyl or phenyl group at the nitrogen atom of benzamide dramatically enhanced the activity. The basic quality of the nitrogen atom of piperidine appears to play an important role in the increased activity, since the N-benzoylpiperidine derivative was almost inactive. We found that 1benzyl-4-[2-[N-[4'-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl]-N-methylamino]ethyl]piperidine hydrochloride (21) (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.56 nM) is one of the most potent inhibitors of acetylcholinesterase. Compound 21 showed an affinity 18000 times greater for AChE than for BuChE. At a dose of 3 mg/kg, 21 produced a marked and significant increase in acetylcholine (ACh) content in the cerebral vortex and hippocampus of rats. Compound 21 was chosen for advanced development as an antidementia agent.

In senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type (SDAT), there is a selective loss of choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) from the cerebral cortex. This enzyme catalyzes the synthesis of ACh from choline.<sup>1,2</sup> The degree of dementia and memory impairment that occurs in this condition is well correlated with the decrement in cortical cholinergic transmission.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, scopolamine, a cholinergic antagonist, can cause memory impairment in normal individuals similar to that in aging.<sup>4</sup> These findings suggest that impaired cortical cholinergic transmission may be at least partly responsible for the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Therefore, enhancement of the activity of cholinergic neurons has been regarded as one of the most promising methods for treating these patients. In support of this suggestion, it has been reported that physostigmine and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-9-aminoacridine (tacrine), which potentiate the actions of ACh by inhibiting the degrading enzyme AChE, can bring about memory improvement in Alzheimer's patients.5,6

The purpose of the present study was to find a new type of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitor. Using random screening, we found that 1-benzyl-4-[2-(N-benzoylamino)ethyl]piperidine (**3a**) had anti-AChE activity. We report here the results of our study on the synthesis and the structure-activity relationships of 1-benzyl-4-[2-(Nbenzoylamino)ethyl]piperidine derivatives (Chart I).<sup>7</sup>

# Chemistry

Compound **3m** was synthesized as shown in Scheme I. Compound 1 was reduced by LiAlH<sub>4</sub> to yield amine 2, which underwent acylation to form compounds **3a-r**. Reaction of *p*-bromothiophenol (4) with benzyl bromide yielded *p*-bromophenyl benzyl thioether, which was subjected to the Grignard reaction to yield *p*-(benzylthio)benzoic acid. The acid derivative was subjected to oxidation with  $H_2O_2$  and treated with SOCl<sub>2</sub> followed by a condensation with 4-(2-aminoethyl)-1-benzylpiperidine (2)

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to give 1-benzyl-4-[2-[N-[4'-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl]amino]ethyl]piperidine hydrochloride (**3m**).

Compound 1 was converted to the 1-benzyl-4piperidineacetaldehyde (6) as shown in Scheme II. Phenacyl bromide (7) was converted to diethyl (2-oxo-2phenylethyl)phosphonate (8) by reaction with triethyl phosphite. Condensation of compound 6 with compound 8, followed by catalytic hydrogenation, gave the 4-(1benzylpiperidin-4-yl)butylophenone (9). Condensation of benzaldehyde (10) with compound 2 gave a Schiff base (11), which was subjected to reduction with sodium borohydride to yield compound 12.

N-Substituted benzamide derivatives 13-15 and 20 were synthesized as shown in Scheme III. Compound 3s was allowed to react with alkyl iodides in the presence of sodium hydride to give N-alkylbenzamide derivatives 13 and 14. Reaction of compound 12 with benzoyl chloride led to the formation of N-benzylbenzamide derivative 15. 1-Benzoyl-4-piperidine (16) was converted to N-benzoyl-4-[phenylcarbamoyl)methyl]piperidine (19) in five steps. Compound 19 was reduced with LiAlH<sub>4</sub> followed by a condensation with benzoyl chloride to give compound 20.

Compound 13 underwent catalytic reduction  $(H_2/Pd-C)$  followed by reaction with the appropriate alkyl, aroyl, and aralkyl chloride to afford 4-[2-(*N*-benzoyl-*N*-methyl-amino)ethyl]-1-substituted-piperidine derivatives 25-36 (Scheme IV).

## Structure-Activity Relationships

A new series of piperidine derivatives were tested for biological activity in vitro. A mouse brain homogenate was used as the AChE source and the esterase activity was determined according to the method of Ellman et al.<sup>8</sup>

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#### Novel Piperidine Derivatives

#### Scheme I



#### Scheme II



Scheme III



To study the structure-activity relationships, we divided the parent structure of 3a into four regions: the phenyl group, the amide group, the piperidine ring, and the benzyl group. First, we varied the substituent group at the 2-, 3-, and 4-positions of the phenyl ring of the benzoyl moiety.

The phenyl ring was then replaced by other rings. The effect of the substituent  $R_1$  in 1-benzyl-4-[2-[N-(substituted-acyl)amino]ethyl]piperidine derivatives on the

Table I. 1-Benzyl-4-[2-[N-(substituted-acyl)amino]ethyl]piperidine Derivatives



no.	R	yield %	mp, °C (recrytn solvª)	formula <sup>b</sup>	inhibn of AChE: <sup>c</sup> IC <sub>50</sub> , nM
3a	$\frown$	65	205–206 (A)	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O·HCl	560
3b	CH3	60	128-130 (A)	$C_{22}H_{28}N_2O$	1000 <sup>d</sup>
3c	CH <sub>3</sub>	51	83-84 (B)	$C_{22}H_{28}N_2O$	470 <sup>d</sup>
3d	сн,	82	98–99 (C)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}H_{28}N_{2}O$	180 <sup>d</sup>
3e		70	152-154 (A)	$C_{21}H_{25}N_3O_3 \cdot C_4H_4O_4{}^e$	880
3f	NO <sub>2</sub>	61	148-149 (C)	$\mathrm{C}_{21}\mathrm{H}_{25}\mathrm{N}_{3}\mathrm{O}_{3}\text{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	230
3g		85	114-115 (B)	${\rm C}_{21}{\rm H}_{25}{\rm N}_{3}{\rm O}_{3}$	55 <sup>4</sup>
3h	снао-	53	168-169 (A)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}H_{28}N_2O_2\text{\cdot}HCl$	88
3i	сно-	65	176–177 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}\mathrm{H}_{26}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}_{2}\text{+}\mathrm{HCl}$	120
3j	ci	51	196-198 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{21}H_{25}N_{2}OCl{\cdot}HCl$	180
3k	F-	55	145-147 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{21}H_{25}N_{2}OF{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}HCl$	85
31	снасо	64	186-188 (A)	$\mathrm{C}_{23}\mathrm{H}_{28}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}_{2}\text{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	51
3m	~	49	187-188 (D)	$\mathrm{C}_{28}\mathrm{H}_{32}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}_{3}\mathrm{S}{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	29
3n		60	191-192 (C)	$\mathrm{C_{20}H_{25}N_{3}O\text{-}2HCl}$	800
30	N=>	41	126-128 (C)	$\mathrm{C}_{20}\mathrm{H}_{25}\mathrm{N}_{3}\mathrm{O}{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}2\mathrm{H}\mathrm{Cl}$	69
3р		70	155-156 (C)	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O·C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>e</sup>	39
3q		41	119-121 (B)	$\mathrm{C_{20}H_{25}N_{3}O_{2}\text{-}HCl}$	155
3r	(H)	57	188-190 (C)	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>32</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O·C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>e</sup>	1600

 $^{\circ}A = EtOH-Et_2O$ , B = EtOH-IPE, C = MeOH-AlOEt, D = washed with acetone.  $^{\circ}All$  compounds were analyzed within ±0.4% of the theoretical value for C, H, and N.  $^{\circ}$ The inhibitory activities of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) were shown by IC<sub>50</sub>.  $^{d}$ The value of the hydrochloride.  $^{\circ}$ Fumarate.

Scheme IV



anti-AChE activity is shown in Table I. Substitution at the para position of the phenyl ring of R (3d,g) produced

higher activity than substitution at the ortho and meta positions (Table I). When R was replaced by a cyclic alkyl group (3r), the activity of anti-AChE was decreased. The bulky and lipophilic moiety at the para position in the phenyl ring of R (31,m) enhanced the inhibitory effect on AChE. The benzylsulfonyl moiety at the para position in the phenyl group of benzamide 21-23 brought about dramatic enhancement of activity (Table II).

For the amide moiety, when the CONH group was replaced by a  $COCH_2$  group (9) there was no change in the activity, but when a  $CH_2NH$  group (12) was used the activity nearly disappeared. Introduction of a lower alkyl group (13 and 14) and a phenyl group (20) on the nitrogen

Table II. 1-Benzyl-4-[2-[N-(4'-substituted-benzoyl)-N-substituted-amino]ethyl]piperidine Derivatives



no.	X	Y	% yield	mp, °C (recrystn solvª)	formula <sup>b</sup>	inhibn of AChE:° IC <sub>50</sub> , nM
9 12	H H	-COCH2- -CH2NH-	66 58	149-150 (B) 273-276 (A)	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>27</sub> NO·HCl C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> ·HCl	530 46000
13	н		67	183–184 (A)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}\mathrm{H}_{28}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}\mathrm{HCl}$	170
14	Н	CON   C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	73	223~224 (B)	$\mathrm{C_{23}H_{30}N_{2}O\text{-}HCl}$	130
15	Н	CON	86	185–187 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{28}\mathrm{H}_{32}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	940
20	Н	— CON — 1 C <sub>6</sub> H₅	98	100–103 (C)	$C_{27}H_{30}N_2O \cdot C_4H_4O_4{}^d$	35
21	СН2502-	CON   CH3	78	200–201 (D)	$\mathrm{C}_{29}\mathrm{H}_{34}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}_{3}\mathrm{S}{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	0.6
22	CH2SO2 -	CON	84	106-108 (F)	${ m C}_{30}{ m H}_{36}{ m N}_2{ m O}_3{ m S}$	0.3 <sup>e</sup>
23	CH2SO2-	CON I C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	98	211-213 (C)	$\mathrm{C}_{33}\mathrm{H}_{34}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}_{3}\mathrm{S}{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	0.6

<sup>a</sup>A = EtOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O, B = EtOH-IPE, C = MeOH-AcOEt, D = EtOH, E = washed with acetone, F = washed with IPE. <sup>b</sup>All compounds were analyzed within  $\pm 0.4\%$  of the theoretical values for C, H, and N. <sup>c</sup>The inhibitory activities of AChE were shown by IC<sub>50</sub>. <sup>d</sup>Fumarate. <sup>e</sup>The value of the hydrochloride.

atom of amide increased anti-AChE activity, whereas introduction of a benzyl group (15) decreased anti-AChE activity.

The basicity of the nitrogen atom of the piperidine group appears to have an important role in the degree of activity, since N-benzoylpiperidine analogue 33 was almost inactive. The effects on activity of introduction of substituents on the phenyl ring of N-benzylpiperidine are shown in Table III. Substitution at the ortho or para position of the phenyl ring caused a remarkable decrease in the activity of 25, 27, 28, and 30, but substitution at the meta position of the phenyl ring does not cause a decrease in the activity of 26 and 29. When the distance between the nitrogen atom of piperidine group and the phenyl group of the benzyl moiety became greater than that of 13, activity was lost dramatically (31 and 32). Replacement of R with hydrogen (24), cyclopropylmethyl (34), and adamantylmethyl caused a great reduction in potency, but replacement with cyclohexylmethyl caused retention of anti-AChE activity.

1-Benzyl-4-[2-[N-(4'-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl]-Nmethylamino]ethyl]piperidine hydrochloride (21) (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.56 nM) is one of the most potent inhibitors of AChE in this series.

## **Biological Results**

Compound 21 was the most potent inhibitor of AChE and showed a definite preference for AChE over the BuChE (about 18000-fold). On the other hand, physostigmine showed a preference for AChE over BuChE (11.7-fold). Tacrine showed a less selective inhibitory effect on AChE (Table IV). Compound 21 showed a greater affinity for AChE than either physostigmine or tacrine. It can therefore be expected that 21 may show a desirable effect in clinical studies of its use for SDAT, because AChE is distributed in the brain, which is the target organ. The inhibitory effect of physostigmine on AChE was measured with and without preincubation. The  $IC_{50}$  of physostigmine was 0.69 nM with preincubation and 340 nM without preincubation. The reason for this phenomenon may depend on carbamylation of the enzyme.<sup>9</sup>

Compound 21 inhibited AChE reversibly in vitro in a concentration-dependent manner. After dialysis, the inhibition almost disappeared. This result indicates that the inhibition of AChE by this compounds is reversible and is the same as those of tacrine and physostigmine (Table V).<sup>10-12</sup>

The results of ex vivo inhibitory effects on AChE in rat brain are shown in Figure 1. In rats, 21 at a dose of 1.0-3.0mg/kg exerted a dose-dependent inhibitory effect on AChE in the cortex and hippocampus, both of which are reported to be involved in memory. Physostigmine at a dose of 0.3-1.0 mg/kg had a significant inhibitory effect in rat brain. This difference might be explained by the lower penetrating ability of 21 than that of physostigmine (unpublished data).

As we shown in Figure 2, physostigmine at a dose of 0.3-1.0 mg/kg increased the ACh content of rat brain. At a higher dose of 3.0 mg/kg, 21 produced a marked and significant increase in the rat cerebral cortex and hippocampus. These data reflect the result of ex vivo inhibitory effects on AChE in rat brain.

On the basis of these biological studies, it is concluded that 21 has a highly selective and very pronounced inhibitory effect on AChE, and that the parent structure of

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 $\label{eq:table_state} \textbf{Table III. 1-Substituted-4-[2-(N-benzoyl-N-methylamino)ethyl]piperidine Derivatives}$ 



 no.	R <sub>3</sub>	% yield	mp, °C (recryst solv²)	formula <sup>6</sup>	inhibn of AChE: <sup>c</sup> IC <sub>50</sub> , nM
25	-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub>	62	216–218 (D)	$\mathrm{C}_{23}\mathrm{H}_{30}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	770
26	- CH <sub>2</sub> - CH <sub>3</sub>	45	226–227 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{23}\mathrm{H}_{30}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}\mathrm{HCl}$	145
27	-CH2 -CH3	53	181-182 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{23}\mathrm{H}_{30}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}\mathrm{HCl}$	41 000
28		65	176-177 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}\mathrm{H}_{27}\mathrm{N}_{3}\mathrm{O}_{3}\text{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	14 000
29	-CH2 -CH2	44	216-217 (B)	$C_{22}H_{27}N_3O_3$ ·HCl	370
30	-CH2-NO2	84	214-215 (B)	$\mathrm{C}_{22}\mathrm{H}_{27}\mathrm{N}_{3}\mathrm{O}_{3}\text{\cdot}\mathrm{HCl}$	3 300
31	-CH2CH2	47	197–198 (A)	$\mathrm{C}_{23}\mathrm{H}_{30}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{O}{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}\mathrm{HCl}$	13 000
32	-сн₂сн=сн-	48	150–151 (C)	$\mathrm{C}_{24}H_{30}N_{2}O{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}HCl$	54 000
33	-co-	88	oil	$\mathrm{C}_{22}H_{26}N_2O_2$	52 000
24		86	169 (C)	$C_{15}H_{22}N_2O\cdot C_4H_4O_4^d$	26 000
34	-сн <sub>2</sub> -	47	101-102 (A)	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O·HCl	38 000
35	CH2	50	166-168 (D)	C₂₂H₃₄N₂O·HCl	410
36	-CH <sup>5</sup>	47	223–224 (C)	$\mathrm{C_{26}H_{38}N_2O{\boldsymbol{\cdot}HCl}}$	24 000

<sup>a</sup>A = EtOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O, B = EtOH-IPE, C = MeOH-AcOEt, D = AcOEt-IPE. <sup>b</sup>All compounds were analyzed within  $\pm 0.4\%$  of the theoretical values for C, H, and N. <sup>c</sup>The inhibitory activities were shown by IC<sub>50</sub>. <sup>d</sup>Fumarate.

 Table IV.
 Inhibitory Effect of 21 and Reference Compounds on

 AChE and BuChE Activity (in Vitro)

	IC <sub>5</sub>		
compound	AChE activity	BuChE activity	ratio of IC <sub>50</sub> (BuChE/AChE)
21	0.56	10100	18000
	(0.42 - 0.71)	(8196–11971)	
physostigmine	0.69	8.1	11.7
• • •	(0.63 - 0.74)	(7.8 - 8.4)	
tacrine	81	73	0.9
	(72.6 - 88.6)	(72.1 - 73.9)	

<sup>a</sup> AChE source was rat brain homogenate; BuChE source was rat serum. N = 4. Numbers in a parentheses represent a range of 95% confidence limits.

Table V. Reversibility of AChE Inhibition by 21

	before	e dialysis	after dialysis	
sample	AChE activity <sup>a</sup>	percentage of control	AChE activity <sup>a</sup>	percentage of control
control	16.37	100	17.9	100
21 (0.27 µM)	9.10	56	17.7	99
21 (0.91 µM)	5.42	33	17.8	99
21 (91 nM)	2.59	16	16.5	92

<sup>a</sup> Activity of AChE is expressed as  $\Delta A_{412} \min \times 10^2$ .

21 is a leading new candidate for treatment of SDAT.

#### **Experimental Section**

All melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto micromelting apparatus, unless otherwise specified, and are uncorrected. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were taken with a JEOL FX-90Q spectrometer using Me<sub>4</sub>Si as an internal standard. Elemental analyses are indicated only by the symbols of the elements; analytical results were within 0.4% of the theoretical values.

4-(2-Aminoethyl)-1-benzylpiperidine (2). To a suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (49.4 g, 1.30 mol) in THF (2000 mL) was added 1-(2-cyanoethyl)-4-benzylpiperidine (1, 232.2 g, 1.08 mol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water and the resulting slurry was filtered off. The filtrate was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed to give 215.5 g (91.1%) of 2: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.30–1.95 (m, 11 H, piperidine), 2.76 (m, 4 H, NH<sub>2</sub>, piperidine), 3.45 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.15 (s, 5 H, aromatics).

1-Benzyl-4-[2-(N-benzoylamino)ethyl]piperidine Hydrochloride (3a). To a mixture of 2 (5.50 g, 25.0 mmol) in 10% potassium carbonate aqueous (35 mL) and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (35 mL) was added dropwise a solution of benzoyl chloride (3.90 g, 27.5 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> at 0 °C. After stirring for 30 min, the CHCl<sub>3</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over  $K_2CO_3$ , and evaporated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH, 100:1) to give 8.20 g of free base (3a). This was treated with EtOAc-HCl, and the resulting crystals were re-



Figure 1. Effect of 21 and physostigmine on rat brain AChE (ex vivo). The compounds were administered intraperitoneally at two doses 1 h before decapitation. Ordinate indicates AChE activity ( $\Delta A_{412} \min^{-1} g^{-1}$ ). Each column represents the mean  $\pm$  SEM for six determinations. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01.



Figure 2. Effect of 21 and physostigmine on AChE content in rat brain. The compounds were administered intraperitoneally at two doses 1 h before microwave irradiation. Ordinate indicates ACh content (nmol/g). Each column represents the mean  $\pm$  SEM for six determinations. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01.

crystallized from EtOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O to give 5.80 g (65.1%) of 3a, mp 205-206 °C. Anal. ( $C_{21}H_{26}N_6O$ ·HCl) C, H, N.

**p**-(Benzylthio)benzoic Acid (5). To a suspension of pbromothiophenol (4, 100 g, 528 mmol) and sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 25.4 g, 634 mmol) in DMF was added benzyl bromide (90.5 g, 528 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 50-60 °C. Water was added to the reaction mixture and it was then extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The CHCl<sub>3</sub> layer was washed with water and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The resultant solid residue was washed with hexane to give 98.3 g (66.7%) of p-bromophenyl benzyl thioether: mp 63-64 °C;<sup>13</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.04 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.24 (m, 9 H, aromatics). Anal. (C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrS) C, H.

To a mixture of Mg (6.60 g, 270 mmol) and ethylene dibromide (0.50 g) in THF (100 mL) was added dropwise a solution of p-bromophenyl benzyl thioether (62.5 g, 220 mmol) in THF (150

mL). After the mixture was refluxed for 1 h, dry CO<sub>2</sub> gas was passed through the mixture for 3 h. To the mixture was added 1 N HCl and it was extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to give crude *p*-(benzylthio)benzoic acid (5). The crude compound was recrystallized from MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O to give 30.5 g (55.0%) of 5: mp 187-189 °C dec;<sup>14</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  4.32 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.34 (m, 7 H, aromatics), 7.80 (d, 2 H, aromatics). Anal. (C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>OS) C, H.

1-Benzyl-4-[2-[N-[4'-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl]amino]ethyl]piperidine Hydrochloride (3m). To a solution of 5 (29.5 g, 120 mmol) in AcOH (400 mL) was added dropwise 33% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (40 mL) at 60 °C. After stirring for 90 min at 70 °C, the reaction mixture was poured into ice water (300 mL). The precipitate was collected and washed with water to give 28.9 g (87.0%) of *p*-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoic acid: mp 270-273 °C dec; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  4.72 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.24 (m, 5 H, aromatics), 7.94 (dd, 4 H, aromatics). Anal. (C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S) C, H.

A mixture of p-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoic acid (13.8 g, 50.0 mmol) and thionyl chloride (100 mL) was heated under reflux for 2 h. The excess thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with n-hexane to give 12.8 g (87.0%) of p-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl chloride.

A mixture of p-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl chloride (4.10 g, 14.0 mmol), 2 (3.00 g, 14.0 mmol), and triethylamine (2.80 g, 28.0 mmol) in THF (150 mL) was stirred under reflux for 40 min. The solvent was removed and the residue was placed in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The CHCl<sub>3</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to give the crude product. It was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH 100:1) to give the free base, which was converted to the hydrochloride with HCl-EtOAc and washed with acetone to give 3.55 g (49.4%) of **3m**: mp 186.5-187.5 °C. Anal. (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S·HCl) C, H, N.

1-Benzyl-4-(4-oxo-4-phenylbutyl)piperidine Hydrochloride (9). To a solution of 1 (2.00 g, 9.00 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added DIBAL (9.33 mL) at 0 °C. This mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. To the mixture was added MeOH (1.5 mL), water (1.5 mL), and 20%  $H_2SO_4$  (20 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, the mixture was made alkaline with saturated aqueous NaOH and extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The EtOAc layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to give crude 2-(1-benzylpiperidin-4-yl)acetoaldehyde (6) as a pink oil. This crude compound was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 20:1) to give 1.44 g (71.0%) of 6: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.15-2.15 (m, 7 H, piperidine), 2.43 (dd, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.84 (d, 2 H, piperidine), 3.46 (s, 2 H, benzyl), 7.21 (s, 5 H, aromatics), 9.63 (s, 1 H, CHO).

To triethyl phosphate (5.84 g, 35.0 mmol) was slowly added dropwise a solutio of phenacyl bromide (7, 5.00 g, 25.0 mmol) in ether (30 mL) at 10 °C for 30 min and evaporated to remove the solvent. The residue was placed in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and the  $CH_2Cl_2$  layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane-EtOAc 2:1) to give 4.05 g (63.0%) of diethyl (2-oxo-2phenylethyl)phosphonate (8). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum was in agreement with the reported data.<sup>15</sup>

To a suspension of NaOH (0.23 g, 5.80 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added a solution of 8 (1.47 g, 5.70 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 30 min, a solution of 6 (0.87 g, 4.00 mmol) in DMF (7 mL) was added to the mixture at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and was then poured into water (2 mL) and evaporated to remove the solvent. The residue was placed in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (100:1) to give 0.50 g (39.9%) of 1-benzyl-4-(4-oxo-4-phenyl-2-but-(*E*)-enyl)piperidine: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.10–2.13 (m, 7 H, piperidine), 2.26 (t, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.88 (b d, 2 H, piperidine), 3.48 (s, 2 H, benzyl), 6.72–7.07 (m, 2 H, CH=CH), 7.30 (s, 5 H, aromatics), 7.10–8.00 (m, 5 H, aromatics).

A solution of 1-benyzl-4-[4-oxo-4-phenyl-2-but-(E)-enyl]piperidine (0.30 g, 0.94 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was hydrogenated over 5% rhodium on carbon (0.10 g) at 1 atm for 4 h. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give the crude product. It was purified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with hexane-EtOAc (10:1) to give 0.20 g (66.0%) of free base. This was treated with HCl-EtOH, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from MeOH-isopropyl ether to give 0.22 g (65.0%) of 9: mp 149-150 °C. Anal. (C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO·HCl) C, H, N.

1-Benzyl-4-[2-(N-benzylamino)ethyl]piperidine Dihydrochloride (12). A solution of benzyaldehyde (1.06 g, 10.0 mmol) and 2 (2.18 g, 10.0 mmol) in benzene was stirred under reflux for 2 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in MeOH, and NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.76 g, 20.0 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was placed in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to give crude product. It was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give free base. This was converted to the hydrochloride with HCl-EtOAc, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from EtOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O to give 1.60 g (46.4%) of 12, mp 273-276 °C dec. Anal. ( $C_{21}H_{28}N_2$ ·2HCl) C, H, N.

1-Ben zyl-4-[2-(N-ben zoyl-N-ben zylamino)ethyl]piperidine Hydrochloride (15). To a suspension of 12 (0.40 g, 1.00 mmol) in pyridine (10 mL) was added benzoyl chloride (0.15 g, 1.00 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and was then evaporated to remove the solvent. The residue was placed in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 50:1) to give 0.42 g of free base. It was converted to the hydrochloride with HCl-EtOAc, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from MeOH-isopropyl ether to give 0.40 g (86.0%) of 15, mp 185-187 °C. Anal. (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O·HCl) C, H, N.

1-Ben zyl-4-[2-(N-ben zoyl-N-phenylamino)ethyl]piperidine Fumarate (20). To a solution of 1-benzoyl-4piperidone (16, 9.40 g, 49.7 mmol) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (11.2 g, 49.9 mmol) in EtOH (150 mL) was added EtONa (4.15 g, 61.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After the mixture was stirred for 1 h, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was pufified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with benzene-EtOAc (5:2) to give 12.7 g (98.0%) of 1-benzoyl-4-[(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]piperidine (17): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.25 (t, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.2-2.6 (m, 6 H, piperidine), 2.96 (m, 2 H, piperidine), 3.50 (s, 2 H, benzyl), 4.12 (q, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.62 (s, 1 H, CH), 7.28 (s, 5 H, aromatics).

A solution of 17 (12.7 g, 49.0 mmol) in EtOH (50 mL) was hydrogenated over 10% palladium on carbon (1.5 g) at 1 atm for 30 min. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give 12.0 g (93.7%) of the ethyl ester derivative.

A solution of 12.0 g of ethyl ester derivative in NaOH-EtOH- $H_2O$  (1 g:80 mL:50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 7 h. The reaction mixture was made acidic (pH 3-4) with concentrated HCl, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to give 4.70 g of (1-benzoylpiperidin-4-yl)acetic acid (18).

After a solution of 18 (4.70 g, 20.0 mmol) and thionyl chloride (8 mL) in benzene (30 mL) was refluxed, the solution was evaporated. To the residue was added THF (20 mL), and to the mixture was added a solution of aniline (1.86 g, 20.0 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ .

The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (10:1) to give 5.80 g (93.0%) of (1-benzoylpiperidine-4-yl)acetanilide (19): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.1-2.2 (m, 9 H, piperidine), 2.8 (d, 2 H, piperidine), 3.96 (s, 2 H, benzyl), 6.8-7.6 (m, 11 H, aromatics).

A mixture of 19 (0.90 g, 2.90 mmol) and LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.38 g, 10.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. Water was added to the mixture and it was extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc layer was washed with water, dried over  $MgSO_4$ , and evaporated. To a solution of the residue (0.55 g) obtained above and triethylamine (1.20 g) in THF (15 mL) was added benzoyl chloride (0.54 g) dropwise at 0 °C. After the mixture was stirred for 2.5 h, the resulting mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over  $MgSO_4$ , and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ -MeOH (10:1) to give 0.48 g of free base. It was treated with fumaric acid-EtOH, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from MeOH-EtOAc to give 0.49 g (32.9%) of 20: mp 100-103 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.1-2.2 (m, 9 H, piperidine), 2.7-3.0 (m, 2 H, piperidine), 3.48 (s, 2 H, benzyl), 3.89 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.8-7.4 (m, 15 H, aromatics). Anal. (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O·C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) C, H, N

1-Benzyl-4-[2-[N-[4'-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl]-Nmethylamino]ethyl]piperidine Hydrochloride (21). To a suspension of NaOH (0.37 g, 9.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was added a solution of the free base of 3m (1.38 g, 3.10 mmol) in DMF (8 mL). After 20 min, CH<sub>3</sub>I (1.30 g, 9.30 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight.

<sup>(15)</sup> Mathey, F.; Savignac, Ph. Tetrahedron 1978, 34, 649.

EtOH at 0 °C was added to the mixture and it evaporated to remove the solvent. To the residue was added  $CH_2Cl_2$  (100 mL); the  $CH_2Cl_2$  layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography ( $CH_2Cl_2$ -MeOH 40:1) to give the free base. It was treated with HCl-EtOAc, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from EtOH to give 1.19 g (72.8%) of 21, mp 200-201 °C. Anal. ( $C_{29}H_{34}N_2O_3S$ ·HCl) C, H, N.

1-Cinnamyl-4-[2-(N-benzoyl-N-methylamino)ethyl]piperidine Hydrochloride (32). A solution of 13 (3.00 g, 8.90 mmol) in MeOH (100 mL) was hydrogenated over 10% palladium on carbon (0.2 g) at 1 atm overnight. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give 2.20 g of 4-[2-(N-benzoyl-N-methylamino)ethyl]piperidine (24). A mixture of 24 (2.00 g, 8.13 mmol), NaHCO3 (0.70 g, 8.33 mmol), and cinnamyl bromide (1.60 g, 8.13 mmol) in EtOH (50 mL) was stirred under reflux for 3 h. After the solvent was evaporated, water was added to the residue and it was extracted with CH2Cl2. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was washed with water, dried over K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 50:1) to give 0.70 g (24.1%) of the free base. It was converted to the hydrochloride with HCl-EtOAc, and the resulting crystals were recrystallized from EtOH-EtOAc to give 0.65 (20.0%) of 32, mp 150-151 °C. Anal. (C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O·HCl) C, H, N.

Materials and Methods. Determination of Cholinergic Parameters. Acetylcholinesterase Activity in in Vivo Studies. The inhibitory effects of 21 on AChE and BuChE were compared with those of physostigmine and tacrine in in vivo experiments. A mouse brain homogenate was used as the AChE souce and the esterase activity was determined according to the method of Ellman et al.<sup>8</sup> Briefly, acetylcholine iodide (0.5 mM) as a substrate, a test compound, and 3,4-dinitrobenzene were added to the mouse brain homogenate, and the mixture was incubated for 2 min at 25 °C. The amount of a yellow substance formed after incubation was determined at 412 nm, with a spectrophotometer, for the AChE activity.

**Reversibility of AChE Inhibition.** Reversibility of AChE inhibition by 21 was determined in in vitro experiments. One hundred microliters of 21 (at an appropriate concentration) and 1 mL of mouse brain homogenate were packed into a seamless cellulose tube and dialyzed at 4 °C for 44 h in a phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.4). The AChE in the tube was assayed in triplicate before and after dialysis.

AChE Activity in ex Vivo Experiments and ACh Content in Rat Brain. Male Sprague–Dawley rats weighing 250–380 g were used. Physostigmine and 21 dissolved in distilled water were administered intraperitoneally. Control animals were given physiological saline. Rats were killed by decapitation 1 h after drug treatment for determination of AChE activity by focused microwave irradiation (9 kW, 1.0 s) for determination of ACh content. The brain was removed and some regions (cerebral cortex, hippocampus, and striatum) were dissected out and immersed in liquid nitrogen immediately after sacrifice and then were prepared for the experiments. The AChE activity in the tissues was determined by the method of Ellman et al.<sup>8</sup> at 25 °C for 2 min with 0.5 mM of acetylcholine iodide as the substrate. The regional ACh content was determined by high-performance liquid chromatography with electrochemical detection, according to a modification of Asano's method.<sup>16</sup>

Registry No. 1, 126848-77-9; 2, 86945-25-7; 3a, 113027-39-7; 3a free base, 126848-78-0; 3b, 126848-79-1; 3b free base, 126848-80-4; 3c, 126848-81-5; 3c free base, 126848-82-6; 3d, 113027-87-5; 3d free base, 126848-83-7; 3e, 126848-85-9; 3e free base, 126848-84-8; 3f, 126848-86-0; 3f free base, 126848-87-1; 3g, 126848-88-2; 3g free base, 113027-40-0; 3h, 113027-85-3; 3h free base, 126848-89-3; 3i, 126848-90-6; 3i free base, 113027-51-3; 3j, 126848-91-7; 3j free base, 113027-44-4; 3k, 113027-94-4; 3k free base, 126848-92-8; 31, 113027-86-4; 31 free base, 126848-93-9; 3m, 113045-22-0; 3m free base, 126848-94-0; 3n, 126848-95-1; 3n free base, 126848-96-2; 30, 126848-97-3; 30 free base, 113027-62-6; 3p, 126848-99-5; 3p free base, 126848-98-4; 3q, 113045-52-6; 3q free base, 126849-00-1; 3r, 126849-02-3; 3r free base, 126849-01-2; 4, 106-53-6; 5, 22855-95-4; 6, 120014-32-6; 7, 70-11-1; 8, 3453-00-7; 9, 120012-07-9; 9 free base, 126849-03-4; 10, 100-52-7; 12. 126849-04-5; 12 free base, 126849-05-6; 13, 113045-46-8; 13 free base, 126849-06-7; 14, 126849-07-8; 14 free base, 126849-08-9; 15, 120012-96-6; 15 free base, 126849-09-0; 16, 24686-78-0; 17, 21363-69-9; 18, 56772-11-3; 19, 120014-22-4; 20, 126849-11-4; 20 free base, 126849-10-3; 21, 113045-24-2; 21 free base, 126849-12-5; 22, 113027-97-7; 22 free base, 126849-13-6; 23, 126849-14-7; 23 free base, 126849-15-8; 24, 126849-16-9; 24 free base, 120014-28-0; 25, 120012-78-4; 25 free base, 126849-17-0; 26, 126849-18-1; 26 free base, 120013-05-0; 27, 120013-04-9; 27 free base, 126849 19-2; 28, 126849-20-5; 28 free base, 120013-06-1; 29, 120013-07-2; 29 free base, 126849-21-6; 30, 120013-01-6; 30 free base, 126849-22-7; 31, 120012-84-2; 31 free base, 126849-23-8; 32, 120012-82-0; 32 free base, 126874-75-7; 33, 126874-76-8; 33 free base, 120013-00-5; 34, 120013-15-2; 34 free base, 126849-24-9; 35, 120011-92-9; 35 free base, 126849-25-0; 36, 120011-91-8; 36 free base, 126849-26-1; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br, 100-39-0; o-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 933-88-0; m-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 1711-06-4; p-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 874-60-2; o-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 610-14-0; m-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 121-90-4; p-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 122-04-3; p-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 100-07-2; p-OHCC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>COCl, 16173-52-7; p-ClC6H4COCl, 122-01-0; p-FC6H4COCl, 403-43-0; p-AcC6H4COCl, 31076-84-3; (EtO)<sub>2</sub>P(O)CH<sub>2</sub>ČOOEt, 867-13-0; o-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br, 89-92-9; m-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br, 620-13-3; p-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br, 104-81-4; o-O2NC6H4CH2Br, 3958-60-9; m-O2NC6H4CH2Br, 3958-57-4; p-O2NC6H4CH2Br, 100-11-8; Ph(CH2)2Br, 103-63-9; PhCH= CHCH2Br, 4392-24-9; AdCH2Br, 14651-42-4; benzoyl chloride, 98-88-4; 2-pyridinecarbonyl chloride, 29745-44-6; 3-pyridinecarbonyl chloride, 10400-19-8; 4-pyridinecarbonyl chloride, 14254-57-0; N-oxido-4-pyridinecarbonyl chloride, 39178-36-4; cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride, 2719-27-9; p-bromophenyl benzyl thioether, 53136-21-3; p-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoic acid, 70793-11-2; p-(benzylsulfonyl)benzoyl chloride, 113028-06-1; 1-benzyl-4-[4oxo-4-phenyl-2-but-(E)-enyl)piperidine, 126849-27-2; 1-benzoyl-4-[(ethoxycarbonyl)methyl]piperidine, 54108-67-7; (bromomethyl)cyclopropane, 7051-34-5; (bromomethyl)cyclohexane, 2550-36-9.

 <sup>(16)</sup> Asano, M.; Miyauchi, T.; Kato, T.; Fujimori, K.; Yamamoto, K. J. Liq. Chromatog. 1986, 9 (1), 199.