

creasing the temperature to about 225° and then completing the fusion with a free flame as previously described.<sup>10</sup> The test-tube was cooled to room temperature, 2.25 mmoles of copper chelated *l*-ornithine in a volume of 3.5 cc. was added without attempted isolation of KCNO from the excess K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and the mixture kept at 37° for 5 days. Citrulline-C<sup>14</sup> was isolated as described above. Yield was 179 mg. (51% based on urea) with m.p. 218–219° dec. Yields of free citrulline as high as 60% based on urea have been obtained. When this synthesis was carried out by heating at 100° for 20 minutes, the yield was usually 10–15% less than that obtained at 37°. The longer reaction period was therefore routinely used for isotopic synthesis.

**Synthesis of 1-Homocitrulline-HCl ( $\epsilon$ -Carbamyllysine).**—The free form of this compound was prepared by Kurtz using the urea fusion method.<sup>8</sup> 365 mg. (2.0 mmoles) of *l*(+)-lysine hydrochloride was chelated with cupric carbonate as described above. Potassium cyanate (178 mg., 2.2 mmoles) was added to the solution in a final volume of 5 cc. and reacted at 37° for 4 days. The crude Cu-homocitrulline was dissolved in 2 cc. of 4 *N* HCl, diluted with 6 cc. of water and treated with H<sub>2</sub>S for 10 minutes. The hydrochloride was crystallized from the filtrate by evaporation to dryness and the gradual addition of ethanol-ether with scratching. Yield was 330 mg. (73% based on lysine); m.p. 177–178° dec. (uncor.). Calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Cl: C, 37.25; N, 18.58; Cl, 15.75. Found: C, 37.50; N, 17.87; Cl, 15.31. Paper chromatography with phenol-water (80:20) revealed a single ninhydrin spot with a *R*<sub>f</sub> of 0.73. In contrast to citrulline and *l*- $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid the hydrochloride of homocitrulline is easily isolated and is much more conveniently recrystallized than the fluffy, amorphous free form.

C<sup>14</sup> 1-Homocitrulline was synthesized as described for C<sup>14</sup> citrulline, with isolation as the hydrochloride, on a 1 mM. scale with a yield of 60% based on urea.

**Synthesis of *l*- $\alpha$ -Amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric Acid.**<sup>8</sup>—Seven hundred and sixty-four mg. (4 mmoles) of  $\alpha$ , $\gamma$ -diaminobutyric acid dihydrochloride<sup>11</sup> after chelating with cupric carbonate, reacted with 356 mg. (4.4 mmoles) of potassium cyanate and was converted to the free form as described for citrulline. Yield was 245 mg. (38% based on  $\alpha$ , $\gamma$ -diaminobutyric acid); m.p. 207–208° dec. Since Kurtz reported the m.p. as 225°, an analysis was performed. Calcd. for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 37.30; N, 26.15. Found: C, 37.43; N, 26.18. Paper chromatography with phenol-water (80:20) revealed a single ninhydrin spot with an *R*<sub>f</sub> of 0.58.

C<sup>14</sup> 1- $\alpha$ -Amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid was synthesized on a 1 mM. scale as described for C<sup>14</sup>-citrulline with a 26% yield based on urea.

**Enzyme Studies.**—Isolated mitochondria from 2 rat livers were frozen in 16 cc. of distilled water and lyophilized. The dried powder (40 mg./cc.) was extracted with 0.02 molar glycylglycine at pH 8.0, 0°, and then centrifuged for 15 minutes at 15,000 *g*, -5°. The supernatant was used immediately for either citrullinase or compound X/carbamyl phosphate studies and contained about 1.0 to 2.0 mg. N/cc. The reactions were carried out for 20 minutes, 37°, with constant shaking in closed Warburg type flasks containing 0.6 cc. of 6 *N* KOH in the center well. One hundred  $\mu$ moles of carrier NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was then added to each flask and the reaction was stopped by the addition of 0.5 cc. of 12 *N* H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> from the side-arm. Center well bicarbonate, collected by an additional 30 min. of shaking, was precipitated as BaCO<sub>3</sub>, washed repeatedly and filtered to form infinitely thick planchettes. The planchettes were counted with an end window counter having an efficiency of approximately 5%. An experimentally determined conversion factor was used to calculate citrulline degradation in  $\mu$ M. Details of these procedures will be published elsewhere.<sup>7</sup>

(a) **Citrullinase.**—Citrullinase activity was measured by arsenolysis of citrulline at pH 6.7.<sup>6,7</sup> Each flask contained 250  $\mu$  moles of sodium arsenate buffer, 1.0 cc. of mitochondrial extract and 5  $\mu$ moles of C<sup>14</sup>-1(+)-citrulline (0.05  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$ mole), or 5  $\mu$ moles of C<sup>14</sup>-1-homocitrulline (0.2  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$  mole), or 5  $\mu$  mole of C<sup>14</sup>-1- $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid (0.2  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$ mole) in a final volume of 3.0 cc. For inhibition studies varying amounts of non-isotopic *l*(+)-ornithine, 1-homocitrulline or 1- $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid were added to flasks containing 5  $\mu$ moles of isotopic citrulline.

(11) D. W. Adamson, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1564 (1939).

(b) **Compound X<sup>12</sup> and Carbamyl Phosphate<sup>13</sup> Formation.**—It has been demonstrated that the carbamyl group of citrulline is transferred to aspartate *via* compound X and carbamyl phosphate to form ureidosuccinate.<sup>7</sup> This reaction is dependent on the presence of ATP, Mg<sup>++</sup> and acetylglutamate (or carbamylglutamate) and has a pH optimum of 8.0. In the absence of aspartate the reaction can be followed by the production of "acid labile CO<sub>2</sub>" from citrulline at pH 8.0 and dependent upon the presence of acetylglutamate. Each flask contained 10  $\mu$ moles of acetylglutamate, 20  $\mu$ moles of ATP, 40  $\mu$ moles of Mg<sup>++</sup>, 250  $\mu$ moles of glycylglycine buffer pH 8.0, 1.0 cc. of mitochondrial extract and 5  $\mu$ moles of C<sup>14</sup>-1(+)-citrulline (0.1  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$ mole), or 5  $\mu$ moles of C<sup>14</sup>-1-homocitrulline (0.2  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$ mole), or 5  $\mu$ moles of C<sup>14</sup>-1- $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid (0.2  $\mu$ c./ $\mu$ mole) in a final volume of 3.0 cc. Inhibition studies were carried out as above.

Table I summarizes the enzyme studies. Homocitrulline and  $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid were completely inactive as substrates for these two enzymes and were weak inhibitors of citrullinase only. Ornithine caused a 50% inhibition of citrullinase in equimolar concentration, but exhibits an inhibition index of about 0.05 for compound X/carbamyl phosphate formation.

TABLE I  
ENZYME DATA ON CITRULLINE AND TWO ANALOGS

	Citrullinase <sup>b</sup>		Compound X/carbamyl phosphate <sup>b</sup>	
	C.p.m.	$\mu$ mole	C.p.m.	$\mu$ mole
C <sup>14</sup> -Homocitrulline	0	0	0	0
C <sup>14</sup> ABC <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0
C <sup>14</sup> -Citrulline	1320	1.37	895	0.45
+ Homocitrulline 50 $\mu$ mole	790	0.82	970	.49
+ ACB <sup>a</sup> 50 $\mu$ mole	700	.73	660	.33
+ Ornithine 5 $\mu$ mole	575	.60		
0.1 $\mu$ mole			730	.37
.2 $\mu$ mole			555	.28
.3 $\mu$ mole			275	.14

<sup>a</sup> ABC indicates  $\alpha$ -amino- $\gamma$ -carbamidobutyric acid. <sup>b</sup> Results are given in counts/min. and the calculated  $\mu$  mole of the C<sup>14</sup> precursor this represents.

(12) S. Grisolia and P. P. Cohen, Jr., *J. Biol. Chem.*, **193**, 561 (1952).

(13) M. E. Jones, L. Spector and F. Lipmann, *THIS JOURNAL*, **77**, 819 (1955).

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE  
STOCKHOLM 60, SWEDEN

## Synthesis of Some 6-(Substituted)-Aminopurines

BY CHARLES G. SKINNER AND WILLIAM SHIVE

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Adenine and certain of its derivatives have been found to increase the number of buds from which gametophores develop in moss (*Tortella caespitosa*).<sup>1</sup> The structural relationship of kinetin,<sup>2</sup> 6-(2-furfuryl)-aminopurine (isolated from autoclaved sperm desoxyribonucleic acid as a cell division factor for tobacco callus tissue) to these compounds which increase budding in moss, led to the preparation and testing of kinetin and a group of its analogs in this Laboratory.

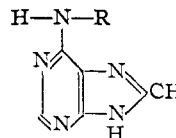
All of the analogs were synthesized by the general procedure of Elion, Burgi and Hitchings<sup>3</sup> whereby 6-methylmercaptapurine is condensed with the appropriate amine at elevated temperatures, as indicated in Table I.

(1) R. E. Eakin and B. S. Gorton, personal communication.

(2) C. O. Miller, *et al.*, *THIS JOURNAL*, **77**, 2662 (1955).

(3) G. B. Elion, E. Burgi and G. H. Hitchings, *ibid.*, **74**, 411 (1952).

TABLE I  
SYNTHESIS OF 6-(SUBSTITUTED)-AMINOPURINES



R	Formula	Wt. 6-methyl mercaptopurine, mg.	Wt. amine, mg.	Time of run, <sup>a</sup> hr.	Yield, %	M.p., °C. dec. <sup>b</sup>	Carbon, %		Hydrogen, %		Nitrogen, %	
							Calcd.	Found	Calcd.	Found	Calcd.	Found
2-Furfuryl	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O	1500	3000	12	62	269-270 <sup>c</sup>	55.81	56.02	4.22	4.46	32.54	32.98
Benzyl	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>5</sub>	200	400	13	66	229	63.98	64.28	4.92	4.77	31.09	31.20
2-Pyridylmethyl	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>6</sub>	400	1000	8	45	257	58.39	58.79	4.46	4.12	37.15	37.39
3-Pyridylmethyl	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>6</sub>	500	1000	7	58	259	58.39	58.70	4.46	4.43	37.15	37.20
4-Pyridylmethyl	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>6</sub>	500	1000	10	50	265-266	58.39	57.82	4.46	4.41	37.15	36.83
2-Thenyl	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>5</sub> S	500	1500	12	52	250	51.93	51.88	3.92	3.89	30.28	30.73

<sup>a</sup> All runs were conducted at a temperature of 130°. <sup>b</sup> Melting points determined on a Fisher melting point block. <sup>c</sup> C. O. Miller, *et al.*, THIS JOURNAL, 77, 2662 (1955), reported m.p. 266-267°.

Some of the biological activities of these compounds are summarized in Table II.<sup>4</sup> At low concentrations (0.01 mg. per l.) not only kinetin but also the benzyl and thenyl derivatives stimulate budding in moss. At higher concentrations (1 mg. per l.) the pyridylmethyl derivatives also stimulate budding, but only the 2-pyridylmethyl compound attains activity comparable to kinetin. At the higher concentration the thenyl derivative becomes inhibitory.

TABLE II  
SOME BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF 6-(SUBSTITUTED)-AMINOPURINES

Compound	Stimulation of budding of moss <sup>a</sup>	Concn. for 50% inhibition of length of main axis in tomato root cuttings, mg./liter × 10 <sup>3</sup>
Control	1	..
6-(2-Furfuryl)-aminopurine	20	6
6-Benzylaminopurine	25	6 <sup>b</sup>
6-(2-Pyridylmethyl)-aminopurine	1	6 <sup>c</sup>
6-(3-Pyridylmethyl)-aminopurine	1	..
6-(4-Pyridylmethyl)-aminopurine	1 (?)	..
6-(2-Thenyl)-aminopurine	20	5 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> These data were determined at a concentration of 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mg./liter, and are reported relative to a control equal to one. <sup>b</sup> This compound also stimulated the growth in length of the ten basal laterals at 10<sup>-5</sup> mg./liter. <sup>c</sup> This compound also stimulated the number of laterals at 10<sup>-4</sup> mg./liter. <sup>d</sup> This compound also stimulated the growth in length of the ten basal laterals at 10<sup>-6</sup> to 10<sup>-3</sup> mg./liter.

Preliminary data<sup>5</sup> on the 2-furfuryl, benzyl and 2-thenyl derivatives show an inhibition of growth on the main axis of excised tomato roots (*Lycopersicon esculentum*, Mill.) at concentrations of 5 to 6 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mg./liter, whereas the 2-pyridylmethyl derivative is not toxic at this level. Furthermore, the 2-pyridylmethyl derivative increased the growth in length of the main axis at 10<sup>-4</sup> mg./liter. Also, the benzyl and 2-thenyl compounds stimulate the growth in length of the ten basal laterals, while the 2-pyridylmethyl derivative stimulates the number

(4) The authors are indebted to Dr. R. E. Eakin and Mr. B. S. Gorton for the results on moss growth, the details of which will be published separately, and to Dr. W. G. Boll for preliminary data on growth of tomato root cuttings.

(5) W. G. Boll, personal communication.

of laterals at 10<sup>-5</sup> and 10<sup>-4</sup> mg./liter, respectively.

From these data, it appears that a number of different 6-(substituted)-aminopurines have potent effects on plant growth.

#### Experimental

**6-Methylmercaptopurine.**—The method of Elion and Burge<sup>6</sup> was used except that the course of the reaction appeared somewhat different. Three grams of 6-mercaptopurine<sup>7</sup> was suspended in one equivalent of 2 *N* sodium hydroxide plus 15 ml. of water; and to this well-stirred mixture was added one equivalent of methyl iodide in 9 portions over a period of one hour. The pH changed from about 9 to 7, and the mixture set to a semi-solid mass. About 40 ml. of water was then added, and the solid dissolved by warming to yield a solution of pH 5, from which 3.4 g. of product separated, m.p. 220° dec.

**2-, 3- and 4-Pyridylmethylamines.**—These amines were prepared through the catalytic reduction of the corresponding nitrile by the procedure of Kolloff and Hunter.<sup>8</sup>

**2-Thenylamine.**—This compound was prepared by the method of Hartough<sup>9</sup> through the interaction of thiophene, formaldehyde and ammonium chloride; b.p. 95-99° (28 mm.), *n*<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> 1.5643, reported<sup>9</sup> *n*<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> 1.5615.

**6-(Substituted)-aminopurines.**—All of these compounds were prepared and recovered in approximately the same manner. One equivalent of 6-methylmercaptopurine and two to three equivalents of the corresponding amine were sealed in a micro Carius tube and heated at about 130° for a given number of hours as noted in Table I. The cooled bomb, in every case, yielded a white to light yellow crystalline mass which was washed with ice-cold ethanol and recrystallized from ethanol or ethanol-water. The final product was dried over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at 120° under vacuum for several hours.

(6) G. B. Elion and E. Burge, THIS JOURNAL, 74, 413 (1952).

(7) Burroughs Wellcome and Co., Tuckahoe, N. Y.

(8) H. G. Kolloff and T. H. Hunter, THIS JOURNAL, 63, 491 (1941).

(9) H. D. Hartough, "Thiophene and Derivatives," Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1952, p. 510.

THE BIOCHEMICAL INSTITUTE AND THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AND  
THE CLAYTON FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

#### *p*-Phenylazophenylsemicarbazones of Trioses and Biologically Related Compounds

BY MAKEPEACE U. TSAO AND ELIZABETH VAN DYKE

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The derivatives of *p*-phenylazophenylsemicarbazide with carbonyl compounds of biological origin are of interest in that they may offer a means of isolation and identification of the latter substances and