N-(Pyrid-3-yl)thioureas and Derivatives as Acaricides. I. Synthesis and Biological Properties

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Abstract: In the course of optimization studies around diafenthiuron, the central aromatic nucleus linked directly to the thiourea unit was replaced by a pyridine moiety. A series of N-(pyrid-3-yl)thioureas, -isothioureas and -carbodiimides was synthesised and evaluated for acaricidal activity. The synthetic methodology used and the screening results against some spider mites (*Tetranychus* spp. and *Panonychus* ssp.) are discussed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Disubstituted N-aryl-N'-alkylthioureas possessing insecticidal activity were first described by Enders et al.,^{1,2} who also synthesised the corresponding isothioureas.^{3,4} This initial work led to compounds showing activity against mites and insect pests. Closely following these initial steps, work started by Drábek and Böger showed the importance of a 4-aryloxy substituent on the aromatic ring. This modification led to compounds with much improved biological activity.⁵⁻⁹ The discovery of the chemical stability and insecticidal potency of certain carbodiimides¹⁰ greatly broadened the scope of the optimisation activities. The synthesis of carbon¹¹ and nitrogen¹² bridged compounds, followed by the preparation of heterocyclic derivatives linked by an oxygen¹³⁻¹⁵ or a sulfur atom¹⁶⁻¹⁸ to the central aromatic nucleus was included in the work. These modifications led to highly active compounds which were intensively evaluated. Further work included the substitution of the central aromatic ring with a variety of systems like isoxazoles,^{19,20} pyridines²¹ and thiophenes.²² From this combined effort during the last decade, diafenthiuron (Fig. 1, 1) was later introduced into the market as an acaricide and insecticide used on a variety of crops against a broad spectrum of pest complexes.^{23,24}

The present paper reports the synthesis and biological properties of N-(pyrid-3-yl)thioureas, -isothioureas and -carbodiimides as heterocyclic analogues of diafenthiuron

and related derivatives. Additionally, some examples where the phenoxy substituent is omitted are discussed.

2 EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

2.1 General Chemistry

The target molecules required a specific synthetic approach, which is shown in Figs 2 and 3. The synthesis of particular phenoxy- and thiophenoxypyridines 4 from the nitro pyridines 3 has been described elsewhere.²⁵ Reduction thereof led to the amines 5, which underwent reaction with carbon disulfide under two-phase conditions²⁶ to give the corresponding isothiocyanates $\mathbf{8}$. Compounds 8 were allowed to react with aliphatic amines in toluene to yield the thioureas 9. Reaction of 9 with 2-chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide²⁷ or with methyl iodide in ethanol afforded the corresponding carbodiimides, 10, or isothioureas, 11, respectively in excellent yields. Additionally, compounds 3 could be selectively hydrogenated with Raney nickel to give the corresponding 6-chloropyridine-3-amines, 6, or with palladium on carbon achieving simultaneous reduction of both nitro and chlorine groups to yield compounds 7. Compound types 6 and 7 were similarly elaborated to the final products 13, 14 and 15.

It was known from the previous work on derivatives of diafenthiuron that the carbodiimides were very sensitive to moisture if one of the substituents on the carbodiimide unit was linear. Therefore, all of the

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Fig. 1. Structure of diafenthiuron (1) and of the corresponding carbodiimide (2a) and S-methylisothiourea (2b).

prepared derivatives 10 and 14 contain bulky groups on either side of the carbodiimide functionality. This blocking of the reactive moiety produces compounds stable against hydrolysis which could be tested as an aqueous dilution (EC formulation) in most cases.

2.2 Physicochemical characterisation

Melting points (mp) were determined on a Kofler hot-plate apparatus (Fa. Reichert, Vienna). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer-157G spectrometer in carbon tetrachloride, unless otherwise stated; values are given for the main bands in cm⁻¹. [¹H]NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian-EM 360-EL (60 MHz) or a Bruker-AC-F250 (250 MHz) spectrometer in deuterochloroform, unless otherwise stated; chemical shifts (δ) are in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane as internal standard and coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. The refractive indices were measured with a Carl-Zeiss refractometer. UV spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda-5 UV/VIS apparatus, in ethanol; values are given in nm. Elemental analyses were in all cases consistent with the calculated values.



- H₂, Ra-Ni, THF/C₂H₅OH, 30-35°C ii)
- iii) 1) CS₂, (C₂H₅)₃N/Py, -10°C; 2) DCC
- iv) R'NH2, toluene
- 2-chloro- 1 -methylpyridinium iodide, (C2H5)3N/CH3CN v)
- CH₃I/C₂H₅OH vi)

Fig. 2. Synthesis of the phenoxy and phenylthio substituted 3-pyridylthioureas 9 and carbodiimide and isothiourea derivatives 10 and 11.



Fig. 3. Synthesis of the thioureas 13 and carbodiimide and isothiourea derivatives 14 and 15.

2.3 Methods of synthesis

2.3.1 6-Chloro-2,4-diisopropylpyridine-3-amine (Fig. 3; 6) 6-Chloro-2,4-diisopropyl-3-nitropyridine (3, R = CH-(CH₃)₂,²⁵ 30·0 g, 0·124 mol) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (450 ml) and, after the addition of Raney nickel (30·0 g suspended in ethanol), hydrogenated under a hydrogen pressure of 20 bar at a temperature of 30–35°C. The reaction mixture was filtered over diatomaceous earth and the filtrate concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography²⁸ (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 4 by volume)) on silica gel yielding 6 (21·1 g, 80%) in the form of a clear crystalline powder, mp 53–56°C. IR: 3500, 3410, 2970, 1620, 1585, 1430; UV($\lambda(\epsilon)$): 246 (9740), 303 (4840); [¹H]NMR (60 MHz): 1·20 and 1·25 (2d, 12H), 2·7–3·2 (m, 2H), 3·65 (br s, 2H), 6·85 (s, 1H).

2.3.2 2,4-Diisopropylpyridine-3-amine (7)

6-Chloro-2,4-diisopropyl-3-nitropyridine (5.0 g, 0.0206 mol) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (100 ml) and, after the addition of triethylamine (2.75 g) and 5% palladium/ carbon catalyst (7.5 g), hydrogenated under normal pressure at a temperature of $20-25^{\circ}$ C. The reaction mixture was filtered over diatomaceous earth and the filtrate concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 3 by volume)) on silica gel yielding 7 (3.0 g, 82%) as a waxlike solid, mp 35-39°C. IR: 3480, 3400, 2970, 1615, 1420; UV($\lambda(\epsilon)$): 239 (5740), 294 (4020); [¹H]NMR (60 MHz): 1.22 and 1.30 (2d, 12H), 2.88 and 3.06 (2 hept, 2H), 3.70 (br s, 2H), 6.82 (d, 1H, J = 5), 7.98 (d, 1H, J = 5).

2.3.3 6-(4-Chlorophenoxy)-2,4-diisopropylpyridine-3amine (5b)

6-(4-Chlorophenoxy)2,4-diisopropyl-3-nitropyridine (4, R = CH(CH₃)₂, X = O, Z = 4-Cl)²⁵ (26·0 g, 0·0776 mol) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (260 ml) and, after the addition of Raney nickel (15·0 g suspended in ethanol), hydrogenated under normal pressure at a temperature of 30–35°C. The reaction mixture was filtered over diatomaceous earth and the filtrate concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 3 by volume)) on silica gel yielding **5b** (19·3 g, 82%) in the form of a light-yellow crystalline powder, mp 86–88°C. IR: 3480, 3400, 2970, 1590, 1485, 1410, 1350, 1225, 1090, 975; UV($\lambda(\varepsilon)$): 244 (13940), 306 (5120); [¹H]NMR (60 MHz): 1·20 (d, 12H), 2·7–3·2 (m, 2H), 3·50 (br s, 2H), 6·50 (s, 1H), 6·95 and 7·25 (AA'BB'-system, 4H).

2.3.4 6-(4-Chlorophenoxy)-2,4-diethylpyridine-3-amine (50)

3,5-Heptanedione was condensed with cyanoacetamide in ethanol²⁹ to form 4,6-diethyl-2-oxopyridine-3-carbonitrile (77%), mp 188-189°C; this was nitrated by means of fuming nitric acid in acetic anhydride^{25,29} to yield 4.6-diethyl-5-nitro-2-oxopyridine-3-carbonitrile (74%), mp 207-208°C (dec.; from toluene), which was hydrolysed and decarboxylated in hot dilute sulfuric acid³⁰ to yield crude 4,6-diethyl-5-nitro-2-pyridone (93%), mp 163-165°C. Chlorination of the nitropyridone in neat phosphorus pentachloride^{25,31} yielded 2-chloro-4,6-diethyl-5-nitropyridine (68% after chromatography), which was condensed directly with p-chlorophenol in dimethylsulfoxide in the precence of potassium carbonate²⁵ at 95°C for 3 h to give, after flash chromatography (ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 10 by volume)), pure 6-(4-chlorophenoxy)-2,4-diethyl-3-nitropyridine (73%), mp 55-58°C. This was hydrogenated as described in Section 2.3.3. Flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 2 by volume)) of the crude product gave pure 50 as a viscous oil in 98% yield. IR: 3480, 3400, 2980, 1595, 1485, 1415, 1350, 1230, 1165; UV: 244 (13780), 305 (5380); $[^{1}H]NMR$ (250 MHz): 1.23 and 1.24 (t + t, 6H), 2.48 (q, 2H), 2.68 (q, 2H), 3.50 (br s, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 6.97 and 7.25 AA'BB'-system, 4H).

2.3.5 6-(4-Chlorophenoxy)-2,4-diisopropylpyrid-3-yl isothiocyanate (**8b**)

A solution of triethylamine (5.0 g) in pyridine (10 ml) was cooled to -5° to -10° C by means of an ice/salt bath, and carbon disulfide (20 ml) added dropwise. At -10° C, a solution of **5b** (15.0 g, 0.0492 mol) in pyridine (27 ml) was slowly added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -10° C for 1 h. A solution of N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (10.0 g) in pyridine (10 ml) was then added. After a further 3 h at -10° C, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 28 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated by evaporation and hexane added to the residue. The hexane mixture was filtered off and the filtrate concentrated by evaporation, yielding crude **8b** (16.3 g, 100%) as a dark oil, which was used directly for the synthesis of **9b** without further purification. IR: 2090, 1490, 1220.

2.3.6 N-tert-Butyl-N'-[6-(4-chlorophenoxy)-2,4diisopropylpyrid-3-yl]thiourea (**9ba**)

Crude **8b** (8·15 g, c. 0·024 mol) was diluted with toluene (30 ml) and *tert*-butylamine (2·00 g, 0·0274) mol) added dropwise. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 2 h at 60°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated and hexane added to the residue. The resulting solid was filtered off and subsequently washed with hexane. **9ba** (9·00 g, 88%) was obtained in the form of colourless crystals, mp 165–167°C. IR (potassium bromide): 3480, 3160, 2980, 1540, 1490, 1400, 1345, 1270, 1220; UV($\lambda(\varepsilon)$): 242 (22 180), 280 (sh); [¹H]NMR (60 MHz, hexadeutero-dimethylsulfoxide): 1·00 and 1·20 (d + d, 12H), 1·45 (s, 9H), 2·8–3·3 (m, 2H), 5·35 (br s, NH), 6·75 (s, 1H), 7·10 and 7·40 (AA'BB'-system, 4H), 8·40 (s, 1H).

2.3.7 N-tert-Butyl-N'-[2,4-diisopropyl-6-(4fluorophenoxy)pyrid-3-yl]carbodiimide (10ca)

A solution of 9ca (3.0 g, 0.0074 mol) and 2-chloro-1methylpyridinium iodide (2·2 g) in acetonitrile (20 ml) was treated at room temperature with a solution of triethylamine (1.6 g) in acetonitrile (7 ml). The reaction mixture was then stirred for 1 h at 70°C. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was taken up in hexane/water. The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulfate and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 5 by volume)), yielding 10ca (2.50 g, 92%) as a colourless oil which solidified after a few minutes, mp 56-60°C. IR: 2980, 2140, 1590, 1505, 1395, 1340, 1200; $UV(\lambda(\varepsilon))$: 253 (13740), 290 (sh); $[^{1}H]NMR$ (60 MHz): 1.18 and 1.26 (d + d, 12H), 1·35 (s, 9H), 3·1-3·7 (m, 2H), 6·52 (s, 1H), 6·97 and 7.10 (AA'BB'-system, 4H).

2.3.8 N-tert-Butyl-N'-[2,4-diisopropyl-6-(4-

fluorophenoxy)pyrid-3-yl]-S-methylisothiourea (11ca) Methyl iodide (2·40 g) was added at room temperature to **9ca** (3·0 g, 0·0074 mol) in ethanol (35 ml) and the mixture heated at 75°C for 5 h. The mixture was then concentrated by evaporation and the residue taken up in methylene chloride and washed twice with dilute sodium hydrogen carbonate solution. The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and the solvent evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate + hexane (1 + 5 by volume)). **11ca** (2·70 g, 87%) was obtained in the form of colourless crystalline powder, mp 97–100°C. IR (potassium bromide): 3420, 2970, 1610, 1500, 1430, 1390, 1320, 1190, 970; UV($\lambda(\varepsilon)$): 245 (15 280), 298 (5840); [¹H]NMR (60 MHz): 1·05 and 1·15 (d + d, 12H), 1·45 (s, 9H), 2·20 (s, 3H), 2·65-3·25 (m, 2H), 4·15 (br s, 1H), 6·45 (s, 1H), 6·90-7·20 (m, 4H).

2.3.9 General

Further details of yields and physical properties of all compounds synthesized are given as supplementary material in Tables S1, S2 and S3.

2.4 Biological test methods

2.4.1 Activity against the two-spotted spider mite, Tetranychus urticae Koch

Young bean plants (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) were infested with a mixed population of *T. urticae* and sprayed one day later with an aqueous spray containing 400 mg litre⁻¹ of the active ingredient. The plants were then incubated for six days at 25°C and subsequently evaluated. The percentage of the reduction in population ($\frac{9}{6}$ effect) was ascertained by comparing the number of dead eggs, larvae and adults on the treated plants with those on untreated plants.

2.4.2 Activity against the carmine spider mite, Tetranychus cinnabarinus Boisd

Young bean plants were infested with a mixed population of OP-resistant *T. cinnabarinus* and sprayed one day later with an aqueous spray containing 200, 100 or 50 mg litre⁻¹ of the active igredient. The plants were then incubated at 25°C and subsequently evaluated after nine days. The mortality rate (% effect) in population was ascertained as in Section 2.4.1.

2.4.3 Persistence against Tetranychus cinnabarinus

Young bean plants were sprayed with an aqueous dispersion containing 200 mg litre⁻¹ of the active ingredient and incubated for eight days at 25°C. The plants were then populated with a mixed population of OP-resistant *T. cinnabarinus*, incubated for a further five days and subsequently evaluated. The mortality rate (% effect) in population was ascertained as in Section 2.4.1.

2.4.4 Activity against the European red spider mite, Panonychus ulmi Koch

Apple seedlings were populated with adult females of OP- and carbamate-resistant *P. ulmi*. Seven days later the infested plants were sprayed to run-off with an aqueous spray containing 200 mg litre⁻¹ of the test compound and incubated for a further two weeks in the greenhouse at 25°C. The percentage of the reduction in population (% effect) was ascertained by comparing the number of dead spider mites on the treated plants with that on untreated plants.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Biological activity

3.1.1 General remarks

The pyridine derivatives 9, 10, 11 and 13-15 showed a wide activity against insects and mites, especially against chewing insects (e.g. Spodoptera ssp., Heliothis ssp., Crocidolomia binotalis Zell.) and spider mites (e.g. Tetranychus ssp.). The most promising activity was found to be the acaricidal one; in this paper only the results of the acaricidal screening will be discussed (Tables 1, 2, 3). For a closer inspection of the acaricidal efficacy of the compounds included in the present study, it is convenient to discuss the thioureas 9 and 13, the carbodiimides 10 and 14 and the isothioureas 11 and 15 in a separate way. The activity range in the biological tests (hence the accuracy of the data presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3) is quite broad (usually a factor of two) but consistent and similar to the normal variation observed in most biological systems. The screening procedure included a first test against T. urticae at 400 mg litre⁻¹; compounds showing good activity in this test checked against T. cinnabarinus for persistence and a preliminary activity level (down to 50 mg litre^{-1}) was determined. The best compounds therein were subsequently tested against P. ulmi. Within the present study, the results obtained against T. cinnabarinus are the most relevant ones.

3.1.2 Acaricidal activity of thioureas 9 and 13

Compounds with small substituents at the 6-position of the pyridine ring (13a, 13b) as well as those bearing a 2,4-dimethyl pattern on the heteroaromatic ring (9qa, 9ra, 9ta) are mostly inactive (Table 1); good potency is associated with the simultaneous presence of 2,4-diethyl or 2,4-diisopropyl substitution and an aromatic system linked by a heteroatom to the pyridine nucleus. The tert-butyl type of substitution (R' = tert-butyl) in the non-aromatic part usually shows much better results than isopropyl substitution. The substitution pattern on the phenoxy part of the molecule can be varied considerably; the presence of acetyl (compound 9ha), dimethylamino (9ia) or acetamido (9ja) groups is detrimental to activity. Results with compounds 9da (2,4-Cl₂) and 9ka (2-F) suggest that the presence of 2-substitution is also detrimental to the activity against T. cinnabarinus. The most active compounds against the same spider mite were 9fa (4-CH₃O) and 9na (4-C₆H₅CO), whilst 9bc (4-Cl), 9fa (4-CH₃O), 9ga (4-t-C₄H₉) and 9la (4-CH₃S) were the most persistent.

A common weakness of many thioureas 9 is the lack of ovicidal activity. No correlation was observed for the thioureas 9 with respect to their activity level and persistence against *T. cinnabarinus*. A few tested compounds showed high activity against *P. ulmi*.

								Activity against T. cinnabarinus						
	X			R'	Ac	T. urticae ^a			Persistence	e ^b	A	ctivity lev	el°	Activity
Comp.		R	Z		Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults	P. ulmi ^a
9aa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•				100	> 200	
9ab	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++	•	•			> 200		
9ac	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	cyclo-C5H9			++	•	< 40	< 40				
9ba	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉		++	++	< 40	< 40	< 40		50	> 200	•
9bb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++	•	< 40	< 40		> 200		
9bc	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	$C(CH_3)_2C_2H_5$		++	++	•	100	100		50	100	++
9ca	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		50	60	> 200	≤50	≤50	
9cb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++	•	0	10		>200	200	
9da	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		0	0		> 200	> 200	
9db	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	iso-C ₃ H ₇	+	+	+	-	0	30		> 200	> 200	
9ea	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$3,4-Cl_2$	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		0	0		50	100	
9eb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3,4-Cl ₂	iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++		0	0				
9fa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		80	98		50	50	++
9fb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++		0	0				
9ga	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C₄H9	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		100	100		100	100	++
9gb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C4H9	iso-C ₁ H ₇		++	++		0	0				
9ĥa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	tert-C4H9		++	++		0	0				•
9hb	0	iso-C ₁ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	iso-C ₁ H ₇				•				•	•	
9ia	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-(CH ₃) ₂ N	tert-C ₄ H ₃	++	++	++		0	0		> 200	> 200	
9ja	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CONH	tert-C4H9								•		
9ka	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	0	0		> 200	> 200	
9la	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ S	tert-CAHo	++	++	++	100	70	98		50	100	+
9ma	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃	tert-C4H9	++	++	++	70	70	80		50	100	++
9na	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C ₆ H ₅ CO	tert-CAH	+	++	++	•	40	60		≤50	≤50	
9oa	0	C,H,	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₀	+	++	++	< 40	< 40	< 40		50	200	
9pa	0	C,H,	4-F	tert-C4H	++	++	++	<40	< 40	<40		50	200	
9aa	0	CH,	Н	tert-CAH				•	,					
9ra	0	CH ₂	4-Cl	tert-CAH			++		•					
9sa	S	iso-C ₂ H ₂	Н	tert-CAH	++	++	++		0	0	> 200	50	100	
9ta	S	CH ₃	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉				·	•		·	•	•	
1 3aa	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C4H9			++	<40	< 40	< 40				
13ab	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		iso-C ₃ H ₇				•	•	•	•	•	•	
13ba	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C₄H9		+	+	<40	< 40	< 40				•
13bb	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		iso-C ₃ H ₇				•	•	•			•	
1					++	++	++	< 40	100	100	≤ 50	50	≤50	++

TABLE 1Acaricidal Activity of Thioureas 9 and 13

" Test 2.4.1. ++: 100%-80% mortality at 400 mg litre⁻¹; +: 70%-30%: --: inactive or slightly active.

^b Test 2.4.3. %-Mortality at 200 mg litre⁻¹ after 8 days; : not tested/not evaluated.

^c Test 2.4.2. Lowest rate (mg litre⁻¹) showing 80%-100% mortality after 9 days; --: inactive; :: not tested.

^d Test 2.4.4. ++: Very good against all stages (100%-80% mortality), +: active (< 80%), :: not tested.

Several of the compounds 9 were as active as diafenthiuron. leads to good biological activity against T. cinnabarinus, but surprisingly, compounds **10ha** (4-acetyl) and **10ia** (4-dimethylamino) are also highly active, although their thiourea counterparts show little or no activity. On the other hand, carbodiimides containing a 2-substituent show weak or no activity at all (**10da**, **10ka**).

3.1.3 Acaricidal activity of carbodiimides 10 and 14 Good levels of biological activity are usually associated with the same subsitution patterns as described for the thioureas (Table 2). Similarly, there is no good correlation between persistence and activity level against *T. cinna*barinus, and good ovicidal activity is also lacking. *Para*-substitution on the phenoxy part of the molecules of the same substituents as were effective in compound 9,

In general, the carbodiimides 10 show more interesting activity against *T. cinnabarinus* than the corresponding thioureas 9 (compare Tables 1 and 2), and, in terms of activity against this pest, are comparable to compound 2a. Against *P. ulmi*, however, the activities of compounds 10 are clearly inferior to that of compound 2a.

								Activity against T. cinnabarinus						
			Z	<i>R</i> ′	Ac	Activity against T. urticae ^a		I	Persistence	e ^b	A	ctivity lev	el°	Activity
Comp.	X	R			Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults	P. ulmi ^d
10aa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₂	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	Р	hytotoxic	ity			•				
10ab	0	iso-C ₁ H ₇	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Р	hytotoxic	ity			•	•	•	•	
10ac	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	cyclo-C,H	++	++	++		50	95		50	100	
10ba	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	0	50	> 200	50	100	·
10bb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++	•	•			50		•
10bc	0	iso-C ₂ H ₇	4-Cl	$C(CH_3)_2C_2H_5$	++	++	++	•	0	90	> 200	50	50	
10ca	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	0	0		> 200	> 200	
10cb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	iso-C ₃ H ₇				•	•		•	•	•	•
10da	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	tert-C4H9	++	++	++		0	0		> 200	> 200	
10db	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$2,4-Cl_{2}$	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++	•	0	0		> 200	100	•
10ea	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3,4-Cl ₂	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	10	0	> 200	100	100	•
10eb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3,4-Cl ₂	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++		0	0	> 200	200	200	•
10fa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++		50	50		50	50	•
10fb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++		0	0		50	200	•
10ga	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C4H9	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	,	30	30		≤50	100	•
10gb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C ₄ H ₉	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++		0	0		200	200	•
10ha	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	90	100		50	50	+
10hb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++	•	0	0		> 200	> 200	•
10ia	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$4-(CH_3)_2N$	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	< 40	<40	< 40		50	50	•
10ja	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH₃CONH	tert-C ₄ H ₉		++	++	•	30	30				•
10ka	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉					•	•	•	•	•	•
10 la	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ S	tert-C4H9	++	++	++	70	10	10		≤50	≤50	•
10ma	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃	tert-C₄H₀	++	++	++	<40	< 40	< 40		50	100	•
10na	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C ₆ H ₅ CO	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	•	70	95		≤50	≤50	+
10oa	0	C_2H_5	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉		+	+	< 40	< 40	< 40	~			•
10pa	0	C_2H_5	4-F	tert-C4H9	Р	hytotoxic	ity		•	•		•	•	•
10qa	0	CH3	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉					•	•	•	•	•	•
10ra	0	CH ₃	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉				•	•		•	•	•	•
10sa	S	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	< 40	< 40	< 40	200	≤50	≤50	•
10ta	S	CH3	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉			++		•	•		>200	>200	
14aa	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C ₄ H ₉		++	++	<40	< 40	< 40				
14ab	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++	< 40	<40	<40				•
14ba	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C ₄ H ₉			+	0	0	0		>200	>200	•
14bb	н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		iso-C ₃ H ₇		+	+	<40	<40	<40				•
2a					++	++	++	≤40	20	75	50	≤50	≤50	++

 TABLE 2

 Acaricidal Activity of Carbodiimides 10 and 14

^a Test 2.4.1. ++: 100% - 80% mortality at 400 mg litre⁻¹; +: 70% - 30%; --: inactive or slightly active.

^b Test 2.4.3. %-Mortality at 200 mg litre⁻¹ after 8 days; : not tested/not evaluated.

^c Test 2.4.2. Lowest rate (mg litre⁻¹) showing 80%-100% mortality after 9 days; --: inactive; ·: not tested.

^d Test 2.4.4. ++: very good against all stages (100%-80% mortality), +: active (<80%), .: not tested.

3.1.4 Acaricidal activity of isothioureas 11 and 15 In this series a much lower level of activity can be observed (Table 3). Only a few compounds reached an acceptable activity level and persistence, but were still clearly inferior to compound 2b. The isothioureas were, therefore, not further investigated.

3.2 Discussion

The present work concentrates on the replacement of the central aromatic nucleus of diafenthiuron by a pyridine ring, taking advantage of the structure-activity relationships for the thiourea (or carbodiimide) moiety already developed in the series of compounds containing a central aromatic nucleus. The following general conclusions can be drawn from data available in Tables 1, 2 and 3:

(a) Compounds of the types 9 and 10 show a very interesting level of activity in the acaricidal tests, a few of them reaching the activity of diafenthiuron and its relatives. The isothioureas 11 are, comparatively, much weaker (Table 3) and deviate, therefore, from the known behaviour of the isothioureas in the series of compounds with a central benzene ring.

									Activi	ty against	T. cinnat	parinus	
	X	R		R'	A	T. urticae	anst a		Persistence	,b	A	ctivity lev	el¢
Comp.			Ζ		Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults	Eggs	Larvae	Adults
11aa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉		, +	++	•				•	
11ab	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		++	++					> 200	> 200
llac	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	cyclo-C ₅ H ₉							•		
11ba	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	tert-C4H9				•					
11bb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	$iso-C_3H_7$				•					•
11bc	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C1	$C(CH_3)_2C_2H_3$			++		•				
11ca	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	tert-C₄H ₉	+	++	++	•	0	0		> 200	> 200
licb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	iso-C ₃ H ₇	++	++	++		0	0		200	200
11da	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	tert-C ₄ H ₉	-					•	•	•	•
11db	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl,	iso-C ₁ H ₇		++	++	< 40	<40	< 40			
11ea	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3.4-Cl ₂	tert-C₄H₀							•		
11eb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3,4-Cl ₂	iso-C ₃ H ₇	+	++	++		20	20		200	> 200
11fa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	tert-C ₄ H ₉	+	++	++	•	60	60		100	200
11fb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	iso-C ₃ H ₇				•					
11ga	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C4H9	tert-C₄H ₉			++	•	0	0			
11gb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C4H9	iso-C ₃ H ₇			++		0	0			
11ha	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	tert-C₄H ₉				•	•	,	•		
llhb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₂ CO	iso-C ₃ H ₇				•	•				
11ia	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$4-(CH_{3})_{2}N$	tert-C ₄ H ₉		++	++	<40	< 40	<40			
11ja	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CONH	tert-C4H9								•	•
11ka	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	+	++	++		0	50			
11 1 a	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ S	tert-C ₄ H ₉	++	++	++	70	0	40		200	
11ma	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH,	tert-C4H9					•	•	•		
11na	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C ₆ H ₅ CO	tert-C4H9	+	++	++	< 40	< 40	<40		> 200	> 200
11oa	0	C ₂ H,	4-C1	tert-C4H9		++	++	< 40	< 40	<40			
11pa	0	C,H,	4-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	+	++	++	< 40	< 40	<40			
llra	0	CH,	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉				•	•	•	•	•	•
11sa	S	iso-C ₃ H ₇	н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	+	++	++	<40	<40	<40			
15aa	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C4H9				•	,	·	•	•	
15ab	Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇		iso-C ₃ H ₇					•	•	•	•	•
15ba	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		tert-C ₄ H ₉		+	+	<40	<40	<40			
15bb	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇		$iso-C_3H_7$				•	•	,	•	•	
2b					++	++	++	< 40	100	100	> 200	100	≤50

 TABLE 3

 Acaricidal Activity of Isothioureas 11 and 15

" Test 2.4.1. + +: 100%-80% mortality at 400 mg litre⁻¹; +: 70%-30%; --: inactive or slightly active.

^b Test 2.4.3. %-Mortality at 200 mg litre⁻¹ after 8 days; :: not tested/not evaluated.

^c Test 2.4.2. Lowest rate (mg litre⁻¹) showing 80%-100% mortality after 9 days; --: inactive; :: not tested.

- (b) Good persistence is shown only by very few compounds (mostly thioureas 9).
- (c) The substitution pattern must contain, in all derivatives, sterically demanding groups at both sides of the thiourea/carbodiimide unit. Simultaneously, a phenoxy (or phenylthio) group at position 6 of the pyridine ring is needed in order to reach a useful level of activity. This observation supports the conclusions drawn from the exhaustive studies already performed in the series of compounds with a central benzene ring.²⁴
- (d) The role of the substituents at the phenoxy group(Z) is at the moment poorly understood. Small changes to the substituents in the phenoxy ring

can lead to large differences in the biological behaviour of the corresponding molecules.

(e) There is apparently no good correlation between the best thioureas, 9, and the best carbodiimides, 10, in respect of their activity level and persistence against *T. cinnabarinus.* Both facts are probably closely related to (d).

The general differences observed between the pyridine derivatives and the analogues of diafenthiuron are then mostly unfavourable for the pyridines and can be summarised as follows:

- (i) lack of persistence;
- (ii) lack of correlation between good active compounds 9 and 10.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

TABLE S	51
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Comp.	X	R	Z	Yield*	$Mp(^{\circ}C)$	Phys. data for corresponding compound 8
5a	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	н	76	52-54	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2090, 1590, 1360, 1210
5b	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	82	86-88	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2090, 1490, 1220
5c	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	91	50-52	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2080, 1505, 1200
5d	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	92	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2090, 1600, 1475
5e	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	3,4-Cl ₂	90	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2090, 1585, 1470
5f	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	95	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2090, 1505, 1205
5g	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C ₄ H ₉	80	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2090, 1510, 1220
5h	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	94	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2080, 1690, 1590, 1225
5i	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$4-(CH_3)_2N$	77	99-103	Mp 49–61

Pyrid-3-ylamines 5 and isothiocyanates 8 and 12

Comp.	X	R	Z	Yield®	$Mp(^{\circ}C)$	Phys. data for corresponding compound 8
5j	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CONH	94	120-121	Mp 122–132
5k	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2-F	91	Viscous oil	Oil: IR(CCL): 2120, 2090, 1500, 1265
51	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ S	68	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2110, 2090, 1590, 1490, 1215
5m	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃	57	Viscous oil	Mp 64-67
5n	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C ₆ H ₅ CO	52	Wax	Mp 106–107
50	0	C_2H_5	4-Cl	98	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCL): 2080, 1590, 1485, 1215
5p	0	C_2H_5	4-F	98	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2080, 1590, 1500, 1195
5q	0	CH ₃	Н	90	81-85	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2090, 1345, 1215
5r	0	CH ₃	4-Cl	75	93–94	Oil; IR(CCl ₄): 2080, 1490, 1345, 1220
5s	S	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	79	Viscous oil	Oil; IR(CCl₄): 2120, 2090, 1570, 935
5t	S	CH ₃	Н	82	114–116	Wax; IR(CCl ₄): 2120, 2080, 1445, 935
Comp.						Phys. data for corresponding compound 12
12a 12b						Mp 56-74 Oil; [1H]NMR (60 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 6.95 and 8.30 (d + d, J = 5)

 TABLE S1 (cont.)

" In %; all compounds showed a satisfactory elemental analysis (within $\pm 0.4\%$).

Comp.	X	R	Ζ	R'	Yield (%)	Mp (°C)	I solation ^a			
9aa	0	isoC ₃ H ₇	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	89	142–146	b			
9ab	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	iso-C ₃ H ₇	69	162-165	b			
9ac	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	cyclo-C ₅ H ₉	87	172-178	b			
9ba	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉	88	165-167	а			
9bb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	iso-C ₃ H ₇	88	156-158	а			
9bc	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-Cl	$C(CH_3)_2C_2H_5$	78	153-155	а			
9ca	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	89	156-158	b			
9cb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-F	iso-C ₃ H ₇	90	157-160	b			
9da	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2,4-Cl ₂	tert-C ₄ H ₉	67	114-116	b			
9db	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$2,4-Cl_{2}$	iso-C ₃ H ₇	76	160-162	b			
9ea	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$3,4-Cl_2$	tert-C ₄ H ₉	96	149-150	b			
9eb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	$3,4-Cl_2$	iso-C ₃ H ₇	78	127-128	b			
9fa	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	tert-C ₄ H ₉	86	169-173	b			
9fb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ O	iso-C ₃ H ₇	98	179-184	а			
9ga	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C ₄ H ₉	tert-C ₄ H ₉	81	143-145	b			
9gb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-tert-C ₄ H ₉	iso-C ₃ H ₇	79	163-165	b			
9ha	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	tert-C ₄ H ₉	87	131-133	b			
9hb	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CO	iso-C ₃ H ₇	87	151-154	b			
9ia	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-(CH ₃) ₂ N	tert-C ₄ H ₉	91	154-156	а			
9ja	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ CONH	tert-C ₄ H ₉	83	190192	с			
9ka	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	2-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	86	136-139	а			
9la	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃ S	tert-C ₄ H ₉	80	156-157	а			
9ma	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-CH ₃	tert-C ₄ H ₉	57	160-162	a			
9na	0	iso-C ₃ H ₇	4-C ₆ H ₅ CO	tert-C ₄ H ₉	85	159-160	a			
9oa	0	C ₂ H ₅	4-Cl	tert-C ₄ H ₉	96	137-140	а			
9pa	0	C_2H_5	4-F	tert-C ₄ H ₉	93	132-134	а			
9qa	0	CH ₃	Н	tert-C4H9	77	162-163	d			
9ra	0	CH ₃	4-C1	tert-C4H9	63	130-132	b			
9sa	S	iso-C ₃ H ₇	Н	tert-C4H9	79	152-154	d			
9ta	S	CH ₂	Н	tert-C ₄ H ₉	90	144-146	с			

TABLE S2Pyrid-3-ylthioureas 9 and 13

Comp.	X	R	Z		Yield (%)	Mp (°C)	Isolationª
13aa				tert-C ₄ H _o	82	144-145	с
13ab				iso-C ₃ H ₇	82	214	d + c
13ba				tert-C ₄ H ₉	73	132-134	а
13bb				iso-C ₃ H ₇	87	155–157	b

TABLE S2 (cont.)

^a a. Crude product washed with hexane; b. as a, followed by flash-chromatography; c. as a, followed by recrystallisation from cyclohexane or toluene; d. the solid formed during the reaction was filtered off and rinsed with hexane.

Comp.	Yield (%)	Phys. data	Comp.	Yield (%)	$Mp(^{\circ}C)$
10aa	92	$n_{\rm D}^{27} = 1.5470$	11aa	85	119-122
10ab	78	$n_{D}^{25} = 1.5485$	11ab	85	80-82
10ac	86	$n_D^{23} = 1.5605$	11ac	81	80-83
10ba	98	mp 46–55°C	11ba	89	95-100
10bb	97	$n_D^{23} = 1.5575$	11bb	98	90-95
10bc	90	$n_D^{22} = 1.5515$	11bc	71	91–93
10ca	92	mp 56–60°C	11ca	87	97-100
10cb	95	$n_{\rm D}^{24} = 1.5439$	11cb	87	87-90
10da	92	$n_{\rm D}^{23} = 1.5525$	11da	82	97-99
10db	84	$n_{\rm D}^{23} = 1.5595$	11db	86	73–76
10ea	92	mp 62–65°C	11ea	90	121-123
10eb	82	$n_{\rm D}^{24} = 1.5645$	11eb	82	80-82
10fa	96	mp 37–45°C	11fa	82	78-81
10fb	85	$n_{\rm D}^{22} = 1.5520$	11fb	80	107-109
10ga	97	mp 60–63°C	11ga	85	110-112
10gb	98	$n_D^{23} = 1.5445$	11gb	77	80-83
10ha	87	mp 46–51°C	11ha	84	128-130
10hb	81	$n_D^{25} = 1.5610$	11hb	71	115-118
10ia	89	$n_D^{23} = 1.5629$	11ia	80	104-106
10ja	84	mp 152-154°C	11ja	89	155-158
10ka	91	$n_D^{25} = 1.5379$	11ka	90	95–97
10 1a	67	$n_D^{24} = 1.5721$	11la	71	95–96
10ma	61	mp 46–47°C	11ma	75	94–96
10na	79	mp 105–108°C	11na	68	41-42
10oa	93	$n_{D}^{21} = 1.5676$	110a	90	90-93
10pa	95	$n_D^{21} = 1.5504$	11pa	91	94–97
10qa	97	$n_D^{25} = 1.5668$			
10ra	94	mp 59–61°C	11ra	98	118-120
10sa	89	$n_D^{25} = 1.6078$	11sa	85	7680
10ta	82	$n_D^{23} = 1.5774$			
14aa	89	$n_D^{23} = 1.5310$	15aa	88	89-92
14ab	92	$n_{D}^{23} = 1.5363$	15ab	92	89-91
14ba	88	$n_D^{24} = 1.5173$	15ba	80	69-71
14bb	84	$n_D^{24} = 1.5230$	15bb	82	118-120

TABLE S3Carbodiimides 10 and 14 and Isothioureas 11 and 15