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Synthesis and preliminary anticancer evaluation of new triazole bisphosphonate-based isoprenoid biosynthesis inhibitors



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1. Introduction

Nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates (N-BPs) such as zoledronate **1**, risedronate **2** or alendronate **3** (Scheme 1a) are extensively indicated for the treatment of osteoporosis, Paget's disease of bone, hypercalcemia and bone metastases derived from breast and prostate primary tumors [1]. In addition to their essential role in the management of skeletal disorders, N-BPs also exhibit promising anticancer properties such as inhibition of tumor cell proliferation [2–5], induction of apoptosis, $\gamma\delta$ T cell activation and inhibition of tumor cell invasion and migration both in vitro and in vivo [6]. The inherent antitumor activity of zoledronate **1**, one of the most potent N-BPs to date, has been also evaluated in phase III clinical trials. In these studies, administration of zoledronate **1** in combination with standard chemotherapy improves disease-free survival in postmenopausal women with early breast cancers [7] and increases the

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ABSTRACT

The synthesis of a new set of triazole bisphosphonates **8a-d** and **9a-d** presenting an alkyl or phenyl substituent at the C-4 or C-5 position of the triazole ring is described. These compounds have been evaluated for their antiproliferative activity against MIA PaCa-2 (pancreas), MDA-MB-231 (breast) and A549 (lung) human tumor cell lines. 4-hexyl- and 4-octyltriazole bisphosphonates **8b-c** both displayed remarkable antiproliferative activities with IC₅₀ values in the micromolar range (0.75–2.4 μ M) and were approximately 4 to 12-fold more potent than zoledronate. Moreover, compound **8b** inhibits geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate biosynthesis in MIA PaCa-2 cells which ultimately led to tumor cells death. © 2021 Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

overall survival of patients with multiple myeloma [8].

N-BPs exert their antitumor properties by inhibiting farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase (FPPS) [9], a key enzyme of the mevalonate pathway involved in the synthesis of C₁₅ farnesyl pyrophosphate (FPP) from C₅ isoprenoids dimethylallyl pyrophosphate (DMAPP) and isopentenyl pyrophosphate (IPP - Scheme 1b). FPPS inhibition by N-BPs further impairs the biosynthesis of longer isoprenoids such as C₂₀ geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate (GGPP) which is produced by condensation between FPP and IPP catalyzed by geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase (GGPPS) [10]. Both FPP and GGPP are implicated in protein prenylation, a posttranslational modification required for the membrane anchoring and function of small GTPases (Ras, Rho, Rap or Rac) which play an essential role in cell signaling and proliferation and cell survival. FPPS inhibitors usually display a 1-hydroxymethylene-1,1bisphosphonic acid (HMBP) scaffold which bind to the magnesium cations present in the active site of the enzyme. Moreover, a positively charged nitrogen atom in their side chains is also involved in hydrogen bonds with the hydroxyl group of Thr201 and the carbonyl moiety of Lys 200 in the allylic site of FPPS [11]. These interactions allow N-BP to mimic the carbocationic intermediate

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Scheme 1. – a) Structures of FPPS inhibitors zoledronate 1, risedronate 2 and alendronate 3 in their fully deprotonated form. b) Biosynthesis of the isoprenoids FPP and GGPP involved in the protein prenylation. c) Structures of the selective GGPPS inhibitors 4, 5, 6 and 7a-c.

formed during the condensation of isoprenoid substrates catalyzed by FPPS [12].

Recently, disruption of GTPases geranylgeranylation induced by direct GGPPS inhibition also emerged as a promising approach for the treatment of cancer. Despite the lack of information on the structure of human GGPPS, a growing number of potent and selective GGPPS inhibitors has been described in the literature (Scheme 1c) [13]. Most of these compounds present a methylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid moiety substituted by an extended heteroaromatic scaffold (compound 4 [14]) or lipophilic side chains (compounds 5 [15] and 6 [16]) which bind to large hydrophobic sub-pockets of the enzyme. According to this strategy, Wiemer et al. have developed the potent and selective GGPPS inhibitor **7b**, for which an isoprenoid chain was incorporated to a bisphosphonate moiety via a triazole linkage. Although the homoneryl isomer of **7b** (Z isomer – IC_{50 GGPPS} = 0.075 μ M; IC_{50 FPPS} = 33.3 μ M) was approximately 2-fold more potent than the homogeranyl isomer (E isomer – $IC_{50 \text{ GGPPS}} = 0.173 \,\mu\text{M}$; $IC_{50 \text{ FPPS}} = 49.6 \,\mu\text{M}$) [17], a mixture of homogeranyl and homoneryl isomers in a 3/1 ratio was identified as the most potent and selective GGPPS inhibitor to date (IC₅₀ $_{GGPPS} = 0.045 \ \mu\text{M}; \ \text{IC}_{50 \ \text{FPPS}} = 28 \ \mu\text{M}) \ [18]. \text{ Besides, } 7b \ (\text{E/Z} \sim 3/1)$ exhibits a potent antiproliferative effect on the multiple myeloma cell line RPMI-8226 (EC₅₀ = 0.19 μ M) and significantly slows pancreatic tumor growth in mice [19]. This remarkable activity was attributed to a simultaneous binding of each Z and E isomers to the FPP substrate and GGPP product pockets of the enzyme [17]. It was also noted that both isomers of **7a** (n = 1) [20] and **7c** (n = 3) [21] were much less active than **7b** against human GGPPS, suggesting that inhibitory activity of triazole bisphosphonates 7 is strongly influenced by the structure of its lipophilic side chain.

Over the last years, our team has shown a keen interest in the anticancer properties of bisphosphonates [22]. In this article, we describe the synthesis and the preliminary biological evaluation of a new library of potential isoprenoid biosynthesis inhibitors 8ad and 9a-d (Fig. 1). These compounds combine: 1) a 1hydroxymethylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (HMBP) moiety which has proved to be essential for the biological activity of clinically approved FPPS inhibitors such as zoledronate 1 and 2) a triazole heterocyclic scaffold substituted respectively at the C-4 (8a-d, in blue) or C-5 position (9a-d, in orange) by hydrophobic alkyl chains or phenyl ring [23]. Although access of heterocyclic bisphosphonates such as 4 or 7a-c often requires elaborated synthetic strategies [14,24] bisphosphonates 8a-d and 9a-d were conveniently synthesized through metal catalyzed 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition "click" reactions between commercially available or easily producible alkynes and azides. Moreover, the use of the triazole heterocycle in medicinal chemistry has attracted a considerable attention in recent years [25]. Thanks to their structural characteristics, such as polarity, rigidity, and their ability to act as both hydrogen bond donors and acceptors, triazoles are also considered as hydrolytically stable bioisosteres of amides, esters, alkene or imidazole [26]. Thus, this "click" chemistry approach would allow us to determine the influence of the substitution pattern of the triazole ring on the biological activity of compounds **8a-d** and **9a-d**.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Chemistry

The synthesis of compounds **8a-d** is depicted in Scheme 2. First, 1,4-disubstituted triazoles **12a-d** were prepared through a copper(I)-catalyzed azide alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) [27] between methyl 2-azidoacetate 10 and the corresponding alkynes 11. These CuAAC reactions were performed in the presence of CuSO₄ (10 mol%) and sodium ascorbate (10 mol%) in a mixture of THF and water, affording triazoles 12a-d in 81-97% yields. Methyl esters 12a-d were then subjected to saponification with aqueous NaOH in methanol at reflux to afford 13a-d in 87-99% yields. With carboxylic acids 13a-d in hand, we next turned our attention to the construction of the HMBP moiety of compounds 8a-d. Although different methods are described in the literature, preparation of the HMBP scaffold generally relies on the condensation of a carboxylic acid with H₃PO₃ and PCl₃ or POCl₃ [28] This method often requires harsh acidic conditions, elevated temperatures, extended reaction times and cannot be carried out in the presence of sensitive functional groups. Therefore, compounds **8a-d** were prepared under mild conditions according to the methodology previously



Fig. 1. - Structures of 1,4- and 1,5-disubstituted triazole bisphosphonates **8a-d** and **9a-d** described in this study.



Scheme 2. – Synthesis of HMBP **8a-d**, **9a-d** and **18**. Reagents and conditions: a) $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ (10% mol.), sodium ascorbate (10% mol.), THF/H₂O 1/1, RT, 18 h, 81–97%; b) aqueous 1 M NaOH (6 equiv.), MeOH, reflux, 30 min, **13a-d**: 87–99% yield, **18a-d**: 79–100% yield, **23**: 87% yield; c) (COCl)₂, DCM, 0 °C, 15 min. d) P(OSiMe₃)₃ (3 equiv.), THF, 0 °C to RT, 50 min; e) MeOH, RT, 16 h; f) aqueous 0.2 M NaOH (e equiv.), H₂O, RT, **8a-d**: 40–47% yield after 4 steps, **9a-d**: 24–55% yield after 4 steps, **19**: 48% yield after 4 steps. g) Cp*RuCl(PPh₃)₃ (5% mol.), dioxane, 65 °C, 18 h, 66–89%; h) CuSO₄·5H₂O (4% mol.), sodium ascorbate (16% mol.), t-BuOH/H₂O 1/2, RT, 12 h, 82%; i) AcOH (1.4 equiv.), TBAF (1 M in THF, 1.4 equiv.), THF, 0 °C to RT, 36 h, 84%.

developed by our group [29]. First, **13a-d** were converted to their corresponding acyl chlorides **14a-d** in the presence of oxalyl chloride in dichloromethane. Then, addition of P(OSiMe₃)₃ onto **14a-d** in dry THF at 0 °C smoothly furnished the silylated bisphosphonates **15a-d**. In this case, the complete consumption of the acyl chlorides **14a-d** was achieved in less than 1 h by using a slight excess amount (3 equivalents) of P(OSiMe₃)₃. After evaporation of the volatile fractions, a subsequent methanolysis step of the phosphonosilaesters **15a-d** led to 1-hydroxymethylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acids **16a-d** which were easily purified by precipitation in a mixture of methanol and acetone. 1-hydroxymethylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acids **16a-d** were then neutralized with an aqueous solution of NaOH led to HMBPs **8a-d** as disodium salts in 40–47% yield with a purity of ~98%.

A similar synthetic approach was used for the preparation of 1,5triazole HMBPs **9a-d**. Cycloaddition between azide **10** and alkynes **11a-d** catalyzed by Cp*RuCl(PPh₃)₃ in dioxane at 65 °C afforded **17a-d** in good to excellent yields (66–89%) [30]. The exclusive formation of 1,5-substituted triazole regioisomers was confirmed by ¹³C NMR and HSQC experiments (see the ESI) [31]. A characteristic chemical shift of C₄ ($\delta \sim$ 132 ppm) was observed for 1,5disubstituted triazoles **17a-d**, while the shift of C₅ for 1,4-triazoles **12a-d** was about 122 ppm. Saponification of methyl esters **17ad** furnished **18a-d** which were directly converted to their corresponding HMBPs **9a-d** at similar yields (24–55%) following the previously described methodology.

We also prepared the monosubstituted triazole HMBP **19** [32] to investigate the importance of substituents at C-4 or C-5 position of

Table 1 $IC_{50} (\mu M)^a$ of HMBPs **8a-d, 9a-d** and **18** determined by MTT cell viability assays.

Compound	MIA PaCa-2	MDA-MB-231	A549
1	9.1	10.1	8.8
8a	28.9	32.7	22.9
8b	0.75	2.4	1.7
8c	1.0	1.2	>100
8d	>100	>100	97.9
9a	95.3	>100	>100
9b	13.0	12.8	23.7
9c	>100	>100	>100
9d	>100	>100	>100
19	>100	>100	>100

 a These values represent the means of $n \geq 3$ experiments performed in triplicate with standard deviation of \leq 2-fold.

the triazole ring for the biological activity of HMBPs **8a-d** and **9a-d**. Surprisingly, reaction between methyl 2-azidoacetate **10** and trimethylsilylacetylene **20** under the previously described CuAAC conditions afforded triazole **21** in only 7% yield, along with the formation of desilylated triazole **22** (8% yield). Nevertheless, cycloaddition between **10** and **20** in the presence of CuSO₄,5H₂O (4% mol.) and sodium ascorbate (16% mol.) in a mixture of *tert*butanol and water as described by Somsák et al. [33] cleanly provided triazole **21** as a sole product in a yield of 82%. Desilylation of **21** in the presence of TBAF and acetic acid in THF followed by saponification of the methyl ester **22** furnished the carboxylic acid **23**. Finally, the monosubstituted triazole HMBP **19** was obtained in 48% yield from **23**.

2.2. Antiproliferative activity on tumor cell lines

Antiproliferative effects of HMBPs 8a-d and 9a-d have been evaluated against MIA PaCa-2 (pancreas), MDA-MB-231 (breast) and A549 (lung) human tumor cell lines. Zoledronate 1, a potent FPPS inhibitor with promising antiproliferative activity on a wide range of human cancer cell lines, was used as control. Cancer cells were treated with tested compounds at various concentrations for 72 h and cell viability was measured by MTT assay. As shown in Table 1, 4-butyltriazole 8a exhibited weak antiproliferative effect against the three cancer cell lines (IC $_{50}=22.9{-}32.7~\mu M$), however, elongation of the triazole alkyl side chain dramatically affects cancer cell viability. For instance, 4-hexyltriazole 8b displayed remarkable antiproliferative activities with IC₅₀ values in the micromolar range (0.75-2.4 µM) and was approximately 4 to 12fold more potent than zoledronate at inhibiting cancer cells growth (IC₅₀ of 8.8–10.1 µM). 4-Octyltriazole 8c exhibited similar antiproliferative activities than 8b toward MIA PaCa-2 and MDA-MB-231 cells (IC₅₀ = 1.0 μ M and 1.2 μ M, respectively) but was essentially inactive against A549 cells. 4-Phenyltriazole 8d and HMBP **19**, a zoledronate analog for which the imidazole ring was substituted by a triazole heterocycle, exerted no significant antiproliferative action on the three cancer cell lines, indicating that a long alkyl chain at the C-4 position of the triazole ring is required for the anticancer activity of **8b-c**. Transferring the C-4 alkyl chain of **8b-c** to the C-5 position of the triazole ring also led to a dramatic reduction in potency. Hence, HMBP 9b was 5-17 less potent at inhibiting cancer cell growth than its regioisomer **8b** with IC₅₀ values of 13.0 µM, 12.8 µM and 23.7 µM against MIA PaCa-2, MDA-MB-231 and A549 tumor cells, respectively. Finally, HMBP 9a, 9c and **9d** showed no significant effects on cancer cell growth at the highest tested concentration of 100 µM.

We next decided to evaluate the antiproliferative effect of HMBP **24** (Fig. 2) to gain additional insights into structural features contributing to the growth-inhibitory potency of our lead triazole HMBP **8b** (synthesis of **24** is described in the ESI). **24** is a position isomer of **8b** for which the methylene group between the HMBP moiety and the triazole ring has been replaced by a propylene linker. Increasing the distance between the triazole ring and the HMBP scaffold also resulted in a dramatic reduction in potency (cell growth inhibition <30% at the highest tested concentration of 100 μ M).

We then sought to confirm that the remarkable antiproliferative effect of HMBP **8b** on MIA PaCa-2 cancer cells ($IC_{50} = 0.75 \mu$ M) was the consequence of the isoprenoid biosynthesis inhibition. For this purpose, MIA PaCa-2 cells were incubated with **8b** in the presence or absence of FPP and GGPP precursors such as farnesol (FOH) and geranylgeraniol (GGOH) which were found to diffuse through the cell membrane and to restore GTPase prenylation *via* salvage pathway [34]. As illustrated in Fig. 3, HMBP **8b** induced a significant antiproliferative effect at the concentration of 2 μ M on MIA PaCa-2



cancer cells (70% cell growth inhibition). Co-incubation of 8b $(2 \mu M)$ with FOH at a non-toxic concentration (50 μM) did not restore the viability of cancer cells (60% growth inhibition). In stark contrast, the antiproliferative effect of **8b** is significantly reversed by addition of the mevalonate pathway metabolite GGOH (50 μ M) in the culture medium (27% cell growth inhibition), confirming that HMBP 8b inhibits the isoprenoid biosynthesis in MIA PaCa-2 cells which ultimately led to impairment of protein prenylation and cell death. Many studies shown that the toxicity of selective GGPPS inhibitors is reversed when cancer cells were co-treated with geranylgeraniol (GGOH) and not with farnesol (FOH). [14,16], However, a similar trend was also observed with the selective FPPS inhibitor zoledronate 1, suggesting that antiproliferative effect of 1 could be at least partially attributed to inhibition of GTPases geranylgeranylation [35]. In our case, triazole HMBPs 8a-d and 9a-d are unlikely to act as a cationic transition-state analog inhibitor of human FPPS because the [1-3]-triazole heterocycle (pKa = 1.2) [36] is not basic enough to be protonated at physiological pH. It could be reasonably assumed that HMBP 8b, which is structurally close to the triazole bisphosphonate 7 with its neutral, long and lipophilic side chain, directly impairs intracellular GGPP level through direct inhibition of GGPPS. To verify this hypothesis, we decided to perform a molecular docking study to explore potential binding mode of our triazole HMBP within the human GGPPS enzyme.



Fig. 3. – Effect of 8b (2 $\mu M)$ on MIA-PaCa-2 cell proliferation in the presence or absence of FOH (50 $\mu M)$ or GGOH (50 $\mu M).$

2.3. Molecular docking

Prior to the docking computations, a structural investigation of the GGPPS protein structure was made through a molecular dynamics simulation and described in the ESI. Extensive molecular docking computations were then undertaken on the active site of GGPPS for the triazole HMBPs 8a-d and 9a-d. Molecular docking energies and clustering percentages are available on supplementary material (table S1). A notable result is the highly similar location of the bisphosphonate moieties for either 8a-d or 9ad compounds. The negatively charged HMBP scaffold guides the association with GGPPS through favorable electrostatic interaction toward the magnesium ions and the positively charged residues Arg73, Lys 151 and Lys 212 (see Fig. 4). The 1,4-triazole ring gains two hydrogen bonds with the sidechain of Gln185 and Arg73. These favorable interactions guide the long alkyl chains at the C-4 position of the compounds **8b** and **8c** to fit into a large lipophilic pocket of human GGPPS as shown on Fig. 4. Superimposition of the docking poses with GGPP (in purple color on Fig. 4) bound to human GPPS (PDB: 2Q80) [10] confirmed that 8b and 8c could inhibit GGPPS by mimicking the C20 isoprenoid GGPP in the inhibitory binding pocket of the enzyme (Fig. 4). In stark contrast, alkyl substituents at C-5 position such as 9c (Fig. 4) induce a translation of the triazole ring so that the hydrogen bond with Gln185 is removed and the alkyl chain is not fully incorporated in the GGPPS binding pocket. This bended geometry is possibly correlated with the reduced anticancer activities of these bisphosphonates. Previous computer modeling and crystallographic studies suggest that bisphosphonate inhibitors such as **7b** bind either to the GGPP site (inhibition site) or FPP site (substrate site) of GGPPS. [14,37], As a consequence, exact binding mode of triazole HMBPs 8b-c needs to be confirmed by crystallographic investigation.

3. Conclusion

In this study, alkyl- and phenyl-substituted 1,4- and 1,5-triazole HMBPs **8a-d** and **9a-d** were conveniently synthesized with excellent regioselectivity and good yields using both copper and ruthenium azide-alkyne 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition. Preliminary biological evaluation of these compounds showed that HMBP **8b** inhibited isoprenoid biosynthesis in vitro and displayed promising antiproliferative effect against MIA PaCa-2, MDA-MB-231 and A549 cancer cell lines with IC₅₀ values in the micromolar range (0.75–2.4 μ M). Furthermore, **8b** is approximately 4 to 12-fold more potent at inhibiting tumor cells growth than zoledronate **1**, an HMBP drug currently marketed for the treatment of bone



Fig. 4. - Left, molecular interactions of compounds **8b** and **8c** (carbon in grey) and compound **9c** (carbon in orange) with human GGPPS. Protein residues are displayed with balls and sticks and hydrogen bonds with dashed lines. Right, molecular surface of the binding pocket of GGPPS colored according to their hydrophobicity (green: hydrophobic to blue: hydrophilic). The GGPP compound, extracted from pdb code 2Q80 [10], is presented in purple.

metastases of breast and lung tumors. Structure-activity relationship study revealed that the antiproliferative activity of compound **8b** is highly dependent on both the presence of a long linear alkyl chain containing at least 6 carbon atoms at C-4 position of the triazole ring and the distance between the triazole heterocycle and the HMBP moiety. Molecular docking suggests that triazoles **8b** and **8c** bearing long alkyl chains could inhibit GGPP biosynthesis which led to disruption of GTPase geranyl-geranylation by filling the lipophilic inhibitory pocket of GGPPS. Overall, these results clearly showed that triazole HMBPs such as **8b** is an attractive lead for the development of new potent HMBP-based isoprenoid synthase inhibitors with improved anticancer properties.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General chemistry methods

All the reactions were performed in flame-dried glassware under argon atmosphere. All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Alfa Aesar and were used as delivered. NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker Avance-III-400 spectrometer (¹H: 400 MHz, ¹³C: 101 MHz, ³¹P: 162 MHz). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Standard abbreviations indicating multiplicity are used as follows: b = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet. ³¹P NMR spectra were measured with ¹H coupling. The reaction progress was monitored by ³¹P NMR experiments (spectra were recorded without lock and shims) or thin-layer chromatography on Macherey-Nagel Alugram Sil G/UV₂₅₄ precoated silica gel TLC plates. Spots were visualized by dipping the TLC plates into a solution of KMnO₄ in water following by heating with a heat gun. Flash column chromatography separations were performed using Macherey-Nagel silica gel 60 $(15-40 \ \mu m)$ as the stationary phase. Mass spectra (MS) were recorded in negative (ESI⁻) or positive mode (ESI⁺) by using an Agilent 1260 Infinity II LC system coupled to an Agilent InfinityLab LC/MSD detector. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on a Bruker maXis mass spectrometer in negative (ESI⁻) mode by the "Fédération de Recherche" ICOA/CBM (FR2708) platform (Université d'Orléans).

4.2. Synthesis of methyl 2-azidoacetate 10

NaN₃ (9.87 g, 152 mmol, 1.1 eq.) was added to a solution of methyl chloroacetate (15 g, 138 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in DMF (138 mL). The mixture was stirred for 48 h and water (150 mL) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 150 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with water (4 × 150 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to afford methyl 2-azidoacetate **10** (12.55 g, 79% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 3.87 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 168.9, 52.7, 50.3. Spectral data are in agreement with those previously reported in the literature [38].

4.3. Synthesis of triazoles 12a-d

CuSO₄·5H₂O (10 mol%) and sodium ascorbate (10 mol%) were successively added to a solution of azide **10** (1.2 eq.) and alkyne **11a-d** (1.0 eq.) in THF/H₂O 1/1 ([alkyne] = 0.18 M). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h and THF was removed *invacuo*. The resulting aqueous layer was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated. Triazoles **12a-d** were obtained after purification by chromatography over silica gel (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50).

Compound **12a**. Colorless oil (1.909 g, 97% yield). R_f: 0.56 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.39 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.70 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz), 1.67–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.31 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.1, 148.9, 122.1, 53.0, 50.6, 31.5, 25.4, 22.3, 13.9. Spectral data are in agreement with those previously reported in the literature [39].

Compound **12b**. Colorless oil (1.832 g, 81% yield). R_f: 0.63 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.40 (s, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.72 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz), 1.71–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.39–1.24 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, 3H, ³J = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.1, 149.0, 122.1, 53.0, 50.7, 31.6, 29.3, 28.9, 25.7, 22.6, 14.1. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₂₀N₃O₂⁺: 226.2; found: 226.1.

Compound **12c**. Colorless oil (2.453 g, 97% yield). R_f: 0.82 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.39 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.69 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz), 1.71–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.37–1.17 (m, 10H), 0.83 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.0, 148.9, 122.1, 53.0, 50.6, 31.9, 29.4 (2C), 29.3, 29.2, 25.7, 22.7, 14.1. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₂₄N₃O⁺₂: 254.2; found: 254.1.

Compound **12d**. White solid (1.030 g, 95% yield). R_f: 0.57 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 9/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 7.42 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 7.34 (t, 1H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 5.21 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 166.8, 148.3, 130.4, 128.9 (2C), 128.4, 125.8 (2C), 121.2, 53.1, 50.8. Spectral data are in agreement with those previously reported in the literature.³⁶

4.4. Synthesis of triazoles 17a-d

A solution of azide **10** (1 eq.) and alkyne **11a-d** (1 eq.) in degassed 1,4-dioxane ([alkyne] = 0.9 M) was added to a solution of Cp*RuCl(PPh₃)₃ (5 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane ([Cp*RuC l(PPh₃)₃] = 0.009 M) under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h and the solvent was removed *in-vacuo*. Triazoles **17a-d** were obtained after purification by chromatography over silica gel (petroleum ether/AcOEt 80/20).

Compound **17a.** Yellow oil (104 mg, 76% yield). R_f: 0.55 (petroleum ether/AcOEt (50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.50 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.57 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz), 1.72–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.34 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, 3H, ³J = 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 166.8, 138.6, 132.1, 53.1, 48.8, 29.9, 22.9, 22.3, 13.8. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₉H₁₆N₃O⁺₂: 198.1; found: 198.1.

Compound **17b.** Yellow oil (103 mg, 66% yield). R_f: 0.45 (petroleum ether/AcOEt (50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.49 (s, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.56 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 1.69–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.23 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, 3H, ³J = 6.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 166.9, 138.5, 132.2, 53.1, 48.7, 31.5, 28.9, 27.8, 22.6, 23.2, 14.1. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₂₀N₃O⁺₂: 226.2; found: 226.1.

Compound **17c.** Yellow oil (157 mg, 89% yield). R_f: 0.57 (petroleum ether/AcOEt (50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.49 (s, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.56 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 1.70–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.21 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, 3H, ³J = 6.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 166.9, 138.4, 132.4, 53.1, 48.7, 31.9, 29.3 (2C), 29.2, 27.9, 23.2, 22.8, 14.2. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₂₄N₃O⁺₂: 254.2; found: 254.1.

Compound **17d**. Yellow oil (111 mg, 73% yield). R_f: 0.47 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.2, 139.0, 133.1, 130.0, 129.3 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 126.6, 53.1, 49.2. MS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₁N₃O₂Na⁺: 240.1; found: 240.1.

4.5. Synthesis of TMS-substituted triazole 21

CuSO₄·5H₂O (85 mg, 0.34 mmol, 4 mol%) and sodium ascorbate (269 mg, 1.36 mmol, 16 mol%) were successively added to a solution of TMS-acetylene **19** (999 mg, 10.17 mmol, 1.2 eq.) and azide **10** (976 mg, 8.48 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in *t*-BuOH/H₂O 1/2 (60 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and was diluted with water (50 mL). The resulting aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated. Triazole **20** (1.480 g, 82% yield, white solid) was obtained after purification by chromatography over silica gel (EP/AcOEt 50/50). Rf: 0.61 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.66 (br s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 0.33 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.1, 147.3, 130.4, 53.1, 50.2, -1.1 (3C). MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₅H₁₆N₃O₂Si⁺: 214.1; found: 214.0.

4.6. Synthesis of monosubstituted triazole 22

Acetic acid (230 µL, 4.00 mmol, 1.4 eq.) and TBAF (1 M in THF, 4 mL, 4.00 mmol, 1.4 eq.) were successively added to a cooled solution of TMS-substituted triazole **20** (610 mg, 2.86 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in dry THF (14.7 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 36 h and THF was removed *in-vacuo*. The crude was purified by chromatography over silica gel (petroleum ether/AcOEt 20/80) to afford triazole **21** (339 mg, 84% yield) as a white solid. R_f: 0.30 (petroleum ether/AcOEt 50/50). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ ppm = 167.0, 134.3, 125.1, 53.1, 50.6. MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₅H₈N₃O⁺₂: 142.1; found: 142.0.

4.7. Synthesis of carboxylic acids 13a-d, 18a-d and 23

Aqueous solution of NaOH (1 M, 6 equiv.) was added to a solution of methyl ester **12a-d**, **17a-d** or **22** in MeOH (0.05 M). The mixture was refluxed for 30 min and MeOH was removed under reduced pressure. Aqueous solution of HCl (1 M) was added until pH reached 1. The aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt (3×50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to afford carboxylic acid **13a-d**, **17a-d** or **22** which was used in the next step without further purification.

Compound 13a. White solid (862 mg, 93% yield, white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.76 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 2.71 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz), 1.70–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.35 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.9, 149.3, 124.7, 51.5, 32.7, 25.9, 23.2, 14.1. MS (ESI): [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₈H₁₂N₃O₂⁻: 182.1; found: 182.1.

Compound 13b. White solid (1.50 g, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.75 (s, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.71 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.6 Hz), 1.74–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.28 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, 3H, ³J = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.9, 149.3, 124.7, 51.6, 32.7, 30.5, 29.9, 26.2, 23.6, 14.4. MS (ESI): [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₁₆N₃O₂⁻: 210.1; found: 210.1.

Compound 13c. White solid (1.95 g, 89% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.75 (s, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.71 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.74–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.23 (m, 10H), 0.95 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.9, 149.3, 124.7, 51.6, 33.0, 30.5, 30.4, 30.3, 30.2, 26.2, 23.7, 14.4. MS (ESI): [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₂H₂₀N₃O₂⁻: 238.2; found: 238.1.

Compound 13d. White solid (922 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.84–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.8, 148.9, 131.6, 130.0 (2C), 129.4, 126.7 (2C), 123.7, 51.7. Spectral data are in agreement with those previously reported in the literature.²²

Compound 18a. White solid (81 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.54 (s, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 2.67 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz), 1.73–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.37 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, 3H, ³J = 7.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.8, 140.7, 132.6, 49.5 (partially masked by MeOD signal), 30.9, 23.4, 23.3, 14.0. MS (ESI): [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₈H₁₂N₃O₂⁻: 182.1; found: 182.1.

Compound 18b. White solid (64 mg, 79% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.54 (s, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 2.66 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz), 1.73–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.47–1.31 (m, 6H), 0.92 (t, 3H, ³J = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.8, 140.7, 132.6, 49.5 (partially masked by MeOD signal), 32.6, 29.9, 28.8, 23.7, 23.6, 14.4. [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₁₆N₃O₂⁻: 210.1; found: 210.0.

Compound 18c. White solid (142 mg, 100% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.54 (s, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 2.66 (t, 2H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 1.72–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.26 (m, 10H), 0.90 (t, 3H, ³J = 6.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.8, 140.7, 132.6, 49.5 (partially masked by MeOD signal), 33.0, 30.3 (2C), 30.2, 28.8, 23.7 (2C), 14.4. MS (ESI): [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₂H₂₀N₃O₂⁻: 238.2; found: 238.1.

Compound 18d. White solid (129 mg, 100% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 5H), 5.23 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, 298 K): δ ppm = 169.9, 140.7, 133.5, 130.9, 130.3 (2C) 129.8 (2C), 127.7, 50.3. MS (ESI): [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₈N₃O₂⁻: 202.1; found: 202.1.

Compound 23. White solid (500 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K): δ ppm = 8.11 (d, 1H, ${}^{3}J = 1$ Hz), 7.74 (d, 1H, ${}^{3}J = 1$ Hz), 5.29 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K): δ ppm = 168.7, 133.2, 126.3, 50.3. MS (ESI): [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₄H₄N₃O₂⁻: 126.0; found: 126.0.

4.8. Synthesis of HMBP 8a-d, 9a-d and 19

(COCl)₂ (1.8 eq.) was added to a solution of carboxylic acid **13a-d**, **17a-d** or **22** in dry DCM (0.44 M) at 0 °C under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 15 min and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure at 0 °C. The residue was dried under high vacuum to afford the corresponding acyl chloride which was immediately engaged in the next step without further purification. P(OSiMe₃)₃ (3.0 eq.) was slowly added to a cooled solution of acyl chloride in dry THF (0.24 M). The mixture was stirred for 20 min at 0 °C and for 30 min at room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the crude phosphonosilaester which was solubilized in dry MeOH (0.14 M). The mixture was stirred for 16 h at room temperature and evaporated. Crude compound was dissolved in a minimum amount of MeOH and this solution was added dropwise to a large volume of dry acetone under stirring. The white precipitate was collected and washed with acetone to afford the pure HMBP. Freshly prepared 0.2 M aqueous solution of NaOH (2.0 eq.) was added to a solution of the corresponding HMBP in water (0.07 M). The pH of the resulting solution is \approx 4.5. The mixture was freeze-dried to yield HMBP **8a-d**, 9a-d or 18 as a disodium salt.

Compound 8a. White solid (371 mg, 46% yield, purity \ge 98%).¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.81 (s, 1H), 4.83 (t, 2H, ${}^{3}J$ = 9.7 Hz, partially masked by H₂O signal), 2.65 (t, 2H, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.5 Hz), 1.62–1.54 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.23 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, 3H ${}^{3}J$ = 7.4 Hz). ${}^{31}P$ NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.2 (br s). ${}^{13}C$ NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 147.8, 125.1, 73.2 (t, ${}^{1}J$ = 133 Hz), 53.2, 30.7, 24.1, 21.3, 13.0. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₈H₁₆N₃O₇P₂⁻: 328.0469; found 328.0465.

Compound 8b. White solid (89 mg, 47%, yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.87 (s, 1H), 4.90–4.85 (m, 2H), 2.69 (t, 2H, ^{3}I = 7.5 Hz), 1.68–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.23 (m, 6H),

0.84 (t, 3H, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.0 Hz). ${}^{31}P$ NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ${}^{13}C$ NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 148.0, 125.0, 73.3 (t, ${}^{1}J$ = 134 Hz), 53.2, 30.7, 28.5, 27.8, 24.4, 21.9, 13.3. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₁₀H₂₀N₃O₇P₂⁻: 356.0782; found 356.0784.

Compound 8c. White solid (36 mg, 40% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.83 (s, 1H), 4.88–4.84 (m, 2H, partially masked by H₂O signal), 2.67 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.70–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.37–1.17 (m, 10H), 0.83 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.2 (t, ³*J* = 9.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 148.0, 125.0, 73.3 (t, ¹*J* = 133 Hz), 53.2, 31.1, 28.5, 28.4, 28.3, 28.1, 24.4, 22.0, 13.4. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₁₂H₂₄N₃O₇P₂⁻: 384.1095; found 384.1095.

Compound 8d. White solid (380 mg, 44% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.82–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 1H), 4.96–4.91 (m, 2H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 146.6, 129.8, 129.1 (2C), 128.5, 125.6 (2C), 124.1, 73.3 (t, ¹J = 133 Hz), 53.5. Spectral data are in agreement with those previously reported in the literature.²³

Compound 9a. White solid (80 mg, 39% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.54 (s, 1H), 4.82–4.77 (m, 2H, masked by HDO signal), 2.82 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz), 1.66–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.39–1.30 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 141.3, 131.4, 73.6 (t, ¹*J* = 133 Hz), 49.9, 29.4, 22.4, 21.6, 13.0. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₈H₁₆N₃O₇P₂⁻: 328.0469; found 328.0469.

Compound 9b. White solid (61 mg, 55% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.65 (s, 1H), 4.88–4.83 (m, 2H), 2.87 (t, 2H, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.71–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.28 (m, 6H), 0.86 (t, 3H, ³*J* = 6.5 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 141.9, 130.7, 73.5 (t, ¹*J* = 134 Hz), 50.4, 30.7, 27.9, 27.1, 22.7, 21.8, 13.3. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₁₀H₂₀N₃O₇P₂⁻: 356.0782; found 356.0781.

Compound 9c. White solid (41 mg, 24% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.53 (s, 1H), 4.89–4.72 (m, 2H, masked by HDO signal), 2.83 (t, 2H, ³J = 6.6 Hz), 1.69–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.15 (m, 10H), 0.88–0.77 (m, 3H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.0 (t, ³J = 9.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 141.2, 131.5, 73.6 (t, ¹J = 132 Hz), 50.1, 28.4, 28.3 (2C), 28.2, 27.2, 22.7, 22.0, 13.4. HRMS (ESI): [M – Na]⁻ calculated for C₁₂H₂₃N₃O₇P₂Na⁻: 406.0914; found 406.0928.

Compound 9d. White solid (85 mg, 43% yield, purity \ge 98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.61–7.50 (m, 5H), 4.95 (t, 2H, ³J = 9.4 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.0 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 140.3, 132.7, 129.6, 129.4 (2C),128.9 (2C), 126.6, 73.8 (t, ¹J = 135 Hz), 50.7. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₁₀H₁₂N₃O₇P₂⁻: 348.0156; found 348.0155.

Compound 19. White solid (153 mg, 48% yield, purity \geq 98%). A catalytic amount of DMF (1 drop) was required for the efficient conversion of **23** into the corresponding acyl chloride. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 4.91 (t, 2H, ³J = 9.6 Hz, H₂). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 14.1 (br s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 298 K): δ ppm = 133.1, 127.5, 73.2 (t, ¹J = 133 Hz), 53.2. HRMS (ESI): [M-2Na + H]⁻ calculated for C₄H₈N₃O₇P₂⁻: 271.9843; found 271.9847.

4.9. Cell culture

MIA PaCa-2 (human pancreatic carcinoma), MDA-MB-231 (human breast adenocarcinoma) and A549 (human lung carcinoma) cell lines were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection

(ATCC). These cells were grown in high glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM – Sigma Aldrich) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma Aldrich) in a standard humified incubator at 37 °C and 5% CO₂.

4.10. Cell viability

Cell viability was evaluated using the MTT colorimetric assay. MIA PaCa-2, A549 and MDA-MB-231 cells were seeded respectively at a density of 1×10^3 , 1×10^3 and 4×10^3 cells/well in a 96-well plate in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. 24 h later, the culture medium was removed and replaced by 100 µL of culture medium containing increasing concentrations of test compound (0.1–100 µM). After 72 h incubation, 10 µL of the MTT solution (5 mg/mL in PBS) were added to each well. After additional 3 h of incubation, the culture medium was removed, and the insoluble purple product was dissolved by addition of DMSO (50 µL). Optical density was measured at 570 nm using a Thermo Scientific Multiskan FC microplate reader. Concentration of bisphosphonate required for 50% decrease in cell viability (IC₅₀) were determined by using GraphPad software. These experiments were carried out at least 3 times in triplicate.

4.11. In-vitro inhibition of FPP/GPP biosynthesis

The inhibition of FPP/GGPP biosynthesis was studied by treating MIA PaCa-2 cells with **8b** (2 μ M) in the presence or absence of FOH (50 μ M) or GGOH (50 μ M). MIA PaCa-2 cells were seeded at a density of 1 \times 10³ cells/well in a 96-well plate in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. After 24 h incubation at 37 °C and 5% CO₂, the culture medium was replaced with fresh medium containing tested compounds (100 μ L). After 72 h of treatment, 10 μ L of the MTT solution (5 mg/mL in PBS) were added to each well. Cells were further incubated for 3 h at 37 °C. Then the culture medium was removed, and the insoluble product was dissolved by addition of DMSO (50 μ L) before determination of the absorbance at 570 nm. Cell viability was determined by using GraphPad software. These experiments were performed 3 times in triplicate.

4.12. Computational investigations

All docking computations were performed with the Autodock software [40]. Compounds **8a-d** and **9a-d** were built with the help of maestro Schrödinger program [41]. The coordinates of human GGPPS were found in the pdb with the accession code 6C57 [14]. After a molecular dynamics stage (see ESI) a grid box of $62 \times 68 \times 54$ Å³ was designed around the magnesium ions to delineate the binding pocket for the molecular docking computations. 200 cycles of calculations were performed in order to get a final docking pose as accurate as possible. The resulting docking structures were then clustered and the conformation selected was the one which presented the lowest docking free energy of binding in the most populated cluster [42]. [43] Visualization, structural alignment and analysis of protein–ligand interactions were made with the help of the visual molecular dynamic [44] software and hydrophobicity surface coloration with Eisenberg scale computations [45].

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.

Declaration of competing interest

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2021.113241.

a)fx278 b) fx279 Figure S1: a) HSQC NMR spectrum of a 1,4disubstituted triazole 12b. b) HSQC NMR spectrum of a1,4- disubstituted triazole 17b.

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