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Camphor-based symmetric diimines as inhibitors of influenza virus reproduction

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ABSTRACT

Influenza is a continuing world-wide public health problem that causes significant morbidity and mortality during seasonal epidemics and sporadic pandemics. The purpose of the study was synthesis and investigation of antiviral activity of camphor-based symmetric diimines and diamines. A set of C2-symmetric nitrogen-containing camphor derivatives have been synthesized. The antiviral activity of these compounds was studied against rimantadine- and amantadine-resistant influenza virus A/California/7/09 (H1N1)pdm09 in MDCK cells. The highest efficacy in virus inhibiting was shown for compounds **2a–e** with cage moieties bound by aliphatic linkers. The therapeutic index (selectivity index) for **2b** exceeded that for reference compounds amantadine, deitoforin and rimantadine almost 10-fold. As shown by structure–activity analysis, the length of the linker has a dramatic effect on the toxicity of compounds. Compound **2e** with $-C_{12}H_{24}-$ linker exhibited the lowest toxicity ($CTD_{50} = 2216 \mu M$). Derivatives of camphor, therefore, can be considered as prospective antiinfluenza compounds active against influenza viruses resistant to adamantane-based drugs.

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1. Introduction

Development of new drugs for treatment and prophylaxis of viral infections is one of the most important directions of modern pharmacology and medicinal chemistry. Outbreaks of avian influenza H5N1 (1997–2006) followed by pandemic of ‘swine flu’ A(H1N1)pdm09, as well as the recent introduction of avian virus of H7N9 subtype to the human population make it necessary to revise the problem of searching for and developing novel antivirals.¹

As demonstrated by practice-based research, natural compounds are the most promising source for the development of drugs. Approximately half of novel drugs approved for clinical use in USA are the naturally derived compounds and their modified derivatives.² There are currently few antivirals against influenza infection, for most of which fast emergence of drug resistance has been documented.³ For this reason, creation of novel effective antivirals with the alternative mechanism and broad spectrum of activity is one of the most important goals in the field of treatment and prophylaxis of influenza.

Due to specific genome organization (in particular, segmented nature and lack of the mechanism of correction of replication errors) and short-term life cycle, influenza virus demonstrates high genetic variability and high rate of mutations. As a result, its antigenic structure is highly variable due to selective pressure of host immune response. In addition, the presence of specific antivirals also serves as a selective factor resulting in fast emergence of drug-resistant virus strains. Taken together, these processes lead to the selection of viral variants that are capable both of escaping the immune inactivation by neutralizing antibodies and of overcoming the suppressive action of antiviral drugs.

Three chemical classes of compounds are currently used as anti-influenza drugs. They are targeted against different stages of viral life cycle in infected cells. Among them, the most commonly used compounds include neuraminidase inhibitors zanamivir (Relenza®), oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), peramivir (Rapiacta®), and laninamivir (Inavir®).⁴ They interfere with the activity of viral neuraminidase, which plays an essential role in the release of progeny virus particles from the surface of a host cell. Ribavirin and favipiravir are antivirals of broad range of activity, which exhibit a suppressive effect against almost all RNA-genome human viruses.⁵ Meanwhile, being a nucleoside analog, ribavirin possesses

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numerous side effects, including the reduction of haemoglobin level, neutropenia, pulmonary edema, etc.⁶

Adamantane derivatives, which were first discovered as specific anti-influenza drugs with the direct mechanism of activity are represented by two compounds: Rimantadine (α -methyl-1-adamantylamine hydrochloride) and amantadine (1-aminoadamantane).⁷ These compounds block virally encoded protein M2 that acts as a proton channel required for acidification of the virion core, and thus prevent hemagglutinin cleavage and further fusion of membranes of the viral envelope and lysosomal vacuole necessary for virus decapsidation.^{8,9}

Despite high initial efficacy of adamantanes as anti-influenza drugs, drug-resistant strains can be easily selected both in vitro and in patients receiving adamantane-based therapy.¹⁰ Adamantane resistance among circulating influenza A viruses increased rapidly worldwide starting from 2003 to 2004. The percentage of adamantane-resistant influenza A virus isolates increased from 0.4% in 1994–1995 to 92% in 2005–2006 influenza season.¹¹ The resistance is mainly conferred by amino acid substitutions in M2 protein L26F, V27A, S31N and G34E.¹²

Being widely used cage structures, adamantanes were used for the rational design of a large class of antiviral compounds.¹³ In particular, attempts were undertaken to overcome the adamantane-resistance of influenza virus. Among them, aminospiroadamantanes, although inactive against the mutant S31N, were revealed to be a submicromolar inhibitor of the clinically important mutant V27A (IC_{50} = 0.31 μ M) and also showed to be active against the mutant L26F (IC_{50} = 5.6 μ M).¹⁴

Bananins, which have been shown to possess an inhibitory activity against SARS coronavirus, are the closest compounds to classical adamantanes.¹⁵ More widely, cage structures appeared promising core structures for the development of novel antivirals. Among them, Deitforin (2-(1'-aminoethyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane) is one of the most interesting drugs based on natural cage compounds, bornanes (Fig. 1).¹⁶ In this regard, it is important to note that this compound is in fact of natural origin and that borneol and isoborneol have been widely known in folk medicine as anti-inflammatory compounds.¹⁷

Natural compounds, including monoterpenoids, are a promising source of new antiviral compounds.^{18,19} Oxygen-containing monoterpenoid with a *para*-menthane framework showed a significant activity against the influenza virus,²⁰ nitrogen containing compounds based on the hydrochlorides of 1- and 2-adamantylamines and monoterpene aldehydes demonstrated antiviral activity against the influenza virus higher than that of rimantadine and amantadine.²¹ Meanwhile, it is known that Schiff bases are among the most important groups of biomolecules. These compounds have been found to reveal both remarkable biological activities and a variety of valuable practical applications.^{22,23} The aim of this work was to synthesize new nitrogen containing compounds, including Schiff bases and amines, based on camphor and to study their antiviral activity against rimantadine-resistant influenza virus A/California/07/09 (H1N1)pdm09.

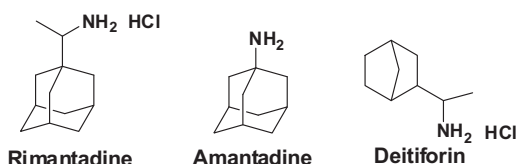


Figure 1. Anti-influenza drugs.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Chemistry

Starting from the known terpene camphor **1**, we have prepared new *N,N'*-bis(isobornyl)diimine **2a–g** and diamine **3b,c,e,f,g** and **4b,c** using the conventional methods of amine chemistry. Camphor is an inexpensive natural compound, one of the first plant metabolites isolated in the chemically pure form. For a long time, the technology for isolating this compound from camphor tree wood has been known in China in Japan. The analeptic properties of camphor have been known since the 18th century. Today, it is used to treat acute and chronic heart failure, respiratory depression, soporific and narcotic poisoning, as well as an agent for topical use.²⁴ A typical feature of a camphor molecule is its cage-hydrocarbon (rigid) structure that is similar to a certain extent to that of adamantane. Having the nearly spherical structure, adamantane derivatives, amantadine and rimantadine, exhibit high penetrability through the cell membrane and, hence, high antiviral activity.

Aliphatic diimines (Schiff bases) **2a–e** were obtained according to the procedure in Ref. 25 using azeotropic distillation of water and purified by column chromatography. Diimines **2f,g** were obtained by the method described previously²⁶ using tetraethylxysilane as a dehydrating agent. In the latter case, we isolated iminoamines **5f,g** along with C2-symmetric camphor diimine. Aliphatic diimines **2b,c,e** are reduced in a regio- and stereo selective manner,²⁷ yielding symmetric *exo*-, *exo*-diamines **3b,c,e**. *N*-Methylation with dimethyl sulfate of amines **3b,c** give tertiary amines **4b,c**.

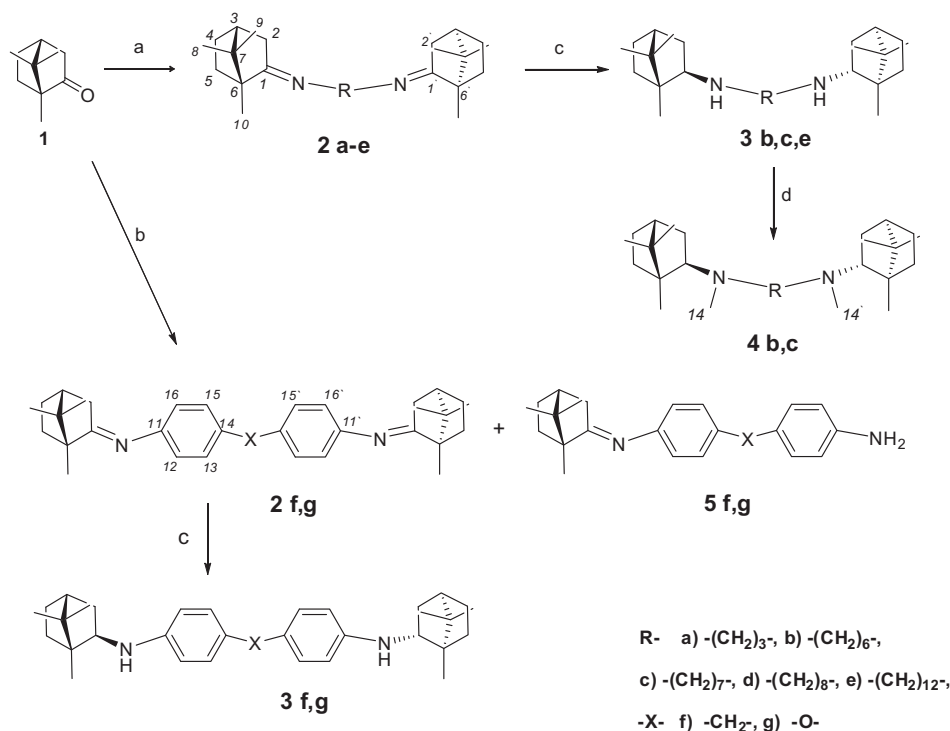
The reduction of diimines **2f,g** by NaBH₄ in the presence of NiCl₂ yielded the corresponding aromatic secondary amines **3f,g**. However, the degree of conversion in this case is low; the yield of diamines was 34–46%. The attempts to select conditions for reducing compounds **2f,g** were unsuccessful. Many well-established methods failed to give the clean reaction, including the use of complex metal hydrides (i.e. NaBH₄, NaBH₃CN, NaBH(OAc)₃, LiAlH₄, Zn(BH₄)₂) in a number of solvents. The stability of compounds **2f,g** against reduction can probably be attributed to their rigid aromatic structure and the presence of conjugation in the molecule (Scheme 1).

The *endo* position of H¹ proton in compounds **3b,c,e,f,g** is supported by the values of the constants of spin–spin coupling between it and protons H²ⁿ and H^{2k} (8.8 Hz and 7.5 Hz, respectively). In case of the *exo* position of H¹ atom, its constant of spin–spin coupling with H^{2k} proton would be equal to ~12–13 Hz. The absence of long-range spin–spin proton coupling between protons H^{5k} and H¹ also argues in favor of the fact that the H¹ proton occupies the *exo* position. Compounds **2b–g**, **3b,c,e,f,g**, **4b,c** and **5f,g** are new and have not been previously described in the literature. Symmetric camphor diimine and diamine based on commercially available (1*R*)-camphor with ethane-1,2-diamine and propane-1,3-diamine were previously used as a chiral bidentate ligands.²⁸

2.2. Study of biological activity. Antiviral activity

The obtained compounds **2a–g**, **3b,c,g**, **4b,c** and **5f,g** have been studied as potential antiviral agents. Adamantane- and bornane-based derivatives were used as reference compounds due to their close similarity to the compounds under investigation in having rigid cage fragments in their structures.

It should be noted that the initial camphor molecule does not possess a virus-inhibiting activity. Meanwhile, the study revealed a high inhibiting effect of symmetric compounds with aliphatic linkers between two camphor residues (compounds **2a–e**) against



Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (a) NH_2-R-NH_2 (0.50 equiv), $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ (1–5 mol %), PhMe, reflux (Dean–Stark), 12–48 h; (b) $NH_2-Ph-X-Ph-NH_2$ (0.50 equiv), $SiOEt_4$ (1 equiv), H_2SO_4 (5 mol %) reflux; (c) $NiCl_2$ (4 equiv), $NaBH_4$ (20 equiv), MeOH, $-30^\circ C$ to rt; (d) $(CH_3O)_2SO_2$ (10 equiv), K_2CO_3 (1.0 equiv), MeOH, rt, 12 h.

influenza virus A/California/07/09 (H1N1)pdm09, mostly due to a decrease in toxicity. Compounds **2a,b,c,e** were shown to possess the highest antiviral activity (Table 1). Diimine **2b** has a selectivity index exceeding that for reference compounds 9-fold and more.

During the course of the study, three types of modifications were applied to these compounds. As shown by structure–activity

analysis, compounds bearing an amino group lost their efficacy in suppression of virus replication. With few exceptions, these compounds had much higher toxicity (low CTD_{50} values), resulting in lowering of their SIs. Indeed, ED_{50} values for diamines **3b** and **3c** are 0.77 and 3.2 μM , respectively, the values that could be recognized as a high antiviral activity. Nevertheless, their toxicity appeared to be high and, as a consequence, SIs are low. Second, the introduction of aromatic moieties into linker also resulted in lack of virus suppression. Indeed, symmetrical diimines **2f,g** connected by aromatic linkers, amino-imines **5f,g** and diamine **3g** did not exhibit high antiviral activity. The combination of these two modifications did not restore the antiviral activity (compounds **3f,g**).

Based on the results of the study, two issues should be discussed. First, among the compounds **2a–2e**, with one exception (**2e**), the strong dependence of anti-viral activity of the linker length can be observed. One can note that optimal number of carbon atoms in the linker is 6 (**2b**). The activity of compounds decreased when this number both increased (**2c**, **2d**) and decreased (**2a**). This led to speculation that there are two sites of interaction of terminal camphor moieties with viral target, and that they demonstrate optimal activity when connected with the spacer of appropriate length.

Second, it should be noted that the described experiments were conducted using rimantadine-resistant strain of influenza virus. The resistance is due to amino acid substitution S31N (GenBank accession number AGI54797.1) typical of resistant strains. Therefore, despite structure similarity of substances under investigation with the known anti-influenza drugs amantadine and rimantadine, as well as with other M2 cage inhibitors, the mechanism of activity of symmetric camphor-based diimines should be different. Initially, adamantane derivatives were shown to interact with amino acids within the M2 proton channel.³⁰ Recently, another adamantane-binding site was discovered in M2.^{31,32} The mutations conferring amantadine- and rimantadine-resistance are located in transmembrane domain of M2 facing inside the channel. S31N is

Table 1

Antiviral activity of camphor-based compounds **1–5** against influenza virus A/California/7/09 (H1N1)pdm09 in MDCK cells

Compound	CTD_{50}^a , μM	ED_{50}^b , μM	SI ^c
1	3289.5 \pm 216.0	1644.7 \pm 144.4	2
2a	283.6 \pm 25.4	9.3 \pm 0.8	30
2b	1346.6 \pm 126.1	15.1 \pm 1.1	89
2c	1256.3 \pm 114.2	22.8 \pm 2.3	55
2d	390.1 \pm 35.9	24.2 \pm 2.1	16
2e	2216.2 \pm 214.8	45.0 \pm 3.9	49
2f	>1072.9	351.4 \pm 32.3	3
2g	>1067.0	373.4 \pm 35.1	3
3b	5.4 \pm 0.4	0.77 \pm 0.1	7
3c	10.4 \pm 1.0	3.2 \pm 0.2	3
3e	14.4 \pm 1.5	4.4 \pm 0.3	3
3f	>638.2	153.2 \pm 11.9	4
3g	>635.5	207.6 \pm 19.5	3
4b	110.3 \pm 9.1	110.1 \pm 10.4	1
4c	697.6 \pm 72.2	40.4 \pm 3.8	17
5f	30.1 \pm 2.9	15.0 \pm 1.2	2
5g	32.9 \pm 2.7	4.2 \pm 0.0	8
Rimantadine	335.2 \pm 26.8	67.0 \pm 4.9	5
Amantadine	284.1 \pm 21.4	64.2 \pm 4.7	4
Deitiformin	1266.2 \pm 81.5	208.6 \pm 15.4	6
Ribavirin ^d	>2000.0	24.6	>81.0

^a CTD_{50} —cytotoxic concentration; the concentration resulting in death of 50% of cells.

^b ED_{50} —50% effective concentration; the concentration leading to 50% inhibition of virus replication.

^c SI—selectivity index, ratio CTD_{50}/ED_{50} .

^d Data are taken from Ref. 29.

the most widely distributed mutation among drug-resistant strains. Due to spatial limitations, few modifications and side groups can be introduced into adamantane derivative without lacking its ability to fit into proton channel. Interaction with external amino acids suggests more wide range of chemical modifications resulting in high virus-inhibiting activity.

In order to address these issues, we performed a computer simulation of interaction of the most active compound **2b** with M2 proton channel of influenza virus (Fig. 2).

According to the model, **2b** binds to two adjacent sites in M2 in the area of amino acids 44–55. Each camphor moiety is coordinated with charged (Asp44 and Arg45) and aromatic (Phe48, Tyr52 and Phe55) amino acids. No hydrogen bonds have been established between **2b** and M2. Their interaction can be provided by hydrophobic contacts with Phe48, Ile51 and Phe55.

It should be mentioned that despite docking experiment describes the interaction of **2b** with specific amino acids of M2, in a framework of our study no direct evidence of such binding was obtained. For this reason, direct experiments should be performed to confirm this hypothesis using biophysical (conductance or binding testing) or virological (selection of resistant mutants and analysis of amino acid changes) methods.

As follows from the results obtained, symmetric dimeric derivatives of camphor with linker of specific length are more active than those with different spacer. This might be due to existence of two binding sites in the viral target. Combination of two camphor moieties in one molecule might increase the strength of binding of the compound with target by using two binding sites instead of one. Regarding the M2 protein, this is illustrated on the model presented, where two camphor moieties bind to two adjacent sites (amino acids 44–55) of neighboring polypeptide chains of M2. One can suppose, for instance, that such type of binding could restrict the ability of cytoplasmic domain of M2 to open the proton channel, or stabilizes its closed state. Nevertheless, once again, direct M2-inhibiting activity of **2b** should be further demonstrated by specific tests.

3. Conclusion

In the present study, we have synthesized a set of C2-symmetric compounds with two camphor moieties (1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan) and two imine (amine) groups bound by linkers of various size and rigidity. The antiviral activity of these compounds was studied against influenza virus A/California/7/09 (H1N1)pdm09 in MDCK cells. The highest efficacy in virus inhibiting was shown for compounds **2a–e** with cage moieties bound by aliphatic linkers. The therapeutic index

(selectivity index) for **2b** exceeded that for reference compounds amantadine, deitoforin and rimantadine almost 10-fold. As shown by structure–activity analysis, the length of the linker has a dramatic effect on the toxicity of compounds. Compound **2e** with $-C_{12}H_{24}-$ linker exhibited the lowest toxicity ($CTD_{50} = 2216 \mu M$).

The results obtained suggest that structure containing two imine groups linked by the aliphatic chain is the key element required for antiviral activity of the studied compounds. This can be illustrated by comparing of three compounds, diimines **2b,c,e** and their derivatives diamines **3b,c,e**. Despite low effective concentrations of **3b,c,e** their toxicity is much higher than that for **2**. This results in lower SI values. In summary, symmetric diimines **2a–e** should be considered as a highly promising class of compounds effective against influenza.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General chemical methods

Reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. Dry solvents were obtained according to the standard procedures. GC: 7820A gas chromatograph (Agilent Tech., USA); flame-ionization detector; HP-5 capillary column, He as carrier gas (flow rate 2 ml/min, flow division 99:1). Optical rotation: polAar 3005 spectrometer; $CHCl_3$ soln. 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra: Bruker DRX-500 apparatus at 500.13 MHz (1H) and 125.76 MHz (^{13}C) in $CDCl_3$; chemical shifts δ in ppm relative to residual $CHCl_3$ [$\delta(H)$ 7.24, $\delta(C)$ 76.90 ppm], J in Hz. The structure of the products was determined by analyzing the 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra, assignments on a routine basis by a combination of 1D and 2D experiments (COSY, COLOC, HSCQ, HMBC). HR-MS: DFS Thermo Scientific spectrometer in a full scan mode (15–500 m/z , 70 eV electron impact ionization, direct sample administration). Spectral and analytical studies were carried out at the Collective Chemical Service Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Column chromatography (CC) was performed on silica gel (60–200 l, Macherey-Nagel). The purity of the target compounds was determined by gas chromatography methods. All the target compounds reported in this paper have a purity of at least 95%.

The following reagents were used in this study: (1R)-(+)-camphor (Alfa Aesar 98%, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ 45.5 ($CHCl_3$, c 0.8)), ee 99, propane-1,3-diamine (Aldrich 98%), hexane-1,6-diamine (Aldrich 98%), heptane-1,7-diamine (Acros 98%), octane-1,8-diamine (Acros 98%), dodecane-1,12-diamine (ABCR 98%), 4,4'-methylenedianiline (ABCR 97%) 4,4'-oxydianiline (ABCR 97%).

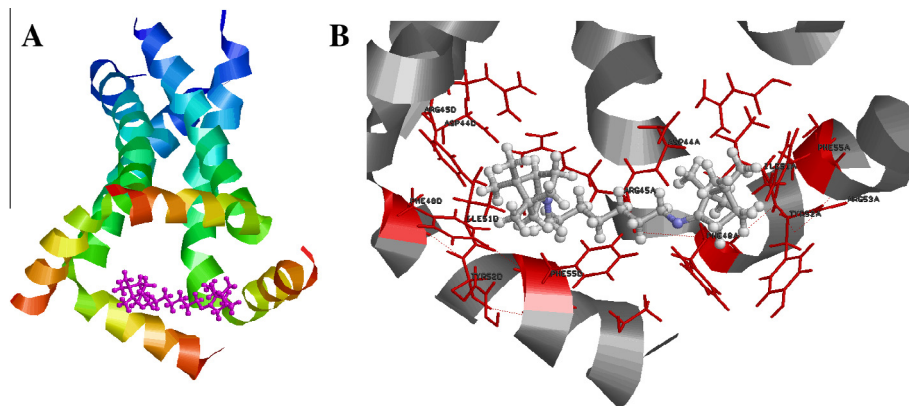


Figure 2. Model of interaction of **2b** (marked in magenta) with M2 proton channel of influenza virus. (A) General view (outer domain of M2 is on the top and labeled blue), (B) close view from the inner side of M2.

The enumeration of atoms in compounds is given in order to assign the signals in the NMR spectra and does not coincide with the enumeration of atoms in the IUPAC name (see [Supplementary](#)). The specific rotation is given in (deg ml)⁻¹(g dm)⁻¹; concentrations of solutions, in (g) (100 ml)⁻¹.

4.2. General synthetic procedure for diimin 2a–e (method a)

To a solution of (1R)-(+)-camphor **1** (3 g, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and diamine (9.8 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in toluene (60 ml) 0.15 ml BF₃·Et₂O in 5 ml toluene were added. The solution was heated at reflux with a Deane-Stark trap condenser until no further water appeared. The combined organic layers were washed two times with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to dryness. The reaction solution was then concentrated and crude product purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (hexane-ethyl acetate eluent) to obtain the desired diimine **2a–e**.

4.2.1. N¹E,N³E-N¹,N³-bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-diamine (2a)

Yield: 74%. Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (δ, ppm, J/Hz): 0.68 s (C⁹H₃, C⁹H₃), 0.86 s (C⁸H₃, C⁸H₃), 0.90 s (C¹⁰H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.12 ddd (H^{4endo}, H^{4endo}, ²J 12.3, J_{4endo,5endo} 9.3, J_{4endo,5exo} 4.2 Hz), 1.28 ddd (H^{5endo}, H^{5endo}, ²J 13.0, J_{5endo,4endo} 9.3, J_{5endo,4exo} 4.4 Hz), 1.59 ddd (H^{5exo}, H^{5exo}, ²J 13.0, J_{5exo,4exo} 12.2, J_{5exo,4endo} 4.2 Hz), 1.77 d (H^{2endo}, H^{2endo}, ²J 16.9 Hz), 1.73–1.83 m (H^{4exo}, H^{4exo}, 2H¹²), 1.86 dd (H³, H³, J_{3,2exo} = J_{3,4exo} = 4.4 Hz), 2.27 ddd (H^{2exo}, H^{2exo}, ²J 16.9, J_{2exo,3} 4.4, J_{2exo,4exo} 3.3 Hz), 3.17 dt (H^{11a}, H^{11a}, ²J 12.2, J_{11a,12} 7.3 Hz), 3.22 dt (H^{11b}, H^{11b}, ²J 12.2, J_{11b,12} 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (δ, ppm): 181.43 s (C¹, C¹), 35.18 t (C², C²), 43.71 d (C³, C³), 27.34 t (C⁴, C⁴), 32.06 t (C⁵, C⁵), 53.27 s (C⁶, C⁶), 46.69 s (C⁷, C⁷), 18.81 q (C⁸, C⁸), 19.40 q (C⁹, C⁹), 11.28 q (C¹⁰, C¹⁰), 49.98 t (C¹¹, C¹¹), 31.31 t (C¹²). [α]_D²⁵ –31 (CHCl₃, c = 0.72). HRMS: calcd for C₂₃H₃₈N₂: 342.3030, found: 342.3029. This compound was previously obtained.³³ Spectral data agree with those specified in literature.

4.2.2. N¹E,N⁶E-N¹,N⁶-bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)hexane-1,6-diamine (2b)

Yield: 70%. Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (δ, ppm, J/Hz): 0.70 s (C⁹H₃, C⁹H₃), 0.87 s (C⁸H₃, C⁸H₃), 0.91 s (C¹⁰H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.14 ddd (H^{4endo}, H^{4endo}, ²J 12.2, J_{4endo,5endo} 9.3, J_{4endo,5exo} 4.1 Hz), 1.24–1.32 m (2H¹³, 2H¹³, H^{5endo}, H^{5endo}), 1.50–1.57 m (2H¹², 2H¹²), 1.60 ddd (H^{5exo}, H^{5exo}, ²J 13.0, J_{5exo,4exo} 12.2, J_{5exo,4endo} 4.1 Hz), 1.77 d (H^{2endo}, H^{2endo}, ²J 16.8 Hz), 1.79 dddd (H^{4exo}, H^{4exo}, ²J 12.2, J_{4exo,5exo} 12.2, J_{4exo,5endo} = J_{4exo,3} = 4.3, J_{4exo,2exo} 3.2 Hz), 1.87 dd (H³, H³, J_{3,2exo} = J_{3,4exo} = 4.3 Hz), 2.27 ddd (H^{2exo}, H^{2exo}, ²J 16.8, J_{2exo,3} 4.3, J_{2exo,4exo} 3.2 Hz), 3.12 dt (H^{11a}, H^{11a}, ²J 12.0, J_{11a,12} 7.3 Hz), 3.17 dt (H^{11b}, H^{11b}, ²J 12.0, J_{11b,12} 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (δ, ppm): 180.99 s (C¹, C¹), 35.21 t (C², C²), 43.71 d (C³, C³), 27.37 t (C⁴, C⁴), 32.09 t (C⁵, C⁵), 53.23 s (C⁶, C⁶), 46.66 s (C⁷, C⁷), 18.83 q (C⁸, C⁸), 19.40 q (C⁹, C⁹), 11.31 q (C¹⁰, C¹⁰), 52.19 t (C¹¹, C¹¹), 30.44 t (C¹², C¹²), 27.31 t (C¹³, C¹³). [α]_D²² 18 (CHCl₃, c = 1.0). HRMS: calcd for C₂₆H₄₄N₂: 384.3503, found: 384.3499.

4.2.3. N¹E,N⁷E-N¹,N⁷-bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)heptane-1,7-diamine (2c)

Yield: 70%. Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (δ, ppm, J/Hz): 0.70 s (C⁹H₃, C⁹H₃), 0.87 s (C⁸H₃, C⁸H₃), 0.91 s (C¹⁰H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.14 ddd (H^{4endo}, H^{4endo}, ²J 12.2, J_{4endo,5endo} 9.3, J_{4endo,5exo} 4.2 Hz), 1.20–1.29 m (2H¹³, 2H¹³, 2H¹⁴), 1.30 ddd (H^{5endo}, H^{5endo}, ²J 12.8, J_{5endo,4endo} 9.3, J_{5endo,4exo} 4.3 Hz), 1.49–1.56 m (2H¹², 2H¹²), 1.60 ddd (H^{5exo}, H^{5exo}, ²J 12.8, J_{5exo,4exo} 12.2, J_{5exo,4endo} 4.2 Hz), 1.77 d (H^{2endo}, H^{2endo},

²J 16.8 Hz), 1.79 dddd (H^{4exo}, H^{4exo}, ²J 12.2, J_{4exo,5exo} 12.2, J_{4exo,5endo} 4.3, J_{4exo,3} 4.3, J_{4exo,2exo} 3.2 Hz), 1.87 dd (H³, H³, J_{3,2exo} = J_{3,4exo} = 4.3, J_{3,2exo} 4.3 Hz), 2.28 ddd (H^{2exo}, H^{2exo}, ²J 16.8, J_{2exo,3} 4.3, J_{2exo,4exo} 3.2 Hz), 3.12 dt (H^{11a}, H^{11a}, ²J 12.1, J_{11a,12} 7.3 Hz), 3.17 dt (H^{11b}, H^{11b}, ²J 12.1, J_{11b,12} 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (δ, ppm): 180.97 s (C¹, C¹), 35.21 t (C², C²), 43.73 d (C³, C³), 27.38 t (C⁴, C⁴), 32.10 t (C⁵, C⁵), 53.23 s (C⁶, C⁶), 46.67 s (C⁷, C⁷), 18.84 q (C⁸, C⁸), 19.40 q (C⁹, C⁹), 11.32 q (C¹⁰, C¹⁰), 52.26 t (C¹¹, C¹¹), 30.39 t (C¹², C¹²), 27.40 t (C¹³, C¹³), 29.28 t (C¹⁴). [α]_D²⁵ 20.7 (CHCl₃, c = 0.66). HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₄₆N₂: 398.3653, found: 398.3656.

4.2.4. N¹E,N⁸E-N¹,N⁸-bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)octane-1,8-diamine (2d)

Yield: 61%. Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (δ, ppm, J/Hz): 0.69 s (C⁹H₃, C⁹H₃), 0.86 s (C⁸H₃, C⁸H₃), 0.91 s (C¹⁰H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.13 ddd (H^{4endo}, H^{4endo}, ²J 12.3, J_{4endo,5endo} 9.3, J_{4endo,5exo} 4.2 Hz), 1.19–1.30 m (2H¹³, 2H¹³, 2H¹⁴, 2H¹⁴), 1.29 ddd (H^{5endo}, H^{5endo}, ²J 13.0, J_{5endo,4endo} 9.3, J_{5endo,4exo} 4.4 Hz), 1.47–1.56 m (2H¹², 2H¹²), 1.59 ddd (H^{5exo}, H^{5exo}, ²J 13.0, J_{5exo,4exo} 12.2, J_{5exo,4endo} 4.2 Hz), 1.77 d (H^{2endo}, H^{2endo}, ²J 16.7 Hz), 1.74–1.82 m (H^{4exo}, H^{4exo}), 1.86 dd (H³, H³, J_{3,2exo} = J_{3,4exo} = 4.4 Hz), 2.27 ddd (H^{2exo}, H^{2exo}, ²J 16.7, J_{2exo,3} 4.4, J_{2exo,4exo} 3.2 Hz), 3.12 dt (H^{11a}, H^{11a}, ²J 12.1, J_{11a,12} 7.3 Hz), 3.16 dt (H^{11b}, H^{11b}, ²J 12.1, J_{11b,12} 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (δ, ppm): 181.00 s (C¹, C¹), 35.19 t (C², C²), 43.71 d (C³, C³), 27.35 t (C⁴, C⁴), 32.07 t (C⁵, C⁵), 53.23 s (C⁶, C⁶), 46.66 s (C⁷, C⁷), 19.38 q (C⁸, C⁸), 18.81 q (C⁹, C⁹), 11.29 q (C¹⁰, C¹⁰), 52.22 t (C¹¹, C¹¹), 30.37 t (C¹², C¹²), 27.33 t (C¹³, C¹³), 29.32 t (C¹⁴, C¹⁴). [α]_D²⁵ –32.0 (CHCl₃, c = 0.92). HRMS: calcd for C₂₈H₄₈N₂: 412.3812, found: 412.3813.

4.2.5. N¹E,N¹²E-N¹,N¹²-bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)dodecane-1,12-diamine (2e)

Yield: 49%. Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (δ, ppm, J/Hz): 0.71 s (C⁹H₃, C⁹H₃), 0.88 s (C⁸H₃, C⁸H₃), 0.92 s (C¹⁰H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.15 ddd (H^{4endo}, H^{4endo}, ²J 12.2, J_{4endo,5endo} 9.3, J_{4endo,5exo} 4.2 Hz), 1.18–1.28 m (2H¹³, 2H¹³, 2H¹⁴, 2H¹⁴, 2H¹⁵, 2H¹⁵, 2H¹⁶, 2H¹⁶), 1.30 ddd (H^{5endo}, H^{5endo}, ²J 12.8, J_{5endo,4endo} 9.3, J_{5endo,4exo} 4.3 Hz), 1.49–1.57 m (2H¹², 2H¹²), 1.61 ddd (H^{5exo}, H^{5exo}, ²J 12.8, J_{5exo,4exo} 12.2, J_{5exo,4endo} 4.2 Hz), 1.78 d (H^{2endo}, H^{2endo}, ²J 16.8 Hz), 1.76–1.84 m (H^{4exo}, H^{4exo}), 1.88 dd (H³, H³, J_{3,2exo} = J_{3,4exo} = 4.4 Hz), 2.28 ddd (H^{2exo}, H^{2exo}, ²J 16.8, J_{2exo,3} 4.4, J_{2exo,4exo} 3.2 Hz), 3.13 dt (H^{11a}, H^{11a}, ²J 12.1, J_{11a,12} 7.3 Hz), 3.17 dt (H^{11b}, H^{11b}, ²J 12.1, J_{11b,12} 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (δ, ppm): 180.98 s (C¹, C¹), 35.23 t (C², C²), 43.75 d (C³, C³), 27.40 t (C⁴, C⁴), 32.11 t (C⁵, C⁵), 53.25 s (C⁶, C⁶), 46.68 s (C⁷, C⁷), 18.85 q (C⁸, C⁸), 19.41 q (C⁹, C⁹), 11.33 q (C¹⁰, C¹⁰), 52.28 t (C¹¹, C¹¹), 30.42 t (C¹², C¹²), 27.41 t (C¹³, C¹³), 29.38 t, 29.46 t, 29.49 t (C¹⁴, C¹⁴; C¹⁵, C¹⁵; C¹⁶, C¹⁶). [α]_D²⁵ –32.7 (CHCl₃, c = 0.8). HRMS: calcd for C₃₂H₅₆N₂: 468.4435, found: 468.4435.

4.3. General method for synthesis of compounds 2f–g (method b)

Camphor (15 mmol) and the diamine (7.5 mmol) were combined and treated with one drop of coned H₂SO₄. Si(OEt)₄ (15 mmol) was added and the mixture was placed into a flask equipped with a still head. The solution was heated at 160 °C under argon. The distillate (EtOH) was discarded and the residue was dissolved in Et₂O (50 mL) and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution and H₂O (25 mL each). The Et₂O solution was dried (Na₂SO₄) and solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in 10 mL of 95% EtOH and treated with 2 mL of 1 M KOH in EtOH. The solution was stirred for 15–20 min and filtered; the precipitate was washed with Et₂O. The filtrate was washed with H₂O (220 mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was removed under

reduced pressure and purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (hexane–ethyl acetate eluent) to obtain the desired **2f,g** and **5f,g**.

4.3.1. (E)-N-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)-4-(4-((E)-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)amino)benzyl)aniline (2f)

Yield: 42%. Yellowish amorphous solid; mp 129–130 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.84 s (C^9H_3 , $\text{C}^9'\text{H}_3$), 0.95 s (C^8H_3 , $\text{C}^8'\text{H}_3$), 1.06 s (C^{10}H_3 , $\text{C}^{10}'\text{H}_3$), 1.18–1.26 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{endo}}$), 1.49 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{endo}}$, 2J 13.0, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{endo}}$ 9.5, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{exo}}$ 4.3 Hz), 1.73 d ($\text{H}^{2\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{2'\text{endo}}$, 2J 17.7 Hz), 1.74 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{exo}}$, 2J 13.0, $J_{5\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 12.2, $J_{5\text{exo},4\text{endo}}$ 4.2 Hz), 1.81–1.89 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{exo}}$), 1.87 dd (H^3 , $\text{H}^{3'}$, $J_{3,2\text{exo}}$ 4.3, $J_{3,4\text{exo}}$ 4.3 Hz), 2.19 ddd ($\text{H}^{2\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{2'\text{exo}}$, 2J 17.7, $J_{2\text{exo},3}$ 4.3, $J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 3.2 Hz), 3.88 s (2H^{17}), 6.63 d (H^{12} , $\text{H}^{12'}$, H^{16} , $\text{H}^{16'}$, $J_{12,13(16,15)}$ 8.2 Hz), 7.05 d (H^{13} , $\text{H}^{13'}$, H^{15} , $\text{H}^{15'}$, $J_{13,12(15,16)}$ 8.2 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 184.43 s (C^1 , $\text{C}^{1'}$), 36.14 t (C^2 , $\text{C}^{2'}$), 43.71 d (C^3 , $\text{C}^{3'}$), 27.34 t (C^4 , $\text{C}^{4'}$), 31.97 t (C^5 , $\text{C}^{5'}$), 53.81 s (C^6 , $\text{C}^{6'}$), 46.99 s (C^7 , $\text{C}^{7'}$), 18.93 q (C^8 , $\text{C}^{8'}$), 19.45 q (C^9 , $\text{C}^{9'}$), 11.12 q (C^{10} , $\text{C}^{10'}$), 150.01 s (C^{11} , $\text{C}^{11'}$), 119.37 d (C^{12} , $\text{C}^{12'}$), 129.24 d (C^{13} , $\text{C}^{13'}$), 135.86 s (C^{14} , $\text{C}^{14'}$), 129.24 d (C^{15} , $\text{C}^{15'}$), 119.37 d (C^{16} , $\text{C}^{16'}$), 40.58 t (C^{17}). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{30}$ 29.0 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.6$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2$: 466.3347, found: 466.3343.

4.3.2. (E)-4-(4-aminobenzyl)-N-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)aniline (5f)

Yield: 14%. Yellowish amorphous solid; mp 130–132 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.84 s (C^9H_3), 0.95 s (C^8H_3), 1.07 s (C^{10}H_3), 1.19–1.26 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$), 1.50 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, 2J 12.8, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{endo}}$ 9.5, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{exo}}$ 4.3 Hz), 1.73 d ($\text{H}^{2\text{endo}}$, 2J 17.7 Hz), 1.73–1.78 m ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$), 1.82–1.90 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, H^3), 2.18 ddd ($\text{H}^{2\text{exo}}$, 2J 17.7, $J_{2\text{exo},3}$ 4.3, $J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 3.2 Hz), 3.53 br s (NH_2), 3.81 s (2H^{17}), 6.60 d (H^{12} , $\text{H}^{12'}$, $J_{12,13(16,15)}$ 8.2 Hz), 6.63 d (H^{12} , H^{16} , $J_{12,13(16,15)}$ 8.2 Hz), 6.95 d (H^{19} , H^{23} , $J_{19,20}$ 8.2 Hz), 7.05 d (H^{13} , H^{15} , $J_{13,12}$ 8.2 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 184.40 s (C^1), 36.12 t (C^2), 43.68 d (C^3), 27.31 t (C^4), 31.94 t (C^5), 53.77 s (C^6), 46.96 s (C^7), 18.90 q (C^8), 19.42 q (C^9), 11.11 q (C^{10}), 149.91 s (C^{11}), 119.34 d (C^{12} , C^{16}), 129.13 d (C^{13} , C^{15}), 136.22 s (C^{14}), 40.32 t (C^{17}), 131.48 s (C^{18}), 129.56 d (C^{19} , C^{23}), 115.11 d (C^{20} , C^{22}), 144.25 s (C^{21}). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{30}$ 18.0 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.6$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2$: 332.2244, found: 332.2247.

4.3.3. (E)-N-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)-4-(4-((E)-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)amino)phenoxy)aniline (2g)

Yield: 34%. White amorphous solid; mp 164–165 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.83 s (C^9H_3 , $\text{C}^9'\text{H}_3$), 0.95 s (C^8H_3 , $\text{C}^8'\text{H}_3$), 1.06 s (C^{10}H_3 , $\text{C}^{10}'\text{H}_3$), 1.18–1.26 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{endo}}$), 1.49 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{endo}}$, 2J 13.0, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{endo}}$ 9.4, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{exo}}$ 4.3 Hz), 1.75 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{exo}}$, 2J 13.0, $J_{5\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 12.2, $J_{5\text{exo},4\text{endo}}$ 4.2 Hz), 1.76 d ($\text{H}^{2\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{2'\text{endo}}$, 2J 17.7 Hz), 1.82–1.90 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{exo}}$, H^3 , $\text{H}^{3'}$), 2.21 ddd ($\text{H}^{2\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{2'\text{exo}}$, 2J 17.7, $J_{2\text{exo},3}$ 4.4, $J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 3.2 Hz), 6.67 d (H^{12} , $\text{H}^{12'}$, H^{16} , $\text{H}^{16'}$, $J_{12,13(16,15)}$ 8.8 Hz), 6.89 d (H^{13} , $\text{H}^{13'}$, H^{15} , $\text{H}^{15'}$, $J_{13,12}$ 8.8 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 184.94 s (C^1 , $\text{C}^{1'}$), 36.17 t (C^2 , $\text{C}^{2'}$), 43.70 d (C^3 , $\text{C}^{3'}$), 27.31 t (C^4 , $\text{C}^{4'}$), 31.93 t (C^5 , $\text{C}^{5'}$), 53.86 s (C^6 , $\text{C}^{6'}$), 46.98 s (C^7 , $\text{C}^{7'}$), 18.89 q (C^8 , $\text{C}^{8'}$), 19.43 q (C^9 , $\text{C}^{9'}$), 11.10 q (C^{10} , $\text{C}^{10'}$), 147.29 s (C^{11} , $\text{C}^{11'}$), 120.53 d (C^{12} , $\text{C}^{12'}$), 118.98 d (C^{13} , $\text{C}^{13'}$), 153.36 s (C^{14} , $\text{C}^{14'}$), 118.98 d (C^{15} , $\text{C}^{15'}$), 120.53 d (C^{16} , $\text{C}^{16'}$). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{31}$ 30.3 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.56$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_2$: 468.3135, found: 468.3138.

4.3.4. (E)-4-(4-aminophenoxy)-N-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)aniline (5g)

Yield: 11%. White amorphous solid; mp 118–120 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.83 s (C^9H_3), 0.95 s (C^8H_3), 1.06 s (C^{10}H_3), 1.18–1.26 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$), 1.49 ddd ($\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, 2J 13.0, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{endo}}$ 9.4, $J_{5\text{endo},4\text{exo}}$ 4.4 Hz),

1.71–1.78 m ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$), 1.75 d ($\text{H}^{2\text{endo}}$, 2J 17.7 Hz), 1.82–1.90 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, H^3), 2.20 ddd ($\text{H}^{2\text{exo}}$, 2J 17.7, $J_{2\text{exo},3}$ 4.4, $J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}}$ 3.2 Hz), 3.53 br s (NH_2), 6.63 d (H^{19} , H^{21} , $J_{19,18(21,22)}$ 8.8 Hz), 6.65 d (H^{12} , H^{16} , $J_{12,13(16,15)}$ 8.8 Hz), 6.82 d (H^{18} , H^{22} , $J_{18,19(22,21)}$ 8.8 Hz), 6.85 d (H^{13} , H^{15} , $J_{13,12(15,16)}$ 8.8 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 184.89 s (C^1), 36.18 t (C^2), 43.71 d (C^3), 27.32 t (C^4), 31.93 t (C^5), 53.85 s (C^6), 46.97 s (C^7), 18.90 q (C^8), 19.44 q (C^9), 11.12 q (C^{10}), 146.79 s (C^{11}), 120.47 d (C^{12} , C^{16}), 118.18 d (C^{13} , C^{15}), 154.21 s (C^{14}), 149.54 s (C^{17}), 120.17 d (C^{18} , C^{22}), 116.07 d (C^{19} , C^{21}), 142.04 s (C^{20}). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{31}$ 28.2 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.56$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_1\text{N}_2$: 334.2040, found: 334.2036.

4.4. General synthetic procedure for reduction of diimine 2a-g (method c)

Camphor diimine (10 mmol) and $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (40 mmol) were taken in methanol (100 ml) and cooled to -30°C . NaBH_4 (200 mmol) was added in portions to this mixture from a solid addition flask under stirring at -30°C over a period of 1 h. The reaction mixture was further stirred for 1 h at -30°C and for 4 h at room temperature. 3 N NaOH solution (15 ml) and ether (100 ml) were added, and the contents were filtered. The aqueous and organic layers of the filtrate were separated. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaCl solution (2×15 ml), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product purified by flash silica gel column chromatography to obtain the desired **3b,c,e,f,g**.

4.4.1. N^1, N^6 -bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)hexane-1,6-diamine (3b)

Yield: 92%. Colourless oil; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.77 s (C^9H_3 , $\text{C}^9'\text{H}_3$), 0.83 s (C^{10}H_3 , $\text{C}^{10}'\text{H}_3$), 0.98 s (C^8H_3 , $\text{C}^8'\text{H}_3$), 0.99–1.07 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.25–1.32 m (2H^{13} , $2\text{H}^{13'}$), 1.35–1.44 m (2H^{12} , $2\text{H}^{12'}$), 1.44–1.55 m ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{exo}}$, 2H^2 , $2\text{H}^{2'}$), 1.60–1.69 m (H^3 , $\text{H}^{3'}$, $\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{exo}}$), 2.40 dt (H^{11a} , $\text{H}^{11'a}$, 2J 11.3, $J_{11a,12}$ 7.0 Hz), 2.46 dd ($\text{H}^{1\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{1'\text{endo}}$, $J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}}$ 7.0, $J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}}$ 6.2 Hz), 2.50 dt (H^{11b} , $\text{H}^{11'b}$, 2J 11.3, $J_{11b,12}$ 7.2 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 66.84 d (C^1 , $\text{C}^{1'}$), 39.06 t (C^2 , $\text{C}^{2'}$), 45.18 d (C^3 , $\text{C}^{3'}$), 27.28 t (C^4 , $\text{C}^{4'}$), 36.89 t (C^5 , $\text{C}^{5'}$), 48.20 s (C^6 , $\text{C}^{6'}$), 46.51 s (C^7 , $\text{C}^{7'}$), 20.41 q (C^8 , $\text{C}^{8'}$), 20.50 q (C^9 , $\text{C}^{9'}$), 12.05 q (C^{10} , $\text{C}^{10'}$), 48.78 t (C^{11} , $\text{C}^{11'}$), 30.38 t (C^{12} , $\text{C}^{12'}$), 27.34 t (C^{13} , $\text{C}^{13'}$). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28}$ 55 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.72$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{48}\text{N}_2$: 388.3808, found: 388.3812.

4.4.2. N^1, N^7 -bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)heptane-1,7-diamine (3c)

Yield: 87%. Colourless oil; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.77 s (C^9H_3 , $\text{C}^9'\text{H}_3$), 0.84 s (C^{10}H_3 , $\text{C}^{10}'\text{H}_3$), 0.98 s (C^8H_3 , $\text{C}^8'\text{H}_3$), 0.99–1.07 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.23–1.31 m (2H^{13} , $2\text{H}^{13'}$, 2H^{14}), 1.35–1.43 m (2H^{12} , $2\text{H}^{12'}$), 1.43–1.56 m ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{exo}}$, 2H^2 , $2\text{H}^{2'}$), 1.61–1.70 m (H^3 , $\text{H}^{3'}$, $\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{exo}}$), 2.40 dt (H^{11a} , $\text{H}^{11'a}$, 2J 11.3, $J_{11a,12}$ 7.0 Hz), 2.47 dd ($\text{H}^{1\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{1'\text{endo}}$, $J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}}$ 7.0, $J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}}$ 6.2 Hz), 2.50 dt (H^{11b} , $\text{H}^{11'b}$, 2J 11.3, $J_{11b,12}$ 7.2 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 66.85 d (C^1 , $\text{C}^{1'}$), 39.07 t (C^2 , $\text{C}^{2'}$), 45.18 d (C^3 , $\text{C}^{3'}$), 27.28 t (C^4 , $\text{C}^{4'}$), 36.90 t (C^5 , $\text{C}^{5'}$), 48.21 s (C^6 , $\text{C}^{6'}$), 46.52 s (C^7 , $\text{C}^{7'}$), 20.41 q (C^8 , $\text{C}^{8'}$), 20.50 q (C^9 , $\text{C}^{9'}$), 12.06 q (C^{10} , $\text{C}^{10'}$), 48.84 t (C^{11} , $\text{C}^{11'}$), 30.37 t (C^{12} , $\text{C}^{12'}$), 27.38 t (C^{13} , $\text{C}^{13'}$), 29.42 t (C^{14}). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28}$ 75.1 (CHCl_3 , $c = 0.66$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{50}\text{N}_2$: 402.3965, found: 402.3960.

4.4.3. $\text{N}^1, \text{N}^{12}$ -bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)dodecane-1,12-diamine (3e)

Yield: 82%. Colourless oil; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.78 s (C^9H_3 , $\text{C}^9'\text{H}_3$), 0.84 s (C^{10}H_3 , $\text{C}^{10}'\text{H}_3$), 0.99 s (C^8H_3 , $\text{C}^8'\text{H}_3$), 0.99–1.07 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5\text{endo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.21–1.30 m (2H^{13} , $2\text{H}^{13'}$, 2H^{14} , $2\text{H}^{14'}$, 2H^{15} , $2\text{H}^{15'}$, 2H^{16} , $2\text{H}^{16'}$), 1.36–1.43 m (2H^{12} , $2\text{H}^{12'}$), 1.43–1.54 m ($\text{H}^{5\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{5'\text{exo}}$), 1.49–1.58 m (2H^2 , $2\text{H}^{2'}$), 1.61–1.64 m (H^3 , $\text{H}^{3'}$), 1.63–1.71 m ($\text{H}^{4\text{exo}}$, $\text{H}^{4'\text{exo}}$), 2.41 dt (H^{11a} , $\text{H}^{11'a}$, 2J 11.3, $J_{11a,12}$

7.0 Hz), 2.47 dd ($H^{1\text{endo}}, H^{1'\text{endo}}, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}} 7.0, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}} 6.2$ Hz), 2.51 dt ($H^{11b}, H^{11'b}, {}^2J 11.3, J_{11b,12} 7.3$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 66.87 d ($C^1, C^{1'}$), 39.08 t ($C^2, C^{2'}$), 45.20 d ($C^3, C^{3'}$), 27.29 t ($C^4, C^{4'}$), 36.92 t ($C^5, C^{5'}$), 48.22 s ($C^6, C^{6'}$), 46.53 s ($C^7, C^{7'}$), 20.42 q ($C^8, C^{8'}$), 20.51 q ($C^9, C^{9'}$), 12.06 q ($C^{10}, C^{10'}$), 48.87 t ($C^{11}, C^{11'}$), 30.41 t ($C^{12}, C^{12'}$), 27.41 t ($C^{13}, C^{13'}$), 29.52 t, 29.50 t, 29.49 t ($C^{14}, C^{14'}, C^{15}, C^{15'}$; $C^{16}, C^{16'}$). $[\alpha]_D^{25} -88.6$ ($\text{CHCl}_3, c = 1$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{60}\text{N}_2$: 472.4751, found: 472.4752.

4.4.4. (1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethyl-N-(4-(4-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylamino)benzyl)phenyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-amine (3f)

Yield: 46%. Yellowish amorphous solid; mp 134 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.86 s ($C^9\text{H}_3, C^9\text{H}_3$), 0.92 s ($C^{10}\text{H}_3, C^{10}\text{H}_3$), 1.02 s ($C^8\text{H}_3, C^8\text{H}_3$), 1.13–1.30 m ($H^{4\text{endo}}, H^{4'\text{endo}}, H^{5\text{endo}}, H^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.56–1.81 m ($H^{2\text{exo}}, H^{2'\text{exo}}, H^3, H^3', H^{4\text{exo}}, H^{4'\text{exo}}, H^{5\text{exo}}, H^{5'\text{exo}}$), 1.87 dd ($H^{2\text{endo}}, H^{2'\text{endo}}, {}^2J 12.7, J_{2\text{endo},1\text{endo}} 8.3$ Hz), 3.24 dd ($H^{1\text{endo}}, H^{1'\text{endo}}, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}} 8.3, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}} 4.6$ Hz), 3.62 br s (2NH), 3.75 s ($2H^{17}$), 6.49 d ($H^{12}, H^{12'}, H^{16}, H^{16'}, J_{12,13} (16,15) 8.2$ Hz), 6.96 d ($H^{13}, H^{13'}, H^{15}, H^{15'}, J_{13,12} 8.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 61.60 d ($C^1, C^{1'}$), 40.69 t ($C^2, C^{2'}$), 45.07 d ($C^3, C^{3'}$), 27.28 t ($C^4, C^{4'}$), 36.63 t ($C^5, C^{5'}$), 48.58 s ($C^6, C^{6'}$), 47.02 s ($C^7, C^{7'}$), 20.35 q ($C^8, C^{8'}$), 20.35 q ($C^9, C^{9'}$), 12.15 q ($C^{10}, C^{10'}$), 146.10 s ($C^{11}, C^{11'}$), 112.54 d ($C^{12}, C^{12'}$), 129.34 d ($C^{13}, C^{13'}$), 130.00 s ($C^{14}, C^{14'}$), 129.34 d ($C^{15}, C^{15'}$), 112.54 d ($C^{16}, C^{16'}$), 39.89 t (C^{17}). $[\alpha]_D^{31} 25.0$ ($\text{CHCl}_3, c = 0.6$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{46}\text{N}_2$: 470.3649, found: 470.3656.

4.4.5. (1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethyl-N-(4-(4-((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylamino)phenoxy)phenyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-amine (3g)

Yield: 34%. White amorphous solid; mp 123–125 °C; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.85 s ($C^9\text{H}_3, C^9\text{H}_3$), 0.92 s ($C^{10}\text{H}_3, C^{10}\text{H}_3$), 1.02 s ($C^8\text{H}_3, C^8\text{H}_3$), 1.13–1.20 m ($H^{4\text{endo}}, H^{4'\text{endo}}$), 1.24 ddd ($H^{5\text{endo}}, H^{5'\text{endo}}, {}^2J 13.0, J_{5\text{endo},4\text{endo}} 9.3, J_{5\text{endo},4\text{exo}} 4.2$ Hz), 1.61 ddd ($H^{5\text{exo}}, H^{5'\text{exo}}, {}^2J 13.0, J_{5\text{exo},4\text{exo}} 12.2, J_{5\text{exo},4\text{endo}} 4.2$ Hz), 1.64–1.80 m ($H^{2\text{exo}}, H^{2'\text{exo}}, H^3, H^3', H^{4\text{exo}}, H^{4'\text{exo}}$), 1.86 dd ($H^{2\text{endo}}, H^{2'\text{endo}}, {}^2J 12.8, J_{2\text{endo},1\text{endo}} 8.3$ Hz), 3.21 dd ($H^{1\text{endo}}, H^{1'\text{endo}}, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}} 8.3, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}} 4.7$ Hz), 3.60 br s (2NH), 6.50 d ($H^{12}, H^{12'}, H^{16}, H^{16'}, J_{12,13} (16,15) 8.8$ Hz), 6.80 dd ($H^{13}, H^{13'}, H^{15}, H^{15'}, J_{13,12} 8.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 62.14 d ($C^1, C^{1'}$), 40.65 t ($C^2, C^{2'}$), 45.11 d ($C^3, C^{3'}$), 27.29 t ($C^4, C^{4'}$), 36.68 t ($C^5, C^{5'}$), 48.65 s ($C^6, C^{6'}$), 47.04 s ($C^7, C^{7'}$), 20.38 q ($C^8, C^{8'}$), 20.36 q ($C^9, C^{9'}$), 12.17 q ($C^{10}, C^{10'}$), 143.73 s ($C^{11}, C^{11'}$), 113.42 d ($C^{12}, C^{12'}$), 119.31 d ($C^{13}, C^{13'}$), 149.33 s ($C^{14}, C^{14'}$), 119.31 d ($C^{15}, C^{15'}$), 113.42 d ($C^{16}, C^{16'}$). $[\alpha]_D^{30} 33.0$ ($\text{CHCl}_3, c = 0.6$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_1\text{N}_2$: 472.3450, found: 472.3448.

4.5. General method for synthesis of compounds 4b,c (method d)

Camphor diamine (1.5 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1.5 mmol), and dimethyl sulfate (15 mmol) were mixed in methanol. Reaction mixture was stirring at room temperature during 12 h. Than 10 ml 5% NaOH and saturated NaCl solution was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×10 ml). The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was evaporated to dryness and crude product purified by flash silica gel column chromatography to obtain the desired **4b** and **4c**.

4.5.1. N^1, N^6 -dimethyl- N^1, N^6 -bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl) hexane-1,6-diamine (4b)

Yield: 52%. Colourless oil; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.77 s ($C^9\text{H}_3, C^9\text{H}_3$), 0.92 s ($C^8\text{H}_3, C^8\text{H}_3$), 0.95 s ($C^{10}\text{H}_3, C^{10}\text{H}_3$), 0.98–1.06 m ($H^{4\text{endo}}, H^{4'\text{endo}}, H^{5\text{endo}}, H^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.18–1.26 m ($2H^{13}, 2H^{13'}$), 1.37 dd ($H^{2\text{endo}}, H^{2'\text{endo}}, {}^2J 12.6, J_{2\text{endo},1\text{endo}} 8.8$ Hz), 1.31–1.50 m ($H^{5\text{exo}}, H^{5'\text{exo}}, 2H^{12}, 2H^{12'}$), 1.57 dd ($H^3, H^3', J_{3,2\text{exo}} = J_{3,4\text{exo}} 4.3$ Hz), 1.59–1.69 m ($H^{4\text{exo}}, H^{4'\text{exo}}$), 1.85 dddd ($H^{2\text{exo}}, H^{2'\text{exo}}, {}^2J 12.6, J_{2\text{exo},1\text{endo}}$

6.0, $J_{2\text{exo},3} 4.3, J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}} 3.2$ Hz), 2.14 s ($C^{14}\text{H}_3, C^{14'}\text{H}_3$), 2.15 dd ($H^{1\text{endo}}, H^{1'\text{endo}}, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}} 8.5, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}} 6.0$ Hz), 2.18 ddd ($H^{11a}, H^{11'a}, {}^2J 12.8, J_{11a,12a} 9.8, J_{11a,12b} 5.4$ Hz), 2.39 ddd ($H^{11b}, H^{11'b}, {}^2J 12.8, J_{11b,12b} 10.0, J_{11b,12a} 5.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 73.23 d ($C^1, C^{1'}$), 34.93 t ($C^2, C^{2'}$), 44.91 d ($C^3, C^{3'}$), 27.31 t ($C^4, C^{4'}$), 37.22 t ($C^5, C^{5'}$), 49.38 s ($C^6, C^{6'}$), 46.94 s ($C^7, C^{7'}$), 19.61 q ($C^8, C^{8'}$), 20.72 q ($C^9, C^{9'}$), 14.39 q ($C^{10}, C^{10'}$), 57.33 t ($C^{11}, C^{11'}$), 26.94 t ($C^{12}, C^{12'}$), 27.47 t ($C^{13}, C^{13'}$), 40.80 q ($C^{14}, C^{14'}$). $[\alpha]_D^{28} -85.6$ ($\text{CHCl}_3, c = 0.5$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_2$: 416.4127, found: 416.4125.

4.5.2. N^1, N^7 -dimethyl- N^1, N^7 -bis((1R,2R,4R)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)heptane-1,7-diamine (4c)

Yield: 44%. Colourless oil; ^1H NMR (δ , ppm, J/Hz): 0.77 s ($C^9\text{H}_3, C^9\text{H}_3$), 0.91 s ($C^8\text{H}_3, C^8\text{H}_3$), 0.95 s ($C^{10}\text{H}_3, C^{10}\text{H}_3$), 0.98–1.05 m ($H^{4\text{endo}}, H^{4'\text{endo}}, H^{5\text{endo}}, H^{5'\text{endo}}$), 1.17–1.31 m ($2H^{13}, 2H^{13'}, 2H^{14}$), 1.37 dd ($H^{2\text{endo}}, H^{2'\text{endo}}, {}^2J 12.4, J_{2\text{endo},1\text{endo}} 8.6$ Hz), 1.32–1.44 m ($H^{5\text{exo}}, H^{5'\text{exo}}, 2H^{12}, 2H^{12'}$), 1.57 dd ($H^3, H^3', J_{3,2\text{exo}} = J_{3,4\text{exo}} = 4.3$ Hz), 1.60–1.68 m ($H^{4\text{exo}}, H^{4'\text{exo}}$), 1.85 dddd ($H^{2\text{exo}}, H^{2'\text{exo}}, {}^2J 12.4, J_{2\text{exo},1\text{endo}} 6.1, J_{2\text{exo},3} 4.3, J_{2\text{exo},4\text{exo}} 3.2$ Hz), 2.14 s ($C^{15}\text{H}_3, C^{15'}\text{H}_3$), 2.15 dd ($H^{1\text{endo}}, H^{1'\text{endo}}, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{endo}} 8.6, J_{1\text{endo},2\text{exo}} 6.1$ Hz), 2.18 ddd ($H^{11a}, H^{11'a}, {}^2J 12.8, J_{11a,12a} 9.8, J_{11a,12b} 5.3$ Hz), 2.40 ddd ($H^{11b}, H^{11'b}, {}^2J 12.8, J_{11b,12b} 10.2, J_{11b,12a} 5.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (δ , ppm): 73.21 d ($C^1, C^{1'}$), 34.92 t ($C^2, C^{2'}$), 44.92 d ($C^3, C^{3'}$), 27.32 t ($C^4, C^{4'}$), 37.22 t ($C^5, C^{5'}$), 49.37 s ($C^6, C^{6'}$), 46.94 s ($C^7, C^{7'}$), 19.61 q ($C^8, C^{8'}$), 20.73 q ($C^9, C^{9'}$), 14.37 q ($C^{10}, C^{10'}$), 57.35 t ($C^{11}, C^{11'}$), 26.86 t ($C^{12}, C^{12'}$), 27.44 t ($C^{13}, C^{13'}$), 29.66 t ($C^{14}, C^{14'}$), 40.82 q ($C^{15}, C^{15'}$). $[\alpha]_D^{28} 85.6$ ($\text{CHCl}_3, c = 0.5$). HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_2$: 430.4283, found: 430.4282.

4.6. Viruses and cells

Influenza virus A/California/07/09 (H1N1)pdm09 from the collection of viruses of the Research Institute of Influenza (St. Petersburg, Russia) was used. The virus was cultivated in 10–12-day-old chicken embryos for 48 h at +37 °C. MDCK cells (ATCC CCL 34) in a minimal essential medium (MEM, PAA, Austria, Cat.# E15-825) were seeded on 96-well plates (Orange Scientific no. 5530100) and incubated at 37 °C in 5% CO_2 until a confluent monolayer formed. To cultivate the virus, 5% albumin, trypsin (1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$), and 16 mM HEPES (pH 7.6) were added.

4.7. Toxicity studies

Microtetrazolium test (MTT) was used to study cytotoxicity of the compounds (Mossmann, 1983). Briefly, series of two-fold dilutions of each compound (1000–4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) in MEM were prepared. MDCK cells were incubated for 48 h at 37 °C in 5% CO_2 in the presence of the dissolved substances. The degree of destruction of the cell monolayer was then evaluated in the microtetrazolium test (MTT). The cells were washed twice with saline, and a solution of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazolyl-2)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (ICN Biochemicals Inc., Aurora, Ohio) (0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) in saline was added to the wells. After 1 h incubation, the wells were washed and the formazan residue dissolved in DMSO (0.1 ml per well). The optical density of cells was then measured on a Victor 2 1440 multifunctional reader (Perkin Elmer, Finland) at 535 nm and plotted against concentration of the compounds. Each concentration was tested in three parallels. The 50% cytotoxic dose (CTD_{50}) of each compound (i.e., the compound concentration that causes the death of 50% cells in a culture, or decreasing the optical density twice as compared to the control wells) was calculated from the data obtained.

4.8. Determination of the antiviral activity

The compounds in appropriate concentrations were incubated with MDCK cells for 1 h at 37 °C. The cell culture was then infected

with 10-fold dilutions of the virus (10^{-1} to 10^{-6}). The plates were incubated for 48 h at 37 °C in the presence of 5% CO₂. The infection activity of the virus was evaluated in the hemagglutination reaction with chicken erythrocytes. A virus-containing solution (100 µl) was placed in the wells of a round-bottom plate. An equal amount of a 1% suspension of chicken erythrocytes in saline was added. The reaction was evaluated after 60 min incubation at room temperature. Each concentration of the compounds was tested in three parallels. A virus titer was considered as reciprocal to decimal logarithm of maximum dilution that caused complete agglutination of erythrocytes and was expressed in logarithms of the 50% experimental infection dose (\log_{10} EID₅₀). The antiviral activity of the compounds was estimated by the decrease in the virus titer as compared to the control. The 50% effective dose (ED₅₀) of the drug, i.e., the concentration at which the virus production decreased by a factor of two (a virus titer per 0.3 \log_{10} EID₅₀) and the selectivity index (the ratio between CTD₅₀ and ED₅₀) were calculated from the data obtained.

4.9. Computer modeling

The molecular docking for modeling the interaction between compounds under investigation and influenza virus M2 protein (protein database code 2LOJ) was done by Hex online server (<http://hexserver.loria.fr/>).

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmc.2014.02.038>.

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