

Derivatives of 3,4-Dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone as β -Adrenergic Blocking Agents. 1. Bunolol and Related Analogs

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A new orally potent β -adrenergic blocking agent has been prepared which can be considered to be a classical antagonist since it had no β -sympathomimetic activity. Bunolol (**1**) [5-[3-(*t*-butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone] was 3 times more potent than propranolol (**30**) intravenously and 20–30 times more active orally. Bunolol possessed relatively weak activity against ouabain-induced ventricular arrhythmias. The synthesis of bunolol and its analogs was accomplished by treating the appropriate hydroxy-tetralone with epichlorohydrin followed by reaction of the epoxide intermediate so obtained with the desired amine. A systematic study of the positional isomers in the tetralone series possessing identical side chain structures showed that the 5 isomer (bunolol) had the greatest activity as a β -adrenergic blocking agent. The subsequent comparison of amino group substitutions was devoted mainly to the most active 5-isomeric series. It was shown that the classical structure requirements prevailed. Alteration in the side chain in other ways led to less active compounds. Resolution of bunolol revealed that the *l* isomer possessed the major activity. The keto group of bunolol was shown to be responsible for the greatly enhanced oral potency and for the relative lack of activity against ouabain-induced ventricular arrhythmias. Due to a favorable therapeutic index and greater oral activity, bunolol may have clinical advantage when compared to existing β -adrenergic blocking agents.

A new, orally-active, β -adrenergic blocking agent has been prepared having the structure 5-[3-(*t*-butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone (**1**). When compared to propranolol (**30**), bunolol (**1**) showed significant activity as a β -adrenergic blocking agent and higher oral potency. In addition, bunolol and related β -adrenergic blockers were shown to possess relatively weak antiarrhythmic action against ouabain-induced arrhythmias and no β -adrenergic stimulant activity in contrast to pronethalol and dichloroisoproterenol.^{2,3}

β -Adrenergic blocking agents have been of interest for the treatment of angina pectoris and a variety of cardiac arrhythmias.⁴

A series of 30 compounds was studied including bunolol (**1**), a potent analog which was shown to be 3 times more potent than propranolol (**30**) iv and 20–30 times more potent orally. Bunolol (**1**) appears to be a classical type of β -adrenergic antagonist with no β -sympathomimetic action and little or no activity against ouabain-induced arrhythmias. Bunolol has shown enhanced oral absorption and good therapeutic ratio, indicating possible clinical advantage when compared to existing β -adrenergic blocking agents.

Chemistry.—Bunolol (**1**) and related compounds were prepared generally by the reaction of epichlorohydrin with the corresponding known hydroxytetralones^{5a,b} in the presence of a base such as NaOH. The intermediate 5-(2,3-epoxypropoxy)-1-tetralone (**32**) obtained was further treated with the appropriate amine and gave the desired 3-substituted amino-2-hydroxy-propoxytetralone usually isolated as a salt. The same product **1** was obtained through an alternate route involving the reaction of 5-hydroxy-1-tetralone (**31**) with *t*-butylamino-2,3-epoxypropane (**33**) in the presence of NaOH.

The oxazolidine (**14**) derivative of **1** was prepared by treatment of **1** with aq formaldehyde under reflux.⁶ Analog **15** was prepared from **1** by reaction with phenyl chloroformate and NaOMe. A second route to **15** was established involving the addition of *t*-butylisocyanate to the epoxy intermediate **32** in the presence of LiBr as catalyst.⁷

Racemic bunolol (**1**) was resolved using *d*- and *l*-tartaric acids. The bitartrate monohydrate salts were obtained and recrystallized to constant rotation and analytical purity before conversion into the optically active bases. The enantiomorphs were further purified as their crystalline HCl salts to constant rotation samples possessing equal but opposite signs of rotation.

The preparation of the quaternary analogs **16** and **27** was accomplished by refluxing either **1** or 1-(3-diethylamino-2-hydroxypropoxy)naphthalene⁶ in abs EtOH containing excess MeI.

Pharmacology.— β -Adrenergic blocking activity was evaluated using a small number of mongrel dogs of either sex (10.5–12.5 kg) which were anesthetized with barbital sodium (300 mg/kg, iv) and titrated to the level of surgical anesthesia with pentobarbital. Aortic blood pressure, heart rate, and contractile force were measured. The dogs were vagotomized bilaterally, thoracotomized, and maintained on artificial respiration. Control responses to isoproterenol (0.3 μ g/kg, iv) were established, after which a saline solution of the compound was administered intravenously on a 0.5 log dose schedule (0.03–10.0 mg/kg) at 20-min intervals until total blockade could be affected. The isoproterenol challenges were interposed midway between doses of the drug in order to evaluate β -adrenergic blocking activity.

The relative oral (po) β -adrenergic blocking potencies were determined in barbiturate anesthetized, vagotomized mongrel dogs. The drug was administered to conscious dogs 1 hr prior to anesthesia. Potency estimates were based upon the inhibition of standard isoproterenol (0.3 μ g/kg, iv) responses.

The antiarrhythmic screen procedure involved adult mongrel dogs of either sex (10–15 kg) which were

(1) Bunolol is the generic name for 5-[3-(*t*-butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone hydrochloride.

(2) E. J. Ariens, *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, **139**, 606 (1967).

(3) R. Howe, A. F. Crowther, J. S. Stephenson, B. S. Rao, and L. H. Smith, *J. Med. Chem.*, **11**, 1000 (1968).

(4) A. C. Dornhorst, *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, **139**, 968 (1967).

(5) (a) D. Papa, E. Schwenk, and H. Breiger, *J. Org. Chem.*, **14**, 366 (1949); (b) J. v. Braun, *Justus Liebig's Ann. Chem.*, **451**, 1 (1927).

(6) A. F. Crowther and L. H. Smith, *J. Med. Chem.*, **11**, 1009 (1968).

(7) M. E. Dyen and D. Swern, *Chem. Rev.*, **67**, 197 (1967).

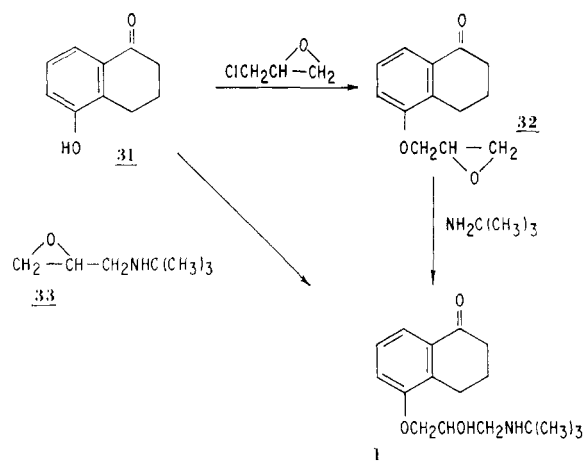
anesthetized to surgical levels with intravenous barbitol sodium (300 mg/kg) and pentobarbital sodium. Parameters measured included arterial blood pressure, myocardial contractile force, heart rate, and lead II electrocardiogram. The animal was thoracotomized and maintained on artificial respiration. Ouabain was administered 40 μ g/kg iv followed in 15 min by an additional iv dose of 20 μ g/kg. Additional ouabain was then administered in increments of 10 μ g/kg at 15-min intervals until a well-established ventricular tachycardia (ouabain toxicity) was observed. After the arrhythmias had been established for 15 min, 5 mg/kg of the compound was administered at a rate of 1 mg/kg per min. Following drug administration, the animal was observed. A compound which did not elicit an effect on arrhythmias within 15 min was considered inactive.

Structure-Activity Relationships.—The initial study of β -blocking agents involved a systematic evaluation of the positional isomers in the tetralone or 3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone series. Results showed that when the side-chain substitution was maintained as 3-*t*-butylamino-2-hydroxypropoxy, the 5 isomer **1** exhibited the greatest potency as a β -adrenergic blocking agent, while the 6 and 7 isomers (**20** and **25**) were much less active. Therefore, most comparisons of the substitution effects on the amino function were made within the 5-isomeric series. Classical structure-activity requirements² for that portion of the β -blocker molecule prevailed. That is, for significant activity as a β -adrenergic blocker of the cardiovascular response to isoproterenol, a secondary OH and a secondary amino group possessing a branched alkyl substituent of 5 C atoms or less in size must be present. The observed potency order for the amino substituents was *t*-Bu > *i*-Pr > *sec*-Bu, cyclopentyl, and *i*-Bu for the 5-(3-substituted amino-2-hydroxypropoxy)-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone series. Introduction of larger functional groups on N such as cyclohexyl or aralkyl or conversion into the tertiary amine led only to weakly active or inactive compounds.

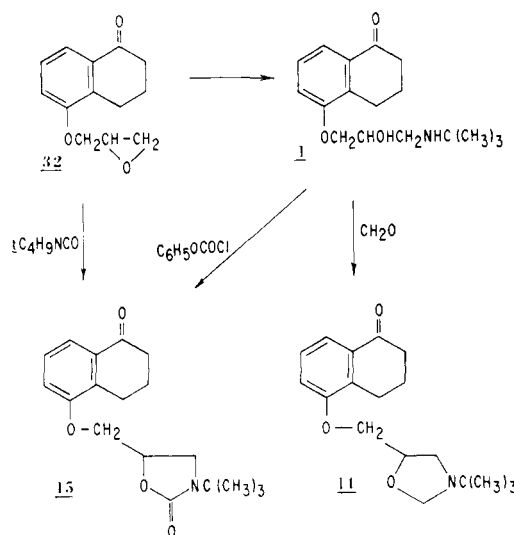
Alteration of the side chain structure such as by the formation of oxazolidine (**14**) or oxazolidone (**15**) derivatives resulted in a reduction of β -blocker potency. Recently, it has been shown that β -adrenergic blocking activity usually associated with oxazolidine analogs was most probably due to the rapid hydrolysis of the oxazolidine in aqueous solution which regenerated the active open-chained analog.⁸ As has been found in other β -blocker series,^{2,9} the *l*-antipode **17** of bunolol was most active and was approximately twice as active as **1**. The *d*-antipode **18** was weakly active and was about 1/30 as active as **1**. The low order of activity possessed by **18** could also have resulted from contamination by small amounts of **17** which could not have been detected due to the limits of experimental error related to the resolution of **1**.

The tetralone nucleus was shown to contribute significantly to the activity of bunolol (**1**). The increased iv potency of **1** in comparison with propranolol (**30**) could be attributed to either the saturated ring or the *t*-Bu portions of the molecule. The contribution by the *t*-Bu group to activity was shown to be minimal

Scheme I



Scheme II

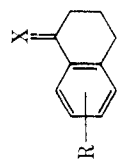







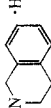
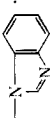


when the *t*-Bu analog **29** of propranolol **30** exhibited an activity approximately equal to that of **30**.⁶ The increased potency of bunolol was shown to be due to the tetrahydro portion of the tetralone nucleus since analog **28** had approximately the same activity as **1**. Introduction of the keto group into **28** to give **1** enhanced the oral potency of **1** by 20–30 times when compared to **30** and by 7 times when compared with **28**. The oxime **13** of bunolol was less active as a β -adrenergic blocker.

Bunolol had little activity against ouabain-induced arrhythmias while **28**, **29**, and **30** all had significant ability to convert ouabain-induced ventricular tachycardia to normal sinus rhythm. Therefore, the keto group appeared to be responsible for the decreased antiarrhythmic action of **1**. The possibility existed that some useful antiarrhythmic activity could have been obtained in the tetralone series if the amino function was suitably altered. In the naphthyloxy series of propranolol (**30**), a quaternized analog¹⁰ (**27**) was shown to separate β -blockade activity from antiarrhythmic action through elimination of β -blockade while retaining antiarrhythmic activity. A similar quaternary analog **16** of bunolol was shown to have lost its β -adrenergic blocking action without enhancing

(8) L. Almirante and W. Murmann, *Farmaco Ed. Sci.*, **24**, 744 (1969).(9) R. Howe and B. S. Rao, *J. Med. Chem.*, **11**, 1118 (1968).(10) B. R. Lucchesi and T. Iwami, *J. Pharm. Exp. Ther.*, **162**, 49 (1968).

TABLE I



Compd	R	X	Mp, °C	Solvent	Formula	Analysis	Dose 100% ^a blockade, mg/kg	Potency ^b ratio relative to propranolol
1	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	224–226	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	0.1	3
2	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	198–200	EtOH	C ₁₆ H ₂₃ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	0.2	1.5
3	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₃ ·HCl	O	128–152 dec	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	1.0	0.3
4	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	134–139	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak ^c	
5	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NH–  ·HCl	O	158–161	2-PrOH	C ₁₈ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	1.0	0.3
6	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃)CH ₂ OH·HCl	O	180–183	EtOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₄ ·HCl	CHNCl	0.3	1.0
7	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NH–  ·HCl	O	222–223	MeOH	C ₁₉ H ₂₇ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	3.0	0.1
8	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ N–  ·COOH ₂	O	145–147 dec	2-PrOH (1% oxalic acid)	C ₁₈ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·C ₂ H ₂ O ₄ ^d	CHN	2	0.15
9	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ N– 	O	68–70	EtOAc–hexane	C ₁₇ H ₂₃ NO ₄	CHN	Weak	
10	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH ₂ CH ₂ CHOH–  ·HCl	O	198–206	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₂₂ H ₂₇ NO ₄ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
11	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ N–  ·HCl	O	205–208	2-PrOH	C ₂₂ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
12	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ –N–  ·HCl	O	220–223	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₂₀ H ₂₀ N ₂ O ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
13	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂	NOH	171–174	EtOH	C ₁₇ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	CHN	0.3	1.0
14	5-OCH ₂ CH–CH–  ·HCl	O	139–144	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₈ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	0.3	1.0
15	5-OCH ₂ CH–CH– 	O	132–135	CCl ₄	C ₁₉ H ₂₅ NO ₄	CHN	Weak	
16	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ N ⁺ (CH ₃) ₃ C(CH ₃) ₃ ·I [–]	O	177–180 dec	PrOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₈ H ₂₇ NO ₃ ·CH ₃ I	CHNl	Weak	
17	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	209–211	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	0.05	6
18	5-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl levo isomer	O	209–211	MeOH–Et ₂ O	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	3.0	0.1
19	6-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl dextro isomer	O	168–169	EtOH	C ₁₆ H ₂₃ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
20	6-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	219–221	2-PrOH	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
21	6-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂ ·HCl	O	185–187	CH ₃ CN	C ₁₇ H ₂₅ NO ₃ ·HCl	CHNCl	Weak	
22	6-OCH ₂ CHOHCH ₂ NHCH(CH ₃) ₂	NNHC(S)NH ₂	183–184	EtOH	C ₁₇ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₂ S	CHNS	Weak	

MeOH-Et₂O to give the analytically pure sample; yield 291 mg (54.2%), mp 139–144° dec.

E. 5-[(3-*t*-Butyl-2-oxo-5-oxazolidinyl)methoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone (15).—To a solution of 9.17 g (31.6 mmol) of **1** in 50 ml of dry THF was added, at 0°, 4.05 g (40.0 mmol) of Et₃N and 5.50 g (35.0 mmol) of phenyl chloroformate, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 19.5 hr. The resulting intermediate was obtained by evaporation of the volatile components of the mixture and dissolving the remaining residue in C₆H₅-CH₃ (100 ml) and extracting with 5% HCl before drying (MgSO₄). The solution containing the intermediate was heated at reflux for 22 hr with 2.05 g (38.0 mmol) of NaOMe. After the reaction mixture had been extracted with 5% NaOH (2 × 50 ml), the organic phase was dried (MgSO₄), evaporated *in vacuo* and gave **15** as a solid residue. White crystalline **15** was obtained in analytical purity by recrystallizing from CCl₄; yield 6.65 g (66.5%) mp 132–135°.

F. 5-[(3-*t*-Butyl-2-oxo-5-oxazolidinyl)methoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone (15).—To a refluxing mixture of 1.09 g (5.00 mmol) of **32**, 100 mg of LiBr, and 5 ml of DMF was added 0.71 ml (594 mg, 6.00 mmol) of *t*-BuNCO [in 3 portions every 20 min]. The resulting mixture was refluxed for a total of 4 hr. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was added to 50 ml of H₂O. The aq mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (2 × 50 ml) and the combined CHCl₃ extracts were washed with H₂O (2 × 50 ml) and dried (MgSO₄). Evaporation of the solvent *in vacuo* gave a quantitative yield of crude solid **15**. Two recrystallizations from CCl₄ gave the white crystalline **15**; yield 927 mg (58.7%), mp 130–134°. The product was shown by tlc and melting point to be homogeneous and identical with **15** obtained from **1** and phenyl chloroformate.

G. Optical Resolution of DL-5-[3-(*t*-butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone·HCl (1).—Racemic **1** (140 g, 0.427 mol) was converted into its free base form by suspending the salt in CHCl₃-1 *N* NaOH. A quantitative yield of the base was obtained from the CHCl₃ phase after drying with MgSO₄ and evaporating.

Into a solution of 84.0 g (0.560 mol) of *l*-tartaric acid in 400 ml of EtOH was dissolved 0.427 mol of the free base form of **1**. The solution was allowed to cool slowly to room temperature. A crystalline precipitate formed which was obtained in maximum yield by cooling to 0° before collection by filtration; yield 93.6 g (47.8%), mp 125–135°, [α]₅₈₉²⁴ −0.16° (*c* 5.60, MeOH). The crystalline *l*-tartrate salt was recrystallized several times from EtOH containing 1% *l*-tartaric acid and gave a white crystalline salt possessing constant melting and rotation values; yield 63.3 g (32.3%), mp 125–135°, [α]₅₈₉²⁴ +1.92 ± 0.1, [α]₄₃₆²⁴ +6.40 ± 0.1° (*c* 5.81, MeOH).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₅NO₃·C₄H₆O₆·H₂O: C, H, N.

(+)-5-[3-(*t*-Butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone·HCl (18).—A suspension of 60.0 g (130 mmol) of the *l*-tartrate (+) salt in 1 l. of CHCl₃ and 0.5 l. of 5% NaOH was stirred at room temperature for 2 hr. The CHCl₃

phase, upon drying with MgSO₄, gave the free base form as an oil. This material was converted into its HCl salt; yield, 39.5 g (92.5%), mp 208–210°. The product was recrystallized twice from MeOH-Et₂O; white crystalline material of constant melting and rotating values; yield 23.4 g (54.8%), mp 209–211°, [α]₅₈₉²⁴ +19.7° ± 0.7; [α]₄₃₆²⁴ +38.9 ± 1.4° (*c* 2.80, MeOH). An overall yield of 16.7% of **18** was obtained from racemic **1**.

(−)-5-[3-(*t*-Butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-2,3-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone *d*-Tartrate.—The mother liquor containing the remaining 52.2% of *l*-tartrate salt was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residual solid obtained was partitioned between 1 l. of CHCl₃ and 0.5 l. of 5% NaOH. The CHCl₃ phase gave a quantitative yield of the free base after drying (MgSO₄) and evaporating *in vacuo* to the residual free base form.

An EtOH solution (500 ml) containing 84.0 g (0.560 mol) of *d*-tartaric acid and 0.223 mol of free base enriched in (−) isomer was allowed to cool slowly to room temperature and then to 0° for maximum precipitation. The crystalline *d*-tartrate salt was collected by filtration and 79.4 g (40.3%, mp 120–135°) of the solid was obtained. After several recrystallizations of the salt from EtOH containing 1% of *d*-tartaric acid, constant rotating and melting point material was obtained as a white crystalline solid; yield 66.1 g (33.8%), mp 125–135°, [α]₅₈₉²⁴ −1.93 ± 0.1°, [α]₄₃₆²⁴ −6.32 ± 0.1° (*c* 6.10, MeOH).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₅NO₃·C₄H₆O₆·H₂O: C, H, N.

(−)-5-[3-(*t*-Butylamino)-2-hydroxypropoxy]-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone·HCl (17).—A mixture of 63.0 g (137 mmol) of *d*-tartrate (−) salt in 1 l. of CHCl₃ and 0.5 l. of 5% NaOH was stirred at room temperature for 2 hr. The free base of **17** was obtained in a quantitative yield by drying and evaporating the CHCl₃ phase to a residual oily material. The oil was converted into the solid HCl salt; yield 41.8 g (92.9%), mp 208–210°. Recrystallization from MeOH-Et₂O gave white crystalline material of constant melting point and rotation values; yield 25.1 g (55.8%), mp 209–211°, [α]₅₈₉²⁴ −19.6 ± 0.7, [α]₄₃₆²⁴ −38.8 ± 1.4° (*c* 2.85, MeOH). The overall yield of **17** was 18.2% from racemic **1**.

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