

# Synthesis and Pharmacological Effects of Optically Active 2-[4-(4-Benzhydryl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]ethyl Methyl 1,4-Dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate Hydrochloride

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Optically active 2-[4-(4-benzhydryl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]ethyl methyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate [(*S*)-(+)-**1** and (*R*)-(–)-**1**] hydrochlorides were synthesized with high optical purities from (*R*)-(–)- and (*S*)-(+)-1,4-dihydro-5-methoxycarbonyl-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acids [(*R*)-(–)-**6** and (*S*)-(+)-**6**], which are available from (*±*)-**6** by optical resolution using quinidine and cinchonidine, respectively. From pharmacological investigations of (*±*)-**1** and (*R*)-(–)-**1** such as the antihypertensive effect on spontaneously hypertensive rats and inhibition of [<sup>3</sup>H]nimodipine binding to rat cardiac membrane homogenate, the active form of **1** was defined to be the (*4S*)-(+)-enantiomer of **1**.

**Keywords** 1,4-dihydropyridine; calcium antagonist; antihypertensive effect; receptor binding assay; optically active compound; AE0047

## Introduction

In a previous paper,<sup>1)</sup> we reported the synthesis and antihypertensive activity of 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives with 3-[4-(substituted amino)phenylalkyl] ester, and that among them, 2-[4-(4-benzhydryl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]ethyl methyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate dihydrochloride (**1**·2HCl, AE0047) had long lasting antihypertensive activity and selective vasodilating activity on canine vertebral artery. AE0047 has been selected as a promising candidate from other pharmacological investigations also. Since **1** has an asymmetric center at C-4 of the dihydropyridine ring, it is a racemic mixture (Fig. 1). We have been interested in biological activities of each enantiomer of **1** because a

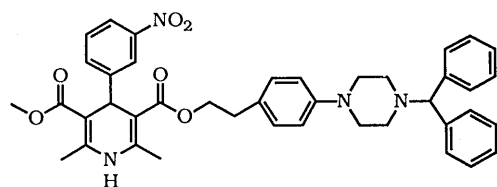
number of reports described that one optical isomer of 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives showed much more potent biological activities than the other.<sup>2–8)</sup> Therefore, we synthesized each enantiomer of **1**, and investigated the difference of *in vivo* and *in vitro* biological activities, namely antihypertensive activity on spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR) and the effect on the binding of [<sup>3</sup>H]nimodipine to rat cardiac membranes.

In this paper, we report the synthesis of each enantiomer of **1** and their biological activities.

**Synthesis** Method for synthesis of each enantiomer of **1** is shown in Charts 1 and 2.

Optically active nicardipine<sup>3)</sup> and other such 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives<sup>6–8)</sup> were synthesized from (+)- and (–)-**6** which were obtained by an optical resolution of 1-ethoxymethylated (*±*)-**6** and subsequent removal of the ethoxymethyl group. Tamazawa *et al.*<sup>6)</sup> and Kajino *et al.*<sup>8)</sup> independently determined the absolute configuration of **6** by X-ray crystallographic analysis of its derivatives to assign unambiguously that (+)-**6** and (–)-**6** have *S* and *R* configurations at C-4, respectively.

We tried to ascertain the utility of the direct optical resolution of (*±*)-**6** reported by Genain.<sup>9)</sup> Several hundreds of grams of (*±*)-**6** was easily prepared from ethylene



**1**  
Fig. 1

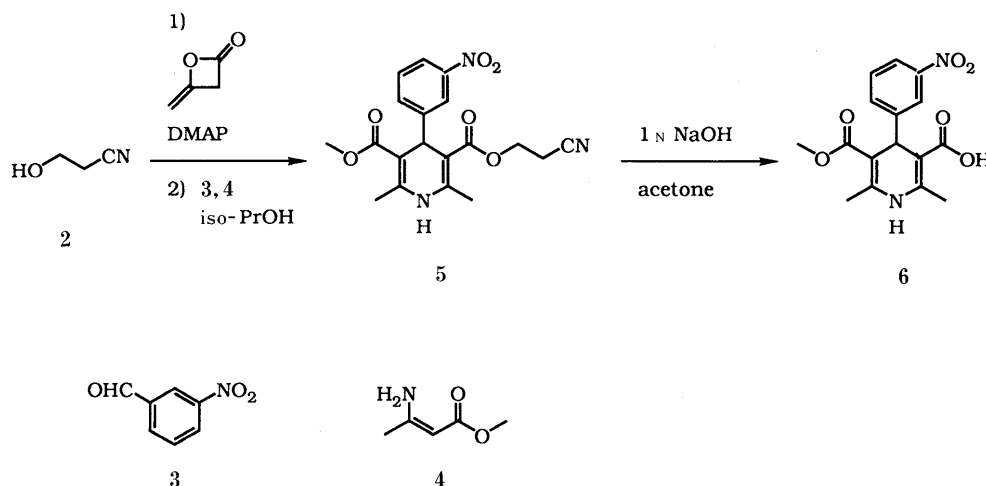


Chart 1

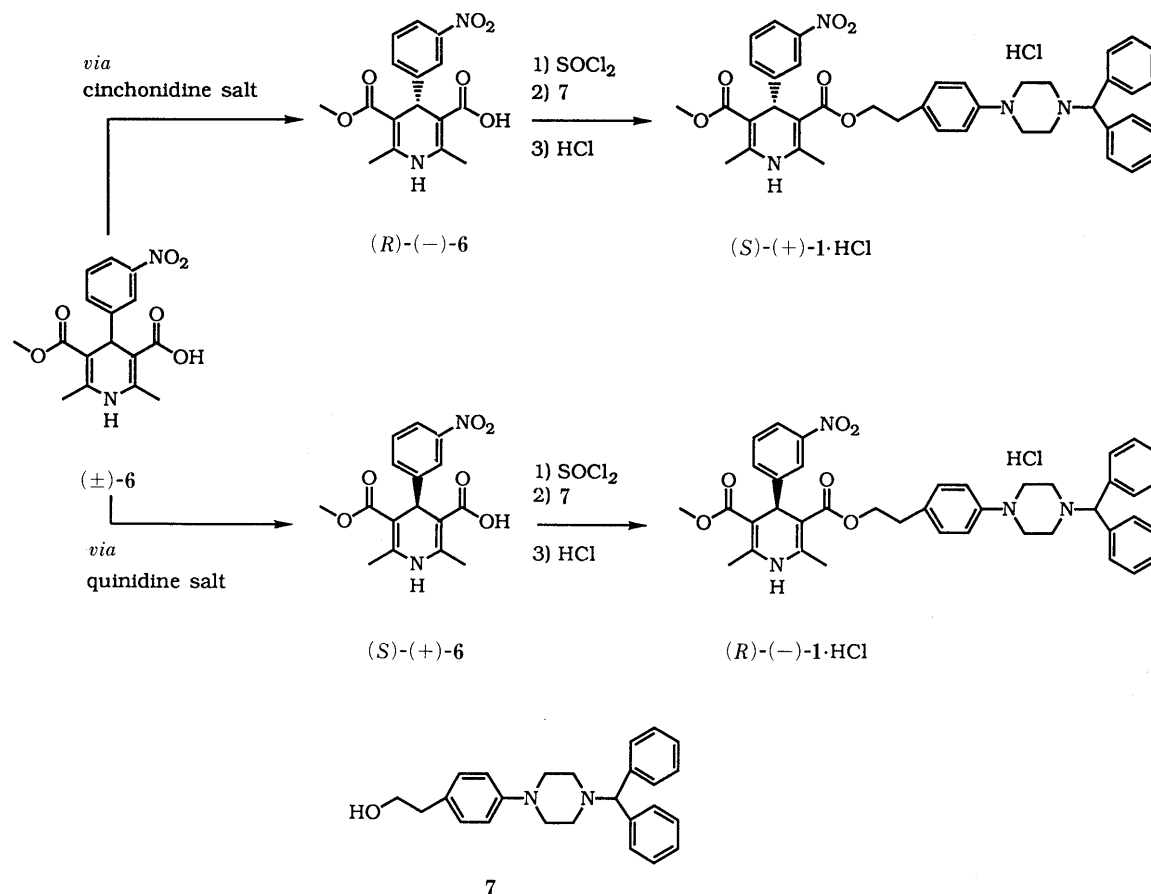


Chart 2

cyanohydrin (**2**) via 1,4-dihydropyridine **5** in a *ca.* 60% overall yield without chromatographical purification (Chart 1).<sup>10)</sup> The compound (*S*)-(+)-**6** was obtained in a 46% yield from a quinidine salt of **6** in pure form by recrystallizing it to a constant optical rotation. On the other hand, **6** recovered from the mother liquor gave (*R*)-(-)-**6** by recrystallizing it as cinchonidine salt (yield 48%). Treatment of (*R*)-(-)-**6** and (*S*)-(+)-**6** with SOCl<sub>2</sub>, and a subsequent reaction with **7** gave (*S*)-(+)-**1** and (*R*)-(-)-**1**, respectively. They were treated with a solution of hydrogen chloride in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) in Et<sub>2</sub>O-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (90:10, v/v) to afford monohydrochlorides, (*S*)-(+)-**1**·HCl, 62%, mp 143.5–147 °C, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +31.0° (*c*=0.50, acetone) and (*R*)-(-)-**1**·HCl, 59%, mp 145–149 °C, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -31.4° (*c*=0.50, acetone) (Chart 2).

**Determination of Optical Purities of (*S*)-(+)-**1** and (*R*)-(-)-**1**** The optical purities of (*S*)-(+)-**1**·HCl and (*R*)-(-)-**1**·HCl were determined by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses using chiral stationary phase columns, Chiralcel OF® (4.6 mm i.d. × 250 mm) [column temperature, 50 °C; mobile phase, hexane-2-propanol-trifluoroacetic acid (50:50:0.05, v/v); flow rate, 1.0 ml/min; detection, ultraviolet (UV) at 254 nm] and Chiralpak AD® (4.6 mm i.d. × 250 mm) [column temperature, 40 °C; mobile phase, hexane-ethanol (9:1, v/v); flow rate, 1.0 ml/min; detection, UV at 254 nm] purchased from Daicel Chemical Industries, Tokyo, Japan. Retention times of the compounds are as follows: in Chiralcel OF®, (*S*)-(+)-**1**, 22.5 min; (*R*)-(-)-**1**, 50.3 min; in Chiralpak AD®, (*S*)-(+)-**1**, 23.1 min; (*R*)-(-)-**1**, 27.0 min. Since in both

TABLE I. Effects of ( $\pm$ )-**1**, (*S*)-(+)-**1**, and (*R*)-(-)-**1** on SBP in SHR (*p.o.* Administration)

Drug and dose (mg/kg)	<i>n</i>	Reduction of SBP (%) (mean $\pm$ S.E.)				
		Before	1 h <sup>b)</sup>	2 h <sup>b)</sup>	4 h <sup>b)</sup>	7 h <sup>b)</sup>
Vehicle <sup>a)</sup>	6	0	0 $\pm$ 2	1 $\pm$ 2	0 $\pm$ 1	3 $\pm$ 2
( $\pm$ )- <b>1</b>						
1	6	0	10 $\pm$ 3	14 $\pm$ 2	16 $\pm$ 2	12 $\pm$ 2
3	6	0	31 $\pm$ 1	36 $\pm$ 3	35 $\pm$ 1	26 $\pm$ 1
10	6	0	41 $\pm$ 2	43 $\pm$ 2	41 $\pm$ 2	38 $\pm$ 1
( <i>S</i> )-(+)- <b>1</b>						
0.3	6	0	1 $\pm$ 3	11 $\pm$ 2	5 $\pm$ 3	8 $\pm$ 3
1	6	0	19 $\pm$ 3	21 $\pm$ 2	17 $\pm$ 2	15 $\pm$ 2
3	3	0	43 $\pm$ 4	51 $\pm$ 2	41 $\pm$ 1	33 $\pm$ 4
( <i>R</i> )-(-)- <b>1</b>						
30	6	0	4 $\pm$ 2	11 $\pm$ 2	11 $\pm$ 3	11 $\pm$ 3

a) 0.3% Tween 80 solution. b) Time after administration.

cases the peaks of antipodal compounds were not detected at all, the optical purities of each compound were concluded to be almost 100% ee.

**Pharmacological Results and Discussion** The antihypertensive effects of ( $\pm$ )-AE0047 and each enantiomer of AE0047 on SHR are shown in Table I. The compound (*S*)-(+)-**1** showed a dose dependent potent antihypertensive effect, particularly at doses of 1 and 3 mg/kg, and the duration was estimated to be over 7 h, whereas at a dose of 30 mg/kg the antihypertensive effect of (*R*)-(-)-**1** was barely comparable to the effect of (*S*)-(+)-**1** at a dose of 0.3 mg/kg. Although the antihypertensive effect of ( $\pm$ )-**1**

TABLE II. Inhibition of [ $^3\text{H}$ ]Nimodipine Binding to Rat Cardiac Membrane Homogenate

Drug	Concentrations required for 50% inhibition (nM)
( $\pm$ )- <b>1</b>	0.26
( <i>S</i> )-(+)- <b>1</b>	0.13
( <i>R</i> )-(-)- <b>1</b>	18.2
( $\pm$ )-Nicardipine	0.48

was less than (*S*)-(+)-**1**, it had enough potency at doses 3 and 10 mg/kg. The doses necessary for a 30% reduction of systolic blood pressure (SBP) ( $\text{ED}_{30}$ ) obtained from the dose-response curves were 1.1 mg/kg in (*S*)-(+)-**1** and 2.6 mg/kg in ( $\pm$ )-**1**, respectively. These results indicate that the antihypertensive effect of ( $\pm$ )-**1** depends mostly on (*S*)-(+)-**1**, which is supported by the fact that the  $\text{ED}_{30}$  value of (*S*)-(+)-**1** is about a half of the value of ( $\pm$ )-**1**.

We performed a receptor binding assay to evaluate pharmacological profiles of these compounds *in vitro*. Drug concentrations required for 50% inhibition of [ $^3\text{H}$ ]nimodipine binding to rat cardiac membrane homogenate ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ ) of these compounds and ( $\pm$ )-nicardipine are shown in Table II. The compound (*S*)-(+)-**1** shows the highest affinity to the receptor, and the affinity was decreased in the following order; ( $\pm$ )-**1** (0.26 nM) > ( $\pm$ )-nicardipine (0.48 nM) > (*R*)-(-)-**1** (18.2 nM). The affinity of (*S*)-(+)-**1** was found to be 140-fold higher than (*R*)-(-)-**1** and to be 2-fold higher than ( $\pm$ )-**1**. This result is consistent with the potency of the antihypertensive effects obtained in the *in vivo* study.

## Conclusion

We synthesized the compounds (*S*)-(+)-**1** and (*R*)-(-)-**1** with high optical purities from (*R*)-(-)-**6** and (*S*)-(+)-**6**, respectively, which were obtained by the direct optical resolution of ( $\pm$ )-**6** through its quinidine and cinchonidine salts. From pharmacological investigations *in vivo* and *in vitro*, the active form of **1** was defined to be the (4*S*)-(+)-enantiomer of **1**. The 4*S* configuration of **1** was found to be important for interaction with the 1,4-dihydropyridine receptor, as is found in other 1,4-dihydropyridine enantiomers.

## Experimental

Melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto micromelting point apparatus and were uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR-420 spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$ -Nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^1\text{H}$ -NMR) spectra were determined on a BRUKER AC-200 spectrometer with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-181 digital polarimeter. Extraction solvents were dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Silica gel 60, 230–400 mesh (Nacalai Tesque) was used for flash column chromatography, and Kieselgel 60,  $\text{F}_{254}$  (Merck) plates were used for thin layer chromatography (TLC).

**( $\pm$ )-1,4-Dihydro-5-methoxycarbonyl-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic Acid [( $\pm$ )-**6**]** Diketene (106 ml, 1.36 mol) was added dropwise to ethylene cyanohydrin (**2**, 96.5 g, 1.36 mmol) preheated at about 80 °C at temperatures between 75 and 100 °C over 1.5 h. After the addition was completed, the mixture was stirred at 70–80 °C for 2.5 h. After dissolving the resulting mixture in 2-propanol (450 ml), *m*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**3**, 205.2 g, 1.36 mmol), methyl 3-aminocrotonate (**4**, 156.3 g, 1.36 mmol) and 2-propanol (510 ml) were added to the solution, and

then refluxed for 7 h, stirred at room temperature for 11 h, and with ice-water cooling for 3 h. A precipitated solid was collected by filtration, and rinsed with 2-propanol. After drying *in vacuo* at 50 °C overnight, the compound **5** was obtained as a yellow powder (332.4 g). To a solution of **5** obtained above in acetone (1300 ml) was added 1 N NaOH (2600 ml at a time) with water cooling. After the mixture was stirred at 28 °C for 1 h, the resulting solution was diluted with water (2600 ml) and then washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (three times). With ice-water cooling, the aqueous layer was acidified with 35% HCl to pH 1–2, and stirred for 3 h to afford a precipitated solid. The solid collected by filtration was rinsed with water and then dried *in vacuo* at 50 °C for 4 d to give the product [( $\pm$ )-**6**] as a slightly yellow powder (268.9 g, 60%), mp 199–200 °C. IR (KBr): 3325, 2925, 2700, 2600, 1670, 1655, 1605, 1525, 1480, 1435, 1350  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR [ $\text{DMSO}-d_6 + \text{CDCl}_3$  (10:1, v/v)]  $\delta$ : 2.29, 2.30 (each 3H, s), 3.56 (3H, s), 5.00 (1H, s), 7.45–7.65 (2H, m), 7.9–8.05 (2H, m), 8.94 (1H, s), 11.82 (1H, brs). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ : C, 57.83; H, 4.85; N, 8.43. Found: C, 57.74; H, 4.67; N, 8.33.

**Optical Resolution of ( $\pm$ )-1,4-Dihydro-5-methoxycarbonyl-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic Acid [( $\pm$ )-**6**]** Quinidine (293.66 g, 0.91 mol) was added portionwise to a suspension of ( $\pm$ )-**6** (300.81 g, 0.91 mol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) (500 ml) with warming. After the addition was completed, further DMF (370 ml) was added to the mixture, and the remaining solid was completely dissolved at about 85 °C. Hot water (ca. 60–70 °C, 580 ml) was added portionwise to the solution, and then kept at room temperature for 53 h. The crystals formed were collected by filtration and recrystallized from DMF–water (3:2, v/v) to give the (*R*)-(-)-**6**-quinidine salt (151.4 g) as yellow needles, mp 199–200 °C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 96.4^\circ$  ( $c = 0.50$ , acetone). IR (KBr): 3350, 3225, 2950, 1645, 1620, 1590, 1570, 1530, 1510, 1485, 1440, 1330  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8$ : C, 65.84; H, 6.14; N, 8.53. Found: C, 65.85; H, 6.17; N, 8.46. The obtained (*R*)-(-)-**6**-quinidine salt was suspended in 0.47 N NaOH (507 ml, containing 1.03 eq of NaOH), and then washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (three times). With ice-water cooling, the aqueous layer was acidified with 35% HCl to pH 1–2, and then stirred for 1.5 h. A precipitated solid was collected by filtration, and dried *in vacuo* at about 60 °C to afford (*R*)-(-)-**6** (72.11 g, 48%) as a slightly yellow powder, mp 169–170 °C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 24.6^\circ$  ( $c = 0.50$ , acetone) [lit.<sup>3)</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 19.6^\circ$  ( $c = 0.542$ , acetone)]. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ : C, 57.83; H, 4.85; N, 8.43. Found: C, 57.98; H, 4.79; N, 8.34. The mother liquor obtained after the first recrystallization was concentrated and the residue was worked up in the same way used in the case of (*R*)-(-)-**6**-quinidine salt. The obtained (*S*)-(+)-**6** (141.3 g, 0.43 mol) was treated with cinchonidine (125.2 g, 0.43 mol) in a similar manner used for the preparation of ( $\pm$ )-**6**-quinidine salt to give (*S*)-(+)-**6**-cinchonidine salt (144.2 g) as pale yellow fine needles, mp 188–189 °C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 45.0^\circ$  ( $c = 0.50$ , MeOH). IR (KBr): 3350, 3075, 2950, 1670, 1640, 1610, 1590, 1525, 1490, 1440, 1345  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_4\text{O}_7$ : C, 67.08; H, 6.11; N, 8.94. Found: C, 67.23; H, 6.21; N, 8.72. By the same work up described above, (*S*)-(+)-**6** was obtained as a slightly yellow powder (69.46 g, 46%), mp 168.5–170 °C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 24.4^\circ$  ( $c = 0.50$ , acetone) [lit.<sup>3)</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 19.1^\circ$  ( $c = 0.556$ , acetone)]. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ : C, 57.83; H, 4.85; N, 8.43. Found: C, 58.04; H, 4.85; N, 8.25.

**(4*S*)-(+)-2-[4-(4-Benzhydryl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]ethyl Methyl 1,4-Dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate [(*S*)-(+)-**1**] Hydrochloride** To a suspension of (*R*)-(-)-**6** (62.32 g, 0.188 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (400 ml) and DMF (100 ml) was added  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (22.31 g, 0.188 mol) at 5–9 °C with ice-water cooling under  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere, and then stirred for 2.5 h at the same temperature. The solution of **7** (67.76 g, 0.182 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (120 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 16 h at about 5 °C. The resulting mixture was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (500 ml) and then washed with water and brine, dried, and removed. After the addition of AcOEt to the residue, the mixture was washed with 5%  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  and brine, and then dried. Concentration of the solvent following chromatography on silica gel with  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ –AcOEt (4:1, v/v) afforded (*S*)-(+)-**1** as a yellow powder (107.45 g, 83%). IR (KBr): 3325, 3025, 2950, 2800, 1680, 1645, 1610, 1520, 1485, 1450, 1430, 1345  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 2.30, 2.35 (each 3H, s), 2.55 (4H, brt,  $J = 5$  Hz), 2.82 (2H, t,  $J = 7$  Hz), 3.15 (4H, brt,  $J = 5$  Hz), 3.64 (3H, s), 4.23 (2H, t,  $J = 7$  Hz), 4.26 (1H, s), 5.07 (1H, s), 5.80 (1H, s), 6.80, 7.04 (4H,  $\text{A}_2\text{B}_2$ ,  $J = 8.5$  Hz), 7.1–7.6 (12H, m), 7.97 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8, 2.5, 1$  Hz), 8.06 (1H, t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz). To a solution of (*S*)-(+)-**1** (105.45 g) obtained above in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (9:1, v/v) (2000 ml) was added dropwise a solution of hydrogen chloride in DME (2.45 N, 69 ml) at room temperature. After the addition was completed, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 40 min. A precipitated solid was collected by filtration, which was

rinsed with Et<sub>2</sub>O, and then dried *in vacuo* to give (S)-(+)-1·HCl (83.69 g, 75%) as a yellow powder, mp 143.5–147°C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +31.0^\circ$  (*c*=0.50, acetone). IR (KBr): 3375, 3050, 2925, 2550, 1690, 1610, 1520, 1485, 1455, 1435, 1350 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.25, 2.36 (each 3H, s), 2.82 (2H, t, *J*=6.5 Hz), 3.0–3.2 (2H, br), 3.35–3.6 (4H, br), 3.64 (3H, s), 3.75–4.05 (2H, br), 4.24 (2H, t, *J*=6.5 Hz), 4.88 (1H, brd, *J*=7 Hz), 5.06 (1H, s), 6.42 (1H, s), 6.76, 7.00 (4H, A<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub>q, *J*=8 Hz), 7.2–7.65 (8H, m), 7.8–8.1 (6H, m), 13.10 (1H, brs). *Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>·HCl: C, 68.09; H, 5.99; N, 7.75. Found: C, 68.43; H, 5.83; N, 7.65.

**(4R)-(-)-2-[4-(4-Benzhydryl-1-piperazinyl)phenyl]ethyl Methyl 1,4-Dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate [(R)-(-)-1] Hydrochloride** The compound (R)-(-)-1·HCl was prepared from (S)-(+)-6 by the same method employed for the synthesis of (S)-(+)-1·HCl; yield 59%, mp 145–149°C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -31.4^\circ$  (*c*=0.50, acetone). *Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>·HCl: C, 68.09; H, 5.99; N, 7.75. Found: C, 68.07; H, 5.85; N, 7.74.

**Biological Tests** Antihypertensive Activity<sup>11)</sup>: The experiments were performed in groups of 3–6 male SHR. SBP was measured in a conscious state by a tail cuff plethysmographic method with an electrosphygmomanometer (PS-200A, Riken-Kaihatsu) at 0, 1, 2, 4 and 7 h after oral administration. The test compounds were prepared as follows: A compound was dissolved in EtOH (0.3 ml) and Tween 80 (0.1 ml) and then diluted with distilled water for the volume of administration to be 10 ml/kg. Antihypertensive effects are shown as reductions in SBP (%) from 0 h values.

**Receptor Binding Assay** Rat cardiac membrane for the assay was prepared by the same method reported by Ishii *et al.*<sup>12)</sup>

To a solution of a test compound in 0.5 ml of 50 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.1% albumin was added 0.05 ml of [<sup>3</sup>H]nimodipine (4.729 TBq/mmol) in 10% EtOH (160000 dpm) and 0.5 ml of cardiac membrane homogenate. After incubation at 25°C for 3 h in the dark, the incubation mixture was filtered under vacuum through a glass fiber filter (Whatman GF/F), and washed twice with 1 ml of 50 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.4) which was used for washing the test tube, and three times with

another 5 ml of Tris buffer (pH 7.4). After the addition of 2 ml of Soluene-350 (Packard) to the cardiac membrane homogenate, and standing overnight, 13 ml of Hionic-Fluor was added to the mixture, and kept in a cool and dark place for 24 h. Subsequently, the radio activity was measured by liquid scintillation counter (Tri-carb Model 4640CD, Packard). Non-specific binding was determined by the result of measurement in the presence of 100 ng/ml of (±)-1.

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