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Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters

Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters 15 (2005) 2728–2733

Biaryl isoxazolinone antibacterial agents

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Received 18 February 2005; revised 31 March 2005; accepted 4 April 2005

Abstract—In an era of increasing resistance to classical antibacterial agents, the synthetic oxazolidinone series of antibiotics has attracted much interest. Zyvox[™] was the first oxazolidinone to be approved for clinical use against infections caused by multi-drug resistant Gram-positive bacteria. In the course of studies directed toward the discovery of novel antibacterial agents, a new series of synthetic phenyl-isoxazolinone agents that displayed potent activity against Gram-positive bacterial strains was recently discovered at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Extensive investigation of various substitutions on the phenyl ring was then undertaken. We report here, the synthesis and antibacterial activity of a series of biaryl isoxazolinone compounds. © 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

The development of bacterial resistance to current therapies is an important driving force behind the discovery of new antibiotics that function through novel mechanisms of action. The incidence of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecium (VRE) and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections in intensivecare units of hospitals has significantly increased between 1989 and 1997.¹ A more troubling occurrence was the first case of vancomycin-resistant S. aureus (VRSA) infection.² The oxazolidinones, a new class of synthetic antibacterial agents, are active against a variety of clinically important susceptible and resistant Gram-positive organisms. Although their mode of action is not clearly understood, these compounds appear to inhibit protein synthesis at the initiation of translation by binding directly to the 50S ribosomal subunit.³

The first oxazolidinone was reported by Dupont (1, Dup-721, Fig. 1)⁴ but was eventually shown to be toxic

and development was discontinued. This was followed by the Pharmacia clinical candidates eperezolid (2) and linezolid (3, now marketed as $Zyvox^{TM}$).^{3,5} $Zyvox^{TM}$ is currently being used for complicated and uncomplicated skin and soft tissue infections, community- and hospitalacquired pneumonia and drug-resistant Gram-positive infections (MRSA and VRE). Several recent compounds in preclinical development have been disclosed, including AZD2563⁶ from AstraZeneca and RBX 7644 (Ranbezolid)⁷ from Ranbaxy.

Linezolid possesses many attributes which make it an attractive starting point for the design of novel antibacterials with a similar mechanism of action. Our investigation has resulted in the discovery of the 4-arylisoxazolin-5-one $(4)^8$ as an oxazolidinone isostere. Consequently, this paper will outline the synthesis and antibacterial activity of a series of aryl and heteroaryl phenyl-isoxazolinones.

The preparation of the various aryl or heteroaryl phenylisoxazolinones is as follows. To facilitate analog preparation, two common intermediates were prepared that allowed for late stage derivatization. The diazonium

Keywords: Antibacterial; Oxazolidinone; Isoxazolinone.

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⁰⁹⁶⁰⁻⁸⁹⁴X/\$ - see front matter @ 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.bmcl.2005.04.003



Figure 1. Early clinical oxazolidinones and BMS isoxazolinone antibacterial core.

compound 7 and the iodo derivative 9, that were used in a modified Suzuki reaction⁹ or a Stille coupling employing Farina's method.¹⁰ Briefly (Scheme 1), methyl-pnitrophenyl acetate (5) was reacted with DMF-DMA and, subsequently, hydroxylamine to give the isoxazolinone core. After introduction of the acetamidomethyl side chain (6), the nitro functionality was reduced to the aniline which was then converted to the diazonium compound (7). Preparation of analogs via cross-coupling using a modified Suzuki reaction⁹ with boronic acids were then carried out to introduce various substituents (Scheme 2). The preparation of the iodo derivative (9) started with ethyl-p-aminophenyl acetate (8). After diazotization and reaction with potassium iodide, the resulting acetate was treated with ethyl formate and hydroxylamine to afford the iodophenyl-isoxazolinone. Reaction with the acetamidoacetoxy-methyl electrophile gave intermediate 9 which was submitted to Stille coupling conditions employing Farina's method¹⁰ (Scheme 2) to introduce various substituents.

Reduced analogs, for example the dihydropyran, dihydrothiopyran, and dehydropiperidines, were prepared starting with the corresponding vinyl stannanes (54a-c). These were easily prepared (Scheme 3) via addition of the tin anion onto ketones 53a-c followed by elimination.¹¹ These stannanes were then used as the organometallic counterparts in Stille reactions with the iodo derivative 9, giving 55a-c. Functional group transformations provided the sulfoxide (55d), sulfone (55e), the deprotected dehydropiperidine (55f), as well as the acylated analogs (55g-i).

The reduced (tetrahydropyran and piperidine) analogs required the development of de novo syntheses as reduction of the vinyl-isoxazolinone derivatives failed. Conse-



Scheme 1. Preparation of the isoxazolinone cross-coupling precursors. Reagents and conditions: (a) 1. DMF–DMA, 2. $H_2NOH \cdot H_2O/EtOH/NEt_3$, 3. $H_2SO_4/AcOCH_2NHAc$ (92%); (b) 1. H_2/Pd –C/MeOH (85%), 2. NaNO_2/HBF_4/H_2O/EtOH (72%); (c) 1. NaNO_2/KI/HCl/THF/H_2O (89%), 2. (i) NaH/EtOCHO, (ii) H_2NOH/MeOH (88%), 3. $H_2SO_4/AcOCH_2NHAc$ (72%).



Scheme 2. Cross-coupling methodology for the preparation of isoxazolinone analogs. Reagents and conditions: For 7: ArB(OH)₂/ Pd(OAc)₂/MeOH, 50 °C; For 9: ArSnBu₃/Pd₂(dba)₃/AsPh₃/NMP/ 70 °C.



Scheme 3. Synthesis of reduced heterocyclic analogs. Reagents and conditions: (a) 1. Bu₃SnLi/THF/-78 °C, 2. MsCl/Et₃N/CH₂Cl₂: 36% for 54a, 78% for 54b, 59% for 54c; (b) 9/Pd₂(dba)₃/AsPh₃/NMP/70 °C: 70% for 55a, 53% for 55b, 57% for 55c; (c) for X = S: 1 equiv CH₃CO₃H/MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ gave 55d (73%); excess CH₃CO₃H gave 55e (77%); (d) For X = NBoc: TFA/CH₂Cl₂: 93% for 55f; (e) For 55g: Ac₂O/Py/0 °C (63%). For 55h: 1. TBSOCH₂COCl/Et₃N/DCM/DMF (65%), 2. TFA/DCM/0 °C (65%). For 55i: 1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxamidine hydrochloride/*i*-Pr₂NEt/DMF/rt (97%).

quently (Scheme 4), Suzuki cross-coupling¹² of vinyl triflates 57a,b with pinacol arylboronate 56^{13} provided the desired analogs 58a,b. Reduction at this stage followed by construction of the isoxazolinone was accomplished in standard fashion. Further elaboration provided the desired analogs (60a-e).

Within these compounds, significant SAR can be extracted. Various substitutions on the phenyl ring are tolerated, as many potent compounds against *S. aureus* (Table 1) and Gram-positive organisms were obtained. Bulky substituents are detrimental (cf. 20), and monoand di-substituted analogs are preferred over tri-substituted derivatives. In general, introduction of heteroaryl groups gave potent compounds against staphylococcal strains. Only 38 and 51 were inactive.

H. influenzae activity was obtained with a few aryl analogs: 4-fluoro (11), 2,4-difluoro (12), 4-CO₂H (27), 4-CN (25), 4-COCH₃ (31) and 3-NH₂ (22), but combining

Table 1 (continued)



Scheme 4. Alternate synthesis of fully reduced isoxazolinone analogs. Reagents and conditions: (a) $PdCl_2(dppf)/K_3PO_4/dioxane/80$ °C: 71% for 58a, 97% for 58b; (b) H_2 (30 psi)/10% Pd-C/EtOH: 97% for 59a, 96% for 59b; (c) 1. NaH/EtOCHO, 2. NH₂OH/MeOH/ $\uparrow\downarrow$, 3. AcOCH₂NHAc/K₂CO₃/CH₂Cl₂: 31% for 60a, 38% for 60b; (d) TFA/CH₂Cl₂ (89%); (e) For 60d: Ac₂O/Py/0 °C (48%). For 60e: 1. TBSOCH₂COCl/Et₃N/DCM/DMF (79%), 2. TFA/DCM/0 °C (78%).

 Table 1. Minimum inhibitory concentration values for isoxazolinone analogs

Compd	Structure	MIC ^a
10		1 (32)/>32
11	F	0.03 (4)/2
12	F	0.125 (4)/4
13	CI	0.06 (8)/>32
14	HO	1 (2)/8
15	ОМе	0.5 (8)/32
16	MeO	0.06 (1)/>64
17	MeO	2 (8)/>32
18	OMe MeO	0.25 (1)/32
19	OMe MeO MeO	4 (16)/>32

Compd	Structure	MIC ^a
20		64 (>32)/>32
21	F ₃ CO	0.5 (16)/>32
22	H ₂ N	0.125 (2)/2
23	O ₂ N	0.03 (1)/>32
24	F ₃ C	0.25 (8)/>32
25	NC	0.06 (2)/4
26	MeO ₂ C	0.06 (0.5)/>32
27	HO ₂ C	1 (8)/2
28	HO ₂ C	16 (16)/8
29	HO ₂ C	32(>64)/64
30	HO ₂ C	4 (32)/32
31		0.06 (2)/4
32	O ₂ N	0.125 (4)/4
33	MeS	0.5 (16)/>32
34		1 (2)/8
35	N /	0.5 (4)/2
36	N	0.06 (0.5)/2

 Table 1 (continued)

 Table 1 (continued)

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Compd	Structure	MIC ^a
37	Me	0.25 (2)/8
38	HO ₂ C	32 (>64)/64
39	N N	0.25 (0.25)/4
40		8 (16)/>64
41		4 (8)/>64
42	o N	2 (8)/>64
43	⟨N S ↓	0.5 (4)/4
44	< ► ↓	1 (32)/16
45	٥	0.125 (4)/4
46	S S	0.25 (8)/2-8
47	s	0.03 (0.03)/4
48	s	0.25 (4)/>64
49	Стон	0.25 (4)/32
50	Сно s	0.5 (1)/64
51	S S	8 (>64)/>64
52	ci—(s	0.06 (8)/4
55a	°	0.25(1)/4
55b	s ,	1(4)/32

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Compd	Structure	MIC ^a
55d	°s	0.5(1)/2
55e	O ₂ S	0.5(1)/4
55c	BocN	8(32)/>64
55f		8(8)/16
55g	Ĭ,	0.25(0.5)/2
55h		0.25(0.5)/2
55i		8(16)/32
60a		1(2)/32
60b	BocN	8(16)/32
60c		32(16)/32
60d	Ĭ,	1(1)/8
60e	HO N	1(2)/16
3	Linezolid	1(2)/32

^a MIC = Minimum inhibitory concentration for the strains and in the format: *S. aureus* (+10% calf serum)/*H. influenzae* (μg/mL).

these substituents was detrimental (cf. **29** and **30**). In vivo efficacy was assessed for **11** and **27** (Table 2), but only **11** was found to be as active as linezolid in vivo.

The pyridines (**34–37**) were found particularly active against both *S. aureus* (and other Gram-positive, data not shown) and *H. influenzae* strains. Some of them also showed good in vivo efficacy (see **35** and **36**, Table 2).

The pyrimidine **39** is also worthy of note for its antibacterial activity. It however showed borderline efficacy. The thiazole, furan, and thiophene analogs (**43**, **45**,

There is include in the ended of the production of the second and the	Table 2.	Mouse i	in vivo	efficacy	(PD_{50})	and 1	pharmacokinetics	(PK)) for selected	analogs
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Compd	Structure	Miscellaneous ^a	Compd	Structure	Miscellaneous ^a
11	F	PD ₅₀ <5 mg/kg/day	55d	O _≥ S	PD ₅₀ = 5.6 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 8.3 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 22.2 \ min$ AUC = 5.5 \ \mu gh/mL
27	HO2C	PD ₅₀ >50 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 1.7 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 8.5 \ min$ AUC = 0.56 \ \mu g h/mL	55e	0 ₂ S	PD ₅₀ = 4 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 17.7 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 12.2 \ min$ AUC = 19.4 $\mu g h/mL$
35	N s ^s	PD ₅₀ = 10 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 15.3 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 86.7 \ min$ AUC = 41.1 \ \mu g h/mL	55g	O N S	PD ₅₀ = 9 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 2.6 \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 6.4 \min$ AUC = 1.5 μ gh/mL
36	N	PD ₅₀ = 8.9 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 17.7 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 203 \ min$ AUC = 56 \ \mu g/mL	55h	HO N Street	PD ₅₀ = 4 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{max} = 22.9 \ \mu g/mL$ $T_{1/2} = 23.5 \ min$ AUC = 16.9 \mu g/mL
39	N N s st	PD ₅₀ = 14.1 mg/kg/day PK: $C_{\text{max}} = 10.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$ $T_{1/2} = 103.2 \text{min}$ AUC = 29.1 μ gh/mL	60e	HON	$PD_{50} = 3.5 \text{ mg/kg/day}$
45	€ J J	$PD_{50} > 50 mg/kg/day$	3	Linezolid	$PD_{50} = 5-6 \text{ mg/kg/day}^{b}$

^a PD₅₀ = efficacy evaluation against *S. aureus* in an experimental systemic infection model in mice. Inoculum 1.05 × 10⁷ cfu/mouse i.p. in 7% mucin. Drugs dissolved in 10% DMSO, 5%Tw-80, and water, administered orally b.i.d., 1 and 5 h p.i. Death recorded for 8 days (10 mice per group). ^b Vehicle = water.

and **47**) also showed broad-spectrum antibacterial activity, but suffered from either CYP liabilities (data not shown) or lack of efficacy (e.g., **45**, Table 2).

In the reduced heterocycle series, the dihydropyran **55a** showed encouraging *H. influenzae* potency. Tetrahydropyran **60a** (the reduced analog of **55a**) displayed slightly reduced potency versus all strains, while the dihydrothiopyran **55b** showed lower potency than dihydropyran **55a**. Oxidation to the sulfoxide **55d** and sulfone **55e** resulted in analogs displaying increased potency and modest mouse PK. Moreover, **55d** showed some improvement from linezolid in a 7-day rat toxicity assay.¹⁴

In the dehydropiperidine series, **55h** showed good potency, including *H. influenzae*, good PD₅₀ and modest mouse PK. In a rat PK study, the half-life ($T_{1/2} =$ 0.6 h) and maximum serum concentration (C_{max} (oral) = 1.9 mg/mL) were less than stellar. Moreover, testing in a 7-day rat toxicity assay did not show any advantage over linezolid.¹⁴ The piperidine series showed decreased potency over their corresponding dehydro analogs. However, the hydroxyacetamides **55h** and **60e** showed similar oral efficacy. In conclusion, the synthesis of C-linked derivatives was shown to be straightforward from late stage intermediates through different cross-coupling approaches. Most of the compounds were found to be potent against Gram-positive strains. Some were also found to have broad-spectrum antibacterial activity: **22** (3-NH₂-phenyl), **27** (4-CO₂H-phenyl), **39** (4-pyrimidinyl), **47** (3-thienyl), **55h** (tetrahydropyridine), and **55d** (dihydrothiopyransulfoxide). The sulfoxide **55d** was shown to be slightly less toxic than linezolid in a 7-day rat toxicity assay.

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