# The Pyrethrins and Related Compounds Part XXXIX\*— Structure–Activity Relationships of Pyrethroidal Esters with Cyclic Side Chains in the Alcohol Component against Resistant Strains of Housefly (*Musca domestica*)

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Abstract: Activities of a range of pyrethroidal esters, incorporating structural variations in all regions of the acid and alcohol components, have been measured against two fully characterised and homozygous resistant strains of *Musca* domestica L. (kdr and super-kdr). The results, limited in this paper to esters of alcohols with cyclic side chains, indicate uniform resistance to the kdr strain across the whole range of structural variations. Against the super-kdr strain, while variation in the acid component has little effect, the resistance factor is sensitive to the nature of the alcohol component, in particular on whether it contains an  $\alpha$ -cyano substituent.

Key words: pyrethroids, resistance, kdr, super-kdr, structure-activity relationships, Musca domestica.

# **1** INTRODUCTION

Resistance of insects has developed to a stage where the commercial and environmental consequences are substantial.<sup>1</sup> Since the more photostable synthetic pyrethroids, suitable for use in agriculture, were introduced in the 1970s,<sup>2</sup> instances of resistance in the field have become increasingly frequent.<sup>1</sup> Analysis of some of these cases has defined the major mechanisms of resistance as either metabolic or involving modifications at the site of action. The latter, the most important resistance mechanisms for pyrethroids and DDT in houseflies,<sup>3-5</sup> are known as the knock-down resistance factors *kdr* and its

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allele super-kdr. These have been fully characterised in substrains of housefly homogeneous specifically for each factor.<sup>6</sup> Both provide cross-resistance between all pyrethroids and DDT-type insecticides. kdr-like resistance has also been implicated to account for resistance to pyrethroids in other insects including members of the Lepidoptera, Diptera, Homoptera, cockroaches and ticks,<sup>7-13</sup> highlighting the wide-ranging importance of this type of resistance mechanism. It has been studied extensively using electrophysiological techniques,<sup>14-17</sup> but its response to changes in the structure of the insecticide has received less attention. In our previous study,<sup>6</sup> relationships (SARs) between chemical structure of pyrethroids and levels of resistance in housefly strains homozygous for knockdown resistance were found: bioassays with nine pyrethroids demonstrated that flies

	Compound	Susceptible strain $LD_{50}$	kdr strain	Super-kdr strain
	Compound	(µg per Jiy)		KF (11)
A1	Bioresmethrin	0.0034	16	53
<b>B</b> 1	Cismethrin	0.032	13	59
C1	NRDC 173	0.0020	14	75
D1		0.0056	11	48
<b>E</b> 1		0.0089	12	53
G1		0.0047	12	62
I1	RU15525	0.056	23	100
J1	NRDC 108	0.0046	15	63
A2		0.012	16	68
D2	NRDC 147 <sup>a</sup>	0.0071	12	42
E2	NRDC 167 <sup>a</sup>	0.0043	8.6	56
G2	NRDC 157	0.0034	18	91
H2		0.0022	13	68
J2		0.027	24	93
K2		0.030	<b>9</b> ∙7	60
A3		0.0065	11	130
<b>B3</b>		0.012	16	150
E3	alpha-cypermethrin <sup>b</sup>	0.0011	28	250
G3	deltamethrin <sup>c</sup>	0.00027	31	560
H3	lambda-cyhalothrin <sup>b</sup>	0.00075	13	290
K3	s-fenvalerate <sup>d</sup>	0.0049	20	170
L3	flucythrinate	0.0082	12	120
E4 <sup>e</sup>		0.0017	14	200
G4		0.0012	16	370
K4		0.012	34	120
E5		0.014	23	71
F5		0.0088	18	72
G5		0.0086	13	63
H5	bifenthrin	0.010	13	69
G6		0.017	18	88
G7		0.0073	15	95
<b>G8</b>		0.0025	24	520
G9		0.093	10.3	28
E10		0.014	9.3	500
A11	NRDC 121	0.11	15	45
F12		0.079	27	> 200
F13		1.8	<b>6</b> ·7	> 200

				TA	BLE	1					
Bioassay	Results	against	Susceptible,	kdr	and	super	kdr	Strains	of E	louseflies	(Musca
			a	lome	stica	L.)					

<sup>a</sup> See Fig. 2 for structure.

<sup>b</sup> ( $\alpha S$ ,1Rcis +  $\alpha R$ ,1S,cis)isomers.

<sup>c</sup>  $\alpha$ -S isomer.

<sup>d</sup> S,S-isomer.

<sup>e</sup> 1*R*-isomer.

with kdr exhibited weak to moderate resistance to them whilst those with *super-kdr* demonstrated a definite gradation in resistance that could be related to the nature of the alcoholic moiety. In addition, Pedersen<sup>18</sup> tested non-ester pyrethroids (e.g. etofenprox) without firmly identifying any SARs, and recently Takada *et al.*<sup>19</sup> confirmed our previous findings, using a different strain of resistant flies. Here we report a detailed extension of our previous study with a much wider range of related compounds chosen specifically to explore effects of The pyrethrins and related compounds. Part XXXIX

structural change on activity against kdr and super-kdr strains of housefly, and using particular isomeric forms of the compounds instead of commercial mixtures.

# 2 EXPERIMENTAL

# 2.1 Chemicals

Six of the compounds tested were gifts from commercial companies: RU15,525 from Roussel-Uclaf; alphacypermethrin from Shell; lambda-cyhalothrin from Zeneca; flucythrinate from American Cyanamid; Sfenvalerate from Sumitomo and bifenthrin from FMC. The remainder were available from previous work<sup>20-26</sup> or synthesised by esterification, using one of the two previously described procedures<sup>27</sup> to combine the acid and alcohol components. Most of the acids used (C, D, E,F, G, J) were available from previous work, 20-23while others (A, B) were gifts from Roussel-Uclaf. Acid K was made by the published method.<sup>28</sup> Similarly, the alcohols were available either commercially (2) or from previous work  $(1,^{29}, 3,^{24}, 12, 13^{30})$  or were a gift from Bayer (4). Acid H and alcohol 5 were obtained from bifenthrin by hydrolysis.

Physical properties for the synthesised esters, and the intermediates obtained by hydrolysis, including [<sup>1</sup>H] and [<sup>13</sup>C] NMR spectra (determined for deuterochloroform solutions on a JEOL GX 400 spectrometer at 400 and 100 MHz respectively) are given in the Appendix.

# 2.2 Insect strains used

The susceptible strain of houseflies (Musca domestica L.) used in this work is designated Cooper S and is the one that has been used throughout the studies on structureactivity relationships in pyrethroids. Isolation of the resistant strains of this species, kdr<sub>Latina</sub> and super-kdr<sub>3D</sub>, has been described fully.6 They have been maintained with continual checks for homozygosity and retention of vigour, using the described techniques.<sup>31</sup>

### 2.3 Bioassay

The bioassay procedure for establishing LD<sub>50</sub> values from mortality data for flies treated topically with various concentrations of test solutions as  $1-\mu l$  droplets in acetone has been described previously.<sup>31</sup> Each LD<sub>50</sub> value is a result calculated from at least two tests.

The results for the 37 compounds examined against the three strains of houseflies are presented in Table 1.  $LD_{50}$  values are in  $\mu g$  per fly. Each resistance factor (RF) is obtained by dividing the  $LD_{50}$  value for the resistant strain by the LD<sub>50</sub> value for the susceptible strain. These values therefore represent relative

responses to modifications, independent of intrinsic toxicity.

#### Statistical analysis 2.4

As discussed by Snedecor & Cochran,<sup>32</sup> the appropriate method of analysis for skewed data, in which deviation is proportional to the mean rather than independent of it, involves a logarithmic transformation. This type of variation would be expected for the resistance factors in Table 1, since they could vary from zero to infinity and effects on them are likely to be proportional rather than additive. Consequently, logarithms of the group of resistance factors under consideration were analysed to find the mean value and standard deviation for the group. Anti-logs of these two values gave the numbers in the text, separated by an x/ ÷ symbol (rather than a + (-) because of the antilogging step.

# **3 DISCUSSION**

The 37 pyrethroidal esters tested are derived from 13 representative pyrethroidal acids and 11 pyrethroidal alcohols with cyclic side chains (alcohols with acyclic side chains are considered in a subsequent paper<sup>33</sup>) (see Fig. 1). Results from the kdr strain showed a remarkably consistent level of resistance, as represented by RF (I) in Table 1. A statistical analysis applied to the whole set gave a mean value of 15.3 with the very low standard deviation of  $x/ \neq 1.45$ . Attempts to correlate small variations within this range with structural variation in either the acid or alcohol component were accordingly unsuccessful. The consistent level of resistance observed also indicates a lack of dependence of resistance factor on the intrinsic activity of the insecticide to susceptible insects. This last conclusion is also applicable to the super-kdr factors.

In contrast to the lack of dependence of RF (I) on structure, results from the super-kdr strain showed RFs (II) that were not only much higher (mean 100.3) but also spread over a significantly wider range  $(x/ \div 2.14)$ . Closer examination showed that the various RF values have clusters when considered in terms of the alcoholic components. The highest numbers in the RF (II) column arise from esters with  $\alpha$ -cyano groups in the alcohol (Fig. 2, compounds 3, 4, 8, 10,13). When analysed as a single set, they give a mean RF of 240  $(x/\div 1.80)$ . These results appear to be valid for a range of compounds of widely differing structures and with widely differing intrinsic toxicities. The remaining esters, derived from alcohols (Fig. 2, compounds 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12) without an  $\alpha$ -cyano on the alcoholic carbon,





Fig. 2. Structures of alcoholic and acidic components referred to in Table 1.

considered as a set, have lower mean RF (II) of 63.6  $(x/\div 1.35)$ . The small standard deviation in these two analyses indicates a clear dependence of resistance to the *super-kdr* strain on the structure of the alcoholic component.

A large structural contrast in the types of spacer group present, namely 3-furylmethyl (alcohol 1), cyclopentenonyl (alcohol 11) and benzyl (2-10, 12, 13), appears not to have a significant influence on RF values. Similarly an attempt to cluster the results based on the structure of the acidic component gave mean values with larger standard deviations, e.g. for acid G the value was 127 ( $x/\div$  2.88), so like the spacer group, features in the acid component such as stereochemistry across the ring, and substituents on the side chain, appear to have smaller influence on RF (II).

In conclusion, these results indicate that kdr applies equally to all pyrethroids examined in the paper suggesting that the modification involved may not be at the primary site where the insecticide binds, but in the region responsible for relaying the perturbation whereby the ion conductance properties of the sodium channel are modified. However, resistance of *super-kdr* flies towards ester pyrethroids is strongly influenced by the nature of the alcohol component, as reflected by the large variation in RF (II) (Table 1), in particular by the presence or absence of an  $\alpha$ -CN in substituted benzyl esters. Such structural dependence implies that the modification in the *super-kdr* strain is at the pyrethroid binding site.

This study therefore confirms the importance of the alcohol component, but not the acid component, in determining levels of resistance to the *super-kdr* mechanism, and indicates the need for further work concentrating on this region of the molecule.

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# **APPENDIX 1**

# Acid H and Alcohol 5

A mixture of bifenthrin (1.0 g) and potassium hydroxide (0.3 g) in methanol (20 ml) and water (4 ml) was boiled under reflux for 2 h, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was shaken with water (100 ml) and ether (100 ml). The layers were separated and washed with ether (2  $\times$  50 ml) and 2 M aqueous sodium hydroxide (2  $\times$  50 ml) respectively.

The combined ether layers were dried (anhyd. calcium chloride) and evaporated to dryness to give 2methyl-3-phenylbenzyl alcohol (0.32 g) 34 m.p. 55–57°, [<sup>1</sup>H]NMR peaks at 2.0 ppm (s, 1H, OH), 2.2 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.7 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.0–7.5 ppm (m, 8H, aryl Hs) and [<sup>13</sup>C]NMR peaks at 15.8 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub>), 63.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 125.5, 126.6, 126.8, 129.5 (each 1C, aryl CHs), 128.0, 129.3 (each 2Cs, 4 of Ph CHs), 133.5, 139.2, 142.0, 142.7 (4 × quaternary Cs).

The aqueous layer was acidified, extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 50 ml), and the combined organic layers evaporated to dryness to give (1*R*,cis)-(*Z*)-2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-enyl)-cyclo-propanecarboxylic acid (0.46 g), m.p. 105–107°,  $[^{1}H]NMR$  peaks at 1.32 (s, 6H, 2 × CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99 (d, 1H, 9 Hz, H-1), 2.25 (t, 1H, 9 Hz, H-3), 6.86 ppm (d, 1H, 9Hz, CH=) and  $[^{13}C]NMR$  peaks at 14.9, 28.5 (2 × CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.7 (C-2), 31.7 (C-1), 32.7 (C-3), 120.4 (q, 272 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 122.4 (q, 38 Hz, C2'), 129.6 (q, 5 Hz, C1'), 177.3 ppm (CO<sub>3</sub>H).

	Other														2 (CH <sub>3</sub> )	2 (CH <sub>3</sub> )	·2 (CH,)	1	5-4 (CO)		
	-	2	4	5			0		0		- 6		• 0		3 16.	4 16	3 16		4 19:		
	12	123-	123-	123	124		124-(		124-		123-		124		128	128	128	Î	132		
	=	129-8	129-7	129-8	130-0		130-0		130-0		130-0		130-0	129-9	129-3	129-3	129-4		128-5		
	10	119-1	119-0	119-0	119-3	119-4	119-3		117-8	117-7	117-8	117-7	117-8	117-7	128-1	128-1	128-1	129-1	130-0		
× ×	0	156-9*	157-0"	156-9 <sup>6</sup>	156.2°	156-3	156.3"		156-4		156-4		156-4		142.9*	143-0"	143-0"	- 127·1-	138-6		
	8	122-7	122.6	122-5	122-1	122-0	122-1	122-0	120-8		120-8	(2)	120-5	6	130-3	130-3	130-3*		129-34		
o RS 11	7	130-0	129-8	129-8	130-5		130-5		117-9	(2)	117-9	(19)	117-9	(61)	125.6*	125·6 <sup>b</sup>	125·6 <sup>b</sup>		132-94		
Акоћ	6	118.5*	118-2	118-4	120-0		119-9		155-5	(19)	155-5	(253)	~ 155	0	126.9	126-9 <sup>b</sup>	126-9 <sup>b</sup>		131.84		
	5	157-6*	157-5"	157.5	158·1 <sup>5</sup>		158-1°	158-0	144-7	(253)	144-7	(12)	144-7	(;)	141.84	141.84	141.9"		136-8		
	4	118-3*	118-2	118-4	117-5	117-7	117-7	117-6	124-0	(12)	124-0	Ē	123-7	(8)	134-4"	134.5"	134.4"	(140.8°)	129-1*		
_0	~	137-8	138-6	137-8	133-9	133-8	134-1	133-9	128-5	(8)	128-3		128-4		134-4"	134-4"	134-4"	141-7"	131-4		
	7	1		Ţ	116-3	116-2	116-3	116-4	115-9	115-7	115-8	115-7	115-5	115-3		i			1		ĺ
	-	65.9	65-0	66-0	62-2	62·1	£-19		61.8		61-8		62-0	62·2	65-2	65-2	65-5	65-3	62-3		
4 × 3 × 2 1	18	1	i	ſ	25-6		25-6		T		[		1		I	1	L	I	ſ		
	0		1	136.6°	18-5		18-5	18-4	1				135-2	135-0		1			1		
× 0 <sup>1</sup> ×	×	120-5		128.6	136-5	136-3	136-3	136-0	120-9	120-8	6-06	90:7	128-9		120-7	6.06	89-4	89-4	6-06	8-06	
جر0	2	121-7 (38)		129-8	120-3	120-2	6-611		124.0		132-3	132-2	129-7		124-8	133-5	133-5	133-5	132-2		
	ø	130-1	ĒI	133.1°	34.3"	34.0	33-5	33-6	33-5		36.5		133.7"		32-6	34-6	35-7	35.7	36-5	36-4	
× 6 ×	S	31-0*	16.6	20·1	20-4		28-6		29-1	28-9	28·I		20-0		28-4	20·1	28-4	28-4	28-1		
	4	14-9	23-5	21-3	22·0		14.7		14-8		14-9		21-2	21-1	15-0	22-7	15-1	15.1	[4-9		
	~	28-8	30-3	31-9	30-4	30-2	28·1	27-9	28-1		29-0	28-8	32-3	32-1	27-6	29-0	27-6	27-7	29-0	28·8	
	~	32.8°	35-6	59-3	33.9"	33-8	30-6		31-0	30-9	30-9	31-0	58-7	58-5	31-8	36-0	31-9	31-9	<b>90</b> -9	31-0	
	1	170-0	171-8	173-3	170-5		168-9		168-4		168-3	168-4	171-5	171-4	170-4	170-9	170-4	170-3	168-4		
		2H	21	2K	3 <b>A</b>		3 <b>B</b>		4E		4G		4K		5E	5F	SG	<b>6</b> 0	11G		

TABLE A1[1<sup>3</sup>C] NMR Shifts for Esters Synthesised

abe Peak assignments may be transposed. Double sets of data are for mixtures of diastereomers. Figures in parentheses represent coupling constants (in Hz) to fluorine.