

Conclusion

In this communication we have described an efficient synthesis of an 125 I-labeled photoaffinity probe of high affinity for human platelet TXA₂/PGH₂ receptors. The high affinity of this probe and its irreversible incorporation into the TXA₂ receptor should make it a useful tool for the study of this receptor. This synthesis was accomplished via an exchange of the 127 I isotope with a trimethyltin group in the presence of an azide group followed by an electrophilic destannylation using [125 I]ICl generated with chloramine-T. This novel approach should prove to be generally applicable to the synthesis of other photoaffinity probes where generation of an azide under acid conditions is not possible due to the presence of other acid-labile groups in the molecule. In addition, the exchange can be performed as a final step and in good yields, eliminating the need to generate an azide in the final step, which is commonly done for 125 I-labeled azides.

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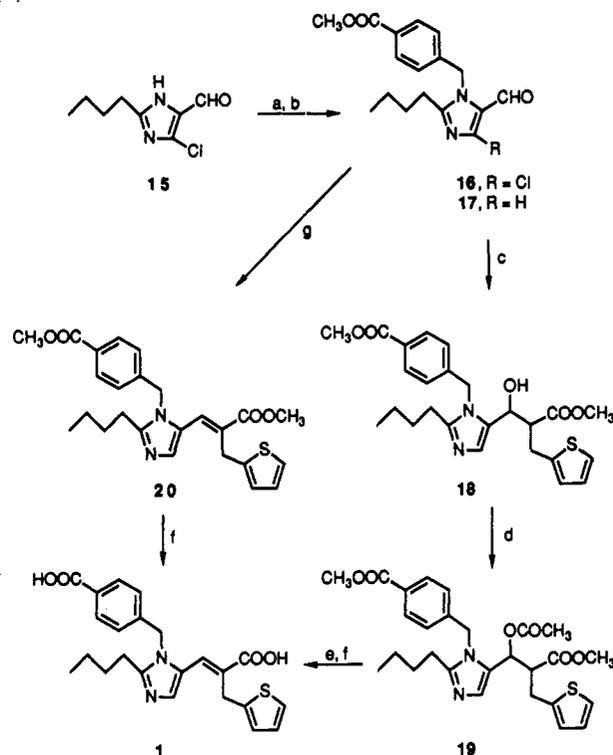
1-(Carboxybenzyl)imidazole-5-acrylic Acids: Potent and Selective Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists

The renin-angiotensin system (RAS) plays an important role in the regulation of blood pressure and fluid and electrolyte balance. Blockade of the renin-angiotensin system by inhibiting the biosynthesis of the effector hormone, angiotensin II (AII), with angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors has been shown to be clinically effective in the treatment of hypertension, congestive heart failure, and, potentially, chronic renal failure.¹ However, ACE inhibitors, in addition to their effects on the RAS, inhibit bradykinin metabolism, and as a result may produce cough and angioedema. An alternative, and perhaps more selective approach to interfering with the RAS, is to inhibit the binding of AII to its receptor. Such an antagonist would be expected to exhibit similar therapeutic effects as the ACE inhibitors, but may lack the undesirable side effects related to bradykinin potentiation.² Although a number of peptide analogues of AII have been reported to have AII receptor antagonist properties, all have retained partial agonist properties and have lacked oral bioavailability.¹ More recently, several groups have described nonpeptide AII receptor antagonists that show promise as inhibitors of the RAS.^{3,4} In this communication, we describe the design, synthesis, and pharmacological characterization of the (4-carboxybenzyl)imidazole-5-

(1) Corvol, P. New Therapeutic Prospects of Renin-Angiotensin System Inhibition. *Clin. Exp. Hypertens.-Theory Practice* 1989, A11 (Suppl. 2), 463-470.

(2) Chin, H. L.; Buchan, D. A. Severe Angioedema after Long-Term Use of an Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor. *Ann. Intern. Med.* 1990, 112, 312-313.

Scheme 1^a



^a (a) Methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate, K₂CO₃, DMF (89%); (b) H₂, 5% Pd-C, KOAc, MeOH (97%); (c) methyl 3-(2-thienyl)propionate, LDA, THF (98%); (d) Ac₂O, DMAP, CH₂Cl₂ (94%); (e) DBU, toluene (94%); (f) KOH, EtOH, H₂O (83%); (g) mono-methyl (2-thenyl)malonate, piperidine, pyridine, toluene (40%).

acrylic acid 1 (SK&F 108566), a highly potent, selective non-peptide AII receptor antagonist which was designed to mimic the C-terminal region of AII.

The benzylimidazole 2 (Table I) was reported by the Takeda group⁴ to be an AII antagonist. A detailed evaluation of this compound indicated that it was a specific, albeit weak, competitive antagonist of AII, which not only inhibited the pressor effect of AII in normotensive rats but in addition lowered blood pressure in renin-dependent hypertensive rats. In developing a strategy for enhancing affinity in this class of AII antagonists, we postulated that

- (3) (a) Dunica, J. V.; Chiu, A. T.; Carini, D. J.; Gregory, G. B.; Johnson, A. L.; Price, W. A.; Wells, G. J.; Wong, P. C.; Calabrese, J. C.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. The Discovery of Potent Nonpeptide Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists: A New Class of Potent Antihypertensives. *J. Med. Chem.* 1990, 33, 1312-1329. (b) Wong, P. C.; Chiu, A. T.; Price, W. A.; Thoolen, M. J. M. C.; Carini, D. J.; Johnson, A. L.; Taber, R. I.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. Nonpeptide Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists. I. Pharmacological Characterization of 2-*n*-Butyl-4-chloro-1-(2-chlorobenzyl)imidazole-5-acetic acid, sodium salt (S-8307). *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 1989, 247, 1-7. (c) Wong, P. C.; Price, W. A.; Chiu, A. T.; Carini, D. J.; Dunica, J. V.; Johnson, A. L.; Wexler, R. R.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. Nonpeptide Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists: Studies with EXP9270 and DuP 753. *Hypertension* 1990, 15, 823-834. (d) Wong, P. C.; Price, W. A.; Chiu, A. T.; Wong, N. Y.; Dunica, J. V.; Carini, D. J.; Johnson, A. L.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. EXP-6803, A Nonpeptide Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonist. *Cardiovasc. Drug Rev.* 1989, 7, 285. (e) Chiu, A. T.; Dunica, J. V.; McCall, D. E.; Wong, P. C.; Price, W. A.; Thoolen, M. J. M. C.; Carini, D. J.; Johnson, A. L.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. Nonpeptide Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists. III. Structure-Function Studies. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 1989, 250, 867-874.
- (4) Furukawa, Y.; Kishimoto, S.; Nishikawa, K. Hypotensive Imidazole-5-acetic Acid Derivatives. U.S. Patent 4 355 040, 1982.

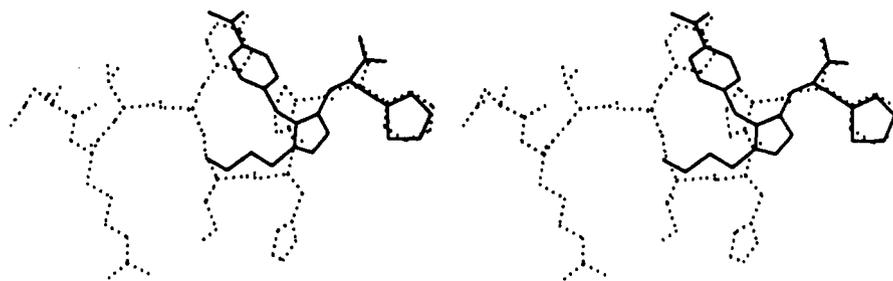


Figure 2. Stereoplot of an overlay of 1 (solid) on a postulated bioactive conformation of AII (dotted).

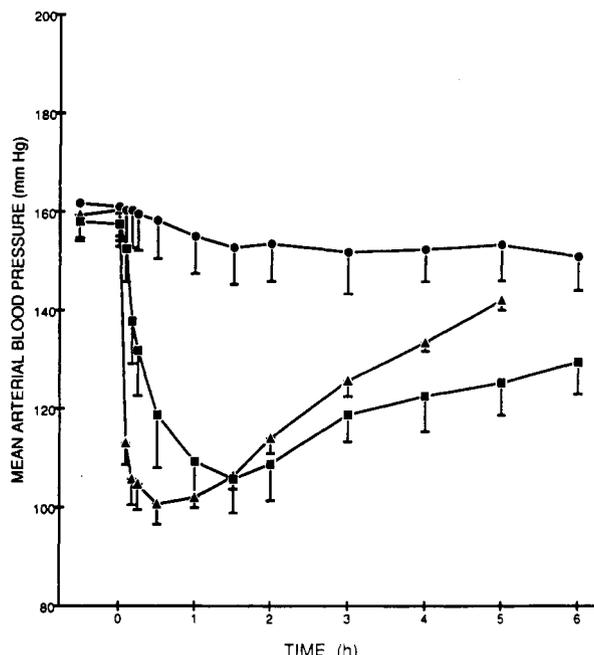


Figure 3. Effect of 3 mg/kg iv, $n = 3$ (triangles) and 10 mg/kg po, $n = 4$ (squares) administration of 1 on blood pressure in the AI-infused dog. Conscious normotensive dogs that were trained to stand quietly in a sling were infused intravenously over the course of the experiment with 100 ng/kg min of AI to elevate mean blood pressure from about 100 mmHg to 160 mmHg. Vehicle treatment, $n = 4$ (circles), results in a slight downward trend over time.

might enhance affinity. In order to extend the acid side chain to approximate better the Tyr⁴-Phe⁸ separation, but limit conformational freedom, the *trans* 5-acrylic acid 4 was prepared and found to be more potent than 2 (Table I). Addition of an α -benzyl group to the acrylic acid side chain (5) to mimic better the Phe⁸ side chain of AII resulted in a further increase in affinity. The thienyl analogue 6, in addition to having 5-fold more binding affinity than the corresponding benzyl analogue 5, exhibited enhanced oral activity as an antagonist of AII-induced hypertension in the rat. This increase in affinity of 6 over 5 is consistent with the 12-fold better binding affinity subsequently observed for [Sar¹,Thi⁸]AII (14) versus [Sar¹]AII (13).

The effect of changing the functionality on the *N*-benzyl ring was explored (Table I). A hydroxy group, especially in the 4-position (8), and a nitro group in the 2-position (9) gave compounds with substantially improved binding affinity. However, the 4-carboxy analogue 1 as well as the 2-chloro-4-carboxy compound 12 exhibited significantly increased activity.⁷ This dramatic potency of 1 and 12 would suggest that the aryl carboxyl group is picking up a new binding site in the receptor, and perhaps is mim-

icking the Tyr⁴ phenol. In such a model⁸ (Figure 2), the acrylic acid carboxyl and thienyl groups then align with the corresponding elements of Phe⁸ and the 2-butyl lies in the hydrophobic region near Ile⁶. Finally, the *N*-C-*N* imidazole region and the acrylic acid double bond may mimic peptide amide bonds.

The synthesis of 1 is shown in Scheme I. Alkylation of 4-chloro-5-formyl-2-butylimidazole⁴ 15 with *p*-carbo-methoxybenzyl bromide gave the required 1-benzyl 5-aldehyde 16 with high regioselectivity. The use of the chloroimidazole in this reaction is essential to achieve high regioselectivity; the deschloro analogue of 15 affords a 1:1 mixture of isomeric *N*-benzylimidazoles. Reaction of 17 with the lithium enolate of methyl 3-(2-thienyl)propionate gave 18 as a mixture of diastereomers, each of which afforded the same *trans* olefin 20 on acetylation followed by base-catalyzed elimination. Alternatively, 17 could be converted to the diester 20 in a single step by Knoevenagel reaction with the half-ester of methyl (2-thienyl)methylmalonate. The regio- and stereochemistry of 1 was established by NOE and X-ray crystallography. The other imidazoles in Table I were prepared by similar procedures.

Compound 1 exhibited competitive inhibition of [¹²⁵I]AII binding to rat mesenteric artery membranes ($IC_{50} = 1.0$ nM), and competitive inhibition of AII-induced vasoconstriction of rabbit aorta ($K_B = 0.21$ nM). It is highly selective for the AII-1 receptor and shows little affinity ($IC_{50} > 1000$ nM) for the AII-2 receptor⁹ present in human uterus, bovine brain or ovary, or rat brain. The high potency of 1 is also observed *in vivo*. In the normotensive rat, 1 exhibited potent inhibition of the pressor response

- (5) Energy minimization calculations were carried out with use of MAXIMIN in Sybyl Version 3.4 (Tripos, Inc.).
- (6) Smeby, R. R.; Fermandjian, S., *Conformation of Angiotensin II. Chemistry and Biochemistry of Amino Acids, Peptides, and Proteins*, 5; Weinstein, B., Ed.; Marcel Dekker, Inc.: New York, 1978; p 117-162. Peach, M. J. Structural features of angiotensin II which are important for biologic activity. *Kidney Int.* 1979, 15, S-3. Samanen, J.; Narindray, D.; Adams, W.; Cash, T.; Yellin, T.; Regoli, D. Effects of D-Amino Acid Substitution on Antagonist Activities of Angiotensin II Analogs. *J. Med. Chem.* 1988, 31, 510-516. Samanen, J.; Hempel, J. C.; Narindray, D.; Regoli, D. A position seven analog of angiotensin II with potent antagonist activity. *Peptides Chemistry and Biology, Proc. 10th Amer. Peptide Symp.*; Marshall, G. R. Ed.; Escom Science Publishers: Leiden, 1988; pp 137-139. Samanen, J.; Cash, T.; Narindray, D.; Brandeis, E.; Yellin, T.; Regoli, D. The Role of Position 4 in Angiotensin II Antagonism: A Structure-Activity Study. *J. Med. Chem.* 1989, 32, 1366-1370.
- (7) The NMR of 12 as well as that of the other members of the 2-chlorobenzyl series suggested that the imidazole and benzyl rings are orthogonal. This implies that the bioactive form of 1 may also have orthogonal benzyl and imidazole rings.
- (8) See ref 3 for a comprehensive bibliography pertaining to other proposed AII models.

to AII ($ID_{50} = 0.08$ mg/kg iv). In dogs, infusion of AI at 100 ng/kg min results in a significant elevation of blood pressure (Figure 3). Compound 1 at 3 mg/kg iv or 10 mg/kg po lowered blood pressure substantially. Most significantly, at 10 mg/kg po, this reduction persisted for at least 6 h. Agonist activity was not observed for 1 either in vitro or in vivo.

Compound 1 is a novel, highly potent, orally active AII-1 selective competitive antagonist lacking agonist activity. On the basis of this profile, it has been selected as a potential candidate for clinical investigation for the treatment of hypertension, renal failure, and congestive heart failure.

- (9) Chiu, A. T.; Herblin, W. F.; McCall, D. E.; Ardecky, R. J.; Carini, D. J.; Duncia, J. V.; Pease, L. J.; Wong, P. C.; Wexler, R. R.; Johnson, A. L.; Timmermans, P. B. M. W. M. Identification of Angiotensin II Receptor Subtypes. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 1989, 165, 196-203.
- (10) The radioligand binding assay was a modification of a method previously described (Gunther, S.; Gimbrone, M. A.; Alexander, R. W. Identification and Characterization of the High Affinity Vascular Angiotensin II Receptor in Rat Mesenteric Artery. *Circ. Res.* 1980, 47, 278-286). A particulate fraction from rat mesenteric arteries was incubated in Tris buffer with 80 pM of [125 I]angiotensin II with or without angiotensin II antagonists for 1 h at 25 °C. The incubation was terminated by rapid filtration and receptor-bound [125 I]angiotensin II trapped on the filter was quantitated with a gamma counter. The potency of angiotensin II antagonists was expressed as the IC_{50} , which is the concentration of antagonist to displace 50% of the total specifically bound angiotensin II.
- (11) The ability of the compounds to antagonize angiotensin II induced vasoconstriction was examined in the rabbit aorta. Ring segments were cut from the rabbit thoracic aorta and suspended in organ baths containing physiological salt solution. The ring segments were mounted over metal supports and attached to force displacement transducers which were

connected to a recorder. Cumulative concentration response curves to angiotensin II were performed in the absence of antagonist or following a 30-min incubation with antagonist. Antagonist dissociation constants (K_D) were calculated by the dose ratio method using the mean effective concentrations.

(12) Rats were prepared with indwelling femoral arterial and venous catheters. (Gellai, M.; Valtin, H. Chronic vascular constrictions and measurements of renal function in conscious rats. *Kidney Int.* 1979, 15, 419-426). Two to three days following surgery the rats were placed in a restrainer, and blood pressure was continuously monitored from the arterial catheter with a pressure transducer and recorded on a polygraph. The change in mean arterial pressure in response to intravenous injections of 250 ng/kg angiotensin II was compared at various time points prior to and following the administration of the compounds intravenously at doses of 3-300 mg/kg. The dose of compound needed to produce 50% inhibition of the control pressor response to angiotensin II (IC_{50}) was used to estimate the potency of the compounds.

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Additions and Corrections

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Anette M. Johansson,* Karin Fredriksson, Uli Hacksell, Cor J. Grol, Kjell Svensson, Arvid Carlsson, and Staffan Sundell: Synthesis and Pharmacology of the Enantiomers of *cis*-7-Hydroxy-3-methyl-2-(dipropylamino)tetalin.

Page 2926. The general structure in Table I should be changed to

