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Several 4-(arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines were synthesized and evaluated for their anticonvulsant activity against pentylenetetrazol-induced seizures in mice. The ability of substituted piperazines to inhibit *in vitro* respiratory activity of rat brain homogenates was also determined to study their structure-activity relationship.

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Amongst a large number of *N*-(substituted-benzyl)-*N'*-(substituted-benzoyl)piperazine derivatives found to possess CNS depressant properties, *N*-(2-chlorobenzyl)-*N'*-(2-chlorobenzoyl)piperazine was found to be the most potent compound (2). Marked anticonvulsant and anti-reserpine properties have been observed with *N*-(3-amino-4-pyridyl)-*N'*-phenylpiperazines (3). Several *N,N'*-bis-3-(3'-substituted-thiourea)propylpiperazines reported as anticonvulsants (4) were found to exhibit selective inhibition of respiratory activity of rat brain (5). Recently, a series of 4-nitrobenzoyl-1-(1-arylthiocarbamido)ethylpiperazines were synthesized as anticonvulsants and were investigated for their inhibitory effects on the cellular respiratory activity of rat brain homogenates (6). These observations led to the synthesis of 4-(arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines. The anticonvulsant activity of these substituted piperazines was investigated against pentylenetetrazol-induced seizures in albino mice. Inhibitory effects of substituted piperazines on NAD-dependent oxidations of pyruvate,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and NADH<sub>2</sub> were also determined to study the biochemical mechanism of action for their anticonvulsant activity.

The reaction of 1-(2-aminoethyl)piperazine **1** with *o*-methoxyphenyl isocyanate in absolute ethanol yielded 1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazine **2** which on treatment with the appropriate aryl isothiocyanate gave various 4-(arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines **3-13**.

All substituted piperazines **3-13** were found to inhibit the *in vitro*, NAD-dependent oxidation of pyruvate,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and NADH<sub>2</sub> while NAD-independent oxidation of sodium succinate remained unaltered. The degree of inhibition ranged from 30-89% with pyruvate, 25-69% with  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and 19-83% with NADH<sub>2</sub>. These results have indicated the selectivity of the inhibition of respiratory activity of rat brain homogenate by substituted piperazines, since the NAD-independent oxi-

dation of sodium succinate was found to be unaltered. Furthermore, the ability of **3-13** to inhibit the oxidation of NADH<sub>2</sub>, unlike anticonvulsant quinazolones (7,8), provides evidences regarding their possible inactivation of the process of electron transfer in the electron-transport chain by presumably acting at the site of transfer of electrons from NADH<sub>2</sub> to flavine adenine dinucleotide (FAD).

All compounds **3-13** exhibited protection against pentylenetetrazol-induced seizures which ranged from 10-80%. Maximum degree of protection was observed with **12** while minimum protection was afforded by **8** and **9**. These studies, in spite of exhibiting selective inhibition of NAD-dependent oxidations, have failed to provide a biochemical basis for the anticonvulsant activity of the substituted piperazines.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

All compounds were analyzed for their carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen contents. Melting points were taken in open capillary tubes with partial immersion thermometer.

1-(1-*o*-Methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazine (**2**).

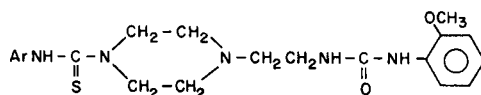
1-(2-Aminoethyl)piperazine **1** (0.01 mole) and *o*-methoxyphenyl isocyanate (0.01 mole) were mixed in 25 ml. of absolute ethanol and the mixture was refluxed on a steam bath for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. On cooling the solid mass which separated out was filtered, washed with ether, dried and recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 92°, yield 80%.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 60.43; H, 7.91; N, 20.14. Found C, 60.67; H, 8.12; N, 20.38.

4-(Arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines (**3-13**).

Suitable aryl isothiocyanate (0.01 mole) and 1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazine (0.01 mole) were mixed in 20 ml. of dry benzene and the reaction mixture was refluxed on a steam bath for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. On cooling the solid mass which separated out was filtered, washed with ether, dried and recrystallized from dimethylformamide. The various 4-(arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines were characterized by their sharp melting points and elemental analyses (Table I). The presence of the characteristic bands -NH (3300 cm<sup>-1</sup>), C=O (1660 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and C=S (1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>) in the infrared spectrum of 4-(4-ethoxyphenylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenyl-

Table I

Physical Constants of 4-(Arylaminothiocarbonyl)-1-(1-*o*-methoxyphenylcarbamido)ethylpiperazines

Compound	Ar	Melting Point	Yield %	Formula	Analysis %					
					C	H	N	C	H	N
3	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	270°	80	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>27</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	61.06	6.53	16.94	61.36	6.55	16.71
4	2-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	178°	78	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	61.82	6.79	16.39	61.53	6.58	16.11
5	3-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	174°	75	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	61.82	6.79	16.39	62.00	6.71	16.68
6	4-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	154°	76	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	61.82	6.79	16.39	61.63	6.51	16.40
7	2,4(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	177°	85	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	62.58	7.02	15.87	62.82	6.99	15.76
8	2-OCH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	170°	80	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	59.59	6.54	15.80	59.87	6.58	15.99
9	4-OCH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	187°	83	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	59.59	6.54	15.80	59.35	6.31	16.18
10	2-OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	158°	70	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	60.39	6.78	15.31	60.16	6.69	15.43
11	4-OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	148°	76	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	60.39	6.78	15.31	60.55	7.00	15.61
12	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	130°	87	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>26</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	56.31	5.81	15.64	56.52	5.87	15.78
13	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	118°	85	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>26</sub> BrN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	51.21	5.28	14.22	51.42	5.31	14.19

carbamido)ethylpiperazine (**11**) further supported the chemical structure of **3-13**.

#### Assay of Respiratory Activity of Rat Brain Homogenate.

The respiratory activity of various substituted piperazines was determined by measuring oxygen consumption by conventional Warburg manometric method at 37° using rat brain homogenates as a source of enzymes and air as the gas phase (6). The final concentration of various substrates, i.e., pyruvate,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate, reduced nicotinamideadenine dinucleotide (NADH<sub>2</sub>) and succinate was 10 mM. All substituted piperazines **3-13** were used at a final concentration of 2 mM.

#### Anticonvulsant Activity.

The anticonvulsant activity of these compounds **3-13** was determined in albino mice of either sex weight 25-30 g. against pentylenetetrazol-induced seizures (6). The substituted piperazines **3-13** were administered intraperitoneally at a dose of 100 mg./kg. The convulsions were produced by the subcutaneous injection of pentylenetetrazol (90 mg./kg.).

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