

2,4-Disubstituted Oxazoles and Thiazoles as Latent Pharmacophores for Diacylhydrazine of SC-51089, a Potent PGE₂ Antagonist

E. Ann Hallinan,* Timothy J. Hagen, Sofya Tsymbalov, Awilda Stapelfeld and Michael A. Savage

Department of Discovery Chemistry, Searle, Skokie, IL 60077, USA

Received 27 June 2000; accepted 7 July 2000

Abstract—8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepine-10(11H)-carboxylic acid, 2-[1-oxo-3-(4-pyridinyl)propyl]hydrazide, monohydrochloride (**1**, SC-51089) is a functional PGE₂ antagonist selective for the EP₁ receptor subtype with antinociceptive activity.^{1,2} Analogues of SC-51089, in which the diacylhydrazine moiety has been replaced with 2,4-disubstituted-oxazoles and-thiazoles, are described.
© 2000 Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.

Introduction

SC-51089 illustrated in Figure 1, a functional PGE₂ antagonist with an excellent analgesic profile,^{1,2} contains a 1,2-diacylhydrazine moiety which releases hydrazine during metabolism in cultured rat hepatocytes.³ Although hydrazine is known to be carcinogenic in rodents,⁴ its release had not been seen in **4**,³ an earlier member of this structural class. It should be noted that this phenomenon has not been seen in human hepatocytes.³ Identifying a pharmacophore that could replace the diacylhydrazine and, yet, would retain the desirable analgesic-PGE₂ antagonism profile of SC-51089 became the focus of our research.

As described in earlier reports,^{1,5,6} the rationale of our analgesia program is based on the hypothesis that PGE₂-induced hyperalgesia occurring in inflamed tissue would be attenuated by selective blockade of PGE₂ receptors. Analgesia based on PGE₂ antagonism would preclude the problems associated with inhibition of prostanoid biosynthesis.

Although research on this class of compounds has exhaustively explored the exocyclic chain appended to the hydrazine^{1,5,6} and more recently the 8-chlorodibenzoxazepine (**5**), current efforts have been directed towards

an alternative for the diacylhydrazine group. The amino acetyl moiety⁶ has been shown to have some promise as a replacement for the diacylhydrazine. Having identified the pyridylpropionyl group, among others of the extended chain, and the 8-chlorodibenzoxazepine, **5**, as desirable structural fragments in the PGE₂ antagonist-analgesics, this report describes research on identifying possible pharmacophores for the diacylhydrazine moiety.

Earlier studies on the conformation of diacylhydrazines by X-ray crystallography have shown that 1,2-diformylhydrazine and 1,2-diacetylhydrazine are planar molecules with *Z-E-Z* geometry.⁷ A series of ¹H NMR studies by Sutherland⁸ suggested that there was hindered rotation about the N–N bond of the diacylhydrazine in nonpolar solvent. Anthoni et al.⁹ found monoacylhydrazines to exist in an all *trans* conformation in nonpolar solvents. However, with increasing solvent dielectric constant, isomerism shifted from all *trans* to a *cis-trans/trans-trans* mixture. Bouchet et al.¹⁰ studied rotation about NCO bonds of 1,2-diacylhydrazine and the influences of solvent on geometric isomerism. They found in polar solvents such as dimethylsulfoxide-*d*₆ (DMSO-*d*₆) equilibrium shifts the NCO bond from *E* to *Z*. The NMR studies on **4** reveal two distinct conformers, the most stable having no NOE interactions between the hydrazide hydrogens, the less stable having complex interactions between these hydrogens.¹¹

Since MM2 calculations¹² and NMR data have indicated that a number of low energy conformations are available

*Corresponding author at Searle-Pharmica, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie, Illinois. Tel.: +1-847-982-7753; fax: +1-847-982-4714; e-mail: ann.hallinan@monsanto.com

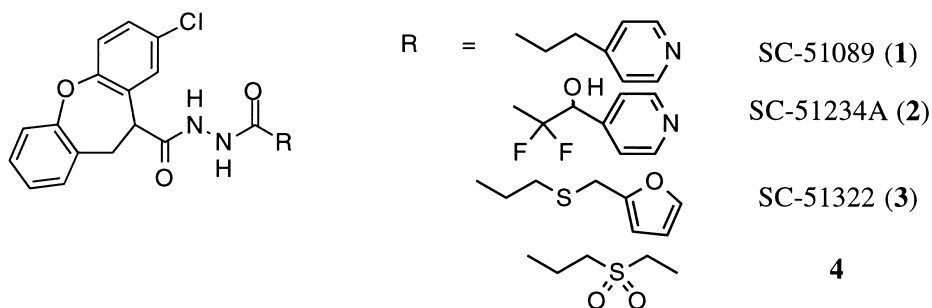


Figure 1.

to the 1,2-diacylhydrazine, few structural constraints can be imposed, a priori, on choices of isosteres (as seen in Figure 3).

Thromboxane A₂ (TXA₂) antagonists described by Squibb researchers as illustrated in Figure 2 suggested possible insight into potential pharmacophores.¹³ An acyl hydrazone functionality incorporated into the omega chain of the thromboxane skeleton, **6**, evolved into amino acetyl group, **7**, and, subsequently, 2,4-disubstituted-oxazole, **8**.

This observation begged the question as to whether an analogy could be drawn between TXA₂ antagonists and the PGE₂ antagonists-analgesics. A parallelism between

TXA₂ antagonists, **6–8**, and PGE₂ antagonists-analgesics as illustrated by **9** and **10** shown in Figure 4,⁶ suggested 2,4-substituted oxazoles as a potential pharmacophore for the diacylhydrazine. Having surmised that five-membered aromatic heterocycles are possible pharmacophores, syntheses of **15–26** have been undertaken and are illustrated below.

Results

Ethyl 2-methyl-4-oxazolecarboxylate, **11**, described by Cornforth,¹⁴ is brominated using NBS catalyzed by AIBN with or without light. Ethyl 2-bromomethyl-4-oxazolecarboxylate, **13**, as well as all possible combinations of brominated products including ring bromination, are isolated. With minor modifications, a rhodium catalyzed cycloaddition of ethyl 2-diazo-3-oxo-propanoate to bromoacetonitrile as reported by Helquist¹⁵ was employed to generate **13**. With **13** in hand, alkylation of **5** proceeds uneventfully to give **15** as illustrated in Scheme 1. Hydrolysis of the ester provides intermediate acid **17** that is coupled to the appropriate amine or alcohol to obtain **19–21** as shown in Scheme 2. Alternatively, amidation of **15** using Weinreb conditions lead to **22–24** as illustrated in Scheme 2.

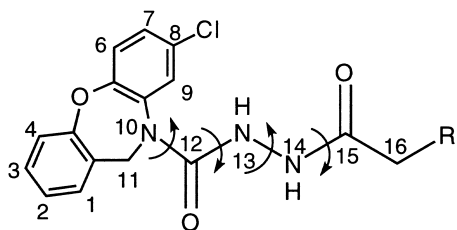
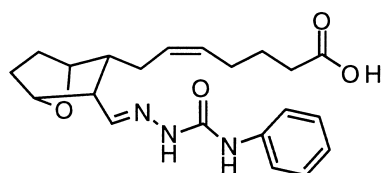
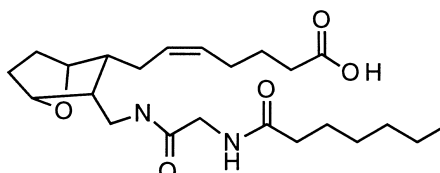


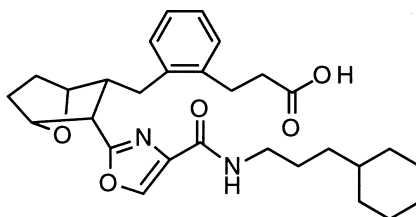
Figure 2.



SQ 27,825,

6

SQ 30,741,

7

SQ 33,961,

8

Figure 3.

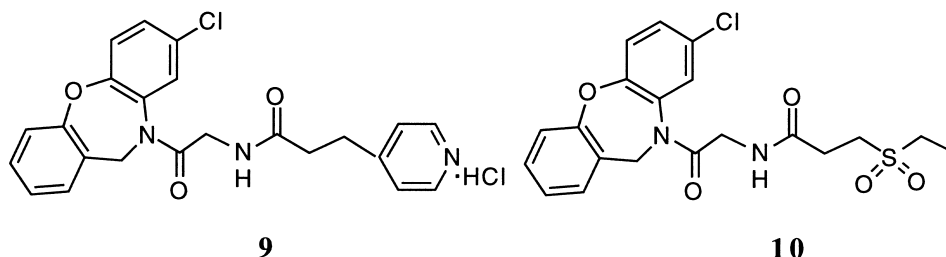
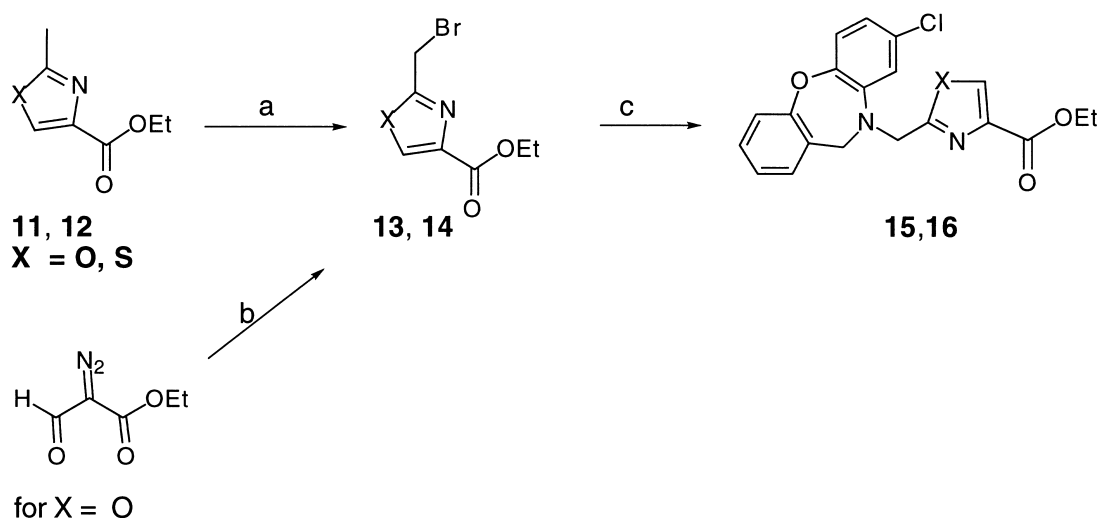
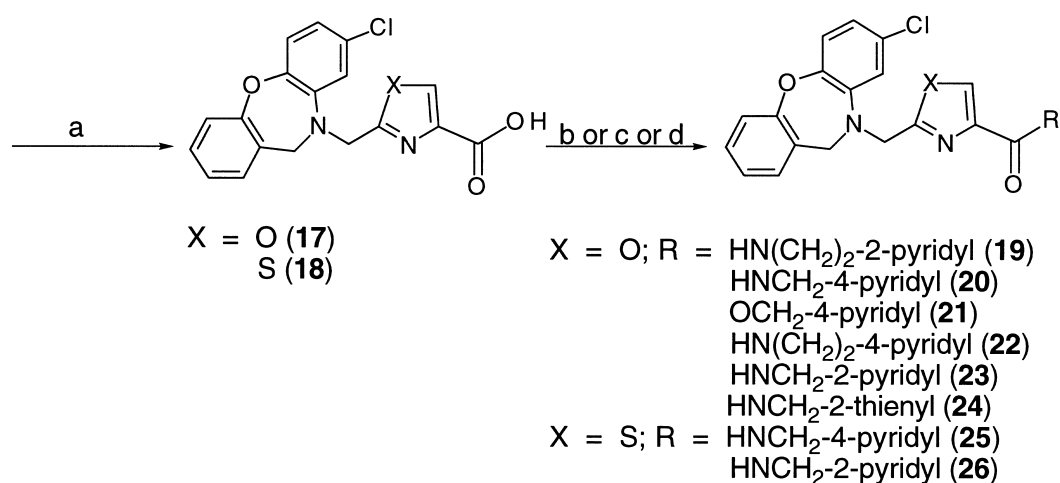


Figure 4.

Scheme 1. (a) NBS, CCl₄, AIBN, hv, Δ. (b) BrCH₂CN, Rh₂(OAc)₄, 70 °C. (c) **5**, i-Pr₂EtN, toluene, Δ.Scheme 2. (a) **15** or **16**, 1 N NaOH, MeOH:THF (1:1). (b) i. **15**, Me₂N(CH₂)₃N=C=NCH₂CH₃, RNH₂, Et₃N, DMAc, 5–20 °C, 16 h. ii. HCl/dioxane, Et₂O. (c) i. **15** or **16**, H₂NR, AlMe₃, DCM, Δ, 5 h. ii. 1 N HCl. (d) **16**, H₂NR, 110 °C, 1 h.

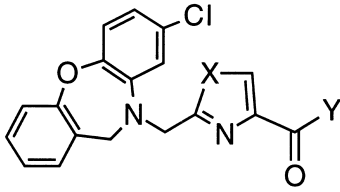
Synthesis of the thiazole analogues requires the pivotal intermediate, ethyl 2-methyl-4-thiazolecarboxylate, **12**, which is synthesized as described previously.¹⁶ Bromination using NBS proceeds in good yield to afford **14**. Chemistry analogous to that used to synthesize the oxazoles is employed to assemble thiazole analogues **25** and **26**.

The phenylbenzylquinone writhing assay in mouse was used to evaluate the antinociceptive effectiveness of

these compounds.¹ PGE₂ antagonism was confirmed in PGE₂-stimulated guinea pig ileum muscle strips assay.¹

Discussion

In the oxazole series, **15**, **17** and **19–24** are PGE₂ antagonists with observed pA₂'s in the range of 6.1–7.4 (shown in Table 1). The analgesic activity seen among

Table 1. Phenylbenzoquinone writhing assay in mouse and PGE₂ antagonism in guinea pig ileum for oxazolyl and thiazolyl analogues


No.	X	Y	PBQ writhing assay ^a	pA ₂ ^b
15	O	OEt	9/10	6.1
17	O	OH	1/10	7.4±0.01
19	O	HN(CH ₂) ₂ -2-Pyridyl	7/10	7.3±0.07
23	O	HNCH ₂ -2-Pyridyl	2/10	7.5± 0.01
20	O	HNCH ₂ -4-Pyridyl	9/10	7.4±0.17
22	O	HN(CH ₂) ₂ -4-Pyridyl	6/10	nt ^c
21	O	OCH ₂ -4-Pyridyl	4/10	nt ^c
24	O	HNCH ₂ -2-Thienyl	7/10	6.9±0.35
16	S	OEt	1/10	5.9±0.15
18	S	OH	5/10	8.1±0.11
25	S	HNCH ₂ -4-Pyridyl	4/9	nt ^c
26	S	HNCH ₂ -2-Pyridyl	7/10	6.0±0.10

^aThe initial screening dose of test compound is 30 mg/kg. The data are reported as number of animals positively responding out of the ten animals tested.

^bpA₂ determined based on the dose ratio at 3 μM.

^cNot tested.

the oxazoles does not correlate with its PGE₂ antagonism. Illustrative of this are **17** and **23**, which are potent PGE₂ antagonists but have minimal analgesic activity, while **15**, **19**, **20**, **21** and **24** are both effective analgesics and PGE₂ antagonists.

Conclusions

2,4-Substituted-oxazoles as potential isosteres for diacylhydrazines have been identified. However, a one to one correlation does not seem to exist between the PGE₂ antagonism and analgesia in the oxazole and thiazole series. At present, it is unknown whether this is due to bioavailability, metabolism, or a separation of activity in this structural class. On a larger issue, we do not know at this time whether or not there has been a dissociation of PGE₂ antagonism and analgesia or the lack of analgesic action is due to metabolism or bioavailability.

Experimental

All experiments were performed under either dry nitrogen or argon. All solvents and reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. The routine work up of the reactions involved the addition of the reaction mixture to a mixture of either neutral, or acidic, or basic aqueous solutions and organic solvent. The aqueous layer was extracted *n* times (×) with the indicated organic solvent. The combined organic extracts were washed *n* times (×) with the indicated aqueous solutions, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated in vacuo, and purified as indicated. Separations by column chromatography were achieved

with conditions described by Still.¹⁷ The hydrochloride salts were made from 1 N HCl, HCl in ethanol (EtOH), or 6 N HCl in dioxane. Thin layer chromatograms were run on 0.25 mm EM precoated plates of silica gel 60 F254. High performance liquid chromatograms (HPLC) were obtained from C-8 or C-18 reverse phase columns which were obtained from several vendors. Analytical samples were dried in an Abderhalden apparatus at either 56 °C or 78 °C. ¹H NMR spectra were obtained from either General Electric QE-300 or Varian VXR 400 MHz spectrometers with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained from a Varian spectrometer at 125.8 MHz with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Melting points were obtained by differential scanning calorimetry on a Dupont Model 9900 thermal analysis system.

Ethyl 2-(bromomethyl)-4-oxazolecarboxylate (13). To 50 mL of bromoacetonitrile was added 0.12 g of Rh₂(OAc)₄. A 50 mL bromoacetonitrile solution of ethyl 2-diazo-3-oxo-propanoate¹⁸ (2.84 g, 20 mmol) was added dropwise via syringe pump at a rate of 5 mL/h to the stirring rhodium acetate solution, which had been heated to 70 °C. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was maintained at 70 °C for an additional 8 h. The excess bromoacetonitrile was removed from the reaction via vacuum distillation. The residue was filtered through a pad of silica gel which was washed with hexanes and DCM. The solvent from the DCM wash was removed in vacuo to yield 3.67 g (78%) of **13**.

Ethyl 2-[(8-chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-4-oxazole-carboxylic acid (15). To a stirring solution of **5** (1.16 g, 5 mmol) in 50 mL toluene were added **13** (1.17 g, 5 mmol), *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (1.7 mL, 10 mmol), and NaI (5 mg). The reaction was heated at reflux for 24 h. The reaction was poured directly onto a column of silica gel and chromatographed to yield **15**, 1.38 g (72%). Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O₄Cl·0.2 H₂O: C, 61.85; H, 4.52; N, 7.21. Found: C, 61.55; H, 4.50; N, 7.19. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.78 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.14 (m, 3H), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.74 (dd, 1H, 2.4, 8.5), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 4.28 (q, 2H, 7.1), 1.28 (t, 3H, 7.1).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-4-oxazolecarboxylic acid (17). To a stirring solution of **15** (0.56 g, 1.5 mmol) in 10 mL MeOH:THF (1:1) was added 4.5 mL of 1 N NaOH. After 1 h, the reaction was adjusted to pH 3. The organic solvents were removed in vacuo. A white precipitate was filtered, washed with H₂O, and dried to yield 0.48 g (89%) of **17**. Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₁₃N₂O₄Cl: C, 60.60; H, 3.67; N, 7.85. Found: C, 60.13; H, 4.00; N, 7.82. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.66 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.09–7.15 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0), 6.73 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.5, 8.5), 4.72 (s, 2H), 4.62 (s, 2H).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-[2-(2-pyridinyl)-ethyl]-4-oxazolecarboxamide, hydrochloride (19). To a stirring solution of **17** (0.47 g, 1.3 mmol), 2-(2-ethylamino)pyridine (0.17 g, 1.6 mmol), hydroxybenzotriazole (0.22 g, 1.6 mmol), and triethyl-

amine (0.23 mL, 1.6 mmol) in 5 mL dimethylacetamide (DMAc) at 5 °C was added *N,N*-dimethylaminopropyl-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (0.31 g, 1.6 mmol). With warming to ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h. The reaction was worked up in the usual manner to yield 0.51 g (85%) of the free base. The residue was dissolved in 100 mL Et₂O to which was added 2 mL 6.8 N HCl/dioxane. The precipitate was filtered, washed with Et₂O, and dried. Anal. calcd for C₂₅H₂₁N₄O₃Cl·1.2 HCl·0.3 H₂O: C, 58.78; H, 4.51; N, 10.98; Cl, 15.29. Found: C, 58.50; H, 4.44; N, 10.66; Cl, 14.87. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.80 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.5, 6.6 Hz), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.49 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 8.43 (dt, 1H, *J* = 1.6, 7.9 Hz), 7.86–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9), 7.10–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 6.75 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 8.5), 4.69 (s, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 3.71 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.6, 6.9), 3.28 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.6).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-4-oxazolecarboxamide, monohydrochloride (20). Compound **20** was prepared in the manner described in example **19** starting with 4-aminomethylpyridine (0.67 mmol) to yield 0.14 g (56%). Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₄O₃Cl·HCl·1.5 H₂O: C, 56.48; H, 4.54; N, 10.98; Cl, 13.89. Found: C, 56.79; H, 4.54; N, 10.70; Cl, 13.59.

4-Pyridinylmethyl 2-[(8-chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-4-oxazolecarboxylate, hydrochloride (21). Compound **21** was prepared in the same manner as **19** starting with 4-hydroxymethylpyridine (0.45 g, 0.45 mmol). Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₁₈N₃O₄Cl·1.6 HCl·0.4 H₂O: C, 56.15; H, 4.00; N, 8.18. Found: C, 55.99; H, 4.11; N, 8.07. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.89 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.30–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.20 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.2, 8.5 Hz), 7.10–7.15 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.74 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 8.5 Hz), 5.61 (s, 2H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(2-(4-pyridinyl)ethyl)-4-oxazolecarboxamide, hydrochloride, acetate (22). To a stirring solution of **15** (0.19 g, 0.5 mmol) in 5 mL DCM was added 4-(2-aminoethyl)pyridine (0.065 g, 0.6 mmol) and trimethylaluminum (0.3 mL of 2 M solution in toluene). After heating the reaction at reflux for 5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH then worked up in the usual manner. The free base was dissolved in acetic acid, treated with 1 N HCl, and lyophilized to yield 0.06 g (26%) of **22**. Anal. calcd for C₂₅H₂₁N₄O₃Cl·1.5 HCl·1.5 H₂O·0.6 HOAc: C, 54.38; H, 4.86; N, 9.68; Cl, 15.32. Found: C, 54.78; H, 4.65; N, 9.33; Cl, 15.01. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.76 (br s, 2H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.41 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.7), 7.85 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 7.10–7.34 (m, 5H), 6.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4), 6.75 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.5, 8.4), 4.69 (s, 2H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 3.61 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.7, 6.9), 3.12 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-4-oxazolecarboxamide, monohydrochloride (23). Compound **23** was prepared in the same manner as example **22** using 2-aminomethylpyridine (0.073 g, 0.67 mmol). The yield of **23** was 58%.

Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₄O₃Cl·0.9 HCl·0.5 H₂O: C, 58.98; H, 4.31; N, 11.46; Cl, 13.78. Found: C, 59.13; H, 4.27; N, 11.44; Cl, 13.73. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 9.02 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 8.73–8.75 (m, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.29 (dt, 1H, *J* = 1.3, 7.8 Hz), 7.72–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.15 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 6.75 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 8.5 Hz), 4.73–4.75 (m, 4H), 4.64 (s, 2H).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(2-thienylmethyl)-4-oxazolecarboxamide (24). Compound **24** was prepared in the same manner as described in example **22** starting with 2-aminomethylthiophene (0.06 g, 0.5 mmol) to yield 0.10 g (45%). Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃O₃ClS: C, 61.13; H, 4.01; N, 9.30. Found: C, 60.81; H, 3.93; N, 9.10. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.13 (dd, 2H, *J* = 1.2, 3.3 Hz), 7.03–7.06 (m, 3H), 6.98 (dd, 1H, *J* = 3.5, 5.1 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.77 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.5, 8.5 Hz), 4.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H).

2-Bromomethyl-4-carboxyethyl-thiazole (14). To a stirring solution of 4-carboxyethyl-2-methyl-thiazole (30.3 g, 179 mmol) in CCl₄ (1 L) were added NBS (37.7 g, 212 mmol) and AIBN (2.2 g). The resulting mixture was refluxed and irradiated with sun lamp light for 4 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The solution was chromatographed to yield 36.6 g (95%) of a red oil. This material was used without further purification.

Ethyl 2-[(8-chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-4-thiazolecarboxylate (16). Compound **16** was prepared in the same manner as described for **15** from **14** and **5** on a 17 mmol scale to yield 6.46 g of the crude product as a yellow solid after chromatography. The product was then recrystallized from ethanol to yield 3.4 g of a white solid. Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O₃SCl: C, 59.92; H, 4.27; N, 6.99; Cl, 8.84; S, 8.00. Found: C, 59.78; H, 4.29; N, 6.95; Cl, 8.78; S, 8.63. Mp 151.3 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.29 (dt, 1H, *J* = 1.9, 7.8 Hz), 7.06–7.19 (m, 4H), 6.78–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.45 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz).

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-4-thiazolecarboxylic acid, sodium salt (18). Compound **18** was synthesized from **16** using the same conditions described for **17** to give its sodium salt as a white solid. Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₁₂N₂O₃SClNa·0.75 H₂O: C, 52.95; H, 3.33; N, 6.86; Cl, 8.68; S, 7.85. Found: C, 53.29; H, 3.11; N, 6.85; Cl, 8.59; S, 7.37.

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-4-thiazolecarboxamide, acetate, hydrochloride (25). Compound **25** was synthesized in the same manner and scale as described for **22** to give a white foam. Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₄O₂SCl·1.66 HCl·1 HOAc·0.33 H₂O: C, 52.97; H, 4.33; N, 9.50; Cl, 16.00; S, 5.44. Found: C, 52.69; H, 4.14; N, 9.45; Cl, 15.81; S, 5.78.

2-[(8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10(11H)-yl)methyl]-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-4-thiazolecarboxamide (26). A mixture of **16** (0.50 g, 1.2 mmol) and 2-aminomethylpyridine (2 mL, 19.5 mmol) was heated at 120 °C for 1 h.

The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and chromatographed to yield 0.38 g of a yellow foam. Anal. calcd for $C_{24}H_{19}N_4O_2SCl$: C, 62.26; H, 4.14; N, 12.10; Cl, 7.66. Found: C, 62.11; H, 4.52; N, 11.80; Cl, 7.65. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) 9.32 (m, 1H), 8.86 (d, 2H, $J=6.7$ Hz), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, 2H, $J=2.4$ Hz), 7.33–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, 1H, $J=8.0$ Hz), 7.14–7.18 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, 1H, $J=2.4$), 6.79 (dd, 1H, $J=2.4, 8.5$ Hz), 4.88 (s, 2H), 4.74 (d, 2H, $J=6.1$), 4.71 (s, 2H).

Mouse writhing assay¹

The phenylbenzoquinone (PBQ) writhing test was used to assess analgesic efficacy.

PGE₂ antagonism assay utilizing the guinea pig ileum¹

Evaluation of PGE₂ antagonism was performed as described previously.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Professor Peter Beak of the University of Illinois, Urbana and Professor A. G. M. Barrett of Imperial College for their many useful conversations about organic chemistry, Professor Lester Mitscher of the University of Kansas for his thoughts concerning medicinal chemistry and pharmacology and Dr Richard Bitman for his assistance in the statistics of the bioassays. EAH would particularly like to thank Dr Barnett S. Pitzele for his many helpful ideas and thoughts on this project.

References and Notes

- Hallinan, E. A.; Hagen, T. J.; Husa, R. K.; Tsymbalov, S.; Rao, S. N.; vanHoeck, J.-P.; Rafferty, M. F.; Stapelfeld, A.; Savage, M. A.; Reichman, M. *N*-Substituted dibenzoxazepines as analgesic PGE₂ antagonists. *J. Med. Chem.* **1993**, *36*, 3293.
- Malmberg, A. B.; Rafferty, M. F.; Yaksh, T. L. Antinociceptive effect of spinally delivered prostaglandin E receptor antagonists in the formalin test on the rat. *Neurosci. Lett.* **1994**, *173*, 193.
- Lee, K.; Vandenberghe, Y. L.; Herin, M. F.; Cavalier, R.; Beck, D.; Li, A.; Verbeke, N.; Lesne, M. L.; Roba, J. Comparative metabolism of SC-42867 and SC-51089, two PGE₂ antagonists, in rat and human hepatocyte cultures. *Xenobiotica* **1994**, *24*, 25.
- IARC Monographs **1974**, *4*, 127.
- Hallinan, E. A.; Stapelfeld, A.; Savage, M. A.; Reichmann, M. 8-Chlorodibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepine-10(11H)carboxylic acid, 2-[3-[(2-furanylmethyl)-thio]-1-oxopropyl]hydrazide (SC-51322): a potent PGE₂ antagonist and analgesic. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **1994**, *4*, 509.
- Hallinan, E. A.; Hagen, T. J.; Tsymbalov, S.; Husa, R. K.; Stapelfeld, A.; Savage, M. A. Aminoacetyl moiety as a potential surrogate for diacylhydrazine group of SC-51089, a potent PGE₂ antagonist, and its analogues. *J. Med. Chem.* **1996**, *39*, 609.
- Acta Cryst.* **1958**, *11*, 774, *ibid.* **1960**, *13*, 609.
- Bishop, G. J.; Price, B. J.; Sutherland, I. O. Torsional barriers in *N,N'*-diacylhydrazines. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1967**, 672.
- Anthoni, U.; Larsen, C.; Nielsen, P. H. Derivatives of hydrazine: *cis-trans* isomerism, dipolar structure, and magnetic nonequivalence of the isopropyl methyl 1H NMR signals of acyl and thioacyl *N,N*-diisopropylhydrazines. *Acta Chemica Scandinavica* **1969**, *23*, 3513.
- Bouchet, P.; Elguero, J.; Jaquier, R.; Pereillo, J.-M. Étude par RMN de la configuration d'hydrazides. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* **1972**, 2264–2271.
- Unpublished data, Bible Jr., R. H.
- Unpublished data, Spangler, D. P.
- Misra, R. N.; Brown, B. R.; Sher, P. M.; Patel, M. M.; Hall, S. E.; Han, W.-C.; Barrish, J. C.; Floyd, D. M.; Sprague, P. W.; Morrison, R. A.; Ridgewell, R. E.; White, R. E.; DiDanato, G. C.; Harris, D. N.; Hedberg, A.; Schumacher, W. A.; Webb, M.; Ogletree, M. L. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **1992**, *2*, 73.
- Cornforth, J. W.; Cornforth, R. H. A new synthesis of oxazoles and iminazoles including its application of the preparation of oxazole. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1947**, 96.
- Gangloff, A. R.; Åkermark, B.; Helquist, P. Generation and use of a zinc derivative of a functionalized 1,3-oxazole: solution of the virginiamycin/madumycin oxazole problem. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 4797.
- Jones, E. R. H.; Robinson, F. A.; Strachan, M. N. Thiazoles from carboxylic acid thioamides. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1946**, 87.
- Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. Rapid chromatographic technique for preparative separation with moderate resolution. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 2923.
- Stojanovic, F. M.; Arnold, Z. Synthetic reactions of dimethylformamide. XIII. Formylation of some aliphatic diazo compounds. *Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun.* **1967**, *32*, 2155.