



## Original article

## Preparation and antitubercular activities in vitro and in vivo of novel Schiff bases of isoniazid

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## ABSTRACT

Structural modification of the frontline antitubercular isonicotinic acid hydrazide (INH) provides lipophilic adaptations (**3–46**) of the drug in which the hydrazine moiety of the parent compound has been chemically blocked from the deactivating process of N<sup>2</sup>-acetylation by N-arylaminoacetyl transferases. As a class, these compounds show high levels of activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in vitro and in tuberculosis-infected macrophages. They provide strong protection in tuberculosis-infected mice and have low toxicity. With some representatives of this class achieving early peak plasma concentrations approximately three orders of magnitude above minimum inhibitory concentration, they may serve as tools for improving our understanding of INH-based treatment modalities, particularly for those patients chronically underdosed in conventional INH therapy.

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## 1. Introduction

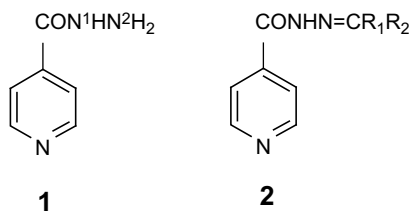
Having been used as the cornerstone of antituberculosis therapy for more than half a century, much has been learned about the biochemistry and multifaceted modes of action of the frontline drug isoniazid (INH, **1**, Fig. 1). Indeed, with the enormous global burden of tuberculosis and the alarming rise in the number of clinical isolates displaying drug resistance or increased virulence [1–4], INH has become the single most researched antitubercular agent [5–9]. The problem of resistance has necessitated combination regimens for tuberculosis since the earliest days of chemotherapy. Researchers have recently begun to better understand the complex interactions among the pathogen, host and antimicrobial agent that relate to resistance and thus require combination therapy [10–13]. It is desirable to maintain drug concentrations within the mammalian host at levels sufficiently high to restrict amplification of drug-resistant mutant subpopulations. As a practical matter, drugs for combination therapy are most efficacious when their achievable serum concentration levels permit this restriction of amplification, given concomitant low toxicity.

Advancement of these important drug characteristics may make it possible to shorten the current lengthy therapeutic regimens and to address the physiologically-controlled underdosing of certain patient groups, both of which have been identified as pivotal factors in the rise of acquired and primary drug resistance in the clinic [14,15].

There is an increasing body of evidence to the effect that many of the same molecular characteristics determined to enhance bioavailability of antitubercular drugs also have the potential to suppress the rise of resistance [16–18]. It has been argued that, where significant increases can be made in serum concentration levels, drug efficacy can be enhanced, even against moderately drug-resistant organisms [19–21]. Persuasive data strongly suggest that a significant impediment to the implementation of long-sought *intermittent* treatment regimens, such as rifapentine and isoniazid given once per week, is the comparatively low level of isoniazid that is achievable within the host [22]. With a companion drug that is more pharmacokinetically suitable, intermittent rifapentine-based therapy might become a reality [23]. Several recent experiments indicate that the incorporation of hydrophobic moieties into the framework of INH can enhance penetration of the drug into the tissues of the mammalian host and into the waxy cell wall of the bacterium. This strategy for drug design has been proposed as a vehicle for controlled study of the growth cycle of the

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**Fig. 1.** The antitubercular isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**1**) and its Schiff base congeners (**2**). Position N<sup>2</sup> of **1** is subject to deactivating acetylation by the class of enzymes known as N-arylaminoacetyl transferases (NATs). The deactivation phenomenon is associated with the rise of resistance. Compound **2** are blocked toward this enzymatic process.

pathogen, as well as a means of augmenting fundamental drug activity [24–27]. Previous work on several members of this class, particularly the aromatic derivatives, had been carried out some years ago and had demonstrated good activities by the methods then available [28–37]. These compounds have continued to attract the attention of medicinal chemists up to the present day [38–43]. For example, a series of (*E*)-N'-(monosubstituted-benzylidene)isonicotinoyl-hydrazides were recently evaluated to good effect, with several of these aromatic compounds showing potent activities in vitro [44], although structure–activity relationships have not yet become clear. There is evidence that such structurally-modified drugs gain efficacy as the result of suppression of xenobiotic transformation [28–32], and that they obtain noteworthy concentration in several organs of tuberculosis-infected experimental animals, perhaps most significantly in caseation bodies [33]. These compounds also possess a vital characteristic of antimycobacterials, namely, that toxicity is low [32,34–44].

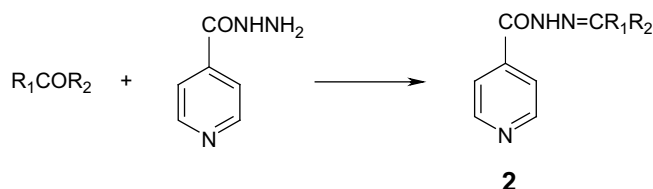
Structurally, the modifications engendering these desirable drug properties are optimally made at N<sup>2</sup> of the INH framework. Such modifications block the resulting molecule against the action of N-arylaminoacetyl transferases (NATs). These enzymes are found in both mycobacteria and their mammalian hosts, and they deactivate INH by means of reaction at N<sup>2</sup>. Consistent with a survival stratagem in which pathogenic bacteria control their environment through acetylation [45,46], the NATs have been implicated in the development of resistance, particularly among those patients known as the “fast acetylators,” for whom there is an inherent problem of chronic underdosing of INH under genetic control [47]. Evaluations of pharmacokinetic diversity among patients treated with INH indicate that its sources are complex and that the problem of underdosing is more widespread than once believed, underscoring the need for clinicians to know the acetylator status of their patients [48]. Underdosing typically places fast acetylators in jeopardy for selective amplification of drug-resistant organisms within a mutant selection range of serum drug concentrations. Improving serum drug concentrations should narrow this range [49–51], and structurally blocking INH toward the actions of NATs at N<sup>2</sup> may thus combat the rise of resistance. We previously reported results on one of these lipophilic compounds modified at N<sup>2</sup> (**46**) that combined low toxicity with serum concentration levels as much as three orders of magnitude above minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) [32]. We now report findings from our further experiments in vitro and in vivo on Schiff base derivatives of INH (**2**, Fig. 1), including results from a new short-course therapy model in mice. In line with the above discussion, our rationale has been to prepare Schiff bases with enhanced lipophilicity and to examine their efficacy against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* with up-to-date methods. Our objective is the development of these compounds as tools for probing interactions among pathogen, host and drugs in INH-based treatment modalities.

## 2. Results and discussion

### 2.1. Chemistry

Compounds **3–46** are readily prepared in good yields and purity by functionalization of INH at N<sup>2</sup>. Treatment of INH with the appropriate ketone or aldehyde for 1–2 hours in boiling alcohol typically leads without complication to the condensation product, the Schiff base, which is generally isolated as a crystalline solid in analytical purity (Fig. 2). Carbonyl precursors included substituted aromatic aldehydes, long chain aliphatic aldehydes, palindromic dialdehydes,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes, cinnamaldehydes, aliphatic ketones, aryl alkyl ketones and keto esters. In a representative example, INH reacted at reflux for 1.25 hours with a molar equivalent of 2-benzyloxybenzaldehyde in ethanol to produce compound **2** ( $R_1 = H$ ,  $R_2 = 2-(OCH_2C_6H_5)C_6H_4$ , **3**) as a white crystalline solid, 90%, m.p.: 185 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3227 (hydrazone NH), 1653 (acylhydrazone carbonyl). <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.85 (1H, singlet, azomethine), 8.75 (2H, doublet, pyridine alpha-protons), 7.98–7.01 (9H, multiplets, aromatics and pyridine beta-protons), 5.20 (2H, singlet, benzyl protons). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.89 and 157.36 (azomethine and carbonyl). HRMS (FAB MH<sup>+</sup>): (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) Calc 332.1399. Found: 332.1414. Anal. (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) Calc C 72.49, H 5.17. Found: C 72.59, H 5.35. The calculated value of the logarithm of the octanol/water partition coefficient (C log *P*) for this compound (4.57) is greater than that of INH (0.49), consistent with the improved solubility observed for this compound in a number of organic solvents and indicative of enhanced lipophilicity [52].

Our results on the preparation of the Schiff bases included in this study are summarized in Table 1. The Schiff bases may be conveniently divided into aromatic compounds (**3–22**) and aliphatic derivatives (**23–46**). Using the methods described, recrystallization was generally not required. In some cases, it was necessary to concentrate the reaction mixture to half volume and to precipitate the product with ether. As alternative solvents, both water and toluene produced inferior results in synthesis. The compounds were stable for prolonged periods on the shelf when not stored in direct light. All the Schiff bases had C log *P* values considerably greater (more lipophilic) than did INH itself (Table 1). In laboratory practice, experimental estimates of partitioning between aqueous and organic phases for a number of these compounds (see Experimental protocols) also demonstrated their organic solubilities to be several orders of magnitude greater than that of INH. During our investigations, we found that there were some structural limits on the procedure. Thus we observed that aryl alkyl ketones, such as **4** with alkyl groups larger than methyl, required strenuous conditions for reaction, namely, refluxing in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). We attribute this lower reactivity to a sterically congested approach (Fig. 3) for nucleophilic attack in which the lone pair on N<sup>2</sup> must stand orthogonal to the conjugated  $\pi$  system of the remainder of the INH molecule. With alkyl groups larger than methyl in the ketone component of the transition state, the conformational preference for the lone pair on N<sup>2</sup> renders this



**Fig. 2.** Preparation of Schiff bases from carbonyl precursors.

**Table 1**  
Preparation of Schiff base 2.

Entry	Compound	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	% Yield	mp, °C	C log P <sup>a</sup>	MIC, µg/mL <sup>b</sup>
1.	<b>3</b>	H	2-(OCH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	90	185	4.57	0.06 <sup>c</sup>
2.	<b>4</b>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	64	116–117	4.49	0.39
3.	<b>5</b>	H	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	91	218–219	3.84	3.13
4.	<b>6</b>	H	2-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	66	218–221	3.56	0.78
5.	<b>7</b>	H	3,4-F <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	86	195–196	3.32	1.56
6.	<b>8</b>	H	4-IC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	92	243	4.30	0.20
7.	<b>9</b>	H	3-I-4,5-(OCH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	90	234	3.80	0.20
8.	<b>10</b>	H	3-I-4-OH-5-OCH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	87	221	3.76	0.39
9.	<b>11</b>	H	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	94	215–216	3.56	0.20
10.	<b>12</b>	H	3,4-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	88	241–244	4.08	0.20
11.	<b>13</b>	H	2,6-F <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	100	239	3.32	0.10
12.	<b>14</b>	H	2,3-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	98	227	4.08	0.78
13.	<b>15</b>	H	2,6-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	97	Semisolid	4.08	<6.25
14.	<b>16</b>	H	2-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	97	230	1.06	0.39
15.	<b>17</b>	H	4-Cl-3-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	100	231	1.58	0.39
16.	<b>18</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	92	169–170	2.68	<6.25
17.	<b>19</b>	H	4-CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	87	135–138	5.49	0.39
18.	<b>20</b>	H	3-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	85	225	1.06	0.125 <sup>c</sup>
19.	<b>21</b>	H	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	98	197	3.04	0.05
20.	<b>22</b>	H	4-CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	91	148–149	4.00	0.10
21.	<b>23</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	54	161–164	2.24	0.05
22.	<b>24</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CHCH <sub>3</sub>	73	198–201	1.85	<6.25
23.	<b>25</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	93	152–154	2.64	<6.25
24.	<b>26</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	84	152–154	3.03	<6.25
25.	<b>27</b>	H	C=CCH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	59	124–125	2.97	0.10
26.	<b>28</b>	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CHCH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH=C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	29	78–80	3.58	0.20
27.	<b>29</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	48	161–162	1.70	0.10
28.	<b>30</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	90	104	3.78	0.10
29.	<b>31</b>	R <sub>1</sub> R <sub>2</sub> =CCH <sub>2</sub> CH (CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>		76	149–151	3.94	<0.025
30.	<b>32</b>	H	CH=C(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	86	223	4.43	0.10
31.	<b>33</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CH-4-OCH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	89	218	2.73	0.20
32.	<b>34</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CH-2-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	94	204	1.08	0.25 <sup>c</sup>
33.	<b>35</b>	H	C( <i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> )=CH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	84	121	4.10	0.50
34.	<b>36</b>	H	C( <i>i</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> )=CHCH <sub>2</sub> CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	99	129	3.97	0.06 <sup>c</sup>
35.	<b>37</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CH=CH-2-OCH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	92	206	2.81	0.10
36.	<b>38</b>	H	<i>t</i> -CCH <sub>3</sub> =CHC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	90	200	3.34	0.50
37.	<b>39</b>	H	CH=NNHCOC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N	90	>300 (d) <sup>d</sup>	1.58	0.10
38.	<b>40</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	98	89–90	2.96	0.39
39.	<b>41</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	85	99	1.93	0.20
40.	<b>42</b>	H	4-(CH=NNHCOC <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N)C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	90	>300 (d) <sup>d</sup>	4.04	0.05
41.	<b>43</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	90	104	4.24	0.10
42.	<b>44</b>	H	CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>11</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	73	89–91	5.73	0.20
43.	<b>45</b>	H	CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>10</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	73	92–93	5.33	0.20
44.	<b>46</b>	R <sub>1</sub> R <sub>2</sub> =C(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>		81	167–168	2.85	0.03

<sup>a</sup> Calculated using HyperChem Pro, Version 7.5. For INH, C log P is 0.49.<sup>b</sup> MIC<sub>90</sub> against *M. tuberculosis* strain H<sub>37</sub>Rv, unless otherwise noted. MIC INH control 0.03–0.06 µg/mL.<sup>c</sup> MIC<sub>90</sub> against *M. tuberculosis* strain Erdman. MIC INH control 0.03–0.06 µg/mL. MIC PAS control 0.03–0.06 µg/mL.<sup>d</sup> Decomposed without melting.

nitrogen poorly poised for nucleophilic attack. Such stereo-electronic effects have been observed previously in the reactions of acylhydrazines as nucleophiles [53].

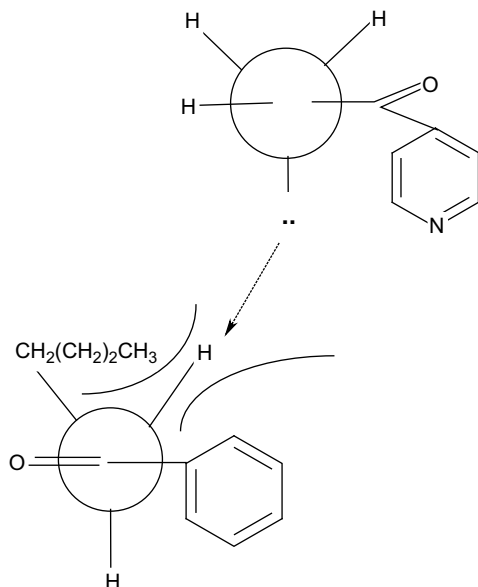
## 2.2. Biological assays

In a standard primary screen against *M. tuberculosis* strain H<sub>37</sub>Rv, all the compounds in this study (**3–46**) were active and displayed minimum inhibitory concentrations necessary to inhibit growth of the organism by 90% of less than 6.25 µg/mL [54]. Activities in vitro were also determined against *M. tuberculosis* strain Erdman using a broth dilution method, referred to known antituberculars as standards [32]. Individual MIC values are reported in Table 1. The mean of the MIC values for the forty-four compounds tested was 1 µg/mL, with most having individual values considerably less than this. Compounds displaying MICs of 0.06 µg/mL or less were derived from cyclohexanones (**31**, **46**), benzaldehydes (**3**, **21**) and enals (**23**, **24**), having an average C log P value of 3.1. Compound **3** provides a representative example of the biological activities of the Schiff bases, demonstrating good potency

against the pathogen (strain Erdman) with an MIC of 0.06 µg/mL (INH control 0.06 µg/mL, *para*-aminosalicylic acid (PAS) control 0.06 µg/mL).

Thirty-one of the more active compounds were evaluated for cytotoxicity in VERO cells at concentrations ten times the MIC (Table 2) [54]. After 72 hours exposure, viability was assessed using a standard cell proliferation assay, in which the selection criterion was a selectivity index (SI, IC<sub>50</sub>/MIC) greater than 10. Nearly all of the Schiff bases met this criterion, giving an acceptable range between their active and cytotoxic concentrations. For the eleven compounds with outstanding SI values exceeding 1000, the mean C log P was 3.2.

For eleven of the compounds, efficacy in vitro was further explored in a tuberculosis-infected macrophage model [54]. This assay measures killing of *M. tuberculosis* strain Erdman in monolayers of mouse bone marrow macrophages. In Table 3, EC<sub>90</sub> and EC<sub>99</sub> show the lowest concentrations giving 90% and 99% reduction in colony-forming units at 7 days (compared to drug-free controls) at four-fold concentrations equivalent to 0.25, 1, 4 and 16 times the MIC. In this model, EC<sub>90</sub> represents bacteriostatic activity and



**Fig. 3.** With alkyl groups larger than methyl in the ketone component, nucleophilic attack by the hydrazide moiety is hindered.

EC<sub>99</sub> indicates bactericidal activity. For INH, EC<sub>90</sub> is 0.03 mg/mL and EC<sub>99</sub> is 0.42 mg/mL. Most of the Schiff bases gave EC<sub>90</sub> and EC<sub>99</sub> values equal to or less than those of INH. The ratio EC<sub>90</sub>/MIC (Table 3) gives a measure of bioavailability and metabolism of the compound within the living host cell, comparing the in vitro activity against the bacillus to the activity against the bacillus while

**Table 3**

Efficacies within tuberculosis-infected macrophages.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Compound	EC <sub>90</sub> , µg/mL	EC <sub>99</sub> , µg/mL	EC <sub>90</sub> /MIC
1.	<b>4</b>	0.050	0.25	0.13
2.	<b>11</b>	0.04	0.14	0.20
3.	<b>12</b>	0.106	0.596	0.53
4.	<b>13</b>	0.037	0.15	0.37
5.	<b>14</b>	0.071	0.30	0.09
6.	<b>17</b>	0.078	0.30	0.20
7.	<b>23</b>	0.028	0.529	0.56
8.	<b>30</b>	0.010	0.211	0.10
9.	<b>31</b>	0.063	0.15	2.52
10.	<b>32</b>	0.028	0.121	0.28
11.	<b>46</b>	0.08	0.42	2.7

<sup>a</sup> Data from TAACF [54]. EC<sub>90</sub> INH control 0.03 µg/mL. EC<sub>99</sub> INH control 0.42 µg/mL. EC<sub>90</sub>/MIC INH control 1. The ratio provides a measure of bioavailability and metabolism of the active agent within the living host cell; whenever the ratio is less than 16, it is said to indicate effective reduction in residual mycobacterial growth.

it lives within the host. For INH, the ratio is unity. Whenever the ratio is less than 16, it is concluded that there has been an effective reduction in residual mycobacterial growth. This condition is fulfilled by all eleven of the compounds assessed. The data thus indicate that the compounds are active against both extracellular and intracellular organisms. For the eleven compounds displaying excellent efficacies within the tuberculosis-infected macrophage model, the mean value of C log P was 3.5.

For our studies in vivo, we used a short-course treatment method that has recently been described [55]. This method provides a demanding test of the activities of candidate drugs and has the advantage of cutting in half the time required to produce results in animal studies, compared to the traditional four-week treatment model (Table 4). In brief, C57BL/6 mice are infected intranasally with approximately one million viable *M. tuberculosis* organisms. Treatment begins one day post-infection and is administered for two days. Mice are sacrificed three days post-infection, their right lungs are removed aseptically, and cell counts are determined. Mice are only able to present a strong immune response to control the growth of *M. tuberculosis* about ten to fourteen days after initial infection, so the reduction in mycobacteria using the two-day treatment regimen is entirely drug related. Three aspects of the model have been established: (1) If a test compound shows activity after two days of treatment, then the compound must have reached the lung after oral delivery, it being known that there is no detectable circulation of the pathogen within the first four days of infection after intranasal deposition. Bacterial reduction observed in the lung after treatment is thus due to mycobacterial killing within the lung itself. (2) If a test drug has activity in the model, it has entered the macrophage in which the bacteria reside. (3) Activity indicates that the drug is killing the bacteria within the phagosome of the macrophage. The short-course murine model thus provides a rigorous and robust indication of the efficacy of an antimycobacterial agent. In the short-course therapy model, representative compound **3** and INH were dosed at 25 mg/kg of body weight. No ill effects or overt toxicity was noted in the animals, in keeping with our observations on Schiff base **46**, for which the maximally tolerated dose in mice was determined to be 1000 mg/kg [32]. Compared to early untreated controls, compound **3** displayed strong activity, giving 1.01 log<sub>10</sub> reduction in colony-forming units (CFU). This was somewhat more protection than provided by INH, which gave 0.92 log<sub>10</sub> CFU reduction. Results in vivo for selected Schiff bases are provided in Table 2. These compounds generally appeared to have strong activities in murine models. For the Schiff bases examined in vivo, the mean C log P value was 3.7.

**Table 2**  
Selectivity indices of Schiff base **2**.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Compound	SI (IC <sub>50</sub> /MIC)
1.	<b>4</b>	>25
2.	<b>5</b>	12
3.	<b>6</b>	>128
4.	<b>8</b>	>50
5.	<b>9</b>	297
6.	<b>10</b>	>160
7.	<b>11</b>	>50
8.	<b>12</b>	>50
9.	<b>13</b>	>1250
10.	<b>14</b>	>32
11.	<b>17</b>	>64
12.	<b>19</b>	1.5
13.	<b>20</b>	8
14.	<b>21</b>	4000
15.	<b>22</b>	>2000
16.	<b>23</b>	712
17.	<b>28</b>	>1000
18.	<b>29</b>	>10,000
19.	<b>30</b>	>1250
20.	<b>31</b>	>2000
21.	<b>32</b>	68
22.	<b>33</b>	>50
23.	<b>35</b>	1.60
24.	<b>36</b>	>10
25.	<b>38</b>	>250
26.	<b>40</b>	>2631
27.	<b>41</b>	>5000
28.	<b>42</b>	>126
29.	<b>43</b>	>1250
30.	<b>45</b>	374
31.	<b>46</b>	>40,000

<sup>a</sup> Data from TAACF [54]. Evaluation for cytotoxicity in VERO cells at concentrations 10 times the MIC for *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv. SI INH control >40,000. The activity criterion for this assay is an SI > 10.



**Table 4**  
In vivo activities of Schiff bases.

Compound	Group	log CFU/lung
<b>3<sup>a</sup></b>	Early controls	6.50 ± 0.14
	Late controls	6.37 ± 0.24
	Isoniazid	5.58 ± 0.28
	Schiff base <b>3</b>	5.49 ± 0.63
<b>36<sup>b</sup></b>	Early controls	6.38 ± 0.14
	Late controls	6.51 ± 0.13
	Isoniazid	4.96 ± 0.13
	Schiff base <b>36</b>	5.49 ± 0.26
<b>38<sup>b</sup></b>	Early controls	6.38 ± 0.14
	Late controls	6.51 ± 0.13
	Isoniazid	4.96 ± 0.13
	Schiff base <b>38</b>	5.22 ± 0.36
<b>46<sup>c</sup></b>	Early controls	6.74 ± 0.98
	Late controls	8.80 ± 0.18
	Isoniazid	4.71 ± 0.89
	Schiff base <b>46</b>	4.65 ± 0.27

<sup>a</sup> Groups of six mice, short-course therapy model.<sup>b</sup> Groups of five mice, short-course therapy model.<sup>c</sup> Groups of eight mice, traditional four-week therapy model.

### 3. Conclusions

The Schiff bases of INH were readily prepared for evaluation against *M. tuberculosis* in good yield and purity using inexpensive commonly available reagents. The structural modification of the INH framework described here provides a lipophilic adaptation of isoniazid in which the hydrazine unit has been chemically blocked from the deactivating process of N<sup>2</sup>-acetylation by NATs. Across the class, these compounds show strong levels of activity in vitro and in experimental animals. In each of the biological assays, high potency was observed for compounds with values of C log *P* considerably greater than that for INH itself, and this appears to be the most significant structure–activity relationship. The exploration of more subtle structure–activity relationships is the subject of ongoing work in our laboratory. With some representatives of this class achieving early peak plasma concentrations approximately three orders of magnitude above MIC [32], the Schiff bases may serve as discovery tools in probing INH-based treatment modalities, particularly for those patients chronically underdosed in conventional INH therapy.

### 4. Experimental protocols

#### 4.1. Chemistry

##### 4.1.1. General

Elemental analyses were carried out by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. Melting points (m.p., °C) were taken in open capillary tubes using a Mel-Temp apparatus (Laboratory Devices, Cambridge, MA, USA), and are corrected. Infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer Spectrum One Fourier transform spectrophotometer fitted with a universal attenuated total reflectance sampling accessory, reported in wavenumbers ( $\nu$ , cm<sup>−1</sup>). Most reactants, reagents and solvents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA) and Lancaster Synthesis Incorporated (Windham, New Hampshire, USA) and were used as received. All preparations were carried out in a manner similar to that for compound **3**. In some cases, it was necessary to concentrate the reaction mixture to half volume and add ether to precipitate the product. A number of the Schiff bases were further characterized by their exchange reactions with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine to produce the corresponding highly insoluble 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones, readily identified by their

melting points. A representative procedure for this method is provided for compound **29**. Our data for activities in vitro and in vivo for compound **46** (**2**, R<sub>1</sub>–R<sub>2</sub> = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>) have been previously reported [32]. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were taken on a Bruker 300 Fourier transform instrument in dimethyl sulfoxide-*d*<sub>6</sub>, recorded at 300 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) or 75 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) and are reported in parts per million delta ( $\delta$ ) downfield from internal tetramethylsilane as reference, with coupling constants given in cycles per second (cps). In some proton spectra, only signals in the region 0–10 ppm are reported. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS, fast atom bombardment method) and low resolution mass spectra were determined at the NIH Mass Spectrometry Facility at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA, unless otherwise noted. Values for the calculated logarithm of the octanol–water partitioning coefficient (C log *P*) were obtained using the QSAR properties function of HyperChem Pro, Version 7.5. **Safety Notes:** Gloves were worn during the chemical synthesis, and the reactions were carried out in the hood. In general, any scale-up of preparations of compounds with relatively high proportions of nitrogen and oxygen was done with due caution. No specific safety problems were encountered with the methods given below. No attempt was made to optimize yields.

##### 4.1.2. Representative example of Schiff base formation.

##### N<sup>2</sup>-(2-benzyloxy)benzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**3**)

INH (1.37 g, 10.0 mmol) was mixed with absolute ethanol (15 mL) and the mixture brought to the boil, producing a slurry. Barely sufficient additional ethanol was then added to give a homogeneous solution at reflux. 2-Benzyloxybenzaldehyde (2.12 g, 10.0 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 minutes and washed with 3 mL of ethanol. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.25 hours, then allowed to cool slowly and to stand over night, producing a white crystalline solid, which was filtered off and dried. Yield: 2.88 g, (90%), m.p.: 185 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  (cm<sup>−1</sup>) 3227, 3077, 1653, 1598, 1549, 1371, 1249. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.85 (1H, s), 8.75 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 7.98–7.01 (9H, m) from which emerged at 7.88 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 5.20 (2H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.89, 157.36, 150.61, 144.51, 140.85, 137.02, 132.15, 128.90, 128.38, 127.88, 126.14, 123.46, 122.69, 121.91, 121.36, 113.48, 70.07. HRMS (FAB MH<sup>+</sup>): (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) Calc 332.1399. Found: 332.1414. Anal. (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) Calc C 72.49, H 5.17. Found: C 72.59, H 5.35.

##### 4.1.3. Isonicotinoylhydrazone of *n*-hexanophenone (**4**)

To a homogeneous solution of INH (0.45 g, 3.30 mmol) in boiling DMSO (11 mL) was added *n*-hexanophenone (1.0 mL, 5.40 mmol). The mixture was refluxed for an hour, the solution allowed to cool for 20 minutes, and water was (9 mL) added. After several minutes a solid began to form. The solid was filtered off and washed with ether (3 × 10 mL) to give the title compound as a white solid. Yield: 0.62 g (64%), m.p.: 116–117 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  (cm<sup>−1</sup>) 3166, 1649, 1602, 1542, 1347, 1325, 1284, 1145, 1090, 1068, 834. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.30 (1H, br s), 8.78 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 7.91 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 7.65–7.21 (5H, m), 2.89 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.20 (m, 6H), 0.81 (m, 3H). Anal. (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O) Calc C 73.20, H 7.10. Found: C 73.23, H 7.16.

##### 4.1.4. N<sup>2</sup>-4-bromobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**5**)

Yield: 1.65 g (91%), m.p.: 218–219 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  (cm<sup>−1</sup>) 3252, 3079, 1657, 1603, 1589, 1551, 1290, 1067, 822. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 12.18 (1H, br s), 8.79 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 8.49 (1H, s), 7.86 (2H, d, *J* = 7 cps), 7.70 (4H, aromatic pseudoquartet). Anal. (C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OBr) Calc C 51.34, H 3.31. Found: C 51.32, H 3.30.

##### 4.1.5. N<sup>2</sup>-2-chlorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**6**)

Yield: 1.08 g (66%), m.p.: 218–221 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  (cm<sup>−1</sup>) 3060, 1673, 1600, 1552, 1412, 1341, 1281, 1216, 1156, 1047, 1027, 1001, 842.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.95 (1H, s), 8.80 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.05 (1H, m), 7.88 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.48 (4H, m). Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{OCl}$ ) Calc C 60.13, H 3.88. Found: C 60.11, H 3.86.

**4.1.6.  $N^2$ -3,4-difluorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**7**)**

Yield: 1.46 g (86%), m.p.: 195–196 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3159, 1679, 1567, 1512, 1376, 1280, 1218, 1160, 1134, 1071, 850, 814, 757.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 12.20 (1H, br s), 8.80 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.44 (1H, s), 8.00–7.36 (5H, m, from which emerged at 7.82 a doublet,  $J = 7$  cps). Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{OF}_2$ ) Calc C 59.77, H 3.47. Found: C 59.44, H 3.56.

**4.1.7.  $N^2$ -4-iodobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**8**)**

Yield: 1.39 g (92%), m.p.: 243 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3229, 3063, 1654, 1606, 1583, 1543, 1478, 1404, 1393, 1359, 1290, 1218, 1148, 1066, 1057, 996, 959, 936, 922, 881, 846, 828, 809.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.80 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.40 (1H, s), 7.82 (4H, m, aromatic pseudo-quartet), 7.54 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 162.08, 150.67, 148.39, 140.72, 138.08, 133.91, 129.40, 121.89, 97.64. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{OI}$ ) Calc 351.9947. Found: 351.9946. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{OI}$ ) Calc C 44.47, H 2.87. Found: C 44.49, H 3.03.

**4.1.8.  $N^2$ -3-iodo-4,5-dimethoxybenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**9**)**

Yield: 3.15 g (90%), m.p.: 234 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3200, 2980, 2929, 1673, 1599, 1585, 1538, 1494, 1474, 1455, 1408, 1358, 1273, 1235, 1216, 1190, 1173, 1150, 1063, 1046, 994, 960, 898, 860, 843.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.58 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.13 (1H, s), 7.61 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.51 (1H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 3.69 (3H, s), 3.54 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 162.08, 152.88, 150.67, 150.29, 147.43, 140.72, 132.56, 129.68, 121.90, 111.18, 93.37, 60.35, 56.36. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{I}$ ) Calc 412.0158. Found: 412.0158. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{I}$ ) Calc C 43.81, H 3.43. Found: C 43.87, H 3.53.

**4.1.9.  $N^2$ -3-iodo-4-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**10**)**

Yield: 3.46 g (87%), m.p.: 221 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3192, 3035, 2866, 1648, 1585, 1572, 1550, 1493, 1464, 1413, 1379, 1343, 1324, 1305, 1290, 1197, 1182, 1168, 1146, 1063, 1050, 1007, 986, 956, 905, 856, 833, 796, 762, 730.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.20 (1H, br), 8.75 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.28 (1H, s), 7.82 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.62 (1H, s), 7.36 (1H, s), 3.92 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.91, 150.63, 148.94, 148.23, 147.63, 140.86, 130.82, 127.59, 121.88, 109.38, 84.71, 56.45. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{I}$ ) Calc 398.0002. Found: 398.0007. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{I}$ ) Calc C 42.34, H 3.05. Found: C 42.21, H 3.22.

**4.1.10.  $N^2$ -4-chlorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**11**)**

Yield: 94%, m.p.: 215–216 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3167, 1660, 1611, 1597, 1412, 1219, 1158, 1118, 1087, 1012, 952, 1000, 879, 838, 818, 751, 722. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{OCl}$ ) C, 60.13; H, 3.88. Found: C, 60.05; H, 3.89.

**4.1.11.  $N^2$ -3,4-dichlorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**12**)**

Yield: 88%, m.p.: 241–244 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3178, 1682, 1590, 1552, 1413, 1352, 1278, 1215, 1147, 1121, 1078, 1062, 1028, 999, 952, 937, 886, 846, 813, 747, 722. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{OCl}_2$ ) C 53.08, H 3.08. Found: C 52.85, H 3.20.

**4.1.12.  $N^2$ -2,6-difluorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**13**)**

Yield: 100%, m.p.: 239 °C (uncorr). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3161, 1654, 1624, 1608, 1569, 1550, 1412, 1305, 1238, 1154, 1076, 1066, 1000, 960, 926, 840, 782, 758, 728. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{OF}_2$ ) C 59.77, H 3.47. Found: C 59.92, H 3.70.

**4.1.13.  $N^2$ -2,3-dichlorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**14**)**

Yield: 98%, m.p.: 227 °C (uncorr). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3188, 1687, 1602, 1585, 1547, 1497, 1411, 1350, 1278, 1248, 1214, 1189, 1155, 1141,

1096, 1060, 1042, 997, 972, 940, 848, 783, 742, 708. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{OCl}_2$ ) C 53.08, H 3.08. Found: C 53.16, H 3.20.

**4.1.14.  $N^2$ -2,6-dichlorobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**15**)**

Yield: 97%, semisolid. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3150, 1681, 1605, 1592, 1555, 1416, 1354, 1274, 1222, 1192, 1148, 1000, 925, 842, 791, 778, 752, 720. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{OCl}_2$ ) C 53.08, H 3.08. Found: C 53.28, H 3.21.

**4.1.15.  $N^2$ -2-nitrobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**16**)**

Yield: 97%, m.p.: 230 °C (uncorr). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3188, 1678, 1602, 1556, 1515, 1413, 1315, 1287, 1273, 1214, 1149, 1139, 1062, 998, 964, 932, 920, 880, 856, 848, 836, 788, 744. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ ) C 57.78, H 3.73. Found: C 57.51, H 3.65.

**4.1.16.  $N^2$ -4-chloro-3-nitrobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**17**)**

Yield: 100%, m.p.: 231 °C (uncorr). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3189, 1685, 1599, 1558, 1530, 1412, 1351, 1277, 1252, 1214, 1154, 1125, 1074, 1061, 1049, 998, 962, 942, 896, 846, 823, 748, 721. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_4\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$ ) C 51.25, H 2.98. Found: C 51.20, H 2.90.

**4.1.17. Isonicotinoylhydrazone of acetophenone (**18**)**

Yield: 92%, m.p.: 169–170 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3173, 1652, 1599, 1540, 1288, 1150, 1103, 975, 835, 757, 722. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) C 70.27, H 5.48. Found: C 70.18, H 5.51.

**4.1.18.  $N^2$ -4-hexyloxybenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**19**)**

Yield: 87%, m.p.: 135–138 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3234, 3062, 1650, 1608, 1572, 1549, 1513, 1415, 1398, 1297, 1240, 1179, 1154, 1127, 1112, 1070, 1032, 993, 976, 961, 941, 922, 863, 846, 832, 810, 752, 725. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ) C 70.06, H 7.07. Found: C 70.07, H 7.07.

**4.1.19.  $N^2$ -3-nitrobenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**20**)**

Yield: 85%, m.p.: 225 °C (uncorr). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3232, 1691, 1609, 1600, 1548, 1524, 1412, 1352, 1314, 1271, 1141, 1101, 1062, 996, 961, 948, 887, 843, 827, 815, 750, 739, 710. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ ) C 57.78, H 3.73. Found: C 57.69, H 3.77.

**4.1.20.  $N^2$ -benzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**21**)**

Yield: 98%, m.p.: 197 °C, lit m.p. [59] 194–195 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3192, 1691, 1598, 1565, 1412, 1354, 1284, 1150, 1081, 1058, 998, 952, 920, 845, 767, 724.

**4.1.21.  $N^2$ -4-butoxybenzylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**22**)**

Yield: 91%, m.p.: 148–149 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3272, 1650, 1260. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ) C 68.68, H 6.44. Found: C 68.84, H 6.61.

**4.1.22.  $N^2$ -2-trans-pentenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**23**)**

The reaction of *trans*-2-pentenal (0.84 g, 10.0 mmol) with INH (0.822 g, 6 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) for 2 hours was followed by concentration to half volume and the addition of ether (25 mL). After standing over night, the title compound was obtained by filtration from the reaction mixture and drying. Yield: 0.71 g (54%), m.p.: 161–164 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3237, 2725, 1654, 1638, 1546, 1293, 1001.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.75 (1H, br s), 8.78 (2H, br d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.07 (1H, d,  $J = 9$  cps), 7.88 (2H, br d,  $J = 7$  cps), 6.35 (2H, m), 2.25 (2H, m), 1.05 (3H, t,  $J = 6$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.68, 151.55, 150.62, 146.12, 140.85, 126.70, 121.81, 25.69, 13.03. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc 204.1137. Found: 204.1139. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 65.01, H 6.45. Found: C 65.18, H 6.42.

**4.1.23.  $N^2$ -2-trans-butenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**24**)**

Yield: 0.83 g (73%), m.p.: 198–201 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3178, 2725, 1664, 1637, 1578, 1547, 1299, 983.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.78 (1H, br s),

8.75 (2H, br d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.05 (1H, m), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 6.28 (2H, m), 1.88 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.71, 151.49, 150.61, 140.85, 139.83, 128.95, 121.80, 18.73. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc 190.0980. Found: 190.0983. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 63.48, H 5.86. Found: C 63.79, H 5.94.

#### 4.1.24. $N^2$ -2-trans-hexenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**25**)

Yield: 1.21 g (in two crops, 93%), m.p.: 152–154 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3223, 2724, 1654, 1638, 1545, 1299, 994.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.78 (1H, br s), 8.76 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.06 (1H, m), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 6.26 (2H, m), 2.22 (2H, m), 1.45 (2H, sextet,  $J = 6$  cps), 0.90 (3H, t,  $J = 6$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.71, 151.50, 150.62, 144.49, 140.85, 127.82, 121.81, 34.62, 21.66, 13.86. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc 218.1284. Found: 218.1284. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 66.34, H 6.96. Found: C 66.33, H 7.13.

#### 4.1.25. $N^2$ -2-trans-heptenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**26**)

Yield: 1.16 g (in two crops, 84%), m.p.: 152–154 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3245, 2726, 1656, 1633, 1545, 1296, 1006, 962.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.78 (1H, br s), 8.76 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.08 (1H, m), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 6.27 (2H, m), 2.20 (2H, m), 1.37 (4H, m), 0.85 (3H, t,  $J = 6$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.69, 151.50, 150.62, 144.73, 140.84, 127.66, 121.81, 32.25, 30.54, 21.99, 14.07. HRMS (FAB  $\text{MH}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc 232.1450. Found: 232.1443. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 67.51, H 7.41. Found: C 67.38, H 7.53.

#### 4.1.26. $N^2$ -3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadienylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**27**)

Compound **27** was prepared from INH (0.83 g, 6.06 mmol) and citral (2 mL). The citral employed was the commercial mixture of geranial and neral ( $D = 0.888$  g/mL). Yield: 0.97 g (59%), m.p.: 124–125 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3178, 3028, 1638, 1548, 1297. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 70.82, H 7.80. Found: C 70.78, H 7.99.

#### 4.1.27. $N^2$ -3,7-dimethyl-6-octenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**28**)

Schiff base **28** was formed from INH (0.85 g, 6.20 mmol) and citronellal (2 mL). Yield: 0.49 g (29%), m.p.: 78–80 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3226, 3060, 1651, 1619, 1544, 1410, 1296, 1215, 1135, 1067, 1032, 975, 906, 844, 757, 722. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 70.30, H 8.48. Found: C 70.35, H 8.78.

#### 4.1.28. $N^2$ -isopropylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**29**)

The Schiff base was produced from the reaction of INH (0.82 g, 6.00 mmol) with acetone (2 mL). It was necessary to concentrate the reaction mixture to half volume and then to precipitate the product with ether. Yield: 0.51 g (48%), m.p.: 161–162 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3181, 3060, 1654, 1632, 1534, 1298.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.74 (1H, br s), 8.72 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 2.01 (3H, s), 1.91 (3H, s). Anal. ( $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 61.00, H 6.25. Found: C 60.95, H 6.21. This material was further characterized by its exchange reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine to produce the 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone of acetone, in a procedure used for a number of compounds described in this work but only exemplified here. Thus compound **29** (0.135 g) was dissolved in the minimum volume (5 mL) of absolute ethanol. To this solution was then added standard 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine reagent (10 mL) [55], at room temperature. Formation of a yellow precipitate was instantaneous. The mixture was warmed to just below the boiling point and swirled continuously. The mixture was then cooled, and the resulting yellow-orange 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone of acetone (72%) was allowed to stand for a few hours, then filtered off by gravity, m.p. 127–128 °C (from ethanol); mixed m.p. with an authentic specimen (prepared directly from acetone and

2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine by the same method) 127–128 °C; lit m.p. 128 °C [56–58].

#### 4.1.29. $N^2$ -1-ethoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**30**)

Yield: 1.72 g (90% in two crops), m.p.: 104 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3250, 1702, 1664, 1592, 1553, 1510, 1399, 1245, 1143, 1074, 1022, 941, 843. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ) Calc C 66.45, H 5.89. Found: C 66.10, H 5.96.

#### 4.1.30. $N^2$ -3,5,5-trimethylcyclohexylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**31**)

Yield: 1.55 g (76%), m.p.: 149–151 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3174, 1649, 1627, 1552, 1533, 1338, 1292, 1031.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.91 and 10.08 (1H, br s), 8.69 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.71 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 2.94–0.78 (16H, m). Anal. ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 69.47, H 8.16. Found: C 69.42, H 8.17.

#### 4.1.31. $N^2$ - $\beta$ -phenylcinnamylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**32**)

Yield: 0.83 g (86%), m.p.: 223 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3186, 1648, 1603, 1564, 1546, 1522, 1298, 1284, 1155, 1132, 1062, 1016, 842, 770. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 77.04, H 5.23. Found: C 76.78, H 5.36.

#### 4.1.32. $N^2$ -4-methoxycinnamylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**33**)

Yield: 2.51 g (89%), m.p.: 218 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3221, 3044, 2840, 1649, 1622, 1603, 1576, 1537, 1509, 1456, 1442, 1415, 1362, 1318, 1305, 1291, 1259, 1242, 1213, 1173, 1143, 1110, 1086, 1069, 1048, 1026, 982, 949, 934, 909, 841, 824, 812, 754.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.54 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.20 (1H, d,  $J = 9$  cps), 7.80 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.57 (2H, d,  $J = 9$  cps), 6.98 (4H, m), 3.78 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.70, 160.35, 151.75, 150.62, 140.84, 140.17, 129.13, 128.80, 123.32, 121.85, 114.65, 55.55. HRMS (FAB  $\text{M}^+$ ): ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ) Calc 282.1243. Found: 282.1241. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ) Calc C 68.31, H 5.37. Found: C 68.43, H 5.38.

#### 4.1.33. $N^2$ -2-nitrocinnamylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**34**)

Yield: 2.77 (94%), m.p.: 204 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3243, 3044, 1655, 1624, 1606, 1595, 1569, 1552, 1536, 1510, 1472, 1444, 1408, 1363, 1344, 1290, 1248, 1216, 1180, 1169, 1134, 1070, 1056, 975, 942, 910, 859, 840, 828, 780, 755, 717.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.84 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.28 (1H, d,  $J = 9$  cps), 8.02 (2H, m), 7.85 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.75 (1H, t,  $J = 9$  cps), 7.60 (1H, t,  $J = 9$  cps), 7.38 (1H, d,  $J = 12$  cps), 7.15 (1H, dd,  $J = 12, 9$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.98, 150.68, 150.55, 148.17, 140.59, 134.09, 133.94, 133.36, 130.68, 130.23, 130.05, 128.73, 121.87. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ ) Calc C 60.80, H 4.08. Found: C 60.68, H 4.12.

#### 4.1.34. $N^2$ -2-propyl-2-heptenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**35**)

The aldehyde used was the commercial mixture of *cis* and *trans* isomers. Yield: 2.29 g (84%), m.p.: 121 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3210, 3075, 2956, 2927, 2870, 1651, 1629, 1566, 1551, 1455, 1401, 1367, 1304, 1218, 1160, 1061, 1048, 976, 872, 838, 756, 723.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.68 (1H, br s), 8.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.99 (1H, s), 7.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 5.89 (1H, t,  $J = 7$  cps), 2.39–1.99 (4H, m), 1.53–1.28 (6H, m), 0.90 (6H, t,  $J = 7$  cps).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.65, 154.00, 150.57, 141.91, 141.09, 137.53, 121.79, 31.25, 28.01, 27.33, 22.22, 21.89, 14.30, 14.13. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 70.30, H 8.48. Found: C 70.32, H 8.62.

#### 4.1.35. $N^2$ -2-isopropyl-5-methyl-2-hexenylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**36**)

The aldehyde used was the commercial mixture of *cis* and *trans* isomers. Yield: 2.71 g (99%), m.p.: 129 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3250, 3060, 2955, 2869, 1650, 1549, 1462, 1408, 1362, 1301, 1216, 1149, 1066, 993, 965, 892, 843, 754.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.75–11.50 (1H, br m), 8.78 (2H, m), 8.51 and 7.90 (1H, m), 7.78 (2H, m), 5.91–5.62 (1H, m), 3.05 (1H, septet,  $J = 6$  cps), 2.12 (2H, m), 1.65 (1H, m),



1.19–0.78 (12H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 168.43, 161.66, 150.57, 149.44, 147.74, 142.72, 142.60, 142.23, 141.07, 140.94, 139.42, 139.21, 123.25, 121.79, 37.28, 35.94, 28.75, 28.55, 27.85, 26.76, 22.63, 22.56, 22.41, 20.89. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 70.30, H 8.48. Found: C 70.23, H 8.48.

#### 4.1.36. *N*<sup>2</sup>-2-methoxycinnamylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**37**)

Yield: 2.59 g (92%), m.p.: 206 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3246, 3023, 2994, 2839, 1646, 1615, 1595, 1581, 1540, 1487, 1465, 1436, 1408, 1368, 1314, 1291, 1245, 1216, 1186, 1172, 1141, 1107, 1067, 1044, 1025, 1001, 956, 909, 838, 748.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 11.95 (1H, br s), 8.82 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.23 (1H, d,  $J = 9$  cps), 7.80 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.72–6.98 (6H, m), 3.82 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 161.83, 157.30, 152.00, 150.64, 140.82, 135.18, 130.84, 128.07, 126.29, 123.30, 121.86, 111.92, 55.90. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ) Calc C 68.31, H 5.37. Found: C 67.92, H 5.39.

#### 4.1.37. *N*<sup>2</sup>-2-*trans*-2-methylcinnamylidenyl isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**38**)

Yield: 2.38 g (90%), m.p.: 200 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3198, 3015, 2863, 1650, 1620, 1598, 1572, 1550, 1493, 1439, 1402, 1362, 1325, 1305, 1212, 1159, 1074, 1015, 989, 966, 931, 877, 862, 839, 748, 724.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.78 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 8.24 (1H, s), 7.92 (2H, d,  $J = 7$  cps), 7.58–7.28 (5H, m), 6.89 (1H, s), 2.14 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  (ppm) 160.02, 152.68, 148.79, 139.11, 136.17, 134.65, 132.75, 127.90, 126.96, 126.38, 120.03, 11.31. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) Calc C 72.43, H 5.70. Found: C 72.19, H 5.67.

#### 4.1.38. Glyoxal di-isonicotinoylhydrazone (**39**)

This compound was prepared from glyoxal and isonicotinic acid hydrazide (2 equiv). Yield: 90%, m.p.: >300 °C (dec). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3198, 3052, 1666, 1579, 1535, 1407, 1310, 1288, 1213, 1156, 1063, 963, 915, 842, 763, 730. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_6\text{O}_2$ ) Calc C 56.75, H 4.08. Found: C 56.85, H 4.10.

#### 4.1.39. Ethyl butyryl acetate isonicotinoylhydrazone (**40**)

Yield: 98%, m.p.: 89–90 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3163, 1733, 1675, 1655, 1627, 1599, 1558, 1548, 1426, 1406, 1336, 1298, 1261, 1196, 1162, 1095, 1044, 1030, 992, 974, 918, 886, 842, 762, 722. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ) Calc C 60.64, H 6.91. Found: C 60.26, H 7.02.

#### 4.1.40. Ethyl acetoacetate isonicotinoylhydrazone (**41**)

Yield: 85%, m.p.: 99 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3200, 1733, 1690, 1655, 1635, 1598, 1554, 1535, 1406, 1336, 1301, 1268, 1182, 1142, 1067, 1037, 840, 756, 721, 672. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ) Calc C 57.82, H 6.07. Found: C 57.88, H 6.26.

#### 4.1.41. Terephthalaldehyde di-isonicotinoylhydrazone (**42**)

This compound was prepared from terephthalaldehyde and isonicotinic acid hydrazide (2 equiv). Yield: 90%, m.p.: >300 °C (dec). FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3246, 3067, 1653, 1600, 1543, 1507, 1408, 1293, 1215, 1154, 1107, 1068, 969, 923, 839, 812, 755, 719. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_6\text{O}_2$ ) Calc C 64.51, H 4.33. Found: C 64.59, H 4.44.

#### 4.1.42. Isonicotinoylhydrazone of ethyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbutyrate (**43**)

Yield: 90%, m.p.: 104 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3251, 1702, 1685, 1592, 1554, 1511, 1417, 1403, 1301, 1246, 1213, 1143, 1112, 1074, 1022, 994, 942, 875, 843, 798, 764, 754, 721, 706. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ) C 66.45, H 5.89. Found: C 66.10, H 5.96.

#### 4.1.43. *N*<sup>2</sup>-tetradecanylidene isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**44**)

Yield: 73%, m.p.: 89–91 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3258, 1654, 1624, 1553, 1410, 1295, 1221, 1158, 1120, 1099, 1065, 1042, 962, 846, 753, 718. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) C 72.46, H 10.04. Found: C 72.20, H 10.33.

#### 4.1.44. *N*<sup>2</sup>-4-tridecanylidene isonicotinic acid hydrazide (**45**)

Yield: 73%, m.p.: 92–93 °C. FT-IR:  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3260, 3066, 1654, 1624, 1597, 1548, 1412, 1294, 1041, 846, 754, 727. Anal. ( $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ) C 71.88, H 9.84. Found: C 71.68, H 10.14.

#### 4.1.45. Experimental estimates of relative lipophilicities of Schiff bases

To a weighed amount of the Schiff base of interest (0.75 mmol) in a Florence flask containing a stirring bar was delivered by pipet distilled water (5 mL) and also by pipet chloroform (5 mL). The flask was sealed with a cork and paraffin, and the contents were magnetically stirred for 30 minutes. The cork, paraffin and stirring bar were carefully removed, and the contents of the flask were transferred to a separatory funnel and separated. The individual layers were allowed to evaporate to dryness over night on a pre-weighed watchglass. The ratio of amounts of dry compound remaining after evaporation of the layers was obtained, then compared to the same ratio for INH as standard, expressing the comparison as follows:

$$A_{\text{compd}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/A_{\text{compd}}(\text{H}_2\text{O}) : A_{\text{INH}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/A_{\text{INH}}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$$

where  $A_{\text{compd}}(\text{solvent})$  refers to the amount of compound in chloroform or water, as appropriate, and  $A_{\text{INH}}(\text{solvent})$  refers to the amount of INH in chloroform or water, as appropriate. Representative examples of these estimates are shown in Fig. 4, in which results are plotted against  $\text{C log } P$  [51] of the carbonyl precursor to the Schiff base. In this way, we observed that functionalization at  $\text{N}^2$  led to lipophilicities as much as several orders of magnitude greater than that of INH itself.

#### 4.2. Biological methods

*M. tuberculosis* ATCC 35801 (strain Erdman) was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA). INH was purchased from Sigma Chemical Company (St. Louis, MO, USA). For testing, a given Schiff base was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide and subsequently diluted in distilled water. INH was dissolved in distilled water. Stock solutions were filter-sterilized by passage through a 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ -pore-size membrane filter and stored at  $-20$  °C until use. The drugs were prepared each morning, before experimentation. With respect to testing against this isolate, the MICs of all antimicrobial agents were determined in modified 7H10 broth (7H10 agar formulation with agar and malachite green omitted; pH 6.6) supplemented with 10% Middlebrook oleic

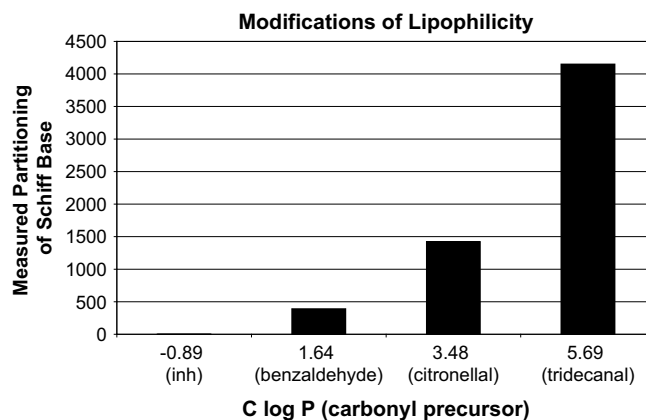


Fig. 4. Bar graph depicting the relative lipophilicities of INH and its Schiff bases of benzaldehyde, citronellal and tridecanal.



acid–albumin–dextrose–catalase (OADC) enrichment (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI, USA) and 0.05% Tween 80 [60]. The MICs of the antimicrobial agents were determined by a broth dilution method [61]. The organism was grown in the modified 7H10 broth with 10% OADC enrichment and 0.05% Tween 80 on a rotary shaker at 37 °C for 5 days. The culture suspension was diluted in modified 7H10 broth to yield 100 Klett units/mL (Photoelectric Colorimeter, Manostat Corporation, New York, NY, USA), or approximately  $5 \times 10^7$  CFU/mL. The size of the inoculum was determined by titration and counting from triplicate 7H10 agar plates (BBL Microbiology Systems, Cockeysville, MD, USA) supplemented with 10% OADC enrichment. The plates were incubated at 37 °C in ambient air for 4 weeks before counting of the colonies. Results in vitro (strain H<sub>37</sub>R<sub>v</sub>) were also determined according to the fully documented protocols of the Tuberculosis Antimicrobial Acquisition and Coordinating Facility (TAACF), of the US National Institutes of Health [54]. In the latter case, primary screening had indicated that all compounds had MIC values less than 6.25 µg/mL.

For the short-course therapy studies, four-week-old female C<sub>57</sub>BL/6 mice (Charles River, Wilmington, MA, USA) were infected intranasally with approximately one million viable *M. tuberculosis* organisms. Treatment began one day post-infection and was administered for two days. The agents were administered by gavage: the INH control and a given Schiff base were dosed at 25 mg/kg of body weight. Mice were sacrificed by carbon dioxide inhalation three days post-infection. Their right lungs were removed aseptically and were ground in a tissue homogenizer (IdeaWorks! Laboratory Devices, Syracuse, NY, USA). The number of viable organisms was determined by titration on 7H10 agar plates. The plates were incubated at 37 °C in ambient air for 4 weeks before counting of the colonies. Control groups of infected but untreated mice were sacrificed at the initiation of therapy (early controls) or at the end of the treatment period (late controls). The complete procedure for the short-course therapy model has been reported [55]. For conventional four-week infection studies, the methods used have been noted [32]. In brief, four-week-old female outbred CD-1 mice (Charles River, Wilmington, MA, USA) were infected intravenously through a caudal vein. Each mouse received approximately  $10^7$  viable organisms suspended in 0.2 mL of modified 7H10 broth. There were eight mice per group. Treatment began 1 week after infection. Therapy was given 5 days per week for 4 weeks. Otherwise, procedures were identical to those for the short-course model. The use of animals complied with institutional policies and national guidelines.

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