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Title: Synthesis, in vitro anti-plasmodial potency, in-silico-cum-SPR binding with inhibition of PfPyridoxal

synthase and rapid parasiticidal action by 3,5-bis{(E) arylidene}-N-methyl-4-piperidones

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Abstract: Tw

Twenty-five (Ia-Iu, IIa-IIb, IIIa, and IVa) diarylidene-N-methyl-4-piperidones (DANMPs) were synthesized and characterized via UV, FT-IR, NMR, and MS while Id was characterized also by single crystal XRD. Twenty-one compounds shortlisted after initial in vitro anti-plasmodial activity successive screenings at 100 µM and 10 µM were evaluated for their IC50s against chloroquinesensitive Pf3D7, chloroquine-resistant PfINDO, and artemisinin-resistant PfMRA-1240 strains. The four most promising compounds were le (IC50s μ M 0.35MRA, 1.39INDO, 1.923D7), If (IC50s μ M 1.07MRA, 1.36INDO, 3.393D7), Ir (IC50s μ M 0.74MRA, 2.45INDO, 1.443D7), and In (IC50s μ M 1.27MRA, 1.8INDO, 1.73D7). Resistance indices as low as 0.2 to 0.5 for these potent compounds and <1 for most other compounds suggest their greater potency against drug resistant strains than the drug sensitive strain. The parasiticidal action of Ir was seen within 4 h against the trophozoite stage of the parasite, which is known to express the highest levels of PLP synthase. In silico docking scores of -7.0 to -8.0 kcal mol-1 between potent DANMPs and PfPLP synthase, the direct binding of Ir studied by SPR to recombinantly expressed and purified PfPdx-1 and inhibition of Pdx1 enzymatic activity by Ir suggest this vital enzyme to be a probable target for the DANMPs. The non-hemolytic nature of Ir and conformity of most DANMPs to Lipinski's parameters indicate their potential as new anti-plasmodial leads with PfPLP synthase as one of their targets.

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