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# Synthetic Studies of Neoclerodane Diterpenes from *Salvia divinorum*: Preparation and Opioid Receptor Activity of Salvinicin Analogues

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Further modification of salvinorin A (1a), the major active component of *Salvia divinorum*, has resulted in the synthesis of novel neoclerodane diterpenes with opioid receptor affinity and activity. We report in this study that oxadiazole 11a and salvidivin A (12a), a photooxygenation product of 1a, have been identified as the first neoclerodane diterpenes with  $\kappa$  antagonist activity. This indicates that additional structural modifications of 1a may lead to analogues with higher potency and utility as drug abuse medications.

#### Introduction

Salvia divinorum (Epling & Játiva-M, Lamiaceae) has been used for centuries in ceremonial rituals by the Mazatec Indians of Oaxaca, Mexico.<sup>1</sup> Taken in large doses (20–60 pairs of fresh leaves) an infusion of S. divinorum is reported to induce oral, aural, or visionary hallucinatory experiences.<sup>2</sup> In subhallucinogenic doses (four or five fresh leaves) an infusion is used medicinally to cure anemia, headache, rheumatism, and the disease panzón de barrego (swollen abdomen).<sup>2</sup> Chewing fresh leaves or smoking dried leaves will also produce hallucinogeniclike experiences.  $\overline{1,3-5}$  S. divinorum leaves, tinctures, and extracts can be readily purchased on the Internet, and young adults have begun to experiment with this readily available, hallucinogenic substance. 6-8 Currently, the plant is unregulated in the United States but is regulated in a number of European countries and in Australia. Owing to its growing popularity as a recreational drug, the DEA has recently placed S. divinorum on the list of "drugs of concern".

The interesting pharmacological activity of *S. divinorum* has led to several phytochemical investigations of the plant. 9-15 Among the constituents identified is the neoclerodane diterpene salvinorin A (1a, Figure 1).9-11 Salvinorin A (1a) possesses potent hallucinogenic activity; a smoked dose of 200-500 µg produces profound hallucinations lasting up to an hour, thus rivaling the potency of the synthetic hallucinogen LSD.<sup>4</sup> 1a was found to be a potent and selective  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor agonist.<sup>16</sup> A number of recent reports have further documented the in vivo pharmacological effects of 1a.17 It has been shown that 1a has depressive-like effects in a forced swim test, disrupts climbing behavior on an inverted screen task, and has rewarding effects that are different from its motor activity. 18-20 Other reports have focused on the antinociceptive activity of **1a**.<sup>21–24</sup> These studies revealed that 1a produces a dose-dependent antinociceptive effect that was mediated by the  $\kappa$  opioid receptor ( $\kappa$ OR) and is short in duration. Together, these studies confer a high degree of interest in 1a and we and others, have begun to further study its pharmacological actions.

As part of our program to study the phytochemical constituents of S. divinorum, we recently identified two congeners of  $\mathbf{1a}$ , salvinicins A ( $\mathbf{2a}$ ) and B ( $\mathbf{3a}$ ). These compounds were isolated in low yield from an acetone extract of S. divinorum and possess a rare dimethoxydihydroxytetrahydrofuran ring. Salvinicin A ( $\mathbf{2a}$ ) was found to be a partial agonist at the  $\kappa$  opioid receptor, while salvinicin B ( $\mathbf{3a}$ ) possessed  $\mu$  opioid antagonist activity. It was intriguing to observe from these results that the stereochemistry of the dimethoxy groups of the tetrahydrofuran ring was important for selectivity and activity among the opioid receptors. The molecular basis for these differences was not readily clear. Thus, we set out to explore the structure—activity relationships of  $\mathbf{2a}$  and  $\mathbf{3a}$  at opioid receptors. Herein, we report the semisynthesis and biological activity of furan-modified analogues of  $\mathbf{1a}$ .

#### Chemistry

Diterpene 1a was extracted from commercially available dried S. divinorum leaves as described previously. 25 The treatment of 1a with N-bromosuccinimide in acetonitrile afforded bromofuran 4.26 Alternatively, the reaction of 1a with Br<sub>2</sub> in MeOH at low temperature afforded the dimethoxy alkene derivative (5) as a mixture of cis and trans isomers (Scheme 1).<sup>26</sup> Reduction of 5 with rhodium on carbon afforded trans dimethoxytetrahydrofuran isomers 6.27 Hydrogenation of 1a using rhodium on carbon afforded a 1:1 mixture of 7 and acid 8.28 Further purification of (13R)-7 using HPLC gave a mixture of a major peak and several minor components that were not obtained in sufficient quantities for identification. Analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, and HMQC data of (13R)-7 led to the assignment of the gross structure. The relative stereochemistry at C13 was derived from the NOESY data. The NOESY spectrum of the major peak of (13R)-7 showed cross-peaks between H12, H13, and CH<sub>3</sub>-20. These correlations suggested that these protons were close in space. The absolute stereochemistry at C13 was determined to be R from the single-crystal X-ray data (Figure 2).

The treatment of **1a** with NaIO<sub>4</sub> and a catalytic amount of RuCl<sub>3</sub> afforded the corresponding C13 acid.<sup>27</sup> The coupling of the C13 acid with selenophenol followed by decarbonylation with Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH and AIBN afforded **9** (Scheme 2).<sup>27</sup> Additional

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Figure 1. Structures of salvinorin A (1a), salvinorin B (1b), salvinicin A (2a), and salvinicin B (3a).

 $^a$  Reagents and conditions: (a) NBS, CH<sub>3</sub>CN; (b) Br<sub>2</sub>, MeOH, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -30 °C; (c) H<sub>2</sub>, Rh/C, MeOH; (d) H<sub>2</sub>, Rh/C, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH; (e) HPLC (40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/60% H<sub>2</sub>O).

coupling of the C13 acid with either aminoethanol or acetamide oxime using EDCI followed by cyclization afforded 10 and a mixture of 11a and 11b, respectively. Photooxidation of 1a in the presence of sunlight afforded  $\gamma$ -hydroxybutenolides 12a and 12b.<sup>29</sup> While our studies were in progress, salvidivin A (12a) and salvidivin B (12b) were reported from a methanol extract of commercially available dried *S. divinorum* leaves.<sup>30</sup> This synthesis is therefore the first reported preparation of salvidivins A and B from 1a.

Given the success of the purification of **7** using HPLC, we sought to separate the major stereoisomers of **5** (Scheme 3). The mixture of cis and trans isomers of **5** was purified by HPLC to give compounds **13a** and **13b**. The gross structures of **13a** and **13b** were assigned based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, COSY, and HMQC data (Table 1). For **13b**, the NOESY spectrum showed cross-peaks between H15 and H16, H15 and H12, and H16 and H12. This indicated that H15 and H16 were on the same face of the molecule as H12. H15 and H16 were therefore assigned as  $\alpha$  relative to H12. For **13a**, the relative stereochemistry of C14 to C16 was assigned by careful analysis

**Figure 2.** X-ray crystallographic structure of (13*R*)-7.

of the NOESY data and by comparison to the NOESY spectrum of **13b**. In the NOESY spectrum of **13a**, no cross-peaks were seen between H15 and H16. Cross-peaks were evident between H12 and H15. While the absence of NOE's between H15 and H16 is not conclusive evidence for stereochemical assignments, the presence of NOE's between H15 and H16 of **13b**, as well as the presence of H12/H15 NOE's in **13a**, led us to propose the *trans*-dimethoxy structure of **13a**.

Finally, the 15,16-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran isomers **6** were separated by HPLC to yield as the major products the *trans*-15,16-dimethoxytetrahydrofurans **14a** and **14b** (Scheme 4). The structures of **14a** and **14b** were assigned on the basis of <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, COSY, and HMQC data (Table 2). For **14a**, NOESY correlations were observed between H12, H13, and H15. No cross-peaks were seen between H15 and H16. Cross-peaks were evident between the CH<sub>3</sub>O-15 and H16 and between CH<sub>3</sub>O-16 and H15. Thus, by analogy to the **13** series of analogues, the relative stereochemistry as shown for **14a** is proposed. For **14b**, there were no NOE correlations between H15 and H16. Cross-peaks were observed between H12, H16, H13, and CH<sub>3</sub>-20, and H10, CH<sub>3</sub>O-15, and H15. These data indicated that the relative stereochemistry of **14b** is as shown.

# **Biological Results**

Compounds **1b** and **2–14** were then evaluated for affinity at human opioid receptors using methodology previously described (Table 3).<sup>31</sup> In an earlier study, **1a** was found to have high affinity ( $K_i = 1.9 \text{ nM}$ ) and selectivity for  $\kappa$  receptors over  $\delta$  receptors.<sup>21</sup> Salvinorin B (**1b**) was found to have 147-fold lower affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs compared to **1a** ( $K_i = 280 \text{ nM}$  vs  $K_i = 1.9 \text{ nM}$ ) and negligible affinity at  $\mu$  and  $\delta$  receptors ( $K_i > 10 000 \text{ nM}$ ). To facilitate direct comparison with **1a**, salvinicins A (**2a**) and B (**3a**) were reevaluated for opioid receptor affinity.

#### Scheme 2a

AcO, 
$$H$$
  $H$   $O$   $AcO$ ,  $H$   $AcO$ ,  $H$ 

 $^a$  Reagents and conditions: (a) RuCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O, NaIO<sub>4</sub>, CCl<sub>4</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O; (b) PhOPOCl<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>SeH, NEt<sub>3</sub>, THF; (c) Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH, AIBN, toluene; (d) EDCI, HOBt, ethanolamine, NEt<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (e) Deoxo-Fluor, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -30 °C; (g) EDCI, CH<sub>3</sub>C(NH<sub>2</sub>)=NOH, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (g) toluene, heat; (h) photoxidation in the presence of sunlight.

#### Scheme 3<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) HPLC [40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/60% H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1% TFA)].

Diterpenes **2a** and **3a** were found to have greatly reduced affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to **1a** ( $K_i = 390$  nM and  $K_i = 7020$  nM vs  $K_i = 1.9$  nM) and negligible affinity for  $\mu$  or  $\delta$  receptors ( $K_i > 10000$  nM). Our efforts then shifted to further probe the effects of the furan ring of **1a**–**3a**.

Selective acetylation of the C14 hydroxyl group of 2a and 3a afforded 2b and 3b, respectively. C14 acetylation was not tolerated, as significant affinity at  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\kappa$  receptors was lost ( $K_i > 10\,000\,\text{nM}$ ). However, bromination of the furan ring of 1a was well-tolerated, as compound 4 retained high affinity for  $\kappa ORs$  ( $K_i = 3.0$  nM vs  $K_i = 1.9$  nM) and selectivity over  $\mu$ and  $\delta$  receptors ( $\mu/\kappa = 483$  and  $\delta/\kappa = 2540$ , respectively). Removal of the C13 and C14 hydroxyl groups and introduction of an alkene between C13 and C14 of 2a and 3a affords dimethoxydihydrofuran 5. Initially, 5 was evaluated as a mixture of stereoisomers, based on the ease of synthesis.<sup>26</sup> Alkene 5 was found to have negligible affinity for  $\mu$  and  $\delta$  receptors ( $K_i$  $\geq$  10 000 nM) but to have similar affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 2a ( $K_i = 440 \text{ nM vs } K_i = 390 \text{ nM}$ ). This indicated that the C13 and C14 hydroxyl groups in 2a and 3a are not required for high affinity binding. To further probe this finding, the C13 alkene in 5 was reduced to afford 6.27 Interestingly, this modification resulted in an 11-fold increase in affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs ( $K_i$  = 440 nM vs  $K_i$  = 40 nM). To our surprise, this modification also increased affinity approximately 2-fold at  $\mu$ ORs ( $K_i$  = 4810 nM vs  $K_i$  > 10 000 nM).

Removal of the methoxy groups in 6 affords tetrahydrofuran 7.28 This change resulted in an approximately 3-fold increase in affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 6 ( $K_i = 14$  nM vs  $K_i =$ 40 nM). A previous report showed that 7 had 39-fold less affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 1a.<sup>28</sup> In our hands, 7 had 7-fold lower affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to **1a** ( $K_i = 14$  nM vs  $K_i = 14$  n 1.9 nM). One reason for this discrepancy could be the use of [125] IOXY rather than [3H]U69,593 used by the other research group as the radioligand. In synthesizing 7, a major side product is acid 8. This compound also gives some insight as to whether the intact lactone ring is needed for high affinity binding at  $\kappa$ ORs. Diterpene 8 had 65-fold less affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 7 ( $K_i = 910 \text{ nM vs } K_i = 14 \text{ nM}$ ), suggesting that the lactone ring is necessary for high affinity binding at  $\kappa$ ORs. Diterpene (13R)-7 retained high affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 1a ( $K_i$  = 3.7 nM vs  $K_i = 1.9$  nM). This result indicates that an aromatic ring is not necessary for high affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs. However, complete removal of the furan ring  $(9)^{27}$  resulted in over a 1700-

Table 1. NMR Spectroscopic Data (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for 13a and 13b

	13a		13b	
position	$\delta_{\mathrm{C}}$ , mult	$\delta_{\rm H}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)	$\delta_{\rm C}$ , mult	$\delta_{\mathrm{H}}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)
1	202.12, C		202.17, C	
2	75.01, CH	5.16, m	74.98, CH	5.18, m
2 3	30.79, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.30, m	30.80, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.32, m
4	53.60, CH	2.72, dd (4.7, 12.1)	53.60, CH	2.73,dd (4.6, 12.1)
5	42.08, C		42.07, C	
6	38.12, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.55, m	38.13, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.56, m
		1.80, dd (3.1, 11.8)		1.80, dd (3.1, 11.8)
7	18.15, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.62, m	18.13, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.62, m
		2.12, m		2.12, m
8	51.28, CH	2.02, dd (3.2, 11.8)	51.32, CH	2.02, dd (3.2, 11.8)
9	35.28, C		35.31, C	
10	64.12, CH	2.15, s	64.07, CH	2.18, s
11	40.46, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.55, m	40.78, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.55, m
		2.47, dd (5.5, 13.4)		2.50, dd (5.4, 13.4)
12	71.64, CH	5.14, m	72.01, CH	5.16, m
13	143.87, C		143.81, C	
14	127.26, CH	5.91, d (1.2)	126.55, CH	5.92, d (1.0)
15	107.26, CH	5.88, d (3.8)	106.56, CH	5.60, d (6.1)
16	107.97, CH	5.85, d (1.2)	106.26, CH	5.92, d, (1.0)
17	170.57, C		170.69, C	
18	171.54, C		171.55, C	
19	16.37, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.10, s	16.38, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.12, s
20	15.32, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.40, s	15.28, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.40, s
$OCOCH_3(2)$	169.92, C		169.88, C	
$OCOCH_3(4)$	20.60, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.18, s	20.60, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.20, s
$COOCH_3(4)$	52.00, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.72, s	52.00, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.75, s
$OCH_3$ (15)	55.14, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.45, s	55.31, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.45, s
$OCH_3(16)$	54.37, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.38, s	54.39, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.40, s

#### Scheme 4<sup>a</sup>

fold loss in affinity at  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 1a ( $K_i = 3400 \text{ nM}$  vs  $K_i = 1.9 \text{ nM}$ ). Replacement of the 3-substituted furan ring with a 2-oxazoline ring (10) resulted in over a 150-fold loss in affinity  $(K_i = 300 \text{ nM vs } K_i = 1.9 \text{ nM})$ . Substitution of the furan ring with a 4-methyl-1,3,5-oxadiazoline ring (11a) resulted in a 29fold loss in affinity compared to 1a ( $K_i$  = 56 nM vs  $K_i = 1.9$  nM). Inversion of the C8 stereochemistry of 11a (11b) reduced affinity 18-fold for κORs compared to **11a** ( $K_i = 990 \text{ nM vs } K_i = 56 \text{ nM}$ ).

Chromatographic separation of 5 affords 13a and 13b. Transisomer 13a had similar affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to 5 ( $K_i$  = 420 nM vs  $K_i = 440$  nM). However, **13a** had approximately 3-fold higher affinity for  $\mu$ ORs than 5 ( $K_i = 3190$  nM vs  $K_i$ > 10 000 nM). Inversion of the C16 stereochemistry of 13a (13b) increased affinity 2-fold for  $\kappa ORs$  ( $K_i = 180$  nM vs  $K_i =$ 440 nM) but had little effect on affinity for  $\mu ORs$  ( $K_i =$ 3740 nM vs  $K_i = 3190$  nM). The trans-2,5-dimethoxy analogues of (13R)-7, 14a and 14b, showed high affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs (14a,  $K_i = 25 \text{ nM} \text{ and } 14b, K_i = 125 \text{ nM}$ ). However, 14a had 7-fold lower affinity for  $\kappa$ ORs compared to (13R)-7 ( $K_i = 25$  nM vs  $K_{\rm i} = 3.7 \text{ nM}$ ).

To further explore these developments, 4, (13R)-7, 11a, 12a, 13a, 13b, 14a, and 14b were evaluated for activity at opioid receptors using the [ $^{35}$ S]GTP- $\gamma$ -S binding assay (Table 4). $^{21,26}$ 

Bromo analogue 4 was found to be a full agonist at  $\kappa$ ORs  $(E_{\text{max}} = 104\% \text{ relative to the full agonist U69,593})$  equipotent with 1a (EC<sub>50</sub> = 50 nM vs EC<sub>50</sub> = 45 nM). This suggests that **4**, if labeled with  $^{76}$ Br, might have potential utility as a  $\kappa$ OR selective PET imaging agent. Tetrahydrofuran (13R)-7 was 17fold less potent at  $\kappa$ ORs than **1a** (EC<sub>50</sub> = 750 nM vs EC<sub>50</sub> = 45 nM) and is a partial agonist ( $E_{\text{max}} = 74\%$  relative to U69,-593). This is in contrast to previous findings that showed that 7 was 3-fold less active than 1a (EC<sub>50</sub> = 126 nM vs EC<sub>50</sub> = 46 nM).<sup>28</sup> One potential reason for this discrepancy is that the formerly evaluated tetrahydrofuran analogue was tested as a mixture of C13 epimers. Our results from evaluation of the 13R epimer imply that the 13S epimer may have higher activity. This, however, needs validation through synthesis and testing.

Given the activity seen with (13R)-7, we then evaluated 11a, 11b, and 12a for activity at opioid receptors. Oxadiazole 11a was found to have antagonist activity at  $\mu$ ORs ( $K_e = 430 \text{ nM}$ ) and  $\kappa ORs$  ( $K_e = 360$  nM). This is the first report of a neoclerodane diterpene with  $\kappa$  antagonist activity and identifies it as a novel scaffold for  $\kappa OR$  antagonists. The C8 epimer of **11a** (**11b**) had 4-fold lower activity at  $\mu$ ORs ( $K_e = 1530$  vs  $K_e$ = 430 nM) and 16-fold lower activity at  $\kappa$ ORs ( $K_e = 5680$  and  $K_e = 360 \text{ nM}$ ) compared to 11a. Salvidivin A (12a), a photooxidation product of 1a, had similar antagonist activity at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) HPLC (35% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/65% H<sub>2</sub>O).

Table 2. NMR Spectroscopic Data (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for 14a and 14b

position	14a		14b	
	$\delta_{ m C}$	$\delta_{\rm H}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)	$\delta_{ m C}$	$\delta_{\mathrm{H}}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)
1	202.02, C		202.21, C	
2	75.02, CH	5.15, m	74.96, CH	5.15, m
2 3	30.81, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.30, m	30.86, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.28, m
4	53.59, CH	2.74, dd (5.1, 11.5)	53.60, CH	2.74, m
5	42.11, C		42.12, C	
6	38.17, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.55, m	38.19, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.78, d (13.2)
		1.78, dd (3.0, 11.8)		1.55, m
7	18.17, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.58, m	18.19, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.62, m
		2.11, m		2.11, m
8	51.36, CH	1.93, m	51.33, CH	1.93, dd (3.4, 11.8)
9	35.11, C		35.15, C	
10	64.09, CH	2.12, s	64.24, CH	2.10, s
11	41.52, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.25, t (12.7)	41.27, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.12, t (12.4)
		2.32, m		2.39, dd (5.3, 13.2)
12	76.59, CH	4.56, m	76.95, CH	4.55, m
13	50.53, CH	2.18, m	50.98, CH	2.18, m
14	32.59, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.30, m	32.17, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.23, m
		1.94, m		1.57, m
15	105.32, CH	4.90, d (3.6)	105.02, CH	5.05, dd, (1.9, 5.3)
16	104.99, CH	5.10, m	106.34, CH	5.23, d (0.8)
17	171.07, C		171.01, C	
18	171.57, C		171.58, C	
19	16.32, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.09, s	16.31, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.10, s
20	15.11, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.35, s	15.17, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.37, s
$OCOCH_3(2)$	169.88, C		169.92, C	
$OCOCH_3(4)$	20.61, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.17, s	20.68, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.18, s
$COOCH_3(4)$	51.98, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.74, s	51.97, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.72, s
$OCH_3$ (15)	56.07, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.40, s	55.49, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.38, s
$OCH_3(16)$	55.67, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.38, s	55.08, CH <sub>3</sub>	3.32, s

Table 3. Binding Affinities of Salvinorin A Analogues at Opioid Receptors Using [125I]IOXY as Radioligand<sup>33–35</sup>

compd		$K_{ m i} \pm { m SD, nM}$			selectivity	
	$\mu$	δ	К	$\mu/\kappa$	$\delta/\kappa$	
1a <sup>a</sup>	>1000b	$5790 \pm 980$	$1.9 \pm 0.2$	>526	3050	
1b	>10 000	> 10 000	$280 \pm 20$	> 35	>35	
2a	> 10 000	> 10 000	$390 \pm 30$	> 26	>26	
2b	> 10 000	> 10 000	>10 000	$ND^c$	ND	
3a	> 10 000	> 10 000	$7020 \pm 750$	1.4	1.4	
3b	> 10 000	> 10 000	>10,000	ND	ND	
4	$1450 \pm 60$	$7620 \pm 180$	$3.0 \pm 0.2$	483	2540	
5	>10 000	> 10 000	$440 \pm 30$	> 20	>20	
6	$4810 \pm 420$	> 10 000	$40 \pm 1$	120	>250	
7	$7240 \pm 480$	> 10 000	$14 \pm 1$	517	714	
(13R)-7	$9790 \pm 1090$	> 10 000	$3.7 \pm 0.2$	2646	>2700	
8	> 10 000	> 10 000	$910 \pm 40$	>10	>10	
9	> 10 000	> 10 000	$3400 \pm 150$	>3	>3	
10	>10 000	> 10 000	$300 \pm 20$	>30	>30	
11a	>10 000	> 10 000	$56 \pm 3$	> 170	>170	
11b	>10 000	> 10 000	$990 \pm 60$	>10	>10	
13a	$3190 \pm 230$	> 10 000	$420 \pm 20$	8	>23	
13b	$3740 \pm 240$	> 10 000	$180 \pm 20$	21	>55	
14a	> 10 000	> 10 000	$25 \pm 1$	>400	>400	
14b	> 10 000	> 10 000	$125 \pm 4$	>80	>80	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Data from ref 21. <sup>b</sup> Partial inhibitor. <sup>c</sup> Not determined

 $\mu$ ORs ( $K_e = 760$  vs  $K_e = 430$  nM) and  $\kappa$ ORs ( $K_e = 440$  nM and  $K_e = 360$  nM) compared to **11a**.

Dihydrofurans 13a and 13b were then evaluated for functional inhibition of opioid receptors. Compounds 13a and 13b were found to be weak nonselective antagonists at  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\kappa$  receptors. However, 13b had 3-fold higher activity at  $\delta$  receptors ( $K_e = 1280$  nM vs  $K_e = 3280$  nM) and 2-fold higher activity at  $\kappa$  receptors than the trans isomer 13a ( $K_e = 2370$  nM vs  $K_e = 9700$  nM). This indicates that the S configuration of the C16 methoxy group is favored for antagonist activity.

Finally, *trans*-dimethoxytetrahydrofurans **14a** and **14b** were evaluated in the functional assays. Reduction of the alkene in **13a** (**14a**) increases antagonist potency at  $\mu$ ORs 2-fold ( $K_e = 1370 \text{ nM}$  vs  $K_e = 2320 \text{ nM}$ ) and decreases potency ap-

proximately 3-fold at  $\delta$ ORs ( $K_e > 10\,000$  nM vs  $K_e = 3280$  nM). Interestingly, this modification also changed the activity of **14a** at  $\kappa$ ORs from an antagonist into a full agonist (EC<sub>50</sub> = 2350 nM,  $E_{max} = 95\%$  relative to U69,593). Furthermore, **14a** is 3-fold less potent than **7** at  $\kappa$ ORs (EC<sub>50</sub> = 2350 nM vs EC<sub>50</sub> = 750 nM) but it appeared to be more efficacious ( $E_{max} = 95\%$  vs  $E_{max} = 81\%$  relative to U69,593). These data indicate that the addition of the methoxy groups decreases antagonist activity at  $\mu$  and  $\delta$ ORs but imparts an agonist conformation at  $\kappa$  receptors. Last, **14b** was found to have no activity (agonist or antagonist) at opioid receptors. Collectively, these findings indicate that additional structural modifications to the furan ring of **1a** may lead to antagonists with higher potency. Furthermore, the highly lipophilic nature

**Table 4.** Results from [35S]GTP- $\gamma$ -S Functional Assay Carried out in Stably Transfected CHO Cells Containing DNA for Human  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\kappa$ Receptors26 a

compd	$K_{ m e}\pm{ m SD},{ m nM}$			κ	
	$\mu$	δ	К	$\overline{EC_{50} \pm SE, nM}$	$E_{\rm max}{}^b \pm { m SE}$
1a	$ND^c$	ND	ND	45 ± 10	$108 \pm 4$
4	ND	ND	ND	$50 \pm 10$	$104 \pm 4$
(13R)-7	inactive	inactive	ND	$750 \pm 60$	$81 \pm 7$
11a	$430 \pm 80$	inactive	$360 \pm 140$	ND	ND
11b	$1530 \pm 740$	$4230 \pm 2200$	$5680 \pm 2280$	ND	ND
12a	$760 \pm 320$	$2830 \pm 320$	$440 \pm 140$	ND	ND
13a	$2320 \pm 1650$	$3280 \pm 1640$	$9700 \pm 1000$	ND	ND
13b	$2930 \pm 1000$	$1280 \pm 270$	$2370 \pm 1240$	ND	ND
14a	$1370 \pm 400$	> 10,000	ND	$2350 \pm 870$	$95 \pm 5$
14b	inactive	inactive	inactive	ND	ND
(-)-U69,593	ND	ND	ND	$207 \pm 34$	$100 \pm 15$

<sup>a</sup> The  $K_e$  data represent the mean  $\pm$  SD from at least two independent determinations and the EC<sub>50</sub> and  $E_{max}$  data represent the mean  $\pm$  SE from at least three independent experiments.  $E_{\text{max}}$  values were compared using one-way ANOVA (Prism v4, GraphPad Inc., San Diego, CA). None of the  $E_{\text{max}}$  values were significantly different from that of U69,593 at p < 0.05 (F1,14 = 1.651; Dunnett's test).  $^bE_{max}$  is the percent stimulation of [ $^{35}$ S]GTP- $\gamma$ -S binding relative to the maximum stimulation of binding observed with U69,593 run in parallel with the test compounds. 6 Not determined.

of 2a and its analogues raises the possibility that interactions with the cell membrane may influence the binding of these compounds to the opioid receptors.<sup>32</sup>

#### Conclusion

In summary, we have evaluated several furan ring modified analogues of 1a for opioid receptor affinity and activity. This paper reports the first synthetic preparation of salvidivins A (12a) and B (12b). Bromo analogue 4 has been identified as a potent κOR agonist, and oxadiazole 11a and salvidivin A (12a) have been identified as the first neoclerodane diterpenes with  $\kappa$ antagonist activity. Among the salvinicin analogues, it appears that the S configuration of the C16 methoxy group is favored for antagonist activity. Synthetic routes to additional analogues of 1a are currently being explored and will be reported in due course.

## **Experimental Section**

Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Bruker Avance-300 spectrometer or on a Bruker AMX-600 spectrometer using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent,  $\delta$  values in ppm (TMS as internal standard), and J (Hz) assignments of  ${}^{1}H$  resonance coupling. HMBC and HMQC data were collected on the AMX-600 spectrometer. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on 0.25 mm Analtech GHLF silica gel plates. Spots on TLC were visualized with vanillin/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in EtOH. Silica gel (32-63 μm particle size) from Bodman Industries (Atlanta, GA) was used for column chromatography. HPLC was carried out on an Agilent 1100 Series capillary HPLC system with diode array detector. Peaks were detected at 209, 214, and 254 nm. MPLC was performed on a RT Scientific PurChrom 150-GCS system equipped with a silica gel column (1.1 cm × 30 cm). The purity of the compounds was determined on an analytical scale by HPLC on the same instrument described above. An Agilent Eclipse XDB-C18 column (4.6 mm  $\times$  150 mm, 5  $\mu$ m) was utilized for these analyses.

Purification of (13R)-7. The crude product from the Rh/C hydrogenation of 1a (7)<sup>28</sup> (108 mg) was further purified by HPLC (40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/60% H<sub>2</sub>O) on a Phenomenex Luna C18 column (10 mm  $\times$  250 mm, 5  $\mu$ m) at a flow rate of 3.5 mL/min to afford (13R)-7 (77 mg). Crystallization from 40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/60% H<sub>2</sub>O afforded a white solid: mp 179–182 °C; HPLC  $t_R = 16.7$  min; purity = 99.6%.

Synthesis of Salvidivin A (12a) and Salvidivin B (12b). A solution of 1a (365.5 mg, 0.845 mmol) in a mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ MeOH (1:1) (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 7 days in the presence of sunlight. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure afforded a crude material which was separated by repeated silica gel MPLC (eluent: 3% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Unreacted 1a (207.0 mg) was recovered as a white solid, mp 236-239 °C (lit. $^{9,10}$  mp 240-242 °C). Fractions containing UV-active spots by TLC analysis were collected and evaporated to dryness. Crystallization from n-hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4:1) gave 11.5 mg (6.7%) of **12a**, mp 212-215 °C (lit.<sup>30</sup> mp 217–222 °C), and 31.1 mg (18.2%) of **12b**, mp 230-234 °C (lit. $^{30}$  mp 216-221 °C) as white solids. The  $^{1}H$  and <sup>13</sup>C spectra of **12a** and **12b** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CD<sub>3</sub>OD (1:1) were identical to that previously reported.<sup>30</sup>

Chromatographic Separation of 13a and 13b. Compound 5<sup>26</sup> (100 mg) was further separated by HPLC [40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/60% H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in H2O)] on a Phenomenex Luna C18 column (10 mm  $\times$  250 mm, 5  $\mu$ m) at a flow rate of 3 mL/min to afford 13a (30 mg) and 13b (26 mg).

(2S,4aS,6aR,7R,9S,10aS,10bR)-9-(Acetyloxy)-2-(2S,5Sdimethoxy-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-yl)dodecahydro-6a,10b-dimethyl-4,10-dioxo-2H-naphtho[2,1-c]pyran-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester (13a): <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1; HREIMS m/z 501.2312 (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Li, 501.2325); HPLC  $t_R = 31.6$ min; purity = 99.4%.

(2S,4aS,6aR,7R,9S,10aS,10bR)-9-(Acetyloxy)-2-(2R,5Sdimethoxy-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-yl)dodecahydro-6a,10b-dimethyl-4,10-dioxo-2*H*-naphtho[2,1-*c*]pyran-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester (13b): <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1; HREIMS m/z 501.2312 (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Li, 501.2325); HPLC  $t_R = 33.4$ min; purity = 99.4%.

Chromatographic Separation of 14a and 14b. Compound 6<sup>27</sup> (124 mg) was further separated by HPLC (35% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/65% H<sub>2</sub>O) on a Phenomenex Luna C18 column (10 mm  $\times$  250 mm, 5  $\mu$ m) at a flow rate of 4 mL/min to afford 14a (40 mg) and 14b (23 mg).

(2S.4aS.6aR.7R.9S.10aS.10bR)-9-(Acetyloxy)-2-(2S.5Sdimethoxy-2,3R,4,5-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)dodecahydro-6a,10bdimethyl-4,10-dioxo-2*H*-naphtho[2,1-*c*]pyran-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester (14a): <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 2; HREIMS m/z 503.2469 (calcd for  $C_{25}H_{36}O_{10}Li$ , 503.2463); HPLC  $t_{\rm R} = 24.8 \text{ min; purity} = 98\%.$ 

(2S,4aS,6aR,7R,9S,10aS,10bR)-9-(Acetyloxy)-2-(2R,5Rdimethoxy-2,3R,4,5-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)dodecahydro-6a,10bdimethyl-4,10-dioxo-2H-naphtho[2,1-c]pyran-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester (14b): <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 2; HREIMS m/z 503.2469 (calcd for  $C_{25}H_{36}O_{10}Li$ , 503.2463); HPLC  $t_{\rm R} = 27.9 \text{ min; purity} = 98\%.$ 

X-ray Crystal Structure of (13R)-7. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data on (13R)-7 were collected at 103 K using Mo Ka radiation and a Bruker APEX II CCD area detector. A  $0.085 \times$  $0.092 \times 0.575$  mm<sup>3</sup> crystal was prepared for data collection by coating with high-viscosity microscope oil (Paratone-N, Hampton Research). The oil-coated crystal was mounted on a MiTeGen MicroMesh mount (Mitegen LLC, Ithaca, NY) and transferred immediately to the cold stream (103 K) on the diffractometer. The orthorhombic crystal was a nonmerohedral twin in space group  $P2_12_12_1$  with unit cell dimensions a = 6.3428(7) Å, b = 10.563(2)Å, c = 31.962(6) Å. Corrections were applied for Lorentz, polarization, and absorption effects using TWINABS v1.05 (Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, WI). Data selected for use in the final refinement were nonoverlapped reflections from the major component of the twin and were 99.6% complete to 29.70°  $\theta$ (approximately 0.73 Å) with an average redundancy greater than 7 prior to merging. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  values using the programs found in the SHELXTL suite (Bruker, SHELXTL v6.14, 2000, Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, WI). Parameters refined included atomic coordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms on carbons were included using a riding model (coordinate shifts of C applied to H atoms) with C-H distance set at 0.98 Å. The absolute configuration was set on the basis of previously determined structures. Atomic coordinates for compound 7 have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (deposition number 638730). Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK [fax, +44(0)-1223-336033; e-mail, deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

In Vitro Pharmacology. Cell culture, [35S]GTP-γ-S binding assay, and [125] IOXY binding assays proceeded as described elsewhere. 26,33 Briefly, recombinant CHO cells (hMOR-CHO, hDOR-CHO, and hKOR-CHO) were produced by stable transfection with the respective human opioid receptor cDNA and provided by Dr. Larry Toll (SRI International, CA). All drug dilution curves are made up with buffer containing 1 mg/mL BSA. [125I]IOXY  $(6\beta$ -iodo-3,14-dihydroxy-17-cyclopropylmethyl-4,5 $\alpha$ -epoxymorphinan) (SA = 2200 Ci/mmol) was used to label  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\kappa$  binding sites.<sup>33</sup> These assays took place in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, with a protease inhibitor cocktail [bacitracin (100 µg/mL), bestatin (10  $\mu$ g/mL), leupeptin (4  $\mu$ g/mL) and chymostatin (2  $\mu$ g/mL)], in a final assay volume of 1.0 mL. Nonspecific binding was determined using  $10 \,\mu\mathrm{M}$  naloxone. Salvinorin A related compounds were made up in 100% DMSO + 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol to produce a 10 mM solution. Aliquots (50 µL) of this stock solution were pipetted into multiple microfuge tubes and stored frozen at -80 °C. On the day of the assay, an appropriate number of tubes were thawed and used to make up dilution curves. Any leftover compound was discarded.

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**Supporting Information Available:** CIF file of X-ray data for compound (13*R*)-7 and purities of compounds (13*R*)-7, 13a, 13b, 14a, and 14b from HPLC analysis. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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