United States Patent [19]

Roth

[11] **Patent Number: 4,681,893**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jul. 21, 1987**

[54] **TRANS-6-[2-(3- OR 4-CARBOXAMIDO-SUBSTITUTED PYRROL-1-YL)ALKYL]-4-HYDROXYPYRAN-2-ONE INHIBITORS OF CHOLESTEROL SYNTHESIS**

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[21] Appl. No.: **868,867**

[22] Filed: **May 30, 1986**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **A61K 31/40**; A61K 31/35; C07D 207/327

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **514/422**; 514/423; 546/256; 546/275; 548/517; 548/537

[58] **Field of Search** 548/517, 537; 514/422, 514/423

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,983,140	9/1976	Endo et al.	549/292
4,049,495	9/1977	Endo et al.	435/125
4,137,322	1/1979	Endo et al.	548/344 X
4,198,425	4/1980	Mitsui et al.	514/460
4,255,444	3/1981	Oka et al.	549/292 X
4,262,013	4/1981	Mitsui et al.	549/292 X
4,375,475	3/1983	Willard et al.	514/460

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Singer, et al.; Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. Med.; vol. 102, pp. 370–373, (1959).

Hulcher; Arch. Biochem. Biophys., vol. 146, pp. 422–427, (1971).

Brown, et al.; New England Jour. of Med., vol. 305, No. 9, pp. 515–517, (1981).

Brown, et al.; J. Chem. Soc. Perkin I, (1976), pp. 1165–1170.

Journal of the Americas Medical Assoc.; (1984), vol. 251, pp. 351–364, 365–374.

Primary Examiner—Joseph Paul Brust

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Certain trans-6-[2-(3- or 4-carboxamido-substituted pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]-4-hydroxypyran-2-ones and the corresponding ring-opened acids derived therefrom which are potent inhibitors of the enzyme 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMG CoA reductase and are thus useful hypolipidemic or hypocholesterolemic agents. Pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds, and a method of inhibiting the biosynthesis of cholesterol employing such pharmaceutical compositions are also disclosed.

9 Claims, No Drawings

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TRANS-6-[2-(3- OR 4-CARBOXAMIDO-SUBSTITUTED PYRROL-1-YL)ALKYL]-4-HYDROXYPYRAN-2-ONE INHIBITORS OF CHOLESTEROL SYNTHESIS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is related to compounds and pharmaceutical compositions useful as hypocholesterolemic and hypolipidemic agents. More particularly, this invention concerns certain trans-6-[2-(3- or 4-carboxamidosubstitutedpyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]-4-hydroxypyran-2-ones and the corresponding ring-opened acids derived therefrom which are potent inhibitors of the enzyme 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMG CoA reductase), pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds, and a method of inhibiting the biosynthesis of cholesterol employing such pharmaceutical compositions.

High levels of blood cholesterol and blood lipids are conditions involved in the onset of arteriosclerosis. It is well known that inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase are effective in lowering the level of blood plasma cholesterol, especially low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), in man (cf. M. S. Brown and J. L. Goldstein, *New England Journal of Medicine,* 305, No. 9, 515–517 (1981). It has now been established that lowering LDL-C levels affords protection from coronary heart disease (cf. *Journal of the American Medical Association,* 251, No. 3, 351–374 (1984).

Moreover, it is known that certain derivatives of mevalonic acid (3,5-dihydroxy-3-methylpentanoic acid) and the corresponding ring-closed lactone form, mevalonolactone, inhibit the biosynthesis of cholesterol (cf. F. M. Singer et al., *Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. Med.,* 102: 370 (1959) and F. H. Hulcher, *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.,* 146: 422 (1971)).

U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,983,140; 4,049,495 and 4,137,322 disclose the fermentative production of a natural product, now called compactin, having an inhibitory effect on cholesterol biosynthesis. Compactin has been shown to have a complex structure which includes a mevalonolactone moiety (Brown et al., *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin* I (1976) 1165.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,255,444 to Oka et al. discloses several synthetic derivatives of mevalonolactone having antilipidemic activity.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,198,425 and 4,262,013 to Mitsue et al. disclose aralkyl derivatives of mevalonolactone which are useful in the treatment of hyperlipidemia.

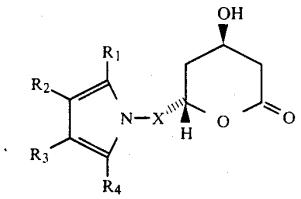
U.S. Pat. no. 4,375,475 to Willard et al. discloses certain substituted 4-hydroxytetrahydropyran-2-ones which, in the 4(R)-trans-stereoisomeric form, are inhibitors of cholesterol biosynthesis.

Published PCT application No. WO 84/01231 discloses certain indole analogs and derivatives of mevalonolactone having utility as hypolipoproteinemic and antiatherosclerotic agents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided certain trans-6-[2-(3- or 4-carboxamido-substituted pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]-4-hydroxypyran-2-ones and the corresponding ring-opened hydroxy-acids derived therefrom which are potent inhibitors of cholesterol biosynthesis by virtue of their ability to inhibit the enzyme 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoA reductase).

In particular, in its broadest aspect the present invention provides compounds of structural formula I



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wherein X is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$.

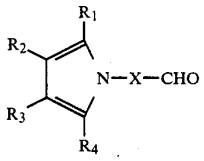
R_1 is 1-naphthyl; 2-naphthyl; cyclohexyl; norbornenyl; 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridinyl; phenyl, phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl; trifluoromethyl; alkyl of from one to four carbon atoms, alkoxy of from one to four carbon atoms, or alkanoyloxy of from two to eight carbon atoms.

Either R_2 or R_3 is $-CONR_5R_6$ where R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen; alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridinyl; phenyl; phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, cyano, trifluoromethyl, or carboalkoxy of from three to eight carbon atoms; and the other of R_2 or R_3 is hydrogen; alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; cyclopropyl; cyclobutyl; cyclopentyl; cyclohexyl; phenyl; or phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl; trifluoromethyl; alkyl of from one to four carbon atoms, alkoxy of from one to four carbon atoms, or alkanoyloxy of from two to eight carbon atoms.

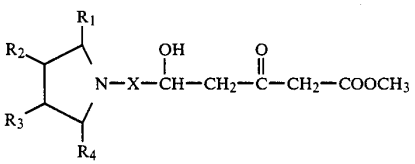
R_4 is alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; cyclopropyl; cyclobutyl; cyclopentyl; cyclohexyl; or trifluoromethyl.

Also contemplated as falling within the scope of the present invention are the hydroxy acids, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, derived from the opening of the lactone ring of the compounds of structural formula I above.

In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of preparing the compounds of structural formula I above which comprises the steps of (a) first reacting a substituted [(pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]aldehyde compound of the formula



with the dilithio or sodio-lithio salt of methyl acetoacetate to form a compound of the structure



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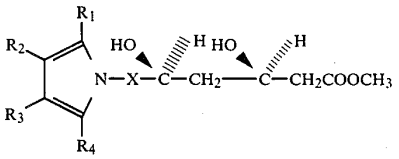
(b) reducing the product of step (a) with a trialkylborane compound such as tributylborane in the presence of sodium borohydride in an inert solvent;

(c) oxidizing the product of step (b) with alkaline aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution to produce a compound of the formula



and

(d) cyclizing the product step (c) to a lactone of formula I above by heating in an inert solvent such as toluene or, alternatively converting the product of step (c) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt by conventional methods.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions useful as hypolipidemic or hypocholesterolemic agents comprising a hypolipidemic or hypocholesterolemic effective amount of a compound in accordance with this invention as set forth above, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of inhibiting cholesterol biosynthesis in a patient in need of such treatment by administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition as defined above.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The compounds of the present invention comprise a class of trans-6-[2-(3- or 4-carboxamidosubstituted pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]-4-hydroxypyran-2-ones in which the pyran-2-one moiety is attached, through an alkyl chain, to the substituted pyrrole nucleus at the nitrogen, or 1-position, of the pyrrole. The alkyl group may be methylene, ethylene, propylene, or methylethylene. The preferred alkyl chain linking the substituted pyrrole nucleus and the 4-hydroxypyran-2-one ring is ethylene.

The compounds of structural formula I above possess two asymmetric carbon centers, one at the 4-hydroxy position of the pyran-2-one ring, and the other at the 6-position of the pyran-2-one ring where the alkylpyrrole group is attached. This asymmetry gives rise to four possible isomers, two of which are the R-cis- and S-cis-isomers and the other two of which are the R-trans- and S-trans-isomers. This invention contemplates only the trans- form of the compounds of formula I above.

In the compounds of the present invention, position 2 of the substituted pyrrole nucleus is substituted with 1-naphthyl; 2-naphthyl; cyclohexyl; norbornenyl; 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridinyl; phenyl, phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl; trifluoromethyl; alkyl of from one to four carbon atoms, alkoxy of from one to four carbon atoms, or alkanoyloxy of from two to eight carbon atoms. Preferred substituent groups at the 2-position of the pyrrole nucleus are phenyl and substituted phenyl.

In the compounds of this invention, position 5 of the pyrrole nucleus is substituted with alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; cyclopropyl; cyclobutyl; cyclopentyl; cyclohexyl; or trifluoromethyl. Preferred substituents are alkyl or trifluoromethyl with isopropyl being particularly preferred.

The preferred reaction sequence which is used to prepare compounds of the present invention involves the cycloaddition of a disubstituted acetylene, in which one substituent is carboxamido or N-substituted carboxamido, to an appropriately substituted N-acylaminocarboxylic acid to form a substituted pyrrole. This addition may occur in either of two ways, leading to a substituted pyrrole addition product in which the carboxamido substituent resides on either carbon 3 or 4 of the pyrrole nucleus.

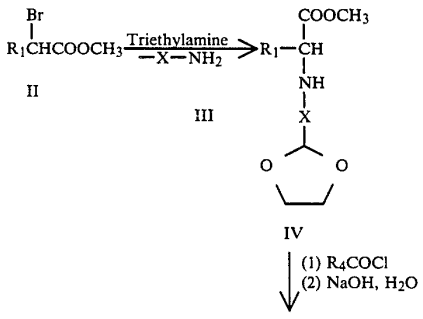
Thus, in compounds of the present invention, the substituent at either position 3 or 4 of the pyrrole nucleus is $-CONR_5R_6$ where R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen; alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridinyl; phenyl; phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, cyano, trifluoromethyl, or carboalkoxy of from three to eight carbon atoms and the other of the two positions is unsubstituted or is substituted with alkyl of from one to six carbon atoms; cyclopropyl; cyclobutyl; cyclopentyl; cyclohexyl; phenyl; or phenyl substituted with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl; trifluoromethyl; alkyl of from one to four carbon atoms, alkoxy of from one to four carbon atoms, or alkanoyloxy of from two to eight carbon atoms.

Preferred groups for R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen, phenyl, or substituted phenyl. In a particularly preferred group of compounds within the present invention, R_5 is hydrogen and R_6 is phenyl or substituted phenyl.

The compounds of this invention are prepared by the general reaction scheme outlined in Reaction Sequence 1 which takes advantage of the chemistry of mesionic compounds of the type described originally by R. Huisgen et al., *Ang. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 3: 136 (1964).

The known, or readily prepared, α-haloesters of structural formula II are reacted with the known 2-[1-(2-aminoalkyl)]-1,3-dioxalane, III, in the presence of an acid scavenger such as triethylamine to produce the N-alkyl-α-aminoesters, IV. The aminoesters, IV are

REACTION SEQUENCE I



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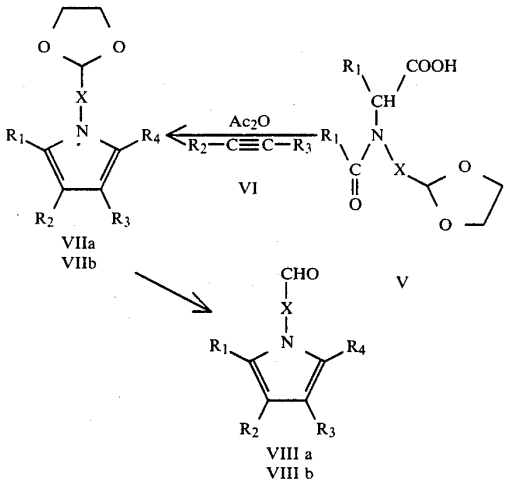
REACTION SEQUENCE I



acylated with an acid halide and subsequently hydrolyzed in aqueous base solution to produce the N-acyl-N-alkyl aminoacids, V.

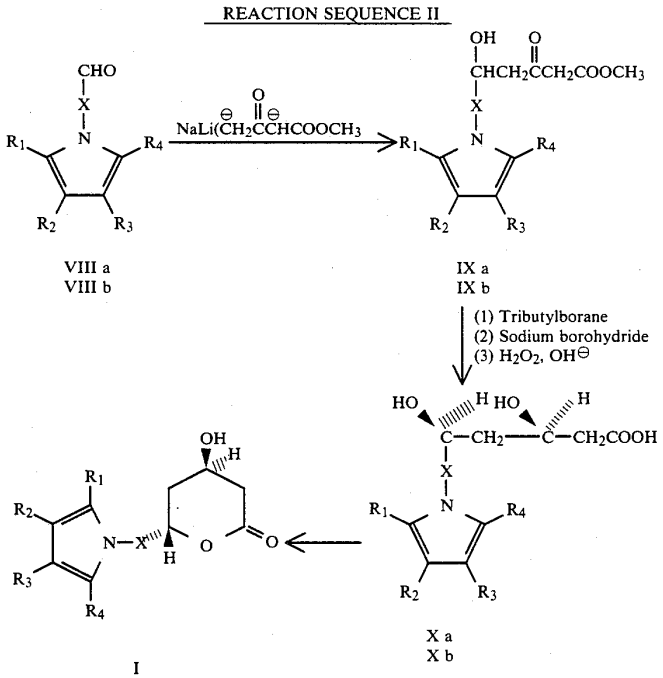
The N-acyl-N-alkyl aminoacids, V, are reacted with the appropriately substituted carboxamido acetylenic compounds, VI, in the presence of an acid anhydride to produce a mixture of the isomeric substituted pyrrole compounds VIIa and VIIb. Depending upon the substituents present, this cyclo-addition reaction affords differing ratios of the two products. For example, in the situation where R_4 is trifluoromethyl, the reaction yields roughly equimolar amounts of the two isomeric products. In such situations, the two isomeric products are separated by chromatographic techniques well known in the art, and subsequently further purified, if desired, by recrystallization. On the other hand, in the case where R_4 is 1-methylethyl, the cyclo-addition reaction yields predominantly one product which can be purified by recrystallization alone.

Hydrolysis of the acetal function of compounds VIIa and VIIb in aqueous acid solution affords the aldehydes VIIIa and VIIIb. The aldehydes, VIII, are further converted to compounds of the present invention by the processes depicted in Reaction Sequence 2.

The aldehyde compounds, VIII, are reacted with the dilithium or lithio-sodio salt of methyl acetoacetate to produce the corresponding 7-(substituted-pyrrolyl)-5-hydroxy-3-oxoheptanoates, IX. The heptanoates, IX, are dissolved in a polar solvent such as tetrahydrofuran, through which a small amount of air has been bubbled. A slight excess of a trialkylborane, such as tributylborane, is added to the mixture which is then cooled to a temperature of preferably between about 0° C. and −78° C. after which sodium borohydride is added.

The mixture is stirred for about one to two hours and then oxidized by the addition of basic aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution. The reaction produces the 7-(substituted-pyrrolyl)-3,5-dihydroxyheptanoic acids,

REACTION SEQUENCE II



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X, in which the product contains a predominance of the desired R*,R* configuration at carbon atoms three and five which bear the hydroxy groups.

The acids may be converted to a corresponding pharmaceutically acceptable salt by conventional means, if desired, or cyclized to the trans-6-[2-(substituted-pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl]pyran-2-ones, I, by dehydration in an inert solvent such as refluxing toluene with azeotropic removal of water. This cyclization step has been found to produce material containing from 85–90% of the desired trans-configuration of the 4-hydroxy group relative to the 6-(substituted-pyrrol-1-yl)alkyl group on the pyran-2-one lactone ring.

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The ring-opened hydroxy acids of structural formula II above are intermediates in the synthesis of the lactone compounds of formula I and may be used in their free acid form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable metal or amine salt in the pharmaceutical method of the present invention. These acids react to form pharmaceutically acceptable metal and amine salts. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable metal salt" contemplates salts formed with the sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, and zinc ions. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable amine salt" contemplates salts with ammonia and organic nitrogenous bases strong enough to form salts with carboxylic acids. Bases useful for the formation of pharmaceutically acceptable nontoxic base addition salts of compounds of the present invention form a class whose limits are readily understood by those skilled in the art.

The free acid form of compounds of the present invention may be regenerated from the salt form, if desired, by contacting the salt with a dilute aqueous solution of an acid such as hydrochloric acid.

The base addition salts may differ from the free acid forms of the compounds of this invention in such physical characteristics as solubility and melting point, but are otherwise considered equivalent to the free acid form for the purposes of this invention.

The compounds of the present invention may exist in solvated or unsolvated form. In general, the solvated forms with pharmaceutically acceptable solvents such as water, ethanol and the like, are equivalent to the unsolvated forms for the purposes of this invention.

The compounds of this invention are useful as hypocholesterolemic or hypolipidemic agents by virtue of their ability to inhibit the biosynthesis of cholesterol through inhibition of the enzyme 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoA reductase).

The ability of compounds of the present invention to inhibit the biosynthesis of cholesterol was measured by two methods. A first method (designated CSI screen) utilized the procedure described by R. E. Dugan et al., *Archiv. Biochem. Biophys.*, (1972), 152, 21–27. In this method, the level of HMG-CoA enzyme activity in standard laboratory rats is increased by feeding the rats a chow diet containing 5% cholestyramine for four days, after which the rats are sacrificed.

The rat livers are homogenized, and the incorporation of cholesterol-^{14}C-acetate into nonsaponifiable lipid by the rat liver homogenate is measured. The micromolar concentration of compound required for 50% inhibition of sterol synthesis over a one-hour period is measured, and expressed as an IC_{50} value.

A second method (designated COR screen) employed the procedure detailed by T. Kita, et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, (1980), 66: 1094–1100. In this method, the amount of ^{14}C-HMG-CoA converted to ^{14}C-mevalonate in the presence of a purified enzyme preparation of HMG-CoA reductase was measured. The micromolar concentration of compound required for 50% inhibition of cholesterol synthesis was measured and recorded as an IC_{50} value.

The activity of several representative examples of compounds in accordance with the present invention appears in Table 1, and is compared with that of the prior art compound, compactin.

For preparing pharmaceutical compositions from the compounds of this invention, inert, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, dispersable granules, capsules, cachets, and suppositories.

A solid carrier can be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavoring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, or tablet disintegrating agents; it can also be an encapsulating material.

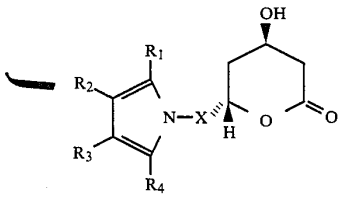
In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid which is in a mixture with the finely divided active component. In tablets, the active compound is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding properties in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired.

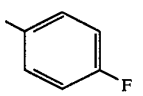
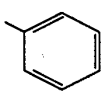
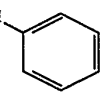
For preparing suppositories, a low-melting wax such as a mixture of fatty acid glycerides and cocoa butter is first melted, and the active ingredient is dispersed therein by, for example, stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized molds and allowed to cool and solidify.

Powders and tablets preferably contain between about 5 to about 70% by weight of the active ingredient. Suitable carriers are magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, lactose, sugar, pectin, dextrin, starch, tragacanth, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, a low-melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like.

The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the active compound with encapsulating material as a carrier providing a capsule in which the active component (with or without other carriers) is

TABLE 1



Compound	X	R_1	R_2	R_3	R_4	IC_{50} (Micromoles/liter) CSI	COR
1	$-CH_2CH_2-$			$-CONH-$ 	$-CH(CH_3)_2$	0.035	0.050

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