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Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (ISSN 0022-3549) is copublished monthly by the American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, and the American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Second-class postage paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Member & Subscriber Services, P.O. Box 3337, Columbus, OH 43210 (614) 447-3776; (800) 333-9511. Canadian GST Reg. No. R127571347. Printed in the USA.

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JOURNAL OF Pharmaceutical Sciences

May 1994

Volume 83, Number 5
 JPMSAE 83(5) 611-762
 ISSN 0022-3549

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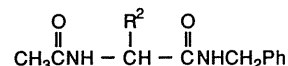
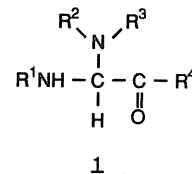
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Anticonvulsant Properties of *N*-Substituted α,α -Diamino Acid Derivatives

HAROLD KOHN^{†x}, KAILASH N. SAWHNEY[†], DAVID W. ROBERTSON^{‡§}, AND J. DAVID LEANDER[‡]

Received April 19, 1993, from the [†]Department of Chemistry, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-5641, [‡]Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Lilly Corporate Center, Indianapolis, IN 46285. Accepted for publication November 24, 1993[®]. [§]Current address: Ligand Pharmaceuticals, 9393 Towne Center Dr., Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121.

Abstract □ Recent studies have demonstrated that functionalized α,α -diamino acids (**1**) display excellent activity when evaluated in the maximal electroshock seizure (MES) test in mice. The synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of 14 select analogues within this series of compounds are detailed. Included in this survey were 10 *N*-acyl derivatives in which the basic C(α) *N*-group in **1** was replaced by a neutral *N*-substituent and four dipeptides where the amino acid fusion point was the α -carbon site. *N*-Acylation of **1** led to decreased anticonvulsant activity. The importance of these findings in relation to the requirements of the C(α) substituent for anticonvulsant activity in **1** are briefly discussed.



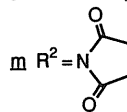
Introduction

Recent studies have shown that α,α -diamino acid derivatives (**1**) and related compounds are surprisingly stable and readily accessible materials.¹⁻⁵ Moreover, we have demonstrated that α -amino, α -hydrazino, and α -*N*-hydroxylamino adducts display excellent anticonvulsant activity when evaluated in the maximal electroshock seizure (MES) test in mice.⁵ For example, the median effective dose (ED₅₀) values after intraperitoneal injection for the α -*N*-ethylamino (**2a**) (42.4 mg/kg) and α -*N*-(benzyloxy-carbonyl)hydrazino (**2b**) (55.6 mg/kg) derivatives approached the ED₅₀ of phenobarbital⁶ (21.8 mg/kg), whereas the ED₅₀s of the α -methoxyamino (**2c**) (6.2 mg/kg) and the α -[(methoxymethyl)amino] (**2d**) (6.7 mg/kg) adducts exceeded the ED₅₀ of phenytoin⁶ (9.5 mg/kg). Both **2c** and **2d** exhibited these potent anticonvulsant effects at doses much lower than those which produced neuromotor impairment on the horizontal screen (HS) test (46.0 and 50.5 mg/kg were the ED₅₀ doses for **2c** and **2d** on the HS test).⁵ These findings prompted our investigation of the pharmacological activity of the racemic *N*-substituted α,α -diamino acid derivatives (**2e-r**) (Table 1). The *N*-acyl derivatives (**2e-n**) were evaluated to determine the effect of conversion of the basic C(α)-amino group in **2a-d** to a neutral C(α)-carbamate (**2e, 2f**), urea (**2g-2i**), thiourea (**2j, 2k**), amide (**2l, 2n**), or succinimide (**2m**) substituent on anticonvulsant activity. Also included in our study were the unique dipeptides **2o-r**, where the amino acid fusion point was the α -carbon site.

Experimental Section

Chemical Methods—Melting points were determined with a Thomas-Hoover melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra (IR) were run on a Perkin-Elmer 1330 and 283 spectrometers and calibrated against the 1601-cm⁻¹ band of polystyrene. Absorption values are expressed in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹). Proton (¹H NMR) and carbon (¹³C NMR) nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were taken on Nicolet NT-300 and General Electric QE-300 NMR instruments. Chemical shifts (δ) are in parts per million (ppm) relative to Me₄Si and coupling constants (*J* values) are in hertz. Low-resolution mass spectra (MS) were recorded at an ionizing voltage of 70 eV from a Varian MAT CH-5 spectrometer at the Lilly Research Laboratories. Microanalyses were provided by the

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2a R ² = NHCH ₂ CH ₃ | l R ² = NHC(O)CH ₂ NHC(O)OCH ₂ Ph |
| b R ² = NHNHCO ₂ CH ₂ Ph | m R ² = NHCH ₂ C(O)OCH ₃ |
| c R ² = NH(OCH ₃) | n R ² = NHCH ₂ C(O)OCH ₂ CH ₃ |
| d R ² = N(CH ₃)OCH ₃ | o R ² = NHCH ₂ C(O)OCH ₂ Ph |
| e R ² = NHC(O)OCH ₃ | p R ² = $\overset{+}{N}$ H ₂ CH ₂ CO ₂ ⁻ |
| f R ² = NHC(O)OPh | q R ² = NH ₂ |
| g R ² = NHC(O)NHCH ₃ | r R ² = Br |
| h R ² = NHC(O)NHPH | s R ² = $\overset{+}{N}$ (CH ₃) ₃ , BF ₄ ⁻ |
| i R ² = NHC(O)NHS(O) ₂ Ph | t R ² = NHC(O)CH ₃ |
| j R ² = NHC(S)NHCH ₃ | u R ² = NHC(O)CF ₃ |
| k R ² = NHC(S)NHPH | |
| l R ² = NHC(O)Ph(2'CO ₂ H) | |



Physical Chemistry Department of the Lilly Research Laboratories. All compounds gave satisfactory elemental analyses (C, H, N) that were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of theoretical values. Thin- and thick-layer chromatography were run on precoated silica gel GHLF microscope slides (2.5 \times 10 cm; Analtech No. 21521) or silica gel GHLF (20 \times 20 cm; Analtech 11187).

Chemical Synthesis—General Procedure for the Synthesis of Functionalized Amino Acid Derivatives 2e-k—A tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution containing **2s**⁵ and either the acylating agent (1.06–1.10 equiv) and triethylamine (1.20 equiv) or the isocyanate (isothiocyanate) (1.0–1.1 equiv) was heated. The reaction was then filtered to remove any salts formed and purified, and the product was recrystallized if necessary. The reaction temperatures, times, and recrystallization solvents (if appropriate) were as follows: (**2e**) 55–60 °C, 2 h, EtOH; (**2f**) 45–50 °C, 2 h, MeOH; (**2g**) 45–50 °C, 2 h, MeOH; (**2h**) 45–50 °C, 2 h; (**2i**) 50–55 °C, 22 h; (**2j**) 65 °C, 4 h, EtOH; (**2k**) 65 °C, 3 h, EtOH.

Synthesis of *N*-[Acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]phthalamic Acid (2l**)**. To a warm pyridine solution (7.0 mL) containing **2s** (0.63 g, 2.83 mmol) was added phthalic anhydride (0.43 g, 2.87 mmol), and the reaction was stirred at 50–55 °C (5 h). Pyridine was removed by distillation *in vacuo* and the residue was treated with H₂O (20 mL). The aqueous mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 \times 20 mL) and then acidified with aqueous 1 N HCl solution. The white solid (0.70 g, 70%) that precipitated was filtered, washed with H₂O (10 mL), and dried; mp 186–188 °C.

Synthesis of 2-Acetamido-*N*-benzyl-2-(*N*-succinimidyl)acetamide (2m**)**. A cooled (–78 °C) THF solution (150 mL) of **2t**⁵ [prepared from 2-acetamido-*N*-benzyl-2-ethoxyacetamide^{7,8} (2.00 g, 8.0 mmol) and BBr₃ (2.51 g, 10.05 mmol)] was added slowly into a cooled (–78 °C) THF suspension (50 mL) of sodium succinimide (3.06 g, 25.25 mmol). The

[®] Abstract published in *Advance ACS Abstracts*, February 1, 1994.

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