

membrane. Alternatively, the different patterns could be due to physical differences in individual virions such as those that determine the ability of a virion to cause hemolysis (8).

In summary, Sendai virus can fuse with liposomes containing only PC, cholesterol, and gangliosides. This suggests that gangliosides may have a role in membrane fusion in addition to their receptor function. In liposomes of this simple composition, the course of disassembly is variable.

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# HUMAN BLOOD PLATELET AGGREGATION-INHIBITORY TARGET SITES ASSUMED TO INVOLVE MEMBRANE PHOSPHOLIPIDS

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In an extensive study identifying structural features associated with the inhibition of adhesion-release-aggregation chain reactions in human blood platelets, we employed a series of carbamoylpiperidine derivatives with systematic and gradual changes in their molecular constitution, allowing meaningful interpretation of biological response variances. Current indications are that the entities conceptualized and synthesized in our laboratories (1-6) inhibit platelet aggregation (culminating at 5  $\mu$ M concentrations) by penetrating the lipid bilayer of the platelet membrane and by interacting, as cations, with negatively charged phospholipids (e.g., phosphatidylserine and phosphatidylinositol) within the bilayer's inner segment (7). Following such penetration, those cations could be interfering with phospholipase-A<sub>2</sub> activation by counteracting stimulus-induced mobilization of Ca<sup>++</sup> ions and Ca<sup>++</sup>-dependent phospholipase-A<sub>2</sub> activity (8), thereby rendering platelets less susceptible to aggregation reactions. Our studies, employing our mono- and bis(carbamoylpiperidino)alkanes and -aralkanes as molecular probes, suggest platelet aggregation-inhibitory target sites spaced at 8 Å, and yield exacting information on the influence of hydrophobicity, planarity and geometric isomerism, as well as on the significance of interatomic distances between, and the

charge levels of, the amino functions primarily instrumental in consummating interactions leading to the inhibition of human blood platelet aggregation.

To confirm these interpretations, the effects of our carbamoylpiperidine derivatives are being evaluated at surface pressures estimated to occur in actual platelet membranes (34 mN m<sup>-1</sup>) (9), on monomolecular films of phosphatidylserine whose location in the inner segment of the platelet membrane's lipid bilayer is acknowledged, on those of phosphatidylcholine, which is known to be a constituent of the bilayer's outer leaflet, and on related pure and mixed monolayer systems; e.g., cholesterol/phospholipid in ratios of 0.5, paralleling those observed in platelet membranes (10).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A Payton aggregometer (Payton Associates Inc., Buffalo, NY) with a dual channel recorder (PF10H0-D) and a Coulter counter ZBI (Coulter Electronics Inc., Hialeah, FL) were employed in our platelet aggregation determinations (11); the inhibitory potency of our compounds was classified: 0  $\leq$  10%, 1+ = 11%-19%, 2+ = 20%-29%, 3+ = 30%-39%, 4+ = 40%-49%, 5+ = 50%-59%, 6+  $\geq$  60%. Interfacial and surface tension values were determined (12) on a Kahlsico duNouy instrument TE03 (Kahl Scientific Instrument Corp., El Cajon, CA). Surface pressure and potential measurements (13) are being carried out in a recent version of our previously conceptualized (14) Wilhelmy-type surface balance system, equipped with a dual pen Omniscrite B-5000 (Houston Instrument Div., Bausch and Lomb Inc., Austin, TX).

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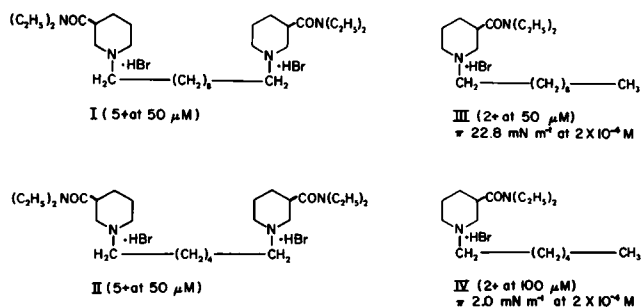


FIGURE 1 Influence of surface activity

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the highlights reported here, compounds I and II (Fig. 1) are equally active. From this and findings discussed later in this paper we conclude that the distance between the ring nitrogens separated by a hexamethylene link ( $C_6$ ) matches closely that of the target sites on the platelet. The ring nitrogens on the decamethylene chain ( $C_{10}$ ), through appropriate buckling of that flexible link, can also connect readily with the same target sites. However, because the ring nitrogens of the bis-dialkylcarbamoylpiperidino-substituted ethane separated by merely two methylene groups ( $C_2$ ) could not accommodate a comparable reach, this analogue is 10 times weaker (1+ at 100  $\mu$ M). In contrast, the mono-substituted decane (III) is twice as potent as the hexane (IV) (Fig. 1); the hydrophobic bonding of the former ( $C_{10}$ ) on the platelet surface adjacent to the target site is so strong that it substantially augments the interaction of its single piperidino nitrogen with one target site; conversely, in the mono-substituted hexane, the shorter alkyl chain ( $C_6$ ) is unable to exert

hydrophobic bonding of comparable magnitude. Not surprisingly, such hydrophobic forces are not discernible at all in the mono-substituted ethane ( $C_2$ ) which does not register any activity at these concentrations (0 at 100  $\mu$ M).

While the contribution of lipophilicity to enhanced aggregation-inhibitory potency is evident, our results also indicate that our bis-substituted derivatives interact with two target sites on the platelet whenever the polymethylene chain is long enough to accommodate such intercourse. This is materially substantiated by the relative potencies of the bis(dialkylcarbamoylpiperidino)xylene analogues (Fig. 2). Interestingly, the para-congener (VI) can be envisioned as a close but substantially more potent (2+ at 5  $\mu$ M) analogue of the bis-substituted hexane (II, Fig. 1), in which four of the six methylene units have been replaced by a phenylene moiety; while this should not perceptibly affect the hydrophobic character (15) of the molecule, the planarity of the ring structure renders VI much more rigid (16a) than II. Conformingly, the intramolecular distances between the ring nitrogens, computed with Godfrey space-filling models, register for the former a range of 7.8–8.3 Å with a flexibility variance of 0.5 Å, and for the latter a range of 4.4–9.1 Å with a flexibility variance of 4.7 Å. We suppose that II, in which the range of ring nitrogen distances encompasses those of VI, is less active due to the almost 10-fold greater flexibility variance. Remarkably, the mono-substituted analogue of VI is only half as active (1+) at 20 times higher concentrations (100  $\mu$ M). The significance of the interatomic distance between the ring nitrogens in the bis-substituted compounds is further emphasized by the decreasing activities of the correspondingly substituted meta-xylene (VII, 5.3–7.8 Å, 3+ at 50  $\mu$ M) and ortho-xylene (VIII, 4.8–5.9 Å

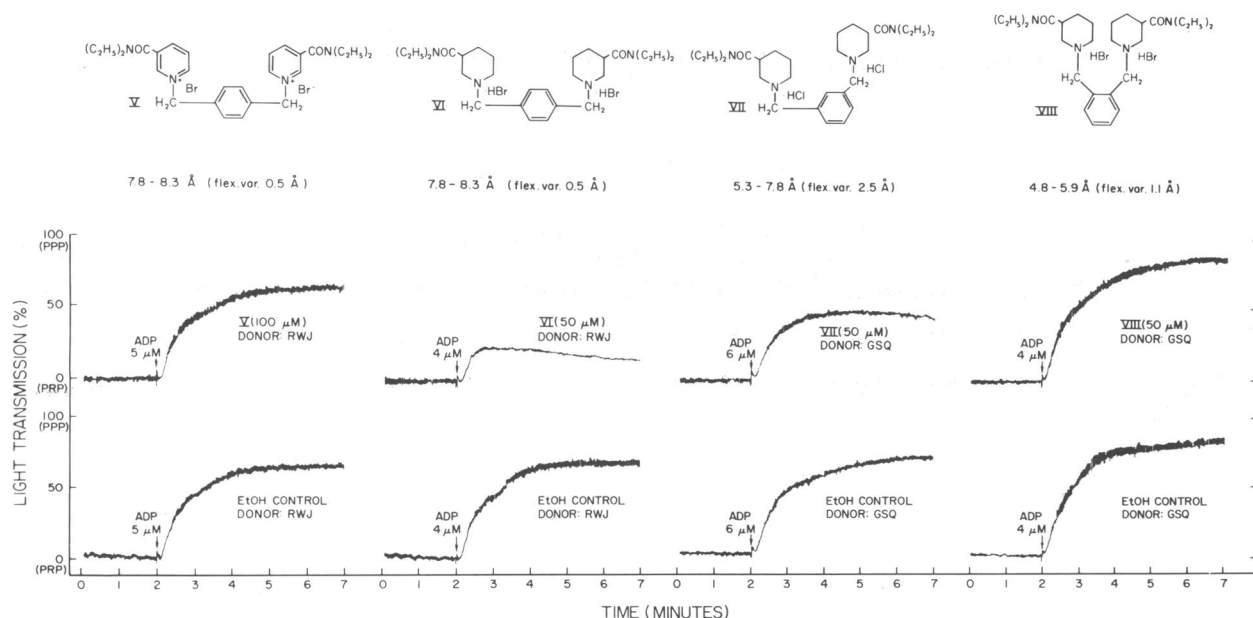


FIGURE 2 Effect of interatomic distance between aggregation-inhibitory specific functions and of N-charge/aromaticity levels.

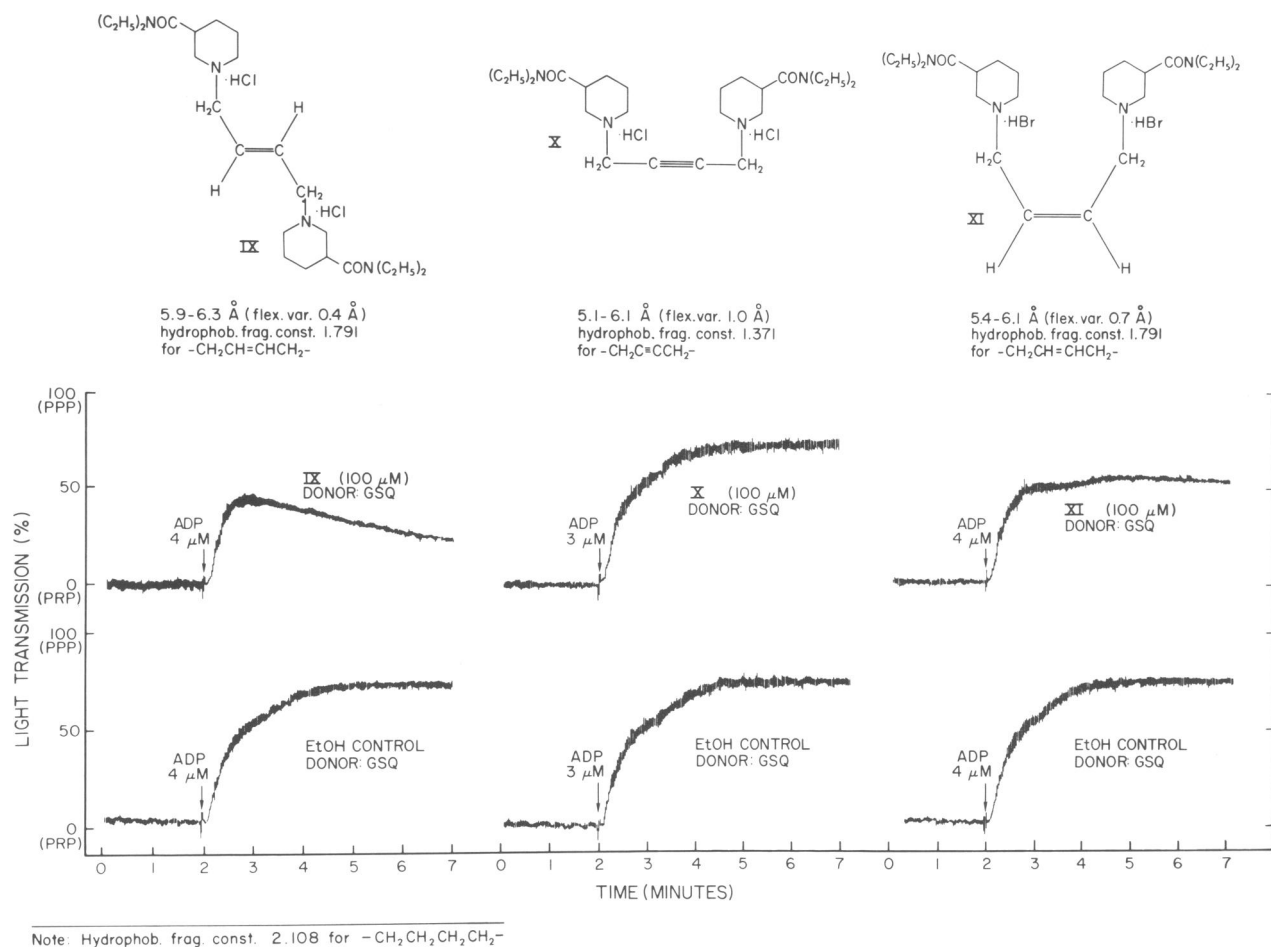


FIGURE 3 Effect of stereoisomerism and hydrophobic influence.

$\text{\AA}$ , 0 at  $50 \mu\text{M}$ ) analogues (Fig. 2). These data distinctly imply platelet membrane target sites spaced at  $8 \text{ \AA}$ .

Despite the striking potency of VI, its bis(dialkylcarbamoylpyridinium) congener (V, Fig. 2) is completely inactive even at 20 times higher concentrations (0 at  $100 \mu\text{M}$ ); this and parallel findings with other comparable analogues could be attributed either to the aromatic character of the ring structure and its conjugation with the amide function (16b), or to the charge level of the ring nitrogen, or to both. Each factor individually, or both in combination, could lessen hydrophobicity and reduce aggregation-inhibitory potency. As quaternary amines, the heterocyclic nitrogens in V retain the same charge regardless of their environment and consequently, in a biosystem, their hydrophobicity does not even approximate that of corresponding tertiary amines (17, 18), which are generally subject to broad variances in protonation, contingent upon the pH of the medium and the specific compounds'  $\text{pK}_a$  values (6). This very trait of tertiary amines provides appropriate hydrophobic character for their penetration of the platelet membrane's lipid bilayer without interfering with the subsequent generation of adequate cationic species (19–21). The influence of this parameter is being examined in greater detail.

The impact of stereoisomerism is delineated in Fig. 3. The greater potency of the *trans*-isomer (IX) can also be attributed to the fact that the intramolecular distance of its ring nitrogens ( $5.9-6.3 \text{ \AA}$ ) is closer to the postulated optimum of  $8 \text{ \AA}$  than the lesser one computed for the rings' hetero-atoms in the *cis*-compound (XI,  $5.4-6.1 \text{ \AA}$ ). The increased polarity effected by unsaturation in the alkyl chain contributes considerably to the lower activity of both isomers. Accordingly, it should not be surprising that X registers no activity at  $100 \mu\text{M}$  concentration; the hydrophobic fragmental constant (15) for its alkyl chain of four carbons with one triple bond is 1.371, compared with that of 1.791 for the corresponding linkage in IX and XI with one double bond segment, and with that of 2.108 for a corresponding alkyl chain without any unsaturation. It is obvious that X is the most polar compound among those depicted.

For a more extensive discourse on the subject matter the reader is referred to our most recent work (22).

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# ENVIRONMENTALLY INDUCED REVERSIBLE PROTEIN TRANSLOCATION ACROSS INNER MITOCHONDRIAL MEMBRANE

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Four molecular mechanisms account for protein translocation across biological membranes: translocation via vectorial translation, via vectorial processing, via subunit dissociation, and via environmental induction. Whereas the first three mechanisms are vectorial, the last one is reversible (1). Fig. 1 describes the general methodology and observations that led us to the discovery of this last mechanism.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Externalization of a protein such as aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) from the inner face of inner mitochondrial

membrane towards intermembranal fluid is shown in Fig. 1, step 1. This step is induced by movement effectors, e.g., succinate, fumarate, malate, pyruvate, citrate, phenylsuccinate,  $\alpha$ -methylglutamate, etc., at concentrations ranging from 0 to 50 mM (2). Step 2 shows internalization of previously externalized AAT upon removal of the movement effector. This was demonstrated by testing the accessibility of the enzyme protein first on the outer face of the mitoplast (mitochondria from which the outer membrane was removed), then on the outer face of the corresponding inverted vesicle, which is equivalent to the inner face of the mitoplast (step 3). No permeant substrate, controlled