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Syntheses of N-(2-Hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)propionanilides¹⁾

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N-(2-Hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)anilines (6a-f) were prepared by the condensation of $N-(\beta-bromoethyl)$ aniline hydrobromide and hexahydropyrimidines. They were further converted to N-(2-hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)propionanilides by N-bropionylation.

The analgesic activities of the twelve compounds thus obtained were examined by subcutaneous administration to mice.

Among the propionanilides, the N-isopropyl- and N-benzylhexahydropyrimidine derivatives (7c, e) possessed ca. 1/3 and 1/6 of the analysesic effect of pentazocine, respectively, and 7e showed a lower toxicity. On the other hand, the N-phenethyl derivative (7f) was inactive.

Keywords—syntheses of analgesics; N-(2-hexahydropyrimidinoethyl) propionanilides; N-(β -bromoethyl) aniline hydrobromide; hexahydropyrimidines; N-propionylation

In the previous paper³⁾ we reported the syntheses and analgesic activities of N-(2-pi-perazinoethyl) propionanilides and showed that N-[2-(4-phenethyl)piperazino)ethyl] propionanilide (1) and N-[2-(3-methyl-4-phenethyl)piperazino)ethyl] propionanilide (2) possessed ca. 1/2 of the analgesic effect of pentazocine.

In general, potent analgesics tend to have potent undesirable side effects, including toxicity. Therefore, a new compound with weak side effects is of interest, even if it has a weak analgesic activity. Some work has been done on the synthesis of the hexahydropyrimidine analog of phenampromid, N-(1-methyl-2-piperidinoethyl)propionanilide.⁴⁾ Further, the tertamino group of phenampromid is known to play an important role in the pharmacological effects.⁵⁾ Thus, the two nitrogen atoms of hexahydropyrimidines might also result in important pharmacological effects of these compounds. In this paper, the syntheses and analgesic activities of N-(2-hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)propionanilides (7a—f) are reported.

According to the previously outlined procedures, $^{6a)}$ 1-ethyl- (4b), 1-benzyl- (4e). 1-phenethyl- (4f) and 1-cyclohexyl-hexahydropyrimidine (4g) were prepared by ring closures of the corresponding trimethylenediamines $(3b,^{7a)}$ $3e,^{7b}$ $3f,^{7c}$ $3g^{7b}$) with formaldehyde as shown in Chart 1.

¹⁾ Reported at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, Tokyo, April 1980.

²⁾ Location: Yoshida Shimoadachi-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606, Japan.
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RNHCH₂CH₂CH₂NH₂

$$\begin{array}{c}
 & \text{HCHO} \\
\hline
 & \text{N} \\
 & \text{NH}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 & \text{b: } R = \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2 \\
 & \text{e: } R = \text{PhCH}_2 \\
 & \text{f: } R = \text{PhCH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\
 & \text{g: } R = \text{c-C}_6\text{H}_{11}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 & \text{Chart 1}
\end{array}$$

Similarly, 1-methyl- (4a), $^{6b)}$ 1-isopropyl- (4c) $^{6c)}$ and 1-*n*-butyl-hexahydropyrimidine (4d) $^{6a)}$ were used as starting materials for the following syntheses.

Analogously to the synthesis of the similar piperazine derivatives,³⁾ N-(2-hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)anilines ($\mathbf{6a}$ — \mathbf{f}) were prepared by the condensation of the above obtained hexahydropyrimidines ($\mathbf{4a}$ — \mathbf{f}) with N-(β -bromoethyl)aniline hydrobromide ($\mathbf{5}$) (mole ratio 3: 1) as shown in Chart 2. The recovery of excess hexahydropyrimidines ranged from 70 to 90%. However, the condensation of $\mathbf{4a}$ — \mathbf{f} and $\mathbf{5}$ (mole ratio 1: 1) in alcohol or absolute benzene in the presence of potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate or precipitated calcium carbonate failed to give $\mathbf{6a}$ — \mathbf{f} . Under these conditions, high-boiling unknown products were formed.

N-Propionylation of **6a**—**f** was not as smooth as in the case of piperazine analogs.³⁾ Namely, neither N-propionylation by propionic anhydride without a solvent, nor the reaction of propionyl chloride (mole ratio 1: 1) in absolute benzene in the presence of potassium carbonate or sodium carbonate gave the desired propionanilides (**7a**—**f**). Finally, they were obtained in unsatisfactory yields (21—24%) by the reaction of propionic anhydride (mole ratio 1: 1) in absolute benzene.

Pharmacological Results

The twelve oxalates (6, 7a-f) described above were examined by subcutaneous administration to mice for analysis activity in terms of the inhibition of writhing induced by acetic acid⁸⁾ in comparison with pentazocine. These compounds were also tested for acute toxicity in mice (s.c.). These pharmacological results are listed in Table I.

The conclusions can be summarized as follows.

- (1) Among the twelve oxalates, four oxalates (6c, 6e, 7c, 7e) exhibited over 44% inhibition at 30 mg/kg s.c.
- (2) The N-isopropylhexahydropyrimidine derivative (7c) possessed ca. 1/3 of the analgesic effect of pentazocine.
 - (3) N-Propionylation increased the analgesic activity, except for 7b and 7d.

⁸⁾ R. Koster, M. Anderson, and E.J. Debbeer, Fed. Proc., 22, 248 (1963).

Compd. No.	Route ^{a)}	mg/kg	Inhibition (%) of writhing	Toxicity mg/kg (s.c.)
6a	s.c.	30	31	300 Sedation, mydriasis
6b	s.c.	30	40	300 Sedation, mydriasis
6c	s.c.	30	47	300 Convulsion, sedation, mydriasis
6d	s.c.	30	37	100 Sedation, mydriasis
6e	s.c.	30	44	300 Sedation, mydriasis
6 f	S.C.	30	0	300 Sedation, mydriasis, trembling
7a	S.C.	30	32	100 Sedation
7b	s.c.	30	0	100 Sedation
7c	s.c.	10	17	30 Sedation, mydriasis
	s.c.	30	97	, , ,
7d	s.c.	30	0	300 Sedation
7e	s.c.	30	47	300 Normality
7 f	s.c.	30	0	30 Sedation
Pentazocine	s.c.	5	32	150 Convulsion, mydriasis, trembling
	s.c.	10	81	

TABLE I. Analgesic Activity

- (4) The N-phenethylhexahydropyrimidine derivative (7f) was inactive, whereas the N-phenethylpiperazine derivatives (1) and (2) possessed ca. 1/2 of the analgesic effect of pentazocine.
- (5) Among these compounds, the N-benzylhexahydropyrimidine derivative (7e) showed low toxicity, and no mice died even after the subcutaneous administration of 300 mg/kg.

Experimental

All melting and boiling points are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Hitachi 215 spectrometer or a Hitachi 260-10 spectrometer and $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra on a Varian A-60 spectrometer or a JEOL JNM-PMX 60 spectrometer operating at 60 MHz in CDCl₃ solution with tetramethylsilane or in D₂O solution with sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-propionate- d_4 as an internal standard. Mass spectra were determined with a JEOL JMS-01SG-2 mass spectrometer.

Hexahydropyrimidines—1-Ethylhexahydropyrimidine (4b): A solution of N-ethyltrimethylenediamine (10 g) in $\rm H_2O$ (19 ml) was neutralized with c-HCl and N-ethyltrimethylenediamine (9 g) was added. An aqueous solution of 37% formaldehyde (15 g) was added dropwise over a period of 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hr at room temperature and then NaOH pellets (37.2 g) were added. The precipitate was removed by filtration and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness *in vacuo*. The oily residue was distilled under reduced pressure to give 4b (13.6 g, 64.0% yield) as a colorless liquid, bp 65° (25 mmHg). IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm Film}$ cm⁻¹: 3225 (NH), 2900 (CH₂). NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.07 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCH₂CH₃), 1.61 (2H, m, NCH₂CH₂CH₂N), 2.32 (1H, s, NH), 3.38 (2H, s, NCH₂N). MS m/e: 113 (M⁺—H). Oxalate: mp 197° (MeOH-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂·2C₂H₂O₄·3/2H₂O: C, 37.38; H, 6.54; N, 8.72. Found: C, 37.36; H, 6.65; N, 8.82.

1-Benzylhexahydropyrimidine (4e): N-Benzyltrimethylenediamine (21 g) was converted into 4e (12 g, 53.2% yield) by the method described above (c.f. 4b): Colorless liquid, bp 108—110° (5 mmHg). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Flim}$ cm⁻¹: 3200 (NH), 2900 (CH₂). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.82 (1H, s, NH), 3.40 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 7.28 (5H, s, NCH₂Ph). MS m/e: 175 (M⁺-H). Oxalate: mp 215° (MeOH-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N₂·2C₂H₂O₄·H₂O: C, 48.13; H, 5.88; N, 7.49. Found: C, 48.18; H, 6.01; N, 7.76.

1-Phenethylhexahydropyrimidine (4f): N-Phenethyltrimethylenediamine (18 g) was converted into 4f (11 g, 57.2% yield) by the method described above (c.f. 4b): Colorless liquid, bp 139—141° (5 mmHg). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Flim}$ cm⁻¹: 3200 (NH), 2910 (CH₂), 700 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.93 (1H, s, NH), 3.43 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 7.21 (5H, s, NCH₂CH₂Ph). MS m/e: 189 (M⁺—H). Oxalate: mp 211° (MeOH—H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₈N₂·2C₂H₂O₄·1/2H₂O: C, 50.66; H, 6.07; N, 7.39. Found: C, 50.24; H, 6.37; N, 7.79.

1-Cyclohexylhexahydropyrimidine (4g): N-Cyclohexyltrimethylenediamine (18 g) was converted into 4g (11 g, 56.7% yield) by the method described above (c.f. 4b): Colorless liquid, bp 100° (5 mmHg). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Plim}$ cm⁻¹: 3200 (NH), 2875 (CH₂). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.82 (1H, s, NH), 3.55 (2H, s, NCH₂N). MS m/e: 167 (M⁺-H). Oxalate: mp 217° (MeOH-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{20}N_2 \cdot 2C_2H_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$: C, 45.90; H, 7.10; N, 7.65. Found: C, 45.44; H, 7.31; N, 7.95.

a) subcutaneous administration.

N-(2-Hexahydropyrimidinoethyl)anilines—N-[2-(3-Methylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6a): A mixture of 1-methylhexahydropyrimidine (32 g), N-(β -bromoethyl)aniline hydrobromide (30 g) and EtOH (300 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in H₂O (40 ml). The solution was made alkaline with 15% aqueous NaOH solution and extracted with CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ extract was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The oily residue was distilled under reduced pressure to give a first fraction, 1-methylhexahydropyrimidine (15 g, recovery 70.3% yield): bp 39° (47 mmHg); and a second, 6a (19.2 g, 82.1% yield) as a colorless liquid: bp 117° (0.07 mmHg). IR ν_{\max}^{Film} cm⁻¹: 1598 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.21 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.07 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.42 (1H, broad s, NH). MS m/e: 219 (M⁺). Oxalate: mp 208° (EtOH–H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₂₁N₃· 2C₂H₂O₄· H₂O: C, 48.92; H, 6.48; N, 10.07. Found: C, 48.49; H, 6.19; N, 9.94.

N-[2-(3-Ethylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6b): A mixture of 1-ethylhexahydropyrimidine (4b) (3.65 g), N-(β -bromoethyl)aniline hydrobromide (5) (3 g) and EtOH (30 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 6a) to give 4b (1.989 g, recovery 81.7% yield) and 6b (1.832 g, 73.6% yield). 6b: Colorless liquid, bp 140° (0.4 mmHg). IR $r_{\rm max}^{\rm Fllm}$ cm⁻¹: 1600 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.08 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCH₂CH₃), 3.14 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.38 (1H, broad s, NH). MS m/e: 233 (M⁺). Oxalate: mp 218—219° (MeOH-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₃N₃·2C₂H₂O₄·3/2H₂O: C, 49.09; H, 6.82; N, 9.54. Found: C, 49.18; H, 6.69; N, 9.61.

N-[2-(3-Isopropylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6c): A mixture of 1-isopropylhexahydropyrimidine (4c) (15.5 g), 5 (11.3 g) and EtOH (110 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 6a) to give 4c (7.75 g, recovery 75.0% yield) and 6c (8.7 g, 87.6% yield). 6c: Colorless liquid, bp 154° (1 mmHg). IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm Flim}$ cm⁻¹: 1600 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.04 (6H, d, J=7 Hz, NCH($\underline{\rm CH}_3$)₂), 3.23 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.35 (1H, broad s, NH). MS m/e: 247 (M⁺). Oxalate: mp 228—229° (MeOH-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₂₅N₃·2C₂H₂O₄·1/2H₂O: C, 52.30; H, 6.88; N, 9.63. Found: C, 52.03; H, 7.09; N, 9.88.

N-[2-(3-n-Butylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6d): A mixture of 1-n-butylhexahydropyrimidine (4d) (3 g), 5 (2 g) and EtOH (20 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 6a) to give 4d (0.804 g, recovery 80.4% yield) and 6d (1.208 g, 65.0% yield). 6d: Colorless liquid, bp 143° (0.3 mmHg). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Film}$ cm⁻¹: 1598 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 0.90 (3H, This triplet signal was poorly defined. CH₃), 3.15 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.30 (1H, broad s, NH). MS m/e: 261 (M⁺). Oxalate: mp 223° (H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₇N₃·2C₂H₂O₄·H₂O: C, 52.29; H, 7.19; N, 9.15. Found: C, 52.25; H, 7.45; N, 9.35.

N-[2-(3-Benzylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6e): A mixture of 1-benzylhexahydropyrimidine (4e) (3.76 g), 5 (2 g) and EtOH (20 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 6a) to give 4e (1.955 g, recovery 78.0% yield) and 6e (1.21 g, 57.6% yield). 6e: Colorless liquid, bp 189° (0.8 mmHg). IR $v_{\max}^{\text{Film}} \text{ cm}^{-1}$: 1597 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 3.20 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.25 (1H, broad s, NH), 7.30 (5H, s, NCH₂Ph). MS m/e: 295 (M+). Oxalate: mp 228—228.5° (dioxane-H₂O). Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{25}N_3 \cdot 2C_2H_2O_4 \cdot 1/2H_2O$: C, 57.02; H, 6.20; N, 8.68. Found: C, 56.82; H, 6.24; N, 8.90.

N-[2-(3-Phenethylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]aniline (6f): A mixture of 1-phenethylhexahydropyrimidine (4f) (4.06 g), 5 (2 g) and EtOH (20 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 6a) to give 4f (2.37 g, recovery 87.6% yield) and 6f (1.283 g, 58.3% yield). 6f: Colorless liquid, bp 177° (0.4 mmHg). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Flim}$ cm⁻¹: 1599 (benzene nucleus). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 3.21 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 4.01 (1H, broad s, NH), 7.21 (5H, s, NCH₂CH₂Ph). MS m/e: 309 (M⁺). Oxalate: mp 204—205° (dioxane—H₂O). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₇N₃·2C₂H₂O₄·1/2H₂O: C, 57.83; H, 6.43; N, 8.43. Found: C, 57.61; H, 6.50; N, 8.36.

N-(2-Hexahydropyrimidinoethyl) propionanilides — N-[2-(3-Methylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl] propionanilide (7a): A mixture of 6a (5 g), propionic anhydride (3 g) and absolute benzene (40 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo, then the residue was made acidic with 20% aqueous HCl solution and washed with Et₂O. The acidic aqueous solution was made alkaline with 15% aqueous NaOH solution and extracted with Et₂O. The Et₂O extract was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to dryness. The oily residue was distilled under reduced pressure to give crude 7a (3.5 g), bp 164° (0.7 mmHg). Crude 7a (3.5 g) was subjected to silica gel column chromatography with MeOH-CHCl₃ (1: 10) to afford a pale yellow oil 7a (2.4 g): IR v_{max}^{Pilm} cm⁻¹: 1643 (C=O). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.02 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCOCH₂CH₃), 2.20 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.09 (2H, s, NCH₂N), 3.86 (2H, t, J=8 Hz, PhNCH₂).

A solution saturated with oxalic acid (anhydrous) in absolute $\rm Et_2O$ was added dropwise to a mixture of the oil (2.4 g) and absolute $\rm Et_2O$ (30 ml). The resulting finely dispersed crystals were collected by filtration. The crystals were washed with absolute $\rm Et_2O$, dried and recrystallized from MeOH-H₂O to give 7a oxalate (2.3 g, 22.9% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 187° (MeOH-H₂O). MS m/e: 275 (M+). Anal. Calcd for $\rm C_{16}H_{25}N_3O \cdot 2C_2H_2O_4 \cdot 1/2H_2O$: C, 51.72; H, 6.47; N, 9.05. Found: C, 51.51; H, 6.55; N, 9.31.

N-[2-(3-Ethylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]propionanilide (7b): A mixture of **6b** (1.5 g), propionic anhydride (0.84 g) and absolute benzene (12 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 7a) without distillation under reduced pressure to give 7b oxalate (0.659 g, 21.4% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 190—191° (MeOH-H₂O). IR $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm⁻¹: 1640 (C=O). NMR (D₂O) δ : 0.99 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCOCH₂CH₃), 1.33 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCH₂CH₃). MS m/e: 289 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd

for $C_{17}H_{27}N_3O \cdot 2C_2H_2O_4 \cdot 1/2H_2O$: C, 52.72; H, 6.69; N, 8.79. Found: C, 52.53; H, 6.73; N, 9.02.

N-[2-(3-Isopropylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]propionanilide (7c): A mixture of 6c (1.5 g), proiponic anhydride (0.79 g) and absolute benzene (12 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 7a) without distillation under reduced pressure to give 7c oxalate (0.630 g, 21.1% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 195° (MeOH-H₂O). MS m/e: 303 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₉N₃O·2C₂H₂O₄·1/2H₂O: C, 53.66; H, 6.91; N, 8.54. Found: C, 53.40; H, 6.99; N, 8.77. Free base: IR ν_{\max}^{Plim} cm⁻¹: 1620 (C=O). NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.14 (9H, t, J=7 Hz, NCOCH₂CH₃ and NCH(CH₃)₂ were overlapping.), 4.01 (2H, s, NCH₂N).

N-[2-(3-n-Butylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]propionanilide (7d): A mixture of 6d (1.7 g), propionic anhydride (0.85 g) and absolute benzene (14 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 7a) without distillation under reduced pressure to give 7d oxalate (0.696 g, 21.1% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 217—218° (H₂O). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm KBr}$ cm⁻¹: 1625 (C=O). NMR (D₂O) δ : Exact values could not be determined because of broadening or overlapping. MS m/e: 317 (M+). Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₃₁N₃O·2C₂H₂O₄·1/2H₂O: C, 54.55; H, 7.11; N, 8.30. Found: C, 54.52; H, 7.46; N, 8.47.

N-[2-(3-Benzylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl] propionanilide (7e): A mixture of 6e (0.5 g), propionic anhydride (0.22 g) and absolute benzene (4 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 7a) without distillation under reduced pressure to give 7e oxalate (0.225 g, 24.6% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 201—202° (MeOH-H₂O). IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm KBr}$ cm⁻¹: 1640 (C=O). NMR (D₂O) δ : Exact values could not be determined because of broadening or overlapping. MS m/e: 351 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{29}N_3O\cdot 2C_2H_2O_4\cdot 1/2H_2O$: C, 57.78; H, 6.29; N, 7.78. Found: C, 57.73; H, 6.49; N, 8.08.

N-[2-(3-Phenethylhexahydropyrimidino)ethyl]propionanilide (7f): A mixture of 6f (1.0 g), propionic anhydride (0.42 g) and absolute benzene (8 ml) was refluxed for 3 hr. The mixture was treated in the manner described above (c.f. 7a) without distillation under reduced pressure to give 7f oxalate (0.433 g, 23.8% yield) as a colorless powder, mp 178—180° (MeOH-H₂O). IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm KBr}$ cm⁻¹: 1640 (C=O). NMR (D₂O) δ : 1.46 (3H, t, J=7 Hz, NCOCH₂CH₃). MS m/e: 365 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₃₁N₃O·2C₂H₂O₄·H₂O: C, 57.55; H, 6.57; N, 7.46. Found: C, 57.50; H, 6.57; N, 7.68.

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