

Synthesis of variously substituted 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives and evaluation of their antimycobacterial activity

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Abstract

A series of 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives variously substituted in the 2, 3, 4 and 7 positions were synthesized for in vitro evaluation of antimycobacterial activity in accordance with an international program with the tuberculosis antimicrobial acquisition and coordinating facility (TAACF). Several compounds **4**, **8**, **12**, **14**, **19**, **29** and **30**, when tested at a concentration of 6.25 µg/ml against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv, showed an interesting activity with % inhibition in the range 38–96%. The most effective substituent in position 2, 4 or 7 of the 1,8-naphthyridine nucleus seem to be the piperidinyl group. © 2002 Éditions scientifiques et médicales Elsevier SAS. All rights reserved.

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1. Introduction

Tuberculosis today can be considered one of the major problems for public health worldwide. In the last few years an unexpected return of this disease has taken place [1]. The World Health Organization has estimated that every year about eight million new cases of tuberculosis occur and about three million individuals die of this disease. This infection is present both in developing countries, where it is endemic, and in industrialized countries. Today the drugs used in the therapy of tuberculosis are still isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, rifampin and streptomycin, generally used in combination [2]. However, the protracted use in time of these molecules represents the main cause of the outbreak of new resistant strains. For this reason, in the last few years, the search for new antitubercular agents has become very important. Among a large amount of molecules tested for this purpose the heterocycles benzofurane [3], benzothiazole [4,5], benzoisothiazole [6],

benzimidazole [7–10], benzotriazole [11], triazolothiadiazole [12], isothiazolopyridines [13], quinoline [14–17], quinazoline [18–24] and quinoxaline [25].

In collaboration with an international program with the tuberculosis antimicrobial acquisition and coordinating facility (TAACF) we initiated a program of synthesis and anti-infective screening of a series of 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives structurally correlated to quinoline and phenyl-substituted quinazoline derivatives which possess tuberculostatic activity [14,15,18–20].

In a previous paper [26], we reported the preparation and the antimycobacterial activity of some 4-phenyl-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives variously substituted in positions 2 and 7 tested in vitro at a concentration of 12.5 µg/ml against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv. Some of these compounds showed a marked activity with an inhibition > 50%.

In this paper we describe the synthesis and biological results of some 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives substituted in positions 2, 3, 4 and 7 with some of the substituents present in the previous series [26] and with new substituents.

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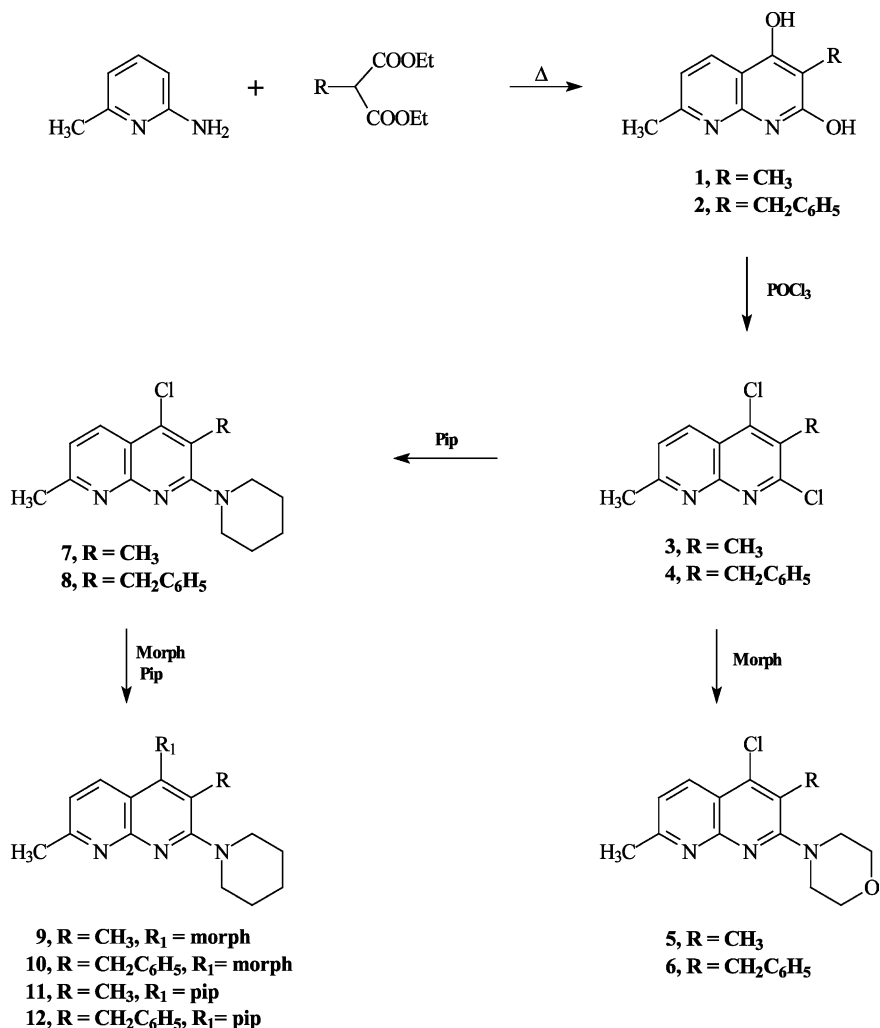
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2. Chemistry

The 3-methyl- and 3-benzyl-2,4-dihydroxy-7-methyl-1,8-naphthyridines (**1** and **2**) were obtained from 2-amino-6-methylpyridine and diethyl methylmalonate or diethyl benzylmalonate, respectively by reflux in Dowtherm A. The reaction of **1** and **2** with phosphoryl chloride afforded the dichloro derivatives **3** and **4** which were allowed to react with morpholine or piperidine in toluene under reflux to give the corresponding 2-mono-substituted derivatives **5**, **6** and **7**, **8**, respectively because of the high reactivity of the chloro group in the 2 position [27]. When the 4-chloro derivatives **7** and **8** were treated with morpholine or piperidine in a sealed tube at 160 °C, the 2-piperidino-4-substituted derivatives **9**, **10** and **11**, **12**, respectively were obtained (Scheme 1, Tables 1 and 2).

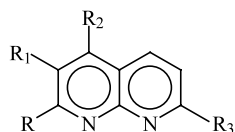
The reaction of the 4-chloro-7-hydroxy-2-morpholino-1,8-naphthyridine (**13**) [27] with phosphoryl chloride afforded the dichloro derivative **14**, which by

treatment with morpholine or piperidine in toluene at reflux afforded the corresponding derivatives **15** and **16** (Scheme 2, Tables 1 and 2). These compounds were allowed to react with morpholine or piperidine in a sealed tube at 160 °C to give the 4-substituted derivatives **17–19**. Under these conditions the 4-chloro derivative **13** was converted into the 4-morpholino and 4-piperidino derivatives **20** and **21**, respectively, which afforded the corresponding 2-chloro derivatives **22** and **23** by reaction with phosphoryl chloride. The 2-morpholino derivative **24** was obtained from **22** in analogous conditions, as reported above for compounds **16** (Scheme 2, Tables 1 and 2). The reaction of the 7-acetamido-2,4-dichloro-1,8-naphthyridine (**25**) [27] with morpholine or piperidine in toluene at reflux afforded the corresponding derivatives **26** and **27**, which by acid hydrolysis gave the 7-amino derivatives **28** [27] and **29**, respectively (Scheme 3, Tables 1 and 2). The 4-chloro derivative **29** was converted into the 4-piperidino derivative **30** by reaction with piperidine in a



Scheme 1. Synthetic route to variously substituted 3,7-dimethyl- and 3-benzyl-7-methyl-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives. Morph, morpholin-1-yl; Pip, piperidin-1-yl.

Table 1
Physical data of 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives



Comp.	R	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	Crystallization solvent	M.p. (°C)	Yield (%)	Mass <i>m/z</i>	
								(M ⁺)	(Base)
1	OH	CH ₃	OH	CH ₃	EtOH	>300	53	190	190
2	OH	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	OH	CH ₃	EtOH	267–270	43	268	266
3	Cl	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	EtOH–H ₂ O	205–207	81	266	266
4	Cl	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	EtOH–H ₂ O	115–118	84	302	231
5	Morph	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	Petr. Ether 100–140°	128–131	88	277	157
6	Morph	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	Petr. Ether 100–140°	115–118	76	353	231
7	Pip	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	EtOH–H ₂ O	108–110	88	275	157
8	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	EtOH–H ₂ O	95–98	98	351	160
9	Pip	CH ₃	Morph	CH ₃	Toluene ^a	145–147	70	326	158
10	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Morph	CH ₃	Toluene ^a	102–105	70	326	158
11	Pip	CH ₃	Pip	CH ₃	a	(oil)	10	324	241
12	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Pip	CH ₃	Toluene ^a	118–120	10	400	316
14	Morph	H	Cl	Cl	EtOH–H ₂ O	200–205	66	283	163
15	Morph	H	Cl	Morph	Toluene	260–262	98	334	277
16	Morph	H	Cl	Pip	Benzene–Petr. Ether 40–60°	155–157	86	332	249
17	Morph	H	Morph	Morph	Toluene	250–253	84	385	328
18	Morph	H	Morph	Pip	Petr. Ether 100–140°	172–175	46	383	326
19	Morph	H	Pip	Pip	Petr. Ether 100–140°	197–200	49	381	41
20	Morph	H	Morph	OH	Petr. Ether 100–140°	268–270	34	316	316
21	Morph	H	Pip	OH	Toluene	247–250	50	314	314
22	Morph	H	Morph	Cl	Petr. Ether 100–140°	208–210	78	334	277
23	Morph	H	Pip	Cl	Petr. Ether 100–140°	145–148	85	332	275
24	Morph	H	Pip	Morph	Toluene	205–208	95	383	326
26	Morph	H	Cl	NHAc	Toluene	250–253	79	306	144
27	Pip	H	Cl	NHAc	Toluene	215–218	84	304	144
29	Pip	H	Cl	NH ₂	Toluene	230–235	81	262	144
30	Pip	H	Pip	NH ₂	Toluene	262–265	96	311	228
31	Morph	H	Morph	NH ₂	Toluene	272–275	67	315	258
32	Morph	H	Pip	NH ₂	Toluene	251–253	52	313	256
34	OH	C ₆ H ₅	H	Cep	Toluene	224–226	77	378	250
35	OH	C ₆ H ₅	H	Pipz	Benzene	235–237	82	306	250

Morph = Morpholinyl, Pip = Piperidinyl, Pipz = Piperazinyl, Cep = N-ethoxycarbonylpiperazinyl.

^a Previously purified by flash chromatography [AcOEt–Petr. Ether (2:1)].

sealed tube at 160 °C. In analogous conditions compound **28**, by reaction with morpholine or piperidine, gave the 4-substituted derivatives **31** and **32** (Scheme 3, Tables 1 and 2).

Starting from the 7-hydroxy-2-chloro-3-phenyl-1,8-naphthyridine (**33**) [28] by treatment with *N*-ethoxycarbonylpiperazin in a sealed tube at 160 °C was obtained the corresponding derivatives **34** which by alkaline hydrolysis gave the 7-piperazinyl derivative **35** (Scheme 4, Tables 1 and 2).

3. Pharmacology

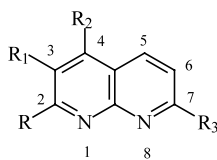
All described compounds were tested in vitro for



their antitubercular activity at the GWI Hansen's Disease Center (Colorado State University) within the TAACF screening program for the discovery of novel drugs for treatment of tuberculosis. The purpose of the screening program is to provide a resource whereby new experimental compounds can be tested for their capacity to inhibit the growth of *M. tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv according to the method described by Collins and Franzblau [29].

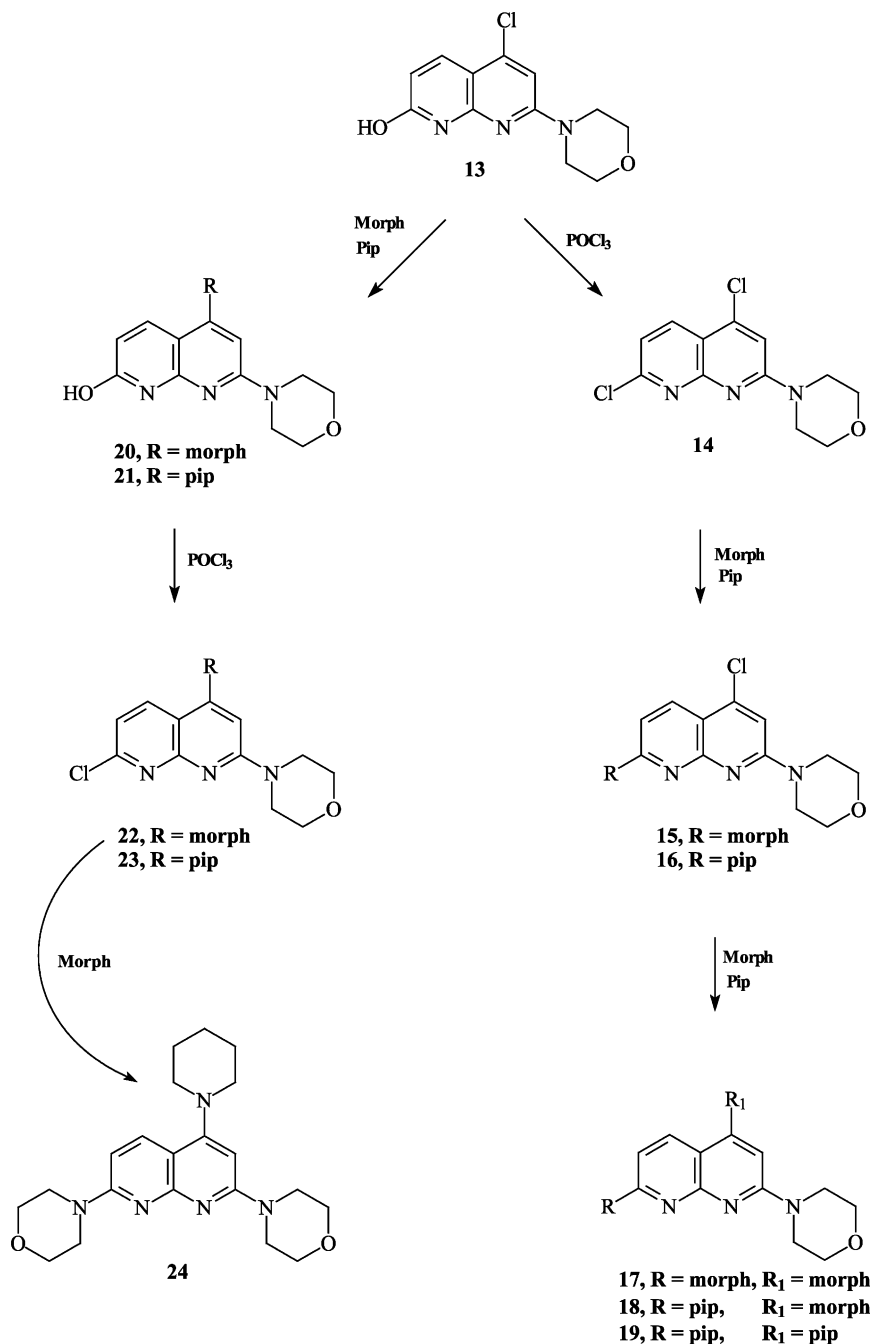
4. Results and discussion

Results of the in vitro evaluation of antitubercular activity of the tested compounds are reported in Table

Table 2
¹H-NMR chemical shifts (δ ppm/TMS)



Comp.	H ₃ (s)	H ₅ (d)	H ₆ (d)	 (m)	 (m)	Others	Solv.
1	---	8.07	7.03	----	---	1.97 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.49 (s, 7-CH ₃); 11.30 (brs, OH)	DMSO
2	---	8.16	7.09	----	---	2.50 (s, 7-CH ₃); 3.89 (s, CH ₂); 7.21 (m, Ph); 11.63 (brs, OH); 10.59 (brs, OH)	DMSO
3	---	8.44	7.65	----	---	2.61 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.71 (s, 7-CH ₃)	DMSO
4	---	8.50	7.66	----	---	2.73 (s, 7-CH ₃); 4.45 (s, CH ₂); 7.21 (m, Ph)	DMSO
5	---	8.26	7.34	----	3.79; 3.33	2.44 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.63 (s, 7-CH ₃)	DMSO
6	---	8.30	7.40	----	3.69; 3.18	2.66 (s, 7-CH ₃); 4.31 (s, CH ₂); 7.16 (m, Ph)	DMSO
7	---	8.22	7.32	3.17; 1.66	---	2.41 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.62 (s, 7-CH ₃)	DMSO
8	---	8.26	7.35	3.20; 1.64	---	2.63 (s, 7-CH ₃); 4.28 (s, CH ₂); 7.18 (m, Ph)	DMSO
9	---	8.18	7.05	3.25; 1.68	3.90; 3.30	2.33 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.69 (s, 7-CH ₃)	CDCl ₃
10	---	8.17	6.88	3.26; 1.58	3.54; 2.89	2.58 (s, 7-CH ₃); 4.13 (s, CH ₂); 7.10 (m, Ph)	CDCl ₃
11	---	8.13	7.01	3.24; 1.69	---	2.28 (s, 3-CH ₃); 2.68 (s, 7-CH ₃)	CDCl ₃
12	---	8.06	6.85	3.30; 1.55	---	2.69 (s, 7-CH ₃); 4.13 (s, CH ₂); 7.08 (m, Ph)	CDCl ₃
14	7.02	8.17	7.17	----	3.79	---	CDCl ₃
15	6.71	8.10	6.65	----	3.78	---	CDCl ₃
16	6.63	7.95	6.70	3.74; 1.67	3.74	---	CDCl ₃
17	6.09	7.85	6.56	----	3.75; 3.10	---	DMSO
18	6.05	7.78	6.59	3.75; 1.65	3.90; 3.10	---	CDCl ₃
19	6.03	7.78	6.58	3.75; 1.64	3.72; 3.07	---	CDCl ₃
20	5.93	7.65	6.29	----	3.88; 3.08	9.30 (brs, OH)	CDCl ₃
21	5.90	7.61	6.28	3.60; 1.71	3.75; 3.03	9.25 (brs, OH)	CDCl ₃
22	6.05	7.85	7.08	----	3.79; 3.10	---	CDCl ₃
23	6.27	7.96	7.03	3.78; 1.74	3.78; 3.03	---	CDCl ₃
24	6.06	7.85	6.56	3.76; 1.78	3.76; 3.05	---	CDCl ₃
26	6.88	8.24	8.10	----	3.72	2.21 (s, CH ₃); 9.40 (brs, AcNH)	CDCl ₃
27	7.32	8.20	8.01	3.71; 1.61	---	2.10 (s, CH ₃); 10.84 (brs, AcNH)	DMSO
29	7.10	8.05	6.70	3.72; 1.55	---	4.90 (brs, NH ₂)	DMSO
30	6.13	7.63	6.33	3.58; 2.92; 1.58	---	4.85 (brs, NH ₂)	DMSO
31	6.11	7.81	6.73	----	3.91; 3.09	4.81 (brs, NH ₂)	DMSO
32	6.16	7.68	6.40	3.36; 1.64	3.62; 3.01	6.31 (brs, NH ₂)	DMSO
34	---	7.84	6.76	----	3.67	1.21 (t, CH ₃); 4.09 (q, CH ₂); 7.34 (m, Ph); 7.72 (m, Ph); 7.92 (s, H ₄); 11.76 (brs, OH)	DMSO
35	---	7.80	6.72	----	3.60; 2.76	7.34 (m, Ph); 7.78 (m, Ph); 7.89 (s, H ₄); 11.60 (brs, OH)	DMSO



Scheme 2. Synthetic route to variously substituted 2-(morpholin-1-yl)-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives. Morph, morpholin-1-yl; Pip, piperidin-1-yl.

3 and they show an interesting activity for several compounds. Compounds **4**, **8**, **12**, **14**, **19**, **29** and **30** exhibited a growth inhibition against *M. tuberculosis* *H*₃₇*Rv* at a concentration of 6.25 µg/ml in the range 38–96%. These data were compared with those of rifampicin, as reference drug, that showed an inhibition activity of 98% at a concentration of 0.25 µg/ml.

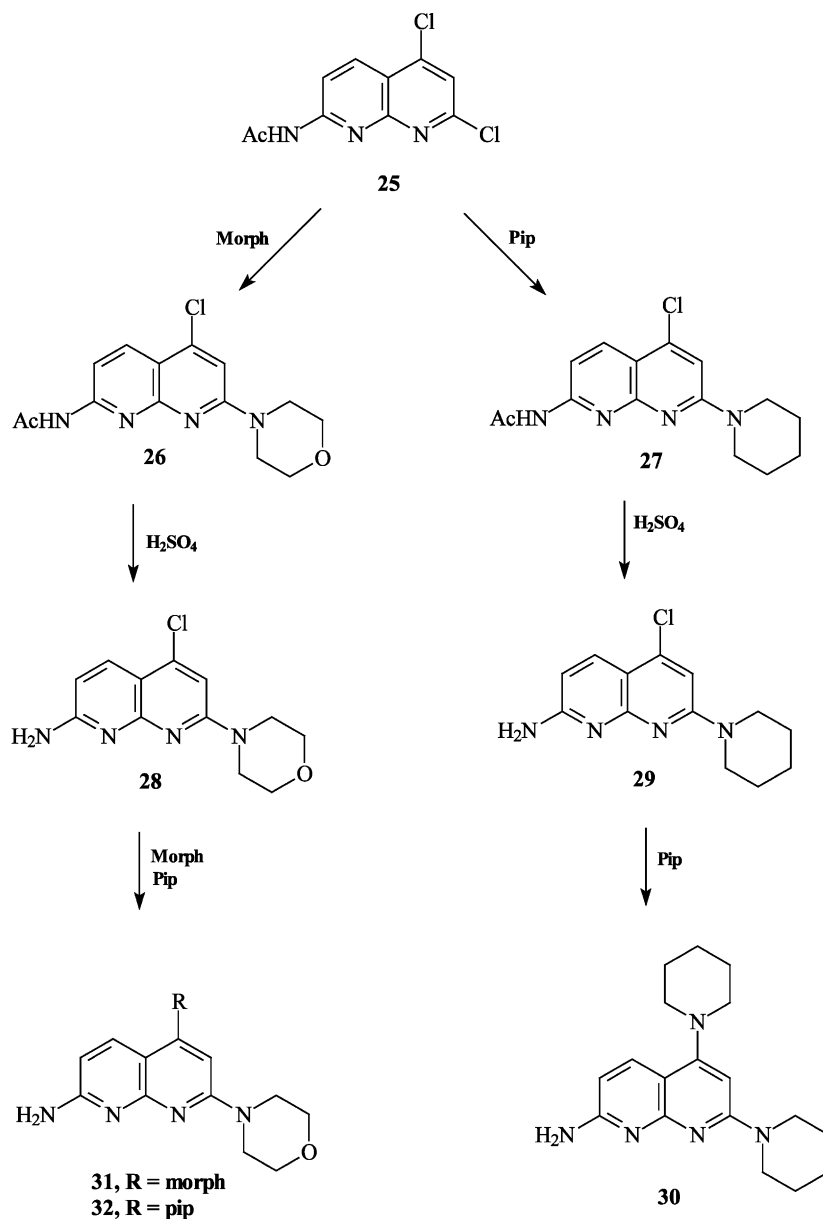
In spite of the restricted number of compounds tested in this study, some preliminary consideration of structure–activity relationships can be put forward.

Before all, the biological results indicate that 1,8-naphthyridine derivatives reported in this study

exhibited a greater antimycobacterial activity than that of 4-phenyl-naphthyridine derivatives tested at concentration of 12.5 µg/ml [26].

From analysis of biological results reported in Table 3, the 3-benzyl derivatives **4**, **6**, **8** and **10** are more active than the corresponding 3-methyl derivatives **3**, **5**, **7** and **9**, consequently it can be deduced that the benzyl group in the position 3 of the heterocyclic ring seem to be more effective than the methyl group in the same position.

Furthermore, the comparison of compounds **6** (20%) versus **8** (41%), **10** (20%) versus **12** (96%), **19** (43%)



Scheme 3. Synthetic route to variously substituted 7-acetamido- and 7-amino-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives. Morph, morpholin-1-yl; Pip, piperidin-1-yl.

versus **24** (11%) and **30** (72%) versus **31** (0%) and **32** (6%) clearly indicate that the morpholino group either in the position 2, 4 or 7 of the heterocyclic ring cause a decrease of activity.

When a hydroxy group was introduced into position 2, 4 or 7 of the 1,8-naphthyridine nucleus, inactive compounds (**1**, **2**, **13**, **20** and **21**) were obtained, as also reported in a previous paper for the analogous 4-phenyl derivatives [26].

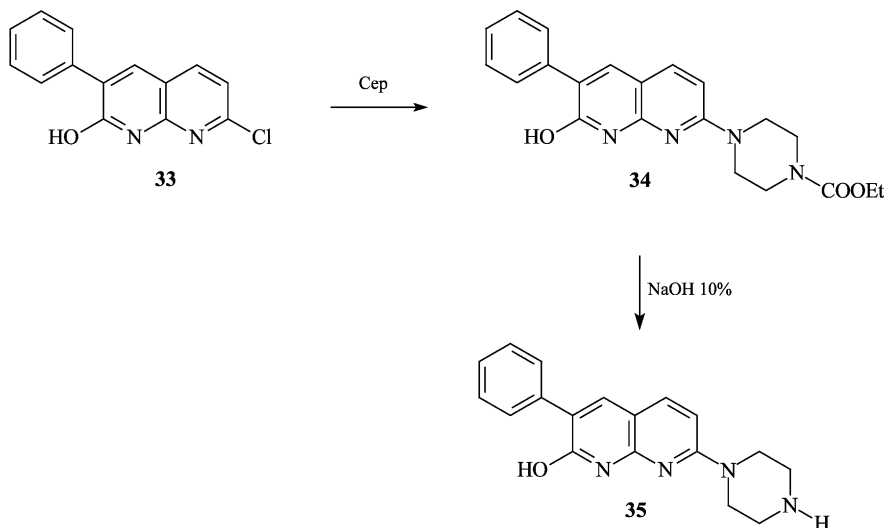
The influence of the amino group, in position 7 of the heterocyclic ring on the antimycobacterial activity is not clear at this time; in fact the 7-amino derivative **29** and **30** showed an inhibition activity of 38 and 72%, respectively, whereas the 7-amino derivatives, **31** and **32**

possessed a very poor activity. More probably the inactivity of these last compounds is due to the presence of the morpholinyl group on the heterocyclic ring.

However, on the basis of the biological results, it is interesting to point out that the most effective substituent in the positions 2, 4 or 7 of the 1,8-naphthyridine nucleus seem to be the piperidinyl group.

Furthermore, the above data of biological activity and those previous reported [26] seem to show that a balance between both lipophilic and electronegative effects is necessary to determine an appreciable antimycobacterial activity.

In the light of the above results we can conclude that



Scheme 4. Synthetic route to substituted 2-hydroxy-3-phenyl-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives. Cep, *N*-ethoxycarbonylpiperazin-1-yl; Pipz, piperazin-1-yl.

the 1,8-naphthyridine ring appears to be a useful substrate for antitubercular agents.

5. Experimental

5.1. Chemistry

All compounds were routinely checked for their structure by IR and ^1H NMR spectroscopy. M.p.s were determined on a K ofler hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were measured with a Genesis Series FTIR ATI Mattson. The ^1H NMR spectra were determined in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ or CDCl_3 with TMS as the internal standard, on a Varian CFT-20 NMR spectrometer. Analytical TLC was carried out on Merck 0.2 mm precoated silica gel glass plates (60 F-254) and location of spots was detected by illumination with a UV lamp. Elemental analyses of all compounds synthesized for C, H and N were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of theoretical values and were performed by our analytical laboratory.

5.1.1. General procedure for the preparation of 2,4-dihydroxy-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives **1** and **2**

A mixture of 2-amino-6-methylpyridine (9.0 mmol) and diethyl benzylmalonate or diethyl methylmalonate (10.0 mmol) in 10 ml of Dowtherm A was refluxed for 15 min. The solution was allowed to rest at r.t. and after 24 h the precipitate formed was collected by filtration and washed with petroleum ether to obtain the title compounds (Tables 1 and 2).

5.1.2. General procedure for the preparation of mono- and dichloro-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives **3**, **4**, **14**, **22** and **23**

A mixture of 5 mmol of the appropriate hydroxy-1,8-naphthyridine **1**, **2**, **13** [27], **20** or **21** POCl_3 (10 ml for **13**, **20** and **21** or 15 ml for **1** and **2**) was heated at 90°C for 40 min. After cooling, the solution obtained was treated with ice and water and then alkalinized with concd. NH_4OH ($\text{pH} \cong 8$). The solid was collected by filtration, washed with water and purified by crystallization to give the title compounds (Tables 1 and 2).

5.1.3. General procedure for the preparation of (morpholin-1-yl)-**5**, **6**, **15**, **24** and **26** and (piperidin-1-yl)-**7**, **8**, **16** and **27**-1,8-naphthyridine derivatives.

A mixture of 2 mmol of appropriate chloro-1,8-naphthyridine **3**, **4**, **14**, **23** or **25** and 5 mmol of morpholine or piperidine in 20 ml of $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_3$ was refluxed for 6 h. The solvent was evaporated to dryness in vacuo and the residue was treated with water, filtered and purified by crystallization to give the title compounds. Only the compound **26** was purified by flash chromatography (Tables 1 and 2).

5.1.4. 7-Amino-4-chloro-2-(morpholin-1-yl) (**28**) [27] and 7-amino-4-chloro-2-(piperidin-1-yl)-1,8-naphthyridine (**29**)

A solution of 5.0 mmol of the 7-acetamido-4-chloro-1,8-naphthyridine **26** or **27** in 20 ml of 10% H_2SO_4 was refluxed for 2 h and then, after cooling, the pH was adjusted to 9 with concd. NH_4OH . The solid was separated by filtration and purified by crystallization (Tables 1 and 2).

5.1.5. General procedure for the preparation of (morpholin-1-yl)- **9**, **10**, **17**, **18**, **20** and **31**, (piperidin-1-yl)- **11**, **12**, **19**, **21**, **30** and **32** and (*N*-ethoxycarbonylpiperazin-1-yl)- **34** -1,8-naphthyridine derivatives

A mixture of 5 mmol of appropriate 4-chloro-1,8-naphthyridine (**7**, **8**, **13**, **15**, **16**, **28**, **29**) or 7-hydroxy-2-chloro-3-phenyl-1,8-naphthyridine (**33**) and 20 mmol of appropriate amine was kept for 16 h in a sealed tube, at 160 °C. After cooling, the crude residue was treated with water and the solid obtained was collected by filtration, washed with water, and purified by crystallization or by flash chromatography (Tables 1 and 2).

5.1.6. 2-methoxy-3-phenyl-7-(piperazin-1-yl)-1,8-naphthyridine (**35**)

A solution of 1 mmol of the 7-carbethoxypiperazinyl derivative **34** in 25 ml of EtOH and 25 ml of 10% aq. NaOH was refluxed for 16 h and then concentrated in

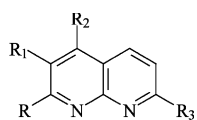
vacuo to a small volume. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 8–9 with 10% HCl and the solution was extracted twice with CHCl₃; the combined extracts were dried (magnesium sulfate) and evaporated to dryness in vacuo to obtain the piperazin-1-yl derivative **35**, which was purified by crystallization (Tables 1 and 2).

5.2. Pharmacology

Primary screening was conducted at 6.25 µg/ml against the virulent strain *M. tuberculosis* H_{37Rv}. *M. tuberculosis* was grown in BACTEC 12B medium containing radiolabelled substrate [29]. Labelled CO₂ produced was detected and quantified by the automatic BACTEC 460-radiometric system. Compounds effecting ≤ 96% inhibition in the primary screening (MIC > 6.25 µg/ml) were not evaluated further. The standard compound used in this primary assay was rifampicin (MIC = 0.25 µg/ml).

Table 3

Antimycobacterial in vitro activity of the tested compounds expressed as % inhibition of *M. tuberculosis* H_{37Rv} at a concentration of 6.25 µg/ml



Comp.	R	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	% Inhibition
1	OH	CH ₃	OH	CH ₃	0
2	OH	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	OH	CH ₃	0
3	Cl	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	1
4	Cl	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	55
5	Morph	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	0
6	Morph	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	20
7	Pip	CH ₃	Cl	CH ₃	17
8	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Cl	CH ₃	41
9	Pip	CH ₃	Morph	CH ₃	11
10	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Morph	CH ₃	20
12	Pip	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	Pip	CH ₃	96
13 [27]	Morph	H	Cl	OH	2
14	Morph	H	Cl	Cl	38
15	Morph	H	Cl	Morph	0
16	Morph	H	Cl	Pip	27
17	Morph	H	Morph	Morph	11
18	Morph	H	Morph	Pip	0
19	Morph	H	Pip	Pip	43
20	Morph	H	Morph	OH	9
21	Morph	H	Pip	OH	0
22	Morph	H	Morph	Cl	1
23	Morph	H	Pip	Cl	8
24	Morph	H	Pip	Morph	11
27	Pip	H	Cl	AcNH	8
29	Pip	H	Cl	NH ₂	38
30	Pip	H	Pip	NH ₂	72
31	Morph	H	Morph	NH ₂	0
32	Morph	H	Pip	NH ₂	6
34	OH	C ₆ H ₅	H	Cep	16
35	OH	C ₆ H ₅	H	Pipz	11
RMP					98

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