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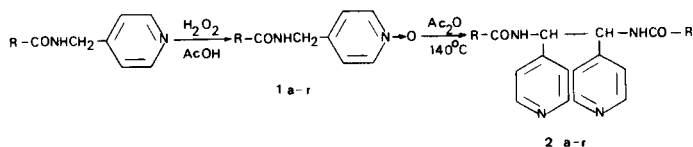
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Reaction of *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)benzamide *N*-oxides with acetic anhydride yielded dimerization compounds. This dimerization occurs at the atom attached to the pyridine ring. These compounds so obtained were evaluated for analgesic and antiinflammatory activity.

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Recently (1), we reported the synthesis of *N,N'*-di-(3,5-dimethylbenzoyl)-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)ethylenediamine by reaction of *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)-3,5-dimethylbenzamide *N*-oxide with acetic anhydride at 140°. Since this ethylenediamine derivative is a powerful peripheral analgesic (2) agent and in order to confirm the extension of this homolytic dimerization reaction and so as to study the biological action of this series, other *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)amide *N*-oxides (**1a-r**) were treated with acetic anhydride under the same conditions to give the corresponding *N,N'*-diacyl-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)ethylenediamines (**2a-r**) with R = alkyl or aryl groups.



The general method for the synthesis of *N,N'*-diacyl-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)ethylenediamines (Tables 3 and 4) consists of the reaction of *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)amide *N*-oxides (Tables 1 and 2) with acetic anhydride under reflux for 1.5 hours.

The synthesis of the *N*-oxides is carried out in good yield by oxidation of the corresponding amides with hydrogen peroxide in acetic acid (3). Amides (4) are obtained by the direct reaction of the corresponding acid with 4-aminomethylpyridine in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide as condensating agent in practically quantitative yields. The structures of all compounds were established according to analytical and spectroscopic data (Tables 1-4).

Biological Results.

These compounds were screened for their toxicity. Analgesic activity was assessed by measuring the inhibition of acetic acid induced writhing (5) and were compared with dextropropoxyphene. The antiinflammatory was measured in the carrageenan (6) and ovalbumin (7) induc-

ed rat paw edema test and were compared with dexamethasone. Table 5 contains all the biological data.

All these compounds show analgesic action by oral as well as intraperitoneal administration. On the other hand, their toxicity is slight since the LD₅₀ is greater than 1 g/Kg for all of them and they are therefore more manageable than the dextropropoxyphene. Although the chemical analgesic with acetic acid is a technique for evaluating analgesics which does not discriminate between their different types, the fact that the majority of the products assayed show antiinflammatory action seems to indicate that antipyretic-antiinflammatory analgesic is being dealt with. To date the compounds **2c** and **2g**, those which show greater analgesic activity by the oral administration, have been chosen for further studies.

EXPERIMENTAL

N-(4-Pyridylmethyl)amides. General Procedure.

A suspension of the carboxylic acid (0.1 mole), 4-aminomethylpyridine (0.05 mole) and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.05 mole) in acetonitrile (150 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The solid product was filtered and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was acidified with 0.5 normal hydrochloric acid and was then alkalized with 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide. The amide was isolated by suction, dried and recrystallized.

N-(4-Pyridylmethyl)amide *N*-Oxides (**1a-r**). General Procedure.

To a solution of the corresponding *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)amide (0.05 mole) in glacial acetic acid (125 ml) was added hydrogen peroxide (20 ml, 40% w/v). The solution was heated at 80° and the completion of the reaction is determined by tlc (silica gel 60 F254, Merck, with benzene:ethanol 9:1 as eluent). The solution was then reduced *in vacuo* to 1/3 of its volume. The residue was alkalized with 10% sodium hydroxide solution, extracted with chloroform and dried (anhydrous magnesium sulphate). The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to give compounds **1a-r** (except **1c**).

N-(4-Pyridylmethyl)benzamide *N*-Oxide (**1c**).

To a solution (120 g) of acetic anhydride and hydrogen peroxide (90 ml, 40% w/v) was added a solution of *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)benzamide (30 g, 0.14 mole) in ether (250 ml) with cooling in ice. The mixture was stirred for a week at room temperature. The solution was then reduced *in*

Table 1
N-(4-Pyridylmethyl)amide N-Oxides Ia-r

Product R	Yield %	mp °C (a) (solvent)	Molecular formula	IR (KBr) (b) cm ⁻¹	Found %	Calcd. %
				NH C=O N-O	C H N	C H N
Ia CH ₃	45	165-167 (absolute ethanol)	C ₈ H ₁₀ N ₂ O ₂ (150.1)	3100 1670	57.58 6.12 16.70	57.82 6.06 16.85
Ib (CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂) ₂ CH	60	143-145 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₄ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₂ (250.3)	3260	66.93 8.83 10.98	67.16 8.83 11.99
Ic C ₃ H ₅ -CH ₂	73	194-195 (ethanol)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂ (242.3)	3260	69.68 5.71 11.38	69.40 5.82 11.56
Id C ₃ H ₅	65	92-94 (ethyl acetate)	C ₁₃ H ₁₂ N ₂ O ₂ (228.2)	3300	68.27 5.49 12.27	68.08 5.60 12.07
Ie 4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	55	173-174 (ethyl acetate)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂ (242.3)	3300	69.45 5.98 11.85	69.40 5.82 11.56
If 3-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	60	138-140 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂ (242.3)	3240	69.16 6.08 11.77	69.40 5.82 11.56
Ig 2-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	65	196-198 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂ (242.3)	3200	69.21 5.89 11.71	69.40 5.82 11.56
Ih 4-t-C ₄ H ₉ -C ₆ H ₄	70	192-193 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₇ H ₂₀ N ₂ O ₂ (284.4)	3230	71.67 7.09 9.84	71.80 7.08 9.85
Ii 4-CH ₃ -O-C ₆ H ₄	73	172-175 (ethanol)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₃ (258.3)	3260	64.86 5.23 10.56	65.10 5.46 10.84
Ij 4-CH ₃ SO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	60	243-244 (methanol)	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₄ S (306.3)	3100	54.76 4.65 9.40 (S, 10.50)	54.89 4.60 9.14 (S, 10.45)
Ik 4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	70	245-246 (ethanol)	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ N ₃ O ₄ (273.2)	3200	57.11 4.19 15.20	57.13 4.06 15.37
Il 4-C ₆ H ₅ -C ₆ H ₄	70	220-221 (ethanol)	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₂ (304.3)	3320	74.71 5.13 8.99	74.98 5.29 9.20
Im 4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄	79	166-168 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ ClN ₂ O ₂ (262.7)	3230	59.16 4.27 10.44 (Cl, 13.69)	59.45 4.19 10.67 (Cl, 13.49)
In 3-Cl-C ₆ H ₄	50	132-135 (dioxane)	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ ClN ₂ O ₂ (262.7)	3160	59.35 4.37 10.81 (Cl, 13.61)	59.45 4.19 10.67 (Cl, 13.49)
Io 2-Cl-C ₆ H ₄	70	222-225 (ethanol)	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ ClN ₂ O ₂ (262.7)	3140	59.22 4.27 10.69 (Cl, 13.27)	59.45 4.19 10.67 (Cl, 13.49)
Ip 3,5-Cl ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	69	210-213 (ethanol)	C ₁₃ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ N ₂ O ₂ (297.0)	3340	52.70 3.60 9.25 (Cl, 24.13)	52.52 3.36 9.42 (Cl, 23.90)
Iq 4-F-C ₆ H ₄	60	168-169 (chloroform-hexane)	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ FN ₂ O ₂ (246.2)	3230	63.67 4.51 11.38	63.41 4.47 11.38
Ir 4-F ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	80	192-193 (dioxane)	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ F ₃ N ₂ O ₂ (292.2)	3240	56.55 3.91 9.73	56.75 3.71 9.45

(a) The melting points were obtained on a Büchi apparatus and are uncorrected. (b) Measured on a Perkin-Elmer 257 spectrophotometer.

Table 2

¹H-NMR (a) Spectra of Products **1a-r**

Product	Solvent	Chemical Shifts δ ppm
1a	CF ₃ COOH	2.40 (s, 3H, CH ₃); 4.80 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.90 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 8.40 (d, 2H, 2H α -py)
1b	CDCl ₃	0.90 (m, 6H, 2CH ₃); 1.15-1.70 (m, 8H, 4CH ₂); 2.20 (m, 1H, CH); 4.30 (d, 2H, CH ₂ -py); 6.90 (m, 3H, 2H β -py, NH); 7.80 (d, 2H, 2H α -py).
1c	DMSO-d ₆	3.40 (s, 2H, CH ₂ CO); 4.15 (d, 2H, NCH ₂); 7.00 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.15 (s, 5H, 5H-ph); 7.95 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 8.35 (s-broad, 1H, NH).
1d	DMSO-d ₆	4.50 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.40 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.60-8.10 (m, 5H, 5H-ph); 8.30 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 9.20 (t, 1H, NH).
1e	CDCl ₃	2.45 (s, 3H, CH ₃); 4.60 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.10-7.50 (m, 4H, 2H β -py, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.80-8.20 (m, 5H, 2H, <i>o</i> -ph, 2H, α -py, NH).
1f	CDCl ₃	2.40 (s, 3H, CH ₃); 4.60 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.10-7.50 (m, 4H, 2H β -py, 1H <i>p</i> -ph, 1H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.70-8.10 (m, 5H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph, 2H α -py, NH).
1g	DMSO-d ₆	2.35 (s, 3H, CH ₃); 4.40 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.20 (m, 6H, 4H-ph, 2H β -py); 8.10 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 8.75 (t, 1H, NH).
1h	CDCl ₃	1.30 (s, 9H, C(CH ₃) ₃); 4.45 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 6.80-7.30 (m, 4H, 2H β -py, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.60-8.00 (m, 5H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph, 2H α -py, NH).
1i	DMSO-d ₆	3.75 (s, 3H, OCH ₃); 4.40 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 6.85 (d, 2H, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.15 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.75 (d, 2H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph); 8.00 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 8.80 (t, 1H, NH).
1j	DMSO-d ₆	3.30 (s, 3H, CH ₃); 4.50 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.40 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 8.20 (m, 6H, 4H-ph, 2H α -py); 9.45 (t, 1H, NH).
1k	DMSO-d ₆	4.45 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.30 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.90-8.30 (m, 6H, 4H-ph, 2H α -py); 9.40 (t, 1H, NH).
1l	DMSO-d ₆	4.40 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.15 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.20-7.80 (m, 9H, 9H-ph); 8.00 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 9.10 (t, 1H, NH).
1m	DMSO-d ₆	4.45 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.20 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.40 (d, 2H, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.80 (d, 2H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph); 8.05 (d, 2H, 2H α -py).
1n	DMSO-d ₆	4.40 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.10-7.50 (m, 4H, 2H β -py, 1H <i>p</i> -ph, 1H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.80 (m, 2H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph); 8.10 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 9.10 (t, 1H, NH).
1o	CF ₃ COOH	4.95 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.30 (s, 4H, 4H-ph); 7.90 (d, 3H, 2H β -py, NH); 8.55 (d, 2H, 2H α -py).
1p	DMSO-d ₆	4.35 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.15 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 7.65 (m, 3H, 3H-ph); 8.00 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 9.20 (t, 1H, NH).
1q	DMSO-d ₆	4.45 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.25 (m, 4H, 2H β -py, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.90 (m, 2H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph); 8.10 (d, 2H, 2H α -py); 9.10 (t, 1H, NH).
1r	DMSO-d ₆	4.40 (d, 2H, CH ₂); 7.20 (d, 2H, 2H <i>m</i> -ph); 7.70 (d, 2H, 2H β -py); 8.00 (m, 4H, 2H <i>o</i> -ph, 2H α -py).

(a) Measured on a Varian T-60 A spectrometer.

N,N'-Diacyl-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)ethylenediamines **2a-r**

Table 3

Product R	Yield mp °C (a)	Molecular formula	(M ⁺) (b)		IR (KBr) (c) cm ⁻¹			Found %			Caled. %		
			NH	C=O	NH	C	H	N	C	H	N		
2a	20	C ₁₆ H ₁₈ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1650	3300	64.17	6.13	18.63	64.41	6.08	18.78		
2b	308 (DMF)	C ₂₈ H ₄₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1640	3300	72.31	8.94	11.78	72.06	9.07	12.00		
2c	43	C ₂₈ H ₂₈ N ₄ O ₂	3320	1650	3320	74.59	5.86	12.37	74.64	5.81	12.43		
2d	22	C ₂₆ H ₂₂ N ₄ O ₂	3340	1635	3340	74.01	5.15	12.97	73.91	5.24	13.26		
2e	26	C ₂₆ H ₂₂ N ₄ O ₂	3220	1640	3220	74.39	6.08	12.60	74.64	5.81	12.43		
2f	44	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1640	3300	74.87	5.63	12.60	74.64	5.81	12.43		
2g	41	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1630	3300	74.80	5.75	12.62	74.64	5.81	12.43		
2h	39	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₂	3280	1650	3280	76.30	6.89	10.53	76.37	7.16	10.47		
2i	70	C ₃₄ H ₃₈ N ₄ O ₂	3260	1640	3260	69.44	5.14	11.41	69.69	5.43	11.61		
2j	44	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₂	3240	1650	3240	57.93	4.26	9.39	58.12	4.53	9.68		
2k	64	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ N ₄ O ₂	3340	1650	3340	60.80	4.04	16.11	60.93	3.93	16.40		
2l	54	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ N ₄ O ₂	3340	1630	3340	79.20	5.44	10.04	79.41	5.26	9.75		
2m	40	C ₃₈ H ₃₀ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1630	3300	63.42	4.24	11.13	63.54	4.07	11.40		
2n	39	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1635	3300	63.42	4.30	11.26	63.54	4.07	11.40		
2o	37	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1635	3300	63.36	4.30	11.48	63.54	4.07	11.40		
2p	39	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1640	3300	63.42	4.15	11.48	63.54	4.07	11.40		
2q	38	C ₂₆ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1640	3300	55.51	3.50	10.20	55.71	3.21	10.00		
2r	33	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ F ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1650	3300	67.94	4.14	12.44	68.12	4.36	12.22		
2r	38	C ₂₈ H ₂₀ F ₂ N ₄ O ₂	3300	1640	3300	60.03	3.50	9.95	60.21	3.58	10.08		

(a) The melting points were obtained on a E. Bühler apparatus and are uncorrected. (b) Measured on a Varian Mat 711 spectrometer. (c) Measured on a Perkin-Elmer 257 spectrophotometer.

Table 4

¹H NMR (a) Spectra of Products 2a-r

Product	Chemical Shifts (CF ₃ COOH δ ppm)
2a	2.00 (s, 6H, 2CH ₃); 6.20 (s, 2H, 2CH); 8.35 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.90 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2b	0.70-1.00 (m, 12H, 4CH ₃); 1.20-1.60 (m, 16H, 8CH ₂); 2.20 (m, 2H, 2CHCO); 6.35 (m, 2H, 2CH); 7.85 (m, 2H, 2NH); 8.20 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.45 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2c	3.65 (d, 4H, 2CH ₂); 6.25 (d, 2H, 2CH); 7.10 (m, 4H, 4H o-ph); 7.40 (m, 6H, 2H p-ph, 4H m-ph); 8.25 (m, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.75 (m, 4H, 4H α-py).
2d	6.80 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.50-7.80 (m, 10H, 10H-ph); 8.70 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 9.00 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2e	(b)
2f	2.00 (s, 6H, 2CH ₃); 6.40 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.00 (d, 8H, 8H-ph); 8.25 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.65 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2g	1.90 (s, 6H, 2CH ₃); 6.40 (s, 2H, 2CH); 6.65-7.20 (m, 8H, 8H, ph); 8.45 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.65 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2h	1.35 (s, 18H, 2C(CH ₃) ₃); 4.20 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.75 (q, 8H, 8H, ph); 8.15 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.80 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2i	3.97 (s, 6H, 2OCH ₃); 6.70 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.15 (m, 4H, 4H m-ph); 7.70-8.90 (m, 12H, 4H o-ph, 8H-py).
2j	3.29 (s, 6H, 2CH ₃); 6.78 (s, 2H, 2CH); 8.00-8.95 (m, 16H, 8H-ph, 8H-py).
2k	6.70 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.73-8.95 (m, 16H, 8H-ph, 8H-py).
2l	(b)
2m	6.67 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.50 (q, 8H, 8H-ph); 8.60 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.95 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2n	6.20 (s, 2H, 2CH); 6.80-7.10 (m, 8H, 8H-ph); 8.10 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.45 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2o	(b)
2p	6.75 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.55-7.75 (m, 6H, 6H-ph); 8.65 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 9.00 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2q	6.80 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.00 (d, 4H, 4H m-ph); 7.60 (m, 4H, 4H o-ph); 7.85 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.50 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).
2r	6.80 (s, 2H, 2CH); 7.80 (s, 8H, 8H-ph); 8.60 (d, 4H, 4H β-py); 8.95 (d, 4H, 4H α-py).

(a) Measured on a Bruker WH 90 MHz spectrometer. (b) Compound very insoluble.

vacuo to 100 ml and alkalized with 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide to give 1c.

N,N'-Diacyl-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)ethylenediamine (2a-r). General Procedure.

A solution of *N*-(4-pyridylmethyl)amide *N*-oxide (5 g) in 35 ml of acetic anhydride was refluxed at 140° for 1.5 hours, the precipitate was collected, washed with ethyl acetate and recrystallized to give 2a-r.

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Table 5

Biological Activity of *N,N'*-Diacyl-1,2-di-(4-pyridyl)-ethylenediamines (a)

Product	LD ₅₀ , mg/Kg (mice, ip) (b)	Analgesic Activity (c)		Antiinflammatory Activity (d) (rats)			Ovalbumin	
		1 mg/Kg (mice, ip)	5 mg/Kg (mice, po)	1 st h	3 rd h	24 th h	1 st h	3 rd h
2a	1124,9	1,01	0,85	0,00	0,59	0,00	NT (e)	NT
2b	> 1200	1,43	0,95	NT	NT	NT	0,00	0,00
2c	> 1200	0,96	2,13	1,09	0,64	0,55	0,59	0,09
2d	> 1200	1,21	1,35	3,00	1,63	0,20	0,60	0,69
2e	> 1200	1,04	1,11	1,15	0,60	0,02	0,71	0,77
2f	> 1200	1,05	1,64	0,82	0,60	0,31	0,20	0,26
2g	> 1200	1,09	1,67	0,72	0,00	0,01	0,54	0,36
2h	> 1200	1,11	1,17	1,38	1,84	0,49	1,00	0,90
2i	> 1200	1,09	1,23	2,00	0,90	0,11	1,00	1,00
2j	> 1200	1,43	1,05	-	1,40	0,21	0,00	0,04
2k	> 1200	1,38	1,25	0,98	0,65	0,20	0,00	0,08
2l	> 1200	1,08	1,13	0,00	1,09	0,47	0,00	0,00
2m	> 1200	1,58	1,29	0,72	0,00	0,01	0,77	0,36
2n	> 1200	1,08	1,05	1,09	0,98	0,41	0,78	0,68
2o	1064,3	1,37	1,34	1,14	1,28	0,58	0,40	0,35
2p	> 1200	0,84	1,22	1,43	1,04	0,27	0,48	0,42
2q	1107,7	1,17	0,81	2,50	1,19	0,47	1,27	0,81
2r	> 1200	1,38	1,19	0,67	0,23	0,00	0,34	0,42
Dextropropoxifene	98	1,00	1,00					
Dexamethasone	NT			1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00

(a) All compounds were suspended in a 5% aqueous solution of arabic gum. (b) Albino mice (ICR-Swiss). (c) Effect measured as analgesic effect compound/analgesic effect dextropropoxifene (dose, 25 mg/Kg). (d) Effect measured as antiinflammatory effect compound/antiinflammatory effect dexamethasone (dose, 5 mg/Kg). (e) NT = Not tested.