

Short Research Article

Synthesis of 1-(1-benzyl-2-ethylthio-2-¹⁴C-5-imidazolyl)-4-{3-(1-isopropylamino)-2-*pridyl*} piperazine[†]

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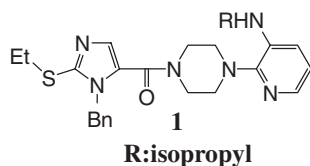
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Introduction

A variety of analogues of bis (heteroaryl) piperazines (BHAPs) (such as: U-80493E) were synthesized and evaluated for their inhibition of human immunodeficiency virus type1 (HIV-1) reverse transcriptase.¹ Sometimes replacement of the substituted aryl moiety with other various aromatic systems provided bis (heteroaryl) piperazines that were 10–100 fold more potent than U-80493E (for instance: Ateviridine).² According to previous structure and activity relationship studies on atevirdine, the compound **1** was synthesized by Hadizadeh and coworkers, in which 1-(3-alkylamino-2-pyridyl) piperazine part of the molecule was unchanged and 5-alkoxy-2-indolylcarbonyl part of the molecule was replaced by benzyl-2-alkylthio-imidazolylcarbonyl moiety.³ Therefore, to further elucidate the mechanism of action and to support ongoing metabolism studies, there arose a need for analogs of this compound carbon-14 labelled in a biologically stable site.⁴ In this paper, the synthesis of 1-(1-benzyl-2-ethylthio-2-[¹⁴C]-5-imidazolyl)-4-{3-(1-isopropylamino)-2-*pridyl*} piperazine **1** is described.



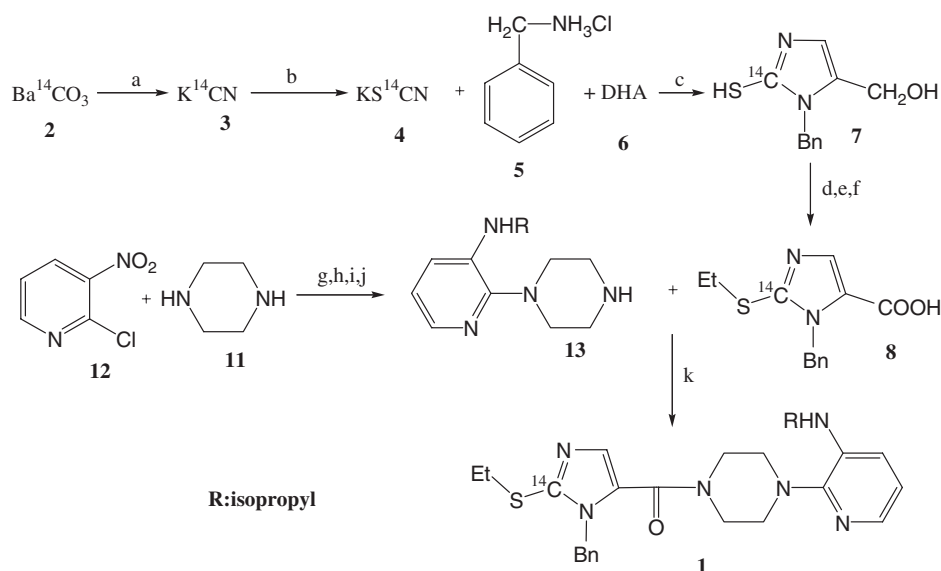
Results and discussion

In this approach, according to the synthetic pathway shown in Scheme 1, barium [¹⁴C]carbonate **2** was converted to potassium [¹⁴C]cyanide **3** according to standard procedure.⁵

Then potassium [¹⁴C]thiocyanate **4** was obtained quantitatively via the reaction between potassium [¹⁴C]cyanide **3** and sulfur in acetone.⁶ Potassium [¹⁴C]thiocyanate **4** was stirred with 1,3-dihydroxyacetone dimmer **6** and benzylamine hydrochloride **5** to give [2-¹⁴C]-5-hydroxymethyl-2-mercapto-1-benzylimidazole **7**.⁷ Subsequent alkylation of compound **7** with ethyl iodide and oxidation of the product with manganese dioxide and further oxidation of the latter product with alkaline solution of silver nitrate gave [2-¹⁴C]-2-ethylthio-1-benzylimidazole-5-carboxylic acid **8**.^{8–10} On the other hand, 1-[3-(1-isopropylamino)-2-*pridyl*] piperazine **13** has been synthesized as part of a 4-step sequence from piperazine **11** and 2-chloro-3-nitro pyridine **12**.¹ The final step coupling of **8** with **13** was accomplished utilizing 1,1'-sulfinyldiimidazole to afford the title compound 1-(1-benzyl-2-ethylthio-2-[¹⁴C]-5-imidazolyl)-4-{3-(1-isopropylamino)-2-*pridyl*} piperazine **1**.

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Scheme 1 (a) K/KN₃, (b) S, acetone, (c) *n*-BuOH, AcOH, (d) EtI, (e) MnO₂, (f) Ag₂O, NaOH, (g) CH₂Cl₂, (BOC)₂O, (h) Pd/H₂, (i) acetone, NaCNBH₃, (j) TFA and (k) 1,1'-sulfonyldiimidazole.

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