Synthesis and Antischistosomal Activity of Certain Pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines

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Several 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (1-21), 7-mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (37-49), and 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-ones (50-55) and the corresponding 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine-7-thiones (56-60) were synthesized and tested for antischistosomal activity against *Schistosoma mansoni*. Of the compounds examined, the greatest degree of activity in vitro was found with the 7-mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines. In particular, compounds 37 and 47 proved lethal at 100 μ g/mL after an exposure of only 1 h. The 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines were not as active. None of the compounds exhibiting in vitro activity were active against *S. mansoni* in vivo.

Schistosomiasis is considered to be one of the most difficult diseases to treat. Accordingly considerable attention has been directed toward the development of useful chemotherapeutic agents. Recent studies on chemotherapeutically useful nitrothiazoles, xanthones, thioxanthones, anilines, quinolines, and nitrofuran derivatives have been well documented.² Early studies by Jaffe and his colleagues³ indicated that purine dependence of Schistosoma mansoni might be useful to develop a new type of antischistosomal agent, since tubercidin (7-deazaadenosine)⁴ was found to be effective against S. mansoni. Further, extensive work on the purine metabolism in S. mansoni has subsequently been done by Senft and his group. The following observations are a result of their studies: (1) S. mansoni is not able to utilize the de novo pathway for the synthesis of purine nucleotides but resorts to the salvage pathway for purine nucleotide production; (2) adenine, adenosine, inosine, and hypoxanthine are suitable precursors for ATP production; (3) the principal pathway of adenosine utilization involves deamination to inosine, cleave to hypoxanthine, conversion to IMP, and subsequent synthesis of ATP by the parasite.

In conjunction with our current research with pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine,⁵ we were prompted to explore the possibility of developing antischistosomal compounds represented by structures I, II, III, and IV. These com-



pounds are of interest due to their structural resemblance to hypoxanthine (V), which plays a central role in the ATP production of S. mansoni.⁶ Analogues of hypoxanthine

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- (5) (a) T. Novinson, R. Hanson, M. K. Dimmitt, L. N. Simon, R. K. Robins, and D. E. O'Brien, *J. Med. Chem.*, 17, 645 (1974);
 (b) K. Senga, T. Novinson, R. H. Springer, R. P. Rao, D. E. O'Brien, R. K. Robins, and H. R. Wilson, *ibid.*, 18, 312 (1975).





are of special interest as potential antiparasitic agents, since allopurinol has been shown to inhibit the trypanosomid flagellate crithidia fasciculata⁷ and Trypanosoma cruzi.⁸ Allopurinol is also effective in vitro against Leishmania mexicana, Leishmania donovani, and Leishmania braziliensis.⁹

Chemistry. The 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines (1-21) prepared are listed in Table I. Condensation of the requisite 3-aminopyrazole with the sodium salt of ethyl formylacetate¹⁰ provided the desired 7-hydroxypyrazolo-

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- (9) J. J. Marr and R. L. Berens, J. Infect. Dis., 136, 724 (1977).

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^{(6) (}a) A. W. Seft, R. P. Miech, P. R. Brown, and D. G. Senft, Int. J. Parasitol., 2, 249 (1972); (b) A. W. Senft, D. G. Senft, and R. P. Miech, Biochem. Pharmacol., 22, 437 (1973); (c) A. W. Senft, G. W. Crabtree, K. C. Agarwal, E. M. Scholar, R. P. Agawal, and R. E. Parks, *ibid.*, 22, 449 (1973); (d) R. J. Stegman, A. W. Senft, P. R. Brown, and R. E. Parks, *ibid.*, 22, 459 (1973); (e) G. W. Crabtree and A. W. Senft, *ibid.*, 23, 649 (1974); (f) A. W. Senft and G. W. Crabtree, *ibid.*, 26, 1847 (1977).

antiaphistosomal

Table I. 7-Hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines



no.	R ₂	R,	R_s	yield, %	mp, °C	recrystn solvent	formula ^a	act.: MAC, ^b µg/mL
1	Н	Н	Н	31	335-337 dec ^c	EtOH-H,O	C,H,N,O	
2	Н	Н	CH,	85	297-299 ^d	DMF-EtŐH	C,H,N,O	
3	Н	н	C, Ĕ,	40	248-250	DMF-H ₂ O	C,H,Ň,O	>100
4	C, H,	Н	H	44	345-348 dec ^e	DMF-Me ₂ SO	$C_{12}H_{0}N_{3}O$	>100
5	C ₆ H ₅	Н	CH,	90	332-334 dec ^f	DMF-H,Ó	C,,H,N,O	100
6	C ₆ H ₅	н	C₄H,	56	338-340 ^g	EtOH	$C_{18}H_{13}N_{3}O$	>100
7	3-ClC ₆ H ₄	н	CH,	69	350-352 dec	DMF-H ₂ O	C ₁₃ H ₁₀ N ₃ ClO	>100
8	3-CIC, H	Н	C₄Ħ,	73	235-237	DMF-EtOH	$C_{18}H_{12}N_{3}CIO \cdot H_{2}O$	>100
9	$3, 4, 5-(CH_3O)_3C_6H_2$	н	CH,	84	289-291 dec	DMF-H ₂ O	$C_{16}H_{17}N_3O_4H_2O$	>100
10	$3,4,5-(CH_{3}O)_{3}C_{6}H_{2}$	н	C,H,	62	294-297	DMF-EtOH	$C_{21}H_{19}N_{3}O_{4}$	>100
11	Н	C ₆ H ₅	H	79	322-324 dec	DMF-H ₂ O	C ₁₂ H ₉ N ₃ O	100
12	Н	C ₆ H ₅	CH,	83	291-293 dec	EtOH	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ N ₃ O	100
13	Н	C ₆ H ₅	C,H,	37	250-252	EtOH	$C_{18}H_{13}N_{3}O$	10
14	Н	4-ClC ₆ H₄	CH,	92	307-310 dec	DMF-EtOH	$C_{13}H_{10}N_{3}ClO$	
15	Н	$4-ClC_6H_4$	C₄H,	56	251-253	DMF-EtOH	$C_{18}H_{12}N_{3}ClO$	100
16	Н	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	51	325-327 dec	DMF-H ₂ O	C ₁₂ H ₈ N ₃ FO	
17	Н	3-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	н	74	308-310 dec ^h	DMF-H ₂ O	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ N ₃ O	100
18	Н	3-CH₃C ₆ H₄	CH,	9 0	272-274	DMF-EtOH	C ₁₄ H ₁₃ N ₃ O	100
19	Н	3-CH₃C₅H₄	C₄H,	57	220-221	DMF-EtOAc	C ₁₉ H ₁₅ N ₃ O	1.0
20	Н	COOÉt	CH,	41	215-218 ⁱ	EtOH	$C_{10}H_{11}N_{3}O_{3}$	
21	Н	COOEt	C₄H̃₅	63	199-200	EtOH	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ N ₃ O ₃	>100

^a All compounds were analyzed for C, H, and N within 0.4% of theoretical values. ^b MAC, minimum active concentration: minimum concentration of compound to cause severe damage or death of worms at 96 h. ^c Literature^{sb} mp 331 °C dec. ^d Literature¹¹ mp 298-299 °C. ^e H. Reimlinger, M. A. Peiren, and R. Merenyi, *Chem. Ber.*, 103, 3252 (1970), reports mp 303-306 °C. ^f S. Checchi, P. Papini, and M. Ridi, *Gazz. Chim. Ital.*, 85, 1160 (1955), reports mp 320 °C. ^g V. Sprio and S. Plescia, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 9, 951 (1972), reports mp 339-340 °C. ^h Literature^{sb} mp 308-310 °C dec. ⁱ Literature¹¹ mp 218-220 °C.

Table II. 7-Chloropyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines



				yield,			
no.	R ₂	R_3	R _s	%	mp, °C	recrystn solvent	formula ^a
22	Н	Н	Н	60	96-98	<i>n</i> -heptane	C ₆ H ₄ N ₃ Cl
23	Н	н	CH,	25	37-39 ^b	<i>n</i> -heptane	C,H,N,Cl ^b
24	Н	н	C, H,	81	103-104	<i>n</i> -heptane	C ₁ ,H,N,Cl
25	C, H,	н	Н́	72	10 9- 110	n-hexane-acetone	C ₁ ,H ₈ N ₃ Cl
26	C ₆ H ₅	Н	CH,	85	184-186	<i>n</i> -hexane-acetone	$C_{13}H_{10}N_{3}Cl$
27	C ₆ H ₅	H '	C, Ĥ,	79	138-140	CH ₃ CN	$C_{18}H_{12}N_{3}Cl$
28	3-ClC ₆ H ₄	н	CH,	84	152 - 154	EtŐAc	$C_{13}H_{N_3}Cl_2$
29	3-ClC ₆ H ₄	Н	C, H,	50	140-141	<i>n</i> -heptane-acetone	$C_{18}H_{11}N_{3}CI$
30	$3,4,5-(CH_{3}O)_{3}C_{6}H_{2}$	н	CH,	78	162-164	<i>n</i> -heptane-acetone	$C_{16}H_{16}N_{3}ClO_{3}$
31	Н	C,H,	H	85	138-139	<i>n</i> -heptane-acetone	C ₁₂ H ₈ N ₃ Cl
32	Н	C, H,	CH,	65	151 - 152	n-hexane-CHCl ₃	$C_{13}H_{10}N_{3}Cl$
33	Н	4-CIC, H	CH,	75	137-138	<i>n</i> -hexane	C ₁₃ H ₀ N ₃ Cl ₂
34	Н	3-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	н	82	131-132	<i>n</i> -heptane	$C_{13}H_{10}N_{3}CI$
35	Н	3-CH ₃ C ₆ H	н	9 0	165-167	<i>n</i> -hexane-acetone	$C_{14}H_{12}N_{3}Cl$
36	Н	COOÉt	CH_3	74	120 - 121	<i>n</i> -hexane	C ₁₀ H ₁₀ N ₃ ClO ₂

^a All compounds were analyzed for C, H, and N within 0.4% of theoretical values. ^b Y. Makisumi, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, **10**, 620 (1962), reports mp 38.5-39.5 °C.

[1,5-a] pyrimidines (1, 4, 11, 16, and 17) (Scheme I). The 7-hydroxy-5-methylpyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidines (2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 18, and 20) were obtained by the reaction of the

requisite 3-aminopyrazole with ethyl acetoacetate by using acetic acid in according to the general procedure of Makisumi.¹¹ Similarly, the reaction of 3-aminopyrazoles with ethyl benzoylacetate in acetic acid afforded 7-hydroxy-5-

(11) Y. Makisumi, Chem. Pharm. Bull., 10, 612 (1962).

⁽¹⁰⁾ H. L. Wheeler and H. F. Merriam, Am. Chem. J., 29, 478 (1903).

Table III. 7-Mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines



no.	R ₂	R ₃	$\mathbf{R}_{\mathfrak{s}}$	yield, %	mp, °C	recrystn solvent	formula ^a	antischistosomal act.: MAC, ^b µg/mL
37	Н	Н	Н	56	>330	DMF	C, H, N, S	1.0
38	H	Н	CH,	60	284 dec	EtOH-H,O	C,H,N,S	3.2
39	Н	Н	C, H,	65	282	DMF-EtÕH	C,H,N,S	1.0
40	C, H,	Н	НŮ	74	321-325 dec	DMF-EtOH	C,,H,N,S	1.0
41	C, H,	Н	CH,	58	289 dec	DMF-EtOH	C,,H,,N,S.0.5H,O	1.0
42	C, H,	Н	C, Ĕ,	70	251-253	DMF-EtOH	C,H,N,S·H,O	1.0
43	$3, 4, 5-(CH_3O)_3C_6H_2$	н	ĊĽ,	64	307-310 dec	DMF	C,,,H,,N,O,S,H,O	1.0
44	H	C, H,	н	69	303-305 dec	DMF	C,H,N,S	1.0
45	Н	C, H,	CH,	72	256-257.5	DMF-EtOH	C,,H,,N,S	1.0
46	н	4-ČlČ,H,	CH,	58	296-298 dec	DMF	C,H,N,CIS	100
47	н	3-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	Н	72	303-305 dec	DMF	C,,H,,N,S	0.32
48	Н	3-CH, C, H	CH,	63	298-300 dec	Me ₂ SO	C, H, N, S	100
49	Н	COOÉt	CH ₃	63	210-212	EtÓH-H₂O	$C_{10}H_{11}N_{3}O_{2}S \cdot H_{2}O$	10

^a All compounds were analyzed for C, H, and N within 0.4% of theoretical values. ^b See footnote b in Table I.

Table IV. 4-Alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-ones and 4-Alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine-7-thiones



	-		n	n	yield,			£ 1. ()	antischistosomal act.: MAC, ^b
no.	R_2	R_4	R _s	\mathbf{R}_{7}	%	m p , °C	recrystn solvent	formula	µg/mL
50	Н	CH,	Н	0	50	195 dec	EtOH	C,H,N,O.0.5H,O	>100
51	Н	C,H,	Ĥ	0	46	86-88	EtOH-acetone	C,H,N,OH,O	>100
52	Н	CH,	CH,	0	43	252-254 dec ^c	EtOH-acetone	C,H,N ₃ O	100
53	C, H,	CH ₃	н	0	78	211-213	EtOH	$C_{13}H_{11}N_{3}O \cdot 0.5H_{2}O$	>100
54	C, H,	$n - C_3 H_7$	н	0	69	126-128	acetone- <i>n</i> -hexane	$C_{15}H_{15}N_{3}O \cdot 0.5H_{2}O$	100
5 5	C, H,	CH,	C,H,	0	57	219-221	benzene	C ₁₉ H ₁₅ N ₃ O	100
5 6	Н́	CH ₃	НŮ	\mathbf{s}	46	202-203	EtOH	C ₇ H ₇ N ₃ S·0.5H ₂ O	>100
57	Н	C, H,	н	s	33	133-134	EtOH	C,H,N,S	100
58	Н	CH,	CH,	\mathbf{s}	45	297-300 dec	DMF-EtOH	C,H,N,S	>100
5 9	C, H,	CH ₃	Н	s	33	250-252	DMF-EtOH	$C_{13}H_{11}N_{3}S \cdot 0.5H_{2}O$	10
60	C, H,	$n - C_3 H_7$	Н	S	48	179-181	EtOH	$C_{15}H_{15}N_{3}S$	10

^a All compounds were analyzed for C, H, and N within 0.4% of theoretical values. ^b See footnote b in Table I. ^c Literature¹³ mp 253-254 °C.

phenylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, and 21) as described by Checchi et al.¹²

Chlorination of the 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines with phosphorus oxychloride in the presence of N,N-dimethylaniline gave the corresponding 7-chloropyrazolo-[1,5-a]pyrimidines (22-36) (Table II), which upon treatment with thiourea in ethanol resulted in the formation of the corresponding 7-mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (37-49) (Table III).

Alkylation of the 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines with the appropriate alkyl iodide gave the corresponding 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ones (50-55). The structures of these alkylated products were suggested by the fact that methylation of 2 afforded known 52.¹³ Treatment of the 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ones with phosphorus pentasulfide in pyridine yielded the corresponding 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine-7-thiones (56-60) (Table IV).

Of the three chemical series examined, the greatest degree of antischistosomal activity was found with the 7-mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (Table III). Compounds 37 and 47 proved lethal at 100 μ g/mL after exposures of only 1 h. Worms transferred to fresh medium at this time did not recover motility and underwent progressive degenerative change. The 7-hydroxypyrazolo-[1,5-a]pyrimidines were, in general, not as active (Table I), with the exception of compounds 13 and 19. However, no compounds tested exerted any appreciable effect in vivo, even at dose levels causing weight loss in treated mice. At 400 and 200 (mg/kg)/day of 37 and 44, respectively, an interruption in oviposition occurred, but no significant difference in the number of worms was found between treated and control mice. Although no significant in vivo antischistosomal activity was found, it may be that thiohypoxanthine analogues could prove to be more potent schistosomicides than the corresponding oxygen analogues.

⁽¹²⁾ S. Checchi, M. Ridi, and P. Papini, Gazz. Chim. Ital., 85, 1558 (1955).

⁽¹³⁾ H. Dorn and A. Zubek, J. Prakt. Chem., 313, 969 (1971).

Pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines

It is noteworthy that the antiparasitic activity of the 7thiopyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (Table III) was essentially abolished by alkyl substitution at nitrogen-4 (Table IV). This suggests that N⁴ may be an important binding site for the purine-requiring enzymes of S. mansoni.

Experimental Section

Melting points were determined on a Thomas-Hoover melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Elemental analyses were performed by the Heterocyclic Chemical Co., Harrisonville, MO, and analyzed for C, H, and N within $\pm 0.4\%$ of theoretical values. IR and NMR spectra of all new compounds were consistent with the proposed structures.

Antischistosomal Testing Procedures. All compounds were initially evaluated in vitro to determine their effect against S. mansoni. The compound was dissolved in reagent dimethyl sulfoxide and subsequently diluted in Serumless Medium (GIBCO no. 163) containing 50 μ g/mL reagent gentamycin sulfate. The final concentration of Me₂SO was $\leq 1\%$, which does not affect the metabolism of S. mansoni.¹⁴ Adult pairs of a 46-day infection of a Puerto Rican (M) strain, obtained from mice, were incubated at 37 °C in 2.0 mL of medium/pair of the diluted compound in tissue culture plates (Linbro FB-16-24-TC). Observations were made with an inverted microscope at intervals to 96 h, when the final reading was made.

Certain compounds (those which showed the best in vitro activity, 17, 19, 37, 38, 41, 43–45, and 47) were examined in vivo in mice with a 46-day infection of *S. mansoni*. Compounds were micronized and administered orally or intraperitoneally 2–4 times daily for 5 days at a maximum dose of 400 (mg/kg)/day.¹⁵ Necropsies were performed 2 days after the first dose was given, and pairs of worms in the mescentric veins and orgrauis¹⁶ were determined. Control pairs of worms usually were found to have good motility and sucker motion at 96 h in vitro.

7-Hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines (1, 4, 11, 16, and 17). A very fine suspension of Na (5.75 g, 2.5×10^{-2} g-atom) in toluene (100 mL) was stirred while ethyl acetate (22 g, 0.25 mol) was added in one portion followed by the dropwise addition of ethyl formate (18.5 g, 0.25 mol). The temperature of the reaction mixture was maintained at 27 ± 3 °C during the addition of ethyl formate. After the addition of ethyl formate was complete, the mixture was stirred for 16 h at $25-30^{\circ}$ C. To the resulting Na salt of ethyl formylacetate¹⁰ was added an appropriate 3-aminopyrazole (0.125 mol) in EtOH (100 mL). The mixture was heated at reflux for 5 h with stirring and then evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in hot H₂O (500 mL), treated with Norit, and then filtered through a layer of Celite 503. The pH of the filtrate was adjusted to 1 by the addition of 6 N HCl. The precipitated solid was collected by filtration, washed with H_2O , and dried. Recrystallization of the solid from an appropriate solvent gave pure 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines.

7-Hydroxy-5-methylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 18, and 20). A mixture of an appropriate 3-aminopyrazole (0.5 mol) and ethyl acetoacetate (0.55 mol) in AcOH (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 15-20 h. After the reaction mixture cooled, the precipitated solid was filtered, washed with EtOH, and recrystallized from the solvent listed in Table I to give pure 7-hydroxy-5-methylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

7-Hydroxy-5-phenylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, and 21). A mixture of an appropriate 3-aminopyrazole (0.5 mol) and ethyl benzoylacetate (0.55 mol) in AcOH (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 15-20 h. The reaction mixture was treated as described above to give pure 7-hydroxy-5-phenylpyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidine. When the product did not precipitate from the reaction mixture, the solution was evaporated to dryness in vacuo and treated with Et_2O to solidify the product.

7-Chloropyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines (22–36). A mixture of the proper 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine (0.2 mol) and N,N-dimethylaniline (5 mL) in POCl₃ (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 1–3 h. The reaction mixture was evaporation in vacuo and the residue was poured onto ice. The solution was extracted with CHCl₃ (50 mL × 3) and the CHCl₃ layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. The CHCl₃ solution was evaporated to dryness in vacuo and recrystallized from the solvent listed in Table II to give pure 7-chloropyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines.

7-Mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines (37-49). A mixture of an appropriate 7-chloropyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine (0.1 mol) and thiourea (0.2 mol) in EtOH (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 5 h. After the reaction mixture cooled, the precipitated solid was collected by filtration. The solid was suspended in 5% KOH and acidified (pH 4) with AcOH. The precipitate was filtered, washed with H₂O, and recrystallized from the solvent listed in table III to afford pure 7-Mercaptopyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines.

4-Alkylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ones (50-55). A mixture of an appropriate 7-hydroxypyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine (0.01 mol), alkyl iodide (0.02 mol), and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (0.01 mol) in DMF (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness in vacuo, and the residue was suspended in H₂O. The insoluble solid was collected by filtration and recrystallized from the solvent listed in Table IV to provide pure 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ones.

4-Alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine-7-thiones (56-60). A mixture of the proper 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-one (0.01 mol), P_2S_5 (6.66 g, 0.03 mol), and pyridine (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 5 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The excess P_2S_5 was decomposed by the addition of H_2O (100 mL). The solid was collected by filtration, washed with H_2O , and recrystallized from the solvent listed in Table IV to give pure 4-alkylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine-7-thiones. When the precipitate did not appear from the H_2O solution, the solution was extracted with CHCl₃ and the product was isolated by the evaporation of CHCl₃ in vacuo.

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