was added dropwise a solution of CAN (5.0 g, 9.1 mmol) in  $\rm H_2O$  (5 mL) and the resulting solution was stirred at this temperature for 2 h. The mixture was diluted with  $\rm H_2O$  (20 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3 × 100 mL). The extracts were combined, washed (brine, 3 × 100 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated. The brown residue was chromatographed using a flash column (silica gel, 250 g). Elution by 5% ether in n-hexane gave 49 (850 mg, 92%) as yellow needles; mp 37–38 °C; MS m/e 214 (M<sup>+</sup>), 199, 172; IR (Nujol) 1654, 1520, 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20–8.00 (2 H, m,  $\rm C_5$ -H,  $\rm C_8$ -H), 7.80–7.50 (2 H, m,  $\rm C_6$ -H,  $\rm C_7$ -H), 6.65 (1 H, s,  $\rm C_3$ -H), 3.00–2.80 (2 H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.00–1.30 (4 H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.20–0.95 (3 H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) C, H. Quinones 50 and 51 were prepared in a similar fashion from 42 and 48, respectively.

**Registry No.** 1a, 27436-93-7; 1b, 27436-99-3; 1c, 27437-03-2; 1d, 123332-48-9; 1e, 123332-49-0; 1f, 123332-50-3; 1g, 123332-51-4; 1h, 123357-80-2; 1i, 84153-34-4; 1j, 34741-93-0; 1k, 62589-23-5;

2, 99107-53-6; 3, 107536-17-4; 4, 107536-14-1; 5, 107536-22-1; 6, 107536-20-9; 7, 123332-22-9; 8, 123332-23-0; 9, 123332-24-1; 10, 107536-19-6; 11, 99107-52-5; 12, 123332-25-2; 13, 123332-26-3; 14, 107536-21-0; 15, 99120-56-6; 16, 99107-70-7; 17, 123332-27-4; 18, 121444-82-4; 19, 121444-83-5; 20, 123332-28-5; 21, 123332-29-6; **22**, 123332-30-9; **23**, 123332-31-0; **24**, 123332-32-1; **25**, 123332-33-2; **26**, 123332-34-3; **27**, 123332-35-4; **28**, 123332-36-5; **29**, 123332-37-6; **30**, 123332-38-7; **31**, 123332-39-8; **32**, 123332-40-1; **33**, 123332-41-2; **34**, 123332-42-3; **35**, 99107-56-9; **36**, 99497-21-9; **37**, 99497-22-0; 38, 99107-54-7; 39, 99107-55-8; 40, 99497-23-1; 41, 99107-57-0; 42, 99107-50-3; 43, 123332-43-4; 44, 120255-00-7; 45, 123332-44-5; 46, 123332-45-6; 47, 99107-58-1; 48, 99107-51-4; 49, 34491-88-8; 50, 123332-46-7; 51, 123332-47-8; o-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Br, 95-46-5; m-BuC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Br, 54887-20-6; Cr(CO)<sub>6</sub>, 13007-92-6; BuC≡CBu, 1942-46-7; CH<sub>3</sub>- $(CH_2)_4C = CCO_2Et$ , 10519-20-7; BuC = CH, 693-02-7; EtC = CEt, 928-49-4; PhC=CPh, 501-65-5; HC=C(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>7</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 764-93-2; 5lipoxygenase, 80619-02-9; 2.5-dimethylbromobenzene, 553-94-6; 2,3,5-trimethylbromobenzene, 31053-99-3; 2,3,4,5-tetramethylbromobenzene, 40101-36-8; N-methylpyrrole, 96-54-8.

## Some Benzyl-Substituted Imidazoles, Triazoles, Tetrazoles, Pyridinethiones, and Structural Relatives as Multisubstrate Inhibitors of Dopamine $\beta$ -Hydroxylase. 4.1 Structure-Activity Relationships at the Copper Binding Site

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Structure—activity relationships (SAR) were determined for novel multisubstrate inhibitors of dopamine  $\beta$ -hydroxylase (DBH; EC 1.14.17.1) by examining the effects upon in vitro inhibitory potencies resulting from structural changes at the copper-binding region of inhibitor. Attempts were made to determine replacement groups for the thione sulfur atom of the prototypical inhibitor 1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)imidazole-2-thione described previously. The synthesis and evaluation of oxygen and nitrogen analogues of the soft thione group demonstrated the sulfur atom to be necessary for optimal activity. An additional series of imidazole-2-thione relatives was prepared in an effort to probe the relationship between the  $pK_a$  of the ligand group and inhibitor potency. In vitro inhibitory potency was shown not to correlate with ligand  $pK_a$  over a range of approximately 10  $pK_a$  units, and a rationale for this is advanced. Additional ligand modifications were prepared in order to explore bulk tolerance at the enzyme oxygen binding site and to determine the effects of substituting a six-membered ligand group for the five-membered imidazole-2-thione ligand.

Recently we reported some multisubstrate inhibitors of dopamine  $\beta$ -hydroxylase (DBH; EC 1.14.17.1), the mixed-function oxidase that catalyzes the hydroxylation of dopamine to norepinephrine. 1-5 Kinetic characterization of these inhibitors has led to structural insights to the active site of DBH<sup>3</sup> while the pharmacological activity of certain DBH inhibitors lends support to the notion that inhibiting DBH might offer a novel approach to the treatment of cardiovascular disorders such as hypertension.<sup>1,2,5</sup> Previous structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies of these DBH inhibitors demonstrated a striking dependence of potency upon substitution patterns at the portion of inhibitor that mimics the phenethylamine substrate,<sup>5</sup> as well as the dependence upon the length and substitution patterns of the bridging chain.4 The prototype of this class of inhibitor, 1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)imidazole-2thione, was designed on the basis of a capacity to bind a hypothesized binuclear active site as illustrated in Figure 1. Evidence in support of a direct binding of inhibitor to one copper atom has already been presented,<sup>3,6</sup> but further evidence to support the hypothesized binuclear copper site shown in Figure 1 is lacking. Indeed, EXAFS (extended X-ray absorption fine structure) studies have failed to detect a Cu···Cu interaction in either the resting Cu<sup>2+</sup> or reduced, catalytically competent Cu<sup>1+</sup> oxidation state of DBH.<sup>6</sup> For this reason and because of the stringent SAR shown at the bridging chain and phenethylamine mimic portions of inhibitor, it became of interest to explore inhibitory potency as a function of modifications of the copper-binding portion of inhibitor. In this paper we re-

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Scheme I. Synthesis of 2-Substituted 1-Aralkylimidazoles<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) BBr<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (b) Raney Ni, EtOH; (c) n-BuLi, Et<sub>2</sub>O; (d) DMF; (e) CO<sub>2</sub>; (f) NH<sub>2</sub>OH·HCl; (g) H<sub>2</sub>/Raney Ni; (h) NaBH<sub>4</sub>, MeOH; (i) NH<sub>2</sub>CN, AcOH.

port the synthesis and in vitro DBH-inhibitory potency of some new multisubstrate inhibitors that resulted from a systematic exploration of ligand replacements.

**Chemistry.** Synthesis of compounds 4–12 (Table I) was accomplished from the corresponding 1-benzylimidazole-2-thiones by the sequences outlined in Scheme I. It was found that prolonged reaction of 1-[3-(4-methoxy-

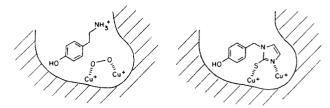


Figure 1.

Scheme II. Synthesis of 1-Benzylimidazole-2-acetic Acids<sup>a</sup>

 $^a$  Reagents and conditions: (a) BnOCOCl, NEt3, MeCN; (b) H2, 10% Pd/C.

**Scheme III.** Synthesis of 1-Benzylimidazoline-2-thiones  $(16\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c})^a$ 

 $^a$  Reagents and conditions: (a) NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, NaB-H<sub>4</sub>; (b) CS<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc; (c)  $\Delta,$  N-methylpyrolidinone.

phenyl)propyl]imidazole-2-thione with BBr<sub>3</sub> produced the S-methyl inhibitor 4 via the CH<sub>3</sub>Br produced in situ. Desulfurization of the imidazole-2-thiones with Raney nickel afforded the parent imidazoles which, upon lithiation and reaction with the appropriate electrophile, yielded the inhibitors 5–12.

The imidazole-2-acetic acids 13 and 14 were prepared<sup>7</sup> by carboalkoxylation of the corresponding 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole<sup>8</sup> followed by catalytic debenzylation (Scheme II).

The 1-benzylimidazoline-2-thiones **16a-c** were prepared by the procedure outlined in Scheme III. Condensation of a substituted benzaldehyde with ethylenediamine followed by sodium borohydride reduction yielded the intermediate N-benzylethylenediamines which upon reaction with  $CS_2$  and pyrolysis provided **16a-c**.

The 1-benzyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazole-5-thiols (20a,c) and the 4-benzyl-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiones (17a-d) were prepared from the appropriate benzyl isothiocyanates as depicted in Scheme IV. The reaction of the intermediate isothiocyanate with sodium azide yielded the tetrazoles 20a,c whereas reaction with N-formylhydrazine followed by cy-

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Table I. Structure, Physical Properties, and DBH-Inhibitory Activity of Some 2-Substituted 1-Aralkylimidazoles

compd	X	n	R	mp, °C	recryst solvent	yield,ª %	formula <sup>b</sup>	IC <sub>50</sub> , <sup>c</sup> μM
1	H	1	SH					32 (20-46)d
2	4-OH	1	SH					$2.6 \ (1.3-4.6)^d$
3	4-OH	3	SH					$2.2 (1.8-2.8)^d$
4	4-OH	3	$SCH_3$	140-142	EtOH	8	$C_{13}H_{16}N_2OS \cdot HCl$	79 (36-117)
5	H	1	$CO_2\check{\mathbf{H}}$	128	$MeOH-Et_2O$	60	$C_{11}H_{10}N_2O_2$ ·HCl	57 (46-71)
6	4-OH	1	CO <sub>2</sub> H	135 dec	MeOH-Et <sub>2</sub> O	20	$C_{11}H_{10}N_2O_3\cdot HC1$	112 (54-220)
7	H	1	$CH_2NH_2$	185-187	EtOH	29	$C_{11}H_{13}N_3\cdot 2HCl$	240 (120-390)
8	4-OH	1	CH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	252-254	MeOH	10	$C_{11}H_{13}N_3O\cdot 2HCl$	165 (83-260)
9	4-OH	1	$NH_2$	203-210	MeOH-Et <sub>2</sub> O	16	$C_{10}H_{11}N_3O\cdot HCl$	4% <sup>e</sup>
10	H	1	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	158	EtOH-Et <sub>2</sub> O	70	$C_{11}^{10}H_{12}^{11}N_{2}^{0}O$	0%e
11	4-OH	1	н	212-213	EtOH	35	$C_{10}H_{10}N_2O$	17% <sup>e</sup>
12	H	1	CH=NOH	170-172	EtOH	58	$C_{11}^{10}H_{11}^{10}N_3^2O$	10%°
13	Н	1	CH,CO,H	115-116	EtOH	6	$C_{12}H_{12}N_2O_2$	0%e
14	4-0H	1	$CH_2CO_2H$	172	$H_2O$	4	$C_{12}H_{12}N_2O_3$	0%°

<sup>a</sup>The overall yield is given. <sup>b</sup>All new compounds had C, H, N microanalyses within ±0.4% of the calculated values. <sup>c</sup>Values are given as IC<sub>50</sub> in  $\mu$ M with upper and lower 95% confidence limits (mean ±SEM) shown in parentheses. <sup>d</sup>Data from ref 4. <sup>e</sup>Activity expressed as percent inhibition at a compound concentration of 10<sup>-4</sup> M.

Scheme IV. Synthesis of 4-Benzyl-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiones (17a-d) and  $1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrazole-5-thiol <math>(20c)^a$ 

"Reagents and conditions: (a)  $H_2$ , Raney Ni,  $NH_3$ ; (b)  $CS_2$ , DCC,  $Et_2O$ ; (c)  $NH_2NHCHO$ , EtOH; (d) NaOEt, EtOH; (e)  $BBr_3$ , CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (f) KOH, CS<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>I; (g) NaN<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O.

clization under basic conditions provided the corresponding triazoles 17a-d.

The 1-benzyl-1,2,4-triazole-5-thiones 18b,c were prepared by the condensation of tert-butyl carbazate with the appropriate benzaldehyde followed by hydrogenation as shown in Scheme V. The resulting tert-butyl N-benzylcarbazates were reacted with tert-butyl isothiocyanate to give the protected thiosemicarbazates which upon heating with formic acid gave low yields of the triazoles 18b,c (Scheme V).

Scheme V. Synthesis of 1-Benzyl-1,2,4-triazole-5-thiones (18b,c)a

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) t-BuOCONHNH<sub>2</sub>, n-hexane; (b)  $H_2$ , 10% Pd/C, MeOH; (c) t-BuNCS, EtOAc; (d) HCO<sub>2</sub>H,  $\Delta$ .

Scheme VI. Synthesis of 1-Benzylbenzimidazole-2-thiones (21a,c,d)a

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) 2-chloronitrobenzene, NH<sub>4</sub>OAc,  $\Delta$ ; (b)  $H_2$ ,  $PtO_2$ , EtOH; (c)  $CS_2$ , KOH,  $H_2O$ ; (d)  $BBr_3$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ .

Synthesis of compound 19a was accomplished via the known procedure.<sup>9</sup> The 1-benzylbenzimidazole-2-thiones

Table II. Structure, Physical Properties, and DBH-Inhibitory Activity of Some Aralkyl-Substituted Heterocycles

compd	ligand	side chaina	mp, °C	recryst solvent	yield, <sup>b</sup> %	formula <sup>c</sup>	$IC_{50}$ , $^d \mu M$
1	<b>}</b> —N—NH	A					32 (20–46)*
15b	_	В					5.6 (4.9-6.5) <sup>e</sup>
15 <b>c</b>		Ċ					1.2 (1.0-1.9) <sup>e</sup>
15d		D					0.074 (0.06-0.087)
16a	<b>≸</b> −v	A	177–182	MeOH-EtOAc	18	$\mathrm{C_{10}H_{12}N_{2}S}$	5% <sup>f</sup>
16b		В	187-188	MeOH-CHCl <sub>3</sub>	38	$C_{10}H_{11}FN_2S$	3.7 (2.4-5.2)
16 <b>c</b>		$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	186-187	MeOH-CHCl <sub>3</sub>	32	$C_{10}H_{10}F_2N_2S$	1.4 (1.3–1.6)
17a	ş	A	122-123	EtOH	21	$C_9H_9N_3S$	24 (19-29)
	\$-n \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \						
17b		В	125-126	EtOH-H <sub>2</sub> O	4.6	$C_9H_8FN_3S$	1.9 (1.7-3.2)
17c		C	129-130	EtOH-H <sub>2</sub> O	8.9	$C_9H_7F_2N_3S$	1.0 (0.93-1.1)
17d		D	<b>184-18</b> 5	EtOH-hexane	7.2	$C_9H_7F_2N_3OS$	0.035 (0.023-0.061)
18a	<b>∮</b> −ν γνη γνη	Α			g		75 (70–80)
18b	N=/	В	155-156	Et <sub>2</sub> O-hexane	6	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> FN <sub>3</sub> S	15 (12.8–17.4)
18 <b>c</b>		č	188-189	$Et_2O$ -hexane	8	$C_9H_7F_2N_3S$	6.2 (5.0–7.8)
1 <b>9</b> a	SH	A	85-87	$\mathrm{Et_2O}$	21	$C_9H_9N_3S$	0% <sup>f</sup>
	₹-N-N						
20a	}-v SH	A			h		16 (14–19)
20 <b>c</b>	N=N	С	155-156	hexane-EtOAc	18	$C_8H_6F_2N_4S$	1.54 (1.2-2.0)
21a	н	A	185	EtOH	61	$C_{14}H_{12}N_2S$	61 (48–84)
21a	<b>∑</b> N ≥s	A	100	Bioii	01	01411121125	01 (40 04)
01 -	ملد	0	170 100	EtOH	40	OHENC	00 (50 00)
21c 21d		C D	179–180 200	EtOH EtOAc-hexane	42 15	$\begin{array}{c} { m C_{14}H_{10}F_{2}N_{2}S} \\ { m C_{14}H_{10}F_{2}N_{2}OS} \end{array}$	6.2 (5.6–6.8) 0.66 (0.52–0.83)
22a	5	A	129-130	Et <sub>2</sub> O-CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	4.2	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NS	26% <sup>f</sup>
224		A,	123 130	1120 O112012	7.2		20 70
<b>22</b> b	Ĥ	В	159-160	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> -Et <sub>2</sub> O-hexane	1.3	$C_{12}H_{10}FNS$	34% <sup>f</sup>
22c		C	195-197	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	3.9	$C_{12}H_9F_2NS$	13.4 (11.1-16.4)
23a	s	A	139.5-140.5	EtOH	32	$C_{11}H_{10}N_2S$	5% <sup>f</sup>
-	<b>*</b> -1/2 N				. <del>-</del>	11 - 10- 12-	
23b	~	В	182-183.5	MeOH	13	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>9</sub> FN <sub>2</sub> S·HCl	15% <sup>f</sup>
23c		C	183-184	$\mathrm{CH_2Cl_2Et_2O}$	10	$C_{11}H_8F_2N_2S\cdot HCl$	2.8 (2.3-3.4)

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}$ A = benzyl, B = 3-fluorobenzyl, C = 3,5-difluorobenzyl, D = 3,5-difluoro-4-hydroxybenzyl.  $^{b}$ The overall yield is given.  $^{c}$ All new compounds had C, H, N microanalyses within  $\pm 0.4\%$  of the calculated values.  $^{d}$ Values given are IC<sub>50</sub> in  $\mu$ M with upper and lower 95% confidence limits (mean  $\pm$  SEM) shown in parentheses.  $^{e}$ Data from ref 5.  $^{f}$ Activity expressed as percent inhibition at a compound concentration of  $10^{-5}$  M.  $^{g}$ Prepared according to ref 16.  $^{h}$ Prepared according to ref 17.

were prepared by the route outlined in Scheme VI. Alkylation of the appropriate benzylamine with 2-chloronitrobenzene, followed by hydrogenation and cyclization with  $CS_2$ , yielded the target compounds 21a,c,d.

Preparation of the 3-benzylpyridine-2-thiones 22a-c was accomplished as shown in Scheme VII. The requisite 3-benzylpyridines were prepared from 3-cyanopyridine, and these were converted to the corresponding 2-pyridone by oxidation and rearrangement of the pyridine N-oxide. The desired regioisomer was isolated and reacted with Lawesson's reagent to yield the corresponding pyridine-2-thiones.

The final class of inhibitors, the 1-benzyl-1,2-dihydropyrimidine-2-thiones **23a**–**c**, was prepared by cyclizing the appropriate *N*-benzylthiourea with propane-1,3-dial bis-(dimethyl acetal).

X = H  
X = 3-F  
X = 3.5-F<sub>2</sub>

$$(CH_3O)_2CHCH_2CH(OCH_3)_2$$

23a: X = H  
23b: X = 3-F  
23b: X = 3-F  
23c: X = 3.5-F<sub>2</sub>

Enzymology. The compounds in Tables I and II were screened for DBH-inhibitory activity with use of commercially available bovine enzyme. Enzymatic assays and data analyses were performed by the methods previously

<sup>(9)</sup> Wiley, R. H.; Hussung, K. F.; Moffatt, J. J. Org. Chem. 1956, 21, 190

Scheme VII. Synthesis of 3-Benzylpyridine-2-thiones 22a-c<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: (a) t-BuLi; (b) 3-cvanopyridine; (c) Zn/Hg, HCl,  $\Delta$ ; (d) m-CPBA,  $CHCl_3$ ; (e)  $Ac_2O$ ,  $\Delta$ , base; (f) [4-C- $H_3OC_6H_4P(S)S_{2}$ , PhMe,  $\Delta$ .

described4,5 to yield the indicated IC50 values and confidence limits.

## Results and Discussion

One objective of the present study was to explore the dependence of DBH-inhibitory activity upon the thione group of the multisubstrate inhibitor 2. The design of 2 was based upon the hypothesis that the ligand portion of inhibitor binds the "soft" Cu1+ oxidation state of enzyme in a fashion that mimics the binding of oxygen substrate during normal catalysis.4 Detailed kinetic3 and X-ray fluorescence studies have subsequently supported this hypothesis. In light of these results, the compounds in Table I were prepared to evaluate the potential of nitrogen or oxygen ligands to substitute for the sulfur-containing thione. In the most interesting cases, the relative activities of 1-benzyl- and 1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-substituted inhibitors were compared since in the case of the imidazole-2-thione inhibitors, an increase in potency results from the 4hydroxyl group (cf. 1 vs 2). This has been demonstrated to result from a greater resemblance of inhibitor to phenethylamine substrate. The results in Table I indicate the soft sulfur atom is required for optimal activity. Methylation of the sulfur as in 4 significantly decreases activity relative to 2 or 3, inhibitors of identical potency.4 Replacement of the sulfur by an oxygen ligand as in 5, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 14 greatly diminishes activity. The alcohol 10, the aldoxime 12, and the imidazole-2-acetic acids 13 and 14 are much less active, whereas the carboxylic acids 5 and 6 retain significant activity. Interestingly, the 4hydroxyl group slightly decreases the potency of 6 relative to 5 to suggest inhibition of enzyme by these inhibitors occurs in a fashion different from the parent inhibitor 2, perhaps via chelation of solution copper ions, as is known to be the case with fusaric acid. <sup>10</sup> The aminomethyl compounds 7 and 8 are significantly less potent than 1 and 2, but in this case the presence of the 4-hydroxyl group does marginally improve inhibitory potency. The amine 9 is of greatly reduced potency, as is the simple imidazole 11. The various heteroatoms that were explored as potential replacements for the sulfur ligand in inhibitor 2 appear to be inferior to the parent inhibitor. Perhaps this is not surprising in view of the direct binding of the ligand portion of 2 to the very "soft" Cu<sup>1+</sup> from of DBH.<sup>3,6</sup>

Having established the necessity of the soft thione functional group, it was of interest to explore structural variations of this ligand. The collection of inhibitors found in Table II represents an attempt to vary the following structural parameters: (1) ligand  $pK_a$ , (2) ring size, (3) bulk, and (4) an acidic proton at N-3. The previously determined, optimal<sup>5</sup> fluorinated benzyl substituents were used to calibrate activity trends for the ligand substitutions reported in Table II.

The inhibitor thiol/thione p $K_a$  was varied by increasing the number of nitrogens present in the heterocyclic ring. It was anticipated that the family of azoles (2, 17a-d, 18a-c, 19a, 20a,c) resulting from this study would be nearly isosteric. With the exception of 19a, which was of greatly diminished activity, the other inhibitors were essentially identical in potency, a striking observation in light of the range of  $pK_a$  (ca. 10 units) for these ligands. The apparent independence of inhibitor potency upon ligand  $pK_a$  is of interest with respect to the binding mode hypothesized in Figure 1. If, as illustrated, the binding does involve the electron pair on N-3, then the deprotonated, anionic form of inhibitor must be that which binds enzyme. There appear to be two explanations for the lack of correlation between inhibitor  $pK_a$  and potency. Firstly, the hypothesized interaction between the lone-pair electrons on N-3 and the second copper atom or another enzymatic group might not occur, making deprotonation at N-3 unnecessary. Alternatively, an initial ligation of the thione sulfur to a copper atom could labilize the N-3 hydrogen toward removal, thereby rendering irrelevant the  $pK_a$  of these inhibitors in solution.<sup>11</sup> The available data do not allow a distinction between these possibilities at present. Compound 19a, which lacks the lone-pair electrons at position 4 (corresponding to position 3 in 1 and 2) and which should therefore be a critical test compound, undergoes a facile air-oxidation of the thiol to a disulfide under the DBH assay conditions. The "dihydro" analogues 16a-c, which also have a labile N-3 hydrogen, were found to be comparable in potency to the parent imidazole-2thiones.

The six-membered ligand groups in 22a-c and 23a-c were prepared in an attempt to explore the effects of ligand ring size upon DBH inhibitory potency. However, the ligands present in 22a-c and 23a-c do not afford an ideal comparison since several structural changes are present relative to 2 in addition to the desired ring expansion. Thus, 22a-c lack the N-1 heteroatom while 23a-c lack the labile N-3 hydrogen present in 2. Other, more analogous six-membered ring counterparts to 2 were not immediately obvious. Whereas 22a-c have reduced inhibitory potency relative to 2, 23a-c are of comparable potency although the effects that cause this are unclear due to the multiple structural changes present in these inhibitors. It is worth noting, however, that both classes of inhibitors have a lone pair of electrons at the position corresponding to N-3 in 2: compounds 22a-c by deprotonation and compounds **23a-c** in the neutral molecule.

The extremely large inhibitors 21a-c appear to define a location of considerable bulk tolerance at the DBH active site. Whereas earlier studies demonstrated a lack of bulk

<sup>(10)</sup> Brenner, M.; Krueger, M.; Klinman, J. P. Fed. Proc., Fed. Am. Soc. Exp. Biol. 1983, 42, 2059.

<sup>(11)</sup> An alternative explanation would have enzyme binding that fraction of inhibitor which is present in solution in the deprotonated, anionic form. The fraction of inhibitor in this form at pH 5.5 will vary from >90% for 20a,c (p $K_a$  ca. 3.3) to  $1/10^7$ for 2 (p $K_a$  ca. 12.5). Since the  $K_i$  for 2 has been determined at pH 5.5 to be  $6 \times 10^{-8}$  M, if the true inhibitory species were the small fraction of 2 present as the anion under these conditions, then this must bind enzyme with an implausibly low  $K_i$  of ca. 10<sup>-15</sup> M. An inhibitor of this potency would exhibit essentially irreversible inhibition or at minimum, tight binding behavior. Neither has been observed (see ref 3).

tolerance at the phenethylamine binding site and the intersite bridging methylene chain, the enzyme appears to tolerate considerable steric bulk at the "backside" of the oxygen mimic. This may become particularly relevant to the design of DBH inhibitors bearing additional or more complex pharmacophores.

In summary, this study has afforded several insights to the structural requirements for the inhibitor group that binds the DBH copper atom. Firstly, the presence of a "soft" ligand atom, such as sulfur, confers maximal inhibitory potency. Other atoms or functional groups have proved decidedly inferior. Secondly, the ligand  $pK_a$  is of little importance as convincingly shown by the data for nitrogen-containing isosteres of 2. Lastly, the enzymatic site near the copper atom shows considerable bulk tolerance, such that even very large "oxygen mimics" bind tightly.

## **Experimental Section**

Melting points were determined on a Thomas-Hoover apparatus and are uncorrected. When appropriate, all solvents used in reaction mixtures were dried and/or purified by standard procedures. <sup>12</sup> IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 727 spectrophotometer as neat oils or Nujol mulls calibrated with the 1601 cm<sup>-1</sup> absorption of polystyrene film. NMR spectra were obtained as CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions on a Hitachi Perkin-Elmer R-24 spectrometer and/or a Varian EM 390 spectrometer using Me<sub>4</sub>Si as an internal reference; IR and NMR spectra were obtained for all new compounds and were judged to be consistent with the assigned structure.

1-[3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)propyl]-2-(methylthio)imidazole Hydrochloride (4). A solution of 1-[3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propyl]imidazole-2-thione<sup>4</sup> (1.2 g, 0.0046 mol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL) was stirred at 22 °C as a solution of BBr<sub>3</sub> (3.5 g, 0.014 mol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added. After 4 h, excess BBr<sub>3</sub> was destroyed by the careful addition of MeOH, and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 16 h. The solution was concentrated and the residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O and washed with EtOAc. The aqueous phase was basified with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with EtOAc. The extracts were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and dried, and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in 5 mL of EtOH, and the solution was treated with ethereal HCl. The crystalline product was filtered and recrystallized from EtOH to give 0.61 g (45%) of 4 (Table I).

1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)imidazole (28). A mixture of 1-(4-methoxybenzyl)imidazole-2-thione<sup>4</sup> (15.0 g, 0.068 mol) and Raney Ni (80 g) in EtOH (400 mL) was heated at reflux for 4 h. The mixture was cooled and filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was dissolved in 1 N HCl (100 mL) and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The aqueous phase was basified and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The extracts were combined, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated to yield 28 as an oil: 8.7 g (63%).

1-Benzylimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde (29). A solution of 1-benzylimidazole (7.9 g, 0.05 mol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (150 mL) was stirred at -45 °C while a solution of n-BuLi in hexanes (44.5 mL, 1.6 M, 0.071 mol) was added. After stirring for 30 min, the yellow solution was cooled to -75 °C and DMF (4.38 g, 0.06 mol) was added. The cooling bath was replaced with an ice- $H_2$ O bath, and after 10 min the reaction mixture was poured into saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O, the extracts were washed with  $H_2$ O and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent was concentrated to give 29 as an oil: 7.2 g (777%).

1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)imidazole-2-carboxaldehyde (30). The reaction of 28 as in the preparation of 29 yielded 30 (68%) as an oil.

1-Benzylimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde Oxime (12). A solution of 29 (1.80 g, 0.0097 mol) in  $\rm H_2O$  (50 mL) was stirred vigorously during the addition of  $\rm NH_2OH$ ·HCl (2.0 g, 0.029 mol) and NaOAc (5.0 g). After 10 min the solution became cloudy, and an oil separated and then solidified. The solid was filtered, washed with  $\rm H_2O$ , and recrystallized from EtOH to give 1.72 g (75%) of 12 (Table I).

1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)imidazole-2-carboxaldehyde Oxime (31). The reaction of 30 as in the preparation of 12 yielded (68%) 31: mp 201-204 °C.

2-(Aminomethyl)-1-benzylimidazole Dihydrochloride (7). Oxime 12 (1.25 g, 0.0053 mol) was dissolved in warm EtOH (125 mL), Raney Ni (2 mL of an aqueous slurry) was added, and the mixture was hydrogenated at 50 psi  $\rm H_2$  for 4.5 h. The mixture was filtered, the filtrate was treated with an ethereal HCl solution, and the solvents were concentrated until crystallization commenced. The crystalline precipitate was filtered and recrystallized from EtOH to give 0.76 g (49%) of 7 (Table I).

2-(Aminomethyl)-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)imidazole Dihydrochloride (32). The reduction of 31 as in the preparation of 7 yielded (22%) 32: mp 147-157 °C.

1-Benzyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)imidazole (10). A solution of 29 (1.86 g, 0.01 rr ol) in MeOH (20 mL) was stirred at 0 °C while NaBH<sub>4</sub> (1.0 g) was added. After stirring at 0 °C for 2.5 h the solution was concentrated. The residue was taken up in Et<sub>2</sub>O, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in EtOH and treated with ethereal HCl. Crystallization was induced by the addition of Et<sub>2</sub>O and cooling to give 1.7 g (91%) of 1-benzyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)imidazole hydrochloride (Table I).

2-Amino-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)imidazole Hydrochloride (33). A mixture of N-(4-methoxybenzyl)aminoacetaldehyde dimethyl acetal<sup>4</sup> (4.5 g, 0.02 mol) and cyanamide (3.36 g, 0.08 mol) in glacial AcOH (1.13 mL, 0.02 mol) and  $H_2O$  (4 mL) was heated at 40 °C for 16 h and then at 60 °C for 2 h. The solution was concentrated and the residue was triturated with a mixture of  $Me_2CO$  and  $Et_2O$  and filtered. The solid was dissolved in concentrated HCl (5 mL), heated to 50 °C for 20 min, and then concentrated. The solid was recrystallized from a mixture of MeOH and  $Et_2O$  to give 1.6 g (33%) of 33: mp 216–218 °C.

1-Benzylimidazole-2-carboxylic Acid Hydrochloride (5). A solution of 1-benzylimidazole (3.16 g, 0.02 mol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) was cooled to -50 °C and treated with a solution of n-BuLi in n-hexane (12.5 mL, 1.6 M, 0.02 mol). After stirring at -50 °C for 30 min, a stream of dry CO<sub>2</sub> was passed into the reaction. After 10 min, the color of the reaction mixture had changed from yellow to clear and a white precipitate formed. The mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and filtered and the precipitate was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O. This white powder was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), the pH was adjusted to 3, and the mixture was cooled to induce crystallization. The resulting 1-benzylimidazole-2-carboxylic acid was filtered and dried. The hydrochloride salt was formed by treating a methanolic solution of the imidazole with ethereal HCl and inducing crystallization by the addition of Et<sub>2</sub>O (Table I).

1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)imidazole-2-carboxylic Acid Hydrochloride (34). The reaction of 28 as in the preparation of 5 yielded (78%) 34: mp 115 °C dec.

General Method A. Cleavage of O-Methyl Ethers. A solution of the appropriate O-methyl ether (0.05 mol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (150 mL) was cooled to -20 °C and a solution of  $BBr_3$  (0.10 mol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (50 mL) was added. The cooling bath was replaced with an ice-water bath, and the reaction was followed by TLC until completion (generally 2-4 h). When completed, the reaction was cooled to -20 °C, and MeOH was cautiously added to decompose excess  $BBr_3$ . The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was recrystallized from the appropriate solvent.

1-(4-Hydroxybenzyl)imidazole-2-carboxylic Acid Hydrochloride (6). The demethylation of 34 by general procedure A yielded (41%) 6 (Table I).

2-(Aminomethyl)-1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)imidazole Dihydrochloride (8). The demethylation of 32 by general procedure A yielded (27%) 8 (Table I).

2-Amino-1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)imidazole Hydrochloride (9). The demethylation of 33 by general procedure A yielded (47%) 9 (Table I).

1-(4-Hydroxybenzyl)imidazole (11). The demethylation of 28 by general procedure A yielded (56%) 11.

Benzyl 1-Benzylimidazole-2-acetate (35). A solution of 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole (2.8 g, 16.3 mmol) and triethylamine (23.0 mL, 0.163 mol) in MeCN (15 mL) was stirred at 0 °C during the dropwise addition of benzyl chloroformate (23 mL, 0.163 mol)

<sup>(12)</sup> Perrin, D. D.; Armarego, W. F. L. Purification of Laboratory Chemicals; Pergamon: Oxford, 1966.

and then heated at reflux for 18 h. The resulting mixture was partitioned between Et<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (150 mL) and the aqueous phase was washed with Et.O. The combined Et.O washes were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and then 1% MeOH-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent to yield 1.2 g (24%) of 35 as an oil, which solidified.

Benzyl 1-[4-(benzyloxy)benzyl]imidazole-2-acetate (36)<sup>7</sup> was prepared in 39% yield as an oil, which solidified from 1-[4-(benzyloxy)benzyl]-2-methylimidazole<sup>8</sup> by the method used to prepare 35.

- 1-Benzylimidazole-2-acetic Acid (13). A solution of 35 (1.1 g, 3.6 mmol) in EtOH (50 mL) was hydrogenated (50 psi) over 10% palladium on carbon (0.2 g) for 2 h and then filtered and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOH to yield 0.18 g (23%) of 13 (Table I).
- 1-(4-Hydroxybenzyl)imidazole-2-acetic acid (14) was prepared in 10% yield by hydrogenation of 36 by the procedure used to prepare 13 (Table I).

N-(3-Fluorobenzyl)ethylenediamine (37). A solution of ethylenediamine (45.3 g, 0.754 mol) in MeOH (500 mL) was stirred at 0 °C during the dropwise addition of 3-fluorobenzaldehyde (23.4 g, 0.189 mol). After the addition was completed, the solution was stirred and maintained at 0 °C while NaBH<sub>4</sub> (7.13 g, 0.189 mol) was added cautiously in small portions. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature and was stirred overnight. The resulting cloudy solution was filtered, the filtrate was concentrated and the residual oil was partitioned between EtOAc and H<sub>2</sub>O. The EtOAc layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give a viscous oil, which was distilled to yield 37 (21.6 g, 68%): bp 89-91 °C (0.7 mmHg).

- N-(3-Fluorobenzyl)ethylenediaminecarbodithioic Acid (38). A solution of 37 (5.0 g, 0.03 mol) in EtOAc (50 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and stirred during the dropwise addition of a solution of  $\mathrm{CS}_2$  (2.26 g, 0.03 mol) in EtOAc (10 mL). The reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH and filtered and the filtrate was concentrated to yield 6.28 g (87%) of 38 as an amorphous white solid. Trituration with hot MeOH yielded a white solid: mp 178-182 °C.
- 1-(3-Fluorobenzyl)imidazoline-2-thione (16b). A 5.73 g (0.024 mol) quantity of 38 was heated as a neat melt to 165 °C in an oil bath for several minutes. N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (5 mL) was added followed by heating to 185 °C for 15 min. The resulting semisolid mass was cooled, triturated with EtOAc, and filtered to yield 2.3 g of solid. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was triturated with H<sub>2</sub>O and filtered to yield an additional 2.1 g of product. The combined crops were recrystallized from MeOH-CHCl<sub>3</sub> to yield 3.15 g (64%) of 16b (Table
- 1-Benzylimidazoline-2-thione (16a) was prepared (18% yield) from benzaldehyde by the procedure described for the preparation
- 1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)imidazoline-2-thione (16c) was prepared (32% yield) from 3,5-difluorobenzaldehyde<sup>5</sup> by the procedure described for the preparation of 16b.
- 3,5-Difluorobenzylamine (39). A solution of 3,5-difluorobenzonitrile<sup>5</sup> (13.9 g, 0.1 mol) in ammonia-saturated MeOH (140 mL) was hydrogenated (50 psi) over Raney Ni for 1.5 h. The resulting mixture was filtered and concentrated, and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc. The solution was extracted twice with 1 N HCl, and the aqueous extracts were washed with EtOAc. The aqueous solution was made basic with 2.5 N NaOH and extracted three times with EtOAc. The extracts were washed with H2O and brine and then dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield 39 as a colorless oil: 11.7 g (82%).
- 3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzylamine (40). The hydrogenation of 3,5-difluoro-4-methoxybenzonitrile<sup>3</sup> as in the preparation of 39 yielded 40 (98%) as a colorless oil.
- 3,5-Difluorobenzyl Isothiocyanate (41). A solution of 39 (11.6 g, 0.081 mol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added dropwise to a cooled (-5 to -10 °C) solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (16.7 g, 0.081 mol) and  $CS_2$  (32.4 mL, 0.539 mol) in  $Et_2O$  (100 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. The mixture was filtered, the filtrate was concentrated, and the residual oil was dissolved in 19:1 n-hexane-Et<sub>2</sub>O and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash

- chromatography<sup>13</sup> using n-hexane as eluant to yield 5.40 g (36%) of 41 as a colorless oil.
- 3-Fluorobenzyl isothiocyanate (42) was prepared as a colorless oil in 51% yield from 3-fluorbenzylamine by the procedure used to prepare 41.
- 3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzyl isothiocyanate (43) was prepared as a colorless oil in 79% yield from 3,5-difluoro-4methoxybenzylamine by the procedure used to prepare 41.
- 4-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-1-formyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (44). A solution of 42 (4.27 g, 25.5 mmol) and formylhydrazine (1.69 g, 28.7 mmol) was heated at reflux in EtOH (30 mL) for 1 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was triturated with 1:1 hexane-EtOAc and filtered. The crude product was recrystallized from EtOH-hexane to yield 1.29 g (22%) of 44: mp 124-125 °C
- 4-Benzyl-1-formyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (45) was prepared in 38% yield from benzyl isothiocyanate by the procedure used to prepare 44. The crude product was recrystallized from EtOH: mp 162-165 °C.
- 4-(3.5-Difluorobenzyl)-1-formyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (46) was prepared in 35% yield from 41 by the procedure used to prepare 44. A sample was purified by flash chromatography using 9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-EtOAc as eluant followed by recrystallization from  $CH_2Cl_2$ -hexane: mp 129-130 °C.
- 4-(3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzyl)-1-formyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (47) was prepared in 62% yield from 43 by the procedure used to prepare 44. A sample was recrystallized from EtOH-hexane: mp 124-126 °C.
- 4-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (17b). A solution of 44 (1.29 g, 5.68 mmol) in ethanolic sodium ethoxide [prepared from sodium (0.26 g, 11.0 g-atom) and EtOH (25 mL)] was heated at reflux for 24 h. The resulting mixture was filtered and concentrated and the residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O. The aqueous solution was acidified to pH 3 with 10% HCl and the precipitate was filtered and recrystallized from EtOH-H2O to yield 0.48 g (41%) of 17b (Table II).
- 4-Benzyl-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (17a). The reaction of 45 as in the preparation of 17b yielded (56%) 17a (Table II).
- 4-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (17c). The reaction of 46 as in the preparation of 17b yielded 17c (71%) (Table II).
- 4-(3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (48). The reaction of 47 using the same procedure as described for preparation of 17b yielded (65%) 48: mp 124-126 °C.
- 4-(3,5-Difluoro-4-hydroxybenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (17d) was prepared in 23% yield from 48 by demethylation according to general procedure A.
- 3-Fluorobenzaldehyde (tert-Butoxycarbonyl)hydrazone (49). A solution of 3-fluorobenzaldehyde (6.21 g, 0.05 mol) and tert-butyl carbazate (6.61 g, 0.05 mol) in n-hexane (50 mL) was heated at reflux for 30 min. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and filtered. The product was recrystallized from ethanol to yield (8.79 g, 74%) 49: mp 165-168 °C.
- 3,5-Difluorobenzaldehyde (tert-butoxycarbonyl)hydrazone (50) was prepared in 58% yield from 3,5-difluorobenzaldehyde by the procedure used to prepare 49: mp 190-191
- 1-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-2-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)hydrazine (51). A suspension of 49 (1.02 g, 4.28 mmol) in MeOH (40 mL) was hydrogenated (40 psi) over 10% palladium on carbon (0.22 g) for 1 h. The mixture was filtered and concentrated to give 1.0 g (97%) of 51 as an oil.
- 1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-2-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)hydrazine (52). The hydrogenation (4.5 h) of 50 as in the preparation of 51 yielded (95%) 52 as a colorless oil.
- -(tert-Butoxycarbonyl)-2-(3-fluorobenzyl)-4-tert-butylthiosemicarbazide (53). A solution of 51 (2.29 g, 9.53 mmol) and tert-butyl isothiocyanate (2.41 mL, 19.1 mmol) in EtOAc (15 mL) was heated at reflux for 7 h. The mixture was concentrated and the residue was triturated to yield 1.28 g (38%) of 53 as an amorphous solid.
- 1-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl)-2-(3,5-difluorobenzyl)-4-tertbutylthiosemicarbazide (54). The reaction of 52 as in the

1-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-5-thione (18b). A solution of 53 (1.28 g, 3.6 mmol) in 98% HCO<sub>2</sub>H (15 mL) was heated at reflux for 4 h and then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography using 4:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-EtOAc followed by trituration with Et<sub>2</sub>O-hexane to yield 0.165 g (22%) of 18b (Table II).

1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-1,2,4-triazole-5-thione (18c). The reaction of 54 using the identical conditions as described for the preparation of 18b yielded (22%) 18c (Table II).

1-Benzyl-1,2,3-triazole-5-thione (19a). A solution of 1benzyl-1,2,3-triazole<sup>9</sup> (3.2 g, 0.02 mol) in THF (40 mL) was cooled to -80 °C and stirred under nitrogen during the dropwise addition of a 2.6 M n-butyllithium solution in n-hexane (8.8 mL, 0.023 mol). After stirring for 15 min sublimed sulfur (0.64 g, 0.02 mol) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred for 45 min at -20 °C and then poured into Et<sub>2</sub>O and filtered. The hygroscopic solid product was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O, and the resulting solution was washed twice with EtOAc and acidified with 3 N HCl. The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc, and the EtOAc extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give a solid product which was recrystallized from Et<sub>2</sub>O to yield 0.8 g (21%) of 19a (Table II).

Methyl N-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)dithiocarbamate (55). A solution of 39 (4.2 g, 29.7 mmol) and KOH (1.66 g, 29.7 mmol) in a mixture of H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and EtOH (18 mL) was stirred during the addition of  $CS_2$  (8.9 mL, 0.148 mol) and then heated at reflux for 1 h. Iodomethane (1.8 mL, 29.7 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 48 h and then concentrated. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc and the solution was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography using 6:1 hexane-EtOAc as eluant to yield 4.7 g (68%) of 55 as a yellow

1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrazole-5-thiol (20c). A solution of 55 (4.2 g, 0.018 mol) and NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.8 g, 0.027 mol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (35 mL) was heated at reflux overnight. The solution was cooled, extracted with EtOAc, acidified to pH 1 with 10% HCl, and extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated, and the residue was recrystallized from hexane-EtOAc to give 1.3 g (32%) of 20c (Table II).

N-Benzyl-2-nitroaniline (56). A mixture of 1-chloro-2nitrobenzene (10.0 g, 0.063 mol), benzylamine (40 g, 0.37 mol), and ammonium acetate (4.6 g, 0.06 mol) was heated at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and dissolved in EtOAc. The solution was washed three times with 3 N HCl and once with brine, then dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated to yield 14.0 g (97%) of 56: mp 65-67 °C.

N-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-2-nitroaniline (57) was prepared in 99% yield from 3,5-difluorobenzylamine by following the procedure used for 56: mp 105-108 °C.

N-(3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzyl)-2-nitroaniline (58) was prepared in 100% yield from 3,5-difluoro-4-methoxybenzylamine by following the procedure used for preparation of 56: oil which

1-Benzylbenzimidazole-2-thione (21a). Platinum oxide (0.38 g) was hydrogenated (50 psi) in EtOH (50 mL) for 30 min. Compound 56 (1.0 g, 4.4 mmol) was added and the solution was hydrogenated (50 psi) for 3 h. The solution was filtered directly into a 250-mL flask containing KOH (0.38 g) and CS<sub>2</sub> (1.1 mL, 18.3 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 2 h and then diluted with H2O and acidified with 3 N HCl. The product was filtered and recrystallized from EtOH to yield 0.65 g (63%) of 21a (Table II).

1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)benzimidazole-2-thione (21c) was prepared from 57 in 42% yield by the procedure used in the preparation of 21a (Table II).

1-(3,5-Difluoro-4-methoxybenzyl)benzimidazole-2-thione (59) was prepared from 58 in 32% yield by the procedure used in the preparation of 21a. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluant to give a yellow oil which solidified.

1-(3,5-Difluoro-4-hydroxybenzy1) benzimida zole-2-thione(21d) was prepared from 59 in 47% yield by general procedure A (Table II).

3-(3-Fluorobenzovl) pyridine (60). A solution of 3-bromofluorobenzene (25.0, 0.143 mol) in ether (250 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and stirred during the dropwise addition of a 2.3 M solution of t-BuLi in pentane (62 mL, 0.143 mol). After the addition was completed, stirring was continued for 15 min and a solution of 3-cyanopyridine (14.9 g, 0.143 mol) in ether (125 mL) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to 15 °C and a solution of concentrated HCl (36 mL) in H<sub>2</sub>O (90 mL) was added dropwise. After the resulting light yellow solution had stirred for 30 min, 10% NaOH was added to give a pH of 10, and the Et<sub>2</sub>O layer was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with Et<sub>2</sub>O, the combined Et<sub>2</sub>O extracts were concentrated, and the residue was distilled to yield 21.3 g (74%) of 60: bp 112-128 °C (0.45 mmHg).

3-(3,5-Difluorobenzoyl)pyridine (61). The reaction of 1bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene as in the preparation of 60 yielded (42%) of the ketone 61: bp 110-137 °C (0.4 mmHg)

3-(3-Fluorobenzyl)pyridine (62). Zn(Hg) amalgam was prepared by stirring zinc (41 g) and HgCl<sub>2</sub> (4.1 g) in a mixture of H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and concentrated HCl (60 mL) and then ketone 60 (19.0 g, 0.095 mol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred and heated at reflux for 30 h. Occasionally during the course of the reaction HCl gas was passed through the mixture, and after 20 h, additional zinc metal (41 g) was added. After 30 h, the reaction mixture was cooled, decanted, made strongly basic with 10% NaOH, and extracted three times with CH2Cl2. The extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated, and the residue was distilled to yield 5.2 g (29%) of 62: bp 100-110 °C (0.6 mmHg).

3-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)pyridine (63). The reaction of ketone 61 as in the preparation of 62 yielded (61%) 63: bp 90-110 °C (0.6 mmHg).

3-Benzyl-2-pyridone (64). A solution of 3-benzylpyridine (50) g, 0.3 mol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (500 mL) was stirred during the portionwise addition of 3-chloroperbenzoic acid (60 g, 0.325 mol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h and then diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL) and made basic to pH 8 with 10% NaOH. The CHCl<sub>3</sub> layer was separated, extracted twice with 5% NaHCO3, and concentrated to give 57.5 g of crude N-oxide which was used without purification. The crude N-oxide (19.5 g, 0.1 mol) was added cautiously to Ac<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL) which had been heated to 85 °C. After the addition was completed, the solution was heated at reflux for 45 min, then cooled, and concentrated. The residual oil was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O and the resulting solution was stirred with EtOH and 40% NaOH until the precipitation of solid was completed. The product was filtered to yield 2.26 g (12% overall) of 64 as a white solid: mp 158.5-160 °C.

3-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-2-pyridone (65). The reaction of 62 as in the preparation of 64 yielded (18%) 65: mp 110 °C.

3-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-2-pyridone (66). The reaction of 63 as in the preparation of 64 yielded (44%) 66: amorphous solid; TLC R, 0.3 with 10% MeOH-CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

3-Benzylpyridine-2-thione (22a). A mixture of 64 (777 mg, 4.2 mmol) and Lawesson's reagent<sup>14</sup> in toluene (10 mL) was heated at reflux for 1 h, then cooled, and decanted. The residue was washed with CH2Cl2, and the combined organic layers were concentrated. The resulting solid was purified by flash chromatography using 5% MeOH-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluant followed by recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-Et<sub>2</sub>O-hexane to yield 320 mg (35%) of 22a (Table II).

3-(3-Fluorobenzyl)pyridine-2-thione (22b). The reaction of 65 as in the preparation of 22a yielded (35%) 22b (Table II).

3-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)pyridine-2-thione (22c). The reaction of 66 as in the preparation of 22a yielded (35%) 22c (Table II).

1-Benzyl-1,2-dihydropyrimidine-2-thione (23a). A solution of N-benzylthiourea  $^{15}$  (8.0 g, 0.0482 mol) and malondial dehyde tetramethyl acetal (7.91 g, 0.048 mol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (65 mL), concentrated HCl (16 mL), and EtOH (65 mL) was heated at reflux for 25 min. The solution was cooled, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O, and then made basic with 10% NaOH. The resulting solution was extracted

<sup>(14)</sup> Shabana, R.; Scheibye, S.; Clausen, K.; Olesen, S. O.; Lawesson, S. O. Nouv. J. Chim. 1980, 4, 47.

Prepared by the method of: Neville, R. G.; McGee, J. J. Can. J. Chem. 1963, 41, 2123.

<sup>(16)</sup> Blackman, A. J.; Polya, J. B. J. Chem. Soc. C 1971, 1016.

<sup>(17)</sup> Altland, H. W. J. Org. Chem. 1976, 41, 3395.

twice with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, and the combined CHCl<sub>3</sub> extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOH to give 3.2 g (32%) of 23a (Table II).

1-(3-Fluorobenzyl)-1,2-dihydropyrimidine-2-thione hydrochloride (23b) was prepared from N-(3-fluorobenzyl)thiourea<sup>15</sup> in 13% yield by the method used to prepare 23a.

1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-1,2-dihydropyrimidine-2-thione hydrochloride (23c) was prepared from N-(3,5-difluorobenzyl)thiourea<sup>15</sup> in 10% yield by the same method used for the preparation of 23a.

 $pK_a$  Determinations were obtained by titration of the compounds in 2:1 MeOH- $H_2O$  (to overcome solubility constraints).

Enzymology. In vitro  $IC_{50}$  determinations were made as previously reported.<sup>4</sup> The  $IC_{50}$  is defined as the concentration of compound that produces 50% inhibition of product formation when compared to uninhibited control.

Registry No. 1, 23269-10-5; 2, 95333-64-5; 3, 95333-65-6; 4, 95333-56-5; 4·HCl, 95359-66-3; 5, 16042-26-5; 5·HCl, 123566-30-3; 6, 95460-25-6; 6·HCl, 123566-31-4; 7, 26163-58-6; 7·2HCl, 22600-75-5; 8, 95460-13-2; 8·2HCl, 123593-05-5; 9, 123593-06-6; 9·HCl, 123566-32-5; 10, 5376-10-3; 10·HCl, 5272-57-1; 11, 41833-17-4; 12, 10045-64-4; 13, 123566-33-6; 14, 123566-34-7; 15b, 95333-80-5; 15c, 95333-81-6; 15d, 95333-60-1; 16a, 123566-44-9; 16b, 123566-45-0; 16c, 123566-46-1; 17a, 23289-13-6; 17b, 107186-77-6; 17c, 107186-78-7; 17d, 107186-80-1; 18a, 29983-31-1; 18b, 112961-33-8; 18c, 112961-34-9; 19a, 68700-73-2; 20a, 33898-72-5; 20c, 105219-26-9; 21a, 31493-51-3; 21c, 105968-95-4; 21d, 105968-97-6; 22a, 123566-55-2; 22b, 123566-56-3; 22c, 123566-57-4; 23a, 123566-58-5; 23b, 123566-63-2; 23b·HCl, 123566-60-9; 23c, 123566-64-3; 23c·HCl,

123566-62-1; 28, 56643-95-9; 29, 10045-65-5; 30, 95460-12-1; 31, 95460-14-3; 32, 95460-15-4; 33, 123566-35-8; 34, 95460-23-4; 35, 123566-36-9; 36, 123566-37-0; 37, 123566-39-2; 38, 123566-42-7; **39**, 90390-27-5; **40**, 105969-16-2; **41**, 107186-81-2; **42**, 63351-94-0; **43**, 107186-82-3; **44**, 107186-83-4; **45**, 93114-14-8; **46**, 107186-84-5; 47, 107186-85-6; 48, 107186-79-8; 49, 112961-36-1; 50, 112961-39-4; **51**, 112961-37-2; **52**, 123566-47-2; **53**, 123566-48-3; **54**, 123566-49-4; **55**, 105219-25-8; **56**, 5729-06-6; **57**, 105969-13-9; **58**, 105969-11-7; **59**, 105968-93-2; **60**, 79568-07-3; **61**, 123566-50-7; **62**, 123566-51-8; 63, 123566-52-9; 64, 32967-14-9; 65, 123566-53-0; 66, 123566-54-1; p-MeOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH(OMe)<sub>2</sub>, 54879-77-5; NH<sub>2</sub>CN, 420-04-2; PhCHO, 100-52-7; m-FC<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CHO, 456-48-4; 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>CHO, 32085-88-4; NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, 107-15-3; PhCH<sub>2</sub>NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, 4152-09-4;  $3,5-F_2C_6H_3CH_2NHCH_2CH_2NH_2$ , 123566-40-5;  $F_2C_6H_3CN$ , 64248-63-1; m-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, 100-82-3; PhCH<sub>2</sub>NCS, 622-78-6; t-BuOCONHNH<sub>2</sub>, 870-46-2; o-NO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl, 88-73-3;  $PhCH_2NH_2$ , 100-46-9;  $m-BrC_6H_4F$ , 1073-06-9; 3,5- $F_2C_6H_3Br$ , 461-96-1; m-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHC(=S)NH<sub>2</sub>, 123566-59-6; 3,5- $F_2C_6H_4CH_2NHC(=S)NH_2$ , 123566-61-0; 1-[3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propyllimidazole-2-thione, 95333-89-4; 1-(4-methoxybenzyl)imidazole-2-thione, 95460-09-6; 1-benzylimidazole, 4238-71-5; 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole, 13750-62-4; 1-[4-(benzyloxy)benzyl]-2-methylimidazole, 123566-38-1; 3,5-difluoro-4-methoxybenzonitrile, 104197-15-1; 1-benzyl-1,2,3-triazole, 4368-68-7; 3-pyridinecarbonitrile, 100-54-9; 3-benzylpyridine, 620-95-1; N-benzylthiourea, 621-83-0; malonaldehyde tetramethyl acetal, 102-52-3; dopamine  $\beta$ -hydroxylase, 9013-38-1; 3-benzylpyridine N-oxide, 32361-74-3.

## Synthesis and Pharmacological Evaluation of a Series of Dibenzola.d lcycloalkenimines as N-Methyl-D-aspartate Antagonists

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A series of 73 dibenzo[a,d]cycloalkenimines were synthesized and evaluated for their ability to displace (+)-10,11-dihydro-5-methyl-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5,10-imine ([ $^3H$ ]-(+)-10) from its specific binding site on rat cortical membranes. A number of the more active compounds ( $K_i$  ranging from 0.006 to 0.21  $\mu$ M) were evaluated for N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) antagonist activity in the rat cortical slice ( $K_b$  ranging from 0.08 to 0.9  $\mu$ M) and anticonvulsant activity in the mouse against NMDA induced convulsions. The ED<sub>50</sub> values ranged from 0.22 to 7.76 mg/kg and correlated reasonably well with the  $K_b$  determination. In the dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5,10-imine series, the (+)-5S,10R enantiomer displayed consistently higher levels of biological activity. While substitution at the 3-position of (+)-10 with electronegative atoms generally increased in vitro activity, a loss of potency relative to (+)-10 (MK-801) was observed in vivo for all of the compounds tested.

Sometime ago a number of 1,4-dihydronaphthalen-1,4-imines were synthesized in our laboratory to explore the biologic properties of these molecules.<sup>1</sup> Interest in these rigid heterocycles had been stimulated by the observation that 9-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrafluoro-1,4-dihydronaphthalen-1,4-imine (1) displayed modest antiseizure and apparent anxiolytic activity when orally administered to rodents. In the course of pursuing this study, the structurally related 9,10-dihydroanthracen-9,10-imines<sup>2</sup> were found to have similar biological properties. Placement of methyl groups on the bridgehead positions of this construction

available anticonvulsant drugs. The spectrum of phar-

Sedation is a frequently encountered side effect of

gave rise to compounds which were surprisingly more

potent than the lead structure 1, and also exhibited a high

level of central sympathomimetic activity.3

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