

## Trifluoromethoxyl Substituted Phenylethylene Diamines as High Affinity $\sigma$ Receptor Ligands with Potent Anti-Cocaine Actions

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The phenylethylene diamines are a class of  $\sigma$  receptor ligands with excellent selectivity over other biological systems and with anti-cocaine actions that involve antagonism of  $\sigma_1$  receptors. In order to increase the potency of the aromatic methoxyl substituted analogues, trifluoromethoxyl groups were introduced to prevent metabolic demethylation. The para-substituted trifluoromethoxyl substituted analogues were shown to have increased  $\sigma$  receptor affinity and represent the most potent anti-cocaine phenylethylene diamines yet described.

### Introduction

Cocaine abuse remains a major public health problem<sup>1,2</sup> and is responsible for more serious intoxications and deaths than any other illicit drug, primarily as no effective treatments for cocaine overdose are currently available.<sup>3</sup> Previous studies aimed at developing anti-cocaine small molecule therapeutics have primarily focused on reversing the effects of cocaine on the dopaminergic system, yet success has been limited.<sup>3–5</sup> It is now becoming apparent not only that the behavioral effects of cocaine are due to actions at the dopamine transporter but that there is a contribution from other monoamine transporters and also receptors to which it binds.<sup>6,7</sup> Our approach to develop agents that attenuate the effects of cocaine is to prevent the access of cocaine to  $\sigma$  receptors, to which cocaine binds at concentrations that are achievable in vivo,<sup>7–9</sup> and because they are located in key organ systems (i.e., brain, heart) that mediate the drug's actions.<sup>10</sup>

The  $\sigma$  receptors were first postulated by Martin<sup>11</sup> and suffered from a complicated history, but they are now recognized as unique binding sites that are distinct from other known receptors<sup>10,12</sup> and have been shown to consist of  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  receptors through pharmacological methods.<sup>13–16</sup> The  $\sigma_1$  receptor has been cloned,<sup>17</sup> and antisense oligodeoxynucleotides against  $\sigma_1$  receptors attenuate the effects of  $\sigma_1$  agonists.<sup>18</sup> Early generations of  $\sigma$  receptor antagonists were reported to attenuate cocaine-induced locomotor stimulation and convulsions with varying results, but newer generations of potent and selective  $\sigma_1$  receptor antagonists and antisense oligodeoxynucleotides (to  $\sigma_1$ ) unequivocally block the toxic and locomotor stimulatory effects of cocaine.<sup>19</sup>

Selective  $\sigma_1$  agonists and antagonists have been described,<sup>19</sup> and the phenylethylenediamine class of ligands (typified by BD1008 (**1**) (Figure 1)) has been shown to be selective for  $\sigma$  receptors over all other biological systems, with some selectivity for  $\sigma_1$  receptors over  $\sigma_2$ .<sup>19</sup> We have described the aromatic substituted methoxyl analogues (such as **2** and **3** (Figure 1)) as high affinity  $\sigma$  ligands that show high potency in reversing the effects of cocaine in mice, and it is also known that both *N*-methyl and *N*-ethyl substituted analogues are active.<sup>20–22</sup> As electron withdrawing groups have been shown to increase  $\sigma_1$

affinity,<sup>22</sup> we considered that the introduction of electron withdrawing trifluoromethoxyl groups would prevent metabolic demethylation while increasing lipophilicity, thereby possibly leading to improved potency as anti-cocaine agents.

### Synthesis

The synthesis of the analogues closely followed the procedures used for the methoxyl analogues reported previously.<sup>21,22</sup> The trifluoromethoxyl substituted analogues (Scheme 1) were prepared from the relevant trifluoromethoxyphenyl acetic acid through coupling with the relevant diamine<sup>21</sup> followed by reduction of the amide with alane. The intermediate amides were isolated and purified for the ortho and para analogues but were not isolated and purified in the case of the meta analogues (**23–26**). All compounds were converted to water soluble salts and evaluated in binding assays and mouse convulsion assays using procedures previously reported.<sup>21,22</sup>

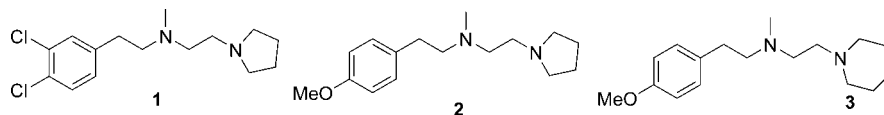
### Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows that all 12 compounds possess high affinity at  $\sigma_1$  receptors with at least 4-fold preference over  $\sigma_2$  receptors. All compounds show selectivity over a range of other biological targets, chosen because of interactions with cocaine and/or their involvement in the actions of stimulants,<sup>21</sup> but it should be noted that the ortho-substituted analogues (**18–21**) are not as selective because they possess affinity at dopamine D<sub>2</sub> receptors in the 100 nM range. However, the para-, ortho- and meta-substituted analogues all have higher affinity than their methoxyl substituted analogues reported previously (such as **3** Table 1).<sup>21,22</sup> It appears that the para- and meta-substituted trifluoromethoxyphenylethylenediamines possess the desired profile for anti-cocaine agents based on the binding assays. Cocaine-induced convulsions are a useful tool to assess  $\sigma$ -active compounds, as  $\sigma$  antagonists that attenuate cocaine-induced convulsions often attenuate cocaine-induced locomotor activity.<sup>19</sup> Data from our previously reported<sup>21,23</sup> anticonvulsion assays (Table 2) showed that the para-substituted analogues (**9–12**) were more potent than the ortho- and meta-substituted analogues. Indeed, the piperidine-based **11** and **12**, which have high affinity for  $\sigma_1$ , showed almost complete reversal of convulsions at 5 mg/kg, whereas the pyrrolidine-based **9** and **10** only showed activity in 50% of animals at this dose. The ortho-substituted analogues (**18–21**) were less potent, with only **19** and **21** attenuating convulsions in more than 50% of animals. The meta-substituted analogues

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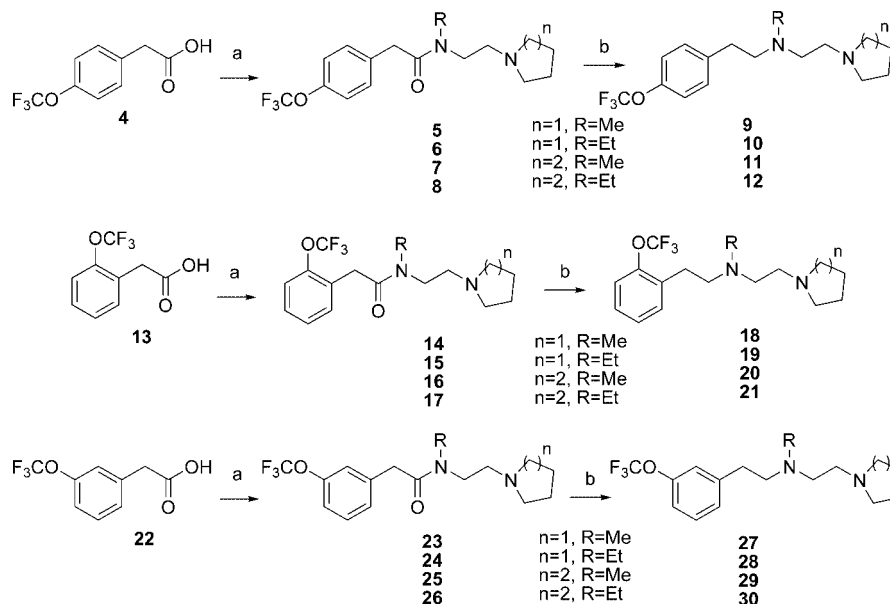
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**Figure 1.** Phenylethylene diamine-based  $\sigma$  ligands.

**Scheme 1<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) diamine, DCC; (b)  $\text{AlH}_3$ .

**Table 1.** Binding Affinities ( $K_i \pm \text{SEM}$ , nM) at  $\sigma$  Receptors, Monoamine Transporters (DAT, SERT, NET), and Dopamine D<sub>2</sub> Receptors<sup>a</sup>

	$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	DAT	SERT	NET	DA D <sub>2</sub>
3 <sup>b</sup>	21 ± 0.6	421 ± 99	12893 ± 1206	52647 ± 3286	19687 ± 2407	> 10000
9	6 ± 1	36 ± 3	6331 ± 356	7105 ± 373	> 100000	> 10000
10	7 ± 1	32 ± 6	5525 ± 628	3791 ± 149	> 100000	> 10000
11	2 ± 0.2	25 ± 2	4123 ± 208	9465 ± 518	> 100000	> 10000
12	2 ± 0.2	26 ± 4	2389 ± 146	3303 ± 296	> 100000	> 10000
18	10 ± 1	43 ± 4	11970 ± 729	> 100000	> 100000	516 ± 39
19	17 ± 3	82 ± 8	13190 ± 1119	> 100000	> 100000	266 ± 13
20	3 ± 0.1	58 ± 2	11920 ± 868	> 100000	> 100000	146 ± 6
21	6 ± 0.1	55 ± 3	9530 ± 949	> 100000	58100 ± 6400	213 ± 5
27	2 ± 0.4	40 ± 10	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000
28	5 ± 0.8	43 ± 1	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000
29	3 ± 0.1	31 ± 9	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000
30	2 ± 0.6	15 ± 3	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000	> 10000

<sup>a</sup> At opioid, serotonin 5-HT<sub>2</sub>, and NMDA receptors all compounds possessed a  $K_i$  of > 10000 nM. <sup>b</sup> Data from ref 21.

(27–30) only showed attenuation of more than 50% of the animals in the piperidine-based 29 and 30. Consistent with binding data, the para-substituted analogues show greater anti-cocaine activity in convulsion assays than their methoxy analogues.<sup>21,22</sup> Whether an increase in anti-cocaine potency is due to increased affinity or decreased metabolism is yet to be determined, but the *p*-trifluoromethoxy-substituted phenylethylenediamines represent the most potent members of this class in reversing the convulsive actions of cocaine. Though potent attenuation of convulsive effects is seen, the lack of a dose-related effect for several of the compounds indicates that further study is required to fully delineate the mechanism behind these effects, to allow the design and synthesis of potent pharmacotherapeutics for stimulant abuse.

**Experimental Section**

***N*-Methyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (5).** To a stirred solution of DCC (3.1 g, 0.015 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL), 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylacetic acid (2.2

g, 0.01 mol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) was added. After the mixture was stirred for 10 min, *N*-methyl-2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethylamine<sup>24</sup> (0.9 g, 0.007 mol) was added, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min. The mixture was filtered, the filter cake was washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 × 10 mL), and the filtrate was extracted with 10% aqueous citric acid (50 mL). The citric acid extracts were washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 × 30 mL), basified with  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ , and extracted into  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 × 40 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (2 × 20 mL), dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), and concentrated to give a colorless oil (1.68 g, 73%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.27 (m, 2H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.40 (m, 2H), 2.94 (d, 2H), 2.56 (m, 8H), 1.76 (s, 3H).

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (6).** Yield 77%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.45 (m, 4H), 2.61 (m, 6H), 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.14 (m, 3H).

***N*-Methyl-*N*-(2-piperidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (7).** Yield 84%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 (m, 2H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 2H), 3.00 (m, 3H), 2.38 (m, 6H), 1.54 (m, 4H), 1.43 (m, 2H).

**Table 2.** Number of Mice Convulsing with 60 mg/kg Cocaine after Pretreatment with Test Drug<sup>a</sup>

drug	pretreatment dose (mg/kg)	anticonvulsant effect (% convulsions)
9	5	5/10 (50%)
	10	1/10 (10%)
10	5	5/10 (50%)
	10	1/10 (10%)
11	5	2/10 (20%)
	10	3/10 (30%)
12	5	2/10 (20%)
	10	3/10 (30%)
18	5	7/10 (70%)
	10	6/10 (60%)
19	5	4/10 (40%)
	10	4/10 (40%)
20	5	8/10 (80%)
	10	7/10 (70%)
21	5	7/15 (47%)
	10	7/10 (70%)
27	5	5/10 (50%)
	10	6/10 (60%)
28	5	6/10 (60%)
	10	7/10 (70%)
29	5	8/10 (80%)
	10	3/10 (30%)
30	5	2/8 (25%)
	10	5/7 (71%)

<sup>a</sup> Control animals ( $N = 10$ ) were pretreated with saline and then challenged 15 min later with cocaine, resulting in 100% of the mice exhibiting cocaine-induced convulsions. Values of  $\leq 50\%$  represent statistically significant reductions in cocaine-induced convulsions (Fisher's exact test).

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(2-piperidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (8).** Yield 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (m, 2H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.37 (m, 6H), 1.55 (m, 6H), 1.12 (m, 3H).

***N*-Methyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (9).** A solution of **5** (1.57 g, 0.0047 mol) in THF (5 mL) was added to a solution of AlH<sub>3</sub> (0.23 g, 0.023 mol) in PhCH<sub>3</sub>. About 5 min, the mixture was carefully poured into aqueous NaOH (15%, 30 mL). After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was extracted into CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3  $\times$  30 mL). The organic extracts were washed with brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH/NH<sub>4</sub>OH = 95:5:0.1) gave a yellow oil (1.20 g, 81%): mp (dioxalate) 210–212 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12–7.21 (m, 4H), 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.59 (m, 4H), 2.54 (m, 4H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.77 (m, 4H); LCMS 317 (M + 1). Anal. (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (10).** Yield 61%; mp (dioxalate) 189–191 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12–7.40 (4H, m), 2.77–2.66 (6H, m), 2.62 (2H, m), 2.57 (2H, m), 2.52 (4H, m), 1.77 (4H, m), 1.05 (3H, m); LCMS 331 (M + 1). Anal. (C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Methyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (11).** Yield 83.5%; mp (dioxalate) 183–185 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12–7.21 (4H, m), 2.78 (2H, m), 2.58–2.62 (4H, m), 2.43 (2H, m), 2.40 (4H, m), 2.31 (3H, s), 1.58 (4H, m), 1.43 (2H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 331. Anal. (C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (12).** Yield 86%; mp (dioxalate  $\cdot$  0.25H<sub>2</sub>O) 143–145 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16 (4H, m), 2.75 (2H, m), 2.69 (4H, m), 2.61 (2H, m), 2.42 (6H, m), 1.59 (4H, m), 1.43 (2H, m), 1.04 (3H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 345. Anal. (C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>31</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>  $\cdot$  0.25H<sub>2</sub>O) C, H, N.

***N*-Methyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (14).** Yield 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 3.75 (m, 2H), 3.52 (m, 2H), 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.59 (m, 8H), 1.78 (s, 3H).

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (15).** Yield 82%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.35 (m, 4H), 2.53 (m, 6H), 1.76 (m, 4H), 1.22 (m, 3H).

***N*-Methyl-*N*-(2-piperidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (16).** Yield 86%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 3.74 (m, 6H), 3.46 (m, 4H), 2.98 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.45 (m, 4H).

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(2-piperidin-1-ylethyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]acetamide (17).** Yield 77%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.44 (m, 6H), 2.42 (m, 6H), 1.48 (m, 4H), 1.17 (m, 3H).

***N*-Methyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (18).** Yield 81%; mp (dioxalate) 217–219 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.26 (4H, m), 2.85 (2H, m), 2.63 (6H, m), 2.52 (4H, m), 2.35 (3H, s), 1.77 (4H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 317. Anal. (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (19).** Yield 66.5%; mp (dioxalate) 190–192 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.21 (4H, m), 2.82 (2H, m), 2.70 (4H, m), 2.63 (2H, m), 2.59 (2H, m), 2.53 (4H, m), 1.78 (4H, m), 1.07 (3H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 331. Anal. (C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Methyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (20).** Yield 85%; mp (dioxalate) 214–215 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.21 (4H, m), 2.84 (2H, m), 2.61 (4H, m), 2.46 (2H, m), 2.40 (4H, m), 2.34 (3H, s), 1.58 (4H, m), 1.43 (2H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 331. Anal. (C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (21).** Yield 74.5%; mp (dioxalate) 179–181 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.21 (4H, m), 2.80 (2H, m), 2.69 (4H, m), 2.63 (2H, m), 2.44 (6H, m), 1.59 (4H, m), 1.43 (2H, m), 1.06 (3H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 345. Anal. (C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>31</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Methyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (27).** Yield 6%; mp (HCl) 237–241 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (4H, m), 2.76 (4H, m), 2.60 (4H, m), 2.50 (4H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 1.70 (4H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 317.1. Anal. (C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>25</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (28).** Yield 12%; mp (HCl) 180–183 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (4H, m), 2.74 (6H, m), 2.58 (6H, m), 1.76 (4H, m), 1.32 (3H, m), 1.16 (2H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 331.4. Anal. (C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>27</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>0.5</sub>) C, H, N.

***N*-Methyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (29).** Yield 41%; mp (HCl) 183–185 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.00 (4H, m), 2.79 (2H, m), 2.56 (6H, m), 2.40 (4H, m), 2.31 (3H, s), 2.24 (4H, m), 1.33 (2H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 331.4. Anal. (C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>27</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O) C, H, N.

***N*-Ethyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-(2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl)ethanamine (30).** Yield 55%; mp (HCl) 250–253 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (4H, m), 2.80 (4H, m), 2.60 (4H, m), 2.40 (6H, m), 1.4 (4H, m), 1.23 (3H, m), 0.9 (2H, m); LCMS (M + 1) 345.4. Anal. (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>29</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O) C, H, N.

**Radioligand Binding Assays.** The assays were performed in rat brain homogenates using procedures previously published in detail. The  $\sigma_1$  receptors were labeled with 5 nM [<sup>3</sup>H](+)-pentazocine. The  $\sigma_2$  receptors were labeled with 3 nM [<sup>3</sup>H]DTG in the presence of 300 nM (+)-pentazocine to block  $\sigma_1$  receptors. Nonspecific binding was determined in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M haloperidol.  $K_i$  values were calculated using the Cheng–Prusoff equation.

**Convulsion Assays.** Male Swiss Webster mice were pretreated (ip) with saline or test compound, then challenged 15 min later with a convulsive dose of cocaine (60 mg/kg, ip). Mice were observed for the next 30 min for convulsions, which were defined as a loss of righting reflexes for at least 5 s combined with the presence of clonic limb movements or popcorn jumping.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Elemental analysis results of final testing compounds and general procedures. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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