

[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE MIDWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE]

Potential Growth Antagonists. I. Hydantoins and Disubstituted Glycines^{1,2}LOUIS H. GOODSON, IRWIN L. HONIGBERG, J. J. LEHMAN,³ AND W. H. BURTON

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Several 2,2-disubstituted glycines were prepared by the hydrolysis of the intermediate hydantoin in either sulfuric acid or barium hydroxide solution. Acid hydrolysis was satisfactory for the preparation of the dialkyl glycines but led to decomposition during the hydrolysis of the aryl substituted glycines. This route to the synthesis of these amino acids is considered superior to that of the Strecker method.

Preliminary anticancer screening of these amino acids containing no α hydrogen atom has shown them to be inactive, and therefore, unlike their structural analogue, 1-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid.

The present paper is concerned with the synthesis of disubstituted glycines of the type $RR'C(NH_2)COOH$. Compounds of this type were expected to be metabolic antagonists of value in the chemotherapy of cancer.

A number of compounds belonging to this class have already been prepared and shown to possess biological activity. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies of disubstituted glycine have revealed wide differences between these compounds and the corresponding natural amino acids. 2-Methylalanine appears incapable of being metabolized.⁴ 2-Methyl-DL-tryptophan is an antagonist of tryptophan and has shown activity against staphylococcal infections.⁵ 3-(3,4-Dihydroxyphenyl)-2-methyl-DL-alanine (α -methyl-DOPA) is a potent inhibitor of mammalian DOPA decarboxylase *in vitro* but is inactive *in vivo*.⁶ 2-Methyl-DL-glutamic acid inhibits the decarboxylation of glutamic acid by glutamic decarboxylase.⁷ 2-Methyl-DL-methionine is a potent antagonist of methionine and also blocks the action of D-amino acid oxidase on phenylalanine;⁷ it is also reported to be active against Newcastle virus disease.⁸ 2-Methylalanine, 2-methyl-DL-serine and 2-hydroxymethyl-DL-serine are accumulated in the rat liver after intraperitoneal injection, but they are not degraded.⁹ The α hydrogen of serine appears to be necessary for the reaction with pyridoxal and its subsequent

conversion to glycine.⁹ *N*-Carbamoyl-2-methyl-DL-glutamic acid did not catalyze the conversion of ornithine to citrulline as did *N*-carbamoyl-DL-glutamic acid.¹⁰ 2-Methyl-DL-serine does not undergo oxidative deamination in the presence of L- or D-amino oxidase.¹¹ 2-Methyl-DL-valine inhibits penicillin synthesis from lactose, but this inhibition is reversed by valine.¹²

Compounds which inhibit specific metabolic reactions can also be expected to possess selective toxicity and therefore are obvious candidates for trial in cancer chemotherapy. A few members of this group have been screened for their effects upon experimental tumors. 2-Amino-2-methylbutyric acid did not inhibit the growth of mouse Sarcoma-180, Carcinoma-755, or Leukemia-1210.¹³ On the other hand, 2-methylalanine, 1-amino-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, and 1-amino-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid inhibited the development of the Novikoff hepatoma in the rat.¹⁴ The latter compound has also been found to be active on at least one of the mouse tumors mentioned above.¹⁴ 1-Aminocyclohexanecarboxylic acid, 1-amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthoic acid, and 2-amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthoic acid were inactive in inhibiting the growth of transplanted Walker rat carcinoma; however, 1-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid as well as its N- and C-terminal peptides with glycine were very effective in retarding growth in this same system.¹⁵

Two general methods were considered for the preparation of the disubstituted glycines: the Strecker reaction, *i.e.*, the reaction of a ketone with an alkali cyanide and ammonium chloride to give the amino nitrile followed by hydrolysis to the

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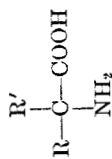
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



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TABLE II
DISUBSTITUTED GLYCINES



No.	R	R'	Molecular Formula	M.P., dec Sealed Tube	Method	Reaction Time, hr.	Yield, %	Calcd.			Found		
								C, %	H, %	N, %	C, %	H, %	N, %
1	CH ₃	n-C ₄ H ₉	C ₇ H ₁₆ NO ₂	308-309	A	72	60		9.63		9.44		
2	CH ₃	n-C ₆ H ₁₃	C ₉ H ₁₉ NO ₂	280-284	A	72	72		8.08		7.58		
3	CH ₃	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	C ₁₀ H ₂₁ NO ₂	296-300	A	72	58		7.48		7.33		
4	CH ₃	n-C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ NO ₂	284-286	A	72	66		6.50		6.29		
5	CH ₃	CH ₂ =CHCH ₂ CH ₂	C ₇ H ₁₃ NO ₂	312-314	B	0.5	87	58.7	9.78	9.15	9.86	8.97	
6	CH ₃	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₈	C ₁₃ H ₂₅ NO ₂	258-260	B	2.5	81		6.16		6.20		
7	CH ₃	Cyclo C ₆ H ₁₁	C ₉ H ₁₇ NO ₂	308-309	A	72	57		8.18		8.04		
8	CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ CH ₂	C ₁₁ H ₁₅ NO ₂	287-289	A	72	36		7.25		6.99		
9	CH ₃	p-F-C ₆ H ₄	C ₈ H ₉ FNO ₂	271-272	B	6	69	59.0	5.50	5.53	7.53	5.53	
10	CH ₃	2-Thienyl	C ₇ H ₉ NO ₂ S	205.5-206.5 ^a	B	0.5	77	49.1	5.30	5.38	8.14	5.38	
11	C ₂ H ₅	iso-C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₇ H ₁₆ NO ₂	178-179	A	72	43	57.9	10.4	9.65	9.81	10.4	
12	C ₂ H ₅	p-F-C ₆ H ₄	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ FNO ₂	253-254	A	3	81	60.9	6.14	7.10	7.05	6.15	
13	C ₆ H ₅	p-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	C ₁₅ H ₁₅ NO ₂	244.5-245.0	C	24	75	74.66	6.27	5.81	74.70	6.32	
14	C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₃ H ₁₅ NO ₂	268-269	A	72	20	74.7	6.22	5.80	74.6	6.26	
15	C ₆ H ₅	p-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ CH ₂	C ₁₆ H ₁₇ ClNO ₂	263-264	C	24	73	75.34	5.12	5.08	65.45	5.14	
16	C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ CH ₂	C ₁₆ H ₁₇ NO ₂	268-269	B	1.5	18	75.3	6.71	5.49	74.7	6.83	
17	CH ₃	n-C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₉ H ₁₇ NO ₂	307-308	B	7	35	75.3	6.71	5.49	75.3	6.86	
18	CH ₃	p-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ NO ₂	318-319	Strecker ^b		44			8.81	8.76		
19	CH ₃	R and R' Combined		279-280	Strecker ^b		29			7.82	8.09		
20			C ₁₀ H ₁₁ NO ₂	225-227	B	5	82	67.78	6.26	7.91	67.73	6.23	8.01
21			C ₁₁ H ₁₃ NO ₂	301-302	B	6	59	69.0	6.85	7.32	69.1	6.79	7.24
22			C ₁₁ H ₁₃ NO ₂	231-232	B	6	67	69.00	6.85	7.32	68.90	7.00	7.28
23			C ₉ H ₁₁ NO ₂	304-305	A	72	64	61.12	9.62	8.91	61.07	9.73	8.84

^a This is the melting point of the hydrate. The analysis shown was obtained on a sample dried to constant weight at 150°. ^b R. E. Steiger, *Org. Syntheses*, 24, 9 (1944).

acid. In a three-necked flask fitted with a reflux condenser and nitrogen inlet tube were placed 45 g. (0.02 mole) of 5-heptyl-5-methylhydantoin and 104 g. (0.6 mole) of 60% sulfuric acid. The mixture was then heated at 130° for 72 hr. under a nitrogen atmosphere. The clear, straw-colored solution was then cooled and a precipitate, consisting of amino acid sulfate and unchanged hydantoin, was filtered. The precipitate was dissolved in 300 ml. of hot water, decolorized with activated charcoal, and filtered. The filtrate was cooled and adjusted to pH 6 with 10% aqueous ammonia, which precipitated the free amino acid. The mother liquor from the reaction mixture was diluted with 200 ml. of water, decolorized with charcoal, filtered, and the free amino acid precipitated by the addition of 10% aqueous ammonia to pH 6. Both crops of amino acid were combined and recrystallized, first, from 50% ethanol and then from acetic acid-water. Finally the product was dried for 24 hr. *in vacuo* at 50°; yield, 23 g., m.p., 296–300° (sealed tube).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{10}H_{21}NO_2$: N, 7.48. Found: N, 7.33.

*Method B. Base hydrolysis.*²¹ *2-Amino-2-methyl-5-hexenoic acid.* In a stainless steel reaction vessel were placed 30.2 g. (0.18 mole) of 5-(3-butenyl)-5-methylhydantoin, 85 g. (0.27 mole) of barium hydroxide and 485 ml. of water. The bomb was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated to 165° for 30 min. After cooling to room temperature, the alkaline reaction mixture was diluted with 300 ml. of water, then aerated and heated to drive off the ammonia formed

in the reaction. The solution was then acidified with concd. sulfuric acid to pH 1–2, the barium sulfate filtered, and the pH readjusted to 6 with lead carbonate. The solution was filtered free of lead sulfate and then treated with hydrogen sulfide to remove the excess lead ion. The aqueous solution was next heated to boiling, decolorized with charcoal, filtered, and the filtrate concentrated to give three crops of the free amino acid; total yield 22.5 g., m.p., 312–314°. A sample for analysis was recrystallized from 70% ethanol.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_7H_{13}NO_2$: C, 58.72; H, 9.15; N, 9.78. Found: C, 58.91; H, 8.97; N, 9.86.

Several of the amino acids hydrolyzed by this method were insoluble enough in water to be isolated by concentrating the acidic solution to half volume after removing the precipitated barium sulfate and adjusting the pH to 6 with concd. ammonium hydroxide. The amino acid was then filtered and washed with several portions of distilled water.

Method C. Base hydrolysis. 2-Phenyl-2-p-tolylglycine. A stainless steel reaction vessel containing 22.6 g. (0.085 mole) of 5-phenyl-5-p-tolylhydantoin and 370 ml. of a 20% sodium hydroxide solution was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated to 165° for 24 hr. The cooled reaction mixture was diluted with 1 l. of water and the pH adjusted to <1 with concd. hydrochloric acid. The solution was then treated with charcoal, filtered, and the pH readjusted to 6 with ammonium hydroxide; yield, 15 g., m.p., 244.5–245° (sealed tube).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{15}H_{15}NO_2$: C, 74.66; H, 6.27; N, 5.81. Found: C, 74.70; H, 6.32; N, 5.75.

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Behavior of Certain Pyridines, Quinolines, and Isoquinolines with Amino or Hydrazino Substituents Toward *N*-Acylamino Acids Under the Influence of Papain Catalysis

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3-Aminoquinoline and 3-hydrazinoquinoline have been found to undergo reactions with hippuric acid, carbobenzoxyglycine, and carbobenzoxy-L-alanine in the formation of amide-like products. Also, they both effectively resolve carbobenzoxy-DL-alanine and benzoyl-DL-alanine under papain catalysis. When benzoyl-L-alanine is used alone, however, neither of the amino-containing bases undergoes a papain-catalyzed reaction with this single antipode. A number of aminopyridines, aminoquinolines, 4-aminoisoquinoline, and 2-hydrazinoquinoline failed to react, under papain catalysis, with this same selected group of *N*-acylamino acids.

Papain catalysis of the formation of peptide-like linkages from *N*-acyl amino acids and aniline or phenylhydrazine was demonstrated in the original research of Max Bergmann and Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat.³ Groundwork was thereby laid for a diver-

sity of studies⁴ which brought forth much informa-

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