

Synthesis and Cholinergic Properties of Bis[[[(dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] Analogues of Ranitidine

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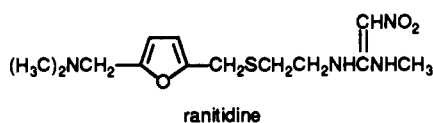
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The histaminergic H₂ antagonist, ranitidine, has also been found to significantly inhibit acetylcholinesterase (AChE) *in vitro*. In an effort to develop novel, nonquaternary AChE inhibitors capable of penetrating into the CNS and alleviating the cholinergic deficit characteristic of Alzheimer's disease, a series of bis[[[(dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] analogues of ranitidine has been synthesized. All compounds were evaluated for human erythrocyte AChE inhibitory activity and compared to ranitidine, physostigmine, and tetrahydro-9-aminoacridine (THA). The most active AChE inhibitors were N,N'-disubstituted derivatives of 2-nitro-1,1-ethenediamine and 4,6-dinitro-1,3-benzenediamine, with compound 8 demonstrating activity greater than physostigmine. Deletion of the diamionitroethene group in a series of alkyl and aryl bis-thioethers, yielded a number of slightly less active compounds, comparable in potency to THA. The 13 most active AChE inhibitors all demonstrated a more selective inhibition of AChE, as opposed to butyrylcholinesterase inhibition, than did THA. Compounds 3 and 22 were equally active to THA in potentiating rat ileal contractions. Binding studies demonstrated M₁ and M₂ cholinergic receptor affinities slightly greater than or equal to THA. Differential receptor binding studies showed compound 12 resembled THA in agonist/antagonist activity. Compounds 11-13 significantly elevated mouse brain acetylcholine levels, when administered at 80% of their approximate lethal doses, but were less active than THA or physostigmine.

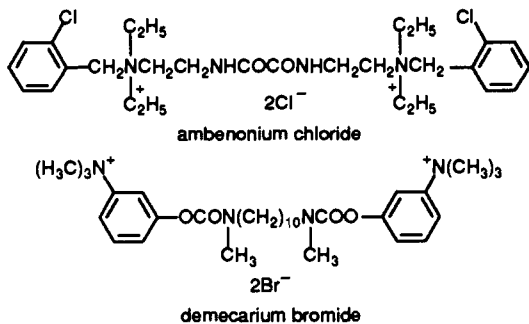
Introduction

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive dementia, currently estimated to affect up to 15% of the population over 65 years of age.¹ The decreased choline acetyltransferase activity in the cortex and hippocampus of brains from AD patients, as well as corroborating evidence from a number of other areas, has resulted in a cholinergic deficit theory regarding the disease.^{2,3} As cortical M₁-muscarinic receptors have been shown to remain relatively unaffected, a great deal of research has been undertaken to provide therapeutically viable cholinergic agonists or acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors capable of penetrating into the CNS.^{4,5} Previously, the AChE inhibitors, tetrahydro-9-aminoacridine (THA) and physostigmine have yielded controversial but hopeful results in clinical trials.^{6,7}

Ranitidine, is a [(dimethylamino)methyl]furan derivative, commonly utilized to inhibit H₂-histamine-mediated secretion of gastric acid. A number of studies have dem-



onstrated that this compound significantly inhibits AChE *in vitro* yet is poorly distributed across the blood-brain barrier.^{8,9} As several bisquaternary compounds, such as ambenonium chloride and demecarium bromide, have been



found to be extremely potent inhibitors of AChE, we have synthesized a number of analogous nonquaternary, bis-[[[(dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] derivatives of ranitidine, in order to increase its AChE inhibitory activity.^{10,11} In the general structure in Table I, modification of Z was undertaken to include not only the N,N'-diethyl-1,1-diamino-2-nitroethene moiety, but also to provide the analogous cyanoguanidine, amidine, urea, amide, and 1,3-diamino-4,6-dinitrophenyl derivatives. In order to further explore the effects of functionality and chain length, Z was also replaced by a series of alkylene and aryl groups. It was postulated that the enhanced lipophilicity of these agents would also allow sufficient penetration of these inhibitors into the CNS in order to alleviate the cholinergic deficit characteristic of AD patients.

Chemistry

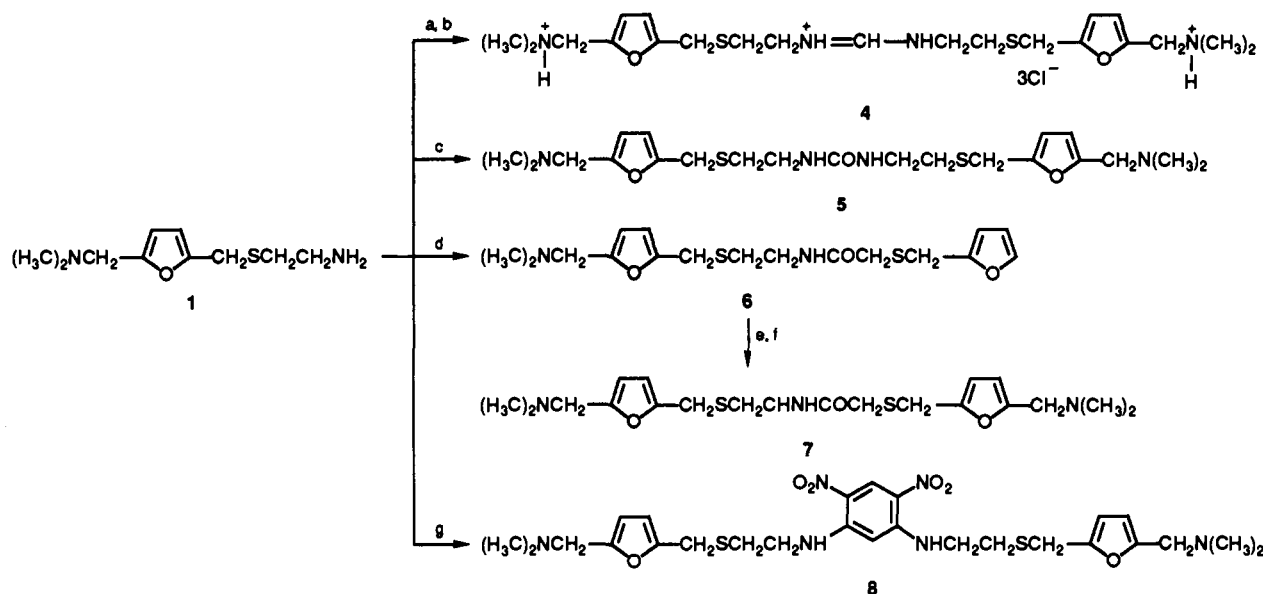
N,N'-Bis[2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furyl]-

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Scheme I^a

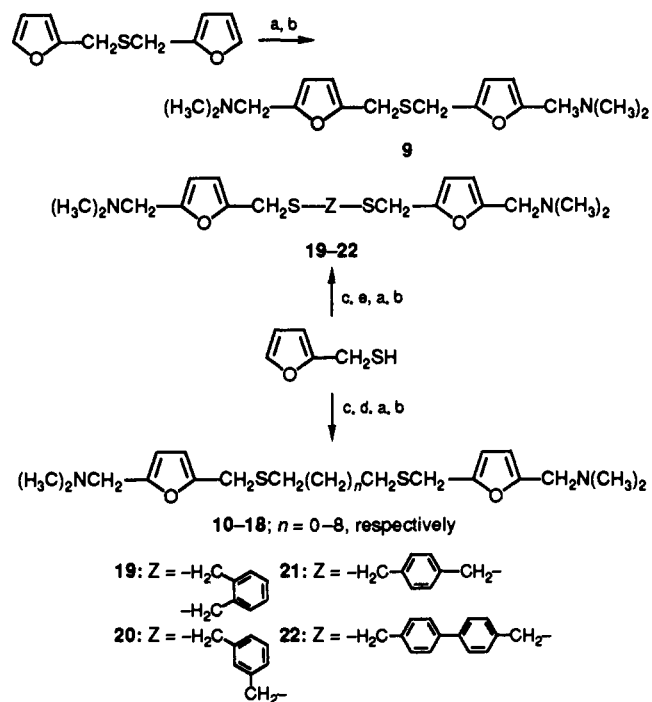
^a Reagents: (a) *s*-triazine, THF; (b) HCl, THF; (c) bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate, triethylamine, CH₃CN; (d) 2-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]acetyl chloride, CH₃CN; (e) H₂C=N⁺(CH₃)₂ Cl⁻, CH₃CN; (f) NaOH, water; (g) 1,5-difluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene, Na₂CO₃, CH₃CN.

methyl]thio]ethyl]-2-nitro-1,1-ethenediamine (2) and the corresponding *N*-cyanoguanidine analogue (3) were synthesized utilizing the method of Borchers et al.,¹² by the reaction of 2 equiv of the primary amine, 2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethylamine¹³ (1) with 1,1-bis(methylthio)-2-nitroethylene or dimethyl *N*-cyanodithioiminocarbonate, respectively.

By utilizing the procedure of Grundmann and Kreutzberger,¹⁴ a solution of compound 1 in THF was refluxed with *s*-triazine to yield the *N,N'*-bis-substituted formamidinium 4 (Scheme I). The formamidinium was isolated and characterized as the trihydrochloride salt. Similarly, compound 1 was reacted with bis(trichloromethyl)carbonate (triphosgene) in the presence of triethylamine to yield the *N,N'*-bis-substituted urea 5 (Scheme I).

Condensation of compound 1 with 2-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]acetyl chloride¹⁵ gave the amide 6. Electrophilic substitution of the monosubstituted furan ring of amide 6 with dimethylmethylenammonium chloride according to the procedure described by Dowle et al.¹⁶ gave compound 7.

N-Arylation of compound 1 with 1,5-difluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene in acetonitrile in the presence of anhydrous sodium carbonate gave the *N,N'*-bis-heteroaryl-substituted 1,3-benzenediamine 8 (Scheme I).

Scheme II^a

^a Reagents: (a) H₂C=N⁺(CH₃)₂ Cl⁻, CH₃CN; (b) NaOH, water; (c) potassium *tert*-butoxide, THF; (d) BrCH₂(CH₂)_nCH₂Br; (e) α,α' -dibromo-*o*-xylene, α,α' -dibromo-*m*-xylene, α,α' -dibromo-*p*-xylene, or 4,4'-bis(bromomethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl.

Electrophilic substitution of the furan rings of commercially available furfuryl sulfide with dimethylmethylenammonium chloride yielded compound 9 (Scheme II). A homologous series of α,ω -bis[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]alkanes (10-18) were synthesized by alkylating furfuryl mercaptan with α,ω -dibromoalkanes followed by electrophilic substitution of the furan rings with dimethylmethylenammonium chloride (Scheme II). In an analogous manner, furfuryl mercaptan was alkylated with either α,α' -dibromo-*o*-xylene, α,α' -dibromo-*m*-xylene, α,α' -dibromo-*p*-xylene, or 4,4'-bis(bromomethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl followed by electrophilic substitution as previously described to yield

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Table I. Physical and Biological Data of Bis[[(dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] Analogues

compd no.	Z or name	AChE-I: ^a IC ₅₀ , μM	yield, %	recrystallization solvent	mp, °C	anal. ^b
	physostigmine	0.043				
	tetrahydro-9-aminoacridine (THA)	0.18				
	ranitidine	2.3				
2	-CH ₂ CH ₂ NHCH=C(NO ₂)NHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	0.074	66	ether ^d	61-63 ^e	
3	-CH ₂ CH ₂ NHC=N(CN)NHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	0.29	29		oil ^f	
4 ^c	-CH ₂ CH ₂ NH-CH=NCH ₂ CH ₂ -	3.0	40	2-propanol/acetone (2:1)	145-148	C,H,N,S
5	-CH ₂ CH ₂ NHCONHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	48	13	ether ^d	44-46	C,H,N,S
7	-CH ₂ CONHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	2.5	75		oil	C,H,N,S
8	 -CH ₂ CH ₂ NH- -NHCH ₂ CH ₂ -	0.028	76	ether ^d	56-57	C,H,N,S
9	<i>h</i>	44	95		61-62 ^g	
10	-(CH ₂) ₂ -	0.50	73		oil	C,H,N,S
11	-(CH ₂) ₃ -	0.33	74		oil	C,H,N,S
12	-(CH ₂) ₄ -	0.21	96	hexanes	30-31	C,H,N,S
13	-(CH ₂) ₅ -	0.90	73		oil	C,H,N,S
14	-(CH ₂) ₆ -	0.74	86	hexanes	32-33	C,H,N,S
15	-(CH ₂) ₇ -	0.61	78	hexanes	30-31	C,H,N,S
16	-(CH ₂) ₈ -	0.47	73	hexanes	39.5-40	C,H,N,S
17	-(CH ₂) ₉ -	0.46	91	hexanes	39-40	C,H,N,S
18	-(CH ₂) ₁₀ -	1.3	80	hexanes	47-48	C,H,N,S
19		9.0	70		oil	C,H,N,S
20		1.5	99		oil	C,H,N,S
21		0.26	83	hexanes	59.5-60.0	C,H,N,S
22		0.18	68	hexanes	76-77	C,H,N,S

^a Human acetylcholinesterase (Sigma type XIII) was used and the procedure of Ellman¹⁹ was followed. Experiments were conducted at room temperature and substrate (acetylthiocholine) concentration was 5.0×10^{-5} molar. ^b Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and sulfur analyses were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical. ^c Compound 4 was isolated and characterized as the trihydrochloride salt. ^d Oily product obtained after flash chromatography was triturated with ether. ^e Reference 12, mp = 63-65 °C. ^f Reference 12, reported as an oil. ^g Reference 17, mp = 58-59 °C. ^h See Scheme II for structure 9.

compounds 19-22, respectively (Scheme II).

Results and Discussion

Compounds 2-22 represent a novel class of nonquaternary cholinergic agents. Because AD is characterized by a central deficiency of acetylcholine (ACh), the ability to inhibit human acetylcholinesterase (AChE) *in vitro* was initially assessed for all compounds, and the results compared to ranitidine, THA, and physostigmine. Compounds that possessed an AChE inhibitory activity (IC₅₀) of 10⁻⁶ M or lower were further examined for additional pharmacological properties.

AChE Inhibition. As presented in Table I, 18 of the 21 synthesized compounds inhibited AChE, possessing IC₅₀ values of 10⁻⁶ M or lower. Only compounds 4, 5, 7, 9, and 19 failed to demonstrate enhanced AChE inhibitory activity relative to their precursor, ranitidine (IC₅₀ of 2.3 μM, Table I). In addition, compounds 2, 8, and 22 displayed AChE inhibitory activities greater than or equal to the investigational agent THA (IC₅₀ of 0.18 μM). Furthermore, compound 8 demonstrated an AChE inhibitory activity greater than physostigmine (IC₅₀ of 0.043 μM). Relative to ranitidine, the inhibitory activity was increased more than 30-fold in the analogous diaminonitroethene dimer 2 (IC₅₀ of 0.074 μM). Substitution of a cyanoguanidine group for the diaminonitroethene functionality of compound 2 resulting in compound 3, afforded only a slight decrease in inhibitory activity. Similar substitution of

amidine and urea groups, however, resulted in a much more pronounced decrease in inhibitory activity, with the amidine analogue 4 possessing an IC₅₀ of 3.0 μM and the urea derivative 5 possessing an IC₅₀ of 48 μM. The amide derivative 7 also displayed a significant decrease in activity relative to compound 2 with an IC₅₀ of 2.5 μM.

Interestingly, the replacement of the diaminonitroethene group in compound 2 by a 1,3-diamino-4,6-dinitrophenyl substituent in compound 8 led to an increase in inhibitory activity. It is therefore tempting to speculate that either a nonaromatic or aromatic nitroenamine structure is necessary for optimal activity.

In an effort to enhance lipophilicity in this series, the diaminonitroethene group was replaced by an alkylene chain in compounds 10-18. It is interesting to note that there was a relatively small but random effect on AChE inhibitory activity caused by this variation in chain length, with IC₅₀ values ranging from 0.21-1.3 μM (Figure 1). This is in contrast to the results of Joshi and Parmar in which analogues of demecarium bromide demonstrated a continuous increase in rat brain homogenate AChE inhibition with increasing alkylene chain length.¹ Compound 9, however, which contained only one thioether group, was relatively inactive, suggesting there may indeed be a minimum chain length necessary for separation of the furan nuclei, or a requirement for two thioether groups.

A degree of structural specificity was also indicated in the relative activities of the ortho, meta, and para phenyl

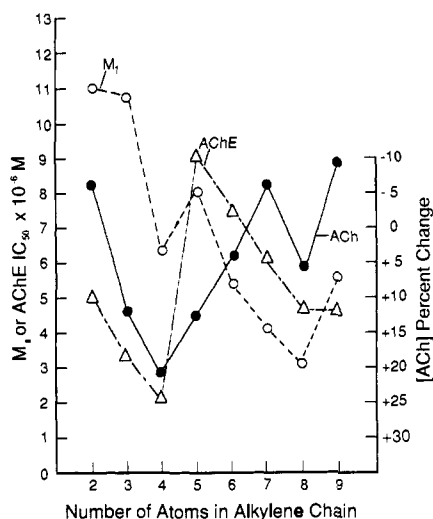


Figure 1. Comparison of M_1 receptor binding, AChE inhibitory activity, and brain ACh concentration changes versus chain length ($-S(CH_2)_nS-$) in compounds 10–17. M_1 binding was performed using mouse cortex tissue, and AChE inhibitory activity was determined using human AChE. ACh levels were determined in mouse brain using a GC/MS procedure. (M_1 = muscarinic receptor subtype, AChE = acetylcholine esterase, and ACh = acetylcholine.)

analogues, compounds 19, 20, and 21, respectively. The para isomer 21 displayed the most potent inhibitory activity with an IC_{50} of 0.26 μM . AChE inhibitory activity decreased in the meta isomer 20 to 1.5 μM and further decreased in the ortho isomer 19 to an IC_{50} of 9.0 μM .

The para-substituted biphenyl analogue 22 resulted in further evidence of the aforementioned trends, with an IC_{50} of 0.18 μM . This, once again, suggests that appropriate para substitution can result in very active compounds and that chain length, even in the case of aromatic substitution, is usually of minimal consequence.

Butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) Inhibition. The ability to inhibit AChE at a lower concentration than is required to inhibit BChE implies a degree of selectivity necessary to avoid selected drug interactions. All the compounds tested possessed a favorable BChE/AChE inhibitory ratio relative to THA and physostigmine. In addition, all the compounds tested, with the exception of 8, inhibited AChE more readily than BChE. Compound 8 (IC_{50} of 2.5×10^{-8} M) was approximately 40 times more active than any of the synthesized compounds and was intermediate in potency between physostigmine and THA. Interestingly, the two most potent AChE inhibitors, compounds 2 and 8, yielded both the most favorable ratio (18) in the case of 2 and the least favorable ratio (0.89) in the case of 8.

Ileal Activity. The majority of the compounds tested potentiated acetylcholine at a concentration of 0.1 μM or less, and compounds 3 and 22 possessed activity similar to that of physostigmine and THA. Compounds 14, 15, and 21 were inactive in the ileal assay. All the compounds tested demonstrated a poor correlation ($r = 0.529$) between ileal activity and AChE inhibition. Obviously, other parameters such as partition coefficient, size, and possibly other pharmacological activities may strongly influence these results. Finally, no immediate contractions were observed with any of the compounds tested following addition, thereby denoting a lack of direct agonist activity.

Muscarinic M_1 and M_2 Receptor Binding Studies. Because cholinergic agonist activity at M_1 receptor sites is thought to be beneficial in AD patients in contrast to presynaptic M_2 receptor agonist activity which may inhibit

acetylcholine release, the selectivity for these receptors was determined for the most active compounds. In addition, antagonist activity at M_1 receptor sites may mitigate the beneficial effects of AChE inhibition in the CNS.

The range of M_2/M_1 ratios was relatively narrow, varying approximately 7-fold, with compound 12 being the most M_1 selective agent possessing an M_2/M_1 ratio = 3.5. Compound 2 demonstrated the least M_1 selectivity with an M_2/M_1 ratio of 0.55. THA demonstrated no selectivity, while physostigmine displayed a relatively high M_2/M_1 ratio, although possessing a much weaker affinity for either receptor as evidenced by its M_1 IC_{50} of 37 μM and its M_2 IC_{50} of 160 μM . Interestingly, M_1 binding affinity in the homologous series 10–17 seems to somewhat parallel AChE inhibitory activity (Figure 1), possibly indicating a degree of homology at these receptor sites.

Brain Acetylcholine (ACh) Levels. In an initial attempt to evaluate the ability of compounds 2–22 to elevate brain ACh levels, physostigmine, THA, and the synthesized compounds were administered to mice at 80% of their approximate lethal doses. Only the homologous series of compounds 11–13 caused significant elevations. Compound 12, the most potent agent in this series, increased brain ACh concentrations by 21% relative to control. In general, compounds 2–22 were all much less active than physostigmine and THA which increased brain ACh levels by 44.4% and 40.8%, respectively at much lower dosages.

Interestingly, two of the more potent AChE inhibitors, compounds 2 and 3, significantly decreased brain ACh levels, suggesting additional pharmacological effects may be involved. It is also noteworthy that the changes in brain ACh levels roughly paralleled the AChE inhibitory activity in the homologous series 10–17 (Figure 1) although there was once again a very weak statistical correlation ($r = 0.21$) between these activities in this series and in the 13 synthetic compounds listed in Table II ($r = 0.38$).

Differentiation of Agonist–Antagonist Binding. As a check on the present method, three reference compounds were included to cover the spectrum of muscarinic receptor binding: atropine (antagonist), oxotremorine (partial agonist), and carbachol (agonist). In general, the present results for atropine and oxotremorine are in good agreement with the data of Freedman et al.¹⁸ The *N*-methylscopolamine/oxotremorine-*M* (NMS/OXO-*M*) ratio for carbachol was higher in the present assay (8300) compared to the data of Freedman et al.¹⁸ (4100). One obvious explanation is the substitution of mouse tissue in the present method for rat tissue as the source of receptor material.

As shown in Table III, the degree of agonist–antagonist binding was examined for compound 12, which also demonstrated the greatest increase in brain acetylcholine levels at 80% of its approximate lethal dose. Compound 12 possessed an NMS/OXO-*M* ratio of 17 and therefore, according to the classification of Freedman et al.,¹⁸ may be ranked between a pure antagonist (atropine) and a partial agonist (oxotremorine). In this respect, compound 12 resembles THA which had an NMS/OXO-*M* ratio of 26.

Summary

The bis[[dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] analogues 2–22 represent a previously unreported class of potent

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Table II. Cholinergic Related Activity of Selected Bis[[[(dimethylamino)methyl]furanyl] Analogues

compd no. or name	BChE-I: ^a IC ₅₀ , μM	BChE-I/ AChE-I ^b	M ₁ : ^c IC ₅₀ , μM	M ₂ : ^d IC ₅₀ , μM	M ₂ -IC ₅₀ /M ₁ -IC ₅₀	ileal activity, ^e μM	[ACh] % change from control ^f	approximate lethal dose, ^g mg/kg
physostigmine	0.035	0.81	37	160	4.4	<0.005	144*** ^h	0.8
THA	0.023	0.13	2.0	2.1	1.0	<0.01	140***	>20, <25
2	1.3	18	0.90	0.50	0.55	<0.1	84+++	>5, <12.5
3	2.4	8.3	0.66	0.47	0.70	<0.01	86++	>50, <60.0
8	0.025	0.89	0.49	0.59	1.2	<0.05	99	>70, <80
10	4.3	8.6	1.1	1.4	1.3	<0.1	94	>100, <110
11	4.1	12	1.1	1.5	1.4	<0.1	113+	>90, <100
12	3.1	15	0.63	2.2	3.5	<1	121+++	>60, <80
13	3.6	4.0	0.81	0.52	0.64	<0.1	113+++	>70, <80
14	2.9	3.9	0.54	0.58	1.1	inactive	104	>60, <70
15	1.9	3.1	0.41	0.71	1.7	inactive	93	>100, <110
16	1.9	4.0	0.31	0.54	1.8	<0.1	106	>110, <120
17	1.0	2.2	0.56	0.40	0.71	<0.1	90	>100, <110
21	2.7	10	0.54	0.55	1.0	inactive	104	>100, <90
22	1.3	7.2	0.68	1.6	2.4	<0.01	93	>80, <120

^aBChE activity was determined using human butyrylcholinesterase at 37 °C (pH 7.9), with butyrylthiocholine as substrate (5×10^{-5} M). ^bRatio of IC₅₀ values obtained for BChE and AChE. ^cMouse M₁ muscarinic receptor binding assay using cerebral cortex and [³H]pirenzepine. ^dRat M₂ muscarinic receptor binding assay using heart tissue and [³H]methylscopolamine. ^eConcentration of compound required to potentiate the contraction of isolated rat ileum produced by 1×10^{-7} M ACh by 20 percent. ^fMouse brain ACh concentrations were determined using GC/MS methodology. Mice were sacrificed by microwave irradiation 15 min after intraperitoneal administration of 80% of the estimated lethal dose for each respective compound. Values are expressed as a percent of the ACh control value (25.0 nmol/g). ^gMice were administered increasing or decreasing doses of compound intraperitoneally until one fatality was observed ($N = 1$). The middle of the approximate lethal dose range was used as the approximate lethal dose. ^h*** $p \leq 0.001$; +++ $p \leq 0.02$; ++ $p \leq 0.025$; + $p \leq 0.05$.

Table III. Differentiation of Agonist-Antagonist Binding

agent	K _i ^a		NMS/ OXO-M ^d
	[³ H]NMS, ^b μM	[³ H]OXO-M, ^c μM	
atropine	0.00070	0.00035	2.0
oxotremorine	1.5	0.0017	880
carbachol	66	0.0080	8300
THA	5.8	0.22	26
12	20	1.2	17

^aDisplacement data was obtained from mouse cerebral cortex tissue using the method of Freedman et al.¹⁸ Apparent K_i values were obtained from IC₅₀ values using the Cheng-Prusoff²⁴ equation. Each apparent K_i value represents the mean of 2-3 determinations. Each determination was obtained from 7-9 concentrations performed in duplicate. ^bIC₅₀ values were obtained using 0.3 nM [³H]methylscopolamine ([³H]NMS) with 50 μg of protein in a 1-mL volume and mathematically converted to K_i values. ^cIC₅₀ values were obtained using 2 nM [³H]oxotremorine-M ([³H]OXO-M) with 200 μg of protein in a 1-mL volume and mathematically converted to K_i values. ^dNMS/OXO-M values are calculated from the ratio of the respective apparent K_i values.

AChE inhibitors. Evidence of the distribution of these nonquaternary compounds into the CNS is empirically suggested by the ability of compounds 11-13 to significantly elevate brain acetylcholine (ACh) levels. However, the fact that only these three agents increased brain ACh levels in the homologous series 10-17, suggests that distribution into the CNS is limited and that an optimum lipophilicity and molecular weight range are necessary for blood-brain barrier penetration. This is further corroborated by the enhanced abilities of the relatively low molecular weight compounds, THA and physostigmine, to increase brain ACh levels, although these compounds possess AChE IC₅₀ values similar to those of the series 2-22. Therefore, work is continuing on lower molecular weight analogues containing one [(dimethylamino)methyl]furan nucleus in an effort to optimize distribution into the CNS.

Experimental Section

Chemistry. Melting points were determined on an Electrothermal melting point apparatus (capillary method) and are uncorrected. The NMR spectra were determined on a Varian EM 360A or 390 NMR spectrophotometer using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard and deuteriochloroform as the solvent.

Infrared spectra were determined on a Beckman Acculab 4 spectrophotometer using the potassium bromide technique when applicable. Elemental analyses were performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia. Thin-layer chromatography was performed on Eastman Chromatogram sheets, type 6060 (silica gel).

***N,N'*-Bis[2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]-methyl]thio]ethyl]formamidino Trihydrochloride (4).** A solution of 2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethylamine (1.07 g, 5.0 mmol) and *s*-triazine (0.075 g, 0.92 mmol) in dry THF (35 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting oil was added to a solution of 1.0 M hydrogen chloride in diethyl ether while stirring in an ice bath for 20 min. Additional diethyl ether was added until a precipitate formed. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting white crystals were recrystallized from 2-propanol/acetone (2:1). The product was dried in a drying pistol under P₂O₅ at 78 °C (refluxing EtOH), and the crystals were collected (1.09 g, 40%): mp 145-148 °C; IR (KBr) 3250, 2950, 2860, 2820, 2780, 1650, 1450, 1250, 1135, 1010, 840, 780 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.72 (s, 12 H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.83 (m, 4 H, -SCH₂CH₂-), 3.60 (broad s, 4 H, -NCH₂CH₂-), 3.95 (d, 4 H, furan-CH₂-N), 4.42 (s, 4 H, furan-CH₂-S), 6.42 (d, 2 H, furan protons) 6.73 (d, 4 H, furan protons) ppm. Anal. (C₂₁H₃₇Cl₃N₄O₂S₂) C, H, N, S.

***N,N'*-Bis[2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]-methyl]thio]ethyl]urea (5).** A solution of 2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethylamine (2.14 g, 10 mmol) and triethylamine (1.01 g, 10 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (35 mL) was stirred in an ice bath for 15 min as bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate (triphosgene) (0.495 g, 1.67 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (10 mL) was added dropwise. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature as it stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting oil was added to a solution of 1.0 N NaOH (25 mL) and ice. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 30 mL), the organic layer was washed with water, and then extracted with 0.1 N HCl. The aqueous layer was alkalized with 1.0 N NaOH and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo, to yield a crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (230-400 mesh silica gel) using acetone/methanol (3:1) as the eluting solvent. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the resulting product was triturated in anhydrous diethyl ether and solidified overnight in the freezer to yield a white solid which was collected (0.60 g, 13%) via vacuum filtration and air dried: mp 44-46 °C; IR (KBr) 3200, 2940, 2840, 1665, 1550, 1380, 1350, 1245, 1220, 1000, 780 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.21 (s, 12

H, N(CH₃)₂, 2.62 (t, 4 H, SCH₂CH₂), 3.32 (m, 4 H, CH₂CH₂NH), 3.42 (s, 4 H, CH₂N(CH₃)₂), 3.72 (s, 4 H, furan-CH₂-S), 6.02 (s, 4 H, furan protons), 8.02 (s, 2 H, NH) ppm. Anal. (C₂₁H₃₄N₄-O₃S₂·1.0H₂O) C, H, N, S.

N-[2-[[[5-[(Dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethyl]-2-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]acetamide (6). 2-[(2-Furanylmethyl)thio]acetyl chloride¹⁵ (2.28 g, 12 mmol) in 10 mL dry acetonitrile, was added dropwise to a cold solution of 2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethylamine (2.14 g, 10 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (35 mL). The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 24 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting crude product was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and water. The aqueous layer was discarded and the organic layer was extracted with 10% NaHCO₃. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo to yield a crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (230–400 mesh silica gel) using acetone as the mobile phase. Removal of the acetone under reduced pressure yielded a yellow-orange oil (2.11 g, 58%): IR (KBr) 3300, 3110, 2940, 2810, 2770, 1650, 1515, 1350, 1210, 1140, 1000, 925, 780, 725 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.23 (s, 6 H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.63 (t, 2 H, 2-CH₂CH₂), 3.16 (s, 2 H, SCH₂CO), 3.34 (m, 4 H, CH₂CH₂NH and CH₂N(CH₃)₂), 3.68–3.88 (d, 4 H, furan-CH₂-S), 6.05 (s, 2 H, furan protons), 6.18 (m, 2 H, furan protons), 7.26 (m, 1 H, ArH) ppm. Anal. (C₁₇H₂₄N₂O₃S₂) C, H, N, S.

N-[2-[[[5-[(Dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]-2-methyl]thio]ethyl]-2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]acetamide (7). *N*-[2-[[[5-[(Dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethyl]-2-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]acetamide (6) (1.47 g, 4.0 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of dimethylmethylenammonium chloride (0.43 g, 4.6 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (35 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 72 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting crude product was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and water. The organic layer was discarded and the aqueous layer was alkalized with 1 N NaOH and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo to yield a crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (230–400 mesh silica gel) using acetone/methanol (4:1) as the mobile phase. Removal of the solvents under reduced pressure yielded a light yellow oil (1.28 g, 75%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.25 (s, 12 H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.60 (t, 2 H, SCH₂CH₂), 3.10 (s, 2 H, -SCH₂-), 3.10 (s, 2 H, -SCH₂CO-), 3.30 (q, 2 H, CH₂CH₂NH), 3.40 (s, 4 H, CH₂N(CH₃)₂), 3.70 (s, 4 H, furan-CH₂-S), 6.05 (s, 4 H, furan protons), 7.10 (broad s, 1 H, NH) ppm. Anal. (C₂₀-H₃₁N₃O₃S₂) C, H, N, S.

N,N-Bis[2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethyl]-4,6-dinitro-1,3-benzenediamine (8). A solution of 2-[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethylamine (2.14 g, 10 mmol) and anhydrous Na₂CO₃ (1.06 g, 10 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (35 mL) was treated with 1,5-difluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (1.02 g, 5.0 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (10 mL) and refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting oil was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with methylene chloride (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo to yield a crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (230–400 mesh silica gel) using acetone as the eluting solvent. After removal of the acetone under reduced pressure, the resulting product was triturated in anhydrous diethyl ether and solidified overnight in the freezer to yield a bright yellow solid which was collected (2.26 g, 76%) via vacuum filtration and air dried: mp 56–57 °C; IR (KBr) 3360, 2920, 2750, 1600, 1570, 1400, 1240, 1190, 1070, 1000, 770, 680 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.20 (s, 12 H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.82 (t, 4 H, SCH₂CH₂), 3.40 (s, 4 H, CH₂N(CH₃)₂), 3.45 (q, 4 H, CH₂CH₂NH), 3.73 (s, 4 H, furan-CH₂-S), 5.60 (s, 1 H, ArH), 6.16 (d, 4 H, furan protons), 8.50 (t, 2 H, NH), 9.18 (s, 1 H, ArH) ppm. Anal. (C₂₆H₃₆N₆O₆S₂·0.5H₂O) C, H, N, S.

Bis[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl] Sulfide (9). Furfuryl sulfide, (1.94 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL of dry acetonitrile. *N,N*-Dimethylmethylenammonium

chloride, (2.06 g, 22 mmol) was added, and the resulting solution was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the resulting residue dissolved in 50 mL of H₂O. Aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (10%) was added to alkalinity, and the solution extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ to yield 2.92 g (95%) of slightly impure 9. Flash chromatography of 1.50 g of this material yielded 0.150 g of pure 9: mp 61–62 °C (lit.¹⁷ mp 58–59 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.03 (s, 4 H, furan), 3.62 (s, 4 H, CH₂S), 3.40 (s, 4 H, CH₂N), 2.26 (s, 12 H, (CH₃)₂) ppm.

1,2-Bis[[[5-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethane (10). A solution of furfuryl mercaptan (5.02 g, 44 mmol) in dry THF (50 mL) was treated with potassium *tert*-butoxide (4.94 g, 44 mmol) while stirring in an ice bath. After 10 min, 1,2-dibromoethane (3.76 g, 20 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 7 days. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue partitioned between EtOAc (200 mL) and 1.0 N aqueous NaOH (100 mL). The organic layer was extracted again with 1.0 N aqueous NaOH and brine and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo to yield the desired product (5.08 g, 100%) as a light yellow oil. A solution of the product, 1,2-bis[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]ethane (1.27 g, 5.0 mmol), in dry acetonitrile (10 mL) was treated with *N,N*-dimethylmethylenammonium chloride (1.17 g, 12.5 mmol) and the resulting suspension stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Water (50 mL) was added, and the aqueous solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL). The aqueous layer was alkalized with 1.0 N aqueous NaOH and the free base extracted into CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, the solvent was removed in vacuo, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (230–400 mesh silica gel) using acetone as the eluting solvent. The pale yellow oil (1.35 g, 73%) was crystallized from hexanes (freezer); however, the crystals melted at ambient temperature: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.24 (s, 12 H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.67 (s, 4 H, -CH₂CH₂-), 3.38 (s, 4 H, =NCH₂-), 3.67 (s, 4 H, -CH₂S-), 6.05 (s, 4 H, furan protons) ppm. Anal. (C₁₈H₂₈N₂O₂S) C, H, N, S.

Compounds 11–22. The procedure given for the synthesis of 10 was utilized for the synthesis of compounds 11–22.

Animal Species. Male albino mice (Harlan/ICR) weighing 20–30 g and male albino rats (Harlan Sprague-Dawley) weighing 175–300 g were used in all procedures requiring animal tissue sources.

Cholinesterase Assays. Acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory activity of the analogues was determined at 37 °C and a pH of 7.9 using the method of Ellman et al.¹⁹ Enzyme prepared from human red blood cells was used as the source of acetylcholinesterase (Sigma Type XIII) and butyrylcholinesterase (Sigma). Test compounds were incubated for 2 min prior to the addition of substrate, and enzyme velocity was determined during the initial 1–2 min after substrate addition. The final substrate concentration (acetylthiocholine) was 5 × 10⁻⁵ M. The concentration of analogue that reduced enzyme activity by 50% (IC₅₀) was determined from a semilog plot of the percentage inhibition of enzyme velocity versus the substrate concentration.

M₁ and M₂ Receptor Binding Assays. The affinity of the analogues for M₁ and M₂ muscarinic receptors was examined using a filtration assay²⁰ as modified by Patterson et al.²¹ IC₅₀ values were determined from the ability of the analogue to inhibit by 50% the binding of the radioactive ligand to the receptor. Nonspecific binding was determined with 1 μM atropine. Data analysis was performed using the EBDA program contained in the software package LIGAND (Elsevier-BIOSOFT). Protein deter-

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minations were obtained using the Bradford assay.²²

The affinity of the analogues for the muscarinic M_1 receptor was examined in mouse brain cerebral cortex tissue using [³H]-pirenzepine. Cerebral cortex tissue was homogenized in 10 volumes of sodium potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, 0.05 M) in an Elvehjem apparatus with a Teflon pestle. The homogenate was then centrifuged at 1000g for 10 min, the supernatant re-centrifuged at 4000g for 1 h, and the pellet resuspended in buffer. The reaction volume was 1 mL and contained 200 μg of protein, 100 μM DFP, 3 nM [³H]pirenzepine, analogue, and sodium potassium phosphate buffer. Analogue and ligand were added 20 min after the addition of DFP and incubated an additional 40 min at 20 °C. The assay was terminated by filtration through Whatman GF/B filters using a Brandel Cell Harvester. The filters were washed three times with 2 mL of cold buffer, air dried, and counted for radioactivity after 12 h.

Rat heart was the tissue source for M_2 muscarinic receptor material. After rinsing in buffer, the tissue was minced with scissors, and homogenized in 10 volumes of sodium potassium phosphate buffer, as above, in a Polytron (2 × 30 s, speed 6), and further homogenized in a Elvehjem apparatus with a Teflon pestle. The homogenate was then centrifuged at 1000g for 10 min, and then the pellet rehomogenized with fresh buffer and centrifuged at 1000g. The 1000g supernatants were pooled and centrifuged at 4000g for 35 min, and the pellet was resuspended in buffer. The reaction volume used was 2 mL and contained 500 μg of protein, 100 μM DFP, 0.3 nM [³H]*N*-methylscopolamine, analogue, and sodium potassium phosphate buffer. The remaining assay procedure was the same as for the M_1 receptor assay.

Differentiation of Agonist-Antagonist Activity. The method of Freedman et al.¹⁸ was used to determine whether the observed analogue binding represented muscarinic agonist or antagonist affinity. The procedure requires determination of the binding affinity of the analogue to receptors in the presence of either [³H]oxotremorine-M or [³H]*N*-methylscopolamine. Mouse, instead of rat, cerebral cortex was used as the tissue source for the receptor material.

Briefly, for determination of agonist affinity, tissue was homogenized in ice-cold 0.32 M sucrose (1:10 w/v) using a Teflon-glass homogenizer and centrifuged at 1000g for 10 min, and the supernatant was re-centrifuged at 17000g for 20 min. The crude synaptosomal pellet (P_2) was resuspended in 20 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) and centrifuged at 17000g for 15 min. The resulting pellet was then resuspended in 20 mM HEPES buffer and used in the binding protocol. Binding studies were performed in polystyrene tubes at 30 °C in a 1-mL volume using 200 μg of protein, 2.0 nM [³H]oxotremorine-M, and analogue. After 40 min of incubation, the tubes were filtered on Whatman GF/C filters soaked in 0.5% polyethyleneimine using a Brandel Cell Harvester. The filters were then washed three times with ice-cold saline (0.9%), dried, and counted after 12 h. Nonspecific binding was determined with 1 μM atropine.

For determination of antagonist affinity, tissue was prepared as above except that the P_2 pellet was resuspended in Krebs-HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) and used without further treatment. Binding studies utilized a 1-mL final volume with 50 μg of protein, 0.3 nM [³H]*N*-methylscopolamine, and analogue. After incubating for 60 min at 30 °C the tubes were filtered, washed as above using Whatman GF/B filters, and counted after 12 h.

Data from both procedures were analyzed using the EBDA program from LIGAND (Elsevier-BIOSOFT). Apparent K_i values were also calculated by the program using the Cheng-Prusoff equation²³ $K_i = IC_{50}/(1 + C/K_d)$ where IC_{50} is the concentration

of the analogue which inhibits specific radioligand binding by 50%; K_d is the dissociation constant of the radioligand receptor complex, and C is the concentration of free radiolabeled ligand. The K_d values used in K_i calculations for [³H]oxotremorine-M and [³H]*N*-methylscopolamine were 0.7 and 0.3 nM, respectively.

Determination of agonist or antagonist activity for the analogue was then obtained from the ratio of the apparent K_i values for oxotremorine-M and *N*-methylscopolamine. Atropine, oxotremorine, and carbachol were used for comparison purposes as examples of agents that exhibited antagonistic, partial agonistic, and full agonistic activity at the muscarinic receptor.

Potentiation of ACh-Induced Contraction. Rat ileal tissue was placed in Tyrode's solution at 37 °C and prepared for recording using a Narco-BioSystems's DMP4-A and an isometric transducer to monitor contractions. Muscle contractions were induced with a bath concentration of 1×10^{-7} M acetylcholine. Varying concentrations of analogue were then added to the bath 30 s prior to the addition of acetylcholine. The minimum concentration of analogue required to potentiate the acetylcholine-induced contraction by 20% was the endpoint of the procedure.

Toxicity Determination. Mice were administered intraperitoneally, varying doses of analogue dissolved in 0.05 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0). The analogue dosage was increased until one fatality was observed. The data is only a crude estimate of toxicity since only one animal was tested at each dosage level. The approximate lethal dose is therefore, presented as the midpoint of the dosage range, represented by the highest dose that was not lethal, and the lowest dose that was lethal.

Effect of Analogues on Brain Acetylcholine Concentrations. Mice were administered selected compounds by intraperitoneal injection at 80% of the approximate lethal dose of the analogue as determined above. After 15 min, mice were sacrificed by microwave irradiation and brain tissue (minus the cerebellum) was processed for acetylcholine content.

Quantitation of acetylcholine was accomplished using a modification of a gas chromatographic-mass spectrometric assay.²³ Briefly, tissue was homogenized in formic acid/acetonitrile together with 5.0 nmol [²H₂]acetylcholine as internal standard. The tissue was then ion-pair extracted with dipicrylamine, demethylated with sodium thiophenolate, washed, and extracted into chloroform. The chloroform extract was then injected into a Hewlett-Packard gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer (Model 5890/5970). The compounds of interest were separated on a Stabilwax (Restek Corporation) column using an initial temperature of 50 °C, a ramp of 40 °C/min to 110 °C, followed by a second ramp of 10 °C/min, and a final temperature of 150 °C. [²H₀]Acetylcholine and [²H₂]acetylcholine were analyzed in the selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode at m/e 58 and m/e 64, respectively. Areas were corrected for spillover using a Pascal-based program written by the author (JK). Quantitation was accomplished from the ratio of the corrected areas of these two ions (58/64) and referenced to a standard curve.

Statistical Evaluations. All statistical calculations were performed using multiple regression or "t-test" procedures from the software package ABSTAT marketed by Anderson Bell.

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Registry No. 1, 66356-53-4; 2, 72126-78-4; 3, 72148-12-0; 4, 138878-39-4; 4-free base, 138878-40-7; 5, 72126-82-0; 6, 108498-90-4; 7, 138878-41-8; 8, 138878-42-9; 9, 19260-90-3; 10, 117846-01-2; 11, 138878-43-0; 12, 138878-44-1; 13, 138878-45-2; 14, 138878-46-3; 15, 138878-47-4; 16, 138878-48-5; 17, 138878-49-6; 18, 138878-50-9; 19, 138878-51-0; 20, 138878-52-1; 21, 138878-53-2; 22, 138878-54-3; *s*-triazine, 290-87-9; bis(trichloromethyl)carbonate, 32315-10-9; 2-[(2-furanylmethyl)thio]acetyl chloride, 89793-50-0; dimethylmethylenammonium chloride, 30354-18-8; 1,5-difluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene, 327-92-4; furfuryl sulfide, 13678-67-6; furfuryl mercaptan, 98-02-2; 1,2-dibromoethane, 106-93-4.

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