2,5-Dimethoxy Congeners of (+)- and (-)-3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine

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p-Dimethoxyaryl analogs of certain potent catechol-derived dopaminergic agonists show dopaminergic properties for which no structure-activity relationship has yet been defined. (S)-3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine (1, S-"3-PPP") is a dopaminergic autoreceptor agonist, and at high doses it also exhibits postsynaptic antagonism. (R)-1 is a postsynaptic agonist. In a continuation of studies of effects of the p-dimethoxy moiety at dopamine receptors, synthesis and resolution of the 2,5-dimethoxy analog 3 of 3-PPP was undertaken. The two enantiomers and the racemic modification showed cardiovascular effects consistent with actions at DA-2 receptors. The potency of all three compounds was much lower than that of 3-PPP, although they displayed approximately the same duration of action. Absolute configuration does not seem to be a major determinant of these compounds' ability to interact with DA-2 receptors.

(S)-3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine (1, "3-PPP") is a selective dopaminergic autoreceptor agonist; 1,2 at the same dose level it also blocks certain postsynaptic dopaminergic receptor sites, and thus it exhibits a bifunctional mode of dopaminergic attenuation. Clark et al. al reported that al 1 is a partial agonist at D-2 receptor sites, but it does not appear to interact at D-1 receptors. In contrast, al 1 at low doses stimulates postsynaptic dopaminergic receptor sites, and at high doses it stimulates presynaptically. al 1 The al 2 The al 2 is a potent postsynaptic dopaminergic agonist, but it lacks presynaptic effects.

The p-dimethoxy moiety has been incorporated into a variety of aromatic ring systems, catechol derivatives of which elicit dopaminergic agonist action: β -phenethylamine, 2-aminotetralin, 2-aminoindan, and linearly and angularly octahydrobenzoquinolines. Some of the pdimethoxy derivatives showed dopaminergic agonist effects; 5-7 some showed effects at α_1 adrenoceptors; 8 and some were inert in all assays for activity at catecholamine neurotransmitter receptors.7 No consistent nor predictable pharmacological effect was produced by replacement of the catechol moiety by p-dimethoxy. To seek further insight into pharmacological properties of the p-dimethoxy moiety, preparation of the 3-PPP analog 3 was undertaken. Due to the striking qualitative and quantitative pharmacological differences between the enantiomers of 3-PPP, (R)- and (S)-3 were prepared.

Chemistry

The racemic target compound 3 was prepared as illustrated in Scheme I. The reductive cyclization reaction

Scheme I. Preparation of (RS)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine

 $(5 \rightarrow 6)$ could be achieved in one step only in the presence of two catalysts, platinum oxide and palladium on charcoal. Attempts to resolve $(\pm)-3$ by formation and recrystallization of diastereomeric salts failed. Resolution of the racemic lactam intermediate 6 by a method of Pirkle et al.⁹ involving formation of diastereomeric ureas with (R)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl isocyanate was not successful.

The diastereomeric ureas 8 formed in good yields, and they were separable by chromatographic methods. However, the chiral center of the piperidone ring is optically labile under the basic conditions necessary to effect cleavage of the urea derivative, and only the racemic lactam 6 could be isolated. Alternatively, the secondary amine 7 was derivatized with (R)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl isocyanate to provide the diastereomeric urea derivatives 9 and 10 in good yield; these were separable by chromatographic methods. The optically active secondary amines, (+)-7

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and (-)-7, were liberated by a method of Schoenenberger and Brossi: 10 thermolysis of the urea derivative in refluxing higher boiling alcohol in the presence of base. To verify the optical integrity of the secondary amines (+)-7 and (-)-7, they were reconverted into the urea derivatives by treatment with the chiral isocyanate. Thin-layer chromatographic analysis of each of the resulting urea products revealed only one spot, providing evidence that racemization of the secondary amines had not occurred during the thermal cleavage of the urea derivatives.

Thermal decomposition of urea derivatives with at least one N-H group involves intramolecular proton transfer from one nitrogen to the other to form an amine and an isocyanate. In the presence of base (sodium 1-butoxide) the resulting isocyanate is immediately scavenged, forming an N-butylcarbamate derivative 11, and driving the reaction to completion. In the present work, 1-naphth-1-ylethylamine (12) was isolated as a byproduct of the thermolysis reaction. It was speculated that this compound resulted from hydrolysis of the carbamate 11. While the formation of the naphthylethylamine derivative 12 did not interfere with the thermal decomposition reaction, the presence of a second amine compound in the crude reaction mixture necessitated chromatographic isolation and purification of the target amine 7.

Spectral (IR, NMR, MS) data on all intermediates and final compounds were consistent with the proposed structures.

Pharmacology

Results and Discussion. All three target compounds $[(\pm)-3, (+)-3, \text{ and } (-)-3]$ and (R)-(+)-3-PPP (1) induced bradycardia and hypotension in the rat, apparently by interacting at DA₂ receptors on sympathetic nerve terminals. In separate experiments, sulpiride (100 $\mu g/kg$) and haloperidol (50 $\mu g/kg$) were used to inhibit DA₂ receptors, thus to antagonize DA₂ agonist properties of the test compounds. The above doses of sulpiride and haloperidol resulted in approximately 80% antagonism of the neuronal inhibition induced by $(\pm)-3$, (+)-3, (-)-3, and (+)-3-PPP (1). Results are shown in Table I. The methoxy analogs were less active than the reference compound ["3-PPP" (1)], but they demonstrated approx-

Table I. Cardiovascular Responses of 2,5-Dimethoxy 3-PPP Congeners in Anesthetized Rats (Mean Values ± SD)

compd no. dose, µg/kg	arterial pressure decrease, mmHg ^a	heart rate decrease, beats/min ^a	duration, min
$\overline{(R)-(+)-3-PPP(1)}$			
10	5 ± 2	13 ± 8	6 ± 3
30	16 ± 6	37 ± 13	10 ± 3
100	23 ± 8	44 ± 17	14 ± 6
$(\pm) - 3$			
300	10 ± 3	17 ± 6	5 ± 2
1000	17 ± 5	35 ± 12	8 ± 3
3000	23 ± 7	45 ± 14	13 ± 7
(-) - 3			
` 300	15 ± 4	10 ± 3	2 ± 2
1000	22 ± 8	40 ± 14	5 ± 4
3000	27 ± 12	45 ± 15	10 ± 5
(+) - 3			
300	NA	NA	
1000	25 ^b	30 ^b	18 ^b

^a Cardiovascular responses were >80% inhibited by pretreatment with sulpiride (100 μ g/kg) or with haloperidol (50 μ g/kg). ^b Insufficient sample for statistical treatment.

imately the same duration of action. Absolute configuration does not appear to be a major determinant of ability of the p-dimethoxy congeners to interact with DA_2 receptors. Again, the unpredictable effect of the p-dimethoxy moiety on dopaminergic activity is demonstrated.

Experimental Section

Pharmacology. Methods. Heart Rate and Mean Arterial Pressure in Anesthetized Rats. Sprague-Dawley rats were anesthetized following ip administration of urethane (900 mg/ kg). After induction of anesthesia the right femoral vein was cannulated for administration of chemicals, and arterial pressure was monitored from the femoral artery using a Statham P23AA arterial transducer and recorded using a Beckman R-611 recorder. Heart rate was followed using a Beckman 9857 B cardiotachometer coupler which was triggered from arterial pulse. Three rats were used for each compound. Test compounds were administered intravenously. Cumulative doses, varying by 0.48 log₁₀ intervals, were administered after cardiovascular responses to preceding doses had stabilized for at least 5 min. In separate experiments, sulpiride or haloperidol, DA2 receptor antagonists, were administered intravenously in doses of 100 and 50 μ g/kg, respectively, 5 min prior to administration of the test compound. The duration of hypotension and bradycardia were recorded.

Chemistry. Melting points were determined in open capillaries using a Thomas-Hoover Uni-Melt apparatus and are uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Associates EM60, Bruker-IBM NR-80, or Bruker-IBM WM-360 spectrometers, using Me₄Si as the internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded with a Ribermag R-10-10C mass spectrometer. Optical rotations were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer Model 141 digital polarimeter. Preparative chromatography was done either with a Chromatotron apparatus (Harrison Research) using kieselgel 60PF254 (EM Science) as the stationary phase or by flash chromatography using 150A, 35-75 µm silica gel. Elemental analyses were performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, TN. Where analyses are indicated by the symbols of the elements, analytical results were within ±0.4% of the theoretical values.

Ethyl (2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)acetate (4). A mixture of 15.0 g (0.0765 mol) of (2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acetic acid, 150 mL of freshly distilled EtOH, and 2.5 mL of concentrated H₂SO₄ was heated under reflux for 5 h. The cooled solution was neutralized with 10% Na₂CO₃, and the resulting mixture was extracted with CHCl₃. The extract was washed several times with H₂O, dried (Na₂SO₄), and filtered. Volatiles were removed from the filtrate under reduced pressure to afford a pale yellow oil which was distilled (Kugelrohr), 160 °C, 2.6 mmHg) to afford 15.3 g (89%) of a clear oil which was shown by TLC analysis (SiO₂, hexanes/EtOAc, 4:1) to be homogeneous. NMR data were consistent with

those reported by Kong and Loach¹² for this compound. An analytical sample was distilled, bp 118–119 °C (1.2 mmHg). Anal. ($C_{12}H_{16}O_4$) C, H. H_2O (Karl Fischer) 0.55%.

(±)-Ethyl (2-Cyanoethyl)(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acetate (5). A 200-mL round-bottom flask equipped with a dropping funnel and a reflux condenser was charged with 10 g (0.0471 mol) of 4, 100 mL of freshly distilled benzene, and 0.30 g (0.0018 mol) of benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide (Triton B). The resulting mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, and then 5.0 g (0.0942 mol) of acrylonitrile was added dropwise to the cooled (ice-water), stirred mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h and then was neutralized with 2 N HCl. The resulting mixture was extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed several times with H₂O, dried (Na₂SO₄), and filtered. Volatiles were removed from the filtrate under reduced pressure, and the resulting oily residue was flash chromatographed (hexanes/EtOAc, 4:1). The eluate was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford a residue which was distilled (Kugelrohr, 190 °C, 1.8 mmHg) to give 11.9 g (91%) of a pale yellow oil. An analytical sample was crystallized from EtOH/H₂O (1:5) to give white needles, mp 48-50 °C. Anal. $(C_{15}H_{19}NO_4)$ C, H, N. H_2O (Karl Fischer) 0.11%.

(±)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)piperidin-2-one (6). A mixture of 1.08 g (0.0039 mol) of 5, 0.166 g of 5% Pd/C, and 0.400 g of PtO₂ in 100 mL of saturated ethanolic NH₃ was hydrogenated at ambient temperature at an initial pressure of 40 psig for 12 h or until H₂ uptake ceased. The reduction mixture was warmed to 50 °C and filtered through a Celite pad, and the Celite was washed with warm EtOH. The combined filtrate and washings were evaporated under reduced pressure to afford an opaque oily residue. Treatment of this with 50 mL of Et₂O gave a white solid which was shown by TLC analysis (SiO₂, hexanes/EtOH, 4:1) to be homogeneous. Recrystallization from EtOAc afforded 0.624 g (68%) of a white, matted solid, mp 154–155 °C. MS: m/z 235 (M⁺). Anal. (C₁₃H₁₇NO₃) C, H, N. H₂O (Karl Fischer) 0.86%.

(±)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)piperidine Hydrobromide (7). A slurry of 1.45 g (0.0617 mol) of 6 in 100 mL of Et₂O was heated under reflux for 18 h with 0.75 g (0.0194 mol) of LiAlH₄. The excess LiAlH4 was destroyed by dropwise addition of aqueous sodium potassium tartrate (0.9 g/mL) to the chilled (0 °C), stirred reaction mixture over 0.75 h, or until H₂ evolution ceased. The insoluble salts were removed by filtration, and the filtrate was washed with H₂O and dried (Na₂SO₄). Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residual gold oil was chromatographed on SiO₂ and eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH/concentrated NH_4OH (6:1:0.04) to afford 1.048 g (84%) of pure 7 as a clear oil. For elemental analysis a small amount of this material was treated with ethereal HBr and the resulting solid was recrystallized from 2-PrCH/hexanes to give off-white crystals, mp 169.5-170.5 °C. MS: CI (NH₃) m/z 222 (M⁺ + H). Anal. (C₁₂H₂₀BrNO₂) C, H, N. H₂O (Karl Fischer) 0.17%.

 (\pm) -3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine Hydrobromide $[(\pm)-3]$. The reductive alkylation method of Marchini et a l^{13} was used. To a stirred solution of 0.256 g (0.00116 mol) of 7 in 2.85 mL (38.2 mmol) of dry propionic acid and 3.5 mL of benzene at 50-55 °C, under N_2 , was added 0.2 g (0.0053 mol) of NaBH4. After 10 h at 50-55 °C, 25 mL of H2O was added to the reaction mixture, and then it was treated with excess solid Na₂CO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with four 10-mL portions of CHCl₃. The combined extracts were washed with H₂O until they were neutral (pH paper) and dried (Na₂SO₄). Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to afford 0.244 g (80%) of a clear oil. A solution of this in a small volume of Et₂O was treated with ethereal HBr to afford a solid which was recrystallized from 2-PrOH/hexanes to afford 0.244 g (71%) of white, matted crystals, mp 109–110.5 °C. Anal. $(C_{15}H_{28}BrNO_2)$ C, H, N, Br. H₂O (Karl Fischer) 2.74%.

(R)-1-[(1-Naphthylethyl)carbamoyl]-(-)-3-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)piperidine (9) and (R)-1-[(1-Naphthylethyl)carbamoyl]-(+)-3-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)piperidine (10). A solution of 1.0 g (0.0045 mol) of the free base of (\pm)-7 and 0.888 g (0.0045 mol) of (R)-1-naphth-1-ylethyl isocyanate in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Evaporation of the reaction mixture afforded an oily residue which was flash chromatographed and eluted with hexanes/EtOAc (4:1) to yield

1.73 g (92%) of the diastereomeric urea product mixture (9 and 10) as a viscous oil. MS: CI (NH₃) m/z 418 (M⁺).

Chromatographic Separation of Diastereomeric Ureas 9 and 10. The isomeric mixture was chromatographed on preparative plates (Analtech, silica gel, 80 mg per 4-mm plate). The plates were subjected to multiple developments (hexanes/EtOAc 1:1) until the mixture separated into two bands. The higher and lower R_f value bands were scraped away separately and were extracted from the silica with MeOH in a Sohxlet apparatus. The middle portion of the separated band area was collected and, after the diastereomeric ureas were extracted with MeOH in a Sohxlet apparatus, was recycled through the chromatographic separation procedure. The first eluate (9) was recovered in 58%yield (≥98% ee), while the second eluate (10) was recovered in 76% yield (\geq 98% ee). [Integration of the benzylic proton signals at 3.06 and 2.97 ppm and/or inspection of the methoxy peaks at 3.66 and 3.71 or 3.56 ppm in the proton NMR (360.13 MHz) spectra provided % ee determinations for 9 and 10, respectively]. Alternately, the diastereomers were separated in a series of flash chromatographic column separations. The initial column separation (SiO₂, 120×40 mm; hexanes/EtOAc/MeOH/2-PrOH, 500:250:0.83:0.9) using 2 g of the diastereomeric mixture afforded 1 g each of enriched fractions of the first and second eluates. These fractions were evaporated to dryness, and after a second chromatographic run using the same column, solvent system, and conditions, they afforded 10-15% ($\geq 90\%$ ee) total isolated yield of each isomer. Enriched fractions were recovered and pooled, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to afford an oil which was recycled through the chromatographic procedure to afford additional quantities of stereochemically pure materials. The yield of each isomer after two chromatographic separations was 0.15 g (8%).

(-)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)piperidine [(-)-7] by Thermal Decomposition of 9 in the Presence of Base. Na (55 mg, 2.4 mg atom) was dissolved in 1 mL of 1-BuOH, and this solution was added to a stirred solution of 350 mg (0.839 mmol) of 9 in 10 mL of 1-BuOH. The resulting mixture was heated under reflux until TLC analysis (SiO₂, hexanes/EtOAc, 1:1) showed the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then evaporated under reduced pressure, acidified with 2N HCl, and washed once with Et₂O, and this extract was reserved as extract A. The aqueous layer was basified with 10% NaOH, and the resulting mixture was extracted with CHCl3. The CHCl3 extract was washed several times with H₂O, evaporated under reduced pressure, and the resulting pale yellow oil was chromatographed on SiO₂ and eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH/concentrated NH₄OH (6:1:0.04) to afford two compounds: 0.167 g (90%) of (-)-7, $[\alpha]^{20}D$ -18.48° (c = 0.167, MeOH). MS: m/z 222 (M⁺ + H). R_f value (silica, CHCl₃/MeOH/concentrated NH₄OH, 6:1:0.04) and NMR spectrum of (-)-7 were identical to those for (\pm) -7, and 0.071 g (45%) of (R)-(+)-(1-naphthyl)ethylamine (12), identified by its NMR spectrum which was identical with that of the authentic compound.¹⁴ MS: m/z 171 (M⁺). $[\alpha]^{20}D = +54^{\circ}$ (c = 0.013, MeOH); lit⁹ $[\alpha]^{20}_D = +59^{\circ} (c = 5, MeOH).$

Extract A was evaporated to leave an oily residue which, after subsequent purification with the Chromatotron radial TLC apparatus (hexanes/EtOAc, 4:1), afforded 0.09 g (36%) of N-(n-butoxycarbonyl)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethylamine (11), mp 89 °C. This compound was identified by comparison of its spectral (NMR, IR, MS) data with those of an authentic sample (vide infra).

(+)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)piperidine [(+)-7] by Thermal Decomposition of 10 in the Presence of Base. The reaction was performed as described for (-)-7. Thus, 0.242 g (0.00579 mol) of 10 afforded 0.118 g (87%) of (+)-7, $[\alpha]^{20}_D = +18.04^{\circ}$ (c = 0.092, MeOH). R_f value (SiO₂, CHCl₃/MeOH/concentrated NH₄OH, 6:1:0.04) and NMR spectrum of (+)-6 were identical with those of (±)-7.

(R)-(-)-N-(n-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-naphth-1-ylethylamine (11). (R)-1-Naphth-1-ylethyl isocyanate (320 mg, 1.622 mg atom) was added to a solution of 40 mg (1, 74 mg atom) of Na in 10 mL of 1-BuOH and the resulting mixture was heated under reflux for 10 min. The cooled reaction mixture was acidified with 2 N HCl and extracted with Et_2O , and the pooled extracts were washed twice with H_2O . After drying (Na_2SO_4) , the Et_2O was evaporated to leave a white solid which was shown by TLC analysis (silica, hexanes/EtOAc, 2:1) to be homogeneous. Re-

crystallization from hexanes afforded 192 mg (89%) of white matted crystals, mp 89 °C. MS: m/z 271 (M⁺).

(-)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine Bifumarate [(-)-3]. To a stirred solution of 2.10 mL (28.1 mmol) of dry propionic acid in 5 mL of benzene at 20-25 °C, under N₂, was added 154 mg (4.05 mmol) of NaBH₄. This mixture was stirred for 5 h at room temperature, then 170 mg (0.769 mmol) of (-)-7 was added, and the stirred reaction mixture was heated at 80 °C for 8.5 h. H_2O (25 mL) was added to the cooled reaction mixture, and this mixture was taken to pH 8 (pH paper) with solid Na₂CO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with four 20-mL portions of CHCl₃, and the pooled extracts were washed with H₂O until the washings were neutral to pH paper. After drying (Na₂SO₄), volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to afford 0.155 g (77%) of an oil whose R_f value and spectral (NMR, MS) data were identical with those of the free base of (\pm) -3. $[\alpha]^{20}$ _D = -1.43° (c = 0.048, MeOH). The free base of (-)-2 in 1 mL of anhydrous Et₂O was added to 75 mL of a saturated solution of fumaric acid in anhydrous Et₂O under N₂. After several hours at ambient temperature white needles began to appear, and after several days, these were collected and dried under reduced pressure. Recrystallization from EtOH/Et₂O gave 16.2 mg (4%) of long white needles, mp 95 °C. MS: CI (NH₃) m/z 264 (M⁺ + H).

(+)-3-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-N-n-propylpiperidine [(+)-3]. To a stirred solution of 100 mg (0.452 mmol) of (+)-7 in 1.1 mL (14.7 mmol) of propionic acid and 5 mL of benzene at 50–55 °C, under N₂, was added 7 mg (2.07 mmol) of NaBH₄. After 3 h, 15 mL of H₂O was added and the reaction mixture was treated with excess Na₂CO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted several times with CHCl₃, and the combined extracts were washed three times with H₂O and dried over Na₂SO₄. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to afford 87.4 mg (74%) of a gold oil which showed an R_f value and spectral (MS, NMR) data identical with those of the free base of (±)-3. $[\alpha]^{20}_D = +1.51^{\circ}$ (c = 0.012, MeOH). Attempts to prepare crystalline salts of this material were unsuccessful.

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