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## **Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids**

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### **A New Series of Mechanism-Based Inhibitors of S-Adenosyl-L-Homocysteine Hydrolase from Beef Liver**

Corinne Vandenplas<sup>a</sup>; Danielle Guillerm<sup>a</sup>; Georges Guillerm<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> UFR Sciences de Reims, Reims Cedex 2, France

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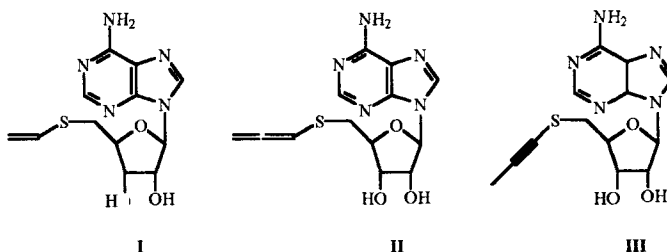
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## A NEW SERIES OF MECHANISM-BASED INHIBITORS OF S-ADENOSYL-L-HOMOCYSTEINE HYDROLASE FROM BEEF LIVER

Corinne Vandenplas, Danielle Guillerm, Georges Guillerm\*  
UMR 6519 CNRS - UFR Sciences de Reims  
B.P. 1039 - 51687 Reims Cedex 2, France

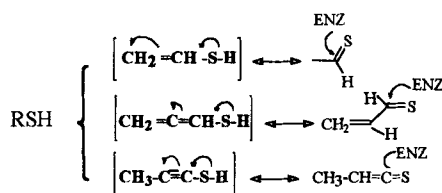
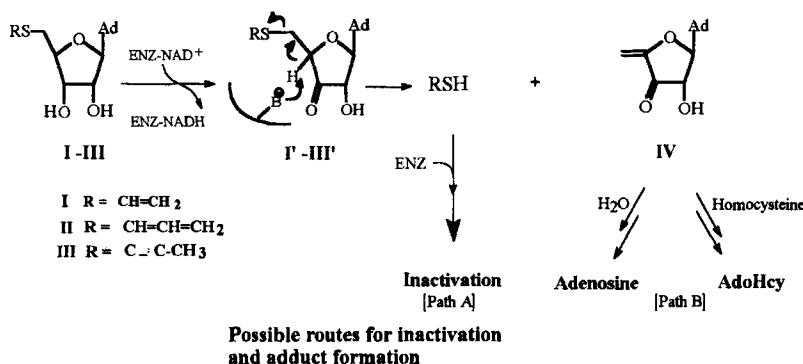
**ABSTRACT :** Nucleosides I, II, III caused irreversible inactivation of AdoHcy hydrolase. A mechanism of inactivation is proposed.

The importance of S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine (AdoHcy) hydrolase (EC 3.3.1.1) as a target for developing antiviral agents has been outlined<sup>1</sup> and the design and synthesis of mechanism based inhibitors have received considerable attention, since the mechanism of catalysis of AdoHcy hydrolase was elucidated by Palmer and Abeles<sup>2</sup>. Recent results from our laboratory<sup>3</sup> led us to hypothesize that a new series of thionucleosides (I, II, III) might serve as novel type of irreversible inhibitors of AdoHcy hydrolase.



**Fig. 1**

Based on the Palmer - Abeles mechanism of AdoHcy hydrolase, enzymatic oxidation of I, II, or III (Fig. 1) to the corresponding 3'-ketoderivatives (I', II', III'), if occurring, could be accompanied by a  $\beta$ -elimination of a vinyl, allenyl or propynyl mercaptan



Scheme I

group (or their tautomeric forms). The latter could irreversibly acylate nucleophilic residus involved in the catalytic process within the enzyme cavity (Scheme 1 pathway A). I, II and III were tested on the activity of AdoHcy hydrolase, purified to homogeneity from beef liver. I, II and III cause potent time dependent and irreversible inactivation of the enzyme. The inactivation is concomitant with the formation of adenosine, or AdoHcy from I, II and III when the enzyme was incubated with inhibitors in the absence or in the presence of homocysteine (Scheme 1, pathway B).

Our results indicate that the inhibition process is largely predominant but the nature of the acylating agents by which inactivation of the enzyme proceeds has to be confirmed.

## REFERENCES

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- <sup>3</sup> Muzard, M. ; Guillerm, D. ; Vandenplas, C. ; Guillerm, G. *Bioorg. and Med. Chem. Lett.* **1997**, *7*, 1037.