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IN PHARMACOKINETIC ASSESSMENT**

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ABSTRACTS



SYNTHESIS OF AMINODIARYLAMINES IN THE THIENO[3,2-*b*]PYRIDINE SERIES AND EFFECTS ON TUMOR CELL GROWTH INHIBITION, CELL CYCLE AND APOPTOSIS

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INTRODUCTION

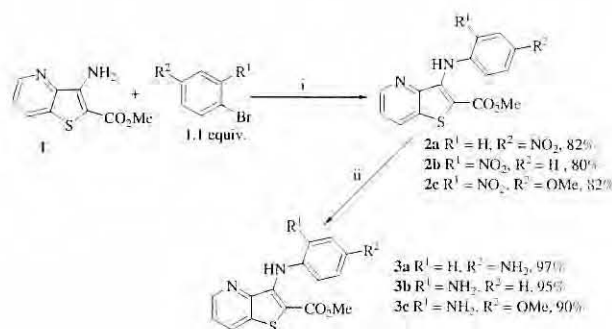
Several series of compounds that include the thienopyridine scaffold have been reported as inhibitors of known cancer therapeutic targets or as inhibitors of cell proliferation in tumor cell lines [1,2]. Our research group has already synthesized several thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridine derivatives by Pd-catalyzed C-C (Suzuki and Sonogashira) and C-N (Buchwald-Hartwig) couplings and some of them have presented tumor cell growth inhibitory activity in cell lines [3-5].

In the present work, three new aminodiarylamines of the mentioned series were synthesized, fully characterized and further submitted to evaluation of their growth inhibitory effect on three human tumor cell lines, representing different tumor models, MCF-7 (breast adenocarcinoma), NCI-H460 (non-small cell lung cancer) and A375-C5 (melanoma), and on non-tumor primary cells (porcine liver primary cell culture). For the most active compound, a study of its effects on normal cell cycle distribution and apoptosis induction was performed in the NCI-H460 cell line.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemistry

Three di(hetero)arylamines were prepared by Buchwald-Hartwig palladium-catalyzed C-N coupling of the methyl 3-aminothieno[3,2-*b*]pyridine-2-carboxylate with bromonitrobenzenes and further reduced in almost quantitative yields to the amino compounds **1a-c** (Scheme 1).



i) Pd(OAc)₂ (15 mol%), xantphos (18 mol%), Cs₂CO₃ (2 equiv.), dry dioxane, 2h, 120 °C
 ii) NH₄Cl (1 equiv.), Fe (8 equiv.), EtOH/THF/H₂O (3:1:0.5), 100 °C, 2h.

Scheme 1. Synthesis of di(hetero)arylnitro compounds **2** by Buchwald-Hartwig C-N coupling and their reduction to the di(hetero)arylamines **3**.

Antitumoral activity and toxicity to non-tumor cells

The effect of the aminodiarylamines on the growth of three human tumor cell lines (MCF-7, A375-C5 and NCI-H460) was studied using the sulforhodamine B (SRB) assay. Doxorubicin and ellipticine were used as positive controls. Furthermore, to investigate the possible toxicity of the compounds to non-tumor cells, the *in vitro* cell growth inhibition assay was also performed in non-tumor porcine liver primary cells.

Cell cycle and apoptosis

The effect of compound **3c** on cell cycle profile and apoptosis were analysed by flow cytometry following propidium iodide (PI) or Annexin/PI staining, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effects of the aminodiarylamines on the growth of the tumour cell lines (MCF-7, A375-C5, and NCI-H460) are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 – GI₅₀ values^a (μM) obtained for the aminodiarylamines **3** and the positive controls.

	3a	3b	3c	Standard
MCF-7	>125	33.80 ± 1.70	1.40 ± 0.20	0.04 ± 0.00 ^b
A375-C5	111.80 ± 5.00	26.00 ± 2.30	1.30 ± 0.10	0.13 ± 0.01 ^c
NCI-H460	>125	31.30 ± 2.90	1.40 ± 0.40	0.09 ± 0.00 ^b
PLP1	>125	61.27 ± 1.83	12.49 ± 0.09	4.19 ± 0.08 ^c

^aResults are given in concentrations that were able to cause 50% of cell growth inhibition (GI₅₀) after a continuous exposure of 48 h. ^bPositive control doxorubicin. ^cPositive control ellipticine.

The aminodiarylamine **3c** provided the lowest GI₅₀ values (≤ 1.40 μM) in all the tested human tumor cell lines and did not present toxicity to the non-tumor cells at those concentrations.

The effect of compound **3c** on cell cycle profile and induction of apoptosis was analyzed in the NCI-H460 cell line (Figure 2).

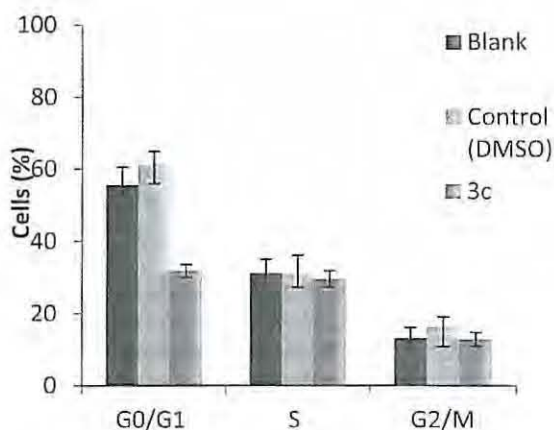


Figure 2 – Cell cycle analysis of NCI-H460 cells treated with compound **3c** at its GI₅₀ concentration (1.4 μM). Untreated cells (Blank) and compound vehicle (DMSO) were used as controls. Results are the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments.

This compound changed the cell cycle profile, causing a decrease in the percentage of cells in the G0/G1 phase. Furthermore, it caused an increase in the percentage of cells with a sub-G1 DNA content, which was suggestive of apoptosis.

Results from the Annexin V/PI assay confirmed that treatment of NCI-H460 cells with compound **3c**

caused an increase in the percentage of apoptotic cells.

CONCLUSIONS

The aminodiarylamine **3c** gave the lowest GI₅₀ values in the tested breast, melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer cell lines, and did not show toxicity to porcine liver non-tumor cells at those concentrations. Furthermore, all the compounds presented lower toxicity to porcine liver non-tumor cells than the positive control ellipticine. Compound **3c** changed the cell cycle profile and increased apoptosis of the non-small cell lung cancer (NCI-H460) cells.

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