

1 **Chloroquine analogues as leads against *Pneumocystis* lung pathogens**

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15 Running Title: Chloroquine analogues as anti-*Pneumocystis* leads

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21 **Abstract**

22 The impact of *Pneumocystis* pneumonia (PcP) on morbidity and mortality remains substan-
23 tial for immunocompromised individuals, including those afflicted by HIV infection, organ
24 transplantation, cancer, auto-immune diseases, or subject to chemotherapy or corticoster-
25 oid-based therapies. Previous work from our group has shown that repurposing antimalarial
26 compounds for PcP holds promise for treatment of this opportunistic infection. Following
27 our previous discovery of chloroquine analogues with dual-stage antimalarial action both *in*
28 *vitro* and *in vivo*, we now report the potent action of these compounds on *Pneumocystis*
29 *carinii*, *in vitro*. Identification of chloroquine analogues as anti-PcP leads is an unprece-
30 dented finding.

31

32 **Introduction**

33 *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (PcP) is a potentially fatal opportunistic infection for
34 immunocompromised individuals, such as those infected with HIV, or receiving immuno-
35 suppressive therapies for organ transplantation, cancer or autoimmune diseases. (1-3) De-
36 spite fatality rates due to PcP in HIV-infected people have significantly dropped due to
37 highly active antiretroviral therapies (HAART), PcP remains a major cause of death or of
38 chronic lung dysfunction amongst people affected by diseases as diverse as lymphoma,(4)
39 rheumatoid arthritis,(5) lupus erythematosus,(6) or renal dysfunction due to IgA nephropa-
40 thy.(7) Moreover, atypical radiological presentation of PcP sometimes occur, leading to
41 delayed diagnosis and intervention, with frequently discouraging end results.(1,7) Though
42 considered as an innocuous infection in immunocompetent people, *P. jirovecii* has been
43 suggested as a morbidity factor in sudden infant death syndrome, given its high incidence in
44 healthy infants.(8)

45 *P. jirovecii*, formerly known *P. carinii* f. sp. *hominis*, is the causative agent of PcP or pneu-
46 mocystosis in humans, and was originally identified as the pathogen responsible for the
47 epidemics of interstitial plasma cell pneumonitis that infected premature infants in Europe
48 during World War II.(2,9) *Pneumocystis* spp. are unicellular eukaryotic organisms now in-
49 cluded in the Fungi kingdom, due to their high genetic homology with other fungi.(2,10)
50 These fungi are thought to be host-specific and infect a wide variety of mammals.(11) *P.*
51 *jirovecii* infects humans, while *P. carinii* and *P. murina* infect rats and mice, respectively.
52 Pre-clinical drug screening is conducted using the latter two species, as a culture system to
53 properly propagate *P. jirovecii* *in vitro* was developed only recently, and still requires vali-
54 dation.(12)

55 *Pneumocystis* spp. have several features that are atypical amongst fungi, such as the lack of
56 efficacy of common anti-fungal agents like amphotericin B and the ketoconazoles, likely
57 due to the lack of ergosterol as the major sterol in their membranes.(13) Initially, these mi-
58 croorganisms were thought to be protozoans, as they were susceptible to antiprotozoals like
59 primaquine, trimethoprim, sulfa drugs, pentamidine, or atovaquone, among others; these are
60 still present in anti-PcP therapies, where the recommended first-line regimen for PcP
61 prophylaxis and treatment is the well-known trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)
62 combination, used for more than 50 years as a wide-spectrum antibiotic, and also employed
63 against malaria.(13,14)

64 Some reports documenting *P. jirovecii* gene mutations in the target of the sulfamethoxazole
65 component, dihydropteroate synthase, (15,16) may indicate resistance of this pathogen to
66 TMP-SMX, supporting earlier reports.(17-19) Alternative options for salvage therapy in-
67 clude intravenous pentamidine, whose adverse effects are usually worse than those of TMP-
68 SMX, or primaquine/clindamycin combinations.(20) Clinical use of the latter still lacks

69 approval in several countries, partly because primaquine (PQ, **1**) is hemotoxic, in particular
70 for people with 6-glucose-phosphate dehydrogenase (6GPD).(21,22)
71 As hemotoxicity and low oral bioavailability are major downsides of PQ's use in the clinical
72 practice, we have been working on its chemical modification over the past decade, in an
73 attempt to improve its action on malaria,(23-28) leishmaniasis,(29,30) and pneumocysto-
74 sis,(24,25) with overall promising results. These successes provided the rationale to extend
75 such "chemical recycling" efforts to other antimalarials, as chloroquine (CQ, **2** in Fig.
76 1),(31,32) and mepacrine (MPR, **3** in Figure 1).(32) This effort delivered *N*-acyl chloro-
77 quine analogues (**2a-j** in Figure 1) as relevant antiparasitic leads, active against liver and
78 blood-stage *Plasmodia*.(31,32) as well as *Leishmania* parasites,(28) while being generally
79 non-cytotoxic.(31,32) Moreover, one of such leads, **2c**, displayed remarkable *in vivo* per-
80 formance in immunocompetent mice, when encapsulated in immunoPEGliposomes specifi-
81 cally targeted at *Plasmodium*-infected erythrocytes (PiRBC).(33)
82 In view of the above, we have now investigated the anti-*Pneumocystis* activity of *N*-acyl
83 chloroquine derivatives **2a-j** (Fig. 1) using a standardized *in vitro* assay with *P. carinii*.(34)
84 The study included *N*-acyl primaquine and *N*-acyl mepacrine analogues, **1a,b** and **3a**, re-
85 spectively, as well as all relevant parent antimalarials, for comparison (see Figure 1). The
86 effects of replacing the covalent amide bond between the antimalarial pharmacophore and
87 the cinnamoyl group in PQ derivatives **1a,b** and CQ derivatives **2a,d**, by an ionic ammoni-
88 um carboxylate bond, respectively producing PQ-derived ionic liquids **1'a,b**.(26) and CQ-
89 derived ionic liquids **2'a,d** (Figure 1), were also assessed.

90

91

[insert Figure 1 here]

92

93 **Results**

94 **Chemical synthesis.** The test compounds were prepared with a minimum 95% purity as
95 described elsewhere and presented structural data consistent with previous re-
96 ports.(27,31,32) Novel ionic liquids **2'a,d**, were successfully synthesized and presented
97 adequate purity and spectral data, as given in detail under Materials&Methods.

98 **Anti-*Pneumocystis* activity and cytotoxicity assays.** All the test compounds (including
99 parent drugs **1-3**) were first screened for their anti-*Pneumocystis* activity at 100 µg/mL (not
100 shown); remarkably, with exception of PQ derivatives **1a,b** and **1'b**, and of CQ derivative
101 **2h**, all compounds reduced *P. carinii* viability (ATP content) by at least 94% after 24 h, and
102 reached nearly 100% reduction after 72 h. Such potent anti-*Pneumocystis* activity of most
103 compounds was confirmed by subsequent determination of their respective IC₅₀ values at
104 72 h, as shown in Table 1, which includes the compounds' toxicity for two mammalian cell
105 lines (equally expressed as IC₅₀ at 72 h), namely, A549 human lung adenocarcinoma and L2
106 rat pulmonary epithelial cells.

107

108 **[insert Table 1 here]**

109

110 Interestingly, despite the fact that, in most cases, activity differences are not markedly sig-
111 nificant within experimental error, the following trends for structure-activity relationships
112 (SAR) were apparent:

113

114 (i) the anti-*Pneumocystis* activity of PQ (**1**) is markedly decreased upon *N*-acylation of the
115 drug's primary amine with a cinnamoyl group, as in **1a,b**; in turn, when the amide bond

116 between PQ and the cinnamic acid building blocks is replaced by a non-covalent ionic
117 bond, as in **1'a,b**, the activity of the parent drug is restored;

118

119 (ii) in contrast with the previous situation, the moderate anti-*Pneumocystis* activity of CQ
120 (**2**) is preserved or even improved in the respective *N*-acyl analogues, except when a flexi-
121 ble alkyl spacer between the 4-aminoquinoline core and the *N*-acyl group is absent, as in
122 **2h**; moreover, replacement of the amide bond as in **2a,d** by its ammonium carboxylate ionic
123 counterpart, as in **2'a,d**, does not affect activity expressively;

124 (iii) within the subset of CQ analogues **2a-g**, compounds **2b** (R = Me) and **2d** (R = OMe)
125 are markedly more active than the others, with **2b** being non-toxic to both mammalian cell
126 lines tested; IC₅₀ values for this subset suggest that:

127 (a) the ideal length spacer between the 4-aminoquinoline core and the cinnamoyl
128 group is butyl (n=4), as activity slightly drops when this length is either decreased (**2b** vs.
129 **2f**) or increased (**2d** vs. **2g**); notably, this was equally observed regarding anti-malarial ac-
130 tivity;(31)

131 (b) there seems to be no obvious correlation between compounds' lipophilicity
132 (clogP values, not shown) and anti-*Pneumocystis* activity, whereas former observations
133 regarding the antimalarial activity of these compounds indicated that more lipophilic ones
134 seemed preferred;(31,35)

135 (c) the influence of the stereoelectronic properties of the *p*-substituent R on the anti-
136 *Pneumocystis* activity of compounds **2a-e** was also surveyed, by searching possible correla-
137 tions between IC₅₀ values and classical descriptors, namely, Hammett constant σ_{para} , induc-
138 tive sigma constant σ_I , Charton's sterical constant σ_v , Taft sterical parameter E_s , hydropho-

139 bicity parameter π , and molar refractivity, MR;(36) interestingly, as shown in Figure 2, a
140 linear correlation ($r^2 = 0.96$) seems to exist with the Hammett's constant σ_{para} , where the
141 positive slope of the linear fit suggests that electrodonating R groups favor anti-
142 *Pneumocystis* activity;

143

144 (iv) replacement of the aryl group (**2a**) by a non-aromatic cyclohexyl (**2i**) or propyl (**2j**)
145 seems to slightly decrease activity, while improving selectivity as compared to the rest of
146 the **2a-g** series, except when it comes to the best overall performer (activity plus selectivi-
147 ty), **2b**. MPR (**3**) and its *N*-acyl analogue **3a** were included in this study only for compari-
148 son, as MPR was earlier reported as having low *in vivo* efficacy against *Pneumocystis*;(37)
149 indeed, despite its marked activity, MPR was too toxic, whereas **3a** was not, but still did not
150 outshine the activity and safety performance of its CQ counterparts **2b,d**.

151 [insert Figure 2 here]

152 Finally, all covalent compounds herein reported were run through the following publicly
153 available filters for Pan Assay Interference Compounds (PAINS),(38) namely, ZINC
154 (<http://zinc15.docking.org/patterns/home>),(39) PAINS Remover
155 (<http://www.cbligand.org/PAINS/>),(40) and Aggregator Advisor
156 (<http://advisor.docking.org>),(41) for identification of potential PAINS and aggregators. With
157 the exception of compounds **3** and **3a**, whose aminoacridine moiety triggered a PAINS
158 alert,(39,40) and **2h**, whose structural similarity to reported aggregators has been identi-
159 fied,(39,41) all compounds passed all filters used. In the case of organic salts **1'a**, **1'b**, **2'a**
160 and **2'd**, only ZINC was apparently able to conveniently process their ionic structures, re-
161 turning no PAINS or aggregator alerts.

162 **Discussion**

163 Globally, IC₅₀ values against *P. carinii* (Table 1) confirm that, with exception of **1a,b**
164 (slightly active) and of **2h** (inactive), all test compounds range from moderately to marked-
165 ly active, particularly in the cases of CQ analogues **2b,d** and of MPR (**3**) and its analogue
166 **3a**. Moreover, the vast majority of the compounds displayed only mild or no cytotoxic ac-
167 tivity against both mammalian cell lines used, being the only exceptions compounds **2a, 2c,**
168 **2e**, and **3**, which displayed IC₅₀ values below 10 µg/mL against A549 human lung carcino-
169 ma cells. Remarkably, one of the most active compounds against *P. carini*, **2b**, was also the
170 most selective.

171 Altogether, the above observations show that, in contrast to PQ, whose well-known anti-
172 *Pneumocystis* activity is practically lost upon acylation of the drug's aliphatic amine, *N*-acyl
173 chloroquine analogues, especially those embedding a cinnamoyl group, are quite promising
174 anti-PcP leads. Interestingly, this is not the first time that *N*-cinnamoyl chloroquine ana-
175 logues like **2a-g** perform surprisingly well against pathogens, e.g. *P. carinii* as herein de-
176 scribed, or specific pathogen developmental stages, e.g. liver-stage *Plasmodia* as previously
177 reported by us,(31) for which PQ, not CQ, was one of the gold standards.

178 The significant activity of the test compounds against *Pneumocystis carinii* may be differ-
179 ent against *P. jirovecii* or *P. murina*, given the biological divergence amongst these species.
180 Still, the predictive value of *in vitro* methods herein applied has been previously validated
181 *in vivo* on the mouse model of *Pneumocystis* pneumonia.(42-44)

182 In conclusion, *N*-cinnamoyl chloroquine analogues like **2a-g** are a notable family of anti-
183 infective compounds, in particular because they have been revealing remarkable activity on
184 pathogens against which CQ itself, or other related compounds, have not been currently

185 considered as useful. In the particular case of PcP, these compounds hold great promise, and
186 best performers **2a,b** will be taken forward for *in vivo* assays. To the best of our knowledge,
187 unveiling CQ analogues as potent anti-PcP leads is unprecedented.

188 Ongoing work is addressing evaluation of the potential activity of these CQ analogues
189 against another concerning class of lung pathogens, *Mycobacteria*,⁽⁴⁵⁾ as CQ itself has
190 been reported as potentially useful in the fight against these bacteria.⁽⁴⁶⁾ Results will be
191 timely reported.

192

193 **Materials&Methods**

194 **Chemical Synthesis.** *Chemicals and Instrumentation.* Primaquine and chloroquine biphos-
195 phates, as well as mepacrine hydrochloride, were from Sigma-Aldrich. Cinnamic acids
196 were all from Acros Organics. The coupling agent 2-(1*H*-benzotriazole-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-
197 tetramethylamminium tetrafluoroborate (TBTU) was from Bachem, and all other chemicals
198 were from Sigma-Aldrich. All solvents were of analytical grade, and purchased to VWR
199 International. NMR analyses were carried out on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz spectrome-
200 ter, and samples were prepared in either deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) or deuterated
201 dimethylsulfoxide ((CD₃)₂SO) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal reference. Chem-
202 ical shifts are reported downfield in parts per million (ppm) and multiplicity of proton sig-
203 nals is indicated as s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (double doublet), t (triplet), m (unresolved
204 multiplet). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on an LTQ Orbitrap XL /
205 LTQ Tune Plus 2.5.5 spectrometer, and processed with the 2.1.0 Xcalibur software (Thermo
206 Scientific). Compounds purity was based on peak areas obtained through HPLC analyses
207 that were run using the following conditions: 0–100% of B in A (A = H₂O with 0.05% of

208 trifluoroacetic acid; B = acetonitrile) in 30 min with a flow rate of 1 mL/min on a Merck-
209 Hitachi Lachrom Elite instrument equipped with a diode array detector (DAD) and thermo-
210 stated (Peltier effect) autosampler, using a Purospher STAR RP-18e column (150 mm × 4.0
211 mm; particle size, 5 μm).

212 *Synthesis of primaquine derivatives 1a,b and 1'a,b.* *N*-cinnamoyl-primaquine derivatives
213 **1a,b** were prepared by previously described methods, and their analytical and structural
214 data were consistent with those formerly reported.(27) Similarly, the synthesis of the ionic
215 counterparts of **1a** and **1b**, respectively, ionic liquids **1'a** and **1'b**, was carried out as report-
216 ed earlier, and compounds' structural and analytical data concurred with those hitherto pub-
217 lished.(28)

218 *Synthesis of N-acyl-chloroquine (2a-j) and of N-acyl-mepacrine (3a) analogues.* The chem-
219 ical synthesis of compounds **2a-j** and **3a** followed similar and previously reported proce-
220 dures, yielding the expected compounds whose structural and analytical data agreed with
221 those earlier described.(31,32,35,36,47)

222 *Synthesis of the new chloroquine/cinnamic acid-derived ionic liquids 2'a,d.* Organic salts
223 **2'a,d**, representative of the ionic counterparts of compounds **2a-g**, were prepared as fol-
224 lows. Chloroquine was first obtained as a free base, by addition of triethylamine (0.25 mL)
225 to a suspension of chloroquine biphosphate (0.1298 g; 0.285 mol) in dichloromethane (4
226 mL). The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes in ice and in the dark, after which the organic
227 layer was washed with water (3×10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evapo-
228 rated to dryness under reduced pressure. Free chloroquine base, thus quantitatively obtained
229 as a pale yellow oil, was next dissolved in methanol, and titrated with an equimolar amount
230 of the relevant cinnamic acid, upon dropwise addition of a methanolic solution of the acid.

231 The neutralization reaction proceeded in the dark at room temperature for 30 minutes, after
232 which methanol was removed by evaporation at reduced pressure and target organic salts
233 **2'a,d** obtained as chromatographically homogeneous colorless viscous liquids, whose spec-
234 tral data were in agreement with the target structures, as follows.

235 **2-((7-chloroquinolin-4-yl)amino)-N,N-diethylpropan-1-aminium cinnamate (2'a)**

236 Colorless oil (51 mg, 81%) δ_{H} (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, 1H, J=4.4 Hz),
237 7.76 (d, 1H, J=2.2Hz), 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, 1H, J=16.0 Hz), 7.42 (m, 5H), 6.90 (d, 1H,
238 J=7.9 Hz), 6.52 (m, 2H), 2.42 (m, 6H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.50 (m, 4H), 1.23 (d, 4H, J=6.3 Hz),
239 0.91 (t, 6H, J=7.1 Hz); δ_{C} (100 MHz, DMSO-d6) 167.8, 151.8, 149.5, 149.2, 143.2, 134.4,
240 133.3, 130.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.4, 124.3, 123.8, 120.1, 117.5, 98.8, 51.9, 47.5, 46.1, 33.3,
241 23.0, 19.8, 11.2

242 (EI⁺) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₂₇ClN₃⁺: 320.19, found 320.33; (EI) m/z calculated for C₉H₇O₂⁻
243 147.05, found 147.33

244 **2-((7-chloroquinolin-4-yl)amino)-N,N-diethylpropan-1-aminium p-methoxycinnamate**
245 **(2'd)**

246 Colorless oil (52 mg, 87%) δ_{H} (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, 1H, J=4.4Hz),
247 7.76 (d, 1H, J=2.2Hz), 7.62 (d, 2H, J=8.8 Hz), 7.51 (d, 1H, J=15.9 Hz), 7.42 (dd, 1H, J=9.0
248 Hz, J= 2.2 Hz), 6.96 (d, 2H, J=8.8Hz), 6.89 (d, 1H, J= 8.0 Hz), 6.50 (d, 1H, J= 5.6 Hz),
249 6.36 (d, 1H, J= 15.9 Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 6H) 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.50 (m, 4H), 1.22 (m,
250 4H), 0.91 (t, 6H, J=7.1 Hz); δ_{C} (100 MHz, DMSO-d6) 167.9, 160.8, 151.9, 149.5, 149.3,
251 143.4, 133.3, 129.8, 127.4, 126.9, 124.3, 123.7, 117.5, 116.9, 114.3, 98.8, 55.3, 52.0, 47.5,
252 46.1, 33.3, 23.3, 19.8, 11.5

253 (EI⁺) ^{m/z} calculated for C₁₈H₂₇ClN₃⁺: 320.19, found 320.35; (EI⁻) ^{m/z} calculated for C₁₀H₉O₃⁻
254 177.06, found 177.05

255

256 ***In vitro* assays. Compound preparation.** Test compounds were stored at -20 °C without ex-
257 posure to light, until use. Immediately prior to the first screen, compounds were solubilized
258 in 100% DMSO at a concentration of 20 mg/mL. For testing, the compounds were diluted
259 directly into culture medium at dilutions of 100, 10, 1, and 0.1 µg/mL. Culture medium
260 consisted of RPMI-1640 containing 20% horse serum, 1% MEM vitamin solution, 1%
261 MEM NEAA, 200 units/mL penicillin and 0.2 mg/mL streptomycin, and 50 µg/mL vanco-
262 mycin. Negative controls were medium alone, and 10 µg/mL ampicillin. Positive control
263 was 1 µg/mL pentamidine isethionate. Medium with the vehicle alone (DMSO) was tested
264 at the highest dilution to identify any associated toxicity.

265 ***P. carinii* ATP assay.** *P. carinii* viability was assessed through a non-specific ATP assay pre-
266 viously validated for this purpose (42-44,48,49). Briefly, cryopreserved and characterized *P.*
267 *carinii* isolated from rat lung tissue was distributed into triplicate wells of 48-well plates
268 with a final volume of 500 µL and a final concentration of 5×10⁷ nuclei/ml *Pj* and 5×10⁶
269 *Pm*. Controls and compound dilutions were added and incubated at 36 °C, 5% CO₂. At 24,
270 48, and 72 hours, 10% of the well volume was removed and the ATP content was measured
271 using Perkin Elmer ATP-liteM luciferin-luciferase assay. The bioluminescence generated by
272 the ATP content of the samples was measured with a BMG POLARstar OPTIMA spectro-
273 photometer and expressed as Relative Light Units (RLUs). A sample of each group was
274 examined microscopically on the final assay day to rule out the presence of bacteria or oth-
275 er fungi. A quench control assay to determine compound interference in the lucifer-

276 in/luciferase revealed quenching with six compounds at the highest (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) concentra-
277 tion. No quench was observed at 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Test concentrations of these compounds were
278 lowered accordingly.

279 *L2 and A549 Toxicity assay.* For mammalian cell toxicity testing, A549 cells were cultured
280 in DMEM medium and L2 cells with F12 medium. Both were supplemented with 10% fetal
281 calf sera, 1 \times MEM vitamins, and 1X NEAA. Cultured cells were plated at $2\times 10^5/\text{mL}$ and
282 grown to confluent monolayers. Media was removed and replaced with fresh media con-
283 taining controls and test compound in appropriate dilutions. Assays of three time points
284 (24, 48, 72 h) with triplicate wells were sampled. Media was aspirated from the wells. Ad-
285 herent cells were stained with MTT reagent (thiazolyl blue) and incubated for one hour. The
286 MTT reagent was aspirated from the cells and the MTT solvent added to the stained cells
287 and rocked at room temperature until the crystals were dissolved. The plate was read in
288 absorbance mode on a BMG POLARstar OPTIMA spectrophotometer.

289 *Calculations.* For the *P. carinii* ATP assay, background bioluminescence was subtracted and
290 triplicate well readings were averaged. Using EXCEL software, % reduction in ATP for all
291 groups was calculated (vehicle control - experimental/vehicle control $\times 100$); results of trip-
292 licate assays were averaged and standard deviation determined. For the cell toxicity assay,
293 triplicate well readings were averaged; for each day's readings, % reduction in absorbance
294 for all groups was calculated: media control - experimental/media control $\times 100$. In both
295 assays, the 50% inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}) was calculated using InSTAT linear regres-
296 sion program.

297

298 **Abbreviations**

299 6GPD, 6-glucose-phosphate dehydrogenase; ATP, adenosine triphosphate; CQ, chloroquine;
300 DAD, diode array detector; DMEM, Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium; DMSO, dime-
301 thylsulfoxide; PcP, *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus;
302 HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatog-
303 raphy; HRMS, high resolution mass spectrometry; IC₅₀, 50% inhibitory concentration;
304 MEM, minimum essential medium; MPR, mepacrine; MTT, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-
305 2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; NEAA, non-essential amino acid solution; NMR, nuclear
306 magnetic resonance; PEG, polyethyleneglycol; PiRBC, *Plasmodium*-infected erythrocytes;
307 PQ, primaquine; SD, standard deviation; SI, selectivity index; TBTU, 2-(1*H*-Benzotriazole-
308 1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethylammonium tetrafluoroborate; TMP-SMX, trime-
309 thoprim/sulfamethoxazole; TMS, tetramethylsilane; RPMI, Roswell Park Memorial Insti-
310 tute medium.

311

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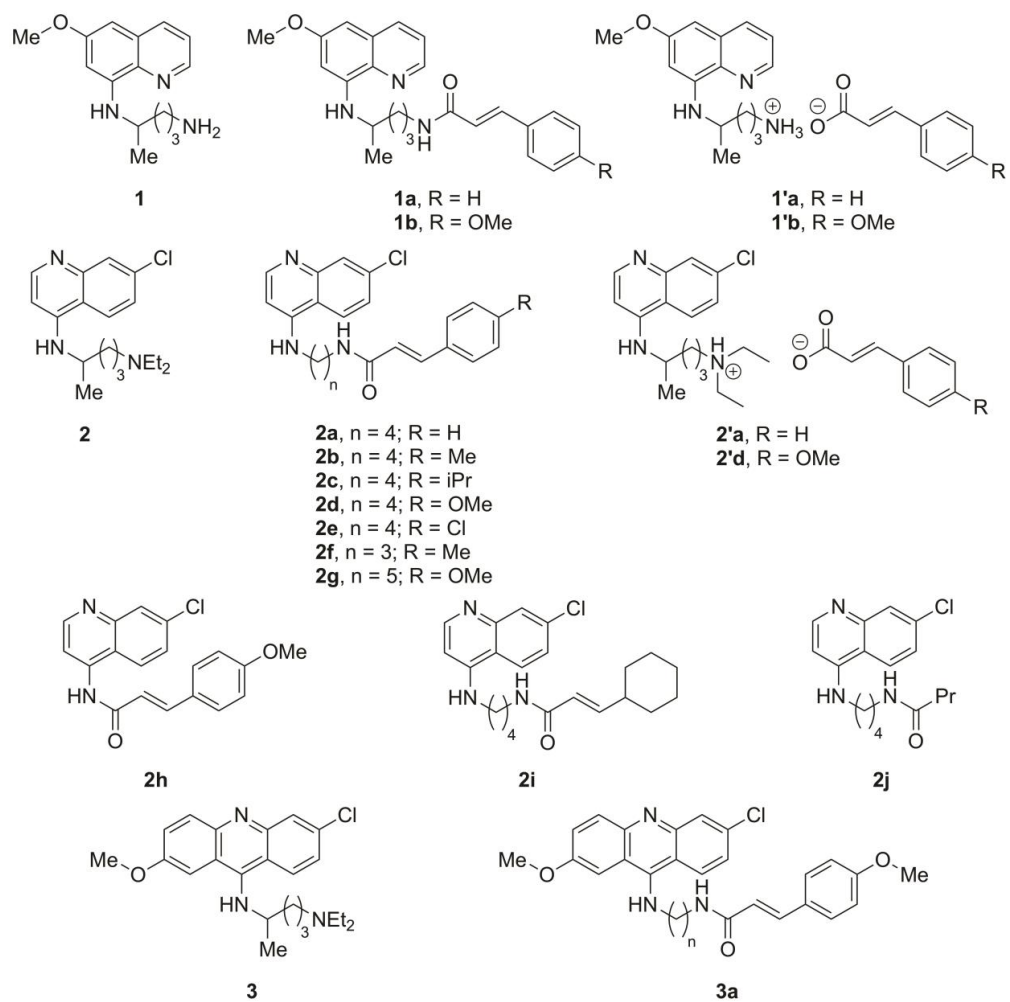
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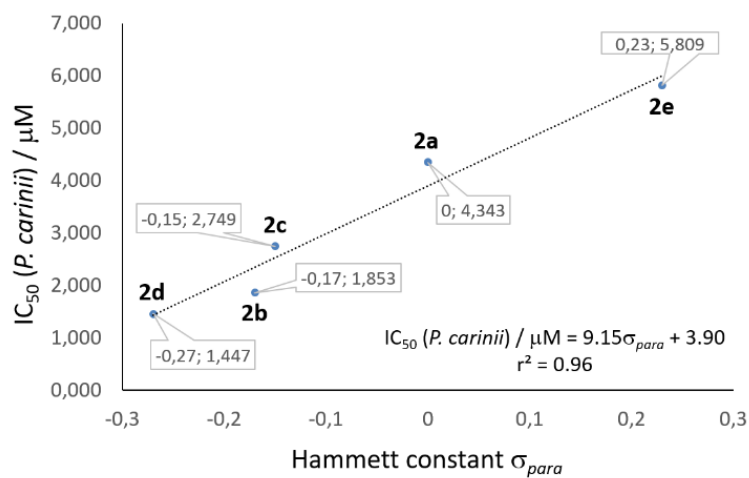
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470 **Figure 1.** Classical antimalarial drugs and respective analogues, herein under scrutiny as471 potential anti-*Pneumocystis* agents.

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475 **Figure 2.** Correlation between *in vitro* anti-*Pneumocystis* activity (IC_{50} at 72 h / μM) of476 compounds **2a-e** and Hammett constants σ_{para} for the aryl substituent group R.

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486 **Table 1.** Minimal inhibitory concentrations at 50% (IC₅₀) of test compounds, at 72 h,
487 against *P.carinii*, A549 human lung adenocarcinoma cells, and L2 rat pulmonary epithelial
488 cells. IC₅₀ values both in μM and in $\mu\text{g/mL}$ units (the latter, within parenthesis).

Cpd	IC ₅₀ \pm SD / μM (IC ₅₀ \pm SD / $\mu\text{g/mL}$)			SI1 ^(c)	SI2 ^(d)
	<i>P. carinii</i> ^(a)	A549 cells ^(b)	L2 cells ^(b)		
1	4.92 \pm 0.85 (1.28 \pm 0.221)	110.04 \pm 49.93 (28.5 \pm 13.0)	>200 (>100)	22.4	>41
1a	43.58 \pm 3.14 (16.97 \pm 1.22)	>200 (>100)	>200 (>100)	>5	>5
1b	35.42 \pm 7.52 (14.86 \pm 3.16)	>200 (>100)	>200 (>100)	>6	>6
1'a	5.17 \pm 4.46 (2.11 \pm 1.82)	120.49 \pm 43.56 (49.1 \pm 17.8)	>200 (>100)	23.3	>39
1'b	5.09 \pm 1.11 (2.23 \pm 0.486)	100.15 \pm 41.53 (43 \pm 18.2)	>200 (>100)	19.7	>39
2	3.13 \pm 2.14 (1.00 \pm 0.685)	61.55 \pm 6.38 (19.7 \pm 2.04)	>200 (>100)	19.7	>64
2a	4.34 \pm 1.34 (1.65 \pm 0.509)	19.01 \pm 14.29 (7.22 \pm 5.43)	82.84 \pm 7.27 (31.5 \pm 2.76)	4.38	4.36
2b	1.85 \pm 2.75 (0.730 \pm 1.08)	>200 (>100)	>200 (>100)	>100	>100
2c	2.75 \pm 2.30 (1.16 \pm 0.971)	12.94 \pm 6.99 (5.46 \pm 2.95)	75.01 \pm 16.35 (31.6 \pm 6.90)	4.71	5.80
2d	1.45 \pm 0.06 (0.593 \pm 0.023)	80.02 \pm 46.11 (32.8 \pm 18.9)	128.59 \pm 72.75 (52.7 \pm 29.8)	55.3	1.61
2e	5.81 \pm 2.19 (2.41 \pm 0.906)	17.79 \pm 12.41 (7.37 \pm 5.14)	48.13 \pm 23.48 (19.9 \pm 9.73)	3.06	2.71
2f	4.09 \pm 3.21 (1.55 \pm 1.22)	41.04 \pm 14.85 (15.6 \pm 5.64)	139.62 \pm 17.98 (53.0 \pm 6.83)	10.0	3.40
2g	2.61 \pm 0.80 (1.10 \pm 0.340)	51.68 \pm 30.19 (21.9 \pm 12.8)	79.26 \pm 50.24 (33.6 \pm 21.3)	19.8	1.53
2h	>200 (>100)	-	-	-	-
2i	7.00 \pm 1.06 (2.70 \pm 0.411)	>200 (>100)	>200 (>100)	>29	>29
2j	8.45 \pm 2.58 (2.79 \pm 0.850)	166.60 \pm 53.27 (55.0 \pm 17.6)	>200 (>100)	19.7	>24
2'a	4.99 \pm 1.64 (2.34 \pm 0.769)	65.74 \pm 7.84 (30.8 \pm 3.67)	>200 (>100)	13.2	>40
2'd	4.60 \pm 2.39	59.23 \pm 22.19	>200	12.9	>43

	(2.29 ± 1.19)	(29.5 ± 11.0)	(>100)		
3	0.90 ± 0.21 (0.358 ± 0.083)	17.58 ± 1.50 (7.03 ± 0.600)	124.19 ± 11.45 (49.7 ± 4.58)	19.6	7.07
3a	2.27 ± 0.50 (1.11 ± 0.245)	72.04 ± 60.20 (35.3 ± 29.5)	>200 (>100)	31.7	>88

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490 ^(a) Activity scale: high, <0.010 µg/mL; very marked, 0.011 to 0.099 µg/mL; marked, 0.10 to
 491 0.99 µg/mL; moderate, 1.0 to 9.99 µg/mL; slight, 10.0 to 49.9 µg/mL; none, ≥ 50
 492 µg/mL.(24,25) ^(b) Cytotoxicity scale: high, < 1 µg/mL; moderate, 1.1 to 10 µg/mL; mild,
 493 10.1 to 99.9 µg/mL; none, ≥ 100 µg/mL.(24,25) SI = selectivity index, where ^(c)SI1 =
 494 IC₅₀(A549) / IC₅₀(*P. carinii*), and ^(d)SI2 = IC₅₀ (L2) / IC₅₀ (*P. carinii*).