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Synthesis and Antimalarial Activity of New Isotebuquine Analogues

Olga V. Miroshnikova

DiVision of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

Thomas H. Hudson

DiVision of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

Lucia Gerena

DiVision of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

Dennis E. Kyle

DiVision of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

Ai J. Lin

DiVision of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland

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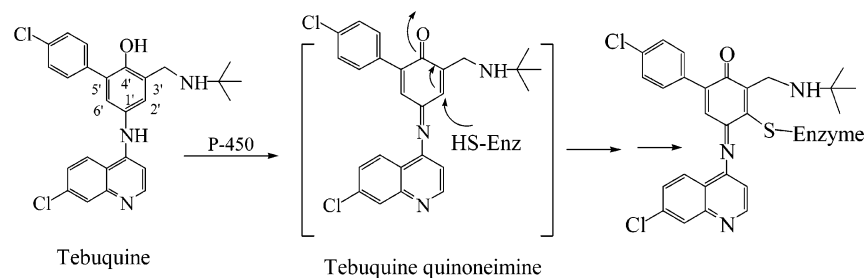
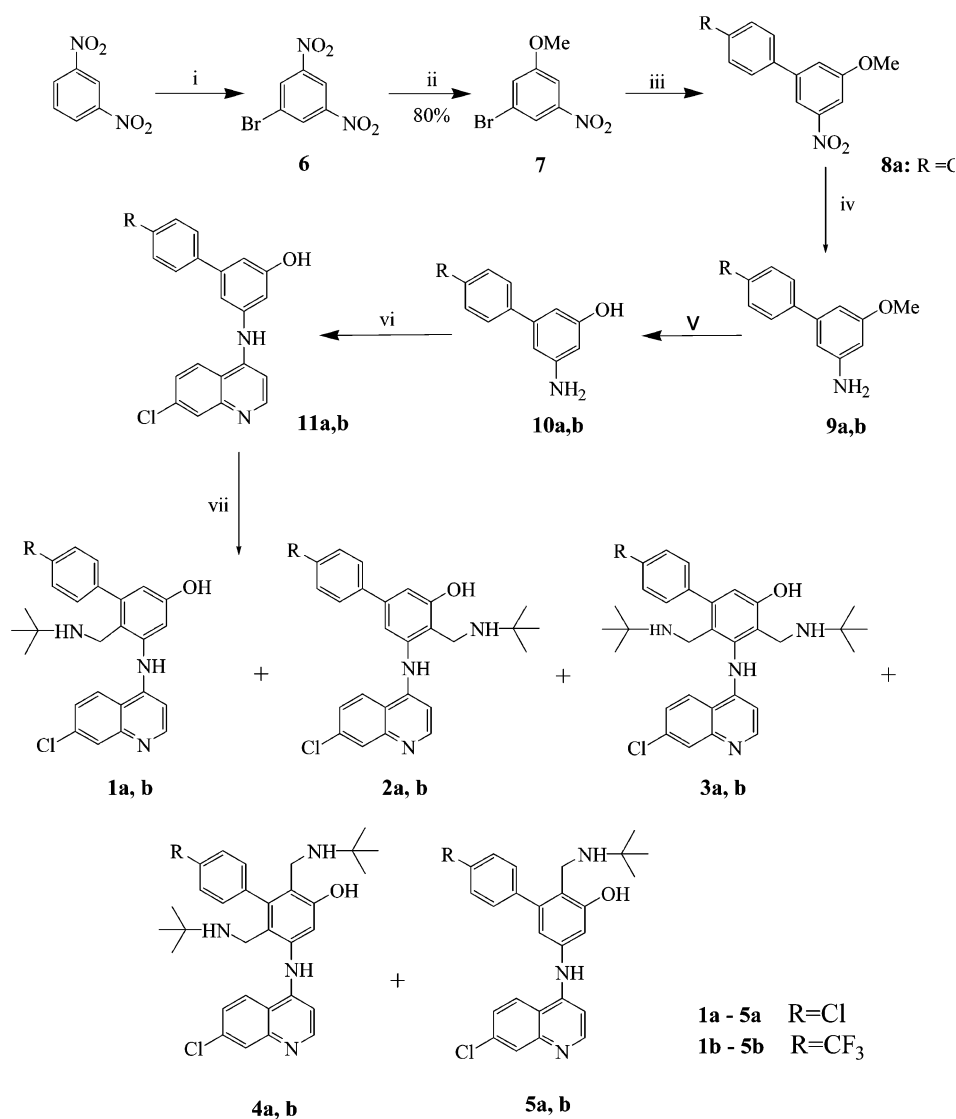


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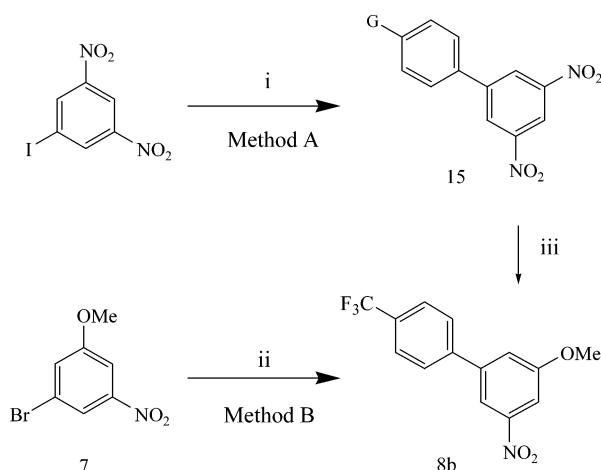
Scheme 1. Biotransformation of Tebuquine by P-450 Oxidation and Further Conjugation with Cysteinyll Function of Enzymes**Scheme 2^a**

^a Reagents and conditions: (i) *N*-bromosuccinimide, H₂SO₄, 80 °C; (ii) NaOMe, MeOH, 65 °C, 2 h; (iii) RPh(OH)₂, Pd(PPh₃)₄, Na₂CO₃, toluene, EtOH, reflux, 2 h; (iv) H₂, 10% Pd/C, THF, 2 h; (v) BBr₃, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 4 h; (vi) 4,7-dichloroquinoline, EtOH, reflux, 2 h; (vii) *t*-BuNH₂, CH₂O, DMF, 3 days.

biphenyl-3-ols, the so-called isotebuquine analogues. The general approach to prepare the new Mannich bases **1a,b–5a,b** is illustrated in Scheme 2. The intermediate 1-bromo-3,5-dinitrobenzene (**6**) was prepared by addition of the *N*-bromosuccinimide in small portions to the commercially available starting material 1,3-dinitrobenzene in sulfuric acid at 80–90 °C.¹⁶

3-Bromo-5-nitroanisole (**7**) was obtained by treatment of **6** with sodium methoxide in absolute methanol.¹⁷ The coupling of bromoanisole **7** with the 4-chlorophenylboronic acid was

achieved using a modified Suzuki method to afford substituted biaryl compound **8a** in a good yield.¹⁸ Two types of catalysts were used in the Suzuki coupling reaction to prepare compounds **8a** and **8b**. Method A utilized tetrakis-(triphenylphosphine) palladium(0),¹⁸ while method B employed Pd(OAc)₂ as a catalyst (Scheme 3).¹⁹ The compound **8a** was prepared by method A, while trifluoromethyl analogue **8b** was synthesized by method B. Both coupling methods A and B were efficient to prepare the biaryl intermediates when 3,5-dinitro-bromobenzene was used. However, when the 1-iodo-3,5-dinitrobenzene

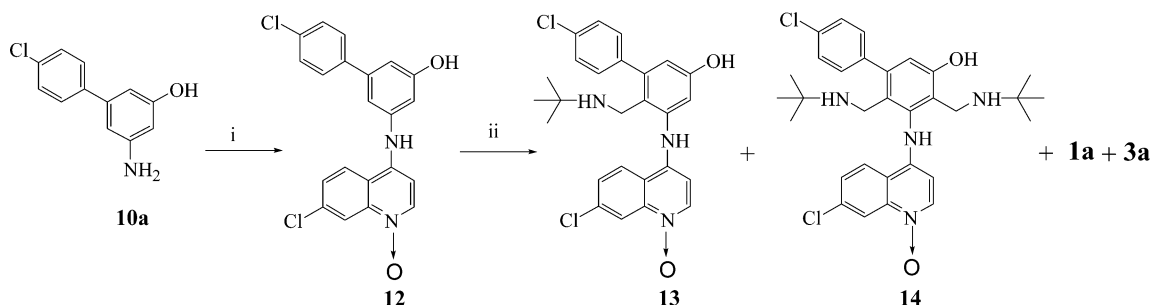
Scheme 3^a

^a Reagents and conditions: (i) 4-chlorophenylboronic acid or 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenylboronic acid, Pd(PPh₃)₄, Na₂CO₃, toluene, EtOH, reflux, 2 h; (ii) 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenylboronic acid, Pd(OAc)₂, K₂CO₃, acetone, H₂O, reflux, 4 h; (iii) NaOMe, MeOH, DMF, 65 °C, 2 h.

was used as a starting material in the Suzuki coupling reaction, it gave a poorer yield than when 1-bromo-3,5-dinitrobenzene was used, due to incomplete reaction and tedious purification procedure.

The reduction of the nitro-group by catalytic hydrogenation of **8** using palladium on activated carbon afforded the aminobiphenyl derivatives **9** in a quantitative yield.²⁰ The intermediate amines obtained were used for the next reaction without further purification. The boron tribromide-catalyzed demethylation of **9a** in dichloromethane solution gave a desired aminophenol **10a** in high yield (70%). The trifluoromethyl-containing analogue **10b** was obtained using an alternative reagent, boron tribromide–methylsulfide complex.²¹

The intermediates **11a** and **11b** for the synthesis of isotebuquine analogues were obtained by treatment of 4,7-dichloroquinoline with corresponding biarylaminophenols **11a,b**. Introduction of the Mannich base side chain, *tert*-butylaminomethyl, into the key intermediate **11** was a challenging task due to low selectivity of the reaction. When **11a** or **11b** was subjected to Mannich reaction in the presence of *t*-butylamine and 37% formaldehyde, a mixture consisting of five products was obtained. The mixture was separated by the use of a silica gel column followed by fractional crystallization. The product ratio of this reaction was highly dependent on the ratio of the reagents used. Formation of bis-Mannich base **3** was favored when the reaction was conducted using a stoichiometric amount of reagents, **11**, *t*-butylamine, and formaldehyde. Doubling the ratio of the reagents, *t*-butylamine and formaldehyde, led to the formation of both mono-Mannich base **1** as well as bis-Mannich base **3**. Further addition of reagents to the same

Scheme 4^a

^a Reagents and conditions: (i) 4,7-dichloroquinoline *N*-oxide, EtOH, reflux, 2 h; (ii) *t*-BuNH₂, CH₂O, DMF, 8 days.

reaction mixture gave other analogues, **2** (mono-) and **4** (bis-), in small yield (7–10%). The yield of compound **5** was insignificant, isolation of which was possible only in large-scale synthesis. The products were first separated by column chromatography, followed by repeated recrystallization from chloroform and diethyl ether mixture. Purification of products **1** and **4** could not be accomplished by chromatography because of their similarity in *R_f* values on TLC under various solvent systems. However, separation of the products was achieved by fractional crystallization from methanol.

The structures of all products were characterized by elemental analysis, mass spectrometry, and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

As an extension of this work, two *N*^ω-oxide isotebuquine analogues (**13** and **14**) were prepared to improve solubility and therefore enhance the bioavailability of this type of antimalarials. Synthetic pathway for *N*^ω-oxides was based on the method developed for the synthesis of isotebuquine derivatives (Scheme 4). Thus, *p*-chloro-biarylaminophenol **10a** was treated with 4,7-dichloroquinoline 1-oxide¹³ to provide corresponding 4'-chloro-5-(7-chloro-1-oxy-quinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (**12**) as outlined in Scheme 4. Contrary to the synthesis of Mannich base **1–5**, which was rather straightforward, the final step in the synthesis of the target *N*^ω-oxide **13** and **14** was a challenging task. In an attempt to apply the same conditions for the Mannich reaction that has been utilized for the synthesis of regular isotebuquine analogues **1–5** (3 equiv of *tert*-butylamine, 4 equiv of formaldehyde, DMF, room temperature, 3 days), no reaction was observed. Heating at 100 °C gave a complicated mixture of high lipophilic byproducts. When the Mannich reaction was carried out in diluted DMF solution (15 mg/mL) at 65 °C for 7 days, two new *N*^ω-oxide derivatives, mono- (**13**) and bis-Mannich base (**14**), were obtained in low yield. On scale-up synthesis, two deoxygenated byproducts, **1a** and **3a**, were isolated.

¹H NMR Studies

Due to poor solubility of some of the final products in CDCl₃, most of the NMR spectra were taken in CD₃OD. When compounds are soluble in both chloroform and methanol, the spectrum in both solvents, CDCl₃ and CD₃OD, are reported. The structure assignments of **1–5** were based on comparison of their chemical shifts with the key intermediate **11**. The assignment of all protons in compound **11** is straightforward (Table 1). The ¹H NMR spectrum of **11b** shows three triplets for protons Hh, Hi, and Hj of the aminophenol moiety at 6.91, 6.96, and 7.15 ppm, respectively, with small coupling constant of *J* = 1.6 Hz. Two sets of doublets at 7.10 and 8.33 ppm were attributed to Hb and He of the quinoline ring, and the doublets at 7.75 and 7.82 ppm were assigned to biaryl protons Hg and Hf, respectively. The proton chemical shifts of intermediate **11** are informative for the structure determination of its Mannich

Table 1. ^1H NMR Chemical Shifts (δ) for Aromatic Protons of Isotebuquine Derivatives (**11** and **1–5b**) and Their N^{ω} -Oxides (**12–14**) in CD_3OD Solution

compd	Ha	Hb	Hc	Hd	He	Hf	Hg	Hh	Hi	Hj
11a	8.42	7.07	7.87	7.51	8.31	7.59	7.43	6.84	7.07	6.88
1a	8.38	7.07	7.85	7.49	8.27	7.46	7.37	6.59	6.77	MB ^a
2a	8.38	6.52	7.90	7.55	8.33	7.59	7.43	MB	7.03	7.00
3a	8.34	6.68	7.87	7.53	8.28	7.47	7.36	MB	6.63	MB
4a	8.42	6.98	7.88	7.51	8.28	7.51	7.33	6.93	MB	MB
11b	8.44	7.10	7.90	7.53	8.33	7.82	7.75	6.91	7.15	6.96
1b	8.39	7.08	7.86	7.49	8.28	7.76	7.58	6.61	6.80	MB
2b	8.38	6.53	7.89	7.55	8.33	7.80	7.72	MB	7.08	7.05
3b	8.34	6.61	7.86	7.52	8.27	7.73	7.57	MB	6.67	MB
4b	8.43	6.99	7.89	7.52	8.23	7.52	7.33	6.93	MB	MB
5b	8.61	7.32	8.05	7.44	7.93	7.73	7.47	6.64	MB	6.99
12	8.59	7.00	8.40	7.88	8.61	7.64	7.48	6.88	7.18	7.11
13	8.35	6.56	8.62	7.78	8.47	7.59	7.42	7.01	7.03	MB
14	8.33	6.49	8.60	7.76	8.57	7.46	7.34	MB	6.54	MB

^a MB = Mannich base side chain.

base **1–5**. Introduction of one or two *t*-butyl-aminomethyl substituents into the aminophenol ring of compound **11** caused dramatic changes in chemical shifts of the surrounding protons. Distal from Mannich base side chain, proton signals of 7-chloroquinoline moiety, Hd (7.53 ppm), Hc (7.90 ppm), and Ha (8.44 ppm) were not affected by the introduction of Mannich base. The chemical shifts of aromatic protons of all new isotebuquine derivatives are listed in Table 1.

The structural assignment for compounds **12–14** was made using the same approach for the assignment of deoxy analogues **1–5**. Compounds **12–14** share the same basic structure with **1–5**, thus their NMR spectra are, as expected, similar for the most part (Table 1).

Experimental Section

Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes on a Mettler FP62 melting point apparatus (Mettler Toledo, USA) and are uncorrected. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Avance-300 spectrometer (Bruker Instrument, Inc., Wilmington, DE) at a frequency of 300.13 MHz. Chemical shifts are given in ppm (δ) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using HPLC-HLF normal phase 150 micrometer silica gel plates or silica gel GF/UF254, 500 micrometer plates (Analtech, Newark, DE). Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed with UV absorbance or iodine stain. Flash chromatography was conducted with silica gel 60 Å (200–400) mesh from Sigma-Aldrich Co. Solvents and reagents obtained from commercial sources were used without purification, unless noted. Reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen. Elemental analysis was performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc. (Norcross, GA). Where analyses are indicated by symbols of the elements, the analytical results obtained were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical values.

1-Bromo-3,5-dinitrobenzene (6).¹⁶ 1,3-Dinitrobenzene (10 g, 59.5 mmol) was dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid (60 mL) at 80 °C. *N*-Bromosuccinimide (14.83 g, 83.3 mmol) was added to

the reaction mixture in nine portions over 1.5 h (one addition every 10 min). The temperature of the mixture was kept at 80–90 °C during the addition. After the reaction was completed (30 min), the sulfuric acid solution was poured into ice water. The solid precipitate was collected, washed with water, and recrystallized from methanol to give 12.2 g (83%) of the desired product **6** as a pale yellow crystal, mp 77.2–77.8 °C (lit., 77–78 °C). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 9.03 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR: 148.85, 132.10, 123.88, 117.72. Anal. ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_4$) C, H, N.

1-Bromo-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzene (7).¹⁷ To the solution of compound **6** (12 g, 48.6 mmol) in dry methanol (120 mL) was added sodium methoxide (3.24 g, 60 mmol). The mixture was boiled for 2 h and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction was quenched by additional of 1 N solution of HCl, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2×250 mL). Organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and evaporated to dryness in vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with a gradient of 2% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 10–12% ethyl acetate in hexane to yield 9.25 g (82%) of **7** as a white solid, mp 86.9 °C (lit., 87.5 °C).¹⁷ ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.99 (t, $J = 1.83$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR: 160.62, 149.50, 123.92, 123.01, 118.98, 107.78, and 56.20.

4'-Chloro-5-methoxy-3-nitro-biphenyl (8a). **Method A.** Compound **7** (6.93 g, 30 mmol) and sodium carbonate (30 mL of 2 M solution) were suspended in a mixture of toluene and ethanol (120 mL, 4:1). To the bilayer mixture were sequentially added 4-chlorophenylboronic acid (5.16 g, 33 mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) palladium(0) with stirring. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere. On cooling to room temperature, the solution was poured onto ice water. Solid precipitate formed was collected, dried, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a gradient of 1% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 6.33 g (80%) of product **8a** as a pale yellow solid, mp 131.7 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.04 (t, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR: 160.53, 149.73, 142.44, 137.17, 134.89, 129.33, 128.41, 119.72, 114.41, 106.85, 56.04. MS (m/z): 264.11 (MH^+).

5-Methoxy-3-nitro-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl (8b). **Method B.** To the solution of compound **6** (2.7 g, 11.64 mmol) and 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenylboronic acid (2.43 g, 12.80 mmol) in the mixture of acetone and water (57 mL, 27:30) were added potassium carbonate (4.0 g, 29.0 mmol) and palladium(II) acetate (100 mg). The deep black mixture was refluxed for 4 h and allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2×150 mL), and the organic layer was passed through a layer of Celite. The solution was dried by Na_2SO_4 and evaporated in vacuum to dryness. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a gradient of 2% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 3.2 g (92%) of the desired product as a pale yellow solid, mp 54.6 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.08 (t, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.45 (t, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR: 160.61, 149.73, 142.17, 130.92, 130.48, 130.05, 129.68, 129.23, 127.56, 126.17, 126.12, 126.07, 126.02, 125.79, 122.19, 120.05, 118.7, 114.65, 107.40, 56.08. MS (m/z): 298.14 (MH^+).

4'-Chloro-5-methoxy-biphenyl-3-ylamine (9a). A solution of **8a** (6.0 g, 22.75 mmol) with a catalytic amount of 10% palladium on activated carbon (0.6 g, 10% of the weight) was hydrogenated in tetrahydrofuran under 40 psi pressure at room temperature for 2 h. The black mixture was passed through a thin layer of Celite, and the yellow solution was evaporated in vacuum to give 5.10 g (96%) of crude product as a gum, which was pure enough to be used for next step synthesis without further purification. A portion of the mixture was purified to give pure product as a gum. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.49 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.51 (t, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.49 (t, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.27 (t, $J = 2.1$

Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.78 (br s, 2H). ¹³C NMR: 161.15, 148.05, 142.33, 139.83, 133.36, 128.75, 128.35, 106.70, 103.30, 100.11, 55.28. MS (*m/z*): 234.13 (MH⁺).

5-Methoxy-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ylamine (9b). Compound **9b** was prepared by the same method as described for the preparation of **9a** in a quantitative yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (s, 4H), 6.56 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.1 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR: 161.21, 148.17, 144.93, 142.10, 130.18, 130.03, 129.60, 129.17, 127.38, 126.12, 125.62, 125.58, 125.53, 125.48, 122.52, 118.92, 106.89, 103.57, 100.55, 55.28. MS (*m/z*): 268.53 (MH⁺).

5-Amino-4'-chloro-biphenyl-3-ol (10a). To a solution of **9a** (5.0 g, 21.4 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (60 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere at -78 °C was slowly added a solution of boron tribromide (1.0 M, 27 mL) in dry dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 4 h. The brown solution was cooled with an ice bath, and to the solution was slowly added water (100 mL). The organic layer was separated, and the water layer was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane extracts were combined, washed successively with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to dryness in vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with dichloromethane followed by 5% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane to give 3.29 g (70%) of **10a** as a white solid, mp 242.7 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR: 158.30, 149.11, 141.62, 140.27, 132.63, 128.17, 127.89, 105.61, 103.72, 101.53. MS (*m/z*): 220.16 (MH⁺).

5-Amino-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (10b).²¹ To a solution of compound **9b** (2.6 g, 9.73 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (50 mL) was added boron tribromide methyl sulfide complex (10.9 g, 34.05 mmol), and the resulting mixture was refluxed overnight. The reaction was allowed to cool down to room temperature and was quenched with water. The organic phase was washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution followed by brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated in vacuum to dryness. The residue was purified using flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in chloroform followed by 30% ethyl acetate in chloroform to give 1.87 g (76%) of **10b** as an off-white solid, mp 185.3 °C. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 4H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR: 161.37, 149.29, 145.45, 141.33, 129.61, 129.27, 128.86, 128.43, 126.95, 126.31, 126.28, 125.12, 125.07, 125.02, 124.97, 122.69, 118.16, 105.83, 103.95, 102.02. MS (*m/z*): 254.19 (MH⁺).

4'-Chloro-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (11a). A solution of compound **10a** (3 g, 13.66 mmol) and 4,7-dichloroquinoline (2.71 g, 13.66 mmol) in ethanol (35 mL) was heated at reflux for 2 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The resulting precipitate was collected, washed with ethanol, and dried to give 5.1 g (98%) of **11a** as a yellow solid, mp >300 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 168.66, 150.92, 150.48, 148.81, 141.34, 140.85, 140.53, 135.07, 132.28, 128.17, 127.93, 126.20, 124.86, 123.42, 118.05, 114.80, 113.45, 108.07, 101.42. MS (*m/z*): 280.9 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₁H₁₄N₂OCl₂·0.4H₂O) C, H, N.

5-(7-Chloro-quinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (11b). Compound **11b** was prepared by the same procedure as described for the preparation of **11a** in a quantitative yield, mp 260 °C. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): as shown in Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 158.96, 151.11, 149.61, 148.86, 144.48, 142.00, 141.68, 135.43, 129.28, 128.97, 127.16, 126.39, 126.11, 125.40, 125.34, 125.29, 125.24, 123.39, 118.37, 112.88, 110.38, 109.53, 101.96. MS (*m/z*): 415.10 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₂H₁₄N₂OClF₃·0.9H₂O) C, H, N.

General Procedure for Synthesis of Mannich Base. A mixture of *tert*-butylamine (23 mmol) and 37% formaline (28 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (10 mL) was added to a solution of compound **11** (7 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The resulting precipitate was collected, washed with water followed by

ethanol, and recrystallized from chloroform to give bis-substituted Mannich base **3** as a pale yellow solid in 40% yield. The dimethylformamide filtrates were combined and diluted with cool water (100 mL). The precipitate obtained was collected, washed with water, and dried. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography eluting with mixture of CHCl₃:EtOAc:MeOH (10:1:1) to give compounds **2** and **5** which were recrystallized from CHCl₃/ether. Fractions, which contained both compounds **1** and **4**, were collected and evaporated in vacuum to dryness. The products were separated by fractional crystallization from methanol to give first pure **1**, and then compound **4**, which was recrystallized from ether.

6-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (1a). Yield: 18%, mp >220 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 163.48, 150.99, 149.59, 148.88, 143.04, 140.23, 139.57, 135.31, 133.05, 130.82, 128.07, 126.36, 125.23, 123.38, 118.31, 116.00, 112.92, 111.12, 101.76, 52.66, 41.24, 25.85. MS (*m/z*): 466.0 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₆H₂₅N₃OCl₂·0.2H₂O) C, H, N.

6-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (1b). Yield: 20%, mp >220 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 163.69, 151.01, 149.56, 148.88, 145.08, 141.82, 140.31, 135.12, 129.47, 129.11, 128.85, 126.36, 125.24, 124.92, 124.87, 124.82, 124.77, 123.38, 118.32, 116.03, 112.74, 111.46, 101.77, 52.54, 41.28, 25.89. MS (*m/z*): 250.6 (M + 2H⁺). Anal. (C₂₇H₂₅N₃OClF₃) C, H, N.

4-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (2a). Yield: 10%, mp >220 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 161.52, 151.21, 150.79, 148.89, 141.14, 139.01, 138.42, 135.44, 133.14, 128.53, 127.85, 126.49, 125.36, 123.17, 118.72, 117.94, 114.14, 113.11, 101.35, 52.17, 38.88, 26.29. MS (*m/z*): 466.0 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₆H₂₅N₃OCl₂) C, H, N.

4-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (2b). Yield: 10%, mp >200 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 163.80, 161.93, 152.00, 151.22, 150.74, 140.77, 138.93, 135.45, 130.64, 129.28, 126.94, 126.50, 125.43, 125.38, 125.31, 125.26, 123.18, 119.35, 117.63, 114.25, 113.51, 101.36, 52.80, 38.99, 26.29. MS (*m/z*): 500.0 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₇H₂₅N₃OClF₃) C, H, N.

4,6-Bis-(tert-butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (3a). Yield: 40%, mp >220 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 160.04, 151.12, 150.43, 148.71, 141.11, 139.38, 137.98, 135.34, 133.04, 130.38, 128.05, 126.49, 125.40, 123.15, 120.15, 118.54, 117.66, 114.98, 101.06, 52.21, 51.48, 41.18, 38.13, 26.76, 26.22. MS (*m/z*): 551.1 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₃₁H₃₆N₄OCl₂·1.9H₂O) C, H, N.

4,6-Bis-(tert-butylaminomethyl)-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (3b). Yield: 43%, mp 196 °C. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR: 162.32, 151.13, 150.29, 148.73, 144.94, 140.55, 137.99, 135.36, 129.54, 129.31, 128.80, 126.50, 125.24, 124.83, 124.79, 124.75, 124.70, 123.13, 121.15, 119.01, 117.68, 114.92, 101.01, 51.64, 50.89, 41.16, 37.99, 27.07, 26.45. MS (*m/z*): 293.1 (M⁺ + 2H). Anal. (C₃₂H₃₆N₄OClF₃) C, H, N.

2,6-Bis-(tert-butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (4a). Yield: 7%, mp >250 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): 161.73, 151.26, 149.07, 148.93, 141.91, 140.30, 138.05, 135.43, 133.30, 130.65, 128.34, 126.80, 125.25, 125.00, 122.94, 119.56, 118.13, 117.18, 110.90, 101.18, 52.48, 50.29, 41.89, 40.85, 27.44, 26.08. MS (*m/z*): 551.1 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₃₁H₃₆N₄OCl₂·0.75H₂O) C, H, N.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 10.22 (bs, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.36 (s, 2H), 1.12 (s, 9H), 1.05 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 158.82, 152.16, 150.04, 146.74, 141.15, 140.46, 138.11, 135.01, 133.40, 129.95, 128.70, 128.65, 125.46, 122.48, 119.07, 118.94, 116.20, 107.51, 102.38, 51.31, 50.68, 43.27, 41.84, 28.82, 28.44.

2,6-Bis-(tert-butylaminomethyl)-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (4b). Yield: 7%, mp >250 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): 161.46, 151.23, 148.89, 143.60, 141.76, 140.43, 135.44, 129.94, 129.70, 129.26, 126.45, 125.30, 125.04, 124.98, 123.03, 119.22, 118.14, 116.69, 110.94, 101.13, 52.69, 50.19, 41.74, 40.76, 27.19, 25.80. MS (*m/z*): 293.1 (M⁺ + 2H). Anal. (C₃₂H₃₆N₄OClF₃) C, H, N.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 5.6, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 3.32 (s, 2H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 1.02 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 159.09, 152.05, 149.92, 147.51, 143.59, 141.21, 140.45, 135.25, 130.05, 129.47, 129.10, 128.77, 125.61, 125.56, 125.50, 125.42, 122.47, 118.78, 118.67, 116.05, 107.87, 102.39, 51.39, 50.56, 43.22, 41.74, 28.69, 28.38.

2-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-5-(7-chloroquinolin-4-ylamino)-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl-3-ol (5b). Yield: 2%, mp >250 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): 157.09, 152.71, 150.04, 147.16, 145.67, 143.19, 142.35, 134.51, 130.27, 128.59, 128.50, 128.08, 127.65, 126.63, 125.72, 125.36, 125.33, 123.66, 123.02, 119.92, 118.77, 116.69, 112.31, 107.58, 102.35, 50.83, 41.47, 28.68. MS (*m/z*): 250.6 (M⁺ + 2H). Anal. (C₂₇H₂₅N₃-OCIF₃·0.25H₂O) C, H, N.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 2.1 and 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 5.6, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H).

4'-Chloro-5-(7-chloro-1-oxy-quinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (12). Compound **12** was prepared by the same method as that for synthesis of **11a** in a quantitative yield starting from 4,7-dichloroquinoline 1-oxide, mp >300 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, e), 8.59 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (br s, 1H), 7.11 (br s, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (br s, 1H). MS (*m/z*): 397.2 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₁H₁₄N₂O₂Cl₂·0.3H₂O) C, H, N.

6-(tert-Butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloro-1-oxy-quinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (13). To a suspension of compound **12** (4.3 g, 10.83 mmol) in DMF (300 mL) was added *tert*-butylamine (2.3 mL, 21.66 mmol) followed by 0.6 mL (21.66 mmol) of 37% formaldehyde. The mixture was heated at 65 °C for 1 day, and another equivalent mole each of *tert*-butylamine (1.15 mL, 10.83 mmol) and 37% formaldehyde (0.3 mL, 10.83 mmol) were added. Since *tert*-butylamine and formaldehyde are volatile, some of these reagents were lost during the heating, even with a water-cooling condenser. Over the course of 7 days, an additional 10 equiv of *tert*-butylamine and 37% formaldehyde were added. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, and insoluble starting material was recovered. The solvent was removed in vacuum. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography eluting with CHCl₃:EtOAc:MeOH:NH₄OH (10:1:1:0.04) to give crude product. Recrystallization from EtOAc yielded 0.74 g (14%) of pure final product **13** as a bright yellow solid, mp >250 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): δ 161.57, 146.72, 141.31, 140.20, 139.23, 138.72, 138.31, 137.99, 133.43, 128.61, 127.96, 127.90, 124.27, 118.87, 118.37, 118.19, 114.10, 113.56, 100.49, 51.93, 38.89, 26.78. MS (*m/z*): 482 (MH⁺). Anal. (C₂₆H₂₅N₃O₂Cl₂·H₂O) C, H, N, Cl

4,6-Bis-(tert-butylaminomethyl)-4'-chloro-5-(7-chloro-1-oxy-quinolin-4-ylamino)-biphenyl-3-ol (14). Compound **14** was isolated from the same reaction mixture as compound **13**. Yield: 25%, mp >250 °C dec. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): see Table 1. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): δ 167.11, 146.75, 143.16, 140.13, 139.23, 138.53, 138.23, 137.84, 133.51, 130.28, 128.29, 127.89, 124.69, 118.21, 118.12, 116.49, 115.84, 114.06, 100.73, 55.48, 55.05, 41.18, 38.98, 24.88. MS (*m/z*): 284.17 (M⁺ + 2H). Anal. (C₃₁H₃₆N₄O₂Cl₂·0.3H₂O) C, H, N.

Biological Studies. (i) In Vitro Antimalarial Studies. The *in vitro* assays were conducted by using a modification of the semiautomated microdilution technique of Desjardins et al.²² and

Table 2. Growth Inhibition of Isoquine Analogues against *P. falciparum* and Macrophage Line J774 Cell Lines

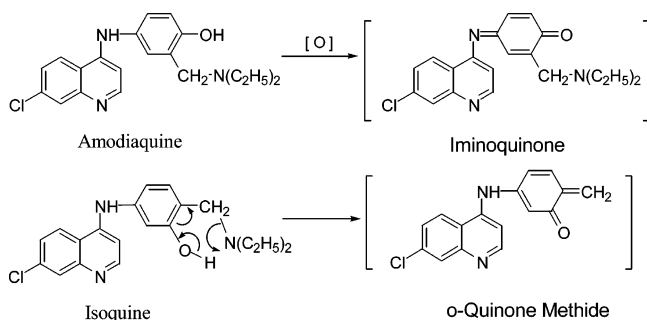
compd	macrophage line J774 (IC ₅₀ , μg/mL)	<i>P. falciparum</i> (IC ₅₀ ng/mL)		
		D6	W2	TM91C235
1a	6.1 ± 0.3	0.3	0.4	1.78
1b	11.6 ± 1.2	7.1	130.0	63.0
2a	1.6 ± 0.3	1.4	1.6	1.7
2b	1.7 ± 0.3	1.8	2.1	1.8
3a	3.6 ± 0.1	2.2	2.6	2.3
3b	0.75 ± 0.2	1.9	2.8	2.0
4a	2.8 ± 0.3	2.8	5.3	2.5
4b	ND	1.8	3.6	3.0
5b	ND	1.2	14.0	73
11a	ND	8.8	22.4	N/A
11b	ND	15	300	140
12	ND	397	> 1000	580
13	ND	4.3	9.2	8.8
14	ND	4.1	9.1	8.5
tebuquine- <i>N</i> ^o -oxide	7.2	1.5	0.9	2.3
tebuquine	1.8	0.1	0.04	N/A
chloroquine	ND	2.96	143.77	31.86

Chulay et al.²³ Three *P. falciparum* malaria parasite clones, from CDC Indochina III (W-2), CDC Sierra Leone I (D-6), and Southeast Asia Isolates (TM91C235), were utilized in susceptibility testing. They were derived by direct visualization and micromanipulation from patient isolates.²⁴ The W-2 clone is susceptible to mefloquine (MQ) but resistant to chloroquine (CQ), sulfadoxine, pyrimethamine, and quinine, whereas the D-6 clone is naturally resistant to MQ but susceptible to CQ, sulfadoxine, pyrimethamine, and quinine. The TM91C235 is a multi-drug resistance *P. falciparum* isolate from Southeast Asia. Test compounds were initially dissolved in DMSO and diluted 400-fold in RPMI 1640 culture medium supplemented with 25 mM Hepes, 32 mM NaHCO₃, and 10% Albumax I (Gibco BRL, Grand Island, NY). These solutions were subsequently serially diluted 2-fold with a Biomek 1000 (Beckman, Fullerton, CA) over 11 different concentrations. The parasites were exposed to serial dilutions of each compound for 48 h and incubated at 37 °C with 5% O₂, 5% CO₂, and 90% N₂ prior to the addition of [³H]-hypoxanthine. After a further incubation of 18 h, parasite DNA was harvested from each microtiter well using Packard Filtermate 196 Harvester (Meriden, CT) onto glass filters. Uptake of [³H]-hypoxanthine was measured with a Packard Topcount Scintillation. Concentration–response data were analyzed by a nonlinear regression logistic dose response model, and the IC₅₀ values (50% inhibitory concentrations) for each compound were calculated. The results are shown in Table 2.

(ii) In Vitro Toxicity Assay. Selected compounds were tested for toxicity *in vitro* against a subclone (G8) of the murine monocyte-like macrophage line J774. The cell line was obtained from Dr. Jose Alunda, Departamento de Sanidad Animal, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain. Murine cells were maintained in 75 cm² tissue culture flasks in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (GIBCO) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, 2 mM l-glutamine 50 μg/mL gentamicin under humidified 5% CO₂/95% air at 37 °C.

Toxicity tests were performed in 96-well tissue culture plates using an aqueous tetrazolium/formazan system as described.²⁵ Cells were plated at a density of 1 × 10⁴ cells/well in 100 μL of culture medium. After 24 h under culture conditions, 10 μL of drug (experimental) or solvent (control) diluted to the appropriate concentration in culture medium was added to each well. After the mixture was incubated for 72 h, 20 μL of a solution containing 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-sulfo-phenyl)-2H-tetrazolium, inner salt (MTS), (Technical Bulletin: CellTiter 96 Aqueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay Technical Bulletin #TB245, Promega Corporation) was added, and the plates were cultured for 1 to 2 h at 37 °C. A Spectra MAX Plus microtiter plate reader (Molecular devices) was used to measure the optical density (OD) at a wavelength of 490 nm. Solvent control values were subtracted from experimental values.

Scheme 5



(iii). **Antimalarial Studies against *P. berghei* in Mice.** The in vivo efficacy of the new compounds was determined in a modified Thompson test.^{26,27} This test measures the survivability of mice and parasite clearance following administration of drug on day 3–5 post infection. In brief, 5×10^6 *P. berghei*-infected erythrocytes (KBG-173 strain) were inoculated into the intraperitoneal cavity of male mice that weighed 24–30 g. By day 3 post-infection, parasitemia ranged from 1.0 to 3.7%. Each drug, suspended in 0.5% hydroxyethylcellulose–0.1% Tween 80, was administered orally (PO) once daily from day 3–5 post-infection. The volume of drug suspension given depends on the weight of the mouse and the drug concentration of the suspension. In general, the volume is given at 0.01 mL/gram of body weight.

Five mice were used in each dosage group. Blood films were taken on day 6 and biweekly for 31 days. Mice blood film negative on day 31 post-infection were considered cured (C). Compounds were considered active (A) when the survival time of the treated mice was greater than twice the control mice, i.e., 12–14 day. Mice losing >20% of their body weight were sacrificed.

Results and Discussion

In Vitro Antimalarial Activity. The antimalarial activity of the new isotebuquine analogues was assessed against both CQ-susceptible (D6) and CQ-resistant clones (W2 and TM91C235) of *P. falciparum* (Table 2). Tebuquine *N*^o-oxide and chloroquine were used as positive control for the study. Chloro derivative **1a** (IC₅₀ 0.3 ng/mL) is the most active among the compounds tested and is 20-fold more active than the corresponding trifluoromethyl analogue **1b**. No appreciable difference in antimalarial activities between chloro (**2a–4a**) and trifluoromethyl (**2b–5b**) analogues, however, were observed. The new analogues were better than or equal to tebuquine in growth inhibition against all three clones of *P. falciparum* studied. There appeared no cross resistance with CQ, except **1b**. In general, compounds with mono Mannich base side chain (**1a** and **2a**) are more active than those with two Mannich base functions (**3a** and **4a**). It is to be noted that the key intermediates **11a** and **11b** which possess no Mannich base side chain are also highly active against W2 clone in the test, with IC₅₀ of 8.8 and 15 ng/mL, respectively. However, both showed cross resistance to CQ, with IC₅₀ of 22.4 and 300 ng/mL, respectively, against D-6, a CQ-resistant cell line. The results are of no surprise from the structure–activity relationship and mechanism of action points of view. Structurally, intermediate **11a** and **11b** are analogues of CQ, while compounds **1–5** are isotebuquine analogues.

The amodiaquine was metabolized to an active metabolite, iminoquinone, which acts as an alkylating agent and is believed to be responsible for the toxicity and antimalarial activity observed. The isoquine analogues, however, cannot form iminoquinone, yet potentially can form *o*-quinone methide (Scheme 5) which, like iminoquinone, is an alkylating agent. Lacking a Mannich base side chain to generate quinone methide

active metabolite, compounds **11a** and **11b** are expected to act as chloroquine analogues rather than isoquine analogues and thus showed cross resistance with CQ. As expected, compounds with mono- or bis-Mannich base side chains showed no or minimum cross resistance to chloroquine (Table 2). The results clearly indicate that the mechanisms of action of the isoquine and the chloroquine are different, although both are 4-aminoquinoline derivatives.

In Vivo Antimalarial Activity against *P. berghei* in Mice. The three most active compounds—**1a**, **2a**, and **3a**—were tested in mice infected with *P. berghei* by oral administration (Thompson test). None showed significant activity on 3-day treatment with a daily dose up to 192 mg/kg. Likewise, the *N*-oxide analogues, **13** and **14**, possess only marginal activity with a minimum active dose of 450 mg/kg. The marginal efficacy results in Thompson test may be a result of poor oral bioavailability of these compounds

In Vitro Toxicity. Macrophage line J774 was used to assess the toxicity of the new Mannich base analogues synthesized in this study (Table 2). The results indicated that the concentration required to inhibit the normal cell line growth is 1000-fold higher than that for the inhibition of parasite growth, especially the chloroquine-sensitive cell line D-6, with therapeutic index of ≥ 1000 and is comparable to that of the positive control drug, tebuquine and tebuquine *N*^o-oxide.

Conclusion

Methods for synthesis of isotebuquine analogues and their *N*^o-oxides have been developed. New derivatives exhibit promising in vitro antimalarial activity against both chloroquine-sensitive (D6) and chloroquine-resistant (W2) clones of *P. falciparum* cell growth at a concentration comparable to that of tebuquine. However, the new isotebuquine analogues showed only marginal antimalarial activity in the Thompson test against *P. berghei* by oral administration. The poor solubility in organic solvents and water may be partially responsible for the poor oral activity observed.

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Supporting Information Available: Elemental analysis results. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Supporting Information

Synthesis and Antimalarial Activity of New Isotebuquine Analogs

Olga V. Miroshnikova, Thomas H. Hudson, Lucia Gerena, Dennis E. Kyle and Ai J. Lin*

Division of Experimental Therapeutics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 503
Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Elemental Analysis Data

Compd	Formula	Calcd	Found
1a	C ₂₆ H ₂₅ N ₃ OCl ₂ · 0.2 H ₂ O	C, 66.44; H, 5.45; N, 8.94	C, 66.56; H, 5.40; N, 9.01
1b	C ₂₇ H ₂₅ N ₃ OClF ₃	C, 64.86; H, 5.04; N, 8.40	C, 64.75; H, 5.03; N, 8.35
2a	C ₂₆ H ₂₅ N ₃ OCl ₂	C, 66.95; H, 5.40; N, 9.01	C, 66.62; H, 5.89; N, 8.42
2b	C ₂₇ H ₂₅ N ₃ OClF ₃	C, 64.86; H, 5.04; N, 8.40	C, 64.30 H, 5.05; N, 8.20
3a	C ₃₁ H ₃₆ N ₄ OCl ₂ · 1.9 H ₂ O	C, 63.56; H, 6.85; N, 9.56	C, 63.66; H, 6.54; N, 9.46
3b	C ₃₂ H ₃₆ N ₄ OClF ₃	C, 65.69; H, 6.20; N, 9.58	C, 65.77; H, 6.15; N, 9.47
4a	C ₃₁ H ₃₆ N ₄ OCl ₂ · 0.75 H ₂ O	C, 65.89; H, 6.69; N, 9.92	C, 65.82; H, 6.39; N, 9.75
4b	C ₃₂ H ₃₆ N ₄ OClF ₃	C, 65.69; H, 6.20; N, 9.58	C, 65.37; H, 6.11; N, 9.47
5b	C ₂₇ H ₂₅ N ₃ OClF ₃ · 0.25 H ₂ O	C, 64.29; H, 5.09; N, 8.33	C, 64.21; H, 4.92; N, 8.24
11a	C ₂₁ H ₁₄ N ₂ OCl ₂ · 0.4 H ₂ O	C, 64.93; H, 3.84; N, 7.21	C, 64.94; H, 3.49; N, 7.13
11b	C ₂₂ H ₁₄ N ₂ OClF ₃ · 0.9 H ₂ O	C, 61.31; H, 3.69; N, 6.50	C, 61.31; H, 3.49; N, 6.46
12	C ₂₁ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂ Cl ₂ · 0.3 H ₂ O	C, 62.64; H, 3.65; N, 6.96	C, 62.71; H, 3.58; N, 7.04
13	C ₂₆ H ₂₅ N ₃ O ₂ Cl ₂ · H ₂ O	C, 62.40; H, 5.44; N, 8.40	C, 62.40; H, 5.40; N, 8.24
14	C ₃₁ H ₃₆ N ₄ O ₂ Cl ₂ · 0.3 H ₂ O	C, 65.28; H, 6.55; N, 9.64	C, 65.03; H, 6.51; N, 9.52