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Synthesis of 1,2,3-triazole selenides with anti-T. cruzi activity

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Highlights

This work presents the synthesis of new 1,2,3-triazole selenides and their evaluation as a potential drug for Chagas disease.

Abstract

Chagas disease (CD) is classified by the UN as a neglected tropical disease, caused by the protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi* and causes more than 50,000 deaths a year. There are no major investments to improve the current treatment, which are only two medicaments available in the clinic since the 1940s.¹ Thus, research involving more efficient drugs for the treatment of CD is relevant to public health. In this work, we used a hybridization strategy combining organoselenium and 1,2,3-triazoles to design new 1,2,3-triazole selenides and evaluate their biological potential against T. cruzi. These two classes of compounds showed several biological activities such as antitumor, bactericidal, and antiprotozoal² and the combination of these two scaffolds appears as an alternative in the discovery of new drugs for the treatment of CD. The synthesis of the 1,2,3-triazole selenides (3a-p), was achieved by a 1,3-dipolar addition cycle with the copper and ascorbate catalytic system - as described in the scheme 1 - with aromatic azides 1 and terminal alkynes 2, previously prepared · 2,3 A series of 16 new compounds were obtained with yields ranging from 40 to 90% and confirmed by ¹H-NMR.

$$\begin{array}{c} N_3 \\ R^2 - X \\ R^1 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} CuSO_4.5H_2O \\ Sodium \ ascorbate \\ CH_2Cl_2:H_2O \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} N \\ N \\ R^2 \\ N \\ X = Se \ or \ S \\ \textbf{3a-p} \\ 40-90\% \end{array}$$

Scheme 1. Synthesis of new 1,2,3-triazole selenides

R% 75 4-CI-C-H 60 16.8 36 90 112 3] 4-CH₃-C₂H₄ 3c 31 3d 4-NO2-C2H4 42 >64 H 4,6-CH₃-C₃H 50 39.2 127 н 84 3m H 63 3f 2-CI-C₂H₄ H 56 15,2 3n H Naphtyl 80 9.8 3o* 40

Table 1. Yields and structures of 3a-p molecules and their respective antiprotogoal activity

The ability of these compounds to kill the protozoan T. cruzi was demonstrated through IC_{50} values described in Table 1. Seven of them were considered active, with derivatives 3m and 3n being the best in the series, considered potential candidates against CD. Since the effectiveness of a drug is related to its ability to penetrate biological barriers to reach the target site and induce its activity, the oral bioavailability of these compounds was predicted by Swissadme Web Tool and a moderate outcome was predicted for all compounds. In addition, other tests are being finalized, mainly to determine the mode of action of 3m-n, and cytotoxicity results showed high selectivity of these hybrids. In conclusion, the series of new hybrid molecules with triazoles and chalcogen moieties fractions were synthesized and presented excellent results as possible new drugs against CD.

Acknowledgments

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