Supporting Information

Evaluation of the pharmacophoric role of the O-O bond in synthetic anti-leishmanial compounds: comparison between 1,2-dioxanes and tetrahydropyrans

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X-ray crystallography

The X-ray intensity data were measured on a Bruker Apex II CCD diffractometer. Cell dimensions, and the orientation matrix were initially determined from a least-squares refinement on reflections measured in three sets of 20 exposures, collected in three different ω regions, and eventually refined against all data. A full sphere of reciprocal space was scanned by 0.3° ω steps. The software SMART¹ was used for collecting frames of data, indexing reflections and determination of lattice parameters. The collected frames were then processed for integration by the SAINT program,¹ and an empirical absorption correction was applied using SADABS.² The structures were solved by direct methods (SIR 2014)³ and subsequent Fourier syntheses and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F² (SHELXTL),⁴ using anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. The aromatic, methylene, methine and methyl hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions, refined with isotropic thermal parameters $U(H) = 1.2 \ Ueq(C)$ or $U(H) = 1.5 \ Ueq(C_{methyl})$ and allowed to ride on their carrier carbons. Molecular drawings were generated using Mercury.⁵



Figure S1. Determination of the relative stereochemistry of 2-methoxy tetrahydropyran **9b** through X-ray crystallographic analysis (thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 30% of the probability level).

Compound	9b
Formula	$C_{21}H_{24}O_4$
Fw	340.40
T, K	296
λ, Å	0.71073
Crystal symmetry	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_{l}/c$
a, Å	7.8520(7)
b, Å	19.4333(19)
<i>c</i> , Å	12.8156(13)
α	90
β	106.256(3)
γ	90
Cell volume. Å ³	1877.4(3)
Ζ	4
D_c , Mg m ⁻³	1.204
μ (Mo-K _{α}), mm ⁻¹	0.082
F(000)	728
Crystal size/ mm	0.20 x 0.15 x 0.10
θ limits, °	1.959 - 24.999
Reflections collected	16176
Unique obs. Reflections $[F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)]$	3143 [R(int) = 0.1289]
Goodness-of-fit-on F ²	1.072
$R_1(F)^a$, $wR_2(F^2)^b [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0978, 0.2296
Largest diff. peak and hole, e. Å ⁻³	0.287 and -0.378

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **9b**.

^a $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$. ^b $wR_2 = [\Sigma w (F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \Sigma w (F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$ where $w = 1 / [\sigma^2 (F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + F_c^2) / 3$.

Cis-stereopreference in tetrahydropyrans 9

The favored *cis* relative stereochemistry established by X-ray crystallographic analysis for product **9b** was extended to the other tetrahydropyrans **9a** and **9c** obtained using the same stereoselective synthetic approach (Scheme S1).



Scheme S1. Reagents and conditions: Pd/C (20% w/w), H₂ (filled balloon), MeOH, rt, 12-16 h.

In Scheme S2 we present a hypothesis which could explain the *cis*-stereopreference in the construction of tetrahydropyrans **9**.



Scheme S2. Hypothesis justifying the *cis*-stereoselective synthesis of tetrahydropyran 9a.

Susceptibility test on *Leishmania* promastigotes with 10% FBS in the HOMEM assay medium

As the 20% FBS that is employed in the assay medium is a very nutrient- and antioxidant-rich environment, which could potentially prevent a stronger activation of endoperoxides 2 in comparison to the non-peroxidic analogs 3, we performed additional susceptibility tests for selected compounds by employing *L. donovani* cultures in HOMEM 10% FBS and we compared the results with those obtained by employing 20% FBS.

We observed a slight reduction of the IC_{50} of all the tested compounds with 10% FBS in the assay medium as compared to 20% FBS. However, the bioactivities of endoperoxides **2** and tetrahydropyrans **3** remained comparable, suggesting a not significant pharmacophoric role of the O-O bond also under these bioassay-conditions. The antioxidant-rich environment (ie 20% FBS) does not appear to play a significant role in blocking the activation of endoperoxides. We can speculate that the increased antileishmanial activity of both peroxides and tetrahydropyrans in the presence of 10% FBS can be caused by a decreased parasite vitality with lower FBS concentration.

Table S2. Inhibitory activity of tetrahydropyrans **3** and endoperoxides **2** against promastigotes of *L*. *donovani* in the presence of 20% FBS and 10% FBS, respectively, in the medium.

Compound	IC ₅₀ 20% FBS	IC ₅₀ 10% FBS
3 a	3.4	1.9
2a	7.5	2.7
3b	5.8	3.2
2b	6.3	1.2

Cytotoxicity in THP-1 cell line

We performed additional cytotoxicity tests employing THP-1 cell line. We also calculated the corresponding selectivity indexes, as the ratio between CC_{50} of THP-1 cell line and IC_{50} on amastigotes of *L. donovani*.

We found that three compounds **3a**, **3d** and **2d** showed a slightly higher cytotoxic effect on THP-1 cells than on VERO cells. On the other hand, compounds **2a**, **3b** and **2b** showed a lower cytotoxic effect on THP-1 cells than on VERO cells; thus showing a not significant variance of selectivity index.

Table S3. Inhibitory activity of tetrahydropyrans **3** and endoperoxides **2** against amastigotes of *L*. *donovani*, cytotoxicity in human acute monocytic leukemia cell line (THP-1) and selectivity index (SI).

Tetrahydropyran	IC ₅₀	CC ₅₀	STd	Endoperoxide	IC ₅₀	CC ₅₀	STd
3 ^a	$\left(\mu M\right)^{b}$	$(\mu M)^c$	51	2ª	$(\mu M)^b$	$(\mu M)^c$	51
	3.4 ±0.6	26.0	7.6		12.2 ±1.2	86.0	7.0
Ph Ph O O Me 3b	3.2 ±0.9	50.0	15.6		5.0 ±1.0	52.5	10.5
$\begin{array}{c} & \overset{N \geq N}{\underset{Ph}{\longrightarrow}} & Br \stackrel{\ominus}{\underset{Ph}{\longrightarrow}} \\ & \overset{N \geq N}{\underset{Ph}{\longrightarrow}} & PPh_{3} \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\$	2.8 ±0.7	64.1	22.9	$Ph \xrightarrow{N = N}_{O-O} OMe PPh_{3}$	16.5 ±1.5	142.5	8.6

^a Compounds tested as racemates. ^b IC₅₀ represents the concentration of a compound that causes 50% growth inhibition. Results represent the mean (\pm standard deviation, SD) of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. ^c CC₅₀ represents 50% cytotoxic concentration on THP-1 cells. ^d Selectivity index (SI) = CC₅₀/IC₅₀.

Effect of iron chelator DFO on bioactivity of 2b and 3b

As for compounds **2a** and **3a**, we evaluated the bioactivity of tetrahydropyran **3b** and endoperoxide **2b** against promastigotes of *L. donovani* in the presence of the iron chelator DFO to investigate whether the IC₅₀ values of these compounds were affected by the presence of DFO. The investigation was performed by co-incubating **2b** and **3b** with DFO at different concentrations (100 μ M, 50 μ M, 25 μ M, 15 μ M). Table S4 shows how the different doses of DFO don't adduct visible variation of IC₅₀ of the compounds, thus confirming a scarce influence of the iron on the compound bioactivity, confirming the same behavior observed for **2a** and **3a**.

Table S4. Inhibitory activity of tetrahydropyran **3b** and endoperoxide **2b** against promastigotes of *L*. *donovani* in the presence or absence of the iron chelator DFO.

Compound ^a	DFO (µM)	IC ₅₀ (μM) ^b
	-	6.6
	100	4.9
NH NH	50	6.6
Ph Ph OMe	25	7.5
0 30	15	7.5
	-	7.5
	100	5.1
	50	5.5
Ph Ph O-O	25	5.3
20	15	6.0

^a Compounds tested as racemates. ^b IC_{50} represents the concentration of a compound that causes 50% growth inhibition. DFO = desferrioxamine.

The isobole technique depicts synergistic (FIC values < 0.5) or antagonistic (FIC values > 4.0) interactions between DFO and the two tested compounds. Has shown in Figure S2, combination of DFO with **2b** or **3b** resulted in additive effects, since no antagonism or synergism was observed. The same trend of compounds **2a** and **3a** was confirmed.



Figure S2. Isobolograms depicting the interaction of: **A**) tetrahydropyran **3b** with iron chelator DFO; **B**) endoperoxide **2b** with iron chelator DFO. Dark grey line is line of additivity. X axes depict the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC; FIC = IC_{50} of the drug in the combination/ IC_{50} of the drug when tested alone). Y axes depict the fractional of DFO. Square in the figure indicates Σ FIC values from each drug combination.

Effect of the iron chelator DFP on bioactivity of 2a and 3a

To investigate the role of iron in the activation of compounds 2a and 3a, we also tested these compounds against promastigotes of *L. donovani* in the presence of the iron chelator Deferiprone (DFP), which is a more lipophilic iron-chelator than DFO.

 $IC_{50} (DFP) = 219 \ \mu M; \ CC_{50} (DFP) = 143 \ \mu M.$

Table S5. Inhibitory activity of tetrahydropyran **3a** and endoperoxide **2a** against promastigotes of *L*. *donovani* in the presence or absence of the iron chelator DFP.

Compound ^a	DFP (µM)	IC50 (µМ) ^b
~	-	3.4
	200	4
	100	6.2
	50	6.5
	25	6.1
	-	7.5
	200	7.1
NH	100	15
	50	13.2
5 5 2a	25	13

^a Compounds tested as racemates. ^b IC_{50} represents the concentration of a compound that causes 50% growth inhibition. DFP = deferiprone.

Also in this case, we observed a not significant variation of the IC_{50} values when the concentration of the iron-chelator was modified. At the highest concentration of the iron-chelator, the lowest IC_{50} was recorded, confirming the activity of these compounds even in the absence of low molecular weight iron-species.

As shown in isobolograms depicted in Figure S3, we observed a not significant variation of the IC_{50} values when the concentration of the iron-chelator increased. FIC values for both compounds are > 0.5 and < 4, therefore no antagonism or synergism was observed.



Figure S3 Isobolograms depicting the interaction of: **A**) tetrahydropyran **3a** with iron chelator DFP; **B**) endoperoxide **2a** with iron chelator DFP. Light purple line is line of additivity. X axes depict the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC; FIC = IC₅₀ of the drug in the combination/IC₅₀ of the drug when tested alone). Y axes depict the fractional of DFP. Square in the figure indicates Σ FIC values from each drug combination.

Calculated LogP

The LogP values of the compounds tested on *L. donovani* promastigotes were calculated using the software ChemDraw Professional 15.0.









tPSA: 64.88 CLogP: 8.7696 CMR: 20.95 LogS: -11.27 pKa: N/A



tPSA: 55.65 CLogP: 9.0906 CMR: 21.1337 Log5: -11.2 pKa: N/A







Estimation of logarithm of Partition Coefficient [n-Octanol/Water] Log(p) Log(p).....: 8.16 st..deviation.: 0.47 by Crippen's fragmentation: J.Chem.Inf.Comput.Sci.,27,21(1987). Log(p).....: 7.97 st..deviation.: 0.49 by Viswanadhan's fragmentation: J.Chem.Inf.Comput.Sci.,29,163(1989).

NMR spectra



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¹H NOEDIFF NMR analysis.

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4.5 4.4 4.3 4.2 4.1 4.0 3.9 3.8 3.7 3.6 3.5 3.4 3.3 3.2 3.1 3.0 2.9 2.8 2.7 2.6 2.5 2.4 2.3 2.2 2.1 2.0 1.9 1.8 1.7 1.6 1.5 1.4 1.3 1.2 1.1 1.0 0.9 0.8 0.7 0.6 0.5 ppm

HPLC analyses

Compound **3a** (*method B*):

Compound **3b** (*method A*):

Compound **3c** (*method B*):

Compound **3d** (*method B*):

1 1.3	221 PB	0.1721	472.37149	34.84964	100.0000

Compound **3e** (*method A*):

References

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