

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION DATA SHEET



ORIGINAL

misc.



REVISION NO. _____

Project No. G 33-601DATE: 8-7-81Project Director: H. H. HermanSchool/Lab ChemistrySponsor: American Heart Association, Georgia Affiliate, Inc., 2581
Wilhelm Road NE, P.O. Box 13589, Atlanta, Ga 30324Type Agreement: Grant-In-Aid Agreement - (No Number)Award Period: From 7-1-81 To 6-30-82 (Performance) 6-30-82 (Reports)Sponsor Amount: \$ 21,934

Contracted through: _____

Cost Sharing: N/A

GTRI/GE

Title: Bioassay of Novel Antihypertensive Agents

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

OCA CONTACT

Sponsor Technical Contact: _____

Don Hastin
Mr James E. Allen
Executive Director

Sponsor Admin./Contractual Contact: _____

above address
phone - (404) 261-2260

Reports: See Deliverable Schedule

Security Classification: N/ADefense Priority Rating: N/A

RESTRICTIONS

See Attached

N/A

Supplemental Information Sheet for Additional Requirements.

Level: Foreign travel must have prior approval - Contact OCA in each case. Domestic travel requires sponsor approval where total will exceed greater of \$500 or 125% of approved proposal budget category. N/A - None ProposedEquipment: Title vests with Sponsor, since Agreement is silent regarding Title.Comments: Sponsor's Research Policies re expenditures of Grant funds referred to in par. 4 of agreement are not available at time of initiation. Copies will be distributed as soon as received by OCA.

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SPONSORED PROJECT TERMINATION SHEETDate 6/7/83

Project Title: Bioassay of Novel Antihypertensive Agents

Project No: G-33-601

Project Director: Dr. Heath H. Herman

Sponsor: American Heart Association, Georgia Affiliate

Effective Termination Date: 6/30/82Clearance of Accounting Charges: 6/30/82

Grant/Contract Closeout Actions Remaining:

- ☐ Final Invoice and Closing Documents
- ☒ Final Fiscal Report
- ☒ Final Report of Inventions
- ☒ ~~Govt.~~ Property Inventory & Related Certificate
- ☐ Classified Material Certificate
- ☐ Other _____

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TERMINAL REPORT

I. Project Investigator: Heath H. Herman, Ph. D.

Project Title: Bioassay of Novel Antihypertensive Agents

Period of Support: July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982

II. Project Report

The research work

The research work supported by the American Heart Association Georgia Affiliate in the above-mentioned project has been quite productive. This project has as its purpose the initial enzymatic investigation and the initial bioassay of the adrenergic activity of a number of novel adrenergic neurotransmitter analogs which are considered to have potential as new antihypertensive proto-drugs. In the work performed under the auspices of this grant we have used a continuous O_2 monitor developed in this laboratory (Phillips, et al. (1980) Fed. Proc. 39, 2936) to perform the enzymatic assays for dopamine-beta-hydroxylase (DBH) activity and for monoamine oxidase (MAO). We have used three different types of bioassay methods in the testing of our prototype compounds. These were: (1) rabbit ileal segment contraction assays of adrenergic receptor agonism and antagonism; (2) anesthetized dog blood pressure and heart rate monitoring with intravenous infusion of prototype compounds; and (3) spontaneously hypertensive rat (SHR) tail-cuff systolic blood pressure monitoring with subcutaneous application of prototype compounds.

By way of background, we have designed and synthesized prototypic compounds of three distinct classes which were the subjects of investigation in this project. These classes of compounds were: (1) Ketone-generating analogs; (2) Olefinic analogs; (3) Sulfur-containing analogs. Our results with each of these classes will be discussed separately (see original proposal for more detail).

Ketone-Generating Analogs

In the original proposal, we mentioned our discovery of the oxygenation of secondary alcohols by DBH. This work was published (JBC 256, 2258, 1981) and a

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int is attached to this report. Two extensions of this enzymatic ketonization were also published during the grant period and are also attached (JBC 256, 8470, and BBRC 104, 38, 1981). We have recently found that S-octopamine is a poor substrate for MAO, with a K_m at least one power of ten greater than comparable substrates, although this work is still preliminary. In in vitro and in vivo experimentation using the methods outlined earlier, we have found that: (1) S-octopamine possesses very little alpha- or beta-adrenergic agonistic activity; (2) this compound possesses very little adrenergic antagonistic activity in vitro (at least 10^2 than propranolol) and similarly, in vivo, appears to exert very little adrenergic antagonistic activity; and (3) at large doses (ca. 1 mg/kg) S-octopamine causes an indirect sympathomimetic effect in anesthetized dogs when given intravenously.

Enimic Analogs

In our original proposal we suggested working with two olefinic prototypic compounds. One of these, 1-phenyl-(1-aminomethyl)ethene (PAME), has proved to be an exciting find. To recapitulate, we theorized that an unsaturated functionality attached at the benzylic position in a molecule designed to resemble a DBH substrate would "fool" the enzyme into attempting to oxygenate this double bond with the resulting formation of a highly reactive epoxide (see original proposal for structure details). This prediction has now been almost completely realized. PAME is an excellent substrate for oxygenation by DBH and the 1:2 oxygen to electron stoichiometry we have determined is diagnostic of oxygenation by the normal monooxygenase pathway. We have determined a K_m of 8.3 mM and a k_{cat} of 10/sec for PAME using the thin layer monitor kinetics assay method. Most importantly, we have conclusively demonstrated time-dependant inactivation of DBH by PAME and have shown that this inactivation is irreversible to dialysis and is ascorbate dependent. Additionally, we have now identified the ultimate product of DBH oxygenation of PAME as the 1-phenyl-1-aminomethyl-glycol which we contend is derived from the initial epoxide by hydrolysis. In similar oxygen-uptake experiments, we have demonstrated that PAME is an excellent MAO substrate, with a K_m of 1.2 mM and a k_{cat} of 0.5/sec. In in vitro and

in vivo experiments, we have found that PAME is not a direct adrenergic agonist at either alpha or beta receptors and is a very weak adrenergic antagonist. It is, however, a potent indirect sympathomimetic with characteristics similar to those of amphetamine discussed previously. The work with PAME discussed above is currently being organized into a large paper which will be submitted this fall to the Journal of Biological Chemistry. Because PAME will be the first demonstration of the oxidation of an olefin by DBH, and because of its potential significance for medical research (discussed here in the conclusions), we believe that this paper will be quite significant.

para-Containing Analogs

Our final class of novel neurotransmitter analogs has proved to be the most interesting of all, and the work reported below holds the most promise for an eventual development into an actual clinical tool. To recapitulate, we had earlier found that DBH catalyzed the oxygenation of benzylic sulfides when the sulfur atom was incorporated into a phenylethylamine-like molecule of our own design (JACS 102, 5981, 1980). Subsequent work led to the development of a series of para-substituted sulfide analogs whose kinetic characteristics in DBH-catalyzed oxygenations led to new evidence for the enzymatic mechanism (see attached reprint, JBC 256, 8470, 1981). Work carried out under the auspices of this grant, we have found that our prototype sulfur compound, phenyl-2-aminoethylsulfide (PAES), is quite an excellent MAO substrate, with a K_m of 0.08 mM and a k_{cat} of 0.63/sec. Thus, PAES is the best substrate for MAO of all of our prototypic compounds, a fact of some significance, as will be discussed below. In in vitro and in vivo adrenergic receptor assays, PAES and our other analogs, proved to have very little alpha- or beta-adrenergic agonist activity. Similarly, PAES exerts a very small adrenergic antagonism at the receptor level. Again, as was the case for our other two classes of compounds, PAES proved to have no significant indirect sympathomimetic activity in intravenous infusions into anesthetized dogs at large doses (ca. 1 mg/kg). In a detailed series of dose response experiments with PAES infusion into anesthetized dogs however, a number of

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king findings were observed. First, the supposition that PAES was exerting an direct sympathomimetic effect was confirmed in a number of experiments in which its effects were completely blocked by cocaine pretreatment. Secondly, we have demonstrated that reserpine pretreatment (3 mg/kg, 24 hours) also completely blocks the direct sympathomimetic effects of PAES. Thus, PAES is somehow interfering with a mechanism involving the catecholamine reuptake system and vesicular storage of neurotransmitter in adrenergic neurons. These findings led us to a series of in vivo experiments using anesthetized dogs in which the ability of the sympathetic reflex control of blood pressure was examined after pretreatment with a fixed dose of PAES. The results of these experiments were quite remarkable. In one series of experiments we used hydralazine, a known vasodilator, to elicit a sympathetic reflexive increase in heart rate. After pretreatment with 4 mg/kg PAES, this reflexive tachycardia to hydralazine was abolished, suggesting that sympathetic nerve pathways were unable to respond to the hypotension caused by hydralazine. Similarly, the β_2 response in arterial smooth muscle to norepinephrine (a relaxation leading to decreases in blood pressure) were much prolonged after pretreatment with the same dose of PAES, again suggesting a diminution of sympathetic reflex activity. These results have been incorporated into a manuscript presently under review for publication in the Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and a copy of this manuscript is appended herein.

Finally, we have obtained evidence for a direct antihypertensive effect for PAES by examining its effects on SHR. Using age-matched SHR males we have examined the effects of chronic administration of 5, 10, 25, and 50 mg/kg subcutaneous injections of PAES, measuring the systolic blood pressure of the conscious animal using an indirect tail-cuff plethysmographic method. The animals remained conscious at all times during the experimentation, betrayed no behavioral changes as a result of the treatment, and sustained no weight losses as a result of the treatment. We have found that the drug is non-toxic in this model up to the highest levels tested so far.

that its blood pressure-lowering effects are reversible after withdrawal of the g. In our most striking experiment to date, groups of SHR and saline-treated SHR controls received either 50 mg/kg PAES or saline (1 mg/kg) s.q. at 24 hour intervals seven consecutive days. Blood pressure monitoring revealed a 15-20 % reduction in the PAES-treated group, apparent at 24 hours, and maintained for seven days. These results suggest that the antihypertensive potential of these compounds is well worth continued investigation.

Conclusions-- Lay Summary

Our success in the synthesis, enzymatic testing, and bioassay of these three new classes of adrenergic analogs is a result of an exciting and highly productive collaboration between biochemists at Ga. Tech and pharmacologists at Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy. We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of our findings with respect to the biological activity of our sulfur-containing analog, PAES. Its direct antihypertensive activity and its ability to act synergistically with a currently-used vasodilatory antihypertensive, hydralazine, to remove the reflexive cardioacceleratory side-effects suggest that PAES has a high potential for the eventual development into an important clinical tool. The parallel indications of indirect sympathomimesis with test compounds from the other two classes suggest that they too might exhibit similar effects upon closer examination. Additionally, our findings with respect to our olefinic analogs suggest that they could be used to selectively down-regulate sympathetic activity by inactivating dopamine beta-hydroxylase molecules and thus lowering norepinephrine synthesis.

III. Collaborators

Dr. Stanley H. Pollock, Assoc. Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy was the Collaborating Investigator on this grant. His help has proved to be invaluable in the critical pharmacological evaluation of our test compounds. In the design of bioassay experiments, the interpretation of biological results and the training of technicians and students in the work

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formed under this grant, he has proved to be a great asset to this effort. Also, . Sheldon W. May, Professor of Biochemistry at Ga. Tech, who was a consultant on this project has contributed quite significantly to the planning and execution of these experiments. He is an expert in the oxygenation of olefinic substrates by a number of enzymes, and it was in his laboratories that PAME was conceived and tested. Several of his graduate students have worked on this project and have both learned and contributed to the work of this project. Our technician, Julie Lange, was first an undergraduate researcher in Dr. May's group who, after graduation, worked full time on this project over the last year. Stephen Padgett and Jin Hee Han, both graduate students at Ga. Tech, have worked on this project and have had the opportunity to expand their biochemistry training to include pharmacology and bioassay experimentation.

IV. Publications Resulting

A. Abstracts:

Herman, H.H., Mueller, P.W., Padgett, S.R., Pollock, S.H., Phillips, R.S. AND May, S.W. (1982) Fed. Proc. Amer. Soc. Exptl. Biol. 41, 1588.

Herman, H.H., Pollock, S.R., Han, J.H., Lange, J.R., and May, S.W. (1983) Fed. Proc. (in preparation).

B. Presentations

abstract above was presented at the national meeting of FASEB in New Orleans, La. in April, 1982 by Heath H. Herman.

C. Manuscripts

Herman, H.H., Pollock, S.R., Padgett, S.R., and May, S.W. (1982) Phenyl 2-Aminoethyl sulfide: Effects on the Cardiovascular responses of the Anesthetized Dog. J. Cardiovas. Pharm. (submitted and provisionally accepted - MS #8293).

Herman, H.H., Padgett, S.R., Mueller, P.W., Phillips, R.S., and May, S.W. (1982) Phenyl 1-Aminomethyl Ethene: A Novel Olefinic DBH Substrate and Neurotransmitter Analog. J. Biol. Chem. (in preparation).

V. Research Continuation

Unfortunately, the work of this project cannot continue at the pace of

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e past year. Our inability to secure a Continuation from the Ga. Affiliate of
e AHA at its May, 1982 meeting (when none of these results were apparent) has
ant that we have had to let go our technician, Julie Lange. Also, because of the
gh cost of the animals necessary for the indicated experimentation, we will have
greatly reduce this aspect of our work.

We will apply for another grant from the Ga. Affiliate of the American Heart
Association in the coming weeks, however, although at best this will mean that
oncentrated work will begin again in the summer of 1983. A limited amount of
ork will continue on this project using the laboratories of Dr. S. W. May at
a. Tech, under whom Dr. Herman will work as a researcher on an unrelated grant.