

Esters of Quinoxaline 1,4-Di-N-oxide with Cytotoxic Activity on Tumor Cell Lines Based on NCI-60 Panel

Gildardo Rivera^a, Syed Shoaib Ahmad Shah^b, Daniel Arrieta-Baez^c, Isidro Palos^d, Antonio Mongue^e and Luvia Enid Sánchez-Torres^{f*}

^aCentro de Biotecnología Genómica, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Reynosa, México.

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. ^cCentro de Nanociencias y Micro y Nanotecnología, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Ciudad de México, México. ^dDepartamento de Química Aplicada, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Reynosa, México. ^eNeglected Diseases Section, Drug R&D Unit, Center for Applied Pharmacobiology Research, University of Navarra, Pamplona, España. ^fDepartamento de Inmunología, Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Ciudad de México, México.

Abstract

Quinoxalines display diverse and interesting pharmacological activities as antibacterial, antiviral, antiparasitic and anticancer agents. Particularly, their 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives have proved to be cytotoxic agents that are active under hypoxic conditions as that of solid tumours. A new series of quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide substitutes at 7-position with esters group were synthesized and characterized by infrared (IR), proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR), spectroscopy, and elemental analysis. Seventeen derivatives (M1-M3, E1-E8, P1-P3 and DR1-DR3) were selected and evaluated for antitumor activities using the NCI-60 human tumor cell lines screen. Results showed that E7, P3 and E6 were the most active compounds against the cell lines tested. Substitutions at 7-position with esters group not necessarily affect the biological activity, but the nature of the esters group could exert an influence on the selectivity. Additionally, substitutions at 2-position influenced the cytotoxic activity of the compounds.

Keywords: Antitumor; Cancer; Drugs; Esters; Quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxide.

Introduction

Cancer remains a major cause of death affecting millions of people and is caused by the growth and spreading of abnormal cells in an uncontrolled manner. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide that accounted for 8.2 million deaths in 2012. In addition to the extensive use of irradiation and surgical treatment, chemotherapy still plays an important

role for the treatment of cancer (1). In this context, the search for novel chemotherapeutic agents is an interesting and continually evolving field of cancer research. Although major advances have been made in the chemotherapeutic management of patients with certain types of cancer, the continued commitment to the laborious task of discovering new anticancer agents remains critically important.

In the course of identifying various chemical substances which may serve as leads for designing novel antitumor agents, many classes of organic compounds have been tested, with special attention being paid to nitrogen

* Corresponding author:

E-mail: *luriasanchez@hotmail.com

heterocycles, five- and six-membered rings. Quinoxaline (benzopyrazine) is a heterocyclic compound containing fused benzene and pyrazine rings and it is an isomer of quinazoline. Quinoxalines display diverse and interesting pharmacological activities as antibacterial, antiviral, antiparasitic and anticancer agents (2-8). Particularly, their 1,4-di-*N*-oxide have proved to be cytotoxic agents that are active under hypoxic conditions as that of solid tumours (6, 9-12). Additionally, this kind of derivatives has shown anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activities both interesting properties against cancer cells (3, 13). The identification of drugs with selective toxicity toward hypoxic cells is an important objective in anticancer chemotherapy and quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxides could provide useful hypoxia-selective therapeutic agents.

In the present work, we are interested in quinoxaline 1, 4-di-*N*-oxide derivatives which have been identified as a new class of cancer chemotherapeutic agents with significant therapeutic efficacy against solid tumours (11-12). It is reported that the antitumor activity can be increased by introducing electron-withdrawing groups in one of both positions 6 and 7 on the quinoxaline ring and in the unsubstituted analogues (14). Therefore, a new series of quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide substitutes at 7-position with esters group were synthesized and evaluated for antitumor activities using the NCI-60 human tumor cell lines screen (15).

Experimental

Chemical compounds

The Beirut reaction was the general procedure used for synthesis of quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide derivatives, as described in previous report (16, 17). Quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide derivatives (M1-M3, E1-E8 and P1-P3) synthesis was achieved by the reaction of the corresponding diketone derivative (10.6 mmol) with the appropriate benzofuroxane *N*-oxide (2.4 mmol) in dry chloroform (35 mL). Triethylamine (TEA) was added (1 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3–7 days. After evaporation to dryness at low pressure, crude solid or brown oil was obtained. This was then precipitated and washed by adding diethyl ether,

affording the target compound. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, when necessary using dichloromethane: methanol (95:5). Quinoxaline di-reduced (DR1-DR3) was achieved by the reaction of the corresponding quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide with sodium dithionite (18). All compounds were characterized by infrared (IR), proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) spectroscopy, and elemental analysis.

Methyl quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives

Methyl 2-amide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (M1)

This compound was obtained in 10% yield from methyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and acetoacetamide. IR (KBr): 3310 (NH), 2992 (ArC-H), 1702 (C=O), 1331 (*N*-oxide) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 2.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.98 (s, 3H, CH₃OOC), 8.25 (s, 2H, NH₂), 8.37-8.42 (m, 1H, H5), 8.57-8.62 (m, 1H, H6), 8.94 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for C₁₂H₁₁N₃O₅: C, 51.98; H, 3.97; N, 15.16. Found: C, 51.72; H, 3.63; N, 14.86.

Dimethyl 3-methylquinoxaline-2,7-dicarboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (M2)

This compound was obtained in 12% yield from methyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and methyl acetoacetate. IR (KBr): 1715.30 (C=O), 1333.57 (*N*-oxide) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 2.44 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.97 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 4.03 (s, 3H, CH₃OOC), 8.38 (d, J= 8.93 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.56 (d, J= 8.89 Hz, 1H, H6), 8.85(s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for C₁₃H₁₂N₂O₆: C, 53.43; H, 4.14; N, 9.59. Found: C, 53.29; H, 3.97; N, 9.45.

Methyl 2-acetyl-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (M3)

This compound was obtained in 17.7% yield from methyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 1,1, 1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione. IR (KBr): 2962 (Ar C-H), 1732 (C=O), 1337 (*N*-oxide), 1236 and 1173 (Ar-CF₃) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) ppm: 2.62 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.99 (s, 3H, CH₃OOC), 8.51 (d, J= 8.95, Hz, 1H, H5), 8.58 (d, J= 8.94, 1H, H6), 8.92 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for C₁₃H₉F₃N₂O₅:

C, 47.28; H, 2.75; N, 8.48. Found: C, 47.01; H, 2.56; N 8.45.

Ethyl quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives

Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-methyl-quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E1)

This compound was obtained in 28% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 2, 4-pentanedione. IR (KBr): 2965 (ArC-H), 1722 (C=O), 1335 (*N*-oxide) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.40 (t, $J=7.10$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 2.38 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.66 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.4 (q, $J=7.09$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 8.37 (d, $J=8.93$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.5 (d, $J=8.94$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.92 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 57.93; H, 4.82; N, 9.65. Found: C, 57.68; H, 4.51; N, 9.18.

Ethyl 2-benzoyl-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E2)

This compound was obtained in 12.3% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 1-phenyl-1, 3-butanedione. IR (KBr): 2979 (ArC-H), 1720 and 1684 (C=O), 1331 (*N*-oxide) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.41 (t, $J=7.11$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 2.32 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.46 (q, $J_1=7.10$ Hz, $J_2=7.13$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 7.6 (t, $J=7.8$ Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, C_6H_5), 7.79 (t, $J=7.43$ Hz, 1H, H4, C_6H_5), 8.1 (d, $J=7.34$ Hz, 2H, H2 and H6, C_6H_5), 8.38 (d, $J=8.9$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.5 (d, $J=8.94$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.99 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 64.77; H, 4.58; N, 7.95. Found: C, 64.58; H, 4.32; N, 7.67.

Ethyl 2-phenylamide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E3)

This compound was obtained in 22.4% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 3-oxo-*N*-phenylbutanamide. IR (KBr): 2981 (ArC-H), 1714 and 1661 (C=O), 1369 (*N*-oxide) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.36 (m, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 2.51 (s, 1H, CH_3), 4.39-4.47 (q, $J_1=7.10$ Hz, $J_2=7.22$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 7.20 (t, $J=7.34$ Hz, 1H, H4-NHC C_6H_5), 7.41 (t, $J=7.16$ Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, NHC C_6H_5), 7.65 (d, $J=7.84$ Hz, H2 and H6, NHC C_6H_5), 8.39 (d, $J=8.98$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.59 (d, $J=8.97$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.96 (s, 1H, H8), 11.10 (s,

1H, NH). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$: C, 62.12; H, 4.66; N, 11.44. Found: C, 61.98; H, 4.49; N, 11.23.

Ethyl methyl-3-methyl-quinoxaline-2,7-dicarboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E4)

This compound was obtained in 10% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and methyl acetoacetate. IR (KBr): 1715.30 and 1726.88 (C=O), 1327.65 (*N*-oxide) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.35 (s, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.03 (s, 3H, COOCH_3), 4.48 (q, $J_1=7.08$ Hz, $J_2=7.07$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 8.39 (d, $J=8.99$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.56 (d, $J=8.99$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.84 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: C, 54.90; H, 4.61; N, 9.15. Found: C, 54.76; H, 4.27; N, 9.13

Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E5)

This compound was obtained in 11.9% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 1,1, 1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione. IR (KBr): 2978 (ArC-H), 1746 (C=O), 1355 (*N*-oxide), 1271 and 1158 (Ar-CF $_3$) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.40 (t, $J=7.11$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 2.62 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.45 (q, $J_1=7.12$ Hz, $J_2=7.13$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 8.52 (d, $J=8.95$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.58 (d, $J=8.96$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.92 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 48.85; H, 3.22; N, 8.14. Found: C, 48.58; H, 3.15; N, 8.23.

Ethyl 2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E6)

This compound was obtained in 23.2% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 4,4,4-trifluoro-1-(2-thienyl)-1,3-butanedione. IR (KBr): 2987 (ArC-H), 1726 and 1665 (C=O), 1336 (*N*-oxide), 1286 and 1161 (Ar-CF $_3$) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.41 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 4.47 (q, $J_1=7.07$ Hz, $J_2=7.12$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 7.32 (d, $J=4.7$ Hz, 1H, H4, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.24 (d, $J=4.59$ Hz, H5, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.3 (d, $J=4.8$ Hz, H3, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.51 (d, $J=8.95$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.56 (d, $J=8.96$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.96 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated

analysis for $C_{17}H_{11}F_3N_2O_5S$: C, 49.52; H, 2.69; N, 6.79. Found: C, 49.36; H, 2.45; N, 6.43.

Ethyl 2-(naphthyl-2-carbonyl)-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (E7)

This compound was obtained in 11.3% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 4, 4, 4-trifluoromethyl-1-(2-naphthyl)-1, 3-butanedione. IR (KBr): 2979 (ArC-H), 1725 and 1687 (C=O), 1349 (*N*-óxido), 1285 and 1174 (Ar-CF₃) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) ppm: 1.42 (t, J= 7.10 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂OOC), 4.48 (q, J₁= 7.08 Hz, J₂= 7.11 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂OOC), 7.65 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 1H, H3, C₁₀H₇), 7.75 (t, J= 7.2 Hz, 1H, H6, C₁₀H₇), 8.01 (d, J= 8.12 Hz, 1H, H7, C₁₀H₇), 8.07 (d, J= 8.14 Hz, 1H, H5, C₁₀H₇), 8.14 (s, 2H, H2, and H4 C₁₀H₇), 8.52-8.58 (m, 2H, H5 and H6), 8.88 (s, 1H, H8), 9.02 (s, 1H, H8, C₁₀H₇). Calculated analysis for $C_{23}H_{15}F_3N_2O_5$: C, 60.53; H, 3.31; N, 6.14. Found: C, 60.23; H, 3.15; N, 5.89.

Ethyl 2-phenylamide-3-phenylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1, 4-di-N-oxide (E8)

This compound was obtained in 31.0% yield from ethyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 3-oxo-*N*, 3-diphenylpropanamide. IR (KBr): 3110 (N-H), 2950 (ArC-H), 1718 and 1694 (C=O), 1334 (*N*-oxide) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 1.41 (t, J= 7.11 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂OOC), 4.45 (q, H= 7.12 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂OOC), 7.11 (t, J= 7.25 Hz, 1H, H4, NHC₆H₅), 7.31 (t, J= 7.88 Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, C₆H₅), 7.38 (d, J = 8.23 Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, NHC₆H₅), 7.48-7.50 (m, 3H, C₆H₅), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H, H2 and H6, NHC₆H₅), 8.49 (d, J= 8.96 Hz, H5), 8.69 (d, J= 8.94 Hz, 1H, H6), 9.02 (s, 1H, H8), 10.86 (s, 1H, NH). Calculated analysis for $C_{24}H_{19}N_3O_5$: C, 67.13; H, 4.42; N, 9.79. Found: C, 66.95; H, 4.21; N, 9.52.

n-propyl quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives

n-propyl 2-benzoyl-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (P1)

This compound was obtained in 8.3% yield from *n*-propyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 1-phenyl-1, 3-butanedione. IR (KBr): 2978 (ArC-H), 1718 and 1685 (C=O),

1332 (*N*-oxide) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 1.02 (t, J= 7.38 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 1.81 (q, J₁= 6.76 and J₂= 14.12 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 4.39 (t, J= 6.62 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 7.61 (t, J= 7.82 Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, C₆H₅), 7.80 (t, J= 7.40 Hz, 1H, H4, C₆H₅), 8.12 (d, J= 7.30 Hz, 2H, H2 and H6, C₆H₅), 8.39 (d, J= 8.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.51 (d, J= 8.90 Hz, 1H, H6), 8.98 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_5$: C, 65.57; H, 4.91; N, 7.65. Found: C, 65.38; H, 4.63; N, 7.37.

n-propyl 2-phenylamide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (P2)

This compound was obtained in 10.4% yield from *n*-propyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 3-oxo-*N*-phenylbutanamide. IR (KBr): 2982 (ArC-H), 1716 and 1672 (C=O), 1332 (*N*-oxide), cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 1.03 (t, J= 7.40 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 1.82 (q, J₁= 6.77 and J₂= 14.11 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 4.38 (t, J= 6.60 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 7.21 (t, J= 7.32 Hz, 1H, H4-NHC₆H₅), 7.42 (t, J= 7.20 Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, NHC₆H₅), 7.64 (d, J= 7.80 Hz, H2 and H6, NHC₆H₅), 8.38 (d, J= 8.90 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.58 (d, J= 8.90 Hz, 1H, H6), 8.95 (s, 1H, H8), 11.12 (s, 1H, NH). Calculated analysis for $C_{20}H_{19}N_3O_5$: C, 62.99; H, 4.98; N, 11.02. Found: C, 62.58; H, 4.61; N, 10.87.

n-propyl 2-benzoyl-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (P3)

This compound was obtained in 5.9% yield from *n*-propyl benzofuroxane-5-carboxylate *N*-oxide and 4, 4,4-trifluoro-1-phenyl-1,3-butanedione. IR (KBr): 2982 (Ar C-H), 1728 and 1688 (C=O), 1336 (*N*-oxide), 1254 and 1166 (Ar-CF₃) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 1.02 (t, J= 7.40 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 1.82 (q, J₁= 6.77 and J₂= 14.11 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 4.39 (t, J= 6.58 Hz, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂OOC), 7.62 (t, J= 7.84 Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, C₆H₅), 7.79 (t, J= 7.43 Hz, 1H, H4, C₆H₅), 8.15 (d, J= 7.26 Hz, 2H, H2 and H6, C₆H₅), 8.52-8.54 (m, 2H, H5 and H6), 8.98 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $C_{20}H_{15}F_3N_2O_5$: C, 57.14; H, 3.57; N, 6.66. Found: C, 56.91; H, 3.39; N, 6.37.

*Quinoxaline-7-carboxylate derivatives**Methyl 2-amide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate (DR1)*

This compound was obtained in 4% yield from methyl 2-amide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1, 4-di-N-oxide by di-reduced using sodium dithionite. IR (KBr): 3312 (NH), 2994 (ArC-H), 1702 (C=O) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.48 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.98 (s, 3H, CH_3OOC), 8.25 (s, 2H, NH_2), 8.37-8.42 (m, 1H, H5), 8.57-8.62 (m, 1H, H6), 8.94 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: C, 58.77; H, 4.48; N, 17.14. Found: C, 58.81; H, 4.65; N, 17.23.

Methyl 2-phenylamide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate (DR2)

This compound was obtained in 6.5% yield from methyl 2-phenylamide-3-methylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1, 4-di-N-oxide by di-reduced using sodium dithionite. IR (KBr): 3081 (N-H), 2949 (ArC-H), 1722 and 1684 (C=O) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.52 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.99 (s, 3H, CH_3OOC), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.38$ Hz, 1H, H4, NHC_6H_5), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.78$ Hz, 2H, H3 and H5, NHC_6H_5), 7.67 (d, $J = 7.92$ Hz, H2 and H6, NHC_6H_5), 8.41 (d, $J = 8.84$ Hz, H5), 8.62 (d, $J = 8.93$ Hz, 1H, H6), 9.0 (s, 1H, H8), 11.01 (s, 1H, NH). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: C, 67.28; H, 4.67; N, 13.08. Found: C, 67.15; H, 4.23; N, 12.86.

Ethyl 2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate (DR3)

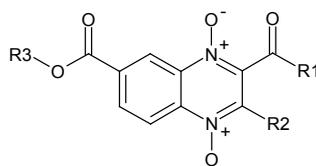
This compound was obtained in 2.3% yield from ethyl 2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1, 4-di-N-oxide by di-reduced using sodium dithionite. IR (KBr): 2991 (ArC-H), 1722 and 1672 (C=O), 1284 and 1162 (Ar-CF₃) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) ppm: 1.41 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 4.47 (q, $J_1 = 7.07$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.12$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}$), 7.32 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H, H4, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.24 (d, $J = 4.59$ Hz, H5, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.3 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, H3, $\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{S}$), 8.51 (d, $J = 8.95$ Hz, 1H, H5), 8.56 (d, $J = 8.96$ Hz, 1H, H6), 8.96 (s, 1H, H8). Calculated analysis for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$: C, 53.61; H, 2.89; N, 7.35. Found: C, 53.46; H, 2.75; N, 7.23.

Compounds derivatives from quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1, 4-di-N-oxide (M1-M3, E1-E8, and P1-P3) and quinoxaline di-reduced derivatives (DR1-DR3) are shown in Table 1.

Biological assays

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the United States of America selected the 17 compounds cited above to be evaluated for their *in vitro* antitumor activity. Initially, all compounds were tested at a single high dose (10^{-5} M) according to NCI-60 human tumor cell line screen. The human tumor cell lines are grown in RPMI 1640 medium (5% fetal bovine serum and 2 mM L-glutamine). Cells are seeded into 96 well microtiter plates in 100 μL (5,000 to 40,000 cells/well). After, the microtiter plates are incubated at 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 5% CO_2 , 95% air and 100% relative humidity for 24 h. Aliquots of 100 μL experimental drugs are added to the appropriate microtiter wells already containing 100 μL of medium, resulting in the required final drug concentration. After, the plates are incubated for an additional 48 h at 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 5% CO_2 , 95% air, and 100% relative humidity. For adherent cells, the assay is terminated by the addition of cold TCA. Cells are fixed in situ by the addition of 50 μL of cold 50% (w/v) TCA (final concentration, 10% TCA) and incubated for 60 minutes at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The supernatant is discarded, and the plates are washed five times with water and air dried. Sulforhodamine B (SRB) solution (100 μL) at 0.4% (w/v) in 1% acetic acid is added to each well, and plates are incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature. After staining, unbound dye is removed by washing five times with 1% acetic acid and the plates are air dried. Bound stain is subsequently solubilized with 10 mM trizma base, and the absorbance is read on an automated plate reader at a wavelength of 515 nm. After, only compounds M3, E5, E6, E7 and P3 were evaluated against the NCI-60 cell panel at five concentrations (0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 and 100 μM) and Growth Inhibition of 50% (GI50) was calculated. Total Growth Inhibition (TGI) and the Lethal Concentration 50 (LC50) were calculated for each cell line according to NCI methodology (15). Data are express in Molar concentration. The GI50 value corresponds to the concentration of the compound causing 50% decrease in net

Table 1. Quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-*N*-oxide derivatives selected by the National Cancer Institute for *in-vitro* evaluation on 60 human tumor cell lines.



Compound	R1	R2	R3
M1	NH ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃
M2	OCH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃
M3	CH ₃	CF ₃	CH ₃
E1	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E2	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E3	NHC ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E4	OCH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E5	CH ₃	CF ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E6	C ₄ H ₃ S	CF ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E7	C ₁₀ H ₇	CF ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂
E8	NHC ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃ CH ₂
P1	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂
P2	NHC ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂
P3	C ₆ H ₅	CF ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂
*DR1	NH ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃
*DR2	NHC ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₃
*DR3	C ₄ H ₃ S	CF ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂

*Compounds DR1, DR2 and DR3, are di-reduced *N*-oxide derivatives.

cell growth, the TGI value or cytostatic activity reported is the concentration of the compound resulting in total growth inhibition and the LC50 value corresponds to the cytotoxic activity and it is the concentration of the compound causing 50% loss of initial cells at the end of the incubation period (15).

Results and Discussion

In this study, seventeen derivatives from methyl (M1-M3), ethyl (E1-E8) and n-propyl (P1-P3) quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-*N*-oxide and three di-reduced quinoxaline (DR1-DR3) derivatives (Table 1) were selected for *in-vitro* evaluation on 60 human tumor cell lines.

Results are reported in Table 2. The number reported is growth relative to the no-drug control cells and it allows detection of both growth inhibition (values between 0-100) and lethality or cytotoxic activity (negative numbers). Compounds which reduce the growth of anyone of the cancer cell lines to 32% or values less are identified as “active” compounds (19).

In the development of new anticancer drugs, tirapazamine, a quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide derivative, is a potent antitumor agent, with a simple structure (small molecule) which induce a strong toxicity against a variety of tumor human cell (20). Therefore, our research group design and obtained new ester of quinoxaline 1,4-di-*N*-oxide as potential antitumor agent. As shown in

Table 2. Cell growth inhibitory activity of ester of quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide at single dose assay (10^{-5} M).

Panel/Cell Line	M3	E5	E6	E7	P3
Leukemia					
CCRF-CEM	-	-18.11	-44.04	-	-64.45
HL-60(TB)	-	-65.92	-69.01	-	-71.61
K-562	-	-76.68	-52.64	-	-73.97
MOLT-4	-	-56.44	-67.27	-	-63.33
RPMI-8226	-48.00	8.56	-45.28	-66.78	-
SR	-	-59.23	-42.78	-	-41.36
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer					
A549/ATCC	28.65	19.21	-94.87	-26.42	-88.10
EKVX	-46.30	29.13	-76.99	-56.85	-
HOP-62	-9.08	25.51	-90.62	-93.79	-96.53
HOP-92	-57.01	-29.91	-83.55	-	-
NCI-H226	-17.14	41.18	-54.87	-93.70	-
NCI-H23	-62.22	-16.94	-87.04	-88.42	-75.58
NCI-H322M	66.19	94.36	-87.64	67.25	-91.67
NCI-H460	-88.77	-50.66	-73.66	-100.0	-69.92
NCI-H522	-80.74	-83.76	-83.29	-80.11	-92.62
Colon Cancer					
COLO 205	-100.0	-78.26	-84.79	-100.0	-92.30
HCC-2998	-86.89	-17.11	-88.97	-97.59	-87.59
HCT-116	-97.97	-38.94	-96.22	-100.0	-73.00
HCT-15	-77.54	-35.95	-72.03	-96.09	-65.74
HT29	-56.03	-0.88	-82.43	-97.43	-92.15
KM12	-93.54	-85.51	-90.43	-91.99	-81.61
SW-620	-18.07	-0.80	-82.37	-89.55	-82.53
CNS Cancer					
SF-268	-24.84	-51.82	-89.64	-88.82	-81.45
SF-295	-45.72	23.01	-88.04	-84.83	-
SF-539	-45.85	29.71	-83.81	-100.0	-95.02
SNB-19	-6.44	17.38	-77.39	-85.51	-88.91
SNB-75	-20.53	25.58	-100.0	-100.0	-98.51
U251	-72.25	6.14	-100.0	-100.0	-
Melanoma					
LOX IMVI	-95.27	-59.67	-	-97.52	-74.66
MALME-3M	-26.39	-39.95	-	-69.07	-73.71
M14	-25.53	8.64	-96.58	-100.0	-70.27
MDA-MB-435	0.46	2.85	-80.51	-78.00	-89.53

Table 2. Continue.

Panel/Cell Line	M3	E5	E6	E7	P3
SK-MEL-2	-31.89	12.15	-87.29	-83.53	-87.58
SK-MEL-28	26.96	27.93	-93.63	-96.34	-96.78
SK-MEL-5	-100.0	-94.33	-96.90	-100.0	-
UACC-257	-30.25	-37.08	-90.39	-71.67	-94.25
UACC-62	-32.68	2.99	-80.42	-97.18	-92.36
Ovarian cancer					
IGROV1	-78.34	-81.07	-60.32	-82.94	-74.39
OVCAR-3	-92.82	-84.74	-96.63	-99.57	-95.33
OVCAR-4	-41.96	-5.96	-83.35	-65.84	-73.09
OVCAR-5	-12.93	-1.19	-79.81	-98.53	-87.75
OVCAR-8	9.07	-42.56	-36.42	3.25	-85.96
NCI/ADR-RES	-40.71	6.85	-70.41	-86.40	-43.06
SK-OV-3	-31.41	24.84	-97.55	-100.0	-99.91
Renal cancer					
786-0	-40.52	11.40	-92.27	-100.0	-81.24
A498	6.79	12.45	-	-62.39	-90.87
ACHN	-99.32	5.29	-86.94	-100.0	-91.76
CAKI-1	-78.49	40.03	-85.42	-93.78	-92.47
RXF 393	-20.14	31.61	-92.28	-71.20	-93.23
SN 12C	-33.99	4.58	-47.28	-99.16	-92.33
TK-10	25.95	40.92	-96.50	-89.68	-99.13
UO-31	-81.97	27.45	-92.40	-96.00	-89.00
Prostate cancer					
PC-3	-58.10	-45.68	-75.44	-99.18	-91.49
DU-145	1.28	-88.45	-96.54	-100.0	-97.17
Breast Cancer					
MCF7	-50.33	-6.41	-68.11	-93.12	-69.69
MDA-MB-231/ ATCC	-4.69	22.16	-76.77	-99.39	-90.36
HS 578T	-19.36	-23.86	-10.78	-45.74	-52.01
BT-549	-19.57	-44.86	-93.36	-48.46	-83.94
T-47D	-73.64	-26.07	-70.45	-91.10	-83.21
MDA-MB-468	-83.72	-37.04	-80.51	-92.65	-81.36
Mean	-41.01	-14.73	-79.03	-82.89	-82.75
Delta	58.99	79.60	20.97	17.11	17.16
Range	166.19	188.69	89.22	167.25	58.55

table 1, when analysing the compounds at single dose assay, compounds M3, E5, E6, E7 and P3 showed the highest global activity against the 60 human tumor cell lines tested. In all cases these compounds showed a negative final mean indicating cytotoxicity activity at 10^{-5} M (-41.01, -14.73, -79.03, -82.89 and -82.75 respectively). In contrast to the other active compounds mentioned above, E5 do not show lethality against any of the renal cancer cells (values ranging 4.58 to 40.92). All other compounds showed little or no activity. None active compound showed selectivity to certain tumor cell type. As M3, E5, E6, E7 and P3 showed the highest anticancer activity, they were selected and assayed at five dose level against the same 60 human tumor cell lines panel. Results (Table 3) showed that compounds tested showed an excellent antitumor activity. E6 a quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide with ethyl ester at 7-position, was the most active with the lowest GI50, TGI and LC50 values against all the cell lines tested regardless of the tumour cell type, showing no selectivity. E7 showed its higher activity against leukemia and ovarian panel, while M3 showed good activity against the different tumour cell types except for leukemia with Log10 LC50 values >-4.0 M. Structure-activity relationship (SAR) analysis of methyl quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide (M1-M3) series shows that substitution at 3-position with electronegative group (CF_3) play a very important role in the cytotoxicity activity, enhancing drastically biological effect. The same biological behaviour can be detected in ethyl (E1-E7) and n-propyl (P1-P3) quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide series, because only compounds substituted at 3-position with CF_3 group showed inhibitory effect. Furthermore, the importance in the cytotoxic activity of CF_3 group at 3-position on quinoxaline ring has been showed in the design and obtention of potent antitumor agents by Zarranz and cols (6). Substitutions at 2-position on quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide ring increase the activity in the following order: naphthyl $>$ thiophenyl $>$ methyl. These results showed that aromatic and coplanar groups at 2-position are very important to enhance biological activity. This same key biological behaviour has been reported by other authors (6, 10). Finally,

analysing compounds M3 and E5 shows that substitutions at 7-position with esters group not necessarily affect the cytotoxic activity, but the nature of this esters group could exert a strong influence on the selectivity. However, Ismail and cols mentioned that incorporation of halogen atom at 6 or 7-position could enhance activity, therefore, this is a point to consider in the near future to development new antitumor agents (12). Additionally results of compounds DR1-DR3 showed a great role of N-oxide group in the cytotoxic effects as previously has been reported (10, 12).

Conclusion

In the light of these results and in order to further explore for this class of compounds, in the present study we reported the cytotoxic activities of ester of quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives selected by the NCI. The antitumor activity of all these compounds was evaluated against the NCI-60 cell line panel at a single dose assay (10^{-5} M) according to their own protocols. Five of the tested compounds were active ranging their activity from cytostatic to cytotoxic agents depending of the cell line used. Among the examined series, we found that compounds E7, P3 and E6 were the most active against all 60 human cell lines with global mean values of -82.89, -82.75 and -79.03 respectively. None compound showed selectivity to certain cancer cell type or to a particular cell line except E5, that was also considered active (-14.73) but do not show lethality against any of the renal cancer cells. The results of this investigation prompt us to continue the development and testing of novel quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives and importantly to carry out further studies to investigate their potential mechanisms of action.

Acknowledgement

Luvia Sánchez-Torres and Gildardo Rivera, hold a scholarship from the Comisión de Operación y Fomento de Actividades Académicas (COFAA-Instituto Politécnico Nacional) and from the Programa de Estímulos al Desempeño de los Investigadores (EDI-Instituto Politécnico Nacional). We wish to express our gratitude to

Table 3. Log₁₀ GI50, Log₁₀ TGI, and Log₁₀ LC50 of the *in vitro* inhibitory activity test for compounds M-3, E-5, E-6, E-7 and P-3 against 60 human tumor cells lines.

Panel/Cell Line	M-3			E-5			E-6			E-7			P-3		
	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50
Leukemia															
CCRF-CEM	-5.34	-4.0	> -4.0	-5.73	-5.27	-4.25	-6.67	-6.32	-5.86	-6.40	-5.64	> -4.0	-5.73	-5.40	-5.07
HL-60(TB)	-5.71	-5.10	> -4.0	-5.73	-5.42	-5.11	-6.56	-6.07	-5.25	-6.01	-5.55	-5.09	-5.71	-5.41	-5.11
K-562	-5.64	-5.11	> -4.0	-5.97	-5.60	-5.23	-6.72	-6.41	-6.10	-6.51	-5.82	-5.23	-5.68	-5.39	-5.09
MOLT-4	-5.53	-4.75	> -4.0	-5.81	-5.23	-4.18	-6.62	-6.28	-5.54	-5.93	-5.48	-	-5.69	-5.39	-5.09
RPMI-8226	-5.65	-5.20	> -4.0	-5.78	-5.30	-4.17	-5.77	-5.35	-4.26	-5.96	-5.44	> -4.0	-5.71	-5.39	-5.06
SR	-5.64	-5.10	> -4.0	-	-	-	-6.68	-6.38	-6.07	-6.48	-5.80	> -4.0	-5.72	-5.31	-4.0
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer															
A549/AIIC	-5.71	-5.43	-5.15	-5.60	5.24	-4.0	-6.74	-6.44	-6.14	-5.72	-5.44	-5.16	-5.78	-5.48	-5.18
EKVX	-5.71	-5.36	-5.01	-5.75	-5.40	-5.05	-5.89	-5.56	-5.22	-5.81	-5.50	-5.20	-	-	-
HOP-62	-5.71	-5.43	-5.15	-5.82	-5.48	-5.13	-6.16	-5.70	-5.35	-5.78	-5.51	-5.24	-5.75	-5.47	-5.20
HOP-92	-5.83	-5.50	-5.18	-5.84	-5.55	-5.26	-6.77	-6.05	-5.46	-5.92	-5.60	-5.28	-5.95	-5.62	-5.28
NCI-H226	-5.71	-5.44	-5.16	-5.74	-5.37	-4.98	-6.16	-5.60	-5.14	-5.76	-5.45	-5.13	-5.69	-5.33	-4.0
NCI-H23	-5.74	-5.47	-5.20	-5.84	-5.48	-5.11	-6.01	-5.64	-5.28	-6.30	-5.75	-5.37	-5.75	-5.47	-5.19
NCI-H322M	-5.37	-4.86	-4.36	-5.62	-5.17	-4.58	-5.80	-5.52	-5.24	-5.79	-5.52	-5.26	-5.74	-5.48	-5.23
NCI-H460	-5.74	-5.46	-5.18	-5.88	-5.57	-5.27	-6.65	-6.25	-5.64	-5.77	-5.49	-5.22	-5.69	-5.37	-5.05
NCI-H522	-5.78	-5.48	-5.19	-5.82	-5.44	-5.06	-6.67	-6.23	-5.61	-6.34	-5.73	-5.32	-5.74	-5.46	-5.17
Colon Cancer															
COLO 205	-5.71	-5.40	-5.10	-5.83	-5.53	-5.23	-6.59	-6.22	-5.67	-5.82	-5.54	-5.26	-5.68	-5.41	-5.15
HCC-2998	-5.75	-5.50	-5.24	-5.90	-5.57	-5.23	-6.11	-5.68	-5.31	-5.78	-5.52	-5.26	-5.74	-5.48	-5.22
HCT-116	-5.84	-5.56	-5.28	-5.92	-5.56	-5.20	-6.77	-6.50	-6.23	-6.43	-5.84	-5.42	-5.77	-5.47	-5.18
HCT-15	-5.74	-5.45	-5.17	-5.84	-5.44	-5.05	-6.63	-6.20	-5.59	-5.83	-5.48	-5.14	-5.79	-5.48	-5.18
HT29	-5.76	-5.49	-5.22	-5.79	-5.49	-5.18	-6.77	-6.50	-6.22	-5.97	-5.64	-5.32	-5.68	-5.39	-5.11

Table 3. Continue.

Panel/Cell Line	M-3			E-5			E-6			E-7			P-3		
	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50
KM12	-5.75	-5.50	-5.24	-5.83	-5.52	-5.21	-6.13	-5.68	-5.31	-5.90	-5.60	-5.30	-5.74	-5.46	-5.18
SW-620	-5.71	-5.42	-5.12	-5.80	-5.42	-5.04	-6.78	-6.47	-6.16	-5.82	-5.54	-5.25	-5.73	-5.43	-5.14
CNS Cancer															
SF-268	-5.76	-5.49	-5.22	-5.84	-5.53	-5.21	-6.73	-6.42	-6.10	-5.94	-5.63	-5.31	-5.75	-5.4	-5.17
SF-295	-5.87	-5.56	-5.24	-5.87	-5.54	-5.21	-5.90	-5.59	-5.28	-5.75	-5.50	-5.25	-5.77	-5.49	-5.21
SF-539	-5.73	-5.47	-5.21	-5.79	-5.51	-5.23	-5.93	-5.62	-5.31	-5.81	-5.54	-5.27	-5.75	-5.49	-5.24
SNB-19	-5.51	-5.04	-4.52	-5.73	-5.39	-5.04	-5.94	-5.61	-5.29	-5.77	-5.51	-5.26	-5.76	-5.49	-5.23
SNB-75	-5.85	-5.57	-5.28	-5.81	-5.52	-5.24	-5.93	-5.62	-5.31	-5.95	-5.63	-5.32	-5.83	-5.52	-5.22
U251	-5.75	-5.49	-5.23	-5.81	-5.51	-5.21	-6.79	-6.53	-6.26	-5.82	-5.55	-5.27	-5.76	-5.49	-5.23
Melanoma															
LOX IMVI	-5.77	-5.49	-5.22	-5.85	-5.52	-5.20	-6.77	-6.50	-6.24	-6.76	-6.48	-6.21	-5.77	-5.47	-5.18
MALME-3M	-5.71	-5.42	-5.14	-5.81	-5.52	-5.22	-6.50	-5.84	-5.32	-5.77	-5.46	-5.15	-5.71	-5.44	-5.17
M14	-5.76	-5.49	-5.23	-5.79	-5.44	-5.08	-6.18	-5.70	-5.33	-5.84	-5.56	-5.28	-5.74	-5.47	-5.20
MDA-MB-435	-5.76	-5.44	-5.13	-5.82	-5.52	-5.22	-6.61	-6.24	-5.70	-5.82	-5.53	-5.24	-5.77	-5.49	-5.21
SK-MEL-2	-5.65	-5.32	-4.91	-5.69	-5.29	-4.48	-5.76	-5.48	-5.20	-5.74	-5.47	-5.20	-5.73	-5.45	-5.17
SK-MEL-28	-5.37	-4.88	-4.44	-5.44	-4.89	-4.43	-5.76	-5.51	-5.25	-5.78	-5.52	-5.26	-5.73	-5.45	-5.18
SK-MEL-5	-5.77	-5.51	-5.26	-5.84	-5.56	-5.27	-5.86	-5.57	-5.29	-5.84	-5.56	-5.27	-5.78	-5.51	-5.23
UACC-257	-5.74	-5.48	-5.22	-5.72	-5.42	-5.12	-6.50	-5.90	-5.45	-5.75	-5.49	-5.23	-5.76	-5.49	-5.23
UACC-62	-5.77	-5.50	-5.24	-5.86	-5.54	-5.23	-5.98	-5.64	-5.29	-5.82	-5.53	-5.25	-5.76	-5.49	-5.22
Ovarian Cancer															
IGROV1	-5.76	-5.47	-5.18	-5.80	-5.40	-5.0	-6.72	-6.43	-6.15	-6.44	-5.92	-5.44	-5.74	-5.44	-5.15
OVCAR-3	-5.74	-5.49	-5.23	-5.81	-5.51	-5.20	-6.38	-5.84	-5.40	-6.13	-5.69	-5.35	-5.76	-5.50	-5.24
OVCAR-4	-5.70	-5.36	-	-5.75	-5.41	-5.08	-6.66	-6.27	-5.60	-6.58	-6.07	-5.31	-5.76	-5.47	-5.19

Table 3. Continue.

Panel/Cell Line	M-3			E-5			E-6			E-7			P-3		
	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50	Log ₁₀ GI50	Log ₁₀ TGI	Log ₁₀ LC50
OVCAR-5	-5.78	-5.51	-5.24	-5.81	-5.49	-5.16	-5.91	-5.60	-5.29	-5.89	-5.59	-5.30	-5.75	-5.48	-5.21
OVCAR-8	-5.54	-5.08	-4.34	-5.57	-4.91	-4.0	-6.70	-6.38	-6.05	-5.89	-5.57	-5.24	-5.74	-5.45	-5.16
NCI/ADR-RES	-5.61	-5.19	-4.10	-5.72	-5.15	-4.0	-6.54	-6.06	-5.31	-5.79	-5.48	-5.17	-5.72	-5.43	-5.14
SK-OV-3	-5.65	-5.35	-5.04	-5.79	-5.49	-5.20	-5.86	-5.58	-5.29	-5.79	-5.52	-5.26	-5.72	-5.48	-5.23
Renal Cancer															
786-0	-5.72	-5.47	-5.23	-5.80	-5.52	-5.23	-6.27	-5.73	-5.32	-5.79	-5.52	-5.26	-5.74	-5.48	-5.22
A498	-5.76	-5.48	-5.20	-5.87	-5.43	-4.96	-5.79	-5.51	-5.22	-5.78	-5.51	-5.24	-5.89	-5.55	-5.21
ACHN	-5.75	-5.49	-5.23	-5.80	-5.52	-5.23	-6.77	-6.51	-6.26	-5.83	-5.53	-5.23	-5.75	-5.49	-5.22
CAKI-1	-5.71	-5.29	-4.54	-5.84	-5.51	-5.18	-6.67	-6.24	-5.62	-5.85	-5.54	-5.24	-5.75	-5.47	-5.19
RXF 393	-5.69	-5.41	-5.14	-5.59	-5.06	-4.19	-6.02	-5.66	-5.32	-5.76	-5.49	-5.21	-5.77	-5.49	-5.21
SN 12C	-5.62	-5.31	-	-5.73	-5.42	-5.10	-6.34	-5.72	-5.21	-5.79	-5.45	-5.10	-5.75	-5.47	-5.20
TK-10	-5.56	-5.22	-4.71	-5.78	-5.41	-5.03	-6.75	-6.47	-6.19	-5.72	-5.48	-5.24	-5.80	-5.52	-5.25
UO-31	-5.77	-5.50	-5.24	-5.83	-5.50	-5.18	-6.82	-6.54	-6.25	-5.89	-5.59	-5.30	-5.78	-5.51	-5.25
Prostate Cancer															
PC-3	-5.78	-5.44	-5.10	-5.93	-5.57	-5.22	-6.44	-5.82	-5.30	-6.14	-5.70	-5.34	-5.81	-5.53	-5.25
DU-145	-5.74	-5.49	-5.24	-5.81	-5.52	-5.24	-6.06	-5.68	-5.34	-5.75	-5.50	-5.25	-5.73	-5.48	-5.23
Breast Cancer															
MCF7	-5.76	-5.47	-5.19	-5.93	-5.60	-5.26	-6.44	-5.88	5.32	-6.05	-5.62	-5.22	-5.79	-5.48	-5.17
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	-5.70	-5.41	-5.12	-5.76	-5.45	-5.13	-6.40	-5.81	-5.37	-5.80	-5.50	-5.20	-5.72	-5.46	-5.20
HS 578T	-5.63	-5.23	-4.0	-5.84	-5.35	-4.20	-5.67	-5.20	-4.0	-5.80	-5.44	-5.08	-5.70	-5.34	-4.00
BT-549	-5.68	-5.35	5.01	-5.84	-5.53	-5.22	-6.31	-5.75	-5.36	-5.81	-5.48	-5.15	-5.75	-5.49	-5.22
T-47D	-5.69	-5.38	-5.07	-5.85	-5.48	-5.11	-6.31	-5.73	-5.28	-6.07	-5.64	-5.25	-5.74	-5.43	-5.12
MDA-MB-468	-5.81	-5.52	-5.23	-5.80	-5.48	-5.17	-6.51	-5.78	-5.29	-6.43	-5.82	-5.39	-5.77	-5.45	-5.14

Secretaría de Investigación y Posgrado-Instituto Politécnico Nacional for their financial support in this study (SIP-20140004 and SIP-20130768).

References

- (1) World Health Organization. Cancer. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>
- (2) Jaso A, Zarranz B, Aldana I and Monge A. Synthesis of new 2-acetyl and 2-benzoyl quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxide derivatives as anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* agents. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2003) 38: 791-800.
- (3) El-Sabbagh OI, El-Sadek ME, Lashine SM, Yassin SH and El-Nabtity SM. Synthesis of new 2 (1H)-quinoxalinone derivatives for antimicrobial and antiinflammatory evaluation. *Med. Chem. Research.* (2009) 18: 782-97.
- (4) Shibinskaya MO, Karpenko AS, Lyakhov SA, Andronati SA, Zholobak NM, Spivak NY, Samochina NA, Shafran LM, Zubritsky MJ and Galat VF. Synthesis and biological activity of 7H-benzo(4,5)indolo(2,3-b)-quinoxaline derivatives. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2011) 46: 794-8.
- (5) Barea C, Pabón A, Castillo D, Zimic M, Quiliano M, Galiano S, Pérez-Silanes S, Monge A, Deharo E and Aldana I. New salicylamide and sulfonamide derivatives of quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxide with antileishmanial and antimalarial activities. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* (2011) 21: 4498-502.
- (6) Zarranz B, Jaso A, Aldana I and Monge A. Synthesis and anticancer activity evaluation of new 2-alkylcarbonyl and 2-benzoyl-3-trifluoromethyl-quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxide derivatives. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* (2004) 12: 3711-21.
- (7) Corona P, Carta A, Loriga M, Vitale G and Paglietti G. Synthesis and *in-vitro* antitumor activity of new quinoxaline derivatives. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2009) 44: 1579-91.
- (8) Noolvi MN, Patel HM, Bhardwaj V and Chauhan A. Synthesis and *in-vitro* antitumor activity of substituted quinazoline and quinoxaline derivatives: search for anticancer agent. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2011) 46: 2327-46
- (9) Monge A, Palop JA, López de Ceráin A, Senador V, Martínez-Crespo FJ, Sainz Y, Narro S, García E, de Miguel C, González M, Hamilton E, Barker AJ, Clarke ED and Greenhow DT. Hypoxia-selective agents derived from quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxides. *J. Med. Chem.* (1995) 38: 1786-92.
- (10) Ortega MA, Morancho MJ, Martínez-Crespo FJ, Sainz Y, Montoya ME, López de Ceráin A and Monge A. New quinoxalinecarbonitrile 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives as hypoxic-cytotoxic agents. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2000) 35: 21-30.
- (11) Amin KM, Ismail MM, Noaman E, Soliman DH and Ammar YA. New quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxides. Part 1: Hypoxia-selective cytotoxins and anticancer agents derived from quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxides. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* (2006) 14: 6917-23.
- (12) Ismail MM, Amin KM, Noaman E, Soliman DH and Ammar YA. New quinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxides: anticancer and hypoxia-selective therapeutic agents. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2010) 45: 2733-38.
- (13) Burguete A, Pontik Hadjipavlou-Litina D, Villar R, Vicente E, Solano B, Ancizu S, Pérez-Silanes S, Aldana I and Monge A. Synthesis and anti-inflammatory/antioxidant activities of some new ring substituted 3-phenyl-1-(1, 4-di-N-oxide quinoxalin-2-yl)-2-propen-1-one derivatives and of their 4, 5-dihydro-(1H)-pyrazole analogues. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* (2007) 17: 6439-43.
- (14) Solano B, Junnotula V, Marín A, Villar R, Burguete A, Vicente E, Pérez-Silanes S, Aldana I, Monge A and Dutta S. Synthesis and biological evaluation of new 2-arylcarbonyl-3-trifluoromethylquinoxaline 1, 4-di-N-oxide derivatives and their reduced analogues. *J. Med. Chem.* (2007) 50: 5485-54.
- (15) Shoemaker RH. The NC160 Human Tumour Cell line Anticancer Drug Screen. *Nat. Rev. Cancer.* (2006) 6: 813-23.
- (16) Gomez-Caro L, Sanchez-Sanchez M, Bocanegra-Garcia M, Rivera G and Monge A. Florisil and montmorillonite KSF and K10 catalyzed synthesis of quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-oxide derivatives by free-solvent and microwave-assisted procedure. *Química Nova.* (2011) 34: 1147-51.
- (17) Duque-Montaña BE, Gómez-Caro LC, Sanchez-Sanchez M, Monge A, Hernández-Baltazar E, Rivera G and Torres-Angeles O. Synthesis and *in-vitro* evaluation of new ethyl and methyl quinoxaline-7-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide against *Entamoeba histolytica*. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* (2013) 21: 4550-8.
- (18) Montoya ME, Sainz Y, Ortega MA, De Ceráin AL and Monge A. Synthesis and antituberculosis activity of some new 2-quinoxalinecarbonitriles. *II Farmaco.* (1998) 53: 570-73.
- (19) Corona P, Carta A, Loriga M, Vitale G and Paglietti G. Synthesis and *in-vitro* antitumor activity of new quinoxaline derivatives. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* (2009) 44: 1579-91.
- (20) Reddy SB and Williamson SK. Tirapazamine: a novel agent targeting hypoxic tumor cells. *Expert Opin. Investig. Drugs.* (2009) 18: 77-87.

This article is available online at <http://www.ijpr.ir>