Antiproliferative activity of ruthenium(II) arene complexes with mono- and bidentate pyridine-based ligands

Stefan Richter^a, Sushma Singh^b, Dijana Draca^c, Anup Kate^b, Anupa Kumbhar^b, Avinash S. Kumbhar^{b*}, Danijela Maksimovic-Ivanic^c, Sanja Mijatovic^c, Peter Lönnecke^a, Evamarie Hey-Hawkins^{a*}

^a Universität Leipzig, Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Johannisallee 29, 04103 Leipzig,

Germany

^b Department of Chemistry, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune-411007, India

^c Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic", University of Belgrade, Bulevar despota

Stefana 142, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia

Table of content	Page		
Experimental and Spectroscopic Details for Ligands B-D	2		
Table SI-1. Selected crystallographic data for complexes 2–6	3		
Figure SI-1. Absorption titration of complexes (100 μ M) with increasing concentration of	4		
CT-DNA			
Figure SI-2. Ethidium bromide displacement assay data	5		
Table SI-2. Thermal melting data of complexes 1–4 and 6	6		
Figure SI-3. CD spectra of CT-DNA in absence and presence of complexes			
Figure SI-4. DNA cleavage study with complex 4	7		
Figure SI-5. DNA cleavage study with complex 6	7		
Figure SI-6. Cytotoxicity study of complexes 1–3	8		
Figure SI-7. Cytotoxicity study of ligands A–E	9		

Experimental and Spectroscopic Details for Ligands B-D

Synthesis of ethyl 4-(pyridin 2-ylamino)benzoate (B). The synthesis of ligand B was carried out according to the literature.¹ Yield 1.6 g (41%). Properties: light yellow powder; soluble in chloroform, ethyl acetate, THF; moderately soluble in methanol; insoluble in diethyl ether. ¹H NMR² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1,45 (t, ³*J*_{H,H} = 7,1 Hz, 3H, C*H*₃^a), 4,42 (q, ³*J*_{H,H} = 7,1 Hz, 2H, C*H*₂^b), 6,72 ('t', 1H, C*H*^d), 6,83 ('d', 1H, C*H*^c), 7,32 (d, ³*J*_{H,H} = 8,7 Hz, 2H, C*H*^e), 7,44 ('t', 1H, C*H*^h), 8,06 (d, ³*J*_{H,H} = 8,7 Hz, 2H, C*H*^g), 8,34 ('d', 1H, C*H*^k).¹³C {¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.4 (s, CH₃^a), 60.7 (s, CH₂^b), 110.2 (s, CH^c), 116.4 (s, CH^d), 117.4 (s, CH^e), 123.4 (s, C^f), 131.2 (s, CH^g), 137.9 (s, CH^h), 145.2 (s, C^j), 148.4 (s, CH^k), 154.8 (s, C^l), 166.5 (s, CO). IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 3339 (s), 3225 (w), 3134 (w), 2982 (w), 2363 (w), 1684 (s), 1623 (s), 1610 (s), 1587 (s), 1531 (s), 1482 (s), 1427 (s), 1353 (s), 1311 (s), 1285 (s), 1244 (m), 1176 (s), 1151 (s), 1109 (m), 1023 (m), 852 (w), 768 (s).

Synthesis of 4-(pyridin-2-ylamino)benzoic acid (C). The synthesis of ligand C was carried out according to the literature.1 Yield of 0.8 g (91%). Properties: white powder; soluble in chloroform, DMSO, DMF; moderately soluble in water; insoluble in *n*-hexane, diethyl ether. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 6.83 ('t', 1H, CH^d), 6.93 ('d', 1H, CH^c), 7.62 ('t', 1H, CH^h), 7.79–7.86 (m, 4H, CH^e, CH^g), 8.22 ('d', 1H, CH^k), 9.51 (s, 1H, NH), 12.44 (s, 1H, OH). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 111.8 (s, CH^c), 115.4 (s, CH^d), 116.5 (s, CH^e), 121.7 (s, C^f), 130.5 (s, CH^g), 137.6 (s, CH^h), 146.0 (s, C^j), 147.2 (s, CH^k), 155.2 (s, C^l), 167.2 (CO). IR: *v* (cm⁻¹) 3332 (s), 3212 (m), 3137 (m), 2951 (w), 2364 (w), 1927 (w), 1687 (s), 1628 (s), 1611 (s), 1180 (m), 1171 (m), 1156 (m), 1118 (s), 1021 (w), 985 (m), 957 (m), 851 (m), 767 (s).

Synthesis of pyridine-2-ylmethyl)glycine·*HCl* (D·HCl) The synthesis of ligand D was carried out according to the literature.³ Yield: 5.4 g (67%). Properties: yellow, microcrystalline powder; soluble in water, DMSO, DMF; moderately soluble in methanol; insoluble in *n*-hexane, diethyl ether. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.95 (s, 2H, CH_2^a), 4.44 (s, 2H, CH_2^b), 7.61 ('t', 1H, CH^c), 7.77 ('d', 1H, CH^d), 8.08 ('t', 1H, CH^e), 8.71 ('d', 1H, CH^f). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 47.6 (s, CH_2^a), 50.1 (s, CH_2^b), 123.2 (s, CH^c), 123.5 (s, CH^d), 137.3 (s, CH^e), 149.0 (s, CH^f), 152.3 (s, C^g), 168.1 (s, CO). IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 3422 (s, br), 2956 (s, br), 2713 (s, br), 2563 (s, br), 2363 (m), 1751 (s), 1635 (s), 1621 (s), 1569 (w), 1558 (w), 1541 (m), 1481 (m), 1457 (s), 1404 (s), 1261 (m), 1218 (m), 1188 (s), 1101 (m), 1163 (s), 924 (w), 850 (m), 778 (s).

Table SI-1. Selected Crystallographic Data for Complexes 2–6.

¹ K. Hino, H. Nakamura, Y. Nagai, H. Uno, H. Nishimura, J. Med. Chem., 1983, 26, 222.

² For numbering scheme please refer to Scheme 1 in the main text.

³ X. Wang, J. J. Vittal, Inorg. Chem., 2003, 42, 5135.

	2	3	4	5	6
Formula	$[\operatorname{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cym})(\mathbf{B})]$	$[\operatorname{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cym})(\mathbf{C})] \cdot 2\mathbf{C}$	$[RuCl(p-cym){D(Me)}]$	$[Ru_2Cl_3(p-cym)_2]$	[RuCl(p-cym)(E-2H)]
		HCl ₃	[PF ₆]	$[\operatorname{RuCl}(p\operatorname{-cym})(\mathbf{E})]_2[\operatorname{PF}_6]_3$	[PF ₆]·MeOH
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Orthorhombic	MeOH Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_{1}/c$	ΡĪ	$Pna2_1$	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>	$P2_{1}/n$
<i>a</i> /pm	2444.94(7)	1063.12(4)	1441.04(2)	1827.38(3)	1107.44(2)
<i>b</i> /pm	1299.40(3)	1124.65(4)	1712.26(2)	1800.87(3)	1329.12(2)
<i>c</i> /pm	726.84(1)	1376.26(4)	919.520(10)	2443.57(4)	1856.18(3)
<i>α</i> /(°)	90	89.789(3)	90	90	90
β/(°)	90.813(2)	78.641(3)	90	102.830(1)	95.464(1)
𝒴/(°)	90	71.348(3)	90	90	90
V/pm ³	2308.91(9)	1525.4(1)	2268.86(5)	7840.7(2)	2719.74(8)
Crystal size (mm ³)	0.35x0.2x0.01	0.1x0.05x0.03	0.3x0.2x0.05	0.2x0.15x0.02	0.4x0.3x0.1
Z	4	2	4	4	4
$D_{calcd}\!/\;g\!\cdot\!cm^{\!-\!3}$	1.578	1.653	1.745	1.730	1.646
<i>F</i> (000)	1120	760	1200	4088	1360
Θ range	2.951°–26.368°	2.802°-26.372°	2.379°-30.507°	2.050°-30.508°	2.204°-30.507°
Data/restraints/	4718/84/266	6231/7/360	6889/36/364	23939/210/991	8305/27/510
$R_1, wR_2 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0529, 0.1133	0.0431, 0.0848	0.0309, 0.0668	0.0573, 0.1281	0.0307, 0.0673
R_1 , w R_2 (all Data)	0.0746, 0.1230	0.0617, 0.0914	0.0351, 0.0689	0.1050, 0.1511	0.0410, 0.0724
Residual electron	1.178/-0.991	1.259/-0.627	0.701/-0.427	1.630/-1.133	0.755/-0.417
Absolute structure parameter	-	-	-0.03(1)	-	-



Figure SI-1. Absorption spectra of 1–4 and 6 (100 μ M) with increasing concentration of CT-DNA (0–200 μ M) in phosphate buffer (pH = 7.2).



Figure SI-2. Effect of increasing concentration of 1-4 and 6 on the emission intensity of CT-DNA bound ethidium bromide (20 μ M)

Table SI-2. Thermal melting data of complexes 1–4 and 6.

Complex	ΔT _m /°C		
1	1.0		
2	3.1		
3	3.2		
4	3.2		
6	2.5		



Figure SI-3. CD spectra of CT-DNA in the absence and presence of a) **2**, b) **3**, c) **4** and d) **6** in 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH = 7.2, $[DNA] = 20 \mu M$.



Figure SI-4. Agarose (1%) gel of plasmid pBR 322 DNA in the presence of complex **4**, incubated for 30 min at 37 °C followed by irradiation at 365 nm for 60 min. TBE buffer, pH =8.2. Form I – supercoiled DNA, Form II – nicked circular plasmid DNA. Lane 1: DNA control, Lanes 2–9: DNA + **4** (20, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 200 μ M).



Figure SI-5. Agarose (1%) gel electrophoresis of plasmid pBR322 DNA, complex **6**, incubation time = 30 min, at 37 °C on irradiation. TBE buffer, pH = 8.2. Form I – supercoiled DNA, Form II – nicked circular plasmid DNA. Lanes 1 to 8: DNA + **6** (5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 50 μ M), Lane 9: DNA control.



Figure SI-6. The influence of ruthenium(II) arene complexes **1–3** on tumour cell viability. 8505C (1.5 x 10^3), MCF-7 (2 x 10^3), 518A2 (1 x 10^3) and SW480 (1.5 x 10^3) were treated with various concentrations of complex **1** (A), **2** (B) and **3** (C) and viability was measured after 96 h. The data are presented as mean±SD from three independent experiments. *p < 0.05, refers to control, untreated cells.



Figure SI-7. The influence of ligands **B**, **C**, and **E** on tumour cell viability. 8505C (1.5×10^3), MCF-7 (2×10^3), 518A2 (1×10^3) and SW480 (1.5×10^3) were treated with various concentrations of ligand **B** (A), **C** (B) and **E** (C), and viability was measured after 96 h. The data are presented as mean±SD from three independent experiments. *p < 0.05, refers to control, untreated cells.