

Ester prodrugs of ciprofloxacin as DNA-gyrase inhibitors: synthesis, antiparasitic evaluation and docking studies

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1. Chemistry

1.1. General materials and methods

Nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR) spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker AC 300 spectrometer. TMS was used as an internal standard and CDCl_3 as the solvent. ^1H NMR analyses were obtained at 300 MHz (s: singlet, br s: broad singlet, d: doublet, t: triplet, dd: double doublet, m: multiplet); ^{13}C NMR analyses were obtained at 75.4 MHz; and ^{19}F NMR analyses were obtained at 282 MHz. The chemical shifts (δ) are given in parts per million relative to TMS ($\delta = 0.00$). Mass spectra were recorded by means of a Waters Micromass Quattro II triple quadrupole LC mass spectrometer equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) and atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) sources. Melting points were determined on a Kofler apparatus and are uncorrected. Column chromatography, carried out on silica gel (Macherey-Nagel Kieselgel 60 M) was used for the purification of compounds. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using coated silica gel plates, detection by UV lamp. The purity degree of all compounds were checked by combustion analysis and proved to be higher than 95%.

1.2. Synthetic procedures

1.2.1. Synthesis of 2-adamanta-1ylethanol

A solution of 2-adamant-1-ylacetic acid (0.500 g, 0.0026 mol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of LiAlH_4 (0.200 g, 0.0053 mol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12h. The mixture was then hydrolyzed by addition of ethanol (10 mL) and ice. The solution was acidified by 5% aq. citric acid (10 mL) and then extracted by diethyl ether (3×10 mL). The organic layers were washed twice with 5% aq. NaHCO_3 (5 mL) and then with water (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . After removing the drying agent, the solvent was removed under reduce pressure. A white solid (0.458 g, 0.0025 mol) was obtained (98% yield).

δ_{H} (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 3.71 (t, $J=7.23$ Hz; 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$); 1.94 (m; 3H, $3\text{CH}\beta\text{-Ad}$); 1.65 (m; 12H, $3\text{CH}_2\alpha\text{-Ad}$ and $3\text{CH}_2\gamma\text{-Ad}$); 1.38 (t, $J = 7.23$ Hz; 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$). δ_{C} (CDCl_3 , 75.4 MHz) 59.2 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$); 47.5 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$); 43.1 ($3\text{CH}_2\alpha\text{-Ad}$); 37.4 ($3\text{CH}_2\gamma\text{-Ad}$); 28.9 ($3\text{CH}\beta\text{-Ad}$).

1.2.2. Synthesis of 2-adamant-1-ylacetylene chloride

2-adamant-1-ylethanol (0.690 g, 3.8 mmol) was dissolved in pyridine (0.15 mL) and thionyle chloride (1 mL). The mixture was heated at 70°C for 2h. The mixture was cooled at room temperature then was hydrolyzed by water (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3×10 mL). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . After removing the drying agent, the solvent was removed over reduce pressure. A beige solid (0.530g, 2.7 mmol) was obtained (70 % yield).

δ_{H} (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 3.52 (t, $J=8.04$ Hz; 2H, $\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{Cl}$); 1.93 (s; 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{Cl}$); 1.61 (m; 9H, $3\text{CH}\beta\text{-Ad}$ and $3\text{CH}_2\alpha\text{-Ad}$); 1.49 (m; $3\text{CH}_2\gamma\text{-Ad}$). δ_{C} (CDCl_3 , 75.4 MHz) 40.9 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{Cl}$); 42.3 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{Cl}$); 43.6 ($3\text{CH}_2\alpha\text{-Ad}$); 37.5 ($3\text{CH}_2\gamma\text{-Ad}$); 29.1 ($3\text{CH}\beta\text{-Ad}$); 20.8 ($\text{C}_{\text{IV}}\text{-Ad}$).

1.2.3. Synthesis of 1-(2-(adamantan-1-yl)ethyl)piperazine

2-adamant-1-ylacetyl chloride (0.400 g, 2 mmol), piperazine (1.220 g, 14 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (1.180 g, 8.6 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (10 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h. The mixture was cooled at room temperature then was hydrolyzed by water (20 mL). The mixture was extracted by dichloromethane (3×20 mL). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. After removing the drying agent, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. A beige solid (0.430 g, 1.7 mmol) was obtained (87% yield).

δ_H ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) 2.83 (t, $J=8.81$ Hz; 4H, $2CH_2$ of piperazine); 2.37 (m; H, $-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 2.25 (t, $J=9.12$ Hz; 4H, $2CH_2$ of piperazine); 1.86 (m; 3H, $3CH-Ad$); 1.59 (m; 6H, $3CH_2-\alpha Ad$); 1.42 (m; 6H, $3CH_2-\gamma Ad$); 1.20 (m, 2H, $-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine). δ_C ($CDCl_3$, 75.4 MHz) 54.6 ($-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 52.8 (CH_2 of piperazine); 46.0 (CH_2 of piperazine); 42.2 ($3CH_2-\gamma Ad$); 40.7 ($-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 37.2 ($3CH_2-\alpha Ad$); 28.5 ($3CH-Ad$); 21.7 ($C_{IV}-Ad$).

1.2.4. Synthesis of ethyl 7-(4-(2-((adamantan-1-yl)ethyl)piperazin-1-yl)-1-cyclopropyl-6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (5)

1-(2-(adamantan-1-yl)ethyl)piperazine (0.186 g, 0.75 mmol) and ethyl 1-cyclopropyl-6,7-difluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate **10** (0.110 g, 0.37 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (6 mL). The mixture was refluxed for one week. The mixture was cooled at room temperature then was hydrolysed by water (20 mL). The mixture was extracted by dichloromethane (3×20 mL). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. After removing the drying agent, the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using AcOEt/Petroleum (7:3) then AcOEt/Petroleum ether/MeOH (9:0.5:0.5). A beige solid (0.117 g, 0.22 mmol) was obtained (30 % yield).

δ_H ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) 8.44 (s; 1H, H_2); 7.95 (d, $J=13.62$ Hz; 1H, H_5); 7.20 (s; 1H, H_8); 4.31 (q, $J=7.08$ Hz; 2H, CH_3-CH_2-O); 3.36 (quin, $J = 3.27$ Hz; 1H, CH (cyclopropyle)); 3.22 (t, $J=4.05$ Hz; 4H, $2CH_2$ of piperazine); 2.60 (t, $J=4.29$ Hz; 4H, $2CH_2$ of piperazine); 2.37 (t, $J=7.83$ Hz; 2H, $-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 1.89 (m; 3H, $3CH-Ad$); 1.64 (m; 6H, $3CH_2-\gamma Ad$); 1.46 (m; 6H, $3CH_2-\alpha Ad$); 1.33 (t, $J=7.08$ Hz; 3H, CH_3-CH_2-O); 1.24 (m; 4H, CH_2 (cyclopropyle) and $-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 1.06 (m; 2H, CH_2 (cyclopropyle)). δ_C ($CDCl_3$, 75.4 MHz) 173.1 ($-C=O$); 166.0 ($-COO$); 153.2 (C_6); 148.2 (C_2); 144.6 (C_7); 138.0 (C_{10}); 122.7 (C_9); 113.3 (C_5); 110.4 (C_3); 104.7 (C_8); 60.9 (CH_3-CH_2-O); 53.2 ($2CH_2$ of piperazine); 52.8 (CH_2-CH_2- piperazine); 50.0 ($2CH_2$ of piperazine); 42.6 ($3CH_2-\alpha Ad$); 41.0 ($-CH_2-CH_2-$ piperazine); 37.1 ($3CH_2-\gamma Ad$); 34.5 (CH (cyclopropyle)); 31.8 ($C^{IV}-Ad$); 28.6 ($3CH-Ad$); 14.4 ($-CH_3-CH_2-O$); 8.1 (CH_2 (cyclopropyle)). δ_F ($CDCl_3$, 282 MHz) -123.5 (F). MS (EI): m/z 522 [MH^+]. Anal. (C, H, N).

1.2.5. Synthesis of 7-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-cyclopropyl-6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

A solution of ethyl 1-cyclopropyl-6,7-difluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate **10** (0.071 g, 0.24 mmol), 1-benzylpiperazine (0.142 g, 0.81 mmol) and triethylamine (110 μ L,

0.75 mmol) in CH₃CN (4mL) was refluxed for one week, under N₂. After cooling at room temperature, the mixture was hydrolysed then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×20 mL). The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated. The yellow oily residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (99.5:0.5 to 95:5 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH) affording the product (0.067 g, 0.15 mmol) 449.22 as a brown-orange solid (64%).

δ_{H} (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 1.10 (m, 2H), 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.66 (m, 4H), 3.26 (m, 4H), 3.41 (t, $J = 7.2$ and 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 4.34 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.88 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H); δ_{C} (CDCl₃, 75.4 MHz) 8.1, 14.5, 34.5, 48.5, 50.0, 52.8, 60.7, 63, 104.8 (d, $J = 3$ Hz), 110.0, 112.9 (d, $J = 23$ Hz), 122.7 (d, $J = 7$ Hz), 127.2, 128.3, 129.2, 137.8, 137.9 (d, $J = 1$ Hz), 144.5 (d, $J = 11$ Hz), 148.0, 153.8 (d, $J = 249$ Hz), 165.8, 173.0 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz); δ_{F} (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) -123.5 (dd, $J = 13.4$ and 7.3 Hz); MS (EI) : m/z 450 [MH⁺]. Anal. (C, H, N).

Stability Studies in Aqueous Solutions. The rates of chemical hydrolyses of ester prodrugs **2–5**, were studied at 37 °C in aqueous phosphate buffer of pH 7.4 (150 mM NaCl, 4 mM NaH₂PO₄, 25 mM NaHCO₃). A 1 mM stock solution of ester prodrugs **2–5** in 10% aqueous DMSO was diluted in preheated buffer, and the 100 μ M solutions of ester prodrugs **2–5** were placed in a thermostatically controlled water bath at 37 °C. The 100 μ L samples of the solutions were collected at different times ($t = 0, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 20, 24, 30, 48$ and 76 h). The 100 μ L samples were added to 100 μ L of EtOH and then were directly injected through a 50 μ L loop for HPLC analysis. Analytical HPLC was performed on a Shimadzu system equipped with a C18 Bio-Rad Bio-Sil C18 A/B 90-5 column (4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm) and a UV detector set at 278 nm. The following solvent systems were used: (A), 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in H₂O and (B) 0.05% TFA, 20% H₂O, 80% CH₃CN, with the following conditions: (A) 1 min, a linear gradient from (A) to (B), 0–100% for 30 min, (A) 5 min. HPLC retention times (HPLC t_{R}) were obtained at flow rates of 1 mL/min. In the presence of human serum, $t_{\text{R}} = 15.47$ min for CIPRO **1**, $t_{\text{R}} = 17.53$ min for **2**, $t_{\text{R}} = 24.04$ min for **3**, $t_{\text{R}} = 17.63$ min for **4**, and $t_{\text{R}} = 26.42$ min for **5**.

Stability Studies in RPMI–10% Human Serum. The rates of enzymatic hydrolysis of ester prodrugs **2–5** were studied in RPMI–10% human serum at 37 °C. The reactions were initiated by dissolving a 1 mM stock solution of ester prodrugs **2–5** in 10% aqueous DMSO in the preheated medium, and the 100 μ M solutions of ester prodrugs **2–5** were placed in a thermostatically controlled water bath at 37°C. The 100 μ L samples of the solutions were collected at different times ($t = 0, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 20, 24, 30, 45, 53, 70$ and 76 h). The 100 μ L samples were added to 100 μ L of EtOH, then were centrifuged for 1 min at 8000 rpm. The supernatant was directly injected through a 50 μ L loop for HPLC analysis. The following solvent systems were used: (A), 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in H₂O and (B) 0.05% TFA, 20% H₂O, 80% CH₃CN, with the following conditions: (A) 5 min, a linear gradient from (A) to (B), 0–100% for 30 min, (A) 5 min. HPLC retention times (HPLC t_{R}) were obtained at flow rates of 1 mL/min. In the presence of human serum, $t_{\text{R}} = 15.47$ min for

CIPRO **1**, $t_R = 17.53$ min for **2**, $t_R = 24.04$ min for **3**, $t_R = 17.63$ min for **4**, and $t_R = 26.42$ min for **5**.

Table SII. Predicted $\log P$ and pK_a values of the organic derivatives

Compound	$\log P$	pK_a
2	2.29	8.67
monoprotonated 2	-0.93	8.67
1 , zwitterionic form	-4.20	8.68 and 5.76
1 , neutral form	1.71	8.68 and 5.76
4	4.35	6.69
monoprotonated 4	0.95	6.69
7 , zwitterionic form	-2.32	6.74 and 5.70
7 , neutral form	3.77	6.74 and 5.70
5	5.25	7.58
monoprotonated 5	1.85	7.58
8 , zwitterionic form	-1.42	7.58 and 5.74
8 , neutral form	4.66	7.58 and 5.74

Values of $\log P$ and pK_a were calculated using Marvin, Calculator Plugin from ChemAxon 5.2¹

2. In vitro biological assays

2.1. Blood-schizontocidal activity against *Plasmodium falciparum*

The antimalarial activity of all compounds was tested against *P. falciparum* strains 3D7 (Africa), W2 (Indochina), and Tm90C2b (Thailand). Parasites were maintained in culture in RPMI 1640 (Invitrogen, Paisley, United Kingdom) supplemented with 10% human serum (Abcys S.A., Paris, France) and buffered with 25 mM HEPES and 25 mM NaHCO₃. Parasites were grown in A-positive human serum (Etablissement Français du Sang, France) under a controlled atmosphere (10 % O₂, 5 % CO₂ and 85 % N₂ at 37 °C, humidity 95 %). All compounds were dissolved in DMSO 1% (v/v) in RPMI. Two fold serial dilutions with final concentrations ranging from 0.005 µM to 100µM were prepared in DMSO 1% in RPMI for fluoroquinolones (and from 0.15 to 500 µM for ciprofloxacin) and distributed into Falcon 96-well plates just before use.

For in vitro isotopic microtests 25 µL/well of the molecules and 200 µL/well of the suspension of parasitized erythrocytes (final parasitemia 0.5 % for the 48h-test and 0.2% for the 96h-test, > 95% of young trophozoites; final hematocrit 1.5%) were distributed in 96-well plates. Parasite growth was assessed by adding 1 µCi of [³H]hypoxanthine with a specific activity of 14.1 Ci/mmol (Perkin-Elmer, Courtaboeuf, France) to each well at 0h for the 48h exposure test and at 48h for the 96h exposure test. The plates were then incubated for 48 h (or 96h) in the controlled atmosphere previously described. Immediately after incubation plates were frozen and then thawed to lyse erythrocytes. The content of each well was collected on filter microplates (Unifilter GF/B; Perkin-Elmer) and washed by using a cell harvester (Filter-Mate Cell Harvester; Perkin-Elmer). Filter microplates were dried, and 25 µL of scintillation cocktail (Microscint O; Perkin-Elmer) was placed in each well. Radioactivity incorporated by the parasites was measured with a scintillation counter (Top Count; Perkin-Elmer).

The IC₅₀ (the drug concentration leading to 50 % of the uptake of [³H]hypoxanthine by parasites in drug-free control wells) was determined by nonlinear regression analysis of log-dose/response curves.

2.2. Anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* activity

Parasites and cells: Tachyzoites from the virulent RH strain of *T. gondii*, isolated from human brain², were used for the in vitro experiments and were maintained by intraperitoneal (i.p.) passages in Swiss mice. For the in vitro anti-proliferative assays approximately 5×10⁵ cells were placed in a 24-well tissue culture plate 24h before the experiment. The cells were infected with freshly obtained parasites, resuspended in RPMI without fetal bovine serum (FBS) at a ratio of 10:1 parasite/host cell. Tachyzoites were allowed to interact for 1h and then the cell monolayers were washed twice with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) to remove non-adherent extracellular parasites. Different concentrations of different fluoroquinolones were added to the infected cells after 6h of infection and incubated for 24 or 48h at 37°C (assays were performed in triplicate). After treatment, samples were fixed with Bouin, stained with Eosin & Hematoxiline and observed in a light microscope. The parasite proliferation index was determined by the examination of at least 400 cells from two different coverslips

and was determined by multiplying the percentage of infected cells by the total number of intracellular parasites per total number of cells³.

For IC₅₀ (concentration for 50% growth inhibition) calculations, the percentage of growth inhibition was plotted as a function of the drug concentration by fitting the values to the non-linear curve analysis. The regression analyses were performed using Sigma Plot 8.0 software (Systat Software Inc, Chicago, IL, USA).

2.3. Cytotoxicity

LLC-MK2 cell cultures (kidney, Rhesus monkey, *Macaca mulata* – ATCC CCL7, Rockville, MD/USA) were maintained in RPMI medium with 5% Foetal Bovine Serum (FBS) at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂. The effect of the drugs on LLC-MK2 cells was evaluated by MTS assay, which is based on the reduction of the salt MTS (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium, inner salt) into soluble formazan by mitochondrial dehydrogenase enzymes in metabolically active and viable cells. For that, 2x10⁵ cells were placed in a 96-well tissue plate and treated with different concentrations of compounds (5 to 30µM) for 48h. At the end of incubation time, cells were washed with PBS and each well was filled with 100µL of PBS + 10mM Glucose and 20µL of MTS reagent (Promega, Madison WI, USA) added. The absorbance was read at 490nm after 3h of incubation and cytotoxicity was calculated as the percentage of viable cells versus untreated control cells.

The cytotoxic effect of compounds was also assessed using murine splenocytes stimulated by concanavalin A.⁴ Cells isolated from BALB/c mice and washed twice in RPMI 1640 medium, were resuspended in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 0.1 mM non essential aminoacids (Cambrex Biosciences, Walkersville, USA), 4mM glutamine (Cambrex), 10% FBS, 5 µg/ml gentamycin, 50 µM β-mercaptoethanol (Merck), and 1 µg/ml concanavalin A (Sigma). Cells (2.10⁵ cells /well in 100µl) were then seeded into 96-well flat-bottom tissue culture plates containing drug solutions (100 µl) serially diluted with complete culture medium. The plates were incubated for 72 h in a humidified atmosphere at 37 °C and 5% CO₂. Twenty µl of a stock solution of resazurin (alamar Blue, AbD Serotec, Oxford UK) were then added per well (final concentration 10 µM), and the plates were further incubated at 37°C for 24 h. Optical densities were measured in a DYNEX MRX II plate reader with excitation wavelength at 570 nm and emission wavelength at 620 nm. The calculations (difference in reduction between control and treated cells) were done according to the recommendations of manufacturer.⁵ IC₅₀ values were determined as previously described.⁶

3. Modeling studies

3.1. Amino acid sequence alignments

The *P. falciparum* and *T. gondii* DNA gyrase sequences were obtained from Tr-EMBL data base. The NCBI-Blast server on EBI (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/sss/ncbiblast/>) was used to search the closest sequence of topoisomerases in the RCSB Protein Data Bank. As we would like to model a ternary complex structures between ciprofloxacin and DNA gyrase, we chose the X-ray structure of a same complex but with the gyrase from *Staphylococcus aureus*. The high degree of sequence identity between the target DNA gyrases and *S. aureus* topoisomerase II (around 31%) indicates that this structure (PDB code: 2XCT) is a correct model, usable as template. The sequence alignments of *P. falciparum* and *T. gondii* DNA gyrases A and B with the corresponding proteins from *S. aureus* were performed using ClustalW⁷, and then refined by hand.

GyrA	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	NERNITSEMRESFLDYAMSVIVARALPDVRDGLKPVHRRILYGLNEQGMTPDK-SYKKSARIVGDVMGKYHPHGDSSIYE	YDVEICEILSKSFLSYANFLILNRCLCDYRDGLKTVQRRIIWSMYEINKGIDKKGYKKCARIVGEVIGKYHPHGDKSVYD	LDTQFVEELEKSFCLCAYSTILSRALPDVRDGLKPVHRRILIYAMQQLHLHPSG-SFRKCARVVGVEVLGKFPHPGDQAVYD					
B9PYK0								# #
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	AMVRMAQDFSYRYPVLDVGQGNFGSMDGDGAAAMRYTEARMTKITLELLR-DINKDTIDFIDNYDGNEREPSVLPARFPNL	ALVRLAQKHNNNNLLIKGYGNFGSV EYN-AAAMRYTEAKISSFCYDILLDEINDENV EYIKNFDGNEREPKVLCSKIPLL	ALVRLAQTFVARHPLIEGHGNGFSVDGDPAAAMRYTECRLTRFCEDALLKNLDDKVVPFRPNFDANEREPEVVPASVPLV					
B9PYK0								
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	LANGASGIAVGMATNIPPHNLTELINGVLSLSKNPDISTAEIMEDI EGPDPPTAGLILGKSGIRR-AYETGRGSIQMRSR	LINGCSGIAVSILSSIPCHNLIDVANCCINFLINENIRDDLEFHHIKGPDFSTGGIISKYDILKNIYNSGKGNFEIRSN	LIQSSSGIAVGMSTQIPPHNLHEILDATIALIRDP ELPDAELLRLVPGPDFPTGGLLVNSE EIPG-AYKEGRGRVLLRGR					
B9PYK0								
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	AVIEERGG-----GRQRIVVTEIPPQVVKARMIEKIAELVRDKK--IDGITDLRD	VFFFEYIKNDKKVITKHIN-----DLSSIENSDDIKTKKIIKKNLPPNVKPNELIENIINLLNDKKNEHDNILLRIR	FHLEGEDDDGDTVPGRDRNAEDEAEERDEADRHVRNGRKNERRLVITELPYGVNKSVMQVIAQMISVKF--LEGVTSVRD					
B9PYK0								
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	ETSLRTGVRVVIDVRKD---ANASVILNNLYKQTPQTSGFVNMIALVNG-RPKLINLKEALVHYLEHQKTVVRRTQYN	DESEKEDMRIVLELKKHSQIEQIHNFLSYLFKYTNMQISYHCNFCIGYENTYTTQFSLKSFILKWCNNRIKFIKNTYBIK	ESDWR-GIRVVLVLRD---ADAHITILTLTLLKHTNLQVYIPMHLIALKGTGPVRFSLKSMLLSWIAFRFHTLRRLLAAE					
B9PYK0								
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	LRKAKDRAHILEGLRIALDHIDEIISTIRESDTDKVAMESLQQR-FKLSEKQAQAILDMRLRRLTGLERDKIEAEYNELL	NKNLQKQLNIIDLYLITQNKILDITFFQKNQNI EQQLYLKNN-FKLNPEQIKYILSIKLQKLINIKNIDFISQRNKIM	EAERKARSHLEGLLRAVSLMDDDVVKTVRESLSADDAKQKLT EPP LGFSPAQAQALLRLTLRLTRLERRQL EEEAKAQK					
B9PYK0								
Q99XG5								
Q8I0X3	NYISELETILADEEVLLQLVRDELTEIRDRFGDDRRTEIQLG	HQIKLNDEIINNQNINIKNLITQELIYIKNKYGIHNLNKQCII	DRLSELASLLAHDR ETEYELMV EELQAHKTRHKAPRKT KVLGL					
B9PYK0								
GyrB-Toprim	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
P66937								
Q8I528	LPGLKADCSKSP EEE---CEIFLVEGDSAGGSTKSGRDSRTQAAILPLRGKILNVEKAR-LDRILNNEIRQMITAFGTGI	LPGLKLVDCISDDISR---NEIFIVEGDSAGSAQARNREIQAAILPLKGIKILNVEKIKNNKRIFENSELKSILITAGLNV	LPGLKSDCSPTNARERLSKELFIVEGESAGSAQARDRTQAAILPLRGKILNVEKLGNFARIFENEEELKALVAALGISV					
B9Q192								
P66937								
Q8I528	GGDF-----DLAK-----ARYHKIVIMTDADVDGAHIRTLLLTTF	NYDNKNLKNNNILSNKKGKNSKKKSDLNRSRFESTQNNNNILNKKKDILVDNLTLYGKVIIMTDADVDGEHIRILLTTF	TKAG-----EVSADLDG-----LRYSRVILTDADVDGAHIRSLLTTF					
B9Q192								

	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240																				
P66937																												
	FYRFR	PLIE	EAGYV	IAQPP	LYKLT	QG-KQ	KYYVY	NDREL	DKLSE	ELNPT	-----																	
Q8I528	LYRFQ	KEIIE	NGNVY	VACPP	LYKIT	YN----	KFFD	NSIKD	IVTKQ	FNVT	-----																	
B9Q192	FFRLQ	PELFR	QGRIF	VACPP	LFKIA	HFP-V	PHKLL	QDATA	AFRRK	PCSRATS	SAVPDE	ARAVH	DAHT	DEEER	GDES	DDEAG												
	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320																				
P66937	-----	PKWSI	ARYK	GLGEM	NADQL	WETT	MNPE	HR----	ALLQ	VKLED	-----	AI	EADQ	TFE	MLM	G	DVV											
Q8I528	----	KQSK	FIIT	YS	SDQ	ELNN	LLKLL	DKDKI	ASEQ	----	KN	MQNK	IKN	KNM	SSNG	EPL	SEYNE	QSKTN	----	DI	FV							
B9Q192	RGGG	KRLAT	E	TYVWS	DEE	VKR	VF	FEVLR	MR	ESR	KKER	Q	RG	PG	KRM	RG	V	AAD	AVLS	GGE	KPE	H	TARE	P	DRDD	G	RDGER	GGEQ
	330																											
P66937	---	ENRRQ	FIED	NAVY																								
Q8I528		NEEG	STDS	FID	DNVLF																							
B9Q192		DQEE	GEERR	SSDK	TV																							

Multiple sequence alignment between DNA gyrase sequences from *Staphylococcus aureus* (accession numbers Q99XG5 and P66937), *Plasmodium falciparum* (Q8I0X3 and Q8I528) and *Toxoplasma gondii* (B9PYK0 and B9Q192). The first alignment is for the gyrA subunit and the latter is for the Toprim domain of gyrB. The four 'catalytic' residues are indicated by (*) underneath sequences. The two key residues of the QRDR region, Ser84 and Asp84, are showed by (#) underneath sequences.

3.2. Models of *P. falciparum* and *T. gondii* DNA gyrases

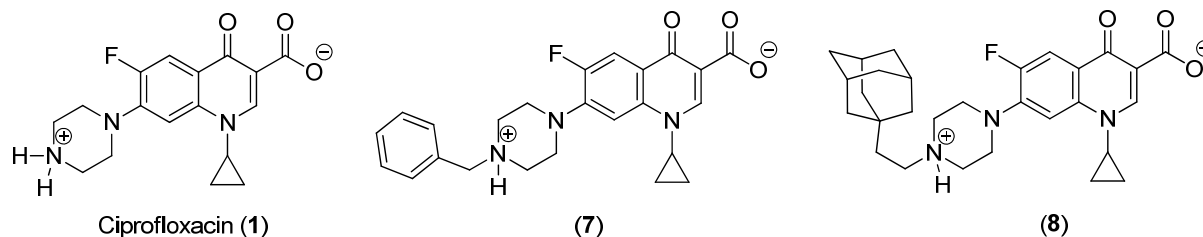
Proteins reconstruction were achieved with Modeller9.8⁸ on the entire sequence. All molecules present in the PDB file 2XCT, as the different DNA strands, the ligands ciprofloxacin, the magnesium ions, as well as the four protein chains, were modeled.

The final models were chosen from according the best Modeller energy score.



Ribbon representation of the PfGyrase model. The gyrase A is coloured in orange and the gyrase B in light blue. The DNA is depicted with carbon atoms in green. The ciprofloxacin molecules are displayed with their carbon atoms in yellow. Mg ions bound to ciprofloxacin are in purple whereas catalytic Mg ions are in violet. The colouring scheme is oxygen in red, nitrogen in blue, fluorine in pink, and phosphate in magenta. For clarity, unmodelled loops are not included.

3.3. Ligands preparation



Ciprofloxacin and its derivatives can each exist as three chemical species (cationic, zwitterionic, and anionic) depending on the pH of the aqueous solution. For CIPRO, the experimentally measured pK_{a1} and pK_{a2} values are 5.9 and 8.2⁹. For **7**, the predicted pK_{a1} and pK_{a2} values are 5.7 and 6.7. For **8**, the predicted pK_{a1} and pK_{a2} values are 5.7 and 7.6. At physiological pH the major contribution is from the zwitterionic state. We therefore used the zwitterionic states of CIPRO and its derivatives in docking calculations.

The 3D structures were built and energy minimized using MOPAC2009.¹⁰

3.4. Docking protocol

Compounds **1**, **7** and **8** were docked into the QRDR of the homology-modeled DNA gyrases using AutoDock4.2.¹¹. The graphical interface AutoDock Tools was used. Flexible torsion angles in the ligands were assigned with Autotors. The grid maps for each atom type found in the ligand structures were calculated using the auxiliary program AutoGrid. The grid size was set to 30×30×48 points with 0.375 Å spacing, and the grid box was centered on the QRDR. The Lamarckian genetic algorithm was selected for ligand conformational searching.

4. References

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