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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

New Nitric Oxide or Hydrogen Sulfide Releasing Aspirins

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Supplementary Experimental Section

Chemistry. ^{1}H and ^{13}C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 at 300 and 75 MHz respectively, using $SiMe_4$ as the internal standard. Low resolution mass spectra were recorded with a Finnigan-Mat TSQ-700. Melting points were determined with a capillary apparatus (Büchi 540). Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60, 230-400 mesh ASTM); PE stands for 40-60 petroleum ether. The progress of the reactions was followed by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on 5×20 cm plates with a layer thickness of 0.2 mm. Anhydrous magnesium sulfate was used as the drying agent for the organic phases. Organic solvents were removed under vacuum at 30 °C. Elemental analyses (C, H, N) were performed by REDOX (Monza), and the results are within (0.4% of the theoretical values. Compounds **7a**,[1] **7b**,[2] **7c**[3], **7d**[3], **10**[4] and **13**[5] were obtained as described elsewhere.

General procedure for the preparation of 8a-d. To a solution of the appropriate alcohol (2.5 mmol) and chloromethylchloroformate (0.25 mL, 2.7 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL), stirred at -15 °C, a solution of Py (0.22 mL, 2.7 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added dropwise. At the end of the addition the ice-salt bath was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature. After 15 min the solvent was removed and obtained oil was purified by flash chromatography. Chromatographic eluents and yields of the products were as follow.

Chloromethyl-3-nitrooxypropyl carbonate (8a). Eluent (PE/CH_2Cl_2 7/3 v/v); colourless oil; yield 83%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.15 (qi, 2H, -C*H*$_2$CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 4.35 (t, 2H, -OC*H*$_2$CH$_2$-), 4.58 (t, 2H, -C*H*$_2$ONO$_2$), 5.74 (s, 2H, -C*H*$_2$Cl). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 26.3, 64.9, 69.1, 72.3, 153.2.

Chloromethyl-5,6-dinitrooxypropyl carbonate (8b). Eluent (PE/CH_2Cl_2 1/1 v/v); colourless oil; yield 80%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 4.44 (dd, 1H, -CH*H*O-), 4.56 – 4.70 (m, 2H, -CH*H*ONO$_2$ + , -CH*H*O-), 4.81 (dd, 1H, , -CH*H*ONO$_2$), 5.48 – 5.54 (m, 1H, -C*H*ONO$_2$), 5.72 – 5.77 (m, 2H, -C*H*$_2$Cl). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 64.6, 68.2, 72.6, 75.6, 152.9.

Chloromethyl-4-(3-nitrooxypropyl)phenyl carbonate (8c). Eluent (PE/CH_2Cl_2 8/2 v/v); colourless oil, which solidified on standing in freezer; yield 75%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.05 (m, 2H, -C*H*$_2$CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 2.75 (t, 2H, -C*H*$_2$CH$_2$CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 4.45 (t, 2H, -C*H*$_2$ONO$_2$), 5.82 (s, 2H, -C*H*$_2$Cl), 7.13 – 7.26 (m, 4H, C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 28.3, 31.1, 72.1, 72.5, 120.9, 129.5, 138.6, 149.2, 152.1.

4-(2,3-Bis(nitrooxy)propyl)phenyl chloromethyl carbonate (8d). Eluent (PE/CH_2Cl_2 6/4 v/v); yellowish oil; yield 50%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.99 – 3.14 (m, 2H, -C*H*$_2$CH-), 4.44 (dd, 1H, -C*H*HONO$_2$), 4.73 (dd, 1H, -CH*H*ONO$_2$), 5.40 – 5.47 (m, 1H, -C*H*ONO$_2$), 5.82 (s, 2H, -C*H*$_2$Cl), 7.20 – 7.30 (m, 4H, C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 34.9, 70.0, 72.6, 79.2, 121.5, 130.5, 132.6, 150.2, 151.9. MS EI: 350 $(M)^+$.

5-(4-(2-Hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)-3H-1,2-dithiole-3-thione (12). To a solution of Ph_3P (0.28 g, 1.1 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL), stirred under positive nitrogen pressure at -15 °C, DIAD (0.22 mL, 1.1 mmol) was added. Reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min, until white precipitate formed and **10** (0.20 g, 0.90 mmol) was added, followed by 2-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)ethanol (0.13 g, 0.90 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 24 hours at room temperature, then was poured in H_2O (10 mL) and extracted with Et_2O (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/acetone 9/1 v/v) to give 5-(4-(2-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)ethoxy)phenyl)-3H-1,2-dithiole-3-thione (**11**) as a reddish-brown oil; yield 70 %.^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 1.52-1.89 (m, 6H, 3C*H*$_2$ pyran), 3.51-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.81-4.25 (m, 5H), (C*H*$_2$Opyran, -OC*H*$_2$C*H*$_2$O-), 4.70-7.72 (m, 1H, -OC*H*O-), 7.02 (d, 2H, C_6H_4), 7.40 (s, 1H, C_3S_3*H*), 7.62 (d, 2H, C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 19.4, 25.4, 30.5, 62.3, 65.6, 67.8, 99.1, 115.5, 124.2, 128.6, 134.6, 162.3, 173.1, 215.1. MS (CI) *m/z* 355 $(M+1)^+$.

11 (0.44 g; 1.20 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (15 mL) and a catalytic amount of PPTS was added. The resulting mixture was heated at 55°C for 2 h, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/acetone 6/4 v/v) to give a reddish solid, which was recrystallized from EtOH to give the title compound as a yellowish-orange solid; yield 40 %; m.p. 117.5 °C (from EtOH). ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.12 (sbr, 1H, O*H*), 4.02 (t, 2H), 4.16 (t, 2H)(-OC*H*$_2$C*H*$_2$OH),

7.00 (d, 2H, C_6H_4), 7.39 (s, 1H, C_3S_3H), 7.61 (d, 2H, C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 61.2, 69.6, 115.5, 124.5, 128.6, 134.7, 162.0, 172.9, 215.1. MS (CI) *m/z* 271 $(M+1)^+$.

General procedure for the preparation of 9a-d, 14. To a solution of acetylsalicylic acid (0.22 g, 1.2 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) Cs_2CO_3 (0.20 g, 0.60 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was vigorously stirred for 15 min; then the appropriate chloromethylcarbonate (1.0 mmol) was added and reaction mixture was stirred at room temparature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et_2O (25 mL) and washed with H_2O, a saturated solution of $NaHCO_3$ and brine. The organic layer was dried, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product so obtained was purified by flash chromatography. Chromatographic eluents and yields of the products were as follow.

[(3-Nitrooxypropyl)carbonyl]oxymethyl 2-(acetyloxy)benzoate (9a). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 9/1 v/v); colourless oil; yield 75%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 2.12 (qi, 2H, -CH_2CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 2.36 (s, 3H, -CH_3), 4.31 (t, 2H, -OCH_2CH$_2$-), 4.55 (t, 2H, -CH_2ONO$_2$), 5.95 (s, 2H, -OCH_2O-), 7.12 (d, 1H), 7.34 (t, 1H), 7.61 (t, 1H), 8.08 (d, 1H) (C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 21.0, 26.3, 64.4, 69.2, 82.2, 121.7, 124.1, 126.2, 132.5, 134.9, 151.2, 153.8, 162.7, 168.2. MS (CI) *m/z* 358 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{14}H_{15}NO_{10}$): C, H, N.

([2,3-Bis(nitrooxy)propyl]carbonyl)oxymethyl 2-(acetyloxy)benzoate (9b). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 8/2 v/v); colourless oil; yield 29%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 2.36 (s, 3H, -CH_3), 4.39 (dd, 1H, -CHHONO$_2$), 4.54 (dd, 1H, -CHHONO$_2$), 4.64 (dd, 1H, -CHHO-), 4.80 (dd, 1H, -CHHO-), 5.45-5.51 (m, 1H, -CHONO$_2$), 5.97 (s, 2H, -OCH_2O), 7.13 (d, 1H), 7.35 (t, 1H), 7.62 (t, 1H), 8.08 (d, 1H) (C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 20.9, 64.3, 68.2, 75.7, 82.5, 121.6, 124.1, 126.3, 132.3, 135.0, 151.2, 153.5, 162.6, 169.7. MS (CI) *m/z* 419 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{14}H_{14}N_2O_{13}$): C, H, N.

[4-(3-Nitrooxypropyl)phenoxycarbonyl]oxymethyl 2-(acetyloxy)benzoate (9c). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 8/2 v/v); white solid; m.p. 52.5-53 °C (from *i*Pr$_2$O); yield 64%. ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 2.04 (qi, 2H, -CH_2CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 2.37 (s, 3H, -CH_3), 2.74 (t, 2H, -CH_2CH$_2$CH$_2$ONO$_2$), 4.45 (t, 2H, -CH_2ONO$_2$), 6.05 (s, 2H, -OCH_2O-), 7.13-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.37 (t, 1H), 7.65 (t, 1H), 8.11 (d, 1H) (2C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 21.0, 28.3, 31.1, 72.1, 82.5, 121.0, 121.7, 124.1, 126.2, 129.5, 132.3, 135.0, 138.4, 149.3, 151.2, 152.7, 162.7, 169.7. MS (CI) *m/z* 434 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{20}H_{19}NO_{10}$): C, H, N.

[4-[2,3-Bis(nitrooxy)propyl]phenoxycarbonyl]oxymethyl 2-(acetyloxy)benzoate (9d). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 8/2 v/v); colourless oil; yield 51%.^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.36 (s, 3H, -C*H*$_3$), 2.97-3.13 (m, 2H, -C*H*$_2$CH-), 4.43 (dd, 1H, -CH*H*ONO$_2$), 4.73 (dd, 1H, -CH*H*ONO$_2$), 5.38-5.46 (m, 1H, -C*H*ONO$_2$), 6.05 (s, 2H, -OC*H*$_2$O-), 7.13-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.61 (t, 1H), 8.11 (d, 1H) (2C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 21.0, 34.9, 70.0, 79.2, 82.5, 121.7, 124.1, 126.2, 130.5, 132.3, 135.0, 150.3, 151.3, 152.5, 162.7, 169.7. MS (CI) *m/z* 495 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_{13}$): C, H, N.

(Ethylthiocarbonyl)oxymethyl 2-(acetyloxy)benzoate (14). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 8/2 v/v); colourless oil; yield 87%.^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 1.33 (t, 3H, -CH_2C*H*$_3$), 2.36 (s, 3H, -C*H*$_3$), 2.90 (q, 2H, -C*H*$_2$$CH_3$), 6.00 (s, 2H, -OC*H*$_2$O-), 7.13 (d, 1H), 7.35 (t, 1H), 7.60 (t, 1H), 8.07 (d, 1H) (C_6H_4). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 14.8, 21.0, 25.5, 80.5, 121.9, 124.1, 126.1, 132.3, 134.8, 151.2, 162.7, 169.6, 170.8. MS (EI) *m/z* 298 $(M)^+$.

General procedure for the preparation of 16a and 16b. SO_2Cl_2 (0.88 mL, 10.9 mmol) was added dropwise to **14** (3.24 g, 10.9 mmol) stirred at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 1 hour. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to give **15** as colourless oil that was used in the next synthetic step without further purification.

To a solution of **15** (0.85 g, 3.1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL), stirred at -15 °C, a solution of the appropriate hydroxy derivative (2.6 mmol) and N-methylmorpholine (0.31 mL, 2.6 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at -15 °C, then for 24 hours at room temperature, then was poured in H_2O (20 mL) and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography. Chromatographic eluents and yields of the products were as follow.

((4-(3-Thioxo-3H-1,2-dithiol-5-yl)phenoxy)carbonyloxy)methyl 2-acetoxybenzoate (16a). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 8/2 v/v); reddish-brown solid, which was recrystallized from EtOH to give the title compound as a yellowish-orange solid; yield 30 %; m.p. 103.5-104 °C (from EtOH). ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.37 (s, 3H, -C*H*$_3$), 6.07 (s, 2H, -OC*H*$_2$O-), 7.15 (d, 1H, C_6H_4), 7.33 – 7.40 (m, 4H, 2C_6H_4 + C_3*H*S_3),

7.61 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 8.13 (d, 1H) ($2C_6H_4$). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 21.0, 82.6, 121.5, 122.2, 124.1, 126.2, 128.4, 129.8, 132.3, 135.0, 136.2, 151.3, 151.8, 153.3, 162.6, 169.8, 171.4, 215.5. MS (CI) *m/z* 463 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{20}H_{14}O_7S_3$): C, H, N.

((2-(4-(3-Thioxo-3H-1,2-dithiol-5-yl)phenoxy)ethoxy)carbonyloxy)methyl 2-acetoxybenzoate (16b). Eluent (PE/EtOAc 75/25 v/v); reddish-brown solid, which was recrystallized from EtOH to give the title compound as a yellowish-orange solid; yield 20 %; m.p. 105 °C (from EtOH). ^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.36 (s, 3H, -C*H*$_3$), 4.28 (t, 2H), 4.58 (t, 2H) (-OC*H*$_2$C*H*$_2$O-), 5.98 (s, 2H, -OC*H*$_2$O-), 6.96 (d, 2H), 7.13 (d, 1H), 7.33 (t, 1H) ($2C_6H_4$), 7.37 (s, 1H, C_3HS_3), 7.56 – 7.65 (m, 3H), 8.8 (d, 1H) ($2C_6H_4$). ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 21.0, 65.7, 66.4, 82.3, 115.6, 121.7, 124.1, 124.7, 126.2, 128.6, 132.2, 134.8, 134.9, 151.2, 153.9, 161.5, 162.6, 169.7, 172.7, 215.2. MS (CI) *m/z* 507 $(M+1)^+$. Anal. ($C_{22}H_{18}O_8S_3$): C, H, N.

Evaluation of stability in buffered solutions and in human serum.

Hydrolysis in acidic medium (pH 1.0) and in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). A 2 mL aliquot of 0.5 mM solution of each compound in DMSO was diluted to 10 mL using HCl 0.1 M to reach pH 1.0 or phosphate buffer 50 mM to obtain pH 7.4. The resulting solution was maintained at 37 ± 0.5 °C and at appropriate time intervals a 20 μL aliquote of reaction solution was analysed by RP-HPLC. All experiments were performed in triplicate.

Hydrolysis in human serum. A solution of each compound (10 mM) in DMSO was added to human serum (sterile-filtered from human male AB plasma, Sigma-Aldrich) preheated at 37 °C; the final concentration of the compound was 200 μM. The resulting solution was incubated at 37 ± 0.5 °C and at appropriate time intervals 300 μL of the reaction mixture was withdrawn and added to 300 μL of acetonitrile containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in order to deproteinize the serum. The sample was sonicated, vortexed and then centrifuged for 10 min at 2150 *g*, the clear supernatant was filtered by 0.45 μm PTFE filters (Alltech) and analysed by RP-HPLC. All experiments were performed at least in triplicate.

The reverse-phase HPLC procedure allowed separation and quantitation of the remaining compound and of the products of hydrolysis (aspirin, salicylic acid, salicylate and hydroxy derivatives bearing NO-donor or H_2S-donor moieties). HPLC analyses were performed with a HP 1100 chromatograph system (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) equipped with a quaternary pump (model G1311A), a membrane degasser (G1379A), a diode-array detector (DAD) (model G1315B) integrated in the HP1100 system. Data analysis was done using a HP ChemStation system (Agilent Technologies). The injection volume was 20 μL (Rheodyne, Cotati, CA). The analytical column was a Nucleosil 100-5C18 Nautilus (250 × 4.6 mm, 5 μm particle size) (Macherey-Nagel) eluting with a flow-rate of 1.2 mL/min. The samples were analysed using a gradient method employing a mobile phase consisting of acetonitrile/water with 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid 55/45 over the first 4 min, grading to 70/30 to 6 min, keeping 70/30 until 15 min and then back to 55/45 to 20 min. The column effluent was monitored at 226 nm (for compounds, aspirin and NO-donor or H_2S-donor hydroxy derivatives) and at 240 nm (for salicylic acid and salicylates) referenced against a 600 nm wavelength. Quantitation was done by comparison of peak areas with standards chromatographed under the same conditions.

Inhibition of Platelet Aggregation in vitro.

Venous blood samples were obtained from healthy volunteers who had not taken any drug for at least two weeks. Volunteers, who were treated according to Helsinki protocol for biomedical experimentation, gave their informed consent to the use of blood samples for research purposes. Platelet rich plasma (PRP) was prepared by centrifugation of citrated blood at 210 g for 20 min. Aliquots (500 μL) of PRP were added into aggregometer (Chrono-log 4902D) cuvettes and aggregation was recorded as increased light transmission under continuous stirring (1000 rpm) at 37 °C for 10 min after addition of the stimulus. Collagen at submaximal concentration (0.8-1.5 μg/mL) was used as a platelet activator in PRP. Compounds under study were preincubated with PRP 10 min before addition of the stimulus (collagen). Vehicle alone (0.5% DMSO) added to PRP did not affect platelet function in control samples. At least 5 experiments for each compound were performed.

The antiaggregatory activity of tested compounds is evaluated as % inhibition of platelet aggregation compared to control samples. For most active compounds IC_{50} values could be calculated by non-linear regression analysis, otherwise % inhibition at maximal concentration tested (300 μM) is reported.

Vasodilator Activities.

Thoracic aortas were isolated from male Wistar rats weighing 180 - 200 g. As few animals as possible were used. The purposes and the protocols of our studies have been approved by the Ministero della Salute, Rome, Italy. The endothelium was removed, the vessels were cut helically and four-six strips were obtained from each aorta. The tissues were mounted under 1.0 g tension in organ baths containing 30 mL of Krebs-bicarbonate buffer with the following composition (mM): NaCl 111.2, KCl 5.0, $CaCl_2$ 2.5, $MgSO_4$ 1.2, KH_2PO_4 1.0, $NaHCO_3$ 12.0, glucose 11.1, maintained at 37 °C and gassed with 95% O_2-5% CO_2 (pH = 7.4). The aortic strips were allowed to equilibrate for 1.5 h and then contracted with 1 μM L-phenylephrine or 25 mM KCl. When the response to the agonist reached a plateau, cumulative concentrations of the vasodilating agent were added. Results are expressed as EC_{50} ± SEM (μM). The effects of 1 μM ODQ or 10 μM glibenclamide on relaxation were evaluated in a separate series of experiments in which it was added 5 min before the contraction. With this protocol the inhibitor is preincubated for at least 30 min before the addition of the vasodilator compound. Responses were recorded by an isometric transducer connected to the MacLab System PowerLab. Addition of the drug vehicle, DMSO, had no appreciable effect on contraction level. At least 5 experiments for each compound were performed.

Supplementary references

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