

1 Original Research Paper
2 **Hybrid design as a strategy for development of**
3 **trypanocidal drugs**

4
5
6
7 **ABSTRACT**
8

Aims: We performed an initial in vitro study with a single molecule to evaluate the possibility to develop a larger series of hybrid compounds active in Chaga's Disease. Hybridization is an important approach to confer to a single molecule the biological activity of two distinct molecules. We proposed thiosemicarbazone (TS9) hybridization with β -citronellol through carbamate linkage.

Methodology: The cytotoxicity of the hybrid compound was evaluated against human THP-1 cells and all forms of *T. cruzi*. IC₅₀ value was determined against amastigotes and selectivity index (SI) was estimated based on toxicity against THP-1 cells. Lipinski analysis was performed in order to estimate the hybrid drug-like properties.

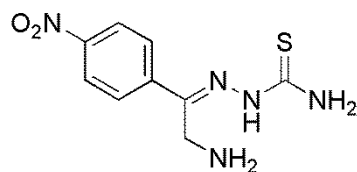
Results: The hybrid presented substantially less cytotoxicity against THP-1 cells than TS9 and biological similarities to both matrix moieties. The hybrid SI (3.9) was better than for TS9 (0.6) and similar to that found for benzimidazole (4.7), but with higher drug-like score performed by Lipinski analysis.

Conclusion: In face of its relevant trypanocidal action against *T. cruzi* amastigotes, it's an important concept proof to pursue in develop of hybrid or prodrug derivatives of TS9 and antiprotozoal terpenes.

9
10 *Keywords: thiosemicarbazone; hybrid compound; Trypanosoma cruzi; terpenes; mixed*
11 *carbamate.*

12
13
14
15 **1. INTRODUCTION**
16

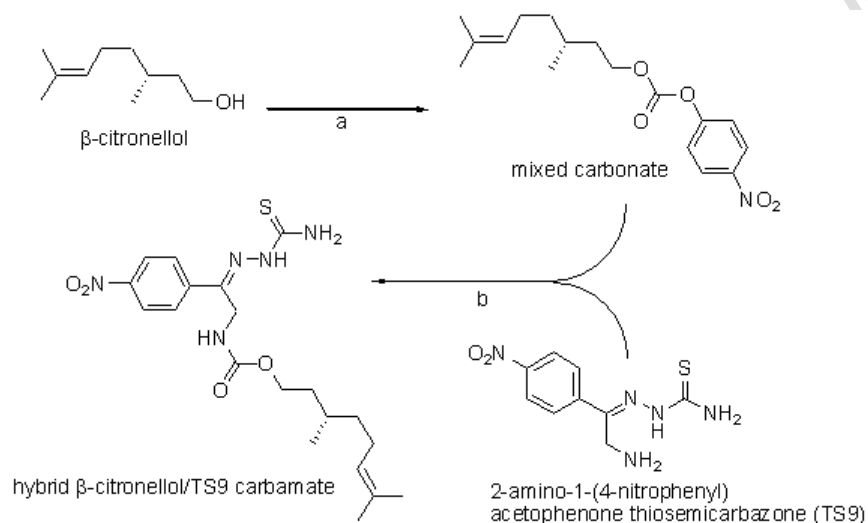
17 The parasitocidal action of thiosemicarbazones has been explored in several works,
18 emphasizing its importance in inhibiting cysteine proteases, as cruzipain from *Trypanosoma*
19 *cruzi* [1], rhodesain from *T. brucei rhodesiense* [2], falcipain-2 from *Plasmodium falciparum*
20 [3], and CPB from *Leishmania Mexicana* [4]. From the work of Du *et al.* (2002) [1], several
21 molecular changes have been proposed trying to optimize its action on cruzipain. In the year
22 of 2013, our group published a work providing several acetophenone thiosemicarbazone
23 derivatives. One of them, the compound 2-amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl) acetophenone
24 thiosemicarbazone (TS9), showed a high activity against epimastigote forms of *T.cruzi* [5].
25 This compound presents a primary amine group at position 2 (**figure 1**), which was able to
26 suffer further derivatizations leading to hemissuccinic acid derivatives, that retained its
27 trypanocidal activities. At this point, it is noticed that from the exploration of position 2 of
28 acetophenone thiosemicarbazones, emerges the possibility to develop hybrid compounds
29 possessing better pharmacokinetics and toxicological profiles. In the present work, we
30 proposed the obtainment of the 2-*N*-carbamoyl terpene derivative of 2-amino-1-(4-
31 nitrophenyl) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9) aiming lowering cytotoxicity of the TS9
32 compound and potentiating its trypanocidal action against amastigote form of *T. cruzi*.
33 (**figure 2**).
34



2-amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl)
acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9)

35
36
37
38
39

FIG. 1. Molecular structure of 2-amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9)



40
41
42
43
44
45

FIG. 2. Synthetic route for obtainment of hybrid carbamate terpenic derivatives. a. *p*-nitrophenyl chloroformate; DMAP; 2,6-lutidine; THF; 24h; rt. b. DIPEA; CH₂Cl₂; 6h; rt.

The terpene (β -citronellol) was selected due to its previously described antiprotozoal actions under *in vitro* conditions without, however, the knowledge about the biochemical pathway of its antiprotozoal activity [6-9]. Several trypanocidal terpenes were not able to inhibit cruzain (G. Trossini and R.F. Menegon, unpublished data), a recombinant form of *T. cruzi* cruzipain, revealing that their trypanocidal activities involve a different action than those described for thiosemicarbazones. This finding leads us to propose a hybrid of β -citronellol and TS9 possibly presenting a dual trypanocidal activity, minimizing the possibilities of parasite resistance and improving pharmacokinetics parameters, as oral bioavailability, by balancing the lipophilicity and hydrophilicity of both terpenic and TS9 moieties. The strategy of hybrid formation has been used in molecular modeling to improve both biological activity of antimicrobial compounds [10,11] and drug resistance in antimalarial chemotherapy [12].

The linkage of both active biological moieties into the hybrids involves a carbamate group. Carbamates present relative enzymatic and chemical stability at physiological conditions, but low stability under acidic medium [13, 14]. This property brings up the possibility of the hybrid to keep unchanged in plasma, but once in the inner of macrophages, the acidic medium promoted by the lysosomal activity could prompt the hydrolysis of the carbamate, delivering both free terpene and thiosemicarbazone moieties. Once macrophages play an essential role in the life cycle of *T. cruzi*, this site for hybrids cleavage could be the aim for prodrug development in further works [14, 15].

64

65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Synthesis of the Hybrid Carbamate

73 Compound TS9 (2-amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone) was obtained
74 according to Blau *et al.* (2013) [5], and its chemical structure was confirmed by comparing
75 melting point and ¹H NMR to the previously described [5, 16].

76 Carbamate synthesis of hybrid β-citronellol/TS9 was carried out by two synthetic steps: 1.
77 The formation of a mixed carbonate of β-citronellol from *p*-nitrophenyl chloroformate [17];
78 and 2. Nucleophilic substitution of *p*-nitrophenyl moiety by thiosemicarbazone (TS9).

79 The coupling reaction of the mixed carbonate to compound TS9 was carried out employing a
80 constant alkaline medium, kept at pH 9.0 to 10.0 with additions of drops of anhydrous N,N-
81 diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) along the reaction. The basic medium was necessary due to
82 zwitterion conformation assumed for compound TS9, whose aliphatic amine group is able to
83 form a dipolar ion with the acidic imine hydrogen that, in your turn, can inhibit the carbamate
84 formation. Hybrid carbamate was obtained in moderate yield (53%) after purification by silica
85 gel liquid chromatography. Detailed information concerning synthesis and structural
86 characterization of the hybrid carbamate may be found in the appendix section.

87 β-citronellol was purchased from sigma-aldrich, and are not enantiomeric pure. All other
88 reagents, α-bromo-*p*-nitroacetophenone (acros), thiosemicarbazide (acros),
89 hexamethylenetetramine (synth), N,N-dimethyl-4-aminopyridine (Flucka), N,N-
90 diisopropylethylamine (sigma-aldrich), 2,6-lutidine (sigma-aldrich), PrestobluTM (invitrogen),
91 are ACS grade or more than 97% of purity and were used with no further treatment. The
92 solvents employed for synthesis was purchased from Synth and dried according to Vogel
93 (1989) [18].

94
95
96
97

2.2 Biological Assays

2.2.1 *In vitro* cytotoxicity on THP-1 cell

98
99

100 The *in vitro* cytotoxicity on leukemic monocyte THP-1 cell line human (ATCC® TIB-202) was
101 performed with PrestoBlueTM (Invitrogen) cell viability reagent, following the manufacturing
102 instructions. 5.0 x 10⁵ cells/well were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in plates of 96 wells
103 with the selected compounds at concentration ranging from 100 μg to 1.562 μg to a final
104 volume of 200 μL. After 24 hours, 10 μL of PrestoBlueTM reagent was added over 90 μL of
105 cell supernatant. After 2 hours at 37°C, the fluorescence intensity was measured in base of
106 relative fluorescence units (RFU) in a Spectramax® M3 device at wavelengths 560 nm
107 (excitation) and 590 nm (emission). The assay was performed in duplicate.

108
109

2.2.2 *In vitro* evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against trypomastigote and epimastigote forms.

110
111
112

113 The *in vitro* evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against trypomastigote and epimastigote
114 forms was performed with PrestoBlue™ (Invitrogen) cell viability reagent. 1.0×10^7
115 trypomastigotes/well were incubated for 1 and 2 hours at 37°C in plates of 96 wells with the
116 compounds at concentration ranging from 100 µg to 0.78125 µg to a final volume of 500 µL.
117 1.0×10^7 epimastigotes/well were incubated for 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 hours at 37°C in plates of
118 96 wells with the compounds at concentration ranging from 100 µg to 0.78125 µg to a final
119 volume of 500 µL. After the incubation time, 10 µL of PrestoBlue™ reagent was added over
120 90 µL of supernatant. After 2 hours at 37°C, the fluorescence intensity was measured in
121 base of relative fluorescence units (RFU) in a Spectramax® M3 device at wavelengths 560
122 nm (excitation) and 590 nm (emission). The assay was performed in duplicate.

123
124

125 **2.2.2 *In vitro* evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against amastigote forms.**

126

127 1.0×10^5 leukemic monocyte THP-1 cell line human were infected by trypomastigotes forms
128 in a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 30 parasites: 1 cell. 24 hours after infection cells, as well
129 as parasites, were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in plates of 24 wells, with circular coverslip
130 13 mm (Glasscyto), with the determined compounds at concentration ranging from 100 µg to
131 6.25 µg to a final volume of 500 µL. After 24 hours, coverslips were fixed with Bouin's
132 solution (Sigma Life Science) and stained with Giemsa's azur eosin methylene blue solution
133 (Merck). Coverslips were mounted with Entellan® New (Merck) on microscope slides 26x76
134 mm (Perfecta). To determine the trypanocidal activity against amastigote forms, 20
135 fields/slide were counted. In each count were determined: number of total cells, number of
136 infected cells and number of intracellular parasites (amastigotes). The assay was performed
137 in duplicate.

138
139

140 **2.2 Statistics**

141

142 Statistical analysis were performed by One-Way ANOVA test, and complemented by LSD
143 posthoc test ($\alpha = .05$), employing Statistica software version 13.3 (TIBCO software Inc). IC_{50}
144 values against amastigote forms were estimated by linear regression curve from logarithm of
145 concentration (µg/500µL), and further converted to µM concentration.

146
147

148

149 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

150

151 From **table 1**, it's observed that compound TS9 exhibits the highest toxicity against THP-1
152 cells over all tested compounds, making its use possible only at concentrations below 1.56
153 µg/200 µL (7.8 µg/mL). Albeit the high toxicity of TS9, its hybrid carbamate derivative
154 diminishes TS9 toxicity by more than 20 times. Comparing its maximum non-toxic
155 concentration (574.00 (+/- 0.32) µM) with those observed for TS9 (26.92 (+/- 0.10) µM) and
156 for β-citronellol (1599.80 (+/- 0.26) µM), cytotoxicity of the hybrid against THP-1 cells
157 reaches an intermediate position between them.

158
159

160

161

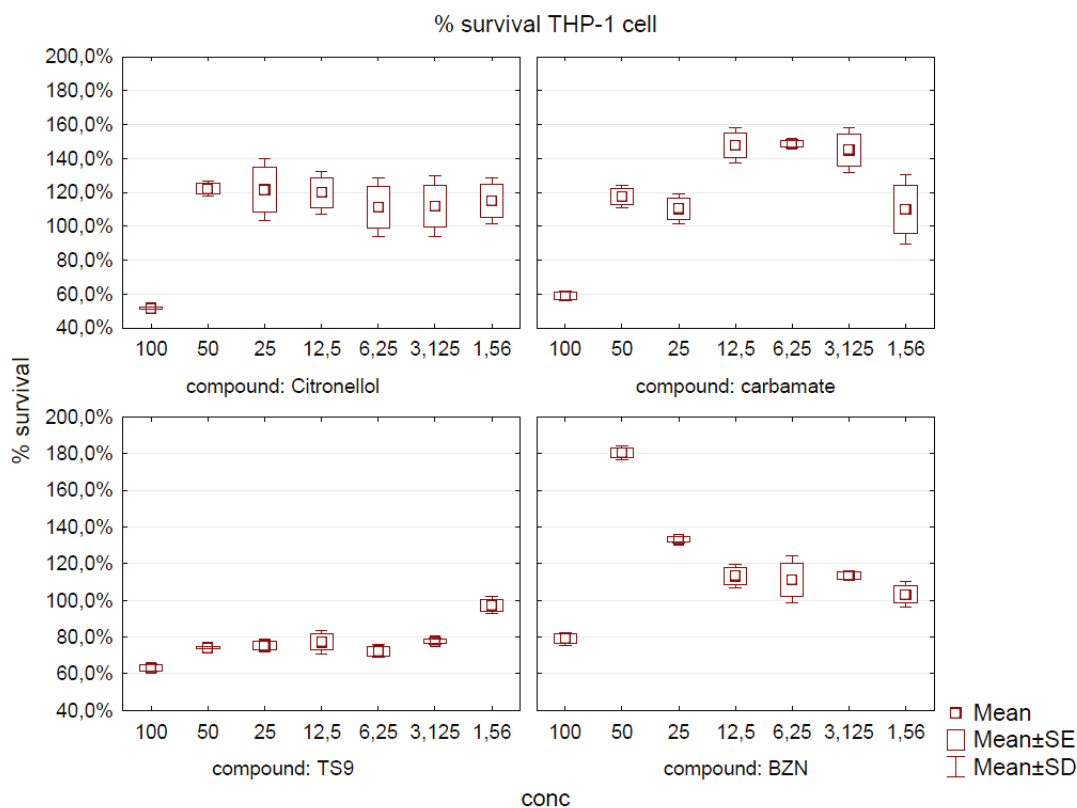
162

163

164 **Table 1. Maximum tested concentration with no evidence of toxicity against THP-1**
 165 **cells**
 166
 167

Compound	Maximum non-toxic concentration	Non-toxic μM concentration (+/- SD)
TS9	1.562 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	26.92 (+/- 0.10) μM
β -citronellol	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	1599.80 (+/- 0.26) μM
Hybrid carbamate	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	574.00 (+/- 0.32) μM
Benznidazole	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	960.61 (+/- 0.31) μM

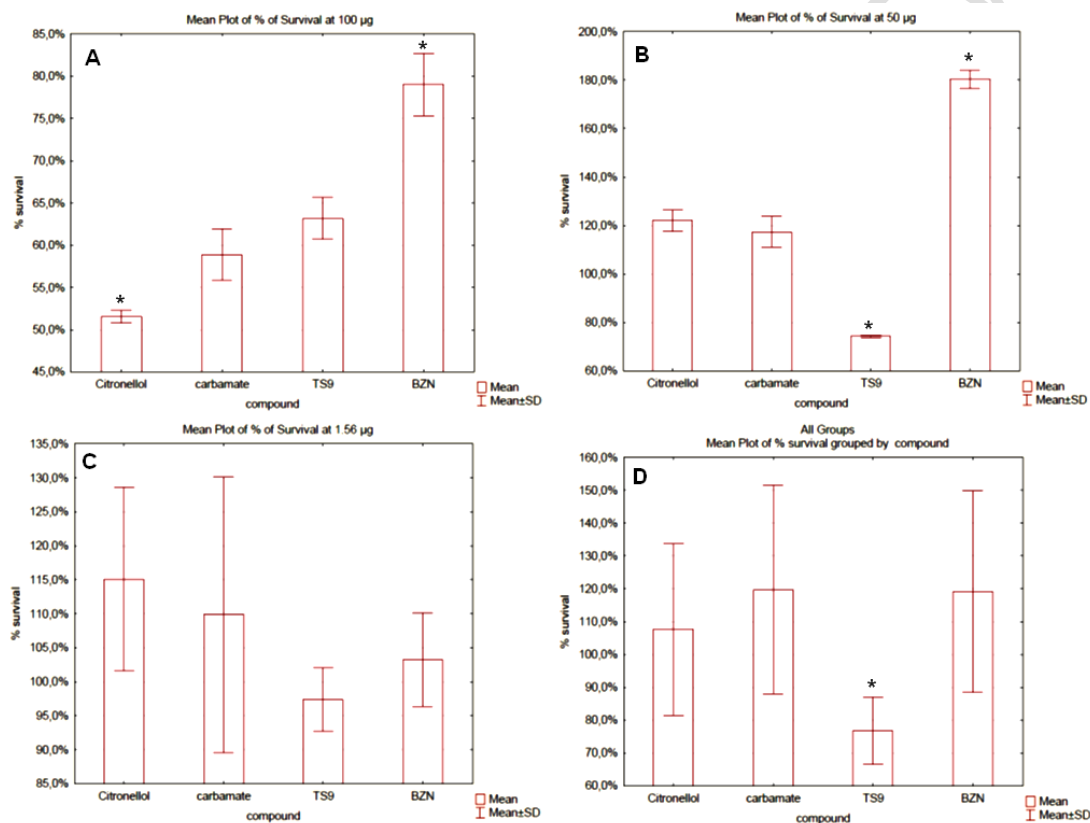
168
 169 It was not possible to determine an IC_{50} value against THP-1 cell from the tested
 170 concentration range, once all compounds but TS9 demonstrated no evidence of toxicity
 171 except for the highest concentration on 50 μg of compound diluted in 200 μL of cell
 172 suspension (**figure 3**).
 173
 174



175
 176 **FIG. 3. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and**
 178 **benzimidazole against THP-1 cell lineage versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$).**
 179

180 It's notorious the β -citronellol moiety influence on cytotoxicity profile of the hybrid
 181 carbamate. From **figure 4(a)** we can observe that beside there is no statistic difference

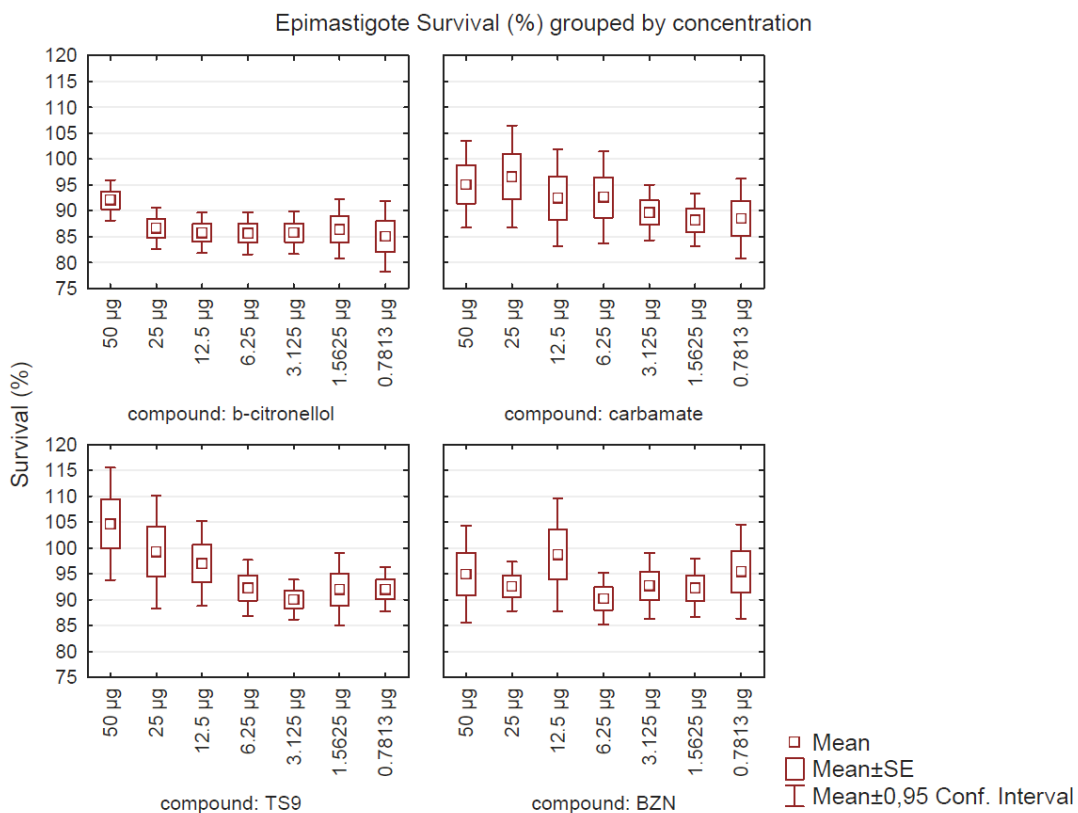
182 between TS9 and hybrid carbamate ($P = .65$), the average of percentage of survival cell of
 183 the carbamate occupies an intermediate position between TS9 and β -citronellol values at the
 184 maximum tested concentration (100 μg), where β -citronellol exhibits the maximum toxic
 185 effect. However, when the concentration is diminished to 50 μg (**figure 4(b)**), there is a
 186 complete inversion of this order, and while TS9 keeps a similar inhibition of cell growth, both
 187 β -citronellol and its hybrid carbamate citotoxicity is strongly diminished, presenting no toxic
 188 effect against THP-1 cell lineage. No evidence of anti-proliferative effect of all tested
 189 compounds is observed only at the minimum concentration of 1.56 μg (**figure 4(c)**). The
 190 high toxicity of TS9 can be easily observed when we analyze the overall toxicity grouping all
 191 concentrations in the same graph (**figure 4(d)**). TS9 present an average of 76.81% of
 192 survival cells differing from the average of 107.60% for β -citronellol ($P = .003$), 116.71% for
 193 hybrid carbamate ($P < .001$) and 119.12% for benzonidazole ($P < .001$). No statistic
 194 difference were observer between the last three groups ($P > .2$).
 195



196
 197
 198 **FIG. 4. Citotoxicity against human macrophage THP-1 cell lineage. a) 100 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$; b)**
 199 **50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$; c) 1.56 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$ and d) overall average of all tested concentrations.**
 200

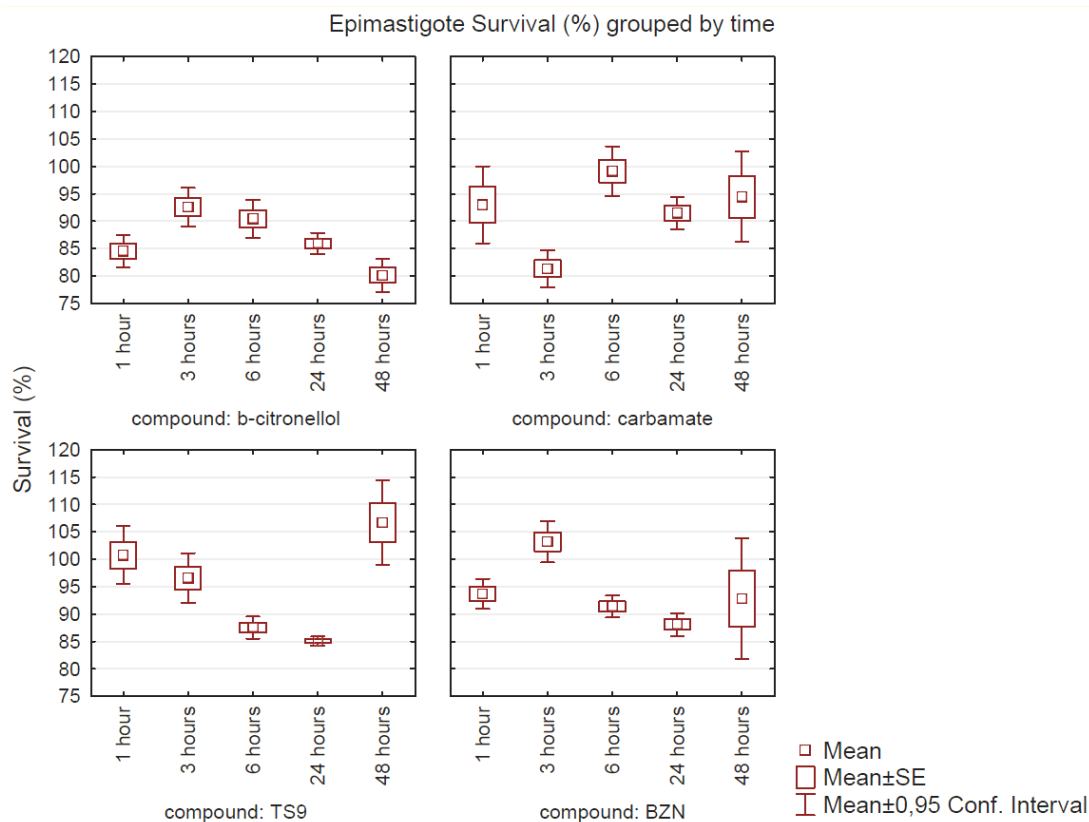
201 To investigate the trypanocidal action of the hybrid carbamate, anti-proliferative
 202 action against epimastigotes, trypomastigotes and amastigotes forms of *T. cruzi* Y-strain were
 203 tested. Epimastigote forms of *T. cruzi* are restricted to the triatomine vector, and are not
 204 found in humans. Despite the convenience of this test, concerning its safety on manipulation
 205 of these non infecting forms, the results present low consistent for drug development.
 206 However it is useful as initial screening test and also can provide some information about
 207 anti-trypanosomal action of tested compounds.

208 As showed from **figure 5**, no dose-response relationship could be observed at
 209 tested concentrations. Albeit a slight tendency of inhibition may be assumed, statistical
 210 analysis was not able to evident any difference between values obtained from different
 211 concentration of all compounds. However, when we analyze parasites growth inhibition as a
 212 function of time (**figure 6**), joining together all results provided from any tested
 213 concentration, it is notorious some similarities concerning anti-trypanosomal action of the
 214 compounds. Compound TS9 presented an initial activity after 3 hours of exposition, and this
 215 lasted until 24 hours when epimastigota cells returns the proliferation indicating that TS9
 216 exerts inhibition effect on the cellular growth rather than trypanocidal. By the other hand,
 217 benznidazole and β -citronellol performed a continuous inhibition effect suggesting a
 218 trypanocidal activity followed an initial proliferative activity over the first three hours of
 219 exposition. Interestingly, the hybrid carbamate kept a mild anti-proliferative activity along the
 220 entire test, ranging about 92%, with a maximum activity of 81.36% (+/- 5,84%) at time 3
 221 hours.
 222
 223



224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231

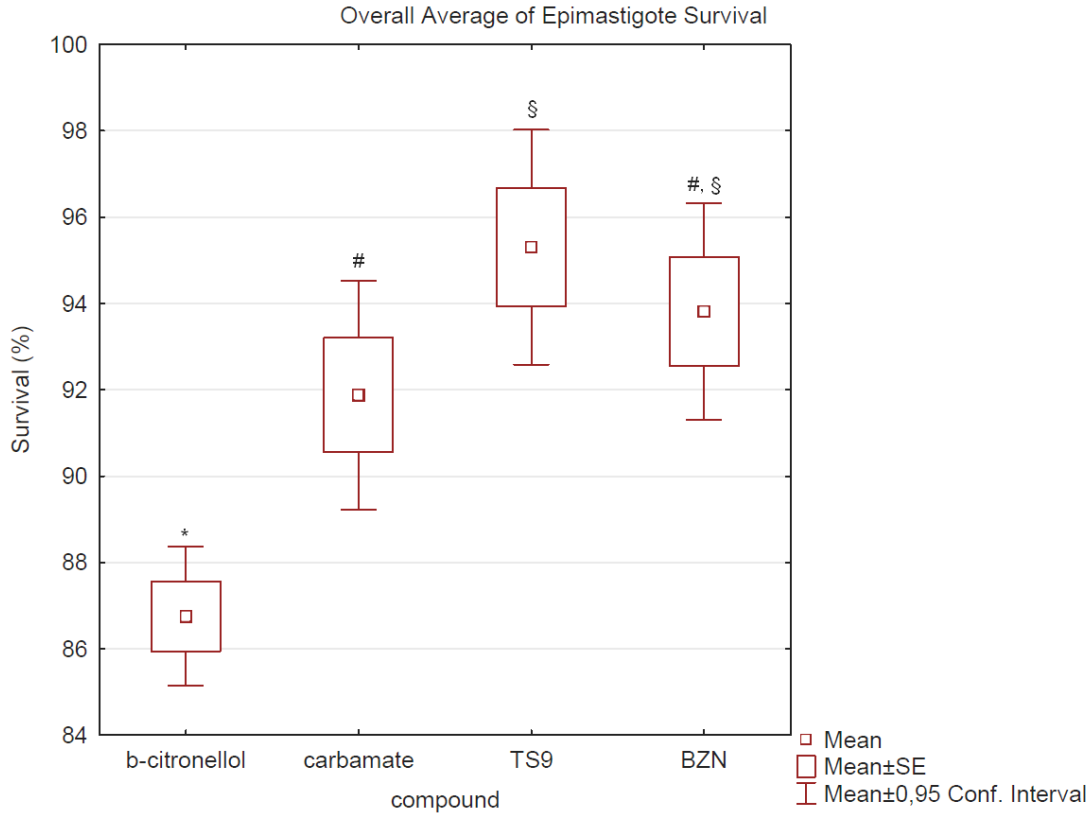
FIG. 5. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and benznidazole against *T. cruzi* epimastigote versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).



232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246

FIG. 6. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and benznidazole against *T. cruzi* epimastigote versus time.

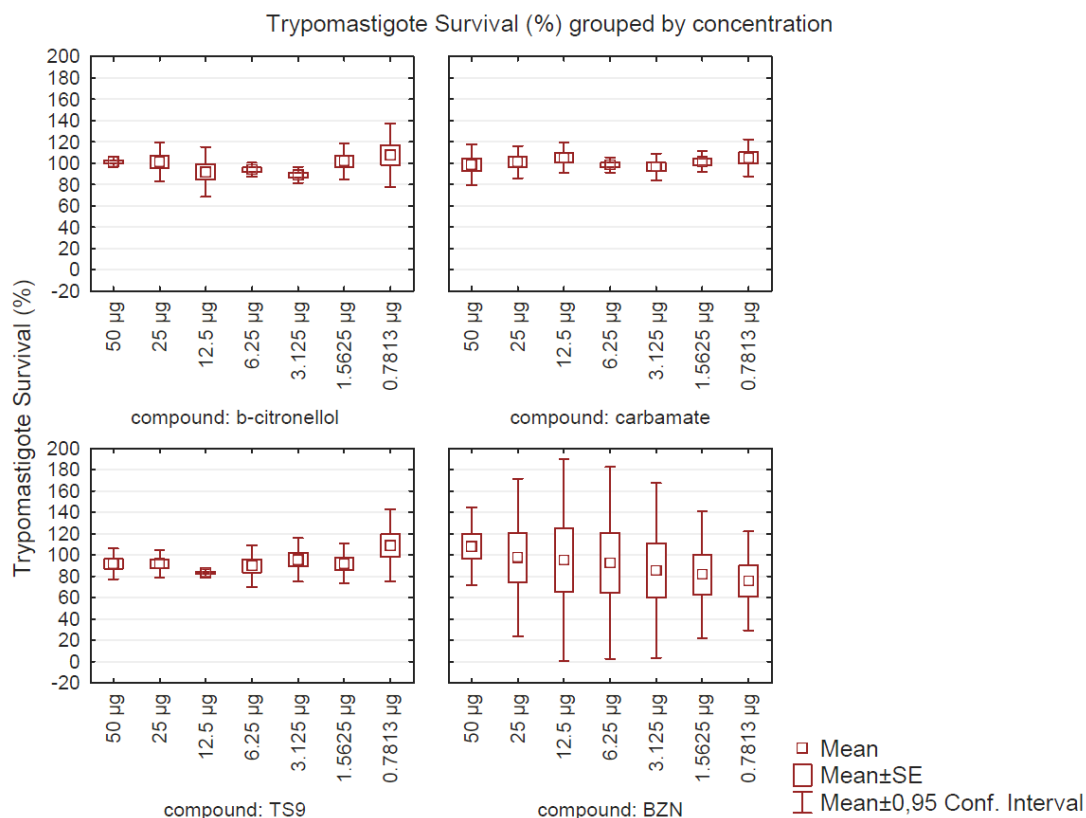
Moreover, the overall average of inhibition for each compound, joining together all concentration at every time (**figure 7**), show us that β -citronellol was the most effective tested compound (86.75%, +/- 6.75 SD; $P = .003$). No difference was observed between the average from benznidazole and TS9 or the hybrid carbamate ($P > .05$), but the hybrid (91.88%, +/- 11.11 SD) was slightly more effective than TS9 (95.31%, +/- 11.41 SD; $P = .046$).



247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267

FIG. 7. Overall average of anti-proliferative effect against *T. cruzi* epimastigote forms.

Against trypomastigote forms of *T. cruzi*, no statistical difference could be observed between all tested groups, including the reference drug benznidazole. In this test, where a short period of experimentation (2 hours of incubation) was planned to mimic biological condition concerning the lifecycle of trypomastigote in human blood, no tested compound was able to exert any antiproliferative action (**figure 8**). Possibly, prolonged time of incubation could lead to better results of trypanocidal activity, but these results are impossible to be reproduced at *in vivo* assays, once after this short time of existence on human blood, trypomastigotes must infect macrophages cell and differentiate to amastigote form. Even benznidazole (BZN), a reference drug for Chagas' disease treatment, was not able to significantly inhibit the grown of trypomastigotes during this time of experimentation. This observation is of extreme importance, once show us that benznidazole is ineffective against trypomastigote, acting specifically against amastigote, revealing the importance of trypanocidal studies against amastigote form of *T. cruzi*.



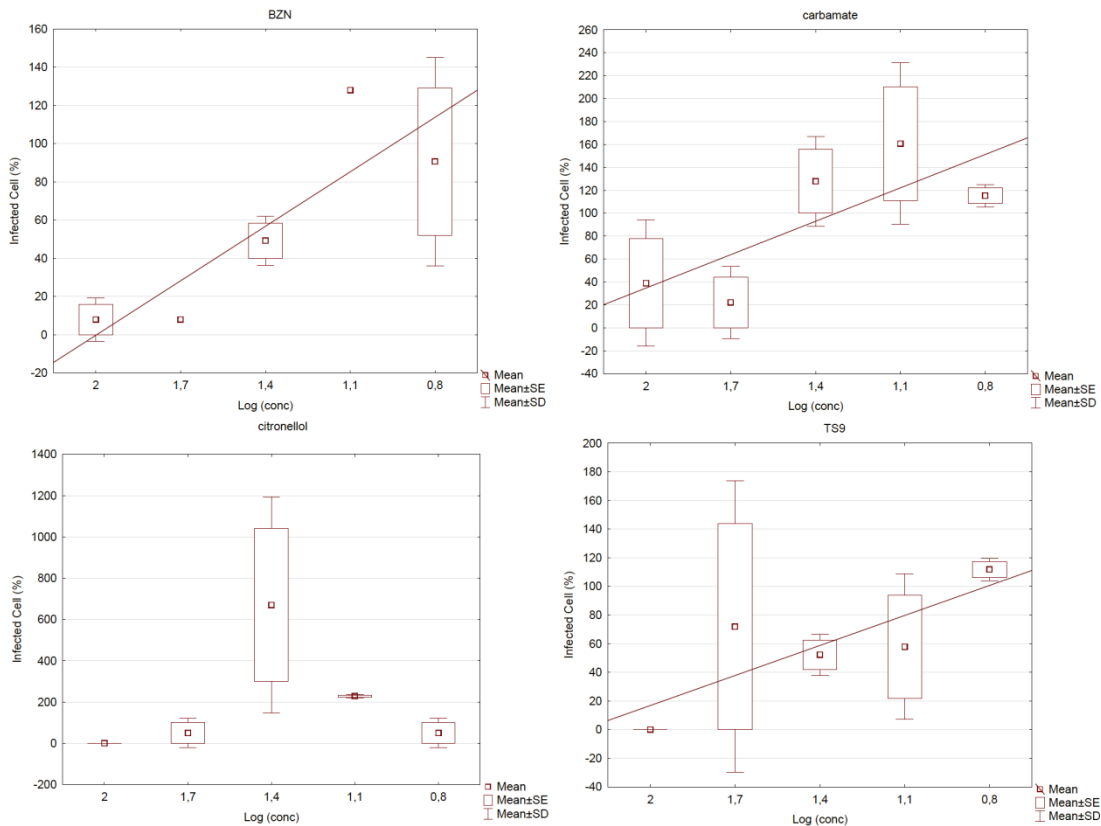
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295

FIG. 8. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and benznidazole against *T. cruzi* trypomastigote versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).

So, the action of all tested compounds against amastigote deserves a special attention, and both effects over the number of infected macrophages cells and number of intracellular amastigote forms were considered in this study. By this way, the assay was performed in duplicate, observing at least 200 macrophages cells. No statistical difference could be observed on the totality of counted amastigote cells ($P = .67$) and the total number of infected macrophage cell ($P = .13$) between control groups of all treatment (when no drug was applied), indicating that the infection index was similar for every tested groups (average of 4,9%). So, the results were normalized to 100% based on the values reached for each control group.

For IC_{50} determinations, linear regression curves were obtained from the logarithm of concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$), removing outliers pointed from a normal probability plot. All regression curves were submitted to a statistical T-test ($\alpha = .05$).

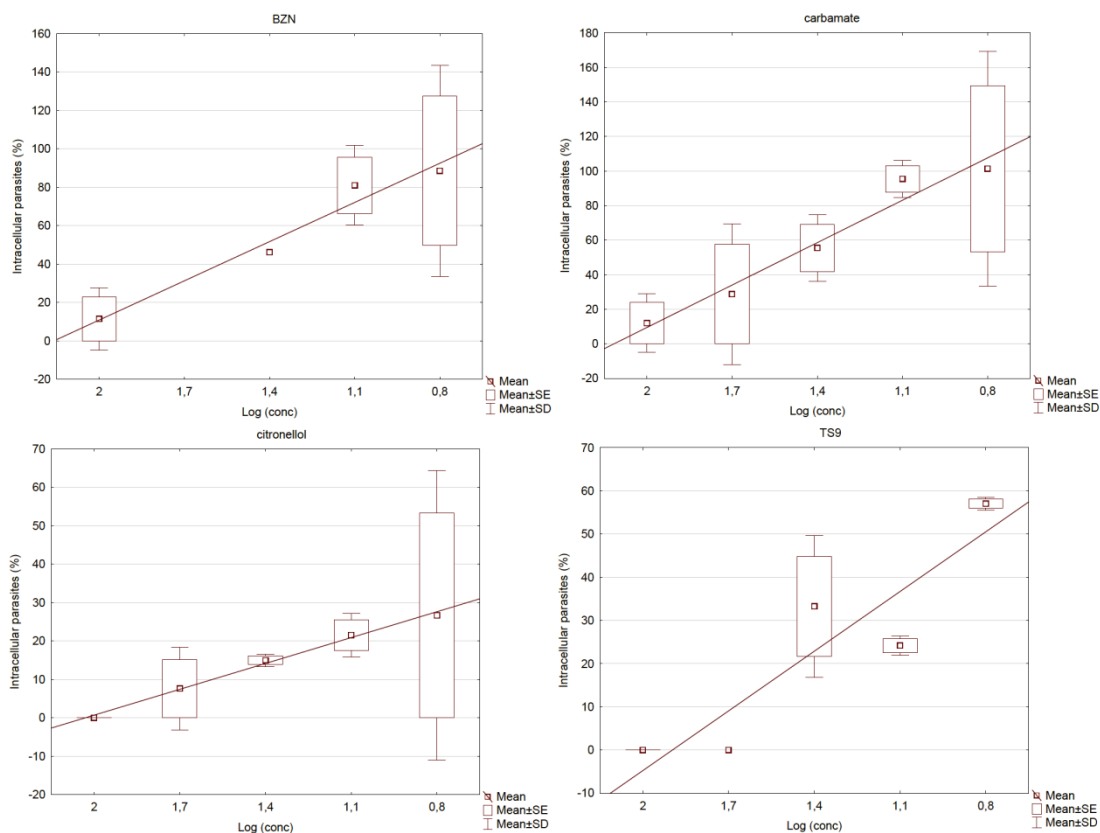
From **figure 9**, where it is plotted the percentage of infected macrophage cell *versus* concentration of any tested compound, we can see that only the compound β -citronellol didn't showed a valid regression curve, indicating that this terpene doesn't affect the amastigote ability to invade macrophages, despite its trypanocidal action. By the other hand, both benznidazole and thiosemicarbazone derivatives showed activity in a dose-dependent way. This observation corroborates with the well known role of cruzipaine, the main target of thiosemicarbazones, which is involved in the penetration process and in the ability to infect and develop intracellularly in mammalian cells [19,20], whereas β -citronellol does not inhibit it.



296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321

FIG. 9. Effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and benznidazole over the number of infected macrophages cell versus logarithm of concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).

Trypanocidal activity of β -citronellol turns clear when the number of intracellular amastigote is observed (**figure 10 and table 2**). TS9 was the most active compound with IC_{50} value of $44.73 \mu\text{M}$ (± 0.1488) but its selective index (SI) was very poor (0.6) indicating that it is almost 2 times more toxic to macrophage cell than to parasites. The SI value was estimated as a ratio of the IC_{50} value against intracellular amastigote forms and the minimum non-toxic concentration to THP-1 cells. By the other hand, the best SI was reached for β -citronellol (SI = 28.5). Here we can see that the hybrid carbamate was able to lower TS9 toxicity but compromising its activity against amastigote cell. With an IC_{50} value of $146.93 \mu\text{M}$, the hybrid showed better performance than the standard benznidazole ($204.29 \mu\text{M}$) and similar SI (3.9 against 4.7 for BZN). However, the overall analysis of amastigote activity of all compounds, the hybrid characteristic of the carbamate turns evident, and encourages us to pursue this design for further molecular modeling studies. The fact that β -citronellol seems not to interfere in the number of infected macrophage cell, but carbamate does interfere, added to the diminishing of cytotoxicity related to TS9, are evidences that the purpose of the hybrid design was successfully reached, keeping trypanocidal profile of both moieties (terpene and thiosemicarbazone), albeit it is notorious the necessity to improve its IC_{50} value and thus, the SI.



322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333

FIG. 10. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and benznidazole against intracellular *T. cruzi* amastigote versus logarithm of concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).

Table 2. Selective Index (SI) and IC_{50} values for trypanocidal action against *T. cruzi* amastigotes.

Compound	Linear regression (R^2)	IC_{50} (+/- SE)	SI
β -citronellol	$y = -0,4023x + 0,7581$ (0.8598)	56.07 μM (0.1324)	28.5
Hybrid carbamate	$y = -0,8179x + 1,731$ (0.9625)	146.93 μM (0.0685)	3.9
TS9	$y = -0,4607x + 0,8739$ (0.8229)	44.73 μM (0.1488)	0.6
benznidazole	$y = -0,6806x + 1,4696$ (0.9664)	204.29 μM (0.0648)	4.7

$$y = \text{Log}(\text{concentration in } \mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}), x = \text{percentage of inhibition}$$

334
335
336
337
338
339

Finally, the hybrid strategy can also provide another important feature for drug development. When we evaluate drug-likeness aspects based on Lipinski-rule of five, we can observe that choosing an adequate terpene moiety it is possible to improve such properties in order to preview an adequate oral absorption. From **table 3** we notice that there

340 were an increment of total hydrogen bond donors and acceptors in the hybrid carbamate
341 comparing to β -citronellol, and also the high hydrophilicity of TS9 was balanced with a
342 terpenic moiety, bring the value for a satisfactory LogP value of 3.63, while molecular mass
343 and molar refractivity was kept into an appropriated range. This simple analysis shows us
344 that the hybrid carbamate complies with the parameters of Lipinski-Rule of five, and may
345 present better oral bioavailability profile than its precursors.
346
347
348
349

350 **Table 3. Lipinski-rule of five analysis.**
351

parameter	β -citronellol	TS9	hybrid carbamate
molecular mass	156.27	289.74	435.54
hydrogen bond donor	1	5	4
hydrogen bond acceptors	1	6	8
LogP	2.75	0.09	3.63
Molar Refractivity	49.53	68.61	121.35

352 *Performed with MarvinSketch 18.11.0 software.*
353

354 355 356 357 **4. CONCLUSION**

358
359 The strategy of hybridization of a terpenic compound and a synthetic thiosemicarbazone
360 derivative shows a promissory way to develop new chemical entities, with satisfactory drug-
361 like properties according to Lipinski rule-of-five. The hybrid was able to keep the trypanocidal
362 features of both molecules employed, as planned. In addition, biological assays demonstrate
363 that thiosemicarbazone (TS9) cytotoxicity greatly decreased after hybridization, which able us
364 to employ this very active compound for developing new analogues with better anti-
365 proliferative effect against intracellular *T. cruzi* amastigotes. The selective index, however,
366 was not satisfactory, although it was very similar to the one found for benznidazole, the
367 reference drug for treatment of Chagas' disease.

368 So, the hybrid design was successful in the planned biological assays, and should be
369 pursued for further molecular modeling studies.
370

371 372 373 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

374
375 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.
376
377

378 379 380 **REFERENCES**

381
382 [1] Du X, Guo C, Hansell E, Doyle PS, Caffrey CR, Holler TP, McKerrow JH, Cohen FE.
383 Synthesis and structure-activity relationship study of potent trypanocidal thiosemicarbazone

384 inhibitors of the trypanosomal cysteine protease cruzain. J Med Chem. 2002; 45(13):2695-
385 707.
386
387 [2] Fujii N, Mallari JP, Hansell EJ, Mackey Z, Doyle P, Zhou YM, Gut J, Rosenthal PJ,
388 McKerrow JH, Guy RK. Discovery of potent thiosemicarbazone inhibitors of rhodesain and
389 cruzain. Bioorg Med Chem Lett. 2005;15(1):121-3.
390
391 [3] Mallari JP, Guiguemde WA, Guy RK. Antimalarial activity of thiosemicarbazones and
392 purine derived nitriles. Bioorg Med Chem Lett. 2009;19(13):3546-9.
393
394 [4] Schröder J, Noack S, Marhöfer RJ, Mottram JC, Coombs GH, Selzer PM. Identification of
395 semicarbazones, thiosemicarbazones and triazine nitriles as inhibitors of *Leishmania*
396 *mexicana* cysteine protease CPB. PLoS One. 2013;8(10):e77460.
397
398 [5] Blau, L.; Menegon, R. F.; Trossini, G. H. G.; Dutra Molino, J. V.; Vital, D. G.; Barreto
399 Cicarelli, M. R.; Passerini, G. D.; Bosquesi, P. L.; Chin, C. M. Design, synthesis and
400 biological evaluation of nw aryl thiosemicarbazone as antichagasic candidates. Eur J Med
401 Chem. 2013;67:142-51.
402
403 [6] Raut JS, Karuppayil SM. A status review on the medicinal properties of essential oils.
404 Industrial Crops and Products. 2014;62:250–264.
405
406 [7] Escobar P, Milena Leal S, Herrera LV, Martinez JR, Stashenko E. Chemical composition
407 and antiprotozoal activities of Colombian *Lippia* spp essential oils and their major
408 components. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2010;105(2):184-90.
409
410 [8] Sartorelli P, Santana JS, Guadagnin RC, Lago JHG, Pinto EG, Tempone AG, Stefani HA,
411 Soares MG, da Silva, AM. *In vitro* trypanocidal evaluation of pinane derivatives from
412 essential oils of ripe fruits from *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi (Anacardiaceae). Quim Nova;
413 2013;35(4):743-7. Portuguese
414
415 [9] Grecco S dos S, Reimão JQ, Tempone AG, Sartorelli P, Cunha RL, Romoff P, Ferreira
416 MJ, Fávero OA, Lago JH. *In vitro* antileishmanial and antitrypanosomal activities of
417 flavanones from *Baccharis retusa* DC. (Asteraceae). Exp Parasitol. 2012;130(2):141-5.
418
419 [10] Ahirwar J, Ahirwar D, Lanjhiyana S, Jha AK, Dewangan D, Badwaik H. Synthesis,
420 Characterization, Molecular Modeling, and Biological Evaluation of 1,2,4-Triazole-pyridine
421 Hybrids as Potential Antimicrobial Agents, J. Heterocyclic. Chem. 2018;55:2598-609.
422
423 [11] Esfahani EN, Mohammadi-Khanaposhtani M, Rezaei Z, Valizadeh Y, Rajabnia R,
424 Hssankalhari M, Bandarian F, Faramarzi MA, Samadi N, Amini MR, Mahdavi M, Larijani B.
425 New ciprofloxacin–dithiocarbamate–benzyl hybrids: design, synthesis, antibacterial
426 evaluation, and molecular modeling studies. Res. Chem. Intermed. 2018.
427 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11164-018-3598-3>.
428
429 [12] Bonila-Ramirez L, Rios A, Quiliano M, Ramirez-Calderon G, Beltrán-Hortelano I,
430 Franetich JF, Corcuera L, Bordessoulles M, Vettorazzi A, de Cerain AL, Aldana I, Mazier D,
431 Pabón A, Galiano S, Novel antimalarial chloroquine- and primaquine-quinoxaline 1,4-di-N-
432 oxide hybrids: Design, synthesis, Plasmodium life cycle stage profile, and preliminary toxicity
433 studies. Eur J Med Chem. 2018; 158:68-81.
434
435 [13] Schwarzkopf J, Sundermann T, Arnsmann M, Hanekamp W, Fabian J, Heidemann J,
436 Pott AF, Bettenworth D, Lehr M. Inhibitors of cytosolic phospholipase A₂α with carbamate

437 structure: synthesis, biological activity, metabolic stability, and bioavailability. Med Chem
438 Res. 2014;23:5250–5262
439
440 [14] Wolfe AL, Duncan KK, Parelkar NK, Weir SJ, Vielhauer GA, Boger DL. A novel,
441 unusually efficacious duocarmycin carbamate prodrug that releases no residual byproduct. J
442 Med Chem. 2012;55(12):5878-86.
443
444 [15] Leifso K, Cohen-Freue G, Dogra N, Murray A, McMaster WR. Genomic and proteomic
445 expression analysis of Leishmania promastigote and amastigote life stages: the Leishmania
446 genome is constitutively expressed. Mol Biochem Parasitol. 2007;152(1):35-46.
447
448 [16] Nobles WL, Burckhalter JH, Amithiozone (tibione) analogs from aralkyl ketones, J Am
449 Pharm Assoc. 1953;XLII:176-178.
450
451 [17] Ghosh AK, Brindisi M. Organic Carbamates in Drug Design and Medicinal Chemistry. J
452 Med Chem. 2015;58(7):2895-940.
453
454 [18] Vogel AL. Vogel's textbook of practical organic chemistry, 5th ed., New York:Longman
455 Scientific & Technical; 1989.
456
457 [19] Duschak VG, Couto AS, Cruzipain, the major cysteine protease of *Trypanosoma cruzi*: a
458 sulfated glycoprotein antigen as relevant candidate for vaccine development and drug target.
459 A review. Curr Med Chem. 2019;16:3174-202.
460
461 [20] Campo VL, Martins-Teixeira MB, Carvalho I, Trypanosoma cruzi Invasion into Host
462 Cells: A Complex Molecular Targets Interplay. Mini-rev Med Chem. 2016;16:1084-97.
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488

492 **A1. Synthesis**493 **A1.1. Preparation of 2-amino-1-(4-nitro) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9)**

494 Compound TS9 was obtained as previously described by Blau *et al.* (2013). Structural identification was performed by
495 comparison of the spectral data to the literature. **mp**: 173°C; **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3491 – 2966, 1593, 1523, 1336, 1292, 1091;
496 **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz, δ): 10.31 (s, 1H), 8.30 (m, 6H), 7.69 (m, 2H), 4.03 (br s, 2H). Reference Blau, *et al.* (2013):
497 **mp**: 170-173 °C; **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3487-2986, 1596, 1512, 1342, 1288, 1096; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz, δ): 10.29 (s,
498 1H), 8.29-8.09 (m, 6H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 2H), 4.05-3.99 (br s, 2H).
499
500

501 **A1.2. Synthesis of hybrid carbamate of β -citronellol and TS9**

502
503 A mixture containing 3.3 mmol of β -citronellol, 0.03 mmol of DMAP and 5 mmol of *p*-nitrophenylchloroformate was
504 prepared in 20 mL of THF at -10°C. 5 mmols of 2,6-lutidine was dropwised keeping temperature between 0°C and 5°C.
505 After 30 minutes, temperature was allowed to reach room temperature, about 25 °C, and the reaction was monitoring by
506 thin layer chromatography (TLC) for 24 hours along. The precipitant was filtered off and the remained solution was
507 evaporated to dryness. A brown residue was treated with 25 mL of ethyl acetate, and washed with 0.1M HCl, saline
508 solution and cold water. The organic phase was separated and dried, yielding 69% of the mixed carbonate of *p*-
509 nitrophenol and β -citronellol.

510 The desired carbamate was synthesized from a 10 mL solution of TS9 (0.03 mmol in dichloromethane) containing 0.5 mL
511 of *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA). 0.36 mmol of *p*-nitrophenol carbonate of β -citronellol was added over TS9 solution
512 and the pH adjusted to 10 with DIPEA. The reaction was kept under nitrogen and protected from light for 6 hours, when
513 no reaction with ninhydrin could be observed on TLC. The reaction mixture was dried under vacuum, and the residue
514 purified by silica gel liquid chromatography, using dichloromethane and ethyl acetate (8:2) as mobile phase (53% yield).

515 Hybrid carbamate: **mp**: 110 °C; **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3466-3350 (N-H), 3192-2926 (C-H), 1687 (C=O), 1589 (C=N), 1523 and
516 1340 (-NO₂), and 854 (C=S); **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz, δ): 10.78, 8.58, 8.22, 8.19, 8.18, 7.87, 5.04, 4.30, 4.00, 1.89,
517 1.62, 1.55, 1.54, 1.42, 1.32, 1.25, 1.10, 0.82.
518
519
520

521 **A2. Spectral Data**522 **A2.1. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectral data of β -citronellol/TSC hybrid carbamate**523
524
525

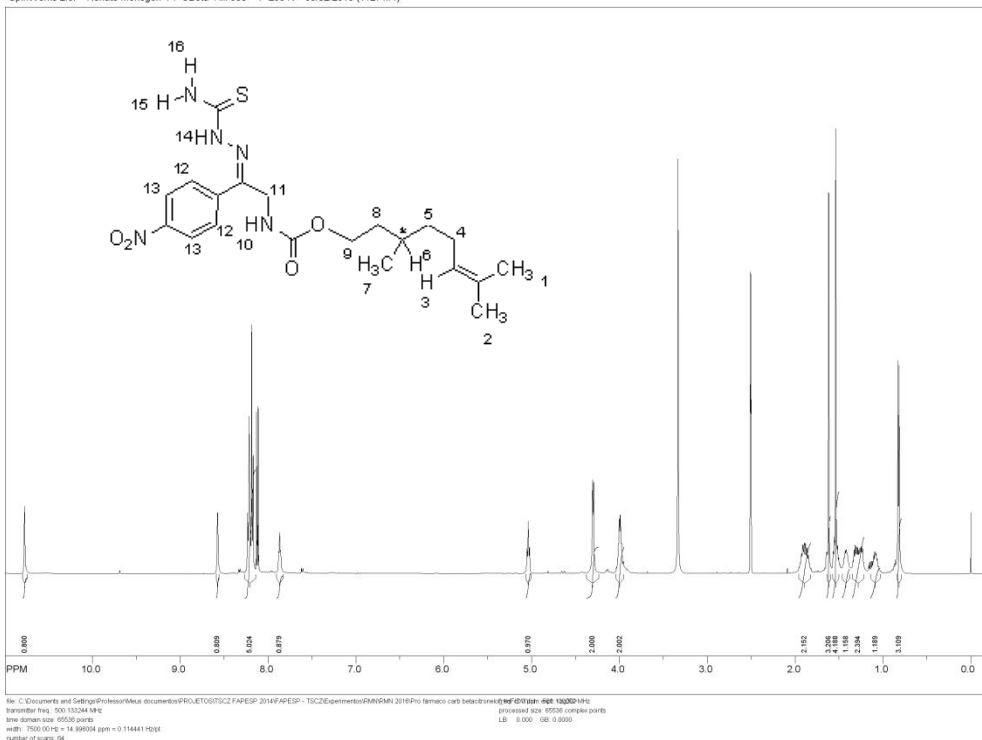


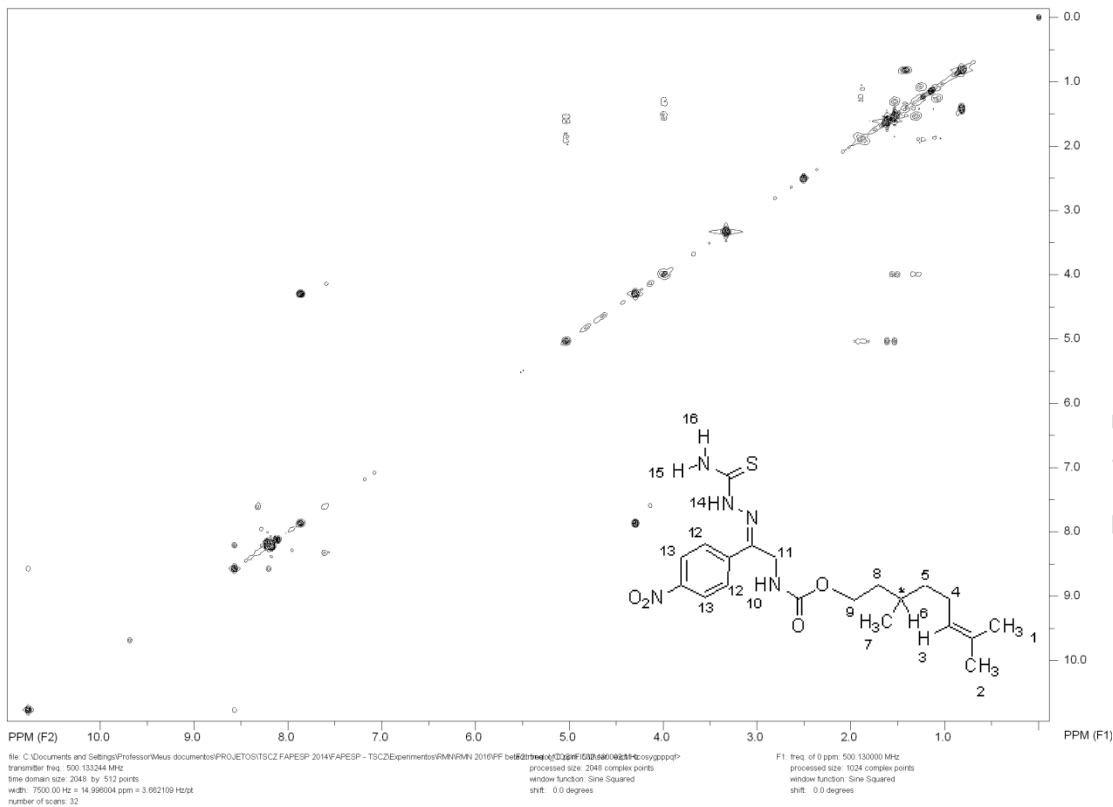
Fig. A1. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) spectra of hybrid carbamate

Position	δ ^1H (ppm)	gCOSY
1	3H 1.62 s	---
2	3H 1.54 s	5.04
3	1H 5.04 t (J=9.00, 7.00)	1.54; 1.89
4	2H 1.89 m	5.04; 1.25
5	1H a, 1.25 m 1H b, 1.10 m	5.04; 1.89 1.89; 1.25
6	1H 1.55 m	4.00; 1.32
7	3H 0.82 d (J=6.5)	1.42
8	1H a, 1.32 m 1H b, 1.42 m	4.00; 1.55 0.82
9	2H 4.00 m	1.55
10	1H 7.87 t (J=5.75, 7.9)	4.30
11	2H 4.30 d (J=5.75)	7.87
12	2H 8.18 m	---
13	2H 8.22 m	---
14	1H 10.78 s	8.58
15	1H 8.58 s	10.78; 8.19
16	1H 8.19 s	8.58

Table A1. ^1H NMR chemical shifts (ppm) of hybrid carbamate and two-dimensional ^1H - ^1H correlations (COSY).

2.2. 2D COSY of β -citronello/ TSC hybrid carbamate

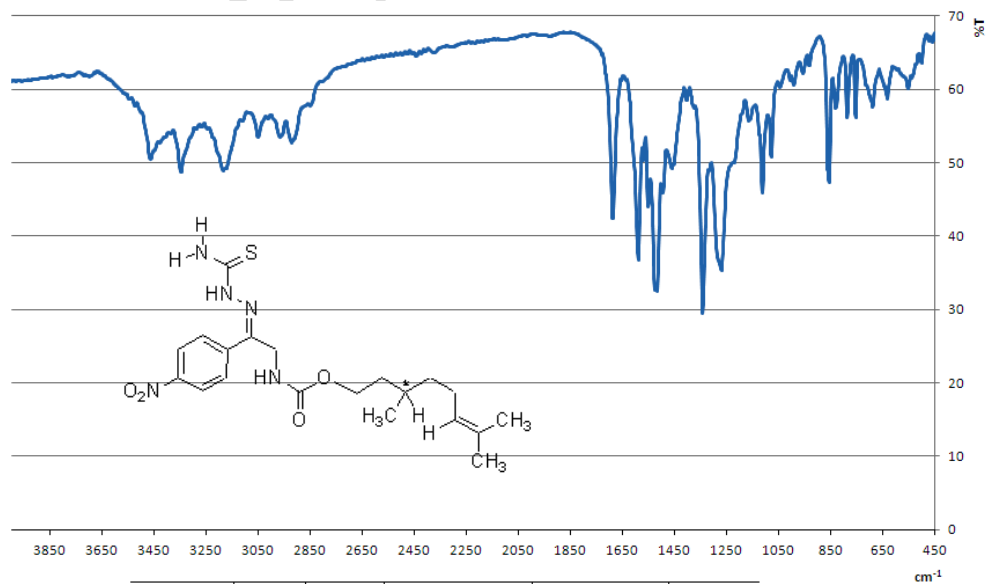
542
543
544



545
546
547
548
549
550
551

Fig. A2. ^1H COSY spectrum of hybrid carbamate (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$).

A2.3. Infrared Spectrum data (KBr)



νN-H	νC-H	νC=O	νNO ₂		νN-C-O		νC=S ax.
			Ax. Ass.	Ax. Sim.	Ax. Ass.	Ax. Sim.	
3466-3350	3192-2926	1687	1523	1340	1267	1112	854

552
553

Fig. A3. Infrared spectrum and frequencies (cm^{-1}) of hybrid carbamate (KBr)

UNDER PEER REVIEW