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# Original Research Paper

## Hybrid design as a strategy for development of trypanocidal drugs

### ABSTRACT

**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  $\beta$ -citronellol through a carbamate linkage.

**Methodology:** The cytotoxicity of the hybrid compound was evaluated against human THP-1 cells and all forms of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. cruzi*). IC<sub>50</sub> value was determined against amastigotes and the 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 benznidazole (BNZ) (4.7), but with a 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 developing of hybrid or prodrug derivatives of TS9 and antiprotozoal terpenes.

**Comment [DM1]:** Specifically italicize the words *in vitro*, *in silico*, *ex situ*, *ex vivo*, etc.

**Comment [DM2]:** Abbreviation is always used after mentioning the full form at initial sentence.

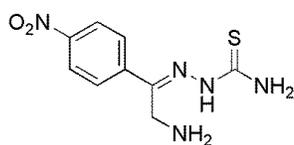
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**Keywords:** thiosemicarbazone; hybrid compound; *Trypanosoma cruzi*; terpenes; mixed carbamate.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

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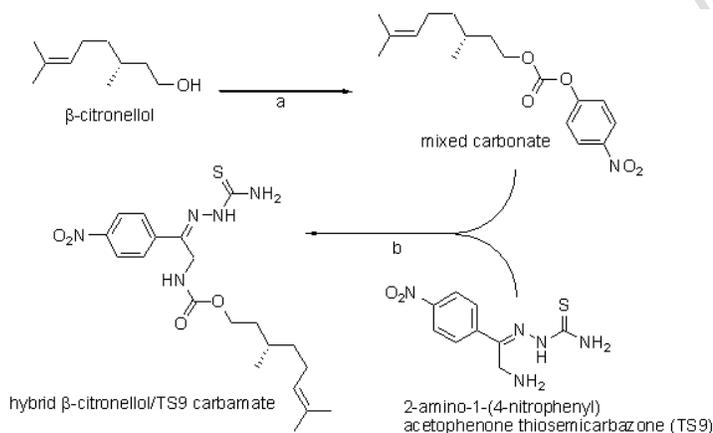
The parasitocidal action of thiosemicarbazones has been explored in several works, emphasizing its importance in inhibiting cysteine proteases, as cruzipain from *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. Cruzi*) [1], rhodesain from *T. brucei rhodesiense* [2], falcipain-2 from *Plasmodium falciparum* [3], and CPB from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



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

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



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**FIG. 2. Synthetic route for obtaining of hybrid carbamate terpenic derivatives. a. *p*-nitrophenyl chloroformate; DMAP; 2,6-lutidine; THF; 24h; rt. b. DIPEA; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; 6h; rt.**

The terpene ( $\beta$ -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  $\beta$ -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].

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## 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 <sup>1</sup>H 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), Prestoblue™ (invitrogen),  
91 are ACS grade or more than 97% of purity and were used with no further treatment. The  
92 solvents employed for synthesis were purchased from Synth and dried according to Vogel  
93 (1989) [18].

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### 2.2 Biological Assays

#### 2.2.1 In vitro cytotoxicity on THP-1 cell

100 The *in vitro* cytotoxicity on leukemic monocyte THP-1 cell line human (ATCC® TIB-202) was  
101 performed with PrestoBlue™ (Invitrogen) cell viability reagent, following the manufacturing  
102 instructions. 5.0 x 10<sup>5</sup> cells/well were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in plates of 96 wells  
103 with the selected compounds at a concentration ranging from 100 μg to 1.562 μg to a final  
104 volume of 200 μL. After 24 hours, 10 μL of PrestoBlue™ reagent was added over 90 μL of  
105 cell supernatant. After 2 hours at 37°C, the fluorescence intensity was measured in the base  
106 of 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.

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

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

### 124 125 126 **2.2.2 In vitro evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against amastigote forms.**

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

### 139 140 141 **2.2 Statistics**

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143 Statistical analysis was performed by One-Way ANOVA test, and complemented by LSD  
144 post-hoc test ( $\alpha = .05$ ), employing Statistica software version 13.3 (TIBCO software Inc).  $IC_{50}$   
145 values against amastigote forms were estimated by linear regression curve from the  
146 logarithm of concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$ ), and further converted to  $\mu\text{M}$  concentration.

## 147 148 149 150 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

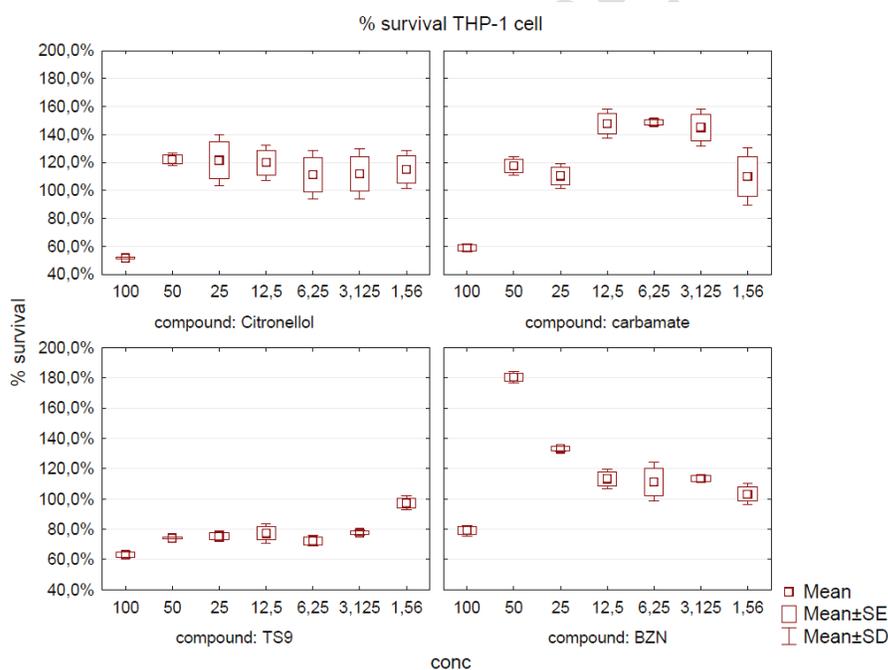
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152 From table 1, it's observed that compound TS9 exhibits the highest toxicity against THP-1  
153 cells over all tested compounds, making its use possible only at concentrations below 1.56  
154 µg/200 µL (7.8 µg/mL). Albeit the high toxicity of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

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165 **Table 1. Maximum tested concentration with no evidence of toxicity against THP-1**  
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Compound	Maximum non-toxic concentration	Non-toxic $\mu\text{M}$ concentration (+/- SD)
TS9	1.562 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	26.92 (+/- 0.10) $\mu\text{M}$
$\beta$ -citronellol	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	1599.80 (+/- 0.26) $\mu\text{M}$
Hybrid carbamate	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	574.00 (+/- 0.32) $\mu\text{M}$
<b>BZN</b>	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	960.61 (+/- 0.31) $\mu\text{M}$

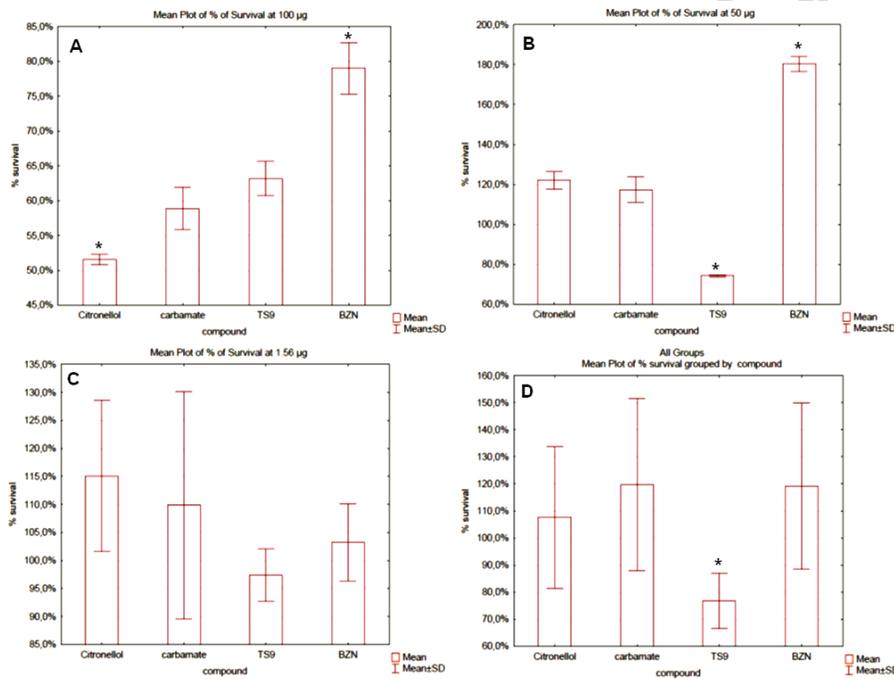
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 170 It was not possible to determine an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value against THP-1 cell from the tested  
 171 concentration range, once all compounds, but TS9 demonstrated no evidence of toxicity  
 172 except for the highest concentration on 50  $\mu\text{g}$  of compound diluted in 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of cell  
 173 suspension (**figure 3**).  
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 177 **FIG. 3. Anti-proliferative effect of  $\beta$ -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against**  
 178 **THP-1 cell lineage versus concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$ ).**  
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181 It's notorious the  $\beta$ -citronellol moiety influence on **cytotoxicity** profile of the hybrid  
 182 carbamate. From **figure 4(a)** we can observe that **besides** there is no statistic difference

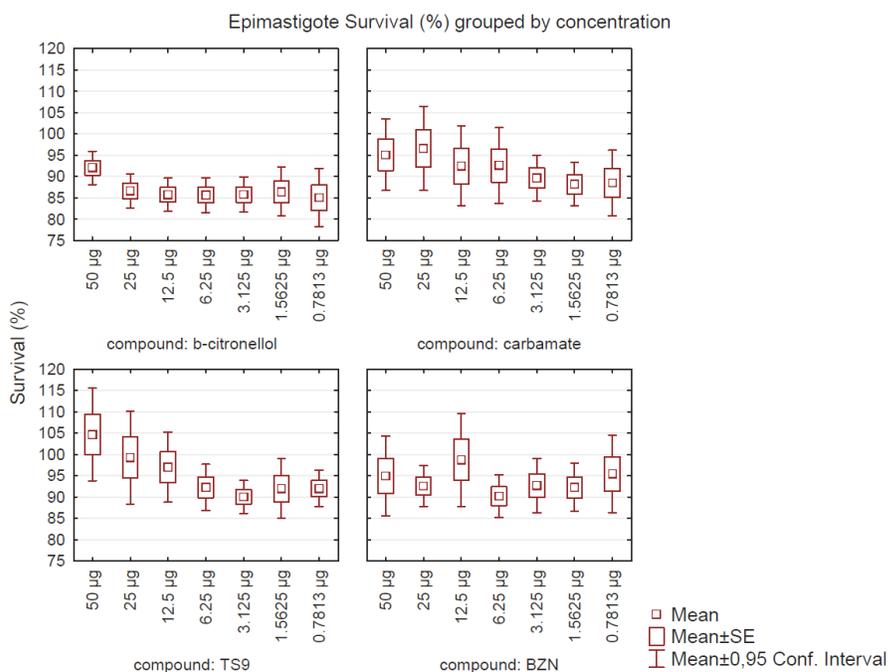
183 between TS9 and hybrid carbamate ( $P = .65$ ), the average of percentage of survival cell of  
 184 the carbamate occupies an intermediate position between TS9 and  $\beta$ -citronellol values at the  
 185 maximum tested concentration (100  $\mu\text{g}$ ), where  $\beta$ -citronellol exhibits the maximum toxic  
 186 effect. However, when the concentration is diminished to 50  $\mu\text{g}$  (**figure 4(b)**), there is a  
 187 complete inversion of this order, and while TS9 keeps a similar inhibition of cell growth, both  
 188  $\beta$ -citronellol and its hybrid carbamate **cytotoxicity** is strongly diminished, presenting no toxic  
 189 effect against THP-1 cell lineage. No evidence of anti-proliferative effect of all tested  
 190 compounds is observed only at the minimum concentration of 1.56  $\mu\text{g}$  (**figure 4(c)**). The  
 191 high toxicity of TS9 can be easily observed when we analyze the overall toxicity grouping all  
 192 concentrations in the same graph (**figure 4(d)**). TS9 present an average of 76.81% of  
 193 surviving cells differing from the average of 107.60% for  $\beta$ -citronellol ( $P = .003$ ), 116.71% for  
 194 hybrid carbamate ( $P < .001$ ) and 119.12% for benzonidazole ( $P < .001$ ). No statistic  
 195 difference **was observed** between the last three groups ( $P > .2$ ).  
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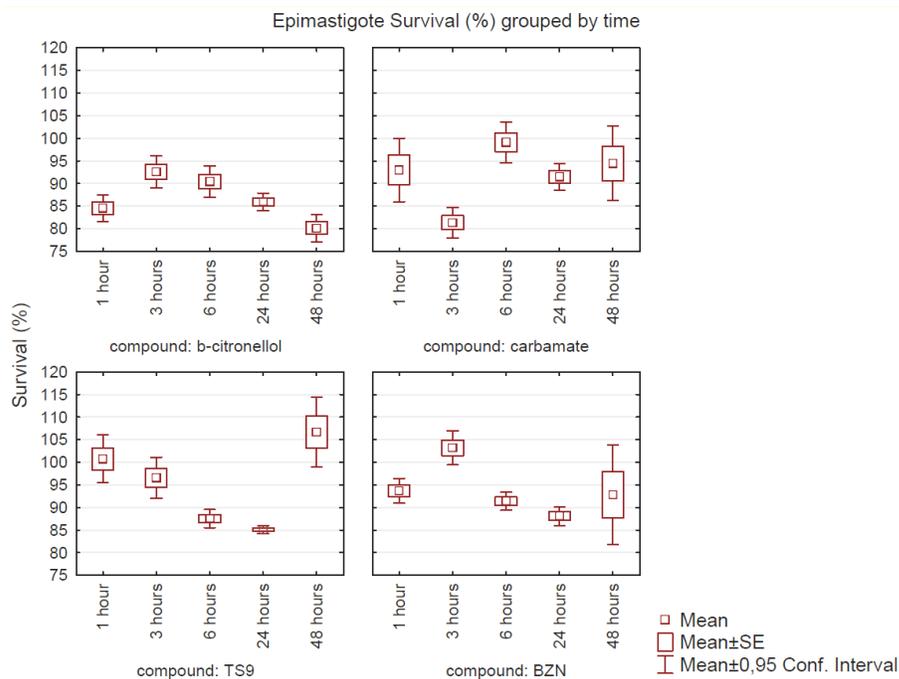
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 199 **FIG. 4. Cytotoxicity** against human macrophage THP-1 cell lineage. a) 100  $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$ ; b)  
 200 50  $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$ ; c) 1.56  $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$  and d) overall average of all tested concentrations.  
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202 To investigate the trypanocidal action of the hybrid carbamate, anti-proliferative  
 203 action **against** epimastigotes, trypomastigotes and amastigotes forms of *T. cruzi* Y-strain were  
 204 tested. Epimastigote forms of *T. cruzi* are restricted to the triatomine vector, and are not  
 205 found in humans. Despite the convenience of this test, concerning its safety on manipulation  
 206 of these **non-infecting** forms, the results present low consistent for drug development.  
 207 However, it is useful as an initial screening test and also can provide some information about  
 208 anti-trypanosomal action of tested compounds.

209 As shown in figure 5, no dose-response relationship could be observed at tested  
 210 concentrations. Albeit a slight tendency of inhibition may be assumed, statistical analysis  
 211 was not able to evident any difference between values obtained from the different  
 212 concentration of all compounds. However, when we analyze parasites growth inhibition as a  
 213 function of time (figure 6), joining together all results provided from any tested  
 214 concentration, it is notorious some similarities concerning anti-trypansomal action of the  
 215 compounds. Compound TS9 presented an initial activity after 3 hours of exposition, and this  
 216 lasted until 24 hours when epimastigote cells return the proliferation indicating that TS9  
 217 exerts inhibition effect on the cellular growth rather than trypanocidal. By the other hand,  
 218 benzonidazole and  $\beta$ -citronellol performed a continuous inhibition effect, suggesting a  
 219 trypanocidal activity followed an initial proliferative activity over the first three hours of  
 220 exposition. Interestingly, the hybrid carbamate kept a mild anti-proliferative activity along the  
 221 entire test, ranging about 92%, with a maximum activity of 81.36% (+/- 5.84%) at time 3  
 222 hours.  
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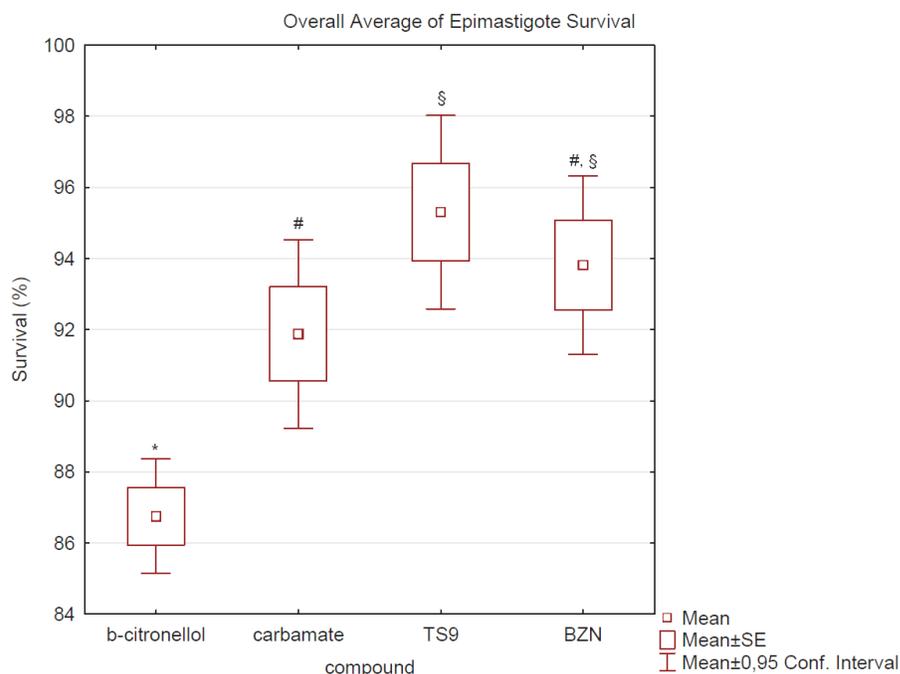
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 227 **FIG. 5. Anti-proliferative effect of  $\beta$ -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against**  
 228 ***T. cruzi* epimastigote versus concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$ ).**  
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**FIG. 6. Anti-proliferative effect of  $\beta$ -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against *T. cruzi* epimastigote versus time.**

Moreover, the overall average of inhibition for each compound, joining together all concentration at every time (figure 7), shows us that  $\beta$ -citronellol was the most effective tested compound (86.75%, +/- 6.75 SD;  $P = .003$ ). No difference was observed between the average from BZN 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;  $P = .046$ ).

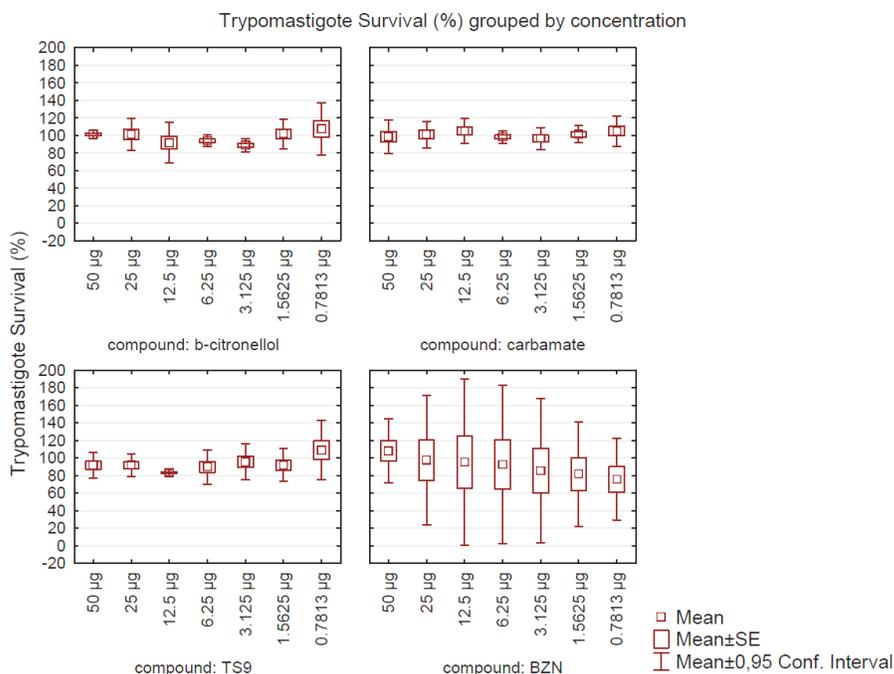
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**FIG. 7. An overall average of anti-proliferative effect against *T. cruzi* epimastigote forms.**

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 the biological condition concerning the life cycle 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 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 BZN is ineffective against trypomastigote, acting specifically against amastigote, revealing the importance of trypanocidal studies against amastigote form of *T. cruzi*.

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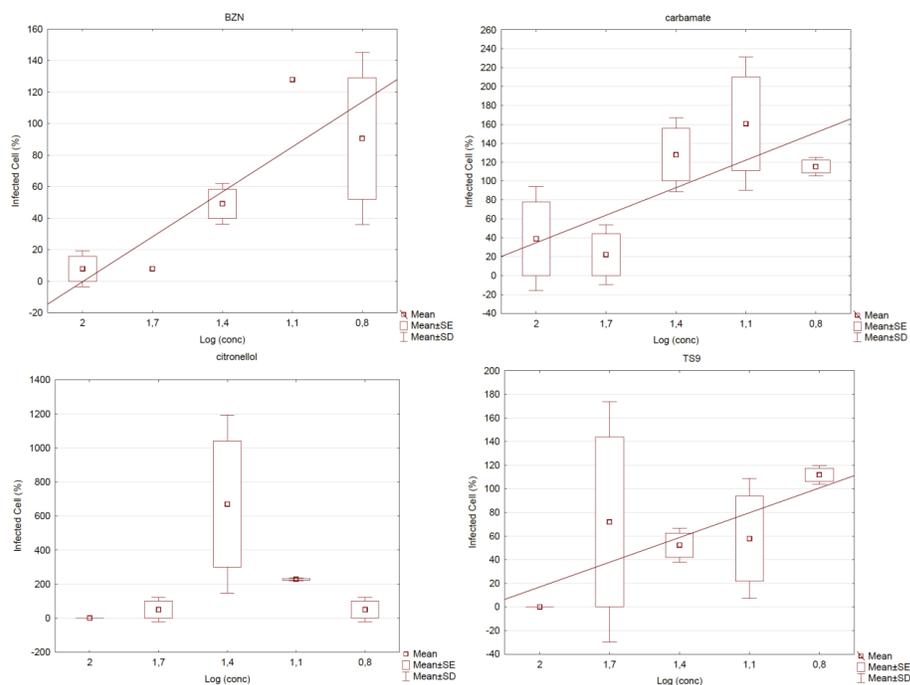


**FIG. 8. Anti-proliferative effect of  $\beta$ -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against *T. cruzi* trypomastigote versus concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$ ).**

So, the action of all tested compounds against amastigote deserves 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 group (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 ( $\alpha = .05$ ).

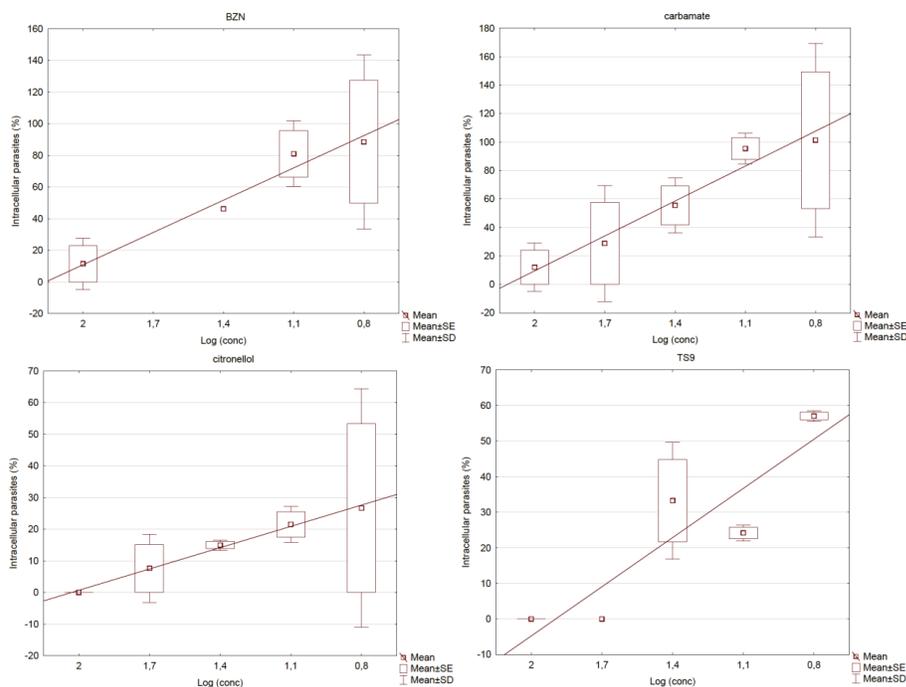
From figure 9, where it is plotted the percentage of infected macrophage cells versus concentration of any tested compound, we can see that only the compound  $\beta$ -citronellol didn't show a valid regression curve, indicating that this terpene doesn't affect the amastigote ability to invade macrophages, despite its trypanocidal action. By the other hand, both BZN 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  $\beta$ -citronellol does not inhibit it.



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

Trypanocidal activity of  $\beta$ -citronellol turns clear when the number of intracellular amastigote is observed (figure 10 and table 2). TS9 was the most active compound with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of  $44.73 \mu\text{M}$  ( $\pm 0.1488$ ) 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  $\text{IC}_{50}$  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  $\beta$ -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  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of  $146.93 \mu\text{M}$ , the hybrid showed better performance than the standard BZN ( $204.29 \mu\text{M}$ ) and similar SI (3.9 against 4.7 for BZN). However, the overall analysis of amastigote activity of all compounds, the hybrid character of the carbamate turns evident and encourages us to pursue this design for further molecular modeling studies. The fact that  $\beta$ -citronellol seems not to interfere with the number of infected macrophage cell, but carbamate does interfere, added to the diminishing of cytotoxicity related to TS9, are evidence that the purpose of the hybrid design was successfully reached, keeping trypanocidal profile of both moieties (terpene and thiossemicarbazone), albeit it is notorious the necessity to improve its  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value and thus, the SI.

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

**Table 2. Selective Index (SI) and  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values for trypanocidal action against *T. cruzi* amastigotes.**

Compound	Linear regression ( $R^2$ )	$\text{IC}_{50}$ (+/- SE)	SI
$\beta$ -citronellol	$y = -0,4023x + 0,7581$ (0.8598)	56.07 $\mu\text{M}$ (0.1324)	28.5
Hybrid carbamate	$y = -0,8179x + 1,731$ (0.9625)	146.93 $\mu\text{M}$ (0.0685)	3.9
TS9	$y = -0,4607x + 0,8739$ (0.8229)	44.73 $\mu\text{M}$ (0.1488)	0.6
<b>BZN</b>	$y = -0,6806x + 1,4696$ (0.9664)	204.29 $\mu\text{M}$ (0.0648)	4.7

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

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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

341 were an increment of total hydrogen bond donors and acceptors in the hybrid carbamate  
342 comparing to  $\beta$ -citronellol, and also the high hydrophilicity of TS9 was balanced with a  
343 terpenic moiety, bring the value for a satisfactory LogP value of 3.63, while molecular mass  
344 and molar refractivity was kept into an appropriated range. This simple analysis shows us  
345 that the hybrid carbamate complies with the parameters of Lipinski-Rule of five, and may  
346 present a better oral bioavailability profile than its precursors.  
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351 **Table 3. Lipinski-rule of five analysis.**  
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parameter	$\beta$ -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

353 *Performed with MarvinSketch 18.11.0 software.*  
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#### 358 **4. CONCLUSION** 359

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

369 So, the hybrid design was successful in the planned biological assays, and should be  
370 pursued for further molecular modeling studies.  
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#### 374 **COMPETING INTERESTS** 375

376 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.  
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490 APPENDIX

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493 **A1. Synthesis**

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

495 Compound TS9 was obtained as previously described by Blau *et al.* (2013). Structural identification was performed by  
496 comparison of the spectral data to the literature. **mp:** 173°C; **IR** (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3491 – 2966, 1593, 1523, 1336, 1292, 1091;  
497  **$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz,  $\delta$ ): 10.31 (s, 1H), 8.30 (m, 6H), 7.69 (m, 2H), 4.03 (br s, 2H). Reference Blau, *et al.* (2013):  
498 **mp:** 170-173 °C; **IR** (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3487-2986, 1596, 1512, 1342, 1288, 1096;  **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz,  $\delta$ ): 10.29 (s,  
499 1H), 8.29-8.09 (m, 6H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 2H), 4.05-3.99 (br s, 2H).  
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502 **A1.2. Synthesis of hybrid carbamate of  $\beta$ -citronellol and TS9**

503 A mixture containing 3.3 mmol of  $\beta$ -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 **drop wise** keeping **the** temperature between 0°C and 5°C.  
505 After 30 minutes, **the** temperature was allowed to reach room temperature, about 25 °C, and the reaction was **monitored**  
506 by 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  $\beta$ -citronellol.  
510

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

516 Hybrid carbamate: **mp:** 110 °C; **IR** (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3466-3350 (N-H), 3192-2926 (C-H), 1687 (C=O), 1589 (C=N), 1523 and  
517 1340 (-NO<sub>2</sub>), and 854 (C=S);  **$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz,  $\delta$ ): 10.78, 8.58, 8.22, 8.19, 8.18, 7.87, 5.04, 4.30, 4.00, 1.89,  
518 1.62, 1.55, 1.54, 1.42, 1.32, 1.25, 1.10, 0.82.  
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522 **A2. Spectral Data**

523 **A2.1.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  spectral data of  $\beta$ -citronellol/TSC hybrid carbamate**

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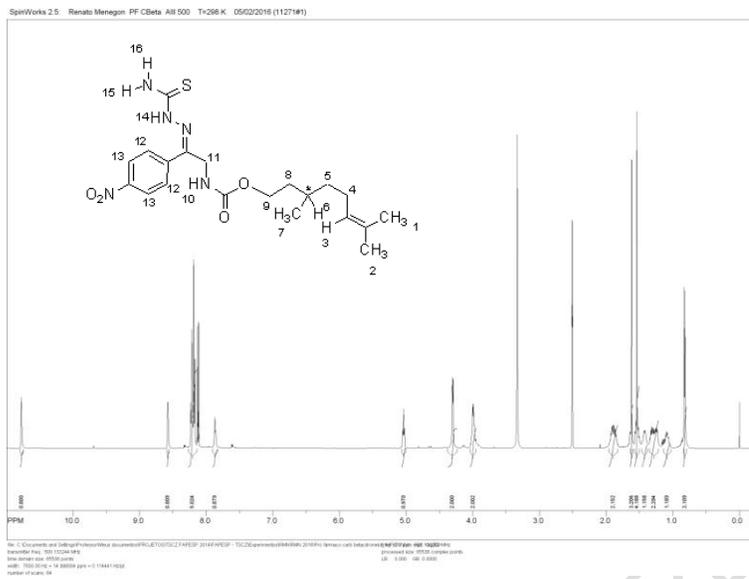


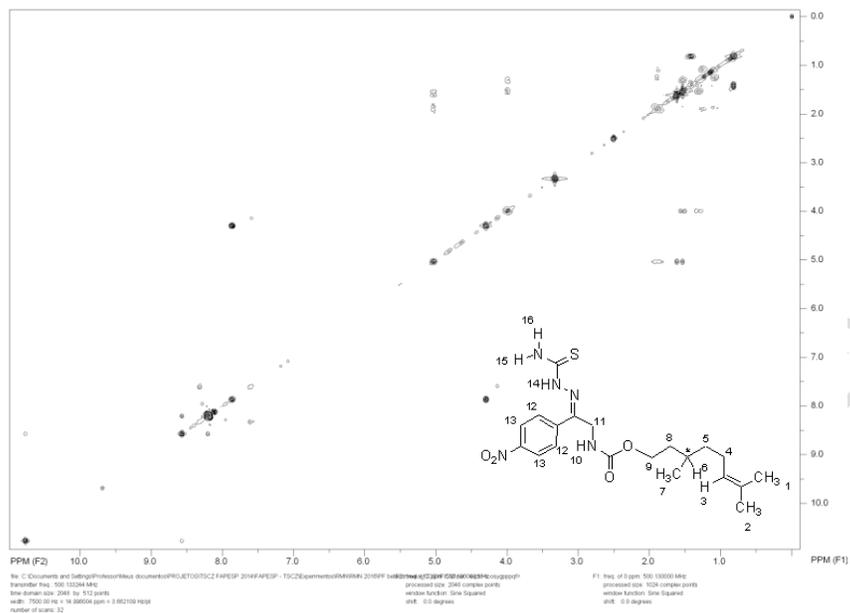
Fig. A1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectra of hybrid carbamate

Position	$\delta^1\text{H}$ (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. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts (ppm) of hybrid carbamate and two-dimensional <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H correlations (COSY).

## 2.2. 2D COSY of $\beta$ -citronellol/TSC hybrid carbamate

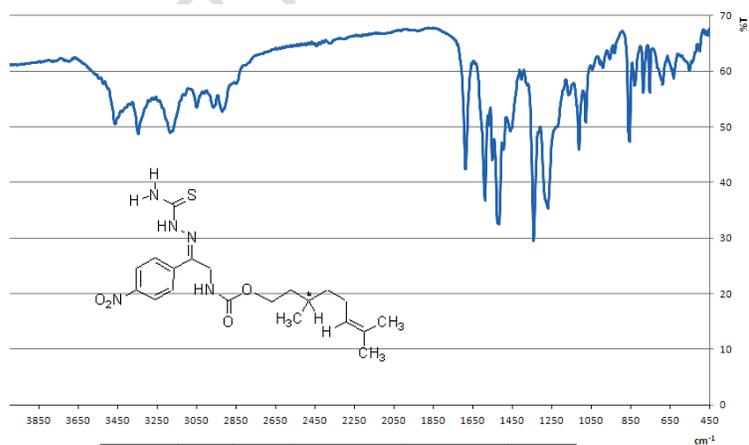
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Fig. A2. <sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of hybrid carbamate (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).

**A2.3. Infrared Spectrum data (KBr)**



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

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

UNDER PEER REVIEW

