

Hybrid design as a strategy for development of trypanocidal drugs

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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 β -citronellol through carbamate linkage.

Methodology: The cytotoxicity of the hybrid compound was evaluated against human THP-1 cells and all forms of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. cruzi*). IC₅₀ 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 (BZN) (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.

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

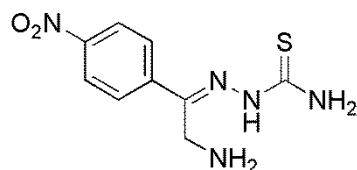
1. INTRODUCTION

The parasitocidal action of thiosemicarbazones has been explored in several works, emphasizing its importance in inhibiting cysteine proteases, as cruzipain from *Trypanosoma 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 of 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 a 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

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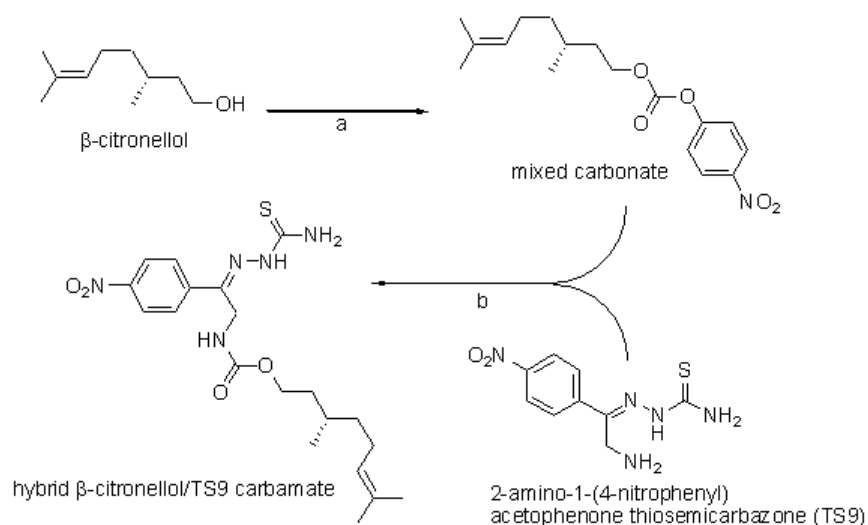
35 suffer further derivatizations leading to **hemi-succinic** acid derivatives, that retained its
36 trypanocidal activities. At this point, it is noticed that from the exploration of position 2 of
37 acetophenone thiosemicarbazones, emerges the possibility to develop hybrid compounds
38 possessing better pharmacokinetics and toxicological profiles. In the present work, we
39 proposed the obtainment of the 2-*N*-carbamoyl terpene derivative of 2-amino-1-(4-
40 nitrophenyl) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9) aiming lowering cytotoxicity of the TS9
41 compound and **to potentiate** its trypanocidal action against amastigote form of *T. cruzi*.
42 (figure 2).
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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 obtainment of hybrid carbamate terpenic derivatives. a. *p*-nitrophenyl chloroformate; DMAP; 2,6-lutidine; THF; 24h; rt. b. DIPEA; CH₂Cl₂; 6h; rt.

55 The terpene (β-citronellol) was selected due to its previously described antiprotozoal
56 actions under *in vitro* conditions without, however, the knowledge about the biochemical
57 pathway of its antiprotozoal activity [6-9]. Several trypanocidal terpenes were not able to
58 inhibit cruzain (G. Trossini and R.F. Menegon, unpublished data), a recombinant form of *T.*
59 *cruzi* cruzipain, revealing that their trypanocidal activities involve a different action than those
60 described for thiosemicarbazones. This finding leads us to propose a hybrid of β-citronellol
61 and TS9 possibly presenting a dual trypanocidal activity, minimizing the possibilities of
62 parasite resistance and improving pharmacokinetics parameters, as oral bioavailability, by
63 balancing the lipophilicity and hydrophilicity of both terpenic and TS9 moieties. The strategy

64 of hybrid formation has been used in molecular modeling to improve both biological activity
65 of antimicrobial compounds [10,11] and drug resistance in antimalarial chemotherapy [12].

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

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76 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

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80 2.1 Synthesis of the Hybrid Carbamate

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

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

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

96 β-citronellol was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, and are not enantiomeric pure. All other
97 reagents, α-brome-*p*-nitroacetophenone (acros), thiosemicarbazide (acros),
98 hexamethylenetetramine (synth), N,N-dimethyl-4-aminopyridine (Flucka), N,N-
99 diisopropylethylamine (Sigma-Aldrich), 2,6-lutidine (sigma-aldrich), Prestoblue™ (invitrogen),
100 are ACS grade or more than 97% of purity and were used with no further treatment. The
101 solvents employed for synthesis were purchased from Synth and dried according to Vogel
102 (1989) [18].

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104 2.2 Biological Assays

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107 2.2.1 In vitro cytotoxicity on THP-1 cell

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109 The *in vitro* cytotoxicity on leukemic monocyte THP-1 cell line human (ATCC® TIB-202) was
110 performed with PrestoBlue™ (Invitrogen) cell viability reagent, following the manufacturing
111 instructions. 5.0 x 10⁵ cells/well were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in plates of 96 wells
112 with the selected compounds at a concentration ranging from 100 µg to 1.562 µg to a final

113 volume of 200 μL . After 24 hours, 10 μL of PrestoBlue™ reagent was added over 90 μL of
114 cell supernatant. After 2 hours at 37°C, the fluorescence intensity was measured in the base
115 of relative fluorescence units (RFU) in a Spectramax® M3 device at wavelengths 560 nm
116 (excitation) and 590 nm (emission). The assay was performed in duplicate.

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119 **2.2.2 *In vitro* evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against trypomastigote and** 120 **epimastigote forms.**

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

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135 **2.2.2 *In vitro* evaluation of the trypanocidal activity against amastigote forms.**

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137 1.0×10^5 leukemic monocyte THP-1 cell line human was infected by trypomastigotes forms
138 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 30 parasites: 1 cell. 24 hours after infection cells, as well
139 as parasites, were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in plates of 24 wells, with circular coverslip
140 13 mm (Glasscyto), with the determined compounds at a concentration ranging from 100 μg
141 to 6.25 μg to a final volume of 500 μL . After 24 hours, coverslips were fixed with Bouin's
142 solution (Sigma Life Science) and stained with Giemsa's azur eosin methylene blue solution
143 (Merck). Coverslips were mounted with Entellan® New (Merck) on microscope slides 26x76
144 mm (Perfecta). To determine the trypanocidal activity against amastigote forms, 20
145 fields/slide were counted. In each count were determined: the number of total cells, number
146 of infected cells and the number of intracellular parasites (amastigotes). The assay was
147 performed in duplicate.

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150 **2.2 Statistics**

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

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159 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

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161 From table 1, it's observed that compound TS9 exhibits the highest toxicity against THP-1
162 cells over all tested compounds, making its use possible only at concentrations below 1.56
163 $\mu\text{g}/200 \mu\text{L}$ (7.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). Albeit the high toxicity of TS9, its hybrid carbamate derivative
164 diminishes TS9 toxicity by more than 20 times. Comparing its maximum non-toxic

165 concentration (574.00 (+/- 0.32) μM) with those observed for TS9 (26.92 (+/- 0.10) μM) and
 166 for β -citronellol (1599.80 (+/- 0.26) μM), cytotoxicity of the hybrid against THP-1 cells
 167 reaches an intermediate position between them.

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169 **Table 1. Maximum tested concentration with no evidence of toxicity against THP-1**
 170 **cells**

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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
BZN	50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$	960.61 (+/- 0.31) μM

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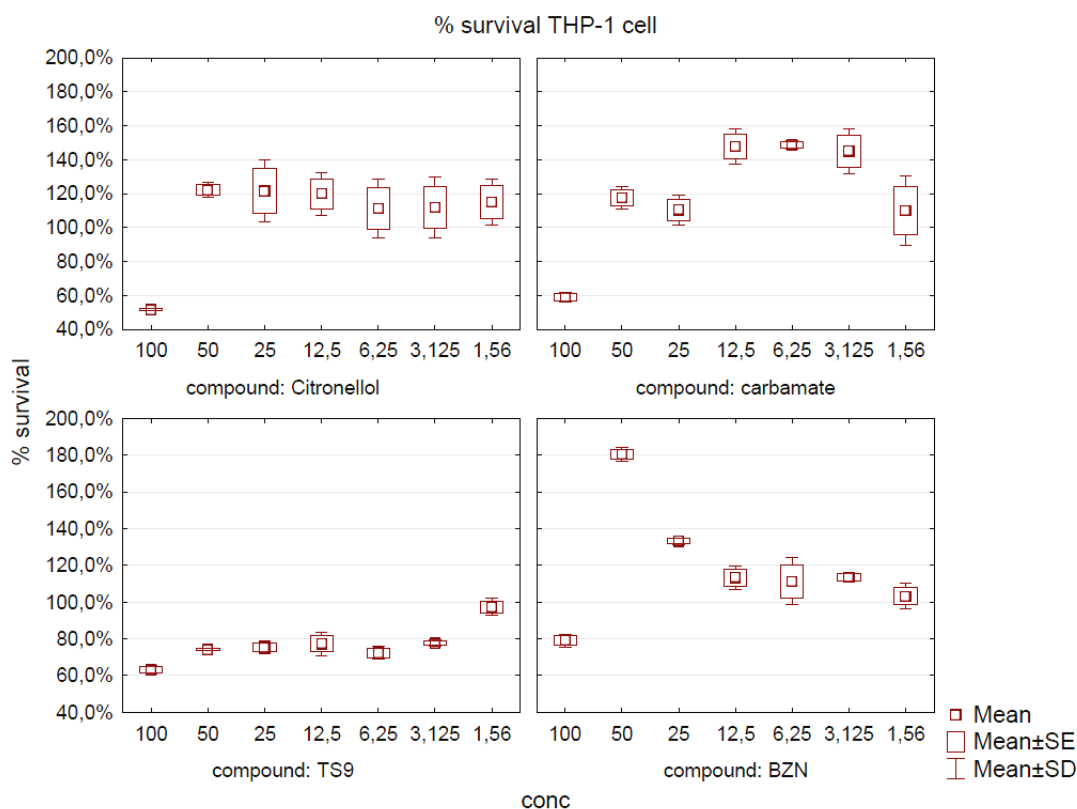
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It was not possible to determine an IC_{50} value against THP-1 cell from the tested concentration range, once all compounds but TS9 demonstrated no evidence of toxicity except for the highest concentration on 50 μg of compound diluted in 200 μL of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

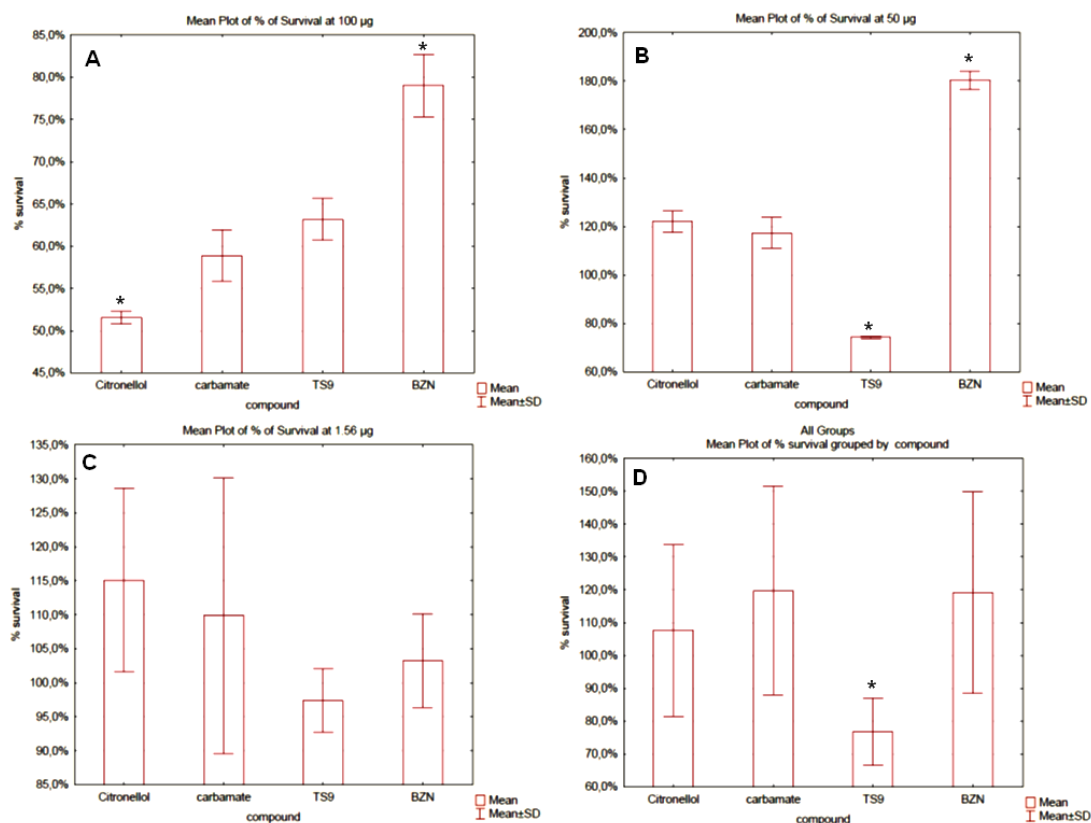


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182 **FIG. 3. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against**
 183 **THP-1 cell lineage versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$).**
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185 It's notorious the β -citronellol moiety influence on cytotoxicity profile of the hybrid
 186 carbamate. From **figure 4(a)** we can observe that besides there is no statistic difference
 187 between TS9 and hybrid carbamate ($P = .65$), the average of percentage of survival cell of
 188 the carbamate occupies an intermediate position between TS9 and β -citronellol values at the
 189 maximum tested concentration (100 μg), where β -citronellol exhibits the maximum toxic
 190 effect. However, when the concentration is diminished to 50 μg (**figure 4(b)**), there is a
 191 complete inversion of this order, and while TS9 keeps a similar inhibition of cell growth, both
 192 β -citronellol and its hybrid carbamate citotoxicity is strongly diminished, presenting no toxic
 193 effect against THP-1 cell lineage. No evidence of anti-proliferative effect of all tested
 194 compounds is observed only at the minimum concentration of 1.56 μg (**figure 4(c)**). The
 195 high toxicity of TS9 can be easily observed when we analyze the overall toxicity grouping all
 196 concentrations in the same graph (**figure 4(d)**). TS9 present an average of 76.81% of
 197 survival cells differing from the average of 107.60% for β -citronellol ($P = .003$), 116.71% for
 198 hybrid carbamate ($P < .001$) and 119.12% for benzonidazole ($P < .001$). No statistic
 199 difference was observed between the last three groupings ($P > .2$).
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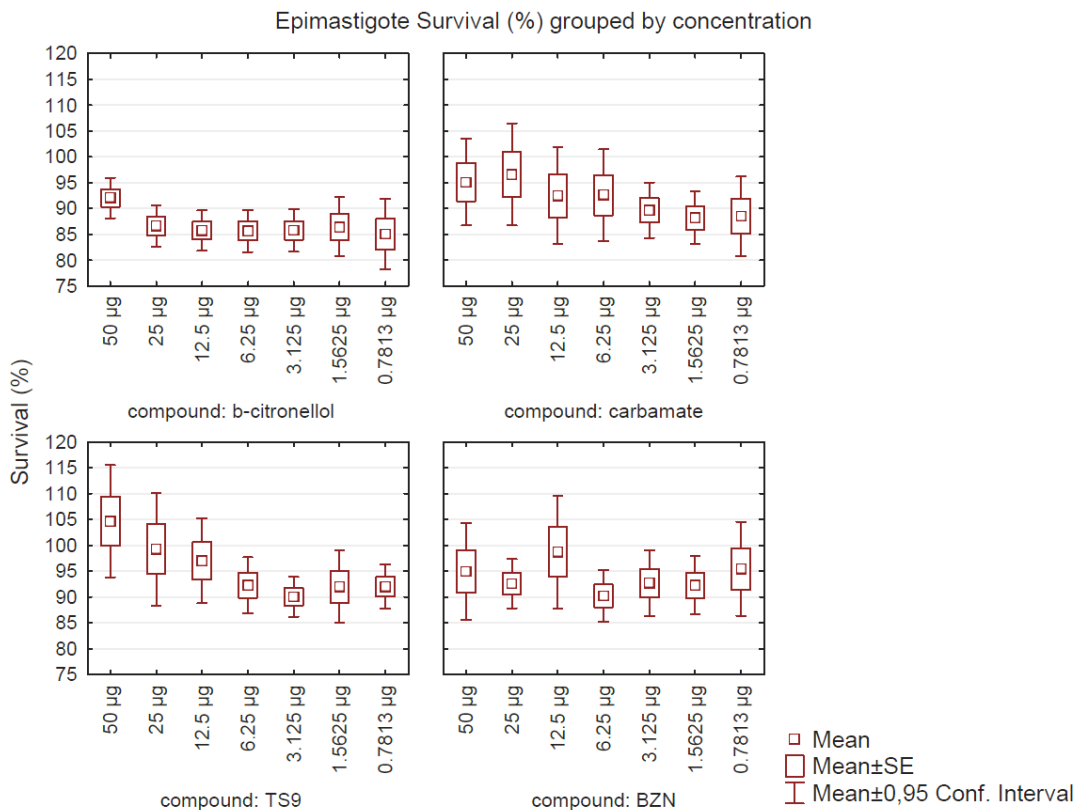
201 **FIG. 4. Cytotoxicity against human macrophage THP-1 cell lineage. a) 100 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$;**
 202 **50 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$; c) 1.56 $\mu\text{g}/200\mu\text{L}$ and d) overall average of all tested concentrations.**
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206 To investigate the trypanocidal action of the hybrid carbamate, anti-proliferative
 207 action against epimastigotes, trypomastigotes and amastigotes forms of *T. cruzi* Y-strain were
 208 tested. Epimastigote forms of *T. cruzi* are restricted to the triatomine vector, and are not

209 found in humans. Despite the convenience of this test, concerning its safety on manipulation
 210 of these non-infecting forms, the results present low consistent for drug development.
 211 However, it is useful as an initial screening test and also can provide some information about
 212 anti-trypanosomal action of tested compounds.

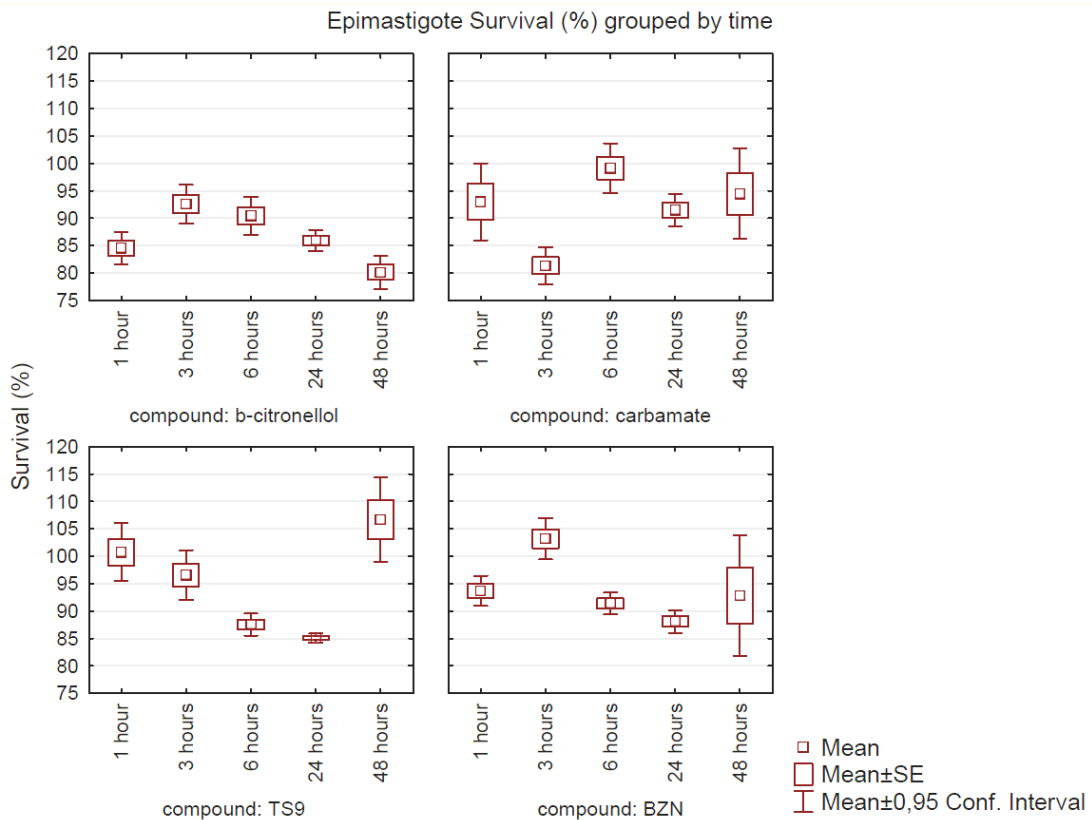
213 As shown in figure 5, no dose-response relationship could be observed at tested
 214 concentrations. Albeit a slight tendency of inhibition may be assumed, statistical analysis
 215 was not able to evident any difference between values obtained from the different
 216 concentration of all compounds.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

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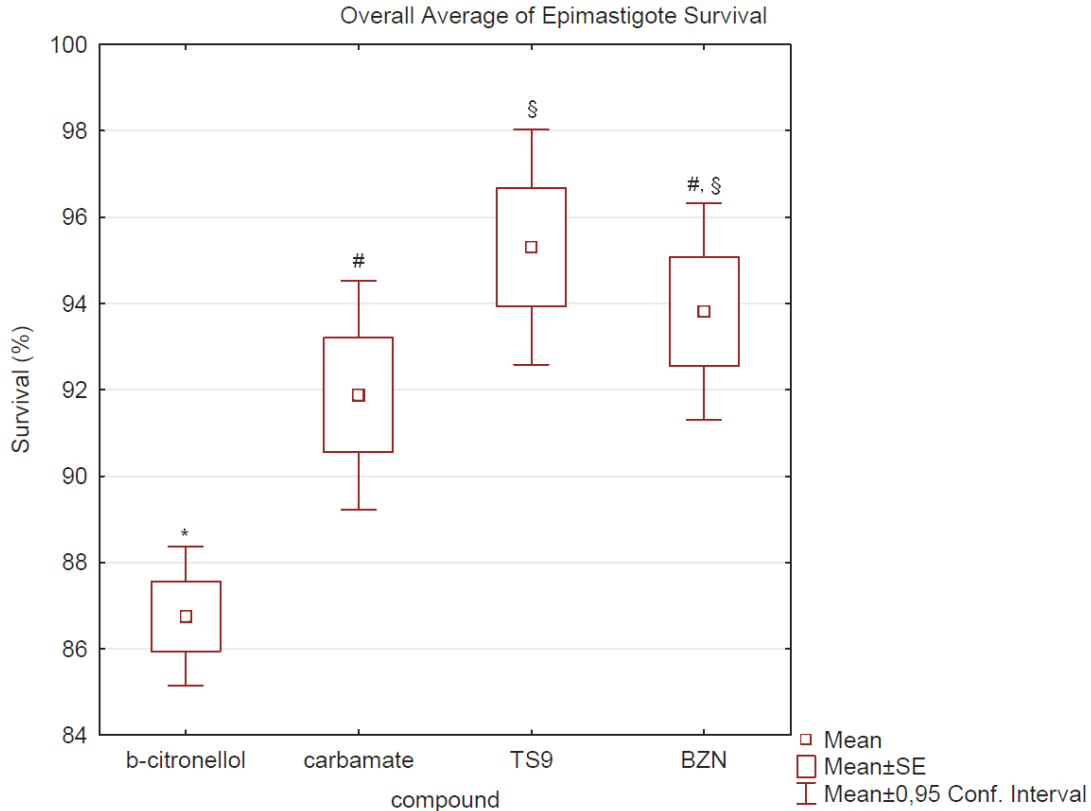
FIG. 5. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against *T. cruzi* epimastigote versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).



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

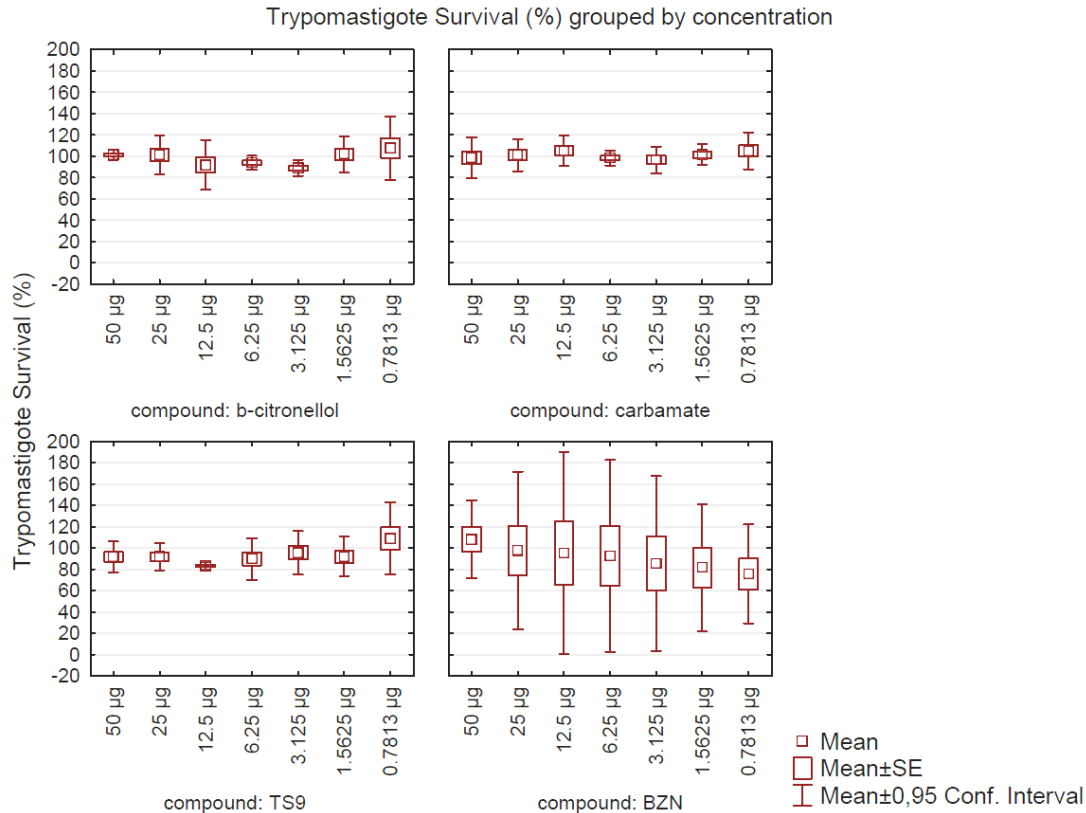
Moreover, the overall average of inhibition for each compound, joining together all concentration at every time (**figure 7**), shows us that β -citronellol was the most effective tested compound (86.75%, +/- 6.75 SD; $P = .003$). No difference was observed between the average from BZN and TS9 or the 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*.



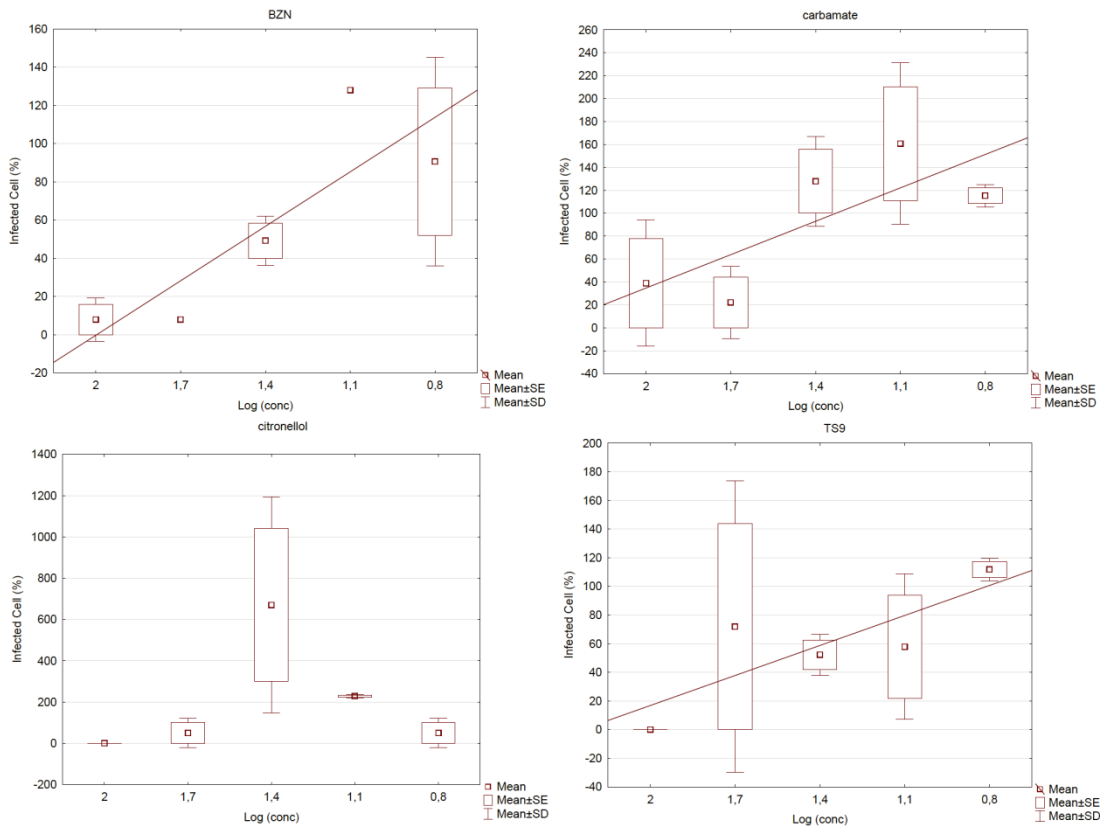
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FIG. 8. Anti-proliferative effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN against *T. cruzi* trypomastigote versus concentration ($\mu\text{g}/500\mu\text{L}$).

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

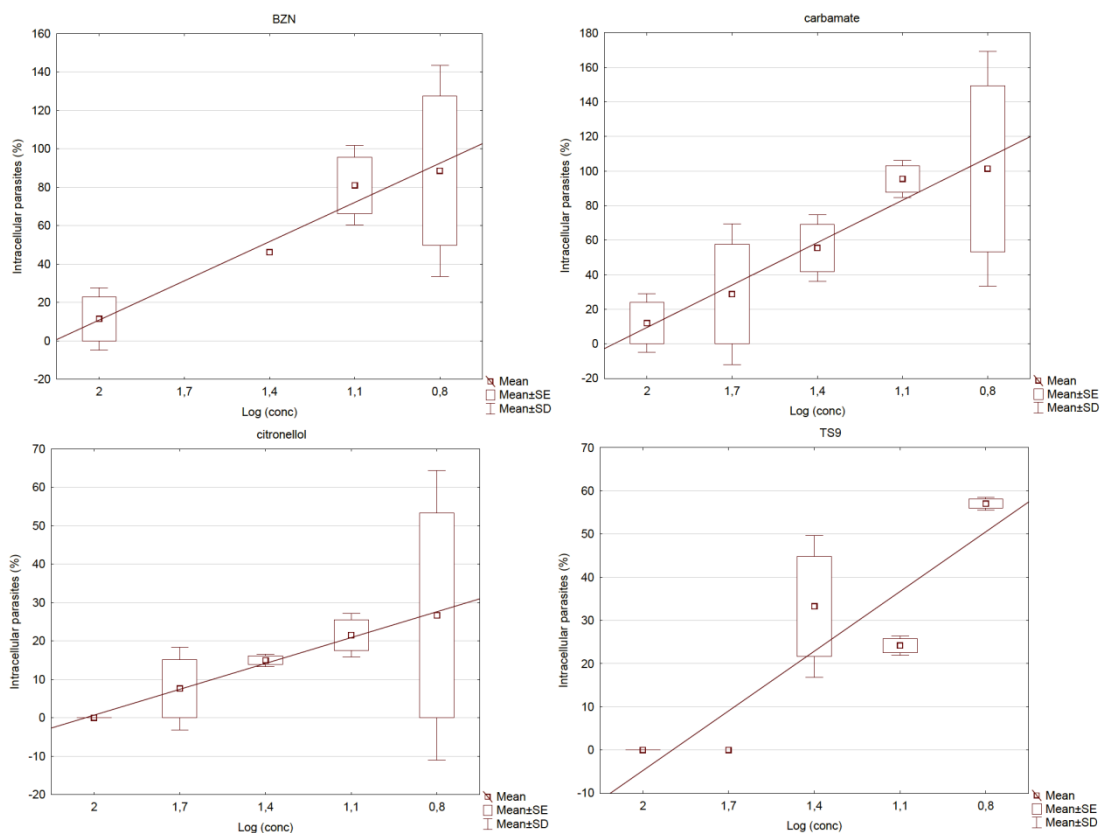
From **figure 9**, where it is plotted the percentage of infected macrophage cells versus concentration of any tested compound, we can see that only the compound β -citronellol didn't show a valid regression curve, indicating that this terpene doesn't affect the amastigote ability to invade macrophages,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



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FIG. 9. Effect of β -citronellol, hybrid carbamate, TS9 and BZN over the number of infected macrophage cell versus the 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 an 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 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 β -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 IC_{50} value and thus, the SI.



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FIG. 10. Anti-proliferative effect of β -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 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
BZN	$y = -0,6806x + 1,4696$ (0.9664)	204.29 μM (0.0648)	4.7

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

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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

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

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Table 3. Lipinski-rule of five analysis.

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

357 *Performed with MarvinSketch 18.11.0 software.*

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362 4. CONCLUSION

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

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

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377 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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388 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

389

390 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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393 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

394

395 Freitas performed organic synthesis, managed the literature searches and wrote the first
396 draft of the manuscript. Torrecilhas and Xander managed biological assays and wrote the
397 protocols. Vasconcelos performed biological assays. Menegon managed organic synthesis
398 and analysis of the study, performed statistical analysis and wrote final manuscript. All
399 authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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402 **REFERENCES**

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496 **A1. Synthesis**497 **A1.1. Preparation of 2-amino-1-(4-nitro) acetophenone thiosemicarbazone (TS9)**

498 Compound TS9 was obtained as previously described by Blau *et al.* (2013). Structural identification was performed by
499 comparison of the spectral data to the literature. **mp**: 173°C; **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3491 – 2966, 1593, 1523, 1336, 1292, 1091;
500 **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (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):
501 **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,
502 1H), 8.29-8.09 (m, 6H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 2H), 4.05-3.99 (br s, 2H).
503
504

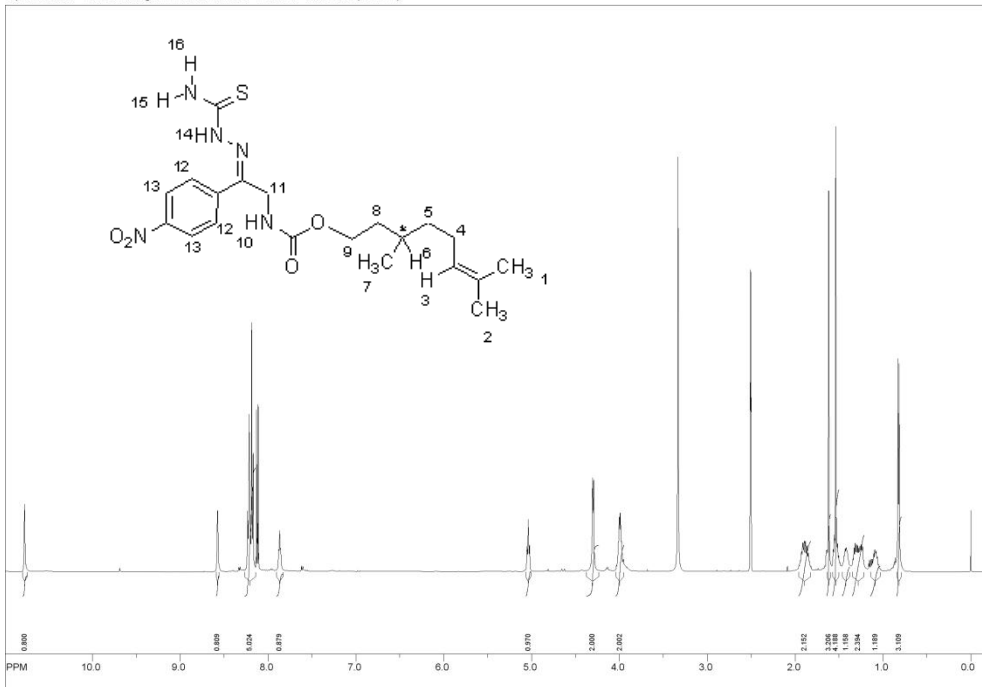
505 **A1.2. Synthesis of hybrid carbamate of β -citronellol and TS9**

506
507 A mixture containing 3.3 mmol of β -citronellol, 0.03 mmol of DMAP and 5 mmol of *p*-nitrophenylchloroformate was
508 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.
509 After 30 minutes, **the** temperature was allowed to reach room temperature, about 25 °C, and the reaction was **monitored**
510 by thin layer chromatography (TLC) for 24 hours along. The precipitant was filtered off and the remained solution was
511 evaporated to dryness. A brown residue was treated with 25 mL of ethyl acetate, and washed with 0.1M HCl, saline
512 solution and cold water. The organic phase was separated and dried, yielding 69% of the mixed carbonate of *p*-
513 nitrophenol and β -citronellol.

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

519 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
520 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,
521 1.62, 1.55, 1.54, 1.42, 1.32, 1.25, 1.10, 0.82.
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525 **A2. Spectral Data**526
527
528 **A2.1. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectral data of β -citronellol/TSC hybrid carbamate**
529



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 time domain size: 65536 points
 width: 7500.00 Hz = 14.99504 ppm = 0.11441 Hz/pt
 number of scans: 64
 processed size: 65536 complex points
 LB: 0.000 GB: 0.0000

Fig. A1. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, 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 -citronelloi/TSC hybrid carbamate

