P2X and P2Y Receptors

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Contents

Subtypes and Structures of P2 Receptor Families 1
Pharmacological Probes for P2X Receptors
Non-Selective P2X Ligands3
P2X ₁ and P2X ₂ Receptors5
P2X ₃ Receptor6
P2X ₄ Receptor6
P2X ₅ Receptor6
P2X ₇ Receptor7
Pharmacological Probes for P2Y Receptors8
P2Y ₁ Receptor9
$P2Y_2$ and $P2Y_4$ Receptors9
P2Y ₆ Receptor 11
P2Y ₁₁ Receptor
P2Y ₁₂ Receptor
P2Y ₁₃ Receptor
P2Y ₁₄ Receptor
Conclusion
References
P2X and P2Y Receptor Compounds 16

Subtypes and Structures of P2 Receptor Families

The P2 receptors for extracellular nucleotides are widely distributed in the body and participate in regulation of nearly every physiological process.^{1,2} Of particular interest are nucleotide receptors in the immune, inflammatory, cardiovascular, muscular, and central and peripheral nervous systems. The ubiquitous signaling properties of extracellular nucleotides acting at two distinct families of P2 receptors - fast P2X ion channels and P2Y receptors (G-protein-coupled receptors) - are now well recognized. These extracellular nucleotides are produced in response to tissue stress and cell damage and in the processes of neurotransmitter release and channel formation. Their concentrations can vary dramatically depending on circumstances. Thus, the state of activation of these receptors can be highly dependent on the stress conditions or disease states affecting a given organ. The P2 receptors respond to various extracellular mono- and dinucleotides (Table 1). The P2X receptors are more structurally restrictive than P2Y receptors in agonist selectivity. P2X receptors are activated principally by ATPs. while the P2Y receptors are activated by a group of five or more naturally occurring nucleotides.

The P2X receptors are distributed throughout the nervous system (autonomic, central, enteric and sensory neurons, cochlear and retinal cells), vascular system (cardiomyocytes, endothelium and smooth muscle), the pulmonary and digestive systems (epithelium and visceral smooth muscle), skeletal muscle, bone, and hematopoietic cells. The P2X receptors consist of trimeric ligand-gated ion channels. The subunits are numbered P2X₁ through P2X₇, and both heterotrimers and homotrimers occur. Activation of P2X receptors leads to influx of cations such as sodium and calcium, which depolarize excitable cells and activate cytosolic enzymes respectively. The P2X₇ receptor upon prolonged agonist exposure also opens a large pore, which can pass organic cations and dye molecules. The knowledge of P2X receptor structures was recently advanced with the X-ray crystallographic determination of the P2X₄ subunit.^{3,4} However, this structure did not establish the precise ligand binding site within the protein. A major difficulty in designing new agonist and antagonist ligands for a given P2X receptor subtype is that the homotrimers and heterotrimers may have entirely different structural requirements.

The correspondence of the P2Y receptor subtypes with their native nucleotide ligands is shown in Table 1.

The numbering of unique human P2Y receptors has some gaps – due to the fact that the assignment of numbers to certain putative P2Y receptors was later shown to be premature, with some of the previously designated sequences being P2Y species homologs and others being other types of receptors. Each of the native nucleotides may activate several P2Y receptor subtypes. The structures of representative adenine (Figure 1A, **1-10**) and uracil (Figure 1B, **11-28**) nucleotides that activate P2 receptors are shown. The adenine nucleotide ATP is a full agonist at two human P2Y subtypes (P2Y₂ and P2Y₁₁ receptors), and the corresponding diphosphate ADP activates three different subtypes (P2Y₁, P2Y₁₂, and P2Y₁₃

Table 1 Subtypes of P2 receptors and their ligands (potency at the human homologs show	ın as
<i>pEC</i> ₅₀ , unless noted r = rat)	

Receptor	Main Distribution	Agonists (native in bold, <i>pEC</i> ₅₀)	Antagonists
P2X ₁	Smooth muscle, platelets, cerebellum, dorsal horn spinal neurons	BzATP 8.7 > ATP 7.3, 2-MeSATP 7.3, α , β -MeATP 6.7 (rapid desensitization) >> CTP 4.4	NF 449 9.5 > IP₅I 8.8 > TNP-ATP 8.2 > Ro 0437626 > NF 279 7.7
P2X ₂	Smooth muscle, brain, pancreas, retina, chromaffin cells, autonomic and sensory ganglia	ATP 5.9, 2-MeSATP 5.8 ≥ 2-MeSATP 5.8 >> α,β-MeATP <4	RB2 6.4 (r), iso PPADS 6.4 (r) > PPADS 5.4 (r) > Suramin 4.5 (r)
P2X ₃	Nociceptive sensory neurons, NTS, some sympathetic neurons	ATP 6.5, 2-MeSATP 6.5 \geq Ap ₄ A 6.3, α , β -MeATP 6.1 (rapid desensitization)	TNP-ATP 9.0, iso PPADS 7.1 > A317491 7.6 > NF 110 7.4 > PPADS 5.8
P2X ₄	Microglia, testis, colon, endothelial cells	ATP 6.3 >> α , β -MeATP 5.1 >> CTP 3.5, Ivermectin (potentiates) 6.6	5-BDBD >> TNP-ATP 4.8, PPADS 4.6 > BBG 3.9 (r)
P2X₅	Proliferating cells in skin, gut, bladder, thymus, spinal cord, heart, adrenal medulla	ATPγS 6.2 (r), ATP 6.0 >> α,β-MeATP <5.2	BBG 6.3 > PPADS 5.6, Suramin 5.4
P2X ₆	Brain, motor neurons in spinal cord	(no functional homomultimer)	-
P2X ₇	Macrophages, mast cells, microglia, pancreas, skin, endocrine organs	BzATP 5.3 > ATP 4.0 ≥ 2-MeSATP >4 >> α,β-MeATP >4	KN 62 7.5, BBG 8.0 (r)
P2Y ₁	Brain, epithelial and endothelial cells, platelets, immune cells, osteoclasts	MRS 2365 9.4 > 2-MeSADP 8.2 >> ADPβS 7.0 > ADP 5.1 > ATP	MRS 2500 9.0 > MRS 2279 7.3 > MRS 2179 6.5
P2Y ₂	Immune cells, epithelial and endothelial cells, kidney tubules, osteoblasts	UTP 8.1, MRS 2698 8.1 ≥ ATP 7.1, INS 365 7.0 > INS 37217 6.7, UTPγS 6.6 > Ap₄A 6.1 > MRS 2768 5.7	AR-C 126313 6 > Suramin 4.3 > RB2 >4
P2Y ₄	Endothelial cells, placenta	2'-azido-dUTP 7.1 > UTPγS 5.8, UTP 5.6 ≥ ATP 5.7 (rat), > Ap₄A 5.5 > CTP 5.2, ITP 5.1	ATP (human) <i>4.4</i> > RB2 >4 > Suramin > <i>4</i>
P2Y ₆	Airway and intestinal epithelial cells, spleen, placenta, T-cells, thymus	MRS 2693 7. 8 > UDPβS 7.3, PBS 0474 7.2 > INS 48823 6.9, Up ₃ U 6.6, UDP 6.5 > UTP >> ATP	MRS 2578 7.4 (noncompetitive) > RB2, PPADS
P2Y ₁₁	Spleen, intestine, granulocytes	ATPγS 5.5 > ARC 67085MX 5.0 > BzATP 5.1 ≥ ATP 4.8	NF 157 7.4 > Suramin 4.8 > RB2 >4
P2Y ₁₂	Platelets, brain (glial cells), microglial cells	2-MeSADP 7.9 ≥ ADP 7.2	ARC 69931MX 8.4 > AZD 6140 7.9, INS 50589 7.8 > RB2 7.6 (r) > 2-MeSAMP 4.0
P2Y ₁₃	Spleen, brain, lymph nodes, bone marrow	ADP 7.9 = 2-MeSADP 7.9 > 2-MeSATP 7.1, ATP 6.6	ARC 69931MX 8.4 > ARC 67085 6.7 > MRS 2211 6.0
P2Y ₁₄	Placenta, mast cells, adipose tissue, stomach, intestine, discrete brain regions	MRS 2690 7.3 > UDP 6.8, UDP - glucose 6.5 > UDP-galactose 6.2	-

receptors). The uracil nucleotide UTP activates two subtypes (P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ receptors), while UDP, previously thought to activate only a single subtype (P2Y₆ receptors), is now known to also activate P2Y₁₄ receptors along with the originally designated native agonist UDP-glucose.⁵ The naturally occurring dinucleotide Ap₄A and its homologs also activate various P2 receptors.

The structure, signaling, and regulation of P2Y receptors have been explored, and subfamilies of P2Y₁-like and P2Y₁₂-like receptors have been defined. These subfamilies constitute two pharmacologically distinct groups of P2Y receptors that also correlate with similarities in the function of key amino acid residues.6 The preferential coupling of the first subfamily of P2Y₁, P2Y₂, P2Y₄, P2Y₆, and $P2Y_{11}$ receptors is to G_q , leading to activation of phospholipase $C\beta$ (PLC β), and the second subfamily of P2Y12, P2Y13, and P2Y14 receptors couple to G_i resulting in the inhibition of adenylyl cyclase. P2Y₁₁ receptors also activate G_s to stimulate adenylyl cyclase. Comparisons of the structural characteristics and functionally important amino acid residues within the family have been described. Specific cationic residues and other residues in the TM region (e.g. Phe in TM3) and on the extracellular loops have conserved functions within the P2Y family. Molecular recognition in the P2Y₁, P2Y₂, P2Y₁₁, and P2Y₁₂ receptors has been extensively explored using mutagenesis.7-10

P2Y receptor regulation has also been studied. In platelets, which express two ADP-responsive P2Y subtypes, the P2Y₁ receptor is more rapidly desensitized than the P2Y₁₂ receptor.¹¹ The P2Y₁ receptor is desensitized mainly through PKCdependent processes, and the P2Y₁₂ receptor is a good substrate for the GPCR kinases (GRKs) leading to arrestin binding. Residues on the cytosolic C-terminal domain involved in the regulation of the P2Y₁ receptor have been probed. The internalization of the P2Y₁₁ receptor is dependent on coexpression of the rapidly desensitizing P2Y, receptor, suggesting the occurrence of receptor dimers.¹² Various heterodimers of P2Y receptors with other P2Y and non-P2Y GPCRs have been proposed. For example, a dimer of A₁ adenosine receptors and P2Y₁ receptors was characterized.13

Recurrent issues in the use of typical P2 receptor ligands include cross-reactivity with multiple P2 receptors and low bioavailability, due to polyanions, such as phosphates and sulfonates, present in the molecules. Another drawback of many of the currently used ligands is lability in biological systems. A large family of ectonucleotidase enzymes hydrolyzes the native nucleotides leading to complications in interpretation of biological results. Adenine nucleotides are progressively converted enzymatically, in the last step by the action of CD73/5'-nucleotidase on AMP, to form adenosine, which activates its own family of four receptors. Selective inhibitors of ectonucleotidases which can serve as modulators of receptor function are being explored.¹⁴ Moreover, many P2 receptor agonists and antagonists are known to inhibit ectonucleotidases at comparable concentrations. Known P2 antagonists often interact intracellularly with other signaling mediators, such as G proteins.

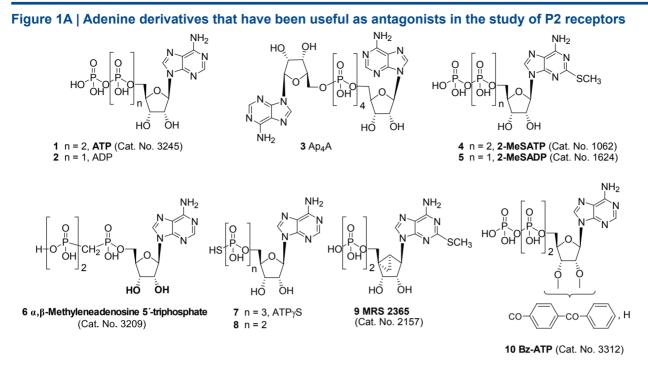
One reason for the relatively slow progress in identifying competitive antagonists of the P2 receptors is that there are few selective radioligands available for either the P2X or P2Y receptors. Previously, various radioactive nucleotides have been suggested to bind to particular P2 receptors, but many of these reports were later questioned, and currently only the P2Y₁, P2Y₁₂, P2X₁ and P2X₃ receptors have viable radioligands.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Thus, improved and more versatile affinity probes for the P2 receptors are still needed. New selective agonists and antagonists have recently been identified for some of the eight mammalian subtypes of P2Y receptors and for a few of the seven mammalian subtypes of P2X receptors. A careful probing of the structure activity relationships (SARs) at relevant P2 receptors has resulted in subtypeselective nucleotide agonists. Selective antagonist ligands for P2 receptors have been reported as a result of library screening, conversion of agonists into antagonists, and the careful structural modification of known non-selective ligands. The structures of representative nucleotide (Figure 2A, 29-42) and non-nucleotide (Figure 2B, 43-73) antagonists of the P2 receptors are shown.

Pharmacological Probes for P2X Receptors

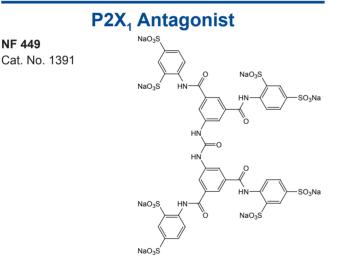
The development of P2X receptor ligands for potential therapeutic application is underway. Selective P2X receptor antagonists are of interest in pain control, urinary incontinence, diabetic retinopathy, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, and other conditions.

Non-Selective P2X Ligands

ATP activates all subtypes of P2X receptors, but at different concentrations varying from the low nanomolar to the high micromolar.¹⁸ ADP and AMP, when purified, are inactive at P2X receptors. 2-Methylthioadenosine 5'-triphosphate (2-MeSATP) is a potent agonist at multiple P2X receptors, for example, P2X₁ (EC₅₀ = 54 nM) and P2X₃ (EC₅₀ = 350 nM) receptors. α , β -Methyleneadenosine 5'-triphosphate **6** activates and desensitizes the P2X₁ receptor and is inactive at the P2X₂ receptor. In tritiated form it serves as a radioligand of P2X₁ and P2X₃ receptors.



(Bold Text Denotes Compounds Available From Tocris)

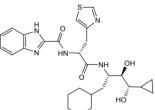


NF 449 is a potent purinergic receptor antagonist that displays high selectivity for $P2X_1$ (IC₅₀ values are 0.28, 0.69, 120, 1820, 47,000 and > 300,000 nM for rP2X₁, rP2X₁₊₅, rP2X₂₊₃, rP2X₃, rP2X₂ and P2X₄ receptors respectively). The compound provides antithrombotic protection in vivo. NF 449 also acts as a G_{sa}-selective antagonist.

Hohenegger et al (1998) G_{sa}-selective G protein antagonists. Proc.Natl. Acad.Sci. 95 346. Hechler et al (2005) Inhibition of platelet functions and thrombosis through selective or non-selective inhibition of the platelet P2 receptors with increasing doses of NF449 [4,4',4'',4'''-(carbonylbis(imino-5,1,3-benzenetriylbis-(carbonylimino)))tetrakis-benzene-1,3-disulfonic acid octasodium salt]. J.Pharmacol.Exp.Ther. 314 232. Rettinger et al (2005) Profiling at recombinant homomeric and heteromeric rat P2X receptors identifies the suramin analogue NF449 as a highly potent P2X, receptor antagonist. Neuropharmacology. 48 461

P2X₁ Antagonist

Ro 0437626 Cat. No. 2188



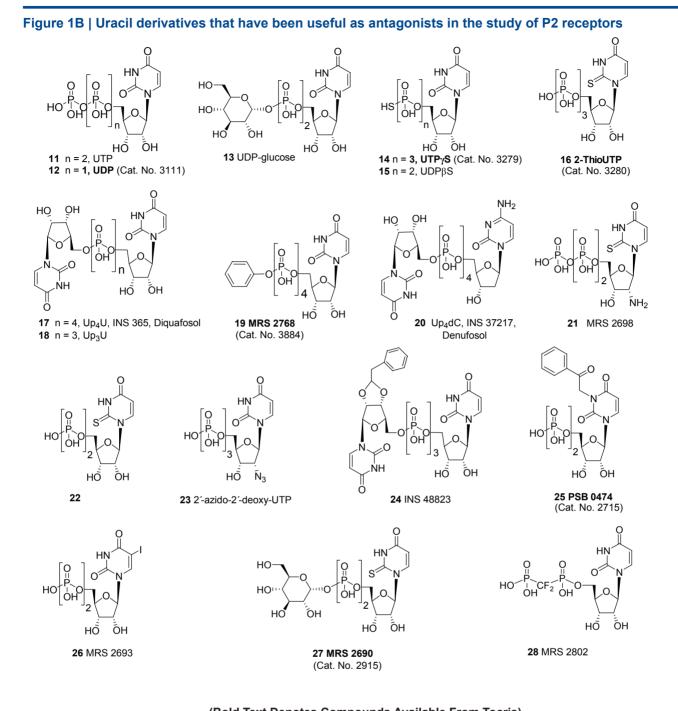
Ro 0437626 is a selective P2X₁ purinergic receptor antagonist (IC₅₀ = 3 μ M) that displays > 30-fold selectivity over P2X₂, P2X₃ and P2X_{2/3} receptors (IC₅₀ > 100 μ M).

Jaime-Figueroa et al (2005) Discovery and synthesis of a novel and selective drug-like P2X1 antagonist. Bioorg.Med.Chem.Lett. 15 3292. King et al (2004) Investigation of the effects of P2 purinoceptor ligands on the micturition reflex in female urethane-anaesthetized rats. Br.J.Pharmacol. 142 519. Ford et al (2006) Purinoceptors as therapeutic targets for lower urinary tract dysfunction. Br.J.Pharmacol. 147 S132.

Non-Selective P2X Ligands continued

Older, non-selective and weak P2X antagonists (Figures 2A and 2B), such as organic dyes 43 and 45, have been in use for decades. The antiparasitic drug polysulfonated Suramin and the pyridoxal phosphate derivatives PPADS and positional isomer iso-PPADS are relatively nonsubtype-selective P2X antagonists, that also block some P2Y subtypes.¹⁹ The PPADS analog MRS 2159 is more potent than PPADS at the P2X₁ receptor and also antagonizes the P2X₃ receptor. The nucleotide derivative TNP-ATP is a potent P2X antagonist that is selective

NF 449





for several subtypes.²⁰ It antagonizes P2X₁, P2X₃ and heteromeric P2X_{2/3} receptors with IC₅₀ values of 6, 0.9 and 7 nM respectively, and displays 1000-fold selectivity for P2X₃ over P2X₂, P2X₄ and P2X₇ receptors. The polysulfonated biphenyl derivative Evans Blue acts as a P2X receptor antagonist, but it also affects other channels and amino acid binding sites.

P2X₁ and P2X₂ Receptors

P2X₁ antagonists have been reported in several compound classes. For example, the Suramin derivative NF 157 is a P2X₁ antagonist that also blocks the P2Y₁₁ receptor.²² Other Suramin derivatives that act as selective P2X₁ antagonists include:

PPNDS, NF 279, and the more highly selective P2X₁ antagonist NF 449.^{23,24} The earlier-reported Suramin analog NF 023 is a moderately selective, competitive P2X antagonist with IC₅₀ values of 0.21 and 28.9 μ M at human P2X₁ and P2X₃ receptors respectively, and is inactive at P2X₂ and P2X₄ receptors.²⁵ In a separate chemical series, the benzimidazole-2-carboxamide derivative Ro 0437626 was recently reported to be a selective P2X₁ antagonist (IC₅₀ = 3 μ M) that displays > 30-fold selectivity over P2X₂, P2X₃ and P2X_{2/3} receptors (IC₅₀ > 100 μ M).²⁶ The dinucleotide Ip₅I was shown to antagonize the P2Y₁ receptor.⁴² The pyridoxal phosphate derivative MRS 2219 is a weak potentiator of P2X₁-mediated responses.²⁷

P2X₄ Receptor Antagonist

5-BDBD Cat. No. 3579



5-BDBD is a potent P2X₄ receptor antagonist. The compound blocks P2X₄-mediated currents in Chinese hamster ovary cells ($IC_{50} = 0.50 \ \mu M$).

Donnelly-Roberts et al (2008) Painful purinergic receptors. J.Pharmacol.Exp. Ther. 324 409.

There are no selective ligands for the $P2X_2$ receptor. The nonselective antagonists Suramin, TNP-ATP, RB-2, and isoPPADS have been used to study this receptor.

P2X₃ Receptor

The P2X₃ receptor may exist as a homotrimer or as a heterotrimer in combination with P2X₂ subunits. The Suramin derivative NF 110 is a high affinity P2X₃ receptor antagonist (K₁ values are 36, 82 and 4140 nM for P2X₃, P2X₁ and P2X₂ receptors respectively) that is inactive at P2Y₁, P2Y₂ and P2Y₁₁ receptors (IC₅₀ > 10 μ M).

A major advance was the introduction of the competitive antagonist by Abbott Laboratories, A 317491, which blocks $P2X_3$ (IC₅₀ = 22 nM) and $P2X_{2/3}$ (IC₅₀ = 92 nM) receptors and is roughly three orders of magnitude selective for P2X₃ in comparison to P2X₁ and P2X₂ receptors.¹⁷ A 317491 is inactive at P2X₄ receptors and at all P2Y receptors. Due to the presence of three carboxylic acid groups, A 317491 is of limited bioavailability. Another potent P2X₃ antagonist is the pyrimidinediamine derivative RO-3, which is a selective antagonist of the homomeric P2X₃ and heteromeric P2X_{2/3} receptors (pIC₅₀ values are 7.0 and 5.9 nM respectively) and is inactive at $\mathsf{P2X}_{1},\ \mathsf{P2X}_{2},\ \mathsf{P2X}_{4},\ \mathsf{P2X}_{5}$ and $\mathsf{P2X}_{7}$ receptors (IC₅₀ > 10 µM).²⁹ The endogenous heptapeptide Spinorphin (LVVYPWT) was found to be a very potent P2X₃ antagonist (IC₅₀ = 8.3 pM).³⁰

P2X₄ Receptor

Few of the known P2X antagonists act at the P2X₄ receptor. The benzofurodiazepinone derivative 5-BDBD is an antagonist of P2X₄-mediated currents (IC₅₀ = 0.50 μ M).³¹ The bacteria-derived broad spectrum antiparasitic agent Ivermectin, which is a macrocyclic lactone, is a positive allosteric modulator for the P2X₄ receptor, but it also affects other ion channels, such as nicotinic acetylcholine receptors.³²

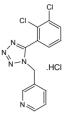
P2X₅ Receptor

There are no selective ligands for the $P2X_5$ and $P2X_6$ receptors. However, the dye Coomassie

P2X₇ Receptor Antagonists

A 438079

Cat. No. 2972

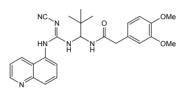


A 438079 is a competitive P2X₇ receptor antagonist (pIC₅₀ = 6.9 for the inhibition of Ca²⁺ influx in the human recombinant P2X₇ cell line). The compound is devoid of activity at other P2 receptors (IC₅₀ >> 10 μ M). A 438079 possesses antinociceptive activity in models of neuropathic pain *in vivo*.

Nelson *et al* (2006) Structure-activity relationship studies on a series of novel, substituted 1-benzyl-5-phenyltetrazole P2X₇ antagonists. J.Med.Chem. **49** 3659. **Donnelly-Roberts and Jarvis** (2007) Discovery of P2X₇ receptor-selective antagonists offers new insights into P2X₇ receptor function and indicates a role in chronic pain states. Br.J.Pharmacol. **151** 571. **McGaraughty** *et al* (2007) P2X₇-related modulation of pathological nociception in rats. Neuroscience **146** 1817.

A 740003

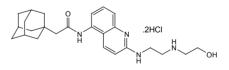
Cat. No. 3701



A 740003 is a potent, selective and competitive P2X₇ receptor antagonist (IC₅₀ values are 18 and 40 nM for rat and human receptors respectively). The compound displays selectivity over a variety of P2X and P2Y receptors up to a concentration of 100 μ M. A 740003 reduces nociception in animal models of persistent neuropathic and inflammatory pain.

Honore et al (2006) A-740003 [N-(1-[[(cyanoimino)(5-quinolinylamino)methyl]amino]-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetamide], a novel and selective P2X, receptor antagonist, dose-dependently reduces neuropathic pain in the rat. J.Pharmacol.Exp.Ther. **319** 1376. **King** (2007) Novel P2X, receptor antagonists ease the pain. Br.J.Pharmacol.**151** 565. **Donnelly-Roberts** et al (2009) Marmalian P2X7 receptor pharmacology: comparison of recombinant mouse, rat and human P2X7 receptors. Br.J.Pharmacol. **157** 1203.

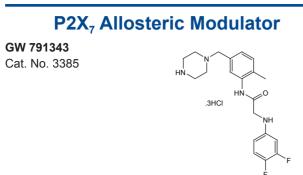
AZ 10606120 Cat. No. 3323



AZ 10606120 is a potent P2X₇ receptor antagonist (K_D values are 1.4 and 19 nM at human and rat P2X₇ receptors respectively). The compound binds in a positive cooperative manner to sites distinct from, but coupled to, the ATP binding site and acts as a negative allosteric modulator.

Michel *et al* (2007) Direct labelling of the human P2X₇ receptor and identification of positive and negative cooperativity of binding. Br.J.Pharmacol. **151** 103. **Michel and Fonfria** (2007) Agonist potency at P2X₇ receptors is modulated by structurally diverse lipids. Br.J.Pharmacol. **152** 523. **Michel** *et al* (2008) Negative and positive allosteric modulators of the P2X₇ receptor. Br.J.Pharmacol. **153** 737.

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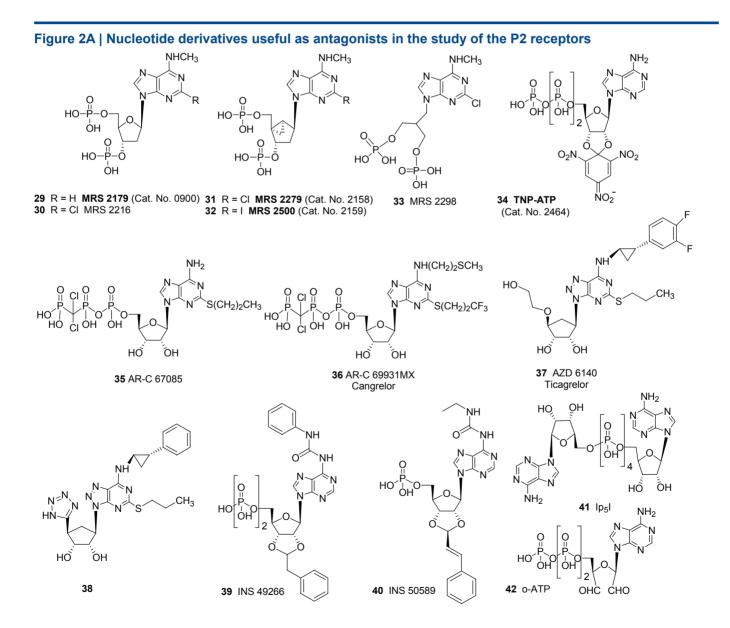
GW 791343 is a P2X₇ allosteric modulator. The compound exhibits species-specific activity and acts as a negative allosteric modulator of human P2X₇ (pIC₅₀ = 6.9 - 7.2) and a positive allosteric modulator of rat P2X₇.

Michel *et al* (2008) Negative and positive allosteric modulators of the P2X₇ receptor. Br.J.Pharmacol. **153** 737. **Michel** *et al* (2008) Identification of regions of the P2X₇ receptor that contribute to human and rat species differences in antagonist effects. Br.J.Pharmacol. **155** 738.

Brilliant blue G (BBG) has been used effectively to block P2X₅ receptor function (IC₅₀ = 0.5 μ M),³³ but this dye also blocks P2X₄ receptors (IC₅₀ = 3 μ M at human receptors) and P2X₇ receptors (IC₅₀ values are 10 nM and 267 nM at rat and human receptors respectively).

P2X, Receptor

2'(3')-O-(4-Benzoylbenzoyl)adenosine-5'-triphosphate (BzATP) is a P2X₇ receptor agonist that exhibits an order of magnitude greater potency than ATP. It is also a partial agonist at P2X₁ (pEC₅₀ = 8.7) and P2Y₁ receptors.³⁴ One of the first antagonists of the P2X₇ receptor identified was the tyrosine and isoquinoline derivative KN-62, but it acts in a non-competitive fashion and is inactive at the rat P2X₇ homolog. KN-62 is also an inhibitor of CaM kinase II.³⁵ Oxidized-ATP (o-ATP) has also been used extensively to antagonize P2X₇ receptors.





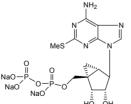
It has been a challenge to identify antagonists that block the P2X₇ receptor in a species-independent manner. The tetrazolylmethylpyridine derivative A 438079 is a potent, selective, and competitive P2X₇ antagonist (pIC₅₀ = 6.9).³⁶ The quinolinamino derivative A 740003 is a potent and selective competitive P2X₇ receptor antagonist (IC₅₀ values are 40 and 18 nM for human and rat P2X₇ receptors respectively) that is also highly selective in comparison to various P2X and P2Y receptors.^{36,37} adamantyl derivative from AstraZeneca The AZ 10606120 antagonizes the P2X₇ receptor with K_n values of 1.4 and 19 nM at human and rat P2X₇ receptors respectively.38 The biphenyl derivative AZ 11645373 potently antagonized the human P2X₇ receptor in a non-surmountable manner with KB values ranging from 5-20 nM and was inactive at the rat P2X₇ receptor and at all other P2X subtypes.³⁹ The substituted glycyl anilide derivative GW 791343 is a positive allosteric modulator of the rat P2X₇ receptor and a negative allosteric modulator of the human $P2X_7$ receptor (pIC₅₀ = 6.9-7.2).⁴⁰

Pharmacological Probes for P2Y Receptors

There has been progress in the development of selective agonist and antagonist ligands for P2Y receptors for preclinical development.² Until recently, the only P2Y receptor ligand in pharmaceutical use was the antithrombotic P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonist Clopidogrel (Plavix).⁴¹ Therefore, there is much activity to identify newer agents to act at the P2Y₁₂ receptor and at other P2Y receptors for pharmaceutical development. The rapidly accelerating progress in this field has already resulted in new drug candidates for pulmonary diseases, dry eye disease, and thrombosis.

P2Y₁ Agonist

MRS 2365 Cat. No. 2157



MRS 2365 is a highly potent, selective P2Y₁ receptor agonist (EC₅₀ = 0.4 nM). The compound displays no activity at P2Y₁₂ receptors and only very low agonist activity at P2Y₁₃ receptors (at concentrations up to 1 μ M).

Ravi *et al* (2002) Adenine nucleotide analogues locked in a northern methanocarba conformation: enhanced stability and potency as P2Y₁ receptor agonists. J.Med.Chem. *45* 2090. **Chhatriwala** *et al* (2004) Induction of novel agonist selectivity for the ADP-activated P2Y₁ receptor versus the ADP-activated P2Y₁₂ and P2Y₁₃ receptors by conformational constraint of an ADP analog. J.Pharmacol.Exp. Ther. *311* 1038.

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P2Y₁ Antagonists



Cat. No. 0900

NHMe

MRS 2179 is a competitive antagonist at P2Y₁ receptors (K_B = 100 nM). The compound is selective over P2X₁ (IC₅₀ = 1.15 μ M), P2X₃ (IC₅₀ = 12.9 μ M), P2X₂, P2X₄, P2Y₂, P2Y₄ and P2Y₆ receptors.

Boyer *et al* (1998) Competitive and selective antagonism of P2Y₁ receptors by N⁶-methyl 2'-deoxyadenosine 3',5'-bisphosphate. Br.J.Pharmacol. **124** 1. **Moro** *et al* (1998) Human P2Y₁ receptor molecular modeling and site-directed mutagenesis as tools to identify agonist and antagonist recognition sites. J.Med. Chem. **41** 1456. **Nandanan** *et al* (2000) Synthesis, biological activity, and molecular modeling of ribose-modified deoxyadenosine bisphosphate analogues as P2Y₁ receptor ligands. J.Med.Chem. **43** 829. **Brown** *et al* (2000) Activity of novel adenine nucleotide derivatives as agonists and antagonists at recombinant rat P2X receptors. Drug Dev.Res. **49** 253.

MRS 2500

Cat. No. 2159

MRS 2500 is a highly potent and selective antagonist of the platelet P2Y₁ receptor (K_i = 0.78 nM). The compound inhibits ADP-induced aggregation of human platelets with an IC_{50} value of 0.95 nM. MRS 2500 prevents thrombus formation *in vivo*.

Kim *et al* (2003) 2-Substitution of adenine nucleotide analogues containing a bicyclo[3.1.0]hexane ring system locked in a northern conformation: enhanced potency as P2Y₁ receptor antagonists. J.Med.Chem **46** 4974. **Cattaneo** *et al* (2004) Antiaggregatory activity in human platelets of potent antagonists of the P2Y₁ receptor. Biochem.Pharmacol. *68* 1995. **Hechler** *et al* (2006) MRS2500 [2-iodo-N⁶-methyl-(N)-methanocarba-2'-deoxyadenosine-3', 5'-bisphosphate], a potent, selective, and stable antagonist of the platelet P2Y₁ receptor with strong antithrombotic activity in mice. J.Pharmacol.Exp. Ther. *316* 556.

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Many selective ligand probes, both agonists and antagonists of the P2Y receptors, are now available. However, some subtypes, such as the P2Y₄ receptor, are entirely lacking such selective ligands. Detailed SAR analyses have been constructed for P2Y₁ and P2Y₁₂ receptors, which are both proaggregatory in platelets. Nucleotide agonists selective for P2Y₁, $P2Y_2$, $P2Y_6$, and $P2Y_{14}$ receptors and nucleotide antagonists selective for P2Y₁ and P2Y₁₂ receptors have been described. Selective non-nucleotide antagonists are now sought to avoid issues of limited stability and bioavailability. Such antagonists have been reported for P2Y₁, P2Y₂, P2Y₆, P2Y₁₁, P2Y₁₂, and P2Y₁₃ receptors. The screening of chemically diverse compound libraries has resulted in competitive P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonists that are being tested as potential antithrombotic agents.

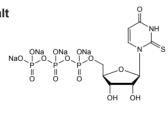
P2Y₁ Receptor

2-MeSADP, like ADP, activates the P2Y1, P2Y12 and P2Y₁₃ receptors. 2-MeSADP is a more potent agonist at the P2Y₁ receptor than 2-MeSATP. N^6 -methyl nucleotides are tolerated at the P2Y₁ receptor, consistent with a small hydrophobic pocket in the P2Y₁ receptor binding site surrounding the N⁶-position of adenine nucleotides. The favored ribose-ring conformation for each of the subtypes of the P2Y1-like subfamily has been established using conformationally-restricted (i.e. rigid) ribose equivalents, which also improve stability of the phosphate esters toward nucleotidases. In particular, the methanocarba ring system consisting of fused cyclopropane and cyclopentane has been useful in exploring the biologically active conformations of nucleoside and nucleotide derivatives. The North (N)-methanocarba analog of 2-MeSADP, MRS 2365 (EC₅₀ = 0.4 nM), is a selective, high affinity agonist of the P2Y₁ receptor.¹¹ Another means of improving hydrolytic stability is the introduction of a borano group within the phosphate moiety of P2Y receptor agonists.43

Many nucleotide antagonists of the P2Y₁ receptor have been introduced. Usually these are adenine nucleotides containing bisphosphate groups, for example a ribose 3',5'-bisphosphate moiety. A N^6 -methyl 2'-deoxyadenosine bisphosphate derivative MRS 2179 (pK_B = 6.99) and its 2-chloro

P2Y₂ Agonist

2-ThioUTP tetrasodium salt Cat. No. 3280



2-ThioUTP is a potent and selective P2Y₂ agonist. EC₅₀ values are 0.035, 0.35 and 1.5 μ M for hP2Y₂, hP2Y₄ and hP2Y₆ receptors respectively.

EI-Tayeb *et al* (2006) Synthesis and structure-activity relationships of uracil nucleotide derivatives and analogues as agonists at human $P2Y_2$, $P2Y_4$ and $P2Y_6$ receptors. J.Med.Chem. *49* 7076. *Ko et al* (2008) Synthesis and potency of novel uracil nucleotides and derivatives as $P2Y_2$ and $P2Y_6$ receptor agonists. Bioorg.Med.Chem. *16* 6319.

analog MRS 2216 are selective P2Y₁ antagonists.⁴⁴ The same (N)-conformational constraint of the ribose moiety that enhances agonist action also favors the potency and selectivity in nucleotide antagonists. For example, the ring-constrained (N)-methanocarba nucleotide bisphosphates MRS 2279 (pK_B = 8.10) and MRS 2500 (pK_B = 9) are selective, high affinity antagonists of the P2Y₁ receptor.⁴⁵ The antithrombotic action of MRS 2500 (by blocking the P2Y₁ receptor selectively) has been demonstrated *in vivo* in the mouse and other species.^{46,47} Antagonists of the P2Y₁

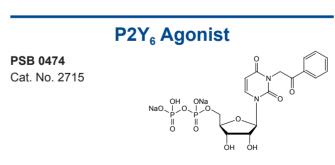
receptor of moderate affinity may also be derived from acyclic nucleotides, such as the bisphosphates derivative MRS 2298.⁴⁶

Non-nucleotide antagonists of the P2Y₁ receptor have been discovered through screening of structurally diverse chemical libraries. The first such compound to be reported was **63**, which is a selective and orally bioavailable antagonist of the human P2Y₁ receptor from Pfizer of novel chemotype with a K_i value of 90 nM.⁴⁸ Other structurally diverse antagonists of the P2Y₁ receptor have been reported. Pyridyl isatogen (PIT) is an allosteric modulator of the P2Y₁ receptor that displays mixed antagonism/potentiation.⁴⁹

P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ Receptors

Both P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ receptors are activated by UTP, and simple modifications enhance selectivity for the P2Y₂ receptor. UTP γ S is a more selective and stable agonist of the P2Y₂ receptor than UTP.⁵⁰ However, this compound is subject to chemical oxidation. 2-ThioUTP is also a selective agonist of the P2Y₂ receptor.⁵¹ Combination of modifications of UTP in the selective P2Y₂ agonist MRS 2698 provided an EC₅₀ of 8 nM and selectivity of 300-fold in comparison to the P2Y₄ receptor.⁵²

Certain dinucleoside tetraphosphates potently activate the P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ receptors. The uracil dinucleotides that have been in clinical trials are Up_4U (INS 365, Diquafosol, $EC_{_{50}}$ = 0.1 $\mu M)$ and Up₄dC (INS 37217, Denufosol, EC₅₀ = 0.22 μ M) .⁵³ Diguafosol was recently approved in Japan for use in treating dry eye. By virtue of being dinucleotides, they are more stable to enzymatic hydrolysis than nucleoside triphosphates, but these agonists are non-selective compared to the $P2Y_4$ receptor. The 2'-deoxycytidine (dC) moiety of 20 serves to enhance the in vivo stability toward ectonucleotidases. The agonist MRS 2768 (uridine tetraphosphate δ -phenyl ester) is selective for the P2Y₂ receptor with moderate potency (EC₅₀ = 1.89 µM).⁵⁴



PSB 0474 is a potent and selective P2Y₆ receptor agonist. EC₅₀ values are 70, > 1000 and > 10,000 nM for P2Y₆, P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ receptors respectively.

EI-Tayeb *et al* (2006) Synthesis and structure-activity relationships of uracil nucleotide derivatives and analogues as agonists at human P2Y₂, P2Y₄ and P2Y₆ receptors. J.Med.Chem. **49** 7076.

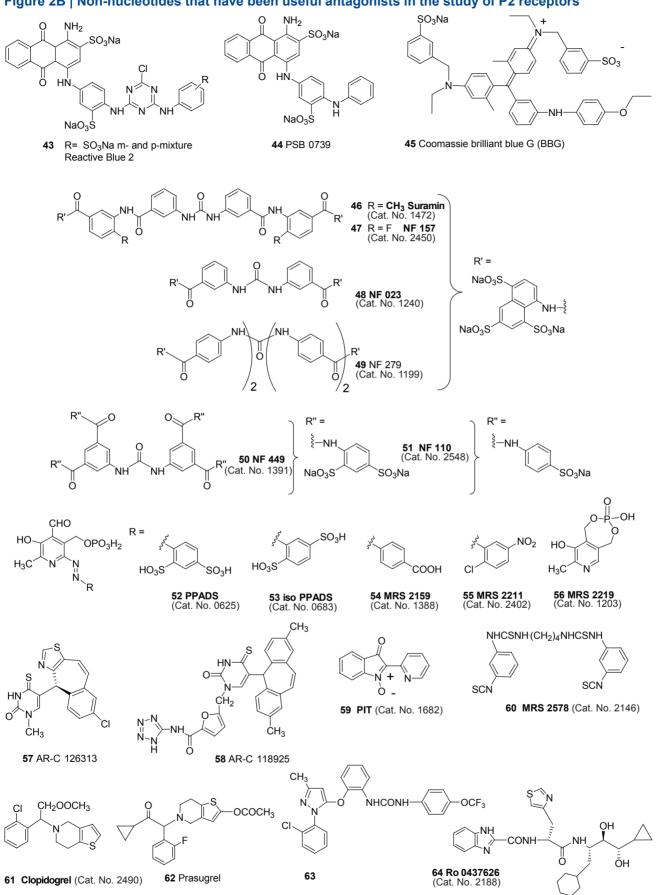
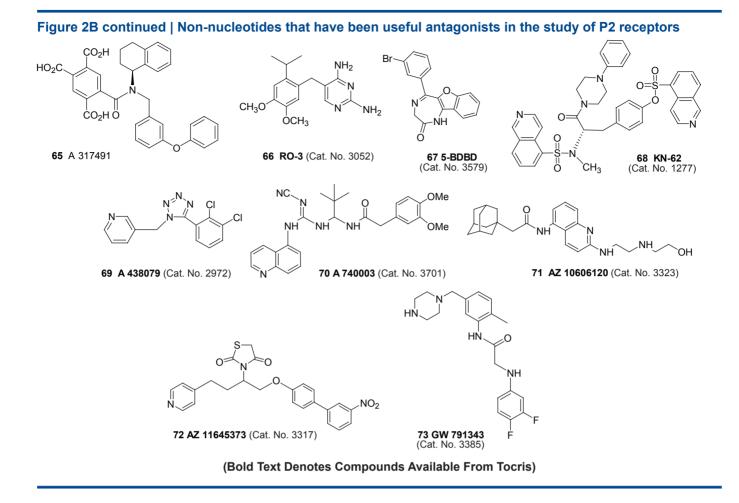


Figure 2B | Non-nucleotides that have been useful antagonists in the study of P2 receptors

(Bold Text Denotes Compounds Available From Tocris)

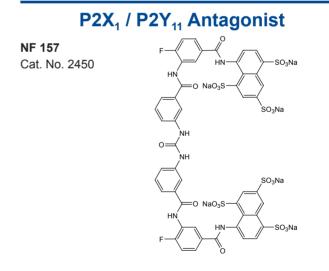


Definitive antagonists of the P2Y₂ receptor are not available. AR-C 126313 and its higher molecular weight analog AR-C 118925 were reported to selectively antagonize the P2Y₂ receptor, however it appears that these compounds are only micromolar in affinity (Figure 2B).⁵⁵ The large polyanionic molecules Reactive blue 2 (RB2, an anthraquinone dye) and Suramin are slightly selective antagonists of the P2Y₂ and P2Y₄ receptors, respectively. However, RB2 and Suramin also block various P2X receptors (Table 1).

There are no truly selective ligands for the P2Y₄ receptor. The agonist 2'-azido-2'-deoxy-UTP **23** displayed 5-fold P2Y₄ selectivity.⁵¹ Thus, new agonists and antagonists are needed to distinguish this subtype pharmacologically from the P2Y₂ receptor, which is also activated by UTP. The other native agonist of the P2Y₂ receptor, ATP, acts as an antagonist at the human, but not the rat, P2Y₄ receptor.

P2Y₆ Receptors

UDP activates both the $P2Y_6$ and $P2Y_{14}$ receptors. It is worth noting, however, that extracellular UDP can serve as a substrate for the generation of UTP through the action of nucleoside diphosphokinase (NDPK), which may complicate pharmacological



NF 157 is a purinergic receptor antagonist that potently inhibits P2Y₁₁ receptor activity (IC₅₀ = 463 nM). The compound displays selectivity for P2Y₁₁ and P2X₁ receptors over P2Y₁, P2Y₂, P2X₂, P2X₃, P2X₄ and P2X₇ receptors. NF 157 inhibits NAD+-induced activation of human granulocytes.

Ullmann *et al* (2005) Synthesis and structure-activity relationships of suraminderived P2Y₁₁ receptor antagonists with nanomolar potency. J.Med.Chem. *48* 7040. **Moreschi** *et al* (2006) Extracellular NAD+ is an agonist of the human P2Y11 purinergic receptor in human granulocytes. J.Biol.Chem. *281* 31419. studies. The action of UPD at the P2Y₁₄ receptor has been controversial. UDP was initially described as inactive at the newly cloned P2Y₁₄ receptor, however later study found an antagonist action of UDP at the human but not rat P2Y₁₄ receptor. Finally the observed antagonist action of UDP was shown to occur in cells expressing an unnatural, engineered chimeric G protein. However, in HEK293 and other cells in which endogenous G_i proteins mediate the functional response, UDP acts as a potent agonist.⁵ Thus, inaccurate results might be obtained using UDP alone in pharmacological studies if multiple P2Y subtypes are present. UDP β S and Up₃U have been used as more stable activators of the P2Y₆ receptor subtype than UDP,^{50,53} although **15** also activates the P2Y₁₄ receptor.

The SAR of nucleotide derivatives in activating the P2Y₆ receptor has been explored. Certain dinucleoside triphosphates have been explored as P2Y₆ receptor ligands, for example, INS 48823 (EC₅₀ = 125 nM) potently activates the receptor.⁵⁶ Other UDP derivatives, e.g. 3-phenacyl UDP (PSB 0474) and 5-iodo-UDP (MRS 2693), are selective $P2Y_6$ agonists with EC_{50} values of 70 and 15 nM respectively.57,58 Molecular modeling predicted that the South (S)-conformation of the ribose ring is the preferred conformation in receptor binding, which was then confirmed by synthesis of a conformationally constrained methanocarba analog of UDP. The noncompetitive P2Y₆ receptor antagonist MRS 2578 is a diisothiocyanate derivative, which has low stability and solubility in aqueous medium.59 Competitive antagonists of the P2Y₆ receptor have not yet been reported.

P2Y₁₁ Receptors

ATP γ S (Figure 1A) acts as a potent P2Y₁₁ receptor agonist. The P2Y₁₂ antagonist 2-propylthio- β , γ -dichloromethylene-ATP (AR-C 67085, Figure 2A) is also the most potent reported agonist of the P2Y₁₁ receptor (EC₅₀ = 8.9 μ M).⁶⁰ Thus, it must be used with caution in pharmacological studies in which both P2Y subtypes might be present.

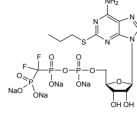
A potent antagonist NF 157, derived from nonselective P2 antagonist Suramin, has been reported to be a selective antagonist of the P2Y₁₁ receptor (pK_i = 7.35).⁶¹ However, this compound also antagonizes the P2X₁, P2X₂, and P2X₃ receptors.

P2Y₁₂ Receptors

The medicinal chemistry of the P2Y₁₂ receptor has been extensively explored. The thienopyridines, such as Clopidogrel (Figure 2B), act as liver-activated prodrugs that are irreversible inhibitors of the P2Y₁₂ receptor.⁶² This thienopyridine P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonist requires a two-step preactivation *in vivo* and therefore has a delayed onset of action and long

P2Y₁₂ Antagonist





AR-C 66096 is a potent and selective P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonist. The compound blocks ADP-induced inhibition of adenylyl cyclase *in vitro* (pK_B =7.6) and inhibits ADP-induced aggregation of washed human platelets (pIC₅₀ = 8.16).

Humphries *et al* (1994) FPL 66094: a novel, highly potent and selective antagonist at human platelet P_{2T} -purinoceptors. Br.J.Pharmacol. *113* 1057. **Ingall** *et al* (1999) Antagonists of the platelet P receptor: a novel approach to antithrombotic therapy. J.Med.Chem. *42* 213. **Simon** *et al* (2001) Activity of adenosine diphosphates and triphosphates on a P2Y_T-type receptor in brain capillary endothelial cells. Br.J.Pharmacol. *132* 173.

(Sold for research purposes under agreement from AstraZeneca)

reversal of the platelet effect after drug administration is stopped. Another thienopyridine antagonist that has been in clinical trials, Prasugrel is a more potent P2Y₁₂ antagonist, but displays a longer bleeding time. Prasugrel only requires one step of preactivation *in vivo*.⁶³

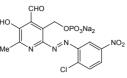
Directly-acting P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonists have also been reported. The observation that ATP acts as an antagonist at this ADP-activated subtype has enabled the introduction of various 5'-triphosphate analogs as selective receptor probes and clinical candidates. Thus, the antithrombotic nucleotide derivatives from AstraZeneca AR-C 67085 (EC₅₀ = 30 μ M) and AR-C 69931MX (Cangrelor, $EC_{50} = 0.4$ nM) have been tested clinically as antithrombotic agents.64 A 5'triphosphate group in adenine nucleotides is not strictly required for $P2Y_{12}$ receptor antagonists, as in the case of compound 38 and the potent antagonist and clinical candidate AZD 6140 (plC₅₀ = 7.9).^{64,65} Other nucleotide antagonists of the P2Y₁₂ receptor that have been reported are nucleotide derivatives from Inspire Pharmaceuticals, INS 49266 (an ADP derivative with EC₅₀ of 52 nM) and INS 50589 (an AMP derivative with EC₅₀ of 11 nM).⁶⁶ Library screening has aided greatly in the identification of novel chemotypes that act as P2Y₁₂ receptor antagonists, and several of these compounds are being developed by the pharmaceutical industry. One very potent and selective competitive antagonist of the $P2Y_{12}$ receptor, PSB 0739, derived from RB2 was recently reported.

P2Y₁₃ Receptors

ADP is also the preferred agonist ligand at the P2Y₁₃ receptor, and ATP is less potent. In the rat, ADP is 3-5-fold more potent than 2-MeSADP. A selective P2Y₁₃ receptor antagonist, MRS 2211, a derivative of PPADS, has a pK_i of 6.0 at this receptor.⁶⁷

P2Y₁₃ Antagonist

MRS 2211 Cat. No. 2402



MRS 2211 is a competitive P2Y₁₃ receptor antagonist (pIC₅₀ = 5.97). The compound displays > 20-fold selectivity over P2Y₁ and P2Y₁₂ receptors.

Kim *et al* (2005) Synthesis of pyridoxal phosphate derivatives with antagonist activity at the P2Y₁₃ receptor. Biochem.Pharmacol. **70** 266. **Kugelgen** (2006) Pharmacological profiles of cloned mammalian P2Y-receptor subtypes. Pharmacol.Ther. **110** 415.

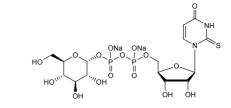
P2Y₁₄ Receptors

The SAR of analogs of UDP-glucose (EC₅₀ = 0.35μ M) and UDP at the P2Y₁₄ receptor was recently systematically explored.⁶⁸ Other naturally occurring UDP-sugars activate this receptor less potently. The 2-thio analog of UDP-glucose, MRS 2690, is a 6-fold more potent agonist for the P2Y₁₄ receptor and, unlike UDP-glucose, is inactive at the P2Y₂ receptor. The P2Y₁₄ receptor is structurally restrictive with respect to modification of the nucleobase, ribose, and phosphate moieties of agonist ligands. However, the glucose moiety may be deleted in UDP analogs, some of which still are very potent in receptor activation. For example, α , β -difluoromethylene-UDP,

P2Y₁₄ Agonist



Cat. No. 2915



MRS 2690 is a potent P2Y $_{\rm 14}$ receptor agonist (EC $_{\rm 50}$ = 49 nM). The compound displays 7-fold higher potency than UDP-glucose.

Ko et al (2007) Structure-activity relationship of uridine 5'-diphosphoglucose analogues as agonists of the human P2Y₁₄ receptor. J.Med.Chem. **50** 2030.

MRS 2802, is inactive at the P2Y₆ receptor and fully activates the human P2Y₁₄ receptor with an EC₅₀ of 63 nM.

Conclusion

Novel ligands for the P2X and P2Y receptor families are now available for use as tools in pharmacological studies. Selective nucleotide agonist ligands, although typically of low bioavailability and stability *in vivo*, have been designed. Recently, selective antagonist ligands for P2 receptors have been reported as a result of library screening, conversion of agonists into antagonist, and the careful structural modification of known non-selective ligands.

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NF 157

2450

P2X Receptors

Agonists

Agui	11313
3245	ATP disodium salt
	P2 purinergic agonist
3312	BzATP triethylammonium salt
	P2X ₇ agonist. Also P2X ₁ and P2Y ₁ partial agonist
3209	α,β-Methyleneadenosine 5´-triphosphate trisodium salt
	P2-purinoceptor agonist
1062	2-Methylthioadenosine triphosphate tetrasodium salt
	P2 purinergic agonist
Anta	gonists
2972	A 438079 hydrochloride
	Competitve P2X ₇ antagonist
3701	A 740003
	Potent and selective P2X ₇ antagonist
3323	AZ 10606120 dihydrochloride
	Potent P2X ₇ receptor antagonist
3317	AZ 11645373
	Potent and selective human P2X ₇ antagonist
3579	5-BDBD
	Potent P2X₄ receptor antagonist
0845	Evans Blue tetrasodium salt
	Selective P2X purinergic antagonist
1277	KN-62
	Non-competitive P2X ₇ antagonist
1240	NF 023
	Selective, competitive P2X antagonist
2548	NF 110

2548 **NF 110** Potent P2X₃ antagonist

P2Y Receptors

Agonists

- 3245 ATP disodium salt
- P2 agonist 3312 **BzATP triethylammonium salt**
- P2Y, partial agonist. Also P2X₇ agonist and P2X, partial agonist
 a,β-Methyleneadenosine 5´-triphosphate trisodium salt
 P2 agonist
- 1062 **2-Methylthioadenosine triphosphate tetrasodium salt** P2 agonist
- 1624 **2-Methylthio-ADP trisodium salt** Potent agonist for P2Y₁, P2Y₁₂ and P2Y₁₃
- 2157 MRS 2365 Highly potent and selective P2Y₁ agonist 2915 MRS 2690
- Potent P2Y₁₄ agonist
- 3884 MRS 2768 tetrasodium salt Selective P2Y₂ agonist
- 2715 **PSB 0474**
- Potent and selective $P2Y_6$ agonist 3279 **UTP** γ **S trisodium salt**
- Selective P2Y_{2/4} agonist
- 3280 **2-ThioUTP tetrasodium salt** Potent and selective P2Y₂ agonist

- Selective P2Y11/P2X1 antagonist 1199 NF 279 Potent and selective P2X, antagonist 1391 NF 449 Highly selective P2X1 antagonist 0625 PPADS tetrasodium salt P2 purinergic antagonist iso-PPADS tetrasodium salt 0683 P2X antagonist 1309 PPNDS Potent, selective P2X, antagonist RO-3 3052 Selective P2X₃ and P2X_{2/3} antagonist 2931 Spinorphin Potent P2X₃ antagonist 1472 Suramin hexasodium salt Non-selective P2 antagonist 2464 TNP-ATP triethylammonium salt Potent, selective P2X antagonist Modulators 3385 GW 791343 trihydrochloride P2X₇ allosteric modulator 1260 Ivermectin Positive allosteric modulator for P2X₄ receptor Other 1203 MRS 2219
 - Potentiates P2X₁-mediated responses

Antagonists

- 3321 AR-C 66096 tetrasodium salt Potent and selective P2Y₁₂ antagonist
- 2490 (±)-Clopidogrel hydrochloride
- Selective P2Y₁₂ antagonist 0900 MRS 2179 tetrasodium salt
- Selective P2Y₁ antagonist
- 2402 MRS 2211
- Competitive P2Y₁₃ antagonist 2158 **MRS 2279**
- Selective, high affinity P2Y₁ antagonist 2159 **MRS 2500 tetraammonium salt**
- Extremely potent and selective P2Y, antagonist 2146 MRS 2578
- Selective P2Y₆ antagonist 2450 **NF 157**
- Selective P2Y₁₁/P2X₁ antagonist
- P2Y ligand; displays mixed antagonism/potentiation 0625 PPADS tetrasodium salt
- P2 antagonist
- 1472 Suramin hexasodium salt Non-selective P2 antagonist
- 3111 UDP disodium salt
 - Endogenous ligand; competitive antagonist at P2Y₁₄ receptors

Related Products

1283 ARL 67156 trisodium salt

- Ecto-ATPase inhibitor 1745 **5-lodotubercidin**
- Nucleoside transporter inhibitor. Also a broad spectrum kinase inhibitor 2924 NBMPR
 - Equilibrative nucleoside transporter 1 (ENT1) inhibitor

2689 POM 1

Inhibitor of E-NTPDases 2573 **PSB 069**

- 2573 PSB 069 Non-selective NTPDase inhibitor 2574 PSB 06126
 - NTPDase 3 inhibitor

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