Thiadiazino-indole, thiadiazino-carbazole and benzothiadiazino-carbazole dioxides: synthesis, physicochemical and early ADME characterization of representatives of new tri-, tetra- and pentacyclic ring systems and their intermediates

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Abstract

Motivated by the in vivo anxiolytic activity of previously described 1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxides, we aimed at elaborating a synthetic procedure for the preparation of their pyrrole-fused counterparts, 2,9-dihydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[5,6-g]indole 1,1-dioxide derivatives. The simple and versatile process led, via Fischer indole cyclization of the corresponding hydrazones, to a wide structural variety of new tri-, tetra- and pentacyclic ring systems. The structural characterization of (E)- and (E)-hydrazones was supported by 2D NMR techniques, while that of the target compounds by single-crystal X-ray measurements. The hydrazone intermediates and the new title compounds were subjected to a physicochemical and early ADME characterization study, in the framework of which logE, pE0 and logE1 values were calculated. Following that, kinetic solubility and in vitro gastrointestinal membrane-spe-

cific permeability measurements were carried out to assess the lead-likeness of the compounds. Subsequently, the metabolic stability of the most promising derivatives was also determined using human liver microsomes.

Introduction

Considering the published pharmacological activity of phthalazin-1(2H)-ones **1** (Figure 1) [1-5], we have devoted significant effort to the synthesis and pharmacological investigation of structurally related 1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxides **2** over the last decade [6-11]. As 4-methyl-2H-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxides and their 3,4-dihydro derivatives **2** ($R^3 = Me$) were found to have remarkable in vivo anxiolytic activity [12], we aimed to prepare further congeners exhibiting a higher potency in this field. It is well known that synthetic as well as naturally occurring compounds containing an indole moiety exhibit diverse biological activities and have found application for the treatment of psychiatric disorders and neurodegenerative diseases [13-17]. Therefore, we now report our results in the

Figure 1: Phthalazinones 1, benzothiadiazine dioxides 2, and thiadiazinoindole dioxides 3.

synthesis and characterization of compounds **3** containing a 2,9-dihydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[5,6-*g*]indole 1,1-dioxide structural element.

Results and Discussion

We synthesized target compounds 3 exhibiting new tricyclic (3a-c, 3f-h, Scheme 1, Table 1) and tetracyclic (3d,e,i,j) ring systems starting from 8-chloro-2,4-dimethyl-2H-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (4a) and 8-chloro-2-methyl-4-phenyl-2H-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (4b), both described in our earlier publication [8]. Treatment of compounds 4a,b with hydrazine monohydrate afforded 8-hydrazino derivatives 5a,b as suitable starting materials for the construction of the indole structural element of compounds 3 by Fischer indole synthesis [18-21]. Sudhakara et al. described the advantages of using bismuth nitrate as catalyst in the synthesis of hydrazones and in the one-pot Fischer synthesis of indoles from ketones and hydrazines [22,23]. Adopting this method, hydrazone intermediates 7a-j were obtained by treatment of hydrazino derivatives 5a,b with ketones 6a-e in the presence of bismuth nitrate pentahydrate catalyst in refluxing methanol with good to excellent yields (method A, step 1). As regards cis-trans isomerism, compounds (E)-7a and (E)-7f were isolated in high yields (94%) and 84%, respectively), however, in the case of 7c and 7h, a substantial amount of (Z)-isomer was also obtained.

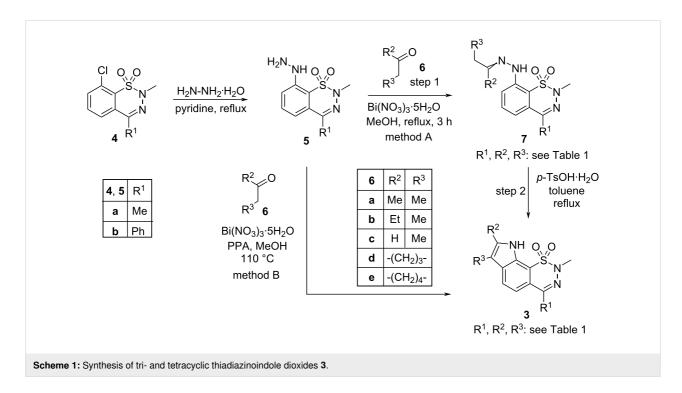


Table 1: Yields of t	he one- and two	o-step variants of Fische	r indole synthesis.			
Compound 3, 7	R ¹	R ²	R ³	Method A yield (%)		Method B yield (%)
				Step 1	Step 2	yiciu (%)
а	Me	Me	Me	(E): 94	65	47
b	Me	Et	Me	83	92	50
С	Me	Н	Me	(<i>E</i>): 48 (<i>Z</i>): 23	46	30
d	Me	-(CH ₂) ₃ -		92	33	25
е	Me	-(CH ₂) ₄ -		83	66	67
f	Ph	Me	Me	(E): 84	70	67
g	Ph	Et	Me	88	75	60
h	Ph	Н	Me	(<i>E</i>): 40 (<i>Z</i>): 15	50	46
i	Ph	-(CH ₂) ₃ -		94	45	35
j	Ph	-(CH ₂) ₄ -		92	66	67

In view of the expected similar electronic effect of the sulfonamide and the nitro functional groups on the Fischer indole cyclization, first we applied those reaction conditions for the $7a \rightarrow 3a$ transformation (Scheme 1) which were previously used for the synthesis of 7-nitroindole derivatives: heating in polyphosphoric acid (PPA) at 80 °C [24,25]. However, our attempt was not successful. Experiments with zinc chloride, the most commonly used Lewis acid catalyst in Fischer indole syntheses, also failed under various conditions. Finally, we were able to achieve the Fischer cyclization of compounds 7a-j by using p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate as catalyst in boiling toluene (method A, step 2) [26,27]. On the other hand, the onepot synthesis of target compounds 3a-j starting from hydrazino derivatives 5a,b was performed using the method described in the literature [18], i.e., by heating compounds 5a,b with ketones 6a-e in the presence of bismuth nitrate pentahydrate catalyst and PPA in methanol at 110 °C in a closed vial (Scheme 1, method B).

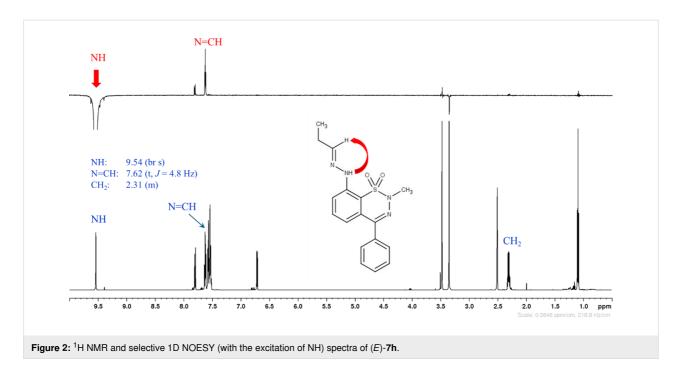
In the synthesis of asymmetric hydrazones **7a**,**c**,**f**,**h**, the major product (according to LC–MS) was always the (*E*) isomer. However, in the case of compounds **7c** and **7h**, the (*Z*) isomers were present in relatively high quantities and could also be successfully isolated and characterized after flash chromatography. The configuration of the C=N double bond was determined on the basis of spatial proximities obtained from either NOESY or ROESY NMR measurements. The NH moiety is close to N=CH in the (*E*) isomer, while NH is close to CH₂ in the (*Z*) isomer. As an example, in case of hydrazone **7h**, a selective 1D NOESY spectrum was recorded with the excitation of NH (Figure 2 and Figure 3). In both Figures, beside the selective 1D NOESY spectrum (upper part in Figure 2 and Figure 3), the ¹H NMR

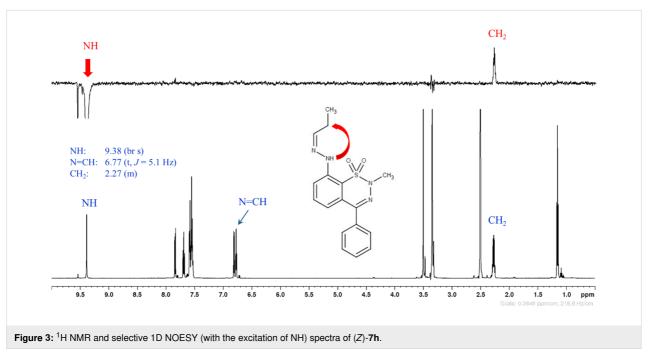
spectrum (lower part) is also presented. The spatial proximity of NH with N=CH (marked with a red arrow in Figure 2) or with CH₂ (red arrow in Figure 3) proves the (*E*) or (*Z*) configuration of the N=C double bond, respectively.

Pentacyclic derivatives **10a,b** were also prepared in the same way as compounds **3** above, starting from hydrazines **5a,b**, in two steps (Scheme 2). Treatment of compounds **5a,b** with 1-tetralone (**8**) in the presence of bismuth nitrate pentahydrate in refluxing methanol (method A, step 1) afforded hydrazones (*E*)-**9a,b**. According to LC–MS, only the (*E*) isomers were present in the reaction mixtures and in the crude products. Hydrazones (*E*)-**9a,b** were then cyclized by refluxing in toluene in the presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (method A, step 2). It is noteworthy that derivatives **10a,b** exhibiting an extended aromatic ring system were isolated instead of the expected primarily formed congeners **11a,b**, due to in situ oxidation of the C–C bond.

Alternatively, when the one-pot method (method B, bismuth nitrate pentahydrate + PPA, MeOH, closed vial, 110 °C) was applied for the reaction of compounds **5a,b** with ketone **8**, a crude mixture of pentacyclic derivatives **10** and **11** was obtained (**10a/11a** = 50:50 and **10b/11b** = 46:54, respectively). Under these conditions, a full conversion to the oxidized product **10** could not be reached even after long reaction times, presumably because the closed vial in which the reaction is carried out does not contain the necessary amount of oxygen.

Structure determination of the products was also supported by single-crystal X-ray diffraction in the case of several representatives: **3b**, **3d**, **3e**, **3g**, **3h**, (*E*)-**7a**, **7b**, **7d**, **7e**, (*E*)-**7f**, (*Z*)-**7h**, **7i**,





and (E)-9a. Among these, 3d, 7d, (Z)-7h and (E)-9a are shown in Figure 4.

To assess the lead-likeness of the newly synthesized compounds **3a–j** and **10a,b** and to make a priority list among them prior to pharmacological testing, a detailed early-phase pharmacokinetic evaluation has been carried out. Since the phenylhydrazone structural unit is present in several marketed drugs (herombopag [28], eltrombopag [29], levosimendan [30]) and in

drug candidates that reached the human clinical trials (totrombopag [31], FP-21399 [32], sivifene [33]), hydrazone intermediates **7a–j** and (*E*)-**9a,b** were also involved in the tests.

The results of physicochemical and early ADME characterization for hydrazones 7 and 9, and target compounds 3 and 10 are summarized in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively (individual column charts on kinetic solubility, permeability, and membrane retention measurements can be found in Supporting Infor-

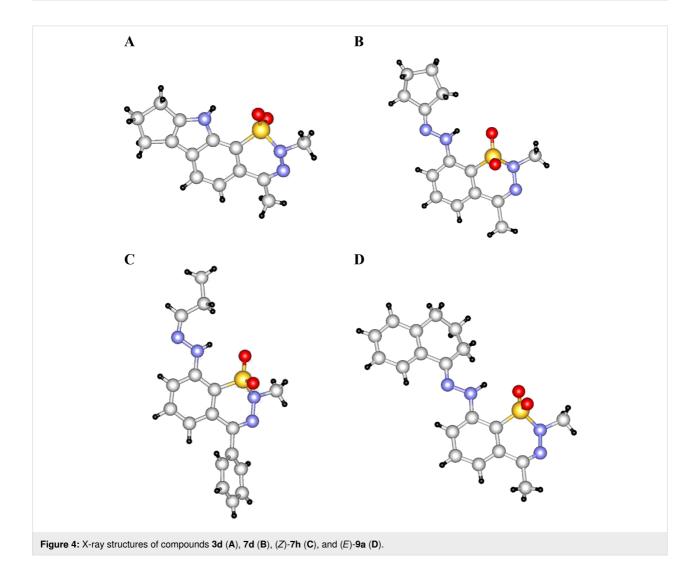


Table 2: Summary of physicochemical and early ADME characterization (measured parameters are presented as means of 3 replicates) of hydrazones **7** and **9**.

Compound	clog <i>P</i> [36]	cpK _a (basic) [36]	No. of rings	logk (–) pH 7.0	Kinetic solubility (μΜ)	GI PAMPA penetration ^a (10 ⁻⁶ cm/s)/ GI PAMPA membrane retention (%)	HLM t _{1/2} (min)/ Cl _{int} (µL/min/kg) ^b
(<i>E</i>)- 7a	2.13	3.37	2	0.547	20.5 ± 0.8	33.6 ± 3.0/ 61.0 ± 5.1	34 ± 1/ 20 ± 0.7
7b	2.44	3.37	2	0.625	6.2 ± 0.3	_	_
(E)- 7c	1.75	2.46	2	0.579	77.2 ± 2.2	24.0 ± 1.4/ 90.9 ± 0.7	28 ± 1/ 24.2 ± 1.1
(Z)- 7c	1.75	2.46	2	0.570	78.4 ± 2.2	21.8 ± 4.0/ 92.0 ± 3.6	30.3 ± 1.8/ 22.4 ± 0.7
7d	1.75	3.37	3	0.599	46.9 ± 2.8	7.6 ± 2.9/ 93.3 ± 0.2	31 ± 3/ 22.3 ± 2.1
7e	2.28	3.11	3	0.626	86.3 ± 3.9	0.0/ 97.5 ± 0.3	_
(<i>E</i>)- 7f	3.26	3.29	3	0.662	0.8 ± 0.11	_	_
7g	3.57	3.29	3	0.677	_	_	_
crude 7h	2.89	2.38	3	0.645	0.7 ± 0.02	_	_
7 i	2.94	3.72	4	0.661	2.2 ± 0.1	_	_
7 j	3.15	3.72	4	0.660	2.8 ± 0.2	_	_
(<i>E</i>)- 9a	2.96	1.49	4	0.653	_	_	_
(<i>E</i>)-9b	4.11	1.41	5	0.695	_	_	_

 $[^]a$ GI PAMPA: Gastrointestinal-specific parallel artificial membrane permeability assay. b HLM $t_{1/2}$ /Cl_{int}: in vitro metabolic half-life and intrinsic clearance determined by human liver microsome system.

Table 3: Summary of physicochemical and early ADME characterization (measured parameters are presented as means of 3 replicates) of indolothia-diazines **3** and **10**.

Compound	clog <i>P</i> [36]	No. of rings	logk (–) pH 7.0	Kinetic solubility (μΜ)	GI PAMPA penetration ^a (10 ⁻⁶ cm/s)/ GI PAMPA membrane retention (%)	HLM $t_{1/2}$ (min)/ Cl_{int} (μ L/min/kg) ^b
3a	1.93	3	0.580	1.5 ± 0.09	_	_
3b	2.28	3	0.603	31.0 ± 2.2	0.0/ 98.5 ± 0.1	-
3c	1.55	3	0.567	41.4 ± 0.9	30.3 ± 4.2/ 39.8 ± 0.2	29 ± 2/ 23.6 ± 1.5
3d	1.86	4	0.591	3.2 ± 0.2	=	_
3e ^c	2.26	4	0.516	51.4 ± 1.3	7.1 ± 1.7/ 82.3 ± 0.8	100 ± 23/ 6.8 ± 1.7
3f	3.26	4	0.629	5.0 ± 0.3	_	_
3g	2.94	4	0.648	0.7 ± 0.03	_	_
3h	2.49	4	0.614	8.6 ± 0.3	_	_
3i	3.62	5	0.645	1.7 ± 0.3	_	_
3j	3.77	5	0.660	_	_	_
10a	3.56	5	0.637	_	_	_
10b	4.91	6	0.685	_	_	_

^aGI PAMPA: gastrointestinal-specific parallel artificial membrane permeability assay. ^bHLM t_{1/2}/Cl_{int}: in vitro metabolic half-life and intrinsic clearance determined by human liver microsome system. ^cSelected candidate considering low Cl_{int} (increased metabolic stability).

mation File 1, Figures S1-S3). Based on their calculated physicochemical properties, all compounds satisfied Lipinski's Rule of Five suggested by Wager et al. [34] (molecular weight < 500 Da, $\log P < 5$, number of hydrogen-bond donors < 5, number of hydrogen-bond acceptors < 10) [35], and the topological polar surface area (TPSA) values fell in a desirable range (40–90 Å²) (see the extended table on physicochemical parameters in Supporting Information File 1, Table S1). Based on their pK_a values, all compounds are non-ionizable or slightly basic. Kinetic solubility was considered good above 30 µM, moderate between 10 µM and 30 µM, and poor under 10 µM. Compounds with no value were under the detection limit. As a result, seven compounds had good solubilities: (E)-7c, (Z)-7c, 7d, 7e, 3b, 3c, and 3e. We also carried out a gastrointestinal parallel artificial membrane permeability assay (GI PAMPA). The permeability (P_e) results were considered good above 10×10^{-6} cm/s, moderate under 10×10^{-6} cm/s and low, when no substance was detected on the acceptor side. Compounds with low kinetic solubility were not measured in the permeability assay. As a result, four compounds presented good permeability: (E)-7a, (E)-7c, (Z)-7c and 3c. GI PAMPA membrane retention (MR) was considered moderate under 80%, elevated between 80% and 90%, while extremely high above 90%. MR represents the affinity of the compound to the phospholipids as a basic component of the biological membrane. A high MR is considered a toxicological risk, as the strongly bound compounds affect membrane integrity, thus influencing the conformation of receptors and possibly causing side effects.

As the outcome of pharmacokinetic characterization, lead-likeness was interpreted in Table 2 and Table 3, considering kinetic

solubility, GI PAMPA permeability and MR. Compounds (E)-7a and 3c with moderate to good kinetic solubility, good permeability, and moderate MR were labelled as primary leads, i.e., promising molecules for further development. Hydrazone isomers (E)-7c and (Z)-7c were categorized as secondary leads because, despite the good solubility and permeability values, their high MR limited their potential. As expected, these geometrical isomers performed almost identically in each assay, thus supporting the robustness of the models used. Similarly, derivatives 7d and 3e were classified as secondary leads, due to their moderate permeability and high MR. Finally, despite having good solubility, compounds 7e and 3b were labelled only as backup leads, demonstrating nearly zero permeability as a consequence of their extremely high MR. From a pharmacokinetic point of view, the rest of the compounds were discarded, since they did not meet the basic criterion of moderate kinetic solubility required for further biological assays.

As in some cases the calculated $\log P$ ($\operatorname{clog} P$) values did not align with the observed solubility and permeability trends, the reversed-phase chromatographic capacity factor ($\log k$) was involved in further analysis. When correlating $\operatorname{clog} P$ and $\log k$ in Figure 5, the fitted line showed a moderate linear correlation ($\mathbb{R}^2 = 0.673$). According to the plot, the partition coefficients of the outliers (E)-7a, 3e, and 10b seemed to be overestimated by the Percepta software [36]. The lipophilicity of hydrazone (E)-7a was estimated closer to the structurally similar compound 7b in silico, however, according to the $\log k$ value, it should be in the lower right corner also supported by its permeability value (green category). Derivative 10b is clearly an extremity among these compounds, being the only molecule

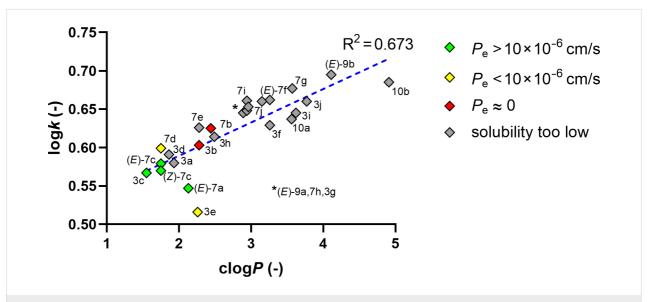


Figure 5: The capacity factor (logk) vs calculated partition coefficients (clogP) by ACD Labs/Percepta [36]); the coloring indicates the permeability categories of the compounds.

containing 6 rings, it is likely the reason for the in silico overestimation. Removal of the outliers would have resulted in a substantially better correlation with $R^2 = 0.835$ (see Supporting Information File 1). The positions of the colored datapoints clearly show that the least lipophilic compounds had the best permeability values, meanwhile, most of the gray datapoints with insufficient solubility scattered in the right side of the plot, indicating their high lipophilicity.

As part of the discussion on structure-property relationships, most of the compounds with low kinetic solubility showed similarities in their structure. It can be clearly seen that the majority of these compounds have at least 4 rings (Table 2). Moreover, all derivatives with a phenyl moiety in position 4 fell into this category (3f-j, 7f-j, (E)-9b, 10b) obviously making the 4-phenyl substituent undesirable. The solubility of compounds is also influenced by their tendency to form thermodynamically stable crystals since disruption of such stable structures is more challenging [37-42]. Molecules with symmetric elements and plane rings typically tend to form such stable crystals. The notable solubility difference of hydrazones 7a and 7c compared to 7b is likely due to the structural differences, with 7a and 7c having asymmetric substitutions (methyl for 7c, $R^2 = H$, $R^3 = Me$ and ethyl, methyl for 7a, $R^2 = Me$, $R^3 = Me$), while 7b having a symmetric diethyl substitution pattern ($R^2 = Et$, $R^3 = Me$). The comparison of the solubility of compound 3a to that of less symmetric derivatives 3b and 3c leads to a similar conclusion. When comparing compounds 3e and 3d, it can be suggested that the cyclohexyl ring in 3e with its higher flexibility is a more plane-disrupting structural element than the cyclopentyl ring in 3d.

After the initial physicochemical characterization, we conducted standardized metabolic stability assessments on pooled human liver microsome (HLM) isolates of the primary and secondary lead compounds identified during the solubility and permeability studies. The measured values are summarized in the last column of Table 2 and Table 3. The preliminary ADME investigation, characterized by first-order kinetics due to low substrate concentration (≤10 µM), aids in establishing intrinsic clearance (Clint), which indicates the predicted elimination efficacy of drugs [43]. According to the generally accepted $Cl_{int} \approx 10 \,\mu L/min/kg$ (or half-life: $t_{1/2} \approx 60 \,\text{min}$) threshold, compound 3e qualifies as a suitable candidate for subsequent medicinal chemistry investigation [44]. The outcome somewhat elucidates the distinctive behavior of 3e in the aforementioned clog P - log k relationship: despite the expected elevated clog P, we obtained a reduced measured logk value, which diverges from this class of compounds. This finding indicates a lower lipophilicity of 3e, supported by the observation that a reduced logP value is typically linked to a decreased liver microsomal

metabolism and any hepatotoxicity-related side effects [45]. Despite compound **3e** being classified only as a secondary lead from initial in vitro permeability (GI PAMPA) screening, the relevant HLM study indicated that the enhanced membrane integrity (MR) and penetration of other selected derivatives also improved integration with the microsome, potentially linked to an accelerated hepatic clearance (Cl_{int}) due to the metabolic sensitivity of this class of compounds. Thus, a strategy for additional lead optimization towards central nervous system drug candidates, commencing with compound **3e**, is advised based on the preliminary ADME data.

Conclusion

The aforementioned synthetic process led, via Fischer indole cyclization of the corresponding hydrazones, to several novel 2,9-dihydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[5,6-g]indole 1,1-dioxide derivatives, containing new tri-, tetra- and pentacyclic ring systems. The hydrazone intermediates and new target compounds were investigated regarding their physicochemical and ADME parameters. Based on literature analogy with related compounds, furthermore on calculated properties, and results from kinetic solubility, in vitro membrane permeability and metabolic stability measurements, a tetracyclic derivative, 2,4-dimethyl-2,7,8,9,10,11-hexahydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[6,5-a]carbazole 1,1-dioxide (3e) has been identified as a promising central nervous system drug candidate for pharmacological testing and eventual further structure–activity optimization.

Experimental

Compounds 5a, 5b, 7a-j, (E)-9a, (E)-9b, 3a-j, 10a, 10b are new and characterized in detail either below (5a, 5b, 7e, (E)-7h, (Z)-7h, 3e, 3h) or in Supporting Information File 1 ((E)-7a, 7b, (E)-7c, (Z)-7c, 7d, (E)-7f, 7g, 7i, 7j, (E)-9a, (E)-9b, 3a-d, 3f, 3g, 3i, 3j, 10a, 10b). Melting points were determined using a Büchi B-540 melting point apparatus. IR spectra were obtained on a Bruker ALPHA FT-IR spectrometer in KBr pellets, v was reported in cm⁻¹. NMR spectra were recorded at 295 K on a Bruker Avance III HD 600 (600 and 150 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, respectively) spectrometer equipped with a Prodigy cryo-probe head. Full ¹H and ¹³C assignments were achieved using widely accepted strategies [46,47]. DMSO-d₆ or CDCl₃ were used as the solvents and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) and coupling constants (J) are given in ppm and in Hz, respectively. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 2750 GC/Q-TOF mass spectrometer equipped with a Direct Insertion Probe (EI+ ionization) or on a Bruker Q-TOF Maxis Impact mass spectrometer (ESI⁺ ionization) coupled with a Waters Acquity I-Class UPLC system equipped with a diode array detector. The reactions were followed by analytical thin-layer chromatography on silica gel 60 F254 and by UHPLC-MS on a Shimadzu

LC-40 UHPLC equipment equipped with a quaternary pump, degasser, autosampler, column oven, diode array detector, and an LCMS-2020 quadrupole mass spectrometer. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) measurements were carried out on a Rigaku R-Axis Spider diffractometer with an imaging plate area detector using graphite monochromatic Cu Kα radiation. Single crystal X-ray structures were deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre under the following numbers: CCDC 2447633 (3b), CCDC 2447638 (3d), CCDC 2447632 (3e), CCDC 2447636 (3g), CCDC 2447639 (3h), CCDC 2447635 [(E)-7a], CCDC 2447644 (7b), CCDC 2447641 (7d), CCDC 2447634 (7e), CCDC 2447643 [(E)-7f], CCDC 2447642 [(Z)-7h], CCDC 2447640 (7i) and CCDC 2447637 [(E)-9a].

All solvents used in the pharmacokinetic characterization and for HPLC measurements were of analytical grade, purchased from Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany). For gastrointestinal permeability studies, ι-α-phosphatidylcholine and cholesterol were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany). Phosphate buffered saline (0.01 M, pH 6.5 and 7.4) was prepared from pre-mixed PBS powder also sold by Sigma-Aldrich (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany), adjusting the pH with HCl. Water for buffer and eluent preparation were provided by a Millipore Milli-Q water purification system.

Kinetic aqueous solubility assay. All compounds were dissolved in DMSO to make stock solutions at 10 mM concentration. In the case of 7i, 7j, and (E)-9b, the highest concentration achieved in DMSO was 0.5 mM, while for (E)-9a it was 1 mM (DMSO solubility results of the compounds can be found in Supporting Information File 1). 5 µL of the stock solutions was pipetted into a 96-well plate containing 495 µL PBS (pH 6.5) in each well to achieve 100 µM target concentration (1% DMSO). In the case of 7i, 7j, (E)-9a, and (E)-9b, samples were prepared with 50 μ M (1% DMSO) and 100 μ M (10% DMSO) target concentration, respectively. The plate was then sealed and shaken for 2 hours at room temperature. Each compound was investigated in 3 replicates. After 2 hours, the samples were filtered on a Multriscreen_{HTS} filter plate (MSSLBPC, polycarbonate membrane, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) by a Millipore Vacuum Manifold (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany). Before analyzing, 20 vol % acetonitrile was added to each well to avoid sample precipitation during HPLC analysis.

In vitro gastrointestinal permeability assay. For in vitro GI PAMPA permeability studies, only compounds with a kinetic solubility higher than 10 μ M were chosen. Like in the kinetic solubility assay, 5 μ L of DMSO stock solutions was pipetted into a 96-well plate containing 495 μ L PBS (pH 6.5) in each well to achieve 100 μ M target concentration (1% DMSO). These samples were shaken for 1 hour at room temperature then

filtered the same way as the kinetic solubility samples to make initial solutions for the PAMPA assay. The artificial membrane was fabricated by dissolving L-α-phosphatidylcholine (16 mg) and cholesterol (4 mg) in a solvent mixture of chloroform, hexane and dodecane (5/70/25 vol %). Each well of the PAMPA donor plate (MAIPNTR, PVDF membrane, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) was coated with 5 µL lipid solution. Thereafter the donor plate was fitted into the acceptor plate (MSSACCEPTOR, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) already containing 300 µL PBS (pH 7.4) solutions with 1% DMSO. Finally, 150 µL of the initial solutions was pipetted into the donor plate, the plate sandwich was covered with a wet paper tissue and with a plate lid to avoid evaporation, and the system was incubated at 37 °C for 4 hours. Then samples were taken from the donor and acceptor wells and analyzed along with the initial solutions by HPLC. Effective permeability and membrane retention were calculated with Equation 1 and Equation 2 as suggested by Avdeef [48]:

$$P_{\rm e} = \frac{-2.303}{A \cdot (t - \tau_{\rm ss})} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1 + r_{\rm a}}\right) \cdot \lg \left[-r_{\rm a} + \left(\frac{1 + r_{\rm a}}{1 - MR}\right) \cdot \frac{c_{\rm D}(t)}{c_{\rm D}(0)}\right] (1)$$

$$MR = 1 - \frac{c_{D}(t)}{c_{D}(0)} - \frac{V_{A}c_{A}(t)}{V_{D}c_{D}(0)}$$
 (2)

where A is the filter area $(0.24~\rm cm^2)$, t is the incubation time (s), $\tau_{\rm ss}$ is the time to reach steady-state (s), $r_{\rm a}$ is the sink asymmetry ratio approximated with a value of 10^{-14} , $V_{\rm D}$ and $V_{\rm A}$ are the volumes in the donor $(0.15~\rm mL)$ and the acceptor phase $(0.3~\rm mL)$, $c_{\rm D}(t)$ is the concentration of the compound in the donor phase at time point t (mol/L), $c_{\rm D}(0)$ is the concentration of the compound in the donor phase at time point zero (initial solutions, mol/L), $c_{\rm A}(t)$ is the concentration of the compound in the acceptor phase at time point t (mol/L), $c_{\rm A}(0)$ is the concentration of the compound in the acceptor phase at time point zero (mol/L).

Analytical methods. All samples of the kinetic solubility and in vitro permeability assays were analyzed on a Waters Alliance 2695 Separations Module equipped with a 2996 PDA detector, using a Water Xterra RP 18 chromatographic column (100×4.6 mm, 3.5 µm) at 45 °C, applying 1.2 mL/min flow rate. For a 7-minute long gradient program, eluents A (0.1% formic acid in water) and B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile) were used as follows: initial conditions with 30% B were kept for 1 minute, then 90% B was achieved within 3 minutes, kept for further 1 minute, finally the initial condition was adjusted and equilibrated for further 2 minutes. 5-Point calibration series were measured from each compound resulting in $R^2 \approx 0.9990-0.9999$.

Determination of the capacity factor. The capacity factor was calculated using the RP-HPLC retention times of each compound at a pH where their ionization was completely suppressed (cpK_a values can be found in Table 2). The same analytical method was used with modified eluents: eluent A was 20 mM triethylamine with phosphoric acid (pH 7.0), and eluent B was acetonitrile without additives. The method time was slightly extended, with a 1-minute longer gradient, resulting in an 8-minute program. The capacity factor was calculated with Equation 3:

$$\log k = \log \left(\frac{t_R - t_0}{t_0} \right) \tag{3}$$

where k is the capacity factor, t_R is the retention time (min) of the compounds and t_0 is the dead-time of the column (min).

Metabolic stability assay in human liver microsome fractions. The metabolic stability of the test compounds was assessed in vitro using pooled liver microsome fractions derived from humans (Xenotech LLC). The assay was conducted in a 96-well plate format according to a standardized protocol, utilizing cofactor-supplemented incubation systems, mainly to mimic phase I oxidative metabolic pathways. Human liver microsome (HLM) fractions were thawed on ice and diluted in 0.05 M potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) to a final protein concentration of 1.25 mg/mL. Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO to create stock solutions of 5 mM. The drug concentration in the final assays was 10 µM. The assay was performed in triplicate. Reaction mixtures containing the diluted HLM fractions and test compounds were pre-incubated for 5 minutes at 37 °C while shaking at 450 rpm. The reaction was initiated by adding the 0.05 M NADPH cofactor mixture to the wells (100 µL per well) for the "with cofactors" conditions or by adding phosphate buffer for the "without cofactors" control. Aliquots (100 µL) were taken at zero time and at predefined time points of 30 and 60 minutes and quenched with an equal volume of cold acetonitrile. The samples were centrifuged at 2600 RCF for 10 minutes to pellet proteins. Supernatants were transferred to LC vials and stored at -20 °C until LC-MS/ MS analysis. The concentration of the parent compound remaining in each sample was determined using liquid chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/ MS). The percentage of the remaining substrate was calculated relative to the time-zero sample. The natural logarithm of the percentage remaining was plotted against incubation time to determine the first-order elimination rate constant (k) using linear regression. The half-life $(t_1/2)$ was calculated using Equation 4:

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{-k} \tag{4}$$

Intrinsic clearance (Cl_{int}) was calculated and scaled to in vivo conditions using Equation 5:

$$Cl_{int} = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} \times \frac{\text{liver weight (g)}}{\text{standard body weight (kg)}} \times \frac{\text{incubation volume (mL)}}{\frac{\text{HLM protein}}{\text{well}}} \times \frac{\text{HLM protein (mg)}}{\text{gram of liver}}$$
(5)

where the HLM protein per gram of liver was equal to 25 and the liver weight per standard body was equal to 49. Testosterone was included as a positive control to confirm metabolic competence of the HLM fractions, with and without cofactors. Zero-time samples served as 100% reference for clearance calculations.

HPLC–MS analysis. The semi-quantitative determination of test compounds was carried out using a Waters Xevo G2-XS QToF mass spectrometer equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source operating in positive ion mode. Chromatographic separation was performed on a Waters XBridgeTM Premier BEH C18 (3.5 μm, 4.6×150 mm) column maintained at 40 °C. The mobile phase consisted of water with 0.1% formic acid (A) and acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid (B). The injection volume was 10 μL. The autosampler was maintained at 5 °C. The gradient elution program shown in Table 4 was applied at a constant flow rate of 1.0 mL/min.

Table 4: Gradient elution program.					
Time (min)	A (%)	B (%)			
0.0	95	5			
1.5	95	5			
12.0	20	80			
13.0	10	90			
13.5	10	90			
13.7	95	5			
17.5	95	5			

The mass spectrometer operated in sensitivity mode with a capillary voltage of 3.0 kV, source temperature was 100 °C, and desolvation temperature was 350 °C. The cone gas flow was set to 0 L/h and desolvation gas flow to 800 L/h. LockSpray cali-

bration was performed using leucine enkephalin as the reference compound (m/z 556.2771), introduced at 15 μ L/min. Data acquisition was performed in MSE mode with alternating low collision energy (6 eV) and ramped high-energy collision dissociation (20–40 eV). The mass range was set from 50 to 1200 Da. Each function used a scan time of 0.5 s. Data were acquired in the continuum mode. Instrument mass accuracy calibration was verified using sodium formate. The system was controlled with a MassLynx v4.2 SCN996 software.

8-Hydrazino-2,4-dimethyl-2*H***-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (5a).** To a mixture of 8-chloro-2,4-dimethyl-2*H*-benzo[e][1,2,3]thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (**4a**, 7.10 g, 29.0 mmol) and pyridine (80 mL), hydrazine monohydrate (14.1 mL, 14.5 g, 290 mmol) was added dropwise. After refluxing for 26 h, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness, the residue was triturated with water, filtered and washed with water to give **5a** (6.56 g, 94%) as a yellow powder. Mp 160.5–161.5 °C (EtOH); 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.21 (br s, 1H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 4.51 (br s, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); 1 3C{ 1 H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 149.6, 147.3, 134.1, 129.1, 116.0, 114.6, 112.9, 34.7, 20.5; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3407, 3360, 1477, 1302, 1151, 1106 cm $^{-1}$; HREIMS (m/z): [M $^{\bullet}$] $^+$ calcd for C₉H₁₂N₄O₂S, 240.0675; found, 240.0677.

8-Hydrazino-2-methyl-4-phenyl-2*H***-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide** (**5b**). To a mixture of **4b** (4.00 g, 13.0 mmol) and pyridine (36 mL), hydrazine monohydrate (6.30 mL, 6.50 g, 130.4 mmol) was added dropwise. After refluxing for 26 h, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness, the residue was triturated with water, filtered and washed with water to give **5b** (3.65 g, 93%) as a yellow powder. Mp 165–166 °C (EtOH); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.53 (m, 5H), 7.32 (br s, 1H), 6.54 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (br s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 152.6, 147.4, 135.2, 133.9, 12 9.9, 129.0 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 128.6, 116.4, 116.2, 113.5, 35.2; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3407, 3374, 3335, 1467, 1300, 1155, 1111 cm⁻¹; HREIMS (m/z): [M $^{\bullet}$] $^{+}$ calcd for C₁₄H₁₄N₄O₂S, 302.0837; found, 302.0827.

General procedure for the synthesis of hydrazones 7a–e, (*E*)-9a [22,23]. *Method A, step 1:* A suspension of 5a (100 mg, 0.416 mmol), the corresponding ketone 6a–e or 8 (1.1 equiv) and bismuth(III) nitrate pentahydrate (44.4 mg, 0.092 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL) was refluxed for 3 h, then it was poured into icewater. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water, or in the case of an oily product, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL), washed with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give crude products.

8-(2-Cyclohexylidenehydrazino)-2,4-dimethyl-2*H***-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (7e). Prepared according to the general procedure, using 5a** and **6e** as the starting materials. Yield: 111.0 mg (83%), yellow crystals. Mp 99–100 °C (EtOH); 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.19 (br s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J =7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.32 (m, 2H), 1.66 (m, 4H), 1.61 (m, 2H); 13 C{ 1 H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 154.9, 149.9, 141.3, 134.6, 129.2, 116.6, 116.5, 113.2, 34.8 (2C), 26.7, 26.0, 25.4, 25.2, 20.4; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3368, 1598, 1569, 1475, 1299, 1152 cm $^{-1}$; HRESIMS (m/z): [M + H] $^+$ calcd for C $_{15}$ H $_{21}$ N $_{4}$ O $_{2}$ S, 321.1385; found, 321.1377.

General procedure for the synthesis of hydrazones 7f-j, (E)-9b [22,23]. A suspension of 5b (100 mg, 0.331 mmol), the corresponding ketone 6a-e or 8 (1.1 equiv) and bismuth(III) nitrate pentahydrate (35.4 mg, 0.073 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL) was refluxed for 3 h, then it was poured into ice-water. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water, or in the case of an oily product, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 20 mL), washed with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give the crude products.

2-Methyl-4-phenyl-8-[(2E)-2-propylidenehydrazino]-2H-1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide [(E)-7h]. Prepared according to the general procedure, using 5b and 6c as the starting materials. Yield: 102.0 mg (90%), crude **7h**, mixture of E and Z isomers in a 6:4 ratio (according to LC-MS). Pure (E)-7h was obtained by purification using flash chromatography (hexane-EtOAc). Yield: 45 mg (40%), colorless crystals. Mp 138–139 °C (EtOH); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 9.54 (br s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54 (m, 3H), 6.71 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 2.31 (m, 2H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 152.8, 149.0, 141.1, 135.0, 134.2, 130.0, 129.1 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 128.8, 118.4, 117.3, 114.0, 35.2, 25.5, 10.9; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3328, 1595, 1470, 1320, 1299, 1160, 1109 cm⁻¹; HREIMS (m/z): $[M^{\bullet}]^{+}$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}N_4O_2S$, 342.1156; found, 342.1152.

2-Methyl-4-phenyl-8-[(2*Z*)-**2-propylidenehydrazino**]-2*H***1,2,3-benzothiadiazine 1,1-dioxide** [(*Z*)-**7h**]. Prepared according to the general procedure, using **5b** and **6c** as the starting materials. Yield: 102.0 mg (90%), crude **7h**, mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers in a 6:4 ratio (according to LC–MS). Pure (*Z*)-**7h** was obtained by purification using flash chromatography (hexane–EtOAc). Yield: 17 mg (15%), pale yellow crystals. Mp 145–146 °C (EtOH); 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.38 (br s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.55 (m, 3H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H),

3.50 (s, 3H), 2.27 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) δ 152.7, 147.9, 140.9, 134.8, 134.6, 130.1, 129.1 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 128.8, 119.3, 117.0, 114.5, 35.3, 20.0, 10.3; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3352, 1595, 1472, 1304, 1157, 676 cm⁻¹; HREIMS (m/z): [M $^{\bullet}$]⁺ calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}N_{4}O_{2}S$, 342.1156; found, 342.1151.

General methods for the synthesis of compounds 3a-j and 10a,b. Method A, step 2 [26,27]: A suspension of the corresponding crude hydrazone 7 or 9 (100 mg) and p-TsOH monohydrate (1.80 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) was refluxed until the starting material was consumed. Then water (5 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL), washed with water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give crude products 3 or 10, which were purified by recrystallization from isopropyl alcohol or by flash chromatography. Method B for the preparation of compounds 3 [22,23]: A suspension of 5 (100 mg), ketone 6 (1.10 equiv), bismuth(III) nitrate pentahydrate (0.22 equiv) and PPA (2.7 equiv) in MeOH (1 mL) was heated at 110 °C in a glass screw cap vial until the starting material and the hydrazone intermediate 7 were consumed. Then the solids were filtered off and washed with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The organic phase was washed with water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give crude products 3, which were purified by flash chromatography.

2,4-Dimethyl-2,7,8,9,10,11-hexahydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[6,5- *a*]carbazole **1,1-dioxide** (3e). Prepared according to Method A, using crude **7e** as the starting material. Yield: 63.0 mg (66%). Prepared according to Method B, using **5a** and **6e** as the starting materials. Yield: 115.0 mg (67%), off-white crystals. Mp 200–201 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.00 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.73 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.89 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.9, 139.6, 131.8, 127.1, 122.1, 121.9, 116.4, 114.6, 111.6, 34.7, 23.3, 22.8, 22.7, 20.7, 20.6; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3397, 1292, 1184, 1126, 1098 cm⁻¹; HREIMS (m/z): [M*]+ calcd for C₁₅H₁₇N₃O₂S, 303.1036; found, 303.1038.

2,7-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-2,9-dihydro[1,2,3]thiadiazino[5,6-g]indole 1,1-dioxide (3h). Prepared according to Method A, using crude 7h as the starting material. Yield: 47.5 mg (50%). Prepared according to Method B, using **5b** and **6c** as the starting materials. Yield: 60.0 mg (46%), yellow crystals. Mp 157–158 °C (EtOH); 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.57 (br s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.50 (br s, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); 13 C{ 1 H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 152.9, 135.6, 132.5, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 126.4, 123.6,

121.2, 118.1, 116.4, 111.8, 35.0, 9.3; IR (KBr) \tilde{v} : 3377, 1354, 1292, 1137, 1084, 694 cm⁻¹; HREIMS (m/z): [M $^{\bullet}$]⁺ calcd for $C_{17}H_{15}N_3O_2S$, 325.0885; found, 325.0886.

Supporting Information

Crystallographic data were deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre under the following numbers: CCDC 2447633 (**3b**), CCDC 2447638 (**3d**), CCDC 2447639 (**3h**), CCDC 2447639 (**3h**), CCDC 2447635 [(*E*)-**7a**], CCDC 2447644 (**7b**), CCDC 2447641 (**7d**), CCDC 2447634 (**7e**), CCDC 2447643 [(*E*)-(**7f**)], CCDC 2447642 [(*Z*)-**7h**], CCDC 2447640 (**7i**) and CCDC 2447637 [(*E*)-**9a**].

Supporting Information File 1

Experimental procedures and characterization of compounds (*E*)-7a, 7b, (*E*)-7c, (*Z*)-7c, 7d, (*E*)-7f, 7g, 7i, 7j, (*E*)-9a, (*E*)-9b, 3a–d, 3f, 3g, 3i, 3j, 10a, 10b. Kinetic solubility of compounds 7a–j, 3a–j, (*E*)-9a, (*E*)-9b, 10a and 10b; permeability and membrane retention of compounds (*E*)-7a, (*E*)-7c, (*Z*)-7c, 7d, 7e, 3b, 3c and 3e. [https://www.beilstein-journals.org/bjoc/content/supplementary/1860-5397-21-169-S1.pdf]

Supporting Information File 2

Crystallographic information files, checkeif and structure report files for compounds **3b**, **3d**, **3e**, **3g**, **3h**, (*E*)-**7a**, **7b**, **7d**, **7e**, (*E*)-**7f**, (*Z*)-**7h**, **7i** and (*E*)-**9a**. [https://www.beilstein-journals.org/bjoc/content/supplementary/1860-5397-21-169-S2.zip]

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Author Contributions

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Data Availability Statement

All data that supports the findings of this study is available in the published article and/or the supporting information of this article.

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