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Structure–Activity Relationship of Penem Antibiotic Side Chains Used against Mycobacteria Reveals Highly Active Compounds

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Abstract

The rise of antibiotic-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections has placed ever-increasing importance on discovering new antibiotics to treat these

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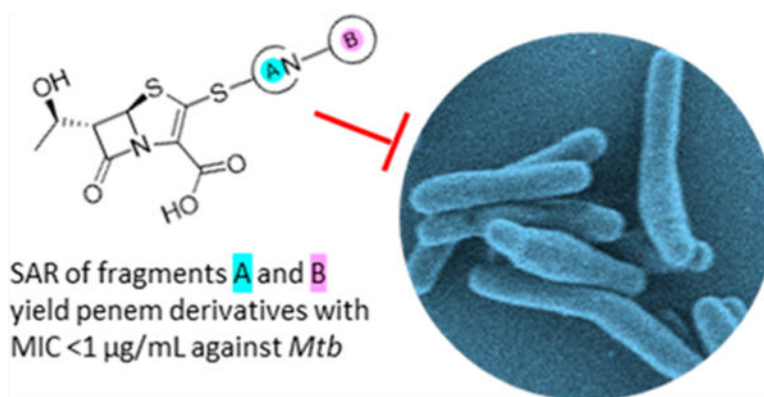
Author Contributions

The study was conceived and directed by C.A.T, G.L., and E.L.N. Synthesis of all new penems was carried out by H.R.B. and A.N. A.K., E.S-R., and E.C.M. undertook microbiological studies, and with E.L.N. and G.L. analyzed the data. T.A.Z. expressed and purified LdtMt2 and DacB2. T.A.Z. performed intact protein UPLC–MS experiments and interpreted the data. H.R.B., T.A.Z., C.A.T., G.L. and E.L.N. all contributed to the interpretation of data and writing the paper.

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diseases. Recently, a new penem, **T405**, was discovered to have strong antimicrobial activity against *M. tuberculosis* and *Mycobacteroides abscessus*. Here, a penem library of C2 side-chain variants was synthesized, and their antimicrobial activities were evaluated against *M. tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv and *M. abscessus* ATCC 19977. Several new penems with antimicrobial activity stronger than the standard-of-care carbapenem antibiotics were identified with some candidates improving on the activity of the lead compound, **T405**. Moreover, many candidates showed little or no increase in the minimum inhibitory concentration in the presence of serum compared to the highly protein-bound **T405**. The penems with the strongest activity identified in this study were then biochemically characterized by reaction with the representative L,D-transpeptidase Ldt_{Mt2} and the representative penicillin-binding protein D,D-carboxypeptidase DacB2.

Graphical Abstract



Keywords

M. tuberculosis; *M. abscessus*; β-lactam; antibiotic; penem; structure–activity relationship

Tuberculosis (TB), the disease state of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) infection, is one of the deadliest infectious diseases. Each year, an estimated 10 million people fall ill to TB and 1.5 million die from the disease.¹ The standard-of-care treatment for drug-susceptible TB involves the administration of four antibiotics for 2 months, followed by two antibiotics for another 4 months. Additionally, the emergence of multidrug-resistant (MDR), extensively drug-resistant (XDR), and totally drug-resistant (TDR) strains of *Mtb* have placed ever-growing importance on developing new treatments for TB.² Moreover, non-TB mycobacteria (NTM) show strong intrinsic resistance to a broad spectrum of antibiotics. One of the most difficult-to-treat NTM diseases is the one caused by *Mycobacteroides abscessus* (*Mab*), which is associated with a cure rate as low as 30–50%.^{3,4} *Mab* pulmonary infections require multidrug therapy that lasts for 12–18 months, but treatment is often cut short due to drug toxicity. As there are no FDA-approved antibiotics to treat *Mab* disease, current treatment recommendations rely on antibiotics approved for other indications. The recommended regimes include an induction phase of at least 2 months with three to four antibiotics, typically including amikacin and a β-lactam, imipenem, or ceftazidime.⁵ The limited success of such treatments, despite their duration, demonstrates the pressing need for more effective treatments to fight against *Mtb* and NTM infections.

The β -lactam class of antibiotics has been hugely successful in treating a broad spectrum of bacterial diseases, making up more than 50% of all prescribed antibiotics.⁶ Historically, β -lactams were considered ineffective against mycobacteria,^{7,8} but more recently there has been renewed interest in their use to treat mycobacterial infections.⁹ Of the five subclasses of β -lactam antibiotics, carbapenems and penems stand out as the most potent against mycobacteria.^{10–12} Unsurprisingly, these two classes are very similar with the only structural difference between the pharmacophores being the presence of a sulfur in the penem at position 1 of the bicyclic ring instead of a methylene in carbapenems (Scheme 1). Carbapenems have been heavily explored with multiple drugs on the market, while penems are only represented commercially by faropenem. Meropenem, a member of the carbapenem subclass, in combination with clavulanate, a β -lactamase inhibitor, has shown unmistakable bactericidal activity in the sputum of TB patients and has been used effectively in the clinic for treating MDR TB infections.^{12–15} These results have spurred interest in developing new carbapenems against *Mtb*.^{16,17} The recent development of atypical carbapenems has shown promising progress against *Mtb* and *Mab*.¹⁸ Additionally, faropenem and the newly developed penem **T405** have displayed potent activity against *Mtb* and *Mab*.^{10,11} While carbapenems have been the main focus in β -lactam development against TB, penems remain relatively unexplored.

The mechanism of action of β -lactam antibiotics takes place through the inhibition of essential enzymes in the biosynthesis of peptidoglycan, the exoskeleton of bacterial cells.¹⁹ As a result, mounting turgor pressure ruptures the cell wall, leading to cell lysis and death. The bacterial peptidoglycan building block is composed of a $\beta(1 \rightarrow 4)$ -linked *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc)-*N*-acetylmuramic acid (MurNAc) sugar backbone with a MurNAc-linked-L-Ala-D- γ Glu-*meso*-DAP-D-Ala-D-Ala peptide stem (diaminopimelate = DAP). In most bacteria, the majority of peptide stems are cross-linked between D-Ala⁴ of one stem and *meso*-DAP³ of an adjacent stem. These cross-linkages are commonly known as 4 \rightarrow 3 linkages. *Mtb* and NTMs possess atypical peptidoglycan as the majority of peptide stems are cross-linked between *meso*-DAP³ of one stem and *meso*-DAP³ of an adjacent stem, known as 3 \rightarrow 3 linkages.^{20–22} Thus, there are two classes of enzymes in mycobacteria that β -lactams must inhibit to be successful antibiotics, the penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs) and the L,D-transpeptidases (Ldts). The PBP enzyme class contains the D,D-transpeptidases, which are responsible for the formation of the classical 4 \rightarrow 3 peptidoglycan cross-linkages, and the homologous D,D-carboxypeptidases, which are responsible for the generation of the tetrapeptide substrates of Ldts. This class of enzymes utilizes an active site serine nucleophile to attack the C-terminal D-Ala-D-Ala peptide bond, generating an acyl-enzyme intermediate while releasing a D-Ala. The acyl-enzyme intermediate is then either accepted by an incoming peptide strand, in the case of D,D-transpeptidases, or hydrolyzed to give the truncated four-amino acid strand, in the case of D,D-carboxypeptidases. The β -lactams utilize this native reactivity by lending their strained amide to be attacked, in turn forming a stable ester-bound intermediate that inhibits the PBP from further reaction.²³ The evolutionarily distinct Ldt class utilizes a cysteine nucleophile to attack the *meso*-Dap-D-Ala peptide bond, yielding a thioester acyl-enzyme intermediate. This intermediate is then accepted by the incoming peptide to form the 3 \rightarrow 3 cross-link.²⁴ When reacted with a β -lactam, the thioester linkage generated is more labile

compared to the oxyester linkage of PBPs. This difference results in an intrinsic β -lactam resistance of the Ldt enzyme class.^{20,21} Carbapenems and penems are the β -lactams that most effectively inhibit both classes of these enzymes.^{25–31}

Undoubtedly, the largest contributors to *Mtb* resistance against β -lactam antibiotics are the presence of the highly active class A Ambler β -lactamase, BlaC, and select PBPs.^{32,33} BlaC efficiently hydrolyzes nearly all classes of β -lactams.³⁴ Notably, however, some carbapenems are turned over only slowly by BlaC, resulting in an inherent advantage compared to other β -lactams.^{12,34} In combination with clavulanate, a well-established β -lactamase inhibitor, many β -lactams regain activity against *Mtb*.¹²

A new penem, **T405**, was identified from an antibiotic screen against *Mtb* and showed strong antimicrobial activity against laboratory strains of *Mtb* and *Mab*, as well as a panel of 20 clinical isolates of *Mab*.¹¹ Moreover, **T405** was found efficacious in treating *Mab* pulmonary infection in an in vivo model.³⁵ While **T405** utilizes the penem pharmacophore, the side-chain branching from C2 gives the drug its unique properties (Scheme 1). The C2 side chain of **T405** is the same as the carbapenem tebipenem and is composed of the azetidine A-ring and the dihydrothiazole B-ring (Scheme 1). Additionally, it was discovered that **T405** has high plasma protein binding (PPB), 98% bound, as shown in a rapid equilibrium dialysis assessment.¹¹ More moderate PPB could enable daily dosing intervals in the clinic while also lowering the dose required to achieve the desired free-drug levels in plasma. To better understand the influence of the C2 side chain on the activity of **T405** and in the hope of generating more potent antibiotics against *Mtb* and *Mab* with reduced PPB, modifications to the C2 side-chain rings were designed and synthesized. These rings were separately modified to generate a library to probe the influence of each ring on antibiotic activity and PPB. The structure–activity relationship (SAR) of these newly generated penems was assessed by in vitro antimicrobial activity assays. Moreover, the most potent compounds were further examined in in vitro inhibition assays with the D,D-carboxypeptidase and PBP representative DacB2 and the Ldt representative Ldt_{Mt2}. Lastly, a subgroup of the most active penems was tested in a minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) serum shift assay to identify highly active penems that have a lower PPB than **T405**.

RESULTS

Chemistry.

To elucidate the effect of the C2 side chain on **T405** antimicrobial activity, a variety of penems with different C2 side chains was synthesized. The C2 side chains varied in two sections denoted as the A-ring and the B-ring (Scheme 1). The C2 side chains were synthesized starting from an amino alcohol. The nitrogen of heterocycle A was first either protected as its allyl carbamate (alloc) via reaction with allyl chloroformate or coupled with 2-chloro benzimidazole (denoted by X in Scheme 2). Once the reactive nitrogen was masked, the alcohol was activated as methanesulfonate, **2**, by reaction with methanesulfonyl chloride. The protected thiol was then installed through substitution of the activated alcohol with potassium thioacetate to yield **3**. Lastly, the thioacetate was reacted with sodium methoxide to reveal deprotected C2 side chain thiol, **4**.

The penem core was prepared as previously described to give access to compound **5**.¹¹ By employing a convergent strategy to the synthesis, the C2 side chains could be incorporated at a late stage into the oxidized penem core, **5**, through a β -addition/elimination reaction. Once the thioether C2 side chain was installed, global allyl deprotection efficiently afforded the deprotected carboxylic acid (**T418**) and the secondary nitrogen if applicable (**T422**, **T425**, **T426**, **T427**, **T428**, and **T429**; for structures refer to Table 1). The secondary nitrogen could then be further derivatized through reductive amination (**T421**, **T430**, **T431**, and **T432**) or by the reaction with thioisocyanates followed by in situ intermolecular cyclization (**T423** and **T420**) (Scheme 3).

Activity against *Mtb*.

The MIC was determined against *Mtb* H₃₇Rv with and without the addition of the β -lactamase inhibitor clavulanate (Table 1). Initial SAR investigation explored modifications of the B-ring of **T405** while maintaining the azetidine A-ring. While increasing the B-ring from five members to six in **T420** increased the MIC by two dilutions, activity was recovered in the presence of clavulanate. The *N*-methyl benzimidazole B-ring of **T418**, increased the MIC by fourfold although it showed the strongest activity of the compounds containing an aromatic ring. In a continuing trend, the benzothiazole of **T423** increased the MIC 16-fold.

Truncation of the B-ring of **T405** to yield just the terminal azetidine **T422** showed the same activity as **T405**. To further explore the role of the A-ring on the antimicrobial activity, rings of increasing size were synthesized while maintaining the secondary nitrogen of the truncated B-ring. Increasing the A- ring size to five members in **T425** and **T426** produced the same MIC as **T405**. Moreover, the addition of clavulanate lowered the MIC of both compounds twofold to 0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. There was no stereochemical preference in activity between the two diastereomers **T425** and **T426**. Upon increasing the A- ring to six members in **T427**, the MIC increased twofold. By extending the six-membered ring from the penem core by a methylene in **T429**; however, the activity was recovered. Lastly, by extending **T422** by a methylene, **T428**, the MIC in the presence of clavulanate improved by twofold as well. Adding an ethyl or adding a tetrahydropyran to **T422** to form **T421** or **T430**, as well as to **T425** to form **T431** and **T432**, respectively, only decreased the antimicrobial activity compared to the secondary amine.

Activity against *Mab*.

The in vitro antibacterial activity of the penem library was tested against the *Mab* strain ATCC 19977. It was previously shown that **T405** possesses strong antimicrobial activity against this laboratory strain as well as 20 clinical isolates of the *Mab* complex.¹¹ Much like in *Mtb*, increasing the size of the B-ring of **T405** to a six-membered ring in **T420** had a negative effect on the activity against *Mab*. Moreover, introduction of any aromatic ring at this position had a detrimental effect on the activity against *Mab* as shown by **T418** and **T423**. Removal of the B-ring of **T405** resulted in 2-fold weaker activity for **T422**. However, when the size of the A-ring was changed to five-membered, the MIC was restored to that of **T405**, 2.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. When the size of the A-ring was increased again and/or spaced from the penem core by a methylene, the activity was reduced again by twofold or more.

Penem Reactions with Ldt_{Mt2}.

A group of penems, **T405**, **T422**, **T426**, and **T428**, which had the greatest antimicrobial activity was reacted with Ldt_{Mt2}. The resulting covalent drug adduct was measured by intact-protein ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC)–high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) analysis. All tested penems formed a +86 Da Ldt_{Mt2} adduct (Figure 1), owing to the characteristic scission of the C5–C6 bond, a process that has been reported previously for the penem, faropenem,^{28,37} and C5-substituted carbapenems.¹⁸ Notably, fragmentation to the +86 Da adduct is irreversible, unlike the related reversible carbapenem adducts of Ldt_{Mt2},³⁸ and its hydrolytic stability has been previously characterized.¹⁰

Penem Reactions with DacB2.

The D₂D-carboxypeptidase DacB2 is a well-studied exemplar of the broader PBP enzyme class, and its activity is required to precede the function of Ldts.³⁹ We thus analyzed covalent inhibition of DacB2 by select penems to gain insights into the best inhibitor(s) of DacB2 and potential inhibition efficiency for PBPs in general. The adduct off-rate, or adduct stability, directly relates to enzyme occupancy. For slow inhibitors, such as carbapenems, the adduct stability has been shown to be more correlated with in vivo activity than the adduct on-rate.^{40–42} To measure the adduct stability, DacB2 and each penem were reacted, the resultant DacB2–penem adduct was washed free of drug, and extent of residual binding was measured by the appearance of *apo*-DacB2 (Figure 2A) after an overnight incubation. As a point of comparison, the same experiment was performed with the clinically used carbapenem, meropenem (Figure 2B). We found that DacB2–T405 and DacB2–T428 exhibited some loss of adduct over time, retaining 76% and 86% of inhibitor, respectively, after 24 h while DacB2–T422, DacB2–T426, as well as DacB2–meropenem remained completely bound over this period of time (Figure 2C,D).

Effect of Serum on MIC.

T405 previously exhibited 98% PPB by rapid equilibrium dialysis. Among the newly synthesized penems, we sought similar or better antimyco- bacterial activity compared to **T405**, with lower PPB to be advanced for in vivo analysis. To estimate the impact of PPB in vivo, an MIC serum shift assay was performed on the most active penems. MICs were measured against *Mtb* H₃₇Rv in a normal 7H9 medium, 7H9 with 25% human serum, or 7H9 with 25% mice serum (Table 2). The shift of the MIC from the normal 7H9 medium to that with the serum added is reported as a MIC fold increase. The fold increase indicates the degree to which the drug is bound to the serum and not free to interact with cellular targets in *Mtb*.

From the MIC serum shift measurements, it was observed that **T405** had the largest shift with a 16-fold increase in MIC in the presence of human serum and mouse serum. This increase is consistent with its high PPB, confirming the MIC shift as an effective assay to estimate PPB of the compound. Many of the compounds with alkyl or heterocycle modification on the nitrogen also showed an increase in MIC with the addition of serum (**T420**, **T421**, **T430**, **T432**, and **T431**). While all compounds showed some extent of MIC shift, many with a secondary nitrogen did not have more than a twofold increase. However,

this observation is not universally true as **T429** and **T427** break this pattern with human serum.

DISCUSSION

An SAR database of penems was prepared and used to investigate the influence of the **T405** C2 side chain on antimicrobial activity against *Mtb* H₃₇Rv and *Mab* ATCC 19977. To examine this question, the C2 side chain was varied at two sites, the A-ring and the B-ring (Scheme 1). This SAR study resulted in five compounds having activities comparable to **T405** against *Mtb* and 15 compounds with better or equivalent activity compared to meropenem, the carbapenem recommended for use against MDR-TB. Clavulanate is commonly administered with carbapenems to inhibit BlaC. This supplementation has a large effect whereby the MIC of meropenem shifts from 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ without clavulanate to 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ with it.¹² In contrast, several penem antibiotics that already possessed low MICs did not show such a large response, if any, to the addition of the β -lactamase inhibitor. This difference would indicate that either the penems are not significantly hydrolyzed by BlaC or that the limit of the MICs is not dependent on the rate of their hydrolysis. Therefore, this group of compounds has potential for use as a sole agent treatment as opposed to requiring combination therapy with, for example, clavulanate. In our previous study, we determined that the inclusion of the β -lactamase inhibitor avibactam did not significantly alter the MIC of our penems against *Mab*.¹¹ Based on these data, we hypothesized that these penems are more resistant to the β -lactamase activity present in *Mab*. Owing to this precedent, a β -lactamase inhibitor was deemed unnecessary for MIC determinations of our penems against *Mab* and therefore not included.

The penem library was also tested against *Mab* ATCC 19977 that is intrinsically resistant to several antibiotics. Many of the same trends in the SAR data were borne out between the two mycobacteria. Most notably, any aromatic ring in the C2 side chain drastically reduced the activity. Additionally, several side chains produced good activity against *Mab*, with MICs averaging around 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Only the five-membered ring penems, **T425** and **T426**, had activity equal to **T405** against *Mab* (MIC of 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). By way of comparison, the carbapenem imipenem, the first-line drug in the treatment of *Mab* infection has an MIC of 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Eleven penems from the library showed equal or lower MIC compared to imipenem.

Of the three classes of β -lactam targets known to confer antibacterial activity, namely, Ldts, PBPs, and β -lactamases, representative Ldts and PBPs were selected for target engagement assays with select penems. As the β -lactamase inhibitor clavulanate has minimal effect on the MIC of these penems, BlaC is likely not responsible for differential activity and was not separately evaluated in enzyme inhibition assays. The adduct formation and stability of the most active penems, **T422**, **T426**, and **T428**, was measured against Ldt_{Mt2} and compared to the penem **T405**. When adduct formation was monitored with Ldt_{Mt2}, in-solution fragmentation to a M+86 Da 3-hydroxybutyryl group ensued for each penem (Scheme 4A). This observation agrees with previous studies of the faropenem adduct with Ldts.^{28,37} Moreover, the data show that the penem breakdown on Ldt_{Mt2} is not dependent on the identity of the side chain. When these results are combined with the observation that faropenem rapidly forms the same M +86 Da fragment after initial thioester adduct

formation to active-site cysteine variants of β -lactamases,³⁷ it is clear that fragmentation of penem thioester adducts is facile and generalizable. When this group of penems was tested against the PBP representative DacB2, each penem formed intact adducts (Scheme 4B). When monitored for 24 h **T422** and **T426** were fully bound, as seen for meropenem, while **T405** and **T428** were partially hydrolyzed. This behavior would indicate that **T422** and **T426** are better inhibitors of DacB2 because of their longevity bound to the protein. It has been hypothesized that antibiotics with long-lasting enzyme inhibition are particularly desirable to be effective against slow-growing bacterial species such as *Mtb* that divide approximately every 24 h, and as preceded by D-cycloserine inhibition of *Mtb* alanine racemase.⁴⁰ Due to DacB2 stability in vitro, adduct lifetimes were measured at 20 °C as opposed to a physiological temperature of 37 °C, where chemical processes are faster and drug lifetimes would be correspondingly shorter.

The MIC serum shift measurements were used as a functional measure of PPB for the penem library. The measurements showed a high MIC serum shift with the highly PPB **T405** and little or no shift for meropenem, which has negligible PPB, confirming the utility of the MIC serum shift assay. These results implied that the addition of a heterocycle or alkyl chain to the A-ring of the side chain increases the PPB. Moreover, the C2 side chains with just the secondary nitrogen showed the lowest MIC serum shift in general. These trends agree with the loosely correlated observation that more non-polar groups in a molecule correlate with higher PPB, while polar groups, such as amines, lower PPB.⁴³ From this study, **T422**, **T425**, **T426**, and **T428** were all indicated as compounds with low MICs against *Mtb* H₃₇Rv and low PPB.

Several penem antibiotics developed in this study showed activity against *Mtb* and *Mab* that was more potent than the respective carbapenem clinical comparators. MIC data from the library show the importance of the A-ring to the activity of the candidates while modifications to the B-ring were shown to be either negative or neutral. Moreover, the in vitro analysis showed that the side chain has no effect on the adduct stability with Ldts but does affect the adduct stability when reacted with PBPs. This observation suggests the difference in the side-chain activity is more dependent on the resulting inhibition of PBPs. The database generated here sheds light on the role the side chain plays on the activity of penems against mycobacteria and could have broader applications to other β -lactam molecules. Furthermore, the MIC serum shift assay revealed alternative penems that display lower PPB and, therefore, more potent activity in the presence of serum than **T405**. These candidates are to be advanced for future in vivo pharmacokinetic and efficacy studies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemical Compounds.

Penems were synthesized as described in the Supporting Information. Imipenem and meropenem were purchased from Carbosynth (San Diego, CA). Clavulanate was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO).

MIC Assay.

MICs were determined as previously described using the broth microdilution assay in Middlebrook 7H9 media supplemented with 10% oleic acid, albumin, dextrose, and catalase but without Tween 80.^{44,45} Powdered drug stocks were reconstituted in dimethyl sulfoxide and twofold serial dilutions were prepared in Middlebrook 7H9 broth to obtain final drug concentrations in 96-well microtiter plates. Approximately, 10^5 colony forming units (cfu)/mL of bacteria from an exponentially growing culture were added to each well. *Mab* and *Mtb* cultured without drugs in Middlebrook 7H9 broth alone were included in each plate as negative controls. Imipenem and meropenem were used as positive controls for *Mab* and *Mtb*, respectively, in accordance with their clinical use as the preferred carbapenem for each infection. Plates were incubated at 30 °C for 72 h and at 37 °C for 7 d for MIC determination against *Mab* and *Mtb*, respectively, in accordance to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines.⁴⁶ Growth or lack thereof was assessed by visual inspection and an MIC for each drug was defined as the lowest concentration that prevented visible growth. MIC assays against *Mtb* were performed two or three times for each penem, except that T418, T423, T430, T431, and T432 were only assayed once due to material constraints. The modal MICs are presented in Table 1. Replicates did not differ from the modal MIC by more than one dilution. Likewise, MIC assays against *Mab* were performed two times. If MICs of two biological replicates differed, then the assay was repeated for the third time. The MIC presented in Table 1 is the modal MIC.

Serum Shift MIC Assay.

MIC measurements were performed as described above with the exception that parallel wells used Middlebrook 7H9 media alone or supplemented with either 25 wt % mouse serum or 25 wt % human serum. Mouse serum was isolated from uninfected, untreated adult female BALB/c mice, and filtered through an 0.22 μm filter. Human serum was obtained from a healthy volunteer and filtered through an 0.22 μm filter.

Protein Expression and Purification.

LdtMt2 (N55) and DacB2(N27) were expressed and purified as previously described.⁴⁷ Enzyme concentrations were determined using the Beer–Lambert Law by measuring A_{280} by ultraviolet–visible (UV–vis) spectroscopy in 7 M guanidinium chloride and calculated extinction coefficient for DacB2,²⁸ and $84,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for Ldt_{Mt2}, previously determined by amino acid analysis.³⁸

UPLC–HRMS Analysis.

UPLC–HRMS experiments were analyzed on a Waters ACQUITY H-Class UPLC system equipped with a multiwavelength UV–vis diode array detector in conjunction with a Waters ACQUITY BEH-300 μL UPLC column packed with a C4 stationary phase ($2.1 \times 50 \text{ mm}$; $1.7 \mu\text{m}$) to analyze intact proteins in tandem with HRMS analysis by a Waters Xevo-G2 quadrupole-time of flight electrospray ionization MS.

Intact Protein UPLC–HRMS.

Enzyme samples were separated at 60 °C to enhance peak resolution with a flow rate of 0.3 mL/min and the following mobile phase: 0 to 1 min 90% water, 10% ACN, 0.1% formic acid (FA); 1 to 7.5 min gradient up to 20% water, 80% ACN, 0.1% FA; 7.5 to 8.4 min 20% water, 80% ACN, 0.1% FA; 8.4 to 8.5 min linear gradient up to 90% water, 10% ACN, 0.1% FA; and 8.5 to 10 min 90% water + 10% ACN, 0.1% FA. The first minute of eluate was discarded to remove salts and buffer online. Samples were analyzed in the positive mode and deconvoluted from *m/z* distributions into neutral masses using the Maxent1 algorithm within MassLynx. Data were then normalized to the sum of intensities and plotted within Prism 9.3.0.

Ldt_{Mt2} Adduct Formation.

Each penem (20 μ M) was incubated separately with Ldt_{Mt2} (2 μ M) for 1 h in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.0 buffer at 20 °C. Samples were then subjected to intact protein UPLC–HRMS analysis for determination of adduct formation.

DacB2 Adduct Stability Comparison.

Penems and meropenem (20 μ M) were incubated individually with DacB2 (2 μ M) for 1 h in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.0 buffer at 20 °C. Complete adduct formation was confirmed by intact protein UPLC–HRMS analysis at which point excess (carba)- penem was removed by two sequential buffer exchanges with Thermo-Scientific Zeba 7 kDa spin desalting columns, which had been pre-equilibrated with 25 mM HEPES pH 7.0 buffer. After 24 h, DacB2 was again subjected to intact protein UPLC–HRMS analysis. Percent bound was determined in BiopharmaLynx 1.3.2 by summing ion counts of intact and decarboxylated forms of DacB2–adducts and dividing by the sum of *apo* and bound form ion counts, as described previously.³⁸

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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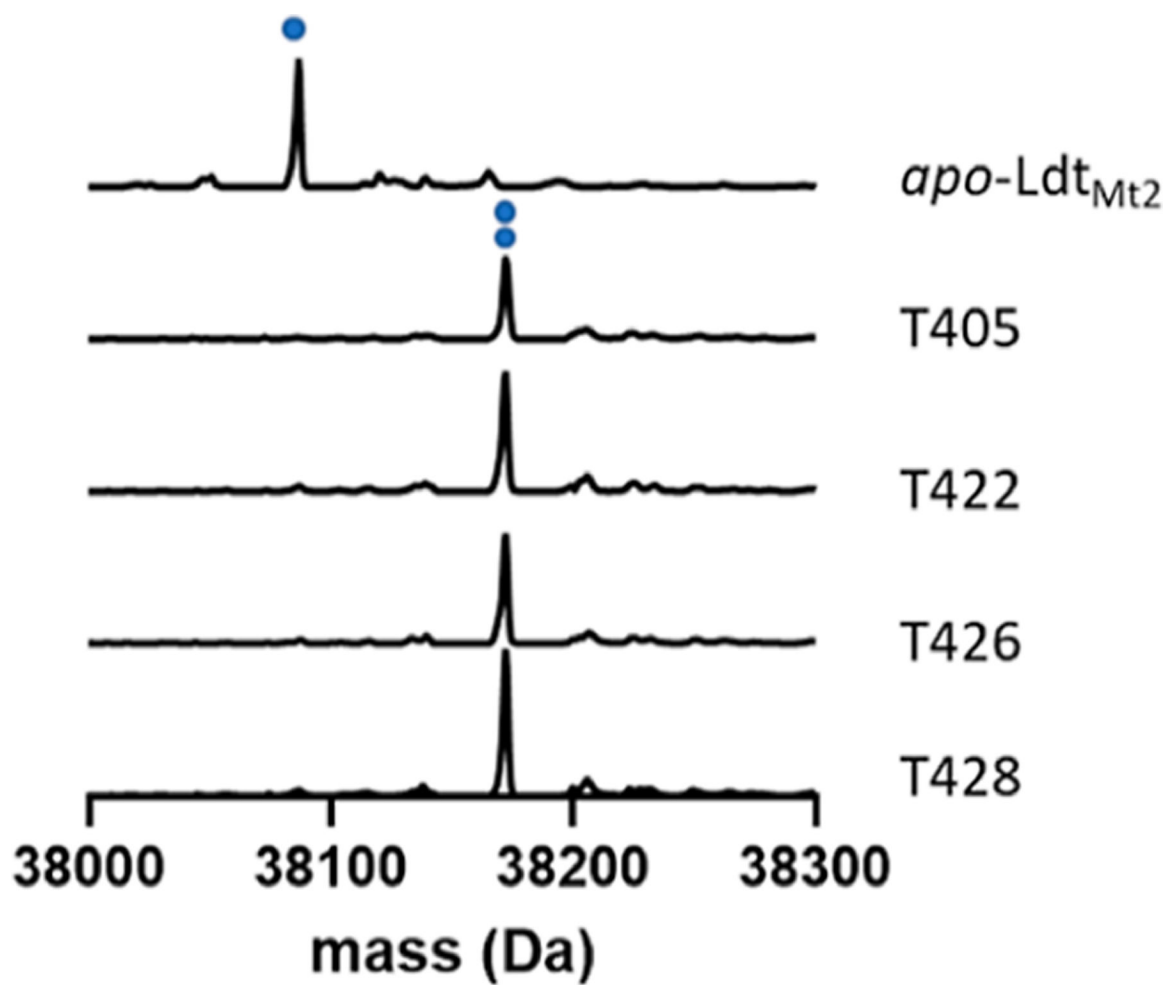


Figure 1.

Ldt_{Mt2} is acylated by all experimental penems tested, with each forming identical M+86 fragments. The single blue dot represents apo-Ldt_{Mt2}, $m/z = 38,086$ Da, and two blue dots represent the Ldt_{Mt2}-penem fragment adduct, 38,172 Da.

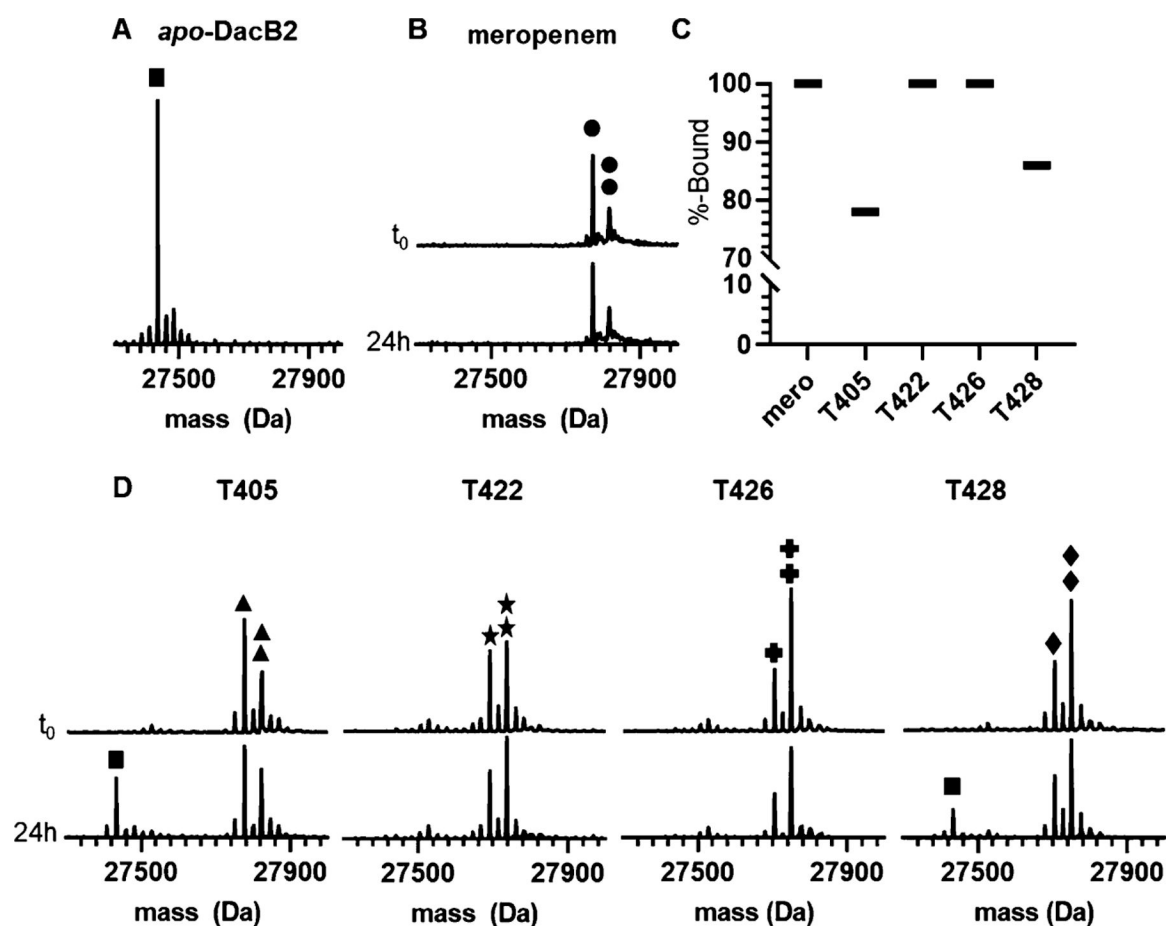
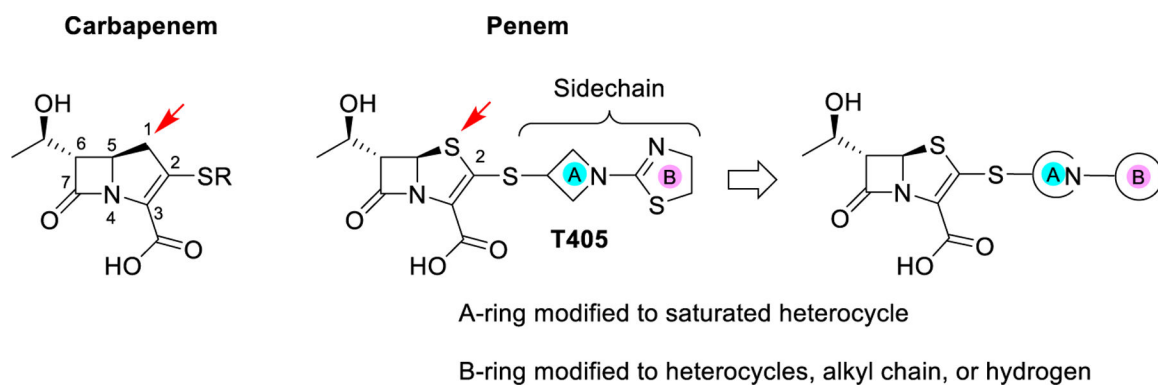


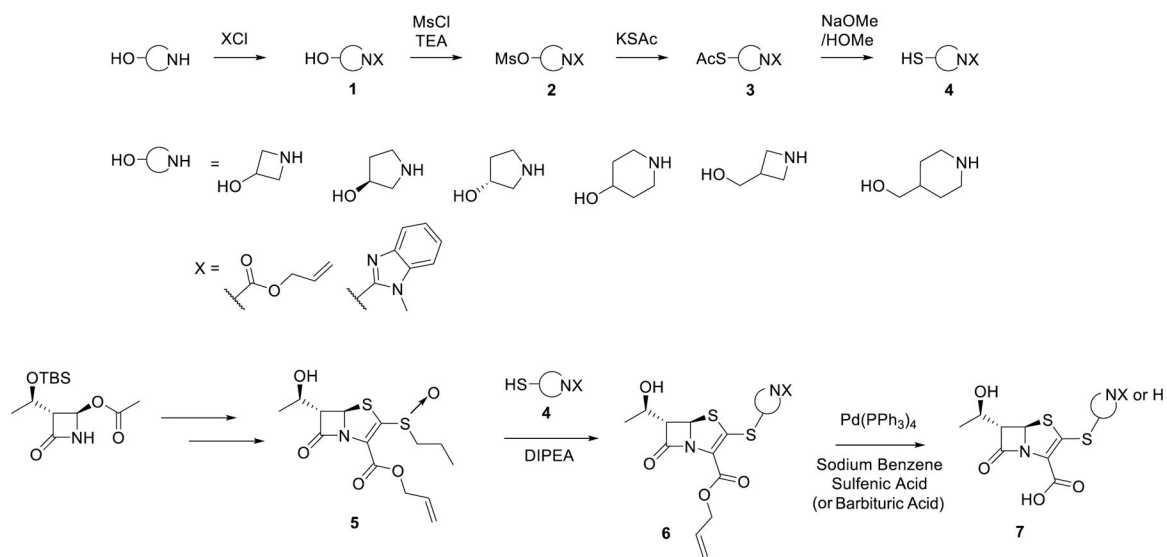
Figure 2.

Intact-protein UPLC–HRMS analysis demonstrates differential stability of select DacB2–penem adducts after washing away the free drug and incubating for 24 h. (A) UPLC–HRMS analysis of *apo*-DacB2 (one square, 27,435 Da). (B) Meropenem fully reacts with DacB2, and the DacB2–meropenem adduct (decarboxylated, one circle, 27,774 Da; intact, two circles, 27,818 Da) is stable after the removal of drug for 24 h. (C) Like meropenem, **T422** and **T426** form adducts that are stable for at least 24 h after drug removal, while **T405** and **T428** exhibit the loss of 24% and 14% of drug, respectively. (D) Mass spectra of **T405** (decarboxylated, one triangle, 27,778 Da; intact, two triangles 27,822 Da), **T422** (decarboxylated, one star, 28,033 Da; intact, two stars, 28,077 Da), **T426** (decarboxylated, one cross, 27,708 Da; intact, two crosses, 27,752 Da), and **T428** (decarboxylated, one diamond, 27,708 Da; intact, two diamonds, 27,752 Da) adducts of DacB2 before and after washout. One black square represents *apo*-DacB2 (27,435 Da).

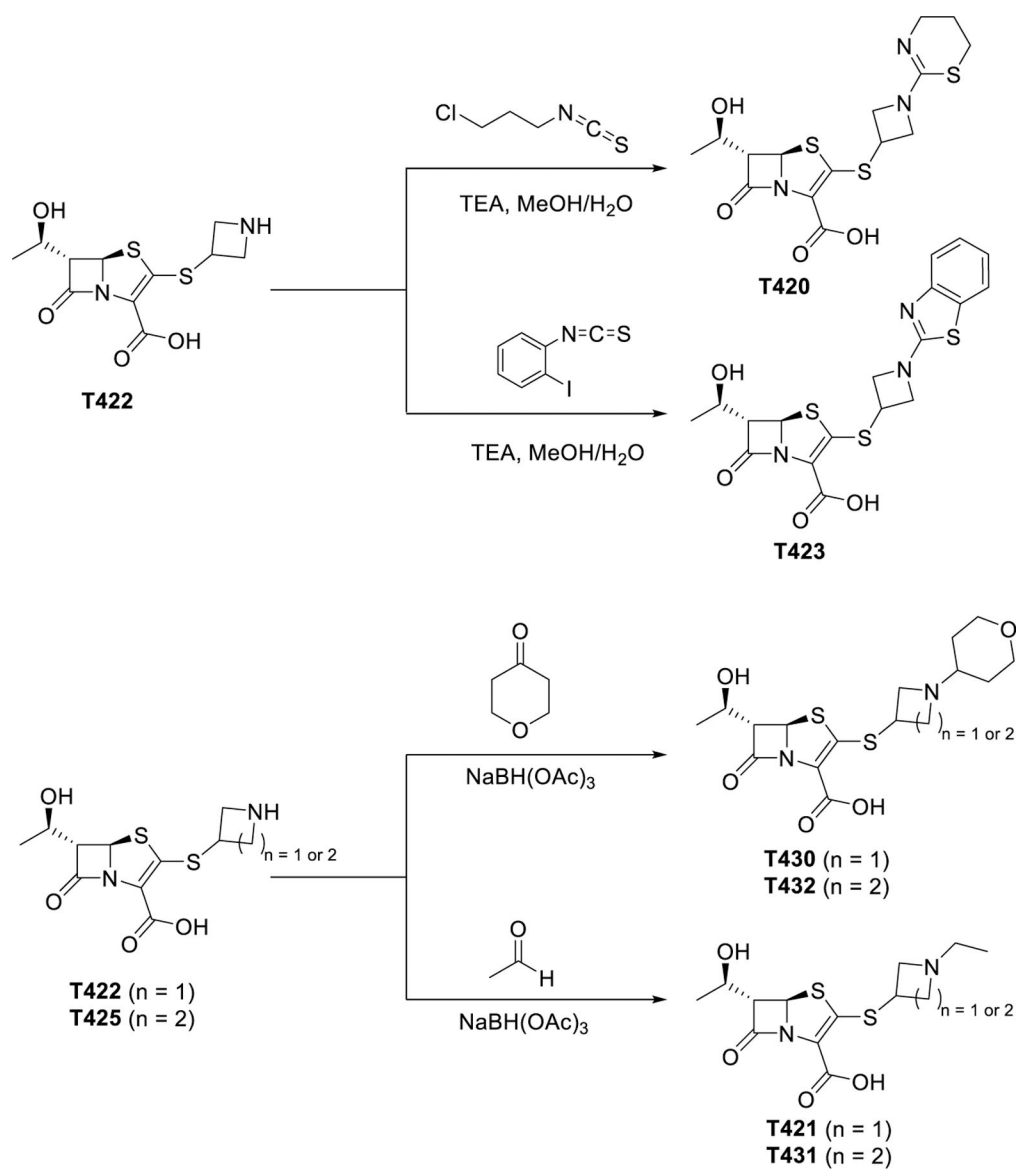


Scheme 1. Structural Comparison between Carbapenems and Penems Highlighted with the Red Arrow^a

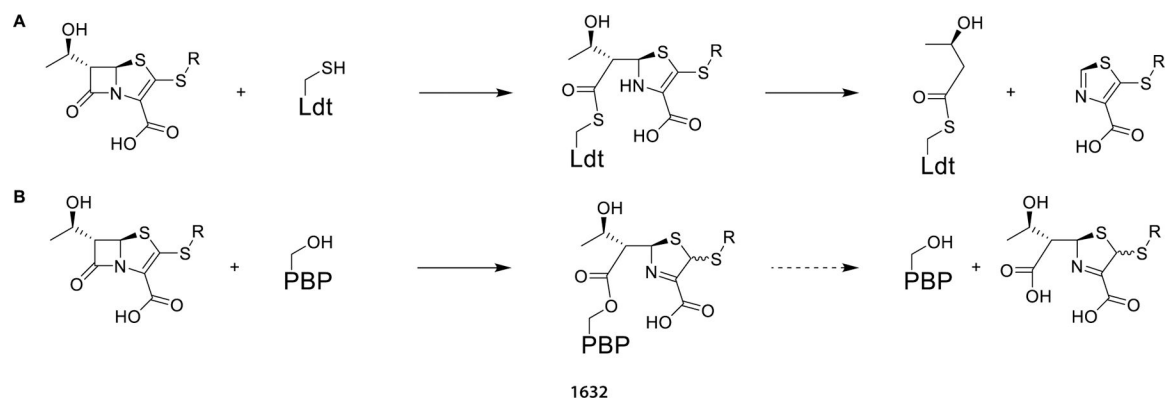
^aThe design strategy for the new penem library generation based upon the T405 side-chain structure.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of Penem Library



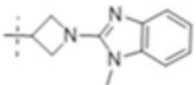
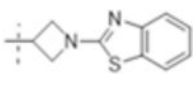
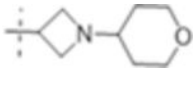
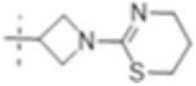
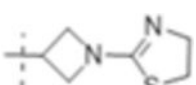
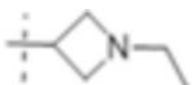

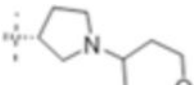

Scheme 3. Penem Generation Using Late-Stage Modification of Secondary Nitrogen

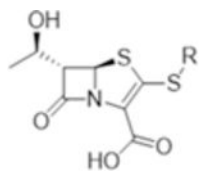


Scheme 4. (A) Representation of the Penem Reaction with Ldt (B) Representation of the Penem Reaction with PBP

Table 1.

MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) (μM) of Penem Library against Mtb H₃₇Rv, with and without Clavulanate (5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$), and against Mab ATCC 19977^a

Compound	R:	MIC- $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (μM)		
		Mtb H ₃₇ Rv	Mtb H ₃₇ Rv with Clavulanate (5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Mab ATCC 19977
T418		2 (4.6)	0.5 (1.2)	64 (150)
T423		8 (18)	2(4.6)	64 (150)
T430		4 (10)	ND	4 (10)
T420		2 (5.0)	0.5 (1.3)	16 (40)
T405		0.5 (1.3)	0.5 (1.3)	2(5.2)
T421		1 (3.0)	0.5 (1.5)	4 (12)
T422		0.5 (1.7)	0.5 (1.7)	4 (13)
T432		4 (10)	ND	4 (10)
T431		4 (12)	ND	4 (12)

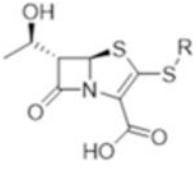
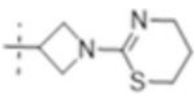
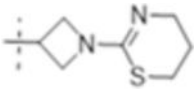
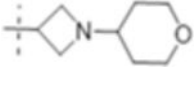
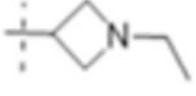
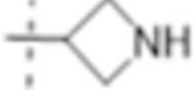
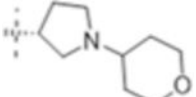
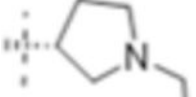
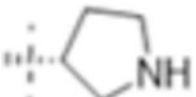
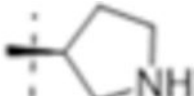
MIC- $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (μM)

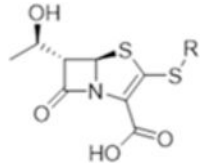
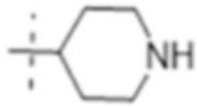
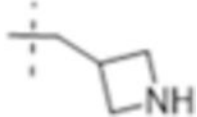
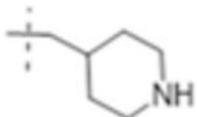
Compound	R:	Mtb H ₃₇ Rv	Mtb H ₃₇ Rv with Clavulanate (5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Mab ATCC 19977
T425		0.5 (1.6)	0.25 (0.79)	2 (6.3)
T426		0.5 (1.6)	0.25 (0.79)	2(6.3)
T427		1 (3.0)	0.5 (1.5)	4 (12)
T428		0.5 (1.6)	0.25 (0.79)	8 (25)
T429		0.5 (1.5)	0.25 (0.73)	4 (12)
Imipenem		4 (13)	ND	8 (27)
Meropenem		8 (21)	0.5 (1.3)	8 (21)
Tebipenem		1 (2.6)	0.25 (0.65)	64 (170)

^aMIC values represent the mode of at least two biological replicates (additional details are included in the Methods section). The MIC value of tebipenem against *Mab* is from a previous study.³⁶

Table 2.

MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) (μM) of Penem Derivatives against *Mtb* H₃₇Rv in Regular 7H9 Medium, 7H9 +25% Human Serum, and 7H9 +25% Mouse Serum

Compound		MIC- $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (μM) against <i>Mtb</i> H ₃₇ Rv		
		Regular 7H9	25% Human Serum	25% Mouse Serum
	R:			
T405		0.5 (1.3)	8 (21)	8 (21)
T420		2 (5.0)	8 (20)	4 (10)
T430		4 (10)	ND	16 (41)
T421		2 (6.1)	4 (12)	4 (12)
T422		1 (3.3)	2 (6.6)	2 (6.6)
T432		4 (10)	ND	16 (40)
T431		4 (12)	ND	16 (46)
T426		0.5 (1.6)	4 (13)	1(3.2)
T425		0.5 (1.6)	2 (6.3)	1 (3.2)

Compound		MIC- $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (μM) against <i>Mtb</i> H ₃₇ Rv		
		Regular 7H9	25% Human Serum	25% Mouse Serum
	R:			
T427		1 (3.0)	8 (24)	2 (6.1)
T428		11 (3.2)	2 (6.3)	2 (6.3)
T429		0.5 (1.5)	8 (23)	2 (5.8)
Meropenem		8 (21)	16 (42)	8 (21)