

Synthesis and Selective Functionalization of Thiadiazine 1,1-Dioxides with Efficacy in a Model of Huntington's Disease^SLeila Terrab,^{||} Christopher J. Rosenker,^{||} Lisa Johnstone,^{||} Linh K. Ngo, Li Zhang, Nathaniel F. Ware, Bettina Miller, Andrea Z. Topacio, Sara Sannino, Jeffrey L. Brodsky, and Peter Wipf*Cite This: *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* 2020, 11, 984–990

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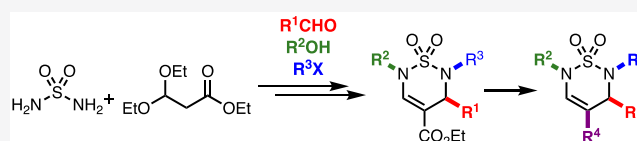
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ABSTRACT: The scope of the acid-mediated 3-component synthesis of thiadiazines was investigated. A selective functionalization of the six-membered heterocyclic core structure was accomplished by sequential alkylations, saponifications, and coupling reactions. Several new analogs of a dihydropyrimidinone Hsp70 chaperone agonist, MAL1-271, showed promising activity in a cell based model of Huntington's disease.

KEYWORDS: Thiadiazine, Hsp70, MAL1-271, Huntington's disease, molecular chaperone



Sulfamide-based heterocycles are attractive synthetic targets in medicinal chemistry; while they have a wide variety of biological activities, they have been relatively neglected in SAR studies, in part due to a dearth of synthetic methods, and therefore cyclic sulfamides still offer considerable opportunities in patent space.^{1–4} In addition to their function as urea bioisosteres,⁵ agents containing these building blocks have been shown to exhibit antibacterial,^{6,7} opioid receptor like-1 receptor (ORL1, NOP),⁸ colony stimulating factor-1 (CSF-1, implied in rheumatoid arthritis and metastatic bone cancer),⁹ and 11 β -HSD1 (a target for type 2 diabetes) inhibitory activities.¹⁰ A subclass of sulfamide-containing heterocycles, 1,2,6-thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides, has been shown to act as cannabinoid agonists and antagonists¹¹ and display modest antimicrobial activity,¹² smooth muscle relaxation,¹³ and sedative effects.¹⁴ Additionally, the structurally related 2,1,3-benzothiadiazine 2,2-dioxides, such as the commercial herbicide bentazon, have demonstrated herbicidal activity.¹⁵

The preparation of 1,2,6-thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides was first realized using an acid-mediated condensation of sulfamide and monoketones^{16,17} or β -diketones.¹⁸ Alternatively, functionalized thiadiazines have been prepared by base-mediated intramolecular cyclizations of sulfaminomethylene derivatives,^{19,20} condensation with substituted sulfamides and ethyl 3,3-diethoxypropanoate (**1**),²¹ condensation of sulfamide imines and **1**,²² and the intramolecular Friedel–Crafts acylation of sulfamide iminium species.²³ More recently, thiadiazines were prepared by joining an *N,N'*-dibenzylated sulfamide with 2-(acetoxymethyl)buta-2,3-dienoate²⁴ and by a silver- and gold-catalyzed hydroamination of propargyl sulfamides;²⁵ but, overall, there is a surprising lack of 1,2,6-thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides with carboxylic acid substituents in the 4-position in the literature.

As part of our interest in the synthesis of novel heterocyclic compounds by multicomponent condensations (MCCs),^{26,27} we envisioned 1,2,6-thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides to become readily available by a Biginelli-like MCC and represent versatile scaffolds wherein the core heterocycle could be functionalized at several positions. Specifically, we wanted to explore if thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides could serve as bioisosteric analogs of Biginelli dihydropyrimidinones such as MAL1-271, an agonist of Hsp70 that reduces protein aggregation associated with neurodegenerative diseases.²⁸ The thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide scaffold offers an attractive option to expand the hydrogen bond acceptor carbonyl moiety in the planar pyrimidinone urea moiety into three dimensions, as well as facilitate alkylation reactions for structure–activity relationship (SAR) purposes. We envisioned that a variety of novel thiadiazines could be prepared by selective *N*-alkylations²⁹ followed by functional group interconversions of the 4-carboxylate ester. To test this hypothesis, we set out to synthesize the thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide core, initially using literature conditions.^{21,22} However, the use of neat TFA as a solvent required long reaction times and gave inconsistent yields in our hands (Scheme 1, eq 1). As a result, we initiated a search for optimal thiadiazine formation conditions. After considerable experimentation, we found that condensation of sulfamide (**2**) with **1** in a 1:5 mixture of TFA and CH₂Cl₂ resulted in the formation of stable, crystalline 8-membered ring dimer **3**³⁰ after 3 h at room temperature (Scheme 1, eq 2). The unusual

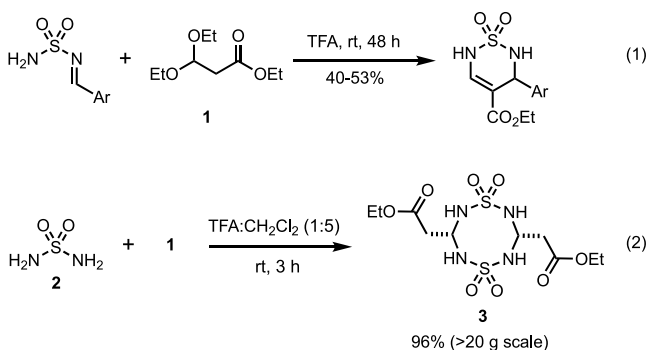
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Scheme 1. Literature Precedent for Thiadiazine 1,1-Dioxide Formation (Eq 1) and Preparation of Dithiatetrazocane 3 (Eq 2)


8-membered ring structure and *cis*-configuration of dithiatetrazocane **3** was assigned based on an X-ray structure analysis (Figure 1). Notably, there are very few compounds of similar connectivity in the literature.^{31–33}

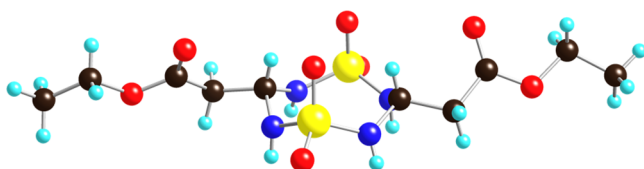


Figure 1. X-ray structure of 1,1,5,5-tetraoxido-1,5,2,4,6,8-dithiatetrazocane-3,7-diyl)diacetate **3** (CCDC 1972400).

Condensation of **3** with benzaldehyde in a 1:1 mixture of TFA and CH₂Cl₂ provided the desired thiadiazine **4a** in 61% yield (Table 1, entry 1). We also explored alternative acidic conditions that were milder and provided **4a** in a higher yield. Polyphosphate ester (PPE),³⁴ BF₃·Et₂O, triflamide, anhydrous HCl, methanesulfonic acid, and TFA:CH₂Cl₂ (1:5) yielded thiadiazine **4a** in lower or comparable yields (entries 2–7). When the quantity of TFA was reduced to 10 mol equiv,

Table 1. Optimization of Thiadiazine 4a Formation from 3

Entry	Conditions	Yield ^a
1	TFA:CH ₂ Cl ₂ (1:1), rt, 30 min	61%
2	PPE, THF, reflux, 40 min	45%
3	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (2 equiv), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , rt, 6 h	65%
4	10% Tf ₃ NH, CH ₂ Cl ₂ , rt, 2.5 h	42%
5	4 M HCl (10 equiv), dioxane, rt, 14 h	47% ^b
6	MeSO ₃ H (5.7 equiv), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 0 °C, 40 min	39%
7	TFA:CH ₂ Cl ₂ (1:5), rt, 3 h	61%
8	TFA (10 equiv), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , rt, 60 h	59%
9	TFA (2.5 equiv), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 40 °C, 30 h	57% ^c
10	TFA (2.5 equiv), HFIP, 35–40 °C, 17 h	66% ^d

^aIsolated yield after chromatography on SiO₂. ^bIsolated in 85% purity. ^cReaction was performed at 0.51 M. ^dReaction was performed at 0.50 M. ^eReaction in the absence of TFA led to the recovery of 81% of **3**.

product was obtained in 59% yield (entry 8). Further reduction of TFA to 2.5 mol equiv was sufficient to obtain **4a** in 57% yield if the reaction concentration was increased to 0.5 M and the mixture was heated to 40 °C for 30 h (entry 9). Due to the limited solubility of the sulfamide dimer **3** in CH₂Cl₂ and our desire to increase the reaction rate, the solvent was changed to hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP). We envisioned this non-nucleophilic alcohol with its remarkable hydrogen bond donor/acceptor capabilities would increase the dissolution of **3** and stabilize ionic intermediates, thus improving the conversion rate and product yield. However, the use of HFIP as a solvent in the presence of 2.5 equiv of TFA provided a modest decrease of the reaction time while producing **4a** in comparable yields (entry 10).

Based on these optimizations, we selected 10–20 mol equiv of TFA in a solution of CH₂Cl₂ for further investigations of the scope of compatible aldehydes in the thiadiazine 1,2-dioxide formation with **3** (Table 2). Aliphatic aldehydes (entries 2–3),

Table 2. Thiadiazine Formation with 3 and Various Aldehydes

Entry	R	4a–j	Yield ^a
1	Ph	4a	66% ^b
2	Me	4b	59%
3	Et	4c	56%
4	2,4-Cl ₂ C ₆ H ₃	4d	70%
5	4-NCC ₆ H ₄	4e	41%
6	4-MeCO ₂ C ₆ H ₄	4f	57%
7	4-CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄	4g	65%
8	2-BrC ₆ H ₄	4h	45%
9	4-AcOC ₆ H ₄	4i	48%
10	3-MeOC ₆ H ₄	4j	62%
11	3-thiophene	4k	30%

^aIsolated yield after chromatography on SiO₂. ^bReaction was performed using TFA (2.5 equiv), HFIP, 35–40 °C, 17 h.

as well as electron deficient (entries 4–8) and electron-rich aryl aldehydes (entries 9–10), provided the cyclocondensation products **4a–4j** in 40–70% yield. The heterocyclic thiophene-3-carboxaldehyde provided **4k** in a modest 30% yield (entry 11). Other heterocyclic aldehydes (furans, quinolines, and pyridines) resulted in the formation of complex mixtures and were not further analyzed.

Next, we examined the possibility of regioselective sequential *N*-alkylation of the two sulfamide nitrogens by exploiting their inherent difference in acidity (pK_a^1 ca. 9.2 vs pK_a^2 ca. 9.5; that is, the vinylogous carbamate sulfamide N(6)-H is calculated to be slightly more acidic)³⁵ as well as their steric environment. Treatment of thiadiazine **4a** with NaH followed by allyl iodide led to a mixture of mono- and dialkylated products. In contrast, Mitsunobu³⁶ conditions with allyl alcohol using DBAD led to a selective (*N*)6-monoalkylation of thiadiazines **4a** and **4b** in good yields (Table 3, entries 1–2). The regiochemistry was determined by NOESY correlations between the methylene hydrogens of the allyl group and the hydrogen of the thiadiazine alkene.

Table 3. Regioselective N(6)-Alkylation of Thiadiazines 4a–d

		4a-d	5a-i	
Entry	4	R ² OH	Yield	Product
1	4a		77%	
2	4b		72%	
3	4c		37% ^a	
4	4a		58%	
5	4a	EtOH	75%	
6	4a	MeI	Quant ^b	
7	4d		53%	
8	4d		52%	
9	4d	Boc ₂ O	86% ^c	

^aDEAD was used in place of DBAD. ^b**4a** was treated with MeI (5 equiv), K₂CO₃, and MeCN. ^cReaction with **4d** (1.1 equiv), Boc₂O (1 equiv), and K₂CO₃ (2.5 equiv).

Furanylmethanol required a change of the dialkylazodicarboxylate to DEAD, which simplified the purification (entry 3). Simple or functionalized alkyl alcohols also gave good conversions (entries 4, 5, and 7). While the yield was slightly lower with 1,4-phenylenedimethanol, monoalkylated product **5h** was readily isolated (entry 8), and a Boc-protection was also highly selective and generated thiadiazine 1,2-dioxide **5i** in 86% yield (entry 9). A symmetrical dialkylation was straightforward by treating **4a** with an excess of MeI in the presence of K₂CO₃ to give **6f** in excellent yield (entry 6).

The alkylation of the thiadiazine N(2) amide was investigated next. Benzylations of **5a** and **5b** were accomplished in the presence of NaH and TBAI to provide **6a** and **6b** in 68 and 71% yield, respectively (Table 4, entries 1–2).

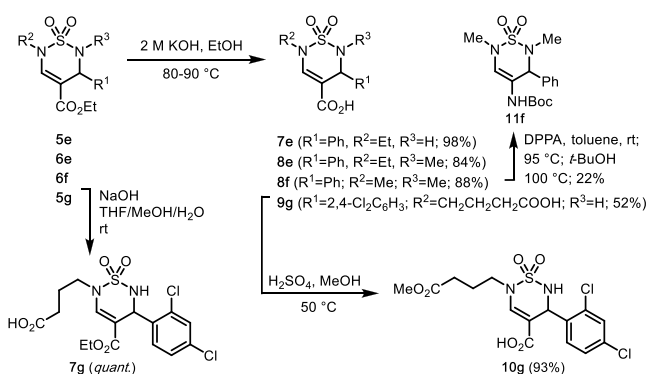
Table 4. N(2)-Alkylation of Thiadiazines 5

		5a-i	6a-i	
Entry	5	R ³ X	Yield	Product 6
1	5a	BnBr	68% ^a	
2	5b	BnBr	71% ^a	
3	5c	MeI	91% ^b	
4	5d	MeI	98% ^b	
5	5e	MeI	Quant ^b	
6	5i		79% ^b	

^aNaH, TBAI, THF. ^bK₂CO₃, MeCN.

N-Methylations of **5c–e** were achieved with K₂CO₃ in MeCN and produced **6c–e** in high yields (Table 4, entries 3–5). An ester-functionalized benzyl bromide was similarly and successfully introduced to generate the Boc-protected diester **6i** (entry 6).

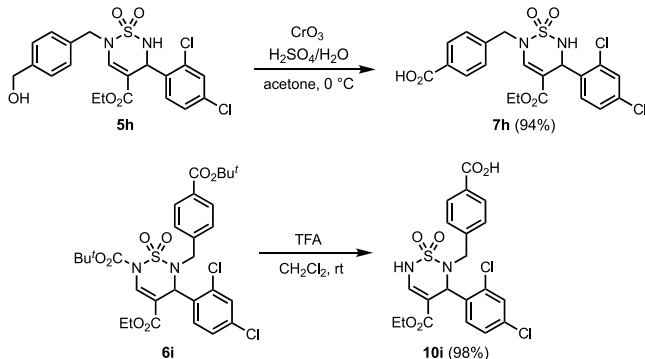
For additional chemical scaffold diversifications, we focused on selective conversions of the C(4)-esters (Scheme 2). Initial attempts at a Lewis acid mediated transesterification, or a mild hydrolysis using TMSOK or Bu₃SnOH, were unsuccessful. Gratifyingly, ester hydrolysis was achieved by heating **5e**, **6e**, **6f**, and **5g** in 2 M KOH in EtOH to provide acids **7e**, **8e**, **8f**, and **9g**, respectively. Under milder conditions with NaOH in THF, MeOH, and water at room temperature, the aliphatic carboxylate in **5g** was saponified selectively, and **7g** was isolated in quantitative yield. Furthermore, diacid **9g** could be selectively re-esterified to the monomethyl ester **10g** under Fischer conditions, thus allowing for a regiospecific conversion of the carboxylate functional groups in diester **5g**. Finally, a Curtius rearrangement of thiadiazine **8f** with DPPA³⁷ afforded

Scheme 2. Saponification of Mono- and Dialkylated Thiadiazines and Curtius Rearrangement of Carboxylate **8f**

the *tert*-butyl carbamate **11f**, providing the first entry to this unprecedented thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide substitution pattern.

Jones oxidation of the side chain alcohol in **5h** provided benzoic acid **7h** in 94% yield, and treatment of **6i** with TFA generated the regioisomeric benzoate **10i** with concomitant removal of the Boc-group (Scheme 3). These transformations added additional versatility and valuable sites for diversifications to the collection of thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide building blocks.

Scheme 3. Selective Formations of Monoacid Thiadiazine 1,1-Dioxides



In order to demonstrate the utility of these building blocks for the preparation of bioactive screening samples, we generated a series of amide and ester analogs and subjected them to a representative biological assay. Amide bond formation using PyBOP and DIPEA, or EDCI, DMAP, and DIPEA, with pyridinyl methanamine proceeded in good yield with thiadiazines **7e** and **8e** to give **11e** and **13e** (Table 5, entries 1 and 4). Hydroxamic acids **12g** and **12h** were obtained by coupling of carboxylic acids **7g** and **7h**, respectively, with THP-protected hydroxylamine in the presence of T_3P and TEA, followed by cleavage of the THP group with Amberlyst-15 resin (entries 2 and 3). *p*-Methoxybenzylamine, *N,N*-dimethylethylenediamine, and morpholine yielded amides **14e**, **15e**, and **16e** (entries 5–7). The formation of hydroxamic esters **17e** and **17f** and benzyl ester **18g** also occurred in moderate to high yield (entries 8–10). Furthermore, methyl hydroxamate **17f** was selectively reduced to the aldehyde **19f** (Scheme 4). We anticipated that this aldehyde would allow access to secondary amines by reductive amination. While one-pot imine formation–reduction conditions were unsuccessful, sequential imine formation using $Ti(i\text{-}PrO)_4$ followed by

Table 5. Amidation and Esterification of Acids **7**, **8**, and **10**

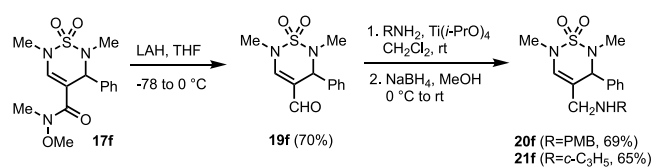
Entry	Acid	Amine/Alcohol	Amide/Ester 11-18
1	7e		
2	7g		
3	7h		
4	8e		
5	8e		
6	8e		
7	8e		
8	8e		
9	8f		
10	10g		

^aCoupling with EDCI, DMAP, DIPEA. ^b T_3P and TEA. ^cAmberlyst-15, MeOH, rt. ^dcoupling with PyBOP, DIPEA

reduction with $NaBH_4$ provided amines **20f** and **21f** in 69% and 65% overall yield from **19f**.

After developing a versatile strategy and reaction conditions for the preparation and sequential functionalization of thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides, we investigated our hypothesis that

Scheme 4. Reduction of Hydroxamide 17f and Reductive Amination of Aldehyde 19f



this heterocyclic core could be a suitable replacement for a dihydropyrimidine-2-one and show similar efficacy in a model of neurodegenerative disease.^{38,39} Therefore, ten structurally related analogs of the Biginelli product MALI-271 were selected for a cell-based screen in a Huntington's disease (HD) model (Figure 2).

HD is an ultimately fatal neurodegenerative disorder that is caused by a polyglutamine repeat expansion in the Huntingtin protein (HTT). Studies in model systems indicate that Hsp70 overexpression reduces the cellular levels of toxic HTT aggregates, and in animals Hsp70 induction can even suppress

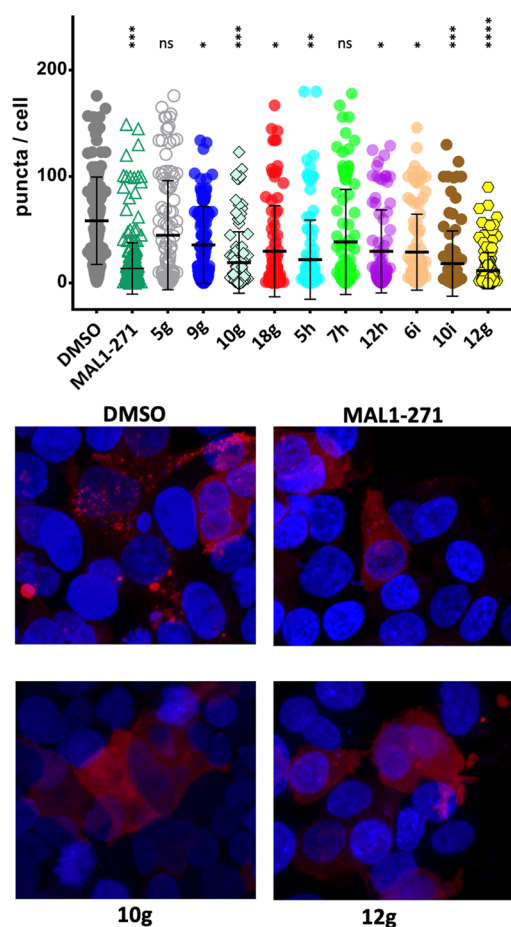


Figure 2. HEK293H cells were transfected with 4 μ g of an HTT17Q-mCherry construct,⁴¹ and 24 h after transfection cells were treated with 10 μ M compound or DMSO for 6 h. Top panel: number of puncta per cell. Statistically significant differences between control and treated samples are indicated by asterisks. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.005$; *** $p < 0.0005$; **** $p < 0.00005$ compared to the DMSO control. Bottom panel: representative cell images for negative control (DMSO), positive control (MALI-271), and analogs 10g and 12g. Toxic aggregates are shown as red dots. See SI for additional information.

some of the negative consequences of polyglutamine expansion.⁴⁰ Based on the fact that MALI-271 functions as an Hsp70 agonist, we examined ten diverse analogs, i.e. 5g, 5h, 6i, 7h, 9g, 10g, 10i, 12g, 12h, and 18g, for their ability to blunt the formation of toxic aggregates in HEK293 cells that express an HTT exon containing 17 glutamine repeats. Among these compounds, 5g, 9g, 10g, 12g, and 18g show a closer structural resemblance to MALI-271 than 5h, 6i, 7h, 10i, and 12h. We discovered that several analogs reduced the number of cellular puncta/aggregates compared to the DMSO control. Cells were stained for confocal microscope imaging with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), a fluorescent dye with high affinity to adenine–thymine rich DNA regions. A bright spot detection tool was used to identify and quantify the number of protein aggregates (“dots”) per cell.

Compared to the MALI-271 positive control, 5g, 9g, 18g, 5h, 7h, 12h, and 6i were less effective ($p < 0.0001$), whereas 10g and 10i were equally effective (Figure 2). Thiadiazine 12g exhibited even a slightly greater effect on aggregate suppression than MALI-271 ($p < 0.05$). Interestingly, the chemotype of 10g and 12g is closely related to MALI-271, but 10i represents a novel heterocycle substitution pattern that can serve as a starting point for new structure–activity studies (Figure 3).

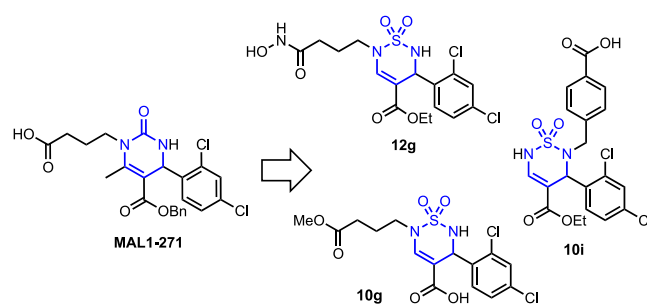


Figure 3. Structures of Hsp70 agonist MALI-271 and thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide analogs that showed similar activity in the HD model assay. The respective Biginelli (dihydropyrimidinone) and thiadiazine scaffolds are highlighted in blue.

It is interesting to note that 12g is a hydroxamic acid analog of MALI-271; in order to address the possibility that 12g or another analog exerted antiaggregation effects due to inhibition of a histone deacetylase (HDAC),⁴² we counter-screened actives 10g, 10i, 12g, and 12h (negative control) against HDAC 1–8 (Table 1 in the Supporting Information). None of the active compounds, in particular not even the hydroxamic acid 12g, displayed significant HDAC 1–6 inhibition at 0.1–1 μ M concentrations. Only hydroxamic acid 12h showed 40% inhibition of HDAC 7 at 1 μ M, and all compounds showed moderate inhibition (35–60%) of HDAC 8 at 1 μ M concentration in the assay. The absence of a clear correlation between HDAC inhibition and activity in the HD assay for hydroxamates 12g and 12h suggests that the active hit compound 12g does not reduce cellular HTT aggregates due to direct HDAC inhibition. Moreover, HDAC6, which has been implicated in heat shock protein gene expression,⁴³ was also not inhibited by hydroxamates 12g and 12h at 0.2 μ M concentration. However, since the biochemical assays at higher concentrations were prevented by low aqueous solubility, we cannot exclude the possibility of some HDAC inhibition in HEK293H cells at 10 μ M concentration.

In summary, we have developed a versatile strategy for the preparation and selective functionalization of thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides, a relatively rare heterocycle that has previously been underutilized in medicinal chemistry screening campaigns. In addition, we have demonstrated the utility of this scaffold as a potential biomimetic of the privileged Biginelli heterocycle, the dihydropyrimidinone. The identification of active analogs of the Hsp70 agonist dihydropyrimidinone MAL1-271, i.e. thiadiazines **10g**, **10i**, and **12g**, in a relevant cell based biological assay highlights the potential application of thiadiazine 1,1-dioxides in hit identification in general, and specifically in Huntington's disease and perhaps other neurodegenerative diseases associated with the accumulation of toxic protein aggregates.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsmchemlett.0c00018>.

Experimental details and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for new synthetic intermediates and products. Assay information. (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1972400 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for compound **3** in this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: + 44 1223 336033.

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Author Contributions

[¶]L. Terrab, C. J. Rosenker, and L. Johnstone contributed equally to this work and should be considered cofirst authors. The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

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Notes

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■ ABBREVIATIONS

DAPI, 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole; DBAD, di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate; DEAD, diethyl azodicarboxylate; DIPEA, diisopropylethylamine; DMAP, 4-dimethylaminopyridine; DPPA, diphenylphosphoryl azide; EDCI, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide; HD, Huntington's disease; HDAC, histone deacetylase; HFIP, hexafluoroisopropanol; PPE, polyphosphate ester; HSF1, heat shock factor 1; Hsp70, heat shock protein 70 kDa; HTT, Huntingtin protein; PyBOP, benzotriazol-1-yl-oxytripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate; TBAI, tetrabutylammonium iodide; TEA, triethylamine; T₃P, propanephosphonic acid anhydride

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