## **Supplemental Materials**

# Furoxans (1, 2, 5 Oxadiazole-N-Oxides) as Novel NO Mimetic Neuroprotective and Procognitive Agents

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#### **Cysteine depletion with furoxans**

The appropriate furoxan (250  $\mu$ M) was dissolved in a solution of PBS (50 mM, pH 7.4, /CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1); and L-cysteine (2.5 mM) was added followed by incubation at 37 °C for 4 h. Aliquots were analyzed by mixing with DTNB solution [750  $\mu$ M, in PBS 50 mM, pH 7.0]) for 5 min. UV absorbance of DTNB mixture was measured at 412 nm using a Dynex MRX II microplate spectrophotometer and calibrated using a standard curve constructed using L-cysteine in the presence of DTNB to yield total reduced cysteine concentration. Values were plotted against time and showed significant background cysteine oxidation in the absence of furoxans (Figure S1). Observed rate constants were calculated using a nonlinear first order rate decay and are listed within Figure S1. Additional experiments were therefore carried out under hypoxic conditions, and in the presence of metal ion chelators to discourage redox metal facilitated oxidation with scarce amounts of  $O_2$  (described in experimental portion of manuscript).



**Figure S1**. Cysteine remaining as free thiol upon incubation of cysteine (2.5 mM) with the appropriate furoxan (250  $\mu$ M) for 4 h under normoxic conditions at 37 °C in PBS (50 mM, pH 7.4)/ CH3CN (1:1), with 1 mM EDTA. Reduced cysteine quantified using UV absorbance following treatment with DTNB solution.

#### **Nitrite Production from Furoxans**

The parent furoxan (250  $\mu$ M) was dissolved in PBS (50 mM, pH 7.4)/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1); L-cysteine (2.5 mM) was added and the mixture incubated at  $37^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. Aliquots (taken at 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 18 & 24 h) were incubated for 10 min with griess reagent A (1.0 % sulfanilamide, 5.0 % H3PO4 in dH2O)/ griess reagent B (0.1 % (N-1-naphthyl)ethylenediamine dihydrochloride in dH2O). UV absorbance at 530 nm was measured using a Dynex MRX II microplate spectrophotometer and calibrated using a standard curve constructed with NaNO<sub>2</sub> to yield nitrite concentration. Furoxans were found to give maximum  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  generation within 24 h. Addition of L-cysteine (1000 uM) after 24 h gave no increase in  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  generation, ruling out the possibility of complete cysteine oxidation being responsible for lack of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  generation beyond 24 h. A full time course was not acquired for **6b** and **7c**, as the 18 & 24 h time points were sufficient for our purposes.



 **Figure S2**. Time course of nitrite production upon incubation of cysteine (2.5 mM) with the appropriate furoxan (250  $\mu$ M) at 37 °C in PBS (50 mM, pH 7.4). Aliquots were analyzed at (1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 18, and 24 h). Observed rate constants calculated using linear regression analysis of 1- 18 h time points.

#### **Mechanistic Reactivity Analysis**

Reactivity of the furoxans were assessed via incubation of the appropriate furoxan (75 µM) with L-cysteine (2.5 mM) in phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.4) at 37  $\degree$ C for 2 h. The products were then separated and analyzed by HPLC-MS/MS. Peak integration from UV absorbance ( $\lambda = 250$ ) nm) spectra gave the relative abundance of each reaction product, and was correlated with the TIC chromatogram to identify peaks by MS/MS analysis.

#### **Analysis of Reaction of 6a with L-cysteine**

After 2 h in the presence of excess cysteine, **6a** yielded three main reaction products, and tentative structures have been assigned based on the observed m/z values (Figure S2). Approximately 72 % of **6a** remained after 2 h, and no cysteine adduct was observed. One of the three major products, **E** ( $\sim$ 8-12 %), was found to be the likely end product NO<sub>x</sub> release. Interestingly, it appears that  $E$  is present as a mixture of isomers, which have the same  $m/z$ values but slightly different retention times. The relative formation of **E** from 6a ( $\sim$ 8-12 %) corresponds well with the observe  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  production of 6a (~13 % mol/mol), and helps support formation of  $E$  as indicative of  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  release from this molecule.



**Figure S2.** HPLC-UV<sub>( $\lambda$  = 250nm) chromatogram of the reaction between **6a** (75 µM) with L-</sub> cysteine (2.5 mM) in phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.4) at 37 °C for 2 h. Peaks identified by LC-MS/MS analysis.

#### **Analysis of Reaction of 6c with L-cysteine**

S7 The relatively high and complex reactivity of **6c** compared to the other furoxans studied is easily noticed upon examination of the reaction profiles by HPLC-MS/MS (Figure S3). **6c** gave some products that were not seen for any of the other derivatives studied, namely products **I** & **II**.  $I \left(\sim 5\% \right)$  corresponds to a product likely resulting from the peptidomimetic triazole **I** acting as a stable leaving group. **II** represents a hydroxylamine containing molecule which represents  $~55$ % of total products, presumably formed as the result of a highly energetic intermediate that results in the breaking apart of the furoxan ring itself. **I** and **II** are speculated to be responsible

for the large amounts of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  observed from 6c in the griess assay. The  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  releasing product (**E**) only represents approximately 10 % of the entire reaction products. In the manuscript, **6c** was omitted from the correlation of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  versus neuroprotection due to the atypical  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ production observed; however, if considering the relative amount of  $\mathbf{E}$  as indicative of NO<sub>x</sub> release, 6c would fit adequately into our correlation for  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  and neuroprotection. These findings signify the complex and high reactivity of **6c**, and support our hypothesis that in this circumstance,  $NO_2$ <sup>-</sup> generation does not correlate with biologically relevant  $NO_x$  produced.



S8 **Figure S3.** HPLC-UV<sub>( $\lambda$  = 250nm) chromatogram of the reaction between 6c (75 µM) with L-</sub> cysteine (2.5 mM) in phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.4) at 37 °C for 2 h. Peaks identified by LC-MS/MS analysis.

#### **<sup>18</sup>O-incoporation Studies**

The following mechanistic  ${}^{18}O$ -incoporation data was excluded from the original manuscript because it tended to detract from the flow and focus of the text; however, the results are novel and noteworthy for those interested in furoxan mechanistic chemistry.

To gain further mechanistic understanding about the formation and existence of the keto-oxime product  $(E)$ , we performed isotope labeling studies utilizing  $H_2^{18}O$ . Incubations were carried out similarly to those used for mechanistic analysis, with the implementation of H<sup>2</sup> <sup>18</sup>O. **6c** or **7c** (150  $\mu$ M) were incubated in equal volumes of PBS (50  $\mu$ M, pH 7.4)/ H<sub>2</sub>O or H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O in the presence of excess cysteine (5 mM) at 37 °C for 2 h. Reaction aliquots were analyzed by HPLC-MS/MS (Figure S4). Control experiments containing the naturally abundant  ${}^{16}O$  afforded the aforementioned keto-oxime product, **E** (**6c**, Figure S4-A; **7c**, Figure S4-C), with a [M+H<sup>+</sup> ] of 562.2 m/*z*. Interestingly, we observed implementation of  $^{18}$ O into the product corresponding to **E** (**6c**, Figure S4-B; **7c**, Figure S4-D), with a mass of 564.2 m/z. The ratio of  ${}^{16}O$ :  ${}^{18}O$  incorporated in **E** was proportional to the relative amounts of PBS/H<sub>2</sub>O or  $H_2^{18}O$ , approximately 1:1. These results clearly demonstrate that the -OH in  $\bf{E}$  originates from H<sub>2</sub>O, and not from molecular O<sub>2</sub>, or a complex and unlikely rearrangement of the parent N-Oxide moiety itself. Despite the distinctive differences in the reactivity of **6c** and **7c**, the incorporation of <sup>18</sup>O into **E** is equivalent in both instances, suggesting a common mechanistic pathway leading to the formation of the keto oxime product, and correspondingly,  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  related biological activity.



**Figure S4**. Mass spectrum demonstrating incorporation of  $^{18}$ O into **III** (ESI (+) mode). **6c** (150)  $\mu$ M) incubated with cysteine in PBS (50  $\mu$ M, pH 7.4)/ H<sub>2</sub>O (A) or H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O (B) (1:1 [v/v]) for 2 h at 37 °C. **7c** (150 µM) incubated with cysteine in PBS (50 µM, pH 7.4)/ H<sub>2</sub>O (C) or H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O (D) (1:1 [v/v]) for 2 h at 37  $\degree$ C.

#### **Additional Synthetic Protocols**



**(S)-2-(4-Fluorophenylsulfonamido)-3-methylbutanoic acid (12).** 

4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (1.0 g, 8 mmol in THF [8 ml]) was added dropwise for 10 min to a solution of L-valine (1.0 g, 8 mmol) in 1 M NaOH (21 ml) at  $0^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then acidified to  $pH \sim 2$  using 1 M HCl, and the resulting aqueous solution extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 75 ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (2 x 30 ml), dried over  $Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$  and concentrated under vacuum to give a white solid. Column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate [1:3]) gave the desired product as a white solid (1.46 g, 66.3 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(DMSO-d^6, 400 MHz)$ :  $\delta$  12.60 (bs, 1H); 8.08-8.06 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz); 7.85-7.80 (q, 2H); 7.41-7.36 (t, 2H); 3.56-3.50 (t, 1H); 2.00-1.90 (m, 1H); 0.83-0.80 (dd, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sup>6</sup>, 100 MHz): 172.52, 165.67, 163.18, 138.01(d, J = 3.0 Hz), 130.04, 129.94, 116.49, 116.27, 61.69, 30.77, 19.44, 18.22.

**(S)-2-(4-Fluorophenylsulfonamido)-3-methyl-N-(prop-2-ynyl)butanamide (13)**. A round bottom was charged with **12** (2.1 g, 7.6 mmol), EDCI (1.8 g, 9.2 mmol), HOBT (1.2 g, 9.2 mmol) in DMF (10 ml) at 0 °C. A separately prepared mixture of propargyl amine (420 mg, 7.62 mmol), and DIPEA (6.0 ml, 38 mmol) was added dropwise to the activated acid at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 8 h. The mixture was then diluted

with ice water (100 ml), and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 150 ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine  $(2 \times 50 \text{ ml})$ , dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to give a crude yellow solid which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate  $(8:1 \rightarrow 4:1)$  to give the desired product as a white solid (1.62 g, 68.0 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (MeOD- $d^4$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$ 7.88-7.85 (q, 2H); 7.27-7.23 (t, 2H); 3.75-3.59 (qd, 2H); 3.47-3.45 (d, 1H); 2.56-2.53 (m, 1H); 1.92-1.84 (m, 1H); 0.94-0.77 (dd, 6H). ESI-HRMS (m/z):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{17}FN_2O_3S$ : 313.0968, observed: 313.1003.  $[M-H]^+$  calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{17}FN_2O_3S$ : 311.0919, observed: 311.0885.



**2,8-Dimethyl-5-(prop-2-ynyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[4,3-b]indole (15)**. Potassium *tert*-butoxide (152 mg, 1.35 mmol) in DMF (2 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the carbazole,  $14$ ,  $(270 \text{ mg}, 1.35 \text{ mmol}$  [synthesized following published procedures]<sup>1</sup>) in DMF (5 ml). After 15 min propargyl bromide (210 mg, 1.45 mmol) and KI (8 mg) were added and the reaction brought to 80 °C for 12 h. After cooling to rt, the reaction was diluted w/H<sub>2</sub>O (30 ml), extracted w/ethyl acetate (3 x 50 ml). Combined organic extracts were dried over  $Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$  and concentrated to give a crude red oil, which was purified by column chromatography to give the product as yellow solid (195 mg, 60.6 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl3): 7.27-7.25 (d, 1H, J = 8.59Hz); 7.22 (s, 1H); 7.05-7.03 (d, 1H, J = 8.19Hz); 4.749-4.743 (d, 2H, J = 2.36Hz); 3.67 (s, 2H); 2.92-2.87 (m, 4H); 2.58 (s, 3H); 2.46 (s, 3H); 2.25-2.24 (t, 1H). 13C NMR (100MHz, CDCl3): 134.26, 132.49, 128.27, 125.89, 122.18, 117.28, 108.25, 108.18, 78.02, 71.75, 51.99, 51.32, 45.31, 31.90, 22.29, 21.05.



**(S)-Ethyl 4-methyl-2-(phenylsulfonamido)pentanoate (16)**. *L*-Leucine ethyl ester hydrochloride (1 g, 5.11 mmol) was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and pyridine (1.6 µL, 15.3 mmol) and reaction brought to 0  $\degree$ C. Benzenesulfonyl chloride (654 µL, 5.11 mmol) was then added dropwise and reaction stirred for 12 hr at rt. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate [10:1]) to give the desired product as a light yellow solid (1.25g, 85.7 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.87-7.85 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz); 7.60-7.49 (m, 3H); 5.05-5.02 (d, 1H, J = 10.0 Hz); 3.97-3.93 (m, 1H); 3.91-3.88 (g, 2H); 1.86-1.78 (m, 1H); 1.58-1.46 (t, 2H); 1.10-1.07 (t, 3H); 0.93-0.90 (t, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): 171.52, 140.87, 132.45, 129.04, 126.46, 60.53, 54.03, 40.66, 23.84, 22.46, 21.02, 13.77.

**(S)-4-Methyl-2-(phenylsulfonamido)pentanoic acid (17)**. 17 (600 mg, 2 mmol) was dissolved in THF/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (6 ml: 2 ml: 1 ml) and brought to 0 °C. LiOH (100 mg, 4 mmol) was then added in on portion and reaction allowed to warm to room temperature, monitored by TLC. After 4 h the reaction was diluted with ice water, and washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The aqueous layer was then acidified to  $pH \sim 2$  using 1 N HCl. Aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 75 ml), followed by washing combined organic layers with brine (2 x 30 ml). Organic layer was dried over  $Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$  and concentrated to give the pure acid without further purification (286 mg, 50.1 %) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 7.85-7.83 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz); 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H); 6.87 (bs, 1H); 5.12 (bs, 1H); 3.98-3.89 (m, 1H); 1.72-1.65 (m, 1H); 1.50-1.48 (m, 2H); 0.85-0.74 (dd, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl3, 100 MHz): 173.26, 141.10, 132.35, 129.01, 126.48, 54.16, 41.06, 30.73, 23.88, 22.65, 21.10.

#### **Crystallography**

The furoxan (**6c**) was chosen for crystallographic examination. Molecular formula:  $C_{23}H_{23}FN_8O_7S$ , formula weight: 1149.11, crystal system: Orthorhombic,  $P2_12_12_1$  (#19) with unit cell dimensions: a = 11.334 (1) Å b = 21.427 (2) Å, c = 21.643 (1) Å, Volume = 5256.1 (6) Å<sup>3</sup>; Z, calculated density = 8, 1.452 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>, Absorption coefficient = 0.190 mm<sup>-1</sup>. A colorless needle, with dimensions  $2 \times 2 \times 40$  µm, was selected for data collection. The crystal was cooled to 100 K and aligned in the x-ray beam at sector 22 (SER-CAT) on the ID beamline at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Lab. Data collection was carried out at a wavelength of 0.80 Å using 5° rotations and exposure time of 1 sec, and collected with a MAR 300 mm CCD detector. 72 images were indexed and integrated using XDS, and averaged over mmm symmetry. The structure was solved using SHELX-97, and refined using WinGX and SHELXL; ORTEP was used to generate the molecular figures. Hydrogen atoms were added to the model in idealized positions. The final model gave agreement factors (R indices) of  $R1 = 0.0407$ , wR2 = 0.1030. We observed two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit, confirming the presence of the oxadiazole-2-oxide structure within the structures.





<b>Crystal Parameters</b>				
crystal system	Orthorhombic			
space group	$P2_12_12_1\#19$			
a(A)	11.334(1)			
b(A)	21.427(2)			
c(A)	21.643(1)			
Data Collection Statistics				
$#$ of measured reflections	56827			
$#$ of unique reflections	9831			
Completeness $(\% )$	98.3 %			
<b>Refinement Statistics</b>				
Resolution Range (A)	1.51 to 29.22°			
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$			
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.089			
Final R indices $[I>2(I)]$	$R1 = 0.0407$ , wR2 = 0.1030			

**Table S1.** Summary from Data Collection and Structure Refinement

**Table S2.** Atomic coordinates  $(\times 10^4)$  and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters  $(A^{2} \times 10^{3})$  for UIC09010 (6c). U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U<sub>ij</sub>

tensor.









$F(1)-C(1)$	1.362(4)	$F(31)-C(31)$	1.377(4)
$C(1)-C(6)$	1.360(5)	$C(31)-C(36)$	1.352(5)
$C(1)-C(2)$	1.366(5)	$C(31)-C(32)$	1.354(5)
$C(2)-C(3)$	1.396(5)	$C(32)-C(33)$	1.388(5)
$C(3)-C(4)$	1.379(4)	$C(33)-C(34)$	1.374(4)
$C(4)-C(5)$	1.399(4)	$C(34)-C(35)$	1.387(4)
$C(4)$ -S(4)	1.764(3)	$C(34)$ -S(34)	1.770(3)
$C(5)-C(6)$	1.383(5)	$C(35)-C(36)$	1.374(4)
$S(4)-O(2)$	1.431(2)	$S(34)-O(32)$	1.434(2)
$S(4)-O(1)$	1.432(2)	$S(34)-O(31)$	1.423(2)
$N(4)-C(7)$	1.470(3)	$N(34)-C(37)$	1.478(3)
$C(7)$ - $C(11)$	1.521(3)	$C(37)-C(41)$	1.533(3)
$C(7)-C(8)$	1.542(3)	$C(37) - C(38)$	1.545(4)
$C(8)-C(9)$	1.520(4)	$C(38)-C(39)$	1.512(4)
$C(8)-C(10)$	1.525(4)	$C(38)-C(40)$	1.519(4)
$C(11)-O(11)$	1.236(3)	$C(41)-O(41)$	1.223(3)
$C(11)-N(11)$	1.319(3)	$C(41)$ -N $(41)$	1.332(3)
$N(11)-C(12)$	1.465(3)	$N(41)-C(42)$	1.463(3)
$C(12)-C(13)$	1.492(3)	$C(42) - C(43)$	1.499(4)
$S(4)$ -N(4)	1.611(2)	$S(34)$ -N $(34)$	1.605(2)
$C(13)-N(13)$	1.356(3)	$C(43)$ -N $(43)$	1.354(3)
$C(13)-C(14)$	1.372(4)	$C(43) - C(44)$	1.372(4)
$N(13)-N(15)$	1.323(3)	$N(43) - N(45)$	1.327(3)
$C(14)-N(14)$	1.339(3)	$C(44)$ -N $(44)$	1.342(3)
$N(14)-N(15)$	1.336(3)	$N(44) - N(45)$	1.345(3)
$N(14)-C(15)$	1.477(3)	$N(44)-C(45)$	1.464(3)
$C(15)-C(16)$	1.481(3)	$C(45)-C(46)$	1.491(4)

 **Table S3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [˚] for UIC09010.**

 $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$  , where  $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$  , where  $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$ 



**Table S4.** Bond angles [°] for UIC09010 (**6c**).









### **References**

1. Lizarzaburu, M. E.; Shuttleworth, S. J. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-[gamma]-carbolinium salts: novel reactions with thiols, mediated by polymer-supported reagents. *Tetrahedron Letters* 2004, 45, 4781-4783.

 $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$  , where  $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$  , where  $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}$