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## Methylpiperazine derivatives with 1,3,5-triazine scaffold - a novel group of ligands for serotonin receptors 5-HT<sub>6</sub>

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The 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor is the most recently identified member of the 5-HT receptor superfamily. Intensive preclinical studies have shown that 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R antagonists could be a promising drug with cognitive improvement in psychiatric (e.g. schizophrenia, depression) or neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. Alzheimer's disease), and for obesity treatment [1]. Not only antagonists but also agonists have potency for the treatment of obesity or cognitive disfunctions [2]. In this context, the search for new ligands of the 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R is a current topic in medicinal chemistry. Recently, 2-amino-4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-1,3,5-triazine derivatives have been described as histamine H<sub>4</sub> receptor ligands [3], i.e. **TR7** and **TR20** (Fig. 1). As first known selective 5-HT<sub>6</sub> ligands, e.g. **RO046790** (Fig. 1), contain some structural similarities to 2,4,6-trisubstituted 1,3,5-triazines, we decided to investigate this interesting chemical group on its potency toward 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors.

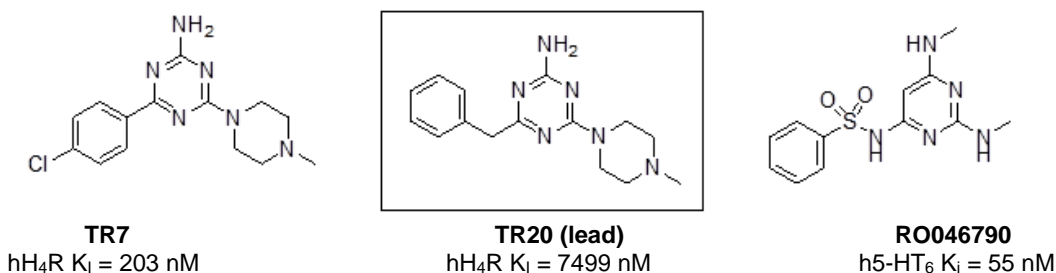


Fig. 1

Docking studies and radioligand binding assays for compounds **TR7** and **TR20** indicated significant 5-HT<sub>6</sub> affinity for compound **TR20**, whereas the **TR7** was almost inactive. Thus, the compound **TR20** was selected as a lead structure for further modifications to give a series of 14 benzyl-triazine derivatives of methylpiperazine. Synthesis, molecular modelling and radioligand binding assays have been performed. Nine new compounds displayed higher affinity for 5-HT<sub>6</sub> than **TR20**. The docking-based SAR studies indicated a crucial role of substituent at *m*-position of benzyl ring for the considered 5-HT<sub>6</sub> affinity.

[1] D. Marazziti, et al. *Curr. Med. Chem.* 20 (2013) 371-377.

[2] D. Karila, et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 58 (2015) 7901-7912.

[3] D. Łażewska et al. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 83 (2014) 534-546.

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