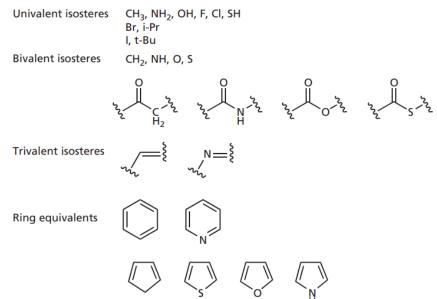
Classical isosteres



Non-classical isosteres

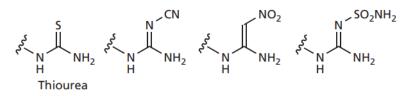


FIGURE 13.46 Non-classical isosteres for a thiourea group.

Bioisostere

both classical and non-classical isosteres

a group that can be used to replace another group while retaining the desired biological activity

often used to replace a functional group that is important for target binding, but is problematic in one way or another (e.g. Toxicity)

replacing a functional group with a bioisostere is NOT guaranteed to retain activity for every drug at every target

In some situations, the use of a bioisostere can actually increase target interactions and/or selectivity

The results of bioisosteric replacement

- Structural: conformation; size; bond angle
 Scaffold hopping can be seen as an example
- 2) Receptor interactions: most relevant parameters will be size, shape, electronic properties, pKa, chemical reactivity, and hydrogen bonding.
- **3) Pharmacokinetics**: optimization of absorption, transport, and excretion properties of the molecule the most important parameters to consider are lipophilicity, hydrophilicity, hydrogen bonding, pKa
- 4) Metabolism: Chemical reactivity is an important property to optimize

Bioisosteres

monovalent bioisosteres

D and H F and H NH and OH RSH and ROH F, OH, NH₂ and CH₃ Cl, Br, SH and OH C and Si

bivalent biososteres in which two single

bonds are affected C=C, C=N, C=O, C=S -CH₂-, -NH-, -O-, -S-RCOR', RCONHR', RCOOR', RCOSR'

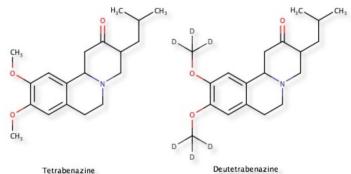
trivalent bioisosteres in which three

bonds are affected R₃CH, R₃N R₄C, R₄Si, R₄N⁺ alkene, imine -CH=CH-, -S--CH= and -N=C

Replacement of Hydrogen by Deuterium

- minor impact on the physicochemical properties
- usually introduced to modulate metabolism
- If the bond to the H being replaced is broken during the rate-determining step - Kinetic isotopic effect

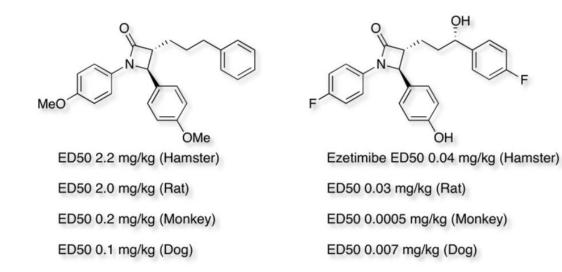
Slow epimerization



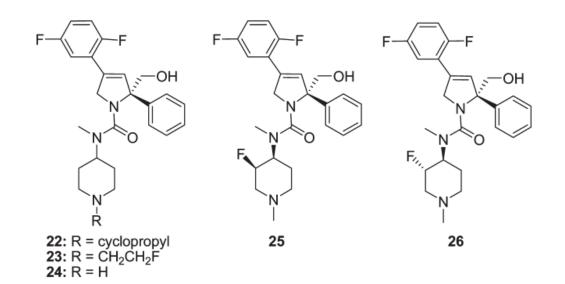
Tetrabenazine (treatment of Huntington's Disease-Related Chorea) is well absorbed but it has relatively low bioavailability and the primary route for metabolism is via oxidation by CYP2D6. Deutetrabenazine from Teva - the half-life nearly twice that of tetrabenazine, allowing it to be administered twice rather than three times a day, and at lower doses, thus reducing peak concentration adverse effects while maintaining efficacy. Replacement of Hydrogen by Fluorine

Fluorine

- introduced to reduce basicity of proximal amines or increase acidity of proximal acids
- to introduce a conformational bias in molecules
- C-F bond is strong and thus resistant to metabolic cleavage
- is highly electron-withdrawing serves to reduce the potential for oxidative metabolism



Review: K.L. Kirk *Current Topics in Medicinal Chemistry*, **2006**, *6* (14), 1447 Fluorine as a bioisotere of H: N.A. Meanwell J. Med. Chem. **2018**, *61*, 5822 The strategic deployment of a fluorine atom to modulate basicity was probed in the context of inhibitors of kinesin spindle protein (KSP)



23 was dealkylated in rat liver microsomes (RLM) as the major metabolic pathway to afford 24 and fluoroacetaldehyde, which was oxidized to fluoroacetic acid, a highly toxic substance F substituent in the piperidine ring where the effect on pKa was dependent on stereochemical disposition. In the trans analogue **26**, the F in equatorial position - reduction in basicity from pKa = 8.8 to pKa = 6.6. In contrast, in the cis isomer **25**, the F is disposed axially, effect on basicity - pKa = 7.6. This compound, MK-0731 (**25**), was subsequently advanced into clinical trials.

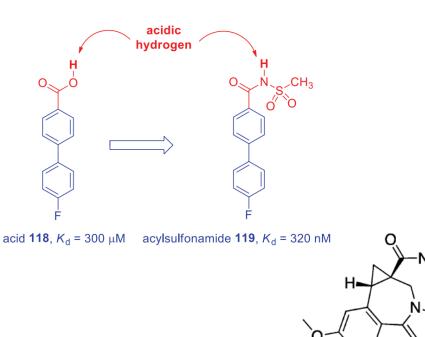
0,0

Beclabuvir (Anti-HCV)

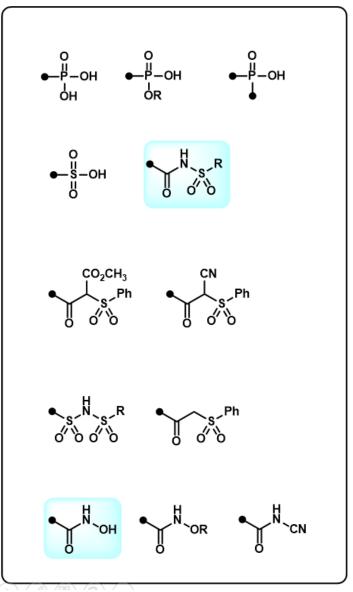
Carboxylic acid isosteres

Effect:

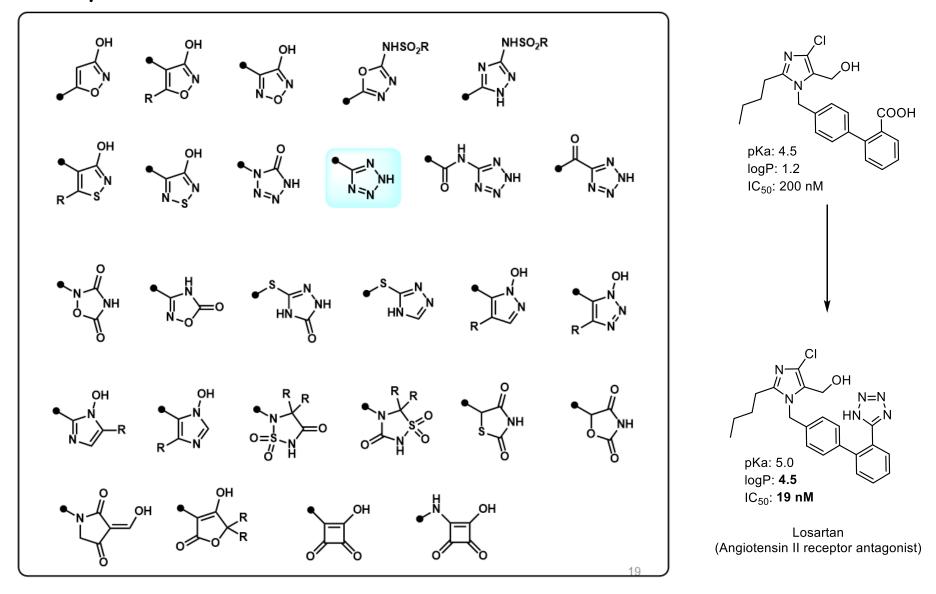
- Enhancing potency
- Reducing polarity
- Increasing lipophilicity (improve membrane permeability)
- Enhancing pharmacokinetic properties
- Reducing the potential for toxicity



Common isosteres

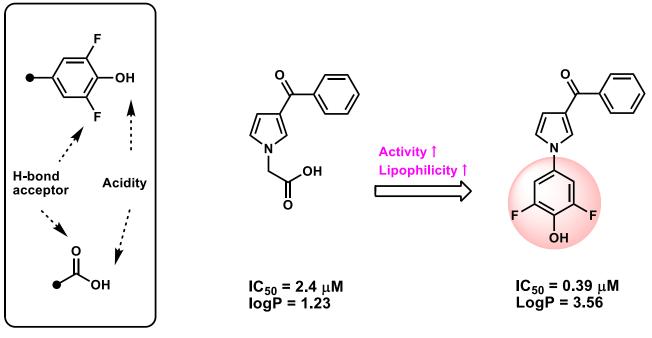


Carboxylic acid isosteres



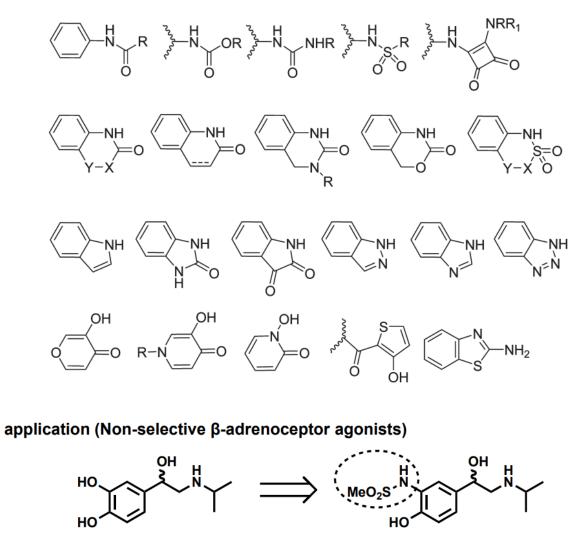
Bioisosteres

Carboxylic acid isosteres



Aldose reductase inhibitors (Diabetes)

Replacement phenol or catechol

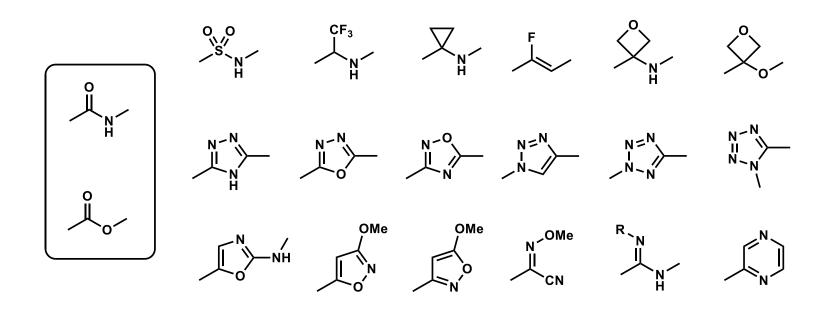


resistance toward COMT(catechol O-methyl transferase)

Paruch

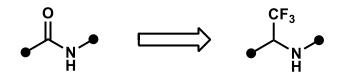
Replacement of amides and esters

Amide isosteres - modulating polarity and bioavailability Ester isosteres - address metabolism issues (esters can be rapidly cleaved in vivo)



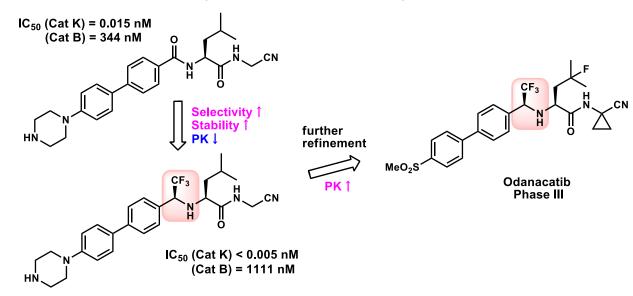
Replacement of amides and esters

The trifluoroethylamine can act as an isostere of an amide moiety in peptide-based molecules.



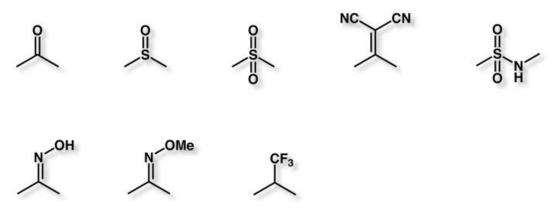
- Reducing the basicity of the amine without compromising of the NH to function as a H-bond donor
- $CF_3CH(R)NHR'$ bond is close to 120° observed with an amide
- C-CF₃ bond is as polar as C=O bond

Cathepsin K inhibitor (Osteoporosis)

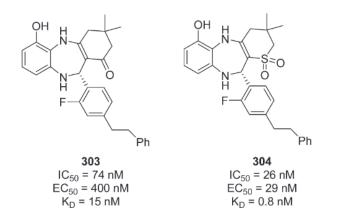


C.R.J. Stephenson et al. ACS Med. Chem. Lett. 2020, 11, 10, 1785–1788

Replacement of carbonyl



Simple ketones and aldehydes - typically low prevalence in drugs because of their potential chemical reactivity (e.g. reduction/oxidation)

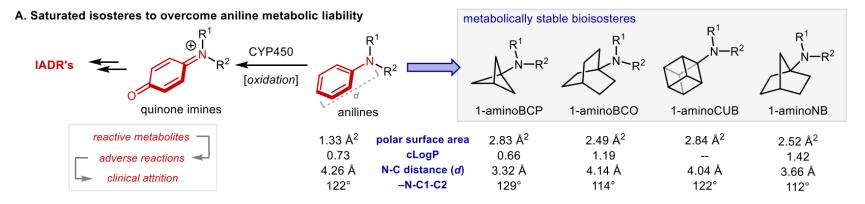


 $H_{3}CO \bigoplus_{OCH_{3}}^{N} O \bigoplus_{N} O \bigoplus_{H_{3}CO \bigoplus_{OCH_{3}}}^{F} O \bigoplus_{H_{3}CO \bigoplus_{OCH_{3}}}^{F} O \bigoplus_{OCH_{3}}^{F} O \bigoplus_{OCH$

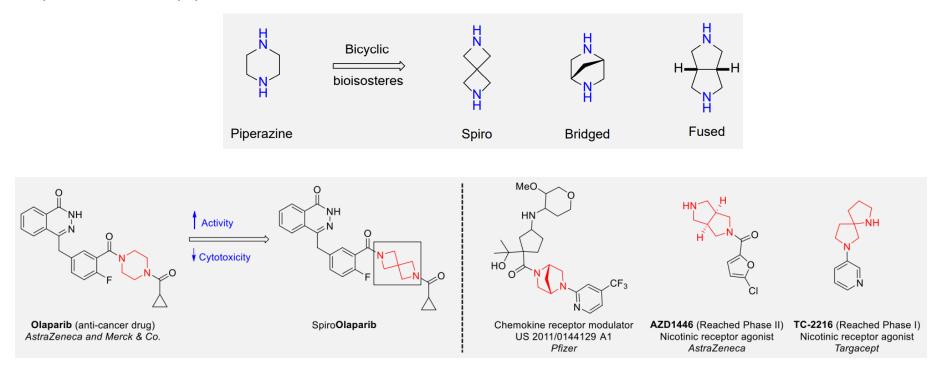
K. Vandyck et al. J. Med. Chem. 2009, 52, 4099–4102 G. M. Dubowchik et al. Org. Lett. 2001, 3, 3987–3990

N. A. Meanwell J. Med. Chem. 2011, 54, 2529–2591

Replacement of aniline

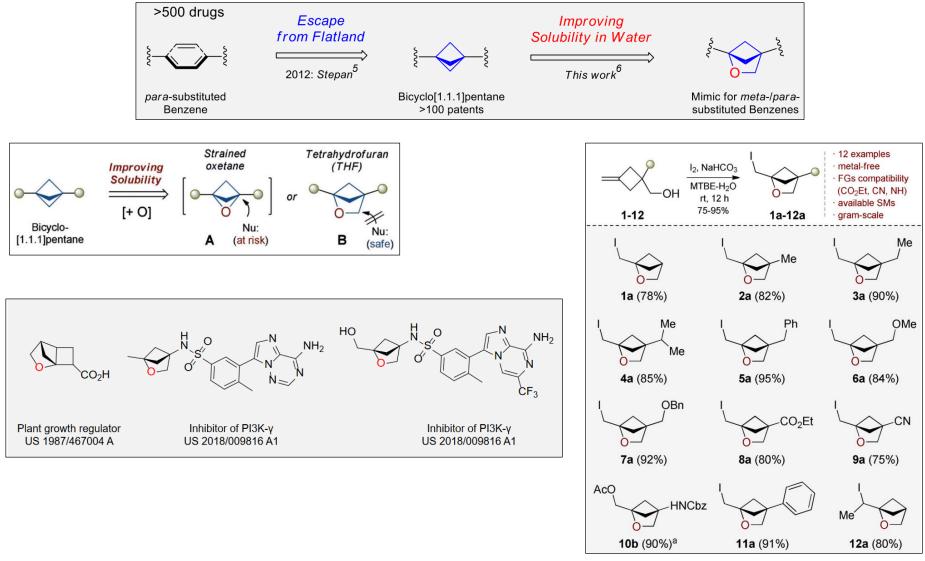


Replacement of piperazine



https://enamine.net/download/MedChem/Enamine_Piperazine-Bioisosteres-2019.pdf P.H. Mykhailiuk et al *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2020**, *59*, 7161–7167

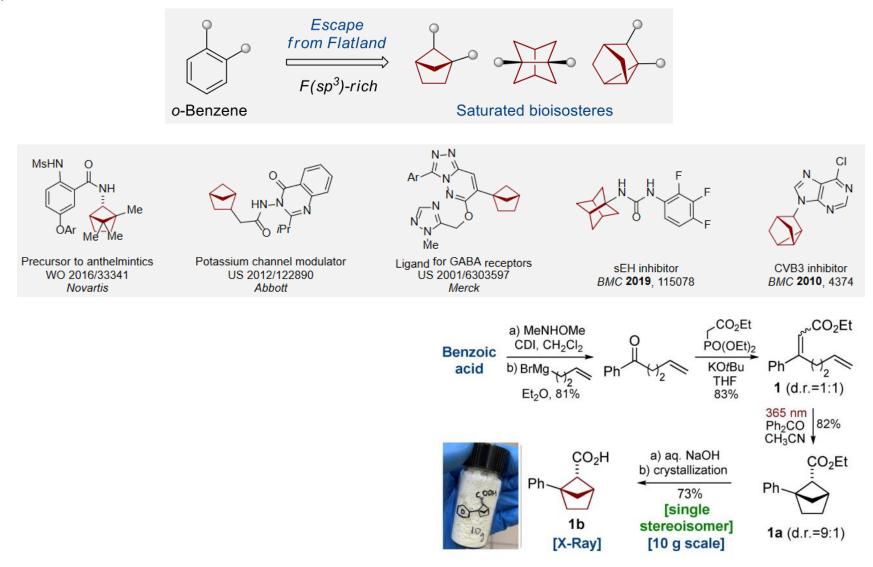
Replacement of para-substituted benzene



https://enamine.net/download/MedChem/Enamine-Water-Soluble-benzene-mimics-2020.pdf

P.H. Mykhailiuk et al Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2020, 59, 7161 –7167

Replacement of ortho-substituted benzene

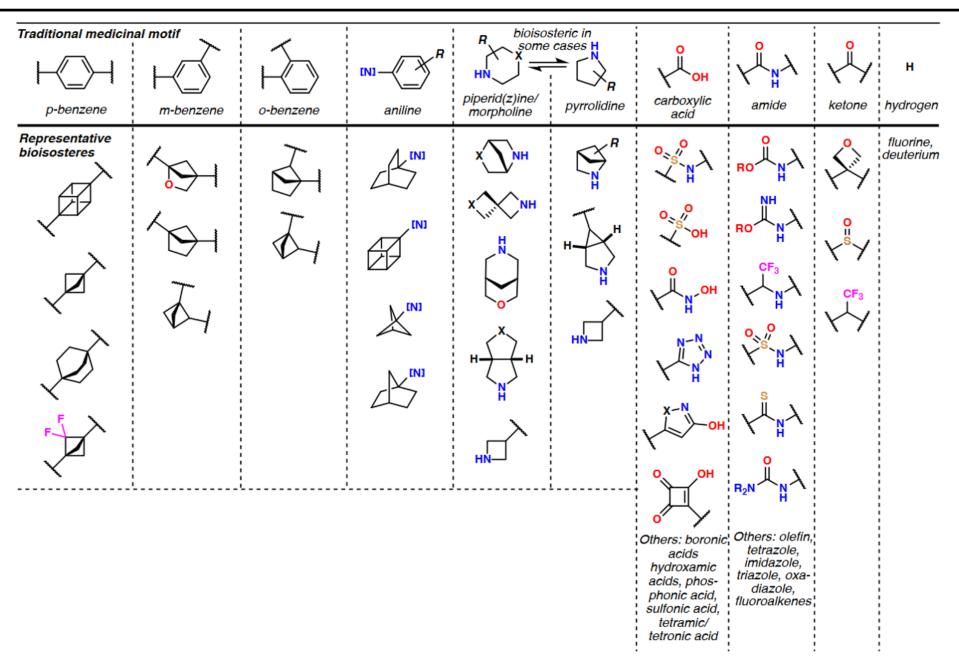


https://enamine.net/download/MedChem/Enamine_Saturated_Bioisosteres_of_o-benzene-2020.pdf P.H. Mykhailiuk et al *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2020**, *59*, 20515 – 20521

Paruch

Bioisosteres

Medicinal Chemistry C9115

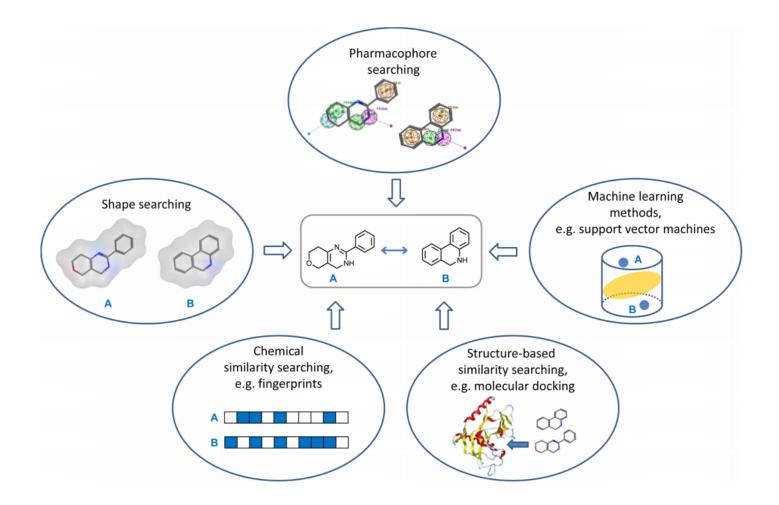


Bioisostere web database

http://www.swissbioisostere.ch

- Scaffold hopping is a strategy for discovering structurally novel compounds
- starts with known active compounds and end with a novel chemotype by modifying the central core structure of the molecule
- computer-aided search for active compounds containing different core structures
- can also be attempted on a case-by-case basis from a chemical viewpoint
- compounds with different structures but similar activity
- Reasons: circumventing an intellectual property; replacing a chemically complex natural product; improving pharmacological properties of known actives

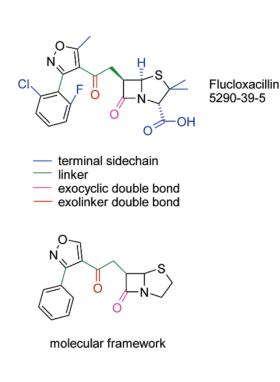
The concept of scaffold hopping can be applied to structure-based virtual screening



Scaffolds are extracted from compounds by removal of all substituents while

retaining ring systems and linker moieties between rings

The Scaffold Tree algorithm - rules how to systematically decompose a scaffold

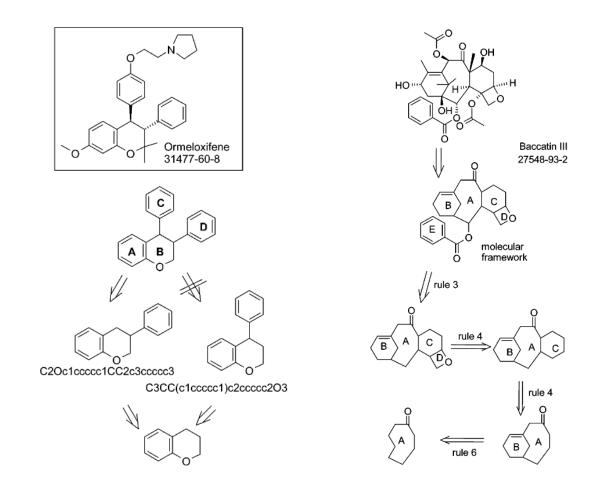


- 1. Remove Heterocycles of Size 3 First
- 2. Do Not Remove Rings with g 12 Atoms if There Are Still Smaller Rings To Remove
- 3. Choose the Parent Scaffold Having the Smallest Number of Acyclic Linker Bonds
- 4. Retain Bridged Rings, Spiro Rings, and Nonlinear Ring Fusion Patterns with Preference
- 5. Bridged Ring Systems Are Retained with Preference over Spiro Ring Systems
- 6. Remove Rings of Sizes 3, 5, and 6 First
- 7. A Fully Aromatic Ring System Must Not Be Dissected in a Way That the Resulting System Is Not Aromatic Any More
- 8. Remove Rings with the Least Number of Heteroatoms First
- 9. If the Number of Heteroatoms Is Equal, the Priority of Heteroatoms to Retain is N > O > S.
- 10.Smaller Rings are Removed First
- 11.For Mixed Aromatic/Nonaromatic Ring Systems, Retain Nonaromatic Rings with Priority
- 12.Remove Rings First Where the Linker Is Attached to a Ring Heteroatom at Either End of the Linker

A. Schuffenhauer et al. J. Chem. Inf. Model. 2007, 47, 47-58

J. Bajorath et al. J. Med. Chem. 2017, 60, 1238–1246

Scaffolds are extracted from compounds by removal of all substituents while retaining ring systems and linker moieties between rings



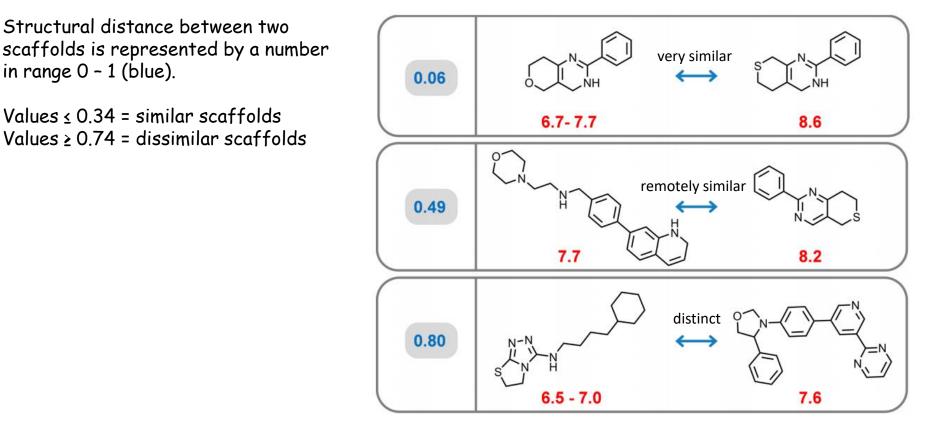
A. Schuffenhauer et al. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2007**, *47*, 47-58 J. Bajorath et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **2017**, *60*, 1238–1246

Scaffold hopping events are often of different magnitude

Scaffolds might be very similar, e.g. distinguished by a heteroatom in a ring.

Scaffolds might be completely distinct, e.g. consist of different ring systems with different topology

Detecting compounds that contain distantly related scaffolds but share similar activity would be considered a meaningful scaffold hopping event.



A. Schuffenhauer et al. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2007**, *47*, 47-58 J. Bajorath et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **2017**, *60*, 1238–1246

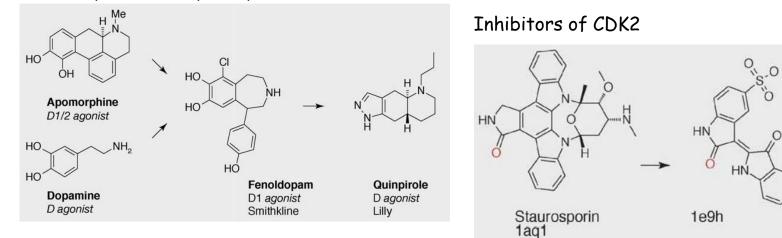
HN

1gih

0

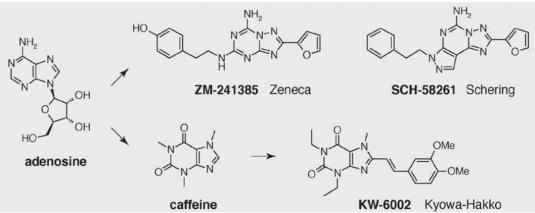
Dopamine agonists

- Starting from the natural ligand
- Fenoldopam structural similarity to dopamine
- Quinpirole completely novel structure



Adenosine A2a-antagonists

- starting form the natural ligand adenosine (an agonist)
- or the natural product caffeine (a subtype-unselective antagonist)



M. Stahl et al. Drug Discov. Today Technol., 2004, 1 (3), 217-224

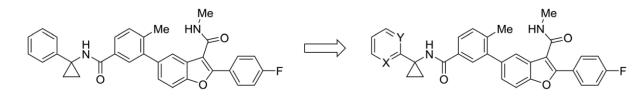
Computational approaches

Shape matchingShape www.biosolveit.deShape matchingShape matchingFast, high success rate for small or rigid compoundsRequires knowledge about bioactive conformationBioSolveIT www.biosolveit.de ROCS www.eyesopen.comPharmacophore searchingImatchingFast, high success rate for small or rigid compoundsRequires knowledge about bioactive conformationBioSolveIT www.biosolveit.de ROCS www.eyesopen.comPharmacophore searchingImatchingFast, high success rate for small or rigid compoundsRequires knowledge about bioactive conformationBioSolveIT www.biosolveit.de ROCS www.eyesopen.comPharmacophore searchingFragment replacementYielding clear answers, based on a maximum of informationRequires knowledge about bioactive conformation and alignmentCatalyst www.accelrys.com Unity www.tripos.comImatchingFragment replacementCan be performed on 2D or 3D structure, high success rateCalculations might yield many or no results depending on toleranceCAVEAT cchem.Berkeley.edu/ pabgrp/index.htmlSimilarity searchingSimilarity searchingFast and always applicableHigh degree of uncertainty because of high abstractionDaylight smy daylight com		Method	Pros	Cons	Software
Image: Searching Searchin			rate for small or	knowledge about bioactive	<u>www.biosolveit.de</u> ROCS
replacement Fragment Fragment Can be performed on 2D or 3D structure, high success rate Calculations might yield many or no results depending on tolerance CAVEAT Similarity searching Similarity caenching Fast and always applicable High degree of uncertainty because of high abstraction Daylight Fingerprints		•	answers, based on a maximum of	about bioactive conformation and	www.accelrys.com Unity
High degree of Similarity searching High degree of uncertainty because of high abstraction Fast and always applicable High degree of Uncertainty because of high abstraction Fingerprints		3	on 2D or 3D structure, high	yield many or no results depending	cchem.Berkeley.edu/
Figure 3. Schematic representation of four principal computational	Similarity searching			uncertainty because of high abstraction from chemical	

Figure 3. Schematic representation of four principal computational approaches to scaffold hopping. Many software programs offer combinations of several approaches, for example, pharmacophore searching combined with a shape filter can be a very powerful approach. Although shape matching and pharmacophore searching require 3D coordinates, fragment replacement can also be performed on planar chemical structures. Similarity searching is the most abstract of the three methods, because the molecular structure is intermediately encoded in a set of descriptors.

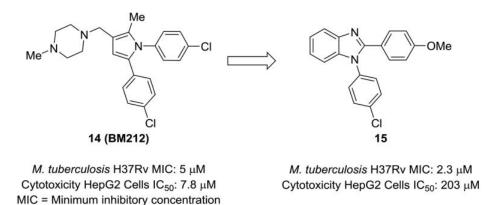
Scaffold hopping for imparting metabolic stability

Replacement of a phenyl substituent with a pyridyl or pyrimidyl substituent



1	HLM	t _{1/2} :	11	min	
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Benzimidazole, imidazole, and imidazopyridine were identified as potential replacements for pyrrole core—which can generate toxic metabolites



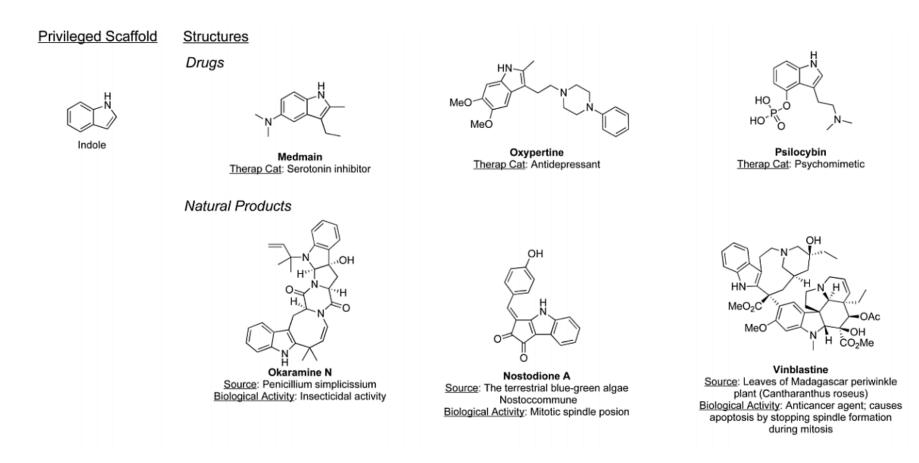
For more examples see the review: T. W. Moore, et al. RSC Med. Chem., 2020, 11, 18-29

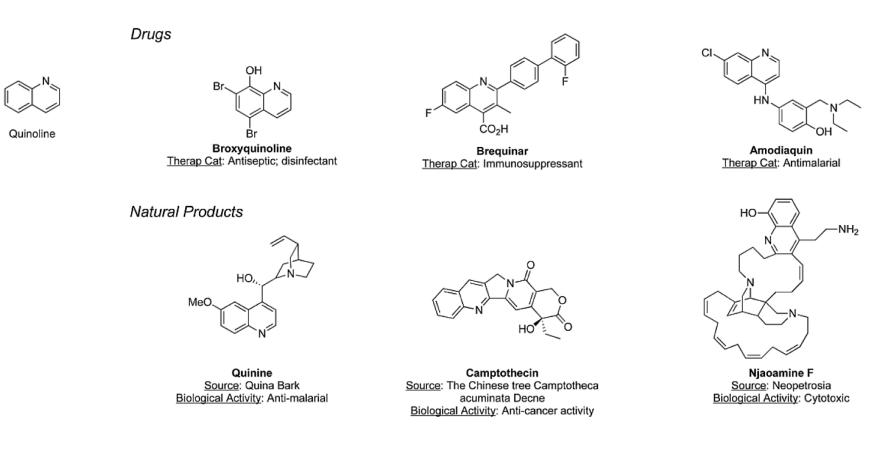
In 1988, Evans mentioned the term 'privileged structures', describing them as simple structural subunits present in the molecules of several drugs, with distinctive therapeutic uses, or affinities to several different receptors.

In medicinal chemistry some scaffolds may have privileged characteristics, being recognized molecularly by distinctive receptors without being important pharmacophores

HN pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine OH Vitrakvi® (larotrectinib) Selitrectinib (Loxo-195) dinaciclib **CDK** inhibitor TrkA, TrkB and TrkC inhibitor TrkA, TrkB and TrkC inhibitor Zaleplon Ocinaplon Pyrazophos Indiplon Lorediplon insomnia fungicide insomnia anxiolytic insomnia

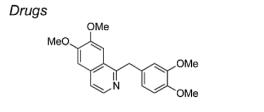
B. E. Evans et al. J. Med. Chem., 1988, 31, 2235, A. Gumus et al. Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2021, 49, 128309





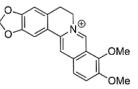
B. R. Stockwell et al. Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 2010, 14(3), 347-361

Isoquinoline

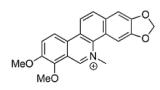


Papaverine <u>Therap Cat</u>: Vasodilator (cerebral)

Natural Products



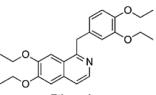
Berberine Source: Berberis and Mahonia Biological Activity: Causes Respiratory stimulation, transient hypotension, and convulsion. Cholinesterase and tyrosine decarboxylase inhibitor.



Dimethisoquin

Therap Cat: Anesthetic (topical)

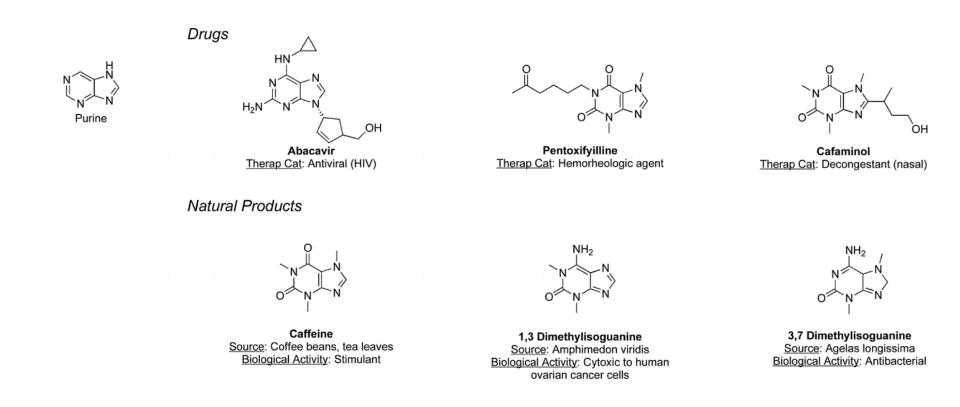
Chelerythrine Source: The plant Greater celandine, Chelidonium majus Biological Activity: Potent protein kinase C inhibitor.

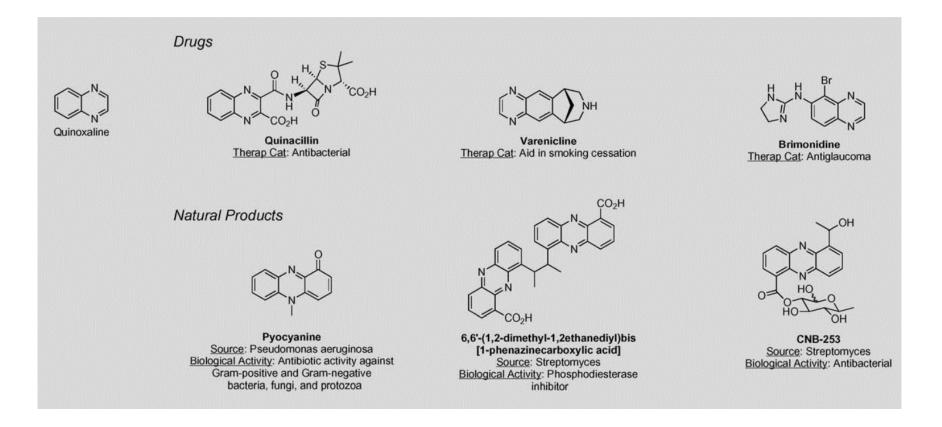


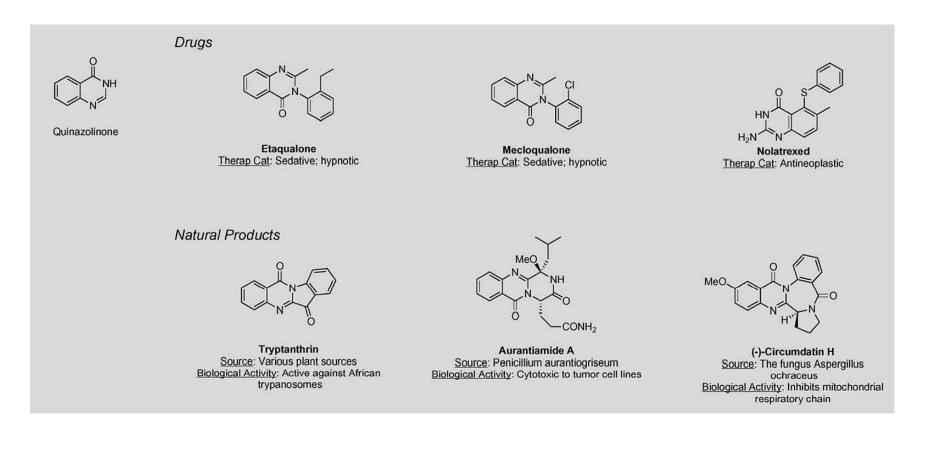
Ethaverine Therap Cat: Antispasmodic

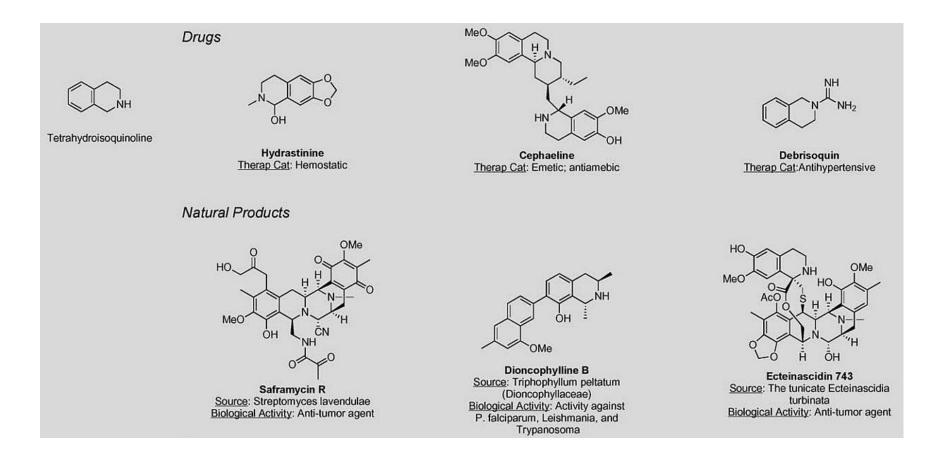


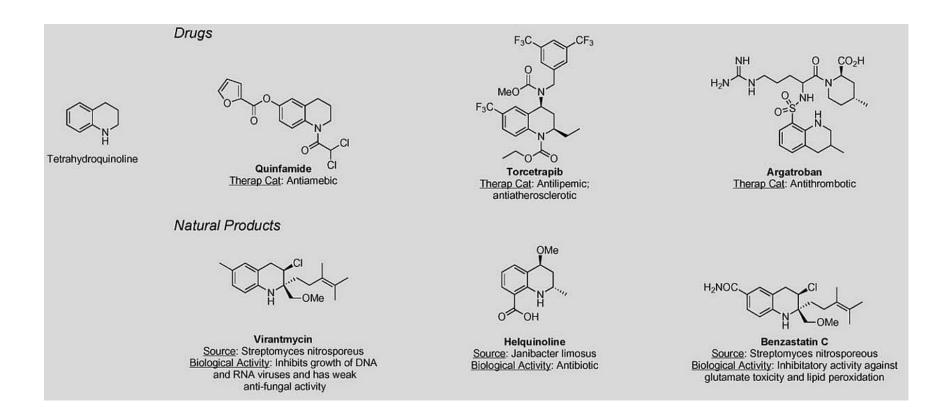
Liriodenine Source: The tulip tree Liriodendron tulipifera Biological Activity: Leishmanicidal activity.

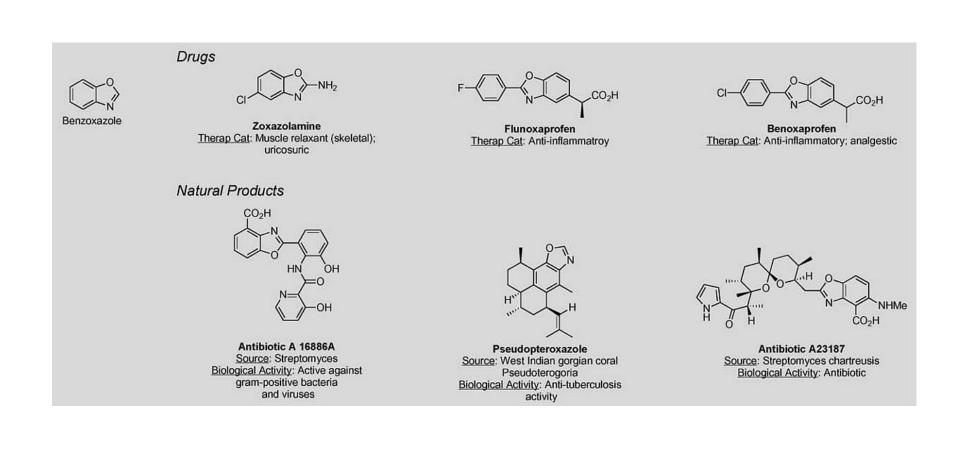


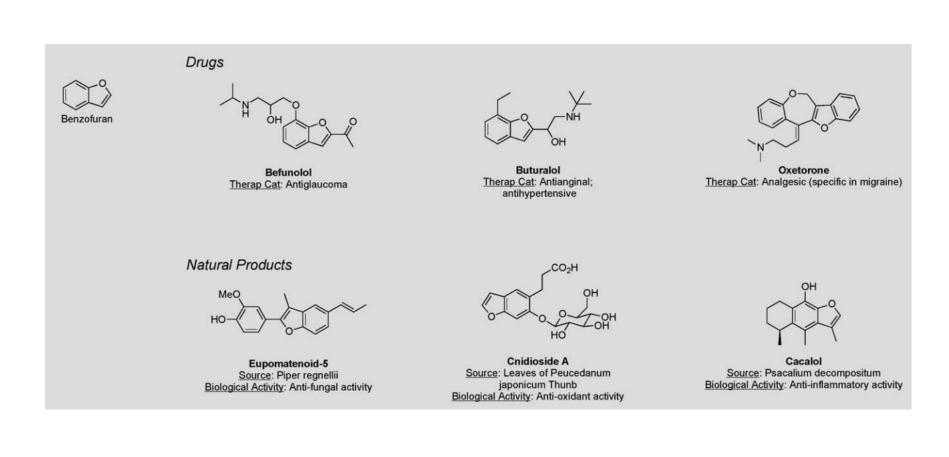




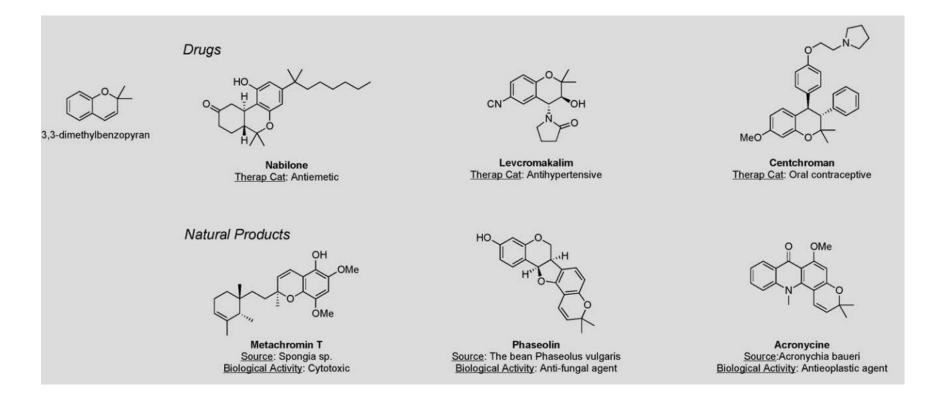


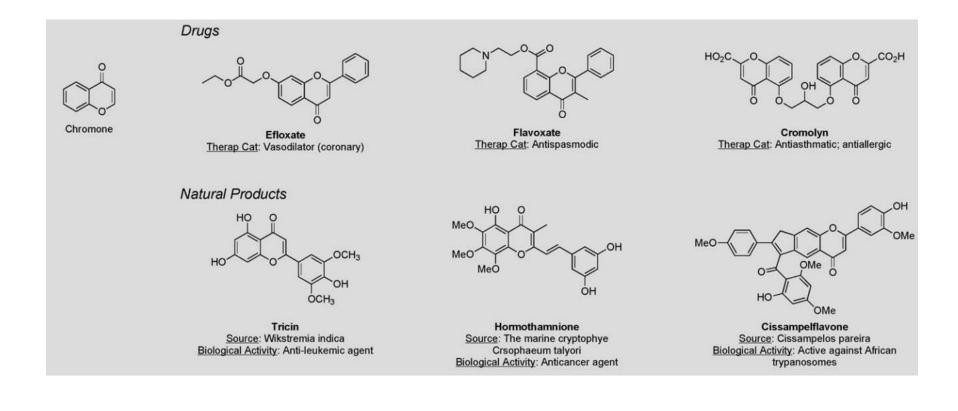


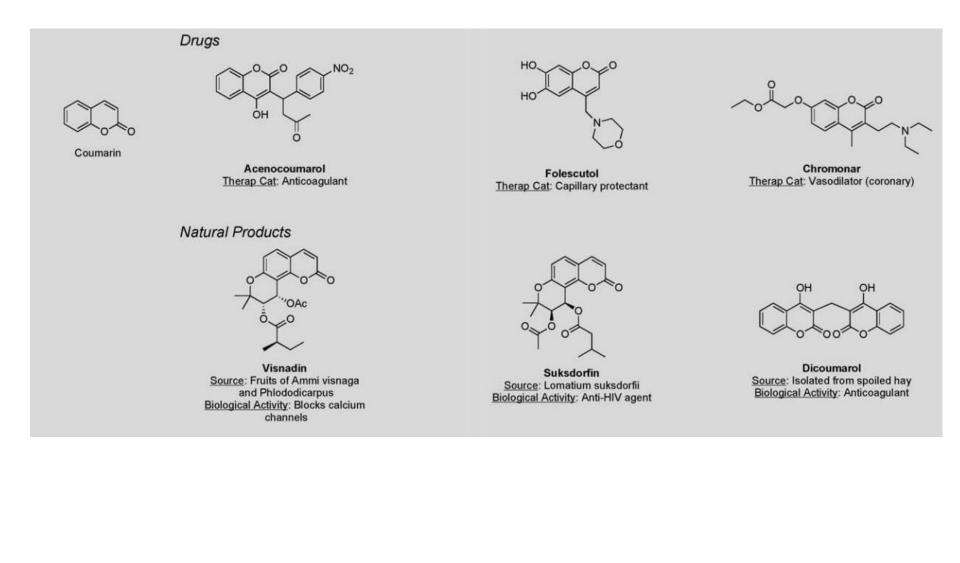


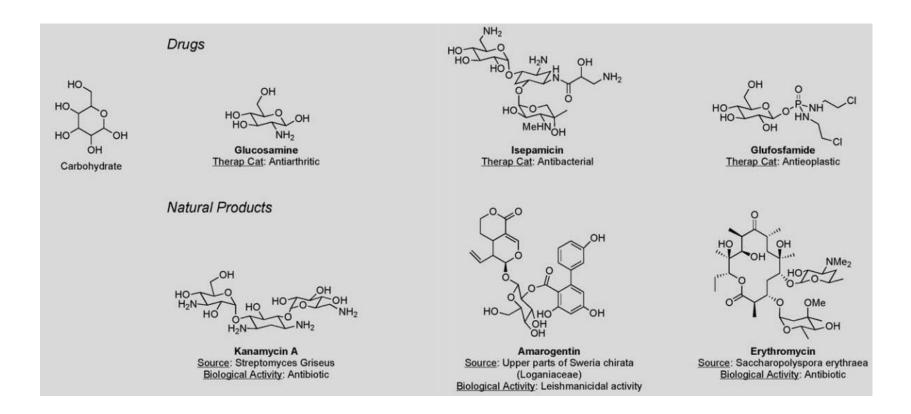


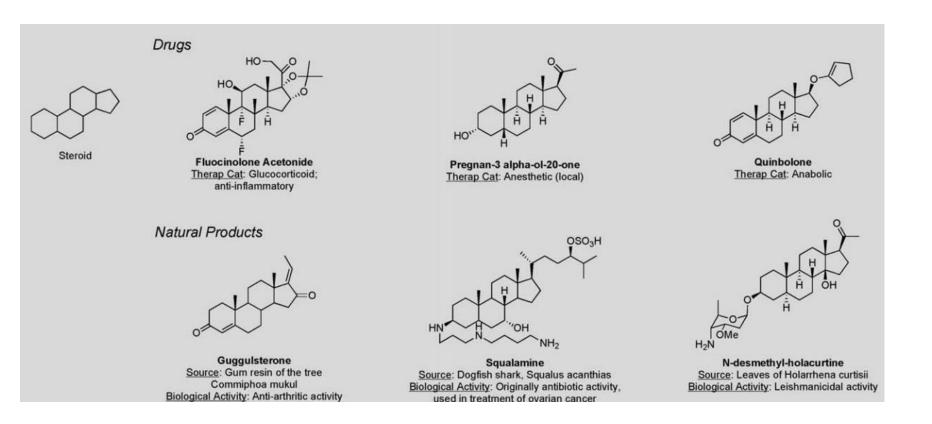
B. R. Stockwell et al. Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 2010, 14(3), 347-361

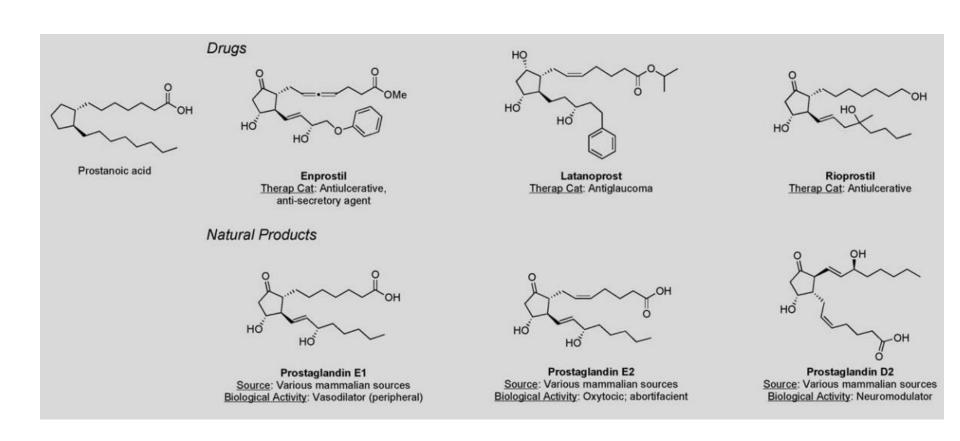




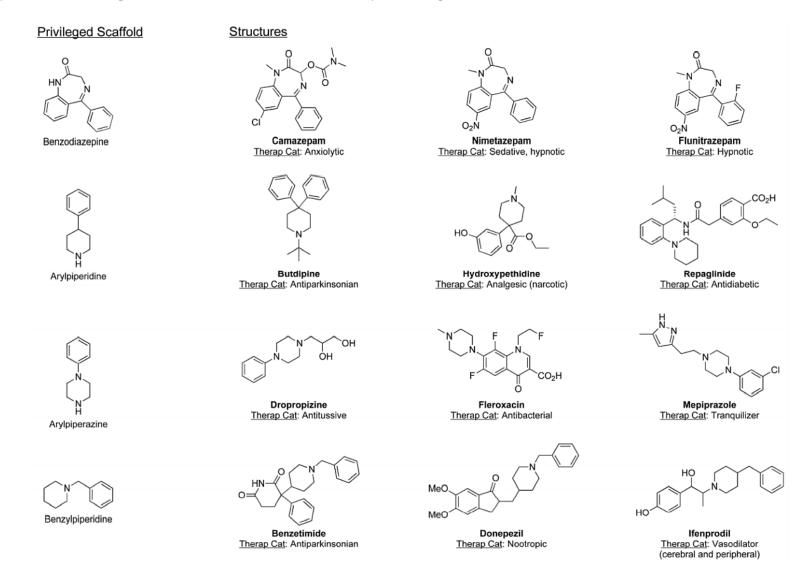






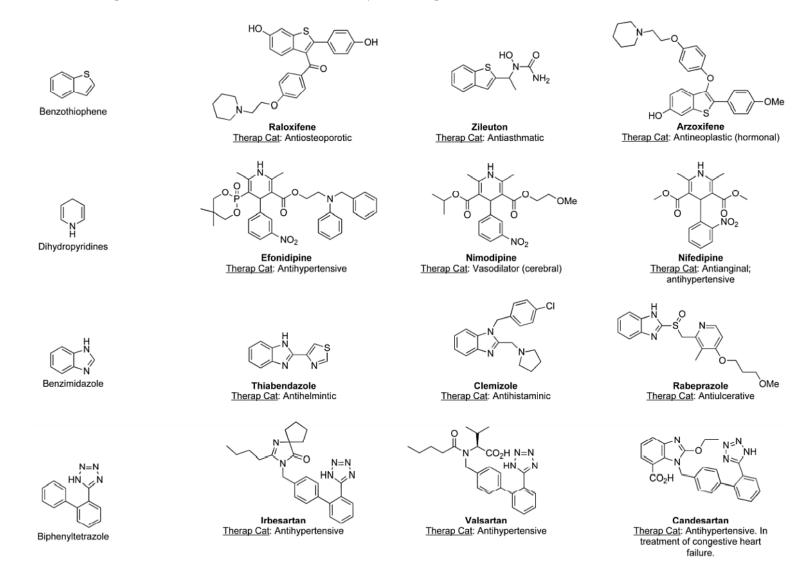


Examples of Privileged Scaffolds Found Primarily in Drugs

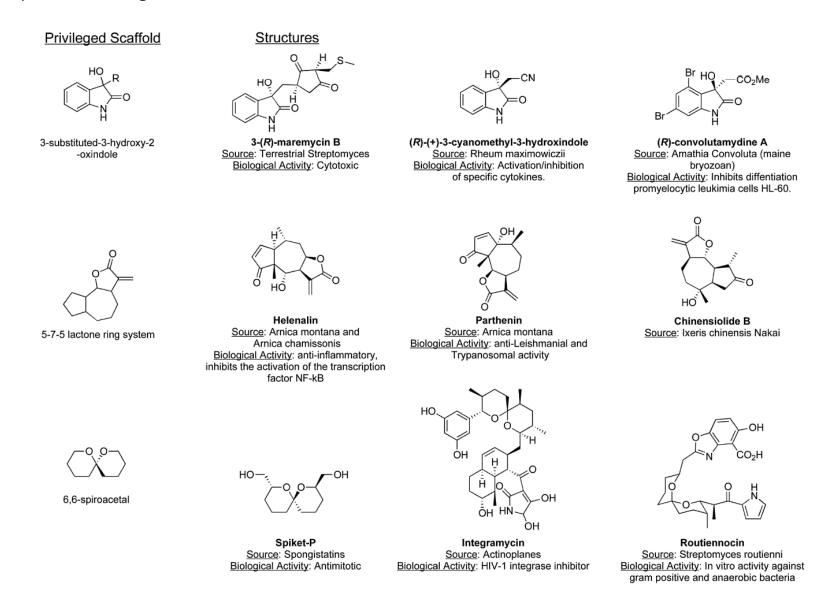


B. R. Stockwell et al. Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 2010, 14(3), 347-361

Examples of Privileged Scaffolds Found Primarily in Drugs

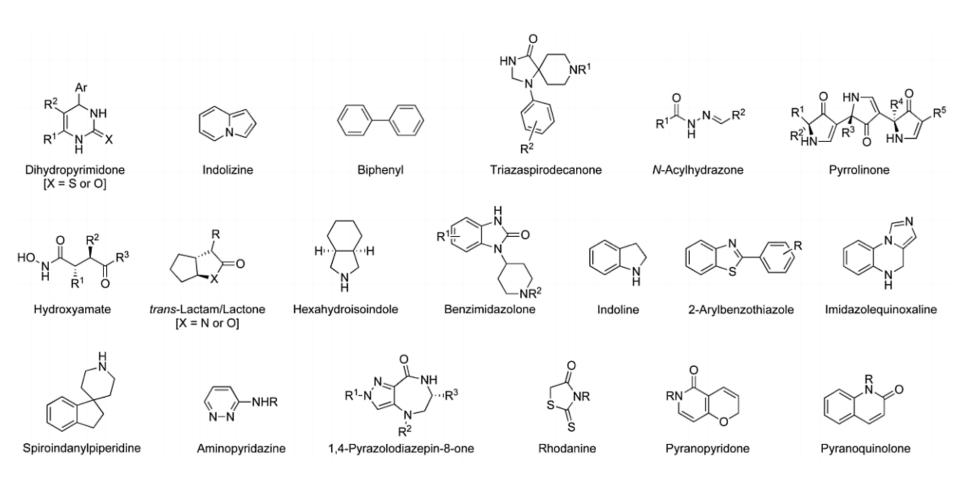


Examples of Privileged Scaffolds in Natural Products



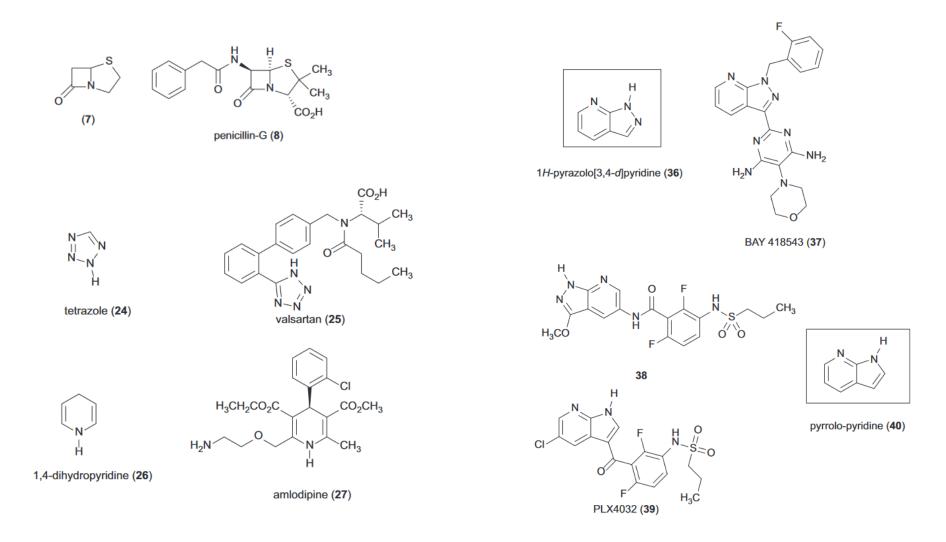
B. R. Stockwell et al. Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 2010, 14(3), 347-361

Other examples



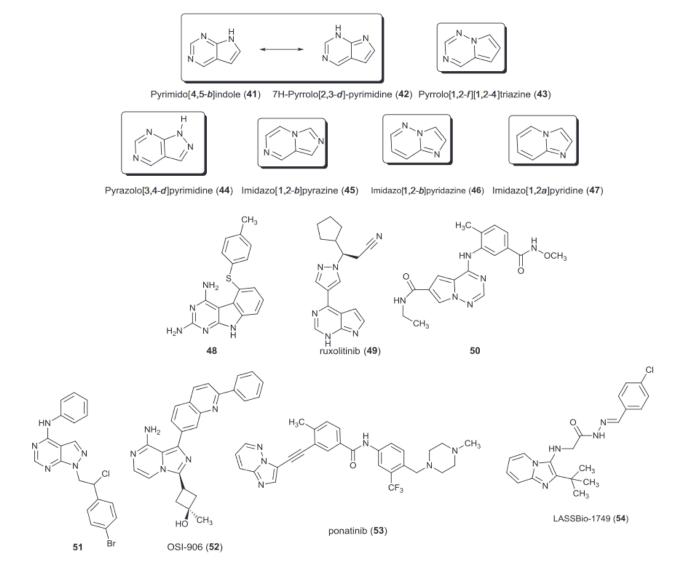
B. R. Stockwell et al. Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 2010, 14(3), 347-361

Other examples



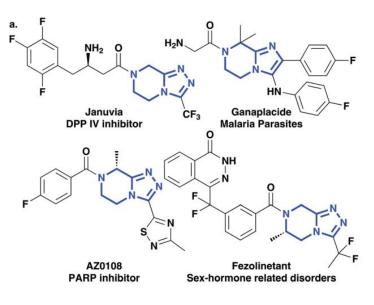
E. J. Barreiro, Chapter 1: Privileged Scaffolds in Medicinal Chemistry: An Introduction , in Privileged Scaffolds in Medicinal Chemistry: Design, Synthesis, Evaluation, 2015, pp. 1-15 DOI: 10.1039/9781782622246-00001

Other examples



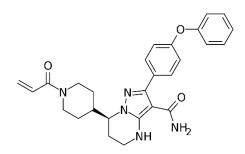
E. J. Barreiro, Chapter 1: Privileged Scaffolds in Medicinal Chemistry: An Introduction, in Privileged Scaffolds in Medicinal Chemistry: Design, Synthesis, Evaluation, 2015, pp. 1-15 DOI: 10.1039/9781782622246-00001

Partially saturated privileged scaffolds

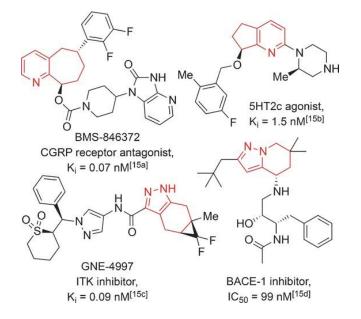


piperazine-based

D. R. Spring et al *Chem. Commun.*, **2020**, *56*, 6818-6821



Zanubrutinib Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor

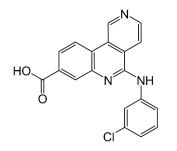


D. R. Spring et al ACIE 2016, 55, 12479 –12483

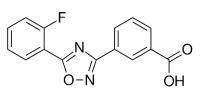
Y. Y. Syed et al Drugs 2020, 80, 91-97

COOH has been considered problematic for cell-based activity;

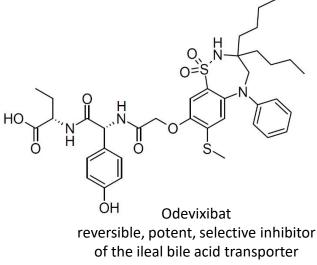
but it is not always the case



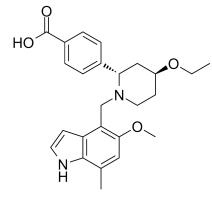
Silmitasertib inhibitor of protein kinase CK2



Ataluren treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.



(IBAT)



Iptacopan factor B inhibitor