

Accepted Manuscript

Novel inhibitors of *Plasmodium falciparum* based on 2,5-disubstituted furans

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PII: S0223-5234(16)31030-3

DOI: [10.1016/j.ejmech.2016.12.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2016.12.024)

Reference: EJMECH 9115

To appear in: *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*

Received Date: 31 October 2016

Revised Date: 8 December 2016

Accepted Date: 9 December 2016

Please cite this article as: S.H. Krake, P.D.G. Martinez, J. McLaren, E. Ryan, G. Chen, K. White, S.A. Charman, S. Campbell, P. Willis, L.C. Dias, Novel inhibitors of *Plasmodium falciparum* based on 2,5-disubstituted furans, *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2016.12.024.

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TITLE: Novel Inhibitors of Plasmodium Falciparum based on 2,5-disubstituted Furans.

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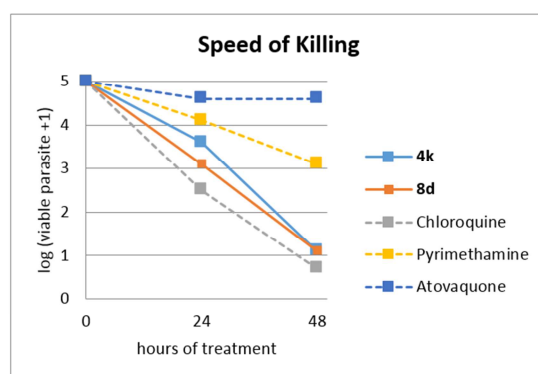
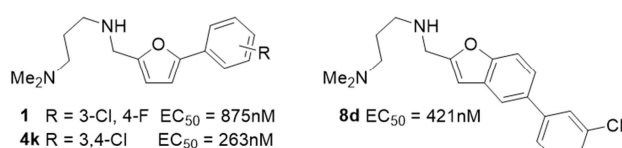
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ABSTRACT.

Phenotypic HTS campaigns with a blood stage malaria assay have been used to discover novel chemotypes for malaria treatment with potential alternative mechanisms of action compared to existing agents. *N*¹-(5-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)furan-2-yl)-*N*³,*N*³-dimethylpropane-1,3-diamine, **1** was identified as a modest inhibitor of *P.falciparum* NF54 (IC₅₀ = 875nM) with an apparent long plasma half-life after high dose oral administration to mice, although the compound later showed poor metabolic stability in liver microsomes through ring- and side chain-oxidation and *N*-dealkylation. We describe here the synthesis of derivatives of **1**, exploring the influence of substitution patterns around the aromatic ring, variations on the alkyl chain and modifications in the core heterocycle, in order to probe potency and metabolic stability, where **4k** showed a long half-life in rats.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT.



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