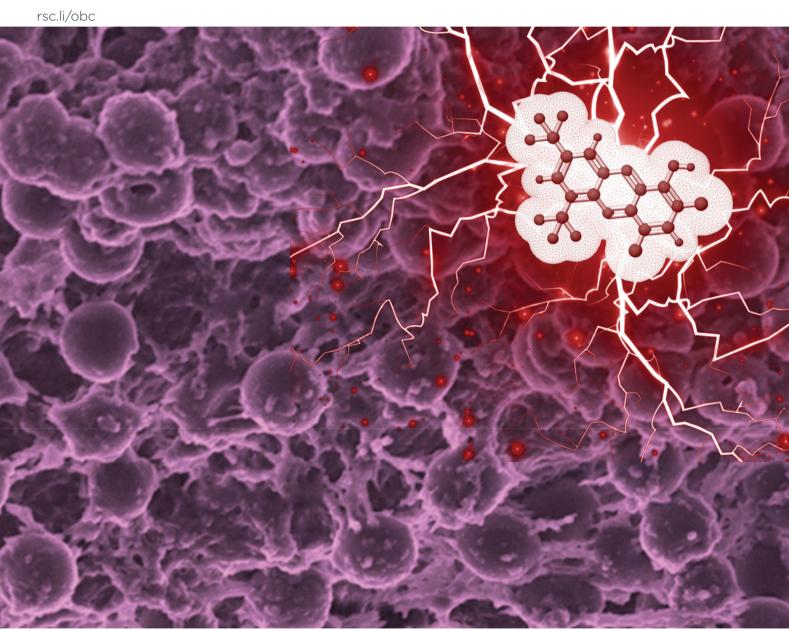
Volume 23 Number 14 14 April 2025 Pages 3233-3472

Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry



ISSN 1477-0520



PAPER

Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry



PAPER

View Article Online



Cite this: Ora. Biomol. Chem., 2025. 23. 3342

Identification of 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl halogenated phenazine as a potent bacterial biofilmeradicating agent†

Qiwen Gao, Da,b Hongfen Yang,b Jeremy Sheiber,c Priscila Cristina Bartolomeu Halicki, (b) c Ke Liu, (b) b David Blanco, b Sadie Milhous, 6 b Shouguang Jin, d Kyle H. Rohde, 6 c Renee M. Fleeman 6 c and Robert W. Huigens III (1) *a,b,e,f

Bacterial biofilms are surface-attached communities consisting of non-replicating persister cells encased within an extracellular matrix of biomolecules. Unlike bacteria that have acquired resistance to antibiotics, persister cells enable biofilms to demonstrate innate tolerance toward all classes of conventional antibiotic therapies. It is estimated that 50-80% of bacterial infections are biofilm associated, which is considered the underlying cause of chronic and recurring infections. Herein, we report a modular three-step synthetic route to new halogenated phenazine (HP) analogues from diverse aniline and nitroarene building blocks. The HPs were evaluated for antibacterial and biofilm-killing properties against a panel of lab strains and multidrug-resistant clinical isolates. Several HPs demonstrated potent antibacterial (MIC ≤ 0.39 µM) and biofilm-eradicating activities (MBEC < 10 µM) with 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 demonstrated remarkable biofilm-killing potencies (MBEC = $0.15-1.17 \mu M$) against Gram-positive pathogens, including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus clinical isolates. Confocal microscopy showed HP 15 induced significant losses in the polysaccharide matrix in MRSA biofilms. In addition, HP 15 showed increased antibacterial activities against dormant Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb, MIC = 1.35 µM) when compared to replicating Mtb (MIC = $3.69 \mu M$). Overall, this new modular route has enabled rapid access to an interesting series of potent halogenated phenazine analogues to explore their unique antibacterial and biofilm-killing properties.

Received 11th December 2024, Accepted 5th January 2025 DOI: 10.1039/d4ob02011a

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^aDepartment of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA. E-mail: Robert. Huigens@uga.edu, qiwen.gao@uga.edu; Tel: +706-542-7787

 b Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Center for Natural Products, Drug Discovery and Development (CNPD3), College of Pharmacy, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32610, USA. E-mail: yanghf88@gmail.com, liu_ke@gzlab.ac.cn, DBlanco5016@gmail.com, smilhous@unc.edu

^cDivision of Immunity and Pathogenesis, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida 32827, USA. E-mail: je503372@ucf.edu, PriscilaCristina.BartolomeuHalicki@ucf.edu, kyle.rohde@ucf.edu, renee.fleeman@ucf.edu

^dDepartment of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, College of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32610, USA. E-mail: sjin3499@gmail.com ^eDepartment of Chemistry, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA

^fDepartment of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Supporting figures, characterization data for newly synthesized (with tabulated ¹H & ¹³C NMR data, HRMS, melting points for solids, and NMR spectra), UV-vis spectroscopy results for iron(II) binding, microbiological assay results, cytotoxicity assay results, and HPLC traces with purity analysis for HPs synthesized and evaluated during these studies. See DOI: https://doi.org/10.1039/d4ob02011a

Bacterial infections have become increasingly challenging to treat with conventional antibiotics due to acquired resistance and innate tolerance. 1-3 Every class of clinically used antibiotic was initially discovered to inhibit rapidly-dividing planktonic bacteria. Unfortunately, pathogenic bacteria have acquired resistance to antibiotics through a multitude of mechanisms, including: target mutation or overexpression, efflux pump action, enzyme-mediated antibiotic inactivation, and altered membrane chemistry to decrease drug penetration.³⁻⁶ In addition, individual (free-floating) planktonic bacteria utilize a sophisticated signaling system known as quorum sensing to communicate and coordinate group behaviors, including the attachment to a surface and subsequent biofilm formation (Fig. 1).7 Bacterial biofilm communities consist of enriched populations of non-replicating persister cells encased within an extracellular polymeric matrix of polysaccharides, proteins, and extracellular DNA.^{3,8,9} Due to their non-replicating phenotype, biofilms demonstrate high levels of innate antibiotic tolerance and are credited as the primary cause of chronic and recurring infections.8,10-12

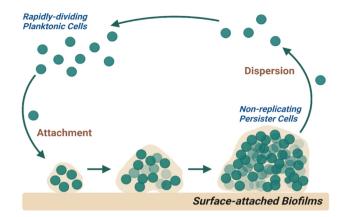


Fig. 1 Individual, free-floating planktonic bacteria coordinate the simultaneous attachment to a surface where subsequent development leads to a mature biofilm community consisting of enriched populations of non-replicating (metabolically-dormant) persister cells. Established biofilms will disperse planktonic cells back into the surrounding environment and are credited as the underlying cause of chronic and recurring bacterial infection.

Despite an antibiotic pipeline that has struggled to produce clinically useful agents over the last ~50 years, innovative approaches have delivered exciting advances in recent years.^{3,13–16} Lewis and colleagues have developed an incredible natural product-focused discovery platform that has resulted in (1) ClpP-activating agent ADEP4 that kills persister cells and eradicates a chronic biofilm infection in mice, 17 (2) the development of iChip technology that led to the identification of the lipid II and III binding antibiotic teixobactin from "unculturable" bacteria, 18 and (3) the discovery of darobactin, an antibiotic that targets BamA and kills Gram-negative pathogens, isolated from a nematode bacterial symbiont. 19 Myers and coworkers have developed robust total synthesis platforms to access new tetracyclines²⁰⁻²⁴ (including FDA-approved eravacycline), macrolides, 25-28 clindamycins (iboxamycin, IBX, is a promising lead),29 and a bridged macrobicyclic antibiotic cresomycin³⁰ designed to overcome multidrug-resistant pathogens. The Boger lab has reported new vancomycin analogues that (1) enable dual binding of transpeptidase's D-Ala-D-Ala (wild type) and D-Ala-D-Lac (vancomycin resistant) moiety, (2) results in transglycosylase inhibition, and (3) cause membrane permeabilization to overcome vancomycin resistance. $^{31-\bar{3}4}$ In recent years, the Hergenrother team has (1) defined predictive compound accumulation (eNTRy) rules to target Gram-negative pathogens, 35-39 (2) reported porin-independent accumulation rules for Pseudomonas aeruginosa, 40 and (3) discovered lolamicin, a Gram-negative-specific antibiotic targeting the lipoprotein transport system while sparing the gut microbiota in mice. 41 Smith, Heise, and colleagues at Genentech reported G0775, an optimized arylomycin, that inhibits the essential bacterial type I signal peptidase through covalent modification and demonstrates efficacy against Gram-negative pathogens in mouse models of infection.42

Our work to address problems associated with antibioticresistant and -tolerant pathogens has been inspired by the action of phenazine antibiotics. 43-45 Individuals suffering from cystic fibrosis (CF) are inflicted with chronic lung infections. Oftentimes, young CF patients are initially infected by Staphylococcus aureus and, as they age, Pseudomonas aeruginosa later co-infects their lungs. It is believed that P. aeruginosa secretes the redox-active phenazine pyocyanin in microbial warfare to kill S. aureus and become the primary pathogen infecting the CF patient's lungs.46 As CF-related lung infections are chronic, we hypothesized that pyocyanin must play a role in eradicating S. aureus biofilms and initiated a research program to explore the antibacterial properties of phenazine molecules.

Initial efforts from our lab focused on the synthesis and antibacterial assessment (in minimum inhibitory concentration, or MIC assays) of 13 diverse phenazine antibiotics and synthetic phenazines. 47 We were encouraged to discover marine Streptomyces derived 2-bromo-1-hydroxyphenazine (MIC = 6.25 μ M = 1.72 μ g mL⁻¹) demonstrates significantly more potent antibacterial activities than pyocyanin (MIC = 50 µM = 10.5 μg mL⁻¹) against S. aureus and S. epidermidis. 47 In addition, we found synthetic analogue 2,4-dibromo-1-hydroxyphenazine (halogenated phenazine analogue 1, or HP-1; Fig. 2) to demonstrate potent planktonic growth inhibition (MIC = 1.56 μ M = 0.55 μ g mL⁻¹).⁴⁷ In other work, **HP-1** was shown to eradicate S. aureus biofilms at a minimum biofilm eradication concentration, or MBEC, value of 100 μM (35.4 μg mL⁻¹). 48

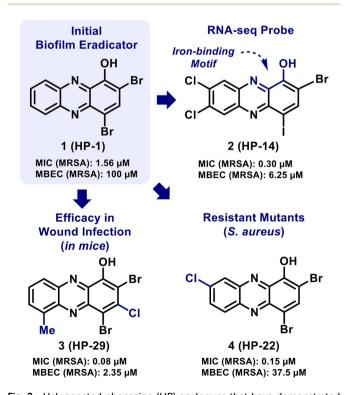


Fig. 2 Halogenated phenazine (HP) analogues that have demonstrated potent biofilm eradication activities and/or have been used as probes to explore mechanistic insights.

Our more recent efforts related to HPs have focused on exploring structure-activity relationships (SAR), using select analogues as probes in mode of action studies, and treating wound infections in mice (Fig. 2). 49-54 These collective efforts have led to a detailed SAR of more than 150 HPs with the identification of several potent HP analogues that eradicate (kill) biofilms of Gram-positive pathogens (e.g., S. aureus, S. epidermidis; MBEC < 10 µM). In addition, key mechanistic insights were obtained from transcript profiling (RNA-seq) studies that revealed HP-14 induces rapid iron starvation in MRSA biofilms through the direct binding of iron.⁵¹ Additional work has shown potent HP analogues to induce rapid starvation in Staphylococcal biofilms using RT-qPCR of select iron uptake biomarkers (e.g., isdB, sbnC, sfaA, MW0695). 53-55 In a separate study, an HP-resistant mutant was generated in S. aureus using HP-22 that had a single amino acid change in transcriptional regulator TetR21 (Arg116Cys).⁵⁶ RNA-seq analysis showed the TetR21R116C mutant to have upregulated the transcription of hprS (halogenated phenazine resistant protein of S. aureus) and HprS was discovered as an efflux pump for phenazines.⁵⁶ In addition, HP-29 demonstrated good in vivo efficacy against S. aureus UAMS-1 and E. faecalis OG1RF in wound infection models in mice. 53

In the present study, we developed a modular route to several new halogenated phenazines from diverse nitroarene and aniline building blocks. This focused collection of HP small molecules was evaluated against a panel of pathogens in standard antibacterial assays and Calgary Biofilm Device assays to determine biofilm eradication activities against lab strains and clinical isolates. From these studies, we identified 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 to be the most potent biofilmeradicating HP small molecule to date. To determine its ability to kill other drug-tolerant bacterial pathogens, HP 15 was also evaluated against both replicating and dormant Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) cultures. Using confocal microscopy experiments, HP 15 showed significant impacts on the extracellular polysaccharide matrix of established MRSA biofilms.

Chemical synthesis of diverse halogenated phenazines

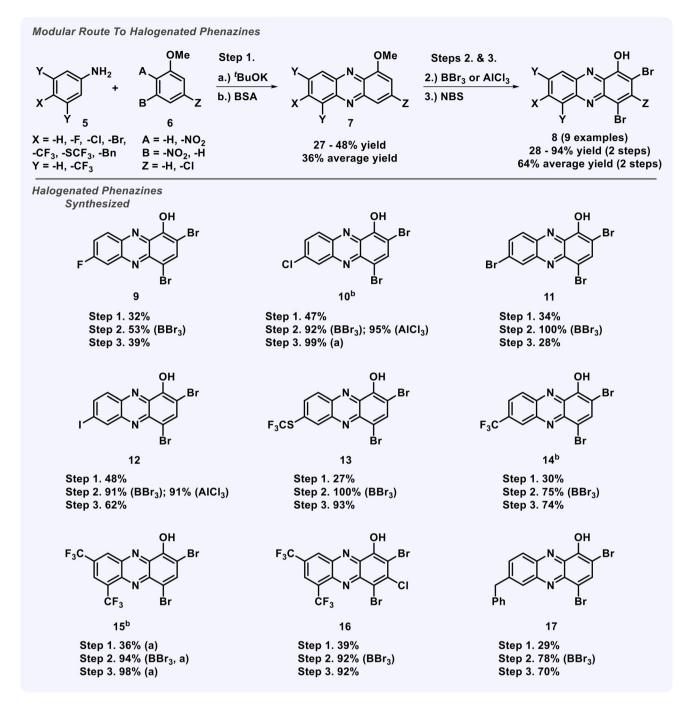
We synthesized nine halogenated phenazines using a threestep route from simple aniline and nitroarene building blocks (Scheme 1). To access the phenazine core, an aniline and a nitroarene were reacted in the presence of potassium tert-butoxide to join these materials through a regioselective C-N bond formation that results in a nitroso intermediate (select nitroso compounds were characterized in the ESI;† however, most were taken directly to the next synthetic step without purification), which was directly subjected to N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide (BSA) to yield diverse 1-methoxyphenazines in 27-48% yield (36% average yield). This modular phenazine synthesis was inspired by work done in the Wróbel lab, 57-60 which we previously reported to access HP 15.61 With the phenazine nucleus intact, 1-methoxyphenazines were then

transformed into halogenated phenazines via a demethylation step using boron tribromide (BBr₃: 53-100% yield, 9 examples) or aluminum(III) chloride (AlCl₃: 91-95% yield, 2 examples), and a final bromination reaction with N-bromosuccinimide (NBS: 28-99% yield). Three halogenated phenazines in Scheme 1 have been reported by our lab (7-Cl-HP 10, 7-CF₃-HP 14, 6.8-CF₃-HP 15)^{52,54,61} and were included to evaluate the efficiency of this synthetic route while expanding our understanding of their biological activities.

Antibacterial evaluation of halogenated phenazines

Following synthesis, we evaluated the HP analogues to determine their ability to inhibit planktonic growth in minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) assays. MIC values were determined for HPs against a panel of Gram-positive pathogens (lab strains and drug-resistant clinical isolates; see Table 1 and ESI Table 1†), replicating and dormant Mycobacterium tuberculosis cultures, and Gram-negative pathogens (ESI Table 2†). Although this collection of HPs demonstrated impressive antibacterial activities against the Gram-positive pathogens, the MIC profiles of 10, 14, and 15 have been reported 52,54,61 and served as comparators to benchmark activity for new HPs described during these studies. All 7-position substituted HPs reported herein demonstrated moderate to significant improvements in antibacterial activities (up to 30-fold more potent MIC values; Table 1) when compared to parent HP-1 against methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), methicillin-resistant S. epidermidis (MRSE), methicillin-sensitive S. epidermidis (MSSE), vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecium (VRE), multidrug-resistant Enterococcus faecalis (strain OG1RF), and Streptococcus pneumoniae strains.

Here, we report the activity profiles of all halogens substituted at the 7-position of the HP scaffold, which demonstrated potent antibacterial activities (MIC = 0.04-1.56 µM against most Gram-positive strains; Table 1; Fig. 3A and B). In most instances, 7-bromo-HP 11 and 7-iodo-HP 12 analogues report equipotent MIC values compared to 7-chloro-HP 10; however, 7-fluoro-HP 9 typically reports MIC values that are up to 4-fold less potent when compared to the other halogens at the 7-position of the HP scaffold. HP analogue 13 bears a -SCF3 group at the 7-position of the HP core and demonstrated highly potent activities against the Gram-positive strains (MIC = 0.04-0.78 μM). HP 17 contains a benzyl group at the 7-position of the HP scaffold and demonstrated potent antibacterial activities (MIC = 0.10-0.78 µM) against nearly all Gram-positive strains in the Table 1 panel. To probe the SAR of the highly potent 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP agent 15 (MIC = 0.05-0.20 μM against Gram-positive pathogens), we synthesized HP analogue 16 bearing a 3-chlorine atom as the lone difference between analogues; however, 16 (MIC = $0.20-4.69 \mu M$) lost considerable activities compared to HP 15 and we believe this trend could correlate with losses in water solubility.



Scheme 1 Modular synthesis of halogenated phenazines from diverse nitroarene and aniline materials. Notes. (a) Demethylation or bromination yields from previous studies. (b) Previously reported halogenated phenazines.

When evaluated against Gram-negative pathogens, new HPs reported minimal antibacterial activities. With that, HP **15** was found to report moderate to weak antibacterial activities against *A. baumannii* strains (MIC = $12.5-75 \mu M$; ESI Table $2\dagger$); however, **15** was inactive against *P. aeruginosa* or *E. coli* strains (MIC > $100 \mu M$).

Following initial MIC assessment, we performed UV-vis spectroscopy experiments to evaluate iron(II)-binding properties of synthesized HP analogues (Fig. 3C; ESI†). In these

UV-vis experiments, we observed an elevated absorbance between 550 nm to 650 nm of HP samples following the addition of iron(π) due to the rapid binding between the HP analogues and iron(π) after 1 and 10 minutes. Our findings that HP analogues directly bind iron(π) support the notion that these HPs are able to induce iron starvation in bacteria as their primary mode of action and aligns with previous studies. π

In addition, we have found several HPs to demonstrate good antibacterial activities against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MIC <

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Compound	MRSA 1707	MRSA 44	MRSE 35984	S. epi 12228	VRE 700221	E. faecalis OG1RF	S. pneumoniae 6303	Mtb (rep)	Mtb (dorm)	HeLa cytotox. (IC ₅₀)
1 (HP-1)	1.17 ^a	1.56	1.17 ^a	1.17 ^a	4.69 ^a	18.8 ^a	1.56	15.8	200	>100
9` ′	0.30^{a}	0.39	0.39	_	2.35^{a}	6.25	0.39	_	_	>100
10	0.08^{a}	0.10	0.15^{a}	0.10	1.56	3.13	0.20	_	_	>100
11	0.05	0.10	0.30^{a}	_	1.17^{a}	3.13	0.39	_	_	>100
12	0.08^{a}	0.05^{b}	0.15^{a}	0.08^{a}	0.78	_	0.20	_	_	>100
13	0.04^{a}	0.05^{b}	0.10	0.10	0.39	0.78	0.08^{a}	_	_	>100
14	0.05	0.05^{b}	0.10	_	0.39	0.78	0.08^{a}	_	_	>100
15	0.05^{b}	0.05^{b}	0.08^{a}	0.15^{a}	0.05^{b}	0.20	0.08^{a}	3.69	1.35	>100
16	1.17^{a}	0.78	0.20	1.56	3.13	4.69^{a}	1.56	_	_	_
17	0.30^{a}	0.20	0.15^{a}	0.10	0.59^{a}	4.69^{a}	0.78	_	_	_
Vancomycin	0.59^{a}	0.59^{a}	1.17^{a}	1.56	>100	0.78	0.39	_	_	_
Isoniazid	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0.1	114.7	_
Rifamycin	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0.001	1.43	_

Table 1 Summary of antibacterial studies (MIC) and cytotoxicity assessment for halogenated phenazines and select antibiotics

All MIC values against bacterial pathogens and cytotoxicity against HeLa cells are reported in micromolar (µM) concentrations. All biological results were acquired from three or more independent experiments. ^a Midpoint value for 2-fold range in MIC values observed. ^b Lowest concentration tested. "Mtb (rep)" refers to replicating Mtb CDC1551 bacteria; "Mtb (dorm)" refers to dormant Mtb CDC1551 bacteria.

 $2 \mu M$) in previous work.⁵³ With the antibacterial activity profiles in hand, we were encouraged to investigate HP 15 against both replicating and dormant Mtb cultures (Table 1). Although HP-1 was able to inhibit replicating Mtb with an MIC = 15.8 μ M, only weak activity was observed against dormant bacilli (MIC = 200 µM). A similar pattern of drug tolerance was reported for the first-line anti-TB drugs isoniazid (INH) and rifampin (RIF), with dormant Mtb becoming more than 1000 times more tolerant to these drugs than the replicating bacteria. In contrast, HP 15 exhibited significantly improved potency against replicating Mtb (MIC = 3.69 μ M) than HP-1 and, unexpectedly, even better activity against dormant Mtb (MIC = $1.35 \mu M$). Additional work is needed to better understand the unique activity HP 15 demonstrates against dormant Mtb.

Mammalian cytotoxicity

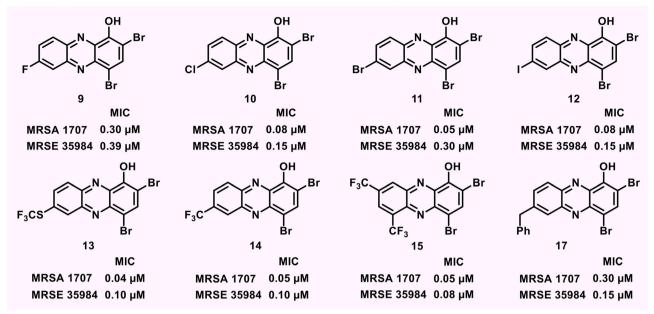
Following MIC assessment, eight HPs were evaluated against HeLa cells to determine bacteria-to-mammalian selectivity using 24 hours lactate dehydrogenase assays at 25, 50, and 100 µM test concentrations (Table 1). Similar to previous studies, 52,53 these HPs demonstrated minimal to no cytotoxicity against HeLa cells (IC₅₀ > 100 μM). Selectivity indexes (SI) were determined based on relative IC50 values against HeLa cells compared to MIC values against S. aureus (HeLa [IC₅₀]/S. aureus [MIC]) to show most HPs demonstrate impressive SI > 300 during these studies.

Biofilm eradication studies with halogenated phenazines

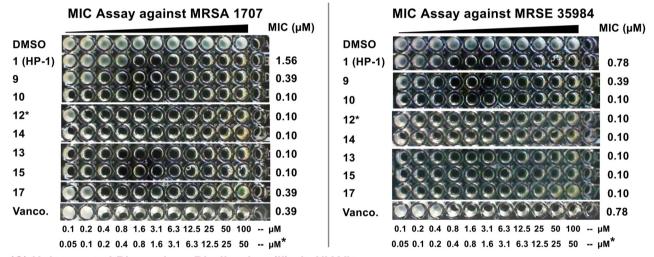
After determining initial antibacterial activities from MIC and HeLa cell cytotoxicity assays, we evaluated HPs against established MRSA, MRSE, MSSE (methicillin-sensitive S. epidermidis), and VRE biofilms using Calgary Biofilm Device (CBD) assays^{62,63} (Fig. 4; Table 2). CBD assays are performed in 96-well plates and utilize specialized lids with pegs that are submerged into media (1 peg per microtiter well; see ESI†) to provide a surface for bacteria to attach and form biofilms. 62,63 Biofilm eradication assays have three distinct phases, which include: (1) establishing biofilms on CBD peg surfaces (bacteria in media alone), (2) compound challenge (biofilm-associated CBD pegs are submerged into a 96-well plate containing test compounds in 2-fold serial dilution), and (3) biofilm dispersion and growth (this final phase includes CBD pegs incubated in media alone to facilitate the dispersion of viable planktonic bacteria from biofilms followed by growth to give a final turbid readout; note: biofilms that have been eradicated result in a complete lack of turbidity at the assay end point).

Each of the three phases of our CBD assays were performed under static conditions for 24 hours at 37 °C (experiments require 72-hours total to complete). Biofilm-attached pegs were gently washed with PBS to remove planktonic cells between each of the three phases of the MBEC assay (lid transfer steps). Upon completion of CBD assays, turbidity measurements were taken using a spectrophotometer (OD₆₀₀) to quantify (1) viable biofilms that undergo planktonic dispersion and subsequent bacterial growth (visible turbidity), or (2) eradicated biofilms (no turbidity results from completely eradicated biofilms unable to disperse planktonic bacteria; see Fig. 4B for representative CBD assays against MRSA lab strain & clinical isolate). Following the completion of CBD assays, the minimum biofilm eradication concentration (MBEC) for test compounds is determined as the lowest concentration resulting in complete biofilm killing (no turbidity in microtiter wells). In addition to biofilm killing, CBD assays also provide direct planktonic eradication assessment of test compounds following dilution from the test plate (phase 2) into fresh media and subsequent incubation for 24 hours to determine minimum bactericidal concentrations (CBD). This assay allows

(A) Halogenated Phenazines Evaluated in Antibacterial Assays



(B) Representative MIC Assays against MRSA 1707 and MRSE 35984



(C) Halogenated Phenazines Binding Iron(II) via UV-Vis

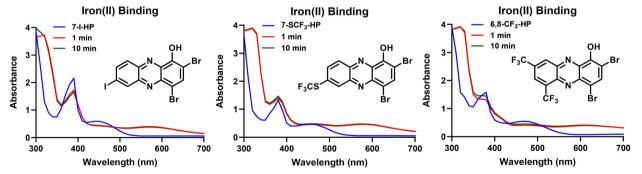
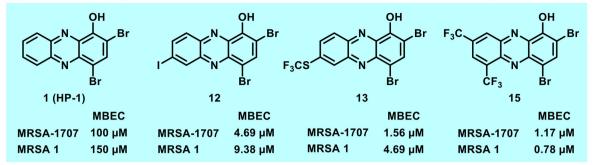


Fig. 3 (A) Chemical structures and focused antibacterial profiles (against MRSA 1707 & MRSE 35984) for potent halogenated phenazines investigated during these studies. (B) Images of representative MIC assays against MRSA 1707 and MRSE 35984. (C) UV-vis experiments to show select HPs directly binding iron(11).

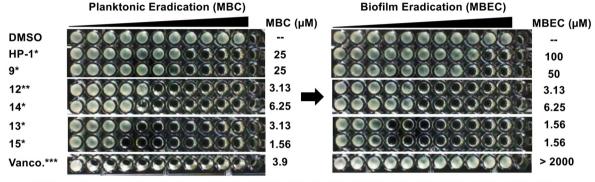
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(A) Selected Halogenated Phenazines Evaluated in Biofilm Eradication Assays



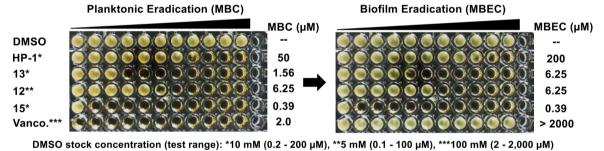
(B) Representative Calgary Biofilm Device Assays

Calgary Biofilm Device (CBD) Assay against MRSA-1707



DMSO stock concentration (test range): *10 mM (0.2 - 200 μM), **5 mM (0.1 - 100 μM), ***100 mM (2 - 2,000 μM)

Calgary Biofilm Device (CBD) Assay against MRSA 1



(C) Identification of 6,8-CF₃-HP as the Most Potent Biofilm-Killing HP Agent

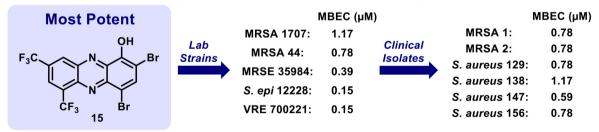


Fig. 4 (A) Select halogenated phenazine biofilm eradication activities. (B) Representative MBEC images of halogenated phenazines evaluated in Calgary Biofilm Device (CBD) assays. (C) Biofilm eradication profile for HP 15. Note: *Compounds were tested from 0.2 μM to 200 μM (10 mM DMSO stock solution). **Compounds were tested from 0.1 μM to 100 μM (5 mM DMSO stock solution). ***Compounds were tested from 2 μM to 2000 μM (100 mM DMSO stock solution).

Table 2 Summary of biofilm eradication activities using the Calgary Biofilm Device assay along with follow-up hemolysis activities for halogenated phenazines and comparator test molecules

Compound	MRSA 1707 MBC/MBEC	MRSA 44 MBC/MBEC	MRSE 35984 MBC/MBEC	S. epidermidis 12228 MBC/MBEC	VRE 700221 MBC/MBEC	% Hemolysis at 200 μM
1 (HP-1)	$50^b/100^b$	$100/100^{b}$	50 ^b /100	$25^{b}/50^{b}$	18.8 ^a /9.38 ^a	≤1
9`´´	$37.5^a/37.5^a$	50/12.5	$50/75^{a}$	$3.13/37.5^a$	nd/3.13 ^b	1.6
10	$1.17^a/4.69^a$	$12.5/4.69^a$	25/50	<u> </u>	$1.56^{b}/0.59^{a}$	≤1
11	$4.69^{a}/9.38^{a}$	$9.38^a/18.8^a$	12.5/12.5	_	$18.8^{a}/25$	1.6
12	$4.69^a/4.69^a$	$37.5^a/18.8^a$	$25/37.5^a$	$1.56^b/4.69^a$	_	≤1
13	$2.35^{a}/1.56$	$3.13^b/3.13^b$	$3.13/2.35^a$	$1.17^a/1.17^a$	$0.15^a/0.10^c$	≤1
14^d	$4.69^a/4.69^a$	$4.69^a/9.38^a$	12.5/12.5	$3.75^a/3.75^a$	$9.38^a/0.39$	7.2
15	$1.17^a/1.17^a$	$0.30^a/0.78^b$	$0.20^{c}/0.39^{b}$	$0.10^{c}/0.15^{a}$	$0.10^{c}/0.15^{a}$	7.8
16	$25^{b}/12.5$	_	$1.17^a/1.17^a$	_	_	_
17	$9.38^a/6.25$	_	$12.5/75^a$	$25^b/18.8^a$	_	≤1
QAC-10	$93.8^{a}/93.8^{a}$	_	3.13/3.13	$4.69^a/6.25$	$3.0^a/3.0^a$	>99
EDTA	>2000/>2000	_	1000/>2000	_	_	≤1
TPEN	375 ^a />2000	_	250/>2000	_	_	≤1
Vancomycin	3.9/>2000	7.8/>2000	$3.0^b/>2000$	_	>200/150	≤1

All biological results in this table are reported in micromolar (μ M) concentrations and were acquired from three or more independent experiments. ^a Midpoint value for experiments that yielded a 2-fold range from CBD assays. ^b Midpoint value for experiments that yielded a 4-fold range from CBD assays. ^c Lowest concentration tested. ^d For HP compound 14, we previously reported CBD assay values of MBC = 3.13 μ M & MBEC = 4.69 μ M against MRSE 35984 (see compound 5h in ref. 54). nd = not determined due to an uncharacteristically large range of planktonic killing activities in these assays against VRE 700221.

for the determination of biofilm and planktonic killing dynamics of various small molecules from a single experiment.

During these studies, we evaluated all HPs in CBD assays against MRSA 1707 and MRSE 35984 biofilms to determine MBEC values against these major human pathogens (Table 2). Select HP analogues were also evaluated against MRSA 44, S. epidermidis 12228, and VRE 700221 biofilms. From our CBD experiments, we found biofilm-killing profiles analogous to the antibacterial properties as each 6-, 7-, or 8-substituted HP demonstrated significantly improved biofilm eradication activities compared to HP-1. 7-Fluoro-HP 9 (MBEC = 37.5 μ M) demonstrated improved biofilm eradication against MRSA 1707 biofilms when compared to parent HP-1; however, HP 9 was found to be 4- to 8-fold less potent than 7-chloro-HP 10, 7-bromo-HP 11, 7-iodo-HP 12 (Fig. 4), or 7-trifluoromethyl-HP 14 as these HPs demonstrated potent activities (MBEC = 4.69-9.38 μM) in Calgary Biofilm Device assays. HP 17 (7-benzy-HP; MBEC = $6.25 \mu M$) also demonstrated potent biofilm eradication activities against MRSA 1707 biofilms. Impressively, 7-SCF₃-HP 13 demonstrated highly potent biofilm-killing activities in CBD assays against MRSA 1707 (MBEC = $1.56 \mu M$, Fig. 4), MRSA 44 (MBEC = $3.13 \mu M$), MRSE 35984 (MBEC = $2.35 \mu M$), S. epidermidis 12228 (MBEC = 1.17 μ M), and VRE 70021 (MBEC = 0.10 μ M).

We were very encouraged to find 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 eradicates bacterial biofilms with incredible potency against the Gram-positive pathogens in our panel (MRSA 1707, MBEC = 1.17 μ M; MRSA 44, MBEC = 0.78 μ M; MRSE 35984, MBEC = 0.39 μ M; *S. epidermidis* 12228, MBEC = 0.15 μ M; VRE 700221, MBEC = 0.15 μ M; Fig. 4 and Table 2). HP 15 is the most potent biofilm eradicating agent we have reported to date. 3-Chloro-6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP (16; MBEC = 12.5 μ M) showed a 4- to 11-fold reduction in biofilm-killing properties

against MRSE 35984 and MRSA 1707 biofilms, respectively, when compared to 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15.

In addition to examining HPs for their biofilm eradication properties, we evaluated a focused series of comparator agents, including vancomycin - a frontline antibiotic used to treat MRSA infections (Table 2). We evaluated QAC-10 which is a known quaternary ammonium cation agent that has demonstrated biofilm killing properties through a membrane-lysis mode of action.⁶⁴ When tested alongside 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15, OAC-10 demonstrated an 8- to 80-fold reduction in biofilm-killing potency reporting MBEC values of 93.8 µM against MRSA 1707, 3.13 μM against MRSE 35984, 6.25 μM against S. epidermidis 12228, and 3.0 µM against VRE 700221 biofilms. Since HP biofilm-eradicating agents operate through an iron starvation mode of action, we evaluated metal-chelating agents EDTA (general chelator) and TPEN (cell-permeable chelator) as comparators; however, neither of these compounds were able to eradicate MRSA or MRSE biofilms (MBEC > 2000 μM). Vancomycin was evaluated in CBD assays against MRSA, MRSE and VRE biofilms. Against MRSA and MRSE, we found vancomycin to report potent planktonic killing activities (MBC = $3.0-7.8 \mu M$) while their biofilm counterparts were completely tolerant to this antibiotic (MBEC > 2000 μ M). Interestingly, we did observe vancomycin to eradicate VRE 700221 biofilms at high concentrations (MBEC = 150 μ M), which is attributed to a less robust biofilm under these assay conditions.

We then performed hemolysis assays to determine if this series of HPs demonstrates membrane-lysis activities following initial biofilm eradication studies. Hemolysis assays are an important secondary experiment when evaluating biofilm-killing profiles of small molecules as general membrane lysis is an effective way to eradicate established biofilms (*i.e.*, quaternary ammonium cations such as QAC-10 induce >99%

hemolysis of red blood cells at 200 µM and kill biofilms; Table 2). During these studies, eight HPs were evaluated against red blood cells at 200 µM to give <8% hemolysis activity at this high test concentration demonstrating that these HPs do not operate through a membrane lysis mechanism.

Following initial biofilm eradication assessment, HP-1, 6,8ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15, 7-SCF₃-HP 13, 7-iodo-HP 12, and vancomycin were evaluated against a panel of six MRSA clinical isolates in CBD assays (Table 3). Against MRSA isolates, HP-1 demonstrated moderate to low biofilm-killing activities with MBECs = $150->200 \mu M$ while $7-SCF_3-HP$ 13 and 7-iodo-HP 12 reported good to excellent activities (MBEC values = 4.69-25 μM). 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 demonstrated incredible biofilm-killing properties against MRSA clinical isolates with MBEC values = $0.59-1.17 \mu M$. In addition, vancomycin was used as a comparator against this panel of MRSA clinical isolates. Despite vancomycin's potent activity against planktonic cells (MBC = 3.0-7.8 µM; Table 3) in CBD assays, the drug of last resort for MRSA infections was unable to eradicate MRSA biofilms at the highest concentrations tested (MBEC values > 2000 μM against all isolates).

Confocal microscopy reveals matrix loss with HP treatment

To visualize the MRSA biofilm matrix modulation of 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 we utilized confocal z-stack imaging with USA300 S. aureus carrying pCM29_GFP. This plasmid allows for the constitutive expression of green fluorescent protein (GFP) and imaging of the biofilm cell population. To visualize the associated biofilm matrix, we stained the biofilms before imaging with concanavalin A lectin conjugated with Texas Red. This combination allows for visualization of both the bacteria and the matrix polysaccharides of the S. aureus biofilms.

We found that treatment of a pre-formed MRSA biofilm with both parent HP-1 (1) and 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 at 25 μM could reduce the biofilm height, although HP 15 was far superior at this concentration (Fig. 5). Specifically, the

Table 3 Summary of Calgary Biofilm Device assay results for select halogenated phenazines and vancomycin against MRSA clinical isolates

Compound	MRSA 1	MRSA 2	S. aureus 129	S. aureus 138	S. aureus 147	S. aureus 156
	MBC/MBEC	MBC/MBEC	MBC/MBEC	MBC/MBEC	MBC/MBEC	MBC/MBEC
1 (HP-1) 12 13	$37.5^{a}/150^{a}$ $6.25/9.38^{a}$ $2.35^{a}/4.69^{a}$	$37.5^a/\ge 200$ $6.25/18.8^a$ $4.69^a/18.8^a$	$75^{a}/>200$ $12.5^{b}/18.8^{a}$ $2.35^{a}/9.38^{a}$	50/200 12.5/18.8 ^a 12.5/25	$50/\geq 200$ $9.38^{a}/9.38^{a}$ $6.25/9.38^{a}$	$50/\geq 200$ $9.38^a/12.5$ 3.13/6.25
15	$0.59^{a}/0.78^{b}$	$0.59^{a}/0.78^{b}$	$0.59^{a}/0.78$	$1.56/1.17^a$ $7.8/>2000$	$0.78^{b}/0.59^{a}$	$0.78/0.78^{b}$
Vancomycin	$3.0^{a}/>2000$	$5.9^{a}/>2000$	$5.9^{a}/>2000$		$5.9^{a}/>2000$	7.8/>2000

All biological results are reported in micromolar (µM) concentrations and were acquired from three or more independent experiments. ^a Midpoint value for experiments that yielded a 2-fold range from CBD assays. ^b Midpoint value for experiments that yielded a 4-fold range from

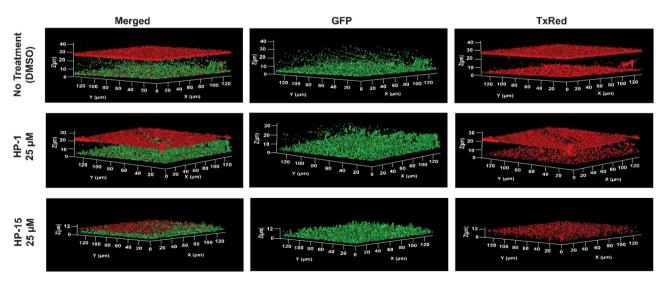


Fig. 5 Confocal microscopy images of MRSA biofilms untreated or treated with select HP analogues. The figures show the 3-D rendering of confocal z-stack imaging of biofilms grown with GFP expressing S. aureus and stained with Texas Red conjugated concanavalin A. The top three images show MRSA biofilms with no compound (DMSO Control), the middle and bottom images are those treated with 25 µM of HP-1 and 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15, respectively. All imaging was done with n = 3 replicates with representative images shown.

untreated biofilms had a height of ~30 µm with a dense layer of polysaccharide encasing the bacterial cells. With HP-1 treatment, this height decreased to ~20 μm and the polysaccharide matrix was much less dense than the untreated biofilms. Following treatment with 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15, there was a drastic reduction in biofilm height (~10 μm height remained) and the polysaccharide matrix on top of the biofilm was largely removed. The images in Fig. 5 validate the increased potency of the optimized 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 compound over parent HP-1.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we have developed a modular synthetic route to access HPs utilizing a reaction sequence that starts from nitroarene and aniline materials to yield diverse 1-methoxyphenazines. Several new HPs demonstrated highly potent antibacterial (MIC $\leq 0.39 \mu M$) and biofilm-eradicating properties (MBEC < 10 µM) with 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 demonstrating the most potent biofilm-killing properties (MBEC = 0.15-1.17 µM) against Gram-positive pathogens, including MRSA clinical isolates. Using confocal microscopy, 6,8-ditrifluoromethyl-HP 15 was shown to induce significant polysaccharide loss of MRSA biofilms. In addition, HP 15 demonstrated increased antibacterial activity against dormant Mtb cultures (MIC = 1.35 μ M) when compared to replicating Mtb (MIC = $3.69 \mu M$). Overall, this modular synthesis enabled rapid access to new halogenated phenazines to further explore their unique antibacterial and biofilm-killing properties.

Experimental

General information

All synthetic reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of argon unless otherwise specified. All reagents for chemical synthesis were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Reagents were purchased at ≥95% purity and commercially available controls were used in our biological investigations without further purification. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using 250 µm Silica Gel 60 F254 pre-coated plates (EMD Chemicals Inc.). Flash column chromatography was performed using 230-400 Mesh 60 Å Silica Gel from Sorbent Technologies. All melting points were obtained, uncorrected, using a Mel-Temp capillary melting point apparatus from Laboratory Services, Inc.

NMR experiments were recorded on the following instruments: Bruker Avance III HD and Avance Neo spectrometers (600 MHz and 400 MHz for ¹H NMR; 151 MHz and 101 MHz for ¹³C NMR), and Agilent Systems VNMRS spectrometer (500 MHz for ¹H NMR; 126 MHz for ¹³C NMR). All spectra are presented using MestReNova (Mnova) software and are displayed without the use of the signal suppression function. Spectra were obtained in the following solvents (reference peaks also included for ¹H and ¹³C NMRs): CDCl₃ (¹H NMR, 7.26 ppm; 13 C NMR, 77.23 ppm) and DMSO- d_6 (1 H NMR: 2.50 ppm, ¹³C NMR, 39.52 ppm). All NMR experiments were performed at room temperature. Chemical shift values (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) for all ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. ¹H NMR multiplicities are reported as: s = singlet, br. s = broad singlet, d = doublet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) were obtained for new compounds from the Chemistry Department at the University of Florida.

Bacterial strains used during these investigations include: methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (ATCC BAA-1707 and ATCC BAA-44; Clinical Isolates from Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL: MRSA 1, MRSA 2, S. aureus 129, S. aureus 138, S. aureus 147, & S. aureus 156), methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus epidermidis (ATCC 12228), methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus epidermidis (MRSE, ATCC 35984), Enterococcus faecalis (ATCC OG1RF), vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE, ATCC 700221), Streptococcus pneumonia (ATCC 6303), Mtb-lux (strain CDC1551 transformed pMV306hsp+LuxG13), multidrug-resistant (MDR) Acinetobacter baumannii (ATCC 1794, ATCC 19606, & ATCC 17978), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (ATCC PA01), and Escherichia coli (Clinical Isolate UAEC-1). S. aureus strain AH3669 constitutively expressing GFP was used for confocal microscopy experiments.

All compounds were stored as dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) stocks at room temperature in the absence of light. To ensure compound integrity of DMSO stock solutions of our test compounds, we did not subject them to freeze-thaw cycles.

Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) susceptibility assay against ESKAPE pathogens

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) for each test compound was determined by the broth microdilution method as recommended by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).65 In a 96-well plate, two-fold serial dilutions of each test compound were made in a final volume of 100 µL of broth (Lysogeny Broth or LB for S. aureus, S. epidermidis MRSE 35984, S. pneumonia, A. baumannii, P. aeruginosa and E. coli; TSBG was required for S. epidermidis 12228 as this strain for optimal growth for MIC assays; Brain Heart Infusion for E. faecium and E. faecalis). Each microtiter well was inoculated with $\sim 10^5$ bacterial cells at the initial time of incubation, prepared from a fresh log phase culture (OD₆₀₀ 0.5-1.0). The MIC was defined as the lowest concentration of a compound that completely inhibits bacterial growth after incubating for 16 hours at 37 °C (MIC values were determined by visual inspection of turbidity and spectrophotometric readings at OD₆₀₀ to show ≥90% bacterial growth inhibition compared to DMSO vehicle control). The concentration range tested during this study was 0.1 to 100 µM. DMSO served as our vehicle and negative control in each microdilution MIC assay. DMSO was serially diluted with a top concentration of 1% v/v. All compounds were tested in three or more independent experiments.

Minimum inhibitory concentrations against replicating Mtb

Mtb-lux (strain CDC1551 transformed with pMV306hsp+LuxG13) were grown aerobically in Middlebrook 7H9 (supplemented with glycerol, 0.05% Tween 80, 10% oleic acid-albumin-dextrose-catalase (OADC), 50 μg mL⁻¹ Kanamycin) until log phase (OD₆₀₀ 0.8–1.0). After diluting to OD₆₀₀ 0.02, 15 μ L of Mtb-lux was added into each well of 384-well plates containing the drugs serially diluted (1:2) (final volume per well = 30 μ L; final Mtb OD₆₀₀ per well = 0.01). Luminescence readouts were taken using the Synergy H4 plate reader (BioTek) after 4-5 days of incubation at 37 °C, 5% CO₂.66 Isoniazid and rifampicin curves were included against replicating Mtb in complete Dubos medium for comparison of MIC values.⁶⁶ MIC values against Mtb were defined as the concentration required to give 99% growth inhibition from on dose-response curves generated in GraphPad Prism 10 using the Gompertz model based on positive (rifamycin at 15 µM served as 100% growth inhibition) and negative (1% DMSO) controls. Experimental results were obtained from duplicates in at least two independent assays.

Minimum inhibitory concentrations against dormant Mtb

To determine MICs against drug-tolerant non-replicating dormant Mtb, we utilized our previously reported multi-stress dormancy model. 66,67 Briefly, replicating Mtb-lux were grown aerobically in Middlebrook 7H9 as described above. After reaching log phase, the culture was pre-adapted in Complete Dubos Medium (CDM) supplemented with 10% ADS for 48 hours. Then, the cells were resuspended in Multiple Stress Dormancy Media (pH = 5.0) and kept for 9 days under hypoxia (37 °C, 5% O_2 , 10% CO_2). At the day 9, the dormant Mtb was exposed to serially diluted test compounds and after 48 hours of treatment, the luminescence readouts were taken using the Synergy H4 plate reader (BioTek). Isoniazid and rifampicin curves were included against dormant Mtb in complete Dubos medium for comparison of MIC values.⁶⁶ MIC values against Mtb were defined as the concentration required to give 99% growth inhibition from on dose-response curves generated in GraphPad Prism 10 using the Gompertz model based on positive (rifamycin at 15 µM served as 100% growth inhibition) and negative (1% DMSO) controls. Experimental results were obtained from duplicates in at least two independent assays.

LDH release assay for HeLa cytotoxicity assessment

HeLa cytotoxicity was assessed using the LDH release assay described by CytoTox96 (Promega G1780). HeLa cells were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; Gibco) supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) at 37 °C with 5% CO₂. When the HeLa cultures exhibited 70–80% confluence, halogenated phenazines were then diluted by DMEM (10% FBS) at concentrations of 25, 50 and 100 μM and added to HeLa cells. Triton X-100 (at 2% v/v) was used as the positive control for maximum lactate dehydrogenate (LDH) activity in this assay (*i.e.*, complete cell death) while "medium only" lanes served as negative control lanes (*i.e.*, no cell death). DMSO was used as our vehicle control. HeLa cells were treated

with compounds for 24 hours and then 50 μL of the supernatant was transferred into a fresh 96-well plate where 50 μL of the reaction mixture was added to the 96-well plate and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Finally, Stop Solution (50 μL) was added to the incubating plates and the absorbance was measured at 490 nm. Results are from three independent experiments.

Calgary biofilm device (CBD) assays

Biofilm eradication experiments were performed using the Calgary Biofilm Device to determine MBC/MBEC values for various compounds of interest (Innovotech, product code: 19111). The Calgary device (96-well plate with lid containing pegs to establish biofilms) was inoculated with 125 µL of a mid-log phase culture diluted 1000-fold in tryptic soy broth with 0.5% glucose (TSBG) to establish bacterial biofilms after incubation at 37 °C for 24 hours. The lid of the Calgary device was then removed, gently washed and transferred to a new 96-well plate containing 2-fold serial dilutions of the test compounds in media (the "challenge plate"). The total volume of media with compound in each well in the challenge plate is 150 μL. The Calgary device was then incubated at 37 °C for 24 hours. The lid was then removed from the challenge plate and MBC/MBEC values were determined using different experimental pathways. To determine MBC values, 20 µL of the challenge plate was transferred into a fresh 96-well plate containing 180 µL TSBG and incubated overnight at 37 °C. The MBC values were determined as the test concentration of compound that resulted in a complete lack of visible bacterial growth (i.e., turbidity). For determination of MBEC values, the Calgary device lid (with attached pegs/treated biofilms) was transferred to a new 96-well plate containing 150 µL of fresh TSBG media in each well and incubated for 24 hours at 37 °C to allow viable biofilms to grow and disperse resulting in turbidity after the incubation period. MBEC values were determined as the lowest test concentration that resulted in microtiter wells with no turbidity as a result of complete biofilm eradication. Notes: All data were obtained from a minimum of three independent experiments. MBC & MBEC values were determined as the lowest test concentration required to demonstrate ≥90% reduction in turbidity compared to the DMSO control as determined with the use of a spectrophotometer based on OD_{600} values (with background subtracted; see ESI†).

Hemolysis assay with red blood cells

Freshly drawn human red blood cells (hRBC with ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, EDTA, as an anticoagulant) were washed with Tris-buffered saline (0.01 M Tris-base, 0.155 M sodium chloride, pH 7.2) and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 3500 rpm. The washing was repeated three times with the buffer. In a 96-well plate, test compounds were added to the buffer from DMSO stocks. Then 2% hRBCs (50 μL) in buffer were added to test compounds to give a final concentration of 200 μM . The plate was then incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C. After incubation, the plate was then centrifuged for 5 minutes at 3500 rpm. Then, 80 μL of the supernatant was transferred to another

96-well plate and the optical density (OD) was read at 405 nm. DMSO served as our negative control (0% hemolysis) while Triton X served as our positive control (100% hemolysis). The percent hemolysis was calculated as (OD₄₀₅ of the compound – OD₄₀₅ DMSO)/(OD₄₀₅ Triton X – OD₄₀₅ buffer) from three independent experiments.

Confocal microscope images with *Staphylococcus aureus* biofilms

Staphylococcus aureus strain AH3669 (USA300-0114 MRSA; pCM29_GFP)68 constitutively expressing GFP were grown overnight at 37 °C at 220 rpm in tryptic soy broth (TSB) with 10 μg mL⁻¹ of chloramphenicol. The resulting cultures were used to seed biofilms at an $OD_{600} = 0.5$ in Biofilm Media (TSB, 0.5% Glucose) at a volume of 1 mL. Biofilms were seeded in 35 mm Matsunami glass bottom culture dishes (VWR) with glass thickness of #1.5 (0.16-0.19 mm). The edges of the dish were sealed with parafilm, and the biofilms were grown for 24 hours 37 °C under static conditions. After 24 hours of growth, the supernatant was carefully aspirated so as not to disturb bacteria adhered to the dish. The halogenated phenazine compounds were diluted in Mueller Hinton 2 broth (MHBII) from the stock concentration (10 mM) to the appropriate concentration in triplicate. A DMSO control was prepared in triplicate containing an equivalent volume to that of the highest concentration of halogenated phenazine. The dilutions and controls were added to the biofilms, the edges of the dishes were sealed with parafilm, and the biofilms were returned to the 37 °C static bacterial incubator for 24-hour incubation with the treatment. Following treatment, the supernatant was removed, and the biofilms were washed with 1 mL of phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The biofilm polysaccharide matrix material was stained with 1 mL of the 100 μg mL⁻¹ Texas Red conjugated Concanavalin A (Invitrogen) in 0.1 M Sodium Bicarbonate for 5 minutes in the dark on a gel rocker. The dye was aspirated, and the samples were washed with 1 mL of PBS to remove residual dye. Z-stack images were taken with Zeiss LSM 710 confocal microscope using the 63× oil objective with 488 nm and 543 nm laser channels.

UV-vis spectroscopy experiments

In a 1.5 mL cuvette were added 970 μ L of DMSO and 30 μ L of test compound (as a 10 mM DMSO stock solution). In a separate cuvette, 955 μ L of DMSO, 30 μ L of test compound (10 mM DMSO stock), and 15 μ L of ammonium iron(π) sulfate hexahydrate were added (10 mM water solution) and thoroughly mixed. Then, spectral scanning was performed from 300 to 700 nm in 10 nm increments after 1 and 10 minutes. Note: All iron salt solutions were freshly made and added to the cuvette immediately.

Abbreviations

AlCl₃ Aluminium(III) chloride BBr₃ Boron tribromide

BHI Brain Heart Infusion (broth)

Bn Benzyl

^tBuOK

HP

INH

BSA N,O-Bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide

Potassium tert-butoxide

°C Degrees celsius

CBD Calgary Biofilm Device
CDM Complete Dubos Medium

CF Cystic fibrosis

cytotox. Cytotoxicity

DMEM Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium

DMSO Dimethyl sulfoxide

EDTA Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid

FBS Fetal Bovine Serum
GFP Green fluorescent protein

equiv. Equivalents

Halogenated phenazine

HRMS High resolution mass spectroscopy
HSQC Heteronuclear Single Quantum Coherence

Isoniazid

LB Luria-Bertani (broth)
LDH Lactate dehydrogenase

M Molar

MBC Minimum bactericidal concentration

MBEC Minimum biofilm eradication concentration

MDR Multidrug-resistant

Me Methyl MeOH Methanol mg Milligram(s)

MH Mueller Hinton (broth)

mL Milliliters mM Millimolar

MIC Minimum inhibitory concentration

μm MicrometerμM Micromolarμg Microgrammin Minute(s)

MRSA Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MRSE Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus epidermidis
MSSE Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus epidermidis

Mtb Mycobacterium tuberculosis

NaCl Sodium chloride NBS *N*-Bromosuccinimide

nM Nanomolar nm Nanometer

NMR Nuclear magnetic resonance (spectroscopy)

OADC Oleic acid-albumin-dextrose-catalase

OD Optical density

PBS Phosphate-buffered silane QAC-10 Quaternary ammonium cation-10

Structure-activity relationship

RBCs (Human) red blood cells

RIF Rifampicin

SAR

rpm Revolutions per minute rt Room temperature S. epi Staphylococcus epidermidis

SI Selectivity index Supp. Supplemental TLC Thin-layer chromatography

TPEN N,N,N',N'-Tetrakis(2-pyridinylmethyl)-1,2-

ethanediamine Tryptic soy broth

TSB Tryptic soy broth
TSBG Tryptic soy broth with 0.5% glucose

μL Microliters

Paper

TxRed Texas Red (fluorescent dye)

VRE Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecium

v/v Volume per volume

Author contributions

Q. G. synthesized HPs, evaluated HPs (MIC assays, MBEC assays, iron(II)-binding experiments using UV-vis), and wrote the initial draft of this manuscript. H. Y. synthesized HPs and evaluated HPs (MIC and MBEC assays). J. S. performed confocal imaging experiments with S. aureus biofilms. P. C. B. H. evaluated HPs to determine activity profiles against replicating and dormant Mtb. K. L. evaluated HPs (MIC and MBEC assays). D. B. synthesized a few HPs and evaluated HPs (MIC and MBEC assays). S. M. evaluated HPs in MIC and MBEC assays. S. J. performed cytotoxicity assessments of HPs against HeLa cells. K. R. directed Mtb studies and drafted text describing these experiments. R. M. F. directed confocal imaging experiments and drafted manuscript text pertaining to these experiments. R. H. directed chemical synthesis, evaluation of HPs, coordinated research activities, and finalized writing this manuscript with the input of select authors. All authors have reviewed the data, agree with the findings, and approve the final manuscript.

Data availability

The data underlying this study are available in the published article and its ESI.† The data contained in the manuscript include: synthesis results (Scheme 1), MIC & MBEC results (Tables 1–3 & Fig. 3–4), confocal biofilm images (Fig. 5). The contents contained in the ESI† include: supporting figures, characterization data for newly synthesized (with tabulated ¹H & ¹³C NMR data, HRMS, melting points for solids, and NMR spectra), UV-vis spectroscopy results for iron(II) binding, microbiological assay results, cytotoxicity assay results, and HPLC traces with purity analysis for HPs synthesized and evaluated during these studies.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (R35GM153272 to R. W. H.). This work was partially supported by the National Institutes of Health R00AI163295 to R. M. F. D.B. was supported by the NIH/NIGMS T32GM136583 "Chemistry-Biology Interface Training Program" at the University of Florida. We are very grateful for Dr Alexander Horswill from University of Colorado providing us with the *S. aureus* strain AH3669 constitutively expressing GFP. High resolution mass spectra were obtained for novel synthesized compounds from the University of Florida's Mass Spectrometry Research and Education Center and supported by NIH S10 OD021758-01A1. We thank Eli Levit for helpful discussions related to NMR data during the preparation of this manuscript.

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