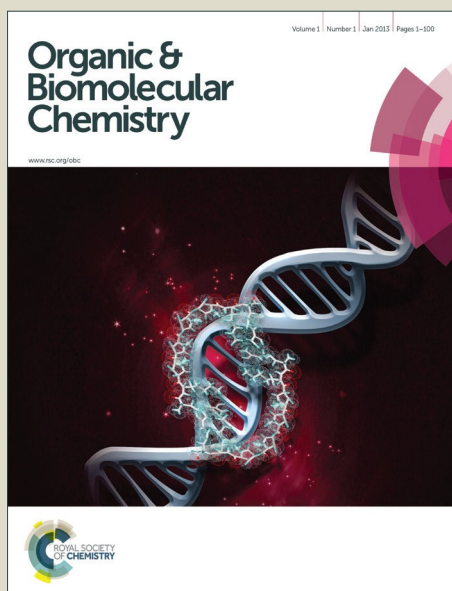


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Nitrogen positional scanning in tetramines active against HIV-1 as potential CXCR4 inhibitors

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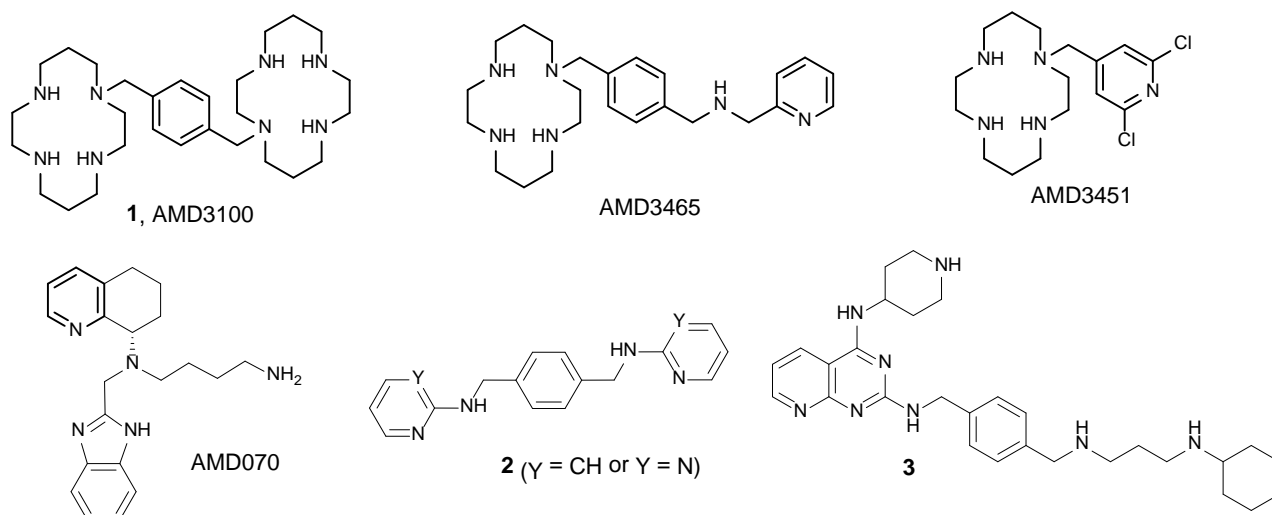
The paradigm, derived from bicyclams and other cyclams, by which it is necessary to use the *p*-phenylene moiety as a central core in order to achieve high HIV-1 antiviral activities has been reexamined for the more flexible and less bulky structures **4**, previously described by our group as potent HIV-1 inhibitors. The symmetrical compounds **7**_{x,x} and the non-symmetrical compounds **8**_{x,y} were designed, synthesized and biologically evaluated in order to explore the impact on the biological activity of the distance between the phenyl ring and the first nitrogen atom of the side chains. EC₅₀ exactly followed the order **7**_{x,x} < **8**_{x,x} < **4**_{x,x} indicating that, for such flexible tetramines, the presence of two methylene units on each side of the central phenyl ring increases the biological activity contrary to AMD3100. A computational study of the interactions of **4**_{3,3}, **7**_{3,3} and **8**_{3,3} with CXCR4 revealed interactions in the same pocket region with similar binding modes for **4**_{3,3} and **7**_{3,3} but a different one for **8**_{3,3}.

Introduction

Since the discovery of the bicyclam AMD3100 (**1**, plerixafor, EC₅₀ = 0.002 μM),^{1,2} the first small molecule CXCR4 inhibitor, a lot of efforts have been devoted to develop more potent, selective and less toxic inhibitors. Such research has included the synthesis of monocyclam derivatives (AMD3465,³ AMD3451,⁴...) and non-cyclam derivatives (AMD070,⁵ **2**,⁶ **3**,⁷...) (Figure 1).

The reason for such interest was, initially, the use by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) of the chemokine receptor CXCR4 as coreceptor during the HIV cell fusion and entry, which starts

by the interaction of the virus envelop glycoprotein gp120 with the primary receptor CD4.⁸ However, more recently, CXCR4 has been connected with the regulation of the trafficking and homing of various cell types including stem cells and cancer stem cells. Among others, the CXCL12/CXCR4 pathway⁹ promotes tumor vasculogenesis and angiogenesis in tumor stem-like glioma cells.¹⁰ In fact plerixafor (**1**, AMD3100) has been commercialized (trade name Mozobil) as an immunostimulant used to mobilize stem cells to the peripheral blood for collection and subsequent autologous stem-cell transplantation.²



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Figure 1 Structure of bicyclam AMD3100 (**1**), monocyclams AMD3465 and AMD3451, and non-cyclam CXCR4 inhibitors AMD070, **2**, and **3**.

In this context, our work in the field of anti-HIV entry/fusion inhibitors¹¹⁻¹³ identified novel potent CXCR4 coreceptor inhibitors of general structure **4** (Figure 2). Among these tetramines, compound **5** was selected as a lead compound because it shows almost the same level of activity (**5**, $EC_{50} = 0.019 \mu\text{M}$) as the reference compound **1** and shows no cell toxicity at concentrations up to $25 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$.¹¹ More recently, we have synthesized the three stereoisomers of compound **5** (**5**(*R,R*), **5**(*S,S*), and the *meso* form **5**(*S,R*)) and evaluated their effect on glioma initiating cells (GICs) in comparison with the prototype compound AMD3100.¹⁴

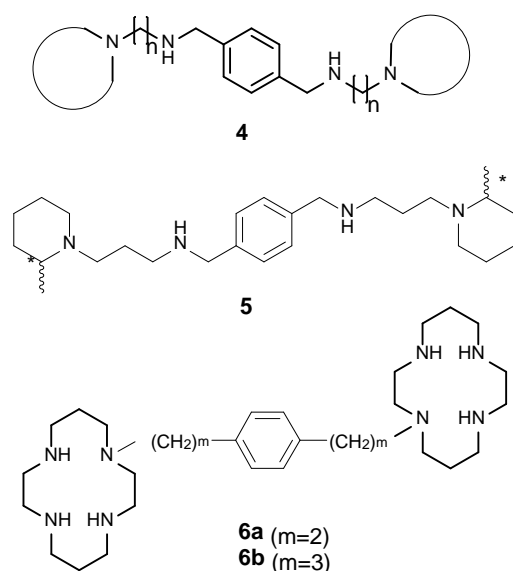


Figure 2 General structure of tetramines **4**, compound **5**, and AMD3100 analogues **6**.

Through our research and previous ones, a paradigm has been widely accepted: to use the *p*-phenylene moiety as a central core for the connection of nitrogen heterocycles linked to two nitrogen atoms on both sides of such core. This paradigm, the presence of a single carbon atom between the central phenyl ring and the first nitrogen of the side chain, comes from the study of Bridger *et al.*¹⁵ who showed that, in the case of analogues **6** (Figure 2), the HIV-1 antiviral activity of **6a** ($m = 2$; $EC_{50} = 14.8 \mu\text{M}$) was 3-4 orders of magnitude less effective than AMD3100 although in the case of **6b** ($m = 3$; $EC_{50} = 0.4 \mu\text{M}$) the diminution was not so clear.

Our conviction that such paradigm could not be necessarily valid for structures less hindered than AMD3100, led us to carry out a positional scanning of the nitrogen atoms present in each side of the central phenyl ring of structures **4** in order to explore the impact on the biological activity of the distance between the phenyl ring and the first nitrogen atom of the side chains.

The present paper describes the design, synthesis and biological evaluation of two families of compounds: the symmetrical compounds **7** (in which $m = 2$ in both sides) and the non-symmetrical compounds **8** (in which $m = 1$, in one side, and $m = 2$, on the other side) (Figure 3).

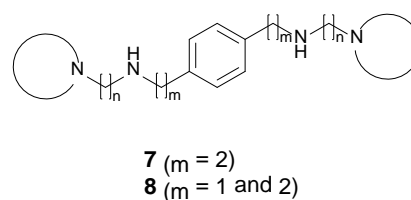


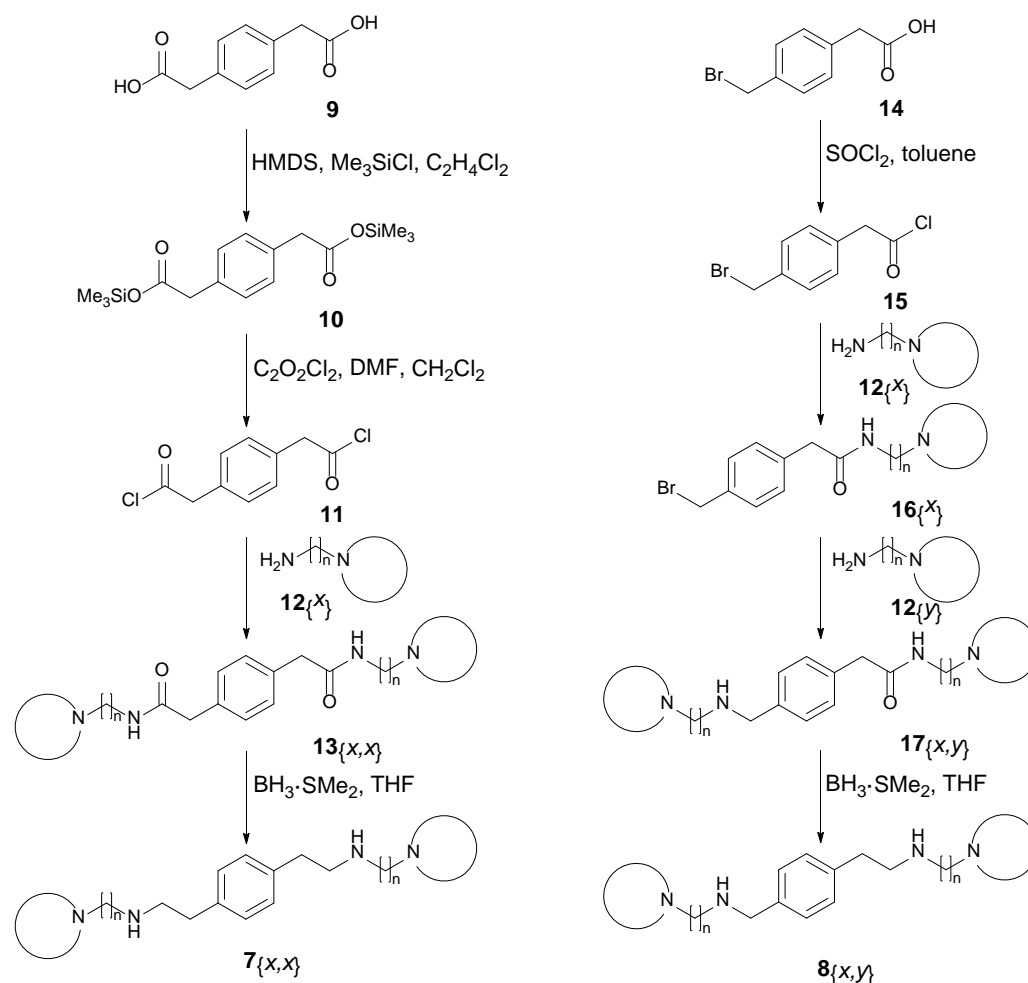
Figure 3 General structures of the new tetramines **7** and **8**.

Results and discussion

Compounds **4** containing the *p*-phenylene moiety as the central core were synthesized using a reductive amination starting from terephthalaldehyde, to afford symmetrical compounds using two equivalents of the same primary amine, or 4-(diethoxymethyl)benzaldehyde which allows the stepwise introduction of two different primary amines to afford non-symmetrical compounds.¹¹ However, in the case of compounds **7** and **8** it was not possible to use the same synthetic strategy because the corresponding required dialdehydes, 1,4-phenylenediacetaldehyde and 4-(formylmethyl)benzaldehyde respectively, were not commercially available. Moreover, it was not possible to synthesize them because of their described instability that was also observed in our hands.^{16,17} Consequently, it was necessary to develop alternative synthetic routes for **7** and **8**.

For the synthesis of the symmetrical tetramines **7**{*x,x*}, we decided to start from 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (Scheme 1) which was transformed to the diacyl dichloride **11** in two steps. Therefore, compound **9** was converted into the bis(trimethylsilyl) 1,4-benzenediacetate (**10**) upon treatment with hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS)/ Me_3SiCl /1,2-dichloroethane as previously described by Falck-Pedersen *et al.*¹⁸ The subsequent treatment of **10** with oxalyl chloride/DMF/ CH_2Cl_2 yielded 1,4-benzenediacetyl chloride (**11**) which was converted to the corresponding diamides **13**{*x,x*} upon treatment with two equivalents of the respective amines **12**{*x*}. Finally, the reduction of amides **13**{*x,x*} with $\text{BH}_3\text{-SME}_2$ in THF yielded the desired symmetrical tetramines **7**{*x,x*} (Scheme 1).

In order to obtain the non-symmetrical compounds **8**{*x,y*}, we selected 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetic (**14**) acid as the starting material (Scheme 1) due the different reactivity of the two ends of the molecule which allows the derivatization of both positions with the same or different amines **12**{*x*} to afford compounds **8**{*x,x*} and **8**{*x,y*}, respectively. Thus, the first amine **12**{*x*} was introduced by acylation with the acid chloride **15**, prepared by treating **14** with SOCl_2 /toluene. Subsequently, a second amine unit **12**{*x*} or **12**{*y*} was introduced by nucleophilic substitution of the benzyl bromine atom of the intermediates **16**{*x*}. Finally, the reduction of the resulting compounds **17**{*x,x*} or **17**{*x,y*} with $\text{BH}_3\text{-SME}_2$ yielded the desired non-symmetrical compounds **8**{*x,x*} or **8**{*x,y*}, respectively (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1 Synthetic protocols for the preparation of symmetrical and non-symmetrical diamines **7** $\{x,x\}$ and **8** $\{x,y\}$, respectively.

A second and important part of our positional scanning of the nitrogen atoms presents in each side of the central phenyl ring was the selection of the amines **12** $\{x\}$ (Figure 4). Such amines are constituted by a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic system (pipercoline, piperidine, piperazine, morpholine, pyrrolidine, and imidazole) linked to a $-(CH_2)_n-$ spacer (where $n = 2, 3$ or 4) which ends in an NH_2 group. Some of these compounds are commercially available, others were previously obtained by our group for the synthesis of tetramines **4** $\{x,y\}$ ¹¹ but some of them have been synthesized specially for this work. This was the case of **12** $\{5\}$ that was obtained using the same protocol previously described by our group.¹¹ Amines **12** $\{10\}$ and **12** $\{11\}$ in which $n = 4$ were synthesized by alkylation of the corresponding nitrogenated heterocycle, 2-methylpiperidine (**19** $\{10\}$) and piperidine (**19** $\{11\}$), with the bromoalkyl phthalimide **18** to afford the intermediates **20** $\{10\}$ and **20** $\{11\}$. The subsequent acid hydrolysis of the phthalimido protecting group yielded the desired amines **12** $\{10\}$ and **12** $\{11\}$ (Scheme 2).

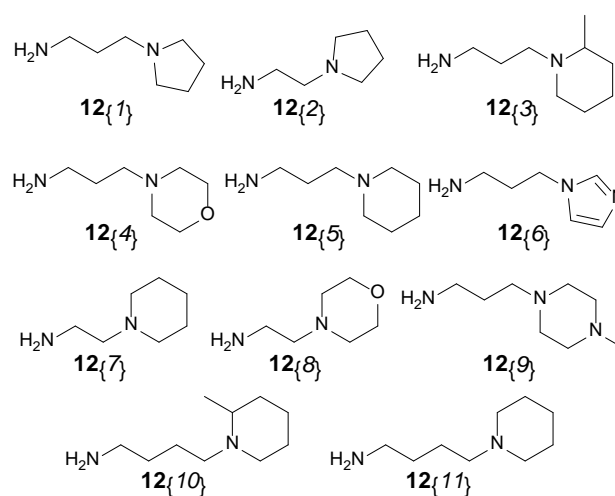
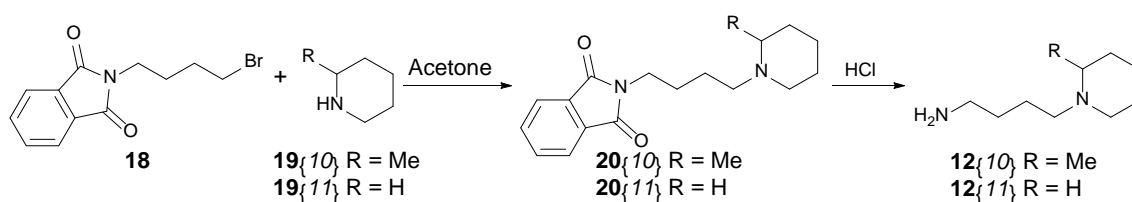


Figure 4 Amines **12** $\{x\}$ used for the synthesis of compounds **7** $\{x,x\}$ and **8** $\{x,y\}$



Scheme 2 Synthesis of the amines **12**{10} and **12**{11}.

Once the symmetrical compounds **7**{*x,x*} and the non-symmetrical compounds **8**{*x,y*} were synthesized, they were tested together with the amide intermediates **13**{*x,x*} and **17**{*x,y*} for anti-HIV activity (EC_{50}) and cytotoxicity (CC_{50}) (Table 1).

From the values obtained some initial conclusions can be drawn: the presence of amide groups dramatically reduces the activity as it can be seen by comparing the EC_{50} of compounds **13**{*x,x*} and **17**{*x,y*} with those of compounds **7**{*x,x*} and **8**{*x,y*}, respectively. Moreover, monoamides **17**{*x,y*} showed better

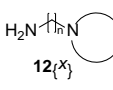
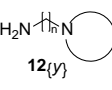
activity than diamides **13**{*x,x*}. This fact is easily observable by the direct comparison of the EC_{50} of compounds containing the same amine building blocks: **17**{3,3} ($EC_{50} = 1.012 \mu\text{M}$) and **17**{5,5} ($EC_{50} = 2.539 \mu\text{M}$) against **13**{3,3} ($EC_{50} = 144.47 \mu\text{M}$) and **13**{5,5} ($EC_{50} > 282.39 \mu\text{M}$), respectively.

On the other hand, the nine new tetramines **7**{*x,x*} and six tetramines **8**{*x,y*} covered a huge range of biological activities ($0.072 \mu\text{M} > EC_{50} > 328 \mu\text{M}$). Seven of these compounds presented $EC_{50} \leq 1 \mu\text{M}$, the most potent being **7**{3,3} ($EC_{50} = 0.072 \mu\text{M}$).

Table 1 EC_{50} and CC_{50} of amides **13**{*x,x*} and **17**{*x,y*}, and tetramines **4**{*x,y*}, **7**{*x,x*} and **8**{*x,y*}

Compound			EC_{50} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$)	CC_{50} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$)	EC_{50} (μM)	CC_{50} (μM)	SI
13 {1,1}	12 {1}	12 {1}	>64.6	>64.6	>155.82	>155.82	---
13 {2,2}	12 {2}	12 {2}	4.2	>125	10.87	>323.39	>29.8
13 {3,3}	12 {3}	12 {3}	68	>125	144.47	>265.57	>1.8
13 {4,4}	12 {4}	12 {4}	>125	>125	>279.91	>279.91	---
13 {5,5}	12 {5}	12 {5}	>125	>125	>282.39	>282.39	---
13 {6,6}	12 {6}	12 {6}	>125	>125	>306	>306	---
13 {7,7}	12 {7}	12 {7}	2.0	>125	4.82	>301.51	>62.5
13 {8,8}	12 {8}	12 {8}	>125	>125	>298.66	>298.66	---
13 {9,9}	12 {9}	12 {9}	>125	>125	>264.46	>264.46	---
7 {1,1}	12 {1}	12 {1}	0.068	37	0.18	95.70	544
7 {2,2}	12 {2}	12 {2}	0.51	70	1.42	195.22	137
7 {3,3}	12 {3}	12 {3}	0.032	52	0.072	117.45	1625
7 {4,4}	12 {4}	12 {4}	20.73	101	49.52	241.27	5
7 {5,5}	12 {5}	12 {5}	0.042	47	0.101	113.34	1119
7 {6,6}	12 {6}	12 {6}	>125	>125	>328.49	>328.49	---
7 {7,7}	12 {7}	12 {7}	0.1	50	0.26	129.33	500
7 {8,8}	12 {8}	12 {8}	>125	>125	>320.1	>320.1	---

Table 1 (Contd.)

Compound			EC ₅₀ (μg/mL)	CC ₅₀ (μg/mL)	EC ₅₀ (μM)	CC ₅₀ (μM)	SI
7{9,9}	12{9}	12{9}	>36.03	36	>81.02	81.02	---
4{1,1} ^[a]	12{1}	12{1}	0.9	32.4	2.51	90.4	36
4{2,2} ^[a]	12{2}	12{2}	10.2	>25	30.9	>75.6	>2.5
4{3,3} ^[a]	12{3}	12{3}	0.050	>25	0.12	>60.3	>500
4{4,4} ^[a]	12{4}	12{4}	>125	>125	>320.1	>320.1	---
4{5,5} ^[a]	12{5}	12{5}	0.14	>25	0.362	>64.65	>179
4{6,6} ^[a]	12{6}	12{6}	>59.5	59.5	>168.8	168.8	---
4{7,7} ^[a]	12{7}	12{7}	>11.7	11.7	>32.6	32.6	---
4{8,8} ^[a]	12{8}	12{8}	>85.7	85.7	>236.4	236.4	---
4{9,9} ^[a]	12{9}	12{9}	9.5	>125	22.8	>300	>13
4{10,10} ^[a]	12{10}	12{10}	0.336	>25	0.76	>56.47	>74
4{11,11} ^[a]	12{11}	12{11}	0.298	>25	0.72	>60.29	>84
4{3,4} ^[a]	12{3}	12{4}	0.5	>25	1.242	>62.1	>50
4{1,4} ^[a]	12{1}	12{4}	1.6	>25	4.271	>66.7	>16
17{3,3}	12{3}	12{3}	0.448	>25	1.012	>56.47	>56
17{4,4}	12{4}	12{4}	>25	>25	>59.73	>59.73	---
17{4,1}	12{4}	12{1}	>25	>25	>62.10	>62.10	---
17{4,3}	12{4}	12{3}	2.894	>25	6.720	>58.05	>9
17{5,5}	12{5}	12{5}	1.053	>25	2.539	>60.29	>24
17{5,3}	12{5}	12{3}	0.596	>25	1.390	>58.32	>42
8{3,3}	12{3}	12{3}	0.049	>25	0.114	>58.32	>510
8{4,4}	12{4}	12{4}	>25	>25	61.79	>61.79	---
8{4,1}	12{4}	12{1}	3.779	>25	9.725	>64.34	>7
8{4,3}	12{4}	12{3}	0.706	>25	1.695	>60.00	>35
8{5,5}	12{5}	12{5}	0.130	>25	0.325	>62.40	>192
8{5,3}	12{5}	12{3}	0.036	>25	0.087	>60.29	>694

[a] Compounds previously described by our group¹¹

EC₅₀: Effective concentration 50 or concentration needed to inhibit by 50% HIV-induced cell death evaluated with the MTT method in MT-4 cells.

CC₅₀: Cytotoxic concentration 50 or concentration needed to induce 50% death of non-infected MT-4 cells with the MTT method.

Reference compound: AMD3100: EC₅₀ = 0.004 μM, CC₅₀ >10 μM.

Among the different amines $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ used, $\mathbf{12}\{3\}$, $\mathbf{12}\{5\}$ and $\mathbf{12}\{1\}$ gave the most active compounds in the three families of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,y\}$, $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{x,y\}$ when the same amine is present in both ends of the compound. These three amines have in common a propylene spacer ($-(\text{CH}_2)_3-$) connecting the heterocyclic ring and the nitrogen atom closer to the phenyl ring and contain only one nitrogen atom in the heterocyclic ring.

The comparison of the EC_{50} of compounds $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ with those of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,y\}$ prepared using the same amine $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ clearly showed that higher activities were obtained for compounds $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ in eight out of nine cases. With the sole exception of compounds $\mathbf{7}\{9,9\}$ and $\mathbf{4}\{9,9\}$ prepared with amine $\mathbf{12}\{9\}$, better activity values and less toxicity were showed in cell tests when the central core is a 1,4-phenylenbis-(ethylene) moiety (compounds $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$) instead of a 1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene) one (compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,y\}$).

This trend is also observed when the EC_{50} of compounds $\mathbf{8}\{x,y\}$ are considered. These compounds present a central core with a methylene subunit in one side of the central phenyl ring and an ethylene subunit on the other side. When we compare the EC_{50} values of $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ ($0.072 \mu\text{M}$), $\mathbf{8}\{3,3\}$ ($0.114 \mu\text{M}$) and $\mathbf{4}\{3,3\}$ ($0.121 \mu\text{M}$) or those of $\mathbf{7}\{5,5\}$ ($0.101 \mu\text{M}$), $\mathbf{8}\{5,5\}$ ($0.325 \mu\text{M}$) and $\mathbf{4}\{5,5\}$ ($0.362 \mu\text{M}$), we can observe that the EC_{50} exactly follow the order $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\} < \mathbf{8}\{x,x\} < \mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$. This observation let us to conclude that for the kind of tetramines studied by our group as potential anti-HIV compounds, the presence of two methylene units on each side of the central phenyl ring increases the biological activity contrary to what has been observed in the case of AMD3100.

In the case of the non-symmetrical structures $\mathbf{4}\{x,y\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{x,y\}$, prepared using different amines $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ in each end of the molecule and in contrast to the symmetrical structures, at least in two cases compounds $\mathbf{4}\{3,4\}$, $\text{EC}_{50} = 1.242 \mu\text{M}$; $\mathbf{4}\{1,4\}$, $\text{EC}_{50} = 4.271 \mu\text{M}$ are more active than the corresponding compounds $\mathbf{8}\{3,4\}$, $\text{EC}_{50} = 1.695 \mu\text{M}$; $\mathbf{8}\{4,1\}$, $\text{EC}_{50} = 9.725 \mu\text{M}$. Among these compounds, $\mathbf{8}\{5,3\}$ showed the better anti-HIV activity ($\text{EC}_{50} = 0.087 \mu\text{M}$).

Another interesting comparison arises from the $m+n$ value in symmetrical structures $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$. Thus, in Table 2 are included those structures in which $m+n=5$ and the EC_{50} values clearly show that compounds $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ with $m=2$ (EC_{50} of $\mathbf{7}\{5,5\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ are 0.101 and $0.072 \mu\text{M}$ respectively) are near to 10-fold more active the compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ with $m=1$ (EC_{50} of $\mathbf{4}\{11,11\}$ and $\mathbf{4}\{10,10\}$ are 0.72 and $0.76 \mu\text{M}$ respectively). On the other hand, the comparison of the EC_{50} values in symmetrical structures $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ when $m+n=4$ (Table 3) brings to conclude that in this case the value of m is not so important in molecules with this length, having the compounds with the same terminal cyclic amine nearly the same EC_{50} .

Table 3 also shows that the nature of the terminal heterocyclic ring plays an important role in the biological activity. Thus, symmetrical compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ prepared with an amine $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ bearing a pyrrolidine ($\mathbf{12}\{1\}$ or $\mathbf{12}\{2\}$) or a piperidine ($\mathbf{12}\{5\}$ or $\mathbf{12}\{7\}$) present the better anti-HIV activities ($\text{EC}_{50} = 2.51$, 1.42 , 0.362 , and $0.26 \mu\text{M}$, respectively) while those prepared with an amine $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ bearing a morpholine ($\mathbf{12}\{4\}$, $\mathbf{12}\{8\}$) gave $\text{EC}_{50} > 320.1 \mu\text{M}$.

Table 2 EC_{50} and CC_{50} of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ in which $m+n=5$

Structure	m	n	EC_{50} (μM)	CC_{50} (μM)
	1	4	0.72	>60.29
	2	3	0.101	113.34
	1	4	0.76	>56.47
	2	3	0.072	117.45

Table 3 EC_{50} and CC_{50} of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ in which $m+n=4$

Structure	m	n	EC_{50} (μM)	CC_{50} (μM)
	1	3	2.51	90.4
	2	2	1.42	195.22
	1	3	0.362	>64.65
	2	2	0.26	129.33
	1	3	>320.1	>320.1
	2	2	>320.1	>320.1

Finally, in order to globally evaluate the results obtained, the EC_{50} and CC_{50} of AMD3100 were determined ($\text{EC}_{50} = 0.004 \mu\text{M}$; $\text{CC}_{50} > 10 \mu\text{M}$) by following the same methodology as for our compounds. As it can be seen, compounds $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ ($\text{EC}_{50} = 0.072 \mu\text{M}$) and $\mathbf{8}\{5,3\}$ ($\text{EC}_{50} = 0.087 \mu\text{M}$) present nearly the same level of activity than the reference and also show a good therapeutic index ($\text{SI} = 1625$ and > 694 , respectively).

In order to understand the results obtained, a computational study was carried out. This study consisted of the analysis of the interactions of CXCR4 with three different molecules: $\mathbf{4}\{3,3\}$, $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{3,3\}$ (Figure 5). In our previous work,¹⁹ we evaluated the docking-based virtual screening performance of CXCR4 crystal structures. We showed how PDB 3OE6 achieved the highest virtual screening performance using the docking function Ligandfit²⁰ and the scoring function DockScore²¹.

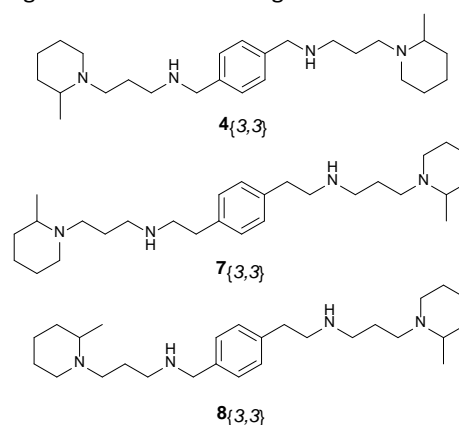


Figure 5 Structures of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{3,3\}$, $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{3,3\}$.

In the present work, structures **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3} were prepared using protocol LigPrep²² from Schrödinger. Force field OPLS 2005 was applied to generate possible tautomers, stereoisomers and ionization states at pH 7 ± 2 with *ionizer*. Protein-ligand interactions established for the best poses

obtained for each structure are shown in Figure 6. All three compounds **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3} bind CXCR4 in the same region of the extracellular pocket because, in general, they have similar interactions with the same residues of CXCR4. Nevertheless, the binding modes and some of the interactions

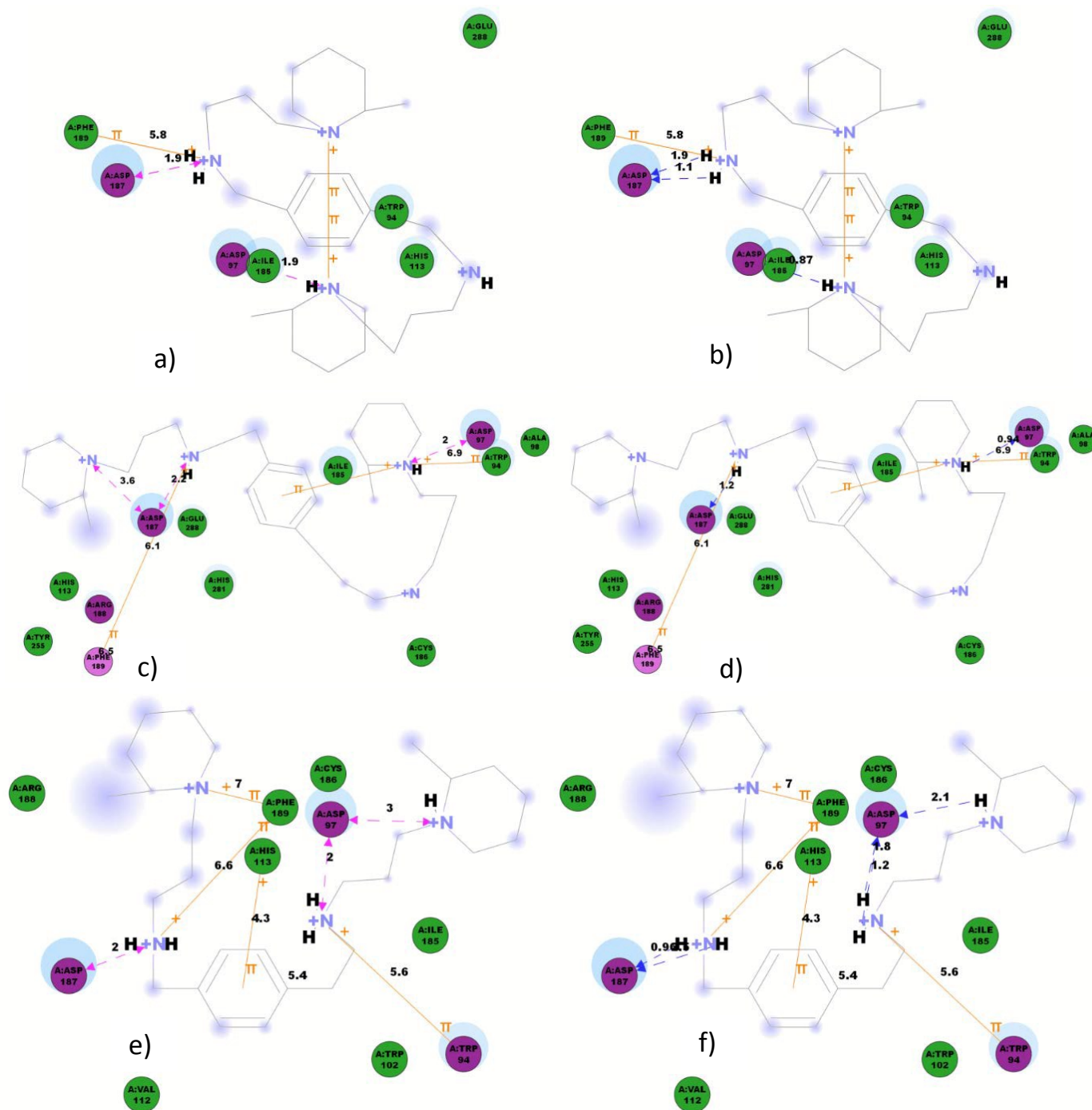


Figure 6 Docking binding modes of **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3}. The diagrams show, separately and for a question of clarity, charge interactions (left diagrams) and hydrogen bond interactions (right diagrams) as well as the corresponding distances established between **4**{3}, **7**{3} and **8**{3} and CXCR4. a) and b) correspond to the CXCR4-**4**{3,3} interactions, c) and d) to the CXCR4-**7**{3,3} interactions and e) and f) to the CXCR4-**8**{3,3} interactions found for the best binding poses obtained. The diagrams depict hydrogen bonds (blue arrows), charge interactions (pink arrows), π interactions (orange lines), ionic interactions (magenta circles), solvent (blue halo) and Van der Waals interactions (green circles).

are different depending on each compound. In the best binding pose of **4**{3,3} three side chain hydrogen bond donors were found between the two hydrogens of the protonated secondary amine and Asp187 and between the protonated pipercoline amine of the other side of the central aromatic ring and Asp97 oxygen, two ionic interactions were also found between the same protonated amines and Asp187 and Asp97 oxygens as before.

Three π interactions were also found, one between the same protonated secondary amine and Phe189 and two intramolecular π interactions between both protonated pipercoline amines and the central aromatic ring. Also, polar interactions were found between **4**{3,3} and Asp97, Arg183, Asp187, Arg188 and His281 and van der Waals interactions with residues Leu41, Tyr45, Trp94, Ala98, Trp102, His113, Tyr116, Ile185, Cys186, Phe189, Tyr190, Tyr255 and Glu288 (Figure 6).

The best binding pose of **7**{3,3} shows two possible side chain hydrogen bond donors between the protonated secondary amine and Asp187 oxygen and between the protonated pipercoline amine of the other side of the central aromatic ring and Asp97 oxygen. Furthermore, three ionic interactions were also found between Asp187 oxygen and the protonated pipercoline and secondary amine, both in the same side of the structure, Asp97 oxygen and the protonated pipercoline of the other side of the central aromatic ring. Three possible π interactions were found, as above for **4**{3,3}, one between the protonated secondary amine and Phe189 and two between the protonated pipercoline amine of the other side of the central aromatic ring and Trp94. Polar interactions were also found between **7**{3,3} and Asp97, Asp187, Arg188 and Phe189 and van der Waals interactions with residues Asn37, Leu41, Tyr45, Trp94, Ala98, Trp102, His113, Tyr116, Arg183, Ile185, Cys186, Tyr190, Tyr255, His281, Ser285 and Glu288 (Figure 6).

The best binding conformation of **8**{3,3} shows five possible side chain hydrogen bond donors, two between the protonated secondary amine, which linked to the central aromatic ring by a methylene, and Asp187, and three possible between Asp97 and the protonated pipercoline amine and the protonated secondary amine, both in the same amino building block which it is linked to the central aromatic ring by an ethylene group. Three possible ionic interactions were also found between Asp187 and the protonated secondary amine linked to the central aromatic ring with a methylene, and between Asp97 and the protonated pipercoline and/or the secondary amine situated in the same amino building block linked with the central aromatic ring by an ethylene. Four possible π interactions were found, two between the both protonated secondary amine and/or with the pipercoline situated in the same building block, which is linked to the central aromatic ring by a methylene, and Phe189, another between the protonated secondary amine linked to the central aromatic ring by an ethylene and Trp94 and between the central aromatic ring and His113. Polar interactions were found between **8**{3,3} and Trp94, Asp97 and Asp 187 while van der Waals interactions were established with residues Ala98, Trp102, Val112, His113, Arg183, Ile185, Cys186, Arg188 and Phe189 (Figure 6).

Protein-ligand interactions can be represented from the protein point of view and also from the ligand point of view. Figure 7 shows the stronger interactions and the corresponding distances, established between structures **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3} with different residues of CXCR4. Structure **4**{3,3} shows less number of interactions than structures **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3} and the interactions established are located at one end of the molecule. This observation could explain that this structure showed the highest EC₅₀ of the three analogues. Despite that **8**{3,3} shows more interactions than the other analogues, chiefly the π ones, it showed higher EC₅₀ than **7**{3,3}. This result could be explained by the fact that **7**{3,3} is the only compound that has shown charge interactions at each end of the molecule, at both nitrogens of the pipercolines. Charge interactions are considered the most determinant interactions established by CXCR4²³ and by HIV when this enters in a host cell.²⁴ These charge interactions could block the overall structure of **7**{3,3} in the binding site, reducing global movements of the structure and therefore stabilizing interactions with CXCR4 inhibiting more effectively the HIV activity.

	charge	H bond	π	charge	H bond	π	charge	H bond	π
4 {3,3}									
7 {3,3}									
8 {3,3}									
Structure 1 (NH ⁺)	1.9	0.87		3.6					7.0
Structure 2 (NH ₂ ⁺)	1.9	1.1	5.8	2.2	1.2	6.5	2.0	0.96	6.6
Structure 3 (NH ⁺)									4.3
Structure 4 (H ₂ N ⁺)							2.0	1.2	5.6
Structure 5 (NH ⁺)				2.0	0.94	6.9	3.0	2.1	

Figure 7 Representation of the main protein-ligand interactions (charge interactions in pink colour, hydrogen bonding in blue, and π interactions in yellow) and the interaction distances established by structures **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3}.

In addition, the representation in Table 4 of the protein-ligand interactions, considering the protein point of view, shows that **8**{3} was the ligand which presented less interactions (13) with CXCR4 while **7**{3,3} was the one which presented more (20). **4**{3,3} shows 18 interactions, all of them with the same amino acids as **7**{3,3}. These different interactions could be explained by the study of the binding conformations of **4**{3,3}, **7**{3} and **8**{3,3} which were superposed in Figure 8. It seems as if all three compounds interacted with CXCR4 in the same pocket region, but if we compare the docked poses of each compound, it is noticeable that compounds **4**{3,3} and **7**{3,3} present a very similar binding mode (Figures 8a and 8b), whilst compound **8**{3,3} shows a different one (Figure 8c), establishing accordingly different interactions with CXCR4.

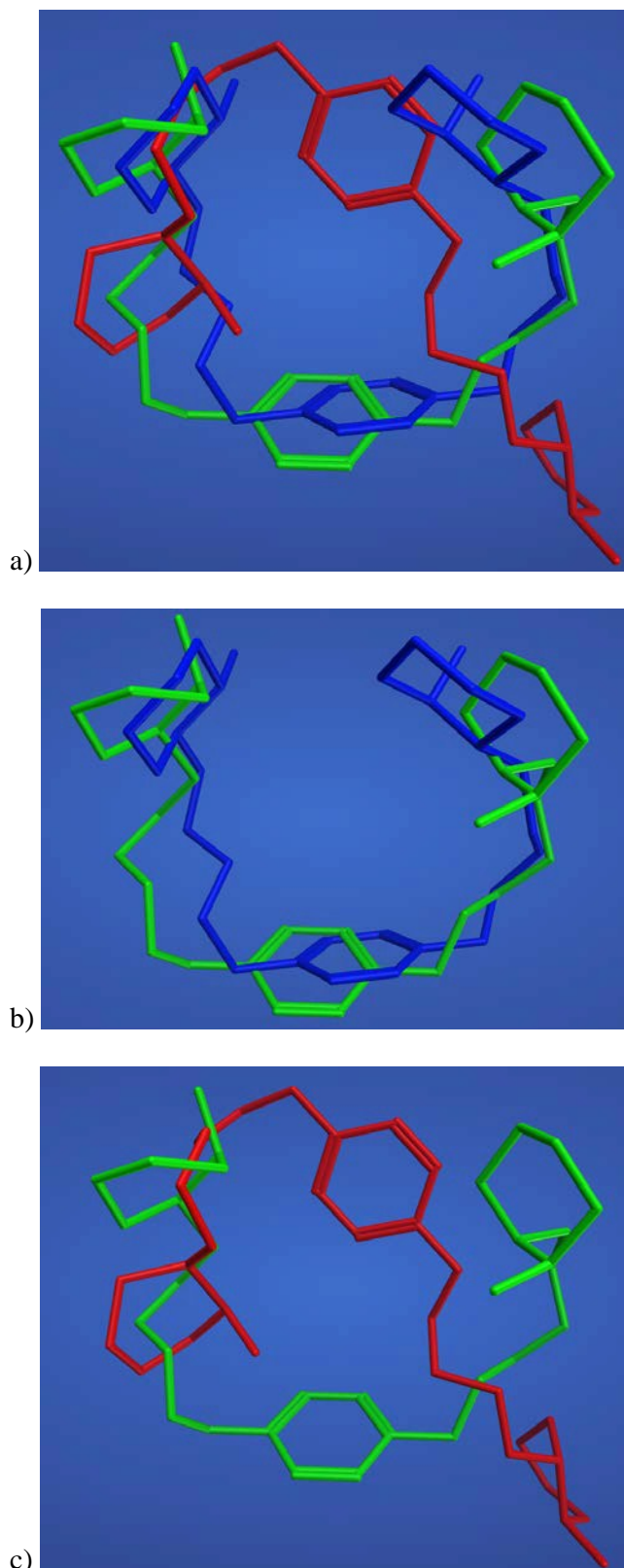
Table 4. Amino acids involved in the interaction between CXCR4 and **4**{3,3}, **7**{3,3} and **8**{3,3}, respectively.

	4 {3,3}	7 {3,3}	8 {3,3}
Pro27			
Glu32			
Asn35			
Asn37			
Lys38			
Leu41			
Tyr45			
Trp94			
Asp97			
Ala98			
Trp102			
Val112			
His113			
Tyr116			
Thr117			
Asp171			
Ser178			
Arg183			
Ile185			
Cys186			
Asp187			
Arg188			
Phe189			
Tyr190			
Pro191			
Asn192			
Asp193			
Val196			
Phe199			
Gln200			
Tyr255			
Ile259			
Asp262			
Leu266			
Glu277			
His281			
Ile284			
Ser285			
Glu288			
Phe292			

Conclusions

The present paper has shown that, contrary to AMD3100 and other cyclams, the paradigm by which it is necessary to use the *p*-phenylene moiety as a central core in order to achieve a high HIV-1 antiviral activity is not necessarily valid for structures less hindered than AMD3100.

Starting from structures **4**, previously described by our group as potent CXCR4 coreceptor inhibitors, we carried out a positional scanning of the nitrogen atoms present in each side of the central phenyl ring in order to explore the impact on the biological activity of the distance between the phenyl ring and the first nitrogen atom of the side chains. Consequently, two

**Figure 8.** Superposition of docked structures of **4**{3,3} (blue), **7**{3,3} (green) and **8**{3,3} (red).

families of compounds were designed, synthesized and biologically evaluated: the symmetrical compounds **7**{*x*,*x*} (in

which $m = 2$ in both sides) and the non-symmetrical compounds $\mathbf{8}\{x,y\}$ (in which $m = 1$, in one side, and $m = 2$, on the other side) (Figure 3). The corresponding synthetic itineraries (Scheme 1) use 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) and 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetic (**14**) acid, respectively, and a library of amines of general structure $\mathbf{12}\{x\}$ as starting materials. The results obtained indicate that $\mathbf{12}\{3\}$, $\mathbf{12}\{5\}$ and $\mathbf{12}\{1\}$ gave the most active compounds in the three families of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{x,y\}$, $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{x,y\}$ when the same amine is present in both ends of the compound.

Furthermore, the EC_{50} exactly follows the order $\mathbf{7}\{x,x\} < \mathbf{8}\{x,x\} < \mathbf{4}\{x,x\}$. This observation let us to conclude that for the kind of tetramines studied by our group as potential anti-HIV compounds, the presence of two methylene units on each side of the central phenyl ring increases the biological activity contrary to what has been observed in the case of AMD3100.

In order to understand the results obtained, a computational study was carried out in which the interactions of CXCR4 with $\mathbf{4}\{3,3\}$, $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ and $\mathbf{8}\{3,3\}$ were analyzed. Such study revealed that although the three compounds could interact with CXCR4 in the same pocket region, the docked poses of compounds $\mathbf{4}\{3,3\}$ and $\mathbf{7}\{3,3\}$ show a very similar binding mode (Figures 8a and 8b) whilst compound $\mathbf{8}\{3,3\}$ shows a different one (Figure 8c), establishing accordingly different interactions with CXCR4.

Experimental

General

All solvents and chemicals were reagent grade. Unless otherwise mentioned, all solvents and chemicals were purchased from commercial vendors (Fluka, Aldrich, ABCR and ACROS Organics) and used without purification. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400-MR spectrometer (^1H -NMR at 400 MHz and ^{13}C -NMR at 100.6 MHz). Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (δ) and are referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) in ^1H -NMR spectra and to residual signal of the solvent CDCl_3 (77.0), methanol- d_4 (49.0), in ^{13}C -NMR spectra. Coupling constants are reported in Hertz (Hz). Standard and peak multiplicities are designed as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, doublet of doublets; dt, doublet of triplets t, triplet; q, quadruplet; quint, quintuplet; br, broad signal. IR spectra were recorded in a Nicolet Magna 560 FTIR spectrophotometer and a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS10 FTIR spectrophotometer with Smart iTr. Wavenumbers (ν) are expressed in cm^{-1} . MS data (m/z (%), EI, 70 eV) were obtained by using an Agilent Technologies 5975 spectrometer and a Hewlett Packard HP5988A quadrupole mass spectrometer operating in electronic ionization (EI) mode at 70 eV and at 4 kV accelerating potential, on a VG AutoSpec (Micromass Instruments) TrioSector EBE spectrometer operating in Fast Atom Bombardment (FAB) mode. HRMS data were obtained by using a VG AutoSpec (Micromass Instruments) TriSector EBE high resolution spectrometer (EI or FAB mode). Elemental microanalyses were obtained on a Carlo-Erba CHNS-O/EA 1180 and a EuroVector Instruments Euro EA elemental analyzer. The melting points were determined with a Büchi-Tottoli 530

capillary apparatus and are uncorrected. Automatic flash chromatography was performed in an Isco Combiflash medium pressure liquid chromatograph with RediSep[®] silica gel columns (35–70 μm) using a suitable mixture of solvents as eluent. Microwave irradiation experiments were carried out in an InitiatorTM (Biotage) microwave apparatus, operating at a frequency of 2.45 GHz with continuous irradiation power from 0 to 400 W. Reactions were carried out in 0.5, 2.5, 5, and 20 mL glass tubes, sealed with aluminum/Teflon crimp tops, which can be exposed up to 250 $^\circ\text{C}$ and 20 bar internal pressure. Temperature was measured with an IR sensor on the outer surface of the process vial. After the irradiation period, the reaction vessel was cooled rapidly to 50 $^\circ\text{C}$ by air jet cooling.

Synthetic procedures

***N,N'*-bis(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{1,1})**. A mixture of 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol) and trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops) in dry 1,2-dichloroethane (60 mL) was refluxed overnight under N_2 . The solution was evaporated at reduced pressure. The residual material was bis(trimethylsilyl) 1,4-benzenediacetate (**10**). This product was dissolved in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and anhydrous DMF (4 drops) and oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$. The resulting solution was stirred for 1 h at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ under N_2 and for 1 h at room temperature before the solvent was removed at reduced pressure. The residual material was 1,4-benzenediacetyl dichloride (**11**). Anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (28 mL) were added to the flask and cooled to 0 $^\circ\text{C}$. 1-(3-amino-propyl)pyrrolidine (**12**{1}) (2.68 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol) were added. The solution was stirred overnight at room temperature under N_2 . A K_2CO_3 solution (25%) (40 mL) was added and the aqueous layer was separated and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (2 x 40 mL), brine (40 mL) and dried with MgSO_4 and subsequently concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) provided 2.43 g (5.84 mmol, 57%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{1,1}) as a white solid, mp 160–161 $^\circ\text{C}$. IR (KBr): ν (cm^{-1}): 3264 (N-H), 3080 ($\text{Csp}^2\text{-H}$), 2962, 2874, 2791 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1642 (C=O), 1562 (NH). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm): 7.23 (s, 4H, C1-H), 6.92 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.49 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.31 (q, $^3J = 5.6$ Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.49 (t, $^3J = 6.5$ Hz, 4H, C7-H), 2.46–2.40 (m, 8H, C8-H), 1.74–1.68 (m, 8H, C9-H), 1.64 (quint, $^3J = 6.5$ Hz, 4H, C6-H). ^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm): 170.8 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.7 (C1), 54.9 (C7), 54.0 (C8), 43.6 (C3), 39.4 (C5), 27.1 (C6), 23.4 (C9). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 414.2 (16) $[\text{M}]^+$, 330.1 (32) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{N}]^+$, 274.0 (10) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2]^+$, 260.0 (43) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2]^+$, 97.9 (31) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}]^+$, 83.9 (100) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{N}]^+$, 69.9 (29) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{N}]^+$. HRMS (70 eV, EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$: 414.2995, $[\text{M}]^+$; Found: 414.2992.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{2,2})**. As stated above for **13**{1,1}, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride

(1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(2-aminoethyl)pyrrolidine (**12**{2}) (2.65 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 3.06 g (7.82 mmol, 76%) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{2,2}) as a white solid, mp 194-196 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3288 (N-H), 3083 (Csp²-H), 2964, 2939, 2872, 2800 (Csp³-H), 1648 (C=O), 1549 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.24 (s, 4H, C1-H), 6.16 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.53 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.32 (q, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.54 (t, ³J = 6.2 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 2.48 – 2.40 (m, 8H, C7-H), 1.77 – 1.67 (m, 8H, C8-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.8 (C4), 134.0 (C2), 129.6 (C1), 54.3 (C6), 53.7 (C7), 43.3 (C3), 38.2 (C5), 23.4 (C8). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 386.3 (2) [M]⁺, 246.2 (2) [M-C₈H₁₆N₂]⁺, 84.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺, 70.1 (2) [C₄H₈N]⁺. Anal. calculated for C₂₂H₃₄N₄O₂: C: 68.36%, H: 8.87%, N: 14.49%, O: 8.28%; Found: C: 68.11%, H: 8.75%, N: 14.69%.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(2-pipecolin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{3,3})**. As stated above for **13**{1,1}, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(3-aminopropyl)-2-pipecoline (**12**{3}) (3.77 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 3.46 g (7.35 mmol, 71%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(2-pipecolin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{3,3}) as a off-white solid, mp 119-120 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3292 (N-H), 3074 (Csp²-H), 2926, 2858, 2787, 2729 (Csp³-H), 1648 (C=O), 1546 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.24 (s, 4H, C1-H), 7.09 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.50 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.41 – 3.31 (m, 2H, C5-H), 3.26 – 3.16 (m, 2H, C5-H), 2.87 – 2.79 (m, 2H, C8-H), 2.79 – 2.70 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.29 – 2.19 (m, 4H, C7-H, C12-H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 2H, C8-H), 1.70 – 1.52 (m, 10H, C6-H, C9-H, C10-H, C11-H), 1.48 – 1.36 (m, 2H, C9-H), 1.35 – 1.16 (m, 4H, C10-H, C11-H), 1.00 (d, ³J = 6.3 Hz, 6H, C13-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.5 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.7 (C1), 56.3 (C12), 52.6 (C7), 51.7 (C8), 43.6 (C3), 39.7 (C5), 34.5 (C11), 26.0 (C9), 24.9 (C6), 23.5 (C10), 18.6 (C13). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 470.4 (6) [M]⁺, 455.4 (20) [M-CH₃]⁺, 358.3 (8) [M-C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 112.1 (100) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): m/z calculated for C₂₈H₄₆N₄O₂: 470.3621, [M]⁺; Found: 470.3615.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(morpholin-4-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{4,4})**. As stated above for **13**{1,1}, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 3-morpholinopropylamine (**12**{4}) (3.01 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 3.65 g (8.18 mmol, 79%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(morpholin-4-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{4,4}) as a yellow solid, mp 172-173 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3295 (N-H), 3080 (Csp²-H), 2930, 2867, 2804, 2757 (Csp³-H), 1643 (C=O), 1547 (NH), 1117, 864. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.24 (s, 4H, C1-

H), 6.51 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.62 (t, ³J = 4.4 Hz, 8H, C9-H), 3.51 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.31 (q, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.42 – 2.34 (m, 12H, C7-H, C8-H), 1.64 (quint, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.5 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.7 (C1), 66.9 (C9), 57.3 (C7), 53.6 (C8), 43.5 (C3), 39.1 (C5), 25.1 (C6). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 446.3 (15) [M]⁺, 416.3 (12) [M-CH₂O]⁺, 346.1 (4) [M-C₅H₁₀NO]⁺, 171.1 (10) [M-C₈H₁₅N₂O₂]⁺, 100.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀NO]⁺. Anal. calculated for C₂₄H₃₈N₄O₄: C: 64.55%, H: 8.58%, N: 12.55%, O: 14.33%; Found: C: 64.48%, H: 8.39%, N: 12.66%.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{5,5})**. As stated above for **13**{1,1}, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(3-aminopropyl)piperidine (**12**{5}) (3.38 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 3.45g (7.79 mmol, 76%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{5,5}) as a white solid, mp 151-153 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3289 (N-H), 3089 (Csp²-H), 2930, 2850, 2809, 2771 (Csp³-H), 1640 (C=O), 1559 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.24 (s, 4H, C1-H), 7.18 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.49 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.30 (q, ³J = 6.0 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.43 – 2.28 (m, 12H, C7-H, C8-H), 1.64 (quint, ³J = 6.4 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 1.54 (quint, ³J = 5.6 Hz, 8H, C9-H), 1.48 – 1.39 (m, 4H, C10-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.7 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.6 (C1), 57.8 (C7), 54.5 (C8), 43.5 (C3), 39.5 (C5), 25.9 (C9), 24.9 (C6), 24.2 (C10). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 442.3 (9) [M]⁺, 344.2 (18) [M-C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 274.1 (12) [M-C₁₀H₂₀N₂]⁺, 98.1 (100) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 84.0 (5) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺. Anal. calculated for C₂₆H₄₂N₄O₂: C: 70.55%, H: 9.56%, N: 12.66%, O: 7.23%; Found: C: 70.40%, H: 9.42%, N: 12.50%.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{6,6})**. As stated above for **13**{1,1}, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(3-aminopropyl)imidazole (**12**{6}) (2.51 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 80:20:1, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 1.75 g (4.29 mmol, 42%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13**{6,6}) as a yellow crystalline solid, mp 132-133 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3292 (N-H), 3104 (Csp²-H), 2930 (Csp³-H), 1639 (C=O), 1560 (NH), 1511. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-d₄): δ (ppm): 7.60 (s, 2H, C8-H), 7.26 (s, 4H, C1-H), 7.08 (s, 2H, C10-H), 6.95 (s, 2H, C9-H), 3.98 (t, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C7-H), 3.47 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.15 (t, ³J = 6.7 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 1.94 (quint, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, Methanol-d₄): δ (ppm): 174.2 (C4), 138.4 (C8), 135.7 (C2), 130.4 (C1), 129.0 (C9), 120.6 (C10), 45.5 (C7), 43.5 (C3), 37.6 (C5), 31.9 (C6). MS (FAB): m/z (%) = 409.1 (100) [M+H]⁺, 341.0 (3) [M-C₃H₃N₂]⁺. HRMS (FAB): m/z calculated for C₂₂H₂₉N₆O₂: 409.2352, [M+H]⁺; Found: 409.2356.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{7,7})**. As stated above for **13{1,1}**, but was carried out by using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(2-aminoethyl)piperidine (**12{7}**) (2.99 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). Upon removal of the solvent, 4.27 g (10.3 mmol, 100%) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{7,7}**) were obtained without further purification as a pale orange solid, mp 174-176 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3298 (N-H), 3091 (Csp²-H), 2924, 2849, 2779, 2751 (Csp³-H), 1642 (C=O), 1556 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.26 (s, 4H, C1-H), 6.16 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.55 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.27 (q, ³J = 6.0 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.34 (t, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 2.31 – 2.21 (m, 8H, C7-H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 12H, C8-H, C9-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.7 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.8 (C1), 56.7 (C6), 54.0 (C7), 43.3 (C3), 36.1 (C5), 25.9 (C8), 24.3 (C9). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 414.3 (4) [M]⁺, 98.1 (100) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): m/z calculated for C₂₄H₃₈N₄O₂: 414.2995, [M]⁺; Found: 414.2987.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{8,8})**. As stated above for **13{1,1}**, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 2-morpholinoethylamine (**12{8}**) (2.73 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). Upon removal of the solvent, 4.33 g (10.3 mmol, 100%) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{8,8}**) were obtained without further purification as a white solid, mp 173-175 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3287 (N-H), 3061 (Csp²-H), 2967, 2932, 2864, 2787 (Csp³-H), 1645 (C=O), 1540 (NH), 1117, 868. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.27 (s, 4H, C1-H), 6.02 (br s, 2H, N-H), 3.58 (t, ³J = 4.6 Hz, 8H, C8-H), 3.56 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.31 (q, ³J = 5.9 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.42 (t, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 2.36 (t, ³J = 4.4 Hz, 8H, C7-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 170.6 (C4), 134.1 (C2), 129.8 (C1), 66.8 (C8), 56.5 (C6), 53.1 (C7), 43.3 (C3), 35.7 (C5). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 418.3 (5) [M]⁺, 100.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀NO]⁺. Anal. calculated for C₂₂H₃₄N₄O₄: C: 63.13%, H: 8.19%, N: 13.39%, O: 15.29%; Found: C: 63.30%, H: 8.17%, N: 13.23%.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (13{9,9})**. As stated above for **13{1,1}**, but using 1,4-benzenediacetic acid (**9**) (2.0 g, 10.30 mmol), hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (2.86 mL, 20.60 mmol), trimethylchlorosilane (12 drops), DMF (4 drops), oxalyl chloride (1.86 mL, 21.86 mmol), 1-(3-aminopropyl)-4-methylpiperazine (**12{9}**) (3.58 mL, 20.60 mmol) and triethylamine (TEA) (3.20 mL, 22.96 mmol). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 75:25:2, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 2.63 g (5.56 mmol, 54%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{9,9}**) as a yellow solid, mp 161-163 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3240 (N-H), 3066 (Csp²-H), 2943, 2876, 2830, 2811 (Csp³-H), 1644 (C=O), 1576 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄): δ (ppm): 7.25 (s, 4H, C1-

H), 3.47 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.55 (s, 4H, C3-H), 3.22 (t, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.81 (s, 8H, C9-H), 2.63 (s, 8H, C8-H), 2.52 (s, 6H, C10-H), 2.46 (t, ³J = 7.2 Hz, 4H, C7-H), 1.70 (quint, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄): δ (ppm): 174.1 (C4), 135.8 (C2), 130.3 (C1), 56.2 (C7), 55.0 (C9), 52.5 (C8), 44.9 (C10), 43.5 (C3), 38.4 (C5), 27.1 (C6). MS (FAB): m/z (%) = 473.1 (100) [M+H]⁺, 373.0 (4) [M-C₅H₁₁N₂]⁺. HRMS (FAB): m/z calculated for C₂₆H₄₄N₆O₂: 473.3604, [M+H]⁺; Found: 473.3604.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{1,1})**. Borane dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol) was added at 0 °C to a solution of *N,N'*-bis(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{1,1}**) (414.58 mg, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (27 mL). The solution was refluxed for 6h under N₂, cooled down to room temperature, diluted with 7.5 mL of 1.25 M HCl/MeOH solution and refluxed for 1 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude material was diluted with 1M NaOH solution (pH 14). The aqueous solution was extracted twice with CH₂Cl₂, dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) afforded 296 mg (0.77 mmol, 77%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{1,1}**) as a white solid, mp 60-62 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3263 (N-H), 2948, 2801 (Csp³-H), 1697 (NH), 1458 (Csp³-H), 887 (NH). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.90 – 2.82 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.81 – 2.74 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.68 (t, ³J = 7.1 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.50 – 2.42 (m, 12H, C7-H, C8-H), 1.91 (br s, 2H, N-H), 1.78 – 1.72 (m, 8H, C9-H), 1.69 (quint, ³J = 7.1 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.9 (C2), 128.9 (C1), 54.9 (C7), 54.4 (C8), 51.3 (C4), 48.6 (C5), 36.0 (C3), 29.4 (C6), 23.5 (C9). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 386.4 (2) [M]⁺, 302.2 (4) [M-C₅H₁₀N]⁺, 274.2 (8) [M-C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 141.1 (47) [C₈H₁₇N₂]⁺, 112.1 (9) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.1 (11) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 84.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺, 70.1 (8) [C₄H₈N]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): m/z calculated for C₂₄H₄₂N₄: 386.3409, [M]⁺; Found: 386.3405.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{2,2})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (0.58 mL, 6.15 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{2,2}**) (466.2 mg, 1.21 mmol), anhydrous THF (4 mL), 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (9 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 267.0 mg (74.5 mmol, 75%) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{2,2}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3305 (N-H), 2929, 2875, 2796 (Csp³-H), 1673 (NH), 1458. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.91 – 2.84 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.81 – 2.73 (m, 8H, C3-H, C5-H), 2.59 (t, ³J = 6.5 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 2.52 – 2.45 (m, 8H, C7-H), 2.17 (br s, 2H, N-H), 1.78 – 1.71 (m, 8H, C8-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.7 (C2), 128.7 (C1), 55.9 (C6), 54.2 (C7), 51.4 (C4), 48.4 (C5), 35.9 (C3), 23.4 (C8). MS (FAB): m/z (%) = 359.3 (100) [M+H]⁺, 358.3 (14) [M]⁺, 288.3 (4) [M-C₄H₈N]⁺, 274.3 (12) [M-C₅H₁₀N]⁺, 231.1 (37) [M-C₇H₁₅N₂]⁺, 127.1 (15) [C₇H₁₅N₂]⁺. HRMS (FAB): m/z calculated for C₂₂H₃₉N₄: 359.3175, [M+H]⁺; Found: 359.3159.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(2-pipecolin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{3,3})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane

dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(3-(2-pipecolin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{3,3}**) (470.7 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (27 mL), 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 237.0 mg (0.53 mmol, 53%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(2-pipecolin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{3,3}**) as an orange oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3280 (N-H), 2930, 2854, 2794 (Csp³-H), 1655 (NH), 1449, 1372. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.89 – 2.80 (m, 6H, C4-H, C8-H), 2.80 – 2.74 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.73 – 2.65 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.62 (t, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.36 – 2.27 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.26 – 2.18 (m, 2H, C12-H), 2.12 – 2.04 (m, 2H, C8-H), 1.92 (br s, 2H, N-H), 1.69 – 1.61 (m, 6H, C6-H, C10-H), 1.60 – 1.53 (m, 4H, C9-H, C11-H), 1.52 – 1.43 (m, 2H, C9-H), 1.31 – 1.21 (m, 4H, C10-H, C11-H), 1.02 (d, ³J = 6.2 Hz, 6H, C13-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 138.0 (C2), 129.0 (C1), 56.1 (C12), 52.4 (C7), 52.3 (C8), 51.4 (C4), 49.0 (C5), 36.2 (C3), 34.8 (C11), 26.3 (C9), 26.0 (C6), 24.2 (C10), 19.3 (C13). MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 442.4 (3) [M]⁺, 330.3 (9) [M-C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 302.3 (18) [M-C₉H₁₈N]⁺, 169.2 (97) [C₁₀H₂₁N₂]⁺, 140.1 (7) [C₉H₁₈N]⁺, 126.1 (13) [C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 112.1 (100) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.1 (28) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₈H₅₀N₄: 442.4035, [M]⁺; Found: 442.4027.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(morpholin-4-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{4,4})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (0.48 mL, 5.1 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(3-(morpholin-4-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{4,4}**) (446.6 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (4 mL), 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 339.1 mg (0.81 mmol, 81%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(morpholin-4-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{4,4}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3292 (N-H), 2928, 2852, 2807 (Csp³-H), 1673 (NH), 1457, 1118, 863. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.15 (s, 4H, C1-H), 3.65 (t, ³J = 4.6 Hz, 8H, C9-H), 2.92 – 2.85 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.83 – 2.77 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.70 (t, ³J = 6.9 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.46 – 2.32 (m, 14H, C7-H, C8-H, N-H), 1.68 (quint, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.6 (C2), 128.8 (C1), 66.8 (C9), 57.3 (C7), 53.7 (C8), 51.0 (C4), 48.4 (C5), 35.6 (C3), 26.3 (C6). MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 418.3 (6) [M]⁺, 388.3 (5) [M-CH₂O]⁺, 157.1 (21) [C₈H₁₇N₂O]⁺, 128.1 (7) [C₇H₁₄NO]⁺, 114.1 (10) [C₆H₁₂NO]⁺, 100.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀NO]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₄H₄₂N₄O₂: 418.3308, [M]⁺; Found: 418.3311.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{5,5})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{5,5}**) (442.6 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (27 mL) 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 252.5 mg (0.61 mmol, 61%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{5,5}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3283 (N-H), 2933, 2852, 2801 (Csp³-H), 1676 (NH), 1443. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.89 – 2.82 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.81 – 2.73 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.65 (t, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C7-H) 2.41 – 2.26 (m, 12H,

C5-H, C8-H), 2.20 (br s, 2H, N-H), 1.67 (quint, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 8H, C9-H), 1.47 – 1.36 (m, 4H, C10-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.9 (C2), 129.0 (C1), 57.9 (C5), 54.8 (C8), 51.3 (C4), 48.8 (C7), 36.0 (C3), 27.1 (C6), 26.1 (C9), 24.6 (C10). MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 414.4 (1) [M]⁺, 316.3 (3) [M-C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 288.2 (4) [M-C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 155.2 (60) [C₉H₁₉N₂]⁺, 126.1 (6) [C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 112.1 (9) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.1 (100) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 84.1 (5) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₆H₄₆N₄: 414.3722, [M]⁺; Found: 414.3710.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{6,6})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{6,6}**) (408.5 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (27 mL), 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 340.5 mg (0.89 mmol, 89%) of *N,N'*-bis(3-(imidazol-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{6,6}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3283 (N-H), 3106 (Csp²-H), 2932, 2822 (Csp³-H), 1666 (NH), 1509, 1443. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.40 (s, 2H, C8-H), 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 7.03 (t, ³J = 1.1 Hz, 2H, C10-H), 6.86 (t, ³J = 1.3 Hz, 2H, C9-H), 3.98 (t, ³J = 6.9 Hz, 4H, C7-H), 2.86 – 2.80 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.79 – 2.72 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.57 (t, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 1.89 (m, 6H, C6-H, N-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 138.0 (C2), 137.4 (C8), 129.5 (C10), 129.0 (C1), 119.0 (C9), 51.1 (C4), 46.3 (C5), 44.8 (C7), 36.1 (C3), 31.4 (C6). MS (FAB): *m/z* (%) = 381.3 (43) [M+H]⁺, 380.3 (3) [M]⁺, 341.0 (3) [M-C₃H₃N₂]⁺, 137.0 (100) [C₇H₁₁N₃]⁺. HRMS (FAB): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₃₃N₆: 381.2767, [M+H]⁺; Found: 381.2771.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{7,7})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{7,7}**) (414.6 mg, mmol), anhydrous THF (27 mL), 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 320.4 mg (82.8 mmol, 83%) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (**7{7,7}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3300 (N-H), 2933, 2851, 2801 (Csp³-H), 1678 (NH), 1442. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.14 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.89 – 2.84 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.82 – 2.75 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.72 (t, 4H, ³J = 6.4 Hz, C5-H), 2.42 (t, 4H, ³J = 6.4 Hz, C6-H), 2.38 – 2.29 (m, 8H, C7-H), 1.91 (br s, 2H, N-H), 1.55 – 1.47 (m, 8H, C8-H), 1.44 – 1.36 (m, 4H, C9-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.8 (C2), 128.7 (C1), 58.5 (C6), 54.7 (C7), 51.4 (C4), 46.6 (C5), 35.9 (C3), 26.0 (C8), 24.4 (C9). MS (FAB): *m/z* (%) = 387.4 (100) [M+H]⁺, 386.3 (11) [M]⁺, 288.3 (11) [M-C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 141.1 (9) [C₈H₁₇N₂]⁺, 112.1 (89) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺. HRMS (FAB): *m/z* calculated for C₂₄H₃₈N₄O₂: 387.3488, [M+H]⁺; Found: 387.3496.

***N,N'*-bis(2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoeth-1-yl)benzene (7{8,8})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (0.48 mL, 5.1 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{8,8}**) (418.5 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (4 mL) 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10

in 18 min) to afford 375.2 mg (0.96 mmol, 96 %) of *N,N'*-bis(2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoethyl)benzene (**7{8,8}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3305 (N-H), 2932, 2852, 2810 (Csp³-H), 1672 (NH), 1455, 1117, 867. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.14 (s, 4H, C1-H), 3.63 (t, ³J = 4.6 Hz, 8H, C8-H), 2.91 – 2.84 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.83 – 2.75 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.72 (t, ³J = 6.2 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.47 (t, ³J = 6.1 Hz, 4H, C6-H), 2.42 – 2.35 (m, 8H, C7-H), 1.78 (br s, 2H, N-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.8 (C2), 128.7 (C1), 66.9 (C8), 58.1 (C6), 53.6 (C7), 51.2 (C4), 45.9 (C5), 35.9 (C3). MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 390.3 (4) [M]⁺, 360.3 (2) [M-CH₂O]⁺, 304.2 (3) [M-C₄H₈NO]⁺, 290.2 (27) [M-C₅H₁₀NO]⁺, 143.1 (14) [C₇H₁₅N₂O]⁺, 114.1 (23) [C₆H₁₂NO]⁺, 100.1 (100) [C₅H₁₀NO]⁺. HRMS (EI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₃₈N₄O₂: 390.2995, [M]⁺; Found: 390.2992.

***N,N'*-bis(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoethyl-1-yl)benzene (7{9,9})**. As stated above for **7{1,1}**, but using borane dimethylsulfide complex (1.19 mL, 11.89 mmol), *N,N'*-bis(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-di(aminocarbonylmethyl)benzene (**13{9,9}**) (472.6 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (27 mL) 1.25 M HCl/MeOH (7.5 mL). The final compound was purified by flash chromatography (basic alumina, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100:0 to 90:10 in 18 min) to afford 379.8 mg (0.85 mmol, 85%) *N,N'*-bis(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1,4-bis(2-aminoethyl-1-yl)benzene (**7{9,9}**) as a yellow crystalline solid, mp 56–58 °C. IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹): 3286 (N-H), 2934, 2876, 2794 (Csp³-H), 1671 (NH), 1458. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.13 (s, 4H, C1-H), 2.89 – 2.81 (m, 4H, C4-H), 2.81 – 2.73 (m, 4H, C3-H), 2.65 (t, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C5-H), 2.59 – 2.28 (m, 18H, C8-H, C9-H, N-H), 2.36 (t, ³J = 7.1 Hz, 4H, C7-H), 2.27 (s, 6H, C10-H), 1.66 (quint, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 137.9 (C2), 128.9 (C1), 56.9 (C7), 55.1 (C9), 53.3 (C8), 51.2 (C4), 48.5 (C5), 46.1 (C10), 36.0 (C3), 27.0 (C6). MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 444.4 (19) [M]⁺, 429.4 (3) [M-CH₃]⁺, 414.4 (3) [M-C₂H₆]⁺, 401.4 (11) [M-C₂H₅N]⁺, 170.2 (16) [C₉H₂₀N₃]⁺, 141.1 (11) [C₈H₁₇N₂]⁺, 127.1 (19) [C₇H₁₅N₂]⁺, 113.1 (100) [C₆H₁₃N₂]⁺, 99.1 (13) [C₅H₁₁N₂]⁺. HRMS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₆H₄₈N₆: 444.3940, [M]⁺; Found: 444.3943.

2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (15). To a solution of 0.235 g (1 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetic acid (**14**) in 10 mL of toluene were added 0.385 g (3.2 mmol) of thionyl chloride. The mixture was heated to 90 °C for 6 hours obtaining a yellow solution. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give 0.237 g (0.96 mmol, 96%) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (**15**) as a yellow solid which was used without further purification. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H, C4-H), 4.48 (s, 2H, C1-H), 4.14 (s, 2H, C6-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 171.6 (C7), 137.8 (C2), 131.3 (C5), 129.9 (C3), 129.6 (C4), 52.6 (C6), 32.6 (C1).

2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (16{4}). 0.3884 g (1.57 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (**15**) was dissolved in 10 mL of acetonitrile and cooled at 0 °C and it was added dropwise on a solution of 0.226 g (1.57 mmol) of *N*-aminopropylmorpholine (**12{4}**) and 0.651 g (4.71 mmol) of potassium carbonate in 10 mL of acetonitrile. The solution was

heated under microwave irradiation at 100 °C for 25 minutes. The mixture was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The orange solid was dissolved in 10 mL of chloroform and the solution was filtered again. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to obtain 0.379 g (1.07 mmol, 68%) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**16{4}**) as an orange foamy solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.50 – 7.30 (m, 4H, C3-H, C4-H), 4.57 (s, 2H, C1-H), 4.25 – 3.91 (m, 4H, C12-H, C13-H), 3.58 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.37 (q, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, C9-H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, C11-H), 2.14 – 2.04 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, C10-H). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 171.9 (C7), 136.3 (C2), 135.7 (C5), 129.7 (C3), 129.0 (C4), 63.4 (C13), 55.1 (C11), 52.0 (C12), 46.0 (C1), 43.2 (C6), 36.1 (C9), 23.1 (C10).

2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (16{1}). As stated above for **16{4}**, but using 0.224 g (0.905 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (**15**), 6 mL of acetonitrile, 0.116 g (0.905 mmol) of *N*-aminopropylpyrrolidine (**12{1}**), and 0.375 g (2.715 mmol) of potassium carbonate in 4 mL of acetonitrile. The crude product was purified using chromatographic filtration (basic alumina, cyclohexane) to afford 0.215 g (0.634 mmol, 70%) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**16{1}**) as pale orange foamy solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.45 (br m, 1H, N8-H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 4H, C3-H, C4-H), 4.56 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.58 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.37 (q, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, C9-H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H, C11-H), 3.25 – 2.50 (s, 4H, C12-H), 2.07 – 2.17 (m, 4H, C13-H), 2.06 – 2.01 (m, 2H, C10-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 171.9 (C7), 136.2 (C2), 135.7 (C5), 129.7 (C3), 129.0 (C4), 53.7 (C12), 52.7 (C11), 46.0 (C1), 43.3 (C6), 36.1 (C9), 25.2 (C14), 23.2 (C13).

2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (16{5}). As stated above for **16{4}**, but using 0.529 g (2.14 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (**15**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.304 g (2.14 mmol) of 3-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**12{5}**) and 0.887 g (6.42 mmol) of potassium carbonate. 0.2268 g (0.64 mmol, 30%) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**16{5}**) were obtained as a dark orange foamy solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄): δ (ppm): 7.47 – 7.25 (m, 5H, C3-H, C4-H, N8-H), 4.62 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.54 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.16 – 3.04 (m, 2H, C9-H), 2.15 – 1.65 (m, 14H, C10-H, C11-H, C12-H, C13-H, C14-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄): δ (ppm): 170.4 (C7), 132.8 (C2), 129.9 (C5), 129.0 (C3), 128.6 (C4), 54.1 (C11), 52.8 (C12), 45.1 (C6), 42.0 (C9), 35.7 (C1), 24.0 (C10), 22.8 (C13), 21.2 (C14).

2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (16{3}). As stated above for **16{4}**, but using 0.4905 g (1.98 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)acetyl chloride (**15**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.310 g (1.98 mmol) of 3-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**12{3}**) and 0.821 g (5.94 mmol) of potassium carbonate. 0.1455g (0.40 mmol, 20%) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**16{3}**) were obtained as a dark orange foamy solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm): 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H, C4-H) 7.15 (br s, 1H, N8-H), 4.58 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.53 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.43 – 3.35 (m, 1H, C9-H), 3.27 – 3.18

(m, 1H, C9-H), 2.84 – 2.78 (m, 1H, C11-H), 2.78 – 2.71 (m, 1H, C12-H), 2.25 – 2.19 (m, 2H, C12-H, C16-H), 2.03 – 1.97 (m, 1H, C11-H), 1.66 – 1.51 (m, 5H, C13-H, C10-H, C14-H, C15-H), 1.43 – 1.37 (m, 1H, C10-H), 1.30 (m, 1H, C14-H), 1.21 – 1.15 (m, 1H, C15-H), 0.98 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H, C17-H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.3 (C7), 136.2 (C2), 135.7 (C5), 129.6 (C3), 129.0 (C4), 56.3 (C16), 52.7 (C12), 51.7 (C11), 45.9 (C1), 43.6 (C6), 39.9 (C9), 34.5 (C15), 25.9 (C10), 24.9 (C13), 23.5 (C14), 18.6 (C17).

2-(4-((3-morpholinopropylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (17{4,4}). 0.1475 g (0.42 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**16{4}**) were dissolved in 6 mL of acetonitrile and a few drops of methanol and cooled at 0°C and it was added dropwise to a solution of 0.0599 g (0.42 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-*N*-morpholine (**12{4}**) and 0.1741 g (1.26 mmol) of potassium carbonate in 4 mL of acetonitrile. The solution was heated under microwave irradiation at 150°C for 25 minutes. The mixture was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 95:5:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.0598 g (0.143 mmol, 34%) of 2-(4-((3-morpholinopropylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl) acetamide (**17{4,4}**) as an orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3292 (N-H), 2927, 2854, 2813 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1649 (C=O), 1552 (N-H), 1116 (C-O-C), 862 (C-O-C). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H, C2-H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 2H, C3-H), 6.37 (br s, 1H, N8-H), 3.77 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.72 – 3.56 (m, 8H, C13-H), 3.53 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.31 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H, C9-H), 2.70 (t, $J = 6.9$, 2H, C15-H), 2.45 – 2.32 (m, 13H, N14-H, C11-H, C12-H), 1.72 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H, C10-H), 1.66 – 1.58 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H, C16-H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.8 (C7), 139.3 (C2), 133.7 (C5), 129.3 (C3), 128.6 (C4), 66.9 (C13), 57.2 (C1), 53.8 (C11, C12), 48.0 (C15), 43.6 (C6), 38.9 (C9), 26.5 (C10), 25.1 (C16). MS (70 eV, EI) m/z (%) = 418.4 (17) $[\text{M}]^+$, 388.3 (12) $[\text{M-CH}_2\text{O}]^+$, 276.2 (29) $[\text{M-C}_7\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$, 100.1 (100) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 418.2944; found: 418.2940.

2-(4-((3-pyrrolidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholino propyl)acetamide (17{4,1}). As stated above for **17{4,4}**, but using 0.8193 g (2.31 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**16{4}**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.2967 g (2.31 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-*N*-pyrrolidine (**12{1}**) and 0.959 g (6.94 mmol) of potassium carbonate. Upon removal the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.2790 g (0.693 mmol, 30%) of 2-(4-((3-pyrrolidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**17{4,1}**) as an orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3284 (N-H), 2951, 2854, 2806 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1647 (C=O), 1550 (N-H), 1116 (C-O-C), 862 (C-O-C). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 2H, C4-H), 6.50 (br m, 1H, N8-H), 3.78 (s, 2H, C7-H), 3.63 – 3.55 (m, 4H, C13-H), 3.52 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.29 (q, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H, C9-H), 2.71 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, C15-H), 2.60 – 2.39 (m, 7H, N14-H, C17-H, C18-H), 2.39 – 2.30 (m, 6H, C11-H, C12-H), 1.85 – 1.68 (m, 6H, C16-H, C19-H), 1.62 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H, C10-H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.9 (C7), 139.2 (C2),

133.7 (C5), 129.3 (C3), 128.6 (C4), 66.8 (C13), 57.1 (C11), 54.7 (C17), 54.2 (C18), 53.6 (C12), 53.4 (C1), 48.1 (C15), 43.5 (C6), 38.8 (C9), 29.0 (C16), 25.2 (C10), 23.4 (C19). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 402.4 (1) $[\text{M}]^+$, 372.3 (2) $[\text{M-CH}_2\text{O}]^+$, 276.2 (14) $[\text{M-C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2]^+$, 189.1 (10) $[\text{M-C}_{11}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}]^+$, 171.1 (11) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2]^+$, 127.1 (38) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2]^+$, 100.1 (100) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}]^+$, 84.1 (100) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{N}]^+$, 70.1 (30) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{N}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{37}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M-H}]^+$: 401.2917; found: 401.2915.

2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (17{4,3}). As stated above for **17{4,4}**, but using 0.7520 g (2.12 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**16{4}**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.331 g (2.12 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-*N*-pipercoline (**12{3}**) and 0.879 g (6.36 mmol) of potassium carbonate. Upon removal the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.1826 g (0.424 mmol, 20%) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**17{4,3}**) as a dark orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3289 (N-H), 3054 ($\text{Csp}^2\text{-H}$), 2930, 2853, 2807 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1647 (C=O), 1551 (N-H), 1445 (CH_2), 1118 (C-O-C), 863 (C-O-C). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.31 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.21 (m, 2H, C4-H), 6.39 (br m, 1H, N8-H), 3.77 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.58 (m, 4H, C13-H), 3.53 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.30 (m, 2H, C9-H), 2.91 – 2.80 (m, 1H, C17-H), 2.78 – 2.68 (m, 1H, C1-H8), 2.65 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H, C15-H), 2.46 – 2.19 (m, 9H, C11-H, C12-H, C18-H, C22-H, N14-H), 2.08 – 2.14 (m, 1H, C17-H), 1.77 – 1.21 (m, 10H, C10-H, C16-H, C19-H, C20-H, C21-H), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 3H, C23-H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.9 (C7), 139.6 (C2), 133.6 (C5), 129.3 (C3), 128.6 (C4), 66.8 (C13), 57.2 (C11), 55.9 (C22), 53.6 (C12), 53.6 (C1), 52.2 (C17), 52.0 (C18), 48.4 (C15), 43.6 (C6), 38.9 (C9), 34.6 (C21), 26.1 (C10), 25.8 (C16), 25.2 (C19), 23.9 (C20), 19.0 (C23). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 430.1 (15) $[\text{M}]^+$, 429.1 (31) $[\text{M-H}]^+$, 400.1 (2) $[\text{M-CH}_2\text{O}]^+$, 331.0 (3) $[\text{M-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{N}]^+$, 303.9 (4) $[\text{M-C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 275.9 (12) $[\text{M-C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2]^+$, 170.8 (13) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2]^+$, 154.8 (19) $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2]^+$, 125.9 (28) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 111.9 (100) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{N}]^+$, 99.9 (40) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 430.3308; found: 430.3303.

2-(4-((3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (17{5,5}). As stated above for **17{4,4}**, but using 0.7192 g (2.03 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-piperidin-1-ylpropyl)acetamide (**16{5}**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.2895 g (2.03 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-*N*-piperidine (**12{5}**) and 0.8417 g (6.09 mmol) of potassium carbonate. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.1515 g (0.365 mmol, 18%) of 2-(4-((3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-*N*-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl) acetamide as an orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3293 (N-H), 3055 ($\text{Csp}^2\text{-H}$), 2931, 2852, 2768 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1644 (C=O), 1548 (N-H), 1441. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.22 (m, 2H, C4-H), 7.00 (br m, 1H, N8-H), 3.76 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.50 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.30 (m, 2H, C9-H), 2.69 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H, C16-H), 2.48 – 2.22 (m, 13H, N15-H, C11-H, C12-H, C18-H, C19-H), 1.78 – 1.38 (m, 16H, C10-H, C17-H, C13-H, C14-H, C20-H, C21-

H). ^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.8 (C7), 138.5 (C2), 133.8 (C5), 129.2 (C3), 129.0 (C4), 57.9 (C11), 57.7 (C18), 54.6 (C12), 54.5 (C19), 53.4 (C1), 48.2 (C16), 43.6 (C6), 39.5 (C9), 26.0 (C17), 26.0 (C10), 25.0 (C14, C21), 24.3 (C20), 24.2 (C13). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 414.4 (5) $[\text{M}]^+$, 288.3 (22) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}]^+$, 274.3 (91) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 169.2 (27) $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$, 141.1 (46) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2]^+$, 126.1 (11) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 112.1 (43) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{N}]^+$, 98.0 (100) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}]^+$, 84.0 (48) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{N}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 414.3359; found: 414.3359.

2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (17{5,3}). As stated above for **17{4,4}**, but using 1.0457 g (2.96 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**16{5}**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.4625 g (2.96 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-N-pipecoline (**12{3}**) and 1.2273 g (8.88 mmol) of potassium carbonate. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.3426 g (0.799 mmol, 27%) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**17{5,3}**) as a dark orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3286 (N-H), 3054 ($\text{Csp}^2\text{-H}$), 2931, 2852, 2800 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1647 (C=O), 1552 (N-H). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.22 (m, 2H, C4-H), 7.02 (br s, 1H, N8-H), 3.72 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.50 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.30 (q, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, C9-H), 2.92 – 2.75 (m, 2H, C18-H, C19-H), 2.72 – 2.62 (m, 2H, C16-H), 2.52 – 2.22 (m, 9H, C11-H, C12-H, N15-H, C23-H, C19-H), 2.21 – 2.09 (m, 1H, C18-H), 1.80 – 1.22 (m, 16H, C10-H, C13-H, C14-H, C17-H, C20-H, C21-H, C22-H), 1.06 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H, C24-H). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.7 (C7), 138.7 (C2), 134.1 (C5), 129.3 (C3), 128.6 (C4), 57.9 (C19), 56.1 (C22), 54.5 (C12), 53.5 (C1), 52.2 (C11), 51.9 (C18), 48.3 (C16), 43.7 (C6), 39.6 (C9), 34.3 (C22), 26.0 (C13, C14), 25.9 (C10), 25.4 (C17), 25.1 (C20), 24.3 (C21), 18.8 (C24). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 428.5 (5) $[\text{M}]^+$, 288.3 (21) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}]^+$, 274.3 (60) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2]^+$, 169.2 (26) $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}]^+$, 155.2 (59) $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2]^+$, 126.1 (38) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 112.0 (75) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{N}]^+$, 98.2 (100) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}]^+$, 84.1 (34) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{N}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 428.3515; found: 428.3495.

2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (17{3,3}). As stated above for **17{4,4}**, but using 0.6312 g (1.72 mmol) of 2-(4-(bromomethyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**16{3}**), 20 mL of acetonitrile, 0.2688 g (1.72 mmol) of 3-aminopropyl-N-pipecoline (**12{3}**) and 0.7132 g (5.16 mmol) of potassium carbonate. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 99:1:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.2437 g (0.55 mmol, 32%) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**17{3,3}**) as a dark orange oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3286 (N-H), 3054 ($\text{Csp}^2\text{-H}$), 2929, 2854, 2793 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1647 (C=O), 1552 (N-H). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 2H, C4-H), 6.94 (br m, 1H, N8-H), 3.76 (s, 2H, C1-H), 3.51 (s, 2H, C6-H), 3.32 – 3.40 (m, 1H, C9-H), 3.17 – 3.24 (m, 1H, C9-H), 2.89 – 2.62 (m, 4H, C11-H, C12-H, C21-H, C22-H), 2.47 – 1.94 (m, 7H, C11-H, C12-H, C16-H, C21-

H, C22-H, C26-H, N8-H), 1.71 – 1.14 (m, 16H, C10-H, C13-H, C14-H, C15-H, C20-H, C23-H, C24-H, C25-H), 1.08 – 0.94 (m, 6H, C17-H, C27-H). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.7 (C7), 138.9 (C2), 133.8 (C5), 129.3 (C3), 128.7 (C4), 56.3 (C16), 55.9 (C26), 53.7 (C1), 52.6 (C11), 52.3 (C12), 51.8 (C21), 48.4 (C22), 43.7 (C6), 39.6 (C9), 34.6 (C15, C25), 26.1 (C10), 25.8 (C20), 25.0 (C13), 23.8 (C14), 23.3 (C23), 22.5 (C24), 19.2 (C17), 18.9 (C27). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 442.8 (2) $[\text{M}]^+$, 302.3 (10) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}]^+$, 288.1 (29) $[\text{M}-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2]^+$, 183.2 (9) $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$, 155.2 (23) $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{19}\text{N}]^+$, 126.1 (19) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$, 112.1 (100) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{N}]^+$, 98.1 (66) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{46}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 442.3672; found: 442.3673.

N-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-morpholinopropan-1-amine (8{4,4}). Borane dimethylsulfide complex (0.450 mL, 5.93 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C to a solution of 2-(4-((3-morpholinopropylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**17{4,4}**) (0.3315 g, 0.792 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL). The solution was refluxed for 6h under N_2 , cooled down to room temperature, diluted with 8 mL 1.25M HCl/MeOH solution and refluxed for 1h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude material was diluted with 1M NaOH solution until pH=14. The aqueous solution was extracted five times with CH_2Cl_2 , dried with MgSO_4 , and concentrated. Purification of the residue by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$, 98:2:0.5) afforded 0.1487 g (0.368 mmol, 46%) of N-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-morpholinopropan-1-amine (**8{4,4}**) as a yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3297 (N-H), 2936, 2852, 2807 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1669 (N-H), 1456 (CH_2), 1117 (C-O-C), 862 (C-O-C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.26 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.18 – 7.13 (m, 2H, C4-H), 3.81 – 3.72 (m, 2H, C1-H), 3.72 – 3.62 (m, 8H, C13-H), 2.89 – 2.84 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.79 (m, 2H, C8-H), 2.74 – 2.61 (m, 4H, C9-H, C15-H), 2.46 – 2.28 (m, 12H, C11-H, C12-H), 2.08 (br s, 2H, N8-H, N14-H), 1.75 – 1.61 (m, 4H, C10-H). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 138.3 (C2), 137.6 (C5), 128.8 (C3), 128.4 (C4), 66.8 (C13), 57.3 (C11), 53.7 (C12), 53.7 (C1), 51.1 (C7), 48.3 (C9), 48.0 (C15) 35.8 (C6), 26.5 (C10). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 404.3 (6) $[\text{M}]^+$, 374.3 (6) $[\text{M}-\text{CH}_2\text{O}]^+$, 157.1 (13) $[\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$, 114.1 (15) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}]^+$, 100.1 (100) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}]^+$, 86.1 (5) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{NO}]^+$. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 404.3151; found: 404.3158.

N-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (8{4,1}). As stated above for **8{4,4}**, but using 0.2374 g (0.59 mmol) of 2-(4-((3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**17{4,1}**), 0.335 mL (0.2689 g, 3.54 mmol) of borane dimethylsulfide complex, 15 mL of THF and 7 mL of 1.25M HCl/MeOH. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{NH}_3$) to afford 0.1100g (0.28 mmol, 48%) of N-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**8{4,1}**). IR (KBr) ν (cm^{-1}): 3288 (N-H), 2930, 2852, 2804 ($\text{Csp}^3\text{-H}$), 1663 (N-H), 1457 (CH_2), 1118 (C-O-C), 862 (C-O-C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.13 – 7.19 (m, 2H, C4-H), 3.79 – 3.72 (m, 2H, C1-H), 3.64 – 3.67 (m, 4H, C13-H), 2.90 – 2.84 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.76 – 2.81 (m, 2H, C6-H), 2.66 – 2.72 (m, 4H, C9-H, C15-H), 2.53

– 2.33 (m, 12H, C11-H, C12-H, C17-H, C18-H), 2.01 (s, 2H, N8-H, N14-H), 1.82 – 1.57 (m, 8H, C10-H, C16-H, C19-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 138.5 (C2), 137.6 (C5), 128.6 (C3), 128.2 (C4), 66.9 (C13), 57.3 (C11, C17), 54.2 (C18), 53.7 (C12), 53.6 (C1), 51.1 (C7), 48.3 (C9), 48.0 (C15), 35.8 (C6), 26.5 (C10, C16), 23.3 (C19). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 388.2 (32) [M]⁺, 387.2 (79) [M-H]⁺, 358.2 (3) [M-CH₂O]⁺, 290.0 (9) [M-C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 262.0 (17) [M-C₇H₁₅N₂]⁺, 156.9 (36) [C₈H₁₇N₂O]⁺, 99.9 (100) [C₅H₁₀NO]⁺, 84.0 (100) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺, 70.1 (24) [C₄H₈N]⁺. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₂₃H₃₉N₄O [M-H]⁺: 387.3124; found: 387.3123.

N-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (8{4,3}). As stated above for **8{4,4}**, but using 0.1678 g (0.39 mmol) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-morpholinopropyl)acetamide (**17{4,3}**), 0.222 mL (0.1778 g, 2.34 mmol) of borane dimethylsulfide complex, 10 mL of THF and 5 mL of 1.25M HCl/MeOH. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 0.0764g (0.18 mmol, 47%) of *N*-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**8{4,3}**). IR (KBr) ν (cm⁻¹): 3288 (N-H), 2929, 2852, 2805 (Csp³-H), 1671 (N-H), 1455 (CH₂), 1118 (C-O-C), 862 (C-O-C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.29 – 7.10 (m, 4H, C3-H, C4-H), 3.82 – 3.72 (m, 2H, C1-H), 3.71 – 3.61 (m, 4H, C13-H), 2.89 – 2.84 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.78 – 2.81 (m, 2H, C6-H), 2.75 – 2.63 (m, 6H, C9-H, C15-H, C17-H, C18-H), 2.50 – 1.95 (m, 11H, C11-H, C12-H, C17-H, C18-H, C22-H, N8-H, N14-H), 1.71 – 1.25 (m, 10H, C10-H, C16-H, C19-H, C20-H, C21-H), 1.10 – 0.97 (m, 3H, C23-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 138.6 (C2), 137.9 (C5), 128.6 (C3), 128.2 (C4), 66.9 (C13), 57.3 (C11), 55.9 (C22), 53.7 (C12), 53.6 (C1), 52.2 (C17, C18), 51.1 (C7), 48.4 (C9), 48.3 (C15), 35.8 (C6), 34.5 (C21), 26.6 (C10), 26.0 (C16), 25.5 (C19), 23.8 (C20), 18.9 (C23). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 416.1 (20) [M]⁺, 415.1 (38) [M-H]⁺, 386.1 (16) [M-CH₂O]⁺, 259.9 (11) [M-C₈H₁₇N₂O]⁺, 156.8 (24) [C₈H₁₇N₂O]⁺, 125.9 (32) [C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 111.9 (100) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 99.9 (61) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₂₅H₄₃N₄O [M-H]⁺: 415.3437; found: 415.3438.

N-(4-(2-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (8{5,5}). As stated above for **8{4,4}**, but using 0.1134 g (0.27 mmol) of 2-(4-((3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**17{5,5}**), 0.156 mL (0.1247 g, 1.64 mmol) of borane dimethylsulfide complex, 10 mL of THF and 5 mL of 1.25M HCl/MeOH. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 0.0403g (0.101 mmol, 37%) of *N*-(4-(2-(3-morpholinopropylamino)-ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**8{5,5}**). IR (KBr) ν (cm⁻¹): 3285 (N-H), 2928, 2852, 2800 (Csp³-H), 1673 (N-H), 1455 (CH₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H, C4-H), 3.76 (s, 2H, C1-H), 2.90 – 2.84 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.77 – 2.82 (m, 2H, C6-H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H, C9-H), 2.47 – 2.21 (m, 12H, C11-H, C12-H), 2.05 (br s, 2H, N8-H), 1.70 (m, 4H, C10-H), 1.54 (m, 8H, C13-H), 1.41 (m, 4H, C14-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 138.5 (C2), 137.7 (C5), 128.7

(C3), 128.2 (C4), 57.7 (C11), 54.6 (C12), 53.5 (C1), 51.0 (C7), 48.7 (C9), 35.7 (C6), 26.7 (C10), 25.9 (C13), 24.3 (C14). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 400.4 (1) [M]⁺, 260.2 (3) [M-C₈H₁₆N₂]⁺, 155.1 (7) [C₉H₁₉N₂]⁺, 112.1 (8) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.1 (100) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 84.0 (8) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₂₅H₄₄N₄ [M]⁺: 400.3566; found: 400.3577.

N-(4-(2-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (8{5,3}). As stated above for **8{4,4}**, but using 0.1848 g (0.43 mmol) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**17{5,3}**), 0.245 mL (0.1965 g, 2.59 mmol) of borane dimethylsulfide complex, 12 mL of THF and 6 mL of 1.25M HCl/MeOH. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 0.0642g (0.16 mmol, 36%) of *N*-(4-(2-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)propylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**8{5,3}**). IR (KBr) ν (cm⁻¹): 3283 (N-H), 2931, 2852, 2800 (Csp³-H), 1671 (N-H), 1443 (CH₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.13 – 7.18 (m, 2H, C4-H), 3.74 (s, 2H, C1-H), 2.88 – 2.84 (m, 2H, C7-H), 2.82 – 2.77 (m, 2H, C6-H), 2.76 – 2.63 (m, 4H, C9-H, C16-H), 2.48 – 1.99 (m, 13H, C11-H, C12-H, C18-H, C19-H, C23-H, N8-H, N15-H), 1.71 – 1.63 (m, 4H, C10-H, C17-H), 1.62 – 1.24 (m, 12H, C13-H, C14-H, C20-H, C21-H, C22-H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H, C24-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 138.6 (C2), 137.6 (C5), 128.6 (C3), 128.2 (C4), 57.7 (C11, C18), 55.9 (C23), 54.6 (C12), 53.7 (C1), 52.3 (C19), 51.1 (C7), 48.7 (C9), 48.3 (C16), 35.9 (C6), 34.6 (C22), 26.9 (C10), 26.1 (C14), 25.9 (C13), 25.7 (C17), 24.4 (C21), 19.0 (C24). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 414.4 (8) [M]⁺, 260.2 (18) [M-C₉H₁₈N₂]⁺, 155.1 (33) [C₉H₁₉N₂]⁺, 126.1 (19) [C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 112.1 (87) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.2 (100) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺, 84.1 (16) [C₅H₁₀N]⁺. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₂₆H₄₆N₄ [M]⁺: 414.3722; found: 414.33732.

N-(4-(2-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (8{3,3}). As stated above for **8{4,4}**, but using 0.2015 g (0.46 mmol) of 2-(4-((3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)methyl)phenyl)-N-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propyl)acetamide (**17{3,3}**), 0.259 mL (0.2075 g, 2.73 mmol) of borane dimethylsulfide complex, 13 mL of THF and 6 mL of 1.25M HCl/MeOH. Upon removal of the solvent, the residue was separated by automatic flash chromatography (basic alumina; 98:2:0.5; CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃) to afford 0.088g (0.205 mmol, 45%) of *N*-(4-(2-(3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propylamino)ethyl)benzyl)-3-(2-methylpiperidin-1-yl)propan-1-amine (**8{3,3}**). IR (KBr) ν (cm⁻¹): 3280 (N-H), 2929, 2853, 2793 (Csp³-H), 1673 (N-H), 1449 (CH₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H, C3-H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 2H, C4-H), 3.76 (s, 2H, C1-H), 2.95 – 2.59 (m, 12H, C6-H, C7-H, C9-H, C19-H, C11-H, C12-H), 2.44 – 2.06 (m, 10H, C11-H, C12-H, C16-H, N8-H, N18-H), 1.73 – 1.22 (m, 16H, C10-H, C13-H, C14-H, C15-H, C20-H), 1.10 – 0.99 (m, 6H, C17-H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) (major isomer): 138.5 (C2), 137.7 (C5), 128.7 (C3), 128.3 (C4), 55.9 (C16), 53.6 (C1), 52.2 (C11, C12), 51.1 (C7), 48.8 (C9), 48.3 (C19), 35.8 (C6), 34.5 (C15), 25.9 (C13), 25.5 (C10, C20), 23.8 (C14), 18.9 (C17); (minor isomer): 138.2 (C2), 138.0 (C5), 128.83 (C3), 128.48 (C4). MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 428.6 (12) [M]⁺, 288.1 (10) [M-C₉H₁₈N]⁺, 274.1 (22) [M-C₉H₁₈N₂]⁺,

169.1 (36) [C₁₀H₂₁N₂]⁺, 126.1 (25) [C₈H₁₆N]⁺, 112.1 (100) [C₇H₁₄N]⁺, 98.1 (69) [C₆H₁₂N]⁺. HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₂₇H₄₈N₄ [M]⁺: 428.3879; found: 428.3870.

Antiviral Activity Evaluations

HIV-1 strains were titred in MT-4 cells after acute infection, and infectivity was measured by evaluating the cytopathic effect induced after 5-day cultures as described.^{25,26} Anti-HIV activity (EC₅₀) and cytotoxicity (CC₅₀) measurements in MT-4 cells were based on viability of cells that had been infected or not infected with HIV-1, all exposed to various concentrations of the test compound. After the MT-4 cells were allowed to proliferate for 5 days, the number of viable cells was quantified by a tetrazolium-based colorimetric method (MTT method).

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