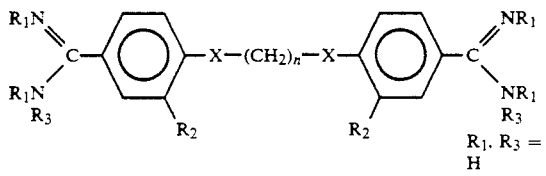
of Formula I (or II) above in treating malaria are contained in Tables I–III, which show that the para-amidines, meta-amidines, and para-imidazolines all have anti-plasmodial activity. The best compound for treating both strains of *Plasmodium falciparum* in accordance with the practice of the present invention is compound No. 8, defined by Formula I wherein X=N, R_1, R_2 and R_3=H, and n=5.

From Table II it is seen that the meta amidines are comparable to the para-amidines, although on the average they are somewhat lesser in activity than the para-amidines.

From Table III it can be seen that the compounds of Formula II wherein the amidine groups have been converted to imidazolines are as a whole essentially as efficacious as their simple amidine counter-parts.

TABLE I

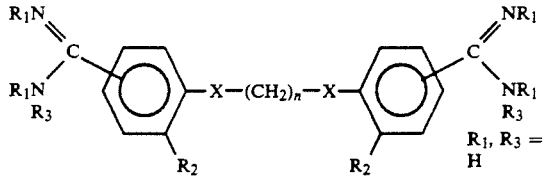
PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM vs. PARA-AMIDINES



EXAMPLE NO.	X	n	R_2	W2 IC_{50} (uM)	W2 Rank (of 18)	D6 IC_{50}(uM)	D6 Rank (of 18)
1	O	3	OCH_3	0.065	6	0.077	11
2	N	4	H	0.057	3	0.025	3/4
3	O	4	H	0.120	13	0.057	8
4	O	5	H	0.083	11	0.038	5
5	O	5	NO_2	0.069	8	0.071	10
6	O	5	NH_2	0.076	9	0.046	6/7
7	O	5	OCH_3	0.066	7	0.106	14
8	N	5	H	0.022	1	<0.020	1
9	O	6	H	0.345	17	0.118	16
10	O	5	Cl	0.165	16	0.107	15

TABLE II

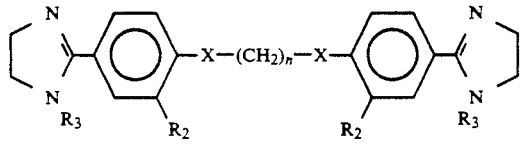
PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM vs. META-AMIDINES



EXAMPLE NO.	X	n	R_2	W2 IC_{50}(uM)	W2 Rank (of 18)	D6 IC_{50}(uM)	D6 Rank (of 18)
11	O	3	H	0.156	15	0.194	18
12	O	4	H	0.043	2	0.046	6/7
13	O	5	H	0.080	10	0.069	9
14	O	6	H	0.125	14	0.132	17

TABLE III

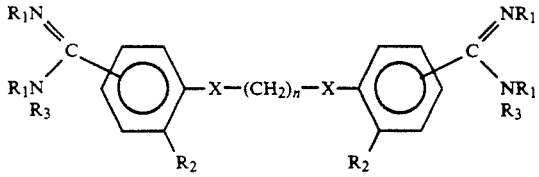
PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM vs. PARA-IMIDAZOLINES



EXAMPLE NO.	X	n	R_3	R_2	W2 IC_{50} (uM)	W2 Rank (of 18)	D6 IC_{50} (uM)	D6 Rank (of 18)
15	O	5	H	H	0.104	12	0.023	2
16	O	5	CH_3	H	1.817	18	0.089	12
17	O	3	H	OCH_3	0.060	5/4	0.100	13
18	O	3	H	H	0.060	5/4	0.025	3/4

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating malaria which comprises the to an afflicted host patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound have the structure of formula I:



wherein X is O or NH; R_1 is H or two R_1 groups on the same amidine group together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$, wherein m≦2,3 or 4; R_2 is H, NH_2, OCH_3, Cl, NO_2; $R_3$is H, CH_3 or CH_2CH_3 and n=2–6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof provided that when X is O, both R_2 and both R_3 can not be H.

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