## Heterocyclic Chemistry



## Nomenclature of

Heterocyclic Chemistry

## Nomenclature of heterocyclic compounds

- Three systems for naming heterocylic compounds:

1) The common nomenclature: no structural information but it still widely used.
2) The replacement method
3) The Hantzsch-Widman (IUPAC or Systematic) method which is designed so that one may deduce from it the structure of the compound.

## - Common Nomenclature

Each compound is given the corresponding trivial name. This usually originates from the compounds occurrence, its first preparation or its special properties.

* If there is more than one hetroatom of the same type numbering starts at the saturated one, e.g. imidazole.

* If there is more than one type of the heteroatoms, the ring is numbered starting at the hetroatom of the higher priority ( $\mathrm{O}>\mathrm{S}>\mathrm{N}$ ) and it continues in the direction to give the other hetroatoms the lower numbers as possible.


## I-Common Nomenclature

- If subsituents present, their position should be identified by the number of the atoms bearing them and then they should be listed in alphabetical order.


5-Amino-4-bromoisoxazole

* The words dihydro, or trihydro, or tetrahydro are used if two or three or four atoms are saturated. These words are preceded by numbers indicate the position of saturated atoms as low as possible and followed by the corresponding fully unsaturated trivial name.


1,2-Dihy 4 ro-pyridine

## Trivial names

1) 5-membered heterocycles with one or two heteroatoms
furan common azoles - five-membered aromatic nitrogen heterocycles
2) 6-membered heterocycles with one or two heteroatoms

Common azines-six-membered aromatic nitorgrn heterocycles


2H-Pyran
These are tautomers
Both are not aromatic

Pyridine | Pyridazine |
| :--- |
| DNA/RNA bases |

Pyrimidine

## Trivial names

## 3) Fused heterocycles

common ring-fused azoles

common ring-fused azines
quinoline $\quad$ quinazoline

quinolizidine

## Trivial names

4) Saturated heterocycles

pyrrolidine

piperidine

piperazine

morpholine

## II- Replacement nomenclature

- Heterocycle's name is composed of the corresponding carbocycle's name and an elemental prefix for the heteroatom introduced (if more than one heteroatom is present they should be listed according to the priority order shown in (table 1).



## II- Replacement nomenclature

Cyclopentadiene










1-Oxa-4-azacyclohexane

2-Azanaphthalene
1,4-Diazabenzene

Oxacyclopenta-2,4-diene

1-Oxa-3-azacyclopenta-2,4-diene

Oxacyclopropane

Oxazacyclopropene

1-Thia-2-azacyclopenta-2,4-diene

## III-Hantzsch-Widman nomenclature (IUPAC)

- German chemists Arthur Hantzsch and Oskar Widman, proposed similar systematic naming of heterocyclic compounds in 1887 and 1888 respectively.
- three to ten-membered rings named by combining the appropriate prefix (or prefixes) that denotes the type and position of the heteroatom present in the ring with suffix that determines both the ring size and the degree of unsaturation
- In addition, the suffixes distinguish between nitrogencontaining heterocycles and heterocycles that do not contain nitrogen
- IUPAC name = locants+ prefix + suffix


# Hantzsch-Widman rules for fully saturated and fully unsaturated heterocycles 

1) Identify the hetroatom present in the ring and choose from (table 1 on slide 8) the corresponding prefix .
2) The position of a single heteroatom control the numbering in a monocyclic compound. The heteroatom is always assigned position 1 and if substituents present are then counted around the ring in a manner so as to take the lowest possible numbers.

For example:


## Hantzsch-Widman rules

3) A multiplicative prefix (di, tri, ect.) and locants are used when two or more similar heteroatoms contained in the ring( two nitrogen indicated by diaza) and the numbering preferably commenced at a saturated rather than an unsaturated atom, as depicted in the following

4) If more than one type of hetroatoms present in the ring the name will include more than one prefix with locants to indicate the relative position of the heteroatoms.

- When combining the prefixes (e.g. oxa and aza) two vowels may end up together, therefore the vowel on the end of the first part should be omitted (oxaza).


## Hantzsch-Widman rules

- The numbering is started from the heteroatom of the highest priority in such a way so as to give the smallest possible numbers to the other heteroatoms in the ring (the substituents are irrelevant). For example the prefix corresponding to the following compound is 4-Methyl-1,3Thiaza....


5) Choose the appropriate suffix from (table 2) depending on whether or not nitrogen atom is present in the ring, the size of the ring and presence or absence of any double bonds
6) Combine the prefix(s) and suffix together and drop the first vowel if two vowels came together.

## Hantzsch-Widman rules


a: means use the prefix perhydro followed by the fully unsaturated name

## Hantzsch-Widman rules

- Examples

- This ring contains (N)

Prefix is aza

- The ring is 3-membered and fully saturated suffix is iridine
- By combining the prefix and suffix, two vowels ended up together (azairidine), therefore the vowel on the end of the first part should be dropped. This gives the correct name: Aziridine


## Hantzsch-Widman rules



- This ring contains $(\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{N})$ and (o) has higher priority than ( N ) and by starting numbering the ring at $(\mathrm{O}) \longrightarrow$ Prefix is 1,2 -Oxaaza, but the first vowel must be omitted to give
1,2-Oxaza
- The ring is 4 -membered and fully saturated suffix is etidine
- By combining the prefix and suffix, two vowels ended up together (1,2oaxazaetidine), therefore the vowel on the end of the first part should be dropped. This gives the correct name:
1,2-oxazetidine


## Hantzsch-Widman rules



- This ring contains (O) $\longrightarrow$ prfix1 (oxa), and two $(\mathrm{N}) \longrightarrow$ prfix2 diaza
- Locants, since (O) is higher priority than (N) so it is in position 1 by default and the two ( N ) are therefore at positions 2 and 5, this gives the combined prefixes as $1,2,5$-oxadiaza (note that the a in oxa is not dropped)
- It is 5-membered,fully unsaturated ring with ( N ) the suffix is ole
- By combining the prefixes and the suffix and dropping the appropriate vowels we get the correct name as 1,2,5-Oxadiazole


## Hantzsch-Widman rules



* The ring is 6-memberd, fully saturated with N Prefix perhydro followed by the name of fully unsaturated 6memberd ring with nitrogen $\longrightarrow$ azine
* Thus the full name is perhydroazine


## Hantzsch-Widman rules for partially unsaturated heterocycles

* Partial unsaturation in heterocyclic compounds can be indicated by one of the following methods:
a) The position of nitrogen or carbon atoms which bear extra hydrogen atoms must be indicated by numbers and italic capital H (e.g. $1 \mathrm{H}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, etc.) followed by the name of maximally unsaturated ring.




5H-1,2,3-Oxathiazole


4H-Oxin

## Hantzsch-Widman rules for partially unsaturated heterocycles

b) The words dihydro, or trihydro, or tetrahydro are used if two or three or four atoms are saturated. These words are preceded by numbers indicate the position of saturated atoms as low as possible and followed by the corresponding fully unsaturated Hantzsch-Widman name.


1,2-Dihydroazine


1,4-Dihydroazine


2,3,4,5-Tetrahydroazine


2,3-Dihydrooxole

## Hantzsch-Widman rules for partially unsaturated heterocycles

c) Alternatively, the partially unsaturated 4 and 5 rings (i.e. rings contain one double bond) are given special HantzschWidman suffixes as in table 3 and the double bond is specified as $\Delta^{1}, \Delta^{2}, \Delta^{3}$, etc.. Which indicates 1 and 2; 2 and 3; 3 and 4 atoms respectively have a double bond
(i.e. Name : $\Delta^{x}+$ Prefix + special suffix )
( $x=$ locant of the double bond)


## Hantzsch-Widman rules for partially unsaturated heterocycles

- Examples

$\Delta^{2}$-Azetine

$\Delta^{2}$-Oxetene
$\Delta^{3}$-Azoline
$\Delta^{2}$-Oxolene

$\Delta^{4}$-1,3-Thiazoline


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## Hantzsch-Widman rules

- Exercise:


## Explain how can you name the following heterocycles.



1,3-Oxathiolane


1,3,5 triazine


Oxirene


4 bromo 1,3 thiazole

## Pharmaceutical Importance of 5-membered Heterocycles

## Introduction

- A heterocyclic compound is a cyclic compound that has atoms of at least two different elements as members of its ring. The counterparts of heterocyclic compounds are homocyclic compound, the rings of which are made of a single element.
- Although heterocyclic compounds may be inorganic, most contain at least one carbon.


## Five membered Heterocycles

- The most common heterocycles are those having five membered rings and containing heteroatoms of Nitrogen(N), Oxygen(O), Sulfur(S).
- Examples:


Pyrrole


Furan


Thiophene

## Pyrrole

- Pyrrole is a heterocyclic aromatic organic compound a five-membered ring with the formula $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H} 4 \mathrm{NH}$. Substituted derivatives are also called pyrroles.

- Pyrrole derivatives drug: Atorvastatin, Ageliferin, Elopiprazole
- Structure

atorvastatin

elopiprazole

ageliferin


## Pharmaceutical Importance

Pyrrole derivatives drug mainly used in-

- Treatment of dyslipidemia \& the prevention of cardiac disease.
- Antibacterial agent
- Antipsychotic drug


## furan

- Furan is a heterocyclic organic compound, consisting of a five-membered aromatic ring with four carbon atoms and one oxygen.

- Furan derivatives drug: Furazolidone, Nitrofurazone, Nitrofurantoin
- Structure:

furazolidone

nitrofurazone

nitrofurantoin


## Pharmaceutical Importance

- Used to treat diarrhoea and enteritis caused by bacteria or protozoan infections.
- Batericidal compound used as an antibiotic most commonly in the form of ointments.
- Used as antiparasitic drug.


## Thiophene

- Thiophene also commonly called thiofuran, is a heterocyclic compound

- Consisting of a flat five-membered ring, it is aromatic as indicated by its extensive substitution reactions.


## Pharmaceutical Importance

Thiophenes are important heterocyclic compounds that are widely used as building blocks in many agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. The benzene ring of a biologically active compound may often be replaced by a thiophene without loss of activity. This is seen in examples such as the NSAID lornoxicam the thiophene analog of piroxicam.

## Imidazole

- Imidazole is an organic compound with the formula $(\mathrm{CH})_{2} \mathrm{~N}(\mathrm{NH}) \mathrm{CH}$. It is a colourless solid that dissolves in water to give mildly alkaline solution.

- Imidazole drug: Ketoconazole, Miconazole, Clotrimazole
- Structure:

 miconazole


Clotrimazole

## Pharmaceutical Importance

- Imidazole derivatives are potent antifungal agent. •

It is also used in the treatment of mycotic infection of skin.

## thiazole

- Thiazole is a heterocyclic compound that contains both sulfur and nitrogen; the term 'thiazole' also refers to a large family of derivatives.

- Thiazole itself is a pale yellow liquid with a pyridinelike odor and the molecular formula $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{NS}$. The thiazole ring is notable as a component of the vitamin thiamine( $\mathrm{B}_{1}$ ).
- Thiazole drug:


meloxicam


## Pharmaceutical Importance

- Used in the disease of dutch elm disease
- Used as paracitiside
- Angiogenesis Inhibitor
- Used as anti microbial agent-sulfathiazole
- Used as antidepressant drug-pramipexole


## pyrazole

- Pyrazole is the organic compound with the formula $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{H}$.
- It is a heterocycle characterized by a 5-membered ring of three carbon atoms and two adjacent nitrogen centres.

- Pyrazole derivative drug:

celecoxib


Phenazone

## Pharmaceutical Importance

- In medicine, derivatives of pyrazoles are used for their analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, antiarrhythmic, tranquilizing, muscle relaxing, anticonvulsant, monoamineoxidase inhibiting, antidiabetic and antibacterial activities.


## Oxazole

- Oxazoles are heterocyclic aromatic compounds containing an oxygen atom and a nitrogen atom separated by one carbon atom.
- Oxazole derivatives have become increasingly important because of their use as intermediates for the preparation of new biological materials.



## Pharmaceutical Importance

The wide range of biological activities of oxazoles includes anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antibacterial, antifungal, hypoglycemic, antiproliferative, anti-tuberculosis, muscle relaxant and HIV inhibitor activity.

## Heterocyclic compounds

are organic compounds that contain rings composed of carbon and other atoms - heteroatoms - in natural heterocycles mostly nitrogen, sulfur, and oxygen.

Heterocycles exist as three-, four-, five-, six-, and multi-membered rings.
The stability of heterocycles increases

- with less distorted bond angles (less strain) that are in five- and six-membered rings, and
- with maximum number of conjugated double bonds, because the delocalized $\pi$-bonding electron pairs form a molecular $\pi$ orbital filled with six electrons and the compound have the aromatic character.

Some rings, in spite of being five- or six-membered, are not stable heterocycles, e.g.
cyclic hemiacetals (cyclic forms of monosaccharides) are in equilibria with their open (acyclic) forms, cyclic esters (lactones), amides (lactams), and cyclic dicarboxylic acid anhydrides
can undergo hydrolytical splitting.
Nonaromatic heterocycles - cyclic ethers, amines, and sulfides behave like their acyclic analogs with the same functional group and do not require special discussion.
Aromatic heterocycles (with the maximum number of conjugated double bonds) are much more important.

## Survey of the most important heterocycles





pyrrolidine imidazole
thiazole


H
pyridine piperidine pyrimidine pyrazine


thiofene thiolane

 furan tetrahydro-







azepine 1,4-diazepine 4H-pyran
tetrahydro-


quinoline
indole


isoquinoline

chroman

pteridine

## Nomenclature of heterocycles

Common names for many ring systems are accepted by the IUPAC rules:

- rings with maximum double bonds
furan, pyrrole, indole, pyridine, etc.
- saturated ring systems
either prefixes dihydro-, tetrahydro-, perhydro-, or in five-membered rings pyrroline, pyrrolidine, in six-membered rings piperidine, piperazine.

pyrrole

pyrroline

pyrrolidine

imidazole imidazolidine


pyridine piperidine

Systematic names according to Hantzch-Widman for monocyclic heterocycles:
prefixes indicating the number of heteroatoms, stem of the name indicates the type of heteroatom, endings for number of ring members and saturation.
Some examples from the rules (used for some compounds in biochemistry:

| Number of <br> heteroatoms | Heteroatom | Number of <br> ring members |  | Unsaturated | Saturated <br> nitrogenous <br> oxygenous <br> sulfurous |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 | -irine, -irene | -irane | -irine |
| di- | aZ- | 2 | -ete | -etidine | -etane .. |
| tri- | thi- | $\mathbf{5}$ | -ole | -olidine | -olane |
|  | OX- | $\mathbf{6}$ | -ine | (-per-) | -ane |
|  |  | $\mathbf{7}$ | -epine | -epane | -epane |
|  |  | 8 | -ocine | -ocane | .. |

Replacement names may also be used occasionally.

## Nitrogen-containing heterocycles are basic,

 unless the unshared electron pair of nitrogen is conjugated with $\pi$-electron pairs of double bonds, i.e. unless it takes part on the formation of an aromatic six-electron $\pi$ cloud..Pyridine is a weak base. The unshared electron pair of nitrogen atom can bind a proton by coordination to give pyridinium cation:


Pyrrole is not a base:

## Imidazole

 is a weak base; One of the two nitrogen atoms can add proton:



Pyrrole

Cyclic tetrapyrroles

porphin
is not a basic compound!
The most important pyrrole derivatives are cyclic tetrapyrroles (haem, chlorophyll) and linear tetrapyrroles (bile pigments).

protoporphyrin IX

Linear tetrapyrroles

bilanes (with substituents at $\beta$-positions)


## Vitamin $\mathrm{B}_{12}$ (cobalamin)

is essential for the maturation and development of red blood cells.
Coenzyme $\mathrm{B}_{12}$
(cobamide cofactors $5^{\prime}$-deoxyadenosylcobalamin, methylcobalamin)

5'-deoxyadenosylcobalamin

methylcobalamin
(part of the molecule)


## Pyrrolidine is a cyclic secondary amine ( $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{B}}=2.7$ ).



Proline is the only standard $\alpha$-amino acid that has a secondary amino group:

proline
(pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid)
Hydroxyproline (proline hydroxylated in position 4 or 3) is the characteristic constituent of collagen - the most abundant protein of connective tissue.

5-Oxoproline (lactam of glutamic acid) is formed in the group translocation of amino acids ( $\mathrm{\gamma}$-glutamyl cycle).


4-hydroxyproline


5-oxoproline (pyroglutamate)

## Indole

(2,3-benzopyrrole)


is not a basic compound!

Tryptophan (2-amino 3-(3-indoly)propanoic acid) is a standard amino acid from which biologically active compounds are derived.

tryptophan


Serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine) is a neurotransmitter in the central nervous system; it also acts as a vasoconstrictor released from blood platelets.
Melatonin ( $N$-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine) is released from the pineal gland and has a role in the control of diurnal biorhythms. Indole-5,6-quinone that originates from tyrosine is a melanogen.

serotonin

melatonin

indole-5,6-quinone

## Imidazole (1,3-diazole) is a weak base, one of the



Histidine (2-amino-3-(4-imidazolyl)propanoic acid) is an essential amino acid.

histidine The side chains of histidyl residues are responsible for the buffering ability of proteins at physiological pH values, because only the imidazolyl groups ( $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{B}} \approx 8.0$ ) can take part in protolytic reactions under those conditions.

Histamine originates by decarboxylation of histidine and acts as a vasodilator in inflammations and allergic reactions. It also causes contraction of smooth muscles of the bronchial stem and the acidic stomach secretion.


The imidazolidine occurs in the structure of creatinine and biotin.

## Thiazole



The thiazole ring occurs in thiamin (vitamin $\mathrm{B}_{1}$ ) that
 also contains a pyrimidine ring.
Thiamin diphosphate is the coenzyme that transports "active aldehyde" groups in the course of oxidative decarboxylations of pyruvate and other $\alpha$-ketocarboxylic acids.

The fully saturated thiazolidine (tetrahydrothiazole) ring appears in the structure of antibiotics penicillins, the effect of which is caused by the unusual $\beta$-lactam ring.


N -acylaminopenicillanic acid

## Thiolane is completely hydrogenated thiophene.


thiophene

thiolane

In the cells, biotin may bind $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ and resulting carboxybiotin serves as a donor of carboxyl in

This ring structure appears (fused with imidazolidone) in biotin:

 important carboxylations (e.g., biosynthesis of fatty acids, synthesis of oxaloacetate from pyruvate).
1,2-Dithiolane is a cyclic dlsulfide that can be easily reduced. to
 acyclic alkan-1.4-dithiol. It occurs as a part of lipoic acid.


## Oxygen containing five- and six-membered heterocycles

Furan derivatives are rather rare in natural compounds. On the contrary, tetrahydrofuran ring is quite common in cyclic forms of sugars.

furan

tetrahydrofuran


D-ribofuranose

Pyran is a labile ring (without the aromatic electron sextet), but it is stabilized through oxidation to pyrone;
tetrahydropyran ring occurs in cyclic forms of
 monosaccharides:

tetrahydropyran


D-ribopyranose

Many plant substances comprise the pyran ring that is usually fused condensed with the benzene ring:

Those structures appear, e.g., in
flavonoids, in the active component of hemp tetrahydrocannabinol (THC),

chroman

chromone tocopherols, and derivatives of coumarin.

Tocopherols are important exogenous lipophilic antioxidants, which prevent oxidation of membrane lipids and lipoproteins by reactive oxygen species.


Derivatives of coumarin (warfarin, biscoumarins) prevent in vivo

coumarin
(2-hydroxycinnamic lactone) coagulation of blood. They act as antivitamins K by inhibition of biosynthesis of vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors.

Coumarin appears in spoiled sweet-clover hay.

## Pyridine is a weak base ( $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{B}}=8.7$ ).



The most important derivatives of pyridine are two essential factors:

Nicotinic acid and nicotinamide is called niacin or pellagra-preventing factor (PPF); they are included in the group of vitamins B.


Vitamin $B_{6}$ is the group name for three related derivatives pyridoxine, pyridoxal, and pyridoxamine.




NAD+ (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide) and NADP+ (NAD phosphate) are coenzymes of dehydrogenases:


The active group of NAD+ (as well as of similar NADP+) is nicotinamide: It acts as an oxidant that takes off two atoms of hydrogen from the substrate. One atom plus one electron (hydride anion $\mathbf{H}^{-}$) is added to the para-position of the pyridinium ring, the remaining $\mathrm{H}^{+}$binds to the enzyme.

Oxidized form NAD+ (aromatic ring, positive charge)

Reduced form $\mathrm{NADH}+\mathrm{H}^{+}$ (quinoid ring, no charge)


## Pyridoxal phosphate


pyridoxine (vitamin $\mathrm{B}_{6}$ )

pyridoxal phosphate

Pyridoxal phosphate is the prosthetic group in many enzymes taking significant part in $\alpha$-amino acid metabolism namely. They catalyze, e.g., transamination and decarboxylation of amino acids.
The aldehyde group of pyridoxal coenzyme binds to $\alpha$-amino group of an amino acid forming an aldimine intermediate (Schiff base).

Pyrimidine
(1,3-diazine)
is a dibasic compound.

Three pyrimidine bases are components of nucleic acids:

cytosine
4-amino-2-hydroxypyrimidine

uracil
2,4-dihydroxypyrimidine

thymine
5-methyluracil

They exist in two tautomeric forms. Only the lactam forms can be ribosylated to give nucleosides:


Pyrimidine ring is comprised also in the structure of thiamin and barbituric acid.

## Purine

(pyrimidinoimidazole)

atypical numbering!

Two purine bases of nucleic acids:

adenine 6-aminopurine

guanine
2-amino-6-hydroxypurine

hypoxanthine
6-hydroxypurine

ammonium hydrogen urate

xanthine
2,6-dihydroxypurine

uric acid (2,6,8-trihydroxypurine)

lactim form

lactam form of uric acid

Methylxanthines are N -methyl derivatives of xanthines, known alkaloids in coffee, tea, and cocoa.

caffeine
1,3,7-trimethyxanthine

theophylline
1,3-dimethylxanthine

theobromine
1,7-dimethylxanthine

Allopurinol is an isomer of hypoxanthine, which is used in treatment of hyperuricacidaemia and gout. It inhibits xanthine oxidase - the enzyme that transforms hypoxanthine and xanthine to urate.
Mercaptopurine (6-sulfanylpurine) inhibits the biosynthesis of purine bases and is used in chemotherapy of cancer.

allopurinol

mercaptopurine

## Pteridine

(pyrimidinopyrazine)



Three important coenzymes are derived from pteridine: pterin coenzyme, folic acid, and flavine coenzymes.
In the cells, the pteridine system originates from guanine!

## Tetrahydrobiopterin $\left(\mathrm{BH}_{4}\right)$

acts as the reducing coenzyme in certain hydroxylations catalyzed by monooxygenases. It supplies two atoms of hydrogen and is oxidized to the quinoid form of dihydropterin:


## Folic acid (folate)

is $N$-pteroylglutamic acid; the number of attached glutamyl residues may
be higher. Although synthesizing the pteridine ring, mammals are unable to conjugate it with PABA and glutamate. They have to obtain folate from their diets or from microorganisms in their intestincabotorahcts.

glutamate
( $\mathrm{n}=1-5$ )

## Tetrahydrofolate

( $\mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{folate}$ ) is an cofactor that transports one-carbon groups (e.g. $-\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{O}$, $-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH},-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ) inevitable namely for the biosynthesis of purine bases and thymine.
 Methotrexate (4-amino-10-methylfolate) and aminopterin (4-aminofolate) are antifolate drugs used as cytostatics in oncology.

By condensation with benzene ring, pteridine gives benzopteridine, the 2,4-dioxoderivative of which is isoalloxazine.



Riboflavin (vitamin $B_{2}$ ) is 6,7-dimethyl-9-(1-ribityl)isoalloxazine.


Ribityl is the remainder of sugar alcohol ribitol. Riboflavin is the only coloured hydrophilic vitamin (intensive yellow).
It is a part of coenzymes FAD and FMN.

FAD (flavin adenine dinucleotide) and FMN (flavin mononucleotide)

Flavin prosthetic groups act as oxidants in certain types of reactions catalyzed by dehydrogenases or oxidases.

coenzyme FAD (oxidized form)

oxidized form
FAD or FMN

reduced form
FADH ${ }_{2}$ or $\mathrm{FMNH}_{2}$

## Heterocycles in major psychotherapeutic agents (examples):

Thiazine

phenothiazine

chloropromazine

Tranquilizers (neuroleptics, psychostatics)

Antidepressants (thymoleptics, psychostimulants)


dihydrodibenz[b,f]azepine imipramine


dibenzothiepine

dosulepine

Anxiolytics

benzo[f]diazepine

diazepam (Valium)
Some other derivatives of benzodiazepam are hypnotics (e.g. flunitrazepam, Rohypnol) or myorelaxants.

## Alkaloids

## Alkaloids are

- natural nitrogenous bases originating from amino acids (sometimes called "secondary" metabolites),
- occurring mostly in higher plants;
- most of them are heterocyclic compounds,
- they exhibit extraordinary variety of structural features,
- many of them have marked biological effects
(quite a number of them possess curative properties).

It is not yet known, whether alkaloids are unwanted by-products or products of detoxification, protective or reserve compounds, or useful regulators.

## Alkaloids are weak bases

| Alkaloid | $\mathrm{p} \boldsymbol{K}_{\mathrm{B}}$ | Alkaloid | $\mathrm{p} \boldsymbol{K}_{\mathrm{B}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Atropine | 4.35 | Nicotine | $6.16 ; 10.96$ |
| Ephedrine | 4.64 | Morphine | 6.13 |
| Quinine | $5.07 ; 9.70$ | Papaverine | 8.00 |
| Cocaine | 5.59 | Caffeine | 13.40 |

$\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{B}}$ (ammonia) 4.75


free alkaloid base (purely soluble in water)

salt
(soluble in water)

## Examples of basic alkaloids:


nicotine
(vasoconstrictor, stimulant)

codeine (3-O-methylmorphine, antitussic action)

quinine
(antimalarial)

quinidine (antiarrhytmic)
papaverine (antispasmodic action)


lysergic acid

methylergometrine (uterotonic)

