

ADVANCES IN THE BIOSCIENCES

Volume 35

**AMINOPYRIDINES AND
SIMILARLY ACTING DRUGS**

Effects on Nerves, Muscles and Synapses

AMINOPYRIDINES AND SIMILARLY ACTING DRUGS

Effects on Nerves, Muscles and Synapses

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- Volume 35: AMINOPYRIDINES AND SIMILARLY ACTING DRUGS: Effects on Nerves, Muscles and Synapses
Editors: P. Lechat, S. Thesleff and W. C. Bowman

PREFACE

When I suggested to my colleagues William Bowman and Stephen Thesleff that we organize a Symposium dedicated to aminopyridines and related compounds, they were immediately enthusiastic in supporting my proposal. We all three agreed indeed that such derivatives have provided an ever increasing interest in neurophysiology and neuropharmacology in the last twenty five years. Fortunately our project rapidly received support from all of the colleagues we contacted in order to deliver lectures.

Many scientists all round the world have published papers using aminopyridines as tools for investigating ionic channel properties and the mechanisms involved in neurotransmission at different levels: neuromuscular junction, as well as central and autonomic synapses. Moreover was it not a wonder to have such a simple chemical with such a powerful activity, therefore so very tempting for all those engaged in structure-activity relationship studies? Some new therapeutic perspectives have also been opened by these derivatives. It seemed therefore useful to have a meeting where workers, old pioneers as well as young researchers, could present their results and discuss all together. The two-and-a-half day Symposium that took place in Paris in July 1981 seems to have achieved this aim. Like all scientific meetings of limited size, it enabled its one hundred participants to have personal contacts and lay foundations for future fruitful collaboration between laboratories. The contributions of participants from 25 countries comprised an up-to-date review of present knowledge and hopefully served to stimulate future research.

The present Proceedings have been organized in eight sections according to the original Scientific Programme. They include the full papers of invited Lectures, Abstracts of oral Communications and Posters presented. The available discussions have been added after the respective scientific sessions. In order to achieve a rapid publication of these Proceedings, the texts have been prepared directly by the authors which are fully responsible for their camera-ready typescripts.

Finally, it is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to my collaborators Drs. Madeleine Lemeignan and Jordi Molgo for their untiring efforts in preparing the meeting as well as these Proceedings. I wish also to thank the technicians and secretary of my laboratory Mrs. Chantal Angeli, Mrs. Jeanine Josso, Mrs. Nicole Lettéron and Miss Annic Rodallec for their valuable assistance in preparing the meeting and during the scientific sessions.

Let me hope that the reading of these Proceedings will provide the best justification for this Symposium, opening the way to another one in a few years...

PAUL LECHAT

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