2,4-DIAMINOQUINAZOLINES AS ANTI-LEISHMANIALS

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Leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasitic disease that puts 350 million people at risk in 88 countries. It is caused by more than 20 species of the genus *Leishmania*. We have synthesized and analyzed the anti-leishmanial properties of a set of 2,4-diaminoquinazoline analogues. These compounds have been found to display single digit micromolar or high nanomolar activity against intracellular *Leishmania donovani* in vitro and also possess selectivity indexes >20 (toxicity against J774 macrophages/activity against intracellular *L. donovani*), making these compounds interesting leads. One 2,4-diaminoquinazoline in this series also displays efficacy in our murine model of visceral leishmaniasis, reducing liver parasitemia by 36% when given by the intraperitoneal route at 15 mg/kg/day for five consecutive days.