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# New Allyldithiocarbimates: Synthesis, Structure and Antifungal Activity against *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* and *Hemileia vastatrix*

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Twelve tetraphenylphosphonium allyldithiocarbimates were synthesized and fully characterized by high-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (HR-ESI-MS), infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopies. The spectroscopic data indicated that the allyldithiocarbimate anions present *Z* configuration, as confirmed by X-ray crystallography. These new compounds inhibited the germination of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* and *Hemileia vastatrix* at very low doses, with IC<sub>50</sub> (concentration to achieve 50% of inhibition of spore germination) values ranging from 0.028 to 0.166 mmol L<sup>-1</sup>, and IC<sub>90</sub> (concentration to achieve 90% of inhibition of spore germination) values varying from 0.156 to 0.528 mmol L<sup>-1</sup>. Allyldithiocarbimate salts are lead compounds for the development of new antifungals for coffee leaf rust and Asian soybean rust, devastating plant diseases with limited control options.

**Keywords:** allyldithiocarbimate, crystal structure, antifungal activity, *Hemileia vastatrix*, *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* 

## Introduction

Dithiocarbamates (Figure 1) are protectant fungicides extensively used in agriculture. For example, Ziram, whose active principle is the zinc dimethyldithiocarbamate (ZDMC), is used either single or in mixtures with more specific systemic fungicides.<sup>1</sup> Even though the metaldithiocarbamates do not present high toxicity when compared to other fungicides, the literature<sup>2</sup> reports that Ziram and other zinc-dithiocarbamates increase the



Figure 1. General formulae of dithiocarbamate (a) and dithiocarbimate (b) anions.

intracellular levels of Zn<sup>2+</sup>, which might induce apoptosis and other adverse events. In addition, it has been recently discovered that Ziram inhibits androgen production and steroidogenic enzyme activities in rat Leydig cells, *in vitro*.<sup>3</sup>

Although similar to the dithiocarbamates, the dithiocarbimates (Figure 1) are much less studied and have no commercial applications yet. In previous research, it was found that *N*-R-sulfonyldithiocarbimate metal complexes (metals: Zn, Ni, Sn) inhibit the mycelial growth of *Colletotrichum*, *Botrytis* and *Alternaria* spp., *in vitro*.<sup>4-7</sup> The potassium salts of the free dithiocarbimate ligands are not stable enough in solution for accurate biological studies.<sup>4</sup> Attempting to synthesize stable metal-free organic dithiocarbimates derivatives, we have recently prepared the first examples of allyldithiocarbimates, via nucleophilic substitution reactions of aromatic sulfonyldithiocarbimates with Morita-Baylis-Hillman (MBH) adducts derivatives. These compounds were also active, inhibiting the mycelial growth of *B. cinerea, in vitro*.<sup>8</sup>

Considering the potential application of this new class of substances as agrochemicals, here we present

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an extension of this research, with the syntheses of twelve new allyldithiocarbimate salts, now derived from aliphatic sulfonyldithiocarbimates and different MBH derivatives. The allyldithiocarbimate anions were isolated as tetraphenylphosphonium salts and were fully characterized by high-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (HR-ESI-MS), infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopies. X-ray diffraction experiments supported the proposed structures.

This work also presents a study on the activities of the allyldithiocarbimate salts against *Hemileia vastatrix* and *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*. Severe coffee leaf-rust epidemics have affected a number of countries, especially from Peru to Mexico, in the last decade, being the most important disease in the Brazilian coffee crops. The causal agent, *H. vastatrix*, is an obligate parasite and affects the aerial part of the plant, causing an early fall of leaves and drying of the branches, consequently reducing productivity.<sup>9,10</sup> Asian soybean rust, caused by *P. pachyrhizi* is also a major problem in Brazil. Original from Asia, the fungus was first detected in 2001 in Paraguay, spreading within four years throughout the continent, up to the United States of America. Loss of sensibility of the fungus to available fungicides has already been reported.<sup>11</sup>

# Experimental

### Methods and materials

Melting points (mp) were determined with an MQAPF-302 equipment (Microquímica) and are reported without correction. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a micrOTOF Q-II liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (UltraflexIII, Brucker Daltonics) under electrospray ionization (ESI). Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Varian 660-IR, equipped with GladiATR (attenuated total reflection, ATR) scanning from 4000 to 500 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 300 instrument (300 and 75 MHz, respectively), using deuterated chloroform as solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) experiments were

performed for structural characterization of the reaction products. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis was conducted on aluminum precoated silica gel plates. Carbon disulfide, potassium hydroxide, ammonia aqueous solution, dimethyl sulfoxide and dimethylformamide were purchased from Vetec (Duque de Caxias, Brazil). The remaining reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, USA) and were used without further purification.

### Syntheses of the precursors

The potassium *N*-R-sulfonyldithiocarbimates were prepared by the reaction of the appropriated sulfonamides with carbon disulfide and two molar equivalents of potassium hydroxide in dimethylformamide (Scheme 1), as described in the literature.<sup>12-14</sup> The potassium dithiocarbimates were characterized by infrared and NMR spectroscopies, in comparison with reported data.<sup>12-14</sup>

$$R-SO_2NH_2 \xrightarrow{CS_2, KOH} K_2(R-SO_2N=CS_2)$$
  
R = CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub>

Scheme 1. Preparation of potassium N-R-sulfonyldithiocarbimates.

Three MBH adducts (Scheme 2) were prepared by the reaction of methyl acrylate with benzaldehyde, 4-nitrobenzaldehyde or 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, catalyzed by trimethylamine,<sup>15</sup> and were converted into the respective allylic bromides (Scheme 2), in reaction with lithium bromide and sulfuric acid, as described in the literature.<sup>16,17</sup> The allylic bromides were characterized by infrared and NMR spectroscopies, in comparison with reported data.<sup>16,17</sup>

### Syntheses of the allyldithiocarbimates (1a-d, 2a-d and 3a-d)

A solution of 1 mmol of each allylic bromide in acetone (2 mL) was added dropwise to a stirring acetone:water (1:1 by volume) solution (10 mL) containing 1.2 mmol of the appropriate potassium *N*-R-sulfonyldithiocarbimate (Scheme 3). The mixture was stirred for up to 15 min (monitored by TLC) at room temperature. Then, water



Scheme 2. Preparation of the Morita-Baylis-Hillman derivatives.



Scheme 3. Syntheses of the allyldithiocarbimates and numbering for NMR attribution.

(5 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ .

For the syntheses of compounds **1a-c**, **2a-c** and **3a-c**, the organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in water. Tetraphenylphosphonium chloride (1 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5 min. The yellow solid thus formed was filtered, washed with distilled water and dried under reduced pressure for one day. As compounds **1d**, **2d** and **3d** are oils, in these cases tetraphenylphosphonium chloride (1 mmol) was added directly to the organic phase (ethyl acetate). The mixture was stirred for 5 min. Then the organic solution was washed with water ( $2 \times 20$  mL), the organic solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dried under reduced pressure for one day.

The HRMS spectra of the products (**1a-d**, **2a-d**, **3a-d**) presented one peak at m/z 339.1318, in the positive mode, due to the tetraphenylphosphonium cation. Their NMR spectra showed the expected signals for the tetraphenylphosphonium cation at: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50-7.68 (m\*, 8H), 7.70-7.81 (m\*, 8H), 7.85-7.93 (m, 4H) (\*superimposed on the signals of H3', H5' and H9' of the anions); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  117.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub> 90 Hz), 130.8 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub> 7.5 Hz), 134.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub> 7.5 Hz), 135.8 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub> 3.0 Hz). The remaining signals and other experimental data are as follows.

## Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylallyl-(*N*-methylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**1a**)

Yield 80%; mp 117.3-118.9 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1697 (vC=O), 1373 (vC=N), 1269 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1140 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 924 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.23 (s, 3H, H1), 3.72 (s,

3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.20 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.22-7.37 (m, 3H, H6', H7', H8'), 7.49-7.97 (m\*, 3H, H3', H5', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  33.3 (C1'), 39.0 (C1), 52.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 127.3 (C2'), 128.6 (C6' and C8'), 128.8 (C7'), 130.1 (C5' and C9'), 134.8 (C4'), 141.3 (C3'), 168.3 (C=O), 201.6 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 344.0090, found: 344.0107.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylallyl-(*N*-ethylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**1b**)

Yield 82%; mp 114.5-116.2 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1697 (vC=O), 1365 (vC=N), 1257 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1142 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 930 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.28 (t, 3H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H2), 3.46 (q, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H1), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.18 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.27-7.37 (m, 3H, H6', H7', H8'), 7.47-7.95 (m\*, 3H, H3', H5', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.4 (C2), 33.4 (C1'), 45.8 (C1), 52.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 127.3 (C2'), 128.6 (C6' and C8'), 128.9 (C7'), 130.1 (C5' and C9'), 134.8 (C4'), 141.5 (C3'), 168.3 (C=O), 201.6 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 358.0247, found: 358.0240.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylallyl-(*N*-butylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**1c**)

Yield 75%; mp 91.6-92.4 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1705 (vC=O), 1381 (vC=N), 1261 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1147 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 933 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.83 (t, 3H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H4), 1.34 (sext, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H3), 1.70-1.82 (m, 2H, H2), 3.51 (t, 2H, *J* 7.9 Hz, H1), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.15 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.18-7.30 (m, 3H, H6', H7', H8'), 7.50-7.68 (m\*, 3H, H3', H5', H9'), 7.47-7.63 (m, 3H, H3', H5', H9');

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 13.9 (C4), 22.0 (C3), 25.7 (C2), 33.3 (C1'), 50.9 (C1), 52.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 127.3 (C2'), 128.6 (C6' and C8'), 128.8 (C7'), 130.2 (C5' and C9'), 134.8 (C4'), 141.3 (C3'), 168.3 (C=O), 200.8 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 386.0560, found: 386.0564.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylallyl-(*N*-octylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**1d**)

Yield 72%; oil at room temperature; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1705 (vC=O), 1381 (vC=N), 1259 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1147 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 933 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); 'H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.78-0.88 (m, 3H, H8), 1.17-1.42 (m, 10H, H3-H7), 1.74-1.89 (m, 2H, H2), 3.53 (t, 2H, *J* 8.1 Hz, H1), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.19 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.19-7.35 (m, 3H, H6', H7', H8'), 7.50-7.68 (m\*, 3H, H3', H5', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.2 (C8), 22.7 (C7), 23.7 (C6), 28.9 (C5), 29.2 (C4), 29.4 (C3), 31.9 (C2), 33.4 (C1'), 51.3 (C1), 52.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 127.4 (C2'), 128.6 (C6' and C8'), 128.8 (C7'), 130.2 (C5' and C9'), 134.9 (C4'), 141.2 (C3'), 168.3 (C=O), 200.8 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup> 442.1186, found: 442.1106.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)allyl-(*N*-methylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**2a**)

Yield 78%; mp 147.8-149.5 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1720 (vC=O), 1510 ( $v_{as}NO_2$ ), 1440 ( $v_{sym}NO_2$ ), 1388 (vC=N), 1262 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1156 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 940 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.25 (s, 3H, H1), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.69-7.71 (m\*, 1H, H3'), 7.73-7.84 (m\*, 2H, H5', H9'), 8.15 (d, 2H, *J* 8.1 Hz, H6', H8'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  32.9 (C1'), 38.9 (C1), 52.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.7 (C6' and C8'), 131.5 (C3'), 132.0 (C2'), 137.9 (C5' and C9'), 141.4 (C4'), 147.3 (C7'), 167.6 (C=O), 200.7 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup>: 388.9941, found: 388.9944.

# Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)allyl-(*N*-ethylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**2b**)

Yield 84%; mp 127.8-129.2 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1711 (vC=O), 1518 ( $v_{as}NO_2$ ), 1381 (vC=N), 1338 ( $v_{sym}NO_2$ ), 1259 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1144 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 931 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.26 (t, 3H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H2), 3.53 (q, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H1), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.18 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.54-7.64 (m\*, 1H, H3'), 7.69-7.83 (m\*, 2H, H5', H9'), 8.12 (d, 2H, *J* 8.7 Hz, H6', H8'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.4 (C2), 33.0 (C1'), 45.3 (C1), 52.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.7 (C6' and C8'), 130.9 (C3'), 131.5 (C2'), 137.8

(C5' and C9'), 141.4 (C4'), 147.3 (C7'), 167.6 (C=O), 200.1 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) m/z, calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{15}N_2O_6S_3^-$ : 403.0098, found: 403.0043.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)allyl-(*N*-butylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**2c**)

Yield 80%; mp 120.7-122.6 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1703 (vC=O), 1512 ( $v_{as}NO_2$ ), 1392 (vC=N), 1342 ( $v_{sym}NO_2$ ), 1255 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1146 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 928 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.87 (t, 3H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H4), 1.38 (sext, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H3), 1.73-1.84 (m, 2H, H2), 3.56 (t, 2H, *J* 7.8 Hz, H1), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.57-7.69 (m\*, 1H, H3'), 7.72-7.83 (m\*, 2H, H5', H9'), 8.15 (d, 2H, *J* 8.7 Hz, H6', H8'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.9 (C4), 22.0 (C3), 25.8 (C2), 33.0 (C1'), 50.9 (C1), 52.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.8 (C6' and C8'), 131.0 (C3'), 131.6 (C2'), 137.8 (C5' and C9'), 141.5 (C4'), 147.4 (C7'), 167.7 (C=O), 200.0 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup>: 431.0411, found: 431.0388.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)allyl-(*N*-butylsulfonyl)dithiocarbimate (**2d**)

Yield 75%; oil at room temperature; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1711 (vC=O), 1516 ( $v_{as}NO_2$ ), 1381 (vC=N), 1342 ( $v_{sym}NO_2$ ), 1259 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1147 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 935 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.78-0.93 (m, 3H, H8), 1.14-1.47 (m, 10H, H3-H7), 1.70-1.85 (m, 2H, H2), 3.52 (t, 2H, *J* 8.1 Hz, H1), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.20 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.56-7.70 (m\*, 1H, H3'), 7.71-7.83 (m\*, 2H, H5', H9'), 8.17 (d, 2H, *J* 8.7 Hz, H6', H8'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.1 (C8), 22.6 (C7), 23.7 (C6), 28.8 (C5), 29.1 (C4), 29.3 (C3), 31.8 (C2), 33.0 (C1'), 51.4 (C1), 52.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.8 (C6' and C8'), 131.0 (C3'), 131.5 (C2'), 137.8 (C5' and C9'), 141.4 (C4'), 147.3 (C7'), 167.6 (C=O), 200.0 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 487.1037, found: 487.0995.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]allyl-(*N*-methylsulfonyl) dithiocarbimate (**3a**)

Yield 89%; mp 136.8-138.5 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1722 (vC=O), 1385 (vC=N), 1261 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1151 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 1063 (vCF<sub>3</sub>), 930 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.21 (s, 3H, H1), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.17 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.52-7.69 (m\*, 5H, H3', H5', H6', H8', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  33.2 (C1'), 39.1 (C1), 52.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.7 Hz, C6' and C8'), 127.7 (q, *J* 270 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 129.9 (C2'), 130.3 (C5' and

C9'), 130.6 (q, *J* 32 Hz, C7'), 138.4 (C3'), 139.3 (C4'), 167.9 (C=O), 201.3 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 411.9964, found: 411.9961.

# Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]allyl-(*N*-ethylsulfonyl) dithiocarbimate (**3b**)

Yield 85%; mp 133.8-135.2 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1718 (vC=O), 1379 (vC=N), 1261 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1153 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 1061 (vCF<sub>3</sub>), 930 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.29 (t, 3H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H2), 3.54 (q, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H1), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.19 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.54-7.70 (m\*, 5H, H3', H5', H6', H8', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.4 (C2), 33.1 (C1'), 45.4 (C1), 52.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.8 Hz, C6' and C8'), 127.6 (q, *J* 270 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 129.9 (C2'), 130.3 (C5' and C9'), 130.5 (q, *J* 31.5 Hz, C7'), 138.4 (C3'), 139.0 (C4'), 167.9 (C=O), 200.3 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 426.0121, found: 426.0142.

Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]allyl-(*N*-butylsulfonyl) dithiocarbimate (**3c**)

Yield 79%; mp 119.2-120.8 °C; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1705 (vC=O), 1396 (vC=N), 1255 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1157 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 1065 (vCF<sub>3</sub>), 926 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.86 (t, 3H, *J* 7.2 Hz, H4), 1.38 (sext, 2H, *J* 7.5 Hz, H3), 1.73-1.84 (m, 2H, H2), 3.54 (t, 2H, *J* 8.1 Hz, H1), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.19 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.52-7.70 (m\*, 5H, H3', H5', H6', H8', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.9 (C4), 22.0 (C3), 25.8 (C2), 33.1 (C1'), 51.0 (C1), 52.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.8 Hz, C6' and C8'), 127.7 (q, *J* 270.0 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 129.9 (C2'), 130.0 (C5' and C9'), 130.5 (q, *J* 31.5 Hz, C7'), 138.4 (C3'), 139.1 (C4'), 167.9 (C=O), 200.3 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 454.0434, found: 454.0408.

# Tetraphenylphosphonium (*Z*)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]allyl-(*N*-octylsulfonyl) dithiocarbimate (**3d**)

Yield 72%; oil at room temperature; IR (selected bands, ATR) v / cm<sup>-1</sup> 1711 (vC=O), 1381 (vC=N), 1259 ( $v_{as}SO_2$ ), 1163 ( $v_{sym}SO_2$ ), 1065 (vCF<sub>3</sub>), 933 ( $v_{as}CS_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.79-0.93 (m, 3H, H8), 1.12-1.45 (m, 10H, H3-H7), 1.72-1.88 (m, 2H, H2), 3.53 (t, 2H, *J* 7.8 Hz, H1), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.19 (s, 2H, H1'), 7.56-7.70 (m\*, 5H, H3', H5', H6', H8', H9'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (allyldithiocarbimate signals, 75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.1 (C8), 22.6 (C7), 23.7 (C6), 28.8 (C5), 29.1 (C4), 29.3 (C3), 31.8 (C2), 33.0 (C1'), 51.3 (C1), 52.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 125.4 (q, *J* 3.7 Hz, C6' and C8'), 127.6 (q, *J* 271.0 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 129.4 (C2'), 130.3 (C5' and C9'), 130.5 (q, *J* 31.5 Hz, C7'), 138.3 (C3'), 139.0 (C4'), 167.8 (C=O), 200.2 (C=N); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*, calcd. for  $C_{21}H_{27}F_3NO_4S_3$ <sup>-:</sup> 510.1060, found: 510.0993.

### X-ray crystallography

Yellow crystals of the compound 2a were obtained by slow evaporation of a dichloromethane/ethanol solution (1:1) and a few drops of water at 25 °C. The diffraction measurement was achieved at room temperature with a Bruker APEX II CCD diffractometer using Mo Ka radiation ( $\lambda$  0.71073 Å). Data collection, cell refinement and data reduction were made using APEX2 software.<sup>18</sup> Final unit cell parameters based on all reflections were obtained by least squares refinement. The data were integrated via SAINT.<sup>19</sup> Lorentz and polarization effect and multi-scan absorption corrections were applied with SADABS.<sup>20</sup> The structure was solved with SHELXS97 using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-square methods against F<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-2014).<sup>21,22</sup> All hydrogen atoms were stereochemically positioned and refined with the riding model. The crystal structure was refined as a non-merohedral twin with a 2-fold axis rotation around the  $c^*$  axis (c-axis of the reciprocal space) and a BASF parameter of 0.04767. Structural representations were drawn using ORTEP-3<sup>23</sup> and MERCURY.<sup>24</sup> The program WinGX was used to prepare materials for publication.<sup>23</sup> The data collection and experimental details for compound 2a can be found in the Table 1.

#### **Biological assay**

The culture medium, prepared with agar-agar (Vetec, Duque de Caxias, Brazil) and distilled water, was sterilized by autoclaving at 121 °C for 25 min. Each compound was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide and Tween 80 (0.75 mL each) and the solutions were homogeneously mixed with the agar-agar suspension (100 mL) and verted into sterile Petri dishes. The final concentrations for each tested substance in the culture medium were equal to 15, 30, 60, 120, 240, 360, 480 and 960 µmol L<sup>-1</sup>. Each treatment had three replicates. The zinc bis-dimethyldithiocarbamate (97%, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) was included as a positive control in the tests at 120 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> and the results were compared by the Tukey's test ( $p \le 0.05$ ).

*Phakopsora pachyrhizi* and *Hemileia vastatrix* spores were isolated from infected soybean (*Glycine max*, cultivar: Monarca) and coffee (*Coffea arabica*, cultivar: Red

Table 1. Crystallographic data and details of diffraction experiments for compound 2a

Empirical formula	$C_{37}H_{33}NO_6PS_3$
Formula weight / (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	728.80
Temperature / K	296(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
Unit cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> / Å	7.808(1)
b/Å	14.182(1)
<i>c</i> / Å	32.506(2)
β / degree	93.209(2)
Volume / Å <sup>3</sup>	3594.2(3)
Z	4
Calculated density / (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.347
μ / mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.299
T <sub>min</sub> /T <sub>max</sub>	0.902/0.926
F(000)	1520
Crystal size / mm	$0.386 \times 0.288 \times 0.256$
$\theta$ range / degree	0.627 to 26.403
Limiting indices	$-5 \le h \le 9; -17 \le k \le 13;$ $-40 \le l \le 38$
Reflections collected	19122
Independent reflections	7358 [R(int) = 0.0365]
Goodness-of-fit	1.087
Data / restraints / parameters	5872 / 0 / 444
R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	R = 0.0853, wR = 0.2806
R indices (all data)	R = 0.1030, wR = 0.3057
Largest diff. peak and hole / (e Å-3)	1.097 and -0.701

$$\begin{split} R &= \sum \left( \left|F_0\right| - \left|F_c\right| \right) \!\! \left/ \sum \left|F_0\right| \, ; \, wR = \! \left[ \sum w \left( \left|F_0^2\right| - \left|F_c^2\right| \right) \!\! \left/ \sum w \left|F_0^2\right|^2 \right]^{1/2} \, . \\ \mu: \text{ absorption coefficient; } F(000): \text{ structure factor in the zeroth-order case; } \\ R(\text{int}): \text{ internal R-value.} \end{split}$$

Caturra) leaves, respectively. The spore concentrations were adjusted to  $1 \times 10^5$  spore mL<sup>-1</sup> in distilled water, with the aid of a hemocytometer. Then, 100 µL of these suspensions were added to each Petri dish and homogeneously spread over the culture medium. After 24 h of incubation at 25 °C, each plate was divided into four quadrants and 25 spores *per* quadrant were examined under the microscope to assess germination. The averages were compared to the negative control (prepared using dimethyl sulfoxide, Tween 80 and agar-agar only) and the inhibition percentages were calculated. The results were statistically analyzed by nonlinear regression using the concentration logarithm *versus* percent inhibition results. The activities were submitted to analyses of variance. The needed concentrations to achieve 50 and 90% of inhibition of spore germination (IC<sub>50</sub> and IC<sub>90</sub> values) were calculated for each compound from the regression equations.<sup>25,26</sup> The whole experiment was repeated, and the results confirmed the first data set (see Tables S1, S2 and S3 in the Supplementary Information).

## **Results and Discussion**

### Syntheses and characterization

Twelve novel allyldithiocarbimate anions were prepared by the reactions between aliphatic sulfonyldithiocarbimates and allylic bromides derived from MBH adducts (Scheme 3). There is only one paper<sup>8</sup> in the literature reporting the synthesis of allyldithiocarbimates, though these were derived from aromatic sulfonylditiocarbimates. Using a similar approach, here we demonstrate that the aliphatic sulfonyldithiocarbimates also act as nucleophiles, reacting in a fast way with the allylic bromides at room temperature (less than 15 min) furnishing the allyldithiocarbimates in good yields (72-82%).

As the resulting potassium salts are water soluble and not easily purifiable, the new compounds were isolated as tetraphenylphosphonium salts. The new salts are yellow solids (**1a-c**, **2a-c** and **3a-c**) or yellowish viscous oils (**1d**, **2d** and **3d**) at room temperature, soluble in dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide, acetone, ethyl acetate, ethanol, chloroform and dichloromethane, with very low solubility in diethyl ether, hexanes and water. Their molecular formulae were confirmed by HRMS, which presented the expected peak for the tetraphenylphosphonium ion in the positive mode, and the molecular ion peaks of each allyldithiocarbimate in the negative mode. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra integration curves were in accordance with a 1:1 proportion between each anion and the tetraphenylphosphonium cation.

Characteristic bands in the IR spectra indicated the presence of the most relevant groups within each structure. All spectra presented the  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ester carbonyl band at around 1710 cm<sup>-1</sup>, the C=N and CS<sub>2</sub> stretching bands at ca. 1380 and 930 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, and the strong bands due to the SO<sub>2</sub> group at ca. 1260 and 1150 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The C=N bands were shifted to higher wavenumber values with respect to the parent potassium dithiocarbimates data (vCN 1260-1300 cm<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>12-14</sup> This shift can be explained by the partial loss of conjugation within the NCS<sub>2</sub> system. Consequently, the CS<sub>2</sub> bands had the opposite shift (potassium dithiocarbimates vCS<sub>2</sub> 945-979 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Compounds **2a-d** and **3a-d** IR spectra presented additional bands due to the nitro (ca. 1515 and 1340 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and trifluoromethyl (ca. 1065 cm<sup>-1</sup>) groups.

Table 2. Selected bond lengths and torsion angles for compound 2a

The signals due to the alkyl groups in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra had similar chemical shift values when compared to the parent potassium dithiocarbimates.<sup>12-14</sup> One important change was observed on the signal of the carbon atom of the NCS<sub>2</sub> group, which was shifted from ca.  $\delta$  224 in the spectra of the precursors to ca.  $\delta$  200 in the spectra of the allyldithiocarbimates. This shift is in agreement with the IR data, and is due to the greater double bond character of the CN bond in the allyldithiocarbimates. Two signals in higher field (ca.  $\delta$  33 and 52), present in all spectra, were due to the CH<sub>2</sub> and OCH<sub>3</sub> carbon atoms of the MBH moiety, and the ester carbonyl signal was observed at ca.  $\delta$  168. The spectra of compounds **3a-d** showed a quartet centered at ca.  $\delta$  128 (J 270 Hz) due to the CF<sub>3</sub> group, which also caused the split in the aromatic signals at around  $\delta$  130.5 (<sup>2</sup>*J* 31.5 Hz, C7') and δ 125.5 (<sup>3</sup>*J* 3.8 Hz, C6' and C8').

In order to investigate the stereochemistry of the allyldithiocarbimates, NOESY experiments were performed. A correlation between the hydrogens H1' and H9' signals indicated a spatial proximity coherent with a Z configuration with respect to the C2'-C3' double bond.

### X-ray crystallography

Compound **2a** crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$ . The asymmetric unit contains one anion and one cation (Figure 2). Single crystal X-ray diffraction data confirmed the (*Z*)-stereochemistry for the allyldithiocarbimate anion.

Selected bond lengths and torsion angles are summarized in Table 2. The bond length C2'-C3' [1.329(8) Å] is consistent with a normal C=C double bond (1.34 Å). The

Bond	length / Å
S1-C1	1.735(7)
\$1-N1	1.623(5)
C2-N1	1.306(7)
C2-S3	1.689(5)
C2-S2	1.777(5)
S2-C1'	1.830(6)
C1'-C2'	1.515(7)
C2'-C3'	1.329(8)
C3'-C4'	1.464(9)
C2'-C3	1.506(8)
C3-O4	1.341(8)
C3-O3	1.191(8)
O4-C4	1.453(9)
C7'-N1	1.469(9)
Torsion a	angle / degree
C2-S2-C1'-C2'	111.66
S2-C1'-C2'-C3'	-121.15
S2-C1'-C2'-C3	60.92

C2'-C3 bond [1.506(8) Å] is in the range of a Csp<sup>2</sup>-Csp<sup>3</sup> sigma bond (1.50 Å). The bond lengths (Table 2) within the methoxycarbonyl group (C3-O3, C3-O4 and C4-O4) are within the range reported for the analogues derived from aromatic sulfonildithiocarbimates.<sup>8</sup> The N1-C2 bond distance [1.306(7) Å] is slightly longer than the value of 1.279 Å for a typical N(sp2)=C(sp2) double



Figure 2. ORTEP view of compound 2a with atom-numbering scheme and displacement ellipsoids drawn with 20% probability level, and numbering for the X-ray data analyses.

bond.<sup>27</sup> In addition, the C2–S2 bond length [1.777(5) Å] is significantly longer than the C2–S3 distance [1.689(5) Å]. The C2–S2 distance is shorter than a C–S single bond and the C2–S3 is slightly longer than a typical C=S double bond.<sup>27</sup> These facts are due to the conjugated NCS<sub>2</sub> system and agree with the IR and NMR data.

Three planar fragments characterize the anion: S1/N1/C2/S2/S3/C1', C2'/C3/O3/O4/C4/C1' and the phenyl ring. The angle between the first two fragments is  $63.7(2)^{\circ}$  and between the second and third fragments is  $25.5(3)^{\circ}$ . The torsion angles around the bonds C1'-C2' and S2-C1' describe the orientation of these fragments (Table 2).

The phosphorus atom in the tetraphenylphosphoniun cation present tetrahedral distorted geometry, with P–C and C–C bond lengths in the range from 1.787(6) to 1.797(5) Å and 1.360(10) to 1.408(8) Å, respectively. The C–P–C angles in the four phenyl rings go from 107.4(2)

to  $111.5(3)^{\circ}$ . These values are comparable to those found in other structures with the same cation.<sup>8,28</sup>

The crystal packing is mainly stabilized by the electrostatic interactions between oppositely charged ions (Figure 3). In addition, there are four intramolecular contacts in the anion, and intermolecular interactions between cations and anions (C-H···O), between anions (C-H···S) and between cations (C-H···Cg) (Table 3). The C16-H16···O1, C20-H20···O2 and C1'-H1'1···S3 intermolecular interactions form ribbons in the *a*-axis direction (Figure 3). The C25-H25···Cg interactions connect these ribbons forming chains along *b*-axis.

### Antifungal activity

The influences of the twelve allyldithiocarbimate salts shown in Scheme 3 were investigated, *in vitro*, on the



Figure 3. Structural packing of compound 2a in the a-axis direction. Dashed lines indicate C16-H16-O1, C20-H20-O2 and C1'-H1'1-S3 hydrogen bonds.

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Donor-H…acceptor	d(D–H) / Å	d(H…A) / Å	d(D…A) / Å	<(DHA) / degree
C1–H1A…S3	0.96	2.78	3.419(9)	125
C1'-H1'2…N1	0.97	2.40	2.940(7)	115
С3'-Н3'…О3	0.93	2.33	2.759(8)	108
C5'-H5'…N1	0.93	2.42	3.345(8)	173
C16-H16-01i	0.93	2.56	3.423(7)	154
C20–H20····O2 <sup>ii</sup>	0.93	2.56	3.421(9)	155
C1'–H1'1…S3 <sup>iii</sup>	0.97	2.86	3.675(6)	143
C25-H25···Cg <sup>iv</sup>	0.93	2.89	3.685(8)	144

Table 3. Geometric parameters for intramolecular and intermolecular interactions in compound 2a crystal

Symmetry codes: (*i*) x, 1 + y, z; (*ii*) -1 + x, 1 + y, z; (*iii*) -1 + x, y, z; (*iv*) 1 - x,  $\frac{1}{2} + y$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} - z$ . Cg is the C23-C28 ring.

germination of *H. vastatrix* and *P. pachyrhizi* spores. The new compounds showed comparable activities to those presented by the ZDMC, the pure active principle of the protectant fungicide Ziram at 120 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> (Figures 4 and 5). ZDMC and the new allyldithiocarbimate salts were more active against *P. pachyrhizi* than against *H. vastatrix*. The results also indicated that the structural differences on the allyldithiocarbimate interfere with their activities (Figures 4 and 5).

The new compounds were tested at various concentrations ranging from 15 to 960 µmol L<sup>-1</sup>, reaching 100% of inhibition of the spore germination of both fungi below the higher concentration tested. The inhibition percentages were correlated to the logarithm of the allyldithiocarbimate salts concentrations, furnishing the curve equations shown in Tables 4 and 5. All equations presented coefficient of determination values ( $r^2$ ) very close to 1.0. The *F* value and Prob > *F* statistics were used to test



**Figure 4.** Inhibition (in percentage) of *P. pachyrhizi* spore germination caused by the new allylditiocarbimate salts compared to the positive control, zinc bis-dimethyldithiocarbamate (ZDMC) at 120  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>. Values followed by the same letter do not differ at the 5% level of significance by the Tukey's test.

the overall significance of the regression model. The results showed that the choice of the sigmoidal dose-response model was adequate with a high level of significance (Prob > F of less than 0.01). Figure 6 exemplifies the dose response curves obtained. In order to confirm the results, the whole experiment was repeated in different days. The data were reproductible as shown in Figure 6.

The necessary concentrations to inhibit 50 and 90% of spore germination (IC<sub>50</sub> and IC<sub>90</sub> values, respectively) were calculated from the equations shown in Tables 4 and 5. The results are listed in Table 6. The complete set of results confirmed that the new compounds are significantly more active against *P. pachyrhizi* than against *H. vastatrix*, both at lower and higher concentration ranges.

It is also clear that the molecular differences within the allyldithiocarbimate anions interfere on the activity, as the various combinations of R (**a-d**) and R' (**1-3**) groups lead to different results (Table 6). With respect to the alkyl



**Figure 5.** Inhibition (in percentage) of *H. vastatrix* spore germination caused by the new allylditiocarbimate salts compared to the positive control, zinc bis-dimethyldithiocarbamate (ZDMC) at 120  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>. Values followed by the same letter do not differ at the 5% level of significance by the Tukey's test.

3c 3d < 0.0001

< 0.0001

Compound	Equation: $y = A1 + \frac{(A2 - A1)}{(1 + 10^{((LOGx0 - x)p)})}$				Statistical data		
	A1	A2	LOGx0	р	r <sup>2</sup>	F	$\operatorname{Prob} > F$
1a	13.08	100.74	-1.01	2.25	0.9822	442.89	< 0.0001
1b	10.91	99.08	-1.13	2.42	0.9921	1077.50	< 0.0001
1c	-503.64	112.63	-3.43	0.51	0.9819	1197.90	< 0.0001
1d	15.66	102.16	-1.38	1.21	0.9832	1299.22	< 0.0001
2a	22.03	101.43	-1.04	2.19	0.9936	1676.69	< 0.0001
2b	3.89	107.69	-1.23	0.99	0.9835	854.70	< 0.0001
2c	-3.30	101.53	-1.41	1.51	0.9954	2779.41	< 0.0001
2d	-4.65	100.29	-1.25	1.65	0.9921	1066.90	< 0.0001
3a	19.20	104.14	-1.05	1.43	0.9909	1391.44	< 0.0001
3b	15.03	108.62	-1.03	1.12	0.9873	1027.00	< 0.0001

Table 4. Regression equation for the inhibition of *P. pachyrhizi* spore germination *versus* the log of the allyldithiocarbimate salts concentrations, equation parameters and statistical data

y: inhibition percentage; A1: bottom asymptote; A2: top asymptote; LOGx0: center; x:  $\log_{10}$ [concentration]; p: hill slope; r<sup>2</sup>: coefficient of determination; *F*: value obtained by the *F*-test; Prob > *F* = probability value (*p* model, *F* < 0.0001).

1.53

1.13

0.9936

0.9864

1667.36

939.17

-1.03

-1.25

Table 5. Regression equation for the inhibition of H.	vastatrix spore germination versus the	e log of the allyldithiocarbimate salt	s concentrations, equation
parameters and statistical data			

Compound		Equation: $y = A1 + \frac{(A2 - A1)}{(1 + 10^{((LOG_{x0} - x)p)})}$				Statistical data		
	A1	A2	LOGx0	р	$r^2$	F	$\operatorname{Prob} > F$	
1a	8.16	102.7	-0.84	2.43	0.9972	1986.84	< 0.0001	
1b	5.48	100.62	-0.77	3.19	0.9949	895.97	< 0.0001	
1c	11.67	103.61	-0.83	2.45	0.9911	680.87	< 0.0001	
1d	11.13	106.39	-0.69	2.06	0.9849	371.58	< 0.0001	
2a	15.85	102.11	-0.81	2.48	0.9831	394.85	< 0.0001	
2b	10.00	118.30	-0.68	1.14	0.9772	337.11	< 0.0001	
2c	23.60	103.21	-0.93	2.14	0.9904	1037.18	< 0.0001	
2d	15.92	103.73	-0.90	2.18	0.9884	655.15	< 0.0001	
3a	15.59	100.91	-0.79	2.69	0.9940	1070.26	< 0.0001	
3b	9.53	116.12	-0.66	1.27	0.9760	283.56	< 0.0001	
3c	20.38	103.98	-0.93	1.86	0.9931	1403.44	< 0.0001	
3d	14.57	103.47	-0.81	2.34	0.9929	920.38	< 0.0001	

y: inhibition percentage; A1: bottom asymptote; A2: top asymptote; LOGx0: center; x:  $\log_{10}$ [concentration]; p: hill slope; r<sup>2</sup>: coefficient of determination; *F*: value obtained by the *F*-test; Prob > *F* = probability value (*p* model, *F* < 0.0001).

groups (**a-d**), the compounds with the butyl group (**c**) showed the best results within each series (**1a-d**, **2a-d** and **3a-d**), considering both the  $IC_{50}$  and  $IC_{90}$  values for *H. vastatrix* (Table 6). The same trend was observed for *P. pachyrhizi*, with one exception within the group **1a-d**. Membrane affinity follows a nonlinear behavior, usually increasing with the chain length up to a threshold, beyond

29.78

1.90

104.31

105.51

which lengthening of the chain results in a reduction on the biological activity.<sup>29</sup> The better performance of the compounds bearing the butyl group ( $\mathbf{c}$ ) points to an optimum chain length of ca. four carbon atoms for the inhibitory activity here studied.

The introduction of fluorine atoms and nitro groups in biologically active molecules is known to affect their



Figure 6. Dose-response curves for the inhibition (in percentage) of *P. pachyrhizi* (a) and *H. vastatrix* (b) spore germination by compound 2c after 24 h of incubation at 25 °C, in two separate experiments, with three replicates *per* treatment in each experiment.

	Fungi					
Compound	P. paci	hyrhizi	H. vastatrix			
	IC <sub>50</sub> / (µmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	IC <sub>90</sub> / (µmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	IC <sub>50</sub> / (µmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	IC <sub>90</sub> / (µmol L <sup>-1</sup> )		
1a	85	234	130	308		
1b	67	180	161	322		
1c	26	223	129	302		
1d	30	189	172	443		
2a	69	205	132	320		
2b	47	288	129	514		
2c	40	156	85	252		
2d	59	217	101	271		
3a	60	274	142	334		
3b	59	321	149	533		
3c	49	240	84	275		
3d	49	257	130	323		

**Table 6.** Concentrations of the allyldithiocarbimate salts to inhibit 50%  $(IC_{50})$  and 90%  $(IC_{90})$  spore germination of *P. pachyrhizi* and *H. vastatrix* 

effectiveness. The presence of such substituents can alter important parameters such as interaction with enzymes, cell membranes and target receptors, or may produce secondary activity reactions, for example due to the enzymatic bioreduction of nitro groups.<sup>30-33</sup>

Therefore, along with the compounds **1a-d** (with the unsubstituted phenyl ring), we included the analogues **2a-d** and **3a-d** in order to evaluate if the introduction of the nitro and trifluoromethyl substituents would affect the activity of the allyldithiocarbimates. The analysis of the results (Table 6) was not straightforward when considering the presence of these groups in the structures. The effect of both nitro (**2**) and trifluoromethyl (**3**) substituents on the IC<sub>90</sub> values are

positive for the inhibition of *H. vastatrix* when considering the analogues with the longer carbon chains (**c** and **d**). Nevertheless, these substituents lower the inhibition of *H. vastatrix* germination when the allyldithiocarbimates bear short alkyl groups (**a** and **b**). The results for *P. pachyrhizi* were even more complex with respect to the influence of the nitro group, while the trifluoromethyl group clearly diminishes the performance of these new antifungals.

# Conclusions

The reactions between *N*-alkyl-sulfonyldithiocarbimates and allylic bromides are very fast and furnish allyldithiocarbimates in good yields. The X-ray diffraction studies confirmed that the reactions are stereospecific, furnishing exclusively the *Z* isomers, as the spectroscopic data also indicated.

The twelve new compounds inhibited the spore germination of *P. pachyrhizi* and *H. vastatrix* at very low doses. The activities were higher against *P. pachyrhizi*. It was observed that the alkyl chain with four carbon atoms increases the inhibitory activity in comparison with the homologues with one, two or eight carbon atoms, in most cases. The presence of the trifluorophenyl and nitro groups in the aromatic ring enhanced the activity of the allyldithiocarbimates against *H. vastatrix* for the compounds bearing the longer alkyl chains (**c** and **d**), showing opposite results for the shorther chains analogues (**a** and **b**). The influence of these groups seemd to be more complex with respect to *P. pachyrhizi*.

The best overall results were achieved in the treatments with compound **2c** (substituent on the aromatic ring = nitro; alkyl group = butyl), which resulted in the lowest  $IC_{90}$ values (252 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> for *H. vastatrix*, and 156 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> for *P. pachyrhizi*). The experiments were repeated, and the results are reproducible. Considering the Tukey's test (Figure 4), the activity of compound **2c** on the germination of *P. pachyrhizi* was superior to the result achieved with the positive control (ZDMC) at 120  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>.

Thus, the studies here described indicated that the allyldithiocarbimate salts are a new group of biologically active substances with potential application for the control of coffee leaf rust and Asian sybean rust diseases. Differently from dithiocarbamates such as ZDMC, the allyldithiocarbimates are metal free and form anionic species. We have shown that changes in the structure of the allylic anions can enhance the antifungal activity of their salts. The good results presented by these salts may be further improved by variations on the cation, what can modulate the salt solubility and the activity of this new class of agrochemicals. Compound **2c** is a target substance for further studies on the development of a new fungicide, especially considering the inhibition of *P. pachyrhizi* germination.

# **Supplementary Information**

Supplementary crystallographic data for **2a** (CCDC 1559144) can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www. ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033).

Supplementary data are available free of charge at http://jbcs.sbq.org.br as PDF file.

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