



Article

Hybrid Compounds Strategy in the Synthesis of Oleanolic Acid Skeleton-NSAID Derivatives

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Abstract: The current study focuses on the synthesis of several hybrid individuals combining a natural oleanolic acid skeleton and synthetic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug moieties (NSAIDs). It studied structural modifications of the oleanolic acid structure by use of the direct reactivity of hydroxyl or hydroxylmino groups at position C-3 of the triterpenoid skeleton with the carboxylic function of anti-inflammatory drugs leading to new perspective compounds with high potential pharmacological activities. Novel ester- and iminoester-type derivatives of oleanolic unit with the different NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen, and ketoprofen, were obtained and characterized. Moreover, preliminary research of compounds obtaining structure stability under acidic conditions was examined and the PASS method of prediction of activity spectra for substances was used to estimate the potential biological activity of these compounds.

Keywords: oleanolic acid; oleanolic oxime; NSAIDs; ibuprofen; aspirin; naproxen; ketoprofen; hybrid compounds

1. Introduction

Many scientific reports on the future prospects for the design of potentially useful drugs have been published. Among the many synthetic trends (dimers, heterodimers, heteromers, biooligomers, dendrimers, dual-, bivalent- or multifunction agents, identical or non-identical twin drugs, mixed or combo drugs, supramolecular particles, and various nanoindividuals) a clear leader is a hybrid strategy [1]. A hybrid compound is a synthetic product combining two or more separate active structures (or structure fragments) joined by at least one chemical bond. The unlimited possibilities of combining natural or unnatural active compounds can be exploited to generate individuals with unprecedented bioactivity and an additional potential synergic effect. Chemical association of two structures into one new dual molecule depends on their functionality and cross-reactivity, and can be implemented by way of various methods [2,3]; Generally, the most popular molecules integration modes are: direct no-linker mode (fused hybrids) A; intermediate linker mode, B; and overlap mode (merged hybrids), C (Figure 1). The use of hybrids for disease treatment could offer several advantages, such as increased solubility, and several mechanisms of action in one molecule. This approach can be used to optimize certain biological properties, like affinity and selectivity, but also to produce novel biological activities distinct from those of the components.

Due to the great potential of natural products exhibiting pronounced biological activities, they have been one of the major sources of components in hybrid molecules and, in practice, at least one hybrid fragment should be natural. Terpenes are a widespread group of natural compounds with considerable practical significance, which are found in most plants, as a result of their wide spectrum of biological activities.

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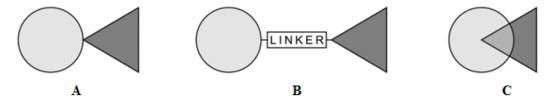


Figure 1. General integration modes of active dual structures. **(A)** Direct no-linker mode (fused hybrids); **(B)** Intermediate linker mode; **(C)** Overlap mode (merged hybrids).

Inspired by the latest literature reports [4-6] as a key modulator of the activity of other biologically-active compounds (NSAIDs), we decided to use the broadly advantageous structure of naturally-occurring 3β-hydroxyolean-12-en-28-oic acid, commonly known as oleanolic acid (1). From a chemical point of view, it belongs to pentacyclic triterpene from the β -amyrine group with five six-membered cycles in the molecule, which offers great powers both as a bioactive molecule and as a carrier for other external activities. In nature, this compound exists either as a free acid or as a component of triterpenoid saponins, in which it can be linked with one or more sugar chains. This natural triterpene, widely distributed in plants, has shown several relevant biological activities including the modulation of the immune inflammatory response [7]. Oleanolic acid and its derivatives possess several promising pharmacological activities, such as hepatoprotective and anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antibacterial, fungicidal, antioxidant, or anticancer [8]. Therefore, terpenes containing the hydroxyl or hydroxyimino reactive groups can be used to prepare derivatives with the commercial anti-inflammatory drugs with a carboxylic function, leading to new dual compounds. Recently, its semi-synthetic acyloxyimino derivatives with analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects were also reported [9,10]. In the last decade NSAID drugs have been extensively investigated for anticancer and chemopreventive activity against various types of cancers [11,12]. They appear to act via depression of prostaglandin synthesis through inhibiting cyclooxygenase-2, which results in suppression of proliferation, possibly throught enhancement of apoptosis [13]. However, NSAID drugs are known for their side effects on the gastrointestinal system, particulary stomach ulceration, bleeding, perforation, and action exerted by contact of drug with gastric mucosa [14]. Inflammation is not direct, but very often the initial, trigger of several different diseases, it is supposed that fusing the anti-inflammatory drugs and the oleanane active structure, resulting in combined compounds, showed an enhanced biological effect with synergistic action and minimized toxicity or adverse reactions.

2. Results and Discussion

Our research examined the reactivity of oleanolic acid (1), oleanolic acid methyl ester (2), and their corresponding oxime derivatives (5, 6) in the creation of new dual compounds. In order to obtain the starting reactants, the carboxylic group (C-28) of oleanolic acid (1) was converted into the methyl ester group (2) by use of dimethyl sulfate in an ethanolic solution of sodium hydroxide as a methylation agent [15]. The secondary hydroxyl group at the C-3 position of the oleanolic acid skeleton was reacted in the oxidation process with chromic anhydride in sulfuric acid (Jones reagent) to give 3-oxooleanolic derivatives (3, 4) [16]. The carbonyl derivatives formed at the C-3 position were reacted with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in the presence of sodium acetate and converted to corresponding oximes (5, 6) [17] (Scheme 1).

The triterpene compounds mentioned above (1, 2, 5, 6) are useful starting reagents in the synthesis of oleanolic acid skeleton-NSAID hybrid derivatives. Racemic compounds, such as ibuprofen (7), aspirin (8), naproxen (9), and ketoprofen (10) were applied as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory particles (Figure 2).

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Scheme 1. Oleanolic acid transformations. *Reagents and condition*: (a) $(CH_3)_2SO_4$, NaOH, EtOH, reflux; (b) Jones reagent, acetone, RT; and (c) NH₂OH × HCl, CH₃COONa, EtOH, reflux.

Figure 2. NSAID molecules selected.

The main transformation planned to afford hybrid derivatives is a reaction of the secondary hydroxyl group, or hydroxyimino group resulting from it, which is present in the terpene molecule at the C-3 position with a free carboxylic moiety of the anti-inflammatory agents selected. These move in two chemical directions (Scheme 2). Compounds 1 and 2 reacted by the esterification method lead to the formation of ester-type hybrid derivatives (11–18), while the corresponding terpene oximes (5,6) give an ester of oximes called as iminoester-type hybrid derivatives (19–26).

Oleanolic acid (1) and its methyl ester 2 were reacted respectively with appropriate NSAID compounds (7–10) in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and 4-(dimethylamino) pyridine (DMAP) reagents. DCC is carboxylic acid activating and coupling agent, while strongly-nucleophilic DMAP acts as an acyl transfer reagent in the Steglich esterification reaction [5,6] which is a very useful process in the conversion of sterically-demanding substrates. The water resulting from a DCC mediated reaction reacts immediately with the carboimide applied and forms dicyclohexylurea (DHU), which is insoluble in a reaction medium and precipitates as a white solid. It is, therefore, essential to carry out the reaction in anhydrous conditions. High DMAP addition is also crucial for the efficient formation of esters because in this case catalytic amounts of DMAP does not yield the product expected. The molar ratio of terpene alcohol, NSAID, DCC, and DMAP reagents used in the reaction process is in the sequence 1:4:5:3. In the case of the reaction of terpene oximes (5, 6) with carboxylic anti-inflammatory agents (7–10) towards oxime esters a similar procedure was applied, but the presence of DMAP is not crucial. The molar ratio of reagents used was 1:4:5 (terpene oxime, NSAID, and DCC). All reactions, both towards ester and iminoester-type compounds, were carried out in an anhydrous chloroform solution. The reagents were mixed together at 0 °C, and then stirred at room temperature for up to two hours to achieve full conversion of the terpene substrate. Due to the fact that, during the reaction, a urea derivative is precipitated as byproduct, the addition of hexane and cooling the reaction mixture before filtration give the best final results, because the DHU is removed completely [5] (Scheme 2).

As a result of synthesis, sixteen structures hybridized with the formulas shown in Figure 3 were produced. Further isolation and purification by column chromatography resulted in the desired pure esters **11–18** and iminoesters **19–26**, with yields ranging from 62% to 89%. The structure of these hybrid compounds **11–26** was confirmed by ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, DEPT, and MS data.

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Scheme 2. The main chemical directions of oleanolic acid-NSAID compounds synthesis. *Reagents and condition*: (a) ester-type hybrids: DCC, DMAP, anhyd. CHCl₃, RT; and (b) iminoester-type hybrid: DCC, anhyd. CHCl₃, RT.

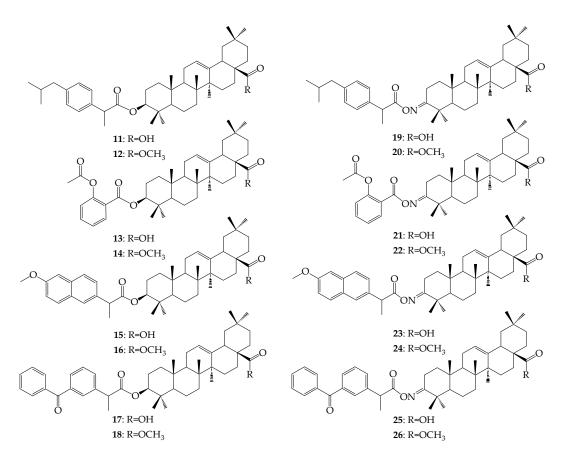


Figure 3. Formulas of the final hybrid derivatives obtained.

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2.1. Preliminary Stability Studies

New potential therapeutic substances are susceptible to various transformations in human body conditions. Compounds obtained as complex ester or iminoester individuals formed from triterpene and anti-inflammatory units under suitable conditions may disintegrate into the compounds from which they originated. Preliminary stability studies on the above compounds, in conditions outside the human organism, were carried out using acidic hydrolysis conditions with hydrochloric acid in an ethanolic solution (pH = 5). Compounds selected from each group, four esters (11, 13, 15, 17) and four iminoesters (19, 21, 23, 25) were treated with an acidic ethanol solution and stirred. The test was conducted at room temperature, and then in the case of stable compounds, at an elevated temperature (50 $^{\circ}$ C). Stability control of the test compounds was performed with the TLC method using structural reference substances after 1, 5, and 24 h. The tests clearly show that the resulting compounds are stable under the conditions employed and do not lead to a substrate or do not show changes in its structure, either at room temperature or at an elevated temperature. The results obtained are the initial data on the stability of the esters and iminoesters studied which in the body, under the action of enzymes, does not have to be stable. It is known that ester links are generally cleaved in the body by esterase leading to the starting active components.

2.2. Prediction of Activity Spectra by the PASS Method

In this study, to estimate the biological activity of the substances obtained, the PASS method (Prediction of Activity Spectra for Substance) was used. PASS Online [18] predicts over 4000 kinds of biological activity, including pharmacological effects, mechanisms of action, toxic and adverse effects, interaction with metabolic enzymes and transporters, or the influence on gene expression.

Biological activity, the P_a factor (probability "to be active") and P_i factor (probability "to be inactive") spectrum for NSAID-triterpene derivatives using the structure-activity relationships were calculated and predicted. All substances tested **11–26** showed a broad spectrum of potential activity. Most of these compounds exhibit a very high probability of biological activity, with more than 70% occurring. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the results predicted biological activities and potential mechanisms of action derivatives obtained.

Table 1. Predicted activity of ester-type derivatives 11–18 determined by th	ne PASS method.

Activity/Compounds Number	P_a Factor of Compounds 11–18 ($P_a > 0.7$, $P_i \le 0.005$)								
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Insulin promoter	0.983	0.968	0.966	0.926	0.948	0.900	0.965	0.921	
Hepatoprotectant	0.926	0.925	0.957	0.956	0.929	0.924	0.891	0.889	
Lipid metabolism regulator	0.927	0.874	0.969	0.958	0.952	0.930	0.966	0.953	
Chemopreventive	0.925	0.918	0.967	0.965	0.938	0.923	0.864	0.855	
Oxidoreductase inhibitor	0.921	0.893	0.907	0.878	0.903	0.878	0.924	0.895	
Membrane integrity antagonist	0.912	0.889	0.926	0.908	0.904	0.878	0.892	0.859	
Transcription factor NF kappa B stimulant	0.905	0.874	0.911	0.882	0.884	0.858	0.902	0.870	
Transcription factor stimulant	0.905	0.874	0.911	0.882	0.884	0.858	0.902	0.870	
Mucomembranous protector	0.903	0.811	0.877	0.783	0.868	0.799	0.875	0.782	
Anti-inflammatory	0.877	0.872	0.841	0.835	0.860	0.861	0.890	0.885	
Non-steroidal-anti-inflammatory agent	0.740	0.735	0.715	0.710	0.738	0.719	0.794	0.789	
Hypolipemic	0.870	0.828	0.866	0.824	0.842	0.792	0.869	0.827	
Antisecretoric	0.850	0.868	0.766	0.788	0.816	0.847	0.798	0.823	
Antinociceptive	0.836	0.795	0.862	0.819	0.867	0.822	0.822	0.780	
Antiulcerative	0.833	0.782	0.858	0.818	0.799	0.742	0.814	0.758	
Antineoplastic	0.758	0.765	0.848	0.770	0.789	0.798	0.803	0.808	
Caspase 3 stimulant	0.815	0.799	0.977	0.974	0.962	0.934	0.792	0.775	
Caspase 8 stimulant	0.761	0.759	0.861	0.859	0.859	0.849	0.771	0.768	
Apoptosis agonist	0.809	0.806	0.863	0.861	0.810	0.811	0.818	0.815	

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Activity/Compounds Number	P_a Factor of Compounds 19–26 ($P_a > 0.5$, $P_i \le 0.005$)							
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Insulin promoter	0.942	0.853	0.846	-	0.760	-	0.842	-
Hepatoprotectant	0.702	0.706	0.743	0.741	0.717	0.701	-	-
Chemopreventive	-	-	0.727	0.717	-	-	-	-
Oxidoreductase inhibitor	0.836	0.734	0.831	0.721	0.776	-	0.841	0.744
Membrane integrity antagonist	0.815	0.718	0.867	0.813	0.789	-	0.719	-
Transcription factor NF kappa B stimulant	0.881	0.835	0.884	0.843	0.851	0.815	0.877	0.829
Transcription factor stimulant	0.881	0.835	0.884	0.843	0.851	0.815	0.877	0.829
Anti-inflammatory	0.776	0.762	0.725	0.711	0.751	0.748	0.802	0.790
Antinociceptive	0.700	-	-	-	0.742	-	-	-
Caspase 3 stimulant	-	-	0.830	0.815	0.806	0.757	-	-
Caspase 8 stimulant	-	-	0.752	0.749	0.716	-	-	-
Apoptosis agonist	-	-	0.790	0.786	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Predicted activity of iminoester-type derivatives 19–26 determined by the PASS method.

If the value of P_a factor is greater than 70%, there is a high probability that the substance will be active in the conditions of *in vitro* experiment, whereas if the P_a factor is within the 50%–70% range, there is a slightly lower probability confirming the activity of the substance in the biological studies. Therefore, in Tables 1 and 2 only the results for the highest value of the P_a factor above 70% were presented. Ester-type connections, compared to the corresponding iminoester-type compounds, are potentially more active individuals with a much higher P_a factor above 70%. Related iminoesters also demonstrate potential activity, although many of them are in the P_a factor range of 50%–70%.

The resulting derivatives, particularly ester-type compounds, have a high potential to become effective pharmaceutical individuals: e.g., as new anti-inflammatory agents that may show a remarkable increase in activity and decrease toxicity, compared with a single synthetic anti-inflammatory drug or terpene. Analyzing the data obtained using the PASS method, it is believed that the formation of both ester and iminoester moieties is certainly a good and useful strategy in the design of potential new therapeutic compounds that will minimize disease-associated morbidity and mortality.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Equipment and General Procedures

The melting points of all compounds used in this study were determined on a Boetius apparatus and were uncorrected. The 1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian Gemini 300 VT spectrometer, 300 and 75 MHz respectively (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Chemical shifts (δ) were expressed in parts per million (ppm), relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard, using CDCl₃ as solvent. Coupling constants (J) are expressed in Hertz (Hz). Splitting patterns are designated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; and m, multiplet.

MS spectra were recorded on a 402 AMD INTECTRA apparatus (AMD Intectra GmbH, Harpstedt, Germany) by the electron impact technique (EI), operating at 75 eV. The infrared (IR) spectra were recorded in KBr tablets using a Specord 75–IR spectrophotometer (Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany) and were expressed in the cm $^{-1}$ scale. The progress of reactions and purity of products were checked using the TLC method on silica gel plates (60 F₂₅₄ from Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) in hexane/ethyl acetate (4:1, v/v) as a developing system. The TLC spots on the plates were observed in UV light (λ = 254 nm) and were visualized by spraying the chromatograms with 10% H₂SO₄ in ethanol and heating the plates at 110 °C for approximately 3 min. Silica gel 60 (63–200 μ m particle size, Merck) was used for column chromatography.

Oleanolic acid (Bio-Tech, Beijing, China, plant material: *Olea europea*), DCC, DMAP, racemic NSAID compounds (ibuprofen, aspirin naproxen, ketoprofen), and solvents (chloroform, ethyl acetate,

[&]quot;-"—potential activity in the P_a factor range of 50%–70%.

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hexane) were commercial products (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA). The compounds used for the synthesis were of a purity higher than 98%. Chloroform was additionally dried over anhydrous CaCl₂ and distilled. Other solvents were used without further purification.

3.2. Preparation of Oleanolic Acid- and Their Me-Ester-NSAID Hybrid Derivatives

3.2.1. Starting Oleanolic Acid Derivatives 2-6

First, oleanolic acid (1) was methylated with dimethyl sulfate in an ethanolic solution of NaOH and methyl oleanolate (2) was obtained with a high yield [19]. Next, oleanolic acid and its methyl ester were oxidized with Jones reagent in acetone at room temperature [16]. The 3-oxoderivatives obtained (3, 4) were subjected to a reaction with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in ethanol, in accordance with the procedure known for many different oxotriterpenoids. Heating oleanolic ketones (3, 4) with hydroxylamine hydrochloride produces the corresponding oleanolate oximes (5, 6) [17]. The spectral data of all the starting compounds (2–6) were confirmed the data from the literature [16,17,19,20].

3.2.2. Synthesis of Ester-Type Hybrid Compounds 11–18

Oleanolic acid (1) or oleanolic acid methyl ester (2) (1 mmol), DCC (1.03 g, 5 mmol), DMAP (0.37 g, 3 mmol) and anti-inflammatory drugs: ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen, or ketoprofen (4 mmol) were mixed at 0 $^{\circ}$ C and then stirred at room temperature in dry CHCl₃ (12 mL) for 2 h. Hexane (8 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and cooled. Next, the resulting precipitate of dicyclohexylurea was filtered. The organic phase was washed with 5% aqueous hydrochloric acid, 5% aqueous sodium bicarbonate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After removal of the drying agent and solvent evaporation, the crude new esters (11–18) were purified with column chromatography on silica gel using a hexane–ethyl acetate (4:1, v/v) mixture as an eluent.

Oleanoyl ibuprofenate (11) [4]: after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.56 g (87%) of 11 (R_f = 0.48, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 228–230 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1710 (C=O, ester ibu-olean), 1695 (COOH), 1170 (C–O, ester ibu-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 11.01 (1H, s, COOH), 5.26 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.43 (1H, m, CH-3), 2.80 (1H, dd, J = 14.1, 3.4, CH-18), 1.11–0.54 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 7.20 (2H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.07 (2H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 3.69 (1H, m, CH), 2.44 (2H, d, J = 4.0, CH₂), 2.25 (1H, m, CH), 1.49 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃), 0.87 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.86 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 183.50 (C-28), 143.58 (C-13), 122.53 (C-12), 80.85 (C-3), 55.30 (C-5), 47.60 (C-9), 46.72 (C-17), 45.85 (C-19), 41.72 (C-14), 41.30 (C-18), 39.50 (C-8), 38.10 (C-1), 37.90 (C-4), 36.91 (C-10), 33.88 (C-21), 33.15 (C-29), 32.70 (C-7), 32.52 (C-22), 30.70 (C-20), 29.81 (C-15), 27.96 (C-23), 27.80 (C-2), 25.98 (C-27), 23.66 (C-30), 23.55 (C-16), 23.45 (C-11), 18.20 (C-6), 17.88 (C-26), 16.85 (C-24), 15.30 (C-25); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 174.35 (C=O ester ibu-olean), 140.39, 137.74, 137.48, 129.25, 127.33, 127.10 (6 × C-arom), 44.93 (CH₂), 41.59 (CHCOO), 27.55 (CH(CH₃)), 22.30, 22.20, 19.60 (3 × CH₃); DEPT: 10 × CH₃, 11 × CH₂, 11 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 645.0 [M]⁺ (C₄₃H₆₄O₄).

Oleanoyl ibuprofenate methyl ester (12) [4]: after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.53 g (80%) of 12 (R_f = 0.85 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp:139–141 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1720 (C=O, ester ibu-olean), 1700 (COOCH₃), 1170 (C=O, ester ibu-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.27 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.42 (1H, m, CH-3), 3.67 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.85 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 3.3, CH-18), 1.11–0.54 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 7.20 (2H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.07 (2H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 3.67 (1H, m, CH), 2.43 (2H, d, J = 4.0, CH₂), 2.26 (1H, m, CH), 1.50 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃), 0.87 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.86 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.39 (C-28), 143.70 (C-13), 122.39 (C-12), 80.90 (C-3), 55.63 (C-5), 51.59 (COOCH₃), 47.77 (C-9), 46.70 (C-17), 45.87 (C-19), 41.70 (C-14), 41.20 (C-18), 39.51 (C-8), 38.20 (C-1), 37.24 (C-4), 36.70 (C-10), 33.75 (C-21), 33.01 (C-29), 32.75 (C-7), 31.40 (C-22), 30.23 (C-20), 28.45 (C-15), 27.90 (C-23), 27.45 (C-2), 25.80 (C-27), 23.78 (C-30), 23.55 (C-16), 23.48 (C-11), 18.29 (C-6), 17.40 (C-26), 16.90 (C-24), 15.30 (C-25);

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Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 174.36 (C=O ester ibu-olean), 140.37, 137.73, 137.48, 129.10 127.25 (6 × C-arom), 127.08, 44.92 (CH₂), 41.60 (CHCOO), 27.56 (CH(CH₃)), 22.32, 22.30, 19.29 (3 × CH₃); DEPT: 11 × CH₃, 11 × CH₂, 11 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 658.6 [M]⁺ (C₄₄H₆₆O₄).

Oleanoyl aspirinate (13): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.38 g (62%) of 13 (R_f = 0.45, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 182–184 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3350 (COOH), 1710 (C=O, ester asp-olean), 1700 (COOH), 1650 (C=O asp), 1175 (C=O, ester asp-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 11.01 (1H, COOH), 5.28 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.49 (1H, m, CH-3), 2.86 (1H, dd, J = 14.1, 3.4, CH-18), 1.12–0.56 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Aspirin moiety: δ = 7.50, 7.43, 7.22, 7.09 (4H, m, CH-arom), 2.33 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl fragment: δ = 180.83 (C-28), 143.76 (C-13), 122.30 (C-12), 82.17 (C-3), 52.44 (C-5), 47.67 (C-9), 46.79 (C-17), 45.33 (C-19), 41.97 (C-14), 41.23 (C-18), 39.00 (C-8), 38.11 (C-1), 37.79 (C-4), 36.98 (C-10), 33.81 (C-21), 33.10 (C-29), 32.56 (C-22), 32.12 (C-7), 30.75 (C-20), 27.98 (C-15), 27.69 (C-23), 27.54 (C-2), 25.79 (C-27), 23.60 (C-30), 23.51 (C-16), 23.34 (C-11), 18.20 (C-6), 16.82 (C-26), 16.73 (C-24), 15.36 (C-25); Aspirin moiety: δ = 170.96 (C=O ester aspir-olean), 169.58 (COOCH₃), 150.63, 137.33, 130.38, 125.80, 121.92, 116.13 (6 × Carom), 21.12 (CH₃); DEPT: 8 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 9 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 618. 9 [M]⁺ (C₃₉H₅₄O₆).

Oleanoyl aspirinate methyl ester (14): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.45 g (72%) of 14 (R_f = 0.65 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 223–226 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O, ester asp-olean), 1710 (COOCH₃), 1660 (C=O asp), 1175 (C=O, ester asp-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: 5.28 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.48 (1H, m, CH-3), 3.62 (3H, s, COOCH₃), 2.85 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.04, CH-18), 1.12–0.58 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Aspirin moiety: δ = 7.52, 7.31, 7.21, 7.00 (4H, m, CH-arom), 2.06 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.31 (C-28), 143.78 (C-13), 122.25 (C-12), 80.91 (C-3), 55.27 (C-5), 51.52 (COOCH₃), 47.52 (C-9), 46.71 (C-17), 45.81 (C-19), 41.60 (C-14), 41.26 (C-18), 39.25 (C-8), 38.07 (C-1), 37.66 (C-4), 36.90 (C-10), 33.82 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.56 (C-7), 31.36 (C-22), 30.68 (C-20), 28.00 (C-15), 27.65 (C-23), 27.52 (C-2), 25.88 (C-27), 23.62 (C-30), 23.50 (C-16), 23.38 (C-11), 18.19 (C-6), 16.81 (C-26), 16.67 (C-24), 15.34 (C-25); Aspirin moiety: δ = 170.31 (C=O ester asp-olean), 170.04 (COOCH₃), 150.04, 137.92, 131.38, 127.80, 121.99, 117.03 (6 × C-arom), 21.15 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 9 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 632.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₀H₅₆O₆).

Oleanoyl naproxenate (15) [4]: after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.58 g (89%) of 15 (R_f = 0.44, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 257–258 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1725 (C=O, ester napx-olean), 1690 (COOH), 1175 (C=O, ester napx-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 10.95 (1H, COOH), 5.25 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.47 (1H, m, CH-3), 2.80 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.0, CH-18), 1.11–0.57 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Naproxen moiety: δ = 7.70 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.68 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.42 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.40 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 11, CH-arom), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3,84 (1H, m, CH), 1.57 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 183.24 (C-28), 143.53 (C-13), 122.51 (C-12), 81.06 (C-3), 55.26 (C-5), 47.46 (C-9), 46.49 (C-17), 45.79 (C-19), 41.56 (C-14), 40.95 (C-18), 39.21 (C-8), 37.98 (C-1), 37.84 (C-4), 36.89 (C-10), 33.76 (C-21), 33.02 (C-29), 32.48 (C-7), 32.39 (C-22), 30.63 (C-20), 29.72 (C-15), 27.68 (C-23), 27.61 (C-2), 25.85 (C-27), 23.53 (C-30), 23.49 (C-16), 23.35 (C-11), 18.17 (C-6), 17.99 (C-26), 16.52 (C-24), 15.27 (C-25); Naproxen moiety: δ = 174.25 (C=O ester napx-olean), 157.51, 136.02, 133.60, 129.23, 128.90, 127.46, 126.38, 125.99, 118.85, 105.56 (10 × C-arom), 55.3 (OCH₃), 45.9 (CH), 17.04 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 12 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 668.5 [M]⁺ (C₄₄H₆₀O₅).

Oleanoyl naproxenate methyl ester (16) [4]: after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.53 g (78%) of 16 (R_f = 0.60, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 158–160 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O, ester napx-olean), 1700 (COOCH₃), 1185 (C=O, ester napx-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.26 (1H, t, J = 3.6, CH-12), 4.46 (1H, m, CH-3), 3.61 (3H, s, COOCH₃), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.0, CH-18), 1.10–0.56 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Naproxen moiety: δ = 7.70 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.68 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.67 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.42 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.40 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 11, CH-arom), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.83 (1H, m, CH), 1.58 (3H,

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d, J = 7.0, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: $\delta = 178.30$ (C-28), 143.77 (C-13), 122.23 (C-12), 81.04 (C-3), 55.27 (C-5), 51.51 (COOCH₃), 47.46 (C-9), 46.69 (C-17), 45.96 (C-19), 41.59 (C-14), 41.25 (C-18), 39.22 (C-8), 38.00 (C-1), 37.84 (C-4), 36.86 (C-10), 33.82 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.51 (C-7), 32.35 (C-22), 30.67 (C-20), 29.69 (C-15), 27.67 (C-23), 27.63 (C-2), 25.87 (C-27), 23.62 (C-30), 23.50 (C-16), 23.39 (C-11), 18.15 (C-6), 16.78 (C-26), 16.54 (C-24), 15.27 (C-25); Naproxen moiety: $\delta = 174.25$ (C=O ester napx-olean), 157.49, 136.02, 133.58, 129.24, 128.88, 126.94, 126.39, 125.98, 118.84, 105.53 (10 × C-arom), 55.20 (OCH₃), 45.80 (CH), 18.04 (CH₃); DEPT: 10 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 12 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 682.7 [M]⁺ (C₄₅H₆₂O₅).

Oleanoyl ketoprofenate (17): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.27 g (79%) of 17 (R_f = 0.32, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless resin (with a tendency to crystallize); IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1725 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 1690 (COOH), 1175 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 10.95 (1H, COOH), 5.27 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 4.47 (1H, m, CH-3), 2.80 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 3.6, CH-18), 1.21–0.61 (21H, s 7 × CH₃); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 7.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 7.73 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 7.2, CH-arom), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 6.8, CH-arom), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 6.0, CH-arom), 7.53 (1H, d, J = 6.4, CH-arom), 7.49 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 7.47 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 3.78 (2H, m, CH), 1.59 (3H, d, J = 7.2, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.28 (C-28), 143.79 (C-13), 122.22 (C-12), 81.34 (C-3), 55.22 (C-5), 47.50 (C-9), 46.70 (C-17), 45.95 (C-19), 41.61 (C-18), 41.28 (C-14), 39.26 (C-8), 37.85 (C-1), 37.74 (C-4), 36.62 (C-10), 33.84 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.54 (C-7), 32.36 (C-22), 30.66 (C-20), 28.43 (C-15), 27.72 (C-23), 27.65 (C-2), 25.88 (C-27), 23.47 (C-30), 23.38 (C-16), 23.05 (C-11), 18.09 (C-6), 18.03 (C-26), 16.62 (C-24), 16.53 (C-25); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 196.57 (C=O), 173.57 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 141.22, 140.95, 137.88, 137.57, 130.00, 129.26, 128.83, 128.44, 128.39, 128.28 (12 × C-arom), 45.83 (CH), 15.27 (CH₃); DEPT: 8 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 15 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 692.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₆H₆₀O₅).

Oleanoyl ketoprofenate methyl ester (**18**): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.31 g (88%) of **18** (R_f = 0.50, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless resin (with a tendency to crystallize); IR v_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 1700 (COOCH₃), 1185 (C–O, ester ketopr-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.27 (1H, t, J = 3.6, CH-12), 4.46 (1H, m, CH-3), 3.62 (3H, s, COOCH₃), 2.81 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 3.6, CH-18), 1.21–0.61 (21H, s 7 × CH₃); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 7.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 7.73 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 7.2, CH-arom), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 6.8, CH-arom), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 6.0, CH-arom), 7.53 (1H, d, J = 6.4, CH-arom), 7.49 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 7.47 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 3.78 (2H, m, CH), 1.59 (3H, d, J = 7.2, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.28 (C-28), 143.79 (C-13), 122.22 (C-12), 81.34 (C-3), 55.22 (C-5), 51.49 (COOCH₃), 47.50 (C-9), 46.70 (C-17), 45.95 (C-19), 41.61 (C-18), 41.28 (C-14), 39.26 (C-8), 37.85 (C-1), 37.74 (C-4), 36.62 (C-10), 33.84 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.54 (C-7), 32.36 (C-22), 30.66 (C-20), 28.43 (C-15), 27.72 (C-23), 27.65 (C-2), 25.88 (C-27), 23.47 (C-30), 23.38 (C-16), 23.05 (C-11), 18.09 (C-6), 18.03 (C-26), 16.62 (C-24), 16.53 (C-25); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 196.57 (C=O), 173.57 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 141.22, 140.95, 137.88, 137.57, 130.00, 129.26, 128.83, 128.44, 128.39, 128.28 (12 × C-arom), 45.83 (CH), 15.27 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 15 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 706.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₇H₆₂O₅).

3.2.3. Synthesis of Iminoester-Type Hybrid Compounds 19-26

Oleanolic acid oxime (5) or its methyl ester (6) (1 mmol), DCC (1.03 g, 5 mmol) and anti-inflammatory drugs: ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen, or ketoprofen (4 mmol), were mixed at 0 $^{\circ}$ C and then stirred at room temperature in dry CHCl₃ (12 mL) for 2 h. Hexane (8 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and cooled. Next, the resulting precipitate of dicyclohexylurea was filtered. The organic phase was washed with 5% aqueous hydrochloric acid, 5% aqueous sodium bicarbonate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After removal of the drying agent and solvent evaporation, the crude new iminoesters **19–26** were purified with column chromatography on silica gel using hexane–ethyl acetate (4:1, v/v) mixture as a eluent.

Oleanoyl oxime ibuprofenate (19): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.46 g (74%) of 19 (R_f = 0.45; hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 163–165 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1715 (C=O, iminoester ibu-olean), 1695 (COOH), 1170 (C=O, iminoester ibu-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 11.17 (1H, COOH), 5.53 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 13.4, 3.4, CH-18), 1.35–0.72 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 7.18 (2H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.08 (2H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 3.85 (1H, m, CH), 2.43 (2H, d, J = 7.0, CH₂), 2.25 (1H, m, CH), 1.55 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃), 0.89 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.88 (3H, s CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.30 (C-28), 172.60 (C-3), 143.53 (C-13), 126.60 (C-12), 55.30 (C-5), 49.50 (C-9), 47.61 (C-17), 45.89 (C-19), 41.74 (C-14), 41.30 (C-18), 39.58 (C-8), 38.10 (C-1), 37.92 (C-4), 36.92 (C-10), 33.15 (C-29), 32.54 (C-22), 33.86 (C-21), 32.72 (C-7), 30.73 (C-20), 29.82 (C-15), 27.95 (C-23), 27.80 (C-2), 25.95 (C-27), 23.65 (C-30), 23.58 (C-16), 23.43 (C-11), 18.20 (C-6), 17.80 (C-26), 16.86 (C-24), 15.30 (C-25); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 174.76 (C=O iminoester ibu-olean), 140.52, 138.40, 137.48, 128.98, 126.88, 126.69 (6 × C-arom), 44.59 (CH₂), 40.18 (CHCOO), 27.56 (CH(CH₃)), 22.32, 18.58, 15.09 (3 × CH₃); DEPT: 10 × CH₃, 11 × CH₂, 10 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 657.6 [M]⁺ (C₄₃H₆₃NO₄).

Oleanoyl oxime ibuprofenate methyl ester (20): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.51 g (77%) of 20 (R_f = 0.67, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless resin; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1710 (C=O, iminoester ibu-olean), 1170 (C=O, iminoester ibu-olean); 1700 (COOCH₃); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.28 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 3.62 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 13.7, 3.4, CH-18), 1.49–0.72 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 7.23 (2H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 7.08 (2H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom), 3.85 (1H, m, CH), 2.45 (2H, d, J = 7.0, CH₂), 2.25 (1H, m, CH), 1.55 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃), 0.88 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.87 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.30 (C-28), 172.44 (C-3), 143.90 (C-13), 122.30 (C-12), 55.30 (C-5), 51.59 (COOCH₃), 49.51 (C-9), 47.65 (C-17), 45.90 (C-19), 41.72 (C-14), 40.19 (C-18), 39.58 (C-8), 38.19 (C-1), 37.90 (C-4), 36.69 (C-10), 33.10 (C-29), 32.51 (C-22), 33.81 (C-21), 32.78 (C-7), 30.27 (C-20), 29.68 (C-15), 27.99 (C-23), 27.58 (C-2), 25.69 (C-27), 23.86 (C-30), 23.59 (C-16), 23.45 (C-11), 18.29 (C-6), 17.38 (C-26), 16.88 (C-24), 15.39 (C-25); Ibuprofen moiety: δ = 175.78 (C=O iminoester ibu-olean), 140.56, 137.62, 137.48, 129.22, 127.35, 127.10, 44.50 (CH₂), 40.19 (CHCOO), 27.52 (CH(CH₃)), 22.30, 18.59, 15.20 (3 × CH₃); DEPT: 11 × CH₃, 11 × CH₂, 10 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 671.6 [M]⁺ (C₄₄H₆₅NO₄).

Oleanoyl oxime aspirinate (21): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.39 g (62%) of 21 (R_f = 0.39, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 104–107 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3350 (COOH), 1750 (C=O iminoester asp-olean), 1710 (COOH), 1695 (C=O asp.), 1175 (C=O, iminoester asp-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 10.80 (1H, COOH), 5.32 (1H, t, *J* = 3.4, CH-12), 3.31 (1H, m, CH-18), 1.33–0.83 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Aspirin moiety: δ = 7.50, 7.43, 7.22, 7.10 (4H, m, CH-arom), 2.35 (3H, s, CH₃). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.26 (C-28), 176.40 (C-3), 143.96 (C-13), 122.13 (C-12), 55.39 (C-5), 47.63 (C-9), 46.76 (C-17), 45.83 (C-19), 41.75 (C-14), 41.39 (C-18), 40.95 (C-8), 38.19 (C-1), 37.99 (C-4), 36.98 (C-10), 33.11 (C-29), 32.55 (C-22), 33.82 (C-21), 32.71 (C-7), 30.72 (C-20), 29.89 (C-15), 27.92 (C-23), 27.80 (C-2), 25.90 (C-27), 23.69 (C-30), 23.58 (C-16), 23.45 (C-11), 18.29 (C-6), 17.89 (C-26), 16.81 (C-24), 15.32 (C-25); Aspirin moiety: δ = 171.12 (C=O iminoester asp-olean), 165.54 (COOCH₃), 154.04, 131.38, 129.58, 127.79, 125.92, 121.90 (6 × C-arom), 21.30 (CH₃); DEPT: 8 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 8 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 631. 9 [M]⁺ (C₃₉H₅₃NO₆).

Oleanoyl oxime aspirinate methyl ester (22): after purification by silica gel columnchromatography yield: 0.42 g (67%) of 22 (R_f = 0.47, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 179–180 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1750 (C=O asp), 1710 (COOCH₃), 1650 (C=O asp), 1175 (C-O iminoester asp-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.28 (1H, t, *J* = 3.4, CH-12), 3.63 (3H, s, COOCH₃), 2.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.7, 3.4, CH-18), 1.20–0.77 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Aspirin moiety: δ = 7.97, 7.57, 7.32, 7.14 (4H, m, CH-arom), 2.35 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.26 (C-28), 176.40 (C-3), 143.96 (C-13), 122.13 (C-12), 55.78 (C-5), 51.59 (COOCH₃), 47.14 (C-9), 46.72 (C-17), 45.79 (C-19), 41.73 (C-14), 41.61 (C-18), 41.32 (C-8), 39.29 (C-1), 38.74 (C-4), 36.99 (C-10), 33.82 (C-21), 33.09 (C-29), 32.32 (C-22), 31.67 (C-7), 30.68 (C-20), 30.36 (C-15), 27.64 (C-23), 27.12 (C-2), 26.07 (CH₃), 25.85 (C-27), 24.32 (C-30), 23.61

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(C-16), 23.45 (C-11), 19.88 (C-6), 18.96 (C-26), 16.80 (C-24), 15.11 (C-25); Aspirin moiety: δ = 171.12 (C=O iminoester asp-olean), 165.54 (COOCH₃), 154.04, 131.39, 129.60, 127.80, 125.97, 121.99 (6 × Carom), 21.08 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 8 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 645. 9 [M]⁺ (C₄₀H₅₅NO₆).

Oleanoyl oxime naproxenate (23): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.55 g (81%) of 23 (R_f = 0.36, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 160–162 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1725 (C=O, iminoester napx-olean), 1690 (COOH), 1175 (C=O, iminoester napx-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 9.78 (1H, COOH), 5.59 (1H, t, J = 3.4, CH-12), 2.50 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.0, CH-18), 1.32–0.57 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Naproxen moiety: δ = 7.70 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.68 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.38 (2H, dd, J = 8.4, 8.4 CH-arom), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 11, CH-arom), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.85 (1H, m, CH), 1.52 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.25 (C-28), 175.60 (C-3), 143.5 (C-13), 125.65 (C-12), 55.68 (C-5), 49.92 (C-9), 46.51 (C-17), 45.83 (C-19), 41.55 (C-14), 41.05 (C-18), 39.26 (C-8), 38.02 (C-1), 37.87 (C-4), 36.94 (C-10), 33.80 (C-21), 33.14 (C-29), 32.66 (C-7), 32.38 (C-22), 30.44 (C-20), 29.10 (C-15), 26.28 (C-23), 26.12 (C-2), 25.38 (C-27), 24.60 (C-30), 23.89 (C-16), 23.39 (C-11), 18.03 (C-6), 17.10 (C-26), 16.56 (C-24), 15.32 (C-25); Naproxen moiety: δ = 174.18 (C=O iminoester napx-olean), 154.06, 136.69, 133.51, 129.12, 128.92, 127.46, 125.99, 125.65, 119.07, 105.52 (10 × C-arom), 55.28 (OCH₃); 45.52 (CH), 18.12 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 11 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 681.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₄H₅₉NO₅).

Oleanoyl oxime naproxenate methyl ester (24): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.52 g (75%) of 24 (R_f = 0.51, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless solid, mp: 110–112 °C; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1710 (C=O, iminoester ibu-olean), 1695 (COOCH₃), 1170 (C–O, iminoester ibu-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.27 (1H, t, J = 3.6, CH-12), 3.62 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.86 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.2, CH-18), 1.23–0.73 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Naproxen moiety: δ = 7.70 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom), 7.69 (1H, s, CH-arom), 7.42 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 8.4, CH-arom), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 11, CH-arom), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.04 (1H, m, CH), 1.59 (3H, d, J = 7.0, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.26 (C-28), 172.51 (C-3), 143.93 (C-13), 122.23 (C-12), 55.77 (C-5), 51.59 (COOCH₃), 49.91 (C-17), 46.69 (C-9), 45.79 (C-19), 41.45 (C-14), 41.30 (C-18), 39.24 (C-8), 38.60 (C-1), 37.90 (C-4), 36.9 (C-10), 33.80 (C-29), 33.08 (C-22), 32.90 (C-21), 32.42 (C-7), 32.31 (C-23), 31.16 (C-20), 30.68 (C-15), 27.60 (C-2), 26.93 (C-27), 25.31 (C-30), 23.60 (C-16), 22.99 (C-11), 18.87 (C-6), 18.76 (C-26), 16.76 (C-24), 15.01 (C-25); Naproxen moiety: δ = 175.73 (C=O iminoester napx-olean), 157.59, 136.74, 133.64, 129.16, 128.96, 127.49, 126.38, 125.99, 118.85, 105.58 (10 × C-arom), 55.30 (OCH₃), 45.59 (CH), 18.75 (CH₃); DEPT: 10 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 11 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 695.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₅H₆₁NO₅).

Oleanoyl oxime ketoprofenate (25): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.26 g (73%) of 25 (R_f = 0.18; hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless resin; IR ν_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 3300–3420 (COOH), 1715 (C=O, iminoester ketopr-olean), 1695 (COOH), 1170 (C=O, iminoester ketopr-olean); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 11.05 (1H, COOH), 5.28 (1H, s, CH-12), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 13.4, 3.4, CH-18), 1.25–0.74 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 7.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom.), 7.75 (1H, s, CH-arom.), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 7.2, CH-arom.), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 6.8, CH-arom.), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 6.4, CH-arom.), 7.49 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 7.47 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom.), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom.), 3.75 (2H, m, CH), 1.60 (3H, d, J = 7.2, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.25 (C-28), 171.94 (C-3), 143.90 (C-13), 122.00 (C-12), 55.77 (C-5), 47.07 (C-9) 46.72 (C-17), 44.46 (C-19), 41.70 (C-18), 41.32 (C-14), 39.27 (C-8), 38.66 (C-1), 38.61 (C-4), 36.93 (C-10), 33.83 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.61 (C-7), 32.32 (C-22), 30.68 (C-20), 27.62 (C-23), 26.96 (C-15), 25.83 (C-2), 24.67 (C-27), 23.62 (C-30), 23.42 (C-16), 23.02 (C-11), 19.44 (C-6), 18.41 (C-26), 16.78 (C-24), 15.15 (C-25); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 196.46 (C=O), 175.93 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 140.66, 140.59, 137.89, 137.48, 132.49, 131.59, 130.04, 129.35, 129.21, 128.99, 128.52, 128.31 (12 × C-arom), 45.52 (CH), 15.05 (CH₃); DEPT: 8 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 14 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 705.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₆H₅₉NO₅).

Oleanoyl oxime ketoprofenate methyl ester (26): after purification by silica gel column chromatography yield: 0.30 g (84%) of 26 ($R_f = 0.38$, hexane/EtOAc 4:1) as colorless resin; IR v_{max} (KBr, cm⁻¹) = 1710

(C=O, iminoester ketopr-olean), 1170 (C=O, iminoester ketopr-olean); 1700 (COOCH₃); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 5.28 (1H, s, CH-12), 3.62 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 13.4, 3.3, CH-18), 1.27–0.74 (21H, s, 7 × CH₃); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 7.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0, CH-arom.), 7.55 (1H, s, CH-arom.), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 7.2, CH-arom.), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 6.8, CH-arom.), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 6.0, CH-arom.), 7.53 (1H, d, J = 6.4, CH-arom.), 7.49 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom), 7.47 (1H, d, J = 8.8, CH-arom.), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 7.6, CH-arom.), 3.75 (2H, m, CH), 1.60 (3H, d, J = 7.2, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): Oleanoyl moiety: δ = 178.25 (C-28), 171.84 (C-3), 143.92 (C-13), 122.02 (C-12), 55.77 (C-5), 51.52 (COOCH₃), 47.07 (C-9) 46.72 (C-17), 44.46 (C-19), 41.70 (C-18), 41.32 (C-14), 39.27 (C-8), 38.66 (C-1), 38.61 (C-4), 36.93 (C-10), 33.83 (C-21), 33.08 (C-29), 32.61 (C-7), 32.32 (C-22), 30.68 (C-20), 27.62 (C-23), 26.96 (C-15), 25.83 (C-2), 24.67 (C-27), 23.62 (C-30), 23.42 (C-16), 23.02 (C-11), 19.44 (C-6), 18.41 (C-26), 16.78 (C-24), 15.05 (C-25); Ketoprofen moiety: δ = 196.46 (C=O), 175.93 (C=O, ester ketopr-olean), 140.66, 140.59, 137.89, 137.48, 132.49, 131.59, 130.04, 129.35, 129.21, 128.99, 128.52, 128.31 (12 × C-arom), 45.82 (CH), 15.02 (CH₃); DEPT: 9 × CH₃, 10 × CH₂, 14 × CH; MS (EI) m/z = 719.9 [M]⁺ (C₄₇H₆₁NO₅).

3.3. Evaluation of Hydrolytic Stability

The mixture of hybrid compound (esters: 11, 13, 15, 17 and iminoesters: 19, 21, 23, 25) (0.1 mmol) and ethanol solution of HCl (pH = 5, 10 mL) was stirred at room temperature. After 1, 5, and 24 h, the mixture was sampled and analyzed using the TLC method with the use of hexane/EtOAc (4:1, v/v) as a eluent. The mixture was stirred at room temperature and next sampled and analyzed using the TLC method after 1, 5, and 24 h, respectively. Since all of the compounds were stable in the test at room temperature, another test was conducted at an elevated temperature (50 °C), and then sampled and analyzed using the TLC method after 1, 5, and 24 h respectively.

4. Conclusions

Starting from naturally-occurring oleanolic acid, its oxime, and their methyl esters, as well as from four synthetic anti-inflammatory drugs (ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen, ketoprofen), 16 new derivatives were synthesized, combining the oleanolic acid active skeleton and anti-inflammatory structure into new single-hybrid chemical individuals. Oleanolic acid and its methyl ester were reacted with NSAIDs containing a non-blocked COOH group in the presence of DCC and DMAP in towards ester-type hybrids, while oleanolic oxime and its methyl ester were reacted with NSAIDs in the presence of DCC only in towards to iminoester-type hybrids. The structure of compounds obtained was confirmed by the spectral method. The presence of some functional groups in the terpene skeleton and NSAID structures could improve their potential biological activity. The resulting derivatives were determined and analyzed by the PASS method and they have great potential to become effective pharmaceutical individuals as anti-inflammatory, chemopreventive, hypolipemic, antisecretoric, antinociceptive, antiulcerative, or antineoplastic agents, various stimulants, inhibitor, antagonists, promoters, or regulators. Ester and iminoester moieties in these molecules are also a useful strategy for designing new therapeutic compounds and it should be noted that ester-type derivatives are more active agents using the PASS method. Ester connections exhibit very high probability of the occurrence of biological activity greater than 70%. A preliminary stability test showed that the resulting structures (11-26) are stable and not susceptible to degradation under acidic hydrolysis conditions. Furthermore, the importance and potential application of synthetic oleanolic acid derivatives are highlighted and the prospects for research on oleanolic acid are given. The hybridization method of natural and synthetic compounds is one of the most promising and fundamentally novel approaches for the design of new lead structures and the discovery of new and potent drugs in the field of medicinal chemistry.

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Sample Availability: Samples of the compounds 11–26 are available from the authors.



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