



S4 Fig. Effect of benzaldehyde, the major product of thermal degradation of cinnamaldehyde on relaxation of aortic rings to acetylcholine (A), DEA/NO (B) or vascular tone (C). Benzaldehyde (300 μ M) neither affected acetylcholine (EC_{50} : 68 (11-439) nM; E_{max} : $32 \pm 5.5\%$) nor DEA/NO (EC_{50} : 28 (6-125) nM, E_{max} : $6 \pm 3.2\%$) - induced relaxation. Benzaldehyde relaxed precontracted vessels in the absence or presence of L-NAME with EC_{50} values of 2.2 (1.5-3.0) and 2.5 (1.9-3.3) mM, respectively ($p=0.45$, ANOVA). The vehicle and cinnamaldehyde data from Fig. 7 are shown for comparison. Concentration-response curves obtained with different ring segments from a single animal were averaged and counted as an individual experiment. Data are expressed as mean values \pm SEM ($n=3$ (A, B) and 6 (C)).