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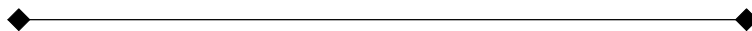
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Studies on 1-(2, 4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(Substituted-Phenyl)Acryloyl]Phenyl)-4-(Substituted-Phenyl)But-2-En-1-Ones

Asif Husain

Abstract

A series of 1-(2, 4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(substituted-phenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(substituted-phenyl)but-2-en-1-ones (**3a-e**) were synthesized and evaluated for their antimicrobial actions. Resorcinol was used as starting material for the preparation of 1, 1'-(4, 6-dihydroxy-1, 3-phenylene) diethanone (**1**), which then treated with dimethylsulphate to obtain 1-(5-acetyl-2, 4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-ethanone (**2**). Compound (**2**) was reacted with substituted aromatic aldehydes in ethanol in presence of KOH to furnish the title compounds (**3a-e**). The structures of the synthesized compounds were confirmed on the basis of ¹H-NMR, Mass and elemental analysis results. The antimicrobial activity (minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC) of the title compounds was determined against some selected bacterial and fungal strains. Two compounds, **3d** and **3e**, showed good antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*.

Keywords: Chalcone; MIC; Antibacterial; Antifungal.

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Introduction

The incidences of bacterial and fungal infections are increasing day by day, and the problem is further complicated due to increasing microbial resistance to a number of available antimicrobial drugs [1,3]. Different factors like HIV-infection, cancer, immuno-compromised host, immunosuppressive therapy, age, filthy place, etc. contribute to already existing problem. Therefore, more effective antimicrobial agents with broad spectrum of activity are required to combat the situation.

Among different compounds that have been explored for developing antimicrobial agents, chalcones have played an important role [4]. Chalcones have attracted considerable attention due to their important biological actions including antimicrobial action [5,6]. Further, chalcone derivatives have special place in natural as well as in synthetic chemistry because this system is a frequently encountered structural motif in a number of pharmacologically important compounds [5-8]. Resorcinol has been chemically explored to obtain a variety of compounds of potential pharmaceutical interest [9,10]. In view of these points and in continuation of our work on bischalcones [10-12] it was considered worthwhile to synthesize some new resorcinol derivatives; 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(substituted-phenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(substituted-phenyl) but-2-en-1-ones, as antimicrobial agents.

Materials and Methods

Chemistry

Melting points are uncorrected and were recorded in liquid paraffin bath using open end capillaries.

^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectropsin DPX-300 MHz in CDCl_3 ; chemical shift (δ) values are reported in parts per million (ppm). The splitting pattern abbreviations are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; m, multiplet. Mass spectroscopic analyses for compounds were performed on a JEOL JMS-D 300 instrument. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 240 analyzer and were in range of $\pm 0.4\%$ for each element analyzed (C,H,N). Thin-layer chromatography was carried out to monitor the reactions using silica gel G as stationary phase and iodine chamber and UV lamp were used for visualization of TLC spots. The reaction involved in synthesis is given in *scheme 1*.

Synthesis of 1,1'-(4,6-Dihydroxy-1,3-phenylene) diethanone (1)

It was prepared from resorcinol following literature method [10]. It gave a violet colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution; positive test for phenols. Yield 72%; m.p. 184-186°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 2.65 (s, 6H, 2'-COCH₃), 6.65 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.15 (s, 1H, H-5).

Synthesis of 1-(5-acetyl-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-ethanone (2) [11]

A mixture of 1,1'-(4,6-dimethyl-1,3-phenylene)diethanone (**1**) (2.5 mmol), dimethylsulphate (5 mmol) and anhydrous potassium carbonate (11.25 g) in dry acetone (100 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. The contents were then filtered, concentrated to a small volume and poured onto crushed ice. A solid mass separated out which was filtered, washed with water, dried and then crystallized from methanol: dichloromethane mixture to give shiny needles of **2** (it did not give violet colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution; negative test for phenols). Yield 74%, m.p. 164-166°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.61 (s, 6H, 2'-COCH₃), 3.93 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.34 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.37 (s, 1H, H-5). MS: m/z 222 (M^+), 207, 177, 175, 149. Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: C, 64.85; H, 6.35. Found: C, 64.71; H, 6.22.

General procedure for synthesis of 1-(2, 4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(substituted-phenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(substituted-phenyl)but-2-en-1-ones (3a-e) [11]

A mixture of compound **2** (5 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL), an aromatic aldehyde (10 mmol) and a solution of potassium hydroxide (3 g) in distilled water (5 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature and then left overnight. It was poured into cold water and

acidified with HCl, a solid mass separated out which was filtered, washed with water, sodium bicarbonate solution (2% w/v in water) and again with water. It was crystallized to give **3a-e** (It gave a red colour with conc. sulphuric acid; positive test for chalcones, and no colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution; negative test for phenols).

1-(2,4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(3-methylphenyl) acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(3-methylphenyl)but-2-en-1-one (**3a**). Yield: 51%, m.p. 196-198°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.41 (s, 6H, 2'-CH₃), 3.93 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.41 (s, 1H, H-3'), 7.35 (d, 2H, 2xH-a), 7.47 (m, 2H, 2xH-5), 7.72 (dd, 2H, 2xH-4), 7.97 (d, 2H, 2xH-b), 8.14 (dd, 2H, 2xH-6), 8.19 (s, 1H, H-6'), 8.32 (s, 2H, 2xH-2). MS: m/z 426 (M^+). Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4$: C, 78.85; H, 6.14. Found: C, 78.74; H, 5.96.

1-(2,4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(4-hydroxyphenyl) acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)but-2-en-1-one (**3b**). Yield: 55%, m.p. 232-233°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.96 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.48 (s, 1H, H-3'), 6.92 (d, 4H, 2'-H-3,5), 7.28 (d, 2H, 2xH-a), 7.53 (d, 4H, 2'-H-2,6), 7.79 (d, 2H, 2xH-b), 8.22 (s, 1H, H-6'). MS: m/z 430 (M^+). Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_6$: C, 72.55; H, 5.15. Found: C, 72.42; H, 5.23.

1-(2,4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(2-nitrophenyl) acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(2-nitrophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (**3c**). Yield: 60%, m.p. 216-218°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.97 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.53 (s, 1H, H-3'), 7.08-7.31 (m, 4H, 2'-H-3,5), 7.43-7.56 (m, 6H, 2xH-4,6,a), 7.86 (d, 2H, 2xH-b), 8.14 (s, 1H, H-6'). MS: m/z 488 (M^+). Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 63.93; H, 4.13; N, 5.74. Found: C, 64.11; H, 3.86; N, 5.62.

1-(2,4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(3-chlorophenyl) acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(3-chlorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (**3d**). Yield: 62%, m.p. 200-202°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.96 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.51 (s, 1H, H-3'), 7.24 (d, 2H, 2xH-a), 7.55 (m, 2H, 2xH-5), 7.89 (dd, 2H, 2xH-4), 8.01 (d, 2H, 2xH-b), 8.17 (s, 1H, H-6'), 8.26 (dd, 2H, 2xH-6), 8.41 (s, 2H, 2xH-2). MS: m/z 466 (M^+), 467 (M^++1). Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 66.82; H, 4.31. Found: C, 66.65; H, 4.27.

1-(2,4-Dimethoxy-5-[3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl) acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(2,4-chlorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (**3e**). Yield: 56%, m.p. 186-188°C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.93 (s, 6H, 2'-OCH₃), 6.48 (s, 1H, H-3'), 7.21-7.58 (m, 8H, 2xH-3,5,6 + 2xH-4), 7.83 (d, 2H, 2xH-b), 8.16 (s, 1H, H-6'). MS: m/z 550 (M^+), 551 (M^++1), 552 (M^++2). Anal calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_4\text{O}_4$: C, 58.93; H, 3.66. Found: C, 58.65 H, 3.52.

Antimicrobial activity

The synthesized compounds were evaluated for their antimicrobial activity [13,14] against three

bacterial strains and two fungal strains at a concentration of 100 µg/mL by cup plate method. Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the test microorganisms were further tested for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

Antibacterial activity

The compounds were screened for their in vitro antibacterial activity [13] against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC-25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC-25922), and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) bacterial strains at a concentration of 100 µg/mL by cup plate method. Ciprofloxacin was used as standard drug for comparison. Freshly prepared liquid agar medium (25 mL/petridish) was poured into each petridishes and the plates were dried by placing in an incubator at 37°C for 1 h. Then standardized culture of microorganism was spread on each petridishes by L-shaped spreader. Wells (6 mm) were made using an agar punch and, each well was labeled accordingly. A control (solvent) was also included in the test. The test compound and standard drug solutions (100 µg/mL) were made in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) and added in each well separately and petridishes kept aseptically for 1h for diffusion of the sample. After the completion of diffusion, all the petridishes were kept for incubation at 37°C for 24 h and then diameter of the zone of inhibition was measured in mm (Table 1).

Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the test microorganisms were further tested for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) by turbidity method. A solution of the compounds (100 µg/mL) was prepared in DMSO and a series of doubling dilutions prepared with sterile pipettes. To each of a series of sterile test tubes a standard volume of nutrient broth medium was added. A control tube containing no antimicrobial agent was included. The inoculum consisting of an overnight broth culture of microorganisms was added to separate tubes. The tubes were incubated at 37° for 24 h and examined for turbidity. The highest dilution (lowest concentration) required to arrest the growth of bacteria was regarded as MIC. Results are presented in Table 2.

Antifungal activity

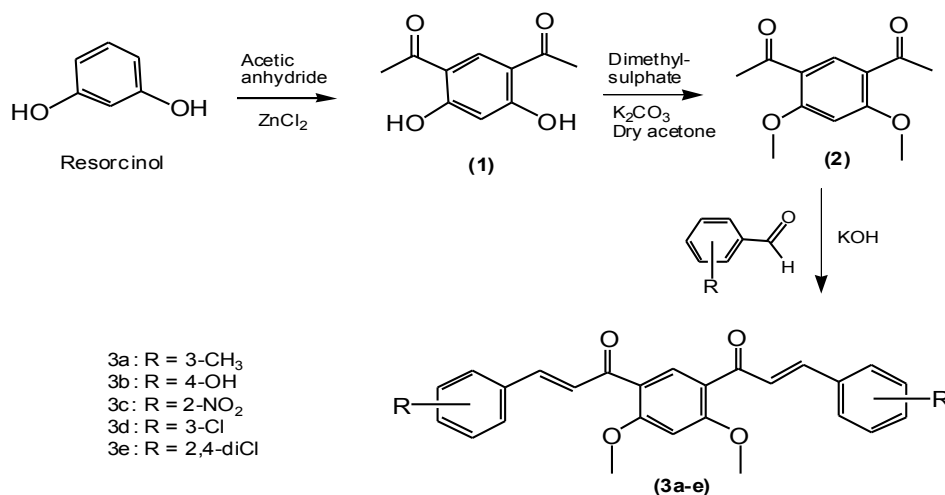
In vitro antifungal activity of the synthesized compounds was determined against *Candida albicans* (ATCC-10231) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC-16404) by agar diffusion method [14]. Sabourands agar media was prepared by dissolving peptone (1 g), D-glucose (4 g) and agar (2 g) in distilled water (100 mL) and

adjusting pH to 5.7. Normal saline was used to make a suspension of spore of fungal strain for lawning. A loopful of particular fungal strain was transferred to 3 mL saline to get a suspension of corresponding species. Agar media (20 mL) was poured into each petridish and the plates were dried by placing in an incubator at 37°C for 1 h. Wells were made using an agar punch and, each well was labeled accordingly. A control was also prepared in triplicate and maintained at 37°C for 3-4 days. The test compounds and standard drug (Griseofulvin) solutions (100 µg/mL) were made in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) and added in each well separately and petridishes kept aseptically for 1h for diffusion of the sample. After the completion of diffusion, all the petridishes were kept for incubation at 37°C for 3-4 days and then diameter of the zone of inhibition was measured in mm (Table 1). Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the fungal strains were further tested for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). A solution of the compounds (100 µg/mL) was prepared in DMSO and a series of doubling dilutions prepared with sterile pipettes. To each of a series of sterile test tubes a standard volume of nutrient broth medium was added. A control tube containing no antimicrobial agent was included. The tubes were inoculated with approximately 1.6×10^4 - 6×10^4 c.f.u. mL⁻¹ and incubated for 48 h at 37°C and examined for growth. The lowest concentration (highest dilution) required to arrest the growth of fungus was regarded as MIC. Results are presented in Table 2.

Results and Discussion

Chemistry

The protocol for synthesis of title compounds is presented in Scheme-1. The starting material, 1,1'-(4,6-dihydroxy-1,3-phenylene)diethanone (**1**), prepared from resorcinol [10], was treated with dimethylsulphate in dry acetone in presence of anhydrous potassium carbonate to get 1,1'-(4,6-dimethyl-1,3-phenylene) diethanone (**2**) [11], which gave negative ferric chloride test showing the absence of phenolic-hydroxyl group. Compound (**2**) was then condensed with different aromatic aldehydes in presence of potassium hydroxide following Claisen-Schmidt reaction conditions to furnish 5 new bischalcones (**3a-e**). These compounds gave a red colour with conc. sulphuric acid; positive test for chalcones, and no colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution; negative test for phenolic-hydroxyl group. The structures of the synthesized compounds were further supported by ¹H NMR, Mass spectral data and elemental analysis results.



Scheme 1: protocol for synthesis of title compounds (3a-e).

The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1, 1'-(4,6-dimethyl-1, 3-phenylene)diethanone (2) [11] showed a singlet at δ 2.61, which could be accounted for six protons of two acetyl groups. The two methoxyl groups appeared as singlet at δ 3.93. The ring protons, H-2 and H-5, gave singlet at δ 6.34 and 8.37, respectively. The mass spectrum of the compound (2) showed molecular ion peak at m/z 222.

The ¹H NMR spectra of the title compounds (3a-e) revealed the presence of two methoxyl groups as singlet at around δ 3.9, and two -CH=CH- groups as two doublets at around δ 7.3 and δ 7.9 integrating for two CH- α and two CH- β protons, respectively. Chalcone ring protons H-3' & H-6' appeared as singlet at δ 6.5 and δ 8.1, respectively. Other signals were observed at appropriate δ values integrating for the protons of two substituted phenyl rings. The mass spectra of bischalcones showed the presence of molecular ion peak in reasonable intensities. In case of compounds having phenyl rings with chloro-substituents (3d & 3e), the molecular ion peak or their fragments having chloro-group appeared as cluster of peaks. Elemental analyses values of the synthesized compounds were

found within $\pm 0.4\%$ of theoretical values.

Antimicrobial activity

The title compounds (3a-e) were screened for their in vitro antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC-25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC-25922) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) bacterial species, and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* (ATCC-10231) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC-16404). The antimicrobial screening data showed that two compounds, 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(3-chlorophenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(3-chlorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one 3d and 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(2,4-chlorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one 3e, exhibited good activity against *S. aureus* & *E. coli* with MIC-12.5 μ g/mL. Rest of the compounds showed moderate to low antimicrobial activities. The standard drugs showed MIC values of 6.25 μ g/mL (Table 1 & 2).

An analysis of results indicated that the title compounds 3a-e were appreciable in their antibacterial and antifungal actions. Presence of chloro group(s) found to increase the antimicrobial activity of the bischalcones.

Table 1: Preliminary antibacterial and antifungal activities of the title compounds (3a-e).

Compd.	Substituent (R)	Antibacterial activity [#]			Antifungal activity [#]	
		<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>A. nige</i>
3a	3-Methyl	+	-	-	+	-
3b	4-Hydroxy	++	+	++	++	-
3c	2-Nitro	+	-	+	+	+
3d	3-Chloro	+++	+++	+	++	-
3e	2,4-Dichloro	+++	+++	++	++	+
	Standard-1 [†]	++++	++++	++++	nt	nt
	Standard-2 [†]	nt	nt	nt	++++	++++

[#]Zone of inhibition: - = < 5 mm (insignificant or no activity), + = 5-9 mm (weak activity), ++ = 10-14 mm (moderate activity), +++ = 15-20 mm (good activity), ++++ = > 20 mm (excellent activity).

[†]Standard-1 = Ciprofloxacin, Standard-2 = Griseofulvin, nt = not tested.

Table 2: Antibacterial and antifungal activities (MIC, mg/mL) of the title compounds (**3a-e**).

Compd.	Substituent (R)	Antibacterial activity			Antifungal activity	
		<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>
3a	3-Methyl	50	>100	>100	>100	>100
3b	4-Hydroxy	25	50	25	25	>100
3c	2-Nitro	50	>100	50	50	50
3d	3-Chloro	12.5	12.5	50	25	>100
3e	2,4-Dichloro	12.5	12.5	25	25	50
Standard-1 [†]		6.25	6.25	6.25	nt	nt
Standard-2 [†]		nt	nt	nt	6.25	6.25

nt = not tested; [†]Standard-1 = Ciprofloxacin, Standard-2 = Griseofulvin.

Conclusion

A series of 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-5-[3-(substituted-phenyl)acryloyl]phenyl)-4-(substituted-phenyl)but-2-en-1-ones (**3a-e**) were successfully synthesized starting from resorcinol. The antimicrobial studies showed that the synthesized compounds were having significant antibacterial and antifungal activities. Presence of chloro group(s) increased the antimicrobial activity of the bischalcones. These derivatives may be further explored to develop potential antimicrobial agents.

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Assessment of Veterinary Vaccine Safety by Using Spreadsheet Software

Sai Mahesh Reddy Avula*, Venkata Subba Reddy Avula**

Abstract

Assessment of veterinary vaccine safety is often done by veterinarians in animal houses in biological units using conventional methods which is a basically a complex and time consuming. In today's era of Smart phones, tablet PCs and Netbooks where a spreadsheet program in the form of Excel is readily accessible by most veterinarians, it should be possible to adapt the various laborious steps involved in the said method to a spreadsheet program. In this article we have designed a spreadsheet program based on the steps involved in conventional method for assessment of vaccine safety.

Keywords: Smart phones; Netbooks; Excel; Spreadsheet.

Introduction

Assessment of veterinary vaccine safety is often done by veterinarians in animal houses in biological units. The more reliable method we use for the assessment of vaccine safety is conventional method which is described below. The calculations involved in that assessment are complex, confusing, time

consuming and less easily reproducible. In today's era of Smart phones, tablet PCs and Notebooks where a spreadsheet program in the form of Excel is readily accessible by most veterinarians, it should be possible to adapt the various laborious steps involved in the said method to a spreadsheet program. This way the laborious steps involved in the method can be easily calculated in a simple, clear, faster, reproducible, accurate and user-friendly manner. The aim of this article is to design a spreadsheet program based on the steps involved in conventional method for assessment of vaccine safety and check the accuracy of such spreadsheet program (Figure 1) for the extremes of values in the assessments.

Materials and Methods

The spreadsheet program is based on the various steps for evaluation of vaccine safety by conventional method [2]. According to which 20 animals, those preferably do not have antibodies against rabies virus have to be selected for the safety test. Each animal has to be administered with vaccine by a recommended route a double dose of the vaccine. Observe the animals at least daily for 14 days and clinical signs have to be noted down daily in a prescribed form. The clinical signs to be noted down are:

1. Ruffled fur
2. Hunched back
3. Slow movements
4. Loss of alertness
5. Circular movements

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6. Shaky movements
7. Trembling
8. Convulsions
9. Paresis
10. Paralysis
11. Moribund state

The spreadsheet program used was Microsoft Excel version 2013. One representative study is presented to help understand the usefulness of this program. The findings of the experiment along with the calculation are presented in the sheet which was based on the said method. The logical data

Fig. 1: Snapshot taken from the actual spreadsheet of safety assessment (Spreadsheet software)

Vaccine safety calculator		Example of a chart used to record clinical Signs in the rabies vaccine potency test									
		days after challenge of Rabies vaccine									
S.No	Clinical signs	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total no. of mice with the specified sign
1	Ruffled fur	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Hunched back	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Slow movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Loss of alertness	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
5	Circular movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Shaky movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Trembling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
8	Convulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Paresis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Paralysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Moribund state	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Total no. of mice with atleast one of the sign										3
percent of animals showing rabies signs											15
Result of rabies safety test											PAS

Created by Dr. Sai Mahesh Reddy Avula and Venkata Subba Reddy Avula

incorporated in this spreadsheet is (in L17 cell) =IF(L16<=15, "PASS", "FAIL").

Results

A spreadsheet program for the vaccine safety assessment is presented. It may be noted that the calculations in the spreadsheet program are accurate from the representative examples provided above. If the percent of the mice showing rabies signs exceeds 15 then the test is said to be failed alternatively the vaccine complies with the test if no or only less than 15 percent animals shows notable signs of disease or dies from causes attributable to the vaccine.

Discussion

A spreadsheet is a computer application that simulates an accounting worksheet. It displays multiple cells which together make up a grid comprising of rows and columns. It can be used to

store, process, analyse and graphically represent data. A formula entered in a cell in the spreadsheet defines how the content of that cell is to be calculated from the contents of any other cell(s) each time the content of the other cell(s) is updated. VisiCalc is historically regarded as the first spreadsheet application (year 1979). The spreadsheet application which is most popular currently is familiar to most of us as Microsoft Excel [1]. Although an Excel spreadsheet is ideal for arranging entries in columns and rows, that's not its main purpose. One can do that with a table in a word processing application like Microsoft Word. What makes a spreadsheet so powerful is that it can perform calculations using various values from the spreadsheet. It was hoped that this program which was freely usable was useful to all veterinary doctors who are working at biological units.

Conclusion

The difficulty which usually concerns veterinarians at biological units is the vaccine safety

assessment. We often encountered various problems which were listed below: (a) the calculations involved in the assessment are time consuming. (b) The calculations appear confusing when reviewed at a later date. (c) It is often difficult to explain in the theses or discussions how a final figure was arrived at. With a goal to simplify the calculation, we have explored the possibility of adapting the conventional method to a spreadsheet. With this, the calculations happen automatically and they are reproducible in the form of a printout which can easily explain how the final figure was arrived at in the theses and

discussions. The spreadsheet makes the whole process of assessment faster and user friendly. The program was thoroughly tested for the entire range of values which are possible. One representative study was also presented to help understand the applicability of this program.

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Amide Based Mutual Prodrug: Synthesis and Antimicrobial Evaluation

Asif Husain*, Aftab Ahmad**, Shah Alam Khan***, Nadir Islam*

Abstract

An amide-based mutual prodrug (NA-D) was synthesized by condensing nalidixic acid with dapsone with an aim of preparing a useful drug, which could show broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity. Its structure was established on the basis of elemental analysis, ^1H NMR and Mass spectral data results. The mutual prodrug (NA-D) was also evaluated for in-vitro antibacterial and antifungal activity.

Keywords: Dapsone; Amide; Prodrug; Bacterial; Fungal.

Introduction

Prodrug research is an important and fruitful area of research. A prodrug may be defined as a biologically inactive derivative of a drug that requires a chemical or enzymatic metabolism within the body to release the active drug [1]. Prodrugs may have improved pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic,

physicochemical, and other properties over the parent molecule [1-3]. In a prodrug, generally the carrier group (promoiety/linker) used is inert or biologically inactive molecule [3]. However, in some cases the prodrug consists of two pharmacologically active agents joined together as a single molecule. In such prodrugs, each acts as promoiety for the other agent [4]. These prodrugs are known as mutual prodrugs [4,5]. Mutual prodrug concept has been successfully applied to a number of NSAIDs to get compounds with improved pharmacological profile including reduced GIT toxicity [1-6].

Microbial resistance to antibiotics has become a huge problem in treating infections in recent times [7]. Tuberculosis (TB) is a global emergency and is amongst the worldwide health threats today [8]. Searching new compounds, which could combine a non specific activity against a broad spectrum of microbes and low toxicity, seems to be a promising way to tackle the problem. Nalidixic acid (1,8-naphthyridine derivative) was the first synthetic quinolone derivative introduced for the treatment of UTI (urinary tract infections) in 1963 [9]. It is particularly effective against gram-negative bacteria particularly *Escherichia coli* and resistant to most of the pseudomonas species [10,11]. The derivatives of nalidixic acid also show significant antimicrobial activities [12].

On the other hand, dapsone is one of the important antimicrobial agents used to kill *M. leprae*. Dapsone derivatives also show potential antimicrobial activities [13,14].

In view of these observations and in continuation of our work on mutual prodrugs [5,15], it was considered worthwhile to synthesize a mutual

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prodrug chemically combining nalidixic acid with dapsone in a single structure with an aim of preparing a promising antimicrobial compound which might act with effectiveness on both the gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, and also have antifungal activity.

Materials and Methods

Melting points were taken in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. Dry solvents were used throughout the study. Microanalysis of the compounds was done on Perkin-Elmer model 240 analyzer and the values were found within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical values. ^1H NMR spectrum was recorded on Bruker spectropsin DPX-300MHz with tetramethylsilane as internal standard in solvent CDCl_3 . Mass spectrum was recorded on a Jeol JMS-D 300 instrument fitted with a JMS 2000 data system at 70 eV. Spectral data are consistent with the assigned structure. The progress of the reaction was monitored on TLC, which was performed on silica gel. Iodine chamber and UV-lamp were used for visualization of TLC spots. The reaction involved in synthesis is given in scheme 1.

Synthesis

Nalidixic acid (464 mg; 2 mmol) (1) was dissolved in dry pyridine (5 mL) and dapsone (249 mg; 1 mmol) (2) was also dissolved separately in dry pyridine (4 mL). Both the solutions were mixed together and stirred magnetically. Phosphorous oxychloride (0.9 mL) was added dropwise maintaining the temperature $0-5^\circ\text{C}$ while stirring. The contents were stirred for another half-hour and left overnight. It was poured into ice cold water and a solid mass separated out, which was filtered, washed with plenty of water, dried and crystallized from methanol to give TLC pure reddish-brown crystals of the mutual prodrug (NA-D).

In vitro antibacterial activity

The antibacterial activity of NA-D was evaluated against four bacterial strains, gram positive - *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC 96) & *Bacillus subtilis* (MTCC 121), and gram negative - *Escherichia coli* (MTCC 1652) & *Klebsiella pneumonia* (ATCC 13883). The assay was carried out following the turbidity method [16]. Nalidixic acid was used as a standard

drug. A solution of NA-D/standard drug was prepared in dimethylformamide (DMF) and a series of doubling dilutions prepared with sterile pipettes. To each of a series of sterile stoppered test tubes a standard volume of nutrient broth medium was added. A control tube containing no antimicrobial agent was included. The nutrient broth, which contained logarithmic serially two fold diluted amount of test compounds and control were inoculated with approximately 5×10^5 c.f.u. of actively dividing bacterial cells. The cultures were incubated at 37°C for 24 h and the growth was monitored. The highest dilution (lowest concentration) at which the growth of bacteria arrested was taken as minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

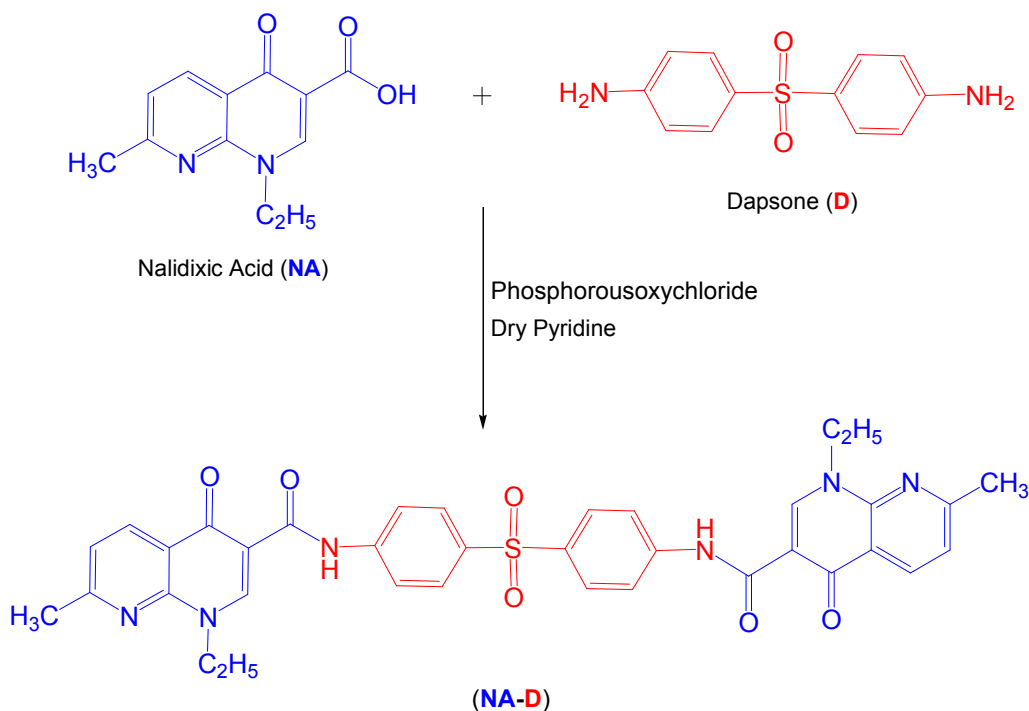
In vitro antifungal activity

Antifungal activity was evaluated against three fungal strains; *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Rhizopus oryza* [17,18]. Sabourands agar media was prepared by dissolving peptone (1 g), D-glucose (4 g) and agar (2 g) in distilled water (100 mL) and adjusting pH to 5.7. Normal saline was utilized to prepare a suspension of spores of fungal strain for lawning. A loopful of the fungal strain was transferred to 3 mL saline to obtain a suspension. The nutrient broth, which contained logarithmic serially two fold diluted amount of NA-D/standard drug and control was inoculated with approx. 1.6×10^4 - 6×10^4 c.f.u./mL. The cultures were incubated at 37°C for 48 h and the growth was monitored. Griseofulvin was used as a standard drug for comparison. The highest dilution (lowest concentration) at which the growth of fungi arrested was regarded as minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

Results and Discussion

Synthesis

Nalidixic acid was condensed with dapsone in minimum quantity of dry pyridine in presence of phosphorous oxychloride (POCl_3) following single step synthesis method (Scheme 1). Usual work up of the reaction mixture followed by crystallization from methanol furnished the mutual prodrug (NA-D) as reddish-brown crystals, Melting Point: $214-216^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value: 0.67 (Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Formic acid, 5:4:1), Yield: 54 %.



Scheme 1: Protocol for synthesis of mutual Prodrug (NA-D)

Structure establishment of the mutual prodrug (NA-D)

NMR spectrum: The ^1H NMR spectrum of the mutual prodrug (NA-D) showed a triplet and a quartet located at δ 1.55 and δ 4.81 arising from the methyl and methylene group of ethyl moieties ($2 \times \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$) in nalidixic acid. There was a broad singlet located at δ 2.75 integrating for the methyl groups ($2 \times \text{CH}_3$) of nalidixic acid skeleton. Four protons of the dapsone ring appeared as doublets ($2 \times \text{A}_2\text{B}_2$ pattern) each at δ 7.67 and δ 8.02. There were two *ortho*-coupled doublets each at δ 7.62 and δ 8.63 arising from the two *ortho*-coupled protons of the nalidixic acid system. A singlet located at δ 8.95 could be accounted for the lone proton of the nalidixic acid system. Two broad singlets located each at δ 9.81 and 9.98 could be accounted for $2 \times$ -NH- protons of the dapsone moiety.

Mass spectrum: The mass spectrum of the mutual prodrug (NA-D) showed a molecular ion peak located at m/z 676.

Elemental analysis: The values were found within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical values, $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6\text{S}$, Calculated C, 63.89; H, 4.77; N, 12.42, Found C, 63.54; H, 4.62; N, 12.58.

Microbiology

The synthesized mutual prodrug (NA-D) was evaluated for its *in vitro* antibacterial activity against

the bacterial strains gram positive (*Staphylococcus aureus* & *Bacillus subtilis*), gram negative (*Escherichia coli* & *Klebsiella pneumonia*), and *in vitro* antifungal activity against *Candida albicans*, *Rhizopus oryza*, and *Aspergillus niger*. Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined and results showed that the mutual prodrug (NA-D) was good against *B. subtilis* & *E. coli* with MIC 12.5 mg/mL, and significant activity against *S. aureus* with MIC 25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Nalidixic showed MIC 3.12 mg/mL against *E. coli*, MIC 6.25 mg/mL against *S. aureus* & *B. subtilis*, and MIC 12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against *K. pneumonia*.

In antifungal assay, the mutual prodrug (NA-D) showed good activity against *C. albicans* with MIC 12.5 mg/mL, and appreciable activity against *R. oryza* with MIC 25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Griseofulvin showed MIC 6.25 mg/mL against all the tested three fungal strains.

In vitro and *in vivo* hydrolysis studies are under progress in our laboratory to assess the fate of the NA-D in the system.

Conclusion

Nalidixic acid and dapsone were condensed together through an amide-linkage (-CONH-) to get the mutual prodrug (NA-D). Spectral and analytical data were found in agreement with the proposed structure. *In-vitro* antibacterial activity of NA-D

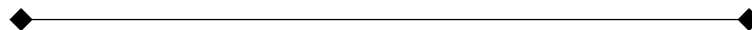
against some selected bacteria showed good antibacterial and significant antifungal activities with MIC ranging from 12.5-25mg/mL. In vitro and in vivo hydrolysis studies are required to assess the fate of the NA-D in the system. The present work shows the pharmaceutical potential of mutual prodrugs.

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A Simple and Validated Rp-Hplc Method for the Simultaneous Estimation of Metformin and Dapagliflozin in Bulk and Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms

Syeda Kulsum*, G.Vidyasagar**, Tasneem Mohammed***

Abstract

A simple, rapid, specific, accurate and precise reverse phase high performance liquid chromatographic method was developed for the simultaneous estimation of Metformin and Dapagliflozin in tablet dosage form. An Inertsil ODS C18 column having 150 x 4.6mm id in Isocratic mode with mobile phase containing Acetonitrile : phosphate buffer (70:30 %v/v pH: 3.0) was used. The flow rate was 1.0ml/min and effluents were monitored at 240nm.) The retention time of Metformin and Dapagliflozin was 2.463min and 3.760min respectively. The concentration curves of Metformin and Dapagliflozin were linear in the concentration range of 50µg/ml-250 µg/ml and 5µg/ml-25µg/ml of Metformin and Dapagliflozin respectively. The developed method was validated for specificity, precision, linearity, accuracy, LOD, LOQ, robustness. Recovery of Metformin and Dapagliflozin in formulations was found to be in the range of 97.0% - 98.0% and 100%-103% respectively confirms the non-interferences of the excipients in the formulation. Due

to its simplicity, rapidness and high precision, the proposed HPLC method may be used for the simultaneous determination of these two drugs in pharmaceutical dosage forms.

Keywords: RP-HPLC; Metformin and Dapagliflozin.

Introduction

Metformin is chemically 1-carbamimidamido-N, N-dimethylmethanimidamide. It decreases blood glucose levels by decreasing hepatic glucose production, decreasing intestinal absorption of glucose, and improving insulin sensitivity by increasing peripheral glucose uptake and utilization.

These effects are mediated by the initial activation by metformin of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), a liver enzyme that plays an important role in insulin signaling, whole body energy balance, and the metabolism of glucose and fats. Activation of AMPK is required for metformin's inhibitory effect on the production of glucose by liver cells. Increased peripheral utilization of glucose may be due to improved insulin binding to insulin receptors. The rare side effect, lactic acidosis, is thought to be caused by decreased liver uptake of serum lactate, one of the substrates of gluconeogenesis. In those with healthy renal function, the slight excess is simply cleared [1].

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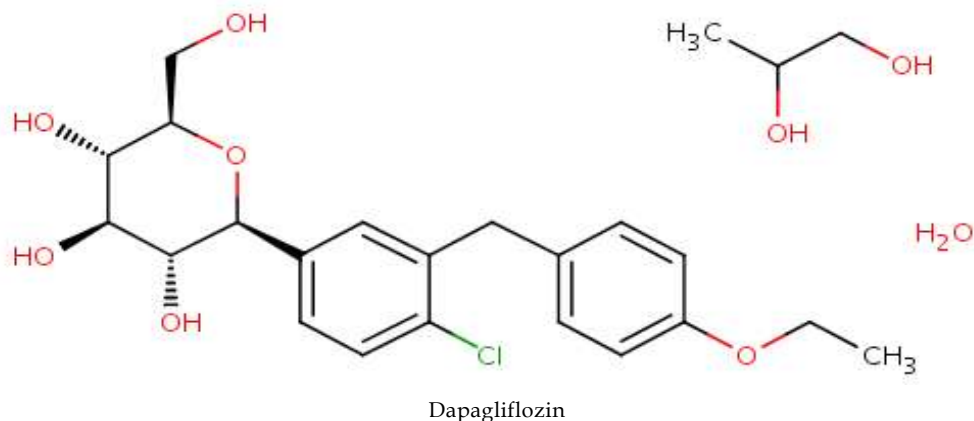
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Dapagliflozin: Dapagliflozin(2S,3R,4R,5S,6R)-2-[4-chloro-3-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]phenyl]-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxane-3,4,5-triol propane-1,2-diol hydrate. Dapagliflozin is indicated for the management of diabetes mellitus type 2, and functions to improve glycemic control in adults when

combined with diet and exercise. Dapagliflozin is a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor, which prevents glucose re-absorption in the kidney. Using dapagliflozin leads to heavy glycosuria (glucose excretion in the urine), which can lead to weight loss and tiredness [2].



Several analytical procedures have been proposed for the quantitative estimation of Metformin and Dapagliflozin separately and in combination with other drugs. High performance liquid chromatography methods for estimation of metformin [3] alone and in combination with glibenclamide and pioglitazone are also available. Dapagliflozin [4] is estimated by UV and HPLC have also been reported.

To our knowledge simple and economical analytical method for simultaneous determination of Metformin and Dapagliflozin has not been reported so far. So attempt was taken to develop and validate an economic, rapid reversed-phase high performance liquid chromatographic method for the quality control of Metformin and Dapagliflozin in pharmaceutical preparations with lower solvent consumption along with the short analytical run time that leads to an environmentally friendly chromatographic procedure and will allow the analysis of a large number of samples in a short period of time. The method was validated and found to be accurate, precise and reproducible.

Materials and Methods

Apparatus

Waters e2695Alliance HPLC system connected with PDA Detector 2998 and Empower2 Software. The drug analysis data were acquired and processed using Empower2 software running under Windows XP on a Pentium PC.

Other Apparatus:: Electronic balance, Sonicator, 0.45µm membrane filter

Reagents and Chemicals

Pharmaceutical grade Metformin and Dapagliflozin were kindly supplied as a gift sample by Astra zenaca Pharma, India. Acetonitrile was of HPLC grade and collected from E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany. Orthophosphoric acid was of analytical reagent grade supplied by Fischer Scientific Chemicals. Water HPLC grade was obtained from a Milli-QRO water purification system.

Commercial Formulation

Metformin and Dapagliflozin Tablets available in the market as XIGDUO XR in composition of Metformin and Dapagliflozin. The samples were properly checked for their manufacturing license numbers, batch numbers, production, expiry dates and stored properly.

Procedure

Preparation of phosphate buffer

2.95 grams of potassium dihydrogen phosphate and 5.45 grams of potassium hydrogen phosphate was weighed and taken into a 1000ml beaker, dissolved and diluted to 1000ml with HPLC water and pH was adjusted to 3 with ortho phosphoric acid. The resulting solution was sonicated and filtered.

Preparation of mobile phase

Mix a mixture of above buffer 30 ml (30%) and 70 ml of ACN (HPLC grade-70%) and degassed in ultrasonic water bath for 5 minutes. Filter through 0.22 μ filter under vacuum filtration.

Diluents preparation

Mobile phase was used as the diluent.

Preparation of the individual metformin standard preparation

10 mg of metformin working standard was accurately weighed and transferred into a 10 ml clean dry volumetric flask and add about 1 ml of diluent and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent (Stock solution). Further pipette out 1.0 ml from the above stock solution into a 10 ml volumetric flask and was diluted up to the mark with diluent.

Preparation of the individual Dapagliflozin standard preparation

10 mg of Dapagliflozin working standard was accurately weighed and transferred into a 10 ml clean dry volumetric flask and add about 1 ml of diluent and sonicate to Dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent (Stock solution). Further pipette out 1.0 ml from the above stock solution into a 10 ml volumetric flask and was diluted up to the mark with diluent.

Preparation of the Metformin and Dapagliflozin standard and sample solution

Sample solution preparation

10 mg of metformin and 10 mg Dapagliflozin tablet powder were accurately weighed and transferred into a 10 ml clean dry volumetric flask, add about 1 ml of diluent and sonicate to dissolve it completely and making volume up to the mark with the same solvent (Stock solution). Further pipette 10ml of the above stock solution into a 100ml volumetric flask and was diluted up to the mark with diluent.

Standard solution preparation

10 mg metformin and 10 mg Dapagliflozin working standard was accurately weighed and transferred into a 10ml clean dry volumetric flask and add about 1 ml of diluent and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent

(Stock solution). Further pipette out 1ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and was diluted up to the mark with diluent.

Development and Validation of Hplc Method

Present study was conducted to obtain a new, affordable, cost-effective and convenient method for HPLC determination of metformin and Dapagliflozin in tablet dosage form. The experiment was carried out according to the official specifications of USP-30, ICH- 1996 and Global Quality Guidelines-2002. The method was validated for the parameters like system suitability, selectivity, linearity, accuracy, precision, LOD, LOQ, and robustness [5,6,7].

System Suitability

System suitability study of the method was carried out by six replicate analysis of solution containing 100% target concentration of metformin and Dapagliflozin. Various chromatographic parameters such as retention time, peak area tailing factor, theoretical plates (Tangent) of the column and resolution between the peaks were determined and the method was evaluated by analyzing these parameters.

Selectivity

Selectivity test determines the effect of excipients on the assay result. To determine the selectivity of the method, standard sample of metformin and of Dapagliflozin were injected first. Then commercial product, blank and excipients solution were run in the instrument one after another.

Linearity

Linearity of the method was determined by constructing calibration curves. The linearity study was performed for the concentration of 50 ppm to 250 ppm metformin and 5ppm to 25ppm Dapagliflozin. Each measurement was carried out in six replicates and the peak areas of the chromatograms were plotted against the concentrations to obtain the calibration curves and correlation coefficients.

Accuracy (Recovery Studies)

To check the degree of accuracy of the method, recovery studies were performed in triplicate by standard addition method at 50%, 100% and 150%. Known amounts of standard metformin and

Dapagliflozin were added to pre-analyzed samples and were subjected to the proposed HPLC method.

Precision

Precision was evaluated by carrying out six independent sample preparation of a single lot of formulation. The sample solution was prepared in the same manner as described in sample preparation. Percentage relative standard deviation (%RSD) was found to be less than 2% for within a day and day to day variations, which proves that method is precise.

Robustness of Method

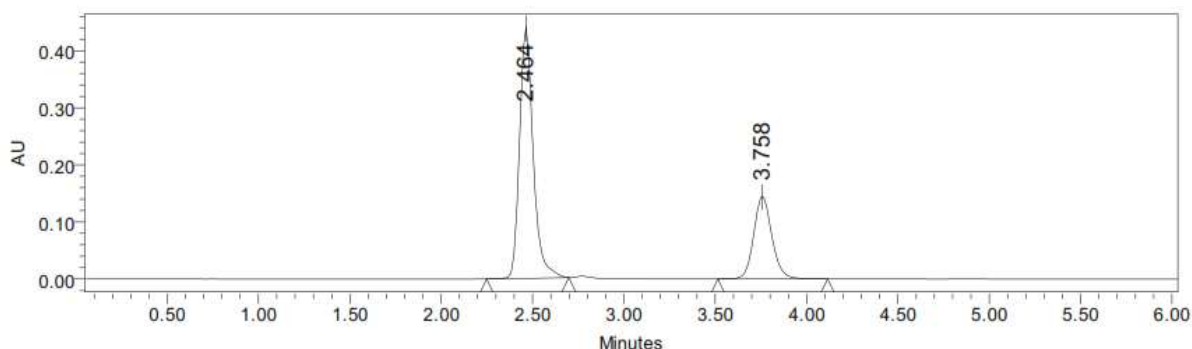
To evaluate the robustness of the developed RP-HPLC method, small deliberate variations in the

optimized method parameters were done. The effect of change in flow rate, temperature, on the retention time and tailing factor were studied. The method was found to be unaffected by flow and temperature variation.

Results and Discussion

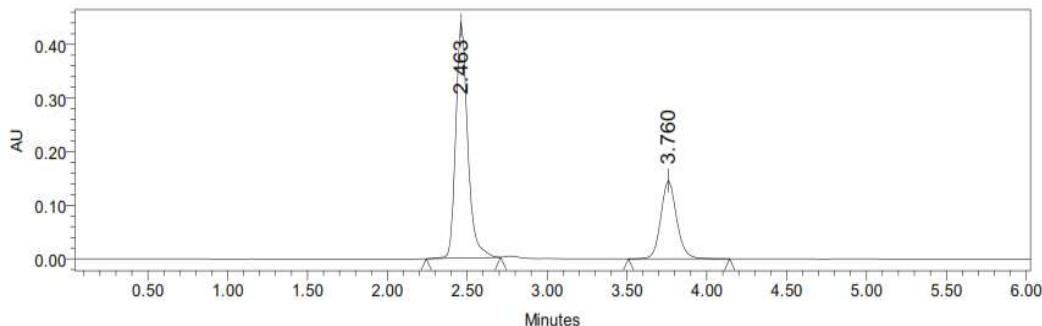
Results of system suitability study are summarized in Table 1. Six consecutive injections of the standard solution showed uniform retention time, theoretical plate count, tailing factor and resolution for both the drugs which indicate a good system for analysis.

Fig. 1: Typical chromatogram of metformin and dapagliflozin in standard preparation.



	Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	USP Tailing	USP Plate Count
1	Metformin	2.464	2288873	435418	1.2	3124.1
2	Dapagliflozin	3.758	1003783	144483	1.1	2366.2

Fig. 2: Typical chromatogram of metformin and dapagliflozin in marketed formulation.



	Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	USP Tailing	USP Plate Count
1	Metformin	2.463	2288873	435418	1.3	3137.6
2	Dapagliflozin	3.760	1006018	145772	1.1	2367.9

Table 1: Result of system suitability tests of Metformin and Dapagliflozin

Column	:	Inertsil RP C 18 (4.5×150 mm) 5.0 µm
Column temperature	:	Ambient
Wavelength	:	240 nm
Mobile phase ratio	:	70:30 Acetonitrile : phosphate buffer
Flow rate	:	1 ml/min
Auto sampler temperature	:	Ambient
Injection volume	:	10µl
Run time	:	10.0 minutes

Chromatograms shown in figure 1 and figure 2 explain that retention time for standard sample and commercial product of Metformin and Dapagliflozin are same. This proves that, excipients have no effect on the analytical method. On the other hand, blank peak did not overlap drug peak. So the method is highly selective. A linear relationship between peak areas (average peak areas of six replicates) versus concentrations was observed for Metformin and Dapagliflozin in the range of 50 µg/ml to 250 µg/ml for Metformin and 5 µg/ml to 25 µg/ml for Dapagliflozin concentrations. Correlation coefficient was 0.999 for both the drugs which prove that the method is linear.

Precision was evaluated by carrying out six independent sample preparation of a single lot of formulation. The intermediate precision performed for %RSD of Metformin and Dapagliflozin was found to be 0.63 and 0.92 respectively. The method is highly precise as % RSD of peak area was less than 2% in all tests.

The accuracy study was performed for 50%, 100% and 150 % for Metformin and Dapagliflozin. Each level was injected in triplicate into chromatographic system. The area of each level was used for calculation of % recovery. Results are tabulated in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2: Showing accuracy results for Metformin

%Concentration (at specification level)	Average area	Amount added (mg)	Amount found (mg)	% Recovery	Mean recovery
50 %	3955152	5	4.96	99.91%	99.56%
100%	7893687	10	9.98	99.18%	
150%	12057868	15	15.02	99.60%	

Table 3: Showing accuracy results for Dapagliflozin

%Concentration (at specification level)	Average area	Amount added (mg)	Amount found (mg)	% Recovery	Mean recovery
50%	15532	0.5	0.99	99.53 %	
100%	30089	1.0	1.05	99.38 %	99.47 %
150%	46635	1.5	1.495	99.52 %	

Results of accuracy study are presented in table 2 and Table 3. The measured value was obtained by recovery test. Percentage concentration of both the drugs was compared against the recovery amount. % Recovery was 99.56% for Metformin and 99.47% for Dapagliflozin. All the results indicate that the method is highly accurate.

The results of robustness of the present method showed that small changes were made in the flow rate and temperature did not produce significant changes in analytical results which are presented in Table 4 and Table 5 . As the changes are not significant we can say that the method is robust.

Table 4: Results for robustness test of Metformin

S. No	Flow rate (ml/min)	System suitability results	
		USP Plate Count	USP Tailing
1	0.8	2590	1.39
2	1	2294	1.27
3	1.2	2146	1.26

Table 5: Results for robustness test of Dapagliflozin

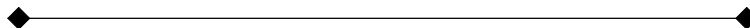
S.No	Flow rate (ml/min)	System suitability results	
		USP Plate Count	USP Tailing
1	0.8	5435	1.04
2	1	4891	1.03
3	1.2	4781	1.04

Conclusion

The new HPLC method developed and validated for simultaneous determination of Metformin and Dapagliflozin pharmaceutical dosage forms and assured the satisfactory precision and accuracy and also determining lower concentration of each drug in its solid combined dosage form by RP-HPLC method. The method was found to be simple, accurate, economical and rapid and they can be applied for routine analysis in laboratories and is suitable for the quality control of the raw materials, formulations, dissolution studies and can be employed for bioequivalence studies for the same formulation.

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Synthesis and Microbiology of Diesters Derived From 1, 1'-(4, 6-Dihydroxy-1, 3-Phenylene) Diethanone

Asif Husain

Abstract

A series of 4, 6-diacetyl-1, 3-di(substituted-phenyl carbonyloxy)benzenes or diesters (**2a-f**) were prepared and screened for in vitro antibacterial and antifungal activities. 1, 1'-(4,6-Dihydroxy-1, 3-phenylene)diethanone (**1**) was treated with different aromatic acids in dry pyridine in presence of phosphorous oxychloride to obtain the diesters (**2a-f**). The structures of the synthesized compounds were established on modern analytical techniques. The antimicrobial activity (minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC) of the title compounds was determined against some selected bacterial and fungal strains. The compounds showed appreciable antimicrobial activity against the tested microbes. Presence of halogen group(s) was found to increase the antimicrobial activity of the diesters.

Keywords: Resorcinol; Ester; MIC; Antimicrobial.

Introduction

There is a great interest in the discovery of new antimicrobial compounds in recent times due to the

development of new strains of bacteria resistant to a variety of currently available antimicrobial treatments [1,2]. Antimicrobial resistance refers to microbes that have developed the ability to inactivate, bypass or block the inhibition or lethal mechanism of the antimicrobial agents [3]. The resorcinol derivatives are quite important compounds for both synthesis and pharmacological screening [4,5]. A variety of synthesized resorcinol derivatives have been experimentally shown to exert various important biological actions including antimicrobial activities[4-9].

In view of these points and in continuation of our work on resorcinol derivatives [6-9], it was considered worthwhile to synthesize some new diacetyl-resorcinol based diesters and to evaluate their antibacterial and antifungal activities.

Materials and Methods

Synthesis

Melting points were recorded in liquid paraffin bath using open end capillaries and are uncorrected. PMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectropsin DPX-300 MHz in CDCl₃; chemical shift (δ) values are reported in parts per million (*ppm*). The splitting pattern abbreviations are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; m, multiplet. Mass spectra were recorded on a JEOL JMS-D 300 instrument. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 240 analyzer. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out to observe the progress of synthesis using silica gel G as

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stationary phase and iodine chamber and UV chamber were used for locating the spots of compounds. The reaction sequence is presented in *scheme 1*.

Synthesis of 1, 1'-(4,6-Dihydroxy-1, 3-phenylene) diethanone (1)

It was prepared from resorcinol following literature method[8]. It gave a violet colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution; positive test for phenols. Yield 72%; m.p. 184-186°C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 2.65 (s, 6H, 2'-COCH₃), 6.65 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.15 (s, 1H, H-5).

General procedure for synthesis of diesters (2a-f) [9]

To a solution of **1** (2 mmol; 0.388gm) in dry pyridine (10 mL) was added a solution of aromatic acid (4 mmol) in dry pyridine (5 mL). The contents were stirred for a few minutes and then phosphorous oxychloride (0.5 mL) was added drop-wise into it. Stirring was continued for another 2h and the reaction mixture poured into ice cold water containing a little quantity of HCl. A solid mass separated out which was filtered, washed with water and dried. It was crystallized from methanol: dichloromethane mixture to furnish TLC pure compounds **2a-f**. It did not give colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution.

4, 6-Diacetyl-1, 3-di(2-hydroxyphenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (2a). Yield 58 %; m.p. 137-139 °C; Rf 0.71; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.61 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 5.86 (s, 2H, 2x -OH), 7.18 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.32-7.81 (m, 8H, 2x H-3',4',5',6'), 8.32 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 434 (M⁺), 435 (M⁺+1); Anal calc. for C₂₄H₁₈O₈: C 66.36, H 4.18; Found C 66.17, H 4.15.

4,6-Diacetyl-1,3-di(2-acetoxyphenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (2b). Yield 60 %; m.p. 152-154 °C; Rf 0.74; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.35 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 2.63 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 7.22 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.36-7.83 (m, 8H, 2x H-3',4',5',6'), 8.41 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 518 (M⁺), 519 (M⁺+1); Anal calcd. for C₂₈H₂₂O₁₀: C, 64.86; H, 4.28; Found: C, 64.72; H, 3.97.

4,6-Diacetyl-1,3-di(4-fluorophenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (2c). Yield: 63%; m.p. 129-131°C; Rf 0.76; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.59 (s, 6H, 2'-COCH₃), 7.16 (s, 2H, H-2), 7.24-7.51 (m, 4H, 2x H-3',5'), 7.78 (d, 4H, 2x H-2',6'), 8.34 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 438 (M⁺), 439 (M⁺+1); Anal calcd. for C₂₄H₁₆F₂O₆: C, 65.76; H, 3.68. Found: C, 65.62; H, 3.55.

4, 6-Diacetyl-1,3-di(2-bromophenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (2d). Yield: 55%; m.p. 118-119°C; Rf 0.67; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.63 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 7.22

(s, 1H, H-2), 7.46-7.68 (m, 6H, 2x H-3',4',5'), 7.87-8.16 (m, 2H, 2x H-6'), 8.41 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 559 (M⁺), 560 (M⁺+1), 561 (M⁺+2); Anal calcd. for C₂₄H₁₆Br₂O₆: C, 51.46; H, 2.88. Found: C, 51.23; H, 2.75.

4, 6-Diacetyl-1,3-di(4-bromophenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (3e). Yield: 58%; m.p. 140-142°C; Rf 0.70; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.61 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 7.19 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.28 (d, 4H, 2x H-3',5'), 7.85 (d, 4H, 2x H-2',6'), 8.28 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 559 (M⁺), 560 (M⁺+1), 561 (M⁺+2); Anal calcd. for C₂₄H₁₆Br₂O₆: C, 51.46; H, 2.88. Found: C, 51.38; H, 2.76.

4, 6-Diacetyl-1,3-di(2,4-dichlorophenyl carbonyloxy) benzene (3f). Yield: 54%; m.p. 134-136°C; Rf 0.72; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.64 (s, 6H, 2x -COCH₃), 7.26 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.34-8.08 (m, 6H, 2x H-3',5',6'), 8.44 (s, 1H, H-5); MS: m/z 539 (M⁺), 540 (M⁺+1), 541 (M⁺+2); Anal calcd. for C₂₄H₁₄Cl₄O₆: C, 53.36; H, 2.61. Found: C, 53.22 H, 2.54.

Microbiology

The synthesized compounds were evaluated for their in vitro antimicrobial activity [10,11] against three bacterial strains and two fungal strains at a concentration of 100 µg/mL by cup plate method. Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the test microorganisms were further tested for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

Antibacterial activity [10]

In vitro antibacterial activity of the title compounds was determined against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC-25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC-25922), and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) at a concentration of 100 mg/mL by cup plate method. Freshly prepared liquid agar medium (25 mL/ petridish) was poured into each petridishes and the plates were dried by placing in an incubator at 37°C for 1 h. Then standardized culture of microbes was spread on each petridishes by a spreader. Wells (6 mm) were made using an agar punch and each well was labeled accordingly. A control (solvent) was also included in the test. Ciprofloxacin was used as standard drug for comparison. The test compound and standard drug solutions (100 µg/mL) were made in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) and added in each well separately and petridishes kept aseptically for 1h for diffusion of the sample. After the completion of diffusion, all the petridishes were kept for incubation at 37°C for 24 h and then diameter of the zone of inhibition was measured in mm (Table 1).

Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the test microorganisms were further evaluated for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) by turbidity method. A solution of the compounds (100 µg/mL) was prepared in DMSO and a series of doubling dilutions prepared with sterile pipettes. To each of a series of sterile test tubes a standard volume of nutrient broth medium was added. A control tube containing no antimicrobial agent was included. The inoculum consisting of an overnight broth culture of microorganisms was added to separate tubes. The tubes were incubated at 37° for 24 h and examined for turbidity. The highest dilution (lowest concentration) required to arrest the growth of bacteria was regarded as MIC. Results are presented in Table 2.

Antifungal activity [11]

In vitro antifungal activity of the title compounds was determined against *Candida albicans* (ATCC-10231) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC-16404) by agar diffusion method. Sabourands agar media was prepared by dissolving peptone (1 g), D-glucose (4 g) and agar (2 g) in distilled water (100 mL) and adjusting pH to 5.7. Normal saline was used to make a suspension of spore of fungal strain for lawning. A loopful of particular fungal strain was transferred to 3 mL saline to get a suspension of corresponding species. Agar media (20 mL) was poured into each petridish and the plates were dried by placing in an incubator at 37°C for 1 h. Wells were made using an agar punch and, each well was labeled accordingly. A control was also prepared in triplicate and maintained at 37°C for 3-4 days. The test compounds and standard drug (Griseofulvin) solutions (100 µg/mL) were made in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) and added in each well separately and petridishes kept aseptically for 1h for diffusion of the sample. After the completion of diffusion, all the petridishes were kept for incubation at 37°C for 3-4 days and then diameter of the zone of inhibition was measured in mm (Table 1).

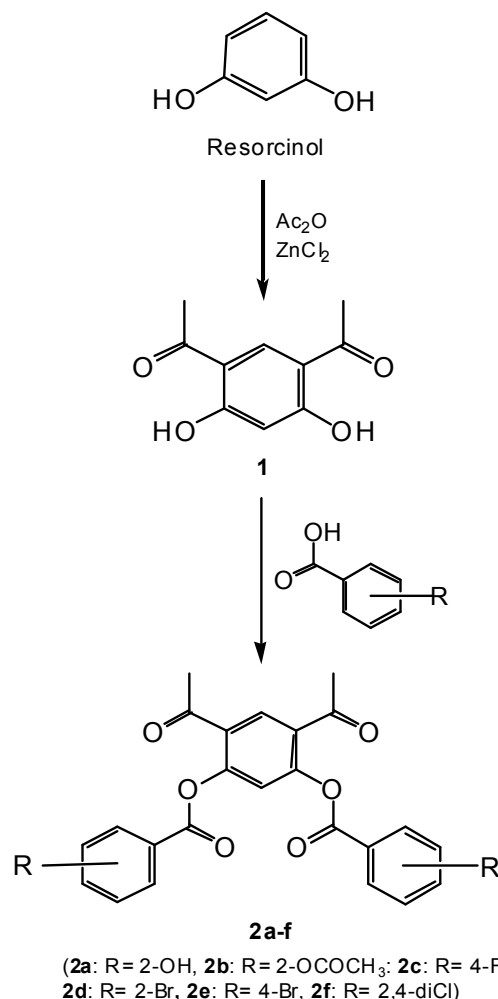
Compounds inhibiting growth of one or more of the fungal strains were further tested for their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). A solution of the compounds (100 µg/mL) was prepared in DMSO and a series of doubling dilutions prepared with sterile pipettes. To each of a series of sterile test tubes a standard volume of nutrient broth medium was added. A control tube containing no antimicrobial agent was included. The tubes were inoculated with approximately 1.6×10^4 - 6×10^4 c.f.u. mL⁻¹ and incubated for 48 h at 37°C and examined for growth. The highest dilution (lowest

concentration) required to arrest the growth of fungus was regarded as MIC (Table 2).

Results and Discussion

Synthesis

The title compounds were synthesized through multistep synthesis as given in **Scheme-1**. Resorcinol, the starting material, was reacted with acetic anhydride in presence of anhydrous zinc chloride to obtain 1,1'-(4,6-dihydroxy-1,3-phenylene) diethanone (**1**) [8] Compound **1** was then reacted with 2 moles of different aromatic acids in presence of phosphorous oxychloride to furnish the desired diesters (**2a-f**). The diesters did not give colour with ethanolic ferric chloride solution indicating the absence of free phenolic (-OH) group. The structures of the synthesized compounds were established on the basis of ¹H NMR, Mass spectral data and elemental analysis data.



Scheme 1: Protocol for synthesis of title Compounds (**2a-f**)

In general, the ^1H NMR spectra of the title compounds (**2a-f**) revealed the presence of two acetyl groups as singlet at around δ 2.6. Resorcinol ring protons, H-2 and H-5, appeared as two singlet at around δ 7.2 and δ 8.4, respectively. Other signals were observed at appropriate δ values integrating for the protons of two substituted phenyl rings (H-2'/3'/4'/5'/6'). The mass spectra of diesters showed the presence of molecular ion peak in reasonable intensities. Elemental analyses values of the synthesized compounds were found within $\pm 0.4\%$ of theoretical values.

Microbiology

The title compounds (**2a-f**) were screened for their in vitro antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC-25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC-25922) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) bacterial species, and antifungal activity against *Candida*

albicans (ATCC-10231) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC-16404). The antimicrobial screening data showed that the compound **2f**, 4,6-diacetyl-1,3-di(2,4-dichlorophenyl carbonyloxy)benzene, exhibited good activity against *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *C. albicans* with MIC-12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Similar type of activity was also shown by the compound; 4,6-diacetyl-1,3-di(4-fluorophenyl carbonyloxy)benzene (**2c**), against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with MIC-12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Another compound, 4,6-diacetyl-1,3-di(4-bromophenyl carbonyloxy)benzene (**2e**), displayed significant activity against *S. aureus* with MIC-12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The standard drugs showed MIC values of 6.25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Table 1 & 2).

An analysis of results indicated that the title compounds **2a-f** were significant in their antibacterial and antifungal actions. Presence of halogen group(s) was found to increase the antimicrobial activity of the diesters as evident by compound **2c**, **2e** and **2f**.

Table 1: Preliminary antibacterial and antifungal activities of the title compounds (**2a-f**).

Compd.	Substituent (R)	Antibacterial activity [#]			Antifungal activity [#]	
		<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>
2a	2-OH	-	-	-	+	-
2b	2-OCOCH ₃	+	-	+	++	-
2c	4-F	+++	+++	+	++	+
2d	2-Br	++	++	+	+	-
2e	4-Br	+++	++	++	++	+
2f	2,4-diCl	+++	+++	+	+++	++
Standard-1 [†]		++++	++++	++++	nt	nt
Standard-2 [†]		nt	nt	Nt	++++	++++

[#]Zone of inhibition: - = < 5 mm (insignificant or no activity), + = 5-9 mm (weak activity), ++ = 10-14 mm (moderate activity), +++ = 15-20 mm (good activity), ++++ = > 20 mm (excellent activity).

[†]Standard-1 = Ciprofloxacin, Standard-2 = Griseofulvin, nt = not tested.

Table 2: Antibacterial and antifungal activities (MIC, $\mu\text{g/mL}$) of the title compounds (**2a-f**).

Compd.	Substituent (R)	Antibacterial activity			Antifungal activity	
		<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>
2a	2-OH	>100	>100	>100	50	>100
2b	2-OCOCH ₃	50	>100	50	25	>100
2c	4-F	12.5	12.5	50	25	50
2d	2-Br	25	25	50	50	>100
2e	4-Br	12.5	25	25	25	50
2f	2,4-diCl	12.5	12.5	50	12.5	25
Standard-1 [†]		6.25	6.25	6.25	Nt	Nt
Standard-2 [†]		Nt	nt	nt	6.25	6.25

nt = not tested; [†]Standard-1 = Ciprofloxacin, Standard-2 = Griseofulvin.

Conclusion

Six new diesters (**2a-f**) derived from 1,1'-(4,6-dihydroxy-1,3-phenylene)diethanone (**1**) were successfully synthesized. The antimicrobial studies showed that the synthesized compounds were having appreciable antibacterial and antifungal activities. Presence of halogen group(s) was found to increase the

antimicrobial activity of the diesters. It is conceivable that further derivatization of the active compounds may result in potential antimicrobial agents.

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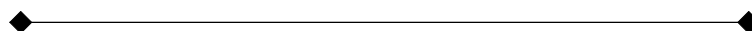
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Introducing a new sister concerned company of Red Flower Publication Pvt. Ltd.

RF Library Services Pvt. Ltd.

RF Library Services Pvt. Ltd. is a global market leader in managing professional information. We develop and deliver innovative services that enable the use of knowledge to its full extent. As the only information Service Company globally we play a key role in today's complex information marketplace. Founded in 1985 as a registered company under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 8 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014, the business draws on more than a decade of experience within the information industry. With this knowledge, we satisfy the needs of thousands of customers from over 30 countries. We are a division of Red Flower Publication Pvt. Ltd.

Where we are based?

RF Library Services Pvt. Ltd is located in Delhi-91 in India.

RF Library Services Pvt. Ltd.

D-223/216, Laxmi Chambers, Laxmi Nagar,

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