

Eco-Friendly Novel Synthesis, Characterization of 2,3-Disubstituted 4-Thiazolidinone Derivatives and their Antimicrobial Evaluations

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Received: 3 July 2021;

Accepted: 4 August 2021;

Published online: 20 October 2021;

AJC-20550

A total of nine derivatives of 4-thiazolidinone were synthesized involving the reaction of benzene-1,2-diamine with 4-aminobenzoic acid followed by reaction with substituted benzaldehyde to get the Schiff bases. These synthesized Schiff bases were further reacted with thioglycolic acid to get the desired thiazolidinones (29-37). In addition to conventional synthesis, the microwave irradiation method has also been employed for the synthesis of these compounds which provides not only pollution free and eco-friendly environment but also excellent yields. The results showed that 2-substituted thiazolidinone derivatives exhibit good antibacterial activity. It was also recorded that the compounds containing -Cl, -NO₂ group with thiazolidinone nucleus are more active than other compounds of the synthesized series.

Keywords: 4-Thiazolidinones, Schiff bases, Biological activity, Benzimidazoles, Microwave synthesis.

INTRODUCTION

The impact of infectious diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites are particularly large in developing countries due to relatively inadequate medicines, emergence of broad drug resistance as well as lack of awareness. There is an urgent need of synchronize plan to fight against bacterial infections which now again became a threat [1-3]. The abuse of the prescriptions as well as insufficient innovative drug development to the condition of antibiotic resistance emergency [4,5].

In recent years, the extensive biological potential of 4-thiazolidinone compounds have been found to be of special interest in the field of medicinal chemistry thus established it as one of the biologically significant scaffolds [6,7]. A wide spectrum of pharmacological activities have been documented against several targets such as antiviral [8] and anti-HIV [9-11], antimicrobial [12-21], anti-inflammatory and analgesic [22-24],

anticancer [25,26], antidiuretic [27,28], antiparasitic [29,30], antidiabetic [31,32], antihyperlipidemic (Fig. 1) [33,34]. It has also been documented that the Schiff bases exhibited good antimicrobial potential with broad spectrum of biological activities. It is established that clubbing of 2-substituted benzimidazole and 4-thiazolidinone may lead to a new molecule which is having better activity profile and retains pharmacological property with enhanced selectivity. Investigation of the structure-activity relationship exhibited that the incorporation of (thio) urea-based Schiff bases leads to more potent derivatives with a broader spectrum of antimicrobial activity [35].

With less harmful effects of chemicals on the environment by employing solvent free conditions, greener techniques can be applied to synthesize both well-known chemical compounds by more feasible routes and completely new materials [36]. Many reactions have been performed efficiently and conveniently even with solid reactants in eco-friendly conditions, which also reduces the cost of solvent. In present work, the solvent free

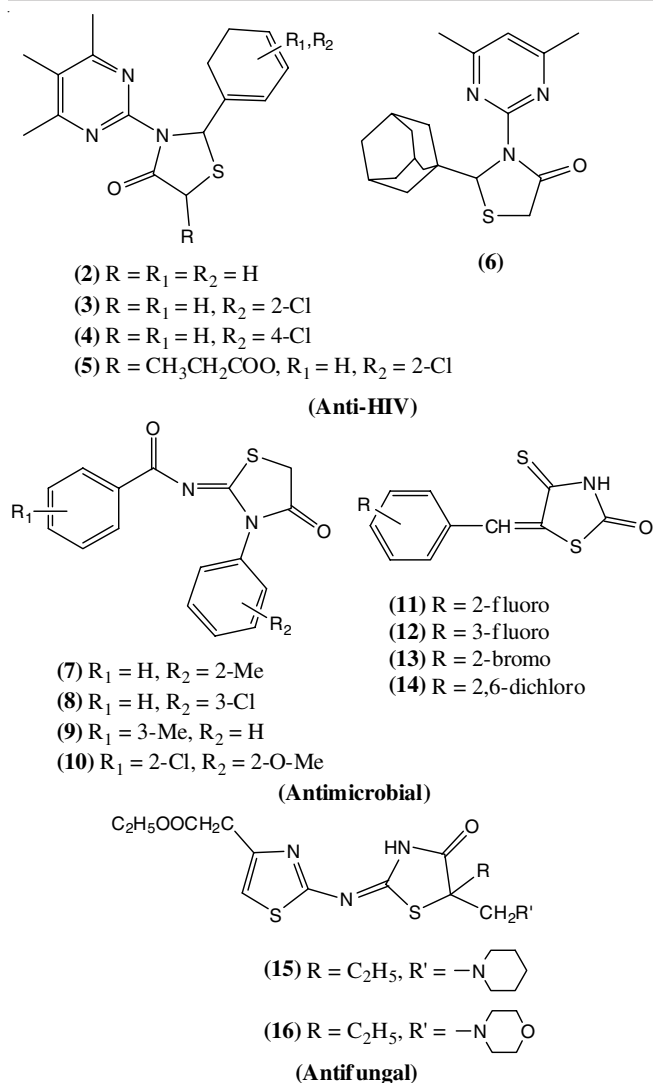


Fig. 1. Biological activities of some 4-thiazolidinone compounds (2-16)

synthesis of thiazolidinones is explored. Microwave assisted organic synthesis, a green chemistry methodology, is currently used in the drug synthesis. Microwave-assisted synthesis progresses both improvement in quantity as well as time for research chemists by offering the welfares of extremely reduced reaction times, better yield and pure products [37].

The role of green chemistry is essential to ensure that the next generation of chemicals, materials and energy is more sustainable than the current generation. The eco-friendly chemical processes and products requires the development of novel and cost-effective approaches to prevent pollution of the environment for the present world [38,39]. In view of the above facts, the synthesis of some heterocyclic compounds under green chemistry approach is carried out along with the evaluation of antibacterial and antifungal activity of 2,3-disubstituted 4-thiazolidinone derivatives.

EXPERIMENTAL

All the chemicals and reagents were procured from Hi-media Chem. Ltd, S.d-. fine Ltd., E. Merck and Sigma-Aldrich. Melting points were determined using capillary tubes on an

electrical melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The progress of reactions was monitored on thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates (silica gel G) using chloroform with ethanol as mobile phase and the chromatograms were visualized under a UV lamp and iodine vapours. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (¹H & ¹³C NMR) spectra were determined on Bruker spectropin DPX-300 MHz in CDCl₃. Chemical shift (δ) values are reported in parts per million (ppm) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal reference. The exchangeable protons (OH and NH) are definite by D₂O exchange. Mass spectra were recorded on LC-MS/MS (Perkin-Elmer and LABINDIA, Applied Bio system) model no. API 3000. Infrared spectra be taken on Perkin-Elmer AX-1 spectrometer and values are expressed in cm⁻¹. The purity of the compounds was verified on the basis of elemental analysis using apparatus Perkin-Elmer 2400 elemental analyzer. The microwave irradiated synthesis was performed in scientific microwave oven, catalyst System (operating between 140-700 W).

General procedure for the synthesis of 4-(1H-benzo[d]-imidazole-2-yl)aniline (19)

Conventional method: Equimolar quantity of *o*-phenylenediamine (0.1 mol, 10.8 g) and *para*-amino benzoic acid (0.1 mol, 13.7 g) were dissolved in ethanol. It was refluxed on water a bath at 70-75 °C in round bottomed flask for 6 h [40,41]. The completion of the reaction was monitored on TLC by using chloroform and ethanol (7:3) as mobile phase. After cooling, 10% NaOH solution was added gradually with continuous stirring to made alkaline. The crude product was filtered, washed with cold water, decolorized, washed and finally dried. The product was then recrystallized from ethanol. Yield: 65%; m.p: 170-172 °C; colour: dark brown solid; IR (cm⁻¹, KBr): 3557.37 (N-H *str.*), 1682.38 (C=N), 1618.65 (N-H bend.), 1233.38 (C-N), 3095.28 (arom. C-H *str.*). Anal. calcd. for C₁₃H₁₁N₃ (*m.w.* 209.5) C, 74.63; H, 5.30; N, 20.16.

Microwave assisted: Equimolar quantity of *o*-phenylenediamine (0.1 mol, 10.8 g) and *p*-aminobenzoic acid (0.1 mol, 13.7 g) was irradiated in a microwave at 320 W for 4-5 min with solvent ethanol. The completion of the reaction was monitored on TLC by using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (7:3) as mobile phase. After cooling, 10% NaOH solution was added slowly with stirring to precipitate the product. The product was filtered, washed with cold water and decolorized the product with charcoal. The crude crystalline product was dried and recrystallized with ethanol [42]. The product was dark brown in colour. Yield: 87%, m.p: 170-171 °C. FT-IR (KBr, ν_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3557.37 (N-H *str.*), 3095.28 (arom. C-H *str.*), 1682.38 (C-N), 1618.65 (N-H bend.), 1233.38 (C=N). Anal. calcd. for C₁₃H₁₁N₃ (*m.w.* 209.5): C, 74.63; H, 5.30; N, 20.16.

General procedure for the synthesis of Schiff bases (20-28)

Conventional method: 4-(1H-Benzo[d]-imidazole-2-yl)-aniline (19) (0.1 mol) in 30 mL of ethanol containing a small amount of glacial acetic acid, substituted benzaldehyde (0.1 mol) was added and refluxed for 9-13 h. The completion of reaction was monitored on TLC by using chloroform and ethanol (8:2) as mobile phase. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into crushed ice, filtered, washed, dried and recrystallized from ethanol to yield the Schiff bases (20-28).

Microwave method: Compound **19** (0.07 mol) in 30 mL of ethanol containing 2-3 drops of glacial acetic acid, substituted benzaldehyde (0.07 mol) was added and the mixture was irradiated in a microwave at 100 W for 2-5 min. The completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC. It was then cooled, poured into crushed ice, filtered, washed, dried and recrystallized from ethanol.

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (20): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3610.35 3094.39 (C-H *str.*), (O-H), 1633.67 (N-H bend.), 1660.43 (C=N imine).

4-((4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenylimino)methyl)-phenol (21): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3642.29 (O-H), 1628.78 (C=N imine), 1522.31 (N-H bend), 1502.91 (arom. C=C *str.*).

4-((4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenylimino)methyl)-2-ethoxyphenol (22): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3634.28 (O-H), 3028.38 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1683.38 (C=N imine), 1612.96 (N-H bend.), 1512.36 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1238.79 (C-O).

5-((4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenylimino)methyl)-2-methoxyphenol (23): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3637.21 (O-H), 3021.31 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1682.71 (C=N imine), 1611.36 (N-H bend.), 1586.21 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1297.21 (ether C-O *str.* conjugated with Ar ring).

4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-N-(2-nitrobenzylidene)-aniline (24): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3026.38 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1681.71 (C=N imine), 1612.36 (N-H bend.), 1572.36 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1494.31 (arom. NO_2).

4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-N-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-aniline (25): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3063.71 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1681.35 (C=N imine), 1613.35 (N-H bend.), 1583.39 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1434.36 (arom. NO_2).

4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-N-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-aniline (26): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3063.51 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1662.39 (C=N imine), 1507.36 (N-H bend.), 1475.79 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1217.21 (C-F *str.*).

4-((4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenylimino)methyl)-2,6-dimethoxyphenol (27): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 1625.38 (amide N-H bend.), 1584.38 (C=N imine), 1428.32 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1257.38 (ether C-O *str.* (conjugated with Ar ring)).

4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-N-(3-chlorobenzylidene)aniline (28): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 2994.78 (alkane C-H *str.*), 1684.38 (C=N imine), 1594.62 (arom. C=C *str.*), 1545.63 (N-H bend.), 672.38 (C-Cl *str.*).

General procedure for the synthesis of thiazolidinone derivatives (29-37)

Conventional method: Synthesized Schiff base (0.01 mol, 20-28) in DMF, 0.01 mol of thioglycolic acid with a pinch of anhydrous ZnCl_2 added slowly and refluxed at 120 °C for 16-18 h. The completion of the reaction was monitored on TLC by using chloroform and ethanol in suitable proportion as mobile phase. DMF was distilled out to yield desire thiazolidinone derivative. The recrystallization was done from ethanol.

Microwave method: A mixture of substituted Schiff base (1.5 g, 0.005 mol, 20-28) and thioglycolic acid (0.43 g, 0.005 mol) was mixed. A pinch of anhydrous ZnCl_2 was added, mixed well and irradiated in microwave oven at 100 W for 7 min and 150 W for 2 min. The completion of the reaction was monitored on TLC using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (3:4) as mobile phase. The mixture was cooled and the product was recrystallized from ethanol.

The synthesized compounds were characterized by the determination of their physico-chemical properties (Table-1).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (29): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3623.78 (arom. OH), 3218.20 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1784.29 (C=O *str.*), 1688.35 (C=N imine), 1618.69 (N-H bend.), 1532.89 (arom. C=C), 1198.37 (C-N bend.), 1122.37 (C-O). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.569 (s, 1H), 9.686 (s, 1H), 8.207-8.201 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.598-7.592 ($J = 1.8$ Hz), 7.339-7.332 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H),

TABLE-1
PHYSICAL DATA OF SYNTHESIZED 4-THIAZOLIDINONE DERIVATIVES (19-37) BY CONVENTIONAL METHOD

| Compd. code | R (substituent's) | m.f. | m.w. | Colour | m.p. (°C) | Solubility | R _f value |
|-------------|---|---|-------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 19 | – | C ₁₃ H ₁₁ N ₃ | 209.5 | Dark brown | 170-171 | Ethanol | 0.59 |
| 20 | 2-OH | C ₂₀ H ₁₅ N ₃ O | 313.9 | Light yellow | 228-230 | Ethanol, methanol | 0.68 |
| 21 | 4-OH | C ₂₀ H ₁₅ N ₃ O | 313.8 | Dark yellow | 240-242 | Ethanol | 0.65 |
| 22 | 3-OC ₂ H ₅ , 4-OH | C ₂₂ H ₁₉ N ₃ O ₂ | 357.8 | Light brown | 210-212 | DMSO, ethanol, methanol | 0.69 |
| 23 | 4-OCH ₃ , 3-OH | C ₂₁ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₂ | 343.5 | Light yellow | 230-232 | Ethanol | 0.61 |
| 24 | 2-NO ₂ | C ₂₀ H ₁₄ N ₄ O ₂ | 342.7 | Dark yellow | 250-253 | Ethanol | 0.64 |
| 25 | 3-NO ₂ | C ₂₀ H ₁₄ N ₄ O ₂ | 343.9 | Light brown | 212-213 | Ethanol | 0.62 |
| 26 | 4-F | C ₂₀ H ₁₄ FN ₃ | 316.2 | Dark brown | 200-202 | Ethanol | 0.68 |
| 27 | 3,5-OCH ₃ , 4-OH | C ₂₀ H ₁₄ ClN ₃ | 374.1 | Off white | 240-242 | Ethanol | 0.52 |
| 28 | 3-Cl | C ₂₀ H ₁₄ ClN ₃ | 331.7 | White | 198-200 | Ethanol | 0.57 |
| 29 | 2-OH | C ₂₂ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₂ S | 387.9 | Green | 310-312 | Ethanol, methanol | 0.66 |
| 30 | 4-OH | C ₂₂ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₂ S | 387.6 | Brown | 298-300 | Ethanol | 0.63 |
| 31 | 3-OC ₂ H ₅ , 4-OH | C ₂₄ H ₂₁ N ₃ O ₃ S | 431.9 | Light yellow | 340-342 | Ethanol | 0.72 |
| 32 | 4-OCH ₃ , 3-OH | C ₂₃ H ₁₉ N ₃ O ₃ S | 417.8 | Brown | 330-332 | Methanol | 0.58 |
| 33 | 2-NO ₂ | C ₂₂ H ₁₆ N ₄ O ₃ S | 416.9 | White | 325-327 | DMSO, ethanol, methanol | 0.52 |
| 34 | 3-NO ₂ | C ₂₂ H ₁₆ N ₄ O ₃ S | 416.2 | Cream white | 250-252 | Ethanol, methanol | 0.62 |
| 35 | 4-F | C ₂₂ H ₁₆ FN ₃ OS | 389.9 | Brown | 320-322 | Ethanol | 0.63 |
| 36 | 3,5-OCH ₃ , 4-OH | C ₂₄ H ₂₁ N ₃ O ₄ S | 448.2 | Brown | 270-272 | Ethanol, methanol | 0.52 |
| 37 | 3-Cl | C ₂₂ H ₁₆ ClN ₃ OS | 405.9 | Black | 305-307 | Ethanol, methanol | 0.72 |

7.228-7.214 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.094-7.083 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.064-7.052 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.897-6.882 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.834-6.821 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.448 (s, 1H), 3.992-3.986 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.906-3.901 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (30): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3635.62 (arom. OH), 3362.13 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1785.67 (C=O *str.*), 1684.78 (C=N imine), 1607.43 (N-H bend.), 1512.56 (arom. C=C), 1392.93 (C-N bend.), 1193.37 (C-O). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.568 (s, 1H), 9.438 (s, 1H), 8.209-8.202 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.786-7.782 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.595-7.591 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.338-7.321 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.338-7.321 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.228-7.221 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.637-6.631 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.442 (s, 1H), 3.993-3.982 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.906-3.901 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(3-ethoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (31): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3623.35 (arom. OH), 3367.38 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1784.32 (C=O *str.*), 1686.35 (C=N imine), 1596.31 (N-H bend.), 1522.32 (arom. C=C), 1248.31 (C-O). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.484 (s, 1H), 9.834 (s, 1H), 8.204-8.194 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.598-7.594 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.458 (s, 1H), 7.348-7.34 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.336-7.332 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.218-7.214 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.724-6.720 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.448 (s, 1H), 3.992-3.986 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.980-3.974 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.943-3.9484 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.329 (s, 3H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (32): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3623.35 (arom. OH), 3367.38 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1784.32 (C=O *str.*), 1686.35 (C=N imine), 1596.31 (N-H bend.), 1522.32 (arom. C=C), 1248.31 (C-O). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.568 (s, 1H), 9.487 (s, 1H), 8.207-8.202 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.598-7.584 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.409-7.402 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.338-7.326 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.227-7.216 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.862 (s, 1H), 6.704-6.701 (d, $J = 1$ Hz, 1H), 6.447 (s, 1H), 3.982-3.976 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.962-3.954 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.839 (s, 3H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(2-nitrophenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (33): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3412.72 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1784.32 (C=O *str.*), 1622.37 (C=N imine), 1584.35 (N-H bend.), 1527.47 (arom. C=C), 1407.32 (C-N bend.), 1494.69 (arom. NO_2). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.562 (s, 1H), 8.208-8.202 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.964-7.960 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.724-7.116 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.592-7.576 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.552-7.542 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.498-7.492 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.338-7.332 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.221-7.2120 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.448 (s, 1H), 3.840-3.836 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.826-3.820 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (34): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3284.37 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1742.32 (C=O *str.*), 1624.39 (C=N imine), 1574.63 (N-H bend.), 1442.32 (arom. C=C), 1224.25 (C-N bend.), 15.14.78 (arom. NO_2). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.562 (s, 1H), 8.207-8.201 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.129-7.960 (s, 1H), 8.079-8.072 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.502-7.742 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.592-7.576 (t, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.572-7.568 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.339-7.334 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.229-7.220 (t, $J = 2.7$

Hz, 2H), 6.442 (s, 1H), 3.942-3.931 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.872-3.862 (d, $J = 3$ Hz, 1H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (35): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3312.29 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1793.21 (C=O *str.*), 1680.67 (C=N imine), 1584.29 (N-H bend.), 1443.28 (arom. C=C), 1312.56 (C-F *str.*). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.568 (s, 1H), 8.208-8.201 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.597-7.572 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.338-7.331 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.229-7.222 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.219-7.212 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.129-7.121 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.449 (s, 1H), 3.991-3.941 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.872-3.862 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H).

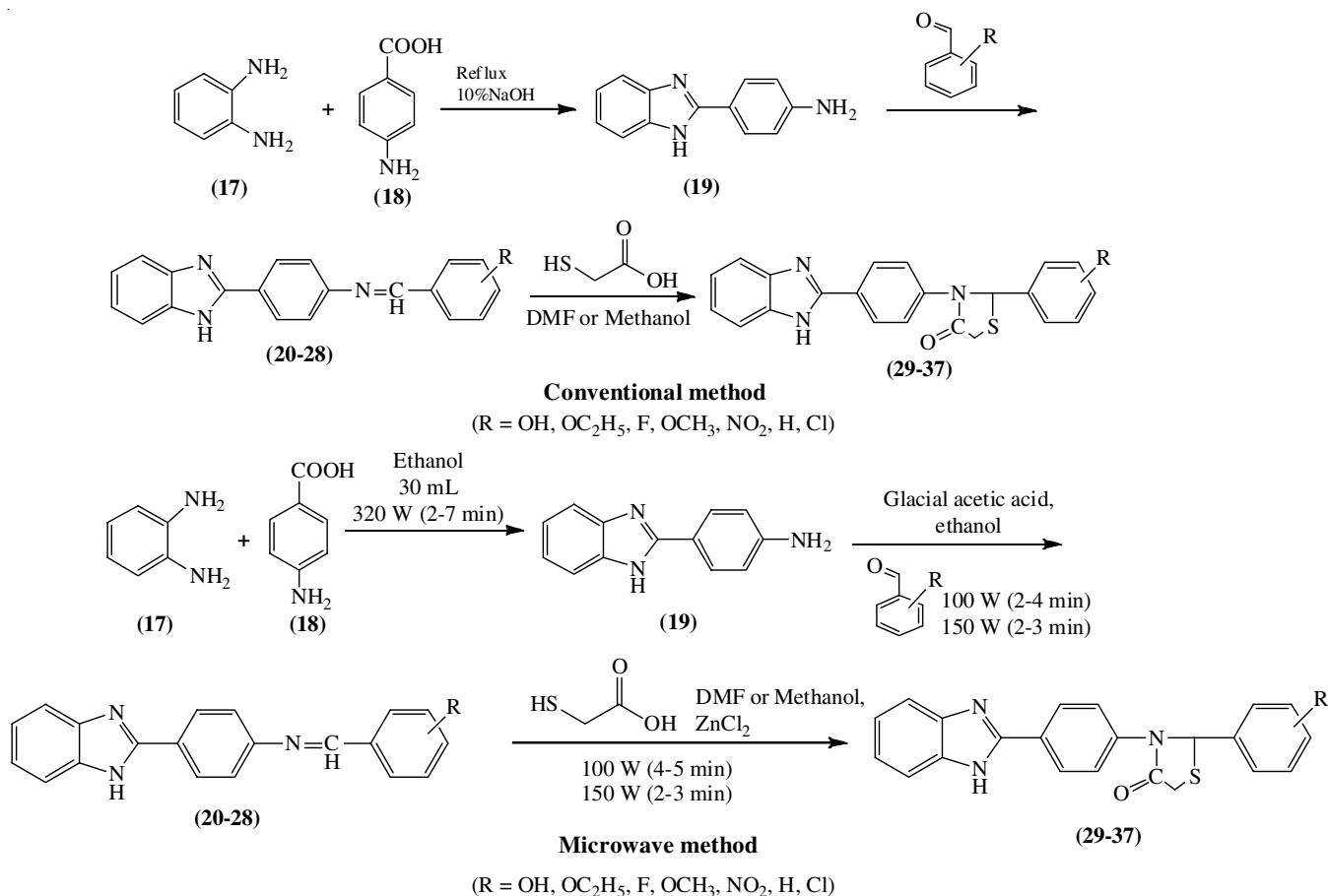
3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (36): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3607.71 (arom. OH), 3256.34 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1797.31 (C=O *str.*), 1674.39 (C=N imine), 1582.35 (N-H bend.), 1508.13 (arom. C=C), 1194.35 (ether C-O *str.*). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.562 (s, 1H), 8.732 (s, 3H), 8.204-8.196 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.596-7.588 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.336-7.332 (t, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.224-7.212 (t, $J = 0.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.018 (s, 2H), 6.448 (s, 1H), 3.984-3.978 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.842 (s, 1H), 3.822 (s, 1H).

3-(4-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (37): IR (KBr, ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3376.67 (arom. N-H *str.*), 1678.39 (C=O *str.*), 1607.54 (C=N imine), 1586.78 (N-H bend.), 1472.38 (arom. C=C), 712.38 (C-Cl *str.*). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 12.568 (s, 1H), 8.207-8.202 (d, 2H), 7.597-7.591 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.432 (s, 1H), 7.339-7.329 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.296-7.284 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.270-7.260 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.239-7.231 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.221-7.208 (t, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.447 (s, 1H), 3.994-3.990 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.972-3.963 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 2H).

Antimicrobial activity: Antibacterial activity of the synthesized compounds **19-37** in minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) was recorded against various pathogenic bacterial strains (Gram-negative and Gram-positive) *viz.* *Staphylococcus aureus* MTCC 96, *Streptococcus pyogenes* MTCC 442, *Escherichia coli* MTCC 443, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MTCC 741. The synthesized compounds were screened for *in-vitro* antimicrobial activities using the cup plate diffusion method. Both Gram-negative (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) and Gram-positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*) antibacterial species were used in this experiment. Three fungal strains *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus clavatus* were also used to judge the antifungal potential. Solution of each compound at a concentration of 100 $\mu\text{g}/0.1$ mL in DMSO was prepared and the inhibition zone diameter (IZD) in centimetre was used as the criterion for measuring the microbial activity. Ampicillin and griseofulvin were used as a bacterial and fungal standards, respectively for references to evaluate the efficacy of the tested compounds under the same conditions. DMSO was used as a control (10 mL).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of the intermediate and final compounds was performed according to the reactions outlined in **Scheme-I**. Initially, 4-(1H-benzo[d]imidazole-2-yl)aniline was synthesized by the reaction of benzene-1,2-diamine with 4-aminobenzoic



Scheme-I: Conventional and microwave synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted 4-thiazolidinone derivatives

acid. To a solution of 4-(1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-2-yl)aniline in ethanol containing a small amount of glacial acetic acid, substituted benzaldehyde were added and refluxed to get the corresponding Schiff bases. The synthesized Schiff bases in DMF were reacted with thioglycolic acid to get the desired thiazolidinones (**29-37**, Fig. 2). Time required for the synthesis of compounds (**19-37**) and % yield between conventional and green chemistry (microwave irradiation) method (Table-2). The chemical structures of synthesized thiazolidinone molecules (**29-37**) were established by ¹H NMR and FT-IR spectral studies. The IR spectrum of 4-(1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-2-yl)aniline (**19**) showed the characteristic IR band at 3557.37 cm⁻¹, which indicated the presence of -N-H group and characteristic bands at 1618.65 and 3095.28 cm⁻¹ indicated the presence of NH₂ group and C-H (*str.*) in aromatic ring, respectively. Schiff bases (**20-28**) showed the characteristic bands at 1633.67, 1628.78, 1683.38, 1682.71, 1681.71, 1681.35, 1662.39, 1584.38 and 1684.38 cm⁻¹ for the presence of C=N (imine) in the compounds **20**, **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, **25**, **26**, **27** and **28**, respectively. Aromatic C=C *str.* has been observed in these compounds in the range from 1594.62 to 1428.32 cm⁻¹. 3-(4-(1*H*-Benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)thiazolidin-4-one (**20**) and 4-((4-(1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)phenylimino)methyl)-phenol (**21**) showed the presence O-H peak at 3610.35 and 3642.29 cm⁻¹, respectively. The existence of Ar-NO₂ functional group in compounds **24** and **25** was displayed by the existence of

TABLE-2
COMPARISONS OF TIME REQUIRED FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF COMPOUNDS (**19-37**) AND % YIELD BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND GREEN CHEMISTRY (MICROWAVE IRRADIATION) METHOD

| Compd. code | Microwave irradiation method | | | Conventional method | |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Time (min) | Power (W) | Yield (%) | Time (h) | Yield (%) |
| 19 | 4.7 | 100 | 87 | 6 | 65 |
| 20 | 3.0 | 125 | 83 | 9 | 57 |
| 21 | 3.2 | 100 | 89 | 13 | 62 |
| 22 | 2.36 | 100 | 76 | 16 | 52 |
| 23 | 3.7 | 100 | 82 | 13 | 54 |
| 24 | 2.0 | 100 | 86 | 17 | 69 |
| 25 | 3.0 | 100 | 82 | 14 | 56 |
| 26 | 3.1 | 150 | 88 | 9 | 69 |
| 27 | 3.2 | 150 | 78 | 21 | 42 |
| 28 | 4.2 | 100 | 89 | 17 | 48 |
| 29 | 2 | 125 | 87 | 18 | 62 |
| 30 | 3.2 | 100 | 84 | 16 | 56 |
| 31 | 2.8 | 100 | 93 | 12 | 53 |
| 32 | 2.3 | 100 | 82 | 19 | 68 |
| 33 | 2.2 | 125 | 87 | 12 | 61 |
| 34 | 2.6 | 125 | 92 | 10 | 57 |
| 35 | 2.9 | 100 | 89 | 8 | 64 |
| 36 | 7.0 | 100 | 83 | 24 | 59 |
| 37 | 3.6 | 100 | 84 | 22 | 68 |

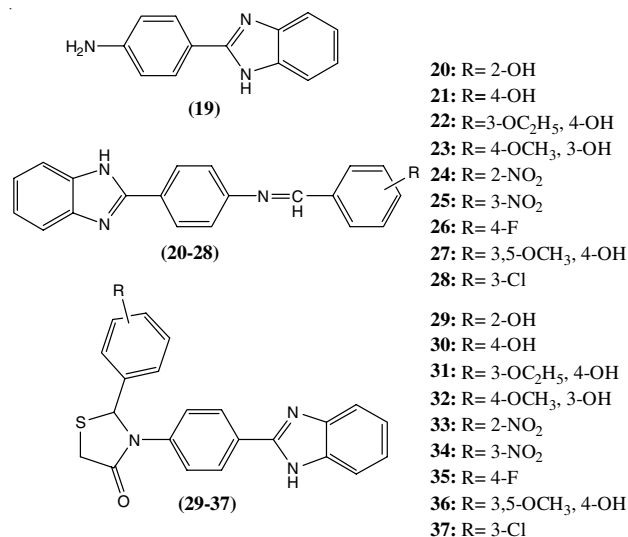


Fig. 2. Synthesized intermediates (19-28) and thiazolidinone analogs (29-37)

symmetric Ar-NO₂ stretches in the scale of 1434.36-1494.31 cm⁻¹. The IR *str.* vibrations at 1217.21 and 672.38 cm⁻¹ in the spectral data of Schiff bases (26 and 28) displayed the presence of halogen group (Ar-F and Ar-Cl) on the aromatic nucleus substituted at the *para* and *meta*-position. The impression of IR vibration at 3412.72-3218.20 and 1797.31-1678.39 cm⁻¹ in the spectral data of synthesized thiazolidinone derivatives (29-37) specified the existence of aromatic (N-H) *str.* and ketone C=O *str.*, respectively. The appearance of IR stretching 1688.35-1607.54 cm⁻¹ in the spectral data of synthesized thiazolidinone derivatives (29-37) specified the existence of N=CH group. The ¹H NMR spectrum of compounds 29-37 showed the signals in between δ 3.820-3.994 ppm confirming the presence of two CH₂ proton present in thiazolidinone ring system. Compound 32 showed singlet at δ 3.839 ppm due to existence of -OCH₃ at the *para*-position.

Antimicrobial activity: Compounds 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, and 35 exhibited relatively significant activity against *E. coli* and *S. aureus*. Other compounds showed the moderate activity. In antifungal activities, compounds 26 and 35 displayed highest

activity against *A. niger*, compound 32 against *A. clavatus* while compounds 25, 26, 34 and 35 against *C. albicans*. Compounds 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36 compounds have shown moderate activity. Remaining compounds in antimicrobial screening exhibited weak activity. Most of the compounds containing -NO₂, -F, -Cl and -OCH₃ substitution in thiazolidinone moiety exhibited more activity than the other compounds of the series. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of the synthesized compounds are shown in Tables 3 and 4.

Structure activity relationships (SAR): From the structure activity relationship (SAR) of synthesized compounds (Fig. 3), it can be summarized that (i) compounds with halogen atom on cyclic moiety of ring (B) showed better antimicrobial activity in the increasing order of the size of halogen atoms (35 < 37); (ii) 4-hydroxy and 3,5-dimethoxy (36) substitution in ring B with cyclic moiety significantly decreases the activity; (iii) *p*-substitution with ethoxy group has been found to be more active than *ortho*-substitution when the comparison of same substitution at different position on ring B was established; (iv) presence of *para*-methoxy group at cyclic moiety on ring (B) showed better activity as compared to hydroxy being present at *ortho*-position (30 < 32); and (v) chloro-substituted cyclic moiety at ring B shows potent antimicrobial activity.

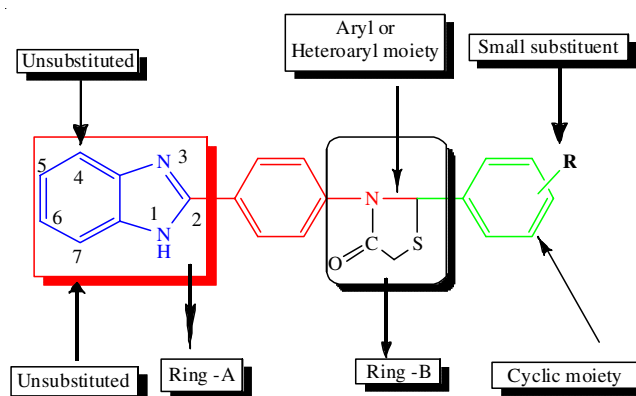


Fig. 3. Structural requirements of benzimidazole and 4-thiazolidinone nucleus with respect to antimicrobial activity

TABLE-3
BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY DATA OF COMPOUNDS 19 AND 20-28 (SCHIIF BASES)

| Compd. code | Minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (µg/mL) | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Tested bacteria | | | | Tested fungi | | |
| | Gram-negative | | Gram-positive | | <i>C. albicans</i> | <i>A. niger</i> | <i>A. clavatus</i> |
| <i>E. coli</i> | <i>P. aeruginosa</i> | <i>S. aureus</i> | <i>S. pyogenes</i> | | | | |
| 19 | 125 | 150 | 150 | 125 | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| 20 | 150 | 125 | 125 | 200 | 250 | 150 | 225 |
| 21 | 150 | 100 | 125 | 100 | 100 | 150 | 150 |
| 22 | 150 | 100 | 100 | 125 | 150 | 250 | 250 |
| 23 | 125 | 100 | 100 | 125 | 150 | 250 | 68.5 |
| 24 | 72.5 | 100 | 75.5 | 100 | 95.5 | 100 | 75.5 |
| 25 | 75.5 | 76.5 | 78.5 | 100 | 125 | 80.5 | 100 |
| 26 | 78.5 | 82.5 | 80.5 | 85.5 | 80.5 | 68.5 | 100 |
| 27 | 125 | 150 | 250 | 150 | 125 | 225 | 125 |
| 28 | 100 | 100 | 125 | 225 | 150 | 250 | 250 |
| Ampicillin | 100 | 100 | 250 | 100 | – | – | – |
| Griseofulvin | – | – | – | – | 500 | 100 | 100 |
| DMSO (control) | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |

TABLE-4
BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY DATA OF SYNTHESIZED 4-THIAZOLIDINONE DERIVATIVES (29-37)

| Compd. code | Minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (µg/mL) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Tested bacteria | | | | Tested fungi | | |
| | Gram-negative | | Gram-positive | | <i>C. albicans</i> | <i>A. niger</i> | <i>A. clavatus</i> |
| | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>P. aeruginosa</i> | <i>S. aureus</i> | <i>S. pyogenes</i> | | | |
| 29 | 100 | 200 | 150 | 150 | 500 | 250 | 250 |
| 30 | 150 | 100 | 125 | 100 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| 31 | 150 | 100 | 125 | 125 | 150 | 250 | 125 |
| 32 | 125 | 100 | 125 | 150 | 125 | 250 | 61.5 |
| 33 | 60.5 | 63.5 | 62.5 | 100 | 76.5 | 100 | 70.5 |
| 34 | 65.5 | 68.5 | 64.5 | 87.5 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 35 | 68.5 | 72.6 | 70.0 | 75.5 | 200 | 65.5 | 125 |
| 36 | 125 | 250 | 250 | 150 | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| 37 | 100 | 125 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 250 |
| Ampicillin (10 µg/mL) | 100 | 100 | 250 | 100 | – | – | – |
| Griseofulvin | – | – | – | – | 500 | 100 | 100 |
| DMSO (control) | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |

Conclusion

Novel Schiff bases of 4-thiazolidinones and benzimidazole were synthesized and screened for their antimicrobial and antifungal potential. From the results of the antimicrobial activity of the synthesized compounds, it was revealed that the compounds containing -Cl, -NO₂ group with thiazolidinone nucleus are more active than other compounds of the series. It also seems that the presence of -F, -NO₂, -OCH₃, -Cl group increases antibacterial potential. The order of activity with respect to electron withdrawing capacity of the substituents has been observed. It was concluded that the compounds with electron withdrawing substituents showed better antimicrobial activity against almost all the microorganisms under study. The order in this study can be given as: NO₂ > F > Cl > Br > OCH₃ < OH > CH₃ > OC₂H₅. The study also provides the opportunity to conduct new lead optimization studies and designing of new thiazolidinone derivatives with improved potency and better spectrum of activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow campus and Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, India for guidance, valuable technical support and encouragement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this article.

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