Research Article

Synthesis, Physiochemical Properties, Photochemical Probe, and Antimicrobial Effects of Novel Norfloxacin Analogues

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The emerging resistance to antimicrobial drugs demands the synthesis of new remedies for microbial infections. Attempts have been made to prepare new compounds by modifications in the quinolone structure. An important method for the synthesis of new quinolone is using Vilsmeier approach but has its own limitations. The present work aimed to synthesize novel norfloxacin analogues using modified Vilsmeier approach and conduct preliminary investigations for the evaluation of their physicochemical properties, photochemical probe, and antimicrobial effects. In an effort to synthesize norfloxacin analogues, only 7-bromo-6-N-benzyl piperazinyl-4-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid was isolated using Vilsmeier approach at high temperature, where N,N′-bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)-oxalamide and N,N′-bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-malonamide were obtained at low temperature. Correlation results showed that lipophilicity, molecular mass, and electronic factors might influence the activity. The synthesized compounds were evaluated for their antimicrobial effects against important pathogens, for their potential use in the inhibition of vitiligo.

1. Introduction

The structure activity relationship (SAR) for the quinolone skeleton 1-alkyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid studies revealed that the 6-halogen atom, especially the 6-fluorine, is responsible for the potency as represented by the binding capacity with DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV [1]. It is clear that chemical modifications at C-7 are suitable to control the pharmacokinetic properties and, hence, changes in the cell permeability of these antibiotics. N-piperazinyl derivatives of fluoroquinolones were introduced and demonstrated for various biological activities that possess broad-spectrum activity [2–6]. Furthermore, it is clear that the neutral species of fluoroquinolones are more lipophilic than the Zwitterionic form. Therefore, factors that can affect N-protonation like steric and electronic effect or charge density can also affect lipophilicity [7–9].

Procopiou et al. [10] prepared a series of asymmetrical 1,4-disubstituted piperazines as a novel class of non-brain-penetrant histamine H3 receptor antagonists. In addition, Foroumadi et al. [11] synthesized a modified norfloxacin via heteroarylation of norfloxacin on N-piperazinyl position (Scheme 1). The antibacterial activity of these modified norfloxacin depends not only on the bicyclic heteroaromatic pharmacophore but also on the nature of the peripheral substitutions and their spatial relationship, such as solubility, thermal stability, hydrolysis, and a possibility to form a Zwitter ion. Meth-Cohn and Taylor [12] reported an important method for the synthesis of quinolones using reverse Vilsmeier approach but has its own limitations, like uncompleted cyclisation to the target quinolone.

In the light of these observations, the aim of this work was to synthesize novel norfloxacin analogues using modified Vilsmeier approach and conduct preliminary investigations...
for the evaluation of their physicochemical properties, photochemical probe, and antimicrobial effects.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Equipment Used for the Characterization of the Produced Compounds. Electrothermal 9100 (fisher Scientific, US) was used to determine melting points or ranges. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Unicam Research Series 2000 FTIR. NMR spectra were recorded in DMSO or CDCl₃ on a Bruker AVANCE 300 at 300 MHz. Mass spectrometry was performed on an Esquire 3000 plus, or Bruker ApexII, for low and high resolution. Elemental analysis was performed on an Exeter Analytical CE-440; GCMS was performed on Shimadzu GC-17A and QP-5000 Mass Spectrometer.

2.2. Materials Used for Microbiological Assay. Nutrient Agar, MacConkey Agar, Sabouraud Dextrose Agar, and dimethylformamide (DMF) were obtained from Sigma; Nalidixic acid (30 μg/disk, Bioanalize, Egypt) and Nystain (manufactured by Pasteur Lab., Egypt, NS 100 units (100 μg/disk) were used as reference antibiotics.

2.3. Synthesis of Norfloxacin Anallogues. We used a solid phase via Merrifield resin through reactions of substituted piperazine with 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene. In the synthetic sequence, the Merrifield resin (1) was first suspended in dry DMF, and to this suspension was added an excess of piperazine (2-3 equivalents) in pyridine or anhydrous K₂CO₃ (6-8 equivalents). The reaction mixture was continued at 40°C for 24 hours then piperazine resin (2) was obtained, filtered, washed with CH₂Cl₂, and dried. Compound 2 was resuspended in DMF and reacted with 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (3) to give the 4-piperazine resin-supported-3-bromo-1-nitrobenzene (4) (not the expected 3-piperazine resin-supported-4-fluoro-1-nitrobenzene), (Scheme 2), which on reduction with SnCl₂- EtOH yielded the 3-bromo-4-(4′-resin-supported benzyl piperazinyl)-1-aniline (5) and then by treatment with an excess of formic acid at room temperature for 12 hours produced the corresponded 3-bromo-4-(4′-resin-supported benzyl piperazinyl)-1-formanilid (6). The dry resin-supported formanilide 6, when reacted with Phosphorus oxychloride or Oxalyl chloride and methyl malonyl chloride (7) under reverse Vilsmeier conditions, mainly gave the resin-supported quinolone, 6-fluoro-7-piperazino-4-oxo-3-quinolone carboxylic acid, (8) (Scheme 3). The procedure, in general, yielded a mixture of by-products in low quantities, and TLC and GCMS were used for the assessment of the recovered cleavage products.

2.4. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (3). Equimolar mixture of nitric acid and sulphuric acid (1:1, 25 mL: 25 mL) was stirred at ∼5°C. A solution of 2-fluorobromobenzene (25 g, 0.143 mol) in methanol (30 mL) was added to the mixture with gradual stirring over a period of 20-30 minutes. After complete addition, the temperature was raised gradually to 70°C for 1 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (20 mL), and
the immediate cream solid precipitate was collected by filtration. Crystallization with CHCl₃ gave a cream shiny crystals (29.23 g, 93% yield), mp 60–62°C (lit. [13] mp 58–59°C); νmax/cm⁻¹ 1535 and 1342 (NO₂); δ(300 MHz; CDCl₃) 7.29 (1H, t, J = 6.0 Hz, H-5), 8.24 (1H, m, H-6), 8.50 (1H, dd, J = 2.0 and 4.3 Hz, H-2); δC (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 110.1 (d, J = 115 Hz, C-4); 137.8 (C-3), 121.1 (C-5), 124.7 (C-6), 127.5 (C-2), 129.6 (C-2), 144.4 (C-4); 156.6 (C-4); 162.9 (C-1), 143.4 (C-4); νmax/cm⁻¹ 3150 (NH₂); δ(300 MHz; CDCl₃) 2.68 (4H, s, CH₂-3′ and 5′); 3.06 (4H, d, J = 2.7 Hz, H-6), 3.07 (2H, s, CH₂-2′ and 6′), 3.62 (2H, s, Ph-CH₂), 7.34 (6H, m, H-2′ and H-6′), 7.48 (1H, d, J = 1.2 Hz, H-2), 8.34 (1H, s, CHO), 8.58 (1H, s, NH); δC (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 31.7 (C-3′ and 5′), 32.8 (C-2′ and C-6′), 62.4 (CH₂-Ph), 116.9 (C-3′), 121.1 (C-5′), 124.7 (C-6′), 127.5 (C-2′), 129.5 (Ph), 142.3 (C-1), 156.6 (C-4); m/z (M+373/375).

2.5. Preparation of 4-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-bromo-1-nitrobenzene (9). Under dry conditions, 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (3) (5.1 g, 23 mmol) was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2 mL), then anhydrous K₂CO₃ (9.6 g, 69.2 mmol) was added followed by addition of N-benzylpiperazine (8 g, 46 mmol) to the suspension mixture using a syringe; the temperature gradually raised to 90°C for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into ice water (10 mL), then NaHCO₃ solution (10% w/v, 20 mL) was added gradually until no more effervescence (formation of neutral to slightly basic solution) was observed and the solution extracted with CHCl₃ (3 × 20 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with NaHCO₃ solution (10%, 20 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo until complete dryness to give 11 as a brown solid which was purified by column chromatography on silica, eluted with CHCl₃ to give a white solid (2.94 g, 54%), mp 73-74°C; [C₁₇H₂₀BrN₃O] Calc. C, 57.76; H, 5.39; N, 11.23. Found: C, 57.79; H, 5.41; N, 11.23; νmax/cm⁻¹ 3320 (br, NH), 1716 (NCHO); δ(300 MHz; CDCl₃) 2.68 (4H, br s, CH₂-3′ and 5′), 3.06 (4H, br s, CH₂-2′ and 6′), 3.62 (2H, s, Ph-CH₂), 7.34 (6H, m, H-2′ and H-6′), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 1.2 and 4.2 Hz, H-2), 7.81 (1H, d, J = 1.2 Hz, H-2), 8.34 (1H, s, CHO), 8.58 (1H, s, NH); δC (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 51.7 (C-3′ and 5′), 53.2 (C-2′ and C-6′), 63.2 (Ph-CH₂), 119.3 (C-3′), 120.1 (C-5′), 121.0 (C-6′), 125.5 (C-2′), 129.4 (C-Ph), 132.5 and 132.8 (C-1′), 147.7 and 148.5 (C-4′), 158.9 and 162.5 (N-CHO).

2.6. Preparation of 4-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-bromo-4-phenylamine (10) [14]. A pale yellow oil (2.7 g, 60% yield); 2.7. Preparation of 4-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-bromoformaldimide (11). Fornic acid (5 mL, 0.13 mol) was added to 4-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-bromo-4-phenylamine (12) (5 g, 14.4 mmol), and the resulting clear solution was refluxed for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into ice water (10 mL), then NaHCO₃ solution (10% w/v, 20 mL) was added gradually until no more effervescence (formation of neutral to slightly basic solution) was observed and the solution extracted with CHCl₃ (3 × 20 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with NaHCO₃ solution (10%, 20 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo until complete dryness to give 11 as a brown solid which was purified by column chromatography on silica, eluted with CHCl₃ to give a white solid (2.94 g, 54%), mp 73-74°C; [C₁₇H₂₀BrN₃O] Calc. C, 57.76; H, 5.39; N, 11.23. Found: C, 57.79; H, 5.41; N, 11.23; νmax/cm⁻¹ 3320 (br, NH), 1716 (NCHO); δ(300 MHz; CDCl₃) 2.68 (4H, br s, CH₂-3′ and 5′), 3.06 (4H, br s, CH₂-2′ and 6′), 3.62 (2H, s, Ph-CH₂), 7.34 (6H, m, H-2′ and H-6′), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 1.2 and 4.2 Hz, H-2), 7.81 (1H, d, J = 1.2 Hz, H-2), 8.34 (1H, s, CHO), 8.58 (1H, s, NH); δC (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 51.7 (C-3′ and 5′), 53.2 (C-2′ and C-6′), 63.2 (Ph-CH₂), 119.3 (C-3′), 120.1 (C-5′), 121.0 (C-6′), 125.5 (C-2′), 129.4 (C-Ph), 132.5 and 132.8 (C-1′), 147.7 and 148.5 (C-4′), 158.9 and 162.5 (N-CHO).
dry atmosphere, a solution of 4-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1′-yl)-3-bromoformamide (11) (1 g, 2.7 mmol) in POCl₃ (5 mL) was stirred for 15 minutes at 25°C. A solution of methyl malonyl chloride (1.12 g, 8.5 mmol) in POCl₃ (2 mL) was gradually added to the reaction mixture through a syringe. After addition was complete, the oil bath temperature was gradually raised to 130–140°C, and the reaction was continued for 12 h. The excess POCl₃ was removed in vacuo, and the cooled black residue was dissolved in diethyl ether (20 mL), poured into ice (50 mL), and vigorously stirred for 2 h. The resulting mixture was made basic by the addition of aq. NaOH solution (30%, 10 mL), refluxed for 2 h, and cooled for 12 h in fridge (≤5°C). Column chromatography on the resulting black gum (CHCl₃: MeOH, 90:10) gave 6-(4′-benzylpiperazin-1′-yl)-7-bromo-4-oxo-1,4-di-hydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (12). It was recrystallized from EtOH to produce a yellow solid as (0.1 g, 5% yield); mp 285-286°C; 1H NMR spectrum gave a complicated and noncharacterizable spectrum.

2.9. Solid-Phase Synthesis with 4-fluoro-3-bromo-1-nitrobenzene

2.9.1. Loading the Piperazine to Merrifield Resin

General Resin Preparation. The Merrifield resin (1) (5 g) was a suspension in dry DMF (20 mL) for 6–12 h. The resin had a gel-like appearance double its original volume.

To the resin suspension, a molar excess of free piperazine (5 g), pyridine (2 mL), or K₂CO₃ (3 g), stirred at 80°C for 24 h. Cold resin was then filtered and washed with water (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 20 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL), then dried in vacuo for a minimum of 24 h or until a constant weight was achieved (5.6 g); ν max /cm⁻¹ 3441 (NH); (Found: C, 85.1; H, 10.4; N, 2.9%).

2.9.2. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(Resin-Supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene (4). 3-Bromo-4-fluoro-1-nitrobenzene (3) (2 g) was stirred in dry DMF (10 mL), and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (3 g) was added to the suspended piperazine-Merrifield resin (2) (3 g), and the reaction was continued at 50°C for 24 h. The cold resin was filtered, then washed with water (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (4 × 10 mL), and finally with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL). The solid was dried under vacuo for 24 h or until constant weight (4.6 g); ν max /cm⁻¹ 1509 and 1339 (NO₂).

2.9.3. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(4′-Resin-Supported benzylpiperazine)-1-aniline (5). 3-Bromo-4-(4′-resin-supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene (4) (2 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h. An excess of stannous chloride (5 g) and EtOH (5 mL) was added to the resin. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 50°C for 8 h. At this time, the resin color changed from yellow to pale yellow. The cold resin was filtered and washed with water (4 × 20 mL). The resin was stirred in a solution of NaHCO₃ (20% w/v, 20 mL), filtered, washed several times with water (2 × 20 mL), NaHCO₃ solution (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 20 mL), and finally with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL), and dried to give a yellow resin (1.8 g); ν max /cm⁻¹ 3360 (NH₂).

2.9.4. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(4′-Resin-Supported benzylpiperazine)-1-formamide (6). The resin-supported amine (5) (1 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h before the addition of formic acid (5 mL). The reaction suspension was stirred and heated at 50°C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was filtered and washed with water (4 × 10 mL) to remove the excess of formic acid. The resin was washed with NaHCO₃ solution (30% w/v, 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 10 mL), and finally with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL) to give derivatized resin 6 (1.2 g); ν max /cm⁻¹ 3362 cm⁻¹ (NH), 1721 cm⁻¹ (C=O).

2.9.5. Preparation of Resin-Supported 7-bromo-6-piperazino-4-oxo-3-quinolone Carboxylic Acid (7). 3-Bromo-4-(4′-resin-supported benzylpiperazine)-1-formamide (6) (1 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h. Phosphorus oxychloride (POCl₃, 5 mL) was added to the suspended resin, and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 25°C. A solution of methyl malonyl chloride (1.32 g, 9.6 mmol) in POCl₃ (2 mL) was gradually added to the reaction mixture. When the addition was completed, the temperature was gradually raised to 100°C for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was added gradually and carefully to ice (20 mL) then stirred for a further 20 minutes. The solution was basified using NaOH (10% w/v, 5 mL) and refluxed for a further 30 minutes. The resin was filtered and washed with water (2 × 10 mL), MeOH (2 × 10 mL), and finally with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL) and dried in vacuo to constant weight (1.2 g); ν max /cm⁻¹ 1719 cm⁻¹ (C=O).

2.10. Cleavage from the Resin

2.10.1. Using the Hydrogenator

General Method. Resin-supported compound 4–7 (0.3 g) was placed in a hydrogenator vessel and suspended in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). Pd/C (0.05 g) was added to the resin suspension and the hydrogenation system was securely sealed. The reaction was carried out under 2 atm of hydrogen for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the resin was washed several times with MeOH (4 × 5 mL); the resulting filtrates combined and the solvent was removed in vacuo to give a black residue (0.05 g). TLC showed a mixture of several spots, while the ¹H NMR spectrum gave a complicated and noncharacterizable spectrum.

2.10.2. Cleavage by Catalytic Transfer

Hydrogenation (Hydrogenolysis)

General Method. The resin-supported compound 4–7 (0.3 g) was suspended in dry MeOH (10 mL). Cyclohexene (5 mL)
and 20% Pd(OH)$_2$ on carbon (1:3 catalyst substrate by weight) was added. The suspended mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at reflux for 12–48 h; extra cyclohexene (10 mL) was added in two portions during this reaction time, and the reaction was monitored by TLC (CHCl$_3$ : MeOH, 90: 10). The reaction mixture was filtered through celite and washed with MeOH (3 × 10 mL). The combined filtrates were collected, dried over MgSO$_4$, and concentrated to give a residue for characterization. None of the compounds 4–7 gave an acceptable cleavage product.

2.10.3. Cleavage by Formation of a Solid-Supported Tertiary Amine Using Alkyl Halide

**General Method.** The compound on resin support 4–7 (0.5 g) was swollen in a mixture of DMF (5 mL), and an excess of MeI or EtI (3–4 mL) was added; the mixture was refluxed with slow stirring for 60 h. The resin was cross-linked with slow stirring for 60 h. The resin was filtered through celite and washed with MeOH (3 × 10 mL). The combined filtrates were collected, dried over MgSO$_4$, and concentrated to give a residue for characterization. None of the compounds 4–7 gave an acceptable cleavage product.

2.10.4. Cleavage by Formation of a Solid-Supported Tertiary Amine Using α-Chloroethyl Chloroformate (ACE-Cl)

**General Method.** Compounds on the resin support (0.5 g) were first suspended in 1,2-dichloropropane (5 mL), followed by the addition of an excess of α-chloroethyl chloroformate (10 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 48 h. The resin was filtered through celite, and the filtrate was then concentrated in $\text{vacuo}$ until dryness. The residue dissolved in methanol and refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was removed to yield the secondary amines as their HCl salts.

3-Bromo-4-(’-resin-supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene (4) (0.5 g) was swollen in 1,2-dichloropropane (5 mL) for 12 h, and ACE-Cl (10 mL) was then added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 48 h and then treated as for the general method. The resulting black residue (0.3 g) was refluxed in ethanol for 48 h and then treated as for the general method. The resulting black residue (0.3 g) was refluxed in ethanol for 48 h and then treated as for the general method. The resulting black residue (0.3 g) was refluxed in ethanol for 48 h and then treated as for the general method.

2.11. Preparation of N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine (13) [15]

The N,N-bis-(2-chloroethyl)ammonium chloride is very toxic and must be handled with care only in fuming hood. A mixture of 2-fluoro-5-nitroaniline (1 g, 6.4 mmol) and N,N-bis-(2-chloroethyl)ammonium chloride (1.3 g, 7.0 mmol) in diethylene glycol monomethyl ether (1 mL) was heated under dry nitrogen at 150°C for 24 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC (ethyl acetate : CHCl$_3$, 80: 20), product $R_f$ = 0.42, the dark solid of N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine 13 (0.87 g, 60%); mp 216–217°C; $\nu_{\text{max/cm}}^{-1}$ 3386 (NH), 1522 and 1346 (NO$_2$); $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) [16] 3.26 (4H, m, CH$_2$-3’ and CH$_2$-5’), 3.40 (4H, m, CH$_2$-2’ and CH$_2$-6’), 7.49 (1H, dd, J = 9.0 Hz and 12 Hz, H-3), 7.85 (1H, dd, J = 3 and 9 Hz, H-6), 7.94 (1H, m, H-4), 9.59 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 43.0 (C-3’ and C-5’), 47.0 (C-2’ and C-6’), 115.2 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, C-6), 117.8 (d, J = 24 Hz, C-3), 119.2 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, C-4), 139.9 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, C-1), 144.9 (C-5), 158.8 (d, J = 257 Hz, C-2).

2.12. Solid Phase Reaction Using p-nitrophenyl Carbonate Wang Resin 14

2.12.1. Reactions of N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine with p-nitrophenyl Carbonate Wang Resin (14).

**p-Nitrophenyl carbonate Wang resin** 14 (1 g, loading: 0.60–1.20 mmol/g resin) was first suspended in dry DMF (5 mL) for 5 h, and N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine 13 (1.6 g, 7.1 mmol), and dry pyridine (2 mL) were then added to resin. The resulting suspension was then stirred and heated to 35°C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the resin was filtered and washed with water (2 × 10 mL), methanol (3 × 10 mL) and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (3 × 10 mL). The resin was dried under $\text{vacuo}$ to give a brown resin (2.3 g). The residual product was verified by the complete disappearance of the characteristic carbonate resin band at 1760 cm$^{-1}$; $\nu_{\text{max/cm}}^{-1}$ 1555 and 1316 (NO$_2$), 1672 (OC=O).

2.12.2. Resin Cleavage [17].

The nitrocarbonate resin 15 (0.2 g) was suspended in trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL), dichloromethane (2 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The cleavage reaction was monitored by TLC [(CH$_2$Cl$_2$: MeOH, 80: 20) on the solution, product $R_f$ = 0.42]. The resin was filtered and washed with CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (4 × 20 mL), and the filtrate was collected and then extracted with NaHCO$_3$ (10%, 4 × 20 mL). The CH$_2$Cl$_2$ layers were collected, washed with brine (2 × 20 mL), and dried over MgSO$_4$. The solvent was removed under $\text{vacuo}$ to give a yellow crystal of 13 (0.1 g).

2.12.3. Reduction of N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine-carbonate Wang Resin (15).

N-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl)piperazine-carbonate Wang resin 15 (0.3 g) was suspended in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) and Et$_3$N (2 mL). Anhydrous stannous chloride (1 g) and absolute ethanol (5 mL) were then added to the resin, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h (the color changed from deep yellow to light grey). The resin was filtered washed with methanol (20 mL), water (3 × 20 mL), methanol (3 × 10 mL), and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (3 × 10 mL). The resin was dried to give the resin supported amine (0.34 g); $\nu_{\text{max/cm}}^{-1}$ 3401 and 3385 (NH$_2$), 1672 (OC=O).

2.12.4. Reaction of N-(2-fluoro-5-aminophenyl) piperazine-carbonate Wang Resin 16 with Ethyl Formate.

N-(2-Fluoroaniline) piperazine-carbonate Wang resin (0.3 g) was...
suspended in dry DMF (5 mL) (the resin doubled in volume), under a positive flow of dry nitrogen, and ethyl formate was added (5 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 30°C for 24 h and, after cooling to room temperature, the resin was filtered off. TLC of the filtrate showed a spot at RF = 0.32 ([CHCl₃ : MeOH, 96:4]). The resin was washed with water (3 × 10 mL), methanol (3 × 10 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL) to give, after drying, the corresponding formamide resin 16 (0.21 g); νmax/cm⁻¹ 3406 (NH) and 1685 (N=C=O), 1662 (O=C=O).

2.13. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-flouro-5-nitrobenzene (19). N-(2-Fluoro-5-nitrophenyl)piperazine (13) (3 g, 13.3 mmoL) was dissolved in CHCl₃ (20 mL), K₂CO₃ (5.5 g, 40 mmoL) and H₂O (20 mL) were added to the above solution, under a positive flow of dry nitrogen, and ethyl formate was added (5 mL) to give a yellow shiny crystal of 19 (4 g, 92%); mp 108–109°C; (Calc. for C₁₆H₁₄F₂N₂O₂: C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8; Found: C, 66.1; H, 5.5; N, 12.7) (piperazine-C), 111.1 (C-6), 113.7 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, C-4), 116.5 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, C-3), 128.9 (Ph), 136.3 (C-5), 140.0 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, C-1), 153.1 (d, J = 240 Hz, C-2), 159.9 (CHO), 169.6 (C=O).

2.14. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoro-aniline (20) [14]. 1-(Benzyllipiperazinyl)-2-fluoroaniline (20) (2.14 g, 78%); mp 89-90°C; (Calc. for C₁₇H₁₉F₂N₂O₂: C, 66.8; H, 6.1; N, 14.0). Found: C, 66.8; H, 6.05; N, 14.0); νmax/cm⁻¹ 3450 and 3550 (NH), 1724 (CO-N); δCH (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 2.94 (4H, s, CH₂-2'), 3.49 (2H, s, CH₂-3'), 3.71 (2H, s, CH₂-5'), 7.46 (6H, m, Ph + H-3), 7.81 (1H, dd, J = 3 and 7.5 Hz, H-6), 7.72 (1H, m, H-4); δC (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 41.3 (C-3'), 49.6 (C-2' and C-6'), 115.2 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, C-6), 117.7 (d, J = 23.0 Hz, C-3), 118.8 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, C-4), 128.9 (Ph), 135.9 (C-8), 140.7 (d, J = 10 Hz, C-1), 144.9 (C-5), 158.9 (d, J = 254 Hz, C-2), 169.6 (C=O).

2.15. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoro-formanilide (21). Formic acid (5 mL) was added to 1-(benzoylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-fluoroaniline (20) (1 g, 3.34 mmoL); the resulting solution was heated at 70°C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was added to cooled water (100 mL), extracted with CHCl₃ (4 × 20 mL) and brine (30 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. The resulting white solid was purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃ : MeOH, 97:3) to give white crystals of 21 (0.62 g, 56%); mp 189–191°C; (Calc. for C₁₈H₁₈F₂N₃O₂: C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8). Found: C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8); νmax/cm⁻¹ 3080 (NH) 1684 (NH-CHO), 1620 (CO-Ph); δH (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.02 (4H, s, H-2', H-6'), 3.55 (2H, s, H-3'), 3.74 (2H, s, H-5'), 7.11 (1H, dd, J = 8.7 and 1.20 Hz, H-3), 7.19 (1H, ddd, J = 8.7, 2.7 and 1.5 Hz, H-4), 7.35 (1H, dd, J = 2.7 and J = 5.4 Hz, H-6), 7.46 (5H, m, Co-Ph), 8.25 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, CHO), 10.12 (1H, br s, NH); δC (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 50.2 and 50.22 (piperazine-C), 111.1 (C-6), 113.7 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, C-4), 116.5 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, C-3), 128.9 (Ph), 136.3 (C-5), 140.0 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, C-1), 153.1 (d, J = 240 Hz, C-2), 159.9 (CHO), 169.6 (C=O).

2.16. Vilsmeier Reaction of 3-nitro-4-fluoroformanilide. Preparation of N,N'-Bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)oxalamide (23). Under anhydrous conditions, 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide (2 g, 10.86 mmoL) was dissolved in dry CHCl₃ (20 mL), then (COCl₂) (2 mL) was added gradually over 30 minutes, (a vigorous reaction was observed). The resulting reaction mixture was heated to 40°C for 30 minutes. The reaction flask was removed from the oil bath; methyl malonate chloride (1.78 g, 13.03 mmoL) in CHCl₃ (2 mL) was added gradually to the Vilsmeier reagent over 30 min. The reaction was continued at 40°C for 3 h until the TLC of the reaction showed a complete consumption of the starting formanilide, with the formation of a new product above the starting compound, [[CHCl₃ : MeOH, 95:5] Rf = 0.56]. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, followed by the addition of cooled water (20 mL), and stirred for 30 minutes. The resulting yellow solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, and recrystallized from CHCl₃ to give yellow crystals of N,N'-Bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)oxalamide (23) (0.62 g, 16%); mp 109–111°C; (Calc. for C₁₄H₈F₂N₄O₆: C, 45.9; H, 2.2; N, 15.3. Found: C, 45.9; H, 2.2; N, 15.3; νmax/cm⁻¹ 3275 (NH), 1673 (NCO); 1H NMR δH (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 2.6 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5 and H-5'), 8.23 (2H, m, H-6 and H-6'), 8.80 (2H, dd, J = 0.8 and 1.5 Hz, H-2 and H-2'), 11.40 (2H, s, 2NHN); δC (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 120.1 (C-2 and C-2'), 121.7 (d, J = 22.5 Hz, C-5 and C-5'), 130.9 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, C-6 and C-6'), 137.2 (C-1 and C-1'), 139.1 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, C-3 and C-3'), 154.1 (d, J = 262.5 Hz, C-4 and C-4'), 161.2 (C=O).

2.17. Vilsmeier Reaction on 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide and Preparation of N,N'-Bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)malonamide (24). Under anhydrous conditions, 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide (2 g, 12.98 mmoL) was dissolved in CHCl₃ (20 mL). Oxalyl chloride (2 mL) was added gradually over 30 min. (vigorous reaction). The resulting reaction mixture was heated to 40°C for 30 minutes. Methyl malonate chloride (2.13 g, 15.57 mmoL) was added gradually to the cooled reaction mixture over 30 minutes. When addition was complete, the reaction was continued at 40°C for 3 h until TLC showed a complete consumption of the starting formanilide with formation of a new product above the starting compound [[CHCl₃ : MeOH, 97:3] Rf = 0.53]. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo; cold water (20 mL) was then added and the mixture stirred for 30 minutes. The resulting yellow solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, and purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃). The solid was recrystallized from...
### Table 1: The preliminary screening of antimicrobial activity of the new synthesized compounds.

| Compounds/DMF 50 μg/ml disk | Microorganisms/Inhibition zone (mm) | Gram +ve bacteria<sup>a</sup> | Gram – ve bacteria<sup>b</sup> | Fungi<sup>c</sup> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|                             |                                    | B.S.                         | S.A.                         | E.C.            | K.P.            |
|                             |                                    | 19                           | 20                           | 21              | 9               | 11              | 23              | 12              |
|                             |                                    | 9                            | 8                            | 8               | 10              | 10              | 10              | 6               |
|                             |                                    | 18                           | 16                           | 16              | 14              | 14              | 10              | 6               |
|                             |                                    | 16                           | 8                            | 8               | 7               | 11              | 9               | 6               |
|                             |                                    | 13                           | 11                           | 12              | 13              | 9               | 6               | 6               |
|                             |                                    | 15                           | 14                           | 15              | 13              | 10              | 10              | 10              |
|                             |                                    | 20                           | 19                           | 18              | 17              | 10              | 10              | 10              |
|                             |                                    | 6                            | 6                            | 6               | 10              | 10              | 32              | 6               |
|                             |                                    | 32                           | 30                           | 30              | 22              | 6               | 6               | 6               |

Ny: nystatin, manufactured by Pasteur Lab., Egypt. NS 100 units (100 μg/disk).
Na: nalidixic acid, 30 μg/disk, Bioanalize, Egypt.

<sup>a</sup>Bacillus Subtilis (B.S.) and Staphylococcus Aureus (S.A.);
<sup>b</sup>Escherichia Coli (E.C.) and Klebsiella Pneumonia (K.P.);
<sup>c</sup>Candida Albicans (C.A.) and Aspergillus Fumigates (A.F.).

### Table 2: MIC of the active biological compounds towards bacteria.

| Compd. No. | Inhibition Zones (μg /mm) |
|------------|---------------------------|
|            | B.S.         | S.A.         | E.C.         | K.P.         |
|            | 50   | 40   | 30   | 50   | 40   | 30   | 50   | 40   | 30   |
| 20          | 18   | 12   | 6    | 16   | 14   | 10   | 15   | 12   | 10   | 14   | 12   | 8    |
| 21          | 16   | 14   | 6    | 16   | 12   | 10   | 14   | 13   | 10   | 14   | 11   | 9    |
| 11          | 13   | 10   | 6    | 11   | 10   | 10   | 12   | 10   | 6    | 13   | 11   | 10   |
| 23          | 15   | 12   | 6    | 14   | 12   | 10   | 15   | 12   | 6    | 13   | 11   | 9    |
| 12          | 20   | 18   | 15   | 19   | 16   | 10   | 18   | 16   | 12   | 17   | 14   | 12   |

### Table 3: Preliminary screening using UV (λ366 nm) light, conc. 50 μg/disk.

| Compd. No. | Microorganisms (inhibition zones in mm) |
|------------|----------------------------------------|
|            | +ve bacteria                           | −ve bacteria               | Fungi                  |
|            | B.S.         | S.A.         | E.C.         | K.P.         | C.A.         | A.F.         |
| 20          | 18   | 16   | 15   | 14   | No change   | No change   |
| 21          | 18   | 17   | 16   | 18   | No change   | No change   |
| 11          | 14   | 14   | 12   | 14   | No change   | No change   |
| 23          | 17   | 16   | 17   | 16   | No change   | No change   |
| 12          | 24   | 21   | 21   | 21   | No change   | No change   |

### Table 4: Various physicochemical properties of highly bioactive compounds.

| Compd. No. | MIC at 30 μg/disc | Mol. Mass | Melting point | Solubility<sup>e</sup> in water (20°C), μg/L |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
|            | B.S.   | S.A.   | E.C.   | K.P.   | CHCl<sub>3</sub><sup>a</sup> | Cyclo-Hexane<sup>b</sup> |                               |
| 20          | 6     | 10     | 10     | 8      | 299   | 90          | 87                          | 200                          |
| 21          | 6     | 10     | 10     | 9      | 327   | 191         | 186                         | 300                          |
| 11          | 6     | 10     | 6      | 10     | 374   | 74          | 70                          | 90                           |
| 23          | 6     | 10     | 6      | 9      | 366   | 111         | 107                         | 350                          |
| 12          | 15    | 10     | 12     | 12     | 442   | 285         | —                           | 400                          |
| Ny          | 6     | 6      | 6      | 6      | —     | —           | —                           | —                            |
| Na          | 32    | 30     | 30     | 32     | —     | —           | —                           | —                            |

<sup>a</sup>Crystals cyclisation from CHCl<sub>3</sub><sup>b</sup>Crystals cyclisation from cyclohexane; <sup>c</sup>Hydrolysis characteristics at pH 5.7 and 9 and at 24°C. The tested compounds have a very low rate of hydrolysis, which is considered stable in suspension concentrations under normal condition.
Figure 1: FT-IR spectrum of 12 in (a) solid and (b) solution states for compound 12.

Figure 2: The interaction between compound 12 with CHCl₃.

Figure 3: TG and TGD for compound 12.

Figure 4: First stage

| Temperature (°C) | TG (mg) | TGD (mg/min) |
|------------------|---------|--------------|
| 0                | 0.5     | 0            |
| 1                | 1.5     | 0.5          |
| 2                | 2.5     | 1.5          |
| 3                | 3.5     | 2.5          |

2.18. Physicochemical Studies. The physicochemical studies include the lipophilicity, Fourier transforms infrared spectroscopy, and the thermal stability of highly bioactive compounds. The thermal behaviors for the bioactive compound 12 was investigated by thermogravimetric technique and indicated by the TGD peaks at 177 and 270 °C (Figures 3 and 4). The highly bioactive pure tested compounds were also determined like melting point, water solubility and pKa values.

2.19. Antimicrobial Assay. Some synthesized compounds, 19, 20, 21, 9, 11, 23, and 12, were evaluated for their antimicrobial effects by Agar diffusion disk method [18] using Nutrient Agar, MacConkey Agar, and Sabouraud Dextrose Agar. The potentialities of these compounds were estimated against some important and representative microbes like Gram + ve: Bacillus Subtilis (B.S.); Staphylococcus Aureus (S.A.), Gram –ve: Escherichia Coli (E.C.); Klebsiella Pneumonia (K.P.), and
Fungi: Candida Albicans (C.A.); Aspergillus Funigates (A.F.). The presterilized filter paper disks (6 mm diameter) were impregnated with 30, 40, and 50 μg of the compound and dissolved in DMF as solvent, which has no effect on either bacteria or fungi. These disks were implanted on different sets of agar plates containing the microbes. The agar plates were then incubated for 24 hours at 37° C for bacteria and for 7 days at 28° C for fungi. Nalidixic acid and nystain were used as reference antibiotics.

In addition, similar antimicrobial assay was performed for the biologically highly active compounds 20, 21, 11, 23, and 12 after exposure of the Petridishes containing microorganisms and the test compounds to UV light (λ366 nm) for 3 hours before the incubation.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Synthesis of Novel Norfloxacin Analogues. In the present study, novel norfloxacin analogues were synthesized using basically the Vilsmeier method with some modifications. The 7-bromo-6-N-benzyl piperazinyl-4-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (12) was isolated at high temperature (mention the temperature). On the other hand, bis-compounds N,N’-bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)-oxalamide and N,N’-bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-malonamide (22) and (23) were obtained under revere Vilsmeier approach using the modified method of commercially available Merrifield resin 14, which was modified by introduction of spacer with free hydroxyl group to enhance the activity of the substrates bound to the polymer. Besides the determination of their physicochemical properties, these compounds were evaluated for use in vitiligo and as antimicrobial agents.

Isolation of two novel N, N-bis-(aryl) compounds 23, 24 instead of norfloxacin analogue targets could be due to a type of interaction between oxalyl chloride with methyl malonyl chloride followed by monoacylation of anilidimide which hinders the formation of norfloxacin analogues via a second interaction with other anilidimide molecule (Scheme 4). Recently, nonfluorinated N, N-bis-aryl derivative was reported as an HIV-1 integrase inhibition [19].

3.2. Physiochemical Properties

3.2.1. Lipophilicity. The lipophilic and Zwitterionic form of the obtained compounds, as well as steric and electronic effects or charge density, plays an important role for chemical and biocidal activities. N-Mannich base functional group can increase the lipophilicity of the tested compounds, for example, 12 at physiobiological pH values by decreasing their protonation resulting in the enhancement of absorption through biomembranes. It is clear that the neutral species of haloquinolones are more lipophilic than Zwitter ionic form. In addition, steric and electronic effects or molecular charge density can affect lipophilicity (Scheme 5).

3.2.2. Fourier Transforms Infrared Spectroscopy. Generally, Fourier transforms infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) studies of the obtained compounds in both the solid and solution (CHCl₃) states showed lack of some characteristic bands in the solution state, for example, compound 12 (Figure 2). This effect may be due to a type of intramolecular and/ or intermolecular H-bonding between functional group of the tested compounds and a functional group in the solvent used, which possibly act similarly to the functional groups of the organisms leading to inhibition of their vital activities and death. The results of the Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy are given in Figure 1.
3.2.3. Other Physicochemical Properties of Highly Bioactive Compounds. The physicochemical properties of highly bioactive pure tested compounds are demonstrated as follows.

(a) Melting Points. They differ according to the type of solvent from which crystals are obtained, for example, compound 20 had approximately 87°C for pure crystallized from cyclohexane, and 90°C from chloroform.

(b) Solubility in Water. Pure compound 20, for example, gave approximately, 200 μg/L while compound 23 showed 350 μg/L at 20°C.

(c) Pka. Pure tested compounds at pH 5.7 and 9 at 24°C showed different types of protons, in quinolone the –COOH and NH, while in the formylamino derivative, –COOH, –CHO, and NH. This data indicated that tested compounds 20, 21, 11, 23, and 12 have a very low rate of hydrolysis because of its stability in suspension concentration under normal conditions Table 4.

3.3. Antimicrobial Assay. The potentialities of the tested compounds 19, 20, 21, 9, 11, 23, and 12 are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

3.4. Photochemical Probe Agents. Vitiligo is an acquired disorder characterized by patchy progressive depigmentation of the skin. It affects about 2% of world population. Vitiligo occurs equally in both sexes and has no age limits. It may be presented as a single path, which may be progressing or static for a long time and suddenly starts progressing or multiple patches, which are slowly progressing or stationary indefinitely. These depigmented molecules sometimes spontaneously pigment and depigment again and are often symmetrical and are called as vitiligo vulgarize. The etiology of nonsymmetrical Vitiligo, namely, segment vitiligo, is entirely different from symmetrical vitiligo. Often the exposed areas of the skin and areas around orifices of the body are depigmented rather than other areas [20]. The melanocytes successfully treated vitiligo patients by PUVA therapy [21]. Increasing use of PUVA-8MP could be responsible for a type of skin cancer [22]. Thus, some antibiotics like nalidixic acid and Nystatin are now used to control the vitiligo symptoms.

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