Microwave-Assisted Synthesis of some Novel Azoles and Azolopyrimidines as Antimicrobial Agents

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Abstract: In this study, new derivatives of pyrazole, isoxazole, pyrazolylthiazole, and azolopyrimidine having a thiophene ring were synthesized under microwave irradiation. Their pharmacological activity toward bacteria and fungi inhibition was screened and compared to the references Chloramphenicol and Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole. The antimicrobial results of the investigated compounds revealed promising results and some derivatives have activities similar to the references used.

Keywords: thiophenes; pyrazoles; thiazoles; antimicrobial activity; microwave irradiation

1. Introduction

Five-membered heterocyclic ring systems are very significant class of compounds, not only due to their abundance in nature, but also for their chemical and biological value. Thiophene derivatives have been fully-known for their therapeutic applications. They possess antihypertensive [1], antimicrobial [2], diabetes mellitus [3], antiviral [4], analgesic and anti-inflammatory [5], and antitumor activities [6,7]. Pyrazoles and thiazoles exist in many naturally occurring substances and representing an interesting array of azole compounds. They have a wide range of biological activities as for example, anti-inflammatory [8,9], antimicrobial [10–13], Akt kinase inhibitive [14], anticonvulsant [15], and antitumor activities [16]. On the other hand, microwave-assisted organic synthesis is a tool by which we can achieve goals in a few minutes with high yield as compared to conventional heating [17–21]. Motivated by these findings, and in continuation of our ongoing research program dealing with the synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic ring systems [22–26], we were encouraged to synthesize heterocyclic having thiophene incorporated pyrazole, thiazole, and/or pyrimidine derivatives under microwave irradiation to investigate their antimicrobial activity.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Synthesis

1,3-Di(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one 1 wascyclized with different types of nitrogen nucleophiles, namely, thiosemicarbazide, hydrazine derivatives 3a–c, and hydroxylamine hydrochloride which
afforded pyrazole derivatives 2, 4a–c and isoxazole derivative 5, respectively (Scheme 1). The previous reactions were carried out under conventional heating and under microwave irradiation as shown in Table 1. The heating under microwave was more efficient than thermal heating as it reduced the reaction time and increased the product yields in all cases.

It was reported that pyrazolylthiazole derivatives have a wide range of biological activities such as antimicrobial [27], anti-inflammatory [27], hypotensive [28], and antitumor activities [29]. So we became interested in synthesizing the pyrazolylthiazole derivatives from the reaction of 1-thiocarbamoyl-3,5-di-(2-thienyl)-2-pyrazoline 2 with hydrazonoyl chlorides. Thus, conventional heating or microwave irradiation of mixture of carbothioic acid amide derivative 2 and 2-oxo-N-arylp propanehydrazonoyl chloride 6a–e in dioxane in the existence of a base catalyst yielded in each case only one isolated product (Scheme 2). The spectroscopic information confirmed the reaction products 8a–e. For example, the mass spectra of the isolated products 8a–e displayed the expected molecular ion. Also, all derivatives 8a–e showed in their 1H-NMR spectra the characteristic signals for CH3, H-5, and CH2 (see experimental part). The structure of products 8 was further supported by an alternative synthesis. Thus, reaction of compound 1 with 2-hydrazinyl-4-methyl-5-(phenyl diazenyl)thiazole 9 under reflux in ethanol led to the formation of product 8a (Scheme 2).

Scheme 1. Synthesis of pyrazoline derivatives 2, 4a–c, and 5.

| Compound No. | Reaction Times | Reaction Yields (%) |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
|              | Conventional Methods | Microwave | Conventional Methods | Microwave |
| 2            | 2 h [30]         | 3 min            | 66 [30]             | 84        |
| 4a           | 4 h             | 5 min            | 70                  | 85        |
| 4b           | 5 h             | 8 min            | 73                  | 90        |
| 4c           | 5 h             | 10 min           | 69                  | 88        |
| 5            | 6 h             | 10 min           | 67                  | 82        |
| 8a           | 6 h             | 8 min            | 74                  | 95        |
| 8b           | 8 h             | 10 min           | 76                  | 90        |
| 8c           | 10 h            | 12 min           | 68                  | 92        |
| 8d           | 8 h             | 9 min            | 72                  | 93        |
| 8e           | 10 h            | 13 min           | 75                  | 90        |
| 11a          | 10 h            | 12 min           | 70                  | 89        |
| 11b          | 15 h            | 15 min           | 60                  | 81        |
| 13           | 10 h            | 15 min           | 67                  | 88        |
| 15           | 13 h            | 20 min           | 60                  | 85        |
2.2. Antimicrobial Activity

In vitro antimicrobial screening of compounds 2, 4a–c, 5, 8a–e, 11a, b, 13, and 15 prepared in the study was carried out using cultures of two fungal strains Aspergillus niger (ATCC) (ASP) and Candida albicans (ATCC10231) (CA), as well as three bacteria species, namely, Gram positive bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus (ATCC 29213) (SA), and Bacillus subtilus (ATCC 6051) (BS) and the Gram negative bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus (ATCC 29213) (SA), and Bacillus subtilus (ATCC 6051) (BS) and the Gram negative
bacteria is *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922) (EC). *Chloramphenicol* and *Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole* antibacterial agents were used as references to evaluate the potency of the examined compounds under the same conditions. The activity was investigated by measuring the diameter of inhibition zone (IZD) in mm ± standard deviation beyond well diameter (6 mm) generated on a range of environmental and clinically pathogenic microorganisms (gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria and fungi) utilizing (0.1 g/mL) concentration of tested samples and the outcomes are portrayed in Table 2. For the antifungal activity: All tested compounds were inactive against *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC) (ASP) while, compounds 4c, 8c, and 11b have excellent activity against *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231) (CA) with inhibition zones 23, 24, and 25 respectively. For the antibacterial activity: it was found that Gram positive bacteria are more sensitive to the tested compounds especially SA rather than BS as five compounds 2, 4c, 8b, 8d, and 15 have potent activity against SA while for BS only compounds 4a and 4c showed good activity. In the case of Gram negative activity with EC, two derivatives 2 and 8c revealed higher activity. The used solvent DMSO concentration did not exhibit any influence on bacteria or fungi.

Table 2. Antimicrobial activity of compounds 2, 4a–c, 5, 8a–e, 11a,b, 13, and 15 compared to reference drug.

| Compound Number | Fungi          | Gram Positive Bacteria | Gram Negative Bacteria |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                 |                | ASP | CA | SA | BS | EC |
| 2               | N.A.           | 21  | 19 | 23 |
| 4a              | N.A.           | 18  | 15 |
| 4b              | N.A.           | 17  | 18 |
| 4c              | N.A.           | 22  | 23 |
| 5               | N.A.           | 9   | 17 |
| 8a              | N.A.           | 19  | 18 |
| 8b              | N.A.           | 13  | 18 |
| 8c              | N.A.           | 18  | 17 |
| 8d              | N.A.           | 22  | 18 |
| 8e              | N.A.           | 14  | 14 |
| 11a             | N.A.           | 14  | 17 |
| 11b             | N.A.           | 19  | 18 |
| 13              | N.A.           | 14  | 11 |
| 15              | N.A.           | 19  | 15 |
| Chloramphenicol | N.A.           | 19  | 15 |
| *Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole* | 2.4 | 13  | 20  | 23  | 24 |
| DMSO            | N.A.           | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |

High activity Moderate activity Low activity N.A. (No activity)

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

Melting points were measured with an IA 9000-series digital melting-point apparatus (Bibby Sci. Lim. Stone, Staffordshire, UK). Solvents were generally distilled and dried by standard literature procedures prior to use. IR spectra were recorded in potassium bromide discs on FTIR 8101 PC infrared spectrophotometers (Shimadzu, Tokyo, Japan). NMR spectra were recorded on a Mercury VX-300 NMR spectrometer (Varian, Inc., Karlsruhe, Germany) operating at 300 MHz (1H-NMR) and run in deuterated dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO-d$_6$). Chemical shifts were related to that of the solvent. Mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu GCeMS-QP1000 EX mass spectrometer (Tokyo, Japan) at 70 eV. Microwave reactions were performed with a Millstone Organic Synthesis Unit with a touch control terminal (MicroSYNTH, Giza, Egypt) and a continuous focused microwave power delivery system in a pressure glass vessel (10 mL) sealed with a septum under magnetic stirring. The temperature of the reaction mixture was monitored using a calibrated infrared temperature control under the reaction.
vessel, and control of the pressure was performed with a pressure sensor connected to the septum of the vessel. Elemental analyses were carried out at the Microanalytical Centre of Cairo University, Giza, Egypt. Compounds 10a,b, 12, and 14 were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and utilized as it is without previous treatments. Compounds 1, 2, 6a–e, and 9 were prepared as previously reported in the respective literature [30–32].

3.2. Synthesis of Pyrazoline Derivatives 4a–c

Method A: A mixture of chalcone 1 (0.220 g, 1 mmol) and hydrazine derivative (1 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) in the presence of catalytic drops of acetic acid was refluxed for 3–5 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was poured into water and the solid product was collected by filtration followed by washing with ethanol. The crude products were then recrystallized from ethanol to give pure pyrazolines 4a–c, respectively.

Method B: Repetition of the same reactions of method A with heating in a microwave oven at 500 W and 120 °C for a period of time. The reaction mixture was treated similar to method A to obtain compounds 4a–c. Compounds 4a–c with their physical constants and spectral data are depicted as shown below:

3-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-5,6-diphenyl-1,2,4-triazine (4a). Brown solid, m.p. 187–189 °C; IR: 3083, 2926 (C-H), 1593 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.05 (dd, 1H, H₆, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.13 (dd, 1H, H₇, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.20 (dd, 1H, H₈, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 7.18–8.24 (m, 16H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 465 (M⁺, 8), 316 (34), 222 (38), 105 (100), 77 (72), 64 (80). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₆H₁₉N₅S₂ (465.11): C, 67.07; H, 4.11; N, 15.04; found: C, 66.87; H, 4.24; N, 14.90.

3-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (4b). Brown solid, m.p. 170–172 °C; IR: 3435, 3158 (2NH), 3048, 2966 (C-H), 1596 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.05 (dd, 1H, H₆, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.10 (dd, 1H, H₇, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.18 (dd, 1H, H₈, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 7.04–7.99 (m, 10H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 378 (M⁺, 5), 274 (28), 153 (70), 77 (65), 43 (100). Anal. Calcd. For C₁₀H₁₄N₄O₂ (378.47): C, 60.30; H, 3.73; N, 14.80; found: C, 60.03; H, 3.92; N, 14.52.

2-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-5,7-di(pyridol2,3-d)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one (4c). Brown solid, m.p. 188–190 °C; IR: 3435, 3158 (2NH), 3048, 2966 (C-H), 1596 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.07 (dd, 1H, H₆, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.15 (dd, 1H, H₇, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.16 (dd, 1H, H₈, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 6.92–7.75 (m, 12H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 543 (M⁺, 14), 426 (50), 330 (49), 153 (83), 64 (100), 43 (68). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₆H₁₇N₅O₄ (543.03): C, 57.44; H, 3.15; N, 12.88; found: C, 57.58; H, 3.10; N, 12.63.

3.3. 3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazole (5)

Method A: A mixture of chalcone 1 (0.220 g, 1 mmol), hydroxylamine. HCl (0.069 g, 1 mmol), and anhydrous sodium acetate (0.3 g) in acetic acid (20 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The formed solid was filtered, washed with water, and crystallized from dioxane to give isoxazoline 5.

Method B: The above reaction of chalcone 1 and hydroxylamine with the same quantity in method A were heated under microwave irradiation at 500 W and 150 °C for 10 min. The reaction mixture was treated similarly to method A to obtain compounds 5 as yellow solid; m.p. 212–214 °C; IR: 3091, 2922 (C-H), 1593 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.09 (dd, 1H, H₆, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.13 (dd, 1H, H₇, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.08 (dd, 1H, H₈, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 7.00–8.23 (m, 6H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 335 (M⁺, 24), 152 (65), 83 (100), 70 (21). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₀NOS₂ (235.01): C, 56.14; H, 3.85; N, 5.95; found: C, 56.03; H, 3.72; N, 5.74.
3.4. Synthesis of 2-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-methyl-5-(aryldiazenyl)thiazoles

8a–e

Method A: A mixture of 3,5-di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazole-1-carbothioamide 2 (0.293 g, 1 mmol) and the appropriate hydrazonoyl halides 6a–e (1 mmol) in dioxane (20 mL) containing TEA (0.5 mL) was refluxed for 6–10 h (monitored by TLC), allowed to cool and the solid formed was filtered off, washed with ethanol, dried, and recrystallized from dimethylformamide to give 8a–e.

Method B: Repetition of the same reactions of method A with heating in microwave oven at 500 W and 150 °C for a period of time gave products identical in all respects with those separated from method A.

2-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-methyl-5-((4-nitrophenyl)-diazenyl)thiazole (8a). Red solid, m.p. 164–166 °C; IR: 2919 (C-H), 1603 (C=N) cm⁻¹; 1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 2.58 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.07 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.17 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.21 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 7.00–7.84 (m, 11H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 435 (M⁺, 5), 339 (14), 205 (50), 75 (42), 50 (100). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₂₁N₂S₃ (435.06): C, 57.90; H, 3.93; N, 16.08; found: C, 57.74; H, 3.77; N, 15.82.

2-(3,5-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-methyl-5-((4-methoxyphenyl)diazenyl)thiazole (8b). Red solid, m.p. 122–124 °C; IR: 2921 (C-H), 1600 (C=N) cm⁻¹; 1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 2.04 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.60 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.09 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 17.2, 6.1 Hz), 4.19 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 17.2, 12.0 Hz), 6.22 (dd, 1H, Hₐ, J = 12.0, 6.1 Hz), 6.93–7.79 (m, 10H, Ar-H); MS, m/z (%) 449 (M⁺, 18), 218 (12), 110 (48), 91 (100), 65 (52). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₂S₃ (449.08): C, 58.77; H, 4.26; N, 15.58; found: C, 58.52; H, 4.08; N, 15.46.

3.5. Alternate Synthesis of 8a

Equimolar amounts of chalcone 1 (0.220 g, 1 mmol) and 2-hydrazinyl-4-methyl-5-(phenyldiazenyl)thiazole (9) (0.233 g, 1 mmol) in 2-propanol (10 mL), was refluxed for 2 h then cooled to room temperature. The solid precipitated was filtered off, washed with water, dried, and recrystallized from dimethylformamide to give the corresponding product, 8a which were identical in all aspects (m.p., mixed m.p. and IR spectra) with those obtained from reaction of 2 with 6a but in 70% yield.
3.6. General Method for Synthesis of Compounds 11a, b, 13, and 15

Method A: A mixture of chalcone 1 (0.220 g, 1 mmol) and the appropriate heterocyclic amine (10a, b, 12 or 14) (1 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) in the presence of catalytic drops of acetic acid was refluxed for 10–15 h (monitored through TLC). The reaction mixture was poured into water and the solid product was collected by filtration followed by washing with ethanol. The crude product was then recrystallized from EtOH or DMF to give pure products 11a, b, 13, and 15, respectively.

Method B: Repetition of the same reactions of method A with heating in microwave oven at 500 W and 150 °C for a period of time gave products identical in all respects with those separated from method A. Compounds 11a, b, 13, and 15 with their physical constants and spectral data are depicted as shown below:

5,7-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine (11a). Yellow solid m.p. 241–243 °C (DMF); IR: 3425 (NH), 3091, 2920 (C-H), 1599 (C=N), cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 5.14 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Ha, CH-pyrimidine), 6.20 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Hb, CH-pyrimidine), 6.85–8.04 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 8.45 (1H, s, triazole-H), 8.73 (s, br, 1H, NH); MS m/z (%): 286 (M⁺, 31), 284 (100), 111 (52), 69 (44). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₀N₄S₂ (286.03): C, 54.52; H, 3.52; N, 19.56; found: C, 54.40; H, 3.64; N, 19.51.

5,7-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,7-dihydrotetrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine (11b). Yellow solid, m.p. 266–268 °C (DMF); IR: 3402 (NH), 3087, 2924 (C-H), 1636 (C=N), cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 5.41 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Ha, CH-pyrimidine), 6.08 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Hb, CH-pyrimidine), 7.16–8.24 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 8.29 (s,br, 1H, NH); MS m/z (%): 287 (M⁺, 20), 259 (73), 220 (99), 111 (100), 65 (48). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₉N₅S₂ (287.03): C, 50.16; H, 3.16; N, 24.37; found: C, 50.29; H, 3.07; N, 24.39.

2-Phenyl-5,7-di(thiophen-2-yl)-4,7-dihydropyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine (13). Yellow solid m.p. 218–220 °C (DMF); IR: 3429 (NH), 3095, 3071, 2923 (C-H), 1596 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 4.86 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Ha, CH-pyrimidine), 6.14 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Hb, CH-pyrimidine), 6.59 (s, 1H, pyrazole-H), 6.80–8.25 (m, 11H, Ar-H), 8.72 (s,br, 1H, NH); MS m/z (%): 361 (M⁺, 27), 359 (100), 228 (16), 111 (49), 77 (63). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₅N₃S₂ (361.07): C, 66.45; H, 4.18; N, 11.62; found: C, 66.61; H, 4.09; N, 11.60.

2,4-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-1,4-dihydrobenzo[4,5]imidazol[1,2-a]pyrimidine (15). Yellow solid, m.p. 230–232 °C (EtOH); IR: 3412 (NH), 3077, 2920 (C-H), 1599 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 4.79 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Ha, CH-pyrimidine), 6.12 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1Hb, CH-pyrimidine), 6.69–8.27 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 8.49 (s, br, 1H, NH); MS m/z (%): 335 (M⁺, 18), 333 (100), 224 (23), 111 (50), 64 (53). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃N₅S₂ (335.06): C, 64.45; H, 3.91; N, 12.53; found: C, 64.68; H, 3.87; N, 12.49.

3.7. Biological Activity

3.7.1. Antimicrobial Activity

Antimicrobial activity was determined using the agar disc diffusion assay method as described previously by Hossain et al. [33]. The tested organisms were sub-cultured on Trypticase soya agar medium (Oxoid Laboratories, Corporate, UK) for bacteria and Sabouraud dextrose agar (Oxoid Laboratories, Corporate, UK) for fungi. Chloramphenicol and Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole were used as a positive control and DMSO solvent as a negative control. The plates were done in duplicate and average zone of inhibition was calculated. Bacterial cultures were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h while the other fungal cultures were incubated at (25–30 °C) for 3–5 days. Antimicrobial activity was determined by measurement zone of inhibition.

3.7.2. Media Used

Sabouraud dextrose agar: The medium used for isolation of pathogenic yeasts has the following composition (g/L): glucose, 20; peptone, 10; agar, 25 and distilled water, 1 L, pH was adjusted at 5.4. The medium was autoclaved at 121 °C for 15 min.
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Trypticase soya agar (TSA): The medium was used to cultivate tested bacteria. It contains (g/L) Tryptone (Pancreatic Digest of Casein) 15.0 g, Soytone (Papaic Digest of Soybean Meal) 5.0 g, Sodium Chloride 5.0 g, Agar 15.0 g, and distilled water 1 L. The medium was autoclaved at 121 °C for 15 min.

4. Conclusions

At the end, we have succeeded in the synthesis of new derivatives of pyrazole, isoxazole, pyrazolylthiazole, and azolopyrimidine incorporated with a thiophene ring under microwave irradiation. Different spectroscopic methods and elemental analyses were used to confirm the structures of the newly synthesized compounds. The antimicrobial results of the examined compounds revealed promising results and some derivatives have activities similar to the references used.

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**Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15 are available from the authors.