Method Article

Accurate conventional and microwave-assisted synthesis of galloyl hydrazide

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Abstract

The usefulness of the structure of galloyl hydrazide (3,4,5-trihydroxybenzohydrazide, coded as 2nz in this article) as a privileged structural system in pharmaceutical organic and medicinal chemistry has prompted the advances of the further therapeutic potentials of this known antioxidant/antitumor compound and, in addition to that, it acts generally as a very important organic reaction intermediate for molecule planning (including synthesis of many important biologically active molecules), as it undergoes various types of chemical reactions. The data of the two synthetic methods (including the new green one), presented in this research article, provides sharp adequate chemical data about the challenging synthesis, separation (purification), and characterization of this compound. A new and very fast one-pot solventless greener microwave-assisted method of synthesis, in addition to the much slower old conventional one, is used in this present research; and followed by full precise purification and characterization (including chromatographic separation; physico-chemical identification; IR, 1H-NMR, 13C-NMR, and mass spectroscopic analyses along with elemental analyses for structure elucidation) of 2nz.

- Galloyl hydrazide is a very important and unique organic chemical intermediate with, mainly, antioxidant and anticancer biological activities.
- Galloyl hydrazide synthesis in the previous literature is very challenging, confusing, not standardized, and without any consensus.
- The main objective of this new research is to make two standard and fixed methods of synthesis (conventional and greener) of galloyl hydrazide through designing and constructing a new one-pot solventless greener microwave-assisted synthetic method, in addition to redesigning and qualifying the old traditional

Abbreviations: Abs., absolute; ACN, acetonitrile; Aq., aqueous; Arom., aromatic; Conc., concentrated; Conv., conventional; DEE, diethyl ether; EtOAc, ethyl acetate; EtOH, ethanol; MeOH, methanol; M.P., melting point; MS, mass spectrometry; MW, microwave; MWI, microwave irradiation; M.Wt., molecular weight; Pet., petroleum; Recryst., recrystallized; Rel. Int., relative intensity; Rotavap, rotary evaporator; RP, reversed-phase; R.T., room temperature; S, singlet; Str., strong; T.D.S., triple distribution system; TFA, trifluoroacetic acid; TMS, tetramethylsilane; V/v, volume per volume; V/v/v, volume per volume per volume; Xss., excess.

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conventional heating one; both methods are followed by very accurate identification and characterization data (which can be referenced for the efficient reproducibility in the organic and pharmaceutical chemistry community) of galloyl hydrazide.

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**A R T I C L E I N F O**

**Method name:** Chemical Transformation (esterification and hydrazinolysis reactions, synthesis using both conventional heating and one-pot solventless greener microwave heating techniques) followed by Complete Purification and Full Elucidative Characterization (chromatographic, physicochemical, spectroscopic, and elemental characterization for identification). (Compounds: 3,4,5-Trihydroxybenzohydrazide (galloyl hydrazide, target compound, coded as 2nz) and Ethyl 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoate (ethyl gallate, intermediate compound, coded as 1nz).

**Keywords:** 3,4,5-Trihydroxybenzohydrazide, Galloyl hydrazide, Ethyl gallate, Microwave-assisted synthesis, Spectroscopic analyses

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**Specification Table**

| Subject area: | Organic Chemistry followed by Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, and Spectroscopy (Data Category: Synthesized, Chromatographic, Physicochemical, and Spectral) |
| More specific subject area: | Conventional and Microwave-assisted synthesis; Thin-layer chromatography (using Ultraviolet light detection) and High-performance liquid chromatography; Recrystallization, Yield, Color, Appearance, and Melting point; IR, 1H-NMR, 13C-NMR, and Mass spectroscopic analysis; Elemental analyses (Data Type: Analyzed (in the article text) and Raw (in the article figures of the scanned photocopies and the accompanying supplementary files of the research data)) |
| Method name: | Chemical Transformation (esterification and hydrazinolysis reactions; synthesis using both conventional heating and one-pot solventless greener microwave heating techniques) followed by complete purification and full elucidative characterization (chromatographic, physicochemical, spectroscopic, and elemental characterization for identification). (Compounds: 3,4,5-Trihydroxybenzohydrazide (galloyl hydrazide, target compound, coded as 2nz) and Ethyl 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoate (ethyl gallate, intermediate compound, coded as 1nz)) |
| Name and reference of original method: | Various tens of unfixed and confusing procedures in the literature (for the Conventional Method) and Completely new procedure (for the Microwave Method) |
| Resource availability: | Detailed resources (Instruments and Procedures) specifications and resulted Data are included within this article (all used equipments are ordinary and basic chemistry laboratory equipments, and very easily available) |

**Method details**

**Rationale**

Galloyl hydrazide (3,4,5-trihydroxybenzohydrazide, 2nz) is a very important chemical intermediate in organic synthesis, which is, mainly, well-known for its antioxidant and antitumor bioactivities [1–9]. The main objective of this new research is to make two (conv. and greener) standard methods of synthesis of 2nz through designing and finding a new one-pot solventless greener MW-assisted synthetic method, in addition to redesigning and qualifying the old traditional conv. one; followed by very accurate identification and characterization data which can be referenced for the efficient reproducibility in the organic chemistry community. As illustrated in Scheme 1 (below), the new benign MW-assisted procedure starts with gallic acid (3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid) which undergoes hydrazinolysis in just one very fast step to directly give 2nz in 2 min without passing through the very slow esterification reaction; unlike the much slower two-step conv. procedure which comprises first the synthesis of the intermediate ethyl gallate (ethyl 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoate, 1nz) through
esterification of gallic acid, which is followed by another slower step of the hydrazinolysis reaction of 1nz to form 2nz. By using the present new chemical data collection, the organic/medicinal chemists and drug designers/discoverers would have the following apparent advantages in the synthesis of 2nz:

1. Avoiding the clear differences among most of the previous literature procedures for the synthesis of 2nz through providing two fixed accurate methods (conv. and benign) of synthesis (supported with complete extrapuriﬁcation technique) followed by constant and reliable reproducible data of physicochemical properties and spectroscopic/microanalytical analyses of 2nz.

2. Using the easily synthesized ester of gallic acid, the ethyl ester 1nz, which is the most common ester (ethyl esters are the most common and known esters of almost all carboxylic acids), unlike most other literature methods which use the less common propyl ester of gallic acid [7,10–16] (the ethyl ester 1nz was preferred in the present work over the famous propyl gallate ester, i.e., it is the ester of choice for this hydrazinolysis reaction, due to many reasons, such as providing the reaction with an internal autosolvent through giving EtOH as a byproduct of the reaction, which could be condensed, recovered, and reused as a solvent for the same reaction mixture, so less volume of the primary original EtOH would be used leading to reduced reaction costs, unlike the propyl ester which would give propanol instead; also ethyl group is a much better leaving group than the longer propyl group in this reaction, because it is easier to leave than the propyl one which is heavier than it, so a faster reaction with better yield would be obtained; and, in addition to these advantages of using it over the propyl gallate, the ethyl ester is mostly the ﬁrst choice for this type of reactions).

3. Designing a newer and greener method of synthesis of 2nz (MW-assisted procedure), which is much more preferred than the conv. heating method (see Table 1, shown later), because it has/is:
a. Decreased number of synthetic steps (just one direct step).
b. Extremely decreased heating/reaction time (very rapid synthesis of just 120 sec).
c. Much more benign and environmentally safe (green MW procedure).
d. Extremely more economic and much cheaper (due to many reasons, e.g., only one inexpensive starting material, carboxylic acid, with only one reagent are needed in just one step).
e. Highly efficient (due to many reasons, e.g., well-enhanced reaction rate, the hydrazide is produced with a yield of 98.2% and a purity of about 99.0%).
f. Solventless (no solvents used at all).
g. Self-catalyzed as there is no catalyst needed (used) at all.
h. Much less energy consumption (extremely minute amount of 0.02667 KWhr is only needed).
i. Higher overall yield of the hydrazide (98.2%) and with excellent purity.
j. Decreased waste production (just one step of one reactant and one reagent giving only one final product with a very high yield of 98.2% and an excellent purity of about 99.0%).
k. Simpler manipulation and work-up (automatic MW oven).
l. Higher selectivity of the reaction (extremely irreversible hydrazinolysis reaction).
m. Increased atom economy and efficiency (just two reactants giving one final product with much higher overall yield in one step).
n. Increased carbon and mass efficiency (100.0%).

Procedures

General data and considerations

All reactions were performed with commercially available reagents. All chemicals (reagents and solvents) were of analytical grade, purchased from commercial suppliers, and were used as received without further purification. MWI for MW reaction was carried out in an unmodified domestic MW oven (Samsung type, model M1733N with T.D.S. property, and having a power level of 100–800 W) operated at 2.45 GHz. TLC was used to monitor the progress of all reactions and to check the purity of products, it was carried out on TLC silica gel 60 F254 plates (plates of aluminum sheets precoated with unmodified silica gel 60 F254 to a layer thickness of 0.20 mm, purchased from E. Merck, Merck Millipore Division or Merck Chemicals, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) as the stationary phase using pet. ether/EtOAc/abs. EtOH (6:3:2, v/v/v) mixture as the mobile phase (the eluting solvent system) for monitoring the esterification reaction for the synthesis of 1nz, while a mixture of 5% abs. MeOH in CH2Cl2 (dichloromethane or methylene chloride) was used as the mobile phase for monitoring the hydrazinolysis reaction for the synthesis of 2nz, and the chromatograms spots were visualized and observed under the used UV light at wavelengths of 254 (mainly) and 366 nm to detect the produced components. Evaporation and concentration was carried out by using rotavap under reduced pressure. A lyophilizer (freeze dryer, model FD8-8T, SIM international, U.S.A.) was used for the lyophilizing purpose. Melting points (°C) of both the synthesized compounds were measured and recorded in open glass capillaries using Fisher-Johns melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. IR spectrum for 2nz was recorded on Nicolet™ iSt™ 10 Mid-InfraRed (ThermoFisher Scientific) FT-IR spectrometer (ν in cm⁻¹) using KBr (potassium bromide) disk at the Central Laboratory (Faculty of Pharmacy, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt) (if the abbreviated word “Str.” is not mentioned, this means that the peak is weak to medium in intensity). 1H-NMR spectrum for 2nz was recorded on Varian Gemini-300 spectrometer (Mercury-300BB “NMR300”) at about 300 MHz using TMS as an internal standard at the Microanalytical Center (Faculty of Science, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt) and its chemical shifts values (δ) were given in ppm downfield from TMS at a temperature of 30 °C using DMSO-d6 as a solvent. 13C-NMR spectrum for compound 2nz was recorded also on Varian Gemini-300 spectrometer (Mercury-300BB “NMR300”) at about 75 MHz using TMS as an internal standard at the Microanalytical Center (Faculty of Science, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt) and its chemical shifts values (δ) were given in ppm downfield from TMS at a temperature of 30 °C using DMSO-d6 as a solvent. MS analysis for compound 2nz was performed on Shimadzu Qp-2010 Plus at 70 eV and results were represented by m/z (Rel. Int. in %) at the Microanalytical Center (Faculty of Science, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt). Elemental analyses for 2nz were performed at the Microanalytical Center (Faculty of
Science, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt) in order to determine C, H, and N contents in % (they, all, were in full agreement with the calculated theoretical values).

**Conv. synthesis of 1nz**

To a stirred solution of anhydrous gallic acid (0.1 mole, 17.012 g) in abs. EtOH (500 mL) in a round-bottomed flask, conc. H₂SO₄ (5 mL) was added. The resulted reaction mixture was refluxed with stirring at 90–100 °C for 15 hr. After reaction completion (i.e., no more water was being distilled off), the reaction mixture was cooled to R.T., then xxs. EtOH was completely evaporated (distilled off) on a water bath, and the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to R.T. again. The residue remained was taken up in pure distilled H₂O in a separatory funnel and the flask was rinsed with a few mL of pure distilled H₂O which were also poured into the separatory funnel. The formed aqueous solution was extracted by shaking it vigorously with EtOAc for three times (3 × 250 mL; the upper organic layer was carefully taken each time while the lower aqueous layer was finally rejected), the combined organic layers (extracts) were returned to a pure dry separatory funnel to be subsequently shaken with a strong solution of NaHCO₃ (sodium bicarbonate) until all the free gallic acid was removed (i.e., until no more effervescence), then they were washed with distilled H₂O and brine (a highly conc. NaCl (sodium chloride) solution in H₂O). The organic layer was taken and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (sodium

**Table 1**

Comparative assessment of conv. method versus MW method of synthesis of galloyl hydrazide (2nz) from gallic acid (anhydrous) using many of the various green chemistry matrices (measures and metrics) with their improvement degrees in the MW method relative to the conv. method.

| Matrix                  | Conv. Method | MW Method | Improvement                      |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Yield (%)       | 90.0         | 98.2      | 8.2% increase (more productive method) |
| Overall Heating Time    | 21 hr (75600 sec) | 120 sec   | 630 times less (time-saving method) |
| Number of Steps         | Two (two different separate reactions) | One (one-pot method) | 50% decrease (simpler and cheaper method) |
| Solvent                 | Present (in the second step) | Absent | Solvent-free or solventless greener method |
| Alcohol for Esterification | Present (in the first step) | Absent (no need for this step) | One-pot alcohol-free greener method |
| Catalyst and Dehydrating Agent | Present (conc. H₂SO₄ in the first step) | Absent (no need for this step or dehydrating agent) | More efficient simpler greener method |
| Energy Consumption (KWhr) | 42                | 0.02667 | About 1575 times less (energy-saving method) |
| E-Factor                 | 4.8          | 0.2       | 95.83% decrease (in the total waste produced in Kg over the production of 1 Kg of the product) |
| Atom Economy (%)         | 69.16        | 83.64     | 14.48% increase (in the greenness of the method) |
| Atom Efficiency (%)      | 62.24        | 82.14     | 19.90% increase (in the efficiency of the method) |
| Carbon Efficiency (%)    | 77.78        | 100.00    | 22.22% increase                  |

a KWhr: Kilowatt-hour(s); energy consumption (KWhr) is equal to the power P (in watts or W) multiplied by time t (in hr) divided by 1000 W per kilowatt (KW), i.e., energy consumption (KWhr) = P × t / 1000 (KWhr), where, in this present work, P of the used laboratory heater or hot plate, i.e., for conv. method, is 2000 W and adjusted P of the used MW oven, i.e., for MW method, is 800 W (P of MW oven for the synthesis of 2nz).
b E-factor: Environmental factor, E-factor = mass of total waste (Kg) / mass of product (Kg), the value of this factor depends on one’s definition of “waste”, so it varies.
c Atom economy (%) = M.Wt. of product × 100 / (M.Wt. of reactant 1 + M.Wt. of reactant 2 + M.Wt. of reactant 3 + . . . etc.).
d Atom efficiency (%) = % overall yield × % atom economy × 100.
e Carbon efficiency (%) = mass of carbon in product × 100 / total mass of carbon present in all reactants (i.e., number of moles of product × number of carbons in product / [(number of moles of reactant 1 × number of carbons in reactant 1) + (number of moles of reactant 2 × number of carbons in reactant 2) + (number of moles of reactant 3 × number of carbons in reactant 3) + . . . etc.].
sulfate) during filtration (directly into the pure dry round-bottomed flask of the rotavap), then the filtrate was conc. by evaporation in rotavap under reduced pressure, left in air to be completely dry to give a crude white solid mass of the product 1nz which upon further purification by recrystallization from hexane, it gives the pure product 1nz (16.508 g, yield ≈ 83.3% (as reported [17,18])) which is a white amorphous powder with M.P. = 148–150 °C (as reported [17,18]).

Fig. 1. A scanned copy of the HPLC chart of analysis for compound 2nz obtained in the present work (including sample information, analytical conditions, purity chromatogram, and peak results).
Synthesis of 2nz

2nz was synthesized by the following two methods:
1- Common conv. heating method (from 1nz). A mixture of 1nz (0.1 mole, 19.817 g) and slight xss. 85% NH₂NH₂-H₂O (0.11 mole; about 5.35 mL) was dissolved in abs. EtOH (about 300–350 mL, i.e., the least amount needed to make the reaction mixture a clear solution) in a round-bottomed flask, then the resulted reaction mixture was mixed gently and refluxed with stirring for 6 hr. The progress of the reaction was monitored on TLC plates. After reaction completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to R.T., then xss. EtOH was completely distilled off on a water bath, and the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to R.T. again. The reaction mixture was poured onto ice-cold water with stirring and the white mass or precipitate obtained was filtered, washed with distilled H₂O several times, and dried under vacuum (or left in air to be completely dry) to give a crude pale white solid mass of the product 2nz which was recryst. twice from DEE and abs. MeOH (1:1, v/v) and further purified by HPLC analysis (2nz was successfully obtained with very excellent purity of about 99%; see details later) to give about 16.574 g (yield = 90.0%) of the pure 2nz (pale white to buff fine powder) with M.P. = 294–296 °C.

| Fraction Isolated  | Run Time (min) | Area (%) |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| I (2nz)            | 7.716          | 98.99    |
| II (Related Impurity A) | 13.391       | 0.53     |
| III (Related Impurity B) | 13.678       | 0.03     |
| IV (Related Impurity C) | 14.258       | 0.27     |
| V (Related Impurity D) | 14.570       | 0.18     |

Fig. 2. A scanned copy of the spectral chart obtained upon IR spectroscopic analysis of the sample of the compound 2nz.
2- New green solvent-free one-pot MW-assisted method (from gallic acid). A mixture of gallic acid (0.01 mole, 1.7012 g) and slight xss. 85% \( \text{NH}_2\text{NH}_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O} \) (0.012 mole; about 0.584 mL) was taken in a 150-mL conical flask, the resulted paste of the reaction mixture was well mixed, then the flask was covered with aluminum foil and subjected to intermittent MWI at intervals of 30 sec for 2 min (i.e., 4 intervals of 30 sec) at a power level of 800 W. The progress of the reaction was monitored on TLC plates.
till it was over after the fourth interval. After reaction completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to 
\(-20^\circ\text{C}\) and then it was lyophilized at \(-50^\circ\text{C}\). The white product obtained was washed with distilled 
\(\text{H}_2\text{O}\) several times and dried under vacuum (or left in air to be completely dry) to give a crude pale 
white solid mass of the product \(2\text{nz}\) which was recryst. twice from DEE and abs. \(\text{MeOH} (1:1, \text{v/v})\) and 

- **HPLC analysis for separation of \(2\text{nz}\) and determination of its crude product purity:**

  For these two purposes, the following HPLC analytical conditions were used (see Fig. 1, shown below):

  - **Column Type:** SYMMETRY SHIELD RP C18 (250 × 4.6 mm; 5 μm; equipped with Empower 2 software).
  - **Column Temperature:** Ambient.
  - **Mobile Phase Constituents:** \(A = \text{MeOH}; B = 0.1\% \text{TFA in } \text{H}_2\text{O}\).
  - **Diluent Constitution:** ACN + TFA.
  - **Injection Volume:** 2 μL.
  - **Flow Rate:** 1 mL/min.
  - **Run Time:** 20 min.
  - **Gradient Solvent System (Time (min)/A (%)):** 0/0; 6/0; 10/70; 18/70; 19/0; 20/0.
  - **Wavelengths for UV Detection:** 220 & 272 nm.

**Molecular Weight of \(2\text{nz}\):** 184.15

![Fig. 5. A scanned copy of the spectral chart obtained upon MS analysis of the sample of the compound \(2\text{nz}\).](image)
Fig. 6. A scanned copy of the results of the elemental analyses (C, H, and N) of the sample of the compound 2nz (only the first compound in the table).
Data, value, and validation

Synthetic scheme of 2nz

The synthetic scheme of the present research (Scheme 1, shown above) was adopted for the synthesis of the target hydrazide 2nz which is either conventionally synthesized from the corresponding ester 1nz (which is firstly synthesized from gallic acid by conv. esterification), or directly synthesized from the corresponding gallic acid by MW-assisted method without passing through the esterification step. This scheme provides the best synthetic route for 2nz.

Comparative assessment study of MW method versus conv. method of synthesis of 2nz

This comparison (Table 1, shown below) demonstrates the detailed point-by-point superiority of the new green one-step MW-assisted heating procedure over the traditional hazardous two-step conv. heating procedure for the efficient synthesis of the hydrazide 2nz.

Peak results of purity chromatogram for HPLC analysis and purification of 2nz

HPLC analysis is used for the separation of 2nz from other related gallic/gallate derivatives that might be present in the crude 2nz in extremely minute quantities after recrystallization process (not exceeding 1% of the total weight) as minor impurities (i.e., HPLC analysis is used for further purification and determination of purity of the crude 2nz produced in this present work after recrystallization). For detection, separation, and determination (of their percentage in the total weight) of these closely related impurities from the crude 2nz, preparative HPLC and RP techniques of chromatography were used (see Fig. 1, below, for the crude details of the conditions and results of this assay). Peak results of purity chromatogram for HPLC analysis of 2nz are shown below in Table 2.

Results from Table 2 show that the percentage of pure 2nz in crude 2nz (obtained by both methods) is about 99% (the major fraction isolated) and the percentage of related compounds (the four fractions of impurities isolated) in it is only about 1% (i.e., the crude 2nz obtained is about 99% pure).

Table 3

Spectroscopic and microanalytical characterization data of compound 2nz.
Physicochemical characterization data of 2\textit{zn}

The separated highly pure 2\textit{zn} is a pale white to buff fine powder with a M.P. of 294–296 °C. It is mainly freely soluble in DMSO (but its solubility in other organic solvents differs from one to another according to the strength of the solvent).

Spectroscopic and microanalytical characterization data (structure elucidation) of 2\textit{zn}

The separated highly pure 2\textit{zn} was subjected to full spectroscopic and elemental analyses for identification and confirmation of its structure (see Figs. 2–6, below, for the crude details of the conditions and results of these assays). The collective IR, \textsuperscript{1}H-NMR, \textsuperscript{13}C-NMR, MS, and elemental (C, H, and N content) analyses data obtained for 2\textit{zn} are shown, respectively, below in Table 3.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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