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Synthesis and Antimicrobial Activities of Novel Biologically Active Heterocycles: 10H-Phenothiazines, Their Ribofuranosides, and Sulfone Derivatives

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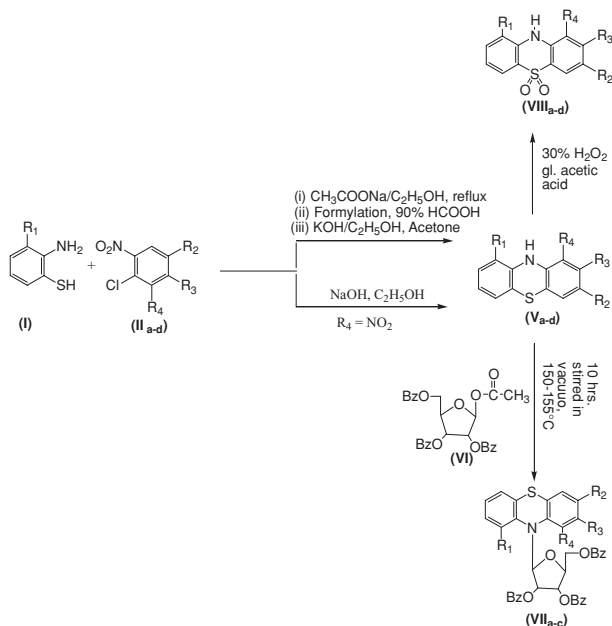
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SYNTHESIS AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES OF NOVEL BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE HETEROCYCLES: 10H-PHENOTHAZINES, THEIR RIBOFURANOSIDES, AND SULFONE DERIVATIVES

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□ This article deals with the synthesis and antimicrobial activity of a series of novel substituted 10H-phenothiazines, their ribofuranosides, and sulfone derivatives. 10H-Phenothiazines

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were prepared by Smiles rearrangement. These prepared phenothiazines were used as the base to prepare ribofuranosides by treatment with sugar (1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoylribofuranose). Sulfone derivatives were prepared by the oxidation of 10H-phenothiazines. The structure of the synthesized compounds was established by elemental analysis and spectroscopic data.

Keywords Antimicrobial activity; phenothiazines; ribofuranosides; Smiles rearrangement

INTRODUCTION

Constructing biologically active molecules such as phenothiazines and their ribofuranosides by molecular modification has been of enormous interest in recent years. A review of the literature on pharmaceutical studies reveals their chemotherapeutic importance. The compounds have been extensively examined as potential antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, anticancer, anti-herpes, and anti-AIDS agents. A slight change in the substitution pattern in the phenothiazine nucleus causes distinguishable differences in their biological activities.^[1-6,8-12,14-24]

Phenothiazines serve as nitrogen and sulfur containing heterocyclic bases for the formation of ribofuranosides by treatment with the appropriate sugar. The formation of sulfone derivatives helps us to investigate the structure of 10H-phenothiazines by the study of the change in infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra caused by oxidation of sulfide linkage into sulfones. The Kerby Bauer procedure^[7,13] was used for the study of the antimicrobial activity of newly synthesized compounds.


RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthesis of substituted 10H-phenothiazine (**V_a**) has been carried out by the Smiles rearrangement of substituted 2-formamido-2'-nitrodiphenyl-sulfide (**III_a**). The formyl derivatives have been prepared from 2-amino-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfide (**II_a**), which in turn was prepared by the condensation of 2-aminobenzenethiol (**I_a**) with an o-halonitrobenzene (**II_a**) in ethanolic sodium acetate solution. 1-Nitrophenothiazines (**V_{b-d}**) have been prepared by the condensation of 2-aminobenzenethiols (**I_{a-b}**) with o-halonitrobenzenes (**II_{b-d}**) containing a nitro group at both *ortho* positions to the reactive halo atom in ethanolic sodium hydroxide solution in which Smiles rearrangement has occurred in situ. The substituted 10H-phenothiazines (**V_{a-d}**) dissolved in toluene were then treated with 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (**VI**) and stirred in vacuo on an oil bath at 150–155°C for 10 hours to yield ribofuranosides (**VII_{a-c}**). The sulfone derivatives (**VIII_{a-d}**) have been prepared by the oxidation of

TABLE I Characterization data of synthesized compounds

Comd. No.	Compound					m.p. °C	Molecular formula	% found (calcd.)		
	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄	Yield %			C	H	N
<u>IIIa</u>	F	Cl	H	H	85	108	C ₁₂ H ₈ N ₂ O ₂ SFCl	48.02 (48.24)	2.66 (2.68)	9.36 (9.38)
<u>IVa</u>	F	Cl	H	H	75	99	C ₁₃ H ₈ N ₂ O ₃ SFCl	47.89 (47.77)	2.48 (2.45)	8.51 (8.57)
<u>Va</u>	F	Cl	H	H	74	135	C ₁₂ H ₇ NSFCl	57.11 (57.25)	2.77 (2.78)	5.55 (5.56)
<u>Vb</u>	F	NO ₂	H	NO ₂	88	358	C ₁₂ H ₆ N ₃ SO ₄ F	46.11 (46.90)	1.95 (1.95)	13.66 (13.68)
<u>Vc</u>	F	Cl	H	NO ₂	75	300	C ₁₂ H ₆ N ₂ SO ₂ FCl	48.40 (48.56)	2.01 (2.02)	9.45 (9.44)
<u>Vd</u>	(CH ₃) ₂ CH	Cl	H	NO ₂	71	260	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ N ₂ SO ₂ Cl	56.07 (56.16)	4.03 (4.05)	8.72 (8.73)
<u>VIIa</u>	F	Cl	H	H	38	111	C ₃₈ H ₂₇ O ₇ SNFCl	65.80 (65.56)	3.87 (3.88)	2.02 (2.01)
<u>VIIb</u>	F	NO ₂	H	NO ₂	41	98	C ₃₈ H ₂₆ O ₁₁ N ₃ SF	60.94 (60.71)	3.44 (3.46)	5.57 (5.59)
<u>VIIc</u>	(CH ₃) ₂ CH	Cl	H	NO ₂	29	118	C ₄₁ H ₃₃ O ₉ N ₂ SCl	64.52 (64.35)	4.30 (4.31)	3.65 (3.66)
<u>VIIIa</u>	F	Cl	H	H	68	184	C ₁₂ H ₇ NSO ₂ FCl	50.59 (50.79)	2.48 (2.46)	4.92 (4.93)
<u>VIIIb</u>	F	NO ₂	H	NO ₂	65	261	C ₁₂ H ₆ N ₃ SO ₆ F	42.32 (42.47)	1.76 (1.76)	12.39 (12.38)
<u>VIIIc</u>	F	Cl	H	NO ₂	71	159	C ₁₂ H ₆ N ₂ SO ₄ FCl	43.63 (43.83)	1.81 (1.82)	8.51 (8.52)
<u>VIIId</u>	(CH ₃) ₂ CH	Cl	H	NO ₂	60	144	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ N ₂ SO ₄ Cl	50.89 (51.06)	3.67 (3.68)	7.92 (7.94)

TABLE 2 IR, ¹H NMR, spectral data, and antimicrobial activity of synthesized compounds

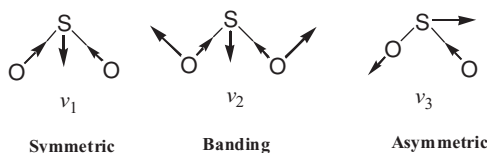
Compound No.	IR (KBr : ν_{\max} cm ⁻¹)				¹ H NMR (δ ppm from TMS)				Antibacterial activity				Antifungal activity	
		>NH	Ar-F	Ar-Cl	C-O-C	¹ H Singlet	Proton	Ar-H Multiplet	Protons	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>P. fluorescens</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>A. flavus</i>	
Va	—	3410	1275	775	—	9.21	1	8.10–7.10	6	0.91	0.92	0.80	0.81	
Vb	1560 1340	3340	1280	—	—	9.47	1	7.90–6.50	5	0.95	0.85	0.91	0.86	
Vc	1540 1360	3330	1270	760	—	9.31	1	7.80–6.40	5	0.82	0.81	0.96	0.89	
Vd	1520 1310	3380	—	740	—	9.71	1	8.65	5	0.86	0.89	0.90	0.81	
VIIa	—	—	1280	775	1155	—	—	8.11–7.09	21	0.94	0.97	0.89	0.92	
VIIb	1555 1340	—	1283	—	1165	—	—	7.91–6.54	20	0.98	0.87	0.98	0.95	
VIIc	1520 1310	—	—	742	1105	—	—	8.22–6.63	20	0.85	0.94	0.96	0.84	
VIIIa	—	3415	1278	780	—	9.22	1	8.11–7.13	6	0.92	0.94	0.85	0.88	
VIIIb	1565 1345	3344	1282	—	—	9.46	1	7.92–6.49	5	0.86	0.89	0.92	0.95	
VIIIc	1542 1360	3337	1272	765	—	9.34	1	7.86–6.41	5	0.94	0.86	0.91	0.95	
VIIId	1523 1315	3300	—	743	—	9.72	1	8.20–6.64	5	0.90	0.92	0.89	0.94	

Antimicrobial activities are given in term of activity index

$$\text{Activity index} = \frac{\text{Inhibition diameter of test compound}}{\text{Inhibition diameter of standard}}$$

10H-phenothiazines (**V_{a-d}**) with 30% hydrogen peroxide in glacial acetic acid (Scheme 1). The structures proposed to the synthesized compounds are well supported by elemental analysis (Table 1) and spectroscopic data.

The characteristic IR bands and ^1H NMR data of the synthesized compounds are presented in Table 2.



Compounds **V_{a-d}** exhibit a single sharp peak in the region $3410\text{--}3310\text{ cm}^{-1}$ due to the NH-stretching band, which was found absent in compounds **VI_{a-c}**, clearly indicating it to be the site of ribosylation. Compounds **VIII_{a-d}** showed three characteristic absorption peak due to asymmetric stretching vibration ν_3 ($1380\text{--}1370\text{ cm}^{-1}$), symmetric stretching vibration ν_1 ($1195\text{--}1140\text{ cm}^{-1}$), and bending vibration ν_2 ($575\text{--}520\text{ cm}^{-1}$) in chloroform solution.

The ^1H NMR data of synthesized compounds are presented in Table 2. Compounds **V_{a-d}** showed a singlet due to NH protons, which appeared in the region δ 9.71–9.21 ppm. The ^1H NMR spectra of ribofuranosides (**VI_{a-c}**) did not show any peak due to NH proton, indicating the formation of ribofuranosides. Molecular ion peaks in the mass spectra of synthesized compounds are observed in accordance with their molecular weights.

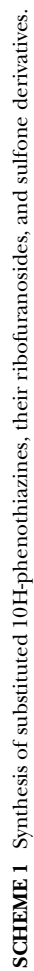
These synthesized compounds were screened for their antimicrobial activities. In the present investigation, the compounds showed good to moderate activity when evaluated against four organisms: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Aspergillus niger*, and *Aspergillus flavus* (see Table 2).

CONCLUSIONS

All these synthesized 10H-phenothiazines, their ribofuranosides, and sulfone derivatives are novel and showed good and moderate antifungal and antibacterial activities against the respective *S. aureus*, *P. fuoroscens* (bacteria), and *A. niger*, *A. flavus* (fungi). Hence, these compounds can be used as antifungal and antibacterial drugs after further study and analysis of their biomedical aspects; further biomedical research is required.

EXPERIMENTAL

All melting points were determined in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in KBr on NICOLET-MEGNA FT-IR



550 spectrometer and the ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL AL-300 spectrometer (300 MHz) in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)- d_6 using tetramethyl silane (TMS) as an internal standard (chemical shifts are measured in δ ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on JEOL SX 102/DA 600 using Argon/Xenon as fast atom bombardment (FAB) gas. The purity of the all synthesized compounds were checked by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel "G" as adsorbent, visualizing these by ultraviolet (UV) light or an iodine chamber.

Synthesis of 2-Amino-2'-nitro Diphenylsulfide (**III_a**)

2-Aminobenzenethiol **Ia** (0.1 mole) was dissolved in ethanol (20 mL) containing 0.1 mole of anhydrous sodium acetate in 50 mL round bottom flask and halonitrobenzene **IIa** (0.1 mole) in 10 mL ethanol was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4–5 hours and concentrated in an ice bath overnight. The solid that separated out was filtered, washed with 30% ethanol, and recrystallized from methanol.

Synthesis of 2-Formamido-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfide (**IV_a**)

The diphenylsulfide **III_a** (0.1 mole) obtained was refluxed for 4 hours in 90% formic acid (20 mL). The contents were then poured into a beaker containing crushed ice, the solid separated out was filtered, washed with water until the filtrate was neutralized and crystallized from benzene.

Synthesis of Phenothiazine (**V_a**)

Formyl derivative **IV_a** (0.1 mole) in acetone (15 mL) was refluxed and an alcoholic solution of potassium hydroxide (0.2 gm in 5 mL ethanol) was added. The contents were heated for 30 minutes. A second lot of potassium hydroxide (0.2 gm in 5 mL ethanol) was added to the reaction mixture and further refluxed for 4 hours. The contents were poured into beaker containing crushed ice and were filtered. The residue obtained was repeatedly washed with cold water and finally with 30% ethanol and then crystallized from benzene.

Synthesis of 1-Nitro-10H-phenothiazines (**V_{b-d}**)

A mixture of reactive o-halonitrobenzene **II_{b-d}** (0.1 mole), substituted 2-aminobenzenethiol **I_{a-b}** (0.1 mole), sodium hydroxide (0.1 mole), and absolute alcohol (25 mL) was refluxed for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated on water bath, cooled, and filtered. The

precipitate was washed with hot water and ethanol, then crystallized from acetone.

Synthesis of Substituted N-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl) Phenothiazines (VII_{a-c})

To a concentrated solution of V_{a-c} (0.002 mole) in toluene, 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose VI (0.002 mole) was added and stirred in vacuo on an oil bath at 150–155°C for 15 minutes. The vacuum was broken and the reaction was protected from moisture, by using a guard tube. Stirring was further continued for 10 hours with application of vacuum for 15 minutes after every hour. The melt was dissolved in methanol, boiled for 10 minutes and cooled to room temperature. The precipitate was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The viscous residue thus obtained was dissolved in ether, filtered, concentrated, and kept in a refrigerator overnight to get crystalline ribofuranosides.

Synthesis of Sulfone Derivatives of 10H-Phenothiazines (VIII_{a-d})

To obtain sulfone derivatives of 10H-phenothiazines a solution of substituted 10H-phenothiazines V_{a-d} (0.01 mole) in 20 mL of 30% glacial acetic acid, 5 mL of 30% hydrogen peroxide was added and refluxed for 15 minutes. Heating was stopped and another lot of 30% hydrogen peroxide (5 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was again refluxed for 3–4 hours. The contents were poured in a beaker containing crushed ice. The yellowish residue obtained was filtered and washed with water and then crystallized from ethanol.

Antimicrobial Activity

All the synthesized compounds were screened for their antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and antifungal activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus* (Table 2) by the Kerby Bauer procedure (filter paper disc method) using streptomycin (antibacterial) and flucanazole (antifungal) as a standard drug. Natural agar medium for antibacterial activities and standard dextrose agar medium for antifungal activities were used as a medium. From the activity data (Table 2) it may be concluded that the compounds V_{a-d}, VII_{a-c}, and VIII_{a-d} showed good and moderate activity.

The variation in effectiveness of different compound against different organism depends on impermeability of cells of the microbes. The antimicrobial activities of compound given in terms of activity index in Table 2.

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