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## **Research Article**

# SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF TETRAZOLE ANALOGUES OF PYRAZOLECARBALDEHYDE AS ANTIBACTERIAL AGENTS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

A series of new 5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)-1-aryl-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetraazole 5(a-j) have been synthesized from *N*-[(*E*)-1-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)methylidene]-*N*-arylamine 4(a-j). The structures of the synthesized compounds have been confirmed *via* IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and MS spectral analyses. Further, all the synthesized new compounds 5(a-j) have been assayed for their antibacterial activity against Gram-positive bacteria *viz*. *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus sphaericus* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, and Gram-negative bacteria *viz*. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klobsinella aerogenes* and *Chromobacterium violaceum*. The antibacterial screening data reveal that, compounds 5 which contain 4-methoxyphenyl (5c), 4-fluorophenyl (5d) and 2,5-difluorophenyl (5h) moieties on tetrazole ring might be the reason for the significant inhibitory activity. Most of these new compounds showed appreciable activity against test bacteria and emerged as potential molecules for further development.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The treatment of infectious diseases still remains an important and challenging problem because of a combination of factors including emerging infectious diseases and the increasing number of multi-drug resistant microbial pathogens. In spite of a large number of antibiotics and chemotherapeutics available for medical use, at the same time the emergence of old and new antibiotic resistance created in the last decades revealed a substantial medical need for new classes of antimicrobial agents.

Tetrazole derivatives have a potential pharmacological activities, such as antihypertensive (Ramakrishna et al, 2017), antimicrobial (Abdl et al, 2013), corrosion inhibitor (Mihit et al, 2010), anti-inflammatory (Sukumar et al, 2008), anticancer (Gorle et al, 2017), antioxidant (Julliano et al, 2017), analgesic (Shantaram et al, 2013), antiviral (Hutchinson et al, 1985), protein arginine deiminase inhibitor (Subramanian et al, 2015), anti allergic (Roger et al, 1986), dual selective serotonin and nor epinephrine reuptake inhibitors (Paudel et al, 2016) and HIV inhibitors (da Silva et al, 2009). Similarly, pyrazole and its derivatives possess a broad spectrum of biological effectiveness such as antiviral (Osama et al, 2009), antibacterial (Yu et al, 2015), antidepressants (Gamal et al, 2009), inhibitors of protein kinases (Persson et al, 2007), anticancer (Balbi et al, 2011), antiarthritic (Nugent et al, 1993),

and herbicidal (Kudo *et al*, 1999). Some aryl pyrazoles (Mohd *et al*, 2016) were reported to have non-nucleoside HIV-1 reverse transcriptase inhibitors (Genin *et al*, 2000), COX-2 inhibitors (Habeeb *et al*, 2001), potent activator of the nitric oxide receptor and soluble guanylate cyclise (David *et al*, 2001). Besides, great interest in the pyrazole molecule has been stimulated by some promising pharmacological, agrochemical and analytical applications of its derivatives (Florence *et al*, 2013).

Owing to the immense importance and varied bioactivities exhibited by tetrrazole and pyrazole derivatives and in continuation of our ongoing research on the synthesis of new heterocyclic compounds (Nagaraj *et al*, 2015, 2017; Sanjeeva Reddy *et al*, 2015, 2016, 2017), it was thought of interest to accommodate tetrazole and pyrazole moieties in a single molecular frame and to obtain a new heterocyclic compounds with potential biological activity. In this article, we wish to report the synthesis of new class of tetrazole analogues of pyrazolecarbaldehyde 5(a-j) and evaluation of their *in vitro* antibacterial activity

#### MATARIALS AND METHODS

All reagents are commercial grade and were used as supplied. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on pre-coated silica gel F<sub>254</sub> plates from Merck, and compounds

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visualized by exposure to UV light. Chromatographic columns 70-230 mesh silica gel for separations were used. Melting points were determined on a Fisher-Johns apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded using KBr disk on a Perkin-Elmer FTIR spectrometer. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini spectrometer (300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 75 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). Chemical shifts are reported in δ ppm units with respect to TMS as internal standard and coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hz units. Mass spectra were recorded on a VG micro mass 7070H spectrometer.

Synthesis of 3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (2): A mixture of acetyl acetone 1 (0.02 mol), and phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (0.02 mol) in ethanol (20 ml) was heated under reflux for 3 h on a water bath. After completion of the reaction ethanol was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in water, neutralized with sodium bicarbonate and extracted with ether. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to get the compound 2 as yellow-brown liquid. Yield 90%; b.p. 270-272 °C; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3010, 2962, 1516, 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.22 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.36 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.21 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH); MS: m/z 172 (M<sup>+</sup>).

Synthesis of 3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1H-4-pyrazolecarbaldehyde (3): To a cold solution of N,N-dimethylformamide (0.02 mol), freshly distilled phosphorous oxychloride (0.01 mol) was added with stirring over a period of 30 minutes. When formylation solution was obtained, a solution of compound 2 (0.01 mol) in N,N-dimethylformamide (5 ml) was added drop wise while maintaining the temperature 0-5 °C. The resulting mixture was heated under reflux for 1 h, cooled and poured with continuous stirring onto crushed ice and the formed yellow precipitate was filtered, crystallized from aqueous ethanol to get the pure compounds. Yield 86%, mp 124-126 °C; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3012, 2961, 2854, 1700, 1516, 1505 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.64 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.71 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.15-7.25 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 9.98 (s, 1H, CHO); MS: m/z 200 (M<sup>+</sup>).

General procedure for the synthesis of Schiffs bases 4(a-j): A mixture of compound 3 (0.01 mol) and corresponding aryl amine (0.01 mol) in acetic acid (0.5 mL) was refluxed in toluene for 3 h using a Dean-Stark apparatus and the water formed was removed azeiotropically. The progress of the reaction was checked by TLC using toluene: ethyl acetate (4:1) as an eluent. After completion of the reaction, solvent was removed by distillation to give the solid, which was filtered, and recrystallized from methyl alcohol to get the pure compounds 4 (a-j).

*N*-[*(E)*-1-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)methylidene] -*N*-phenylamine (4a): Yield 52%; m.p. 127-129°C; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3052, 2932, 1616, 1584, 1523 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 300 MHz): δ 2.32 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.59 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.25 (m, 10H, ArH), 8.19 (s, 1H, CH=N); MS: m/z 275 (M<sup>+</sup>).

General procedure for the synthesis of 5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)-1-aryl-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetraazole 5(a-j): A mixture of Schiffs base 4(a-j) (0.01 mol) and PCl<sub>5</sub> (0.01 mol) was heated at 100 °C for one hour. When the evolution of fumes of HCl ceased, excess of PCl<sub>5</sub> was removed under reduced pressure and the residual imidoyl chloride was treated with an ice-cold solution of sodium azide (0.02 mol) and excess of sodium acetate in water (15 mL) and acetone (20 mL)

with stirring. Stirring was continued for overnight, there after acetone was removed under reduced pressure. The remaining aqueous portion was extracted with chloroform was dried and recrystallized from ethanol to get the pure compounds **5(a-j)**.

**5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1-phenyl-1***H***-1,2,3, 4-tetraazole (5a):** Yield 42%; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3047, 2854, 1616, 1581, 1550, 1523 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.28 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.40-7.50 (m, 5H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  11.2, 14.5, 115.2, 122.7, 127.6, 128.1, 123.7, 129.4, 133.1, 133.6, 135.1, 139.4, 139.7, 147.8; MS: m/z 316 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5b):** Yield 51%; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3052, 2853, 1614, 1582, 1549, 1524 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.28 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.40-7.50 (m, 4H, ArH); MS: m/z 330 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**4.[5.(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetrazol-1-yl]phenylmethylether (5c):** Yield 40%; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3053, 2851, 1610, 1583, 1549, 1524, 1071 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 7H, ArH), 7.47 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH); MS: m/z 346 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl) -1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5d):** Yield 45%; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$ : 3051, 2847, 1610, 1581, 1552, 1525 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.50-7.60 (m, 4H, ArH); MS: m/z 334 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**1-(4-bromophenyl)-5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl) -1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5e):** Yield 44%; 3051, 2847, 1610, 1581, 1552, 1525, 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.49 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.40-7.50 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.81 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH); MS: m/z 395 (M<sup>+</sup>), 397 (M<sup>+</sup>+2).

**5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1-(3-nitrophenyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5f):** Yield 54%; 3032, 2878, 1615, 1581, 1551, 1533, 1379 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.31 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.80-7.90 (m, 3H, ArH), 8.67 (s, 1H, ArH); MS: m/z 361 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5g):** Yield 61%; 3047, 2912, 1617, 1594, 1559, 1541, 1368 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.31 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10-7.25 (m, 7H, ArH), 8.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH); MS: m/z 361 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**1-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetraazole (5h):** Yield 48%; 3031, 2872, 1611, 1590, 1544 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.32 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.00-7.20 (m, 7H, ArH), 7.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, ArH); MS: m/z 352 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**3-[5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetra-azol-1-yl|phenol (5i):** Yield 51%; 3342, 3032, 2873, 1612, 1589, 1544 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.29 (s, 1H, OH), 6.80-6.90 (1H, ArH), 7.00-7.25 (m, 8H, ArH); MS: m/z 332 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**4-[5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1***H***-4-pyrazolyl)-1***H***-1,2,3,4-tetra-azol-1-yl]phenol (5j):** Yield 53%; 3341, 3033, 2873, 1612,

1589, 1547 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.27 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.42 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.09 (s, 1H, OH), 7.10-7.20 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.47 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH); MS: m/z 332 (M<sup>+</sup>).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The cyclo-condensation of ethylacetoacetate 1 with phenylhydrazine in ethanol at reflux temperature for 3 h gave the 3,5dimethyl-1-aryl-1*H*-pyrazole 2 in good yields. Formylation of 2 with DMF in phosphorous oxychloride, at reflux for 1 h, gave the 3,5-dimethyl-1-aryl-1*H*-4-pyrazolecarbaldehyde 3 in 86% of yield (Sanjeeva Reddy et al, 2010). Further, condensation of compound 3 with corresponding arylamine in presence of acetic acid in toluene at reflux temperature for 3 h, gave N-[(E) -1-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)methyldene]-*N*-arylamine 4(a-j) in good yields (Nagaraj et al, 2017). Compounds 4(a-j) were treated with phosphorous pentachloride and heated at 100 °C for 1 h to get in situ imidoyl chloride intermediate which was treated with an ice-cold solution of sodium azide and excess of sodium acetate in water and acetone with stirring overnight (Muralikrishna et al, 2013), gave 5-(3,5-dimethyl-1phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)-1-aryl-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetraazole 5(a-j) in good yields (Scheme 1). The structures of the synthesized compounds were elucidated by IR, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and MS spectral analysis.

ring. All the other aromatic protons were observed at the expected regions. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, the prominent signals corresponding to the C-3, C-4 and C-5 carbons of pyrazole ring is observed at 147.8, 115.2 and 135.1 ppm respectively, the C-5 carbon of tetrazole ring is observed at 139.7 ppm, are proof of further evidence of its structure.

#### Antibacterial Activity

All the newly synthesized compounds 5(a-j) were screened for their antibacterial activity against Gram-positive bacteria viz. Bacillus subtilis (MTCC 441), Bacillus sphaericus (MTCC 11) and Staphylococcus aureus (MTCC 96), and Gram-negative bacteria viz. Pseudomonas aeruginosa (MTCC Klobsinella aerogenes (MTCC 39) and Chromobacterium violaceum (MTCC 2656) by disc diffusion method (NCCLS, 1982). For the antibacterial assay standard inoculums (1-2  $\times$ 10<sup>7</sup> c.f.u/mL 0.5 Mc Farland standards) were introduced on to the surface of sterile agar plates, and a sterile glass spreader was used for even distribution of the inoculums. The discs measuring 6.26 mm in diameter were prepared from Whatman no.1 filter paper and sterilized by dry heat at 140 °C for 1 h. The sterile discs previously soaked in a known concentration of the test compounds were placed in nutrient agar medium. The plates were inverted and incubated for 24 h at 37 °C.

**Scheme 1** Schematic route for the synthesis of compounds 5(a-j)

Compound	zone inhibition at 50 µg/mL (mm)					
	B. subtilis	B. sphaericus	S. aureus	P. aeruginosa	K. aerogenes	C. violaceum
5a	13	23	16	16	18	22
5b	10	17	18	15	22	20
5c	25	29	26	28	24	31
5d	28	30	30	29	25	26
5e	19	14	21	23	15	21
5f	18	17	15	20	15	19
5g	22	19	27	25	21	23
5h	25	32	30	30	27	30
5i	16	21	19	18	20	19
5j	19	20	21	15	12	11
Streptomycin	25	30	30	30	25	30

**Reagents and Conditions**: i) Ph-NH-NH<sub>2</sub>/EtOH, reflux, 3 h; ii) POCl<sub>3</sub>/DMF, reflux, 1 h; iii) Ar-NH<sub>2</sub>/AcOH/toluene, reflux, 3 h; iv) PCl<sub>5</sub>/NaN<sub>3</sub>/Et<sub>3</sub>N/dioxane

**5**: Ar = a) phenyl; b) 4-methylphenyl; c) 4-methoxyphenyl; d) 4-fluorophenyl; e) 4-bromophenyl; f) 3-nitrophenyl; g) 4-nitrophenyl; h) 2,5--difluorophenyl; i) 3-hydroxyphenyl; j) 4-hydroxyphenyl.

The IR spectrum of compound 5a showed absorption bands in the region of 1523 (N=N), 1616 (C=N) and 1550 (C-N) of tetrazole ring. Its  $^1$ H NMR spectra showed the signals at  $\delta$  2.28 and 2.47 ppm as singlet, integrating three protons in each corresponding methyl groups at  $3^{rd}$  and  $5^{th}$  position of pyrazole

The inhibition zones were measured and compared with the standard drug streptomycin. The zones of inhibition are presented in Table 1.

The antibacterial screening data reveal that all the tested compounds 5(a-j) showed moderate to good inhibition towards all the tested strains. Compounds 5c, 5d and 5h exhibited potent inhibitory activity compared to standard drug at the tested concentrations. The results also reveal that the presence of 4-methoxyphenyl (5c) or 4-fluorophenyl (5d) or 2,5-difluorophenyl (5h) substituent on tetrazole ring might be the reason for the significant inhibitory activity. Most of these new compounds showed appreciable activity against test bacteria and emerged as potential molecules for further development.

#### **CONCLUSION**

A new series of 5-(3,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-4-pyrazolyl)-1-aryl-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetraazole 5(a-j) have been synthesized and evaluated for their antibacterial activity against various bacterial strains. The screened compounds 5c, 5d and 5h exhibited potent antibacterial activity compared to standard drug at the tested concentrations. The other compounds also showed appreciable activity against the test bacteria and emerged as potential molecules for further development.

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