Synthesis, characterization and antimicrobial activity evaluation of new imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole derivatives

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ARTICLE INFORMATION
Received: 09 June 2010
Accepted: 1 October 2010
Online: 31 March 2011

KEYWORDS
Thiazolidinedione
Thiadiazole
Imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles
Antibacterial activity
Antifungal activity
Rhodanine

1. Introduction

Treatment of infectious diseases still remains an important and challenging problem because of a combination factors including newly emerging infectious diseases and increasing number of multi-drug resistant microbial pathogens with particular relevance for Gram-positive bacteria [1-5]. In spite of the large number of antibiotics and chemotherapeutics available for medical use, the emergence new antibiotic resistant bacterial strains in the last decades constitutes a substantial need for new class of antibacterial agents [6].

During recent years, there have been intense investigations on thiadiazole and imidazo [2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole compounds, many of which are known to possess interesting pharmacological properties such as antitumor [8], antitubercular [9], antibacterial [10], antifungal [11,12], analgesic and antimicrobial [13], antiamoebic, antimalarial, analgesic [14], and antisecretory [12] activities. Moreover, much interest has also been focused on the cardiotonic [16], diuretic [17] and herbicidal [18] activities displayed by compounds incorporating this heterocyclic system.

The varied biological activities of rhodanines (2-thioxo-thiazolidin-4-one) and their analogues have been known from the beginning of the 20th century. Rhodanines and 2,4-thiazolidininedione have become a pharmacologically important class of heterocyclic compounds since the introduction of various glitazones and epalrestat in to clinical use for treatment of type II diabetes and diabetic complications, respectively [19,20]. Chemical modification of these heterocycles has constantly resulted in compounds with broad spectrum of pharmacological activities.

2.1. Experimental

Unless otherwise noted, materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Melting points were recorded on electrothermal melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) controls were carried out on precoated silica gel plates (F254, Merck). The IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet Impact 2400 FT-IR spectrophotometer using KBr pellets. 1H and 13C NMR spectra were recorded on AMX-400, Bruker-400 liquid-state NMR spectrometer using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. Chemical shifts were recorded as δ (ppm). Elemental analyses were carried out using a Perkin Elmer 2400-CHN Analyzer. Spectra facilities and elemental analyses were carried out by Sophisticated Analytical Instruments Facility (SAIF) division, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.
2.2. Synthesis

2.2.1. Synthesis of 2-amino-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazole (3)

2-amino-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazole was obtained according to the procedure described by Al- Omar et al. [29] and Mazzone et al. [30] with a modification. A mixture of equimolar quantities of 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoic acid (0.1 mol), thiosemicarbazide (0.1 mol) and phosphorus oxychloride (30 ml) was refluxed gently for half an hour. After cooling, water was added (90 ml) and the mixture was refluxed for 4 h and filtered. The solution was neutralized by saturated solution of potassium hydroxide. The precipitate was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol. Yield: 80%. M.p.: 205-208 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3590, 3171, 1620. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 8.85 (s, 2H, -NH₂), 6.95 (2d, 2H, Ar-H). 3.80 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2.2.2. General Procedure: synthesis of 2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles (4a-g)

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-substituted aryl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles (4a-g)

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-methylphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (4a); Yield: 70%. M.p.: 205-208 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3095, 3033, 2943, 1576, 1490, 1339, 1130, 843. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 8.75 (s, 1H, H-5 imidazole), 7.40 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.41 (4d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.89 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-ethylphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (4b); Yield: 71%. M.p.: 136-137 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3090, 3025, 2947, 1586, 1489, 1329, 1130, 899. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 8.64 (s, 1H, H-5 imidazole), 7.77 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.22 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.14 (4d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.89 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.29 (s, 3H, CH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-isopropylphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5a); Yield: 70%, Colourless crystals. M.p.: 145-148 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3089, 2922, 2765, 1677, 1130, 798. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 10.05 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.88 (8d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.33 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.22 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.89 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.29 (s, 3H, CH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-nitrophenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5b); Yield: 70%. Brownish crystal. M.p.: 240-245 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3085, 2976, 2835, 2787, 1674, 1204, 1354, 798. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 10.08 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.67 (4d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.43 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.24 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.90 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-carboxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5c); Yield: 70%. Light brown crystals. M.p.: 193-196 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3056, 2976, 2835, 2787, 1674, 1204, 1354, 798. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 8.35 (4s, 4H, CHO), 7.86 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.43 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.21 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.80 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.37 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5d); Yield: 70%. Brownish-yellow crystals. M.p.: 175-176 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3056, 2976, 2835, 2787, 1674, 1204, 1354, 798. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 9.55 (s, 4H, CHO), 7.86 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.43 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.21 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.80 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.37 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-cyanophenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5e); Yield: 70%. Brownish crystal. M.p.: 179-180 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3056, 2976, 2835, 2787, 1674, 1204, 1354, 798. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 9.34 (s, 4H, CHO), 8.29 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.15 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.20 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.87 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-carboxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (5f); Yield: 70%. Brownish crystal. M.p.: 176-178 °C. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3056, 2984, 2793, 1673, 1203, 1156, 785. 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d₆): 10.09 (s, 1H, CHO), 8.06 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.60 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.24 (2d, 2H, Ar-H), 3.91 (s, 6H, OCH₃), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

Vilsmeier-Haak reagent was prepared by adding phosphor chloride (3 ml) in dimethylformamide (20 ml) at 0 °C with stirring. Then appropriately substituted arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole (4a-g) (0.01 mol) was added to the reagent and stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The mixture was further stirred for 2h at room temperature and at 60 °C for additional 2 h, the reaction mixture was then poured in sodium carbonate solution and stirred at 90 °C for 2 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with water, extracted with chloroform, and collective extract was washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The residue obtained after the removal of chloroform was recrystallized from suitable solvent to get the crystalline solid.
A mixture of the 6-Aryl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl) acetic acid 6a-g

2.2.4. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-((5Z)-3-((2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl) acetic acid 6a-g

A mixture of the 6-Aryl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl) acetic acid (6a): Yield: 77%. Light yellow solid. M.p.: 191-193 'C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3363, 3042, 2953, 1720, 1604, 1320, 1156. 'H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d6): 13.65 (br s, 1H, COOH), 7.90 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.87 (s, 1H, CH3), 7.48 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 4.69 (s, 2H, CH3), 3.90 (s, 6H, OCH3), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH3). 13C NMR (100 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d6): 167.69, 168.86, 168.52, 152.12, 149.78, 140.39, 138.27, 138.97, 132.36, 132.94, 127.64, 126.02, 124.38, 117.53, 116.64, 107.78, 56.33, 55.46, 43.42, 30.19. Anal. Calcld. for C25H19ClN4O7S2 (962.10): C, 41.15; H, 3.26; N, 9.54. Found: C, 41.10; H, 3.22; N, 9.56.

2.2.5. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-((2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)-4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl) acetic acid 7a-g

A mixture of the 6-Aryl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl) acetic acid (7a): Yield: 61%. Yellow solid. M.p.: 211-213 'C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3373, 3061, 2925, 1720, 1670, 1629, 1322, 1141. 'H NMR (400 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d6): 12.95 (br s, 1H, COOH), 8.20 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.03 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.73 (s, 1H, CH3), 7.64 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.72 (s, 2H, CH3), 3.87 (s, 6H, OCH3). 13C NMR (100 MHz, δ, ppm, DMSO-d6): 170.53, 167.38, 165.51, 151.16, 147.27, 141.77, 135.33, 132.61, 132.57, 129.48, 129.38, 128.08, 127.52, 126.39, 125.46, 119.78, 113.70, 112.28, 54.66, 55.44, 53.56, 39.17. Anal. Calcld. for C25H13ClN6O5S (699.49): C, 52.93; H, 3.95; N, 9.15. Found: C, 52.90; H, 4.00; N, 8.89.
For the antibacterial and antifungal activity, the compounds were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Further dilutions of the compounds and standard drugs in the test medium were prepared at the required quantities of 128, 64, 32, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1 µg/mL concentrations with Mueller-Hinton broth and Sabouraud dextrose broth. The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) were determined using the twofold serial dilution technique [32]. A control test was also performed containing inoculated broth supplemented with only DMSO at the same dilutions used in our experiments and found inactive in the culture medium. All the compounds were tested for their in vitro growth inhibitory activity against different bacteria and fungi. Ampicillin and Kanamycin were used as the reference standard for antibacterial activity while ketoconazole was used as the reference standard for antifungal activity, the MIC value was summarized in Table 1.

The cultures were obtained from Mueller-Hinton broth for all the bacterial strains after 24 h of incubation at 37 ± 1 °C. Fungi were maintained in Sabouraud dextrose broth after incubation for 24 h at 25 ± 1 °C. Testing was carried out in Mueller-Hinton broth and Sabouraud dextrose broth at pH 7.4 and the twofold serial dilution technique was applied. The final inoculum’s size was 104 CFU/mL for the antibacterial assay and 105 CFU/mL for the antifungal assay. A set of tubes containing only inoculated broth was used as controls. For the antibacterial assay after incubation for 24 h at 37±1 °C and after incubation for 48 h at 25 ± 1 °C for antifungal assay, the tube with no growth of microorganism was recorded to represent the MIC expressed in µg/mL. Every experiment in the antibacterial and antifungal assays was replicated twice.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Synthesis

The synthetic route of the compounds (6a-g and 7a-g) is outlined in Scheme 1. The 2-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic (1) acid was prepared according to earlier reported method [31] and 2-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic (2) acid is available commercial (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** (1) 2-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic acid; (2) 2-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic acid.
Table 1. Results of antibacterial and antifungal activities of compounds (6a-g and 7a-g) [minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC in μg/mL) values (mean of triplicates)].

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Dehydrocyclisation to form the desired fused heterocycle under reflux temperature spontaneously. The electronic and steric factors at 5th position of 2-amino-5-substituted-1,3,4-thiadiazole are crucial in determining the course of its reaction with substituted α-haloaryl ketones. The strongly electronnegative groups impart less nucleophilic character to the nitrogen at 4th position of the 1,3,4-thiadiazole. Various α-haloaryl ketones were prepared by the bromination of the corresponding ketones.

Vilsmeier-Haack reaction of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles (4a-g) in dimethylformamide and phosphorus oxychloride provided 6-aryl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole-5-carbaldehyde derivatives (5a-g). Thus obtained imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles-5-carbaldehydes (5a-g) were subjected to Knoevenagel condensation with 2-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic acid (1) and 2-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic acid (2) in the presence of catalytic amount of piperidine and acetic acid to afford imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles (6a-g) and (7a-g), respectively.

The formation of 2-aminothiadiazole (3) by the reaction between 3,4,5-trimethoxy benzoic acid and thiosemicarbazide was confirmed by IR spectra, which showed the presence of amine (–NH2) band and absence of carbonyl stretching of carboxylic acid. Structures of imidazothiadiazole derivatives (4a-g) were established by the absence of amine (–NH2) band in IR spectra and appearance of imidazole proton (H-5) around δ 8.6 in the 1H NMR spectra. IR spectra of aldehydes (5a-g) displayed a sharp band for carbonyl stretching frequency (νC=O) around 1680 cm⁻¹ and the signal for imidazole proton (H-5) in 1H NMR spectrum was absent. A new signal for aldehyde proton was observed around δ 10.00 ppm in the 1H NMR spectra, thus substantiating the formation of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole-5-carbaldehydes. The absence of aldehyde protons and presence of the methylidene proton around δ 7.7 in 1H NMR spectra of the product supported the formation of title compounds (6a-g) and (7a-g).

3.2. Antimicrobial activity

The fourteen synthesized compounds were screened for their antibacterial and antifungal screening using twofold serial dilution technique [32].
imidazo[2,1-b]aryl)acetic acids; (thioxothiazolidin-3-yl)acetic acids are shown good activity as arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl)methylene)4-oxo-2-all the fungal strains. All other compounds showed moderate activity.

The antifungal screening of all compounds was carried against four fungal strains, Candida albicans (ATCC 20913), Aspergillus flavus (NCIM No. 524), Aspergillus niger (ATCC 6275), and Cryptococcus neoformans (clinical isolate). All synthesized compounds showed significant antifungal activity against different fungal strains. Although compounds 7e and 7f showed good antifungal activity against all the fungal strains, compounds 6e and 6f also showed remarkable activity against all the fungal strains. All other compounds showed moderate activity against all the fungal strains but compounds 6a, 6b, 6d showed weak activity against A. niger and 6b against A. flavus.

A total analysis of the antibacterial and antifungal activity revealed that (i) the 2-[[5Z]-2-[[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)]-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl]methylene]-4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl] acetic acids are shown good activity as compare 2-[[5Z]-2-[[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)]-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl]methylene]-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl] acetic; (ii) The antibacterial and antifungal activity imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole derivatives depended upon the presence and nature of the substituents, which were introduced into the imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole ring. (iii) The antibacterial and antifungal activity of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole derivatives were enhanced by the introduction of electron withdrawing 4-bromophenyl and 4-chlorophenyl group 6th position of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole.

4. Conclusion

We have synthesized several 2-[[5Z]-5-[[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)]-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl]methylene]-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl] acetic acid and 2-[[5Z]-5-[[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)]-6-arylimidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazol-5-yl]methylene]-4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl] acetic acid derivatives. The results of the in-vitro antimicrobial activity are also encouraging as out of 14 compounds tested, compounds 6e, 6f, 7e and 7f exhibited antimicrobial activity. A total analysis of the antibacterial and antifungal activity revealed that the antibacterial and antifungal activity of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole derivatives were enhanced by the introduction of 4-bromophenyl and 4-chlorophenyl group 6th position of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazole and the mode of action of these compounds was unknown. These observation may promote a further development of this group of imidazo[2,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazoles and may lead to compounds with better pharmacological profile than standard antibacterial and antifungal drugs.

Acknowledgement

Authors are grateful to Dr. F. V. Manvi, Principal and Prof. A. D. Taranalli, Vice-Principal, for providing necessary facilities. Authors are also grateful to NMR Research center, IISC, Bangalore, India, for providing the Spectral data.