



Some chalcone derivatives as antimicrobial agents: Synthesis and characterization

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ABSTRACT

Substituted chalcones were synthesized by condensing benzaldehyde derivatives with acetophenone derivatives in dilute ethanolic sodium hydroxide solution at room temperature according to Claisen–Schmidt condensation. In the presence of NaOH/EtOH as a catalyst, various substituted chalcones are synthesized. The reaction is clean with excellent yield. The structures of the synthesized compounds were confirmed by IR and mass spectroscopy.

Keywords: Chalcone, Claisen–Schmidt condensation, aldehydes, antimicrobial

INTRODUCTION

Chalcones are a group of compounds with various substitution patterns on the two aromatic rings of 1, 3-diphenyl-2-propen-1-one. Chalcones constitute an important class of natural products belonging to the flavonoid family and are reported to possess a wide spectrum of biological activities, including antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, insect antifeedant, analgesic, anti-mutagenic,^[1-3] antiplatelet,^[4] antiulcerative,^[5] antitubercular,^[6] immunomodulatory,^[7] antihyperglycemic,^[8] antimalarial,^[9] anticancer,^[10] antiviral,^[11] antileishmanial,^[12] antioxidant,^[13] inhibition of chemical mediators release,^[14] inhibition of leukotriene B₄,^[15] inhibition of tyrosinase,^[16] and inhibition of aldose reductase^[17] activities. The presence of a reactive α , β -unsaturated ketone function in chalcones was found to be responsible for their antimicrobial activity.

Chemically, they consist of open chain flavonoids in which the two aromatic rings are joined by a three carbon α , β -unsaturated carbonyl system. The presence of a reactive α , β -unsaturated keto function in chalcones is found to be responsible for their antimicrobial activity. In recent years, a variety of chalcones have been reviewed for their cytotoxic, anticancer chemopreventive, and

mutagenic as well as antiviral, insecticidal, and enzyme inhibitory properties.^[18,19]

Several strategies for the synthesis of these systems, based on the formation of carbon-carbon bond were reported. Among them the direct aldol condensation and Claisen-Schmidt condensation still occupy prominent positions. The main method for the synthesis of chalcones was the classical Claisen-Schmidt condensation in the presence of aqueous alkaline bases,^[20] Ba(OH)₂,^[21] and LiOH microwave irradiation and ultrasound irradiation.^[22] They are also obtained through Suzuki reaction,^[23] Wittig reaction, Friedel-Crafts acylation with cinnamoyl chloride, or photo-Fries rearrangement of phenyl cinnamates. In aldol condensation, the preparation of chalcones requires at least two-steps aldol formation and dehydration. Since aldol addition is reversible, mukaiyama, or Claisen-Schmidt condensation approach of using enol ether has emerged as an alternative pathway. A total of five derivatives were synthesized as shown in Scheme 1, Figure 1 and evaluated for antimicrobial activity. Physical characterisation of compounds is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Physical characteristics of compounds (a-e).

Compound	R	%Yield	Melting range°C
a	<i>m</i> -NO ₂	85.27	170–172
b	<i>p</i> -F	79.45	172–174
c	<i>m</i> -Cl	75.62	179–181
d	<i>p</i> -Cl	68.71	175–177
e	<i>p</i> -OCH ₃	82.66	180–182

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Antimicrobial activity

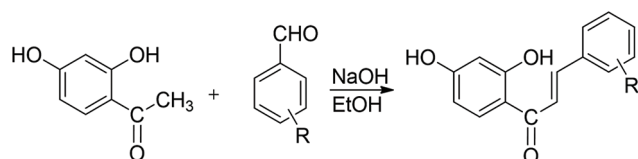
The antimicrobial activity of the synthesized compounds was evaluated using cup-plate method. Ciprofloxacin was used as standard drug. After the application of the inoculum, the plates were incubated for 24 h at temperature $37.5 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ after that the standard and test samples in appropriate dilutions were applied and incubated for next 24 h at temperature $37.5 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$, after that zone of inhibition was measured. The outcomes are listed in Table 2.^[24]

Experimental

The chemicals required were obtained from HiMedia Chem. Ltd, SD-Fine Ltd. and Sigma-Aldrich Pvt. Ltd and were used as such.

Melting points were determined using open capillary tube melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Reaction progress was monitored by performing thin-layer chromatography on silica gel G plates, using iodine vapors and UV chamber as visualizing

Compounds	Zone of inhibition in mm.			
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>
A	14	16	17	15
B	19	18	20	22
C	13	14	17	15
D	18	22	17	18
E	19	21	17	20
Ciprofloxacin	28	27	32	29



Scheme 1: Synthetic diagram of 2,4 dihydroxy substituted chalcones

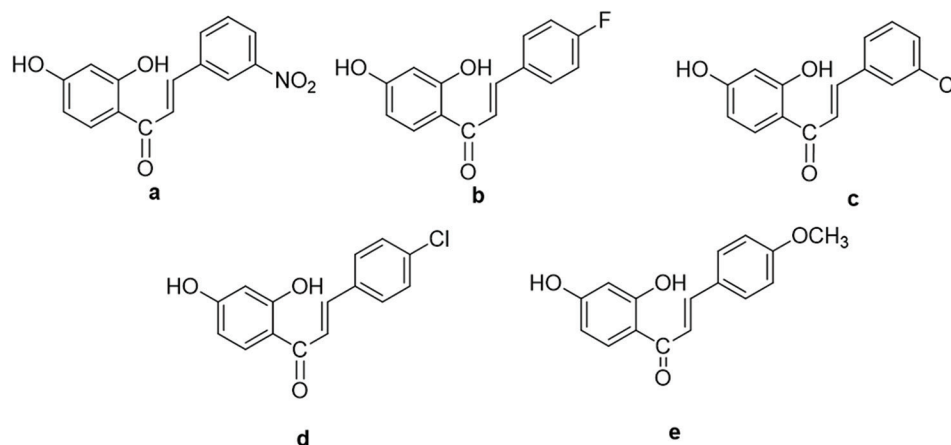


Figure 1: Structures of 2,4 dihydroxy substituted chalcones

agents. After physical characterization, the compounds were subjected to spectral analysis. IR spectra were recorded in KBr on a SHIMADZU FT/IR-5300. The mass spectra were recorded on a JEOL-SX-102 instrument using ESI. Infrared spectra were taken on Perkin-Elmer AX-1 spectrometer and values are expressed in cm^{-1} .

General procedure: Synthesis of substituted chalcones

Stirred the mixture of substituted acetophenone (0.01 mol) and substituted benzaldehyde (a-j) (0.01 mol) in ethanol (30 ml), with continuous stirring 30% NaOH or KOH (15 ml) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred for 2 h and was left over night. The reaction mixture was precipitated by addition of ice cold water. The precipitate thus obtained was the desired product.^[25]

- White amorphous solid: IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : (OH) 3070.46 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) 1662.52 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{C}$) $1608, 1448.44 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, ($\text{Ar}-\text{NO}_2$) $1529.45, 1352.01 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Mass: m/z $285.3 (\text{M}^+)$.
- White amorphous solid: IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : (OH) 3062.75 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) 1660.60 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{C}$) $1608, 1448.44 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, ($\text{Ar}-\text{F}$) $1529.45, 1352.01 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Mass: m/z $258.4 (\text{M}^+)$.
- White amorphous solid: IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : (OH) 3070.46 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) 1662.52 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{C}$) $1606.59, 1477.37 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, ($\text{Ar}-\text{Cl}$) 1080.06 cm^{-1} . Mass: m/z $274.8 (\text{M}^+)$.
- White amorphous solid: (OH) 3060.82 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) 1658.67 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{C}$) $1604.66, 1446.51 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, ($\text{Ar}-\text{Cl}$) 1091.63 cm^{-1} . Mass: m/z $274.6 (\text{M}^+)$.
- Yellow amorphous solid: (OH) 3060.82 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) 1658.67 cm^{-1} , ($\text{C}=\text{C}$) $1604.66, 1446.51 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, ($\text{Ar}-\text{Cl}$) 1091.63 cm^{-1} . Mass: m/z $270.8 (\text{M}^+)$.

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CONCLUSION

Structures of the synthesized substituted chalcones were confirmed from their respective IR and mass-spectrometry studies. From the antimicrobial screening, it was observed that all the compounds exhibited activity against all the organisms employed. The compounds b and e, showed good antibacterial activity due to its electron donating properties whereas d showed moderate to good activity because of substitution on *p*-position while a and c showed comparatively lesser activity of all.

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