



Preparation of Benzimidazole Based Coumarin Derivatives As Antimicrobial and Antioxidant Agents

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present work was to afford benzimidazole-based coumarins as antimicrobial and antioxidant agents. The compounds 3a-3j were prepared by reaction the compounds 1a-1b with the compounds 2a-2e in acetone. Chemical structures of 3a-3j were proven by their spectral analysis. Minimum inhibitory concentrations of 3a-3j were recorded by serial dilution procedure. Antioxidant potential was assessed by the 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl method. Compounds 1a and 3g were identified as promising antimicrobial agents. Most of the compounds displayed moderate antioxidant activity. It has been concluded that the replacement of the 2-butylthio group with 2-pentylthio or 2-hexylthio substituents and the coumarin structure with another close flavonoid structure may provide better dual antimicrobial/antioxidant compounds.

Keywords: Synthesis, Benzimidazole-based coumarins, Antimicrobial, Antioxidant.

INTRODUCTION

Antimicrobial resistance is a worldwide concern of the present time.¹ This problem is further supported by the emergence of newer microbial diseases.² Antioxidants are reported to limit the development of countless diseases like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, inflammation, and cancer triggered by the high level of reactive oxygen species.³ It is also evident from the published reports that increased oxidative stress decreases the healing rate of infected tissue.⁴ Accordingly, it is worthy to develop new medicinal compounds possessing appreciable antioxidant activity for the management

of microbial infections. Benzimidazoles and coumarins are reported as antimicrobial⁵, antiviral⁶, antidiabetic^{7,8}, antihypertensive^{9,10}, antitumor¹¹, and antioxidants^{12,13}. In light of the literature, it looked worthwhile that a combination of benzimidazole moiety and coumarin moiety may provide medicinal compounds that possess appreciable antioxidant activity as well as antimicrobial potential. Therefore, an extension of our work associated to the antimicrobial agent^{1,2,14,15} and based on the existing literature, it was aimed to develop benzimidazole based coumarin derivatives with the expectation of providing improved antimicrobial compounds.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

General

The uncorrected m.p. (melting point) were obtained by means of the open-capillary tube method. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}), NMR (δ in ppm, DMSO- d_6), and Mass (m/z) analysis was performed using Nicolet, 5PC FT-IR spectrometer, Bruker DRX-300 FT NMR, and Jeol-JMS-D-300, respectively. The carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen analysis remained in the range of $\pm 0.4\%$ concerning the calculated values. The reaction monitoring and purity assessment were performed by TLC. The R_f value was measured by means of benzene:acetone (7:3).

Preparation of intermediates 1a-1b

The intermediates 1a-1b were prepared according to our prior publication^{16,17}.

Preparation of intermediates 2a-2e

The intermediates 2a-2e were prepared according to our prior publication¹.

Synthesis of 3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3a)

A mixture of 1a (0.1 mol), 2a (0.1 mol), sodium carbonate (0.1 mol), and acetone (40 ml) was stirred for 18 H at 25°C. The subsequent mass was concentrated to 20 ml and it was decanted into the iced water. The resulting compacted bulk was filtered, and crystallized by Ethanol.

Compounds 3b-3j were prepared in a similar manner. The synthetic pathway of the compounds 3a-3j is provided in Figure 1.

Antimicrobial Activity

The compounds 1a-1b and 3a-3j were evaluated for their antimicrobial action compared to *S. aureus* (ATCC-25923), *E. coli* (ATCC-25922), *E. faecalis* (ATCC-29212), *K. pneumoniae* (ATCC-700603), *C. albicans* (ATCC-2091), and *P. citrinum* (NCIM-768) as per our prior publications.^{1,2,14,15} Ofloxacin and ketoconazole having different concentrations were used as standard drugs. The compounds were also tested at different concentrations to determine their minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). The standard and test solutions were prepared in sterile dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Sterile DMSO also functioned as control.

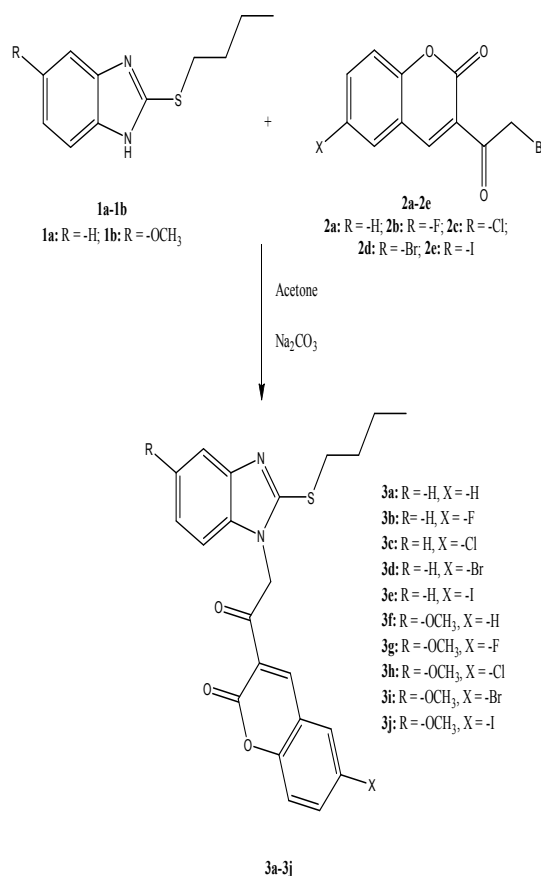


Fig. 1. Synthesis of 2-butylthio-1H-benzimidazole based coumarin derivatives (3a-3j)

Anti-tubercular activity

The anti-tubercular activity was done against *Mycobacterium intercellulari* (ATCC 35734), and *Mycobacterium smegmatis* (ATCC 35797) as per our prior publication.¹⁸ In short, different concentrations of isoniazid, the compounds 1a-1b, and the 3a-3j were prepared in sterile dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) to determine their minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). The agar medium was used to carry out the anti-tubercular activity. Isoniazid was used as standard drug. The sterile DMSO was used as control.

Antioxidant activity

The DPPH procedure^{19,20} was used to perform the antioxidant activity. In brief, an ethanolic 0.1 mM solution of DPPH was prepared, which also served as control. Various concentrations of ascorbic acid and the test compounds were prepared in EtOH. Two ml of the control solution was mixed with the standard solution (6 ml) and the test compound

solutions (6 ml). The subsequent mixture was shaken and stored at 25°C for ½ H. The absorbance of the test solution, standard solution, and the control was measured at 517 nm. The test was performed in triplicate.

$$\% \text{ Antioxidant Activity} = \frac{\text{The absorbance of the control} - \text{Absorbance of the test}}{\text{The absorbance of the control}} \times 100$$

RESULTS

The physical and spectral analysis data of 3a-3j are given below.

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3a)

R_f: 0.82; m.p.: 155-157°C; % Yield: 60; IR: 1713 & 1701, C=O; 1620, C=N; 1555, C=C; 1225, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.93 (t, 3H), 1.55-165 (m, 4H), 3.17 (t, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 7.31-7.71 (m, 8H), 8.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.5, 33.3, 37.3, 60.5, 111.0, 116.1, 117.1, 119.0, 124.0 (2C), 126.3, 128.8, 129.2, 132.1, 135.1, 138.3, 139.8, 153.7, 154.1, 159.9, 165.5; Mass: 392 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₃S: C, 67.25 (67.33); H, 5.18 (5.14); N, 7.15 (7.14).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-fluoro-2H-chromen-2-one (3b)

R_f: 0.84; m.p.: 177-179°C; % Yield: 50; IR: 1710 & 1695, C=O; 1620, C=N; 1550, C=C; 1220, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.93 (t, 3H), 1.56-164 (m, 4H), 3.21 (t, 2H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 7.30-7.70 (m, 7H), 8.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.5, 33.3, 37.3, 59.9, 111.0, 115.5, 116.7, 117.0, 123.8 (2C), 124.8, 126.0, 132.1, 135.1, 138.5, 139.9, 149.5, 153.5, 159.1, 160.5, 165.3; Mass: 410 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₂H₁₉FN₂O₃S: C, 64.30 (64.38); H, 4.66 (4.67); N, 6.84 (6.82).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-chloro-2H-chromen-2-one (3c)

R_f: 0.75; m.p.: 149-151°C; % Yield: 55; IR: 1721 & 1710, C=O; 1625, C=N; 1560, C=C; 1225, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.96 (t, 3H), 1.55-165 (m, 4H), 3.19 (t, 2H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 7.31-7.71 (m, 7H), 8.36 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.2, 22.6, 33.4, 37.2, 59.3, 111.1, 116.2, 119.0, 124.0 (2C), 124.5, 127.8, 129.9, 132.1 (2C), 135.1, 138.4, 139.9, 150.0, 153.5, 160.3, 165.5;

Mass: 426 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₂H₁₉ClN₂O₃S: C, 61.87 (61.90); H, 4.45 (4.49); N, 6.55 (6.56).

6-bromo-3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3d)

R_f: 0.76; m.p.: 140-142°C; % Yield: 60; IR: 1710 & 1699, C=O; 1628, C=N; 1565, C=C; 1230, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.56-164 (m, 4H), 3.20 (t, 2H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 7.35-7.70 (m, 7H), 8.33 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.5, 33.3, 37.4, 59.8, 111.0, 116.1, 119.2, 119.9, 124.0 (2C), 125.3, 131.3, 132.1, 135.1 (2C), 138.4, 139.8, 153.0, 153.9, 159.9, 165.3; Mass: 470 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₂H₁₉BrN₂O₃S: C, 56.01 (56.06); H, 4.0 (4.06); N, 5.95 (5.94).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-iodo-2H-chromen-2-one (3e)

R_f: 0.69; m.p.: 15-157°C; % Yield: 55; IR: 1719 & 1705, C=O; 1625, C=N; 1560, C=C; 1230, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.94 (t, 3H), 1.55-165 (m, 4H), 3.20 (t, 2H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 7.32-7.71 (m, 7H), 8.34 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.4, 22.5, 33.4, 37.4, 59.9, 93.7, 111.0, 116.2, 121.4, 124.0 (2C), 124.9, 132.1, 135.2 (2C), 138.2, 138.9, 139.9, 152.9, 153.5, 159.9, 165.4; Mass: 518 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₂H₁₉IN₂O₃S: C, 50.99 (50.98); H, 3.74 (3.69); N, 5.41 (5.40).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3f)

R_f: 0.66; m.p.: 165-167°C; % Yield: 55; IR: 1715 & 1699, C=O; 1620, C=N; 1555, C=C; 1220, C—O—C; ¹H-NMR: 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.54-163 (m, 4H), 3.19 (t, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 7.30-7.70 (m, 7H), 8.33 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.5, 33.5, 37.4, 56.8, 59.9, 101.5, 112.3, 114.1, 117.1, 119.2, 126.4, 127.4, 128.9, 129.2, 132.1, 138.3, 139.8, 153.5, 154.0, 157.2, 159.9, 165.1; Mass (m/z): 422 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₄S: C, 65.33 (65.39); H, 5.23 (5.25); N, 6.65 (6.63).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-fluoro-2H-chromen-2-one (3g)

R_f: 0.75; m.p.: 145-147°C; % Yield: 55;

IR: 1715 & 1695, C=O; 1622, C=N; 1560, C=C; 1224, C–O–C; ¹H-NMR: 0.94 (t, 3H), 1.57-164 (m, 4H), 3.17 (t, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 7.31-7.70 (m, 6H), 8.35 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.4, 22.5, 33.2, 37.4, 56.8, 59.9, 101.7, 112.4, 114.0, 115.5, 116.1, 124.7, 126.2, 127.1, 132.1, 138.3, 139.9, 149.6, 153.5, 157.1, 159.1, 159.9, 165.2; Mass: 440 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₃H₂₁FN₂O₄S: C, 62.70 (62.72); H, 4.75 (4.81); N, 6.37 (6.36).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-chloro-2H-chromen-2-one (3h)

R_f: 0.79; m.p.: 151-153°C; % Yield: 65; IR: 1695 & 1721, C=O; 1630, C=N; 1565, C=C; 1230, C–O–C; ¹H-NMR: 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.56-163 (m, 4H), 3.21 (t, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 7.33-7.69 (m, 6H), 8.33 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.4, 33.4, 37.3, 56.9, 59.9, 101.8, 112.4, 114.2, 119.0, 124.5, 127.1, 127.9, 130.4, 132.1, 132.1, 138.3, 140.8, 152.1, 153.5, 157.1, 159.9, 165.1; Mass: 456 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₃H₂₁ClN₂O₄S: C, 60.40 (60.46); H, 4.65 (4.63); N, 6.10 (6.13).

6-bromo-3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3i)

R_f: 0.68; m.p.: 161-163°C; % Yield: 60; IR: 1700 & 1715, C=O; 1625, C=N; 1565, C=C;

1225, C–O–C; ¹H-NMR: 0.93 (t, 3H), 1.56-165 (m, 4H), 3.18 (t, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 7.35-7.70 (m, 6H), 8.34 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.3, 22.5, 33.2, 37.3, 56.8, 59.9, 101.7, 112.4, 114.2, 119.1, 119.9, 125.3, 127.4, 131.2, 132.1, 135.1, 138.3, 139.9, 153.0, 153.8, 157.1, 159.9, 165.3; Mass: 500 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₃H₂₁BrN₂O₄S: C, 55.13 (55.10); H, 4.19 (4.22); N, 5.55 (5.59).

3-(2-(2-(butylthio)-5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)acetyl)-6-iodo-2H-chromen-2-one (3j)

R_f: 0.78; m.p.: 143-145°C; % Yield: 70; IR: 1700 & 1720, C=O; 1630, C=N; 1555, C=C; 1225, C–O–C; ¹H-NMR: 0.94 (t, 3H), 1.55-165 (m, 4H), 3.17 (t, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 7.33-7.70 (m, 6H), 8.36 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR: 14.1, 22.5, 33.3, 37.3, 56.9, 59.9, 93.9, 101.9, 112.4, 114.2, 121.3, 124.7, 127.4, 132.1, 135.1, 136.1, 138.3, 139.9, 152.5, 153.6, 157.1, 159.9, 165.4; Mass: 548 (M⁺); Elemental Analysis, Found (Calcd.) for C₂₃H₂₁IN₂O₄S: C, 50.35 (50.37); H, 3.85 (3.86); N, 5.13 (5.11).

Table 1 presents the antimicrobial activity and the antitubercular activity evaluation records of the compounds 1a-1b and 3a-3j.

Table 2 presents the antioxidant activity records of the compounds 1a-1b and 3a-3j.

Table 1: Antimicrobial activity records of the compounds 1a-1b and 3a-3j

Compounds	MIC (µg/ml)							
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>K. pneumonia</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>P. citrinum</i>	<i>M. intercellulari</i>	<i>M. smegmatis</i>
1a	25	25	25	20	10	10	12.5	12.5
1b	30	30	30	30	20	20	15	15
3a	30	30	30	30	25	25	25	25
3b	25	25	25	25	25	25	15	15
3c	25	25	25	25	20	20	20	20
3d	25	25	25	25	25	25	20	20
3e	40	40	40	40	30	30	25	25
3f	25	25	25	25	25	25	20	20
3g	20	20	20	20	20	20	12.5	15
3h	20	25	25	20	15	15	15	15
3i	25	25	25	25	25	25	20	20
3j	30	30	30	30	20	20	25	25
Ofloxacin		20	20	15	-	-	-	-
Ketoconazole	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-
Isoniazid	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

All values had p < 0.05.

Table 2: Antioxidant activity record of 1a-1b and 3a-3j

Compound	%Antioxidant Activity (N = 3) at different concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)					Calculation of IC_{50} ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)
	5	10	15	20	25	By Linear Regression ($Y = mx + c$)
1a	18.75 \pm 0.15	35.09 \pm 0.18	53.85 \pm 0.58	71.10 \pm 0.10	91.16 \pm 0.14	13.90 (86.18%)
1b	23.07 \pm 0.17	40.14 \pm 0.22	56.99 \pm 0.30	78.80 \pm 0.50	93.99 \pm 0.72	12.62 (94.92%)
3a	17.42 \pm 0.44	27.70 \pm 0.42	42.82 \pm 0.42	62.10 \pm 0.19	75.85 \pm 0.30	16.59 (72.21%)
3b	23.10 \pm 0.10	36.15 \pm 0.18	52.10 \pm 0.18	64.15 \pm 0.90	76.15 \pm 0.30	14.88 (80.51%)
3c	22.47 \pm 0.15	37.70 \pm 0.50	55.80 \pm 0.50	66.09 \pm 0.60	79.30 \pm 0.70	14.20 (84.36%)
3d	15.67 \pm 0.40	24.15 \pm 0.50	39.90 \pm 0.18	54.15 \pm 1.10	67.70 \pm 0.40	18.61 (64.37%)
3e	17.25 \pm 0.18	28.15 \pm 0.40	43.65 \pm 0.60	61.10 \pm 0.50	77.92 \pm 0.30	16.42 (72.95%)
3f	24.41 \pm 0.12	39.15 \pm 0.14	57.19 \pm 0.20	67.15 \pm 0.10	81.90 \pm 0.30	13.61 (88.02%)
3g	18.15 \pm 0.14	28.40 \pm 0.30	43.80 \pm 0.36	60.02 \pm 0.60	71.10 \pm 0.50	17.07 (70.18%)
3h	16.13 \pm 0.16	27.10 \pm 0.40	42.09 \pm 0.50	54.10 \pm 0.40	69.70 \pm 0.10	18.05 (66.37%)
3i	21.66 \pm 0.20	35.30 \pm 0.40	49.15 \pm 0.49	63.30 \pm 0.39	77.10 \pm 0.40	15.25 (78.55%)
3j	23.15 \pm 0.10	38.40 \pm 0.30	56.10 \pm 0.30	73.42 \pm 0.30	91.30 \pm 0.80	13.11 (91.38%)
Ascorbic Acid	24.22 \pm 0.51	43.41 \pm 0.23	58.90 \pm 0.30	82.51 \pm 0.15	95.98 \pm 0.20	11.98 (100%)
Control	0	0	0	0	0	0

All values had $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

The compounds of the present work were synthesized as per Fig. 1. The compound of the formula 1a-1b and 2a-2e were prepared according to the prior art processes.^{1,16,17} The reaction of appropriate compound 1a-1b with another appropriate compound 2a-2e in acetone in the existence of sodium carbonate provided the compounds 3a-3j. These compounds were recrystallized from ethanol and were characterized by their physical and spectral records. These data supported the assigned structures and are presented in details in the result part.

The data of the antimicrobial activity showed that the compound 3g and 3h had equal MIC values against *S. aureus* concerning ofloxacin; the compound 3g had equal MIC value against *E. faecalis* and *E. coli* concerning ofloxacin; the compound 1a had equal MIC value against *C. albicans* and *P. citrinum* concerning ketoconazole; not any compound demonstrated equipotent MIC value against *K. pneumonia* concerning ofloxacin; the compounds 1a and 3g displayed closest MIC value against *M. intercellulari* and *M. smegmatis*. The SAR study demonstrated that the substitution of the iodine provides least potent compounds, wherein the compounds bearing -F, -Cl, and -Br groups at C-6 of the coumarin ring along with the -OCH₃ group at C-5

of the benzimidazole ring provide potent compounds. It is assumed that the -F, -Cl, -Br, and the -OCH₃ groups make the compounds more lipophilic, which may be responsible for the better antimicrobial activity the compounds possessing these groups.²¹ There is also a possibility that increasing the carbons in the 2-thiobutyl chain may increase the potency of these type of compounds. Using the same concept in compounds 1a and 3g, better anti-tubercular agents may also be prepared because the cell wall of the Mycobacterium is highly lipophilic.¹⁸

The antioxidant activity data provided that the compound 1b had the highest antioxidant activity of 94.92%, and the compound 3d had the least antioxidant activity of 64.37% with respect to the standard ascorbic acid. Other compounds showed moderate antioxidant activity concerning ascorbic acid. It is expected that the tested compounds had moderate antioxidant activity because of the structural similarity of the coumarin ring with flavonoid structure.²² There is a possibility that replacement of the coumarin ring with another close flavonoid structure may provide compounds having better antioxidant activity.

CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that replacing the 2-butylthio group with 2-pentylthio or 2-hexylthio substituents may provide more potent antimicrobial

compounds than the compounds of the present report. The replacement of the coumarin structure with another close flavonoid structure may provide better antioxidant compounds. Therefore, replacement of the 2-butylthio group and the coumarin moiety with the suggested group is recommended. Accordingly, further modification of these compounds is in progress in our laboratory.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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