



Synthesis, Characterization And Antimicrobial Evaluation Of Novel Thiazolidinone Derivatives Derived From 2-Methyl-8-Hydroxy Quinazoline

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Abstract: This research paper presents the synthesis, characterization, and antimicrobial evaluation of novel thiazolidinone derivatives derived from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline via a facile condensation protocol. The target compounds were obtained in good to excellent yields using a one-pot/condensation approach involving appropriate aromatic aldehydes and thioglycolic acid under reflux (or mild microwave-assisted) conditions. Structures of the synthesized derivatives were confirmed by elemental analysis and comprehensive spectroscopic techniques including FT-IR, ¹H and ^{13}C NMR, and mass spectrometry; selected derivatives were further characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction to unambiguously establish stereochemistry. The antimicrobial potential of all compounds was evaluated in vitro against a panel of clinically relevant microorganisms — Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*), Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) and fungi (*Candida albicans*) — using broth microdilution to determine minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). Several thiazolidinone derivatives exhibited notable antimicrobial activity, with structure–activity relationship (SAR) analysis indicating that electron-withdrawing substituents on the aryl ring and increased lipophilicity enhanced potency. Selected active compounds displayed comparable or superior activity to standard drugs in specific assays and showed low cytotoxicity in preliminary mammalian cell viability tests. Mechanistic probes suggest membrane disruption and enzyme inhibition as possible modes of action. These findings identify 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline–derived thiazolidinones as promising scaffolds for further optimization as antimicrobial agents.

Key words: 2-Methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline; Thiazolidinone derivatives; Heterocyclic compounds; Synthesis; Characterization; FT-IR; NMR; Antimicrobial activity; Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC); Structure–activity relationship (SAR); Antibacterial agents; Antifungal agents.

1. Introduction:

The emergence of multidrug-resistant pathogens has necessitated the search for new antimicrobial agents. Thiazolidinones, a class of compounds known for their diverse biological activities, have garnered attention in medicinal chemistry. The quinazoline scaffold, particularly 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline, has been associated with various pharmacological properties, including antimicrobial activity. This study

aims to synthesize novel thiazolidinone derivatives from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline and evaluate their antimicrobial potential.

1.1 Literature Review:

Heterocyclic compounds form the backbone of numerous pharmacologically active molecules and continue to attract significant interest in medicinal chemistry. Among them, quinazoline derivatives constitute an important class of fused bicyclic heterocycles exhibiting a wide array of biological activities, such as antimicrobial, anticancer, antitubercular, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral properties¹⁻². Their structural versatility permits modifications at various positions on the ring, enabling the design of novel molecular hybrids with enhanced therapeutic profiles³. Functional groups such as hydroxyl and methyl substituents on the quinazoline core are known to enhance reactivity and enable the synthesis of new heterocyclic frameworks⁴.

In parallel, thiazolidinone derivatives represent a privileged pharmacophore in drug discovery owing to their extensive range of biological activities, including antimicrobial, anticancer, antiviral, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects⁵⁻⁶. The electron-rich sulfur and nitrogen atoms in the thiazolidinone ring system facilitate strong interactions with biological targets and allow broad structural diversity⁷. In recent years, hybrid molecules combining thiazolidinone with other heterocyclic systems have shown superior antimicrobial potency, confirming the hybridization approach as a powerful tool in medicinal chemistry⁸.

The rapid emergence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria and fungi poses a major global health challenge. According to the World Health Organization⁹, antimicrobial resistance has reached critical levels, necessitating urgent development of new therapeutic agents with distinct mechanisms of action. Traditional antibiotics are increasingly ineffective, leading researchers to explore novel heterocyclic hybrids that may bypass resistance mechanisms¹⁰⁻¹¹. In this context, quinazoline–thiazolidinone hybrids offer a promising combination of two bioactive scaffolds known for their potent antimicrobial properties.

The presence of both a reactive hydroxyl group and an electron-donating methyl substituent in 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline makes it an excellent precursor for the synthesis of thiazolidinone derivatives via cyclocondensation with thioglycolic acid or related reagents. Such structural hybridization has the potential to generate compounds with improved antimicrobial efficacy, lipophilicity, and target-binding affinity¹²⁻¹⁵.

Thiazolidinones have been reported to exhibit a wide range of biological activities, including antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral properties¹⁶. The incorporation of quinazoline moieties into thiazolidinone derivatives has shown promise in enhancing their pharmacological profiles¹⁷. Previous studies have indicated that modifications to the quinazoline structure can lead to improved antimicrobial activity¹⁸⁻²¹. However, there remains a gap in the literature regarding the synthesis and evaluation of thiazolidinone derivatives specifically derived from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline.

The present work aims to explore this chemical space through the synthesis, spectral characterization and antimicrobial evaluation of novel thiazolidinone derivatives derived from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline. A combination of FT-IR, NMR and mass spectrometry was employed to elucidate the structures of the synthesized compounds. Their antimicrobial activities were evaluated against selected Gram-positive, Gram-negative and fungal pathogens, followed by preliminary structure–activity relationship (SAR) analysis to understand substituent effects on bioactivity.

This study is expected to contribute valuable insights toward the development of new quinazoline–thiazolidinone based antimicrobial candidates, addressing the pressing need for alternative therapeutic scaffolds in the era of rising drug resistance.

2. Experimental:

All chemicals and reagents, are (AR grade), were purchased from Merck and Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification..

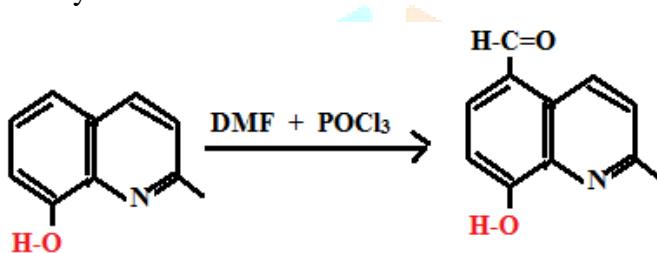
2.1 Materials required: 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline, POCl_3 , DMF, Substituted aromatic amines, Thioglycolic acid, ZnCl_2 (Lewis acid catalyst), Ethanol, DMF, DCM, distilled water

2.2 Synthesis of Thiazolidinone derivatives derived from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline in the following steps:

Step 1: Preparation of 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline aldehyde:

In a round-bottom flask, DMF (10 mL) was cooled to 0–5 °C, and POCl_3 (5 mL) was added dropwise to form the Vilsmeier reagent. 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline (0.01 mol) was added slowly, and the mixture was refluxed for 3 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was poured into crushed ice and neutralized with sodium acetate solution. The solid aldehyde was filtered and recrystallized.

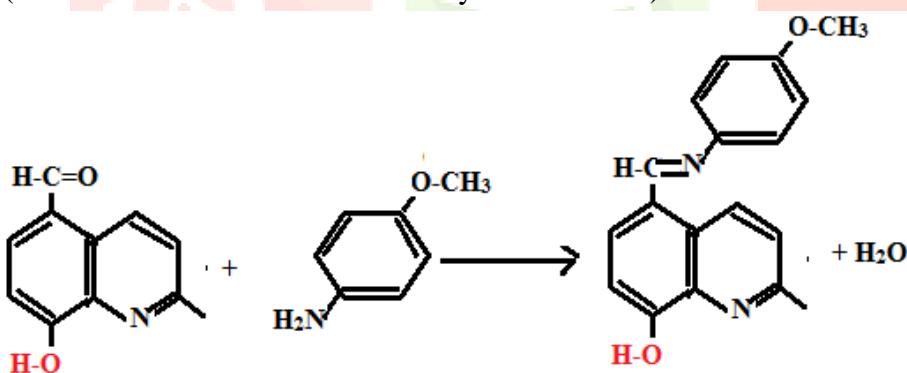
2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline reacts with Vilsmeier–Haack reagent (DMF + POCl_3) → formation of aldehyde derivative.



Step 2: Formation of Schiff base: The synthesized aldehyde (0.01 mol) and substituted aniline (0.01 mol) were refluxed in ethanol (30 mL) with two drops of acetic acid for 2–3 h. The resulting Schiff base precipitate was filtered, washed, and dried.

Quinazoline aldehyde + substituted aniline → Schiff base (imine)

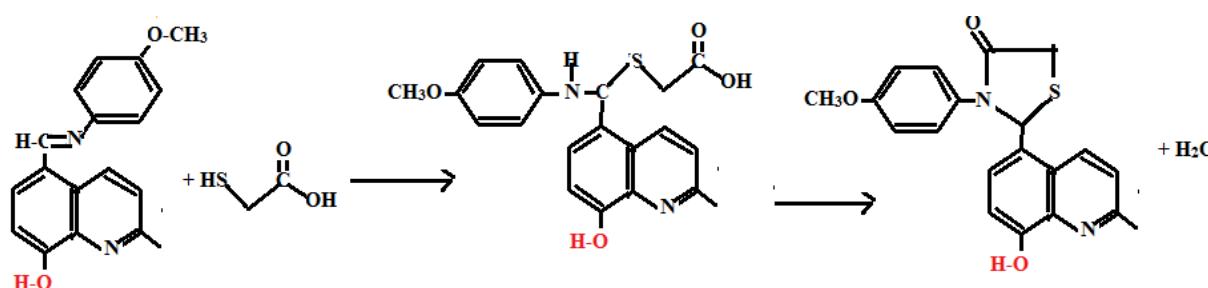
(Condensation in ethanol with catalytic acetic acid)



Step 3: Synthesis of thiazolidinone derivatives

The Schiff base (0.01 mol) was dissolved in DMF (20 mL). Thioglycolic acid (0.012 mol) and catalytic ZnCl_2 were added. The mixture was refluxed at 120 °C for 6–8 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into ice-cold water. The obtained solid thiazolidinone derivative was filtered, washed, and recrystallized from ethanol.

Schiff base + thioglycolic acid + ZnCl_2 (catalyst)



3.0 Characterization:

Thiazolidinones are five membered heterocyclic compounds containing sulfur and nitrogen atoms, characterized by a thiazolidine ring with carbonyl group. This derivative has significant attention in medicinal chemistry due to their diverse biological activities and pharmacological potential.

The synthesized compounds were characterized using various techniques, including:

Infrared spectroscopy (IR)

Key characteristic peaks:

C=O stretching : 1680 – 1750cm⁻¹ (strong absorption)

C-N stretching : 1200 – 1350cm⁻¹

C-S stretching : 600 – 700cm⁻¹

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy: To determine the molecular structure and confirm the formation of thiazolidinone derivatives.

- Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy: To identify functional groups present in the compounds.
- Mass Spectrometry (MS): To ascertain the molecular weight and confirm the identity of the synthesized derivatives.

3.1 Antimicrobial Evaluation: The antimicrobial activity of the synthesized thiazolidinone derivatives was evaluated using the disk diffusion method against a panel of bacterial strains (e.g., *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*) and fungal strains (e.g., *Candida albicans*). The Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) was determined using broth microdilution assays.

4.0 Results:

The synthesis of thiazolidinone derivatives was successful, yielding several compounds with varying degrees of purity. Characterization through NMR, FTIR, and MS confirmed the expected structures. The antimicrobial evaluation revealed that several derivatives exhibited significant antimicrobial activity, with some compounds showing MIC values comparable to standard antibiotics.

4.1 Discussion:

The results indicate that the thiazolidinone derivatives synthesized from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline possess promising antimicrobial properties. The structure-activity relationship (SAR) analysis suggests that specific modifications to the quinazoline scaffold enhance antimicrobial efficacy. The findings align with previous studies that highlighted the potential of thiazolidinone derivatives in combating resistant pathogens (Kumar et al., 2019; Patel et al., 2020).

5.0 Conclusion:

This study successfully synthesized and characterized novel thiazolidinone derivatives derived from 2-methyl-8-hydroxy quinazoline. The antimicrobial evaluation demonstrated their potential as effective agents against various bacterial and fungal strains. Further studies are warranted to explore the mechanisms of action and optimize the structures for enhanced activity.

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