



Synthesis and anti-bacterial activity of new *bis*-chalcones

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Abstract: Some new derivatives of bis-chalcones were synthesized by Claisen-Schmidt condensation of prepared bis-aldehyde and different ketones in basic media. Compounds were characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and EI-Mass spectra. The antibacterial activity and also minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of bis-chalcones were evaluated against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Bacillus subtilis*. Some products exhibit promising activities.

Keywords: bis-chalcones, bis-aldehyde, trioxane, antibacterial

Introduction

Chalcones (1,3-diaryl-2-propen-1-ones) are abundant in nature and have been synthesized during years possessing a variety of biological activities such as antibacterial (Pereira-Ávila et al. 2008; Zangade et al. 2010), antifungal (Sivakumar et al. 2009; Abonia et al. 2012; Lahtchev et al. 2008; Tavares et al. 2011), anti-tubercular (Lin et al. 2002; Qian et al. 2010), anti-inflammatory (Ballesteros et al. 1995; Won et al. 2005; Zhang et al. 2010), antimalarial (Parmer et al. 2003; Awasthi et al. 2009), antitumor (Park et al. 1998; Kumar et al. 2003), antioxidant behavior (Vogel et al. 2008; Sivakumar et al. 2011), inhibition of key enzymes (Rao et al. 2009), cytotoxicity (Tsuchiya et al. 1994; Kumar et al. 2010; Chiaradia et al. 2008; Reddy et al. 2012), antiplatelet (Zhao et al. 2005), antiviral (Biradar et al. 2010), antileishmanial (Miranda et al. 2000; Aponte et al. 2010), inhibitor of colon cancer cell growth (Mizuno et al. 2010), radical-scavenging (Nabi et al. 2011), antidyslipidemic (Shukla et al. 2011), anti-diabetic (Hsieh et al. 2012), vasorelaxant (Dong et al. 2010), antiprotozoal activities (Hayat et al. 2011).

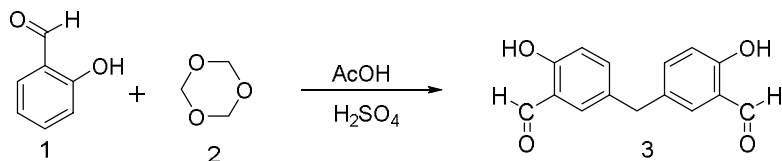
Chalcones are important and useful intermediates in synthesis of many heterocyclic compounds such as pyrimidine (Giles et al. 2012), pyrazole (Bonesi et al. 2010), pyrazoline (Wanare et al. 2010), flavonoids (Shin et al. 2011), flavan (Mazimba et al. 2011), pyridine (Feng et al. 2012), xanthenes (Lu et al. 2012), isoxazolidine (Piotrowska et al. 2011), N-phenylpyrazole (Rashad et al. 2010).

Discussion

Chemistry

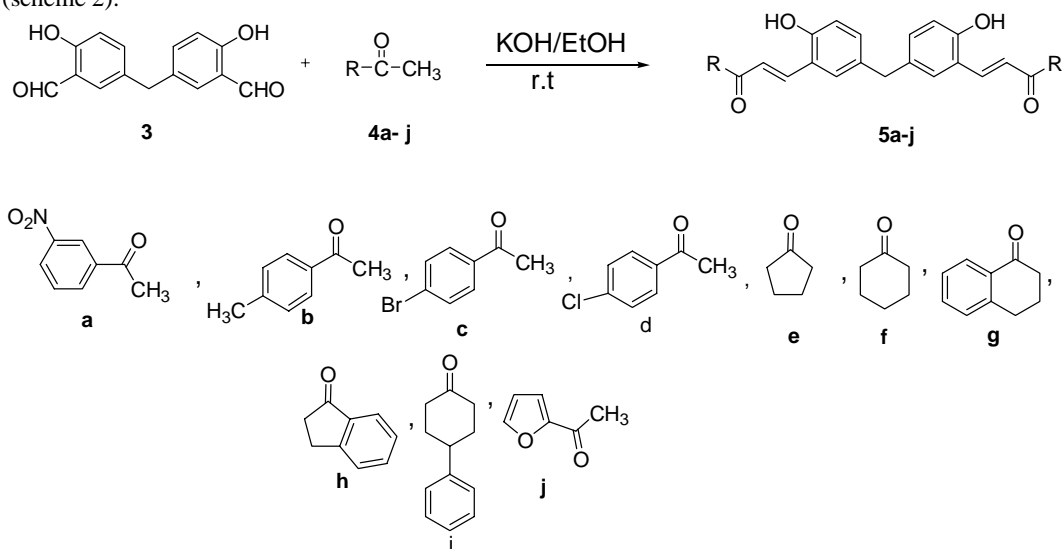
In continuation to our previous works in synthesis of bis- and tris- compounds (Ghavidast et al. 2010; Khodaei et al. 2013; Kiyani et al. 2009a; Kiyani et al. 2009b; Mahmoodi et al. 2012; Mahmoodi et al. 2013), herein we report synthesis of new derivatives of bis-chalcones possessing antibacterial activity.

Bis-aldehyde 3, 5,5'-methylenebis(2-hydroxybenzaldehyde), was prepared via the reaction of 2-hydroxy benzaldehyde 1 and trioxane 2 in presence of acetic acid under reflux and N₂ atmosphere (Marvel et al. 1957) (scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Preparation of 5,5'-methylenebis(2-hydroxybenzaldehyde) 3

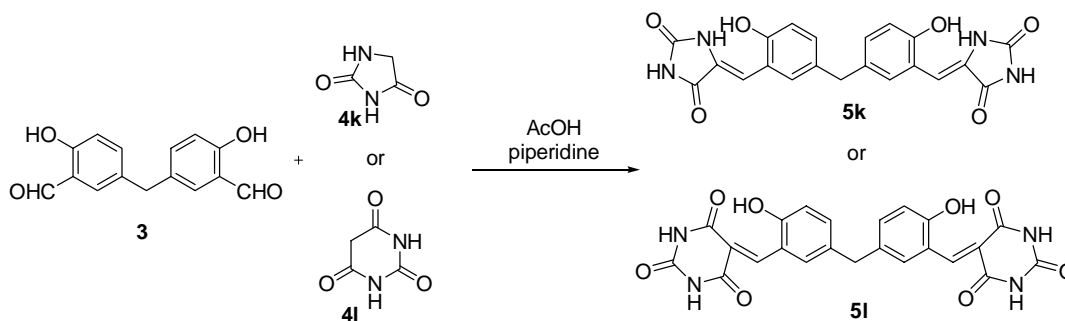
Bis-chalcones 5a-d and 5e-i were synthesized by Claisen-Schmidt reaction of 1 mmol bis-aldehyde 3 and 2.2 mmol of ketones 4a-i such as 3-nitro acetophenone, 4-methyl acetophenone, 4-bromo acetophenone, 4-chloro acetophenone, cyclopentanone, cyclohexanone, tetralone, indanone 4-phenylcyclohexanone, and 1-(furyl-2-yl)ethanone in the presence of KOH 60% at room temperature (scheme 2).



Scheme 2. Synthesis of bis-chalcones 5a-j

In the first attempt the reaction of 1 mmol of bis-aldehyde and 2 mmol of 2-furyl methyl ketone was accomplished as a model, after completion of the reaction TLC showed small amount of bis-aldehyde beside final product, increasing amount of ketone to 2.2 mmol yielded only final product.

Bis-chalcones 5k-l, 5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(imidazolidine-2,4-dione) and 5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(pyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione), were synthesized via the reaction of bis-aldehyde and hydantoin 4k or barbituric acid 4l in EtOH under reflux, respectively (scheme 3).

Scheme 3. Synthesis of *bis*-chalcones 5k-l

All products were obtained as pure colored solid in high yield. The structure of compounds were established by IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and mass spectroscopy. Due to the low solubility of 5a, 5e-f and 5k-l in DMSO it was impracticable to record their NMR spectrum accordingly their mass spectrum and CHN was recorded as an alternative. The ¹H NMR spectra of bis-chalcones 5b, 5c, 5d, 5g, 5h, 5i, and 5h showed singlet at 10.24-9.3 ppm due to phenolic OH, protons of α,β -unsaturated part appeared in aromatic region and CH₂ group appeared in 3.93-3.66 ppm. In the ¹³C NMR spectra of bis-chalcones 5b, 5i, 5j, 5k, and 5l C=O appeared in 193.3-177.0 ppm and CH₂ appeared around 40 ppm, in most cases CH₂ peak combined with DMSO-d₆. EI-Mass spectra of 2,2'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanyleidene))bis(cyclohexan-1-one) (5f) and 5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanyleidene))bis(imidazolidine-2,4-dione) (5k) revealed exact mass while, mass spectra of 3,3'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(3-nitrophenyl)prop-2-ene-1-one) (5a), 2,2'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanyleidene))bis(cyclopentan-1-one) (5e) and 5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanyleidene))bis(pyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione) (5l) revealed [M+2], [M-4] and [M+2], respectively.

Anti-bacterial activity

The *in vitro* antibacterial activity of bis-chalcones were screened against *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) ATCC 29213 and *Bacillus subtilis* (MTCC 121) as gram-positive and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) ATCC 25922 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 as gram-negative bacteria. Gentamycin was used as standard.

According to table 1. all bis-chalcones were inactive against *Escherichia coli*. Compounds 5c, 5d, 5j, 5k and 5l showed antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis* and compounds 5c, 5d, 5l had good antibacterial activity. Compounds 5c-d and 5k had good antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and compound 5i had remarkable activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Compounds 5c-d and 5f showed good antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Table 1. Antimicrobial activity of compounds 5a-l

entry	compound	Antimicrobial activity (zone of inhibition in mm)			
		<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>
1	5a	18	-	-	-
2	5b	-	-	-	-
3	5c	23	-	18	20
4	5d	23	-	18	20
5	5e	-	-	10	-
6	5f	10	-	14	-
7	5g	9	-	10	-
8	5h	-	-	-	-

9	5i	-	-	-	-
10	5j	17	-	8	8
11	5k	20	-	9	10
12	5l	17	-	-	20
13	DMSO	-	-	-	-
14	Gentamycin	23	22	21	20

Minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) was evaluated for compounds 5a, 5c-f and 5j-l against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Compound 5a, 5c-d and 5k-l were active against *Staphylococcus aureus* in minimum concentration of 32-33 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (table 2).

Table 2. MIC of compounds 5a, 5c-d and 5k-l

entry	compound	minimum inhibition concentration($\mu\text{g/mL}$)		
		<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>
1	5a	32	-	-
2	5c	33	-	90
3	5d	33	-	96
4	5f	-	512	-
5	5j	128	-	-
6	5k	32	-	-
7	5l	32	-	128

Experimental

Chemistry

Chemicals were purchased from Merck. IR absorption band maxima were measured with a Shimadzu UV-2100 spectrophotometer. Melting points are uncorrected and determined using a Mettler Fp5 melting point apparatus. All NMR data were recorded in DMSO-d₆ using a Bruker Avance 400-MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) using deuterated solvents as internal references. EI-Mass spectra were recorded on 5973 Network Mass Selective Detector. Elemental analyses were achieved on a Perkin-Elmer 240 CHN elemental analyzer.

Synthesis of 5,5'-methylenebis(2-hydroxybenzaldehyde) 3

To a two-necked flask was added a well dissolved mixture of trioxane (0.3 g), AcOH (1 mL) and H₂SO₄ (0.02 mL, 4 drops), then 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (30 mmol, 3 mL) and AcOH (5 mL) was added to this mixture and refluxed at 85 °C under N₂ for 22 hours. A pink solution was formed during the reaction. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was poured into an ice-water mixture and kept at refrigerator for one night. The formed pink solid was filtered off, dried and recrystallized from ethanol.

Yield 60%, pink solid, m.p= 138-140°C, FT-IR (KBr cm⁻¹): 3492 (O-H, Stretch), 2923, 1847 (C-H aliphatic, Stretch), 1651 (C=O, Stretch), 1480, 1440 (C=C, Stretch).

General procedure for synthesis of bis-chalcones (5a-j)

bis-aldehyde 3 (1 mmol) and ketone 4a-j (2.2 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (4 mL). Then, KOH 60% (4 mL) was added dropwise to this mixture at 4-5 °C. After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC (petroleum ether : EtOAc 6:3), the mixture was acidified by HCl 5%, the final product precipitate during acidifying. Solid was filtered off, dried and washed with acetone.

(2E,2'E)-3,3'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(3-nitrophenyl)prop-2-ene-1-one) (5a)

Yield 78%, brown solid m.p.= 189-192 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1620 (C=O, Stretch), 1560 (NO₂, asymmetric Stretch), 1489 (C=C, Stretch), 1350 (NO₂, Symmetric Stretch), 1260 (C-O, Stretch). Mass (m/z): C₃₁H₂₂N₂O₈, 552 (M⁺⁺²) (14%), 109 (100%).

(2E,2'E)-3,3'-(methylene bis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-ene-1-one) (5b)

Yield 80%, yellow solid m.p.= 149-152 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3200 (O-H, Stretch), 2800 (C=H aliphatic, Stretch), 1640 (C=O, Stretch), 1600 (C=C alkene, Stretch), 1580, 1500 (C=C aromatic, Stretch), 1280 (C-O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 10.1 (s, 2H, OH), 8.05-8.01 (m, 6H), 7.88-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, J=8 Hz, 4H), 7.14 (dd, J=8.4, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 2H, CH₂), 2.41 (s, 6H, CH₃) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 188.7 (C=O), 155.4, 143.4, 139.1, 135.3, 132.5, 132.3, 129.3, 128.4, 128.2, 121.0, 120.5, 116.3 (12 C aromatic and olefinic) ~39.8 (CH₂), 21.1 (CH₃) ppm.

Synthesis of (2E,2'E)-3,3'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(4-bromophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one) (3c)

Yield 92%, Yellow solid recrystallized benzene: MeOH (3:2). m.p.: 161-162 °C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3445 (O-H, Stretch), 3056 (C-H, Aromatic Stretch), 1640 (C=O, Stretch), 1571 (C=C, Stretch), 1482, 1224 (C-O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400, DMSO-d₆): 9.24 (s, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 7.83-8.19 (m, 6H), 7.71 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 2H), 7.189 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 6.85 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 2H). MS: m/z 616 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₃₁H₂₂Br₂O₄: C, 60.22; H, 3.59; Br, 25.85. Found: C, 60.19; H, 3.56; Br, 25.60.

Synthesis of (2E,2'E)-3,3'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one) (3d)

Yield 87%, Brown solid recrystallized benzene: MeOH (3:2). m.p.: 156-157 °C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 3050 (C-H, Aromatic Stretch), 1647 (C=O, Stretch), 1569 (C=C, Stretch), 1480, 1222 (C-O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400, DMSO-d₆): ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): 9.19 (s, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 7.80-8.16 (m, 6H), 7.69 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 6.84 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 2H). MS: m/z 528 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₃₁H₂₂Cl₂O₄: C, 70.33; H, 4.19; Cl, 13.39;. Found: C, 70.29; H, 4.08; Br, 13.48.

2,2'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(cyclopentan-1-one) (5e)

Yield 70%, brown solid m.p.= 141-145 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1670 (C=H, Stretch), 1600 (C=O, Stretch). Mass (m/z): C₂₅H₂₄O₄, 384 (M-4) (4.9%), 147 (100%). Elemental Analysis: C, 77.30; H, 6.23; found C, 77.38; H, 6.33.

2,2'-(methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(cyclohexan-1-one) (5f)

Yield 75%, brown solid dec=290 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1650 (C=O, Stretch), 1600 (C=C, Stretch), 1260, 1040 (C-O, Stretch). Mass (m/z): C₂₇H₂₈O₄, 416 (M⁺) (6%), 125 (100%). Elemental Analysis: C, 77.86; H, 6.78; found C, 77.94; H, 6.84.

2,2'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)one) (5g)

Yield 82%, brown solid dec= 313 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1640 (C=O, Stretch), 1590, 1480 (C=C, Stretch), 1290, 1230 (C=O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 10.2 (s, 2H, OH), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J= 6.8, 2H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J=8Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 2 H, CH₂), 2.97-2.95 (s, 4H, CH₂), 2.88-2.86 (s, 4H, CH₂) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 186.7 (C=O), 155.0, 143.2, 133.9, 133.3, 132.9, 132.4, 131.7, 130.5, 129.7, 128.4, 127.3, 126.9, 121.9, 115.7, (14C aromatic and olefinic), ~40.04 (CH₂), 28.0, 27.0 (C aliphatic) ppm.

2,2'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-one) (5h)

Yield 78%, orange solid, m.p.= 109-111 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1670 (C=O, Stretch), 1600, 1490 (C=C, Stretch), 1250, (C-O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 10.1 (s, OH), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.56 (m, 8H), 7.46 (t, J= 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, J=8.4, 2H, 2H), 6.94 (d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), 4.08, 4.02 (s, 4H), 3.93 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 193.3 (C=O), 156.0, 149.8, 137.4, 134.5, 133.2, 132.3, 131.8, 129.4, 127.5, 123.5, 121.5, 116.0 (13 C aromatic and olefinic) ~40.09 (CH₂), 31.9 (CH₃) ppm.

2,2'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one) (5i)

Yield 70%, brown solid, m.p= 105-107 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 2800 (C-H, Stretch), 1600, 1690 (C=O, Stretch), 1600, 1480 (C=C, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 9.80 (s, 2H, OH), 7.32-6.75 (m, 18H) 3.66(s, 2H), tt (3.05, J=12, 3.4 Hz, 4H) 2.6 (dd, J=16, 6Hz, 2H), 2.53 (dd, J=12, 6Hz, 2H), 1.91 (dd, J=16, 4Hz, 2H), 1.85 (dd, J=13, 4Hz, 2H)

(2E,2'E)-3,3'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(1-(furan-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one) (5j)

Yield 88%, orange solid, m.p= 175-184 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, Stretch), 1640 (C=O, Stretch), 1580 (C=C, Stretch), 1260, (C-O, Stretch). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 10.24 (s, OH), 8.04-6.55 (m, 16H), 3.92 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ; 177.0 (C=O), 155.8, 153.1, 148.0, 147.6, 136.7, 128.0, 120.5, 118.7, 118.7, 116.3, 112.6, 42.0 (CH₂) ppm.

General procedure for synthesis of bis-chalcones (5k-l)

To solution of bis-aldehyde 3 (1 mmol) and ketone 4k-l (2.2 mmol) dissolved in EtOH (7 mL) was added AcOH (4 drops) and piperidine (0.1 mL) then refluxed for 12 hours. Progress of the reaction was controlled by TLC (petroleum ether : EtOAc 6:3), after completion of the reaction the solid was filtered off, dried and washed with ethanol.

5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(imidazolidine-2,4-dione) (5k)

Yield 83%, brown solid, m.p= 208-210 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3500, 3400, 3100 (2N-H, OH, Stretch), 2850 (C-H, Stretch), 1700, 1660 (C=O, Stretch), 1580, 1530, 1490 (C=C, Stretch), 1280 (C-O, Stretch). Mass (m/z): C₂₁H₁₆N₄O₆, 420 (M⁺) (1.5%), 276 (100%). Elemental Analysis: C, 60.00; H, 3.84; N, 13.33; found C, 60.11; H, 3.93; N, 13.41.

5,5'-((methylenebis(6-hydroxy-3,1-phenylene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(pyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione) (5l)

Yield 87%, yellow solid, m.p= 101-104 °C. IR (KBr, cm-1): 3400 (O-H, stretch), 1670 (C=O, Stretch), 1600, 1490 (C=C, Stretch), 1250 (C-O, Stretch). Mass (m/z): C₂₃H₁₆N₄O₈, 478 (M+2) (2.187), 262 (100%). Elemental Analysis: C, 57.99; H, 3.39; N, 11.76; found C, 58.89; H, 3.31; N, 11.68

Determination of antimicrobial activity

The antibacterial activity of compounds was assayed biologically using the Agar well-diffusion method. Then Mueller–Hinton agar (Merck) plates were prepared according to manufacturers' instructions in order to evaluate the antibacterial activities of compounds. The sterile Mueller–Hinton agar plates were inoculated with the bacteria. 0.001 g of test samples was dissolved in 1 mL dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) to obtain a stock solution. 0.1 mL of each sample was dropped into each labeled well aseptically. The inoculated plates were then incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. Gentamycin was used as a positive control and DMSO as a negative control. After incubation time, antimicrobial activity was evaluated by measuring the zone of inhibition against the test organisms and compared with that of the standard. The results of our tests were presented as the inhibition zones, given in millimeters (mm). The experiment was carried out in duplicate and the average zone of inhibition was calculated.

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