

Design, Synthesis and Biological Activity of Certain 3,4-Disubstituted-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles and Their Hydrazino Derivatives

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3-Aryloxy methyl-4-(N-pyrazin-2'yl carboxamido)-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles (3a₁-a₁₄) were prepared starting from potassium dithio carbazates (2a₁-a₁₄). These triazoles were then employed in the synthesis of 3-aryloxy methyl-4-(N-pyrazin-2'yl carboxamido)-5-hydrazino-1,2,4-triazoles (4a₁-a₁₄). All the newly synthesized compounds were characterized by analytical, IR, NMR spectral studies. The compounds were screened for their antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties. Most of the compounds have shown significant antifungal activity while few have shown excellent anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity. An attempt is made to study the structure activity relationship (SAR).

Key Words : Triazoles, Anti-fungal, Anti-bacterial, Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic activity

Introduction

A number of heterocyclic systems incorporating 1,2,4-triazole nucleus fused with other heterocycles possess a broad spectrum of biological activities.¹⁻⁴ A survey of literature also revealed that substituted 1,2,4-triazoles and their N-bridged heterocycles have received considerable attention during last two decades as they are endowed with variety of biological activities and have a wide range of therapeutic properties.^{5,6} The synthesis of these heterocycles has received considerable attention in recent years.⁷ Prompted by the above facts and as a part of our program aimed at developing new biologically active compounds, a convenient synthesis of hitherto unreported title compounds incorporating pyrazin-2-yl carboxamido, 1,2,4-triazole and -NHNH₂ moieties together was devised. Apart from their chemical interest, these compounds could also be a subject of studies as pharmacological agents.

Results and Discussion

The aryloxy acid hydrazides (1a₁-a₁₄) were prepared from the corresponding esters by a reaction with hydrazine hydrate following known method.⁸ The hydrazides were then converted into their corresponding potassium dithio-carbazates (2a₁-a₁₄) by reaction with carbon disulphide in presence of alcoholic potassium hydroxide.⁹ The required 3-aryloxy-4-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl carboxamido)-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles (3a₁-a₁₄) were prepared in excellent yields in one pot reaction by heating a mixture of potassium dithio-carbazates (2a₁-a₁₄) and pyrazinic acid hydrazide for 6-8 hr when profuse evolution of hydrogen sulphide was observed. The reaction (3a₁-a₁₄) with hydrazine hydrate (99%) in absolute ethanol furnished 3-aryloxy methyl-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl carboxamido)-5-hydrazino-1,2,4-triazoles (4a₁-

Table 1. Characterization data of compounds (3a₁-a₁₄) and (4a₁-a₁₄)

Sl. No.	Compound	Ar	Melting Point (°C)	Yield (%)
1	3a ₁	Phenyl	226	68
2	3a ₂	2-methyl phenyl	232	74
3	3a ₃	3-methyl phenyl	220	65
4	3a ₄	4-methyl phenyl	208	80
5	3a ₅	2-chloro phenyl	218	70
6	3a ₆	4-chloro phenyl	224	72
7	3a ₇	2,4-dichloro phenyl	252	68
8	3a ₈	2-bromo phenyl	226	64
9	3a ₉	4-bromo phenyl	244	68
10	3a ₁₀	4-amino phenyl	229	64
11	3a ₁₁	2-nitro phenyl	245	74
12	3a ₁₂	4-nitro phenyl	178	78
13	3a ₁₃	1-naphthyl	175	72
14	3a ₁₄	2-naphthyl	217	76
15	4a ₁	Phenyl	235	70
16	4a ₂	2-methyl phenyl	230	78
17	4a ₃	3-methyl phenyl	235	70
18	4a ₄	4-methyl phenyl	250	83
19	4a ₅	2-chloro phenyl	224	68
20	4a ₆	4-chloro phenyl	240	73
21	4a ₇	2,4-dichloro phenyl	242	70
22	4a ₈	2-bromo phenyl	280	69
23	4a ₉	4-bromo phenyl	266	71
24	4a ₁₀	4-amino phenyl	202	62
25	4a ₁₁	2-nitro phenyl	270	74
26	4a ₁₂	4-nitro phenyl	Decomposes at 265	76
27	4a ₁₃	1-naphthyl	184	69
28	4a ₁₄	2-naphthyl	241	73

The compounds gave satisfactory C, H and N analysis.

a₁₄). The compounds have been characterized on the basis of elemental analysis and spectral data.

Table 2. Antibacterial and antifungal activity of triazole heterocycles (**3a1-a14** and **4a1-a14**)

Sl. No	Compound	Antibacterial activity (% relative inhibition) con. in µg/mL																Antifungal activity (% relative inhibition) con. in µg/mL	
		<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>				<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>				<i>Escherichia coli</i>				<i>Pseudomonas auriginosa</i>				<i>Colletotricum gleosporioides penz</i> (Poisoned food technique)	
		50		100		50		100		50		100		50		100		50	100
		a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b		
1	3a1	15	13	17	16	10	09	12	10	15	13	16	14	05	05	08	07	40	42
2	3a2	14	11	16	13	09	08	12	11	15	13	16	13	06	06	08	08	30	34
3	3a3	10	09	12	11	08	07	12	11	12	11	13	11	06	05	09	07	32	36
4	3a4	18	15	20	17	13	12	15	14	17	14	18	15	07	05	10	07	40	42
5	3a5	16	15	20	18	12	11	14	14	15	13	18	17	05	05	07	07	54	56
6	3a6	18	17	20	18	10	10	12	11	18	36	12	19	06	04	08	07	73	75
7	3a7	15	14	16	17	11	10	13	12	14	13	16	14	07	07	11	10	40	41
8	3a8	12	10	14	13	09	08	12	11	13	11	14	13	05	05	06	06	30	33
9	3a9	13	11	14	12	08	07	11	10	12	11	15	13	08	07	09	09	40	43
10	3a10	17	16	18	15	11	10	14	13	15	14	18	17	07	07	10	09	38	40
11	3a11	18	16	18	18	10	09	12	11	17	15	18	17	05	05	06	06	25	28
12	3a12	18	17	18	17	09	08	11	10	18	15	20	19	06	06	08	07	38	40
13	3a13	13	12	14	12	10	09	13	12	14	14	16	15	07	07	09	07	30	32
14	3a14	14	13	15	14	11	09	13	11	14	12	14	13	06	05	08	06	33	35
15	4a1	32	30	35	31	30	30	32	30	34	31	34	32	30	30	31	31	42	44
16	4a2	31	30	34	30	30	30	32	31	35	32	36	31	30	30	30	30	44	46
17	4a3	30	29	34	31	32	30	32	30	31	30	33	30	29	28	30	29	40	41
18	4a4	38	36	40	37	33	31	34	32	32	31	35	34	31	30	32	31	44	46
19	4a5	36	34	38	36	32	31	34	33	34	32	35	34	30	30	30	30	36	39
20	4a6	38	36	40	38	33	30	34	31	32	31	35	33	32	30	33	30	44	46
21	4a7	34	32	36	31	32	31	32	32	34	31	38	32	30	30	32	30	64	68
22	4a8	30	30	33	30	32	30	31	31	31	31	33	30	29	29	30	30	42	44
23	4a9	31	30	33	31	34	32	30	30	30	30	34	31	30	29	30	29	72	75
24	4a10	35	31	37	34	31	30	33	31	33	30	34	32	30	30	31	29	43	44
25	4a11	36	32	37	34	31	29	32	31	32	30	36	32	31	30	32	29	72	76
26	4a12	36	33	38	36	32	29	35	31	35	32	36	32	30	30	30	30	44	46
27	4a13	35	31	35	32	33	28	33	32	33	30	33	31	30	29	31	30	38	40
28	4a14	36	32	37	35	35	30	36	32	35	32	36	30	30	29	30	30	42	44

^avalues in comparison with streptomycin, ^bvalues in comparison with gentamycin. % relative inhibition = $\frac{\text{inhibition of the test compound}}{\text{inhibition of the standard drug}} \times 100$

Biological Activities

Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity.¹⁰ All the compounds synthesized (**3a1-a14**) and (**4a1-a14**) have been screened for in vitro antibacterial activity against the organisms *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas auriginosa* by cup plate method at 50 and 100 µg/mL concentrations. DMSO was used as solvent control. Streptomycin and Gentamycin were used as standard drugs.

The compounds (**3a1-a14**) and (**4a1-a14**) were also tested for antifungal activity against the fungal organism *Colletotrichum gleosporioides penz* by poisoned food technique in potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium.

3-aryloxy-4-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl carboxamido)-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles (**3a1-a14**) have exhibited weak antimicrobial activity (Table 2). However their hydrazino derivatives (**4a1-**

a14) have shown moderate antimicrobial activity (Relative inhibition 30-40%) (Table 2).

Antifungal screening result has indicated that some members of the triazoles series like **3a5**, **3a6**, **4a7**, **4a9**, **4a11**, and **4a12** possess good antifungal activity (Relative inhibition 54-75%). Hydrazino triazoles (**4a1-a14**) obtained by the replacement of mercapto group by hydrazino group in triazoles (**3a1-a14**) showed quite significant antifungal activity (Relative inhibition 64-76%) against the fungal strain used for the study (Table 2).

Hydrazino triazoles which failed to show significant antibacterial activity however showed excellent antifungal activity. Perhaps, the introduction of -NHNH₂ group by replacing mercapto group of triazoles and the presence of electron withdrawing groups in the various positions of the phenyl ring in the 3rd position of triazole system may be responsible for the enhanced antifungal activity. It was

further observed that aryloxy methyl substituent at 3rd position of triazole ring with the substitution in the para position exhibited much enhanced activity compared to the ortho position substituents. Hydrazino triazole molecule designed consists of different moieties and active groups substituted in the triazole ring system that is believed to act as carrier for toxic agents into cells of pathogenic organisms, leading to high intra cellular concentrations of the toxicant which ultimately causes cell death.

Anti-inflammatory and Analgesic Activity.^{11,12} The triazoles (**3a₁-a₁₄**) and their hydrazino derivatives (**4a₁-a₁₄**) were screened for their anti-inflammatory activity using rat hind paw method of Winter¹¹ *et al.* modified by Dhawan and Srimal.¹² The compounds were also screened for analgesic activity using Eddy's hot plate technique.¹³

Among the triazole series compounds **3a₂**, **3a₄**, **3a₁₂**, **3a₁₃** and **3a₁₄** showed significant activity (Table 3). Hydrazino triazoles **4a₂**, **4a₄**, **4a₆**, **4a₈**, **4a₉**, **4a₁₀**, **4a₁₃**, and **4a₁₄** showed higher activity than their parent triazoles. Thus in general, majority of triazoles and their hydrazino derivatives exhibited significant activity, in some cases equipotent and in few

cases, even superior than the standard. Rest of the compounds in both the series exhibited moderate activity. In the literature it is shown that triazole scaffold containing compounds exhibits anti-inflammatory activity mediated through inhibition of cyclooxygenase-I and II (COX-I and II) enzyme depending on the position and kind of substituents on the 1,2,4-triazole system.¹⁴ The compounds under study are speculated to show anti-inflammatory activity through COX-I and/or COX-II. Investigations are pending to demonstrate their inhibitory potencies towards COX-I and COX-II inhibition.

The analgesic studies of all the synthesized compounds revealed that the compound **3a₁₄** and **4a₄** showed moderate activity and rest of the compounds of both the series **3** and **4** showed weak activity (Table 3).

Experimental

Biological Screening

Antibacterial Screening:

Standard nutrient agar medium:

Table 3. Anti-inflammatory and Analgesic activity of triazoles (**3a₁-a₁₄**) and their hydrazino derivatives (**4a₁-a₁₄**)

Sl. No.	Compound	Anti-inflammatory Activity			Analgesic Activity		
		Dose Mg/kg	Paw edema volume	% Reduction	Dose Mg/kg	Maximum Average reaction time (sec)	Analgesic activity
1	Control	–	0.59 ± 0.03	–	–	3.83 ± 0.31	–
2	Ibuprofen	200	0.15 ± 0.02	74.58	20	9.83 ± 0.33	256.66
3	3a₁	200	0.21 ± 0.00	64.41	20	5.33 ± 0.33	139.00
4	3a₂	200	0.16 ± 0.01	72.88	20	5.33 ± 0.33	169.71
5	3a₃	200	0.21 ± 0.01	64.41	20	5.33 ± 0.33	95.82
6	3a₄	200	0.08 ± 0.01	86.44	20	5.33 ± 0.33	187.21
7	3a₅	200	0.20 ± 0.01	66.10	20	5.33 ± 0.33	82.77
8	3a₆	200	0.19 ± 0.01	67.80	20	5.33 ± 0.33	121.93
9	3a₇	200	0.22 ± 0.01	62.71	20	5.33 ± 0.33	152.22
10	3a₈	200	0.21 ± 0.01	64.41	20	5.33 ± 0.33	86.94
11	3a₉	200	0.22 ± 0.01	62.71	20	5.33 ± 0.33	117.49
12	3a₁₀	200	0.22 ± 0.01	62.71	20	5.33 ± 0.33	95.82
13	3a₁₁	200	0.19 ± 0.01	67.80	20	5.33 ± 0.33	152.22
14	3a₁₂	200	0.16 ± 0.01	72.88	20	5.33 ± 0.33	161.10
15	3a₁₃	200	0.17 ± 0.01	71.19	20	5.33 ± 0.33	152.22
16	3a₁₄	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.58	20	5.33 ± 0.33	204.44
17	4a₁	200	0.19 ± 0.01	67.80	20	5.17 ± 0.31	134.99
18	4a₂	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.58	20	6.50 ± 0.34	169.71
19	4a₃	200	0.20 ± 0.01	66.10	20	4.50 ± 0.22	117.49
20	4a₄	200	0.07 ± 0.01	88.13	20	8.00 ± 0.36	208.88
21	4a₅	200	0.19 ± 0.01	67.80	20	3.50 ± 0.34	91.38
22	4a₆	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.58	20	6.00 ± 0.36	156.66
23	4a₇	200	0.20 ± 0.01	66.10	20	4.17 ± 0.31	108.88
24	4a₈	200	0.17 ± 0.01	71.19	20	4.50 ± 0.22	117.49
25	4a₉	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.54	20	4.83 ± 0.31	126.11
26	4a₁₀	200	0.16 ± 0.01	72.88	20	4.17 ± 0.31	108.88
27	4a₁₁	200	0.20 ± 0.01	66.10	20	3.83 ± 0.31	99.99
28	4a₁₂	200	0.19 ± 0.01	67.80	20	7.33 ± 0.61	191.38
29	4a₁₃	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.58	20	5.17 ± 0.54	134.99
30	4a₁₄	200	0.15 ± 0.01	74.58	20	6.83 ± 0.31	178.33

Meat extract (bacteriological)	---	1.0%
Peptone	---	1.0%
Sodium chloride	---	0.5%
Agar	---	2.0%
Water	---	100 mL

Meat extract was taken and made up the volume to 100 mL with water and to this were added weighed quantities of peptone, salt and agar. The contents were dissolved by heating and the mixture was filtered and pH was adjusted to 7.5. The medium was sterilized by autoclaving at 121° for 15 minutes, cooled to 45° and then poured in 20 mL quantities to petridishes. A loopful of an overnight broth culture was spread evenly over the whole part with a sterile cotton-wool swab.

The culture plates were dried in the incubator with the lid until its surface was free from visible moisture without further delay, known concentration of the drug was applied as discs (prepared by uniformly punching out 6 mm discs from Whatmann filter paper (No. 41) and impregnating with drug (100 discs in 1 mL) with adequate spacing to the surface of the culture plates with sterile fine pointed forceps and pressed gently to ensure full contact with the medium.

It was then transferred to the incubator for 24 hours at 37° C. At the end of 24 hours the diameter of zone of inhibition produced were measured (Table 2).

Antifungal Screening: *In vitro* evaluation of some of the triazole derivatives synthesized was done by "Poisoned food technique" against the fungal organism *Collectotrichum gleosporioides penz.* at the concentration levels of 50 µg/mL and 100 µg/mL with greseofulvin as standard drug for comparison.

The efficacy of compounds was tested against the fungal organism *Collectotrichum gleosporioides penz.* by assessing the percent inhibition. The test compounds were uniformly incorporated aseptically to standard Potato-Dextrose-Agar (PDA) medium, cooled to 45 °C so as to give the required concentrations. Twenty ml of this poisoned medium was poured into flat bottom petriplates. One cm diameter of culture discs of *Collectotrichum gleosporioides* were kept at the centre of each petriplate containing the test compounds and the plates were then incubated at 28 ± 1 °C for seven days. Three replications were maintained for each treatment. The growth of the fungus without any compound served as control. The radial growth of the colony was recorded when maximum growth was observed in control and further percent inhibition was calculated by using the following formula of Vincent (1927) for each chemical

$$I = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100$$

Where,

I = Percent inhibition

C = Radial growth of fungus in control

T = Radial growth of fungus in treatment.

Angular transformations were made for the data and analyzed statistically. The readings are represented in Table 2.

Antiinflammatory Activity: The albino rats were divided into 11 groups containing 6 animals each. The animals were fasted for 12 hours prior to the experiment and they were supplied with water.

On the day of the experiment, the animals were weighed and marked. A mark was made on the right hind paw just beyond the tibia-tarsal junction, so that every time the paw is dipped in the mercury column up to marked level to ensure constant paw volume. Then the paw volume of each rat was measured by mercury displacement method.

The animals of group -1 were treated with Acacia suspension as Control. The group -2 animals were treated with Ibuprofen 200 mg/kg as a standard drug, which was injected half an hour prior to the injection of formalin. The animals of the groups 3 to 11 were injected with 1,2,4-triazole derivatives, in a dose of 200 mg/kg body weight, half an hour prior to injection of formalin. Then 0.1 mL of formalin was injected subcutaneously into the right hind paw of all the animals in all groups. The paw volume of all animals in all groups was measured at 60, 120, 240 and 360 minutes intervals, after formalin administration.

The differences in the paw volumes (*i.e.* oedema volumes) of each animals of all the groups were calculated and compared with the changes in the oedema volumes of control and the drug treated animals. The results were expressed as percentage reduction in oedema volume, which can be calculated by using the formula:

$$\text{Percent Reduction} = \frac{C_{vt} - t_{vt}}{C_{vt}} \times 100$$

Where,

C_{vt} = oedema volume of control animals at time 't'

t_{vt} = oedema volume of drug treated animals at time 't'

The results are compiled in the Table 3.

Analgesic Activity: 1) Albino mice of either sex were selected and divided into eleven groups, containing six animals in each group. These animals were fasted for twenty four hours, prior to the experiment.

2) Animals of Group - I considered as Control, were administered with 3% Acacia suspension.

3) Animals of Group - II were treated with standard drug, *i.e.*, Ibuprofen (20 mg/kg), which is considered as standard group.

4) Animals of Group - III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI were treated with drugs (20 mg/kg) respectively.

5) The reaction time for each mouse was recorded at time interval of 0, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 360 minutes after the administration of test substances by using Eddy's hot plate.

The % analgesic activity (PAA) was calculated by the following formula

$$\text{PAA} = (T_2/T_1) \times 100$$

T_1 is the reaction time before treatment and T_2 is the reaction time after the treatment. The results are shown in Table 3.

Chemistry. All the compounds in the study were synthesized by following Scheme 1. Melting points were determin-

disappeared. [Found C, 47.56; H, 4.44; N, 36.68; C₁₄H₁₄N₈O₂ requires C, 47.68; H, 4.64; N, 37.08%].

3-[(4-Methylphenoxy)methyl]-4-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl-carbox-amido)-5-hydrazino-1,2,4-triazoles (4a₄)

IR: 3256, 3362 (NH and NH₂), 3054 (aromatic C-H stretching), 2942 (C-H stretching of CH₃), 2905 (-OCH₂). The characteristic absorption band for SH at 2608 is disappeared, 1656 (CO of CONH), 1632 (NH in plane bending), 1610 (C=N), 1602 (C=C), 1478 (C-N), 1140 (C-O-C), 842 (1,4 disubstituted benzene); **¹H NMR** (DMSO-d₆): 2.20 (3H, s, -CH₃), 5.40 (2H, s, OCH₂), 5.80 (2H, s, NH₂), 6.50-7.30 (4H, m, Ar-H), 8.80-9.20 (3H, m, heterocyclic protons), 9.80 (1H, s, NH) 10.60 (1H, bs, NH of CONH), The signal for -SH at 13.80 disappeared. [Found C, 49.27; H, 4.96; N, 35.36; C₁₅H₁₆N₈O₂ requires C, 49.39; H, 4.43; N, 33.13%].

3-[(4-Chlorophenoxy)methyl]-4-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl-carbox-amido)-5-hydrazino-1,2,4-triazoles (4a₆)

IR: 3260, 3380 (NH and NH₂), 3048 (aromatic C-H stretching), 2910 (-OCH₂). The characteristic absorption band for SH at 2598 is disappeared, 1662 (CO of CONH), 1630 (NH in plane bending), 1618 (C=N), 1605 (C=C), 1482 (C-N), 1180 (C-O-C), 842 (1,4 disubstituted benzene); **¹H NMR** (DMSO-d₆): 5.40 (2H, s, OCH₂), 5.80 (2H, s, NH₂), 6.50-7.30 (4H, m, Ar-H), 8.80-9.20 (3H, m, heterocyclic protons), 9.90 (1H, s, NH) 10.60 (1H, bs, NH of CONH), The signal for -SH at 13.80 disappeared. [Found C, 42.49; H, 4.36; N, 33.08; C₁₄H₁₃N₈O₂Cl requires C, 42.60; H, 4.43; N, 33.13%].

3-[(4-Nitrophenoxy)methyl]-4-(N-pyrazin-2'-yl-carbox-amido)-5-hydrazino-1,2,4-triazoles (4a₁₂)

IR: 3280, 3380 (NH and NH₂), 3058 (aromatic C-H stretching), 2902 (-OCH₂). The characteristic absorption band for SH at 2600 is disappeared, 1662 (CO of CONH), 1630 (NH in plane bending), 1615 (C=N), 1599 (C=C), 1530, 1360 (NO₂), 1478 (C-N), 1170 (C-O-C), 848 (1,4 disubstituted benzene); **¹H NMR** (DMSO-d₆): 5.60 (2H, s, OCH₂), 5.90 (2H, s, NH₂), 6.80-7.50 (4H, m, Ar-H), 8.80-

9.20 (3H, m, heterocyclic protons), 9.70 (1H, s, NH), 10.70 (1H, bs, NH of CONH). [Found C, 41.28; H, 3.66; N, 36.19; C₁₄H₁₃N₉O₄ requires C, 41.49; H, 3.75; N, 36.31%].

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