

Synthesis, Crystal Structure and Fungicidal Activities of New Type Oxazolidinone-Based Strobilurin Analogues

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A series of oxazolidinone-based strobilurin analogues were efficiently synthesized by the reaction of 3-(2-bromomethyl-phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one with 1-substituted phenyl-2*H*-pyrazolin-3-one. Their structures were confirmed and characterized by ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, elemental analysis, and mass spectroscopy. In addition, the crystal structure of the target compound 3-(2-((1-phenyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl) oxazolidin-2-one was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction. The bioassay results of these compounds indicated that some of the oxazolidin-2-one derivatives containing *N*-substituted phenyl 2*H*-pyrazol ring exhibited potential *in vivo* fungicidal activities against *M. grisea* at the dosage of 1 g L⁻¹.

Key Words: Strobilurin fungicide, Oxazolidinone, Synthesis, X-ray diffraction, Structure-activity relationships

Introduction

Strobilurin fungicides are nowadays among the most important fungicides in the market of active agrochemicals.^{1,4} Since 1996 the first strobilurin product commercialized, a mass of synthetic derivatives of the strobilurin family have been prepared and investigated.⁵⁻⁹ Pyraclostrobin (Fig. 1), an excellent representative of methoxycarbamates in this family, has shown a broader antifungal activity spectrum, higher efficiency and security than previous fungicides.^{10,11} However, with a large number of strobilurin fungicides being used, a mass increase of plant pathogens against strobilurin fungicides have occurred.

The strobilurin fungicide inhibits mitochondrial respiration which all have a common mode of action by binding to the Qo site of the cytochrome bc1 complex.¹² Based on modeling of the co-crystal structure with the Qo inhibitor azoxystrobin, binding pocket with amino acids of the cytochrome bc1 enzyme

complex showed the carbonyl oxygen moiety of the toxophore may bind with a hydrogen bond to the amide group of glutamine.¹³ Famoxadone (Figure 1), an excellent representative of oxazolidinones in strobilurin family,¹³ plays a significant role. The bioisosteric relationship identification for the carbonyl group in oxazolidinone ring would seem to be the carbonyl in Famoxadone, and linezolid as the representative of oxazolidinones antibacterial drug approved into market in 2000. So oxazolidinone ring has more potential use in improving biological activities.¹⁴⁻¹⁷

To solve the resistance problem, and find new fungicides with low toxicities and broad ranges of fungicidal activities, the effective parts of pyraclostrobin and famoxadone were combined, and a series of new type oxazolidin-2-one derivatives containing *N*-substituted phenyl 2*H*-pyrazol ring were designed and synthesized, by introducing oxazolidin-2-one ring into core structure and expecting to obtain good antibacterial activities compounds. The single crystal structure of oxazolidin-2-one **9a** was proven, not only giving better understanding about the nature of binding of these compounds, but also helping to explore new structure to enhance the fungicidal activities. Meanwhile their antibacterial activities have been investigated with the aim of understanding the structure-fungicidal activity relationships and developing novel fungicides.

Experimental Section

Materials. Acetone was distilled and dried over 4 Å molecular sieve. Other solvents and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. *Gibberella zeae*, *Rhizoctonia cerealis*, *Sclerotinia sclerotioru*, *Botrytis cinerea* and *Magnaporthe grisea* were obtained from Jiangsu Pesticide Research Institute Co. Ltd.

Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on silica gel GF254. Silica gel (100 - 200 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography. The melting points were measur-

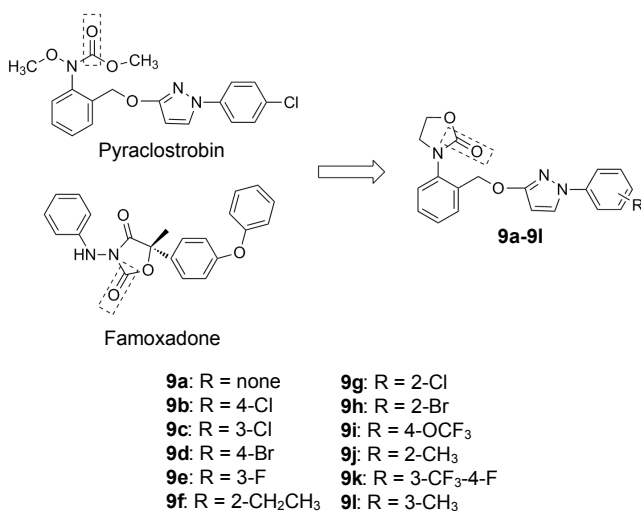


Figure 1. Design strategy of the target compounds (**9a-9l**).

ed on an X-4 microscope electrothermal apparatus (Taike China) and were uncorrected. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ solution on a Bruker AV 300 or AV 500 NMR spectrophotometer with TMS as the internal standard. Elemental analysis were performed on a Vario EL III elemental analysis instrument and the results were within 0.3% of the calculated value. Mass spectra were recorded with an Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD Trap SL. X-ray intensity data were recorded on a Nonius CAD4 single crystal diffraction.

General Synthetic Procedure for 4a-4l.

Substituted phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (2a-2l):¹⁸ A solution of NaNO_2 (4.77 g, 0.069 mol) in water (20 mL) was added to an ice-cold mixture of substituted aniline in 6 N HCl (100 mL) and stirred for 20 min. The resulted solution was added slowly to a solution of $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in 37% HCl solution (250 mL) at -10°C . The reaction mixture was stirred at -5°C for 2 h. The crude product was collected by filtration, dissolved in methanol, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The resulting white solid was washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum to obtain compounds. Substituted phenyl hydrazine hydrochlorides were directly used for next step.

1-Substituted pyrazolidin-3-one (3a-3l):¹⁹ 0.45 mol of ethyl acrylate are added dropwise at 40°C - 45°C for 1 h to a mixture of 0.2 mol of sodium methoxide (98%), 50 mL of ethanol, 55 mL of toluene and 0.09 mol of substituted phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (2a-2l), and the mixture is subsequently stirred for 15 h at 45°C . The reaction mixture is evaporated to 40 mL and the residue is taken up in sufficient water. The resulting mixture was washed a number of times with toluene and the combined organic phases were extracted with 5% NaOH solution. The combined aqueous phases were adjusted to a pH of 6.5 and cooled to 5°C . The solid formed was filtered off with suction, washed with water and dried under reduced pressure.

1-Substituted phenyl-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4a-4l):¹⁹ 150 mmol of 1-substituted pyrazolidin-3-one (3a-3l) were dissolved in 100 mL of dimethylformamide and admixed with 2.4 g (0.1 equiv, 15 mmol) of $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$. While passing in air, the mixture was heated to 80°C , this temperature was held for 4 h and the mixture was stirred for further 12 h without heating. The reaction mixture was poured into water and stirred for 2 h, the precipitate formed was filtered off, washed with water and dried under reduced pressure to got product.

1-Phenyl-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4a): Gray solid, mp $155 - 156^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.80 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 8.21 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.20 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 161.1 (M^+); Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C 67.49, H 5.03, N 17.49, found C 67.47, H 5.05, N 17.48.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4b): Gray solid, mp $189 - 191^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 5.92 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.44 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.64 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H, CH), 11.47 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 195.0 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$: C 55.54, H 3.63, N 14.39, found C 55.52, H 3.66, N 14.38.

1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4c): Gray solid, mp $132 - 135^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.85 (d,

$J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.45 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.78 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 8.30 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.35 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 195.0 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$: C 55.54, H 3.63, N 14.39, found C 55.53, H 3.65, N 14.36.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4d): Gray solid, mp $221 - 223^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.83 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.59-7.65 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 8.23 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.28 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 238.9 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$: C 45.22, H 2.95, N 11.72, found C 45.20, H 2.98, N 11.71.

1-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4e): Gray solid, mp $123 - 125^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.85 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.00 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.49 (d, 3H, Ar-H), 8.28 (d, $J = 2.2$, 1H, CH), 10.35 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 179.1 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{FN}_2\text{O}$: C 60.67, H 3.96, N 8.98, found C 60.68 H 3.99 N 8.97.

1-(2-Ethylphenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4f): Gray solid, mp $142 - 144^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 1.03 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H, CH_3), 2.62 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 5.71 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.24 (dd, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.28 (td, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.32 (td, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.63 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 9.86 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 189.1 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C 70.19, H 6.43, N 14.88, found C 70.19, H 6.44, N 14.87.

1-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4g): Gray solid, mp $163 - 168^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.79 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.85 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.13 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 195.0 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$: C 55.54, H 3.63, N 14.39, found C 55.52, H 3.68, N 14.37.

1-(2-Bromophenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4h): Gray solid, mp $174 - 177^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.78 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.87 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.10 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 238.9 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$: C 45.22, H 2.95, N 11.72, found C 45.22, H 2.97, N 11.71.

1-(4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4i): Gray solid, mp $142 - 144^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.84 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.78 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.25 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.32 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 245.0 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$: C 49.19, H 2.89, N 11.47, found C 49.20, H 2.92, N 11.45.

1-(2-Methylphenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4j): Gray solid, mp $128 - 131^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 2.27 (s, 3H, CH_3), 5.73 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.25-7.33 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.69 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H, CH), 9.93 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 175.1 (M^+); Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C 68.95, H 5.79, N 16.08, found C 68.96, H 5.80, N 16.06.

1-(4-Fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4k): Gray solid, mp $129 - 133^\circ\text{C}$ (decomposition); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 5.90 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.99 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 8.09 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 8.40 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H, CH), 10.48 (s, 1H, OH); MS m/z 247.0 (M^+); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}$: C 48.59, H 2.85, N 11.33,

found C 48.57, H 2.88, N 11.33.

1-(3-Methylphenyl)-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (4I): Gray solid, mp 112 - 114 °C (decomposition), ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 5.79 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.00 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.29 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.48 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 10.17 (s, 1H, OH); MS *m/z* 175.1 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₂O: C 68.95, H 5.79, N 16.08, found C 68.92, H 5.83, N 16.07.

2-Chloroethyl-*o*-tolylcarbamate (6):²⁰ A three neck, 250 mL round bottom flask fitted with a mechanical stirrer, dropping funnel, and thermometer was charged with 2-methylaniline (10.7 g, 0.1 mol), dichloromethane (150 mL) and 10% aqueous NaOH solution (44 mL, 1.1 mol). 2-chloroethyl chloroformate (10.8 mL, 0.11 mol) was added dropwise to the vigorously stirred reaction mixture over 20 min maintaining an internal temperature of 25 °C. At the end of the addition, the pH of the aqueous layer was 8. After stirring an additional 15 min, the pH of the aqueous layer (now 5 - 6) was adjusted to 11 with 5 mL of 10% aqueous NaOH solution, and the mixture was stirred an additional 4 h at refluxing temperature, monitored by TLC. After cooling to room temperature, the organic layer washed with water (200 mL × 3), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to afford residue. Yield 98%, white solid, mp 41 - 42 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.26 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.73 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 4.42 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 6.47-7.23 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.74 (s, 1H, NH); MS *m/z* 214.1 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₂-ClNO₂: C 55.95, H 6.10, N 6.52, found C 55.91, H 6.14, N 6.50.

3-(*o*-Tolyl)oxazolidin-2-one (7):²¹ A 250 mL, 3 neck round bottom flask fitted with a thermometer, mechanical stirrer, and dropping funnel was charged with 78.1 g (0.344 mol) of compound 6 and 200 mL of methanol. The white solution was treated with 82.5 mL of 25% methanolic NaOCH₃, over 5 min maintaining an internal temperature less than 30 °C. After 5 h the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 300 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to afford 62.8 g of 7 as a colorless oil. Yield 95.7%, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.30 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.92 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 4.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 7.22-7.27 (m, 4H, Ar-H); MS *m/z* 178.1 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₁NO₂: C 67.40, H 6.79, N 7.86, found C 67.40, H 6.80, N 7.85.

3-(2-(Bromomethyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (8):²² To the solution of compound 7 (10.46 g, 59.0 mmol) in CCl₄ (150 mL) was added *N*-bromosuccinimide (1 equiv., 10.45 g, 59.0 mmol) and azobisisobutyronitrile (0.1 equiv, 0.97 g, 5.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 1 h without light then filtered to remove succinimide and washed with brine (100 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to afford residue. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1, v/v) to afford 9.1 g of the title compound as a white solid. Yield, 60%, mp 79 - 84 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.10 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 4.58 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 4.58 (s, 2H, Ar-CH₂Br), 7.23-7.47 (m, 4H, Ar-H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 30.01, 46.92, 63.17, 117.96, 129.78, 129.81, 131.93, 136.04, 136.26. MS *m/z* 256.0 (M⁺), 146.1, 107.1; Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₀-BrNO₂: C 46.90, H 3.94, N 5.47, found C 46.87, H 3.96, N 5.43.

3-(2-((1-Substituted phenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)

phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9a-9I):²³ A mixture of compound 4 (3.0 mmol) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (1.5 equiv., 0.63 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry acetone (20 mL) was stirred and refluxed for 1 h. Then, the solution 0.77 g (1.0 equiv, 3.0 mmol) of 8 in dry acetone (20 mL) was added. The mixture was reacted for 12 h at the refluxing temperature. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was added chloroform (50 mL) and washed with water (2 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to afford residue which was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1, v/v) monitoring by TLC. The pure fractions were combined and evaporated to afford the target compounds. The following compounds 9a-9I were prepared according to this procedure.

3-(2-((1-Phenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9a): A white solid, yield 88.5%, mp 105 - 106 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.8, 2H, CH₂), 4.48 (t, *J* = 7.8, 2H, CH₂), 5.37 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.92 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.19-7.66 (m, 9H, Ar-H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.77, 62.49, 67.72, 93.79, 117.84, 125.43, 126.81, 127.81, 128.36, 129.34, 129.47, 130.66, 134.98, 136.40, 140.07, 156.99, 164.03; MS *m/z* 336.1 (M⁺) 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₃O₃: C 68.05, H 5.11, N 12.53, found C 68.01, H 5.16, N 12.49.

3-(2-((1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9b): A white solid, yield 86%, mp 138 - 139 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.03 (t, *J* = 7.8, 2H, CH₂), 4.47 (t, *J* = 7.8, 2H, CH₂), 5.35 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.93 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.30-7.65 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.83, 62.54, 67.84, 94.38, 118.98, 125.66, 126.83, 127.85, 128.44, 129.45, 129.58, 130.69, 134.87, 136.40, 140.88, 160.35, 164.2, MS *m/z* 370.1 (M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₆-ClN₃O₃: C 61.71, H 4.36, N 11.36, found C, 61.68, H, 4.40, N, 11.32.

3-(2-((1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9c): A white solid, yield 89.0%, mp 131 - 132 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.05 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.50 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.36 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.93 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.16-7.65 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.80, 62.55, 67.78, 94.72, 115.59, 118.09, 125.33, 126.73, 127.97, 128.41, 129.54, 130.43, 130.62, 134.84, 135.22, 136.39, 141.03, 164.22; MS *m/z* 370.0 (M⁺), 176.0; Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₆ClN₃O₃: C 61.71, H 4.36, N 11.36, found C 61.68, H 4.40, N 11.31.

3-(2-((1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9d): A white solid, yield 86.0%, mp 174 - 175 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.03 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.48 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.35 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.93 (d, *J* = 2.7, 1H, CH), 7.29-7.65 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 2.7, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ, 48.83, 62.54, 67.87, 94.50, 118.45, 119.32, 126.84, 127.85, 128.44, 129.59, 130.69, 132.42, 134.90, 136.44, 139.17, 157.01, 164.27; MS *m/z* 4.0 (M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrN₃O₃: C 55.09, H 3.89, N 10.14, found C 55.06, H 3.93, N 10.10.

3-(2-((1-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9e): A white solid, yield 81.0%, mp 91 - 93 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.44 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.35 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.91 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 6.85-7.63 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR

(CDCl₃) δ 48.57, 62.42, 67.59, 94.50, 105.42, 111.69, 111.97, 112.65, 126.56, 127.95, 128.18, 129.33, 130.33, 130.47, 130.59, 134.64, 156.84, 163.99, 164.81; MS *m/z* 354.0(M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₆FN₃O₃: C 64.58, H 4.56, N 11.89, found C 64.55, H 4.59, N 11.85.

3-(2-((1-(2-Ethylphenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9f): A colorless oil, yield 83.9%, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.6, 3H, CH₃), 2.58 (q, *J* = 7.6, 2H, CH₂), 3.97 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.41 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.30 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.87 (d, *J* = 2.4, 1H, CH), 7.20-7.45 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 2.4, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 14.27, 24.45, 48.53, 62.38, 67.44, 91.90, 126.04, 126.33, 126.61, 128.13, 128.21, 129.12, 129.65, 130.16, 131.22, 131.96, 135.02, 136.15, 139.80, 156.85, 163.34; MS *m/z* 364.1(M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for. C₂₁H₂₁N₃O₃: C 69.41, H 5.82, N 11.56, found C 69.38, H 5.86, N 11.55.

3-(2-((1-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9g): A white solid, yield 84.0%, mp 127 - 128 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.95 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.36 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.27 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.86 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH), 7.16-7.58 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 37.79, 50.09, 63.92, 69.00, 94.57, 127.81, 128.16, 128.33, 128.34, 129.08, 130.78, 131.82, 132.08, 132.72, 134.40, 136.35, 137.73, 139.33, 163.87; MS *m/z* 370.0(M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₆ClN₃O₃: C 61.71, H 4.36, N 11.36, found C 61.69, H 4.40, N 11.33.

3-(2-((1-(2-Bromophenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9h): A white solid, yield 79.6%, mp 168 - 169 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.43 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.33 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.91 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.18-7.65 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.67, 62.45, 67.60, 92.92, 117.51, 126.74, 127.87, 128.06, 128.25, 128.79, 129.31, 130.42, 132.92, 133.79, 134.95, 136.32, 139.58, 156.92, 163.83; MS *m/z* 414.0(M⁺), 176.0; Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrN₃O₃: C 55.09, H 3.89, N 10.14, found C 55.05, H 3.91, N 10.12.

3-(2-((1-(4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9i): A white solid, yield 87.5%, mp 123 - 125 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.02 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.47 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.36 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.93 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.23-7.64 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.77, 62.50, 67.83, 94.49, 118.89, 122.11, 126.45, 126.78, 126.99, 127.95, 128.39, 129.52, 130.59, 131.39, 134.81, 136.35, 138.61, 146.44, 156.92, 164.27; MS *m/z* 420.1 (M⁺), 176.1; Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₅F₃N₃O₄: C 57.28, H 3.85, N 10.02, found C 57.26, H 3.87, N 9.98.

3-(2-((1-(*o*-Tolyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9j): A white solid, yield 86.0%; mp 98 - 101 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.25 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.98 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.41 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.30 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.86 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH), 7.21-7.39 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 18.15, 48.80, 62.40, 67.53, 91.98, 125.60, 126.45, 126.67, 127.76, 128.17, 129.19, 130.29, 131.27, 131.82, 133.29, 135.01, 136.21, 139.79, 156.88, 163.38; MS *m/z* 350.1 (M+1), 176.1; Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₉N₃O₃: C 68.75, H 5.48, N 12.03, found C 68.72, H 5.51, N 11.99.

3-(2-((1-(4-Fluoro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9k): A white solid,

Table 1. Structures and fungicidal activities *in vitro* of compounds **9a-9l**

No.	Compounds R	Inhibition of growth ^a (10 mg L ⁻¹)				
		<i>G. zeae</i>	<i>R. cerealis</i>	<i>Sclerotioru</i>	<i>B. cinerea</i>	<i>M. grisea</i>
9a	H	-	-	-	-	-
9b	4-Cl	-	-	-	-	+
9c	3-Cl	-	-	-	-	+
9d	4-Br	-	-	-	-	-
9e	3-F	+	-	+	+	+
9f	2-CH ₂ CH ₃	-	-	-	-	-
9g	2-Cl	-	+	-	-	+
9h	2-Br	-	-	-	-	-
9i	4-OCF ₃	-	-	-	-	+
9j	2-CH ₃	-	-	-	-	-
9k	3-CF ₃ -4-F	-	+	-	-	+
9l	3-CH ₃	-	-	-	-	-
pyraclostrobin	-	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

^aActivity is expressed in four categories: (-) < 50%, (+) 51 - 70%, (++) 71 - 90%, (+++) > 90%.

Table 2. Structures and fungicidal activities *in vivo* of compounds **9a-9l**

No.	Compounds R	Inhibition of growth ^a (1 g L ⁻¹)		
		<i>S. Sclerotioru</i>	<i>B. cinerea</i>	<i>M. grisea</i>
9a	H	-	-	++
9b	4-Cl	-	-	+
9c	3-Cl	-	-	+
9d	4-Br	-	-	-
9e	3-F	-	++	+
9f	2-CH ₂ CH ₃	-	-	-
9g	2-Cl	-	-	++
9h	2-Br	-	-	-
9i	4-OCF ₃	-	-	+
9j	2-CH ₃	-	-	-
9k	3-CF ₃ -4-F	-	-	-
9l	3-CH ₃	-	-	-
Pyraclostrobin	-	+++	++	+++
Carbendazol	-	+++	++	

^aActivity is expressed in four categories: (-) < 50%, (+) 51 - 70%, (++) 71 - 90%, (+++) > 90%.

yield 88.5%, mp 116 - 119 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.04 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.48 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.36 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.96 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH), 7.23-7.77 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 48.72, 62.49, 67.88, 95.02, 116.45, 117.81, 118.11, 122.59, 122.71, 123.98, 126.68, 128.01, 128.37, 129.52, 130.46, 134.70, 136.28, 155.29, 156.89, 164.42; MS *m/z* (%) 422.1(M⁺), 176.1; Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₅F₄N₃O₃: C 57.01, H 3.59, N 9.97, found C 56.97, H 3.62, N 9.96.

3-(2-((1-(*m*-Tolyl)-2H-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9l): A white solid, yield 81.5%, mp 97 - 98 °C, ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.39 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.02 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 4.45 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H, CH₂), 5.34 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.89 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH), 7.01-7.64 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H, CH); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 31.45, 48.76, 62.48, 67.69, 93.53, 114.91,

118.62, 126.23, 126.78, 127.83, 128.32, 129.10, 129.42, 130.61, 134.94, 136.35, 139.36, 139.99, 156.98, 163.89; MS m/z 350.1 (M^+), 176.1; Anal. calcd for $C_{20}H_{19}N_3O_3$: C 68.75, H 5.48, N 12.03, found C 68.72, H 5.51, N 12.00.

X-ray diffraction crystallography. A suitable single crystal of **9a** was obtained by dissolving the compound in ethyl acetate and evaporating the solvent slowly at room temperature for about 10 d. The diffraction data were collected on a Nonius CAD4 single crystal diffractometer equipped with a graphite-mono chromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) by using an $\omega/2\theta$ scan mode at 296 K. The crystal structure were solved by the direct method and refined by the full-matrix least-squares procedure on F^2 using SHELXL-97 program.²⁴ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, and the hydrogen atoms were introduced at calculated positions.

Biological assay. The preliminary fungistatic activity of compounds **9a-9l** against fungi *Gibberella zeae*, *Rhizoctonia cerealis*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Botrytis cinerea* and *Magnaporthe grisea* *in vitro* were measured in a concentration of 10 mg L⁻¹ according to the literature.²⁵ The *in vivo* preliminary fungistatic activities of compounds **9a-9l** against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Botrytis cinerea* and *Magnaporthe grisea* were tested in a concentration of 1 g L⁻¹ according to the literature.²⁶ The results of *in vitro* and *in vivo* fungistatic activity were indicated in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively, compared with the activity of the commercial fungicide pyraclostrobin or carbendazol.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis and characterization. The synthetic route for the target compounds **9a-9l** was outlined in Scheme 1. The intermediate **4a-4l** were obtained through three steps. Substituted aniline (**1a-1l**) via diazotization and reduction reaction got substituted phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (**2a-2l**), and then **2a-2l** reacted with ethyl acrylate in the presence of NaOCH₃ to give 1-substituted pyrazolidin-3-one (**3a-3l**). Then **3a-3l** was oxidized by O₂ in the presence of FeCl₃·6H₂O as catalyst to give the intermediate 1-substituted phenyl-2H-pyrazolin-3-one (**4a-4l**).

Compounds 1-substituted pyrazolidin-3-one were synthesized according to the method reported in literature,¹⁹ but got low-

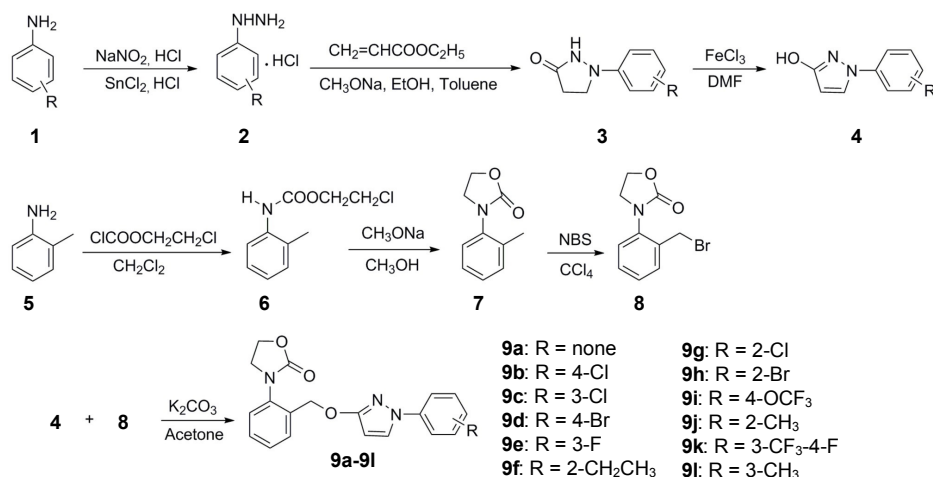
er yields. When we sought to conduct this reaction at a temperature of 30 °C, the desired product **3b** was obtained with a yield of 25.6%. When the reaction temperature was further increased to 45 °C, the reaction yield increased to 78.8% by varying the reaction time. Furthermore, under the anhydrous reaction condition, the yield of pyrazolidin-3-one **3b** is higher than the hydrous reaction. The detailed yields under different conditions as are listed in Table 3.

3-*o*-Tolyloxazolidin-2-one (**7**) was reacted with N-bromosuccinimide in the presence of azobisisobutyronitrile as an initiator in the CCl₄ solution at reflux temperature without light to give 3-(2-bromomethylphenyl) oxazolidin-2-one (**8**). This reaction was a radical reaction, which yield was directly affected by reaction conditions. When the reaction temperature was below the lowest initiating temperature of AIBN, the reaction couldn't start. When the reaction temperature was much higher exceed than the initiating temperature of initiator, the reaction was difficult to control and got low yield. Under the reflux temperature of carbon tetrachloride (74 °C - 76 °C),⁵ the reaction can be induced well by AIBN. In addition, the dark condition could conducive for this reaction, which yield could increase to 60%.

The target compounds **9a-9l** were obtained by the reaction of 3-(2-bromomethylphenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (**8**) with 1-sub-

Table 3. Optimization of reaction conditions for preparation of compound **3b**

Entry	Product	Condition	Time (h)	Temp (°C)	Yield (%)
1	3b	anhydrous	5	30	10.1
2	3b	anhydrous	10	30	18.7
3	3b	anhydrous	15	30	25.6
4	3b	anhydrous	5	45	45.4
5	3b	anhydrous	10	45	70.1
6	3b	anhydrous	15	45	78.8
7	3b	anhydrous	5	55	25.1
8	3b	anhydrous	10	55	28.8
9	3b	anhydrous	15	55	30.7
10	3b	hydrous	5	45	5.1
11	3b	hydrous	10	45	7.1
12	3b	hydrous	15	45	7.5



Scheme 1. General synthetic route for the target compounds **9a-9l**

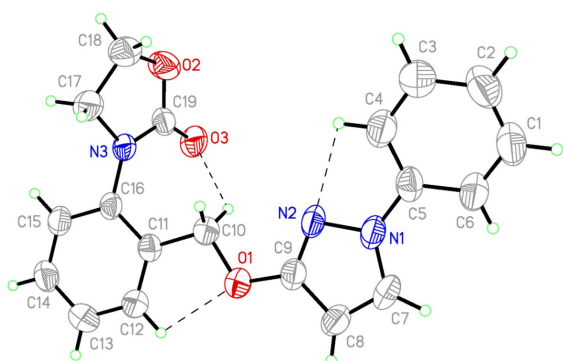


Figure 2. A molecule structure of **9a**. Thin dashed lines represent intramolecular hydrogen bonds.

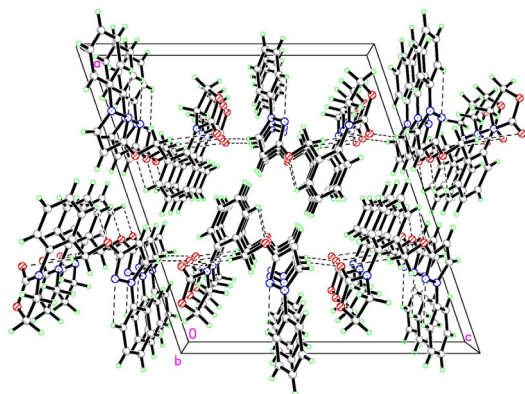


Figure 3. A packing plot of **9a** viewed along the crystallographic *b*-axis.

stituted phenyl-2*H*-pyrazolin-3-one derivatives (**4a-4l**) in the presence of K_2CO_3 in the solution of acetone at boiling temperature in good yields between 79.6% - 89.0%. The structures of the target compounds **9a-9l** were confirmed by elemental analyses, 1H -NMR, ^{13}C -NMR and MS spectra. Furthermore, the structure of **9a** was revealed by X-ray crystallography to understand the structure-fungicidal activity relationships.

Crystal structure. The crystal structure of **9a** was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, which belongs to monoclinic system, $P2_1/C$ space group with unit cell parameters: $a = 17.788$ (4) Å, $b = 6.0100$ (12) Å, $c = 16.222$ (3) Å, and $\beta = 108.87$ (3)°. The detailed crystallographic data for **9a** are collected in Table 4, and the hydrogen bonds were shown in Table 5.

The single crystal structure and packing diagram of **9a** are shown in Figures 2 and Figures 3. The 2*H*-pyrazol ring and oxazolidin-2-one ring are twisted 6.04° and 65.51° from the plane of the bridge benzene ring (C11 to C16), respectively, whereas the side chain benzene group (C1 to C6) are oriented at a dihedral angles of 22.39° from the plane of the bridge benzene ring. The intramolecular C-H...N and C-H...O hydrogen bonds (Table 4) result in the formation of three non-planar pseudo rings A(C4/C5/N1/N2/H4A), B(O1/C10/C11/C12/H12A), and C(O3/C19/N3/C16/C11/C10/H10A). In the molecular packing of **9a**, intermolecular C-H...O hydrogen bonds link the molecules stacked along the *b* axis. The single crystal structure of the compound can provide a basis for elucidating the effect on

Table 4. Crystal and structure refinement data of compound **9a**

Compound	9a
Chemical formula	$C_{19}H_{17}N_3O_3$
Formula weight	335.36
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/C$
<i>a</i> (Å)	17.788 (4)
<i>b</i> (Å)	6.0100 (12)
<i>c</i> (Å)	16.222 (3)
β (°)	108.87 (3)
<i>V</i> (Å ³), <i>Z</i>	1641.0 (6)/4
D_{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	1.357
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.09
<i>F</i> (0 0 0)	704
θ range (°)	9 - 13
Index range	-20 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 0 0 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 7 -18 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 19
Reflections collected	3074
Unique reflections (R_{int})	2972 (0.029)
Refinement method on F^2	Full-matrix least-squares
GOF on F^2	1.000
R_1 [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	0.1839
wR_2 [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	0.1503
R_1 (all data)	0.1104
wR_2 (all data)	0.0588
Residual (e Å ⁻³)	0.210 and -0.178

Table 5. Hydrogen-bond geometry of compound **9a** (Å, °)

D-H...A	D-H	H...A	D...A	D-H...A
C4-H4A...N2	0.93	2.45	2.780 (5)	101
C7-H7A...O3 ⁱ	0.93	2.51	3.439 (4)	174
C10-H10A...O3	0.97	2.55	3.255 (3)	129
C12-H12A...O1	0.93	2.34	2.708 (4)	103

Symmetry codes: (i) $x, -y + 3/2, z - 1/2$.

their biological activities.

Fungicidal activities. The *in vitro* fungicidal results of all these compounds against *G. zeae*, *R. cerealis*, *S. Sclerotioru*, *B. cinerea* and *M. grisea* were listed in Table 1. As compared with pyraclostrobin, most of compounds showed weak fungicidal activity against *G. zeae*, *R. cerealis*, *S. Sclerotioru* and *B. cinerea* at the concentration of 10 mg L⁻¹, but half of the compounds (**9b**, **9c**, **9e**, **9g**, **9i**, **9k**) showed moderate fungicidal activities against *M. grisea*, the common point of these structures contained electron withdrawing groups. The results showed that molecular structure contained electron withdrawing groups would enhanced the fungicidal activity against *M. grisea*. It is worth mentioning that the compound **9e** containing 3-F group showed a broader antifungal activity spectrum against *G. zeae*, *S. Sclerotioru*, *B. cinerea* and *M. grisea in vitro* than other compounds.

The fungicidal results of all these compounds *in vivo* against

S. Sclerotioru, *B. cinerea* and *M. grisea* were compared with two commercial fungicides pyraclostrobin and carbendazol. As shown in Table 2, at the concentration of 1 g L^{-1} , none of the compounds showed good fungicidal activity against *S. Sclerotioru*. Compound **9e** showed good fungicidal activities against *B. cinerea*, the inhibition rate is within 71 - 90%. The fungicidal activities against *M. grisea* of the compounds **9a-9l** are influenced by the nature of the R group in phenyl. When R group was H or 2-Cl, compounds **9a** and **9g** showed higher fungicidal activity, the inhibition rate are within 71 - 90%. When R group were 4-Cl, 3-Cl, 3-F, 4-OCF₃, compounds **9b**, **9c**, **9e** and **9i** showed moderate fungicidal activity, and the inhibition rate are within 51 - 70%. It is worth to attention that 3-F substituent analogue (**9e**) showed good fungicidal activities, and the *in vivo* bioassay results are consistent with the *in vitro* bioassay results. The reason was speculated that F was a electron withdrawing group which could balanced the HLB value of molecule and increased the systemic of molecule within plant. By contrast, compound **9k** represented different results, which showed weak fungicidal activities against *S. Sclerotioru*, *B. cinerea* and *M. grisea*, the inhibition rate is below 50%. It was supposed that 3-CF₃-4-F substituents in **9k** were increased the HLB value of molecule and cut down the systemic of molecule. Another reason would be the steric effect of CF₃ group changed the spatial configuration of molecule. Aimed to enhance the fungicidal activities, analyzed the fungicidal results, a rule has been revealed that balance the HLB value of molecule by modifying the R group in phenyl from a hydrogen atom to electron-withdrawing group and enhance the systemic of molecule by changing the spatial configuration of molecule as little as possible.

On the other hand, fungicidal results and the crystal structure of **9a** (Figure 2) showed that the carbonyl oxygen moiety of the toxophore with other atoms formed a non-planar pseudo ring C (O3/C19/N3/C16/C11/C10/H10A). According to published crystal structures of the cytochrome bc1 enzyme complex and co-crystallization of the bovine heart enzyme with different Qo inhibitors,¹³ the carbonyl oxygen moiety in oxazolidin-2-one ring couldn't bind to the amide group of glutamine with a hydrogen bond, so the fungicidal activity is mediocre. The structure-fungicidal activity relationships showed a rule of key point on the design of new compounds that avoid form an intramolecular pseudo ring containing active fungicidal group in molecular structure.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the molecular design, synthesis, and fungicidal activities of a series of new type oxazolidin-2-one derivatives containing *N*-substituted phenyl 2*H*-pyrazol ring, and the crystal structure of the compound 3-(2-((1-phenyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (**9a**) was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The preliminary bioassay showed that some of the *N*-substituted phenyl 2*H*-pyrazol oxazolidin-2-one derivatives (**9a-9l**) exhibited potential *in vivo* fungicidal activities against *M. gri-*

sea at the dosage of 1 g L^{-1} . The relationship between fungicidal activities and core structure showed that active fungicidal group formed intramolecular hydrogen bond in molecular structure. Expecting to find some new type strobilurin fungicides with high activities and low toxicities, further structural optimization and fungicidal activities about the oxazolidinone analogues are well under way.

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