Keywords: Thienopyrimidine; 1,2,4-triazole; 1,3,4-oxadiazole; Antibacterial; Antifungal activity

Introduction

The firm appearances of microbial infections followed by the spreading out of numerous resistant bacterial and fungal strains against clinically used antimicrobial have insist on medicinal communities to look for new incorporations into the current methods used in medicine. Severe probability of microbial infections along with immunosuppressive individuals due to the HIV infection, cancer treatments and organ transplantations actuated additional urgency to generate new antimicrobial agents. Moreover, in some cases especially in patients with impaired liver or kidney functions bring into play of antimicrobial drugs to pleasure infections causes several problems [1-3]. Thus, these trends have emphasized the urgent, innovative more helpful and safe antimicrobial agents. Along with the striking approaches to attain this goal the development of structurally new classes of antimicrobial agents with novel mechanism of action and the other contained structural modification or optimization of the existing agents by improving both the binding affinity and spectrum of activity while retaining bioavailability and safety profile have provoked special interest in the area of medical chemistry. However, the increasing dominance of one such strategy that has been pursued in recent years employs a combination of two different active fragments in one molecule has emerged [4]. With this strategy, each drug moiety is exploit drugs or hybrid drugs suggest the possibility to overcome the current resistance and reduce the appearance of new resistant strains [5].

In the past few years, thienopyrimidines have concerned immense thought due to their impressive array of pharmacological activities. They were found to display antiviral [6], antimicrobial [7], antihypertensive [8], analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities [9]. Moreover, a literature survey revealed that novel thienopyrimidine derivatives which have been more recently studied not only antiviral and antimicrobial activities but also inhibit various protein kinase such as CK2 involved in particular anticancer activity [10]. In addition, the extensive utilize of 1,3,4-oxadiazoles as a scaffold in curative chemistry establishes this moiety as a member of the privileged structures class [11]. 1,3,4-oxadizole ring was associated with many types of biological properties such as anti inflammatory [12], insecticidal [13], antifungal, antibacterial and antituberculosis activities [14,15]. In this context, thienopyrimidine containing 1,2,4-triazole derivatives with similar structural qualities would be projected to result in newer molecular systems with increased efficacy. Definitely, 1,2,4-triazole template has been known to express considerable antimicrobial [16], antitubercular [17] and anticancer activities [18]. In continuation to extend our research [19,20] it was our thought of interest to design and synthesize thienopyrimidine 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives hoping to go a step forward in the field of antioxidant agents. Taking the above points in consideration, we have studied the antimicrobial action of the resultant thienopyrimidine 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives against wide range of different microorganisms.

Experimental

Chemistry

Melting points were determined in open capillaries on a Mel-Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. All the reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on precoated silica gel (60 F254 (mesh); spots were visualized with UV light. Merck silica gel (60-120 mesh) was used for column chromatography. The IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer BXI FTIR Spectrophotometer as KBr pellets and the wave numbers were given in cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AMX 400 MHz NMR spectrometer in CDCl₃/DMSO-d₆ solution using TMS as an internal standard. All chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δppm) using TMS as an internal standard.

Procedure for the preparation of ethyl 4-cyano-5-((ethoxymethylene) amino)-3-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate (2)

A mixture of ethyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate [21] 1 (2.10 g, 10 mmol) in triethyl orthofornate (12 mL) was heated under refluxion for 14 h. After completion of starting compound, the excess amount of triethyl orthofornate was removed under vacuum. The residue was washed with petroleum ether then they obtained solid was filtered and recrystallized from DMSO water.

Yield: 89% (brown color solid); m.p. 236-238°C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹):

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Received July 31, 2014; Accepted August 27, 2014; Published August 30, 2014

Citation: Kerru N, Settypalli T, Nallapaneni H, Chunduri VR (2014) Novel Thienopyrimidine Derivatives Containing 1,2,4-triazoles and 1,3,4-oxadiazoles as Potent Antimicrobial Activity. Med chem 4: 623-629. doi:10.4172/2161-0444.1000204

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a mixture of 2 (0.26 g, 1 mmol) and corresponding substituted arylhydrazides (R-PhCONHNH2) (1 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature then glacial acetic acid (0.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure then it was washed with water to obtain solid, filtered and recrystallized from ethanol [22,23].

**Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-9-methylthieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidine-8-carboxylate (3a)**

Yield: 84% (pale brown color solid); m.p. 218-220°C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3364, 2892, 1711, 1602, 1512; 1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 1.34 (t, 3H, CH3-ester), 2.43 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.02 (s, 3H, CH3), 7.19 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.76 (d, JHH = 4.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 9.21 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine); 13C NMR (100 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 13.17, 19.36, 23.48, 114.57, 114.63, 114.87, 116.97, 120.21, 121.90, 26.46, 58.68, 122.44, 126.05, 129.41, 131.63, 133.60, 137.57, 141.01, 145.36, 148.20, 153.06, 156.71, 163.48; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 353 (M+H)+.

**Ethyl 9-methyl-3-(p-tolyl)thieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidine-8-carboxylate (3b)**

Yield: 81% (brown color solid); m.p. 202-204°C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3199, 2889, 1716, 1621, 1524; 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ 1.43 (s, 3H, CH3-ester), 3.16 (s, 3H, CH3), 4.42 (q, 2H, CH3-ester), 7.81-7.43 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 9.22 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine); 13C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3): δ 11.12, 19.36, 64.07, 120.38, 125.96, 128.03, 130.33, 131.48, 136.25, 140.91, 144.64, 146.22, 151.16, 155.68, 160.10; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 339 (M+H)+.

**Ethyl 9-methyl-3-(p-tolyl)thieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidine-8-carboxylate (3c)**

Yield: 86% (yellow color solid); m.p. 210-212°C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3281, 1706, 1632, 1562; 1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 1.44 (s, 3H, CH3-ester), 2.19 (s, 3H, CH3), 6.97 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.76 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 9.21 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine); 13C NMR (100 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 13.17, 19.36, 23.48, 114.57, 114.63, 114.87, 116.97, 120.21, 121.90, 26.46, 58.68, 122.44, 126.05, 129.41, 131.63, 133.60, 137.57, 141.01, 145.36, 148.20, 153.06, 156.71, 163.48; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 353 (M+H)+.

**General procedure for the synthesis of compound (3a-c)**

The compounds (3a-c) were dissolved in MeOH (12 mL) and 15% v/v aq. NaOH (2 mL) was added and stirred for 16 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction, chloroform was added to it then the aqueous layer was separated and acidified with 1 N HCl, the solid was filtered and washed with water, dried and recrystallized from chloroform and methanol.

**3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-9-methyl-thieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidine-8-carboxylic acid (4a)**

Yield: 78% (yellow color solid); m.p. 224-226°C; IR (KBr, cm-1): 3356, 2862, 1702, 1641, 1539; 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ 2.01 (s, 3H, CH3), 7.46 (d, JHH = 12.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.68 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.86 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine), 10.14 (s, 1H, COOH); 13C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3): δ 13.17, 110.68, 120.55, 126.75, 129.02, 131.42, 134.26, 139.31, 142.53, 146.61, 150.44, 158.20, 161.01; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 345 (M+H)+.
2-(3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-9-methylthieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidin-8-yl)-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole (5c)

Yield: 80% (brown color solid); m.p. 228-230°C; IR (KBr, cm−1): 2857, 1663, 1543, 1102; 1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 1.64 (s, 3H, CH3), 7.16 (d, JHH = 12.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.23 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.00 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.28 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.67 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine); 13C NMR (100 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 16.48, 119.40, 120.77, 123.84, 128.05, 131.11, 137.62, 139.20, 142.83, 144.78, 149.68, 151.61, 157.29, 164.34, 169.08; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 445 (M+H)+.

2-(3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-9-methylthieno[3,2-e][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidin-8-yl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (5d)

Yield: 72% (brownish yellow color solid); m.p. 253-255°C; IR (KBr, cm−1): 2895, 1673, 1547, 1087; 1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 1.64 (s, 3H, CH3), 7.16 (d, JHH = 12.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.23 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.02 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.28 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.67 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.41 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.74 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.67 (d, JHH = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H); 1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 87.77 (s, 1H, CH-pyrimidine); 13C NMR (100 MHz; DMSO-d6): δ 15.20, 169.48, 171.24; LC-MS (70 eV): m/z = 470 (M+H)+.
the test compounds were placed in nutrient agar medium. Solvent and growth controls were kept. Amoxicillin (30 µg) was used as positive control and the disk poured in DMSO was used as negative control and the test compounds were dissolved in DMSO at concentration of 100 and 50 µg/mL. The plates were inverted and incubated for 24 h at 37°C. The susceptibility was assessed on the basis of diameter of zone of inhibition against Gram-positive and Gram-negative strains of bacteria. Inhibition of zone of measured and compared with controls. The bacterial zone of inhibition values are given in (Table 1).

**Antifungal studies**

The newly prepared compounds were screened for their antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus flavus* in DMSO by agar diffusion method [26]. Sabourauds agar media was prepared by dissolving peptone (1 g), D-glucose (4 g) and agar (2 g) in distilled water (100 ml) and adjusting pH 5.7. Normal saline was used to make suspension of corresponding species. Twenty millilitres of agar media was poured into each Petri dish. Excess of suspension was decanted and the plates were dried by placing in an incubator at 37°C for 1 h using an agar punch, wells were made and each well was labelled. A control was also prepared in triplicate and maintained at 37°C for 3–4 days. The fungal activity of each compound was compared with Ketoconazole as a standard drug. Inhibition zone were measured and compared with the controls. The fungal zone of inhibition values are given in (Table 2).

**Result and Discussion**

**Chemistry**

The reaction sequences employed for synthesis of title compounds are shown in (Scheme 1). In the present work, the starting ethyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate (1) was prepared according to Gewald synthetic procedure [21]. The ethyl thieno[1,2,4]triazolopyrimidine carboxylate (3a–c) were synthesized from ethyl 4-cyano-5-((ethoxymethylene)amino)-3-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate (2) with substituted arylhydrazides in toluene at refluxion temperature, which on further treatment with 3a–c in methanolic sodium hydroxide gave 4a–c. Further, the triazole carboxylic acids (4a–c) were treated with substituted arylhydrazides in POCl₃ and afforded 1,3,4–oxadiazoles (5a–l). All compounds displayed IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR and mass spectra consistent with the assigned structures. ¹H NMR and IR spectrum of compounds (3a–c) showed triplet at 1.36-1.44 and a quartet at 4.42-4.44 ppm are due to the carboxylic ethyl ester and the most characteristic absorption bands are at 1705-1716 cm⁻¹ (C=O) and 1524-1562 cm⁻¹ (C=N) groups. When compounds (3a–c) were converted to

**Table 1:** Antibacterial activity of compounds 5a-l.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Gram negative</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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**Table 2:** Antifungal activity of compounds 5a-l.

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<th>Aspergillus flavus</th>
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<td>5e</td>
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<td>5f</td>
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carboxylic acids of 4-substituted phenyl-9-methyl-thieno[3,2-c][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-c]pyrimidine in basic media, carboxylic ethyl ester peaks were disappeared, while new signals were observed due to the COOH group at 10.14-10.62 ppm in the $^1$H NMR and IR spectrum the most characteristic absorption bands are at 3319-3364 cm$^{-1}$ (OH), 1702-1714 cm$^{-1}$ (C=O) and 1512-1542 cm$^{-1}$ (C=N) groups of compounds (4a-c). Compounds (5a-l) were partly characterised by the absorption bands at 1005-1180 cm$^{-1}$ and 1498-1585 cm$^{-1}$ in IR spectra due to C-O-C and C=N groups respectively. Its $^1$H NMR spectra showed a singlet at 1.17-2.31 ppm due to the thiophene methyl group and another singlet at 8.27-8.92 ppm due to proton of pyrimidine moiety. All other aromatic protons appeared in 6.60-8.04 ppm regions. The mass spectra of all the final derivatives showed comparable molecular ion peak with respect to molecular formula.

**Antimicrobial studies**

The newly synthesized compounds (5a-l) were screened for their *in-vitro* antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylocococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Escherichia coli* using Amoxicillin as standard by disc diffusion method (zone of inhibition) [24,25]. The test compounds were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) at concentrations of 50 and 100 µg/mL. The antibacterial screening revealed that all the tested compounds showed good inhibition against various tested microbial strains compared to the standard drug. Along with the synthesized compounds 5b, 5c, 5d and 5h were found to be more active against tested bacterial strains as compared to the standard. The enhanced antibacterial activity of 5b, 5c and 5d were due to presence of chlorine in the 1,2,4-triazole at the fourth position of thienopyrimidine moiety. The compound 5h contains nitro group at fourth position of 1,3,4-oxadiazole of thienopyrimidine ring which accounts for the enhanced antibacterial activity. Compound 5e exhibited moderate antibacterial activity against all tested bacterial strains. In general, increase of electron donating strength on the 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole (methyl substitution) decreases antibacterial activity. On the other hand, introducing halogen or electron withdrawing phenyl ring on the 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole with thienopyrimidine increases the antibacterial activity. The activity exhibited by the synthesized compounds were due to both 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole core rings (Scheme 2).

The *in-vitro* antifungal activities for compounds 5a-l were determined by agar diffusion method [26]. The results indicate that, among the tested compounds 5b and 5d were active against all tested fungal strains. The enhanced activities are due to electron withdrawing groups viz., chloro and nitro attached to heterocyclic moieties (1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole) of thienopyrimidine ring. All other compounds such as, 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole with methyl and phenyl substitution with thienopyrimidine showed lesser antifungal activity as compared with standard Ketoconazole. The (Tables 1 and 2) depict the antimicrobial screening results of the final compounds.

**Conclusion**

The research study reports the successful synthesis and antimicrobial activity of 1,2,4-triazole and 1,3,4-oxadiazole bearing thienopyrimidine moiety. The antimicrobial activity study revealed that all the tested compounds showed good antibacterial and antifungal activities against pathogenic strains. The structure and biological activity relationship of title compounds indicate that the presence of electron withdrawing groups like chloro and nitro groups attached to the triazole and oxadiazole rings were responsible for good antimicrobial activity and hence compounds 5b and 5d exhibited more potent antimicrobial activity of all tested pathogenic strains.

![Scheme 1](image-url)
OEt

NH

A plausible mechanism pathway for the formation of 1,2,4-triazole.

References


Acknowledgement

The authors would like to express their gratitude and thanks to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, for financial assistance under major research project CSIR No.02 (0065)/12/EMR-II.

Citation: Kerru N, Settypalli T, Nallapaneni H, Chunduri VR (2014) Novel Thienopyrimidine Derivatives Containing 1,2,4-triazoles and 1,3,4-oxadiazoles as Potent Antimicrobial Activity. Med Chem 4: 623-629. doi: 10.4172/2161-0444.1000204

Scheme 2: A plausible mechanism pathway for the formation of 1,2,4-triazole.
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