



RESEARCH ARTICLE

**One-Pot Synthesis of Schiff Base Compounds derived from 2-Nitro Benzoic Acid
with Aldehydes**

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ABSTRACT

In the present study an intermolecular reductive Schiff base formation from nitroarenes and benzaldehydes to yield diarylimines is carried out in the presence of iron powder and dilute acid this type of excellent method avoids use of hazardous solvents, longer reaction time and tedious work up procedure. Advantage of this efficient method is excellent yield of products in crystalline form, short reaction time, simplicity of work up procedure and no use of any type of hazardous solvents. Simply this reaction is economically attractive method for synthesis of Schiff base compounds. All these Schiff base compounds were characterized by means of IR, ¹H-NMR analysis data. The Schiff base ligands have also been tested in vitro for their antibacterial and antifungal activity. The experimental results suggest that Schiff base ligands are more potent in antibacterial and antifungal activities.

KEYWORDS

Schiff bases, 2-nitro benzoic acid, Antibacterial activity and Antifungal activity

INTRODUCTION

One of the main objectives of organic and medicinal chemistry is the design, synthesis and production of molecules having value as human therapeutic agents. Nitrogen containing compounds are very widely distributed in nature and are essential to life, they play a vital role in the metabolism of all living cells.

At present, greater than 75% drugs and drug candidates incorporate amine functionality. The synthesis of these nitrogen-containing compounds by the easily available imine (Schiff base) is one of the most important and convenient routes.

The synthesis and structure assignment by Schiff in 1864 of the first imines was an

important event at the beginning of the modern age of chemistry. Schiff's base compounds and their complexes have significant importance in chemistry. Every year number of reports is published on preparation of these compounds and their application in chemical reactions. However, the enormous potential of Schiff bases is far from exhausted and provides an endless opportunity for chemical creativity.

Schiff bases are important intermediates for the synthesis of various bioactive compounds. Schiff bases are known to have useful biological activity like insecticidal¹, antibacterial², antituberculosis³, antimicrobial⁴ and anticonvulsant⁵ activities.

Many derivatives of Schiff bases have found applications in diverse physiological and coordination chemistry area, due promising antibacterial and antiviral activities as well as

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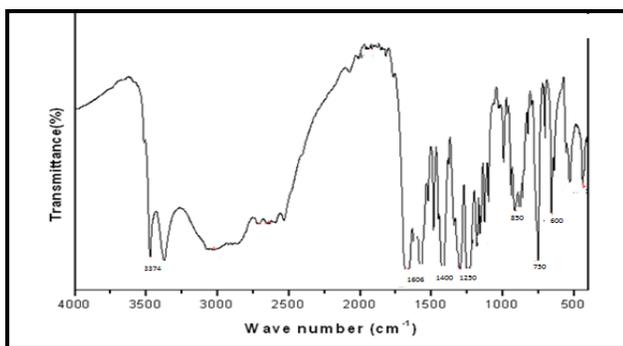
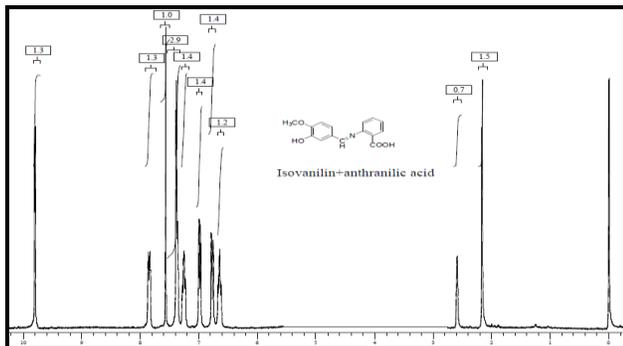
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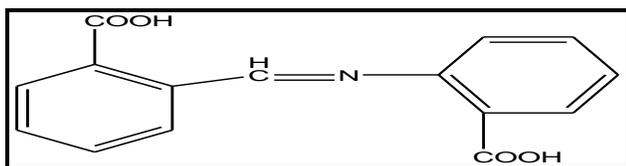
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the carboxylic proton appears as a broad signal at 9.8 ppm. Alcohol proton appears as a broad signal at 2.8 ppm. Methoxy proton appears as a broad signal at 2.2 ppm.

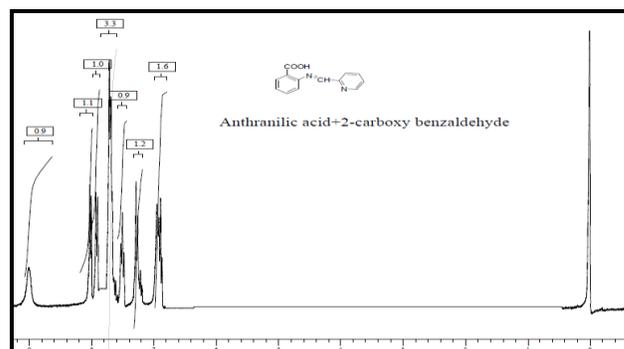


IR: Band at 1606cm^{-1} , which is assigned to $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ stretching vibration, a feature found in Schiff bases. IR absorption 1400 cm^{-1} , characteristic of the $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ group. IR absorption at 3378 cm^{-1} , characteristic of the of carboxylic acid group. Mass: $m/z=271$.

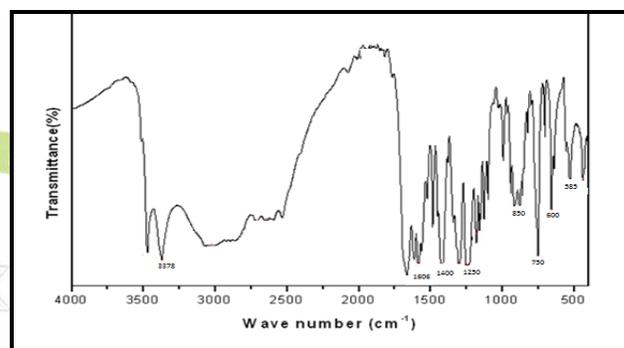
Synthesis of compound (3) 2--(2-carboxylimine) benzoic acid



HCl (0.13 mL, 4.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of 2 nitro benzoic acid (1.2gr, 0.72 mmol), 2 carboxy benzaldehyde (1.08gr , 0.72 mmol), and iron powder (0.409 g, 7.32 mmol) in 24 mL of EtOH-H₂O (2:1 v/v) solution. The reaction was heated to 65 °C for 1.5 h before being filtered while hot. The filtrate was extracted using CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL) after which the organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to yield 1.53 g (80%).

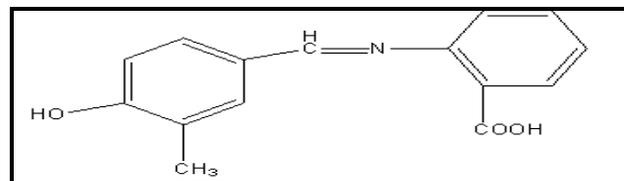


NMR: The aromatic protons (8H) are observed in the range of 6.9 to 7.3 ppm. The azomethine proton (1H, N=CH) is observed at 7.4 ppm, and the carboxylic proton appears as a broad signal at 9 ppm.



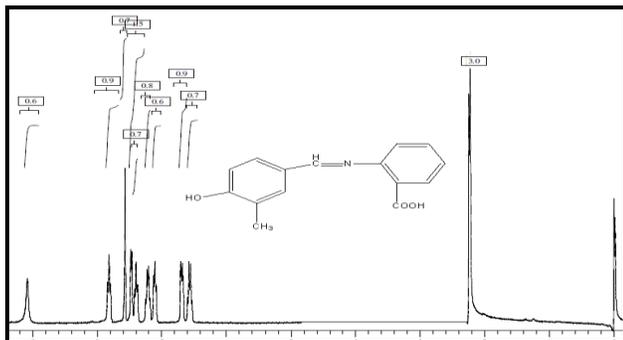
IR: The IR spectral data of the Schiff base showed a band at 1606 cm^{-1} , which is assigned to $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ stretching vibration, a feature found in Schiff bases. IR absorption band at 1400cm^{-1} , characteristic of the $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ group. IR absorption band at 3378 cm^{-1} , characteristic of the of carboxylic acid group. Mass $m/z=226$.

Synthesis of compound (4) 2-(4 hydroxy-3-methyl benzylideneamino) benzoic acid

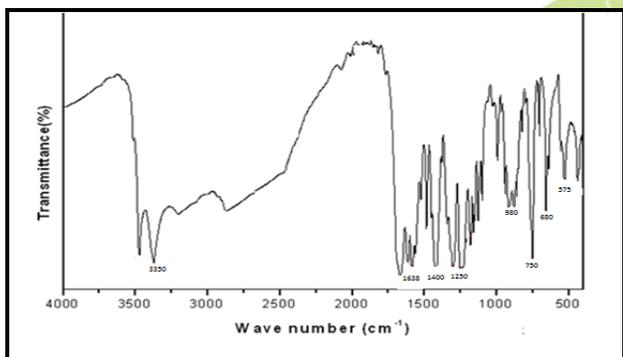


HCl (0.13 mL, 4.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of 2 nitro benzoic acid (1.2gr, 0.72 mmol), 3 methyl-4 hydroxy benzaldehyde (1.0 gr, 0.72 mmol), and iron powder (0.409 g, 7.32 mmol) in 24 mL of EtOH-H₂O (2:1 v/v) solution. The reaction was heated to 65 °C for 1.5 h before being filtered while hot. The filtrate was extracted using CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL) after

which the organic layers were combined, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to yield 1.76 g (80%).



NMR: In the 1H NMR spectra, the aromatic protons (7H) are observed in the range of 6.5 to 7.9 ppm. The azomethine proton (1H, $N=CH$) is observed at 7.4 ppm, and the carboxylic proton appears as a broad signal at 9 ppm. Methyl proton at 2.2ppm.



IR: The absorption band at $1638cm^{-1}$, is assigned to $\nu(C=N)$ stretching vibration, a feature found in Schiff bases. IR absorption at $3350 cm^{-1}$, characteristic of the carboxylic acid group. IR absorption spectrum of the Schiff base ligand shows a band at $1400 cm^{-1}$, characteristic of the $\nu(C=O)$ group. Mass: m/z 255.

Biological Activity

Paper disc diffusion method is used to see what antibiotics or compounds inhibit bacterial growth, or are bacteriostatic. The zones of inhibition are measured around where the disc was placed to determine whether the bacteria were resistant or susceptible to the particular antibiotic or chemical chosen. The antibacterial activity of the ligands was studied against Gram-negative bacteria *Escherichia coli*. Each of the compounds dissolved in DMSO at a

concentration of 1 mg/ml was prepared. Paper discs of Whatman filter paper no. 1 were cut and sterilized in an autoclave. DMSO as negative control and was placed aseptically in the Petri dishes containing Nutrient agar media inoculated with the above mentioned bacteria. The petri dishes were incubated at $37^{\circ}C$ and the inhibition zones were recorded after 24 h of incubation⁹⁻¹⁰.

Description of markings on petriplate.

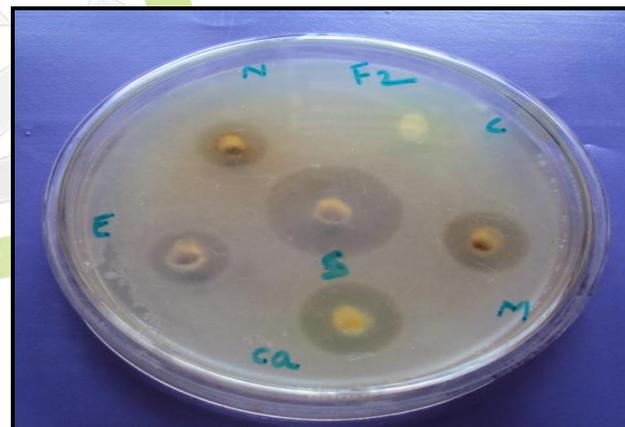
C – Control ca - Standard (amoxicillin)

N - 2 (pyridine-2-ylmethyleneamino) benzoic acid 20 mg of sample

E -2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzylideneamino) benzoic acid. 20 mg of sample.

M – (3) [2-N-(2-carboxylimine) benzoic acid] 20 mg of sample

S - (4) 2-(4 hydroxy-3-methyl benzylideneamino) benzoic acid 20 mg of sample



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Schiff bases shows IR absorption peak at $1600-1675 cm^{-1}$ ($C=N$ stretching). All the compounds show NMR signals for different kinds of protons at their respective positions. The synthesized compounds were found to be nearly equal or more active than standard antibiotics used for comparison activity against *E. coli*. The synthesized compound 2-(4 hydroxy-3-methyl benzylideneamino) benzoic acid (compound 4---S) showed more active than standard antibiotic amoxicillin. Hence, further study of antimicrobial activity may become fruitful.

CONCLUSION

Diarylimine have been prepared by a simple and environmentally friendly reductive imination procedure. This methodology uses only Fe (0) in acidic EtOH/H₂O as a reductant for nitroarenes, which upon reduction spontaneously condense with an aldehyde *in situ*.

Above Schiff base compounds shows inherent new generation of series of pharmaceutically important compounds. Conclusively, a variety of Schiff bases derivatives with 2-nitro benzoic acid have been successfully synthesized in appreciable yields and screened *in vitro* for their antimicrobial activities against Gram-negative bacteria E.Coli.

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