

Synthesis and antimicrobial screening of some Schiff bases

Abstract

Some new Schiff bases were synthesized from pyrazolo aldehydes and triazoles and their structures were confirmed by IR, ¹H NMR, and Mass spectral data. All these synthesized compounds were tested *in vitro* for their antimicrobial potential in N, N-dimethyl formamide and dimethyl sulfoxide.

Keywords: schiff bases, triazole, antimicrobial activity, agar-well diffusion method, n, n-dimethyl formamide

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Introduction

Schiff bases are known to be versatile heterocyclic compounds which are intermediates of the preparation of various drugs, dyes and many other compounds.^{1,2} Schiff bases are also known as azomethines. Schiff bases are used as intermediate for the preparation of azetidinone,³ formazone,⁴ thiazolidinone,⁵ arylacetamide, metal complexes.^{6,7} Due to the multi applicability of this class of compounds, a lot of work has been done on Schiff bases.^{8,9} Further, Schiff bases possess a wide range of biological activities such as antimicrobial,¹⁰ antifungal^{11,12} antibacterial,^{13,14} antitumor,¹⁵ anticancer,¹⁶ anti HIV,^{17,18} anti-inflammatory,¹⁹ diuretic,²⁰ antiparasitic²¹ etc. Due to these biological properties of Schiff bases, in the present work, some new Schiff bases are synthesized and their characterization was done by IR, NMR and mass spectral data. The screening of antimicrobial activity of these synthesized compounds was done *in vitro* against some Gram positive and Gram negative strains of bacteria as well as fungal strains in N, N-dimethyl formamide (DMF) and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

Experimental

Synthesis

Synthesis of 4-amino-5-(pyridin-4-yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (Int-I)

A methanolic solution of Isoniazide (0.01mol) and KOH (0.012mol) was stirred for 1hr. To this reaction mixture, 0.012mol of carbon disulphide (CS₂) was added drop wise and the resulting solution was again stirred for 16hrs at room temperature. The resulting solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum to give solid product. 0.01mol of this crude product and 0.01mol of hydrazine hydrate were dissolved in minimum amount of water and the solution was refluxed for 2hrs. The progress of the reaction was confirmed by TLC using hexane and ethyl acetate mixture (0.5: 0.5) as

mobile phase. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was poured into crushed ice. The resulting solid was filtered and dried under vacuum (Figure 1).

Synthesis of 1, 3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde (Int-II)

To a methanolic solution of acetophenone (0.01M) and phenyl hydrazine (0.01M), catalytic amount of concentrated HCl was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for about 10-15 minutes. The resulting solid was filtered, washed with cold methanol and crystallized. The product formed is (E)-2-phenyl-1-(1-phenylethylidene) hydrazine. The above synthesized product (E)-2-phenyl-1-(1-phenyl ethylidene) hydrazine was added in a mixture of Vilsmeier-Haack reagent (prepared by drop wise addition of 3 ml POCl₃ in ice cooled 15ml DMF (for 0.01mol)) and the solution was refluxed for 1hr. The completion of reaction was confirmed by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC). The reaction mixture was poured into crushed ice and was kept for 12-14hrs. The resulting product was filtered, washed and dried (Figure 2).

Synthesis of Schiff bases

The above synthesized triazole (Int-I) and substituted pyrazolo aldehydes (Int-II) were refluxed in isopropyl alcohol (IPA) in presence of catalytic amount of concentrated HCl at 85-90°C for 36-42hrs. The reaction was monitored by TLC using hexane and ethyl acetate mixture (0.4: 0.6) as mobile phase. The completion of reaction was confirmed by Thin Layer Chromatography TLC (Performed on aluminum coated TLC plates gel-G₆₀ F₂₅₄ and accomplished on 0.5mm (E. Merck)). Visualization of spot was made with UV light (254 and 365nm), an iodine vapor and other visualizing reagent. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool and the resulting solid was filtered, washed with methanol in order to remove polar impurities. The unreacted triazole (Int-I) was removed by washing the solid product with dilute HCl solution (Figure 3).

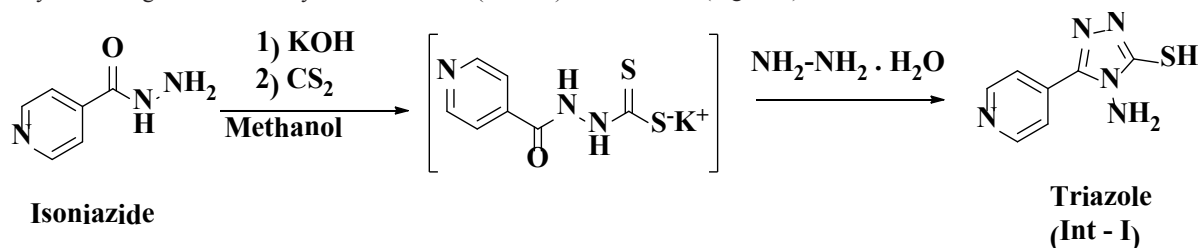


Figure 1 Synthesis of 4-amino-5-(pyridin-4-yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (Int-I)

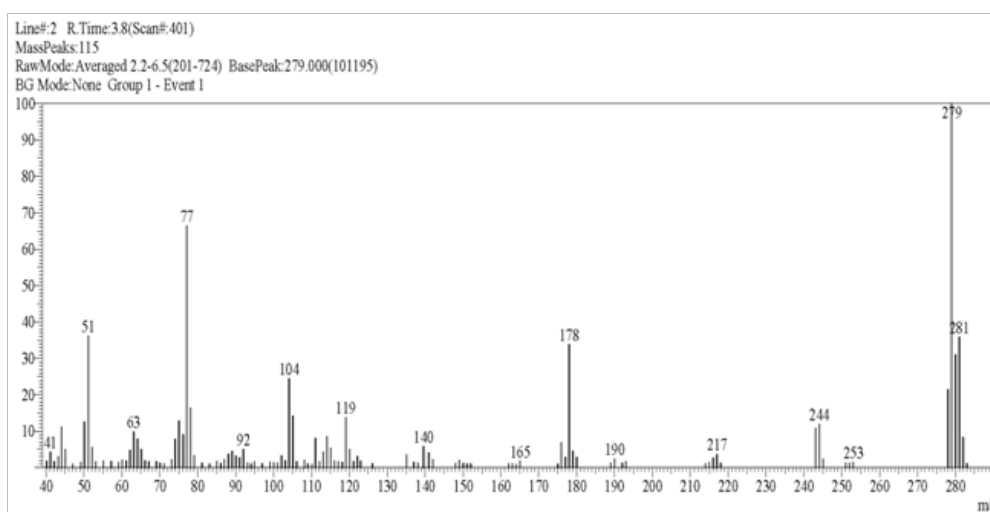


Figure 6 Mass spectrum of compound ITA-I

Preparation of solutions of compounds

For all the compounds, DMF and DMSO were used for screening of antimicrobial activity. The solution of 20mg/ml concentration was prepared for all the compounds.

Agar well diffusion method

In vitro, antimicrobial activity of the different Schiff bases was studied against pathogenic microbial strains by the Agar well diffusion method.²² Mueller Hinton No. 2/Sabouraud dextrose agar (Hi-media) was used for the antibacterial and antifungal susceptibility test respectively. The Mueller Hinton agar and Sabouraud dextrose agar was melted and cooled to 48-50°C and a standardized inoculum

(1.5×10^8 CFU/ml, 0.5 McFarland) was then added aseptically to the molten agar and poured into sterile Petri dishes; wells (8.5mm) were prepared in the seeded agar plates. The test compound (100µl) was introduced into the well. The plates were incubated overnight at 37°C and 28°C for 24h and 48h respectively, for bacteria and fungi. The microbial growth was determined by measuring the diameter of the zone of inhibition and the mean values are considered.

Results and discussion

In total 10 compounds were synthesized (ITA-1 to ITA-10). The physical constants of all the synthesized compounds are given in Table 1. The IR, NMR, Mass spectral data confirmed their molecular structure.

Table 1 Physical constant of the synthesized compounds (ITA-1 to ITA-10)

Compound Code	Substitution R	Molecular formula	Molecular Weight g/mol	Yield (%)	R _f * value	Melting point °C
ITA-1	-4-Cl	C ₂₃ H ₁₆ ClN ₇ S	457.09	85	0.59	210
ITA-2	-2-OH	C ₂₃ H ₁₇ ClN ₇ OS	439.49	74	0.51	224
ITA-3	-4-F	C ₂₃ H ₁₆ FN ₇ S	441.48	81	0.53	291
ITA-4	-3-NO ₂	C ₂₃ H ₁₆ N ₈ O ₂ S	468.49	76	0.56	211
ITA-5	-4-Br	C ₂₃ H ₁₆ BrN ₇ S	502.39	87	0.56	281
ITA-6	-4-OCH ₃	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ N ₇ OS	453.52	83	0.58	288
ITA-7	-4-CH ₃	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ N ₇ S	437.52	80	0.61	301
ITA-8	-3,4-diOCH ₃	C ₂₅ H ₂₁ N ₇ O ₂ S	483.54	85	0.5	284
ITA-9	-4-OH	C ₂₃ H ₁₇ N ₇ OS	439.49	77	0.51	298
ITA-10	-4-NO ₂	C ₂₃ H ₁₆ N ₈ O ₂ S	468.49	81	0.53	219

Spectral data

ITA-1: IR (cm⁻¹): 3614.60 (-NH, Str.), 3068.75 (Ar-H Str.), 1593.20 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 692.44 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), 2610.12 (-SH Str.), 1635.64 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 765.74 (C-Cl Str.). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 7.436–7.615 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.871–7.892 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.051–8.071 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.210–8.226 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.887–8.903 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.398 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.714 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.719 (1H, singlet, -SH) MS: (m/z)=457

ITA-2: IR (cm⁻¹): 3710.25 (-OH Str. (free -OH)), 3645.42 (-NH, Str.), 3057.67 (Ar-H Str.), 2690.14 (-SH Str.), 1608.63 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1583.56 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 1066.64 (-OH bending), 682.80 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 6.942–7.418 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.433–7.572 (2H, doublet, -CH), 7.861 (2H, singlet, -CH), 8.010–8.028 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.740 (2H, singlet, -CH), 9.295 (1H, singlet, -OH), 9.472 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.829 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.419 (1H, singlet, -SH) MS: (m/z)=439.

ITA-3: IR (cm⁻¹): 3590.12 (-NH, Str.), 3012.81 (Ar-H Str.), 2674.18

(-SH Str.), 1747.51 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1541.12 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 1008.77 (C-F Str.), 682.80 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 7.067–7.611 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.789–7.811 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.050–8.069 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.346–8.360 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.958–9.008 (2H, singlet, -CH), 9.361 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.679 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.772 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=441

ITA-4: IR (cm⁻¹): 3517.27 (-NH, Str.), 2970.38 (Ar-H Str.), 2710.12 (-SH Str.), 1740.27 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1531.48 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 1346.31 (-NO₂ Str. (aromatic)), 682.78 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm): 7.454-7.631 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 8.057–8.088 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.308 (2H, singlet, -CH), 8.461–8.512 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.814 (2H, singlet, -CH), 9.442 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.809 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.613 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS:(m/z)=468

ITA-5: IR (cm⁻¹): 3545.38 (-NH, Str.), 2970.38 (Ar-H Str.), 2710.12 (S-H Str.), 1747.51 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1537.27 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 690.52 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), 612.57 (C-Br Str.), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 7.437–7.732 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.799–7.820 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.051–8.071 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.329–8.345 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.941–8.957 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.406 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.729 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.796 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS:(m/z)=502

ITA-6: IR (cm⁻¹): 3631.17 (-NH, Str.), 2970.38 (Ar-H Str.), 2914.25 (-CH str., alkane), 2805.07 (-SH Str.), 1735.93 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1527.62 (-NH Bending), 1346.31 (-CH Ben. (alkane)), (1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 688.59 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm): 3.624 (3H, singlet, -OCH₃), 7.236–7.487 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.581–7.622 (2H, doublet, -CH), 7.963–8.024 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.247–8.283 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.903–8.921 (2H, doublet, 2H), 9.321 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.784 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.689 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=453

ITA-7: IR (cm⁻¹): 3628.10 (-NH, Str.), 3030.17 (Ar-H Str.), 2937.59 (-CH str., alkane), 2687.45 (S-H Str.), 1735.93 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1537.27 (-NH Bending), 1330.88 (-CH Ben. (alkane)), (1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 675.09 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 2.402 (3H, singlet, -CH₃), 7.324–7.613 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.740–7.760 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.059–8.079 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.417–8.434 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.979–8.996 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.383 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.729 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.838 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=437

ITA-8: IR (cm⁻¹): 3537.46 (-NH, Str.), 3003.17 (Ar-H Str.), 2939.52 (-CH str., alkane), 2835.36 (-SH Str.), 1735.93 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1525.69 (-NH Bending), 1352.10 (-CH Ben. (alkane)), (1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 682.80 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm) : 3.561 (3H, singlet, -OCH₃), 4.254 (3H, singlet, -OCH₃), 6.845–7.325 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.325–7.486 (2H, doublet, -CH), 7.963 (2H, singlet, -CH), 8.215–8.752 (3H, multiplet, -CH), 9.347 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.876 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.753 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=483

ITA-9: IR (cm⁻¹): 3727.34 (-OH Str. (free OH)), 3599.61 (-NH, Str.), 3064.89 (Ar-H Str.), 2851.09 (-SH Str.), 1635.64 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1585.49 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 1055.06 (-OH bending), 690.52 (C-H str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm): 7.254–7.423 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.632–7.662 (2H, doublet, -CH), 7.963–8.025 (2H, doublet,

-CH), 8.325 – 8.348 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.964–8.989 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.023 (1H, singlet, -OH), 9.452 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.996 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.631 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=439

ITA-10: IR (cm⁻¹): 3612.79 (-NH, Str.), 2970.38 (Ar-H Str.), 2708.06 (-SH Str.), 1735.93 (-NH, Bending (Sec.)), 1583.56 (-NH Bending), 1242-1010 (-CH in plane bending, phenyl ring), 1338.60 (-NO₂ Str. (aromatic)), 678.94 (-CH str. 5-adjacent c atoms), ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ(ppm): 6.968–7.453 (5H, multiplet, -CH), 7.632–7.745 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.124 – 8.156 (2H, doublet, -CH), 8.412 – 8.457 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.002 – 9.347 (2H, doublet, -CH), 9.457 (1H, singlet, -CH), 9.876 (1H, singlet, -CH), 14.632 (1H, singlet, -SH), MS: (m/z)=468

Antimicrobial activity

Figure 7A shows zone of inhibition against Gram positive bacteria in DMF. It is observed that except ITA-4 and ITA-10, all the compounds could inhibit BC and maximum inhibition is observed by ITA-5. Against SA, only three compounds ITA-2, ITA-3 and ITA-5 showed inhibition. The maximum is observed by ITA-5 and minimum is by ITA-3. Only ITA-1, ITA-5 and ITA-7 could inhibit CR. However, LM is affected by only ITA-1. Other compounds had no effect on this bacterial strain. Thus, structure of compounds affects inhibition for different bacteria.

As all the compounds have the same central moiety their substitutions are different which affect inhibition. Table 1 shows substitution groups of all the synthesized compounds. Thus, it is observed that compounds containing nitro groups (ITA-4 having 3-NO₂ substitution and ITA-10 having 4-NO₂ substitution) are not effective at all against BC. Against SA, ITA-5 containing 4-bromo group is most effective which is followed by ITA-2 containing 2-hydroxy group. 4-fluoro group (as in ITA-3) also inhibit SA to considerable extent. Other substitutions have no effect at all. The compound ITA-5 containing 4-bromo group exhibited maximum inhibition against CR whereas ITA-7 showed minimum inhibition which contains 4-methyl group. However, only ITA-1 containing 4-chloro group exhibited inhibition against LM. Thus, in DMF LM is the most resistant bacteria and BC is most susceptible bacteria.

Figure 7B shows zone of inhibition against Gram positive bacteria in DMSO. Except ITA-3 and ITA-10 all the compounds could inhibit BC and maximum inhibition is observed by ITA-2 containing 2-hydroxy group. Thus, 4-fluoro and 4-nitro groups are not effective at all for BC, which are present in ITA-3 and ITA-10 respectively. Against SA, only few compounds exhibited inhibition and maximum is observed by ITA-9 containing 4-hydroxy group. ITA-3 containing 4-fluoro had minimum inhibition against SA. ITA-1, ITA-2 and ITA-9 could inhibit CR and again ITA-2 having 2-OH group is most effective. This is followed by ITA-9 containing 4-hydroxy group. Thus, -OH group at either position is effective for CR. ITA-2, ITA-3, ITA-4 and ITA-9 showed moderate activity against LM and ITA-4 containing 3-nitro group is most effective. Thus, in DMSO, most of the compounds are effective against the selected Gram positive bacteria. Comparison of inhibition in DMF and DMSO against selected Gram positive bacteria suggest that overall, there is not much effect of solvent on inhibition. Compound ITA-10 containing 4-nitro group is not effective at all in both the solvents.

Figure 8A shows zone of inhibition against Gram negative bacteria in DMF. Against EC, only ITA-4 and ITA-5 containing 3-NO₂ and

4-Br substitution respectively exhibited inhibition. The inhibition is higher for ITA-5 as compared to ITA-4. The rest of the compounds had no effect. Only, ITA-3 and ITA-9 having 4-F and 4-OH substitution could inhibit PA. However, the inhibition is more in ITA-9 than ITA-3. The compounds ITA-1, ITA-6, ITA-7 and ITA-8 could not inhibit ST. About half of compounds (ITA-2, ITA-3, ITA-4, ITA-5, ITA-9 and ITA-10) could inhibit ST. ITA-3 and ITA-10 showed maximum inhibition in ST bacteria and ITA-4 showed minimum inhibition. Thus, 4-fluoro and 4-nitro groups are more effective against ST as compared to other groups. Against KP, only compounds ITA-4, ITA-5 and ITA-9 showed inhibition and inhibition is maximum for ITA-5 and minimum for ITA-9. Thus, against 4-bromo group is most effective against KP. The compounds ITA-1, ITA-6, ITA-7, ITA-8 and ITA-10 could not inhibit the selected Gram negative bacteria. Thus, in DMF, EC and PA are resistant bacteria whereas ST is the most susceptible bacteria.

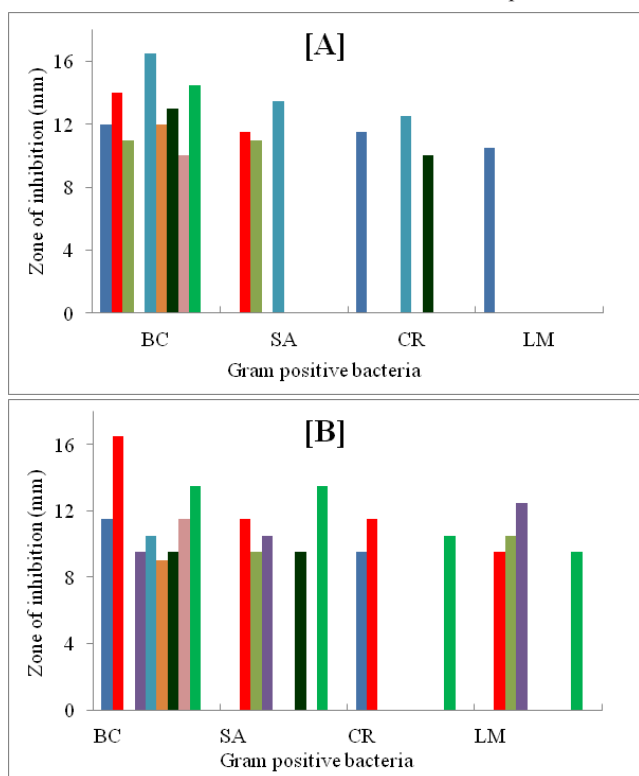


Figure 7 Antimicrobial activity of ITA-1 to ITA-10 against Gram positive bacteria in [A] DMF and [B] DMSO. ITA-1, (■); ITA-2, (■); ITA-3, (■); ITA-4, (■); ITA-5, (■); ITA-6, (■); ITA-7, (■); ITA-8, (■); ITA-9, (■); ITA-10, (■)

Figure 8B shows inhibition of compounds against Gram negative bacteria in DMSO. Against EC, only half of the compounds exhibited inhibition and maximum is observed for ITA-5 having 4-bromo group. Only ITA-6, ITA-7 and ITA-9 could inhibit PA and maximum inhibition is observed for ITA-7 containing 4-methyl group. Against ST, again only half of the compounds ITA-1, ITA-2, ITA-6, ITA-7 and ITA-9 showed inhibition. Maximum inhibition is exhibited by ITA-1 and ITA-9 containing 4-chloro and 4-hydroxy groups respectively. Not a single compound could inhibit KP. Thus, KP is the most resistant bacteria in DMSO. Further, it is observed that in DMSO, compounds ITA-3, ITA-8 and ITA-10 were not effective against the selected Gram negative bacteria. Over all, inhibition is higher in DMF as compared to DMSO. Further, against the studied Gram negative bacteria the compounds ITA-8 and ITA-10 are not effective at all in both the solvents.

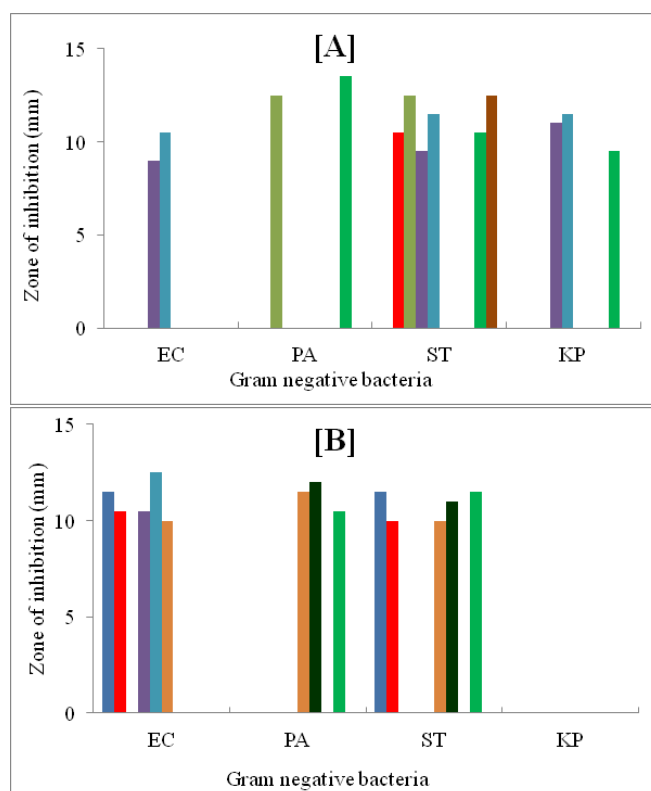


Figure 8 Antimicrobial activity of ITA-1 to ITA-10 against Gram negative bacteria in [A] DMF and [B] DMSO.

ITA-1, (■); ITA-2, (■); ITA-3, (■); ITA-4, (■); ITA-5, (■); ITA-6, (■); ITA-7, (■); ITA-8, (■); ITA-9, (■); ITA-10, (■)

Figure 9 shows zone of inhibition against some fungal strains in DMF and DMSO. In DMF (Figure 9A), it is observed that only ITA-1 containing 4-chloro group showed inhibition against CG fungal strain. Other compounds had no effect at all. However, against CE, only ITA-5 having 4-Br group is not effective. All other compounds show moderate activity against CE and maximum is exhibited by ITA-10 having 4-nitro group. For CA, most of the compounds showed inhibition and maximum is observed for ITA-5. Only ITA-6, ITA-7, ITA-9 and ITA-10 could inhibit CN. Thus, 4-methoxy, 4-methyl, 4-hydroxy and 4-nitro groups are effective against CN and maximum effect is observed for ITA-10 containing 4-nitro group. It is observed from Table 1 that ITA-2 and ITA-4 contain 2-hydroxy and 3-nitro groups respectively. However, these compounds showed no inhibition against CN. This suggests that position of group is also important for inhibition. In DMF, CG is the most resistant fungal strain.

Figure 9B shows inhibition of compounds against fungal strains in DMSO. Not a single compound could inhibit CG and CE fungal strain. Only three compounds i.e., ITA-2, ITA-7 and ITA-10 could inhibit CA and maximum inhibition is for ITA-7 containing 4-methyl group. For CN strain, ITA-2, ITA-5, ITA-6, ITA-7, ITA-8 and ITA-10 showed inhibition and maximum is for ITA-2, ITA-5 and ITA-7. Thus, 2-hydroxy, 4-bromo and 4-methyl groups are equally effective against this fungal strain. Thus, in DMSO, both CG and CE are resistant bacteria.

Comparison of inhibition in both the solvents suggests that solvent plays an important role in inhibition. Inhibition is higher in DMF than in DMSO. So DMF is good for solvent for the studied compounds in selected fungal strains.

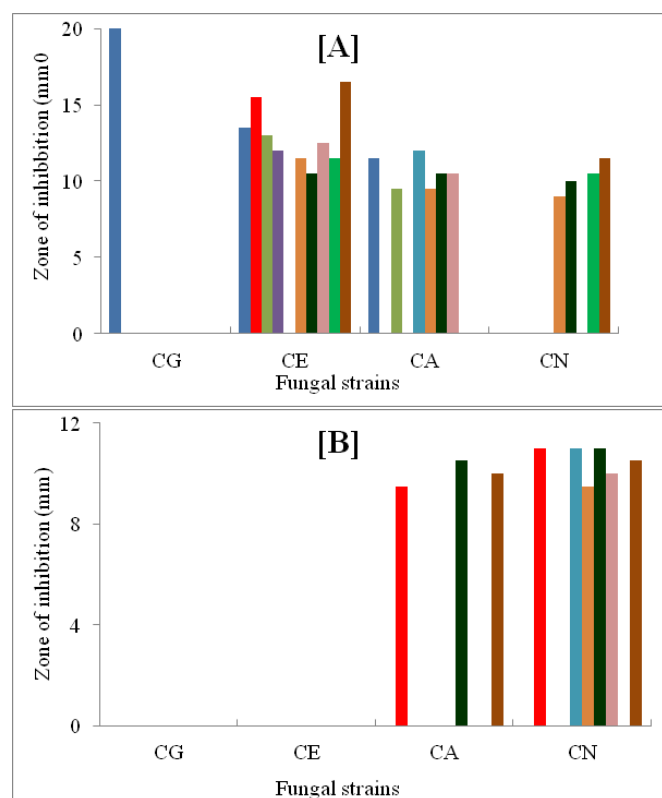


Figure 9 Antifungal activity of ITA-1 to ITA-10 in [A] DMF and [B] DMSO. ITA-1, (□); ITA-2, (■); ITA-3, (▨); ITA-4, (▩); ITA-5, (▧); ITA-6, (▦); ITA-7, (▤); ITA-8, (▣); ITA-9, (▢); ITA-10, (□)

Conclusion

Over all, the studied compounds show moderate activity against Gram positive bacteria, Gram negative bacterial and fungal strains. Solvent plays an important role and side chain substitutions also affect microbial activity.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

Authors declare that there is no conflicts of interest.

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