

# Synthesis and Antimicrobial Activity Evaluation of Novel Nitrofuranthiazoles

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## ABSTRACT

In this work, six novel 4-aryl-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole derivatives (**2a-f**) were synthesized starting from 5-nitro-2-furaldehyde diacetate by using Hantzsch thiazole synthesis. The antimicrobial activity of the title compounds were screened against five Gram positive bacteria *B. cereus*, *E. faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *L. monocytogenes* and two Gram negative bacteria *E. coli* and *S. typhi*. MIC and MBC were calculated and compared to standard drug nitrofurazone. Compounds bearing pyridine moiety (**2d-e**) exhibited significant antimicrobial activity which could be evaluated as new, potent antibacterial agents.

**Keywords:** nitrofurans, nitrofurazone, thiazole, antibacterial activity.

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## INTRODUCTION

The incidence of microbial infections have been increasing day by day in worldwide. Many antibacterial agents are in use against a wide range of infectious diseases<sup>1,2</sup>. However, the resistance to existing drugs is still a serious problem threat to global public health. This situation leads medicinal chemists to investigate newly synthesized more potent antimicrobial drugs<sup>3</sup>. Among many antibacterial agents, nitrofuranyl containing drugs (**Figure 1**. furazolidone, nitrofurantoin nitrofurazone and furaltadone) have been widely used for protection against microbial and protozoal infections especially associated with food contaminations<sup>4</sup>. The nitrofurans are characterized by a 5-nitro-2-furanyl group. First synthesized drug nitrofurazone, 5-nitro-2-furaldehyde semicarbazone, is still being used molecule due to its antitrypanosomal activity as well as antibac-

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terial potential to treat burns topically<sup>5</sup>. However, mutagenic/carcinogenic toxic effects of this molecule were detected for the antimicrobial and anti-protozoal applications<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, prodrug approach was suggested to increase biological activity and decrease toxicity along with improving the physico-chemical properties<sup>7</sup>. For this purpose, many 5-nitrofuryl derivatives have been extensively studied for the treatment of various microbial infections<sup>8-12</sup> and these compounds are determined to act via producing oxidative stress on the parasite which leads to death of the microbe<sup>13</sup>.

Addition to all, nitrofurans have been developed through combining thiosemicarbazone moiety and different heterocyclic rings. Thiosemicarbazones and their derivatives are important compounds known with many biological properties especially as chemotherapeutic agents<sup>14-18</sup>. Their cyclization products, (4-aryl-thiazol-2-yl)hydrazines are also widely studied derivatives due to their numerous pharmacological applications and varied biological activities<sup>19-21</sup>. Also, thiazole containing compounds have attracted broad interest because of their synthesis ease of reaction and their capability to easily furnish valuable chemotherapeutics such as anticancer, antibacterial, antifungal, and antiprotozoal agents<sup>22</sup>.

Considering the reported data, we have described six novel compounds combining (4-aryl-thiazol-2-yl)hydrazine and 5-nitrofuryl moieties which we based on well-known antibacterial agent, nitrofurazone. The antibacterial activity of the compounds have been investigated against various microorganisms compared with standard drug.

## METHODOLOGY

### Chemistry

Melting points were determined by MP90 digital melting point apparatus (Mettler Toledo, OH) and were uncorrected. Spectroscopic data were obtained by instruments: Bruker Tensor 27 IR spectrophotometer; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) Bruker DPX- 300 FT-NMR spectrometer, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, Bruker DPX 75 MHz spectrometer (Bruker Bioscience, Billerica, MA, USA); M+1 peaks were determined by Shimadzu LC/MS ITTOF system (Shimadzu, Tokyo, Japan).

### Preparation of 5-nitrofur-2-carbaldehyde thiosemicarbazone (**1**)

A mixture of thiosemicarbazide (0.27 g, 3 mmol) and 5-nitro-2-furaldehyde diacetate (3 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. After keeping the solution at 0 °C overnight, the precipitated raw product was filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol to afford corresponding thiosemicarbazone compound (**1**).

### **Preparation of 4-aryl-2-[2-((5-nitrofur-2-yl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole derivatives (2a-f)**

5-Nitro-2-furaldehyde thiosemicarbazone (**1**) (0.2 mmol) and appropriate  $\alpha$ -bromoarylethanone derivative (0.16 g, 0.80 mmol) were stirred in ethanol at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. The mixture was filtered, the product was dried and recrystallized from ethanol, to give target compounds (**2a-f**).

#### **4-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofur-2-yl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2a)**

72 % yield; mp 221 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3452 (OH), 3121 (amide N-H), 1574 and 1359 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1479-1454 (C=C, C=N), 1171-1014 (C-O, C-N). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  6.84-6.92 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.13-7.19 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.52 (s, 1H, thiazole C<sub>5</sub>-H), 7.79 (d, *J*=3.93 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.85 (d, *J*=7.77 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.99 (s, 1H, -CH=N), 10.84 (brs, 1H, OH), 12.79 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  106.54, 114.49, 115.58, 117.06, 119.63, 127.94, 129.40, 129.86, 152.08, 152.42, 155.53. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S 331.32; found 331.05.

#### **4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofur-2-yl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2b)**

70 % yield; mp 188 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3450 (OH), 3112 (amide N-H), 1566 and 1315 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1512-1385 (C=C, C=N), 1198-1016 (C-O, C-N). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  6.91-6.74 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.13 (d, *J*=3.99 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.21 (t, *J*=7.89 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 3H, thiazole C<sub>5</sub>-H and Ar-H), 7.78 (d, *J*=3.93 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.98 (s, 1H, -CH=N), 9.49 (brs, 1H, OH), 12.75 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  105.22, 112.98, 114.19, 115.26, 116.88, 117.25, 129.31, 130.07, 130.98, 136.07, 151.22, 152.02, 152.59, 158.04, 167.42. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S 331.32; found 331.05.

#### **4-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofur-2-yl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2c)**

76 % yield; mp 210 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3454 (OH), 3120 (amide N-H), 1573 and 1317 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1471-1317 (C=C, C=N), 1201-1012 (C-N). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  6.81 (d, *J*=8.64 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 2H, thiazole C<sub>5</sub>-H and Ar-H), 7.68 (d, *J*=8.61 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.77 (d, *J*=3.96 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.96 (s, 1H, -CH=N), 9.58 (s, 1H, OH), 12.70 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  102.26, 114.09, 115.64, 115.82, 126.13, 127.42, 129.18, 151.99, 152.68, 157.68, 167.43. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S 331.32; found 331.05.

#### **4-(2-Pyridyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2d)**

76 % yield; mp 230 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3113 (amide N-H), 1516 and 1348 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1471-1313 (C=C, C=N), 1298-1024 (C-N, C-O). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  7.19 (d, *J*=3.96 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.72-7.79 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.10 (d, *J*=4.14 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.29 (d, *J*=7.89 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 8.38 (t, *J*=8.76 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 8.72 (d, *J*=4.74 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 11.85 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  114.56, 114.95, 114.91, 115.48, 123.08, 123.85, 124.98, 130.76, 143.97, 144.84, 145.48, 147.62, 152.09, 152.16, 168.74. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S 316.31; found 316.05.

#### **4-(3-Pyridyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2e)**

71 % yield; mp 240 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3115 (amide N-H), 1568 and 1352 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1475-1315 (C=C, C=N), 1302-1016 (C-N, C-O). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  7.77-7.79 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.39-8.48 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 8.64 (s, 1H, thiazole C<sub>5</sub>-H), 9.23-9.34 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 9.80 (s, 1H, -CH=N), 13.50 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  110.11, 115.33, 116.16, 126.95, 130.73, 132.92, 138.79, 143.39, 144.99, 147.00, 152.74, 152.88, 169.11. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S 316.31; found 316.05.

#### **4-(4-Pyridyl)-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole (2f)**

69 % yield; mp 236 °C. IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3115 (amide N-H), 1556 and 1346 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1481-1323 (C=C, C=N), 1247-1012 (C-N, C-O). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  7.18 (d, *J*= Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.78 (d, *J*= Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 8.03 (s, 1H, thiazole C<sub>5</sub>-H), 8.27-8.30 (m, 3H, -CH=N and Ar-H), 8.86 (d, *J*=6.40 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 12.96 (brs, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  114.96, 115.48, 116.30, 122.23, 130.56, 144.11, 146.82, 147.95, 152.08, 147.00, 152.16, 168.62. HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S 316.31; found 316.05.

### **Antibacterial activity**

Antibacterial activity against *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579, *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922, *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 29212, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228, *Salmonella typhi* ATCC 14028, and *Listeria monocytogenes* ATCC 7644 was determined by the microbroth dilutions technique using the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) recommendations<sup>23</sup>.

The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) was defined as the lowest concentration of compound giving complete inhibition of visible growth and the

minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) was defined as the lowest concentration of the compound to completely kill bacteria. Nitrofurazone was used as positive control. According to values of the controls, the results were evaluated. Each experiment was replicated twice.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Chemistry

In this study, 4-aryl-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole derivatives (**2a-f**) were synthesized with a two-step synthetic procedure as shown **Scheme 1**. Compound **1** was synthesized by the reaction of 5-nitro-2-furaldehyde diacetate and thiosemicarbazide in ethanol at reflux conditions. The gained 5-nitrofuranyl-2-carbaldehyde thiosemicarbazone is a previously reported molecule with a melting point of 163-165 °C<sup>24</sup>. In second step, six new derivatives (**2a-f**) were synthesized via Hantzsch thiazole synthesis. 2-/3- or /4-Hydroxyphenyl- $\alpha$ -bromoethanone and 2-/3- or 4-pyridyl- $\alpha$ -bromoethanones were used as  $\alpha$ -haloketone compounds. In this way, six novel 4-aryl-2-[2-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)hydrazinyl]thiazole derivatives (**2a-f**) were obtained with the 68-76 % yield.

Characteristic infra-red stretching bands belong to amine (NH) and nitro (NO<sub>2</sub>) groups were detected at 3121-3112 cm<sup>-1</sup> and about 1550, 1340 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. In <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, peaks of azomethine (-CH=N) and amine protons were detected in range 7.99-7.89 ppm and 11.85-12.89 ppm, respectively. OH protons of **2a-c** were detected at about 9.49-10.84 ppm as broad singlet peaks. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, all carbons were observed at 102.26-169.11 ppm range, correctly. Molecular ion peaks were also determined in agreement with molecular weights of the compounds.

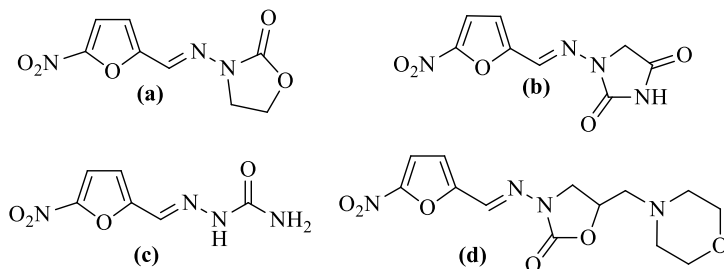
### Biology

Final compounds (**2a-f**) were screened to determine their antimicrobial activities against totally seven Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria; *E. coli*, *S. typhi*, *E. faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *L. monocytogenes* and *B. cereus*. MIC and MBC were identified for standart drug nitrofurazone and all compounds. As were represented in **Table 1**, The MIC and MBC values were found between 0.5-2 mg/mL and higher for the **2a-c**, whereas both of the values were found as 1 mg/mL and higher for nitrofurazone.

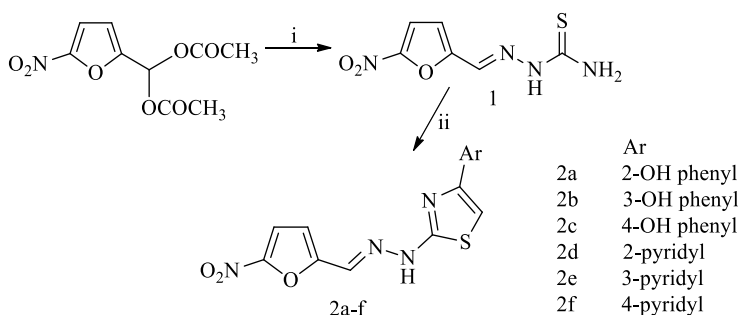
Among the hydroxylated compounds (**2a-c**), compound **2a** exhibited the highest activity against *B. cereus* (MIC=0.5 mg/mL, MBC=1 mg/mL). Besides, it showed same potency to nitrofurazone (MIC: 1 mg/mL) against *E. coli* and *E. faecalis*. Compound **2b** did not show prominent antibacterial activity which had

MIC and MBC values 2 mg/mL and higher against all tested bacteria. Another hydroxyl containing compound **2c** showed same antibacterial potency to standard drug against three bacteria, *S. aureus*, *S. typhi* and *L. monocytogenes*.

Regarding to compounds **2d-e** with pyridine moiety, they exhibited significant activity with a higher potency than hydroxylated compounds (**2a-c**). Compound **2d** including 2-pyridyl moiety showed two-fold antibacterial potency against *B. cereus* (MIC and MBC: 0.5 mg/mL) compared to nitrofurazone. It exhibited same potency to standard drug against *E. coli* and *S. epidermis*. Also, the lowest concentrations of compound **2d** caused inhibition growth of bacteria (MIC) were found as 1 mg/mL whereas the lowest concentrations of the compound caused completely death of bacteria (MBC) were found higher than the highest tested concentration (>2 mg/mL) against *E. faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *S. typhi* and *L. monocytogenes*. MIC values for compound **2e** were found between 0.5-1 mg/mL whereas MBC values were found as 2 mg/mL. Additionally, compound **2e** containing 3-pyridine moiety could be declared as the most active compound with the lowest MIC values among the other compounds. Also, sixth compound **2f** bearing 4-pyridyl moiety showed remarkable activity. MIC and MB values were calculated as 0.5 mg/mL against the most susceptible bacteri *B. cereus*.



**Figure 1:** Nitrofuran drugs. (a) Furazolidone, (b) Nitrofurantoin, (c) Nitrofurazone, (d) Furaltadone.



**Scheme 1:** Synthesis of the compounds (**2a-f**). Reagents: (i) thiosemicarbazide, ethanol, reflux, 3h; (ii)  $\alpha$ -bromoarylethanone, ethanol, rt.

**Table 1:** Antimicrobial activity of the compounds (mg/mL)

		Compounds						
Microorg.		2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	Ref*
A	MIC	0.5	2	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
	MBC	1	2	2	0.5	>2	0.5	1
B	MIC	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
	MBC	2	2	2	1	>2	2	1
C	MIC	1	2	2	1	1	0.5	1
	MBC	>2	2	2	>2	>2	>2	1
D	MIC	2	2	1	1	0.5	0.5	1
	MBC	2	2	>2	1	2	1	1
E	MIC	2	2	1	1	0.5	1	1
	MBC	>2	2	1	>2	>2	>2	1
F	MIC	2	2	1	1	0.5	1	1
	MBC	>2	>2	1	>2	>2	>2	1
G	MIC	2	2	1	1	0.5	1	1
	MBC	>2	>2	1	>2	>2	>2	>1

\***Reference** : Nitrofurazone; **MIC**: Minimum inhibition concentration; **MBC**: Minimum bactericidal concentration

**A** : *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579; **B** : *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922; **C** : *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 29212; **D** : *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228; **E** : *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923; **F** : *Salmonella typhi* ATCC 14028; **G** : *Listeria monocytogenes* ATCC 7644

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