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Synthesis of Some Novel Isoxazolidine Derivatives via 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition and Their Biological Evaluation

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Abstract

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Received: 24/01/2018A series of novel substitut
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synthesized compounds were
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A series of novel substituted isoxazolidine derivatives were synthesized by 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of α -aryl-*N*-methyl nitrones with diethyl maleate. The structures of the synthesized compounds were characterized using spectroscopic methods. All the synthesized compounds were screened for their antibacterial activities against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and for their antifungal activities against a yeast strain. The results show that all the synthesized compounds displayed significant activity against *S. epidermidis*, *M. luteus*, *B. cereus*, *B. abortus* and *C. albicans* when compared to standard drugs.

Keywords

Article Info

Isoxazolidine, Nitrone 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction Antimicrobial activity

1. INTRODUCTION

Inter- and intramolecular cycloaddition reactions are one of the most efficient and fundamental tools for the synthesis of novel cyclic scaffolds [1]. The addition of 1,3-dipoles such as nitrones, nitrile oxides, azomethine ylides, diazocarbonyls and nitronates to an alkene has received considerable attention in asymmetric synthesis [2]. It allows up to three contiguous stereogenic centers to be created in a single step [3].

1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction of nitrones with alkenes is mostly applied for the synthesis of isoxazolidine derivatives [4]. Isoxazolidines, five membered heterocycles containing neighboring nitrogen and oxygen atoms, are valuable synthons for the synthesis of simple and complex molecules [5]. As a result of the labile nature of the N-O bond under mild reducing conditions [6], these derivatives are considered important synthetic intermediates to generate natural products such as alkaloids [7], amino sugars [8], nucleoside analogues [9], penem and carbapenem antibiotics [10], vitamin D analogues [11], β -amino acids and γ -amino alcohols [12]. In addition, the isoxazolinyl and related compounds show great promise as drug candidates [13]. They are known to possess antibacterial, antifungal [14,15], insecticidal [16], antituberculosis [17], antiinflammatory [18], analgesic [19], antithrombotic [20], antitumor and antiviral activities [21]. Considering the interest shown in these compounds, we herein report the synthesis and antimicrobial activities of some novel isoxazolidine derivatives.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

All chemicals and solvents used were reagent grade (Merck or Aldrich) and were used without further purification. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on 60 F_{254} precoated silica gel plates (Merck). Plates were visualized by UV light. Column chromatography was performed using Merck Silica Gel 60 F_{254} (particle size: 0.63-0.200 mm; 70-230 mesh ASTM). Melting points were determined with an Electrothermal 9100 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Mattson 1000 FTIR spectrometer (Mattson Instruments, Baton Rouge, LA) in KBr disks and were reported in cm⁻¹ units. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR were obtained in CDCl₃ (Merck) and recorded with a Bruker Spectrospin Avance DPX-300 Ultrashield instrument using TMS as an internal reference (chemical shift in δ ppm). Mass spectra measurements were recorded on a Waters ACQUITY ultra performance liquid chromatography combined with Micromass LCT PremierTM XE TOF-MS and electrospray ionization (Waters Corporation, Milferd, MA); Experimental high-resolution mass results are in good agreement with calculated values.

2.1. Synthesis of α-Aryl-N-methyl nitrones (2a-2i)

A mixture of aromatic aldehyde (10 mmol), *N*-methylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.65 g, 20 mmol), potassium carbonate (3.04 g, 22 mmol) and sodium sulphate (0.71 g, 5 mmol) were added in a mortar and ground rapidly with a pestle at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography. Diethyl ether (25 ml) was added to the crude product mixture and filtered. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was crystallized from petroleum ether [22]. Chemical structures of the compounds **2a-2i** were confirmed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra and melting points reported [23-26]. They were in accordance with the reported literature values. Synthesized α -aryl-*N*-methyl nitrones **2a-2i** (in 77-92% yield) were directly used for the next reaction without further purification.

2.2. Synthesis of Isoxazolidine Derivatives (3a-3i, 4a-4c, 4e-4f and 4h)

The appropriate α -aryl-*N*-methyl nitrone (3.0 mmol) was refluxed with dimethyl maleate (0.48 g, 3.3 mmol) in toluene (50 ml) for 8 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate-hexane (2:1) as eluent and recrystallized from chloroform-hexane mixtures to give the corresponding isoxazolidine derivatives **3a-3i**, **4a-4c**, **4e-4f** and **4h** [22]. Compounds **4d**, **4g** and **4i** could not be isolated.

2.2.1. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3a)

Yield: 43%, mp. 112-113 °C. IR (KBr): v 1214 (-N-O), 1733 (-C=O), 2947 (-C-H), 3042 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.72 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.66 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.69 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₄H), 3.79 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, -C₃H), 4.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 7.02-7.41 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 42.8, 52.3, 52.4, 59.6, 74.7, 76.8, 116.1, 116.5, 129.5, 129.6, 131.6, 164.5, 168.9, 169.8 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇FNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 298.1091; Found 298.1086.

2.2.2. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4a)

Yield: 38%, mp. 135-136 °C. IR (KBr): v 1207 (-N-O), 1725 (-C=O), 2973 (-C-H), 3030 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.69 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.24 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.79 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.08 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₄H), 4.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, -C₃H), 4.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, -C₅H), 6.99-7.37 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.4, 51.8, 52.3, 57.8, 74.5, 75.8, 115.3, 115.6, 129.7, 129.8, 161.1, 164.3, 168.9, 170.3 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇FNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 298.1091; Found 298.1072.

2.2.3. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3b)

Yield: 41%, mp. 79-80 °C. IR (KBr): v 1203 (-N-O), 1721 (-C=O), 2950 (-C-H), 3010 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.70 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.80 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₄H), 4.25 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, -C₃H), 4.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, -C₅H), 7.04-7.54 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 42.9, 52.5, 58.2, 69.1, 76.6, 115.8, 123.0, 124.7, 129.0, 130.3, 159.5, 162.8, 168.6, 170.1 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇FNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 298.1091; Found 298.1083.

2.2.4. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4b)

Yield: 26%, mp. 98-99 °C. IR (KBr): v 1203 (-N-O), 1735 and 1758 (-C=O), 2950 (-C-H), 3050 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.75 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.20 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.20 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₄H), 4.35 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, -C₃H), 4.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₅H), 7.01-7.52 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 51.7, 52.4, 56.2, 75.8, 114.9, 115.1, 124.2, 124.3, 128.4, 129.9, 159.2, 162.4 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇FNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 298.1091; Found 298.1085.

2.2.5. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3c)

Yield: 45%, mp. 84-85 °C. IR (KBr): v 1233 (-N-O), 1723 (-C=O), 2947 (-C-H), 3042 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.67 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₄H), 3.78 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, -C₃H), 4.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 7.26-7.33 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.0, 52.4, 52.5, 59.8, 74.8, 76.7, 129.1, 129.2, 134.5, 134.8, 168.7, 169.9 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇ClNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 314.0795; Found 314.0792.

2.2.6. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4c)

Yield: 22%, mp. 101-102 °C. IR (KBr): v 1207 (-N-O), 1721 (-C=O), 2967 (-C-H), 3020 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.30 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.05 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₄H), 4.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, -C₃H), 4.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, -C₅H), 7.25-7.39 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.5, 51.8, 52.4, 57.8, 74.6, 75.8, 128.7, 129.4, 134.5, 168.8, 168.9 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇CINO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 314.0795; Found 314.0789.

2.2.7. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3d)

Yield: 44%, mp. 161-162 °C. IR (KBr): v 1203 (-N-O), 1725 (-C=O), 2950 (-C-H), 3066 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₄H), 3.68 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.79 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, -C₃H), 4.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₅H), 7.21-7.64 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.0, 52.4, 52.5, 59.3, 71.7, 76.7, 127.5, 128.7, 129.5, 129.9, 134.2, 134.7, 168.6, 170.5 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₄H₁₇CINO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 314.0795; Found 314.0802.

2.2.8. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3e)

Yield: 41%, mp. 94-95 °C. IR (KBr): v 1213 (-N-O), 1735 and 1761 (-C=O), 2983 (-C-H), 3026 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.70 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, -C₄H), 3.79 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, -C₃H), 4.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 7.28-7.50 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.0, 52.4, 52.5, 59.8, 74.8, 76.6, 122.7, 129.5, 132.1, 135.4, 168.9, 169.9 ppm. HR-MS for C₁4H₁₇BrNO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 358.0290; Found 358.0290.

2.2.9. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4e)

Yield: 28%, mp. 81-82 °C. IR (KBr): v 1216 (-N-O), 1731 and 1754 (-C=O), 2987 (-C-H), 3026 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.32 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.78 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.91 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₄H), 4.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, -C₃H), 4.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, -C₅H), 7.24-7.52 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 42.7, 52.4, 52.5, 59.4, 75.5, 76.9, 127.9, 129.1, 129.2, 129.5,

129.7, 138.8, 168.9, 170.0 ppm. HR-MS for $C_{14}H_{17}BrNO_5^+$ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 358.0290; Found 358.0298 [22].

2.2.10. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 2-Methyl-3-p-tolylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3f)

Yield: 37%, mp. 133-134 °C. IR (KBr): v 1216 (-N-O), 1716 and 1721 (-C=O), 2960 (-C-H), 3033 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.34 (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃), 2.72 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz, -C₄H), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₃H), 4.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 7.16-7.32 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.2, 42.8, 52.4, 52.8, 57.3, 75.5, 76.9, 127.9, 129.5, 134.3, 138.3, 168.9, 170.1 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₅H₂₀NO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 294.1341; Found 294.1339 [27]

2.2.11. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 2-Methyl-3-p-tolylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4f)

Yield: 19%, mp. 141-142 °C. IR (KBr): v 1216 (-N-O), 1716 and 1721 (-C=O), 2960 (-C-H), 3033 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.36 (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃), 2.76 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.31 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.98 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₄H), 4.06 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₃H), 4.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₅H), 7.11-7.26 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.2, 43.7, 51.8, 52.4, 58.2, 75.4, 75.8, 127.7, 127.8, 129.1, 129.2, 130.7, 138.3, 169.2 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₅H₂₀NO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 294.1341; Found 294.1333.

2.2.12. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 2-Methyl-3-o-tolylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3g)

Yield: 46%, mp. 144-145 °C. IR (KBr): v 1200 (-N-O), 1718 (-C=O), 2957 (-C-H), 3033 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.35 (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃), 2.69 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.75 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, -C₄H), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.30 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, -C₃H), 4.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 7.14-7.53 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.5, 42.6, 52.3, 52.4, 59.3, 71.6, 77.1, 126.6, 127.4, 128.1, 130.8, 133.8, 137.1, 168.8, 170.4 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₅H₂₀NO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 294.1341; Found 294.1322.

2.2.13. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3h)

Yield: 38%, mp. 121-122 °C. IR (KBr): v 1213 (-N-O), 1731 and 1754 (-C=O), 2960 (-C-H), 3056 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.69 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.64 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.71 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, -C₄H), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.83 (s, 3H, Ar-O-CH₃), 3.87 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, -C₃H), 4.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.1 Hz, -C₅H), 6.89-7.29 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.7, 51.8, 52.4, 58.2, 75.4, 76.7, 127.8, 129.2, 130.7, 138.3, 169.2, 170.2 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₅H₂₀NO₆⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 310.1291; Found 310.1292.

2.2.14. (3S,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (4h)

Yield: 23%, mp. 129-130 °C. IR (KBr): v 1221 (-N-O), 1754 (-C=O), 2952 (-C-H), 3047 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.70 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.28 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.78 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.84 (s, 3H, Ar-O-CH₃), 3.95 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz, -C₄H), 4.03 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₃H), 4.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, -C₅H), 6.84-7.26 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.6, 51.8, 52.3, 55.2, 58.1, 75.1, 75.7, 113.8, 125.7, 129.0, 129.1, 129.2, 159.6, 169.3, 170.7 ppm. HR-MS for C₁₅H₂₀NO₆⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 310.1291; Found 310.1286.

2.2.15. (3R,4R,5S)-Dimethyl 3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (3i)

Yield: 43%, mp. 87-88 °C. IR (KBr): v 1214 (-N-O), 1723 and 1771 (-C=O), 2990 (-C-H), 3033 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.80 (s, 3H, -N-CH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.69 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, -C₄H), 3.80 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 3.82 (s, 3H, Ar-O-CH₃), 4.34 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, -C₃H), 4.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₅H), 6.87-7.46 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.2, 52.2, 52.4, 55.4, 58.2, 70.4,

77.2, 110.8, 120.9, 124.8, 127.9, 129.3, 157.6, 168.8, 171.2 ppm. HR-MS for $C_{15}H_{20}NO_6^+$ ([M+H]⁺) Calcd. 310.1291; Found 310.1286.

2.3. Antimicrobial Activity Studies

The *in vitro* antibacterial activity of isoxazolidine derivatives **3a-3i**, **4a-4c**, **4e-4f** and **4h** was performed against American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) reference bacterial strain and fungi by disc diffusion technique [28,29]. Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria were grown in nutrient agar medium and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The yeast strain was grown in Sabouraud dextrose agar medium and incubated at 27 °C for 72 hours. Kanamycin, ampicillin, chloramphenicol, amoxicillin, ofloxacin and sulbactam were used as reference antibacterial agents, and nystatin was used as a reference antifungal agent under similar conditions for comparison. Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was used as a control. All the testings were repeated for three times.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed in SPSS 19.0 package software. Descriptive statistics were given with median, minimum and maximum values. Mann Whitney U test were used for the two group comparisons. Kruskal-Wallis test was used for the three group comparisons. Bonferroni corrected Mann Whitney U test was used for post-hoc comparisons after Kruskal Wallis test. For all statistical comparisons with a p value below 0.05 assumed as statistically significant.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reactions of nitrones with olefinic dipolarophiles are an efficient method for the synthesis of the isoxazolidine ring systems [30]. Nitrones are generally prepared by alkylation of oximes, dehydrogenation of *N*,*N*-disubstituted hydroxylamines or condensation of *N*-methylhydroxylamine hydrochloride with aromatic aldehydes [31,32]. These methods usually require warming or even refluxing in organic solvents. Besides, water forms during condensation, if not removed it, hydrolyzes nitrone and thus diminishes the reaction yields [31]. Solvent-free reaction procedures have received tremendous attention in recent years due to mild reaction conditions, less by-products, easy separation and purification, increase in rate of reaction and high degree of stereoselectivity [33,34].

In the present work, the synthesis of isoxazolidine derivatives were carried out in two steps. In the first step, α -aryl-*N*-methyl nitrones (**2a-2i**) were synthesized by grinding the substituted benzaldehydes (**1a-1i**) and *N*-methylhydroxylamine hydrochloride in the presence of K₂CO₃-Na₂SO₄ at room temperature under solvent-free conditions (Scheme 1). The overall yields of the reactions were high (77-92 %). Chemical structures of the compounds **2a-2i** were confirmed by their ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR spectra and melting points reported [23-26].

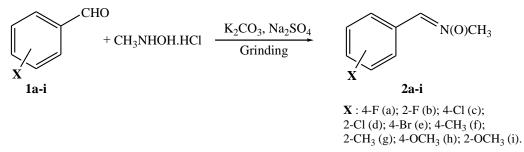


Figure 1. Synthetic pathway for the preparation of N-methyl nitrones 2a-2i

In the second step, the novel isoxazolidine derivatives were prepared by refluxing α -aryl-*N*-methyl nitrones (**2a-2i**) with dimethyl maleate in toluene (Scheme 2). The *cis*-isomers (**3a-3i**) and *trans*-isomers (**4a-4c**, **4e-4f** and **4h**) of cycloadducts were separated and purified using column chromatography. Compounds **4d**, **4g** and **4i** could not be isolated. The structures of the synthesized *cis*-and *trans*-isomers of isoxazolidine derivatives were identified by spectroscopic methods (FT-IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and HR-MS spectra). Crystal structures of compounds **3f** and **4e** was already confirmed by X-ray diffraction [22,27].

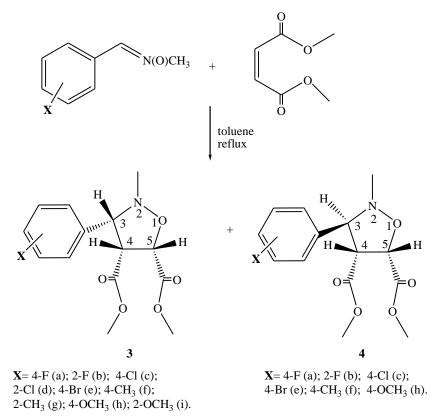


Figure 2. Synthetic pathway for the preparation of compounds 3a-3i, 4a-4c, 4e-4f and 4h

3.1. Antimicrobial Activity Results

The *in vitro* antibacterial activities of *cis*-isomers (**3a-3i**) and *trans*-isomers (**4a-4c**, **4e-4f** and **4h**) were performed against Gram-positive bacteria including *Staphylococcus aureus* RSKK 07035, *Listeria monocytogenes* ATCC 19115 (serotype 4b), *Staphylococcus epidermidis, Micrococcus luteus, Bacillus cereus* (Table 1) and Gram-negative bacteria including *Shigella dysenteriae* NCTC 9363 (type 7), *Escherichia coli* ATCC 1230, *Salmonella typhi H* NCTC 901.8394, *Brucella abortus* RSKK 03026, *Pseudomonas putida* by disc diffusion technique (Table 2) [28,29]. In addition, the *in vitro* antifungal activity of the compounds was performed against *Candida albicans* Y 1200 NIH (Table 2).

Isoxazolidine derivatives exhibit a broad spectrum of biological activities [10,35-42]. They exhibit antibacterial activities in which some compounds are good and some are moderately active when compared with standard drugs tested [10,35-42]. From the studies, it is known that *N*-substituted isoxazolidines show antifungicidal properties [42]. Moreover, 3,5-disubstituted isoxazolidines exhibit antifungal and antimicrobial activities against fungus and microorganisms [41]. The activity of these compounds is similar or even better than standard drugs. Regarding these studies, it may be concluded that presence of -COOR,-COOH, -OH and -Ar groups at C-3 and C-5 positions increases antibacterial activity [40,41]. Likely, these groups on isoxazolidine ring may afford an adequate equilibrium between hydrophobicity and polarity that is crucial for overall potency [41].

In this study, all the synthesized isoxazolidine compounds were mostly effective against bacteria and the yeast strain, *C.albicans*. They were even found to be effective against *S. epidermidis*, *M. luteus*, *B. cereus*,

B. abortus and *C. albicans*, while standard drugs kanamycin, ampicillin and chloramphenicol did not display any activity against them. Besides, the compounds **3b**, **3f**, **3g**, **3h**, **4e**, **4f** and **4h** were almost competitive with the standard antifungal drug, nystatin.

Inhibition zor	e diamete				
	<i>S. L.</i>		<i>S</i> .	М.	В.
Compounds	aureus	monocytogenes	epidermidis	luteus	cereus
3a	20	14	12	20	18
3b	17	15	15	12	20
3c	13	15	16	17	18
3d	-	12	18	12	15
3e	-	13	19	15	15
3f	-	12	13	-	12
3g	-	-	19	12	15
3h	-	12	12	15	15
3i	20	-	12	18	11
4 a	16	12	11	15	-
4b	22	19	16	20	14
4c	15	12	14	13	16
4e	-	11	20	18	12
4f	-	13	18	13	14
4h	-	15	14	13	13
*K	25	15	-	-	-
*Amp	30	16	-	-	-
*C	25	18	-	-	-
*Amc	30	22	-	-	-
*Ofx	-	-	-	-	30
*Sbc	-	-	-	-	-
Control (DMSO)	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1. Antimicrobial activities of compounds cis-isomers (3a-3i) and trans-isomers (4a-4c, 4e-4f, 4h)against Gram-positive bacteria

*: K: Kanamycin, Amp: Ampicillin, C: Chloramphenicol, Amc: Amoxicillin, Ofx: Ofloxacin and Sbc: Sulbactam

Compounds	ne diameter (m S.	Ē.	S.	В.	Р.	С.
	dysenteriae	coli	typhi	abortus	putida	albicans
3a	20	19	20	15	22	20
3b	19	21	13	22	21	21
3c	20	16	13	18	23	18
3d	16	-	-	20	15	17
3e	16	16	13	21	17	14
3f	24	20	12	21	15	21
3g	13	15	16	12	-	24
3h	23	-	15	21	16	22
3i	22	17	15	21	22	20
4a	16	16	12	20	22	15
4b	20	16	18	22	23	20
4 c	19	16	-	14	16	20
4e	17	22	12	18	-	24
4f	17	22	13	17	15	22
4h	19	15	15	21	15	23
*K	16	25	20	-	14	-
*Amp	11	10	11	-	8	-
*C	20	30	19	-	12	-
*Amc	17	14	19	-	15	-
*Ofx	-	-	-	-	-	-
*Sbc	-	-	-	12	-	-
*Nys	*NS	*NS	*NS	*NS	*NS	20
Control (DMSO)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Antimicrobial activities of compounds cis-isomers (*3a-3i*) and trans-isomers (*4a-4c*, *4e-4f*, *4h*) against Gram-negative bacteria and a yeast strain

*: K: Kanamycin, Amp: Ampicillin, C: Chloramphenicol, Amc: Amoxicillin, Ofx: Ofloxacin and Sbc: Sulbactam, Antifungal; Nys: Nystatin, NS: Not Studied

In a remarkable study, enhanced antifungal activity was observed in *E*-stereoisomer of isoxazolidine with >96% ee when compared to isoxazolidine with >69% ee [38]. In this study, although all the synthesized isoxazolidine compounds exhibited antibacterial activities, their effectiveness varied considerably. According to the Kruskal Wallis test result, there is a statistically significant difference among the standart drugs, *cis*-isomers and *trans*-isomers groups for antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* ve *L. monocytogenes* (p values: 0.029, 0.046 in Table 3). However, no statistical differences were found for antibacterial activity of *cis*-isomers and *trans*-isomers groups against *S. epidermidis*, *M. luteus* and *B. cereus* (p values: 0.864, 0.755 and 0.240 in Table 3). In the post-hoc test results against *S. aureus* and *L. monocytogenes* bacteria, statistically significant difference was found only between the standard drugs and *cis*-isomers groups by Bonferroni corrected Mann Whitney U test. For these bacteria, antibacterial activity of the standart drugs is higher than that of *cis*-isomers.

When the standard drugs, *cis*-isomers and *trans*-isomers were compared by Kruskal-Wallis test in terms of antibacterial activity against *S. dysenteriae*, *E. coli*, *S. typhi* and *P. putida*, against only *P. Putida*, statistically significant differences were found between three groups (p values:0.364, 0.998, 0.399 and 0.021 in Table 4). However, no statistical differences were found for antibacterial activity of *cis*-isomers and *trans*-isomers groups against *B. abortus* and *C. albicans* (p values: 0.689 and 0.529 in Table 4). Within the post-hoc test results against *P. putida*, a statistically significant difference was found only between standard drug and *cis*-isomers groups by Bonferroni corrected Mann Whitney U test results. For *P. putida*, antibacterial activity of *cis*-isomers was higher than that of standart drugs.

On the basis of above statements, it can not be deduced that the difference in antibacterial activity may be due to the stereochemical structural difference between two diastereomers which might play a role in exhibiting biological activity.

Table 3. Comparison of antimicrobial activity between cis-isomers (*3a-3i*), trans-isomers (*4a-4c*, *4e-4f*, *4h*) and standard drugs against Gram-posivite bacteria

Gram-positive	Standard drugs	cis-isomers	trans-isomers	p value	
bacteria					
Saureus	27.5 (25-30)	18.5 (13-20)	16.0 (15-22)	0.029*	
L. monocytogenes	17.0 (15-22)	13.0 (12-15)	12.5 (11-19)	0.046*	
S. epidermidis	-	15.0 (12-19)	15.0 (11-20)	$0.864^{\#}$	
M. luteus	-	15.0 (12-20)	14.0 (13-20)	0.755#	
B. cereus	-	15.0 (11-20)	14.0 (12-16)	0.240#	

*: Kruskal Wallis test; #: Mann Whitney U test

Table 4. Comparison of antimicrobial activity between cis-isomers (*3a-3i*), trans-isomers (*4a-4c*, *4e-4f*, *4h*) and standard drugs against Gram-negative bacteria and C.albicans

Gram-negative	Standard drugs	cis-isomers	trans-isomers	p value
bacteria and				
C.albicans				
S. dysenteriae	16.5 (11-20)	20.0 (13-24)	18.0 (16-20)	0.364*
E. coli	19.5 (10-30)	17.0 (15-21)	16.0 (15-22)	0.998*
S. typhi	19.0 (11-20)	14.0 (12-20)	13.0 (12-18)	0.399*
B. abortus	-	21.0 (12-22)	19.0 (14-22)	0.689#
P. putida	13.0 (8-15)	19.0 (15-23)	16.0 (15-23)	0.021*
C. albicans	-	20.0 (14-24)	21.0 (15-24)	0.529#

*: Kruskal Wallis test; #: Mann Whitney U test

4. CONCLUSION

Several isoxazolidine derivatives were synthesized in moderate-to-low yields by a two-step pathway and then, antibacterial and antifungal activities of the synthesized compounds were investigated. All the synthesized compounds were mostly effective against bacteria and a yeast strain, *C.albicans*. They were generally effective against *S. epidermidis*, *M. luteus*, *B. cereus*, *B. abortus* and *C. albicans*, while standard antibiotics kanamycin, ampicillin and chloramphenicol did not displayed any activity against these bacterial strains. The antibacterial activity differed significantly on *S. aureus*, *L. monocytogenes* and *P. putida*.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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