



Exploration of Substituted Thiazolidine-2,4-Diones: Synthesis, Characterization and Antimicrobial Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

This research article presents a thorough investigation into the synthesis and assessment of a novel series of compounds- thiazolidine-2,4-diones, specifically 5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione and other derivatives, focusing on their potential as antibacterial and antifungal agents. The study encompasses a wide array of experiments and analyses aimed at evaluating the antimicrobial activity of these compounds against various gram-positive bacteria (including *Bacillus megaterium* and *Micrococcus* spp.) and gram-negative microorganisms (such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhi*). Furthermore, the antifungal activity of the compounds was assessed against *Ganoderma* spp., *Aspergillus niger*, *A. flavus*, and *Penicillium* spp. The structural identity and purity of the synthesized compounds were verified using different spectroscopic techniques, namely IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and mass spectrometry. Following the confirmation, the compounds underwent antibacterial and antifungal screening, revealing that KS/5a and KS/5b demonstrated remarkable antibacterial activity compared to other compounds in the series. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values of KS/5a and KS/5b were determined and found to be below the recommended threshold, indicating their potential as highly effective antibacterial agents.

Keywords: Thiazolidine-2,4-dione, Synthesis, Antibacterial, MIC.

INTRODUCTION

Thiazolidine-2,4-dione (TZD) stands as a significant five-membered heterocyclic ring, incorporating both sulfur and nitrogen atoms. This ring structure features carbonyl groups positioned at the second and fourth positions and is widely distributed in nature in various forms. The diverse biological activities associated with the TZD ring have garnered considerable attention. Notably, this ring structure serves as a cornerstone in the design of drugs aimed at managing diabetes, which is crucial for regulating blood sugar levels in patients. Examples of clinical drugs incorporating the TZD ring include pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, troglitazone and rivoglitazone.^[1] Beyond diabetes treatment, synthesized compounds containing the TZD ring have been employed in the development of drugs targeting malaria, microbial infections, viral diseases, oxidative stress, epilepsy, HIV, tuberculosis, cancer and inflammation.^[2-6]

Conversely, because of their numerous biological characteristics, including cytotoxicity,^[7] antibacterial effects,^[8] antioxidant qualities,^[9] and anti-inflammatory activity,^[10] oxadiazoles and their derivatives have become very desirable targets. One notable example is the 1,3,4-oxadiazole core, which has attracted a lot of attention since its derivatives have a wide range of biological functions. As antidiabetic,^[11] antimalarial,^[12] antimicrobial,^[13] anticancer,^[14] analgesic^[15] and anti-inflammatory drugs,^[16] these

derivatives have proven to be effective. Furthermore, this structural fragment is essential to a number of pharmaceutical derivatives that are commercially significant. These include the antiretroviral agent raltegravir,^[17] the anticancer drug zibotentan,^[18] the hypnotic drug fenadiazole^[19] and the antihypertensive agent nesapidil.^[20]

In this study, we present the synthesis of 5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione and other derivatives. The newly synthesized compounds were then characterized by elemental analyses, IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and mass spectrometry. Additionally, the biological activity results of these novel heterocyclic compounds, highlighting their potential as chemotherapeutic agents, are reported. The incorporation of specific substituents in the synthesized compounds provides valuable insights into structure-activity relationships, paving the way for the development of optimized derivatives with enhanced pharmacological properties.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the chemical compounds and solvents employed in the synthesis of the compound library were sourced from CDH Fine Chemical in Delhi and were utilized without requiring prior additional purification. The progression of reactions was monitored using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on silica Gel-G plates (G60 F254,

Merck) with a thickness of 0.5 mm. Visualization was facilitated by exposing the plates to UV light at wavelengths of 254, and 365 nm. Melting points were determined using the open capillary method and the reported values were not adjusted for temperature fluctuations. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra of the synthesized compounds were recorded in DMSO-d_6 solvent using a Bruker-Advance-II instrument operating at 400 MHz. Infrared (IR) spectra were acquired using a Shimadzu FTIR-8400 spectrophotometer equipped with a DRS probe and a KBr pallet. Chemical shifts were indicated in parts per million (ppm) relative to the TMS internal standard. Mass spectra were generated using a GCMS-QP 2010 mass spectrometer with a direct inlet probe. These analytical methodologies were employed to deliver comprehensive characterizations of the synthesized compounds, laying the groundwork for further exploration of their potential antimicrobial properties.

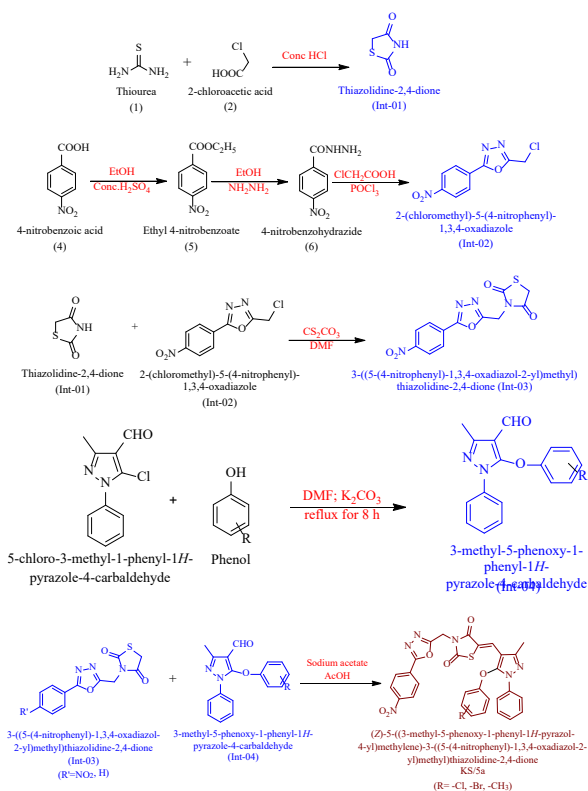
The synthesized compounds underwent *in-vitro* antimicrobial assessment against a range of microorganisms, including gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus megaterium*, *Micrococcus spp.*), gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi*), and various fungal species (*Ganoderma spp.*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Penicillium*) using the agar cup method.

Synthetic Procedure for 5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione

Thiazolidine 2,4- dione (Int-01) and 2-(chloromethyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (Int-02) have been synthesized by the reported methods. In the second stage of the reaction, a DMF solution is prepared by mixing Int-01 and Int-02 in a suitable amount, followed by CS_2CO_3 is added to the reaction mixture carefully for the synthesis of 3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione (Int-03). Next, phenylhydrazine and ethyl-3-oxobutanoate are refluxed to prepare 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5(4H)-one. The resulting substance is mixed with DMF and POCl_3 and further refluxed for 8 hours which yields 5-chloro-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde. K_2CO_3 and DMF, along with phenol, are further added to the reaction mixture and the reaction mass is refluxed again for 8 hours, which finally produces 3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde (Int-04). For the synthesis of the final product in the final stage, a solution of 0.01 mole of 3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione and 0.01 mole of 3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde in 1.0 mL of hot acetic acid was made. This solution was treated with 0.01 mole (0.338 g) of sodium acetate and refluxed for 1.5 hours. Pouring the mixture into water and recrystallizing the solid from ethyl acetate yielded the desired product, 5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione, KS/5a.

General Synthetic Procedure for Substituted Thiazolidine-2,4-diones

A series of compounds-KS/5b to KS/5j was synthesized by taking various substituted phenols in the second stage as shown in Figure 1.



Reaction scheme

Figure 1: Synthesis of new thiazolidine-2,4-dione derivatives

Antibacterial Activity

Fresh bacterial cultures were prepared and cultivated in nutrient broth. These cultures were then evenly spread onto sterile Muller-Hinton agar plates using sterile swabs. Wells with a diameter of 1-cm were carefully created in the agar plates. Standard antibiotics were dissolved in sterile distilled water to achieve a final concentration of 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, while synthetic compounds were dissolved in DMSO to a final concentration of 1-mg/mL before being added to the wells in 0.1 mL volumes. To facilitate proper diffusion, the plates were initially incubated at 4°C for 20 minutes before further incubation at 37°C for 24 hours for bacterial cultures. DMSO controls were included for comparison purposes. Following incubation, the zones of inhibition were visually examined and measured, allowing for the evaluation of the antimicrobial effectiveness of the synthesized compounds against the bacterial cultures.

Antifungal Activity

Fresh fungal cultures were prepared and cultivated in potato dextrose broth. These cultures were then evenly spread onto sterile potato dextrose agar plates using sterile swabs. Wells with a diameter of 1-cm were carefully created in the agar plates. Standard antibiotic, nystatin, was dissolved in sterile distilled water to achieve a final concentration of 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, while synthetic compounds were dissolved in DMSO to a final concentration of 1-mg/mL before being added to the wells in 0.1 mL volumes. To facilitate proper diffusion, the plates were initially incubated at 4°C for 20 minutes before further incubation at 30°C for 48 hours for fungal cultures. DMSO controls were

included for comparison purposes. Following the incubation, the zones of inhibition were visually examined and measured, allowing for the evaluation of the antimicrobial effectiveness of the synthesized compounds against the fungal cultures.

The bioassay investigation into the *in-vitro* antibacterial activity of the newly synthesized compounds (KS/5a–KS/5j) yielded noteworthy results. These compounds demonstrated significant potential against the tested microorganisms, surpassing the effectiveness of conventional medications. Table 1 provides further validation of their remarkable activity, with compounds KS/5a and KS/5b notably standing out for their efficacy. The presence of active compounds within these substances contributes significantly to their potent activity against the tested microorganisms. By analyzing the structural features of these active compounds, we can pinpoint specific groups that enhance their overall efficacy. These findings underscore the substantial promise of compounds KS/5a and KS/5b as potent antibacterial agents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A series of novel compounds, KS/5a to KS/5j was synthesized by mixing 3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione and 3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde in an AcOH solution and sodium acetate, followed by the addition of aldehyde derivatives which produced the desirable product 5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione(KS/5a) and in the similar way KS/5a to KS/5j were prepared as illustrated in Table 1. The structures of KS/5a to KS/5j were established on the basis of their spectral data (Mass spectra, IR, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR).

Characterization of the Synthesized Compounds

5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione(KS/5a)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) in δ ppm: 2.36–2.50 (a; 3H, Singlet), 4.92 (b; 2H, Singlet), 6.88 (c; 2H, Doublet), 6.90 (d; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.0–7.29 (e; 2H, Doublet), 7.30 (f; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.43 (g;

2H, Doublet), 7.97 (h; 2H, Doublet), 8.03 (i; 1H, Singlet), 8.74 (j; 4H, Doublet). ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ-ppm: 177.94 (s), 168.43 (s), 165.66 (s), 162.07 (s), 153.43 (s), 150.05 (s), 147.39 (s), 141.26 (s), 138.57 (s), 135.30 (s), 132.08 (s), 130.13 – 129.91 (m), 129.54 – 129.14 (m), 127.56 – 127.34 (m), 126.57 (s), 124.90 (s), 124.79 – 124.57 (m), 121.90 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 118.97 – 118.57 (m), 89.90 (s), 43.02 (s), 5.56 (s). FTIR (KBr, ν_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3471, 3223, 3115, 3039, 2964, 2870, 2196, 1633, 1600, 1525, 1487, 1394, 1219, 1184, 1070, 1051, 1012, 858, 813, 746, 617 and 488. Elemental analysis: C (59.99%), H (3.37%), N (14.58%), O (16.63%), S (5.42%) MS (m/z): 580; M.F.: C₂₉H₂₀N₆O₆S; M.P.: 168–170, %yield: 90%.

5-((3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-4-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione (KS/5b)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) in δ ppm: 2.36–2.50 (a; 3H, Singlet), 4.92 (b; 2H, Singlet), 6.98 (c; 2H, Doublet), 7.01 (d; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.09–7.29 (e; 2H, Doublet), 7.30 (f; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.43 (g; 2H, Doublet), 7.97 (h; 2H, Doublet), 8.03 (i; 1H, Singlet), 8.74 (j; 4H, Doublet). ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ-ppm 177.94 (s), 168.43 (s), 165.66 (s), 162.07 (s), 152.37 (s), 150.05 (s), 147.39 (s), 141.26 (s), 138.57 (s), 135.30 (s), 132.08 (s), 131.71 (s), 130.02 – 129.62 (m), 129.54 – 129.14 (m), 127.56 – 127.34 (m), 126.57 (s), 124.79 – 124.57 (m), 121.90 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 120.50 – 120.10 (m), 89.90 (s), 43.02 (s), 5.56 (s). FTIR (KBr, ν_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3458, 3323, 3259, 3213, 3066, 2960, 2874, 2198, 1664, 1595, 1516, 1456, 1392, 1332, 1265, 1224, 1128, 1070, 1022, 817, 754, 682 and 515. Elemental analysis: C (56.61%), H (3.13%), Cl (5.56%), N (13.86%), O (14.61%), S (6.21%) MS (m/z): 614; M.F.: C₂₉H₁₉ClN₆O₆S; M.P.: 156–158, %yield: 88%.

5-((3-methyl-5-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)-3-((5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)methyl)thiazolidine-2,4-dione(KS/5c)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) in δ ppm: 2.36–2.50 (a; 3H, Singlet), 4.92 (b; 2H, Singlet), 6.98 (c; 2H, Doublet), 7.01 (d; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.09–7.29 (e; 2H, Doublet), 7.30 (f; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.43 (g; 2H, Doublet), 7.74 (j; 5H, Doublet) 7.97 (h; 2H, Doublet), 8.03 (i; 1H, Singlet). ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ-ppm 177.94 (s), 168.43

Table 1: Physical parameters of KS/5a to KS/5j

Code	Molecular formula	Substitution	M.W.	M.P.(°C)	%Yield
KS/5a	C ₂₉ H ₂₀ N ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'=H	580	168–170	90
KS/5b	C ₂₉ H ₁₉ ClN ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'=4-Cl	614	156–158	88
KS/5c	C ₂₉ H ₂₁ N ₅ O ₄ S	R=H, R'=H	535	175–177	85
KS/5d	C ₂₉ H ₂₀ ClN ₅ O ₄ S	R=H, R'= 4-Cl	570	170–173	81
KS/5e	C ₂₉ H ₂₀ BrN ₅ O ₄ S	R=H, 37=Br	613	148–151	78
KS/5f	C ₂₉ H ₂₀ Cl ₂ N ₅ O ₄ S	R=H, R'=2,4-Cl ₂	603	155–157	75
KS/5g	C ₂₉ H ₁₉ BrN ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'= 4-Br	658	178–181	89
KS/5h	C ₂₉ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ N ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'= 2,4-Cl ₂	648	163–165	73
KS/5i	C ₂₉ H ₁₈ Br ₂ N ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'= Br ₂	736	138–140	55
KS/5j	C ₃₀ H ₂₂ N ₆ O ₆ S	R=NO ₂ , R'=4-CH ₃	594	141–143	45

Table 2: Biological assay of the synthesized compounds

Code	Antibacterial activity				Antifungal activity			
	Antibacterial activity (zone in cm), concentration: 1 mg/mL				Antifungal activity (zone in cm), concentration: 1-mg/mL			
	Gram +ve Bacteria		Gram –ve bacteria					
	<i>B. megaterium</i>	<i>Micrococcus spp.</i>	<i>S. typhi.</i>	<i>E. coli.</i>	<i>Penicillium spp.</i>	<i>Ganoderma spp.</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>A. flavus</i>
KS/5a	2.3	2.0	0.8	2.5	2.1	2.9	1.5	1.4
KS/5b	2.2	2.0	1.0	2.7	2.1	2.9	1.6	2.0
KS/5c	-	-	0.5	1.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.4
KS/5d	1.2	2.0	1.5	-	-	1.3	1.0	1.6
KS/5e	1.1	0.7	-	1.6	1.4	0.1	0.3	1.1
KS/5f	-	1.5	1.2	-	1.3	-	1.4	0.8
KS/5g	1.0	1.0	1.1	-	1.2	2.4	1.5	1.3
KS/5h	1.0	0.4	-	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1
KS/5i	2.1	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.4	2.0	0.8	1.0
KS/5j	1.0	2.1	1.7	-	-	1.4	2	3.2
Streptomycin (200 µg/mL)	3.0	2	2	3.2	-	-	-	-
Ciprofloxacin (200 µg/mL)	3.8	4	4	3	-	-	-	-
Nystatin (200 µg/mL)	-	-	-	-	3.2	4	3.5	3.8

(s), 165.66 (s), 162.07 (s), 153.43 (s), 150.05 (s), 141.26 (s), 138.57 (s), 135.30 (s), 131.57 (s), 130.13 – 129.91 (m), 129.54 – 129.26 (m), 129.26 – 128.85 (m), 127.18 – 126.97 (m), 126.62 (d, J = 11.2 Hz), 124.90 (s), 121.90 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 118.97 – 118.57 (m), 89.90 (s), 43.02 (s), 5.56 (s). FTIR (KBr, $\nu_{\max}$, cm^{-1}): 3426, 3335, 3070, 2960, 2874, 2193, 1656, 1591, 1518, 1485, 1454, 1392 1325, 1259, 1184, 1130, 1072, 1030, 898, 786, 752 and 605. Elemental analysis: C (63.02%), H (3.95%), N (15.08%), O (11.97%), S (5.99%) MS (m/z): 535; M.F.: $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4\text{S}$; M.P.: 175-177, %yield: 85%.

Through a series of analytical techniques like ^1H & ^{13}C -NMR, IR and Mass spectral analysis, we scrutinized the structures of KS/5a to KS/5j, confirming their congruence with the anticipated results. Specifically, the mass spectrometric value [m/z = 580.12 (M^+)] for KS/5a closely corresponds to the molecular formula $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6\text{S}$. FTIR data provides information on the stretching frequencies of various functional groups (KBr, $\nu_{\max}$, cm^{-1}): 3471, 3223, 3115, 3039, 2964, 2870, 2196, 1633, 1600, 1525, 1487, 1394, 1219, 1184, 1070, 1051, 1012, 858, 813, 746, 617, 488. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) in δ ppm: 2.36-2.50 (a; 3H, Singlet), 4.92 (b; 2H, Singlet), 6.88 (c; 2H, Doublet), 6.90 (d; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.0-7.29 (e; 2H, Doublet), 7.30 (f; 1H, dd, 8Hz), 7.43 (g; 2H, Doublet), 7.97 (h; 2H, Doublet), 8.03 (i; 1H, Singlet), 8.74 (j; 4H, Doublet).

All the synthesized compounds showed characteristic absorption bands in the range of 3402 to 3415 cm^{-1} for >N-H stretching, 4.90 to 5.20 ppm, which can be attributed to the methylene group, 1070 cm^{-1} for C-N frequencies, 2964 cm^{-1} for C-H stretching (asymmetric), 2870 cm^{-1} for C-H stretching (symmetric), 3039 cm^{-1} for aromatic C-H stretching, 1447 cm^{-1} for C-H def. (symmetric).

^1H -NMR spectra exhibited multiplets in the range of 6.97 to 8.20 δ ppm for the protons of aromatic rings and 8.0 to 8.20 for $\text{CH}=\text{N}$. The molecular mass of the compounds was confirmed from the mass spectrometry as the calculated mass was in accordance with the observed mass. The observed molecular weights of particular compounds were showing (M+1) molecular ion peak.

Antimicrobial Activity

Following the confirmation, the synthesized compounds KS/5a to KS/5j underwent antibacterial and antifungal screening, wherein a variety of bacterial and fungal species were utilized in the investigation. The bacterial strains encompassed gram-positive bacteria such as *B. megaterium* and various *Micrococcus* species, alongside gram-negative bacteria including *E. coli* and *S. typhi*. The antifungal activity of the compounds was assessed against fungal strains such as *Ganoderma* spp., *A. niger*, *A. flavus* and *Penicillium* spp. This selection of microbial strains was deliberately diverse, aiming to provide a comprehensive assessment of the antimicrobial potential of the synthesized compounds, revealing that KS/5a and KS/5b demonstrated remarkable antibacterial activity compared to other compounds in the series. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values of KS/5a and KS/5b were determined against *B. megaterium*, *S. typhi*, *Micrococcus* spp. and *E. coli*. and were found to be below the recommended threshold, indicating their potential as highly effective antibacterial agents.

These findings underscore the potential of these compounds as promising candidates for further investigation, including determining their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC), and their prospective use as effective therapeutic agents.

CONCLUSION

A series of heterocyclic systems, thiazolidine-2,4-diones was synthesized with moderate to high yields. The synthetic compounds were characterized by analytical techniques like ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, IR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. They were further assessed against the selected bacterial and fungal strains using standard drugs as the references. KS/5a and KS/5b showed high antibacterial efficacy. Other compounds showed low to moderate biological activity. These findings underscore the potential of these compounds as promising candidates for further investigation, including determining their MIC, and their prospective use as effective therapeutic agents.

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