

Synthesis and Fungicidal Activity of Novel 4,4'-Bis(2''-aryl-5''-methyl/unsubstituted-4''-oxo-thiazolidin-3''-yl) Bibenzyl

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Reduction followed by nitration of benzil **I** yielded 4,4'-dinitrobibenzyl (**III**) which by reduction furnished quantitatively and analytically pure 4,4'-diaminobibenzyl (**IV**) which on condensation with different carbonyl compounds gave 4,4'-bis (benzylideneamino) bibenzyls (**Va–f**). Compounds (**Va–f**) on cycloaddition with mercaptoacetic acid/2-mercaptopropionic acid yielded the corresponding 4-oxo-thiazolidin-3-yl bibenzyls (**Vla–I**). The compounds **Vlg–I** have two chiral centers in each thiazolidinone moiety so two diastereomers are possible, but on crystallization and repeated chromatography, one diastereomer was obtained. The absolute configuration of the diastereomer was tentatively assigned on the basis of ¹H NMR spectra. ¹H NMR spectra of the product showed a distinct doublet at δ 1.22 for C₅–CH₃ of thiazolidinone ring (22, 23) and a distinct quartet at δ 4.20 for the C₅–H proton. Similarly, the C₂ proton showed an independent singlet at δ 5.95, so the diastereomers obtained were assigned trans configuration. Compounds **Va–f** and **Vla–I** were evaluated in vitro for their fungitoxicities against *Fusarium oxysporium* and *Penicillium citrinum*. All the compounds were found to be antifungal active. Some of the compounds displayed activities comparable with that of the commercial fungicide Dithane M-45. Structure–activity relationships for the screened compounds are discussed.

KEYWORDS: Fungicide; oxothiazolidinyl; bibenzyl

INTRODUCTION

The application of thiazolidinones as toxic agents into cells of pathogenic microorganisms have evoked considerable attention during the past 20 years (1–3). 4-Thiazolidinones are well-known for their hypnotic (4) and anticonvulsant (5,6) properties. The presence of the N–C–S linkage in heterocycles has been reported to have antitubercular (7), antifungal (8), and antianalgesic (9) activity. 4-Thiazolidinones have also been shown to have anti HIV (10) activity.

A literature survey (11–13) have revealed that bryophytes are not damaged by fungi although they contain nutritious material like fatty acids, sterols, triglycerides, etc. (11). The reported reason is the presence in these bryophyte of structural variants of bibenzyl and bisbibenzyl (13). It has been found that both natural and synthetic bibenzyl show antifungal activity against spore germination of *Alternaria brassicola*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Uromyces fabae* (13).

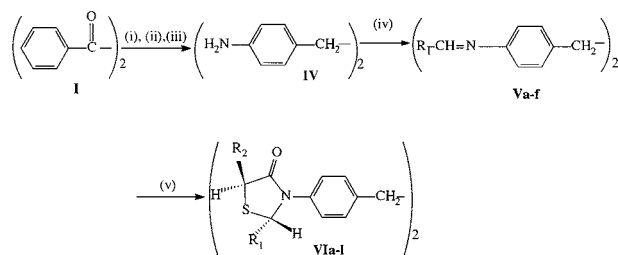
The above facts coupled with our desire to develop efficacious agricultural fungicides prompted us to devise a convenient synthesis of 4-thiazolidinone derivatives incorporating bibenzyl moiety hitherto unknown title compounds, 4,4'-bis-(2''-aryl-5''-methyl/unsubstituted-4''-oxothiazolidin-3''-yl) bibenzyl **Vla–I**. Compounds **Va–f** are also new ones. The reaction

sequence leading to the formation of **Va–d** and **Vla–h** is outlined in **Scheme 1**. The starting compound benzil **I** was reduced to bibenzyl **II**, which on nitration gave 4,4'-dinitrobibenzyl **III**. Reduction of 4,4'-dinitrobibenzyl **III** by Pd–C and HCOOH yielded quantitatively and analytically pure 4,4'-diaminobibenzyl **IV**. Compound **IV** on condensation with various carbonyl compounds gave 4,4'-bis (benzylideneamino) bibenzyls **Va–f**, which on cycloaddition with mercaptoacetic acid/ mercaptopropionic acid afforded corresponding 4,4'-bis (2''-aryl-5''-methyl/ unsubstituted-4''-oxothiazolidin-3''-yl) bibenzyl **Vla–I**.

The structural assignments of the synthesized products were based on elemental analysis (C, H, N, S, and Cl) and ¹H NMR spectra (**Tables 1** and **2**). ¹H NMR spectral studies have shown that the synthesis is highly diastereoselective because only one diastereomer could be obtained. The reduction of dinitro compound **III** in good yield (90–95%) into corresponding diamino compounds **IV** at room temperature was done by HCOOH in the presence of 10% palladised charcoal (16). The catalyst was recovered and reused after washing with water and ethanol. The results indicated that there is no loss of catalytic activity. Of the tested compounds **Va–f** and **Vla–I**, compounds **Vc**, **Vic**, **Vif**, **Vih**, **Vik**, and **Vil** displayed in vitro fungitoxicity comparable to that of the commercial fungicide Dithane M-45 (a mixed Mn²⁺ and zinc salt of *N, N'*-ethylenebis (dithiocarbamic acid)) at 1000 ppm concentration against *Fusarium oxysporium* and *Penicillium citrinum* (**Table 3**).

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Scheme 1



Scheme conditions:

- (i). Zn-Hg/HCl
 (ii). HNO₃-H₂SO₄ in AcOH
 (iii). Zn-HCOOH / Pd-C as catalyst
 (iv). R₁-CH=O
 (v). $\begin{matrix} \text{HS-} \\ | \\ \text{CH-COOH} \\ | \\ \text{R}_2 \end{matrix}$

Compd.	R 1
Va.	C ₆ H ₅
Vb.	4-CH ₃ O. C ₆ H ₄
Vc.	4-Cl.C ₆ H ₄
Vd.	3,4-(CH ₃ O) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃
Ve.	2-HO.C ₆ H ₄
Vf.	4-OH.(3-OCH ₃).C ₆ H ₃

Compd.	R 1	R 2	Compd.	R 1	R 2
Vla.	C ₆ H ₅	H	Vlg.	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃
Vlb.	4-CH ₃ O. C ₆ H ₄	H	Vlh.	4-CH ₃ O. C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃
Vlc.	4-Cl.C ₆ H ₄	H	Vli.	4-Cl.C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃
Vld.	3,4-(CH ₃ O) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	H	Vlj.	3,4-(CH ₃ O) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	CH ₃
Vle.	2-HO.C ₆ H ₄	H	Vlk.	2-HO.C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃
Vlf.	4-OH.(3-OCH ₃).C ₆ H ₃	H	Vll.	4-OH.(3-OCH ₃).C ₆ H ₃	CH ₃

Table 1. Analytical Data of Compounds Va–f and VIa–l

cpd	yield %	mp (deg C)	mol formula ^a
V a	67	168	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ N ₂
b	70	181	C ₃₀ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₂
c	63	187	C ₂₈ H ₂₂ N ₂ Cl ₂
d	58	204	C ₃₂ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₄
e	54	201	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₂
f	61	194	C ₃₀ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₄
Vla	85	191	C ₃₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₂ S ₂
b	73	197	C ₃₄ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₄ S ₂
c	71	205	C ₃₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₂ S ₂ Cl ₂
d	90	201	C ₃₆ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₆ S ₂
e	82	203	C ₃₄ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₂ S ₂
f	74	234	C ₃₆ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₄ S ₂
g	76	227	C ₃₄ H ₃₀ N ₂ O ₂ S ₂ Cl ₂
h	87	213	C ₃₈ H ₄₀ N ₂ O ₆ S ₂
i	78	202	C ₃₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₄ S ₂
j	73	207	C ₃₄ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₆ S ₂
k	61	209	C ₃₄ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₄ S ₄
l	65	213	C ₃₆ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₆ S ₂

^a Satisfactory elemental microanalyses obtained C ± 0.30, H ± 0.18, N ± 0.24, S ± 0.16, and Cl ± 0.2.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Melting points were determined on to an open glass capillary method and are uncorrected. Completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC (silica gel, benzene: ethyl acetate, 8:2). The final products were purified by column chromatography using silica gel (100 mesh) with increasing percentage of MeOH in benzene. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian FT-20 spectrometer in CDCl₃, using TMS as an internal reference; chemical shifts are expressed in δ values.

Bibenzyl (II). Following the standard reduction procedure (15) I was treated with Zn–Hg and HCl to yield II.

4,4'-Dinitrobibenzyl (III). It was prepared by nitration of bibenzyl II following a reported procedure (14). III agreed well with the analytical data already reported in the literature (14).

4,4'-Diaminobibenzyl (IV). Dinitro compound III was reduced by formic acid in the presence of 10% palladium on carbon following the standard procedure (16) to IV in 95% yield. IV agreed well with the mp already reported (17).

4,4'-bis (Benzylideneamino) Bibenzyl (Va–f): To a solution of IV (0.0058 mole, 1.231 g) in dry ethanol (20 mL) was added ben-

Table 2. Spectral Data of Compounds Va–d and VIa–h

cpd	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃)δ (J, Hz)
Va	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 7.21–7.53 (18H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N)
Vb	2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 7.20–7.72 (16H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N)
Vc	2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 7.24–7.94 (16H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N)
Vd	2.87 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 7.23–8.10, (14H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N)
Ve	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 7.21–7.53 (16H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N), 12.1 (2H, s, ArOH)
Vf	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 7.21–7.53 (14H, m, ArH), 8.31 (2H, s, CH=N), (2.1 (2H, s, ArOH)
Vla	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.29 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (18H, m, ArH)
Vlb	2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.29 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.20–7.72 (16H, m, ArH)
Vlc	2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.30 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.24–7.95 (16H, m, ArH)
Vld	2.87 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.30 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic N–CH–S), 7.20–8.14 (14H, m, ArH)
Vle	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (18H, m, ArH)
Vlf	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.20–7.72 (16H, m, ArH)
Vlg	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.86 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.21 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.24–7.91 (16H, m, ArH)
Vlh	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.87 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 3.95 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.20–8.14 (14H, m, ArH)
Vli	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.29 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (16H, m, ArH), 12.1 (2H, s, ArOH)
Vlj	2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.29 (4H, q, cyclic CO–CH ₂ –S), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (14H, m, ArH), 12.1 (2H, s, ArOH)
Vlk	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (16H, m, ArH), 12.1 (2H, s, ArOH)
Vll	1.22 (6H, d, J = 8, CH ₃), 2.85 (4H, s, acyclic CH ₂ CH ₂), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH ₃), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8, cyclic CHCH ₃), 5.95 (2H, s, cyclic S–CH–N), 7.21–7.53 (14H, m, ArH), 12.1 (2H, s, ArOH)

zaldehyde (0.01 mole, 1.061 g) and traces of fused ZnCl₂. The reaction mixture was refluxed on water-bath for 30 min and cooled to RT. Excess of ethanol was distilled-off under reduced pressure. The resultant residue was taken in 20 mL of chloroform and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to give crude Va, which was recrystallized from an ethanol: water mixture (50 mL, 1:1, v/v). Compounds Vb–f were synthesized in similar way by using anisaldehyde, veratraldehyde, *p*-chlorobenzaldehyde, salicylaldehyde, and vanilline in place of benzaldehyde, respectively.

4,4'-bis (2''-Aryl-5''-methyl/unsubstituted-4''-oxo-thiazolidin-3''-yl) Bibenzyl (VIa–l). A mixture of Va–f (0.005 mole) and mercaptoacetic acid/ 2-mercaptopropionic acid (0.01 mole) in dry benzene was then distilled-off under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was poured over crushed ice and centrifuged.

Table 3. Antifungal Screening Results of Compounds Va–f and VIa–I

cpd	Av % inhibition after 96 h against					
	F. oxysporium			P. citrinum		
	1000 ppm	100 ppm	10 ppm	1000 ppm	100 ppm	10 ppm
Va	50	24	9	56	20	13
b	46	36	29	58	44	21
c	83	47	20	88	30	15
d	55	43	31	42	27	19
e	62	53	25	50	33	23
f	51	47	48	57	45	37
VIa	55	30	12	51	20	10
b	61	50	24	46	32	17
c	82	43	15	87	33	8
d	38	26	24	67	50	26
e	61	50	39	67	40	25
f	78	65	40	73	56	38
g	100	81	59	100	79	53
h	85	62	41	88	69	45
i	75	65	40	68	42	30
j	71	58	51	63	55	46
k	88	71	30	78	65	37
l	91	85	76	87	58	45
Dithane M-45	100	91	86	100	95	89

The resulting solid was washed with ice-cold saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, dried and recrystallized from methanol to give yellow colored crystals of VIa–I.

Yields, melting points, molecular formula, and elemental analysis of compounds Va–f and VIa–I are recorded in Table 1 and spectral data in Table 2.

Antifungal Screening. In vitro antifungal activity of compounds Va–f and VIa–I was evaluated against *Fusarium oxysporium* and *Penicillium citrinum* by the poisoned food technique (18) (1000, 100, and 10 ppm) using Czapek's agar as medium as previously described (19, 20). The number of replicate assays in each were three, and six replicate controls were used. Commercial fungicide, Dithane M-45 was used as standard. No remarkable morphological change was observed in the developing fungi. The antifungal screening results are summarized in Table 3.

For the most active compounds Vc, VIc, Vig, VIh, Vlk, and VII, it was ascertained whether they are fungistatic or fungicidal. Thus, following the procedure of Garber and Houston (21), compounds Vc, VIc, Vig, VIh, Vlk, and VII were added separately to Czapek's agar medium in different Petri dishes to maintain the final concentrations at their lethal dose (800, 900, and 1000 ppm, respectively). The test fungi were inoculated in the center of these Petri dishes and incubated at 28 ± 1 °C for 96 h, after which time, the percent inhibition of mycelial growth compared with that in control dishes was recorded. Then, the fungal disks were taken from the treated and control dishes, washed with sterilized double-distilled water, and reinoculated in fresh Petridishes containing Czapek's agar medium only. The plates were incubated for 96 h at 28 ± 1 °C and the percent inhibition was recorded. The number of replicate assays in each case was three, and six replicate controls were used.

The plates were incubated for 96 h at 28 ± 1 °C and the percent inhibition was recorded. The number of replicate assays in each case was three, and six replicate controls were used. It was found that compounds Vc, VIc, Vig, VIh, Vlk, and VII caused complete inhibition of mycelial growth of the test fungi in treated as well as reinoculated dishes and hence were fungicidal.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Most of the screened compounds have significant fungitoxicity at (1000 ppm) (Table 3) against both tested fungi, but their toxicity considerably decreased on dilution (100 and 10 ppm). Of the tested compounds, the most active benzylidene-amino bibenzyl Vc and oxothiazolidinyl bibenzyl VIc, Vig, VIh, Vlk, and VII displayed fungicidal action comparable with

that of Dithane M-45 at 1000 ppm and inhibited 15–59% mycelial growth of both fungal species even at the lowest concentration. Compounds Va–f, which have no oxothiazolidine nucleus are less fungitoxic than VIa, VIb, VIc, VIg, VIh, and VII which have 5-methyl oxothiazolidine nucleus. This demonstrates that the presence 5-methyl oxothiazolidine nucleus with the bibenzyl nucleus resulted in appreciable enhancement of fungitoxicity of these compounds.

The present study indicates that the 4,4'-bis(oxo-thiazolidinyl) bibenzyl framework reported herein might be useful for developing efficacious fungicides by suitable structural variation in the bibenzyl nucleus and heterocyclic ring.

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