

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Synthesis, characterization, antimicrobial activity and structure–activity relationships of new aryldisulfonamides

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## Abstract

A series of aromatic disulfonamide (**1–8**) derivatives and 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl hydrazide (**9**) were synthesized and characterized. All compounds were evaluated in vitro for their antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25953, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 6633, *Bacillus magaterium* RSKK 5117, *Escherichia coli* ATCC 11230, *Salmonella enteritidis* ATCC 13076 by microdilution and disc diffusion methods. Antimicrobial activity of the aromatic disulfonamides decreased as the length of the carbon chain increased. An analysis of the structure-activity relationship (SAR) along with computational studies showed that the most active compound (**9**) possessed low lipophilicity (AlogP=0.59) and high solubility (logS = -1.33).

**Keywords:** Antimicrobial activity; sulfonamides; structure-activity relationship

## Introduction

Sulfa drugs are the oldest chemically synthesized antimicrobial agents and are still widely used today for the treatment of various bacterial, protozoal and fungal infections [1,2]. Sulfa drugs act by competitive inhibition of the enzyme *dihydropteroate synthase*, which is a key enzyme involved in folate synthesis [3]. Although a number of antimicrobial drugs are available commercially, the need for more effective ones continues to exist, because the most common bacteria are resistant to available drugs. In fact, multidrug resistance (MDR) remains a significant problem for the treatment of microbial infections [4-7]. Furthermore, the threat of bioterrorism using agents such as weaponized *Bacillus anthracis* and *Yersinia pestis* highlight the need for continuing research on infectious diseases and the search for new therapeutic agents [8]. Recently, a few substituted derivatives of aromatic/heterocyclic sulfonamides and their complexes have been synthesized and tested for their antimicrobial activity [9-13].

In our previous studies, aliphatic and aromatic disulfonamides were synthesized and evaluated for antimicrobial activity [14-16]. In addition, methanesulfonic acid hydrazides and their hydrazones were obtained and screened for their antimicrobial and cytotoxic activity [17-19]. Metal carbonyl complexes of these sulfonyl hydrazones were also reported

[20-26]. In this paper, continuing our studies, a series of novel aromatic sulfonamide derivatives (**1–8**) and sulfonyl hydrazide (**9**) were synthesized and characterized. Their antibacterial activities were evaluated against Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25953, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 6633, *Bacillus magaterium* RSKK 5117) and Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 11230, *Salmonella enteritidis* ATCC 13076) by disc diffusion and microdilution methods. Structure–activity relationships (SAR) between the antimicrobial activities and the physicochemical/ structural properties were also evaluated.

## Materials and methods

The elemental analyses (C, H, N and S) were performed on a LECO-CHSNO - 9320 type elemental analyzer. The IR spectra (4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup>) were recorded on a Mattson-1000 FT-IR spectrophotometer with samples prepared as KBr pellets. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-Spectrospin Avance DPX - 400 Ultra - Shield (400 MHz) using DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> and CDCl<sub>3</sub> as a solvent and TMS as an internal standard. LC/MS-APCI were recorded on AGILENT 1100. The melting point was recorded on a OptiMelt apparatus. TLC was conducted on 0.25 mm silica gel plates (60F254, Merck). Visualization was made with ultraviolet light. All extracted

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(Received 21 August 2008; revised 10 December 2008; accepted 07 January 2009)

ISSN 1475-6366 print/ISSN 1475-6374 online © 2009 Informa UK Ltd  
DOI: 10.1080/14756360802561220

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solvents (all from Merck) were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated with a BUCHI rotary evaporator. Reagents were obtained commercially from Aldrich (ACS grade) and used as received.

Dipole moment, HOMO and LUMO energies and local charges were calculated using AM1 semi-empirical method with HyperChem software (version 7, Hypercube Inc.). Total topological parameter was generated from DRAGON software [40].

### Chemistry

According to the general procedure shown in Figure 1, the synthesis of a series of aryldisulfonamides compounds (**1-8**) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl hydrazide analogues (**9**) could be carried out easily in THF, which gives the best result among the other solvents such as, acetonitrile, N,N-dimethylformamide dichloromethane, ethylacetate, just by the nucleophilic substitution reaction of aromatic diamines/hydrazine hydrate with substituted aromatic sulfonyl chloride. The crystal lattice structure [28] and synthesis [27] of compound (**1**) and the synthesis and antitumor activity of compound (**5**) [29] as well as the synthesis,  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectroscopy [30] and x-ray powder diffraction data [31] of compound (**9**) have been published.

### General synthesis procedure

The nucleophilic substitution reaction of the aromatic diamines with aryl sulfonyl chlorides were carried out as follows: THF solution of aromatic diamines was added slowly

to the THF solution of sulfonyl chlorides, maintaining the temperature at  $-5^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature (completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC) then solvent was evaporated in vacuum and the solid residue purified by column chromatography.

*p*-toluenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,2-ethanediybis (**1**) The title compound was obtained from ethylenediamine (2.71 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol) as described above. The white crystalline solid was recrystallized from tetrahydrofurane/*n*-heksan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at THF vapour. Yield 72%; mp  $158-161^\circ\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 368.8 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 369.8 ( $\text{M}^+ + 1$ ), 370.8 ( $\text{M}^+ + 2$ ); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ : C, 40.0; H, 8.0; N, 9.33; S, 21.3. Found: C, 40.23; H, 7.94; N, 9.10; S, 21.51%.

*p*-toluenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,3-propanediybis (**2**) The title compound was obtained from 1,3-diamino propane (3.36 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol/*n*-heksan mixture. Product was dried *in vacuo* and stored at ethanol vapour. Yield 72%; mp  $173-174^\circ\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 382.8 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 383.9 ( $\text{M}^+ + 1$ ), 384.8 ( $\text{M}^+ + 2$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ : C, 53.38; H, 5.80; N, 7.32; S, 16.77. Found: C, 53.94; H, 5.21; N, 7.04; S, 15.82%.

*p*-toluenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,4-buthanediybis (**3**) The title compound was obtained from 1,4-diamino buthane (4.06 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol/*n*-heksan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at ethanol vapour. Yield 72%; mp  $183-184^\circ\text{C}$ .

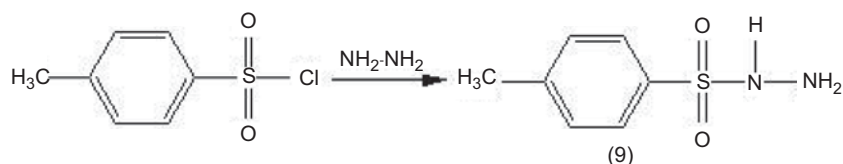
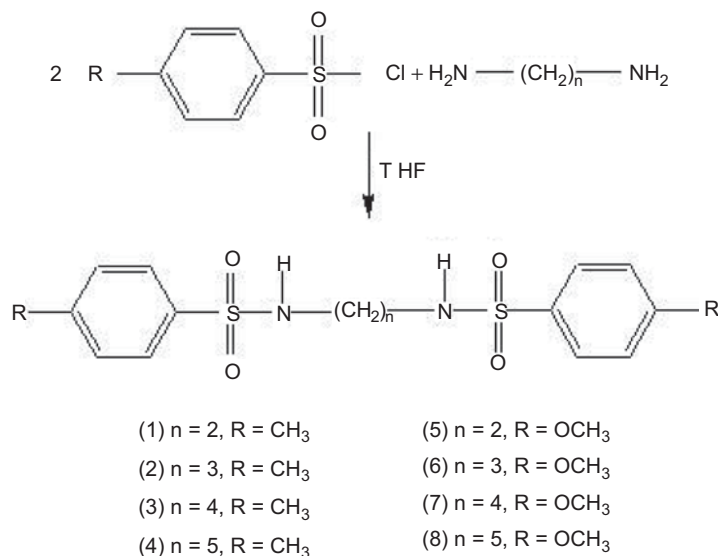


Figure 1. Synthesis of the compounds.

$^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 396.9 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 397.9 ( $\text{M}+1$ ), 398.9 ( $\text{M}+2$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ , C, 54.52; H, 6.10; N, 7.06; S, 16.01. Found: C, 54.72; H, 5.14; N, 7.35; S, 14.50%.

*p*-toluenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,5-pentanediybis (**4**) The title compound was obtained from 1,5-diamino pentane (4.93 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol) as described above. The white crystalline solid was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol/*n*-hexane mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at ethanol vapour. Yield 72%; mp 192-194  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 410.9 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 411.9 ( $\text{M}+1$ ) 412.9 ( $\text{M}+2$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ , C, 55.58; H, 6.38; N, 6.82; S, 15.62. Found: C, 55.82; H, 5.19; N, 7.20; S, 13.35%.

*p*-methoxybenzenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,2-ethanediybis (**5**) The title compound was obtained from ethylenediamine (2.71 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was recrystallized from tetrahydrofurane/*n*-hekzan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at tetrahydrofurane vapour. Yield 72%; mp 166-168  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 401.1 ( $\text{M}+1$ ) 402.1 ( $\text{M}+2^+$ ), 213.1 [ $\text{CH}_3\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_2^+$ ]. Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}_2$ , C, 47.99; H, 5.03; N, 7.00; S, 16.01. Found: C, 48.30; H, 5.79; N, 6.99; S, 15.79%.

*p*-methoxybenzenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,3-propanediybis (**6**) The title compound was obtained from 1,3-diamino propane (2.71 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was recrystallized from tetrahydrofurane/*n*-hekzan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at tetrahydrofurane vapour. Yield 72%; mp 177-178  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 414.8 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 415.8 ( $\text{M}+1$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}_2$ , C, 49.26; H, 5.35; N, 6.76; S, 15.47 Found: C, 49.00; H, 5.50; N, 6.79; S, 15.76%.

*p*-methoxybenzenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,4-buthanediybis (**7**) The title compound was obtained from 1,4-diamino buthane (2.71 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was recrystallized from tetrahydrofurane/*n*-hekzan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at tetrahydrofurane vapour. Yield 72%; mp 177-178  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 428.11 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 429.11 ( $\text{M}+1$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}_2$ , C, 50.45; H, 5.65; N, 6.54; S, 14.97 Found: C, 50.30; H, 5.70; N, 6.75; S, 14.76%.

*p*-methoxybenzenesulfonamide *N,N'*-1,5-pentanediybis (**8**) The title compound was obtained from 1,5-diamino pentane (2.71 mL, 0.08 mol) and *p*-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.85 g, 0.04 mol). The white crystalline solid was recrystallized from tetrahydrofurane/*n*-hekzan mixture. Product was dried in vacuo and stored at tetrahydrofurane vapour. Yield

72%; mp 185-186  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; MS (70 eV, APCI): 442.12 ( $\text{M}^+$ ) 443.13 ( $\text{M}+1$ ). Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}_2$ , C, 51.57; H, 5.92; N, 6.33; S, 14.49 Found: C, 51.30; H, 5.88; N, 6.36; S, 14.70%.

### Microbiology

*S. aureus* ATCC 25953, *B. cereus* ATCC 6633, *B. magate-rium* RSKK 5117, *E. coli* ATCC 11230 and *S. enteritidis* ATCC 13076 cultures were obtained from Gazi University, Biology Department. Bacterial strains were cultured overnight at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Nutrient Broth. These stock cultures were stored in the dark at 4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the survey.

Antibacterial activity was evaluated by Broth dilution technique following the procedures recommended by the National Commite for Clinical Laboratory Standards [42]. MICs were determined twice in duplicate experiments. The Nutrient Broth, which contained logarithmic serially two fold diluted amount of test compound and controls, was inoculated with approximately  $5 \times 10^5$  c.f.u. Aqueous DMSO (20%) was used as negative control (containing compounds but no inoculum).

Inhibition zones of compounds were determined by the disc diffusion method [43]. The sterilized (autoclaved at 120  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min), liquified Mueller Hinton agar (40-50  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) was inoculated with the suspension of the microorganism (matched to 0.3 Mc Farland) and poured into a Petri dish to give a depth of 3-4 mm. The paper discs impregnated with the test compounds (60 $\mu\text{g}$ ) were placed on the solidified medium. Discs were placed on agar plates and the cultures were incubated at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h for bacteria. Inhibition zones formed on the medium were evaluated in mm. Ciprofloxacin was chosen as a standard in antibacterial activity measurements (positive control).

## Result and discussion

### Chemistry

NMR spectra of compounds were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  taking using TMS as an internal standard.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for the compounds are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. It is known that symmetric C and H atoms in the compounds show the same chemical shift because of having same chemical environment. Shifting values of compounds (**1-8**) is in reasonable agreement with literature data for the similar compounds [14, 30]. In NMR spectra, aromatic proton peaks are observed at about 7.5 ppm, and aromatic carbon peaks are shown at ~ 126 ppm. The chemical shift of the NH group of the compounds in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  is in the range of 4.62-5.02 ppm,

**Table 1.** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data for the compounds (for half of molecules).

Assignment	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<CH <sub>3</sub> >	2.39(s,3H)	2.36(s,3H)	2.35(s,3H)	2.38(s,3H)	3.85(s,3H)	3.84(s,3H)	3.83(s,3H)	3.82(s,3H)
NH<CH <sub>2</sub> >	2.71(t,2H)	2.72(t,2H)	2.74(s,2H)	2.75(t,2H)	2.71(s,3H)	2.72(t,2H)	2.72(s,3H)	2.73(t,2H)
NHCH <sub>2</sub> <CH <sub>2</sub> >	-	1.61(m,2H)	1.59(m,2H)	1.53(m,2H)	-	1.62(m,2H)	1.50(m,2H)	1.55(m,2H)
NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> <CH <sub>2</sub> >	-	-	-	1,24(m,2H)	-	-	-	1,22(m,2H)
Ar	7.60(m,4H)	7.60(m,4H)	7.55(m,4H)	7.53(m,4H)	7.66(m,4H)	7.68(m,4H)	7.68(m,4H)	7.64(m,4H)
SO <sub>2</sub> <NH>	4.62(s)	4.64(s)	4.65(s)	4.75(s)	4.84(s)	4.98(s)	5.00(s)	5.02(s)

**Table 2.** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for the compounds.

Assignment	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<CH <sub>3</sub> >	21.39	20.19	20.89	20.89	55.58	56.56	55.78	56.83
NH<CH <sub>2</sub> >	29.84	42.15	42.05	42.32	42.10	47.18	45.28	46.34
NHCH <sub>2</sub> <CH <sub>2</sub> >	-	21.14	26.13	28.43	-	22.20	27.80	29.70
NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> <CH <sub>2</sub> >	-	-	-	23.13	-	-	-	23.35
Ar<CH>	126.65	126.99	126.44	126.44	114.31	114.45	112.77	113.33
	129.77	130.12	129.53	129.52	128.56	128.40	127.62	126.55
	138.02	137.38	137.64	137.72	131.85	135.50	133.75	134.55
	143.00	142.68	142.43	142.17	162.15	160.33	159.55	159.66

**Table 3.** Wavenumber (cm<sup>-1</sup>) for selected vibrations of the compounds.

Comp.	$\nu_{\text{NH}}$	$\delta_{\text{NH}}$	$\nu_{\text{(CH}_3\text{)}}$	$\nu_{\text{as(SO}_2\text{)}}$	$\nu_{\text{s(SO}_2\text{)}}$
(1)	3288(m) <sup>a</sup>	1458(m)	2940(m)	1336(s) <sup>b</sup>	1162(m)
(2)	3285(m)	1439(m)	2973(m)	1329(s)	1162(m)
(3)	3291(m)	1426(m)	2954(m)	1329(s)	1162(m)
(4)	3288(m)	1420(m)	2960(m)	1336(s)	1157(m)
(5)	3294(m)	1484(m)	2979(m)	1343(s)	1162(m)
(6)	3296(m)	1452(m)	2980(m)	1345(s)	1160(m)
(7)	3292(m)	1447(m)	2960(m)	1332(s)	1162(m)
(8)	3290(m)	1466(m)	2979(m)	1345(s)	1152(m)

<sup>a</sup> m: medium, <sup>b</sup> s: strong

however, in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO at ~ 6.9 ppm. Difference of chemical shift may be attributed to the formation of intermolecular interactions with polar solvent DMSO.

Wave numbers of the selected vibration of IR spectra of the compounds are listed in Table 3. The IR spectra of the compounds were found to be very similar to each other. More characteristic vibrations of the compounds are as follows: asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations of SO<sub>2</sub> groups are observed at ~1115 and ~1135 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Terminal methyl stretching vibrations are found in the range of 2970-1875 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The absence of NH<sub>2</sub> vibrations which are observed between 3300 and 3350 cm<sup>-1</sup> as double bonds and presence of single and strong NH band at ~3280 cm<sup>-1</sup> confirms the presence of secondary amine group in compounds (1-8).

### Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity of compounds tested is presented in Table 4. Microbiological results indicated that the synthesized compounds possessed a broad spectrum of activity against the tested microorganisms and showed relatively better activity against Gram-negative than Gram-positive bacteria. Sulfonyl hydrazide (9) showed the best activity with lowest MIC (42 µg/mL) against *E.coli* and *S.enteritidis* bacteria. Among the disulfonamides, compound (5) possessed great activity with MIC of 100 µg/mL against Gram-negative *E.coli* and *S.enteritidis* bacteria. All compound showed poor activity against *B. Magaterium*, and compound (4) exhibited the lowest inhibitory activity with MIC of 440 µg/mL.

It is known that, in general, *para*-aminobenzenesulfonamide derivatives possessing one secondary amine group show good antimicrobial activity as competitive *dihydropteroate synthase* inhibitors. In this study, sulfonyl

**Table 4.** Antimicrobial activity of compounds by the microdilution method.

Comp.	MIC (µg/mL)				
	<i>E.coli</i>	<i>S. enteritidis</i>	<i>B. magaterium</i>	<i>B. cereus</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>
	ATCC 11230	ATCC 13076	RSKK 5117	ATCC 6633	ATCC 25953
(1)	110	110	368	147	147
(2)	115	153	383	156	192
(3)	125	277	415	177	217
(4)	285	328	440	290	410
(5)	100	100	303	140	134
(6)	110	140	322	148	180
(7)	120	263	356	164	208
(8)	275	312	394	282	390
(9)	42	42	117	59	59

**Table 5.** Antimicrobial test of the compounds by the disk (60 µg) method.

Compound	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm)				
	<i>Ec</i>	<i>Se</i>	<i>Bm</i>	<i>Bc</i>	<i>Sa</i>
(1)	18	17	8	14	15
(2)	17	16	-	13	13
(3)	15	11	-	12	11
(4)	13	11	-	11	10
(5)	20	20	9	16	17
(6)	19		-	14	15
(7)	18	20	-	13	13
(8)	16		-	11	10
(9)	24	23	-	21	20
ciprofloxacin (5 µg)	38	31	15	27	29

*Ec*, *Escherichia coli*; *Se*, *Salmonella enteritidis*; *Bm*, *Bacillus magaterium*; *Bc*, *Bacillus cereus*; *Sa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*.

hydrazide having one amino and one secondary amine groups showed the best activity (9), however, sulfonamides having two secondary amine groups showed a profound drop in activity (1-8). Furthermore, replacing the methyl group at the 4-position of the aryl ring with electron-donating methoxy group resulted in moderate increase in activity (5-8). In addition, antibacterial activity increased proportionately as the length of the carbon chain between NH groups decreased. This could be due to bulkiness of the carbon chain, which render the molecule unable to penetrate through the cell wall of the bacteria. As shown in Table 5, all tested compounds, although applied in 12-fold higher concentrations (60 µg) than the

**Table 6.** Calculated partition coefficients and aqueous solubility of the compounds studied.

Comp.	AlogPs	AC logP	AB/logP	AlogPS	AC logS	AB/logS	AB/pKa(acid)
(1)	0.78	1.84	2.76	-3.90(46.06 mg/L)	-2.64(0.84 g/L)	-3.59(94.72 mg/L)	-
(2)	0.98	2.31	3.73	-4.17(25.71 mg/L)	-2.91(0.47 g/L)	-3.86(52.81 mg/L)	-
(3)	1.28	2.77	3.86	-4.49(12.71 mg/L)	-3.18(0.26 g/L)	-3.95(44.50 mg/L)	-
(4)	1.61	3.24	4.42	-4.78(6.84 mg/L)	-3.45(0.15 g/L)	-3.84(59.35 mg/L)	-
(5)	0.97	1.00	2.23	-3.55(0.11mg/L)	-1.99(4.10 g/L)	-3.82(60.62 mg/L)	9.70
(6)	0.86	1.47	3.19	-3.80(64.96 mg/L)	-2.26(2.28 g/L)	-4.05(36.95 mg/L)	9.70
(7)	1.04	1.93	3.32	-4.01(41.46mg/L)	-2.53(1.26 g/L)	-4.13(31.77mg/L)	9.70
(8)	1.39	2.40	3.89	-4.30(22.28mg/L)	-2.80(0.70 g/L)	-4.13(32.81mg/L)	9.70
(9)	0.26	-0.42	0.53	-1.21(10.69 g/L)	-0.18(0.11kg/L)	-1.59(4.43g/L)	6.20
dichlorophenamide	0.95			-2.87(0.41 g/L)			7.8
sulfanilamide	-0.16 <sup>a</sup>			-1.21(10.52 g/L)			10.1

<sup>a</sup> Experimental result is -0.62.

reference ciprofloxacin (5 µg), displayed weak activity against bacteria.

**Structure-activity relationship:** log P (octanol-water partition coefficient) is an important physicochemical parameter in the development of lipophilicity index [32-35]. It is generally accepted that more lipophilic molecule will interact more easily with the fatty acid tails of the lipid bilayer, thus allowing the molecule to cross cell membranes. Lipophilicity values (Table 6) of our compounds have been computed using AlogPs, AC logP and AB/logP methods [36]. Calculated values spans the 0.26-1.61 region with AlogPs, the minus 0.42-3.24 region with AC logP and the 0.53-4.42 region with AB/logP methods. The most active compound (**9**) has the least lipophilicity (AlogP = 0.26). Calculated AlogP values of dichlorophenamide (0.95) and sulfanilamide (-0.16) taken from Remko and Lieth are included for comparison [37]. As shown in Table 6, although different values were calculated using different methods, same order were obtained that increasing antibacterial activity followed decreasing lipophilicity. After plotting the calculated values versus the experimental antimicrobial activity data (expressed as pMIC, in which MIC values converted to mM) regression coefficients(r) were found between 0.65 and 0.97 (Table 7). This result shows that there are strong dependency between activities and lipophilicity for all bacteria.

LogS is indicative of the intrinsic solubility of compounds in neutral state. The calculated aqueous solubility values with AlogPS, AClogS, AB/logS methods are given in Table 6. The highly active compound (**9**) has the most solubility (AlogPS=-1.21 or 10.69 g/L). As seen in Table 6, positive correlation between calculated solubility values and antibacterial activity of compounds was found. As seen in Table 7, there are also significant correlation between solubility and the antimicrobial activity (regression coefficient = 0.69 - 0.84).

Dissociation constant (pK<sub>a</sub>) which is a measure of the strength of an acid or a base is very useful in understanding the behavior of drug molecules at the site of action. Calculated dissociation constant (pK<sub>a</sub>) of compounds (**5-9**) shows that sulfonyl hydrazide is more acidic (6.20) than the disulfonamides (9.70). In the literature, Bell and Roblin previously reported that there were relationship between the

**Table 7.** Antimicrobial activity of compounds and regression coefficient.

Comp.	log(1/MIC)				
	<i>Ec</i>	<i>Se</i>	<i>Bm</i>	<i>Bc</i>	<i>Sa</i>
(1)	3.53	3.53	3.00	3.40	3.40
(2)	3.52	3.40	2.99	3.39	3.30
(3)	3.50	3.16	2.98	3.35	3.26
(4)	3.16	3.10	2.97	3.15	3.00
(5)	3.60	3.60	3.12	3.47	3.48
(6)	3.58	3.47	3.11	3.45	3.36
(7)	3.55	3.21	3.08	3.42	3.31
(8)	3.21	3.15	3.05	3.20	3.05
(9)	3.65	3.65	3.20	3.50	3.50
Regression coefficient					
AlogPs	0.89	0.90	0.65	0.91	0.92
AC logP	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.85
AB/logP	0.75	0.88	0.66	0.81	0.90
AlogPs	0.78	0.88	0.79	0.85	0.87
AC logS	0.69	0.78	0.91	0.78	0.77
AB/logS	0.15	0.52	0.41	0.13	0.33

*Ec*, *Escherichia coli*; *Se*, *Salmonella enteritidis*; *Bm*, *Bacillus magaterium*; *Bc*, *Bacillus cereus*; *Sa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*.

pK<sub>a</sub> and antibacterial activity of an extensive series of sulfonamides, and maximum pK<sub>a</sub> values lay between 6.0 and 7.4 [38].

In this research, numerous studies have been made to find a correlation between the physicochemical properties of the compounds and their antibacterial activity, some physicochemical properties (molecular volume, molecular refractivity, HOMO, LUMO, dipole moment) were calculated using HyperChem [39] and total topological polar surface area was calculated using DRAGON software [40]. Surface area, molecular volume, and topological indices have been used as an expression of the steric effects. As seen in Table 8, the most active compound (**9**) has the lowest value of molecular weight, molecular volume, total topological polar surface area and molecular refractivity. Generally speaking, as steric effects is lowered, the activity of the compounds is increased. The attempt to correlate antibacterial activities with electronic parameter such as HOMO, LUMO, dipole moment(Dµ) and local charges was unsuccessful (r = 0.055-0.197).

**Table 8.** Some physicochemical properties of compounds.

Comp.	MW	MV	TPSA	MR	HOMO	LUMO	D $\mu$
(1)	368.47	1054.17	109.1	94.34	-10.0897	-0.7508	8.84
(2)	382.49	1091.78	109.1	99.20	-10.0761	-0.7106	8.66
(3)	396.52	1161.02	109.1	103.85	-10.0538	-0.6770	1.69
(4)	410.55	1206.93	109.1	108.45	-9.9880	-0.6745	8.94
(5)	400.46	1087.96	110.8	97.18	-9.8396	-0.6903	8.01
(6)	414.49	1126.74	110.8	102.05	-9.8250	-0.6354	7.66
(7)	428.52	1192.96	110.8	106.69	-9.8173	-0.8732	7.97
(8)	442.55	1231.82	110.8	111.29	-9.8101	-0.8041	8.28
(9)	186.23	555.60	74.19	47.74	-9.3952	-0.7776	6.14
Regression coefficient (r)							
<i>Ec</i>	0.442	0.720	0.180	0.734	0.015	0.083	0.197
<i>Se</i>	0.556	0.897	0.165	0.887	0.023	0.280	0.297
<i>Bm</i>	0.428	0.077	0.929	0.081	0.850	0.115	0.212
<i>Bc</i>	0.379	0.714	0.286	0.724	0.090	0.060	0.093
<i>Sa</i>	0.512	0.822	0.193	0.844	0.011	0.107	0.055

MW, molecular weight; MV, molecular volume; TPSA, topological polar surface area; MR, molecular refractivity.

Bioavailability of compounds have been connected to some parameters (logP, molecular weight, counts of hydrogen bond acceptors and donors), which is expressed by Rule of 5 or the Lipinski rule [41]. Rule of 5 have also been calculated for compounds (**1-9**) and they obey the Lipinski rule. This indicates favorable properties for drug absorption and less probability of problems in permeation.

**Declaration of interest:** The authors thank the TUBITAK Foundation (No: TBAG 104 T 390) and Gazi University Scientific Research Projects (No : 05/2008-05) for financial supports.

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