

Determination of the Lipophilicity of Some New Derivatives of Semicarbazide and 1,2,4-Triazol-5-one with Potential Antibacterial Activity

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The chromatographic behavior of new derivatives of 1,2,4-triazol-5-one and semicarbazide was determined. The lipophilicity was confirmed by the use of a RP-TLC method. The partition coefficients were calculated by use of theoretical procedures. The correlation between theoretical and experimental lipophilicity was determined. All obtained compounds were tested for their antimicrobial activity.

Key words: Semicarbazide, 1,2,4-Triazol-5-one, Lipophilicity, Antibacterial Activity

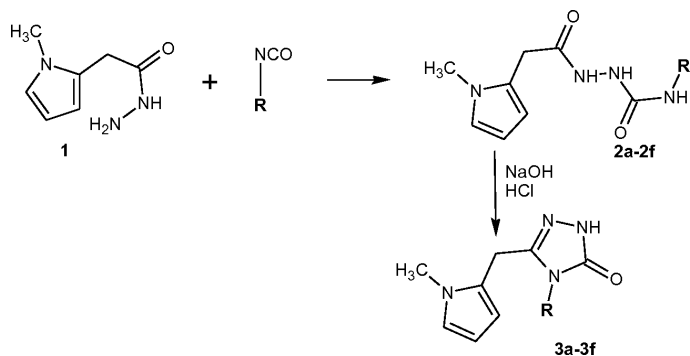
Introduction

Many people around the world suffer from microbial infections, including opportunistic or recurrent diseases associated usually with immunosuppressants. In addition, the effectiveness of available antibacterial agents is diminishing due to developing, increasing and spreading of microbial resistance [1, 2]. Therefore, synthesis of novel compounds of potential antimicrobial activity seems to be necessary. A great number of 1,2,4-triazoles and 4,5-dihydro-1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-5-ones have a wide range of biological activities such as analgesic [3], antibacterial [4–7], fungicidal [8, 9], anti-inflammatory [10], antiviral [11, 12], anticonvulsant [13], and antitumor [14, 15] properties. Due to these properties, the triazole moiety is a structural element of drugs such as fluconazole, itraconazole, vorozole, letrozole, and anastrozole [16–18].

It is known that the biological activity of the molecules is related to their structure and physicochemical properties. The lipophilicity denotes the physical property of a molecule which influences the transport of compounds through the biological system. This property of molecules could be used to characterize bioavailability, distribution, activity, toxicity, and other processes [19, 20]. Lipophilicity is usually measured by the partition coefficient of the investigated compound between

a nonpolar, organic phase and water. It can be determined by the traditional “shake-flask” partition method between *n*-octanol (or other organic compounds, immiscible with water) and water. Similar conditions of determination can be achieved by the use of reversed phase chromatography (both TLC and HPLC methods) [21–23]. A linear relationship between the retention parameters and the concentration (Φ) of an organic modifier in the aqueous mobile phase has to be established for a successful chromatographic measurement of lipophilicity [24–27]. The lipophilicity of some biologically active compounds was experimentally determined [28–32]. Some authors determined the lipophilicity of a solute as the $\log P_{\text{TLC}}$ coefficient ($\log P_{\text{TLC}}$ = experimental lipophilicity obtained for standards solutes in investigation condition). For this purpose the R_{MW} (R_{MW} = intercept in equation $R_{\text{M}} = R_{\text{MW}} + aC$; relative lipophilicity) values of investigated compounds and standard solutes were compared [33–35]. The evaluation of the lipophilicity of the solute with potential activity allows the estimation of its biological activity in compliance with the Hansch theory [36], and pertinent research refers to Quantitative Structure Activity Relationships (QSAR) [37–40].

The objective of the studies reported here is a chromatographic analysis of two series of newly synthe-



R = 4-BrC₆H₄ (a), CH₂C₆H₅ (b), 4-C₂H₅OC₆H₄ (c), C₆H₁₁ (d), C₆H₅ (e), C₂H₅ (f)

Scheme 1.

sized derivatives of 1,2,4-triazol-5-one and semicarbazide with potential antibacterial activity.

Results and Discussion

The new 3-(1-methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)-4-substituted 4,5-dihydro-1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives **3a–f** were synthesized by cyclization of semicarbazide derivatives **2a–f** in alkaline medium (Scheme 1). They

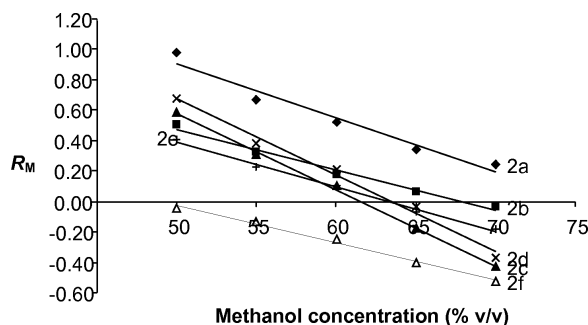


Fig. 1. Relationships between R_M of semicarbazide derivatives and concentration of methanol in the mobile phase.

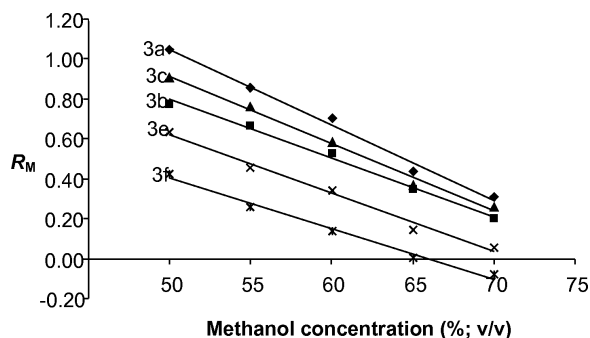


Fig. 2. Relationships between R_M of 1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives and concentration of methanol in the mobile phase.

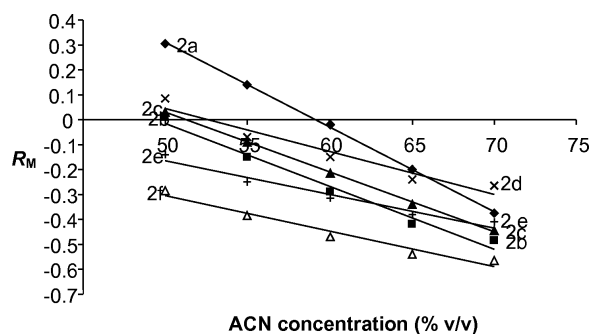


Fig. 3. Relationships between R_M of semicarbazide derivatives and concentration of acetonitrile in the mobile phase.

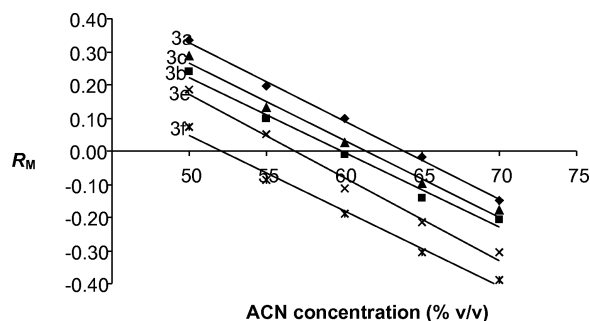


Fig. 4. Relationships between R_M of 1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives and concentration of acetonitrile in the mobile phase.

were then characterized by elemental analyses, IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy, as well as by MS. The lipophilicity of selected solutes (**2a–f**, **3a–c**, **3e–f**) was chromatographically determined. Experimental data obtained by the RP-TLC method are presented as plots of R_M ($R_M = \log \frac{(1-R_F)}{R_F}$) values vs. concentration of methanol or acetonitrile (% v/v) in the mobile phase (Figs. 1–4). Linear relationships showed the regular dependence of retention on the organic

modifier concentration. A similar range of R_M values was determined for both kinds of solutes. For both kinds of mobile phase polar modifiers, the sequence of R_M values for semicarbazide derivatives was (from the biggest to the smallest values) as follows: **2a**, **2b**, **2e**, **2d**, **2c**, **2f**; for 1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives it was as follows: **3a**, **3c**, **3b**, **3e** and **3f**. The sequence of solutes did not depend on the kind of the polar modifier. However, the results indicate that for solutes of the semicarbazide series of investigated compounds, the sequence changes when the concentration of the polar modifier is increased. It was also noticed that the highest R_M values were found when methanol was utilized as polar modifier. The sequence of solutes depended on the kind of substituent. The smallest adsorption (the smallest R_M values) in both groups of solutes was determined for compounds with alkyl substituents, the biggest adsorption was measured for compounds with a bromophenyl group. Relationships of R_M vs. organic modifier concentration (C) allowed to determine the R_{MW} and Φ values according to the Soczewinski-Wachtmeister equation [41]:

$$R_M = R_{MW} + b C \quad (1)$$

where C is the percentage of methanol in the mobile phase and Φ is the ratio R_{MW}/b .

Both coefficients could be used for lipophilicity determination. The values of coefficients as well as the other parameters of the linear correlation of R_M vs. organic modifier concentration are presented in Table 1. R_{MW} values are in the range from 0.409 to 3.186 for semicarbazide derivatives (solute for the semicarbazide group) and from 1.188 to 2.943 for 1,2,4-triazol-5-ones. Among the semicarbazide derivatives, the smallest values were determined for solutes with an ethyl substituent (**2f**), and the highest value was found for a solute with a cyclohexyl substituent (**2d**, methanol as modifier). For 1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives, the smallest R_{MW} value was obtained for alkyl-substituted solutes, the highest values for bromophenyl-substituted ones. The biggest values of coefficients was reached when methanol was used as mobile phase organic modifier. The second parameter Φ was very low for both groups of solutes. For semicarbazide derivatives it was in the range 0.013–0.035, for 1,2,4-triazol-5-one derivatives in the range 0.013–0.019. Theoretically determined lipophilicity parameters ($\log P$) of the investigated solutes are given in Table 2. The R_{MW} and Φ coefficients were compared

Table 1. Parameters of the $R_M = a + bC$, where C is the concentration of modifier (%; v/v) in the mobile phase. R^2 = correlation coefficient square of the equation.

	Slope	Intercept	R^2	R_{MW}	$-\Phi$
Methanol:					
2a	−0.04	2.70	0.96	2.70	0.01
2b	−0.03	1.82	0.98	1.82	0.01
2c	−0.05	3.09	0.99	3.10	0.02
2d	−0.05	3.19	0.99	3.19	0.02
2e	−0.03	1.87	0.99	1.87	0.02
2f	−0.02	1.21	0.99	1.21	0.02
3a	−0.04	2.94	0.99	2.94	0.01
3b	−0.03	2.26	0.99	2.26	0.01
3c	−0.03	2.60	0.99	2.60	0.01
3e	−0.03	2.09	0.99	2.09	0.01
3f	−0.02	1.66	0.99	1.66	0.01
Acetonitrile:					
2a	−0.03	2.01	0.99	2.1	0.02
2b	−0.02	1.25	0.98	1.25	0.02
2c	−0.02	1.22	0.99	1.22	0.02
2d	−0.02	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.02
2e	−0.01	0.51	0.96	0.51	0.03
2f	−0.01	0.41	0.96	0.41	0.03
3a	−0.02	1.51	0.99	1.51	0.02
3b	−0.02	1.35	0.98	1.35	0.02
3c	−0.02	1.42	0.98	1.42	0.02
3e	−0.02	1.42	0.99	1.42	0.02
3f	−0.02	1.19	0.99	1.19	0.02

with theoretically calculated lipophilicity coefficients. The results of this comparison for each group of investigated solutes are presented in Table 3. The best correlations for the 1,2,4-triazole group of solutes measured as Pearson coefficient was achieved for $\log P_{KOWIN}$ and for Φ_{ACN} (0.9973) and for Pallas ANNLOG P (0.9916) and for R_{MWMeOH} . The correlations for the semicarbazide group of solutes was poorer. However the best results were achieved for MMP Q $\log P$ and Φ_{ACN} .

The *in vitro* antimicrobial activities of compounds **2a–f** and **3a–f** were evaluated using the agar-well diffusion method (at concentrations 1000–5000 mg L^{−1} per well). Our results showed that all compounds were inactive against four reference strains of fungi. Similar results were obtained for two reference species of *Staphylococcus* spp. It was found that the tested compounds possess some antibacterial activity against the reference strains of Gram-positive or Gram-negative bacteria as revealed by a complete or partial reduction (20–80 %) of the growth around the wells with or without the clear zone, depending on the strains and the concentration of the compound (1000–5000 mg L^{−1} per well); the zone diameter of growth inhibition was $\geq 12–15$ mm. The antibacterial effect of

Table 2. Theoretically determined log *P* coefficients of investigated solutes.

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	3a	3b	3c	3e	3f
Molinspiration	2.36	1.55	1.98	1.76	1.55	0.73	2.47	1.97	2.10	1.67	0.77
ALOGPS	1.98	1.40	1.77	1.09	1.40	0.43	3.20	2.48	2.99	2.43	1.52
log <i>P</i> _{KOWIN}	2.32	1.43	1.10	1.90	1.43	0.61	3.45	2.86	3.14	2.56	1.64
Pallas ANNLOG <i>P</i>	1.61	0.60	1.20	2.01	0.64	0.18	2.32	1.52	1.92	1.29	0.49
Pallas ATOMIC6	2.58	1.63	1.98	2.01	1.68	0.96	3.14	2.13	2.53	2.24	0.95
Pallas CDI-REKKER	1.14	0.02	0.79	0.60	0.19	−0.60	2.15	1.24	1.79	1.20	0.10
Pallas COMBINED	1.74	0.74	1.31	2.01	0.78	0.28	2.43	1.60	2.00	1.42	0.56
CHEM3D log <i>P</i>	1.53	0.70	0.91	0.58	0.70	−0.14	2.65	1.89	2.04	1.83	0.50
CHEM3D Partition Coefficient (Octanol/Water)	2.23	1.09	1.71	1.41	1.09	0.44	3.53	2.67	2.88	2.67	1.22
SciLog <i>P</i>	5.88	5.53	5.85	5.64	5.51	5.24	5.75	5.50	5.73	5.33	4.80
MMP Q log <i>P</i>	−1.07	−1.69	−1.37	−1.33	−1.88	−2.46	2.73	2.59	2.63	2.11	1.01
MMP log oct/wat	6.11	5.59	5.71	5.47	5.69	5.05	5.60	5.33	5.08	5.08	4.40
TITAN log <i>P</i>	0.87	0.11	0.26	−0.07	0.05	−0.79	2.00	1.24	1.38	1.17	−0.15
HYPERCHEM	1.90	1.11	1.20	1.01	1.11	0.24	2.55	1.85	1.85	1.76	0.42
ACD/log <i>P</i>	2.18	1.12	1.53	1.36	1.05	0.36	1.75	1.13	0.36	0.74	−0.48

the tested compounds showing some activity against various species of bacteria assessed by the agar-well diffusion method was further determined spectrophotometrically by the broth dilution method (31.25 to 500 mg L^{−1}). According to our results, the most effective antibacterial compounds were compound **2a** (MIC = 500 mg L^{−1} for *B. cereus* ATCC 10876 and *P. mirabilis* ATCC 12453 and about 84 % inhibition of *M. luteus* ATCC 10240 growth at the same concentration), compound **3c** (MIC = 500 mg L^{−1} and about 40–50 % inhibition of the growth of *E. coli* ATCC 25922 in lower concentrations of this compound and by about 60–65 % inhibition of the growth of *K. pneumoniae* ATCC 13883 in concentrations 31.25–500 mg L^{−1}) and compound **3d** (MIC = 500 mg L^{−1} for *P. aeruginosa* ATCC 9027 and about 70–60 % inhibition of the growth of *K. pneumoniae* ATCC 13883 at values ranging from 31.25–500 mg L^{−1}).

Conclusion

The lipophilicity of newly obtained derivatives of 1,2,4-triazol-5-one and semicarbazide was determined. The relationship *R*_M vs. *C* of a mobile phase polar modifier (methanol or acetonitrile) is linear and allowed to calculate the lipophilicity coefficients. The smallest values of lipophilicity were determined for compounds with alkyl substituents in both groups of solutes. Good correlation between theoretical and experimental lipophilicity was achieved for the 1,2,4-triazol-5-one series of solutes. The results obtained in the study should be of value to further detailed studies on the biological activity of all compounds.

Experimental Section

Synthesis

All chemicals were purchased from Merck Co. or Lancaster (Gdańsk, Poland) and used without further purification. Melting points were determined in a Fisher-Johns block and are presented without correction. IR spectra were recorded in KBr on a Perkin-Elmer 1725X FTIR spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 instrument in [D₆]DMSO with TMS as internal standard. The mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan Trace DSQ spectrometer operating at 70 eV.

(1-Methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid hydrazide (**1**) was prepared from the reaction of the corresponding carboxylic acid ester with hydrazine hydrate by the method described earlier [42].

Preparation of 1-[(1-methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)acetyl]-4-substituted semicarbazides **2a–c**

A mixture of (1-methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid hydrazide **1** (1.53 g, 10 mmol) and the appropriate isocyanate (10 mmol) in 10 mL of *N,N*-dimethylacetamide was kept at r. t. for 24 h, and then water (40 mL) was added. The precipitate was filtered off and crystallized from ethanol. The physical constants of the products are given below.

Compound 2a: M. p. 200–201 °C. – Yield 86 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3287, 3037, 2960, 1490, 1696 cm^{−1}. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 3.49 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.54 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 5.96–6.63 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.39–7.45 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 8.13, 8.87, 9.79 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₄H₁₅N₄O₂Br (351.2): calcd. C 47.87, H 3.30, N 15.95; found C 47.83, H 4.25, N 15.98.

Compound 2b: M. p. 150–151 °C. – Yield 76 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3251, 3029, 2974, 1494, 1682 cm^{−1}. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 3.31 (s, 2H CH₂), 3.43 (s, 3H,

Table 3. Correlation coefficient (R^2) between the experimental (R_{MW} , Φ) and theoretical lipophilicity. Bold numbers = the best correlation factors.

Experi- mental	MOL- INSPIRA- TION	ALOGPS	Log P_{KOWIN}	Pallas ANNLOG P	Pallas ATOMIC6	Pallas CDL- REKKER	Pallas combined	CHEM3D log P	CHEM3D Partition Coefficient (Octanol/ water)	SClog P	MMP Q log P	MMP Oct/wat log P	TITAN log P	HYDER- CHEM P	ACD/log P
1,2,4-Triazole															
R_{MW}															
MeOH	0.9553	0.9130	0.6707	0.9916	0.9556	0.9756	0.9894	0.9363	0.9353	0.9435	0.8828	0.8710	0.9365	0.9173	0.7977
Φ MeOH	0.9603	0.9130	0.9570	0.9243	0.8707	0.9062	0.9177	0.9052	0.8989	0.9644	0.9832	0.8984	0.9049	0.8964	0.7915
R_{MW}															
ACN	0.9254	0.9512	0.9272	0.9281	0.9847	0.9600	0.9398	0.9704	0.9755	0.9059	0.8730	0.8842	0.9702	0.9628	0.8333
Φ ACN	0.9942	0.9785	0.9973	0.9904	0.9579	0.9786	0.9880	0.9661	0.9631	0.9856	0.9675	0.9277	0.9661	0.9539	0.8406
Semicarbazide															
R_{MW}															
MeOH	0.7982	0.6033	0.8790	0.9207	0.7918	0.8712	0.9241	0.6114	0.7879	0.8501	0.8817	0.5359	0.5963	0.5926	0.7563
Φ MeOH	0.8892	0.8710	0.8460	0.5985	0.8781	0.7942	0.6410	0.9163	0.8196	0.7699	0.8574	0.9110	0.9281	0.9415	0.8691
R_{MW}															
ACN	0.8422	0.8032	0.8034	0.5551	0.8417	0.7879	0.5970	0.8788	0.8776	0.8139	0.8238	0.8130	0.8849	0.8685	0.8974
Φ ACN	0.9215	0.8269	0.9337	0.7880	0.8971	0.8781	0.8156	0.8455	0.8697	0.8837	0.9657	0.7871	0.8538	0.8495	0.8904

NCH₃), 4.26 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.77–6.62 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.14–7.34 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.86, 8.80, 9.64 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₅H₁₈N₄O₂ (286.3): calcd. C 62.92, H 6.33, N 19.56; found C 62.88, H 6.39, N 19.49.

Compound 2c: M.p. 192–193 °C. – Yield 82 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3283, 3036, 2974, 1494, 1682 cm⁻¹. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 1.29 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 3.47 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.54 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.96 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 5.81–6.62 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.14–7.37 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.94, 8.71, 9.74 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₆H₂₀N₄O₃ (316.3): calcd. C 60.74, H 6.37, N 17.71; found C 60.68, H 6.41, N 17.67.

Preparation of 1-[(1-methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)acetyl]-4-substituted semicarbazides **2d–f**

(1-Methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid hydrazide **1** (1.53 g, 10 mmol) and the appropriate isocyanate (10 mmol) in 10 mL of anhydrous diethyl ether were kept at r. t. for 24 h. Then the formed compound was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether and crystallized from ethanol. The physical constants of the compounds prepared are given below.

Compound 2c: M.p. 178–179 °C. – Yield 81 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3321, 3014, 2930, 1495, 1682 cm⁻¹. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 1.05–1.72 (m, 10H, 5CH₂), 3.41 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.53 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.61–3.69 (m, 1H, CH) 5.83–6.61 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.61, 8.78, 9.57 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₄H₂₂N₄O₂ (278.3): calcd. C 60.40, H 7.96, N 20.12; found C 60.25, H 7.88, N 20.08.

Compound 2e: M.p. 165–167 °C. – Yield 84 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3306, 3116, 2938, 1446, 1695 cm⁻¹. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 3.48 (s, 2H CH₂), 3.55 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 5.82–7.01 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.24–7.48 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 8.03, 8.93, 9.78 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₄H₁₆N₄O₂ (272.3): calcd. C 61.75, H 5.92, N 20.57; found C 61.82, H 5.89, N 20.63.

Compound 2f: M.p. 165–166 °C. – Yield 78 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3300, 3004, 2941, 1441, 1684 cm⁻¹. – ¹H NMR (300 MHz, [D₆]DMSO): δ = 0.99 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 3.03 (q, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 3.35 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.45 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 5.79–6.61 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 8.07, 9.05, 9.70 (3 × s, 3H, 3NH). – C₁₀H₁₆N₄O₂ (224.2): calcd. C 53.55, H 7.19, N 24.98; found C 53.48, H 7.28, N 25.01.

Preparation of 3-[(1-methyl-pyrrol-2-yl)methyl]-4-substituted-4,5-dihydro-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-ones **3**

A mixture of semicarbazide **2** (10 mmol) and 40–50 mL of a 2 % (in the case of compound **2b** 10 %) aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide was boiled for 15–20 h (2 h for **2b**). After cooling, the solution was neutralized with dilute hydrochloric acid. The precipitate was filtered off and then crystallized from ethanol.

Compound 3a: M.p. 180–181 °C. – Yield 89 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3065, 2948, 1492, 1704, 1572, 1492 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 3.38 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.79 (s, 2H, CH_2), 5.54–6.56 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.69 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 11.60 (s, 1H, NH). – $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4\text{OBr}$ (333.2): calcd. C 50.46, H 3.93, N 16.81; found C 50.58, H 3.78, N 16.77.

Compound 3b: M.p. 185–187 °C. – Yield 80 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3084, 2938, 1448, 1709, 1572, 1493 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 3.44 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.75 (s, 2H, CH_2), 4.75 (s, 2H, CH_2), 5.74–6.63 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.13–7.34 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 11.62 (s, 1H, NH). – ^{13}C NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 23.63 (CH_2), 33.30 (CH_3), 43.16 (CH_2), 106.26, 107.80, 122.41, 124.77; 126.82, 127.47, 128.62, 136.58 (all Ar-CH), 145.11 (C=N), 155.17 (C=O). – MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 268 (35) $[\text{M}^+]$, 91 (100). – $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ (268.3): calcd. C 67.14, H 6.01, N 20.88; found C 67.21, H 5.98, N 20.66.

Compound 3c: M.p. 183–184 °C. – Yield 76 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3079, 2982, 1459, 1706, 1577, 1513 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 1.34 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 3.36 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.71 (s, 2H, CH_2), 4.06 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 5.46–6.56 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.96–7.18 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 11.62 (s, 1H, NH). – $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ (298.3): calcd. C 64.41, H 6.08, N 18.77; found C 64.68, H 6.28, N 18.59.

Compound 3d: M.p. 218–219 °C. – Yield 89 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3068, 2942, 1451, 1704, 1574, 1514 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 1.06–2.06 (m, 10H, 5 CH_2), 3.50 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.60–3.70 (m, 1H, CH), 3.91 (s, 2H, CH_2), 5.82–6.66 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 11.34 (s, 1H, NH). – $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ (260.3): calcd. C 64.58, H 7.74, N 21.52; found C 64.71, H 7.49, N 21.62.

Compound 3e: M.p. 157–158 °C. – Yield 80 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3078, 2921, 1456, 1705, 1579, 1500 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 3.36 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 4.76 (s, 2H, CH_2), 5.41–6.55 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.26–7.48 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 11.73 (s, 1H, NH). – ^{13}C NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 23.57 (CH_2), 33.16 (CH_3), 106.18, 107.46, 121.94, 125.04, 127.41, 128.50, 129.17, 132.83 (all Ar-CH), 144.99 (C=N), 154.32 (C=O). – MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 254 (59) $[\text{M}^+]$, 94 (100). – $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ (254.3): calcd. C 66.13, H 5.54, N 22.03; found C 66.32, H 5.68, N 21.91.

Compound 3f: M.p. 150–151 °C. – Yield 90 %. – IR (KBr): ν = 3070, 2930, 1470, 1703, 1572, 1520 cm^{-1} . – ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 0.97 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 3.51 (q, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 3.74 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.91 (s, 2H, CH_2), 6.83–6.67 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 11.47 (s, 1H, NH). – ^{13}C NMR (300 MHz, $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): δ = 13.86 (CH_3), 23.55 (CH_2), 33.38 (CH_3), 35.27 (CH_2), 106.29, 107.74, 122.37, 125.36 (all Ar-CH), 144.94 (C=N), 154.87 (C=O). – MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 206 (43) $[\text{M}^+]$, 108 (100). – $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ (206.2): calcd. C 58.23, H 6.84, N 27.16; found C 58.47, H 6.95, N 27.01.

Chromatographic analysis of lipophilicity

Thin-layer chromatography was performed on 10×10 cm TLC plates (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) precoated with RP-18 F₂₄₅ gel. Methanol-water or acetonitrile-water mixtures were used as mobile phases. The methanol or acetonitrile content was varied from 50 to 70 % (v/v) in 5 % steps. Plates were developed to a distance of 9 cm at r.t. in a horizontal DS chamber (Chromdes, Lublin, Poland) and after drying visualized under λ = 254 nm UV light. Unfortunately there was no possibility to visualize the solute **3d** (lack of spot under UV light). Each experiment was performed in quadruplicate, coefficients of variation (CV) of experimentally obtained R_F values were below 6 %. R_F values were used to calculate R_M by use of Eq. 2.

$$R_M = \log \left(\frac{1}{R_F} - 1 \right) \quad (2)$$

The partition coefficients were calculated for the compounds by use of different theoretical procedures: $\log P_{\text{KOWIN}}$, Pallas ANNLOG P , Pallas ATOMIC 6, Pallas CDI-REKKER, Pallas COMBINED, CHEM 3D $\log P$, CHEM 3D Partition Coefficient (octanol/water), $\log P$, SCILOG P Application Version 3.0, TITAN $\log P$ (Ghose-Crippen), HYPERCHEM, MOLINSPIRATION lipophilicity (coefficients were determined by internet website [<http://www.molinspiration.com/cgi-bin/properties?textMode=1>]).

Antimicrobial activity

The newly synthesized compounds were screened for their *in vitro* activity against 9 reference species of aerobic bacteria (5 Gram-positive: *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923, *Bacillus subtilis* ATCC 6633, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 10876, *Micrococcus luteus* ATCC 10240 and 4 Gram-negative: *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ATCC 13883, *Proteus mirabilis* ATCC 12453, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 9027), and 4 reference species of fungi (*Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Candida albicans* ATCC 2091, *Candida parapsilosis* ATCC 22019, *Aspergillus niger* ATCC 16404). The inoculum density was adjusted to 0.5 McFarland standard with sterile saline (0.85 % NaCl), and then the suspensions were diluted 1 : 10 (for the agar well diffusion method) or 1 : 100 (for the broth dilution method) in Mueller-Hinton broth without (for bacteria) or with 2 % glucose (for fungi). All stock solutions of the assayed compounds were prepared in 100 % dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Using the agar well diffusion method, microbial suspensions were put onto Mueller-Hinton agar without (for bacteria) or with 2 % glucose buffered at pH = 5.6 (for fungi). Then, a well was prepared in the plates with the help of a cork-borer (0.85 cm) in the agar medium, and 80 μL of the tested compounds in concentrations of 1000–5000 mg L^{-1} were added to the wells. The same volumes of sterile 0.85 % NaCl or DMSO

were used as a control. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 18 h for bacteria and at 30 °C for 48 h for *Candida spp.* or 5 d for *Aspergillus niger*, depending on the compound-free growth control. After incubation microbial growth was determined by measuring the diameter of zones of growth inhibition. The antibacterial assay for the compounds, which had shown promising activity against bacterias assessed by the first method, were also tested spectrophotometrically us-

ing the broth dilution method. After incubation (37 °C for 18 h) optical density (OD₆₀₀) measurements were carried out for bacterial cultures in broth medium containing 31.25 to 500 mg L⁻¹ of the compounds. The MIC (Minimal Inhibitory Concentration) values, defined as the lowest concentration of compound at which there is no visible growth of the tested bacteria, were determined by comparison with the growth of the control (compound-free) medium.

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