

# Synthesis, antimicrobial, and antioxidant activity of benzofuran barbitone and benzofuran thiobarbitone derivatives

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**Abstract** The synthesis of novel series of benzofuran derivatives, containing barbitone moiety, 5-[(2/4-substitutedphenyl)(5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) methylidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1*H*,3*H*,5*H*)-trione (**4a–i**) and thiobarbitone moiety, 5-[(2/4-substitutedphenyl)(5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl)methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1*H*, 5*H*)-dione (**5a–i**) have been reported. The target compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**) were synthesized by the Knoevenagel condensation of (5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone (**3a–i**) with barbituric acid and thiobarbituric acid, respectively, in acid medium. These compounds were screened for the antimicrobial and antioxidant activities. From antimicrobial activity results it was found that compounds **4a**, **5a**, **4c**, and **5c** displayed good antibacterial and antifungal activity against all tested strains. Further, the synthesized compounds were studied for docking on the enzyme, Glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase and the compounds **4c** and **5c** have emerged as an active antimicrobial agent with least binding energy (−5.27 and −4.85 kJ mol<sup>−1</sup>). Compounds **4e**, **4f**, **5e**, and **5f** showed promising free radical scavenging activity and

compounds **5a** and **5b** showed good chelating ability with Fe<sup>2+</sup> ions.

**Keywords** Benzofuran · Barbiturates · Knoevenagel condensation · Antimicrobial · Antioxidant · Docking

## Introduction

The resistance of pathogenic bacteria toward available antibiotics is rapidly becoming a major worldwide problem. On the other hand, primary and opportunistic fungal infections continue to grow rapidly because of the increased number of immune compromised patients (Grange and Zumla, 2002; Guzeldemirci and Kucukbasmaci, 2010). In order to combat this new problem, novel, structurally diverse antibiotic compounds are required (Francesca, 2011).

Benzofuran heterocycles exhibit a broad range of biological activities. Recently, compounds containing methanone linkage between the benzofuran at C-2 position and aromatic rings have been investigated and reported as antimicrobials (Koca *et al.*, 2005; Kirilmis *et al.*, 2008; Bondock *et al.*, 2011; Jiang *et al.*, 2011; Liu *et al.*, 2012; Rajanarendar *et al.*, 2013), novel SIRT1 inhibitors (Wu *et al.*, 2013), anticancer (Parekh *et al.*, 2011), and antioxidant agents (Karatas *et al.*, 2006). Also, benzofuran-2-yl(phenyl)methanone analogs displayed anti-tumor (Agatsuma *et al.*, 2004), antitubercular (Manna and Agrawal, 2010, 2011), anti-inflammatory, analgesic (Rajanarendar *et al.*, 2013), CYP19 inhibitory activity, molecular docking (Saber *et al.*, 2006), and cytotoxicity properties (Bigler *et al.*, 2007; Saber *et al.*, 2006). Cloridarol, a 2-substituted benzofuran is used for treatment of lipidemia and has

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anticoagulant, antifungal and aromatase inhibiting activities (Ghelardoni *et al.*, 1981). Amiodarone, a benzofuran derivative was shown to have antiarrhythmic property (Singh and Vaughan, 1970).

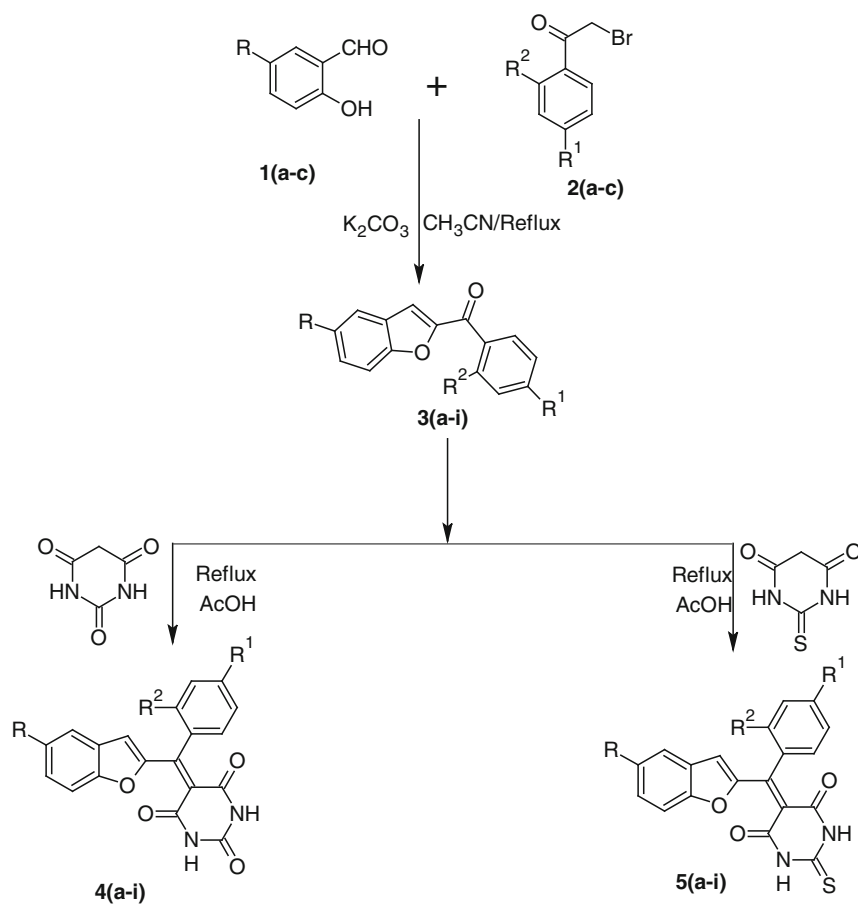
Barbituric acid (BA) derivatives are versatile reagents, capable of condensing with a wide range of carbonyl compounds (Vijaya Laxmi *et al.*, 2012; Mathew *et al.*, 2012; Moskvina *et al.*, 2002) and the reaction of BA with carbonyl compounds was studied nearly 40 years ago (Rezende *et al.*, 2001; Reddy and Nagaraj, 2007). The condensed barbiturates and thiobarbiturates possess different pharmacological profile such as antimicrobial, selective cell adhesion inhibitors, antioxidant, and DNA cleavage activities (Sangani *et al.*, 2006; Harriman *et al.*, 2008; Biradar *et al.*, 2010; Mathew *et al.*, 2012). They also possess chemical and pharmacological importance due to their anti-neoplastic, anticancer, antitumor, antitubercular

(Basavaraja *et al.*, 2010; Vijaya Laxmi *et al.*, 2011), anti-inflammatory (Holy *et al.*, 2002), antiviral activity (Andres and Marhold, 1996) as well as in agrochemical and veterinary products (El-Gaby *et al.*, 2006; Aly and Kamal, 2012; Dhorajiya *et al.*, 2012).

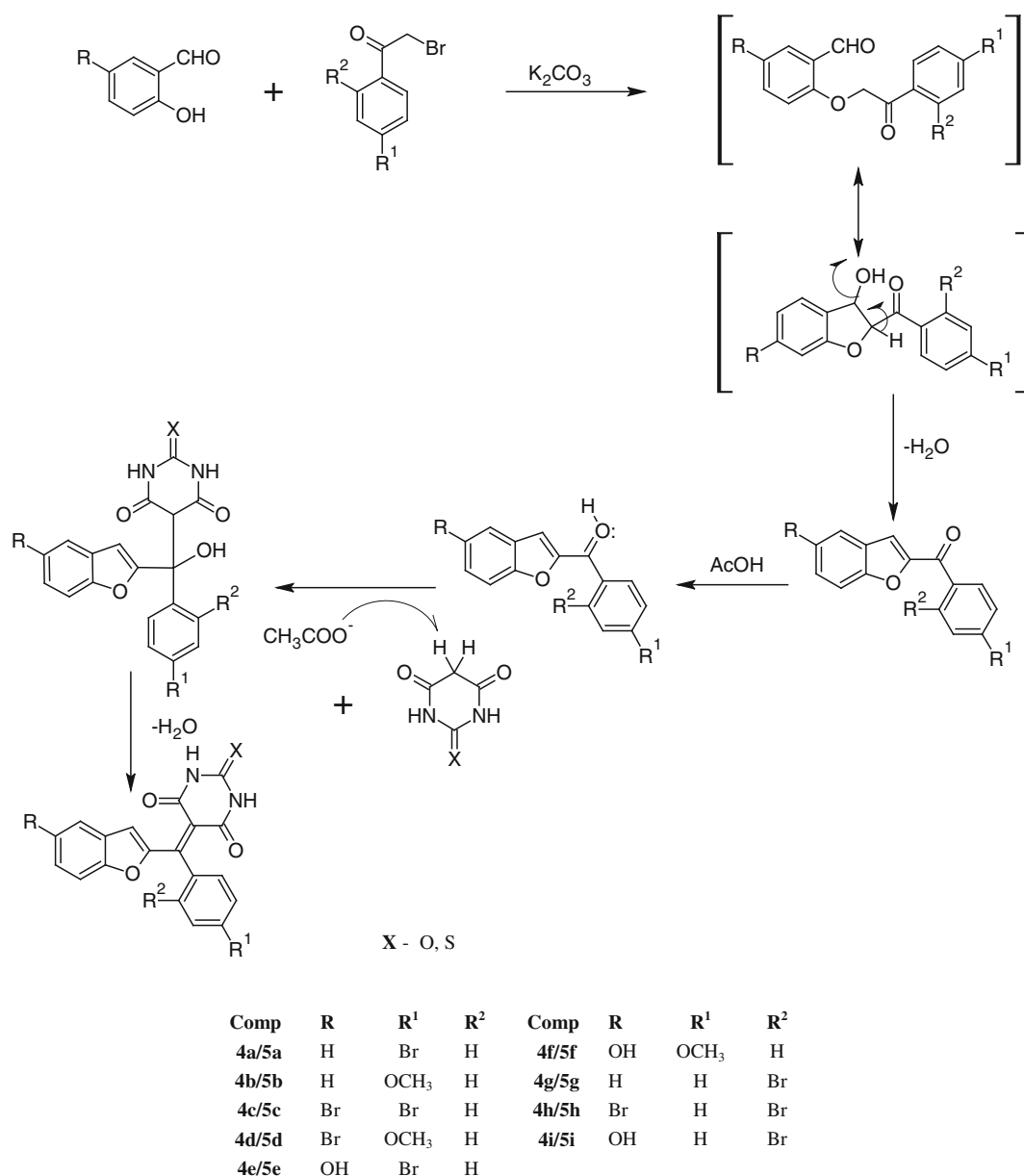
Therefore, it is envisaged that chemical entities with benzofuran and barbituric/thiobarbituric moieties would result in compounds of interesting biological activities. In view of these findings, we have attempted to incorporate these two biologically active components together and to investigate a possible additive effect of these rings on biological activity.

Earlier, our research group has synthesized different derivatives of benzofuran bearing aryl substituents at the C-2 position through a methanone linkage (Kenchappa *et al.*, 2013a, b; Sheelavanth *et al.*, 2013; Chandrashekar *et al.*, 2013; Venkatesh *et al.*, 2010a, b). These results

**Scheme 1** Synthesis of benzofuran barbitone (**4a–i**) and benzofuran thiobarbitone (**5a–i**) derivatives



Comp	R	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Comp	R	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
<b>4a/5a</b>	H	Br	H	<b>4f/5f</b>	OH	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>4b/5b</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	<b>4g/5g</b>	H	H	Br
<b>4c/5c</b>	Br	Br	H	<b>4h/5h</b>	Br	H	Br
<b>4d/5d</b>	Br	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	<b>4i/5i</b>	OH	H	Br
<b>4e/5e</b>	OH	Br	H				



**Fig. 1** Proposed reaction mechanism of synthesized compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**)

encouraged us to extend the scope of this methodology to build new systems for improving the spectrum of activity of these scaffolds.

## Result and discussion

### Chemistry

The reaction pathway used for the synthesis of title compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**) have been shown in Scheme 1. The key intermediates, 5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone (**3a–i**) were synthesized by a known method (Stille *et al.*, 1996; Mahboobi *et al.*, 2007).

The present study described the Knoevenagel condensation of (5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone (**3a–i**) with barbituric/thiobarbituric acid. Initially, (5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone undergoes protonation by acetic acid. The protonated form of the methanone then facilitates the addition reaction toward a nucleophile. The acetate ion which was formed in the former step can accept a proton from the methylene unit of barbituric/thiobarbituric acid and generate a carbanion. The electron-rich carbanion attacks on the electron deficient carbonyl carbon of (5-substituted-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone to form an adduct, which upon dehydration furnished the target compounds. The proposed mechanism has been described in Fig. 1.

**Table 1** Characterization data of synthesized compounds **4a–i** and **5a–i**

Compd.	R	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Yield (%)	Mol. wt.
<b>4a</b>	H	Br	H	79	410
<b>4b</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	90	362
<b>4c</b>	Br	Br	H	86	488
<b>4d</b>	Br	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	83	440
<b>4e</b>	OH	Br	H	85	426
<b>4f</b>	OH	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	76	378
<b>4g</b>	H	H	Br	91	410
<b>4h</b>	Br	H	Br	75	488
<b>4i</b>	OH	H	Br	83	426
<b>5a</b>	H	Br	H	79	426
<b>5b</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	89	378
<b>5c</b>	Br	Br	H	77	504
<b>5d</b>	Br	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	84	456
<b>5e</b>	OH	Br	H	76	442
<b>5f</b>	OH	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	81	394
<b>5g</b>	H	H	Br	75	426
<b>5h</b>	Br	H	Br	87	504
<b>5i</b>	OH	H	Br	85	442

The structures of synthesized compounds were established on the basis of spectral data. In IR spectra of compounds, the characteristic absorption bands between 1670 and 1710 cm<sup>-1</sup> confirmed the presence of C=O group of BA. In thiobarbiturates (TBA), C=S stretching frequency was observed between 1395 and 1452 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Bands in the region 3230–3345 cm<sup>-1</sup> attributed to NH group of the BA and TBA. The broad absorption band observed at 3425–3465 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to OH group. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **5d** showed two singlets at  $\delta$  10.03 and 10.61 ppm due to two NH protons of TBA, the multiplet between  $\delta$  7.13 and 8.07 ppm were assigned to aromatic protons. The singlet observed at  $\delta$  3.88 ppm corresponds to OCH<sub>3</sub> protons. In compound **5f**, the –OH proton on the benzofuran ring exhibited as broad singlet at  $\delta$  5.8 ppm and a singlet at  $\delta$  3.72 ppm corresponding to OCH<sub>3</sub> protons. Further, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **5d** confirmed the proposed structure by appearance of signal at  $\delta$  178.2 ppm due to the C=S carbon and another signal at  $\delta$  167.1 ppm correspond to C=O carbon of TBA ring. Another signal at  $\delta$  55.9 ppm attributed to OCH<sub>3</sub> carbon. In compound **4d**, the signal at  $\delta$  165.0 ppm was assignable to C=O carbon and the other signals are in well agreement with the suggested structures. Mass spectrum of compound **5d** displayed a molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  457 [M<sup>+</sup>] corresponding to the molecular mass of the compound along with an isotopic peak at  $m/z$  459 [M+2]. The physical and analytical data of synthesized compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**) have been given in Table 1.

## Pharmacology

### *In vitro* antibacterial and antifungal activity

Though, we have many synthetic drugs in the market, the bacterial mutations are making them resistance. To overcome this problem, there is an urgent need to discover the new and specific enzyme targeting novel synthetic molecules. In view of this, the compounds synthesized in the present investigation (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**) were evaluated for their antimicrobial activity as primary screening at three different concentrations and the results have been displayed in Tables 2 and 3. The antimicrobial activity was carried out against five bacterial strains *Pseudomonas syringae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, and four fungal strains *Asperigillus flavous*, *Candida albicans*, *Microspora griseus*, and *Asperigillus terus*.

The investigation of antimicrobial screening revealed that, test compounds showed varying degree of activity against all the tested micro-organisms. The zone of inhibition shown by the test compounds against bacterial and fungal strains has shown in Fig. 2a, b.

Further, the compounds which showed good activity in primary screening were assessed by minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) at different concentrations to quantify the antimicrobial potency of the compounds. The results of MIC values of antimicrobial activity are given in Table 4.

From literature survey it is clear that, the structural and electronic parameters may have greater impact in varying the efficacy of antimicrobial activity (Tomasz *et al.*, 2011; Stefania *et al.*, 2012; Stefania *et al.*, 2012; Lopez *et al.*, 2001; Sharma *et al.*, 2004; Dhorajiya *et al.*, 2012).

A close investigation of the MIC values indicates that all the compounds exhibited a varied degree of MIC (11.38–199.10  $\mu$ mol/L) of antibacterial activity against all the tested bacterial strains. The compounds **4c**, **5c** having two bromo substituents on C-5 of benzofuran and C-4 of phenyl ring, respectively were found to exhibit excellent antibacterial activity against all the tested bacterial strains with MIC value 29.76–31.96  $\mu$ mol/L. Compounds **4a**, **5a** having –Br substituent on C-4 position of the aryl ring showed very good ability to inhibit *S. typhi* at MIC 36.61–37.92  $\mu$ mol/L; the same compounds showed good activity against *P. syringae* with MIC 37.20–38.50  $\mu$ mol/L. In case of compounds **4e** and **5e**, which are having hydroxyl and bromo-substituent, exhibited moderate to good activity against *S. typhi* with MIC value 36.08–36.73  $\mu$ mol/L. Compounds **4d** and **5d** were inactive against *K. pneumoniae*, *P. syringae*, and *E. coli*.

The MIC of antifungal activity of title compounds indicated that, the compounds **4c** and **5c** exhibited equipotent activity against all the tested fungal strains with MIC value

**Table 2** Antibacterial activity data of synthesized compounds **4a–i** and **5a–i**

Comp. no.	Conc. M (Molar)	Zone of inhibition in mm (mean $\pm$ SD) $n = 3$				
		<i>P.s</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>S.t</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>B.s</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>K.p</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>E.c</i> $\pm$ SD
<b>4a</b>	3.9	14 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	11 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.6	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4b</b>	4.4	09 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.3	–
	1.7	08 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2	06 $\pm$ 0.2	05 $\pm$ 0.1	–
	0.7	–	–	–	02 $\pm$ 0.1	–
<b>4c</b>	3.2	14 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.3	11 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	10 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4d</b>	3.6	11 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.4	10 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	08 $\pm$ 0.1	06 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4e</b>	3.7	13 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	10 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4f</b>	4.2	09 $\pm$ 0.2	–	09 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.3	–
	1.7	06 $\pm$ 0.3	–	06 $\pm$ 0.2	05 $\pm$ 0.1	–
	0.6	–	–	–	02 $\pm$ 0.1	–
<b>4g</b>	3.9	11 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	08 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2	07 $\pm$ 0.1	05 $\pm$ 0.1	07 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.6	05 $\pm$ 0.1	06 $\pm$ 0.3	03 $\pm$ 0.3	02 $\pm$ 0.1	02 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4h</b>	3.2	11 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.3	09 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	06 $\pm$ 0.1	06 $\pm$ 0.3	03 $\pm$ 0.3	05 $\pm$ 0.1	02 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4i</b>	3.7	10 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.2	08 $\pm$ 0.3	07 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	08 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2	–	05 $\pm$ 0.1	07 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	–	06 $\pm$ 0.3	–	02 $\pm$ 0.1	–1
<b>5a</b>	3.7	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	11 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5b</b>	4.2	09 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.7	07 $\pm$ 0.3	04 $\pm$ 0.2	08 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.1	04 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.6	04 $\pm$ 0.3	–	04 $\pm$ 0.1	05 $\pm$ 0.1	03 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5c</b>	3.1	13 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	10 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5d</b>	3.5	12 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.4	11 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5e</b>	3.6	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.4	10 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5f</b>	4.0	08 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.2	–	09 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.6	07 $\pm$ 0.3	–	07 $\pm$ 0.1	–	04 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.6	05 $\pm$ 0.3	–	03 $\pm$ 0.1	–	01 $\pm$ 0.1

**Table 2** continued

Comp. no.	Conc. M (Molar)	Zone of inhibition in mm (mean $\pm$ SD) $n = 3$				
		<i>P.s</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>S.t</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>B.s</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>K.p</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>E.c</i> $\pm$ SD
<b>5g</b>	3.7	10 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.5	09 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	–	06 $\pm$ 0.3	05 $\pm$ 0.3	–	06 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5h</b>	3.1	12 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.2	10 $\pm$ 0.3	11 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	–	09 $\pm$ 0.3	–	09 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5i</b>	3.6	10 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3	10 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.4	06 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.1	05 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.5	03 $\pm$ 0.3	07 $\pm$ 0.3	–	04 $\pm$ 0.1	03 $\pm$ 0.1
Streptomycin	2.7	15 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.1	18 $\pm$ 0.2	19 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2
	1.1	13 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.3
	0.4	11 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.1
Control (DMF)	–	00	00	00	00	00

Each value is expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three replicates for zone of inhibition

*P.s* *Pseudomonas syringae*, *S.t* *Salmonella typhi*, *B.s* *Bacillus subtilis*, *K.p* *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *E.c* *Escherichia coli*, *SD* standard deviation

12.50–66.49  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Compounds **4a** and **5a** showed excellent activity against the tested organisms with MIC value 14.90–29.92  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . In case of compounds **4e** and **5e** which are having hydroxyl and bromo substituent exhibited moderate activity against the tested fungal strains with MIC value 15.37–31.22  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ .

From the structure–antimicrobial activity relationship of the synthesized compounds, it revealed that, to evaluate the SAR studies, the effect of structural changes in the target compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**) play an important role. Regarding the impact of substituents on the benzofuran ring and substituents on *ortho* and *para* position of aryl ring, it was observed that electron withdrawing groups in the *ortho* position of benzofuran ring and in the *para* position of aryl ring have a tendency to increase the potency. Nevertheless, when the –Br group is in *o*-position of aryl ring (**4g**, **4i**, **5g**, and **5i**), we found decrease in activity, suggesting that the presence of a group in the *o*-position of the aryl ring could introduce important steric effects. Interestingly, compounds **4h** and **5h** exhibited moderate activity even though the substituent present on the *o*-position, this could be due to the influence of electron withdrawing group present on the C-5 of benzofuran ring. Compounds containing electron donating groups (**4f**, **4i**, **5f** and **5i**) found to weaken the antimicrobial activity. However, when –Br group is introduced to *o*-position of aryl ring (**4i** and **5i**), the activity did not change significantly.

In correlation to in vitro antimicrobial activity, it thought worthwhile to carryout in silico studies to predict the binding affinity and orientation at the active site of the receptor. Glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase (L-glutamine: D-fructose-6-phosphate amino transferase) catalyze the first step in

hexamine biosynthesis, converting D-fructose-6-phosphate (Fru-6-P) into D-glucosamine 6-phosphate (GlcN-6-P) using glutamine as the ammonia source.

Automated docking was used to assess the orientation of inhibitors bound in the active pockets of GlcN-6-P synthase. The molecular docking of ligand molecules **4a**, **4c**, **4e**, **5a**, **5c**, and **5e** with GlcN-6-P synthase revealed that all the tested ligand molecules showed encouraging binding energy and the compounds have exhibited the bonding with one or the other amino acids in the active pockets as shown in Fig. 3.

Among the six molecules, **4a**, **4c**, **4e**, **5a**, **5c**, and **5e**, the docking of GlcN-6-P synthase with compounds **4c** and **5c** was found with least binding energy (–5.27 and –4.85 kJ mol<sup>–1</sup>). Compound **4c** establishes three hydrogen bonds between barbitone oxygen and with gln 348, ser 349 and thr 352 amino acids in the active site of the target protein with minimum bond length (2.118, 2.207, and 2.195 Å). Compound **5c** establishes two hydrogen bonds between thiobarbitone oxygen with gln 348 and thr 352 amino acids with bond length (2.149, 2.105, and 2.195 Å) with the highest affinity and hence is the best dock conformation. In in vitro studies too, compound **4c** and **5c** have emerged has an active antimicrobial agent against all tested organisms. Molecular docking results of synthesized compounds are given in Table 5.

#### Antioxidant activity

##### Free radical scavenging activity by DPPH method

All the synthesized compounds were screened for their radical scavenging activity by DPPH method. The freshly

**Table 3** Antifungal activity data of synthesized compounds **4a–i** and **5a–i**

Comp. no.	Conc. (mg/mL)	Zone of inhibition in mm (mean $\pm$ SD) <i>n</i> = 3			
		<i>A.f</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>C.a</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>M.g</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>A.t</i> $\pm$ SD
<b>4a</b>	3.9	12 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.5	10 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.6	09 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4b</b>	4.4	07 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.1	09 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.7	06 $\pm$ 0.3	06 $\pm$ 0.2	06 $\pm$ 0.1	–
	0.7	–	02 $\pm$ 0.2	–	–
<b>4c</b>	3.2	12 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	19 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.3	11 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	08 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4d</b>	3.6	12 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.4	10 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4e</b>	3.7	12 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.5	11 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4f</b>	4.2	07 $\pm$ 0.2	08 $\pm$ 0.1	07 $\pm$ 0.2	06 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.7	–	–	04 $\pm$ 0.1	–
	0.6	–	02 $\pm$ 0.2	–	–
<b>4g</b>	3.9	11 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.5	09 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.6	06 $\pm$ 0.1	–	–	–
<b>4h</b>	3.2	11 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.3	09 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	07 $\pm$ 0.1	06 $\pm$ 0.3	–	10 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>4i</b>	3.7	10 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.5	07 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	–	–	–	03 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5a</b>	0.37	13 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	19 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.5	11 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	08 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5b</b>	4.2	07 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.2	10 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.7	05 $\pm$ 0.3	05 $\pm$ 0.2	06 $\pm$ 0.1	06 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.6	01 $\pm$ 0.3	02 $\pm$ 0.3	01 $\pm$ 0.3	02 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5c</b>	3.1	13 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.1	18 $\pm$ 0.2	20 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.2	10 $\pm$ 0.3	17 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	09 $\pm$ 0.1	16 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5d</b>	3.5	12 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.2	16 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.4	09 $\pm$ 0.3	15 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	15 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	08 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.3	14 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5e</b>	3.6	13 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.2	18 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.4	10 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.1	17 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	08 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.3	13 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5f</b>	4.0	07 $\pm$ 0.2	–	09 $\pm$ 0.2	11 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.6	05 $\pm$ 0.3	–	06 $\pm$ 0.1	07 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.6	–	–	–	03 $\pm$ 0.1
<b>5g</b>	3.7	10 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.1	12 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3

**Table 3** continued

Comp. no.	Conc. (mg/mL)	Zone of inhibition in mm (mean $\pm$ SD) <i>n</i> = 3			
		<i>A.f</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>C.a</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>M.g</i> $\pm$ SD	<i>A.t</i> $\pm$ SD
5h	1.5	08 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.2	09 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	–	–	06 $\pm$ 0.3	09 $\pm$ 0.1
	3.1	10 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.2	14 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.2	08 $\pm$ 0.3	12 $\pm$ 0.2	13 $\pm$ 0.1	13 $\pm$ 0.1
5i	0.5	06 $\pm$ 0.1	11 $\pm$ 0.3	–	10 $\pm$ 0.1
	3.6	09 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.1	10 $\pm$ 0.2	12 $\pm$ 0.3
	1.4	06 $\pm$ 0.3	08 $\pm$ 0.2	08 $\pm$ 0.1	08 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.5	–	03 $\pm$ 0.3	06 $\pm$ 0.3	04 $\pm$ 0.1
Fluconazole	5.2	14 $\pm$ 0.2	20 $\pm$ 0.1	19 $\pm$ 0.2	22 $\pm$ 0.3
	2.0	12 $\pm$ 0.3	19 $\pm$ 0.2	17 $\pm$ 0.1	19 $\pm$ 0.1
	0.8	10 $\pm$ 0.1	18 $\pm$ 0.3	16 $\pm$ 0.3	18 $\pm$ 0.1
Control (DMF)	–	00	00	00	00

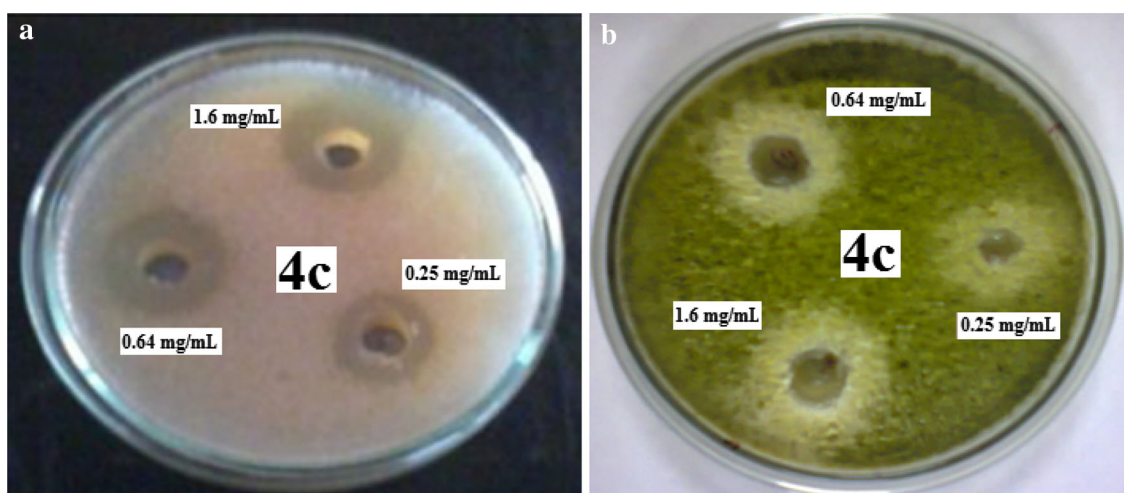
Each value is expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three replicates for zone of inhibition

*A.f* *Asperigillus flavous*, *C.a* *Candida albicans*, *M.g* *Microspora griseus*, *A.t* *Asperigillus terus*, *SD* standard deviation

prepared solution exhibits a deep blue color with the absorption maximum at 517 nm. This purple color generally fades when antioxidant is present in the solution. All compounds have exhibited varied free radical scavenging capacity by comparison with the standard butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). The variation exhibited in DPPH scavenging activity could be attributed to the effect of different substituents. It has been reported that, the compounds substituted with phenolic hydroxyl group has the high potential for scavenging radicals (Hatano *et al.*, 1989; Sawa *et al.*, 1999; Babita *et al.*, 2011). Phenolic compounds donate hydrogen to reactive radicals and break the chain reaction of lipid oxidation at the initiation step (Gülcin *et al.*, 2004). Thus, the number and configuration of hydrogen donating hydroxyl groups are the main structural features that influence the radical scavenging activity (Cao *et al.*, 1997; Pannala *et al.*, 2001). On the other hand, presence of two amino groups can also donate their free electrons to the reactive ions, making them stable.

The activity results of the newly synthesized compounds are represented in Fig. 4. Among the tested compounds, compounds substituted with hydroxyl group (**4e**, **4f**, **4i**, **5e**, **5f**, and **5i**) at C-5 position of benzofuran ring displayed potent DPPH free radical scavenging activity with the lowest IC<sub>50</sub> value (128.87–153.89  $\mu$ mol/L). The lone pair of electrons present on the ring heteroatom along with electron donating group (–OH) may be responsible for blocking the DPPH free radical by donating electron pair, and hence fading the color. We also observed that, absence of hydroxyl





**Fig. 2** **a.** Zone of inhibition of compound **4c** against *Salmonella typhi* (bacteria). **b.** Zone of inhibition of compound **4c** against *Microspora griseus* (fungus)

**Table 4** Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of synthesized compounds **4a–i** and **5a–i**

Comp. no.	Minimum inhibitory concentration (μmol/L)								
	<i>P.s</i>	<i>S.t</i>	<i>B.s</i>	<i>K.p</i>	<i>E.c</i>	<i>A.f</i>	<i>C.a</i>	<i>M.g</i>	<i>A.t</i>
<b>4a</b>	38.50	37.92	39.14	38.90	38.90	30.90	30.85	15.48	15.85
<b>4c</b>	30.22	30.73	31.96	31.76	31.96	25.81	25.81	12.90	13.01
<b>4d</b>	68.97	57.95	41.47	–	46.59	–	55.68	37.50	42.15
<b>4e</b>	38.14	36.73	38.61	38.84	38.73	30.16	30.04	15.84	15.37
<b>4h</b>	12.34	11.38	–	63.21	63.21	–	66.49	52.66	50.61
<b>5a</b>	37.20	36.61	37.79	38.14	37.79	29.92	29.81	14.90	15.37
<b>5c</b>	29.76	29.76	31.64	31.54	31.05	25.00	25.09	12.50	12.59
<b>5d</b>	–	121.16	99.12	101.64	–	51.86	53.72	40.57	45.06
<b>5e</b>	36.99	36.08	36.42	36.31	36.31	31.10	31.22	16.96	16.96
<b>5h</b>	–	199.10	188.98	189.18	169.34	66.07	–	50.99	49.00
Streptomycin	24.95	24.95	26.67	26.24	26.24	–	–	–	–
Fluconazole	–	–	–	–	–	40.84	40.84	20.42	20.42

*P.s* *Pseudomonas syringae*, *S.t* *Salmonella typhi*, *B.s* *Bacillus subtilis*, *K.p* *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *E.c* *Escherichia coli*, *A.f* *Aspergillus flavus*, *C.a* *Candida albicans*, *M.g* *Microspora griseus*, *A.t* *Aspergillus terreus*

group and incorporation of –Br group at C-5 position of benzofuran ring drastically reduced the activity (as observed in compounds **4a**, **5c**, **4h**, and **5h**). On the other hand, compounds **4d** and **5d** displayed moderate to good activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value 162.36 and 160.85 μmol/L, respectively.

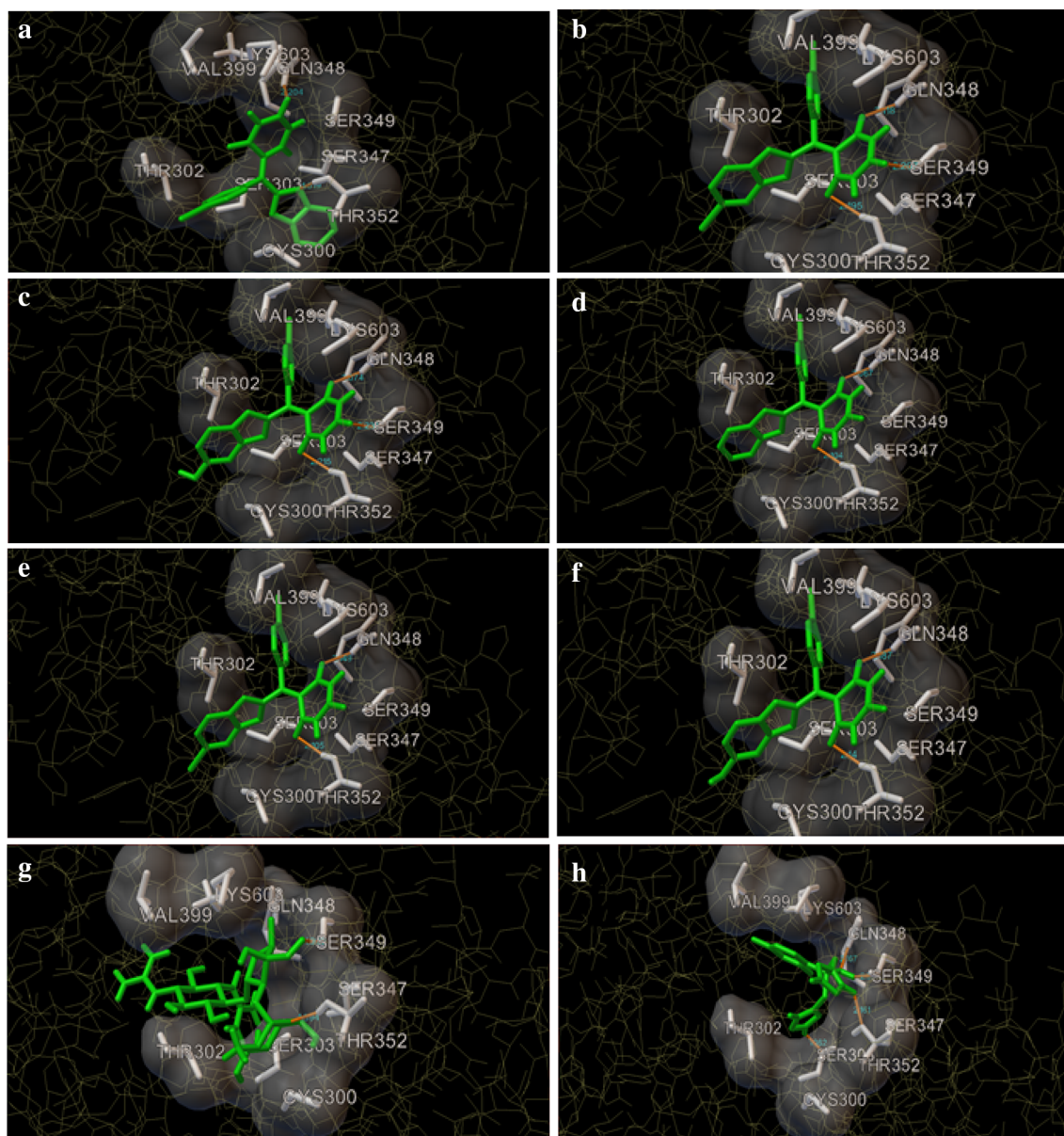
#### Iron chelating ability

The iron chelating study measures the ability of antioxidants to compete with ferrozine in chelating ferrous ion (Elmastas *et al.*, 2006). The ferrous ion-chelating activity of the newly synthesized compounds is represented in Fig. 5. The Fe<sup>2+</sup> chelating capacities varied significantly among different compounds. From the activity results it

revealed that, among the tested barbiturate series, compounds **4a**, **4b**, and **4g** showed very good chelating ability with IC<sub>50</sub> value 146.63–175.93 μmol/L. In thiobarbiturates series, compounds **5a**, **5b**, and **5g** exhibit excellent activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value 126.57–147.67 μmol/L. Furthermore, it was observed that the presence of OH group at C-5 of benzofuran ring and OCH<sub>3</sub>/Br group on C-4 of aryl ring (**4e**, **4f**, **5e**, and **5f**) showed good chelating ability. Further, declining trend in chelating ability was found in **4d**, **4i**, **5d**, and **5i**. Compounds with halogen substituents (**4c**, **5c**, **4h**, and **5h**) lowered the activity with higher IC<sub>50</sub> value (284.01–458.75 μmol/L).

IC<sub>50</sub> values of DPPH radical scavenging and ferrous ion chelating activity of test compounds is given in Table 6.





**Fig. 3** Interaction of ligand molecules **4a**, **4c**, **4e**, **5a**, **5c**, and **5e** with GlcN-6-P. A: interaction of **4a** with GlcN-6-P, B: interaction of **4c** with GlcN-6-P, C: interaction of **4e** with GlcN-6-P, D: interaction of

**5a** with GlcN-6-P, E: interaction of **5c** with GlcN-6-P, F: interaction of **5e** with GlcN-6-P, G: interaction of Streptomycin with GlcN-6-P, H: interaction of Fluconazole with GlcN-6-P

### Experimental protocols

The BA, thiobarbituric acid, and phenacyl bromides with 98 % purity were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Company. Melting points were recorded on electro thermal melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (230–400 mesh), silica gel GF254 plates from Merck were used for TLC and spots were identified under ultraviolet radiation. Ethyl acetate:pet ether (1:4) is used as a mobile phase. The FT-IR spectra were

taken in KBr pellets (100 mg) using Shimadzu FT-Infrared spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer and chemical shifts are shown in  $\delta$  values (ppm) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. LC–MS were obtained using C-18 column on Shimadzu, LCMS 2010A, Japan.

The results of biological studies have been expressed in molar unit. In antimicrobial activity the zone of inhibition and in antioxidant activity the  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three replicates.

**Table 5** Molecular docking results of synthesized compounds with Glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase

Comp. no.	Binding energy (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Inhibition constant (μM)	RMSd	Ligand efficiency	No. of hydrogen bonds	Bonding residues	Bond length (Å)
<b>4a</b>	−4.71	295.65	0.0	−0.19	2	2VF5: GLN348: HE22: Ligands/4a:: : O	2.204
						2VF5: THR352: HG1: Ligands/4a:: : O	1.919
<b>4c</b>	−5.27	229.07	0.0	−0.18	3	2VF5: GLN348: HE22: Ligands/4c:: : O	2.118
						2VF5:SER349: HG: Ligands/4c:: : O	2.207
						2VF5:THR352: HG1: Ligands/4c:: : O	2.195
<b>4e</b>	−4.53	476.51	0.0	−0.17	3	2VF5:GLN348: HE22: Ligands/4e:: : O	2.074
						2VF5:SER349: HG: Ligands/4e:: : O	2.231
						2VF5:THR352:HG1: Ligands/4e:: : O	2.215
<b>5a</b>	−4.66	353.32	0.0	−0.18	2	2VF5:GLN348:HE22: Ligands/5a:: : O	2.067
						2VF5:THR352:HG1: Ligands/5a:: : O	2.104
<b>5c</b>	−4.85	280.61	0.0	−0.18	2	2VF5:GLN348:HE22: Ligands/5c:: : O	2.149
						2VF5:THR352:HG1: Ligands/5c:: : O	2.105
<b>5e</b>	−4.33	673.95	0.0	−0.16	2	2VF5:GLN348:HE22: Ligands/5e:: : O	2.187
						2VF5:THR352:HG1: Ligands/5e:: : O	2.140
Streptomycin	−6.72	−181.49	0.0	−0.17	2	2VF5:SER349:HG: Ligands/Streptomycin:: : O	1.922
						2VF5:THR352: OG1: Ligands/Streptomycin:: : H	1.894
Fluconazole	−5.65	−197.44	0.0	−0.26	4	2VF5:GLN348:HG: Ligands/Fluconazole:: : O	2.167
						2VF5:THR352:OG1: Ligands/Fluconazole:: : H	2.161
						2VF5:SER349:OG: Ligands/Fluconazole:: : H	2.09
						2VF5: SER303:OG: Ligands/Fluconazole:: : H	1.962

## Experimental procedure

### Chemistry

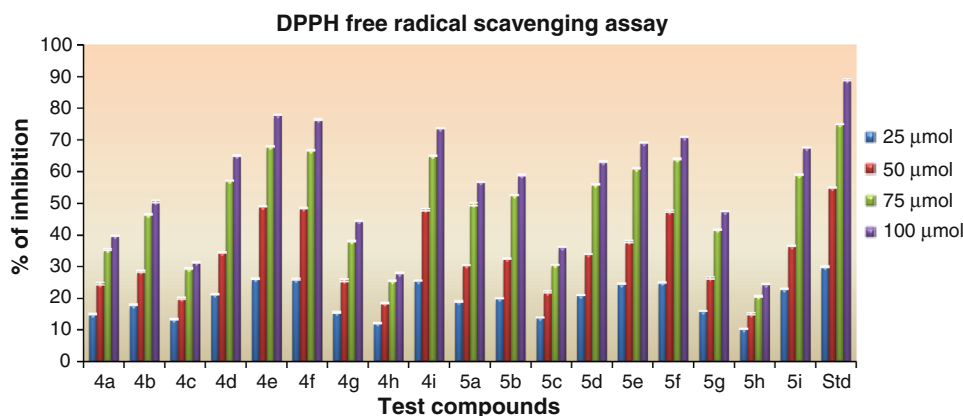
#### General procedure for the synthesis of benzofuran barbitone derivatives (**4a–i**)

The mixture of (2/4-substitutedphenyl) methanone (**3a–i**) (0.01 mol) and BA (0.01 mol, 1.44 g) was taken in acetic acid and refluxed in an oil bath for about 8–10 h at 110–115 °C. After the completion of reaction, the reaction

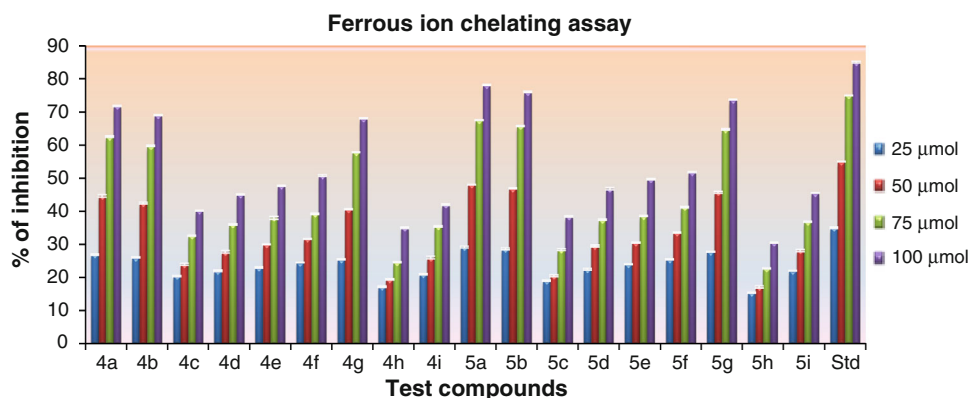
mass was cooled to room temperature, poured into crushed ice and neutralized with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution. The product was filtered, dried and recrystallized using ethyl acetate/ethanol, further purified by silica gel column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether, ethyl acetate mixture (80:20, v/v).

*5-[(Benzofuran-2-yl)(4-bromophenyl)methylidene]pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4a)* Yellow solid (EtOH); m.p. 161 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3317 (N–H), 3155 (Ar–CH), 1715 (C=O), 1675 (–NHC=O), 684 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR

**Fig. 4** DPPH free radical scavenging activity of test compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**)



**Fig. 5** Ferrous ion chelating assay of test compounds (**4a–i**) and (**5a–i**)



(400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.68 (s, 1H –NH), 10.21 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.3 (m, 9H Ar–H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 165.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 158.3 (C-4), 157.3 (C-1), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 139.0 (C-13), 131.6 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 130.2 (C-3), 128.6 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.7 (CH, C-6), 123.3 (CH, C-7), 122.0 (C-10, C-16), 121.0 (CH, C-8), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  410 [M], 412 [M+2].

**5-[(Benzofuran-2-yl) (4-methoxyphenyl) methylidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4b)** Off-white solid (EtOH); m.p. 163–165 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3310 (N–H), 1710 (C=O), 1648 (–NHC=O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.71 (s, 1H –NH), 10.14 (s, 1H –NH), 7.0–8.1 (m, 9H Ar–H), 3.85 (s, 3H –OCH<sub>3</sub>);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 167.1 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 160.0 (C-9, C-16), 158.3 (C-4), 157.3 (C-1), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 132.3 (C-13), 131.0 (C-3), 127.4 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.7 (CH, C-6), 123.3 (CH, C-7), 122.0 (C-10), 121.0 (CH, C-8), 114.5 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 55.8 (O–CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  362 [M].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl)(4-bromophenyl) methylidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4c)** Off-white solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 160–162 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3419 (N–H), 1708 (C=O), 1654 (–NHC=O), 669 (C–Br);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.80 (s, 1H –NH), 10.21 (s, 1H –NH), 7.4–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 165.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 157.3 (C-1), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 139.0 (C-13), 133.7 (C-4), 131.6 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 129.0 (CH, C-6), 128.6 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10), 116.5 (C-7), 113.8 (C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  488 [M], 490 [M+2], 492 [M+4].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (4-methoxyphenyl) methylidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H, 3H, 5H)-trione (4d)** Colorless solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 161–163 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3308 (N–H), 1705 (C=O), 1669 (–NHC=O), 659 (C–Br);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.65 (s, 1H –NH), 10.02 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H), 3.86 (s, 3H –OCH<sub>3</sub>);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 165.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9, C-16), 157.3 (C-4), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 133.7 (C-3), 132.3 (C-13), 129.0 (CH, C-6), 127.4 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10), 116.5 (C-7), 114.2 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 112.9 (C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 55.6 (O–CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  440 [M], 442 [M+2].

**5-[(4-Bromophenyl) (5-hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) methylidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4e)** Off-white solid (EtOH); m.p. 168–169 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):

**Table 6** Half-maximum inhibition concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) for of DPPH radical scavenging and ferrous ion chelating activity of test compounds

Compd.	DPPH (IC <sub>50</sub> μmol/L)	Fe <sup>2+</sup> ion Chelating activity (IC <sub>50</sub> μmol/L)
<b>4a</b>	304.87 ± 0.19	146.63 ± 0.33
<b>4b</b>	256.74 ± 0.29	175.93 ± 0.18
<b>4c</b>	341.78 ± 0.15	284.01 ± 0.15
<b>4d</b>	162.36 ± 0.14	269.38 ± 0.19
<b>4e</b>	128.87 ± 0.12	256.24 ± 0.14
<b>4f</b>	148.09 ± 0.22	268.28 ± 0.10
<b>4g</b>	269.48 ± 0.40	160.95 ± 0.15
<b>4h</b>	399.95 ± 0.25	355.10 ± 0.25
<b>4i</b>	135.51 ± 0.14	299.90 ± 0.24
<b>5a</b>	193.02 ± 0.11	126.57 ± 0.11
<b>5b</b>	208.54 ± 0.32	147.67 ± 0.31
<b>5c</b>	284.28 ± 0.10	299.78 ± 0.29
<b>5d</b>	160.85 ± 0.15	245.28 ± 0.21
<b>5e</b>	147.78 ± 0.18	104.46 ± 0.15
<b>5f</b>	150.91 ± 0.21	236.33 ± 0.20
<b>5g</b>	238.05 ± 0.13	135.56 ± 0.20
<b>5h</b>	458.75 ± 0.17	402.46 ± 0.17
<b>5i</b>	153.89 ± 0.13	262.08 ± 0.13
Std <sup>a,b</sup>	203.82 ± 0.23	150.93 ± 0.15

Each value is expressed as mean ± SD of three replicates

Std<sup>a</sup> BHT used as standard for DPPH radical scavenging activity; Std<sup>b</sup> EDTA is used as a standard for Fe<sup>2+</sup> ion chelating activity

3421 (O–H), 3391 (N–H), 1702 (C=O), (–NHC=O), 696 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 10.55 (s, 1H –NH), 10.12 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.1 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.2 (s, 1H –OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 165.4 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-10), 157.6 (C-1), 153.6 (C–OH, C-7), 151.1 (C-4), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 139.0 (C-13), 132.9 (C-3), 131.2 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 128.6 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 122.3 (C-10, C-16), 114.3 (CH, C-6), 113.0 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 106.1 (CH, C-8); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 426 [M], 428 [M+2].

**5-[(5-Hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (4-methoxyphenyl) methylenidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4f)** Light yellow solid (EtOH); m.p. 161–163 °C; IR (KBr, ν cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3380 (N–H), 1703 (C=O), 1670 (–NHC=O), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 10.60 (s, 1H –NH), 10.12 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.2 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.5 (s, 1H –OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 165.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 160.1 (C-9, C-16), 157.3 (C-1), 153.6 (C–Br, C-7), 151.8 (C-4), 150.1 (C=O, C-12), 133.0 (C-3), 131.6 (C-13), 127.4 (CH, C– C-14, C-14'), 122.3 (C-10), 114.3 (CH, C-6), 113.0 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 112.0 (CH, C-5), 107.0 (CH, C-2), 106.1 (CH, C-8), 55.9 (O–CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 378 [M].

**5-[1-Benzofuran-2-yl (2-bromophenyl) methylenidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4g)** Colorless solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 78–80 °C; IR (KBr, ν cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3318 (N–H), 1731 (C=O), 1709 (–NHC=O), 688 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 10.69 (s, 1H –NH), 10.12 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.3 (m, 9H Ar–H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 165.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 158.3 (C-4), 157.3 (C-1), 150.1 (C=O, C-12), 138.2 (C-13), 132.0 (CH, C-15), 131.2 (C-3), 130.2 (CH, C-16), 128.6 (CH, C-14'), 127.1 (CH, C-15'), 124.8 (CH, C-6), 123.3 (CH, C-7), 122.0 (C, C-10), 121.0 (CH, C-8), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 410 [M], 412 [M+2].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl)(2-bromophenyl) methylenidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4h)** Brown solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 155–157 °C; IR (KBr, ν cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3412 (N–H), 1718 (C=O), 1675 (–NHC=O), 669 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 10.80 (s, 1H –NH), 10.22 (s, 1H –NH), 7.5–8.1 (m, 8H Ar–H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 165.2 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 157.3 (C-1), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 138.2 (C-13), 133.7 (C-3), 131.6 (CH, C-15), 130.1 (CH, C-16), 128.5 (CH, C-6), 127.8 (CH, C-14'), 126.6 (CH, C-15'), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 116.5 (C–Br, C-7), 113.8 (CH, C-5), 106.5 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 488 [M], 490 [M+2], 492 [M+4].

**5-[(2-Bromophenyl) (5-hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) methylenidene] pyrimidin-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4i)** Green solid (EtOH); m.p. 96–98 °C; IR (KBr, ν cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3421 (O–H), 3395 (N–H), 1721 (C=O), 1668 (–NHC=O), 694 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 10.58 (s, 1H –NH), 10.12 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.4 (s, 1H –OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 166.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 157.3 (C-1), 153.6 (C–OH, C-7), 151.3 (C-4), 150.5 (C=O, C-12), 138.2 (C-13), 132.9 (C-3), 131.6 (CH, C-15), 130.2 (CH, C-16), 128.6 (CH, C-14'), 127.0 (CH, C-15'), 122.3 (C-10), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 114.3 (CH, C-6), 113.0 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 106.0 (CH, C-8); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 426 [M], 428 [M+2].

#### General procedure for the Synthesis of benzofuran thiobarbitone derivatives (5a–i)

The mixture of (2/4-substituted-phenyl) methanone (**3a–i**) (0.01 mol) and thiobarbituric acid (0.01 mol, 1.44 g) was taken in acetic acid and refluxed in an oil bath for about 8–10 h at 110–115 °C. After the completion of reaction, the reaction mass was cooled to room temperature, poured into crushed ice and neutralized with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution. The product was filtered, dried, and recrystallized using

ethyl acetate/ethanol, further purified by silica gel column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether, ethyl acetate mixture (80:20, v/v).

**5-[1-Benzofuran-2-yl (4-bromophenyl) methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5a)** Brown solid (EtOH); m.p. 102–104 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3317 (N–H), 1229 (C=S), 1735 (C=O), 686 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.67 (s, 1H –NH), 10.24 (s, 1H –NH), 7.1–8.2 (m, 9H Ar–H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.1 (C=S, C-12), 167.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-10), 158.3 (C-4), 156.3 (C-1), 139.0 (C-13), 131.6 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 130.1 (C-3), 128.6 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.7 (CH, C-6), 123.3 (CH, C-7), 122.0 (C–Br, C-16), 121.0 (CH, C-8), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 426 [M], 428 [M+2].

**5-[1-Benzofuran-2-yl (4-methoxyphenyl) methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H, 5H)-dione (5b)** Yellow solid (EtOH); m.p. 92–94 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3304 (N–H), 1329 (C=S), 1633 (C=O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.13 (s, 1H –NH), 10.70 (s, 1H –NH), 7.1–8.0 (m, 9H Ar–H), 3.88 (s, 3H –OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 179.1 (C=S, C-12), 167.8 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9, C-16), 158.2 (C-4), 155.7 (C-1), 135.0 (C-13), 130.9 (C-3), 127.4 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.4 (CH, C-6), 123.0 (CH, C-7), 122.3 (C-10), 117.9 (CH, C-8), 114.5 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 55.8 (O–CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 378 [M].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl)(4-bromophenyl)methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5c)** Light yellow solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 100–102 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3417 (N–H), 1293 (C=S), 1735 (C=O), 666 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.22 (s, 1H –NH), 10.79 (s, 1H –NH), 7.5–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.1 (C=S, C-12), 167.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 160.0 (C-9), 157.3 (C-1, C-4), 139.2 (C-13), 133.7 (C-3), 131.6 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 129.0 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 128.1 (CH, C-6), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10, C-16), 116.5 (C–Br, C-7), 113.8 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 504 [M] 506 [M+2], 508 [M+4].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5d)** Brown solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 110–112 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3302 (N–H), 1286 (C=S), 1641 (C=O), 650 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.03 (s, 1H –NH), 10.61 (s, 1H –NH), 7.1–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H), 3.88 (s, 3H –OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.2 (C=S, C-12), 167.1 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C, C-9,

C-16), 157.3 (C, C-1, C-4), 133.7 (C, C-3), 132.3 (C, C-13), 129.0 (CH, C-6), 127.4 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10), 116.5 (C–Br, C-7), 114.2 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 112.9 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 55.9 (O–CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 456 [M], 458 [M+2].

**5-[(4-Bromophenyl) (5-hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5e)** Colorless solid (EtOH); m.p. 109 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3419 (O–H), 3394 (N–H), 1279 (C=S), 1641 (C=O), 694 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.13 (s, 1H –NH), 10.51 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.1 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.6 (s, 1H –OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.3 (C=S, C-12), 167.5 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.3 (C-9), 157.6 (C-1), 153.6 (C–OH, C-7), 150.9 (C-4), 139.2 (C-13), 132.8 (C-3), 131.5 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 128.6 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 122.6 (C, C-10, C-16), 114.3 (CH, C-6), 113.0 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 106.1 (CH, C-8); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 442 [M], 444 [M+2].

**5-[(5-Hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) (4-methoxyphenyl) methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5f)** Brown solid (EtOH); m.p. 103–106 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3384 (N–H), 1310 (C=S), 1653 (C=O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.36 (s, 1H –NH), 10.52 (s, 1H –NH), 7.1–8.2 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.8 (s, 1H –OH) 3.72 (s, 3H –OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.5 (C=S, C-12), 167.5 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 160.1 (C-9, C-16), 157.3 (C-1), 153.2 (C–OH, C-7), 150.8 (C-4), 133.2 (C-3), 131.1 (C-13), 128.4 (CH, C-14, C-14'), 122.3 (C-10), 115.3 (CH, C-15, C-15'), 113.1 (CH, C-6), 112.3 (CH, C-5), 107.0 (CH, C-1), 106.1 (CH, C-8), 55.9 (OCH<sub>3</sub>); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 394 [M].

**5-[1-Benzofuran-2-yl (2-bromophenyl) methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5g)** Pale yellow solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 105–108 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3317 (N–H), 1290 (C=S), 1735 (C=O), 686 (C–Br); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.24 (s, 1H –NH), 10.67 (s, 1H –NH), 7.1–8.2 (m, 9H Ar–H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.1 (C=S, C-12), 167.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C-9), 158.3 (C-4), 157.3 (C-1), 139.2 (C-13), 131.8 (CH, C-14), 131.1 (C-3), 130.2 (CH, C-16), 129.0 (CH, C-14'), 127.6 (CH, C-15'), 124.8 (CH, C-6), 123.5 (CH, C-7), 122.0 (C-10), 121.0 (CH, C-8), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 111.6 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS): *m/z* 426 [M], 428 [M+2].

**5-[(5-Bromo-1-benzofuran-2-yl)(2-bromophenyl)methylidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (5h)** Brown solid (ethyl acetate); m.p. 110–114 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3417 (N–H), 1285 (C=S), 1735 (C=O), 666 (C–Br);



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.22 (s, 1H –NH), 10.79 (s, 1H –NH), 7.5–8.0 (m, 8H Ar–H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.3 (C=S, C-12), 167.2 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C, C-9), 157.3 (C-1, C-4), 138.2 (C-13), 133.7 (C-3), 131.6 (CH, C-15), 129.0 (CH, C-6), 128.5 (CH, C-14'), 127.2 (CH, C-15'), 124.2 (CH, C-8), 122.3 (C-10), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 116.5 (C–Br, C-7), 113.8 (CH, C-5), 106.5 (CH, C-2); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  504 [M], 506 [M+2], 508 [M+4].

5-[(2-Bromophenyl) (5-hydroxy-1-benzofuran-2-yl) methylenidene]-2-thioxodihydropyrimidin-4,6(1H,5H)-dione (**5i**) Brown solid(EtOH); m.p. 114 °C; IR (KBr,  $\nu$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3419 (O–H), 3394 (N–H), 1260 (C=S), 1641 (C=O), 694 (C–Br);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 10.13 (s, 1H –NH), 10.51 (s, 1H –NH), 7.2–8.1 (m, 8H Ar–H), 5.6 (s, 1H –OH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  ppm): 178.1 (C=S, C-12), 167.0 (C=O, C-11, C-11'), 159.9 (C, C-9), 157.3 (C-1), 153.6 (C–OH, C-7), 150.9 (C, C-4), 138.2 (C-13), 132.9 (C-3), 131.6 (CH, C-14), 130.2 (CH, C-16), 128.6 (CH, C-14'), 127.0 (CH, C-15'), 122.3 (C-10), 118.9 (C–Br, C-14), 114.3 (CH, C-6), 113.0 (CH, C-5), 106.9 (CH, C-2), 106.1 (CH, C-8); MS (LCMS):  $m/z$  442 [M], 444 [M+2].

#### Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity of the synthesized compounds was tested against five bacterial strains using agar well diffusion method (Nasser Khalil, 2010). Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) was used as solvent control. The bacterial cultures were inoculated on nutrient agar (Merck) and fungal culture was inoculated on potato dextrose agar media (20 mL). The test compounds were dissolved in DMSO to get a concentration of 12.79 M and 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of this sample was loaded into the wells of agar plates directly. Plates inoculated with the bacteria were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h and the fungal culture was incubated at 25 °C for 72 h. All determinations were done in triplicates. The Streptomycin (1.71 and 0.85 M) and Fluconazole (3.26 and 1.6 M) were used as standard drugs for antibacterial and antifungal activities, respectively.

The MIC was performed by serial broth-dilution method (National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS), 1982) at different concentrations like 1, 10, 25, 50, and 100 mol/L. After the incubation period, the minimum inhibition zone at which the micro-organism growth was inhibited was measured in M.

#### In silico molecular docking studies

The compounds in the present investigation were subjected for molecular docking studies using Auto Dock (version

4.2) with Lamarckian genetic algorithm. The synthesized ligand molecules having 2D structure were converted to energy minimized 3D structures and were further used for in silico protein–ligand docking. The docking of receptor GlcN-6-P with newly synthesized ligands exhibited well established bonds with one or more amino acids in the receptor active pocket. The active pocket was considered to be the site, where glucosamine-6-phosphate complexes with GlcN-6-P of 2VF5. The active pocket consisted of 12 amino acid residues as Ala602, Val399, Ala400, Gly301, Thr302, Ser303, Cys300, Gln348, Ser349, Thr352, Ser347, and Lys603 (Wallace *et al.*, 1995).

The crystal structure of GlcN-6-P synthase (PDB ID 2VF5) from the PDB (<http://www.pdb.org/pdb/home/home.do>) was selected and edited by removing the heteroatoms and adding C-terminal oxygen (Binkowski *et al.*, 2003). The Graphical User Interface program “AutoDock Tools” was used to prepare, run, and analyze the docking simulations. Kollman united atom charges, solvation parameters, and polar hydrogens were added to the receptor for the preparation of protein in docking simulation. Since ligands are not peptides, Gasteiger charge was assigned and then non-polar hydrogens were merged.

#### Antioxidant activity

##### Free radical scavenging activity by DPPH method

Free radical-scavenging capacities of synthesized compounds were determined according to the reported procedure (Braca *et al.*, 2001). The newly synthesized compounds at different concentrations (25–100  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) were added to each test tube and volume was made up to 4 mL using methanol. To this, 3 mL of 0.004 % DPPH in methanol was added and the mixtures were incubated at room temperature under dark condition for 30 min. The absorbance was recorded at 517 nm using UV–Visible spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-1800, Japan). Butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) dissolved in distilled water was used as a reference. Control sample was prepared using the same volume without any compound and BHT, 95 % methanol served as blank. Test was performed in triplicate and the results were averaged. Radical scavenging activity was calculated using the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{\% of radical scavenging activity} \\ = [(A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{test}})/A_{\text{control}}] \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_{\text{control}}$  is the absorbance of the control sample (DPPH solution without test sample) and  $A_{\text{test}}$  is the absorbance of the test sample (DPPH solution + test compound).



### Iron chelating ability

The chelating effect was determined according to the literature method (Nevcihan *et al.*, 2010). The test solution (2 mL) of different concentrations (25–100  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) in methanol was added to a solution of 2 mM  $\text{FeCl}_2$  (0.05 mL), the reaction was initiated by adding 5 mM ferrozine (0.2 mL) and total volume was adjusted to 5 mL with methanol. Then, the mixture was shaken vigorously and left at room temperature for 10 min. Absorbance of the solution was measured spectrophotometrically at 562 nm. EDTA was used as a standard. The inhibition percentage of ferrozine– $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  complex formations was calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Metal chelating effect (\%)} = \frac{[A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{sample}}]/A_{\text{control}}}{\times 100}$$

where  $A_{\text{control}}$  is the absorbance of control (control contains  $\text{FeCl}_2$  ferrozine complex) and  $A_{\text{sample}}$  is the absorbance of test compounds. Ascorbic acid is used as control. Test was performed in triplicate and the results were averaged.

### Conclusion

We synthesized novel series of benzofuran derivatives containing barbiturate and thiobarbiturates nucleus. The structure of synthesized compounds was confirmed by FT-IR, NMR, and mass spectroscopic methods. From the antimicrobial study results it revealed that, compounds containing two bromo substituents are responsible for increased antimicrobial activity than those bearing a single halogen/other substituent group. In case of antioxidant screening, compounds containing hydroxyl groups showed very good DPPH radical scavenging activity. In metal chelating assay, compounds having thiobarbiturate nucleus showed comparatively predominant activity than barbiturate series, this could be due to the presence of thione group in thiobarbiturates.

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