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Synthesis, antimicrobial studies, and molecular docking of some new dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazole and pyrazole derivatives derived from dithiocarbazates

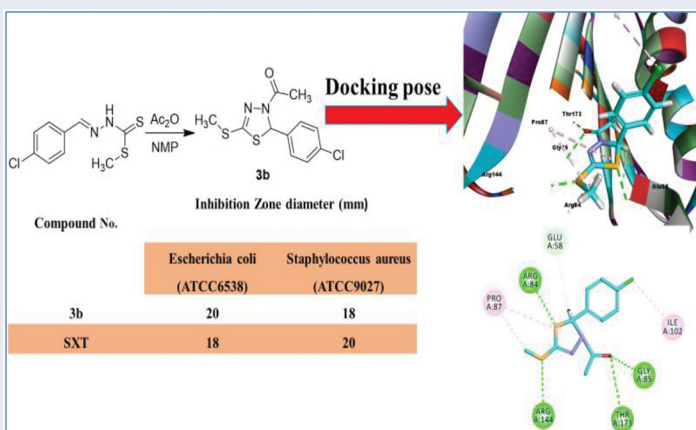
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ABSTRACT

A series of 3-acetyl-2-aryl-5-methylthio-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g**, *N*-(4-acetyl-5-aryl-4,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl) acetamide derivatives **5a–e** and *spiro*-compound **7** was prepared from starting material dithiocarbazates using *N*-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) /acetic anhydride mixture. Furthermore, a new series of 5-amino-3- (methylthio) -1-substituted-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile derivatives **12a–d** was prepared using two synthetic routes: (i) *via* reaction of *bis* (methylthio) methylene malononitrile **8** with carbothiohydrazides **11a–d**, or (ii) *via* reaction of methyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3- (methylthio) -1*H*-pyrazole-1-carbodithioate **9a** with primary/secondary amines. The antimicrobial screening of newly synthesized compounds revealed that compounds **3b**, **7**, and **12d** are the most potent against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and the Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria compared to ciprofloxacin as reference drug. Mechanistically, the theoretical docking results of **3b**, **7** and **12d** suggested that they may act as potent inhibitors of the DNA gyrase.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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KEYWORDS

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Introduction

Dithiocarbazates (DTCs) possessing both hydrazino and thione groups, are the active and the interesting arrangement structures for many scientists.^[1] Their *S*-substituted are easily synthesized via one-pot multicomponent reaction of hydrazine hydrate, carbon disulfide and alkyl halides in aqueous basic medium.^[2,3] They are valuable raw materials for the preparation of carbothiohydrazides,^[4,5] carbothiohydrazones^[6–8] and various aza-heterocyclic compounds such as pyrazoles,^[2,9,10] 1,3,4-thiadiazoles,^[11,12] 1,2,4-triazoles,^[2] pyrazolo[1,5-*a*][1,3,5]triazines.^[13,14]

Further, the 1,3,4-thiadiazole nucleus, which makes up the azole group, has a versatile application in medicinal, agricultural, and materials chemistry.^[15–19] Their derivatives exhibit a wide variety of biological activities including antimicrobial,^[20,21] anticonvulsant,^[22] antioxidant,^[23] antiparasitic,^[24] antituberculosis,^[25] antileishmanial,^[26] anti-inflammatory,^[27] antidepressant,^[28] anticancer^[29] and antiviral agents.^[30] They also have gained great attention due to the large number of their reported diverse synthetic methods^[16,31] for example: (i) via cyclization of thiosemicarbazides,^[32,33] thiosemicarbazones,^[34] aldehyde methylthio (thiocarbonyl) hydrazones^[35] or acylhydrazines^[36,37]; (ii) via transformation of 1,3,4-oxadiazoles.^[38] In contrast to this, limited methods were succeeded for preparing them from DTCs via the reaction with chloroacetylchloride,^[12] or hydrazoneoyl bromide.^[11]

On the other hand, pyrazole derivatives are found to be versatile compounds showing widespread biological and pharmaceutical activities^[39,40] such as: antimicrobial,^[41] anti-inflammatory,^[42] analgesic,^[43] antidiabetic,^[44] antidepressant,^[45] anticonvulsant,^[45] antiviral,^[46] and anticancer activities.^[47] Many derivatives containing pyrazole cores have been applied in crop protection.^[48]

Despite the large number of chemotherapeutics and antibiotics, the appearance of old and new antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains represents a substantial need for the synthesis and discovery of new safer and potent antimicrobial agents.^[49]

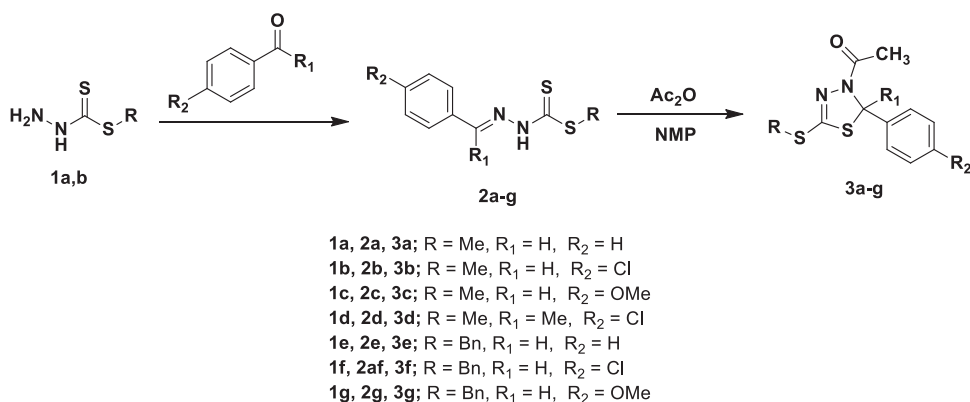
In the light of the foregoing data and as continuation of our program of identification of new biologically active leads,^[50–57] the present work reports the new synthesis and the antimicrobial evaluation of 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazole and pyrazole derivatives starting from DTCs.

Results and discussion

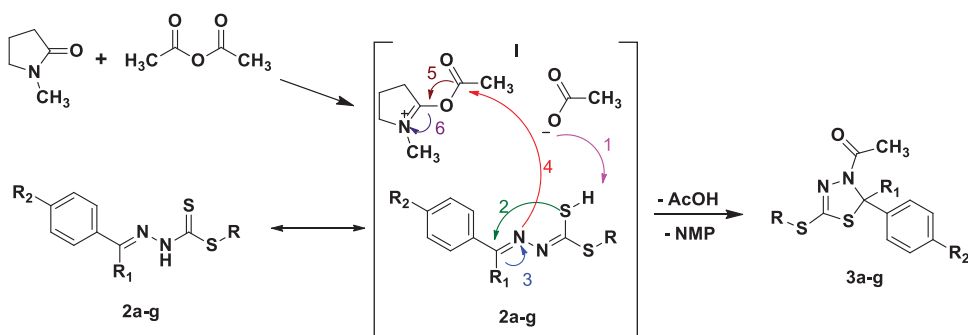
Chemistry

Herein, a series of 3-acetyl-2-aryl-5-methylthio-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g** was synthesized by heating of methyl/benzyl 2-benzylidenehydrazinecarbodithioate derivatives **2a–g** with acetic anhydride in polar aprotic solvent of *N*-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) (Scheme 1). In this route, the starting materials thiocarbohydrazones **2a–g** were prepared according to the reported method carbothiohydrazones^[7] and *via Schiff base* condensation between methyl/benzyl hydrazinecarbodithioate **1a,b**^[3,5] with various aromatic aldehydes and/or ketones.

The formation of products **3a–g** was produced through acid anhydride-catalyzed intramolecular cyclization of intermediate **2'a–g** *via* nucleophilic lone pair addition of



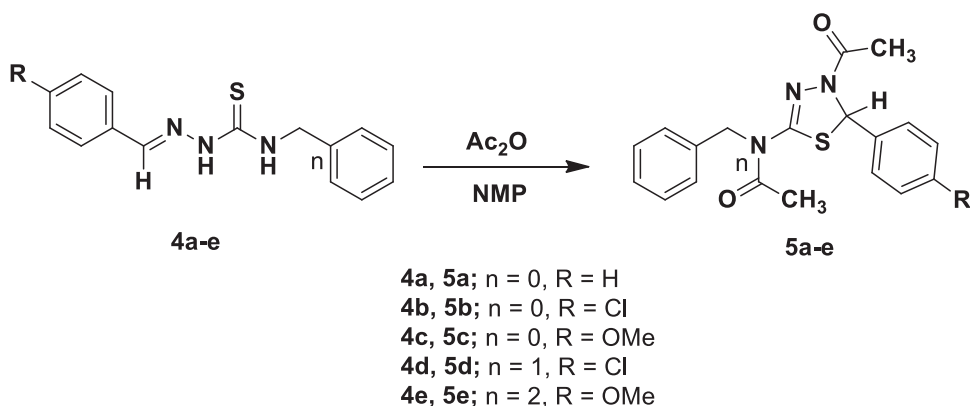
Scheme 1. The Synthetic route for the preparation of 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a-g**.



Scheme 2. Plausible mechanism for the formation of **3a-g** using NMP and acetic anhydride.

sulfur at carbon *Schiff base* bond, followed by electrophilic acetylation at nitrogen *Schiff base* bond with elimination of acetic acid molecule (**Scheme 2**). The simple cyclic amide of NMP containing tertiary aliphatic amine is an excellent cleaning solvent and it can use to facilitate the acetylation reactions through the formation of intermediate **I** (**Scheme 2**).^[58,59]

The chemical structures of the new 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a-g** were confirmed based on their spectral (IR, ¹H, ¹³C NMR) and elemental analyses (see Experimental part & **Supporting Information**). For example, the IR spectrum of **3g** showed a characteristic absorption band at 1662 cm⁻¹ for C=O; 2,90,62,92,82,949 cm⁻¹ for the aliphatic C-H and 3,00,83,052 cm⁻¹ for the aromatic C-H. Its ¹H NMR spectrum showed the presence of two singlet signals at δ 2.23 and 3.75 ppm characteristic of methyl and methoxy groups, respectively; two doublet signals at δ 6.87–6.90 and 7.42–7.44 ppm for four aromatic protons with coupling constant *J* = 8.6 and 7.0 Hz, respectively; also it exhibited doublet of doublets signals at δ 4.36–4.45 ppm with coupling constant *J* = 7.9, 13.6 Hz due to methylene group; and two multiplet signals at δ 7.13–7.15 and 7.30–7.37 ppm due to six protons of aromatic and methine-SP³ group. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **3g** showed ten signals at δ 114.4, 127.3, 128.0, 128.9, 129.5, 133.2, 137.1, 149.4, 159.7, 167.8 ppm, which are assigned to carbonyl group and aromatic carbons; two signals at δ 22.6, 55.6 ppm due to methyl and methoxy groups,



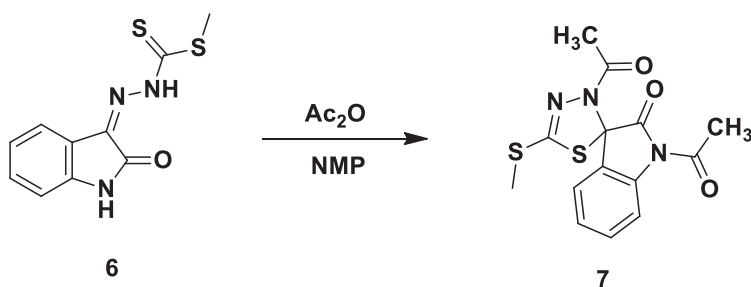
Scheme 3. Synthesis of dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **5a–e**.

respectively; while carbons of methylene and methine- SP^3 groups are characterized by signals at δ 37.1 (disappeared with *DEPT-135*) and 69.7 ppm, respectively.

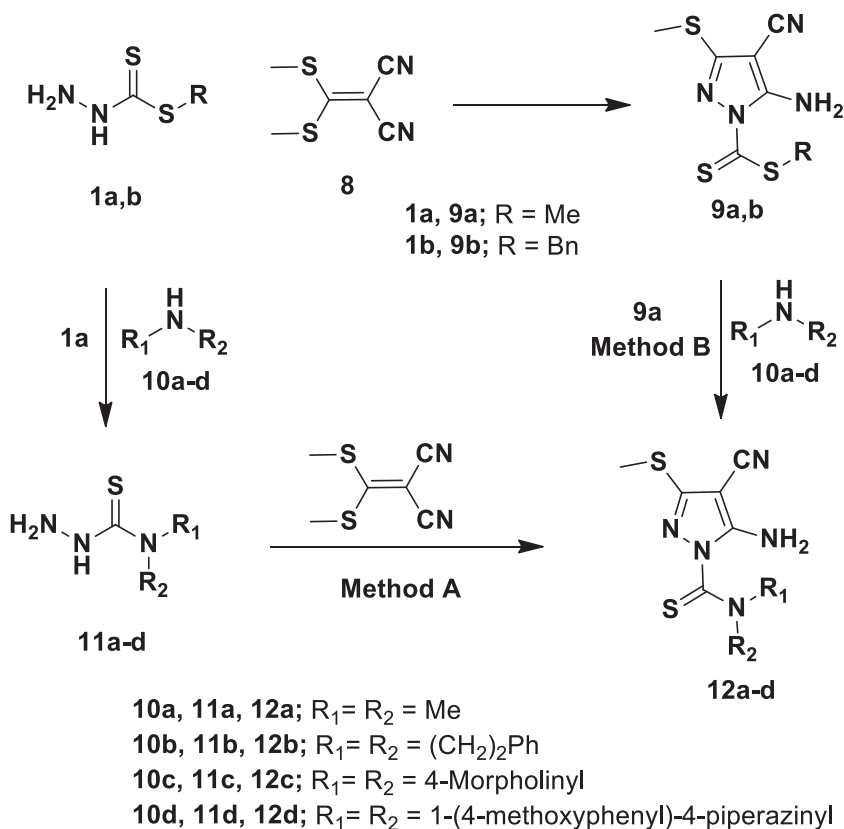
In the same manner, a new series of *N*-(4-acetyl-5-aryl-4,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl) acetamide derivatives **5a–e** was produced by the heating of benzaldehyde, 4-chloro- or 4-methoxybenzaldehyde *N*-phenylthiosemicarbazones **4a–c**, 4-chlorobenzaldehyde *N*-benzylthiosemicarbazone **4d** and/or 4-methoxybenzaldehyde *N*-(2-phenylethyl) thiosemicarbazone **4e** in a mixture of acetic anhydride and NMP, respectively (Scheme 3). The structures of the newly synthesized compounds **5a–e** were confirmed by their spectral (IR, ^1H , ^{13}C NMR) and elemental analyses (see Experimental Part & Supporting Information).

In light of these results, the opportunity to use this strategy to synthesize the new *spiro*-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles can be pursued. Thus 1,3'-diacetyl-5'-(methylthio)-3'*H*-*spiro*[indole-3,2'-[1,3,4]thiadiazol]-2 (1*H*)-one (**7**) was produced by heating of methyl 2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-indol-3-ylidene) hydrazinecarbodithioate (**6**)^[8] in NMP/acetic anhydride (Scheme 4). The analytical data supports the structures (see Experimental Part & Supporting Information).

On the other hand, reaction of *bis* (methylthio) methylene malononitrile **8** with methyl hydrazinecarbodithioate **1a** and/or benzyl hydrazinecarbodithioate **1b** was previously described^[60] giving polyfunctionalized-pyrazoles **9a,b**, respectively (Scheme 5). Using this synthetic strategy is suitable to synthesize the new 5-amino-3-(methylthio)-1-substituted-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile derivatives **12a–d** via reaction of *bis* (methylthio) methylene malononitrile **8** with carbothiohydrazides **11a–d**, which prepared through reported procedure *via* reaction of **1a** with primary/secondary amines **10a–d**,^[4,5] respectively (Method A, Scheme 5). Formation of the products **9a,b** and **12a–d** has been confirmed by their spectral IR, NMR and elemental analyses. Compound **12c** was also confirmed using melting point comparison with reported synthesis by another method.^[60] Also the structures of the synthesized compounds **12a–d** were chemically confirmed by their preparation through another route *via* the reaction of **9a** with primary/secondary amines **10a–d** namely, dimethylamine, phenylethylamine, morpholine, and 1-(4-methoxyphenyl) piperazine, respectively (Method B, Scheme 5).



Scheme 4. Synthesis of 1,3'-diacetyl-5'-(methylthio)-3'H-spiro[indole-3,2'-[1,3,4]thiadiazol]-2(1H)-one (7).



Scheme 5. The Synthetic route for the preparation of polyfunctionalized-pyrazole derivatives **9a,b** and **12a-d**.

IR spectrum of compound **12d** showed absorption peaks at 1616 cm^{-1} for $\text{C}=\text{N}$; 2215 cm^{-1} for $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$; $2819, 2921, 2952\text{ cm}^{-1}$ for $\text{C}-\text{H}$ aliphatic; 3032 cm^{-1} for $\text{C}-\text{H}$ aromatic; and $3,30,03,393\text{ cm}^{-1}$ for NH_2 group. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **12d** showed the presence of four singlet signals at δ 2.50, 3.23, 3.71 and 7.18 ppm characteristic of SCH_3 , two CH_2 , OCH_3 and NH_2 (exchangeable with D_2O) groups, respectively; broad singlet signal at δ 4.01 ppm for other two methylene groups of piperazine; also it exhibited two doublet signals at δ 6.84–6.87 and δ 6.92–6.94 ppm with coupling

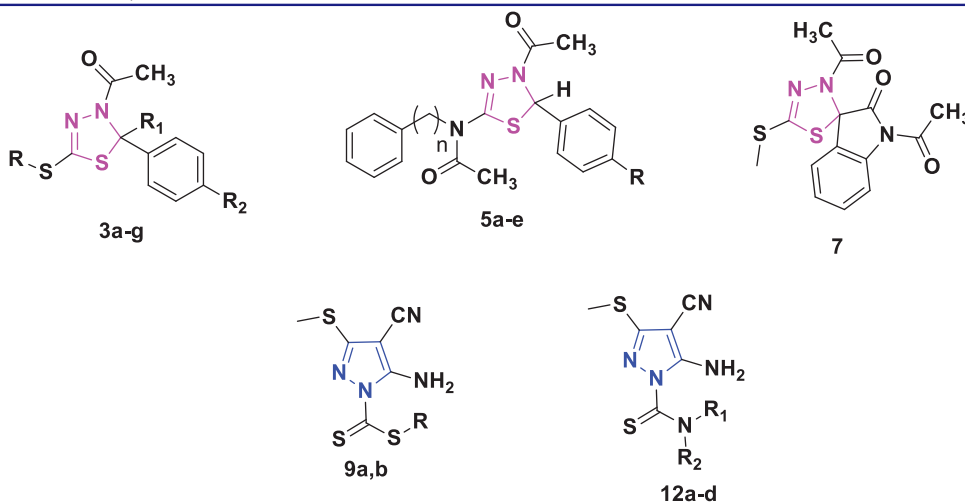
constant $J = 8.9$ Hz for phenylene protons. Its ^{13}C NMR spectrum showed nine peaks at δ 73.9, 113.6, 115.1, 118.3, 144.9, 150.7, 154.1, 154.5, 176.0, which are assigned to SP^2 and SP carbon atoms; while the two methyl carbons (SCH_3 , OCH_3) and four methylene carbons were characterized by peaks at δ 13.6, 49.8, 51.2 and 55.9 ppm.

Antimicrobial evaluation

The *in vitro* antimicrobial activity of newly synthesized 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g**, **5a–e**, **7** and polyfunctionalized-pyrazoles **9a,b**, **12a–d** was evaluated against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC9027) *Escherichia coli* (ATCC6538) and *Candida albicans* (ATCC10231) using well diffusion method^[15,61–63] and the results are presented in Table 1. Among the compounds tested, the *spiro*-compound **7**, was found to be the most active against both the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and the Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria with inhibition zone 20 and 15 mm, respectively. However, compound **7** did not show significant antifungal activity against *C. albicans*.

Regarding 3-acetyl-2-aryl-5-methylthio-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles derivatives **3a–g**, the antimicrobial screening showed that among this series compounds **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** are the most active. Compound **3b** showed the highest inhibition zone 18 and 20 mm against both the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and the Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria, respectively. Compound **3c** exhibited strong activity against Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria with 18 mm inhibition zone and moderate activity against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) bacteria with 12 mm inhibition zone. While compound **3a** exerted moderate activity against both *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with inhibition zone 12 mm. furthermore, compound **3e** and **3g** showed weak activity against the Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria only with inhibition zone 8 mm. With respect to the antifungal activity, all derivatives of this series did not exhibit notable antifungal activity.

Ongoing through the results of *N*-(4-acetyl-5-aryl-4,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl) acetamide derivatives **5a–e**, the antimicrobial investigation revealed that compound **5b** has strong activity against Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria with 18 mm inhibition zone and moderate activity against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) bacteria with 12 mm inhibition zone. In addition, **5e** has a moderate activity against both *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with inhibition zone 15 and 12 mm, respectively, and weak antifungal activity against *C. albicans* with 7 mm inhibition zone. Compounds **5a**, **5c** and **5d** did not exhibit notable antibacterial activity, however, **5c** showed weak antifungal activity against *C. albicans* with 6 mm inhibition zone. Finally, among the pyrazole derivatives **9a,b** and **12a–d**, compound **12d** exhibited strong activity against Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria with 20 mm inhibition zone and moderate activity against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) bacteria with 12 mm inhibition zone without any notable antifungal activity. Also, compound **12c** showed a moderate activity against both *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with inhibition zone 12 mm and did not exhibit notable antifungal activity. Additionally, compound **12b** showed weak activity against Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria with 8 mm inhibition zone and did not exert any activity against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) bacteria or against *C. albicans*. Compounds **9a**, **b**, and **12a** did not exhibit notable antimicrobial activity.

Table 1. The *in vitro* antimicrobial activity of 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g**, **5a–e**, **7** and poly-functionalizedpyrazoles **9a,b** and **12a–d**.

Compound						Inhibition Zone diameter (mm)		
No.	R	R ₁	R ₂	n		S. A.	E. C.	C. A.
3a	Me	H	H	—		12	12	0
3b	Me	H	Cl	—		18	20	0
3c	Me	H	MeO	—		12	18	0
3d	Me	Me	Cl	—		0	0	0
3e	Bn	H	H	—		0	8	0
3f	Bn	H	Cl	—		0	0	0
3g	Bn	H	MeO	—		0	8	0
5a	H	—	—	0		0	0	0
5b	Cl	—	—	0		12	18	0
5c	MeO	—	—	0		0	0	6
5d	Cl	—	—	1		0	0	0
5e	MeO	—	—	2		15	12	7
7	—	—	—	—		20	15	0
9a	Me	—	—	—		0	0	0
9b	Bn	—	—	—		0	0	0
12a	—	Me	Me	—		0	0	0
12b	—	H	—CH ₂ CH ₂ Ph	—		0	8	0
12c	—	R ₁ R ₂ N-: 4-morphinyl		—		—	12	0
12d	—	R ₁ R ₂ N-: 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-piperazinyl		—		—	20	0
Cipro						31	31	—
Fluc						—	—	25

C.A.: *Candida albicans*; Cipro: ciprofloxacin; E. C.: *Escherichia coli*; Fluc.: fluconazole; S. A.: *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Docking studies

The docking simulation experiments were performed using the bacterial DNA gyrase structure with the most active of newly synthesized compounds **3b**, **7**, and **12d**. The DNA gyrase structure was obtained from RCSB Protein data base (PDB ID: 4URO). DNA gyrase is a unique type II topoisomerase which is responsible for the super-coiling activity of DNA in bacteria.^[64,65] We used the CDOCKER docking protocol, embedded in the Discovery Studio software 2.5 (San Diego, USA).

The docking results revealed that compound **3b**, nicely bound to the substrate binding pocket of 4URO (Figure 1) via incorporation of four hydrogen bonds with Arg84,

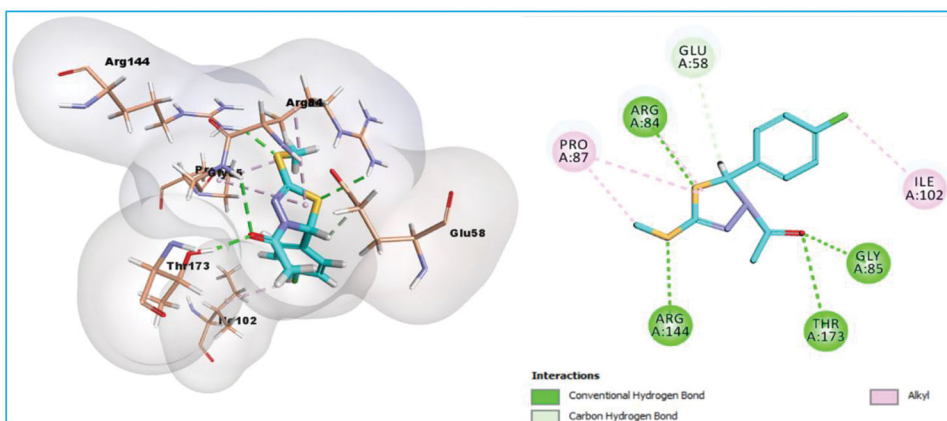


Figure 1. 3D and 2D docking and binding pattern of compound **3b** (cyan) into the active site of DNA gyrase (PDB entry: 4URO).

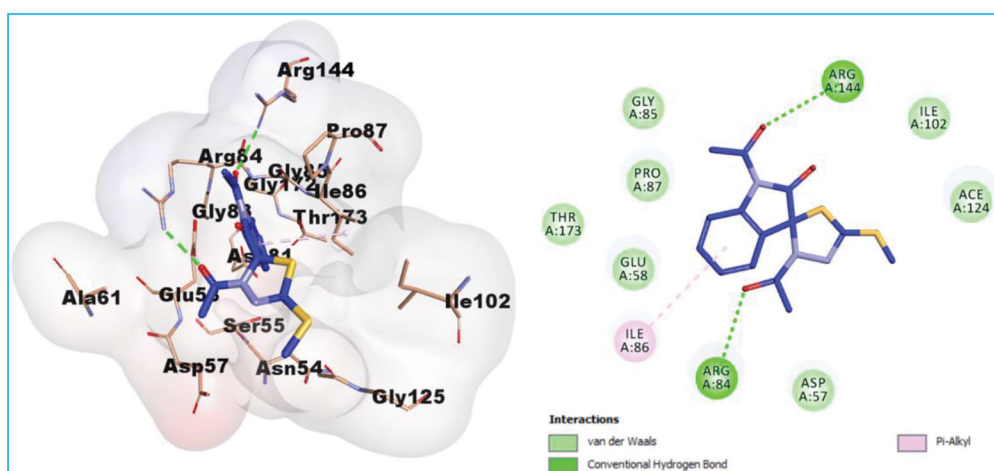


Figure 2. 3D and 2D docking and binding pattern of compound **7** (blue) into the active site of DNA gyrase (PDB entry: 4URO).

Gly85, Arg144 and Thr173. In addition to five hydrophobic interactions with Glu58, Arg84, Pro87 and Ile102 and this may explain the high antibacterial activity of compound **3b**.

Compound **7** engaged in two hydrogen bonds, one with Arg84 and Arg144. Additionally, compound **7** forms one hydrophobic interactions with Ile86 as shown in Figure 2.

Moreover, docking analysis of compound **12d** showed that it forms three hydrogen bonds with Gly85, Gln91, and Thr173 and seven hydrophobic interactions with the amino acid residues Gly83, Arg84, Ile86, Pro87, Ala98, and Ile102 (Figure 3). Interestingly, these theoretical docking results are in good agreement with experimental results which shows that **3b**, **7**, and **12d** may act as potent inhibitors of the DNA gyrase.

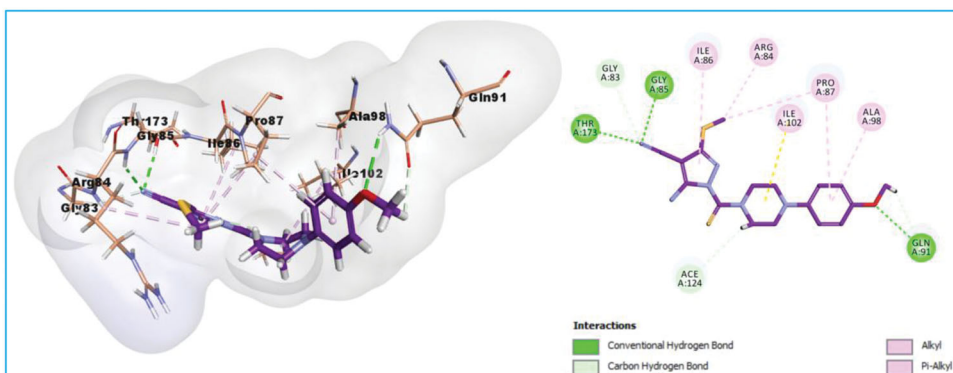


Figure 3. 3D and 2D docking and binding pattern of compound **12d** (violet) into the active site of DNA gyrase (PDB entry: 4URO).

Experimental

Chemistry

All commercially available reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Merck and Fluka and were used without further purification. For more details, see [Supporting Information](#).

General procedure for the synthesis of 3-acetyl-2-aryl-5-methylthio-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles (3a-g); N- (4-acetyl-5-aryl-4,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl) acetamide derivatives (5a-e) and 1,3'-diacetyl-5'- (methylthio) -3'H-spiro[indole-3,2'-[1,3,4]thiadiazol]-2 (1H) -one (7)

To a solution of thiocarbohydrazones **2a-g**, **4a-e**, **6** (2 mmole) in 10 mL *N*-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), acetic anhydride (20 mmole, 1.9 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was heated and stirred in a steam bath for 2 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored with TLC), the reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, poured into crushed ice and neutralized by ammonium hydroxide. The formed precipitate was collected by filtration, washed by distilled water, dried, and recrystallized from ethanol.

3-Acetyl-5- (benzylthio) -2- (4-methoxyphenyl) -2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazole (3g):

Yield 82%; beige solid; m.p.: 65–67 °C. IR (ATR) ν_{\max} 3052, 3008 (CH aromatic), 2949, 2928, 2906 (CH aliphatic), 1662 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 2.23 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.36–4.45 (dd, J =7.9, 13.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 6.87–6.90 (d, J =8.6 Hz, 2H, CH_{arom.}), 7.13–7.15 (m, 3H, N-CH + 2CH_{arom.}), 7.30–7.37 (m, 3H, CH_{arom.}), 7.42–7.44 (d, J =7.0 Hz, 2H, CH_{arom.}); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 22.6, 37.1 (exchangeable with DEPT-135), 55.6, 69.7, 114.4, 127.3, 128.0, 128.9, 129.5, 133.2, 137.1, 149.4, 159.7, 167.8. Elemental Analysis Calcd. (%) for C₁₈H₁₈N₂O₂S₂ (358.47): C, 60.31; H, 5.06; N, 7.81. Found: C, 60.21; H, 4.89; N, 7.76.

General procedure for the synthesis of 5-amino-3-(methylthio)-1-substituted-1H-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile derivatives (12a–d)

- **Method A:** A mixture of *bis* (methylthio) methylene malononitrile **8** (0.34g, 2mmol) and carbothiohydrazides **11a–d** (2mmol) was refluxed indioxane for 2h (monitored by TLC). After cooling the formed precipitate was collected by filtration, dried and recrystallized from dioxane to afford **12a–d**.
- **Method B:** A mixture of methyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3-(methylthio)-1H-pyrazole-1-carbodithioate **9a** (0.49, 2 mmol) and primary/secondary amines **10a–d** (2 mmol) was refluxed indioxane for 4h (monitored by TLC). After cooling the formed precipitate was collected by filtration, dried and recrystallized from dioxane to afford **12a–d**.

5-Amino-1-{[4-(4-methoxyphenyl) piperazin-1-yl]carbonothioyl}-3-(methylthio)-1H-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile (12d):

Yield (method A: 92%, method B: 87%); gray solid; m.p.: 198–200 °C. IR (ATR) ν_{\max} 3393, 3300 (NH₂), 3032 (CH aromatic), 2952, 2921, 2819 (CH aliphatic), 2215 (C≡N), 1616 (C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 2.50 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 3.23 (s, 4H, 2CH₂), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.01 (br. s, 4H, 2CH₂), 6.84–6.87 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H, CH_{arom.}), 6.92–6.94 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H, CH_{arom.}), 7.18 (s, 2H, NH₂, disappeared by D₂O); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 13.6, 49.8, 51.2, 55.9, 73.9, 113.6 (CN), 115.1, 118.3, 144.9, 150.7, 154.1, 154.5, 176.0. Elemental Analysis Calcd. (%) for C₁₇H₂₀N₆OS₂ (388.51): C, 52.56; H, 5.19; N, 21.63. Found: C, 52.84; H, 4.93; N, 21.44.

Biological activity

Antibacterial and antifungal activities

The *in vitro* antibacterial and antifungal activities of the newly synthesized 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g**, **5a–e**, **7** and polyfunctionalized-pyrazoles **9a,b** and **12a–d** were screened using the well diffusion method.^[15,61–63] For more details, see Supporting Information.

Docking methodology

Discovery Studio 2.5 software (Accelrys Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) was used for docking analysis.^[66,67] For more details, see Supporting Information.

Conclusion

A series of 3-acetyl-2-aryl-5-methylthio-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazoles **3a–g**, *N*-(4-acetyl-5-aryl-4,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl) acetamide derivatives **5a–e** and 1,3'-diacetyl-5'-(methylthio)-3'*H*-spiro[indole-3,2'-[1,3,4]thiadiazol]-2 (1*H*)-one (**7**) was produced by heating of thiosemicarbazone derivatives **2a–g**, **4a–e**, **6** in a mixture of NMP/acetic anhydride, respectively. Also, a series of 5-amino-3-(methylthio)-1-substituted-1H-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile derivatives **12a–d** was produced from *bis* (methylthio) methylene

malononitrile **8**, using two synthetic pathways. In addition, all synthesized compounds were screened for their antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC9027) *Escherichia coli* (ATCC6538) and *Candida albicans* (ATCC10231) by means of paper disk diffusion method (9 mm) on Muller Hinton agar. Some of them were found to possess antibacterial activity and exhibited moderate-to-good activity. The results revealed that compounds **3b**, **7**, and **12d** are the most potent and elicited remarkable antibacterial activity against the Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and the Gram-negative (*E. coli*) bacteria compared to ciprofloxacin as a reference drug. The molecular docking results of **3b**, **7**, and **12d** suggested that they may act as potent inhibitors of the DNA gyrase.

Full experimental detail, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra. This material can be found via the “[Supplementary Content](#)” section of this article’s webpage.

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Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author (s).

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