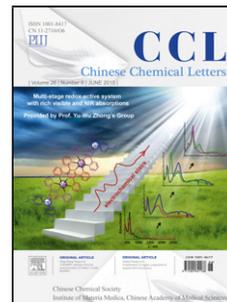


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Communication

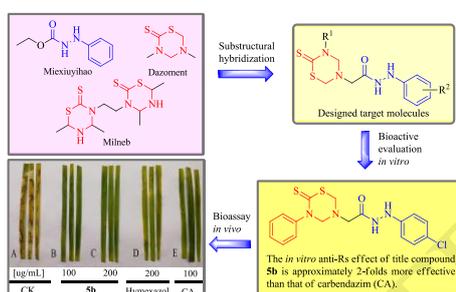
Novel 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives containing a hydrazide moiety: Design, synthesis and bioactive evaluation against phytopathogenic fungi *in vitro* and *in vivo*

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Graphical abstract



A series of novel 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety were designed, synthesized and evaluated for their biological activities against phytopathogenic fungi. The antifungal bioassays indicated that the title compound **5b** impressively displayed the obvious selectivity and specificity against *Rhizoctonia solani* (Rs) *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The above researches provide a significant reference for the further structural optimization of 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety as potential fungicides.

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ABSTRACT

A series of novel 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety were designed, synthesized and evaluated for their antifungal activities against *Rhizoctonia solani* (Rs), *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg), *Botrytis cinerea* (Bc) and *Colletotrichum capsici* (Cc). The *in vitro* antifungal bioassays indicated that most of title compounds displayed good selectivity and specificity against Rs relative to Fg, Bc and Cc. Strikingly, the title compound N'-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(5-phenyl-6-thioxo-1,3,5-thiadiazinan-3-yl)acetylhydrazide (**5b**) obviously inhibited the Rs growth *in vitro* with the EC₅₀ value of 0.24 µg/mL,

which is approximately 2-folds more effective than the commercialized fungicide carbendazim (0.55 $\mu\text{g/mL}$). The in vivo anti-Rs effects of title compound **5b** were further evaluated on rice leaves with control efficacies of 98.58% at 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 61.27% at 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The above researches provide a significant reference for the further structural optimization of 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety as potential fungicides.

Keywords:

1,3,5-Thiadiazine-2-thione

Hydrazide

Crop protection

Antifungal activity

Rhizoctonia solani

Grains, vegetables and fruits are important food sources that are tremendously threatened by the infection of plant pathogenic fungi [1]. These pathogenic fungi, such as *Rhizoctonia solani* (Rs), *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg), *Botrytis cinerea* (Bc) and *Colletotrichum capsici* (Cc), not only lead annually to agricultural yield reductions of at least 10% [2], but also pose huge risks to food security and human health by generating hazardous mycotoxins in infected crops [3]. Nowadays, the rational application of commercialized fungicides is regarded as the most effective approach to alleviate agricultural disease outbreaks caused by phytopathogenic fungi [4,5]. For example, carbendazim, penthiopyrad and azoxystrobin were developed as the highly-efficient and broad-spectrum fungicides that were widely used to reduce the losses of agricultural economies in last decades. However, the long-term application of existing agricultural fungicides not only leads to the rapid deterioration of fungal resistance [6], but also generates the harmful influences on the environment and non-target organisms [7,8]. Therefore, it remains a challenge in agricultural sciences to develop highly-efficient and broad-spectrum fungicides with a novel molecular structure [9,10].

Featuring high lipid solubilities and desirable enzymatic hydrolyzation within living organisms [11,12], 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives were documented to possess various bioactivities including anti-proliferative [13], antibacterial [14], antiepileptic [15], antifungal [16], antileishmanial [17], antimalarial [18], antitubercular [19], trypanocidal [20], antioxidant [21] and herbicidal [22] properties. Recent practical studies on 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives showed that this type of nonaromatic heterocycles exhibited desirable inhibition effects against phytopathogenic fungi, bacteria and nematodes. As the important bioactive molecules bearing a 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione fragment, milneb and dazoment (Fig. 1) were respectively developed as agricultural fungicide and acaricide over the last three decades [23,24]. Meanwhile, Mao *et al.* conducted the antibacterial evaluation of dazoment against *Ralstonia solanacearum* in field trials and found dazoment could be used as an alternative bactericide to control ginger bacterial wilt [25]. Subsequently, Hwang *et al.* also found that dazoment could effectively manage agricultural diseases caused by the soil-borne fungal pathogens *Plasmiodiophora brassicae*, *Fusarium avenaceum*, *Pythium ultimum* and *Rhizoctonia solani* [26]. However, to the best of our knowledge, 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives except milneb and dazoment were rarely reported on their structural modifications and agricultural bioactivities.

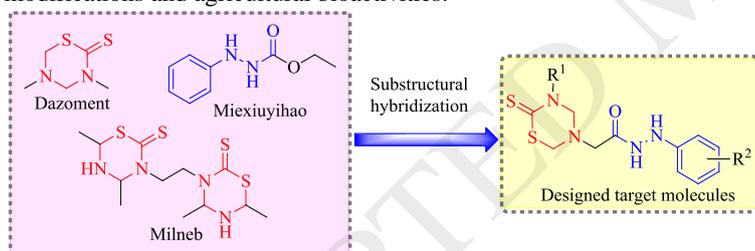
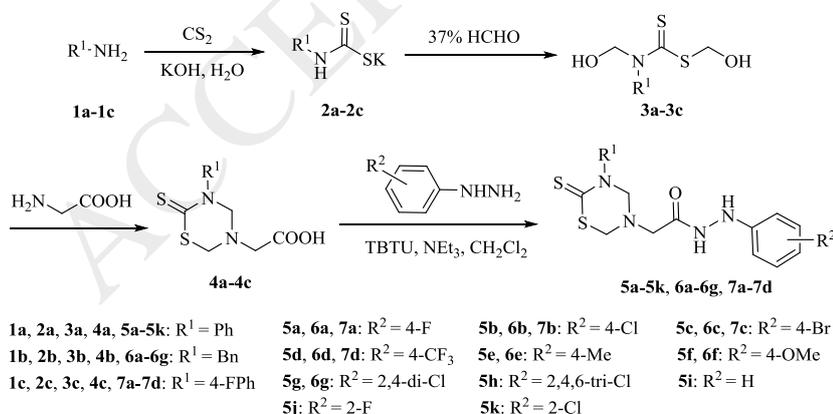


Fig. 1. Design strategy of title compounds.



Scheme 1. Synthesis route of title compounds.

Hydrazide derivatives are significant nitrogenous compounds that exhibit herbicidal [27], anticancer [28], antimalarial [29], anti-inflammatory [30], antiviral [31], antibacterial [32], antifungal [33], anticoagulant [34] and insecticidal [35] bioactivities. Among these

bioactive hydrazide derivatives, arylhydrazide derivatives have recently attracted tremendous interests from biologists and chemists due to their excellent inhibition effects against various phytopathogenic fungi. For example, ethyl 2-phenylhydrazine-1-carboxylate named miexiuyihao (Fig. 1) was developed as the systemic fungicide that was mainly applied in effectively controlling wheat stripe rust [36]. Recently, Wang *et al.* reported that arylhydrazide derivatives bearing a 1,2,3-triazole moiety exhibited fine systemic conductions and effectively inhibited the energy generation of various plant fungi [37]. In addition, our previous studies also found that 2-(4-oxoquinazolin-3(4*H*)-yl)-*N'*-phenylacetohydrazide derivatives exhibited the impressive anti-phytopathogenic effects against Rs and Fg *in vitro* [38].

Based on the above-mentioned outstanding fungicidal activities and excellent properties of 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione and hydrazide derivatives, the aims of this work are to: (i) construct novel bioactive molecules by combining the 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione fragment with the hydrazide substructure, as shown in Fig. 1, which could enhance the molecular lipid solubility within organisms and improve the combining capacity with receptor proteins; (ii) generate a series of novel 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety (Scheme 1) and evaluate their antifungal activities *in vitro* against Rs, Fg, Bc and Cc; and (iii) investigate their *in vivo* anti-Rs effects and perform their structure-activity relationship (SAR) analysis against the above tested fungi.

As shown in Scheme 1, the nucleophilic reaction of the primary amide **1** (aniline, *para*-fluoroaniline or benzylamine) with carbon disulfide in sodium hydroxide solution generated the substituted potassium carbamodithioate **2** that directly reacted with formaldehyde to synthesize the substituted *N*-hydroxymethyl-*S*-hydroxymethyl carbamodithioate **3**. The substituted 2-(6-thioxo-1,3,5-thiadiazinan-3-yl)acetic acid **4** was conveniently synthesized by the nucleophilic substitution of an intermediate **3** with glycine in phosphate buffer (pH 7.8). Using *O*-(benzotriazol-1-yl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyluroniumtetrafluoroborate (TBTU) as the catalyst and triethylamine as the acid binding agent, the intermediates **4** reacted with substituted phenylhydrazines to obtain the target compounds **5–7** with good yields ranging from 31% to 88%. The obtained 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety were confirmed *via* corresponding FT-IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹⁹F NMR and HRMS. The relevant spectroscopic data of synthesized compounds **5–7** were collected and presented in Supporting information.

Using the agricultural fungicides carbendazim, penthiopyrad and azoxystrobin as positive controls, the *in vitro* antifungal effects of title compounds against Rs, Fg, Bc and Cc were evaluated by a mycelium growth rate method [5,10,37–43]. As shown in Table 1, the title compounds **5b**, **6a–6c** and **7a–7c** exhibited impressive anti-Fg effects *in vitro*, with the corresponding EC₅₀ values of 2.11, 2.34, 2.17, 2.82, 1.49, 1.19 and 1.73 µg/mL. Meanwhile, the title compounds **5a–5e**, **5g**, **6a–6c**, **6g** and **7a–7c** obviously inhibited Bc *in vitro* with the EC₅₀ values of 1.38, 0.85, 0.66, 2.57, 2.26, 2.08, 2.03, 1.43, 2.13, 2.62, 1.75, 1.10 and 1.44 µg/mL, respectively. In addition, Table 1 also showed that the title compounds **5d**, **5g**, **5h**, **5j**, **6d**, **6g** and **7d** had obvious anti-Cc effects, with the corresponding EC₅₀ values of 2.29, 2.88, 0.70, 2.12, 0.70, 1.59 and 1.41 µg/mL. Strikingly, the anti-Rs EC₅₀ values of title compounds **5b**, **5c**, **6d**, **7b**, **7c** and **7d** reached 0.24, 0.44, 0.25, 0.28, 0.35 and 0.46 µg/mL, respectively, which are better than that of carbendazim (0.55 µg/mL).

Table 1 showed that most of title compounds displayed good selectivity and specificity *in vitro* against Rs relative to Fg, Bc and Cc. Impressively, the title compound **5b** obviously inhibited the Rs growth *in vitro* with the EC₅₀ value of 0.24 µg/mL, which is approximately 2-folds more effective than the commercialized fungicide carbendazim (0.55 µg/mL). Aiming to further investigate the application values of title compounds as agricultural fungicides, the *in vivo* anti-Rs effects of title compound **5b**, carbendazim and hymexazol were evaluated on rice leaves by a detached leaf assay [44]. As shown in Table 2 and Fig. 2, the *in vivo* anti-Rs control efficacy of title compound **5b** at 100 µg/mL was 61.27%, which is inferior to that of carbendazim at 100 µg/mL (98.08%). Meanwhile, the *in vivo* bioassay results in Table 2 also presented that the title compound **5b** obviously inhibited the Rs growth on rice leaves at 200 µg/mL with an impressive control efficacy of 98.58%, which is obviously better than hymexazol at the same concentration of 200 µg/mL (54.90%). The *in vivo* bioassay research provides a significant reference for the practical application of 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety in agricultures.

Table 1
In vitro antifungal EC₅₀ values of title compounds **5–7** (µg/mL).^a

Compd.	Rs	Fg	Bc	Cc
5a	0.76 ± 1.05	3.16 ± 1.54	1.38 ± 0.91	8.09 ± 0.79
5b	0.24 ± 0.16	2.11 ± 1.12	0.85 ± 0.50	3.75 ± 0.87
5c	0.44 ± 0.27	3.66 ± 2.51	0.66 ± 0.41	4.31 ± 0.87
5d	0.81 ± 0.35	8.43 ± 5.58	2.57 ± 0.74	2.29 ± 0.50
5e	4.14 ± 2.29	5.16 ± 1.68	2.26 ± 0.63	35.42 ± 5.34
5f	19.06 ± 5.60	10.48 ± 1.59	11.10 ± 6.02	86.45 ± 8.67
5g	1.86 ± 0.56	10.68 ± 0.53	2.08 ± 0.82	2.88 ± 0.92
5h	10.03 ± 3.86	72.67 ± 8.62	48.00 ± 7.02	0.70 ± 0.21
5i	3.35 ± 0.79	9.44 ± 7.11	9.14 ± 6.16	45.28 ± 4.20
5j	1.53 ± 0.32	17.81 ± 7.14	7.88 ± 4.78	2.12 ± 0.51
5k	2.10 ± 0.76	54.31 ± 8.67	48.13 ± 9.15	7.99 ± 2.62
6a	0.62 ± 0.51	2.34 ± 0.72	2.03 ± 0.71	3.31 ± 0.88
6b	0.77 ± 0.56	2.17 ± 1.27	1.43 ± 0.43	4.44 ± 1.84
6c	0.82 ± 0.32	2.82 ± 0.97	2.13 ± 1.18	3.44 ± 1.07
6d	0.25 ± 0.39	7.84 ± 1.47	4.12 ± 1.54	0.70 ± 0.27
6e	1.81 ± 1.11	4.53 ± 1.94	6.39 ± 1.42	19.06 ± 4.93
6f	4.98 ± 1.29	7.11 ± 2.78	6.50 ± 3.05	25.62 ± 7.94
6g	0.86 ± 0.39	5.13 ± 1.93	2.62 ± 0.96	1.59 ± 0.67
7a	0.82 ± 0.18	1.49 ± 0.27	1.75 ± 0.30	16.04 ± 6.66

7b	0.28 ± 0.16	1.19 ± 0.49	1.10 ± 0.25	8.03 ± 3.05
7c	0.35 ± 0.33	1.73 ± 1.08	1.44 ± 0.23	11.78 ± 2.04
7d	0.46 ± 0.41	9.02 ± 2.73	3.78 ± 1.71	1.41 ± 0.70
Carbendazim	0.55 ± 0.61	0.54 ± 0.56	-	-
Penthiopyrad	-	-	0.82 ± 0.86	-
Azoxystrobin	-	-	-	0.44 ± 0.48

^aValues are the average of three replicates.

Table 2

In vivo anti-Rs control efficacies of bioactive compounds on rice leaves.^a

Compd.	Treatment (µg/mL)	Lesion length (cm)	Control efficacy (%)
5b	100	3.83 ± 2.48	61.27
5b	200	0.14 ± 0.47	98.58
Hymexazol	200	4.46 ± 2.76	54.90
Carbendazim	100	0.19 ± 0.52	98.08
Blank control	-	9.89 ± 5.32	-

^aValues are the average of 10 replicates.



Fig. 2. *In vivo* anti-Rs effect photographs of bioactive compounds on rice leaves. (A) Blank control; (B) **5b** at 100 µg/mL; (C) **5b** at 200 µg/mL; (D) Hymexazol at 200 µg/mL; (E) Carbendazim at 100 µg/mL.

As shown in Table 1, introducing different substituents at R¹ and R² positions greatly influenced the inhibition effects of title compounds against phytopathogenic fungi. Based on the bioassay results in Table 1, some structure-activity relationships were analyzed and presented as below. First, all title compounds except **5e**, **5f** and **5h** exhibited better inhibition effects against Rs than that against Fg, Bc and Cc. Second, most of title compounds bearing a Bn group at R¹ position, such as **6a**, **6d**, **6e**, **6f** and **6g**, displayed better anti-Rs and anti-Cc effects than those bearing a Ph (**5a**, **5d**, **5e**, **5f** and **5g**) or 4-FPh (**7a** and **7d**) fragment at R¹ position. Third, the bioassay results in Table 1 showed that a presence of 4-FPh group at R¹ position overall enhanced the anti-Fg effects of title compounds. For example, the anti-Fg EC₅₀ values of title compounds **7a**, **7b** and **7c** (R¹ = 4-FPh) respectively reached 1.49, 1.19 and 1.73 µg/mL, which are better than that of title compounds **5a**, **5b** and **5c** (R¹ = Ph; 3.16, 2.11 and 3.66 µg/mL) as well as **6a**, **6b** and **6c** (R¹ = Bn; 2.34, 2.17 and 2.82 µg/mL). Forth, when R¹ was substituted with a Ph group, the anti-Bc EC₅₀ values of obtained compounds **5a–5d** were 1.38, 0.85, 0.66 and 2.57 µg/mL, respectively, which are better than that of title compounds **6a–6d** (R¹ = Bn; 2.03, 1.43, 2.13 and 4.12 µg/mL) and **7a–7d** (R¹ = 4-FPh; 1.75, 1.10, 1.44 and 3.78 µg/mL). Fifth, introducing a 4-F, 4-Cl or 4-Br group at R² position greatly improved the antifungal effects of title compounds against Rs, Fg and Bc. Table 1 showed that the title compounds containing a 4-F (**5a**, **6a** and **7a**), 4-Cl (**5b**, **6b** and **7b**) or 4-Br (**5c**, **6c** and **7c**) group at R² position exhibited better inhibition effects against Rs, Fg and Bc than those molecules bearing a 4-CF₃ (**5d**, **6d** and **7d**), 4-Me (**5e** and **6e**), 4-OMe (**5f** and **6f**), 2,4-di-Cl (**5g** and **6g**), 2,4,6-tri-Cl (**5h**), H (**5i**), 2-F (**5j**) or 2-Cl (**5k**) group at R² position.

In conclusion, aiming to search for novel bioactive molecules with anti-phytopathogenic effects, a series of novel 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety were designed and synthesized, and their structures were confirmed by FT-IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹⁹F NMR and HRMS. Antifungal bioassays *in vitro* indicated that most of target compounds displayed good selectivity and specificity against Rs relative to Fg, Bc and Cc. Strikingly, six title compounds **5b**, **5c**, **6d**, **7b**, **7c** and **7d** exhibited remarkable antifungal activities against Rs *in vitro*, with corresponding EC₅₀ values of 0.24, 0.44, 0.25, 0.28, 0.35 and 0.46 µg/mL, which are obviously better than carbendazim (0.55 µg/mL). The *in vivo* anti-Rs effects of title compound **5b** as a key representative were further evaluated on rice leaves to investigate the application potentials of title compounds as agricultural fungicides. The *in vivo* anti-Rs control efficacies of title compound **5b**, which reached 98.58% at 200 µg/mL and 61.27% at 100 µg/mL, indicate that 1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione derivatives bearing a hydrazide moiety may have the research value of further structural optimization.

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