



Synthesis, antitubercular and antimicrobial potential of some new thiazole substituted thiosemicarbazide derivatives

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Abstract The increase in antibiotic resistance due to multiple factors has warranted the need for search of new compounds which are active against multidrug resistant pathogens. In this context a small focused library of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde and 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone, (**5a–l**) has been synthesized. The title compounds were screened for inhibitory activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Ra (ATCC 25177) and *Mycobacterium bovis* Bacille Calmette Guerin (ATCC 35743) strains. The synthesized compounds, **5a–l** were further assayed for their cytotoxic activity against the two human cancer cell lines, HeLa and human colon carcinoma 116 cell lines and showed no significant cytotoxic activity against these two cell lines at the maximum concentration evaluated. Further, the synthesized compounds were found to have potential antibacterial activity against Gram-negative bacteria, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas fluorescence* and Gram-positive bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*,

Bacillus subtilis. Most of the synthesized compounds showed moderate activity against fungal strain *Candida albicans*. This study provides valuable directions to our ongoing endeavor of rationally designing more potent antimycobacterial agent.

Keywords Thiosemicarbazide · Thiazole · Antitubercular activity · Antimicrobial activity · Cytotoxicity

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB), an infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) is a huge menace to the human race. To combat with microbial pathogens, different kinds of antimicrobial agents have been developed substantially. However, the emergence of multidrug-resistant bacterial strains, the restricted spectrum of action, toxicity, extensive side effects and drug interactions, create a serious challenge to the scientific community and the need for an effective therapy has led to a search for new therapeutic options (Kunin and Ellis 2000; Cannon et al. 2009; Achkar and Fries 2010; Kathiravan et al. 2012).

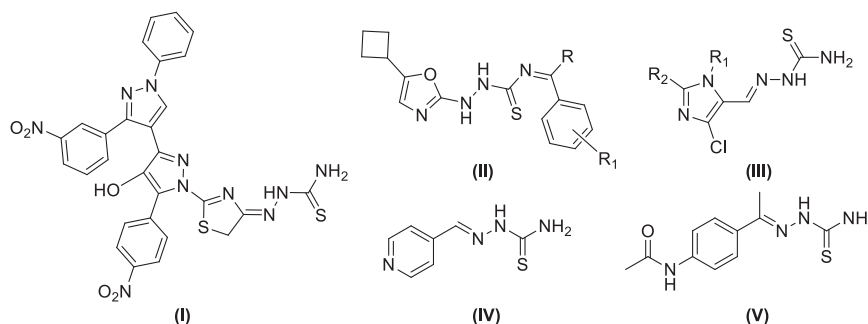
The simplest hydrazine derivative of thiocarbamic acid called thiosemicarbazide has received considerable attention because of their variable bonding modes, structural diversity, promising biological activities, and ion sensing ability (Casas et al. 2000; Kumari et al. 2012). During the past few decades, interest has been rapidly growing in gaining insight into the properties and transformations of thiosemicarbazides and their derivatives due to their appreciable pharmacological activities viz. antitubercular activity (Patel et al. 2014; Tan et al. 2012; Kucukguzel et al. 2006; Sriram et al. 2006;

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Fig. 1 Antibacterial and antitubercular agents containing thiosemicarbazone moiety



Moglea et al. 2016), anti-inflammatory activity (Salgın-Goksen et al. 2007), antibacterial activity (Alagarsamy et al. 2012; Rane et al. 2014; Sheikhy et al. 2012; Umadevi et al. 2012; Plech et al. 2011; Chornous et al. 2014; Pitucha et al. 2016), anticancer activity (Arora et al. 2014; Perkovišć et al. 2012; Malki et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2011), cytotoxic and antiproliferative activity (Mavrova et al. 2014), anti-protozoal activity (Leite et al. 2006; Haraguchi et al. 2011), etc. Use of these compounds in organic synthesis has become a classical strategy for the synthesis of several heterocycles. Thiosemicarbazide is a useful structural moiety and optimization of this structure can result in ground breaking discovery of new class of therapeutic agents.

Similarly, Thiazole and its derivatives are also important pharmacophore in medicinal chemistry that could provide a rich spectrum of biological activities (Abhale et al. 2015, 2016, 2017; Johnson et al. 2012; Gaikwad et al. 2012; Tomasic et al. 2015; Urbanek et al. 2013; Inamdar et al. 2013; Lee et al. 2012; Malik et al. 2013; Navale et al. 2013; Mishra et al. 2015; Siddiqui and Ahsan 2010; Yusufzai et al. 2017) (Fig. 1).

Considering the importance of thiosemicarbazide and thiazole derivatives, it was thought worthwhile to synthesize thiazole substituted thiosemicarbazide derivatives. In the present work the synthesis and antimycobacterial screening of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde, and 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone is reported.

Materials and methods

Chemistry

All the reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). TLC was performed on Merck 60 F-254 silica gel plates. Melting points were determined in capillary tubes in silicon oil bath using a Veego melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. ^1H (300 MHz) NMR and ^{13}C (75 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on Varian mercury XL-300 and Bruker at either 400 MHz (^1H NMR) and 100 MHz (^{13}C NMR), spectrometer instruments. Chemical shifts are reported from

internal tetramethylsilane standard and are given in δ units. Infrared spectra were recorded on Shimadzu Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (KBr)-408 in KBr. The LC-MS spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu 2010 LC-MS. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (100–200 mesh) supplied by Acme Chemical Co. The chemicals and solvents used were laboratory grade and were purified as per literature methods.

General procedure for synthesis of ethyl 2-phenylthiazole-4-carboxylate (**2a**)

The mixture of ethyl 3-bromo-2-oxopropanoate (40 mmol) and benzothiomide, **1a** (40 mmol) in ethanol (30 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. After completion of reaction (TLC) half of the solvent was distilled off and reaction mass was cooled to room temperature. The product was filtered, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol.

General procedure for synthesis of 2-(2-phenylthiazol-4-yl) methanol (**3a**)

To a cold solution of lithium aluminum hydride (20 mmol) in diethyl ether (20 mL) 2-phenylthiazole-4-carboxylate, **2a** (10 mmol) in diethyl ether (20 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 30 min and the reaction mixture was further stirred for 1 h at 0°C . After completion of the reaction (TLC), the reaction mixture was quenched by saturated solution of sodium sulphate. The reaction mixture was filtered and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2×30 mL), the combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over sodium sulphate. 2-(2-phenylthiazol-4-yl) methanol was obtained by removing the solvent by distillation.

General procedure for synthesis of 2-phenylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde (**4a**)

To a solution of 2 (2-phenylthiazol-4-yl) methanol, **3a** (14 mmol) in DMSO (30 mL), iodoxy benzoic acid (IBX, 18 mmol) was added and reaction mixture was stirred at 0 – 20°C . The progress of reaction was monitored on TLC.

After completion of reaction, reaction mixture was filtered. Water (90 mL) was added in the filtrate and the filtrate was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 30 mL). The organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried over sodium sulphate. Product was obtained by distillation of solvent.

General procedure for synthesis of 1-((2-phenylthiazol-4-yl) methylene) thiosemicarbazide (5a)

The mixture of 2-phenylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, **4a** (2 mmol) and thiosemicarbazide (2.5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was refluxed for 2 h. After completion of reaction (TLC) solvent was cooled to room temperature. The product was filtered, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol.

1-((2-phenylthiazol-4-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5a**) Yield 70 %, m.p. 230–232 °C; IR (KBr): 3470, 3430, 3259, 3150, 3018, 2978, 1687, 1645, 1597, 1546, 1491, 1369, 1318, 1284, 1111, 841 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz) δ: 7.46–7.49 (m, 3H, H-3', H-4', H-5'), 7.82–7.84 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 7.87 (s, 1H, Thiazole H-5), 8.10 (s, 1H, NH), 8.25 (s, 1H, NH), 8.26 (s, 1H, NH), 11.45 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz) δ: 118.5 (Thiazole C-5), 126.5 (C-4'), 129.3 (C-3', -5'), 130.5 (C-2', -6'), 132.5 (C-1'), 136.4 (C = N), 153.4 (Thiazole C-4), 167.7 (Thiazole C-2), 178.5 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 263.0 (M + H)⁺.

1-((2-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazol-4-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5b**) Yield 68 %, m.p. 240 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3468, 3430, 3261, 3168, 3010, 2976, 1685, 1645, 1597, 1542, 1502, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1122, 1001, 839, 801 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.50 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 7.95 (s, 1H, Thiazole H-5), 8.30 (s, 1H, NH), 8.35 (s, 2H, NH₂), 11.46 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 119.0 (Thiazole C-5), 128.8 (C-2', -6'), 129.9 (C-3', -5'), 131.9 (C-4'), 135.7 (C-1'), 136.8 (C = N), 152.3 (Thiazole C-4), 165.5 (Thiazole C-2), 178.0 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 297.0 (M + H)⁺, *m/z*: 299.0 (M + H + 2)⁺.

1-((2-(4-fluorophenyl)thiazol-4-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5c**) Yield 75 %, m.p. 230 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3472, 3433, 3264, 3165, 3010, 2978, 1687, 1645, 1597, 1542, 1502, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1122, 1001, 840, 800 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.35 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 8.00 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.2 (s, 1H, Thiazole H-5), 8.33 (s, 1H, NH), 8.34 (s, 2H, NH₂), 11.58 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 116.8 (C-3', -5'), 119.5 (Thiazole C-5), 129.4 (C-2', -6'), 129.9 (C-1'), 136.0 (C = N), 153.6 (Thiazole C-4), 163.5 (C-4'), 166.8 (Thiazole C-2), 178.8 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 281.0 (M + H)⁺.

1-((2-p-tolylthiazol-4-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5d**) Yield 65 %, m.p. 230 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3470, 3430, 3260, 3165, 3012, 2970, 1688, 1646, 1600, 1540, 1500, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1122, 1001, 839, 799 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 2.42, (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃), 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.84 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.00 (s, 1H, Thiazole H-5), 8.22 (s, 1H, NH), 8.32 (s, 2H, NH₂), 11.58 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 21.2 (Ar-CH₃), 119.0 (Thiazole C-5), 127.0 (C-2', -6'), 130.1 (C-3', -5'), 130.2 (C-4'), 137.1 (C = N), 140.4 (C-1'), 152.6 (Thiazole C-4), 167.8 (Thiazole C-2), 179.1 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 277.1 (M + H)⁺.

General procedure for synthesis of Ethyl 4-methyl-2-phenylthiazole-5-carboxylate (2e)

The mixture of 2-bromo-3-oxoethylbutanoate (36.4 mmol) and benzothioamide (36.4 mmol) in 25 mL ethanol was refluxed for 8 h. After completion of reaction (TLC), half of the solvent was distilled-off and reaction mass cooled to room temperature. The product was filtered, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol. Yield: 4.0 g, (80 %), m.p. 90–92 °C. The compounds **2f–h** were synthesized by same method.

General procedure for synthesis of (4-Methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) methanol (3e)

To a cold solution of lithium aluminum hydride (20 mmol) in dry diethyl ether (25 mL), ethyl 4-methyl-2-phenylthiazole-5-carboxylate, **2e** (10 mmol) in diethyl ether (25 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 30 min and the reaction mixture was further stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the reaction mixture was quenched by saturated solution of sodium sulphate. The reaction mixture was filtered and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 30 mL), the combined organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried over sodium sulphate furnished (4-Methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) methanol.

General procedure for synthesis of 4-Methyl-2-phenylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde (4e)

To a solution of (4-methyl-2-phenylthiazole-5-yl) methanol, **3e** (10 mmol) in DMSO (30 mL), IBX (11 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 to 20 °C. The progress of reaction was monitored on TLC. After completion of the reaction (20 min), reaction mixture was filtered and washed with DMSO (5 mL). Water (90 mL) was added in the filtrate and the filtrate was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 30 mL). The organic layer was washed

with water, brine and dried over sodium sulphate. The solvent was distilled to afford white solid **4e** in 95% yield.

General procedure for synthesis of 1-((4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) methylene) thio-semicarbazide (5e)

The mixture of 4-methyl-2-phenylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde, **4e** (2 mmol) and thiosemicarbazide (2.5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was refluxed for 2 h. After completion of reaction (TLC) solvent was cooled to room temperature. The product was filtered, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol.

1-((4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5e**) Yield 66 %, m.p. 230 °C. IR (KBr): 3474, 3432, 3261, 3158, 3018, 2978, 1688, 1647, 1597, 1546, 1491, 1369, 1318, 1284, 1111, 841 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz) δ : 2.46 (s, 3H, Thiazole-CH₃), 7.50–7.52 (m, 3H, H-3', H-4', H-5'), 7.60 (s, 1H, NH), 7.90–7.92 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.28 (s, 1H, NH), 8.35 (s, 2H, NH₂), 11.45 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz) δ : 15.5 (Thiazole-CH₃), 128.0 (C-3', -5'), 129.5 (C = N), 130.9 (C-4'), 132.5 (C-2', -6'), 132.7 (C-1'), 135.4 (Thiazole C-5), 154.9 (Thiazole C-4), 166.5 (Thiazole C-2), 177.5 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 277.1 (M + H)⁺.

1-((2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylthiazol-5-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5f**) Yield 65 %, m.p. 240 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3465, 3428, 3260, 3166, 3010, 2976, 1687, 1646, 1598, 1546, 1502, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1124, 1001, 840, 801 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz) δ : 2.46 (s, 3H, Thiazole-CH₃), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 8.60 (s, 1H, NH), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.28 (s, 1H, NH), 8.33 (s, 2H, NH₂), 11.48 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz) δ : 16.0 (Thiazole-CH₃), 128.3 (C-2', -6'), 128.8 (C = N), 129.9 (C-3', -5'), 131.9 (C-4'), 135.7 (Thiazole C-5), 135.8 (C-1'), 155.3 (Thiazole C-4), 165.5 (Thiazole C-2), 178.0 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 311.0 (M + H)⁺, *m/z*: 313.0 (M + H + 2)⁺.

1-((2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylthiazol-5-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5g**) Yield 75 %, m.p. 230 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3468, 3434, 3265, 3160, 3012, 2975, 1688, 1649, 1600, 1549, 1500, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1124, 1001, 839, 800 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 2.43, (s, 3H, Thiazole-CH₃), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.60 (s, 1H, NH), 7.94–7.96 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.28 (s, 1H, NH), 8.35 (s, 1H, NH), 11.46 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 16.6 (Thiazole-CH₃), 115.8 (C-3', -5'), 129.3 (C = N), 129.6 (C-2', -6'), 130.5 (C-1'), 135.4 (Thiazole C-5), 155.8 (Thiazole C-4), 162.2 (C-4'), 166.9 (Thiazole C-2), 178.5 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 295.1 (M + H)⁺.

1-((4-methyl-2-p-tolylthiazol-5-yl)methylene)thiosemicarbazide (**5h**) Yield 72 %, m.p. 240 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3466, 3430, 3261, 3163, 3009, 2974, 1687, 1645, 1597, 1545, 1500, 1368, 1320, 1284, 1124, 1001, 841, 801 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 2.45, (s, 3H, Thiazole-CH₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, Ar-CH₃), 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.60 (s, 1H, NH), 7.84 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.25 (s, 1H, NH), 8.35 (s, 1H, NH), 11.48 (s, 1H, N = CH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 16.0 (Thiazole-CH₃), 21.5 (Ar-CH₃), 126.8 (C-2', -6'), 127.5 (C = N), 130.5 (C-3', -5'), 130.6 (C-4'), 135.5 (Thiazole C-5), 141.2 (C-1'), 155.1 (Thiazole C-4), 167.1 (Thiazole C-2), 178.5 (C = S); LC-MS, *m/z*: 291.07 (M + H)⁺.

General procedure for synthesis of 1-(4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone (4i)

The mixture of thiobenzamide (6.62 mmol) and 3-bromopentane-2,4-dione, (6.62 mmol) was refluxed in ethanol. After completion of reaction (TLC), solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate. Organic layer was washed with sodium bicarbonate and then water. Organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate and distilled under vacuum. The product obtained was purified by column chromatography using hexane:ethyl acetate (9:1) as eluent.

General procedure for synthesis of 1-(1-(4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) ethylidene) thio-semicarbazide (5i)

The mixture of 1-(4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone, **4i** (2 mmol) and thiosemicarbazide (2.5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was refluxed for 2 h. After completion of reaction (TLC) solvent was cooled to room temperature. The product was filtered, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol.

1-(1-(4-methyl-2-phenylthiazol-5-yl)ethylidene)thiosemicarbazide (**5i**) Yield 66 %, m.p. 230 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3470, 3425, 3255, 3145, 3018, 2972, 1679, 1640, 1595, 1546, 1491, 1311, 1279, 1111, 840 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz) δ : 2.38 (s, 3H, Thiazole-CH₃), 2.60 (s, 3H, N = CCH₃), 7.38–7.42 (m, 4H, H-3', H-4', H-5', NH), 7.80–7.82 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.45 (s, 1H, NH), 10.51 (s, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz) δ : 18.4 (Thiazole-CH₃), 31.1 (N = C-CH₃), 128.3 (C-3', -5'), 129.5 (C-4'), 129.6 (C-2', -6'), 130.5 (Thiazole C-5), 132.2 (C = N), 135.8 (C-1'), 157.9 (Thiazole C-4), 167.5 (Thiazole C-2), 180.5 (C = S); LC-MS *m/z*: 291.08 (M + H)⁺.

1-(1-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethylidene)thiosemicarbazide (**5j**) Yield 65 %, m.p. 240 °C (dec.); IR

(KBr): 3468, 3430, 3266, 3167, 3012, 2975, 1689, 1644, 1596, 1544, 1498, 1365, 1321, 1284, 1124, 1001, 838, 800 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 2.35 (s, 3H, Thiazole- CH_3), 2.62 (s, 3H, N = CCH_3), 7.41 (s, 1H, NH), 7.50 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.40 (s, 1H, NH), 10.53 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) δ : 20.0 (Thiazole- CH_3), 31.5 (N = $\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 126.0 (C-2', -6'), 129.5 (C-3', -5'), 130.3 (Thiazole C-5), 132.0 (C = N), 132.8 (C-4'), 143.9 (C-1'), 152.3 (Thiazole C-4), 165.2 (Thiazole C-2), 178.6 (C = S); LC-MS m/z : 325.03 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, m/z : 327.2 ($\text{M} + \text{H} + 2$) $^+$

1-(1-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethylidene)thiosemicarbazide (**5k**) Yield 70 %, m.p. 203 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3462, 3433, 3265, 3015, 2976, 1685, 1642, 1599, 1540, 1496, 1365, 1321, 1284, 998, 841, 802 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 2.34 (s, 3H, Thiazole- CH_3), 2.58 (s, 3H, N = CCH_3), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.42 (s, 1H, NH), 8.84–8.86 (m, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.36 (s, 1H, NH), 10.56 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 20.0 (Thiazole- CH_3), 31.4 (N = $\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 116.8 (C-3', -5'), 130.0 (C-2', -6'), 133.0 (C = N), 135.8 (Thiazole C-5), 142.6 (C-1'), 154.6 (Thiazole C-4), 163.0 (C-4'), 167.2 (Thiazole C-2), 178.7 (C = S); LC-MS m/z : 309.06 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$

1-(1-(4-methyl-2-p-tolylthiazol-5-yl)ethylidene)thiosemicarbazide (**5l**) Yield 75 %, m.p. 230 °C (dec.); IR (KBr): 3460, 3430, 3260, 3011, 2975, 1686, 1640, 1600, 1544, 1499, 1366, 1322, 1285, 1000, 841, 800 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 2.15 (s, 3H, Ar- CH_3), 2.40 (s, 3H, Thiazole- CH_3), 2.66 (s, 3H, N = CCH_3), 7.42 (s, 1H, NH), 7.62 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 8.05 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-2', H-6'), 8.35 (s, 1H, NH), 10.58 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 17.7 (Thiazole- CH_3), 21.4 (Ar- CH_3), 31.2 (N = $\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 126.4 (C-2', -6'), 128.5 (C-3', -5'), 129.9 (C-4'), 130.3 (C = N), 136.0 (Thiazole C-5), 142.2 (C-1'), 154.0 (Thiazole C-4), 167.4 (Thiazole C-2), 178.3 (C = S); LC-MS m/z : 305.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$

Pharmacology

Antitubercular activity

Standard cultures of *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra (ATCC 25177) (MTB) and *M. bovis* Bacille Calmette Guérin (BCG) (ATCC 35743) were procured from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA). MTB and *M. bovis* BCG were grown in a defined *Mycobacterium phlei* medium and in 50 mM sodium nitrate-containing Dubos medium (Difco, Detroit, MI), respectively. These were maintained as glycerol stocks at -70°C . Prior to

inoculation for experiments, 50 μL of glycerol stock was pre-inoculated in the corresponding medium to obtain metabolically active mycobacteria. For each experiment, cultures were grown to log phase [optical density at 595 nm (O.D._{595}) = 1] under aerobic conditions at 37°C and 150 r.p.m. As mycobacteria grow in visibly aggregated clumps in the culture medium, cultures were sonicated for 2 min using a water-bath sonicator (Ultrasonic, Freeport, IL) to obtain viable dispersed cells. This step was introduced to reproducibly inoculate mycobacterial bacilli in fresh medium for carrying out the experiments.

Primary screening

Activity against dormant stage MTB was determined through the XTT reduction menadione assay (XRMA), reading absorbance at 470 nm as per the protocol described by Singh et al. A compound solution (2.5 μL) was added in a total volume of 250 μL of *M. phlei* medium consisting of the MTB and BCG; sealed with plate sealers and allowed to incubate for 12 days at 37°C . The XRMA was then carried out to estimate viable cells present in different wells of the assay plate. To all wells, 200 μM XTT was added and incubated at 37°C for another 20 min. It was followed by the addition of 60 μM of menadione and incubated at 37°C for 40 min. The optical density was measured using a microplate reader (SpectraMaxPlus 384 plate reader, Molecular Devices Inc.) at 470 nm filter against a blank prepared from a well free of cells. Absorbance obtained from the cells treated with 1% DMSO alone was considered as 100% cell growth. The nitrate reductase (NR) assay was performed to estimate inhibition of *M. bovis* BCG by the compounds. In the NR assay, 80 μL of culture from an incubated 96-well-plate was taken into another 96-well-plate, then 80 μL of 1% sulfanilic acid in 20% of conc. HCl was added, incubated for 10 min. at room temperature and then 80 μL of 0.1% N-(1-naphthyl)ethylenediaminedihydrochloride solution in distilled water was added. Finally, absorbance for the NR assay was measured at 540 nm.

The % Inhibition in the presence of test material is calculated by using formula, % inhibition = (Average of Control – Average of Compound) / (Average of Control – Average of Blank) \times 100). Where, Control is culture medium with cells and DMSO and blank is culture medium without cells. For all samples, each compound concentration was tested in triplicates in a single experiment and the quantitative value was expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation (S.D.).

Antibacterial activity

All bacterial cultures were first grown in Luria Burtony media at 37°C at 180 r.p.m. Once the culture reaches one

O.D., it is used for anti-bacterial assay. Bacterial strains *E. coli* (NCIM 2576), *P. fluorescence* (NCIM 2059) as Gram-negative and *S. aureus* (NCIM 2602), *B. subtilis* (NCIM 2162) as Gram-positive were obtained from NCIM (NCL, Pune) and were grown in Luria Burtony medium from Hi Media, India. The assay was performed in 96-well-plates after 8 and 12 h for Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria, respectively (Ciapetti et al. 1993). 0.1% of one O. D. culture at 620 nm was used for screening inoculated culture was added into each well of 96-well-plate containing the compounds to be tested. Optical density for each plate was measured at 620 nm after 8 h for Gram-negative bacteria and after 12 h for Gram-positive bacteria.

Antifungal activity

The in vitro antifungal activity of all the synthesized compounds was done by the disk diffusion method (Alley et al. 1988; Singh et al. 2015) against the *C. albicans* (NCIM 3100) obtained from National Chemical Laboratory Pune, India. All cultures were maintained at 4 °C over nutrient agar slants throughout the experiment. The cultures incubated overnight at 37 °C in nutrient broth before using for antifungal activity. Five hundred microliters of overnight old fungal suspension were spread over the nutrient agar plates using a sterile cotton swab in order to get a uniform microbial growth. The synthesized compounds were dissolved in DMSO. Under aseptic conditions, empty sterilized disks (Whatman no. 5, 6 mm diameter) were impregnated with concentration 100 µg/disk of respective synthesized compounds and placed on the agar surface. Paper disk moistened with aqueous DMSO was placed on seeded petriplates as a vehicle control. A standard disk containing Fluconazole (25 µg/disk) was used as positive control. The plates were left for 30 min. at room temperature to allow the diffusion of synthesized compounds and then incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The antifungal activity was evaluated by measuring the zone of inhibition against the test micro-organism. All experiments were carried in triplicates.

Cytotoxic activity

Cell lines were maintained under standard cell culture conditions at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ in a humidified environment. The cytotoxic effect of synthesized compounds was checked on cancer cell lines using the concentrations 30, 10, 3 µg/mL to determine the growth inhibition. In short, log-phase cells were harvested using trypsin (0.05% trypsin and 0.02% ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid in PBS) from tissue culture flasks and the suspension was diluted with appropriate culture medium to obtain a cell density of 105 cells/mL was determined by haemocytometry. An aliquot of 100 µL of each suspension was seeded in 96-well cell

culture plates and was incubated at 37 °C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% relative humidity in a CO₂ incubator. After 24 h, synthesized compounds at varying concentrations of 3, 10, and 30 µg/mL were added to the wells containing cells. Rifampicin was used as positive control. Suitable controls with an equivalent concentration of dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) (Sigma-Aldrich) were also included. The plates were further incubated for 48 h. At the end of the incubation period, the solution containing the unattached cells was discarded and the wells were washed three times with 1 mL of PBS followed by addition of 10 µL of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) (5 mg/mL in PBS) to adherent cells in growth medium. After 4 h at 37 °C for MTT cleavage, the formazan product was solubilised by addition of 100 µL of 0.04 N HCl in isopropanol. Absorbance was measured on a SpectraMax® PLUS 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA) at a wavelength of 570 nm. Percentage cytotoxicity was calculated using the formula: % cytotoxicity = (average of control – average of compound)/(average of control – average of blank) × 100. Each concentration was tested in triplicate in a single experiment and the quantitative value was expressed as the mean ± S.D.

Results and discussion

Chemistry

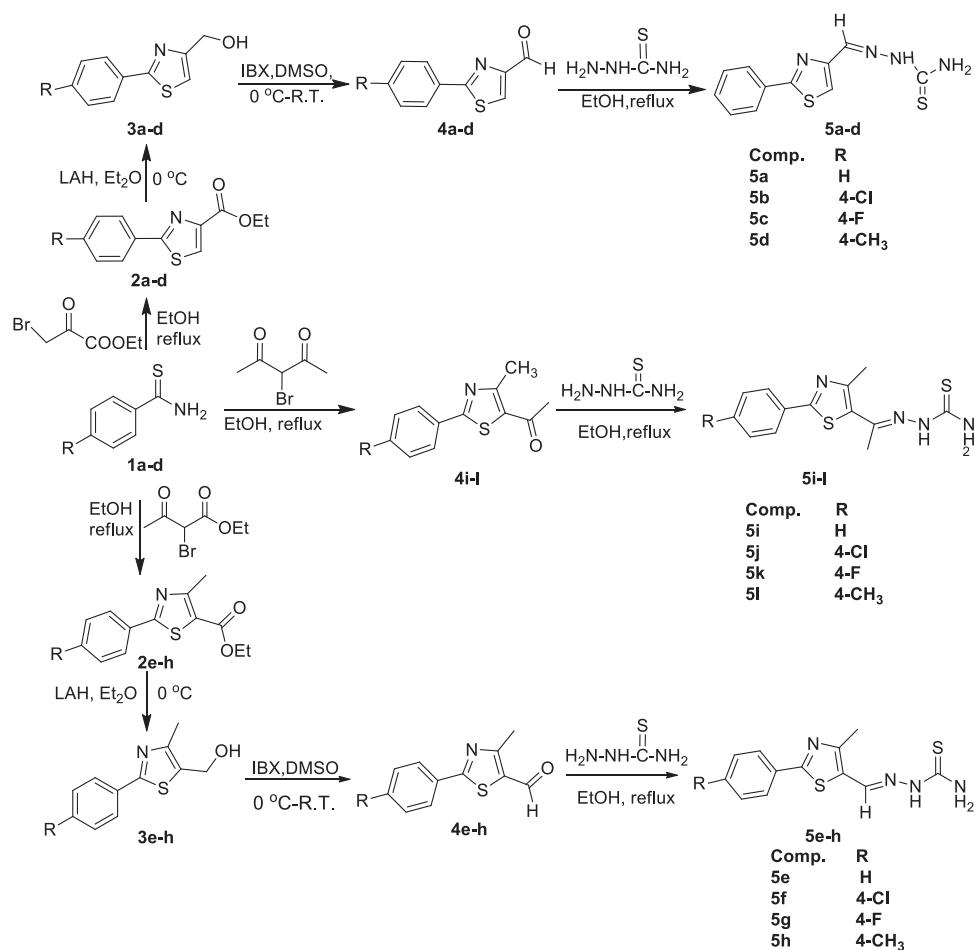
A general route for the synthesis of title compounds **5a–l** is depicted in Scheme 1.

All the compounds, **5a–l** were characterized by spectroscopic analysis and were studied for their anti-tuberculosis and antimicrobial activity. Their toxicity was also studied against two human cancer cell lines.

Anti-tubercular activity

The antitubercular activity for each synthesized compound was determined by measuring inhibition of growth against *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra (MTB, ATCC 25177) and *M. bovis* (BCG, ATCC 35743) in liquid medium. In a preliminary screening, the antimycobacterial activity of these compounds was assessed at concentrations of 30, 10, 3 µg/mL using first-line antitubercular drug Rifampicin as reference standard. In vitro activity studies against MTB and *M. bovis* BCG were performed using the XRNA (Singh et al. 2011; Khan et al. 2008) and NR assays (Khan et al. 2008; Sarkar and Sarkar 2012), respectively. The results of antitubercular activity are summarized in Table 1.

Analysis of the anti-tubercular activity results provides some lead molecules with good anti-tubercular activity. The results revealed that, in case of thiosemicarbazide

Scheme 1 Synthesis of Target Compounds **5a–l****Table 1** Antitubercular activity data of compounds **5a–l**

| Comp. | <i>M. tuberculosis</i> H37Ra ^a | | | <i>M. bovis</i> BCG ^a | | |
|------------|---|----------|---------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL |
| 5a | 61.50 | 52.40 | 43.70 | 96.52 | 94.39 | 94.00 |
| 5b | 45.22 | 43.05 | 48.49 | 88.30 | 87.70 | 86.00 |
| 5c | 27.50 | 9.20 | 5.90 | 85.50 | 72.99 | 23.86 |
| 5d | 66.10 | 55.30 | 6.40 | 91.27 | 79.56 | 57.76 |
| 5e | 22.59 | 23.66 | 23.72 | 77.3 | 75.7 | 73.0 |
| 5f | 62.61 | 56.94 | 48.24 | 92.2 | 90.5 | 89.6 |
| 5g | 68.69 | 65.08 | 59.98 | 77.8 | 79.3 | 65.8 |
| 5h | 67.23 | 64.28 | 59.13 | 90.5 | 90.1 | 87.2 |
| 5i | 61.10 | 11.70 | 5.74 | 96.38 | 94.15 | 60.85 |
| 5j | 96.50 | 73.50 | 50.70 | 86.90 | 77.12 | 69.14 |
| 5k | 41.10 | 36.20 | 15.20 | 82.91 | 81.66 | 65.05 |
| 5l | 41.60 | 35.20 | 24.50 | 78.87 | 73.68 | 61.94 |
| Rifampicin | 99.50 | 98.00 | 96.40 | 99.00 | 96.80 | 94.60 |

Bold entries are active compounds (that shown higher % inhibition)

^a % inhibition

derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde the compounds **5a** (R = H), **5b** (R = 4-Cl), **5c** (R = 4-F) and **5d** (R = 4-CH₃) showed good activity against *M. bovis* at 30 µg/mL

concentration whereas in compounds **5a** (R = H) and **5b** (R = 4-Cl) anti-tubercular activity is retained after the concentration of compounds was decreased by 10 times

Table 2 Antibacterial screening of synthesized compounds **5a–l** (% inhibition)

| Comp. | <i>E. coli</i> | | | <i>P. fluorescense</i> | | | <i>S. aureus</i> | | | <i>B. subtilis</i> | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL |
| 5a | 65.68 | 58.49 | 49.41 | 64.55 | 54.68 | 41.74 | 76.56 | 52.08 | 48.46 | 66.38 | 59.11 | 46.19 |
| 5b | 62.02 | 55.70 | 47.58 | 65.32 | 60.45 | 44.93 | 61.24 | 59.80 | 48.85 | 67.17 | 58.08 | 41.08 |
| 5c | 55.13 | 45.79 | 37.80 | 53.39 | 49.85 | 35.12 | 60.62 | 47.31 | 38.85 | 53.60 | 42.73 | 38.56 |
| 5d | 97.70 | 93.25 | 90.19 | 97.73 | 92.10 | 86.78 | 97.15 | 92.20 | 87.19 | 99.27 | 94.25 | 89.97 |
| 5e | 35.32 | 25.38 | 16.05 | 31.09 | 21.22 | 13.49 | 31.54 | 23.85 | 17.93 | 35.92 | 21.91 | 11.21 |
| 5f | 80.26 | 70.15 | 66.33 | 89.42 | 70.92 | 60.66 | 82.15 | 70.79 | 67.49 | 87.21 | 77.68 | 69.61 |
| 5g | 61.08 | 18.23 | 1.01 | 64.38 | 16.65 | 6.63 | 66.40 | 20.16 | 2.06 | 62.66 | 16.56 | 5.16 |
| 5h | 92.23 | 80.24 | 74.68 | 93.98 | 80.37 | 71.83 | 92.87 | 89.03 | 79.33 | 91.94 | 88.68 | 73.75 |
| 5i | 90.40 | 83.17 | 72.03 | 92.77 | 81.19 | 73.55 | 95.27 | 84.31 | 77.77 | 94.68 | 82.69 | 78.78 |
| 5j | 40.78 | 28.40 | 11.16 | 40.73 | 24.57 | 18.43 | 39.73 | 30.95 | 19.99 | 38.63 | 26.61 | 13.40 |
| 5k | 91.13 | 89.17 | 72.13 | 91.24 | 84.43 | 75.62 | 90.87 | 89.52 | 80.69 | 92.51 | 88.20 | 76.44 |
| 5l | 30.01 | 28.28 | 17.19 | 32.49 | 29.19 | 14.27 | 36.29 | 25.98 | 15.64 | 36.47 | 21.79 | 12.49 |
| AMP | 97.00 | 95.25 | 92.25 | 96.60 | 92.00 | 92.15 | 95.60 | 93.80 | 91.15 | 98.50 | 95.00 | 90.50 |

Bold entries are active compounds (that shown higher % inhibition)

Table 3 Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC₉₀) in µg/mL of the synthesized compounds **5a–l**

| Comp. | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>P. fluorescense</i> | <i>S. aureus</i> | <i>B. subtilis</i> |
|------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 5a | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5b | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5c | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5d | 2.5 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 2.9 |
| 5e | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5f | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5g | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5h | 26.7 | 20.7 | 22.3 | 24.7 |
| 5i | 27.4 | 21.9 | 17.6 | 19.4 |
| 5j | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| 5k | 25.9 | 25.4 | 29.4 | 22.5 |
| 5l | >30 | >30 | >30 | >30 |
| Ampicillin | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.125 | 0.5 |

(3 µg/mL). All the compounds showed moderate activity against *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra. From the preliminary structure activity relationship (SAR) study it is noteworthy to mention that thiosemicarbazide of unsubstituted 2-phenylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, **5a** showed excellent activity against *M. bovis*, whereas replacement of hydrogen atom of phenyl ring by substituent groups like 4-Cl, 4-F, or 4-CH₃ significantly decrease the anti-tubercular activity.

Similarly, thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde **5e** (R = H), **5f** (R = 4-Cl), **5g** (R = 4-F) and **5h** (R = 4-CH₃) showed moderate activity against *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra at 30 µg/mL concentration. Compounds **5e** (R = H) and **5g** (R = 4-F) showed moderate

anti-tubercular activity against *M. bovis* BCG, whereas compounds **5f** (R = 4-Cl) and **5h** (R = 4-CH₃) reported good activity and it retained at 3 µg/mL concentration. From the SAR study, it is noteworthy to mention that as phenyl ring of 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde is substituted by 4-Cl or 4-CH₃ group, thiosemicarbazide derivative showed good anti-tubercular activity against *M. bovis*.

Also, in case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone, compound **5j** (R = 4-Cl) presented good anti-tubercular activity against both tested strains, whereas compounds **5i** (R = H) and **5k** (R = 4-F) showed good activity against *M. bovis* at 30 µg/mL concentration. The compounds **5i**, **5k**, and **5l** showed moderate activity against *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra. From the SAR study, it is noteworthy to mention that thiosemicarbazide derivative of unsubstituted 2-phenylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde showed excellent activity against *M. bovis*. When phenyl ring is substituted by 4-Cl, activity decreases for *M. bovis* but it shows good activity against *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra.

Antimicrobial activity

The antibacterial activity (Singh et al. 2011; Khan et al. 2008) of synthesized compounds was against the standard Gram-negative bacteria, *E. coli* (NCIM 2576), *P. fluorescense* (NCIM 2059) and Gram-positive bacteria, *S. aureus* (NCIM 2602), *B. subtilis* (NCIM 2162); while the antifungal activity Khan and Sarkar (2008); Khan et al. 2008; Sarkar and Sarkar 2012; Mosmann 1983) was against *C. albicans* (NCIM 3100). Ampicillin served as positive control for antibacterial activity. The in vitro preliminary screening values (% inhibition) and MIC₉₀ against microorganisms

tested are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Fluconazole served as positive control for antifungal activity and in vitro preliminary screening values (zone of inhibition) are summarized in Table 4.

Most of the synthesized compounds exhibited moderate to good antibacterial activity. The compounds **5a**, **5b**, and **5c** showed moderate activity against all tested strains. Compound **5d** (R = 4-CH₃) showed good antibacterial activity against all tested strains. It is also noticed that the activity retained at 3 µg/mL concentration. Thus, it is concluded that in case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, compounds with R = 4-CH₃ group show good antibacterial activity whereas compounds with unsubstituted phenyl ring and substitution with 4-Cl or 4-F phenyl group showed moderate activity.

Similarly, in case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde, the compounds **5f** (R = 4-Cl) and **5h** (R = 4-CH₃) showed good antibacterial activity at 30 µg/mL concentration against all tested strains. Compounds **5e** (R = 4-H) and **5g** (R = 4-F) showed moderate antibacterial activity against all tested strains. Thus, it is concluded that compounds with R = 4-Cl or 4-CH₃ group showed good antibacterial activity.

Among the thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone, the compounds **5i** (R = H) and **5k** (R = 4-F) reported good activity at 30 µg/mL concentration, against all the four species. The compounds **5j** (R = 4-Cl) and **5l** (R = 4-CH₃) were found less active against all tested strains. In general, compound with phenyl group or 4-fluorophenyl at 2-position of thiazole moiety showed enhanced activity.

Careful analysis of the MICs in Table 3 provides compound **5d**, **5h**, **5i**, and **5k** as lead molecules with good antibacterial activity.

The result of antifungal activity (Table 4) revealed that most of the synthesized compounds showed moderate activity against *C. albicans*.

Cytotoxic activity

The synthesized compounds **5a–l** were further assayed for their cytotoxic activity against the two different human cancer cell lines, cervix adenocarcinoma HeLa and colorectal carcinoma human colon carcinoma (HCT) 116 using MTT assay (Mosmann 1983; Ciapetti et al. 1993) with 48 h exposure time of the tested compounds. Rifampicin was

Table 4 Antifungal screening of synthesized compounds **5a–l** (zone of inhibition in mm)

| Comp. | <i>C. albicans</i> | Comp. | <i>C. albicans</i> | Comp. | <i>C. albicans</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 5a | 8 | 5e | 10 | 5i | 10 |
| 5b | 7 | 5f | 10 | 5j | 8 |
| 5c | 8 | 5g | 7 | 5k | 8 |
| 5d | 9 | 5h | 12 | 5l | 9 |
| Fluconazole | 17 | | | | |

Fluconazole (25 µg/disk) were used as reference; synthesized compounds (100 µg/disk)

Table 5 Cytotoxic activity of compounds **5a–l**

| Comp. | HeLa | | | HCT 116 | | |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL | 30 µg/mL | 10 µg/mL | 3 µg/mL |
| 5a | 60.96 | 20.23 | – | 24.05 | 9.54 | – |
| 5b | 51.81 | 42.87 | 35.64 | nd | nd | nd |
| 5c | 10.76 | – | – | 16.71 | 14.49 | 6.41 |
| 5d | 51.66 | 48.21 | 40.70 | 36.84 | 32.04 | 7.39 |
| 5e | 39.79 | 45.41 | 15.98 | nd | nd | nd |
| 5f | – | – | – | nd | nd | nd |
| 5g | 15.24 | 45.91 | 16.37 | nd | nd | nd |
| 5h | 82.87 | 35.84 | – | nd | nd | nd |
| 5i | 40.10 | 5.67 | 15.98 | 14.19 | – | – |
| 5j | 38.51 | 34.57 | – | 14.35 | – | – |
| 5k | 39.52 | 36.10 | – | 26.49 | – | – |
| 5l | 44.22 | 33.72 | 25.48 | 46.70 | 27.77 | 3.17 |
| Rifampicin | 25.50 | 20.10 | 15.80 | 22.15 | 16.50 | 10.12 |

(–) = inactive; nd, not determined

used as positive control. The observed results are summarized in Table 5. The cytotoxic effect of these compounds was checked on cancer cell lines using the concentration range between 30, 10 and 3 µg/mL to determine the growth inhibition. The results indicated that, in MTT cytotoxicity studies most active compounds are leads as antimicrobials owing to no significant cell toxicity against HeLa and HCT 116 cell lines at the maximum concentration evaluated.

Conclusions

In conclusion, three series of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde and 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone were synthesized. The antimycobacterial activity studies were undertaken to evaluate the effects of substituents/group on the antitubercular and antimicrobial activities. From the SAR, in case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 2-arylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde, compounds with unsubstituted phenyl ring showed excellent antitubercular activity whereas, substituents on phenyl ring significantly decrease the antitubercular activity. However, 4-CH₃ substituted phenyl ring at 2-position of thiazole moiety is required for antibacterial activity. In case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 4-methyl-2-arylthiazole-5-carbaldehyde, 4-Cl and 4-CH₃ substituted phenyl ring at 2-position of thiazole moiety is required for anti-tubercular, as well as antibacterial activities. However in case of thiosemicarbazide derivatives of 1-(4-methyl-2-arylthiazol-5-yl) ethanone, it is concluded that, compound with phenyl group or 4-fluorophenyl at 2-position of thiazole moiety showed enhanced activity. Most of the thiosemicarbazide derivatives showed moderate to good antimycobacterial activity.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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