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# ARTICLE



# A green and practical one-pot two-step strategy for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazines

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Research Council of Payame Noor University, Grant/Award Number: 68424 A simple, mild, and efficient synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives using a green catalytic one-pot two-step reaction of aryl methyl ketones, arylglyoxal monohydrates, and hydrazine hydrate was developed. Environmentally benign nature, high atom-economy, no harmful byproduct, easy workup procedure, no column chromatography steps, and moderate to excellent yields of the products are the salient features of this new multicomponent-based methodology.

# KEYWORDS

3,6-Diarylpyridazine, aryl methyl ketone, arylgly<br/>oxal monohydrate, DABCO, one-pot, ZrOCl2  $\cdot$  8H2O

# **1** | INTRODUCTION

The field of green chemistry has quickly developed during the new century following the recognition that eco-friendly products and processes represent economically attractive long-term synthetic strategies. The important areas of green chemistry include the development of novel chemical processes that show intrinsically high atom-economies, pronounced energy savings, use of environmentally benign solvents and catalysts, low levels of waste production, and facile workup procedures.<sup>[1]</sup>

Nowadays, one-pot multicomponent reactions (MCRs) are very useful in organic synthesis, drug, and drug-like molecular discovery owing to their simplicity, flexibility, and efficiency compared with a conventional multistep linear synthetic strategy.<sup>[2]</sup>

Design and synthesis of symmetric heterocyclic compounds are currently receiving a great deal of attention due to their exclusive specifications and wide applications in organic synthesis, medicinal chemistry, inorganic chemistry, materials science and etc.<sup>[3]</sup>

Pyridazines belong to a family of six-membered *N*heterocyclic compounds that exhibit remarkable pharmaceutical activities (Figure 1). For example, several members of this class of heterocyclic scaffolds have been utilized in the development of therapeutic agents that have been employed as antihistaminic,<sup>[4]</sup> antibacterial,<sup>[5]</sup> antihypertensive,<sup>[6]</sup> antidiabetic<sup>[7]</sup> and anti-inflammatory agents.<sup>[8]</sup> It is worth noting that, some pyridazine derivatives have been incorporated into semiconductor materials as well as in substances with nonlinear optical properties.<sup>[9]</sup> On the other hand, some pyridazine scaffolds have been found as promising agrochemical products (Figure 2).

It should be mentioned that literature survey reveals that only a very few articles have been reported for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives.<sup>[10]</sup> These reported methods suffer from one or more disadvantages such as harsh reaction conditions, unsatisfactory yields, multistep synthetic operation, tedious workup and, etc. Therefore, obviation of these limitations is necessary to develop a green, simple, and efficient strategy for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine systems.

As part of our ongoing efforts toward the development of new synthetic methods for important heterocyclic frameworks,<sup>[11]</sup> herein, we report a one-pot two-step process for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives using a three-component reaction of aryl methyl ketones, arylglyoxal monohydrates, and hydrazine hydrate. This new method is green, simple, and efficient, which can be extended to the synthesis of many other important symmetric and asymmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine scaffolds (Scheme 1).

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FIGURE 1 Examples of pyridazine-based drugs



FIGURE 2 Selected pyridazine-based agrochemical products

# 2 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initially, we selected acetophenone (1a), phenylglyoxal monohydrate (2a), and hydrazine as model substrates to establish optimum reaction conditions for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diphenylpyridazine (3a). To maintain green

chemistry factors, nonhazardous solvents (water, ethanol, and H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOH) are used as the preferred solvents for all of the optimization experiments. It should be noted that, all of our efforts for one-pot single-step synthesis of 3a using different catalysts were unsuccessful (Table 1). Therefore, we changed our three-component single-step strategy to a combinatorial one-pot two-step protocol. In the step 1, we tested the reaction of 1a and 2a for the preparation of a suitable intermediate in the presence of various molar ratios of 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO) as a cheap and ecofriendly base-organocatalyst under different temperature conditions in green solvents. In the presence of 20 mol% of DABCO, when water was used as a solvent at room temperature, the reaction proceeded well and the best mass of the desired intermediate obtained within 11 hr. It should be mentioned that, in the step 1, the reaction mixture gave an adhesive material, which stuck to the magnetic stir bar and precipitation of the obtained product (intermediate) was not occurred. Then, material obtained from step 1 was easily filtered from the reaction flask. Subsequently, we have started our study on the step 2 with the condensation of obtained intermediate and hydrazine hydrate in the presence of



 TABLE 1
 Investigation of the reaction conditions using a one-pot single-step protocol

		$O + CH_3 + HO + OH$ 1a 2a	Catalyst (mol%) NH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> Slovent / Temperature (°C) / Time (	h) NN 3a	Ja Ja			
Entry	Solvent	Hydrazine	Catalyst (mol%)	Temp. (°C)	Time (hr)	Yield (%) of 3a		
1	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrate	DABCO (20)	rt	48	NR		
2	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrate	DABCO (20)	50	48	NR		
3	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrate	DABCO (50)	rt	48	NR		
4	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrate	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	rt	24	NR		
5	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrate	L-proline (20)	rt	24	NR		
6	H <sub>2</sub> O	Dihydrochloride	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	50	24	NR		
7	EtOH	Hydrate	DABCO (20)	rt	24	NR		
8	EtOH	Hydrate	DABCO (20)	Reflux	24	NR		
9	EtOH	Hydrate	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	rt	48	NR		
10	EtOH	Hydrate	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	Reflux	24	NR		
11	EtOH	Dihydrochloride	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	rt	24	NR		
12	EtOH	Dihydrochloride	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	Reflux	24	NR		
13	EtOH	Hydrate	L-proline (10)	rt	24	NR		
15	EtOH	Dihydrochloride	L-proline (10)	rt	24	NR		
16	EtOH	Dihydrochloride	L-proline (10)	Reflux	24	NR		
17	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Hydrate	DABCO (20)	rt	24	NR		
18	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Hydrate	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	rt	24	NR		
19	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Dihydrochloride	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> ·8H <sub>2</sub> O (20)	Reflux	24	NR		
20	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Hydrate	L-proline (10)	rt	24	NR		
21	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Hydrate	L-proline (10)	Reflux	24	NR		
22	H <sub>2</sub> O-EtOH (1:1)	Dihydrochloride	L-proline (10)	Rrefux	48	NR		

different catalysts such as zirconium (IV) oxydichloride octahydrate (ZrOCl<sub>2</sub> · 8H<sub>2</sub>O), L-proline, and DABCO for the expected symmetric 3,6-diphenylpyridazine (3a). Also, in this step (step 2), the effects of different solvents and temperatures were investigated (Table 2). The best result for step 2 was obtained when we used 30 mol% of  $ZrOCl_2 \cdot 8H_2O$  as a green Lewis acid catalyst<sup>[12]</sup> (LD<sub>50</sub> [oral rat] = 2,950 mg/kg) in ethanol at reflux under vigorous stirring within 2 hr. It is noticeable that, both steps (step 1 and step 2) of this one-pot reaction were carried out in a flask without purification of the intermediate obtained from the step 1. With optimized reaction conditions in hand, we further carried out the reaction by using various aryl methyl ketones (1a-h) and arylglyoxal monohydrate derivatives (2a-h) to investigate the scope and generality of this one-pot two-step protocol for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives (3a-h) (Table 3). Pure products (3a-h) with moderate to excellent yields were obtained simply by filtration and washing of the solid with hot ethanol (no need of column chromatography stages).

The structures of all the symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives (3a-i) were well characterized from their spectral (IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) studies and CHN analysis.

Based on the experimental observation, the plausible stepwise mechanism for the one-pot two-step synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives (3a-h) is described in Scheme 2. In the first step, aryl methyl ketone (1a-h) was converted to the corresponding anionic form (4a-h) by DABCO. Subsequently, the aldol reaction of **4a-h** with the formyl group of arylglyoxal (**6a**h) resulted in the intermediate 7a-h. In the presence of  $ZrOCl_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ , intermediate **7a-h** converted the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated-1,4-dicarbonyl compound (9a-h) by elimination of water. Then, **9a-h** that were activated by  $ZrOCl_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ facilitate a nucleophilic attack of the hydrazine hydrate (11) followed by a dehydration reaction to give the final product (3a-h).

It is worthwhile to note that Saraei and coworkers reported a simple method to synthesize 2-hydroxy-1,4-diarylbutane-1,4-diones via the DABCO-catalyzed aldol reaction of acetophenone derivatives and arylglyoxal monohydrates in water at room temperature (Scheme 3).<sup>[13]</sup> Saraei's work is powerful evidence to verify our mechanism, especially the formation of the aldol adduct in step 1.



	Step 1				Step 2				
Entry	Solvent	DABCO (mol%)	Cond.	Time (hr)	Solvent	Catalyst (mol%)	Cond.	Time (hr)	Yield (%) of 3a
1	H <sub>2</sub> O	_	rt	48	_	_	_	_	NR
2	$H_2O$	—	Reflux	48	_	_		_	NR
3	EtOH	—	rt	48	_	—	_	_	NR
4	EtOH	—	Reflux	48	_	_		_	NR
5	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	—	rt	24	NR
6	$H_2O$	(50%)	rt	11	EtOH	_	Reflux	24	21
7	$H_2O$	(60%)	rt	11	EtOH	—	Reflux	24	21
8	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	_	Reflux	24	19
9	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (5%)	Reflux	24	17
10	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (10%)	Reflux	24	18
11	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (15%)	Reflux	24	18
12	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (30%)	Reflux	2	62
13	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (30%)	rt	48	NR
14	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	$H_2O$	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (30%)	rt	48	NR
15	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	$H_2O$	ZrOCl <sub>2</sub> (30%)	Reflux	48	NR
16	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	DABCO (10%)	Reflux	24	20
17	$H_2O$	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	DABCO (20%)	Reflux	24	21
18	H <sub>2</sub> O	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	L-proline (10%)	Reflux	24	21
19	H <sub>2</sub> O	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	L-proline (20%)	Reflux	24	21
20	H <sub>2</sub> O	(20%)	rt	11	EtOH	L-proline (30%)	Reflux	24	21

#### **3** | EXPERIMENTAL

#### 3.1 | Materials and techniques

Melting points were determined on an Electrothermal 9200 apparatus. <sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-300 AVANCE spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. Infrared spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two FT-infrared spectrophotometer, measured using KBr disks. Microanalyses were performed on a Leco Analyzer 932. All substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification.

# **3.2** | General procedure for the one-pot two-step synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives (3a–h)

In a round-bottom flask (25 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirrer, DABCO (20 mol%) was added to a solution of aryl methyl ketone (1 mmol) and arylglyoxal monohydrate (1 mmol) in water (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred

for appropriate time as mentioned in Table 3 at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (monitored by (TLC) Thin Layer Chromatography), the intermediate obtained was easily filtered from the reaction flask. Then, a mixture of the obtained intermediate and hydrazine hydrate (3 mmol) in the presence of  $ZrOCl_2 \cdot 8H_2O$  (30 mol%) as a green Lewis-acid catalyst was stirred in ethanol (7 mL) at reflux. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered to give the crude product, which was purified by recrystallization from boiling ethanol.

#### 3.3 | Physical and spectral data for compounds 3a-h

## 3.3.1 | 3,6-Biphenylpyridazine (3a)

White solid; mp 224–226 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.17 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 4H, Ar), 7.94 (s, 2H, Ar), and 7.58–7.50 (m, 6H, Ar); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 157.6, 136.1, 130.0, 129.0, 126.9, and 124.2; FT-IR (KBr) *v*: 3,054, 1,582, 1,448, 1,407, 1,311, 1,154, 1,126, 1,019, 867, 757, 743, 691, and 588 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; and N, 12.06. Found: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; and N, 12.06.



**SCHEME 2** Plausible stepwise mechanism for the green one-pot two-step synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives

# 3.3.2 | 3,6-Bis(4-bromophenyl)pyridazine (3b)

Yellow solid; mp 285–287 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.05 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H, Ar), 7.92 (s, 2H, Ar), and 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, Ar); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 158.0, 137.2, 132.3, 128.4, 125.1, and 124.0; FT-IR (KBr) v: 3,089, 3,048, 1,588, 1,485, 1,420, 1,408, 1,379, 1,328, 1,303, 1,297, 1,074, 1,006, 816, 793, 731, and 577 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for  $C_{16}H_{10}Br_2N_2$ : C, 49.27; H, 2.58; and N, 7.18. Found: C, 49.27; H, 2.58; and N, 7.18.

## 3.3.3 | 3,6-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)pyridazine (3c)

Yellow solid; mp 260–262 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.10 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H, Ar), 7.92 (s, 2H, Ar), and 7.53 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 4H, Ar); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 158.1, 136.5, 129.3, 128.4, 128.1, and 124.0; FT-IR (KBr) v: 3,089, 3,048, 1,597, 1,489, 1,420, 1,410, 1,381, 1,306, 1,297, 1,095, 1,009, 994, 820, 797, 747, and 578 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 63.81; H, 3.35; and N, 9.30. Found: C, 63.81; H, 3.35; and N, 9.30.

## 3.3.4 | 3,6-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazine (3d)

Yellow solid; mp 236–238 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.10 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 4H, Ar), 7.83 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.05 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 4H, Ar), and 3.89 (s, 6H, 2 × OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 161.1, 128.6, 128.1, 123.4, 114.3, 113.6, and 55.3; FT-IR (KBr) v: 3,068, 3,048, 2,962, 2,839, 1,606, 1,574, 1,506, 1,426, 1,398, 1,301, 1,252, 1,244, 1,193, 1,032, 1,024, 832, and 821 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.95; H, 5.52; and N, 9.58. Found: C, 73.95; H, 5.52; and N, 9.58.

#### 3.3.5 | 3,6-Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyridazine (3e)

White solid; mp 201–203 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.00 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.85 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.55–7.52 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar), 4.02 (s, 6H, 2 × OCH<sub>3</sub>), and 3.96 (s, 6H, 2 × OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 156.4, 150.8, 149.5, 128.7, 123.5, 119.2, 111.0, 109.5, 56.0, and 55.9; FT-IR (KBr) v: 3,003, 2,949, 2,839, 1,600, 1,591, 1,518, 1,464, 1,424, 1,407, 1,274, 1,253, 1,224, 1,146, 1,020, 843, 810, and 801 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 68.17; H, 5.72; and N, 7.95. Found: C, 68.17; H, 5.72; and N, 7.95.

### 3.3.6 | 3,6-Bis(3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl)pyridazine (3f)

White solid; mp 245–248 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.80 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.41 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ar), 6.96 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), and 6.07 (s, 4H,  $2 \times \text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ ); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 167.4, 164.5, 157.3, 131.3, 123.6, 121.0, 108.6, 107.1, and 101.5; FT-IR (KBr) *v*: 3,080, 2,990, 2,904, 1,606, 1,501, 1,489, 1,447, 1,410, 1,373, 1,275, 1,240, 1,140, 1,111, 1,102, 1,036, 931, 895, 847, and 822 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 67.50; H, 3.78; and N, 8.75. Found: C, 67.50; H, 3.78;



SCHEME 3 Aldol reaction reported by Saraei and coworkers

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# 3.3.7 | 3,6-Bis(3-bromophenyl)pyridazine (3g)

White solid; mp 185–188 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.33 (s, 2H, Ar), 8.10 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.94 (s, 2H,

Ar), 7.66 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), and 7.43 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Ar); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 156.6, 137.8, 133.1, 130.6, 130.0, 125.4, 124.2, and 123.3; FT-IR (KBr) v:





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#### TABLE 3(Continued)



3,064, 1,581, 1,562, 1,432, 1,419, 1,391, 1,284, 1,078, 1,061, 996, 847, 789, 757, 685, and 656 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for  $C_{16}H_{10}Br_2N_2$ : C, 49.27; H, 2.58; and N, 7.18. Found: C, 49.27; H, 2.58; and N, 7.18.

## 3.3.8 | 3,6-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)pyridazine (3h)

White solid; mp 186–189 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):) 7.93 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.87 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.65 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.45 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.07 (dd, J = 6 Hz, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H, Ar), and 3.93 (s, 6H, 2 × OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 160.2, 157.4, 137.4, 130.0, 124.3, 119.1, 116.5, and 111.6; FT-IR (KBr) v: 3,048, 2,970, 2,839, 1,592, 1,549, 1,456, 1,429, 1,417, 1,324, 1,310, 1,223, 1,186, 1,038, 1,026, 863, 795, 781, and 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.95; H, 5.52; and N, 9.58. Found: C, 73.95; H, 5.52; and N, 9.58.

## 4 | CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have developed a novel, simple, and efficient method for the synthesis of symmetric 3,6-diarylpyridazine derivatives using a green catalytic one-pot two-step reaction of aryl methyl ketones, arylglyoxal monohydrates, and hydrazine hydrate. Mild reaction conditions, operational simplicity, clean reaction profiles, the absence of a tedious separation procedure, high atom-economy, moderate to excellent yields, and easy workup, as well as the use of inexpensive and environmentally benign catalysts and solvents are the key advantages of this multicomponent method.

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#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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