ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Substituted Thiadiazole, Oxadiazole, Triazole and Triazinone as Antimicrobial and Surface Activity Compounds

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**Abstract** Stearic acid (1) was utilized as a new cheap starting material in the manufacture of important biologically active heterocycles as thiadiazole, oxadiazole, triazole and triazinone derivatives (2–11) by treating with different nucleophiles. These heterocycles bears active hydrogen atom (SH, NH and NH<sub>2</sub>) which could be propoxylated by different moles of propylene oxide (5, 10, 15 mol) to produce nonionic compounds (12–21)a–c having functions as surface and antimicrobial activities. The structural elucidation of these compounds is based on IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and elemental analysis. The surface properties (surface and interfacial tension, cloud point, witting time, foaming properties and emulsion stability) and the biodegradability were screened beside these compounds have been tested for their antimicrobial activity.

**Keywords** Synthesis · Thiadiazole · Oxadiazole · Triazole · Antimicrobial and surface activities

## Introduction

Our work on the synthesis of heterocyclic fatty compounds is closely related to Sharpless's click chemistry. Our idea was to achieve access to pharmacologically interesting compounds based on renewable raw materials that serve as important feedstocks for the chemical industry with regard to a sustainable development [1] through simple

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transformations starting from easily available fatty compounds. Many fatty acids and their derivatives are known for their antimicrobial [2] and antifungal activities [3]. Fatty acid hydrazide is an important starting material for a wide range of derivatives used as pharmaceutical products and surfactants [4]. The synthesis of interesting heterocycles, such as 1,3,4-oxadiazoles are used as biologically active compounds in medical science and agriculture [5]. Various 1,3,4-oxadiazoles show herbicidal effects, especially against broad leafed weeds and grasses in crops such as rice and corn [6]. Also, 1,3,4-thiadiazoles were reported as highly anti-inflammatory [7], anti-microbial [8], pesticidal [9], antiparasitic property [10], anticancer [11], anticonvulsant agents [12-14]. We were interested in the synthesis of triazole, oxazole, thiadiazole, oxadiazole and further N and O/S-containing heterocyclic fatty acid derivatives in order to enlarge the variety of interesting fatty compounds and to open up a new potential for renewable raw materials as possible biologically active compounds. In view of the above mentioned facts and in continuation of our work on the syntheses of biologically important heterocyclic compounds [15-18]. It was interesting to prepare some biologically active heterocycles (triazole, thiadiazole and oxadiazole) which constitute an important class of organic compounds with diverse biological activities.

#### **Experimental Protocols**

All melting points are uncorrected and determined by the open capillary method using a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. IR spectra (KBr disk) of the synthesized compounds were recorded on an FT/IR-BRUKER, Vector 22 (Germany), JASCO FT/IR-4100 (Japan), and JASCO FT/

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IR-460+ (Japan). <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded in deuterated chloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) or dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO-d6) as a solvent on a Varian Mercury VXR-300 spectrometer (300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and 75 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C NMR) using TMS as internal reference and chemical shifts are expressed in  $\delta$  (ppm). All the synthesized compounds gave satisfactory elemental analyses. Surface active properties were carried out at the Chemistry Department of the Faculty of Applied Science, Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia. Antibacterial and antifungal activity was carried out in Micro Analytical Center, Faculty of Science, Cairo University, Egypt.

## 2-Stearoylhydrazinecarbothioamide (2)

A solution of stearic acid hydrazide **1** (2 g, 0.05 mol) in ethanol (50 mL) to which mixed potassium thiocyanate (0.1 mol) and hydrochloric acid 3 mL were added with constant stirring for 2 h, the mixture was immediately evaporated to dryness on a steam bath. On cooling, the separated solid was filtered, washed with cold water, dried and recrystallized from ethanol as white needles. (1.37 g; 73 %), mp 122–124 °C.; IR: 3,433, 3,279, 3,134 for primary and secondary amino group, 2,919, 2,850 (CH aliphatic), 1,696 (CO) and 1,290 (C=S) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.89 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.24–2.15 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 7.40 (s, 1H, CONH<u>NH</u>), 8.98 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 10.29 (s, 1H, CO<u>NH</u>). Anal. calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OS (357.60): C, 63.82; H, 10.99; N, 11.75; S, 8.97. Found C, 63.87; H, 11.04; N, 11.71; S, 9.02.

# 3-Heptadecyl-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione (3)

A solution of thiosemicarbazide **2** (3 g, 0.01 mol) in ethanol (15 mL) and potassium hydroxide (10 %, 10 mL) was refluxed for 7–8 h on a steam bath. It was cooled and acidified with dilute HCl. The resulting solid was filtered, dried and recrystallized from ethanol to yield **3** (2.15 g; 71 %), mp 91–93 °C.; IR: 3,421, 3,196 (NH), 2,919, 2,849 (CH aliphatic), 1,617 (C=N), 1,309 (C=S) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.86 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.26–1.86 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 10.97 (s, 1H, NH), 13.98 (s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.70, 16.57, 22.31, 25.25, 28.45, 28.47, 28.52, 28.53, 28.58, 28.75, 28.84, 28.88, 29.02, 29.09, 31.31, 33.68, 39.07, 154.79, 175.22. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S (339.58): C, 67.20; H, 10.98; N, 12.37; S, 9.44. Found C, 67.27; H, 11.01; N, 12.35; S, 9.40.

## 5-Heptadecyl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-amine (4)

A solution of thiosemicarbazide 2 (1.4 g, 0.01 mol) in ethanol (15 mL) was added to a solution of sodium hydroxide (5 N, 5 mL) with cooling and stirring. To this

clear solution, a solution of I<sub>2</sub>/KI was added till permanent tinge of iodine persisted at room temperature. The mixture was immediately refluxed and more I2/KI was added till a permanent tinge was obtained. The mixture was then cooled and poured into ice-cold water; the solid that separated was collected by filtration, washed with water and with dilute thiosulfate solution and again with water. The solid was dried and recrystallized from ethanol to give 4 (1.25 g; 62 %), mp 65-67 °C.; IR: 3,316, 3,144 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 1,612 (C=N), 1,166 and 715 (oxadiazole ring) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.89 (t, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.24–2.15 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 6.67 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub> which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  14.15, 20.95, 22.70, 24.12, 24.84, 25.57, 29.16, 29.37, 29.44, 29.47, 29.51, 29.59, 29.63, 29.66, 29.67, 29.70, 31.92, 153.48, 178.64. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O (323.52): C, 70.54; H, 11.53; N, 12.99. Found C, 70.51; H, 11.50; N, 12.96.

## 5-Heptadecyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-amine (5)

Sulfuric acid (98 %; 10 mL) was added to the thiosemicarbazide **2** (1.5 g, 0.05 mol), and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The mixture was then poured onto crushed ice (200 g), neutralized with concentrated ammonium hydroxide solution and stirred for 20 min. The separated crude product was filtered, washed with water, dried and recrystallized from aqueous ethanol to afford **5** (079 g; 52 %), mp 108–110 °C.; IR: 3,319, 3,188 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 1,603 (C=N) cm<sup>-1.</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.88 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.25–2.59 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 7.82 (S, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub> which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O). Anal. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S (339.58): C; 67.20, H; 10.98, N; 12.37, S; 9.44. Found: C; 66.91, H; 10.67, N; 12.18, S; 9.23.

# 5-Heptadecyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2(3*H*)-one (6)

Sodium nitrite solution (10 %; 10 mL) was added dropwise to an ice cooled suspension of 5 (0.95 g, 0.01 mol) and hydrochloric acid (5 mL) in cold water (20 mL), with continuous stirring over a period of 20 min. The temperature was then allowed to rise to room temperature and the mixture was heated to boiling for 10 min, cooled and allowed to stand overnight. The separated crude product was filtered, washed with water, dried and recrystallized from ethanol to yield **6** (0.55 g; 58 %), mp 65–67 °C.; IR: 3,271 (NH), 1,684 (CO), 1,611 (C=N) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  14.15, 25.25, 28.45, 28.47, 28.52, 28.53, 28.58, 28.75, 28.84, 28.88, 29.02, 29.04, 29.09, 31.31, 33.68, 39.07, 31.92, 154.74, 175.22. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS (340.57): C, 67.01; H, 10.65; N, 8.23; S, 9.42. Found C, 67.23; H, 10.75; N, 8.03; S, 9.22. N-phenyl-2-stearoylhydrazinecarbothioamide (7)

Equimolar quantities (1.7 g, 0.01 mol) of acid hydrazide **1** and phenyl isothiocyanate (0.01 mol) were dissolved in absolute ethanol (25 mL) in a round-bottom flask. The solution was refluxed for 3 h on a water bath. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the solid separated was collected and recrystallized from ethanol to give **7** (1.2 g; 70 %), mp 139–141 °C.; IR: 3,396, 3,221 (NH), 1,676 (CO), 1,209 (C=S) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.86 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19–2.47 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 4.59 (s, 1H, NH which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O), 7.31–7.33 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.59 (S, 1H, NH), 11.36 (S, 1H, NH). Anal. Calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OS (433.69): C, 69.23; H, 9.99; N, 9.69; S, 7.39. Found C, 69.38; H, 10.05; N, 9.49; S, 7.43 %.

3-Heptadecyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione (8)

A solution of 7 (1.2 g, 0.01 mol) in ethanol (15 mL) was added to a solution of sodium hydroxide (5 N, 5 mL) with cooling and stirring. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 6-8 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool, filtered and acidified with hydrochloric acid (2 M). The precipitate obtained was filtered washed with water and dried and recrystallized from ethanol to obtain 8 (0.82 g; 68 %), mp 85-87 °C.; IR: 3,228 (NH), 3,043 (CH aromatic), 1,601 (C=N), 1,186 (C=S) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.86 (t, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.23–2.76 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 11.99 (s, 1H, NH which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O), 7.29-7.57 (m, 5H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  13.75, 24.66, 28.37, 28.48, 28.58, 28.66, 28.74, 28.84, 28.86, 28.86, 28.89, 28.91, 28.96, 28.99, 29.07, 31.30, 33.65, 33.70, 39.08, 116.69, 121.22, 128.42, 129.47, 154.74, 173.10. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S (415.68): C, 72.24; H, 9.94; N, 10.11; S, 7.71. Found C, 72.33; H, 10.02; N, 10.25; S, 7.83.

5-Heptadecyl-*N*-phenyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-amine (9)

A solution of **7** (0.95 g, 0.005 mol) was added portionwise to (25 mL) of concentrated sulfuric acid at 0 °C with continuous stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred further for 3 h at room temperature and then allowed to stand overnight. Neutralization with diluted sodium hydroxide precipitated a crude solid, which was filtered, and washed with water. The crude product was then recrystallized from DMF to furnish **9** (0.51 g; 53 %), mp 89–91 °C.; IR: 3,221 (NH), 1,601 (C=N) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.95 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.43–2.96 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 6.50–7.08 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.01 (s, 1H, NH which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O). Anal. Calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S (415.68): C, 72.24; H, 9.94; N, 10.11; S, 7.71. Found C, 72.41; H, 10.11; N, 10.18; S, 7.88.

5-Heptadecyl- $N^3$ -phenyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3,4-diamine (10)

A mixture of **7** (1.3 g, 0.005 mol) and hydrazine hydrate (0.025 mol) was refluxed in ethanol (20 mL) for 3 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and poured over crushed ice. The solid separated was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol/water to get **10** (0.85 g; 65 %), mp 118–120 °C.; IR: 3,241, 3,160 (NH), 3,052 (CH aromatic), 1,601 (C=N) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.87 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.21–2.97 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 5.02 (s, 1H, NH<sub>2</sub> which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O). 7.17–7.63 (m, 5H, ArH), 10.08 (s, 1H, NH). Anal. Calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>5</sub> (413.64): C, 72.59; H, 10.48; N, 16.93. Found C, 72.72; H, 10.64; N, 17.15.

3-Heptadecyl-1,2-dihydro-1,2,4-triazin-5(6H)-one (11)

Acid hydrazide **1** (1.6 g, 0.01 mol) and chloroacetamide (0.41 g, 0.01 mol) were refluxed in DMF (30 mL) for 26–30 h. After the completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was concentrated, cooled and poured into ice-cold water (100 g). The desired triazinone which separated out was filtered and dried. Further purification by column chromatography over silica gel using a petroleum ether-diethyl ether mixture as the eluent afforded **11** (1.2 g; 75 %), mp, 144–146 °C.; IR: 3,454, 3,231 (NH), 1,687 (CO), 1,566 (C=N) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.85 (*t*, 3H, terminal CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.24–1.65 (m, 32H, CH aliphatic), 2.15 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub> of triazinone ring), 3.89 (s, 1H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.67 (s, 1H, NH which disappeared on addition of D<sub>2</sub>O). Anal. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O (337.54): C, 71.17; H, 11.65; N, 12.45. Found C, 71.25; H, 11.74; N, 12.28.

Preparation of Nonionic Surfactants (12–21a–c) from the Synthesized Compounds (2–11)

The terms of nonionic surfactants refers chiefly to polyoxypropylene derivatives, they are usually prepared by the addition of different moles (*n*) of propylene oxide ( $n \approx 5$ , 10, 15 mol) to synthesized products (**2–11**) at any active hydrogen atoms (NH, NH<sub>2</sub>, SH) using KOH as the catalyst. The processes were completed as described in [19]. The accurate amount of propylene oxide taken up and average degree of propenoxylation (*n*) was determined from the increased mass of the reaction mixture and confirmed by spectroscopy. The structures of the synthesized nonionic surfactants were confirmed via IR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra. All IR spectra after the addition of the propylene oxide, showed, two broad bands at 1,070 and 960 cm<sup>-1</sup>





characteristic for the vC–O–C ether linkage of polypropenoxy chain, beside the original bands of the compound and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra after the addition of propylene oxide, showed, the protons of propenoxy group were assigned as a broad multiple signals in the region (3.1–3.9) ppm, beside the other protons of the compound.

## **Biological Activity**

Antimicrobial activity of the prepared compounds was tested via a modification of the cup-plate method [20].

The Surface Active Properties

#### Surface and Interfacial Tensions

Surface tension and interfacial tension were measured using a Du Nouy tensiometer (KRUSS type 8451), at

various concentration of the synthesized surfactants  $(0.05-10^{-6} \text{ mol/L})$  and at 25 °C [21].

## Cloud Point

The cloud point, measure as inverse solubility characteristic of nonionic surface active agents, was determined by gradual heating 1.0 % wt solution in a controlled temperature bath recording the temperature at which the clear or nearly clear solutions become definitely turbid. Cooling the solutions until they become clear again confirmed the reproducibility of this temperature [22].

## Wetting Time

The wetting powers of the tested surfactants were determined by immersing a sample of cotton fabric in 1.0 wt aqueous solution of the surfactants and measuring the sinking time in seconds [23].



Scheme 2 Synthesis of nonionic surfactants

#### **Foaming Properties**

The foam production for 1.0 wt solution was measured by the foam height initially produced [24].

#### **Emulsion Stability**

The emulsion was prepared from 10 mL of a 20 mmol/L aqueous solution of surfactant and 5 mL of toluene at 40 °C. The emulsifying properties was determined by the time it took for an aqueous volume separating from the layer to reach 9 mL counting from the moment of the cession shaking [24].

#### Biodegradability

Samples which were taken daily or more frequently were filtered through filter paper before measuring the surface

Table 1 Antimicrobial activity of some synthesized compounds

tension. Surface tension measurements were made periodically (each day) on each sample during the degradation test [25] Biodegradation percent (*D*) for each sample was calculated using the following relation.  $D = [(\gamma_t - \gamma_0)/(\gamma_{bt} - \gamma_0)]$  where  $\gamma t$  = Surface tension at time *t*.  $\gamma_0$  = Surface tension at time zero (initial S. T.).  $\gamma_{bt}$  = Surface tension of the blank experiment at time *t* (without sample).

#### Chemistry

Stearohydrazide (1) used as a starting material, was conveniently prepared from stearic acid following the previously reported method [26]. The behavior of 1 toward some nitrogen nucleophiles was investigated. Thus, the reaction of 1 with potassium thiocyanate in methanol and hydrochloric acid afforded thiosemicarbazide derivative 2. The latter compound proved to be a useful key intermediate in the synthesis of several heterocyclic nuclei. Thus, when 2 was refluxed with potassium hydroxide in ethanol yielded 3-heptadecyl-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione (3). Treatment of 2 with potassium iodide and iodine in the presence of sodium hydroxide furnished 5-heptadecyl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-amine (4). Also, cyclization of 2 in the presence of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> produced 5-heptadecyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2amine (5) which was treated with sodium nitrite in the presence of hydrochloric acid to give 5-heptadecyl-1,3,4thiadiazol-2(3H)-one (6) (Scheme 1).

On the other hand, the reactivity of **1** towards phenyl isothiocyanate under different reaction conditions was investigated. Thus, the reaction of **1** with phenyl isothiocyanate in dry benzene under reflux gave the thiosemicarbazide derivative **7** which was subjected to intermolecular cyclization in alkaline medium (2 M NaOH) followed by acidification with HCl to give 1,2,4-triazole derivative **8**.

Sample	Inhibition zone diameter (mm/mg sample)							
	E. coli (G+)		S. aureus (G+)		A. flavus (fungus)		C. albicans (fungus)	
	MIC (µg)	A (mm)	MIC (µg)	A (mm)	MIC (µg)	A (mm)	MIC (µg)	A (mm)
3	200	27	200	22	400	20	400	18
4	100	13	100	0.0	200	13	200	0.0
5	100	14	200	11	400	0.0	400	0.0
6	200	19	100	12	200	11	100	10
8	400	30	200	22	400	22	200	20
15b	200	19	200	16	400	12	400	10
19c	200	20	200	14	200	0.0	100	0.0
20b	200	20	100	15	400	12	400	13
21c	400	25	100	21	400	15	400	14
Gentamycin	200	29	200	26	-	-	_	-

A antimicrobial activity of tested compounds, *MIC* minimum inhibitory concentration, 0.0 not active, A > 7 mm slightly active, A > 15 mm moderately active, A > 20 mm highly active

Also, cyclization of **7** in the presence of conc.  $H_2SO_4$  gave thiadiazole derivative **9**. Moreover, treatment of **7** with hydrazine hydrate afforded 1,2,4-triazole derivative **10**. Of particular interest, a cyclocondensation reaction of **1** with chloroacetamide in DMF under reflux conditions gave 3-heptadecyl-1,2-dihydro-1,2,4-triazine-5(6*H*)-one (**11**).

Conversion of the Prepared Compounds (2–11) to Nonionic Surfactants (12–21)a–c

The built up surfactant molecules containing a heterocyclic moiety provide us with a most important class of surface active agents due to their dual characters, one due to conflict between the affinity of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic structure shows surface active properties and another one that is due to the heterocyclic moiety confirmed with aid of a hydrophilic moiety (propylene oxide) give its biological activity. Propoxylation of the new compounds (2–11) with various quantities of propylene oxide (5, 10, and 15 mol) produced nonionic surfactants (12–21)a–c, respectively. The surface active properties of the prepared propoxylated compounds (12–21)a–c were measured in a neutral medium by traditional procedures to evaluate the possible utilization of these compounds in

Table 2 Surface properties of synthesized compounds

Sample	п	Surface tension (mN/m) 0.1 m/l	Interfacial tension (mN/m) 0.1 m/l	Cloud point (°C)	Wetting time (s)	Emulsion stability (min)	Foam height (mm)
12a	5	33	11.0	86	55	105	100
12b	10	35	11.5	>100	47	90	115
12c	15	36	12.0	>100	35	82	120
13a	5	29	10.0	77	59	115	115
13b	10	31	11.0	93	45	105	154
13c	15	33	13.0	>100	35	82	182
14a	5	34	9.5	79	58	113	105
14b	10	34	10.5	87	47	98	119
14c	15	35	12.0	89	36	80	140
15a	5	30	10.0	63	45	100	120
15b	10	31	10.5	85	36	92	148
15c	15	33	12.0	96	25	63	188
16a	5	32	9.5	87	54	96	135
16b	10	34	9.5	95	43	88	165
16c	15	36	10.5	>100	30	88	200
17a	5	33	11.0	87	53	103	125
17b	10	35	11.5	95	41	96	140
17c	15	37	11.5	>100	30	85	150
18a	5	30	8.0	80	61	119	95
18b	10	31	9.5	87	45	111	120
18c	15	34	11.5	98	36	97	160
19a	5	32	9.0	77	52	85	130
19b	10	36	10.5	87	45	75	170
19c	15	40	12.0	91	37	70	185
20a	5	32	10.0	77	62	95	125
20b	10	34	11.5	87	45	90	150
20c	15	37	13.0	>100	37	84	175
21a	5	31	10.5	74	62	94	128
21b	10	34	12.0	86	50	90	178
21c	15	38	14.0	>100	32	86	200

Surface and interfacial tensions =  $\pm 0.1$  dyne/cm, cloud point =  $\pm 1$  °C, foam height =  $\pm 2$  mm, wetting time =  $\pm 1$  s, emulsion =  $\pm 30$  s, *n* moles of propylene oxide

various industrial fields. Scheme (2) shows the propenoxylation of compounds **5** and **10** as examples. The structures of the synthesized chemicals are listed in (Table 4).

#### **Biological Activity**

Some of the synthesized compounds were screened in vitro against some bacteria such as Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus and some fungi such as Aspergillus flavus and Candida albicans. Gentamycin was taken as a positive reference for antibacterial activity. The results are tabulated in (Table 1), which shows that the samples have high antibacterial and moderate antifungal activities on the tested microorganisms. The results revealed that compounds 3, 8, 21c were found to have an excellent antibacterial activity against E. coli and S. aureus, while compounds 6, 15b, 19c, 20b exhibited a moderate antibacterial activity and compounds 4, 5 showed only a slight antibacterial activity. Furthermore, compounds 3 and 8 were found to be excellent antifungals. Moreover, the biological activities of some tested compounds after propoxylation showed a greater variation than those without propylene oxide.

#### Surface Active Properties

Nonionic surfactants are used in diverse applications, both in industry and at home. Their moderate foaming and good detergency are employed in a variety of ways in the leather industry [27]. It is used to accelerate soaking, and liming is improved by the addition of wetting agents [28]. In addition, nonionic surfactants are used extensively because of their good detergency, easy rinsing and low foaming in the cleaning of milk and beer bottles. The surface active and related properties of the synthesized compounds including, surface and interfacial tension, cloud point, wetting time, foaming, and emulsification properties are given in (Table 2).

The data in Table 2 show that the surface and interfacial tensions increased upon increasing the number of propylene oxide units added to the molecule [29]. All these compounds show high cloud points, when in hot water, which increased with an increasing number of moles of propylene oxide [30]. Also, the synthesized compounds exhibited efficient wetting properties that wetting time decreased with increasing numbers of propylene oxide units. Emulsion stability is found to decrease with

 Table 3 Biodegradability of some selected of prepared surfactants

	-	-					
Sample	1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	
12a	40	57	69	79	88	96	
12b	39	53	62	76	85	95	
12c	40	49	60	73	81	93	
15a	40	55	66	77	90	-	
15b	40	49	58	74	88	95	
15c	38	45	55	67	87	92	
17a	44	57	65	79	93	-	
17b	42	51	58	74	88	93	
17c	42	46	56	70	80	91	
19a	40	53	64	79	88	93	
19b	39	49	58	68	79	90	
19c	39	45	55	64	74	89	
21a	41	55	66	77	89	-	
21b	40	53	62	72	86	93	
21c	40	50	58	68	83	91	

The error of calculations was: biodegradation rate =  $\pm 0.5$  %

increasing numbers of propylene oxide units [31], while the foam height is found to increase [32]. The surface active properties were independent of the heterocyclic moiety but dependent on the hydrophobic ( $C_{18}$ ) and hydrophilic (propylene oxide) units; however, the heterocyclic moiety reveals biological activities of the synthesized molecules, i.e. these compounds are used as effective emulsifying agents in many fields, such as cosmetics, formulations, pesticides, dyes, textiles, etc.

#### Biodegradability

For keeping the environment free from pollution, the biodegradability of the synthesized compounds was evaluated, which was determined by the die-away test, followed by surface tension measurements [33]. The biodegradability data are given (Table 3) within the experimental accuracy; all the prepared nonionic surfactants seem to degrade easily. Biodegradation of these compounds was found to depend mainly on the propylene oxide chain length when they had the same hydrophobic part. Also, the results showed that on the first day 40–50 % of the surfactants was biodegradable, and after that they disappeared completely after 6 days, which means that these compounds are safe for human beings as well as for the environment (Table 4). 
 Table 4
 The number of chemicals

No	Structure	No	Structure
1	O II H C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> -C-N-NH <sub>2</sub>		
2	С <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> -С-N-N-С-NH <sub>2</sub>	12a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & $
3	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> N S	13a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} $
4	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> ONH <sub>2</sub>	14a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$C_{17}H_{35} \xrightarrow{N} V_{(CH_2-CHO)_xH} C_{17}H_{35} \xrightarrow{N} V_{(CH_2-CHO)_yH} X + y = n CH_3$
5	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> S NH <sub>2</sub>	15a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$C_{17}H_{35}$
6	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> S O	16a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$C_{17}H_{35}$ S $C_{1$
7	$\begin{array}{c} O \\ H \\ C_{17}H_{35} - C - N - N - C - N \end{array} \begin{array}{c} S \\ H \\ - C - N - N - C - N \end{array}$	17a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} $
8	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> NHS	18a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	С <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> С <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> С <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> С
9	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> S N H	19a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$C_{17}H_{35}$
10	$C_{17}H_{35} \xrightarrow{N \longrightarrow N}_{NH_2} H \xrightarrow{N}_{NH_2}$	20a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$\begin{array}{c} N = N \\ C_{17}H_{35} \\ N \\ H_z(OCH-CH_2) \\ CH_3 \\ CH_3 \\ X+y+z=n \end{array} \begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ $
11	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>35</sub> NH H	21a, n = 5 b, n = 10 c , n = 15	$C_{17}H_{35} \xrightarrow{N}^{N^-}(CH_2-CHO)_xH$ $(CH_2-CHO)_yH$ $x + y = n$ $CH_3$

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