

# Synthesis of Hydrazone Derivatives of Benzofuran and Their Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract**—A series of benzofuran hydrazones **6a–6n** were synthesized from benzofuran aldehyde and substituted aromatic hydrazides **5a–5n**. Structures of all compounds were confirmed by IR, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and Mass spectral data. These compounds were evaluated for their antibacterial activity against gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, –ve), gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus Subtilis*, +ve), and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans*. All compounds demonstrated considerable activity against bacteria and fungi.

**Keywords:** benzofuran, hydrazide, hydrozone, benzofuran aldehyde, antibacterial and antifungal activities

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## INTRODUCTION

Benzofuran derivatives such as Cicerfuran and Conocarpan [1, 2] display potent biological properties including antimicrobial [3], anti-inflammatory [4, 5], anticonvulsant [6–7], antitumor [8], anti-HIV [9], antidiabetic [10], antitubercular [11], antihyperglycemic [12], analgesic [13], antiparasitic [14], and antioxidant [15].

Similarly, aroyl hydrazone containing the azomethine –NHN=CH protons constitute the compounds important in new drugs development [16]. Some widely used antibacterial drugs such as furacilin and ftivazide contain this group (Scheme 1).

Herein, we report synthesis, characterization and biological evaluation of some hydrozone derivatives of benzofurans.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthetic routs for the target compounds **6a–6n** are summarized in Scheme 2. The structures of products **6a–6n** were confirmed by their IR, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and mass spectral data.

All synthesized compounds **6a–6n** were evaluated for their antibacterial and antifungal activities. The antibacterial activity against gram-negative bacteria

(*Escherichia coli*, –ve), gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus Subtilis*, +ve) and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* (see table) and demonstrated distinctive potential, particularly compounds **6a–6c**, **6g–6i**, and **6k**.

Antifungal activity of synthesized compounds **6a–6n** was tested against *Candida albicans* by the poison plate technique at a concentration of 100 µL (see the table). Amphotericin-B (10 µL) was used as the standard control.

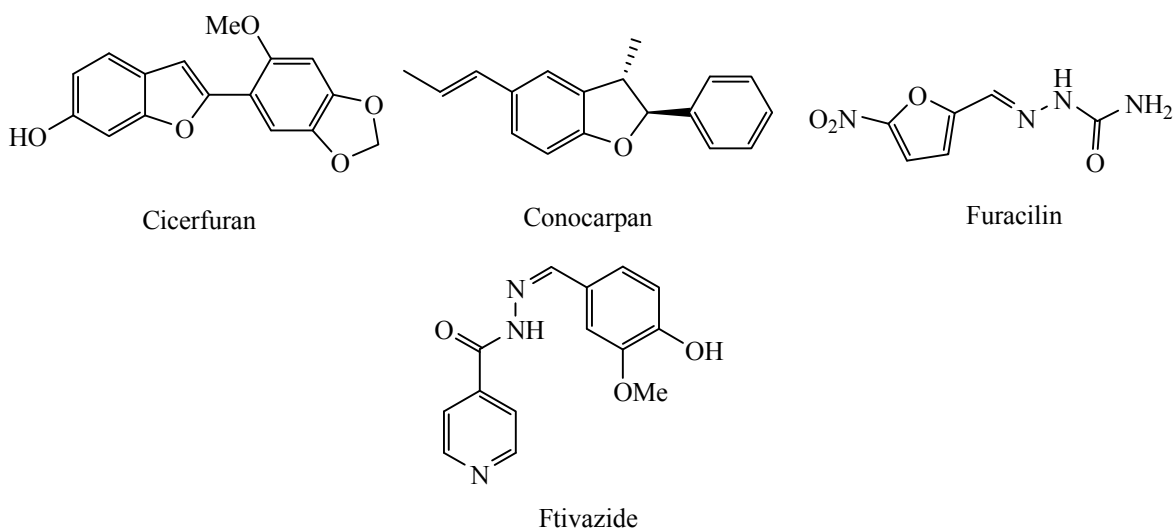
## EXPERIMENTAL

All chemicals were of commercially pure grade. TLC was carried out on aluminium plates coated with silica gel (SiO<sub>2</sub>; Merck 60 F254). Melting points were determined on a Stuart SMP3 melting point apparatus. IR spectra (KBr pellets) were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR 8400 S spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> using TMS as the internal standard. Mass spectra were measured on a Finnigan MAT 1020 mass spectrometer.

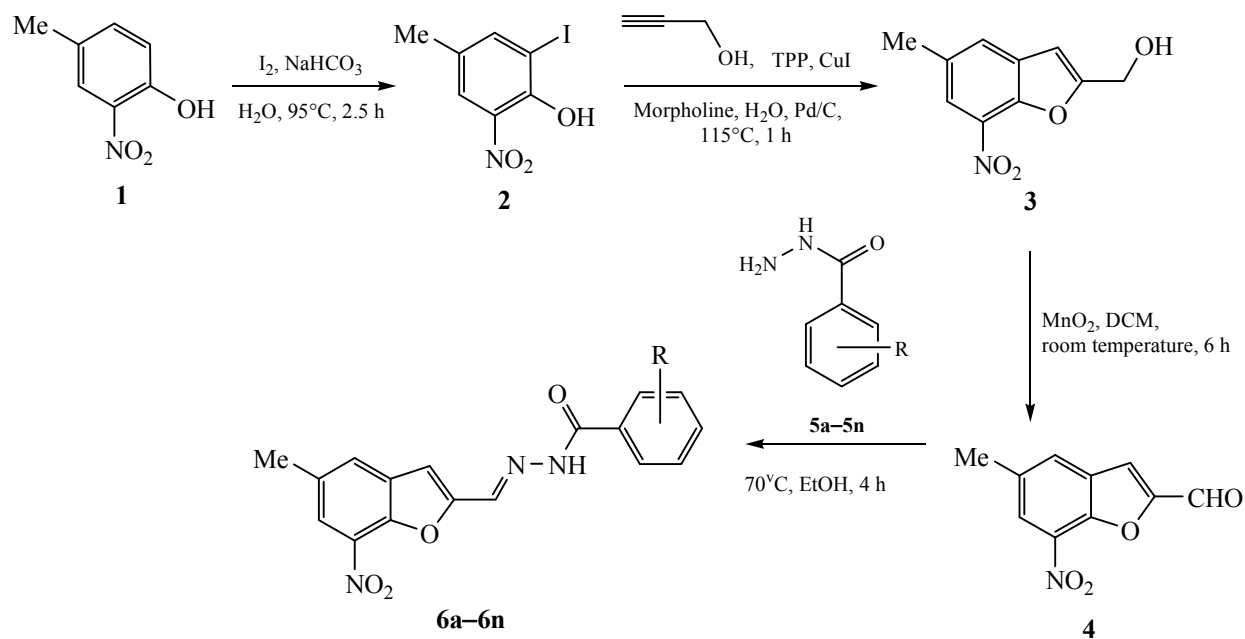
**Synthesis of 2-iodo-4-methyl-6-nitrophenol (2).** To the stirred solution of compound **1** (10 g, 65.40 mmol) in water (100 mL) was added sodium bicarbonate (523 mmol) followed by addition of iodine (16.6 g, 65.40 mmol) in small portions within 1 h and heating at 95°C for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, acidified with 1 N

<sup>1</sup> The text was submitted by the authors in English.

Scheme 1.



Scheme 2. Synthetic route for the benzofuran-hydrazone derivatives 6a–6n.



R = 4-chloro- (a), 4-methoxy- (b), 4-fluoro- (c), 4-bromo- (d), 6-bromo- (e), 5-nitro- (f), 4,6-dichloro- (g), 3,6-difluoro- (h), 3,4,5-trimethoxy- (i), 4-hydroxy- (j), 3,5-dichloro- (k), 4-methylsulphonyl- (l), H (m), 6-iodo- (n).

HCl and then extracted with diethyl ether (3×50 mL). The organic layer was separated and washed with water, brine solution, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to obtain compound 2 as a yellow solid.

**Synthesis of (5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)-methanol (3).** A mixture of compound 2 (2 g, 7.16 mmol)

with 10% Pd/C (0.3 g), triphenylphosphine (0.23 g, 0.86 mmol), CuI (80 mg, 0.43 mmol), and morpholine (23 mmol) in water (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h under the atmosphere of  $N_2$ . Propargyl alcohol (23 mmol) was added to the above reaction mixture and refluxed for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and filtered through cellite

*In vitro* antibacterial and antifungal activities of compounds **6a–6n**

Compound	Zone of inhibition, mm					
	antibacterial activity				antifungal activity	
	<i>E. coli</i> (–ve)		<i>B. Subtillis</i> (+ve)		<i>Candida albicans</i>	
	concentration <i>c</i> , μL					
	100	200	100	200	100	200
<b>6a</b>	9	12	17	28	12	19
<b>6b</b>	10	14	19	23	12	17
<b>6c</b>	11	15	9	19	12	22
<b>6d</b>	8	15	14	19	11	18
<b>6e</b>	9	13	8	9	10	15
<b>6f</b>	11	17	9	10	3	3
<b>6g</b>	10	13	15	22	4	10
<b>6h</b>	9	13	10	17	10	16
<b>6i</b>	13	19	9	14	5	10
<b>6j</b>	9	10	9	12	8	12
<b>6k</b>	10	18	8	9	10	14
<b>6l</b>	8	14	No activity	7	5	9
<b>6m</b>	11	16	9	8	16	21
<b>6n</b>	9	12	No activity	No activity	11	14
Gentamycin ( <i>c</i> = 10 μL)	16	No activity	13	No activity	–	–
Amphoteracin-B ( <i>c</i> = 10 μL)	–	–	–	–	10	No activity

bed. The filtrate was washed with water (2×50 mL), dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated to afford compound **3** as a yellow solid.

**Synthesis of 5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-carbaldehyde (4).** A mixture of compound **3** (2 g, 9.66 mmol) with MnO<sub>2</sub> (67.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (40 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite pad and the organic layer was evaporated to obtain pale yellow solid compound **4**.

**Synthesis of benzofuran hydrazone derivatives 6a–6n.** To a solution of 5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-carbaldehyde **5** (1 mmol) and hydrazides **5a–5n** (1.2 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added the above reaction mixture and stirred at 70°C for 4 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated under vacuo and the residue was triturated with

*n*-hexane, filtered and dried over vacuo to obtain the pure compounds **6a–6n**. Yields of the products varied from 80 to 90%.

**2-Iodo-4-methyl-6-nitrophenol (2).** Yield 88%, mp 97–99°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>–1</sup>: 3079, 1537. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.30 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.98 s (2H, Ar-H), 11.20 s (1H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 19.9, 86.6, 125.0, 131.6, 132.6, 148.0, 151.9. MS, *m/z*: 277.78 [*M* – H]<sup>–</sup>.

**(5-Methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methanol (3).** Yield 62%, mp 153–154°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>–1</sup>: 3200, 1585. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.10 t (*J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H, OH), 2.58 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.85 d (2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.68 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.62 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.98 s (1H, Ar-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 21.0, 57.8, 103.7, 121.4, 128.1, 132.2, 133.0, 133.1, 145.4, 159.5. MS, *m/z*: 207.96 [*M* + H]<sup>+</sup>.

**5-Methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-carbaldehyde (4).** Yield 78%, mp 179–180°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1740, 1524.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.51 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 8.01 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.17 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.28 s (1H, Ar-H), 9.94 s (1H, CHO). MS,  $m/z$ : 206.07  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-4-Chloro-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6a).** Yield 80%, mp 143–145°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3268, 1742, 1530.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.44 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.56 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.62 d (2H,  $J = 8.54$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.94 d (2H,  $J = 8.54$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.97 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.06 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.56 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.2 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 94.0, 109.6, 122.6, 127.6, 128.2, 128.5, 129.2, 131.8, 132.7, 133.7, 136.8, 139.2, 140.9, 145.1, 153.3, 165.2. MS,  $m/z$ : 358.18  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-4-Methoxy-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6b).** Yield 82%, mp 148–150°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3282, 1654, 1513.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.41 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.85 s (3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 7.08 d (2H,  $J = 9.15$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.52 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.93–7.96 m (3H, Ar-H), 8.06 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.58 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.04 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 18.6, 53.2, 108.5, 118.1, 121.9, 126.8, 128.9, 129.5, 130.6, 131.5, 134.6, 137.8, 143.3, 145.2, 153.8, 154.5, 162.5, 180.9. MS,  $m/z$ : 352.19  $[M - \text{H}]^-$ .

**(E)-4-Fluoro-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6c).** Yield 84%, mp 133–135°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3376, 1675, 1524.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.43 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.36–7.43 m (3H, Ar-H), 7.56 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.98–8.18 m (3H, Ar-H), 8.57 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.17 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 21.2, 108.9, 113.4, 115.0, 115.3, 122.5, 123.6, 129.3, 130.9, 131.7, 132.9, 133.8, 136.5, 144.8, 154.3, 161.3, 161.5. MS,  $m/z$ : 342.21  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-4-Bromo-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6d).** Yield 85%, mp 154–156°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3776, 1665, 1523.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.47 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.58 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.78–7.80 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.88–7.91 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.99 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.08 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.57 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.21 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 94.03, 109.6, 122.6, 127.6, 128.2, 128.5, 129.2, 131.8, 132.7, 133.7, 136.8, 139.2, 140.9, 145.1, 153.3, 165.2. MS,  $m/z$ : 402.21  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-2-Bromo-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6e).** Yield 83%, mp 151–153°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3776, 1665, 1523.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.94 s

(1H, Ar-H), 7.59 s (2H, Ar-H), 7.71 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.82–7.86 m (3H, Ar-H), 7.90 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.4 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 18.67, 99.71, 118.3, 121.3, 123.9, 125.4, 125.8, 127.2, 128.9, 130.5, 130.8, 130.9, 142.4, 142.5, 142.7, 149.9, 154.5. MS,  $m/z$ : 402.21  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ , 404.12  $[M + \text{H}]^{+2}$ .

**(E)-*N'*-[(5-Methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]-3-nitrobenzohydrazide (6f).** Yield 87%, mp 145–147°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3620, 1687, 1523.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.53 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.62–7.66 m (1H, Ar-H), 7.85–7.90 m (1H), 8.00 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.10 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.18 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.38 d (1H,  $J = 7.93$  Hz, Ar-H), 8.47–8.49 m (1H, Ar-H), 8.78 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.3 s (1H, NH). MS,  $m/z$ : 369.27  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-2,4-Dichloro-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6g).** Yield 86%, mp 159–161°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3323, 1663, 1525.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.46 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.32 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.55–7.61 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.66 d (1H,  $J = 8.54$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.75 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.82 d (1H,  $J = 1.83$  Hz, Ar-H), 8.36 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.26 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 109.2, 120.8, 121.6, 122.5, 127.7, 128.6, 129.1, 131.8, 132.1, 132.7, 133.0, 133.7, 136.8, 145.0, 153.6, 163.3. MS,  $m/z$ : 392.07  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-2,5-Difluoro-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6h).** Yield 81%, mp 145–147°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3376, 1669, 1524.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.36–7.59 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.61 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.91 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.99–8.01 m (1H, Ar-H), 8.09 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.42 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.22 s (1H, NH). MS,  $m/z$ : 360.20  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-3,4,5-Trimethoxy-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6i).** Yield 85%, mp 161–163°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3151, 1654, 1510.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.74 s (3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.87 s (6H,  $2\text{OCH}_3$ ), 7.26 s (2H, Ar-H), 7.56 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.98 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.07 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.62 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.00 s (1H, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 56.1, 60.1, 105.3, 109.2, 121.3, 122.5, 128.0, 129.1, 131.8, 132.7, 133.7, 136.8, 145.0, 152.7, 153.6, 162.7. MS,  $m/z$ : 414.22  $[M + \text{H}]^+$ .

**(E)-4-Hydroxy-*N'*-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6j).** Yield 87%, mp 149–151°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3282, 1654, 1513.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.60 s

(1H, Ar-H), 7.93–7.99 m (6H, Ar-H), 8.09 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.53 s (1H, Ar-H), 11.94 s (1H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 108.5, 111.4, 115.0, 115.2, 122.3, 123.3, 129.0, 130.6, 131.9, 132.7, 133.6, 135.8, 144.9, 153.8, 160.9, 161.2. MS,  $m/z$ : 340.01 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>.

**(E)-3,5-Dichloro-N'-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6k).** Yield 88%, mp 159–161°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3358, 1694, 1526. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.50 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.83 d (2H,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.94–7.96 m (2H, Ar-H), 8.05–8.07 m (1H, Ar-H), 8.56 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.28 s (1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.5, 96.3, 109.4, 123.5, 127.2, 128.5, 130.2, 131.3, 132.5, 132.9, 134.5, 138.2, 140.2, 141.5, 145.9, 153.8, 163.2. MS,  $m/z$ : 392.16 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>.

**(E)-N'-[(5-Methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzohydrazide (6l).** Yield 81%, mp 147–149°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3781, 1695, 1524, 1142 (SO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1524. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.47 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.30 s (3H, SO<sub>2</sub>Me), 7.60 s (1H, Ar-H), 7.99 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.09–8.20 m (3H, Ar-H), 8.27 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.58 s (1H, Ar-H), 9.94 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.35 s (1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 43.2, 109.7, 118.1, 122.7, 125.8, 128.7, 129.2, 130.4, 131.3, 134.4, 137.6, 143.5, 145.1, 153.3, 154.0, 162.1, 180.9. MS,  $m/z$ : 402.13 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>.

**(E)-N'-[(5-Methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6m).** Yield 83%, mp 149–151°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3618, 1645, 1524. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.43 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.56–7.62 m (3H, Ar-H), 7.63–7.65 m (1H, Ar-H), 7.93–7.97 m (3H, Ar-H), 8.07 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.58 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.15 s (1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 109.2, 122.5, 127.7, 128.6, 129.1, 131.8, 132.1, 132.7, 133.0, 133.7, 136.8, 145.0, 153.6, 163.3. MS,  $m/z$ : 324.21 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>.

**(E)-2-Iodo-N'-[(5-methyl-7-nitrobenzofuran-2-yl)methylene]benzohydrazide (6n).** Yield 79%, mp 153–154°C. IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3375, 1665, 1523. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.46 s (3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.23–7.29 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.48–7.56 m (2H, Ar-H), 7.90–7.99 m (2H, Ar-H), 8.08 s (1H, Ar-H), 8.36 s (1H, Ar-H), 12.15 s (1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.3, 94.0, 109.6, 122.6, 127.6, 128.5, 129.2, 131.6, 131.8, 132.7, 133.7, 136.8, 139.2, 140.9, 145.1, 153.3, 165.2. MS,  $m/z$ : 450.02 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

A new series of substituted benzofuran hydrazone derivatives **6a–6n** were synthesized, characterized by

IR, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and Mass spectral data. Antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, –ve, *Bacillus Subtillis*, +ve, and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* were evaluated. All the above compounds demonstrated more potent antibacterial and antifungal activity than the standard controls.

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