

SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND CYTOTOXICITY STUDIES OF NEW BIGINELLI ADDUCTS

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ABSTRACT

Novel dihydrothiopyrimidinone were synthesized by using Biginelli reaction from thiourea, acetylacetone with various substituted aldehydes. Their structural characterizations were evaluated by FT-IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, mass spectroscopy. They were screened for *in vitro* anticancer activity by using MTT assay against prostate cancer cell lines (D-145) and human lung cancer cell lines (A-549). **C7** has shown potent activity with IC₅₀ **28 µg/mL** and **35 µg/mL** against prostate cancer cell lines and lung cancer cell lines. Compound **C4** has shown moderate activity against lung cancer cell lines with IC₅₀ **34 µg/ mL** and **25 µg/ mL** against prostate cancer cell lines and lung cancer cell lines when compare to the standard Methotrexate.

Keywords: Biginelli reaction, Dihydrothiopyrimidinone, Cytotoxicity, Prostate cancer cell lines.

INTRODUCTION

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are a major threat to global health, causing a significant amount of death every year. Second only to cardiovascular disease, cancer is becoming a global burden which lead to an estimation of 8.7 million deaths in 2015¹. Moreover, cancer is expected to rank as the leading cause of death and the single most significant barrier for the increase of life expectancy in every country worldwide². Contrary to common misperception, cancer is a major health challenge not only in high-income countries but also in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where the number of cancer occurrence is rapidly growing³. Unfortunately, almost all anticancer drugs are associated with serious side effects, making the search for novel chemical agents that are cytotoxic to cancer cells with less side effects an urgent need. The dihydropyrimidinones (DHPMs) can be synthesized by a straight forward and well known protocol Biginelli reaction⁴, which involves three component condensations of aromatic aldehyde,

acetoacetic ester and urea in ethanolic solution. In the name of the scientist Biginelli these compounds were named biginelli compounds. DHPMs are increasingly gaining importance due to their biological and pharmacological properties⁵ like antiviral activity, antibacterial activity, antitumor, analgesic, cardiovascular activity, anti-inflammatory, bloodplatelet aggregation inhibitor, anti-hypertensive agents and alpha-1-antagonists. The compounds containing DHPM core unit show excellent calcium channel modulation⁶⁻¹³. In addition, it was found that there were several isolated marine alkaloids¹² having interesting biological activities which contains the dihydropyrimidinone-5-carboxylate core. In order to improve the yields of dihydropyrimidinones a few other approaches involving modified experimental conditions (change in the catalysts, solvents, temperatures etc.) have been reported¹⁴. From the literature, it has been clearly emphasized that pyrimidinones having anticancer properties like Monstrol (Figure 1).

Keeping in view, it is worthwhile to synthesize some new dihydropyrimidinone derivatives by using eco-friendly, cheap easily available citric acid as a catalyst and evaluate them for their anticancer properties.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the chemicals used in the synthesis were procured from Sigma Aldrich. TLC plates for monitoring of reactions and silica gel (100-200 mesh) for column chromatography obtained from Merck. The Melting points were determined by using EZ-Melt automated melting point apparatus. The FT-IR spectra were recorded on BRUKER ALPHA-T FT-IR spectrophotometer using KBr pellet method. The Mass spectra were recorded on Agilent 6320 Ion Trap LC-MS (Positive/Negative ion electro spray ionization method). The ¹H NMR spectra of the compounds were recorded on BRUKER 400 MHz NMR Spectrophotometer.

EXPERIMENTAL

General procedure for the synthesis of dihydropyrimidines¹⁶

The equimolar mixture of thiourea (I), acetyl acetone (II), aldehyde (III) and catalytic amount of citric acid in ethanol (solvent) were taken in a round bottomed flask and refluxed for 6-7 h at 80 °C and the reaction was monitored by using TLC. After completion of the reaction, obtained crude product was transferred into a beaker containing crushed ice and then filtered, washed with ice cold water and recrystallized using ethanol to get the pure compound. The structural properties of synthesized compounds were given in **Table1**.

Synthesis and characterization data of 5-acetyl-4-(3'-ethoxy-4'-hydroxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C1)

A mixture of acetylacetone (0.01 mole), 3-ethoxy-4-hydroxy benzaldehyde (0.01 mole), thiourea (0.01 mole) and citric acid (10 mol%) in water (25 mL) was taken into a 250 ml dry beaker and reflux it for 1 hr at 80 °C. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of reaction, the mixture was poured into 100 ml of ice cold water, filtered. The obtained solid was washed with ice cold water, dried and purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol.

The chemical structure was confirmed through physical and spectral data. The IR spectra of the compound **C1** showed the absorption band at around 3306, 3172 and 1705 cm⁻¹ regions, resulting from the -NH, Ar-H and C=O functions respectively. Further, in the ¹H NMR spectra, singlet at 1.33 and 2.11 accounted for

the methyl group of -OCH₂CH₃ and methyl group protons of pyrimidine ring at 6th position. Another singlet at 2.29 integrated for methyl group of acetyl group at 5th position of pyrimidine ring. The singlet at 5.26 accounted for proton of chiral carbon at 4th position, which confirming the cyclization results in formation of dihydropyrimidinone. The aromatic protons are shown in multiplets around δ 7.24 to 7.37. The two broad singlets with the chemical shift values 6.81 and 8.94 were due to -NH protons. The singlet at 9.64, due to OH group at 4th position of phenyl ring on dihydropyrimidinone.

The ES-MS (Fig 21) showed its molecular ion peak at 231 (M+1), which is in accordance with its molecular formula C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₂S.

By adopting the above synthetic procedure, compounds (**C2 to C10**) were also synthesized. The characteristic physicochemical properties were given in table no. I and spectral data was presented separately in detail.

Spectral data of synthesized new dihydrothiopyrimidones (C2-C10)

5-acetyl-4-(3',4'-dimethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C2)

Yield 87 %, m.p.: 208, m.w.:321, FTIR (KBR, V_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3257 (NH), 3131 (Ar-H), 2961 (C-H), 1697 (C=O), 1329(C-O-C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 2.06 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.27 (s, 3H, -COCH₃), 5.15 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.69 (d, 3H, Ar-H), 7.04 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.70 (s, 1H, NH), 9.10 (s, 1H, NH), 9.37 (s, 1H, OH);

5-acetyl-4-(furfuryl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C3)

Yield 81 %, m.p.: 218, m.w.:307, FTIR (KBR, V_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3269 (NH), 3121 (Ar-CH), 2949 (CH), 1696 (C=O), 1379(C-O-C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 2.06 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.27 (s, 3H, -COCH₃), 5.15 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.69 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.04(d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.70 (s, 1H, NH), 9.10 (s, 1H, NH).

5-acetyl-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C4)

Yield 83 %, m.p.: 243, m.w.: 322, FTIR (KBR, V_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3316 (NH), 3152 (Ar-CH), 2975 (C-H), 1705 (C=O), 1609(C=C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 1.31 (s, 3H, -CH₂CH₃), 2.11 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.31 (s, 3H, -COCH₃), 3.96 (q, 2H, -OCH₂), 5.18 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.58(d, 2H, Ar-H), 6.72 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 6.82 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 8.94 (s, 1H, N¹H), 9.64 (1, 1H, N³H), 10.18 (1, 1H, SH).

5-acetyl-4-phenyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C5)

Yield 81 %, m.p.: 206, m.w.: 314, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3241 (NH), 3102 (Ar-CH), 1695 (C=O), ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 2.12 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 2.22 (s, 3H, $-\text{COCH}_3$), 5.18 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.58 (t, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.45 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 7.81 (s, 1H, NH), 9.17 (s, 1H, NH), , 10.23 (s, 1H, OH).

5-acetyl-4-(4'-isopropylphenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C6)

Yield 65 %, m.p.: 239, m.w.: 309, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3239 (NH), 3093 (Ar-CH), 2957 (C-H), 1701 (C=O), 1325 (C-O-C); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 1.17(m, 6H, $-\text{2CH}_3$), 2.15 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 2.33 (s, 3H, $-\text{COCH}_3$), 2.93 (q, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 5.25 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 7.13 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.20 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.79 (s, 1H, NH), 9.70 (s, 1H, NH), 10.24 (s, 1H, SH).

5-acetyl-4-(2',4'-dichlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C7)

Yield 61 %, m.p.: 241, m.w.: 325, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3359 (NH), 3162 (Ar-H), 2979 (C-H), 1719 (C=O), 1192(C-Cl); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 2.06 (s, 3H, $-\text{COCH}_3$), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH_3), 5.15 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.99 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.11 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.23 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.69 (s, 1H, NH), 8.85 (s, 1H, NH), 10.18 (s, 1H, SH).

5-acetyl-4-cinnamyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C8)

Yield 61 %, m.p.: 241, m.w.: 325, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3267 (NH), 3149 (Ar-CH), 2989(C-H), 1707 (C=O), 1612 (C=C); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 2.72 (s, 6H, $-\text{2CH}_3$), 4.85 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.11(d, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$), 6.11(d, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$), 7.24 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.30 (t, 1H, Ar-H), 7.39 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 7.81 (m, 1H, N^1H), 9.26 (s, 1H, N^3H)

5-acetyl-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C9)

Yield 77 %, m.p.: 214, m.w.: 314, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3236 (NH), 3115 (Ar-CH), 1704 (C=O), 1329(C-O-C); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 2.12 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 2.32 (s, 3H, $-\text{COCH}_3$), 3.73 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 5.23 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine ring), 6.89 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 6.82 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 9.55 (s, 1H, N^1H), 10.27 (s, 1H, N^3H).

5-acetyl-4-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidine-2(1H)-thione (C10)

Yield 70 %, m.p.: 243, m.w.: 323, FTIR (KBR, V_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3449 (OH), 3256 (NH), 3132 (Ar-CH), 2959 (C-H), 1691(C=O), 1329 (C-O-C); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): 2.15 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 2.29 (s, 3H, $-\text{COCH}_3$), 5.28 (s, 1H, H of pyrimidine

ring), 6.58 (t, 1H, Ar-H), 6.72 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 6.82 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 9.64 (s, 1H, N^1H), 10.16 (s, 1H, N^3H), 10.36 (s, 1H, SH).

CYTOTOXICITY STUDIES

The *in vitro* cytotoxicity of the test compounds (C1 to C10) was evaluated by the MTT assay proposed by Mosmann in 1983. This is a colorimetric assay that measures the reduction of yellow 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) by mitochondrial succinate dehydrogenase. The MTT enters the cells and passes into the mitochondria where it is reduced to an insoluble, coloured (dark purple) formazan product (Figure 4). The cells are then solubilized with DMSO and the released, solubilized formazan reagent is measured spectrophotometrically at 570 nm. Since reduction of MTT can only occur in metabolically active cells, the level of activity is a measure of the viability of the cells. When the amount of dark purple formazan produced by the cells is treated with an agent compared with the amount of formazan produced by untreated control cells, the effectiveness of the agent in causing death of cells can be deduced through the production of a dose-response curve.

MATERIALS

DU-145 (Prostate cancer) and A-549 (Lung cancer) cell line were obtained from National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, India. DMEM (Dulbeccos Modified Eagles Medium), MEM (Minimum Essential Media Eagle), MTT [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide], Trypsin, EDTA were purchased from Sigma chemicals (St.Louis, MO). Fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Arrow Labs, 96 well flat bottom tissue culture plates were purchased from Tarson.

METHOD**a) Maintenance of cell lines**

DU-145 cell lines and A-549 cell lines were grown as adherent in DMEM media and the culture was maintained in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2 .

b) Preparation of samples for cytotoxicity

Stock solutions of test compounds (C1 to C10) were prepared (10 mg/mL) in DMSO and from them various dilutions were made with sterile water to get the final drug concentrations of 10, 50, 100 and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$.

c) Cytotoxicity evaluation^{17,18}

The cells were seeded in 96 well plates at a density of 1×10^4 (counted by Trypan blue

exclusion dye method) per well and were incubated for 24 h to recover. After incubation the medium was replaced with fresh media containing different dilutions of the test compounds. Then the plated were incubated for additional 48 h at 37°C in DMEM/MEM with 10% FBS medium. Following incubation, the medium was removed and replaced with 90 µl of fresh DMEM without FBS. To the above wells, 10 µl of MTT reagent (5 mg/mL of stock solution in DMEM without FBS) was added and incubated at 37°C for 3-4 h, there after the above media was replaced by adding 200 µl of DMSO to each well (to dissolve the blue formazan crystals) and incubated at 37°C for 10 min. The absorbance at 570 nm was measured on a spectrophotometer.

Methotrexate was used as reference drug for comparison. Assay was performed in triplicate for three independent determinations. The cytotoxicity was expressed as IC₅₀ (µg/mL) which is the concentration of the compound that inhibited proliferation rate of the tumor cells by 50% as compared to the control untreated cells. IC₅₀ values were determined from the plot: % inhibition versus concentration.

% inhibition at the given concentration =

$$\frac{1 - (\text{Absorbance average})}{(\text{Control absorbance average})} \times 100$$

IC₅₀ = Inv.log (50-c) / m; c and m derived from y = mx+c of plot of % inhibition Vs log C. The results of the compounds are shown in **Table 2**.

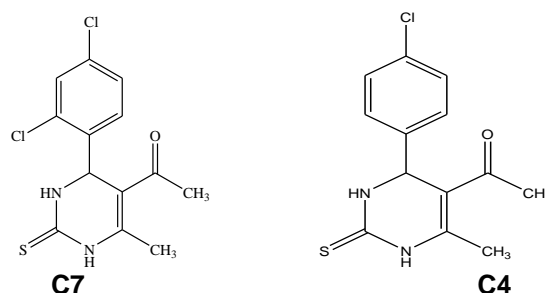
Activity criteria for screening compounds based on their IC₅₀ values Cytotoxicity activity criteria IC₅₀ values (µg/mL) Low > 90; Moderate 30-70; Potent < 30; Highly potent < 10

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In our proposed investigation, it was extended to synthesize some new dihydropyrimidinone (C1-C10) synthesized by condensing thiourea, acetylacetone with different aldehydes in the presence of citric acid at 60°C. The spectral characterizations were carried out on the synthesized dihydro pyrimidinone chalcones

using suitable IR, ¹H NMR, mass spectra and elemental analysis data.

The compounds **C1-C10** have shown considerable cytotoxic activity against the prostate cancer cell line (DU-145) and lung cancer cell line (A-549). The compounds bearing electron withdrawing substituents had shown remarkable activity. The most potent compound was **C7** with IC₅₀ **28 µg/mL** against prostate cancer cell lines. It has also shown activity against lung cancer cell lines at **35 µg/mL**. Compound **C4** has shown moderate activity against lung cancer cell lines with IC₅₀ **34 µg/ mL and 25 µg/ mL** against prostate cancer cell lines and lung cancer cell lines. The molecules containing electron releasing substituents showed poor cytotoxic activity. These results indicate that the compounds bearing halogenated substituents possess promising cytotoxic activity when compared to the compounds containing methoxyl, phenyloxy, hydroxy, isopropyl and dimethylamino groups.



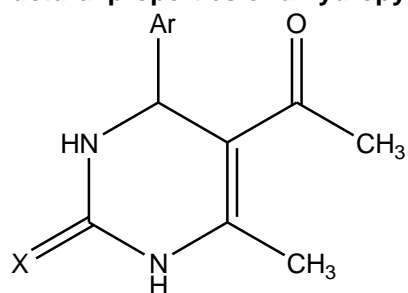
CONCLUSION

In this present work we have synthesized ten new dihydrothiopyrimidinones and screened their anti-cancer activity against the prostate cancer cell line (DU-145) and lung cancer cell line (A-549) by MTT assay. From *in vitro* assay results indicate that the compounds bearing halogenated substituents possess promising cytotoxic activity when compared to the compounds containing methoxyl, phenyloxy, hydroxy, isopropyl and dimethylamino groups.

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Table 1: Structural properties of dihydropyrimidones



Compound	Ar	X
C1		S
C2		S
C3		S
C4		S
C5		S
C6		S

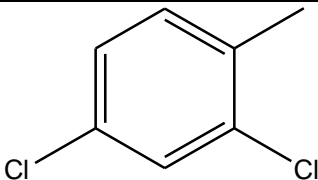
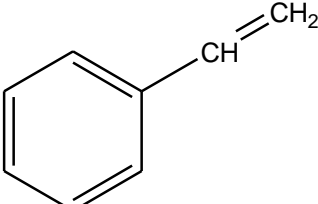
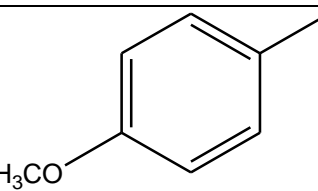
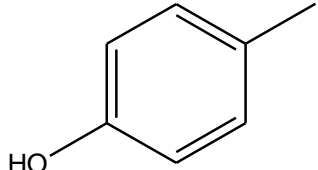
C7		S
C8		S
C9		S
C10		S

Table I.5: IC₅₀ (µg/mL) values of the dihydropyrimidines (C1 to C20)

Compound	IC ₅₀ values (µg/mL)	
	DU-145	A-549
C1	99 ± 1	85 ± 1
C2	133 ± 2	95 ± 2
C3	66 ± 2	66 ± 2
C4	34 ± 2	25 ± 2
C5	79 ± 2	95 ± 2
C6	32 ± 2	56 ± 2
C7	28 ± 2	35 ± 2
C8	42 ± 2	65 ± 2
C9	58 ± 2	46 ± 2
C10	85 ± 1	64 ± 1
Methotrexate	11 ± 1	8 ± 1

Data presented as mean ± SD (n=3). All the compounds and the standard dissolved in DMSO, diluted with culture medium containing 0.1% DMSO. The control cells were treated with culture medium containing 0.1% DMSO.

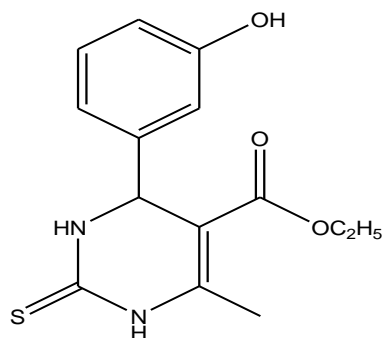
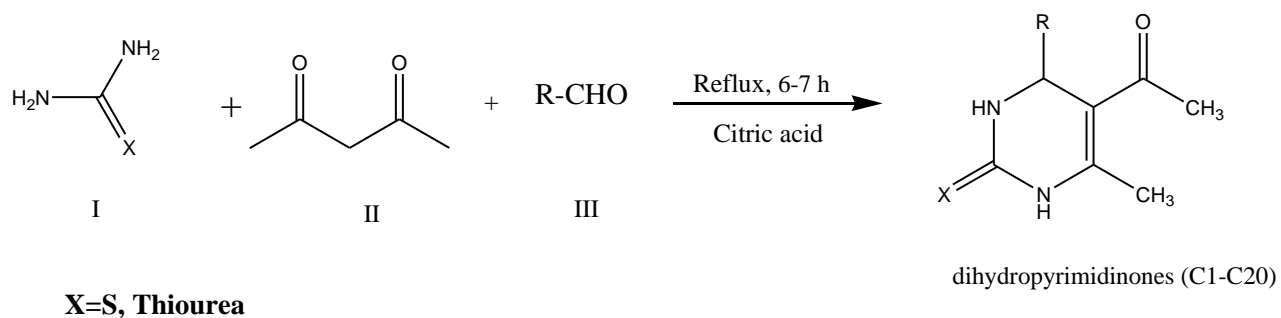
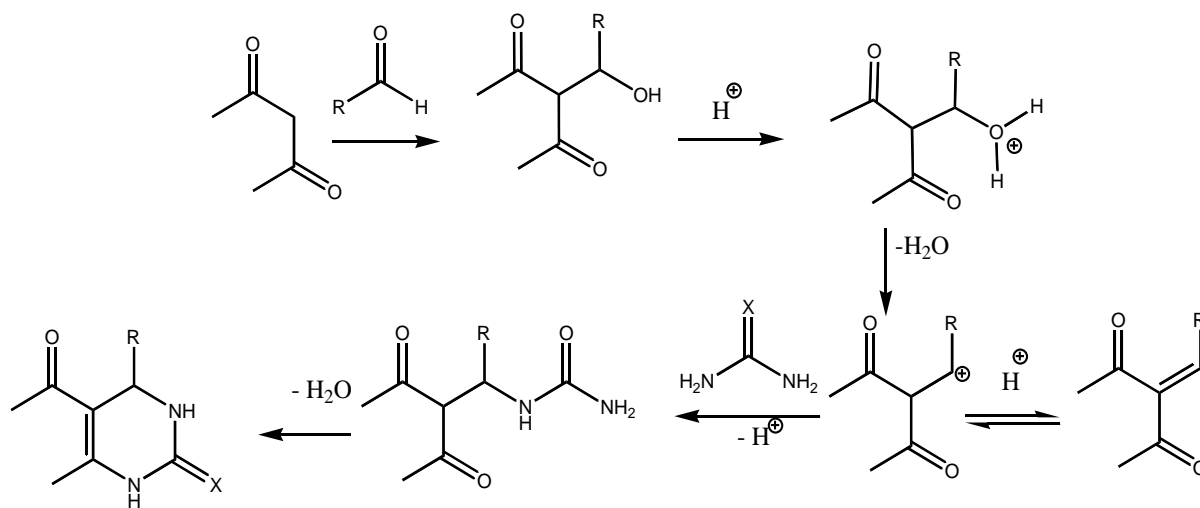


Fig. 1: Structure of Monastrol



Scheme I

Fig. 2: Protocol for the synthesis of target compounds



R= Different aromatic aldehydes, X= S

Fig. 3: Proposed mechanism for construction of dihydropyridine derivatives

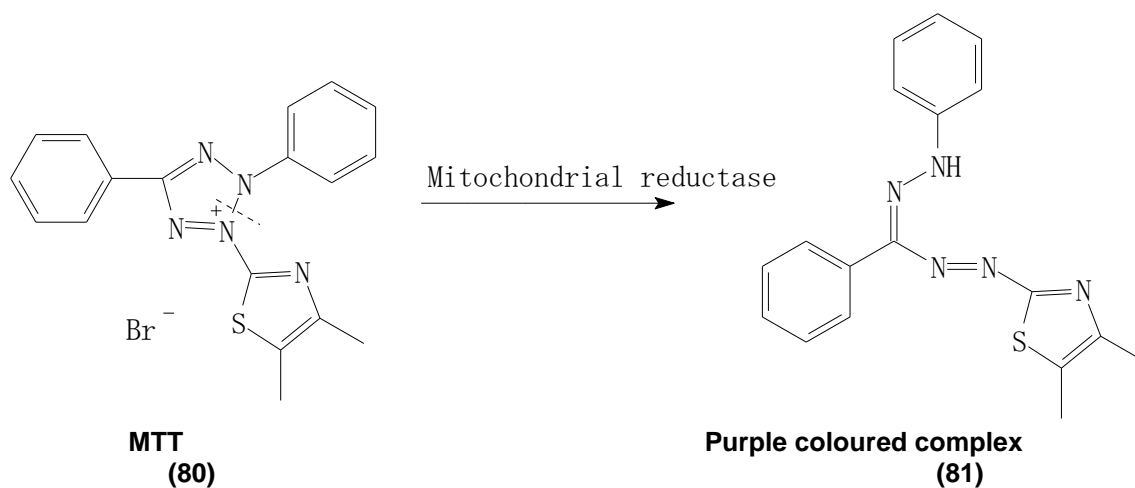


Fig. 4: Reduction of MTT

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