A review on chemistry and biological significance of benzimidaole nucleus

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ABSTRACT: Benzimidazole is a heterocyclic aromatic organic compound. It is an important pharmacophore and privileged structure in medicinal chemistry. It plays a very important role with plenty of useful therapeutic activities such as: antiulcers, antihypertensives, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-virals, antifungals, anticancers, and antihistaminics. The review of the literature shows that the benzimidazole derivatives are outstandingly effective compound and number of reviews available for biochemical and pharmacological studies conformed that their molecules are useful against a wide variety of micro-organisms. Because of their importance, the methods for their synthesis have become a focus of Synthetic Organic Chemists. Therefore in the present review we tried to compile the chemistry of different derivative of substituted benzimidazole as well as various pharmacological activities and some of the important methodologies used for the synthesis.

KEYWORDS- pharmacophore, Benzimidazole, anti-hypertensive, anti-histaminic,

I. INTRODUCTION:

Benzimidazole is a heterocyclic aromatic organic compound. It is important pharmacophore and a privileged structure in medicinal chemistry. This compound is bicyclic in nature which consists of the fusion of benzene and imidazole. Now adays is a moiety of choice which possesses many pharmacological properties ^[1]. The most prominent benzimidazole compound in nature is N-ribosyl-dimethylbenzimidazole, which serve as an axial ligand for cobalt in vitamin^[1,2,3].

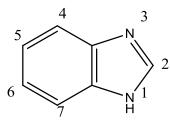


Fig: 1H-Benzimidazole

This important group of substances has found practical applications in a number of fields: analgesic^[4,5,6], anti inflammatory^[5,6,7,8], antibacterial^[9], antifungal^[10], antiviral^[11,12], anti-helmenthic^[13], anticonvulsant^[14,15], anticancer^[16,17], antiulcer^[18] antihypertensive^[19],. Historically, the first benzimidazole was prepared in 1872 by Hoebrecker, who obtained 2,5(or 2,6)-dimethylbenzimidazole(fig below) by the reduction of 2-nitro-4-methylacetanilide^[20,21].

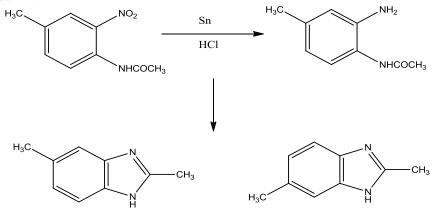


Fig: Synthesis of 2,5 (or 2,6)-dimethylbenzimidazole

Spectral properties of benzimidazoles

1) *Infra red* (IR) *spectroscopy:* The absorption spectra of benzimidazole near the 2850Å indicates the presence of the aryl ring , absorption near the 3107Å indicates the presence of N -H stretch and 1690Å indicates the presence of C-N stretch.

2) *Mass spectroscopy:* The fragmentation pathways of simple benzimidazoles are similar to those of imidazoles. The spectrum of benzimidazole indicates a sequential loss of two molecules of hydrogen cyanide from the molecular ion, the first of which is nonspecific as evidenced by deuterium labeling procedures. A characteristic feature in the fragmentation of 2-n-propylbenzimidazole is the elimination of ethylene from the molecular ion, 2-acylthiophenes, 2-acyl and 2- benzoylbenzimidazoles are characterized by loss of carbon monoxide from the molecular ion.

3) *Nuclear magnetic resonance* (NMR) *spectroscopy:* An important feature of this work is that the protonation parameters derived from simple five and six membered heterocycles can be used to predict chemical shift changes resulting from nitrogen protonation and deprotonation in more complex molecules. δ 7-9 values shows multiplet indicates the presence of benzimidazole aryl ring.

4) *13Carbon NMR*: The spectra shows different carbon peaks at range of $\delta 0$ -200 compared to TMS. For benzimidazoles the range starts from $\delta 115$ -144.Overlapping is easily confirmed by triplet, doublet peaks obtained. Low intensity peaks show the presence of proton less carbons. So carbonyl group at which position is recognized^[21].

Physical properties of benzimidazoles: The melting point of number of the benzimidazoles indicated that the introduction of a substituent into 1-position in general lowers the melting point. Benzimidazoles with the imide nitrogen are usually soluble in polar solvents and less soluble in organic solvents. With introduction of other non-polar substituents in various positions of the benzimidazole ring, the solubility in nonpolar solvents is increased. Conversely, the introduction of polar groupings into the molecule increases solubility in polar solvents. Benzimidazole distills unchanged above 300 °C. Benzimidazoles are weakly basic, being somewhat less basic than the imidazoles and are in general soluble in dilute acids. Benzimidazoles are also sufficiently acidic to be generally soluble in aqueous alkali and form N-metallic compounds. The acidic properties of the benzimidazoles, like those of the imidazoles, seem to be due to stabilization of ion by resonance. The more acidic benzimidazoles may be soluble in less basic solution, such as potassium carbonate solution^[20-21].

Chemical properties of benzimidazoles^[21]

Reactions of the benzimidazole ring: The benzimidazole ring possesses a high degree of stability. Benzimidazole is not affected by concentrated sulfuric acid, hot hydrochloric acid as well as alkalis. Oxidation cleaves the benzene ring of benzimidazole only under vigorous conditions. The benzimidazole ring is also quite resistant to reduction except under certain considerations.

Reactions involving 1 and 3-positions: Benzimidazoles form salts e.g. with acids readily forms monohydrochloride, mononitrate, monopicrate, monoacetate.

Alkylations: Benzimidazoles, undergoes alkylation with alkyl halides, yielding 1-alkylbenzimidazoles and under more vigorous conditions, 1,3-dialkylbenzimidazolium halides.

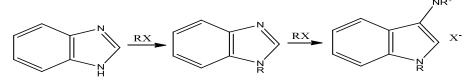


Fig: Alkylation of benzimidazole

Benzimidazoles also react with acylating, Grignard reagents and metal. The benzimidazole also forms mannich bases by reacting formaldehyde and piperidne.

Hydrogenation and dehydrogenation reactions: Until very recently it was thought that benzimidazole ring was stable to reduction. Catalytic reduction of benzimidazole even under high pressure with nickel as the catalyst is reported to give negative results. 2-Phenylbenzimidazole gives only 2-cyclohexylbenzimidazole. Hydrogenation of 2-(*p*-dimethylaminostyryl) benzimidazole with nickel at atmospheric pressure saturates only the olefinic linkage in the 2-positions.

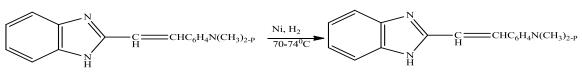


Fig: Hydrogenation of benzimidazole

A number of hydrogenated benzimidazoles have been prepared also by chemical methods. Hexahydro-2(3H)-benzimidazolone may be obtained by the reaction between hexahydro-o-phenylenediamine and phosgene in sodium hydroxide solution. Attempted dehydrogenation of tetrahydrobenzimidazoles with palladium sponge does not give the corresponding benzimidazole but instead a compound of high molecular weight.

Cleavage of the imidazole ring: The imidazole ring of benzimidazoles may be cleaved by reacting with pseudobases, acid anhydrides and halide.

Halogenation: When 2,5(or 2,6)-dimethylbenzimidazole is an aqueous acid solution on treatment with saturated solution of bleaching powder at 0-5 °C. 1-chloro-2,5(or 2,6)-dimethylbenzimidazole is obtained.

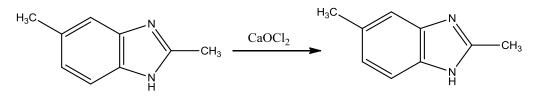


Fig: Halogination of benzimidazole

Reactions involving the 2-methyl or methylene group: The methyl group of 2-methylbenzimidazoles is comparable in its activity to the methyl group of α -picoline, quinaldine, or methyl ketones and shows most of the same reactions of these compounds. The benzimidazoles ring, like the pyridine and quinoline ring, because of its electron attracting nature imparts a positive character to the carbon atom of the 2-methyl group.

Nitration: In most cases nitration appears to take place preferentially at the 5 or 6 positions. However, the nitro group may also enter the 4 or 7 position, especially if the 5 or 6 position is blocked.

Reactions involving substituent groups: The various useful transformations can be successfully carried out various substituents in benzimidazoles. Some of the conversions are discussed below:

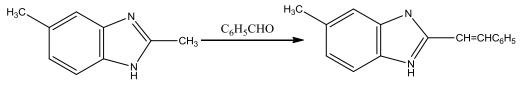


Fig: Reaction involving the 2-methyl or methylene group

Reactions of 2-benzimidazolecaboxylic acids: Benzimidazoles containing a carboxyl group in the 2-positions readily undergo decarboxylation on heating. 2-benzimidazolecarboxylic acid on heating above its melting point, for example, yields benzimidazoles.



Fig: Reaction of 2-benzimidazole carboxlic acids

(2) *Reactions of 2-(\alpha-haloalkyl)benzimidazoles:* 2-(α -Chloroisopropyl) benzimidazole when refluxed in dry alcoholic solution in the presence of pyridine gives a good yield of 2-(α -ethoxyisopropyl)benzimidazoles and hence reacts in a manner analogous to tritylchloride (triphenylmethyl chloride).

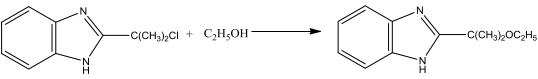


Fig: Reaction of 2-(a-haloalkyl) benzimidazoles

(3) Reactions of 2-(3H)-Benzimidazolones: 2(3H)-Benzimidazolones (or 2-hydroxybenzimidazoles) are extremely stable treatment of substances.2 (3H)-benzimidazolone is not split by treatment with benzoyl chloride in alkaline solution. 2(3H)-benzimidazolones show many of the reactions of 2-hydroxypyridines and 2-hydroxyquinolines; for example, 2(3H)-benzimidazolone with phosphorous oxychloride or phosphorous pentachloride yields the 2-chloro derivative.

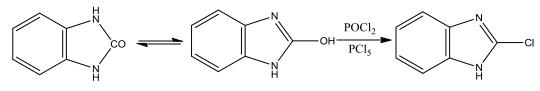


Fig: Reaction of 2-(3H)-benzimidazoles

(4) 2(3H)-Benzimidazolethiones: 2(3H)-Benzimidazolethiones or 2- mercaptobenzimidazoles) are generally stable substances and are soluble in dilute alkali. Alkylation occurs readily with replacement of the mercapto hydrogen to yield S-alkylated derivatives, and a number of these derivatives have been prepared.

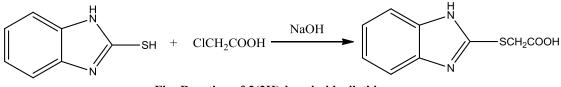


Fig: Reaction of 2(3H)-benzimidazilethione

(5) 2-Aminobenzimidazoles: 2-Aminobenzimidazole with acetic anhydride gives 2-acetyl aminobenzimidazole.

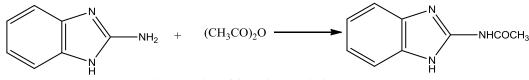
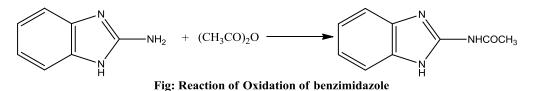


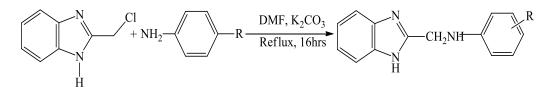
Fig: Reaction of 2-Aminobenzimidazoles

(5) *Oxidation:* Benzimidazoles are stable to oxidation. By vigorous conditions of oxidation (potassium permanganate in hot alkaline solution) it is partially possible to oxidize benzimidazoles to obtain a small amount of imidazoledicarboxylic acid.

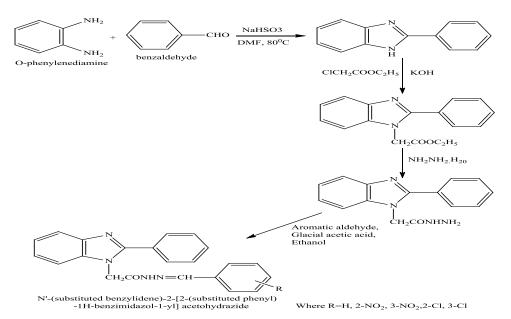


Because of the stability of the benzimidazoles ring to oxidation it is possible to oxidize substituent group without affecting the ring. By the oxidation of the substituent groups a variety of benzimidazolecarboxylic acids have been prepare^[20,21].

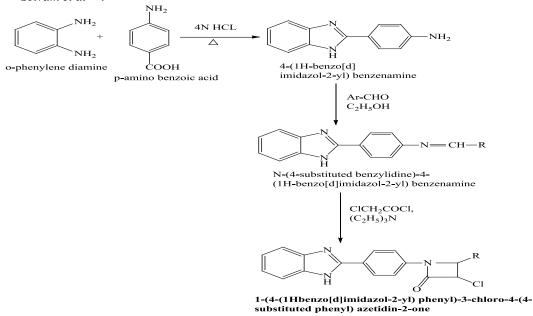
 Methods for synthesis of benzimidazole derivatives
Komal P et al^[22], have reported the synthesis of 2-chloromethyl-1H-benzimidazole by condensing 2chloromethyl-1H-benzimidazole with different aromatic amines and heterocycle.



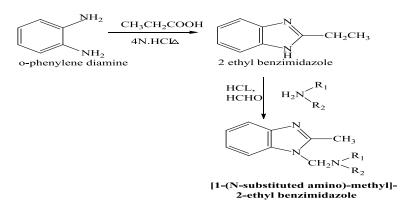
Soni B et $al^{[23]}$, reported synthesis of a novel series of N'-(substituted benzylidene)-2-[2-(substituted * phenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl] acetohydrazide.



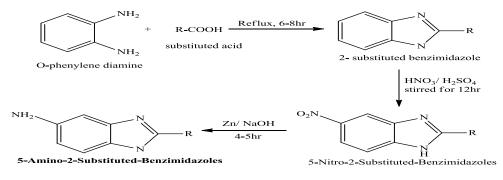
Synthesis of benzimidazole as 2-substituted benzimidazole derivatives was reported by Panneer * Selvam et al^[24].



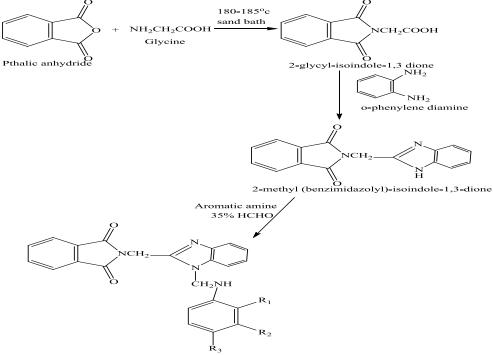
• *Marriappan G et al*^[7].(2011), have reported the synthesis of [1-(N-subistituted amino)methyl]-2-ethyl benzimidazole derivative(1-10) by the condensation of 2-ethyl benzimidazole with primary/secondary amines.



A new series of 2, 5 di-substituted benzimidazole derivatives have been reported by Sugumaran M et $al^{[25]}$.

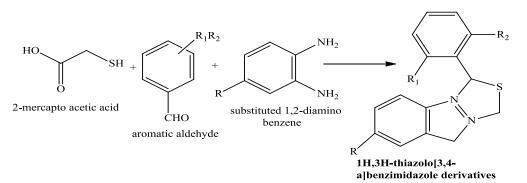


Sudheer Babu I et al^[26], reported synthesis of 1-substituted benzimidazoles derivatives in the yield ranged from 52-76% which were prepared by mannich reaction with benzimidazole derivatives, formaldehyde and different aromatic amines.

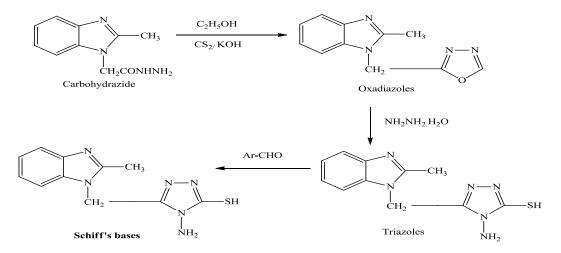


1H-substituted benzimidazolyl isoindole 1, 3 dione derivatives

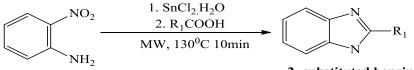
• Chimirri A et $al^{[11]}$, have reported the synthesis of novel 1H,3H-thiazolo[3,4-a]benzimidazole derivatives substituted on the benzene-fused ring.



Sanahanbi N et al^[6], have reported the synthesis of some Schiff's Bases of 2-methyl benzimidazole derivatives.



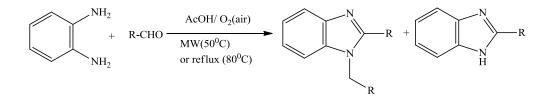
Kuldeep Kumar* and Prof.(Dr). D. P. Pathak^[27], have reported the synthesis of some new 2-substituted benzimidazole derivatives from microwave irradiation method by condensation of 2-nitroaniline with different carboxylic acids (aliphatic,aromatic and hetrocyclic).



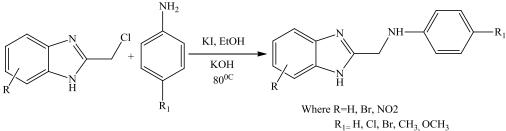
2-nitro aniline

2- substituted benzimidazole

• Davood Azarifar et $al^{[28]}$, have reported for the green synthesis of various 2-aryl-1-(arylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazoles in high yields by acetic acid-promoted condensation of *o*-phenylenediamine with aldehydes in air under microwave irradiation.

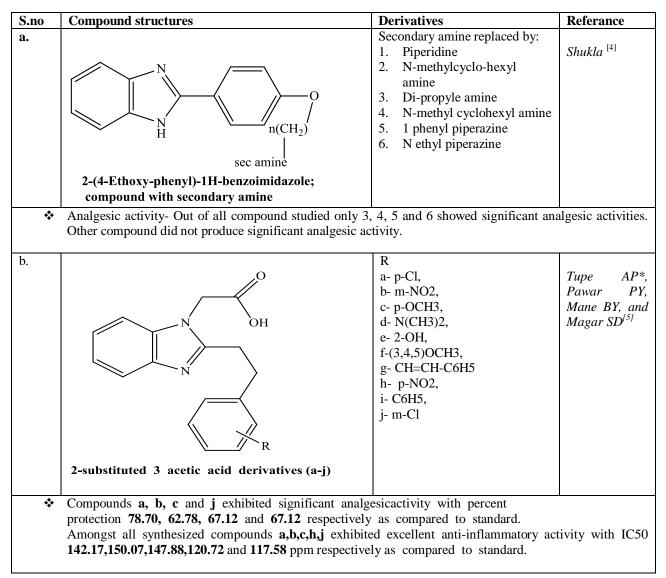


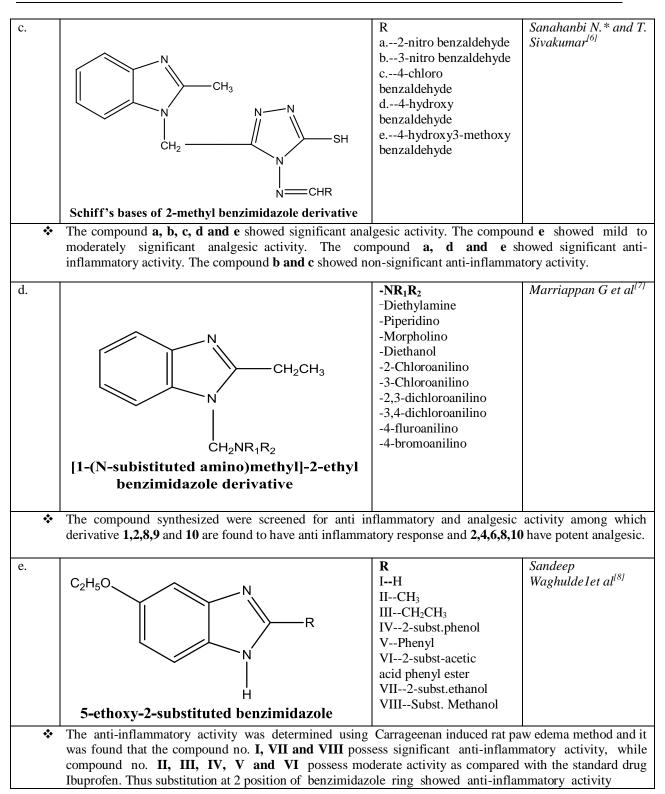
• *K.C.S. Achar et al*^[29], have reported the synthesis of series of 2-methylaminobenzimidazole derivatives (1-11) by the reaction of 2-(chloromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole derivatives with primary aromatic amines.



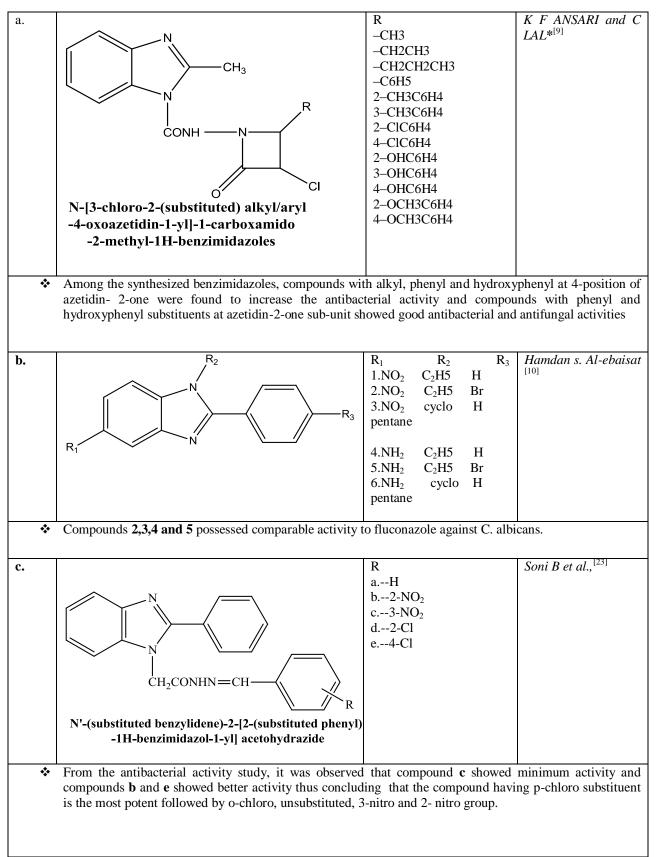
Pharmacological activity of benzimidazole derivatives:

1. Analgesic and anti inflammatory

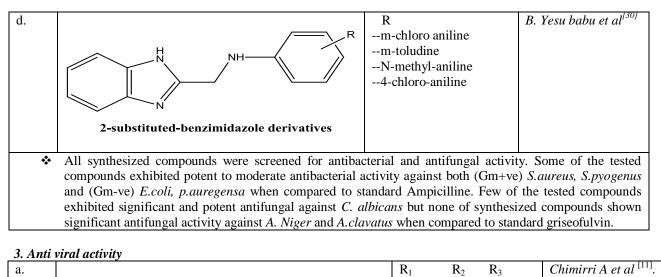


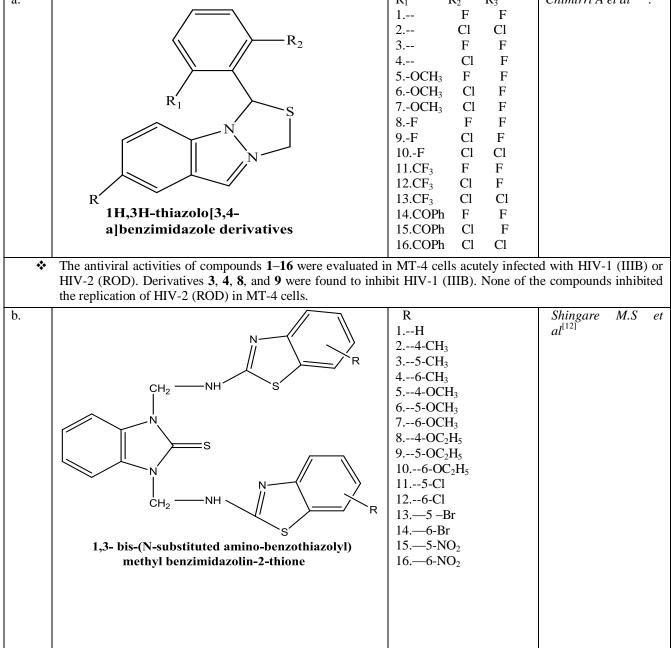


2. Anti bacterial and anti fungal activity

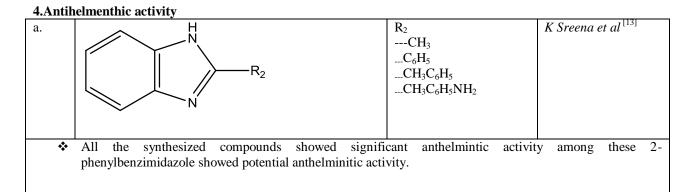


A review on chemistry and biological...

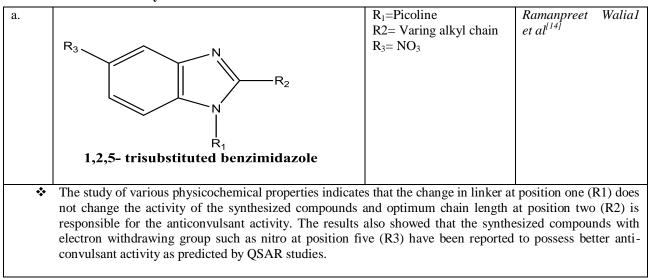




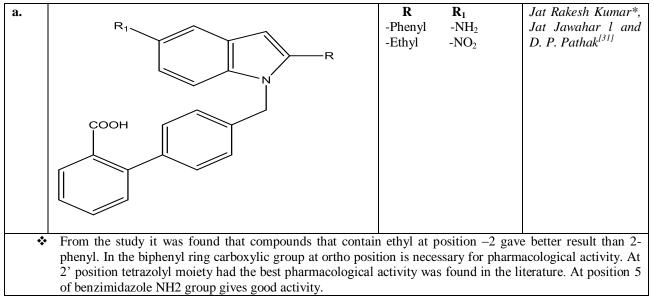
✤ It was established that the benzothiazole moiety having -OCH₃, -OC₂H₅, -NO₂ groups shows good activity against TMV and CGMMV invitro and invivo. The benzothiazole moiety having groups such as H, - CH₃, -Cl, - Br shows moderate activity.



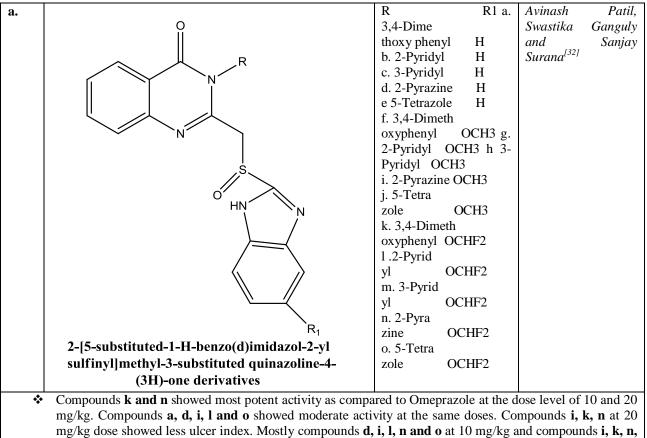
5. Anti convulsant activity



6. Antihypertensive activity



7. Antiulcer activity



o and 1 at 20 mg/kg doses inhibited acid secretion

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