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Synthesis & Biological Activity of 2-Aryloxyalkyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazoles

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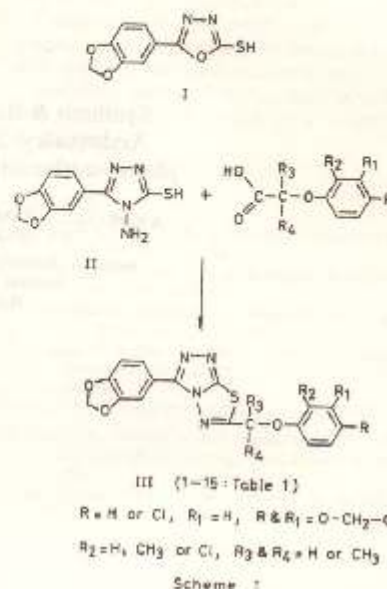
4-Amino-5-mercapto-3-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (II) reacts with various aryloxyalkyl carboxylic acids to yield 2-aryloxyalkyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazoles (III). Interesting profiles of analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities have been observed during primary screening of these compounds in experimental animals.

In our earlier work^{1,2} we found that 2,5-disubstituted-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazoles possess strong CNS depressant, mild to moderate antiinflammatory and mild hypocholesteremic and hypotensive activities. Incorporation of appropriate aryloxyalkyl moiety in heterocyclic rings³ such as oxadiazole and s-triazole has led to the compounds possessing CNS depressant, antiinflammatory and hypotensive actions. In view of antiinflammatory and antipyretic activities exhibited by compounds containing methylenedioxyphenyl group⁴, we attempted to study the effect on biological activity of methylenedioxyphenyl moiety attached to a s-triazolothiadiazole ring. These observations prompted us to synthesise 2-aryloxyalkyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazoles (III) and screen them for their analgesic and antiinflammatory activities.

The synthesis of III was accomplished in one step with good yields by condensing 4-amino-5-mercapto-3-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (II) with various aryloxyalkyl carboxylic acids in the presence of phosphorus oxychloride (Scheme 1). The s-triazole II, in turn was prepared from the corresponding 1,3,4-oxadiazole (I) following the method of Heindel⁵. The characterisation data of III and their biological activity are given in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Primary screening results

Toxicity (LD_{50}), analgesic and antiinflammatory activities of compounds III in experimental animals were determined by literature methods^{6,7}. All the compounds along with the starting material were devoid of toxicity as shown by their LD_{50} values which



Scheme 1

were more than 800 mg/kg oral (i.p. mice). It can be observed from Table 2 that compounds III₁₃ and III₁₅ exhibit analgesic activity (i.e. 60% and 58% respectively) similar to that of aspirin (60%) whereas the starting triazole (II) shows only 10% analgesic action. Compound III₁₄ exhibits mild antiinflammatory activity (24%) in comparison to phenyl butazone (39%), while triazole II shows 15% antiinflammatory action.

It has been reported earlier¹ that 2-phenoxyethyl-5-phenyl-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazole exhibits 11% analgesic and 10% antiinflammatory activities. However, in the present study the corresponding 2-phenoxyethyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazole (III₁) exhibited 21% analgesic activity and 15% antiinflammatory activity. This shows that the incorporation of a 3,4-methylenedioxy group in the phenyl ring does enhance the above activities.

The structural assignments of II and III were based on elemental analyses and IR, PMR and mass spectral data. All the compounds were checked for their purity by TLC on silica gel-G.

Melting points were taken in open capillaries on a Buchi 510 melting point apparatus and are

Table 1—Characterization Data of 2-Aryloxyalkyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazoles (III)

Compd	R ₂	R ₁	R ₄	m.p. °C	Yield (%)	Mol. formula	Found (%) (Calc.)		
							C	H	N
R = R ₁ = H									
III ₁	H	H	H	185	75	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ N ₄ O ₃ S	57.0 (56.9)	3.5 3.4	15.8 15.9
III ₂	H	CH ₃	H	108-10	72	C ₁₈ H ₁₄ N ₄ O ₃ S	59.1 (59.0)	3.9 3.9	15.3 15.3
III ₃	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	103-5	68	C ₁₉ H ₁₆ N ₄ O ₃ S	61.6 (61.6)	4.4 4.4	15.2 15.1
R = Cl; R ₁ = H									
III ₄	H	H	H	198-200	73	C ₁₇ H ₁₁ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	52.8 (52.8)	2.9 2.9	14.5 14.5
III ₅	H	CH ₃	H	110	74	C ₁₈ H ₁₃ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	54.0 (53.9)	3.3 3.3	14.0 14.1
III ₆	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	98-100	67	C ₁₉ H ₁₅ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	55.1 (55.0)	3.6 3.6	13.6 13.5
III ₇	Cl	H	H	178-80	71	C ₁₇ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₃ S	48.5 (48.5)	2.4 2.4	13.3 13.3
III ₈	Cl	CH ₃	H	158-60	69	C ₁₈ H ₁₂ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₃ S	49.7 (49.7)	2.8 2.8	12.9 12.9
III ₉	Cl	CH ₃	CH ₃	134-35	66	C ₁₉ H ₁₄ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₃ S	50.9 (50.8)	3.2 3.1	12.5 12.5
III ₁₀	CH ₃	H	H	108-10	72	C ₁₈ H ₁₃ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	54.0 (53.9)	3.3 3.3	14.0 14.0
III ₁₁	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	118-20	71	C ₁₉ H ₁₅ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	55.1 (55.0)	3.7 3.6	13.6 13.5
III ₁₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	143-45	66	C ₂₀ H ₁₇ ClN ₄ O ₃ S	56.1 (56.0)	4.1 4.0	13.0 13.1
R, R ₁ = -O-CH ₂ -O-									
III ₁₃	H	H	H	220-21	71	C ₁₈ H ₁₂ N ₄ O ₅ S	54.6 (54.5)	3.1 3.0	14.1 14.1
III ₁₄	H	CH ₃	H	169-70	70	C ₁₉ H ₁₄ N ₄ O ₅ S	55.7 (55.6)	3.5 3.4	13.7 13.7
III ₁₅	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	179-80	65	C ₂₀ H ₁₆ N ₄ O ₅ S	56.6 (56.6)	3.8 3.8	13.2 13.2

Table 2—Analgesic and Antiinflammatory Activities of Compounds II and III
(Dose 100 mg/kg oral)

Compd	Analgesic action (% protection of pain)	Antiinflammatory action (% inhibition)*
II	10	15
III ₁	21	15
III ₂	18	17
III ₃	23	15
III ₅	17	18
III ₁₂	60	13
III ₁₄	31	24
III ₁₅	58	18
Aspirin	60	—
Phenylbutazone	—	39

*The compounds which possess inhibition less than 10% have not been shown in the table.

uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 221 spectrophotometer (ν_{max} in cm^{-1}), PMR spectra on a Varian A60A spectrometer using TMS as the internal standard (chemical shift in δ , ppm) and mass spectra on a Hitachi RMU 6L mass spectrometer at 70 eV.

4-Amino-5-mercapto-3-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (II)

A mixture of 2-mercapto-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (5 g), hydrazine hydrate (15 ml) and ethanol (60 ml) was refluxed on a steam-bath for 13 hr. The reaction mixture was concentrated, poured into ice water and acidified with acetic acid to get the product which was filtered and recrystallised from ethanol, m.p. 214-15°, yield 4 g (75%) (Found: C, 45.8; H, 3.5; N, 13.6. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ requires C, 45.8; H, 3.4; N, 13.5%). IR(KBr): 3300 (NH_2), 3100 (NH), 1620 (C=N) and

1550 (C=C); PMR (CDCl₃): 6.10 (s, 2H, O-CH₂-O), 7.1-7.8 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.9 (broad, 1H, NH) and 5.7 (broad, 2H, NH₂); MS: *m/z* 236 (M⁺), 205 (M⁺-N₂H₃), 165 (M⁺-CH₃N₂), 147 (M⁺-CH₃N₂S), 121 (M⁺-C₂H₃N₄S), 221 (M⁺-NH), 162 (M⁺-CH₂N₂S), 191 (M⁺-CHS), 178 (M⁺-CNS), 177 (M⁺-CHNS), 161 (M⁺-CH₃N₂S).

4-Chloro-2-methylphenoxy-methyl-5-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-s-triazolo[3,4-b]-1,3,4-thiadiazole (III₁₀)

A mixture of II (4.72 g; 0.02 mol), 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetic acid (4.01 g; 0.02 mol) and POCl₃ (20 ml) was heated under reflux for 5 hr and excess POCl₃ removed under reduced pressure. The concentrated mass was cooled and poured into ice cold water to give a solid product which on washing with a dil. solution of NaHCO₃ followed by water and recrystallisation from ethanol gave the title compound III₁₀. IR (KBr): 1630 (C=N), 1230 (ether); PMR (CDCl₃): 2.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 5.31 (s, 2H, OCH₂), 5.95 (s, 2H, O-CH₂-O), 6.50-7.15 (m, 4H, 3 Ar-H of 2-substituent and 1 Ar-H of 5-substituent), 7.75-7.90 (m, 2H, 2 Ar-H adjacent to C=N); MS: *m/z* 400 (M⁺), 260 (M⁺-C₇H₅ClO), 259 (M⁺-C₇H₆ClO), 155 (M⁺-

-C₂₀H₅N₄O₂S), 147 (M⁺-C₁₀H₆ClN₂OS), 142 (M⁺-C₁₁H₆N₄O₂S), 125 (M⁺-C₁₁H₇N₄O₂S), 121 (M⁺-C₁₁H₆ClN₄O₂S), 113 (M⁺-C₁₂H₇N₄S₂O₂) and 107 (M⁺-C₁₁H₆ClN₄SO₂).

Compounds III₄-III₉ and III₁₁-III₁₅ (Table I) were prepared in a similar manner by the reaction of II with appropriate aryloxyalkyl carboxylic acids.

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