Synthesis and antitubercular activity of new N,N-diaryl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamides

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ABSTRACT

Background and the purpose of the study: Dihydropyridines having carboxamides in 3 and 5 positions show anti-tuberculosis activity. The purpose of the present study was to synthesize new DHPs having possible anti-tuberculosis activity.

Methods: 4,5-Dichloroimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde was condensed with N-arylacetoacetamides and ammonium acetate in methanol to give N,N-diaryl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamides. All compounds were screened for their antitubercular activity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis (H37Rv).

Results and major conclusion: Some of the new synthesized compounds exhibited a moderate activity in comparison to rifampicin.

Keywords: Antituberculosis, Dihydropyridine, Dichloroimidazole

INTRODUCTION

The dihydropyridines (DHPs) are well-known drugs for the treatment of hypertension and cardiovascular disorders (1). They also have antiallergic (2), anti-inflammatory (3) and Ca²⁺ channel antagonist activities (4). Recently, the syntheses of DHPs with respect to Multidrug Resistance (MDR) reversal in tumor cell gave a new dimension to their applications (5-6). In addition, 1,4-DHP class of compounds are excellent starting synthons for development of antitubercular agents (7-9). It has been demonstrated that substitution of aryl-amide group for dicarboxylic esters moiety reduces the Ca²⁺ channel blocker activity and increases antitubercular activity (10).

Previous studies have shown a moderate to good antitubercular activity for several aryl six-membered ring at 4-position and aryl-amide side chain in C₃ and C₅ of DHPs against Mycobacterium tuberculosis (H₃₇Rv) (7-9).

As a part of our ongoing research to design novel dihydropyridines (11-17), in this study the design, synthesis and antitubercular activity of N,N-diaryl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridine- dicarboxamides 3a-j are described.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemistry

Melting points were determined using a Kofler hot stage apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H NMR spectra were run on a Bruker FT-80 spectrometer. TMS was used as an internal standard. Mass spectra were measured with a Finnigan TSQ-70 spectrometer at 70 eV. The IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet FTIR 550 spectrophotometer.

The compounds 3a-j (Table 1) were synthesized according to Scheme 1, from condensation of 4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde 1, N-arylacetoacetamide 2 and ammonium acetate in methanol. 4,5-Dichloroimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde was prepared according to reported method (13). N-Arylacetoacetamides (2a-j) were synthesized according to modified Clemens method (18) by simple condensation of 2,2,6-trimethyl-1,3-dioxin-4-one with the appropriate arylamine.

General procedure for the preparation of compounds 3a-j.

To 3 mmoles of 4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-carboxaldehyde 1 was added 6 mmoles of N-arylacetoacetamide 2 and 20 mmoles of ammonium acetate in 20 ml of methanol. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h and the solvent was
removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using chloroform/methanol (20:1) as eluent. Crystallization from chloroform & petroleum ether gave pure compounds 3a-j.

**N,N-Diphenyl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamide (3a).**

IR (KBr) ν cm⁻¹: 3277 (NH), 1670 (C=O).

¹HNMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.17 (s, 6H, Me 2,6), 4.80 (s, 1H, H₄), 6.99-7.80 (m, 10H, aromatic), 8.6 (bs, 1H, NH-dihydropyridine), 9.90 (bs, 2H, NH-amide), 12.8 (bs, 1H, NH-imidazole). MS: m/z (%) 391 (M⁺, 4), 388 (38), 345 (36), 296 (76), 253 (90), 196 (20), 136 (19), 106 (36), 93 (100).

**N,N-Di-3-fluorophenyl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamide (3b).**

IR (KBr) ν cm⁻¹: 3258 (NH), 1665 (C=O).

¹HNMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.15 (s, 6H, Me 2,6), 4.95 (s, 1H, H₄), 6.81-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.55 (m, 6H), 8.65 (bs, 1H, NH-dihydropyridine), 9.90 (bs, 2H, NH-amide), 12.55 (bs, 1H, NH-imidazole). MS: m/z (%) 518 (M⁺, 3), 406 (17), 381 (40), 353 (19), 296 (42), 271 (100), 137 (85), 111 (100), 109 (83), 83 (42).

**N,N-Di-4-fluorophenyl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamide (3c).**

IR (KBr) ν cm⁻¹: 3244 (NH), 1675 (C=O).

¹HNMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.15 (s, 6H, Me 2,6), 4.95 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.33 (d, J = 8Hz, 4H), 7.75 (d, J = 8Hz, 4H), 8.60 (bs, 1H, NH-dihydropyridine), 9.90 (bs, 2H, NH-amide), 12.40 (bs, 1H, NH-imidazole). MS: m/z (%) 518 (M⁺, 10), 406 (15), 381 (38), 296 (28), 271 (71), 137 (85), 111 (100), 109 (83), 83 (42).

**N,N-Di-3,4-dichlorophenyl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamide (3d).**

IR (KBr) ν cm⁻¹: 3245 (NH), 1669 (C=O).

¹HNMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.10 (s, 6H, Me 2,6), 4.92 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.36-7.51(m, 4H), 8.05 (s, 2H), 8.40 (bs, 1H, NH-dihydropyridine), 10.26 (bs, 2H, NH-amide), 12.40 (bs, 1H, NH-imidazole). MS: m/z (%) 577 (M⁺, 10), 549 (6), 368 (18), 255 (8), 236 (18), 138 (12), 123 (20), 111 (35), 97 (47), 83 (70), 57 (100).

**N,N-Di-3-bromophenyl-4-(4,5-dichloroimidazole-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxamide (3g).**

IR (KBr) ν cm⁻¹: 3250 (NH), 1677 (C=O).

¹HNMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.20 (s, 6H, Me 2,6), 4.90

Scheme 1
Table 1. Physical data and antitubercular screening results of compounds 3a-j against *M. Tuberculosis* (H37Rv strain)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comp. No.</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Mp (°C)</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
<th>Inhibition (%)</th>
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<td>260-262</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>3-F</td>
<td>159-161</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>4-NO₂</td>
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Rifampicin >98

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

All compounds were tested against *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv strain at concentration of 6.25 µg/ml in DMSO. Rifampicin was used as a reference drug. Primary screening was conducted in Bactec 12 B medium using the Bactec 460 radiometric system (19). The antitubercular activity and physical data of compounds 3a-j are summarized in Table 1. From the Results it appears that substitution of 4,5-dichloroimidazole ring at 4-position of 1,4-DHP affects the antitubercular activity when 3,5-diester group in classic DHP structure was replaced by carboxamide moiety. The results demonstrate that a five member heterocyclic group with electron withdrawing substituent is a suitable bioisoster for nitro phenyl group which was previously reported as antitubercular agent (10).

Comparison of the activities of 3a-j indicates that the most active compound is 3d with 3-chlorophenyl group at 3,5 dicarbox-amide position. 3-Nitrophenyl and 4-nitrophenyl substituted compounds were also relatively active, but other substitutions did not show good activity. Compounds 3a-j could serve as valuable probes to study the structure-function relationships for antitubercular activity.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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REFERENCES