

Synthesis, characterization, and antimicrobial evaluation of novel 5-benzoyl-*N*-substituted amino- and 5-benzoyl-*N*-sulfonylamino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2-pyridones

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Abstract: The present research describes the synthesis of novel 5-benzoyl-*N*-substituted-amino- and 5-benzoyl-*N*-sulfonylamino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2-pyridones **5a–c** and **6a–c** via the reaction of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles **2a–c** with *N*-cyanoacetohydrazide **3** and cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazide **4**, respectively. Also, the reactivity of the compounds **5a–c** toward hydrazine hydrate to give product 1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]pyridine derivative **7** was studied. In addition, the reactivity of the **2a–c** toward 1-cyanoacetyl-4 arylidenesemicarbazides **8a–c** afforded 3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6-carbonitrile derivatives (**12–14**)**a–c**, which reacted with hydrazine hydrate to give 3*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6-carbonitrile derivatives **15a–c**. The structures of the new products were characterized based on ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance, ¹³C nuclear magnetic resonance, infrared, mass-spectroscopy, and elemental analyses. The products were screened in vitro for their antibacterial and antifungal activity properties.

Keywords: amino-2-pyridones, *N*-cyanoacetohydrazide, cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazide, 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles, 5-benzoyl-*N*-sulfonylamino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2-pyridones, 5-benzoyl-*N*-substituted-amino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2 pyridones, antimicrobial activity

Introduction

Microorganisms that resist antimicrobial drugs are a complex problem affecting the health of people all over the world. More than 1 million people die from microbial infections every year, and the number of deaths is expected to increase as antimicrobial drug resistance increases.¹ Innovation must be strengthened in research activities related to effective antimicrobial and antifungal drugs.² *N*-substituted amino-2-pyridones are important heterocycles possessing a wide range of pharmaceutical applications.³ Many *N*-substituted amino-2-pyridones are known to possess antimicrobial and antifungal activities,⁴ antimalarials,⁵ and Alzheimer's β-peptide aggregation inhibitors.⁶ In addition, sulfonyl heterocycles have a variety of pharmacological properties, such as apoptosis inhibition and ischemia treatment,⁷ metabolic liability,⁸ and glucokinase activation.^{9,10} We recently reported different innovative synthetic methods to prepare alkylsulfanyl, *N*-sulfonylamino and *N*-sulfonyl heterocycles, which found application and appear to constitute new classes of anticancer and antimicrobial agents.^{11–15} A series of one of our novel *N*-sulfonylpyrazoles were used by another group of research as an inhibitors of the enzyme cathepsin B.¹⁶

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The studies demonstrated that *N*-sulfonylpyrazoles act as alternate substrates for cathepsin B, rather than as inhibitor metabolites. In another study, our *N*-sulfonylated pyrazoles were proven active as allosteric inhibitors of West Nile virus NS2B-NS3 proteinase.¹⁷ These promising results have motivated our research group to continue this work exploring novel molecular mechanisms of these synthetic compounds and their use as chemotherapeutic agents. In view of these findings and as a part of our program directed toward the preparation of potential antimetabolic agents,^{18–20} we recently reported different synthetic methods for preparation of azoloazines using cyanoketene dithioacetals.^{21–24} Derivatives of these ring systems are important as antimetabolic agents in biochemical reactions.^{25,26} In view of these reports and in continuation of our previous work in synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic compounds,^{27–34} the present research deals with a novel synthesis of 5-benzoyl-*N*-substituted amino- and 5-benzoyl-*N*-sulfonyl-amino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2-pyridones **5**, **6** and **12–14** by the reaction of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles **2a–c** with substituted hydrazides.

Materials and methods

All melting points (MPs) were measured on an Electrothermal Gallenkamp apparatus (Weiss Technik, London, UK). Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded in potassium bromide disks on SP3300 (Pye Unicam, Cambridge, England) and 8101 PC (Shimadzu, Tokyo, Japan) IR spectrophotometers. ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury VXR-300 spectrometer (300 MHz). Mass spectra were recorded on Shimadzu GCMS-Q1000-EX and GCMS 5988-A HP spectrometers, and ionizing voltage was 70 eV. Elemental analyses were carried out at the Microanalytical Center of Cairo University, Giza, Egypt. Biological evaluation of the products was carried out in the Microbiology Division of the Microanalytical Center of Cairo University.

Synthetic procedures

1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-2-oxo-4-(alkylthio)-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile derivatives **5a–c** and *N*-[6-amino-5-benzoyl-3-cyano-4-(alkylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]benzene-sulfonamide derivatives **6a–c**

A mixture of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitrile (**2a–c**) (0.01 mol), 2-cyanoacetohydrazide (**3**) (0.99 g, 0.01 mol), and potassium hydroxide (0.67 g, 0.012 mol) in 1,4-dioxane (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The resultant product was acidified with hydrochloric acid. The precipitate formed was collected by filtration,

washed with water, dried, and then crystallized from ethanol (EtOH)–dimethylformamide (DMF) to afford the corresponding compounds **5a–c**. Repetition of the same procedure using the 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitrile **3a–c** (0.01 mol) with 2-cyano-*N'*-(phenylsulfonyl)acetohydrazide (**4**) (2.39 g, 0.01 mol) yielded the respective products **6a–c**.

1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-4-(methylthio)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile (**5a**)

Yield (85%), MP 197°C (from EtOH-DMF); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3,426 (NH₂), 2,923 (aliphatic CH), 2,214 (CN), 1,659 (C=O), 1,623 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) – δ 2.89 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 7.36–7.59 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.97 (s, 4H, 2NH₂); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) – δ 14.37 (SCH₃), 84.86, 91.07, 115.13, 126.91, 129.39, 131.81, 140.06, 153.2, 155.8, 183.42, 188.66. MS *m/z* (%) 302 (M⁺+2, 1.5), 301 (M⁺+1, 1.1), 300 (M⁺, 10.5), 230 (30.71), 213 (20.16), 154 (21.47), 77 (100), 57 (55). Analysis calculated (Anal Calcd) for C₁₄H₁₂N₄O₂S (300.33): C, 55.99; H, 4.03; N, 18.65; S, 10.68. Found: C, 55.95; H, 4; N, 18.65; S, 10.66%.

1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-4-(ethylthio)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile (**5b**)

Yield (80%), MP 281°C (from EtOH-DMF); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3,423 (NH₂), 2,923, 2,857 (aliphatic CH), 2,210 (CN), 1,664 (C=O), 1,550 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) – δ 1.21 (t, 3H, CH₃), 2.89 (q, 2H, SCH₂), 7.42–7.56 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.81 (s, 4H, 2 NH₂). MS *m/z* (%): 316 (M⁺+2, 2.81), 315 (M⁺+1, 1.65), 314 (M⁺, 10.23), 291 (20.62), 275 (25.25), 211 (31.22), 106 (100), 75 (57.96), 56 (84.24). Anal Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₄O₂S (314.36): C, 57.31; H, 4.49; N, 17.82; S, 10.20. Found: C, 57.30; H, 4.43; N, 17.79; S, 10.14%.

1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-2-oxo-4-(propylthio)-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile (**5c**)

Yield (85%), MP >300°C (from EtOH-DMF); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3,427 (NH₂), 2,925 (aliphatic CH), 2,208 (CN), 1,655 (C=O), 1,555 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) – δ 0.85 (t, 3H, CH₃), 1.5 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.78 (t, 2H, SCH₂), 7.34–7.56 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.8 (s, 4H, 2NH₂). MS *m/z* (%): 330 (M⁺+2, 5.62), 329 (M⁺+1, 3.21), 328 (M⁺, 8.62), 223 (38.55), 189 (40.23), 155 (22.42), 76 (100), 55 (85.87). Anal Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₄O₂S (328.39): C, 58.52; H, 4.91; N, 17.06; S, 9.76. Found: C, 58.48; H, 4.9; N, 17.05; S, 9.75%.

N-[6-amino-5-benzoyl-3-cyano-4-(methylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]benzenesulfonamide (**6a**)

Yield (68%), MP 194°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,421 (NH₂), 2,935 (aliphatic CH), 2,219 (CN),

1,664 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 2.78 (s, 3H, CH_3), 7.35–7.68 (m, 10H, ArH), 8.14 (s, 2H, NH_2), 9.22 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 451 ($M^+ + 1$, 1.48), 454 (M^+ , 5.31), 440 (24.02), 409 (50.11), 330 (48.02), 175 (64.32), 77 (100), 55 (65.32). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ (440.49): C, 54.53; H, 3.66; N, 12.72; S, 14.56. Found: C, 54.51; H, 3.63; N, 12.71; S, 14.53%.

N-[6-amino-5-benzoyl-3-cyano-4-(ethylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2H)-yl]benzenesulfonamide (6b)

Yield (82%), MP 225°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{max} – 3,430 (NH_2), 2,925 (aliphatic CH), 2,215 (CN), 1,660 (C=O), 1,549 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 1.38 (t, 3H, CH_3), 2.99 (q, 2H, SCH_2), 7.41–7.87 (m, 10H, ArH), 8.17 (s, 2H, NH_2), 9.1 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 455 ($M^+ + 1$, 1.05), 454 (M^+ , 2.11), 198 (54.22), 182 (45.11), 151 (60.52), 79 (100), 57 (65.32). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ (454.52): C, 55.49; H, 3.99; N, 12.33; S, 14.11. Found: C, 55.42; H, 3.9; N, 12.31; S, 14.07%.

N-[6-amino-5-benzoyl-3-cyano-4-(propylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2H)-yl]benzenesulfonamide (6c)

Yield (54%), MP 212°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{max} – 3,417 (NH_2), 2,922 (aliphatic CH), 2,211 (CN), 1,668 (C=O), 1,558 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 0.96 (t, 3H, CH_3), 1.49 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.86 (t, 2H, SCH_2), 7.39–7.76 (m, 10H, ArH), 8.1 (s, 2H, NH_2), 9.31 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 469 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.65), 468 (M^+ , 1.81), 414 (24.02), 330 (42.11), 153 (67.5), 77 (100), 55 (65.54). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$ (468.55): C, 56.39; H, 4.3; N, 11.96; S, 13.69. Found: C, 56.32; H, 4.28; N, 11.91; S, 13.58%.

4,5-diamino-6-oxo-3-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine-7-carbonitrile (7)

To a solution of compound 1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-4-(alkylthio)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile (**5a–c**) (0.005 mol) in absolute EtOH, an equivalent amount of hydrazine hydrate was added, and then the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 7 hours, cooled, and poured onto cold water. The solid that precipitated was filtered off, dried, and finally crystallized from mEtOH-water to give **7**. Yield (95%), MP 138°C (from water-mEtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} – 3,433, 3,141 (NH and NH_2), 3,094 (ArH), 2,924 (aliphatic CH), 2,222 (CN), 1,629 (C=O), 1,562 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 7.49–7.8 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.31 (s, 4H, 2NH_2), 14.31 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 268 ($M^+ + 2$, 0.01), 267 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.02), 266 (M^+ , 0.02), 247 (1.53), 201 (2.17), 189 (3.29), 143 (2.84), 135 (2.39), 127 (3.23), 117 (12.87), 113 (17.49), 101 (14.82), 87 (21), 59 (100). Anal Calcd for

$\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_6\text{O}$ (266.25): C, 58.64; H, 3.79; N, 31.56%. Found: C, 58.61; H, 3.72; N, 31.5%.

8-benzoyl-2-(aryl)-7-(alkylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (12–14)a–c

A mixture of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(methylthio)acrylonitrile (**2a**) (0.01 mol), *N'*–[(aryl)-methylene]-2-cyanoacetohydrazide (**8a–c**) (0.01 mol) and potassium hydroxide (0.67 g, 0.012 mol) in 1,4-dioxane (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The resultant product was acidified with hydrochloric acid while stirring. The solid that precipitated was filtered off, dried, and crystallized from EtOH-dioxane to give the respective compounds **12a–c**. The same procedure was repeated using each of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(ethylthio)acrylonitrile (**2b**) and 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(propylthio)acrylonitrile (**2c**). *N'*–[(aryl)-methylene]-2-cyanoaceto-hydrazide (**8a–c**) yielded the **13a–c** and **14a–c**.

8-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-(methylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (12a)

Yield (90%), MP >300°C (from dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{max} – 3,433 (NH), 3,059 (aromatic CH), 2,923 (aliphatic CH), 2,211 (CN), 1,656 (C=O), 1,610 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 3.65 (s, 3H, SCH_3), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 6.85–8.15 (m, 9H, ArH), 12.05 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 19.23 (SCH_3), 55.63 (OCH_3), 72.29, 81.5, 114.97, 117.05, 126.51, 128.37, 130.03, 130.83, 133.63, 140.57, 151.55, 152.22, 157.69, 161.53, 178.75, 186.65. MS m/z (%): 419 ($M^+ + 3$, 1.37), 418 ($M^+ + 2$, 1.36), 417 ($M^+ + 1$, 1.57), 416 (M^+ , 2.97), 415 ($M^+ - 1$, 11.56), 414 ($M^+ - 2$, 9.44), 133 (18.08), 105 (64.83), 77 (88.29), 63 (100), 57 (15.52). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (416.45): C, 63.45; H, 3.87; N, 13.45; S, 7.7. Found: C, 63.42; H, 3.85; N, 13.42; S, 7.68%.

8-benzoyl-7-(methylthio)-5-oxo-2-phenyl-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (12b)

Yield (88%), MP 220°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{max} – 3,430 (NH), 3,059 (aromatic CH), 2,923 (aliphatic CH), 2,212 (CN), 1,658 (C=O), 1,549 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 3.55 (s, 3H, SCH_3), 6.95–8.1 (m, 10H, ArH), 12 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 16.9 (SCH_3), 87.5, 92.5, 114.5, 117.55, 127.7, 128.04, 129.73, 130.16, 131.65, 134.27, 137.55, 147.5, 151.9, 161.96, 178.55, 185.5. MS m/z (%): 387 ($M^+ + 1$, 12.52), 386 (M^+ , 12.7), 385 ($M^+ - 1$, 5.47), 206 (10.95), 131 (37.72), 105 (86.18), 77 (100), 63 (87), 57 (25.64). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ (386.42): C, 65.27;

H, 3.65; N, 14.5; S, 8.3. Found: C, 65.22; H, 3.55; N, 14.45; S, 8.25%.

8-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-(methylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (12c)

Yield (85%), MP >300°C (from EtOH-DMF); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,429 (NH), 3,065 (aromatic CH), 2,922 (aliphatic CH), 2,205 (CN), 1,648 (C=O), 1,605 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 3.5 (s, 3H, SCH_3), 6.15–8.15 (m, 9H, ArH), 12.1 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 19.22 (SCH_3), 83.51, 111.36, 119.92, 128.18, 128.9, 129.13, 130.8, 133.67, 134.75, 138.64, 141.06, 152.37, 157.35, 157.53, 161.28, 192.72. MS m/z (%): 420 (M^+ , 1.59), 419 ($M^+ - 1$, 1.72), 136 (100), 111 (11.15), 105 (55.52), 102 (46.9), 105 (86.18), 77 (48.59), 63 (75.48), 55 (13.07), 51 (28.75). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ (420.87): C, 59.93; H, 3.11; N, 13.31; S, 7.62. Found: C, 59.9; H, 3.1; N, 13.3; S, 7.6%.

8-benzoyl-7-(ethylthio)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (13a)

Yield (85%), MP 235°C (from EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,440 (NH), 3,035 (aromatic CH), 2,931 (aliphatic CH), 2,212 (CN), 1,658 (C=O), 1,606 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 1.32 (t, 3H, CH_3), 3.76 (q, 2H, SCH_2), 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 6.97–8.21 (m, 9H, ArH), 11.47 (s, 1H, NH); MS m/z (%): 432 ($M^+ + 2$, 0.01), 431 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.01), 430 (M^+ , 0.01), 405 (0.2), 379 (0.19), 329 (0.14), 305 (0.74), 271 (0.51), 259 (1.73), 201 (2.54), 189 (3.21), 143 (4.47), 117 (18.29), 101 (17.1), 59 (100). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (430.48): C, 64.17; H, 4.21; N, 13.01; S, 7.45. Found: C, 64.1; H, 4.2; N, 13; S, 7.4%.

8-benzoyl-7-(ethylthio)-5-oxo-2-phenyl-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (13b)

Yield (85%), MP 172°C (from EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,430 (NH), 3,045 (aromatic CH), 2,924 (aliphatic CH), 2,207 (CN), 1,656 (C=O), 1,595 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 1.23 (t, 3H, CH_3), 3.31 (q, 2H, SCH_2), 7.31–7.87 (m, 10H, ArH), 11.21 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 402 ($M^+ + 2$, 0.01), 401 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.01), 400 (M^+ , 0.01), 379 (0.12), 317 (0.3), 289 (0.44), 260 (0.36), 201 (2.29), 189 (3.11), 131 (5.01), 117 (18.13), 87 (19.74), 59 (100). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ (400.45): C, 65.98; H, 4.03; N, 13.99; S, 8.01. Found: C, 65.91; H, 4; N, 13.92; S, 8%.

8-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-(ethylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (13c)

Yield (85%), MP 161°C (from EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,439 (NH), 3,055 (aromatic CH), 2,924 (aliphatic CH), 2,219 (CN), 1,667 (C=O), 1,606 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 1.23 (t, 3H, CH_3), 3.48 (q, 2H, SCH_2), 7.35–7.63 (m, 9H, ArH), 11.21 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 435 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.09), 434 (M^+ , 0.12), 307 (0.63), 280 (0.66), 248 (0.67), 201 (1.79), 143 (2.44), 131 (4.69), 113 (18.27), 87 (18.5), 59 (100). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ (434.89): C, 60.76; H, 3.48; Cl, 8.15; N, 12.88; S, 7.37. Found: C, 60.7; H, 3.4; Cl, 8.1; N, 12.81; S, 7.3%.

8-benzoyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-(propylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (14a)

Yield (85%), MP 240°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,430 (NH), 3,061 (aromatic CH), 2,924 (aliphatic CH), 2,212 (CN), 1,626 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 0.93 (t, 3H, CH_3), 1.64 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.47 (t, 2H, SCH_2), 3.34 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 6.96–7.76 (m, 9H, ArH), 11.68 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 446 ($M^+ + 2$, 0.05), 445 ($M^+ + 1$, 0.08), 444 (M^+ , 1.1), 369 (3.2), 292 (12.56), 184 (23.21), 177 (41.25), 105 (35.34), 77 (42.75), 57 (100). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (444.5): C, 64.85; H, 4.54; N, 12.6; S, 7.21. Found: C, 64.81; H, 4.52; N, 12.58; S, 7.2%.

8-benzoyl-5-oxo-2-phenyl-7-(propylthio)-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (14b)

Yield (85%), MP >300°C (from EtOH-DMF); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,438 (NH), 2,925 (aliphatic CH), 2,213 (CN), 1,658 (C=O), 1,612 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ 0.96 (t, 3H, CH_3), 1.46 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.28 (t, 2H, SCH_2), 7.4–8.25 (m, 10H, ArH), 11.21 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 416 ($M^+ + 2$, 1.12), 415 ($M^+ + 1$, 1.26), 414 (M^+ , 2.13), 338 (23.21), 261 (53.36), 215 (25.13), 105 (56.26), 77 (38.49), 57 (100). Anal Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{S}$ (414.48): C, 66.65; H, 4.38; N, 13.52; S, 7.74. Found: C, 66.6; H, 4.31; N, 13.5; S, 7.7%.

8-benzoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxo-7-(propylthio)-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (14c)

Yield (85%), MP 280°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,428 (NH), 3,154 (aromatic CH), 2,923 (aliphatic CH), 2,214 (CN), 1,670 (C=O), 1,617 (C=C) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) – δ

1.03 (t, 3H, CH₃), 1.4 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.86 (t, 2H, SCH₂), 7.13–8.23 (m, 9H, ArH), 11.36 (s, 1H, NH). Anal Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇ClN₄O₂S (448.92): C, 61.53; H, 3.82; Cl, 7.9; N, 12.48; S, 7.14. Found: C, 61.5; H, 3.8; Cl, 7.89; N, 12.4; S, 7.1%.

2-(aryl)-5-oxo-9-phenyl-5,7-dihydro-3H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitriles **15a–c**

To a solution of each compound (**12–14**)a–c (0.005 mol) in dioxane, equivalent amounts of hydrazine hydrate were added, and then the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 12 hours, cooled, and then poured onto cold water. The solid that precipitated was filtered off, dried, and finally crystallized from EtOH-dioxane to give the **15a–c** at good yield.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxo-9-phenyl-5,7-dihydro-3H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (**15a**)

Yield (65%), MP 193°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,445 (NH), 3,112 (aromatic CH), 2,945 (aliphatic CH), 2,218 (CN), 1,674 (C=O), 1,613 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) – δ 3.54 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 6.96–8.01 (m, 9H, ArH), 11.31 (s, 1H, NH); 12.15 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 384 (M⁺+2, 1.01), 383 (M⁺+1, 1.06), 382 (M⁺, 2.18), 368 (25.41), 294 (55.32), 267 (25.11), 105 (100), 77 (38.99), 57 (95.21). Anal Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄N₆O₂ (382.37): C, 65.96; H, 3.69; N, 21.98. Found: C, 65.91; H, 3.6; N, 12.4%.

5-oxo-2,9-diphenyl-5,7-dihydro-3H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (**15b**)

Yield (73%), MP 202°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,435 (NH), 3,120 (aromatic CH), 2,222 (CN), 1,670 (C=O), 1,618 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) – δ 7.02–7.98 (m, 10H, ArH), 11.22 (s, 1H, NH); 12.11 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 354 (M⁺+2, 0.06), 353 (M⁺+1, 1), 352 (M⁺, 1.1), 326 (28.11), 274 (57.3), 206 (32.1), 105 (100), 77 (53.94), 57 (65.11). Anal Calcd for C₂₀H₁₂N₆O (352.34): C, 68.17; H, 3.43; N, 23.85. Found: C, 68.11; H, 3.39; N, 23.68%.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxo-9-phenyl-5,7-dihydro-3H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (**15c**)

Yield (73%), MP 231°C (from EtOH-dioxane); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} – 3,422 (NH), 3,110 (aromatic CH), 2,215 (CN), 1,665 (C=O), 1,610 (C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) – δ 6.892–7.88

(m, 9H, ArH), 11.52 (s, 1H, NH); 12.31 (s, 1H, NH). MS m/z (%): 388 (M⁺+2, 1.23), 387 (M⁺+1, 1.42), 386 (M⁺, 3.14), 352 (35.32), 275 (47.12), 200 (52.14), 105 (100), 77 (51.66), 57 (45.18). Anal Calcd for C₂₀H₁₁ClN₆O (386.79): C, 62.1; H, 2.87; Cl, 9.17; N, 21.73. Found: C, 61.97; H, 2.82; Cl, 9; N, 21.65%.

Antimicrobial evaluation

The yeast of *Candida albicans* and bacteria of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* were used in this study to evaluate the antifungal and antibacterial potential of the synthesized compounds. The selected isolates were recovered from diseased cases of humans and animals at the Laboratory of Microbiology, Health Research Institute, Cairo, Egypt.

Control antibacterial and antifungal

The control antifungal (fluconazole 20 µg) and antibacterial (levofloxacin 3.25 µg) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St Louis, MO, USA) and used as comparable controls.

Evaluation of antimicrobial potential of synthesized compounds against *C. albicans*, *S. aureus*, and *E. coli* using well diffusion test

Spore suspension (1 mL) was added to adjust the inoculum of *S. aureus* and *E. coli* to 2.5×10³ cells/mL and *C. albicans* to 5×10⁴ cells/mL were incorporated with Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) medium plates (for yeast) or nutrient agar medium (for bacteria). Wells of 5 mm Φ were made on the medium surface of agar plates, and 100 µL of gradual concentrations (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 mg/mL) of the synthesized compounds was added to the wells. Then, plates were incubated at 35°C–37°C for 24–72 hours. After incubation, the plates were tested for growth-inhibitory concentration zones around wells in the SDA medium plates (for yeast) or nutrient agar medium plates (for bacteria). Similar methods were used for control antifungal and antibacterial.^{35–37}

Evaluation of antimicrobial potential of synthesized compounds against *C. albicans*, *S. aureus*, and *E. coli* using broth-dilution antifungal susceptibility testing of filamentous fungi

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of synthesized compounds for the tested isolates was determined by a broth-microdilution method based on the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards. In sterile 12×75 mm plastic test tubes, 900 µL of RPMI 1640 broth medium or SD broth

medium (for fungi) or nutrient broth (for bacteria) was inoculated separately, then 100 μL spore suspension added to adjust the inocula of *S. aureus*, *E. coli* (2.5×10^3 cells/mL), and *Candida albicans* to 5×10^4 cells/mL, and 100 μL of tested synthesized compound concentrations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 mg/mL) for bacteria and fungi were added. The traditional antifungal agent fluconazole (20 μg) and antibacterial agent levofloxacin (3.25 μg) were included in separate assays as positive controls.³⁸

The experiment was repeated twice. The MIC for fungi and bacteria was defined as the lowest synthesized compound concentration that showed no visible fungal or bacterial growth after incubation. After incubation, 5 μL of tested broth was inoculated on the sterile nutrient agar plates for bacteria and SDA plate for fungi and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours to 2 weeks. The MIC was determined as the lowest concentration of synthesized compounds inhibiting the visual growth of the test cultures on the agar plate. The turbidity of the growth in tubes was observed every 24 hours. Growth was assayed by measurement of optical density and transmittance of the contents of each tube at 405 nm using spectrophotometry.

Scanning electron microscopy of treated microbial cells

Morphological changes in *C. albicans*, *S. aureus*, and *E. coli* treated by the synthesized compound were observed with scanning electron microscopy (SEM). All tube contents were centrifuged and the sediments of each dehydrated separately through a graded series of EtOH (30%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, and 100%), each level was applied twice for 15 minutes each time, and then EtOH:isoamyl acetate (3:1, 1:1, 1:3) and 100% isoamyl acetate were applied twice for 30 minutes. Solutions in wells were dried with a critical-point drier using liquid CO_2 and coated with gold for 5 minutes. Coated samples were observed under SEM (JSM-5600LV) with accelerating voltage of 10 kVj.³⁹

Results

Chemistry

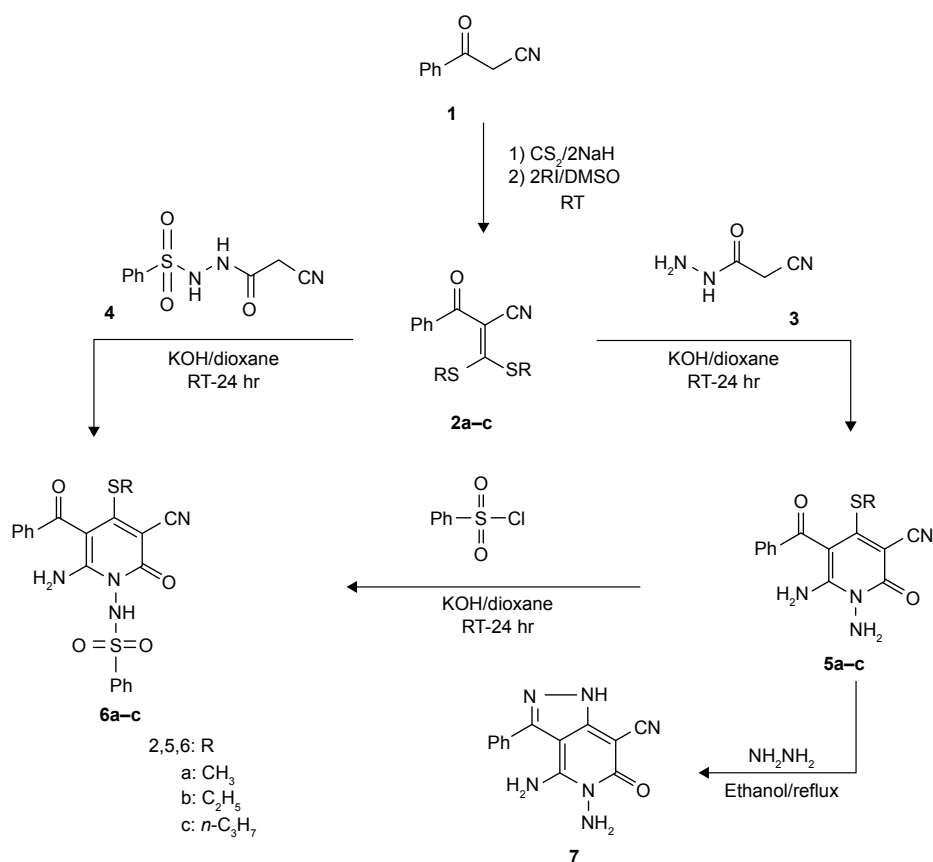
It was found that 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles **2a–c** prepared by the reaction of benzoyl acetonitrile **1**, carbon disulfide, and alkyl iodide in the presence of sodium hydride reacted with cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazide **4** at room temperature for 24 hours in the presence of KOH-dioxane to give the corresponding 5-benzoyl-*N*-[4-(alkylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2*H*)-yl]benzenesulfonamide **6a–c**. Structures of **6a–c** were established on the basis of spectroscopic data and elemental analysis (^{13}C NMR,

^1H NMR, IR, MS; Scheme 1). Compound **6** can also be prepared by reaction of the corresponding 1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-2-oxo-4-(alkylthio)-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitriles **5a–c** with benzene sulfonyl chloride in KOH-dioxane. When 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles **2a–c** was treated with cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazide **3** at room temperature for 24 hours in the presence of KOH-dioxane, **5a–c** was obtained at excellent yield. Compound **5** reacted with hydrazine in refluxing EtOH to give the pyrazolopyridine **7**. The structure of compound **7** was established on the basis of elemental analysis and spectral data, as outlined in Scheme 1.

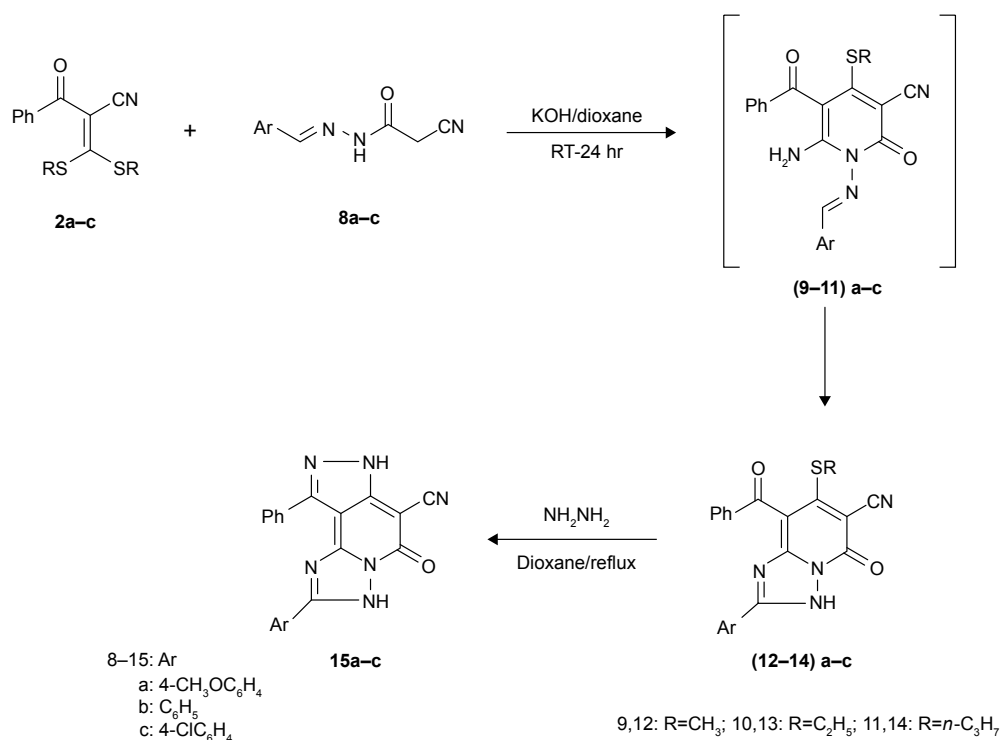
In order to explore the reactivity of cyanoketene dithioacetals **2** with other classes of substituted cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazide, we investigated the reaction of **2a–c** with *N'*-[(aryl)-methylene]-2-cyanoaceto-*N*-phenylsulfonylhydrazides **8a–c**. As such, we treated **8a–c** with one equivalent of compound **2a–c** in KOH-dioxane at room temperature for 24 hours and obtained the corresponding 7-(alkylthio)-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridines **12–14** at good yield. The structure of **12–14** was established on the basis of its IR, MS, ^1H NMR, spectroscopic, and elemental analysis. The formation of **12–14** from **2** and **8** was assumed to proceed via intermediate Michael adducts **9–11**, which cyclized to yield the novel triazolopyridine derivatives **12–14**. Compounds **12–14** reacted with hydrazine in refluxing dioxane to give the corresponding pyrazolo[4,3-*c*][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridines **15a–c**. The structure of compound **15** was established on the basis of elemental analysis and spectral data, as outlined in Scheme 2.

Antimicrobial evaluation

In the present work, the antifungal and antibacterial potentials of synthesized compounds were evaluated against *C. albicans*, *S. aureus*, and *E. coli* using well diffusion tests. Inhibition-zone diameters for *C. albicans* were larger than for bacteria of *S. aureus* and *E. coli* strains (Tables 1 and 2). The MIC of synthesized compounds **6a–c** and **15a–c** was 4 mg/mL. Compound **6c** had more antibacterial potential against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, and showed zones of growth inhibition of 12 and 18 mm, respectively, at a concentration of 5 mg/mL. Other synthesized compounds – **5a–c**, **7**, **15a–b**, and **12a–c** – showed no antimicrobial potential up to a concentration of 5 mg/mL. On the other hand, the antifungal potential of the chemicals used showed more pronounced effects at comparatively lower concentrations, where the MIC against *C. albicans* was 1 mg/mL. The MIC of antifungal potential of synthesized compounds **6a–c** and **15a–c** was 1 mg/mL, while for chemicals of **15b** the MIC was 4 mg/mL. The zone of fungal inhibition of chemical



Scheme 1 Synthesis of 1,6-diamino-5-benzoyl-4-(alkylthio)-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carbonitrile derivatives **5a-c** and N-[6-amino-5-benzoyl-3-cyano-4-(alkylthio)-2-oxopyridin-1(2H)-yl]benzene-sulfonamide derivatives **6a-c** and 4,5-diamino-6-oxo-3-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine-7-carbonitrile (**7**).



Scheme 2 Synthesis of 8-benzoyl-2-(aryl)-7-(alkylthio)-5-oxo-3,5-dihydro[1,2,4]triazole-[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile (**12-14**)a-c and 2-(aryl)-5-oxo-9-phenyl-5,7-dihydro-3H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-6-carbonitrile **15a-c**.

Table 1 Antibacterial and antifungal activity of synthesized compounds **5a–c**, **6a–c**, **7**, **12a–c**, and **15a–c** against *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA), *Escherichia coli* (EC), and *Candida albicans* (CA) isolates using well diffusion test

| Compound | Zone-area inhibition (mm) of synthesized compounds at gradual concentration (mg/mL)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | | | 2 | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 | | |
| | SA | EC | CA | SA | EC | CA | SA | EC | CA | SA | EC | CA | SA | EC | CA |
| 5a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6a | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 25 | 12 | 11 | 30 |
| 6b | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 11 | 10 | 20 | 12 | 12 | 22 |
| 6c | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 15 | 22 | 12 | 18 | 25 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15a | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 10 | 24 | 0 | 13 | 25 |
| 15b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 13 |
| 15c | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 10 | 12 | 30 | 10 | 15 | 35 |

Notes: *For the control antifungal (fluconazole 20 µg), the zone of inhibition was 15 mm, and for the control antibacterial (levofloxacin 3.25 µg), the zone of inhibition was 18 mm. ATCC designations for EC, SA, and CA 11775, 12600, and 26555, respectively.

number **15c** was 20 mm at a concentration of 1 mg/mL, and reached 35 mm at a concentration of 5 mg/mL. Other tested compounds showed no antimicrobial potential till concentrations had reached 5 mg/mL.

In the present study, the scanning of treated fungal and bacterial cells by SEM analysis showed interactions between synthesized compounds and the membrane structure of bacterial or fungal cells through significant changes to their

membranes, recognized by the formation of “pits” on their surfaces, and finally resulted in the formation of pores and cell death and hence increasing the antimicrobial function of these compounds (Figures 1–3).

Conclusion

In summary, we achieved a region-specific synthesis of novel 5-benzoyl-*N*-substituted amino- and 5-benzoyl-*N*-

Table 2 Transmittance and turbidity of treated *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* with the synthesized compounds **5a–c**, **6a–c**, **7**, **12a–c**, and **15a–c**

| Compound | Transmittance of treated microbial cells* | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | <i>S. aureus</i> | | | | <i>E. coli</i> | | | |
| | 4 mg/mL | | 5 mg/mL | | 4 mg/mL | | 5 mg/mL | |
| | T% (clearance)# | Degree of turbidity | T% (clearance)# | Degree of turbidity | T% (clearance)# | Degree of turbidity | T% (clearance)# | Degree of turbidity |
| Untreated | 2 | ++++ | 2 | ++++ | 2 | ++++ | 2 | ++++ |
| 5a | 95 | + | 97 | – | 5 | ++++ | 95 | + |
| 5b | 95 | + | 97 | – | 93 | ++ | 100 | – |
| 5c | 95 | + | 97 | – | 100 | – | 100 | – |
| 6a | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 6b | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 6c | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 7 | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 12a | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 12b | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 12c | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ |
| 15a | 0 | ++++ | 0 | ++++ | 94 | ++ | 97 | + |
| 15b | 95 | + | 96 | + | 96 | + | 100 | – |
| 15c | 95 | + | 95 | + | 100 | – | 100 | – |

Notes: *Control antibacterial levofloxacin 3.25 µg; #transmittance of treated spores at λ=405 nm.

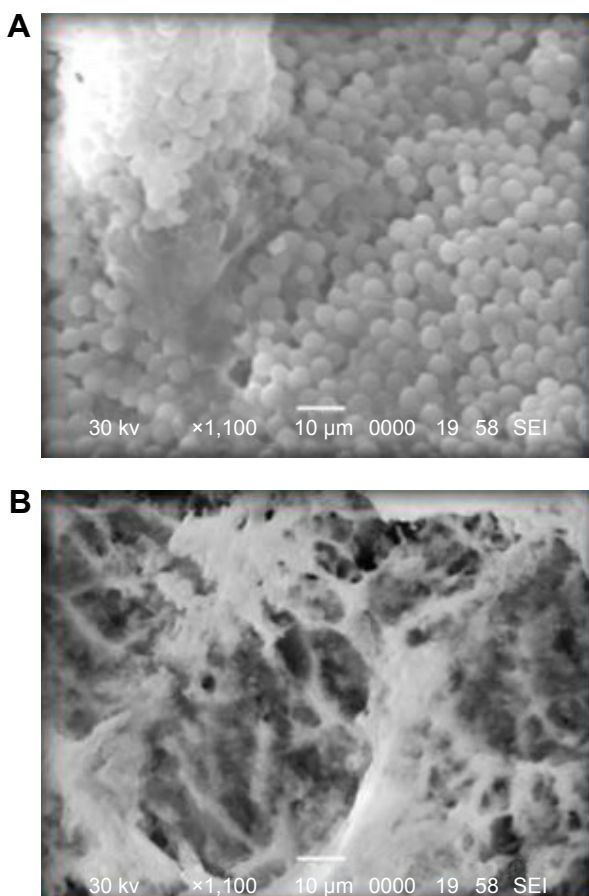


Figure 1 (A) Scanning electron microscopy of normal *Candida albicans* cells and (B) treated *C. albicans* cells.

sulfonylamino-4-alkylsulfanyl-2-pyridones and their corresponding pyrazolopyridines and pyrazolotriazolopyridones by the reaction of 2-benzoyl-3,3-bis(alkylthio)acrylonitriles **2a–c** with cyanohyrazide **3** and its derivatives **4** and **8**. The

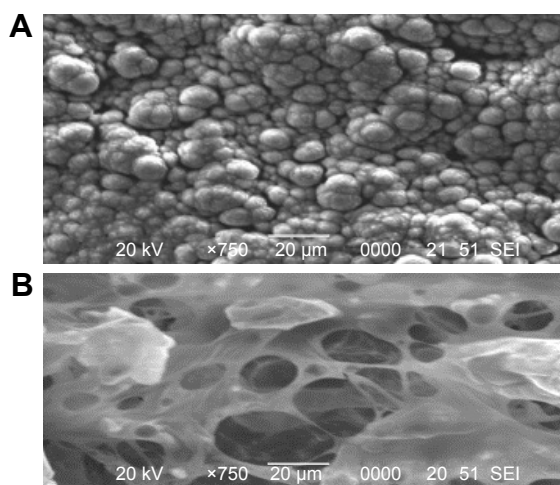


Figure 2 (A) Scanning electron microscopy of normal *Staphylococcus aureus* cells and (B) treated *S. aureus* cells.

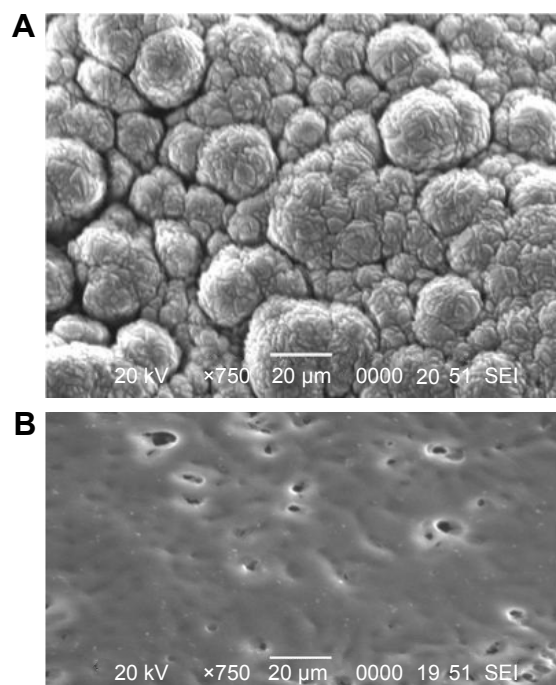


Figure 3 (A) Scanning electron microscopy of normal *Escherichia coli* cells and (B) treated *E. coli* cells.

antibacterial potential of the synthesized compounds was evaluated in order to assess their antimicrobial potential.

Acknowledgment

Support from the National Institute of Laser Enhanced Sciences (NILES), Cairo University is gratefully acknowledged.

Author contributions

All authors contributed toward data analysis, drafting and critically revising the paper and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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