

Synthesis, characterization and anticancer activity of some new Tetrazoles derived from Quinazolin-4-one

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Abstract

The present study was aimed in the synthesis of novel Tetrazoles from 3-[4-(4-Amino-benzenesulfonyl)-phenyl]-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one.N-[4-[4-(4-Oxo-2-Phenyl-4H-Quinazolin-3-yl)-Benzenesulfonyl]-Phenyl]-Benzamide (2a-i) and 2-Phenyl-3-[4-[4-(5-Phenyl-Tetrazol-2-yl)-Benzenesulfonyl]-Phenyl]-Quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3a-i) were prepared in accordance with the proposed scheme. The compounds were characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, Mass and elemental analysis. Some of the Tetrazole derivatives 3a, 3b and 3g were tested for anticancer activity against MTT assay method using 5-Fluorouracil as the standard drug. The data reveals that all the three compounds 3a, 3b and 3g taken for the study show anti-proliferative activity against the two tested cancer cell lines (MCF-7 and HT-29). Among them, the compound **3g** shows better anti-proliferative activity than the rest of the compounds with the IC₅₀ value of 62µg/ml for HT-29. However, the activity of the test compounds is less than the standard drug 5-Fluorouracil. Cytotoxic effects of compound **3g** to MCF-7 reveal that morphological changes includes decrease of cell density, cell rounding and floating cells under inverted phase contrast microscope. A new class of tetrazolo quinazoline heterocycles were synthesized and characterized. The representative compounds were screened for anticancer by MTT assay method using 5-Fluorouracil as the standard drug. The results of anticancer activity revealed, the compound **3g** is found to have potent anti-cancer activity.

Keywords: Anticancer activity, MTT assay, Quinazolinone, Tetrazoles

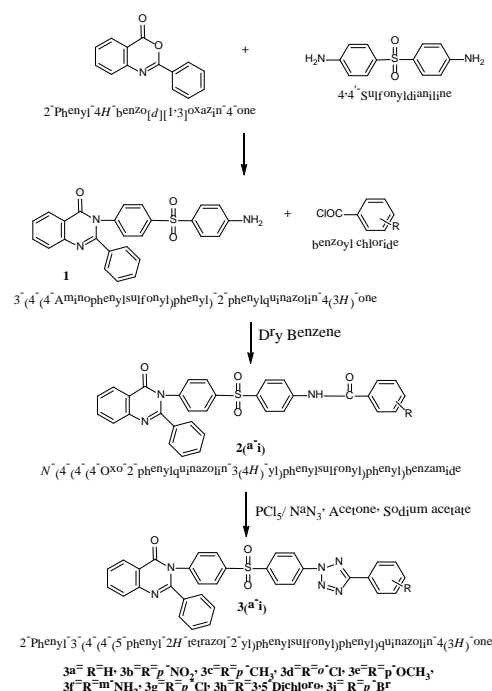
INTRODUCTION

Tetrazole cycle is a promising pharmacophore fragment frequently used in the development of novel drug [1] development of the Tetrazole chemistry has been largely associated with ring flexibility, stability which provides easily to different binding modes and toxicity decreasing properties [2]. This Tetrazole is used in MTT assay to quantify the respiratory activity of live cells in cell culture, although it kills cells in the process [3]. Interest in Tetrazole chemistry over the past few years has been increasing rapidly because of its wide range of applications, mainly as a result of the role played by this heterocyclic functionality in medicinal chemistry as these offer a more favorable pharmacokinetic profile and a metabolically stable surrogate for carboxylic acid functionalities [4]. The ability of Tetrazole compounds to mimic the carboxylic functionality has motivated the incorporation of Tetrazole derivatives into biologically active molecules. This has led to applications in therapy resulting in compounds with antibacterial [5] antifungal [6], antiviral [7], analgesic [8,9], anti-inflammatory [10-12] antiulcer [13] and anti-hypertension activities [14].

Quinazolines are nitrogen containing compounds having broad spectrum of medicinal values, such as antifungal [15], anticancer [16], anti-HIV [17], anti-inflammatory [18], analgesic [19], antiviral [20], antimicrobial [21], anticonvulsant [22], anticoagulant [23], anti fibrillatory [24], cardiac stimulant [25], and diuretic [26] etc. In view of the literature evidence, a scheme was proposed combining the moieties of Tetrazole and Quinazolinone, with a view to synthesize new compounds with enhanced activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The proposed scheme for the preparation of Quinazolinone and its derivatives is given in the scheme.



Scheme: Preparation of Quinazolinone and its derivatives

Cyto-toxic studies

MTT Assay

The anticancer activity of the compounds, such as 2-Phenyl-3-(4-(4-(5-phenyl-2H-tetrazol-2-yl)phenyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (**3a**), 2-Phenyl-3-(4-(4-(5-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2H-tetrazol-2-yl)phenyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**3b**), 2-Phenyl-3-[4-[4-(5-(4-chloro)phenyl)tetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl]-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (**3g**) was

carried out by MTT Assay in two different human cell lines such as, HT-29(Colon cancer) and MCF-7(Breast cancer).

Human colon cancer HT-29 and human breast cancer MCF-7 cell lines were obtained from National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune. The cells were maintained in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS, penicillin (100 U/ml) and Streptomycin (100 µg/ml) in a humidified atmosphere of 50 µg/ml CO₂ at 37 °C.

Cells (1 × 10⁵/well) were plated in 100 µl of medium/well in 96-well plates. After 48 hours of incubation, the cell reaches the confluence. The cells were then incubated in the presence of various concentrations of the samples in 0.1% DMSO for 48 h at 37°C and 5% CO₂. After the removal of the sample solution and washing with phosphate-buffered saline (pH 7.4), 20µl/well (5mg/ml) of 0.5% 3-(4, 5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide cells (MTT) phosphate-buffered saline solution was added. After 4h incubation, 0.04M HCl/ isopropanol were added. Viable cells were determined by the absorbance at 570nm with reference at 655nm. Measurements were performed three times and the concentration required for 50% inhibition of viability (IC₅₀) was determined graphically. The absorbance at 570 nm was measured with a microplate reader using wells without sample containing cells as blanks. All experiments were performed in triplicate. The effect of the samples on the proliferation of cancer cells was expressed as the % cell viability using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Cell Viability} = \frac{\text{A570 of Treated Cells}}{\text{A570 of Control Cells}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characterization studies for synthesized compounds

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3a)

Pale green powder, yield 62 %; mp 291 – 294 °C; IR(KBr): 1403.63 (N = N), 1643.86 (C = N), 1255.50 (N – N = N), 1073.94 & 1020.42 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6) δ in ppm 7.55-8.13(m, 22H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR: 165.42, 164.31, 152.52, 143.21, 138.42, 133.44, 132.9, 134.1, 130.02, 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 127.0, 126.7, 126.0, 122.15, 121.6; EI-MS, m/z(%): 582(100); Analytical calculation for C₃₃ H₂₂N₆O₃S (582) C-68.03; H- 3.81; N-14.42; Found: C-68.12; H-3.84; N-14.76

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(4-nitro)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3b)

Pale yellow powder, yield 69 %; mp 281-283 °C; IR(KBr): 1407.72(N = N), 1590.87 (C = N), 1183.26(N – N = N), 1105.26 & 1070.71 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6) δ ppm 8.36 (d, 2H, J= 2.5, H19, 21), 7.75-8.25 (m, 19H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR: 175.04, 165.19, 161.67, 154.82, 153.20, 149.76, 147.62, 140.61, 135.50, 131.59, 131.50, 131.17, 129.99, 128.98, 128.77, 128.55, 127.96, 127.86, 127.32, 126.90, 123.98, 121.08, 121.01; EI-MS, m/z(%): 628(15); Analytical calculation for C₃₃ H₂₁N₇O₅S (628) C-63.15; H- 3.37; N- 15.62; Found:C-63.12; H- 3.32; N- 15.64

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(4-methyl)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3c)

Pale brown powder, yield 71 %; mp182-184 °C; IR (KBr): 1666.59 (C = N), 1399.32 (N = N), 1259.32 (N – N = N), 1108.96 & 1018.98 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6) 7.49-7.80(m, 13H, Ar-H), 2.3 (s, 1H, CH₃), 7.88 (d, J= 7, 2H, H18,22 Phenyl), 7.36 (d, J= 5.5, 2H, H19, 20, phenyl), 8.06 (d, 1H, J= 7, H1), 7.34(t, 1H, J= 5.5, H2 Q) 7.21(t, 1H, J=8, H3), 7.84 (d, 1H, J= 7, H4); ¹³C NMR : 166.37, 161.61, 155.00, 147.48, 134.82, 141.71, 142.63, 135.55, 133.20, 129.43, 131.86, 128.98, 128.70, 128.43, 126.96, 121.14, 20.9; EI-MS, m/z(%): 596 (6); Analytical calculation for C₃₄H₂₄N₆O₃S (597) C-68.44; H- 4.05;N-14.09; Found:C-68.47; H- 4.01; N- 14.11

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(2-chloro)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3d)

Pale brown powder, yield 68 %; mp198-200 °C; IR (KBr): 1678.26 (C = N), 1469.68 (N = N), 1274.48 (N – N = N), 1073.06 & 1020.06 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6) 7.45-7.67(m, 4H, Quinazoline), 7.86-8.0(m, 13H, Ar-H), 7.34(t, 1H, J= 8, H19), 7.81(t, 1H, J=8, H20), 8.19(d, 1H, J= 8, H21), 8.22(d, 1H, J=8, H18); ¹³C NMR : 166.02, 165.97, 154.92, 147.46, 140.53, 136.74, 136.35, 135.53, 135.39, 135.32, 131.97, 131.58, 131.50, 130.38, 130.19, 129.80, 129.69, 129.46, 129.41; EI-MS, m/z(%): 618(5); Analytical calculation for C₃₃ H₂₁ClN₆O₃S (618) C-64.23; H- 3.43;N- 13.62; Found:C-64.20; H- 3.45; N- 13.64

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(4-methoxy)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3e)

Pale yellow powder, yield 69 %; mp149 – 150 °C; IR (KBr): 1662.81 (C = N), 1466.74 (N = N), 1251.86 (N – N = N) 1106.48 & 1022.02 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6): 3.8 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 7.62 (d, 2H, J= 8.5, H19, 20), 8.19 (d, 2H, J=8, H18, 21) 7.76-8.07 (m, 17H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR: 165.95, 165.88, 162.77, 162.74, 147.36, 144.63, 141.70, 135.55, 135.29, 134.67, 130.35, 129.65, 129.42, 129.27, 128.97, 128.131, 128.043, 127.91, 127.76, 126.951, 121.010, 120.592, 120.526, 114.15, 113.93, 55.95; EI-MS, m/z(%): 613 (5); Analytical calculation for C₃₄ H₂₄N₆O₄S (613) C- 66.65; H- 3.95;N- 13.72; Found: C-66.62; H- 3.91; N- 13.69

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(3-amino)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3f)

Pale green powder, yield 65 %; mp 159 – 161 °C; IR (KBr): 1627.81 (C = N), 1403.31 (N = N), 1281.41 (N – N = N), 1104.46 & 1072.02 (Tetrazole ring); ¹H NMR (DMSO D6): 3.44 (s, 2H, NH₂) 6.23 (s, 1H, H18) 7.40-7.60 (m, 20H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR: 165.16, 153.84, 153.19, 131.20, 130.12, 130.05, 129.97, 129.68, 129.62, 129.40, 129.26, 128.89, 128.62, 128.11, 128.01, 127.93, 127.38, 120.82, 120.21, 119.89, 119.57, 113.46, 113.32, 113.04; EI-MS, m/z(%): 598 (13) Analytical calculation for C₃₃ H₂₃N₇O₃S (598) C- 66.32; H- 3.88;N- 16.41; Found:C-66.30; H- 3.85; N- 16.43

Spectral characterization of 2-Phenyl-3-{4-[4-(5-(4-chloro)phenyltetrazol-2-yl)-benzenesulfonyl]-phenyl}-quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3g).

Pale brown powder, yield 68 %; mp 103 – 105 °C; IR (KBr): 1642.10 (C = N), 1414.26 (N = N), 1156.16 (N – N = N), 1018.42 & 1098.14 (Tetrazole ring), 781.30(C-Cl), ; ¹H NMR (DMSO D6): 7.44 (d, 2H, J=10, H19, 20), 7.54 (d, 2H, J=8.5, H18, 21), 7.9 (d, 1H, J= 12, H1), 7.20 (t, 1H, J=8, H2), 7.55 (t, 1H, J=8.5, H3), 7.75 (d, 1H, J=8, H4), 7.22-7.36 (m, 13H, Ar); ¹³C NMR: 165.53,164.20, 153.62, 152.34, 143.46, 139.62, 138.42, 134.12, 133.70, 130.26, 129.9, 128.6, 127.23, 126.72, 126.05, 122.27, 121.42; EI-MS, m/z(%): 617 (5); Analytical calculation for C₃₃H₂₁ClN₆O₃S (618) C-64.23; H-3.43;N-13.62; Found: C-64.20; H- 3.45; N-13.68.

In the IR spectra of the compounds analyzed, it is revealed that the absorption bands in the region 1590-1678 cm⁻¹ (C=N), 1399-1466 cm⁻¹ (N=N), 1156-1281 cm⁻¹ (N-N=N) and 1110-1020 cm⁻¹ (tetrazole ring) revealing the presence of tetrazole ring in the synthesized compounds. The SO₂ (symmetric) and SO₂ (asymmetric) stretching vibrations are observed at 1353-1315 cm⁻¹ and 1143-1156 cm⁻¹ respectively. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra also show convincing evidence regarding the structure of the synthesized compounds. In the ¹H NMR spectra, the aromatic protons appear as a multiplet in the regions δ 7.15 to 8.04. The appearance of singlet peaks at δ 2.3, δ 3.8 and δ 3.44 confirms the presence of CH₃, OCH₃ and NH₂ groups

in the Tetrazole derivatives 3c, 3e & 3f respectively. In the ¹³C NMR spectra, the appearance of signals in the region 121.0-153.7 may be attributed to the quinazolinone carbons. Signals at 121.5-135.6 may be assigned to the phenyl carbons of the compounds. The mass spectrum of all the nine tetrazole derivatives shows molecular ion peaks at their respective molecular weights which further lend support to the assigned structures.

MTT assay

The results of the cytotoxic activity of the representative compounds **3a**, **3b**, and **3g** against human cancer cell lines such as, HT-29 (Colon Cancer) and MCF-7(Breast Cancer) are presented (Table 1 and 2) along with their graphs (Figure 1 and 2). The IC₅₀ values are also given (Table 3). The data from the tables reveals that all the three compounds taken for the study show anti proliferative activity against the two tested cancer cell lines. Among the three tested compounds, the compound **3g** shows better anti proliferative activity than the rest of the compounds with the IC₅₀ value of 62µg/ml for HT-29. However, the activity of the test compounds is less than the standard drug 5-Flurourocil. Cytotoxic effects of compound **3g** to MCF-7 (Figure 3) reveal that morphological changes includes decrease of cell density, cell rounding and floating cells under inverted phase contrast microscope.

Table 1: Cell viability of compounds 3a, 3b and 3g against HT-29 colon cancer cell line

S.No	C (µg/ml)	Dilutions	3a		3b		3g		5-Flurourocil [5Fu]	
			Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)
1	1000	Neat	0.07	14.58	0.04	8.33	0.05	10.41	0.04	12.35
2	500	1:1	0.13	27.08	0.10	20.83	0.14	29.16	0.11	17.30
3	250	1:2	0.18	37.50	0.17	35.41	0.19	39.58	0.15	21.05
4	125	1:4	0.23	47.91	0.21	43.75	0.25	52.08	0.24	24.17
5	62.5	1:8	0.31	64.58	0.27	56.25	0.31	64.58	0.28	29.00
6	31.2	1:16	0.38	79.16	0.33	62.50	0.36	75.00	0.34	37.25
7	15.6	1:32	0.43	89.58	0.38	79.16	0.40	83.33	0.37	43.46
8	7.8	1:64	0.46	95.83	0.43	89.58	0.45	93.75	0.44	48.36
9	Cell control	-	0.48	100	0.48	100	0.48	100	0.48	100

C- Concentration; Abs-Absorbance

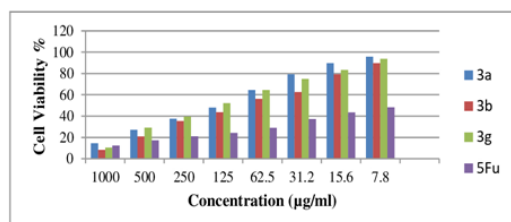
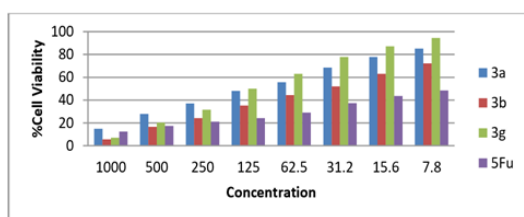
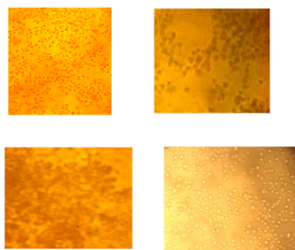
Table 2: Cell viability of compounds 3a, 3b and 3g against MCF-7 breast cancer cell line

S.No	C (µg/ml)	Dilutions	3a		3b		3g		5-Flurourocil	
			Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)	Abs (O.D)	Cell viability (%)
1	1000	Neat	0.08	14.81	0.03	5.55	0.04	7.04	0.04	12.35
2	500	1:1	0.15	27.77	0.09	16.66	0.11	20.37	0.11	17.30
3	250	1:2	0.20	37.03	0.13	24.07	0.17	31.48	0.15	21.05
4	125	1:4	0.26	48.14	0.19	35.18	0.24	50.00	0.24	24.17
5	62.5	1:8	0.30	55.55	0.24	44.44	0.34	62.96	0.28	29.00
6	31.2	1:16	0.37	68.51	0.28	51.85	0.42	77.77	0.34	37.25
7	15.6	1:32	0.42	77.77	0.34	62.96	0.47	87.03	0.37	43.46
8	7.8	1:64	0.46	85.18	0.39	72.22	0.51	94.44	0.44	48.36
9	Cell control	-	0.48	100	0.48	100	0.48	100	0.48	100

C- Concentration; Abs-Absorbance

Table 3: IC₅₀ Values of the test compounds

S.No	Samples	IC ₅₀ Concentration (µg/mL)	
		HT-29	MCF-7
1.	3a	116	110
2.	3b	92	39
3.	3g	146	126
4.	5Fu	5.75	5.5

**Figure 1.** Cell viability of compounds 3a, 3b and 3g against HT-29 colon cell lines**Figure 2.** Cell viability of compounds 3a, 3b and 3g against MCF-7 breast cell lines**Figure 3.** Cytotoxic effects of 3g to MCF-7 (breast cancer cell line) (morphological changes including decrease of cell density, cell rounding and floating cells were observed with an inverted phase contrast microscope and photographed).

CONCLUSIONS

A new class of tetrazolo quinazoline heterocycles were synthesized and characterized. The representative compounds were screened for anticancer by MTT assay method using 5-Fluorouracil as the standard drug. The results of anticancer activity revealed that the compounds taken for the study possess significant activity. Among the tested compounds, the compound **3g** is found to have potent activity.

It is convincing that this class of compounds certainly holds great promise towards the pursuit to discover novel classes of anticancer agents. Further biological studies are in progress to know the potency of the compounds.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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