



Research Article

ACETAMIDE LINKED AZETIDINONE-BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES: SYNTHESIS AND ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY

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ABSTRACT

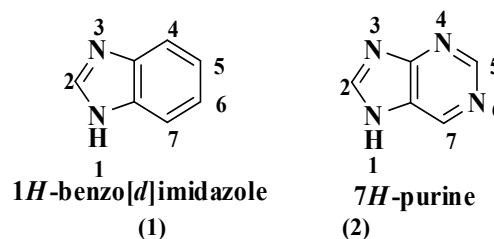
Benzimidazoles have been considered as one of the most potent and biologically active class in medicinal chemistry. A wide variety of benzimidazole analogs have been synthesized so far and screened for their chemotherapeutic importance. In this study, a novel series of acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole analogs have been synthesized to explore the improvement in antibacterial potential with variations in its structure. The derivatives were synthesized by reaction of the Schiff base of 2-phenylbenzimidazole with triethylamine, 1,4-dioxane and chloroacetyl chloride. Thin layer chromatography was used to check the purity of synthesized derivatives and structure of compounds was elucidated using IR, ¹HNMR and mass spectrometry. Both Gram-negative strains (*E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*) and Gram positive strains (*S. aureus* and *B. subtilis*) were used to check the antibacterial activity of synthesized derivatives with cup and plate method. Against the above-mentioned microbes, all the synthesized azetidinone-benzimidazole derivatives exhibited good activity.

Keywords: Benzimidazole, Azetidinones, Hydrazone, Antimicrobial, Antibacterial

INTRODUCTION

Infectious diseases caused by clinically significant species of microbes remain persistent problem world-wide because of emerging resistance to large number of existing antimicrobial agents such as β -lactam antibiotics, quinolones, vancomycin and macrolides. One way to battle with this challenge is to develop new molecules with antimicrobial activity and to combat with emergence of resistance along with the duration of therapy¹. Due to vast chemotherapeutic potential, benzimidazoles have received greater attention in the last few decades². Benzimidazoles (**1**) are medicinally important moieties amongst heterocyclics which possess biologically activity. Extensive biochemical and pharmacological studies have confirmed their potential against various strains of microorganisms³⁻⁷ like astemizole (antihistaminic), flubendazole and thiabendazole (anthelmintic) and lansoprazole and omeprazole (antiulcerative). The pharmacology and chemistry of benzimidazoles have been of great interest to medicinal chemist because its derivatives possessed various biological activities such as antimicrobial⁸, antioxidant⁹, anticancer¹⁰, anthelmintic¹¹, anti-inflammatory¹², antihypertensive¹³, antiprotozoal¹⁴, analgesic¹⁵, antiulcer¹⁶, anticonvulsant¹⁷, anti-hepatitis B virus¹⁸, antifungal¹⁹ and antiviral²⁰ activity. Amongst these derivatives, the substitution at 2nd position leads to pharmacologically more potent molecules, thus the design and synthesis of 2-substituted benzimidazoles has become a key focus for synthesis of molecules with improved potential in terms of anti-microbial activity²¹.

Benzimidazoles, having structural similarity with purines (**2**), have proven to be a potential competitor to purines in the bacterial protein and nucleic acid synthesis²².



Therefore, preparation of benzimidazole derivatives has attracted considerable attention in recent years.

Another important heterocyclic moiety containing valuable antimicrobial activity is azetidinone. Azetidinone, a four membered cyclic amide, is a very well-known compound for the medicinal chemist as it is a part of numerous antibiotic molecules. The azetidinone moiety in form of β -lactam drugs (Penicillins, Nocardicin and Cephalosporin) has been reported to possess antibacterial activity²³. In addition, Azetidinones have been reported to exhibit anti-tubercular²⁴, antifungal²⁵, anti-inflammatory²⁶, anticonvulsant²⁷, analgesic²⁸ and CNS depressant²⁹ activities.

In the present study, the synthesis of novel acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole hybrid molecule derivatives was carried out along with *in vitro* screening of their antimicrobial activity. Cup and plate method was used for *in vitro* antibacterial

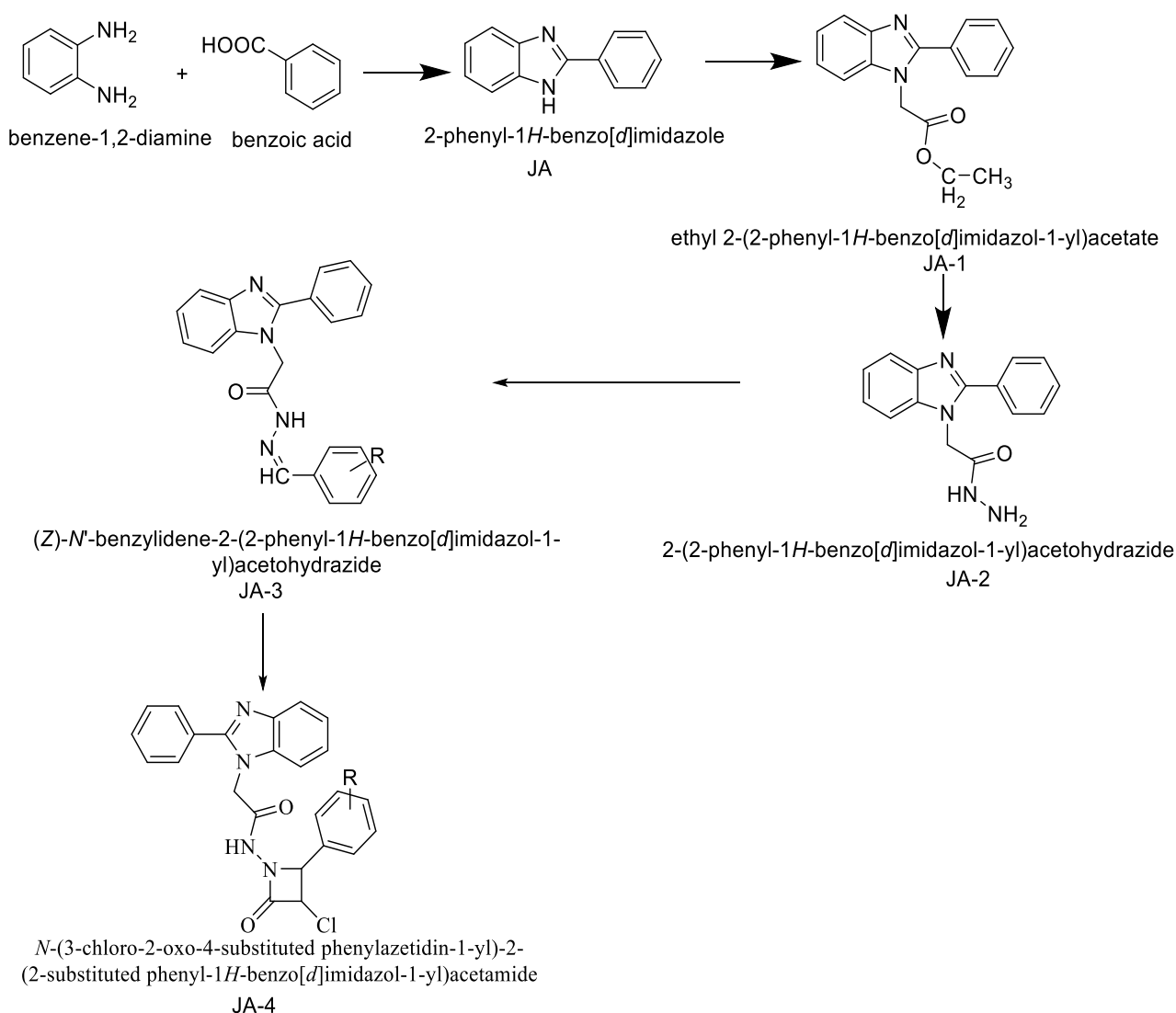
evaluation against gram-negative (*E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*) and gram positive (*S. aureus* and *B. subtilis*) bacteria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemistry

The chemicals used for the synthesis of acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole derivatives were purchased from Mumbai, Loba Chemie Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, India; Merck, Electron LLS India Pvt. Ltd.; Qualikems Fine Chem Pvt. Ltd. Vadodara, India and Thermo Electron LLS India Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai.

Scheme



Scheme: Synthesis of acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole derivatives.

General Procedure

An equimolar quantity of *o*-phenylenediamine and benzoic acid was allowed to react using polyphosphoric acid to form 2-phenylbenzimidazole, which on further reaction with ethylchloroacetate and potassium carbonate solution in dry acetone, produced ethyl-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole-1-yl)

acetate. The later was mixed with hydrazine hydrate using ethanol as solvent to form 2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)acetohydrazide. Schiff base was produced by condensing hydrazide produced in above reaction with substituted aromatic aldehydes. The final hybrid compound was synthesized by reaction of Schiff base with triethylamine, 1,4-dioxane and chloroacetyl chloride.

Experimental

2-Phenyl Benzimidazole (JA): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3404 (N-H str), 3047 (=C-H str), 1664 (C=N), 1589 and 1464 (C=C str), 1276 (C-N str) $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.5 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.45 (t, 2H, benzene), 12.8 ((s, 1H, NH), ES-MS (m/z): 194 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2$: C; 80.39, H; 5.19, N; 14.49.

Ethyl-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetate (JA-1): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3047 (=C-H str), 2966 (C-H str), 1772 (C=O str), 1683 (C=N str), 1622 and 1462 (C=C str), 1276 (C-N str), 1226 (C-O-C str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.49 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.39 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.23 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.47 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.7 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 4.3 (q, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 2.0 (t, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), ES-MS (m/z): 280 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$: C; 72.84, H; 5.75, N; 9.99, O; 11.41.

2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl) acetohydrazide (JA-2): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3479 and 3416 (N-H Str), 3047 (=C-H str), 2986 (C-H str), 1637 (C=N str), 1618 (C=O str). 1591 and 1475 (C=C str), 1541 (N-H bend), 1276 (C-N str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.50 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.40 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.22 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.7 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 9.15 (t, 1H, -Sec NH), 2.15 (d, 2H, $-\text{NH}_2$), ES-MS (m/z): 266 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}$: C; 67.65, H; 5.30, N; 21.04, O; 6.01.

N¹-benzylidene-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3117 (N-H Str), 3047 (=C-H str), 2918 (C-H str), 1668 (C=O str), 1622 (C=N str), 1591 and 1460 (C=C str), 1274 (C-N str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.49 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.41 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.20 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.45 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.6 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.11 (t, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.35 (s, 1H, CH), 6.7 – 7.1 (m, 5H, benzene), ES-MS (m/z): 354 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}$: C; 74.56, H; 5.12, N; 15.81, O; 4.51.

N¹-(3-chlorobenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.1): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3159 (N-H Str), 3047 (=C-H str), 2918 (C-H str), 1665 (C=O str), 1699 (C=N str), 1626 and 1464 (C=C str), 1276 (C-N str), 985 (C-Cl bend), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.49 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.42 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.22 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.46 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.7 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.11 (t, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH), 7.85 (s, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.55 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.20 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH) ES-MS (m/z): 388 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}$: C; 67.95, H; 4.41, Cl; 9.12, N; 14.41, O; 4.11.

N¹-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.2): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3150 (N-H Str), 3047 (=C-H str), 2922 (C-H str), 1661 (C=O str), 1695 (C=N str), 1623 and 1460 (C=C str), 1275 (C-N str), 990 (C-Cl bend), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.41 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.44 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.8 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.11 (t, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH), 7.8 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), 7.52 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 388 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}$: C; 67.95, H; 4.41, Cl; 9.12, N; 14.41, O; 4.11.

N¹-(2-hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.3): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3243 (-OH broad band), 3047 (=C-H str), 2918 (C-H str), 1666 (C=O str), 1699 (C=N str), 1622 and 1462 (C=C str), 1274 (C-N str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.49 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.41 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.75 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.11 (s,

1H, -Sec NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH), 10.8 (s, 1H, OH), 7.55 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.18 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.58 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 370 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$: C; 71.74, H; 4.90, N; 15.13, O; 8.64.

N¹-(3-hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.4): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3248 (-OH broad band), 3045 (=C-H str), 2920 (C-H str), 1652 (C=O str), 1696 (C=N str), 1620 and 1460 (C=C str), 1270 (C-N str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.42 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.45 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.71 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH), 10.8 (s, 1H, OH), 7.85 (s, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.54 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.20 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 370 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$: C; 71.74, H; 4.90, N; 15.13, O; 8.64.

N¹-(4-hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.5): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3252 (-OH broad band), 3045 (=C-H str), 2917 (C-H str), 1655 (C=O str), 1698 (C=N str), 1624 and 1464 (C=C str), 1271 (C-N str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.8 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.12 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.23 (s, 1H, CH), 10.81 (s, 1H, OH), 7.81 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), 7.52 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 370 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$: C; 71.74, H; 4.90, N; 15.13, O; 8.64.

N¹-(3-Nitrobenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.6): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3140 (N-H Str), 3030 (=C-H str), 2925 (C-H str), 1664 (C=O str), 1694 (C=N str), 1590 and 1465 (C=C str), 1270 (C-N str), 1545 and 1348 (N=O bend), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.54 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.7 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH), 7.85 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.54 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.2 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 399 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3$: C; 66.16, H; 4.29, N; 17.53, O; 12.02.

N¹-(4-nitrobenzylidene)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetohydrazide (JA-3.7): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3142 (N-H Str), 3028 (=C-H str), 2928 (C-H str), 1667 (C=O str), 1695 (C=N str), 1592 and 1468 (C=C str), 1275 (C-N str), 1542 and 1350 (N=O bend), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.47 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.44 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.80 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.11 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 8.23 (s, 1H, CH), 7.82 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), 7.52 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 399 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3$: C; 66.16, H; 4.29, N; 17.53, O; 12.02.

N-(3-chloro-2-oxo-4-phenylazetididin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl) acetamide (JA-4): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3275 (N-H Str), 3050 (=C-H str), 2918 (C-H str), 1668 (C=O amide str), 1742 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1622 (C=N str), 1591 and 1460 (C=C str), 1545 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1274 (C-N str), 740 (C-Cl str), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3 δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.42 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.44 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.6 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 8.1 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.1 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.4 (d, 1H, -CH), 6.75 – 6.96 (m, 5H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 430 [M+1]; Anal. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}_2$: C; 60.50, H; 4.23, N; 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxoazetididin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.1): FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3270 (N-H Str), 3052 (=C-H str), 2918 (C-H str), 1665 (C=O amide str), 1740 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1622 (C=N

str), 1591 and 1460 (C=C str), 1542 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1275 (C-N str), 980 (aromatic C-Cl str), 740 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.61 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.47 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.41 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.45 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.8 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.11 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.12 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.45 (d, 1H, -CH), 7.86 (s, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.54 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.33 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.2 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 464 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₈Cl₂N₄O₂: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.2): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3271 (N-H Str), 3050 (=C-H str), 2919 (C-H str), 1662 (C=O amide str), 1738 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1621 (C=N str), 1590 and 1461 (C=C str), 1540 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1278 (C-N str), 982 (aromatic C-Cl str), 745 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.49 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.45 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.8 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.11 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.1 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.44 (d, 1H, -CH), 7.81 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), 7.52 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 464 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₈Cl₂N₄O₂: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.3): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3360 (-OH Broad band), 3050 (=C-H str), 2920 (C-H str), 1663 (C=O amide str), 1738 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1624 (C=N str), 1592 and 1460 (C=C str), 1542 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1280 (C-N str), 745 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.42 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.76 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.1 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.42 (d, 1H, -CH), 10.8 (s, 1H, -OH) 7.54 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.33 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.18 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.57 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH) ES-MS (m/z): 446 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₉ClN₄O₃: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.4): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3364 (-OH Broad band), 3035 (=C-H str), 2922 (C-H str), 1663 (C=O amide str), 1735 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1625 (C=N str), 1592 and 1461 (C=C str), 1544 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1281 (C-N str), 743 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.47 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.41 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.44 (t, 2H, benzene),

4.70 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.1 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.1 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.4 (d, 1H, -CH), 10.7 (s, 1H, -OH) 7.86 (s, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.5 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.21 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH) ES-MS (m/z): 446 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₉ClN₄O₃: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.5): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3365 (-OH Broad band), 3049 (=C-H str), 2921 (C-H str), 1665 (C=O amide str), 1737 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1628 (C=N str), 1590 and 1460 (C=C str), 1545 (C-N cyclic amide str), 1280 (C-N str), 745 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.47 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.75 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.1 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.4 (d, 1H, -CH), 10.8 (s, 1H, -OH) 7.82 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), 7.52 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 446 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₉ClN₄O₃: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.6): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3150 (-NH str), 3045 (=C-H str), 2920 (C-H str), 1738 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1667 (C=O amide str), 1627 (C=N str), 1593 and 1465 (C=C str), 1545 and 1345 (N=O str), 1280 (C-N str), 746 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.62 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.48 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.42 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.2 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.70 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.10 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.40 (d, 1H, -CH), 7.86 (s, 1H, Aromatic CH) 7.55 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.32 (t, 1H, Aromatic CH), 7.21 (d, 1H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 475 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₈ClN₅O₄: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27.

N-(3-chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-1-yl)-2-(2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1-yl)acetamide (JA-4.7): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3148 (-NH str), 3048 (=C-H str), 2923 (C-H str), 1736 (C=O cyclic amide str), 1665 (C=O amide str), 1628 (C=N str), 1590 and 1464 (C=C str), 1543 and 1346 (N=O str), 1278 (C-N str), 746 (C-Cl str), ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃ δ ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.46 (t, 2H, benzene), 7.4 (t, 1H, benzene), 8.21 (d, 2H, benzene), 7.43 (t, 2H, benzene), 4.75 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 8.10 (s, 1H, -Sec NH), 5.10 (d, 1H, -CH), 5.4 (d, 1H, -CH), 7.82 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH) 7.51 (d, 2H, Aromatic CH), ES-MS (m/z): 475 [M+1]; Anal. for C₂₄H₁₈ClN₅O₄: C, 60.50; H, 4.23; N, 35.27. The physicochemical characterization of synthesized derivatives is given in table 1.

Table 1: Physicochemical characteristics of synthesized compounds

Compound Number	R	Molecular Formula	Molecular weight	M.P. [°C]	R _f [value] ^a	Yield (%)
JA-4	-H	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ ClN ₄ O ₂	430	291-293	0.82	82.4
JA-4.1	-3-Cl	C ₂₄ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	464	297-298	0.80	80.2
JA-4.2	-4-Cl	C ₂₄ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ N ₄ O ₂	464	304-305	0.89	79.2
JA-4.3	-2-OH	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ ClN ₄ O ₃	446	311-312	0.81	79.5
JA-4.4	-3-OH	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ ClN ₄ O ₃	446	306-308	0.83	81.4
JA-4.5	-4-OH	C ₂₄ H ₁₉ ClN ₄ O ₃	446	309-310	0.82	82.6
JA-4.6	-3-NO ₂	C ₂₄ H ₁₈ ClN ₅ O ₄	475	320-322	0.75	87.3
JA-4.7	-4-NO ₂	C ₂₄ H ₁₈ ClN ₅ O ₄	475	328-329	0.86	81.5

^aTLC mobile phase: hexane: Ethyl acetate (7.5:2.5)

Table 2: Evaluation of anti-bacterial activity of acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazoles

Bacterial strain	<i>B. subtilis</i> (736)			<i>S. aureus</i> (9542)			<i>E. coli</i> (1698)			<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (6458)		
	25	50	100	25	50	100	25	50	100	25	50	100
Compound Number	Zone of inhibition (mm)											
JA-4	22	29	33	20	27	31	19	25	29	20	26	30
JA-4.1	21	27	30	19	25	29	20	25	28	20	25	30
JA-4.2	17	19	22	15	20	22	16	20	23	17	20	23
JA-4.3	16	19	23	16	18	23	17	21	25	15	19	21
JA-4.4	15	19	22	16	20	22	19	23	25	15	19	22
JA-4.5	16	19	23	18	20	22	17	21	24	19	21	24
JA-4.6	16	18	21	16	19	21	15	17	20	15	19	22
JA-4.7	22	28	29	19	23	27	20	24	28	20	23	28
Ciprofloxacin	17	19	22	21	24	26	21	26	29	22	26	28
DMSO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Anti-microbial activity

Gram negative (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) and gram positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*) bacteria were used to check the *in vitro* anti-bacterial activity of synthesized derivatives using cup and plate method³⁰. Three different concentrations (25, 50 and 100 µg/ml) were used to check the activity of synthesized benzimidazoles against selected strains. For the comparison of antibacterial activity of synthesized compounds, ciprofloxacin was used as the standard drug. The results obtained by using cup and plate method has been summarized in table 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2-(Substituted phenyl)-1H-benzimidazoles were synthesized in 5 steps by the reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine with benzoic acid using polyphosphoric acid. The products of first step were further reacted with ethylchloroacetate in dry acetone to give ethyl-2-[2-(substituted phenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]acetate which was treated with hydrazine hydrate to form 2-[2-(substituted phenyl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]acetohydrazide. Finally, the end substituted aceto-hydrazides were reacted with substituted aldehydes to yield Schiff base of benzimidazole. The resultant Schiff bases were treated with triethylamine, 1,4-dioxane and chloroacetyl chloride to produce acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole hybrid molecule derivatives.

Elemental analysis was done to confirm the formula of the synthesized molecules. Structures were confirmed with the help of IR, ¹H NMR and ES-MS spectra. In the IR spectra, all the vibrational bands appeared in the predictable regions. The appearance of a single band in the region of 3045-3404 cm⁻¹ confirmed the presence of sec. N-H functional group. For ester and amide, C=O str. vibrations appeared at 1735-1749 and 1610-1620 cm⁻¹ respectively. ¹H NMR spectrum was used to identify different types of protons in the synthesized derivatives. M+1 peaks of the synthesized compounds were found to be in agreement with their molecular formula.

The synthesized benzimidazole azetidinone derivatives showed good antibacterial potential *in vitro* against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Among these, JA-4, JA-4.1 and JA-4.7 were found to possess better antibacterial activity as compared to standard drug ciprofloxacin. At a concentration of 25µg/ml, compound JA-4 and JA-4.7 showed maximum activity against *B. subtilis* (zone of inhibition- 22 mm for each) which was better as compared to standard drug (Ciprofloxacin). JA-4 showed good activity against *B. subtilis* (zone of inhibition- 29 mm) at 50µg/ml concentration. JA-4 and JA- 4.1 exhibited the maximum antibacterial activity against all strains of bacteria at a concentration of 100µg/ml.

CONCLUSION

A novel series of acetamide linked azetidinone-benzimidazole hybrid molecule derivatives was synthesized. Mass, IR, NMR, and elemental analysis were used to elucidate the structures of all the synthesized molecules. Cup and plate method were used to evaluate the *in vitro* anti-bacterial activity of synthesized azetidinone-benzimidazole hybrids against both Gram negative and Gram positive strains of bacteria. All the benzimidazole derivatives exhibited good antibacterial activity and compounds JA-4, JA-4.1, and JA-4.7 were observed to possess better antibacterial activity as compared to standard drug ciprofloxacin.

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