

SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, ANTIMICROBIAL  
AND MOLECULAR DOCKING STUDY OF BENZOOXADIAZOLE  
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**Abstract.** In this study, a series of new 1,2,5-oxadiazole compounds derived from 4-chloro-7-nitro-benzo 1,2,5-oxadiazole was synthesized using different organic procedures. The resulting derivatives were chemically characterized and their structures were confirmed by FT-IR and NMR analysis. All the compounds were also evaluated for their antibacterial and antifungal activity against four types of pathogenic bacteria: *S.aureus*, *S.epidermidis* (as gram-negative bacteria), *E.coli*, *Klebsiella* spp. (as gram-positive bacteria) and the fungus *Candida albicans* using the agar well diffusion method. The synthesized oxadiazole derivatives exhibited significant antibacterial and moderate antifungal activities. Exploring the binding between the potent synthesized derivative **8** within the active site of glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase, the target enzyme for the antimicrobial agents was achieved using Autodock 4.2 package. The interaction modes of the generated conformers inside the binding pocket were found to enhance the *in vitro* results, and strongly recommended the new derivatives as promising antimicrobial agents.

**Keywords:** 1,2,5-oxadiazole, furazans, antibacterial, antifungal, docking.

## 1. Introduction

Over the past few decades, the main goal of researchers has been the investigation and synthesis of new drugs with a lower microbial resistance, overcoming the threat to the health of human life.<sup>1-4</sup> Several efforts related to this research area continuously made to develop more effective antimicrobial agents. Notably, oxadiazole-based compounds and derivatives are a promising

candidate and have attracted considerable attention in medicinal chemistry due to their diverse medicinal potential.<sup>5,6</sup> These important compounds can be prepared by several routes and are still developing, according to the literature.<sup>7-10</sup> The oxadiazoles are heterocyclic compounds of a five-membered ring having two carbons, one oxygen and two nitrogen atoms, resulting from furan through the replacement of two methylene groups (–CH=) by two pyridine type nitrogen (–N=).<sup>11,12</sup> There are different isomeric forms of 1,3,4-oxadiazole as follows: 1,2,5-oxadiazole, 1,2,4-oxadiazole and 1,2,3-oxadiazole. Among them, 1,3,4-oxadiazole and 1,2,4-oxadiazole are of significant interest in medicinal chemistry.<sup>13,14</sup> The ability of the oxadiazoles to undergo several reactions including thermal, photochemical, electrophilic and nucleophilic substitution reactions<sup>15,16</sup> has made them suitable for widespread medical applications such as being used as anticancer, antileukemia,<sup>17</sup> antimicrobial,<sup>18,19</sup> anti-inflammatory,<sup>20,21</sup> antipsychotics,<sup>22</sup> anticonvulsant,<sup>23</sup> antioxidant,<sup>24</sup> anti-HIV,<sup>25</sup> anti-malarial, muscle relaxants, antiparasitic agent,<sup>26</sup> and anti-tumor agents.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, oxadiazoles and their derivatives are also called furazans and selected to be the main cores of the final medicinal products on the basis of quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) studies, involving mathematical correlations between quantitative biological activities of a drug as a function of certain physical, chemical or structural characteristics of the molecule.<sup>27</sup> Besides the medicinal importance of the oxadiazoles, they are used extensively in the field of materials chemistry so that their isomer moieties can be applied either as a small molecule or polymers for efficient use in the field of materials science, particularly optics,<sup>28,29</sup> highly energetic materials,<sup>30</sup> liquid crystalline compounds<sup>31</sup> and corrosion inhibitors.<sup>32</sup>

The present manuscript illustrates the synthesis of new 1,2,5-oxadiazole derivatives with diverse functionalized moiety by reducing the nitro group of 4-chloro-7-nitrobenzofurazan followed by the substitution reaction of the compound **1** with ethyl bromoacetate to afford the compound **2**. Hydrazone derivative **3** has been obtained from the benzooxadiazole derivative **2** by the direct substitution with hydrazine hydrate. Pyridazine and

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phthalazine derivatives (**4** and **5**) were obtained from the compound **3** by the reaction with the corresponding anhydride (Scheme 1). The Schiff base derivative **6** was synthesized by the reaction of the derivative **3** with pyridine-4-carbaldehyde. The cycloaddition reaction of the compound **6** with thioglycolic acid and chloroacetyl chloride afforded novel derivatives **7** and **8**. The 1,3-oxazepan derivatives **9** and **10** were synthesized by the cyclization reaction of the compound **6** with the corresponding anhydride. The synthesized derivatives were screened for their antimicrobial activity against different species using a well diffusion method. Docking approach for the  $\beta$ -lactam derivative **8**, one of the most potent discovered hit, within the active site of glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase<sup>33</sup> is achieved to explain the interactions between the generated conformers and the amino acid residues of the enzyme binding pocket. In this case, Autodock 4.2, the effective tool for exploring the binding affinity of small molecule to protein or enzyme target<sup>34</sup> is employed.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Materials and Synthetic Methods

All the chemicals were purchased from Fluka and Sigma Aldrich Company and used without any further purification. Melting points were determined on a Stuart melting point (digital SMP 30) apparatus using an open capillary tube method, and were reported uncorrected. Infrared spectra were performed on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR spectrometer. All NMR spectra were recorded on DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> using a BrukerDRX 300 MHz instrument. The reaction monitored by a thin layer chromatography (TLC) on Merck silica-coated plates using hexane:ethyl acetate mixture.

*Synthesis of 4-amino 7-chloro-[2,1,3] benzoxadiazole (1).* This compound was prepared as described in [35].

*Synthesis of 7-chloro-[4-amino acetic acid ethyl ester]-[2,1,3]-benzoxadiazole (2).* The reagent ethylbromoacetate (0.0025 mol, 0.4 g) was added to a mixture of the compound **1** (0.0025 mol, 0.56 g) and potassium carbonate K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.005 mol, 1.1 g) in DMF (25 mL) as a solvent, then refluxed for 9 h. The precipitate formed was filtered off by removing the solvent under reduced pressure, washed with water and recrystallized from ethanol.

Light yellow; yield 73 %; m.p. 425-427 K. FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3212 (N-H), 3068 (C-H stretching aromatic ring), 2926, 2866 (C-H stretching aliphatic), 1745 (C=O), 1610 (C=N), 1599 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>), 1217 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO)  $\delta$  ppm: 7.20-6.50 (dd, 2H, Ar-H), 5.58 (s, N-H), 5.18 (s, 2H, N-CH<sub>2</sub>-CO-), 4.04-4.15 (q, 2H, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-), 1.11-1.12 (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 167.8, 146.9, 130.0, 128.0, 115.7, 112.9, 67.8, 55.0, 17.8.

*Synthesis of 7-chloro-[2,1,3]benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-acetic acid hydrazide (3).* A mixture of the compound **2** (0.001 mol, 0.26 g) and hydrazine hydrate (1.0 mL, 80 %) dissolved in an absolute ethanol (20 mL) in a round bottle flask with a short reflux condenser was gently heated under reflux for 15 h. The resultant solution was kept to settle and form hydrazide crystals, followed by filtration, washing with cold water, drying and recrystallization from ethanol.

Yellow; yield 67 %; m.p. 435-437 K. FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3333, 3225 (NH, NH<sub>2</sub>), 3126 (N-H), 3047 (C-H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2980, 2815 (C-H<sub>Alph</sub>), 1683 (C=O), 1614 (C=N), 1591, 1556 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>), 1285 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO)  $\delta$  ppm: 7.20-6.20 (dd, 2H, Ar-H), 5.58 (s, 1H, -NH), 4.80 (s, 2H, -NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.80 (s, H, -ArNH-), 4.40 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 177.0, 145.8, 130.8, 128.0, 125.7, 115.7, 112.8, 54.3.

*Synthesis of pyridazine derivatives (4, 5).* To the round bottle flask containing the compound **3** (0.001 mol, 0.24 g), 0.001 mol of appropriate acid anhydride (maleic anhydride and phthalic anhydride) and 15 mL of glacial acetic acid were added dropwise and the mixture was refluxed for 22 h. The reaction crude was filtered, then the filtrate neutralized with 10% KOH solution to obtain the product which was washed several times with water, dried in air and finally recrystallized from chloroform.

*3-(7-chloro-[2,1,3]benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-propionyl]-1,2-dihydro-pyridazine-3, 6-dione (4).* Pale yellow; yield 68 %; m.p. 478-480 K. FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3198 (N-H), 3014 (C-H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2978, 2829 (C-H<sub>Alph</sub>), 1732 (C=O imid), 1698 (C=O amide), 1610 (C=N), 1581, 1566 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO)  $\delta$  ppm: 8.30 (s, 1H, -NH-CO), 7.90-6.90 (m, 4H, Ar-H, CH=CH), 5.77 (s, 1H, -ArNH-), 4.50 (s, 2H, NHCH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 168.0, 165.0, 163.0, 109.0, 145.0, 58.0.

*3-(7-chloro-[2,1,3] benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-propionyl]-2, 3-dihydro-phthalazine-1,4-dione (5).* Off white; yield 56 %; m.p. 462-464 K. FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3178 (N-H), 3067 (C-H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2973, 2834 (C-H<sub>Alph</sub>), 1737 (C=O imid), 1693 (C=amide), 1612 (C=N), 1591, 1567 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO)  $\delta$  ppm: 6.0-7.9 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 8.0 (s, H, -NH-CO), 4.32 (s, H, ArNH), 3.85 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 58, 109, 149, 163, 165, 168.

*Synthesis of (7-chloro-[2,1,3]-benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-acetic acid pyridin-4-ylmethylene-hydrazide (6).* A mixture of the compound **3** (0.001 mol, 2.4 g), 4-pyridine carboxaldehyde (0.001 mol, 0.12 g) and methanol as a solvent in a round bottle flask fitted with a short reflux condenser was stirred under heating for 12 h. After completing the reaction, (monitored by TLC), the solution was kept to settle for some time. The resultant solid product was filtered, dried and purified from ethanol.

Light yellow; yield 76 %; m.p. 521-522 K; FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3095 (C-H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2973, 2834 (C-H<sub>Alph</sub>), 1591, 1567

(C=C<sub>Ar</sub>), 3176 (N–H), 1699 (C=O amide), 1628 (C=N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) δ ppm: 4.19 (s, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.2 (s, 1H, –NH), 7.3 (s, H, (CONH)), 7.6–8.2 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 8.8 (s, 1H, CH=N); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 58, 107, 112, 149, 153, 174.

**Synthesis of 2-(7-Chloro-benzo[2, 1, 3] oxadiazol-4-ylamino)-N-(4-oxo-2-pyridin-4-yl-thiazolidin-3-yl)-acetamide (7).** To the mixture of the compound **6** (0.001 mol, 0.33 g) and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (0.01 g) dissolved in chloroform (25 mL) in a round bottle flask, thioglycolic acid (0.005 mol, 0.46 g) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 h. After refluxing, the solvent was removed under pressure. The resultant residue was treated by 50 mL of 10% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution to remove the excess of thioglycolic acid, washed with water, dried in air and recrystallized from DMF.

Light yellow; yield 76 %; m.p. 471–473 K; FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3018 (C–H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2922, 2852 (C–H<sub>Aliph</sub>), 1581, 1558 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>), 3151 (N–H), 1712 (C=O thiazolidinone), 1610 (C=N), 1683 (C=O amide). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) δ ppm: 8.02 (s, 1H, –NH), 7.25–7.76 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 5.54 (s, 1H, CH–N), 4.89 (s, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.37–3.95 (d, 2H, S–CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 58.8, 171, 38, 58.1, 168, 104, 112, 158.

**Synthesis of 2-(7-chloro- [2, 1, 3] benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-N-(3-chloro-2-oxo-4-pyridin-4-yl-azetid-1-yl)-acetamide (8).** This derivative was synthesized according to the procedure described in [36]. The compound **6** (0.001 mol, 0.33 g) and trimethylamine (0.025 mol, 2.5 g) dissolved in dioxane (10 mL) was stirred in a cold water bath at 273–278 K. Afterward, chloroacetylchloride (0.01 mol, 1.12 g) was added drop by drop. The mixture was stirred for 3 h, then refluxed for 9 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the collected product was washed with water, dried and recrystallized from chloroform.

Deep yellow; yield 66 %; m.p. 499–501 K; FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3076 (C–H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2923, 2858 (C–H<sub>Aliph</sub>), 1581, 1557 (C=C<sub>Ar</sub>), 3191 (N–H), 1616 (C=N), 1710 (C=O β-lactam); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) δ ppm: 8.77 (s, 1H, –NH), 7–8.6 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 5.3 (s, 1H, Cl–CH), 3.8 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.2 (s, 1H, N–CH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 170, 57, 62, 164, 64, 112, 153.

**Synthesis of 1,3-oxazepan derivatives (9, 10).** These derivatives were synthesized according to the procedure introduced by Greenwood *et al.*<sup>37</sup> A mixture of the compound **6** (0.001 mol, 0.33 g) and the corresponding anhydride (maleic or phthalic anhydride) (0.001 mol) was refluxed for 24 h in 20 mL of chloroform as a solvent. After completing the reaction (monitored by thin layer chromatography), the crude was filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The resultant product was collected and purified from ethanol.

**2-(7-chloro- [2,1,3] benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-N-(4,7-dioxo-2-pyridin-4-yl-4,7-dihydro-[1,3] oxazepin-3-yl)-acetamide (9).** Light yellow; yield 69 %; m.p. 440–441 K; FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3051 (CH aromatic), 2939, 2876 (CH aliphatic), 1593, 1539 (C=C aromatic), 1687 (C=O lactam), 1729 (C=O lactone), 1167 (C–O str.), 1236 (C–N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ, ppm): 6.1–6.8 (dd, 2H, CH=CH), 7.4 (s, 1H, CH–N), 7.9 (s, 1H, NNHCO), 4.57 (s, 1H, NH Ar), 7.6–8.6 (m, 6H, Ar), 3.9 (s, 2H, NH–CH<sub>2</sub> CO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>: 58, 87, 106, 125, 150, 136.6, 136.9, 165, 167, 170.

**2-(7-chloro- [2,1,3] benzoxadiazol-4-yl amino)-N-(5,9-dioxo-7-pyridin-4-yl-5,9-dihydro-6-oxa-8-aza-benzocyclohepten-8-yl)-acetamide (10).** Light yellow; yield 57 %; m.p. 505–507 K; FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3097ν (CH aromatic), 2979, 2896ν (CH aliphatic), 1611, 1569ν (C=C aromatic), 1689ν (C=O lactam), 1731ν (C=O lactone), 1157ν (C–O str.), 1242ν (C–N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ, ppm): 7.3 (s, 1H, CH–N), 8.2 (s, 1H, NHCO), 4.6 (s, 1H, NH Ar), 6.6–8.6 (m, 10H, Ar), 3.9 (s, 2H, NH–CH<sub>2</sub> CO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>: 57.8, 86.7, 105, 112, 150, 165, 167, 170.

## 2.2. Antimicrobial Evaluation

*In vitro* antimicrobial effects of benzoxadiazole derivatives were tested against four bacterial strains, namely, *S.aureus*, *S.epidermidis* (as gram-negative bacteria), *E.coli*, *Klebsiella* spp. (as gram-positive bacteria) and the fungus *Candida albicans*. The antimicrobial activity was determined using the agar well diffusion method.<sup>38</sup> Dimethyl sulfoxide acted as a controller, and the test was carried out at a concentration of 100 mg/mL and by adding 50 μL to each disk (*i.e.*, 5 μg/disk) using DMSO as a solvent. The fungi and bacteria were subcultured in agar and potato dextrose agar media. For antibacterial and antifungal activities, the inhibition zone was compared with the standard drug after incubation at 310 and 298 K for 24 and 72 h, respectively. The results obtained are presented in Table 1.

## 2.3. Docking Study

As described in our previous study,<sup>39</sup> the pdb file format of the receptor was obtained from the Protein Data Bank (PDB code 1MOQ) and used as a rigid molecule. The missing hydrogens were added to the amino acid residues, and the water molecules were removed. The compound **8** was drawn using ChemDrawUltra 7.0 as mol file, and the open Babel 2.3.1 software was used to make the pdb file. The docking study was achieved using grid dimensions of 30.5, 17.5 and -2.2. Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm with a population size of 150,10 runs and a maximum number of energy evaluations of 2,500,000 was

also employed. The docking protocol included a maximum number of generations of 27,000.

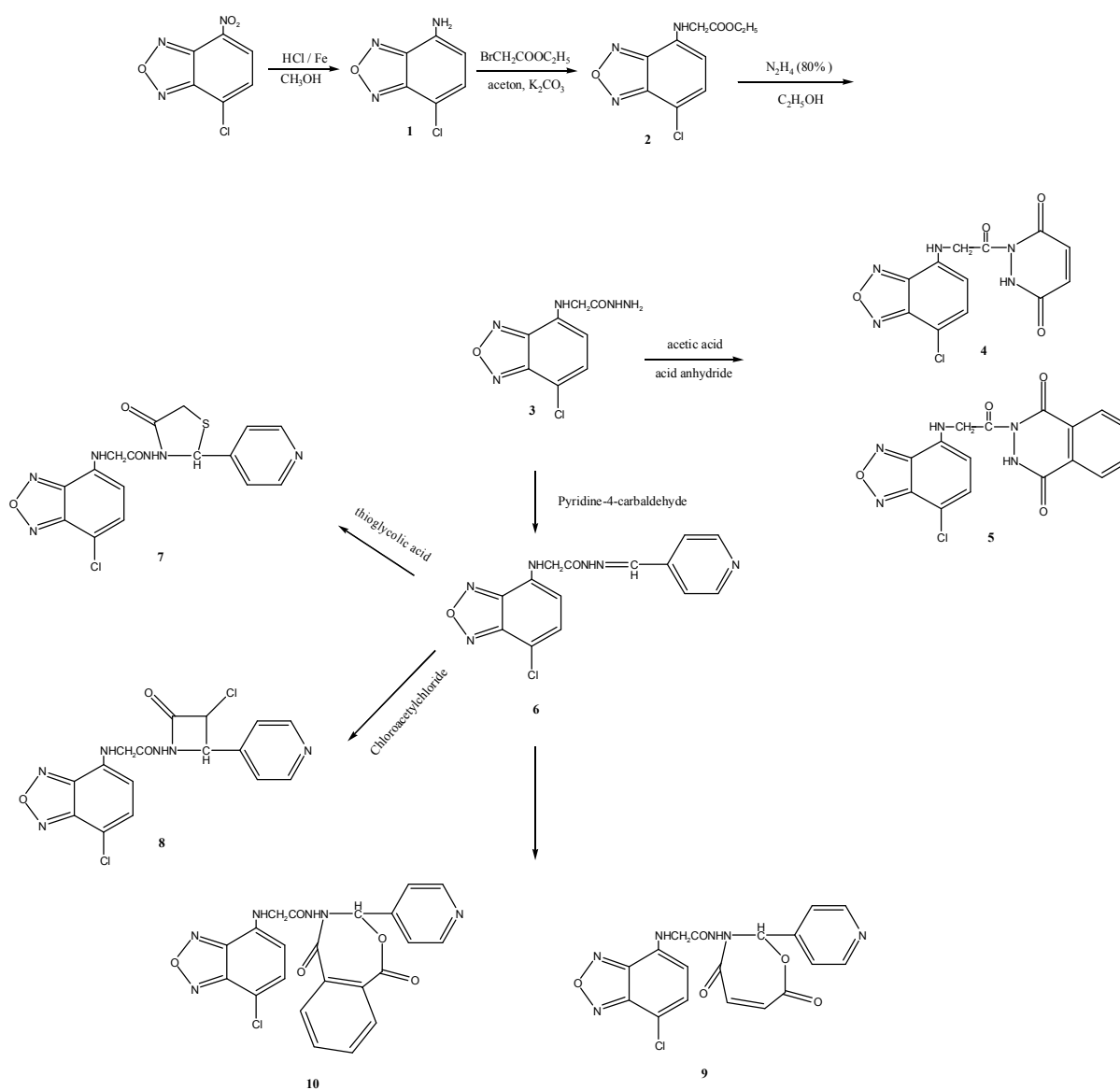
### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Synthesis and Characterization

As known, one of the significant features in the chemistry of 4-amino-7-chloro-[2,1,3]benzoxadiazole is their use as key starting materials for further transformations. Briefly, the compound **1** was condensed with ethyl bromoacetate to obtain derivative **2** as illustrated by Scheme 1. On the other hand, the compound **2** was condensed with 80 % hydrazine hydrate to prepare acetic acid hydrazide **3**. Various substitutions carried out on the compound **3** with appropriate acid anhydride (maleic anhydride and phthalic anhydride) yielded the compounds **4** and **5**, respectively. The compound **3** was also condensed with 4-pyridine carboxaldehyde to afford benzoxadiazole derivative **6**. Furthermore, the compound **6** was cyclized with thioglycolic acid or chloroacetylchloride, resulting in the corresponding compounds (**7** and **8**). Finally, the benzoxadiazole derivatives **9** and **10** were obtained from the compound **6** by treating it with the corresponding aldehyde in chloroform as a solvent as illustrated in Scheme 1.

The results of FT-IR,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR are found to be consistent with the suggested molecular formula of the concerned compounds. The structure of the compound **2** was confirmed based on the melting point and their spectral data. The FT-IR spectrum displays a stretching band at  $3212\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to NH, three bands at  $3068$ ,  $2926$  and  $2866\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to CH of aromatic and aliphatic vibrations. The two bands at  $1745$  and  $1599\text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirm the stretching of C=O and C=C of aromatic ring. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of benzoxadiazole derivative **2** shows the following signals: doublet in the region of  $7.20$ – $6.50$  ppm which can be attributed to two aromatic protons, singlet signal at  $5.58$  ppm related to NH, while the singlet at  $5.18$  ppm is due to methylene protons. The quartet signal at  $4.04$ – $4.15$  ppm and the triplet at  $1.11$ – $1.12$  ppm related to  $\text{CH}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_3$  of  $\text{COOC}_2\text{H}_5$  group. The FT-IR spectrum of the compound **3** displays sharp peaks at  $3333$ ,  $3225$  and  $3126\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which are assigned to the NH stretching vibration of hydrazidean NHCO groups. Also, the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (see experimental section) confirm the compound structure. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of pyridazine derivative **4** showed a multiplet signal at  $6.9$ – $7.9$  ppm related to two aromatic and CH=CH protons, the singlet signal at  $8.3$  ppm for NH-CO proton. Two singlets observed at  $5.77$  and  $4.5$  ppm are due to Ar-NH and  $\text{CH}_2$

protons. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum strongly enhances the structure elucidation. The formation of the Schiff base derivative **6** was confirmed by the FT-IR analysis. The FT-IR spectrum showed imine stretching band (N=CH) at  $1628\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which was accompanied by the disappearance of  $\text{NH}_2$  stretching band related to the compound **3** (see experimental section). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the compound **6** showed three singlet signals at  $4.19$ ,  $5.2$  and  $7.3$  ppm which are assigned to  $\text{CH}_2$ , NH, and CO-NH protons, respectively. The multiplet signal at  $7.6$ – $8.2$  ppm related to aromatic and CH=N protons. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR presented in the experimental section confirms the structure elucidation. The structural confirmation of oxothiazolidinone derivative **7** synthesized from the Schiff base derivative **6** by the action of mercapto acetic acid in the presence of anhydrous  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ , was achieved by the FT-IR analysis, as well as NMR technique. The FT-IR spectrum showed the following bands:  $3151\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (NH),  $1712\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O thiazolidinone),  $1610\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=N) and  $1683\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O amide). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed singlet signals at  $5.54$  and  $4.89$  ppm which are assigned to CH-N and  $\text{CH}_2$  protons, respectively. The multiplet signal at  $7.25$ – $7.76$  ppm is attributed to aromatic protons, while the doublet signals appear at  $3.37$ – $3.95$  ppm related to  $\text{SCH}_2$  protons. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals are presented in the experimental section. As explained previously, 2-(7-chloro-[2,1,3]benzoxadiazol-4-ylamino)-N-(3-chloro-2-oxo-4-pyridin-4-yl-azetidin-1-yl)-acetamide **8** was obtained through the reaction of the compound **6** with chloroacetyl chloride in the presence of triethyl amine as the catalyst and dioxane as the solvent. The FT-IR spectrum showed stretching bands at  $3191\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for NH and stretching band at the  $1670\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to C=O of  $\beta$ -lactam. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed singlet signals at  $3.8$  and  $8.77$  ppm for  $\text{CH}_2$  and -NH; singlet signal for N-CH at  $4.2$  ppm and multiplet signals at  $7.00$ – $8.60$  ppm for aromatic protons, while the CHCl proton appears as a singlet at  $5.3$  ppm. For more detail about  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR see the experimental section. Alternatively, the compound **6** was cyclized with maleic and phthalic anhydride in chloroform to afford the derivatives **9** and **10**, respectively. The FT-IR spectral data of the compound **9** showed the appearance of absorption bands at  $1729$  and  $1687\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to C=O group of lactone and lactam, respectively. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the compound **9** showed the following signals: four singlet signals at  $7.4$ ,  $7.9$ ,  $4.57$  and  $3.90$  ppm related to CH-N, NHCO, NH-Ar and N- $\text{CH}_2$ -CO protons, respectively; multiplet at  $7.6$ – $8.6$  ppm attributed to six aromatic protons. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals are presented in the experimental section.



**Scheme 1.** The synthetic approach for the benzooxadiazole derivatives 1-10

**Table 1.** The antimicrobial screening activity of the synthesized compounds 4-10

| Heterocyclic derivative | Inhibition zone (mm) at 100 mg/mL |                       |                |                        |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
|                         | Gram positive                     |                       | Gram negative  |                        | Fungi              |
|                         | <i>S. aureus</i>                  | <i>S. epidermidis</i> | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>Klebsiella</i> spp. | <i>C. albicans</i> |
| 4                       | 10                                | 10                    | –              | –                      | –                  |
| 5                       | 10                                | 11                    | 13             | 15                     | 12                 |
| 6                       | 12                                | 14                    | 14             | 16                     | –                  |
| 7                       | 15                                | 17                    | 14             | 12                     | 13                 |
| 8                       | 16                                | 14                    | 20             | 14                     | 16                 |
| 9                       | 18                                | 16                    | 10             | 14                     | 15                 |
| 10                      | 19                                | 12                    | 5              | 12                     | 15                 |
| Amoxicillin             | 20                                | 21                    | 12             | 18                     | –                  |
| Nystatin                | –                                 | –                     | –              | –                      | 20                 |

### 3.2. Antimicrobial Activity

The synthesized benzooxadiazole derivatives that carry Schiff base, azetidinone, thiazolidinone, pyridazine and 1,3-oxazepan moieties, were found to be accountable for antimicrobial activity. The amoxicillin and nystatin were used as the standard for comparison between antibacterial and antifungal activities, respectively. According to the results of screening inhibition zones shown in Table 1 and Fig. 1, antimicrobial activity caused by various compounds are considered as “highly active” (inhibition zone  $\geq 18$  mm), “moderately active” (inhibition zone 14–17 mm), or “inactive” (inhibition zone  $\leq 13$  mm). While the compound **10** is highly effective against gram-positive type *Staphylococcus aureus*, it is moderately effective against fungus *C.albicanus* and ineffective against *S.epidemidis* and gram-negative bacteria. The compound **9** shows high effectiveness against the gram-positive type *Staphylococcus aureus*, but has moderate activity toward *S.epidemidis*, gram-negative *Klebsiella* spp. and fungus *C.albicanus* while also being ineffective against gram-negative *E.coli*. The compound **8** is highly effective against gram-negative *E.coli*, but shows moderate activity against *Klebsiella* spp., gram-positive bacteria and fungus *C.albicanus*. The compound **7** is moderately effective against gram-positive and gram-negative types *E.coli* while also being ineffective against *Klebsiella* spp. and fungus *C.albicanus*. The compound **6** shows moderate effectiveness towards gram-positive type *S.epidemidis* and gram-negative bacteria but has no effect towards gram-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and fungi. Derivative **5** shows moderate effectiveness against *Klebsiella* spp., and is ineffective toward all other bacterial and fungal samples. Likewise, pyridazine derivative **4** shows ineffectiveness against all bacterial and fungal samples.

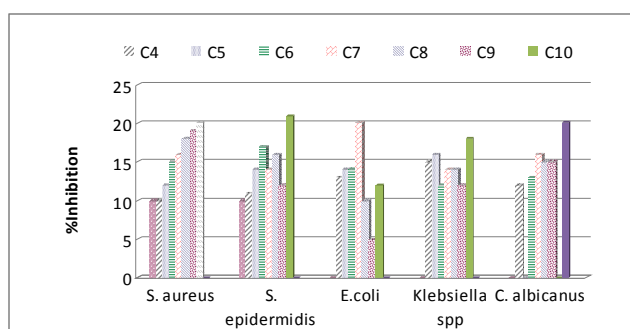


Fig. 1. Antimicrobial evaluation of the synthesized compounds 4-10

### 3.3. Docking Study

The docking approach of the  $\beta$ -lactam derivative **8** against the active site of target enzyme was examined. The following residues: Cysteine 300, Glycine 301,

Threonine 302, Serine 303 and 347, Glutamine 348, Serine 349, Threonine 352, Valine 399, Serine 401, Alanine 602 and Lysine 603 shown in Fig. 2, represent the binding pocket of the enzyme as indicated by the X-ray.<sup>40</sup> As an effective docking tool, Autodock 4.2 was used for the explanation of the binding energy of active compound inside the known three dimensional structure of the L-Glutamine: D-fructose-6- phosphate amidotransferase. The binding of the best building generated conformer for the compound **8** inside the binding pocket of enzyme is illustrated in Fig. 3. As indicated by docking parameters (Table 2), the highest binding energy of the generated conformers was -33.74 kJ/mol with an intermolecular energy equal to -39.98 kJ/mol. The best generated conformer binds the active site with two hydrogen bonds, the first one with valine 399 and the other one with serine 349 residue in way mimics the enzyme substrate. The second generated conformer fits the enzyme pocket with four H bonds as indicated by Table 2 with binding energy equal to -33.24 kJ/mol and 1.52  $\mu$ M inhibition constant. The inhibition constant  $K_i$ , intermolecular energy and hydrogen bonds of other conformers were also determined, and are inserted in Table 2. The binding modes of the  $\beta$ -lactam derivative **8** inside the enzyme cavity explain the potent activity of the discovered hit.

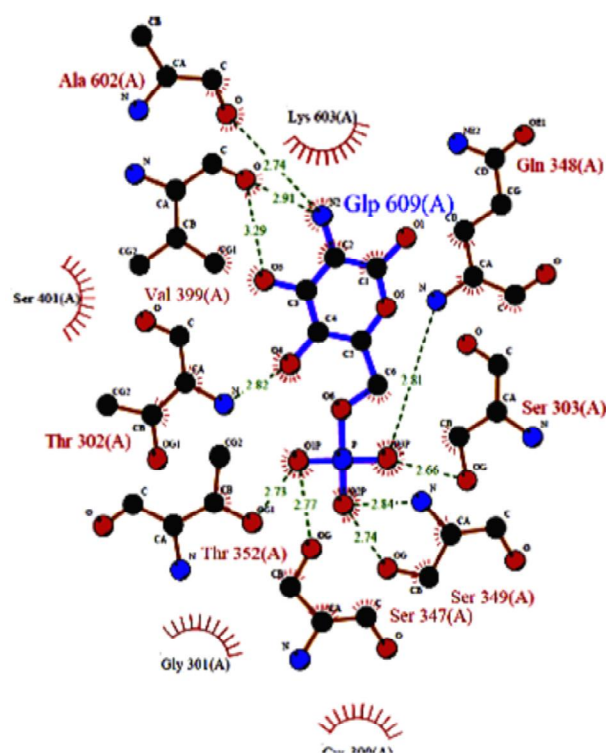
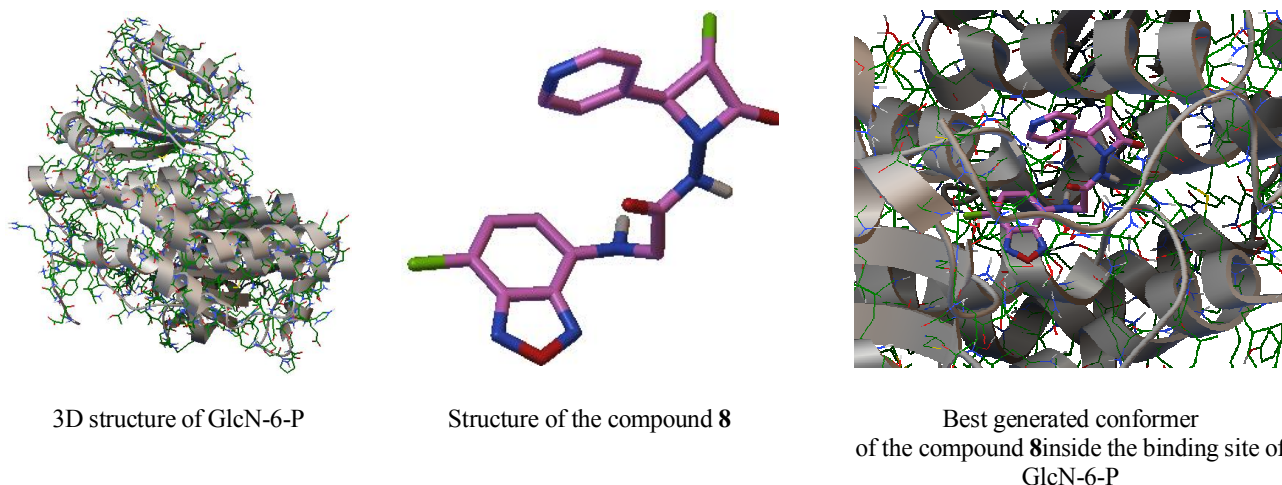


Fig. 2. Ligplot of GlcN-6-P showing the binding of glucosamine-6-phosphate in an active site of enzyme



**Fig. 3.** The docking of the best generated conformer of the compound 8 inside the binding pocket of L-glutamine: D-fructose-6-phosphate amidotransferase (GlcN-6-P)

**Table 2.** Docking parameters of the generated conformers of the compound 8 ranking by energy

| Bonding  | H-bonds | Intermolecular energy, kJ/mol | Inhibition constant, $\mu\text{M}$ | Binding energy, kJ/mol |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ligand:H:Valine399:O<br>Serine349:HN:Ligand:N,O  | 2       | -39.98                        | 1.23                               | -33.74                 |
| Ligand:H: Glutamic acid 488:OE2<br>Lysine603:HZ3:Ligand:O<br>Alanine 602:HN:Ligand:O<br>Serine 401:HG:Ligand:N | 4       | -39.48                        | 1.52                               | -33.24                 |
| –  | 0       | -38.60                        | 2.15                               | -32.36                 |
| –  | 0       | -38.22                        | 2.50                               | -31.99                 |
| –  | 0       | -36.80                        | 4.45                               | -30.56                 |
| –  | 0       | -36.55                        | 4.91                               | -30.31                 |
| –  | 0       | -35.55                        | 7.37                               | -29.31                 |
| –  | 0       | -34.21                        | 12.69                              | -27.97                 |
| –  | 0       | -32.36                        | 26.76                              | -26.12                 |
| –  | 0       | -30.73                        | 51.84                              | -24.49                 |

## 4. Conclusions

A series of benzooxadiazole derivatives were prepared and their structures were confirmed by (C, H, N) elemental and spectral analyses. The resulting oxadiazoles were evaluated for their bacterial and fungal activities. The newly synthesized compounds showed high to moderate activity against antimicrobial activities. These characteristics are making them promising compounds that might be used in developing new types of drugs to treat bacterial and fungal diseases. The docking study, carried out by Autodock 4.2, was used to explain the binding affinity of the discovered potent inside the active residues of glucosamine-6-phosphate synthase and the target enzyme for the antimicrobial agents.

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## СИНТЕЗ, ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА, АНТИМІКРОБНІ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ТА МОЛЕКУЛЯРНИЙ ДОКІНГ БЕНЗООКСАДІАЗОЛЬНИХ ПОХІДНИХ

**Анотація.** Синтезовано серію нових 1,2,5-оксадіазольних сполук, отриманих з 4-хлор-7-нітро-бензо 1,2,5-оксадіазолу з використанням різних методик. Отримані похідні охарактеризовані, а їх структури підтверджені за допомогою Фур'є-спектроскопії та ЯМР-аналізу. Визначено антибактеріальну та протигрибкову активність всіх компонентів щодо чотирьох видів патогенних бактерій: *S.aureus*, *S.epidermidis* (як грамнегативні бактерії), *E.coli*, *Klebsiella spp.* (як грампозитивні бактерії) та грибка *Candida albicans* з використанням методу дифузії в агарі. Встановлено, що синтезовані похідні оксадіазолу виявляють значну антибактеріальну та помірну протигрибкову активність. Досліджено зв'язування між ефективною синтезованою похідною **8** в активному центрі глюкозамін-6-фосфат синтази. Цільовий фермент для антимікробних засобів одержано за допомогою Autodock 4.2. Встановлено, що режими взаємодії генерованих конформерів у центрі зв'язування покращують результати *in vitro*. Нові похідні рекомендовано як перспективні антимікробні засоби.

**Ключові слова:** 1,2,5-оксадіазол, фуразани, антибактеріальні, протигрибкові, докінг.