

Targeting Drug-Resistant Bacteria: The Promise of Oxazole-Based Antibacterial Agents and their structure-activity relationships (SAR): Review

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Abstract: The emergence of drug resistance has led to an unfulfilled medical demand for the creation of novel antibiotic classes. Developing novel antibacterial drugs with fresh modes of action is still a top priority everywhere. Oxazoles are heterocyclic scaffolds of five members, including oxygen and nitrogen atoms separated by one carbon. They can easily attach to different enzymes and receptors in biological systems through various non-covalent interactions and exhibit a variety of pharmacological properties, including antioxidants, antitubercular, antimalarial, anti-HIV, antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, and analgesic effects. The study of oxazole-based derivatives as therapeutic medicines has been a highly active area of research, resulting in multiple significant accomplishments. Many oxazole compounds have been extensively used as clinical medications or candidates for treating various medical conditions. These compounds have demonstrated significant development potential and wide-ranging therapeutic properties. Recently, the use of these heterocyclic nuclei as building blocks for creating new chemical compounds in medical and pharmaceutical chemistry has significantly increased globally. Internationally, ongoing research focuses on identifying Oxazole-based compounds that have the potential as highly effective therapeutic drugs. The current study centers on the recent advances in medicinal chemistry to identify different chemical structures that could be used as possible antimicrobial medicines. This review also covered the structure-activity relationships (SAR) investigations related to these structures and the design of these derivatives.

Keywords: Oxazole; Antibacterial; SAR; Heterocyclic.

Introduction

The rising resistance of many bacterial isolates to broad-spectrum antibiotics is making bacterial infections a global issue. The world lives in a post-antibiotic era where simple mishaps and bacterial diseases can be fatal [1]. Single-celled microorganisms known as bacteria are generally safe for humans to handle, with certain strains even having therapeutic properties. Numerous bacterial species are harmful and can potentially spread dangerous infectious illnesses [2]. For instance, the majority of hospital- and community-acquired infections are caused by Gram-positive bacteria like *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (*S. pneumoniae*), and Gram-negative species like *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (*P. aeruginosa*), and others [3]. Antimicrobial agents are traditionally classified into two primary groups based on their effect on bacteria in a laboratory setting: bactericidal and bacteriostatic [4]. The bacteriostatic agents comprised tetracycline, linezolid, macrolides, sulphonamides, tetracyclines, and streptogramins. The bactericidal agents comprised β -lactam antibiotics, glycopeptide antibiotics, fluoroquinolones, and aminoglycosides [5].

Fortunately, various natural and synthetic antibiotics have greatly improved human health since penicillin's discovery as a powerful antibacterial agent in the 1940s [6]. The growing number of microbial strains that are resistant to drugs and the emergence of illnesses that are becoming irreversible make treating bacterial infection a persistent issue. Although many different antibacterial specialists and chemotherapeutics are on the market, the development of both new and ancient adversaries of bacterial resistance in previous decades has led

to a liberal need for new classes of antibacterial agents [7]. The prevalence of antibiotic resistance and the absence of viable new treatments significantly worsen the health complications associated with microbial infections. Annually, around 400,000 individuals get multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) [8-9]. Azoles are an extensive class of five-membered heterocycles containing one nitrogen atom and at least one non-carbon element (nitrogen, sulfur, or oxygen) within the ring structure [10]. Azoles or their compounds have antimicrobial properties [11]. Antifungal [12-13], anti-inflammatory [14-15], antimalaria [16-17], anti-tuberculosis [18-19] antiviral [20-21], and anti-trypanosomal activities [22-23]. Typically, heterocycles with five members that have two or three heteroatoms (such as thiazole, benzothiazole, thiazolidinone, triazole, and others) play a vital role as structural components in different antibacterial compounds.[24-25]

Several heterocycle scaffolds, such as benzodioxole [26], benzoxazole, phenyl-isoxazole, and Isoxazole-carboxamide Derivatives, were discovered to have a significant impact on enhancing antibacterial activity [27-28]. The synthesis of 2-methyloxazole in 1876 marked the beginning of oxazole chemistry, and the parent oxazole was created in 1962. Since penicillin was believed to contain the oxazole ring structure, oxazole chemistry acquired prominence during World War II. The study of oxazole chemistry has advanced with the discovery of oxazoles as dienes in Diels-Alder processes and 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of mesoionic heterocycles [29]. The crucial heterocycle component oxazole has three loci for substitution and a potent medicinal impact. One carbon separates the oxygen and nitrogen atoms in the heterocyclic

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oxazole nucleus (Figure 1). Though not as aromatic as thiazoles, oxazoles are nonetheless aromatic compounds.

Since imidazole has a pKa of 7, oxazole's conjugate acid has a pKa of 0.8, making it a weak base. A large class of heterocyclic aromatic organic compounds has oxazole as their parent component. Oxazole has been studied to develop new compounds that rely on different substitutions with promising medicinal properties [30-31]. The oxazole moiety's distinct structure allows its derivatives to exert a variety of weak interactions, including van der Waals force, hydrophobic effect, cation- π , π - π stacking, coordination bonds, ion-dipole, and hydrogen bonds. Consequently, oxazole-based molecules exhibit a wide range of possible uses [32]. In medicinal chemistry, oxazole compounds have a wide range of biological activity and can bind to several enzymes and receptors in biological systems [33]. Many scientists have recently focused on studying oxazole compounds as potential therapeutic agents to find innovative chemical scaffolds with a wide range of applications, high bioactivity, low toxicity, and superior pharmacokinetic properties [34]. It has been shown in recent years that oxazole and its derivatives have antibacterial action against many pathogenic bacteria, including *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Escherichia coli* [35]. Numerous oxazoles have been identified and have demonstrated strong biological activity throughout a wide range. The diverse synthetic application and potent biological activity of these heterocycles will assist medicinal chemists in planning, coordinating, and performing innovative strategies for the discovery of new pharmaceuticals. In light of this, this study provides a thorough summary of recent advancements in oxazole-based derivatives as antibacterial agents by merging the authors' research with other works from the literature. The importance of this study lies in the lack of a recent scientific review so far, focusing on oxazole as an antibacterial agent.

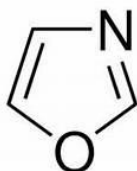


Figure (1): Oxazole ring.

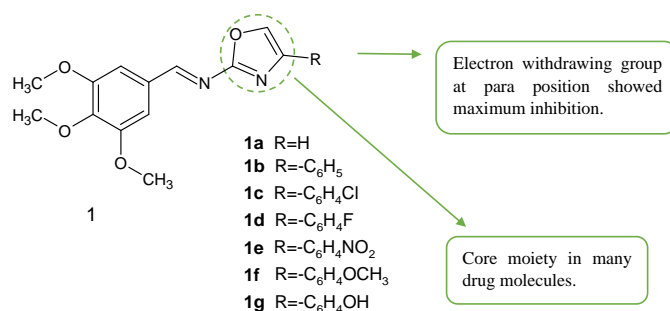


Figure (2): Structures and SAR of N-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzylidene)-4-substituted oxazole-2-amine analogs.

2,3-Dihydrooxazole-spirooxindoles derivatives

Shailendra et al. efficiently produced and tested the antibacterial efficacy of two sets of novel 2,3-dihydrooxazole-spirooxindole derivatives against various harmful bacteria strains.

Oxazole-benzamide derivatives are a significant group of heterocyclic compounds. A recent study examined the synthesis, design, and structure-activity connection of several of these derivatives and their potential antibacterial and pesticidal properties [37]. Spirooxindoles are a significant family of

The main topic of this study is the discussion of the many oxazole derivatives' antibacterial activity that have been documented in the literature from 2016-2024, along with their pharmacological targets. A particular emphasis is placed on the structure-activity relationship (SAR). Consequently, the current review does not address the production of oxazole derivatives. This review aims to inspire new ideas in the development of rational designs for oxazole medications that are more potent and less harmful.

Oxazole derivatives as potent antibacterial agents

There are several research studies in the literature on oxazole derivatives as antibacterial agents, and the following studies are listed in the timeline of the research.

N-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzylidene)-4-substituted oxazol-2-amine

Bhupender and his colleagues investigated the effects of three methoxy groups on the antibacterial activity of produced compounds against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *B. subtilis*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *E. coli*, as well as the reaction with modified thiazole/oxazole nuclei. Compounds 1c, 1d, 1f, and 1g showed maximum inhibition against all four strains with a ZOI larger than 15 mm (Table 1); compound 1e showed moderate activity against all four strains. The structure-activity relationship (Figure 2) revealed that the compounds with hydroxyl, methoxy, and fluoro groups at para locations showed excellent antibacterial activity [36]. Thus, compound 1 displayed excellent antibacterial activity.

Table (1): Antibacterial activity of N-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzylidene)-4-substituted oxazole-2-amine analogs.

Compounds	Inhibition Zone (mm)			
	Gram +ve Bacteria		Gram -ve Bacteria	
	S. aureus	B. subtilis	P. Aeruginosa	E. coli
a	6	9	11	8
b	9	11	13	9
c	16	17	17	16
d	17	18	18	16
e	14	13	11	14
f	16	18	17	18
g	17	16	16	17
Ampicillin	22	24	20	18

naturally occurring compounds known for their strong biological characteristics and serve as the fundamental structure for numerous synthesized medicines [38].

Developing novel bioprobes or therapeutic agents would benefit greatly from the structural motifs provided by hybrids of spiro-cyclic oxindoles fused with an oxazole-benzamide framework (Figure 3). Compounds 2b, 2e, 2f, 3a, and 3g (Table 2) exhibited moderate activity against the gram-positive bacteria *B. subtilis*. Compounds 2e, 2g, 3c, 3d, and 3g were effective against gram-negative enterobacter at 30-50 μ g/ml concentrations. At 25 μ g/ml, compound 3g was the only one to

show action against *K. pneumoniae*. The current understanding of these compounds under investigation's that the antibacterial

effect is lacking [39]. Generally, 2,3-Dihydrooxazole-spirooxindoles hybrids showed good antibacterial activity.

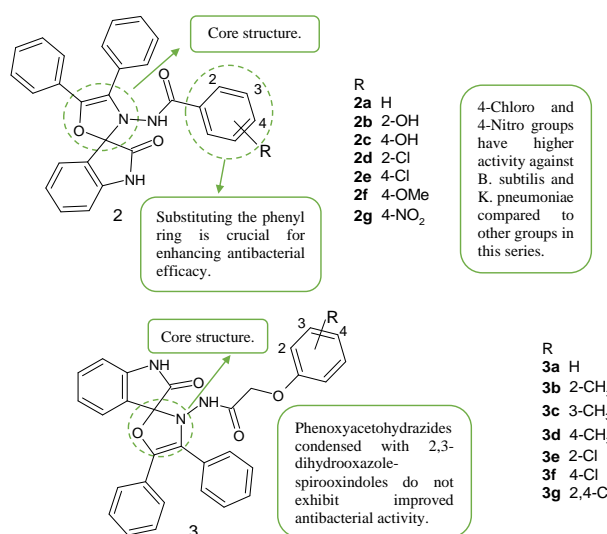


Figure (3): Structures and SAR of 2,3-Dihydrooxazole-spirooxindoles hybrids.

Table (2): Antibacterial activity of novel 2,3-dihydrooxazole-spirooxindole derivatives.

Compounds	<i>B. subtilis</i>		<i>Enterobacter</i>	
	MIC (µg/ml)	MBC (µg/ml)	MIC (µg/ml)	MBC (µg/ml)
2b	70	100	40	50
2e	50	100	30	50
2f	100	200	50	100
2g	30	50	30	50
3a	50	100	40	100
3b	N.A.	N.A.	30	50
3c	N.A.	N.A.	40	100
3d	N.A.	N.A.	50	100
3g	25	50	40	100
Ciprofloxacin	6.25	12.5	10.25	25

N.A. = No activity.

Thiazolyl-oxazole derivatives

The creation of structures including several heterocyclic rings has been a focus of interest in recent years [40]. Specialized scaffolding for the synthesis of target molecules in drug development are oxazole and thiazole rings. The biological significance and structural variety of thiazoles and oxazoles [41-42]. Yogita et al. produced and evaluated a series of 4-methyl-2-aryl-5-(2-aryl/benzyl thiazol-4-yl) oxazole compounds (Figure 4) for their antibacterial properties [43]. Synthesized compounds were tested for antibacterial activity against standard Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* (NCIM 2576) and *P. fluorescens* (NCIM 2059), as well as Gram-positive pathogens *S. aureus* (NCIM 2602) and *B. subtilis* (NCIM 2162). Ampicillin was used as a positive control to test antibacterial activity [43-44].

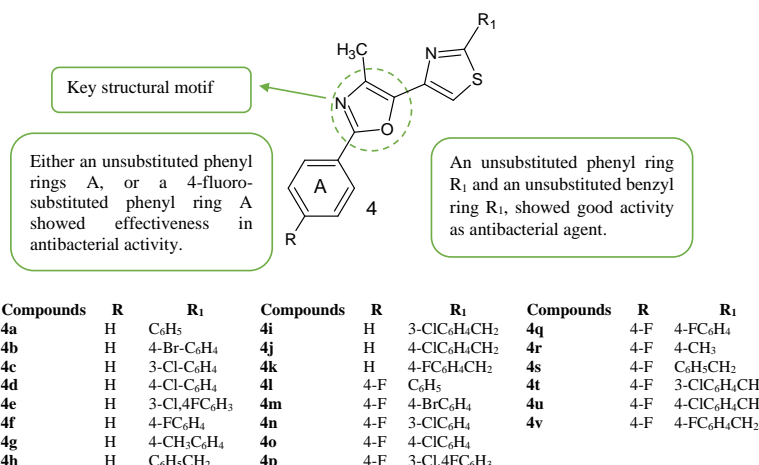


Figure (4): Structures and SAR of thiazolyl-oxazole derivatives.

With MIC values of 2.4, 4.4, and 2.52 µg/mL, respectively, compound 4a—which contains unsubstituted phenyl rings R, R₁=H exhibited outstanding efficacy against *E. coli*, *P. fluorescens*, and *B. Subtilis*. With a MIC of 12.5 µg/mL, it demonstrated strong action against *S. Aureus* as well (Table 3). Against every strain, compounds 4i and 4j had good activity. With a 4-F substituted phenyl ring A and a substituted phenyl ring R₁, the majority of these compounds; 4l-r showed modest activity.

On the other hand, the activity rose when the benzyl ring in R₁ was exchanged for the phenyl ring. Compound 4s had excellent activity against all strains, but compound 4t and 4v demonstrated good activity against all strains. The results showed that oxazole connected with thiazole can be regarded as a primary structure for future investigation [43] because these thiazolyl-oxazole derivatives showed potential antibacterial activities.

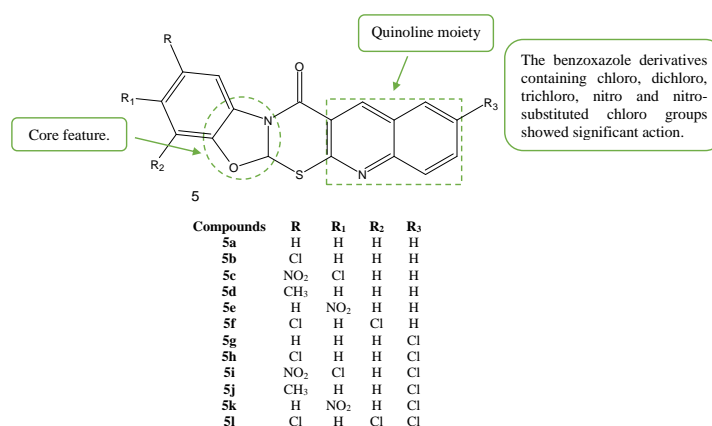
Table (3): Antibacterial activities of the active derivatives, MIC in µg /mL.

Compounds	E. coli	P. flurescence	S. aureus	B. subtilis
4a	2.4	4.4	12.5	2.52
4i	15.4	20.9	25.6	21.7
4j	18.3	18	22.7	27.6
4s	7.2	6.7	2.4	2.1
4t	26.8	22.1	21.4	20.7
4v	22.2	20.2	23.1	14.4
Ampicillin	1.46	4.36	1	10.32

Benzoxazole fused quinoline derivatives

Shreedhara S H and co-workers synthesized new heterocyclic compounds with a novel structure, 6aH,13H-enz[4,5]oxazole [2,3,2,3] [1,3] Thiazino [6,5-b] quinolin-13-one derivatives (Figure 5) and were tested for their antibacterial properties [45]. Benzoxazoles are a highly esteemed group of chemical compounds that hold great medicinal value due to their well-established biological chemotherapeutic properties [46-47]. The quinoline moiety is highly significant to both chemists and biologists due to its presence in a wide range of naturally occurring compounds and chemically valuable molecules with

various biological functions. Several compounds containing quinoline have demonstrated a broad range of pharmacological effects, including antibacterial, antimalarial, antiparasitic, and anticancer properties [48]. The fused cyclic quinoline with benzoxazole derivatives was produced. The recently synthesized compounds underwent testing to determine their antibacterial activities against bacterial strains, *Escherichia coli* (ATCC-8739), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC-6538), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC-9027), *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC-6633), *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC-11778), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (ATCC-12228) and *Salmonella typhimurium* (ATCC-23564) by agar well diffusion methodology (Table 4). A few numbers of compounds have demonstrated a strong zone of inhibition. The synthesized compounds b, c, e, f, h, j, and l exhibited a significant zone of inhibition against bacteria, whereas compounds a, d, g, i, and k showed the least activity compared to the conventional antibiotic Chloramphenicol [21]. As a result; these benzoxazole fused quinoline derivatives (a-l) considered potent antibacterial activity.

**Figure (5):** Structures and SAR benzoxazole fused quinoline derivatives.**Table (4):** Antibacterial activity of compounds 5a-5l.

Compounds	Zone of inhibition in mm						
	S. aureus	S. epidermis	S. typhi	E. coli	B. subtilis	B. cereus	P. aeruginosa
5a	17	14	16	18	17	16	14
5b	21	20	22	19	21	19	18
5c	20	22	20	19	19	20	20
5d	18	17	15	17	19	18	16
5e	20	19	21	19	20	19	19
5f	18	20	19	21	19	20	21
5g	19	18	16	21	18	17	17
5h	22	19	21	19	20	19	18
5i	18	20	19	18	16	21	18
5j	20	17	22	19	21	19	22
5k	20	15	19	17	18	21	19
5l	18	21	17	20	19	21	18
Chloramphenicol	25	24	26	25	25	24	25

Benzimidazole-containing pyrazolyl oxazoles derivatives

Benzimidazoles are versatile structures commonly utilized in the molecular design of antibacterial, antivirals, fungicides, and antimutagens[49]. Pyrazole is recognized as a significant structural element found in many medications. One example is celecoxib, which is widely used as a safe anti-inflammatory and analgesic treatment [50]. The oxazole nucleus is commonly found in natural compounds, including pyrronazol [51]. diazonamides [52]. The oxazole rings found in multiple medications, are highly effective and possess diverse bioactivities, including hypoglycemic properties [53]. N. Bakthavatchala and his research group created benzimidazole-containing pyrazolyl oxazoles derivatives. The increasing popularity of heterocyclic applications is evident due to their

tendency to demonstrate exceptional biological and pharmacological activity. The antibacterial activity of the derivatives was evaluated against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacterial strains. Four different concentrations (12.5, 25, 50, and 100 µg/mL) were tested. Chloramphenicol was used as the standard drug (Table 5). The studied chemicals (Figure 6) showed greater susceptibility towards Gram-negative bacteria compared to Gram-positive bacteria. Compounds 6d and 6e demonstrated more pronounced action compared to the other active compounds. The compound 6d exhibited superior activity compared to all the compounds that were examined. Furthermore, 6d has superior antibacterial efficacy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in comparison to the conventional antibiotic chloramphenicol [54].

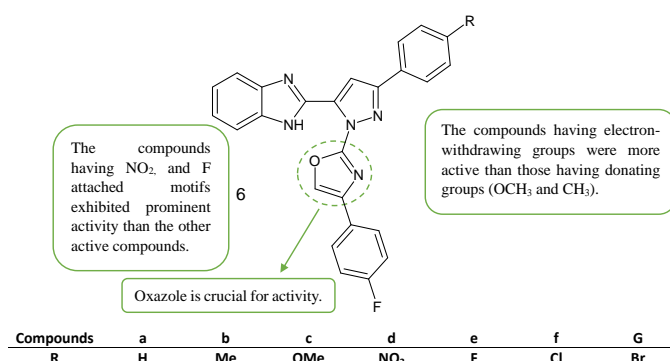


Figure (6): Structures and SAR of benzimidazole containing pyrazolyl oxazole derivatives.

Table (5): Antibacterial activities of benzimidazole containing pyrazolyl oxazole (6d, 6e) derivatives.

Compounds	MIC µg/mL					
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>P. chrysogenum</i>
d	25	25	6.25	12.5	12.5	25
e	50	50	25	25	50	25
Chloramphenicol	6.25	6.25	6.25	12.5	-	-

Benzoxazole derivatives

A series of benzoxazole derivatives was synthesized and the antibacterial potential of the examined substances was investigated against specific bacterial organisms, including Gram-positive bacteria such as *S. aureus* and *B. subtilis*, as well as Gram-negative bacteria such as *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *S. typhi* by Saloni et al. A structure-activity relationship investigation of the synthesized compounds (Figure 7) revealed that the compounds containing an electron-withdrawing group at various positions of the substituted portion exhibited significant antibacterial properties. Compound 7e shown substantial activity against *B. Subtilis* and *S. typhi*, with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of 6.2 µg/ml and 12.5 µg/mL, respectively

(Table 6). This activity was observed specifically against Gram positive bacteria. On the other hand, compound 7d exhibited significant action against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of 12.5 µg/mL and 6.2 µg/ml, respectively. Compound 7g, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 12.5 µg/ml, showed significant efficacy against *K. pneumoniae*. Compound 7d, which is part of this series, exhibits a significant antibacterial potential compared to the other produced compounds. Therefore, it can be considered a promising candidate for the synthesis of a new antimicrobial agent [55].

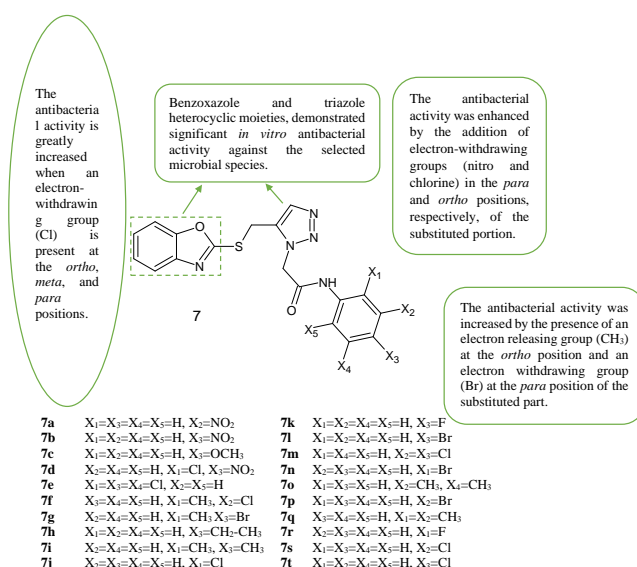


Figure (7): Structures and SAR of benzoxazole with triazole derivatives.

Table (6): Antibacterial activities of the most active benzoxazole derivatives.

Compounds	(MIC= µg/ml)				
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>
7d	12.5	12.5	6.2	12.5	25
7e	6.2	25	50	12.5	25
7g	12.5	25	25	25	12.5
Ofloxacin	6.3	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

In continuing efforts to discover new potent antibacterial, Saloni and his co-workers developed a novel set of twenty-six benzoxazole analogs and evaluated their antibacterial properties in laboratory tests. The tested microbes include one Gram-positive bacterium, *Bacillus subtilis*, and four Gram-negative bacteria: *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Salmonella typhi* [56]. The tube dilution method was used to evaluate the generated compounds' antibacterial activity [57]. The investigation demonstrated that the produced compounds exhibited a range of antibacterial activity, ranging from moderate to good, against the different microbial strains employed. Specifically, compounds 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, 8e, 8f, and 8g (Fig. 8) have exhibited superior antibacterial activity compared to the conventional drug ofloxacin. Compound 8b (MIC = 0.624×10^{-3} µg/ml) had the highest efficacy against *B.*

subtilis (Table. 7). Compound 8g exhibited activity against *E. coli* with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 0.626×10^{-3} µg/ml. Compound 8c showed activity against *P. aeruginosa* with a MIC of 1.25×10^{-3} µg/ml. Compounds 8e and 8f were active against *S. typhi* with a MIC of 1.24×10^{-3} µg/ml. Compound 8d showed activity against *K. pneumoniae* with a MIC of 0.622×10^{-3} µg/ml. The other compounds exhibited average to poor antibacterial efficacy against all seven species. Using (methoxymethyl)benzene (compound 8b) enhanced the antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis*, according to the structure-activity relationship of the benzoxazole derivatives with their antibacterial activity results. By substituting benzoxazole derivatives with thiophene (compound 8g), a five-member cyclic, the antibacterial activity against *E. coli* was increased [56].

Table (7): Antibacterial activities of selected active benzoxazole derivatives.

Compounds	(MIC= $\times 10^{-3}$ µg/ml)				
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>
8a	1.249	1.249	1.249	1.249	1.249
8b	0.624	2.5	1.248	2.5	2.5
8c	1.25	1.25	2.5	2.5	0.622
8d	0.622	2.5	1.25	2.5	0.622
8e	1.248	2.49	2.49	1.248	2.49
8f	1.248	2.49	1.248	2.49	2.49
8g	1.248	2.5	0.626	1.248	1.248
Ofoxacin	0.625	1.25	1.25	0.625	1.25

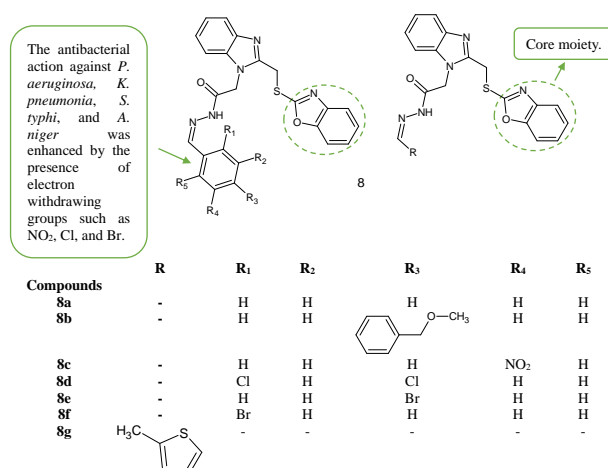


Figure (8): Structures and SAR of benzoxazole with benzimidazole derivatives.

3-(2-Aminooxazol-5-yl)-2H-chromen-2-one derivatives

A new set of oxazole derivatives was synthesized (Figure 9), and their chemical structures were confirmed using spectrum data, considering the wide range of biological activities exhibited by oxazole. Coumarin, commonly referred to as benzopyran-2-one, has demonstrated several biological activities, including anti-inflammatory [58-59], antioxidant [60], anti-HIV [61], antitubercular [62], and antimicrobial [63]. Due to the significant role of oxazole and coumarins as distinct pharmacophores in antibacterial drugs, the intention was to combine and create a hybrid compound by synthesizing an oxazole benzopyran-2-one. The antibacterial properties of the produced oxazole derivatives

were evaluated by Saloni et al. Compound 9c showed moderate potency against *S. aureus*, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value of 6.2604 µg/mL (Table 8). Compound 9h exhibited moderate activity against *B. subtilis*, with a MIC value of 6.28 µg/mL. Compound 9c, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 6.26 µg/mL, showed efficacy against *E. coli*. Compound 9l, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 6.28 µg/mL, showed significant activity against *P. aeruginosa*. Similarly, compound 9f, with a MIC of 6.25 µg/mL, had promising action against *S. enterica*. The antibacterial screening results are equivalent to those of the standard medication (cefadroxil). These compounds can serve as a starting point to identify new antibacterial agents [64].

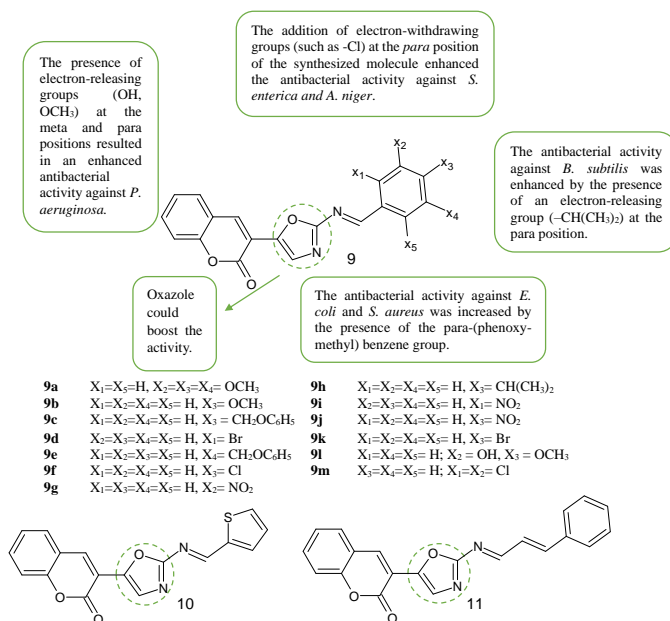


Figure (9): Structures and SAR of 3-(2-aminooxazol-5-yl)-2H-chromen-2-one derivatives.

Table (8): *In vitro* antimicrobial activity of the most potent synthesized compounds.

Compounds	(MIC= µg/mL)				
	Staphylococcus aureus	Escherichia coli	Bacillus subtilis	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Salmonella enterica
9c	6.26	6.26	25.04	25.04	25.04
9f	25.03	25.03	25.03	12.49	6.25
9h	12.53	12.53	6.28	25.06	25.06
9l	25.08	25.08	25.08	6.28	25.08
Cefadroxil	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25

Antipyrine and oxazole moieties

Cyclic imides have been thoroughly investigated due to their diverse spectrum of biological actions [65-66]. They exhibit their significance as synthetic intermediates. Currently, there is a strong emphasis on this significant group of substances due to their potential for novel uses, particularly in the field of medicinal chemistry [67]. Combining cyclic imides with azoles in a single molecule appears to be a valuable effort since it has the potential to display diverse biological actions [68]. Eleven compounds of novel cyclic imides containing two unique azole rings, namely antipyrine and oxazole moieties (Figure 10) were successfully synthesized. The cup plate method was employed to investigate the antibacterial efficacy of the synthesized cyclic imides against various bacterial strains, with gentamicin serving as the control

molecule. The investigation included four species of bacteria: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas*. The results demonstrated that compounds 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d had significant efficacy against both *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (Table 9). Compound 12d exhibits significant activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Candida albicans*. Other compounds exhibited a moderate level of effectiveness against the microorganisms and *Candida albicans* that were tested [69]. However, cyclic imides bearing different heterocycles derivatives which were based on the key compound [9a] showed excellent antibacterial activity.

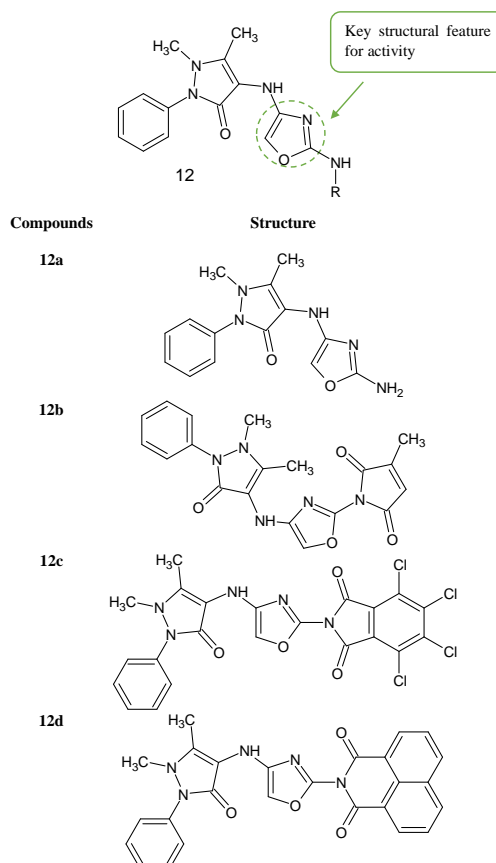


Figure (10): Antipyrene and oxazole moieties.

Table (9): Inhibition zones of antimicrobial activity of cyclicimides.

Compounds	Zone Inhibition in mm			
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Pseudomonas</i>
12a	> 11	> 11	8-11	8-11
12b	> 11	> 11	> 11	> 11
12c	> 11	> 11	8-11	8-11
12d	> 11	> 11	> 11	> 11
Gentamicin	> 11	> 11	> 11	> 11

Natural compounds containing oxazole

Prior research has shown the extraction of numerous biologically potent substituted oxazole-containing natural compounds, primarily from marine invertebrates and microorganisms [70-71]. One example is hennoxazole A (Figure

11), which was obtained from a sea sponge called *Polyfibrospongia* sp. It has been found to have antiviral properties [72-73].

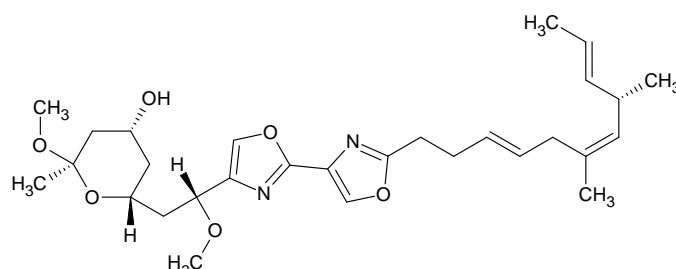


Figure (11): Hennoxazole A

Likewise, *in vitro* experiments have demonstrated the selective efficacy of phthoxazolins derived from *Streptomyces* sp. against the oomycete *Phytophthora parasitica* [74]. Previous research has demonstrated the capacity to create phytotoxic metabolites known as macrocidins from the liquid culture of the fermentation extract from the plant pathogenic fungus *Phoma macrostoma*, which was originally isolated from its host, the dangerous weed *Cirsium arvense*. It has been discovered that

applying these macrocidins to the leaves of several dicotyledonous species results in bleaching [75-76]. Four newly discovered oxazole-4-carboxylic acid derivatives (13a–13d) were found (Figure 12), in the liquid culture of *Phoma macrostoma* by Blondelle et al. The structures of the isolates were determined using high resolution electro-spray ionization mass spectrometry (HR-ESIMS) data and 1D and 2D nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy data. The antibacterial

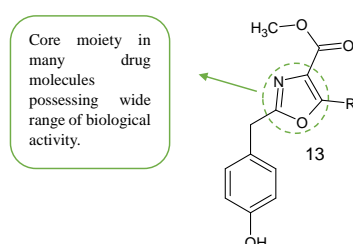
and cytotoxic properties of all compounds were examined. With the use of a variety of test microorganisms, serial dilution tests were used to determine the Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) of the four compounds. For Gram-positive bacteria, these microbes included *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Micrococcus luteus*. For Gram-negative bacteria, the microorganisms used were *Chromobacterium violaceum*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Only the newly discovered metabolite 13c exhibited activity against the tested species. The remaining compounds showed no activity. compound 13c demonstrated moderate activity against *Bacillus subtilis* at 66.7 µg/mL. Compounds 13b and 13c demonstrated moderate to mild suppression of both biofilm production and preformed biofilm of the bacterium. All the compounds (13a–13d) were tested as pure compounds, compound 4 was not tested because it was isolated

as a mixture. Thus, these compounds were assessed for their efficacy in suppressing the formation of biofilm by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Compounds 10b and 10c exhibited moderate-to-weak effectiveness in inhibiting biofilm formation, with inhibition percentages of 65% and 75% respectively, at a maximum dosage of 250 µg/mL (Table 9), whereas none of the isolates showed antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* [77]. Therefore, these secondary metabolites isolated from *Phoma macrostoma* showed moderate antibacterial activity.

Table (10): Inhibition of biofilm in *Staphylococcus aureus* by compounds 13a, 13b and 13c.

Compounds	Inhibition of Biofilm Formation (%)
13a	N. A.
13b	65 (250 µg/mL)
13c	75 (250 µg/mL)

N.A = No activity



Compounds	R
13a	$\text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$
13b	$\text{HO}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$
13c	$\text{HC}=\text{CH}_2$
13d	$\text{HC}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$

Figure (12): Oxazole-4-carboxylic acid derivatives.

Oxazolyl chalcones and 1,3-oxazoles attached to pyridyl-pyrazoline moieties

Kanubhai D and his research group synthesized new and powerful heterocyclic compounds by combining biologically active heterocyclic components, specifically oxazole, pyrazoline, and pyridine. The compounds (Figure 13) were examined for their antibacterial activity in a laboratory setting against several

pathogenic strains (*S. aureus* (MTCC 96) and *B. subtilis* (MTCC 619) as Gram positive bacteria and *E. coli* (MTCC 739) and *P. aeruginosa* (MTCC 741) as Gram negative bacteria [78]. The researchers found pyrazoline to be intriguing. Pyrazoline-containing chemicals are commonly found in nature as alkaloids, vitamins, pigments, and components of animal and plant cells. Various synthetic compounds containing the pyrazoline moiety have been extensively documented, showing an expansive

range of biological activity [79-80-81]. In addition, pyridine, a six-membered nitrogen heterocycle, is a significant heterocycle present in numerous naturally occurring chemicals. Pyridine derivatives are widely employed as industrial, medicinal, and agricultural chemicals. Furthermore, numerous studies have been conducted on compounds that include a pyridine scaffold and exhibit a wide range of biological functions [82–84]. Chalcone, also known as 1,3-diphenyl-2-propenone, serves as a precursor in the natural production of flavonoids and isoflavonoids. It is an intermediary compound in the synthesis of flavone, namely in the open-chain form, [85-86]. The chalcone scaffold has garnered significant interest from chemists due to its straightforward synthesis, the potential for diverse substituents, and its wide range of biological functions, making it valuable to biologists as well [87–91]. Out of all the synthesized compounds, a few demonstrated strong antimicrobial properties. From 3-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-aryl-propenones 14(a-e), Specifically, compounds 14b and 14d displayed significant inhibitory effects against the *S. aureus* bacterial strain, with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of 12.5 µg/ml and 25 µg/ml, respectively (Table 11). Additionally, these compounds showed effective inhibition against *B. subtilis*, with a MIC of 12.5 µg/ml. Compound 14b and compound 14e exhibited inhibition against *P. aeruginosa* at 12.5 µg/ml. 14b exhibited excellent inhibitory activity (MIC = 6.25 µg/ml) against *E. coli*.

Among the (oxazolyl-pyrazolyl)-pyridinyl-methanones 15(a-e), only compound 15(b) exhibited higher inhibition with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 6.25 µg/ml against *S. aureus* compared to the parent chalcone 14b. Compound 15e also demonstrated good inhibition with a MIC of 12.5 µg/ml against the same strain of bacteria, *S. aureus*. The compound 15d exhibited the greatest inhibition, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 6.25 µg/ml against *B. subtilis*. Compound 15b exhibited good inhibition with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 12.5 µg/ml against the identical bacterial strain, which is consistent with the parent chalcone 14b. Compounds 15b, 15c, and 15d showed significant inhibition against *E. coli*, a Gram-negative bacterium. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) for these compounds was found to be 12.5 µg/ml, which is greater than that of the original chalcones. This indicates that pyridyl-pyrazoline 15d is more potent than 14d. Compounds 15c and 15e exhibited inhibition against *P. aeruginosa* at a concentration of 12.5 µg/ml, which is similar to the inhibition shown by the oxazolyl chalcones 14c and 14e. The antibacterial activity results indicate that pyridyl-pyrazolines 15(a-e) exhibit higher potency against bacterial strains compared to the parent oxazolyl-propenones 14(a-e). Therefore, the new 1,3-oxazoles attached to pyridyl-pyrazoline moieties displayed good to excellent activity.

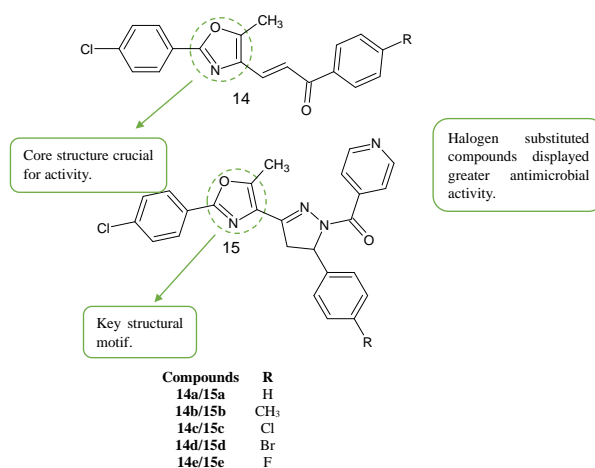


Figure (13): Structures and SAR of oxazolyl chalcones and 1,3-oxazoles attached to pyridyl-pyrazoline moieties.

Table (11): Antimicrobial activity results of the synthesized compounds 14(a-e) and 15(a-e).

Compounds	(MIC in µg/mL)			
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>
14a	125	100	50	25
14b	12.5	12.5	6.25	12.5
14c	100	50	25	25
14d	25	12.5	125	50
14e	100	125	25	12.5
15a	100	50	100	125
15b	6.25	12.5	12.5	25
15c	12.5	25	12.5	12.5
15d	25	6.25	12.5	25
15e	12.5	25	50	12.5
Ciprofloxacin	<3.12	<3.12	<3.12	<3.12

2-(4-Substituted benzyl)-5-substituted benzoxazole derivatives

Muhammed and his research group synthesized 2-(4-substituted benzyl)-5-substituted benzoxazole derivatives (Figure 14) and tested their antibacterial effects on standard strains and clinical isolates of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, *E. faecalis*, and *C. albicans* [92]. The benzoxazole molecule bears resemblance to the adenine and guanine bases. As a

result, it is considered a crucial heterocyclic structure employed in the process of medication design. The benzoxazole scaffold can engage in several energetically favorable interactions with receptors. The structure of the compound contains oxygen and nitrogen atoms that can function as hydrogen bond acceptors (HBAs). The aromatic planar structure of the compound allows for π - π and π -cation interactions. Hydrophobic interactions can occur with receptors because of its lipophilic nature [93]. 2-

Substituted benzoxazole derivatives have undergone comprehensive investigation, resulting in significant data regarding their structural properties and activities [94]. Regarding this matter, it has been noted that 2-substituted benzoxazole derivatives possess a wide range of pharmacological activities, such as antibacterial properties [56], anti-inflammatory[95], and analgesic [96]. There are medications with benzoxazole structures that have substitutions at the 2-position, which are now available on the market. Flunoxaprofen and benoxaprofen, which are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs), along with calcimycin and boxazomycin A-B, which are antibiotics, and chloroxazone, a muscle relaxant, are examples of pharmaceuticals that include a 2-substituted benzoxazole nucleus [56].

The synthesized compounds exhibited activity only at significantly higher concentrations compared to the standard drugs. The conducted antimicrobial activity experiments showed that the synthesized compounds exhibited activity against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria at concentrations ranging from 128-512 µg/mL. These concentrations were quite high when compared to the concentrations of the standard

medications utilized. The active benzoxazoles exert their antibacterial activity through the inhibition of DNA gyrase.

The antibacterial activity of the synthesized compounds was compared to that of their benzoxazole derivative analogs lacking the methylene bridge connecting the oxazole and phenyl ring (compound 17). There was a notable disparity in the activity levels of the two groups. Non-methylene-bridged benzoxazole derivatives exhibited higher activity compared to their methylene-bridged counterparts. Previous studies have shown that certain derivatives exhibit strong antibacterial action against comparable bacterial species, even at doses as low as 6.25 µg/mL [92] (Table 12). The antibacterial activity of benzoxazole derivatives, which were substituted with 5-methylsulfonyl with and without a methylene bridge, was examined in a prior work. Two compounds without the methylene bridge had the highest level of activity against *B. subtilis* at a dose of 7.8125 µg/ml [97]. During another study on the antibacterial activity of 5-substituted-2-(4-tertbutylphenyl) benzoxazole derivatives, it was discovered that one of the derivatives lacking the methylene bridge had greater activity than the standard medications against *E. coli* at a concentration of 8 µg/mL [98].

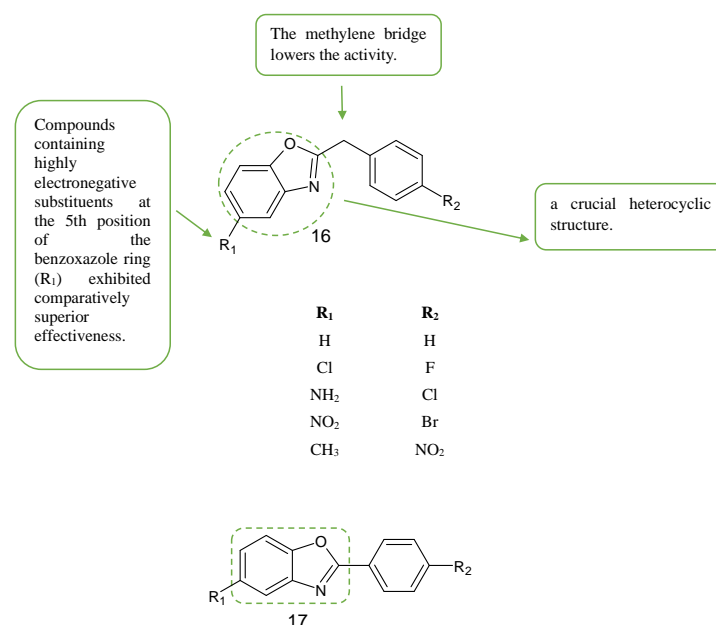


Figure (14): Structures and SAR benzoxazole derivatives with and without the methylene bridge.

Table (12): Antimicrobial activity of two benzoxazole derivatives with and without the methylene bridge (MIC in µg/mL) against *S. aureus*.

R1	R2	Without the methylene bridge	With the methylene bridge
NO2	Br	6.25	256
NO2	H	12.5	256
Ampicillin		0.39	0.5

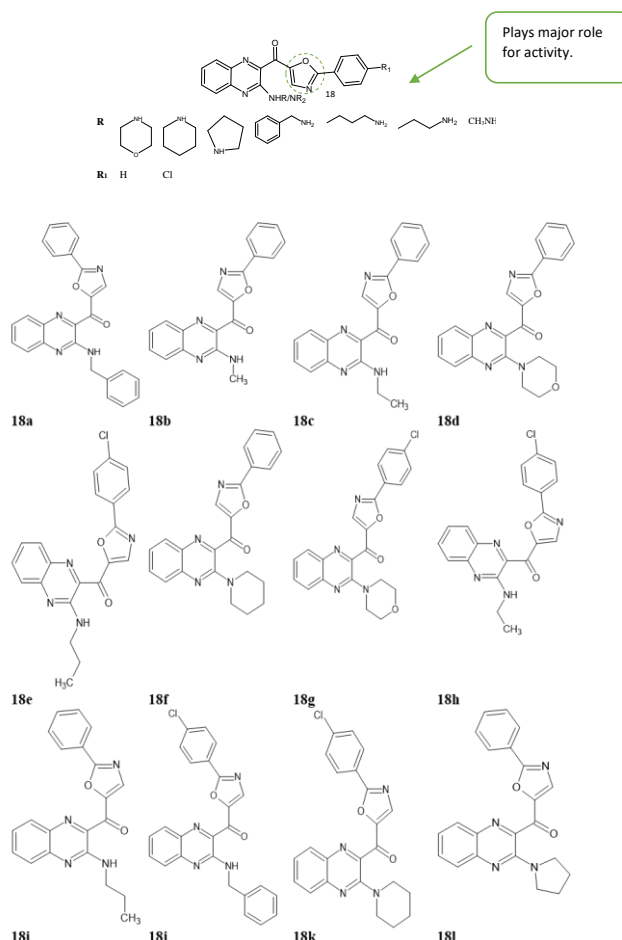
1,3-Oxazole-quinoxaline amine hybrids

Ali and colleagues have reported a series of 1,3-oxazole-quinoxaline amine hybrids (Figure 15) and screened for antibacterial properties [99]. 2-Aryl oxazoles are highly useful heterocycles because of their wide range of biological and physical features [100]. Quinoxaline derivatives are crucial heterocyclic compounds due to their advantageous role as intermediates in chemical synthesis. The quinoxaline moiety is essential as a fundamental framework for developing new heterocyclic compounds with a wide range of biological features. This structure holds significant importance in the field of medicine [101–103] and technology [104-105]. The produced compounds were tested for their antibacterial properties against two bacterial strains, *Micrococcus luteus* (Gram-positive) and

Pseudomonas aeruginosa (Gram-negative), using the dilution method. Compounds 18a, 18b, 18c, 18g, and 18j exhibit the lowest minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value of 62.5 µg/mL against *M. luteus* (Table. 13). Similarly, compounds 18b, 18c, 18e, 18g, 18h, 18i, 18j, and 18k demonstrate the lowest MIC value of 31.25 µg/mL against *P. aeruginosa*. Compounds 18b, 18c, 18e, 18g, 18i, 18j, and 18k exhibit superior antibacterial activity in comparison to the remaining compounds. Furthermore, the antibacterial properties of compounds 18b, 18c, 18g, and 18j were found to be similar to tetracycline, exhibiting potent inhibition with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) of 62.5 µg/mL [99].

Table (13): *In vitro* antimicrobial activities of all products expressed as MIC (µg/mL).

Compounds	<i>M. luteus</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>
21a	62.5	125
21b	62.5	31.25
21c	62.5	31.25
21d	125	125
21e	125	31.25
21f	250	125
21g	62.5	31.25
21h	250	31.25
21i	125	31.25
21j	62.5	31.25
21k	125	31.25
21l	125	125
Tetracycline	62.5	31.25

**Figure (15):** 1,3-Oxazole-quinoxaline amine hybrids.

Benzoxazole derivatives containing 2-phenyl and 2-N-phenyl groups

Two sets of new benzoxazole derivatives (Figure 16), one with 2-phenyl groups and the other with 2-N-phenyl groups were synthesized using the principles of green chemistry by Gajanan S et al. The newly synthesized compounds underwent screening against gram-positive bacteria (*Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*), and gram-negative bacteria (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*), and their antibacterial activity was found to be associated with the inhibition of DNA gyrase [106].

The 2-substituted benzoxazole, a type of benzoxazole derivative, has consistently gained significant interest from researchers due to its wide range of applications in the field of medicinal chemistry [107]. Scaffold hopping has been a prevalent strategy in medicinal chemistry for discovering potent inhibitors, such as those targeting DNA gyrase. By employing this method, it is possible to synthesize bicyclic ring structures

such as benzimidazole and benzothiazole [108- 109] and benzoxazole[110]. The antibacterial properties of these compounds were associated with their ability to inhibit DNA topoisomerase II, as evidenced by their significant IC₅₀ values [111]. DNA gyrase is a vital enzyme that is a component of topoisomerase and is important for catalyzing alterations in DNA topology. The presence of DNA gyrase in bacteria and its absence in higher eukaryotes makes it a promising target for antibacterial research [112-113].

Compounds derived from the 2-amino phenyl benzoxazole series exhibited greater antibacterial efficacy compared to the 2-phenyl benzoxazole framework. All the benzoxazole derivatives that were synthesized showed significant antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus Pyogenes*, *P. Aeruginosa*, and *E. coli* at a concentration of 25 µg/mL. Cefixime was used as a positive control standard in antibacterial research.

Compound-20a exhibited superior antibacterial efficacy against *Staphylococcus aureus*, with an inhibition rate of 81% at

a concentration of 25 µg/mL (Table 14). Both compound-20a and compound-20b exhibited strong efficacy against *Streptococcus pyogenes* (82% inhibition) and *staphylococcus aureus* (85% inhibition). Specifically, compound-20b had the most potent antibacterial action against *Escherichia coli*, inhibiting 90% of its growth. The observed inhibition of compound 20b against *pseudomonas aeruginosa* is 72%. The chemical 19a from the

aryl benzoxazole series exhibited a moderate level of efficacy against *E. coli*. Researchers believed that benzoxazole derivatives derived from 2-amino phenyl benzoxazole scaffolds had the potential to serve as effective inhibitors of DNA gyrase. These compounds might potentially be developed into new and powerful classes of antibiotic medicines [106].

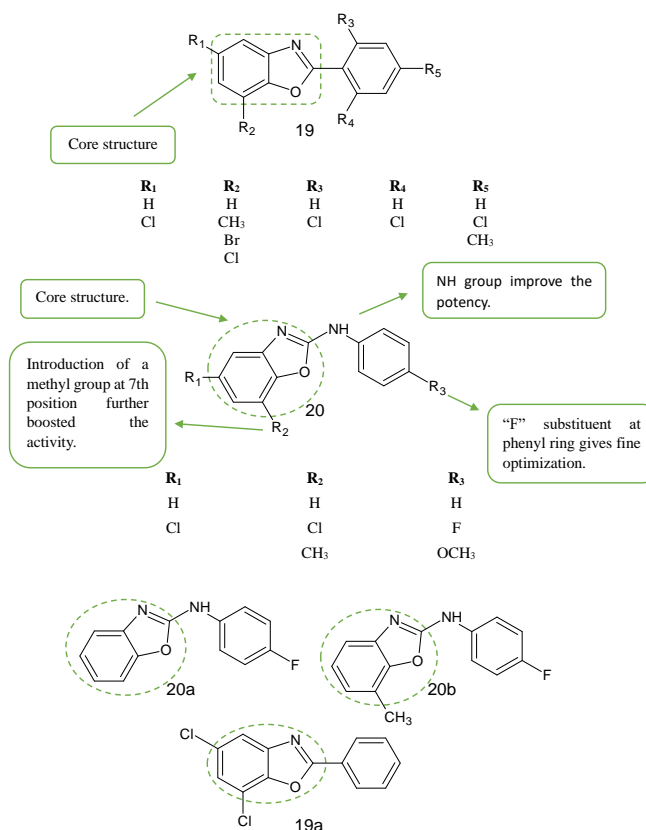


Figure (16): Structures and SAR of benzoxazole derivatives containing 2-phenyl and 2-N-phenyl groups.

Table (14): Antibacterial activities of benzoxazole derivatives containing 2-phenyl and 2-N-phenyl groups.

Compounds		20a	20b	Cefixime
MIC50 (µg/mL)	<i>S. aureus</i>	15.3 ±04	15.2±03	0.9 ±0.05
	<i>S. pyogenes</i>	16.1±02	14.8±05	0.8 ±0.06
	<i>E. coli</i>	16.5±07	13.2±01	1 ±0.03
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	6.6±04	18.7±05	0.9 ±0.04

Benzoxazole/carboximidamide and benzoxazole/1,2,4-oxadiazole hybrids

Many research groups have continued to focus their attention on the design of novel benzoxazoles. Carboximidamide and its corresponding five-membered heterocyclic 1,2,4-oxadiazole scaffold have been extensively used as a central component in various bioactive compounds for the past forty years. These compounds exhibit a wide range of biological activities, including anti-inflammatory, anticonvulsant, anticancer, anxiolytic, antidepressant, analgesic, antiparasitic, antifungal, and antimicrobial properties [114–122]. The carboximidamide and 1,2,4-oxadiazole moieties have been found to be bioisosteric equivalents of amide and ester functional

groups. This is because they can form particular interactions, such as hydrogen bonding. Furthermore, these compounds retain their effectiveness even in situations when the stability of those groups is compromised, such as under hydrolytic circumstances [123]. Abdulrahman A. Alsimaree and his research group prepared two series of 1,3-benzoxazole/carboximidamides 21(a-i) and 1,3-benzoxazole/3-aryl-1,2,4-oxadiazoles 22(a-l) derivatives (Figure 17) and tested their antibacterial activities against a panel of microorganisms (Table 15), which included Gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis*, ATCC 6633, and *Staphylococcus aureus*, ATCC 6538) and Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, ATCC 8739, and *Klebsiella pneumonia*, ATCC 13,883) [124].

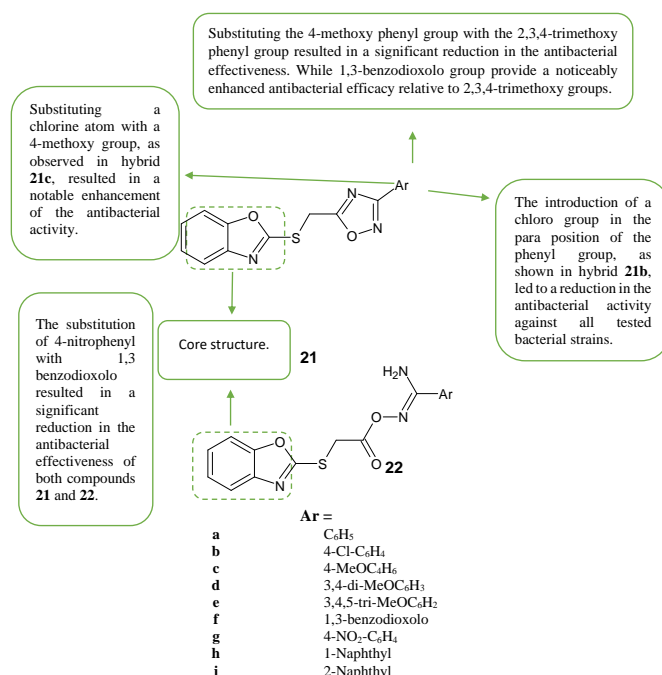


Figure (17): Structures, SAR, and antibacterial activities of benzoxazole/carboximidamide and benzoxazole/1,2,4-oxadiazole hybrids.

Table (15): Antibacterial activities of benzoxazole/carboximidamide and benzoxazole/1,2,4-oxadiazole hybrids.

Compounds	Diameter of zone inhibition in mm			
	Gram-positive bacteria		Gram-negative bacteria	
	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>
21a	34	36	15	32
21b	26	29	8	30
21c	31	30	8	33
21e	26	25	N	27
21f	31	35	N	33
21g	N	13	N	15
21i	28	28	N	31
22a	27	29	N	30
22b	31	34	12	35
22c	31	34	10	33
22e	32	36	11	34
22g	30	29	9	28
Gentamicin	25	15	17	22

N: No inhibition.

Table (16): Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of (21a, 22b, and 22e) derivatives.

Compounds	Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) in µg/mL			
	Gram-positive bacteria		Gram-negative bacteria	
	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>
21a	0.61	0.3	77.34	1.21
22b	2.83	1.41	180.9	1.41
22e	1.63	0.4	417.44	0.81
Gentamicin	3.73	29.85	29.85	7.46

The hybrid 21a, which contains an unsubstituted phenyl group, exhibited remarkable efficacy against Gram-positive bacteria *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*, resulting in 34 mm and 36 mm inhibitory zones, respectively. In addition, hybrid 21a demonstrated significant antibacterial activity against the Gram-negative bacteria *K. pneumoniae*, resulting in an inhibition zone measuring 32 mm. However, hybrid 21a exhibited a modest activity level against Gram-negative *E. coli*, leading to a 15 mm zone of inhibition. Regarding the antibacterial outcomes of benzoxazole/1,2,4-oxadiazole hybrids, it was found that the majority of the examined 1,2,4-oxadiazoles exhibited more potency compared to their corresponding carboximidamide derivatives, except for 21a. Additionally, these oxadiazoles show a wide range of antibacterial activity. Notably, most of the test compounds had more favorable antibacterial activity compared to the reference medication gentamicin. The three most powerful hybrids, 21a, 22b, and 22e, were selected to determine their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values (Table 16).

Hybrids 21a, 22b, and 22c have the potential to serve as a promising framework for the development and advancement of future derivatives through the incorporation of additional elements because these hybrids had the highest level of effectiveness against *B. subtilis*, *S. aureus*, and *K. pneumoniae*, respectively. Their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values were also greater than the reference medication gentamicin [124].

As we have seen in the above various studies, each chemical structure has given different results on bacteria, but there have been some common points; for example, adding a benzene ring to the compound and substituting it with an electron-withdrawing or electron-releasing group enhances the antibacterial activity of the compounds on a particular type of bacteria as compounds 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20. Adding an electron-withdrawing or releasing group on the oxazole ring itself changes and optimizes the activity, as observed in compounds

1 and 13. Adding adjacent benzene and heterocyclic rings to the oxazole ring is good for its bacterial activity in general or a particular type of bacteria, such as compounds 2, 3, 4, and the rest of the compounds. The size and configuration of the heterocycle can impact its interaction with target bacterial enzymes, resulting in varying levels of effectiveness against specific bacteria. Specific functional groups on the heterocycle can also influence its capacity to permeate bacterial cell membranes, altering its range of effectiveness.

Conclusion

With the increasing gap between the effectiveness of antibacterial agents and their ability to combat various harmful bacteria, primarily caused by widespread and careless usage, there is an urgent requirement to identify new compounds that have demonstrated antimicrobial activity, particularly those with a heterocyclic structure. Oxazole-based analogs have diverse pharmacological properties and play a significant role in creating numerous medications. Significant focus has been directed toward developing novel heterocyclic-based medication candidates for their potential use as antibacterial agents in the current decade. Considering this, numerous Oxazole-hybrids with diverse structures were created, produced, and tested for their effectiveness in laboratory and animal studies. This review, a collection of studies from 2016 to 2024, will help researchers develop new, improved drugs that work as good antibacterial agents. Adding electron-donating or electron-withdrawing substituents to certain aryl/heteroaryl groups attached to the main oxazole structure was essential in augmenting or reducing the antibacterial effectiveness. The text conveys the urgency of the drug resistance situation and highlights oxazoles as prospective possibilities, given their broad pharmacological features and recent advancements in their chemical development.

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