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Biological significance of benzimidazole derivatives: A Review

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Abstract: Benzimidazole is the heterocyclic compound which contains a phenyl ring fused to an imidazole ring. The properties of benzimidazole and its derivatives have been studied over more than one hundred years. Benzimidazole derivatives are useful intermediates/subunits for the development of molecules of pharmaceutical or biological interest. Benzimidazole analogues are of crucial importance because of their different clinical applications and biological activity. Benzimidazoles are known as an optimistic class of bioactive heterocyclic compounds possessing a wide variety of biological activities such as antimicrobial, antibacterial, antiviral, anticancer, antioxidant, anti-diabetic, anti-proliferative, antitumor, anti-HIV, anti-ulcerative, anti-leishmanial, antiprotozoal, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antihypertensive, androgen receptor antagonist, anti-parasitic activity, anti-fungal activity and vasorelaxant etc.

This review will further help the researcher on the basis of substitution pattern around the nucleus with an aim to help medicinal chemists for developing an SAR on benzimidazole drugs/compounds.

Keywords: Benzimidazole, Pharmacological activity, Chemistry, Biological activity, Review.

Introduction

The benzimidazole scaffold is very useful for the development of molecules of pharmaceutical or biological interest. Benzimidazole is a benzene derivative of imidazole in which benzene ring is fused with a five-membered ring system having a hetero atom at 1 and 3 positions. The properties of benzimidazole and its analogs have been studied since over hundred years. However, a special interest of researchers towards

benzimidazole derivatives was originated by the fact that 5, 6-dimethyl-1-(α -D-ribofuranosyl) benzimidazole is a basic part of the structure of vitamin B12^[1]. Moreover, benzimidazole is a structural unit of naturally occurring nucleotides, due to which it easily interacts with the biopolymers of living systems. They exhibit significant activities like antihelminthic^[2], antifungal^[3], anti-allergic, antimicrobial^[4-6], antiviral^[7] and antineoplastic^[8] activities. Since proteases have been linked with

several disease states, including thrombosis, inflammation, bronchoconstriction and tumour growth and invasion^[9]. The incorporation of the nucleus is an important synthetic strategy in studies of antimicrobial drug discovery. In the past few decades, benzimidazole and its derivatives have grasped much attention due to their chemotherapeutic values^[10].

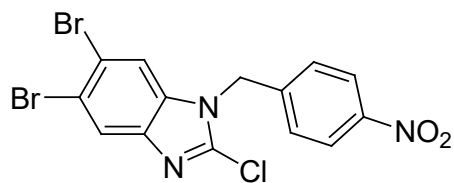
Furthermore, the pharmacological properties and therapeutic applications of benzimidazole depend upon the pattern of substitution and recently they are reported to possess many pharmacological activities. Some pharmaceutical drugs which contain a benzimidazole group include etonitazene, pantoprazole, mavatrep, albendazole, rabeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole etc. The drugs like pimozide, droperidol and benperidol antiprotozoal agents which contain benzimidazole nucleus. The antiprotozoal drugs such as metronidazole, benzimidazole containing imidazole nucleus.

This review highlights the importance of Benzimidazole derivatives in medicinal world by representing numerous derivatives with their biological activities.

Biological Activities

Antimicrobial activity:

Synthesis of a new set of heterocyclic sulfonamide-bound molecules (1) were synthesized and tested for antibacterial activity by Naaz F et al^[11] [Figure 1]. During antibacterial screening with the broth dilution method, it has been found that molecules are found to be highly active against different human pathogens, namely *B. cerus*, *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*, and most effective against *E. coli*. antibacterial lead using the combination approach.

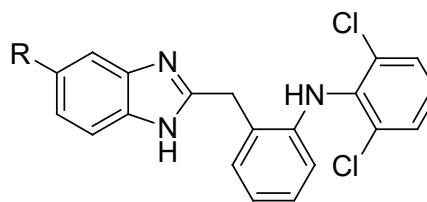


(1)

Figure 1: Sulphonamide derivative of benzimidazole

Analgesic activity:

Sravanthi et al^[12] reported syntheses of 2-substituted benzimidazoles (2a-c). All the synthesized compounds [Figure 2] were tested for analgesic activity by tail flick method at 25 mg/kg doses orally and compared with indomethacin. The compounds (2a), (2b) and (2c) showed analgesic activity (86%, 85% and 74%).



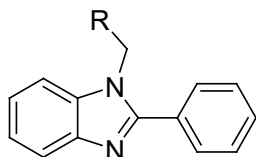
R = NO₂ (2a), Br (2b), Cl (2c)

Figure 2.2-substituted benzimidazoles

Antibacterial activity:

Synthesis of a series of 1, 2-disubstituted-1H benzimidazole-N-alkylated-5-carboxamide derivatives was reported by Goker et al^[13] and evaluated antibacterial activities against *S. aureus* and methicillin resistant *S. aureus*. The study revealed the best activity, with MIC values of 0.78 - 0.39 µg/mL against these species^[14]. Mohamed et al. synthesized benzimidazoles as 1-(substituted-methyl)-2-(substituted-phenyl) benzimidazoles (3) and compounds (3a), (3b) and (3c) were screened for their antibacterial activity against *S. aureus*, *B. pumillus* and *P. aeruginosa* [Figure 3]. Compound 3 showed

MIC (6.25) at 100 $\mu\text{m}/\text{ML}$ and exhibited good antibacterial activity. Various Chloro and dichlorosubstituted benzimidazole also possess antibacterial activities.



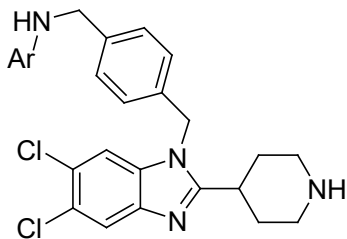
R=

amine(3a), Dimethylamine(3b), Morphilono(3c)

(3)

Figure 3.

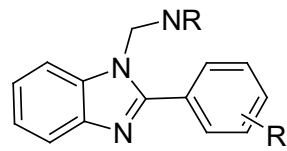
Synthesis of a series of benzimidazole with general molecular structure (4) were reported by He et al^[15] which exhibits potent broad spectrum antibacterial activity and started a research program to discover novel antibiotics against Gram positive bacteria by targeting rRNA [Figure 4].



(4)

Figure 4. General structure for benzimidazole derivatives

Leonardo et al^[16] reported synthesis of benzimidazole as 1-(substituted-methyl)-2-(substituted-phenyl) benzimidazole(5). Compounds 5a, 5b and 5c were screened for their antibacterial activity against *S. aureus*, *B. pumillus* and *P. Aeurugenosa* [Figure 5]. Compound 5a showed MIC (6.25) at 100 $\mu\text{m}/\text{ML}$ and exhibited good antibacterial activity.

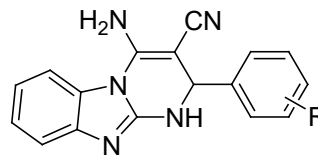


R = piperizine(5a), dimethylamine(5b), diethylamine(5c), R₁ = Cl

(5)

Figure 5.

Deshmukhet al^[17] reported synthesis of 2,3,4-trisubstituted-1,2-dihydropyrimido[1,2-a]benzimidazole derivatives (6) [Figure 6]. The compounds were tested for their fungicidal activities against *Aspergillus niger* MTCC-2255 and *Penicillium chrysogenum*-NCIM-723 using Greiseofulvin as control.

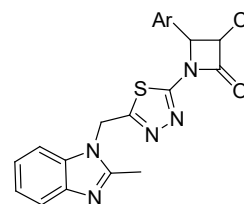


R = -OCH₃, -OH

(6)

Figure 6.

The efficient synthesis of novel 3-chloro-1-5-(2-methyl-1H benzimidazol-2-yl)-4-(substituted) phenylazetidin-2-one (7) was reported by Ansari et al^[18]. Compounds were screened for antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis* and *E. coli* and compound 7a and 7b [Figure 7] shown MIC at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ML}$ and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ doses.

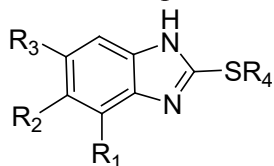


(7)

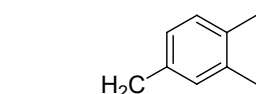
Ar = 2-PhCl (7a), 2-PhOH (7b)

Figure 7.

Kazimierczuk et al^[19] reported two series of benzimidazole derivatives, the first one was based on 2-thioalkyl and thioaryl substituted benzimidazole (8a), the second one was based on 5,6-dinitrobenzimidazole (8b) [Figure 8] and the antibacterial activity of the compound against *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* was examined.

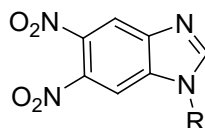


R1 = R2, R3 = CH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₂
R1, R3 = H, R2 = COOH

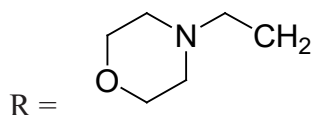


R4 =

(8a)



R = CH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₂
R = CH₂CH₂N(C₂H₅)₂

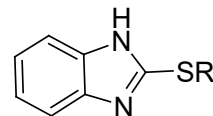


R =

(8b)

Figure 8.

The compound 2-thiohalogenonitrophenylbenzimidazole (9) [Figure 9] was synthesized by Gupta and co-workers^[20] and screened for their antifungal activity against *H. sativum*, *A. niger* and *F. oxysporum*. The percentage inhibition of the fungal spores was recorded at 10 ppm.

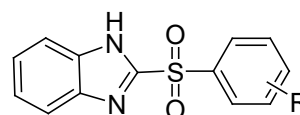


R = 2,4-DNP/ 2,6-DNT/ 2,4,6-TNP/ 2-chloro
4,6-DNP/ 2-methyl-4,6-DNP/ 2-chloro-4-
bromo-3,5-DNP

(9)

Figure 9.

Ghoneim et al^[21] reported the synthesis of 2-[(4-aminophenyl)sulphonyl] derivative (10) [Figure 10] of benzimidazole and these derivatives were tested for antimicrobial activity against *E. coli* using agar diffusion method. All 4-amino and 2,4-diaminophenylsulphonyl derivatives showed antimicrobial activity.

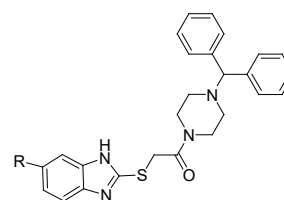


R = 4-NH₂/ 2,4-diNH₂

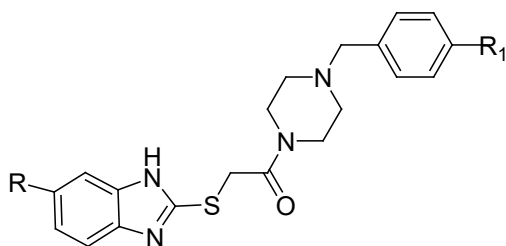
(10)

Figure 10.

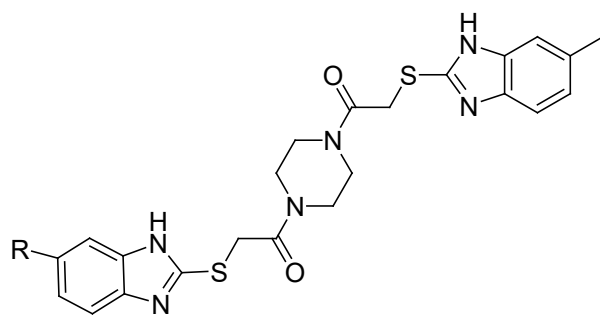
Mavrova and co-workers^[22] reported the synthesis of 1H-benzimidazole-2-yl thioacetyl piperazine derivatives (11a-c) [Figure 11] and screened them for *in-vitro* activity in contrast to *T. spiralis* and *in-vivo* antinematode activity against *S. obvelata*. Most of the synthesized compounds exhibit higher activity towards *T. spiralis* than albendazole and comparable to that of ivermectin. Few compounds exhibited 96.0%, 98.2% and 100% activities at a dose of 200 µg/ml after 48h. Some of the compounds were most active with 76%, 73% and 77% towards *S. obvelata*.



(11a) R=H,CH₃



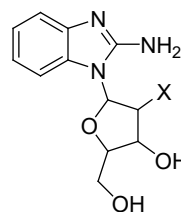
(11b) R=H,CH₃,NO₂,Cl
R₁=CH₃,Cl



(11c) R=H,CH₃
Figure 11.

Antiviral activity:

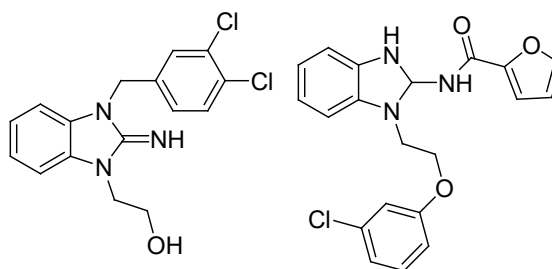
Kharitonova MI et al^[23], reported that β-D-ribo- and 2'-deoxyribofuranosides of 2-amino-5,6-difluorobenzimidazole nucleosides (12)[Figure 12] were synthesized using the enzymatic transglycosylation reaction. 2-Amino-5,6-difluoro-benzimidazole riboside exhibited selective antiviral activity against a wild strain of the herpes simplex virus, and against cidofovir, acyclovir and foscarnet resistant virus strains. It has been hypothesized that this compound can be used to treat herpes infections in such cases, when acyclovir is ineffective.



X= -H(2-deoxyriboside)
X= -OH(ribose) active against -HSV-1
(12)

Figure 12.2-amino-5,6-difluorobenzimidazole nucleosides

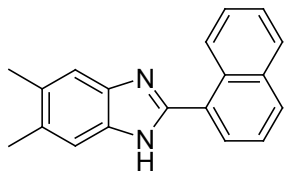
Zarubaev VV et al^[24] reported the synthesis of a series of 1,3-disubstituted-2-iminobenzimidazolines (13a and 13 b)[Figure 13] and a number of their tautomeranalogues. Synthesized compounds were tested for toxicity to MDCK cells and for inhibiting activity against influenza virus A/California/07/09 (H1N1) pdm09. It has been found that some of synthesized benzimidazole derivatives have a potent virus inhibiting activity against pandemic influenza virus with fairly modest cytotoxicity.



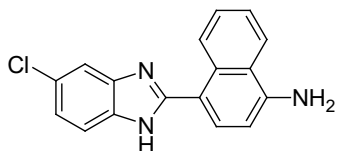
(13a) (13b)
Figure 13.1,3-disubstituted
2-iminobenzimidazolines

Vitale et al^[25] reported a new series of 2-arylbenzimidazoles (14)[Figure 14]. They assessed them for antiviral activity and antiproliferative activity. Compounds were screened against *Flaviviridae* family, i.e. *Flaviviruses* and *Pestiviruses*, *Retroviridae*, *Picornaviridae*, *Paramyxoviridae*, *Rhabdoviridae* and *Reoviridae*, *Herpesviridae* and

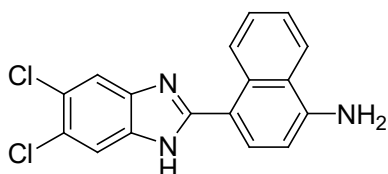
Poxviridae. Compounds 14a, 14b and 14c showed moderate activity against Yellow Fever Virus.



(14a)



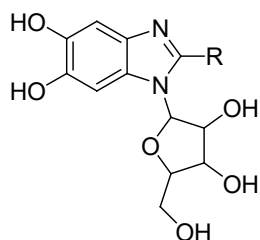
(14b)



(14c)

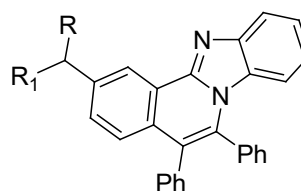
Figure 14. 2-arylbenzimidazoles derivatives (14)

Synthesis of 2-(benzylthio)-5, 6-dichloro-1-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)benzimidazoles (15) [Figure 15] was reported by Devivareta^[26]. Compounds 15a, 15b and 15c performed antiviral activity towards HSV-1 and HCMV and compound 18c shown maximum activity at 90% inhibitory concentration (μ M).



R = SCH₃ (15a), SO₂CH₃ (15b), SO₂Ph (15c)
Figure 15. 2-(benzylthio)-5, 6-dichloro-1-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)benzimidazoles (15)

Some 7-(arylamidoalkyl)-3,4-diphenyl-isoquinolonyl-[1,5-c]-benzimidazoles (16) [Figure 16] have been synthesized by Pandey and Shukla et al^[27] and were evaluated for their in vivo against influenza virus (IV) by inoculating it in 10 day old embryonated hen's egg at the concentration of 0.5 mg per embryo. After 48 hours it was found that the isoquinonylbenzimidazole derivative with nicotinamido group showed the maximum activity.

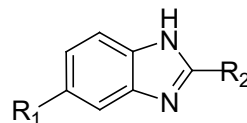


R₁ = salicylamido, R = H

(16)

Figure 16.

Kristina et al^[28], reported the synthesis of a set of 2-substituted-5-amidinobenzimidazole (17) [Figure 17] derivatives bearing amidinosubstituent at C-5 of benzimidazole ring by substituting various heterocyclic nuclei at C-2 and were evaluated for their antiviral activity towards *coxsackie* viruses and *echo* viruses. The most selective activity towards *coxsackie* viruses and *echo* viruses was observed with the compound having pyridine ring at C-2.



R₁ = Heterocyclic substituent

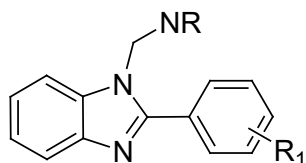
R₂ = Amidino substituent

(17)

Figure 17.

Anti-Inflammatory Activity:

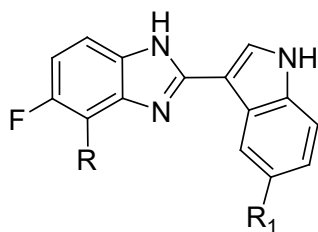
Leonardo et al^[29], reported synthesis and anti-inflammatory activity of phenylbenzimidazole(18a-d). Compounds 18a, 18b, 18c and 18d[Figure 18] were screened for anti-inflammatory activity and they showed percent inhibition (22.1%, 52.2%, 54.6% and 49.6%) at 50 mg/kg each doses. By these values the compound 21c showed maximum (54.6%) inhibition of edema at doses of 50mg/kg.



R = morphine (18a), diphenylamine (18b), dimethylamine (18c), imidazole (18d), R₁ = Cl
Figure 18. Phenyl benzimidazole derivatives.

Antioxidant Activity:

Alagoz et al^[30] synthesized some 6-flouro-5-substituted benzimidazoles (19a-e)[Figure 19] and tested for antioxidant activity and compound (19e) showed strong anti-oxidant effect on superoxide anion at 0.001M concentration.

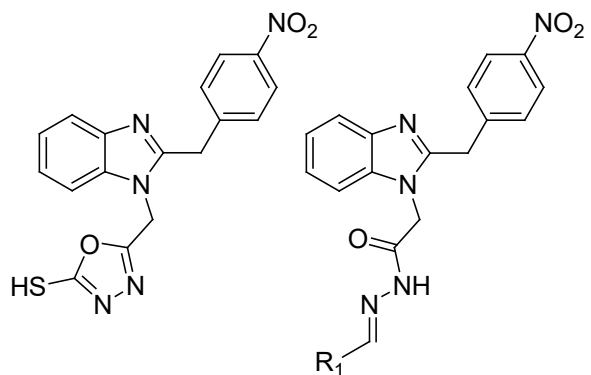


R = 4-CH₃C₅H₁₀ (19a), 4-CH₃C₅H₁₀N (19b),
 4-C₆H₅C₄H₉N₂ (19c),
 4-C₆H₅C₄H₉N₂ (19d), 4-C₆H₅C₄H₉N₂ (19e), R₁
 = H, Br, OCH₃

Figure 19.6-flouro-5-substituted benzimidazole derivatives.

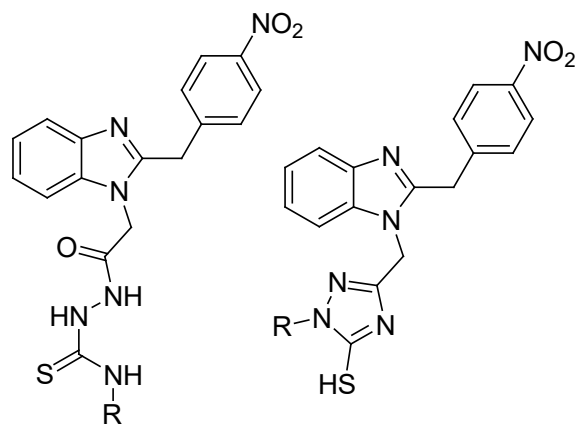
Karaali N et al^[31], synthesized a number of new 2-(4-nitrobenzyl)-1H-benzimidazole derivatives with thiosemicarbazide, triazole, oxadiazole and thiadiazole units (20a-e)[Figure 20] present in the 1st position of benzimidazole ring and

tested for its antioxidant activity. The inhibitor activities of the synthesized compounds were determined with CUPric Reducing Antioxidant Capacity (CUPRAC), ABTS (2,2-azinobis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6 sulfonic acid)/persulfate and DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl) assays. Most of the compounds show significant antioxidant activity.



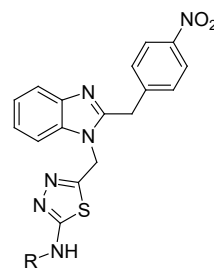
(20a)

(20b)



(20c)

(20d)



(20e)

R -CH₃ -C₂H₅ -C₆H₅.

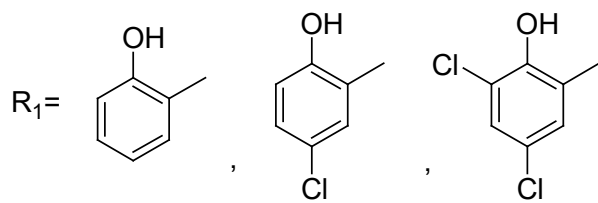
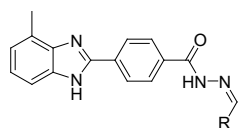


Figure 20: 2-(4-nitrobenzyl)-1H-benzimidazole derivatives bearing thiosemicarbazide, triazole, oxadiazole and thiadiazole moieties

Taha M et al^[32], synthesized some novel 4-Methylbenzimidazole derivatives (21)[Figure 21] and evaluated for their antioxidant activity. All synthesized compounds were evaluated for DPPH activity. Some of the compounds showed excellent activities, ranging 12-29 μ M, better than the standard drug n-Propylgallate (IC₅₀ $\frac{1}{4}$ 30.30 \pm 0.40 μ M). For superoxide anion scavenging activity, many of the compounds showed better activity than standard n-Propylgallate (IC₅₀ $\frac{1}{4}$ 106.34 \pm 1.6 μ M) and ranged from 82-104 μ M.



(21)

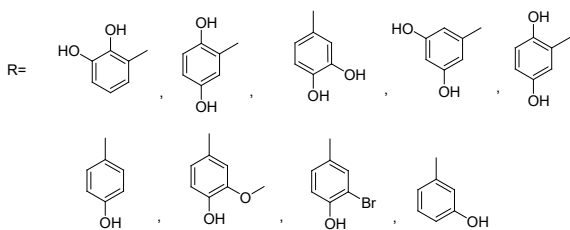
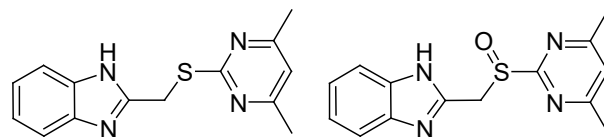


Figure 21: 4-Methylbenzimidazole derivatives

Anti-ulcerative Activity:

Bariwal et al^[33] synthesized and reported a series of novel pyrimidyl-

thio-methyl- benzimidazole(22a) and pyrimidylsulfinylmethylbenzimidazole(22b) [Figure 22]. Compounds evaluated for the anti-ulcer activity. Compound 22a and 22b at 10 and 30 mg/kg doses reduced the ulcer formation significantly comparable to standard (Omeprazole) and 22b (sulfinyl derivative) compound was more effective than 22a (thio derivative).

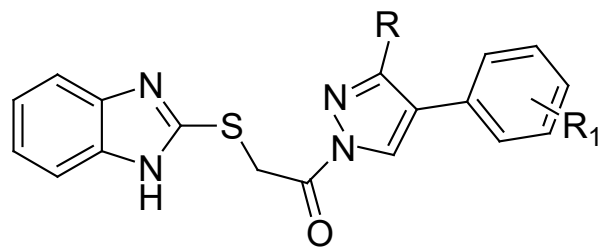


(22a)

(22b)

Figure 22. Pyrimidyl-thio-methyl-benzimidazole 22(a) and pyrimidyl-sulfinylmethylbenzimidazole 22 (b)

Nadeem H et al^[34], synthesized and reported a series of six new benzimidazole-pyrazole hybrid molecule (23a-f)[Figure 23]. In vivo anti-ulcerogenic activity was evaluated for all compounds synthesized. All six compounds synthesized showed higher anti-ulcer activity as compared against standard omeprazole. The results clearly show that these new benzimidazole-pyrazole hybrids may constitute a new category of potential anti-ulcer compounds and may be considered as new anti-ulcer drugs upon further investigation.

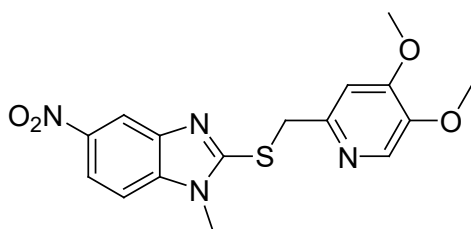


| | 23a | 23b | 23c |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| R | -C ₆ H ₅ | -2-OHC ₆ H ₅ | -2-OHC ₆ H ₅ |
| R ₁ | -2-OH | -2-OH | -3-OH, -4-OCH ₃ |

| | 23d | 23e | 23f |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| R | -4-OHC ₆ H ₅ NH | -C ₆ H ₅ | -3-OH, -4-OCH ₃ |
| R ₁ | -2-OH | -H | -H |

Figure 23. Benzimidazole–pyrazole hybrid molecule

Madala SR et al^[35], reported that 1-methyl-2-[(3,4- di methoxy pyridine2-yl) methyl] sulfanyl}-5-nitro-1*H*-benzimidazole (24) was synthesized by coupling 1-methyl-2-mercapto-5-nitro-1*H*benzimidazole with pyridine derivative in presence of a base at room temperature. The synthesized compound [Figure 24] was tested for antiulcer activity by using the technique of cold and restraint ulcer. The results showed that the compound showed significant activity.

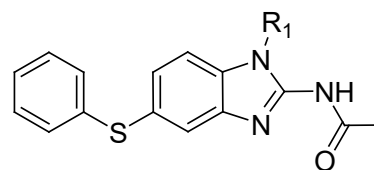


(24)

Figure 24: 1-methyl-2-[(3,4- di methoxy pyridine2-yl) methyl] sulfanyl}-5-nitro-1*H*benzimidazole

Anti-leishmanial Activity:

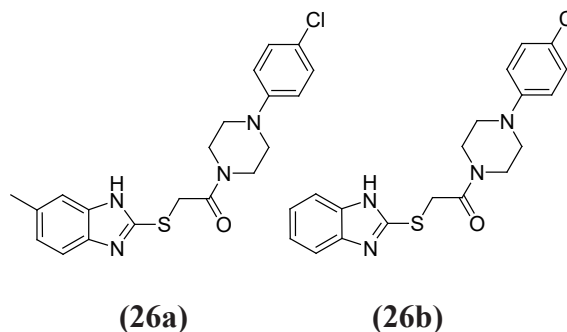
Solominova et al^[36] reported the synthesis of 2-benzimidazole carbamic acid methyl ester derivatives . Compounds 25a and 25b [Figure 25] shown anthelmintic activity against *Nippostrongylus*, *Ankilostoma* and *Haemonhus* larvae that exceeded 65% upon per oral administration in animals (rats, sheep, dogs) at a dose of 2.5- 50mg/kg. In another group of animal inhibition action is below 40% upon per oral administration in a dose of 50-100mg/kg.



R₁ = COOCH₂CH₂OCH₃ (25a),
CONHCH₂CH₂COOCH₃ (25b)

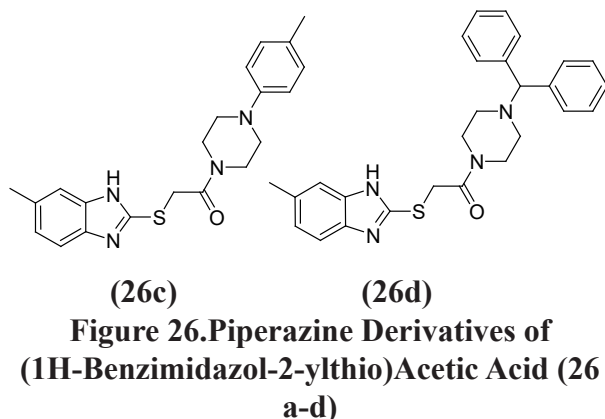
Figure 25. 2-benzimidazole carbamic acid methyl ester derivatives

Mavrova et al^[37] synthesized 5(6)-(un)substituted-1*H*benzimidazol-2-yl thioacetyl piperazine derivatives and assessed for anthelmintic activity against *T. spiralis*. Compound 2-(2-{2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl) piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}thio)-5(6)-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (26a) was the most active. They also synthesized some new piperazine derivatives of (1*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylthio) acetic acid (26b-d) [Figure 26] and investigated them for anthelmintic efficacy in order to compare them with albendazole and ivermectin. The same group of scientist have also synthesized 2-substituted-[1,3]thiazolo[3,2-*a*] benzimidazol-3(2*H*)-ones. SAR of these compounds was also comparable to the known drugs, albendazole and ivermectin. These results proved the hypothesis of introduction of a condensed ring in the benzimidazole system, favored to the interaction of these compounds with the biological targets.



(26a)

(26b)



Torres et al^[38] had synthesized some hybrid compounds by using benzimidazole and pentamidine with central pentyldioxyphenyl piece at the end and the terminal amidine groups were substituted by 5-substituted benzimidazole frame (27). The results obtained were much in agreement because many of the compounds exhibited activity comparable with standard drugs metronidazole and pentamidine. Only compound with -CF₃ at 5th position ring exhibited moderate anti-malarial activity with IC₅₀ of 6.53 μM.

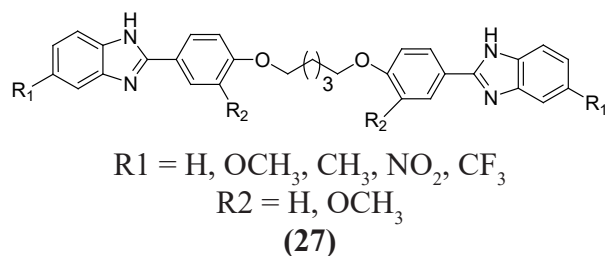


Figure 27. 5-Substituted Benzimidazole Derivatives

Anticancer Activity:

Cancer characterized by rapid or slow uncontrolled growth of cells. On the basis of the type, a number of anticancer drugs are now a days in medicinal practice. Carbomethoxy-substituted benzimidazole derivatives of UK-1 [a bis(benzoxazole) natural product] were obtained from *Streptomyces* strains by Kumar et al^[39] and assessed its cytotoxicity against four cell lines such as PC-3, HT-29, MCF-7

and HL-60. Only one compound methyl-2-[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,3-benzooxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzimidazole-4-carboxylate (28) [Figure 28] possesses activity towards the tested cell lines against a concentration ranging from 7.0 to 100 μM.

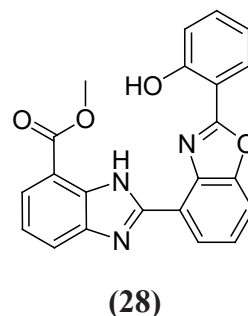


Figure 28. methyl 2-[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1,3-benzooxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzimidazole-4-carboxylate

Vedula and co-workers^[40] screened new styrylsulfones for anticancer activity against different cell lines. Out of the various molecules prepared only one compound 6-chloro-1H-(benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl) methyl[(E)-2-(4-chloro-3-methylphenyl)-1-ethenyl] sulphone (29) [Figure 29] showed 51% inhibition of tumour growth in mice with HT-29 at 400 mg/kg orally.

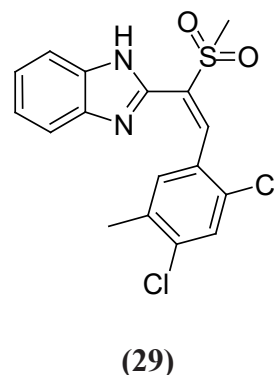


Figure 29. 6-chloro-1H-(benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl) methyl[(E)-2-(4-chloro-3-methylphenyl)-1-ethenyl] sulphone.

Ramla et al^[41] synthesized derivatives of 2-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-

ylimino)-3-(substituted)-thiazolidines-4-ones and 3-(2-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-2 substitutedthiazolidines-4-ones. They significantly assessed them for antitumor activity against the EBV-EA activation by introducing 12-O-tetradecanoyl phorbol-13-acetate. 3-benzoyl-2-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl-imino)thiazolidin-4-one (30)[Figure 30].

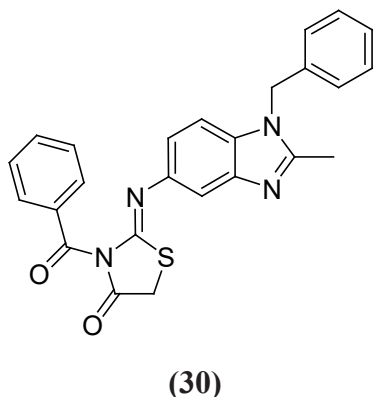


Figure 30. 3-benzoyl-2-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl-imino)thiazolidin-4-one

Benzimidazole-4,7-diones substituted at position-2 were designed by Gellis et al^[42]. Their anti-cancer activity was studied on lung cancer, colon cancer and breast cancer cell lines. Out of these, 2,20-bis(chloromethyl)-1,10-dimethyl-5,50-bi(1Hbenzimidazole)-4,40,7,70-tetraone (31) [Figure 31]possesses significant cytotoxicity against mitomycinC.

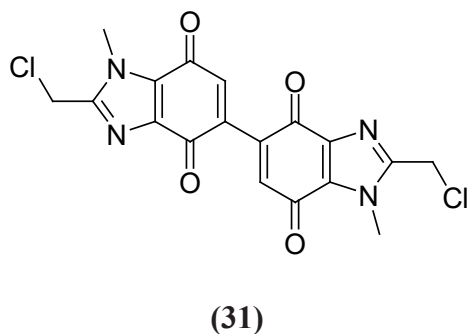


Figure 31. 2,20-bis(chloromethyl)-1,10-dimethyl-5,50-bi(1H-benzimidazole)-4,40,7,70-tetraone

Various heterocyclic benzimidazole derivatives (32a-d) [Figure 32] were prepared from succinic acid, homophthalic acid and 2,3-pyrazinedicarboxylic acid and various substituted diamines by Sondhi et al^[43]. All these compounds screened for their antitumor assay at 50mg/kg showed good anticancer activity against IGROV-1, MCF-7 and SF-295 human cancer cell lines.

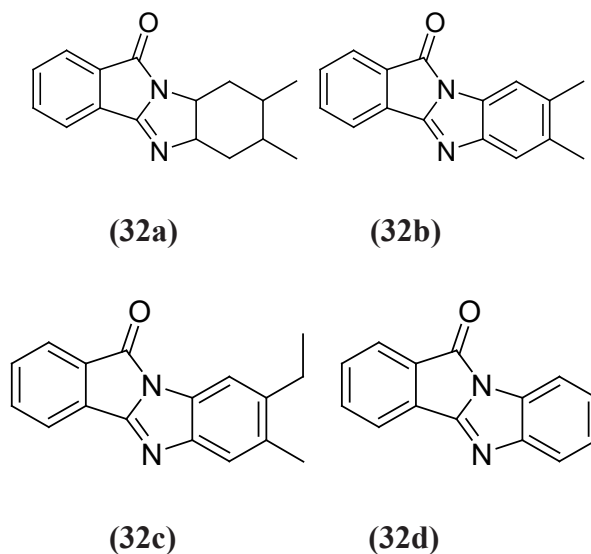
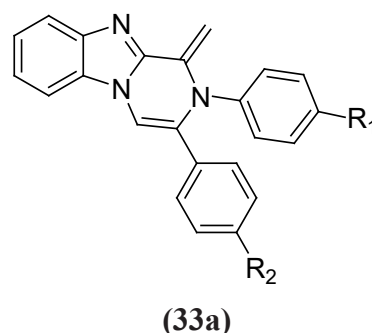
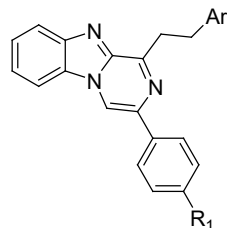


Figure 32. Various heterocyclic benzimidazole derivatives.

1-methylene-2, 3-diaryl-1, 2-dihydropyrazino [1,2-a]benzimidazoles(33a)and some 1-(2-arylvinyl)-3-arylpiazino[1,2-a] benzimidazole derivatives (33b)[Figure 33] have been synthesized and their anticancer activity was reported by Demirayak et al⁴⁴. log₁₀GI50 values are less than -4 against standard drug.





(33b)

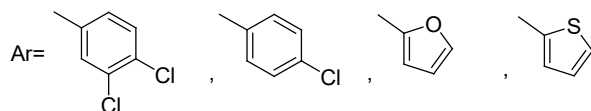
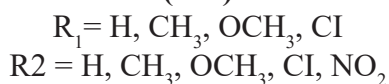
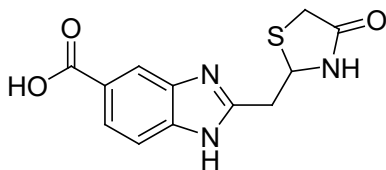
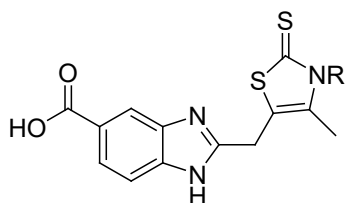
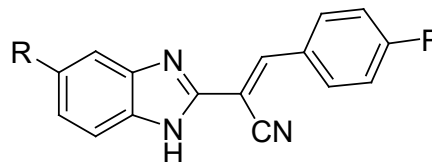


Figure 33. 1-methylene-2,3-diaryl-1,2-dihydropyrazino[1,2-a]benzimidazoles (33a) and 1-(2-arylvinyl)-3-aryl pyrazino[1,2-a]benzimidazole derivatives (33b).

The synthesis of series of benzimidazole like: 2-[(4-oxothiazolidin-2-ylidene)-methyl] benzimidazoles (34a) and (4-amino-2-thioxothiazol-5-yl) benzimidazoles (34b), 2-[(4-fluorobenzylidene) benzimidazoles (34c) and cycloalkylidene)-cyanomethyl] benzimidazoles was carried out by Refaat et al^[45]. All the prepared compound [Figure 34] were assessed against three cell line, HEPG2 and MCF7.



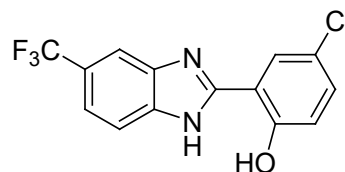
(34a)

(34b) R = -Ph, -CH₂Ph

(34c) R = -Cl, -COOH

Figure 34. Benzimidazole Derivatives

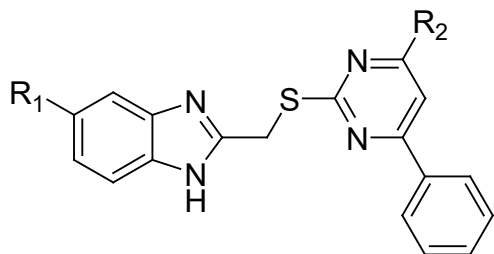
MookJr RA et al^[46], developed a new class of benzimidazole inhibitors of Wnt/ β -catenin signaling based on SAR studies of the Niclosamidesalicylanilidechemo type. These studies identified 4-chloro-2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl) phenol [Figure 35] and concerned derivatives with higher Wnt/ β -catenin signaling inhibition vs. differential effects on cellular ATP homeostasis. These compounds may be useful in elucidating the mechanism of Niclosamide's inhibition of Wnt signaling, and may aid in the discovery of inhibitors having improved pharmacologic properties in the treatment of cancer and diseases in which Niclosamide has vital biological activity.



(35)

Figure 35: 4-chloro-2-(5-(trifluoro methyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl) phenol derivative

Shao KP et al^[47], synthesized a series of pyrimidine-benzimidazol hybrids (36) [Figure 36] and investigated anticancer activity in four human cancer cell lines including MCF-7, MGC-803, EC-9706 and SMMC-7721. Some of the synthesized compounds showed moderate to strong activity against MGC-803 and MCF-7.



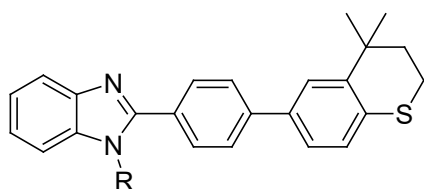
$R_1 = -H, R_2 = -4-CH_3O-C_6H_5-NH$

$R_1 = -Cl, R_2 = -4-CH_3O-C_6H_5-NH$

Figure 36: Pyrimidine-benzimidazole derivatives (36)

Anti-Diabetic Activity:

A synthesis of a series of novel and substituted benzimidazole derivatives (37)[Figure 37] was reported by Kumar et al^[48] Compounds shown anti-diabetic activity against DPP-IV and PTP-IB. Compound 37a and 37b shown inhibitory activity against PTP-IB (1.64%, 2.42%) at 30 μ M doses.



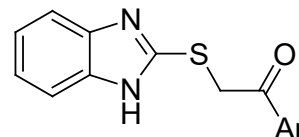
(37)

$R = H$ (37a), $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$ (37b)

Figure 37. Benzimidazole derivatives.

Anti-proliferative activity:

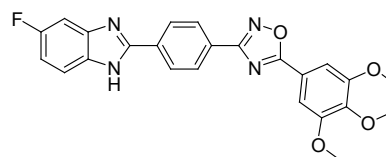
Abdel-Aziz HA et al^[49], reported that a series of 2-((benzimidazol-2-yl)thio)-1-arylethan-1-ones (38)[Figure 38] were synthesized. All compounds were evaluated against anti-proliferative activity against the neoplastic colon HT-29 cell line. In addition, their inhibitory activity against cell surface expression of CD133, a potent marker for cancer stem cells (CSCs) in the same cells, was assessed by flow cytometry at 10 μ M.



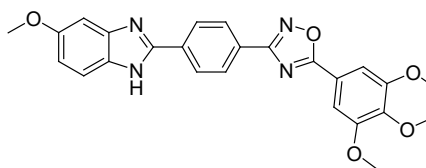
$Ar = -2,3,4-(OCH_3)_3-C_5H_2$ (38)

Figure 38: 2-((Benzimidazol-2-yl)thio)-1-arylethan-1-one derivatives.

Kamal A et al^[50], synthesized a new series of 2-aryl-1,2,4-oxadiazolo-benzimidazole conjugates (39a and 39b)[Figure 39] and investigated their anti-proliferative activity in the group of sixty cancer cell lines. The compounds (39a) and (39b) showed remarkable cytotoxic activity against most of the cancer cell lines in the one dose assay and were administered at five dose levels (0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 and 100 μ M) with GI50 values in the range of 0.79–28.2 μ M. The flow cytometric results of these compounds showed increased cells in the G2/M phase, indicating a G2/M cell cycle arrest. Furthermore, these compounds showed inhibition of tubulin polymerization and disruption of microtubule formation.



(39a)



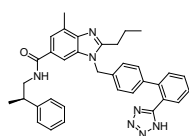
(39b)

Figure 39: 2-aryl-1,2,4-oxadiazolo-benzimidazole conjugates.

Antihypertensive activity:

Han XF et al^[51], reported that novel angiotensin

II receptor type 1 (AT₁) blockers bearing 6-substituted carbamoylbenzimidazoles with a chiral centre were developed and synthesized as the first step in the development of new antihypertensive agents. The newly synthesized compounds were tested for their potential ability to displace [¹²⁵I] Sar¹ Ile⁸-Ang II, which was specifically bound to human AT₁ receptor. The candidate (40) [Figure 40] was identified on the basis of plasma analyses, toxicology studies, and chronic oral tests for its excellent efficacy in anti-hypertension and relatively low toxicity.

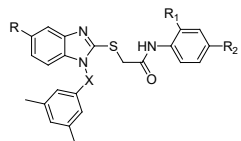


(40)

Figure 40: 6-substituted aminocarbonylbenzimidazole derivative

HIV Inhibitors:

Maria Monforte A et al^[52] reported the synthesis of some N₁-aryl-2-arylthioacetamido-benzimidazoles (41) [Figure 41] as a novel class of Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs). Most of the new compounds were tried to be very much effective in inhibiting every RT enzyme protein at Nano molar concentrations and HIV-1 replication in MT4 cells with low toxicity.



(41)

X = -CH₂, -SO₂

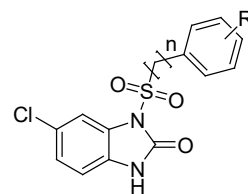
R = -H, -Cl

R₁ = -Br, -Cl, -NO₂;

R₂ = -H, -CH₃, -COOCH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂

Figure 41: N1-aryl-2-arylthioacetamido-benzimidazole derivatives.

Ferro SF et al^[53], reported that non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) are an integral part of the currently available combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) which helps to reduce the AIDS-mortality and turned the disease from fatal to chronic. In this context, they recently reported a series of 6-chloro-1-(3-methylphenylsulfonyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ones (42) [Figure 42] as potent non-nucleoside HIV-1 reverse transcriptase inhibitors (Figure 17). All the newly obtained compounds were evaluated as RT inhibitors and were tested against RTs containing single amino acid mutations. Finally, molecular docking studies were conducted to rationalize the identified activity of the most promising compound.



(42)

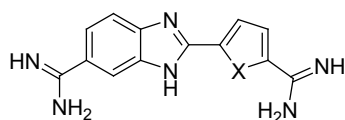
R = -H, -2-Cl, -3-Cl, -4-Cl, -2-CH₃, -3-CH₃,
-4-CH₃
n = 1 or 2

Figure 42: 6-chloro-1-(substituted-phenylsulfonyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-one

Antiprotozoal activity:

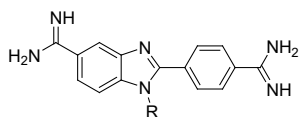
Farahat AA et al^[54], prepared a series of novel benzimidazole diamidines [Figure 43] from the corresponding dicyano analogues either by using Pinner method or by preparing amidoximes intermediates which were reduced to the corresponding amidines. The new amidines (43a) and (43b) were evaluated against the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* by *in vitro* method. The thiophene analogue and the N-methyl compound showed superior antitrypanosomal activity compared to that of

the parent I.



X=-O,-S

(43a)

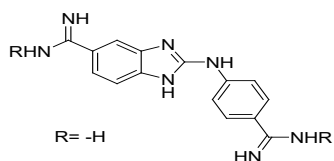


R= -CH₃, -C₂H₅, -C₃H₇, -Cyclohexyl

(43b)

Figure 43: Benzimidazole diamidine analogues

Karaaslan C et al^[55], synthesized a number of mono and dicationic new 2-anilinobenzimidazolecarboxamidines (44)[Figure 44]starting from 4-amino-3-nitrobenzonitrile and corresponding o-phenylenediamines. Their antiparasitic activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* was investigated *in vitro*. Some of the dicationic compounds showed equal or very close activity against *T.b. rhodesiense* with melarsoprol and co-exhibited a promising activity against *P. falciparum* compared to chloroquine.



R= -H

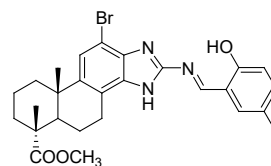
(44)

Figure 44: mono and dicationic-2-anilinobenzimidazole carboxamidines

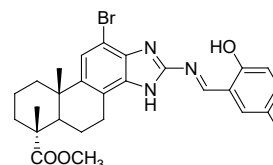
Antitumor activity:

Gu W et al^[56], designed and synthesized a series of new 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole derivatives of

dehydroabiatic acid (45a and 45b) [Figure 45] as potent antitumor agents. In the *in vitro* method, most of the compounds showed significant cytotoxic activity against two carcinoma cells (SMMC-7721 and HepG2) and reduced toxicity to noncancerous human hepatocyte (LO2).



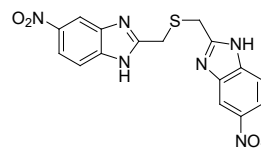
(45a)



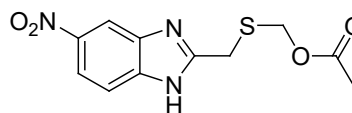
(45b)

Figure 45: 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole derivatives of dehydroabiatic acid.

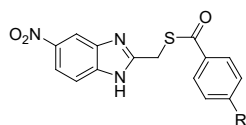
El-Gohary NS et al^[57], prepared and tested new benzimidazole analogues (46a-c)[Figure 46] for anti-tumour activity. *In vitro* antitumor screening of the new benzimidazoles toward HepG2, HCT-116 and MCF-7 cancer cell lines showed that these compounds are the most potent analogues to all cell lines tested. The three potent *in vitro* antitumor analogues were further examined for the *in vivo* method of antitumor activity on EAC in mice, and *in vitro* cytotoxicity against the normal W138 cell line.



(46a)



(46b)

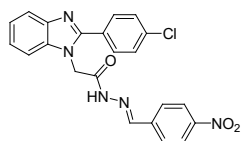


(46c)

R= -Cl; -Br

Figure 46: Some new benzimidazoleanalogs.

BalramSoni et al^[58], reported the synthesis of a series of benzimidazole derivatives and screened for their in vitro cytotoxic activity. From the cytotoxic activity study, it was observed that compound with the presence of a 2-chloro on aromatic ring and 2-NO₂ on benzyldene amino group (47) [Figure 47] in most cases gives better cytotoxic activity against human K-562 cell line.

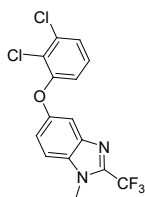


(47)

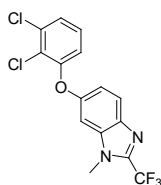
Figure 47. Benzimidazole derivatives

Antiparasitic Activity:

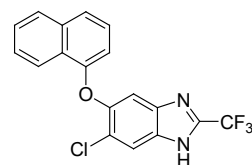
Dinesh K. Agarwal and co-authors^[59] reported biological profile of various Benzimidazole derivatives. Hernandez-Luis and co authors^[60] synthesized a series of benzimidazole derivatives and studied their in vitro antiparasitic activity against various protozoan parasites viz. *L. Mexicana*, *G. intestinalis*, *E. histolytica* and *T. vaginalis* considering Albendazole, mebendazole and pentamidine as standard drugs. Compounds 48a, 48b and 48c exhibited good antiparasitic activity [Figure. 48].



(48a)



(48b)

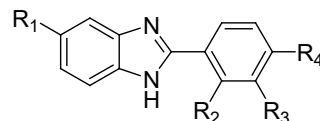


(48c)

Figure 48.

Vasorelaxant activity:

Navarrete-Vazquez G et al^[61], reported that a series of 1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole analogues (49) [Figure 49] of Pimobendan, substituted at position 5 with either -CF₃ or -NO₂, were synthesized using a short synthetic route. All the nitro derivatives were potent, and showed a partial endothelium dependent vasorelaxant effects, with EC₅₀s <5 μM. 2-Methoxy-4-[5-nitro-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl]phenol was the most potent derivative in the series, showed an EC₅₀ value of 1.81 μM and E_{max} of 91.7% for ex vivo relaxant response in intact aortic rings, resulting in a 2.5-fold higher activity compared to Pimobendan. The closely related 5-CF₃ analogue was 19 times less potent than -NO₂ substituted compound.



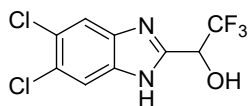
(49)

R1= -CF₃, -NO₂R2= -H, -OMe, -OEt, -NO₂, -OiPr,R3= -H, -OMe, -O-CH₂-O,R4= -H, -OH, -OPr, -N(Me)₂, -OMeFigure 49: Pimobendan analogues of 1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole.

Androgen receptor antagonist:

Ng RA et al^[62], reported the synthesis and in vivo SAR of 5,6-dichloro-benzimidazole derivatives (50) [Figure 50] as new selective androgen receptor antagonists. During the screening of 2-alkyl benzimidazoles,

it has been found that a trifluoromethyl group greatly improves antagonist activity in the prostate. This Benzimidazole derivative is a potent AR antagonist in the rat prostate (ID50 = 0.15 mg/day).

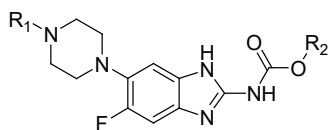


(50)

Figure 50: 5,6-dichloro-benzimidazole derivative

Antifungal Activity:

Thuraya Al-Harthy et al^[63], reported the synthesis and bio-activity of seventeen Benzimidazole-based carbamate derivatives (51a-f) as fungicides. The synthesized compounds exhibited an acceptable activity against soil-borne pathogens. The growth of *Pythium* was significantly affected by 51a-3, 51a-2, 51b-2, 51a-1 and 51b-1 [Figure 51]. The benzimidazoles with benzyl derivatives (51a-1 and 51b-1) showed very high and promising results and were the most efficacious fungicide formulations in terms of reducing the growth of *Pythium* resulting in a 96% growth inhibition in *Pythium* at 100 mg·L⁻¹.



| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 51a-1: R1:Me, R2:Bn | 51a-2: R1:Me, R2:t-But |
| 51a-3: R1:Me, R2:Me | 51b-1: R1:Et, R2:Bn |
| 51b-2: R1:Et, R2:t-But | 51b-3: R1:Et, R2:Me |
| 51c-1: R1:But, R2:Bn | 51c-2: R1:But, R2:Me |
| 51d-1: R1:Ph, R2:Bn | 51d-2: R1:Ph, R2:t-But |
| 51d-3: R1:Ph, R2:Me | 51e-1: R1:4-F-Ph, R2:Bn |
| 51e-2: R1:4-F-Ph, R2:t-But | 51e-3: R1:4-F-Ph, R2:Me |
| 51f-1: R1:2-F-Ph, R2:Bn | 51f-2: R1:2-F-Ph, R2:t-But |
| 51f-3: R1:2-F-Ph, R2:Me | |

(Me-Methyl, Et-Ethyl, Bn-Benzyl, t- But-Tertiary Butyl, F-Ph - Fluoro Phenyl and Ph-Phenyl)

(51 a-f)

Figure 51: Benzimidazole-based carbamate derivatives

Conclusion

The present literature reveals that the benzimidazole nucleus, which can potentially be used in the field of drug discovery area and medicines, has versatile biological activities. This substrate has a great scope for the discovery of new, better, safer and more potent chemotherapeutic agents also. In future, therefore, there is a great scope for developing a new class of substituted benzimidazoles to show better efficacy.

Conflict of interest:

There is no conflict of interest.

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