

Synthesis, spectral characterization, antimicrobial activity and docking studies against DNA Gyrase-A of new 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives

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Abstract: A series of new 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives **3(a-j)** were synthesized from 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonyl chloride by reacting various amino acid esters and amines **2(a-j)** in high yields. The structures of all the synthesized compounds were characterized by the IR, NMR (¹H & ¹³C), mass and elemental analyses. Further, all the synthesized compounds were tested for the antimicrobial activity and docking studies were carried out with DNA Gyrase-A. Most of the compounds showed good to moderate antimicrobial activities and binding affinity towards DNA Gyrase-A structure.

Keywords: 4-Chloro-3-nitrobenzene; amino acid esters; antimicrobial activity; docking studies; DNA Gyrase A; sulfonamides. © 2020 ACG Publications. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, heterocyclic motifs are found everywhere in pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries. The literature reports revealed that majority of the organic heterocycles are with sulfur and nitrogen containing compounds. The nitrogen and sulfur framework is one of the most privileged sources

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for developing the new antimicrobial agents¹. Among these, the sulfonamides have been extensively deliberated for their chemotherapeutic test. Their significant role as anti-malarial, antibacterial, and antileptotic medium is well renowned^{2,3}. Recently, particular sulfonamide derivatives having fascinating antibacterial activity have been widely studied by Quantitative Structure-activity Relation-ship & Molecular Modeling (QSAR) method⁴. Antimicrobial treatment for infections with *S. aureus* often includes sulfonamides which were used to reduce nosocomial infections⁵. Even though the sulfonamide therapy has been reduced, due to development of more efficient antimicrobial targets and the ongoing increase in the resistance of bacterial species, sulfonamides have become salient alternative option in order to heal methicillin resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) *Staphylococci* infections.

Furthermore, sulfonamides are efficient active groups with extensive function in organic materials, agriculture, and dyes⁶. They are commonly used in veterinary drugs for medicinal purposes to battle bacterial diseases⁷. Sulfonamide compounds signify a class of derivatives having fascinating pharmacological properties. Numerous legislatures of this class of compounds were described to have HIV protease inhibitors^{8,9}, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors^{1,10}, antiepileptic agents^{11,12}, anticonvulsant agents¹³ and are used as ETA, being a selective antagonist^{14,15}. In addition, sulfonamides have become important class of pharmacophoric parts and constitute more than 200 drugs in the market. The fragments bearing these functionalities show auspicious roles in current drug discovery and medicinal chemistry. Also, several sulfonamide derivatives were found to exhibit abundant biological activities like antitumor¹⁶, hypoglycemic¹⁷, antithyroid¹⁸, anticarbonic anhydrase¹⁹, anti-inflammatory^{20,21}, diuretic²², antimicrobial²³, COX inhibition and anti-impotence activities²⁴.

DNA gyrase^{25,26} is an essential bacterial enzyme that catalyze the ATP-dependent negative super-coiling of double-stranded closed-circular DNA. Gyrase belongs to the class of enzymes namely topoisomerases that are involved in the control of topological transitions of DNA. The mechanism by which gyrase is able to influence the topological state of DNA molecules is of inherent interest from an enzymological standpoint. In addition, much attention has been focused on DNA gyrase as an intracellular target to a number of antibacterial agents and as a paradigm for other DNA topoisomerases²⁷.

Led by the above facts, we herein report the synthesis of new 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives and evaluated their antimicrobial activity, also carried out molecular docking studies against DNA gyrase enzyme.

2. Experimental

2.1. Chemical Material and Apparatus

All the chemicals were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and Merck and were used without further purification. The solvents used for spectroscopic studies and other physical studies were of reagent grade and were purified by literature methods. The melting points were determined on Ez-Melt Melting Point Apparatus equipped with Digital Imaging Processing Technology of Standard Research Systems using open capillary method and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on Bruker Alpha-Eco ATR-FTIR (Attenuated Total Reflection-Fourier Transform Infrared) Interferometer with single reflection sampling module equipped with ZnSe crystal and were reported in reciprocal centimeters (cm^{-1}). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ solvent on Bruker FT-NMR 400 MHz as well as Jeol FT – NMR 400 MHz spectrometers operating at 400 MHz for ¹H NMR and 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to tetramethyl silane and reported in delta, δ values in ppm. Multiplicities were abbreviated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (double doublet), m (multiplet) and brs (broad singlet). The mass spectra were recorded on LCMS-2010A Shimadzu Mass Spectrometer equipped with electron spray ionization (ESI) source at atmospheric pressure in positive ion mode. A 10–5 M solution of 3g and 3j were prepared in HPLC grade DMSO separately. Each solution was infused into the mass spectrometer @ 6 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$. The optimized conditions set for ESI were as shown: dry N₂ flow rate 12 L/min at 200 °C; the nebulizer N₂ was operated at 35 psi; capillary voltage was 400 Volts; the skimmer was at 65 V; and the fragmenter was maintained at a voltage of 90 V; quantification was performed in selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode using target ions m/z 325.0 for 3j and m/z 350.20 for 3k. The CHN analysis was carried out on Flash EA 1112 Thermo Finnigan for 3g and 3j compounds and found consistent with literature values.

2.2. Biological Materials and Apparatus

Tris borate EDTA (TBA), ethidium bromide, 7-aminoactinomycin D (7-AAD), 4', 6-diammidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), propidium iodide, annexin, CHO (Chinese Hamster Ovary) and Hela (by Henrietta Lacks, whose cancer cells of the uterine cervix were the first to be immortalized) cell lines were purchased by Thermofischer Scientific, while JetPEI from PolyPlus. KMS-12-BM and LP1 cell lines were taken from a patient suffering from multiple myeloma (MM). The factors necessary to cell growth [Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium (DMEM), fetal bovine serum (FBS), amino acids, sodium pyruvate, antibiotics, Reduced Serum Medium (OptiMEM), trypsin], *p*DNA and *si*RNA were purchased from Invitrogen™ (Thermofischer Scientific). Electrophoresis was performed in Agarose Gels, 4% TBA (Agarose 4g in 100 mL TBA buffer) and Agarose was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Cytofluorometric analysis was performed on Beckman Coulter's Gallios 10/3 Cytofluorimeter. Fluorescence emissions were evaluated and quantified by a double fluorescence FM YG100 microscope produced by Suzhou Flyingman Precision Instruments Co. Ltd.

2.3. Chemistry

2.3.1. Procedure for the synthesis of (S)-methyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (**3g**)

To the stirred solution of 4-Chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonyl chloride (**1**) (0.001 mol, 0.256g) dissolved in THF (10 mL), methyl-L-tyrosinate (0.001 mol, 0.195g) was added with constant stirring at 20°C in the presence of triethyl amine (TEA) and the reaction mixture was refluxed at 40°C for 2 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After the completion of reaction, the reaction mixture was concentrated under rota evaporator. The crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate and hexane (3:7) as mobile phase to obtain (S)-methyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl) propanoate (**3g**) as a pure product. The same experimental procedure was adopted for the synthesis of the remaining target compounds **3(a-f)** and **3(h-j)** using different substituted amino acid esters and amines.

2.3.2. Spectral Data for Synthesized Compounds

Methyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-methylbutanoate (3a): White solid, yield: 90%, mp: 163 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3451 (-OH), 3254 (-NH), 1437(Ar-NO₂), 1358 and 1187 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 954 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.75 (brs, 1H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 3.10 (d, *J*=6.5 Hz, 3H); 2.90 (d, *J*=6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.5, 155.6, 148.0, 138.6, 134.9, 131.1, 130.3, 129.9, 129.3, 124.6, 115.9, 58.3, 52.0, 35.8. MW 398;ESI-MS: 416 [M+H₂O].

Methyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)propanoate (3b): White solid, yield: 88%, mp: 155 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3264 (-NH), 1733 (CO₂Et), 1440 (Ar-NO₂), 1332 and 1168 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 908 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.70 (brs, 1H), 7.65-7.06 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 3.86-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.7, 147.8, 138.6, 136.6, 134.7, 131.1, 130.1, 127.5, 124.6, 123.1, 121.6, 119.9, 59.4, 51.9, 29.7. MW 398; ESI-MS: 416 [M+H₂O].

Ethyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-hydroxypropanoate (3c): Brown solid, yield: 89%, mp: 160 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3260 (-NH), 1733 (CO₂Me), 1436 (Ar-NO₂), 1352 and 1186 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 949 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.68 (brs, 1H), 4.42-4.16 (m, 4H), 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, -OH, 1H), 1.25 (t, *J*= 6.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.6, 147.8, 138.8, 134.7, 131.1, 129.9, 124.6, 61.4, 60.0, 59.4, 14.2.

Ethyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)acetate (3d): White solid, yield: 92%, mp: 147 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3254 (-NH), 1736 (CO₂Me), 1432 (Ar-NO₂), 1356 & 1182 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 942 (S-N Sym); ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.69 (brs, 1H), 4.08-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.86-3.75 (m, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.6, 149.8, 138.8, 134.7, 131.1, 129.9, 124.6, 60.9, 44.3, 14.2.

4-chloro-N-((1S)-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)cyclopropyl)-3-nitrobenzenesulfonamide (3e): Yellow solid, yield: 88%, mp: 170 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3251 (-NH), 1436(Ar-NO₂), 1353 and 1180 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 956 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.73 (brs, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.70-1.68 (m, 2H), 0.70-0.55 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.0, 147.8, 146.0, 140.4, 138.8, 134.7, 131.1, 129.9, 124.6, 123.7, 116.6, 113.7, 28.6, 22.1, 13.5.

1-((4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)indoline (3f): Brown solid, yield: 87%, mp: 150 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 1435(Ar-NO₂), 1352 (SO₂ Asym), 945 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.02-6.55 (m, 4H), 3.54 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.8, 143.0, 138.6, 134.9, 130.1, 129.9, 127.6, 126.8, 125.3, 124.6, 120.5, 113.5, 42.9, 26.6.

(S)-methyl 2-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenylsulfonamido)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (3g): IR (cm⁻¹): 3256 (-NH), 1436 (Ar-NO₂), 1352 & 1165 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 963 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.73 (dd, 2H), 7.75-7.08 (m, 5H), 5.24 (brs, 1H), 4.24 (d, J =4.8Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.12-2.92 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.1, 134.7, 132.8, 130.9, 129.3, 128.8, 127.5, 124.3, 57.2, 52.9, 39.2 ppm; ESI-MS; 416 [M+2].

1-((4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)-4-(4-chloro-phenyl)Piperazine (3h): Yellow solid, yield: 93%, mp: 161 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 1450 (Ar-NO₂), 1340 & 1132 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 906 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, 2H), 6.65 (dd, 2H), 3.24 (d, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.0, 147.8, 134.7, 133.6, 130.9, 130.1, 129.6, 127.3, 124.4, 115.8, 53.0, 48.5.

1-((4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)-4-(4-nitrophenyl)piperazine (3i): Yellow solid, yield: 92%, mp: 171 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 454 (Ar-NO₂), 1348 & 1139 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 910 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, 1H), 8.13 (d, 1H), 7.98 (d, 2H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 3.24 (d, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.8, 147.8, 137.3, 134.9, 133.4, 131.1, 130.1, 129.9, 124.7, 124.5, 112.2, 53.2, 48.3.

4-chloro-N-(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)-3-nitrobenzenesulfonamide (3j): White solid, yield: 90%, mp: 158 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): 3252 (-NH), 1428(Ar-NO₂), 1356 & 1191 (SO₂ Asym and Sym), 958 (S-N Sym); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 (d, 1H), 8.17 (dd, 1H), 7.98 (d, 1H), 7.73 (brs, 1H), 7.22-7.12 (m, 4H), 4.01 (t, J = 3.5, 1H), 2.92 (m, 1H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.32 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.0, 143.3, 140.0, 138.6, 134.9, 131.1, 129.9, 126.2, 124.5, 124.4, 58.3, 33.6, 28.9.

2.5. Biological Assay

2.5.1. Antibacterial Activity

All the newly synthesized compounds were evaluated for their in vitro antibacterial activity against the growth of four bacterial strains such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* by using agar well diffusion method²⁸. Chloramphenicol was used as a standard. The zones of inhibition are summarized in Table S1. The detailed procedure has been provided in the supporting information.

2.5.2. Antifungal Activity

All the title compounds were tested for their *in vitro* antifungal activity against the fungal strains *Trichoderma viride*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Penicillium chrysogenum* by using poison plate method²⁹. Nystatin was used as a standard. The zones of inhibition are summarized in Table S2. The detailed procedure has been provided in the supporting information.

2.5.3. Molecular Docking Studies

Molecular docking studies of the newly synthesized compounds **3(a-j)** was carried out against DNA Gyrase A protein. Streptomycin and Norfloxacin was used as a reference drug using the docking module implemented in Pyrx 2010.12. The results of the binding were presented in Table 1.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Chemistry

The newly synthesized 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives **3(a-j)** were represented in Figure 1.

The structures of all the newly synthesized compounds were characterized by IR, NMR (¹H, ¹³C), mass and elemental analysis. The details are provided in the experimental section and supporting information. In the IR spectrum of compound **3g**, the absorption appeared in the region 3451, 3254, 1437 cm⁻¹ corresponds to the functional groups of –OH, –NH and Ar-NO₂ stretching frequencies respectively. In ¹HNMR spectrum, the chemical shift resonated in the region of δ 7.75 ppm appeared as broad singlet and it corresponds to –NH protons. The chemical shift at the region of δ 3.73 ppm appeared as a singlet and is assigned to methyl protons. The chemical shifts at the regions of δ 5.40-8.62 ppm corresponds to the aromatic protons. In ¹³CNMR spectrum, chemical shift at the region δ 171.5 ppm corresponds to carbonyl carbon and at δ 148.0 ppm corresponds to cyclic nitrogen adjacent to aromatic carbon. Further, the structure of compound **3g** was confirmed by the mass and the elemental analyses.

3.2. Biological Assay

3.2.1 Antibacterial Activity

All the newly synthesized compounds were tested for their antibacterial activity against bacterial strains *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* at 100 μ g/mL concentration by using agar well disc diffusion method. Chloramphenicol was used as a standard. Among all the tested compounds, compound **3d**, **3e** and **3f** showed effective inhibition when compared with other compounds and this might be due to the presence of tertiary sulfonamide and fluoro substituted amines against all the bacterial strains. Compound **3f** showed effective inhibition against all the bacterial strains. This might be due to the presence of electron withdrawing nitro group. The zone of inhibition of all the title compounds were presented in Supporting Information Table S1 and Figure S1.

3.2.2 Antifungal Activity

Antifungal activity of the newly synthesized compounds **3(a-j)** were tested against the fungal strains such as *Trichoderma viridae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Penicillium chrysogenum* by using poison plate method at 100 μ g/mL. Nystatin was used as a standard drug. Compound **3f** have shown potent antifungal activity against all the tested fungal strains due to the presence of nitro group at meta position. The zones of inhibition of all the title compounds were presented in Table S2 (see supporting information).

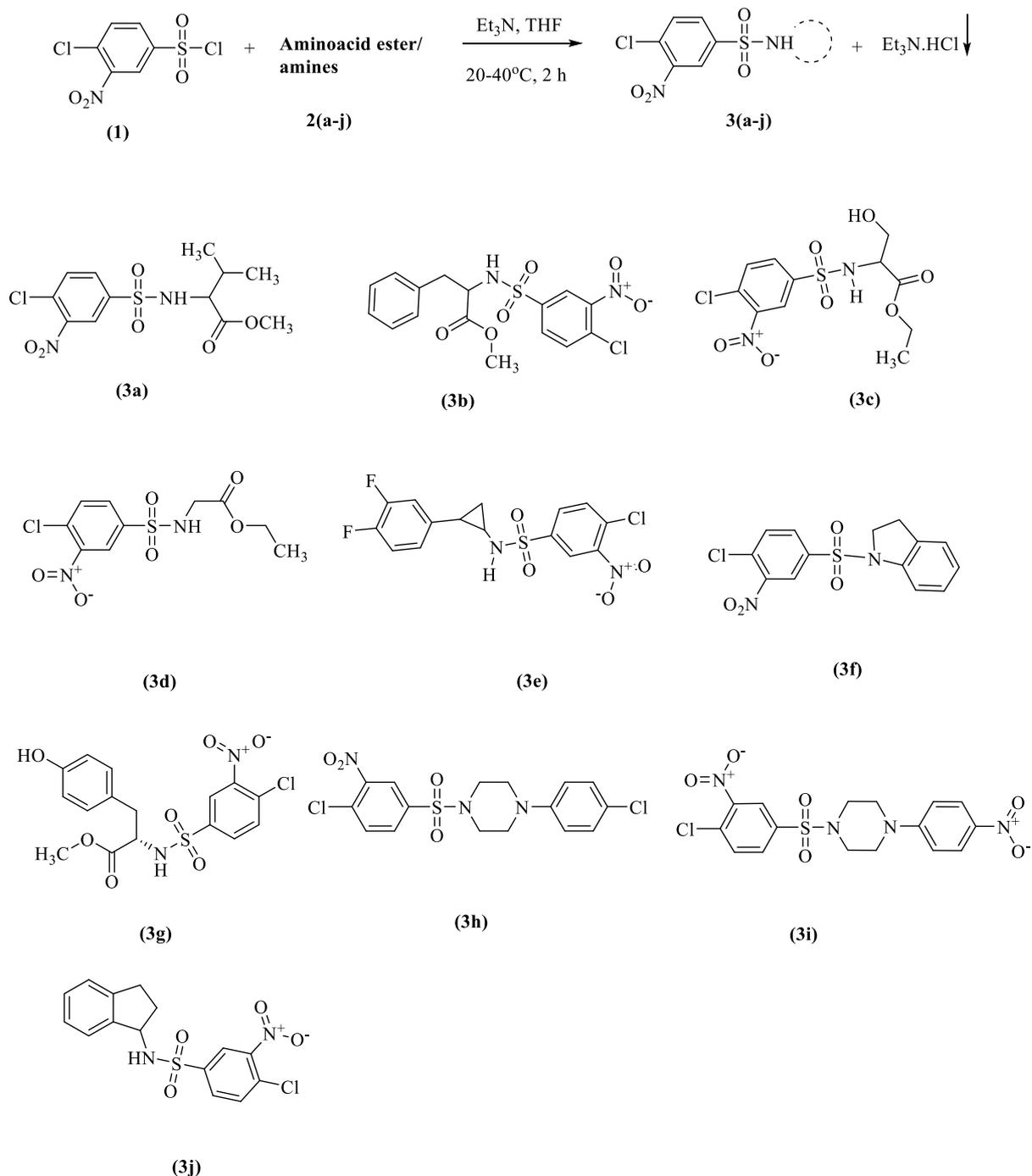


Figure 1. Synthesis of 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives 3(a-j)

3.2.3 Molecular Docking Analysis

In order to provide strength to the synthesized compounds **3(a-j)** molecular docking studies was carried out against DNA Gyrase A protein. Streptomycin, Norfloxacin was used as a reference drug using the docking module implemented in Pyrx 2010.12.

Table 1. H-bonds, binding affinities and energy profiles of compounds **3(a-j)**

| Compound | B E | Binding interaction | Bond Length (Å) | Bond Angle (°) | Bond Type |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Streptomycin | - 6.9 | Arg 139 CG...HN | 2.2 | 124.4 | H- don |
| | | Leu 135 CD...HN | 2.7 | 125.7 | H- don |
| | | His 132 CB...OH | 2.5 | 125.0 | H- acc |
| | | Asp 53 CG...OC | 3.4 | 116.7 | H- acc |
| | | Asp 53 OC...OC | 2.9 | 118.9 | H- acc |
| | | Asp 58 OD...OH | 2.0 | 118.6 | H- acc |
| | | Asp 58 OD...HN | 2.5 | 116.4 | H- don |
| | | His 132 ND...OC | 2.8 | 126.2 | H- acc |
| | | His 132 ND...OC | 2.7 | 120.0 | H- acc |
| | | His 132 OC...OH | 2.5 | 119.8 | H- acc |
| Norfloxacin | - 7.3 | Leu 264 CA...OC | 2.0 | 114.7 | H- acc |
| 3a | - 7.7 | Pro 218 CA...HO | 2.1 | 123.9 | H- don |
| | | Pro 218 CA...HO | 2.3 | 112.1 | H- don |
| | | Leu 264 CA...OH | 1.9 | 114.7 | H- don |
| | | Leu 264 CA...OC | 2.4 | 93.1 | H- acc |
| | | Thr 219 CB...HO | 2.3 | 102.9 | H- don |
| | | Asp 297 CA...HN | 2.1 | 122.4 | H- don |
| | | Met 301 CA...OS | 2.1 | 115.2 | H- acc |
| 3b | - 7.0 | Asn 165 ND...ON | 2.2 | 116.5 | H- acc |
| | | Asn 165 CG...HO | 2.8 | 141.0 | H- don |
| | | Thr 171 CA...HN | 2.3 | 114.6 | H- don |
| | | Thr 171 CA...OC | 2.7 | 117.5 | H- acc |
| 3c | - 6.2 | Asp 297 OC...HO | 2.1 | 122.4 | H- don |
| | | Leu 264 HN...OH | 2.0 | 114.7 | H- acc |
| | | Thr 219 CB...HO | 2.5 | 119.9 | H- don |
| 3d | - 6.4 | Asn 269 ND...OS | 2.3 | 120.3 | H- acc |
| | | Gln 267 CA...OH | 2.6 | 123.9 | H- acc |
| | | Arg 91 CZ...ON | 2.2 | 121.8 | H- acc |
| 3e | - 7.5 | Gly 110 NH...ON | 2.7 | 113.4 | H- acc |
| | | Phe 109 CG...ON | 2.2 | 99.5 | H- acc |
| | | Asn 108 CG...HO | 2.4 | 121.5 | H- don |
| | | Gly 107 OC...HO | 2.1 | 121.6 | H- don |
| | | Asp 297 CA...NH | 2.2 | 122.4 | H- acc |
| 3f | - 7.4 | Gly 267 CG...ON | 2.6 | 114.9 | H- acc |
| | | Asn 269 ND...OS | 2.3 | 120.3 | H- acc |
| | | Arg 91 CZ...ON | 2.2 | 121.8 | H- acc |
| 3g | - 6.8 | Pro 218 OC...HO | 2.3 | 123.9 | H- don |
| | | Thr 219 CA...HN | 2.6 | 119.2 | H- don |
| | | Leu 264 HC...OC | 1.9 | 114.7 | H- acc |
| | | Arg 518 CZ...ON | 2.5 | 122.4 | H- acc |
| 3h | - 7.7 | Asp 115 CG...HO | 2.6 | 117.7 | H- don |
| | | Asp 115 CG...HO | 1.9 | 127.0 | H- don |
| 3i | - 8.3 | Gln 267 CG...ON | 2.5 | 114.3 | H- acc |
| | | Ala 117 CA...ON | 2.2 | 114.9 | H- acc |
| | | Asn 269 ND...OS | 2.4 | 120.3 | H- acc |
| | | Asp 87 CG...HO | 2.4 | 125.4 | H- don |
| | | Arg 91 CZ...ON | 2.3 | 121.8 | H- acc |
| 3j | -7.5 | Val 112 CB...OS | 2.6 | 110.8 | H- acc |

The docking results of DNA Gyrase A showed that compounds **3a**, **3e**, **3h**, **3i**, **3j**, have significant binding modes, with dock scores of -8.3, -7.7, -7.7, -7.5, -7.5, when compared with the control drug Streptomycin (-6.9) and Norfloxacin (-7.3) respectively. The H-bonds, binding affinities and energy profiles of

compounds **3(a-j)** along with reference drugs, towards the active site amino acids of the enzyme are summarized in Table 1. The binding modes of compounds **3a, 3e, 3h, 3i, 3j**, suggested that they fitted more stably into the DNA Gyrase binding pocket. Hence, the present investigation demonstrate that the synthesised compounds will be the promising next generation anti-microbial drugs, which can be effectively used in the treatment of microbial and other related infections.

4. Conclusion

We have synthesized a series of new 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzene sulfonamide derivatives **3(a-j)** in an easy method with high yields. All the newly synthesized compounds were evaluated for their *in vitro* and *in silico* antimicrobial activity to understand the biological potency and binding capacities with the protein, DNA gyrase A. The results revealed that most of the compounds showed good antimicrobial activity against all the microbial strains and will stand as the core molecules for the discovery of potential antimicrobial drug candidates in future.

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Supporting Information

Supporting information accompanies this paper on <http://www.acgpubs.org/journal/organic-communications>

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