

**COMPARATIVE *in vitro* ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF
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ABSTRACT

The *in vitro* activity of hetero vinyl oxazino coumarin derivative has been compared with those of seven antibiotics (β -Lactam and non β -lactam) against 40 multiple resistant bacteria from clinical samples. These included strain of *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella spp*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus vulgaris* and *P. mirabilis*. The test compound was the most active agent against all these bacteria, while the other antibiotics employed could not exhibit promising activity. The LD₅₀ value of the compound was also determined.

INTRODUCTION

The continuing problem of the multiple resistance of clinically important bacteria of β -Lactam antibiotics as well as other non- β Lactam antibiotics has encouraged the global medicinal chemists and microbiologist to search for more effective inhibitors of these organisms. Over the last five decades enormous work has been done to discover novel β -lactam and non β -lactam antibiotics against multiple resistant bacteria^{1,2,4-9,13,14}. The useful biological properties of coumarins have been outlined by some earlier workers^{7,10}. Also reports have been published in the been few years on the antibacterial, antimycobacterial and antiprotozoal activities of various coumarin derivatives^{16,17}. However the reports on antimicrobial activity of coumarins against multiple drug resistant bacteria are too little and fragmentary. In the present study we have screened the newly synthesized coumarin derivative¹⁷, 9-hydroxy-ethyl-4-[2-(5'-nitro-2'-fury) Vinyl] - 8,10 - dihydro-2H-pyrano [2,3-f] [1,3] benzoxazin - 2- ones, against various clinically resistant bacteria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS**Organisms**

Clinical isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella spp*, *Proteus vulgaris*

and *P. mirabilis* resistant to variety of β -lactam and non β -lactam antibiotics were chosen of study. All these strains were collected from Osmania General Hospital and Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, India. They were identified according to conventional criteria¹² and tested for β -lactamase activity following iodometric method described by Catlin³. All the organisms were maintained in stock by periodical subculturing on Trypticase Soy Agar (TSA).

Antibiotics

The test compound, coumarin derivative was synthesized by the fundamental chemistry section of our IDPL Research Center, Hyderabad. The following standard antibiotics were employed for comparative studies : sodium methicillin (Bristol Laboratories, Syracuse, NY), ampicillin anhydrous (Larks S.P.S. Millan Italy), chloramphenicol (Park - Davis, India), doxycycline (IDPL, Hyderabad, India), Cephalixin (IDPL, Hyderabad, India), sodium penicillin (IDPL, Rishikesh, India), streptomycin (IDPL, Reshikesh, India). These were supplied by the makers in powder form with known potencies, stored in dry atmosphere, and reconstituted according to the manufacturer's recommendation with adjustments for potency.

Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

The drugs were dissolve in appropriate

solvents (20 mg/2ml), further diluted in sterile distilled water and finally incorporated into Trypticase Soy Broth (TSE) and distributed into tubes. The control tubes received the same amount of the solvent present in those with the highest concentration of the testing agent. Inocula were prepared from 6 hr. old broth cultures diluted such that the such final inoculum size was approximately 10^5 colony forming units (CFUs) per ml. The inoculated tubes were incubated at $37 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 hrs. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was defined as the lowest amount of drug completely inhibiting the growth of bacteria which was evaluated by visual inspection.

Determination of LD₅₀

Swiss albino mice (male 18-22 g) were used. They were housed in air-conditioned room ($22 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$) with food in pelletes and tap water. The test compound was administered by oral route and intraperitoneally in 2% *Gum acacia* suspension in varying doses. Groups of 10 animals were used for each dose and after an observation of 24 hrs the number of survivors was recorded and LD₅₀ of the compound was determined¹¹. The animals were anaesthetized and necropsy was done to see the presence of the compound in stomach.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The coumarin derivative showed the greatest degree of in vitro activity, inhibiting all the strains of *Pseudomonas*, *Proteus*, *Escherichia*, *Staphylococcus* and *Klebsiella*. All these strains were found to be highly resistant to sodium penicillin, ampicillin, methicillin, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, doxycycline and cephalixin as shown in table 1.

The test compound was most active against the clinically important *S. aureus* cultures inhibiting at a concentration ranging from 0.025 to 10 $\mu\text{g./ml}$. All the β -lactam antibiotics used were least effective against the gram-positive bacterium with MIC values 100-1000 $\mu\text{g./ml}$. Cephalixin, which is of third generation of cephalosporins did not show any activity even at 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. Chloramphenicol and doxycyclins showed moderate activity with MIC values 100 and 500 $\mu\text{g./ml}$ respectively where all the ten strains were inhibited.

Against enteric Gram - negative cultures the test compound showed significant activity

as compared to the seven antibiotics studied. It was quite against all the strains of *E.coli*, *Klebsiella*, *P. vulgaris* and *P. mirabilis*. There is relatively less difference in their respectively MIC values against these organisms with a range of 0.25-20 $\mu\text{g./ml}$. In case of *E.coli* the trend of activity reflects more or less the same as evidenced in case of *S.aureus*. Cephalixin and methicillin did not possess any inhibitory effect upto 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ against all the six strains tested. Penicillin and ampicillin exhibited weak activity with MIC values ranging from 100 to 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$., followed by chloramphenicol and streptomycin with the value in the range of 50 - 1000 and 50-500 $\mu\text{g./ml}$) respectively. Of all the antibiotics, doxycycline only appears to be somewhat effective against *E.coli* (50-100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$), while and test compound was at least 20 fold more active than doxycycline.

The coumarin compound was also found active to the three strains of *Klebsiella spp.* inhibiting in the range of 0.25 - 5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ chloramphenicol and streptomycin were found to be moderately active MIC value ranging from 50-100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. All other β -lactam antibiotics least active to this bacterium with MIC values ranging from 50 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

The test compound showed greater activity (MIC 5- 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) against five strains of *Proteus* though the MIC values was not so low as it was in the case of *S. aureus*, *E.coli* and *Klebsiella spp.* Most of the cultures were highly resistant to cephalixin, ampicillin and methicillin as they could not be inhibited even upto 100 $\mu\text{g./ml}$ of the drug concentrations. Rest of the drugs of the showed moderate activity with doxycycline having an edge over others.

The test compound was the most active against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* which is normally observed to be highly resistant to majority of the antibiotics. All the sixteen strains were inhibited by the test compounds in the range of 0.1 - 30 $\mu\text{g./ml}$, while they were found to be resistant to cephalixin, penicillin, ampicillin, methicillin, chloramphenicol and streptomycin even at 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ concentration. Only doxycycline showed slightly better activity over the others with its MIC values between 50 - 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

The LD₅₀ of the test compound was 58.4 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ body weight when administered intraperitoneally. There was no mortality in animals when a dose of 1000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ body weight of the compound was given per oral, but the

Table - 1: Comparative efficacy of antibiotics with hetero/vinyl oxazino coumarin (HOC 13) derivate against resistant bacteria

Organism	Number of Strains	Agent	MIC Range $\mu\text{g/ml}$
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	(6)	Sodium Penicillin	100-1000
		Ampicillin	100-1001
		Sod. Methicillin	1000
		Chloramphenicol	50-1000
		Streptomycin	50-500
		Doxycycline	50-100
		Cephalexin	1000
		HOC - 13	25-20
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	(10)	Sodium Penicillin	100-1000
		Ampicillin	50-1000
		Sod. Methicillin	50-1000
		Chloramphenicol	50-100
		Streptomycin	50-1000
		Doxycycline	50-500
		Cephalexin	1000
		HOC - 13	0.025-10
<i>Klebsiella</i>	(3)	Sodium Penicillin	100-1000
		Ampicillin	50-1000
		Sod. Methicillin	50-1000
		Chloramphenicol	50-100
		Streptomycin	50-100
		Doxycycline	25-50
		Cephalexin	500
		HOC - 13	0.25-5
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	(16)	Sodium Penicillin	100-1000
		Ampicillin	100-1000
		Sod. Methicillin	1000
		Chloramphenicol	100-1000
		Streptomycin	500-1000
		Doxycycline	50-500
		Cephalexin	1000
		HOC - 13	0.1-30
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	(3)	Sodium Penicillin	500-1000
		Ampicillin	1000
		Sod. Methicillin	1000
		Chloramphenicol	100-1000
		Streptomycin	50-1000
		Doxycycline	50-500
		Cephalexin	1000
		HOC - 13	5-10
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	(2)	Sodium Penicillin	500-1000
		Ampicillin	50-1000
		Sod. Methicillin	50-1000
		Chloramphenicol	50-1000
		Streptomycin	50-100
		Doxycycline	50
		Cephalexin	1000
		HOC - 13	5-10

Each datum in table in average of four independent determinations

absorption of the compound was found to be incomplete at this dose.

In conclusion, the interesting *in vitro* activity of hetero vinyl oxazino coumarin derivative against a wide range of organisms and the low incidence of resistance suggest the possibility of its becoming a useful chemotherapeutic agent, even in the treatment of infection with multi - resistant organisms.

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