

Design and Synthesis of Antifungal Compounds from 1,2,3-Triazoles through the Click Chemistry Approach



Ana Karla Estrada Valdés and Erick Cuevas-Yañez*

Centro Conjunto de Investigación en Química Sustentable UAEM-UNAM, Mexico

Submission: February 12, 2019; Published: March 12, 2019

*Corresponding author: Erick Cuevas Yañez Carretera Toluca-Atlaconulco Km 14.5, Toluca, Estado de México, 50200, Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, Mexico

Abstract

1,2,3-triazoles are easily prepared from CuAAC reaction and represent a potential source of antifungal compounds analogous toazole drugs. Accordingly, research groups have synthesized diverse 1,2,3-triazoles with modulated antifungal activity through the substituents in azide or alkyne precursors. A brief review of the state of the art about this topic is presented, focusing the increasing importance of developing new and more selective antifungal compounds.

Keywords: 1,2,3-triazole; Click Chemistry; Antifungal

Abbreviations: CuAAC: Copper (I) Catalyzed Azide Alkyne Cycloaddition

Introduction

Fungal infections directly affect million people each year. Besides the invasive fungal infections on humans, the plants and animals considered as a primary source of food are also susceptible to diseases caused by these eukaryotic microbes. This necessity for antifungals not only for medical purposes, but also for uses in agriculture and livestock farming, causes a high demand for this kind of compounds. A relevant commercially known group of antifungal agents are theazole drugs group, which is characterized by containingimidazole or 1,2,4-triazole, anazole, in their structures. Discovered in the 1960s, some representative examples ofazole antifungal drugs are miconazole or clotrimazole which been used as antifungal agents since the end of the 1970s [1,2]. Other examples are propiconazole, introduced in the market in 1979, fluconazole and ketoconazole (1990), itraconazole (1992), and second-generationazole drugs as voriconazole (2002) and posconazole (2006) [3].

A part of the success of azoles as antifungal drugs resides on the heterocyclic moiety which is related to the ability to inhibit 14s-demethylase at fungi cell membrane and subsequent ergosterol synthesis blocking by interaction with the cytochrome p450 enzyme complex. Hence, the presence ofazole ring is fundamental to achieve a significant biological activity [4].

On the other hand, CuAAC reaction has been recognized as one of the most important reactions for molecular assembly

which is concomitant with one of simplest and visionary chemical concepts developed in this century [5-7]. In this reaction, the formation of a 1,2,3-triazole inherent in this process has been used as linkage unit in the building of complex molecular structures, and more recently, in the drug design for diverse purposes. In this regard, excellent reviews give a general idea about this topic [8-12]. Due to the high degree of similarity between 1,2,3-triazole, imidazole and 1,2,4-triazole, an initial hypothesis is that 1,2,3-triazoles would display antifungal activity similar to commercially availableazole drugs. The structures of these heterocyclic systems are represented in (Figure 1).

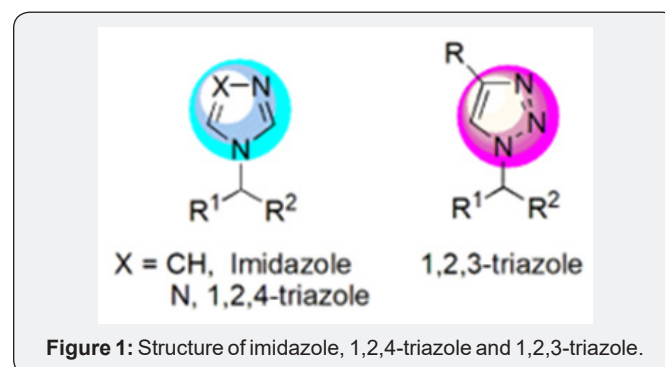


Figure 1: Structure of imidazole, 1,2,4-triazole and 1,2,3-triazole.

In fact, simple 1-benzyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3-triazole compound 1, figure 2 exhibits activity against *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv [13],

as well as 1-benzyl-1,2,3-triazoles [2,14] and [3,15] resulted active against strains of *Candida albicans*. Other 1,2,3-triazoles (compounds 4 and 5, figure 2 bearing hydroxyl groups also showed antifungal activity compared to fluconazole reference standard [16,17]. Moreover, 1,2,3-triazole analogues to molecule 6 were available from CuAAC reaction of triclosan derivatives and displayed a significant activity against *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231 expressed in a high MIC50 and MIC90 [18,19].

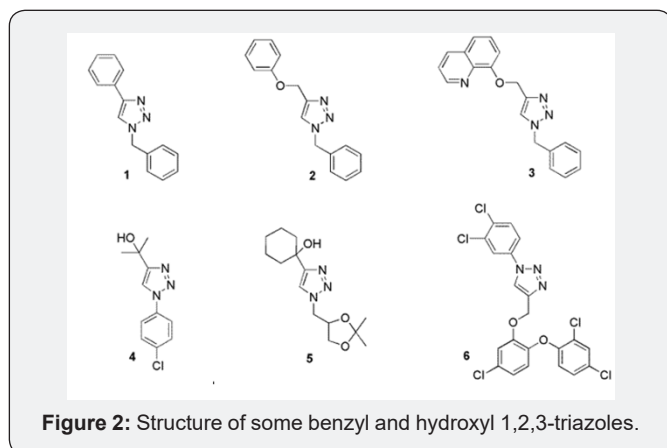


Figure 2: Structure of some benzyl and hydroxyl 1,2,3-triazoles.

Taking the advantages provided by CuAAC reaction and the Click Chemistry concept, some research groups have designed new 2-aryl-1-(1,2,4-triazolyl)-3-(1,2,3-triazolyl)propan-2-ol derivatives as promising fluconazole analogues. Thus, 2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenyl)-1-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-pent-4-yn-2-ol (7) was reacted with diverse benzyl, alkyl azides and also azido bile acid derivatives to afford the corresponding triazoles 8 figure 3 [20-22]. An alternative strategy to increase the number of molecules in a chemical library from CuAAC reaction consists in changing the azide-alkyne group position on the reactive sites. With this idea, diverse alkynes were treated with 1-Azido-2-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-3-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-propan-2-ol (9) yielding fluconazole analogues of type 10 [22-24]. All the compounds were highly active against different strains of fungi which prove that this kind of molecules possess an activity similar or higher than fluconazole having as further benefit that synthesis of these compounds is carried out with fewer reactions compared to the commercially available compound.

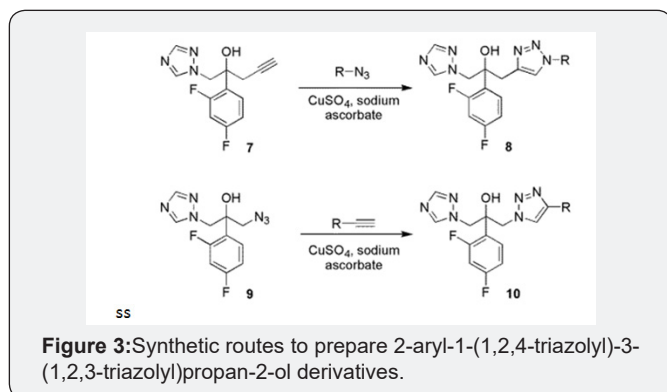


Figure 3: Synthetic routes to prepare 2-aryl-1-(1,2,4-triazolyl)-3-(1,2,3-triazolyl)propan-2-ol derivatives.

Figure 3 Synthetic routes to prepare 2-aryl-1-(1,2,4-triazolyl)-3-(1,2,3-triazolyl)propan-2-ol derivatives

These examples demonstrate that 1,2,3-triazoles are useful structures for the design of antifungal compounds which offer a great chance to drive the research in this area taking in to consideration that the Click Chemistry will help to increase and modulate the biological properties through simplest reactions opening new trends in this area.

References

- Lass-Flörl C (2011) Triazole Antifungal Agents in Invasive Fungal Infections: A Comparative Review. *Drugs* 71(18): 2405-2419.
- Heeres J, Meerpoel L, Lewi P (2010) Conazoles. *Molecules* 15(6): 4129-4188.
- Ngo HX, Garneau-Tsodikova S, Green KD (2016) A complex game of hide and seek: the search for new antifungals. *Med ChemCommun* 7(7): 1285-1306.
- Sagatova AA, Keniya MV, Wilson RJ, Monk BC, Tyndall JDA (2015) Structural Insights into Binding of the Antifungal Drug Fluconazole to *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Lanosterol 14 α -Demethylase. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 59(8): 4982-4989.
- Lahann, J (2009) *Click Chemistry for Biotechnology and Materials Science*, John Wiley & Sons: Chichester, UK.
- Chandrasekaran S (2016) *Click Reactions in Organic Synthesis*, Wiley-VCH Verlag: Weinheim, Germany.
- Rutjes F, Fokin VV (2013) *Click Chemistry*, John Wiley & Sons: Newyork, USA.
- Bonandi E, Christodoulou MS, Fumagalli G, Perdicchia D, Rastelli G, et al. (2017) The 1,2,3-triazole ring as a bioisostere in medicinal chemistry. *Drug Discov Today* 22(10): 1572-1581.
- Dheer D, Singh V, Shankar R (2017) Medicinal attributes of 1,2,3-triazoles: Current developments. *Bioorg Chem* 71: 30-54.
- Haider S, Alam MS, Hamid H (2014) 1,2,3-Triazoles: scaffold with medicinal significance. *Inflammation & Cell Signaling* 1: e95.
- Thirumurugan P, Matosiuk D, Jozwiak K (2013) *Click Chemistry for Drug Development and Diverse Chemical-Biology Applications*. *Chem Rev* 113(7): 4905-4979.
- Agalave SG, Maujan SR, Pore VS (2011) *Click Chemistry: 1,2,3-Triazoles as Pharmacophores*. *Chem Asian J* 6(10): 2696-2718.
- Gallardo H, Conte G, Bryk F, Lourenço, Marilia S. Costa MS, Ferreira VF (2007) Synthesis and Evaluation of 1-Alkyl-4-phenyl-[1,2,3]-triazole Derivatives as Antimycobacterial Agent. *J Braz Chem Soc* 18: 1285-1291.
- Aufort M, Herscovici J, Bouhours P, Moreau N, Girard C (2008) Synthesis and antibiotic activity of a small molecule's library of 1,2,3-triazole derivatives. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett* 18(3): 1195-1198.
- Irfan M, Aneja B, Yadava U, Khan SI, Manzoor N, et al. (2015) Synthesis, QSAR and anticandidal evaluation of 1,2,3-triazoles derived from naturally bioactive scaffolds. *Eur J Med Chem* 93: 246-254.
- Lima-Neto RG, Cavalcante NNM, Srivastava RM, Mendonça FJB, Almir G Wanderley AG et al. (2012) Synthesis of 1,2,3-Triazole Derivatives and in Vitro Antifungal Evaluation on *Candida* Strains. *Molecules* 17(5): 5882-5892.
- Costa AV, Lacerda MV, Pinto RT, Moreira LC, Gomes EMC, et al. (2017) Synthesis of Novel Glycerol-Derived 1,2,3-Triazoles and Evaluation of

- Their Fungicide, Phytotoxic and Cytotoxic Activities. *Molecules* 22(10): 1666.
18. Layton TCF, Cuevas-Yañez E, Velasco-Montejo BE, Mendieta-Zerón H (2014) High susceptibility of *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231 to tetrahydrofuranosyl-1,2,3-triazoles obtained by click chemistry. *Bolivian J Chem* 31: 15-21.
19. Velasco BE, López-Téllez G, González-Rivas N, García-Orozco I, Cuevas-Yañez E (2013) Catalytic activity of dithioic acid copper complexes in the alkyne-azide cycloaddition. *Can J Chem* 91: 292-299.
20. Zou Y, Zhao Q, Liao J, Hua H, Yu S, et al. (2012) New triazole derivatives as antifungal agents: Synthesis via click reaction, in vitro evaluation and molecular docking studies. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett* 22(8): 2959-2962.
21. Pore VS, Aher NG, Kumar M, Shukla PK (2006) Design and synthesis of fluconazole/bile acid conjugate using click reaction. *Tetrahedron* 62(48): 11178-11186.
22. Aher NG, Pore VS, Mishra NN, Kumar A, Shukla PK, et al. (2009) Synthesis and antifungal activity of 1,2,3-triazole containing fluconazole analogues. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett* 19(3): 759-763.
23. Wang S, Zhang L, Jin Y, Tang JH, Su H, et al. (2014) Synthesis and Evaluation of Some Substituted Heterocyclic Fluconazole Analogues as Antifungal Agents. *Asian J Chem* 26: 2362-2364.
24. Pore VS, Jagtap MA, Agalave SG, Pandey AK, Siddiqi MI, et al (2012) Synthesis and antifungal activity of 1,5-disubstituted-1,2,3-triazole containing fluconazole analogues. *Med Chem Commun* 3: 484-488.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License
DOI: [10.19080/OMCIJ.2019.08.555734](https://doi.org/10.19080/OMCIJ.2019.08.555734)

Your next submission with Juniper Publishers will reach you the below assets

- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats
(Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)
- Unceasing customer service

Track the below URL for one-step submission
<https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php>