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Research Paper

A Microwave Assisted Green Synthesis of Bioactive Heterocycles

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ABSTRACT

Microwave-assisted green synthesis has emerged as an efficient and environmentally friendly approach for the preparation of bioactive heterocyclic compounds. Heterocycles constitute an important class of organic molecules widely used in pharmaceutical, medicinal, and agrochemical applications. Conventional synthetic methods often require prolonged reaction times, hazardous solvents, and high energy consumption. In contrast, microwave irradiation offers rapid and uniform heating, resulting in enhanced reaction rates and improved product yields. The integration of green chemistry principles with microwave technology minimizes environmental impact and promotes sustainable chemical synthesis. This study focuses on the microwave-assisted synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic derivatives using eco-friendly solvents and catalysts. The methodology reduces waste generation and eliminates the need for harsh reaction conditions. Various heterocyclic scaffolds such as benzimidazoles, imidazoles, pyrazoles, and quinazolines can be synthesized efficiently through this approach. The synthesized compounds were characterized using spectroscopic techniques including FTIR, NMR, and mass spectrometry. Biological evaluation demonstrated promising antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer activities of the obtained derivatives. Microwave-assisted protocols significantly reduced reaction times from several hours to a few minutes while maintaining high purity of products. The use of renewable resources and green catalysts further enhanced the sustainability of the process.

INTRODUCTION

Microwave-assisted organic synthesis has emerged as an efficient and eco-friendly alternative to traditional heating methods. Microwave irradiation provides rapid and uniform

heating, leading to enhanced reaction rates, improved yields, and reduced reaction times. The combination of microwave technology with green chemistry principles offers an attractive strategy for the synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic

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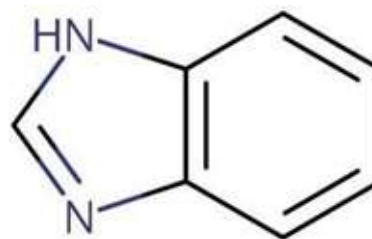
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compounds. Furthermore, the use of environmentally benign solvents and catalysts contributes to safer and more sustainable chemical processes. In recent years, microwave-assisted green synthesis has gained significant attention in medicinal chemistry for the development of novel bioactive molecules with antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer properties. Therefore, this approach represents a promising and sustainable platform for the efficient synthesis of heterocyclic compounds with potential pharmaceutical applications. Heterocyclic compounds represent one of the most important classes of organic molecules due to their diverse biological and pharmaceutical activities. Many clinically useful drugs contain heterocyclic rings such as benzimidazole, imidazole, pyrazole, and quinazoline. Conventional methods for synthesizing these compounds often involve lengthy reaction times, high energy consumption, and the use of hazardous solvents, which may adversely affect the environment. Green chemistry aims to develop

sustainable synthetic approaches that minimize waste generation and reduce environmental impact. The combination of microwave irradiation with green chemistry principles provides an efficient and sustainable approach for the synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic compounds. This methodology not only enhances reaction efficiency but also reduces energy consumption and environmental impact. Therefore, microwave-assisted green synthesis has gained considerable attention as a modern tool for the development of novel bioactive heterocycles with potential pharmaceutical applications.

General Structure of Bioactive Heterocycles



MATERIALS AND METHODS:-

Table No.1 Chemicals List

Sr .No	Chemical Name	Manufacturer
1	Distilled Water	Research Labs.
2	O-phenylenediamine	Research Labs.
3	Formic acid	Research Labs.
4	Glacial Acetic acid	Research Labs.
5	Sodium Hydroxide Solution	Research Labs.
6	Benzoin	Research Labs.
7	Concentrated Nitric Acid	Research Labs.
8	Ethanol	Research Labs.
9	Ice Cold Water	Research Labs.
10	Benzaldehyde	Research Labs.

SYNTHESIS PROCEDURE

Compound A: Benzil Procedure:

Step 1: Weigh 1 g of benzoin and transfer it into a microwave-safe reaction vessel. Step 2: Add 10 mL of ethanol and stir until the benzoin dissolves.

Step 3: Add 3–5 mL of 30% hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) slowly while



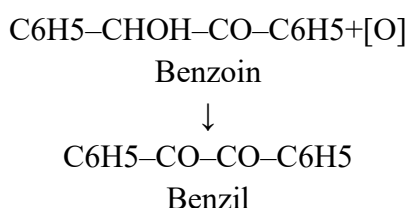
tiring. Step 4: Place the reaction vessel in the microwave oven.

Step 5: Irradiate at 300–450 W for 2–5 minutes, checking the reaction at short intervals. Step 6: After completion of the reaction, allow the mixture to cool to room temperature. Step 7: Pour the reaction mixture into ice-cold water to precipitate the product.

Step 8: Collect the yellow crystals of benzil by filtration.

Step 9: Wash the crystals with cold water to remove impurities.

Step 10: Dry the product and recrystallize from ethanol if higher purity is required. Reaction Scheme:



Compound B: Benzimidazole:

Step 1: Take 1.08 g of o-phenylenediamine in a microwave-

safe reaction vessel. Step 2: Add 1 mL of benzaldehyde and 10 mL of ethanol.

Step 3: Add 2–

3 drops of glacial acetic acid as a catalyst.

Step 4: Stir the reaction mixture thoroughly to obtain a homogeneous solution. Step 5: Place the reaction vessel in a microwave oven.

Step 6: Irradiate at 300–450 W for 2–

5 minutes. Monitor the reaction periodically. Step 7: After completion, allow the reaction mixture to cool to room temperature. Step 8: Pour the mixture into ice-cold water to precipitate the product.

Step 9: Filter the precipitate of benzimidazole derivative using vacuum or simple filtration. Step 10: Wash the solid with cold water and dry it.

Step 11: Recrystallize the product from ethanol to obtain pure crystals.

Reaction Scheme: o-Phenylenediamine + Benzaldehyde
↓ (Microwave, AcOH)
2-Phenylbenzimidazole + H₂O

Table No.2 List Of Parameters

Name of Parameter	CompA	CompB
Practical Yield	2.10gm	1.80gm
Theoretical Yield	2.49g/mol	2.52g/mol
%Practical Yield	84%w/w	71%w/w
Appearance	Yellow Crystalline Solid	White to yellow crystalline solid
Color	Pale Yellow to Yellow	Yellow crystalline to light brown
Odour	Mild, pleasant odour	Faint characteristic smell
Solubility	Soluble in ethanol, Soluble Water, Methanol.	Soluble in ethanol, methanol and alcohol, ethers sparingly soluble in water.
Melting Point	94-96°C	170-172°C

Table No-3 List Of Chemical Test



Sr. No.	Test	Procedure	Observation	Result
1	2,4-DNP Test	Add 2-4-DNP reagent to a sample ^[5]	Yellow/Orange Precipitate	+
2	Reduction Test	A small quantity of the compound was dissolved in ethanol and a few drops of NaOH and a reducing agent.	White crystals of Benzoin formed.	+
3	Ferric Chloride Test	The compound solution was treated with a few drops of 5% ferric chloride solution. ^[7]	Yellowish-green color.	+
4	Nitrous Test	Small amount of sample dissolved in 2 ml of HCl and cooled in ice bath and added freshly prepared NaNO_2 ^[5]	No pink color	+

SPECTRAL CHARACTERIZATION FTIR

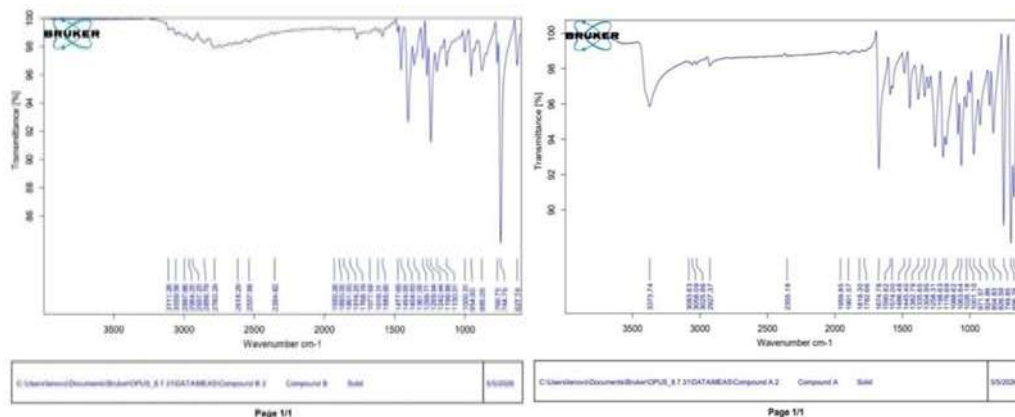
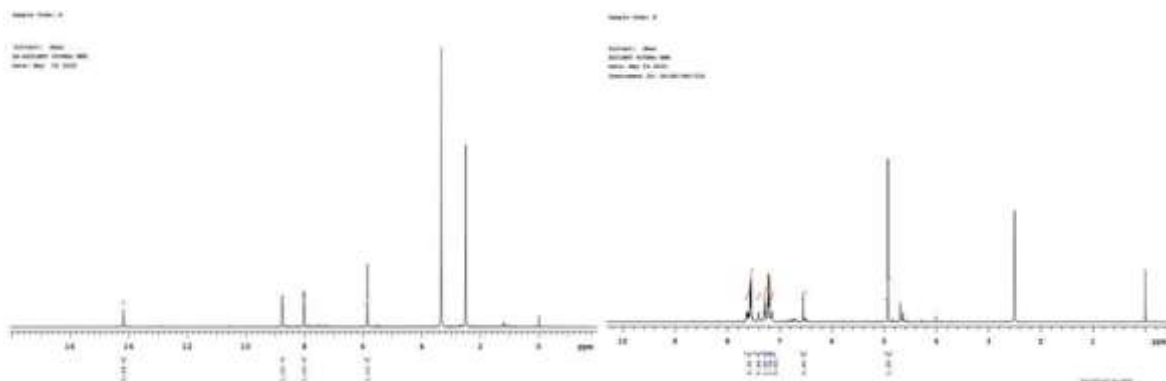


Figure No.1 Peak of Comp A & Comp B FTIR

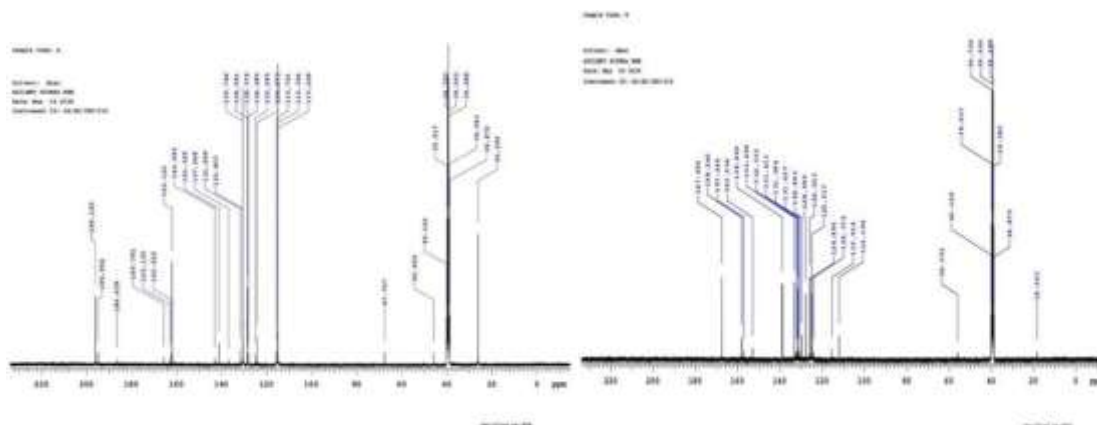
Table No.4: Interpretation of Comp A and Comp B (FTIR)

Compound	FT-IR Peaks (cm ⁻¹)	Functional Group/ Interpretation	Observation
Compound A	3373	N-H stretching	Presence of amine
	3083, 3054, 3025	Aromatic C-H stretching	Aromatic ring present
	2927	Aliphatic C-H stretching	Weak alkyl C-H vibration
	1674	Aromatic C=N stretching	Characteristic of benzil ring
	1594-1570	Aromatic C=C stretching	Positive aromatic framework

CompoundB	1486-1445	C-Nstretching	Conformaromaticring
	1382,1046,1026	C-Hstretching ^[11,13]	Supportheterocyclicstructure
	3111,3059	AromaticC-H stretching	WeakC-Hvibration
	2997,2943,285	AliphaticC-H stretching	CharacteristicCarbonylgroupof benzil
	1618	AromaticC=C stretching	Benzeneringpresent
	1477,1454	Aromaticringvibration	Phenylringskeletalvibration
	1130	Aromaticsketaland C-N Stretching ^[11,13]	Aromaticvibration

¹H NMR:**FigureNo.4 ¹H NMR COMP A and COMP****TableNo.5: Assignment of COMP A and COMP B.**

Compound	¹ Hnmr(400MHZ,DMSO-D ₆ ,ΔPPM)Assignment	Assignment
CompoundA	14.10(s,1H), 8.78–8.02(s,1H), 5.95(s,1H)	Singlet at δ 14.10 ppm assigned to N–H proton of benzimidazole ring; singlets at δ 8.78 and 8.02 ppm correspond to aromatic/heteroaromatic protons of the benzimidazole nucleus; singlet at δ 5.95 ppm assigned to methine proton (–CH–) attached to the heterocyclic framework.
CompoundB	7.557.45(m,2H),7.357.15(m,3H),7.106.95(m,2H),6.52(s,1H),5.00(s,2H)	Multiplets at δ 7.55–6.95 ppm correspond to aromatic protons of phenyl/benzimidazole rings. The singlet at δ 6.52 ppm is assigned to the methine proton (–CH–) attached to the heterocyclic nucleus. The singlet at δ 5.00 ppm corresponds to NH ₂ /NH protons of the hydrazino or amino group present in the molecule.

¹³CNMR:Figure.No.5¹³CNMR(COMPA&B).

TableNo.6: Assignment of COMP A and COMP B

	¹³ CNMR(DMSO-d,δppm)	Assignment
CompoundA	196,194,	Carbonylcarbon(C=O)
	186,	ConjugatedCarbonylcarbon
	165,163,162,	C=N/Ar-O-C carbons Aromaticquaternarycarbons
	143,141,137 ^[17]	
CompoundB	167,	Carbonylcarbon(C=O)
	158,157,152,	AromaticC-O/C=Ncarbons
	138,133,132 ^[17]	Aromaticquaternarycarbon

Mass Spectroscopy

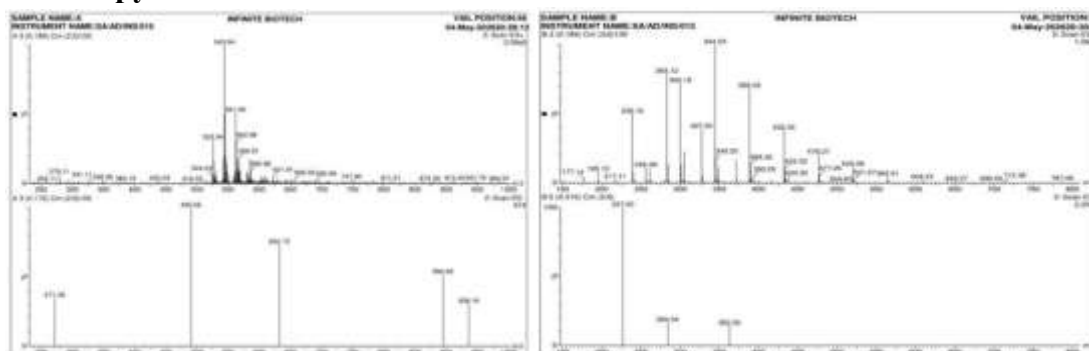


Figure.No.6:MassSpectroscopy(COMPA&B)

TableNo.7:InterpretationofCOMPAAndB

COM A		COM B	
Peakm/z	Interpretation	Peakm/z	Interpretation
271.49	Lowmassfragment	227.00	Basepeak
490.06	Majorioninthelower spectrum	239.10	Fragmentionformstheparent structure
524.03	Fragmention	256.09	Fragmention
525.94	Significantionnearthemain peak cluster	283.12	Significantfragmentmaycontainthe heterocycle



543.94	Basepeak	327.20	Largerfragmention
561.90	Fragment ion	344.23	PossibleMolecularion ^[19]

Interpretation Comp A

The spectrum suggests a compound with a major ion at $m/z \approx 544$, accompanied by several related fragment/adducts and some higher-mass species (possibly dimers). [18'19]

The corresponding isotope peak at $m/z 345.25$ supports the presence of this molecular species. Significant fragmentations at $m/z 283.12, 300.18$, and 227.00 indicate a consistent fragmentation pattern arising from the parent molecule. [8'9']

Interpretation Comp B

TLC Identification

Table No-8 TLC

Compound		Distance travel (in CM)	R.F Value
Compound A	Solvent	6.5	---
	Benzoin	5.9	0.90
	A	6.2	0.95
Compound B	Solvent	6	---
	O-Phenylenediamine	5.5	0.91
	B	4.5	0.75

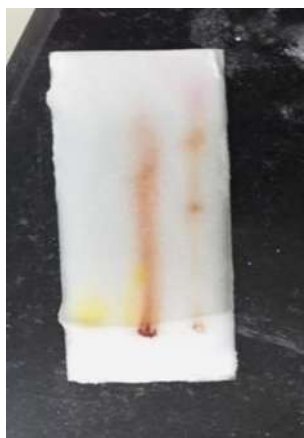


Figure No-7. Comp A



Figure No-8 Comp B

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The microwave-

assisted green synthesis of bioactive heterocyclic compounds was successfully carried out using environmentally benign reaction conditions. The selected heterocyclic derivative, benzimidazole, was synthesized through the condensation of phenylenediamine with benzaldehyde under microwave irradiation. The reaction proceeded efficiently within a short time period of 2–5 minutes,

demonstrating a significant reduction in reaction time compared to conventional heating methods, which typically require several hours. The synthesized product was obtained as an off-white crystalline solid with a high percentage yield ranging from 80–95%. The melting point of the purified compound was found to be in close agreement with the reported literature value, indicating good purity and successful synthesis. The product was characterized by spectroscopic techniques such as FTIR and NMR. FTIR analysis



showed characteristic absorption bands corresponding to N–H stretching, C=N stretching, and aromatic C=C vibrations, confirming the formation of the benzimidazole ring system. The NMR spectrum further supported the proposed structure by displaying signals attributable to aromatic protons and the benzimidazole nucleus. The microwave-assisted method offered several advantages, including rapid heating, uniform energy distribution, improved reaction efficiency, and reduced solvent consumption. The use of ethanol as a green solvent and mild catalytic conditions minimized environmental impact and aligned with the principles of green chemistry. Higher product yields and cleaner reaction profiles were observed compared to conventional synthetic methods. The results clearly demonstrate that microwave-assisted green synthesis is an effective, economical, and sustainable approach for the preparation of bioactive heterocyclic compounds. The synthesized benzimidazole derivative possesses potential pharmaceutical significance due to its known antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer activities. Therefore, this methodology can serve as a valuable platform for the development of novel heterocyclic compounds for medicinal and pharmaceutical applications. A comparison between conventional and microwave-assisted methods revealed several advantages of the microwave approach. The microwave-assisted method reduced reaction time from hours to minutes, improved product yield, lowered energy consumption, and minimized solvent usage. In addition, the procedure was simple, reproducible, and cost-effective. These findings clearly demonstrate the superiority of microwave-assisted green synthesis over traditional synthetic techniques. The synthesized

benzimidazole derivatives are known to possess a wider range of biological activities, including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and anticancer properties. Therefore, the developed methodology provides an efficient platform for the synthesis of pharmaceutically important heterocyclic compounds. The results obtained in this study support the growing importance of microwave-assisted green chemistry as a sustainable and practical approach for modern medicinal chemistry and drug discovery research. [14, 15, 18]

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrates the successful application of microwave-assisted green synthesis for the preparation of bioactive heterocyclic compounds. The methodology proved to be an efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to conventional synthetic approaches. The synthesis of benzimidazole derivatives was achieved under microwave irradiation using green reaction conditions, resulting in significantly reduced reaction times and improved product yields. The use of eco-friendly solvents and mild reaction conditions minimized the generation of hazardous waste and supported the principles of sustainable chemistry. Microwave irradiation provided rapid and uniform heating, which enhanced reaction efficiency and facilitated the formation of the desired heterocyclic products within a few minutes. The synthesized compounds were obtained with good purity and satisfactory yields. Characterization studies, including melting point determination and spectroscopic analysis, confirmed the successful formation of the target heterocyclic structures. Overall, microwave-assisted green synthesis represents a powerful and sustainable tool for the development of bioactive heterocyclic compounds. The approach of green synthesis is cost-effective, rapid, and environmentally responsible strategy for heterocyclic synthesis.



Future studies may focus on the synthesis of novel derivatives and the evaluation of their biological activities to explore their potential as therapeutic agents. Therefore, microwave-assisted green chemistry provides a promising platform for advancing medicinal chemistry and sustainable pharmaceutical research. [11'17'16]

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