

## The Use of 3-Benzylidene Phthalide as Precursor to Synthesize New 1,3,4-Oxadiazole Derivatives

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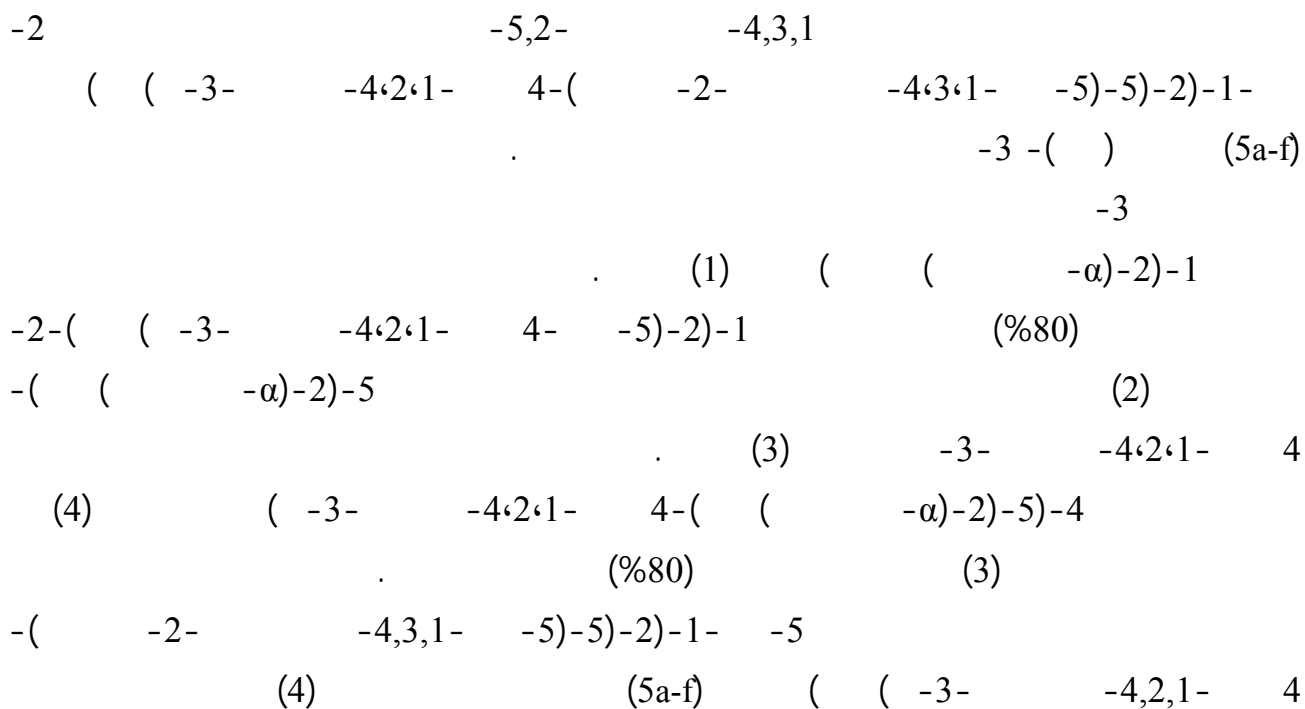
### ABSTRACT

A series of new 2,5-disubstituted 1,3,4-oxadiazoles represented by compounds 2-phenyl-1-(2-(5-(5-aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl amino)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)ethanone (5a-f) have been synthesized from (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide as useful precursor. 3-Benzylidene phthalide was reacted, firstly with urea under microwave irradiation and dry conditions to afford the corresponding 1-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)benzoyl)urea (1). The later compound underwent cycloaddition reaction with hydrazine hydrate (80%) to give 1-(2-(5-amino-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)-2-phenylethanone (2), which upon reaction with ethyl chloroformate provided the corresponding ethyl- 5-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl carbamate (3).

4-(5-(2-( $\alpha$ -Phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl) semicarbazide (4) was also prepared from the reaction of compound (3) with hydrazine hydrate (80%) under mild conditions. Finally, 2-phenyl-1-(2-(5-(5-aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl amino)-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-yl)phenyl) ethanone (5a-f) were obtained via the reaction of compound (4) with various substituted benzoic acid by the action of phosphorous oxychloride. The structure of the prepared compounds were confirmed by the available physical and spectral methods.

**Key words:** (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide; 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives; 1,2,4-triazole; Semicarbazide.

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**-4,3,1****-3**

## INTRODUCTION

Heterocyclic compounds have a great deal of attention because of their biological activity and also they make possible development of novel material with unique properties (Mostafa, 2010; Arulmurugan and Kavitha, 2010; Srinivas and Kumar, 2010; Caiazza *et al*, 2004). One very interesting and promising class of heterocyclic is the series of 2,5-disubstituted-1,3,4-oxadiazoles that have been proven to be effective antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, fungicidal and bactericidal agents (Sharma *et al.*, 2010; Narasimhan *et al.*,2010; Banday *et al.*, 2010; Dewangan *et al.*, 2010; Bari *et al.*, 2008 ). Furthermore, the 1,3,4-oxadiazole nucleus is associated with divers pharmaceutical activities as antitumor, antitubercular, antimalaria and analgesic (Revanasiddappa and Subrahmanyam, 2010; Patel and Patel, 2010; Mitsui and Aoki, 2010; Husain and Ajmal, 2009; He *et al.*, 2009). On the other hand, these compounds have

been extensively employed in industrial and agricultural field (Naik *et al.*, 2009; Jain *et al.*, 2009; Kim and Kang, 2008; Awadallah, 2006).

In this presentation, (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide which is another type of heterocyclic was used as useful precursor to obtain 1,3,4-oxadiazoles. Optionally, 3-substituted phthalides have wide applications in industrial field (Shibata and Gaesser, 1991; Scholl *et al.*, 1989; Conner, 1982) and also have emerged as inexpensive and easily available reagents in organic synthesis (Dalloul, 2010; Viña *et al.*, 2009; del Olmo *et al.*, 2006; Rios and Delgado, 1999; Hrnčiar *et al.*, 1994; Humber, 1974; Rosenthal and Yalpani, 1965; Litvan and Stoll, 1958). Moreover, these compounds are known to possess multiple biological activities (Kurume *et al.*, 2008; Kanazawa and Terada, 2007; Kundu *et al.*, 1998; Ganji *et al.*, 1993; Ibrahim, 1991). Several 3-substituted phthalides have been isolated from natural source and also used extensively as intermediates for the synthesis of various drugs and naturally occurring compounds (Tang *et al.*, 2010; Phan *et al.*, 2009; Patil and Karnik, 2007).

In this research, it is planned to generate a new series of 2,5-disubstituted-1,3,4-oxadiazoles represented by compounds (5a-f), (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide firstly was reacted with urea to prepare compound (1) and the latter will be used as key intermediate to synthesize 1,2,4-triazole represented by compound (2) which was in turn used as useful material to prepare 1,3,4-oxadiazoles compounds (5a-f).

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points (M.P.) were measured on Electrothermal, Gallenkamp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Proton-Nuclear Magnetic Resonance ( $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ) spectra were recorded using spectrophotometer (H300MHz); with TMS as internal standard, and DMSO- $d_6$  as solvents; Jordan, University of Al-Bayt. [(s) singlet; (t) triplet; (q) quartet; (m) multiplet]. Infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded as (KBr) disc using FT-IR-600, Biotech Engineering Management CO. LTD. (UK). Ultraviolet (UV) spectra were performed on Shimadzu UV-Visible spectrophotometer UV-1650 PC using methanol as a solvent. The microwave oven is a domestic microwave oven (LG, MS-192W), (360 watt) was used. The starting material (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide was manufactured via Fluka Com. (Germany). Finally, thin layer chromatography (TLC) were carried out on silica gel (120 mesh) coated plates (2x10) cm, activated for one hour at (110-120 °C) before use.

### Synthesis of 1-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)benzoyl)urea (1): (Ilango *et al.*, 2010; Benjamin and Hijji, 2007)

A mixture of (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide (0.01 mole, 2.22 gm) and urea (0.01 mole, 0.6 gm) was irradiated in microwave oven for (4 min.) at (360 watt). The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, water was added and the mixture was washed thoroughly with water. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from methanol to yield compound (1) (1.9 gm), m.p. (79-80°C) in (72%) yield. The purity of the obtained product was controlled by TLC technique using solvent system (ethyl acetate: acetone) in (9:1) ratio,  $R_f$  value (0.451),  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  /ppm: 3.5 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.7 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 7.1-8.2 (m, H-

aromatic) and 10.7 (s,1H,NH), FT-IR (KBr)  $\nu$  / $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3205 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 1677 (C=O ketone) and 1657 (C=O amide), UV (methanol)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  : 226 nm.

**Synthesis of 1-(2-(5-amino-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)-2-phenylethanone (2): (Şener, 2004)**

Excess of hydrazine hydrate (80%) (0.08 mole, 4 ml) was added to compound (1) (0.007 mole, 1.96 gm) in ethanol (30 ml) with a catalytic amount of triethyl amine (1ml). The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for (4 hrs.) with stirring and was then left to cool at room temperature. The precipitate that formed was filtered off, dried and recrystallized from ethanol to give compound (2) (1.85 gm), m.p. (192-193°C) in (96%) yield. The purity of the obtained product was controlled by TLC technique using solvent system (ethyl acetate: acetone) in (9:1) ratio, R<sub>f</sub> value (0.731), H<sup>1</sup>-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  /ppm: 3.4 (s,2H,CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.3 (s,1H,NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.1-8.2 (m,H-aromatic) and 13 (s,1H,NH-triazole), FT-IR (KBr)  $\nu$  / $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3302 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 3193 (NH), 1658 (C=O) and 1608 (C=N), UV (methanol)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  : 290 and 254 nm.

**Synthesis of ethyl 5-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl carbamate (3): (Aly and EL-Sayed, 2006)**

Ethyl chloroformate (0.023 mole, 2.2 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of compound (2) (0.023 mole, 6 gm) in pyridine (15 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for (1 hr.), it was then poured on (100 ml) ice-water and the precipitated carbamate was filtered off, washed thoroughly with water, dilute hydrochloric acid then water again and recrystallized from ethanol to afford compound (3), (4.6 gm), m.p. (148-150°C) in (61%) yield. The purity of the obtained product was controlled by TLC technique using solvent system (ethyl acetate: acetone) in (9:1) ratio, R<sub>f</sub> value (0.773), H<sup>1</sup>-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  /ppm: 1.4 (t,3H,CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.4 (s,2H,CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.5 (q,2H,O-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.1-8.3 (m,H-aromatic), 8.4 (s,1H,NH) and 13 (NH-triazole), FT-IR (KBr)  $\nu$  /  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3159 (NH), 1763 (C=O urethane), 1658 (C=O ketone) and 1608 (C=N), UV (methanol)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  : 238 and 282 nm.

**Synthesis of 4-(5-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl) semicarbazide (4): (Mayekar, 2010)**

A mixture of appropriate carbamate (3) (0.01 mole, 3.32 gm) and excess of hydrazine hydrate (80%) (0.08 mole, 4 ml) in ethanol (30 ml) with a catalytic amount of triethyl amine (1ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for (3 hrs.) then poured on ice-water and acidified with diluted hydrochloric acid. The precipitate that formed was filtered off, washed thoroughly with water, dried to give compound (4) (2.9 gm), m.p. (194-196°C) in (91%) yield. The purity of the obtained product was controlled by TLC technique using solvent system (ethyl acetate: acetone) in (9:1) ratio, R<sub>f</sub> value (0.714), H<sup>1</sup>-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  /ppm: 3.4 (s,H,NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.3 (s,2H,CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.9 (s,1H,NH-urea), 7.1-8.2(m,H-aromatic) and 13.2 (s,1H,NH-triazole), FT-IR (KBr)  $\nu$  / $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3300 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 3159 (NH), 1690 (C=O ketone), 1658 (C=O amide) and 1608 (C=N), UV (methanol)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  : 246 and 274 nm.

**Synthesis of 2-phenyl-1-(2-(5-(5-aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-ylamino)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)ethanone (5a-f): (Revasiddappa and Subrahmanyam, 2010)**

A mixture of compound (4) (0.0005 mole, 0.16 gm), substituted benzoic acid (0.0005 mole) and phosphorous oxychloride (3 ml) was refluxed for (4 hrs.). The contents were cooled to room temperature and poured onto crushed ice. It was then neutralized by adding sodium bicarbonate. The solid product was collected by filtration then dried. Further purification was done by recrystallization from a mixture of methanol-water to yield the desired oxadiazoles (5a-f). The purity of the obtained product was controlled by TLC technique using solvent system (ethyl acetate: acetone) in (9:1) ratio. The physical and spectral data were listed in Table (1) and (2).

Table 1: Physical properties and spectral data for compounds (5a-f).

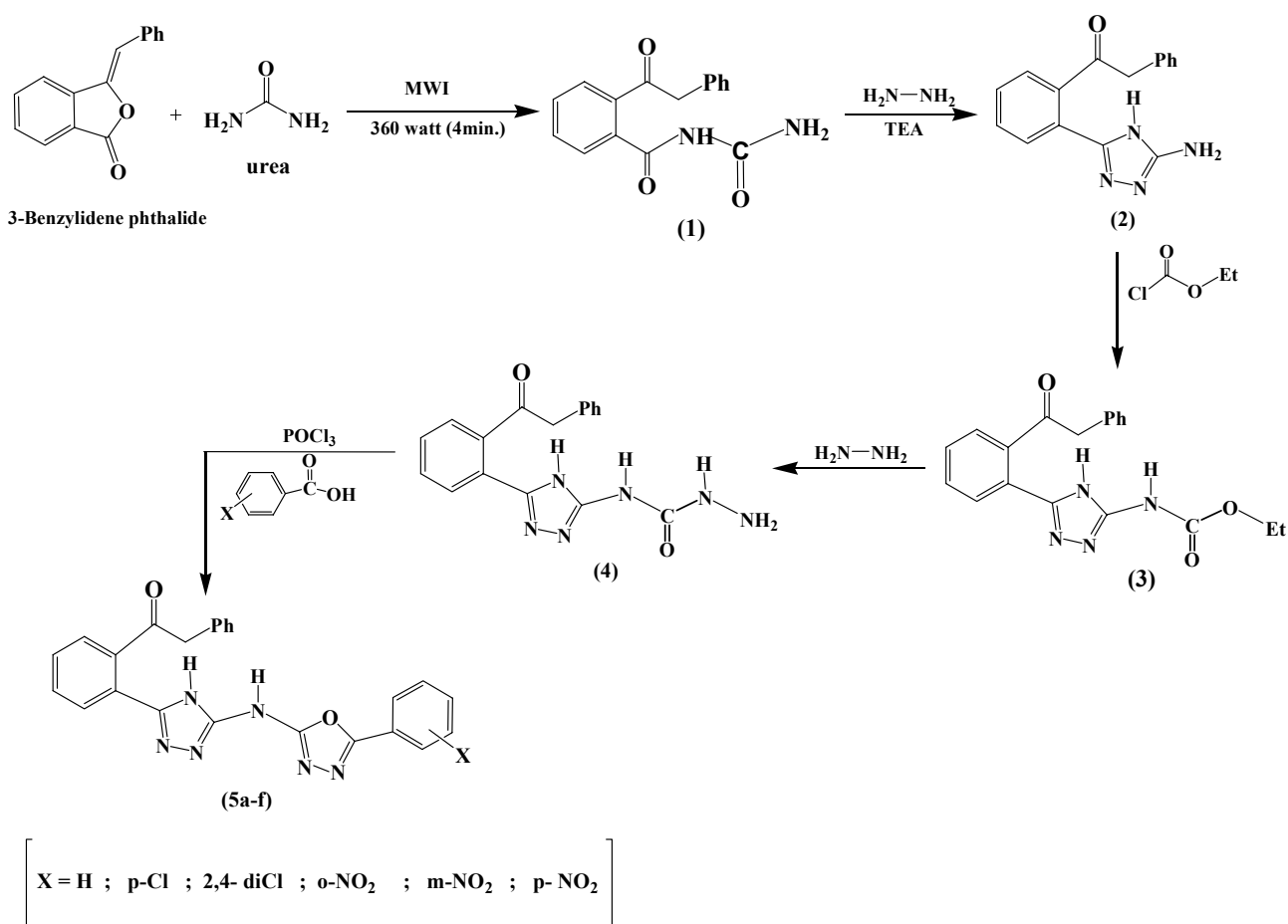
Comp. No.	X	M.P. (°C)	Yield (%)	R <sub>f</sub> Value	UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ (nm)	IR (KBr) $\nu$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )				
						NH	C=O	C=N	C-O-C (cyclic)	others
5a	H	140-142	65	0.487	280	3162	1660	1599	1169	—
5b	o-Cl	127-129	62	0.407	278	3170	1655	1591	1174	—
5c	2,4-diCl	98-101	68	0.438	280	3161	1658	1608	1180	—
5d	o-NO <sub>2</sub>	206-208	81	0.628	274	3171	1664	1604	1166	NO <sub>2</sub> asym 1545 sym 1321
5e	m-NO <sub>2</sub>	140-141	72	0.608	278	3163	1658	1608	1173	NO <sub>2</sub> asym 1535 sym 1392
5f	p-NO <sub>2</sub>	122-123	67	0.452	282	3163	1660	1601	1174	NO <sub>2</sub> asym 1522 sym 1390

Table 2: The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectral data for compounds (5a-c and 5e-f).

Comp. No.	X	$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO- $d_6$ ) $\delta$ (ppm)
5a	H	4.4 (s,2H, $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.9 (s,1H,NH), 7.1-8.5 (m,H-aromatic) and 13.2 (s,1H,NH-triazole)
5b	o-Cl	3.4 (s,2H, $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.8 (s,1H,NH), 7.1-8.4 (m,H-aromatic) and 13.0 (s,1H,NH-triazole)
5c	2,4-diCl	4.2 (s,2H, $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.7 (s,1H,NH), 7.2-8.4 (m,H-aromatic) and 12.9 (s,1H,NH-triazole)
5e	m- $\text{NO}_2$	3.9 (s,2H, $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.9 (s,1H,NH), 7.2-8.6 (m,H-aromatic) and 12.8 (s,1H,NH-triazole)
5f	p- $\text{NO}_2$	3.8 (s,2H, $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.7 (s,1H,NH), 7.2-8.4 (m,H-aromatic) and 12.9 (s,1H,NH-triazole)

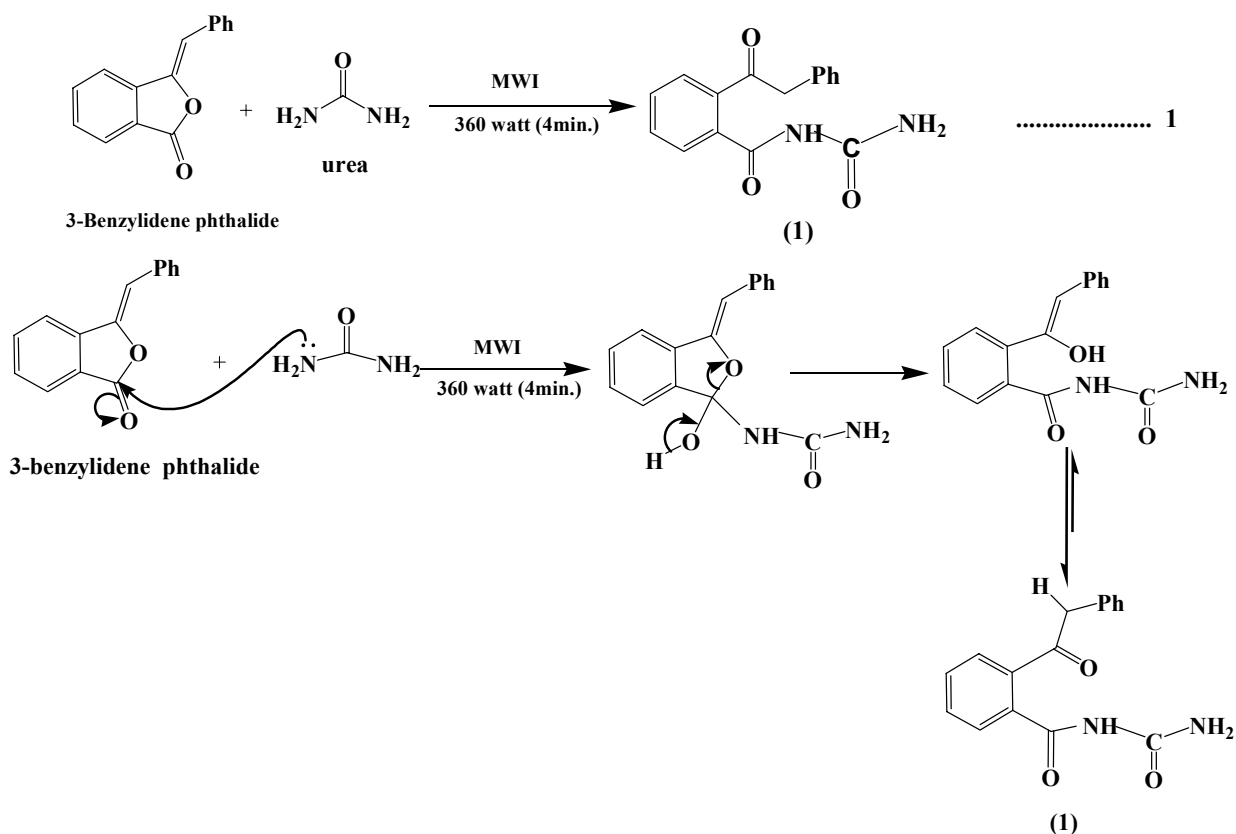
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthetic path way leading to the title compounds is given in scheme (1).



Scheme (1)

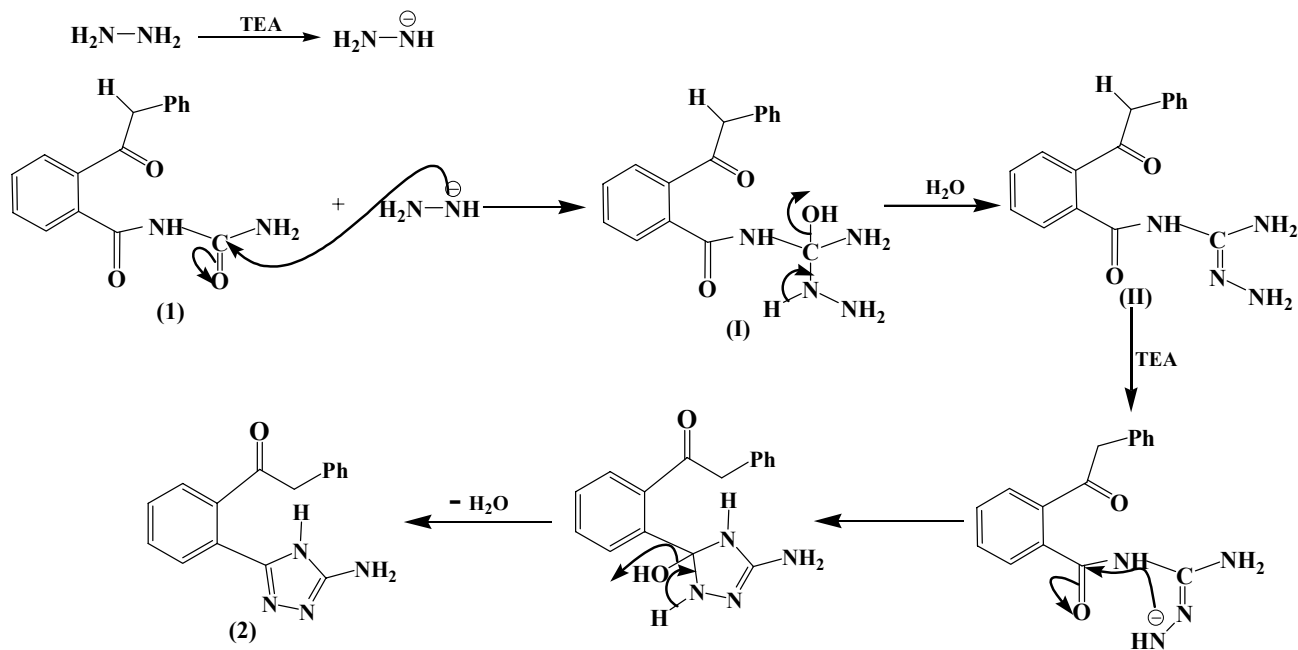
The synthesis of 2-phenyl-1-(2-(5-(5-aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl amino)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)ethanone (5a-f) required in the first step preparation of the starting material, namely 1-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)benzoyl) urea (1) which was prepared from the direct reaction between (Z)-3-benzylidene phthalide as a useful precursor and urea. This reaction was found to proceed smoothly under microwave irradiation in dry conditions within (4 min.) at (360 watt) (equation 1), the proposed mechanism was summarized in scheme (2) (Chiriac *et al.*, 2007; Youssef, 2006).



The structure of the later compound was established on the bases of the presence of an ( $\text{NH}_2$ ) and ( $\text{NH}$ ) absorption bands in the ( $3205\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ( $3163\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) region, ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ) ketone and amide absorption bands at ( $1677\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ( $1657\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) region respectively in its IR spectrum, whereas its UV spectrum revealed the presence of absorption band at  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (226 nm) due to the conjugation, (Finar, 1977; Parikh, 1974). Further structure proof of compound (1) has come from  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra which showed significant peaks at  $\delta$  (ppm): 3.5 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.7 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 7.1-8.2 (m, H-aromatic) and 10.67 (s, 1H,  $\text{NH}$ ).

Compound (1) reacted with hydrazine hydrate (80%) through cycloaddition reaction in refluxed ethanol to obtain compound (2) represented by 1-(2-(5-amino-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl)-2-phenylethanone. The mechanism of this reaction proceeded through an ordinary

nucleophilic attack of hydrazine hydrate the amide carbonyl carbon to afford the intermediat (I) which in turn loses a molecule of water to give the condensed intermediat (II). The other  $\text{NH}_2$  group of hydrazine will attack the other amide carbonyl carbon then the intramolecular cycloaddition reaction will occure to form compound (2). The mechanism of formation of compound (2) is outlined in scheme (3) (Aly *et al.*, 2009; Shetgiri and Nayak, 2005; Al-Mousawi and El-Asapery, 2009).

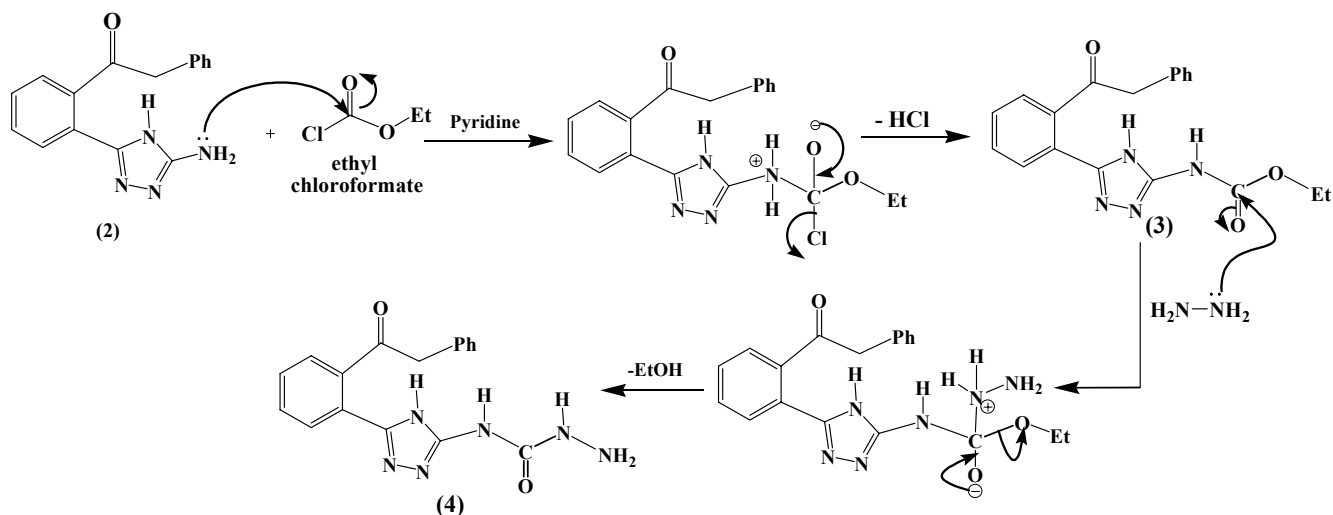


The structure of compound (2) was confirmed by IR and UV spectra. The IR spectrum shows a characteristic absorption band at: ( $3302\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) corresponding to ( $\text{NH}_2$ ) functional group, ( $3193\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) corresponding to ( $\text{NH}$ ) functional group, ( $1658\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) related to ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ) functional group and ( $1608\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) assigned to ( $\text{C}=\text{N}$ ) functional group. The absence of both ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ) of amide gave an evidence for the formation of compound (2), while it's UV spectrum showed absorption band at  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $290\text{ nm}$ ) and ( $254\text{ nm}$ ) due to the increasing of ring system and also to  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition respectively, (Finar, 1977; Parikh, 1974). On the other hand, the structure of compound (2) was confirmed by  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra which showed significant peaks at  $\delta$  (ppm): 3.4 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.3 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 7.5-8.2 (m, H-aromatic) and 13.0 (s, 1H,  $\text{NH}$ -triazole).

Compound (2) was also underwent nucleophilic substitution reaction with ethyl chloroformate to afford the corresponding ethyl 5-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl carbamate (3), which in turn reacted with hydrazine hydrate to give the corresponding



4-(5-(2-( $\alpha$ -phenylacetyl)phenyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)semicarbazide (4), Scheme (4) outlined the synthesis of compounds (3) and (4) respectively, (Demirbas *et al.*, 2005; Loudon, 2002).

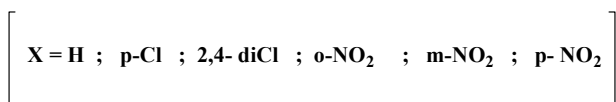
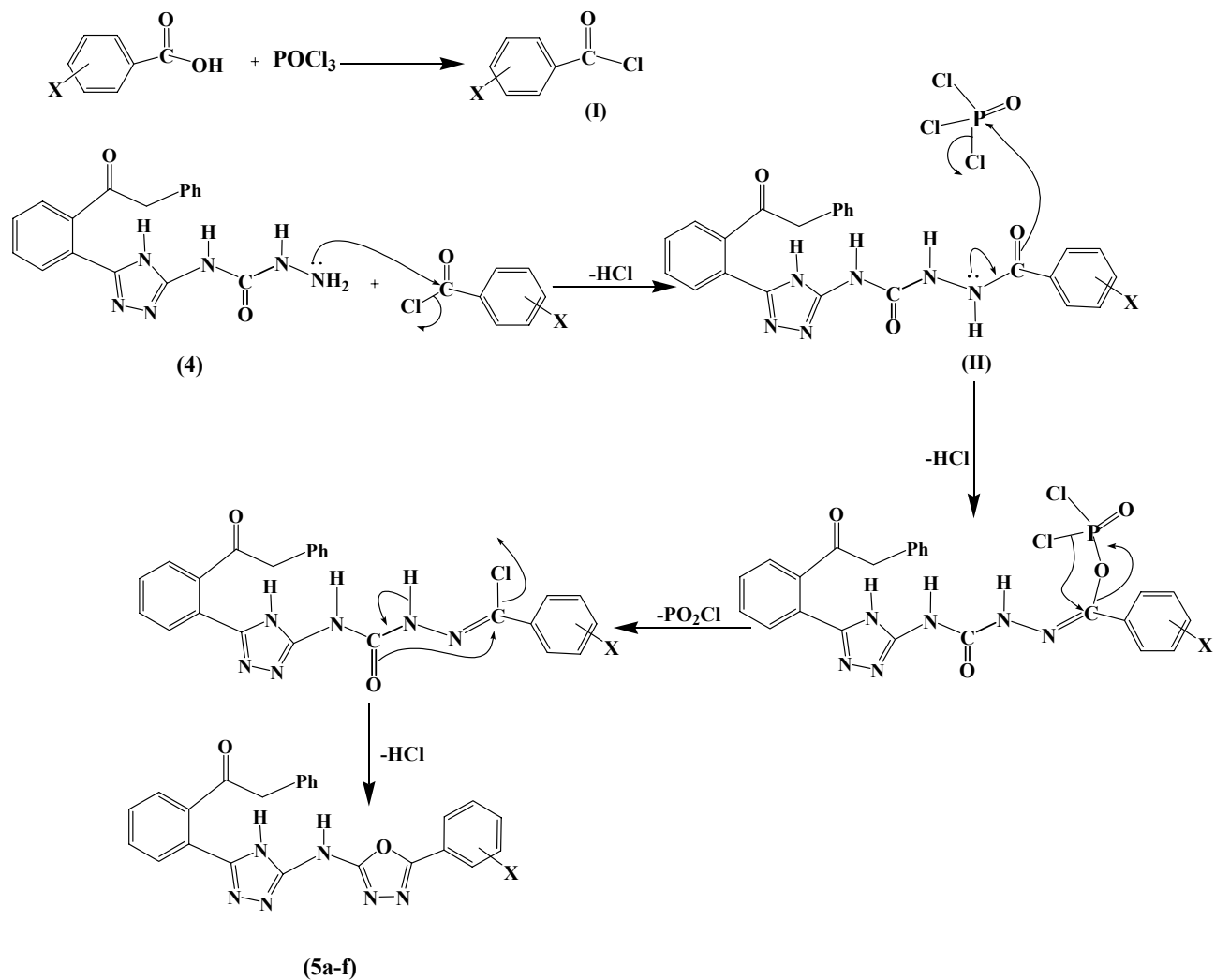


Scheme (4)

The spectral analysis represented by (IR and UV) spectra support the proposed structures of compounds (3) and (4). The IR spectrum of compound (3) showed absorption bands at ( $3159\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), ( $1763\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), ( $1658\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ( $1608\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) assigned to (NH), (C=O) urethane, (C=O) and (C=N) bond stretching respectively. While the spectrum of compound (4) showed absorption bands at ( $3300\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), ( $3159\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), ( $1690\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), ( $1658\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ( $1608\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) assigned to ( $\text{NH}_2$ ), (NH), (C=O) urea, (C=O) and (C=N) bond stretching respectively. Moreover, the UV spectrum of compound (3) gave absorption band at  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $238\text{ nm}$ ) and ( $288\text{ nm}$ ) related to  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition respectively (Silverstein *et al.*, 1974), whereas the UV spectrum of compound (4) gave absorption band at  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $246\text{ nm}$ ) and ( $274\text{ nm}$ ) attributed to the conjugation in the new synthesized system and also to  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition respectively, (Parikh, 1974; Silverstein *et al.*, 1974). The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  measurement of compound (3) showed the following characteristic peaks at  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.4 (t, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.4 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.5 (q, 2H,  $\text{O-CH}_2$ ), 7.1-8.3 (m, H-aromatic), 8.4 (s, 1H, NH) and 13 (NH-triazole), while compound (4) showed absorption peaks at  $\delta$  (ppm): 3.4 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 4.3 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.9 (s, 1H, NH-urea), 7.1-8.2 (m, H-aromatic) and 13.2 (s, 1H, NH-triazole).

In order to prepare and characterize the final products represented by compounds (5a-f), compound (4) can be considered as useful intermediat, it was treated with different substituted benzoic acid in presence of phosphorous oxychloride which act as a chlorinating and dehydrating agent respectively. Mechanistically, it is reasonable to assume that the reaction was proceeded firstly via chlorination of substituted benzoic acid to afford the acid chloride intermediate (I) which upon reaction with compound (4) yielded the semicarbazide intermediate (II). Finally, cyclodehydration of the intermediate (II) takes place in the presnce of

phosphorous oxychloride yielded the corresponding compounds (5a-f) as shown in scheme (5), (Said, 2006).



Scheme (5)

The structure of compounds (5a-f) were elucidated in the basis of their spectral data which was came in agreement with the proposed structure, Table (1 and 2). Thus, in IR spectra the absence of bands due to (C=O urea) and (NH<sub>2</sub>) bond stretching which are present in the parent compound (4) and the presence of bands due to cyclic (C-O-C) and only (N-H) sharp band at (1166-1180 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and (3161-3171 cm<sup>-1</sup>) bond stretching respectively, clearly indicated the

formation of compounds (5a-f). On the other hand, in UV spectra they showed maximum absorption bands at  $\lambda_{\max}$  (274-282 nm) related to the resonance effect ( Parikh, 1974; Finar, 1977). The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  measurement of compound (5a-c and 5e-f) are in agreement with the proposed structure, Table (2). The proton of 1,2,4-triazole ring appear as singlet peak at (13.2-12.9 ppm), whereas the aromatic protons appears as multiplet in the region between (7.1-8.6 ppm). The peaks of the NH and  $\text{CH}_2$  protons appear as singlet at (4.9-4.7 ppm) and (4.4-3.4 ppm) respectively.

The purity of the synthesized 1,3,4-oxadiazoles (5a-f) were ascertained by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using (ethyl acetate: acetone) (9:1) ratio as suitable solvent system (Khan *et al.*, 2004). This technique was also used to provide the formation of compounds (5a-f) by comparing it's  $R_f$  values with those of compound (4), Table (1).

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