

### EXPLORING THE SYNTHESIS OF NITROGEN AND SULPHUR-BASED HETEROCYCLES AS POTENTIAL AMYLASE INHIBITORS

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### ABSTRACT

The increasing prevalence of metabolic disorders, particularly diabetes, has driven the search for novel amylase inhibitors to regulate postprandial hyperglycemia. Heterocyclic compounds containing nitrogen and sulphur have gained significant attention due to their diverse biological activities. This study focuses on the synthesis of specific nitrogen and sulphur-based heterocycles and evaluates their potential as amylase inhibitors. The synthesized compounds were characterized using spectroscopic techniques, and their inhibitory activities were assessed through in vitro assays.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The prevalence of metabolic disorders, particularly diabetes mellitus, has been increasing at an alarming rate worldwide, leading to significant health challenges and economic burdens. Diabetes mellitus is characterized by chronic hyperglycemia resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both. One therapeutic approach to managing postprandial hyperglycemia involves inhibiting carbohydrate-digesting enzymes such as alpha-amylase, which catalyzes the hydrolysis of starch into simpler sugars like maltose and glucose. By inhibiting this enzyme, the absorption of glucose can be delayed, leading to improved glycemic control.

Heterocyclic compounds, especially those containing nitrogen and sulphur atoms, have emerged as significant scaffolds in medicinal chemistry due to their wide range of biological activities, including antimicrobial, anticancer, antiviral, and enzyme inhibitory properties. The incorporation of nitrogen and sulphur atoms into heterocyclic frameworks often enhances the pharmacological profile of these compounds, making them potential candidates for drug development.

The synthesis of nitrogen and sulphur-based heterocycles has been an area of intense research, driven by the need to discover new bioactive molecules with improved efficacy and safety profiles. Various synthetic strategies have been employed to construct these heterocyclic frameworks, including cyclization reactions, condensation reactions, and multicomponent reactions. Among these, the formation of Schiff bases followed by cyclization using sulphur-containing reagents has proven to be an efficient route for synthesizing thiazole and thiadiazole derivatives.



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The biological activity of heterocycles is significantly influenced by the nature and position of substituents on the heterocyclic core. Electron-withdrawing and electron-donating groups can modulate the electronic properties of the molecule, thereby affecting its interaction with biological targets such as enzymes. Structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies have shown that the presence of nitrogen and sulphur atoms in the heterocyclic core enhances the binding affinity of these compounds to enzyme active sites, leading to potent inhibitory activity.

Given the therapeutic potential of alpha-amylase inhibitors in managing diabetes, this study aims to synthesize and evaluate nitrogen and sulphur-based heterocycles as potential amylase inhibitors. The synthesized compounds were characterized using advanced spectroscopic techniques, and their inhibitory activities were assessed through in vitro assays. This research not only contributes to the growing body of knowledge on heterocyclic chemistry but also opens new avenues for the development of novel antidiabetic agents.

**Keywords**: Nitrogen heterocycles, Sulphur heterocycles, Alpha-amylase inhibitors, Diabetes mellitus, Synthesis, Enzyme inhibition, Medicinal chemistry, Thiazole, Thiadiazole, Structure-activity relationship.

# 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

## 2.1 Chemicals and Reagents

All chemicals and reagents used in this study were of analytical grade and procured from certified suppliers.

# 2.2 Synthesis of Nitrogen and Sulphur-Based Heterocycles

The target heterocycles were synthesized using established organic synthesis protocols:

- Step 1: Formation of Schiff bases through the condensation of primary amines with aldehydes.
- Step 2: Cyclization using sulphur-containing reagents to yield thiazole and thiadiazole derivatives.
- Step 3: Functionalization of the heterocyclic core with electron-withdrawing and electron-donating groups to enhance biological activity.

### 2.3 Characterization of Synthesized Compounds

The synthesized compounds were characterized using:

- NMR Spectroscopy (1H and 13C)
- Mass Spectrometry (MS)
- Infrared Spectroscopy (IR)



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• Elemental Analysis

### 2.4 In Vitro Amylase Inhibition Assay

The alpha-amylase inhibitory activity was evaluated using the dinitrosalicylic acid (DNSA) method. Acarbose was used as a standard reference inhibitor.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

3.1 Synthesis and Characterization The synthetic routes yielded nitrogen and sulphur-based heterocycles with moderate to high yields. NMR spectra confirmed the formation of the desired heterocyclic frameworks. MS data supported the molecular weights of the synthesized compounds, and IR spectra indicated characteristic functional groups.

**3.2** Amylase Inhibition Activity Several synthesized heterocycles exhibited significant amylase inhibitory activity. Compounds with electron-withdrawing groups showed enhanced inhibition compared to those with electron-donating groups. The IC50 values ranged from 10 to 50 µM, with the most potent compounds demonstrating comparable activity to acarbose.

3.3 Structure-Activity Relationship (SAR) SAR analysis revealed that:

- The presence of nitrogen and sulphur atoms in the heterocyclic core is crucial for • enzyme binding.
- Electron-withdrawing substituents enhance inhibitory potency. •
- Bulky substituents at specific positions can hinder enzyme interaction.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study successfully synthesized and characterized nitrogen and sulphur-based heterocycles with potential alpha-amylase inhibitory activity. The findings highlight the importance of specific functional groups in enhancing biological activity, paving the way for the development of novel antidiabetic agents.

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