

## Synthesis of thiophene and Their Pharmacological Activity

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### ABSTRACT

Thiophene is a five-membered heterocyclic compound, has garnered significant attention in pharmaceutical research due to its diverse pharmacological activities. This review focuses on the effective thiophene synthesis techniques, such as Fishwick synthesis, Gewald synthesis, and the microwave-assisted Paal-Knorr reaction. Strong biological actions, including antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and effects on the central nervous system (CNS), are exhibited by the produced thiophene derivatives. Particularly, thiophene-based substances have demonstrated promise in the treatment of anxiety, depression, sedative-hypnotics, and psychoses.

**Keywords:-** Thiophene, synthesis, pharmacological activities, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, CNS effects

### I. INTRODUCTION:-

Thiophene, which has the formula C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>S, is a heterocyclic molecule having a planar five-membered ring. These are frequently utilized as building blocks in a variety of medications and agrochemicals. It is a white liquid that smells like benzene. It is similar to benzene in the majority of its reactions. In 1882, Viktor Meyer identified thiophene as a contaminant in benzene. Despite this, most people believe it smells like benzene. [1] One sulfur heteroatom makes up the five-membered ring of the favored heterocycle thiophene. Essential heterocyclic compounds, thiophene and its derivatives exhibit a wide range of characteristics and uses. Thiophene derivatives are used as corrosion inhibitors in material science and industrial chemistry. [2]

**Thiophene and its derivatives exhibit various pharmacological activities:**

#### 1. Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death and its rate has been increasing [3]. Heterocyclic compounds, including thiophene derivatives, indole, and

thiazolone, have attracted considerable attention due to their antitumor activities

1. Antitumor: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., thiophene-2-carboxylic acid) against cancer cells.

#### 2. Central Nervous System (CNS)

1. Antipsychotic: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., olanzapine) for schizophrenia.
2. Antidepressant: Thiophene-based compounds (e.g., duloxetine) for depression.
3. Anxiolytic: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., tiapride) for anxiety.
4. Sedative-hypnotic: Thiophene-based compounds (e.g., thiopental) for sedation.

#### 3. Infectious Diseases

1. Antibacterial: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., cefotiam) against bacteria. [4-5]
2. Antiviral: Thiophene-based compounds (e.g., thiophene-2-carboxylic acid) against viruses.
3. Antifungal: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., thiophanate-methyl) against fungi.

#### 4. Pain and Inflammation

1. Analgesic: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., thiophenol) for pain relief.
2. Anti-inflammatory: Thiophene-based compounds (e.g., tiaprofenic acid) for inflammation [6]

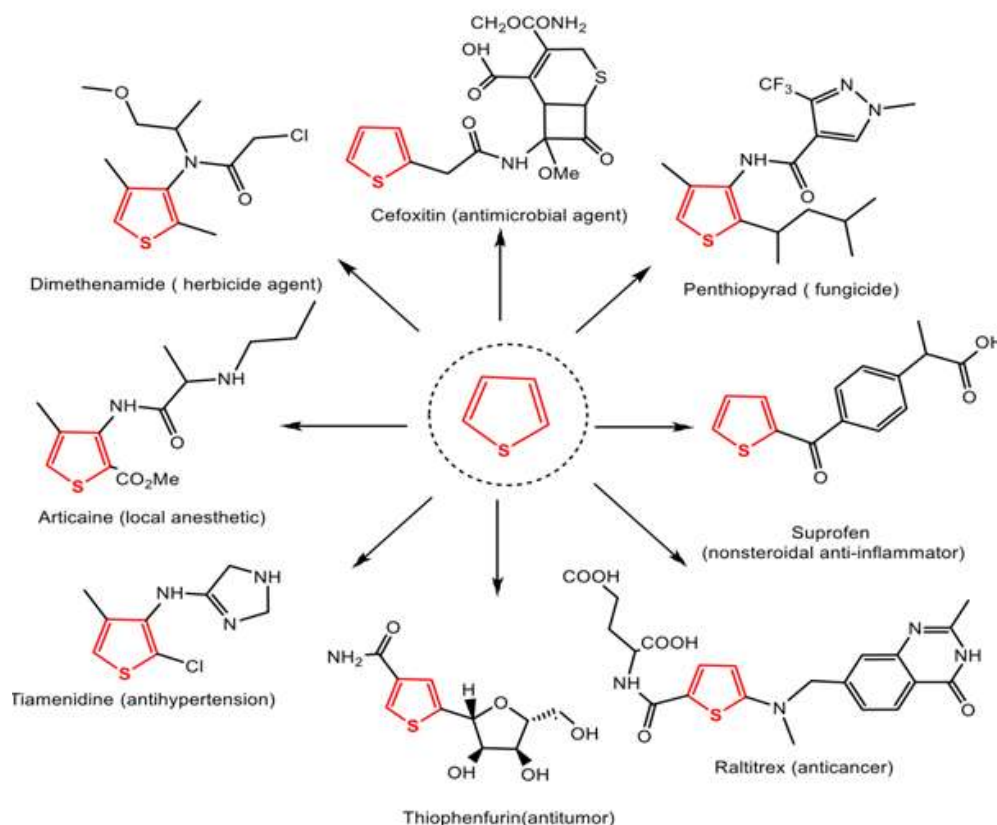
#### 5. Cardiovascular System

1. Antiarrhythmic: Thiophene derivatives (e.g., thiopental) for arrhythmias.
2. Vasodilator: Thiophene-based compounds (e.g., thiophene-2-carboxylic acid) for blood pressure.

#### 6. Other Activities

1. Thiophene and its derivatives are well known for their anti-inflammatory properties, but they also have unintended side effects. We were able to control the activation of this

- biologically active molecule by substituting it to the subpc structure. Thiophene-based compounds modulate immune responses.
- They are antioxidants: They scavenge free radicals.
- They are anti-diabetic: Thiophene derivatives (such as thiophene-2-carboxylic acid) treat diabetes.
- They are immunomodulatory.



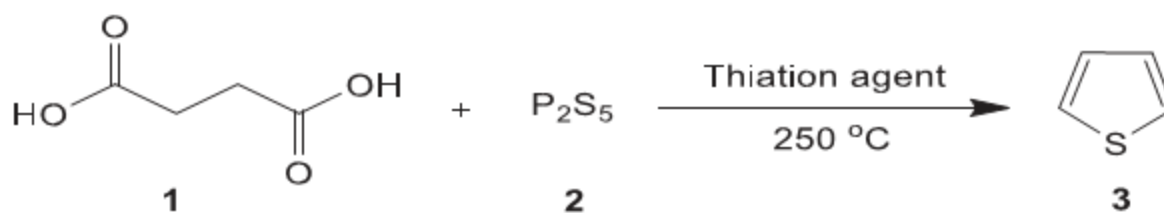
Scheme 1: Structures of important thiophene

## SYNTHETIC METHODS FOR THE FORMATION OF THIOPHENE

### 1. Paal–Knorr synthesis

The reaction of dicarbonyl compounds with phosphorus pentasulphide (P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub>) was considered as a principal route to synthesize

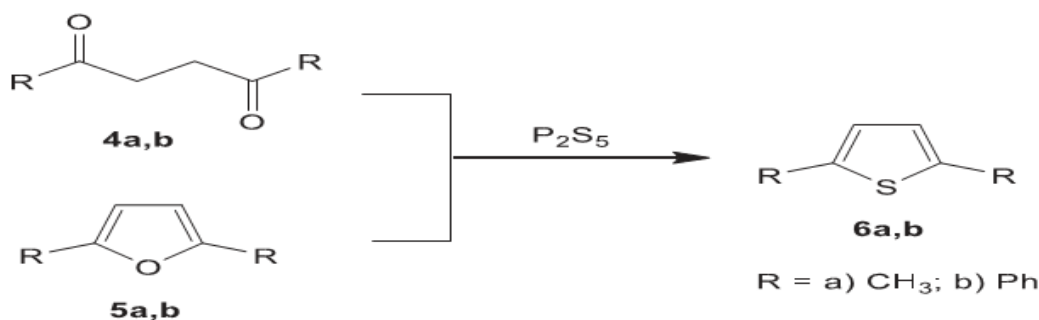
thiophenes.[38] Succinic acid could be reacted with P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub> in presence of thiation agents such as Lawesson's reagent or 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexamethyldisilathiane ((Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>2</sub>S)[8] to give thiophene (3) (Scheme 2)



Scheme 2. Synthesis of 3-methylthiophene (3)

Reactions utilizing the diketones (i.e., thiophenes, 2,5-hexanedione (4a) and/or 1,2-dibenzoyl ethane (4b)) give higher yield of corresponding 2,5-thiophene (6a, b) than the

reactions of 2,5-dimethyl furan (5a) and/or 2,5-diphenyl furan (5b) with P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub> under the Paal–Knorr thiophene synthesis conditions (Scheme 3)<sup>[9]</sup>

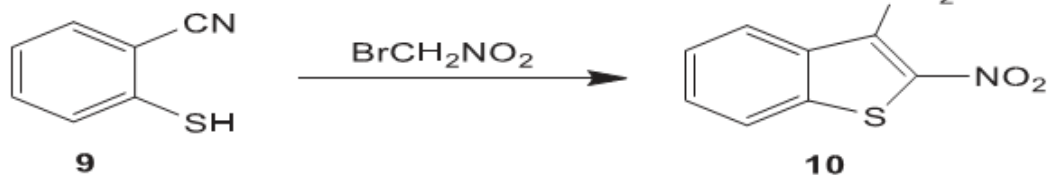


**Scheme 3.** Synthesis of 2,5-disubstituted thiophene (6a, b).

## 2. FISHWICK SYNTHESIS

Fishwick et al. described the preparation of 3-amino-2-nitrobenzo[b]thiophene (10) starting from 2-sulfanyl benzonitrile (9) and

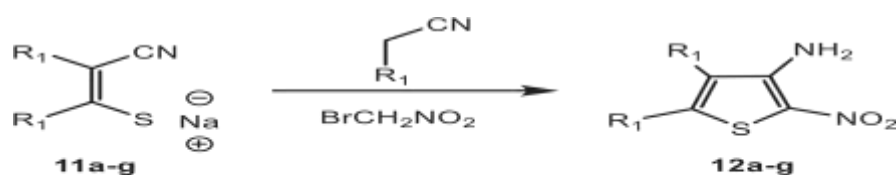
bromonitromethane (BNM) as depicted by Scheme 4<sup>[10]</sup>



**Scheme 4.** Synthesis of 3-amino-2-nitrobenzo[b]thiophene (10)

Synthesis of some 3-amino-2-nitrothiophenes (12a–g) started from the sodium salt of disubstituted 3-sulfanyl-2-propenenitriles

(11a–g) and BNM, was also reported in yields ranging from 30 to 70% (Scheme 5)<sup>[11]</sup>



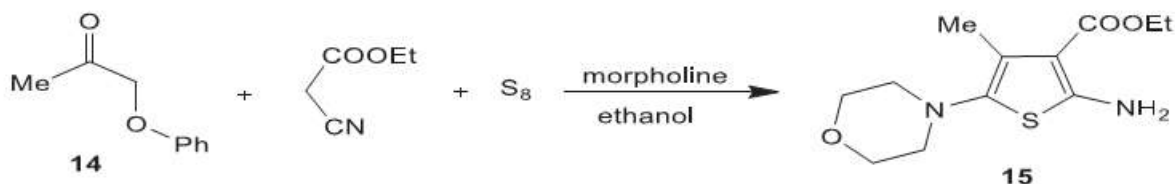
12	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
a	COOEt	NHPh
b	CN	NHPh
c	COOEt	SMe
d	CN	SMe
e	CONH	SMe
f	COOEt	NHMe
g	PhSO <sub>2</sub>	NHPh

**Scheme 5.** Synthesis of 3-amino-2-nitrothiophenes (12a–g).

### 3. GEWALD SYNTHESIS

The introduction of 5-aryloxy alternative into 2-amino-3-ethyl acetate thiophene ring leads to the discovery of an unexpected transformation. The reaction of phenoxyacetone (14) with ECA and

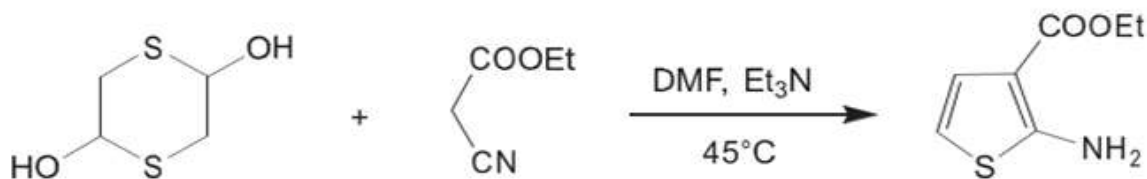
sulfur in the presence of morpholine, results not in the 5-phenoxythiophene but in 5-morpholinothiophene (16) in 21% yield as shown as by Scheme 6<sup>[12]</sup>



Scheme 6. Synthesis of 5-morpholinothiophene (15).

The corresponding 2-amino thiophene-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (14a) has been prepared by another modified Gewald reaction through the

base-catalyzed reaction with 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-dithiane (17) and ECA (Scheme 7).<sup>[13,14,15]</sup>



Scheme 7. Synthesis of 2-aminothiophene-3-ethyl acetate (14a).

## II. CONCLUSION

Thiophenes are important due to their many applications in pharmacology, industry, material science, and other fields. The thiophene ring was synthesized from non-heterocyclic substrates using two different chemical pathways. Sulfur is added to the entire carbon skeleton using the first technique, which uses substituted open-chain precursors. The first method involves using substituted open-chain precursors to add sulfur to the whole carbon skeleton. The best option for producing the thiophene nucleus and its derivative is Gewald's synthetic technique.

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