

Synthetic Process and Recent applications of Schiffbases

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ABSTRACT

Schiff bases are aldehyde or ketone-like compounds with an imine or azomethine group in place of the carbonyl group. They're commonly utilized in industry, and they also have a wide spectrum of biological activity. There are a number of different reactions that can be utilized to synthesize the Schiff bases. The most frequent approach is to use mineral acids as a catalyst in an acid-catalyzed condensation reaction of primary amine with an aldehyde or ketone under refluxing conditions. This brief study highlights the most promising antimalarial, antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral Schiff bases. The numerous synthesis processes and applications of Schiff bases and their metal complexes are summarized in this article. Schiff bases have quite a chelating configuration and are popular because they are easy to produce and are modest electron donors with adjustable electronic and steric effects, making them flexible. Plant growth hormone, auxin, and cytokine all have outstanding growth regulator actions when thiodiazole Schiff bases are used. It has been shown that the Schiff base complexes of 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde and its derivatives have significant superoxide dismutase activity. Schiff bases can be further studied for other novel pharmacological activities by utilizing QSAR studies. Moreover, various derivatives could be synthesized with diverse therapeutic potential.

KEYWORDS: Schiff bases, Schiff base ligand, Auxiliary ligands, microwave irradiation, Schiff base derivatives

I. INTRODUCTION

Hugo Schiff was the namesake of the Schiff bases [1]. They're made when a primary amine combines with an aldehyde or ketone under certain conditions. A Schiff base is structurally unique (also known as an imine or azomethine), is a nitrogen analogue of an aldehyde or ketone in which the carbonyl group (CO)

is substituted by an imine or azomethine group? Schiff bases are a class of chemical molecules that are commonly employed. They're employed as pigments and dyes, catalysts, organic synthesis intermediates, and polymer stabilizers [2]. Schiff bases have also been shown to exhibit a broad range of biological activities, including antifungal, antibacterial, antimalarial, anti-proliferative, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and antipyretic properties [3]. Various natural, natural-derived, and non-natural substances have imine or azomethine groups. The presence of an imine group in these compounds has been proven to be important for their biological actions [4-6].

II. CLASSIFICATION OF SCHIFFBASE

Schiff bases are categorized as bidentate (1), tridentate (2), tetradentate (3), or polydentate (4, 5) ligands that can form very stable complexes with transition metal ions in general. The resultant Schiff bases can act as mixed-donor ligands that can participate in bi-, tri-, tetra-, and higher coordination modes if they contain additional functional groups like -OH, -NH₂, or -SH. As a result, selecting the right metals for a pharmacological active organic scaffold alters its pharmacological activity. According to the literature, pharmacological activity is dependent on the metal ion, chemical scaffold, and specific DNA binding site [7].

Schiff bases have quite a chelating configuration and are popular because they are easy to produce and are modest electron donors with adjustable electronic and steric effects, making them flexible. Their derivatives are one of the few families of biologically active molecules that have been extensively explored in the search for new potential agents that chemists can employ for synthesis [8]. These ligands have gotten a lot of attention because of their antimicrobial [9], anti-tuberculosis [10], anti-

tumour activity [11], anticonvulsant [12], anti-inflammatory [13], anti-HIV

[14], anthelmintic [15], cardiovascular [16], and anti-carcinogenic properties [17].

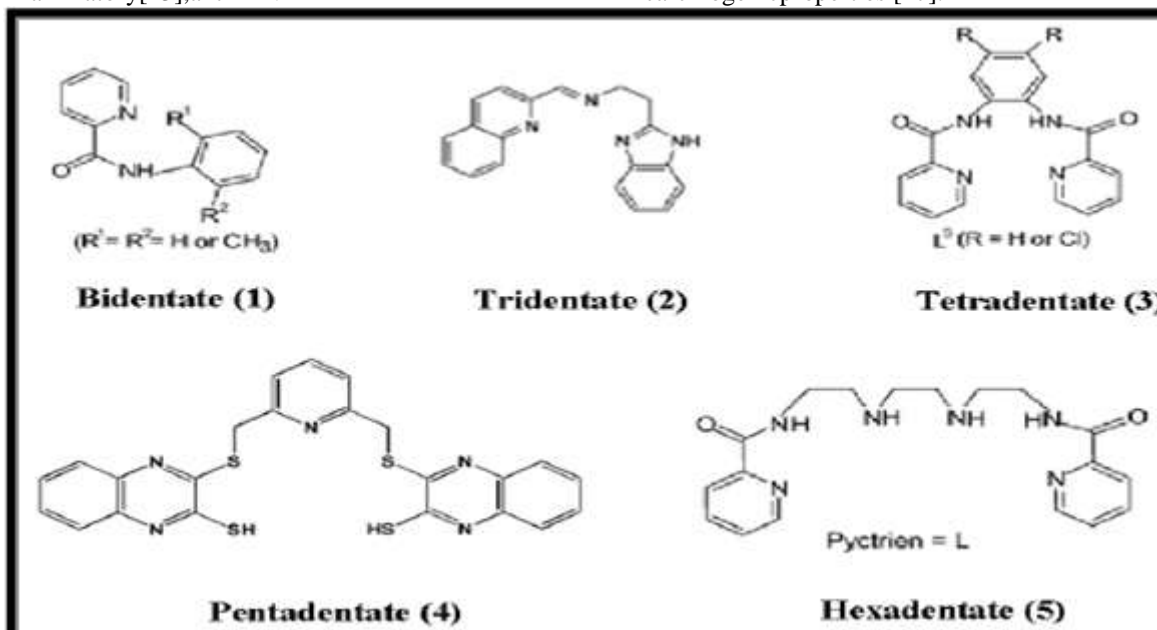


Figure 1: Few classes of Schiff base ligands

III. SYNTHESIS OF SCHIFF BASES

Schiff reported the first preparation of imines in the 19th century (1864). Since then, a variety of imine production methods have been described [18]. Schiff describes a traditional synthesis

that involves the condensation of a carbonyl molecule with an amine using azeotropic distillation [19]. The water that has developed in the system is subsequently entirely removed using molecular sieves [20]. In the 1990s, dehydrating solutions such as tetramethylorthosilicate or trimethylorthosilicate were used to develop an in-situ approach for water removal [21-22]. In 2004, the efficacy of these approaches, according to Chakraborti et al., is contingent on the utilization of highly electrophilic carbonyl compounds and strongly nucleophilic amines. They recommended using compounds that serve as Bronsted-Lowry or Lewis acids to activate the carbonyl group of aldehydes, catalyze the nucleophilic attack by amines, and dehydrate the system, leaving water out of the equation [23]. $ZnCl_2$, $TiCl_4$, $MgSO_4 \cdot PPTS$, $Ti(OR)_4$, alumina, H_2SO_4 , $NaHCO_3$, $MgSO_4$, $Mg(ClO_4)_2$, H_3CCOOH , $Er(OTf)_3$, P_2O_5/Al_2O_3 , HCl are examples of Bronsted-Lowry or Lewis acids employed in the synthesis of Schiff bases [24-27].

Auxiliary ligands, such as Schiff bases, alter the structure

and reactivity of the transition metal ion in the complex's core while undergoing no irreversible transformations themselves, unlike reactive ligands.

IV. SOLVENT FREE SYNTHESIS BY MICRO WAVE IRRADIATION

The synthesis of Schiff bases with the use of microwaves is quick and easy, and it doesn't require the use of any solvent. Product yield and purification are also high. Some Schiff bases of 4-phenylthiosemicarbazide have been microwave synthesized using aromatic aldehydes (anisaldehyde, 9-anthraldehyde, cinnamaldehyde, indole-3-carboxaldehyde, 1-naphthaldehyde, and vanillin) [28].

Solvent free synthesis by using catalyst

When the reaction mixture is pulverized in a mortar and pestle, the synthesis of Schiff bases can be done efficiently at room temperature using a catalyst such as $SnCl_2$ and acetic acid.

Solvent and catalyst free synthesis

A mortar and pestle are used to grind a mixture of amines and aldehydes/ketones. The reaction takes about 2-3 minutes to complete.

Solvent based synthesis

When the mixture is refluxed in an acidic, basic, or neutral medium, a suitable solvent, such as ethanol

ormethanol, is usually required [29].

V. TYPES OF SCHIFFBASE

The number of donor atoms in a ligand is used to classify them first. As a monodentate ligand, Schiff base 4-aminobenzenesulfonamide-1,3-benzodioxole-5-carbaldehyde can coordinate with transition metals [30]. Some bidentate acroylhydrazine based Schiff bases (ON) have been characterized as dioxo-uranium(VI) complexes with acetone [31]. Synthesized and characterized 5-(diethylamino) phenol and 5-(diethylamino)-2-((2,6-diethylphenylimino) methyl) phenol. From 3-aminopyridine and 2,4-dihydroxyacetophenone, the tridentate Schiff base 1-pyridin-3-ylimino-ethyl benzene-1,3-diol was produced and interacted with Ce(III), Pr(III), and Er(III) [32-33]. Condensation of 1,2-di-(4-fluorophenyl) ethylenediamine with salicylaldehyde yielded the tetradentate (ONNO) Schiff base ligand [34]. A template technique based on condensation of an amine containing homopiperazine and 2,6-diacetylpyridine or 2,6-pyridine dicarboxaldehyde in a 1:1 mol ratio in the presence of metal ions was used to make symmetrical pentadentate macrocyclic Schiff bases [35]. The reaction of 1-fluoro-2-nitrobenzene with homopiperazine yielded hexadentate macrocyclic Schiff base ligands (N₄O₂) of 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (H₂L₁) or 2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde [36]. From 1,8-diamino-3,6-dioxaoctane and 3,5-dichlorosalicylaldehyde, the Schiff base ligand (N₄O₂)(6,60-((1E,11E)-5,8-diazadodeca-1,11-diene-1,12-diyl)bis(2,4-dichlorophenol)) [37]. Condensation of polyamine, 2,2-

0-(ethane-1,2-diylbis(piperazine-4,1-diyl))bis(ethan-1-amine) with 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde and 2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde yielded two macrocyclic octadentate (N₆O₂) Schiff base ligands [38].

VI. PREPARATION OF SCHIFFBASES

To make Schiff base, there are a number of different reactions that can be used. The most frequent approach is to use mineral acids as catalyst in an acid catalyzed condensation reaction of primary amine with an aldehyde or ketone under refluxing conditions. The nucleophilic nitrogen atom of the amine attacks the carbonyl carbon in this reaction, resulting in an unstable intermediate, carbinolamine. A C-N bond is produced as a result of the removal of one molecule of water, and the product is known as imine. In general, the reactivity of aldehyde in the production of Schiff base is higher than that of ketone because the reaction center of aldehyde is sterically less hindered than that of ketone. The pH of the solution, as well as the steric and electronic effects of amines and carbonyl compounds, influence the condensation reaction. Acids catalyze such reactions because the dehydration of the carbinolamine is the rate-determining step in the production of Schiff bases. It's also worth noting that a larger acid concentration will protonate the amine, limiting its role as a nucleophile and reducing carbinolamine synthesis. As a result, many Schiff bases are synthesized at a mildly acidic pH. Similarly, the process is slowed at basic conditions due to a lack of protons to catalyze the removal of the carbinolamine hydroxyl group [39].

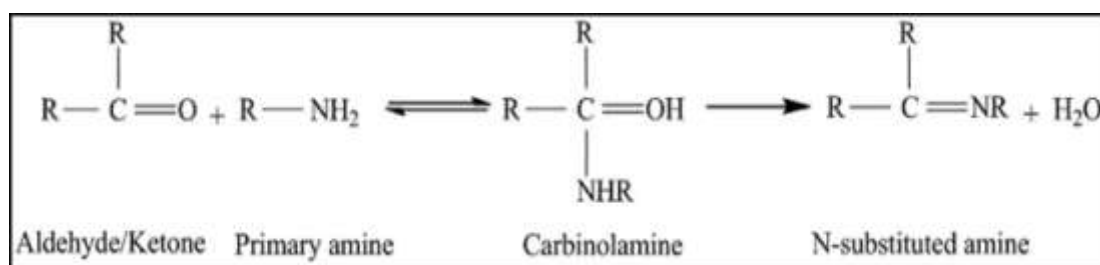


Figure 2: General reaction for synthesis of Schiff bases

Auxiliary ligands, such as Schiff bases, alter the structure and reactivity of the transition metal ion in the complex' score while undergoing no irreversible transformations themselves, unlike reactive ligands.

VII. SCHIFF BASE DERIVATIVES WITH OTHER FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

Sulfonamides

Sulfonamides are key pharmacores that are frequently used in the development of novel drugs. Lal et

al. synthesized two series of Schiff base-curcumins with sulfonamide moiety 14a–e and 15a–e in this regard. Antibacterial activity against *S. aureus*, *Bacillus cereus* (*B. cereus*), *Salmonella typhi*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *E. coli*, as well as antifungal activity against *A. niger*, *A. avus*, *C. lunata*, and *Trichoderma viride* (*T. viride*) were tested for these compounds. The cytotoxic activity of substances tested on cancer cell lines HeLa, Hep-G2, QG-56, and HCT-116. The carrageenan-induced paw oedema method was used to assess in vivo anti-inflammatory efficacy. The bioassay results confirmed that when sulfonamides are combined with curcumin, their activity is enhanced [40].

Aminoacids

Amino acids include both amine and carboxyl functional groups and are essential for physiological

activity. With compounds containing β -diketones, such as curcumin, the amino group can perform the Schiff base reaction. In 2013, Raman's team produced the Schiff base ligand by condensation of curcumin and cysteine α -amino acid in the search for specific anticancer medicines. The ligand's oxygen and nitrogen were coordinated to the metal ions Cu (II), Co (II), Ni(II), and Zn(II). The ligand and its complexes are tested for their ability to bind with DNA. The electronic absorption spectra revealed that the complexes and DNA bases have a strong interaction (K_b 141.2–3.4104 M⁻¹), which could lead to DNA cleavage. Gel electrophoresis tests were conducted out in the presence of H₂O₂ as an oxidant using pBR322 circular plasmid DNA. All of the complexes were discovered to be effective cleaving agents [41].

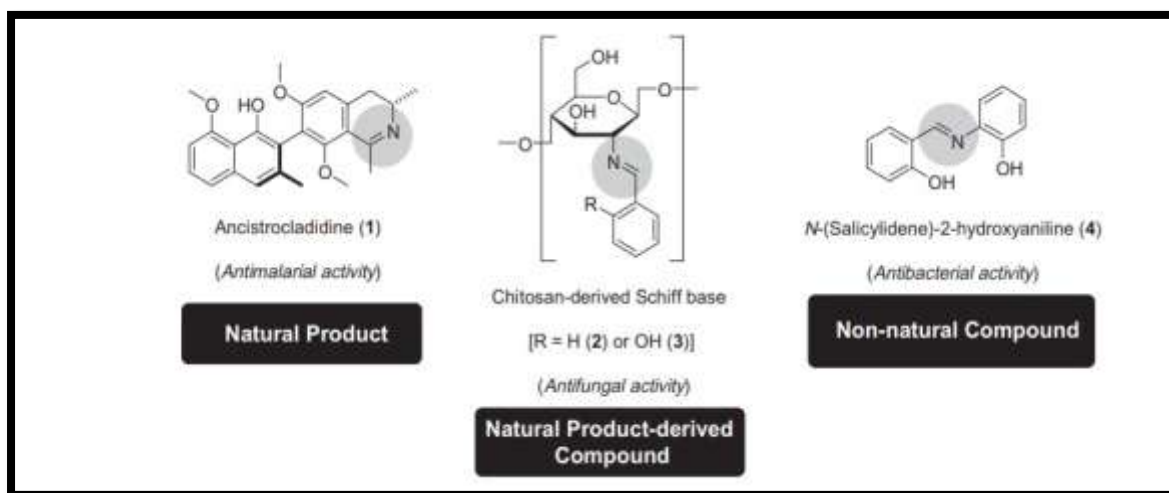


Figure 3: Bioactive Schiff bases

VIII. BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF SCHIFF BASES

Antimalarial activity

Schiff bases have been found to be useful components in the development of antimalarial drugs. Ancistrocladidine is a secondary metabolite generated by plants belonging to the Ancistrocladaceae and Dioncophyllaceae families, and it has an imine group in its molecular scaffold. The activity of Compound 1 against *P. falciparum* K1 and 3D7 has been demonstrated. Ancistrocladidine's minimal inhibitory concentrations (MIC values) were 0.3 and 1.9 μ g/mL, respectively, to totally stop *P. falciparum* K1 and

3D7 development. Compound 1 was 90- and 10-fold more selective to *P. falciparum* K1 and 3D7 than rat skeletal myoblast L-6 cells, respectively [42]. Rathelot et al. described the synthesis of Schiff base-functionalized 5-nitroisoquinolines, as well as their in vitro efficacy against an ACC Niger chloroquine-resistant *P. falciparum* strain. Among the 5-nitroisoquinoline derivatives produced, Schiff base 5 was the most potent antimalarial drug. Compound 5 had to be at a concentration of 0.7 μ g/mL to inhibit *P. falciparum* growth by 50% (IC₅₀). Chloroquine's IC₅₀ value was 0.1 μ g/mL under the identical experimental circumstances [43].

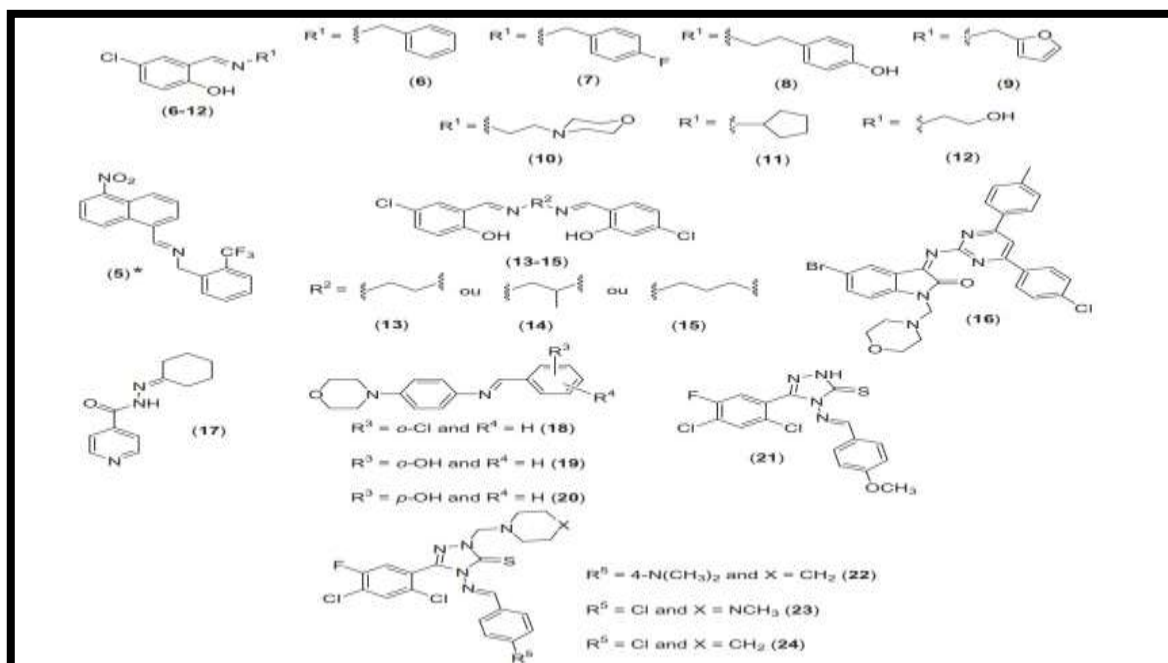


Figure 4: Chemical structure of some synthetic antibacterial Schiff bases

Antibacterial activity

Schiff bases have been suggested as potential antibacterial. N-(salicylidene)-2-hydroxyaniline, for example, has a MIC value of 8 µg/mL against Mycobacterium TB H37Rv [44]. Experiments using J774 macrophages were used to test chemical 4's selectivity. Compound 4 had no cytotoxic effect on J774 macrophages, even at concentrations as high as

1000 µg/mL. At those experimental conditions, more than 80% of macrophage cells were alive, demonstrating compound 4's great selectivity. A series of Schiff bases produced from the condensation of 5-chloro-salicylaldehyde and primary amines have recently been described for their synthesis and antibacterial activity. At least one of the tested bacterial species was more reactive against the 5-chloro-salicylaldehyde-Schiff base derivatives 6–

15. With MIC values ranging from 2.5 to 5.2 µg/mL, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* was the strain most sensitive to chemicals 6–11 and 13–15. The reference medication kanamycin has a MIC of 3.9 µg/mL against the same bacterial strain. The MIC values for the Schiff bases 6, 7, 9–11, 14, and 15 against *Escherichia coli* were 1.6–5.7 µg/mL, while the MIC value for kanamycin was 3.9 µg/mL. Only the Schiff base 14 was sensitive to *Bacillus subtilis* (MIC = 1.8 µg/mL). Compounds 6 and 7 had MIC values of 3.1 and 1.6 µg/mL against *Staphylococcus aureus*, respectively [45]. Aragon-Muriel et

al. (2021) [46] investigated the antibacterial potential of four benzimidazole-based Schiff bases and their metal complexes against two Gram-positive (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115) and two Gram-negative strains (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115) and two Gram-negative strains (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115) and two Gram-negative strains (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115) and two Gram-negative strains (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115) and two Gram-negative strains (*S. aureus* 25923, *Listeria monocytogenes* 19115). The activity of the complexes was often higher than that of SBs alone. Furthermore, as is typically the case with biologically active substances, isomerism seems to play a critical role in SBs [47].

Antifungal activity

Fungal infections aren't always limited to the skin; in fact, there's been a rise in life-threatening systemic fungal infections. At micromolar quantities, piperonyl-derived Schiff bases were effective against fungus. *Trichophyton rubrum* (MIC = 820–980 µM) and *Epidermophyton floccosum* (MIC = 200–930 µM) were both inhibited by these compounds [48]. *Microsporium audouinii* (MIC values ranging from 2.4 to 9.7 µg/mL) and *Microsporium gypseum* (MIC values ranging from 1.2 to 9.7 µg/mL) were both significantly active against the isatin-derived Schiff bases 16 and 41–51. Compounds 16 and 41–51 inhibited *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Crypt*

ococcus neoformans, T. mentagrophytes, E. floccosum, and Histoplasma capsulatum growth with MIC values greater than 10 lg/mL and less than 79 lg/mL [49]. Panneerselvam et al.

found that treatment with compound 20 at 20 lg/mL or compound 52 at 30 lg/mL inhibited the development of both C. albicans and A. niger in a separate investigation [50].

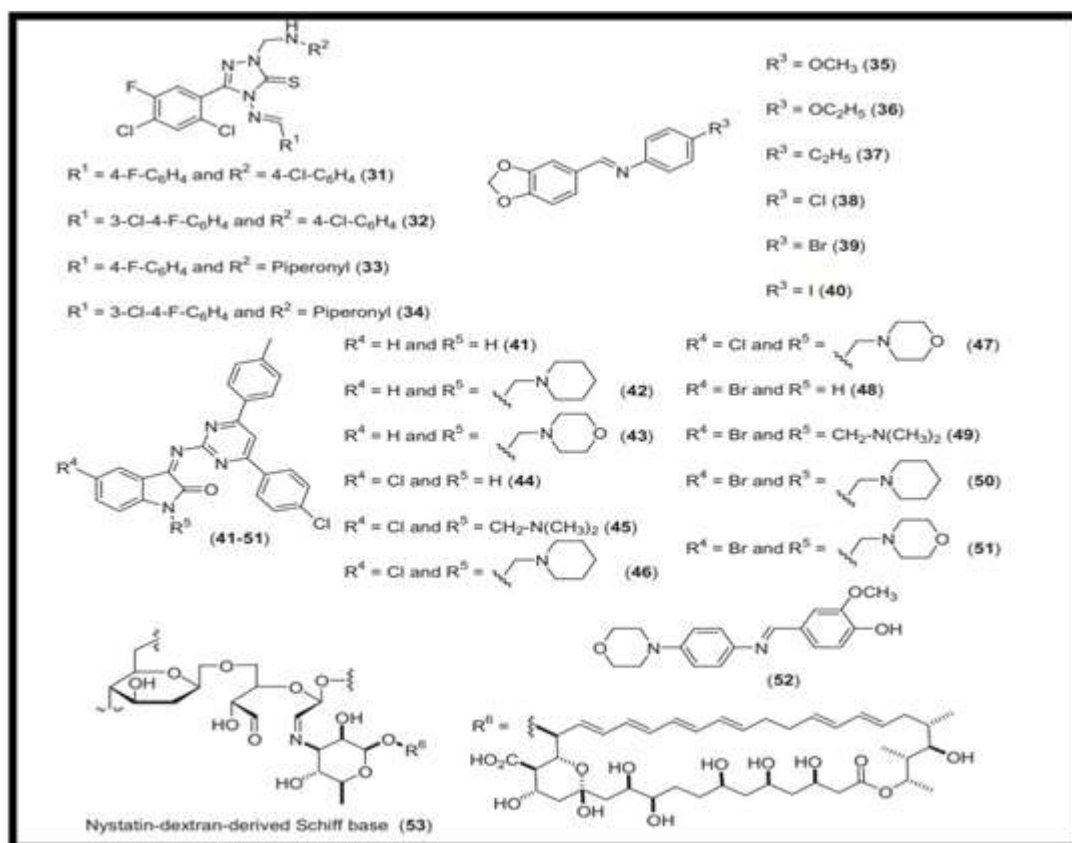


Figure 5: Chemical structure of some antifungal Schiff bases derived from natural or non-natural compounds

Antiviral activity

1-amino-3-hydroxyguanidine tosylate salicylaldehyde Schiff bases are a good foundation for designing novel antiviral medicines [51]. Indeed, compound 54 was found to be particularly efficient against mouse hepatitis virus (MHV) when used at concentrations as low as 3.2 μM , and was produced from a collection of distinct 1-amino-3-hydroxyguanidine tosylate-derived Schiff bases. Abacavir is a nucleoside analogue that can stop reverse transcriptase from working. It is sold under the brand name Ziagen and is used to treat the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV

) and AIDS (GlaxoSmithKline). The compounds 55–65 were found to be highly efficient against human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) (HIV-1). The effective concentration (EC_{50}) of these abacavir-derived Schiff bases required to protect human leukemic cells (CEM) 50% against HIV-1's cytopathic effect was less than 6 μM . The most potent Schiff base was compound 57, which was effective at 50 nM. Only at doses greater than 100 μM is this chemical hazardous to CEM cells, indicating that it could be used as a lead compound in the development of novel anti-HIV-1 drugs.

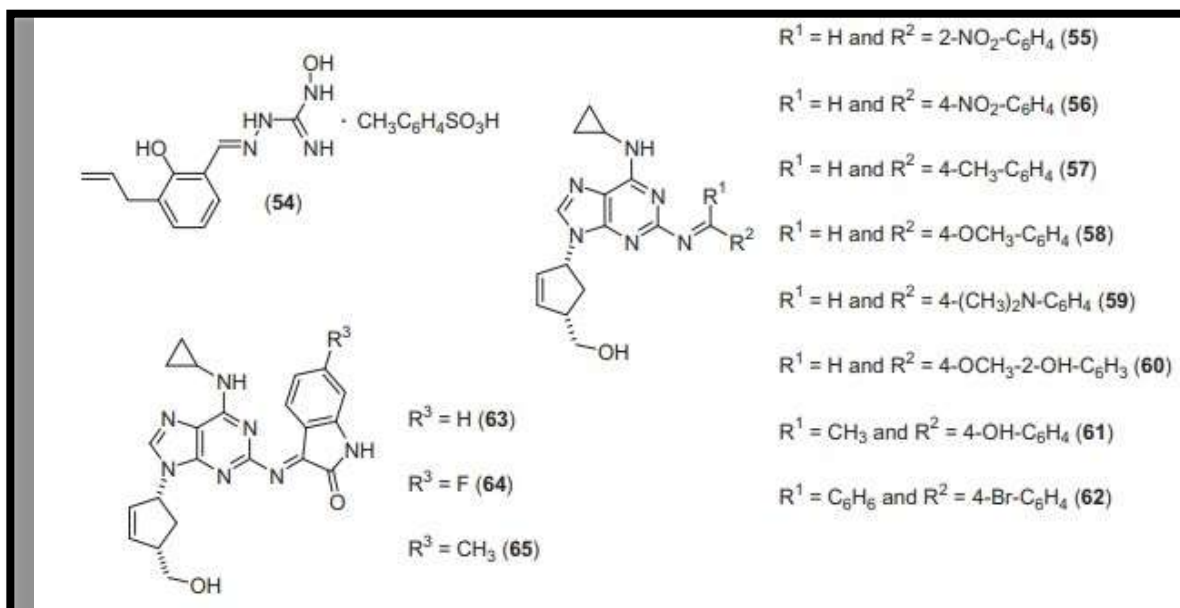


Figure 6: Examples of antiviral synthetic Schiff bases

Anticancer activity

Cancer is an incurable disease that results in death. In the human body, more than 200 cancer forms have been identified. Coumarin and pyrazole aldehyde-derived Schiff bases were tested against malignant cell lines and shown to have moderate anti-cancer properties [52]. Furthermore, mono and bis-Schiff bases were found to be effective against five cancer cell lines in another investigation [53]. Schiff bases can also form complexes with transition metals, and these metal complexes have been shown to have anticancer properties; Cu complexes with vaniline Schiff bases [54]. The anticancer properties of 1,2-dihydro-pyrazol-3-one Schiff bases have been reported. Because there is a large body of literature on the efficacy of Schiff bases against cancer cell lines, more systematic and extensive study, both in vitro and in vivo, is recommended to expand their therapeutic use to alleviate the condition.

Action on insecticides

When the cell survival rate of mung bean sprouts was increased, Mo(II) complexes of Schiff bases derived from thiadiazole derivatives and salicylaldehyde or o-vanillin showed insecticidal activity against bollworm [55].

Plant growth regulator/enzymatic activity

Plant growth hormone, auxin, and cytokine all have

outstanding growth regulator actions when thiadiazole Schiff bases are used. It has been shown that the Schiff base complexes of 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde and its derivatives have significant superoxide dismutase activity

[56]. Amylase transportation across membranes was promoted by Mn(II) and Zn(II) complexes containing tetradentate Schiff base ligands, whereas it was hindered by Ni(II) and Cu(II) complexes [57]. Amido Schiff base chelates of Cu(II) and Fe(II) serve as thrombin inhibitors [58].

Applications of Schiff Bases and Their Metal Complexes

Further research in this area is extremely desirable due to the versatility of Schiff base ligands and the biological, analytical, and commercial applications of their complexes. The Schiff bases, particularly thiosemicarbazones and their complexes, are briefly discussed here.

Catalytic Applications

By attaching alternative substituents to the ligand in Schiff base metal complexes, the environment at the coordination center can be changed, providing a useful range of steric and electrical properties for fine-tuning structure and reactivity. The catalytic activity of transition metal complexes, both simple and polymer

anchored, were reviewed by Gupta and Sutar. They have emphasized Schiff base complex's potential as a catalyst for oxidations, hydrogenations, polymerizations, different coupling processes, and ring closures [59].

Chemists have recently become interested in heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysts because of their improved selectivity and recyclability. The number of articles in catalysis supported Schiff base complexes has increased exponentially in recent years. Homogeneous catalysis, on the other hand, is more important because the mechanism of the reaction can be determined. The stereoselective transformations of BINAP ligands (BINAP is an acronym for the organophosphorus chemical 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl) are well known. In stereoselective organic transformations, Che and Huang examined the catalytic activity of chiral BINAP Schiff base complexes [60].

Ribonucleotide Reductase

In their neutral or deprotonated form, thiosemicarbazones act as N,N,S-thio donor ligands, forming chelates with important metal ions. They inhibit tumour cell proliferation in various types of tumour cell lines. The enzyme Ribonucleotide Reductase (RR), which is required for DNA synthesis, has been found to have a substantial correlation with tumour development rate [61]. Brockman et al. [62] published their findings in 1956. In 1965, French et al. [63] proposed ideas concerning the hemodetachment of the (N)-heterocyclic thiosemicarbazones, claiming that the active molecule shared a tridentate character, allowing them to be effective chelators, and that improving the aromatic system improved activity. They were able to anticipate the activity of pyrazine carboxaldehyde thiosemicarbazone and 1-formylisoquinoline thiosemicarbazone using this technique. Ribonucleotide reductase is an iron-dependent enzyme that facilitates the reduction of ribonucleotides to deoxyribonucleotides via a tyrosyl radical-triggered free radical process. When this enzyme is inhibited, the cell cycle's synthesis phase is halted, and the cell eventually dies through apoptosis. They also showed that the active species was the iron(II) complex of 1-formylisoquinoline thiosemicarbazone in an indirect way. Iron and copper complexes, in fact, were eventually revealed to be significantly more active than the free ligand [64].

IX. CONCLUSION

For industrial purposes, Schiff bases have

been extensively researched. The biological activity of this class of chemicals, on the other hand, warrants additional exploration. When plant pathogens are taken into account, this becomes evident. Despite the fact that research on this topic is still in its early stages, a number of papers revealing the effect of Schiff bases on pathogens of therapeutic importance have recently increased. Schiff base compounds have been identified as intriguing candidates for the development of more effective antibacterial medicines. The structure-activity relationships of the Schiff bases, as well as the mechanism of action of these compounds, will be studied in order to advance in this field. The goal of this work is to go over the chemistry of Schiff bases and their metal complexes, as well as their catalytic and Ribonucleotide Reduction activities.

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