

Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of N'-Arylidene-4-Hydroxybenzohydrazides against a-Glucosidase Enzyme

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.26874/jkk.v6i2.210

Received: 3 Sept 2023, Revised: 20 Oct 2023, Accepted: 16 Nov 2023, Online: 22 Nov 2023

Abstract

Hydrazides have been reported to have a broad spectrum of bioactivities, such as anticancer, antifungal, antibacterial, and antidiabetic. Thus, our work aimed to synthesize N'-arylidene-4hydroxybenzohydrazides and investigate their α -glucosidase inhibition. Three compounds (AD-H₁₋₃) were synthesized with a yield of product from 33 to 65% and then characterized using ¹H-and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. The in vitro α -glucosidase inhibition demonstrated that **AD-H**₂ possessing two hydroxy groups on arylidene moiety showed the best inhibitory activity against α -glucosidase enzyme with an IC_{50} value of 14.4 μ M compared with acarbose as a positive control with IC_{50} value of 93.6 μ M. Thus, $AD-H_2$ could be a candidate as a lead compound for antidiabetics.

Keywords: antidiabetics, hydrazide, a-glucosidase

1 Introduction

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a severe public health issue susceptible to 500 million people worldwide by 2030 [1]. The key features of T2DM include disorders in protein, lipid, and carbohydrate metabolism brought on by a progressive decrease in insulin production from the pancreatic β -cell, typically based on preexisting insulin resistance in skeletal muscle, liver, and adipose tissue [2]. As the primary sign of T2DM, postprandial clinical hyperglycemia can lead to various implications, such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, neuropathy, complications in lipid metabolism, and others [3–5].

T2DM and carbohydrate disorders have been linked to α -glucosidase as a key target for therapy [6]. In breaking down carbohydrates, glucose, which is found inside the brush-border surface membrane of intestinal cells, hydrolyzes disaccharides or oligosaccharides into monosaccharides [7]. Thus, delaying the digestion of carbohydrates can alleviate T2DM by reducing α -glucosidase activity [8]. In the market, α glucosidase inhibitors (Figure 1) including

acarbose, voglibose, miglitol, and emiglitate, have been successfully used in clinical trials to manage blood sugar levels and prevent T2DM, despite adverse effects such as vomiting, flatulence, acute stomach pain, allergic responses, and others [9]. Thus, synthesized safe drugs with enhanced efficacy and fewer adverse effects are crucial.



Figure 1. Structures of α -Glucosidase Inhibitors.





Figure 2. The current study of α -glucosidase inhibitors.

Hydrazide and thiosemicarbazone possess structures that are similar. Currently, hydrazides have been found to be beneficial against cancer, parasites, fungi, bacteria, and antidiabetics [10-14]. In a previous study, Taha et al. presented that synthesizing 2-indolcarbohydrazones and quinoline oxadiazole derivatives showed high inhibitory activity against α -glucosidase with IC₅₀ values of 2.3, and 2.6 µM, respectively [15,16]. Wang et al. showed that chromone hydrazone derivatives exhibited high inhibitory activity against α -glucosidase with an IC₅₀ value of 20.1 μ M and coumarin thiazole derivatives with an IC₅₀ value of 6.24 μ M [17,18]. Hu et al. reported that indole-based bisacylhydrazone derivatives also demonstrated high inhibitory activity against aglucosidase with an IC₅₀ value of $1.01 \mu M$ [19]. Ullah et al. reported that 2-hydroxy-Nacylhydrazone and thiazolidine-4-one derivatives showed high inhibitory activity against αglucosidase with IC_{50} values of 5.60 and 0.40 μM [20].

Based on the previous work, 2-hydroxy-Nacylhydrazone or N'-arylidene-2hydroxybenzohydrazide showed high inhibitory activity against α -glucosidase [20]. As presented in Figure 2, our study aimed to synthesize N'arylidene-4-hydroxybenzohydrazides from methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate with hydrazine hydrazide followed by formation with benzaldehyde derivatives in reflux condition. The inhibitory activity of N'-arylidene-4hydroxybenzohydrazides was evaluated against aglucosidase from Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

2 Materials and Method

2.1 Materials

All chemicals were purchased from TCI, Sigma Aldrich, and Merck. Silica gel for column chromatography (CC), (0.063–0.200 mm), was a product of Merck Company. TLC was performed on Merck TLC plates (0.23 mm thickness), with compounds visualized by UV light and vanillin sulphuric acid in ethanol and then heated on a hot plate. The NMR spectra were measured on JEOL JNM-EC500R 500 MHz. Chemical shifts are given in ppm (parts per million) using deuterated solvent (DMSO- d_6). α -Glucosidase enzyme (EC 3.2.1.20) from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and pnitrophenyl- α -D-glucopyranoside were purchased from Sigma Aldrich.

2.2 Method

2.2.1 General Procedure for 4-

Hydroxybenzohydrazide (AD-H)

Hydrazine hydrate (16.0 mL, 320 mmol, 8 eq) and methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate (6.08 g, 40 mmol, 1 eq) were refluxed at 90 0 C for 18 hours. The solid was rinsed with hexane to obtain the pure product (5.025 g, 33.0 mmol, 83%) as a brown powder. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra as literature [21] at ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 9.49 (br s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 166.2, 160.8, 128.9, 123.5, 155.1.

2.2.2 General Procedure for N'-Arylidene-4hydroxybenzohydrazide (AD-H₁₋₃)

4-Hydroxybenzoylhydrazine (153 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq) was added to substitutedbenzaldehyde (1 mmol, 1 eq) in EtOH (10 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 18 hours. The organic solvent was evaporated and then rinsed using cooled EtOH to obtain the pure product.

(E)-4-hydroxy-N'-(3-hydroxy-4-

methoxybenzylidene)benzohydrazide (AD-H₁)

Yield: 65%. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra as literature [22] at ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 11.48 (s, 1H), 10.12 (s, 1H), 9.32 (s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 162.6, 160.6, 149.7, 147.1, 146.9, 129.6, 127.4, 124.1, 120.2, 115.1, 112.3, 111.9, 55.6.



(*E*)-*N*'-(3,4-dihydroxybenzylidene)-4hydroxybenzohydrazide (**AD-H**₂)

Yield: 33.7%. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra as literature [23] at ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO d_6) $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 11.42 (s, 1H), 10.08 (br s, 1H), 9.35 (br s, 2H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 162.6, 160.6, 147.8, 147.5, 145.8, 129.6, 126.0, 124.2, 120.5, 115.6, 115.1, 112.6.

(E)-N'-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-4-

hydroxybenzohydrazide (AD-H₃)

Yield: 37.5%. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra as literature [24] at ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 9.51 (s, 1H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 7.94 (dd, $J_{\rm H-}$ $_{\rm H}$ = 9.0 Hz, $J_{\rm H-F}$ = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.50 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J_{\rm H-H \& H-F}$ = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 166.0, 160.6, 160.1, 130.8, 128.9, 123.9, 116.3, 116.1, 114.9.

2.2.3 In Vitro α-Glucosidase Assay

According to the previous method [25], α glucosidase assay has been conducted. The α glucosidase (0.1 U/mL) and substrate (1 mM pnitrophenyl-a-D-glucopyranoside) were dissolved in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 6.9). A 10 µL test sample was pre-incubated with α -glucosidase (40) µL) at 37°C for 10 min. A substrate solution (50 µL) was then added to the reaction mixture and incubated at 37°C for an additional 20 min, and terminated by adding 1 M Na₂CO₃ solution (100 µL). Enzymatic activity was quantified by absorbance measuring the at 405 nm (ALLSHENG AMR-100 microplate reader). The percentage inhibition of activity was calculated as follows: % Inhibition = $[(A_0-A_1)/A_0] \times 100$, where: A_0 is the absorbance without the sample; A_1 is the absorbance with the sample. The IC_{50} value was deduced from the plot of % inhibition versus the concentration of the test sample. Acarbose was used as standard control and the experiment was performed in triplicate.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 Chemistry

N'-Arylidene-4-hydroxybenzohydrazides (**AD-H**₁₋₃) were synthesized according to the previous work through two steps (Scheme 1) [21]. In the first step, 4-hydroxybenzoylhydrazine was successfully synthesized from methyl 4-



hydroxybenzoate and hydrazine hydrate with a ratio of 1:8 in reflux condition for 18 hours to obtain 83% of the product yield. This product was formed from ester benzoic acid and hydrazine, because OH from benzoic acid was not a good leaving group. Thus, the carboxylic acid group was not easily substituted with hydrazine. In the N'-Arylidene-4second step, hydroxybenzohydrazide was obtained from the reaction between 4-hydroxybenzohydrazide (AD-H) and substituted-benzaldehydes with a ratio of 1:1 in reflux condition for 18 hours to obtain the product (Figure 3) with the yield around 33-65%. However, this condition did not obtain a high yield compared to the previous work for 3 hours at 80° C in ethanol solvent [23]. This result could be the hydrazone decomposition due to a long reaction of around 18 hours in reflux conditions.



Scheme 1. Reaction conditions. a) $N_2H_4.xH_2O$, $90^{\circ}C$, 18 h; b) substituted-benzaldehydes, EtOH, reflux, 18 h.



Figure 3. Four synthesized compounds (AD-H and AD-H₁₋₃).

All synthesized compounds were characterized using ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. AD-H and AD-H₂ were selected to explain the structural Compound **AD-H** (Figure 2) elucidation. possessed the molecular formula $C_7H_8N_2O_2$. The spectra of ¹H-NMR of **AD-H** showed three proton signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.49 (br s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), and 6.76 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H). Moreover, the spectra of ¹³C NMR of AD-H showed five carbon signals at δ_C 166.2 (C=O), 160.8 (=C-OH), 128.9 (2 x =CH), 123.5 (=Cq), and 155.1 (2 x =CH). Meanwhile, Compound AD-H₂ showed the 1H-NMR spectra at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 11.42 (s, 1H) belonged to the proton of amide (NH), while proton at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 10.08 (br s, 1H), 9.33 (br s, 2H), and 8.23 (s, 1H) belonged to the three hydroxy and an imine group. The two proton signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H) and 6.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H) belonged to the benzohydrazide, while three proton signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.23 (s, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) belonged to the arylidene. In addition, the spectra of ¹³C-NMR of **AD-H**₂ showed twelve carbon signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 162.6 (C=O), 160.6 (=C-OH), 147.8 (=C-OH), 147.5 (N=CH), 145.8 (=C-OH), 129.6 (2 x =CH), 126.0 (=Cq), 124.2 (=Cq), 120.5 (=CH), 115.6 (=CH), 115.1 (2 x =CH), 112.6 (=CH).

3.2 Biological Evaluation

Four synthesized compounds (Figure 3) were screened for inhibition against the α -glucosidase enzyme according to the previous work [25]. As shown in Figure 4, all synthesized compounds showed less inhibitory activity against aglucosidase, except for compound AD-H₂. Although, 4-hydroxybenzohydrazide (AD-H, AD-H₁, AD-H₃) showed less potency (25-50%) with inhibitory activity around 34.4%, 29.2% and 24.7%, respectively. However, this result was not with previous work in line using 2hydroxybenzohydrazide as the starting material that showed moderate (50-75%) to high potency (75-100%)Therefore, 2-[20,26]. hydroxybenzohydrazide derivatives possessed good pharmacophores for α -glucosidase inhibitors. Nevertheless, compound AD-H₂ possessing two hydroxy groups on arylidene moiety exhibited the best inhibitory activity against α -glucosidase around 83% in line with previous work [14,20], but the substitution of hydroxy with methoxy group decreased an inhibitory activity around 29.2%. The IC₅₀ value of AD-H₂ showed higher than acarbose as a positive control, such as 14.4 and 93.6 µM, respectively. This suggests that two hydroxy groups on the arylidene moiety might be crucial for the interaction between the inhibitor and amino residues in the active site of α -glucosidase.



Figure 4. Screening of α -glucosidase inhibition of AD-H and AD-H₁₋₃.

4 Conclusion

In this study, four compounds (**AD-H**, **AD-H**₁. 3) were successfully synthesized and characterized using ¹H-and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. Among four compounds, **AD-H**₂ showed the most potent antidiabetic against α -glucosidase. Therefore, it suggests that **AD-H**₂ could be the lead candidate for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

Acknowledgment

Royal Golden Jubilee supported this work for the Ph.D. program (No. PhD/0017/2561), Thailand Research Fund.

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