

## Research Article

# Synthesis, Physicochemical Properties, Photochemical Probe, and Antimicrobial Effects of Novel Norfloxacin Analogues

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Received 19 December 2010; Accepted 10 January 2011

Academic Editor: G. Li

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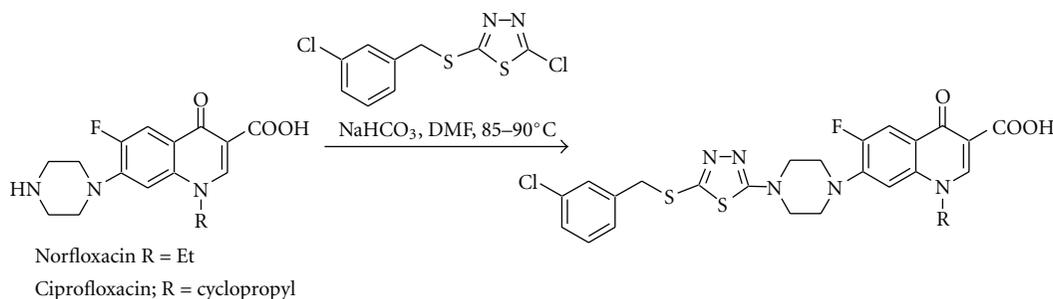
The emerging resistance to antimicrobial drugs demands the synthesis of new remedies for microbial infections. Attempts have been made to prepare new compounds by modifications in the quinolone structure. An important method for the synthesis of new quinolone is using Vilsmeier approach but has its own limitations. The present work aimed to synthesize novel norfloxacin analogues using modified Vilsmeier approach and conduct preliminary investigations for the evaluation of their physicochemical properties, photochemical probe, and antimicrobial effects. In an effort to synthesize norfloxacin analogues, only 7-bromo-6-*N*-benzyl piperazinyl-4-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid was isolated using Vilsmeier approach at high temperature, where *N,N'*-bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)-oxalamide and *N,N'*-bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-malonamide were obtained at low temperature. Correlation results showed that lipophilicity, molecular mass, and electronic factors might influence the activity. The synthesized compounds were evaluated for their antimicrobial effects against important pathogens, for their potential use in the inhibition of vitiligo.

## 1. Introduction

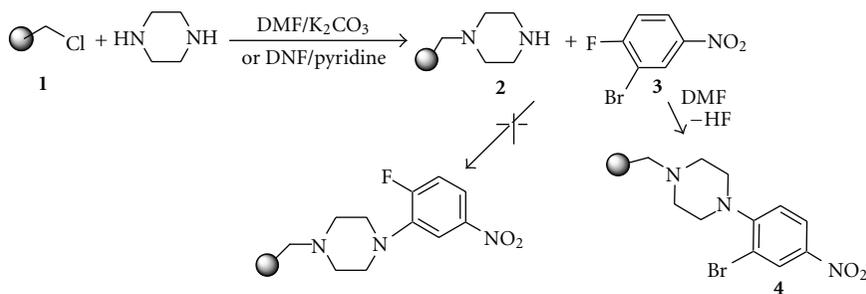
The structure activity relationship (SAR) for the quinolone skeleton 1-alkyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid studies revealed that the 6-halogen atom, especially the 6-fluorine, is responsible for the potency as represented by the binding capacity with DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV [1]. It is clear that chemical modifications at C-7 are suitable to control the pharmacokinetic properties and, hence, changes in the cell permeability of these antibiotics. *N*-piperazinyl derivatives of fluoroquinolones were introduced and demonstrated for various biological activities that possess broad-spectrum activity [2–6]. Furthermore, it is clear that the neutral species of fluoroquinolones are more lipophilic than the Zwitterionic form. Therefore, factors that can affect *N*-protonation like steric and electronic effect or charge density can also affect lipophilicity [7–9].

Procopiou et al. [10] prepared a series of asymmetrical 1,4-disubstituted piperazines as a novel class of non-brain-penetrant histamine H3 receptor antagonists. In addition, Foroumadi et al. [11] synthesized a modified norfloxacin via heteroarylation of norfloxacin on *N*-piperazinyl position (Scheme 1). The antibacterial activity of these modified norfloxacin depends not only on the bicyclic heteroaromatic pharmacophore but also on the nature of the peripheral substitutions and their spatial relationship, such as solubility, thermal stability, hydrolysis, and a possibility to form a Zwitter ion. Meth-Cohn and Taylor [12] reported an important method for the synthesis of quinolones using reverse Vilsmeier approach but has its own limitations, like uncompleted cyclisation to the target quinolone.

In the light of these observations, the aim of this work was to synthesize novel norfloxacin analogues using modified Vilsmeier approach and conduct preliminary investigations



SCHEME 1: Norfloxacin modification.



SCHEME 2

for the evaluation of their physicochemical properties, photochemical probe, and antimicrobial effects.

## 2. Materials and Methods

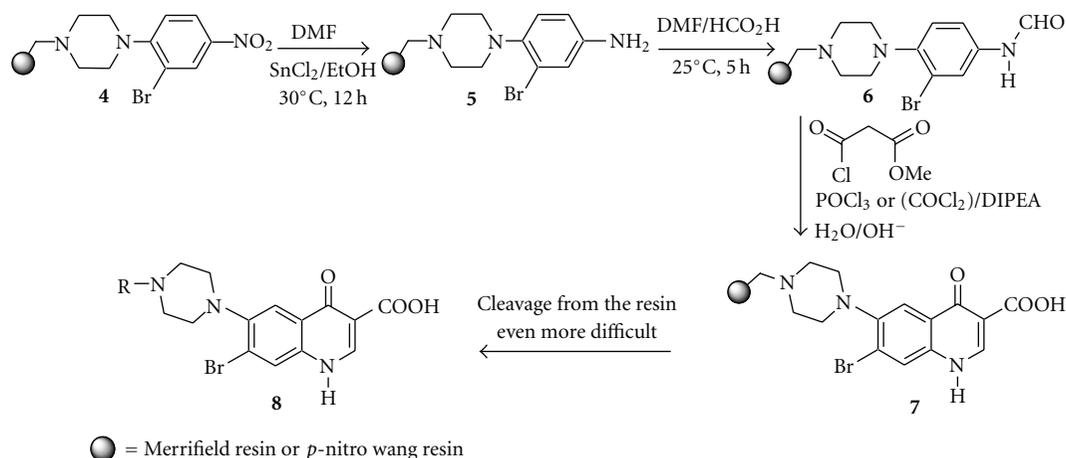
**2.1. Equipment Used for the Characterization of the Produced Compounds.** Electrothermal 9100 (fisher Scientific, US) was used to determine melting points or ranges. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Unicam Research Series 2000 FTIR. NMR spectra were recorded in DMSO or  $\text{CDCl}_3$  on a Bruker AVANCE 300 at 300 MHz. Mass spectrometry was performed on an Esquire 3000 plus, or Bruker ApexII, for low and high resolution. Elemental analysis was performed on an Exeter Analytical CE-440; GCMS was performed on Shimadzu GC-17A and QP-5000 Mass Spectrometer.

**2.2. Materials Used for Microbiological Assay.** Nutrient Agar, MacConkey Agar, Sabouraud Dextrose Agar, and dimethylformamide (DMF) were obtained from Sigma; Nalidixic acid ( $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{disk}$ , Bioanalyze, Egypt) and Nystain (manufactured by Pasteur Lab., Egypt, NS 100 units ( $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{disk}$ )) were used as reference antibiotics.

**2.3. Synthesis of Norfloxacin Analogues.** We used a solid phase via Merrifield resin through reactions of substituted piperazine with 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene. In the synthetic sequence, the Merrifield resin (1) was first suspended in dry DMF, and to this suspension was added an excess of piperazine (2-3 equivalents) in pyridine or

anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (6–8 equivalents). The reaction mixture was continued at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 hours then piperazine resin (2) was obtained, filtered, washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and dried. Compound 2 was resuspended in DMF and reacted with 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (3) to give the 4-piperazine resin-supported-3-bromo-1-nitrobenzene (4) (not the expected 3-piperazine resin-supported-4-fluoro-1-nitrobenzene), (Scheme 2), which on reduction with  $\text{SnCl}_2\text{-EtOH}$  yielded the 3-bromo-4-(4'-resin-supported benzyl piperazinyl)-1-aniline (5) and then by treatment with an excess of formic acid at room temperature for 12 hours produced the corresponded 3-bromo-4-(4'-resin-supported benzyl piperazinyl)-1-formanilide (6). The dry resin-supported formanilide 6, when reacted with Phosphorus oxychloride or Oxalyl chloride and methyl malonyl chloride (7) under reverse Vilsmeier conditions, mainly gave the resin-supported quinolone, 6-fluoro-7-piperazino-4-oxo-3-quinolone carboxylic acid, (8) (Scheme 3). The procedure, in general, yielded a mixture of by-products in low quantities, and TLC and GCMS were used for the assessment of the recovered cleavage products.

**2.4. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (3).** Equimolar mixture of nitric acid and sulphuric acid (1:1, 25 mL:25 mL) was stirred at  $\sim 5^\circ\text{C}$ . A solution of 2-fluorobromobenzene (25 g, 0.143 mol) in methanol (30 mL) was added to the mixture with gradual stirring over a period of 20–30 minutes. After complete addition, the temperature was raised gradually to  $70^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (20 mL), and



SCHEME 3

the immediate cream solid precipitate was collected by filtration. Crystallization with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave a cream shiny crystals (29.23 g, 93% yield), mp 60–62°C (lit. [13] mp 58–59°C);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1535 and 1342 ( $\text{NO}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.29 (1H, t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, H-5), 8.24 (1H, m, H-6), 8.50 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.0$  and 4.3 Hz, H-2);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 110.1 (d,  $J = 22.5$  Hz, C-3), 117.1 (d,  $J = 22.5$  Hz, C-5), 123.3 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, C-6), 129.6 (C-2), 144.4 (C-1), 162.9 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 195.7$  Hz, C-4);  $\delta_{\text{F}}$  (MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) -74.22 (s);  $m/z$  221 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 44%), 219 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 46%), 203 (3), 189 (17), 173 (38), 161 (14), 94 (M-Br- $\text{NO}_2$ , 100), 68 (25), 61 (7), 50 (38).

**2.5. Preparation of 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromo-1-nitrobenzene (9).** Under dry conditions, 3-bromo-4-fluoronitrobenzene (**3**) (5.1 g, 23 mmol) was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2 mL), then anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (9.6 g, 69.2 mmol) was added followed by addition of *N*-benzylpiperazine (8 g, 46 mmol) to the suspension mixture using a syringe; the temperature gradually raised to reflux for 12 h (or until the complete disappearance of the starting material). The reaction was monitored by TLC ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ : petroleum ether (40–60), 50%). The acetonitrile was removed under *vacuo*, and the resulting solid was stirred in cold water (200 mL) for 20 minutes. The pale brown solid formed was recrystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3$  to give bright yellow needle-like crystals of **9** (5.8 g, 81% yield), mp 123–124°C; [ $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}_2$  Calc. C, 54.3; H, 4.8; N, 11.2. Found C: 54.5; H, 4.8; N, 11.1];  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1580, and 1339 ( $\text{NO}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 2.57 (4H, m, H-3' and H-5'), 3.17 (4H, m, H-2' and H-6'), 3.56 (2H, s, Ph- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.12 (1H, d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, H-5), 7.24 (5H, m, Ph), 8.08 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.7$  and 9.0 Hz, H-6), 8.26 (1H, d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, H-2);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 51.1 (C-3' and C-5'), 52.8 (C-2' and C-6'), 62.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>-Ph), 116.9 (C-3), 121.1 (C-5), 124.7 (C-6), 127.5 (C-2), 129.5 (Ph), 142.3 (C-1), 156.6 (C-4);  $m/z$  ( $\text{M}^+$  373/375).

**2.6. Preparation of 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromo-4-phenylamine (10)** [14]. A pale yellow oil (2.7 g, 60% yield);

$\nu_{\text{max}} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  3150 ( $\text{NH}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 2.68 (4H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3' and 5') and 3.01 (4H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -2' and 6'), 3.57 (2H, s, Ph- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.62 (1H, dd,  $J = 1.2$  and 4.2 Hz, H-6), 6.94 (1H, d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, H-5), 6.97 (1H, d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, H-2), 7.37 (5H, m, Ph);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 52.2 (C-3' and C-5'), 53.6 (C-2' and C-6'), 63.3 (Ph- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 114.9 (C-3), 120.1 (C-6), 121.1 (C-5), 121.8 (C-2), 128.4 (Ph), 142.3 (C-1), 143.4 (C-4); HRMS (ESI). Found:  $\text{MH}^+$ , 346.0908. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}_3$ :  $\text{MH}^+ = 346.0919$ .

**2.7. Preparation of 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromoforamide (11).** Formic acid (5 mL, 0.13 mol) was added to 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromo-4-phenylamine (**12**) (5 g, 14.4 mmol), and the resulting clear solution was refluxed for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into ice water (10 mL), then  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution (10% w/v, 20 mL) was added gradually until no more effervescence (formation of neutral to slightly basic solution) was observed and the solution extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution (10%, 20 mL), and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed *in vacuo* until complete dryness to give **11** as a brown solid which was purified by column chromatography on silica, eluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  to give a white solid (2.94 g, 54%), mp 73–74°C; [ $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}$  Calc. C, 57.76; H, 5.39; N, 11.23. Found: C, 57.79; H, 5.41; N, 11.23];  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3320 (br, NH), 1716 (NCHO);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 2.68 (4H, br s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3' and 5'), 3.06 (4H, br s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -2' and 6'), 3.62 (2H, s, Ph- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.34 (6H, m, Ph+H-5), 7.48 (1H, dd,  $J = 1.2$  and 4.2 Hz, H-6), 7.81 (1H, d,  $J = 1.2$ , H-2), 8.34 (1H, s, CHO), 8.58 (1H, s, NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 51.7 (C-3' and C-5'), 53.2 (C-2' and C-6'), 63.2 (Ph- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 119.3 (C-3), 120.1 (C-5), 121.0 (C-6), 125.5 (C-2), 129.4 (C-Ph), 132.5 and 132.8 (C-1), 147.7 and 148.5 (C-4), 158.9 and 162.5 (N-CHO).

**2.8. Vilsmeier Reaction of 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromoforamide (9) and Formation of Compound 12.** In

dry atmosphere, a solution of 4-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-3-bromoformamide (**11**) (1 g, 2.7 mmol) in POCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL) was stirred for 15 minutes at 25°C. A solution of methyl malonyl chloride (1.12 g, 8.5 mmol) in POCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) was gradually added to the reaction mixture through a syringe. After addition was complete, the oil bath temperature was gradually raised to 130–140°C, and the reaction was continued for 12 h. The excess POCl<sub>3</sub> was removed *in vacuo*, and the cooled black residue was dissolved in diethyl ether (20 mL), poured into ice (50 mL), and vigorously stirred for 2 h. The resulting mixture was made basic by the addition of aq. NaOH solution (30%, 10 mL), refluxed for 2 h, and cooled for 12 h in fridge (<5°C). Column chromatography on the resulting black gum (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH, 90:10) gave 6-(4'-benzylpiperazin-1'-yl)-7-bromo-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (**12**). It was recrystallized from EtOH to produce a yellow solid as (0.1 g, 5% yield); mp 285–286°C;  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3525 (carboxylic OH), 1699 (carboxylic C=O), 1611 (COO<sup>-</sup> st as), 1462 (COO<sup>-</sup> st sy);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (600 MHz; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 3.13 (8H, br s, piperazine), 4.19 (2H, s, Ph-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.45 (5H, m, Ph), 7.83 (1H, s, H-8), 8.15 (1H, s, H-5), 8.87 (1H, s, H-2), 15.21 (1H, br s, NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  51.21 (piperazine), 60.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 107.4 (C-3), 115.0 (C-8), 124.4 (C-5), 124.6 (C-7), 126.1 (C-10), 128.6 and 130.6 (Ph), 136.1 (C-9), 147.3 (C-2), 166.1 (C-6), 177.3 (CO<sub>2</sub>H), 206.5 (C=O); HRMS (ESI). Found: MH<sup>+</sup>, 442.0764. Calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>: MH<sup>+</sup> = 442.0761.

## 2.9. Solid-Phase Synthesis with

### 4-fluoro-3-bromo-1-Nitrobenzene

#### 2.9.1. Loading the Piperazine to Merrifield Resin

**General Resin Preparation.** The Merrifield resin (**1**) (5 g) was a suspension in dry DMF (20 mL) for 6–12 h. The resin had a gel-like appearance double its original volume.

To the resin suspension, a molar excess of free piperazine (5 g), pyridine (2 mL), or K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 g), stirred at 80°C for 24 h. The cold resin was then filtered and washed with water (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 20 mL), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 10 mL), then dried *in vacuo* for a minimum of 24 h or until a constant weight was achieved (5.6 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3441 (NH); (Found: C, 85.1; H, 10.4; N, 2.9%).

**2.9.2. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(Resin-Supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene (4).** 3-Bromo-4-fluoro-1-nitrobenzene (**3**) (2 g) was stirred in dry DMF (10 mL), and anhydrous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 g) was added to the suspended piperazine-Merrifield resin (**2**) (3 g), and the reaction was continued at 50°C for 24 h. The cold resin was filtered, then washed with water (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (4 × 10 mL), and finally with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 10 mL). The solid was dried under *vacuo* for 24 h or until constant weight (4.6 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1509 and 1339 (NO<sub>2</sub>).

**2.9.3. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(4'-Resin-Supported benzylpiperazino)-1-aniline (5)** 3-Bromo-4-(4'-resin-supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene **4** (2 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h. An excess of stannous chloride

(5 g) and EtOH (5 mL) was added to the resin. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 50°C for 8 h. At this time, the resin color changed from yellow to pale yellow. The cold resin was filtered and washed with water (4 × 20 mL). The resin was stirred in a solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20% w/v, 20 mL), filtered, washed several times with water (2 × 20 mL), NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (2 × 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 20 mL), and finally with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 20 mL), and dried to give a yellow resin (1.8 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3360 (NH<sub>2</sub>).

**2.9.4. Preparation of 3-bromo-4-(4'-Resin-Supported benzylpiperazino)-1-formamide (6).** The resin-supported amine **5** (1 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h before the addition of formic acid (5 mL). The reaction suspension was stirred and heated at 50°C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was filtered and washed with water (4 × 10 mL) to remove the excess of formic acid. The resin was washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (30% w/v, 20 mL), MeOH (2 × 10 mL), and finally with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 10 mL) to give derivatized resin **6** (1.2 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3362 cm<sup>-1</sup>(NH), 1721 cm<sup>-1</sup>(C=O).

**2.9.5. Preparation of Resin-Supported 7-bromo-6-piperazino-4-oxo-3-quinolone Carboxylic Acid (7).** 3-Bromo-4-(4'-resin-supported benzylpiperazino)-1-formamide (**6**) (1 g) was suspended in dry DMF (10 mL) for 12 h. Phosphorus oxychloride (POCl<sub>3</sub>, 5 mL) was added to the suspended resin, and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 25°C. A solution of methyl malonyl chloride (1.32 g, 9.6 mmol) in POCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) was gradually added to the reaction mixture. When the addition was completed, the temperature was gradually raised to 100°C for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was added gradually and carefully to ice (20 mL) then stirred for a further 20 minutes. The solution was basified using NaOH (10% w/v, 5 mL) and refluxed for a further 30 minutes. The resin was filtered and washed with water (2 × 10 mL), MeOH (2 × 10 mL), and finally with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 10 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to constant weight (1.2 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1719 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O).

## 2.10. Cleavage from the Resin

### 2.10.1. Using the Hydrogenator

**General Method.** Resin-supported compound **4–7** (0.3 g) was placed in a hydrogenator vessel and suspended in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). Pd/C (0.05 g) was added to the resin suspension and the hydrogenation system was securely sealed. The reaction was carried out under 2 atm of hydrogen for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the resin was washed several times with MeOH (4 × 5 mL); the resulting filtrates combined and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a black residue (0.05 g). TLC showed a mixture of several spots, while the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum gave a complicated and noncharacterizable spectrum.

### 2.10.2. Cleavage by Catalytic Transfer Hydrogenation (Hydrogenolysis)

**General Method.** The resin-supported compound **4–7** (0.3 g) was suspended in dry MeOH (10 mL). Cyclohexene (5 mL)

and 20% Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub> on carbon (1:3 catalyst substrate by weight) was added. The suspended mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at reflux for 12–48 h; extra cyclohexene (10 mL) was added in two portions during this reaction time, and the reaction was monitored by TLC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH, 90:10). The reaction mixture was filtered through celite and washed with MeOH (3 × 10 mL). The combined filtrates were collected, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated to give a residue for characterization. None of the compounds 4–7 gave an acceptable cleavage product.

### 2.10.3. Cleavage by Formation of a Solid-Supported Tertiary Amine Using Alkyl Halide

**General Method.** The compound on resin support 4–7 (0.3 g) was swollen with a mixture of DMF (5 mL), and an excess of MeI or EtI (3–4 mL) was added; the mixture was refluxed with slow stirring for 60 h. The resin was cross-washed with MeOH (5 × 10 mL), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 × 10 mL), and diethyl ether (10 mL). The dry resin was swollen again with morpholine (4 mL) and heated at 110°C for 20–40 h and then washed with MeOH (2 × 3 mL), and the filtrate was evaporated. The resulting solid was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and aqueous sodium carbonate (10%, 5 mL). Organic layers were collected, dried, and concentrated. None of the expected cleavage products was obtained.

### 2.10.4. Cleavage by Formation of a Solid-Supported Tertiary Amine Using $\alpha$ -Chloroethyl Chloroformate (ACE-Cl)

**General Method.** Compounds on the resin support (0.5 g) were first suspended in 1,2-dichloropropane (5 mL), followed by the addition of an excess of  $\alpha$ -chloroethyl chloroformate (10 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 48 h. The resin was filtered through a bed of silica gel, and the filtrate was then concentrated *in vacuo* until dryness. The residue dissolved in methanol and refluxed for 3 h. The solvent was removed to yield the secondary amines as their HCl salts.

3-Bromo-4-(4'-resin-supported benzylpiperazine)-1-nitrobenzene (**4**) (0.5 g) was swollen in 1,2-dichloropropane (5 mL) for 12 h, and ACE-Cl (10 mL) was then added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 48 h and then treated as for the general method. The resulting black residue (0.3 g) was refluxed in ethanol for 3 h, and reaction was monitored by TLC. (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:petroleum ether (40–60), 60:40). The TLC showed a complicated mixture of spots; the major product at  $R_f = 0.34$  was separated by preparative thin layer chromatography to give 3-bromo-4-ethoxy-1-nitrobenzene.

**2.11. Preparation of *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine (**13**)** [15] the *N,N*-bis-(2-chloroethyl)ammonium chloride is very toxic and must be handled with care only in fuming hood. A mixture of 2-fluoro-5-nitroaniline (1 g, 6.4 mmol) and *N,N*-bis-(2-chloroethyl)ammonium chloride (1.3 g, 7.0 mmol) in diethylene glycol monomethyl ether (1 mL) was heated under dry nitrogen at 150°C for 24 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC (ethyl

acetate:CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 80:20), product  $R_f = 0.42$ , the dark solid of *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine **13** (0.87 g, 60%); mp 216–217°C;  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3386 (NH), 1522 and 1346 (NO<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) [16] 3.26 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-3' and CH<sub>2</sub>-5'), 3.40 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-2' and CH<sub>2</sub>-6'), 7.49 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.0$  Hz and 12 Hz, H-3), 7.85 (1H, dd,  $J = 3$  and 9 Hz, H-6), 7.94 (1H, m, H-4), 9.59 (1H, br s, NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 Hz; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 43.0 (C-3' and C-5'), 47.0 (C-2' and C-6'), 115.2 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, C-6), 117.8 (d,  $J = 24$  Hz, C-3), 119.2 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, C-4), 139.9 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, C-1), 144.9 (C-5), 158.8 (d,  $J = 257$  Hz, C-2).

### 2.12. Solid Phase Reaction Using *p*-nitrophenyl Carbonate Wang Resin 14

**2.12.1. Reactions of *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine with *p*-nitrophenyl Carbonate Wang Resin (**14**).** *p*-Nitrophenyl carbonate Wang resin **14** (1 g, loading: 0.60–1.20 mmol/g resin) was first suspended in dry DMF (5 mL) for 5 h, and *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl) piperazine **13** (1.6 g, 7.1 mmol), and dry pyridine (2 mL) were then added to resin. The resulting suspension was then stirred and heated to 35°C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the resin was filtered and washed with water (2 × 10 mL), methanol (3 × 10 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 10 mL). The resin was dried *in vacuo* to give a brown resin (2.3 g). The residual product was verified by the complete disappearance of the characteristic carbonate resin band at 1760 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1555 and 1316 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1669 (C=O).

**2.12.2. Resin Cleavage [17].** The nitrocarbonate resin **15** (0.2 g) was suspended in trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL), dichloromethane (2 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The cleavage reaction was monitored by TLC [(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH, 80:20) on the solution, product  $R_f = 0.42$ ]. The resin was filtered and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 × 20 mL), and the filtrate was collected and then extracted with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10%, 4 × 20 mL). The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layers were collected, washed with brine (2 × 20 mL), and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a yellow crystal of **13** (0.1 g).

**2.12.3. Reduction of *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl)piperazine-carbonate Wang Resin (**15**).** *N*-(2-fluoro-5-nitrophenyl)piperazine-carbonate Wang resin **15** (0.3 g) was suspended in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (2 mL). Anhydrous stannous chloride (1 g) and absolute ethanol (5 mL) were then added to the resin, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h (the color changed from deep yellow to light grey). The resin was filtered washed with methanol (20 mL), water (3 × 20 mL), methanol (3 × 10 mL), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 10 mL). The resin was dried to give the resin supported amine (0.34 g);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3401 and 3385 (NH<sub>2</sub>), 1672 (OC=O).

**2.12.4. Reaction of *N*-(2-fluoro-5-aminophenyl) piperazine-carbonate Wang Resin **16** with Ethyl Formate.** *N*-(2-Fluoroaniline) piperazine-carbonate Wang resin (0.3 g) was

suspended in dry DMF (5 mL) (the resin doubled in volume), under a positive flow of dry nitrogen, and ethyl formate was added (5 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 30°C for 24 h and, after cooling to room temperature, the resin was filtered off. TLC of the filtrate showed a spot at  $R_f = 0.32$  ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ :MeOH, 96:4). The resin was washed with water ( $3 \times 10$  mL), methanol ( $3 \times 10$  mL), and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL) to give, after drying, the corresponding formamide resin **16** (0.21 g);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3406 (NH) and 1685 (N-C=O), 1662 (OC=O).

**2.13. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoro-5-nitrobenzene (19).** *N*-(2-Fluoro-5-nitrophenyl)piperazine (**13**) (3 g, 13.3 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (20 mL),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (5.5 g, 40 mmol) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) were added to the above solution, and benzoyl chloride (3.73 g, 26.6 mmol) was added gradually over 20 minutes. The reaction continued at 35°C for 1 hour. The organic layer was separated, washed with water ( $3 \times 20$  mL) and brine (30 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow shiny crystal of **19** (4 g, 92%); mp 108–109°C; (Calc. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2$ : C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8. Found: C, 66.1; H, 5.5; N, 12.7);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1694 (CO-N), 1508 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1347 ( $\text{NO}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 2.94 (4H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ '), 3.49 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3'), 3.71 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -5'), 7.46 (6H, m, Ph + H-3), 7.81 (1H, dd,  $J = 3$  and 7.5 Hz, H-6), 7.92 (1H, m, H-4);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 41.3 (C-5'), 46.9 (C-3'), 49.6 (C-2' and C-6'), 115.2 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, C-6), 117.7 (d,  $J = 23.0$  Hz, C-3), 118.8 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, C-4), 128.9 (Ph), 135.9 (C-8), 140.7 (d,  $J = 10$  Hz, C-1), 144.9 (C-5), 158.9 (d,  $J = 254$  Hz, C-2), 169.6 (C=O).

**2.14. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoro-aniline (20) [14].** 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoroaniline (**20**) (2.14 g, 78%); mp 89–90°C; (Calc. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_3\text{O}$ : C, 68.2; H, 6.1; N, 14.0. Found: C, 68.2; H, 6.05; N, 14.0);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3450 and 3350 ( $\text{NH}_2$ ), 1724 (CO-N);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 2.94 (4H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -2' and  $\text{CH}_2$ -6'), 3.48 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3'), 3.73 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ -5'), 4.84 (2H, br s,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 6.13 (1H, m, H-4), 6.25 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.4$  and 7.5 Hz, H-6), 6.77 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.7$  and 12.6 Hz, H-3), 7.45 (5H, m, Ph);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 50.17 ( $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 50.22 ( $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 105.5 (C-6), 107.6 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, C-4), 116.3 (d,  $J = 21.2$  Hz, C-3), 128.9 (Ph), 140.0 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, C-1), 145.9 (C-5), 147.7 (d,  $J = 230$  Hz, C-2), 169.5 (C=O).

**2.15. Preparation of 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoro-formanilide (21).** Formic acid (5 mL) was added to 1-(benzoylpiperazinyl)-2-fluoroaniline (**20**) (1 g, 3.34 mmol); the resulting solution was heated at 70°C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was added to cooled water (100 mL), extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $4 \times 20$  mL) and brine (30 mL), and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The resulting white solid was purified by column chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ :MeOH, 97:3) to give white crystals of **21** (0.62 g, 56%); mp 189–191°C; (Calc. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2$ : C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8. Found: C, 66.0; H, 5.5; N, 12.8);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3080 (NH) 1684 (NH-CHO), 1620 (CO-Ph);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 3.02 (4H, s, H-2', H-6'),

3.55 (2H, s, H-3'), 3.74 (2H, s, H-5'), 7.11 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.7$  and  $J = 12.0$  Hz, H-3), 7.19 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.7$ , 2.7 and 1.5 Hz, H-4), 7.35 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.7$  and  $J = 5.4$  Hz, H-6), 7.46 (5H, m, CO-Ph), 8.25 (1H, d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, CHO), 10.12 (1H, br s, NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 50.2 and 50.22 (piperazine-C), 111.1 (C-6), 113.7 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, C-4), 116.5 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz, C-3), 128.9 (Ph), 136.3 (C-5), 140.0 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, C-1), 153.1 (d,  $J = 240$  Hz, C-2), 159.9 (CHO), 169.6 (C=O).

**2.16. Vilsmeier Reaction of 3-nitro-4-fluoroformanilide. Preparation of *N,N'*-Bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)oxalamide 23.**

Under anhydrous conditions, 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide (2 g, 10.86 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (20 mL), then  $(\text{COCl})_2$  (2 mL) was added gradually over 30 minutes, (a vigorous reaction was observed). The resulting reaction mixture was heated to 40°C for 30 minutes. The reaction flask was removed from the oil bath; methyl malonyl chloride (1.78 g, 13.03 mmol) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2 mL) was added gradually to the Vilsmeier reagent over 30 min. The reaction was continued at 40°C for 3 h until the TLC of the reaction showed a complete consumption of the starting formanilide, with the formation of a new product above the starting compound, [ $(\text{CHCl}_3$ :MeOH, 95:5)  $R_f = 0.56$ ]. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, followed by the addition of cooled water (20 mL), and stirred for 30 minutes. The resulting yellow solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, and recrystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3$  to give yellow crystals of *N,N'*-Bis-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)oxalamide (**23**) (0.62 g, 16%); mp 109–111°C; (Calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{F}_2\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$ : C, 45.9; H, 2.2; N, 15.3. Found: C, 45.9; H, 2.2; N, 15.3);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3275 (NH), 1673 (NCO);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz; DMSO- $d_6$ ) 7.64 (2H, t,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, H-5 and H-5'), 8.23 (2H, m, H-6 and H-6'), 8.80 (2H, dd,  $J = 0.8$  and 1.5 Hz, H-2 and H-2'), 11.40 (2H, s, 2NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 120.1 (C-2 and C-2'), 121.7 (d,  $J = 22.5$  Hz, C-5 and C-5'), 130.9 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, C-6 and C-6'), 137.2 (C-1 and C-1'), 139.1 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, C-3 and C-3'), 154.1 (d,  $J = 262.5$  Hz, C-4 and C-4'), 161.2 (C=O).

**2.17. Vilsmeier Reaction on 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide and Preparation of *N,N'*-Bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)malonamide (24).**

Under anhydrous conditions, 3-chloro-4-fluoroformanilide (2 g, 12.98 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (20 mL). Oxalyl chloride (2 mL) was added gradually over 30 min. (vigorous reaction). The resulting reaction mixture was heated to 40°C for 30 minutes. Methyl malonyl chloride (2.13 g, 15.57 mmol) was added gradually to the cooled reaction mixture over 30 minutes. When addition was complete, the reaction was continued at 40°C for 3 h until TLC showed a complete consumption of the starting formanilide with formation of a new product above the starting compound [ $(\text{CHCl}_3$ :MeOH, 97:3)  $R_f = 0.53$ ]. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*; cold water (20 mL) was then added and the mixture stirred for 30 minutes. The resulting yellow solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, and purified by column chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The solid was recrystallized from

TABLE 1: The preliminary screening of antimicrobial activity of the new synthesized compounds.

Compounds/DMF 50 µg/ml disk	Microorganisms/Inhibition zone (mm)					
	Gram +ve bacteria <sup>a</sup>		Gram – ve bacteria <sup>b</sup>		Fungi <sup>c</sup>	
	B.S.	S.A	E.C.	K.P.	C.A.	A.F.
19	9	8	8	10	10	6
20	18	16	15	14	10	6
21	16	16	14	14	8	6
9	8	8	7	11	9	6
11	13	11	12	13	9	6
23	15	14	15	13	10	6
12	20	19	18	17	10	10
Ny.	6	6	6	10	10	32
Na.	32	30	30	22	6	6

Ny: nystatin, manufactured by Pasteur Lab., Egypt. NS 100 units (100 µg/disk).

Na: nalidixic acid, 30 µg/disk, Bioanalyze, Egypt.

<sup>a</sup>*Bacillus Subtilis* (B.S.) and *Staphylococcus Aureus* (S.A.); <sup>b</sup>*Escherichia Coli* (E.C.) and *Klebsiella Pneumonia* (K.P.); <sup>c</sup>*Candida Albicans* (C.A.) and *Aspergillus Funigates* (A.F.).

TABLE 2: MIC of the active biological compounds towards bacteria.

Compd. No.	Inhibition Zones (µg /mm)											
	B.S.			S.A.			E.C.			K.P.		
	50	40	30	50	40	30	50	40	30	50	40	30
20	18	12	6	16	14	10	15	12	10	14	12	8
21	16	14	6	16	12	10	14	13	10	14	11	9
11	13	10	6	11	10	10	12	10	6	13	11	10
23	15	12	6	14	12	10	15	12	6	13	11	9
12	20	18	15	19	16	10	18	16	12	17	14	12

TABLE 3: Preliminary screening using UV (λ366 nm) light, conc. 50 µg/disk.

Compd. No.	Microorganisms (inhibition zones in mm)							
	+ve bacteria		– ve bacteria				Fungi	
	B.S.	S.A.	E.C.	K.P.	C.A.	A.F.		
20	18	16	15	14	No change	No change		
21	18	17	16	18	No change	No change		
11	14	14	12	14	No change	No change		
23	17	16	17	16	No change	No change		
12	24	21	21	21	No change	No change		

TABLE 4: Various physicochemical properties of highly bioactive compounds.

Compd. No.	MIC at 30 µg/disc				Mol. Mass	Melting point		Solubility <sup>c</sup> in water (20°C), µg/L
	B.S	S.A	E.C	K.P		CHCl <sub>3</sub> <sup>a</sup>	Cyclo-Hexane <sup>b</sup>	
	20	6	10	10		8	299	
21	6	10	10	9	327	191	186	300
11	6	10	6	10	374	74	70	90
23	6	10	6	9	366	111	107	350
12	15	10	12	12	442	285	—	400
Ny	6	6	6	6	—	—	—	—
Na	32	30	30	32	—	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup>Crystals cyclisation from CHCl<sub>3</sub>; <sup>b</sup>Crystals cyclisation from cyclohexane; <sup>c</sup>hydrolysis characteristics at pH 5.7 and 9 and at 24°C. The tested compounds have a very low rate of hydrolysis, which is considered stable in suspension concentrations under normal condition.

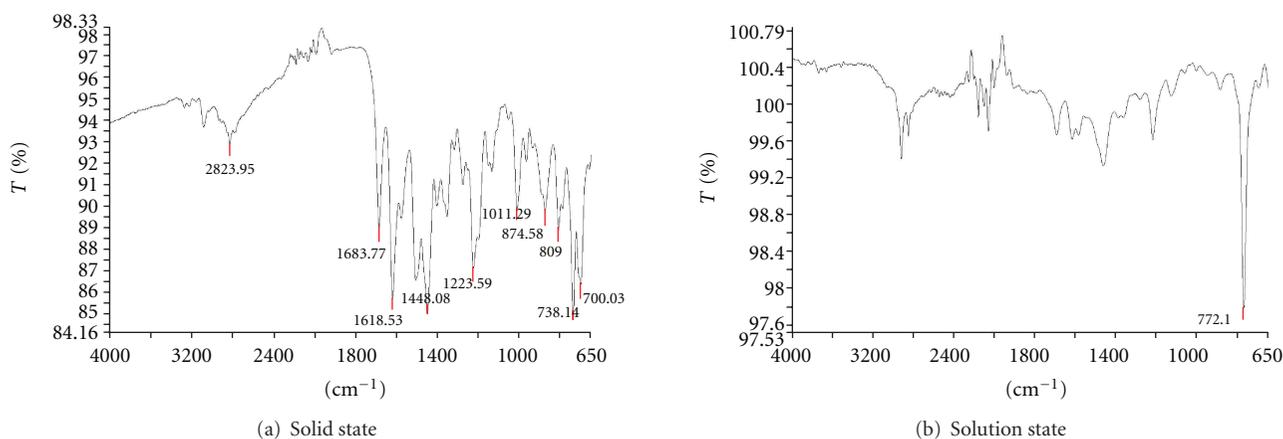


FIGURE 1: FT-IR spectrum of 12 in (a) solid and (b) solution states for compound 12.

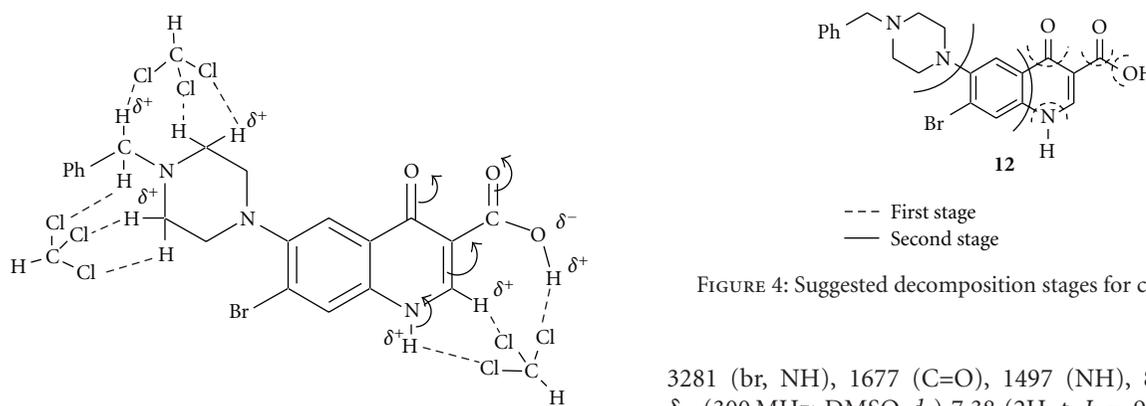


FIGURE 2: The interaction between compound 12 with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .

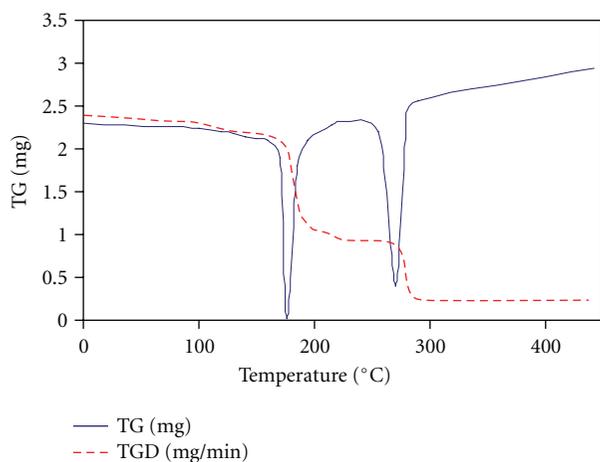


FIGURE 3: TG and TGD for compound 12.

$\text{CHCl}_3$  to give shiny needle-like crystals of compound **24** *N,N'*-Bis-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)malon-amide (0.72 g, 18%); mp 201-202°C; (Calc. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : C, 50.2; H, 2.8; N, 7.8. Found: C, 50.2; H, 2.8; N, 7.8);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$

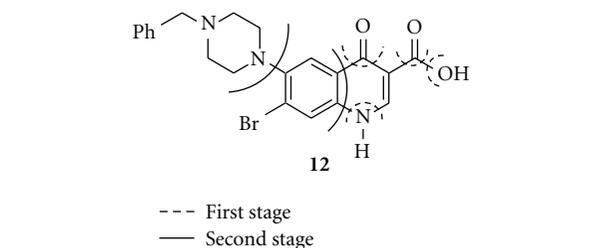


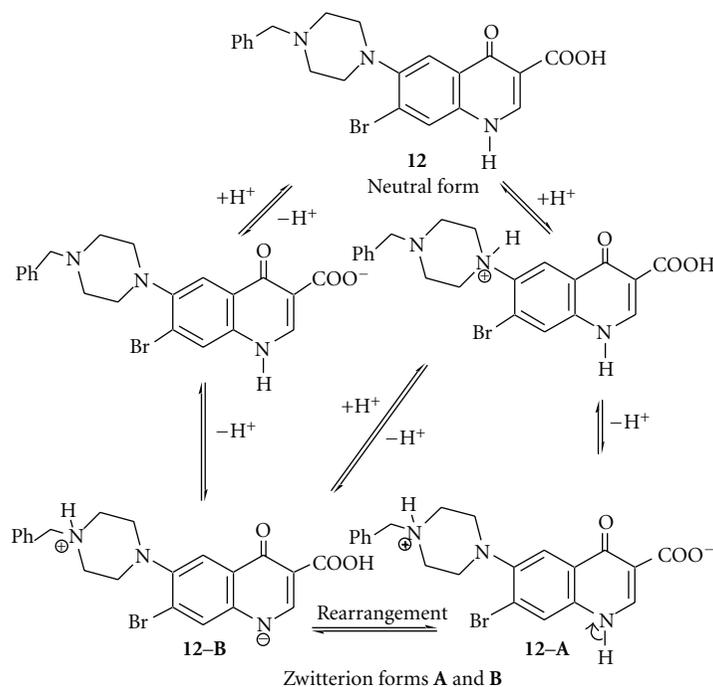
FIGURE 4: Suggested decomposition stages for compound 12.

3281 (br, NH), 1677 (C=O), 1497 (NH), 811 (Cl-C=O);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 7.38 (2H, t,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, H-5 and H-5'), 7.48 (2H, ddd,  $J = 2.4, 4.5$  and  $9.0$  Hz, H-6 and H-6'), 7.93 (2H, dd,  $J = 2.4$  and  $2.7$  Hz, H-2 and H-2'), 10.39 (2H, s, 2NH);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz;  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 46.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 117.5 (d,  $J = 21.7$  Hz, C-5 and C-5'), 119.7 (d,  $J = 18$  Hz, C-3 and C-3'), 119.9 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, C-6 and C-6'), 121.0 (C-2 and C-2'), 136.6 (C-1 and C-1'), 153.7 (d,  $J = 240$  Hz, C-4 and C-4'), 165.9 (C=O).

**2.18. Physicochemical Studies.** The physicochemical studies include the lipophilicity, Fourier transforms infrared spectroscopy, and the thermal stability of highly bioactive compounds. The thermal behaviors for the bioactive compound **12** was investigated by thermogravimetric technique and indicated by the TGD peaks at 177 and 270°C (Figures 3 and 4). The highly bioactive pure tested compounds were also determined like melting point, water solubility and pKa values.

**2.19. Antimicrobial Assay.** Some synthesized compounds, **19**, **20**, **21**, **9**, **11**, **23**, and **12**, were evaluated for their antimicrobial effects by Agar diffusion disk method [18] using Nutrient Agar, MacConkey Agar, and Sabouraud Dextrose Agar. The potentialities of these compounds were estimated against some important and representative microbes like Gram +ve: *Bacillus Subtilis* (B.S.); *Staphylococcus Aureus* (S.A.), Gram -ve: *Escherichia Coli* (E.C.); *Klebsiella Pneumonia* (K.P.), and





SCHEME 5

3.2.3. *Other Physicochemical Properties of Highly Bioactive Compounds.* The physicochemical properties of highly bioactive pure tested compounds are demonstrated as follows.

- Melting Points.* They differ according to the type of solvent from which crystals are obtained, for example, compound **20** had approximately 87°C for pure crystallized from cyclohexane, and 90°C from chloroform.
- Solubility in Water.* Pure compound **20**, for example, gave approximately, 200 µg/L while compound **23** showed 350 µg/L at 20°C.
- Pka.* Pure tested compounds at pH 5.7 and 9 at 24°C showed different types of protons, in quinolone the –COOH and NH, while in the formylamino derivative, –COOH, –CHO, and NH. This data indicated that tested compounds **20**, **21**, **11**, **23**, and **12** have a very low rate of hydrolysis because of its stability in suspension concentration under normal conditions Table 4.

3.3. *Antimicrobial Assay.* The potentialities of the tested compounds **19**, **20**, **21**, **9**, **11**, **23**, and **12** are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

3.4. *Photochemical Probe Agents.* Vitiligo is an acquired disorder characterized by patchy progressive depigmentation of the skin. It affects about 2% of world population. Vitiligo occurs equally in both sexes and has no age limits. It may be presented as a single path, which may be progressing or static for a long time and suddenly starts

progressing or multiple patches, which are slowly progressing or stationary indefinitely. These depigmented molecules sometimes spontaneously pigment and depigment again and are often symmetrical and are called as vitiligo vulgarize. The etiology of nonsymmetrical Vitiligo, namely, segment vitiligo, is entirely different from symmetrical vitiligo. Often the exposed areas of the skin and areas around orifices of the body are depigmented rather than other areas [20]. The melanocytes successfully treated vitiligo patients by PUVA therapy [21]. Increasing use of PUVA-8MP could be responsible for a type of skin cancer [22]. Thus, some antibiotics like nalidixic acid and Nystatin are now used to control the vitiligo symptoms.

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Professor O. Meth-Cohen, Professor P. Groundwater, Professor R. Anderson, and Dr. Amal Alkordy from Sunderland University, UK. Thanks are extended to Professor Zenib M. ElBaza and coworkers, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, National Center for Radiation Research and Technology, Nasr City, Egypt. The authors are also grateful to the Deanship Research, King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the financial support.

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