

Synthesis and Enzyme Inhibitory Studies of Some New *N*-Alkylated/Aralkylated *N*-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxin-6-sulfonamides

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Summary: The research endeavor was aimed to synthesize *N*-alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides and to evaluate their enzyme inhibitory potential. The target molecules were synthesized in two steps. The first step involved the reaction of 4-ethoxyaniline (1) with *N*-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-sulfonyl chloride (2) under dynamic pH control maintained by 10% aqueous Na₂CO₃ to yield *N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (3). In second step parent compound 3 was reacted with various alkyl/aralkyl halides (4a-l) in *N,N'*-dimethylformamide and catalytic amount of lithium hydride to accomplish some new *N*-alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides (5a-l). Probable structures of the synthesized compounds were characterized by contemporary spectral techniques i.e. IR, ¹H-NMR and EIMS and were finally evaluated for enzyme inhibitory potential against α -glucosidase and urease. The synthesized compounds exhibited moderate to weak therapeutic potential throughout the series.

Keywords: *N*-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide, Alkyl/Aralkyl halides, Spectral analysis, Enzyme Inhibition Activity.

Introduction

Sulfonamides; commonly known as sulfa drugs are widely utilized against eradicating various infections in animal and humans. [1]. Sulfonamides possess broad range of various bioactivities and are considered as important pharmaceutical candidates. They are extensively consumed as anti-bacterial agents [2]. Different analogues of sulfonamides are known to possess anti-microbial, anti-convulsant, hypoglycemic and diuretic properties. Furthermore, they act as cysteine protease and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors [3, 4]. The sulfa drug moiety is a part of potent anti-tumor drugs and osteogenic agents. The amides of sulfonic acids have also been involved in the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds [5] and dendrimers [6]. During division of microtubules aryl sulfonamides are act as antitumor agent in G1 phase of cell cycle [7].

Sulfonamides containing benzodioxane ring systems possess diverse biological activities e.g. anti-inflammatory [10] and α -adrenergic blocking agent [12]. *Silybum marianum* isolate Silymarin has been found to exhibit potent anti-hepatotoxic activity The 1,4-benzodioxane moiety has valuable importance in biological active compounds like Americana A6 and haedoxan A7 having anti-hepatotoxic and insecticidal activity. [11]. It has been known to contain three

flavonolignan isomers i.e. silybin, silydianin and silychristin amongst which Silybin, is the main component, containing benzodioxane ring system and constitute about 20-30 % of total flavonolignans [13, 14]. Amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole-propionic acid (AMPA) receptors are potentiated by amides of benzodioxin-6-piperonylic and carboxylic acids. Such compounds are of great interest for treatment of various neurodegenerative diseases e.g. Alzheimer's disease [15, 16]. Pyruvate kinase PKM2 activators contain benzodioxane moiety e.g. 2-[2,3-dihydrobenzo(1,4)-dioxin-6-ylthio]-1-(2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-indolin-5-yl)ethanone (Fig. 1) which perturb cellular proliferation and influence cancer metabolism [17, 18].

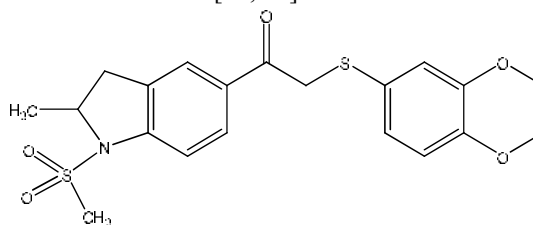


Fig. 1: Structure of 2-[2,3-dihydrobenzo(1,4)-dioxin-6-ylthio]-1-(2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-indolin-5-yl)ethanone

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Aryl sulfonamides bearing benzodioxane moiety have been identified as ExoU inhibitors with no cytotoxicity [19]. The sulfonamides have gained interest of researchers because of anti-inflammatory, anti-thyroid, anti-cancer, anti-viral, etc. activities and as inhibitors of cyclohydrogenase, lipoxygenase, HIV protease, etc [20-24]. Due to these remarkable pharmacological properties and their development in pharmaceutical sector encouraged us to synthesize new sulfonamides derivatives encompassing 1,4-benzodioxane core.

In present work, a series of *N*-alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides (**5a-m**) were synthesized and were screened for anti-enzymatic potential and the results revealed that they displayed moderate to weak inhibitory potential against α -glucosidase and urease.

Experimental

General

The chemicals consumed in the research were acquired from Sigma Aldrich/Fluka. The solvents used were of analytical grade. Progress of reactions was monitored on pre-coated silica gel G-25-UV₂₅₄ in various proportions of *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate. Melting points of compounds were recorded on Gallen Kamp melting point apparatus by open capillary tube. FTIR spectra were recorded on MIDAC M 2000 photon spectrometer. Burker spectrometer, operating at 25 °C at 400 MHz, was used to record the ¹H-NMR spectra in CDCl₃. The coupling constant (*J*) is given in hertz (Hz) and chemical shift δ in ppm. Finnigan MAT-312 spectrometer was used to measure mass spectra.

Synthesis

N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamide (**3**)

4-Ethoxyaniline (0.25 mL; 0.002 mol; **1**) was suspended in 25 mL distilled water and 10 % aqueous Na₂CO₃ was added to maintain the pH at 9-10 and reaction mixture were stirred for half an hour after which 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxin-6-sulfonyl chloride (0.46 g; 0.002 mol; **2**) was added in the mixture along with gradual stirring and was further stirred for 2 hours. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC till single spot. The product was precipitated at pH 2 using conc. HCl and was filtered, washed with distilled water and air-dried to achieve *N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-

sulfonamide **3** as off-white powder; Yield: 87 %; m.p: 189 °C; Molecular formula: C₁₆H₁₇NO₅S; Molecular weight: 335 gmol⁻¹; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{\max} : 3045 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2988 (-CH₂ stretching), 1639 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring) and 1380 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 6.67 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H, H-5), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.21 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-8), 4.19-4.04 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.21 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃).

N-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**)

N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamide (0.2 g; 0.57 mmol; **3**) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, 10 mL) was taken in 50 mL round-bottomed flask along with lithium hydride (LiH, 0.004 g). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 25 °C then alkyl/aralkyl halides (0.57 mmol; **4a-l**) were added in reaction mixture which was further stirred for 3 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC till single spot. After completion the reaction mixture was quenched with ice and precipitates were filtered, washed and air-dried to obtain pure *N*-alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**).

N-Ethyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5a**)

Grayish semi-solid; Yield: 82 %; Molecular formula: C₁₈H₂₁NO₅S; Molecular weight: 363 gmol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 363.4295 (calculated. For C₁₈H₂₁NO₅S; 363.4296); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{\max} : 3047 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2981 (-CH₂ stretching), 1633 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1379 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.20 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 9.5 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.82 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.34-4.29 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 4.04 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 3.56 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH₂-1"), 1.43 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH₃-2"); EIMS: (*m/z*) [M]⁺ 363 (C₁₈H₂₁NO₅S)⁺, 335 (C₁₆H₁₇NO₅S)⁺, 299 (C₁₈H₂₁NO₃)⁺, 242 (C₁₀H₁₂NO₄S)⁺, 178 (C₁₀H₁₂NO₂)⁺, 164 (C₁₀H₁₄NO)⁺, 29 (C₂H₅)⁺.

N-Iso-propyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5b**)

Grey powder; Yield: 85 %; m.p: 143 °C; Molecular formula: C₁₉H₂₃NO₅S; Molecular weight:

377 gmol^{-1} ; HR-MS: $[\text{M}]^+$ 377.4565 (calculated. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; 377.4566); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν_{max} : 3040 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2980 ($-\text{CH}_2$ stretching), 1639 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1383 ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.31 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.23 (dd, $J = 1.8$, 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.00 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.90 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.84 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.39-4.29 (m, 4H, CH_2 -2 & CH_2 -3), 4.56 (sept., $J = 5.6$ Hz, CH-1"), 4.05 (q, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{OCH}_2$), 1.44 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3), 1.07 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 6H, CH_3 -2" & CH_3 -3"); EIMS: (m/z) $[\text{M}]^+$ 377 ($\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 349 ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 313 ($\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_3$) $^+$, 256 ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$) $^+$, 178 ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$) $^+$, 43 (C_3H_7) $^+$.

N-Benzyl-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (5c)

White amorphous solid; Yield: 89 %; m.p: 145 °C; Molecular formula: $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; Molecular weight: 425 gmol^{-1} ; HR-MS: $[\text{M}]^+$ 425.4984 (calculated. For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; 425.4982); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν_{max} : 3055 cm^{-1} (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2928 cm^{-1} ($-\text{CH}_2$ stretching), 1620 cm^{-1} (C=C stretching of aromatic ring) and 1305 cm^{-1} ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.28 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.25-7.22 (m-merged in CDCl_3 signal, 5H, H-2" to H-6"), 7.15 (dd, $J = 2.0$, 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 6.72 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 4.69 (s, 2H, CH_2 -7"), 4.38-4.32 (m, 4H, CH_2 -2 & CH_2 -3), 3.97 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{OCH}_2$), 1.39 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); EIMS: (m/z) $[\text{M}]^+$ 425 ($\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 397 ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 361 ($\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_3$) $^+$, 304 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$) $^+$, 240 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_4$) $^+$, 226 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$) $^+$, 199 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{O}_4\text{S}$) $^+$, 135 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{O}_2$) $^+$, 121 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{O}$) $^+$, 91 (C_7H_7) $^+$, 95 ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_7\text{O}$) $^+$, 65 (C_5H_5) $^+$.

N-2-Ethylphenyl-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (5d)

Brownish pellets; Yield: 94 %; m.p: 112 °C; Molecular formula: $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; Molecular weight: 439 gmol^{-1} ; HR-MS: $[\text{M}]^+$ 439.5255 (calculated. For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; 439.5254); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν_{max} : 3049 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2930 ($-\text{CH}_2$ stretching), 1629 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1359 ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.25-7.21 (m-merged in CDCl_3 signal, 2H, H-3" to H-5"), 7.18 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.08 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, H-2" & H-6"), 6.99 (dd, $J = 2.5$, 9.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.94 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.81 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.28-4.26 (m, 4H, CH_2 -2 & CH_2 -

3), 4.02 (q, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{OCH}_2$), 3.68 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2 -8"), 2.73 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2 -7"), 1.40 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); EIMS: (m/z) $[\text{M}]^+$ 439 ($\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 411 ($\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 375 ($\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3$) $^+$, 318 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$) $^+$, 254 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$) $^+$, 240 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$) $^+$, 105 (C_8H_9) $^+$, 199 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{O}_4\text{S}$) $^+$, 135 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{O}_2$) $^+$, 121 ($\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{O}$) $^+$, 91 (C_7H_7) $^+$, 95 ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_7\text{O}$) $^+$, 65 (C_5H_5) $^+$.

N-2-Propylphenyl-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (5e)

Brown pellets; Yield: 92 %; m.p: 138 °C; Molecular formula: $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; Molecular weight: 453 gmol^{-1} ; HR-MS: $[\text{M}]^+$ 453.5523 (calculated. For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$; 453.5524); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν_{max} : 3245 (N-H stretching), 3055 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2933 ($-\text{CH}_2$ stretching), 1638 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1379 ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.28 (br.s, 1H, H-5), 7.19-7.16 (m, 3H, H-3" to H-5"), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, H-2" & H-6"), 7.08 (dd, $J = 1.3$, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.00 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.99 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.33-4.29 (m, 4H, CH_2 -2 & CH_2 -3), 4.04 (q, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{OCH}_2$), 3.56 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H, CH_2 -9"), 2.67 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$ -7"), 1.76 (quint., $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$ -8"), 1.43 (t, $J = 5.7$ sHz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); EIMS: (m/z) $[\text{M}]^+$ 453 ($\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 425 ($\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 389 ($\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_3$) $^+$, 334 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 270 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$) $^+$, 254 ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$) $^+$, 119 (C_9H_{11}) $^+$, 91 (C_7H_7) $^+$, 65 (C_5H_5) $^+$.

N-2-Chlorobenzyl-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (5f)

Brown semi-solid; Yield: 91 %; Molecular formula: $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClNO}_5\text{S}$; Molecular weight: 459 gmol^{-1} ; HR-MS: $[\text{M}]^+$ 459.9436 (calculated. For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClNO}_5\text{S}$; 459.9437); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν_{max} : 3251 (N-H stretching), 3049 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2966 ($-\text{CH}_2$ stretching), 1635 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1369 ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching), 704 (C-Cl stretching); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.65 (br.d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H, H-3"), 7.62 (ddd, $J = 1.2$, 6.2, 8.6 Hz, 1H, H-4"), 6.81 (br.t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H, H-5"), 6.79 (br.d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H, H-6"), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.77 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 6.72 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H, H-5), 6.29 (dd, $J = 1.2$, 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.04 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 4.47 (s, 2H, CH_2 -7"), 4.37-4.33 (m, 4H, CH_2 -2 & CH_2 -3), 4.30 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$ -7"), 3.39 (q, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H, $-\text{OCH}_2$), 1.32 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); EIMS: (m/z): 459 ($\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClNO}_5\text{S}$) $^+$, 395 ($\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClNO}_3$) $^+$, 274 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$) $^+$, 260

(C₁₅H₁₅ClNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 125 (C₇H₆Cl)⁺, 95 (C₆H₇O)⁺, 86 (C₄H₃Cl)⁺.

N-3-Chlorobenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5g**)

Brown semi-solid; Yield: 90 %; Molecular formula: C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S; Molecular weight: 459 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 459.9436 (calculated. For C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S; 459.9437); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3251 (N-H stretching), 3049 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2966 (-CH₂ stretching), 1635 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1369 (-SO₂ stretching), 704 (C-Cl stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.59 (br.s, 1H, H-2"), 7.23 (br.s, 1H, H-5), 7.16-7.14 (m, 3H, H-4" to H-6"), 6.93 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.91 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.74 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 6.41 (br.d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 4.66 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.35-4.32 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.97 (q, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.40 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS (m/z): 459 (C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S)⁺, 395 (C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₃)⁺, 274 (C₁₅H₁₃ClNO₂)⁺, 260 (C₁₅H₁₅ClNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 125 (C₇H₆Cl)⁺, 95 (C₆H₇O)⁺, 86 (C₄H₃Cl)⁺.

N-4-Chlorobenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5h**)

Dark brown semi-solid; Yield: 94 %; Molecular formula: C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S; Molecular weight: 459 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 459.9436 (calculated. For C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S; 459.9437); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3251 (N-H stretching), 3049 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2966 (-CH₂ stretching), 1635 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1369 (-SO₂ stretching), 704 (C-Cl stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-2" & H-6"), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-3" & H-5"), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 6.72 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.58 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-5), 6.51 (dd, J = 1.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.31 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H-8), 4.89 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.33-4.12 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.69 (q, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.30 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS (m/z): 459 (C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₅S)⁺, 395 (C₂₃H₂₂ClNO₃)⁺, 274 (C₁₅H₁₃ClNO₂)⁺, 260 (C₁₅H₁₅ClNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 125 (C₇H₆Cl)⁺, 95 (C₆H₇O)⁺, 86 (C₄H₃Cl)⁺.

N-2-Bromobenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5i**)

Light yellow semi-solid; Yield: 95 %; Molecular formula: C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S; Molecular weight: 504 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 504.3954

(calculated. For C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S; 504.3955); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3251 (N-H stretching), 3053 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2987 (-CH₂ stretching), 1639 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1391 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.62 (br.d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H-3"), 7.41 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H-6"), 7.27 (br.s, 1H, H-5), 7.26 (br.d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.15 (dd, J = 1.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-5"), 7.08 (br.t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-4"), 7.00 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.94 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.73 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.86 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.36-4.31 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.99 (q, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.36 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS (m/z): 504 (C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S)⁺, 369 (C₁₅H₁₅BrNO₃S)⁺, 319 (C₁₅H₁₃BrNO₂)⁺, 305 (C₁₅H₁₅BrNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 170 (C₇H₆Br)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 130 (C₄H₃Br)⁺, 121 (C₈H₉O)⁺, 95 (C₇H₆O)⁺.

N-4-Bromobenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5j**)

Light yellow semi-solid; Yield: 93 %; Molecular formula: C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S; Molecular weight: 504 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 504.3954 (calculated. For C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S; 504.3955); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3251 (N-H stretching), 3053 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2987 (-CH₂ stretching), 1639 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1391 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H-2" & H-6"), 7.11 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H-3" & H-5"), 7.28 (br.s, 1H, H-5), 7.24 (br.d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.87 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.82 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.73 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.63 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.36-4.31 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.98 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.39 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS (m/z): 504 (C₂₃H₂₂BrNO₅S)⁺, 369 (C₁₅H₁₅BrNO₃S)⁺, 319 (C₁₅H₁₃BrNO₂)⁺, 305 (C₁₅H₁₅BrNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 170 (C₇H₆Br)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 130 (C₄H₃Br)⁺, 121 (C₈H₉O)⁺, 95 (C₇H₆O)⁺.

N-2-Methylbenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5k**)

Gray semi-solid; Yield: 89 %; Molecular formula: C₂₄H₂₅NO₅S; Molecular weight: 439 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 439.5256 (calculated. For C₂₄H₂₅NO₅S; 439.5257); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3049 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2930 (-CH₂ stretching), 1629 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1359 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.22 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.09 (dd, J = 2.0, 9.8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.05-7.02 (m, 2H, H-3" to H-5"), 6.98 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-8), 6.96 (d, J = 9.0

Hz, 1H, H-6"), 6.81 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.64 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.66 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.32-4.28 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.91 (q, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 2.31 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.34 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS: (m/z) [M]⁺ 439 (C₂₄H₂₅NO₅S)⁺, 411 (C₂₂H₂₁NO₅S)⁺, 375 (C₂₄H₂₅NO₃)⁺, 318 (C₁₆H₁₆NO₄S)⁺, 254 (C₁₆H₁₆NO₂)⁺, 240 (C₁₆H₁₈NO)⁺, 105 (C₈H₉)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 121 (C₈H₉O)⁺, 91 (C₇H₇)⁺, 95 (C₆H₇O)⁺, 65 (C₅H₅)⁺.

N-4-Fluorobenzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (**5l**)

Gray solid; Yield: 95 %; m.p: 125 °C; Molecular formula: C₂₃H₂₂FNO₅S; Molecular weight: 443 g mol⁻¹; HR-MS: [M]⁺ 443.4898 (calculated. For C₂₃H₂₂FNO₅S; 443.4899); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν_{max} : 3041 (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2987 (-CH₂ stretching), 1633 (C=C stretching of aromatic ring), 1381 (-SO₂ stretching); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, δ in ppm): 7.28 (br.s, 1H, H-5), 7.26 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.14 (dd, $J = 1.6, 6.4$ Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.19 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H, H-2" & H-6"), 6.92 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H, H-3" & H-5"), 6.87 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H, H-2' & H-6'), 6.72 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-5'), 4.66 (s, 2H, CH₂-7"), 4.35-4.31 (m, 4H, CH₂-2 & CH₂-3), 3.97 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, -OCH₂), 1.39 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); EIMS: (m/z) [M]⁺ 443 (C₂₃H₂₂FNO₅S)⁺, 415 (C₂₁H₁₈FNO₅S)⁺, 379 (C₂₃H₂₂FNO₃)⁺, 322 (C₁₅H₁₃FNO₄S)⁺, 258 (C₁₅H₁₃FNO₂)⁺, 244 (C₁₅H₁₃FNO)⁺, 199 (C₈H₇O₄S)⁺, 135 (C₈H₇O₂)⁺, 121 (C₈H₉O)⁺, 109 (C₇H₆F)⁺.

Enzyme Inhibition Assays:

α -Glucosidase Assay

The α -glucosidase inhibition activity was performed according to the slightly modified method [25,26]. Total volume of the reaction mixture was made 100 μ L by 70 μ L phosphate buffer saline (50 mM, pH 6.8), 10 μ L test compound (0.5 mM) and 10 μ L enzyme (0.057 unitswell⁻¹). The contents were mixed, preincubated for 10 min at 37 °C and pre-read at 400 nm. The reaction was initiated by the addition of 10 μ L of substrate (0.5 mM, *p*-nitrophenylglucopyranoside). Acarbose was used as positive control. After 30 min of incubation at 37 °C, absorbance was measured at 400 nm using Synergy HT microplate reader. All experiments were carried out in duplicates. The percent inhibition was calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Control} - \text{Test}}{\text{Control}} \times 100$$

IC₅₀ values (concentration at which there is 50 % in enzyme catalyzed reaction) compounds were calculated using EZ-Fit Enzyme Kinetics Software.

Urease Assay

The urease inhibition assay was performed following the cited methods [27]. Reaction mixtures comprising 25 μ L of urease enzyme solution and 55 μ L of buffers containing urea (2-24 mM) were incubated with 5 μ L of each studied compound, separately, at 30°C for 15 min in DMSO in 96-well plates. The increased absorbance at 560 nm was measured after 10 min., using a microplate reader (Molecular Device, USA). All reactions were performed in triplicate in a final volume of 200 μ L. The results (change in absorbance per min) were processed by using SoftMax Pro software (Molecular Device, USA). All the assays were performed at pH 6.8 (3 mM sodium phosphate buffer) and 7 μ g of phenol red per ml as indicator. Percentage inhibitions were calculated from $100 - (\text{OD}_{\text{testwell}} / \text{OD}_{\text{control}}) \times 100$. Thiourea was used as the standard inhibitor of urease.

Results and Discussion

Chemistry

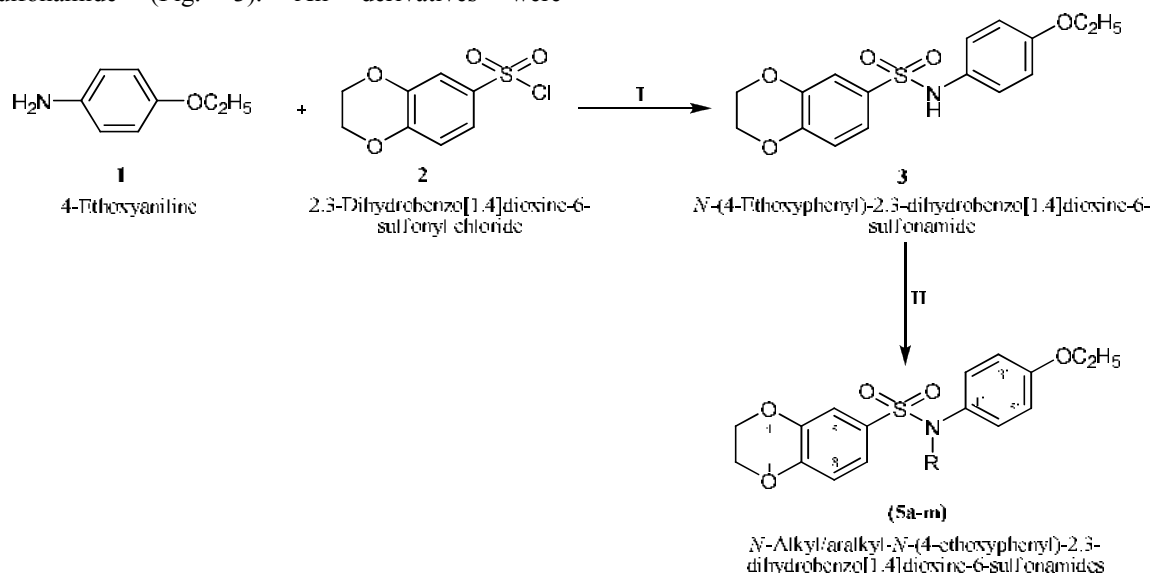
N-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamides were synthesized according to the outline illustrated in (**5a-l**; Scheme-1 & Table-1). The procedures and reaction conditions are elaborated in experimental portion. The synthesis took place in two steps, the first step involved the reaction of 2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxine-6-sulfonyl chloride (**1**) with 4-ethoxyaniline (**2**) in aqueous alkali at pH 9 under stirring at room temperature for 2 h to afford *N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamide (**3**) which was obtained as pure product under acidic condition generated with few aliquots of concentrated HCl at pH 2. The second step involved the coupling of **3** with a series of alkyl/aralkyl halides (**4a-l**; Table-1) in DMF; a polar aprotic solvent and lithium hydride which was added in catalytic amount as a base [28] to achieve *N*-alkyl/aralkyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**). The plausible structures of synthesized derivatives were explicated by contemporary structural techniques e.g. ¹H-NMR, IR and EIMS. For example compound **5c** was obtained as a white amorphous solid in 89 % yield, m.p. 145 °C having molecular formula, C₂₃H₂₃NO₅S and molecular weight 425 g mol⁻¹. The functionalities in the compound were confirmed appearance of absorption bands in IR spectra at 3055 cm⁻¹ (C-H stretching of aromatic ring), 2928 cm⁻¹ (-CH₂

stretching), 1620 cm^{-1} (C=C stretching of aromatic ring) and 1305 cm^{-1} ($-\text{SO}_2$ stretching). The molecular formula was established by appearance of molecular ion peak at $m/z\ 425\ [\text{M}]^+$ (Fig. 2) and by counting the number of protons in the ^1H -NMR spectrum. In aromatic region of spectrum the peaks for benzodioxane ring appeared as a doublet at $\delta\ 7.28$ having *meta* coupling of 2.0 Hz for proton positioned at 5, a doublet of doublet appeared at $\delta\ 7.15$ having an *ortho* and a *meta* coupling of 2.0 and 8.4 Hz respectively for proton at 7 and finally a doublet for H-8 proton appeared at $\delta\ 6.94$ having J of 8.4 Hz. The attachment of 4-ethoxyphenyl group was confirmed by appearance of an A_2B_2 system as di-*ortho* coupled doublets at $\delta\ 6.90$ and $\delta\ 6.72$ for protons positioned at 3' & 5' and 2' & 6' respectively. The signal of benzyl ring resonated in form of multiplet at $\delta\ 7.25\text{--}7.22$ having integration of 5Hs positioned at 2''-6''. In the aliphatic region of the spectrum a singlet appeared at $\delta\ 4.69$ for methylene protons of benzyl group positioned at 7'', a multiplet resonated at $\delta\ 4.38\text{--}4.32$ having integration of 4Hs positioned for $\text{CH}_2\text{--}2$ & $\text{CH}_2\text{--}3$ protons. The presence of ethoxy linkage was further confirmed by appearance of a quartet at $\delta\ 3.97$ for 2Hs of methylene protons attached to oxygen atom. Finally a triplet appeared at $\delta\ 1.39$ for three protons of CH_3 group. On the basis of aforementioned data compound **5c** was designated as *N*-benzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide (Fig. 3). All derivatives were

characterized in a similar pattern and characteristic pattern of 1,4-benzodioxane moiety was observed in all of the *N*-substituted derivatives. Moreover, the appearance of singlet of methylene protons which is an important peak in incorporation of alkyl/aralkyl group onto parent sulfonamide further confirmed the attachment. The 4-ethoxy group was confirmed by appearance of signals as quartet and triplet. A_2B_2 spins system was observed as di-*ortho* coupled doublets in all the *para*-substituted aralkyl groups. The alkyl groups were confirmed by appearance of signals as quartet and triplet in case of ethyl group and as septet and doublet in case of *iso*-propyl group.

Enzyme Inhibition Assays

The synthesized *N*-alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**) displayed moderate to weak enzyme inhibition activity as tabulated in (Table-2). (*N*-Benzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide; **5c**) displayed decent activity as evident from the IC_{50} values i.e. $227.35 \pm 0.18\ \mu\text{M}$ and $123.54 \pm 0.12\ \mu\text{M}$ against α -glucosidase and urease respectively as compared to acarbose ($38.25 \pm 0.12\ \mu\text{M}$) and thiourea ($21.25 \pm 0.15\ \mu\text{M}$). This can be interpreted that insertion of benzyl moiety at *N*-position of the parent *N*-4-ethoxyphenyl-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide.

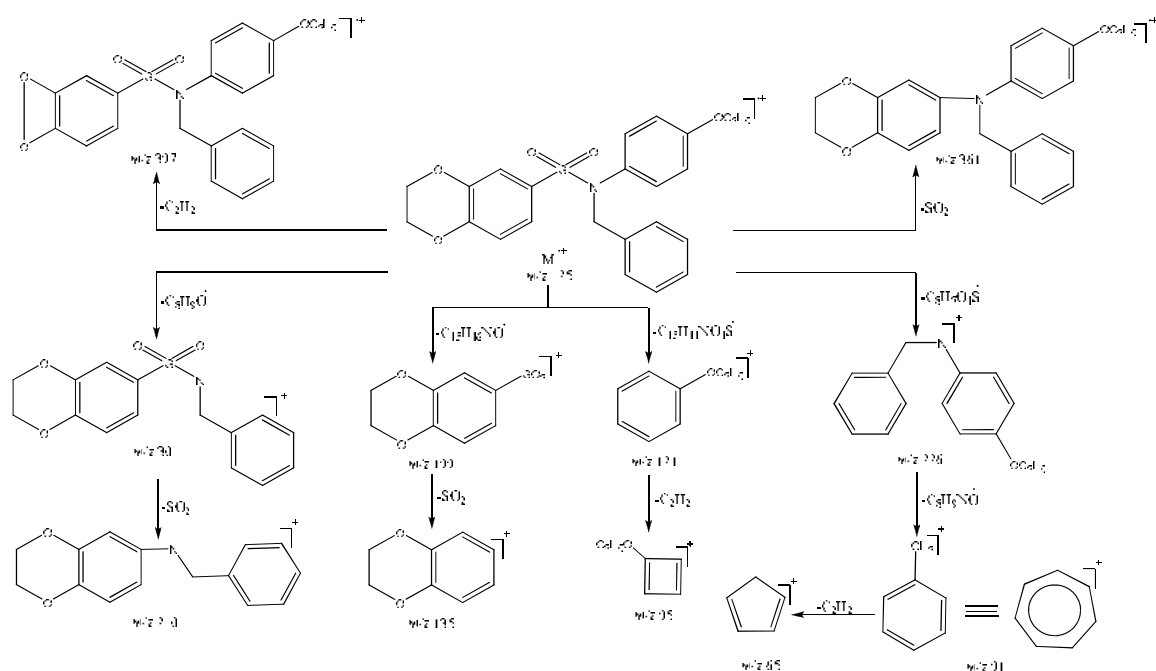


Scheme-1: Schematic outline for the synthesis of *N*-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxine-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**).

Reagents & Conditions: (I) 2,3-Dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxine-6-sulfonyl chloride **2**/10 % Na_2CO_3 /distilled water/4-ethoxyaniline **1**/stirring/2 hours. (II) *N*-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]dioxine-6-sulfonamide **3**/Alkyl/Aralkyl halides (**4a-l**)/DMF/LiH/stirring/RT/3 hours.

Table-1: Different Alkyl/aralkyl halides utilized in the synthesis of *N*-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamides (**4a-l**).

Code	R	Code	R	Code	R
4a		4b		4c	
4d		4e		4f	
4g		4h		4i	
4j		4k		4l	

Fig. 2: Proposed mass fragmentation pattern of *N*-Benzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide **5c**.Table-2: Enzyme Inhibition Activity of *N*-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**).

Enzymes	α -Glucosidase		Urease	
	% age Inhibition 0.5 mM	IC ₅₀ (μ M)	% age Inhibition 0.5 mM	IC ₅₀ (μ M)
5a	35.98 \pm 0.16	243.61 \pm 0.14	56.71 \pm 0.35	363.65 \pm 0.21
5b	39.54 \pm 0.12	-	48.14 \pm 0.15	-
5c	16.45 \pm 0.23	227.35 \pm 0.18	57.71 \pm 0.29	123.54 \pm 0.12
5d	71.98 \pm 0.24	-	41.71 \pm 0.13	-
5e	12.52 \pm 0.15	-	46.58 \pm 0.12	-
5f	84.17 \pm 0.37	-	45.12 \pm 0.16	-
5g	32.52 \pm 0.11	-	35.48 \pm 0.12	-
5h	89.17 \pm 0.18	-	46.71 \pm 0.24	-
5i	36.27 \pm 0.13	-	85.84 \pm 0.18	375.87 \pm 0.24
5j	39.72 \pm 0.24	-	58.64 \pm 0.18	364.76 \pm 0.12
5k	41.98 \pm 0.26	364.65 \pm 0.17	54.71 \pm 0.24	396.74 \pm 0.19
5l	78.89 \pm 0.13	369.69 \pm 0.18	55.78 \pm 0.19	387.82 \pm 0.13
Control	Acarbose	38.25 \pm 0.12	Thiourea	21.25 \pm 0.15
	92.23 \pm 0.14		98.45 \pm 0.87	

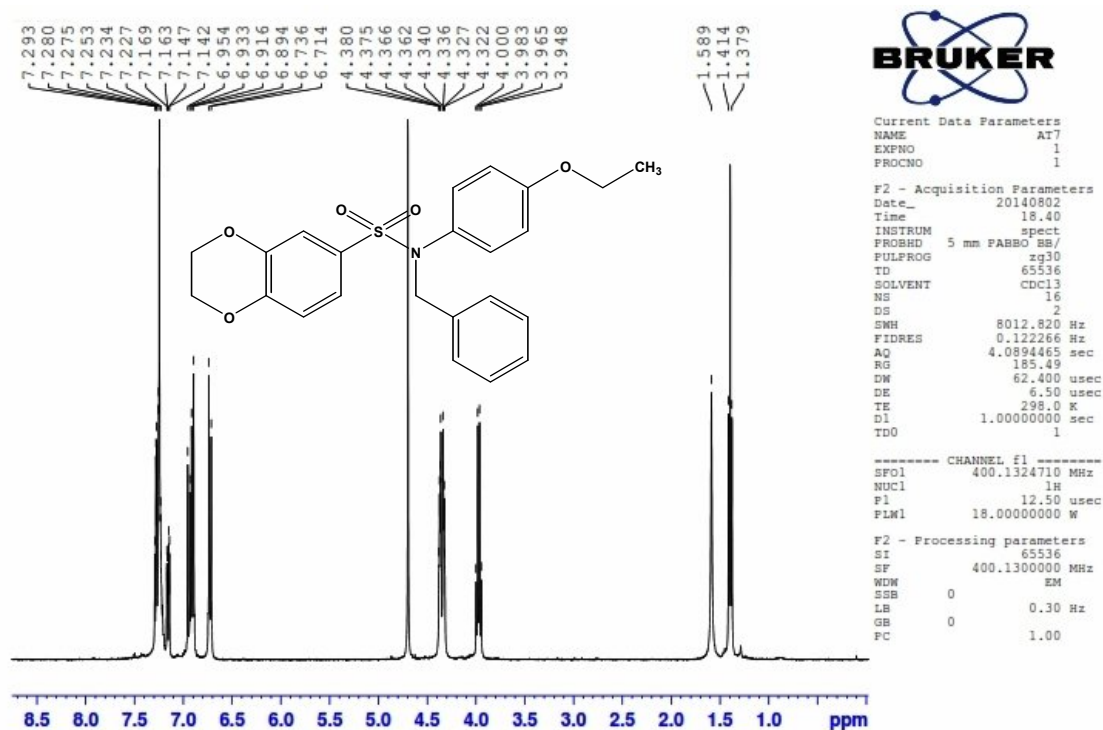


Fig. 3: ^1H -NMR of *N*-Benzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide **5c**.

Conclusion

N-Alkyl/aralkylated-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamides (**5a-l**) were synthesized in good yield and their spectral data able-bodied the proposed structures. It can be concluded that all synthesized compounds possess moderate to weak enzyme inhibitory potential against α -glucosidase and urease, especially *N*-benzyl-*N*-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo-[1,4]-dioxine-6-sulfonamide; **5c** demonstrated fair activity against α -glucosidase and urease as compared to standards; acarbose and thiourea respectively which may be manifested by the incorporation of benzyl moiety at *N*-position of the parent sulfonamide.

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