



Sustainable synthesis of substituted thioureas and their potential applications

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Abstract:

The synthesis of thiourea has been done employing strong bases. In this synthesis we have employed choline hydroxide for the synthesis of the unsymmetrical thioureas. We explored the synthesis of thiourea using one aromatic and one aliphatic amine in the presence of the carbon disulfide in the aqueous medium. For this we need the basic catalyst which is water soluble and ecofriendly. After searching for several catalysts, we focused on the choline hydroxide which is water soluble and biodegradable. cleaner, greener, and effective synthesis for the substituted thioureas has been reported.

Keyword: Thioureas, carbon disulfide, choline hydroxide, anticancer activity

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Introduction:

Diversified applications of biologically potent thioureas have drawn the attention of the organic research community. The derivatives of the thiourea have exhibited promising anti-inflammatory, anticancer, analgesic, antimicrobial activities [1-4]. These have been used clinically as sedative [1], hyperthyroidism [2]. The thioureas

have been employed in the agricultural sectors as fungicide, rodenticides, herbicides, insecticides [5]. Organic synthesis makes use of thioureas for the synthesis of prominent compounds like sulfur containing heterocycles, amides, guanidine [68]. They have also been employed for the catalyzing the reaction [9-11].

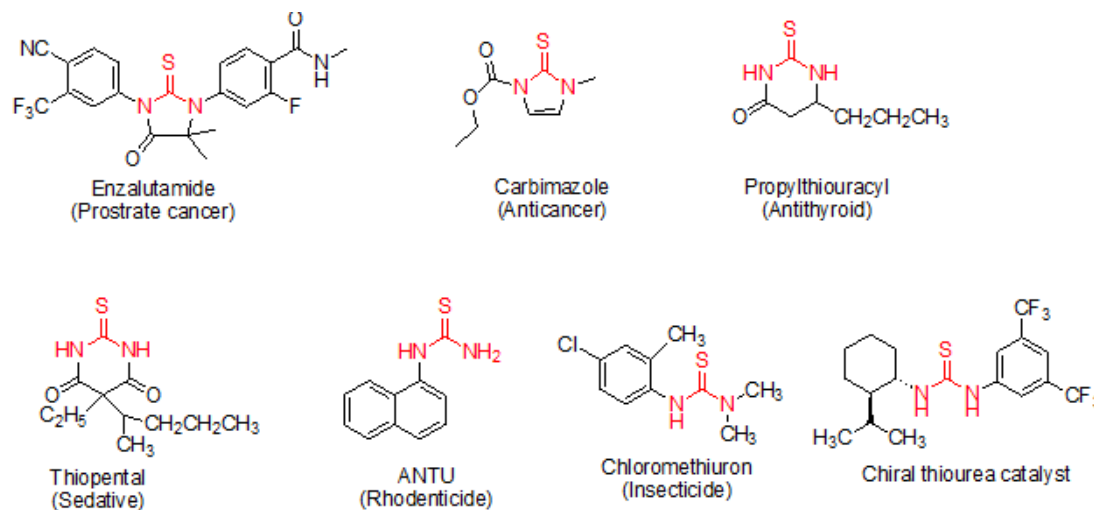
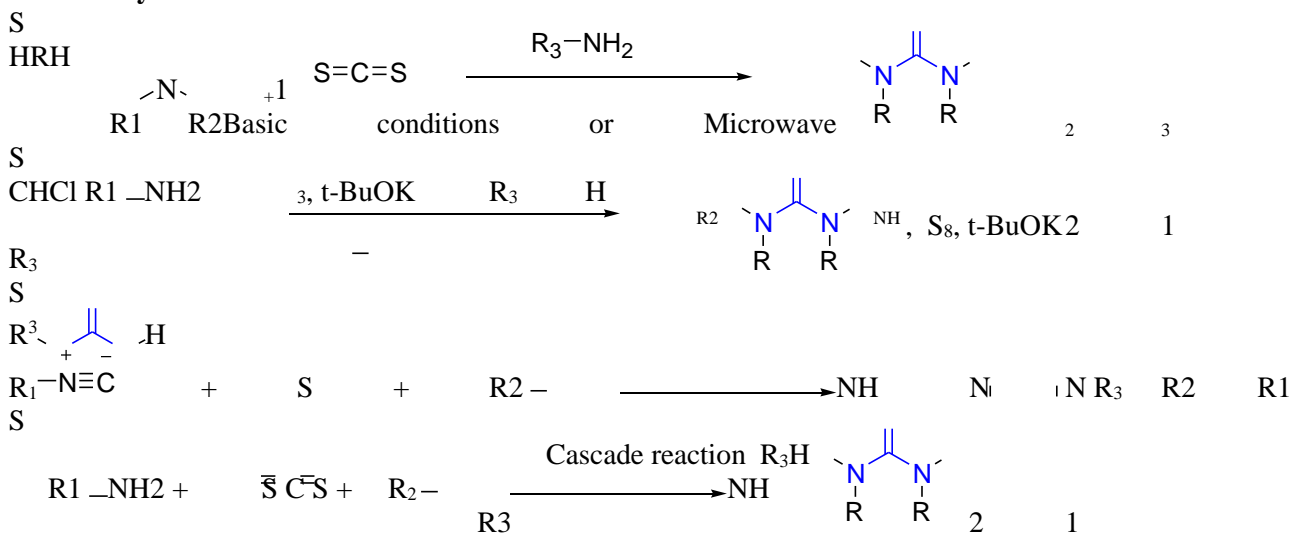
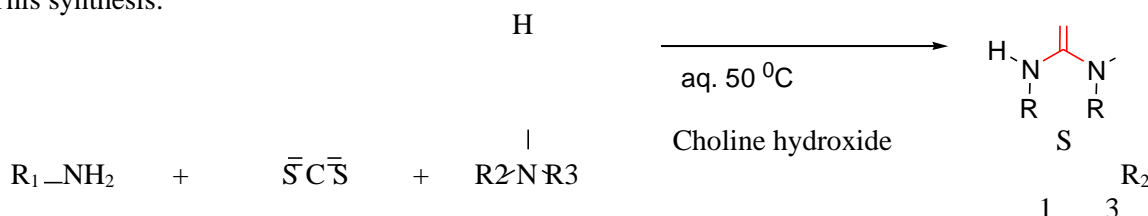


Figure 1. Structurally diverse biologically potent thiourea scaffolds

Several synthetic strategies have been employed for the synthesis of such important class of compounds [12-22, 26]. Various strategies include transformation of carbonyl to thiocarbonyl [14,15], and condensation of amines with isothiocyanate, substituted imidazoles, benzotriazoles etc. [1, 16-18]. These two basic strategies lead to many reported protocols for the synthesis of the thioureas either symmetric or unsymmetric. The reported protocols suffer constraints like extra synthetic steps which deviate the yield and make the process exhaustive. There is another way which focusses

on the direct reaction of carbon disulfide with amines. This method has also been explored for the synthesis of the symmetrical and unsymmetrical thioureas. Here two kinds of amines are mixed under the basic condition at high temperature [19-23]. Such protocol have limited application [24]. Cascade reaction has also been proposed for the synthesis of the thioureas but here too the organic solvent has been used which is hider the cleaner greener approach for the synthesis of biologically potent molecules [25].

Previous synthesis:



Scheme 1 Synthesis of unsymmetrical thiourea employing Choline hydroxide

In pursuit to the cleaner and greener chemistry we have working for ten years in the field of carbon disulfide mediated synthesis of biologically potent scaffolds involving novel protocols [26-36]. In the present communication, we are reporting the cleaner greener and efficient synthesis of thioureas employing the choline hydroxide as a cleaner greener sustainable organic base which is water soluble, and biodegradable.

Results and Discussion

The synthesis of thiourea has been done employing strong bases. In this synthesis we have employed choline hydroxide for the synthesis of the unsymmetrical thioureas. We explored the synthesis of thiourea using one aromatic and one aliphatic amine in the presence of the carbon disulfide in the aqueous medium. For this we need the basic catalyst which is water soluble and ecofriendly. After searching for several catalysts, we focused on the choline hydroxide which is water soluble and biodegradable. The reaction between 2-fluoroaniline (**1**) and carbon disulfide (**2**) was carried out in the presence of the basic medium choline hydroxide (ChOH) (**3**). This led to the formation of thiocarbamic acid salt (**4**) which causes the release of H₂S in the presence of base choline hydroxide leading to the formation of isothiocyanate (**5**). Reaction of this isothiocyanate with other amine (**6**) lead to the formation of isothiurea (**7**) This thiourea on rearrangement gives thiourea (**8**). It was found that the continued stirring for 2 minutes leads to the entire starting

material getting converted to thiocarbamic acid the addition of the other amine i.e. diethyl amine and constant stirring the reaction mixture for the another 5 minutes lead to the formation of the desired unsymmetrical thiourea. The completion of both these steps of the reaction were assured with the help of the thin layer chromatography. The synthesized thiourea was extracted and purified for the characterization. The IR characterization of the synthesized compound revealed the presence of the C-H (2976 cm⁻¹), C=S (1261 cm⁻¹), N-H (3295 cm⁻¹), C-F (756 cm⁻¹), bonds in it. The ¹H NMR characterization of the synthesized compound revealed the presence of the ethyl and phenyl moiety in the synthesized compounds. Similarly, the elemental analysis and Mass spectra (ES) of the synthesized compound established the identity of the synthesized compound as 1,1 Diethyl 3-(2-fluoro phenyl) thiourea.

Further this protocol was explored in the presence of the various solvents and the promoters for optimizing the yield of the proposed reaction and the results are given in table 1. The bases were screened in the presence of the several solvents like DMSO, DMF, ethyl alcohol, water. But as tabulated in the table 1 the model reaction did well in the choline hydroxide (ChOH) both as a solvent and the mild base. The ChOH performed the reaction well at a little higher than room temperature which added another feature to the clean and green process for the synthesis of the thioureas.

Table 1. Reaction yield in the presence of the various solvent and the bases

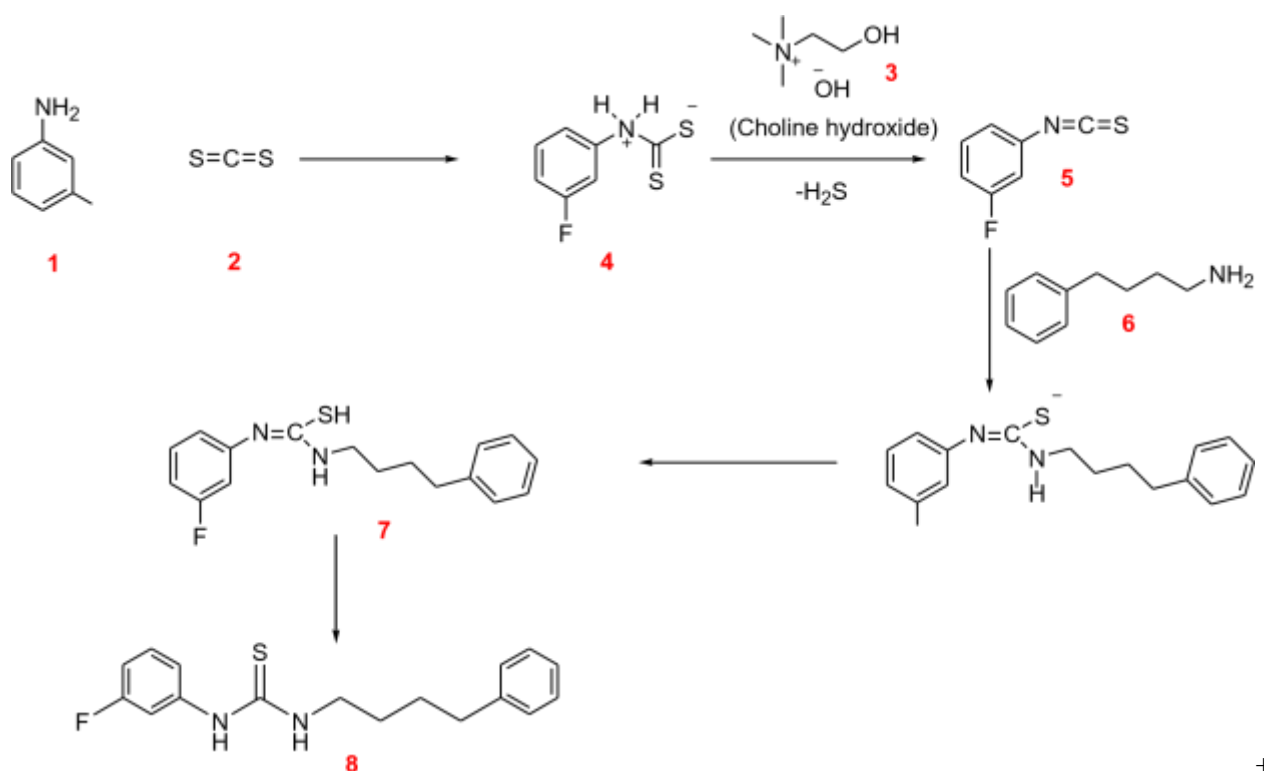
S. No	Solvent	Base	Yield in %
1	ChOH	ChOH	96
2	H ₂ O	Et ₃ N	74
3	EtOH	Et ₃ N	74
4	DMF	Et ₃ N	70
5	DMSO	Et ₃ N	78
6	EtOH	DBU	70
7	EtOH	DABCO	62
8	EtOH	NaOH	60

After the optimization several substituted unsymmetrical thiourea were synthesized as given in table 2. The protocol did well for the aliphatic as well as the aromatic constituents of the thiourea with good to excellent yields.

Another task of the reaction was to recover the choline hydroxide which is basically an ionic liquid to prove cleaner, greener, and sustainable synthesis. For this we considered the model reaction and after the synthesis of the product which was filtered in the solid form from the reaction mixture. The filtrate containing choline hydroxide was evaporated at very low pressure in the rotatory evaporator in which it was left as solid

after the evaporation of the water. The ChOH was found to be regenerated 5 consecutive times after the conduct of the reaction. But after each cycle the efficiency of the catalyst was found to be decreased.

It was found that the electron repelling groups attached to the amines gave higher yield which was due to the fact that the electron repelling groups enhanced the nucleophilicity of the nitrogen atom in the amines. Primary amines reacted easily with higher yield and lesser time than the aromatic amines which is due to the higher nucleophilicity of the aliphatic amines than the aromatic amines.



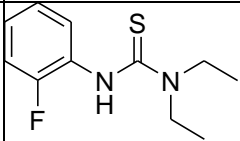
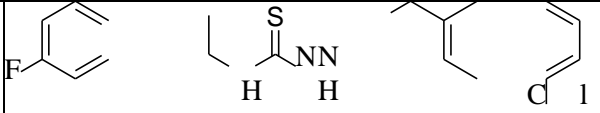
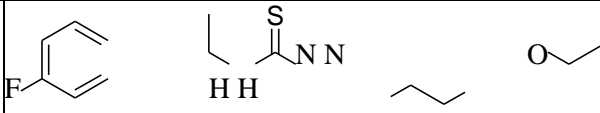
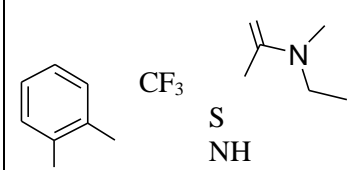
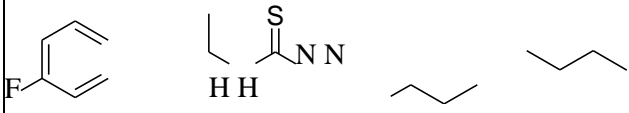
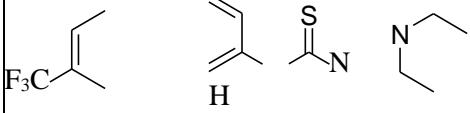
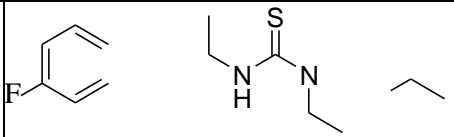
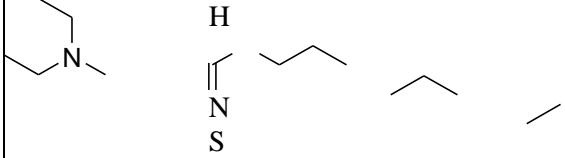
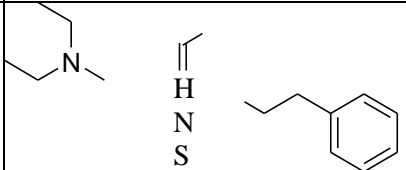
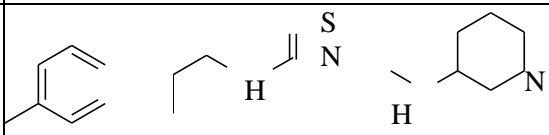
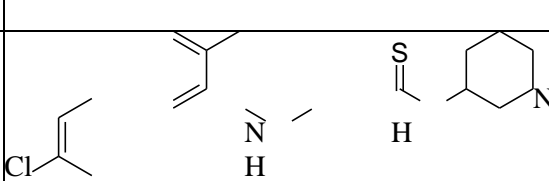
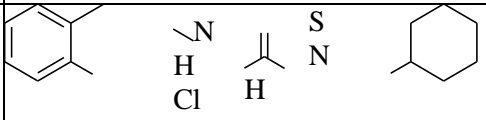
Scheme 2. Proposed mechanism of the synthesis of unsymmetrical thiourea

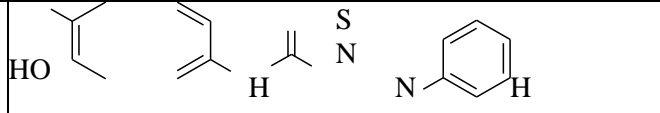
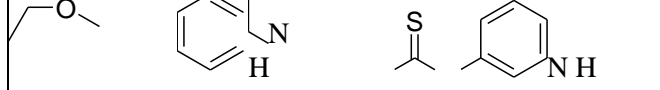
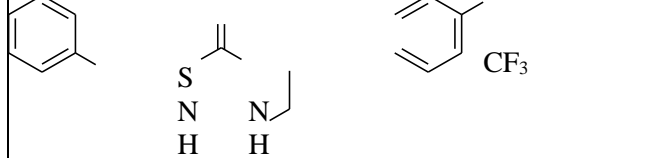
Experimental

Reagents employed in the research were purchased from companies like Fluka, Merck, Alfa Aesar and were used without further purification. The synthesized compound were characterized by comparing the data obtained from spectral, elemental analysis and were compared with the data of the compound available in literature. Infra-Red spectroscopy (4000-450cm⁻¹) of the compounds were done on Perkin Elmer spectrophotometer using KBr pallets and NMR spectroscopy was done on Brooker Advance DPX instrument spectrophotometer (400 MHz) with usual standards. Elements in the compounds were analysed on Carlo-Erba EA 1110 CHNOS analyser. Compounds were related with the data obtained and data for the existing compounds in literature.

General Procedure: 1 mmols of aromatic amine (1) was taken in 5.0 mL of water in a clean round bottom flask fitted with magnetic stirrer and added with 1 mmols of carbon disulphide (2) and 1 mmols of choline hydroxide (3). This mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and then added with 1.0 mmols of diethyl amine (6) and the mixture was stirred for next 20 minutes. The advancement of the reaction was evaluated using TLC in both the first and second step for the formation of isothiocyanate (5) from dithiocarbamic acid (4) and substituted thiourea (8). The product formed was filtered, washed, and purified with the help of column chromatography. The filtrate was vaporized in vacuum for the regeneration of the choline hydroxide.

Table 2. Substituted thiourea synthesis using Choline hydroxide

S.No	Compound	Time in min.	Yield	Ref
1		30	70	26
2		30	75	26
3		30	76	26
4		30	68	26
5		30	70	26
6		30	75	26
7		30	74	26
8		30	90	19
9		30	84	19
10		30	80	24
11		30	75	24
12		30	70	24

13		30	91%	37
14		30	91%	37
15		30	94%	37

Data analysis of Synthesized compounds

1. 1,1 Diethyl 3-(2-fluoro phenyl) thiourea (8a)

Solid, greyish melting range=70-73 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-H (2980), C-F(756), C=S (1261), N-H (3260); ¹HNMR: δ 1.29(t, 6H), 3.80 (q, 4H), 7.10-7.89 (4H, aromatic), 7.00 (NH, broad); ¹³C NMR: δ=13.4, 47.4, 115.9, 124.4, 126.0, 126.5, 127.0, 157.0, 180.1; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 60.01(58.38); %H, 6.30(6.28); %N, 12.20(12.39); %S 14.10(14.14); %F, 8.08(8.42).Molecular weight calculated for C₁₁H₁₅N₂S= 226.31, Found (MS), m/z =226.28

2. 1-(3-chlorobenzyl)-3-fluoro phenyl thiourea (8b)

White solid, melting range= 71-74 °C; IR(cm⁻¹): N-H (3208), C-H (2979), C=S (1218), C-F (759); ¹H NMR:δ 4.90(2H), 6.98-7.06 (4H, aromatic), 7.19-7.38(4H aromatic), 6.39 (NH), 8.40 (NH); ¹³C NMR: δ 111.6, 112.4, 121.0, 125.2, 127.0, 129.7, 130.5, 133.7, 141.0, 143.9, 162.5, 179.6; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 57.09(57.06); %H, 3.99(4.01); %N, 9.44(9.49); %S 10.59(10.63); %F, 6.30(6.39), %Cl, 11.90.(11.92).Molecular weight calculated for C₁₄H₁₂N₂SFCl =294.755, Found (MS), m/z = 294.72

3. 1-(2-ethoxyethyl)-3-(3-fluorophenyl) thiourea (8c)

White solid, melting range=86-88 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-F(760), (C-O) 970, 2975 (C-H), (N-H), 3266 (N-H);¹HNMR: δ= 1.19 (t, 3H), 3.34-3.81(m, 6H), 6.7(NH, s), 6.93-7.34 (m, 4H), 8.47 (s, NH); ¹³C NMR: 14.8, 49.9, 62.8, 71.6, 112.4, 111.6, 120.9, 130.5, 139.9, 162.5, 180.0; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 54.20(54.32); %H, 6.36(6.32); %N, 11.40(11.36); %O, 6.48(6.58); %S, 13.31(13.25); %F, 7.74(7.78);Molecular weight calculated for C₁₁H₁₅N₂OSF = 242.31, found (MS), m/z = 242.1

4. 1,1Diethyl-3-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-thiourea (8d)

Yellow solid, melting range=68-71 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-F (760), C=S (1215), C-H (2980), N-H (3210); ¹H NMR: δ 1.35 (t, 6H), 3.80 (q, 4H), 7.10 (N-H), 7.28-7.65 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR: δ 14.8, 62.8, 70.9, 51.7, 111.1, 112.0, 120.3, 130.7, 141.6, 162.3, 180.0; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 52.08 (52.15); %H, 5.44(5.47); %N, 10.05(10.14); %S 11.56(11.60); %F, 20.49(20.62).Molecular weight calculated for C₁₂H₁₅N₂SF₃= 276.31. MS: m/z = 276.32

5. 1-(3-fluoro phenyl)-3-hexyl thiourea (8e)

Pale yellow solid, melting range= 73-75 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-F (760), C=S (1216), C-H (2980), NH (3210); ¹H NMR: 0.86 (t, 3H), 1.28 (q, 8H), 1.60 (q, 2H), 6.10 (N-H), 6.93-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.90 (1H, NH-CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 14.0, 23.5, 22.0, 28.7, 29.8, 31.1, 50.6, 120.2, 112.0, 111.1, 130.6, 141.1, 162.3, 179.5; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 61.42(61.38); %H, 7.48(7.52); %N, 11.04(11.02); %S 12.58(12.60); %F, 7.45(7.46).Molecular weight calculated for C₁₃H₁₉N₂SF =254.364, found (MS), m/z = 254.34

6. 1,1Diethyl-3(3-trifluoromethylphenyl) thiourea (8f)

Cream solid, melting range= 69-71 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-F (760), C=S (1216), C-H (2979), N-H (3210); ¹HNMR: δ 1.31 (t, 6H), 3.76 (q, 4H), 7.05 (s, NH), 7.41-7.60 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR: δ 13.5, 47.6, 180.0, 125.6, 127.0; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 52.15(52.17); %H, 5.45(5.48); %N, 10.16(10.14); %S 11.54(11.58); %F, 20.56(20.62); Molecular weight calculated for C₁₂H₁₅N₂SF₃= 276.318, found (MS), m/z =276.41

7. 1,1 Diethyl 3-(3-fluoro phenyl) thiourea (8g)

Grey solid, melting range=72-74 °C; IR (cm⁻¹): C-F (759), C=S (1216), N-H (3210); ¹HNMR: δ 1.31(t, 6H), 3.76 (q, 4H), 7.00 (N-H, broad), 7.05-7.30 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR: δ 13.4, 47.6, 112.5, 121.0, 140.9, 162.5, 179.6; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 58.32(58.38); %H,

6.62(6.66); %N, 12.40(12.38); %S 14.18(14.17); %F, 8.37(8.40). Molecular weight calculated for $C_{11}H_{15}N_2SF$ = 226.3117, found (MS), m/z = 226.3

8. 1,1-Diethyl-3-hexyl-thiourea (8h)

Pale brown viscous liquid; yield 90%; IR (cm^{-1}): 1529, 3310; 1H NMR: δ 0.929 (t, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.25 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.29-1.39 (m, 6H), 1.61-1.70 (m, 2H), 3.59-3.72 (m, 6H), 5.40 (br, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 12.8, 14.0, 22.5, 26.5, 30.0, 31.6, 45.0, 46.2, 179.8; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{11}H_{24}N_2S$ (M + Na) 240.0060, found (HR-MS), (m/z) (M + Na) = 240.0059.

9. 1,1-Diethyl-3-(2-phenylethyl)thiourea ((8i))

Colorless solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1529, 3320; 1H NMR: δ 1.10 (t, 6H, J = 7.4 Hz), 3.01 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.60 (q, 4H, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.90-3.98 (m, 2H), 5.30 (br, 1H), 7.191-7.40 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 12.5, 34.8, 45.0, 46.5, 126.5, 130.2, 129.0, 140.8, 179.9; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{13}H_{20}N_2S$ (M + Na) = 260.0286, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + Na) 260.0284.

10. 1-Cyclohexyl-3-(4-methyl-benzyl)-thiourea (8j)

Colorless solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1529, 3320; 1H NMR: δ 1.44 (m, 6H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.66 (q, 4H, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.57 (q, 1H, J = 4.5 Hz), 4.71 (s, 2H), 5.04 (br, 1H), 7.01-7.40 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 20.9, 127.0, 129.0, 135.7, 139.4, 55.8, 184.0, 22.6, 27.1; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{15}H_{22}N_2S$ (M + H) = 263.1504, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + H) 263.1508.

11. 1-(4-Chloro-benzyl)-3-cyclohexyl-thiourea (8k)

Colorless solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1532, 3330; 1H NMR: δ 1.44 (m, 6H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.66 (q, 4H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.57 (quin, 1H, J = 4.5 Hz), 4.71 (s, 2H), 5.04 (br, 1H), 7.00 (dd, 2H, J = 7.8), 7.32 (dd, 2H, J = 7.6); ^{13}C NMR: δ 128.5, 128.7, 140.5, 55.8, 184.1, 22.6, 27.1, 33.4, 52.3; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{14}H_{19}ClN_2S$ (M + H) = 283.0958, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + H) 283.0950.

12. 1-(2-Chloro-benzyl)-3-cyclohexyl-thiourea (8l)

Colorless solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1532, 3330; 1H NMR: δ 1.44 (m, 6H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.66 (q, 4H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.57 (quin, 1H, J = 4.5 Hz), 4.71 (s, 2H), 5.04 (br, 1H), 7.00-7.20 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 128.5, 128.7, 140.5, 55.8, 184.1, 22.6, 27.1, 33.4, 52.3; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{14}H_{19}ClN_2S$ (M + H) = 283.0958, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + H) 283.0946

13. 1-(4-Hydroxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-thiourea (8m)

Whitish solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1528, 3327; 1H NMR: δ 6.29-6.48 (dd, 4H, J = 7.2 Hz, 7.4 Hz), 6.46 (d, 2H, J = 7.2), 7.01 (d, 2H, J = 7.4), 6.62 (m, 1H), 5.04 (br, 1H), 5.0 (br, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 116.0, 126.7, 132.0, 179.6, 124.5, 125.3, 128.8, 139.4; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{13}H_{12}N_2OS$ (M + H) = 245.0670, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + H) 245.0770

14. 1-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-thiourea (8n)

Whitish solid; melting range = 68-70 C; IR (cm^{-1}): 1532, 3334; 1H NMR: δ 1.33 (t, 3H), 4.02 (q, 2H), 6.52 (dd, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.35 (dd, 2H, J = 7.4), 7.01 (dd, 2H, J = 7.4), 6.46 (dd, 2H), 5.04 (br, 1H), 6.63 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 14.3, 65.1, 154.8, 114.5, 125.9, 131.0, 180.0, 124.5, 125.3, 128.8, 139.4; Molecular weight calculated for $C_{16}H_{16}N_2OS$ (M + H) = 273.0983, found (HRMS), (m/z) (M + H) 273.0990

15. 1-Phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-thiourea (8o)

Whitish solid, melting range = 68-70 °C; IR (cm^{-1}): C-F (760), C=S (1216), C-H (2979), N-H (3210); 1H NMR: δ 6.46 (dd, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.01 (dd, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.62 (m, 1H), 6.39 (dd, 2H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.20 (dd, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.05 (s, NH); ^{13}C NMR: δ 124.5, 125.3, 128.8, 139.4, 119.3, 125.6, 127.0, 142.7; Elemental analysis: %Element, found(calcd.); %C, 56.18(56.75); %H, 3.72(3.74); %N, 9.52(9.45); %S 10.75(10.82); %F, 19.36(19.23); Molecular weight calculated for $C_{14}H_{11}N_2SF_3$ = 296.06, found (MS), m/z = 296.10

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare absence of conflict of interest.

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