

**SYNTHESIS OF HETEROCYCLIC CHALCONES AND
THEIR NOVEL PYRAZOLINE DERIVATIVES**

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the award of the
degree of Master of Science (Chemistry)

**Faculty of Science
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia**

APRIL 2015

To my beloved mother and father.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to my esteemed supervisor, Dr. Joazaizulfazli Jamalis for his generosity, patience, guidance and support throughout my research.

Thank you also to my fellow postgraduate students, Zakiah and Aishah, for their help and guidance.

My appreciation to the staff of the Chemistry Department for their aid and useful advice, particularly Mr. Rasyidi, Mr. Azmi and Mr. Mohd Amin for teaching me how to operate the NMR and FTIR instruments.

Last but not least, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to my family and friends for their support and encouragement during hard times. Thank you very much.

ABSTRACT

Chalcones are open-chain flavanoids possessing a basic scaffold of two aromatic rings linked by a three carbon α,β -unsaturated carbonyl system. Synthetic and naturally occurring chalcones display a wide range of biological activities such as antibacterial, anticancer and antioxidant activity because of their α,β -unsaturated carbonyl moiety. Modifications to their scaffold at the aromatic rings or the α,β -unsaturated carbonyl moiety have been found to either enhance or decrease the chalcones' efficiency. Heterocyclic chalcones are chalcones produced by changing one or both of the aromatic rings to a heterocyclic core such as thiophene, furan, pyridine or pyrazine. Four heterocyclic chalcones and their *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives have been synthesized with a thiophene scaffold as the base combined with pyridine, furan or pyrazine. The synthesis of the heterocyclic chalcones was carried out *via* the Claisen-Schmidt condensation reaction between the respective aldehydes and ketones with sodium hydroxide as the basic catalyst. The pyrazoline, oxazine, thiazine and pyrimidine derivatives of chalcones can be produced through the condensation of their α,β -unsaturated carbonyl moiety. The heterocyclic chalcones were refluxed with hydrazine hydrate and anhydrous sodium acetate in glacial acetic acid to obtain their *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives. Structural characterization using ATR-FTIR, ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and HMQC has confirmed their structures and the products were obtained with moderate yields.

ABSTRAK

Kalkon merupakan flavanoid rangkaian terbuka yang memiliki struktur asas yang terdiri daripada dua gelang aromatik disambungkan oleh satu sistem tiga karbon α,β -keton tak tepu. Kalkon sintetik dan semula jadi memiliki pelbagai aktiviti biologi seperti antibakteria, antikanser dan antioksidan disebabkan sistem α,β -keton tak tepu tersebut. Modifikasi terhadap struktur asas kalkon pada gelang aromatik atau sistem α,β -keton tak tepu telah dikenalpasti akan menambahbaik atau mengurangkan keberkesanan kalkon. Kalkon heterosiklik merupakan kalkon yang terhasil apabila satu atau kedua-dua gelang aromatik ditukarkan kepada gelang heteroaromatik seperti tiofena, furan, piridina dan pirazina. Empat kalkon heterosiklik dan terbitan *N*-asetil pirazolina telah dihasilkan dengan struktur tiofena sebagai asas yang digabungkan dengan piridina, furan atau pirazina. Kalkon heterosiklik dihasilkan melalui tindakbalas kondensasi Claisen-Schmidt di antara aldehid dan keton dengan natrium hidroksida sebagai mangkin bes. Terbitan kalkon pirazolina, oksazina, tiazina dan pirimidina boleh diperolehi dengan tindak balas kondensasi pada sistem α,β -keton tak tepu. Kalkon heterosiklik direfluks dengan hidrazina hidrat dan natrium asetat kontang dalam asid asetik glasial untuk memperolehi terbitan *N*-asetil pirazolina. Pencirian struktur dengan menggunakan ATR-FTIR, ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR dan HMQC telah mengesahkan struktur dan semua produk telah diperolehi dengan hasil yang sederhana.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

α	-	Alpha
AA	-	Ascorbic acid
AcOH	-	Acetic acid
Al ₂ Cl ₃	-	Aluminium trichloride
ATR-FTIR	-	Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
β	-	Beta
BaOH	-	Barium hydroxide
BF ₃ .Et ₂ O	-	Boron trifluoride-etherate
¹³ C NMR	-	Carbon-13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
CDCl ₃	-	Deuterated chloroform
δ	-	Chemical shift
d	-	Doublet
dd	-	Doublet of doublets
EtOAc	-	Ethyl acetate
EtOH	-	Ethanol
¹ H NMR	-	Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
HCl	-	Hydrogen chloride
HMQC	-	Heteronuclear multiple-quantum correlation spectroscopy
Hz	-	Hertz
<i>J</i>	-	Coupling constant
KOH	-	Potassium hydroxide
K ₂ CO ₃	-	Potassium carbonate
LiOH.H ₂ O	-	Lithium hydroxide monohydrate

LiNO ₃	-	Lithium nitrate
m	-	Multiplet
MeOH	-	Methanol
mL	-	Milliliter
m.p.	-	Melting point
NaOAc	-	Sodium acetate
NaOH	-	Sodium hydroxide
N ₂ H ₄ .H ₂ O	-	Hydrazine hydrate
R _f	-	Retention factor
RuCl ₃	-	Ruthenium trichloride
s	-	Singlet
SOCl ₂	-	Thionyl chloride
TBAI	-	Tetrabutylammonium iodide
TiCl ₃	-	Titanium trichloride
TLC	-	Thin layer chromatography

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	1-yl)ethan-1-one (147)	
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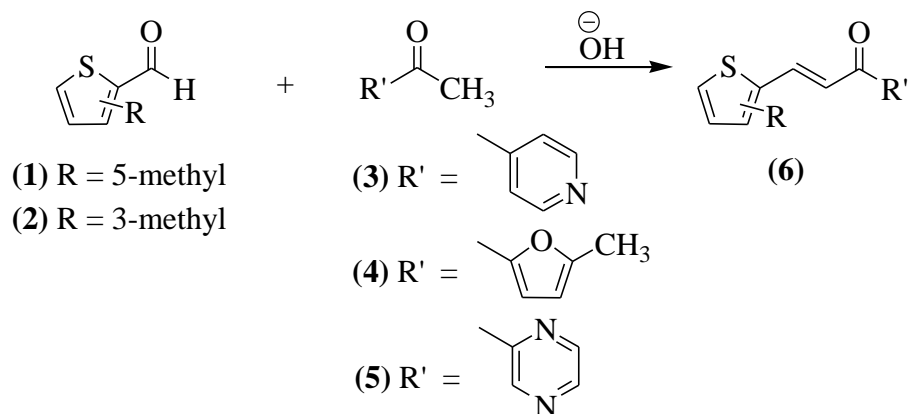
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

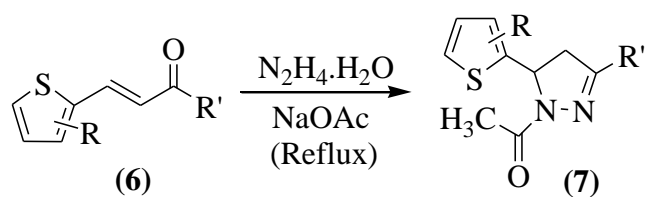
Chalcones, also known as 1,3-diaryl-propene-1-one, are open-chain flavanoids possessing a basic scaffold of two aromatic rings linked by a three carbon α,β -unsaturated carbonyl system (Avila *et al.*, 2008) obtained by reacting aromatic aldehydes with aromatic ketones. Synthetic and naturally occurring chalcones have been found to possess a wide range of biological activities such as antibacterial, anticancer, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antitubercular and antioxidant activity among others (Lin *et al.*, 2002; Nielson *et al.*, 2005; Bandgar *et al.*, 2009; Yadav *et al.*, 2011; Patel *et al.*, 2013), which is credited to the α,β -unsaturated ketone moiety. This conclusion is based on previous attempts to modify the chalcone scaffold at the aforementioned part of the compound and the resulting loss or decrease in bioactivity (Abdel-Rahman *et al.*, 2007). Conversely, modifying the aromatic rings has been found to either boost or diminish the bioactivity of chalcones, depending on the type of modification, e.g.: homocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic ring, or the substituent on the aromatic ring (Prasad *et al.*, 2008).

In this dissertation, heterocyclic chalcones (**6**) were synthesized from thiophenecarboxaldehyde (**1**), (**2**) and three different ketones – 4-acetylpyridine (**3**), 2-acetyl-5-methylfuran (**4**) and 2-acetylpyrazine (**5**) through the base-catalyzed Claisen-Schmidt condensation method. **Scheme 1.1** illustrates the synthesis of the (*E*)-thienyl chalcones (**6**).



Scheme 1.1 Synthesis of (*E*)-thienyl chalcones (**6**)

Cyclization of the α,β -unsaturated ketone moiety to give various heterocyclic systems such as the pyrazoline, oxazine, thiazine and pyrimidine rings seemed to improve the biological activity of the chalcone (Ramiz *et al.*, 2010; Khan *et al.*, 2014; Mathew *et al.*, 2014). The acetylated pyrazolines have been found to be more active than the non-acetylated pyrazolines (Ashraf *et al.*, 2013; Rani and Mohamad, 2014). Therefore, cyclization of the heterocyclic chalcones (**6**) obtained in this research to give their *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives (**7**) will also be challenged in the hopes of improving any existing biological activity of the chalcones, as illustrated in **Scheme 1.2**.



Scheme 1.2 Synthesis of the *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives (**7**)

1.2 Problem Statement

Drug resistance is a worldwide problem that is developing rapidly. Some examples of drug resistance are the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE), levofloxacin-resistant *pneumococcus* and the multidrug-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (Gonorrhoea). The development of new therapeutic agents with different chemical characteristics from the existing drugs, but are nevertheless equal or even more effective in their activities is thus a priority. This can be done by looking at pre-existing bioactive molecules already used in medicine and modifying their scaffolds to obtain novel molecules with the desired biological properties (Turan-Zitouni *et al.*, 2005). Examples are the antibacterial cefoxitin and antifungal tioconazole possessing the thiophene moiety. Thus, undertaking the synthesis of novel thiophene-based compounds is a logical step towards developing potential new drugs to counter drug resistance.

1.3 Significance of Research

With the intention of contributing to the global problem of drug resistance, the synthesis of novel thiophene-based heterocyclic chalcones and their pyrazoline derivatives was undertaken. The bioactive and highly functionalized furan, pyridine and pyrazine rings were adapted to serve this purpose and some degree of biological activity was expected from appending the furan, pyridine or pyrazine moiety to the thiophene scaffold. The successful synthesis of these products could potentially lead to obtaining more effective therapeutic agents to replace the existing drugs that are losing their effectiveness as bacteria become increasingly more resistant to them.

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

1. To synthesize thiophene-based heterocyclic chalcones *via* the Claisen-Schmidt condensation reaction.
2. To synthesize the *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives of the heterocyclic chalcones.
3. To characterize the heterocyclic chalcones and their pyrazoline derivatives using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (ATR-FTIR) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR).

1.5 Scope of Research

Thiophene-based heterocyclic chalcones were synthesized *via* the base-catalyzed Claisen-Schmidt condensation reaction and their *N*-acetylated pyrazoline derivatives were also be produced by refluxing with hydrazine hydrate and anhydrous sodium acetate in glacial acetic acid. The molecular structure of the heterocyclic chalcones and their cyclized derivatives was established *via* ATR-FTIR and NMR.

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