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Antimicrobial activity of some 5-aminomethylene-2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinones

S. M. Holota^{1,2,3}, G. O. Derkach⁴, V. V. Zasadko⁴, V. V. Trokhymchuk⁵, L. O. Furdychko⁶, I. L. Demchuk¹, G. M. Semenciv¹, I. I. Soronovych³, R. V. Kutsyk⁴, R. B. Lesyk^{1,7}

¹ Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University
69, Pekarska Str., Lviv, Ukraine, 79010

² Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University
13, Volya Av, Lutsk, Ukraine, 43025

³ Lviv Medical Institute
76, V. Polischuk Str., Lviv, Ukraine, 79018

⁴ Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University
2, Halytska Str., Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, 76018

⁵ P. L. Shupik National medical academy of post-graduate education
9, Dorohozhytska Str., Kyiv, Ukraine, 04112

⁶ Bogomolets National Medical University
13, Shevchenko Blvd., Kyiv, Ukraine, 01601

⁷ University of Information Technology and Management in University University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow
2, Sucharskiego Str., Rzeszow, Poland, 35-225
golota_serg@yahoo.com

Aim. To study the antimicrobial properties of 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone enaminone derivatives with a L- β -phenyl- α -alanine fragment in molecule. **Methods.** Diffusion in agar; serial dilutions in agar. Clinical isolates of microorganisms: methicillin-sensitive strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA), methicillin-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), methicillin-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* (MRSH), *Escherichia coli*; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, ES β L + *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis*. **Results.** Screening of antimicrobial activity of 13 new 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone derivatives was carried out. The methicillin-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was the most sensitive to the tested compounds. A number of derivatives exhibit synergism in combination with amoxicillin against the ES β L+ *Klebsiella pneumonia* strain. The structure-antimicrobial activity relationships was analyzed in detail. **Conclusions.** The tested 5-R-aminomethylene derivatives of ethyl 2-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidin-3-yl)-3-phenylpropionic acid exhibit the

moderate antimicrobial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, as well as against *Candida* fungi. The antimicrobial activity of the tested compounds depends on the structure of the enamine fragment.

Keywords: antibacterial, antifungal activity; 4-thiazolidinones, enamines

Introduction

The antimicrobial drug discovery is an actual and important area in modern bioorganic and medicinal chemistry [1,2]. The emergence of microbial cells resistance to known antimicrobial drugs is the main problem and simultaneously the main motive force for deep research in this field [3-5]. Despite the success in this process, the current antibiotic detection model does not deliver new agents at a rate sufficient to combat the current level of antibiotic resistance. A number of biological, pharmacological, chemical and sometimes philosophical approaches are proposed for the solution of this problem: a) deep understanding of the complex mechanisms of existing antibiotics action; b) hybridization and activity synergism of some substances with antimicrobial effect; c) search for narrow spectrum antibiotics; d) screening of potential antimicrobial agents among the new classes of chemical compounds, *etc* [6-8]. The 4-thiazolidinone derivatives represent considerable interest for *de novo* design of antibacterial agents. Potential antibacterial ligands such as selective and multiinhibitors of Mur B, C, D, E, F; penicillin – binding proteins inhibitors (PBPs); inhibitors of β -lactamase A and C; inhibitors of peptide deformylase; inhibitors of mannosyl transferase 1 (PMT1) were identified among these heterocycles [9-13]. Also, in some structure – activity relationship studies (SAR analysis) it had been shown that incorporation of aromatic amino acids into organic

compounds significantly improves the potency and selectivity of antibacterial activity [14]. As part of our research in the field of biologically active heterocycles [15-18], herein we report the antimicrobial properties of new 5-enamine-4-thiazolidinones with L- β -phenyl- α -alanine fragment in molecules [19]. Noteworthy, we have previously established an interesting antitumor and antitrypanosomal activity of this class of compounds. Moreover, the activity type significantly depends on the structure features of enamine fragment in C5 position of 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone core. Taking into account the above facts, it is promising to study other types of activity of the compounds as a realization of the polypharmacological strategy in the design of potential drug-like molecules among 4-thiazolidinones [20,21].

Materials and Methods

Chemistry. Synthetic procedure and physicochemical properties of compounds **1-13** have been described earlier [19].

Antimicrobial activity The antimicrobial activity of the synthesized compounds was determined using a method of diffusion into agar. Nutrient agar (0,5 % peptone, 0,3 % beef extract, 1,5 % agar, 0,5 % sodium chloride, distilled water, pH ~ 6.8) was used as a nutrient medium. The test-cultures suspensions (in concentration 1×10^7 CFU/ml), standardized previously by the optical standard of turbidity, were

uniformly sown in Petri dishes with the nutrient agar. Aliquots (20 µL) of 0.1 % of the test compounds (concentration 1000 µg/ml) in EtOH/DMSO/water (2:1:1) were placed into wells (diameter of 4.0±0.1 mm) in agar in Petri dishes with test microbes. The antimicrobial activity was evaluated by measuring the diameter of inhibition zone of microbial growth. The plates were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. The inhibition zone appeared after 24 h and was measured in mm around the well in each plate. Digital images of culture growth on dishes [were] obtained and processed with a computer program UTHSCSA ImageTool 2.0 (The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, ©1995-1996) for calculation of growth inhibition zone diameters. The experiments were performed in triplicate, and standard deviation was calculated. The experiments were carried out on microorganism strains, which were isolated in the laboratory of the microbiology research of the Department of

Microbiology, Virology and Immunology of the Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University from ambulatory patients. The following isolated clinical strains of conditionally pathogenic bacterial strains were used: methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA); methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA); methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* (MRSH); (extended spectrum β-lactamase (ESβL) producing Gram-negative bacteria *Escherichia coli*; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; yeasts *Candida albicans*; *Candida tropicalis*. Test-cultures were identified using chemical micro-tests “STAPHYtest 16” and “ENTEROtest 24” (Lachema, Czech Republic). Fungi cultures were identified on the basis of 40 biochemical tests using the VITEK 2 system with the VITEK 2 YST ID card (bioMerieux, France). Antimicrobial drug sensitivity patterns of used microbial strains are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Characterization of used microbial strains

Compound	Origin	Disk diffusion antibiotic susceptibility testing, zone of inhibition (in mm) after 24 h incubation						
Staphylococci		Oxacillin, 10,0 µg	Cefazolin, 30,0 µg	Ofloxacin, 5,0 µg	Erythromycin, 15,0 µg	Gentamycin, 10,0 µg	Vancomycin, 30,0 µg	Linezolid, 30,0 µg
<i>S. aureus</i> MSSA	wound	23S	28 S	25 S	15	15 S	18 S	36 S
<i>S. aureus</i> MRSA	wound	– R	10 R	10 R	– R	– R	17 S	34 S
<i>S. haemolyticus</i> MRSH	wound	– R	– R	9 R	– R	– R	15 S	30 S
Gram-negative bacteria		Cefoperazone, 75,0 µg	Cefoperazone / Sulbactam, 75,0 / 30,0 µg	Ceftazidime, 30,0 µg	Imipenem, 10,0 µg	Ofloxacin, 5,0 µg	Gentamycin, 10,0 µg	Colistin, 10,0 µg
<i>E. coli</i>	urine	14 R	21 S	12 R	23 S	– R	18 S	11 S
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	sputum	17 R	21 S	16 R	21 S	18 R	16 S	12 S
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	wound	– R	14 R	– R	13 R	– R	– R	12 S
Gram-negative bacteria		Amphotericin B, 20,0 µg	Nystatin, 100U	Fluconazole, 10,0 µg	Ketoconazole, 10,0 µg	Itraconazole, 10,0 µg	Clotrimazole, 10,0 µg	Terbinafine, 30,0 µg
<i>C. albicans</i>	oral mucosa	9 R	14 R	30 S	25 S	15 R	23 S	– R
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	sputum	– R	14 R	24 S	20 S	11 R	15 R	10 R

“ - ” – no inhibition were observed in experiment; S – sensitive and R – resistant according to EUCAST 2017 criteria.

Table 2. *In vitro* antimicrobial activity of compounds 1-13. Zone of growth inhibition (mm), M±S(σ)

Compound	Zone of inhibition (in mm) at conc. 200 µg/mL after 24 h						
	<i>In vitro</i> antibacterial activity					<i>In vitro</i> antifungal activity	
	<i>S. aureus</i> MSSA	<i>S. aureus</i> MRSA	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>S. haemolyticus</i> MRSH	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>C. tropicalis</i>
1	6,03±0,77	4,85±0,33	4,50±0,10	–	–	4,96±0,24	4,33±0,57
2	–	–	–	–	4,26±0,12	4,00±0,24	–
3	–	4,57±0,31	5,22±0,44	–	–	–	4,36±0,36
4	5,20±0,38	5,71±0,23	–	–	–	5,37±0,39 ^a 4,94±0,54 ^b	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
6	–	–	–	–	–	4,24±0,26	–
7	7,88±0,79	6,61±0,89	–	–	–	–	–
8	4,47±0,18	–	5,65±0,22	–	–	4,38±0,32	–
9	7,79±0,56	10,15±0,80	–	–	–	8,20±0,38 ^a 5,56±0,19 ^b	–
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,95±0,36
11	5,04±0,35	–	4,35±0,26	–	–	5,91±0,77 ^a 5,04±0,44 ^b	–
12	6,63±0,46	6,10±0,76	–	–	–	–	–
13	5,30±0,31	5,97±0,60	4,48±0,32	–	–	6,00±0,38 ^a 5,00±0,19 ^b	–
Streptomycin, 10,0 µg/ml	7,59±0,49	6,92±0,53	8,45±0,74	6,42±0,35	6,60±0,42	–	–
Amphotericin-B, 10,0 µg/ml	–	–	–	–	–	6,79±0,65 ^a 4,11±0,37 ^b	6,13±0,65

“–” – no inhibition were observed in experiment; ^a – fungistatic action; ^b – fungicidal action.

Table 3. MIC, MBC, MFC of compounds 1-13, µg/mL

Compounds	MIC (MBC/MFC)					
	<i>S. aureus</i> MSSA	<i>S. aureus</i> MRSA	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Ps. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	<i>C. tropicalis</i>
1	>100 (>100)	50 (>100)	100 (>100)	25 (50)	50 (100)	100 (>100)
2	50 (50)	25 (>100)	50 (>100)	50 (100)	50 (>100)	25 (50)
3	>100 (>100)	>100 (>100)	25 (>100)	6,25 (50)	50 (100)	50 (100)
4	6,25 (50)	25 (>100)	12,5 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	25 (100)
5	100 (>100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (>100)	25 (100)	100 (>100)
6	>100 (>100)	100 (100)	50 (100)	50 (50)	50 (100)	50 (50)
7	>100 (>100)	3,12 (6,25)	100 (100)	50 (100)	25 (100)	100 (100)
8	>100 (>100)	>100 (>100)	50 (>100)	12,5 (50)	25 (25)	50 (50)
9	25 (25)	25 (25)	25 (50)	50 (>100)	25 (25)	25 (50)
10	>100 (>100)	50 (>100)	50 (50)	25 (50)	>100 (>100)	100 (100)
11	>100 (>100)	12,5 (>100)	3,12 (100)	25 (50)	12,5 (100)	25 (100)
12	>100 (>100)	25 (50)	50 (50)	50 (100)	25 (100)	100 (100)
13	>100 (>100)	>100 (>100)	>100 (>100)	25 (50)	25 (25)	25 (100)

MRSA strain was 25 µg/mL. The similar pattern of activity was observed against *Ps. aeruginosa*. The derivatives **3** and **8** display good activity level with MIC 6.5 µg/mL and 12.5 µg/mL respectively. The compounds **1**, **10**, **11**, **13** were exhibited slightly lower inhibitory activity with MIC against *Ps. Aeruginosa* 25 µg/mL. The activity of the tested compounds against *E. coli* was somewhat lower compared to activity against *MRSA* and *Ps. aeruginosa*. The derivatives **11** and **4** were the most active with MIC 3,12 µg/mL and 12,5 µg/mL respectively. The compounds **2**, **3**, **5**, **6**, **8**, **9**, **10**, **12** exhibited inhibitory activity against *E. coli* with MIC 25-50 µg/mL. Interestingly, however, that almost all the compounds were practically inactive to the strain *MSSA*. Only derivatives **4** and **9** were active with MIC 6,25 µg/mL and 25 µg/mL respectively. No significant activity for the tested compounds in individual form against *MSSH* was observed.

The derivatives **4**, **9**, **11** and **13** were estimated in the interaction with amoxicillin and co-amoxiclav (amoxicillin/clavulanic acid) against multidrug resistant clinical isolates of ESβL⁺ *K. pneumoniae* and *MSSH* (Tables 4,5).

According to the preliminary interaction screening results, the derivative **13** displays promising synergistic activity with amoxicillin against ESβL⁺ *K. pneumoniae* strain. The similar results were obtained for derivatives **4** and **9** with amoxicillin against *MSSH*. However, any positive activity changes in the combinations of tested compounds with co-amoxiclav were not observed against both ESβL⁺ *K. pneumoniae* and *MSSH*.

The antifungal activity screening results have shown that tested compounds display potent activity against *C. albicans* (Tables 2,

3). The derivative **11** was the most active with MIC 12.5 µg/mL and the compounds **1-9**, **12**, **13** exhibited inhibitory activity against *C. albicans* with MIC 25-50 µg/mL. The antifungal activity against *C. tropicalis* was a slightly lower and derivatives **2**, **3**, **4**, **6**, **8**, **9**, **11**, **13** were the most active with MIC 25-50 µg/mL.

The SAR analysis showed that the antibacterial effect of compounds **1-13** depends on the structure features of the enamine fragment. The compound **1** with unsubstituted NH₂-group displayed the equivalent activity level to compound **2** with phenyl group. However, the activity level of these compounds was not satisfactory. Introduction of halogen atoms (F, Cl) into position 4 of benzene ring improved the activity (compounds **3**, **4**), but additional NO₂ – or MeO-groups and change [in the] halogen position (compounds **5**, **6**) provoke a decrease in the activity. The derivative **9** with 4-ethylsulfanylthiosulfonylphenyl substituent was the most active and demonstrated a good effect against all tested microorganisms with MIC 25 µg/mL. The change of 4-EtS-group in **9** to 4-NH₂-group (compound **7**) provides an increasing selectivity against *MRSA* (MIC 3.12 µg/mL) but generally decreasing activity. The similar pattern of activity decreasing was observed for the transformation of the sulfonyl-group into position 2 of benzene ring and the additional introduction of CH₃-group and morpholine cycle (compound **8**). Also, compound **10** with isosteric COOEt-group showed a lower activity than **9**. The derivative with unsubstituted thiazole rings (**11**) displayed good level of activity against *E. coli* (MIC 3.12 µg/mL) and *MRSA* (MIC 25 µg/mL), but introduction of 2,4-dichlorobenzyl-fragment into thiazole ring (compound **12**) provides a lower

Table 4. The synergistic interaction of 4, 9, 11, 13 with amoxicillin against ESBL⁺ *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and MRS^H (zone of growth inhibition (mm), M±S(σ))

Mediums with amoxicillin	EtOH+DMSO	Compounds			
		4	9	11	13
ESBL⁺ <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (MIC amoxicillin 250 µg/mL)					
Control (medium without amoxicillin)	–	–	4,88±0,52	–	–
1/8 MIC (32 µg/mL)	–	4,26±0,04	–	–	–
1/16 MIC (16 µg/mL)	–	–	–	–	4,58±0,50
1/32 MIC (8 µg/mL)	–	–	–	–	5,09±0,46
1/64 MIC (4 µg/mL)	–	–	–	–	4,07±0,87
MRS^H <i>Staphylococcus haemolyticus</i> (MIC amoxicillin 4000 µg/mL)					
Control (medium without amoxicillin)	–	4,24±0,87	10,05±0,20	–	4,01±0,22
1/8 MIC (500 µg/mL)	–	–	6,83±0,22	–	4,17±0,58
1/250 MIC (16 µg/mL)	4,22±0,07	6,19±0,16	5,42±0,15	–	4,23±0,18
1/500 MIC (8 µg/mL)	4,99±0,44	5,76±0,82	–	–	–
1/1000 MIC (4 µg/mL)	–	–	–	4,15±0,50	5,27±0,34

“–” – no inhibition were observed in experiment.

Table 5. The synergistic interaction of 4, 9, 11, 13 with co-amoxiclav (amoxicillin/clavulanic acid) against ESBL⁺ *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and MRS^H (zone of growth inhibition (mm), M±S(σ))

Mediums with co-amoxiclav	EtOH+DMSO	Compounds			
		4	9	11	13
ESBL⁺ <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (MIC co-amoxiclav 8/1,6 µg/mL)					
Control (medium without co-amoxiclav)	–	–	[8,32±0,90]	–	5,00±0,94
1/4 MIC (2/0,4 µg/mL)	4,28±0,56	[8,38±1,50]	[12,38±1,18]	12,41±0,27	–
1/8 MIC (1/0,2 µg/mL)	4,39±0,78	–	[8,00±0,84]	–	–
1/16 MIC (0,5/0,1 µg/mL)	5,27±1,13	–	[10,27±2,09]	[6,62±0,64]	[5,55±1,55]
MRS^H <i>Staphylococcus haemolyticus</i> (MIC co-amoxiclav 64/12,5 µg/mL)					
Control (medium without co-amoxiclav)	–	–	–	4,17±0,52	5,02±0,38
1/8 MIC (8/1,6 µg/mL)	–	4,44±0,46	4,45±0,48	14,66±2,31	–
1/16 MIC (4/0,8 µg/mL)	–	2,82±0,40	–	–	–

#in brackets - zones of partial inhibition of the bacterial growth (bacteriostatic effect)

activity. The presence of 4*H*-[1.2.4]-triazol-3-ylamine-substituent (**13**) was good, especially for antifungal activity. So, from the SAR viewpoint it was not established clear dependence of the influence of electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups on the activity realization.

Noteworthy, the tested 5-enamine-rhodanines **1-13** possess a higher antimicrobial activity than unsubstituted in N3 position thiazolidin-2,4-dione [15] and 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinone [16] analogs. This indicates the positive impact of introducing the amino acid fragments into the 4-thiazolidinone scaffold

for the design of antimicrobial agents. In addition to increasing activity, the presence of the phenylalanine moiety promotes a higher selectivity of the tested compounds to MRSA (Tables 2,3). But the tested compounds **1-13** are less active compared with unsubstituted in N3 position 4-thioxo-2-thiazolidinone analogs [15].

Conclusions

The antimicrobial screening of 13 new 2-thioxo-4-thiazolidinones against Gram-positive, Gram-negative microorganisms and *Candida* fungi was performed and the results are described in this paper. It was found that some derivatives have potential antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus* methicillin-resistant (MRSA) strain, *Ps. aeruginosa*, *C. albicans* and are attractive as a novel template for the design of new synthetic antibacterial/antifungal agents. Some derivatives displayed promising synergistic activity with amoxicillin against multiresistant strain of clinical isolates of ES β L⁺ *K. pneumoniae* and *MRS*H and can be used for the development of new combined antimicrobial chemotherapeutic agents.

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- Особливості антимікробної активності деяких 5-амінометилен-2-тіоксо-4-тіазолідинонів**
- С. М. Голота, Г. О. Деркач, В. В. Засідко, В. В. Трохимчук, Л. О. Фурдичко, І. Л. Демчук, Г. М. Семенців, І. І. Соронович, Р. В. Куцик, Р. Б. Лесик
- Мета.** Вивчення протимікробних властивостей енамінових похідних 2-тіоксо-4-тіазолідинону з фрагментом L-β-феніл-α-аланіну в молекулі. **Методи.** Мікрометод дифузії в агар; мікрометод серійних розведень в агарі. Тест-об'єкти – клінічні ізоляти мікроорганізмів: метіцилінчутливий штам *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA), метіцилінрезистентний штам *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), метіцилінрезистентний штам *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* (MRSH), *Escherichia coli*; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, ESβL⁺ *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis*. **Результати.** Проведено скринінг протимікробної активності 13 нових похідних 2-тіоксо-4-тіазолідинону. Встановлено, що найбільш чутливим до досліджуваних виявився метіцилінрезистентний штам *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Ряд 2-тіоксо-4-тіазолідинонів проявляють синергізм при комбінованому застосуванні з амоксіциліном по відношенню до штаму ESβL⁺ *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Детально проаналізовано взаємозв'язок “структура-протимікробна активність”. **Висновки.** Тестовані 5-R-амінометиленпохідні етилового естеру 2-(4-оксо-2-тіоксотіазолідин-3-іл)-3-фенілпропіонової кислоти проявляють помірну протимікробну активність по відношенню грам-позитивних та грам-негативних бактерій, а також грибів роду *Candida*. Протимікробна активність тестованих сполук залежить від структурних особливостей в енамінового фрагменту.
- Ключові слова:** антибактеріальна, протигрибкова активність; 4-тіазолідинони; енамінони

Особенности противомикробной активностинекоторых 5-аминометилен-2-тиоксо-4-тиазолидинонов

С. Н. Голота, Г. О. Деркач, В. В. Засидко, В. В. Трохимчук, Л. О. Фурдычко, И. Л. Демчук, Г. Н. Семенцев, И. И. Соронович, Р. В. Куцык, Р. Б. Леськ

Цель. Изучение противомикробных свойств енамино- вих производных 2-тиоксо-4-тиазолидинона с фрагмен- том L-β-фенил-α-аланина в молекуле. **Методы.** Микрометод диффузии в агар; микрометод серийных разведений в агаре. Тест-объекты — клинические изо- ляты микроорганизмов: метициллинчувствительный штамм *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA), метициллинре- зистентный штамм *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), ме- тициллинрезистентный штамм *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* (MRSH), *Escherichia coli*; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, ESβL+*Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis*. **Результаты.** Проведён скри- нинг противомикробной активности 13 новых произво-

дных 2-тиоксо-4-тиазолидинона. Установлено, что наи- более чувствительным к исследуемым соединениям является метициллинрезистентный штамм *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Ряд производных про- являют синергизм при одновременном применении с амоксициллином по отношению к штамму ESβL+*Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Подробно проанализирова- на взаимосвязь «структура-противомикробное актив- ность». **Выводы.** Тестируемые 5-R-аминометилен производные этилового эфира 2-(4-оксо-2-тиоксо-тиазо- лидин-3-ил)-3-фенилпропионовой кислоты проявляют умеренную противомикробную активность по отноше- нию к грамположительными грамотрицательным бак- териям, а также грибам рода *Candida*. Противомикробная активность исследованных соединений зависит от особен- ностей структуры енаминового фрагмента.

Ключевые слова: антибактериальная, противо- грибковая активность; 4-тиазолидиноны; енамины

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