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## UNDERPINNING ARYLIDENE-2,4 THIAZOLIDINEDIONES AS ANTIDIABETIC AGENTS

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### ABSTRACT

People suffering from diabetes are not able to produce enough insulin and/or properly use it in the body, thus they have a high level of blood glucose. It is associated with decreased insulin secretion, increased peripheral (muscle, fat, liver) insulin resistance. It has been observed that treatment of type II diabetes is generally focused on the control of hyperglycemia even though 80% of diabetic patients die from macrovascular complications of the disease. Arylidene-2,4 thiazolidinedione structure is common in a variety of agents, however they differ in side chain modifications which influence their pharmacological actions. Synthesis of arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione generally involves reaction between chloroacetic acid and thiourea to form 2,4-thiazolidinedione followed by base mediated substitution at nitrogen and condensation reaction at methylene carbon. Arylidene-2,4 thiazolidinedione as aldose reductase inhibitor prevent or slow the action of aldose reductase leading to prevention or delay of complications of diabetes. Arylidene-2,4 thiazolidinedione has been evaluated as inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatases 1B. Investigation of antidiabetic activity of series of 2,4-thiazolidinedione derivatives for their loss of plasma glucose lowering activity has been performed.

**Keywords: Diabetes, Arylidene-2,4 thiazolidinedione, Aldose reductase inhibitor, Protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B inhibitor, Antihyperglycemic agents**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Catabolic & anabolic activities are processed in every cell. The catabolic activities produces energy while anabolic activities govern the syntheses of structural and storage components. Mammals are equipped with hormonal systems to regulate the physiological response to dietary intake of fatty acids. Genetic and pathogenic faults at any stage of cellular organization can lead to defects called metabolic disorders [1].

**METABOLIC SYNDROME:**

The 2001 National Cholesterol Education Program guidelines recognize a syndrome consisting of five risk factors: obesity, high triglyceride levels, low levels of high density lipoprotein cholesterol, elevated blood pressure & increased fasting glucose levels. The guidelines arbitrarily define the presence of three or more of these risk factors as indicating that a patient is affected [2].

**DIABETES:**

An important menace for metabolic syndrome is diabetes and its late complications. People suffering from diabetes are not able to produce enough insulin and/or properly use it in the body, thus they have a high level of blood glucose. It is associated with decreased insulin secretion, increased peripheral (muscle, fat, liver) insulin resistance. Insulin resistance is

defined as the reduced biological response of insulin.  $\beta$  cell dysfunction is the reduced ability of  $\beta$  cell to secrete insulin.

Current therapeutic strategies are focused on controlling hepatic glucose production (biguanides), motivating the pancreatic beta cells to secrete more insulin (sulfonylureas), retarding the absorption of starches ( $\alpha$  glucosidase inhibitors), sensitizing the body to insulin (thiazolidinediones). Unfortunately adverse effect of these first generation therapies includes hypoglycemia, weight gain and edema [3].

It has been observed that treatment of type II diabetes is generally focused on the control of hyperglycemia even though 80% of diabetic patients die from macrovascular complications due the disease. Thus novel treatment approaches are required to improve the management of individuals at high risk of developing type II diabetes as well as those with established disease, with the aim of preventing the development and progression of diabetic complications [4].

Pharmaceutical chemists have competent methods for optimizing the potency and profile of dynamic moieties. Chemical transformation of known active molecule involves the use of already recognized principles on active molecules for the search

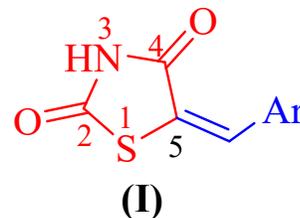
of innovative molecules that can have enhanced potency, a better activity and improved safety profile [5].

#### ARYLIDENE-2,4-THIAZOLIDINEDIONES:

Arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione structures is common in a variety of agents; however they differ in side chain modifications which influence their pharmacological actions. The therapeutic attestation for arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione as antidiabetic [6], antioxidant, antilipidemic [7], antiobesity, antiinflammatory agent has been explored, thus is capable of serving as biodynamic agent for treating various components of metabolic syndrome.

#### CHEMISTRY:

Synthesis of arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione (**I**) generally involves reaction between chloroacetic acid and thiourea to form 2,4-thiazolidinedione<sup>11</sup> followed by base mediated substitution at nitrogen and condensation reaction at methylene carbon (scheme 1). As per the requirement the condensation reaction can be performed earlier than the substitution reaction.



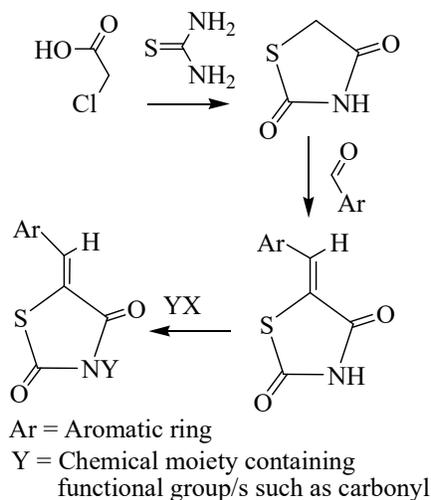
5-Arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones are generally synthesized by Knoevenagel reaction between 2,4-thiazolidinedione with suitable aldehyde using base such as piperidine [8, 9], sodium acetate. The treatment of halogen containing compound in the presence of base such as potassium carbonate [10], sodium hydride and sodium hydroxide produces N-substitution.

#### SPECTRAL FEATURES:

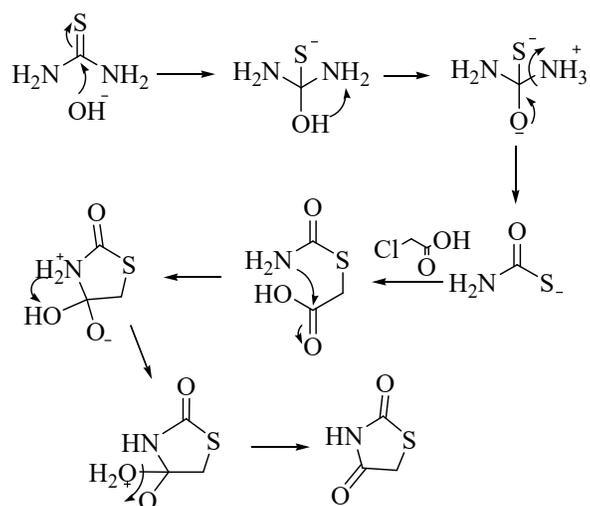
**NMR Spectra:** (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 6.95-7-19 (m, Aromatic H), 7.74 (s, 1H, CH). The Z isomer is thermodynamically stable and the methyldene proton appears in the range of 7.72-7.92 ppm as a diagnostic for the structural assignment.

**IR Spectra:** (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1730, 1670, 1600, 1374, 1335, 1138, 820 [11].

**Mass spectra:** generally indicates the (M-H) peak with 100% intensity.



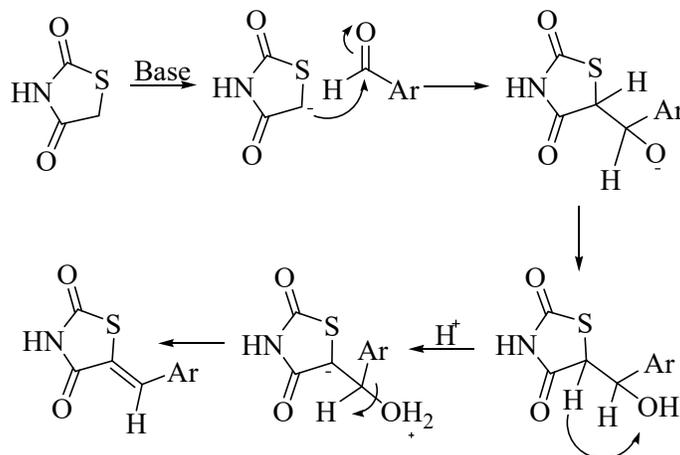
Scheme 1: Synthesis of arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione



Scheme 2: Plausible mechanism of 2,4-thiazolidinedione formation

When a nucleophile approaches the electrons of the double bond, then the pi bond electrons get localized on the more electronegative oxygen atom leading the carbon to act as an electrophile. Nucleophile attacks the electrophilic center of the carbonyl group i.e. carbon of thiourea to generate an anion, after protonation,  $\text{NH}_2$  gets converted to  $\text{NH}_3^+$  (better leaving group)

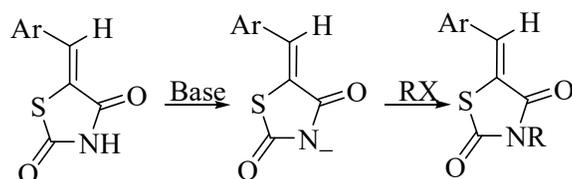
to head off. Sulphur nucleophile undergoes substitution reaction with chloroacetic acid, after that the nucleophilic intramolecular attack by nitrogen at carbonyl carbon generates anion, proton transfer from  $\text{NH}_2^+$  to OH group converts it into a better leaving group ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ), this is followed by loss of water to form the product (Scheme 2).



Scheme 3: Mechanism of Arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones formation

The function of base (piperidine, sodium acetate) is to pull out proton to generate a nucleophile (carbanion) which undergoes nucleophilic attack at carbonyl group of

aldehyde to generate an anion. Protonation of  $\text{OH}^-$  converts it into  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and is followed by loss of water to produce an unsaturated compound (Scheme 3).



Scheme 4: Mechanism of N-substitution in arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones

Electrophilic carbon forms a bond with the nitrogen nucleophile generated after proton abstraction (Scheme 3). The electrophilicity generates from the polarization of the carbon halogen bond. The amount of positive charge on the carbon decreases with decreasing electrophilicity of halogen in the order: fluorine > chlorine > bromine > iodine leading to a decreasing order of reactivity.

The bromo, chloro derivatives can be converted into iodo compounds by the application of Finkelstein Reaction. It

involves treatment of a primary alkyl halide or pseudohalide with an alkali metal halide (potassium iodide, potassium fluoride) resulting in the substitution of  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$  (good leaving group/ weak nucleophile) with  $\text{I}^-/\text{F}^-$  (weak leaving group/ good nucleophile) via bimolecular substitution reaction.

The progress of the reaction also depends on the solubility of the metal salt in the solvent. Using acetone as solvent increases the progress of reaction as potassium chloride and potassium bromide are insoluble in

acetone and are there by are eliminated from the reaction mixture.

## BIOLOGICAL PROFILE:

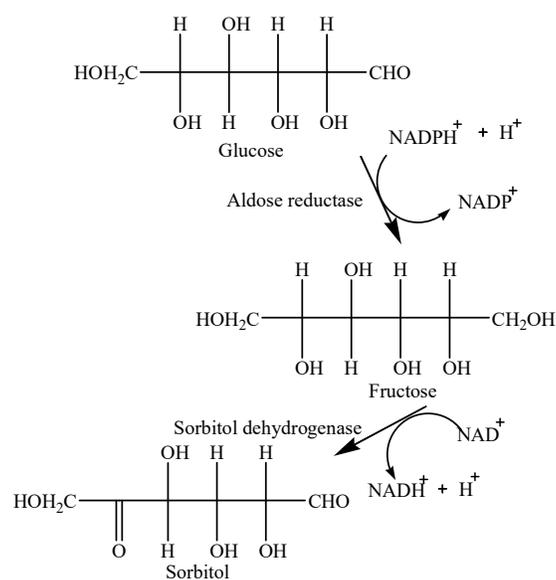
### ALDOSE REDUCTASE INHIBITORS

Aldose reductase is a rate limiting enzyme in the polyol pathway carbohydrate metabolism that is associated with the conversion of glucose to sorbitol. The enzyme is located in the eye, kidney, myelin sheath, and also in other tissues [12].

**Glucose + NADPH + H<sup>+</sup> → Sorbitol + NADP<sup>+</sup>**  
 Glucose can be converted into fructose which further undergoes glycolysis followed by phosphorylation by fructokinase (Scheme4). Aldose reductase utilizes NADPH to reduce aldehyde form of glucose into its corresponding sugar alcohol (Sorbitol). In the preceding step, sorbitol dehydrogenase utilizes NAD<sup>+</sup> to oxidise sorbitol into fructose.

Aldose reductase activity increases as the glucose concentration rises in diabetes in those tissues that are not insulin sensitive, which include the lenses, peripheral nerves and glomerulus. Sorbitol does not diffuse through cell membranes easily and therefore accumulates, causing osmotic damage which leads to retinopathy and neuropathy [13].

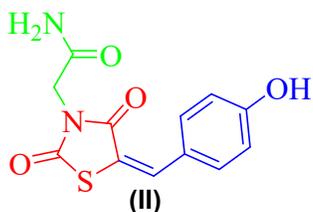
Aldose reductase inhibitor prevent or slow the action of aldose reductase leading to prevention or delay of complications of diabetes. Polyneuropathy is a common complication of diabetes mellitus that causes pain and sensory and motor deficits in the arms and legs leading to foot ulcers and amputation. Aldose reductase inhibitors may potentially slow or reverse progression of neuropathy.



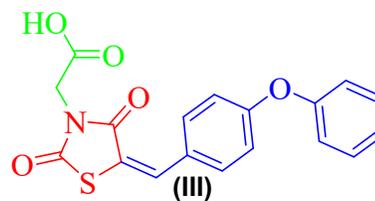
Scheme 5: Polyol pathway

Crystallographic analyses of Aldose reductase 2 have shown that the three-dimensional structures are composed of  $\alpha/\beta$  TIM-barrels. Aldose reductase 2 folds into a  $\alpha/\beta$  -barrel with a core of eight parallel  $\beta$  -strands. Adjacent strands are connected by eight parallel  $\alpha$  -helical segments running antiparallel to the  $\beta$  -sheet. The active site is located at the C-terminal end of the b-barrel [14].

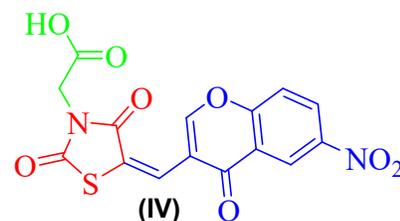
Z- (5- Arylidene -2,4-dioxothiazolidin-yl) aetamides (II) are known to have enhanced aldose reductase inhibitory – 2 inhibitory activity than N-unsubstituted analogues, although inferior than carboxylic acid analogues [15].



Knoevenagel condensation between 2,4-thiazolidinedione and aromatic aldehydes offers predominantly the Z isomer [16]. The quantitative structure activity relationship analysis series by 3D QSAR analysis, Hansch analysis and Fujita-Ban analysis infers that III position of the phenyl ring and acetic acid substitution at N-position of 2,4-thiazolidinedione (III) a key role in Aldose reductase inhibitory activity [17].



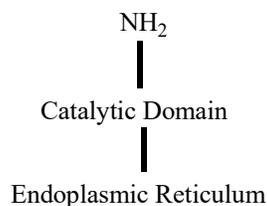
Chromane incorporated 2,4-thiazolidinedione (IV) have significant aldose reductase inhibitory -2 inhibitory activity. Carboxylic esters analogue, devoid of acidic proton have slight activity as compared to N-unsubstituted and carboxylic acid analogues [18].



## PROTEIN TYROSINE PHOSPHATASES 1 B INHIBITORS:

Metabolic insulin signal transduction occurs through activation of insulin receptor, including autophosphorylation of tyrosine residues in the insulin activation loop. This process is negatively regulated by protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B inhibitors and their oral activity has been demonstrated *in vivo* [19].

The protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B is schematically represented as [20]:



Protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (435 amino acid residues) consists of

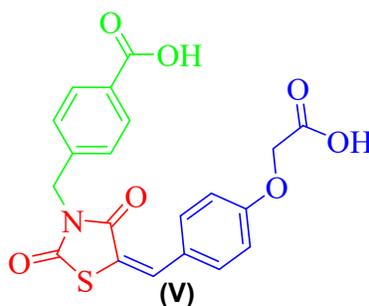
- loop/ active site containing the active site nucleophile Cys 215.
- WPD loop moves close to the phenyl ring of the substrate, which maximizes hydrophobic interactions.
- Secondary aryl phosphate binding site is catalytically inactive as it is more exposed to solvent [21].

Protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B can accommodate acidic as well as hydrophobic residues immediately terminal to phosphothrosine due to different conformations adopted by Arg 47 [22].

It has been reported that numerous protein tyrosine phosphatases inhibitors generally have side effects or a low rate of *in vivo* efficacy, which could be due to limited cell permeability [20].

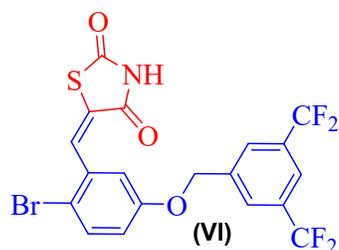
5-arylidene moiety is known to stabilize the complex with the enzyme through hydrophobic interactions with the active site and surrounding subpockets [23].

4-(5-Arylidene-2,4-dioxothiazolidin-3-yl)methylbenzoic acids (V) has been evaluated as inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatases 1B [24].



Benzylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione derivatives with substitutions on the phenyl ring at the ortho or para positions, of the thiazolidinedione (VI) as protein tyrosine

phosphatases 1 B inhibitors have been investigated for their *in vivo* efficacy as antiobesity and hypoglycemic agent in a mouse model system [25].

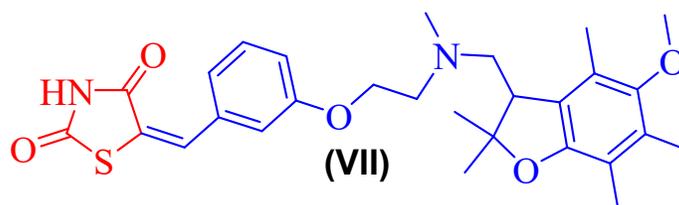


### ANTIHYPERGLYCEMIC AGENTS:

As a general rule branched substituents on the arylidene ring contributes significantly to the biological activity, while the arylidene-thiazolidinedione with electron releasing

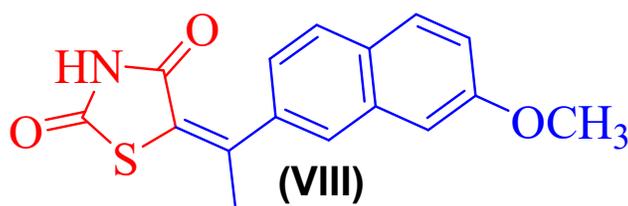
group in the 4 position produce a significant reduction in the glucose level [26].

Investigation of antidiabetic activity of a series of 2,4-thiazolidinedione derivatives synthesized by introduction of N-alkyl moiety between chroman ring and phenoxyethyl linker (VII) has demonstrated that saturation of carbon-carbon double bond lead to the loss of plasma glucose lowering activity [27].



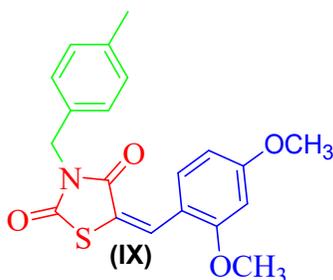
Knoevenagel condensation between aryl ketones and 2, 4-thiazolidinedione (VIII) lead to a unsaturated mixture of E & Z compounds. The antidiabetic activity of E, Z

mixture of the unsaturated compounds was enhanced as compared to the diastereomeric mixture of the saturated compounds [28].



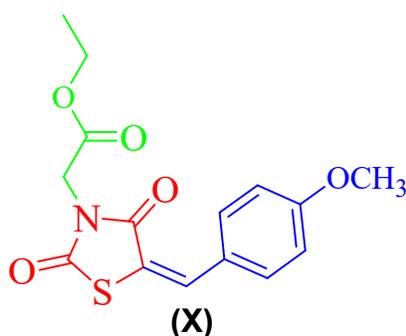
5-arylidene-3-(4-methyl-benzyl)-thiazolidinedione (IX) have been obtained as Z isomers and posses promising glucose lowering activity while acridinylidene - thiazolidinedione derivatives have been

isolated as isomeric mixture. The ethylene proton is more deshielded in the Z isomer than E isomer, owing to cis position of the exocyclic carbonyl group<sup>11</sup>.



2,4-Dioxo-5-(4-hydroxybenzyl)thiazolidin-3-yl acetic acid ester (**IX**) and its o-acylated derivatives show comparable or higher anti hyperglycemic activity than that of

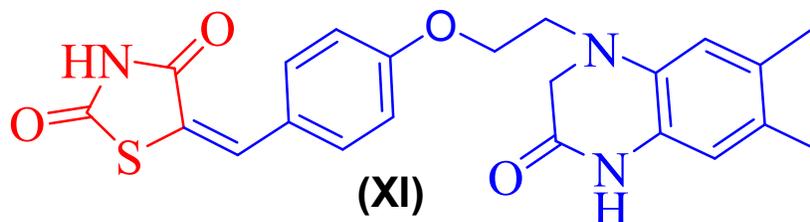
rosiglitazone, though they have poor peroxisome proliferator activated receptor  $\gamma$  agonist *in vitro* activity estimated at 10 and 1000 nmol concentration [29].



Among the series of 6,7-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxalin-2-one derivatives (**XI**), methyl group at C-3 position of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxalin-2-one increases the

glucose lowering ability. Compounds with ethyl spacer are more active [30].

Thiazolidinone may be helpful in Compounds with ethyl



**CONCLUSION:**

Sedentary life style, nutrition rich in animal products are the elements of the so called "westernization" in migrant Asian-Indians which can encourage excessive insulin resistance and therefore shed light on the increased prevalence of type II diabetes in urbanized and migrant Asian-Indians.

Synchronized tyrosine phosphorylation is vital for signaling pathways regulated by insulin and leptin. Type II diabetes and obesity are characterized via resistance to hormones insulin and leptin, perhaps due to attenuated or diminished signaling. Agents competent of inhibiting the negative regulator may be beneficial for the treatment of type II diabetes and obesity. Therapeutic approaches that have lowers glucose level and address diabetic complications are gravely needed.

Arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones have a diverse profile as antidiabetic agent. As it is known that still there are no confident agents in the market, they have several side effects therefore we need to investigate new arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones to order to obtain agents which improve glycemic control as well as reduce the other late stage complications of diabetes that constitute a major disease burden. The health promotion involves investigations [31] and methods

[32] to achieve optimal health [33]. The thiazolidione may be also development as novel pharmaceuticals [34, 35, 36].

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**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

None

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