

SYNTHESIS OF LACTONE COMPOUND AS A CANDIDATE ANTI-CANCERAGENT: 4-PHENYLCHROMAN-2-ONE USING ACID CATALYST

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Abstract

Coumarin derivatives compounds have a bioactivity that is beneficial to health. They are have biological activities such as anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, and anti-cancer. One of the activity for coumarin derivative compound such as 4-aryl dihydrocoumarin have been used as treatment of disease and infection in China and Japan. Here, we have performed the synthesis of lactone compounds: 4-phenylchroman-2-one as a candidate anti-cancer agent using p-toluene sulfonic acid as catalyst at temperature of 120 °C for 4 hours. Elucidation of lactone compound was done using ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR. The compound of 4-phenylchroman-2-one showed a candidate anti-cancer inhibitor with toxicity BSLT (Brine Shrimp Lethality Test) is $Lc_{50} = 112.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$.

Keywords : *Coumarin, synthesis, 4-phenylchroman-2-one, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR*

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INTRODUCTION

Coumarin (2*H*-chromen-2-one) is a chemical compound in the benzopyrone chemical class, found in many plants such as *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Galium odoratum*, *Hierochloeodorata*, *Cinnamomum aromaticum*, etc. Coumarin derivatives have shown a wide range of biological activities. They are approved for few medical uses such as anti-tumor, anti-hypertension, anti-inflammatory, anti-osteoporosis, analgesic. It also used in the treatment of asthma [1,2,3].

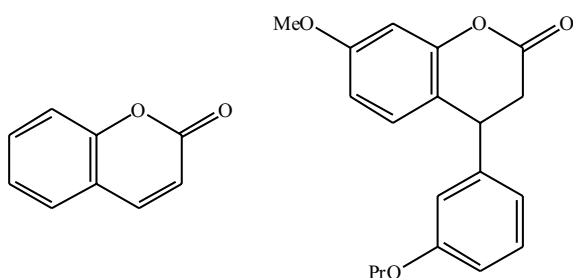


Figure 1. Structure of Coumarin and 7- methoxy-4-aryl coumarin

Coumarin is used in the pharmaceutical industry as a precursor in the synthesis. The pharmacological and therapeutic applications of coumarin derivatives depend upon the pattern substitution. Currently, coumarin is used in the development of new drugs because of their diverse pharmacological properties. Among these properties, their cytotoxic effects were most extensively examined. Creation and development of coumarin derivative of nature-based materials is done by synthesizing the compound of cinnamic acid into compounds that have bioactivity. To be able to obtain compounds that have activity, it is needed to study quantitative structure-activity relationship relationships (QSAR) which is the process by which chemical structure is quantitatively correlated with biological activity/chemical reactivity. Therefore, many synthetic methods for 3,4-dihydrocoumarin have been reported [4,5,6]. But, commonly of these methods use of large excess of expensive transition metal

catalyst such as $\text{Yb}(\text{OTf})_5$, $\text{Ru}(\text{III})$, $\text{Pd}(\text{Oac})_2$, etc [7,8,9]. The preparation of a compound dihydrocoumarin have been widely applied. Of some of the existing literature, there are several ways to get dihydrocoumarin derived compounds. One of them is through the use of Lewis acids with phenols and acrylonitrile (Pechmann method), it could be through catalytic hydrogenation of coumarins, it also hydrolysis of cinnamic acid with acidic media, and the activation of 2-hydroxy benzaldehyde with CH_3COOH compounds (Knoevenagel method) [10,11,12].

In this paper, we report the synthesis of lactone compounds: 4-Phenylchroman-2-one using hydroarylation of cinnamic acid with phenol. This reaction was used *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-TsOH) as acid catalyst and solvent-free condition.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Materials

All solvents were dried and distilled according to standard procedure. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silica gel plates (Kiesel gel 60F₂₅₄ 0.25 mm) and preparative TLC was carried out on Merck silica gel plates (Kiesel gel 60F₂₅₄ 0.5 mm). Silica gel column chromatography was carried out on Daisogel IR-60. Cinnamic acid isolated from hydrolysis of methyl cinnamate was used as starting material for the synthesis of 4-Phenylchroman-2-one. *p*-TsOH was used as acid catalyst. Phenol was used as reagent.

Instruments

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL 5NM-LA for 500 MHz in deuteriochloroform unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00) or CDCl_3 (δ 7.26) for ^1H NMR and δ 77.0 for ^{13}C NMR as internal standard, and coupling constant are reported in Hertz.

METHODS

Synthesis of Lactone Compound as a Candidate Anti-Cancer Agent:
4-Phenylchroman-2-one

To a 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped were charged phenol (0.008mol), cinnamic acid (0.006mol), and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (0.007mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 125 °C for 3h. After completion (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was cooled and quenched with water (50 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x50 mL). The organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent.

Hatching the brine shrimp

Brine shrimp eggs (*Artemiasalina*) were hatched in artificial sea water prepared from commercial sea salt. The hatching process was done under light regime condition. After 48 hours incubation at room temperature (25-29°C), nauplii (larvae) were collected by pipette from the lighted side whereas their shells were left in another side.

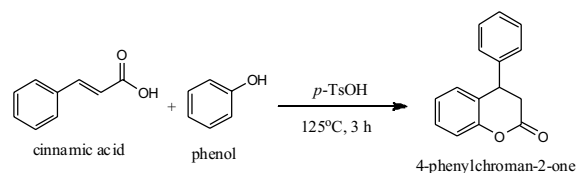
Bioassay

The procedure for BSLT was modified from the assay described by Solis et al. (1993) [13]. Ten milligrams of the sample were made up to 2 mg/ml in artificial sea water except for water insoluble compounds which were dissolved in DMSO. 50 il prior to adding sea water. Serial dilutions were made in the wells of 96-well microplates in triplicate in 120 il sea water. Control wells with DMSO were included in each experiment. A suspension of nauplii containing 10 organisms (100 il) was added to each well. The plates were covered and incubated at room temperature (25-29°C) for 24 hours. Plates were then examined under the binocular stereomicroscope and the numbers of dead (non-motile) nauplii in each well were counted.

One hundred microliters of methanol were then added to each well to immobilize the nauplii and after 15 minutes the total numbers of brine shrimp in each well were counted. Analysis of the data was performed by probit analysis on a Finney computer program to determine the lethal concentration to half of the test organisms (LC₅₀).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Treatment cinnamic acid with phenol in the presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid in the case of solvent free condition at 125 °C for 3 hours led to the formation of the corresponding 4-phenylchroman-2-one (Scheme 1). This reaction was reported as an inter-molecular reaction type. The mechanism of this reaction, the reaction between cinnamic acid and phenol to form phenolic ester and subsequently followed by intermolecular Friedel-Craft type cyclization to form 4-phenylchroman-2-one. The advantage of this method is the use inexpensive agent and less demand for the decrease of entropy, so this reaction of both efficiency and selectivity.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of 4-phenylchroman-2-one in the presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid

The structure of compound 4-phenylchroman-2-one was deduced from their ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR data. In the ¹H NMR spectra data of 4-phenylchroman-2-one exhibited in lactone ring; two protons in position 3 *doublet doublet* at 3.05 – 3.077 (2H, dd), one triplet in position 4 at 4.35 (1H, t), exhibited in aromatic ring; one doublet in position 5 at 6.98 (1H, d, J=7.8 Hz), two triplets in position 6 and 7 at 7.33(1H, t) 7.35 (1H, t), one doublet in position 8 at 7.17 (1H, d, J=7.8 Hz) exhibited in phenyl ring; two doublets in position 10, 10' at

7.29 (2H, d, $J=7.8$ Hz), three triplets in position 11, 11', 12 at 7.15, 7.15(2H, t, $J=7.8$ Hz), 7.08 (1H, t). In the ^{13}C -NMR spectra data of 4-phenylchroman-2-one exhibited in lactone ring; C-lactone at 167.83, CH_2 at 37.18, CH at 40.83, C in position 5' at 129.31, C in position 5'' at 151.87, exhibited in aromatic ring; CH in position 5 at 127.74, CH in position 6 at 124.83, CH in position 7 at 128.51, CH in position 8 at 117.30, exhibited in phenyl ring; C in position 9 at 140.42, CH in position 10, 10' at 127.84, CH in position 11, 11' at 129.31 and CH in position 12 at 125.93. The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR data are presented in table 1.

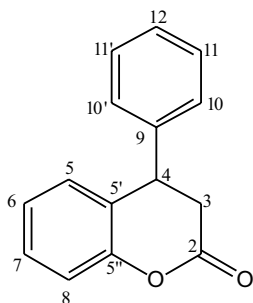


Figure 2. Structure of 4-phenylchroman-2-one

Table 1. The ^1H NMR (500 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR Data for 4-phenylchroman-2-one in CDCl_3

Position	^1H	^{13}C
1		
2		167.83
3	3.05, 3.07 (2H, dd)	37.18
4		40.835
5	4.35 (1H, t)	127.74
5'	6.98 (1H, d)	129.31
5''		151.87
6		124.83
7	7.33 (1H, t)	128.51
8	7.35 (1H, t)	117.30
9	7.17 (1H, d)	140.42
10/10'		127.84
11/11'	7.29 (2H, d)	129.31
12	7.15 (2H, t) 7.08 (1H, t)	125.93

Brine shrimp lethality activity of the compound 4-phenylchroman-2-one was $\text{LC}_{50} =$

112.2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. Compounds resulting in LC_{50} values of less than 250 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ were considered significantly active and had the potential for further investigation (Rieser et al., 1996) [14].

Conclusion

The selective one-pot reaction synthesis of 4-phenylchroman-2-one is obtained from cinnamic acid by *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, respectively. The advantage of this method is the use inexpensive agent and wide versatility of this reaction to be used for dihydrocoumarin derivative natural product synthesis. The compound of 4-phenylchroman-2-one showed a candidate anti-cancer inhibitor with BSLT (Brine Shrimp Lethality Test) assay is $\text{LC}_{50} = 112.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$.

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