

# 4-Aminoantipyrine Analogs as Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant agents: Synthesis, Biological Evaluation and Molecular Docking Studies

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** A novel series of 4-aminoantipyrine derivatives were designed and efficiently synthesized from Gewald, triphosgene and various substituted aromatic/ aliphatic/heterocyclic amines. **Methods:** The synthesized derivatives were characterized by IR, NMR, Mass and elemental analysis. The synthesized derivatives were evaluated for their anti-inflammatory activity using *in vitro* protein denaturation assay and antioxidant activity by using the 1,1-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl free radical scavenging method. To establish the selectivity and safety profile of the drug, the most active compounds 4a and 4b were further screened for cytotoxicity against HeLa and MCF-7 cell lines using the sulforhodamine-B assay. The synthesized compounds were also analyzed for ADME properties and a docking study was done into the active site of oxidoreductase, cyclooxygenase-1 and cyclooxygenase-2 enzymes in an attempt to understand their binding mode using Auto Dock Vina. **Results:** Among the series Compounds 4a and 4b showed potent anti-inflammatory activity and antioxidant activity as compared with standard diclofenac and Ascorbic acid respectively. The results of *in silico* ADME Screening showed that compounds could be exploited as an oral drug candidate.

The most prominent compound 4a and 4b showed no significant cytotoxic activity against HeLa and MCF-7 cell lines. The molecular docking study of most active compounds had shown good binding interactions against oxidoreductase, cyclooxygenase-1 and cyclooxygenase-2 enzymes. **Conclusion:** Results of *in vitro* anti-inflammatory, antioxidant activities and docking study showed that synthesized compounds had potential anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities and can be further optimized and developed as a lead compound.

**Key words:** 2-Aminothiophenes, Auto Dock, Cyclooxygenase-1 and Cyclooxygenase-2, Sulforhodamine-B assay, Oxidoreductase.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) class, the pyrazolin-5-one scaffold occupies a significant position, has attracted considerable attention from researchers due to its important biological activities. Several pyrazoles, pyrazolin-5-ones and pyrazolidine-3,5-diones have been developed.<sup>1-3</sup> Interesting anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-pyretic,<sup>2</sup> anti-inflammatory,<sup>4</sup> anti-diabetic,<sup>5</sup> anti-oxidant,<sup>6</sup> anti-, anti-proliferative,<sup>7,8</sup> antifungal and antimicrobial<sup>9</sup> effects of these compounds have been identified. Some of them are important drugs with clinical use in the treatment of fever, arthritis, musculoskeletal and joint disorders, such as phenylbutazone, dipyrone, propyfenazone, ramifenazone, suxibuzone.<sup>10</sup> Phenazone or antipyrine is a well-known compound for its analgesic and antipyretic effects, while its 4-amino derivative also has anti-inflammatory effects. The pyrazolin-5-one derivatives are known as non-selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase (COX) isoenzymes that inhibit platelet thromboxane and prostanoid synthesis.<sup>11</sup>

The biological effects of these compounds against reactive species have their scavenging ability against reactive species. During respiration, Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) produce as a natural byproduct of oxygen metabolism and play important role in human health and development provided they are under control. However, by using enzymes such as superoxide dismutase and catalase, cells can protect against ROS.<sup>12,13</sup> Nevertheless, for normal cellular function, a balance between the production of ROS and its detoxification is necessary. However, the imbalance can cause damage to the components of cells such as proteins,

lipids, sugars and nucleotides,<sup>14</sup> resulting in oxidative stress induced by the induction of various diseases, such as,<sup>15</sup> atherosclerosis,<sup>16</sup> cardiovascular disease,<sup>17</sup> inflammation, etc.<sup>18</sup>

Many studies revealed that agents with the ability to protect against ROS, synthetic, or naturally occurring are therapeutically successful in the treatment of these diseases. Antipyrine has been shown to have a strong scavenging effect for ROS, especially for hydroxyl radicals, while 4-Aminoantipyrine has shown a higher scavenging ability for oxygen (peroxyl, hydroxyl, superoxide radicals) and also for reactive nitrogen species (nitric oxide, peroxynitrite).<sup>19</sup> However, apart from the beneficial effects of pyrazoline derivatives, therapy with these reactive nitrogen species (nitric oxide, peroxynitrite) has also been shown. Skin rashes, gastrointestinal pain, cardiovascular (agranulocytosis, blood dyscrasia) complications and renal damage are the most commonly reported side effects.<sup>20</sup>

In recent years, research has focused to improve the safety profile and pharmacological effects of the classical anti-inflammatory drugs by chemical modulation of their structure with various heterocyclic systems such as thiazoles, thiadiazoles, triazoles, pyrimidines and thiophenes.<sup>21-24</sup> Within this class of heterocyclic compounds, the 2-aminothiophene ring system and their substituted derivatives have attracted a great deal of interest over the years.<sup>25</sup> Compounds with analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-depressant, antioxidant, antiviral, antitumor and other properties were

also found in the series of thiophene and thienopyrimidine derivatives.<sup>26</sup> Thus, a molecule carrying more than one pharmacophore, each with a different mode of action, may help treat more than one disease. Based on the facts above, these two heterocyclic moieties are important for anti-inflammatory as well as antioxidant activities. Our goal in the present study was to design (Figure 1) and synthesize new antipyrine derivatives with pyrazole moiety coupled with 2-aminothiophenes in the hope of improving anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Chemistry

All the solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel-G pre-coated aluminum plates (Merck) and visualized under ultraviolet (UV) light. Melting points were measured in open capillary tubes and uncorrected. The synthesized compounds were characterized by spectral analysis like <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and Mass spectroscopy. The mass spectra were recorded under ESI mode on Waters Micromass equipment (model Q-TOF micro). The NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance II 400 NMR Spectrometer (Billerica, MA, USA) at 400 MHz Frequency in deuterated DMSO using TMS as internal standard (chemical shift  $\delta$  in ppm). Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm). Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on JASCO FTIR (PS 4000) using a KBr pellet.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of ethyl 2-amino-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxylate (1)

Cyclopentanone (0.1 mol), sulfur (0.1 mol), ethyl cyanoacetate (0.1 mol) and ethanol are mixed and stirred together. To this well-stirred solution of diethylamine (0.125 mol) are added dropwise for 30 min and stirring continued for another 3hr at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was kept in refrigeration overnight. The solid separated was filtered on the next day and washed with 20ml of chilled 50% aqueous methanol and dried to get the final compound.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of 2-amino-N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (3)

2-amino-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxylate (1) (0.005 mol) and 4-Amino antipyrine (2) (0.005 mol) was transferred independently in 100 ml RBF. To this solution, 15 ml methanol was added and refluxed for 2-3 hrs at 60-70°C. Completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was poured on crushed ice and stirred. The product was precipitated out and it was filtered and dried. Recrystallized from ethanol to obtained pure compounds 3.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of 2-(Substitutedcarboxamido)-N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4a-i)

A mixture of triphosgene (0.1 mole) and aromatic/aliphatic/heterocyclic amines (0.1 mole) was transferred to 100mL RBF, to this 1, 4-dioxane was added and stirred. The reaction mixture was refluxed at 60-70°C for 2.5- 3.0 h. The flask was removed, cooled and filtered if particles were seen. To the solution/filtrate 2-amino-N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (3) was added and refluxed for 2h. The excess of 1,4-dioxane was removed by rotary distillation under reduced pressure. To the residue remaining in the flask, 50% aqueous alcoholic KOH solution was added and refluxed for another 3h. The content of the flask was poured on ice and neutralized with conc. HCl. The separated product was filtered, dried and recrystallized from ethanol. Physical Characterization data was given in Table 1.

#### N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(3-methylureido)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4a)

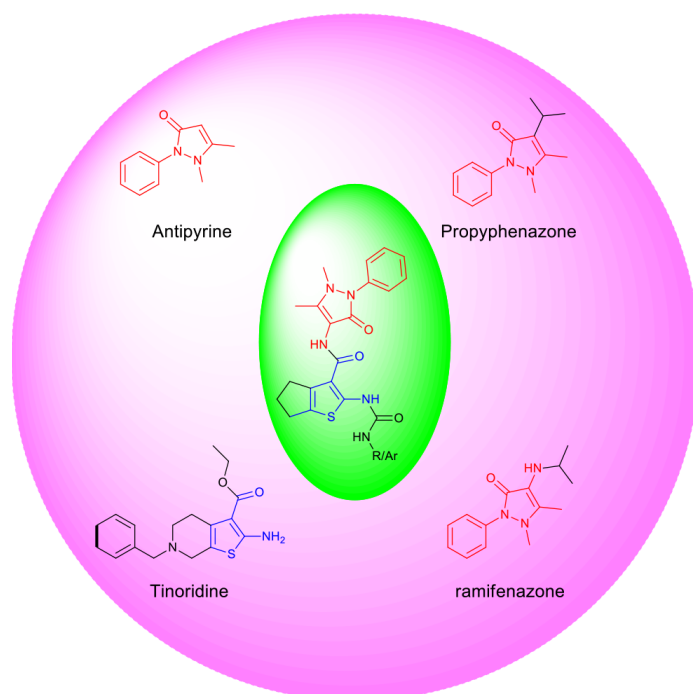
m.p. 188-190°C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3012(Ar.C-H), 2985 (C-CH); 1690 (C=O), 3328(N-H.), 1419(Ar.C=C), 1144(C-N), 1211 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 156.15, 153.84, 141.40, 135.64, 135.33, 134.90, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.57, 107.99, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 27.01, 11.29; MS m/z: 426.16 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: C, 59.28; H, 5.45; N, 16.46; O, 11.28; S, 7.54%. Found: C, 59.18; H, 5.41; N, 16.39; O, 11.31; S, 7.44%

#### N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(3-ethylureido)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4b)

m.p. 198-199°C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019(Ar.C-H), 2875 (C-CH); 1680 (C=O), 3328(N-H.), 1429(Ar.C=C), 1144(C-N), 1231 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (q, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 155.34, 153.70, 141.40, 135.64, 135.33, 134.90, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.61, 107.99, 36.89, 34.19, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 15.17, 11.29; MS m/z: 440.17 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: C, 60.12; H, 5.73; N, 15.93; O, 10.92; S, 7.30%. Found: C, 60.08; H, 5.68; N, 15.97; O, 10.89; S, 7.31%

#### N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(3,3-dimethylureido)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4c)

m.p. 154-156°C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3102(Ar.C-H), 2926 (C-CH); 1681 (C=O), 3330 (N-H.), 1399 (Ar.C=C), 1144 (C-N), 1198 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 1H), 2.88 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.35 (p, J = 5.6 Hz,



**Figure 1:** Chemical structure and pharmacophoric pattern of Anti-inflammatory drugs and newly synthesized compound 4a-i.

1H), 2.18 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 154.25, 154.05, 141.40, 135.73, 135.33, 134.97, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.39, 107.99, 36.89, 36.38, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 440.17 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C, 60.12; H, 5.73; N, 15.93; O, 10.92; S, 7.30%. Found: C, 60.19; H, 5.76; N, 15.90; O, 10.99; S, 7.33%

**2-(3,3-diethylureido)-N-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-1-carboxamide (4d)**

m.p. 162-163°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3069 (Ar.C-H), 2865 (C-CH); 1677 (C=O), 3402 (N-H.), 1419 (Ar C=C), 1144(C-N), 1181 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H), 1.13 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 154.96, 153.99, 141.40, 135.73, 135.33, 134.97, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.40, 107.99, 41.32, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 13.14, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 468.20 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C C, 61.65; H, 6.25; N, 14.98; O, 10.27; S, 6.86%. Found: C, 61.64; H, 6.26; N, 14.95; O, 10.21; S, 6.89%

**N-(3-((1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl) carbamoyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophen-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide (4e)**

m.p. 162-163°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3069 (Ar.C-H), 2865 (C-CH); 1677 (C=O), 3402 (N-H.), 1419 (Ar C=C), 1144(C-N), 1181 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H), 1.13 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 154.96, 153.99, 141.40, 135.73, 135.33, 134.97, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.40, 107.99, 41.32, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 13.14, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 468.20 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C C, 61.65; H, 6.25; N, 14.98; O, 10.27; S, 6.86%. Found: C, 61.64; H, 6.26; N, 14.95; O, 10.21; S, 6.89%

**N-(3-((1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl) carbamoyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophen-2-yl)piperazine-1-carboxamide (4f)**

m.p. 266-268°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3077 (Ar.C-H), 2973 (C-CH); 1687 (C=O), 3378 (N-H.), 1419(Ar C=C), 1094(C-N), 1231 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR

**Table 1: Physical characterization and elemental analysis of compounds 4a-i.**

Compd. No.	R	Molecular formula	Molecular weight	% Yield
4a		$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	425	91
4b		$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	439	88
4c		$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	439	87
4d		$\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	467	87
4e		$\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	479	85
4f		$\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}$	480	84
4g		$\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}$	494	89
4h		$\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$	487	88
4i		$\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$	494	78

(400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.97 – 2.92 (m, 3H), 2.86 (d,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (p,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 154.97, 154.03, 141.40, 135.89, 135.33, 134.94, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.43, 107.99, 45.55, 45.19, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 481.20 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C, 59.98; H, 5.87; N, 17.49; O, 9.99; S, 6.67 %. Found: C, 59.93; H, 5.88; N, 17.48; O, 9.98; S, 6.62 %

***N*-(3-((1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl) carbamoyl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophen-2-yl)-4-methylpiperazine-1-carboxamide (4g)**

m.p. 220-222°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3082(Ar.C-H), 2991 (C-CH); 1690 (C=O), 3328(N-H.), 1419(Ar C=C), 1150 (C-N), 1220 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.53 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.39 – 7.29 (m, 6H), 7.10 (td,  $J$  = 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (p,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.56, 162.64, 154.90, 154.03, 141.40, 135.89, 135.33, 134.94, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 111.43, 107.99, 53.37, 45.06, 44.82, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 495.21 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C, 60.71; H, 6.11; N, 16.99; O, 9.70; S, 6.48 %. Found: C, 60.74; H, 6.13; N, 16.98; O, 9.71; S, 6.44 %

***N*-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(3-phenylureido)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4h)**

m.p. 188-190°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3062(Ar.C-H), 2995 (C-CH); 1690 (C=O), 3365(N-H.), 1426 (Ar C=C), 1223(C-N), 1201 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.57 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.55, 162.64, 153.99, 153.41, 141.40, 138.72, 135.78, 135.33, 134.97, 129.23, 129.05, 126.88, 123.62, 123.40, 119.06, 111.74, 107.99, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 488.17 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C, 64.05; H, 5.17; N, 14.36; O, 9.84; S, 6.58 %. Found: C, 64.09; H, 5.18; N, 14.35; O, 9.83; S, 6.56 %

***N*-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(3-(thiazol-2-yl)ureido)-5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-3-carboxamide (4i)**

m.p. 278-280°C; IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3059 (Ar.C-H), 2985 (C-CH); 1669 (C=O), 3390 (N-H.), 1409(Ar C=C), 1130 (C-N), 1218 (C-O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.57 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (t,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  163.55, 162.64, 160.59, 153.98, 153.89, 141.40, 135.73, 135.33, 135.29, 134.97, 129.23, 126.88, 123.62, 112.05, 111.74, 107.99, 36.89, 29.89, 29.00, 27.09, 11.29; MS  $m/z$ : 495.12 [M+1]; Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$ : C, 55.85; H, 4.48; N, 16.99; O, 9.70; S, 12.97%. Found: C, 55.89; H, 4.43; N, 16.98; O, 9.73; S, 12.99%

## Biological Evaluation

### *In vitro anti-inflammatory activity by protein denaturation method*

The *in vitro* protein denaturation assay<sup>27,28</sup> was used with minor modifications to test the anti-inflammatory effects of the synthesized compounds. A volume of 1 ml of synthetic derivatives at various concentrations (25, 50, 75 and 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) was homogenized with 1 ml of bovine serum albumin aqueous solution (5 percent) Then the mixtures were incubated at  $(37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C})$  in an incubator for 15 min and heated at  $70^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min. After cooling, the absorbance was measured at 660 nm for each mixture. Diclofenac sodium was used as a reference standard at 1 mM and the control tube was a mixture of distilled water and BSA.

Each test was performed in triplicate. The percentage inhibition of protein denaturation calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage of inhibition (\%)} = (A_{\text{Blank}} - A_{\text{sample}}) / A_{\text{Blank}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

Where,  $A_{\text{Blank}}$  = absorbance of the blank reaction,  $A_{\text{Sample}}$  = absorbance of the test compounds. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value was calculated from the graph plotted between % inhibition and synthesized derivatives.

### *In vitro antioxidant assay*

Antioxidant activity was evaluated spectrophotometrically by using the free radical scavenging method. The hydrogen atom or electron donation ability of some compounds was measured from the bleaching of the purple-colored methanol solution of 1,1-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). The spectrophotometric assay uses the stable radical DPPH as a reagent. DPPH solution (3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) was prepared in methanol. The solution of methanol and DPPH (1:1) was used for blank reference. 4 dilutions of different concentrations (25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , 75  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  and 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) of each test compound and standard (ascorbic acid) were prepared in the methanol and 1 ml of each concentration was added to 1 ml of DPPH solution. After vigorous shaking, the reaction mixture was placed in a dark place for 30 min at room temperature and their absorbance was measured at 517 nm.<sup>29</sup> Percentage (%) inhibition of free radical DPPH was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = (A_{\text{Blank}} - A_{\text{sample}}) / A_{\text{Blank}} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

Where,  $A_{\text{Blank}}$  = absorbance of the blank reaction,  $A_{\text{Sample}}$  = absorbance of the test compounds. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value was calculated from the graph plotted between % inhibition and synthesized derivatives.

### *In vitro Cytotoxicity Study*

The toxicity study of the synthesized compounds at the early stage of research simplifies the path to clinical trials and reduces the failure of potential therapeutics at later stages of testing.<sup>30</sup> *In vitro* cytotoxicity tests of the most active compounds 4a and 4b were performed against HeLa (human cervical cell line) and MCF-7 (human breast cell lines) by SRB (sulforhodamine B) assay using Adriamycin as a positive control to explore the selectivity and safety profile of the synthesized compounds.<sup>31</sup> The viability and growth in the presence of test material is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Cytotoxicity} = \frac{\text{Average of control} - \text{Average of compound}}{\text{Average of control} - \text{Average of blank}} \times 100$$

Where control is the culture medium with cells and DMSO and blank is the culture medium without cells. This assay gives growth inhibition concentration ( $\text{GI}_{50}$ ) value, which was taken as the minimum concentration of the compound killing 50 % of the cells.

## Molecular docking study

### *Protein preparation*

The Crystal structure of oxidoreductase (PDB: 1MBT),<sup>32</sup> COX-1 (PDB: 3KK6),<sup>33,34</sup> and COX-2 (PDB: 3LN1)<sup>35</sup> crystal structures have been obtained from the Protein Data Bank <http://www.rcsb.org>. And Polar hydrogen was added. Gasteiger partial charges should be allocated to each atom. Then, the final protein structure was saved in the pdbqt format.

### *Ligand design*

One of the most important determinants for effective docking is the structure of ligands, so pre-analysis of the structures of ligands is most important. Drugs such as ligand properties were confirmed by the manual



application of the Rule of Five of Lipinski and used for further studies. To draw the structure of the ligands (4a-i), Chem and Bio Draw 12.0 was used. The ligands were cleaned in 2D and further energy minimized in 3D by the MM2 parameters and force field of the Chem and Bio 3D 12.0 documentation. Original ionization states were preserved and the 3D structures were used to assess chiralities. All the structures were written in mol2 file format and finally converted into PDB format. AutoDock requires that ligands for each atom give partial atomic charges and types of AutoDock atoms; it also requires a description of the ligands' rotatable bonds. AutoDock relies on the idea of a tree in which the 'root' is the rigid core of the molecule and the 'branches' extending from the root are flexible portions. Therefore pdbqt format was used for ligands, which were recognized by AutoDock. AutoDock allows fully flexible modeling of specific portions of the receptor, like that of ligands. In the present study, the binding site was selected based on the amino acid residues, which were involved in binding with oxidoreductase, COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes obtained from Protein Data Bank. The grid was centered at the region including amino acid residues that surround the active sites. To find the conformers with the lowest binding energy, the Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm (LGA) was used based on an optimization algorithm. Finally, the docking task was performed using EasyDockVina v2.0 (GUI of AutoDock Vina. EasyDockVina is a tool to perform multiple receptor-ligand docking with AutoDockVina. It uses AutoDock Vina for performing docking, it also uses MGLtools and open babel for the preparation of molecules. The results of molecular docking studies were obtained in output files in the form of estimated free energy bindings (kcal/mol) and inhibition constant ( $K_i$  in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 298.15 K temperature. For visualization and analyses of docking results, pymol, Discovery studio and Protein-ligand interaction profiler were used, which explored hydrogen, hydrophobic and van der Waals contacts.

#### ADME prediction

For the prediction of ADME properties, a computational study of synthesized compounds 4a-i was carried out. partition coefficient logarithm (miLog P), molecular weight (MW), Molecular volume (MV), hydrogen bond donor number (n-OH/NH), hydrogen bond acceptor number (n-ON), number of rotatable bonds (n-ROTB), topological polar surface area (TPSA) and Lipinski's rule of five were measured using the Molinspiration online property calculation toolkit. Absorption (% ABS) was determined by applying formula:  $\% \text{ ABS} = 109 - (0.345 \times \text{TPSA})$ .<sup>36</sup>

## RESULTS

The procedure for the synthesis of the designed compounds 4a-i is illustrated in Scheme (Figure 2). As per the scheme, gewald (1), 4-Aminantipyrene (2) and 15 ml methanol was refluxed for 2-3 hrs at 60-70°C to yield the open-chain urea derivative (3) as an intermediate. This reaction mixture was treated with stirring a 1:1 mixture of substituted anilines and triphosgene in 1,4-dioxane and was refluxed for 2-3h to afford final compounds (4a-i).

A total of nine antipyrene (4a-i) derivatives were synthesized following this synthetic protocol. The yields of synthesized novel compounds were in the range of 78–91%. Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. The physical data for the compounds are presented in Table 1. The synthesized compounds were characterized by IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, mass spectral analysis and elemental analysis.

#### In vitro anti-inflammatory activity

All the synthesized compounds were evaluated for anti-inflammatory activity by protein denaturation method (Table 2). The results of the anti-inflammatory activity showed that all the compounds exhibited good to moderate anti-inflammatory activity. The results were expressed as percentage inhibition of protein denaturation. The result reveals that

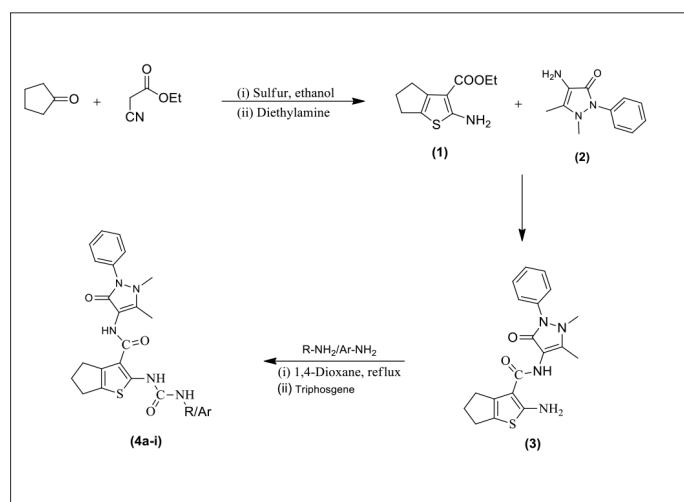


Figure 2: Scheme for the synthesis of titled compounds 4(a-i).

Table 2: Anti-inflammatory activity of the synthesized derivatives (4a-i).

Compound	% inhibition (Protein denaturation)				$\text{IC}_{50}$ ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )
	25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	75 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	
4a	42.01 $\pm$ 0.50	57.80 $\pm$ 0.58	65.20 $\pm$ 0.25	74.10 $\pm$ 0.47	38.98 $\pm$ 0.98
4b	32.17 $\pm$ 1.02	44.60 $\pm$ 1.10	57.18 $\pm$ 0.37	67.97 $\pm$ 0.19	61.62 $\pm$ 0.52
4c	28.01 $\pm$ 2.19*	42.13 $\pm$ 0.79	53.90 $\pm$ 0.54	64.29 $\pm$ 0.28**	68.60 $\pm$ 0.58
4d	29.80 $\pm$ 0.79	41.20 $\pm$ 0.12	53.20 $\pm$ 0.41	64.27 $\pm$ 0.45	68.85 $\pm$ 0.27
4e	35.50 $\pm$ 2.01	47.89 $\pm$ 0.44**	59.37 $\pm$ 0.12	69.20 $\pm$ 0.84	55.91 $\pm$ 0.42
4f	23.20 $\pm$ 0.11*	37.69 $\pm$ 0.54	49.21 $\pm$ 0.25**	60.18 $\pm$ 0.45	77.81 $\pm$ 0.87**
4g	39.25 $\pm$ 0.59	47.65 $\pm$ 0.21	59.60 $\pm$ 0.29	71.67 $\pm$ 0.89	52.20 $\pm$ 0.50
4h	41.23 $\pm$ 0.31	55.87 $\pm$ 0.38	62.19 $\pm$ 0.36	71.99 $\pm$ 0.51	42.71 $\pm$ 0.71
4i	30.17 $\pm$ 0.47	42.30 $\pm$ 0.99	52.19 $\pm$ 0.52	62.45 $\pm$ 0.15	70.21 $\pm$ 0.31
Diclofenac	44.69 $\pm$ 0.55	65.20 $\pm$ 0.33	74.90 $\pm$ 0.12	81.50 $\pm$ 0.22	28.04 $\pm$ 0.15

All assays were carried out in triplicate. All data were analyzed by analysis of variance followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test for  $n=3$ : \* $P \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $P, 0.01$ . The percentage values was calculated from the Eq. 1. Lower  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values indicate higher Anti-inflammatory activity.

compounds 4a has shown the highest inhibition ( $IC_{50} = 38.98 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) as compared with standard diclofenac sodium ( $IC_{50} = 28.04 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ), whereas compounds 4e, 4g and 4h displayed good inhibition.

#### *In vitro antioxidant assay*

Newly synthesized derivatives were evaluated for their *in vitro* antioxidant activity by DPPH assay. The percentage (%) inhibition was calculated from Eq. 1 and the  $IC_{50}$  value of newly synthesized compounds was obtained from the graph drawn between % inhibition v/s concentrations of test compounds. The results reveal that all the newly synthesized compounds had shown good to moderate antioxidant activity. Compound 4b had shown excellent antioxidant activity with  $IC_{50}$  values of  $45.7 \mu\text{g/mL}$  compared to ascorbic acid as a standard drug. Whereas 4a, 4h and 4i compounds showed good inhibition. The results were summarized in Table 3.

#### *In vitro Cytotoxicity Study*

The cytotoxicity of the most promising compounds 4a and 4b was evaluated against the two human cell lines, HeLa (Human cervical cell line) and MCF7 (human breast cell line) using Sulforhodamine B (SRB) assay using Adriamycin as a positive control. The observed results are summarized in Table 4. The cytotoxic effect of these compounds was checked on cell lines using the concentration between the ranges of  $100 \mu\text{g/mL}$  to  $0.50 \mu\text{g/mL}$  to find the 100 % growth inhibition value ( $GI_{50}$ ). The results indicated that, in SRB cytotoxicity studies, the synthesized compounds 4a and 4b have shown no significant cell toxicity against HeLa and MCF-7 cell lines as shown in Table 4. Hence the compounds 4a and 4b can be developed as safer and selective anti-inflammatory agents.

#### *Molecular docking study*

The Crystal structure of oxidoreductase (PDB: 1MBT), COX-1 (PDB: 3KK6) and COX-2 (PDB: 3kk6) were obtained from the Protein Data Bank <http://www.rcsb.org>. To predict possible binding interactions, the proposed ligands (4a-i) were docked into the receptors of oxidoreductase (PDB: 1MBT) and COX-1 and COX 2 by using AutoDock 1.5.6. The grid was prepared at the region including amino acid residues that surround the active sites. The results were expressed in terms of estimated free binding energies (kcal/mol) as shown in Table 5 and represented in Figure 3.

#### *In silico ADME prediction*

The *in silico* ADME prediction of the synthesized compounds 4a-i was performed using Molinspiration online property calculation toolkit

(<http://www.molinspiration.com/cgi-bin/properties> 2014) and the results are provided in Table 6. All synthesized antipyrine derivatives have a good % ABS ranging from 71.03-78.51%. Also, none of the synthesized compounds violated the Lipinski rule of five, thus showing good drug-like properties. A molecule likely to be developed as an orally active drug candidate should not violate more than one of the following four criteria: molecular weight  $\leq 500$ ,  $miLogP$  (octanol-water partition coefficient)  $\leq 5$ , number of hydrogen bond donors  $\leq 5$  and number of hydrogen bond acceptors  $\leq 10$ . All the compounds 4a-I follow the criteria for orally active drug and therefore, these compounds may have good potential as oral agents for subsequent development.

**Table 4: IC50 values of tested compounds against MCF-7 and HeLa cell lines.**

Compound No.	$^aGI_{50} (\mu\text{g/mL})$	
	MCF7	HeLa
4a	>100	>100
4b	>100	>100
Adriamycin	0.5	0.35

<sup>a</sup> $GI_{50}$  is the concentration exhibiting 50 % inhibition of the growth as compared to the growth of control. HeLa (Human cervical cell line) and MCF7 (human breast cell line) All assays were carried out in triplicate. The percentage values was calculated from the Eq. 3.

**Table 5: Interaction energies of compounds 4a-i and standard drugs with the Oxidoreductase, COX-1, and COX-2 enzymes.**

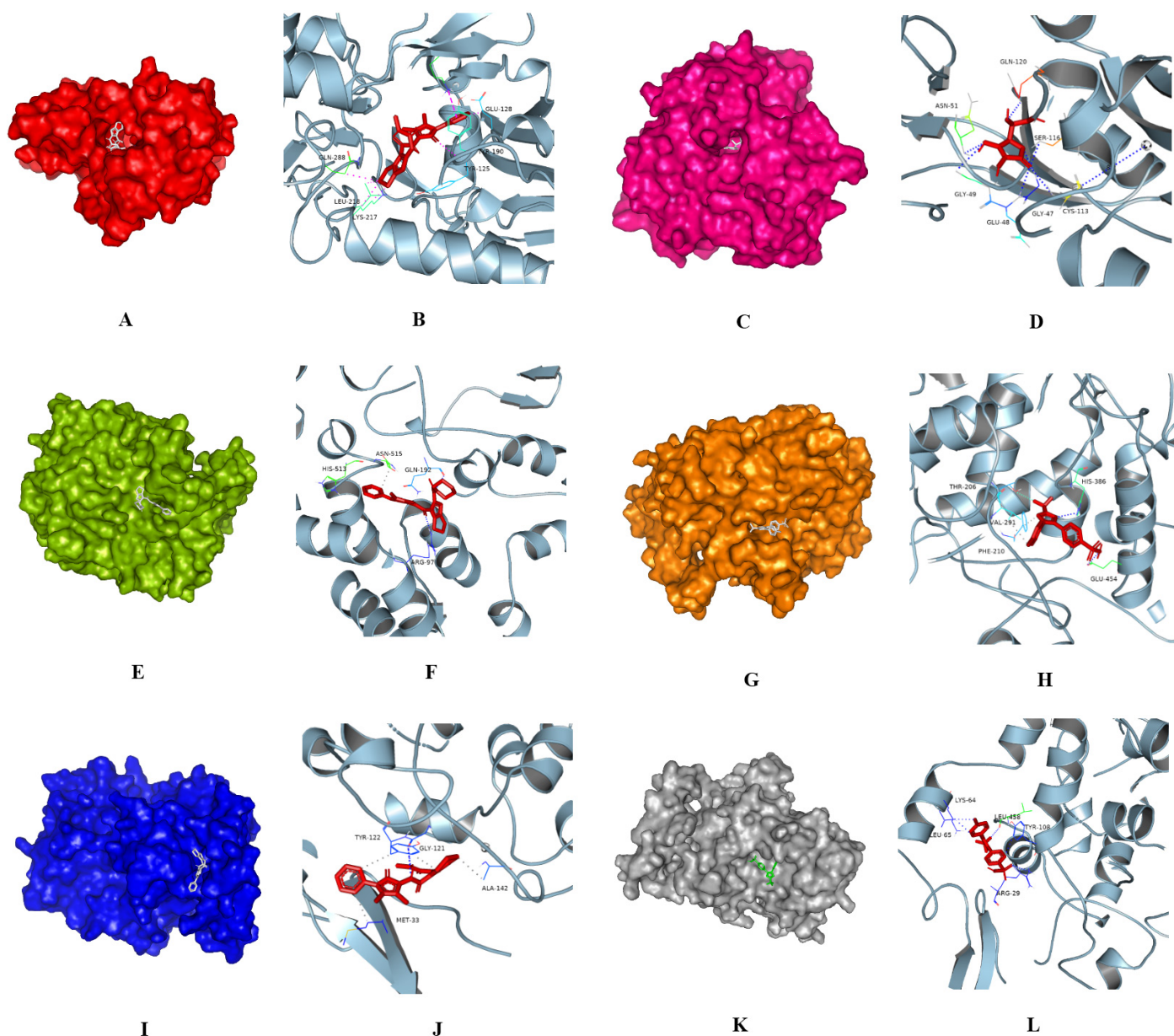
Compound	Binding Energy (kcal/ mol)		
	1MBT	3KK6	3LN1
4a	-9.5	-9	-8.7
4b	-8.6	-8.7	-8.4
4c	-8.5	-8.7	-8.1
4d	-8.7	-8.8	-8.1
4e	-8.3	-9.6	-8.6
4f	-8	-9.3	-7.8
4g	-8.4	-9.1	-8.5
4h	-7.4	-9.5	-8.6
4i	-8.3	-8.9	-8.6
celecoxib	-	-8.2	-8.2
Ascorbic acid	-7.7	-	-

Lower binding energy values indicate a higher docking score

**Table 3: Antioxidant activities of the synthesized derivatives (4a-i).**

Compound	% inhibition (Scavenging activity)				$IC_{50} (\mu\text{g/mL})$
	25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	75 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	
4a	35.65 $\pm$ 0.21	51.23 $\pm$ 0.41	65.38 $\pm$ 0.33	78.00 $\pm$ 0.51	49.18 $\pm$ 0.97
4b	36.62 $\pm$ 0.54	54.63 $\pm$ 0.56	67.82 $\pm$ 0.42	82.63 $\pm$ 0.42	45.70 $\pm$ 0.32
4c	23.02 $\pm$ 0.69	39.65 $\pm$ 0.31	56.32 $\pm$ 0.25*	70.23 $\pm$ 0.71	66.77 $\pm$ 0.25
4d	21.68 $\pm$ 0.37	38.91 $\pm$ 0.28	56.74 $\pm$ 0.32	70.73 $\pm$ 0.81**	67.69 $\pm$ 0.68
4e	21.03 $\pm$ 0.38*	33.65 $\pm$ 0.39	48.56 $\pm$ 0.16	75.62 $\pm$ 0.29	69.91 $\pm$ 0.79**
4f	25.32 $\pm$ 0.27	30.56 $\pm$ 0.57	52.36 $\pm$ 0.28**	67.23 $\pm$ 0.38	72.9 $\pm$ 0.25
4g	15.63 $\pm$ 0.21	32.63 $\pm$ 0.24	44.65 $\pm$ 0.50	66.65 $\pm$ 0.21	77.35 $\pm$ 0.31
4h	33.21 $\pm$ 0.37	48.62 $\pm$ 0.84*	64.65 $\pm$ 0.27	81.62 $\pm$ 0.54	51.61 $\pm$ 0.20
4i	32.47 $\pm$ 0.75	47.61 $\pm$ 0.99	64.92 $\pm$ 0.91**	78.52 $\pm$ 0.34	53.12 $\pm$ 0.17
Ascorbic acid	36.41 $\pm$ 0.19	55.91 $\pm$ 0.24	67.6 $\pm$ 0.58	84.94 $\pm$ 0.68	44.68 $\pm$ 0.10

All assays were carried out in triplicate. All data were analyzed by analysis of variance followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test for  $n=3$ : \* $P \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $P, 0.01$ . The percentage values was calculated from the Eq. 2. Lower  $IC_{50}$  values indicate higher radical scavenging activity.



**Figure 3:** Binding modes of ligands and receptors by molecular docking simulation. Docking pose (A) and surface representation (B) of compound 4a and oxidoreductase (1MBT). Docking pose (C) and surface representation (D) of standard drug ascorbic acid and oxidoreductase (1MBT). Docking pose (E) and surface representation (F) of compound 4e and COX-1 (3KK6). Docking pose (G) and surface representation (H) of standard drug Celecoxib and COX-1 (3KK6). Docking pose (I) and surface representation (J) of compound 4a and COX-2 (3LN1). Docking pose (K) and surface representation (L) of standard drug Celecoxib and COX-2 (3LN1). Graphics generated with PyMol.

**Table 6:** Pharmacokinetic parameters important for good oral bioavailability.

Entry	%ABS	TPSA	volume	nrotb	miLogP	MW	nON	nOHNH	Lipinski's violations	Drug-likeness model score
4a	75.47	97.16	371.71	4	2.09	425.51	8	3	0	1.33
4b	75.47	97.16	388.51	5	2.47	439.54	8	3	0	1.50
4c	78.51	88.37	388.65	4	1.95	439.54	8	2	0	1.58
4d	78.51	88.37	422.26	6	3.09	467.6	8	2	0	1.86
4e	78.51	88.37	428.7	4	3.25	479.61	8	2	0	1.49
4f	74.36	100.4	424.3	4	1.63	480.59	9	3	0	1.43
4g	77.39	91.61	441.24	4	2.23	494.62	9	2	0	2.09
4h	75.47	97.16	426.56	5	3.79	487.58	8	3	0	0.88
4i	71.03	110.05	413.11	5	2.85	494.6	9	3	0	1.43



## Statistical Analysis

All assays were carried out in triplicate. Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism Software. Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM. All data were analyzed by analysis of variance followed by Dunnett's multiple comparison test for  $n=3$ ; \* $P \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $P, 0.01$ .

## DISCUSSION

Pyrazolone derivatives such as antipyrine, dipyrone and aminopyrine are well known compounds used mainly as analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic drugs and their pharmacological molecular mechanism has been extensively studied.<sup>37</sup> Several derivatives of antipyrine were also biologically evaluated and analgesic,<sup>38</sup> anti-inflammatory,<sup>39</sup> antimicrobial,<sup>40</sup> and anticancer activity<sup>41-43</sup> have been reported. All the titled compounds were designed and synthesized by reaction between 4-Aminoantipyrine, Gewald<sup>44</sup> and various amines. All the reactions were monitored throughout by TLC. All the structures of final compounds were confirmed by IR, NMR and mass spectrometry.

The synthesized 4-Aminoantipyrine analogs were screened for their *in vitro* anti-inflammatory activity using protein denaturation assay. Diclofenac was used as standard drug for comparison. The title compounds were also evaluated for their antioxidant activity by DPPH assay using Ascorbic acid as standard drug. The results revealed that synthesized compounds showed excellent anti-inflammatory activity and compound 4a was found to be most active compound suggesting that substitution of a simple methyl group on amine will responsible for this action. However, compounds bearing piperidine (4e), N-methylpiperazine (4g) and aniline rings (4h) were found to be next most active compounds in the series. Compounds having piperazine ring (4f) and thiazole ring (4i) are less active than other compounds of the series. While compound 4b was found to be most potent antioxidant, suggested that substitution of ethyl group on amine will responsible for this action. However, compounds bearing methyl group (4a), aniline rings (4h) and thiazole ring (4i) were found to be next most active antioxidant compounds. Similarly Compounds having piperazine ring (4f) and N-methylpiperazine (4g) are less active than other compounds of the series. Cytotoxicity study of the most potent compounds 4a and 4b were evaluated on cell growth in cell lines. *In vitro* cytotoxicity of the most potent compounds 4a and 4b was assessed on a panel of 2 human cell lines (HeLa and MCF7) using SRB assay for measuring cellular proliferation. Each concentration was tested in triplicate in a single experiment.  $GI_{50}$  values were calculated using regression analysis by plotting the percentage survival versus concentrations. The results indicated that, in SRB cytotoxicity studies, most active compounds 4a and 4b shown no significant cell toxicity against HeLa and MCF7 cell lines at the maximum concentration evaluated.

In drug-receptor interaction study ligands were ranked according to docking score/estimated free energy of binding. Molecular docking studies indicated that estimated free energy of binding of docked ligand ranged between -7.4 to -9.5 for oxidoreductase, -8.7 to -9.6 for COX-1 and -7.8 to -8.7 for COX-2 enzymes respectively. Further analyses of results showed that methyl amine substituted derivative (4a) shown the highest affinity with binding energy -9.5 kcal/mol towards oxidoreductase, interacting with amino acid residues TYR125, GLU128, TYR190, LYS217, LEU218 and GLN288 compared with standard Ascorbic acid with binding energy -5.7 kcal/mol and interacting amino acid residues such as GLY47, GLU48, GLY49, ASN51, SER116 and GLN120. In contrast, piperidine substituted derivative (4e) was found to have highest affinity with binding energy -9.6 kcal/mol towards COX-1, interacting with amino acid residues like ARG97, GLN192, HIS513 and ASN515 compared with standard Celecoxib with binding energy -8.2 kcal/mol and interacting amino acid residues such as

THR206, PHE210, VAL291, HIS386 and GLU454. While methyl amine substituted derivative (4a) was found to have highest affinity with binding energy -9.6 kcal/mol towards COX-2, interacting with amino acid residues like MET33, GLY121, TYR122 and ALA142 (Figure 3) compared with standard Celecoxib with binding energy -8.2 kcal/mol and interacting amino acid residues such as ARG29, LYS64, LEU65, TYR108 and LEU458. The *in silico* ADME prediction of the synthesized compounds showed that all synthesized antipyrine derivatives have a good % ABS ranging from 71.03-78.51%. In addition, none of the synthesized compounds violated the Lipinski rule of five,<sup>45</sup> thus showing good drug-like properties. All the compounds 4a-i follows the criteria for orally active drug and therefore, these compounds may have good potential as oral agents for subsequent development.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a novel 2-Aminothiophene coupled Antipyrine derivatives 4(a-i) were designed and synthesized. The structures of the synthesized compounds were confirmed using different spectroscopic techniques. The synthesized compounds were evaluated for their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities. The anti-inflammatory activity of the final products was performed using *in vitro* protein denaturation assay. The result reveals that Most of the compounds showed remarkably good anti-inflammatory activity ( $IC_{50}$  range = 38.98-77.81 $\mu$ g/mL). The remaining compounds have shown moderate activity. Compound 4a was found to be the most active compound ( $IC_{50}$  value = 38.98 $\mu$ g/mL), when compared with the standard drug Diclofenac ( $IC_{50}$  value = 28.04 $\mu$ g/mL). Based on antioxidant activity data, compounds 4b was found to be the most potent ( $IC_{50}$  value = 45.7 $\mu$ g/mL) as compared to the standard drug Ascorbic acid ( $IC_{50}$  value = 44.68 $\mu$ g/mL). Furthermore, the cytotoxicity study of the most potent compounds 4a and 4b revealed that compounds did not show any significant cytotoxicity against MCF7 and HeLa cell lines at the maximum concentration evaluated, thus indicating its selectivity in anti-inflammatory action. Further, the docking studies of synthesized compounds with different receptors such as oxidoreductase, COX-1 and COX-2 protein showed good binding interactions and formed various hydrophobic interactions with active site residues. Thus, suggesting that the compounds from the present series can be further optimized and developed as a lead molecule.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**TLC:** Thin Layer Chromatography; **MP:** Melting Point; **IR:** Infra-red; **UV:** Ultraviolet; **NMR:** Nuclear Magnetic Resonance; **MS:** Mass Spectroscopic; **CHN:** Carbon hydrogen and nitrogen; **FTIR:** Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy; **KBr:** Potassium bromide; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR:** Hydrogen-1 NMR; **CdCl<sub>2</sub>:** Cadmium Chloride; **DMSO:** Dimethyl Sulfoxide; **PDB:** Protein DATA Bank; **% ABS:** Absorption; **MV:** molecular volume; **MW:** molecular weight; **miLog P:** logarithm of partition coefficient; **n-ON:** number of hydrogen bond acceptors; **n-OHNH:** number of hydrogen bond donors; **TPSA:** topological polar surface area; **n-ROTB:** number of rotatable bonds.



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