



# The Open Medicinal Chemistry Journal

Content list available at: <https://openmedicinalchemistryjournal.com>



## REVIEW ARTICLE

### Synthesis of Medicinally Important Indole Derivatives: A Review

Deeptanu Sarkar<sup>1</sup>, Andleeb Amin<sup>1</sup>, Tanzeela Qadir<sup>1</sup> and Praveen K. Sharma<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical Engineering and Physical Sciences, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, India-144411

#### Abstract:

Indoles constitute a widely occurring functional group in nature and are present in an extensive number of bioactive natural products and medicinally important compounds. As a result, exponential increases in the development of novel methods for the formation of indole core along with site-specific indoles have been established. Conventional methods for the synthesis of indoles are getting replaced with green methods involving ionic liquids, water as a solvent, solid acid catalyst, microwave irradiation and the use of nanoparticles under solvent-free conditions. In addition, there are immense applications of the substituted indoles in diverse fields.

**Keywords:** Indoles, Ionic liquids, Microwave irradiation, Nanoparticles, Heterocyclic compounds, Anti-tubercular.

#### Article History

Received: December 25, 2020

Revised: May 28, 2021

Accepted: May 31, 2021

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The study of heterocyclic compounds has become a major topic today as most of the natural compounds are essentially heterocyclic compounds. Among the heterocycles, indole-based compounds have immense applications in the field of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, dyestuff, *etc.* [ 1 ]. Indole derivatives are widely used as anti-inflammatory [ 2 ], anti-microbial, anti-viral, anti-cancer, antirheumatoidal, anti-HIV, and anti-tumor drugs, as well as corrosion inhibitors, copolymers and sanitizers [3 - 12]. Compounds like 2-aryloindole [13], 2,3-diaryloindole [13], 2-aryl-3-arylcarbonyloindole [13], indole-3-carbinol [14], di-indol-3-yl disulfides [15], and hetero-annulated indole derivatives [16] have an indole ring which possesses potential anti-cancer properties. M. Fadaeinasab *et al.* reported that the indole alkaloid Reflexin A, extracted from *Rauwolfia reflexa*, possesses anti-cancer properties against HCT-116 cancer cells [17]. Recently, Z.-X. He *et al.* synthesized new thiosemicarbazone-indole derivatives having anti-cancer properties and low toxic effects [18]. H. Hu *et al.* designed twelve new substituted indole-2-carbohydrazone derivatives and found that some of them possessed high anti-cancer activity and inhibitory effect on CDK9 while others showed moderate or little such activities [19]. 5-substituted indole derivatives [20], substituted pyrido [3,4-b] indole derivatives [21], indole-7-carboxamides [22], *etc.* compounds show anti-

HIV activities. Other indole-based 4-thiazolidinones and their hydrazones that were synthesized by G. Cihan-Ustundag *et al.* [23] showed anti-tubercular activities. G. Sanna *et al.* [24] synthesized 2-(1H-indol-3-yl) ethyl thiourea derivatives that showed promising anti-microbial results. Compounds like indole-3-guanylhydrazone hydrochloride (LQM01) [25], 7-HMIA (7-hydroxyl-1-methylindole-3- acetonitrile) [26], N-substituted indole derivatives [27], chromone-indole derivatives [28], capsaicin-based indole and nitroindole derivatives [29] possess anti-inflammatory activities. Indole ring-based alkaloid [30], Reserpine, extracted from *Rauwolfia serpentina* is antihypertensive in nature. A plant growth hormone, Auxin (Indole-3-acetic acid), is essential for growth in plants through cell division [31] and exhibits a significant role in the transport of water under drought conditions [32]. Biopolymeric hydrogels based on Auxins [33] have anti-microbial and anti-oxidant properties. Melatonin (an indole derivative) and its analogues also exhibit antioxidant properties [34]. Indomethacin, an acyclogenesis-1 inhibitor, is an anti-inflammatory drug which has been used for years [35]. Harmicine, an alkaloid containing indole nucleus, possesses antileishmanial and antinociceptive properties [36]. C. Sanaboina *et al.* [37] reported the synthesis of indole-based compounds ( $\pm$ )-harmicine (Fig. 1). M. Sayed *et al.* synthesized indolylthienopyrimidine derivatives that are thermally stable and have the ability to exert anti-microbial activities [38]. Indigo is probably the oldest and the most famous colorant based on indole. Dyes based on indigo moiety like Vat blue 4B [39], indirubin [39], 6,6'-dibromoindigo [39] have already been commercialized. Indigo carmine (an indole derivative) or sodium salt of 5,5'-indigodisulfonic acid is used as a food

\* Address correspondence to this author at Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical Engineering and Physical Sciences, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, India-144411; E-mails: [pk\\_pandit1982@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_pandit1982@yahoo.com); [praveen.14155@lpu.co.in](mailto:praveen.14155@lpu.co.in)

colorant [40]. E. Keles *et al.* synthesized indole-based push-pull dyes containing dimethine and azo chromophores in the same structure were characterized by Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR), nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and mass spectrometry [41]. Donor system ( $\pi$ -acceptor- $\pi$ -donor-D- $\pi$ -A- $\pi$ -D) is included in the synthesized dyes containing azo and dimethine chromophores. Triarylmethane and its analogues are widely used in dyes. S. Cheruku *et al.* [42] synthesized triarylmethane derivatives which are medicinally important by reacting indoles and benzhydrols. Y.F. Liu *et al.* extracted five new isatindigotindoloides (indole alkaloid glucosides) extracted from *Isatis indigotica* roots, three out of which have shown antiviral properties against the influenza virus [43]. A.-H. Chen *et al.* reported the isolation of 10-methoxyakuammidine (a monoterpene indole alkaloid) having anti-cancer properties against human cancer cells [44]. N-formylserotonin, along with five other indole alkaloids, was isolated by Y.-H. Dai *et al.* from Chinese medicine Chansu [45]. Out of those six alkaloids, only Bufoserotonin C was found to have a cytotoxic effect against human lung adenocarcinoma epithelial cells. There are several indole alkaloids isolated from plants like *Aegiceras corniculatum* [46], *Cimicifuga heracleifolia* [47], *Murraya paniculata* [48], and *Acanthus ilicifolius* [49]. Y. Chang *et al.* devised indole-based IHT probe for the detection of Cu(II) ion. This low-cost probe shows visible colour change to naked eyes [50]. S. Li *et al.* synthesized poly(indoles) that can act as conducting polymer, energy storage and also can detect Fe(III) ion [51]. Y. Tang *et al.* [52] designed a highly specific and sensitive light-up fluorescent probe to detect Hg(II) ions based on indole-rhodamine fluorophore. A. Hanna-Elias *et al.* [53] showed that indole-3-methanamine and its derivatives can act as ligands for 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor. A. Kathiravan *et al.* [54] reported that indole attached with rhodanine-3- acetic acid group is an efficient compound for the dye-sensitized solar cells, and hence acts as an excellent light harvester. M. Zhang *et al.* synthesized 6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1H-indole to develop a non-linear optical

chromophore with enhanced properties [55]. X. Zhou *et al.* synthesized Thieno[3,2-b]indole (TI) bridged molecules that have applications in organic solar cells [56]. Y. Wang *et al.* synthesized chiral indole-phosphine oxazoline ligands which are useful for allylic alkylation reaction using palladium catalyst [57]. T. Suzuki *et al.* [58] synthesized substituted indoles, showing good pharmacological properties, in the presence of trichloroacetimidates *via* Friedel-Crafts alkylation of indoles. H.H. Dib *et al.* [59] synthesized indole derivatives with excellent biological activities *via* gas-phase pyrolysis reaction.

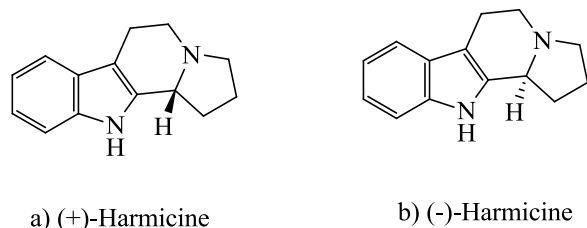
Thus, the synthesis of indole and its derivatives is quite interesting. In order to synthesize those compounds, it is very important to follow the Green Chemistry protocols. Green chemistry can be used to develop the reaction in such a manner that reduces or eliminates environmental impacts and generation of hazardous by-products [60]. Developing a reaction using new technologies following the protocols of green chemistry has become an important topic in this field of research.

This review mainly focuses on the synthesis of indole and its derivatives using both conventional and green methodologies.

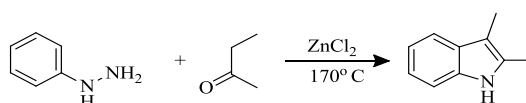
## 2. CONVENTIONAL METHODS

### 2.1. Synthesis of Indole Derivatives from Aromatic Hydrazines

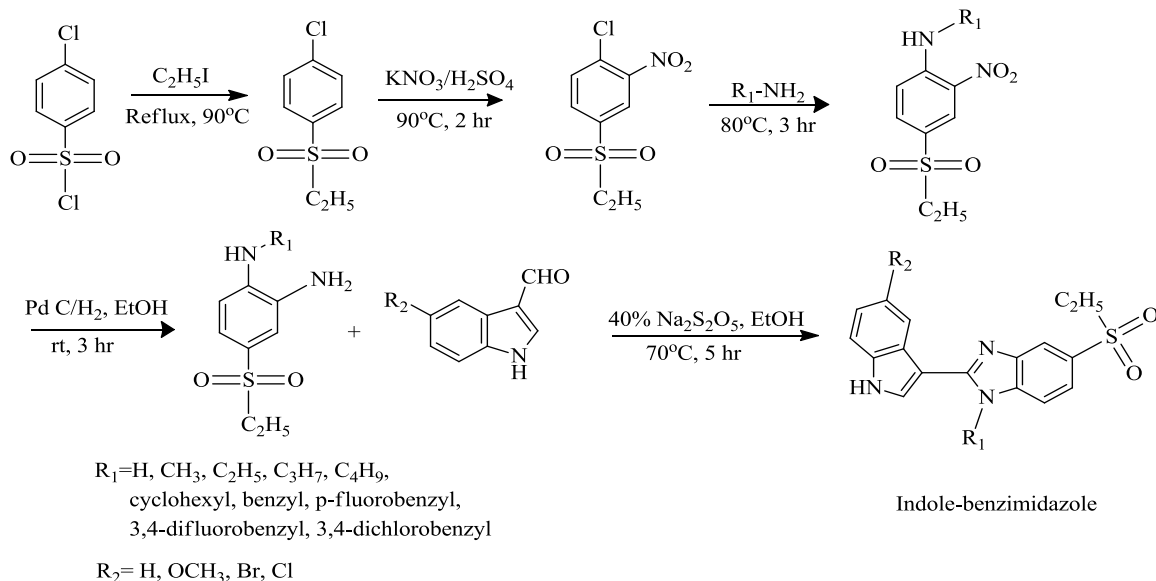
In 1883, this reaction was first reported by Emil Fischer and Jourdan. Here, in the presence of Lewis/mineral acid, arylhydrazones coupled from aromatic hydrazines were reacted with aldehydes or ketones to give indole derivatives [61] (Scheme 1). Cation-exchange resins, toluene sulfonic acid, phosphorus trichloride and acidic clays were used for efficient cyclisation at different temperatures [62]. Electron-withdrawing groups slow down the progression while electron-donating groups available with benzene ring enhance the rate of the reaction.



**Fig. (1).** a) (+)-Harmicine, b) (-)-Harmicine.



**Scheme-1.** Fischer indole synthesis by the conventional method.

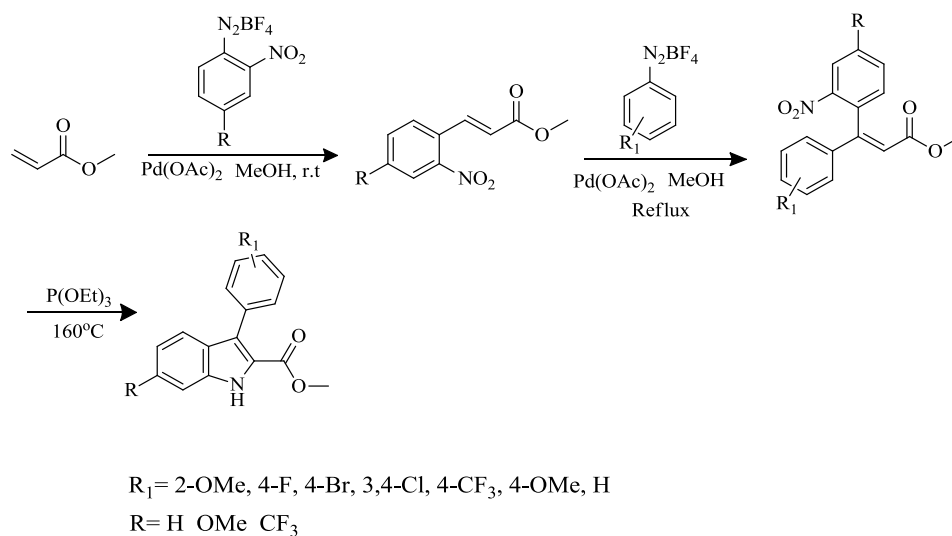


Scheme-2. Preparation of indole-benzimidazole.

## 2.2. Synthesis of Indole Derivatives from 4-(Ethylsulfonyl)-1-Chloro-2-Nitrobenzene

F.Z. Karadayi *et al.* [63] successfully synthesized indole-benzimidazole derivatives. A total of 37 derivatives of indole-benzimidazole and their anti-cancer activity were studied. Among them, the compounds that had p-fluorobenzyl at the R1 position along with the electron-withdrawing group at R2 were more anti-cancer active compounds than others. Microarray analysis and docking studies reveal that the compounds having p-fluorobenzyl and -Br at R1 and R2 position, respectively, possess prominent activity against MCF-7 cells. The following scheme 2 shows the path for the formation of derivatives of indole-benzimidazole.

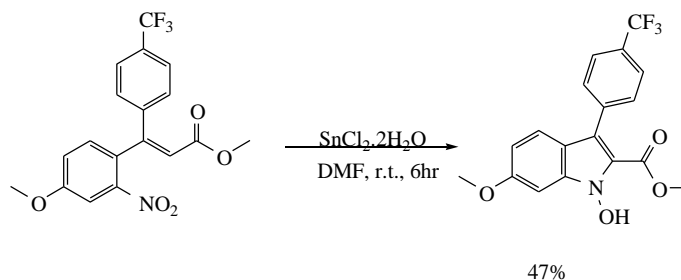
## 2.3. Synthesis of 2-carbomethoxy Indoles Relying on two Heck Arylations of Methyl Acrylate and Nitro Cinnamates,



Scheme-3. Preparation of 2-carbomethoxy-3-aryloindoles.

## Respectively

N.M. Cury *et al.* [ 64 ] synthesized 2-carbomethoxy-3-aryl-indoles by a series of reactions. Firstly, Heck-Matsuda arylation reaction was carried out between methyl acrylate and salts of arenediazonium having a nitro group at ortho position in the presence of palladium acetate catalyst. The nitro cinnamates formed (80-87% yield) were again used to react with arene diazonium salts *via* Heck-Matsuda reaction in the presence of palladium acetate catalyst (7.5 mol%) in methanol to give 3,3-diaryl acrylate (29-89% yield) which further underwent Cadogan-Sundberg reductive cyclization to give 2-carbomethoxy-3-aryloindoles (57-91%), promoted by P(OEt)<sub>3</sub> (Scheme-3). Preparation of N-hydroxy indoles (47% yield) was also carried out by reductive cyclization of 3,3-diaryl acrylate in the presence of SnCl<sub>2</sub> in dimethylformamide (DMF) solvent (Scheme 4).



**Scheme-4.** Synthesis of N-hydroxyl indole derivatives.

#### 2.4. Synthesis of indole derivatives using ruthenium (II) photocatalyst

L.I. Panferova *et al.* [65] synthesized 3-fluoroindole derivatives from difluoroiodomethyl-substituted amines by using Ruthenium (II) photocatalyst along with triphenylphosphine radiated by blue light (Scheme 5). Nucleophilic iodo difluoromethylation of iminium ions provided the required starting material, N-arylamines.

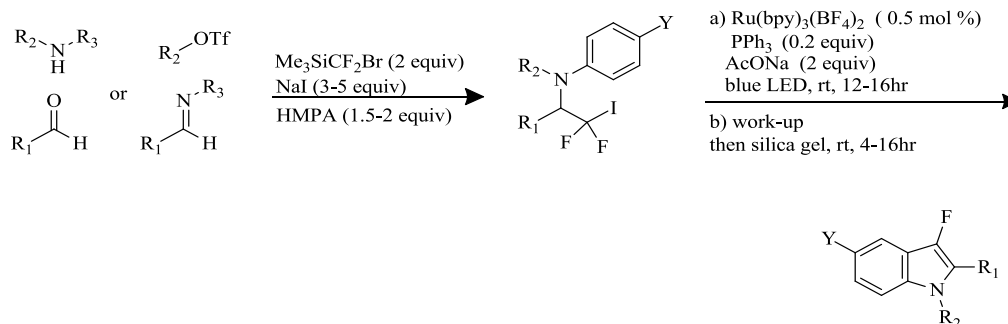
#### 3. GREEN METHODOLOGIES

There are several methods by which the derivatives of indole can be prepared by following the protocols of green

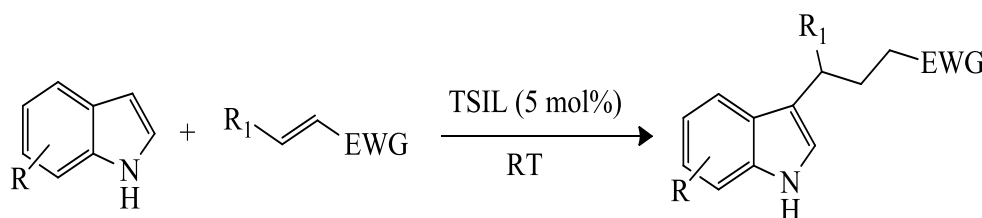
chemistry. These are listed as follows:

#### 3.1. Synthesis using Ionic Liquids

a) At present, researchers have focused their efforts on the use of ionic liquids for the synthesis of indole derivatives. For example, Das *et al.* [ 66 ] prepared 3-substituted indoles by the use of Michael addition. In this process, a Bronsted acid catalyst, anionic liquid: sulfonic-acid-functionalized (a TSIL, *i.e.* Task-specific ionic liquid) was used for the effective preparation of 3-substituted indoles (12 examples) in yield ranging from 40-95% (scheme 6 ). The catalyst (Fig. 2 ) could be used up to ten successive times without any notable change in its activity.



**Scheme-5.** Synthesis of 3-fluoroindole derivatives.



EWG= Electron Withdrawing Group

**Scheme-6.** Preparation of indole derivatives using TSIL.

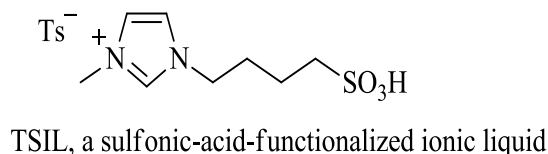
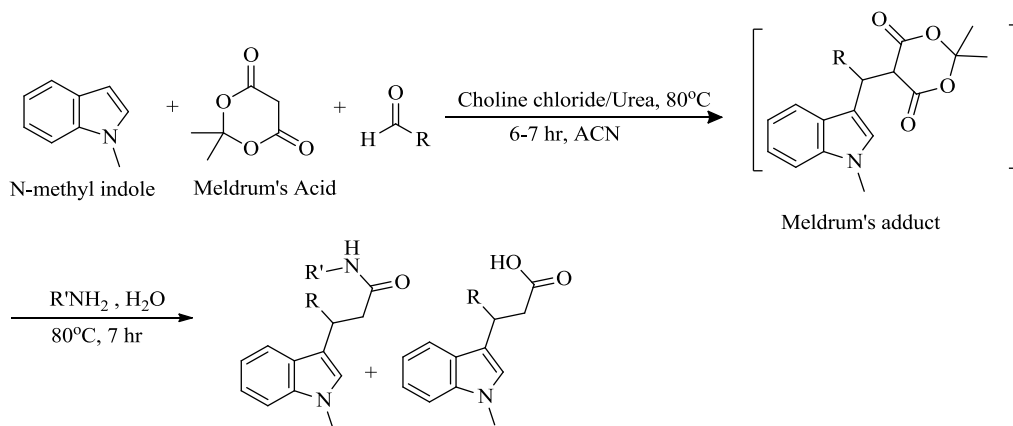


Fig. (2). Sulfonic-acid-functionalized ionic liquid.



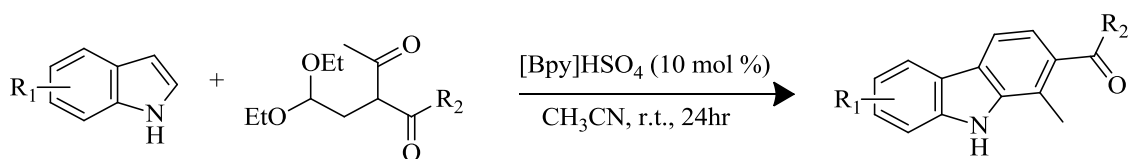
Scheme-7. Preparation of derivatives of indole-3-propanamide by the use of green catalyst choline chloride/urea.

b) E. Siddalingamurthy *et al.* [ 67 ] developed a sequential method for the preparation of derivatives of indole-3-propanamide by the use of green catalyst choline chloride/urea. Here, N-methyl indole was reacted with Meldrum's acid and aromatic aldehydes that resulted in the formation of an adduct which further provided the required product in the presence of an amine (Scheme 7 ). The method is advantageous as it involves simple operation, reduced reaction time and ease of isolation of products.

c) Y. Du *et al.* [68] via [4+2] annulation reaction successfully synthesized carbazole (compound having indole

nucleus) derivatives in the presence of Bronsted acid ionic liquid [Bpy]HSO<sub>4</sub> (scheme 8). It has been observed that this method encompasses mild and metal-free conditions which are cost-effective for the production of a wide range of carbazole derivatives. The catalyst could be reused without any significant change in its activity.

d) C. Li *et al.* [ 69 ] recently developed pyrano[4,3-b]indol-1(5H)-ones by the use of protic ionic liquids like [HTBD<sup>+</sup>][TFE<sup>-</sup>](Scheme 9 ) (Fig. 3 ). The advantages of this method include considerably high yield, easy to conduct reaction work-up and broad substrate scope.



Scheme-8. Synthesis of carbazole derivatives.

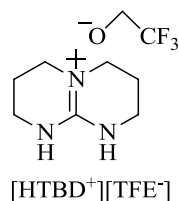
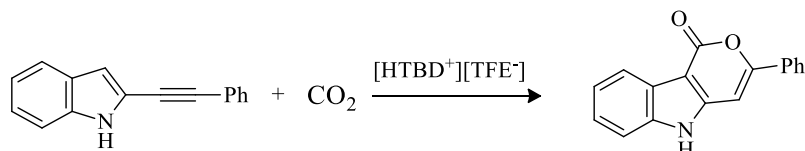
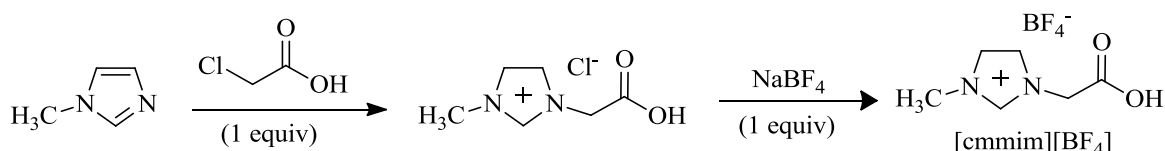


Fig. (3). Structure of protic ionic liquid.



Scheme-9. Preparation of pyrano[4,3-b]indol-1(5H)-ones.

Scheme-10. Synthesis of ionic liquid [cmmim][BF<sub>4</sub>].

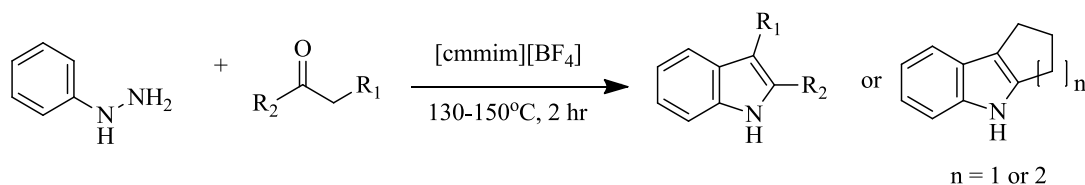
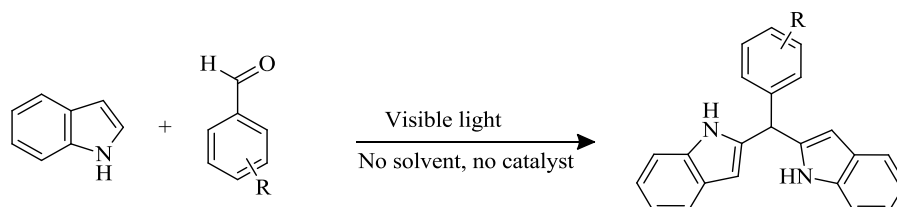
e) F.P. Yi *et al.* used [cmmim] [BF<sub>4</sub>] (*i.e.*, 1-carboxymethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate) as the ionic liquid catalyst (synthesis of catalyst shown in Scheme 10) for the successful synthesis (Scheme 11) of indole derivatives using Fischer synthesis [70]. The ionic liquid catalyst is eco-friendly, efficient, and can be reused without any prominent change in its activity, and is easily recoverable.

### 3.2. Additional Green Methods for Synthesis of Various Bioactive Indole Derivatives using Indole as a Precursor

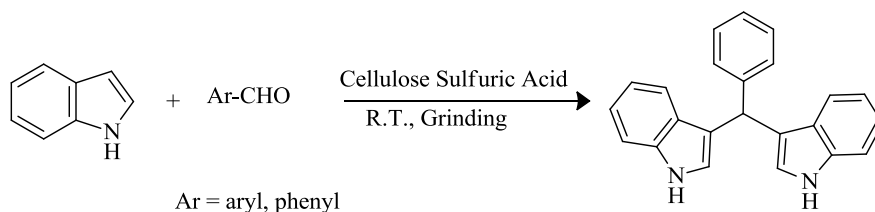
a) B.S. Hote *et al.* [71], under solvent and catalyst-free conditions in high yields (80-90%) in time intervals of 30-90 minutes (Scheme 12), successfully synthesized indole derivatives by the reaction of various substituted

benzaldehydes and indoles under visible light irradiation (irradiation done by 150W Tungsten Lamp). This method is completely green as there is no use of catalyst or solvent, which also makes the process economical.

b) S.A. Sadaphal *et al.* [72], under solvent-free conditions, successfully synthesized indole derivatives. The synthesis was performed between indole and substituted aromatic aldehydes by the use of Cellulose Sulfuric Acid (CSA) catalyst (Scheme 13). Due to the non-hygroscopic solid nature of the acid, Cellulose sulfuric acid can be used as a catalyst and reused at least twice for this process without any significant change in its catalytic activity, providing a green route for the synthesis.

Scheme-11. Synthesis of indole derivative using ionic liquid catalyst [cmmim][BF<sub>4</sub>].

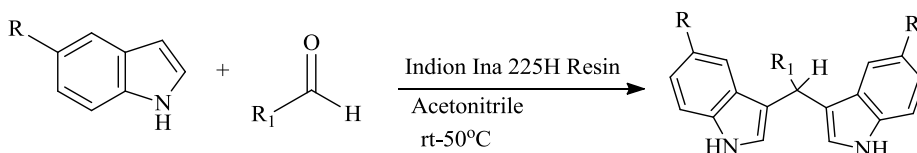
Scheme-12. Preparation of bis(indolyl)methane derivatives with the use of visible light.



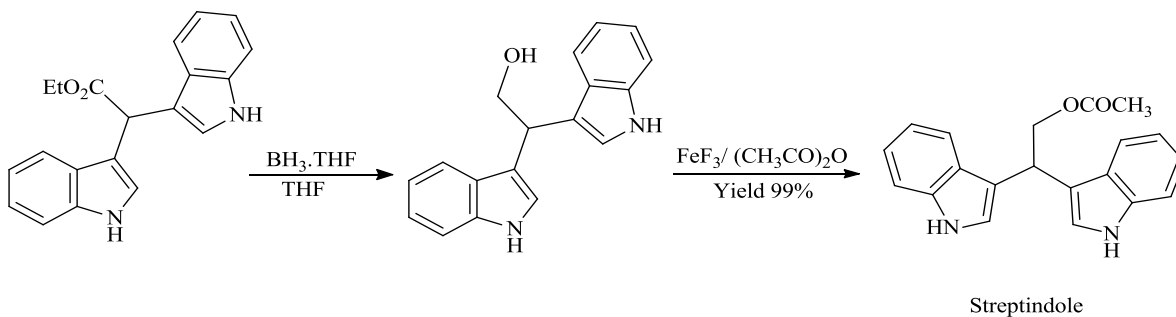
**Scheme-13.** Cellulose Sulfuric Acid solid catalyst induced preparation of bis(indolyl)methane derivatives.

c) R. Surasani *et al.* [73] prepared certain indole derivatives from the reaction of indole with aromatic/ aliphatic aldehydes using Indion Ina 225h resin catalyst (Scheme 14). The products are obtained in high yield in lesser time and the catalyst is more selective to aldehydes rather than ketones. Along with this, Indion Ina 225H can be reused five times as

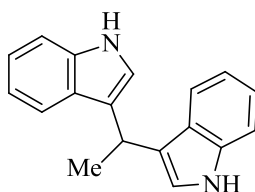
compared to other catalysts reported in the literature, making the process economically and environmentally favorable. Naturally occurring bis(indolyl)methanes based compounds like Vibrindole A (Fig. 4), 4-(di(1H-indol-3-yl)methyl)benzene-1,2-diol (Fig. 5) and Streptindole (Scheme 15) have also been prepared by the same process.



**Scheme-14.** Indion Ina 225H resin-based preparation of bis(indolyl)methane.



**Scheme-15.** Streptindole preparation.



**Fig. (4).** Vibrindole A

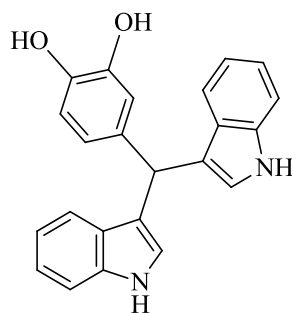


Fig. (5). HIV-1 integrase inhibitor.

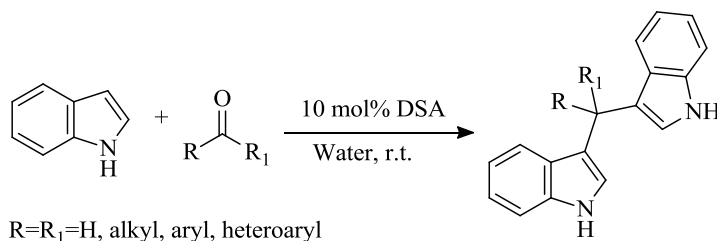
d) P. Hazarika *et al.* [ 74 ] reported the preparation of indole derivatives by the use of water as a solvent. In this process, indole and carbonyl compounds in the presence of the catalyst dodecylsulphonic acid and water as a solvent yield bis(indolyl)methane as the product. (Scheme 16 ). The reaction gets completed in a short time period with a considerably high yield.

### 3.3. Synthesis of Indole Derivatives Using Water as the Solvent

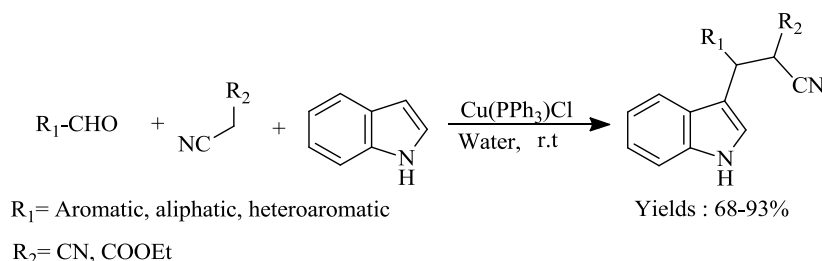
Various indole derivatives have been prepared using water as the solvent. Water is a green solvent for many reactions and

is more advantageous to use with respect to other solvents in terms of toxicity. Following are the reactions where the synthesis of indole derivatives has been carried out in water:

a) A.N. Prasad *et al.* successfully used multi-component reaction for the preparation of 3-substituted indole [75]. With water as medium, indole along with aldehydes and active methylene compound in the presence of catalyst  $\text{Cu}(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Cl}$  (Scheme 17) yielded potentially important indole derivatives. The targeted substance was attained in high yield ranging from 68-93%. The high efficiency of the catalyst and the use of water as a medium make the process more economical and eco-friendly.

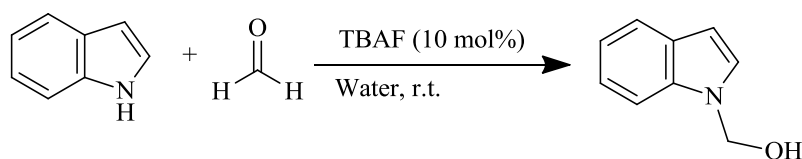


Scheme-16. Dodecyl sulfonic acid catalyst-based preparation of bis(indolyl)methane.



Scheme-17. Synthesis of indole derivative using  $\text{Cu}(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Cl}$  in water medium.





**Scheme-18.** Synthesis of hemiaminal of indole in water medium.

b) H.M. Meshram *et al.* [76] prepared hemiaminal of indole by the use of phase-transfer catalyst tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) in water as the medium. In the presence of TBAF, indole and its derivatives reacted with formaldehyde at ambient temperature, producing the corresponding products in yield ranging from 84-96%. The reusability of the reaction media and mild reaction conditions of this process contribute to the protocols of green chemistry. The following (scheme 18) provides a simple path for the synthesis of hemiaminal.

### 3.4. Synthesis of Indole Derivates - Solid Acid Catalyst

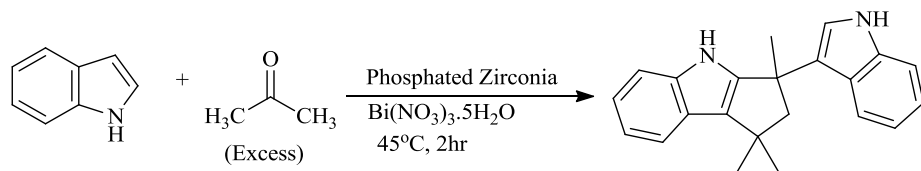
a) S.V. Nadkarni *et al.* [77] successfully synthesized different substituted cyclo[b]indoles by the use of solid acid catalyst phosphate zirconia (P-Zr) and  $\text{Bi}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Scheme 19). The catalytic system used for this process is cheap, efficient and convenient.

b) M.M. Heravi *et al.* [78] successfully reported the

synthesis of 3-substituted indoles with enhanced properties involving the reaction between indole (or its derivative) and a Michael acceptor in the presence of heteropoly acid (HPA) catalyst like  $\text{H}_3\text{PW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}$  (Scheme 20). The products were obtained *via* Friedel-Crafts alkylation at C3 of indole (or its derivative).

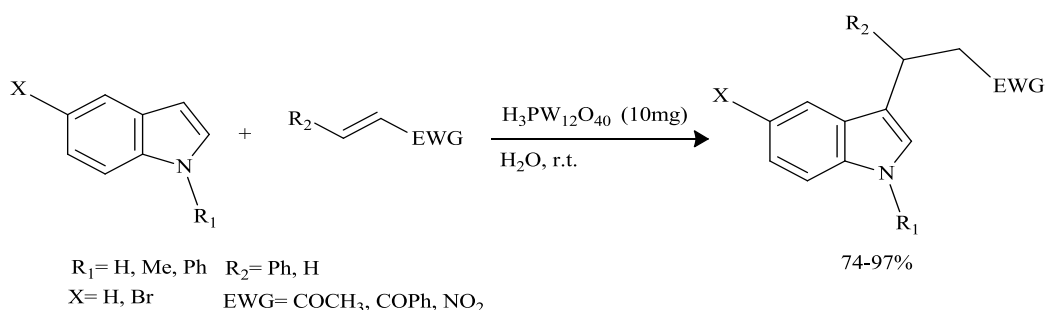
### 3.5. Preparation of Indole Derivatives (Catalyst-free Conditions)

a) R. Kardooni *et al.* [79] successfully synthesized 3-substituted indoles (yield 86-96%) in 35-80 minutes by the use of MCR process. In this process, polyethylene glycol 400 is treated as a reaction promoter and medium for the reaction between indole and aromatic aldehydes, and C-H activated acids are required for the preparation of desired indole derivatives (Scheme 21). This process is catalyst-free and selective for the production of heterodimer products rather than the formation of homodimer adducts like bisindole/xanthine.

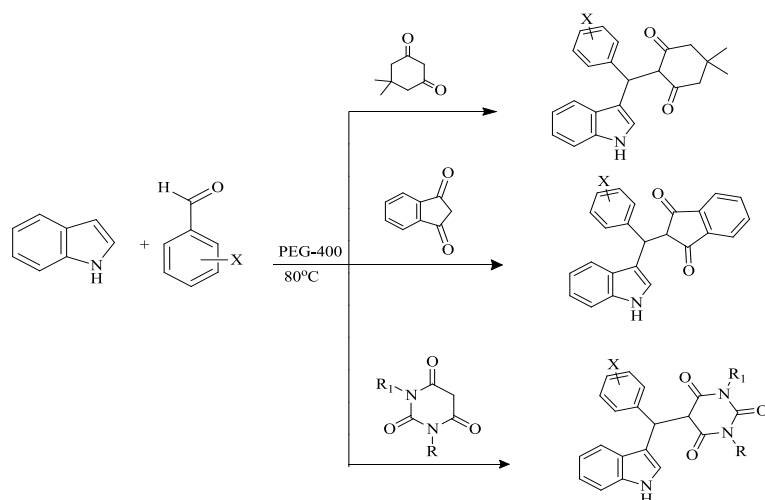


3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-1,1,3-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-cyclopenta[b]indole

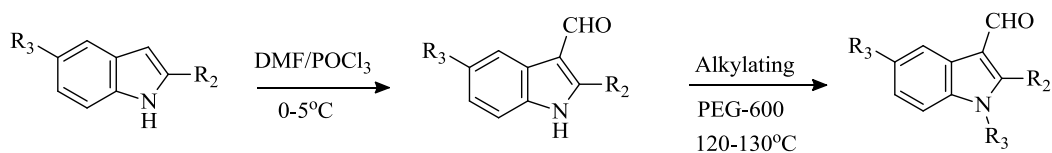
**Scheme-19.** Synthesis of indole derivative using a solid acid catalyst.



**Scheme-20.** Heteropoly acid catalyst-based preparation of 3-substituted indole derivative.



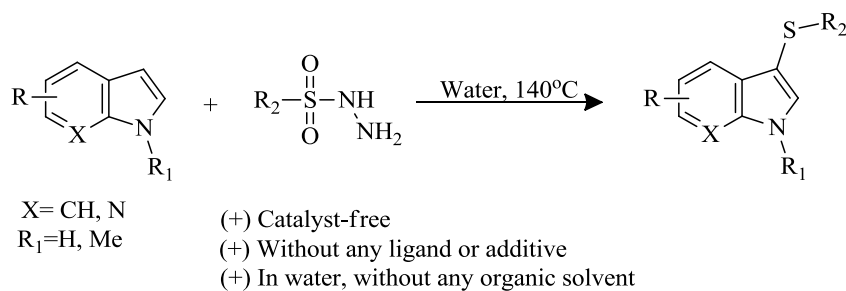
**Scheme-21.** Catalyst-free preparation of indole derivative by the use of polyethylene glycol 400.



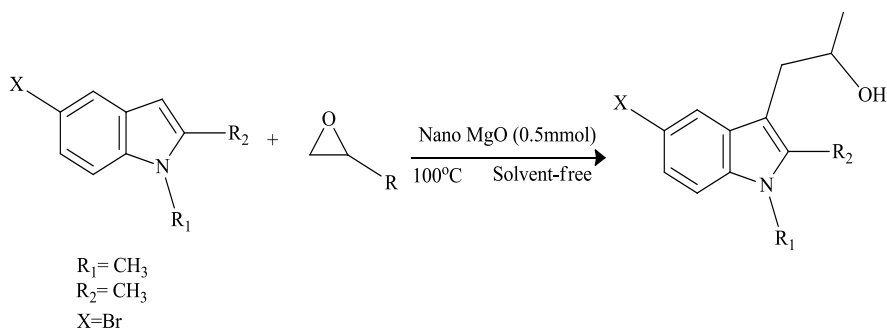
**Scheme-22.** Synthesis of indole derivative by the use of PEG-600.

b) A low-cost, fast and environment-friendly methodology was developed by P.K. Dubey *et al.* [80] for the green synthesis of indole derivatives, especially N-alkyl/aralkyl and indole-3-carboxaldehydes, using polyethylene glycol (PEG-600) (Scheme 22).

c) Y. Yang *et al.* [81] successfully reported catalyst-free and water as the medium methodology for the preparation of 3-sulfenylindoles without any use of ligand or additive (Scheme 23). Here, thiolation of indoles was carried out with sulfonyl hydrazides to give the desired product(s).



**Scheme-23.** Catalyst-free preparation of 3-sulfenylindoles.



**Scheme-24.** Preparation of indole-derivative using MgO nanoparticles.

### 3.6. Synthesis of Indole Derivative using Nanoparticles

a) M. Hosseini-Sarvari *et al.* [82] successfully used nano MgO for the production of indole derivatives at the C3 position *via* Friedel-Craft Alkylation. Under solvent-free conditions, indole upon treatment with epoxides using nanoparticles of magnesium oxide as a catalyst provided bioactive indole derivatives (Scheme 24). Magnesium oxide behaves as an eco-friendly catalyst in this process and can catalyze the ring-opening of epoxide by indole.

b) H. Hajighasemi *et al.* [83] reported the synthesis of 3-Indol-3-yl-oxindolin-3-yl-3-acrylates by the use of magnetic oxide (III) nanoparticles ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs) (Scheme 25). This methodology avoided the application of hazardous substances as solvents and utilization of highly efficient and recyclable catalysts, enabling their convenient separation from the reaction mixture.

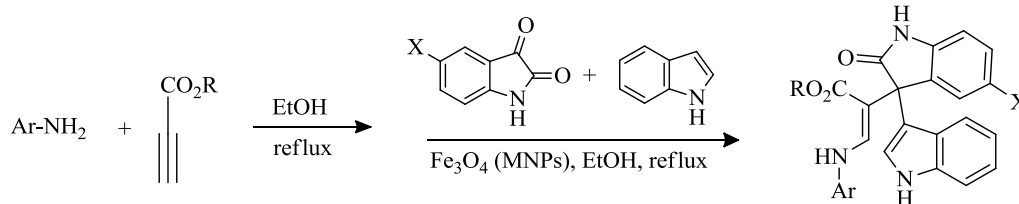
### 3.7. Microwave-assisted Synthesis

There are several processes by which indole and its derivatives can be prepared by using microwave irradiation.

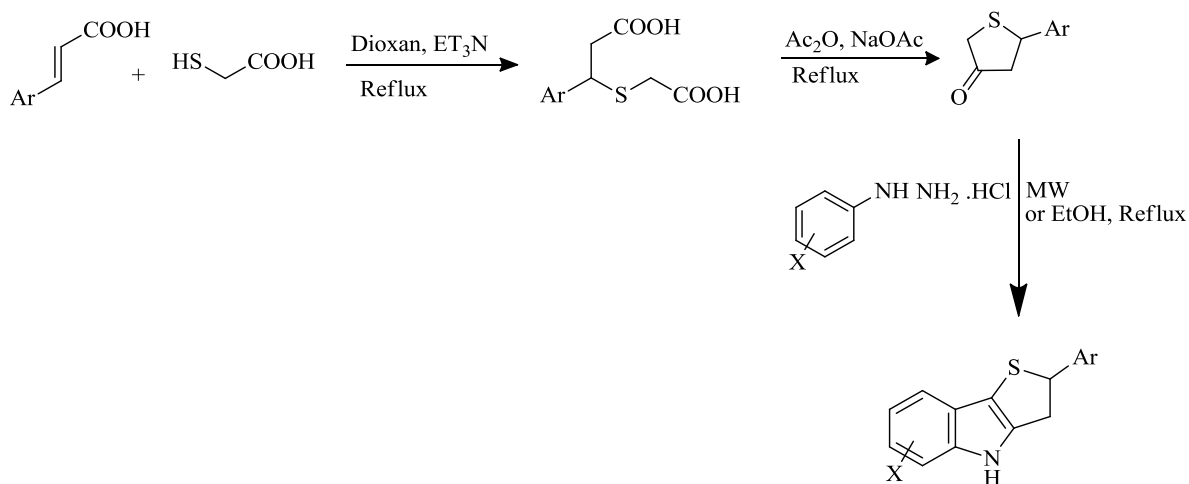
The following processes describe MW irradiation-induced preparation of several indole derivatives.

a) S.V. Karthikeyan *et al.* [84] prepared 2-aryl-3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,2-b]indoles in good yield through the microwave irradiation method. This method can be regarded as an effective and fast route for the regioselective synthesis of indole derivatives *via* the Fischer process. It involves the reaction between arylhydrazine hydrochloride and 5-aryldihydro-3(2H)-thiophenones to give desired products in 85-98% yield (Scheme 26). This reaction is also performed in EtOH under reflux conditions, but the relative yield is less. The thienoindoles formed exhibited excellent *in-vitro* antimycobacterial activity.

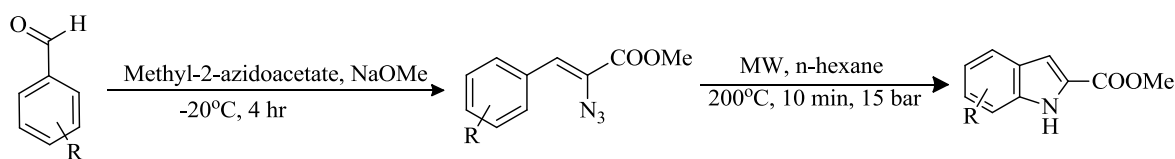
b) F. Lehmann *et al.* [85] reported Hemetsberger–Knittel indole synthesis of indole derivatives under MW irradiation. Benzaldehyde or its derivatives are initially converted to alpha-azidocinnamates which then form several indole derivatives by ring closure under microwave irradiation (Scheme 27). This method provides an easy and rapid path for the preparation of different derivatives of indoles.



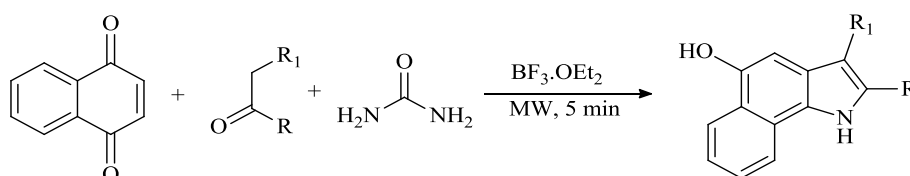
**Scheme-25.** Preparation of indole derivatives using  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles.



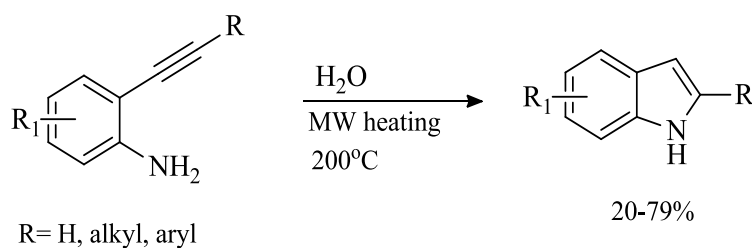
**Scheme-26.** Synthesis of thienoindoles using microwave irradiation.



**Scheme-27.** Preparation of indole derivatives by the use of microwave irradiation.



**Scheme-28.** Preparation of substituted benzoindoles using microwave irradiation.



**Scheme-29.** Synthesis of indole derivatives by cyclo-isomerization using microwave irradiation.

c) One-pot synthesis of benzo-indoles was successfully attained under microwave irradiation by M. Borthakur *et al.* [86]. Benzo-indoles (Scheme 28) were prepared upon the reaction of omega-substituted-acetophenones with naphthoquinone and urea (Nenitzescu reaction) in solvent-free conditions, eradicating the need for hazardous substances. High yield and enhanced reaction rates were estimated by the use of  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  as the catalyst.

d) A. Carpita *et al.* [87] demonstrated a simple and convenient way for the preparation of indole derivatives by the use of microwave irradiation. The formation of the desired product was carried out by the microwave-assisted cyclo-isomerization of 2-alkynylanilines using water as a reaction medium catalyzed by inorganic salts like  $\text{KCl}/\text{NaHCO}_3$  (Scheme 29).

## CONCLUSION

The study indicates that indole and its derivatives can be prepared by using various methodologies. Conventional methods involve the use of more chemicals, and harsh conditions for the synthesis of the desired product, while synthesis that follows the norms of green chemistry uses mild reaction conditions, less harmful chemicals, efficient catalysts, solvent-free or water-mediated protocols to yield the desired product in high amount and in shorter times. Thus, on the basis

of the above information, it has been finalized that the use of ionic liquids and microwave irradiations for the synthesis of novel as well as existing compounds is much better as compared to using conventional methods.

## CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

## FUNDING

None.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Vicente, R. Recent advances in indole syntheses: New routes for a classic target. *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2011**, 9(19), 6469-6480. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1039/c1ob05750b>] [PMID: 21779596]
- [2] a) Sharma, P.K. Antibacterial and antifungal activity of Piperazinylbenzothiazine. *Pharma Chem.*, **2016**, 8(5), 191-193. b) Sharma, P.K. Antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidant activities of substituted 4H-1, 4-benzothiazines. *Pharma Chem.*, **2016**, 8(11), 156-159. c) Sharma, P.K. Antifungal, antibacterial and

- antioxidant activities of substituted Morpholinylbenzothiazine. *Pharm. Lett.*, **2016**, 8(11), 140-142.d)Sharma, P.K. Antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidant activities of substituted pyrazolylbenzothiazines. *Pharm. Lett.*, **2016**, 8(11), 79-82.e)Sharma, P.K. Morpholinylbenzothiazine consider as bioactive compound. *Pharm. Lett.*, **2016**, 8(4), 86-90.f)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. Synthesis of bioactive substituted pyrazolylbenzothiazinones. *Res. Chem. Intermed.*, **2015**, 41, 6141-6148. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11164-014-1727-1] g)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of substituted 4H-1, 4-benzothiazines. *Med. Chem. Res.*, **2012**, 21, 2072-2078. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00044-011-9732-z] h)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. Synthesis and antimicrobial activity of structurally flexible heterocycles with the 1, 4-thiazine heterosystem. *Res. Chem. Intermed.*, **2011**, 37, 1103-1111. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11164-011-0320-0] i)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. Synthesis and antimicrobial activity of 2H-pyrimido [2, 1-b] benzothiazol-2-ones. *Res. Chem. Intermed.*, **2010**, 36, 985-993. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11164-010-0211-9] j)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. One-pot, multicomponent sequential synthesis of benzothiazoloquinazolinones. *Synth. Commun.*, **2010**, 40, 2347-2352. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397910903243807] k)Rani, P.; Srivastava, V.K.; Kumar, A. Synthesis and antiinflammatory activity of heterocyclic indole derivatives. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2004**, 39(5), 449-452. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2003.11.002] [PMID: 15110970] [3] a)Sayed, M.; El-Dean, A.M.K.; Ahmed, M.; Hassanien. Synthesis of some heterocyclic compounds derived from indole as antimicrobial agents. *Synth. Commun.*, **2018**, 48(4), 413-421. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2017.1403627] [4] Giampieri, M.; Balbi, A.; Mazzei, M.; La Colla, P.; Ibba, C.; Loddo, R. Antiviral activity of indole derivatives. *Antiviral Res.*, **2009**, 83(2), 179-185. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2009.05.001] [PMID: 19445965] [5] a)Farghaly, A-R.A.H. Synthesis of some new indole derivatives containing pyrazoles with potential antitumor activity. *ARKIVOC*, **2010**, 2010(11), 177-187. [http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/ark.5550190.0011.b15] b)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. N-bridged heterocycles: region specific synthesis of 2-methyl-4H-pyrimido [2, 1-b] benzothiazol-4-ones. *Res. Chem. Intermed.*, **2009**, 35, 35-42. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11164-008-0006-4] c)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, M. Regioselective One Pot Synthesis of 5-Chloro-3-Methyl-8-Trifluoromethyl-4H-1, 4-Benzothiazines. *Heterocycl. Commun.*, **2009**, 15, 127-134.d)Sharma, P.K.; Kumar, G. Synthesis, spectral, energetic and reactivity properties of phenothiazines: Experimental and computational approach. *J. Chem. Pharm. Res.*, **2015**, 7, 462-473.e)Sharma, P.K. A review on antimicrobial activities of important thiazines based heterocycles. *Drug Invention Today*, **2017**, 9, 23-25.f)Sharma, P.K.; Andleeb, A. Synthetic Methods of Medicinally Important Heterocycles-Thiazines: A Review. *Open Med. Chem. J.*, **2020**, 14, 71-82. [http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1874104502014010071] g)Sharma, P.K. Andleeb, A.; Kumar, M. A Review: medicinally important nitrogen sulphur containing heterocycles. *Open Med. Chem. J.*, **2020**, 14, 49-64. [http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1874104502014010049] h)Sharma, P.K. A Review: Antimicrobial agents based on nitrogen and sulfur containing heterocycles. *Asian J. Pharm. Clin. Res.*, **2017**, 10, 47-49. [http://dx.doi.org/10.22159/ajpcr.2017.v10i2.15673] i)Sharma, P.K.; Makkar, R. A review: Thiazines derivatives treated as potential antimicrobial agents. *Asian J. Pharm. Clin. Res.*, **2017**, 10, 1-4.j)Ankodia, V.; Sharma, P.K.; Gupta, V.; Kumar, M. Synthesis of 2, 4-diaryl-2, 3-dihydro-1, 5-benzothiazepines. *Heterocycl. Commun.*, **2008**, 14, 155-160. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/HC.2008.14.3.155] k)Sharma, P.K. Synthesis of Starting Heterocycles: 2-aminobenzothiazoles, 2-aminothiazoles and 2-aminobenzenethiols – Potential Precursors for Macroheterocycles. *Macroheterocycles*, **2018**, 11, 316-321. [http://dx.doi.org/10.6060/mhc171261s] l)Sharma, P.K.; Manhas, M. A review: Different approach of bioactive pyrimidobenzothiazoles synthesis. *DrugInventionToday*, **2017**, 9, 18-22. [6] Gan, C-Y.; Etoh, T.; Hayashi, M.; Komiyama, K.; Kam, T-S. Leucoridines A-D, cytotoxic Strychnos-Strychnos bisindole alkaloids from Leuconotis. *J. Nat. Prod.*, **2010**, 73(6), 1107-1111. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/np1001187] [PMID: 20515042] [7] a)Siddiqui, N. Andalip.; Ali, R.; Afzal, O.; Akhtar, M.-J.; Azad, B.; Kumar, R. Antidepressant potential of nitrogen-containing heterocyclic moieties: An updated review. *J. Pharm. Bioallied Sci.*, **2011**, 3(2), 194-212.(a) Chaucer, P.; Sharma, P.K. Study of thiazines as potential anticancer agents. *Plant Arch.*, **2020**, 20, 3199-3202.b)Saroja, S. Chhavi; Sharma, P.K. Study of heterocyclic ring systems: Biopharmaceutical applications of substituted 4H-1, 4-benzothiazine and piperazine. *J. Phys. Conf.*, **2020**, p. 1531.c)Sharma, S.; Sharma, K.; Pathak, S.; Kumar, M.; Sharma, P.K. Synthesis of medicinally important quinazolines and their derivatives: A review. *Open Med. Chem. J.*, **2020**, 14, 108-121. [http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1874104502014010108] [8] Patil, P.O.; Bari, S.B. Synthesis, characterization and screening for antidepressant and anticonvulsant activity of 4, 5-dihydropyrazole bearing indole derivatives. *Arab. J. Chem.*, **2016**, 9(4), 588-595. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.arabjc.2013.08.027] [9] Borgati, T.F.; Boaventura, M.A.D. Effects of indole amides on lettuce and onion germination and growth. *Z. Naturforsch. C J. Biosci.*, **2011**, 66(9-10), 485-490. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/znc-2011-9-1008] [PMID: 22191214] [10] Haj Mohammad Ebrahim Tehrani, K.; Esfahani Zadeh, M.; Mashayekhi, V.; Hashemi, M.; Kobarfard, F.; Gharebaghi, F.; Mohebbi, S. Synthesis, antiplatelet activity and cytotoxicity assessment of indole-based hydrazone derivatives. *Iran. J. Pharm. Res.*, **2015**, 14(4), 1077-1086. [PMID: 26664374] [11] Mirfazli, S.S.; Kobarfard, F.; Firoozpour, L.; Asadipour, A.; Esfahanizadeh, M.; Tabib, K.; Shafiee, A.; Foroumadi, A. N-substituted indole carbohydrazone derivatives: Synthesis and evaluation of their antiplatelet aggregation activity. *Daru*, **2014**, 22, 65. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s40199-014-0065-6] [PMID: 25238875] [12] Ummadi, N.; Gundala, S.; Padmavathi, V.; Padmaja, A. Synthesis and antioxidant activity of a new class of pyrazolyl indoles, thiazolyl pyrazolyl indoles. *Med. Chem. Res.*, **2017**, 26, 1574-1584. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00044-017-1827-8] [13] Kaushik, N.K.; Kaushik, N.; Attri, P.; Kumar, N.; Kim, C.H.; Verma, A.K.; Choi, E.H. Biomedical importance of indoles. *Molecules*, **2013**, 18(6), 6620-6662. [http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/molecules18066620] [PMID: 23743888] [14] Chen, L.; Cheng, P-H.; Rao, X-M.; McMasters, K.M.; Zhou, H.S. Indole-3-carbinol (I3C) increases apoptosis, represses growth of cancer cells, and enhances adenovirus-mediated oncolysis. *Cancer Biol. Ther.*, **2014**, 15(9), 1256-1267. [http://dx.doi.org/10.4161/cbt.29690] [PMID: 24972095] [15] Żolek, T.; Trzeciak, A.; Maciejewska, D. Theoretical evaluation of EGFR kinase inhibition and toxicity of di-indol-3-yl disulphides with anti-cancer potency. *J. Biomol. Struct. Dyn.*, **2020**, 1-13. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07391102.2020.1815576] [PMID: 32880212] [16] Prakash, B.; Amuthavalli, A.; Edison, D.; Sivaramkumar, M.S.; Velmurugan, R. Novel indole derivatives as potential anticancer agents: Design, synthesis and biological screening. *Med. Chem. Res.*, **2018**, 27, 321-331. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00044-017-2065-9] [17] Fadaeinasab, M.; Karimian, H.; Omar, H.; Taha, H.; Khorasani, A.; Banisalam, B.; Aziz Ketuly, K.; Abdullah, Z. Reflexin A, a new indole alkaloid from *Rauvolfia reflexa* induces apoptosis against colon cancer cells. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2020**, 22(5), 474-488. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2019.1588888] [PMID: 30945944] [18] He, Z-X.; Huo, J-L.; Gong, Y-P.; An, Q.; Zhang, X.; Qiao, H.; Yang, F-F.; Zhang, X-H.; Jiao, L-M.; Liu, H-M.; Ma, L-Y.; Zhao, W. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel thiosemicarbazone-indole derivatives targeting prostate cancer cells. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2021**, 210112970 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2020.112970] [PMID: 33153765] [19] Hu, H.; Wu, J.; Ao, M.; Zhou, X.; Li, B.; Cui, Z.; Wu, T.; Wang, L.; Xue, Y.; Wu, Z.; Fang, M. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of methylenehydrazine-1-carboxamide derivatives with (5-((4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-yl)amino)-1H-indole scaffold: Novel potential CDK9 inhibitors. *Bioorg. Chem.*, **2020**, 102104064 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bioorg.2020.104064] [PMID: 32653610] [20] Pu, C.; Luo, R-H.; Zhang, M.; Hou, X.; Yan, G.; Luo, J.; Zheng, Y-T.; Li, R. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of indole derivatives as Vif inhibitors. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2017**, 27(17), 4150-4155. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2017.07.026] [PMID: 28754362] [21] Ashok, P.; Lu, C-L.; Chander, S.; Zheng, Y-T.; Murugesan, S. Design,

- Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of 1-(thiophen-2-yl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole Derivatives as Anti-HIV-1 Agents. *Chem. Biol. Drug Des.*, **2015**, *85*(6), 722-728. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/cbdd.12456] [PMID: 25328020]
- [22] Yeung, K.-S.; Qiu, Z.; Xue, Q.; Fang, H.; Yang, Z.; Zadjura, L.; D'Arienzo, C.J.; Eggers, B.J.; Riccardi, K.; Shi, P.-Y.; Gong, Y.-F.; Browning, M.R.; Gao, Q.; Hansel, S.; Santone, K.; Lin, P.-F.; Meanwell, N.A.; Kadow, J.F. Inhibitors of HIV-1 attachment. Part 7: indole-7-carboxamides as potent and orally bioavailable antiviral agents. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2013**, *23*(1), 198-202. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2012.10.115] [PMID: 23200252]
- [23] Cihan-Üstündağ, G.; Şatana, D.; Özhan, G.; Çapan, G. Indole-based hydrazide-hydrazones and 4-thiazolidinones: synthesis and evaluation as antitubercular and anticancer agents. *J. Enzyme Inhib. Med. Chem.*, **2016**, *31*(3), 369-380. [PMID: 25910087]
- [24] Sanna, G.; Madeddu, S.; Giliberti, G.; Piras, S.; Struga, M.; Wrzosek, M.; Kubiak-Tomaszewska, G.; Koziol, A.E.; Savchenko, O.; Lis, T.; Stefanska, J.; Tomaszewska, P.; Skrzycki, M.; Szulczyk, D. Synthesis and biological evaluation of novel indole-derived thioureas. *Molecules*, **2018**, *23*(10), 2554. [http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/molecules23102554] [PMID: 30301264]
- [25] Sandes, S.M.S.; Heimfarth, L.; Brito, R.G.; Santos, P.L.; Gouveia, D.N.; Carvalho, A.M.S.; Quintans, J.S.S.; da Silva-Júnior, E.F.; de Aquino, T.M.; França, P.H.B.; de Araújo-Júnior, J.X.; Albuquerque-Júnior, R.L.C.; Zengin, G.; Schmitt, M.; Bourguignon, J.-J.; Quintans-Júnior, L.J. Evidence for the involvement of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-10 in the antinociceptive and anti-inflammatory effects of indole-3-guanylhydrazone hydrochloride, an aromatic aminoguanidine, in rodents. *Chem. Biol. Interact.*, **2018**, *286*, 1-10. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cb.2018.02.026] [PMID: 29499192]
- [26] Kwon, T.H.; Yoon, I.H.; Shin, J.-S.; Lee, Y.H.; Kwon, B.J.; Lee, K.-T.; Lee, Y.S. Synthesis of indolyl-3-acetonitrile derivatives and their inhibitory effects on nitric oxide and PGE2 productions in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2013**, *23*(9), 2571-2574. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2013.02.114] [PMID: 23528295]
- [27] Lamie, P.F.; Ali, W.A.M.; Bazzier, V.; Rárová, L. Novel N-substituted indole Schiff bases as dual inhibitors of cyclooxygenase-2 and 5-lipoxygenase enzymes: Synthesis, biological activities in vitro and docking study. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2016**, *123*, 803-813. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2016.08.013] [PMID: 27541263]
- [28] Shaveta; Singh, A.; Kaur, M.; Sharma, S.; Bhatti, R.; Singh, P. Rational design, synthesis and evaluation of chromone-indole and chromone-pyrazole based conjugates: Identification of a lead for anti-inflammatory drug. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2014**, *77*, 185-192. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2014.03.003] [PMID: 24631898]
- [29] Mukthung, C.; Chancharunee, S.; Kielar, F.; Pongcharoen, S.; Wichai, U. Capsaicin derivatives containing indole and nitroindole for improved anti-inflammatory activity. *Naresuan Univ. J. Sci. Technol.*, **2018**, *26*(3), 157-169.
- [30] Sagi, S.; Avula, B.; Wang, Y.-H.; Khan, I.A. Quantification and characterization of alkaloids from roots of *Rauwolfia serpentina* using ultra-high performance liquid chromatography-photo diode array-mass spectrometry. *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.*, **2016**, *408*(1), 177-190. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00216-015-9093-4] [PMID: 26476922]
- [31] Shahab, S.; Ahmed, N.; Khan, N.S. Indole acetic acid production and enhanced plant growth promotion by indigenous PSBs. *Afr. J. Agric. Res.*, **2009**, *4*(11), 1312-1316.
- [32] Quiroga, G.; Erice, G.; Aroca, R.; Zamarreño, A.M.; García-Mina, J.M.; Ruiz-Lozano, J.M. Radial water transport in arbuscular mycorrhizal maize plants under drought stress conditions is affected by indole-acetic acid (IAA) application. *J. Plant Physiol.*, **2020**, *246*-247153115 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jplph.2020.153115] [PMID: 31958683]
- [33] Chitra, G.; Franklin, D.S.; Guhanathan, S. Indole-3-acetic acid based tunable hydrogels for antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidant applications. *J. Macromol. Sci. A*, **2017**, *54*(3), 151-163. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10601325.2017.1265401]
- [34] Suzen, S.; Tekiner-Gulbas, B.; Shirinzadeh, H.; Uslu, D.; Gurer-Orhan, H.; Gumustas, M.; Ozkan, S.A. Antioxidant activity of indole-based melatonin analogues in erythrocytes and their voltammetric characterization. *J. Enzyme Inhib. Med. Chem.*, **2013**, *28*(6), 1143-1155. [http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/14756366.2012.717223] [PMID: 22994658]
- [35] Lu, H.; Zhu, G.; Tang, T.; Ma, Z.; Chen, Q.; Chen, Z. Anticancer molecule discovery via C2-substituent promoted oxidative coupling of indole and enolate. *iScience*, **2019**, *22*, 214-228. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2019.11.021] [PMID: 31786518]
- [36] Chakraborty, I.; Jana, S. Synthetic developments on the indolizidine alkaloid, harmicine. *Synthesis*, **2013**, *45*(24), 3325-3331. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0033-1338562]
- [37] Sanaboina, C.; Jana, S.; Chidara, S.; Patro, B.; Raolji, G.B.; Eppakayala, L. Synthesis of indolo[2,3-a]quinolizine and hexahydro-1H-indolizino[8,7-b]indole derivatives by cascade condensation, cyclization, and Pictet-Spengler reaction: an application to the synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-harmicine. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2012**, *53*(37), 5027-5029. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2012.07.044]
- [38] Sayed, M.; Younis, O.; Hassani, R.; Ahmed, M.; Mohammed, A.A.K.; Kamal, A.M.; Tsutsumi, O. Design and synthesis of novel indole derivatives with aggregation-induced emission and antimicrobial activity. *J. Photochem. Photobiol. Chem.*, **2019**, *383*11969 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jphotochem.2019.111969]
- [39] Kuzu, B.; Menges, N. Indole-containing new types of dyes and their UV-vis and NMR spectra and electronic structures: Experimental and theoretical study. *Spectrochim. Acta A Mol. Biomol. Spectrosc.*, **2016**, *162*, 61-68. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.saa.2016.02.046] [PMID: 26985875]
- [40] Yuan, D.; Lei, S.; Gao, L.; Liu, Y.; Liu, G.; Wang, C. Mechanism study on the formation of complex between Ca(II) and indigo carmine for potential food use as a colorant lake. *Food Chem.*, **2020**, *322*126709 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2020.126709] [PMID: 32283376]
- [41] Keles, E.; Yahya, M.; Aktan, E.; Aydin, B.; Seferoglu, N.; Barsella, A.; Seferoglu, Z. Indole based push-pull dyes bearing azo and dimethine: Synthesis, spectroscopic, NLO, anion affinity properties and thermal characterization. *J. Photochem. Photobiol. Chem.*, **2020**, *402*112818 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jphotochem.2020.112818]
- [42] Cheruku, S.; Nagaraju, C.; Shetty, P. A. S.H.; C, S.N.; N, K.M.; Kempegowda, M. An efficient synthesis of medicinally important indole based triarylmethanes by using propylphosphonic anhydride (T3P®). *Synth. Commun.*, **2020**, *50*(10), 1486-1494. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2020.1743319]
- [43] Liu, Y.-F.; Chen, M.-H.; Lin, S.; Li, Y.-H.; Zhang, D.; Jiang, J.-D.; Shi, J.-G. Indole alkaloid glucosides from the roots of *Isatis indigotica*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2016**, *18*(1), 1-12. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2015.1117452] [PMID: 26651370]
- [44] Chen, A.-H.; Liu, Q.-L.; Ma, Y.-L.; Jiang, Z.-H.; Tang, J.-Y.; Liu, Y.-P.; Chen, G.-Y.; Fu, Y.-H.; Xu, W. A new monoterpenoid indole alkaloid from *Ochrosia elliptica*. *Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2017**, *31*(13), 1490-1494. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14786419.2016.1277349] [PMID: 28068850]
- [45] Dai, Y.-H.; Wang, A.-D.; Chen, Y.-L.; Xia, M.-Y.; Shao, X.-Y.; Liu, D.-C.; Wang, D. A new indole alkaloid from the traditional Chinese medicine Chansu. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2018**, *20*(6), 581-585. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2017.1339697] [PMID: 28625094]
- [46] Li, L.-Y.; Ding, Y.; Groth, I.; Menzel, K.-D.; Peschel, G.; Voigt, K.; Deng, Z.-W.; Sattler, I.; Lin, W.-H. Pyrrole and indole alkaloids from an endophytic *Fusarium incarnatum* (HK100504) isolated from the mangrove plant *Aegiceras corniculatum*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2008**, *10*(7-8), 775-780. [PMID: 18696331]
- [47] Lu, J.; Wang, W.-H.; Shi, Q.-Q.; Peng, X.-R.; Li, D.-S.; Qiu, M.-H. A new indole alkaloid from *Cimicifuga heracleifolia*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2019**, *21*(11), 1119-1122. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2018.1509855] [PMID: 30450964]
- [48] Wang, X.-T.; Zeng, K.-W.; Zhao, M.-B.; Tu, P.-F.; Li, J.; Jiang, Y. Three new indole alkaloid derivatives from the roots of *Murraya paniculata*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2018**, *20*(3), 201-208. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2017.1327950] [PMID: 28511558]
- [49] Cai, Y.-S.; Sun, J.-Z.; Tang, Q.-Q.; Fan, F.; Guo, Y.-W. Acanthiline A, a pyrido[1,2-a]indole alkaloid from Chinese mangrove *Acanthus ilicifolius*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, **2018**, *20*(11), 1088-1092. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2018.1488834] [PMID: 29947259]
- [50] Chang, Y.; Li, B.; Mei, H.; Yang, L.; Xu, K.; Pang, X. Indole-based

- colori/fluorimetric probe for selective detection of Cu<sup>2+</sup> and application in living cell imaging. *Spectrochim. Acta A Mol. Biomol. Spectrosc.* **2020**, *226*(2020), 117631.
- [51] Li, S.; Chen, Z.; Du, H.; Zhang, M.; Yin, J.; Zheng, J.; Deng, K.; Zhang, X. Facile preparation of poly(indole/thiophene) for energy storage and sensor applications. *Electrochim. Acta*, **2020**, 358136919 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2020.136919]
- [52] Tang, Y.; Jiang, G.-F. Toward a highly sensitive and selective indole-rhodamine-based light-up probe for Hg<sup>2+</sup> and its application in living cells. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2017**, *58*(29), 2846-2849.
- [53] Hanna-Elias, A.; Manalack, D.T.; Berque-Bestel, I.; Irving, H.R.; Coupar, I.M.; Iskander, M.N. Synthesis and preliminary screening of novel indole-3-methanamines as 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor ligands. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2009**, *44*(7), 2952-2959.
- [54] Kathiravan, A.; Khamrang, T.; Velusamy, M.; Jaccob, M. Synthesis, density functional theory and sensitization of indole dyes. *Mater. Lett.*, **2016**, 283128745 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2020.128745]
- [55] Zhang, M.; Qin, G.; Liu, J.; Zhen, Z.; Fedorchuk, A.A.; Lakshminarayana, G.; Albassam, A.A.; El-Naggar, A.M.; Ozga, K.; Kityk, I.V. Modification of indole by electron-rich atoms and their application in novel electron donor materials. *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **2017**, *681*, 105-109. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cplett.2017.05.067]
- [56] Zhou, X.; Lu, J.; Huang, H.; Yun, Y.; Li, Z.; You, F.; Zhao, B.; Qin, T.; Gao, D.; Huang, W. Thieno[3,2-b]indole (TI) bridged A-π-D-π-A small molecules: Synthesis, characterizations and organic solar cell applications. *Dyes Pigment*, **2019**, *160*, 16-24. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2018.07.009]
- [57] Wang, Y.; Hämäläinen, A.; Tois, J.; Franzen, R. Preparation of indole-phosphine oxazoline (IndPHOX) ligands and their application in allylic alkylation. *Tetrahedron Asymmetry*, **2010**, *21*(19), 2376-2384. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetasy.2010.08.008]
- [58] Suzuki, T.; Chisholm, J.D. Friedel-Crafts alkylation of indoles with trichloroacetimidates. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2019**, *60*(19), 1325-1329. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2019.04.007] [PMID: 31481819]
- [59] Dib, H.H.; John, E.; El-Dusouqui, O.M.E.; Ibrahim, Y.A.; Al-Awadi, N.A. Gas-phase pyrolysis of 1-(pyrazol-4-yl)-1H-benzotriazoles. Pyrolytic approach to indole and condensed indole derivatives of potential synthetic and biological applications. *J. Anal. Appl. Pyrolysis*, **2017**, *124*, 403-408. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaap.2017.03.006]
- [60] Jangale, A.D.; Dalal, D.S. Green synthetic approaches for biologically relevant organic compounds. *Synth. Commun.*, **2017**, *47*(23), 2139-2173. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2017.1369544]
- [61] FischerIndole synthesis. [accessed 21 October, 2020].; Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9780470638859.conrr233>
- [62] Joule, J.A.; Mills, K. *Heterocyclic Chemistry*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.; Wiley & Sons, **2013**, p. 403.
- [63] Karadayi, F.Z.; Yaman, M.; Kislal, M.M.; Keskus, A.G.; Konu, O.; Ates-Alagoz, Z. Design, synthesis and anticancer/antiestrogenic activities of novel indole-benzimidazoles. *Bioorg. Chem.*, **2020**, 100103929 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bioorg.2020.103929] [PMID: 32464404]
- [64] Cury, N.M.; Capitão, R.M.; Almeida, R.D.C.B.; Artico, L.L.; Corrêa, J.R.; Simão Dos Santos, E.F.; Yunes, J.A.; Correia, C.R.D. Synthesis and evaluation of 2-carboxy indole derivatives as potent and selective anti-leukemic agents. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.*, **2019**, *181*111570 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2019.111570] [PMID: 31408809]
- [65] Panferova, L.I.; Smirnov, V.O.; Levin, V.V.; Kokorekin, V.A.; Struchkova, M.I.; Dilman, A.D. Synthesis of 3-Fluoroindoles via Photoredox Catalysis. *J. Org. Chem.*, **2017**, *82*(1), 745-753. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.6b02344] [PMID: 27943669]
- [66] Das, S.; Rahman, M.; Kundu, D.; Majee, A.; Hajra, A. Task-specific ionic-liquid-catalyzed efficient synthesis of indole derivatives under solvent-free. *Can. J. Chem.*, **2010**, *88*, 150-154. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/V09-154]
- [67] Siddalingamurthy, E.; Mahadevan, K.M.; Kumar, T.O.S. Choline chloride/urea ionic liquid catalyzed a convenient one-pot synthesis of indole-3-propanamide derivatives. *Synth. Commun.*, **2013**, *43*(23), 3153-3162. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2013.769601]
- [68] Du, Y.; Xue, W.; Gao, R.; Gu, Y.; Han, L. [4+2] Annulation of 3-(2,2-dihydroxyethyl)-1,3-dicarbonyl compounds with indoles catalyzed by Brønsted acid ionic liquid for the synthesis of carbazoles. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2018**, *59*(48), 4221-4225. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2018.10.029]
- [69] Li, C.; Jiang, J.; Li, L.; Zhang, L.; Chen, Q.; Wang, M.; Fu, C.; Zhang, L. Efficient synthesis of pyrano[4,3-b]indol-1(5H)-ones from CO<sub>2</sub> and alkynyl indoles promoted by a protic ionic liquid. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2020**, *61*(4)152449 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2020.152449]
- [70] Yi, F.P.; Sun, H.Y.; Pan, X.H.; Xu, Y.; Li, J.Z. Synthesis of Fischer indole derivatives using carboxyl-functionalized ionic liquid as an efficient and recyclable catalyst. *Chin. Chem. Lett.*, **2009**, *20*(3), 275-278. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ccllet.2008.11.010]
- [71] Hote, B.S.; Siddiqui, T.A.J.; Pisal, P.M.; Mandawad, G.G. Green approach of solvent- and catalyst free synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes under visible light irradiation. *Polycycl. Aromat. Compd.*, **2020**. (published online).
- [72] Sadaphal, S.A.; Sonar, S.S.; Ware, M.N.; Shingare, M.S. Cellulose sulfuric acid: Reusable catalyst for solvent-free synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes at room temperature. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2008**, *1*(4), 191-196. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518250802637819]
- [73] Surasani, R.; Kalita, D.; Chandrasekhar, K.B. Indion Ina 225H resin as a novel, selective, recyclable, eco-benign heterogeneous catalyst for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2013**, *6*(2), 113-122. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518253.2012.711372]
- [74] Hazarika, P.; Sharma, S.D.; Konwar, D. Efficient Synthesis of bis- and tris-Indolylalkanes Catalyzed by a Brønsted Acid-Surfactant Catalyst in Water. *Synth. Commun.*, **2008**, *38*(17), 2870-2880. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397910801979387]
- [75] Prasad, A.N.; Braga, F.C.; Lopes, R. da S.; Casagrande, G.A.; de Lima, D.P.; Adilson Beatriz, A. Cu(I)-phosphine complex: An efficient catalyst for synthesis of 3-indole derivatives through one-pot MCR under mild conditions. *Synth. Commun.*, **2017**, *48*(1), 104-114. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2017.1394467]
- [76] Meshram, H.M.; Thakur, P.B.; Bejjam, M.B. An efficient synthesis of hemiaminal of indoles by using tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) in water as a reusable reaction media. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2013**, *6*(1), 95-100. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518253.2012.708059]
- [77] Nadkarni, S.V.; Nagarkar, J.M. Synthesis of highly substituted indoles in presence of solid acid catalysts. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2011**, *4*(2), 121-126. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518253.2010.515619]
- [78] Heravi, M.M.; Fard, M.V.; Faghihi, Z. Heteropoly acids-catalyzed organic reactions in water: doubly green reactions. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2013**, *6*(4), 282-300. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518253.2013.846415]
- [79] Kardooni, R.; Ali Reza Kiasat, A.R. Polyethylene Glycol (PEG-400): A Green Reaction Medium for One-Pot, Three Component Synthesis of 3-Substituted Indoles under Catalyst Free Conditions. *Polycycl. Aromat. Compd.*, **2019**. (published online).
- [80] Dubey, P.K.; Venkatanarayana, M. PEG-600: a facile and eco-friendly reaction medium for the synthesis of N-alkyl derivatives of indole-3-carboxyaldehyde. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2010**, *3*(4), 257-261. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518251003749379]
- [81] Yang, Y.; Zhang, S.; Tang, L.; Hu, Y.; Zha, Z.; Wang, Z. Catalyst-free thiolation of indoles with sulfonyl hydrazides for the synthesis of 3-sulfenylindoles in water. *Green Chem.*, **2016**, *18*, 2609-2613. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1039/C6GC00313C]
- [82] Hosseini-Sarvari, M.; Parhizgar, G. Regioselective Friedel-Crafts alkylation of indoles with epoxides using nano MgO. *Green Chem. Lett. Rev.*, **2012**, *5*(3), 439-449. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518253.2012.666273]
- [83] Hajjghasemi, H.; Yazdani-Elah-Abadi, A.; Shams, N. An Efficient and Green Stereoselective Synthesis of Functionalized 3-Indol-3-yl-oxindolin-3-yl-3- acrylates via Nano-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-Promoted One-Pot Four-Component Domino Reactions. *Polycycl. Aromat. Compd.*, **2017**, *40*(1), 76-87. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2017.1355326]
- [84] Karthikeyan, S.V.; Perumal, S.; Shetty, K.A.; Yogeeshwari, P.; Sriram, D. A microwave-assisted facile regioselective Fischer indole synthesis and antitubercular evaluation of novel 2-aryl-3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,2-b]indoles. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2009**, *19*(11), 3006-3009. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmlcl.2009.04.029] [PMID: 19403307]

- [85] Lehmann, F.; Holm, M.; Laufer, S. Rapid and easy access to indoles via microwave-assisted Hemetsberger–Knittel synthesis. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2009**, *50*, 1708-1709. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2009.01.129>]
- [86] Borthakur, M.; Gogoi, S.; Gogoi, J.; Boruah, R.C. Lewis acid catalyzed rapid synthesis of 5-hydroxy-benzo[g]indole scaffolds by a modified Nenitzescu reaction. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2010**, *51*(39), 5160-5163. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2010.07.129>]
- [87] Carpita, A.; Ribecai, A.; Stabile, P. Microwave-assisted synthesis of indole- and azaindole-derivatives in water via cycloisomerization of 2-alkynylanilines and alkynylpyridinamines promoted by amines or catalytic amounts of neutral or basic salts. *Tetrahedron*, **2010**, *66*(35), 7169-7178. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2010.06.083>]

---

© 2021 Sarkar *et al.*

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC-BY 4.0), a copy of which is available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>. This license permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.