

**FULL PAPER**

# Synthesis and characterization of new 4,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-indole derivatives as antibacterial and antitumor agents

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New heterocyclic compounds derived from 4,6-Dimethoxy-1*H*-indole were synthesized. 4,6-Dimethoxy-1*H*-indole was reacted with chloroacetic acid to produce compound (R1) which used as starting material to synthesized pyrazole, isoxazole, and pyrimidine derivatives respectively. Compound (R1) reacted with urea and thiourea to produce diazetidin-2-one (R2) and diazetidine-2-thione (R3). On the other hand, (R1) was combined with thiosemecabazide to produce thiadiazole (R4) which combined with benzaldehyde in acetic acid to yield Schiff base compound (R5). This compound used as starting material to creation compounds (R6-R11) via reaction with hydrazine hydrate, phenyl hydrazine, hydroxylamine hydrochloride, acetamide, urea, and thiourea respectively. Anticancer and antibacterial activity of the synthesized compounds was investigated with good results. Compounds R3, R6, R9 and R11 with (NH) group demonstrated strong activity against MCF7 cells, the IC<sub>50</sub> values range between 31.06 - 51.23 µg/mL.

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**KEYWORDS**

Anticancer activity; diazetidine; isoxazole; triazolidine; pyrazoline.

**Introduction**

Bacteria as well as other microbial pathogens bring on the majority of infectious diseases that are fatal. Bacterial pathogens have devised a number of strategies to counteract the bactericidal and inhibitory effects of antimicrobial drugs. It is essential to maintain potent antibiotics on hand as long as in order to preserve both human and animal health. Drugs used to treat cancer and bacteria have, to some extent, lost their effectiveness due to the emergence of resistance [1,2].

Several approaches have been used recently to combat antibiotic resistance. One

of the suggested methods to accomplish this is to combine other molecules with ineffective drugs; it appears to restore the right anticancer and antibacterial activity. Because of their broad variety of biological and pharmacological properties, such as their ability to combat infection, cancer, hypertension, and inflammation of [1-3], six-membered heterocyclic rings are essential for both pharmacological and biological processes. Since they are integrated into proteins at tryptophan residues, are the building blocks of drugs like indomethacin, and act as a biologically appropriate drug store for indole alkaloids, which make up a

significant portion of natural products, indoles are vital heterocyclic molecules in medicinal chemistry [4-6]. The indole compounds have a wide range of biological activities, including antimicrobial [7], antiviral, antibacterial, and anticancer agents [8], antiarrhythmic drugs (physostigmine), and antitumor agents (vincristine) [9-11].

Many researches have been conducted on transition metal-catalyzed C-H functionalization of indoles at the C3 position in latest years, and significant advancements have been accomplished in this area [12]. The use of indoles in the direct synthesis of 3,3-diaryl benzofuranones [13], N-aryl-1-amino indoles [14], and 3,3'-diindolylmethanes (DIMs) [15] is among the most recent applications of indoles in organic synthesis.

Pyrazoles N-heterocyclic compounds (NHCps) have biological and photophysical features found in a diverse range of bioactive chemicals with the ability to be used as chemotherapeutics [16-18]. They have a hetero five-membered ring with two nitrogen atoms in the construction. Anticancer, antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties have indeed been demonstrated for several pyrazoles [19,20].

Numerous intriguing nucleoside and nonnucleoside compounds, as well as a large variety of natural materials contain pyrimidine groups. The biological effects of pyrimidines includes antibacterial [21], antipoptotic proteins, antiviral [22], anticancer [23,24], anti-inflammatory [25-27], and analgesic characteristics.

The purpose of this effort is to develop novel 4,6-Dimethoxy-1H-indole derivatives with biological activity against bacteria and the anticancer Mcf-7.

## Materials and methods

All chemicals were supplied by Merck and BDH Companies. The following techniques have been used in this study: Testseon Shimadzu (FT- IR 8400Series Japan), <sup>1</sup>H and

<sup>13</sup>CNMR Bruker, Ultra Shield 500 MHZ Switzerland.

### Synthetic methods

#### Synthesis of 2-(4,6-dimethoxy-1H-indol-1-yl)acetic acid (R1) [28]

Chloroacetic acid (0.01 mol., 0.94 g) was dissolved in 30 mL chloroform and 4 mL pyridine in a 50 mL beaker, then (0.01 mol., 1.77 g) of compound (R) was added and refluxed for 30 hrs., then it was cooled down. The reaction was monitored by TLC and the obtained precipitate was purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compounds (R2, R3) [29]

Urea (0.01 mol., 0.60 g), thiourea (0.01 mol., 0.76 g) and (0.01 mol., 1.06 g) Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> were mixed in absolute ethanol (20 mL) and added to compound (R1) (0.01 mol., 2.35 g). the mixture was refluxed for 5 hours, then added in ice water and stirred for 30 minutes. The reaction was monitored by TLC and the precipitate was purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compound (R4) [30]

Thiosimicarbazide (0.01 mol., 0.91 g) was combined with 50 mL (10%) NaOH solution and the mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. A solution of 50 mL of dioxin and (0.01 mol., 2.35 g) of (R1) was added to the mixture and refluxed for 24 hours. Ice water and concentrated HCl were added and stirred for 30 minutes. TLC used for monitoring the reaction and the formed precipitate was purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compound (R5) [30]

Benzaldehyde (0.01 mol., 1.06 g) was added to a mixture of compound (R4) (0.01 mol., 2.90 g), glacial acetic acid (2 drops) and ethanol (20

mL) and refluxed for 4 hours. TLC used for monitoring the reaction and the formed precipitate was purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compounds (R6, R7) [30]

Compound (R5) (0.005 mol.), and hydrazine hydrate (0.005 mol., 0.25 mL) of, phenylhydrazine were dissolved in (50 mL) ethanol. The mixture was refluxed for a period of time (12 hrs.). TLC used for monitoring the reaction and the formed precipitate was purified by recrystallization using absolute ethanol (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compound (R8) [30]

Ethanol (50 mL), (0.02 mol.) compound (R5), (0.02 mol., 1.4 g) hydroxylamine

hydrochloride, KOH (2.0 g), and water (5 mL) were mixed. The mixture was refluxed for (24 hrs.). Then, the mixture was cooled, filtered, and recrystallized using ethanol-water solvent (Table 1).

#### Synthesis of compounds (R9, R10, R11) [31]

Small piece of sodium metal was dissolved in (25 mL) of absolute ethanol, and then (0.01 mol.) of acetamide, urea or thiourea was added. In another flask, compound (R5) (0.02 mol.) was dissolved in (25 mL) absolute ethanol. Both solutions were mixed and refluxed for 24 hours. The reaction was cooled and the solid product was filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol (Table 1). Synthesis of the compounds (R1-R11) presented in Scheme 1.

**TABLE 1** Physical properties of the compounds (R1-R11).

Comp. No.	Molecular Formula	M.Wt	Color	m.p. °C	Yield%	R <sub>f</sub>	(TLC)
R1	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	235.24	Pale yellow	107-109	86	0.47	n-hexane: DCM 1:1
R2	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	275.30	Dark orange	178-179	83	0.77	Acetone:n-hexane 1:1
R3	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	277.34	Yellow-Orange	126-128	68	0.85	n-hexane:acetone 1:1
R4	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	291.35	Dark orange	132-134	75	0.68	n-hexane:acetone 1:2
R5	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	378.45	White	98-100	76	0.58	Benzene:Ethyl acetate 3:1
R6	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	392.47	Off-white	168-169	66	0.71	Petolum ether :CHCl <sub>3</sub> 3:3
R7	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	468.57	White	180-182	88	0.79	n-hexane:DCM 1: 1
R8	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	393.46	Bright Brown	151-153	79	0.77	n-hexane:DCM 1: 1
R9	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	419.49	Green-Yellow	127-129	68	0.57	Acetone: hexne1:1
R10	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	420.48	Light brown	116-118	75	0.85	Hexane:acetone 3:3
R11	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	452.54	Yellowish Brown	174-176	80		Hexane:acetone 3:3

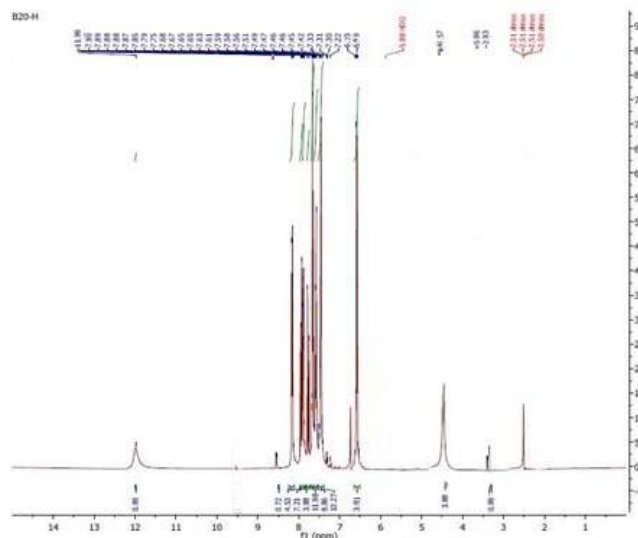
## Results and discussion

We developed a new series of 4, 6-dimethoxy-1H-indole chemical derivatives in this study that have functional groups (pyrazole, isoxazole, and pyrimidine) (scheme1). FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H&<sup>13</sup>C-NMR, and CHNS techniques were used to validate the structures of the novel compounds (R1-R11). We looked into how

they responded to microorganisms and the anticancer MCF-7. Compound R1: FTIR spectrum shows disappearance of NH group at (3216 cm<sup>-1</sup>), (OH) of acid at 3366-2400 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (CH<sub>ar</sub>) at 3080 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (CH<sub>alph</sub>) at 2908 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1581 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C)<sub>ar</sub>, (C-N) at 1382 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (C-O) at 1254-1207 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum, revealed an appearance singlet (COOH) at 11.90 ppm, 3.93, 3.94 ppm for (CH<sub>3</sub>-O) group, CH<sub>2</sub>-N group

at (4.57) ppm, (CH)<sub>ar</sub>. at (6.48 -7.76) ppm (Figure 1). The Elemental Analysis C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>

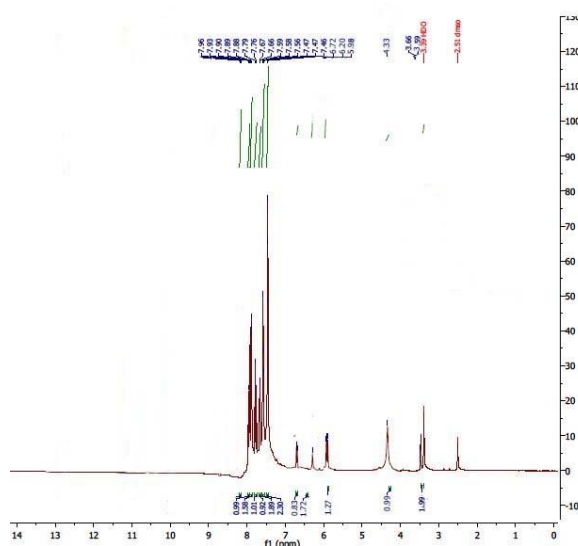
(Calc.), founded: C% (61.27) 60.10; H% (5.57) 5.18; N% (5.95) 5.37.



**FIGURE 1** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound (R1)

Compound (R2): FTIR spectrum shows appearance NH band at 3243 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (C-H)<sub>ar</sub> at 3031 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (CH)<sub>alph</sub> at 2951, 2847cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1515, 1601 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C)<sub>ar</sub>., (NH-C=O) 1614, (C-N) 1401 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and (C-O) 1130-1284 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum shows appearance singlet peak

(CH<sub>3</sub>-O) at 3.59 ppm, 3.66 ppm, (CH)<sub>ar</sub>. at 6.20 -7.96 ppm, (-NH) at 6.72 ppm, (-CH<sub>2</sub>) at 4.33 ppm, (CH<sub>2</sub>-N) at 5.98 ppm (Figure 2). The Elemental Analysis C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Calc.), founded: C% (61.08) 60.20; H% (6.22) 5.97; N% (15.26) 14.75.



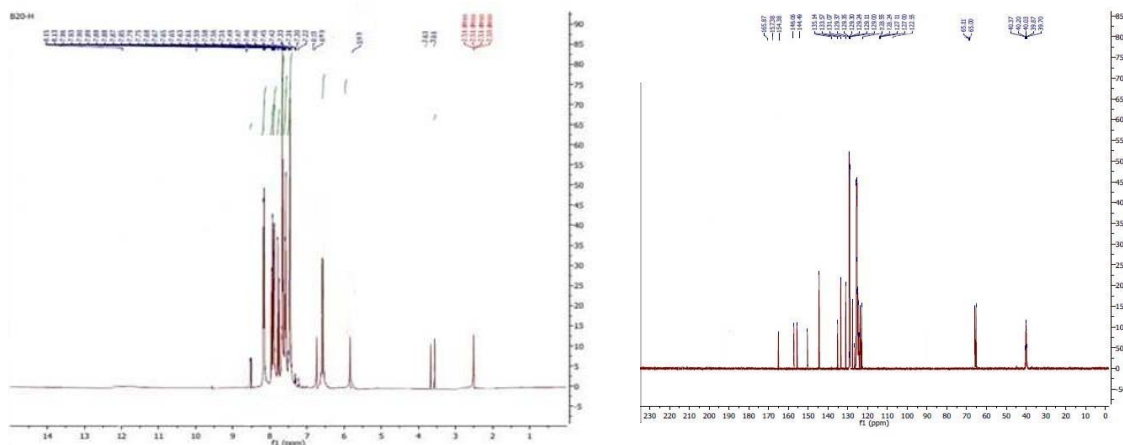
**FIGURE 2** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound (R2).

Compound (R3): FTIR spectrum shows -NH band at 3155 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (C-H)<sub>ar</sub> at 3028 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (CH)<sub>alph</sub> at 2981 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (C=C)<sub>ar</sub>. 1537 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (C=S) 1595, (C-N) 1369 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and (C-O) 1103 cm<sup>-1</sup>-1016 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum:

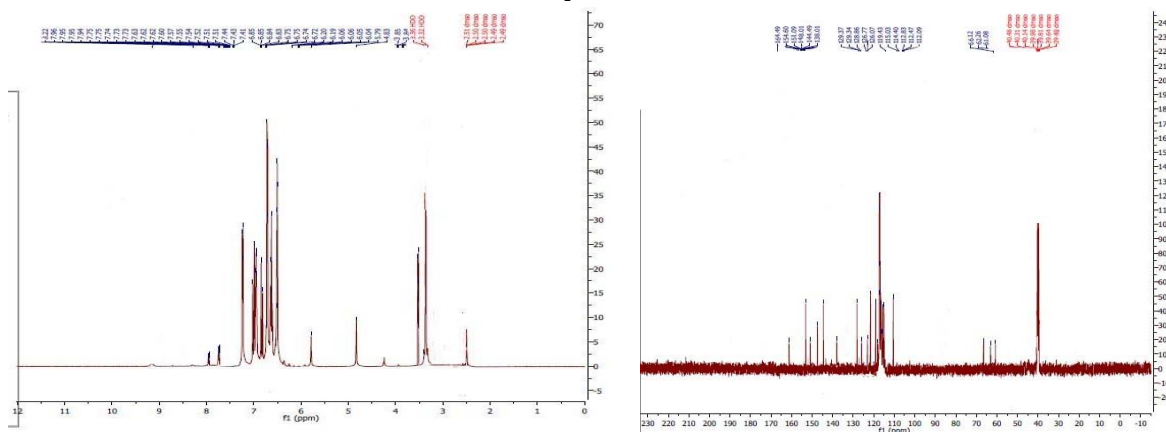
appearance singlet : (CH<sub>3</sub>-O) 3.47, 3.48 ppm and (CH) ar. 6.42-7.88 ppm, (-NH) 6.72 ppm, (CH) 2.63 ppm, (CH<sub>2</sub>-N) 5.21 ppm (Figure 3). The Elemental Analysis C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (Calc.),



founded: C% (69.21) 68.85; H% (5.16) 5.01;  
N% (11.96) 11.50; and S% (6.84) 6.57).

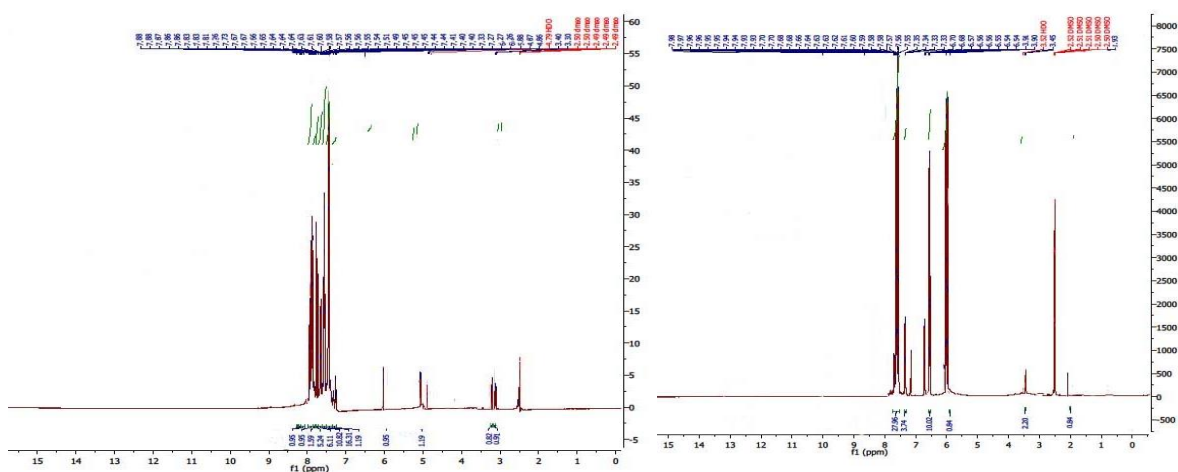


Compound R4



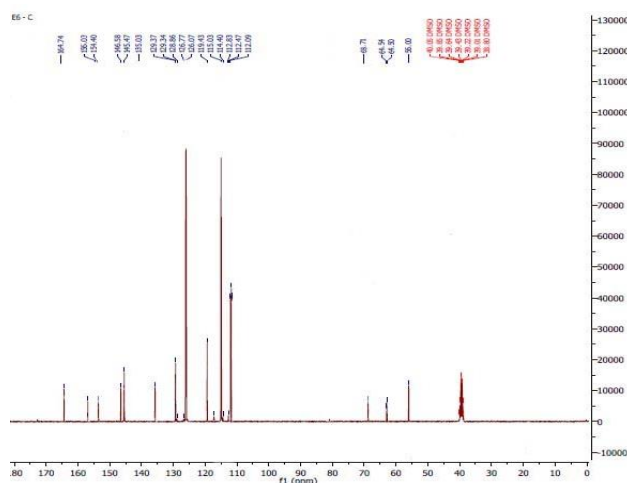
Compound R5

**FIGURE 4** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compounds R4 and R5



Compound R6

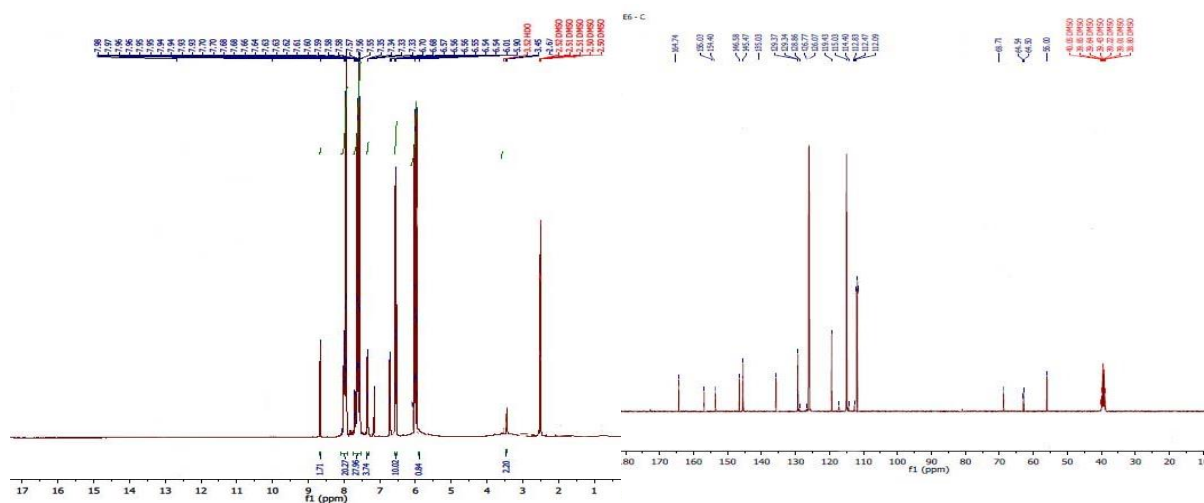
Compound R7



**FIGURE 5**  $^1\text{H}$ NMR of compounds R6, R7 and  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of compound R7 spectra.

Compounds R8 and R9: FTIR spectrum of (R8) appearance of new absorption stretching bands of NH group at  $3241\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=N) group  $1634\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1650$ , (C=C) ar.  $1573\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1604$ - $1492\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , ( $\text{CH}_{\text{alph}}$ ) at  $2947\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (CHar) at  $3051\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1446\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1373\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-N),  $1211\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-O).  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum of compound R8: signal  $\text{CH}_3\text{-O}$  at 3.45, 3.44 ppm, (CH)ar. at 6.01-7.98 ppm, ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$ ) 5.90 ppm,

and (CH-N) at 2.67 ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (R8) appearance signal ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$ ) at 57.68 ppm, (Car.) at 122.28-135.49 ppm, (C-N) at 65.11 ppm, (N=C) 157.38 ppm, 154.38 ppm, (N=C-S) at 165.89 ppm (Figure 6). The Elemental Analysis  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$  (Calc.), founded: C% (64.11) 63.82; H% (4.87) 4.71; N% (10.68) 10.52; S% (8.15) 8.07.



compound R8

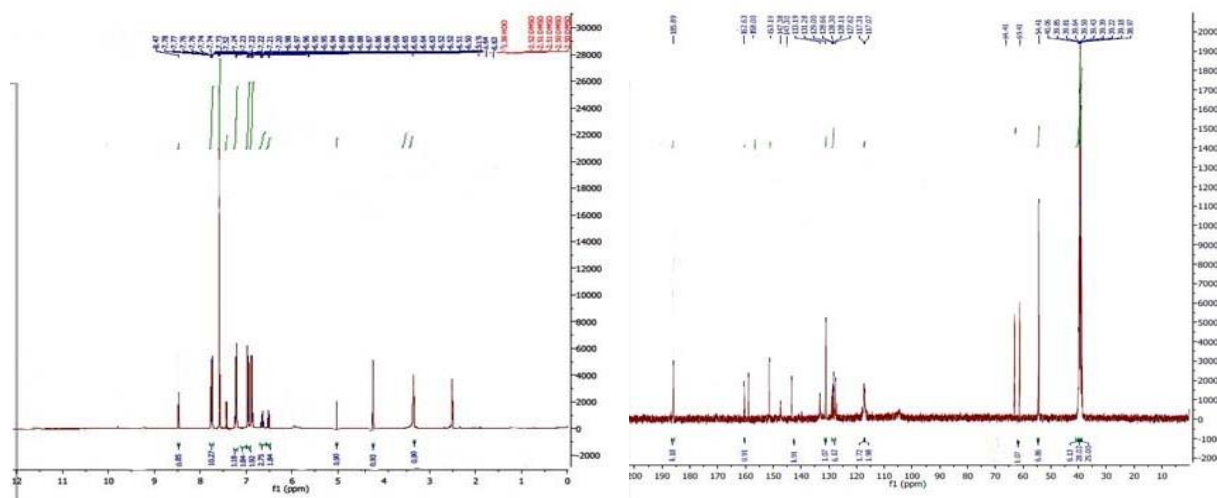
**FIGURE 6**  $^1\text{H}$ NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of compound R8

FTIR spectrum of compound R9 display absorption band for (C=O) at  $1702$ ,  $1633\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=C)  $1570\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (N-H) at  $3116\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=C) ar.  $1570\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , ( $\text{CH}_{\text{alph}}$ ) at  $2916\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2809\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (CHar) at  $3051\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C-N)  $1368\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C-O)  $1290$ - $1129\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum of R9

display signal:  $\text{CH}_3\text{-O}$  at 3.99 ppm, (CH)ar. at 6.50-7.79 ppm, (NH) at 8.15 ppm, ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$ ) 4.49 ppm, (=CH) 5.18 ppm, and (CH-N) 2.65 ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of R9: ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$ ) signal at 54.41 ppm, (Car.) 117.28-133.19 ppm, (C-N) 61.41 ppm, (N=C) 153.11 ppm, (N=C-S) 162.63

ppm (Figure 7). The Elemental Analysis  $C_{23}H_{21}N_3O_3S$  (Calc.), founded: C% (65.85)

64.12; H% (5.05) 4.91; N% (10.02) 9.62; S% (7.64) 7.17.

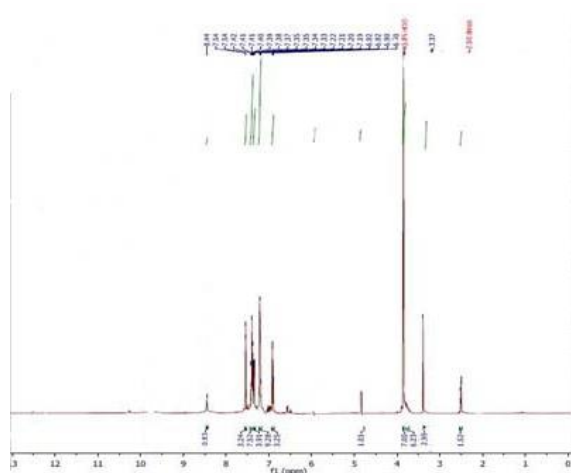


compound R9

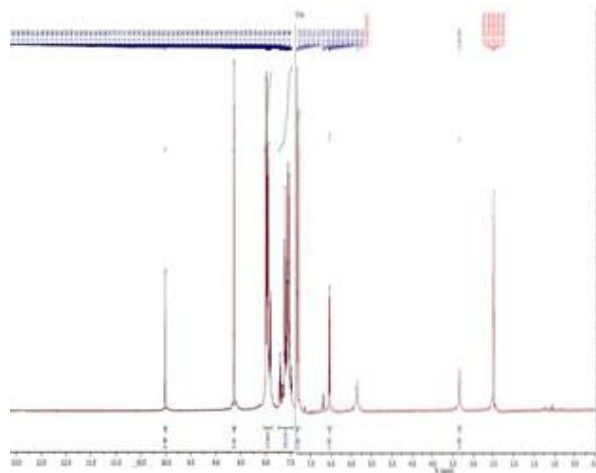
**FIGURE 7**  $^1H$ NMR and  $^{13}C$ NMR spectra of compound R8 and R9.

Compounds (R10, R11): FTIR spectra of compounds (R10, R11), shows absorption band (NH) band at  $3323\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3255\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=S)  $1136\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=O)  $1665\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3037\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2999\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to Char., (C=N)  $1610\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C=Car)  $1605, 1535\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C-N)  $1376\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (C-S)  $1450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum of R10 display a peak for  $CH_3-O$  group at 3.37 ppm, (CH)ar. 6.39-7.54 ppm, (NH) at 8.44 ppm, ( $CH_2-N$ ) 4.39 ppm, and (CH-N) 2.65 ppm. The Elemental Analysis  $C_{22}H_{20}N_4O_3S$  (Calc.), founded: C% (62.84) 61.22; H% (4.79) 4.44;

N% (13.32) 12.22; S% (7.62) 7.27.  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum of R11:  $CH_3-O$  signal at 3.34 ppm, (CH)ar. 6.71-8.63 ppm, (NH) at 10.00 ppm, (CH) 6.53 ppm.  $^{13}C$ -NMR spectrum of R11: ( $CH_2-N$ ) display signal at 62.63 ppm, (Car) 117.07-133.31 ppm, (CH-N) at 64.41 ppm, ( $CH_3-O$ ) 56.99 ppm, 54.41 ppm, 154.31 ppm to (N=C), (N=C-S) 162.63 ppm, (S=C) 185.87 ppm (Figure 8). The Elemental Analysis  $C_{22}H_{20}N_4O_3S_2$  (Calc.), founded: C% (58.39) 58.21; H% (4.45) 4.24; N% (12.38) 12.20; S% (14.17) 13.97.

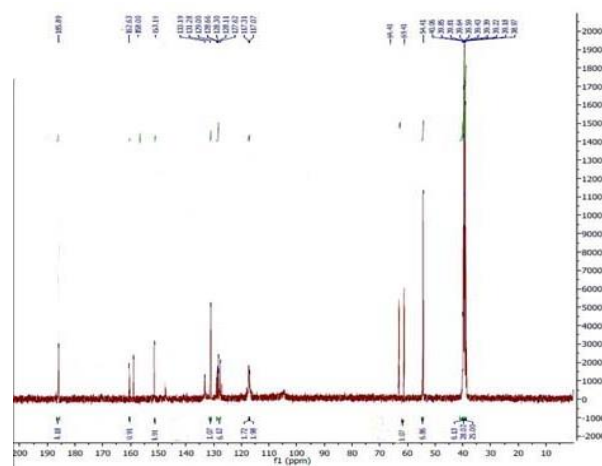


Compound R10



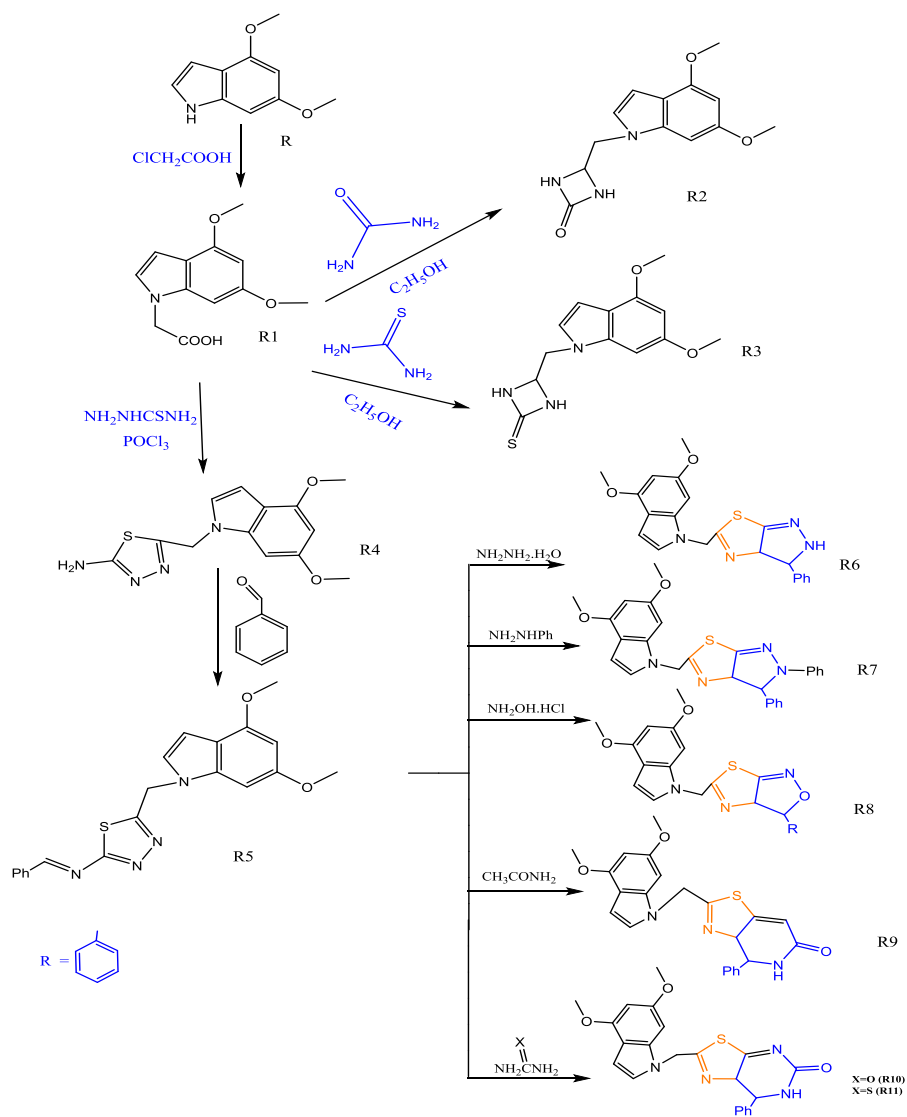
Compound R11





Compound R11

FIGURE 8 <sup>1</sup>HNMR OF R10, R11 and <sup>13</sup>CNMR of compound R11 spectra



SCHEME 1 Synthesis of compounds (R1-R11)

*Solubility of the synthesized compounds*

The synthesized compounds were insoluble in diethyl ether, petroleum ether, acetone and hexane but showed a good solubility in DMSO and DMF. Some prepared compounds are

somewhat soluble in ethanol, water, and ethyl acetate. Solubility properties of prepared compounds in different solvents (H<sub>2</sub>O, ethanol, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, ether, petroleum ether, DMSO, hexane, DMF, ethyl acetate and acetone) are listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 2** Solubility of the synthesized compounds (R1-R11) in different solvents

Comp.	DMSO	DMF	DCM	Pet. ether	Ethyl acetate	Acetone	Di ethyl ether	H <sub>2</sub> O	Hexane	EtOH
R1	+	+	-	Partial	Partial	Partial	-	Partial	Partial	+
R2	+	+	+	Partial	+	-	-	Partial	-	Partial
R3	+	+	-	Partial	Partial	Partial	-	+	-	+
R4	+	+	-	-	Partial	+	-	Partial	-	Partial
R5	+	+	+	-	Partial	Partial	-	Partial	Partial	Partial
R6	+	+	Partial	Partial	+	Partial	-	+	Partial	Partial
R7	+	+	+	-	-	Partial	-	Partial	-	+
R8	+	+	Partial	Partial	Partial	+	-	Partial	Partial	Partial
R9	+	+	+	Partial	Partial	Partial	-	+	Partial	Partial
R10	+	+	Partial	-	+	-	-	+	Partial	+
R11	+	+	+	-	-	Partial	-	Partial	-	+

*Antibacterial Activity of the synthesized derivatives (R1-R10)*

Using gram-positive (E-coli) and gram-negative bacteria (Staph. Aureu.), It was looked at how effective some synthetic substances were against microorganisms. The

derivatives (R1, R4, R5, R6, R7, R9, R10) have a good effectiveness in inhibiting the growth of (G-). The compounds (R1, R2, R3, R5, R6, R7, R8) have a good effectiveness in inhibiting bacteria (G+) in comparison with Cefotaxime, as listed in Table 3 [30].

**TABLE 3** Antibacterial activity of compounds (R1-R10)

Comp. No.	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (inhibition zone mm)	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (inhibition zone mm)
Cefotaxime (Antibiotic) Standard	11	16
R1	13	18
R2	8	20
R3	9	21
R4	15	17
R5	16	10
R6	13	24
R7	15	23
R8	8	17
R9	14	10
R10	14	14

*Anticancer activity of the synthesized derivatives (R3, R6, R9, R11)*

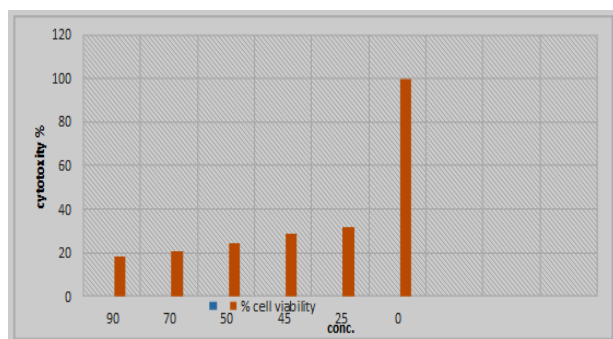
The anti-proliferating activity of the synthesized compounds (R3, R6, R9, R11)

against breast cancer cell lines (MCF-7) was studied in this investigation. The cytotoxicity analyzes of these compounds are suitable for

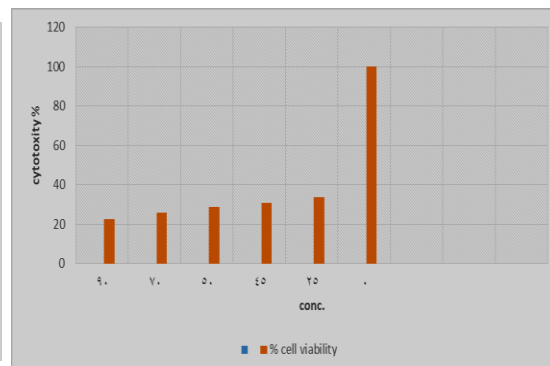
clinical application against breast cancer (Eq. 1).

In comparison with other studies, the IC50 value was much lower (R3=31.06, R6=33.66, R9=42.18, R11=51.23) and triggered

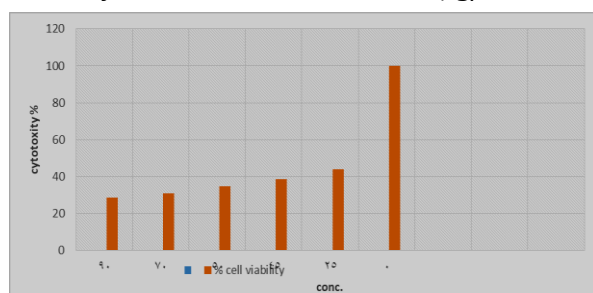
apoptotic cell death (Figure 9). The following equation was used to calculate the rate of cell growth inhibition (cytotoxicity percentage) [32].



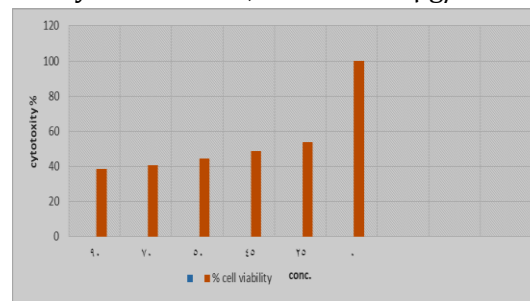
Cytotoxic of R3, IC50=31.06  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$



Cytotoxic of R6, IC50=33.66  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$



Cytotoxic of R9, IC50=42.18  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$



Cytotoxic of R11, IC50= 51.23  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$

**FIGURE 9** Cytotoxic of R3, R6, R9, and R11

## Conclusion

Based on 4,6-Dimethoxy-1*H*-indole, a number of novel compounds were created and then various methods were used to describe them. The outcomes showed that indole was the source of the novel pyrazole, isoxazole, and pyrimidine. These substances were examined for their antibacterial efficacy against a variety of harmful bacterial species, and the results suggest that a number of these derivatives had strong antimicrobial activity. The cytotoxic potential of derivatives against MCF7 produced conclusive evidence that the derivatives R3, R6, R9, and R11 are active substances against MCF7.

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## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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