

Synthesis and Fungicidal Activity of Substituted (*E*)-3-Phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (*E,Z*)-*O*-Alkyl- and *O*-Benzyloximes

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Abstract—Previously unknown substituted (*E*)-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (*E,Z*)-*O*-alkyl- and *O*-benzyloximes were synthesized by oximation of (*E*)-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ones (azachalcones), followed by alkylation of the resulting oximes under different conditions. The synthesized compounds showed a good fungicidal activity.

Keywords: 3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ones, azachalcone oximes, *O*-alkylation of oximes, phase-transfer catalysis, *E,Z* isomerism of oximes, fungicidal activity.

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Oxime ethers derived from heterocyclic ketones attract interest due to their potential biological activity. For example, pyrifenoxy (**1**) has found application as a fungicide with a broad spectrum of action on berry and fruit plants and grape [1], and oxiconazole (**2**) is used for the treatment of superficial mycoses in humans [2]. These compounds inhibit biosynthesis of fungal ergosterol via coordination of the heteroatom to the iron atom in the active site of cytochrome oxidase (CYP51) [1]. Another class of oxime ethers includes fluoxastrobin (**3**) and kresoxim-methyl (**4**) that are widely used to treat crops, vegetables, and fruits [3]. Compounds **3** and **4** bind to cytochrome *bc*₁ complex thus blocking fungal cell respiration. In recent years, increasing interest is observed to the synthesis of new *O*-substituted oximes due to their valuable fungicidal properties. 3-Aryl-1-(indol-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one *O*-alkyloximes [4], 3,3-dimethyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)butan-2-one *O*-benzyloximes [5], and 3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)propan-1-one *O*-alkyloximes [6] showed fungicidal activity. We previously synthesized (*Z*)-*N'*-methoxy-pyridine-3-carboximidamides [7, 8] and substituted (pyridin-3-yl)methanone (*E,Z*)-*O*-alkyloximes [9], studied their steric structure, and revealed fungicidal activity of these compounds. In continuation of these studies, herein we report the synthesis of a series of new 3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one *O*-alkyl-

and *O*-benzyloximes **5a–5i** and their fungicidal activity.

Target compounds **5a–5i** were synthesized from the corresponding oximes **7a–7c** which were prepared according to a conventional procedure, by treatment of azachalcones **6a–6c** with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in aqueous ethanol (Scheme 1). Initial azachalcones **6a–6c** were obtained in turn by condensation of 3-acetylpyridine with 4-halobenzaldehydes in the presence of 10% sodium hydroxide [10]. The progress of the oximation of **6a–6c** and the purity of **7a–7c** were monitored by TLC and IR spectroscopy (following the disappearance of the carbonyl stretching vibration band at 1660 cm⁻¹).

Taking into account that alkylating agents with different reactivities were used for the alkylation of **7a–7c**, the reactions were performed under different conditions. The benzylation was carried out in a two-phase system (benzene–5% aqueous KOH) using benzyl(triethyl)ammonium chloride as phase-transfer catalyst. However, the alkylation involved not only the oxime functionality but also pyridine nitrogen atom. Furthermore, the reaction was accompanied by hydrolysis of benzyl chloride. As a result, in no case we succeeded in attaining complete conversion of the initial oxime; nevertheless, compounds **5a–5c** were isolated in acceptable yields (46.0–69.6%).

Table 1. Radial growth inhibition (% with respect to control) of fungal mycelium *in vivo* in the presence of compounds **5a–5i** at a concentration of 30 mg/L

Compound no.	<i>V. inaequalis</i>	<i>R. solani</i>	<i>F. oxysporum</i>	<i>F. moniliforme</i>	<i>H. sativum</i>
5a	33±5	48±6	22±6	43±3	56±2
5b	28±3	54±5	60±5	90±1	60±2
5c	35±5	–	18±5	30±4	46±3
5d	33±6	3±2	17±5	44±3	37±2
5e	28±2	0	11±2	27±2	28±2
5f	25±3	27±5	16±2	31±5	37±5
5g	28±5	14±4	46±2	49±4	43±5
5h	23±4	59±2	48±2	53±2	46±3
5i	55±1	45±2	45±2	66±2	60±5
4	100	94±1	58±4	57±3	93±2
Triadimefon	60±5	54±4	72±5	85±7	60±5

active derivatives, *O*-benzyloxime **5b** and *O*-cyclohexyloximes **5h** and **5i** was comparable to that of the reference fungicides and in some cases exceeded it.

EXPERIMENTAL

The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 300 spectrometer at 300 MHz from solutions in DMSO-*d*₆. The IR spectra were measured in mineral oil on an IKS-29 spectrometer.

Initial (*E*)-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ones **6a–6c** were synthesized by condensation of 3-acetylpyridine with 4-halobenzaldehydes [10].

[(2*E*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ylidene]hydroxylamine (7a). A solution of 0.695 g (10 mmol) of hydroxylamine hydrochloride in 1 mL of water was added to a solution of 1.135 g (5 mmol) of (*E*)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**6a**) in 15 mL of ethanol. The mixture was heated for 1 h on a water bath and cooled to room temperature, a solution of 0.400 g (10 mmol) of sodium hydroxide in 1 mL of water was added, and carbon dioxide was passed through the mixture until pH ~7. The precipitate was filtered off, treated with 5 mL of boiling methanol, 5 mL of tetrahydrofuran was added, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and the precipitate was filtered off. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was recrystallized from ethanol. Yield 0.566 g (76.8%), mp 130–132°C.

Compounds **7b** and **7c** were synthesized in a similar way.

[(2*E*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ylidene]hydroxylamine (7b). Yield 1.106 g (85.6%), mp 147–149°C.

[(2*E*)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ylidene]hydroxylamine (7c). Yield 0.406 g (66.8%), mp 164–166°C.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-*N*-Benzyloxy-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5a). A solution of 0.300 g (2.37 mmol) of benzyl chloride and 0.23 g (1 mmol) of benzyl(triethyl)ammonium chloride (BTEAC) in 10 mL of benzene was added to a solution of 0.484 g (2 mmol) of oxime **7a** in 5% aqueous potassium hydroxide [1.43 g (25.5 mmol) of KOH in 28 mL of water]. The two-phase system was vigorously stirred for 5 h under reflux, the progress of the reaction being monitored by TLC. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, and the organic layer was separated, dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (5–40 μm) using methylene chloride–ethyl acetate (1:1) as eluent. Yield 0.069 g (69.6%), *E/Z* ratio 38:62, oily material. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 5.15 s (1.24H, OCH₂, *Z*), 5.32 s (0.76H, OCH₂, *E*), 6.36 d and 7.06 d (1.24H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.68 d (0.38H, 3'-H, *E*, *J* = 16.9), 7.27–7.51 m [9.38H, 2'-H (*E*), H_{arom}], 7.56–7.68 m (1H, 5-H), 7.80 d (0.62H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 9.7), 7.91 d (0.38H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.1), 8.55 s (0.62H, 2-H, *Z*), 8.66 d (1H, 6-H, *J* =

4.8), 8.74 s (0.38N, 2-H, *E*). Found, %: C 75.50; H 6.00; N 8.09. C₂₁H₁₇FN₂O. Calculated, %: C 75.89; H 5.16; N 8.43.

Compounds **5b** and **5c** were synthesized in a similar way.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-*N*-Benzyloxy-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5b). Yield 0.307 g (59.5%), *E/Z* = 45:55, red-brown oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 5.15 s (1.10H, OCH₂, *Z*), 5.30 s (0.90H, OCH₂, *E*), 6.35 d and 7.03 d (1.10H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.67 d and 7.54 d (0.90H, CH=CH, *E*, ³*J* = 16.5), 7.27–7.47 m [10.55H, 4-H (*Z*), 5-H, H_{arom}], 7.80 d (0.45H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.1), 8.55 s (0.45H, 2-H, *Z*), 8.66 s (1H, 6-H), 8.74 s (0.55H, 2-H, *E*). Found, %: C 72.01; H 5.11; N 7.75. C₂₁H₁₇ClN₂O. Calculated, %: C 72.31; H 4.91; N 8.03.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-*N*-Benzyloxy-3-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5c). Yield 0.362 g (46.0%), *E/Z* = 40:60, red-brown oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 5.16 s (1.20H, OCH₂, *Z*), 5.29 s (0.80H, OCH₂, *E*), 6.33 d and 7.05 d (1.20H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.65 d (0.4H, 3'-H, *E*, *J* = 16.1), 7.19–7.50 m [9.60H, 2'-H (*E*), H_{arom}], 7.58–7.72 m (1H, 5-H), 7.81 d (0.60H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 9.7), 8.05 d (0.40H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.1), 8.55 s (0.40H, 2-H, *Z*), 8.67 d (1H, 6-H, *J* = 4.4), 8.73 s (0.60H, 2-H, *E*). Found, %: C 64.06; H 4.40; N 7.10. C₂₁H₁₇BrN₂O. Calculated, %: C 63.83; H 4.56; N 6.89.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-*N*-hexyloxy-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5d). A solution of 0.454 g (2 mmol) of oxime **7a** in 7 mL of anhydrous DMF was cooled with an ice-salt bath, and 0.120 g (3 mmol) of 60% sodium hydride was added under argon. The mixture was stirred for 30 min, 0.34 mL (2.5 mmol) of hexyl bromide was added, and the mixture was stirred for 18 h at room temperature and for 2.5 h at 60°C. The mixture was cooled, poured into ice water (50 mL), and extracted with diethyl ether. The extract was washed with 3 portions of water and 4 portions of 15% aqueous KOH, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (5–40 μm) using first methylene chloride (to remove DMF and hexene) and then methylene chloride-ethyl acetate (gradient elution). Yield 0.427 g (65.5%), *E/Z* = 80:20, yellow oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 0.86 t (3H, CH₃, *J* = 6.9), 1.15–1.34 m [6H, CH₃(CH₂)₃], 1.62 m (2H, CH₂CH₂O), 4.04–4.30 m (2H, CH₂O), 6.36 d (0.20H, 3'-H, *Z*, *J* = ³16.5), 6.67 d (0.80H, 3'-H, *E*, ³*J* = 16.1), 6.93–7.51 m (6H, FC₆H₄, 5-H, 2'-H), 7.64 d

(0.20H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 8.1) 7.73 d (0.80H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.1), 8.51 s (1H, 2-H), 8.66 d (1H, 6-H, *J* = 4.8). Found, %: C 73.55; H 7.14; N 8.54. C₂₀H₂₃FN₂O. Calculated, %: C 73.42; H 7.19; N 8.48.

Compounds **5e–5i** were synthesized in a similar way.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-hexyloxy-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5e). Yield 0.489 g (71.4%), *E/Z* = 64:36, yellow oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 0.81–0.95 m (3H, CH₃), 1.19–1.39 m [6H, CH₃(CH₂)₃], 1.55–1.84 m (2H, CH₂CH₂O), 4.06–4.29 m (2H, CH₂O), 6.35 d and 7.05 d (0.72H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.72 d and 7.54 d (1.28H, CH=CH, *E*, ³*J* = 16.9), 7.27–7.44 m (5H, 5-H, H_{arom}), 7.82 d (0.36H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 8.1), 8.35 d (0.64H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.1), 8.55 s (1H, 2-H), 8.65 d (1H, 6-H, *J* = 5.0). Found, %: C 70.02; H 6.80; N 8.15. C₂₀H₂₃ClN₂O. Calculated, %: C 69.68; H 6.88; N 8.03.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-*N*-hexyloxy-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5f). Yield 0.579 g (74.9%), *E/Z* = 60:40, yellow oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 0.72–0.96 m (3H, CH₃), 1.00–1.48 m [6H, CH₃(CH₂)₃], 1.50–1.83 m (2H, CH₂CH₂O), 4.05–4.30 m (2H, CH₂O), 6.44 d and 7.15 d (0.8H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.76 d (0.60H, 2'-H, *E*, ³*J* = 16.9), 7.15–7.66 m [5.60H, 2'-H (*E*), 5-H, H_{arom}], 7.85 d (0.40H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 8.1), 8.20 d (0.60H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 7.8), 8.55 s (1H, 2-H), 8.66 d (1H, 6-H, *J* = 5.7). Found, %: C 61.98; H 6.03; N 7.21. C₂₀H₂₃BrN₂O. Calculated, %: C 62.15; H 6.13; N 7.00.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-*N*-Cyclohexyloxy-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5g). Yield 0.088 g (13.6%), *E/Z* = 45:55 (yellow oil). ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 0.79–0.94 m and 1.13–1.68 m [10H, (CH₂)₅], 4.05–4.29 m (1H, CHO), 6.36 d and 7.06 d (1.10H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.68 d (0.45H, 2'-H, *E*, *J* = 17.3), 7.14–7.74 m [6.00H, 2'-H (*E*), 4-H (*Z*), 5-H, H_{arom}], 7.80 d (0.45H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.0), 8.57 s (1H, 2-H), 8.66 d (1H, 6-H, *J* = 4.0). Found, %: C 74.01; H 6.56; N 8.62. C₂₀H₂₁FN₂O. Calculated, %: C 73.98; H 6.70; N 8.48.

(1*EZ*,2*E*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-cyclohexyloxy-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5h). Yield 0.215 g (31.5%), *E/Z* = 55:45, yellow oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 1.15–1.67 m and 1.71–1.92 m [10H, (CH₂)₅], 4.10–4.30 m (1H, CHO), 6.36 d and 7.05 d (0.90H, CH=CH, *Z*, ³*J* = 16.5), 6.67 d and 7.56 d (1.10H, CH=CH, *E*, ³*J* = 16.9), 7.27–7.42 m (5H, 5-H, H_{arom}), 7.83 d (0.45H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 7.7), 8.35 d (0.55H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.0), 8.55 s (1H, 2-H), 8.58–

8.67 m (1H, 6-H). Found, %: C 70.45; H 6.25; N 8.20. C₂₀H₂₁ClN₂O. Calculated, %: C 70.12; H 6.44; N 8.01.

(1E,2E)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-cyclohexyloxy-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-imine (5i). Yield 0.149 g (19.3%), *E/Z* = 15:85, yellow oil. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 1.21–1.72 m and 1.74–1.87 m [10H, (CH₂)₅], 4.07–4.30 m (1H, CHO), 6.43 d and 7.15 d (1.90H, CH=CH, *Z*, *J* = 16.5), 6.67 d (0.15H, 2'-H, *E*, *J* = 16.9), 7.32–7.71 m [5.15H, 2'-H (*E*), 5-H, H_{arom}], 7.77 d (0.85H, 4-H, *Z*, *J* = 7.7), 7.85 d (0.15H, 4-H, *E*, *J* = 8.0), 8.52–8.71 m (1H, 6-H), 8.75 s (1H, 2-H). Found, %: C 62.31; H 5.53; N 7.25. C₂₀H₂₁BrN₂O. Calculated, %: C 61.97; H 5.71; N 7.00.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors indicate the absence of conflict of interests.

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