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A Systematic Review of Semicarbazones as an Anticonvulsant Agent

Mehnaz Kamal^{1,*}, Talha Jawaid²

1 Faculty of Pharmacy, Integral University, Lucknow (U. P.), India-226026

*2 Hygia Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ghaila Road, Lucknow
(U. P.), India-226002*

ABSTRACT

Anticonvulsants are a diverse group of pharmaceuticals used in the treatment of epileptic seizures. The goal of an anticonvulsant is to suppress the rapid and excessive firing of neurons that start a seizure. The use of current antiepileptic drugs has been questioned due to the non selectivity of the drugs and the undesirable side effects posed by them. This lead to the search for antiepileptic compounds with more selective activity and lower toxicity continues to be an area of investigation in medicinal chemistry. Semicarbazones are compounds which are synthesized by the condensation of semicarbazide and aldehydes/ketones. The literature survey revealed that semicarbazones had been emerged as a compound with broad range of activities including anticonvulsant, antitubercular, anticancer and antimicrobial activity. In this review chemistry and anticonvulsant activity of semicarbazone analogues are discussed.

Keywords: anticonvulsants, semicarbazones, chemistry, review

*Corresponding Author Email: mailtomehnaz@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Epilepsy is a complex and chronic neurological disorder characterized by the unpredictable recurrence of unprovoked seizures and is associated with a high degree of morbidity and mortality. A seizure is the clinical expression of abnormal neuronal firing within the brain that occurs with or without the loss of consciousness. Both genders are affected equally, but the incidence of epilepsy is highest during childhood, reaches a plateau until the age of 65, and increases thereafter¹ Approximately 2.5 million people², including 340,000 children in the United States and about 45- 100 million people worldwide, suffer from epilepsy and its sequelae³ Prior to 1990, the medical treatment of patient with epilepsy was accomplished by using one or a combination of classical⁴ antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) such as phenytoin, carbamazepine, and valproate. All these established drugs have failed to control seizures in 25 – 30% patients and are proved to cause intolerable adverse effects (like neurotoxicity, fatal idiosyncratic disorders, etc.) in patients receiving either monotherapy or polytherapy. In the past decade, a group of new AEDs, including felbamate, gabapentin, lamotrigine, oxcarbazepine, and some others, have been made available to patients with epilepsy, but yet not all of them have had their seizures controlled or their adverse effects completely eliminated. Recently, several investigational AEDs, including ganoxolone, ramicemide, rufinamide, etc⁵, have been put into clinical trials and only limited data on their efficacy and safety against a particular seizure type are available to date. Although the diagnosis of seizure type and treatments are complicated, the therapy of patients with epilepsy has been accomplished in current clinical practice by administering one or a combination of classical and new epileptic drugs; however, they still suffer from unwanted side effects like sedation, which stimulates the search for safer, better, and more effective AEDs.

Table 1: Major side effects of commonly used anticonvulsants⁶.

Drug	Side effects
Phenobarbital	Dizziness, lethargy, hypotension, apnea, megaloblastic anemia, Liver damage and so on.
Phenytoin	Nausea, skin rashes blood dyscrasias, hyperglycemia cardiac arrhythmias and so on.
Trimethadone	Drowsiness, G.I.distress, vertigo, diplopia, epistaxis, alopecia, nephrosis, foetal malformation and so on.
Ethosuximide	G.I. distress, euphoria, confusion, myopia, urticaria, vaginal bleeding and so on.
Carbamazepine	Dizziness, ataxia, drowsiness, hallucinations, dermatologic sweating, genitourinary albuminaria, hypotension, liver dysfunction and so on.
Primidone	Lethargy, ataxia, vertigo, irritability, severe skin rashes, lymphadenopathy, impotence, visual disturbances, lupus like reactions and so on.

Sodium valproate	Nausea, vomiting, indigestion, sedation, abdominal cramps, fetal hepatic failure, alopecia, irregular menses, acute pancreases, blood dyscrasias and so on.
Lamotrigine	Dizziness, ataxia, blurred vision, vomiting, skin rashes, Stevens Johnson syndrome, disseminated intravascular coagulation

Unverferth *et al.*⁷ suggested a pharmacophore model for structurally different anticonvulsants containing aryl rings and electron donor and hydrogen bond donor/acceptor functions. During the last fifteen years, semicarbazones emerged as novel anticonvulsant entities in the laboratories of Dimmock^{8,9} and Pandeya^{10,11}. The structural requirements in the semicarbazone series are: a lipophilic aryl ring, a distal aryl ring, a hydrogen-bonding domain (HBD) and an electron donor acceptor system (Figure 1.). The lipophilic aryl ring with chloro, bromo or nitro groups has been found to be essential for anticonvulsant activity.

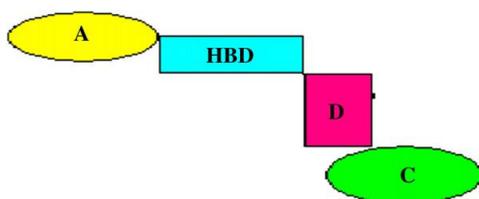


Figure 1. Proposed pharmacophore model for anticonvulsant activity: (A) hydrophobic aryl ring; (HBD) hydrogen-bonding domain; (C) distal aryl ring; (D) electron donor acceptor group.

Semicarbazones

Chemistry of Semicarbazones

Semicarbazones are among the most relevant nitrogen-oxygen donor ligands (Figure 2.).

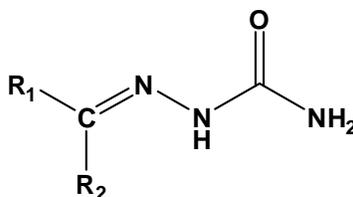
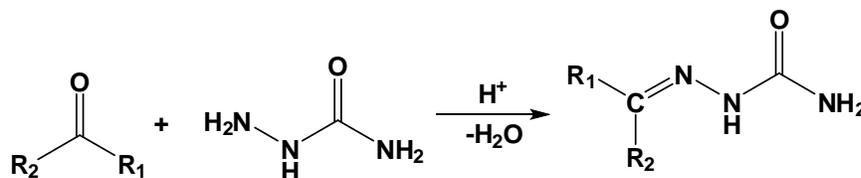


Figure 2. General Structure of semicarbazone analogues

Semicarbazones are the Schiff bases, usually obtained by the condensation of semicarbazide with suitable aldehydes and ketones (Scheme 1.).



Scheme 1. Method of Synthesis of semicarbazone

The carbonyl stretching C=O vibration ^{12, 13} is expected in the region 1715-1680 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum. The δ C=O in-plane deformation and the out-of-plane deformation γ C=O are expected in the regions 625 \pm 70 and 540 \pm 80 cm⁻¹ respectively ¹². According to Socrates ¹⁴, the ν C=N for semicarbazones is expected in the region 1655-1640 cm⁻¹ in IR spectrum. A perusal through literature shows that C=O and C=N stretching modes are reported at 1668, 1671 and 1613, 1602, 1719, 1600 ^{15, 16}, 1669, 1618 ¹⁷, 1680, 1586 ¹⁸, and at 1682, 1574 cm⁻¹ for semicarbazone derivatives ¹⁹The NH stretching vibration ¹² appears as a strong and broad band in the region 3390 \pm 60 cm⁻¹. The C-N stretching vibration ¹² coupled with the δ NH, is active in the region 1275 \pm 55 cm⁻¹. The vibrations of the CH₂ group, the asymmetric stretch, ν asCH₂, symmetric stretch ν sCH₂, scissoring vibration δ CH₂ and wagging vibration ω CH₂ appear in the regions 3000 \pm 50, 2965 \pm 30, 1455 \pm 55 and 1350 \pm 85 cm⁻¹, respectively [12, 20]. The rocking mode ¹² is expected in the range 895 \pm 85 cm⁻¹. The NH₂ asymmetric stretching vibrations ¹² give rise to a strong band in the region 3390 \pm 60 cm⁻¹ and the symmetric NH₂ stretching in the region 3210 \pm 60 cm⁻¹ with a somewhat weaker intensity.

Geometrical parameters

The NN bond lengths are reported as 1.3782-1.389 ²¹, 1.3866 ²², 1.3894 ²³, 1.3966 ²⁴, 1.3796 ²⁵, 1.3675 ²⁶, 1.367 ²⁷, 1.36 ²⁸, and 1.369 Å ²⁹.

¹H NMR

Dimmock *et al.* ³⁰ studied the ¹H NMR spectra of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone semicarbazone in DMSO-d₆; the chemical shift and spin coupling constants are given. The 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone semicarbazone (Figure 5.) have five characteristic peaks in the NMR spectrum, H(2',6'-H, Aromatic) appears as a triplet at δ 7.18, H(3',5'-H, Aromatic) appears as a triplet at 7.90 ppm, H(CH₃) appears as a singlet at δ 2.20, (H)NH appears as a singlet at δ 9.39 and (H)NH₂ appears as a singlet at δ 6.54.

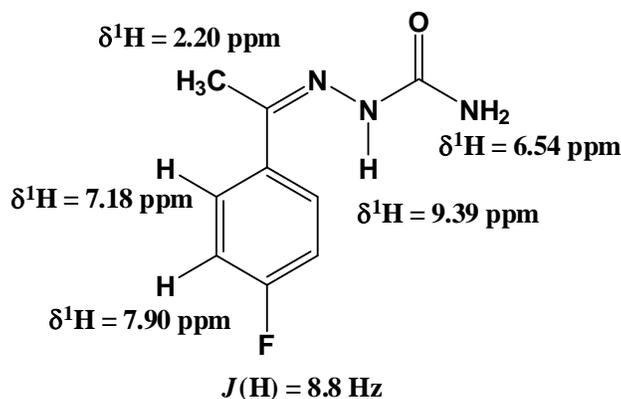


Figure. 5. Representative ¹H NMR data of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone semicarbazone.

¹³C NMR

Dimmock *et al.*³⁰ studied the ¹³C NMR spectra of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone semicarbazone in DMSO-d₆; the chemical shift and spin coupling constants are given in the Figure 6.

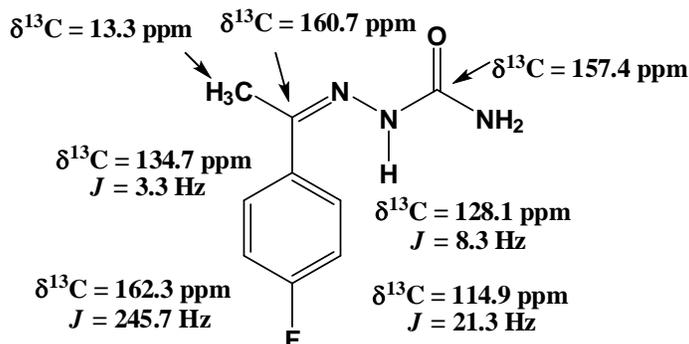


Figure 6. Representative ¹³C NMR data of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone semicarbazone.

Mass spectral studies

Berdyshev³¹ reported the mass spectra of fatty aldehyde semicarbazone derivatives (Figure 7.).

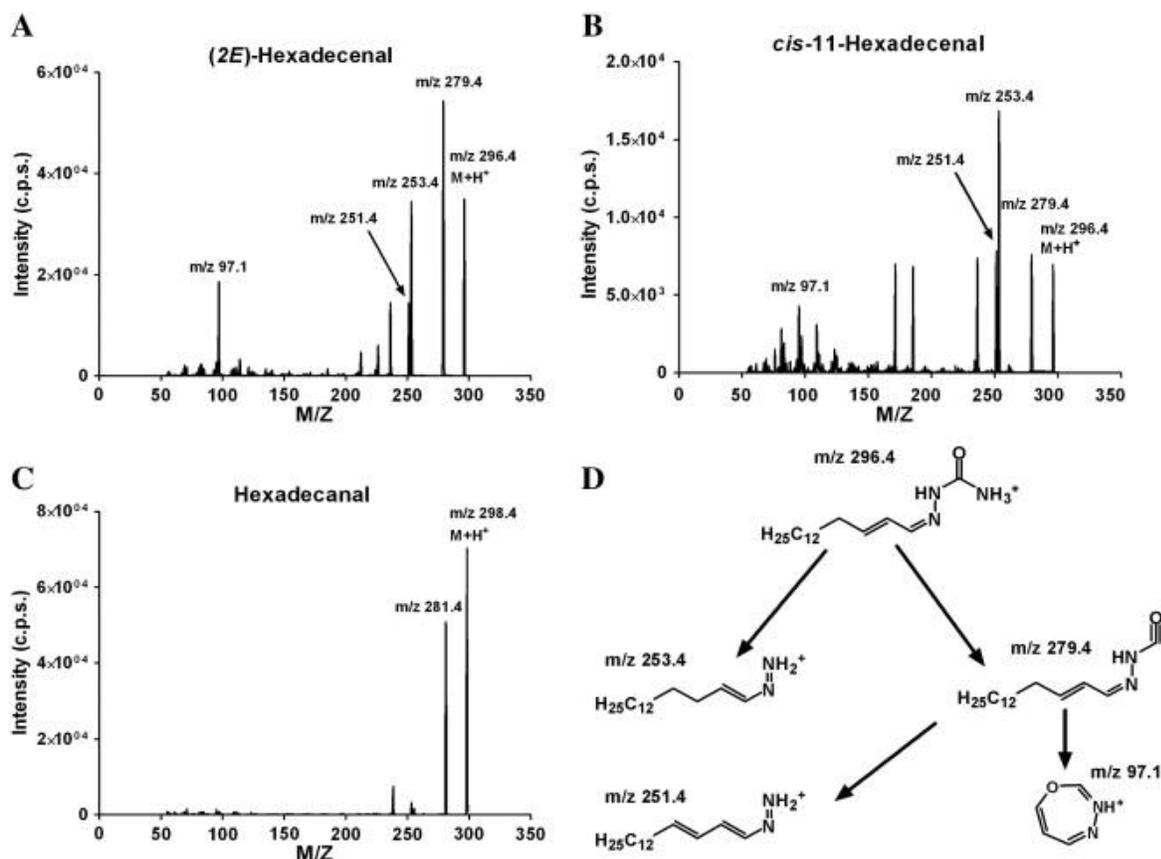


Figure 7. Positive product ion mass spectra of fatty aldehyde semicarbazone derivatives. (A) (2E)-Hexadecenal semicarbazone product ions. (B) *cis*-11-Hexadecenal semicarbazone product ions. (C) Hexadecanal semicarbazone product ions. (D) Proposed pathways for product ion formation during (2E)-hexadecenal semicarbazone CID. cps, counts per second.

Molecular structure studies

Trzesowska²⁵ reported the molecular structure of *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde semicarbazone (Figure 8.).

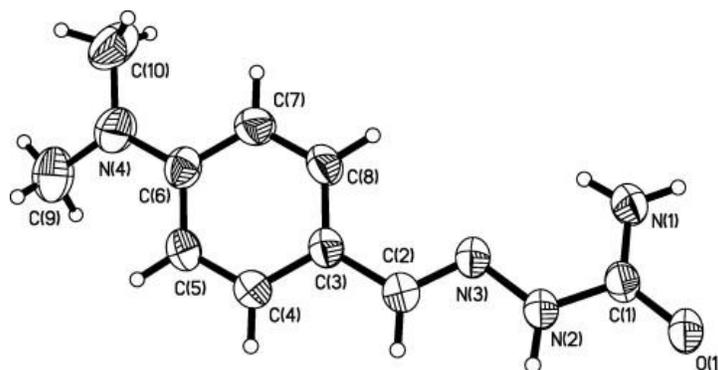
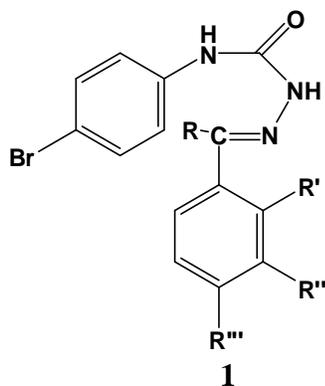


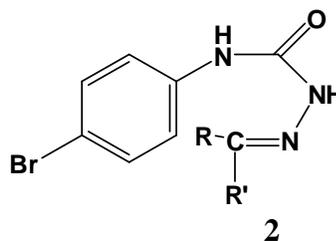
Figure 8. The molecular structure of *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde semicarbazone. The displacement ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level.

Anticonvulsant activity of Semicarbazones:

Pandeya *et al.*¹⁰ synthesized a number of 4-bromophenyl semicarbazones (**1**, **2**) and evaluated for anticonvulsant activity. After intraperitoneal injection to mice, the semicarbazone derivatives were examined in the maximal electroshock seizure (MES), subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ), subcutaneous strychnine (scSTY) and neurotoxicity (NT) screens. All the compounds showed anticonvulsant activity in one or more test models. A compound **2a** showed greatest activity, being active in all the screens with very low neurotoxicity. All the compounds except **1g** had lower neurotoxicity compared to phenytoin.

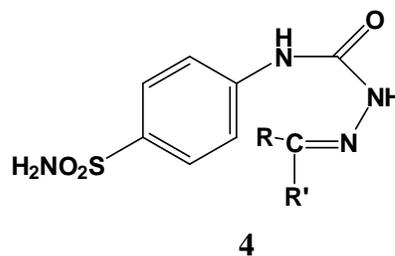
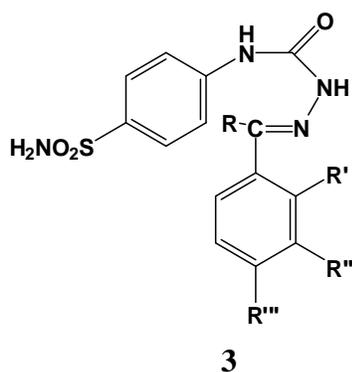


- 1a R'=Cl; R=R''=R'''=H
 1b R'=NO₂; R=R''=R'''=H
 1c R=R''=R'''=H; R'=N(CH₃)₂
 1d R=R''=H; R'=OCH₃; R'''=OH
 1e R=R''=H; R'=R'''=OCH₃
 1f R=CH₃; R'=R''=R'''=H
 1g R=CH₃; R'=R''=H; R'''=OH



- 2a R=R'=CH₃
 2b R=H; R'=cinnamyl
 2c R=H; R'=piperanyl
 2d R=H; R'=2-furyl
 2e R=R'=cyclohexanyl
 2f R=R'=2-CH₃-6-isopropyl cyclohexanyl

Yogeeswari *et al.*³² synthesized a series of 4-sulphamoylphenyl semicarbazone derivatives (**3**, **4**) starting from sulphanilamide and screened for anticonvulsant activity. The results indicated that greater protection was obtained in the maximal electroshock screen (MES) and subcutaneous strychnine (scSTY) than the subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ) tests. All the compounds showed low neurotoxicity when compared to the clinically used drugs. Compounds with substituted acetophenone (**3h-3k**) showed good activity in the rat oral MES screen. Seven compounds (**3f**, **3h-3j**, **3l**, **4b** and **4c**) exhibited anticonvulsant activity greater than sodium valproate. Compound **3j** emerged as the most active compound as indicated by its protection in the MES and scSTY screens and with low neurotoxicity.



3a R= R''= R'''= H; R'= OH

3b R= R''= R'''= H; R'= Cl

3c R= R''= R'''= H; R'= NO₂

3d R= R''= R'''= H; R'''= N(CH₃)₂

3e R= R''= R'''= H; R'''= OCH₃

3f R= R''= H; R''= OCH₃; R'''= OH

3g R= R''= H; R''= OCH₃; R'''= OCH₃

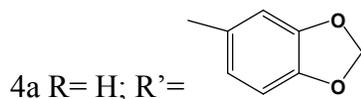
3h R= CH₃; R''= R'''= H

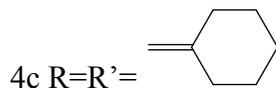
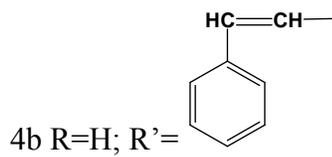
3i R= CH₃; R''= R'''= H; R'''= OH

3j R= CH₃; R''= R'''= H; R'''= CH₃

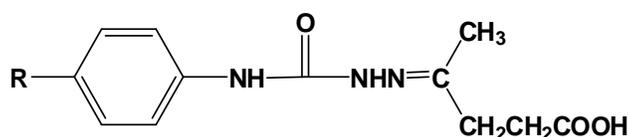
3k R= CH₃; R''= R'''= H; R'''= NO₂

3l R= CH₃; R''= R'''= H; R'''= NH₂





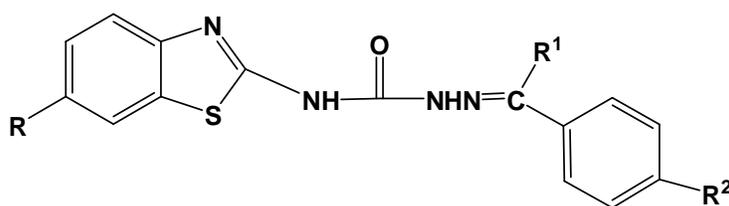
Aggarwal *et al.*³³ designed a series of 4-aryl substituted semicarbazones of levulinic acid (**5**) and synthesized to meet the structural requirements essential for anticonvulsant activity. All the compounds were evaluated for anticonvulsant activity. Anticonvulsant activity was determined after intraperitoneal (i.p.) administration to mice by maximal electroshock (MES) and subcutaneous metrazol (ScMet) induced seizure methods and minimal motor impairment was determined by rotorod test. A majority of the compounds exhibited significant anticonvulsant activity after intraperitoneal administration. 4-(4'-fluoro phenyl) levulinic acid semicarbazone emerged as the most active molecule, showing broad spectrum of activity with low neurotoxicity.



(5)

R=H, Cl, Br, F, CH₃, OCH₃, NO₂

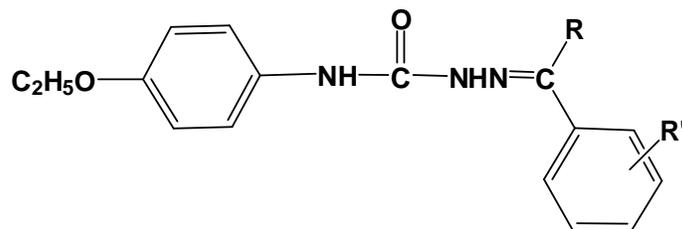
Siddiqui *et al.*³⁴ synthesized a series of 1,3-benzothiazole-2-yl-semicarbazones (**6**) and evaluated for their anticonvulsant, neurotoxicity and other toxicity studies. Majority of the compounds were active in MES screens.



(6)

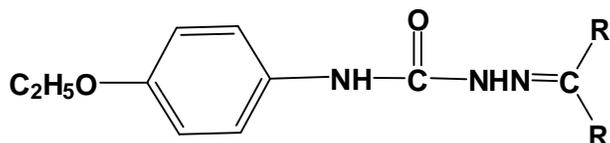
R=Cl, CH₃, OCH₃; R¹=CH₃, C₆H₅; R²=H, OH, OCH₃, NO₂

Yogeeswari *et al.*³⁵ synthesized a series of 4-ethoxyphenyl semicarbazones (**7a**), (**7b**) and evaluated against MES and ScPTZ induced seizure in mice. Among, the compound tested the compound with substituent showed protection from seizure in both animal models.



(7a)

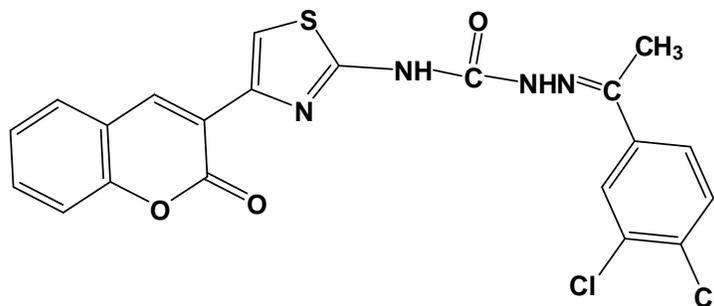
R= H, -CH₃ ; R'=2-Cl, 2-OH, 4-OH, 4-Cl



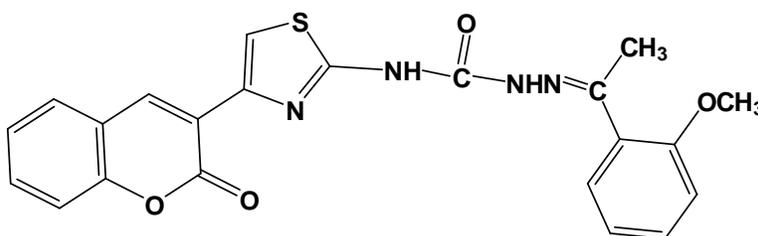
(7b)

R= -CH₃ ; R'= -CH₂COCH₃, -CH₂CH(CH₃)₂

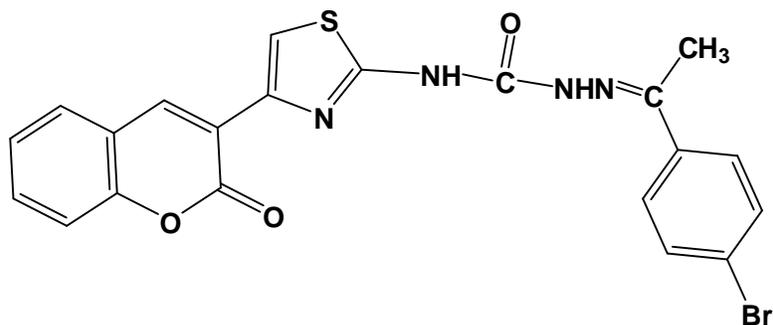
Siddiqui *et al.*³⁶ synthesized several heteroaryl semicarbazone by the reaction of heteroaryl hydrazine carboxamide with aryl aldehyde or ketone. Compounds were tested for anticonvulsant activity utilising PTZ and MES tests at 30, 100 and 300 mg/kg dose levels and found that (1E)-1-arylalkane-1-one-N-[4-(2-oxo-2H-chromen-2-yl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]semicarbazone (**8**, **9**, and **10**) exhibited significant anticonvulsant activity at 30 mg/kg dose level comparable to the standard drug taken as phenytoin.



(8)

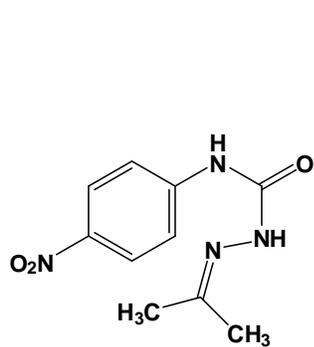


(9)

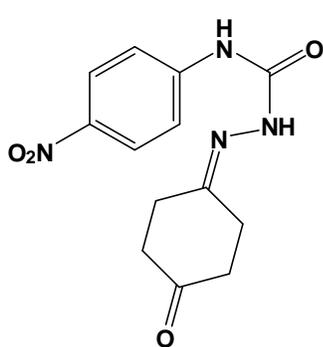


(10)

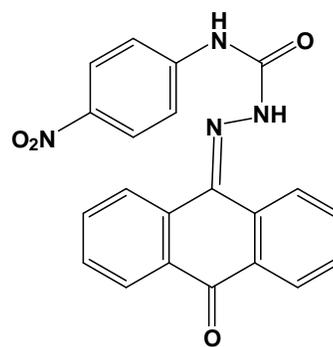
Pandeya *et al* ³⁷ synthesized a series of *p*-nitrophenyl substituted semicarbazones (**11a-c**) and phenoxy/*p*-bromophenoxy acetyl hydrazones (**12a-q**) were synthesized and their anticonvulsant activity was screened against maximal electroshock seizure (MES), subcutaneous metrazole (ScMet) and subcutaneous strychnine (ScSty) tests. Compounds **11a-c** with –NHCO– were found to be the most active in all these tests. These compounds were also active in the MES test after oral administration in rats.



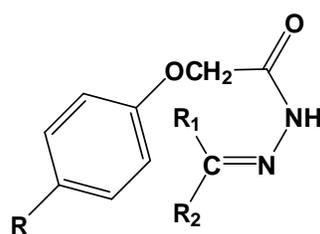
(11a)



(11b)



(11c)

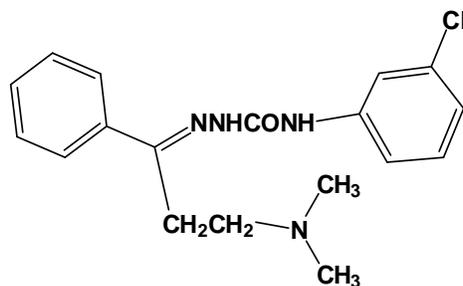


(12a-q)

R= H, Br; R₁= H, CH₃; R₂=2-OH-C₆H₄, -C₆H₅, 4-OCH₃-C₆H₄, 2-Cl-C₆H₄, 4-Cl-C₆H₄, 4-NH₂-C₆H₄, 4-OH-C₆H₄, 4-C₆H₅CH₂O-C₆H₄ etc.

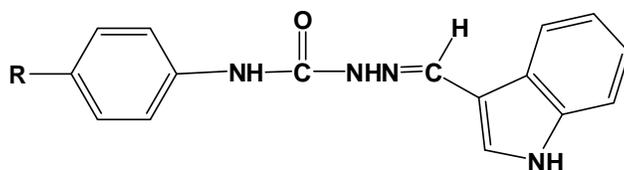
Raja *et al.* ³⁸ designed and synthesized several semicarbazones of acetophenone and *p*-chloroacetophenone Mannich bases to meet the pharmacophore requirements essential for anticonvulsant activity. Mannich bases of acetophenone and *p*-chloroacetophenone were

prepared by reacting formaldehyde with various secondary amines and then condensed with several aryl semicarbazides to yield the corresponding semicarbazones. All compounds were evaluated for their anticonvulsant activity by maximal electroshock (MES) and by subcutaneous metrazole (ScMet) and strychnine (ScSty) induced seizure methods, and their neurotoxic effects were determined using the rotorod test and found that 3-[3-chlorophenyl(β -dimethylaminopropiophenone)semicarbazone] (**13**) has excellent anticonvulsant activity in MES, ScSty, and ScMet tests.



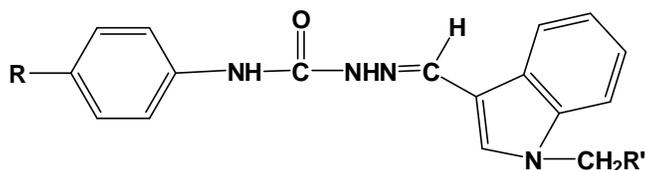
(13)

Srivastava *et al.*³⁹ prepared several indole derivatives (**14**, **15**) by the reaction between indole-3-carboxaldehyde and various p-substituted phenylsemicarbazides, in the presence of glacial acetic acid. Later Mannich bases of indole derivatives were prepared by using formaldehyde & various secondary amines. The anticonvulsant activity of the synthesized compounds was evaluated by intraperitoneal administration in three seizure model which include isoniazid, thiosemicarbazide & 4-aminopyridine induced seizure. Some of the compounds were very much active against different anticonvulsant models.

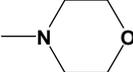


(14)

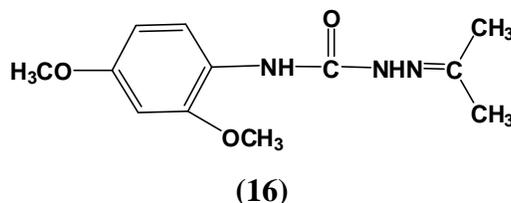
R=Cl, Br



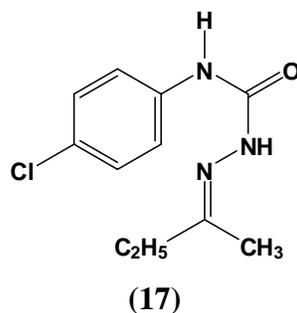
(15)

R=Cl, Br; R' = N(CH₃)₂, N(C₂H₅)₂, 

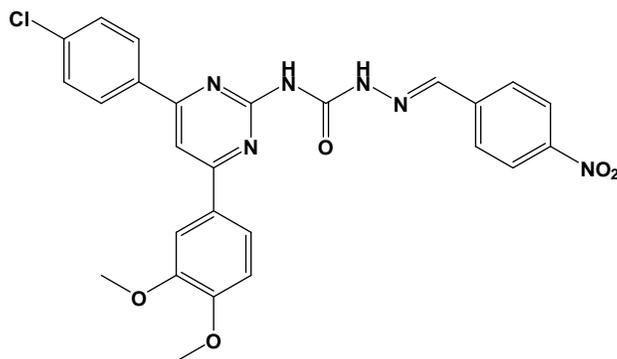
Thirumurugan *et al.*⁴⁰ synthesized 2,4-dimethoxyphenylsemicarbazones starting from 2,4-dimethoxyaniline via phenylcarbamate. The anticonvulsant activity of the synthesized compound were evaluated by intraperitoneal administration in three seizure model which include MES, Sc PTZ and Sc strychnine induced seizure. Most of the compounds exhibit protection in all three seizure model in which N¹-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-N⁴-(propan-2-one)semicarbazone (**16**) found to be most active with no neurotoxicity. The compound was also found to elevate γ -amino butyric acid (GABA) level in the mid brain and medulla oblongata region.



Singh *et al.*⁴¹ synthesized a series of 4-(4-substituted aryl) semicarbazones from substituted anilines and evaluated for their anticonvulsant activities. The anticonvulsant activities were established by the anticonvulsant drug development (ADD) programme NIH, USA and screened against electroshock seizure, subcutaneous metrazole and minimal neurotoxicity tests. Compound **17** was found equipotent to carbamazepine in both MES and ScPTZ tests. This study has highlighted the importance of distal alkyl chain which influences the anticonvulsant activity.

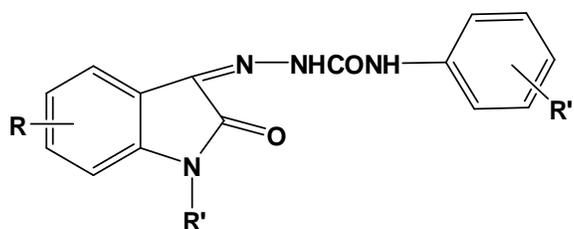


Alam *et al.*⁴² synthesized a series of *N*-(4,6-substituted diphenylpyrimidin-2-yl) semicarbazones and tested for their anticonvulsant activity against the two seizure models, maximal electroshock seizure (MES) and subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ). Most of the compounds displayed good anticonvulsant activity with lesser neurotoxicity. The most active compound of the series was N¹-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-pyrimidin-2-yl]-N⁴-(4-nitrobenzaldehyde) semicarbazone (**18**) devoid of any neurotoxicity.

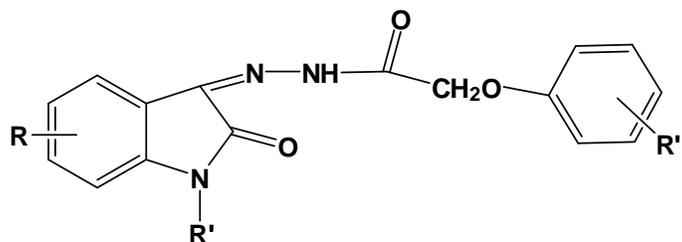


(18)

Pandeya *et al.*⁴³ synthesized a series of substituted isatin semicarbazones (**19**, **20**) and all compounds were evaluated for their anticonvulsant activity by maximal electroshock seizure (MES), subcutaneous metrazole (ScMet) and subcutaneous strychnine (ScSty) induced seizure models. A number of isatin semicarbazones exhibited significant protection after i.p. administration at the dose of 100 and 300 mg/kg. Some of them showed good anticonvulsant activity in MES test in rats after per oral administration at the dose of 30 mg/kg.



(19)



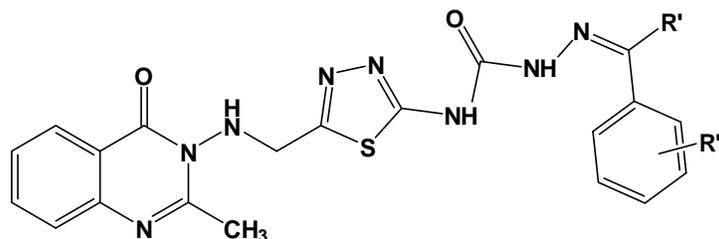
(20)

R=H, 4-Cl, 5-Cl, 6-Cl

R'=H, Acetyl, Benzyl

R''= 2-Cl, 4-Cl, 3-Cl, 4-Br, 4-SO₂NH₂, 4-NO₂

Rajak *et al.*⁴⁴ carried out synthesis of three novel series of semicarbazones containing 1,3,4-thiadiazole and quinazoline ring (**21**). The anticonvulsant activities of the synthesized compound were evaluated by intraperitoneal administration in seizure model which include MES and ScPTZ induced seizure. The majority of the compounds were found active in the biological screening.

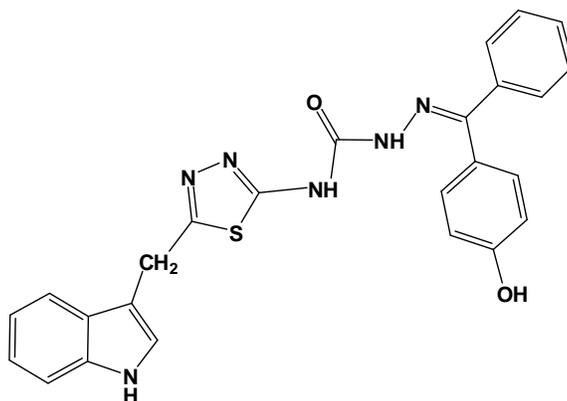


(21)

R' = H, C₆H₅, CH₃

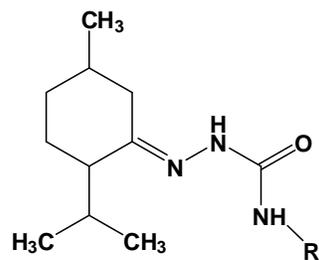
R'' = H, 4-NO₂, 4-OH, 4-OCH₃, 4-CH₃, 4-Cl

Rajak *et al.*⁴⁵ synthesized a novel series of N¹-{5-[(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]-N⁴-(4-substituted benzaldehyde)-semicarbazones, N¹-{5-[(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]-N⁴-[1-(4-substituted phenyl)ethanone]-semicarbazones and N¹-{5-[(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]-N⁴-[1-(4-substituted phenyl) (phenyl) methanone]-semicarbazones and evaluated for their anticonvulsant potential using maximal electroshock seizure (MES) and subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ) models. N¹-{5-[(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]-N⁴-[1-(4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl) methanone]- semicarbazone **22** come out as the most active compound, showing considerable activity in maximal electroshock seizure (at 100 mg/kg after 0.5 h and at 300 mg/kg after 4.0 h) and subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole model (at 300 mg/kg after 4.0 h) without any neurotoxicity (up to 300 mg/kg after 4.0 h).



(22)

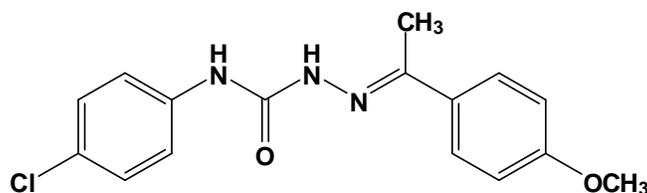
Khan *et al.*⁴⁶ synthesized a series of 4-aryl substituted semicarbazones of some terpenes i.e., citral (acyclic terpene), camphor (bicyclic terpene) and menthone (monocyclic terpene) from substituted anilines, to meet the structural requirements essential for anticonvulsant activity. The synthesized semicarbazone derivatives were evaluated for anticonvulsant activity by Isoniazid (INH) induced convulsion model, Thiosemicarbazide (TSC) induced convulsion model and 4-



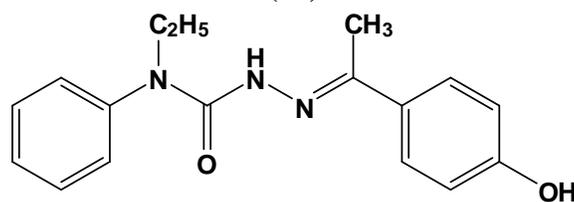
(27)



Pandeya *et al.*⁴⁹ synthesized a series of 4-N-substituted arylsemicarbazones with increased lipophilicity and evaluated for anticonvulsant activity. The compounds provided significant protection against maximal electroshock induced seizures (MES) and seizures indicated by *sc* pentetrazole administration (*sc* PTZ) at 300 mg/kg after 0.5 h. The compounds **28** and **29** were active in MES and *sc* PTZ indicated seizure. The study has shown that introduction of alkyl (ethyl) at the terminal amino group and alkoxy (methoxy) moiety at the distal aryl ring led to increased activity and decreased toxicity.

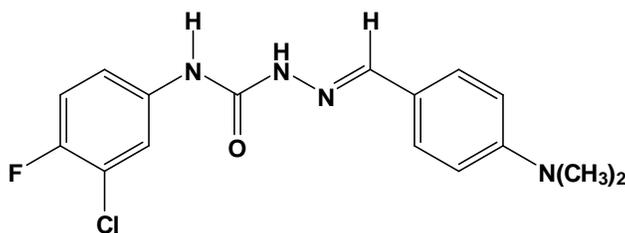


(28)



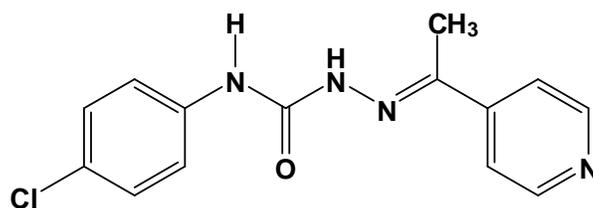
(29)

Amir *et al.*⁵⁰ synthesized several 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl substituted semicarbazones. Some selected compounds have been evaluated for anticonvulsant activity by using maximal electroshock induced seizures (MES) test. N¹-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-N⁴-(4-N,N-dimethylamino-benzaldehyde) semicarbazone (**30**) is found most active of the series without neurotoxicity.



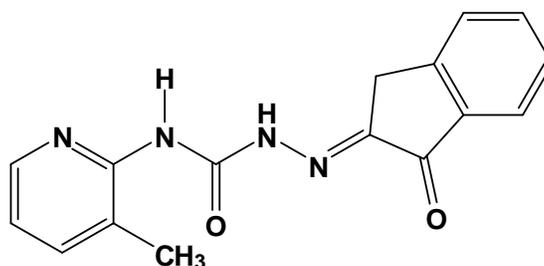
(30)

Aggarwal *et al.*⁵¹ synthesized a series of 4-aryl substituted semicarbazones of pyridyl carboxaldehyde and pyridyl methyl ketone. All the compounds were evaluated for anticonvulsant activity and neurotoxicity. Anticonvulsant activity was determined after intraperitoneal (i.p.) administration to mice by maximal electroshock (MES) and subcutaneous metrazol (ScMet) induced seizure methods and minimal motor impairment was determined by rotorod test. Majority of compounds exhibited significant anticonvulsant activity after intraperitoneal administration. (Methyl-4-pyridyl) ketone-*N*₄-(*p*-chloro phenyl) substituted semicarbazone (**31**) emerged as most active derivative showing activity at 100 mg/kg in both the test with prolonged duration of action.



(31)

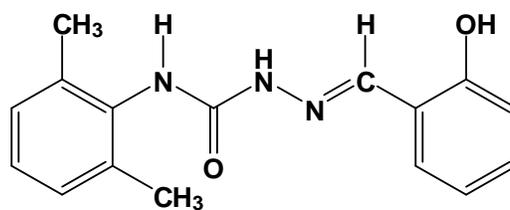
Yogeeswari *et al.*⁵² synthesized a series of substituted *N*-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl) semicarbazones. All the compounds were evaluated for their anticonvulsant activity by maximal electroshock seizures (MES) test, subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ) screen, subcutaneous strychnine (scSTY) pattern test and subcutaneous picrotoxin (scPIC) seizure threshold test along with the behavioral, and neurotoxicity evaluation. A number of *N*-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl) semicarbazone derivatives exhibited significant protection after intraperitoneal administration at the dose of 100 and 300 mg/kg. Compound *N*¹-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*⁴-(isatin) semicarbazone (**32**) emerged as the most active analogue of the series, being more effective in most of the test models than ethosuximide and sodium valporate.



(32)

Yogeeswari *et al.*⁵³ synthesized various *N*⁴-(2,6-dimethylphenyl) semicarbazones. All of the compounds exhibited anticonvulsant activity in the maximal electroshock test when administered by both intraperitoneal and oral routes. Compound *N*¹-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-*N*⁴-(2-

hydroxybenzaldehyde) semicarbazone (**33**) emerged as a prototype with wide spectrum anticonvulsant agent active in five models of seizure with no neurotoxicity and hepatotoxicity. Compound **33** increased the 4-aminobutyric acid (GABA) level by 118% and inhibited the GABA transaminase enzyme both in vitro and ex vivo.



(33)

CONCLUSION:

The article has outlined the chemistry and anticonvulsant activity of the semicarbazones. The synthetic methodologies indicate the simplicity, maneuverability and versatility, which offer the medicinal chemist a complete range of novel derivatives. The high degree of protection against seizures can be positive signs for further investigation of semicarbazones as anticonvulsants. Semicarbazones are found to be a better target for the development of more and more anticonvulsant.

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