**Original Review Article**

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**SYNTHETIC STRATEGIC PROTOCOLS AND THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS OF PYRAZOLO [3,4-B] PYRIDINES**

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**ABSTRACT:** A category of heterocyclic scaffolds referred to as pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines have two appropriate tautomeric variants: the 1H and 2H isomeric forms. By employing a one-pot method, a reaction involving three constituents comprising 3-amino-5-methyl pyrazole, distinct aromatic or heteroaromatic aldehydes, along with peculiar active methylene molecules with or without involving catalyst results in an array of scaffold analogues exhibiting outstanding yields in a highly effective along with environmentally friendly solvent reaction medium. A wide spectrum of functional group tolerance is appropriate with this conversion. Excellent vasodilators, hypotensive, hypoglycemic, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, as well as antipyretic attributes are few of the several pharmacological applications of this kind. The chemists are keen to develop simple and universal pathways to generate these molecules with remarkable yields.

**Keywords:** green synthesis, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anticancer, antipyretic agent.

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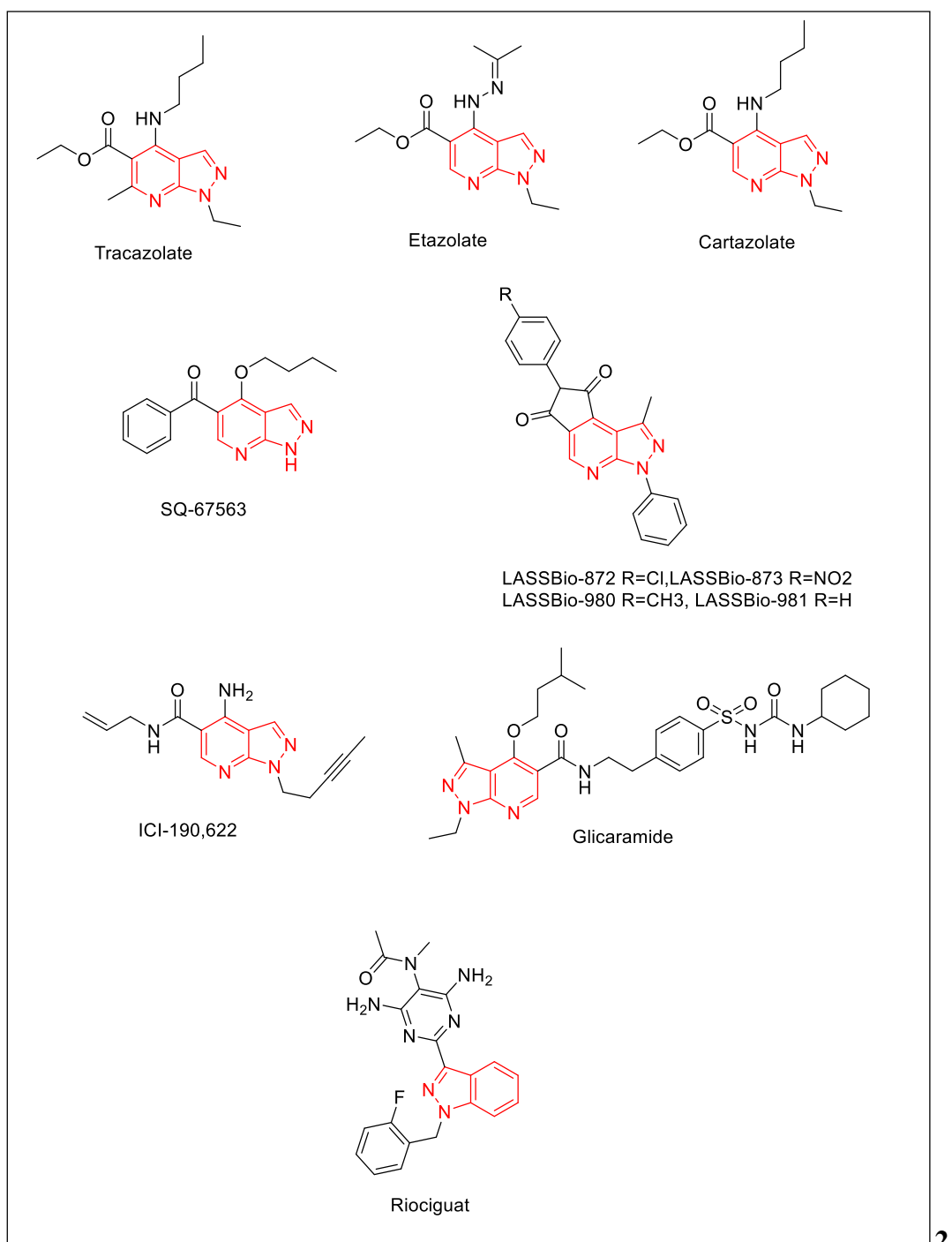
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Recently, the utilization of ecologically innocuous reagents and reaction conditions based on green chemistry principles is among the most fascinating advancements in synthesizing broadly utilized

organic molecules. Multicomponent domino reactions (MDRs), [1-3] specifically the ones carried out in green hydrated media, have proved to be an enhancing utilitarian instrument to generate chemically as well as biologically significant molecules owing to its convergency, atom economy, and several feasible features with respect to green chemistry. [4,5] A chief pilot in synthetic protocols is the advancement of potent and also eco-friendly synthesis procedures. Since there has been a growing need to synthesize innumerable eco-friendly compounds, ultrasound-promoted chemistry has evolved in the form of a subject which pervades almost every facets of synthetic chemistry. [6] The main objective of this enterprise is to augment the adequate utilization of secured raw substances in order to minimize toxicity. Ultrasonic wave procedure is incorporated in the synthesizing several organic chemicals for a long time. [7] The existence of ultrasound has depicted to increase the reaction rate by multifold as compared to the rate in the absence of ultrasound. In comparison to their silent equivalents (considered without employing ultrasound), reactions have been noticed to take place under mild circumstances and with inexpensive, little active chemicals functioning as catalysts in ultrasonic conditions. [8, 9] One among the most significant objectives in the organic discipline is the control of specificity. The challenge of uniqueness is crucial for multicomponent reactions [10] that incorporate the synchronous molecular interaction of three or more parts because there is a significant chance that different parallel mechanistic pathways will produce different outcomes. [11,12] However, the differentiation of synthetic conversions can be controlled by a number of characteristics, including temperature, pressure, solvent, catalyst category, kinetic or thermodynamic influence, along with various elements. [13,14] Among the most significant class of heterocyclic scaffolds, derivatives of pyrazole have been associated to an array of pharmacological and medicinal uses. [15–22] Pyrazoles have additionally been utilized extensively in pesticides. [23] Nitrogen-fused heterocycles are an essential category of organic molecules with an array of beneficial attributes. [24–27] In fact, there are innumerable data on the synthesis and bioactivities of nitrogen-constituting heterocyclic scaffolds, with pyrazole and pyridine analogues constituting the most significant group of these compounds. In particular, fused pyridine systems, notably pyrazolo pyridine derivatives, have demonstrated an extensive range of biological features. These heterocycles, for instance possess antiallergic, antiherpetic, fungicidal, and herbicidal attributes in addition to functioning as HIV reverse transcriptase inhibiting agents, strong cyclin-dependent kinase1 (CDK1) antagonists, protein kinase inhibitors, CCR1 antagonists, blockers of cGMP degradation, and dopamine D3 receptor blockers. [28 - 35] An array of medicinal products, incorporating pyrazole and pyrazolo pyridine framework, comprise Celebrex, rimonabant, cartazolate, as well as etazolate (**Figure 1**). [36–38] Numerous heterocyclic compounds with an extensive variety of biological applications constitute the pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine scaffold in the form of a vital molecular constituent. [39 - 41] Heterocyclic compound synthesis has fascinated medicinal chemists primarily owing to its substantial medicinal value and structural array.

For experimental drug design, numerous kinds of heterocyclic analogues with nitrogen atoms create flexible frameworks. [42] Numerous naturally existing molecules and significant prescription drugs comprise pyridine as their parent ring system. A broad spectrum of pharmaceutical effects, encompassing antibacterial,[43] antimycobacterial,[44] antimalarial,[45] antitumor,[46] cytotoxic, anti-diabetic,[47] anti-arrhythmic,[48] and antidepressant attributes,[49] are exhibited by pyridine analogues. Since this ring system is considered to be a crucial core framework in several pharmacological compounds, the pyrazole nucleus has garnered a lot of interest. Numerous combinations of modified molecules have been discovered to have a broad array of biological traits, including antibacterial,[50] antiviral,[51] antileishmanial,[52] anti-inflammatory, [53] and anticancer [54] effects. Schiff's bases, also known as imines or azomethines, depict a broad array of medicinal impacts, notably antibacterial,[55] anticancer,[56] antioxidant,[57] and anticonvulsant [58] capabilities. The target moiety triggers vasodilation and promotes soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC). A strong blocker of glycogen synthase kinase-3 (GSK-3) has been detected as 6-aryl pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine II. The 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor antagonist, Cryopentapyrazole [1,5-a] pyrimidine (III) has a  $K_i < 1$  nM, 7 compound IV (Zaleplon) is a medication that is recognized to treat sleep disorders, and cyclopentane ring fused pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidine V. The compound with the greatest inclination for the 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor ( $K_i$  1/4 88 pM) is pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyrimidine V. With regard to the significance of pyrazole fused heterocycles, innovative techniques for synthesizing these targets have been devised. [59 - 62] A distinguished class of compounds, pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines exhibit an assortment of biological along with pharmaceutical characteristics. It has been established that they exhibit antimalarial,[63] cyclin-dependent kinase inhibition,[64-68] GSK 3 inhibition,[69] antiproliferative,[70] antileishmanial,[71] cardiovascular,[72,73] as well as antiviral[74-76] characteristics. Owing to their varied impacts in various sectors, research into compounds that comprise 1H-Pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridines is enhancing.[77-79] The 4-amino-5-carboxylates of pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines comprise ethyl 1-ethyl-4-(2-(propan-2-ylidene)hydrazinyl)-1Hpyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine-5-carboxylate (Etazolate), an anxiolytic medicament has additionally been recognized owing to its neuroprotective properties. [80] Several drugs derived from this scaffolding material, especially etazolate, trasazolate, LASSBio-872, LASSBio-873, LASSBio-981, and LASSBio-982, have been employed for the treatment of anxiety-concerned illnesses that are linked to GABA-induced neuroinhibition (**Figure 1**).



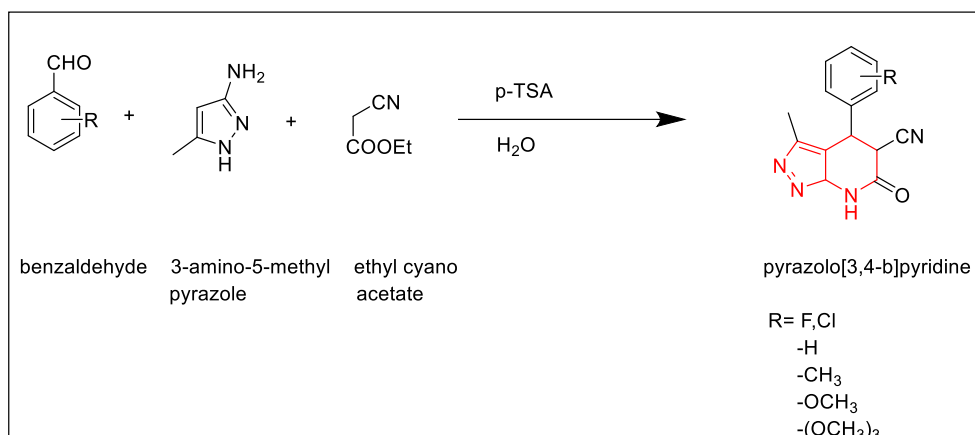
**Figure 1 : Neurologically active drugs derived from pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines**

### Synthetic Strategies:

#### 1. 3-methyl-6-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2Hpyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine-5-carbonitrile analogues

A heavy-walled, flask resembling pears with an unconventional tapered exterior joint was loaded with an equimolar mixture (10 mmol) each of suitable aromatic aldehyde, ethyl cyanoacetate, 3-amino-5-methylpyrazole, and 10 mol% p-TSA in aqueous medium (20 ml). [81,82] The reaction mixture was ultrasonicated with respect to designated amount of time at 50% processor power along

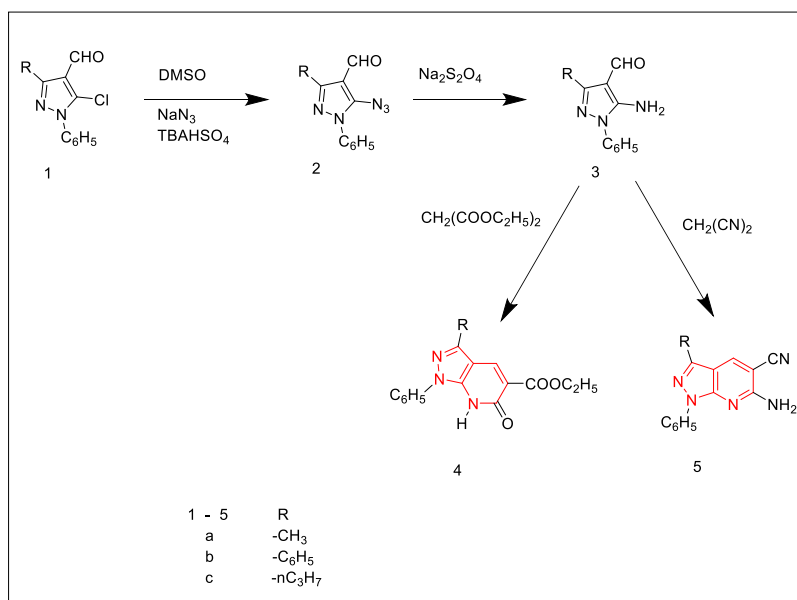
with a 4 s pulse mode until a solid crude material segregated, and the reaction container was joined to a 12 mm tip diameter probe [83] as demonstrated in **Scheme 1**.



**Scheme 1**

The new synthetic strategy involving annulating a pyridine ring with prepared pyrazole ring so as to manufacture moieties 4 as well as 5. [84–86] Diethyl malonate and also malononitrile, two potent methylene compounds, are generated by carrying out condensation of 3-(alkyl/aryl)-5-amino-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxaldehydes (3) (**Scheme 2**). [87–90]

The essential components for producing numerous physiologically active heterocyclic moieties are o-amino aldehyde derivatives. The following is the preparation of the necessary intermediate 3-(alkyl/aryl)-5-amino-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxaldehydes (3):

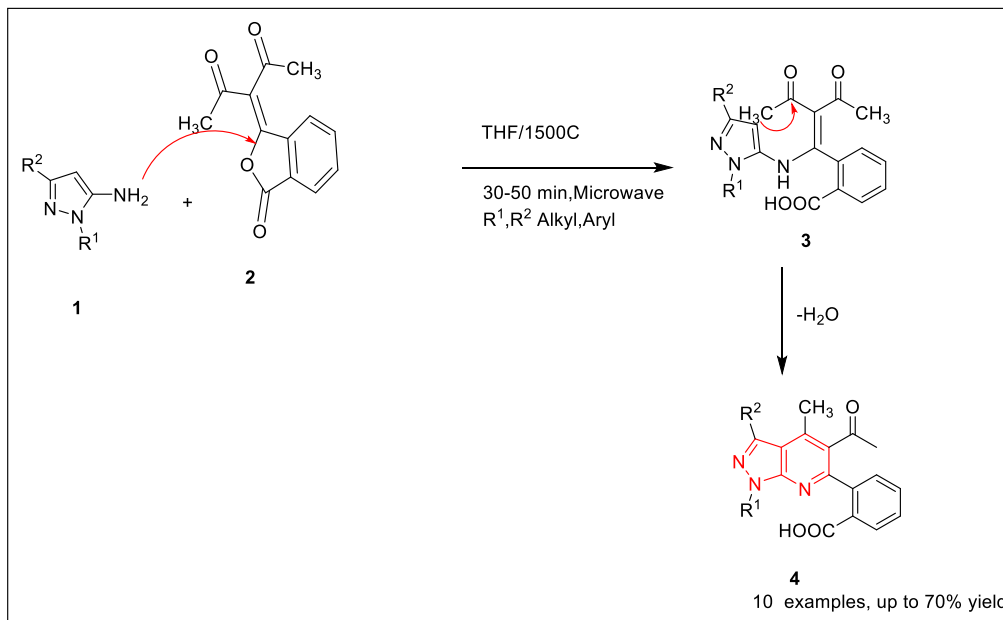


**Scheme 2**

## Microwave assisted synthesis

### 1. Preparation of 2-(5-Acetyl-1,3,4-triR-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridin-6-yl)-benzoic Acids

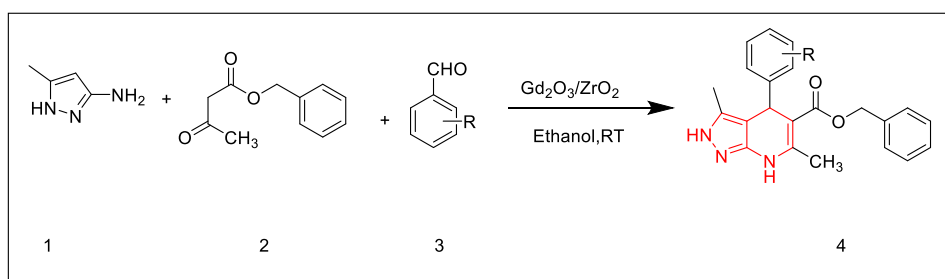
The microwave-facilitated synthesis carried out among N-substituted 5-aminopyrazoles **1** as well as 3-(3-oxo-2-benzofuran-1(3H)-ylidene) pentane-2,4-dione (**2**) resulted in an innovative array of entirely modified pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines [**91**] **4** following a regioselective fashion. [**92**, **93**]



Scheme 3

### 2. Catalytic Synthesis of Dihydro-pyrazolo[3,4-d] pyridines

Employing a multicomponent one-pot condensation mechanistic procedure in an ethanolic media at the ambient temperature (RT), gadolinium oxide loaded zirconia ( $Gd_2O_3/ZrO_2$ ) is incorporated as an efficient and viable catalyst for synthesizing unique dihydropyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine analogues (Scheme 4). [**94-97**]

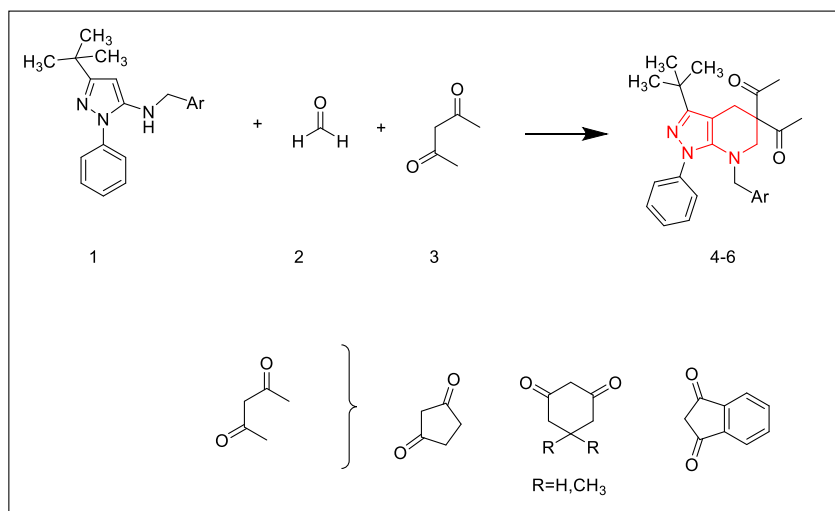


Scheme 4

## Condensation Reaction

### Pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines pirocycloalkanediones

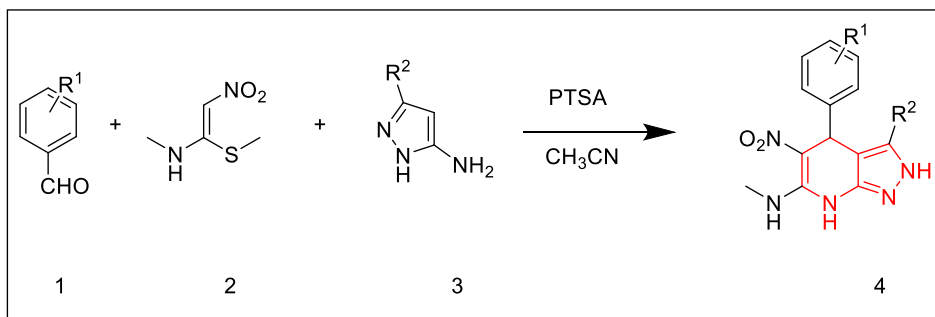
A convenient and straightforward procedure for synthesizing pyrazolopyridine-5-spirocyclodiketones [**98**, **99**, **100**, **101**] derivatives **4-6** through one pot condensation of derivatives of 5-aminopyrazoles **1**, cyclic  $\beta$ -diketones **3**, formaldehyde (2 as paraformaldehyde) (Scheme 5). [**102**]



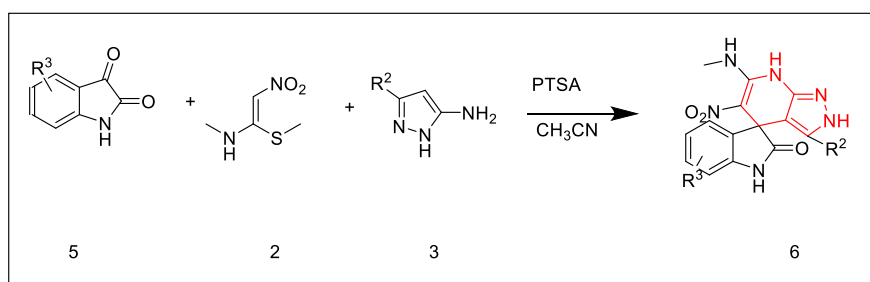
Scheme 5

### 6. pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine scaffolds 4, 6, 8, as well as 9

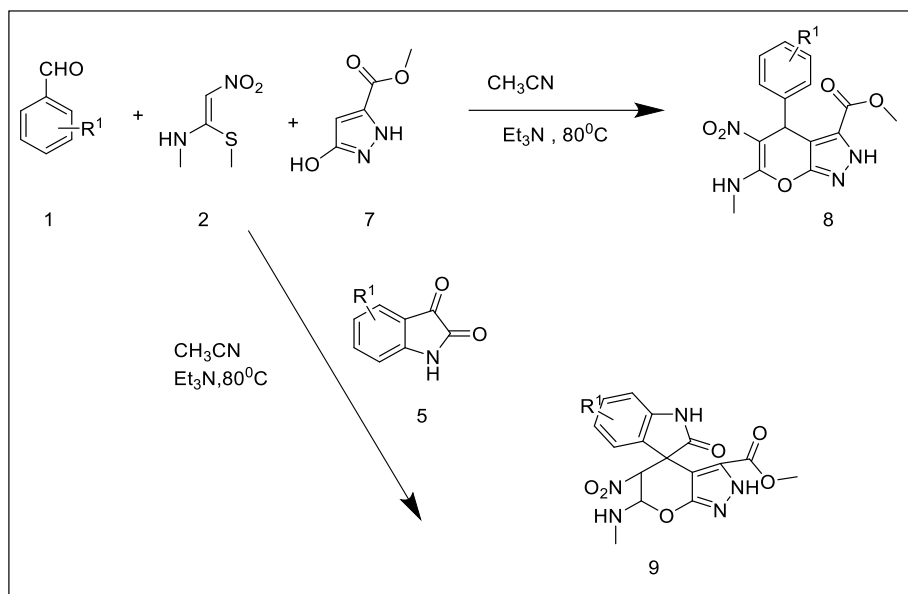
An equimolar mixture comprising 1mmol each of 3-aminopyrazole 3 or methyl 3-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate 7, N-methyl-1-(methylthio)-2-nitroethen-1-amine 2, aromatic aldehydes 1 or isatins 5 along with PTSA H<sub>2</sub>O or Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.3 mmol), was added in a container under 80°C for few hours (analyzed using Thin Layer Chromatography). When the stirring was discontinued, the obtained mixture underwent cooling to ambient temperature so that the products may separate from the solvent by precipitation. Molecules 4, 6, 8, and 9 have been separated and then recrystallization carried out employing ethanol and dimethylformamide. [103–107]



Scheme 6



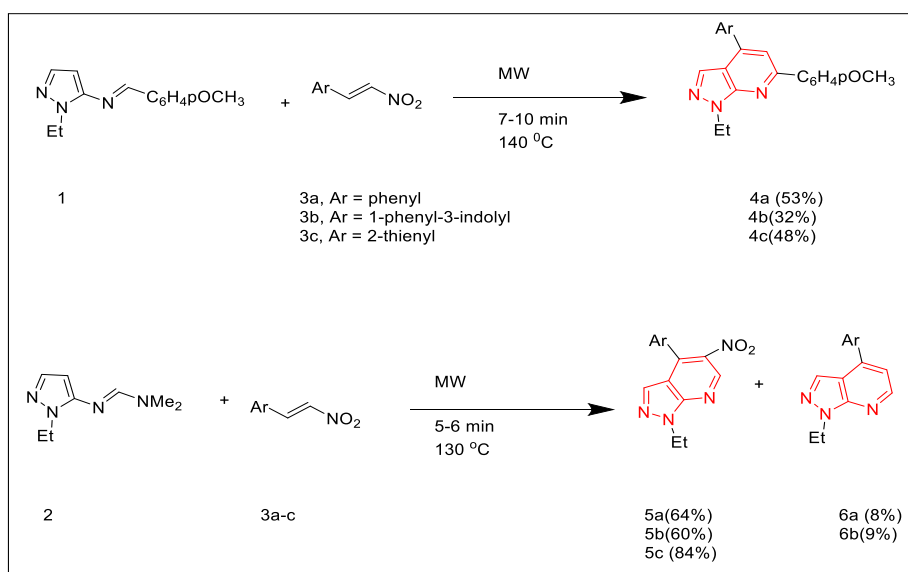
Scheme 7



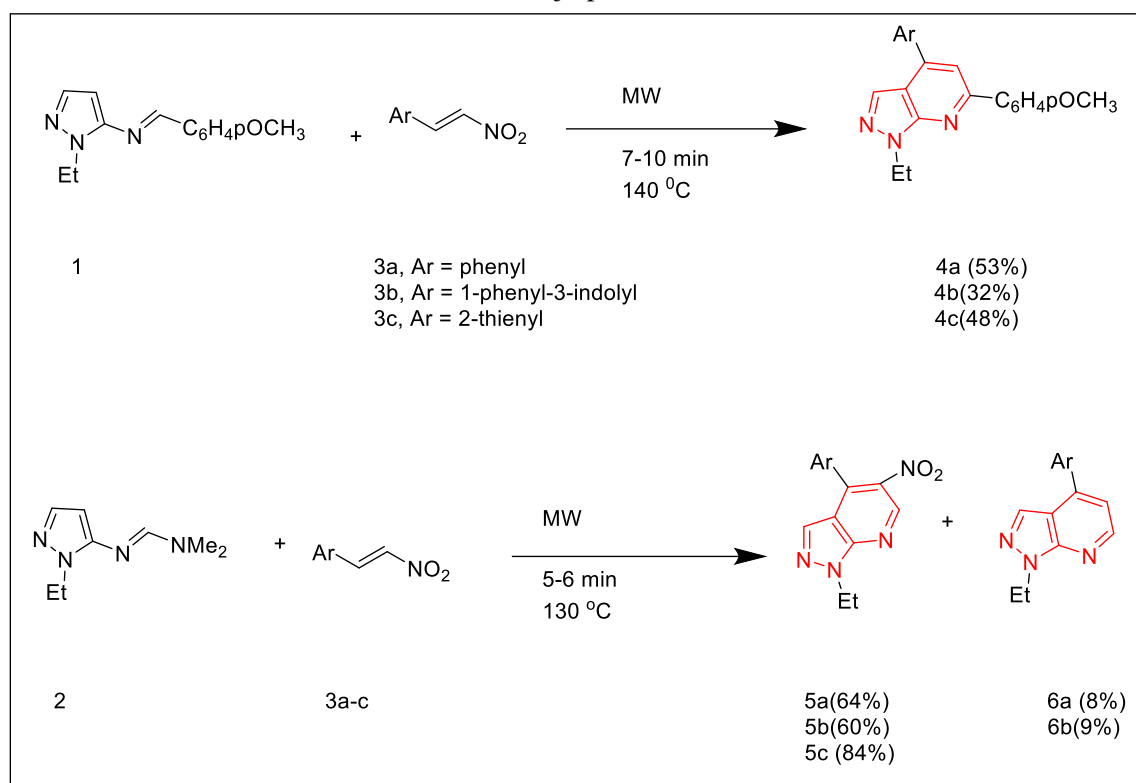
Scheme 8

### Cyclization Reactions

Typically, the target compounds are generated employing cyclization processes that begin with various heterocyclic reagents. [108–112] During first instance, the target moieties were procured involving [412] cycloaddition of a 1,2,4-triazepine along with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) and consequent 1,3-sigmatropic rearrangement.[113] With respect to second instance, the target moieties were fabricated involving 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition among cyclic ketene N,O-acetals and diphenylnitrilimine. [114] A novel, intriguing, as well as adaptable method was described for creating the desired compound by utilizing MW radiation for performing a Diels–Alder cycloaddition in between pyrazolyl imines as well as aromatic nitroalkenes. [115] This is the first instance of a 2-azadiene [412] cycloaddition containing a pyrazole framework (Scheme 9).[116-118]



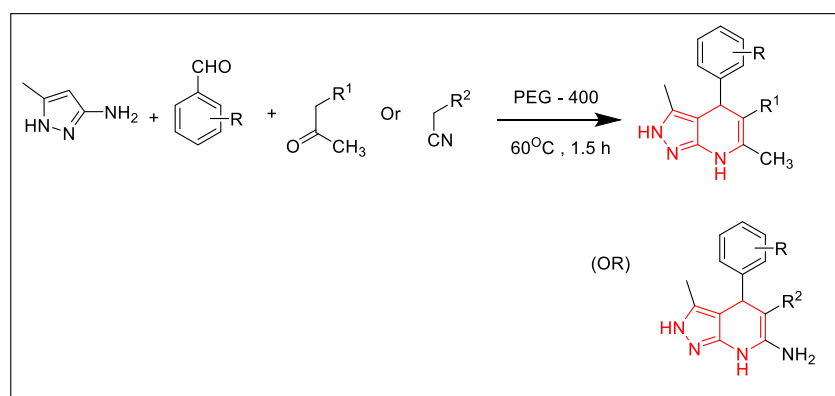
Scheme 9



Scheme 10

### 9. Preparation of 4,7-dihydro-2H-pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines

A mixture of 1 mmol each of 1H-pyrazol-3-amino-5-methyl 1 was combined with a stirred amalgamation of PEG-400 (6 mL) with selected aldehydes 2 and various active methylene compounds 3. The reaction underwent magnetic stirring at 60 °C for 1.5 hours duration. TLC was employed for analyzing the reaction. The solid crude substance was filtered after termination of the process and drenched with extra water. After recrystallizing the obtained crude product from ethanol, the desired pure products were obtained.[119–124]

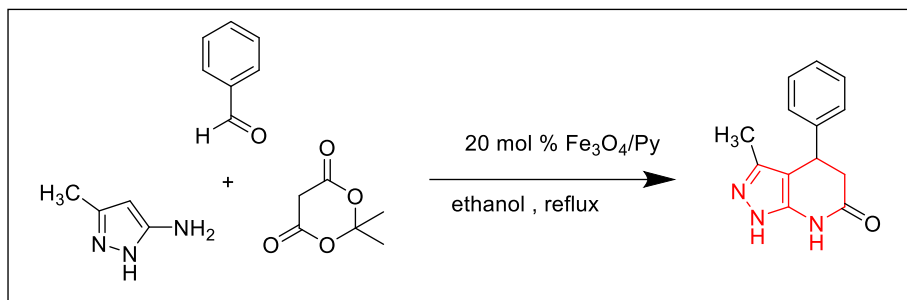


Scheme 11

### 10. Preparation of 3-methyl-4-aryl-2,4,5,7- tetrahydropyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridin-6-ones

In a round-bottomed flask, mixture constituting Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Py (40 milligram; approx. 20 mol%) and ethyl alcohol (3 ml) was incorporated with equimolar quantity comprising aldehydes, Meldrum's acid, and 5-methylpyrazol-3-amine. At reflux temperature, the subsequent mixture was rapidly

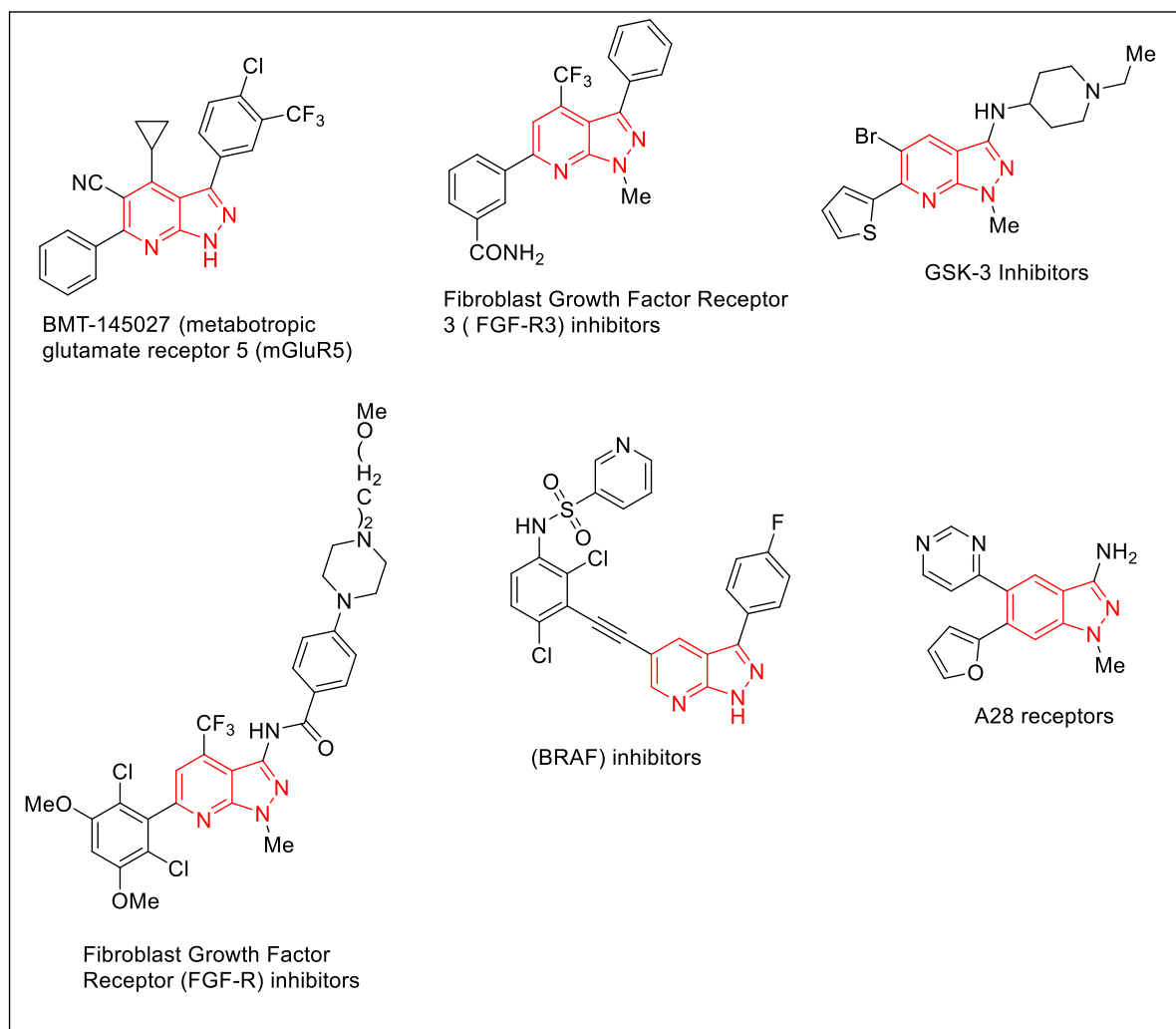
agitated until the termination of process, as evaluated employing Thin Layer Chromatography (n-hexane–acetone, 4:1). Ten milliliters of heated ethanol were added once the reaction was finished, and an external magnet was used to extract the catalyst. By recrystallizing the crude product from ethanol, pure products were obtained as depicted in **Scheme 12**.



**Scheme 12**

### Biomedical Applications of target compound

As a scaffolding substance for the synthesis of small molecules seeking medicinal qualities to cure various ailments, the target compound has been employed significantly. With respect to its diverse range of biological actions, including its potential to block glycogen synthase kinase-3 (GSK-3) and A1 adenosine receptors, the target compound is a privileged structural framework that has undergone intensive evaluation in medical research (Figure 1). In recent times, arylated pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine exhibits the role of a neuroprotector in MPP<sup>+</sup>-induced neurodegeneration (**Figure 2**), a Raf inhibitor to inhibit positive allosteric modulators (PAMs) and a fibroblast growth factor inhibitor (FGF-R and FGFR3) specifically for bladder cancer management.

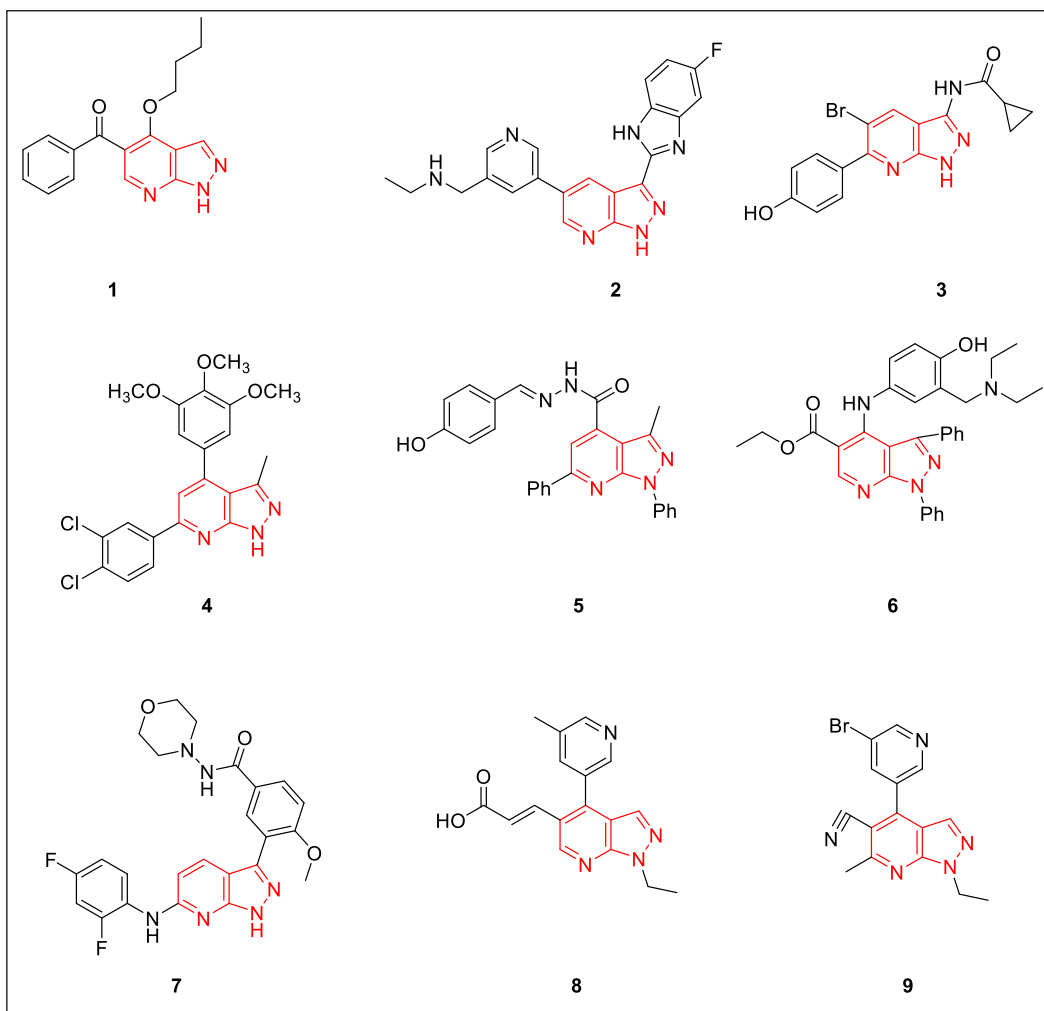


**Figure 2: Therapeutic applications of 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines**

**1. As anti-Alzheimer's agent:** 2-(piperazin-1-yl)-N-(1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridin-3-yl) acetamides have been recognized in the form of a novel category of efficient and unique blockers of amyloid b assemblage and acetylcholinesterase (AChE). The ultimate objective of this investigation is to formulate strong neuroprotective medicinal products to treat Alzheimer's disease employing pyrazolopyridine as well as analyze their biological impact. Therefore, additional efforts have been made to look for other scaffolds and molecules with multi-targeting potential in the current work.[125-127]

**2. As TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 inhibitors:** 4-substituted 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine derivatives (1, SQ-67563: IC<sub>50</sub> 0.11  $\mu$ M) have been discovered by Misra et al. to constitute a novel family of cdk2 inhibitors.[128] An efficient and specific cyclin-dependent kinase and cellular anti-proliferative blocker (IC<sub>50</sub> 0.7 nM) to manage CDK1/cyclin B was discovered by Lin and others in modified moiety's equivalents 2. [129] Witherington and his fellow researchers identified 6-heteroaryl-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine 3 as a blocker of glycogen synthase kinase-3 (GSK-3) with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 0.8 nM.<sup>130</sup> The anti-microbial (4, Escherichia coli: IC<sub>50</sub> 22  $\mu$ M; Candida albicans: IC<sub>50</sub> 18  $\mu$ M),[130,131]

(Figure 3).

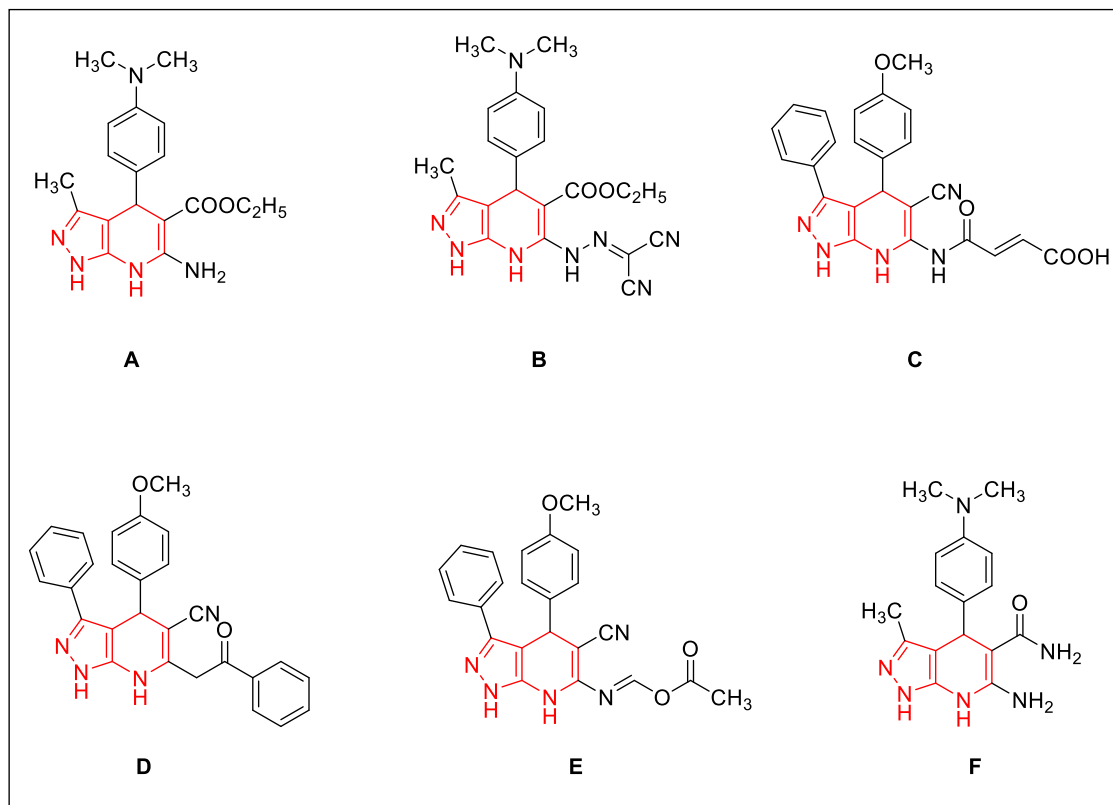


**Figure 3 : Some biologically active pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridines**

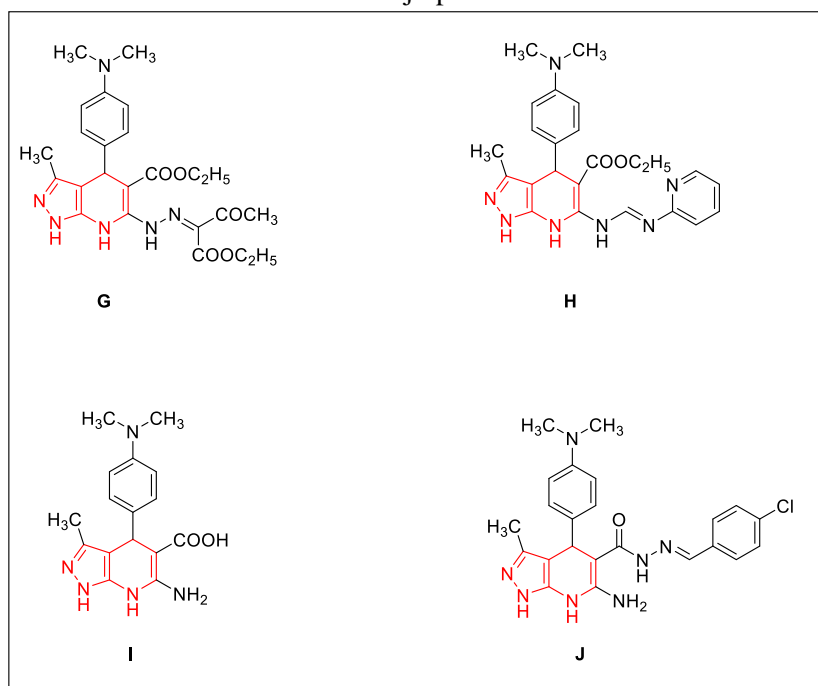
## Antimicrobial and Anti-cancer agents

A, B, C, D, E, and F constitute the pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridines that demonstrate the potential to possess excellent DNA-binding affinity and potential anticancer properties(**Figure 4**).Pyrazolo[3,4-

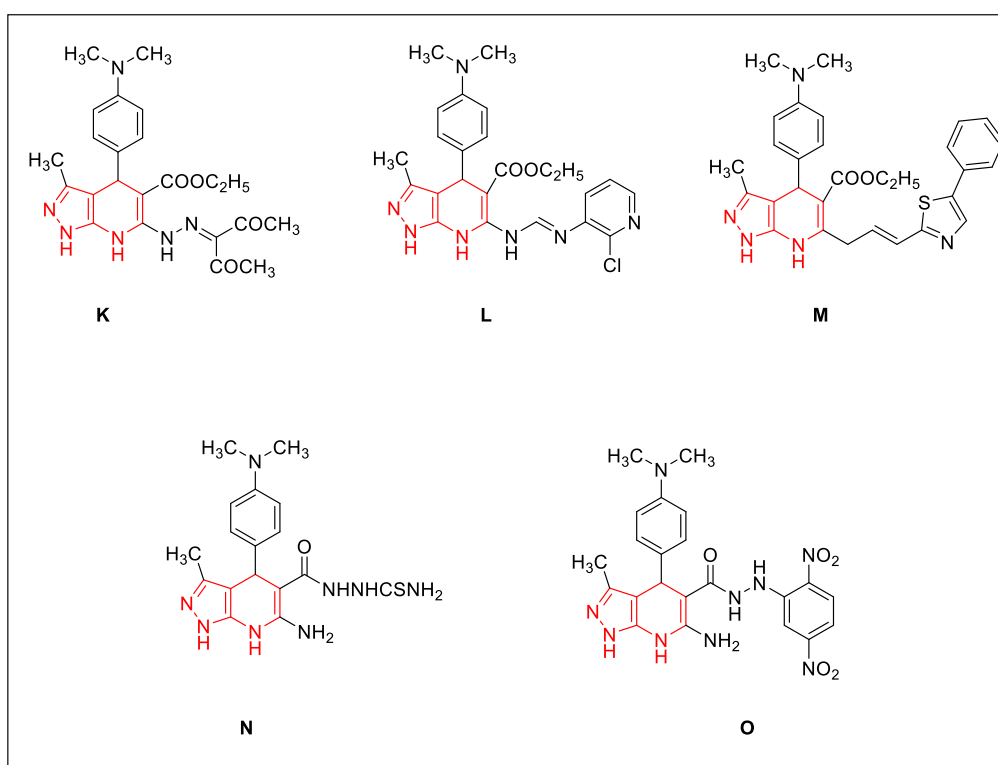
b]pyridines C, D, and E were further depicted to adhere to DNA through intercalation(**Figure 5**).[140-142] In addition, by targeting DNA, pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridines G, H, I, and J exhibited intriguing and extended-spectrum antibacterial characteristics. By targeting DNA, pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridines K, L, M, N, and O were also recognized in the form of remarkable antibacterial as well as anticancer agents (**Figure 6**).[143] The DNA-binding affinity of the novel molecules was evaluated with the goal to analyze its action mode. In order to confirm the novel analogs' aptitude for binding DNA, molecular docking was also investigated.



**Figure 4: Pyrazolopyridines possessing anticancer efficacy and DNA-binding affinity.**



**Figure 5: Pyrazolopyridines exhibiting antimicrobial efficacy and DNA-binding affinity.**



**Figure 6: Pyrazolopyridines depicting antimicrobial and anticancer efficacies as well as DNA-binding affinity.**

### Anti-bacterial activity

The antibacterial attribute was analyzed employing agar well diffusion process. Using nutrient agar medium, the molecules have been evaluated against *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Escherichia coli* as gram-negative bacterial strain (involving Gentamicin as reference drug, 120 mg susceptibility disc, Oxford-England) and *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* as gram-positive bacterial

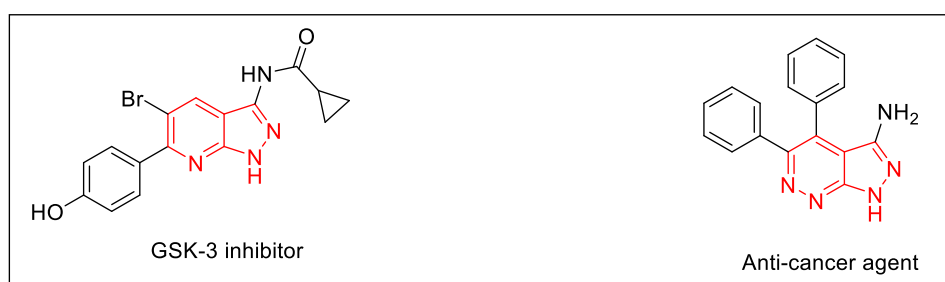
strain (employing Ampicillin as standard, 10 mg susceptibility disc, Oxford-England). Incorporating DMSO as a solvent, the compounds were analyzed against bacterial strains at a dosage of 15 mg/mL; the negative control wells contained just DMSO.[144]

### Antifungal activity

Employing sabouraud dextrose agar medium and Nystatin as the baseline medication, the antifungal potential of the investigated compounds against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger* was determined incorporating the agar well diffusion method. The procedure similar to the antibacterial property was implemented to assess the antifungal activity, with the exception that 100 ml of each tested solution of the evaluated molecules was added to each well, and the plates were then incubated at 25°C for 48 hours.

### Antitumor activity

Through a holding business for biological entities and vaccines (VACSERA), located in Cairo, Egypt, ATCC provided the epidermoid carcinoma (larynx) Hep2. 5-A common anticancer medication, fluorouracil, was employed as a benchmark. The MTT assay was used to test the produced compounds' anti-tumor properties in vitro against the Hep-G2 human liver cancer cell line and the HCT 116 human cell line. Measured and compared to the control was the proportion of undamaged cells. The compounds' anti-cancer properties were contrasted with doxorubicin's cytotoxicity. [145-148] Cartazolate, etazolate, and tracazolate are examples of anxiolytic medications that are pyrazolo[3,4-b] pyridine-embedded heterocycles. They are also found in a glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK-3) inhibitor that effectively treats Alzheimer's disease and the cardiovascular therapeutic drug BAY 41-2272.[149-153]



**Figure 7: Bio-active compounds**

## 2. CONCLUSION

The primary attributes of above methods are their short reaction time, substantial yields, an extensive selection of compatible substrates, and favorable functional group tolerance. Additionally, these techniques combat low yields, high temperatures externally, and the production of undesirable byproducts. With respect to domains of combinatorial chemistry, diversity-oriented synthetic procedures, sonochemistry, green chemistry, and drug exploration, it is anticipated that these techniques will find widespread use.

**ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

Not applicable.

**HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS**

No animals or humans were used for the studies that are based on this research.

**CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION**

Not applicable.

**FUNDING**

None.

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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