

## Pyrone Biomonitored Synthesis

---

Marcílio Wagner Fontes Silva, Clécio Souza Ramos\*

Department of Chemistry, Rural Federal University of Pernambuco, 52.171-030, Recife-Pe, Brazil.

\*Corresponding author: Clécio Souza Ramos, email: [clecio.ufrpe@gmail.com](mailto:clecio.ufrpe@gmail.com)

Received February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024; Accepted July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.29356/jmcs.v69i2.2213>

**Abstract.** Here we report the first biomonitored synthesis of pyrones in the search for molecules with antimicrobial action against pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Pyrones were synthesized from methyl acetoacetate pyrone rings followed by deacetylation, methylation, and aldol condensation reactions to obtain styrylpyrones with yields between 39 and 93 %. The compounds were characterized based on the interpretation of their UV, IR, MS and <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. The reagents and products used in the first step of the reaction exhibited antimicrobial activity against the six microorganisms tested, except for methyl acetoacetate and benzaldehyde, which were inactive against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacteria. The results obtained contribute significantly to the knowledge of the antimicrobial potential of pyrones, considering that pyrone rings are widely used as building blocks in the synthesis of bioactive molecules. This is also the first report of antimicrobial activity for synthesized styrylpyrone.

**Keywords:** Yangonin; styrylpyrone; antifungal; antibacterial; antimicrobial; pyrone.

**Resumen.** Aquí informamos la primera síntesis biomonitoreada de pironas en la búsqueda de moléculas con acción antimicrobiana contra bacterias y hongos patógenos. Las pironas se sintetizaron a partir de anillos de pirona de acetoacetato de metilo seguido de reacciones de desacetilación, metilación y condensación aldólica para obtener estirilpironas con rendimientos entre 39 y 93 %. Los compuestos se caracterizaron basándose en la interpretación de sus espectros UV, IR, MS y RMN <sup>1</sup>H y <sup>13</sup>C. Los reactivos y productos utilizados en el primer paso de la reacción mostraron actividad antimicrobiana contra los seis microorganismos probados, excepto el acetoacetato de metilo y el benzaldehído, que fueron inactivos contra la bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Los resultados obtenidos contribuyen significativamente al conocimiento del potencial antimicrobiano de las pironas, considerando que los anillos de pirona son ampliamente utilizados como componentes básicos en la síntesis de moléculas bioactivas. Este es también el primer informe sobre la actividad antimicrobiana de la estirilpirona sintetizada.

**Palabras clave:** Yangonin; estirilpirona; antifúngico; antibacteriano; antimicrobiano; pirona.

---

## Introduction

The search for new bioactive compounds as drug candidates is a continuous and urgent work that aims to lead to the discovery of new antibiotics. According to the World Health Organization, deaths caused by infections reached 25 % worldwide and 45 % in underdeveloped countries. There were 2.49 million deaths worldwide recorded in 2019 due to respiratory infections [1]. The discovery of new molecules for the treatment of infectious diseases is ongoing and has become a public health issue, considering the growing emergence of resistance of microbial agents to commercially available antifungals and antibiotics [2]. Natural products have been considered an excellent source of undiscovered molecules that may act as prototypes for the discovery of new drugs [3–6]. It is estimated that over 65 % of medicines have been developed based on natural sources,

with 32 % being from natural compounds or their derivatives. Over a 30-year period (1981 to 2014), 43.5 % of the drugs approved worldwide for the treatment of infections caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses have been obtained from natural products [7]. Pyrone lactone is one of these compounds, found naturally in many chemical structures of secondary metabolites. It displays diverse biological activity and is widely used as building blocks both in medicinal and synthetic chemistry [8–10]. An analogous series of 2-styryl-5-hydroxy-4-pyrone derivatives were synthesized and found to have multifunctional action with the potential for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease [11]. A series of new monoprenylated and diprenylated 2-pyrone derivatives with different halogen substituents were synthesized showing antimicrobial activity mainly against the bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* [12]. Pyrones have also been used as ligands to obtain a complex containing vanadium with strong antimicrobial activity against the microorganisms *Staphylococcus aureus*, *E. coli* and *Candida albicans* [13]. Considering the biological potential of pyrone [14] and our continuous effort in the search for molecules with antimicrobial action, here we report the first biomonitored total synthesis of pyrones with an evaluation of their activities against bacteria and fungi.

## Material and methods

### Chemicals and reagents

4- Commercially obtained solvents were distilled (hexane and ethyl acetate) or dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  (*t*-butanol and dimethylformamide). For chromatographic analysis, silica gel 60 with a UV254 fluorescence indicator and silica gel with 0.063 - 0.2 mm (70-230 mesh) were used.

### Instrument used

Fourier transform infrared spectra were obtained with a Varian model 640 IR-FT spectrometer. GC-MS analyses (60-260 °C at 3 °C/min. heating rate) were carried out in a Varian 431-GC coupled to a Varian 220-MS instrument using (CA, USA) fused-silica capillary column (30 m  $\times$  0.25 mm i.d.  $\times$  0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ) coated with DB-5. MS spectra were obtained using electron impact at 70 eV with a scan interval of 0.5 s and fragments from 40 to 550 Da. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectra were obtained using a Varian Mercury device – 400 or 300 and 100 or 75 MHz, respectively, using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and  $\text{C}_3\text{D}_6\text{O}$  as solvents and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. Elemental microanalyses were performed using a EURO Vectora, EA3000 Model CHNS/O Analyzer.

### Synthesis steps

#### Synthesis of methyl iodide

In a 500 mL flask, 179 mL of  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (85 %), 64 g (0.38 mol) of KI and 120 mL of methanol were added, and then heated in an oil bath at 70 °C. The reaction mixture was distilled at a temperature of 35 °C and the distillate was fractionated with 20 mL of saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution. The organic phase was treated with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , obtaining a colorless liquid (24 g).

#### Synthesis of acetyl-4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (1)

5 g (43 mmol) of methyl acetoacetate and 120 mg (1.42 mmol) of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  were mixed and heated at 169 °C for 2 hours. Then 20 mL of dichloromethane was added, and the reaction mixture washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (3  $\times$  15 mL). The organic phase was concentrated in vacuum and the product recrystallized with ethanol, obtaining 0.5 g of crystalline white solid. 53.8 % yield. Melting point: 108 °C; IR,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3424 (OH), 3090 (=CH), 1723 (C=O), 1645 (C=O), 1549 (C=C), 1248 (C-O); MS (EI)  $m/z$ : 168 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 153, 125;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 5.93 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.7; 30.0; 99.9; 10.4; 161.2; 169.0; 181.1; 205.2.

#### Synthesis of 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (2)

In a flask, 0.45 g (2.67 mmol) of compound **1** was solubilized in 10 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ; the reaction mixture was then kept under stirring and heated under reflux at 120 °C for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled in an

ice bath and the obtained solid was washed with ice-cold H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to yield 0.215 g of compound **2** as a white solid, 63.7% yield. Melting point: 186 °C; IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3.442 (OH), 3.093 (C-H, *sp*<sub>2</sub>), 1.718 (C=O, cyclic), 1623 (C=C), 1.539 (C=C), 1258 (C-O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.15 (s, 3H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 11.58 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 19.4; 88.1; 100.1; 163.2; 163.88 170.5.

### Synthesis of 4-methoxy-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (3)

To a solution of 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (51) (0.013 g/mL) was added 1.58 g (11 mmol) of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and 0.256 mL (3.96 mmol) of methyl iodide. The reaction mixture was kept under stirring at 58 °C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with 20 mL of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and subjected to extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phase was treated with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (Hexane:ethyl acetate, 7:3), to obtain 0.264 g of a yellow solid. 63 %, Melting point: 86 °C; IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3086 (C-H *sp*<sup>2</sup>), 1739 (C=O, cyclic), 1645 (C=C), 1575 (C=C), 1253 (C-O), 1146 (C-O); MS (EI) m/z: 140 (M<sup>+</sup>), 125, 112, 69; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.21 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 19.7; 55.7; 87.2; 100.2; 161.9; 164.8; 171.2.

### Synthesis of 3-methoxy-2-methyl-4H-pyran-4-one (4)

To a solution of 3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4H-pyran-4-one (0.02 g/mL) there was added 2.46 g of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (16.90 mmol) and 0.39 mL of methyl iodide (6.15 mmol). The reaction mixture was kept under stirring at 60 °C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with 30 mL of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and subjected to extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The organic phase was treated with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 0.530 g of compound **4** as orange Oil. Yield: 95 %; IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3.071 (C-H *sp*<sup>2</sup>), 2929, 1639 (C=O), 1261 (C-O), 1219 (C-O), 1168 (C-O); MS (EI), m/z: 140 (M<sup>+</sup>), 122, 110, 69; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 2.33 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.36 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz), 7.63 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 14.5; 59.9; 117.2; 145.6; 153.3; 159.0; 174.8.

### Synthesis of styrylpyrones 5-7

In a 25 mL flask with N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 0.135 mL (1.42 mmol) of dry *t*-butanol and 0.033 g (1.42 mmol) of metallic sodium were mixed, then kept under agitation until complete dissolution of metallic sodium. Then, 0.1 g (0.71 mmol) of the pyrones (**3** or **4**) dissolved in 1 mL of dry dimethylformamide and slowly added to the previously prepared sodium *t*-butoxide. Then, 1.43 mmol of the aldehyde (benzaldehyde or 4-methoxybenzaldehyde) was transferred dropwise into the flask. The reaction mixture was placed in an ultrasound bath at room temperature for 6 hours, observing the consumption of pyrone. The reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl ether (3 x 20 mL). The organic phase was washed with saturated NaCl solution (3 x 15 mL) and distilled water (3x15 mL), then dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuum. The products were purified by preparative plate chromatography using the hexane/ethyl acetate (7:3) solvent system as mobile phase.

**5,6-Dehydrokavaine (5):** Yellow solid, 53 % yield, Melting point: 136 °C, IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3086 (C-H *sp*<sup>2</sup>), 1724 (C=O, cyclic), 1624 (C=C), 1557 (C=C), 1446 (C=C, aromatic), 1410 (C=C, aromatic), 1253 (C-O), 1140 (C-O); MS (EI) m/z: 228 (M<sup>+</sup>), 200, 185, 157, 129, 103, 77, 69; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.82 (s, 3H), 5.50 (d, 1H, *J* = 2 Hz), 5.9 (d, 1H, *J* = 2 Hz), 6.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 55.8; 88.80; 101.3; 118.6; 127.0; 128.0; 129.0; 135.70; 135.10; 158.50; 163.8; 171.0 (Supplementary Figures S1–S4).

**Styrylpyrones (6):** Yellow solid, 39 % yield, Melting point: 120°C, IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2922 (C-H *sp*<sub>3</sub>), 1746 (C=O), 1632 (C=C), 1454 (C=C), 1410 (C=C), 1253 (C-O), 1154 (C-O); MS (EI) m/z: 228 (M<sup>+</sup>), 213, 137, 115, 77. Anal. calcd. (%): C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 73.69; H, 5.26; O, 21.05; Found: C, 73.67; H, 5.23; O, 21.10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.98 (s, 3H); 6.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz); 7.25 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz); 7.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz); 7.57 (d, 1H); 7.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 175.31; 155.3; 152.9; 144.5; 135.4; 135.1; 129.4; 128.8; 127.4; 117.0; 114.9; 60.6 (Supplementary Figures S5–S8).

**Yangonin (7):** Yellow solid, 42 % yield, Melting point 146 °C, IR,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3.079 (C-H *sp*<sub>2</sub>), 2929 (C-H *sp*<sup>3</sup>), 1724 (C=O), 1611 (C=C), 1561 (C=C), 1454 (C=C), 1410 (C=C), 1253 (C-O), 1154 (C-O); MS (EI) m/z: 258

(M+), 230, 187, 115, 69;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 7.48 (d, 1H,  $J = 16$  Hz); 7.46 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz); 6.90 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz); 6.47 (d, 1H,  $J = 16$  Hz); 5.90 (d, 1H,  $J^d = 2.4$  Hz); 5.47 (d, 1H,  $J^d = 2.4$  Hz); 3.82 (s, 3H); 3.83 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 171.2; 160.7; 164.1; 159.0; 135.4; 128.0; 128.8; 116.3; 114.3; 100.4; 88.3; 55.8; 55.3 (Supplementary Figures S9–S12).

### In vitro antimicrobial activity

The antimicrobial potential of ligands and complex was evaluated against the gram-positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (UFPEDA 02), *Enterococcus faecalis* (UFPEDA 138) and the gram-negative bacteria: *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (UFPEDA 396), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (UFPEDA 416) as well as the fungi *Candida albicans* and *C. utilis*. The bacteria and fungi came from the collection of microorganisms from the Antibiotics Department of the Federal University of Pernambuco. The suspension of microorganisms was standardized by the turbidity equivalent to a 0.5 tube on the McFarland scale in distilled water, corresponding to a concentration of approximately 108 CFU/mL for bacteria and 107 CFU/mL for fungi [15-16].

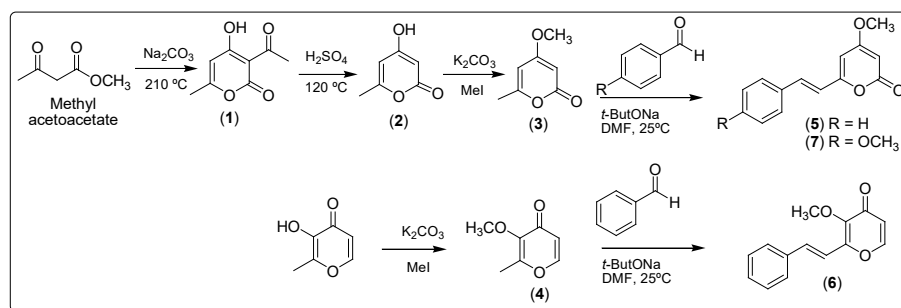
### Determination of the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

MIC was performed using the microdilution technique in 96-well multiplates [15-16]. The culture media used were Sabourand Agar (for fungus) and Muelle-Hinton Agar (for bacteria). Metronidazole and Fluconazole were used as a positive control, while ethyl alcohol was used as a negative control. Microplates were cultured at 37 °C for 18-24 h for bacteria and 30 °C for 48-72 h for the fungus. After the culture period, the microplates were developed with the addition of 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.01 % resazurin solution and incubated for 3 h. The MIC was defined as the lowest concentration of the sample that inhibited the growth of the microorganisms. Analyses were performed in triplicate and values were expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

## Results and discussion

### Synthesis

The synthesis of pyrones was carried out in four steps (Scheme 1), starting with obtaining of compound **1** through Claisen condensation between two equivalents of methyl acetoacetate at 169 °C, followed by an intramolecular cyclization yielding a white crystalline solid, yield 53.8 % and melting point of 108 °C. The deacetylation reaction of compound **1** in acid medium at 120 °C for 1.5 h provided compound **2**, a white crystalline solid, with a yield of 63.7 % and melting point of 186 °C [17,18]. Compound **3** was derived from the methylation reaction of compound **2** using methyl iodide at reflux at 58 °C which gave a beige crystalline solid in 63% yield and melting point of 86 °C. 3-methoxy-2-methyl-4H-pyron-4-one (**4**) was obtained as an orange oil in 95% yield from the methylation of the compound 3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4H-pyran-4-one with methyl iodide under basic medium at reflux at 58 °C by 3 h. Compounds **1-4** were characterized based on their IR, MS,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra. The synthesis of styrylpyrones was carried out through an aldol reaction using sodium *t*-butoxide as a base under stirring, as previously described by Kraus and Wanninayake [19] with some modifications. The reaction time for the styrylpyrone syntheses **5-7** (Scheme 1) was optimized in 5h using ultrasound radiation with reaction yields 53 %, 39 % and 42 %, respectively.



**Scheme 1.** Reaction scheme for total synthesis of styrylpyrones **5-7**.

The synthesized styrylpyrones **5** and **7** correspond to the natural compounds 5,6-dehydrokavaine and yangonin, respectively, previously isolated as kavalactones from the roots of *Piper methysticum* [20]. Compounds **5** and **7** were elucidated based on the interpretation of their IR spectra, EM  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, which are similar to their respective spectral data previously reported [21–23]. Styrylpyrone **6** is an unpublished compound and isomer of 4,5-dehydrokavaine **5**. Compound **6** was obtained as a yellow solid in 42 % yield and melting point 120°C. The IR spectrum of **6** showed stretching bands at 1746  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of carbonyl, at 1632  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of conjugated  $sp^2$  carbons, at 1454 and 1410  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of aromatic ring. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed a singlet at  $\delta$  3.98 of the methoxyl group ( $\text{H}_{12}$ ), two doublets at  $\delta$  6.39 and 7.71 referring to the coupling of  $\text{H}_1$  with  $\text{H}_2$  ( $J = 5.6$  Hz). The signals of the doublets referring to the coupling of  $\text{H}_6$  with  $\text{H}_7$  with  $J = 16.0$  Hz in *E* configuration and a set of signals in  $\delta$  7.57–7.33 ppm referring to the hydrogens of the phenyl group. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of compound **6** showed signs of the methoxyl group ( $\text{C}_{12}$   $\delta$  60.67), low field carbonyl group ( $\delta$  175.31), carbons  $sp^2$  signals of the pyrone ( $\delta$  155.31  $\text{C}_1$ , 152.92  $\text{C}_5$ , 144.53  $\text{C}_2$ , 117.00  $\text{C}_4$ ) and aromatic ( $\delta$  135.10  $\text{C}_8$ , 129.45  $\text{C}_{10}$  and  $\text{C}_{10'}$ , 128.89  $\text{C}_{11}$ , 127.49  $\text{C}_9$  and  $\text{C}_9'$ ) rings. The mass spectrum showed a base peak in  $m/z$  of 228 Da referring to the molecular ion according to the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$ .

### Biomonitoring of synthesis steps

The synthesis of pyrones was biomonitored by evaluating the antimicrobial activity of reaction intermediates and products against bacteria and fungi (Table 1). The microorganisms used in the present study were selected due to their clinical importance and resistant to certain antibiotics.

**Table 1.** Minimum inhibitory concentration at  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$  for synthesized compounds.

Compounds	Microorganisms					
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	<i>C. utilis</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>
Methyl acetoacetate	2500	2500	2500	>2500	2500	625
Benzaldehyde	2500	2500	2500	>2500	2500	1250
<b>1</b>	625	2500	625	2500	2500	625
<b>2</b>	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
<b>3</b>	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	1250
<b>4</b>	2500	2500	625	2500	2500	1250
<b>5</b>	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
<b>6</b>	1250	2500	1250	2500	1250	1250
<b>7</b>	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	1250

MIC results were classified as strong for  $\text{MIC} \leq 100$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ; moderate for  $\text{MIC} > 100 \leq 625$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ; weak for  $\text{MIC} > 625$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  [24, 25]. Methyl acetoacetate, the starting material for dehydroacetic acid **1**, showed moderate activity against *C. albicans* with a value of 625  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ . The intermediate that showed the best activity was compound **1** with a MIC of 625  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  against the bacteria *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa* and the fungus *C. albicans*. Compound **1** has been widely used in building blocks for obtaining a series of biologically active compounds, including those compounds with antimicrobial action against fungi, bacteria and viruses [26,27]. A series of enamino-pyran-2,4-diones derived from compound **50** were synthesized and showed activity against both gram positive and gram negative bacteria [28]. Naphtho- $\gamma$ -pyrones has been isolated of fungi as potential antibacterial agents against *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* and *E. faecalis* with MIC values in the range of 4.3–50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ .

[29,30]. Molecular docking-based target identification of naphtho- $\gamma$ -pyrones revealed bacterial enoyl-acyl carrier protein reductase as an antibacterial target [30].

Modifications to the substituents of the compound 1 ring to obtain compounds 2 and 3 resulted in reduced antimicrobial activity. The coupling of 3 with benzaldehyde to obtain 4,5-dehydrokavaine (5) did not enhance antimicrobial activity. Comparing the MIC values for styrylpyrones 5 and 7 with 6, it was observed that the  $\gamma$ -pyrone ring 6 was more active than the  $\alpha$ -pyrone ring (5 and 7). Compound 5, found in certain plant species, has shown potent anti-inflammatory activity and effectiveness in preventing fulminant hepatitis in a study with mice [31,32]. Yangonin (7) also showed potential for the prevention of ethanol-induced chronic liver damage in mice [33].

## Conclusions

This is the first report of a biomonitored synthesis and antimicrobial activity for the synthesized compounds. The results revealed that the styrylpyrones exhibited activity against dimethylformamide gram-positive bacteria (*S. aureus* and *E. faecalis*), gram-negative bacteria (*K. pneumoniae* and *P. aeruginosa*) and fungi (*C. albicans* and *C. utilis*). The results obtained contribute significantly to knowledge of the biological potential of pyrones derived, considering that pyrone rings are widely used as building blocks in the synthesis of bioactive molecules.

## Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq), CAPES, and FACEPE for their financial support.

## References

1. Kang, L.; Jing, W.; Liu, Q.; Liu, J.; Liu, M. *J. Infect. Public Health*. **2022**, *15*, 870–876. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2022.06.016>.
2. Carvalho, I.; Silva, N.; Carrola, J.; Silva, V.; Currie, C.; Igrejas, G.; Poeta, P., in: *Antibiotic Drug Resistance*; Eds.; Wiley, **2019**; Vol. 1, 239–259.
3. Jaramillo, M. A.; Callejas, R., in: *Piper: A Model Genus for Studies of Phytochemistry, Ecology, and Evolution*, Ed., Springer US: Boston, **2004**; 179–198.
4. Costa-Lotufo, L. V.; Montenegro, R. C.; Alves, A. P. N. N.; Madeira, S. V. F.; Pessoa, C.; Moraes, M. E. A. D.; Moraes, M. O. D. *Rev. Virtual Quím.* **2010**, *2*, 47–58. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5935/1984-6835.20100006>.
5. Koehn, F. E.; Carter, G. T. *Nat. Rev. Drug Discov.* **2005**, *4*, 206–220. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrd1657>.
6. Newman, D. J.; Cragg, G. M. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2012**, *75*, 311–335. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/np200906s>.
7. Newman, D. J.; Cragg, G. M. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2016**, *79*, 629–661. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jnatprod.5b01055>.
8. Righetti, G. I. C.; Tentori, F.; Brenna, E.; Gambarotti, C. *React. Chem. Eng.* **2023**, *8*, 199–204. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/D2RE00312K>.
9. Yi, D.; Agarwal, V. *ACS Chem. Biol.* **2023**, *18*, 1060–1065. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acschembio.3c00081>.
10. Luo, C.; Xu, X.; Xu, J.; Chen, X. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2022**, *20*, 9298–9301. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/D2OB01859D>.

11. Hu, C.; Jiang, L.; Tang, L.; Zhang, M.; Sheng, R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2021**, 44, 116306. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bmc.2021.116306>.
12. Obi, G.; Chukwujekwu, J. C.; Van Heerden, F. R. *Synth. Commun.* **2020**, 50, 726–734. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2020.1718710>.
13. Xue, L.-W.; Han, Y.-J.; Luo, X.-Q. *Acta Chim. Slov.* **2019**, 66, 622–628. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17344/acs.2019.5039>.
14. Singh, K. S. *Curr. Org. Chem.* **2020**, 24, 354–401. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2174/1385272824666200217101400>.  
Da Silva, A.; M. Da Silva, J.; V. Almeida, A.; S. Ramos, C. *Nat. Prod. J.* **2016**, 6, 313–317. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26850/1678-4618eqj.v42.1.2017>.
15. Freitas Filho, J. R.; de Holanda, L. E. G.; Ramos, C. S. *J. Mex. Chem. Soc.* **2023**, 67, 163–171. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29356/jmcs.v67i2.1866>.
16. Nagawade, R. R.; Khanna, V. V.; Bhagwat, S. S.; Shinde, D. B. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2005**, 40, 1325–1330. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2005.05.012>.
17. Filippini, P.; Baxendale, I. R. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2016**, 2016, 2000–2012. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.oprd.5b00331>.
18. Kraus, G. A.; Wanninayake, U. K. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2015**, 56, 7112–7114. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2016.02.043>.
19. Van, T.; Xuan, T.; Minh, T.; Quan, N. *Molecules.* **2018**, 23, 1–13. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules23081907>.
20. Kumagai, M.; Mishima, T.; Watanabe, A.; Harada, T.; Yoshida, I.; Fujita, K.; Watai, M.; Tawata, S.; Nishikawa, K.; Morimoto, Y. *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* **2016**, 80, 1425–1432. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09168451.2016.1153959>.
21. Soldi, C.; Moro, A. V.; Pizzolatti, M. G.; Correia, C. R. D. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, 2012, 3607–3616. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejoc.201200308>.
22. Upadhyay, A.; Chompoo, J.; Kishimoto, W.; Makise, T.; Tawata, S. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2011**, 59, 2857–2862. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/jf104813k>.
23. Manda, B.; Prasad, A.; Thatikonda, N.; Lacerda Jr., V.; Barbosa, L.; Santos, H.; Romão, W.; Pavan, F.; Ribeiro, C.; Dos Santos, E.; et al. *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.* **2018**, 29, 639–648. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21577/0103-5053.20170178>.
24. De Paiva, R.; Da Silva, J.; Moreira, H.; Pinto, O.; Camargo, L.; Naves, P.; Camargo, A.; Ribeiro, L.; Ramos, L. *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.* **2019**, 30, 164–172. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21577/0103-5053.20180158>.
25. Nechak, R.; Achouche Bouzroua, S.; Benmalek, Y.; Boufroua, N.; Nedjar Kolli, B.; Poulain Martini, S.; Duñach, E. *Synth. Commun.* **2019**, 49, 1895–1905. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2019.1606918>.
26. Fadda, A. A.; Amine, M. S.; Arief, M. M. H.; Farahat, E. Kh. *Pharmacologia.* **2014**, 5, 1–11. <https://scialert.net/abstract/?doi=pharmacologia.2014.1.11>.
27. Baldwin, A. G.; Bevan, J.; Brough, D.; Ledder, R.; Freeman, S. *Med. Chem. Res.* **2018**, 27, 884–889. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00044-017-2110-8>.
28. Zheng, Y. Y.; Liang, Z. Y.; Shen, N. X.; Liu, W. L.; Zhou, X. J.; Fu, X. M.; Wang, C. Y. *Mar. Drugs.* **2019**, 17, 322. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/md17060322>.
29. He, Y.; Tian, J.; Chen, X.; Sun, W.; Zhu, H.; Li, Q.; Zhang, Y. *Sci. Rep.* **2016**, 6, 24291. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep24291>.
30. Chaurasiya, N. D.; León, F.; Ding, Y.; Gómez-Betancur, I.; Benjumea, D.; Walker, L. A.; Cutler, S. J.; Tekwani, B. L. *Evid. Based Complement. Alternat. Med.* **2017**, 2017, 1–10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/4018724>.
31. Chou, T.-W.; Feng, J.-H.; Huang, C.-C.; Cheng, Y.-W.; Chien, S.-C.; Wang, S.-Y.; Shyur, L.-F. *PLoS ONE.* **2013**, 8, e77626. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0077626>.
32. Dong, R.; Wang, X.; Wang, L.; Wang, C.; Huang, K.; Fu, T.; Liu, K.; Wu, J.; Sun, H.; Meng, Q. *Eur. J. Pharmacol.* **2021**, 890, 173653. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejphar.2020.173653>.