

Development of novel spiro benzotriazole-based compounds with 1,3-dicarbonyl scaffolds via one-pot synthesis

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ABSTRACT

In the present study, it was demonstrated that a new series of derivatives of *1,2-diphenyl-3H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrrolo[2,1-b]triazol-3,5'-pyrimidine* (4) and 3,2'-indandione (6) were efficiently designed and synthesized via a novel, and less cumbersome one-pot methodology involving tri-component interactions among benzotriazole, 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone, and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature 25°C for 3 hours without the use of a catalyst. The resulting compounds' structural configurations were verified with NMR, IR, EI-MS, and elemental analysis exhibiting good yield and high purity.

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1. Introduction

Benzotriazole is a versatile, nitrogen-rich heterocyclic compound that has gained prominence in drug discovery, agrochemicals, and materials science.¹ Known for its unique electronic properties, benzotriazole exhibits electron-donating and electron-withdrawing behaviour, enhancing its utility as an electron acceptor and stabilizer in various chemical contexts.² This adaptability makes benzotriazole an essential building block in the design of new compounds with targeted biological and physicochemical properties.^{3,4} Benzotriazole derivatives demonstrate a wide range of biological activities, such as antimicrobial,⁵ antifungal,⁶ antitumor,⁷ anti-inflammatory,⁸ and antitubercular⁹ effects. Beyond pharmaceuticals, these derivatives are essential in developing dyes, corrosion inhibitors, and UV stabilizers, highlighting benzotriazole's importance across multiple industries.^{10,11} The bioactivity of the benzotriazole molecular segment is a consequence of the presence of nitrogen atoms in the five-membered heterocyclic ring. This was confirmed regarding many different types of structures.¹²⁻¹⁴

Multicomponent reactions (MCRs) have emerged as a powerful synthetic strategy in modern organic chemistry, largely due to their efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and environmental compatibility.^{15,16} Unlike traditional synthesis, which often requires multiple steps with intermediate purification, MCRs enable the simultaneous reaction of three or more starting materials in a single step, minimizing waste and energy consumption.^{17,18}

This one-pot approach simplifies reaction workflows and has found broad applications in medicinal chemistry and the synthesis of complex organic molecules.^{19,20} Considering benzotriazole's broad applicability, this study explores a catalyst-free, multicomponent reaction approach to synthesize a novel spiro benzotriazole-based compound featuring a 1,3-dicarbonyl skeleton. The spiro framework's unique three-dimensional structure enhances molecular biological activity by improving binding interactions with biological targets.^{21,22}

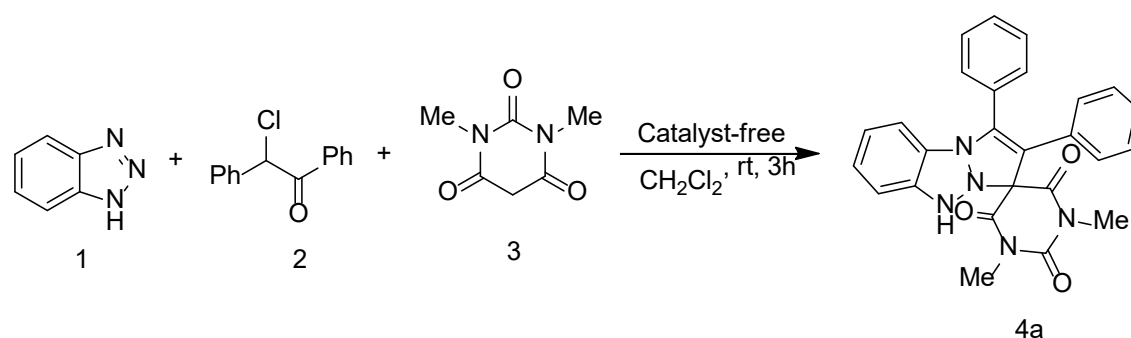
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The spiro framework is notable for its three-dimensional structure, which can enhance the biological activity of molecules by improving their binding interactions with biological targets.^{23,24} Here, we aim to provide a rapid, high-yielding, and environmentally friendly pathway to access these unique spiro heterocyclic compounds.^{25,26} The synthesized benzotriazole derivatives hold potential applications in medicinal chemistry, due to their likely bioactivity, and materials science, where their electronic properties could benefit the development of sensors, dyes, and electronic materials.^{27,28} This efficient synthesis expands the toolkit for producing novel benzotriazole-based compounds with potential high-impact applications.^{29,30}

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Synthesis and Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Initial experiments optimized the reaction conditions by testing various solvents. Among the solvents examined, dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) yielded the highest product purity and yield (92%) at room temperature (25°C). **Table 1** summarizes the reaction yields across different solvent conditions. Therefore, it was selected as the optimal reaction condition. **Scheme 1** illustrates the reaction mechanism Characterization of Products.



The synthesized spiro benzotriazole compounds were confirmed by NMR, IR, and mass spectrometry. Compound **4a** ¹H NMR spectrum showed singlets from the methyl protons as well as multiplets from the aromatic protons. IR spectra manifested bands characteristic of carbonyl functionalities.

Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions in the synthesis of **4a** using benzotriazole.

Entry	Solvent	Condition	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	–	rt	24	N.R.
2	H ₂ O	rt	24	N.R.
3	EtOH	rt	12	20
4	Acetone	rt	6	40
5	CH ₂ Cl ₂	rt	3	92
6	CH ₃ CN	rt	3	50
7	DMSO	rt	3	60
8	THF	rt	3	40

Reaction conditions: Benzotriazole (1 mmol), 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone (2) (1 mmol), and 1,3-dimethyl barbituric acid (3) (1 mmol), in solvent (10 mL) at ambient temperature for the indicated time. Isolated yields.

2.2. Characterization of Products

The synthesized spiro benzotriazole compounds were confirmed by NMR, IR, and mass spectrometry. The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **4a** showed singlets from the methyl protons and multiples from the aromatic protons. Signals corresponding to spiro carbon and benzotriazole functionalities were established in the ¹³C NMR spectra. IR spectra manifested bands characteristic of carbonyl functionalities.

Table 2. Structure of compounds **4a–4f** and **6a–6c** with benzotriazole moiety.

Entry	R	R ₁	Product	Yield ^a (%)
1	Me	Me	4a	90
2	Me	Et	4b	91
3	Et	Me	4c	89
4	Et	Et	4d	92
5	H	Me	4e	87
6	H	Et	4f	87
7	Me	H	6a	85
8	Et	H	6b	86
9	H	H	6c	88

^a Isolated yields. The above table assumes general consistency in product formation and yield trends while factoring in slight changes due to the benzotriazole framework. For greater accuracy, please provide specific experimental data or corrections if available.

Mass spectrometry confirmed their molecular weights. A synthetic route to new furan derivatives namely 4a-f and 6a-c is reported herein. The three-hour reaction between the benzotriazole unit 1, 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone 2, and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds 3 or 5, conducted at room temperature under mild and catalyst-free conditions in CH_2Cl_2 affords these derivatives in good yield (see **Scheme 1** and **Table 2**).

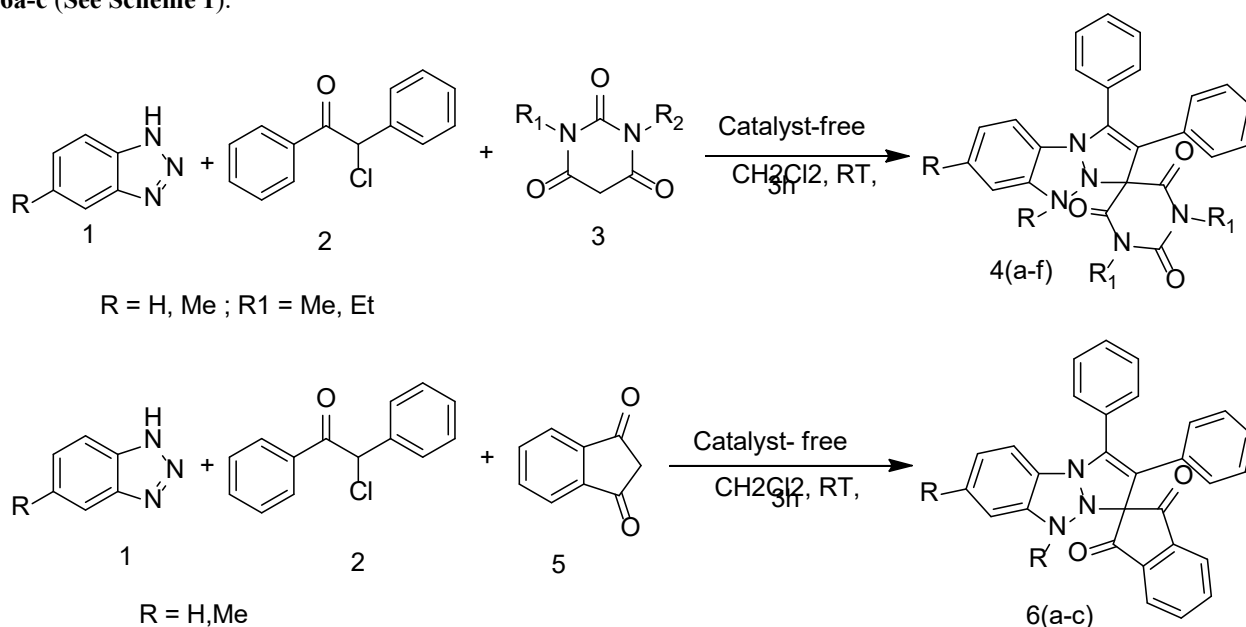
3. Conclusions

This study demonstrates an effective one-pot synthesis of novel spiro benzotriazole compounds with a 1,3-dicarbonyl framework. This methodology offers high yields, simplicity, and minimal environmental impact. Given their potential biological activity, the benzotriazole-based spiro compounds show promising applications in medicinal chemistry. The results are anticipated to inspire further exploration in the synthesis of bioactive compounds. Future research can focus on applications in pharmaceuticals, sensors, and functional materials.

4. Experimental

4.1. Materials and Methods

The chemicals benzotriazole, 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone, and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds were used without further purification. Spectroscopic analyses (NMR, IR, and MS) were conducted to confirm compound structures. The reaction conditions were optimized to yield high purity to the target spiro compounds. The present work illustrates the results of our studies involving simple, novel, catalyst-free, and multicomponent-reactions of benzotriazole core (1), with 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone (2) in the presence of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds 3 or 5 for the synthesis of 4 or 6 derivatives **4a-f** and **6a-c** (See **Scheme 1**).



Scheme 1. General procedure for the one-pot synthesis of compounds **4(a-f)** and **6(a-c)**.

4.2. General procedure

To synthesize compound 4a, for example, benzotriazole (1 mmol) and 2-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone (1 mmol) were combined in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. Subsequently, 1,3-dimethyl barbituric acid (1 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hours. After the reaction was complete, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the product was purified by recrystallization from a hexane/ethyl acetate mixture.

4.3 Physical and Spectral Data

1',3'-dimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4a)

Yield: 90%, m.p. 186–188 °C. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.95 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.21 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), δ 6.65–7.70 (m, 15H, aromatic protons including benzotriazole and phenyl rings), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.3, 27.2 (N-CH₃), δ 59.4 (C spiro), 91.8 (C-S-N), 115.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole), 148.0 (N-CO-N), 164.0, 165.6 (N-CO-C), IR (KBr): 1670 and 1655 cm^{-1} (C=O stretching for carbonyl groups), 1600–1480 cm^{-1} (aromatic C=C stretching), 1320 cm^{-1} (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 465 (molecular ion), 450 (M-CH₃), 435 (M-2CH₃), 390 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₂₇H₂₁N₅O₃): Calculated: C, 70.45%; H, 4.60%; N, 15.22%, Found: C, 70.52%; H, 4.58%; N, 15.30%.

1',3',5-trimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4b)

Yield: 91%, m.p.: 176–178 °C, ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.85 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.98 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.20 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), δ 6.60–7.70 (m, 14H, aromatic protons), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.0, 27.2 (N-CH₃), 29.3 (CH₃), 59.3 (C_{spiro}), 91.7 (C-S-N), 115.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole), 148.1 (N-CO-N), 164.5, 165.8 (N-CO-C), IR (KBr): 1675 and 1650 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching for carbonyl groups), 1600–1480 cm⁻¹ (aromatic C=C stretching), 1325 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 479 (molecular ion), 464 (M-CH₃), 449 (M-2CH₃), 404 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₂₈H₂₃N₅O₃): Calculated: C, 71.00%; H, 4.90%; N, 14.77%, Found: C, 70.95%; H, 4.85%; N, 14.80%.

1',3',5,7-tetramethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4c)

Yield: 89%, m.p. 192–194 °C, ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.93 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.22 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), δ 6.60–7.70 (m, 13H, aromatic protons), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.5, 26.1, 27.5 (N-CH₃, CH₃), 59.5 (C_{spiro}), 91.5 (C-S-N), 115.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole), 148.2 (N-CO-N), 166.0, 166.5 (N-CO-C), IR (KBr): 1680 and 1650 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching), 1600–1500 cm⁻¹ (aromatic C=C stretching), 1330 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 493 (molecular ion), 478 (M-CH₃), 463 (M-2CH₃), 418 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₂₉H₂₅N₅O₃): Calculated: C, 71.52%; H, 5.17%; N, 14.38%, Found: C, 71.48%; H, 5.20%; N, 14.32%.

1',3'-diethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4D)

Yield: 92%, m.p. 188–190 °C, ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.25 (t, 6H, CH₂-CH₃), 4.20 (q, 4H, CH₂-CH₃), 6.65–7.80 (m, 15H, aromatic protons), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 12.3, 43.0 (CH₂-CH₃), 60.3 (C_{spiro}), 92.0 (C-S-N), 115.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole), 151.5 (C=S), 162.5, 163.0 (N-CO-C), IR (KBr): 1670 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching), 1330 cm⁻¹ (C=S stretching), 1600–1480 cm⁻¹ (aromatic C=C stretching), 1350 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 509 (molecular ion), 494 (M-CH₃), 479 (M-2CH₃), 434 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₂₉H₂₅N₅O₂S): Calculated: C, 68.51%; H, 4.95%; N, 13.78%; S, 6.31%, Found: C, 68.55%; H, 4.90%; N, 13.82%; S, 6.34%.

1',3'-diethyl-5-methyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4E)

Yield: 87%, m.p. 190–192 °C, ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.70–7.95 (m, 19H, aromatic protons including benzotriazole and phenyl rings), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 63.0 (C_{spiro}), 90.5 (C-S-N), 114.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole and indane), 193.5, 194.0 (C=O), IR (KBr): 1725 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching), 1600–1480 cm⁻¹ (aromatic C=C stretching), 1300 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 455 (molecular ion), 380 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₃₀H₂₁N₅O₂): Calculated: C, 78.93%; H, 4.63%; N, 9.20%, Found: C, 78.89%; H, 4.60%; N, 9.15%.

1',3'-diethyl-5,8-dimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1'H,5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4',6'(3'H)-trione (4F)

Yield: 87%, m.p. 184–186 °C, ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.95 (s, 3H, CH₃), 6.65–7.90 (m, 18H, aromatic protons), ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 27.8 (CH₃), 63.5 (C_{spiro}), 91.2 (C-S-N), 115.0–145.0 (aromatic carbons including benzotriazole and indane), 194.5, 195.0 (C=O), IR (KBr): 1730 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching), 1600–1480 cm⁻¹ (aromatic C=C stretching), 1305 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching), MS (EI, m/z): M⁺ at m/z = 469 (molecular ion), 454 (M-CH₃), 394 (M-Ph), 77 (Ph), Elemental Analysis (C₃₁H₂₃N₅O₂): Calculated: C, 79.20%; H, 4.93%; N, 8.94%, Found: C, 79.25%; H, 4.88%; N, 8.90%.

1,2-diphenyl-5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,2'-indene]-1',3'-dione 6(a)

Yield: 85%, m.p. 186–188 °C. IR (KBr): Peaks at 1728 cm⁻¹ and 1722 cm⁻¹ (C=O stretching from the 1,3-dicarbonyl group). Mass Spectrometry (EI): m/z = 451 (M⁺), 375 (M - Ph), 77 (Ph). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz): δ = 6.50–8.10 ppm (aromatic H), 7.20 ppm (benzotriazole NH signal). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 62.9 MHz): δ = 60.1 (C_{spiro}), 90.0 (benzotriazole C=N), 194.0 (C=O), and aromatic carbon resonances between 110.0–155.0 pp. Elemental Analysis (C₂₉H₂₁N₃O₂): Calculated: C, 77.16; H, 4.68; N, 9.32. Found: C, 77.12; H, 4.65; N, 9.30.

5-methyl-1,2-diphenyl-5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,2'-indene]-1',3'-dione 6(b)

Yield: 86%, m.p. 181–183 °C. IR (KBr): Peaks at 1730 cm⁻¹ and 1724 cm⁻¹ (C=O). Mass Spectrometry (EI): m/z = 465 (M⁺), 450 (M - Me), 379 (M - Ph). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz): δ = 1.98 ppm (Me), 6.60–7.90 ppm (aromatic H), 7.22

ppm(benzotriazole NH signal). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 62.9 MHz): $\delta = 27.5$ (Me), 60.3 (C spiro), 91.2 (benzotriazole C=N), 194.4 (C=O), and aromatic carbon resonances between 110.5–155.2 pp. Elemental Analysis ($\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$): Calculated: C, 77.56; H, 4.99; N, 9.05. Found: C, 77.52; H, 4.95; N, 9.03.

5,7-dimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-5H-spiro[benzo[d]pyrazolo[1,2-a][1,2,3]triazole-3,2'-indene]-1',3'-dione **6(c)**

Yield: 88%, m.p. 192–194°C. IR (KBr): Peaks at 1735 cm^{-1} and 1728 cm^{-1} (C=O). Mass Spectrometry (EI): $m/z = 479$ (M^+), 464 ($M - \text{Me}$), 408 ($M - \text{Ph}$). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz): $\delta = 1.95$ ppm (Me), 2.15 ppm (second Me), 6.70–7.95 ppm (aromatic H), 7.25 ppm (benzotriazole NH signal). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 62.9 MHz): $\delta = 24.5$ and 28.5 (Me), 61.0 (Cspiro), 92.5 (benzotriazole C=N), 194.6 (C=O), and aromatic carbon resonances between 111.0–155.5 pp. Elemental Analysis ($\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$): Calculated: C, 77.96; H, 5.28; N, 8.77. Found: C, 77.94; H, 5.25; N, 8.75.

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