

## Research Article

# Ferric Chloride and DABCO as a Versatile and Effective Catalytic System for Synthesis Thiazolidinedione Pharmacophore

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## Abstract

A mild and efficient procedure for the synthesis of synthetic approach for creating 2, 4-thiazolidinedione derivatives through the Knoevenagel condensation reaction, substituted benzaldehyde with 2,4-thiazolidinedione in ethanol catalysed by Ferric chloride and DABCO as a versatile and effective catalyst. These 2, 4-thiazolidinedione derivatives are significant due to their diverse biological activities' significant advantages, such as cost-effectiveness, non-toxicity, and operational simplicity and high yield.

**Keywords:** Knoevenagel condensation; Benzaldehyde; 2, 4-thiazolidinedione; Ferric chloride; DABCO

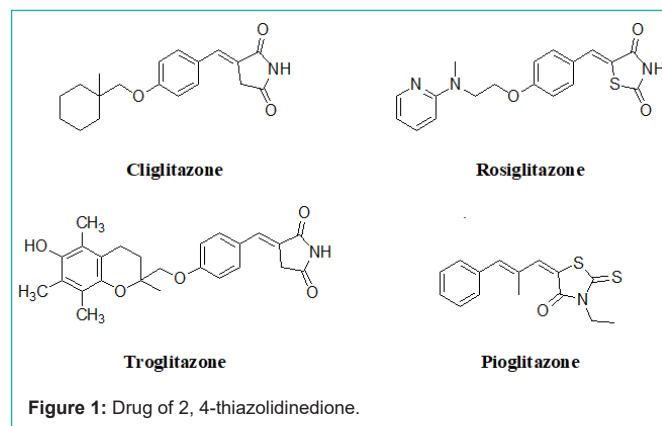
## Introduction

Heterocyclic compounds have been used extensively in the field of medicinal chemistry, where they occupy a central position in the development of new and novel therapeutic agents. Thiazolidinediones are five membered heterocyclic compounds which have attracted considerable attention from chemist over the last 20 years because of their wide range of biological properties including antidiabetic, antibacterial, antifungal, antiproliferative effect on vascular smooth muscle, anti-HIV, antitubercular and anti-inflammatory [1-7]. Additionally some of the rhodamine based compounds shows aldose reductase inhibitory activity [8] and 15-hydroxy prostaglandin dehydrogenase inhibitors [9] (Figure 1). Instead of these biological activities, thiazolidinedione acts as inhibitors of MurD ligase [10].

Encouraged by all these facts and as part of our continuing research programme dealing with the synthesis of heterocyclic system containing 2, 4-thiazolidinedione moiety we have undertaken the synthesis of 5-arylidene-2, 4-thiazolidinedione. Due to the important pharmacological potential of thiazolidinedione, consequently, a number of synthetic strategies have been reported for the construction thiazolidinedione pharmacophore moiety. However, most existing methodology synthesis of thiazolidinedione pharmacophore moiety includes  $KAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$  at 90°C [11], baker's yeast [12],  $KF \cdot Al_2O_3$  under microwave irradiation [13], glycine under microwave irradiation [14], polyethylene glycol-300 at 100-120°C [15], L-Tyrosine [16], Aqueous media under Ultrasound-Irradiation [17], Mg-doped Ce-Zr solid catalysts [18],  $Cu(acac)_2$  [19]. Recently

ionic liquids [bnmim]Cl,  $C3[min]2.2[Br^-]$  catalyzed synthesis of 5-arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinediones have also been reported [20-21].

However, the above-reported methods suffer from several drawbacks, including prolonged reaction times and the use of environmentally unfavourable solvents. To address these issues, the development of new methodologies in current organic synthesis, mainly focused on the principles of green chemistry, is critical for a sustainable future. Therefore, we decided to explore the potential of our clean and inexpensive catalyst for performing these types of condensation reactions efficiently, aiming to provide a more eco-friendly and cost-effective approach.



The development of  $\text{FeCl}_3$  and DABCO as a new catalytic system for the Knoevenagel condensation reaction presents a novel approach, utilizing substrates that can serve as valuable intermediates for further transformations. A literature search has revealed some existing reports on the Knoevenagel condensation; however, no previous work has employed ferric chloride  $\text{FeCl}_3$  and DABCO as a combined catalytic system for this reaction. This innovative methodology has the potential to offer improved efficiency and sustainability in the synthesis of important organic intermediates.

Therefore, we are the first to demonstrate the use of ferric chloride ( $\text{FeCl}_3$ ) and DABCO as a catalytic system for the Knoevenagel condensation reaction. To evaluate the applicability of this catalytic methodology, we explored a variety of substituted benzaldehyde, as indicated in Scheme 1. Our final goal was to expand the group of substrates to obtain versatile adducts that can serve as easily transformable intermediates, possessing significant pharmacological activity. This approach aims to develop a more sustainable and efficient method for synthesizing compounds with potential medicinal applications.

## Material and Methods

All reactions were carried out in dry solvents, unless otherwise stated. Reactions were monitored by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) on silica gel plates (Kieselgel 60 F<sub>254</sub>, Merck). Visualization of the spots on TLC plates was achieved either by UV light or by staining the plates in 2, 4-dinitrophenylhydrazine/ anisaldehyde and charring on hot plate. All products were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR, Mass and Elemental analysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were recorded on Varian Mercury 500 MHz spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu FTIR-8400 with samples loaded as thin films on KBr plate, neat or with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as indicated. Mass spectra were recorded at an ionization potential of 70 eV; Melting points recorded are uncorrected. Column chromatography on silica gel (100-200 mesh) was performed with reagent grade ethyl acetate and hexane as an eluent.

## Experimental Section

**Typical experimental procedure:** In two neck round bottom flask was charged with a mixture of  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (25 mg, 10 mol%), Benzaldehyde was taken and DABCO (0.010 mg) was added in MeOH 10 mL This mixture was stirred under atmosphere for 10 min then add to it 2, 4-thiazolidinedione and resulting solution was stirred 5h at room temperature till the completion of reaction. The reaction monitored by TLC. The reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of HCl (2 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were collected and add to it activated charcoal to remove color impurities and filter. The combined organic layer dried using anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The crude product was purified by crystallization method to afford desired product as colorless solid 5-(4-Chloro-benzylidene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione (3b) Yield : 89% State : Pale Yellow Solid ,IR (KBr) : 3155, 3049, 879, 2868, 1739, 1691  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , <sup>1</sup>HNMR : (500MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  13.86 (s, 1H, NH), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.57 (m, 4H) <sup>13</sup>CNMR : (125MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  127.1, 131.8, 132.8, 133.7, 134.8, 134.7, 135.9, ) 171.0, GCMS m/z 237

**Table 1:** Study of Several Transition Metal Based Catalysts for Knoevenagel Condensation.

Entry	Catalyst	Time	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	$\text{CuCl}_2$	12.0 h	45
2	$\text{CuCl}_2$ : DABCO	8.5 h	60
3	$\text{FeCl}_3$ : DABCO	6.0 h	89
4	$\text{CoCl}_2$ : DABCO	8.0h	69
5	$\text{NiCl}_2$ : DABCO	9.0 h	65
6	$\text{ZnCl}_2$ : DABCO	7.0 h	58

**Table 2:** Screening of various solvents for the synthesis 2,4 thiazolidinedione Derivatives<sup>a</sup>.

Entry	Solvent	Time	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Solvent free	12.0 h	45
2	DCM	8.5 h	60
3	Chloroform	6.0 h	65
4	EtOH	6.0h	84
5	MeOH	5.0 h	89
6	DMSO	7.0 h	58

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: Benzaldehyde(1mmol), 2,4-thiazolidinedione(1mmol), ferric chloride, DABCO, various solvent, were stirred at room temp, <sup>b</sup>Isolated Yield.

## Result and Discussion

Herein, we performed the Knoevenagel condensation of Benzaldehyde with 2,4-thiazolidinedione in methanol catalysed by Ferric chloride and DABCO as a versatile and effective catalyst the reaction to get 5-arylidene-2, 4-thiazolidinedione with 88 % yield as indicated in Scheme 1.

### Optimization of Reaction Conditions

To examine the catalytic efficiency of different transition metal complexes, reaction of benzaldehyde and 2, 4-thiazolidinedione was performed. It is clear that; copper acetyl acetonate promotes reaction more effectively than other transition metal complexes.

The numbers of metal catalysts like  $\text{CuCl}_2$ : DABCO to get desirable product with 82% yield,  $\text{FeCl}_3$ : DABCO, to provided desirable product with 86 % yield,  $\text{CoCl}_2$ : DABCO require longer reaction times with 69% yield,  $\text{NiCl}_2$ : DABCO this catalytic system formation of little amount of side product with less yield (Table 1). The results showed that  $\text{FeCl}_3$ : DABCO is the most efficient catalyst under these conditions and effective for good yield (Table 1 entry 3).

Next, we focused on finding the optimal solvent for synthesizing the target molecule. Initially the model reaction was performed under solvent free condition; low yield of desired product was obtained. The same reaction was performed using different solvents, we performed the model reaction in the presence of various solvents, and the results are summarized in Table 2. We observed that the highest yields were achieved with methanol and ethanol as polar aprotic solvents (Table 2, entries 4 & 5). Among all these solvents, in MeOH maximum yield was obtained hence MeOH was selected as optimal solvent.

**Table 3:** Ferric chloride catalysed synthesis of 5-arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione derivatives<sup>a</sup>.

Entry	R	Product	Time	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1	Benzaldehyde	<b>3a</b>	5.0	84
2	4-Chloro Benzaldehyde <b>1b</b>	<b>3b</b>	4.5	89
3	4-Bromo Benzaldehyde <b>1c</b>	<b>3c</b>	4.5	89
4	4-Nitrobenzaldehyde <b>1d</b>	<b>3d</b>	3.0	85
5	3-Nitrobenzaldehyde <b>1e</b>	<b>3e</b>	3.5	82
6	2-Chlorobenzaldehyde <b>1f</b>	<b>3f</b>	6.5	80
7	2,4-Chlorobenzaldehyde <b>1g</b>	<b>3g</b>	8.0	86
8	4-Methoxy benzaldehyde <b>1h</b>	<b>3h</b>	8.0	86
9	4-Methyl benzaldehyde <b>1i</b>	<b>3i</b>	7.0	87

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: substituted Benzaldehyde(1mmol), 2,4thiazolidinedione(1mmol), ferric chloride, DABCO, in MeOH, were stirred at room temp, <sup>b</sup>Isolated Yield.

To study the substrate scope, optimized reaction conditions were applied to various aromatic aldehydes with 2, 4-thiazolidinedione. Substrates with various functionalities reacted well and afforded high yield of desired 5-arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione. According to the results in Table 3, Both electron donating and electron withdrawing substituent on benzaldehyde 1a-1i underwent clean reactions affording the desired product with high yields (80-89%). The isolated products were purified by simple recrystallization and their structures were confirmed using FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR and mass spectroscopy techniques.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, a straightforward, efficient, and eco-friendly method has been developed using Ferric chloride and DABCO as a versatile and effective catalyst as a catalyst for synthesizing 5-arylidene-2,4-thiazolidinedione derivatives. This approach offers significant advantages, such as cost-effectiveness, non-toxicity, and operational simplicity. The use of Ferric chloride and DABCO under mild conditions provides an environmentally benign alternative to traditional methods, achieving high yields with a variety of aryl aldehydes. This green catalytic system contributes to sustainable chemistry, offering a promising route for the synthesis of valuable heterocyclic compounds.

## Author Statements

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