

Synthesis and cholinesterase inhibitory activity of some phenylacetamide derivatives bearing 1*H*-pyrazole or 1*H*-1,2,4-triazole

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ABSTRACT

A group of *N*-phenylacetamide derivatives bearing five membered heterocyclic rings, pyrazole or 1,2,4-triazole, were synthesized to investigate their cholinesterase inhibitory activities. Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE) inhibitory activities were evaluated by using Ellman's spectroscopic method. Results

indicated that all of the compounds displayed moderate and selective AChE inhibitory activity and the most active compound was 2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)-*N*-(3-methoxyphenyl)acetamide with an IC₅₀ value of 6.68 µM. Docking studies were also carried out for the most active compound.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, pyrazole, 1,2,4-triazole, acetamide, cholinesterase inhibitory activity

INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia in the elderly. It is characterized by irreversible degeneration of the cholinergic neurons in the brain, accompanied with progressive loss of memory and cognitive skills (1, 2). As much of the functional deficit in AD has been associated with morphological and functional imbalance of the central cholinergic system, choline levels play an important role in the treatment of AD (3). According to the cholinergic hypothesis, the cognitive and memory symptoms of AD are caused by the diminution of acetylcholine, therefore the most common strategy is to increase acetylcholine (ACh) level by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase (AChE) enzyme (4). Currently, the therapeutic approach reflecting this hypothesis is the treatment with FDA approved drugs like donepezil, rivastigmine and galanthamine as AChE inhibitors (1).

Heterocyclic compounds are potentially important nuclei for drug discovery as they can interact with molecular targets with various binding interaction possibilities. Donepezil, rivastigmine and galanthamine also carry heterocyclic rings and according to literature survey, most of the compounds that have exhibited AChE inhibition consists of heterocyclic ring systems including pyrazole and 1,2,4-triazole (5-14). Besides AChE inhibitory activity, pyrazole and 1,2,4-triazole containing systems have a wide

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spectrum of biological activities such as antibacterial, antifungal, analgesic, antipyretic, antiinflammatory, antiviral, anticancer, antituberculosis, antiparasitic, antihyperglycemic, antidepressant, antihypertensive, vasodilatory, anticonvulsant activity (5, 9, 10, 14-16).

AChE enzyme structure is a deep and narrow gorge approximately 20 Å long consisting of 2 binding sites, peripheral anionic site (PAS) and catalytic active site (CAS). The PAS is the entrance of the enzyme gorge whereas the CAS is the bottom of the gorge (17). The PAS of the AChE gorge (for AChE in *Torpedo californica* - TcAChE) includes Tyr70, Asp72, Tyr121, Glu278, Trp279 and Tyr334 residues that are important for binding interactions of the inhibitors. In the middle of the TcAChE gorge, Trp84, Tyr130, Glu199, Phe330 and Tyr442 are also five important amino acid residues constituting the anionic binding site (18). Molecular modeling studies indicated that AChE inhibitors bearing heterocyclic rings interact with specific amino acids of either/both CAS and PAS site of AChE (18, 19). Besides, the narrow conformation of the enzyme gorge leads small molecules like tacrine and donepezil to fit into the active site easily (1).

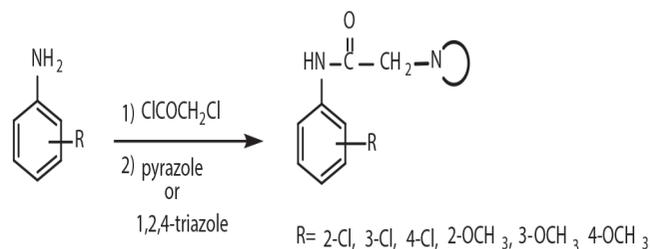
In the light of these findings, we designed a group of *N*-phenylacetamide derivatives bearing pyrazole and 1,2,4-triazole to test their cholinesterase inhibitory activity. We also evaluated the contribution of the substituents on *N*-phenyl ring to AChE inhibitory activity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemistry

Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was run on Merck silica gel plates (Kieselgel 60F254) with detection by UV light (254 nm). Melting points were determined on Stuart SMP30 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra of compounds were recorded as potassium bromide pellets on Perkin Elmer FT-IR Spectrometer 100 (Perkin Elmer Inc., Massachusetts, USA). The NMR spectra of compounds were recorded on a Varian As 400 Mercury Plus NMR (Varian Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA) spectrometer. HRMS was recorded on a HPLC-TOF Waters Micromass LCT Premier XE (Milford, MA, USA) mass spectrometer using ESI. All starting materials and reagents were high-grade commercial products.

The title compounds were synthesized in two steps. First, substituted anilines and 2-chloroacetyl chloride were reacted to obtain 2-chloroanilides according to the reported procedure (20), then they were condensed with pyrazole or 1,2,4-triazole to furnish the title compounds (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. The synthetic pathway of the title compounds

General procedure for the synthesis of the intermediates

Substituted anilines (0.066 mol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in glacial acetic acid (25 mL). 2-chloroacetyl chloride (0.074, 1.12 equiv.) was added by a separatory funnel drop wise in an ice bath. After the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 minutes in ice bath then at room temperature for 45 minutes, the reaction mixture was poured into saturated sodium acetate solution and the precipitate was filtered and washed with water. The crude product was dried and crystallized from ethanol:water mixture (20).

General procedure for the synthesis of the compounds 1-12

2-chloro-*N*-phenylacetamides (1.0 equiv.) and pyrazole or 1,2,4-triazole (5.0 equiv.) were refluxed in toluene (8-10 mL). After confirming the end of the reaction by TLC, the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in chloroform (30 mL) and extracted with water (2x10mL). The organic phases were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The product was purified by crystallization from water (15). The synthetic pathway is given in Scheme 1.

N-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**1**)

Yield 67 %; mp: 105 °C (water) (lit²¹: mp: 110 °C); IR (KBr)_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3267 (NH st), 1677 (amide I), 1546 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.69 (brs, NH), 8.34 (dd, *J*: 1.5, 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.74 (d, *J*: 2.0 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.55 (d, *J*: 2.4 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.31 (dd, *J*: 1.3, 7.9 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.24 (m, 1H, PhH), 7.03 (td, *J*: 1.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.41 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.99 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), *m/z*: 236.0600 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₁N₃OCl for 236.0591).

N-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**2**)

Yield 88 %; mp: 80 °C (water) (lit²¹: mp: 62 °C); IR (KBr)_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3325 (NH st), 1676 (amide I), 1549 (amide II); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.64 (brs, NH), 7.71 (d, *J*: 1.6 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.56 (t, *J*: 2.0 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.53 (d, *J*: 2.3 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.30 (m, 1H, PhH), 7.21 (t, *J*: 7.5 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.07 (m, 1H, PhH), 6.39 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.93 (s, 2H, CH₂)

ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 236.0597 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₁N₃OCl for 236.0591).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**3**)

Yield 70 %; mp: 175 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3274 (NH st), 1698 (amide I), 1551 (amide II); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.58 (brs, NH), 7.71 (d, *J*: 1.9 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.53 (d, *J*: 2.3 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.40 (dd, *J*: 2.2, 6.9 Hz, 2H, Ph2H), 7.25 (m, 2H, Ph2H), 6.39 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.93 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 236.0598 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₁N₃OCl for 236.0591).

N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**4**)

Yield 57 %; mp: 64 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3270 (NH-st), 1668 (amide I), 1542 (amide II); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.54 (brs, NH), 8.30 (dd, *J*: 1.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.71 (d, *J*: 1.8 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.54 (d, *J*: 2.3 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.02 (td, *J*: 1.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.94 (td, *J*: 1.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.82 (dd, *J*: 1.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.40 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.97 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 232.1087 (M⁺, C₁₂H₁₄N₃O₂ for 232.1086).

N-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**5**)

Yield 65 %; mp: 70 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3271 (NH-st), 1691 (amide I), 1562 (amide II), ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.20 (brs, NH), 7.70 (d, *J*: 2.0 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.53 (d, *J*: 2.4 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.17 (m, 2H, Ph2H), 6.90 (dd, *J*: 1.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.66 (dd, *J*: 2.4, 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.38 (t, *J*: 2.0 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.93 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 232.1089 (M⁺, C₁₂H₁₄N₃O₂ for 232.1086);

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)acetamide (**6**)

Yield 60 %; mp: 133 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3324 (NH-st), 1682 (amide I), 1555 (amide II); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 8.12 (brs, NH), 7.69 (d, *J*: 2.0 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.53 (d, *J*: 2.3 Hz, 1H, PyH), 7.34 (dd, *J*: 2.2, 7.0 Hz, 2H, Ph2H), 6.83 (dd, *J*: 2.2, 7.0 Hz, 2H, Ph2H), 6.38 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PyH), 4.93 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 232.1081 (M⁺, C₁₂H₁₄N₃O₂ for 232.1086).

N-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**7**)

Yield 27 %; mp: 131 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3255 (NH-st), 1674 (amide I), 1552 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 9.93 (brs, NH), 8.53 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.98 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.72 (d, *J*: 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.50 (d, *J*: 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.32 (t, *J*: 7.7 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.20 (t, *J*: 7.9 Hz, 1H, PhH), 5.23 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 237.0542 (M⁺, C₁₀H₁₀N₄OCl for 237.0543).

N-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**8**)

Yield 35 %; mp: 157 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹):

3260 (NH-st), 1705 (amide I), 1550 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 10.56 (brs, NH), 8.53 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.97 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.74 (t, *J*: 2.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.42 (m, 1H, PhH), 7.34 (t, *J*: 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.12 (m, *J*: 7.4 Hz, 1H, PhH), 5.13 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 237.0547 (M⁺, C₁₀H₁₀N₄OCl for 237.0543).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**9**)

Yield 30 %; mp: 205 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3264 (NH-st), 1704 (amide I), 1557 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 10.48 (brs, NH), 8.45 (s, 2H, Tr2H), 7.58 (d, *J*: 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ph-H), 7.36 (d, *J*: 8.6 Hz, 2H, PhH), 5.00 (s, 2H, CH₂) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 237.0548 (M⁺, C₁₀H₁₀N₄OCl for 237.0543).

N-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**10**)

Yield 17 %; mp: 176 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3269 (NH-st), 1708 (amide I), 1556 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 10.37 (brs, NH), 8.54 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.99 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.26 (s, 1H, PhH), 7.21 (t, *J*: 8.1 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.08 (d, *J*: 7.6 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.67 (dd, *J*: 2.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H, PhH), 5.12 (s, 2H, CH₂), 4.01 (s, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 233.1046 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₃N₄O₂ for 233.1039).

N-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**11**)

Yield 56 %; mp: 176 °C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3269 (NH-st), 1707 (amide I), 1557 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 10.34 (brs, NH), 8.52 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.97 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.25 (s, 1H, PhH), 7.21 (t, *J*: 8.1 Hz, 1H, PhH), 7.08 (d, *J*: 8.0 Hz, 1H, PhH), 6.65 (d, *J*: 8.2 Hz, 1H, PhH), 5.1 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 233.1041 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₃N₄O₂ for 233.1039).

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)acetamide (**12**)

Yield 33.4 %; mp: 167°C (water); IR (KBr) _{max} (cm⁻¹): 3269 (NH-st), 1683 (amide I), 1565 (amide II); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 10.21 (brs, NH), 8.51 (s, 1H, TrH), 7.96 (d, *J*: 1.6 Hz, 1H, TrH), 7.47 (d, *J*: 7.1 Hz, 2H, Ph2H), 6.88 (d, *J*: 7.1 Hz, 2H, Ph2H), 5.07 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.70 (d, *J*: 1.8 Hz, 3H, OCH₃) ppm.; HR-MS (EI⁺), m/z: 233.1044 (M⁺, C₁₁H₁₃N₄O₂ for 233.1039).

Biological activity

Acetylcholinesterase E.C.3.1.1.7., (Type VI-S, from electric eel) and butyrylcholinesterase E.C. 3.1.1.8, from equine serum were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany). 5,5'-Dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)

(DTNB)-Ellman's reagent, buffer compounds (potassium dihydrogen phosphate, potassium hydroxide), sodium hydrogen carbonate, acetylthiocholine iodide (ATC) and butyrylthiocholine iodide (BTC) were obtained from Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland). Spectrophotometric measurements were performed on a Shimadzu UV/160-A Spectrophotometer.

Acetylcholinesterase/butyrylcholinesterase activity assay

Enzyme activity was investigated using a slightly modified colorimetric method of Ellman et al. (22, 23). Thiocholine, the product of the enzymatic hydrolysis, does not possess a significant chromophore in UV detection, therefore DTNB (Ellman's reagent) was used as a chromogenic reagent for the evaluation of enzyme activity.

Stock solutions of the inhibitor compounds were prepared in 2% DMSO, which were diluted with aqueous assay medium to a final content of organic solvent always lower than 0.2%. The enzyme activity was determined in the presence of at least five different concentrations of an inhibitor, generally between 10^{-3} and 10^{-8} , in order to obtain the inhibition of AChE or BuChE activity between 0% and 100%. Each concentration was assayed in triplicate. Prior to use, all solutions were adjusted to 20°C. Enzyme solution (2.5 units/mL, 100 μ L) and inhibitor solution (100 μ L) were added into a cuvette containing the phosphate buffer (3.0 mL, 0.1 M; pH = 8.0). After 5 min of incubation, DTNB solution (0.01 M, 100 μ L) and ATC/BTC iodide (0.075 M, 20 μ L) were added. After a rapid and immediate mixing, the absorption was measured at 412 nm (23).

Molecular Docking Study

The crystal structure of Donepezil in complex with AChE were taken from the Protein Data Bank (pdb codes: 1EVE resolved at 2.5 Å). Heteroatoms and water molecules in the PDB file were removed and hydrogen atoms were added to the protein by using MOE 2014.09.1 (24). Prior to the docking calculations, an energy minimization using the AMBER99 force field was performed on the enzyme. Compound 11 were built and protonated using the protonate 3D protocol and energy minimized using the MMFF94 force field in MOE 2014.09.1. Docking of the ligand was carried out using the GOLD 5.2.1 program with default settings (25). A sphere of 20 Å around the carbonyl group of Glu199 was defined as the binding site for the ligand docking and 100 confirmations was allowed. The Goldscore standard precision (sp) were calculated and analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemistry

In this study, twelve 2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)-*N*-(substitutedphenyl)acetamide and 2-(1*H*-pyrazole-1-yl)-*N*-(substitutedphenyl)acetamide derivatives were synthesized to evaluate their cholinesterase inhibitory activity. For this purpose, appropriate anilines were reacted with 2-chloroacetyl chloride to obtain the intermediates. Then they refluxed with pyrazole or 1,2,4-triazole to reach the final compounds. The structures of the title compounds were confirmed by IR, ¹H-NMR and HR-MS spectral analysis.

Among the synthesized compounds, compounds **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7** and **11** are listed in the literature with registry numbers CASRN 1171420-10-2, 1324900-89-1, 1324432-08-7, 942863-57-2, 1457699-94-3, 1222962-44-8 respectively, but corresponding scientific reference data are not available. Compounds **1** (21), **2** (21), **8** (26), **9** (27), **10** (26) and **12** (26) were reported previously.

In the IR spectra, carbonyl stretching band was recorded between 1708-1668 cm⁻¹ and N-H stretching band was observed between 3324-3255 cm⁻¹ supporting the presence of the amide structure for the title compounds (28, 29).

The NMR data of the title compounds were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆ solution and are in complete agreement with the expected resonance signals in terms of chemical shifts and integrations (28). In the aliphatic region, the methylene protons were observed between δ 4.99-4.93 for pyrazole derivatives and δ 5.23-5.07 for 1,2,4-triazole derivatives. Thus, the proton signals of the methoxy substituents on phenyl ring were observed as expected between δ 4.01-3.70. In the aromatic region, the proton signals of *N*-phenyl ring were recorded at expected chemical shifts with supporting splitting patterns. Also, the protons of the 5 membered rings were recorded with relevant splitting patterns and integration values. N-H protons were observed between δ 8.69-8.12 for pyrazole derivatives and δ 10.56-9.93 for 1,2,4-triazole derivatives depending on the structure of the compound.

The structure and the purity of the title compounds was further verified by HR-MS. The molecular ions of the compounds are in complete agreement with the calculated molecular weights and the purities are in the expected range.

Cholinesterase Inhibitory Activity

Inhibitory potency of the final compounds against cholinesterase enzymes were evaluated by the spectroscopic method as described in the literature (22). The AChE/BuChE inhibitory activity results are summarized as IC₅₀ values in Table 1.

Table 1. *In vitro* cholinesterase activity of the title compounds

Compound	AChE IC ₅₀ ± SEM (µM) ^a	BuChE IC ₅₀ ± SEM (µM) ^a
1	11.40 ± 0.61	> 100
2	11.85 ± 0.42	> 100
3	8.97 ± 0.25	> 100
4	8.32 ± 0.19	> 100
5	15.61 ± 0.32	> 100
6	13.18 ± 0.27	> 100
7	12.40 ± 0.32	> 100
8	15.39 ± 0.26	> 100
9	13.56 ± 0.23	> 100
10	7.41 ± 0.19	> 100
11	6.68 ± 0.21	> 100
12	8.14 ± 0.39	> 100
Galanthamine	0.43 ± 0.03	14.92 ± 0.57

^a Data are means ± standard error of the mean of triplicate independent experiments.

Generally, all of the synthesized compounds possessed moderate acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activity with different ratios. Regarding compounds bearing chloride substituent, pyrazole derivatives have better AChE inhibitory activity than 1,2,4-triazole analogues. On the contrary, among the compounds bearing methoxy substituent, 1,2,4-triazole derivatives displayed better AChE inhibitory activity than their pyrazole analogues. Besides, activity evaluation of the 1,2,4-triazole derivatives within themselves indicated that replacement of chloride substituent with methoxy group remarkably increased the AChE inhibitory activity.

Among the pyrazole derivatives, the most active compounds are compound **3** and **4** with IC₅₀ values 8.97 µM and 8.32 µM, respectively while in 1,2,4-triazole derivatives, compounds **10**, **11**, **12** displayed the most inhibition against AChE with IC₅₀ values 7.41 µM, 6.68 µM and 8.14 µM, respectively. Compound **11**, namely 2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)-*N*-(3-methoxyphenyl)acetamide, was the most active compound in the series.

According to BuChE inhibitory activity results, none of the compounds displayed any inhibitory activity. Thus, we can easily point out that all of the title compounds are selective AChE inhibitors.

Docking Studies

In this study, molecular docking study was performed using GOLD 5.2.1 to predict the interaction mode of compound **11** for AChE. The X-ray crystal structure of the TcAChE in complex with donepezil (PDB code 1EVE) was selected to build the starting model of AChE. Compound **11** was chosen for molecular modeling as the most active compound in the series (Table 1).

As shown in Figure 1, compound **11** has two major binding interactions with TcAChE. 1,2,4-triazole ring can interact with Phe330 residue and *N*-phenyl ring can interact with Tyr334 residue through π-π interactions. Phe330 is located in the hydrophobic pocket near the catalytic site of AChE (CAS) and it is known that several AChE inhibitors including tacrine have binding interactions with Phe330 (30). On the other hand, Tyr334 is located in the peripheral site (PAS) of the enzyme and it can be proposed that compound **11** can interact with the PAS site of AChE. We have already mentioned that the narrow conformation of the AChE enzyme gorge leads small molecules like tacrine and donepezil to fit into the active site easily so it can be speculated that as our compounds are small molecules, they possessed AChE inhibitory activity. On the other hand, we can also speculate that our compounds didn't display any BuChE inhibitory activity due to the larger active site gorge of BuChE in respect to AChE (18, 30).

Bir grup fenilasetamit türevi bileşiklerin sentezi ve kolinesteraz inhibitör aktivite çalışmaları

ÖZET

Pirazol veya 1,2,4-triazol taşıyan bir grup *N*-fenilasetamit türevi sentezlenmiş ve kolinesteraz inhibitör aktiviteleri test edilmiştir. Asetilkolinesteraz ve bütirikolinesteraz inhibitör aktiviteleri Ellman'ın spektroskopik metoduna

göre test edilmiştir. Elde edilen sonuçlar, tüm bileşiklerin orta derecede ve seçici asetilkolinesteraz inhibitör aktivite gösterdiğini ortaya koymuştur. Serideki en aktif bileşik 6.68 µM'lık IC₅₀ değeriyle 2-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-il)-*N*-(3-metoksifenil)asetamit olup bu bileşiğe doking çalışmaları da yapılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Alzheimer hastalığı, pirazol, 1,2,4-triazol, asetamit, kolinesteraz inhibitör aktivite

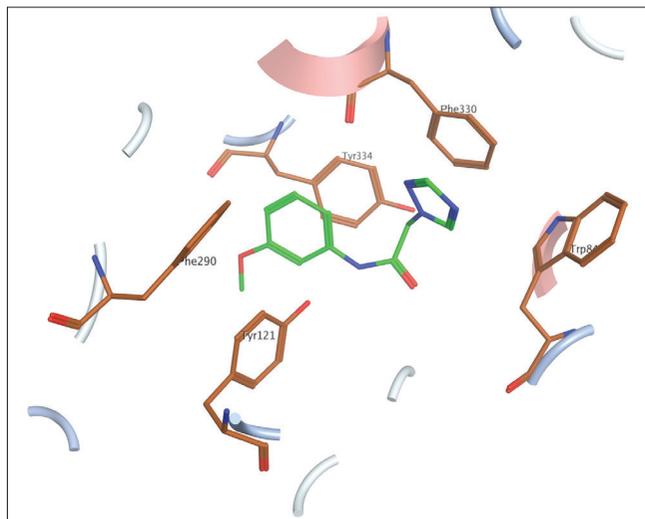


Figure 1. Binding mode of compound **11** inside TcAChE. Compound **11** is represented as green stick; the most involved residues are named and represented as brown sticks for the TcAChE.

In conclusion, the preliminary activity screening results have demonstrated that *N*-phenylacetamide template bearing pyrazole and 1,2,4-triazole rings have selective acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activity and preliminary molecular modeling studies proposed a binding interaction between the most active compound and the PAS region of AChE. These findings can be assumed as the beginning for further studies to design more effective acetylcholinesterase inhibitors binding both PAS and CAS sites of the AChE enzyme.

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