

Sharif University of Technology Scientia Iranica Transactions C: Chemistry and Chemical Engineering http://scientiairanica.sharif.edu



MCM-41-SO₃H as an efficient reusable nano-ordered heterogeneous catalyst for the synthesis of divers 1- & 5-substituted 1H-tetrazoles

F. Matloubi Moghaddam*, M. Eslami, and N. Ghadirian

Laboratory of Organic Synthesis and Natural Products, Department of Chemistry, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, P.O. Box 111559516, Iran.

Received 11 December 2017; received in revised form 4 February 2018; accepted 27 October 2018

Abstract. An improved and efficient method for the synthesis of 1- & 5-substituted 1H-**KEYWORDS** tetrazole derivatives was described in the presence of nano-ordered MCM-41-SO $_3$ H as an Nano-ordered effective heterogeneous catalyst. This metal-free protocol, [2 + 3] cycloaddition of sodium MCM-41-SO₃H: azide to various nitriles or ethyl N-phenyl formimidate intermediate under mild reaction 1- & 5-substituted conditions, provides a wide range of 1H-tetrazoles in good to excellent yields. The catalyst was reused five times without significant loss of catalytic activity. Click chemistry; (C) 2019 Sharif University of Technology. All rights reserved. [2+3] cycloaddition.

1. Introduction

tetrazoles;

Tetrazoles are poly nitrogen electron-rich heterocyclic compounds that have been known for over a hundred years. Five-membered doubly unsaturated tetrazole rings contain one carbon and four nitrogen atoms. Tetrazole-containing molecules have a wide range of applications in organic synthesis as precursors of various nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds (triazoles, oxazolidones, and thiazoles) [1,2], in material science as rocket propellants and explosives [3], in coordination chemistry as ligands [4], and in medicinal chemistry as isosteric replacements for carboxylic acid (Figure 1) [5]. In addition to this application, they are used as herbicides, fungicides [6], and plant growth regulators in the agricultural field.

According to the important properties of tetrazole functionality as biologically active molecules mentioned earlier, considerable attention has been dedicated to

doi: 10.24200/sci.2018.21088

the development of environmentally friendly methodologies to synthesize these compounds over the past decades.

Literature reviews indicate that the Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of a dipolarophile (e.g., nitrile moiety) with a 1,3-dipolar structure (e.g., sodium azide) in the presence of a broad variety of homogeneous or heterogeneous catalysts such as $CdCl_2$ [7], $Pd(OAc)_2/ZnBr_2$ [8], ${\rm ZnO}, \ {\rm ZnBr_2}, \ {\rm ZnCl_2/tungstates}, \ {\rm Zn/Al} \ {\rm hydrotalcite},$ $ZnCl_2/AlCl_3/silica$, $Zn(OTf)_2$, Zn hydroxyapatite, ZnS, $Cu(OAc)_2$, Cu_2O , nano ZnO/Co_3O_4 , $FeCl_3$ - SiO_2 , $Fe(OAc)_2$, nano $CuFe_2O_4$, $BF_3 OEt_2$, $InCl_3$, I₂, (CH₃)₂SnO, NH₄Cl, TBAF, TBAB, AgNO₃, Ag-NPs, copper triflates, β -cyclodextrin, cuttlebone, COY zeolites, Silica Sulfuric Acid, Pd(PPh₃)₄, WAlPO-5 microspheres, $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2/salen$ of Cu(II), $B(C_6F_5)_3$, AlCl₃, Zn-Cu alloy, CAES, CuSO₄.5H₂O, and cutlleboneand $In(OTf)_3$ is a general current mechanism for the synthesis of 1H-tetrazol derivatives [9-20].

Furthermore, one of the most important methods for synthesis of tetrazoles is the reaction of substituted amines with triethyl orthoformate and sodium azide [21-27].

However, the most common reported methods

^{*.} Corresponding author. Tel.: +98 21 66165309 E-mail address: matloubi@sharif.edu (F. Matloubi Moghaddam).



Figure 1. Tetrazole-based biologically active compounds.

suffer from drawbacks such as the use of a catalyst containing transition metals, harsh and stringent reaction conditions (e.g., volatile or highly corrosive solvents), metal and expensive catalase, longer reaction time, and low yields [9,13-14]. Thus, obviation of these limitations is urgent to develop a simple and efficient synthetic method for obtaining diverse 1H-tetrazoles. In this context, one of the fundamental aspects of the development of a new alternative is decreasing pollution in chemical synthesis leading to the elimination of environmental pollution. The development of the as-silica-based mesoporous materials (MCMs) with a hexagonal array, large surface areas (> 1000 m^2 .g⁻¹), large pore volume (up to 0.99 cm³ g¹), and excellent hydrothermal, thermal, mechanical, and chemical stability has attracted significant attention to replacing homogeneous catalytic systems [28].

On the other hand, to overcome the low acid strength of mesoporous silicas, different methods including replacement part of Si atoms in the matrix by metal ions, such as Al, B, Fe, and Zr, or by anchoring inorganic sulfonic acid $(-SO_3H)$ have been described [29].

Herein, we wish to report a new metal-free protocol for the synthesis of 1-& 5-substituted 1H-tetrazoles from a wide variety of nitrile and ethyl N-phenyl formimidate intermediates using MCM-41 as an effective solid acid catalyst (Scheme 1).

2. Results and discussion

At the beginning, to evaluate the reaction conditions, cycloaddition reaction of sodium azide (1, 1.3 mmol) with benzonitrile (2e, 1 mmol) was chosen as the model

reaction under a variety of conditions (Table 1). Our initial attempts to synthesize 5-phenyl-1H-tetrazole 5e in the absence of any catalyst in various solvents even at high temperature have been all disadvantageous to the reaction. However, DMF exhibits higher performance in comparison to other solvents such as DMSO, H_2O , CH_3CN , 1,4-dioxane, and $CHCl_3$. Therefore, we found that the addition of polar solvent and the presence of a catalyst for the reaction progress were both necessary. As expected, the desired product 5e formation was observed in moderate yield when a catalytic amount of Al-MCM-41, B-MCM-41, Zn-MCM-41, Fe-MCM-41, MCM-41-SO₃H, and MCM-41-3-aminopropyl-SO₃H (30 mg) was used in DMF at 80° C (Table 1, entries 1-6). However, MCM-41-SO₃H was the best choice. In the next step, the temperature increased from 80 to 120°C. However, no significant difference was observed in yield (Table 1, entry 7). Subsequently, to check the effect of catalyst loading, the model reaction was carried out in the presence of 50, 75, and 100 mg of MCM-SO₃H (Table 1, entries 8, 9, and 10). An increase in the yield was obtained by changing the catalyst loading from 30 to 50 mg.

In an effort to develop better reaction conditions, different solvents, such as DMSO, H_2O , CH_3CN , $CHCl_3$, 1,4-dioxan, and toluene (Table 1, entries 11-16), were screened for cycloaddition reaction in the presence of MCM-41SO₃H as an effective catalyst. The result indicated that the desired product was obtained in low yield as compared with DMF. It is noteworthy that, due to explosive properties of sodium azide, the neat reaction condition was not examined.

The results reported in Table 1 highlight the specific role of MCM-41-SO $_3$ H in the synthesis of



Scheme 1. Synthesis of 1- & 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles (5, 6) catalyzed by MCM-41-SO₃H mesoporous solid acid.

Entry	Catalyst	Loading (mg)	Solvent	$\begin{array}{c} {\bf Temp.} \\ (^{\circ}{\bf C}) \end{array}$	$\frac{\mathbf{Yield^b}}{(\%)}$
1	Al-MCM-41	30	DMF	80	35
2	B-MCM-41	30	DMF	80	50
3	Zn-MCM-41	30	DMF	80	40
4	Fe-MCM-41	30	DMF	80	40
5	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	30	DMF	80	70
6	$\rm MCM\text{-}41\text{-}AP\text{-}SO_3H^c$	30	DMF	80	65
7	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	30	DMF	120	90
8	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	DMF	80	90
9	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	75	DMF	80	92
10	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	100	DMF	80	85
11	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	DMSO	80	72
12	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	$\mathrm{H}_{2}\mathrm{O}$	80	38
13	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	$\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN}$	80	43
14	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	CHCl_3	Reflux	Trace
15	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	1,4-dioxan	80	Trace
16	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	50	toluene	80	Trace

Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions for the preparation of 5-phenyl-1H-tetrazole (5e)^a.

^aReaction conditions: sodium azide (1, 1.3 mmol), benzonitrile

(2, 1 mmol), solvent (2 mL), time (2 h), and required amount of the catalysts;

^b the yields refer to the isolated product **5e**; and

^c MCM-41-3-aminopropyl-SO₃H.

tetrazoles. Therefore, according to catalyst loading of 50 mg and temperature of 80°C, as optimized conditions, obtained results were applied to different aliphatic and aromatic nitriles (**2a-n**). The results are presented in Table 2.

Generally, the electronic and steric hindrance of nitrile has a negligible effect on the yield of the desired product. Nonetheless, it is observed that unsubstituted and electron-withdrawing groups on the aromatic nitrile compounds normally favor the increasing rate of cycloaddition to azides (Table 2, entries 1-5).

In comparison to aromatic nitriles, a wide range of alkyl nitriles, such as 4-chloro benzyl cyanide, benzyl cyanide, and malononitrile, react with NaN_3 under the optimized reaction conditions with subsided yield (Table 2 entries 12-14).

In the next step, to demonstrate the scope of this new and impressive methodology to amine compounds (3a-k), the optimized reaction conditions were developed to the synthesis of 1-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles (6a-k). The results are summarized in Table 3. Again, good to excellent yields were obtained for the desired products. It is noteworthy that ethyl N-phenyl formimidate intermediate required shorter reaction times compared to nitrile compounds. The results suggested that aromatic anilines containing electron donating groups, particularly in the para positions, such as $-OMe, -CH_3, -NH_2$, and benzyl amine, took a short reaction time for easy treatment with triethyl orthoformate and sodium azide to produce 1-aryl-1*H*-tetrazoles in high yields (Table 3, entries 6, 9, and 11).

Recovery and reuse of the catalyst are another useful advantage of catalytic processes in different aspects such as environmental protection debate, costs of the catalyst, and toxicity. Therefore, we intended to check the reusability of the MCM-41-SO₃H catalyst in five consecutive runs for the synthesis of 5-phenyl-1Htetrazoles under optimized conditions (Table 4). As shown in Table 4, the MCM-41-SO₃H catalyst promotes the reaction with the high and robust catalytic activity each time.

Finally, compared to various catalysts reported

Entry	Substrate 2	Product ^b 5	Time (min)	Yield ^c (%)	${f m.p.}^{d} \ ({ m Obsd})$	${f m.p.}^{ m d} \ ({f Lit})$
1	4-bromobenzonitrile 2 a	Br 5a	120	85	235-236	234-235 [32]
2	4-chlorobenzonitrile 2b		120	90	258-260	262-264 [33]
3	4-cyanobenzonitrile 2c	NC 5c	100	90	195-197	$192 \ [34]$
4	4-nitrobenzonitrile 2d	O_2N N^{-NH}	120	80	220-222	218-219 [35]
5	benzonitrile $\mathbf{2e}$	N ^{- NH} N ^N Se	120	90	214-216	214-216 [36]
6	4-met hylbenzonitrile 2f	N ^{-NH} , N N' 5f	120	80	247-249	251-252 [44]
7	2-methylbenzonitrile 2g	HN ^N N ^N N ^{Sg}	180	80	153 - 155	149-151 [22]
8	3-methylbenzonitrile 2h	HN ^N N N' 5h	120	90	145-147	149-150 [37]
9	4-methoxybenzonitrile 2i	HN ⁻ N N' MeO 5i	150	80	230-232	231-233 [45]

Table 2. One-pot synthesis of 5-substituted 1H-tetrazole derivatives in the presence of MCM-41-SO₃H^a.

^a Reaction conditions: sodium azide (1, 1.3 mmol), nitrile compounds (2, 1 mmol), MCM-41-SO3H (50 mg) in DMF (2 mL) at 80 °C for the time shown in Table 2; ^b all compounds are known, and their structures were established from their spectral data and melting points as compared with authentic samples or literature values; ^c isolated yield; and ^d melting point.

Entry	Substrate 2	${ m Product}^{ m b}$ 5	Time (min)	Yield ^c (%)	m.p. ^d (Obsd)	$rac{\mathbf{m}\cdot\mathbf{p}\cdot^{\mathbf{d}}}{(\mathbf{Lit})}$
10	2-aminobenzonitrile 2j	HN ^N N N NH ₂ 5j	180	75	135-137	135-137 [39]
11	4-hydroxybenzonitrile 2k	HO Sk	150	90	225-227	228-231 [40]
12	(4-chlorophenyl) acetonitrile 21	$(1) \qquad \qquad$	180	80	222-224	225 [23]
13	Benzyl cyanide 2m	5m	180	85	120-122	117-119 [33]
14	Malononitrile 2n	$\underset{NC}{\overset{H}{}_{N}}_{N} \underset{N}{\overset{H}{}_{N}}_{N} \underset{5n}{\overset{H}{}_{N}}_{n}$	180	75	110-112	116-118 [46]

Table 2. One-pot synthesis of 5-substituted 1H-tetrazole derivatives in the presence of MCM-41-SO₃H^a (continued).

^a Reaction conditions: sodium azide (1, 1.3 mmol), nitrile compounds (2, 1 mmol), MCM-41-SO3H (50 mg) in DMF (2 mL) at 80 °C for the time shown in Table 2; ^b all compounds are known, and their structures were established from their spectral data and melting points as compared with authentic samples or literature values; ^c isolated yield; and ^d melting point.

earlier, [3+2] cycloaddition reaction of benxonitriles with sodium azide in the presence of MCM-41-SO₃H, provides 5-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole (**5e**) (Table 5). According to Table 5, many proposed that catalytic methods would take a very long reaction time to achieve suitable yields and would use hazardous or expensive catalysts and a tedious work-up procedure.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, an innovative and highly efficient methodology was developed for the synthesis of divers 1-& 5-substituted 1H-tetrazoles using reusable MCM-41-SO₃H as the nonporous heterogeneous catalyst under mild reaction conditions. This strategy enjoys good to excellent yields, metal-free conditions, short reaction times, low cost, regiospecific products, lower number of reaction and work-up steps, and operational simplicity.

4. Experimental

4.1. Materials and techniques

All solvents, reagents, and chemicals were obtained from Merck (Germany) and Fluka (Switzerland) companies. FTIR spectra of samples were determined by an ABB Bomem MB-100 FTIR spectrophotometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were determined by a Bruker (Avance DRX-400) spectrometer using DMSO as a solvent and TMS as an internal standard at room temperature.

Entry	Substrate 3	Product ^b 6	Time (min)	Yield ^c (%)	${f m.p.}^{ m d}$ (Obsd)	${f m.p.}^{ m d}$ (Lit)
1	4-bromoaniline 3a	Br 6a	120	85	170-172	168-170 [41]
2	4-choloromoaniline 3b		120	80	151-153	157-158 [24]
3	3-choloromoaniline 3c	Cl	100	90	140-141	137 - 139 [25]
4	4-nitromoaniline 3d	O_2N	120	80	195-197	199-200 [41]
5	Aniline 3e	^{/N=N} , N → N 6e	90	85	66-67	65-66 [42]
6	$\begin{array}{c} \text{4-methoxyaniline} \\ \mathbf{3f} \end{array}$	∧ _O , N=N, N , N 6f	90	95	117-119	117-118 [43]
7	$3 ext{-met}$ hylaniline $\mathbf{3g}$	✓ ^{N=N} , N ✓ N 6g	120	85	50-52	53-55 [24]
8	4-methylaniline 3h	,N=N, N N 6h	80	90	98-100	94-95 [42]
9	4-aminophenol 3i	HO 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	100	80	208-210	210-211 [47]
10	1-naphthylamine 3j	¹ N-N N N 6j	100	90	95-97	98 [27]
11	$rac{\mathrm{Benzylamine}}{3\mathbf{k}}$		90	95	51-53	48-50 [26]

Table 3. One-pot synthesis of 1-substituted 1H-tetrazole derivatives in the presence of MCM-41-SO₃H^a.

^aReaction conditions: sodium azide (1, 1.3 mmol), amine compounds (2, 1 mmol), triethyl orthoformate (1 mmol), and MCM-41-SO₃H (50 mg) in DMF (2 mL) at 80°C for the time shown in in the table; ^b all compounds are known, and their structures were established from their spectral data and melting points as compared with authentic samplesor literature values; ^c isolated yield; and ^d melting point.

Table 4. Recovery and reuse of the MCM-41-SO $_3$ H catalyst^a.

_	Run				
	1	2	3	4	5
Yield	90	85	85	83	79

 $^{\mathrm{a}}\mathrm{Reaction}$ conditions: sodium azide

(1, 1.3 mmol), benzonitrlie (2, 1 mmol), and

MCM-SO₃H (50 mg) in DMF (2 mL) at 80° C, 2 h.

4.1.1. General synthesis procedure for MCM-41-SO₃ H MCM-41 mesoporous silica was synthesized according to the previously reported method [29]. A suction flask of 100 mL was charged with MCM-41 (1 g) and CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) equipped with a dropping funnel containing chlorosulfonic acid (CISO₃H, 2 ml) and gas inlet tube for conducting HCl gas over a NaOH solution. After adding all of CISO₃H in a dropwise way, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain MCM-41-SO₃H as a light gray solid [30,31].

4.1.2. General procedure for 5a-5n

A mixture of nitrile compounds (1 mmol), sodium azide (1.3 mmol), MCM-41-SO₃H (50 mg), and DMF (2 mL) was taken in a screw-capped vial and stirred at 80 °C temperature until completion of the reaction. The reaction progress was tracked by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the catalyst, and the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and acidified with 1N HCl to pH = 4. The resulting organic layer was separated, and the extraction procedure was repeated two times with ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine solution two times, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and evaporated under vacuum. To obtain higher purification, the crude material was chromatographed on SiO_2 column chromatography.

4.1.3. General procedure for 6a-k

A mixture of amine compounds (1 mmol), triethyl orthoformate (1 mmol), sodium azide (1.3 mmol), MCM-41-SO₃H (50 mg), and DMF (2 mL) was taken in a screw-capped vial and stirred at 80°C temperature until completion of the reaction. The reaction progress was tracked by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:3). After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the catalyst, and the crude products were extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine solution two times, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and evaporated under vacuum. To obtain higher purification, the crude material was chromatographed on SiO₂ column chromatography (hexane-EtOAc, 1:1).

4.2. Selected spectral data 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-tetrazole (5a)

Pale yellow crystals; m.p. 235-236°C (Lit. [32] 234-235°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3430, 3090, 3033, 2900, 2847, 1612, 1488, 1459, 1165, 1100, 1004, 829 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm) δ : 7.52 (d, 2H, J = 8.42 Hz, Ar), 8.04 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, Ar).

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-tetrazole (5b)

Colorless crystals; m.p. 258-260°C (Lit. [33] 261-263°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3410, 3071, 2992, 2936, 2809, 2725, 1621, 1492, 1461, 1431, 1387, 1350, 1164, 1102, 1057, 830 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm) δ : 7.66 (d, 2H, J = 8.45 Hz, Ar), 8.01 (d, 2H, J = 8.45 Hz, Ar).

Table 5. Comparison of various catalysts in [3+2] cycloaddition reaction of nitriles with sodium azide.

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	$\mathbf{Temp}.$	\mathbf{Time}	Yield	Ref.
			(°C)	(h/or min)	(%)	
1	Silica sulfuric acid	DMF	Reflux	5 h	88	[20]
2	Chitosan derived magnetic ionic liquid	-	70	7 h	87	[23]
3	Mesoporous ZnS	DMF	120	36 h	96	[48]
4	$\rm Fe_3O_4@SiO_2/Salen \ Cu(II)$	DMF	120	7 h	90	[17]
5	Zn Hydroxyapatite	DMF	120	12 h	78	[49]
6	CoY zeolite	DMF	29	14 h	90	[46]
7	Cuttlebone	DMSO	110	$20 \min$	98	[50]
8	Imidazole-based zwitterionic-type molten salts	-	120	12 h	84	[51]
9	$CuFe_2O_4$	DMF	120	12 h	82	[45]
10	$MCM-41-SO_3H$	$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{F}$	80	$120 \min$	90	This Work

4-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)benzonitrile (5c)

White solid; m.p. 195-197°C (Lit. [34] 195); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3148, 3090, 3015, 2923, 2859, 2760, 2609, 2229,$ 1590, 1558, 1488, 1438, 1283, 1155, 1021, 981, 950, 848, 754, 555 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO- d_6 ppm): δ : 8.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.60 Hz), 8.05 (d, 2H, J = 8.30 Hz).

5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-1,2,3,4-tetrazole (5d)

Yellow solid; m.p. 220-222°C (Lit. [35] 218-219); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3451, 3329, 3240, 3112, 3085, 2978, 2903, 2823, 2662, 1565, 1528, 1492, 1357, 1344, 1320, 1145, 1110, 992, 864, 855, 732, 711 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm): δ : 8.34 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, Ph), 8.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ph).

5-phenyl-1H-tetrazole (5e)

Colorless crystals, m.p. 214-216°C (Lit. [36] 214-216°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3130, 3100, 2982, 2921, 2825, 2692, 2610, 2561, 2492, 1618, 1567, 1490, 1413, 1171, 1059 cm⁻¹; ¹HNMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm) δ : 7.62-7.77 (m, 3H, Ar), 8.04-8.29 (m, 2H, Ar).

5-(p-tolyl)-1H-tetrazole (5f)

Colorless crystals; m.p. 247-249°C (Lit. [53]. 251-252°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3048$, 2976, 2968, 2977, 1601, 1488, 823 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 ppm): δ : 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.12 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.93 (d, J = 8.12 Hz, 2H, Ar).

5-(o-tolyl)-1H-tetrazole (5g)

Colorless crystals; m.p. 153-155°C (Lit. [22] 149-151°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3330, 3112, 2899, 2773, 2615, 2501, 1728, 1631, 1492, 1162, 1043, 802, 741 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm): δ : 7.73 (d, J = 7.74 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.59 (t, J = 7.58 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.45 (d, J = 7.77 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.37 (t, J = 7.60 Hz, 1H, Ar).

5-(m-tolyl)-1H-tetrazole (5h)

Colorless crystals; m.p. 145-147°C (Lit. [37] 149-150°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3120, 3061, 2912, 2871, 2753, 2617, 2491, 1728, 1605, 1486, 1150, 1064, 1038, 802, 741 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm): δ : 2.6 (s, 3H), 7.32-7.47 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.85 (s, 1H, Ar).

5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-tetrazole (5i)

White solid; m.p. 230-232°C (Lit. [38] 231-233). FT-IR (KBr): $\nu = 3430, 2938, 2751, 2659, 1620, 1510, 1449, 1411, 1301, 1270, 1184, 1035, 811, 752 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm): δ : 7.90 (d, 2H, J = 8.8

Hz), 7.10 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.95 (brs, 1H, NH).

2-(1H-tetrazol-1-yl)aniline (5j)

Pale yellow solid; m.p. 135-137°C (Lit. [39] 135-137°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3421$, 3369, 1631, 1562, 1495, 1459, 1317, 1258, 1154, 1076, 1028 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 ppm): δ : 7.80 (d, J = 7.19 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.39 (t, J = 8.13 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.92 (d, J = 8.44 Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.90 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, Ar).

4-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)phenol (5k)

White solid; m.p. 208-210°C (Lit. [40] 210-211°C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3249$, 3106, 3070, 3022, 3000-2200, 1620, 1600, 1522, 1470, 1416, 1285, 834, 757, 515 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 ppm): δ : 6.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.88 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ph), 10.15 (br s, 1H, OH).

5-benzyl-1*H*-tetrazole (5m)

White solid; m.p. 120-122 °C (Lit. [33] 117-119 °C); IR (KBr): $\nu = 3112, 3033, 2979, 2948, 2867, 2780, 2695, 2596, 1771, 1710, 1642, 1551, 1537, 1501, 1459, 1244, 1112, 1075, 773, 730, 691 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-<math>d_6$ ppm) δ : 4.28 (s, 2H, CH₂), 7.31 (s, 5H, Ph).

1-(4-boromophenyl)-1H-tetrazole (6a)

White solid; m.p. 170-172°C (Lit. [41] 168-170°C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃ ppm) δ : 6.95-6.98 (d, 2H), 7.38-7.43 (d, 2H), 8.11 (s, 1H).

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1H-tetrazole (6b)

White solid; m.p. $151-153^{\circ}C$ (Lit. [24] $157-158^{\circ}C$); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃ ppm) δ : 7.01-7.06 (d-2H), 7.30-7.34 (d-2H), 8.06 (s-1H).

1-phenyl-1H-tetrazole (6e)

Pale yellow solid; m.p. 66-67°C (Lit. [42] 65-66°C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃ ppm) δ : (7.06-7.59 (m, 5H, Ar), 8.27 (s, 1H).

1-(4-methylphenyl)-1H-tetrazole (6f)

Pale yellow solid; m.p. 117-119°C (Lit. [43] 117-118°C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃ ppm) δ : 3.72 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, 2H, J = 8.95 Hz, Ar), 7.52 (d, 2H, J = 8.95 Hz, Ar), 8.19 (s, 1H).

1-(4-methylphenyl)-1*H*-tetrazole (6h)

Pale yellow solid; m.p. 98-100°C (Lit. [42] 94-95°C); ¹H

NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃ ppm) δ : 2.28 (s, 3H), 6.89 (d, 2H, J = 8.55 Hz, Ar), 7.50 (d, 2H, J = 8.50 Hz, Ar), 8.20 (s, 1H).

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support received for this project from the Sharif University of Technology (SUT), Islamic Republic of Iran.

References

- Huisgen, R., Sauer, J., Sturm, H.J., and Markgraf J.H. "Ring openings of the azoles, II. The formation of 1.3. 4-oxdiazoles in the acylation of 5-substituted tetrazoles" [Ringöffnungen der Azole, II. Die Bildung von 1.3. 4-Oxdiazolen bei der Acylierung 5-substituierter Tetrazole], Chem. Ber., 93, pp. 2106-2124 (1960).
- Moderhack, D. "Ring transformations in tetrazole chemistry", J. Prakt. Chem., 340, pp. 687-709 (1998).
- Koldobskii, G.I. and Ostrovskii, V.A. "Tetrazoles", Russ. Chem. Rev., 63, p. 797 (1994).
- Wang, X.S., Tang, Y.Z., Huang, X.F., Qu, Z.R., Che, C.M., and Chan, P.W.H. "Syntheses, crystal structures, and luminescent properties of three novel zinc coordination polymers with tetrazolyl ligands", *Inorg. Chem.*, 44, pp. 5278-5285 (2005).
- Roh, J., Vávrová, K., and Hrabálek, A. "Synthesis and functionalization of 5-substituted tetrazoles", *Eur. J.* Org. Chem., 2012(31), pp. 6101-6118 (2012).
- Sandmann, G., Schneider, C., and Böger, P. "A new non-radioactive assay of phytoene desaturase to evaluate bleaching herbicides", Z. Naturforsch. C., 51, pp. 534-538 (1996).
- Venkateshwarlu, G., Premalatha, A., Rajanna, K., and Saiprakash, P. "Cadmium chloride as an efficient catalyst for neat synthesis of 5-substituted 1 *H*-tetrazoles", *Synth. Commun.*, **39**, pp. 4479-4485 (2009).
- Zhu, Y., Ren, Y., and Cai, C. "One-pot synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles from aryl bromides with potassium hexakis (cyano-C) ferrate (K₄[Fe(CN)₆]) as Cyanide Source", *Helv. Chim. Acta.*, **92**, pp. 171-175 (2009).
- Agawane, S.M. and Nagarkar, J.M. "Synthesis of 5substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles using a nano ZnO/Co₃O₄ catalyst", *Catal. Sci. Tech.*, **2**, pp. 1324-1327 (2012).
- Patil, D.R., Wagh, Y.B., Ingole, P.G., Singh, K., and Dalal, D.S. "β-Cyclodextrin-mediated highly efficient [2+3] cycloaddition reactions for the synthesis of 5substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles", New J. Chem., **37**, pp. 3261-3266 (2013).
- Patil, V.S., Nandre, K.P., Borse, A.U., and Bhosale, S.V. "InCl₃-catalyzed [2+3] cycloaddition reaction: A rapid synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazole under microwave irradiation", *J. Chem.*, 9, pp. 1145-1152 (2012).

- Xie, A., Cao, M., Feng, L., and Dong, W. "The synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles in molten tetrabutylammonium bromide", *J. Chem. Res.*, 37, pp. 665-667 (2013).
- Mani, P., Singh, A.K., and Awasthi, S.K. "AgNO₃ catalyzed synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazole via [3+2] cycloaddition of nitriles and sodium azide", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 55, pp. 1879-1882 (2014).
- Mani, P., Sharma, C., Kumar, S., and Awasthi, S.K. "Efficient heterogeneous silver nanoparticles catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles", *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.*, **392**, 150-156 (2014).
- Habibi, D. and Nasrollahzadeh, M. "Synthesis of arylaminotetrazoles by ZnCl₂/AlCl₃/silica as an efficient heterogeneous catalyst", *Monatsh. Chem. Chem. Mon.*, **143**, pp. 925-930 (2012).
- Kong, D., Liu, Y., Zhang, J., Li, H., Wang, X., and Liu, G. "Hierarchically porous AlPO-5-based microspheres as heterogeneous catalysts for the synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles via [3+2] cycloaddition", *New J. Chem.*, **38**, pp. 3078-3083 (2014).
- Dehghani, F., Sardarian, A.R., and Esmaeilpour, M. "Salen complex of Cu(II) supported on superparamagnetic Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nanoparticles: an efficient and recyclable catalyst for synthesis of 1-and 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles", J. Organomet. Chem., **743**, pp. 87-96 (2013).
- 18. Prajapti, S.K., Nagarsenkar, A., and Babu, B.N. "An efficient synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles via $B(C_6F_5)_3$ catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition of nitriles and sodium azide", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **55**, pp. 3507-3510 (2014).
- Razavi, N. and Akhlaghinia, B. "Cu(II) immobilized on aminated epichlorohydrin activated silica (CAES): as a new, green and efficient nanocatalyst for preparation of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles", *RSC Adv.*, 5, pp. 12372-12381 (2015).
- Du, Z., Si, C., Li, Y., Wang, Y., and Lu, J. "Improved synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles via the [3+2] cycloaddition of nitriles and sodium azide catalyzed by silica sulfuric acid", *Inter. J. Mol. Sci.*, **13**, pp. 4696-4703 (2013).
- Esmaeilpour, M., Javidi, J., Dodeji, F.N., and Abarghoui, M.M. "Facile synthesis of 1-and 5substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles catalyzed by recyclable ligand complex of copper(II) supported on superparamagnetic Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nanoparticles", *J. Mol. Catal. A. Chem.*, **393**, pp. 18-29 (2014).
- Sharghi, H., Ebrahimpourmoghaddam, S., and Doroodmand, M.M. "Facile synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles and 1-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles catalyzed by recyclable 4'-phenyl-2,2':6',2"-terpyridine copper(II) complex immobilized onto activated multiwalled carbon nanotubes", *J. Organomet. Chem.*, **738**, pp. 41-48 (2013).
- 23. Khalafi-Nezhad, A., and Mohammadi, S. "Highly efficient synthesis of 1- and 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles

using chitosan derived magnetic ionic liquid as a recyclable biopolymer-supported catalyst", RSC A dv., **3**, pp. 4362-4371 (2013).

- Bahari, S., and Rezaei, A. "HClO₄-SiO₂ as an efficient and reusable heterogeneous catalyst for the synthesis of 1-substituted tetrazoles", *Lett. Org. Chem.*, **11**, pp. 55-58 (2014).
- Naeimi, H., and Kiani, F. "Ultrasound-promoted onepot three component synthesis of tetrazoles catalyzed by zinc sulfide nanoparticles as a recyclable heterogeneous catalyst", Ultrason. Sonochem., 27, pp. 408-415 (2015).
- Wiedemann, S.H., Bio, M.M., Brown, L.M., Hansen, K.B., and Langille, N.F. "Some practical methods for the application of 5-metallo-1-benzyl-1*H*-tetrazoles in synthesis", *Synlett.*, 23, pp. 2231-2236 (2012).
- Parveen, M., Ahmad, F., Mohammed, M.A., and Azaz, S. "SiO₂-H₃BO₃ promoted solvent-free, green and sustainable synthesis of bioactive 1-substituted-1*H*-tetrazole analogues", New J. Chem., **39**, pp. 2028-2041 (2015).
- Stein, A., Melde, B.J., and Schroden, R.C. "Hybrid inorganic-organic mesoporous silicates-nanoscopic reactors coming of age", *Adv. Mater.*, **12**, pp. 1403-1419 (2000).
- Zhao, X.S., Lu, G., and Millar, G.J. "Advances in mesoporous molecular sieve MCM-41", Ind. Eng. Chem. Res., 35, pp. 2075-2090 (1996).
- Zolfigol, M.A. "Silica sulfuric acid/NaNO₂ as a novel heterogeneous system for production of thionitrites and disulfides under mild conditions", *Tetrahedron*, 57, pp. 9509-9511 (2001).
- Salehi, P., Ali, Zolfigol, M., Shirini, F., and Baghbanzadehm, M. "Silica sulfuric acid and silica chloride as efficient reagents for organic reactions", *Curr. Org. Chem.*, 10, pp. 2171-2189 (2006).
- Mani, P., Singh, A.K., and Awasthi, S.K. "AgNO₃ catalyzed synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazole via [3+2] cycloaddition of nitriles and sodium azide", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 55, pp. 1879-1882 (2014).
- Nowrouzi, N., Farahi, S., and Irajzadeh, M. "4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridinium acetate as a recyclable catalyst for the synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 56, pp. 739-742 (2015).
- Kinnecke, A., Dörre, R., Kleinpeter, E., and Lippmann, E. "Substituenten effekte auf azido-tetrazologleichgewichte elektronische und sterische effekte bei s-triazolo[4,3-c]tetrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidinen", Tetrahedron, 35, pp. 1957-1963 (1979).
- Razavi, N., and Akhlaghinia, B. "Cu(II) immobilized on aminated epichlorohydrin activated silica (CAES): as a new, green and efficient nanocatalyst for preparation of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles", *RSC Adv.*, 5, pp. 12372-12381 (2015).
- Aureggi, V., and Sedelmeier, G. "1,3-dipolar cycloaddition: Click chemistry for the synthesis of 5substituted tetrazoles from organoaluminum azides

and nitriles", Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 46, pp. 8440-8444 (2007).

- Ghodsinia, S.S.E. and Akhlaghinia, B. "A rapid metal free synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles using cuttlebone as a natural high effective and low cost heterogeneous catalyst", *RSC Adv.*, 5, pp. 49849-49860 (2015).
- Sreedhar, B., Kumar, A.S., and Yada D. "CuFe₂O₄ nanoparticles: a magnetically recoverable and reusable catalyst for the synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*tetrazoles", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **52**, pp. 3565-3569 (2011).
- 39. Jia, F.C., Zhou, Z.W., Xu, C., Cai, Q., Li, D.K., and Wu, A.X. "Expeditious synthesis of 2phenylquinazolin-4-amines via a Fe/Cu relay-catalyzed domino strategy", Org. Lett., 17, pp. 4236-4239 (2015).
- Yao, Y.W., Zhou, Y., Lin, B.P., and Yao, C. "Click chemistry for the synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*tetrazoles from boron-azides and nitriles", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 54, pp. 6779-6781 (2013).
- Aridoss, G. and Laali, K.K. "Building heterocyclic systems with RC(OR)²+ carbocations in recyclable brønsted acidic ionic liquids: Facile synthesis of 1-substituted 1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetrazoles, benzazoles and other ring systems with CH(OEt)₃ and EtC(OEt)₃ in [EtNH₃][NO₃] and [PMIM(SO₃H)][OTf]", Eur. J. Org. Chem., **2011**(15), pp. 2827-2835 (2011).
- Habibi, D., Nasrollahzadeh, M., and Kamali, T.A. "Green synthesis of the 1-substituted 1H-1,2,3,4tetrazoles by application of the natrolite zeolite as a new and reusable heterogeneous catalyst", Green Chem., 13, pp. 3499-3504 (2011).
- 43. Dighe, S.N., Jain, K.S., and Srinivasan, K.V. "A novel synthesis of 1-aryl tetrazoles promoted by employing the synergy of the combined use of DMSO and an ionic liquid as the solvent system at ambient temperature", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **50**, pp. 6139-6142 (2009).
- Cantillo, D., Gutmann, B., and Kappe, C.O. "Mechanistic insights on azide-nitrile cycloadditions: On the dialkyltin oxide-trimethylsilyl azide route and a new vilsmeier-Haack-type organocatalyst", J. Am. Chem. Soc., 133, pp. 4465-4475 (2011).
- Sreedhar, B., Kumar, A.S., and Yada, D. "CuFe₂O₄ nanoparticles: a magnetically recoverable and reusable catalyst for the synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*tetrazoles", *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **52**, pp. 3565-3569 (2011).
- Rama, V., Kanagaraj, K., and Pitchumani, K. "Syntheses of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles catalyzed by reusable CoY zeolite", *J. Org. Chem.*, **76**, pp. 9090-9095 (2011).
- Karimi-Zarchi, M.A. and Nazem, F. "Cross-linked poly (4-vinylpyridine) supported azide ion as a versatile and recyclable polymeric reagent for synthesis of 1substituted-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetrazoles", *JICS.*, **11**, pp. 91-99 (2014).

- Lang, L., Zhou, H., Xue, M., Wang, X., and Xu, Z. "Mesoporous ZnS hollow spheres-catalyzed synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles", *Mater. Lett.*, **106**, pp. 443-446 (2013).
- Lakshmi, K.M., Balasubrahmanyam, V., and Kumar, K.S. "Zinc hydroxyapatite-catalyzed efficient synthesis of 5-substituted 1*H*-tetrazoles", Synth. Commun., 36, pp. 1809-1814 (2006).
- 50. Ghodsinia, S.S. and Akhlaghinia, B. "A rapid metal free synthesis of 5-substituted-1*H*-tetrazoles using cuttlebone as a natural high effective and low cost heterogeneous catalyst", *RSC Adv.*, 5, pp. 49849-49860 (2015).
- Rahman, M., Roy, A., Ghosh, M., Mitra, S., Majee, A., and Hajra, A. "Organocatalysis by an aprotic imidazolium zwitterion: a dramatic anion-cation cooperative effect on azide-nitrile cycloaddition", *RSC Adv.*, 4, pp. 6116-6119 (2014).

Biographies

Firouz Matloubi Moghaddam was born in Maragheh, Iran. He obtained BS and MS degrees in Chemistry and Organic Chemistry from Tabriz University, Iran, respectively, and a 'Doctorat d'Etat' (Habilitation) in 1982 from the University of Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France, from where he also obtained an MS degree in Medicinal Chemistry. He spent three years of postdoctoral appointments at the University of Zurich, and is currently a Professor of Organic Chemistry at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran. His research interests include total synthesis of bioactive compounds, isolation, structure elucidation and synthesis of bioactive natural products, heterocyclic chemistry, and catalysis.

Mohammad Eslami was born in Parsabad-e Moghan, Iran in 1985. He received his BSc and MS degrees in Applied Chemistry and Organic Chemistry from University of Mohaghegh Ardabili (UMA) and Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST), Iran, and is currently pursuing his PhD degree at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran. His research interests include development of new methodologies for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds and synthesis of new heterocyclic spiro compounds.

Niloofar Ghadirian was born in Tehran, Iran in 1992. She received her BSc degree from Sharif University of Technology and is currently pursuing her PhD degree at University of Arizona. Her research interests include understanding proteins structure and function.