

Research Article

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Design, Synthesis and Study of Antibacterial and Antitubercular Activity of Quinoline Hydrazone Hybrids

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Abstract: Emerging bacterial resistance is causing widespread problems for the treatment of various infections. Therefore, the search for antimicrobials is a never-ending task. Hydrazones and quinolines possess a wide variety of biological activities. Herewith, eleven quinoline hydrazone derivatives have been designed, synthesized, characterized and evaluated for their antibacterial activity and antitubercular potential against Mtb WT H37Rv. Compounds **QH-02**, **QH-04** and **QH-05** were found to be promising compounds with an MIC value of 4 µg/mL against Mtb WT H37Rv. Compounds **QH-02**, **QH-04**, **QH-05**, and **QH-11** were also found to be active against bacterial strains including *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Further, we have carried out experiments to confirm the cytotoxicity of the active compounds and found them to be non-toxic.

Keywords: Quinoline, Hydrazone, Antituberculosis, Antibacterial activity, Cytotoxicity

Introduction

There is an urgent need for the screening of new bioactive molecules with new targets and novel mechanisms of action to address the emerging problem of antibacterial resistance. There are about 558,000 reported cases of rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis. Further, 82% had multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), with maximum incidence in India, China and the Russian Federation [1]. Discovery of novel chemical scaffolds with

novel mechanisms of action are necessary to develop novel therapeutic treatment combinations. Among heterocyclic compounds, compounds with a quinoline core have gained much importance in medicinal chemistry. Quinoline compounds are vital structures in medicinal chemistry due to their wide spectrum of biological activity, including anti-inflammatory [2], anticancer [3,4], antihypertensive [5], tyrosine kinase PDGF-RTK-inhibiting [6], anti-HIV [7], anti-malarial [8,9] and anti-bacterial activity [10,11]. They are also known to exhibit excellent anti-TB [12,13,14] properties. For example, Bedaquiline is an important quinoline-based anti-TB drug for the treatment of MDR-TB [15]. Quinoline is also a key component of many naturally-occurring bioactive compounds.

Hydrazones belong to a class of organic compounds containing a C = N bond, in which the nitrogen atom is nucleophilic and the carbon atom has both electrophilic and nucleophilic character. Owing to their biological and pharmacological properties, combining hydrazones with other heterocyclic compounds leads to diverse biological and pharmacological properties.

Quinoline hybrids combine polar and nonpolar properties, allowing them to permeate bacterial cells. It is evident from the literature that quinoline-based hydrazone scaffolds exhibit excellent antibacterial and anti-TB properties. The quinoline hydrazone derivatives synthesized by Eswaran et al. showed better anti-tuberculosis potency than rifampin and isoniazid [16], while new fluorine-substituted hydrazones also exhibited good anti-tuberculosis potency [17]. These molecules also showed remarkable anti-cancer properties [18]. The quinoline hydrazone moiety has tremendously enhanced the anti-TB activity of these compounds.

We have designed new quinoline derivatives via two synthetic routes. These are the unique scaffolds with quinoline, piperazine or morpholine and hydrazones present in the molecules. The idea to design these two completely different scaffolds was motivated by a survey of the literature. The intermediate 7-chloro-4-(piperazin-1-yl)quinoline (**5**) is an important building block in medicinal

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chemistry, where it is combined with other active pharmacophores with diverse pharmacological profiles [19,20,21]. Some 7-chloro-4-(piperazin-1-yl)quinoline-carrying propionic acid hydrazone derivatives synthesized by Inam et al. were shown to be effective as antiprotozoal agents [22]. Hydrazone derivatives of quinoline and their Zn(II) complexes, synthesized by Mandewale, M. C. et al., were good antitubercular agents [23] and the 7-chloro-4-quinolinyldihydrazone derivatives synthesized by Candea et al. exhibited significant activity comparable with that of the first line drugs, ethambutol and rifampicin [24]. This evidence inspired us to design scaffold 1. 4-hydroxy-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline derivatives were synthesized and screened for *in vitro* anti-TB activity against various strains of Mycobacterium by Thomas et al. [25]. The mode of action of these active compounds involved docking of receptor enoyl-ACP reductase with the newly synthesized candidate ligands. This encouraged us to design scaffold 2. The overall strategy is to attach hydrazones at the second and fourth positions of the quinoline ring and to screen for resulting antimicrobial activity.

In the present work, all new structures were designed on the basis of combinatorial synthesis, keeping structure-activity relationship studies in mind in line with the current trend in drug discovery. All compounds were characterized by NMR spectra as well as mass spectroscopy. Amongst the tested compounds, **QH-02**, **QH-04**, **QH-05** and **QH-11** displayed promising antimicrobial activity.

Experimental

Chemistry

All reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Solvents used were extra dried. Final purifications were carried out using a Quad Biotage Flash purifier (A Dyax Corp. Company). TLC experiments were performed on alumina-backed silica gel 40 F254 plates (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). The plates were illuminated under UV (254 nm) and KMnO₄. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-300 (300.12 MHz) and AM-400 (400.13 MHz) (Bruker BioSpin Corp., Germany). Molecular weights of unknown compounds were checked by LCMS 6200 series Agilent Technology. The mass spectra of a few were recorded in a 410 Prostar binary PDA detector (Varian Inc., USA). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) with reference to internal standard TMS. The signals are designated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; dd, doublet of doublets; td, triplet of doublets; tt, triplet of

triplets; m, multiplet; brs, broad singlet. IR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Alpha FTIR spectrometer using a diamond ATR single reflectance module (32 scans).

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds

Preparation of 2-[(3-chloro-phenylamino)-methylene]-malonic acid diethyl ester (2)

A suspension of 3-chloro-phenylamine (**1**) 50 g (0.391 mol.) in diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate 119 mL (0.587 mol.) was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solid formed was placed in hexane (10 vol.), stirred for 15 min and filtered to get compound (**2**) as a pale yellow solid. The isolated compound was used in the next step without further purification. Yield: 70 g (60 %)

Preparation of 7-chloro-4-hydroxyquinoline (3)

A solution of 2-[(3-chloro-phenylamino)-methylene]-malonic acid diethyl ester (**2**) 50 g (0.168 mol.) in Dowtherm medium (100 mL, 2 vol.) was heated at 240 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. Hexane was added and the mixture was stirred for 15 min, after which the solid precipitate was filtered and dried to get compound (**3**) as an off-white solid. Yield: 15 g (49.7 %)

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 6.05 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz, ArH), 7.32 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 2 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (d, 1H, J = 2 Hz, ArH), 7.93 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz, ArH), 8.07 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 11.78 (brs, 1H, -OH). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 109.76, 117.90, 123.92, 124.81, 127.75, 136.71, 140.48, 141.26, 176.77. IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3065, 2944, 1608, 1559, 814. LC/MS (ESI-MS) m/z = 180 (M+1).

Preparation of 4,7-dichloro-quinoline [26] (4)

A phosphorus oxychloride (10 mL, 1 vol.) was added to 7-chloro-4-hydroxyquinoline (**3**) (10 g, 0.055 mol.) in a round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser. The mixture was heated to reflux for 6 h, then allowed to cool to room temperature. The solution was concentrated under high vacuum to a thick oil, then dumped over cracked ice. The resulting solution was neutralized with saturated NaHCO₃ (aq.), and the solid precipitated was filtered and washed with water. The solid was dried under vacuum and the crude compound was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using eluent 30 % ethyl

acetate in hexane to afford 4,7-dichloroquinoline as a white solid. Yield: 8 g (72.7 %)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 7.79-7.82 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.18 (d, 1H, $J = 2$ Hz, ArH), 8.23 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.88 (d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz, ArH). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (DMSO 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 122.42, 124.62, 126.11, 128.53, 129.02, 135.77, 141.70, 149.18, 152.24. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3433, 1606, 1608, 1553, 1485, 817. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 198$ (M+1)

Preparation of 7-chloro-4-piperazin-1-yl-quinoline [26] (5)

To a suspension of 4,7-dichloro-quinoline (**4**) (50 g, 0.252 mol.) in isopropyl alcohol (150 mL, 3 vol.) was added piperazine (65.2 g, 0.757 mol.) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred under nitrogen at 90 °C for 16 h. The reaction mass became a clear solution at the beginning and slow precipitation of the solid was observed. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mass was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (1 L, 20 vol.). The unreacted piperazine was precipitated and removed by filtration. The filtrated solid was washed with ethyl acetate (500 mL). The filtrate was washed with water (500 mL x 2), dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the desired crude compound. The crude compound was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (60-120), eluent 5 % methanol in dichloromethane to get the desired compound as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 50 g (80.0 %)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.94 (brs, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 3.06 (brs, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 6.97 (d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz, ArH), 7.53 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.96 (d, 1H, $J = 2$ Hz, ArH), 8.00 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.68 (d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz, ArH). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (DMSO 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 45.99, 53.68, 109.67, 121.88, 126.04, 126.53, 128.53, 133.94, 150.15, 152.63, 157.34. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3254, 2942, 2824, 1567, 865, 822. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 248$ (M+1)

Preparation of 4-hydroxymethyl-benzaldehyde (5b)

A solution of terephthalaldehyde (**5a**) (20 g, 0.149 mol.) in a mixture of ethanol (200 mL, 10 vol.) and THF (240 mL, 12 vol.) was cooled to $0 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$. To the above mixture sodium borohydride (2.25 g, 0.059 mol.) was added in two lots with stirring at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was quenched with ice cold water and acidified with

1.5 N HCl (pH~6). It was concentrated to remove organic solvents and the resultant aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (100 mL x 2). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to afford a pale yellow solid. Yield: 10 g (49.2%)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 4.60 (d, 2H), 5.76 (s, 1H, $-\text{OH}$), 7.53 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.87 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 9.98 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$)

Preparation of 4-chloromethyl-benzaldehyde (5c)

A solution of 4-(hydroxymethyl) benzaldehyde (**5b**) (10 g, 0.073 mol.) in toluene (100 mL, 10 vol.) was cooled to 0 °C. Thionyl chloride (8 mL, 0.110 mol.) was added dropwise, followed by 2 drops of DMF. The resultant mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 h and the progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was quenched with ice cold water and basified with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution to attain pH=8. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (100 mL x 2). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate filtered and concentrated under vacuum to afford crude compound. This was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using eluent 20 % ethyl acetate in hexane. Yield: 7 g (62%)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 4.65 (s, 2H), 7.57 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 10.03 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$)

Preparation of 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (6)

To a solution of 7-chloro-4-(piperazin-1-yl) quinoline HCl salt (**5**) (5 g, 0.017 mol.) in a mixture of acetonitrile (50 mL, 10 vol.) and DMF (50 mL, 10 vol.) was added triethyl amine (7.2 mL, 3 eq.) followed by 4-chloromethyl-benzaldehyde (3.26 g, 0.21 mol.) at 0 °C. The resultant mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with ice cold water (200 mL) with stirring. The white solid precipitated was filtered and dried under high vacuum to afford the desired compound. Yield: 5 g (77.6 %)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (DMSO 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.68 (brs, 4H), 3.20 (brs, 4H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, 1H, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 7.55 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.8, 2$ Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.90 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.94 (dd, 2H, $J = 8, 2$ Hz), 8.70 (d, 1H, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 10.0 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$). LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 366$ (M+1)

General procedure for preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-aryl-hydrazine (QH-01 to QH-05)

To a solution of 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) in ethanol (5 mL, 10 vol.) was added hydrazine hydrochloride derivative (1.933 mmol.) at 0 °C. The resultant mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 h. The reaction progress was checked by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with ice cold water (20 mL), solid precipitated was filtered and dried under high vacuum to afford desired compound.

Preparation of 3-{N'-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-hydrazino}-benzonitrile (QH-01)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) with 3-cyanophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (327 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.3 g (45.66%)

¹H-NMR (D₂O 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.33 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 3.47 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 4.29 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 7.09 (d, 1H, J = 5.2 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 1.2 Hz), 7.38-7.42 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.31-7.43 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.76 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, ArH), 7.94 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.99 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.06 (d, 1H, J = 9.2 Hz), 8.69 (d, 1H, J = 5.2 Hz)

¹³C-NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 48.23, 49.99, 58.38, 107.86, 111.92, 114.37, 116.79, 118.85, 119.23, 121.94, 122.10, 126.17, 127.70, 129.48, 130.40, 131.91, 136.47, 136.77, 137.61, 142.66, 145.64, 145.81, 158.75. LC/MS (ESI-MS) m/z = 481.6 (M+1)

Preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-hydrazine (QH-02)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) with 4-fluorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (314 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.35 g (54%)

¹H NMR (DMSO 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.84 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 4.14 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 4.42 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 7.08 (s, 4H, ArH), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz, ArH), 7.64 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz), 7.74-7.70 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.89 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.1 (dd, 2H, J = 8, 4.4 Hz, ArH), 8.84 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz, ArH), 10.55 (s, 1H, -NH),

¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 48.91, 50.68, 58.97, 109.43, 113.03, 115.64, 120.71, 125.69, 126.19, 126.28, 127.06, 131.53, 134.33, 135.57, 136.65, 141.85, 148.35, 150.99, 154.82, 155.71, 157.14. LC/MS (ESI-MS) m/z = 474.5 (M+1)

Preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-hydrazine (QH-03)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) with 4-methoxyphenylhydrazine hydrochloride (337 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.3 g (45.2%)

¹H NMR (CD₃OD 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.25 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 3.60 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 3.75 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 4.13 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 6.84 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.04 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.12 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, ArH), 7.48 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, ArH), 7.36 (dd, 1H, J = 9.2, 2 Hz, ArH), 7.7 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.96 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.13 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 8.65 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, ArH)

¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 48.83, 50.59, 55.26, 58.93, 109.35, 113.09, 114.61, 120.66, 125.39, 126.14, 126.23, 126.97, 129.59, 131.50, 134.36, 136.18, 148.27, 150.92, 152.72, 155.70. LC/MS (ESI-MS) m/z = 486.02 (M+1)

Preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-p-tolyl-hydrazine (QH-04)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) with p-tolylhydrazine hydrochloride (306 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.36 g (56%)

¹H NMR (CD₃OD 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.24 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 3.30 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 3.61 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 4.18 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 6.98 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.03 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.12 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, ArH), 7.52 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (dd, 1H, J = 8.2, 2 Hz, ArH), 7.7 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.96 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.12 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 8.64 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, ArH)

¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 24.18, 48.41, 50.22, 58.58, 108.62, 112.13, 119.72, 124.36, 125.56, 126.54, 126.85, 127.04, 131.83, 134.72, 135.65, 137.15, 138.97, 143.16, 145.50, 148.50, 157.27. LC/MS (ESI-MS) m/z = 470.5 (M+1)

Preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-hydrazine (QH-05)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) (500 mg, 1.366 mmol.) with 4-isopropylphenylhydrazine hydrochloride (360 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.35 g (51.4%)

¹H NMR (CD₃OD 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 1.22 (d, 6H, -CH₃), 2.82 (sept, 1H, -CH), 3.49 (brs, 4H, -CH₂), 3.86 (brs, 4H, -CH₂),

4.37 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 7.02 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.09 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.23 (d, 1H, $J = 6.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.57 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.75-7.67 (m, 4H, ArH), 8.00 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.17 (d, 1H, $J = 9.2$ Hz, ArH), 8.68 (d, 1H, $J = 6.4$ Hz, ArH)

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 24.18, 32.67, 48.41, 50.22, 58.58, 108.62, 112.13, 119.12, 124.36, 125.56, 126.54, 126.85, 127.04, 131.83, 134.72, 135.15, 137.15, 138.97, 143.16, 157.27. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 498.08$ (M+1)

Preparation of 2-Methyl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ol (9)

To a solution of 2-trifluoromethyl aniline (**8**) (25 g, 0.155 mol.) and ethyl acetoacetate (25.1 mL, 0.201 mol.) was added polyphosphoric acid (125 g, 5 w/w), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 150 °C for 2 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was slowly poured into ice water (500 mL) with vigorous stirring. The precipitate solid was filtered, washed with water and dried under high vacuum at 50 °C to get the desired product as an off-white solid. Yield: 27 g (76.6%)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.49 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 6.37 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.43 (t, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArH), 7.93 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.32 (brs, 1H, $-\text{OH}$), 8.59 (d, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH). LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 228.2$ (M+1)

Preparation of 4-Chloro-2-methyl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline (10)

A solution of 2-Methyl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-4-ol (**9**) (26 g, 0.114 mol.) in phosphoryl chloride (26 mL, 1 vol.) was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. When the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The organic layer was concentrated under high vacuum to remove excess phosphoryl chloride. The resulting brown residue was poured into ice-cold water and basified using 10 % sodium bicarbonate solution. The solid precipitated was filtered, washed with water and dried to afford the desired compound as a pale brown solid. Yield: 20 g (71.14 %)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.77 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 7.49 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.62 (t, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArH), 8.10 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, ArH), 8.40 (d, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH). LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 246.5$ (M+1)

Preparation of 2-Methyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline (11)

To a solution of 4-chloro-2-methyl-8-trifluoro-quinoline (**10**) (20 g, 0.081 mol.) in isopropyl alcohol (100 mL) was

added morpholine (21 mL, 0.244 mol.). This was heated with stirring at 90 °C for 30 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated to dryness. The crude compound was diluted with water (200 mL, 10 vol.) and extracted with dichloromethane (100 mL x 2). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure at 40-45 °C to yield the crude product as a brown solid. It was purified by flash chromatography using 80 % ethyl acetate in hexane. Yield: 16 g (66.3 %).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.74 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 3.19 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.99 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 6.84 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.46 (t, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArH), 7.99 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.19 (d, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH)

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 25.55, 52.28, 66.03, 110.30, 121.75, 123.25, 124.21, 125.23, 127.54, 128.56, 145.14, 156.37, 160.36. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 297.5$ (M+1)

Preparation of 4-Morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (12)

To a solution of 2-Methyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline (**11**) (10 g, 0.033 mol.) in 1,4-dioxane (100 vol.) was added selenium dioxide (4.11 g, 0.037 mol.). This was heated with stirring at 90 °C for 1 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered to remove inorganics. The filtrate was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure at 40-45 °C to yield the crude product as a brown solid. It was purified by flash chromatography using 60 % ethyl acetate in hexane. Yield: 6 g (57.3 %).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.29 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 4.02 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 7.57 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.67 (t, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArH), 8.12 (d, 1H, $J = 4$ Hz, ArH), 8.28 (d, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz), 10.18 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$). LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 311.6$ (M+1)

General procedure for preparation of N-[1-{4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-phenyl}-methylidene]-N'-aryl-hydrazine (QH-06 to QH-11)

To a solution of 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (**11**) (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) in ethanol (10 mL, 20 vol.) was added hydrazine hydrochloride derivative (1.933 mol.). This was stirred at ambient temperature for 5 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with water and stirred for 30 min, and the solid precipitated was filtered to afford the desired compound.

Preparation of N-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-N'-phenyl-hydrazine (QH-06)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (279 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.35 g (54.26 %)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.23 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.91 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 6.86 (t, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, ArH), 7.18 (dd, 2H, $J = 8.4$ 2 Hz, ArH), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.60 (t, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.64 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.98 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.08 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 10.93 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 52.21, 66.09, 104.60, 112.62, 120.04, 122.99, 123.82, 125.75, 126.13, 127.89, 128.65, 129.26, 136.95, 144.24, 145.49, 156.02, 156.29. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 401.6$ (M+1)

Preparation of N-(2,5-dimethyl-phenyl)-N'-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-hydrazine (QH-07)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with 2,5-dimethylphenylhydrazine hydrochloride (333 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.36 g (52.17%)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 2.22 (s, 6H), 3.23 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.91 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 6.92 (s, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, ArH), 6.99 (d, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.42 (d, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.60 (t, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.63 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.08 (d, 1H, ArH), 8.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.30 (s, 1H), 10.08 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ (ppm): 23.71, 34.39, 51.98, 52.99, 109.11, 121.65, 122.95, 124.34, 127.34, 127.89, 128.42, 134.69, 135.79, 138.43, 148.52, 148.98, 149.69, 151.52, 154.58, 156.87, 167.62, 176.23. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 429.6$ (M+1)

Preparation of N-cyclohexyl-N'-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-hydrazine (QH-08)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with cyclohexylhydrazine hydrochloride (291 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.35 g (53.5 %)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 1.32-1.35 (m, 5H), 1.61-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.98-2.01 (m, 2H), 3.16 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.88 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 7.01 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.10 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.61 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, ArH), 8.10 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, ArH), 8.28 (d, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz), 12.01 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 24.47, 25.38, 31.79, 32.49, 52.27, 58.70, 66.05, 104.23, 109.45, 121.62, 123.27, 123.87, 128.27, 128.72, 133.44, 143.94, 154.58, 156.70, 156.99. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 407.7$ (M+1)

Preparation of N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-N'-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-hydrazine (QH-09)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with 4-methoxyphenylhydrazine hydrochloride (337 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.4 g (57.7 %)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.22 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.71 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 3.91 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 6.91 (dd, 2H, $J = 6.8$, 2 Hz, ArH), 7.13 (dd, 2H, $J = 6.8$, 2 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, ArH), 7.62 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.91 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, ArH), 8.28 (d, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 10.82 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$)

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 52.26, 55.30, 66.06, 104.36, 113.88, 114.21, 114.21, 114.84, 121.89, 122.31, 123.89, 125.93, 129.05, 129.59, 131.83, 137.74, 142.41, 154.04, 157.37. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 430.43$ (M+1)

Preparation of N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-N'-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-hydrazine (QH-10)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with 4-fluorophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (314 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.3 g (44.5 %)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 3.23 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.91 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 7.2-7.12 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.60 (t, 1H, ArH), 7.62 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.96 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, ArH), 8.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 10.93 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 52.26, 66.13, 104.63, 113.69, 115.98, 122.99, 123.87, 125.81, 127.86, 128.69, 136.94, 140.90, 145.49, 155.44, 155.98, 156.32, 157.78. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 419.6$ (M+1)

Preparation of N-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-N'-[1-(4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-2-yl)-methylidene]-hydrazine (QH-11)

This compound was prepared by reacting 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (500 mg, 1.611 mmol.) with 4-isopropylphenylhydrazine hydrochloride (360 mg, 1.933 mmol.). Yield: 0.35 g (49 %)

^1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ (ppm): 1.19 (d, 6H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 2.83 (sept, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 3.23 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.91 (t, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 7.11 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.17 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.59 (t, 1H, $J = 8$ Hz, ArH), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.08 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 8.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, ArH), 10.85 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}$).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 24.04, 32.69, 52.22, 66.10, 104.56, 112.69, 122.95, 122.50, 123.69, 125.89, 126.09, 126.97, 127.81, 128.60, 136.21, 140.14, 142.28, 145.52, 156.18. LC/MS (ESI-MS) $m/z = 443.7$ ($M+1$)

Biological Experiments

MIC Assay protocol (turbidometric)

The test compounds were dissolved in DMSO and double-diluted in a 10-concentration dose response (10-DR), and the culture was added at an inoculum of 3×10^5 cfu/mL. The QC included media controls, growth controls and the reference drug inhibitors (Rifampicin). The assay plates were incubated at 37 °C for 15 days. The growth appeared as turbidity or as a deposit of cells at the bottom of the well. The results were enumerated and a turbidometric reading was noted. The first dilution that showed growth inhibition was recorded as the MIC (Minimum Inhibitory Concentration).

In Vitro Cytotoxicity Study of QH-02, QH-04, QH-05 & QH-11

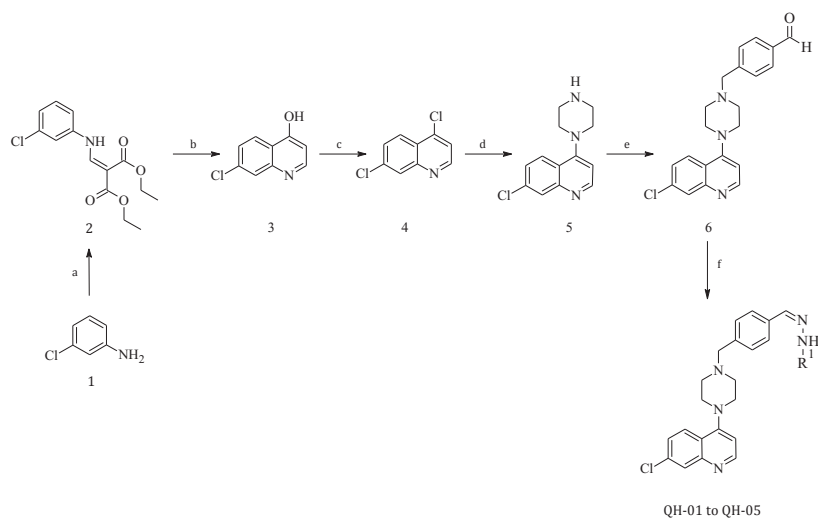
HepG2 cells grown in DMEM supplemented with 10 % fetal bovine serum were trypsinized. The cells were counted, 96 cell culture plates were filled with 12,000 HepG2 cells per well and the cells were allowed to grow for 48 hours in a CO_2 incubator at 37 °C with 5 % CO_2 . The 20 mM DMSO stocks of QH compounds and astemizole were used to prepare test solutions, and after 48 hours of plating the HepG2 cells were treated with test/ control items ranging from 100–1.56 μM , in 0.2 mL of DMEM with 2 % FBS, and incubated for 24 hours in a CO_2 incubator at 37 °C using 5 % CO_2 . About 50 μL of treatment medium was removed from each well of the plate and 50 μL of 1.4 mg/mL MTT solution was added. The plates were then incubated for 4 hours. After 4 hours, the medium was entirely removed from the wells and 0.2 mL of DMSO was added to solubilize the formazan crystals formed. The intensity of the color was measured by reading the plate calorimetrically at 570 nm. The blank subtracted OD values of the compound-treated wells were compared with vehicle-treated wells

to calculate the percentage cell growth. The % cell growth values were plotted against the log of the tested concentration and analyzed using Graph Pad software to determine the IC_{50} value.

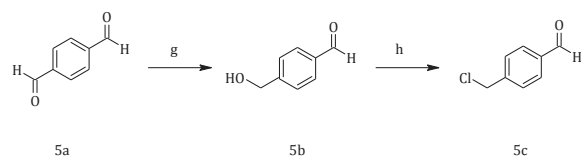
Results and Discussion

Chemistry

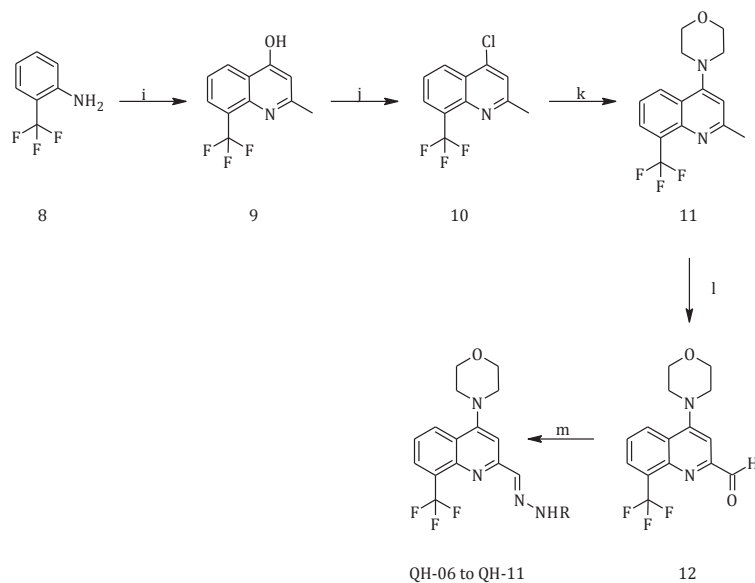
Eleven new compounds containing a hybrid of substituted quinoline and hydrazone were synthesized according to the synthetic methodologies presented in scheme 1 and scheme 2. In scheme 1, 3-chloro-phenylamine (**1**) was converted into 2-[(3-chloro-phenylamino)-methylene]-malonic acid diethyl ester (**2**) by reaction with diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate at 110 °C, and subsequent cyclisation in Dowtherm medium at 240 °C afforded 7-chloro-4-hydroxyquinoline (**3**). The chlorination of the intermediate using POCl_3 at reflux temperature resulted in 4,7-dichloro-quinoline (**4**), and condensation of 4,7-dichloro-quinoline and piperazine in IPA at 95 °C resulted in 7-chloro-4-piperazin-1-yl-quinoline (**5**) with excellent yield. The common intermediate, 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**), was synthesized by coupling of 4-chloromethyl-benzaldehyde with 7-Chloro-4-piperazin-1-yl-quinoline. The target compounds, namely quinoline derivatives carrying the hydrazone moiety, viz. **QH-01** to **QH-05**, were synthesized by coupling 4-[4-(7-chloro-quinolin-4-yl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-benzaldehyde (**6**) with hydrazine hydrochloride molecules in ethanol with good yield. In scheme 2, 2-trifluoromethyl aniline (**8**) was consequently converted into 2-methyl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ol (**9**) via cyclisation using the reagents ethyl acetoacetate and polyphosphoric acid at 150 °C. Intermediate (**9**) was refluxed with POCl_3 to synthesis 4-chloro-2-methyl-8-trifluoro-quinoline (**10**). It was refluxed with morpholine using IPA solvent at 90 °C to afford 2-methyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline (**11**). The key aldehyde intermediate, 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (**12**), was prepared via oxidation using selenium dioxide in 1,4-dioxane at 90 °C. The target compounds, namely quinoline molecules carrying hydrazone moiety, viz. **QH-06** to **QH-11**, were synthesized by coupling 4-morpholin-4-yl-8-trifluoromethyl-quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (**12**) with hydrazine hydrochloride molecules in ethanol. All the newly synthesized compounds were characterized by ^1H and ^{13}C NMR and LC-MS studies.



Intermediate 5C:



Scheme 1 Synthetic route for quinoline hydrazone derivatives (QH-01 to QH-05).



Scheme 2 Synthetic route of quinoline hydrazone derivatives (QH-06 to QH-11).

Reagents and conditions: (a) diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate, 110 °C; (b) Dowtherm medium, 240 °C; (c) POCl_3 , reflux; (d) piperazine, IPA, 95 °C; (e) Et_3N , ACN, DMF, RT; (f) hydrazine hydrochloride compounds, ethanol, ambient temperature; (g) sodium borohydride, THF, methanol, 0 °C; (h) SOCl_2 , DMF, RT.

Reagents and conditions: (i) ethyl acetoacetate, polyphosphoric acid 150 °C; (j) POCl_3 , reflux; (k) morpholine, IPA, 90 °C; (l) selenium dioxide, 1,4-dioxane, 90 °C; (m) hydrazine hydrochloride molecules, RT.

Biological Investigations

Antituberculosis studies

The antitubercular activity of compounds **QH-01** to **QH-11** was evaluated against Mtb WT H37Rv using the broth microdilution method [27]. A turbidometric assay was employed and the results were counted. Rifampicin (RIF) was used as a standard drug and the first dilution that showed growth inhibition was recorded as the MIC

(Minimum Inhibitory Concentration). The MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) values of all compounds against Mtb strain H37Rv are tabulated in table 1.

Antituberculosis screening data revealed that compounds **QH-02**, **QH-04** and **QH-05** possessed a moderately promising inhibitory activity of MIC 4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. This activity is attributed to the presence of the chloro group at position 7 of the quinoline ring and the presence

of hydrazones containing 4-fluoro phenyl, 4-tolyl and 4-isopropyl phenyl in **QH-02**, **QH-04** and **QH-05** respectively. The hydrazone and quinoline groups are bridged by a piperazine ring in the compound **QH-01** to **QH-05**. These new molecules were found to be good starting points to find lead molecules to combat tuberculosis.

Antimicrobial studies

Table 1 Antitubercular activity of quinoline derivatives carrying hydrazone against Mtb strain H37Rv.

Sl.No.	Compound ID (QH-XX)	MIC _{Mtb} ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)	Cytotoxicity IC ₅₀ (μM)
1	QH-01	64	-
2	QH-02	4	>100
3	QH-03	16	-
4	QH-04	4	>100
5	QH-05	4	>100
6	QH-06	32	-
7	QH-07	32	-
8	QH-08	32	-
9	QH-09	32	-
10	QH-10	64	-
11	QH-11	16	>100
12	RIF*	0.025	-

*Rifampicin (RIF) was used as a control against Mtb strain H37Rv

All compounds (**QH-01** to **QH-11**) were tested against Gram Positive and Gram Negative pathogen strains such as *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 15442), *Enterococcus faecium* (ATCC 51559), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 33591), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 700603) and *Acinetobacter baumannii* (ATCC 19606). The assay plates were incubated for 24 hours at 37 °C. At the end of the assay visual turbidometric readings were taken and the results were noted. The MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) values of all compounds against bacterial strains are tabulated in table 2. Vancomycin and Ciprofloxacin were used as a standard. **QH-02** showed promising activity of MIC 4 and 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* strains, respectively. **QH-04**, **QH-05** and **QH-11** showed promising activity of MIC 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Escherichia coli* and MIC 4, 2 and 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Acinetobacter baumannii* strains respectively. **QH-04** and **QH-11** showed promising activity of MIC 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Table 2 Antimicrobial activity of quinoline hydrazone derivatives against bacterial strains.

Compound ID	MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)					
	<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25922	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ATCC 15442	<i>Enterococcus faecium</i> ATCC 51559	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 33591	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> ATCC 700603	<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> ATCC 19606
QH-01	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-02	4	>32	>32	2	>32	>32
QH-03	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-04	2	>32	>32	2	>32	4
QH-05	2	>32	>32	>32	>32	2
QH-06	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-07	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-08	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-09	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-10	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32	>32
QH-11	2	>32	>32	2	>32	1
Vancomycin	>16	>16	4	0.5	0.125	0.5
Ciprofloxacin	0.0312	0.25	0.5	1	>16	>16

Cytotoxicity studies of QH-02, QH-04, QH-05 and QH-11

We evaluated the cytotoxicity of **QH-02**, **QH-04**, **QH-05** and **QH-11** against the HepG2 cell line by MTT Cytotoxicity assay [28]. After 48 hours of plating, HepG2 cells were treated with test/ control compounds in concentrations ranging from 100-1.56 μM . The data obtained in the cytotoxicity studies of quinoline derivatives indicated a high selectivity of these compounds against Mtb. When treated for 24 h, the IC_{50} values of **QH-02**, **QH-04**, **QH-05** and **QH-11** were found to be $> 100 \mu\text{M}$ (IC_{50} values are tabulated in Table 1). Astemizole was used as a control and the IC_{50} value of astemizole was found to be $7.95 \mu\text{M}$. These four compounds were selected for toxicity study as they possessed the highest potency against Mtb and bacterial strains. Other compounds did not display promising antimicrobial activity and consequently were excluded from the cytotoxicity studies.

Conclusion

The present research study reports the successful design, synthesis, characterization and antibacterial activity of a new series of quinoline derivatives carrying the hydrazone moiety. The compounds **QH-02**, **QH-04** and **QH-05** are a novel class of anti-TB compounds with a moderate MIC value of $4 \mu\text{g/mL}$. Compound **QH-02** showed promising activities of MIC 4 and $2 \mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* strains, respectively. Compounds **QH-04**, **QH-05** and **QH-11** showed promising activities of MIC $2 \mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Escherichia coli* and MIC 4, 2 and $1 \mu\text{g/mL}$ respectively against *Acinetobacter baumannii* strains. **QH-04** and **QH-11** showed promising activity of MIC $2 \mu\text{g/mL}$ against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Cytotoxicity studies confirmed that these active compounds are nontoxic. Being a novel class of compounds, they represent good candidates to extend the work of finding new quinoline hydrazone lead molecules.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors state no conflict of interest.

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