

## **Insect antifeedant potent quinoxalines**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Some 6-substituted aryl quinoxalines have been prepared and their purities were checked by their physical constants and spectroscopic data reported earlier. The insect antifeedant activities of these quinoxalines were studied by leaf-discs bio assay method using 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae *Achoea Janata L.*

**Keywords:** 6-substituted aryl quinoxalines; leaf-disc bio assay; Insect antifeedant activity

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

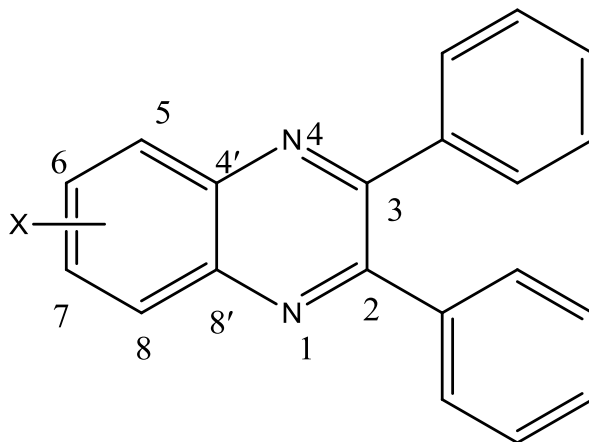
Aryl quinoxalines are medicinally important bi nitrogen heterocyclic compounds due to the presence of this ring and polar substituents in numerous antibiotics [1,2]. The important biological activities of quinoxalines are antibacterial [2,3], antiviral [4], anti-inflammatory [4], asinase inhibitors [4], anticancer [4], antimycobacterial [5,6], antifungal [7], anthelmintic [4,7], antidepressants [8] and antitumor [9,10]. Many kinds of synthetic methods including solvent-free and catalysts were reported in the literature for synthesis of quinoxalines by the condensation of 1,2-diamines and 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds [1,2,11]. Generally compounds which possess carbonyl, unsaturation moieties and polar substituents shows insect antifeedant activities [12]. Within this motivity, the authors wishes to examine the insect antifeedant activity of the synthesized quinoxaline derivatives. *In-vitro* and leaf-disc bioassay methods were adopted for evaluation of insect antifeedant [13,14]. Thirunarayanan [12] and his co-workers have studied the insect antifeedant activities of various substituted chalcones such as 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 4, 6-halogen substituted 1, 2-naphthyl, 4,6-methoxy and methyl substituted 1,2-naphthyl, 9H-fluorenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl [15], 4'-fluorophenyl [16], 5-methyl-2-furyl [17], 2-phenothiazinyl [18], 2-benzimidazole [19], 1-methyl-2-pyrrolyl [20], 2,5-dimethyl-3-furyl [21], 2,5-dimethyl-3-thienyl [22], trichlorophenyls [23]. The acyl bromides and  $\omega$ -bromo ketones [24], acyl compounds such as 9H-fluorenyl [25] also shows the insect antifeedant activities. The insect antifeedant activities of pyrazoline and their derivatives were studied by Thirunarayanan [26]. Lakshmanan et al have studied the insect antifeedant activities of trifluormethyl imines [27].

The halogen substituted epoxides possess insect antifeedant activity and it was studied by Thirunarayanan [28-30]. The insect antifeedant activities of di-imines [31], oxazines [32] and Tröger bases [33] were reported in literature. Recently, Thirunarayanan have evaluated the insect antifeedant activities of some substituted bicyclic [2.2.1] heptane-5-ene methanones [34]. Within the above view, there is no report available for the study of insect antifeedant activity of aryl quinoxalines in the past in literature. Therefore, the authors have taken efforts to synthesize the substituted quinoxalines for studying the insect antifeedant activities using leaf-disc bio assay method using 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae *Achoea Janata L.*

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2. 1. Synthesis of substituted quinoxalines

Aryl 5- and 6- substituted quinoxalines were prepared by literature method [35]. The purities of these quinoxalines have been examined by the characterization data reported earlier. The general structure of the 6-substituted quinoxalines is shown in Fig. 1.



X= 6-H, 6-PhCO, 6-Br, 6-COOH, 6-Cl, 6-F, 6-OCH<sub>3</sub>, 5-CH<sub>3</sub>, 6-CH<sub>3</sub>, 6-NO<sub>2</sub>

**Fig. 1.** General structure of substituted quinoxalines.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3. 1. Insect antifeedant activity

Generally organic compounds which are having carbonyl, unsaturation and halogens they possess insect antifeedant activity. Therefore, the author wishes to examine the insect antifeedant activity of these substituted quinoxalines derivatives and found to be active as insect antifeedants. This test was performed with a 4<sup>th</sup> instar larva *Achoea janata L* against castor *semilooper*, were reared as described on the leaves of castor, *Ricinus communis* in the laboratory at the temperature range of 26 °C ±1 °C and a relative humidity of 75-85 %. The leaf – disc bioassay method [12,30,34] was used against the 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae to measure the antifeedant activity. The 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae were selected for testing because the larvae at this stage feed very voraciously.

### 3. 2. Measurement of insect antifeedant activity of quinoxalines

Castor leaf discs of a diameter of 1.85 cm were punched and intact with the petioles. All synthesized quinoxalines were dissolved in acetone at a concentration of 200 ppm dipped for 5 minutes. The leaf discs were air-dried and placed in one liter beaker containing little water in order to facilitate translocation of water.

Therefore, the leaf discs remain fresh throughout the duration of the rest, 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae of the test insect, which had been preserved on the leaf discs of all quinoxalines and allowed to feed on them for 24 h. The areas of the leaf disc consumed were measured by leaf-disc bio assay method [12,30,34]. The observed antifeedant activity of 5- and 6- substituted quinoxalines derivatives was presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** The insect antifeedant activities of 5- and 6- substituted quinoxalines derivatives.

Entry	R	4-6 pm	6-8 pm	8-10 pm	10 pm - 12 am	12-6 am	6-8 am	8 am - 12 pm	12 am - 2 pm	2-4 pm	Total leaf disc consumed by 24h
1	H	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1	8
2	6-COPh	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	9
3	6-Br	0.5	0.25	0	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	4
4	6-COOH	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
5	6-Cl	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	3
6	6-F	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.25	0	0	1	0.5	3.5
7	6-OCH <sub>3</sub>	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
8	5-CH <sub>3</sub>	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	7
9	6-CH <sub>3</sub>	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
10	6-NO <sub>2</sub>	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	7

Number of leaf discs consumed by the insect (values are mean + SE of five).

The results of the antifeedant activity of substituted quinoxalines are presented in **Table 1** reveals that compounds **3**, **5** and **6** were found to reflect satisfactory antifeedant. This test is performed with the insects which ate only two-leaf disc soaked under the solution of this compound.

Compound **6** showed enough antifeedant activity but lesser than **5**. Further compound **5** was subjected to measure the antifeedant activity at different 50, 100, 150 ppm concentrations and the observation reveals that as the concentrations decreased, the activity also decreased. It is observed from the results in **Table 2** and that the **5** 6-chloro-2,3-diphenylquinoxaline showed an appreciable antifeedant activity at 150 ppm concentration.

**Table 2.** Antifeedant activity of compound **5** 6-chloro-2,3-diphenylquinoxaline showed an appreciable antifeedant activity at 3 different concentrations.

ppm	4-6 pm	6-8 pm	8-10 pm	10 pm - 12 am	12-6 am	6-8 am	8 am - 12 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	2-4 pm	Total leaf disc consumed by 24h
50	0.5	0.25	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
100	0.5	0.5	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.25
150	0	0	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.25

Number of leaf discs consumed by the insect (values are mean + SE of five).

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

A series of 5,6-substituted 2,3-diphenyl quinoxaline derivatives have been synthesized and examined their purities with their physical constants and spectroscopic data reported in earlier. The insect antifeedant activities of quinoxalines have been evaluated using leaf-disc bioassay method. The quinoxaline **5** 6-chloro-2,3-diphenylquinoxaline showed an appreciable antifeedant activity.

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