Indian Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry
Vol. 35 - Number 04 (Oct-Dec 2025) 899-904
https://connectjournals.com/01951.2025.35.899
https://doi.org/10.59467/IJHC.2025.35.899

ISSN (Print) : 0971-1627
ISSN (Online) : 2456-4311

A facile synthesis and antimicrobial activities of some 5(6)-toluoyl-2-substituted benzimidazole derivatives

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ABSTRACT Some derivatives of 5(6)-toluoyl-2-substituted benzimidazoles **(4a-4j)** have been prepared by a facile method involving the reaction of (3,4-diaminophenyl)(*p*-tolyl)methanone with various aromatic acids and phenylacetic acid in the presence of catalytic amount of ammonium chloride. All the synthesized benzimidazole derivatives were screened for their antimicrobial activity against four bacterial strains and three fungal strains. Compounds **4e** and **4j** were found to possess good to moderate activity against *Escherichia coli* whereas compound **4f** showed good activity against *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

KEY WORDS Aromatic acid, Antimicrobial, Benzimidazole, *o*-Phenylenediamine.

How to cite this article: Patel, B.D., Tailor, K. and Prajapati, K.D. A facile synthesis and antimicrobial activities of some 5(6)-toluoyl-2-substituted benzimidazole derivatives, *Indian J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **2025**, *35*, 899–904. *https://doi.org/10.59467/IJHC.2025.35.899*