



3. ICAIE



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3ICAIE

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Distinguished Delegate,

The third edition of the International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Engineering (ICAIE) was held between 25-27 September 2025 at Firat University Faculty of Engineering, Elazığ.

International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Engineering is an international scientific forum of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific, engineering and technological research, dedicated to the furtherance of science, engineering and technology. The academic research conference since its inception is at the cutting edge of international nonprofit scientific, engineering and technological progress to promoting excellence in science.

The conference plays an influential role in science and promotes developments in science, engineering and technology in a wide range of ways. The conference aims to foster research in the area of science and technology and its impact to mainstream human activities. Specifically, it serves as a venue for discussions and exchange of ideas in current issues in science and technology.

All full paper and abstract submissions to the conference are peer reviewed and refereed and evaluated based on originality, research content and correctness, relevance to contributions, and readability. In this content the full paper and abstract submissions are chosen based on technical merit, interest, applicability and how well they fit a coherent and balanced technical program. The accepted papers after rigorous peer reviewing process have been published in the refereed international conference proceedings

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Production and Characterization of Chitosan-TiO₂ Composite Beads

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Abstract

The increase in industrialization and various factories and industrial centers has led to the pollution of water resources including seas, oceans, groundwater, and lakes, which threaten the life of living organisms. Azo dyes, which are widely used in the textile industry, have a significant negative impact on water resources and the environment. Azo dyes, produced by combining the diazonium compound with an aromatic amine or phenol, are important synthetic organic colorants widely used in various applications such as cosmetics, gasoline, leather, foodstuffs, textiles, paper, and additives. However, textile wastes containing azo dyes create an undesirable situation due to their colors and the possibility of reduction to carcinogenic aromatic amines. Therefore, the pollution of water resources increases environmental pollution and this situation increases the interest in various wastewater treatment techniques including oxidation and biological processes, coagulation/flocculation, adsorption, electrochemical degradation, and photocatalytic mineralization. However, traditional methods such as coagulation/flocculation and adsorption only allow the phase transformation from liquid to solid without mineralizing the dye. In addition, biological processes take a long time and require high energy, so electrochemical oxidation is expensive. Photocatalytic degradation of textile dyes is a wastewater treatment technique widely used by developed countries and is considered an environmental solution in the literature. The photocatalytic degradation technique is widely preferred due to manageable process conditions, low cost, and environmental sustainability. In particular, the use of UV-C light is one of the most effective methods to degrade dyes and other soluble organic pollutants from water resources and wastewater. Studies on photocatalytic materials generally focus on the high photocatalytic activity and chemical durability of semiconductor catalysts. However, the potential advantages of creating hybrid structures with biopolymer-based materials are being investigated to increase the efficiency and regeneration efficiency of semiconductor catalysts. Chitosan attracts attention as a matrix material in photocatalytic applications due to its biodegradability, non-toxicity, and environmentally friendly properties. In previous studies, it was observed that the structural and optical properties of chitosan-semiconductor photocatalyst composites were improved, but studies on the kinetic and thermodynamic behavior of these materials in dye degradation were limited. In addition, it was determined in the literature that a systematic comparison between beads in the production processes of chitosan-based photocatalysts was lacking.

In this study, it was aimed to create an innovative, sustainable, and highly efficient photocatalyst by combining chitosan, an environmentally friendly and biodegradable biopolymer, with TiO₂, which has a strong oxidation capacity. In this context, the structural and morphological properties of the beads produced under different conditions (crosslinker ratio, deacetylation degree, etc.) were tried to be characterized. The surface structure, chemical composition, and thermal stability of the beads were examined in detail using methods such as Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), and Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA). In photocatalytic performance tests, the degradation efficiency of a commonly used azo dye such as reactive black 5 (RB5) under UV light was comparatively evaluated for each bead. Degradation efficiency was monitored with UV-Vis spectroscopy and TOC over time. The findings revealed that titanium dioxide-doped chitosan beads can be effectively used as photocatalysts in the photocatalytic degradation process for wastewater treatment, reduction of environmental pollution, and sustainable water management.

Keywords: chitosan, photocatalytic degradation, TiO₂, reactive black 5 (RB5), TOC, FTIR

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Water Sustainability

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Abstract

The accelerating pace of industrialization and global population growth continues to drive an increasing demand for water. In contrast, the limited availability of freshwater resources, coupled with environmental stressors such as global warming and recurring regional droughts, presents critical threats to the sustainability of water. This situation has steadily elevated the strategic significance of water resources worldwide. The concept of sustainability encompasses the efficient, balanced, and responsible use of all resources involved in production and consumption processes—within the boundaries of environmental limits, while promoting economic development and prioritizing social equity. It also entails the post-use recovery and recycling of these resources to ensure their preservation for future generations. Within this framework, water sustainability refers to the long-term, balanced, and integrated management of existing water resources in a way that meets societal needs and supports economic development—without compromising the ecological integrity of natural systems. This approach involves preserving water quality and quantity, ensuring efficient and effective use, recycling treated wastewater, and supporting the water cycle in harmony with natural processes. The aforementioned global importance of water is also underscored by alarming projections. According to the United Nations' World Water Development Report 2025, up to three billion people could be directly affected by water scarcity by 2030. Additionally, the Global Commission on the Economics of Water estimates that global water demand may exceed supply by 40% by 2030. These figures reveal that water is not only vital in terms of the supply-demand balance, but also a crucial factor for economic and social sustainability. In the case of Türkiye, the annual per capita water availability is approximately 1,200 m³, placing the country in the category of water-stressed nations. Climate change, irregular precipitation patterns, and inefficient water use have led to severe challenges, particularly in agricultural production and potable water supply. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has reported a drop of over 30 meters in groundwater levels in several areas of Central and Southeastern Anatolia. In response, Türkiye launched a National Water Efficiency Mobilization Campaign in 2023, targeting reductions in water losses from drinking water networks and promoting modern irrigation systems. However, TÜBİTAK-supported research indicates that for such technical measures to produce sustainable outcomes, they must be accompanied by participatory governance, data-driven planning, and behavioral transformation. In conclusion, water sustainability on a global scale is not merely a biological necessity—it is a multi-dimensional strategic issue essential for peace, economic growth, and resilient societies. In Türkiye's context, water sustainability must now go beyond environmental policy and be embedded at the core of development strategies. To both adapt to climate risks and secure long-term social and economic stability, the integrated, equitable, and effective management of water is of paramount importance. Alongside national policies, regional cooperation and science-based solutions will be key to strengthening Türkiye's water security.

Keywords: water, sustainability, water strategy

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Risk Assessment in Limestone Quarries Using Fine–Kinney Method: Occupational Health and Environmental Considerations

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Abstract

This study focuses on the assessment and evaluation of occupational health and safety risks in limestone quarries through the application of the Fine–Kinney Method. Within the scope of the research, risk analyses were conducted across selected limestone quarry operations, leading to the identification and evaluation of 70 individual risk factors. The results indicated that 2 risks (2.85%) were classified as very high, 2 risks (2.85%) as high, 45 risks (64.28%) as significant, 19 risks (27.14%) as possible, and 1 risk (1.42%) as acceptable. These findings underscore the complexity and potential danger inherent in quarry operations, where multiple risk factors coexist and interact. Consequently, strict adherence to occupational health and safety regulations by all employees is essential in mitigating the identified risks. Moreover, comprehensive and proactive safety strategies must be implemented to prevent workplace accidents and reduce the severity of their potential consequences. In addition to employee safety, limestone quarry operations also pose considerable environmental concerns. Therefore, several critical precautions should be taken into account during quarry operations. First, blasting activities should be continuously monitored to ensure technical compliance and safety. Second, all necessary environmental measures must be implemented to minimize the impact of blasting on surrounding ecosystems. Third, heavy machinery used within the quarry should undergo regular maintenance and safety inspections to ensure compliance with occupational safety standards. Fourth, emergency response teams should be established, and regular training sessions should be provided to employees to prepare them for potential emergency scenarios. Fifth, special attention must be given to complying with occupational health and safety regulations while considering the environmental footprint of quarry operations. In conclusion, this study emphasizes that a structured risk assessment process using methods such as Fine–Kinney can significantly contribute to identifying and prioritizing hazards in quarry operations. The implementation of corresponding control measures not only enhances workplace safety but also reduces environmental impacts. By combining technical supervision, equipment maintenance, employee training, and environmental stewardship, limestone quarry operators can foster a safer and more sustainable working environment. The findings of this study are intended to serve as a practical reference for improving risk management practices in the mining sector, particularly in limestone extraction industries where both human and environmental health are at stake.

Keywords: limestone quarry, risk assessment, fine–kinney method, occupational health and safety, environmental impact.

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Investigation of Experimental and Theoretical Spectral Data of 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole

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Abstract

Imidazole and its derivatives represent one of the most fundamental classes of heterocyclic compounds in organic and medicinal chemistry. As a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing two nitrogen atoms at the 1- and 3-positions, imidazole (C₃H₄N₂) exhibits remarkable amphoteric behavior, acting both as a weak base and as a weak acid. This unique duality enables imidazole to participate in a wide range of chemical and biochemical reactions, particularly proton-transfer processes, hydrogen bonding, and coordination to metal centers. As a result, the imidazole motif is frequently encountered in biological systems, such as in the amino acid histidine and the biogenic amine histamine, where it plays a critical role in enzymatic catalysis, buffering, and signaling pathways. The ubiquity of the imidazole nucleus in biomolecules and therapeutic agents underscores its pharmacological importance, with derivatives demonstrating antimicrobial, antifungal, anticancer, and neuroactive properties.

The present study focuses on the synthesis, structural characterization, and computational analysis of a long-chain substituted imidazoline derivative. Imidazolines are closely related to imidazoles, differing by the saturation of the 4,5-position of the ring, which confers additional flexibility in functionalization and alters the physicochemical properties of the compounds. Long-chain imidazoline derivatives are of particular interest because they can display surfactant-like properties, amphiphilicity, and enhanced lipophilicity, making them suitable for applications in both biological and industrial contexts. Furthermore, imidazoline frameworks are commonly investigated for their role in corrosion inhibition, antimicrobial activity, and as intermediates in drug discovery.

Synthesis of Long-Chain Imidazoline Derivative

In the first stage of this work, a long-chain 2-substituted imidazoline compound was successfully synthesized through a reaction involving myristoyl chloride and ethylenediamine under basic conditions in tetrahydrofuran (THF). The synthetic strategy was designed to introduce a hydrophobic long alkyl chain onto the imidazoline ring system, thereby modulating both the solubility and biological activity of the resulting compound. The reaction was carefully controlled to favor intramolecular cyclization, leading to the imidazoline core formation. The obtained compound was isolated, purified, and subsequently subjected to detailed structural characterization.

Experimental Characterization

The structural elucidation of the synthesized imidazoline derivative was performed using Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) and proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (¹H-NMR).

FT-IR analysis confirmed the presence of characteristic functional groups, including N–H stretching vibrations, C=N stretching bands corresponding to the imidazoline ring, and absorptions related to the long-chain alkyl substituent.

¹H-NMR spectra provided insights into the proton environments within the molecule, demonstrating the expected chemical shifts associated with the imidazoline ring protons, as well as the methylene and terminal methyl groups of the alkyl chain. The splitting patterns and integration ratios further supported the proposed molecular structure.

These experimental techniques established a reliable foundation for confirming the successful synthesis of the target compound.

Theoretical Studies

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In the second stage of the study, theoretical calculations were conducted using the Gaussian 09 software package, a widely utilized program for quantum chemical computations. The computational analyses aimed to complement and validate the experimental findings, while also providing additional insights into the electronic, structural, and spectroscopic properties of the synthesized compound.

- Theoretical ^1H -NMR spectra were simulated using density functional theory (DFT) with appropriate basis sets. The calculated chemical shifts closely matched the experimentally obtained values, reinforcing the accuracy of the structural assignment.
- Theoretical FT-IR spectra were also generated, with predicted vibrational frequencies showing excellent correlation with the experimental IR bands. Minor deviations were attributed to the well-known limitations of harmonic approximation in computational vibrational analysis.
- Thermodynamic parameters, including enthalpy (ΔH), Gibbs free energy (ΔG), and entropy (ΔS), were evaluated, providing valuable information about the stability of the compound and the feasibility of its formation under the experimental conditions employed.
- UV-Vis spectrum simulations were carried out to investigate the electronic transitions of the compound. The calculated absorption maxima corresponded to π - π^* and n - π^* transitions within the imidazoline ring system, as well as transitions influenced by the electron-donating and electron-withdrawing effects of the substituents.

Comparative Analysis

A significant finding of this study was the high degree of agreement between the experimental and theoretical results. Both ^1H -NMR and FT-IR data demonstrated close correspondence, with theoretical predictions effectively reproducing experimental spectra. This level of consistency confirms the reliability of the computational methods employed and highlights the value of combining experimental synthesis with quantum chemical approaches for comprehensive molecular characterization.

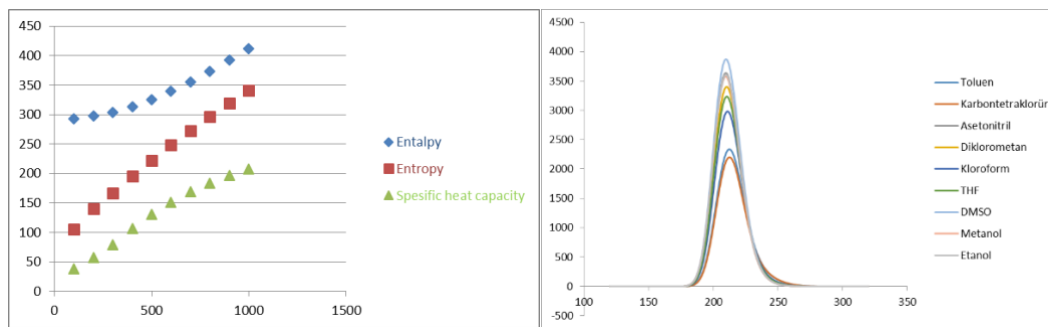
The thermodynamic and UV-Vis calculations further enriched the understanding of the physicochemical properties of the compound, while also suggesting its potential stability and electronic activity under physiological or application-relevant conditions. The integration of experimental and computational data thus provides a powerful framework for exploring structure-property relationships in heterocyclic compounds.

Implications and Conclusions

The successful synthesis and thorough characterization of a long-chain substituted imidazoline derivative represent a meaningful contribution to the expanding field of heterocyclic chemistry. The combined use of spectroscopic techniques (^1H -NMR and FT-IR) and quantum chemical methods (DFT-based Gaussian calculations) not only validated the structural identity of the compound but also provided complementary insights into its thermodynamic and spectroscopic behavior.

The consistency between experimental and theoretical findings underscores the effectiveness of such integrative approaches in modern chemical research. Moreover, the synthetic methodology employed here demonstrates a practical route to generating functionalized imidazoline derivatives with tailored properties. Given the amphiphilic nature conferred by the long alkyl chain, the compound synthesized in this study could be further investigated for potential applications in drug development, surfactant chemistry, and material science. Its imidazoline framework, coupled with lipophilic substitution, may endow it with promising biological activities, particularly in antimicrobial or anticancer contexts, while its physicochemical properties suggest possible roles in industrial formulations.

In conclusion, this study highlights the enduring relevance of imidazole and imidazoline derivatives in chemical and pharmaceutical research. By bridging experimental and theoretical approaches, a comprehensive understanding of molecular properties can be achieved, paving the way for rational design of novel compounds with desirable characteristics. The long-chain substituted imidazoline synthesized and analyzed herein thus serves not only as a model system for methodological validation but also as a potential candidate for future applied studies in medicinal chemistry and related disciplines.



Keywords: Imidazoline, Gaussian 09, DFT

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In Silico Molecular Docking of 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole For Possible Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease

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Abstract

Imidazole derivatives represent a fundamental class of heterocyclic compounds in pharmaceutical chemistry and have long been recognized for their versatile biological activities. The imidazole ring, a five-membered heterocycle containing two nitrogen atoms, exhibits remarkable electronic and structural properties that enable it to interact with a wide range of biological targets. Because of its ability to form hydrogen bonds, participate in π - π interactions, and coordinate with metal ions, the imidazole scaffold has been successfully incorporated into numerous bioactive molecules, making it a privileged structure in medicinal chemistry.

One of the most prominent features of imidazole derivatives is their broad pharmacological profile. Over the years, they have been investigated for antimicrobial, antifungal, anticancer, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and neurological activities. Clinically approved drugs containing imidazole moieties highlight their importance in modern medicine. For example, metronidazole, a nitroimidazole derivative, is widely used as an antimicrobial agent in the treatment of protozoal infections and anaerobic bacterial diseases. Similarly, ketoconazole, an antifungal agent, exerts its therapeutic effect by inhibiting cytochrome P450 enzymes involved in ergosterol biosynthesis, thereby disrupting fungal cell membrane integrity. Beyond infectious diseases, imidazole derivatives have shown substantial potential in oncology. Several imidazole-based compounds act by inhibiting enzymes and signaling pathways critical for cancer cell proliferation, survival, and metastasis. Furthermore, imidazole derivatives are also incorporated into antidepressant and anxiolytic drugs, underscoring their importance in the treatment of central nervous system disorders. Collectively, these examples illustrate that imidazole derivatives are not confined to a single therapeutic area but instead provide a flexible chemical framework adaptable for multiple disease treatments.

Given this broad pharmacological relevance, there has been a growing interest in exploring novel imidazole derivatives with potential applications in neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's disease (AD). Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by memory loss, cognitive impairment, and behavioral changes. It is currently the most common cause of dementia worldwide, with a growing prevalence due to the aging population. Pathologically, AD is associated with the accumulation of β -amyloid plaques, tau protein hyperphosphorylation, oxidative stress, and cholinergic system dysfunction. The limited number of effective therapeutic options for AD underscores the urgent need for novel compounds capable of modulating disease pathways.

In this context, the present study focuses on the imidazole derivative 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole. The aim was to explore its electronic properties through quantum chemical calculations and to assess its potential activity against Alzheimer's disease via molecular docking studies. Such a computational approach provides valuable insights into the compound's structural, electronic, and pharmacological characteristics, serving as a foundation for further in vitro and in vivo studies.

The research was conducted in two main stages. In the first stage, quantum chemical calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 software package. The calculated parameters included the HOMO (Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital) and LUMO (Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital) energy levels, electronegativity (χ), and chemical hardness (η). These parameters are essential for understanding the reactivity and stability of a molecule. The HOMO level indicates the ability of a molecule to donate electrons, while the LUMO level reflects its ability to accept electrons. The energy gap between HOMO and LUMO serves as a measure of molecular stability and electronic excitation potential; a smaller gap suggests higher reactivity and potential bioactivity. Electronegativity (χ) provides insights into the molecule's tendency to attract electrons, whereas chemical hardness (η) is a descriptor of resistance to charge transfer and reactivity. Together, these descriptors offer a comprehensive picture of the electronic structure of 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole.

In the second stage, molecular docking simulations were carried out to investigate the compound's potential interactions with Alzheimer's-related biomolecular targets. Docking studies are a widely used computational tool in drug discovery because they provide information about how a small molecule fits into the active site of a target protein, the binding orientation, and the strength of the

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interaction. In this study, docking calculations were focused on proteins that play a key role in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease, such as acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and β -amyloid-related proteins. Inhibitors of AChE are of particular importance in Alzheimer's therapy, as they help increase acetylcholine levels in the brain, improving cognitive function and slowing disease progression.

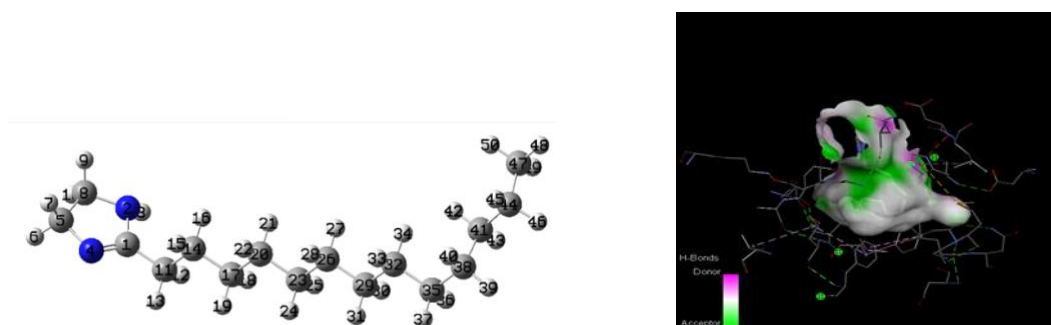
The computational results revealed significant findings. The HOMO–LUMO analysis indicated that 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole possesses a favorable energy gap, suggesting an appropriate balance between stability and reactivity, which is advantageous for biological interactions. The calculated electronegativity value suggested that the compound has a reasonable tendency to attract electrons, which could facilitate interactions with enzyme active sites. Similarly, the chemical hardness parameter indicated that the compound exhibits moderate reactivity, a desirable feature for bioactive molecules as it implies the ability to interact with biological macromolecules without being overly reactive or unstable.

Molecular docking simulations further supported the compound's potential pharmacological activity. The docking results demonstrated that 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole binds favorably to Alzheimer's-related targets, exhibiting strong binding affinities and favorable interaction profiles. Hydrogen bonding, van der Waals forces, and hydrophobic interactions were among the primary stabilizing interactions observed. The docking scores and binding orientations suggested that the compound could act as an effective modulator of the target proteins. Importantly, these computational results align with the hypothesis that imidazole derivatives may offer therapeutic potential in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

The significance of this study lies not only in the promising activity of 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole but also in the demonstration of the effectiveness of integrating quantum chemical analysis with molecular docking simulations. This multidisciplinary approach allows researchers to predict the pharmacological behavior of compounds before costly and time-consuming experimental testing, thereby accelerating the drug discovery process. By evaluating electronic properties alongside binding affinities, this study provides a more complete understanding of the compound's potential as a lead molecule in Alzheimer's research.

In conclusion, the results obtained suggest that 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole is a promising candidate for further investigation as a potential therapeutic agent against Alzheimer's disease. The combination of favorable electronic properties and strong binding affinities to AD-related targets indicates that this compound may contribute to the development of new drugs for the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders. Future studies should include in vitro experiments to confirm enzyme inhibition activity, followed by in vivo evaluations to assess pharmacokinetics, bioavailability, and safety. Additionally, structural optimization and the synthesis of analogues could further enhance the biological activity and drug-like properties of this compound.

Ultimately, this research underscores the importance of imidazole derivatives in medicinal chemistry, not only in their established roles as antimicrobial and anticancer agents but also in their emerging potential in neurological disease therapy. By highlighting the activity of 2-Tridecyl-4,5-Dihydro-1H-Imidazole against Alzheimer's disease, this study adds to the growing body of evidence supporting heterocyclic chemistry as a cornerstone in modern drug discovery.



Keywords: Imidazoline, Gaussian 09, DFT

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Investigation of the Potential Activity of 3-((1H-benzotriazol-1-yl)methyl-4-ethyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5(4H)-thione Against MCF-7 and L1210 Cancer CellsMurat GENÇ¹, Umut Ibrahim OGUZ², Vedat KARAHAN³, Zuhale KARAGOZ GENÇ⁴^{1,2} Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Adiyaman University, 02040, Adiyaman, Turkey³ Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Fırat University, 23119, Elazığ, Türkiye.⁴ Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Adiyaman University, 02040, Adiyaman, Turkey¹mgenc23@gmail.com, ²uioguz@gmail.com, ³vdtkrhn@gmail.com, ⁴zuhalkaragoz23@gmail.com¹(ORCID: 0000-0003-1224-4128), ²(ORCID: 0000-0003-1993-8819), ³(ORCID: 0000-0002-0913-7826), ⁴(ORCID: 0000-0002-8847-9129)**Abstract**

Cancer remains one of the most devastating health challenges of modern society and continues to represent the second leading cause of mortality worldwide, following cardiovascular diseases. Despite significant advances in medical science, diagnostics, and treatment strategies, the global incidence and death toll associated with cancer are still alarmingly high. This situation has directed increasing research efforts toward the discovery and development of novel anticancer agents with improved selectivity, reduced toxicity, and enhanced therapeutic potential. Among the various approaches, the design and synthesis of heterocyclic compounds have proven particularly fruitful, as heterocycles are well known for their diverse biological activities and broad pharmacological applications.

Within this framework, benzotriazole-based heterocyclic compounds and their nitrogen-containing derivatives have attracted considerable attention in recent years. Benzotriazole is a privileged scaffold in medicinal chemistry due to its ability to participate in strong π - π interactions, hydrogen bonding, and coordination with biological macromolecules, thereby conferring a wide spectrum of bioactivity. Compounds containing the benzotriazole moiety have been reported to exhibit antimicrobial, antifungal, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer properties. This has made benzotriazole an important structural motif in the rational design of drug candidates.

In parallel, 1,2,4-triazole derivatives, which represent another important class of heterocyclic compounds, have been extensively studied in organic and medicinal chemistry. These compounds are known to act as fungicides, herbicides, antiepileptics, antitumor agents, and plant growth regulators. The triazole nucleus is particularly interesting because of its stability, hydrogen-bonding capacity, and ability to interact with biological targets such as enzymes and receptors. Moreover, 1,2,4-triazoles are often used as bioisosteres of amide or ester groups, thereby enhancing pharmacological activity, bioavailability, and metabolic stability. Importantly, several triazole-based drugs are already in clinical use, including antifungal agents such as fluconazole and itraconazole, highlighting the pharmaceutical significance of this heterocyclic system.

The combination of benzotriazole and triazole scaffolds within a single molecular framework offers an attractive strategy for designing hybrid compounds with potentially synergistic biological activities. This dual approach leverages the pharmacological advantages of both moieties, creating new opportunities for the development of potent anticancer agents. In this study, we focused on the synthesis of benzotriazole-substituted 1,2,4-triazole derivatives, their structural characterization, and theoretical evaluation of their anticancer potential against selected cancer cell lines.

The research was carried out in two main stages. In the first stage, the target compounds were synthesized through a series of organic transformations. Initially, Ethyl 2-(1H-benzotriazol-1-yl)acetate was obtained via the reaction of benzotriazole with ethyl bromoacetate. This ester derivative was subsequently reacted with hydrazine hydrate to yield 2-(1H-benzotriazol-1-yl)acetohydrazide. The hydrazide functionality is of particular interest in medicinal chemistry, as it can serve as a versatile precursor for the synthesis of heterocyclic systems with potential bioactivity.

Following this, the hydrazide was further transformed into a benzotriazole-substituted thiocarboamide derivative by reaction with ethyl isothiocyanate. The incorporation of a thiocarboamide group is notable because sulfur-containing heterocycles are frequently reported to enhance anticancer activity, often due to their ability to disrupt cellular redox balance or interact with biomolecular targets. Finally, the cyclization of this intermediate under basic conditions led to the formation of the desired benzotriazole-substituted 1,2,4-triazole derivative, completing the synthetic pathway. The entire series of reactions was performed using both conventional heating methods and microwave-assisted techniques. Microwave-assisted organic synthesis has emerged as a powerful approach in modern chemistry, offering advantages such as shorter reaction times, improved yields, and cleaner reactions. Comparing these two approaches allowed us to evaluate the efficiency and practicality of each method in synthesizing the target compounds.

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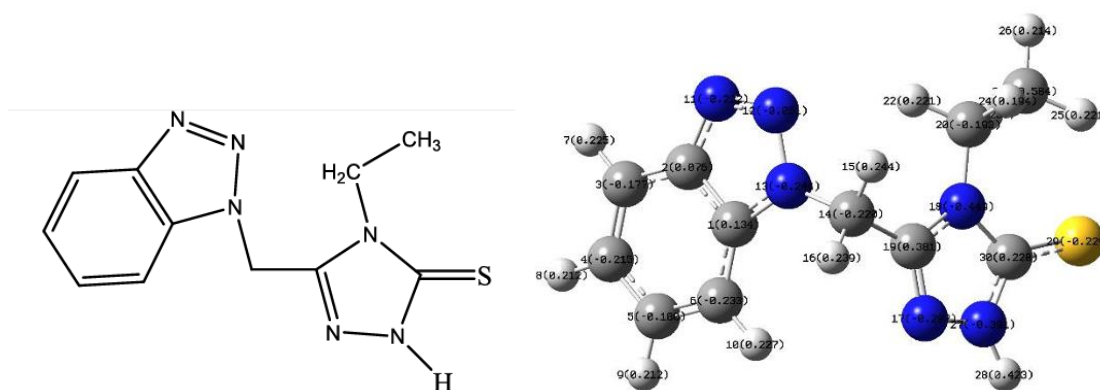
In the second stage of the study, theoretical and computational calculations were conducted to assess the electronic properties, molecular interactions, and potential anticancer activity of the synthesized compounds. Calculations were carried out using the Gaussian software package for quantum chemical studies and the AutoDock program for molecular docking simulations. Quantum chemical calculations provided insights into the structural stability, electronic distribution, and frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO–LUMO energy gap) of the compounds, which are critical parameters for predicting reactivity and biological activity.

Molecular docking studies were then performed to evaluate the binding affinity of the synthesized triazole derivatives toward cancer-related biological targets. Docking simulations are widely used in drug discovery as they allow prediction of how small molecules interact with protein receptors at the molecular level. Our docking results suggested that the benzotriazole-substituted 1,2,4-triazole derivative exhibited favorable binding interactions with key active sites, supporting its potential as an anticancer agent. In particular, the compound showed promising activity against MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) and L1210 (mouse lymphocytic leukemia) cancer cell lines, both of which are widely used experimental models in cancer research. These findings suggest that the designed compounds may serve as potential leads for further biological evaluation and drug development.

The overall results of this study highlight several important aspects. First, the successful synthesis of benzotriazole-substituted 1,2,4-triazole derivatives demonstrates the feasibility of combining two pharmacologically significant heterocyclic systems into a single framework. Second, the use of microwave-assisted synthesis proved to be a practical alternative to conventional methods, offering advantages in terms of reaction efficiency. Third, theoretical calculations and molecular docking studies provided valuable preliminary evidence supporting the anticancer potential of the synthesized compounds, specifically against breast and leukemia cancer models.

The significance of this research lies not only in the synthesis of new heterocyclic derivatives but also in the demonstration of an integrated approach that combines synthetic chemistry with computational modeling. Such a multidisciplinary strategy is increasingly recognized as essential in modern drug discovery, where computational predictions can guide experimental design, reduce the cost of trial-and-error experimentation, and accelerate the identification of promising candidates.

In conclusion, the benzotriazole-substituted 1,2,4-triazole derivative synthesized in this study represents a promising scaffold for further anticancer research. The encouraging docking results against MCF-7 and L1210 cancer cell lines warrant additional in vitro and in vivo studies to validate the computational predictions. Furthermore, structural modifications and optimization strategies could be applied to enhance activity, improve pharmacokinetic properties, and minimize potential toxicity. Ultimately, the insights gained from this work contribute to the growing body of knowledge on heterocyclic chemistry in drug discovery and provide a foundation for the future development of novel anticancer therapeutics.



Keywords: Benzotriazole, Gaussian 09, DFT

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Behavior of Sodium Bentonite in Acidic and Alkaline Environments: Modeling Filtrate Properties with Machine Learning

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Abstract

Colemanite ore may contain montmorillonite-type clay minerals in the range of 5-10% depending on its mineralogical composition. During the boric acid production process, clay minerals in the ore interact with sulfuric acid, increasing the impurity value of the solution medium and increasing the acid consumption of the process. In this direction, understanding the behavior of clay minerals in acidic, alkaline, and neutral conditions is very important in terms of understanding and controlling the impurity formation in the boric acid production process. For this reason, in this study, sodium bentonite was treated with solution mediums at different pH values and then the solution medium was analyzed chemically and physicochemically to interpret the clay behavior.

In the studies conducted, the behavior of clay minerals (sodium bentonite) under different pH and impregnation time conditions was examined in detail and the effects of process parameters on the filtrate were evaluated by analytical and instrumental means. As a result of the analysis carried out with the pH drift method, the pH_{Zpc} value of sodium bentonite was determined as 8.5. This result shows that in alkaline environments with pH > pH_{Zpc}, the surfaces are negatively charged, dispersion stability increases, and the amount of suspended solid particles increases, causing filtration difficulties. In viscosity measurement experiments carried out at 25°C, it was observed that the viscosity was in the range of 0.9–1.8 cP in acidic environments, increased to 4–5 cP in pH 3–5 environments, and reached up to 6.6 cP in pH 7–9. Filtrate turbidity (NTU) analyses confirm that the filtrates turn yellow and the amount of suspended solid particles increases as the pH increases. As a result of the particle size distribution analysis of the filtrates, it was concluded that while acidic environments (low pH) form larger and easily separable particle groups, basic environments (high pH) increase the dispersion and stability of small particles, making separation difficult. FTIR analysis results showed that the structure of sodium bentonite continues to be basically preserved under different pH and water quality conditions and there is no significant change in its chemical structure. This shows that the changes in viscosity and turbidity observed in the dispersion medium are mainly due to physicochemical parameters such as surface charge balance and particle size distribution. As a result, it was understood that keeping the reactor pH in the range of pH 2–4 will increase the ease of filtration by reducing the amount of suspended solid particles, while in alkaline environments, temperature and pH control should be optimized together to prevent filtration difficulties due to suspended particles and viscosity increase.

Various machine learning algorithms were used to further evaluate the filtrate properties (ICP analysis data, pH_f, conductivity). Models created with methods such as Boosted Trees, Random Forest, Bagged Trees, Gaussian Process Regression (GPR), Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Linear Regression were comparatively evaluated for their success in predicting pH_f, conductivity, and metal ion concentrations in solution. Especially Boosted Trees and GPR models achieved high accuracy values such as R² > 0.95 for many output variables. For example, for conductivity (Out2) in the Boosted Trees model, R² = 0.9998, and for Si concentration (Out6) R² = 0.9939 were determined. Partial dependency analyses were used to interpret the model's prediction mechanisms and revealed that the effects of pH and time on the output variables were decisive. In addition, correlations and ionic interactions between elements such as Na, Ca, Fe, and Si were determined graphically and the complex interaction network in the solution was interpreted. It was concluded that especially for ions such as Al and Mg, Random Forest and Boosted Trees algorithms exhibited superior performance.

Keywords: sodium bentonite, pH behavior, filtrate properties, machine learning, FTIR, ICP, zeta sizer, pH_{Zpc}

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Modeling of Biochar Production Process Efficiency from Tea Pulp and Almond Outer Shell Using Machine Learning Methods

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Abstract

In recent years, the importance of renewable energy sources has increased globally in terms of energy supply security, environmental sustainability, and combating climate change. Within the scope of renewable energy sources, the energy production process from biomass sources has emerged as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels due to a series of advantages, including the rapid renewability of the raw material, its carbon-neutral properties, and its local availability [1–3]. Waste biomass sources used in bioenergy production include organic waste such as plant and animal waste, agricultural by-products and residues, food industry factory waste, municipal waste, and forest waste (pruning, cutting waste, etc.) [1–2]. Biomass sources have significantly lower sulfur and nitrogen content compared to fossil energy sources, resulting in lower NO_x and SO_x emissions during combustion processes [4–5]. Because biomass resources are carbon neutral, they do not cause CO₂ emissions. This way, they minimize environmental problems and contribute significantly to preventing global warming and acid rain, which are among the goals of the Kyoto Protocols [6]. Turkey has a high agricultural production potential and, due to its large forest areas, also possesses significant biomass reserves. The Biomass Energy Potential Atlas (BEPA), published by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey, reports that approximately 100 million tons of biomass waste is generated annually in our country [7]. Furthermore, it is known that a significant portion of this biomass waste cannot be recycled, resulting in no economic or environmental benefits. The reuse of waste biomass has become a necessity for our country for energy production and sustainability [8–9].

Thermochemical processes, especially pyrolysis processes, provide significant advantages in the conversion of primary biomass resources into energy. Pyrolysis, which can also be defined as the controlled degradation of organic matter at high temperatures in an inert atmosphere, is a process that results in the formation of biochar, bio-oil, and gas products [10]. The distribution efficiency and product composition of biochar, bio-oil, and biogas products formed as a result of pyrolysis can vary depending on many parameters. These include pyrolysis temperature (HTT), heating rate (HR), nitrogen flow rate (FR), particle size of the waste biomass source, residence time, and biomass composition [10–12]. The chemical structure of biomass sources, such as cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin ratios, as well as short-term analysis results (moisture, volatile matter, ash, and fixed carbon) and final analysis data (amounts of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur), have a significant impact on this process [8, 11]. Pyrolysis is a variable and nonlinear thermal transformation process and, therefore, is quite difficult to model using classical statistical methods. In recent years, the use of machine learning techniques to model pyrolysis processes has become quite popular. This is because researchers have demonstrated that regression models such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) [14], Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) [15], Decision Trees (DT), and Random Forests (RF) [16] can model the thermal conversion efficiency of biomass with high accuracy. In addition, ML-based approaches also produce successful results in high calorific value (HHV) estimation and crop yield modeling [17].

In this study, biochar was produced from two biomass sources (tea pulp and almond outer shell), which are generated in large quantities as waste as a result of agricultural and industrial activities in Türkiye. Biochar production efficiency was modeled using machine learning techniques as a function of pyrolysis variable parameters. In the study, the effects of temperature, retention time, heating rate, and nitrogen flow rate were evaluated as pyrolysis variable parameters. The experimental data obtained as a result of the study carried out under varying conditions were used as datasets and modeled using machine learning methods. The data was analyzed using Linear, Lasso, Ridge, ElasticNet, and Deep Neural Network (DNN) regression models. The dataset was normalized during the modeling process, and the HoldOut method was applied, with an 80% training and 20% test data separation. Performance evaluations indicated that classical linear models (Linear, Ridge) were inadequate, especially in extreme values. In contrast, Lasso and ElasticNet models modeled the study data with lower error and higher explanatory power. The best performance result was achieved with the DNN model with $R^2 = 0.9937$, RMSE = 5.0123, MAE = 3.44. Single and multivariate partial dependency analyses confirmed that carbonization temperature and volatile matter ratio are the main parameters affecting biochar yield for both biomass types. It was determined that biochar yield decreased significantly at temperatures above 600°C and raw material compositions above 50% volatile ratio, while liquid and gas product yields increased.

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The study also found that biochar yield was maximum in the pyrolysis temperature range of 400–500°C and in moderate retention time conditions. Overall, the study demonstrated the applicability of data-driven decision-making processes in biochar production. It has been proven that machine learning modeling approaches can have strategic importance for sustainable waste management and energy conversion systems.

Keywords: biochar, tea pulp, almond outer shell, biochar yield, pyrolysis, machine learning

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The Role of Activated Carbon in Supercapacitor Technology

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Abstract

As the world shifts toward more sustainable and high-performance energy solutions, supercapacitors are emerging as a powerful alternative to conventional energy storage systems [1,2]. With their remarkable attributes—high power density, rapid charge and discharge capability, long cycle life, and operational safety—supercapacitors [3] are increasingly being used in applications ranging from portable electronics to electric vehicles and smart grids [4].

The overall performance of a supercapacitor is heavily influenced by the materials used for its electrodes and electrolytes [5]. Among electrode materials, activated carbon stands out due to its exceptionally high surface area, tunable pore structure, excellent electrical conductivity, and strong chemical and thermal stability [6,7]. These properties can be tailored by selecting appropriate biomass precursors and optimizing activation conditions, allowing for versatile and efficient material design [8,9].

This paper presents a comprehensive overview of biomass-derived precursors for the production of activated carbon, highlighting both physical activation methods (such as steam and CO₂) and chemical techniques (including KOH and H₃PO₄ treatments). The resulting carbon materials are evaluated based on their surface morphology, porosity, and electrochemical performance. The paper also explores the underlying mechanisms of electric double-layer capacitors (EDLCs), pseudocapacitors, and hybrid supercapacitors. Particular attention is given to the interactions at the electrode–electrolyte interface, examining how different electrolyte types—aqueous, organic, ionic liquids, and biomass-based—impact energy density, power output, and long-term stability.

Recent literature increasingly points to the value of converting agricultural and industrial biomass waste into functional carbon materials. These renewable sources offer an eco-friendly, low-cost, and sustainable pathway to next-generation energy storage technologies—supporting the global transition toward clean and resilient energy systems.

Keywords: supercapacitor, activated carbon, biomass, energy storage, electrode materials

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Thermal Convection Zone Detection for Glider Soaring Control via Seven-Class Cloud Type Classification Using Swin Transformer on Ground-Based Images

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Abstract

Clouds, as dynamic and visual manifestations of atmospheric processes, are key indicators in both weather forecasting and the identification of thermal convection regions. Their types, formations, and altitudes carry critical information about vertical air movements, moisture content, and heat distribution in the atmosphere. Among these, cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds—typically formed by rising warm air masses due to surface heating—are particularly significant as they mark active thermal zones. These thermals are not only crucial in meteorology but also play a pivotal role in the field of aeronautics, especially in glider soaring control, where pilots rely on naturally occurring updrafts to maintain altitude and prolong flight without engine propulsion.

The primary aim of this study is to develop a robust and intelligent computer vision framework capable of automatically detecting thermal convection indicators—specifically cumulus-related cloud formations—from ground-based images. This is pursued with the overarching goal of supporting real-time soaring decision systems for glider aircrafts. Unlike powered aircrafts, gliders rely heavily on environmental cues such as thermal lift, which is inherently invisible but can be inferred through visual indicators like cloud structures. Currently, most soaring decisions are made manually by experienced pilots based on visual observation. However, this method is highly subjective and can be unreliable under variable atmospheric lighting or visibility conditions. An AI-powered visual detection tool trained to recognize thermal-relevant cloud types can therefore significantly enhance flight safety, energy efficiency, and autonomous soaring capabilities.

To address this need, we utilized the publicly available Cloud Type Classification 3 dataset from Kaggle, which consists of 960 labeled ground-based sky images categorized into seven distinct classes: cirriform, high cumuliform, stratocumulus, cumulus, cumulonimbus, stratiform, and clear sky. This comprehensive dataset provides a rich source of atmospheric visual patterns necessary for deep learning-based classification tasks. The study pipeline began with exploratory data analysis (EDA) to examine image characteristics, class distributions, and resolution diversity. All images were then uniformly resized to 224×224 pixels to conform with the input requirements of the deep learning model. To improve model generalization and performance, data augmentation techniques such as random rotation, shifting, zooming, and flipping were applied. The image labels were numerically encoded using LabelEncoder, and the dataset was randomly split into training and testing sets. For the classification task, we adopted the Swin Transformer architecture—a state-of-the-art hierarchical vision transformer known for its powerful representation capacity and ability to capture fine-grained spatial features. The model was trained using the CrossEntropyLoss function and optimized via the Adam algorithm. The evaluation metrics included precision, recall, F1-score, and class-wise accuracy, providing a comprehensive understanding of the model's performance.

Results indicated that the model achieved high classification performance, particularly for thermally relevant cloud types such as cumulus and cumulonimbus. Even in classes with fewer samples, the model demonstrated competitive performance, although some false positives were observed, suggesting the potential benefit of class balancing or data resampling in future work. The average classification accuracy across all seven classes was recorded at 95%, confirming the model's efficacy in diverse sky conditions. The model achieved a precision of 0.98, a recall of 0.98, and an F1-score of 0.98 for the cumulus category, indicating a highly successful identification of cumulus clouds within the dataset. This result is especially significant considering the role of cumulus formations as visual markers of active updrafts, which are essential for maintaining altitude in unpowered flight. The model's ability to consistently recognize cumulus structures, despite variations in lighting, shape, and background conditions, suggests a strong internal representation of the morphological and textural features unique to this cloud type. Given that cumulus clouds typically form between 500 and 2000 meters as a result of surface heating, their accurate detection aligns directly with the goal of supporting real-time glider navigation through thermal exploitation. Moreover, the high recall value in this class ensures that very few thermally active clouds are missed, which is critical for flight safety and efficiency. These findings validate the applicability of vision transformer architectures like Swin Transformer in operational meteorology and autonomous aviation,

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where the accurate and timely recognition of cumulus clouds can serve as a decision-support mechanism for dynamic soaring strategies.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates the viability of deep learning-based cloud type classification as a reliable tool for atmospheric analysis and decision support in glider aviation. The proposed Swin Transformer model successfully learns the morphological patterns of clouds and enables visual detection of thermally active zones, providing a foundational step toward intelligent flight control systems in unpowered aerial platforms.

Keywords: Cloud classification, Swin Transformer, glider flight, thermal convection, cumulus clouds, image processing, deep learning.

FireStageNet: A Transformer-Based Deep Learning Approach for Image-Based Fire Stage Classification

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Abstract

Wildfires and structural fires represent a growing global threat, exacerbated by climate change, prolonged drought conditions, and the increasing human encroachment into wildland-urban interfaces. These fires not only result in tragic loss of life and irreversible ecological damage, but also incur significant economic costs through the destruction of infrastructure, agricultural assets, and natural resources. According to global disaster databases, fire-related incidents have caused billions of dollars in losses and displaced thousands of people annually. Therefore, the development of advanced fire detection technologies has become a critical focus for both the research community and public safety agencies.

While traditional fire detection systems primarily rely on smoke sensors, infrared detectors, or human observation, recent advancements in computer vision and deep learning have opened up promising avenues for visual fire analysis. However, most existing image-based fire detection models operate on a binary classification paradigm, identifying whether a fire exists or not. This binary approach lacks contextual awareness of the fire's progression, which is vital for emergency response planning, resource allocation, and early intervention. Particularly in applications such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), robotic firefighting systems, and early-warning monitoring platforms, the ability to differentiate no_fire, start_fire, and fire stages can significantly improve decision-making precision. To address this gap, we propose FireStageNet, a novel deep learning architecture designed to perform three-stage fire classification using 804 RGB images. The model architecture is grounded in the transformer paradigm and incorporates two key innovations: (1) a Patch Embedding layer that tokenizes image regions for spatially localized processing, and (2) a specially designed Fire-Aware Attention block that emphasizes features specific to fire characteristics such as smoke diffusion, flame contours, and thermal coloration. Unlike standard Vision Transformer (ViT) blocks, the attention mechanism in FireStageNet is optimized for fire-specific saliency, enabling it to discern subtle cues in early-stage fires.

The model was trained using the PyTorch framework on a curated fire dataset from Kaggle, featuring labeled instances of all three fire stages. Data augmentation techniques, including color jittering and horizontal flipping, were applied to improve generalization. The dataset was split into 80% training and 20% validation sets. The model was trained for 50 epochs using the AdamW optimizer and cross-entropy loss with label smoothing, promoting stability and robustness.

Experimental results reveal that FireStageNet achieves an overall classification accuracy of 88%, with a macro-averaged F1-score of 0.85. Class-wise F1-scores were recorded as 0.92 (fire), 0.90 (no_fire), and 0.74 (start_fire). While early-stage fire detection remains a challenge due to its visual ambiguity, ROC-AUC values exceeding 0.90 for all classes affirm the model's strong discriminative capability. These findings demonstrate that FireStageNet can serve as an effective tool in real-time, embedded fire detection systems for intelligent disaster response.

Keywords: fire stage classification, vision transformer, fire-aware attention, deep learning.

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Photocatalysis Applications of MnOx-Decorated Biphasic Nanostructures: Methylene Blue Model

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Abstract

Introduction: The rapid increase in industrial discharges and marine pollutants has brought environmental issues to a critical point, endangering aquatic biodiversity. Dyes released in industrial wastewater severely disrupt the chemical balance of aquatic systems, intensifying toxic effects. In dye-contaminated waters, photosynthetic marine plants are damaged, heavy metals compromise fish health, and certain textile dyes that infiltrate drinking water pose serious risks to human health. Methylene blue (MB) hinders sunlight penetration when released into water, thereby making underwater life difficult and causing environmental problems like marine mucilage. Rapid growth in industries such as textiles has increased the volume of dye-containing wastewater. Conventional treatment methods (chemical or biological treatments) are usually insufficient to remove these organic pollutants. Therefore, it is important to develop effective, economical, and sustainable treatment technologies that protect the environment and human health.

Photocatalytic processes, driven by light energy, have emerged as promising solutions owing to their high efficiency, low energy requirements, and environmental sustainability. However, the performance of photocatalysts strongly depends on factors like surface area, structural integrity, light absorption ability, and efficient charge transport. Nanomaterials attract attention due to their high surface area and tunable physicochemical properties. Boron nitride (BN) serves as an effective support material owing to its durability and large surface area, while manganese oxides (MnOx) are well-suited for photocatalytic applications due to their favorable crystal structure and strong oxidative potential. In this study, MnOx nanoparticles were synthesized on BN nanosheets through an environmentally friendly approach. *Stevia rebaudiana* extract, a plant-based reducing agent, was used to minimize the use of toxic chemicals during synthesis. The photocatalytic activity of the resulting nanocomposites was evaluated using methylene blue as a model pollutant, and their potential for wastewater treatment was assessed. This green synthesis method offers a promising route for the development of eco-friendly and efficient materials for environmental remediation.

Materials and Methods: MnOx were immobilized onto exfoliated and modified BN nanoparticles via adsorption, then converted to their hydroxylated forms through a green synthesis approach. Subsequent calcination yielded the MnOx/BN nanocomposite. For this purpose, firstly BN was exfoliated by HCl acid solution (0.35 M) and ethanol. In surface modification, functional groups capable of binding Mn (II) ions were introduced onto the BN surface. The modified BN was immersed in an aqueous solution containing Mn (II) ions at an appropriate concentration to immobilize Mn (II) ions on the surface. Subsequently, Mn (II) ions were reduced to MnOx nanoparticles on the surface using *Stevia rebaudiana* plant extract as a natural reducing agent. The resulting material was then calcined at 200 °C for 4 hours in an air atmosphere to obtain the MnOx/BN nanocomposite. Material characterization was performed using SEM and TEM for morphology and particle size, XRD for crystal structure, and FTIR for surface functional group analysis. Optical properties and photocatalytic activity of the BN/MnOx nanostructures were monitored by UV-Vis spectroscopy. Photocatalytic activities were tested using MB solutions at specified concentrations. MB solution was added to the reaction medium containing MnOx/BN nanocomposite, and the decolorization process was monitored over time under different light sources (UV and visible light) using UV-Vis spectroscopy. Parameters such as pH, temperature, and reaction time were systematically varied to determine optimal working conditions. Additionally, control experiments were conducted using pure BN and only MnOx. Photocatalytic activity was evaluated using MB solutions of specified concentrations. The MB solution was mixed with the MnOx/BN nanocomposite, and decolorization was monitored over time under UV ($\lambda=365$ nm) UV-Vis spectroscopy. Key parameters including pH, temperature, and reaction time were varied to identify optimal conditions. Control experiments with modified BN alone were also performed.

Conclusion: In this study, MnOx/BN nanostructures were successfully synthesized via a green synthesis route and comprehensively characterized. The resulting MnOx-decorated biphasic nanostructures exhibited enhanced photocatalytic performance, enabling the rapid and efficient degradation of MB. Among the nanostructures synthesized by immobilizing Mn (II) onto modified BN at different pH levels (3.0-8.0), followed by green oxidation to MnOx, pH 6.0 was identified as the optimal immobilization pH based on photocatalytic performance under identical experimental conditions (initial MB concentration: 10 ppm; pH: 7.0; solid-to-liquid ratio: 1:1, light exposure time: 2 hours). Under these conditions, the MnOx/BN nanocomposite achieved a removal efficiency of 94.5%. Furthermore, 52.3% of the MB solution was degraded within the first 5 minutes, indicating a rapid initial reaction rate. Moreover, the composite retained stable performance under varying pH and temperature conditions, indicating its suitability for real-world wastewater treatment applications. The use of *Stevia rebaudiana* extract as a natural reducing agent not only reduced environmental impact but

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also offered a cost-effective synthesis alternative. These findings suggest that MnOx/BN nanocomposites have strong potential for scaling up and application in industrial wastewater treatment systems.

Keywords: biphasic nanostructures, metal oxide, nanocomposite, methylene blue, photocatalysis

Removal of Dyestuff from Aqueous Solutions using Magnetic Cerium Particles

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Abstract

Dyes used for coloring purposes in various industries, such as textiles, paper, paint, pharmaceutical, plastic, and automotive, are released into the environment with industrial wastewater and cause significant environmental pollution. Inorganic and organic pollutants released into the environment through wastewater are carcinogenic, toxic, and pose a threat to both living and non-living life. Wastewater must be treated to prevent environmental pollution and maintain ecological balance. Adsorption is generally the preferred method for wastewater treatment [1-2]. In this method, natural adsorbents such as chitosan, alginate, and zeolite have been preferred as adsorbents in recent years because they are non-toxic, biodegradable, environmentally friendly, and reusable [3-6]. Alginate, a natural adsorbent, is a salt of alginic acid, obtained from algae, and reacts with multivalent cations to form polymeric beads. These polymeric beads are used to remove various pollutants from wastewater. Studies on the removal of dye, fluoride and phosphate from wastewater with different adsorbent materials prepared using alginate have been reported in the literature [7-11].

This study investigated the removal of malachite green dye from aqueous solutions using magnetic cerium particles and adsorption. Magnetic cerium particles were obtained using an ionic cross-linking method. Previously synthesized iron particles were used for this purpose [4]. The adsorbent material was obtained by ionic cross-linking with cerium, a rare earth element, using an alginate solution containing iron particles. Subsequently, parameters such as pH, time, and adsorbent amount, which would affect the experimental procedure in this study, were optimized. Adsorption isotherm and kinetic studies were conducted under optimum conditions. The results demonstrated that magnetic cerium particles are effective in removing malachite green dye and can be used for dye removal in wastewater.

Keywords: dye, cerium, magnetic, optimization

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Chemical Characterization of Lignocellulosic Biomass for Sustainable Biofuel ProductionGizem ÖZER¹, Neslihan DURANAY², Şeyda TAŞAR³^{1,2,3} Chemical Engineering Department, Engineering Faculty, Firat University, Elazığ, TURKEY.¹9314gizem@gmail.com, ²nduranay@firat.edu.tr, ³sydtasar@firat.edu.tr¹(ORCID: 0000-0003-3610-8454), ²(ORCID: 0000-0001-7259-1864), ³(ORCID: 0000-0003-3184-1542)**Abstract**

The world's population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050 [1], which is accelerating the consumption of energy, food, fuel, and basic chemicals. This trend has intensified the search for new, alternative, and sustainable resources. Biomass, which has attracted global attention as a renewable carbon source, exists in various forms and is utilized to produce heat, electricity, fuels, and other value-added by-products [2]. It is generally classified as municipal solid and sewage waste, agricultural and forestry residues, and biological waste. Lignocellulosic biomass obtained from agricultural and forestry residues is the only renewable energy source containing carbon and has been identified as a suitable feedstock for biofuel production [2]. However, much of this lignocellulosic waste is either discarded or burned as low-quality fuel, leading to the loss of renewable resources and causing significant environmental pollution. Biomass sources are considered carbon-neutral because the CO₂ emitted during combustion is balanced by the CO₂ absorbed by plants through photosynthesis [3]. Therefore, renewable carbon-containing resources derived from agricultural and forestry waste can be effectively used in the production of biofuels and other biochemicals [2]. Moreover, utilizing waste biomass for the production of biofuels and biomaterials embodies a "waste-to-wealth" approach, enhancing profitability throughout the energy production process [4].

Lignocellulosic biomass possesses a complex and heterogeneous structure composed primarily of three biopolymers: cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin, along with minor amounts of extractives and ash [5]. Cellulose, a linear homopolysaccharide consisting of β-(1→4)-linked D-glucose units, forms crystalline microfibrils that provide mechanical strength and structural stability to plant cell walls. Hemicellulose is an amorphous heteropolysaccharide composed of various monosaccharides such as xylose, mannose, galactose, and arabinose, which act as a matrix between cellulose fibrils and lignin, contributing to flexibility and water retention. Lignin, a complex aromatic polymer rich in phenylpropanoid units, fills the spaces between cellulose and hemicellulose, imparting hydrophobicity, rigidity, and resistance to microbial degradation. This intricate lignocellulosic architecture confers remarkable durability to biomass but also presents challenges for conversion into biofuels, necessitating effective pretreatment strategies [5,6]. The first step in producing bioproducts from lignocellulosic feedstocks involves fractionating these structural components through pretreatment processes, which can be categorized as chemical (e.g., acid or alkali hydrolysis, organosolv), physical (e.g., milling, steam explosion), or biological (e.g., enzymatic hydrolysis) [7,8].

In this study, four different lignocellulosic biomass sources—almond shells, corn stalks, walnut shells, and pine sawdust—were chemically characterized to determine their extractive matter, cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin contents. Pine sawdust exhibited a high extractive content attributable to its resinous nature and a cellulose proportion of 44.178%, indicating strong potential for producing high-yield biofuels via pyrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis. Almond shells were found to contain 53.157% hemicellulose and 17.021% lignin, offering enhanced thermal stability and superior combustion properties due to the synergistic effects of hemicellulose devolatilization and lignin char formation. Walnut shells demonstrated a balanced distribution of cellulose and lignin, which may provide versatility in both biochemical (fermentation) and thermochemical (gasification, pyrolysis) conversion routes. Corn stalks, with relatively lower lignin content, could facilitate easier enzymatic saccharification, making them favorable for bioethanol production. These findings highlight the importance of compositional analysis in selecting feedstocks for targeted bioenergy pathways, as variations in cellulose crystallinity, hemicellulose branching, and lignin cross-linking directly impact conversion efficiency, product selectivity, and overall process sustainability [1,4].

Keywords: lignocellulosic biomass, sustainable energy, biofuel, biomass waste, chemical analysis

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Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles from Walnut Shell Extract and Their Comparative Performance in PLA/Epoxy and PLA/PEG Biocomposites

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Abstract

In recent years, environmentally friendly and sustainable production approaches have become increasingly important in chemical and materials engineering, as well as other engineering fields. The efficient use of natural resources, the recycling of waste, and the development of biodegradable materials are among the primary objectives [1]. Agricultural waste, in particular, is considered an important resource due to its richness and abundance of organic compounds, and must be converted into added value. Innovative methods must be developed to process these wastes without harming the environment. The development of nanotechnology has made the use of biogenic extracts obtained from agricultural waste an effective approach for producing environmentally friendly, economical, and low-toxic nanoparticles [2]. Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) have a wide range of applications in various fields, including biomedicine and environmental technologies, due to their antibacterial, antioxidant, and electronic properties [3]. A common strategy is to reinforce AgNPs in biodegradable polymer matrices to improve stability and ease of use. Biodegradable polymers such as polylactic acid (PLA) have gained prominence in recent years due to their environmentally friendly structures and good mechanical properties. However, their brittleness and limited electrical properties can be improved using various additives [4]. Hybrid systems formed with polymers such as epoxy and polyethylene glycol (PEG) have the potential to enhance mechanical strength and functionality [5]. The homogeneous distribution of nanoparticles within the polymer matrix is critical for the performance of composites. Improved dispersion provides significant enhancements to mechanical strength, thermal stability, and electrical properties [6]. Significant emphasis has therefore been placed on dispersion techniques in the synthesis and composite manufacturing processes. This approach offers flexibility in material design and enables a wide variety of applications. It has also laid the groundwork for the integration of sustainable biocomposites into industrial processes. Furthermore, the aim is to minimize environmental impact.

This study aims to produce AgNPs using a green synthesis method involving walnut shell extract, utilizing the abundant waste product of walnut shells. A comparative performance analysis will be conducted by adding these nanoparticles to PLA/epoxy and PLA/PEG hybrid polymer systems at different ratios. The walnut shell provides a high level of reducing capacity and nanoparticle stability thanks to its rich content of phenolic compounds and tannins. The walnut shell extract was prepared in distilled water at specific ratios, mixed with an AgNO₃ solution, and allowed to react on a magnetic stirrer at room temperature. The phenolic compounds reduced the Ag⁺ ions and also stabilized the nanoparticles as a natural capping agent. The AgNPs obtained after the reaction were then centrifuged and purified. Synthesis was carried out under controlled temperature and pH conditions to ensure reproducibility and homogeneity [7]. The resulting AgNPs were then integrated into PLA/epoxy and PLA/PEG systems at various ratios. Controlling the size and morphology of the nanoparticles and the synthesis parameters resulted in narrowly distributed, stable particles. Furthermore, the dispersion techniques employed in producing the composites aimed to ensure a balanced, homogeneous distribution of the AgNPs within the polymer matrix. This is critical for achieving significant improvements in the mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties of the composites.

Comprehensive analyses were conducted to evaluate the mechanical properties, density, Shore A hardness, thermal conductivity, thermal stability, dielectric constant, and microstructure of the developed biocomposites. Advanced techniques such as FTIR, XRD, SEM, and optical microscopy were employed in the characterization process. The analyses revealed an increase in Shore hardness of up to 10%, as well as a significant improvement in the dielectric constant, both of which increased with nanoparticle content. Bulk density decreased slightly, which was associated with micro-pore formation. Microscope images showed that a low nanoparticle content led to homogeneous distribution, whereas a higher content increased agglomeration tendencies, particularly in the PLA/epoxy system. Adding PEG improved the distribution of nanoparticles in the PLA/PEG system, reducing porosity and preserving structural integrity. Thermal analysis results showed that adding AgNPs had a positive effect on the thermal stability of the composites, thus enhancing their durability in high-temperature applications. These improvements in dielectric performance suggest that these biocomposites could be used in electrical insulation and sensor technologies.

Although there are various studies in the literature on synthesizing AgNPs using plant waste extracts as reducing and capping agents, and incorporating these nanoparticles into PLA-based composites, most have only examined a single polymer system [8] and have not conducted comparative analyses of their dielectric, mechanical, and microstructural properties. Furthermore, information on the optimal

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addition ratios and uniform distribution of AgNPs in biodegradable matrices is lacking [9]. This study addresses these issues by comprehensively comparing AgNPs synthesized using walnut shell extract in two different polymer systems. The study also makes a significant contribution to the principles of the circular economy and industrial symbiosis by converting waste into valuable nanomaterials. This approach is a pioneering example of current research into developing sustainable production models.

The developed biocomposites have a wide range of applications in the biomedical field, including wound dressings, medical device coatings, active food packaging (to extend shelf life), low-voltage electrical insulation, flexible sensor technologies, and protective surface coatings [10]. The results show that adding 0.5 wt.% AgNPs provide an optimal balance of mechanical, electrical, and microstructural properties. However, dispersion homogeneity deteriorated at higher nanoparticle content. These findings are important for designing and producing biodegradable composites on an industrial scale. This study makes significant scientific and environmental contributions to sustainable material production and waste management. Furthermore, comparing the performance of AgNPs in different polymer systems offers new insights into biocomposite design. Future studies are recommended to optimize synthesis parameters and expand application areas.

Keywords: green synthesis, silver nanoparticles, polylactic acid, biocomposite, walnut shell extract, characterization, sustainable materials.

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Faunistic Contribution to Turkish Cicadellidae: First Record of *Frutoidia* (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) in Bingöl

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Abstract

This study reports the first faunistic record of *Frutoidia* (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) in Bingöl province, Eastern Turkey. A total of 88 specimens (55 females and 33 males) were collected in August 2025 from *Crataegus monogyna* using the Japanese umbrella method. The species, previously recorded in various regions of Turkey, is known to inhabit Rosaceae plants but has not been confirmed as a vector of plant pathogens. The new locality extends the known distribution of *F. bisignata* and highlights the need for further ecological and phytopathological research in Eastern Anatolia.

Keywords: *Frutoidia bisignata*, Cicadellidae, *Crataegus monogyna*, Bingöl province, Leafhopper, Hemiptera, Faunistic study, First record, Eastern Anatolia

1. Introduction

The family Cicadellidae (leafhoppers) includes numerous species of economic importance due to their ability to cause direct feeding damage and, more importantly, their role as vectors of plant pathogens such as viruses and phytoplasmas. Although many Cicadellidae species have been recorded in Turkey, the faunistic diversity of the eastern regions, including Bingöl province, remains underexplored.

Frutoidia (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) is a Palearctic species with a wide geographical distribution, including several countries across Europe and Western Asia (Dlabola, 1981; Lodos & Kalkandelen, 1984). In Turkey, the species has previously been reported from Adana, İzmir, Isparta, Giresun, and several other provinces (Bozbuğa & Elekçioğlu, 2008). It is known to inhabit grassy areas, shrubs, and orchards and is typically associated with members of the Rosaceae family. Documented host plants include *Crataegus* sp., *Malus* sp., *Prunus spinosa*, and *Prunus amygdalus* (Anonymous, 2025).

The species has also been recorded among leafhopper fauna associated with cherry trees in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Kaya & Başpınar, 2020). However, despite its widespread presence, there is currently no evidence of *F. bisignata* acting as a phytoplasma or virus vector. A survey conducted in Lebanon, for instance, reported the species in high numbers within apricot orchards but noted no plant damage or vector activity (Anonymous, 2012).

This study documents the first faunistic record of *Frutoidia* (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* from Bingöl province. The record contributes to our understanding of the distribution range of this species in Turkey and provides valuable baseline data for future ecological and phytopathological assessments in the region.

2. Material and Methods

Specimens of *Frutoidia* (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) were collected during a faunistic survey conducted in August 2025 within the province of Bingöl, Turkey. Individuals were sampled in the evening hours from natural populations of *Crataegus* sp. by employing the Japanese umbrella shaking method. The dislodged specimens were subsequently collected using an aspirator.

In the laboratory, the specimens were examined under a dissection microscope, and the necessary dissection procedures were performed to expose diagnostic morphological characters. High-resolution photographic documentation was prepared and archived digitally. The identification of the species was confirmed as *Frutoidia* (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* by taxonomic specialist Dr. Francesco Poggi.

3. Results

Frutoidia (*Frutoidia*) *bisignata* (Mulsant et Rey, 1855) (Figure 1).

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Material examined: Bingöl, Center, Çavuşlar, 19.08.2025, 55 ♀, 33♂, **Totally:** 88 exc.

Distribution in the World: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece (Euboea), Iran, Israel, Italy (also Sardinia), Jordan, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Russia, Serbia, Iran (Dlabola, 1981; Lodos and Kalkandelen, 1984; Bozbuğa and Elekçioğlu, 2008).

Distribution in Turkey: Adana, Çankırı (İlgaz) Giresun, Bitlis, Isparta, İzmir, Nevşehir, Karabük Trabzon, Ordu.

Biological note: Specimens were collected in late August on *Crataegus monogyna*



Figure 1. The habitus of *Frutoidia (Frutoidia) bisignata* (Mulsant et Rey, 1855) (Figure 1).

4. Discussions

During a faunistic survey conducted on 19 August 2025 in Çavuşlar, Bingöl (Eastern Turkey), a total of 88 specimens of *Frutoidia (Frutoidia) bisignata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) were collected from *Crataegus monogyna* plants. The sample comprised 55 females and 33 males. This record represents the first documentation of the species from Bingöl province and, more broadly, one of the few faunistic reports from the Eastern Anatolia Region.

Frutoidia bisignata has previously been recorded in various parts of Turkey, including Adana, İzmir, Isparta, Karabük, Giresun, and Nevşehir, among others (Lodos & Kalkandelen, 1984; Bozbuğa & Elekçioğlu, 2008). However, the species' presence in Bingöl a high-altitude, continental climate region indicates a potentially broader ecological tolerance and distribution range than previously assumed.

The specimens in this study were collected in the evening hours, using the Japanese umbrella method, a widely accepted and efficient technique for capturing arboreal Hemiptera. Their high numbers on *Crataegus monogyna* also reinforce previous records that associate this species with Rosaceae hosts (Anonymous, 2025).

Although *F. bisignata* has been found in economically significant crops such as cherry (Kaya & Başpınar, 2020) and olive (Bozbuğa & Elekçioğlu, 2008), there is no existing evidence that this species acts as a phytoplasma or virus vector. In a survey conducted in Lebanon, *F. bisignata* was recorded in large numbers within apricot orchards, yet researchers observed no plant damage or pathogen transmission, suggesting the species may not play a role in disease dynamics (Anonymous, 2012).

However, given its abundance in certain cultivated crops and ornamental plants, the vector potential of *F. bisignata* should not be entirely ruled out. Future studies incorporating molecular diagnostics (PCR/qPCR) and pathogen transmission tests are recommended to assess whether this species harbors or transmits phytopathogenic organisms under certain environmental or host conditions.

5. Conclusions

The confirmation of *Frutoidia (Frutoidia) bisignata* from Bingöl expands the known distribution of this Palearctic species within Turkey and contributes to the faunistic database of the Eastern Anatolia Region. While its ecological role currently appears neutral, ongoing monitoring and pathogen screening are essential, especially in the context of expanding agricultural production and climate-related shifts in vector-host dynamics.

Acknowledgments

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Synthesis of 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide Compound and Investigation of its Experimental and Theoretical Spectra

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Abstract

Biologically, cancer is characterized by abnormal cells separating from the primary tissue, exhibiting uncontrolled proliferation, and spreading to different areas through metastasis. Inhibiting this uncontrolled cell proliferation is one of the primary targets of anticancer treatment strategies. This effect can be achieved, in particular, by the application of chemical agents that disrupt the DNA replication process and thereby inhibit cellular proliferation[1]. Thiosemicarbazides, on the other hand, are known to be a group of organic compounds that can exert effects on various mechanisms involved in tumor formation, according to recent scientific reports [2]. Thiosemicarbazides are organic ligands containing nitrogen and sulfur, with a structure of $-NH-C(=S)-NH_2$ or its derivatives. The anticancer activity of thiosemicarbazide derivatives has been confirmed in numerous experimental and theoretical studies; the mechanisms of this effect are closely related to the presence and properties of substituent groups in the molecule [3]. Furthermore, thiocarbazine derivatives exhibit promising biological activities due to their antimicrobial, antitumor, antiviral, anti-HIV, insecticidal, antisklerotic, antioxidant, antiparasitic, and anti-inflammatory effects and syntheses [2,4,5]. Thiosemicarbazides have a flexible structure due to their delocalized charge. This also allows for a range of coordination modes that have a significant impact on both structural and biological aspects [6]. Thiosemicarbazide derivatives have the ability to form intermolecular hydrogen bonds due to the presence of N-H proton-donating groups[4]. In particular, the presence of electron-donating ($-OCH_3$, $-CH_3$) and electron-withdrawing ($-NO_2$, $-Cl$) substituents has significant defining characteristics on DNA interactions and cell permeability. Researchers have shown particular interest in the use of thiosemicarbazide-based compounds as potential drug candidates due to their ability to interact with biological targets and modulate specific cellular pathways. [8] Again, from a biological effects perspective, thiosemicarbazide complexes are known to be able to pass through the semipermeable membrane of cells and exert anticancer therapeutic effects, generally by inhibiting DNA synthesis and increasing oxidative stress [10]. Hybrid molecules obtained from the synthesis reaction of thiosemicarbazides with triazoles are considered promising agents in the design of anticancer, antimicrobial, and antiviral agents from a pharmaceutical perspective, as they increase biological activity due to the combination of their structural and electronic properties. [11] These interactions at the molecular level enable the optimization of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of drugs, such as bioavailability, selectivity, and therapeutic efficacy.

This study focuses on the compound 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl), synthesized as a novel thiosemicarbazide derivative that will contribute to the literature. The aim is to contribute to establishing the biological activities of this new derivative as a basis for applications such as anticancer drug development and antiviral and antimicrobial agent design.

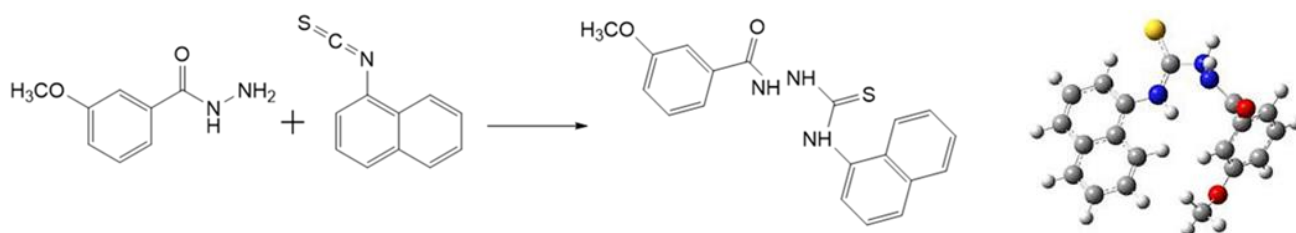


Figure 1: Synthesis Scheme of Thiosemicarbazide Derivative

The synthesized compound was evaluated using spectroscopic methods such as FT-IR, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR, as well as HOMO, LUMO analysis, and MEP maps. The FT-IR spectrum of the synthesized compound was measured using a PERKIN ELMER Spectrum 100 Spectrometer (Adiyaman University, Adiyaman), while the ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy with a Bruker AscendTM 400 MHz Avance III HD (Inonu University, Malatya).

The HOMO-LUMO gap is defined as the energy difference between the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO). It is known as the energy difference between HOMO and LUMO and is

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considered an important parameter that determines the chemical reactivity of molecules along with their electronic properties. HOMO represents the nucleophilic character of the molecule, which is its ability to donate electrons, while LUMO represents the electrophilic character, which is its tendency to accept electrons. A larger HOMO-LUMO gap indicates higher stability. HOMO-LUMO analysis is used as a specific determinant in many scientific research areas, such as stability and reactivity assessments, photovoltaic material development, molecular electronics, and drug design.

HOMO-LUMO analysis showed that 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide has a suitable energy gap. This indicates an appropriate balance between stability and reactivity for biological interactions.

The MEP map (Molecular Electrostatic Potential Map) is a method that visualizes a molecule's electron density and, consequently, its positive or negative charge distribution in three dimensions. These maps are used to predict a molecule's reactivity, identify regions susceptible to nucleophilic or electrophilic attack, and understand weak interactions such as intermolecular hydrogen bonding, ion-dipole, and π - π interactions. They are also considered an important theoretical chemistry tool in drug design for identifying potential active regions that could bind to target proteins. For this purpose, nucleophilic or electrophilic attack-prone regions, weak interactions such as intermolecular hydrogen bonding, ion-dipole, and π - π interactions were defined by considering the MEP map of the compound 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide.

MCF-7 (breast cancer cell line) cells are known as estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) cells. Aromatic and lipophilic structures generally provide an advantage in binding to receptors or enzymes in this cell line. The ligand-protein interaction map obtained from the molecular docking analysis of the 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide compound on MCF7 cancer cells (breast cancer cells) was also evaluated. In this context, it was observed that the compound 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide may exhibit antiproliferative activity in MCF-7 cells.

Thiosemicarbazide derivatives are known to have pronounced cytotoxic effects on L1210 (leukemia cell line) cells, particularly by suppressing DNA synthesis and inhibiting cellular enzyme activities. For this purpose, the effects of the compound 1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(naphthalen-1-yl) thiosemicarbazide on L1210 (leukemia cells) were evaluated based on the ligand-protein interaction obtained from molecular docking analysis. The compound's ability to obtain a stable conformation in the binding region, along with the limited level of negative interactions, was seen to support the molecule's compatible binding with the target protein.

Characterization results confirmed the synthesis of the compound. This new thiosemicarbazide derivative demonstrated potential as a candidate for pharmacological applications in the investigation of biological activities.

All these computational methods provided valuable data on the structural, electronic, and pharmacological properties of the compound, serving as a basis for further in vitro and in vivo studies.

Keywords: Thiosemicarbazide, anticancer, NMR, FTIR

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Thermochemical Valorization of Microalgal Biomass: Insights into Torrefaction and Pyrolysis Pathways for Sustainable Bioenergy Production (Mini- Review)

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Abstract

Growing environmental concerns, rising global energy demand, and the rapid depletion of fossil fuels have made the shift toward renewable energy sources a global necessity [1, 2]. The limitations and environmental harms of conventional energy systems have accelerated the search for cleaner and more sustainable alternative clean energy biobased resource [2]. Among these, microalgae have attracted increasing attention as third-generation bioenergy feedstocks due to their exceptional biological and ecological characteristics [4]. With high photosynthetic efficiency, rapid biomass production, and the ability to grow on non-arable land using saline or wastewater instead of freshwater, microalgae contribute to energy generation without competing with food production [5]. Additionally, their ability to fix atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) makes them a strategic resource for both renewable energy and climate change mitigation [6].

This brief review focuses on the role of microalgae in thermochemical conversion technologies, particularly torrefaction and pyrolysis processes [7, 8, 9]. Torrefaction, typically conducted in an inert atmosphere at temperatures between 200–300 °C, is known as a mild thermal pretreatment that enhances the fuel properties of biomass [10]. This process increases energy density, improves structural integrity, reduces moisture content, and enhances water resistance, making the biomass more suitable for subsequent energy conversion methods such as pyrolysis or gasification. In microalgae, torrefaction facilitates the breakdown of cellular structures, alters surface properties, and reduces the oxygen-to-carbon ratio, directly influencing pyrolytic behavior.[11, 12].

This mini-review was evaluated how torrefaction affects product yields (bio-oil, syngas, biochar), energy recovery, and emission profiles during the pyrolysis of microalgal biomass. Due to microalgae's higher protein and lipid contents and lower lignin levels compared to conventional lignocellulosic biomass (such as wood, straw, or agricultural residues), microalgae follow different thermal decomposition pathways. These differences significantly influence volatile release, char formation, and gas composition.

In this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the thermochemical valorization of microalgae by synthesizing recent findings in the literature. The insights offered can help guide experimental research, inform process optimization strategies, and support the development of environmentally friendly, scalable bioenergy technologies.

Keywords: microalgae, biomass, torrefaction, thermochemical conversion, renewable energy

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Fabric Defect Detection Using Synthetic Defect Augmentation and Deep Learning

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Abstract

1. Introduction

A growing population and the accompanying rapid rise in consumption rates are necessitating significant changes in the global economy. One of the sectors where this change is most evident is the textile industry. This growing demand requires the adoption of high-volume production processes in this sector [1]. Maintaining high product quality alongside high-volume production is a critical factor in achieving competitive advantage today. Therefore, while increasing production capacity, quality control processes must also adapt to the increased speed and scale. Traditional quality control methods prove inadequate for high-volume production lines [2]. Defects are often overlooked during visual inspection [3]. Artificial intelligence-assisted solutions for defect detection in various sectors have the potential to offer more effective performance than traditional quality control systems, owing to their high accuracy [4]. Studies on artificial intelligence-based defect detection are widely reported in the literature within the textile industry [5–7] and other industrial domains [8–10]. In our study, synthetic defect generation was performed using a limited number of textile images, with a focus on defect detection in textile products.

2. Materials and Methods

In our study, the TILDA dataset [11], which is widely used in the literature for textile defect detection, was employed. From the plain fabric subset of the dataset, 100 images per class (defect-free, hole/tear, stain, and yarn defect) were selected, resulting in a total of 400 real images. In addition to these real images, the defect-free class was augmented using rotation, horizontal flipping, cropping, and translation to increase its sample size. Synthetic defects corresponding to the three defect classes (hole/tear, stain, and yarn defect) were generated on the augmented defect-free images. Synthetic defect images were generated using the OpenCV Python library by adding hole/tear, stain, and yarn defect patterns to 500 defect-free images, resulting in a balanced dataset with 500 images per class. Model training was performed using the ResNet-18 architecture, with 80% of the data allocated for training and 20% for testing. ResNet-18 is an 18-layer deep residual network widely used for image classification tasks [12]. The final layer of the model was configured to classify four classes. The model was evaluated using accuracy and macro-F1 score metrics.

3. Results and Discussion

The model developed in this study was evaluated in two stages. In the first stage, only the original dataset was used, and the model achieved an accuracy of 96.25% and a macro-F1 score of 0.963. This result indicates that the model trained on the original data achieved satisfactory performance. In the second stage, the incorporation of synthetic defect data into the training set led to a measurable improvement in model performance. At this stage, accuracy reached 98.04% and the macro-F1 score reached 0.981. Our findings demonstrate that synthetic defect generation enhances the model's ability to distinguish different defect types. It can be concluded that synthetically generated data serves as a valuable supplement for deep learning-based models, particularly when only a limited number of original images are available.

4. Conclusion

In this study, synthetic defects were generated on a textile dataset with limited defect images, and defect detection was conducted using a deep learning-based model. The findings revealed that the incorporation of synthetic data into the model significantly improved performance. These results indicate that synthetic data augmentation can provide an effective and scalable solution for reliable and rapid quality control, particularly in high-volume textile production lines. Future studies may further enhance system performance by incorporating a wider range of defect types, larger datasets, and more advanced deep learning architectures.

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Keywords: fabric defects, synthetic data, deep learning

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