

## Microwave Assisted Synthesis of Thiocarbamoylpyrazoles and Application as an Alternative Latent Fingerprint Developers

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Fingerprints are unique to each individual, contributing to human identification in forensic cases. The powder technique being widely used is considered one of the most important in latent fingerprints analysis. In this sense, the present work aimed to synthesize 1-thiocarbamoyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles and apply them as powder agents to develop latent fingerprints. The compounds were prepared from an effective and green synthesis via the condensation of chalcones with thiosemicarbazide in ethanol under microwave irradiation. Pyrazoles were tested and compared with a standard white powder (Sirchie®) on glass surfaces using sebaceous and natural fingerprints so that molecule **2c** has been shown to be more promising providing image clarity. The derivatives of pyrazoles were promising as an alternative latent fingerprint, presenting high quality images for fingerprints, proving to be a great tool for forensic sciences.

**Keywords:** pyrazole, dusting powder, latent fingerprint, forensic chemistry

### Introduction

Pyrazole and derivatives are interesting heterocyclic compounds since they show a wide range of pharmacological and biological properties including antioxidant, antitumor, antimicrobial, analgesic and anti-inflammatory.<sup>1-4</sup> In general, the activities are provided because of the presence of the N–N bonds in the pyrazole ring.<sup>5</sup> Microwave assisted organic synthesis highlights key advances in the development of organic chemistry. Its efficiency in accelerating reaction rates has been emulated in several fields of organic synthesis.<sup>6-8</sup> This can improve the yield and purity of the final compounds in short reaction times through the precise control of parameters such as power irradiation, pressure and temperature.<sup>9,10</sup>

The fingerprints when detected at crime scenes are considered as circumstantial evidence in forensic investigations and criminal justice.<sup>11</sup> Such importance is due to the uniqueness in ridge pattern for each individual and thus are unique and vital for the identification and/or involvement of a suspect.<sup>12</sup> When found in the latent form, for visualization to be possible, it is necessary that some substances react chemically or physically with the compounds present in the fingerprint.<sup>13</sup> In this context, heterocyclic compounds have been contributing to papiloscopia for the improvement of new fingerprint developers. For example, phenanthroimidazole and benzazoles have been used as new fluorescent powder for the development of latent fingerprints; and 1,2-indanedione and ninhydrins derivatives as novel reagents for detection of amino acids in latent fingerprints.<sup>14-18</sup>

Motivated by the importance of forensic chemistry, and in continuation of our research efforts,<sup>19-21</sup> we have tried to

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highlight aspects reported on the chemistry and forensic application of pyrazole nucleus. The aim of this work was to synthesize a series of 1-thiocarbamoyl-3,5-diaryl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles under microwave irradiation in order to apply them as novel white powders for the development of latent fingerprints.

## Experimental

### Apparatus and analysis

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX500 spectrometer in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (500 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 126 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Melting points were recorded in open capillary on an electrothermal apparatus (model Fisatom 430). The compounds were analyzed with Fourier transform model Shimadzu Prestige 21 (Shimadzu) scanning from 4000 to 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . All solvents and chemicals were research grade and were used as obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

### General procedure for the synthesis of thiocarbamoylpyrazoles

In a 50 mL rounded flask, chalcone **1a-1h** (2.0 mmol) and thiosemicarbazide (2.0 mmol) were mixed with ethanol (10 mL) and KOH was added.<sup>22</sup> The reaction mixtures were then inserted in a microwave model Discover System (CEM), with power 100 W, 250 psi at 50 °C for 15 min. For the conventional methodology, the reagents were used at the same quantities and the reaction was refluxed for 4 h. In both cases the solid obtained were filtered and washed with cold ethanol and dried under vacuum to give the pure 1-thiocarbamoyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles **2a-2h**. All compounds were macerated with liquid nitrogen for application as a powder.

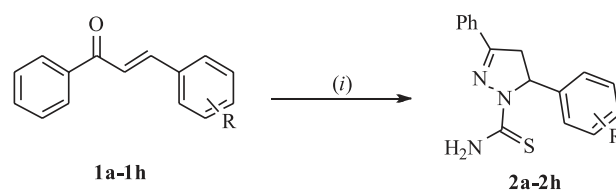
### Latent fingerprints deposition and development

Latent fingerprints were collected from 3 donors on glass surface and natural and sebaceous contents were evaluated. For sebaceous collection, the fingers were rubbed on nose and forehead and homogenized with each other, while for natural collection the donor's hand was washed with soap and water and the latent fingerprints were collected half an hour later.<sup>23</sup> All the revelations were made 24 h after the depositions by physical method. Specific brushes were used for the development and cleaning of excess dust (132LBW and CFB100 from Sirchie®). In addition, a Sirchie® fingerprint developer white powder was

used as standard for comparison. The images were taken with a Canon EOS Rebel T6 semi-professional camera with a distance of 9 cm and focus 5.6.

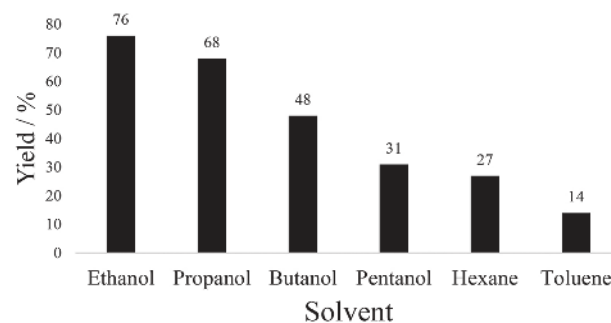
## Results and Discussion

According to the methodology used, a sequence of 1-thiocarbamoyl-3,5-diaryl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles was synthesized by thiosemicarbazide and the different substituted chalcones as shown in Scheme 1.



**Scheme 1.** (i)  $\text{NH}_2\text{NHC}(\text{S})\text{NH}_2$ , KOH, EtOH, microwave, 15 min (yields 53-85%).

For optimization of the use of the best solvent in the synthesis of thiocarbamoylpyrazoles it was evaluated which of them had the best yield as shown in Figure 1. Optimization was performed using the unsubstituted structure **2a**. From this, the best methodology was applied for the series of pyrazoles **2a-2h**.

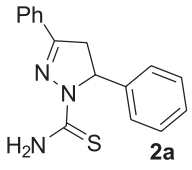
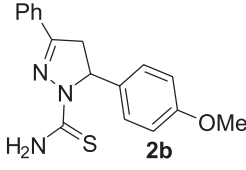
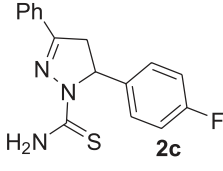
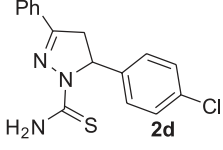
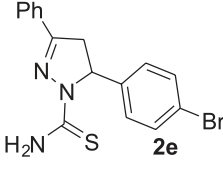
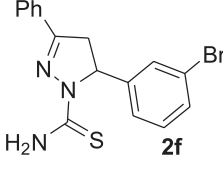
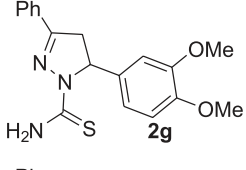
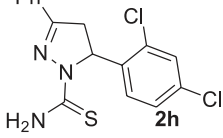


**Figure 1.** Solvent evaluation related to the yield obtained.

The compounds showed good yields (53-85%) and high conversion (Table 1). These yields are in accordance with other methodologies<sup>24</sup> such as utilization of ultrasound irradiation and more promising than conventional heating methodologies.

Moreover, the most satisfactory yield was obtained using ethanol, which also provided a synthesis process in accordance with green chemistry principles that include low cost and renewable materials. Such efficiency of ethanol to other solvents (Figure 1) may be related to the dielectric constant due to the greater dipole-dipole interaction necessary to cyclocondensation reaction and products obtention.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the column purifications or recrystallization were not required, avoiding the excessive expenditure of solvents.

**Table 1.** Preparation of 1-thiocarbamoyl-3,5-diaryl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles **2a-2h** via microwave

Product 2	Microwave			Classical reaction		
	time / min	mp / °C	Yield / %	time / h	mp / °C	Yield / %
 <b>2a</b>	15	200-203	76	4	185-188	81
 <b>2b</b>	15	166-169	65	4	165-166	59
 <b>2c</b>	15	235-237	77	4	233-235	72
 <b>2d</b>	15	174-178	73	4	174-178	76
 <b>2e</b>	15	195-197	78	4	196-197	80
 <b>2f</b>	15	211-216	78	4	209-214	75
 <b>2g</b>	5	159-160	85	4	159-160	76
 <b>2h</b>	15	217-220	53	4	217-219	82

mp: melting point.

Moreover, the application of microwave irradiation avoided excessive reaction times and high temperatures.

The compounds **2a-2h** were characterized by infrared spectroscopy (IR) and <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy as described previously by our group.<sup>24</sup> Spectroscopic data of

the synthesized compounds are described in Supplementary Information section.

The prepared compounds **2a-2h** were applied as latent fingerprinting powders and compared with commercial Sirchie® white powder due to similar staining. In this

sense, the evaluation of the image quality of fingerprints developments can be described by the level of detail according to Sears *et al.*,<sup>23</sup> where 0 corresponds to no mark evidence; 1: weak development, evidence of contact but no ridge details; 2: limited development, about 1/3 of ridge details are present but probably cannot be used for identification purposes; 3: strong development, between 1/3 and 2/3 of ridge details, identifiable fingerprint; 4: very strong development, full ridge details, identifiable fingerprint. Thus, Table 2 shows the efficiency of the development of natural and sebaceous fingerprints using thiocarbamoylpyrazoles **2a-2h** and the white standard powder.

From this, it was possible to identify that most of the compounds present efficiency similar or superior to the same color standard used by the scientific police. Molecule **2c** provided promising results regarding image clarity resulting in visible ridges, strong development and presence of minutiae that assisted in the identification of fingerprints.<sup>26,27</sup> In addition, to investigate the interaction of compounds with the surface, electron microscopy was performed. Figure 2 demonstrates a split assay in which the same fingerprint was developed using compound **2c** and the white standard powder. Moreover, Figure 2 also shows a scanning electron microscopy analysis of a fingerprint enhanced with compound **2c**.

In special, from the comparison between compound **2c** and the white standard powder it is possible to observe

that both are similar, which confirms the efficiency of the new synthesized developer, providing good image quality. According to the SEM images, it is possible to observe the adhesion of the compound **2c** to the glass surface. In addition, it was observed that the synthesized powder adhered only to friction ridges avoiding adherence to the glass surface and, thus, provided adequate images of the enhanced fingerprints.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, a new synthesis methodology was developed for the 1-thiocarbamoyl-3,5-diaryl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazoles series by microwave irradiation. It has advantages over existing methods such as reaction time and it does not require solvent waste in column purification. This procedure represents an economic and environmentally friendly process for the synthesis of pyrazole derivatives. These compounds represent a new class of latent fingerprint developers. They demonstrated high quality images, especially pyrazole **2c**, which proved to be the most promising in natural and sebaceous fingerprints. Thus, the prepared compounds are of paramount importance because they provide fingerprints that could be used in human identification, contributing to the forensic sciences.

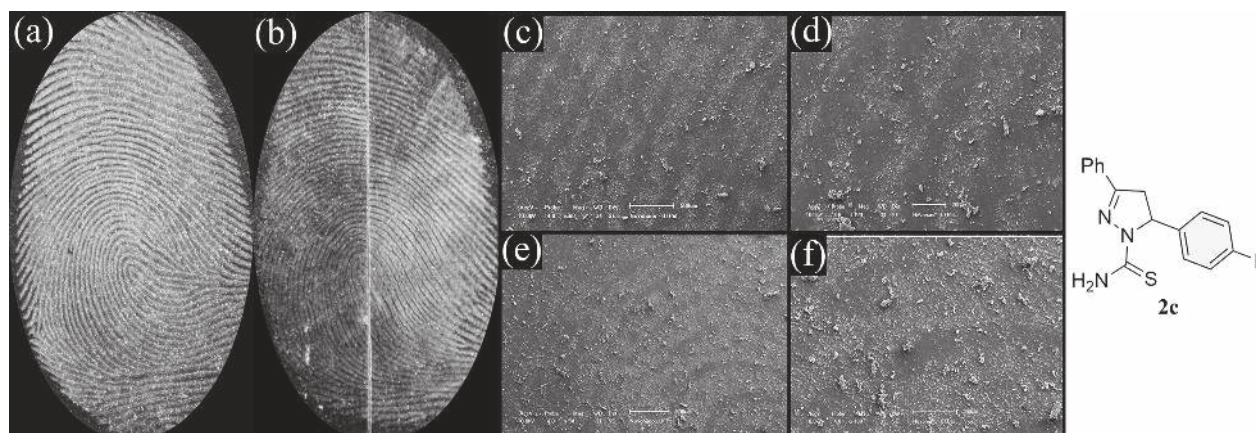
## Supplementary Information

Supplementary data of the synthesized compounds

**Table 2.** Developing efficiency of thiocarbamoylpyrazoles **2a-2h** and white standard powder on sebaceous and natural fingerprints

Thiocarbamoylpyrazole <sup>a</sup>		<b>2a</b>	<b>2b</b>	<b>2c</b>	<b>2d</b>	<b>2e</b>	<b>2f</b>	<b>2g</b>	<b>2h</b>	White standard powder
Efficiency	sebaceous fingerprint	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	3
	natural fingerprint	2	2	4	2	1	1	2	3	3

<sup>a</sup>Powdered compounds.



**Figure 2.** Latent fingerprint developed using (a) pyrazole **2c** and (b) white standard powder; SEM images with dimensions (c, e) 500 and (d, f) 200  $\mu\text{m}$  revealed with compound **2c**.

**2a-2h** and fingerprint development analysis associated with this work are available free of charge at <http://jbcbs.sbj.org.br> as a PDF file.

## Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to the Coordination for the Improvement of Personnel in Higher Education (CAPES) and National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT Forencics, CNPq 465450/2014-8) for technical assistance and resources. This work is part of the project "Revealers and Forensic Markers: Obtainment and Chemical Properties - 8634".

## Author Contributions

Bruno N. da Rosa was responsible for the investigation and resources; Dalila Venzke for the writing review and editing; Taís Poletti, Nathalia P. K. de Lima and Jeanifer T. Camacho for the investigation; Kristiane C. Mariotti for the validation; Marco A. Z. dos Santos and Neftalí L. V. Carreño for the formal analysis; Lucas Pizzutti for the resources; Claudio M. P. Pereira for the project administration and resources.

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Submitted: October 22, 2019

Published online: January 30, 2020

