

Aryloxyacetic esters structurally related to α -Asarone as potential antifungal agents

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Abstract A series of aryloxyacetic ester analogues **8–13** was synthesized based on the potential pharmacophores of the antifungal agents α -Asarone (**1**) and **2–5**. Their antifungal activity was tested in vitro for their growth inhibitory activities against pathogenic fungi. The in vitro antifungal evaluation of these alkyl and aryl esters shows that derivatives **10** displayed the highest antifungal and fungicidal activities against *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *C. gattii*. These results support the idea that the phenoxyacetic frame is a potent pharmacophore for the design of potential antifungal drugs.

Keywords α -Asarone · Antifungal activity · *Cryptococcus neoformans* var. *neoformans* · *Cryptococcus gattii* · Phenoxyacetic frame

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