

# Studies on Synthesis and Anthelmintic Activities of Some N-Benzylidenepyridin-2-amines

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## Summary

A series of N-benzylidenepyridin-2-amines (**1a-j**) were synthesized by heating 2-aminopyridine with different substituted aromatic aldehydes in the presence of toluene. The structures of the synthesized compounds were confirmed on the basis of IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and mass spectral data. The compounds **1a-j** were screened for anthelmintic activity. Test results revealed that the compounds showed paralysis time of 0.27 to 1.52 min and death time of 0.42 to 4.42 min, whereas the standard drugs albendazole and piperazine citrate showed paralysis time of 0.54 and 0.58 min and death time of 2.16 and 2.47 min, respectively at the same concentration of 1% (m/V). Five compounds, N-(2-hydroxybenzylidene)pyridin-2-amine (**1e**), N-(4-bromobenzylidene)pyridin-2-amine (**1g**), N-(4-nitrobenzylidene)pyridin-2-amine (**1h**), N-(4-hydroxybenzylidene)pyridin-2-amine (**1i**) and N-(4-methoxybenzylidene)pyridin-2-amine (**1j**) showed the highest anthelmintic activity.

**Key Words:** N-benzylidenepyridin-2-amines, 2-aminopyridine, N-benzylideneanilines, anthelmintic, antiparasitic

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*Bazı N-Benzilidenpiridin-2-aminlerin Sentezleri ve Antihelmintik Aktiviteleri Üzerine Çalışmalar*

## Özet

Bir seri N-benzilidenpiridin-2-amin türevi (**1a-j**), 2-aminopyridinin farklı sübstituentler taşıyan aromatik aldehytlerle toluene içerisinde ısıtılmasıyla sentezlendi. Sentezlenen bileşiklerin yapıları IR, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and mass spectrum verileri ile aydınlatıldı. Bileşiklerin **1a-j**, antihelmintik aktiviteleri tarandı. Bileşiklerin 0.27 ile 1.52 dakikalar arasında paraliz, 0.42 ile 4.42 dakikalar arasında ölüme neden oldukları belirlendi. Standart olarak kullanılan albendazol ve piperazine sitrat aynı konsantrasyonda %1 (m/V), sırasıyla 0.54 ve 0.58 dakikada paraliz, ve 2.16 ve 2.47 dakikada ölüme denen olmuştur. Beş adet bileşik, N-(2-hidroksibenziliden)piridin-2-amin (**1e**), N-(4-bromobenziliden)piridin-2-amin (**1g**), N-(4-nitrobenziliden)piridin-2-amin (**1h**), N-(4-hidroksibenziliden)piridin-2-amin (**1i**) ve N-(4-metoksibenziliden)piridin-2-amin (**1j**) en yüksek antihelmintik aktiviteye sahip bulundu.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** N-benzilidenpiridin-2-amin, 2-aminopyridin, N-benzilideneanilin, antihelmintik, antiparazitik

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## INTRODUCTION

In coordination chemistry, Schiff bases have a significant role as ligands still a century after their discovery (1,2). The Schiff bases and their metal complexes are important as biochemical (3), electrochemical (4), analytical (5), antifungal and antibacterial activities (6-9), redox catalysts (10,11). The synthesis and assaying of biological activity of *N*-benzylideneanilines have received considerable interest in recent decades. Due to the presence of the carbon-nitrogen double bond, *N*-benzylideneanilines provide a potential site for chemical (12-14) as well as biological activity (15). The effect of the nature of the substituent and its position (16) on the aromatic rings of these compounds on their biological activity has been thoroughly investigated. The extent of conjugation in the molecule and the length of spacer between two phenyl rings (17) play a vital role in determining biological activity. *N*-benzylideneanilines show biological activities including antibacterial (18-20), antifungal (21,22), anticancer (23-25) and herbicidal (26) activities. In view of the above observations, the synthesis of *N*-benzylideneaniline derivatives have been developed starting from various substituted benzylidene anilines with the aim of investigating their anthelmintic activities.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

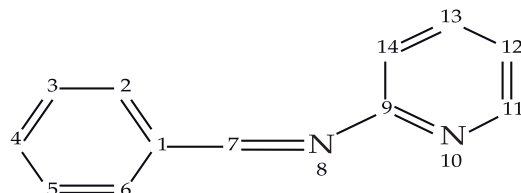
### Chemistry

The chemicals and solvents used for the experimental work were commercially procured from E. Merck, India, CDH, s.d. Fine Chem, India and Qualigens, India. Silica gel G used for TLC was obtained from E. Merck. Melting points were determined in an open glass capillary using a Kjeldahl flask containing paraffin and are uncorrected. The proton and carbon magnetic resonance spectra ( $^1\text{H NMR}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ ) were recorded on a Bruker 300 MHz instrument (Bruker, Germany) in dimethyl sulfoxide- $d_6$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ) using tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are expressed in ppm. The infrared spectra of compounds were recorded in KBr on a Fourier Transform FTIR-8400S (Shimadzu, Japan) infrared spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a LC-MS/MS (API-4000 TM, Applied BioSystems, MDS SCIEX, Canada). Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer model 240c analyzer

(Perkin Elmer, USA). The physicochemical data of the compounds are listed in **Table 1**. The spectral data of the synthesized compounds have been presented under the experimental part.

### General Procedure for the Preparation of *N*-Benzylidenepyridin-2-amines (1a-j)

2-Aminopyridine (1.85 g, 0.0197 mol) in 20 mL toluene was added to a solution of substituted aromatic aldehyde (0.0197 mol). The reaction mixture was heated, stirring for 2 h at 60-70°C. The mixture was filtered and then the solvent was evaporated. The crude products were purified by crystallization from ethanol to give desired compounds **1a-j** (27).



***N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine (1a)**. Yield: 2.45 g (68.43%). m.p.: 178-180°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.88. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1625 (-CH = N-), 1570 (C-C aromatic) 3010 (C-H aromatic).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.4 (d, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 7.3 (s, 3H, H-11, H-12 & H-13), 7.6 (t, 2H, H-10 & H-14), 8.6 (d, 1H, H-6) & 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 160.7 (C-2), 137.3 (C-4), 150.4 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 133.8 (C-9), 129.2 (C-10 & C-14), 128.9 (C-11 & C-13). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 182. Elemental analysis Found for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2$ , M. W.: 182 (%): C, 78.98; H, 5.41; N, 7.74; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 79.09; H, 5.53; N, 7.67.

***N*-(2-chlorobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1b)**. Yield: 3.6 g (84.50%). m.p.: 210-212°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.93. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1632 (-CH = N-), 1568 (C-C aromatic), 3023 (C-H aromatic).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.34 (d, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 8.2 (m, 4H, H-10, H-11, H-13 & H-14), 6.8 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.04 (d, 1H, H-6), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 157.3 (C-2), 116.2 (C-3), 139.3 (C-4), 147.4 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 132.4 (C-9), 130.8 (C-10 & C-14), 131.8 (C-11 & C-13). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 216.6. Elemental analysis Found for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{Cl}$ , M. W.: 216.6 (%): C, 66.21; H, 4.11; N, 12.56; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 66.52; H, 4.19; N, 12.93.

**Table 1.** Anthelmintic activity of synthesized compounds

Compound	Time for paralysis (min) a				Time for death (min) a			
	Concentration (g / dl)				Concentration (g / dl)			
	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0
<b>1a</b>	3.25 ±0.57	2.24 ±0.12	1.27 ±0.16	1.22 ±0.16	7.13 ±0.96	5.09 ±0.21	3.15 ±0.23	2.28 ±0.15
<b>1b</b>	4.44 ±0.30	3.15 ±0.40	2.08 ±0.20	1.52 ±0.26	11.21 ±0.54	9.29 ±0.98	4.57 ±0.41	4.42 ±0.08
<b>1c</b>	3.08 ±0.04	2.45 ±0.09	2.37 ±0.15	1.09 ±0.17	8.07 ±0.21	5.57 ±0.23	4.05 ±0.39	2.23 ±0.03
<b>1d</b>	2.39 ±0.26	2.08 ±0.18	1.51 ±0.03	1.18 ±0.10	6.15 ±0.27	4.32 ±0.09	3.25 ±0.10	2.45 ±0.08
<b>1e</b>	1.27 ±0.10	1.11 ±0.02	0.55 ±0.16	0.43 ±0.07	3.05 ±0.22	2.25 ±0.10	2.14 ±0.15	1.55 ±0.26
<b>1f</b>	4.55 ±0.36	3.12 ±0.40	2.25 ±0.09	1.28 ±0.09	9.45 ±0.66	7.07 ±1.39	5.28 ±0.13	3.07 ±0.37
<b>1g</b>	2.08 ±0.18	1.48 ±0.21	1.16 ±0.06	0.55 ±0.15	8.56 ±0.31	5.05 ±0.19	4.04 ±0.04	2.09 ±0.04
<b>1h</b>	1.26 ±0.19	1.08 ±0.18	0.35 ±0.03	0.27 ±0.06	4.16 ±0.29	2.34 ±0.48	1.16 ±0.06	1.05 ±0.17
<b>1i</b>	4.09 ±0.39	2.29 ±0.09	1.02 ±0.15	0.52 ±0.006	20.55 ±0.26	8.53 ±0.35	2.34 ±0.13	1.29 ±0.03
<b>1j</b>	1.32 ±0.08	0.38 ±0.02	0.32 ±0.01	0.35 ±0.009	5.39 ±0.21	1.44 ±0.06	1.08 ±0.04	0.42 ±0.006
<b>Negative control (Dimethyl sulphoxide)</b>	24.47 ±0.05	22.09 ±0.11	20.13 ±0.02	17.19 ±0.21	38.09 ±0.09	37.12 ±0.22	34.23 ±0.17	30.09 ±0.11
<b>Albendazole</b>	1.36 ±0.06	1.31 ±0.09	1.05 ±0.03	0.54 ±0.02	4.11 ±0.21	4.02 ±0.24	3.58 ±0.23	2.16 ±0.03
<b>Piperazine citrate</b>	2.06 ±0.03	1.51 ±0.19	1.25 ±0.007	0.58 ±0.34	6.02 ±0.31	4.42 ±0.36	4.04 ±0.03	2.47 ±0.03

<sup>a</sup> Mean ±SEM, *n* = 6.

**N- (2-bromobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1c).** Yield: 4.8 g (93.56%). m.p.: 151-153°C (EtOH). *R*<sub>f</sub>: 0.87. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1628 (-CH = N-), 1563 (C-C aromatic), 3036 (C-H aromatic), 515 (C-Br). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>;

δ, ppm): 7.6 (m, 1H, H-5), 6.6 (m, 2H, H-11 & H-13), 6.9 (d, 2H, H-10 & H-14), 6.8 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>; δ, ppm): 161.8 (C-2), 110.8 (C-3), 122.4 (C-5), 160.1 (C-8), 132.8 (C-9), 132.8 (C-10 &

C-14), 131.4 (C-11 & C-13), 125.4 (C-12). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 261. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_9N_2Br$ , M. W.: 261 (%): C, 54.75; H, 3.31; N, 11.04; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 54.47; H, 3.25; N, 11.13.

***N*- (2-nitrobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1d)**. Yield: 3.7 g (82.95%). m.p.: 245-247°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.90. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1638 (-CH = N-), 1350 (C-C aromatic), 3040 (C-H aromatic).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.2 (d, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 7.4 (d, 3H, H-11, H-12 & H-13), 7.6 (t, 2H, H-10 & H-14), 8.53 (d, 1H, H-6) & 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 160.2 (C-2), 137.4 (C-4), 148.8 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 132.8 (C-9), 129.7 (C-10 & C-14), 130.4 (C-11 & C-13), 131.1 (C-12). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 227. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_9N_3O_2$ , M. W.: 227 (%): C, 63.78; H, 4.20; N, 18.84; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 63.47; H, 4.23; N, 18.70.

***N*- (2-hydroxybenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1e)**. Yield: 2.5 g (64.26%). m.p.: 127-130°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.82. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1650 (-CH = N-), 1570 (C-C aromatic), 3030 (C-H aromatic), 3210 (OH).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.4 (t, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 7.1 (m, 4H, H-10, H-11, H-13 & H-14), 7.3 (d, 1H, H-4), 8.42 (d, 1H, H-6), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 161.8 (C-2), 110.2 (C-3), 113.3 (C-5), 152.6 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 132.8 (C-9), 131.4 (C-10 & C-14), 131.8 (C-11 & C-13). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 198. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_{10}N_2O$ , M. W.: 198 (%): C, 73.01; H, 4.33; N, 13.89; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 73.11; H, 4.27; N, 13.74.

***N*- (4-chlorobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1f)**. Yield: 4.1 g (96.24%). m.p.: 191-193°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.95. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1632 (-CH = N-), 1578 (C-C aromatic), 3033 (C-H aromatic).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.6 (d, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 7.1 (d, 4H, H-10, H-11, H-13 & H-14), 7.9 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.5 (d, 1H, H-6), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 159.2 (C-2), 112.5 (C-3), 138.8 (C-4), 160.1 (C-8), 132.8 (C-9), 131.4 (C-10 & C-14), 131.8 (C-11 & C-13), 131.1 (C-12). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 216.6. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_9N_2Cl$ , M. W.: 216.6 (%): C, 66.43; H, 3.69; N, 13.21; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 66.34; H, 3.57; N, 13.26.

***N*- (4-bromobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1g)**. Yield: 4.7 g (91.62%). m.p.: 186-188°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.91. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1630 (-CH = N-), 1563 (C-C aromatic),

3049 (C-H aromatic), 510 (C-Br).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 7.4 (d, 2H, H-3 & H-5), 7.5 (m, 4H, H-10, H-11, H-13 & H-14), 7.8 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.6 (d, 1H, H-6), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 160.6 (C-2), 115.8 (C-3), 137.3 (C-4), 150.8 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 132.8 (C-9), 131.4 (C-10 & C-14), 131.8 (C-11 & C-13). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 261. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_9N_2Br$ , M. W.: 261 (%): C, 55.59; H, 3.82; N, 10.51; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 55.38; H, 3.79; N, 10.46.

***N*- (4-nitrobenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1h)**. Yield: 3.4 g (76.23%). m.p.: 99-101°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.89. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1646 (-CH = N-), 1361 (C-C aromatic), 3030 (C-H aromatic).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 6.6 (m, 1H, H-5), 7.65 (d, 2H, H-11 & H-13), 7.7 (d, 2H, H-10 & H-14), 7.44 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 158.7 (C-2), 116.6 (C-3), 136.6 (C-4), 151.7 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 131.4 (C-9), 132.2 (C-10 & C-14), 130.3 (C-11 & C-13). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 227. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_9N_3O_2$ , M. W.: 227 (%): C, 63.84; H, 4.21; N, 18.08; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 63.73; H, 4.25; N, 18.13.

***N*- (4-hydroxybenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1i)**. Yield: 3.1 g (79.69%). m.p.: 107-109°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.97. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1648 (-CH = N-), 1559 (C-C aromatic), 3052 (C-H aromatic), 3210 (OH).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 6.8 (d, 2H, H-11 & H-13), 7.4 (t, 4H, H-3, H-5, H-10 & H-14), 7.8 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.6 (d, 1H, H-6), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.1 (s, 1H, OH).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 160.3 (C-2), 137.3 (C-4), 120.4 (C-5), 148.0 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 126.4 (C-9), 130.6 (C-10 & C-14), 116.0 (C-11 & C-13), 160.8 (C-12). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 198. Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{12}H_{10}N_2O$ , M. W.: 198 (%): C, 73.22; H, 5.46; N, 13.78; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 73.18; H, 5.43; N, 13.69.

***N*- (4-methoxybenzylidene) pyridin-2-amine (1j)**. Yield: 3.4 g (81.53%). m.p.: 95-98°C (EtOH).  $R_f$ : 0.86. IR (KBr,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1640 (-CH = N-), 1569 (C-C aromatic), 3023 (C-H aromatic), 1100 (OCH<sub>3</sub>).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 6.6 (m, 1H, H-5), 6.65 (m, 2H, H-11 & H-13), 6.95 (d, 2H, H-10 & H-14), 7.44 (t, 1H, H-4), 8.1 (s, 1H, H-8), 3.6 (s, 1H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ;  $\delta$ , ppm): 158.6 (C-2), 109.9 (C-3), 138.3 (C-4), 148.2 (C-6), 160.1 (C-8), 134.0 (C-9), 128.0 (C-10 & C-14), 114.1 (C-11 & C-13), 158.7 (C-12), 55.7 (C-16). MS (FAB;  $m/z$ ): 212.

Elemental analysis Found for  $C_{13}H_{12}N_2O$ , M. W.:212 (%): C, 73.78; H, 6.27; N, 12.97; Anal. calcd. (%): C, 73.69; H, 6.21; N, 12.93.

### Anthelmintic Activity

The newly synthesized compounds were tested for anthelmintic activity, according to the method described by Kuppast and Nayak (28). *Pheretima posthuma* (earth worms) were obtained from Shibpur Botanical Garden, Kolkata, India) of nearly equal size ( $6 \pm 1$  cm) were selected randomly for present study. The worms were acclimatized to the laboratory conditions before experimentation. The earthworms were divided into four groups of six earth worms in each group. Albendazole and piperazine citrate diluted with normal saline solution to obtain 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1% (*m/V*) served as standards and were poured into Petri dishes. The synthesized compounds were dissolved in minimal quantities of ethanol and diluted to prepare the same concentrations as above for each compound. Normal saline served as control. The mean paralysis time and mean lethal time for each compound was calculated (each reading was taken in triplicate). The time taken for worms to become motionless was noted as paralysis time and to ascertain death, each worm was frequently applied with external stimuli which stimulates and induce movement in the earth worms, if alive.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

### Chemistry

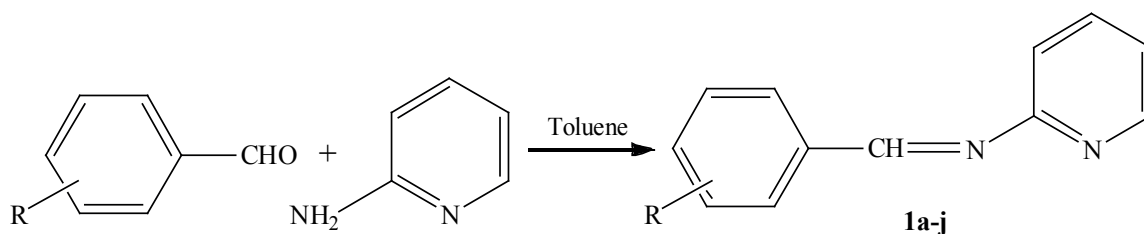
*N*-Benzylidenepyridin-2-amines (**1a-j**) were synthesized by heating 2-aminopyridines with different substituted aromatic aldehydes in the presence of toluene. The synthetic pathway is presented in Scheme 1. The IR spectra of compounds **1a-j** revealed the presence of absorption bands

from 1625 to 1650  $cm^{-1}$  that indicate the presence of azomethinic (-CH = N-) linkage, from 1350 to 1578  $cm^{-1}$  for C-C aromatic, and from 3010 to 3052  $cm^{-1}$  for C-H aromatic stretching vibrations. In addition to the proton signals of the functional groups and both aromatic ring present in the respective molecule  $^1H$  NMR spectra of these compounds contained one proton singlet at  $\delta$  8.1 ppm which was assigned to azomethinic proton. The  $^1H$  NMR spectra of compounds **1a-j** showed singlets, doublets, triplets and multiplets from  $\delta$  6.6 to 8.6 ppm for aromatic protons, one singlet at  $\delta$  5.1 ppm and  $\delta$  3.6 ppm for -OH and -OCH<sub>3</sub> proton of compound **1i** and **1j** respectively confirming the formation of compounds **1a-j**. The  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of compounds **1a-j** showed peaks from  $\delta$  109.9 ppm to 161.8 ppm for aromatic protons,  $\delta$  55.7 ppm for -OCH<sub>3</sub> carbon of compound **1j**, confirming the formation of compounds **1a-j**. The mass spectra of compounds **1a-j** showed molecular ion peaks  $M^+$  at  $m/z$  corresponding to their respective molecular masses, which is in consistency with their respective molecular formulas (Tables 1 and 2).

### Anthelmintic Activity

The anthelmintic activities of all compounds were examined using reported procedures (19). The anthelmintic evaluation of the compounds **1a-j** in earth worm is summarized in Table III together with standard drug albendazole and piperazine citrate. A closer inspection of the data from the table indicates that compounds **1e**, **1g**, **1h**, **1i** and **1j** have higher activity than other compounds which was confirmed from their paralysis time (0.43, 0.55, 0.27, 0.52 and 0.35 min, respectively) and death time (1.55, 2.09, 1.05, 1.29 and 0.42 min, respectively) whereas the standard drugs albendazole and piperazine citrate showed paralysis time of 0.54 and 0.58 min and

**Scheme 1.** Schematic representation of the synthesized compounds.



R = H (**1a**), 2-Cl (**1b**), 2-Br (**1c**), 2-NO<sub>2</sub> (**1d**), 2-OH (**1e**), 4-Cl (**1f**), 4-Br (**1g**), 4-NO<sub>2</sub> (**1h**), 4-OH (**1i**), 4-OCH<sub>3</sub> (**1j**)

death time of 2.16 and 2.47 min, respectively at the same concentration of 1% (*m/V*).

Compounds with hydroxy substituent in *ortho* and *para* position of the phenyl ring of *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine (compounds **1e** and **1i**) led to considerable increase in the activities. Again, compound with methoxy substituent in *para* position of *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine (compound **1j**) led to considerable increase in the anthelmintic activities. The electron withdrawing nitro group at *para* position of *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine resulted in an increase in activity of the compound **1h**. The effect of *p*-bromo substitution on *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine gives the anthelmintic activity of the compound **1g**. Hence there is no significant role of both electron withdrawing and donating group on anthelmintic activity.

## CONCLUSIONS

Various *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine derivatives were prepared with the objective of developing better anthelmintic molecules. The compounds bearing 2-hydroxy, 4-bromo, 4-nitro, 4-hydroxy and 4-methoxy of *N*-benzylidenepyridin-2-amine were found to have improved activity compared to albendazole and piperazine citrate.

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