

## A REVIEW ON CHALCONES

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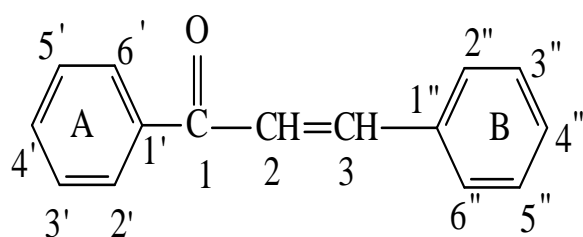
### ABSTRACT

The chalcones are important intermediates in the synthesis of pyrazoles, isoxazoles, pyrimidines and other heterocyclic systems. The compounds with chalcone as backbone have been reported to possess varied biological and pharmacological activities, including antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, cytotoxic, antitumor, antimalarial, antitubercular, antiviral, anti-HIV, antiulcerative, antileishmanial, antioxidant, antiprotozoal, antihistaminic, antifedent, immunomodulatory, anticonvulsant, antihyperglycemic, antihyperlipidemic and antiplatelet activities. The review describes a brief account of various modifications reported on chalcones, which resulted in a variety of biological and pharmacological activities.

**KEYWORDS:** Chalcones, Pyrazoles, Isoxazoles, Pyrimidines.

### INTRODUCTION

Chalcones<sup>[1]</sup>, a group of compounds with two aromatic rings connected by a keto-vinyl chain, constitute an important class of naturally occurring flavonoids exhibiting a wide spectrum of biological activities. The presence of a reactive  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated keto functional group is partly responsible for their activity. Chalcones occur widely in nature particularly in colored flowers.



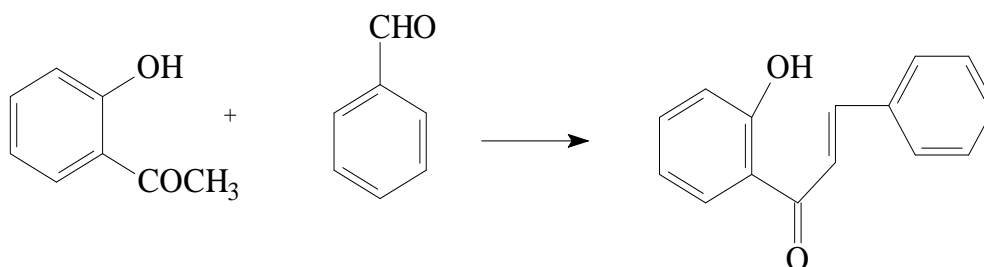
**General Structure of Chalcone**

All the chalcones give pink coloration with concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (positive Wilson test)<sup>[2]</sup> and violet coloration with

alcoholic ferric chloride solution when substituted with a phenolic hydroxyl. Chalcones on heating with traces of iodine in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) for 2 h give the corresponding flavones. Chalcones were converted to the corresponding flavonols by their oxidation using hydrogen peroxide in methanolic sodium hydroxide solution and these flavonols showed characteristic greenish yellow fluorescence in ethanolic solution as well as with concentrated sulphuric acid.<sup>[3]</sup>

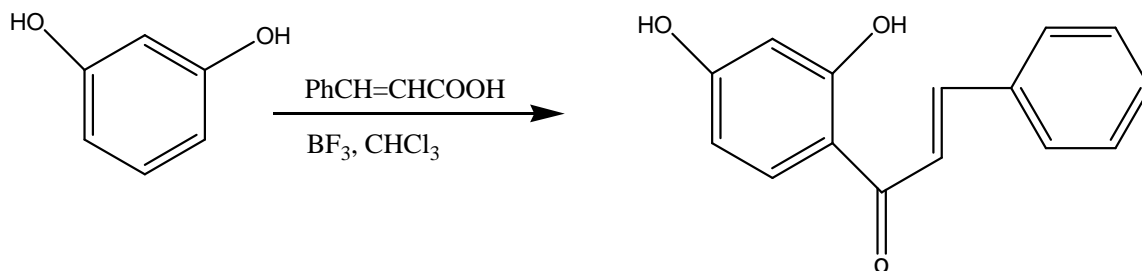
### GENERAL METHODS OF SYNTHESIS

The chalcones are important intermediates in the synthesis of pyrazoles, isoxazoles, pyrimidines and other heterocyclic systems. They can be obtained by the acid or base catalyzed aldol condensation of 2-hydroxyacetophenones with benzaldehydes.<sup>[4-6]</sup> For example 2-hydroxyacetophenone and benzaldehyde react in the presence of 0.1M NaOH to give the chalcone<sup>[7]</sup> (Scheme-1).



**Scheme-1**

Cinnamic acid condenses with resorcinol in chloroform in the presence of boron trifluoride to yield the chalcone<sup>[8]</sup> (Scheme-2).



Scheme-2

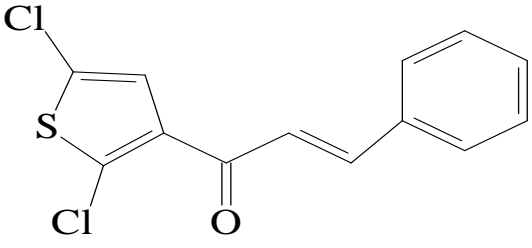
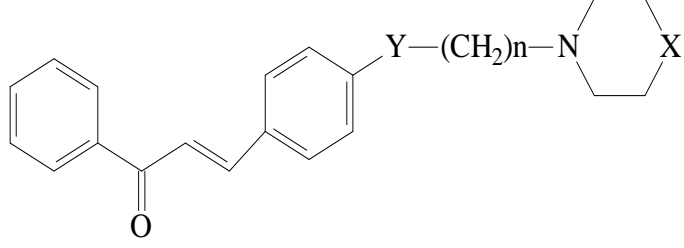
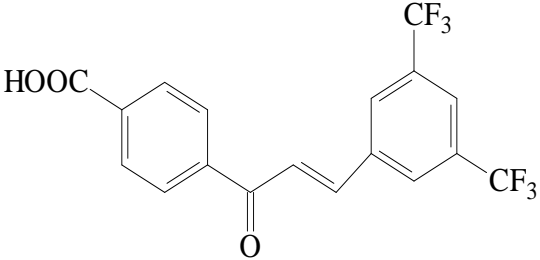
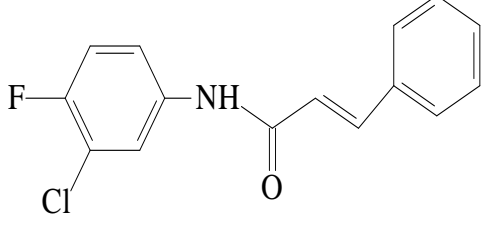
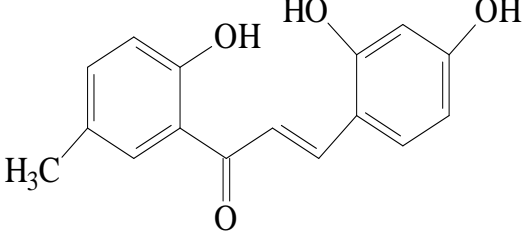
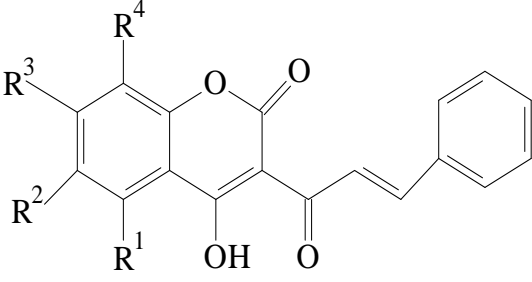
### THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF CHALCONES

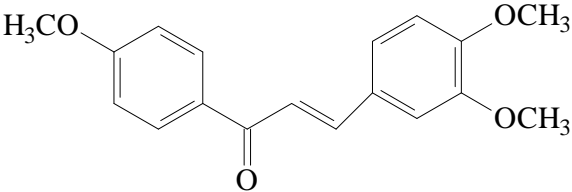
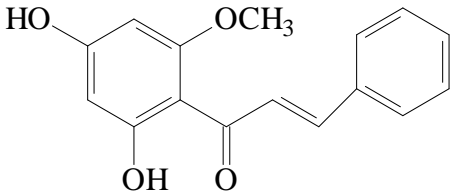
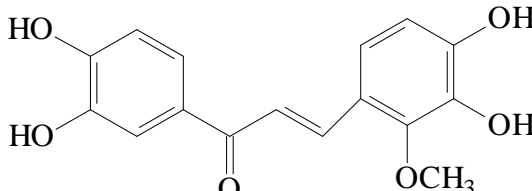
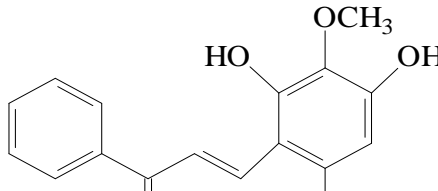
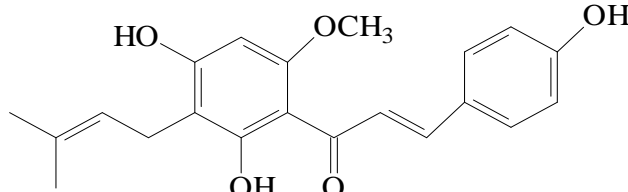
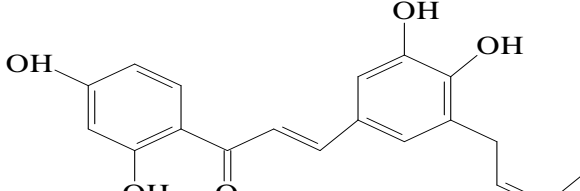
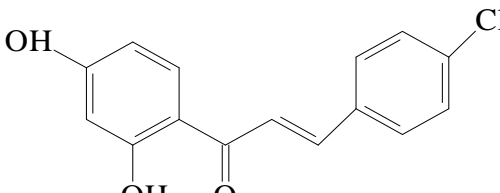
Chalcone is a unique template that is associated with several biological activities and is well known intermediates for synthesizing various heterocyclic compounds. They are secondary metabolites of terrestrial plants, precursors for the biosynthesis of flavonoids. The introduction of a halogen into the benzenoid part of these  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones enhances their biological activity.

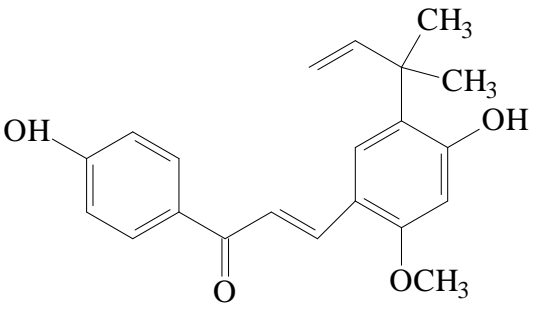
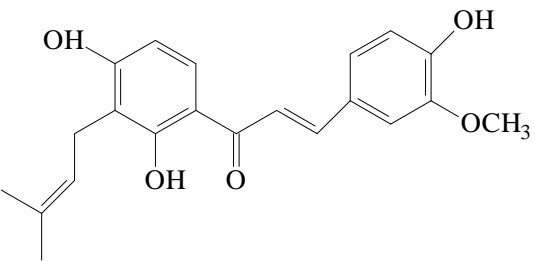
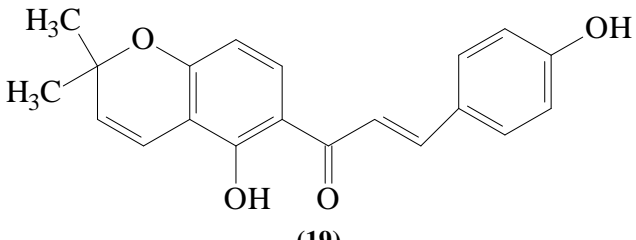
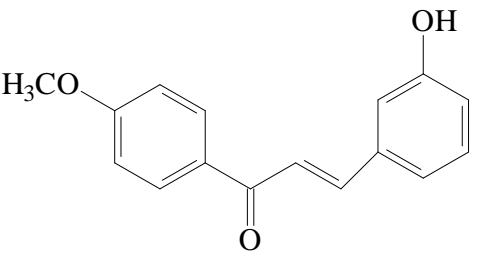
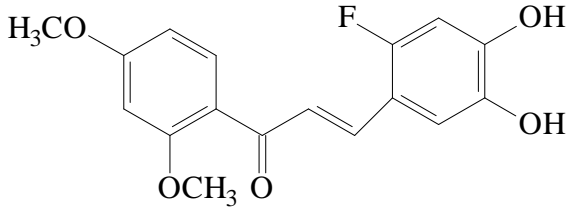
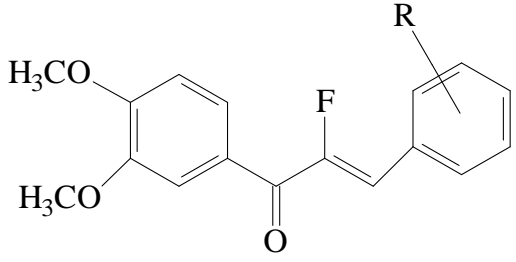
The compounds with chalcone as backbone have been reported to possess varied biological and pharmacological activities, including antimicrobial, anti-

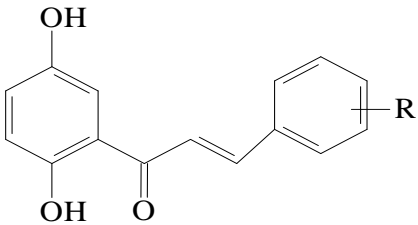
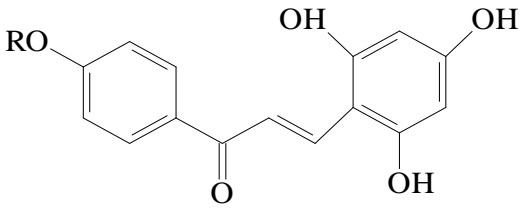
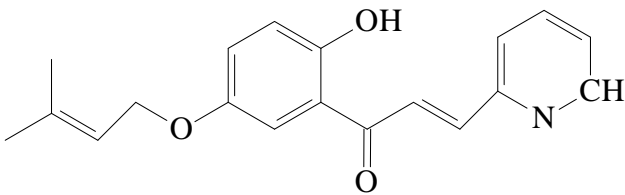
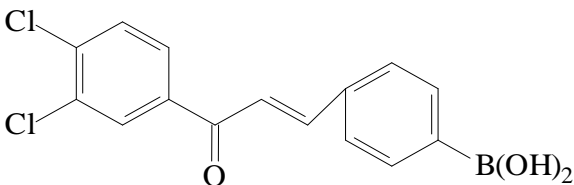
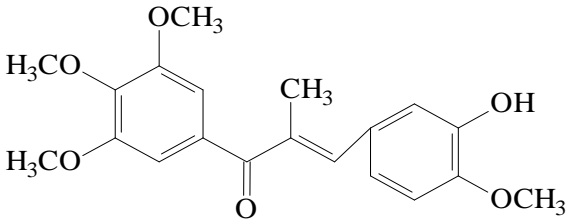
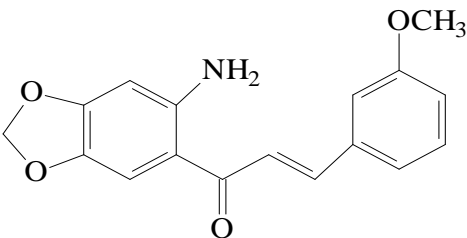
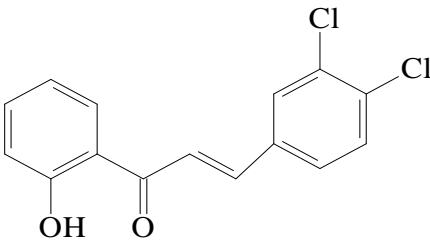
inflammatory, analgesic, cytotoxic, antitumor, antimalarial, antitubercular, antiviral, anti-HIV, antiulcerative, antileishmanial, antioxidant, antiprotozoal, antihistaminic, antifedent, immunomodulatory, anticonvulsant, antihyperglycemic, antihyperlipidemic and antiplatelet activities. Thus chalcones continue to attract considerable scientific attention because of their association with a variety of biological activities. Given below is a brief account of various modifications reported on chalcones, which resulted in a variety of biological and pharmacological activities.

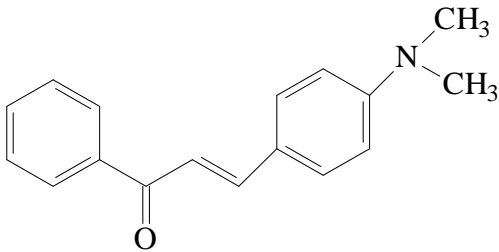
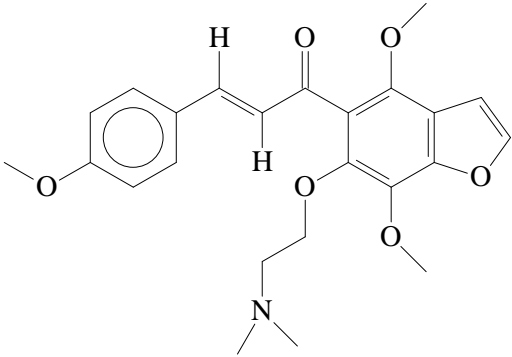
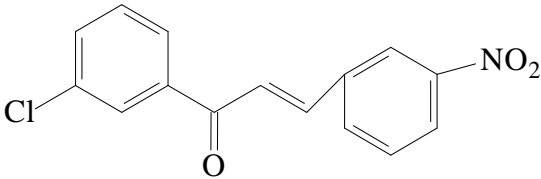
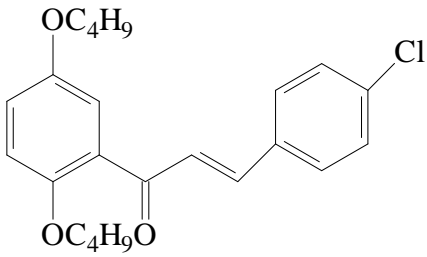
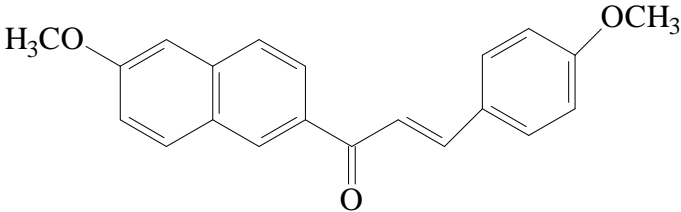
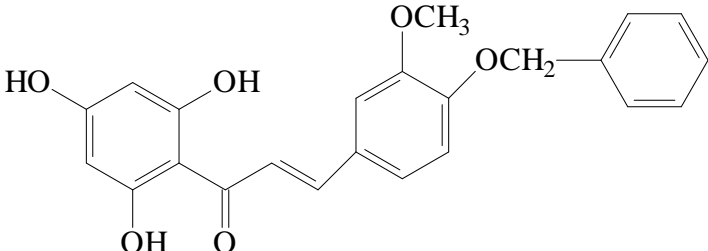
Compound	Pharmacological profile	Reference
<p>(1)</p>	Antibacterial activity	Ref. <sup>[20]</sup>
<p>(2)</p>	Antibacterial activity	Ref. <sup>[21]</sup>
<p>(3)</p>	Antibacterial activity	Ref. <sup>[22]</sup>

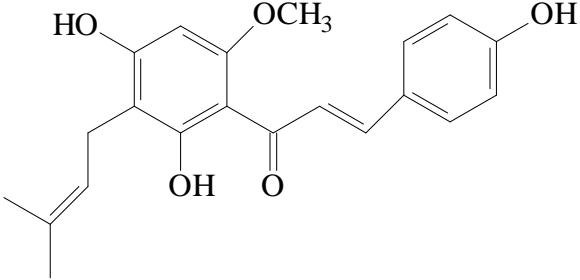
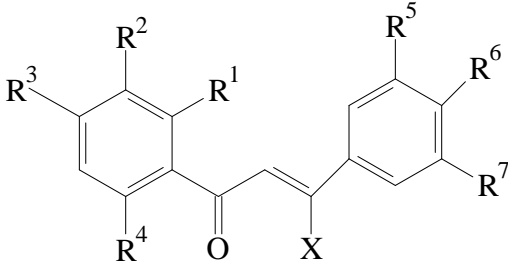
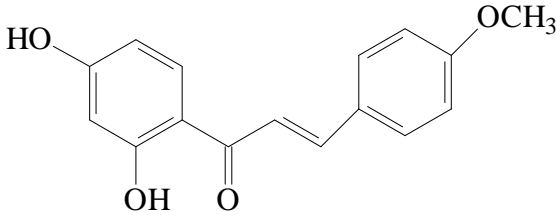
 <p style="text-align: center;">(4)</p>	Antimicrobial activity	Ref. <sup>[23]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Y=S, O n= 4,5,6 X=CH-CH<sub>2</sub>, O, NH (5)</p>	Antimicrobial activity	Ref. <sup>[24]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(6)</p>	Antibacterial activity	Ref. <sup>[25]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(7)</p>	Antifungal activity	Ref. <sup>[26]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(8)</p>	Antifungal activity	Ref. <sup>[27]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(9)</p>	Antiviral activity	Ref. <sup>[28]</sup>

 <p>(10)</p>	Antiviral activity	Ref. <sup>[29]</sup>
 <p>(11)</p>	Anti-HIV activity	Ref. <sup>[30]</sup>
 <p>(12)</p>	Anti-HIV activity	Ref. <sup>[31]</sup>
 <p>(13)</p>	Molluscicidal activity	Ref. <sup>[32]</sup>
 <p>(14)</p>	Antiplasmodial activity	Ref. <sup>[33]</sup>
 <p>(15)</p>	Antimalarial activity	Ref. <sup>[34]</sup>
 <p>(16)</p>	Antimalarial activity	Ref. <sup>[35]</sup>

 <p style="text-align: center;">(17)</p>	Antimalarial activity	Ref. <sup>[36]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(18)</p>	Antimalarial activity	Ref. <sup>[37]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(19)</p>	Antileishmanial activity	Ref. <sup>[38]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(20)</p>	Antimycobacterial activity	Ref. <sup>[39]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(21)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[40]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(22)</p>	Antimitotic activity	Ref. <sup>[41]</sup>

 <p style="text-align: center;">(23)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[43]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(24)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[42]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(25)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[44]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(26)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[45]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(27)</p>	Cytotoxic activity	Ref. <sup>[46]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(28)</p>	Cytotoxic activity	Ref. <sup>[47]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(29)</p>	Anticancer activity	Ref. <sup>[48]</sup>

 <p>(30)</p>	Analgesic activity	Ref. <sup>[49]</sup>
 <p>(31)</p>	Anti-inflammatory activity	Ref. <sup>[50, 51]</sup>
 <p>(32)</p>	Anti-inflammatory activity	Ref. <sup>[52]</sup>
 <p>(33)</p>	Anti-inflammatory activity	Ref. <sup>[53]</sup>
 <p>(34)</p>	Leukotriene B4 inhibitory activity	Ref. <sup>[54]</sup>
 <p>(35)</p>	Antiplatelet activity	Ref. <sup>[55]</sup>

 <p style="text-align: center;">(36)</p>	Antioxidant activity	Ref. <sup>[56]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(37)</p>	Antiulcer activity	Ref. <sup>[57]</sup>
 <p style="text-align: center;">(38)</p>	Aldose reductase inhibitor activity	Ref. <sup>[58]</sup>

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