

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0223-5234(18)30530-0

DOI: [10.1016/j.ejmech.2018.06.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2018.06.039)

Reference: EJMECH 10509

To appear in: *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*

Received Date: 28 February 2018

Revised Date: 23 April 2018

Accepted Date: 14 June 2018

Please cite this article as: S. Mishra, M. Kaur, S. Chander, S. Murugesan, L. Nim, D.S. Arora, P. Singh, Rational modification of a lead molecule: Improving the antifungal activity of indole – triazole – amino acid conjugates, *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2018.06.039.

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Rational Modification of a Lead Molecule: Improving the Antifungal Activity of Indole – Triazole – Amino Acid Conjugates

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Abstract. The modification of a molecule that was identified as highly efficacious in the previous studies could considerably improve the biological activity of the resulting compounds. While targeting lanosterol 14- α demethylase, the molecular modelling studies convinced that the extension of the phenyl ring of compound **1** deep into the hydrophobic pocket of the enzyme may increase the enzyme – ligand interactions and hence improve the anti-fungal profile of the molecules. As a result, the newly designed compounds **2** were synthesized and screened for their anti-microbial properties and these compounds were found to exhibit considerably better activity than the previous molecule **1**. Some of the compounds in this series exhibited MIC₉₀ 16 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ and 32 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger*, respectively as against 312 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for compound **1**.

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