

**SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF SPIRO[INDOLINE-3,4'-PYRANO[2,3-C:6,5-C']DIPYRAZOL]-2-ONES IN THE PRESENCE OF SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H AS A NANOCATALYST****Ghods Mohammadi Ziarani<sup>a,\*</sup>, Razieh Moradi<sup>a</sup>, Negar Lashgari<sup>b</sup>, Alireza Badiei<sup>b</sup> and Ali Abolhasani Soorki<sup>c</sup>**<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Alzahra University, Vanak Square, Tehran, 1993893973, Iran<sup>b</sup>School of Chemistry, College of Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran<sup>c</sup>ACECR-Research Institute of Applied Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

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Sulfonic acid functionalized SBA-15 nanoporous material (SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H) with a large pore size of 6 nm, a high surface area, high selectivity, and excellent chemical and thermal stability was applied as an efficient heterogeneous nanoporous acid catalyst in the reaction of isatin with pyrazolones under mild reaction conditions. A novel class of symmetrical spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one derivatives was successfully obtained in high yields. Comparison of these results with those reported in the literature shows that the current method is efficient, and results in better reaction times and yields of the desired products. Other advantages of this new method are its operational simplicity, easy work-up procedure, and the use of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H as a reusable and environmentally benign nanoreactor, such that the reaction proceeds easily in its nanopores. We also tested the antimicrobial activity of the prepared compounds using the disc diffusion method, and some of the synthesized compounds exhibited the best results against *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*.

Keywords: functionalized SBA-15; spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones; antimicrobial activity; multicomponent reaction; nanocatalyst.

**INTRODUCTION**

Multi-component reactions (MCRs) are defined as processes in which three or more different starting materials react together to yield a final product in a one-pot procedure. Such reactions have emerged as a powerful and highly valuable strategy in modern organic synthesis to generate diverse heterocyclic scaffolds.<sup>1,2</sup> These methodologies have great utility, particularly for the generation of privileged medicinal heterocyclic compounds.<sup>3-6</sup> Spiro compounds have drawn tremendous interest of researchers in the area of synthetic organic chemistry and medicinal chemistry due to their extensive applications in biology and pharmacology.<sup>7</sup> Indole and indoline fragments are important group of compounds widely exist in a variety of natural biologically active compounds.<sup>8</sup> Some indolines that are spiro-annulated with heterocycles at the 3 position, have displayed remarkable biological activities.<sup>9-12</sup> The spirooxindole ring system is the core structure of many pharmacological agents and natural alkaloids.<sup>13,14</sup> Therefore, a number of methods have been reported for the preparation of spirooxindoles.<sup>15-18</sup> The spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones in first, were synthesized by the reaction of isatin and two moles of pyrazolones under reflux conditions<sup>19</sup> and later, in the presence of *p*-TsOH as catalyst.<sup>20</sup>

Recently, there is a rapid growth in research and development of mesoporous materials. SBA-15 is a nanoporous silica with hexagonal structure, high surface area, large pore size, high selectivity, excellent (chemical and thermal) stability, and easy isolation from products.<sup>21,22</sup> Potential application of SBA-15 in different fields ranging from biosensors<sup>23</sup> and drug delivery<sup>24</sup> to separation<sup>25</sup> and catalysis<sup>26</sup> has attracted significant interest. In continuation of our studies toward using nanoporous solid catalysts in organic reactions,<sup>27-30</sup> herein, we study the effect of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H as a heterogeneous solid acid catalyst in the synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one derivatives.

**EXPERIMENTAL****Materials**

The chemical materials employed in this work were obtained from Merck Company and were used with no purification. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded from KBr disks using a Fourier-transform (FT)-IR Bruker Tensor 27 instrument. Melting points were measured by using the capillary tube method with an Electrothermal 9200 apparatus. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were run on a Bruker DPX using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solution. Mass spectrometry (MS) analysis was performed on a model 5973 mass-selective detector (Agilent). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis was performed on a Philips XL-30 field-emission scanning electron microscope operated at 16 kV, while transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was carried out on a Tecnai G<sup>2</sup> F30 at 300 kV.

**Synthesis and functionalization of SBA-15**

The nanoporous compound SBA-15 was synthesized and functionalized according to our previous report<sup>31</sup> and the modified SBA-15-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H was used as a nanoporous solid acid catalyst in the following reaction.

**Typical procedure for the preparation of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones (3a-f)**

A mixture of isatin (0.147 g, 1 mmol), pyrazolone (0.348 g, 2 mmol) and SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H (0.02 g) in 10 mL EtOH (absolute) were heated and stirred under reflux condition. When the reaction was completed, as monitored by TLC, the resulting reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was filtered from solvent. Then the precipitate was dissolved in hot DMF and the insoluble catalyst was removed by filtration. The filtrate was cooled to afford

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the pure product. The catalyst could be washed subsequently with diluted acid solution, distilled water and then acetone. After drying under vacuum, it can be reused several times without noticeable loss of reactivity. Reusability of the catalyst was investigated under optimized conditions for the synthesis of the model compound **3a**. As shown in Figure 1, the process of recycling was completed four times and no significant decrease in activity was observed. The yields for the four runs were found to be 85%, 80%, 78% and 72%, respectively.

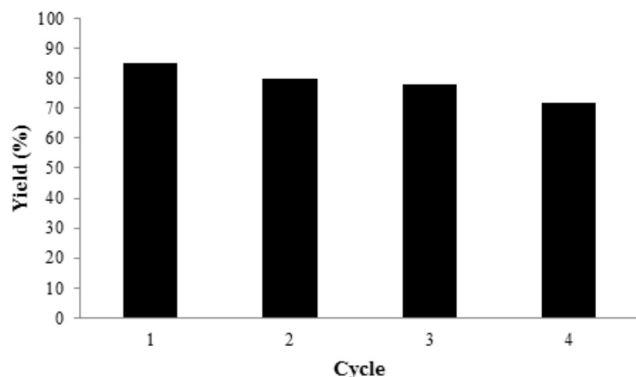


Figure 1. Reusability of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H in the synthesis of compound **3a**

#### General procedure for in vitro antibacterial evaluation of compounds **3a-f**

The antimicrobial activities of the synthesized compounds were determined in vitro using the disc diffusion method. The microorganisms used in this study were Gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 85327), Gram positive bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC 465) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923), and fungus *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231). All synthesized compounds were dissolved in DMSO (100 µg/mL) and 25 µL was loaded onto 6-mm paper discs. One hundred microliters of 10<sup>9</sup> cell/mL suspension of the microorganisms was spread on sterile Mueller–Hinton agar plates, and the discs were placed on the surface of culture plates. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the synthesized compounds which showed antibiotic activity in disc diffusion tests was also determined by microdilution method and compared with three commercial antibiotics: chloramphenicol, gentamicin, and nystatin as references.

**3',5'-Dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3a):**<sup>20</sup> Cream solid, Yield (85%); M.p: 295-297 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3447, 3150, 1706, 1616, 1497, 1305 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 1.98 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.83-7.92 (m, 14H, ArH), 10.96 (s, 1H, NH) ppm.

**5-Bromo-3',5'-dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3b):**<sup>20</sup> Cream solid, Yield (81%); M.p: > 300 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3447, 3142, 1704, 1618, 1577, 1497, 1309, 757, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 2.01 (bs, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.31-8.80 (m, 13H, ArH), 10.86 (s, 1H, NH) ppm.

**5-Chloro-3',5'-dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3c):**<sup>20</sup> Cream solid, Yield (80%); M.p: 299-301 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3445, 3141, 1705, 1619, 1575, 1498, 1472, 1308, 750, 682 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 2.04 (bs, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.53-8.12 (m, 13H, ArH), 10.81 (s, 1H, NH) ppm.

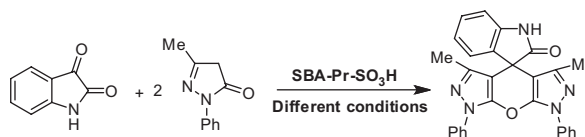
**5-Nitro-3',5'-dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3d):**<sup>20</sup> Cream solid, Yield (89%); M.p: > 300 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3447, 3157, 1712, 1626, 1497, 1459, 1402, 1338, 693 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 2.07 (bs, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.35-8.32 (m, 13H, ArH), 11.35 (s, 1H, NH) ppm.

**5-Iodo-3',5'-dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3e):** Cream solid, Yield (90%); M.p: 288-290 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3139, 3086, 2973, 2876, 1702, 1619, 1577, 1464, 1305, 659 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 1.97 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.87-7.69 (m, 13H, ArH), 10.70 (s, 1H, NH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 13.4 (Me), 53.8 (CH, spiro), 91.2 (C-I), 118.3, 121.1, 124.3, 125.6, 128.1, 128.6, 136.7, 137.1, 137.3, 140.0, 147.3, 153.4, 176.5 (C=O) ppm. MS (*m/e*): 585 (M<sup>+</sup>), 429, 400, 302, 273, 258, 174, 140, 114, 91, 77, 51.

**5-Fluoro-3',5'-dimethyl-1',7'-diphenyl-1',7'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one (3f):** Cream solid, Yield (93%); M.p: 274-276 °C. IR (KBr): ν = 3128, 3067, 2917, 2865, 1706, 1624, 1578, 1488, 1308, 748, 686 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 1.95 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.72-7.68 (m, 13H, ArH), 10.87 (s, 1H, NH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 12.1 (Me), 58.9 (CH, spiro), 109.3, 110.1, 116.4, 122.6, 126.4, 128.0, 132.8, 138.3, 143.5, 147.2, 156.7, 158.9, 177.2 (C=O) ppm. MS (*m/e*): 477 (M<sup>+</sup>), 429, 400, 321, 292, 274, 223, 188, 174, 133, 105, 91, 77, 51.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this paper, we report a simple and highly efficient strategy for the synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones by the condensation of isatin and two moles of pyrazolones in the presence of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H (Scheme 1). To optimize the reaction conditions, isatin **1** and two moles of pyrazolone **2** were subjected to various conditions using a catalytic amount of SBA-15-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H as catalyst. The reaction times and yields of products under various conditions (reflux, 80 °C, and room temperature) and in the presence of different solvents such as H<sub>2</sub>O, EtOH, H<sub>2</sub>O:EtOH (1:1), EtOH (absolute), CH<sub>3</sub>CN and under solvent-free system were compared (Table 1). As shown in Table 1, the best result was obtained after 20 min at reflux temperature in EtOH (absolute) solvent by taking a 1:2 mol ratio mixture of isatin and pyrazolone. The reaction was also tested without any catalyst under reflux conditions in EtOH, and after 6 h related product was obtained in 80% yield.<sup>19</sup>



Scheme 1. Synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one under various conditions

Then, to evaluate the generality and versatility of this methodology, six types of substituted isatins **1** and pyrazolone **2** in a molar ratio of 1:2 were used in the optimum quantity of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H (0.02 g) (Scheme 2). Different spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-one derivatives **3 (a-f)** were prepared successfully under reflux conditions. The results were good in terms of reaction times and yields, and the procedure was simple and easy to operate (Table 2).

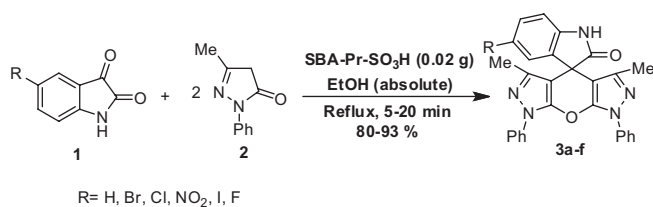
The suggested mechanism for the reaction of pyrazolones and isatin derivatives is patterned in Scheme 3. The first step involves the protonation of carbonyl group of pyrazolone **4** by the solid acid

catalyst and formation of intermediate **7** from condensation reaction of pyrazolone **5** with protonated form of isatin **1**. Then, Michael addition of the second molecule of pyrazolone **2** with intermediate **7** gives

**Table 1.** The optimization of reaction condition in the synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones<sup>a</sup>

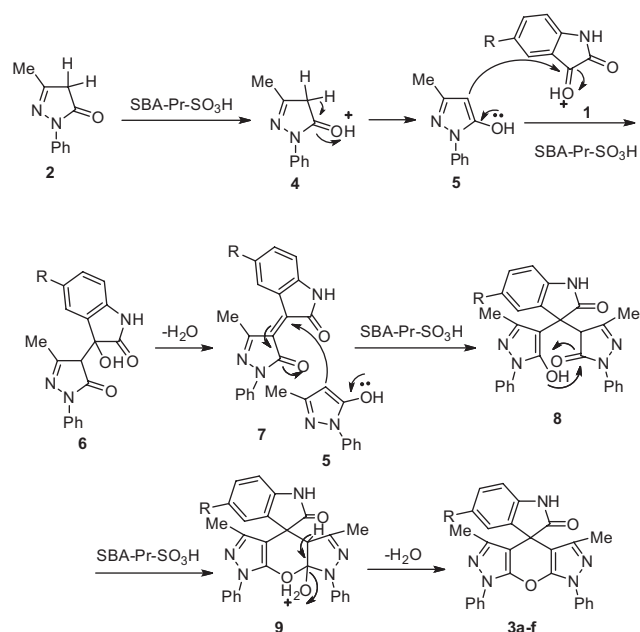
Entry	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	-	80	7 h	-
2	EtOH (absolute)	reflux	20 min	73
3	H <sub>2</sub> O	reflux	7 h	67
4	EtOH	r.t	7 h	78
5	H <sub>2</sub> O:EtOH (1:1)	reflux	5 h	69
6	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	reflux	4 h	-

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: isatin (1 mmol), pyrazolone (2 mmol), and catalyst (0.02 g).



**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones in the presence of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H

the intermediate **8**, which followed by cycloaddition and dehydration provides the desired product **3a-f** (Scheme 3).



**Scheme 3.** Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones

**Table 2.** Synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-c:6,5-c']dipyrazol]-2-ones **3a-f** in the presence of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H

Entry	R	Product	Time (min)	Yield (%)	M.p. (°C)	M.p. (Lit.)
1	H		20	85	295-297	> 300 <sup>20</sup>
2	Br		5	81	> 300	> 300 <sup>20</sup>
3	Cl		5	80	299-301	> 300 <sup>20</sup>
4	NO <sub>2</sub>		7	89	> 300	> 300 <sup>20</sup>
5	I		10	90	288-290	New
6	F		5	93	274-276	New

**Table 3.** Comparison of different conditions for the synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrano[2,3-*c*:6,5-*c'*]dipyrazol]-2-ones

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Conditions	Time	Yield (%)	Year
1	-	EtOH	reflux	6 h	80-85	1991 <sup>19</sup>
2	<i>p</i> -TsOH	H <sub>2</sub> O	r.t	1 h	79-89	2012 <sup>20</sup>
3	SBA-Pr-SO <sub>3</sub> H	EtOH	reflux	5-20 min	80-93	This work

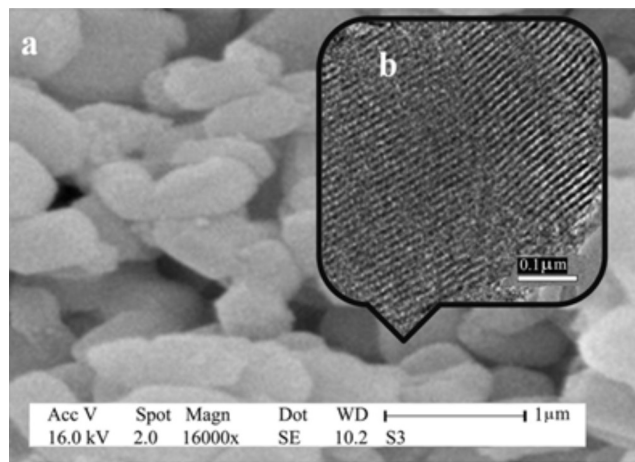
In order to show the merit of our method, we have compared our results with those reported in the literature in Table 3. It is clear from Table 3 that the current method is efficient and gives better times and yields of the desired products, when compared with other existing methods.

Nanoporous SBA-15 can be prepared by using triblock copolymer Pluronic P126 as a structure-directing agent.<sup>32,33</sup> Functionalization of SBA-15 with sulfonic acid groups was usually performed through two major methods: direct synthesis or post-grafting.<sup>34,35</sup> The SBA-15 silica was functionalized with (3-mercaptopropyl)trimethoxysilane (MPTS), and then the thiol groups were oxidized to sulfonic acid by hydrogen peroxide. Analysis of the catalyst surface was performed by various methods including thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) analysis, and elemental analysis (CHN), which demonstrated that the propyl sulfonic acids were successfully immobilized into the pores.<sup>31</sup>

Figure 2 illustrates the SEM and TEM images of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H. The SEM image (Figure 2, a) shows uniform particles about 1 μm which the same morphology was observed for SBA-15. It can be concluded that no changes occurred during surface modifications and morphology of the solid was saved. Furthermore, the TEM image (Figure 2, b) reveals parallel channels, that resemble the pore configurations of SBA-15. This indicates that the pore of SBA-15-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H was not collapsed during the two-step reactions.

### Antimicrobial activity

All products were screened for antimicrobial activity using the

**Figure 2.** SEM image (a) and TEM image (b) of SBA-15-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H

disc diffusion method. The antimicrobial activities data are given in Tables 4 and 5. Table 4 presents the inhibition zones of compounds around the discs. The results indicated that compounds **3b** and **3f** (compounds containing R = Br and R = F substituted groups) were able to inhibit the growth of *B. subtilis* in inhibition zone values of 11 mm. Meanwhile, almost all compounds showed high antibacterial activities against *S. aureus* which among them, compound **3d** with a value of 15 mm inhibition zone, showed the highest antibacterial activity. None of the compounds showed antibiotic activity against *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* or *C. albicans*. The minimum inhibitory

**Table 4.** Inhibition zone (mm) of synthesized compounds against some gram positive and gram negative bacteria and fungi, by disc diffusion method (IZ = 250 μg/disc)

Compound	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>
3a	0	13	0	0	0
3b	11	1	0	0	0
3c	0	12	0	0	0
3d	0	15	0	0	0
3e	0	12	0	0	0
3f	11	14	0	0	0
Chloramphenicol	26	22	24	8	-
Gentamicin	28	20	20	18	-
Nystatin	-	-	-	-	18

**Table 5.** Minimum inhibitory concentration (μg/mL) of synthesized compounds against some gram positive and gram negative bacteria and fungi

Compound	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>
3a	-	128	-	-	-
3b	256	64	-	-	-
3c	-	256	-	-	-
3d	-	128	-	-	-
3e	-	256	-	-	-
3f	256	128	-	-	-
Chloramphenicol	4	8	4	256	-
Gentamicin	0.125	0.5	0.5	1	-
Nystatin	-	-	-	-	8

concentration (MIC) of the synthesized compounds was also determined (Table 5). It was found that compounds **3a-f** have higher MIC values in comparison with chloramphenicol and gentamicin as standards. The MIC results indicated that compound **3b** exhibited the highest antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus*.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we have successfully developed a simple method for the synthesis of symmetrical spirooxindoles through the reaction of isatin with two moles of pyrazolones in the presence of a catalytic amount of SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H. Among the advantages of this new method are short reaction times, operational simplicity, high yields, easy work-up procedure, and using SBA-Pr-SO<sub>3</sub>H as a reusable and environmentally benign nano-reactor that the reaction proceeds easily in its nano-pores. The prepared compounds were also screened for their antimicrobial activities. It was found that compounds **3b** and **3f** were able to inhibit the growth of *B. subtilis* in inhibition zone values of 11 mm. Meanwhile, the MIC results indicated that compound **3b** exhibited the highest antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus*.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

IR, Mass, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for compounds **3e** and **3f** are available at <http://quimicanova.s bq.org.br>, in pdf file with free access.

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