



**AN ECO-FRIENDLY ULTRASOUND-ASSISTED ONE-POT THREE-COMPONENT  
SYNTHESIS OF 1,4-DIHYDROPYRIMIDO  
[1,2-A]BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES  
CATALYZED BY MAGHNITE-H<sup>+</sup>**

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## **ABSTRACT**

A simple and efficient procedure is developed for the synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole derivatives (DHPBz) *via* one-pot multi-component reaction of an aromatic aldehydes, ketones and 2-aminobenzimidazole, with use of a proton exchanged Algerian montmorillonite clay (Maghnite-H<sup>+</sup>) as green catalyst under ultrasound irradiation. This approach has the major advantages of short reaction time, good yields, easy operation, low energy consumption, and environmental friendliness. In addition, the solid non-toxic catalyst could be removed from the reaction mixture by simple filtration and recyclable without a lack of catalytic activity. All of the products were characterized by IR and NMR spectroscopy, MS, and elemental analysis.

**KEYWORDS:** 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole, One-pot multicomponent reactions, Benzaldehyde, ketone, 2-Aminobenzimidazole, Maghnite-H<sup>+</sup>, Ultrasound irradiation.

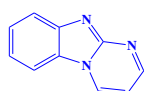
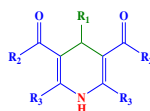
## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Multi-component reactions (MCRs) have advanced tremendously in the last decade, and considerable efforts are still being made to develop these methodologies.<sup>i</sup> Multi-component reactions (MCRs) are a promising strategy in organic synthesis to produce bioactive molecules, because these molecules can be obtained rapidly and efficiently without the isolation of intermediates in only one reaction step.<sup>ii</sup>

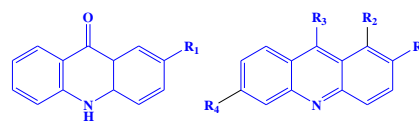
The Pyrimido [1,2-*a*] benzimidazoles, 1,4-Dihydropyridines (1,4-DHPs) and the 1,8-dioxodecahydroacridines possess a broad variety of biological and pharmacological properties

such as antimicrobial,<sup>iii</sup> antimalarial,<sup>iv</sup> antiproliferative,<sup>v</sup> anticancer,<sup>vi</sup> antiviral,<sup>vii</sup> and anti-Alzheimer.<sup>viii</sup>

The Synthesis of these compounds are generally made by one-pot multicomponent reaction between an aldehyde,  $\alpha$ -methylene such as ethyl acetoacetate or 1,3-cyclohexanedione or 1,3-diketone and ammonium acetate<sup>ix</sup> or amine.<sup>x</sup> Most of these synthesis are based mainly on traditional thermal methods in presence of organic solvents and a range of catalysts, such as: Brosted acid or Lewis acid, HCl, montmorillonite clay ( $\text{Na}^+$ -MMT) modified,<sup>xi,xii</sup> L-proline,<sup>xiii</sup>  $\rho$ -TsOH,<sup>xiv</sup> Amberlyst-15,<sup>xv</sup> CAN,<sup>xvi</sup> Silica-supported sulfuric acid,<sup>xvii</sup> 2-Hydroxyethylammonium Acetate,<sup>xviii</sup> Alginate acid,<sup>xix</sup> Sodium 1-DodecaneSulfonic (SDS),<sup>xx</sup> 4-toluenesulfonic acid,<sup>xxi</sup>  $[\text{H-NMP}]^+[\text{HSO}_4]^-$ ,<sup>xxii</sup>  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$ ,<sup>xxiii</sup> TPANPs/PAA<sup>xxiv</sup> and Cu-doped ZnO,<sup>xxv</sup> Therefore, there is a need to use a simple eco-friendly catalyst under moderate conditions to prepare 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole.

Pyrimido [1,2-*a*] benzimidazoles

1,4-Dihydropyridines (1,4-DHPs)



1,8-dioxodecahydroacridines

### Figure 1

Green chemistry has become a big and regular headline in the twenty-first century as a means of reducing chemical waste on the environment. Its main ideas are to reduce the amount of solvents used, to use renewable efficient heterogeneous catalysts, and to increase energy efficiency.<sup>xxvi</sup>

As a result, the use of a montmorillonite clay catalyst, also known as Maghnite, which has already shown interesting catalytic properties, was recommended.<sup>xxvii</sup> When exchanged with high charge density cations, such as protons, montmorillonites possessing both Brönsted and Lewis acid sites produce active acid catalysts.<sup>xxvii</sup> When compared to other clays, Algerian montmorillonite has a higher proportion of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and a lower concentration of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Table 1 shows percentage changes in chemical composition, between raw and proton exchanged algerian MMT. These differences, in particular, must have a major impact on the physico-chemical properties of this exchanged montmorillonite.<sup>xxviii</sup>

**Table 1.** Algerian montmorillonite (raw and  $\text{H}^+$  exchanged) chemical composition.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Échantillo n	$\text{SiO}_2$	$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	Mg O	Ca O	$\text{Na}_2$ O	$\text{K}_2$ O	TiO	$\text{SO}_3$	As	Perte d'eau à 110° C
Alg-MMT brute (%)	69.3	14.67	1.16	1.07	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.16	0.9	0.0	11
Alg- MMT- $\text{H}^+$ (%)	71.7	14.03	0.71	0.8	0.28	0.21	0.7	0.15	0.3	0.0	11

Sonochemistry is one axis of green chemistry research in which the molecules interact significantly due to the powerful application of ultrasound irradiation. These technique has been used more frequently as a clean and simply protocol to synthesize Schiff bases under milder conditions in shorter reaction times providing higher yields without generation of pollution comparing with traditional methods requiring solvents and longer reaction time.<sup>xxix</sup>

As part of our continuing efforts on the development of new routes for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds.<sup>xxx</sup> Herein, we wish to the synthesis of some new 1,4-dihydropyrimido [1,2-a] benzimidazoles (DHPBz) derivatives **4a-f** (figure 1) via one-pot multi-component reaction of aldehyde **1**, ketones **2** and 2-aminobenzimidazole **3**, in the presence of catalytic amounts of maghnite-H<sup>+</sup> under ultrasound irradiation.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1. Materials

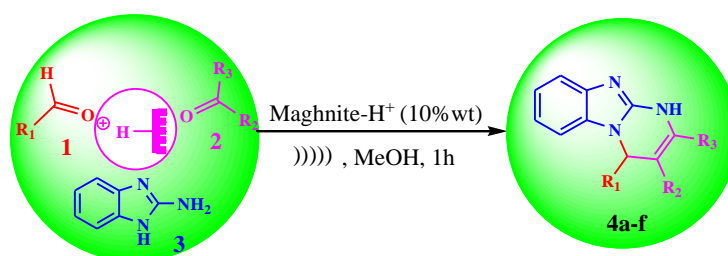
All research chemical reagents: 2-aminobenzimidazole, Aldehydes (Benzaldehyde, 3-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzaldehyde, 4-methoxybenzaldehyde) and ketones (Sigma aldrich) were purchased from (Sigma-Aldrich) and they are used as received. Raw-Maghnite, Algerian montmorillonite clay was procured from “BENTAL” (Algerian Society of Bentonite). The progress of the reactions was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel plates (TLC Silica gel 60 F254) using éluants (hexan/AcOEt). Melting points of all synthesized compounds were measured by Kofler bench method (HEIZBANK System Kofler Type WME N° 6973), and visualizing by iodine as agent. FT-IR spectra were recorded on FT-IR spectrophotometer (Atlas Manual Hydraulic Press 15T, GS15011) using KBr pellets technique. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (BRUKER Avance spectrometers) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> using as internal standards the residual DMSO signal for <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\delta = 2.50$  ppm), and the following multiplicity abbreviations were used: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quadruplet; m, multiplet. Ultrasonication was performed in a KQ-250E ultrasound with a frequency of 40 kHz and an output power of 150 W.

### 2.2.Preparation of Maghnite-H<sup>+</sup>

All the reactions were catalyst by Maghnite-H<sup>+</sup>. It was prepared according to the following method: An amount of 20g of raw-Maghnite in powder form was dried for two hours at a temperature of 105°C to remove any traces of water. After drying, the Maghnite was put in an Erlenmeyer containing 500 ml distilled water, then 0.23M sulfuric acid solution was added at once to the mixture Maghnite / water and agitated by a mechanical stirrer for about two days at room temperature. After that, the mineral part of the whole mixture was washed by distilled water until it become a free from sulfate and finally dried at 105°C for about 2hours.<sup>xxx</sup>

### 2.3.General procedure for the synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyrimido [1,2-a] benzimidazoles (DHPBz) derivatives 4a-f.

A mixture of aldehyde **1** (1mmol), ketone compounds **2** (1mmol) and 2-amino benzimidazole **3** (1 mmol) in 5ml methanol with catalytic amount of maghnite-H<sup>+</sup> (10% wt). The amount of 10% of catalyst was selected after preliminary reaction tests. The mixture was exposed to the ultrasound at 45-60°C with reaction times of 1h (Scheme 1). After the completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), and isolate the solid catalyst, cooling and filtration the crystalline powder were collected, then washed and dried at 60-70°C to afford compounds **4a-f**.

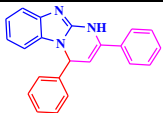
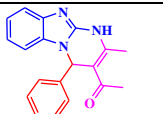
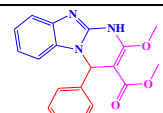
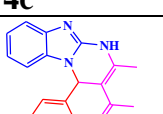
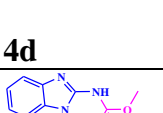
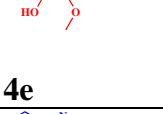


**Figure 2.** One-pot three compounds reaction for synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2- a] benzimidazole derivatives using Maghnite-H<sup>+</sup>.

## 2.4. Characterization and spectroscopic data

Data for 2,4-diphenyl-1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-a]benzimidazole (**4a**): white powder, (lit. mp. 249°C), FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3419 (NH), 3034 (aromatic C-H), 1627 (C=N), 1573 (aromatic C-C).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  in ppm): 10.02 (s, -NH-), 8.12 (2H, dd,  $\text{H}_6, \text{H}_3$ ,  $J = 15.8, 7.8$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.64 (1H, d,  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.41 (2H, d,  $\text{H}_{14}, \text{H}_{18}$ ,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.35 (2H, d,  $\text{H}_{21}, \text{H}_{25}$ ,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.25 (2H, t,  $\text{H}_{14}, \text{H}_{16}$ ,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.15 (2H,  $\text{H}_{22}, \text{H}_{24}$ , t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.01 (2H, d,  $\text{H}_{16}, \text{H}_{23}$ ,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, Ar-H), 6.87 (1H,  $\text{H}_{26}$ , d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, -C=C-H), 6.33 (1H,  $\text{H}_{10}$ , d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, =C-C-H), 5.28 (1H, d,  $\text{H}_1$ ,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, -C=C-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$  in ppm): 148.62, 143.00, 142.32, 134.89, 132.19, 129.30, 128.98, 128.37, 126.91, 126.32, 121.86, 116.41, 98.03, 57.19.

**Table 2.** Physical data of the synthesized compounds **4a-f** using maghnite- $\text{H}^+$

Entry	Product	Ultrasound irradiation		Conventional heating <sup>xxx</sup>		M.P °C
		Time (h)	Yield* %	Time (h)	Yield* %	
1	 <b>4a</b>	1	89	2	81.53	260<
2	 <b>4b</b>	1	88	4	80	260<
3	 <b>4c</b>	1	87	4	75	245-246
4	 <b>4d</b>	1	85	4	75	248-250
5	 <b>4e</b>	1	86	3	72	260<
6	 <b>4f</b>	1	86	4	79	242-244

(\*) Isolated yield of product using maghnite- $\text{H}^+$

Data for 1-(2-methyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazol-3-yl)ethanone (**4b**) : yellow powder, FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3471 (NH), 3037 (aromatic C-H), 1653 (C=O), 1610 (C=N), 1562 (aromatic C-C), 1521 (-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 10.79 (s, 1H, -NH-), 7.42 (3H, d, H<sub>10</sub>, H<sub>13</sub>,  $J = 7.4\text{Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.33 (1H, t, H<sub>8</sub>, H<sub>9</sub>,  $J = 7.8\text{Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.27 (2H, t, H<sub>6</sub>, H<sub>4</sub>,  $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.17 (1H, d, H<sub>7</sub>, H<sub>3</sub>,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.04 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>, Ar-CH), 6.98 (1H, s, H<sub>5</sub>, Ar-CH), 6.59 (1H, s, H<sub>6</sub>, Ar-CH), 2.50 (1H, s, -CH<sub>3</sub>) 2.23 (3H, s, -CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 129.07, 128.31, 127.65, 122.23, 120.63, 117.32, 110.47, 56.17, 31.14, 20.18.

Data for Methyl-2-methoxy-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole-3-carboxylate (**4c**): white powder, FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3417 (NH), 3061 (aromatic C-H), 1749 (C=O), 1604 (C=N), 1583 (aromatic C-C), 1456 (-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 12.08 (s, 1H, -NH-), 7.45 (d, 1H, H<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>6</sub>,  $J = 7.9\text{Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.38 (d, 3H, H<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>4</sub>,  $J = 6.4\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.19 (t, 3H, H<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>5</sub>, H<sub>7</sub>,  $J = 7.3\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.11 (t, 1H, H<sub>22</sub>,  $J = 7.5\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 6.99 (d, 1H, H<sub>23</sub>,  $J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 6.88 (d, 1H, H<sub>10</sub>,  $J = 4.4\text{ Hz}$ , -C=C-H), 6.14 (d, 1H, H<sub>8</sub>,  $J = 4.3\text{ Hz}$ , -C=C-H), 3.65 (s, 3H, -CO-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.46 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 167.69, 166.59, 164.27, 148.00, 137.21, 132.81, 129.63, 129.30, 126.84, 122.43, 121.73, 117.83, 110.20, 55.69, 55.31, 53.41.

Data for 1-[4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole-3-yl]ethanone (**4d**) : yellow powder, FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3527 (NH), 3101 (aromatic C-H), 1652 (C=O), 1598 (C=N), 1556 (aromatic C-C), 1516 (-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 10.66 (s, 1H, -NH-), 8.97 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.50 (d,  $J = 7.5\text{Hz}$ , 1H, H<sub>7</sub>, Ar-H), 7.34 (d, 1H, H<sub>6</sub>, Ar-H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 7.5\text{Hz}$ , 1H, H<sub>5</sub>, Ar-H), 6.77 (d,  $J = 7.9\text{Hz}$ , 1H, H<sub>4</sub>, Ar-H), 6.65 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 6.51 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 3.72 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.47 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.21 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 196.00, 147.72, 146.77, 145.99, 142.83, 133.07, 132.18, 122.11, 120.47, 120.18, 117.23, 115.99, 112.48, 110.69, 109.05, 56.20, 31.13, 20.05.

Data for methyl-4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methoxy-1,4-dihydropyrimido [1,2-*a*]benzimidazole-3-carboxylate (**4e**) : yellow powder, FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3552 (NH), 3057 (aromatic C-H), 1701 (C=O), 1635 (C=N), 1570 (aromatic C-C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 9.22 (s, H, -NH-), 7.44 (d, 2H, H<sub>10</sub>, H<sub>13</sub>,  $J = 7.8\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 7.09 (t, 2H, H<sub>8</sub>, H<sub>9</sub>,  $J = 7.3\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H, H<sub>24</sub>, -OH), 6.97 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 6.77 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ , Ar-H), 6.73 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 6.41 (d, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>, -C=C-H), 5.93 (d, 3H, -(CO)-O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.71 (s, 3H, -O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.64 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 167.78, 148.54, 147.54, 132.90, 127.62, 122.24, 121.56, 119.30, 117.73, 116.03, 111.69, 110.41, 56.20, 55.51, 53.25.

Data for methyl-2-methoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole-3-carboxylate (**4f**) : yellow powder, FT-IR ( $\nu_{\max}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3446 (NH), 3055 (aromatic C-H), 1747 (C=O), 1701 (C=N), 1612 (aromatic C-C), 1456 (-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 12.07 (s, 1H, -NH-), 7.43 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ , H<sub>10</sub>, Ar-H), 7.15 (t, 1H,  $J = 8.3\text{ Hz}$ , H<sub>8</sub>, Ar-H), 7.10 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$ , H<sub>3</sub>, Ar-H), 6.96 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ , H<sub>4</sub>, Ar-H), 6.79 (d, 1H, -C=C-H), 6.03 (d, 1H, Ar-H), 3.74 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.64 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.50 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm): 167.72, 164.55, 159.99, 148.00, 132.83, 128.89, 128.48, 122.32, 121.63, 117.77, 114.98, 110.32, 55.65, 53.30, 14.29.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

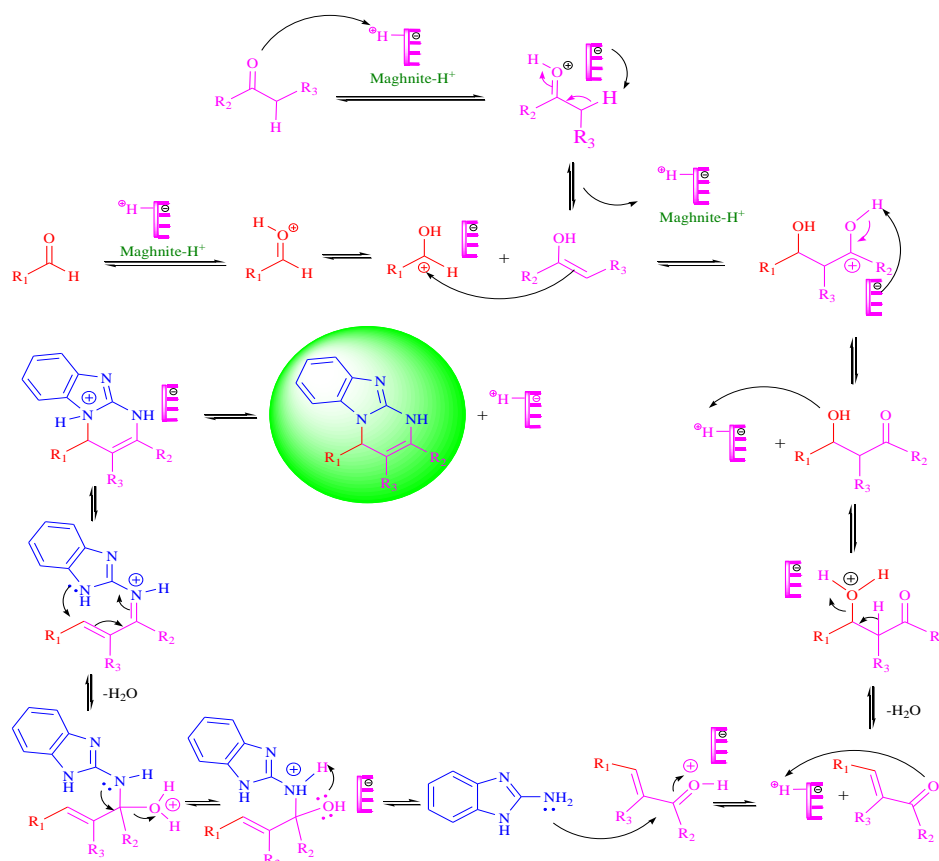
The production of 1, 4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole derivatives (DHPBz) **4a-f** was obtained by combining aldehydes **1** with ketones compounds **2** and 2-aminobenzimidazole **3**, catalyzed by maghnite-H<sup>+</sup> under ultrasound irradiation (Scheme 2).

We observed through the experimental results (Table 2), that these synthesis show good yields

(85-89%) in shortless time compared to other classical methods. Furthermore, the catalyst from the reaction mixture can be removed and recycled up to three times without loss of catalytic activity.

The structures of compounds obtained **4a-f** are well confirmed by the melting points and on basis of analysis of their spectral data (FT-IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR), compared to the values of the literature.<sup>xxx</sup>

A mechanism, presented in Scheme 3, is proposed to explain the role of the Maghnite- $\text{H}^+$  for the synthesis of 1, 4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole derivatives (DHPBz) **4a-f**.



**Scheme 3.** Proposed mechanism of the synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole derivatives using Maghnite- $\text{H}^+$ .

### 3.1. Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

The FT-IR spectrum of all synthesized compounds exhibit characteristic bands in the ranges of 3500-3400, 1652-1701 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and weak band at 1701-1598 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which assignable to N-H, C=O and C=N stretching vibrations respectively. This indicators, evidence of the react of aldehydes **1** with ketones compounds **2** and 2-aminobenzimidazole **3** and confirms the formation of the desired product. In all the 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole derivatives **4a-f**, was shown absorption strong bands at 3055-3037 and 1612-1562  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  due to aromatic (C-H) and (C-C) stretching vibrations respectively. IR spectrum of compounds **4a-f** show absorption band at 1456-1516  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which can be assigned to - $\text{CH}_3$  stretching.

### 3.2. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)

In  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of all synthesized compounds show singlet at 12.08-9.22 ppm indicating the presence of secondary amino group (-NH-). The aromatic protons resonate as multiplet in

the region of  $\delta$  8.12-6.03ppm. The spectrum of compounds **4a**, **4c**, **4e** and **4f** shows the -C=C-H signal around 6.88-6.41ppm. The spectrum of the compound **4c** shows the group (-CO-CH<sub>3</sub>), signal around 3.65 ppm. In addition, the absence of -CH<sub>3</sub> signal clearly indicates the formation of compound derivatives **4b-f** signal around 3.74-2.47ppm. Moreover, the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **4d** reveal the presence of a singlet at 8.97 ppm corresponding to hydroxyl group O-H. All <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectral data are in good agreement with those of literature.<sup>xxx</sup>

#### 4.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have described a simple and efficient alternative methodologies by ultrasound irradiation for the synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyrimido[1,2-a]benzimidazole (DHPBz) derivatives using maghnite-H<sup>+</sup> as a green catalyst by one-pot three-component reaction of aldehydes, ketones derivatives compounds and 2-aminobenzimidazole. Compared with conventional methods, the procedure offers several advantages, including high yields (85-89%) in shorter reaction times and possible reuse of the catalyst by heating up to a temperature above without significant loss of activity.

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