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# Synthesis and antibacterial and antiviral activities of myricetin derivatives containing a 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base†

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A series of novel myricetin derivatives containing a 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base were designed and synthesized. Their structures were systematically characterized using <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and HRMS. During antibacterial bioassays, **6f**, **6i**, and **6q** demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (*Xac*), with half-maximal effective concentration (EC<sub>50</sub>) values of 10.0, 9.4, and 8.8 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, which were better than those of bismethiazol (54.9 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and thiodiazole copper (61.1 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>). Note that **6w** demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*Rs*) with an EC<sub>50</sub> value of 15.5 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>, which was better than those of bismethiazol (55.2 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and thiodiazole copper (127.9 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>). Similarly, **6a**, **6d**, and **6e** demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (*Xoo*) with EC<sub>50</sub> values of 47.1, 61.2, and 61.0 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, which were better than those of bismethiazol (148.2 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and thiodiazole copper (175.5 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>). Furthermore, we used scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to study the possible sterilization process of the target compound **6q** against *Xac*. The results indicated the possibility of destroying the bacterial cell membrane structure, resulting in an incomplete bacterial structure, and thus achieving inhibition. Furthermore, antiviral bioassays revealed that most compounds exhibited excellent antiviral activity against tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) at a concentration of 500 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>. The results of the molecular docking studies for **6g** with TMV-CP (PDB code: 1EI7) showed that compound **6g** had partially interacted with TMV-CP. Therefore, mechanistic studies of the action of compound **6g** could be further studied based on that.

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## 1. Introduction

Plant diseases are one of the natural disasters that can seriously threaten agricultural production. According to statistics released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the annual loss in yield because of plant diseases is about 10% of the total production.<sup>1</sup> Note that, based on their pathogens, plant diseases can be classified into two categories: invasive diseases and non-invasive diseases. Infectious pathogens primarily include bacteria, viruses, actinomycetes, parasitic plants, fungi, nematodes, viroids, and mycoplasma. For example, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (*Xac*) is a citrus

canker disease that has significantly impacted production of citrus worldwide. Moreover, *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (*Xoo*) is a rod-shaped Gram-negative bacterium causing an average annual loss of 10–50% in many rice-growing countries.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the development of new and highly effective pesticide fungicides and antiviral agents is very important. Flavonoids, or bioflavonoids, which were previously referred to as the basic nucleus structure of 2-phenyl-chromones, and currently referred to as two phenols are a series of compounds in which benzene rings (A and B) are linked to each other *via* a central three-carbon chain (Fig. 1a and b).<sup>3,4</sup>

After the initial discovery of flavonoid glycosides in the 1930s, they have been extensively studied by researchers. In fact, in Chinese herbal medicines, flavonoids are very important

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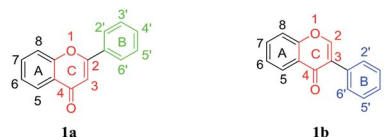


Fig. 1 Core structures of flavones and isoflavones.



active substances. Flavonoids have antibacterial,<sup>5,6</sup> antiviral,<sup>7,8</sup> anti-tumor,<sup>9</sup> and antioxidant<sup>10</sup> activities. Myricetin (3',4',5',3,5,7-hexahydroxyflavonol, Myr), similar to bayanone, is an important polyphenol flavonoid that is widely found in many plants. Modern pharmacological studies have confirmed that myricetin has antibacterial,<sup>11,12</sup> antiviral,<sup>13,14</sup> antitumor,<sup>15</sup> antioxidation,<sup>16</sup> and anti-inflammatory<sup>17</sup> activities. Furthermore, Ruan *et al.* reported that a series of myricetin derivatives could be used to inhibit plant pathogens.<sup>18</sup> In our previous study, we demonstrated the synthesis of a series of 3-((5-((4-chlorobenzyl)thio)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl)methoxy)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-4*H*-chromen-4-one and *N*-benzyl-2-((5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-4*H*-chromen-3-yl)oxy) acetamide (Fig. 2a and b), both of which exhibited good antibacterial activities.<sup>19,20</sup>

Although there have been a number of studies on myricetin, they are primarily focused on myricetin and its medical applications. Moreover, there have been very few studies on the derivatives of myricetin and their application in pesticides.

In recent decades, heterocyclic compounds have played a critical role for the development of pesticides. In particular, 1,2,4-triazole-based heterocyclic derivatives have become very popular because of their high-efficiency and broad-spectrum biological activity. Similarly, Schiff base compounds have attracted considerable attention because of their unique biological activities, *e.g.*, 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base compounds have both a triazole ring and an imine active fragment of the Schiff base. Therefore, these compounds have a broad spectrum of biological activity such as antibacterial,<sup>21,22</sup> antitumor,<sup>23</sup> antiviral,<sup>24,25</sup> insecticidal,<sup>26</sup> and weeding.<sup>27</sup> Jin *et al.* reported that 1,2,4-triazole Schiff bases could be used to inhibit plant pathogens.<sup>28</sup>

To develop new, highly efficient, environmentally friendly pesticide compounds, myricetin was used as a lead compound to introduce triazole Schiff base structure, a series of myricetin derivatives containing 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base were synthesized and characterized using <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and HRMS. These compounds were then evaluated for their antibacterial and antiviral activities.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Methods and materials

Scheme 1 shows the synthetic route for developing myricetin derivatives containing 1,2,4-triazole Schiff bases. The intermediates 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were prepared according to previously reported methods.<sup>29–31</sup>

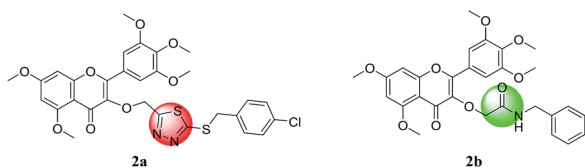


Fig. 2 Compounds previously reported against pathogen.

### 2.2. General procedure for preparing the intermediates 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Hydrazine hydrate was dissolved in water at 50 °C for 0.5 h, followed by the addition of carbon disulfide at 90 °C for 1 h. The solution was then cooled, followed by crystallization to obtain the intermediate 1. Intermediate 1 and glacial acetic acid were then refluxed for 4 h, and then cooled to room temperature. Then, the unreacted acetic acid was distilled off and the precipitate washed with water to obtain intermediate 2. Subsequently, intermediate 2 was heated till it completely dissolved in ethanol, and then substituted aldehyde was added for 6 h to obtain intermediate 3. Myricetin and methyl iodide were stirred at room temperature for 48 h, and then concentrated hydrochloric acid deglycoside was added to obtain intermediate 4. Finally, the intermediate 4 was stirred in DMF at room temperature for 0.5–1 h and dibromoalkane was added; this reaction was allowed to continue for 12 h to obtain the intermediate 5.

### 2.3. General procedure for preparing the target compounds 6a–6w

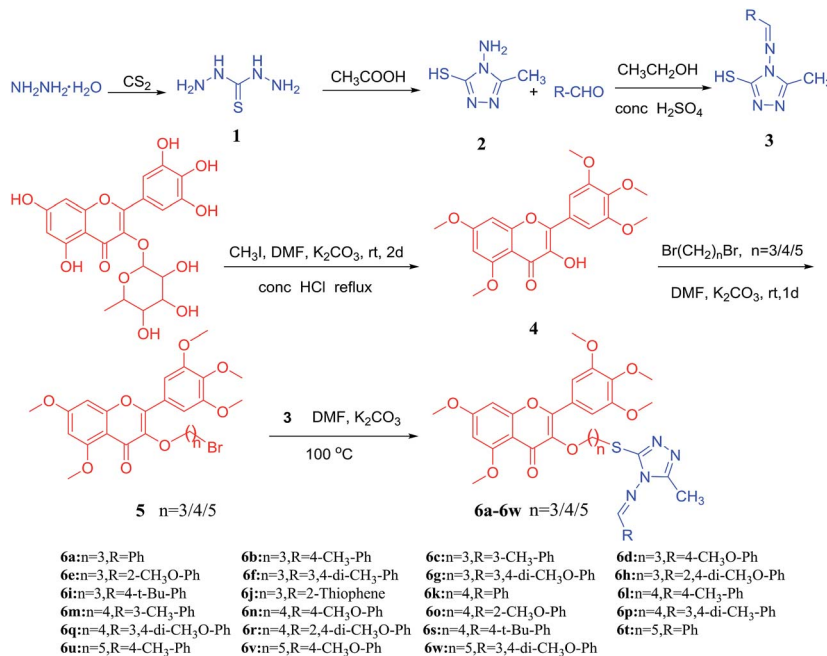
The target compounds 6a–6w were synthesized according to previously reported methods,<sup>32</sup> although certain modifications were made to the preparation process. Intermediate 3 (1.2 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 mmol), and DMF (20 mL) were added to a 50 mL 3-neck round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, and then intermediate 5 (1.0 mmol) was added to the reaction solution with stirring at 100–105 °C for 6 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored using TLC. Finally, after cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, 100 mL of water was added, followed by extraction with dichloromethane (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed twice with 5% NaOH, distilled water, and saturated aqueous NaCl. Finally, the solvent was dried, evaporated, and purified (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 1 : 3, V/V), and the product was obtained with 40–75% yield.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Spectral properties

<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS spectra of all the target compounds are provided in the ESI.† For example, the analysis of the spectral data of 6a is given below. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, 9H in the δ 8.83–7.60 ppm and δ 2.44 ppm can be attributed to the hydrogen on the molecular fragment of the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base, whereas 4H appearing in the δ 7.34–6.48 ppm can be attributed to myricetin. Hydrogens on the benzene ring, 6H of δ 3.99 ppm, δ 3.22 ppm, and δ 2.08–2.02 ppm, can be attributed to the methylene hydrogen on the carbon chain, whereas 15H of δ 3.90–3.74 ppm can be attributed to the 5 methoxy group of myricetin's benzene ring. In the HRMS spectrum of the title compound, the characteristic absorption signals of [M + H]<sup>+</sup> ions were obtained, which were consistent with their molecular weights.





Scheme 1 The synthetic route of the target compounds.

### 3.2. Antibacterial activity *in vitro*

For determining bioactivity, the target compounds were tested against *Xac*, *Rs*, and *Xoo* using the turbidity method with bismertiazol, thiaziazole copper, and myricetin being used as control agents. Table 1 lists the antibacterial activities of **6j**, **6k**, **6l**, **6n**, **6q**, and **6t** against *Xac* at  $100 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  with the percentage inhibition of 79.6%, 79.8%, 81.2%, 81.8%, 84.5%, and 85.8%, respectively, which were better than those of myricetin (49.4%), bismertiazol (59.5%), and thiaziazole copper (56.9%). Note that the percentage inhibition of **6l**, **6q**, and **6t** against *Xac* at  $50 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  were 74.9%, 75.3%, and 74.9%, respectively, which were better than those of myricetin (40.4%), bismertiazol (49.5%), and thiaziazole copper (47.9%). Furthermore, **6w** showed antibacterial activity against *Rs* at  $100 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  with the percentage inhibition of 83.2%, which was better than those of myricetin (56.4%), bismertiazol (61.1%), and thiaziazole copper (37.1%). Similarly, the percentage inhibition of **6w** against *Rs* at  $50 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  was 70.3%, which was better than those of myricetin (43.3%), bismertiazol (49.5%), and thiaziazole copper (17.4%). Moreover, **6a**, **6e**, **6h**, and **6w** showed antibacterial activities against *Xoo* at  $100 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  with the percentage inhibition of 59.1%, 57.1%, 57.3%, and 56.5%, respectively, which were better than those of myricetin (41.4%), bismertiazol (47.0%), and thiaziazole copper (43.2%). Similarly, the percentage inhibition of compounds **6a**, **6h**, and **6w** against *Xoo* at  $50 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  were 51.6%, 49.5%, and 47.2%, respectively, which were better than those of myricetin (32.3%), bismertiazol (39.6%), and thiaziazole copper (38.2%).

Based on these preliminary results of bioassays,  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values of some of the compounds showed good antibacterial activities against *Xac*, *Rs* and *Xoo* as indicated in Tables 2 and 3. As can be seen from Tables 2 and 3, compounds **6f**, **6i**, and **6q** showed

good inhibitory effects against *Xac* with the  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values of 10.0, 9.4, and  $8.8 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which were better than those of myricetin ( $107.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol ( $54.9 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiaziazole copper ( $61.1 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). Similarly, **6w** demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Rs* with an  $\text{EC}_{50}$  value of  $15.5 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which was better than those of myricetin ( $82.6 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol ( $55.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiaziazole copper ( $127.9 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, **6a**, **6d**, and **6e** demonstrated good inhibitory effects against *Xoo* with  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values of 47.1, 61.2, and  $61.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which were better than those of myricetin ( $222.4 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol ( $148.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiaziazole copper ( $175.5 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ).

### 3.3. Structure–activity relationships (SAR) of antibacterial activities

According to the results in Tables 2 and 3, combined with the activity data analysis of the parent structure of myricetin, the myricetin derivative can be obtained after introducing the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base, which can inhibit biological activity. For example, **6f** ( $n=3, \text{R}=3,4\text{-di-CH}_3\text{-Ph}$ ), **6i** ( $n=3, \text{R}=4\text{-t-Bu-Ph}$ ), and **6q** ( $n=4, \text{R}=3,4\text{-di-CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ ) demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Xac* with the  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values of 10.0, 9.4, and  $8.8 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which were better than those of myricetin ( $107.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol ( $54.9 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiaziazole copper ( $61.1 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). Similarly, **6w** ( $n=5, \text{R}=3,4\text{-di-CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ ) demonstrated a good inhibitory effect against *Rs* with  $\text{EC}_{50}$  value of  $15.5 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which was better than those of myricetin ( $82.6 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol ( $55.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiaziazole copper ( $127.9 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, **6a** ( $n=3, \text{R}=\text{Ph}$ ), **6d** ( $n=3, \text{R}=4\text{-CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ ), and **6e** ( $n=3, \text{R}=2\text{-CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ ) demonstrated good inhibitory effect against *Xoo* with  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values of 47.1, 61.2, and  $61.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which were better than those of myricetin



(222.4  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), bismertiazol (148.2  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), and thiodiazole copper (175.5  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). According to the results in Tables 2 and 3, together with the activity data analytical of the parent structure of myricetin, the myricetin derivatives can be obtained after introducing the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base, which can inhibit biological activity. For example, when  $n = 3$ , R is Ph, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, 2-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, 3,4-di-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, and 2,4-di-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, the activity of substituted benzene is higher than that of substituted phenyl-containing methoxy compounds. When  $n = 4$ , R is Ph, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, 2-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, and 3,4-di-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, the activity of substituted phenyl is higher than that of substituted benzene compounds.

To summarize, the derivative obtained by introducing the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base into the myricetin structure as a lead compound has a good inhibitory activity against plant pathogens and can be used as a potential plant-inhibiting drug.

### 3.4. SEM study

According to the results in Fig. 3A–C, the surface morphology of *Xac* was observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM).<sup>33,34</sup> Bacterial cells in group (A) were rhabditiform, homogeneous in

size, and unbroken in morphology. After treatment with **6q** (12.5  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), cell wall invagination appeared at both ends of the bacterial cells. Moreover, after treatment with **6q** (25  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ), the bacterial cell wall showed different degrees of rupture and the cell contents leaked.

### 3.5. Antiviral activity of the title compounds against TMV

As can be seen in Table 4, at a test concentration of 500  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , the curative, protective, and inactivation activities of the target compounds against tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) were tested. The results showed that both **6g** and **6j** showed a good therapeutic effect on TMV, whereas the percentage inhibition were 52.5% and 52.4%, respectively, which exceeded those of myricetin (31.6%) and ribavirin (39.9%) but close to that of ningnanmycin (52.7%). Similarly, **6f**, **6p**, and **6w** show a good protective effect on TMV, and their percentage inhibition were 58.7%, 57.8%, and 58.0%, respectively, which exceeded those of myricetin (42.1%) and ribavirin (51.8%) but close to that of ningnanmycin (65.7%). Furthermore, **6g** showed a good passivation effect on TMV, and its percentage inhibition was 88.6%, which exceeded those of myricetin (50.9%) and ribavirin (73.3%) but close to that of ningnanmycin (90.4%).

Table 1 *In vitro* antibacterial activity of the target compounds against *Xac*, *Rs* and *Xoo*

Compd	Percentage inhibition <sup>a</sup> /%					
	<i>Xac</i>		<i>Rs</i>		<i>Xoo</i>	
	100 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	50 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	100 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	50 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	100 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	50 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$
<b>6a</b>	78.2 ± 0.2	69.7 ± 1.0	16.9 ± 3.7	6.6 ± 0.2	59.1 ± 8.7	51.6 ± 7.8
<b>6b</b>	69.5 ± 4.8	65.1 ± 9.2	38.1 ± 7.5	21.4 ± 7.0	53.1 ± 6.9	45.0 ± 5.6
<b>6c</b>	73.6 ± 7.9	66.0 ± 6.2	25.9 ± 7.2	18.7 ± 2.7	45.3 ± 1.5	33.9 ± 2.8
<b>6d</b>	74.5 ± 2.9	66.9 ± 3.8	35.1 ± 5.1	24.6 ± 7.7	53.6 ± 3.5	46.5 ± 1.2
<b>6e</b>	56.0 ± 0.7	50.2 ± 3.9	33.2 ± 6.8	11.5 ± 1.6	57.1 ± 4.8	46.1 ± 6.4
<b>6f</b>	79.2 ± 0.2	72.4 ± 1.6	41.1 ± 1.5	33.9 ± 0.6	43.3 ± 8.2	35.6 ± 8.0
<b>6g</b>	76.6 ± 8.3	62.9 ± 6.6	18.5 ± 7.4	13.8 ± 1.4	53.6 ± 4.4	47.0 ± 9.6
<b>6h</b>	67.3 ± 6.1	56.4 ± 6.0	27.2 ± 4.6	25.3 ± 4.1	57.3 ± 3.4	49.5 ± 3.6
<b>6i</b>	78.3 ± 1.7	72.1 ± 5.3	29.6 ± 1.2	19.7 ± 2.8	54.3 ± 2.9	41.3 ± 5.1
<b>6j</b>	79.6 ± 2.0	67.7 ± 4.5	35.1 ± 1.9	31.3 ± 8.9	58.6 ± 5.2	44.7 ± 3.7
<b>6k</b>	79.8 ± 3.5	63.2 ± 2.7	25.4 ± 5.1	13.1 ± 7.3	53.5 ± 9.9	45.1 ± 6.0
<b>6l</b>	81.2 ± 6.1	74.9 ± 6.7	36.0 ± 3.6	32.7 ± 4.0	53.3 ± 3.0	46.3 ± 9.7
<b>6m</b>	73.5 ± 4.4	61.1 ± 3.3	22.8 ± 0.6	11.9 ± 4.6	47.1 ± 4.9	40.4 ± 6.7
<b>6n</b>	81.8 ± 5.4	68.6 ± 4.5	39.7 ± 2.6	35.1 ± 9.4	53.7 ± 3.2	44.2 ± 5.3
<b>6o</b>	71.3 ± 4.2	62.9 ± 2.5	43.9 ± 2.9	32.0 ± 9.3	49.3 ± 0.8	37.7 ± 5.8
<b>6p</b>	78.7 ± 2.0	63.1 ± 8.0	49.7 ± 6.1	45.7 ± 7.7	51.9 ± 4.0	45.4 ± 7.6
<b>6q</b>	84.5 ± 2.2	75.3 ± 4.8	52.1 ± 5.6	36.3 ± 7.0	50.7 ± 0.4	42.4 ± 9.4
<b>6r</b>	65.3 ± 1.4	54.3 ± 2.5	43.7 ± 2.4	20.8 ± 3.5	48.0 ± 0.9	33.8 ± 5.2
<b>6s</b>	73.1 ± 6.2	65.6 ± 3.8	46.0 ± 0.4	26.0 ± 5.8	53.8 ± 3.9	38.2 ± 7.3
<b>6t</b>	85.8 ± 3.2	74.9 ± 6.8	51.2 ± 3.3	33.0 ± 0.9	53.4 ± 2.6	45.7 ± 8.1
<b>6u</b>	70.8 ± 4.9	62.7 ± 5.0	17.8 ± 2.7	11.0 ± 3.7	48.0 ± 9.6	39.7 ± 3.6
<b>6v</b>	69.4 ± 0.2	61.0 ± 5.4	17.4 ± 4.7	6.1 ± 1.0	56.3 ± 1.8	45.7 ± 8.5
<b>6w</b>	72.0 ± 7.1	64.1 ± 2.8	83.2 ± 2.0	70.3 ± 3.2	56.5 ± 2.1	47.2 ± 3.2
Myr <sup>b</sup>	49.4 ± 4.1	40.4 ± 0.4	56.4 ± 2.0	43.3 ± 4.6	41.4 ± 5.9	32.3 ± 2.9
BT <sup>c</sup>	59.5 ± 7.7	49.5 ± 5.7	61.1 ± 6.2	49.5 ± 5.3	47.0 ± 3.1	39.6 ± 6.1
TC <sup>c</sup>	56.9 ± 1.5	47.9 ± 8.5	37.1 ± 3.6	17.4 ± 6.6	43.2 ± 3.0	38.2 ± 6.3

<sup>a</sup> Average of three replicates (temperature: 28 ± 1 °C, time: 24–48 h). <sup>b</sup> Myr (myricetin). <sup>c</sup> BT (commercial fungicides, bismertiazol) and TC (thiodiazole copper).



Table 2 *In vitro* antibacterial EC<sub>50</sub> activity value of the target compounds against *Xac*

Compd	<i>n</i>	R	Toxic regression equation <sup>a</sup>	<i>r</i> <sup>2</sup>	EC <sub>50</sub> /(μg mL <sup>-1</sup> )	pEC <sub>50</sub> /(μM)
6a	3	Ph	$y = 0.8044x + 4.1554$	0.9961	11.2 ± 3.4	4.8
6b	3	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.6949x + 4.1397$	0.9697	17.3 ± 2.2	4.6
6c	3	3-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.8528x + 3.9474$	0.9972	17.2 ± 1.4	4.6
6d	3	4-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 1.0517x + 3.5664$	0.9650	23.1 ± 2.8	4.5
6e	3	2-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.6924x + 3.7991$	0.9822	54.3 ± 2.4	4.1
6f	3	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.8130x + 4.1875$	0.9977	10.0 ± 3.9	4.8
6g	3	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.9169x + 3.8298$	0.9762	18.9 ± 2.6	4.6
6h	3	2,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.6912x + 3.8298$	0.9690	28.1 ± 1.5	4.4
6i	3	4- <i>t</i> -Bu-Ph	$y = 0.7819x + 4.2398$	0.9917	9.4 ± 1.9	4.9
6j	3	2-Thiophene	$y = 0.9335x + 3.8960$	0.9642	15.2 ± 2.9	4.6
6k	4	Ph	$y = 0.9655x + 3.7731$	0.9334	18.7 ± 0.8	4.6
6l	4	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.9335x + 4.0630$	0.9877	10.1 ± 1.1	4.8
6m	4	3-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.7733x + 4.0122$	0.9599	18.9 ± 0.9	4.6
6n	4	4-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.9324x + 3.9636$	0.9716	12.9 ± 1.9	4.7
6o	4	2-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.6712x + 4.1730$	0.9624	17.1 ± 2.5	4.6
6p	4	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.9633x + 3.8184$	0.9729	16.9 ± 2.6	4.6
6q	4	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.9311x + 4.1191$	0.9819	8.8 ± 1.9	4.9
6r	4	2,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.5861x + 4.1558$	0.9706	27.6 ± 3.1	4.4
6s	4	4- <i>t</i> -Bu-Ph	$y = 0.7906x + 4.0584$	0.9903	15.5 ± 2.0	4.7
6t	5	Ph	$y = 1.1883x + 3.6956$	0.9958	12.5 ± 2.9	4.7
6u	5	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.7831x + 3.9652$	0.9780	21.0 ± 1.0	4.5
6v	5	4-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.7105x + 4.0749$	0.9998	20.5 ± 2.7	4.5
6w	5	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.7706x + 4.0642$	0.9814	16.4 ± 1.9	4.7
Myr <sup>b</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.6520x + 3.6763$	0.9838	107.2 ± 1.6	—
BT <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.8357x + 3.5466$	0.9876	54.9 ± 1.4	—
TC <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.8874x + 3.4149$	0.9984	61.1 ± 3.4	—

<sup>a</sup> Tested and calculated at the drug test concentrations of 100, 50, 25, 12.5, and 6.25 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>b</sup> Myr (myricetin). <sup>c</sup> BT (commercial fungicides, bismethiazol) and TC (thiadiazole copper).

### 3.6. Structure–activity relationship (SAR) of the title compounds against TMV

In summary, the introduction of the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base into the myricetin structure showed a good inhibitory activity

against the plant virus. According to the anti-TMV activity data of 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base myricetin derivatives, when R = Ph, 3,4-di-CH<sub>3</sub>-Ph, 3,4-di-CH<sub>3</sub>O-Ph, and 2-thiophene, the compounds have good curative and protective activities. For

Table 3 *In vitro* antibacterial EC<sub>50</sub> activity value of the target compounds against *Rs* and *Xoo*

Bacteria	Compd	<i>n</i>	R	Toxic regression equation <sup>a</sup>	<i>r</i> <sup>2</sup>	EC <sub>50</sub> /(μg mL <sup>-1</sup> )	pEC <sub>50</sub> /(μM)
<i>Rs</i>	6w	5	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 1.0988x + 3.6922$	0.9829	15.5 ± 1.3	4.7
	Myr <sup>b</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.8815x + 3.3101$	0.9399	82.6 ± 1.0	—
	BT <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.9991x + 3.2599$	0.9930	55.2 ± 3.5	—
	TC <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 1.3627x + 2.1291$	0.9184	127.9 ± 2.5	—
<i>Xoo</i>	6a	3	Ph	$y = 0.8103x + 3.6447$	0.9958	47.1 ± 2.6	4.1
	6b	3	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.7806x + 3.5304$	0.9988	76.3 ± 1.0	3.9
	6d	3	4-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.7023x + 3.7451$	0.9841	61.2 ± 2.1	—
	6e	3	2-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.8457x + 3.4899$	0.9871	61.0 ± 2.9	4.0
	6g	3	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.8448x + 3.4411$	0.9947	70.0 ± 3.1	4.0
	6k	4	Ph	$y = 0.6866x + 3.7132$	0.9990	74.8 ± 2.6	3.9
	6l	4	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.8236x + 3.4626$	0.9798	73.6 ± 3.9	4.0
	6m	4	3-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.9248x + 3.1185$	0.9728	108.3 ± 2.0	3.8
	6n	4	4-CH <sub>3</sub> O-Ph	$y = 0.9574x + 3.2088$	0.9960	74.3 ± 2.5	4.0
	6p	4	3,4-Di-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.1077x + 2.8916$	0.9494	90.8 ± 1.8	3.9
	6t	5	Ph	$y = 0.7280x + 3.6251$	0.9920	77.4 ± 3.3	3.9
	6u	5	4-CH <sub>3</sub> -Ph	$y = 0.7541x + 3.4240$	0.9929	123.0 ± 3.0	3.7
	Myr <sup>b</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.6512x + 3.4715$	0.9862	222.4 ± 2.4	—
	BT <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.5525x + 3.8806$	0.9947	148.2 ± 2.4	—
	TC <sup>c</sup>	—	—	$y = 0.5876x + 3.6813$	0.9950	175.5 ± 2.1	—

<sup>a</sup> Tested and calculated at the drug test concentrations of 100, 50, 25, 12.5, and 6.25 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>b</sup> Myr (myricetin). <sup>c</sup> BT (commercial fungicides, bismethiazol) and TC (thiadiazole copper).



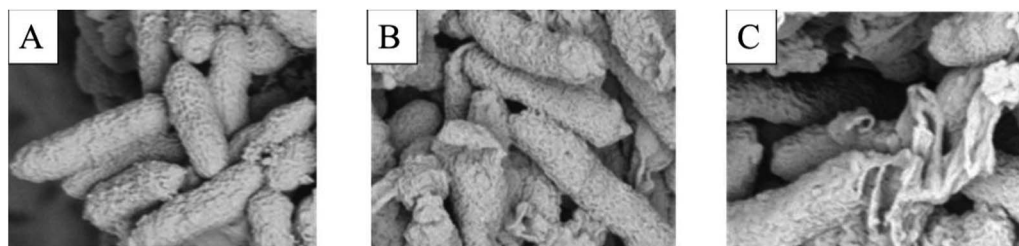


Fig. 3 SEM images for *Xac* after incubated in different concentration of compound **6q**. (A)  $0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , (B)  $12.5 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , and (C)  $25 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . Scale bar for (A, B, and C) are 2 mm.

example, **6a**, **6g**, **6j**, **6t**, and **6w** have a good therapeutic effect on TMV with percentage inhibition of 51.5%, 52.5%, 52.4%, 51.3%, and 51.1%, respectively, which are higher than those of myricetin (31.6%) and ribavirin (39.9%) but close to that of ningnanmycin (52.7%). Similarly, **6f**, **6g**, **6k**, **6p**, **6t**, and **6w** have a good protective effect on TMV with percentage inhibition of 58.7%, 55.4%, 57.2%, 57.8%, 56.0%, and 58.0%, respectively, which are higher than those of myricetin (42.1%) and ribavirin (51.8%) but close to that of ningnanmycin (65.7%). When  $R = 3,4\text{-di-CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ , the compound showed better passivation activity, e.g., **6g** had a good passivation effect on TMV with an percentage inhibition of 88.6%, which exceeded those of myricetin (50.9%) and ribavirin (73.3%) but was close to that of ningnanmycin (90.4%). In summary, when  $n = 3$ , and  $n = 4$ , the

R group is Ph, 3,4-di- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$ , 3,4-di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ , and 2-thiophene, the therapeutic and protective activity of the compounds against tobacco flower leaf virus is superior to the R group being the other substituent. When  $n = 3$ , and  $n = 4$ , and the R group is 3,4-di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$ , the compounds has a relatively good passivating activity against tobacco mosaic virus.

### 3.7. Molecular docking of **6g** and TMV-CP

Molecular docking studies for **6g** with TMV-CP (PDB code: 1EI7)<sup>35,36</sup> indicated that the compound was well embedded in the pocket (including residues of TYR139, PRO254, LYS268, ARG134, ASN140, VAL75, etc.) between the two subunits of TMV-CP (Fig. 4). It has been reported that these residues played

Table 4 Antiviral activities of the target compounds against TMV *in vivo* at  $500 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$

Compd	<i>n</i>	R	Percentage inhibition <sup>a</sup> /%		
			Curative	Protection	Inactivation
<b>6a</b>	3	Ph	51.5 ± 3.1	52.6 ± 5.2	67.5 ± 8.1
<b>6b</b>	3	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	41.6 ± 2.9	48.9 ± 2.8	70.4 ± 4.4
<b>6c</b>	3	3- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	40.8 ± 5.3	42.9 ± 3.7	47.6 ± 8.5
<b>6d</b>	3	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	47.5 ± 4.8	50.0 ± 1.2	57.3 ± 9.2
<b>6e</b>	3	2- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	45.6 ± 7.0	27.8 ± 4.9	44.5 ± 6.6
<b>6f</b>	3	3,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	50.4 ± 7.6	58.7 ± 5.9	41.4 ± 2.8
<b>6g</b>	3	3,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	52.5 ± 1.9	55.4 ± 6.5	88.6 ± 4.5
<b>6h</b>	3	2,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	46.1 ± 5.4	50.7 ± 6.2	73.2 ± 5.7
<b>6i</b>	3	4- <i>t</i> -Bu-Ph	44.3 ± 3.7	49.3 ± 7.4	77.5 ± 8.9
<b>6j</b>	3	2-Thiophene	52.4 ± 6.8	54.6 ± 7.5	67.5 ± 8.5
<b>6k</b>	4	Ph	50.8 ± 3.3	57.2 ± 7.2	58.9 ± 8.3
<b>6l</b>	4	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	42.0 ± 4.5	45.8 ± 2.4	60.9 ± 5.3
<b>6m</b>	4	3- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	39.5 ± 7.0	46.1 ± 5.6	49.5 ± 2.9
<b>6n</b>	4	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	50.2 ± 4.7	48.0 ± 3.6	71.4 ± 1.0
<b>6o</b>	4	2- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	39.0 ± 7.3	53.6 ± 6.5	67.5 ± 7.1
<b>6p</b>	4	3,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	49.9 ± 3.4	57.8 ± 8.5	52.3 ± 2.4
<b>6q</b>	4	3,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	50.4 ± 7.3	52.6 ± 5.8	68.9 ± 5.7
<b>6r</b>	4	2,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	45.1 ± 0.2	36.8 ± 4.3	55.4 ± 3.5
<b>6s</b>	4	4- <i>t</i> -Bu-Ph	44.8 ± 2.6	45.5 ± 3.0	37.3 ± 7.1
<b>6t</b>	5	Ph	51.3 ± 5.5	56.0 ± 7.1	56.4 ± 2.8
<b>6u</b>	5	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{-Ph}$	49.6 ± 6.9	50.8 ± 4.5	51.7 ± 4.6
<b>6v</b>	5	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	46.2 ± 0.8	45.3 ± 6.4	74.6 ± 8.3
<b>6w</b>	5	3,4-Di- $\text{CH}_3\text{O-Ph}$	51.1 ± 7.4	58.0 ± 3.1	42.8 ± 2.0
Myr <sup>b</sup>	—	—	31.6 ± 7.2	42.1 ± 6.4	50.9 ± 6.3
Ribavirin <sup>c</sup>	—	—	39.9 ± 3.7	51.8 ± 6.0	73.3 ± 2.9
Ningnanmycin <sup>c</sup>	—	—	52.7 ± 1.3	65.7 ± 1.9	90.4 ± 3.1

<sup>a</sup> Average of three replicates. <sup>b</sup> Lead compound myricetin. <sup>c</sup> Commercial antiviral agents ribavirin and ningnanmycin.



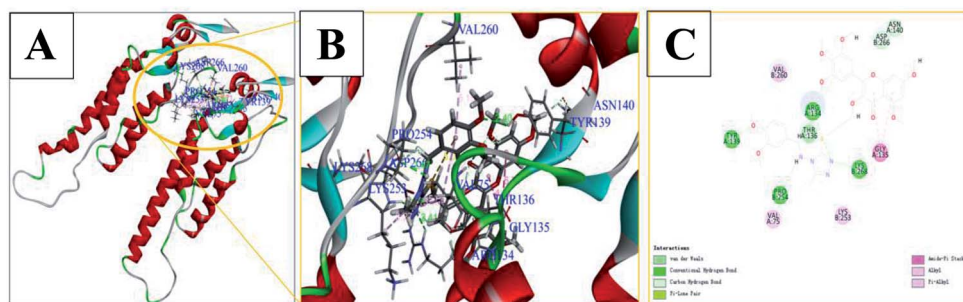


Fig. 4 The binding mode of compound **6g** docked with TMV-CP.

important roles in the self-assembly of TMV particles.<sup>33,35,36</sup> For example, LYS268 and TYR139 play continuous hydrophobic interactions in the ring.<sup>35</sup> In addition, VAL75, VAL260, LYS253, GLY135, ASN140, ASP266 and other subunits of TMV-CP.<sup>33,35</sup> Moreover, there are also  $\pi$ -alkyl, alkyl, amide- $\pi$  stacking effects, carbon hydrogen bond between the molecules and the above residues in TMV-CP as depicted in Fig. 4. For example, TYR139, PRO254, LYS268, and ARG134 had strong hydrogen bonds with **6g** (2.40 Å, 2.47 Å, 2.11 Å, and 2.41 Å). These interactions between small molecules and TMV-CP are likely to inhibit the interaction of two subunit of TMV-CP, thereby preventing the self-assembly of TMV particle. The results showed that compound **6g** had partially interacted with TMV-CP, and mechanistic studies of the action of compound **6g** could be further studied.

## 4. Conclusions

In this study, using active splicing, a reasonable structural modification of myricetin was undertaken. To design and synthesize a series of myricetin derivatives, an active small molecular group of 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base was introduced into the myricetin structure, and then their biological activities were tested. **6f**, **6i**, and **6q** showed a good inhibitory effect against *Xac* with  $EC_{50}$  values of 10.0, 9.4, and 8.8  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , which were better than those of bismertiazol (54.9  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ) and thiodiazole copper (61.1  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, using SEM on the target compound, the antibacterial mechanism against *Xac* was identified. It was found from the experiment that the cell membrane structure of the bacteria was destroyed, and the bacterial structure changed from the intact form of the blank control (A) to the incomplete form after dosing (B and C). Therefore, this may be the bacteriostatic action of the target compound. Furthermore, antiviral bioassays revealed that most compounds exhibited excellent antiviral activity against TMV at a concentration of 500  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . The results of the molecular docking studies for **6g** with TMV-CP (PDB code: 1E17) showed that compound **6g** had partially interacted with TMV-CP. Therefore, mechanistic studies of the action of compound **6g** could be further studied based on that. The above biological activity study results demonstrate that the myricetin derivative with the 1,2,4-triazole Schiff base has better biocontrol activity against plant diseases and plant viruses.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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