

## Study on the Structure-Activity Relations of Brominated Hydroxy Diphenyl Ethers Derivatives with Anilines

BIN LUO<sup>1</sup>, HUA-HONG ZHOU<sup>2</sup>, KANG-KANG YU<sup>1</sup>, KAI-QUN WU<sup>1,\*</sup>, TIAN CHEN<sup>2,\*\*</sup> and YU-LIANG WANG<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Chemistry, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, P.R. China

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pathogenic Biology, School of Biomedical Science, Chengdu Medical College, Chengdu 610083, P.R. China

\*Corresponding author: Tel: +86 13708058490, E-mail: wukaiqun@tom.com; luobinhxscu@126.com

\*\*Corresponding author (For biological activities assay): Tel: +86 13540047681, E-mail: tianchen66@gmail.com

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In order to study the influence of anilines on antibacterial activity, eight novel brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives were designed and synthesized. The antibacterial activities of the new compounds were tested *via* agar-well diffusion method *in vitro* under different concentrations. The results showed the derivatives had antibacterial activities at the concentration 50 µg/mL against *Staphylococcus aureus* SC and *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC26112.

**Key Words:** Brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers, Structure-activity, Anilines, Antibacterial activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Brominated 2-hydroxy diphenyl ethers was first isolated from the marine sponge *Dysidea herbacea* by Sharma *et al.*<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1, 1) and it was reported that brominated 2-hydroxy diphenyl ethers could inhibit gram positive bacteria and gram negative bacteria<sup>1,2</sup>. Afterwards, many literatures have focused on the isolation and synthesise new brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers and their antibacterial activities<sup>3-5</sup>. These studies showed that the hydroxy was necessary for keeping antibacterial activity<sup>6,7</sup> and fluorine as well as nitro substituent were favourable for enhancing antibacterial activity<sup>8,9</sup>. They also employed that some synthetic derivatives had a special antibacterial activities such as a series of brominated dihydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives have been designed and synthesized with good antibacterial activities<sup>10,11</sup> (Fig. 1, 2). However, dioxins were found during the separation of natural brominated 2-hydroxy diphenyl ethers<sup>12,13</sup> (Fig. 1, 3). In order to avoid the generation of dioxins a series of brominated 3-hydroxy (Fig. 1, 4) and 4-hydroxy (Fig. 1, 5) diphenyl ethers derivatives were designed and synthesized. The results showed that brominated 3-hydroxy and 4-hydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives had also a good antibacterial activities and will never form dioxins<sup>14,15</sup>.

In order to avoid the generation of dioxins and to study the influence of anilines on antibacterial activity systematically, a series of novel brominated 4-hydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives containing aniline have been designed and synthesized. The antibacterial activities of the target compounds have been

tested *via* the agar-well diffusion method *in vitro*. The results showed that target compounds had some antibacterial activities against *Staphylococcus aureus* SC, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC26112. The synthetic route is shown in **Scheme-I**.

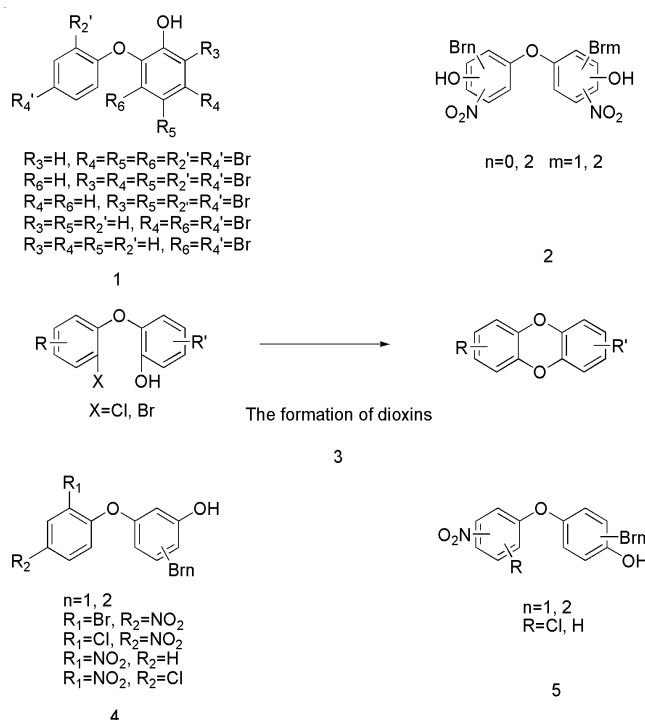
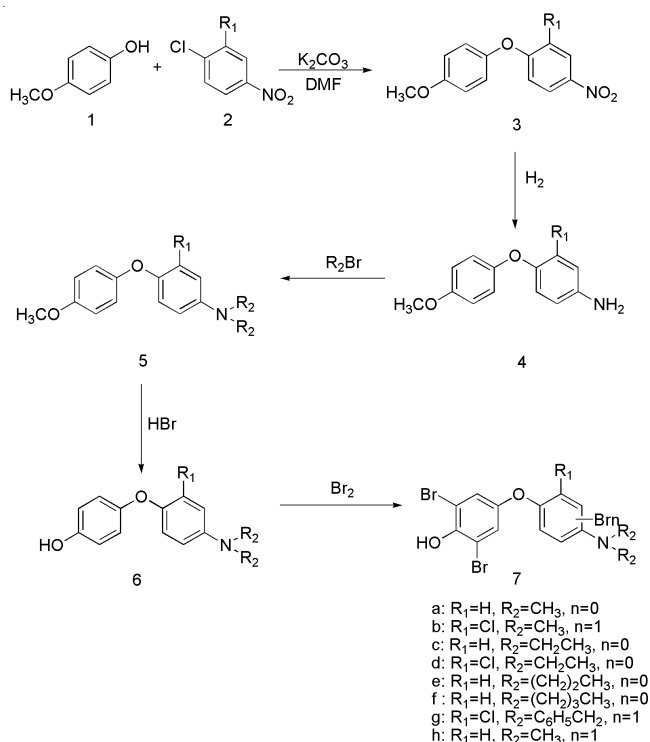


Fig. 1. Brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers and related derivatives



Scheme-I: Synthetic route of compounds 7a-7h

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were recorded on an XRC-1 melting point apparatus (Sichuan University Instrument Inc., Chengdu, China) without being corrected. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were run on a Varian INOVA-400 spectrometer (Varian Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA) with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent and TMS as the internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded with an Agilent 6210 (DOF-MAS) spectrometer (Agilent Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA) using the electrospray ionization (ESI) method. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer 16PC-FT instrument (Perkin-Elmer Inc., Norwalk Conn, CA, USA). Compounds **1** and **2** were commercially available, compounds **3** and **4** were synthesized according to the literature<sup>16</sup>.

**General preparation procedure of 5a-b:** A mixture of **4** (1 mmol) and NaOH (5 mmol) in solvent (20 mL, dry ethanol:water = 3:1) was stirred at 0-5 °C, then dimethyl sulfate (6 mmol) was added dropwise. Reaction solution was stirred at 0-15 °C for 24 h. Then the pH was adjusted to 7 with diluted hydrochloric acid, 20 mL water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was filtered, dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude product. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (16:1) as eluent to afford a pure product (yield 50-55 %).

**General preparation procedure of 5c-g:** A mixture of **4** (1 mmol), dry Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 mmol) and RBr (3-6 mmol) in dry DMF (20 mL) was stirred at 60-110 °C for 3-24 h, cooled. 20 mL water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was filtered, dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude product. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (16:1) as eluent to afford a pure product (yield 60-92 %).

**General preparation procedure of 6a-g:** A mixture of **5a-g** (1 mmol) and 40 % HBr (6 mmol) in acetic acid (20 mL) was refluxed at 125 °C for 9-11 h, cooled, the pH was adjusted to 7 with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was filtered, dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude product. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1) as eluent to afford a pure product (yield 45-85 %).

**General preparation procedure of 7a-h:** **6a-g** (1 mmol) was dissolved in ethyl acetate/dichloromethane (1:1, 20 mL) and the mixture was heated to reflux. Liquid bromide (6 mmol) was dissolved in ethyl acetate/dichloromethane (1:1, 4 mL) and the solution was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 7 h, cooled, the reaction mixture was washed by 5 % Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, water. The organic layer was filtered, dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude product. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1) as eluent to afford a pure product (yield 45-55 %).

**5a, 5c** are known compounds reported in literature<sup>17</sup> and were identified by melting point test, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and IR, all data was the same with the literature.

**3-Chloro-4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-N,N-dimethylbenzenamine (5b):** Yellow solid; yield: 52.3 %, m.p.: 52-54 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.93 (6H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 6.58 (1H, dd, J<sub>1</sub>= 8.8 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>= 2.8 Hz), 6.77 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 6.81-7.03 (5H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3040, 2936, 2834, 1607, 1562, 1499, 1443, 1234, 1202, 1039, 961, 879, 828, 772.

**3-Chloro-4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-N,N-diethylbenzenamine (5d):** Yellow oily liquid; yield: 80.2 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.93 (6H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.19 (4H, q, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.77 (3H, s), 6.53 (1H, dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 6.66 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz), 6.81-7.00 (5H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3046, 2970, 2835, 1607, 1556, 1498, 1376, 1356, 1232, 1200, 1039, 874, 826, 794, 756.

**4-(4-Methoxyphenoxy)-N,N-dipropylbenzenamine (5e):** Yellow oily liquid; yield: 65.3 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.92 (6H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.59 (4H, m), 3.19 (4H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.83 (3H, s), 6.60 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz); 6.81-6.92 (6H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3045, 2960, 2873, 2835, 1612, 1500, 1462, 1370, 1225, 1100, 1037, 873, 824, 746.

**4-(4-Methoxyphenoxy)-N,N-dibutylbenzenamine (5f):** Yellow oily liquid; yield: 60.3 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.95 (6H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.34 (4H, m), 1.50 (4H, m), 3.22 (4H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.80 (3H, s), 6.60 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.81-6.90 (6H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3044, 2957, 2868, 1611, 1500, 1462, 1369, 1277, 1227, 1105, 1037, 824.

**3-Chloro-4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-N,N-dibenzylbenzenamine (5g):** Colourless oily liquid; yield: 91.3 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 3.77 (3H, s), 4.67 (4H, s), 6.56 (1H, dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 6.79-6.91 (6H, m), 7.07-7.39 (10H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3029, 2946, 2833, 1604, 1497, 1452, 1393, 1361, 1230, 1200, 1030, 957, 883, 821, 733, 696.

**4-[4-(Dimethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6a):** White solid; yield: 84.7 %, m.p.: 133-135 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.93 (6H, s), 4.61 (1H, s), 6.76 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.85 (4H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.92 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3430, 3043, 2895, 2813, 1603, 1502, 1451, 1366, 1303, 1227, 1145, 1096, 1051, 932, 871, 826.

**4-[2-Chloro-4-(dimethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6b):** White solid; yield: 83.6 %, m.p.: 127-129 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.94 (6H, s), 4.53 (1H, s), 6.61-6.83 (5H, m), 6.91 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3097, 2921, 2821, 1600, 1495, 1443, 1355, 1237, 1142, 1052, 948, 879, 822, 782, 509.

**4-[4-(Diethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6c):** White solid; yield: 82.0 %, m.p.: 113-115 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 1.16 (6H, t, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 3.31 (4H, q, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 4.87 (1H, s), 6.76 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.86 (4H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.89 (2H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3385, 3041, 2972, 2931, 1607, 1500, 1448, 1354, 1224, 1094, 1010, 872, 820.

**4-[2-Chloro-4-(diethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6d):** Yellow oilyliquid; yield: 79.5 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 1.16 (6H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.32 (4H, q, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 4.58 (1H, s), 6.53 (1H, dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 6.70 (1H, d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 6.75 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 6.80 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.89 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3390, 3033, 2972, 2931, 1605, 1557, 1505, 1356, 1233, 1096, 1045, 1013, 924, 874, 828, 768, 693, 607, 512.

**4-[4-(Dipropylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6e):** Yellow oilyliquid; yield: 73.8 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.92 (6H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.59 (4H, m), 3.19 (4H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 4.60 (1H, s), 6.60 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz); 6.75 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.84-6.87 (4H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3404, 3046, 2962, 2931, 2873, 1608, 1500, 1460, 1364, 1222, 1098, 1046, 873, 818, 757.

**4-[4-(Dibutylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6f):** Yellow oilyliquid; yield: 70.1 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.95 (6H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.34 (4H, m), 1.50 (4H, m), 3.22 (4H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.61 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.75 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.85-6.89 (4H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3044, 2957, 2868, 1611, 1500, 1462, 1369, 1277, 1227, 1105, 1037, 824.

**4-[2-Chloro-4-(dibenzylamino)phenoxy]phenol (6g):** Colourless oilyliquid; yield: 45.3 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 4.30 (4H, s), 4.60 (1H, s), 6.63 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.76 (1H, d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 6.88-7.01 (5H, m), 7.28-7.39 (10H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3335, 3030, 2874, 1604, 1504, 1449, 1357, 1250, 1095, 1053, 1006, 959, 884, 836, 801, 737, 698, 405.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[4-(dimethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7a):** Yellow solid; yield: 15.3%; m.p.: 126-128 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.78 (6H, s), 5.36 (1H, s), 6.88 (2H, d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.01 (2H, d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 7.16 (2H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3503, 3069, 2929, 2866, 2784, 1592, 1498, 1415, 1324, 1267, 1212, 1185, 1034, 916, 883, 817, 781, 569; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 385.9392, 387.9372, 389.9351; Found: 385.9381, 387.9363, 389.9345.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[3-bromo-5-chloro-4-(dimethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7b):** White solid; yield: 47.7 %, m.p.: 109-111 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.80 (6H, s), 5.68 (1H, s), 7.08 (1H, s), 7.15 (1H, s), 7.20 (1H, s), 7.30 (1H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3284, 3081, 2960, 2873, 2841, 2797, 1593, 1564, 1464, 1400, 1355, 1317, 1216, 1184, 1134, 1072, 1045, 970, 932, 887, 852, 801, 768, 733, 681, 580, 517, 466, 422; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>Cl [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 497.8107, 499.8087, 501.8067; Found: 497.8091, 499.8069, 501.8048.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[4-(diethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7c):** White solid; yield: 48.9 %, m.p.: 103-105 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 1.17 (6H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.34 (4H, q, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 5.58 (1H, s), 6.66 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.88 (2H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.08 (2H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3501, 3076, 2970, 2928, 1606, 1510, 1465, 1402, 1320, 1263, 1218, 1150, 1011, 934, 820, 792, 742, 576; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 413.9705, 415.9685, 417.9664; Found: 413.9698, 415.9706, 417.9661.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[2-chloro-4-(diethylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7d):** Yellow solid; yield: 54.3 %; m.p.: 106-108 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 1.18 (6H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.33 (4H, q, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.57 (1H, s), 6.53 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.68 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.91 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.02 (2H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3517, 3073, 2969, 2927, 1607, 1562, 1503, 1466, 1403, 1356, 1318, 1276, 1233, 1196, 1150, 1071, 1042, 1016, 930, 800, 752, 695, 580, 436; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Cl [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 447.9315, 449.9295, 451.9274; Found: 447.9305, 449.9284, 451.9267.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[4-(dipropylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7e):** Yellow oilyliquid; yield: 48.7 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.93 (6H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.63 (4H, m, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 3.22 (4H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 5.55 (1H, s), 6.60 (2H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 6.86 (2H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.07 (2H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3505, 3077, 2960, 2872, 1607, 1565, 1510, 1465, 1402, 1321, 1218, 1150, 1101, 1047, 932, 819, 744, 549; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 442.0018, 443.9998, 445.9977; Found: 442.0013, 443.9999, 445.9976.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[4-(dibutylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7f):** Yellow oilyliquid; yield: 40.2 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 0.96 (6H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.36 (4H, m), 1.57 (4H, m), 3.24 (4H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 5.56 (1H, s), 6.60 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.86 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.08 (2H, s); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3511, 3078, 3044, 2956, 2866, 1608, 1565, 1510, 1465, 1402, 1369, 1321, 1215, 1149, 1109, 1051, 1008, 931, 818, 782, 744, 697, 578; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 470.0331, 472.0311, 474.0290; Found: 470.0334, 472.0306, 474.0297.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[5-bromo-2-chloro-4-(dibenzylamino)phenoxy]phenol (7g):** White solid; yield: 49.9 %, m.p.: 180-182 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 4.67 (4H, s), 5.64 (1H, s), 7.02 (1H, s), 7.08 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.15-7.29 (10H, m); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3476, 3381, 3074, 2923, 2853, 1605, 1568, 1451, 1409, 1383, 1309, 1278, 1218, 1189, 1155, 1067, 973, 922, 848, 779, 737, 713, 582, 532, 493, 454; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Cl



[M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 649.8733, 651.8713, 653.8693; Found: 649.8718, 651.8699, 653.8683.

**2,6-Dibromo-4-[2-bromo-4-(dimethylamino)phenoxy]-phenol (7h):** White solid; yield: 45.4 %, m.p.: 120-122 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz; d<sub>1</sub>-CDCl<sub>3</sub>; TMS): δ (ppm) = 2.78 (6H, s), 5.70 (1H, s), 6.90 (1H, dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 7.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.14 (1H, s), 7.2 (2H, d, *J* = 2.8 Hz); IR (KBr, ν<sub>max</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3418, 3078, 2954, 1586, 1559, 1464, 1403, 1338, 1263, 1213, 1153, 1034, 937, 864, 789, 752, 669, 584, 544; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 463.8497, 465.8477, 466.8456; Found: 463.8488, 465.8466, 466.8443.

**Biological assay:** Wild *Staphylococcus aureus* SC and standard *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC26112 were used in the studies. The antibacterial activities of the target compounds *in vitro* were tested *via* agar-well diffusion method. Every sample (1000 µg) was dissolved with ethanol (1 mL) and diluted to 50 µg/mL with ethanol. The resulting solution was added to the flat plate of an Oxford cup which was covered with culture and kept at 37 °C for 24 h. The results of average diameters of the bacteriostatic circle are listed in Table-1.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The bioactivities of compounds **7a-h** against *S. aureus* ATCC26112 and *S. aureus* SC are shown in Table-1. The results showed that all target compounds exhibited antibacterial activity at the concentration of 50.0 µg/mL.

Compound	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm)	
	<i>S. aureus</i> ATCC26112	<i>S. aureus</i> SC
<b>7a</b>	11	13
<b>7b</b>	9	10
<b>7c</b>	8	8
<b>7d</b>	11.5	11
<b>7e</b>	13	12
<b>7f</b>	7	9
<b>7g</b>	7	9
<b>7h</b>	8.5	10
Triclosan	22	20
Ethanol <sup>b</sup>	-	-

a: Concentration of triclosan: 20.0 µg/mL; as the positive control;  
b: negative control: ethanol; diameter of the well in each plate: 6 mm

During the preparation of **5a-g**, by-products increased as the reduction of activities of RBr. So it's necessary to increase reaction temperature and time. Otherwise, RBr were vaporized along with long-playing heating, so more RBr needed during reaction process.

As shown in **Scheme-I**, the intermediates **6a-g** were synthesized by **5a-g** with HBr in HAc. On this condition the benzyl located in the nitrogen would fall off partially, so the yield of the intermediate **6g** was very low.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, eight novel brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives were designed and synthesized. Compared to 4-hydroxy (Fig. 1, **5**) diphenyl ethers derivatives<sup>15</sup> with nitro group which exhibited good antibacterial activity at the concentration of 10 µg/mL, all target compounds have similar structures with them, but their antibacterial activities are much worse. This made a further proof that nitro group is important for enhancing antibacterial activity. We will continue to study structure-activity relations of brominated hydroxy diphenyl ethers derivatives.

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