

Review Article:

Evaluation and application of click reaction

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Abstract

Click chemistry has been frequently used in the past to speed up lead finding and optimization. In 2001, the term "click chemistry" was coined to describe chemistry designed to swiftly and consistently join tiny molecules to form compounds. Click chemistry, which involves reliably incorporating two highly reactive compounds in a reliable manner without any by-products, is a valuable tool in many fields. One of the most common click reactions, CuAAC, is the azide-alkyne-catalyzed cyclic addition reaction commonly used by chemical biologists, materials science professionals, and polymer chemists. The reaction of CuAAC combines an azide with an alkene to produce a triazole that binds two different molecular entities. The uses of click chemistry in drug discovery have been the subject of this review.

Introduction

Sharpless invented the term "Click Chemistry" in 2001 to describe a method of synthesis that emphasizes the utilization of a few key chemical events to synthesize molecules containing certain chemical groups by linking tiny units together. Because the reactions are directed by a strong driving force, the original components react constantly, immediately, efficiently, and without generating any undesirable byproducts [1]. Nature also joins compounds by linking small modular elements, which inspired this. It is true, that complex procedures have been investigated less frequently recently than in the previous century, and have gradually been displaced by easier tools. These techniques required sophisticated equipment, challenging experimental settings, and extensive purification processes [2]. In this framework, simple click responses have grown in popularity in both academic and industry research, as indicated by a nearly exponential increase in the number of relevant publications.

Guida estimated the pool of approved drugs to be 1063 drugs in 1996, built on the hypothesis that a candidate composed of less than 30 atoms of non-hydrogen content, and less than 500 Daltons, is comprised of hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, oxygen, chloride, sulfur, and bromide atoms, and is stable at room temperature and towards water and oxygen [3]. High-throughput screening, which uses click chemistry in conjunction with

combinatorial chemistry, accelerates the discovery of novel drugs by enabling every reaction in a multi-step synthesis rapid, effective, and predictable [4].

A click reaction meets numerous characteristics, including the ability to be modularly and broadly applicable, to create high chemical yields, to generate smallest byproducts that can be eliminated using chromatographic techniques, and to be stereospecific (although not necessarily enantioselective) when appropriate [5]. Furthermore, it has uncomplicated reaction conditions, uses commonly accessible initial materials, reagents, and a solvent (ideally water), and allows for facile product separation by crystallization or evaporation. Click reactions have high negative free energies and so entail carbon-heteroatom bond formation. As a result, unlike numerous traditional synthetic reactions, the value of click chemistry rests in its easiness and convenience of usage [6].

Although achieving the prerequisites of a click response is a difficult order, four primary reaction classes have been found that rise to the mark (Figure 1), and these four classes can be explained as follow [7]:

- **Cycloadditions:** primarily refers to 1, 3-dipolar cycloadditions, as well as hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions.
- **Nucleophilic ring openings:** are composed of strained heterocyclic electrophile openings such as aziridines, cyclic sulfates, epoxides, aziridinium ions, episulfonium ions, and so on.
- **Non-aldol carbonyl chemistry:** involve the synthesis of ureas, hydrazones, thioureas, aromatic heterocycles, oxime ethers, amides, and so on. Aldol carbonyl reactions have modest thermodynamic driving forces, resulting in extended reaction durations and the production of side products, and so can't be termed click reactions.
- **Carbon-carbon multiple bonds:** including Epoxidations, aziridinations, dihydroxylations, sulfonyl halide add, nitrosyl halide additions, plus some Michael additions.

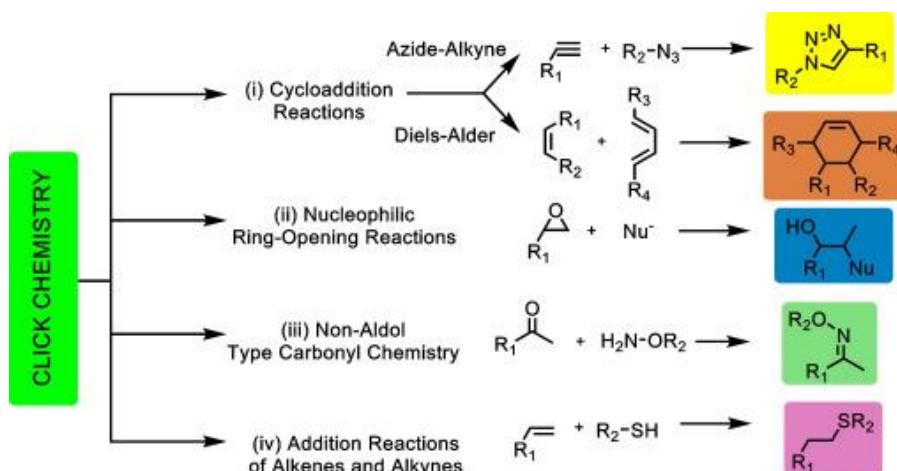


Fig. 1 Main click chemistry reaction groups. R1, R2, R3, R4 are the reaction groups [7].

Mechanism of CuAAC

The copper (I) catalyzed variation 8, 9 of the Huisgen 1, 3-dipolar cycloaddition (CuAAC) 10-12 definitely has been the choice of click reactions, to the point that it is now

unquestionably the leading example of the click chemical reaction [8]. Arthur Michael originally described the production of 1,2,3-triazoles via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of azides and alkynes near the end of the nineteenth century, and Rolf Huisgen considerably developed it in the 1960s [9].

Generally, cycloadditions take place via an associated process. Experimental kinetic data and molecular modelling of the Huisgen 1, 3-dipolar cycloaddition process, on the other hand, appear to suggest a stepwise reaction route [10]. According to experimental data and the fact that the copper-catalyzed process is expected to occur in a stepwise fashion, beginning with the formation of copper (I) acetylide (5) (Figure 2).

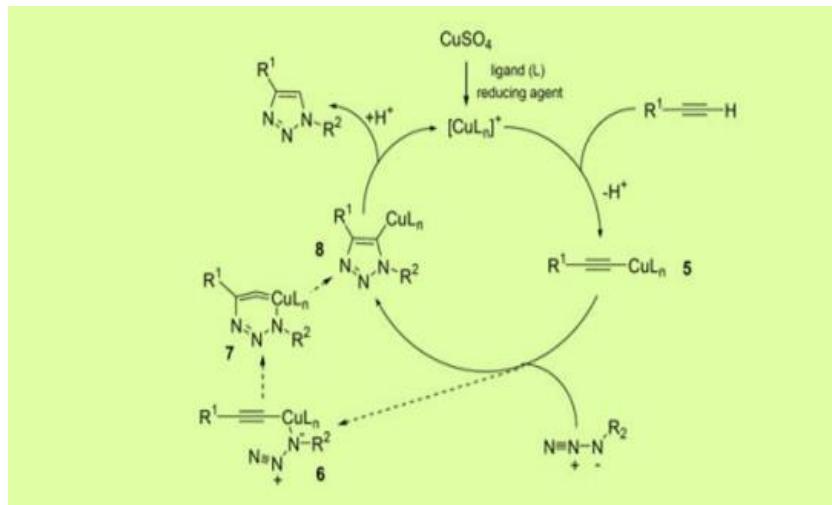


Fig. 2 Proposed catalytic cycle for the CuI [10].

Depending on the reaction circumstances, numerous distinct types of Cu-acetylidyne complexes can be generated; compound 5 is only one of them [11]. The π CuI complexation reduces the pKa of the terminal alkyne by up to 9.8 pH units, permitting deprotonation to take place without the addition of a base in an aqueous solution [12].

Applications of Click Chemistry

Since its introduction in 2001, click chemistry has sparked an explosion in the number of articles outlining a broad variety of applications for this practical and reasonable chemical method. Initially developed, to meet the challenges of drug discovery, click chemistry is now being used in many facets of drug discovery, from lead generation to DNA and proteomics studies [13].

Remarkably, the philosophy of click chemistry has lately supplied a potent tool in material sciences, resulting in an abundance of innovative, tailor-made biomacromolecules with amazing structural traits and capabilities [14]. Using alkyne-azide click cycloadditions, several alternative synthetic techniques have been described to produce the connection of polymers with proteins, peptides, nucleic acids, sugars, or even organisms and viruses [15]. Furthermore, biological uses of click chemistry, particularly in bioconjugation concepts, are developing as a click-field of significant concern. A possible explanation is because bioconjugation is important in many fields of study, including Nanomedicine. The unexpected validity of the Cu-catalyzed azide-acetylene association, the inertness of the reaction under biological circumstances, and the mild environments under which the biologicals and other

delicate structures exist will not lose their functions advantage *in vivo* and *in vitro* bioconjugation applications [16]. The three most relevant types of major fields where click chemistry has had considerable influence are; i) drug discovery, (ii) materials science, and (iii) bio conjugation.

Employment of click chemistry in drug discovery

Click chemistry is rapidly being employed in pharmaceutics, from drug innovation and optimization to detection in biological systems such as nucleotides, proteins, and entire organisms [17]. In latest years, combinatorial chemistry has assisted the hard process of lead identification and optimization, which is reliant on the fidelity of specific reactions utilized to form a novel arrangement of chemical connections [18]. By making it simple to synthesize building blocks for novel chemical entities, click chemistry has considerably aided the entire drug development process (NMEs) [19]. By aiding with lead detection and optimization, it has enhanced and broadened conventional drug discovery methods, while it has not entirely replaced them.

The application of click chemistry promotes “structure-based design” and enhances “combinatorial chemistry” approaches, and via the selection of the proper “building blocks”, it can produce derivatives or recreate known pharmacophores, biological compounds, and medicines. [21]. Triazole linkage is characterized as a strong pharmacophore due to the significant dipole motion and binds firmly to numerous proteins in a variety of ways [22]. Massarotti and Aprile investigated triazole ring's pharmacophoric relevance, the “X-ray crystal structure” of 1, 2, and 3-triazoles complexes with DNA or proteins (protein-triazole). Additionally, the function of triazole was examined to comprehend its capacity to inactivate hepatic cytochromes, catabolic/anabolic constancy, and general water dissolvability of the materials [23]. Triazole pharmacophores could serve as intercalating agents through π - π “stacking interactions, act as H-bond donors with N2 and N3 atoms, and engage in C-H hydrogen-bonding interactions”, be metabolically inactive “(1,4-triazoles) or active (1,5-triazoles)”, reduce water solubility, replace an amide without varying the binding posture, and have modest inhibitory effects on CYP enzymes, which might behave as reactive intermediates [23].

There are three forms of click chemistry-based drug discovery: i) “high-throughput screening” (HTS); (ii) “fragment-based drug discovery” (FBDD); plus (iii) “dynamic template-assisted techniques in FBDD” [24].

High-throughput screening (HTS)

HTS is a well-established approach for leading drug development in the pharmaceutical business and academia. Computers, miniature assays, and massive data processing are used to screen vast chemical libraries for action towards biological targets [25]. Numerous biochemical targets identified in contemporary drug invention attempts belong to enzyme families such as proteases, kinases, phosphatases, phosphodiesterase, oxidoreductases and transferases [26]. In light of the increasing number of genes and proteins, the insufficient number of molecular targets for which pharmaceuticals have been approved (324 targets) reveals that some targets are still problematic to control by “low-molecular-weight chemicals” (i.e., tiny biomolecules), while others are still inaccessible to current methods and, as a result,

not only represent a significant challenge but also promise limitless potential for pharmaceuticals development [27, 28].

Combining click chemistry with HT enzyme assay methods including microarrays has modernized lead generation and optimization in drug development. Click chemistry's small-molecule libraries have been effectively employed in the development of novel inhibitors and activity-led fingerprinting of key enzymes might influence the identification and classification of novel enzyme subsets [29].

Fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD)

According to FBDD, the free binding energy of a protein-ligand is governed by its molecular components. For improved binding affinity, the first pieces that cling to the protein scaffold are altered after the discovery of a small-molecule fragment that sticks to the protein scaffold of interest, and the lead structure is optimized [30]. Even though numerous enzymes have several binding pockets, most inhibitor discovery concentrates on the active region. Secondary or allosteric binding sites, on the other hand, often feature selectivity as well as potency [31]. Because of its incredibly flexible and competent reactive nature, click chemistry is one of the best plausible techniques for the creation of "fragment-based inhibitors" in this situation. Because of the click reaction's efficiency and water compatibility, the formed compounds may be evaluated for inhibition instantly without the need for purification [32].

Dynamic template-assisted approaches in FBDD

Scholars have proposed dynamic template-assisted approaches to tackle the difficulty of detecting low-affinity regions and physiologically beneficial active connections associated with FBDD. In all of these procedures, a chemical-reaction, whether "reversible or irreversible/enzymatic or non-enzymatic", is used to find the optimal fragment pattern [33]. Click reactions add azide and alkyne groups into segments that engage well with the enzyme and are chosen to engage partly with the enzymatic attachment domain. Therefore, the fragments are joined together via cycloaddition between azide and alkyne to create the final inhibitor [34]. As a consequence, a present combination of two or more bioorthogonal segmented prodrugs is formed, which may be provided concurrently or consecutively for *in vivo* drug self-assembly through a target-driven mechanism, and it is incorporated in the gene/protein-specific pharmaceutical design [35].

As a consequence, small biomolecules in medicines with much desired pharmacological characteristics may be developed, and issues associated with "plasma level biodistribution" can be reduced for clinical use [36]. Therefore, using click chemistry, Pharmaceutical formulations containing essentially identical but "fragmented prodrugs" can be created to interrelate directly with biological foci, whether proteomic or genomic foci, resulting in custom-made biosimilars [37].

Use of click chemistry in the production of enzyme inhibitors

Enzymes are therapeutic goals for numerous ailments, including tumours, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, tuberculosis, and numerous other serious illnesses, and therefore may exhibit a vital role in treating such disorders [38]. With a rising figure of patients suffering from such terminal ailments, click chemistry is influencing chemical synthesis and development in a more quickly and effectively way, giving fresh techniques for

compounds library screening. Through fragment-based enzyme inhibitor synthesis, synthetic chemists have been able to produce libraries of various kinds of molecules. Each enzyme inhibitor's typical structure is shown in Figure 3 thanks to click chemistry's exceptionally modular and effective reaction properties [39].

“Protein kinases” (PKs) are enzymes that act by phosphorylating the hydroxyl groups of threonine and serine amino acid residues to regulate the activity of other proteins. Abnormalities in a kinase or its expression level are associated with several illnesses, including cancer and diabetes. Because of their importance in various biological stimuli transmission pathways, new drug identification and isolation are concentrated on PKs as the main therapeutic targets [40,41]. CuAAC-coupled azidos b-D-glucoside, b-D-mannoside, and b-D-galactoside were combined with alkynyl lipids of rising sequence distance to generate triazolyl glycolipids, which rendered drug-resistant bacteria more susceptible to b-lactam antibiotics (Figure 3) [40,42]. The clicking derivatives show the capacity to deactivate methicillin-resistant *Staph. aureus* (MRSA) synergistically with currently available b-lactam antibiotics. Despite the increasing use of CuAAC for biological chemical synthesis, the combination of copper with reducing chemicals remain a source of contention due to reports of Cu radicals damaging or demolishing protein and/or peptide complexes through conventional reactions of CuAAC [43].

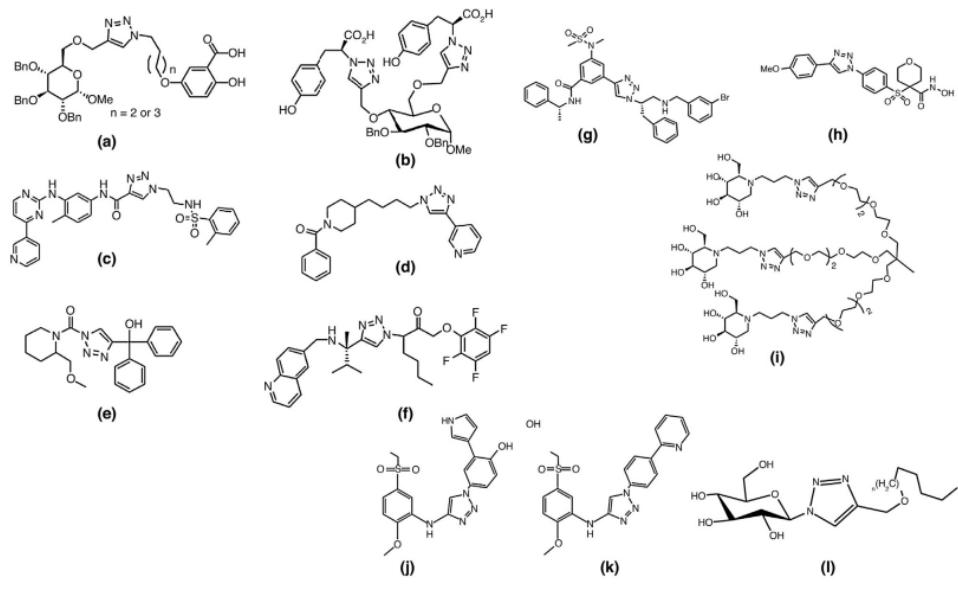


Fig. 3 The following are some illustrations of the chemical configurations of many inhibitors produced by click chemistry: (a,b) protein TPP inhibitors; (c) PK inhibitors; (d) transferase inhibitors; (e) SH inhibitors; (f) cysteine protease inhibitors; (g) aspartic protease inhibitors; (h) MMP inhibitors; I (PBP2a inhibitors) [40].

Using whichever hydrophilic ligands like “bis-(L-histidine) or improved Cu (I) ligands” that give modest Cu (I) packing via a catalytic procedure, has improved CuAAC cell compatibility [44]. Moreover, copper chains have been proven to catalyze a process in the absence of a ligand or reductant [45].

In situ click chemistry

Throughout the last few years, innovative techniques for discovering lead compounds depending on click chemistry have been studied, in which the target molecule energetically participates in the creation of its specific blocking chemical. [46]. These “fragment-based” techniques, also known as “target guided synthesis (TGS)”, are a subclass of the standard combinatorial strategy in which the biological receiver is used to direct the synthesis (either DNA or protein) and plays an active role in the selection of ligands built from a pool of minor segments (Figure 4).

In the use of this reaction to TGS, the delayed interaction among inactivated alkynes and azides is critical. Sharpness and Finn employed the “alkyne-azide click reaction (AAC)” to produce a “template-directed enzyme inhibitor”, with the enzyme acting as the cucurbituril host. The application of AAC reactions in TGS is referred to as “click chemistry *in situ*”[48]. This irreversible reaction has the following properties that make it suitable for finding leads: It has bio-orthogonality, which means that azides and alkynes are inactive *in vivo* and can persist in biological settings. It also has the following advantages: (i) it is exceptionally thermodynamically favourable; (ii) it involves no third parties, such as catalysts or other elements; and (iii) it is free of third-party participants [49].

The cholinergic enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE) was chosen as the original aim for *in situ* click chemistry because it is a crucial aspect of neurobiological role, especially in neurological diseases, and because of the assembly of its determinant loci. Sharpless *et al.* chemically introduced 98 variants of AChE inhibitors from 16 AChE building blocks using the *in situ* click approach [50].

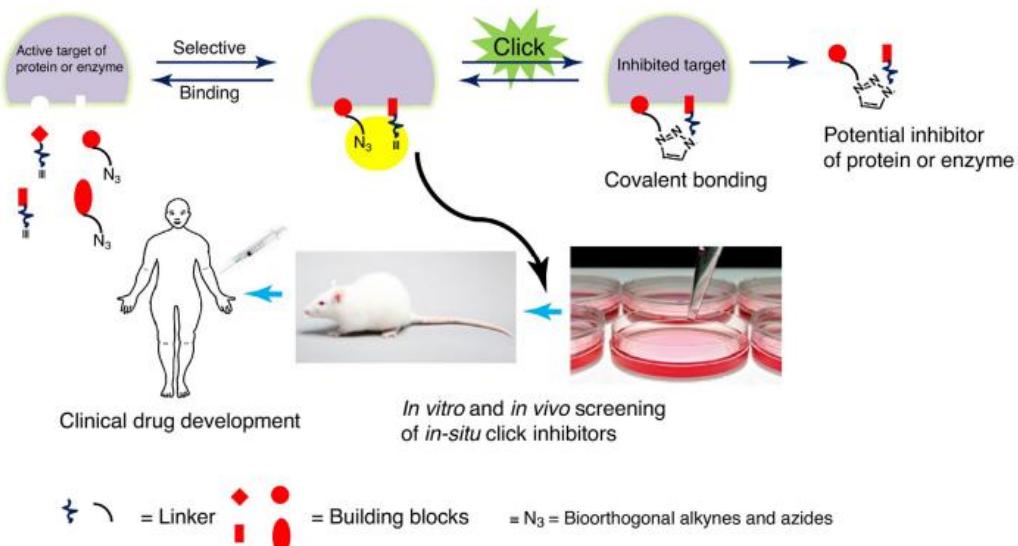


Fig. 4 In situ click chemistry employed to generate protein or enzyme inhibitors and drugs is depicted schematically [47].

Conclusions

The utilization of click chemistry has resulted in the clinical transformation of medicine in order to produce medications for people with unmet medical requirements. Despite its shortcomings, click chemistry remains one of the most adaptable chemical techniques for a wide range of pharmaceutical applications. Its endurance to typical biological circumstances

as well as the most diversified functional groups, as well as the covalent connections produced among the click groups' high aqueous solubility.

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تقييم وتطبيق كيمياء النقر: مراجعة

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الخلاصة:

استخدمت كيمياء النقر بشكل متكرر في الماضي لتسرير العثور على العملاء المحتملين وتحسينهم. في عام 2001، تمت صياغة مصطلح "كيمياء النقر" لوصف الكيمياء المصممة للانضمام بسرعة وثبات إلى جزيئات صغيرة لتشكيل مركبات. تعد كيمياء النقر، التي تتضمن دمج مركبين شبيهين التفاعل بطريقة موثوقة دون أي منتجات ثانوية، أداة قيمة في العديد من المجالات. أحد أكثر تفاعلات النقر شيوعاً، النحاس ثانوي القطب، هو تفاعل بالإضافة الدورية المحفزة بالألكاين والأزيد التي يشيع استخدامها من علماء الأحياء الكيميائية والمتخصصين في علوم المواد وكيميائيي البوليمرات. يجمع تفاعل النحاس ثانوي القطب بين أزيد وألكين لإنتاج تريازول يربط كيانيين جزيئيين مختلفين. كانت استخدامات كيمياء النقر في اكتشاف الأدوية موضوع هذه المراجعة.

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الكلمات المفتاحية:

تفاعلات النقر، مضادات البكتيريا،

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