ResearchGate Impact Factor (2018): 0.28 | SJIF (2019): 7.583

# A Green Approach: For the Synthesis of Curcumin and Its Derivatives

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Abstract: Here in the present research work we have developed newer method for the synthesis of curcumin C. Barium Hydroxide was found to be an effective and mild base synthesis of curcumin and its derivatives obtained by reaction of one equivalent of acetyl acetone with two equivalent of corresponding aromatic aldehyde in microwave. The current scheme offers various benefits such as high yield, less time, and environmentally friendly.

Keywords: Curcumin, Barium Hydroxide, acetyl acetone, aromatic aldehyde, microwave

#### 1. Introduction

Curcumin, (1) a polyphenol derived from Curcuma longa (commonly known as turmeric) is an ancient spice and therapeutic used in India for centuries to induce color in food and to treat a wide array of diseases [1]. Curcumin a major yellow pigment and active component of turmeric powder extracted from Curcuma longa L. Curcumin, commonly called diferuloyl methane, is a hydrophobic polyphenol derived from the rhizome (turmeric) of the herb Curcuma longa (Zingiberaceae). Turmeric has been used for thousands of years in Ayurveda and traditional medicine of Chinese and Indians. In modern days, curcumin continues to be used as an alternative medicinal agent in many parts of South East Asia for the treatment of many ailments such as stomach upset, flatulence, jaundice, arthritis, sprains, wounds and skin infections.[2] It has attracted a lot of attention due to its promising biological properties to treat cancer,[3] Alzheimer's disease,[4] HIV,[5-6] chronic inflammations,[2] oxidative stress,[7] and cystic fibrosis[8]. Curcumin underwent clinical trial for cancer owing to its prominent activity as an antitumor and chemo preventive

agent [9] However, this trial ceased due to poor bioavailability of the molecule [10-11]. Clinical trials are ongoing to test the efficacy of curcumin against Alzheimer's disease [12] and cystic fibrosis [13]. Intense research is also being undertaken to modify the structure of curcumin so as to increase the bioavailability and potency while maintaining the relative non-toxic nature of this natural product [14-17].

During the past era, synthetic modifications of curcumin, which were aimed at enhancing its bioactivities, have been intensively studied. One sustainable strategy for green synthesis of organic compounds is microwave irradiation. Since, microwaves will not affect molecular structure in the excitation of molecules, the effect of microwave absorption is purely kinetic. Compared to traditional methods, microwave synthesis is more suitable to synthesize and can be carried out in greater yields in short reaction times under mild reaction conditions.[18-21] The current scheme offers various benefits such as high yield, short time, efficient, and environmentally friendly.

Figure 1: Tautomeric structure of curcumin (1)

#### 2. Experimental Section

M.P points were determined by open glass capillary method. All chemicals used were reagent grade and were used as received. A Laboratory Microwave Oven (Model BP 310/50) operating at 2450 MHz and power output of 600 W was used for all the experiments. The completion of reactions was monitored by TLC (Merck silica gel). IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-420 spectrophotometer. 1H NMR and 13C NMR spectra were recorded at 400oC on a Bruker AVANCE DPX (400 MHz) FT spectrometer in CDC13 using TMS as an internal reference (chemical shift in  $\delta$ , ppm) and mass spectra.

### A- General procedure for the synthesis of curcumin derivatives. (Conventional Method)

In a mixture of 2 equivalent of substituted benzaldehyde (10 mmol), 1 equivalent of acetyl acetone (5 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL of DMF was added 3 equivalents of calcium hydroxide (15 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for about 15-16 hour. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, it was poured into cold water, neutralized with cold dil. HCl up to pH 4 to 5. The solid precipitated was filtered, washed with cold water and purified by crystallization from ethanol.

Volume 10 Issue 2, February 2021 www.ijsr.net

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Paper ID: SR21212174709 DOI: 10.21275/SR21212174709 814

ResearchGate Impact Factor (2018): 0.28 | SJIF (2019): 7.583

### **B-** Procedure for synthesis of curcumin derivatives (Microwave method)

In a microwave assisted method in 250 ml beaker we have taken 2 equivalent of substituted benzaldehyde (20 mmol), and one of acetyl acetone (10 mmol) 20 ml water and 3 equivalent of Barium hydroxide was added. The reaction

mixture was stirred for room temperature and then irradiated for 4–6 min in microwave at 240 W (40%) power. Then the reaction mixture was poured into ice cold water neutralized with HCl The solid product was filtered on sanction pump, washed with cold water and purified by crystallization from methanol.

#### 3. Result and Discussion

Acetyl acetone having terminal two methyl group and it also having active methylene group 1 equivalent of barium hydroxide form complex with acetyl acetone in its enol form. It blocks that active methylene group and other two equivalent of barium hydroxide take proton form terminal - CH<sub>3</sub> and generate carbanion. That generated carbanion react with aromatic aldehyde, Workup using dil. HClcleaved Ba complex to give curcumin derivatives. The reaction was monitored by TLC and purified from alcohol. From

experimental result is was observed that traditional method time required to get product in 12-16 hour and yield is also less. The microwave assisted method gives high yield in short time. Surprisingly we get product within 4-6 minutes very high yield. It is very important to mention aromatic aldehyde bearing both electron donating and electron withdrawing groups easily undergo condensation to give corresponding curcumin analogues. While study on effect of substitution on aromatic rings it was observed that reaction is prone to steric hindrance and yield suffer from othosubstituted aldehyde.

Table 1: Synthesis of curcumin and its derivatives by Traditional method and Microwave method

Sr. No	Compound Code	$\mathbb{R}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$\mathbb{R}^3$	Traditional method		Microwave method		Melting Point
					Time in Hour	Yield (%)	Time in min	Yield (%)	°C
1	Ca	-OCH <sub>3</sub>	Н	Н	15	55.25	5	69.80	122-240
2	Cb	Н	Н	OH	16	54.20	4	71.90	175
3	Cc	Н	-OCH <sub>3</sub>	OH	12	61.20	6	85.63	181-182
4	Cd	Н	Н	Br	13	59.20	4	82.30	154-156
5	Ce	Н	Н	$N(CH_3)_2$	14	68.50	6	68.10	147-149
6	Cf	$NO_2$	Н	Н	15	44.25	5	75.80	141-142
7	Cg	Н	$NO_2$	Н	16	60.28	5	90.89	161-163
8	Ch	Н	Н	$NO_2$	12	52.28	4	89.60	146-147
9	Ci	Н	-OCH <sub>3</sub>	-OCH <sub>3</sub>	13	48.25	6	79.46	129-130
10	Cj	OH	Н	Н	14	51.84	4	71.95	187
11	Ck	Н	Н	-OCH <sub>3</sub>	15	54.20	6	79.54	161-162
12	Cl	Cl	Н	Н	16	55.54	5	76.80	116-119
13	Cm	Н	Н	Cl	12	61.28	5	84.90	151-152
14	Cn	Н	Н	CH <sub>3</sub>	13	56.28	4	79.55	111-113
15	Co	Н	Н	Н	14	57.25	6	87.65	142

#### Data of Ca:

IR (KBr): v 3412, 1668, 1255, 1142, 961, 752 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  3.85 (6H, s, 2·ArOCH3), 6.13 (1H, s, H-4), 6.62 (1H, d, J =16 Hz, H-6), 6.79 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-3′, 3″), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), H- 6.97 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-7), 7.17 (4H, m, H-4′, 5′, 4″, 5″), 7.53 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-6′, 6″), 7.74 (2H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  55.4 (OCH3), 101.2 (C-4), 115.2 (C-3′, 3″), 118.5 (C-6), 120.8 (C-5′, 5″), 122.9 (C-2), 127.9 (C-4′, 4″), 125.4 (C-1′,1″), 134.8 (C-6′, 6″), 140.4 (C-7), 142.4 (C-1), 159.3 (C-2′, 2″), 182.4 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cb:

IR (KBr): v 3412, 2932, 1627, 1603, 962, 814 cm-1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.52 (1H, s, H-4), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-7), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.35 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 2 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″),

7.56 (4H, dd, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2′′, 6′′), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3): δ 101.1 (C-4), 118.6 (C-6), 122.6 (C-4′, 4′′), 123.1 (C-2), 128.6 (C-2′, 6′, 2′′, 2′′), 130.6 (C-3′, 5′, 3′′, 5′′), 131.9 (C-1′, 1′′), 140.4 (C-7), 142.2 (C-1), 182.5 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cj:

IR (KBr): v 3412, 3211, 1620, 1600, 1269, 1168, 1140, 955, 831 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 6.12 (1H, s, H-4), 6.73 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-7), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 6.87 (4H d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 7.56 (4H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2″, 6″), 7.67 (2H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 101.1 (C-4), 115.3 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 118.3 (C-6), 123.2 (C-2), 127.4 (C-1′, 1″), 130.6 (C-2′, 6′, 2″, 2″), 140.4 (C-7), 142.7 (C-1), 159.7 (C-4′, 4″), 182.6 (C-3, C-5) ppm

Date of Ce:

Volume 10 Issue 2, February 2021

www.ijsr.net

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Paper ID: SR21212174709 DOI: 10.21275/SR21212174709 815

ResearchGate Impact Factor (2018): 0.28 | SJIF (2019): 7.583

IR (KBr): v 3417, 2920, 1664, 1362, 962, 814 cm-1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 3.03 (12H, s, 2· ArN(CH3)2), 6.25 (1H, s, H-4), 6.72 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5′′), 6.84 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-7), 6.91 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.42 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2″, 6′′), 7.63 (2H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-1) 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3): δ 42.4 (N(CH3)2), 101.6 (C-4), 110.9 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 118.9 (C-6), 123.4 (C-2), 124.3 (C-1′, 1″), 129.6 (C-2′, 6′, 2″, 2″), 140.3 (C-7), 142.1 (C-1), 149.7 (C-4′, 4″), 182.6 (C-3, C-5)

#### Data of Cg:

IR (KBr): v 3425, 2933, 1695, 1608, 1177, 1028, 977, 826 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.78 (1H, s, H-4), 6.86 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-7), 7.12 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 7.23 (2H, d, J = 15.7 Hz, H-2), 7.58 (2H, dd, J = 8, 8 Hz, H-5′, 5′′), 7.95 (1H, d, J = 15.7 Hz, H-1), 7.98 (2H, dd, J = 8, 2Hz, H-6′, 6′′), 8.06 (2H, m, H-4′, 4′′), 8.16 (2H, d, J = 2 Hz, H-2′, 2′′) ppm 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.4 (C-4), 119.2 (C-6), 122.7 (C-2′, 2′′), 123.1 (C-2), 123.4 (C-4′, 4′′), 129.4 (C-5′, 5′′), 134.3 (C-6′, 6′′), 137.5 (C-1′, 1′′), 139.9 (C-7), 142.3 (C-1), 147.4 (C-3′, 3′′), 182.4 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cf:

IR (KBr): v 3455, 1697, 1596, 1255, 1142, 961, 752 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.78 (1H, s, H-4), 6.84 (1H, d, J =16 Hz, H-6), 7.10 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.32 (1H, d, J =16 Hz, H-7), 7.73 (2H, m, H-5′, 5′′), 7.91 (2H, m, H-4′, 4′′), 8.02 (2H, dd, J = 8, 2 Hz, H-6′, 6′′), 8.14 (2H, d, J = 8, 2 Hz, H-3′, 3′′), 8.27 (2H, d, J = 15.8 Hz, H-1,7) ppm 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.2 (C-4), 119.4 (C-6), 123.4 (C-2), 123.4 (C-3′, 3′′), 127.2 (C-6′, 6′′), 127.4 (C-1′, 1′′), 128.9 (C-4′, 4′′), 134.6 (C-5′, 5′′), 140.1 (C-7), 142.9 (C-1), 147.5 (C-2′, 2′′), 182.5 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Ci:

IR (KBr): v 3420, 2933, 1676, 1592, 1177, 1028, 977, 826 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  3.92, (s, 6H), 3.97 (s, 6H), 6.67 (1H, s, H-4), 6.83 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 6.97 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5′, 5′′), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 16Hz, H-2), 7.13 (2H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-2′, 7.21 (2H, dd, J = 2.0, 8.0 Hz, H-6′, 6′′), 7.68 (2H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  55.8 (OCH3), 56.2 (OCH3), 101.5 (C-4), 111.9 (C- 2′, 2′′), 112.3 (C-5′, 5′′), 118.4 (C-6), 122.4 (C-6′, 6′′), 123.2 (C-2), 127.4 (C-1′, 1′′), 140.3 (C-7), 142.6 (C-1), 149.0 (C-4′, 4′′), 149.7 (C-3′, 3′′), 182.8(C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cc:

m.p. = 181—182 °C IR (KBr): v 3468 (br s, OH), 1627 (C=O), 1604, 1508 (C=C, Ar), 1282, 1027 cm—1 1 H-NMR (DMSO-d6, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  3.84 (s, 6H, 2 × OCH3), 6.06 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, 2H, J = 16.6 Hz), 6.82 (d, 2H, J = 8.22 Hz, ortho coupling), 7.16 (d, 2H, J = 8.03 Hz, ortho coupling), 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.55 (d, 2H, J = 15.35 Hz), 9.74 (s, 2H, 2 × phenolic OH), 10.13 (s, 1H, enol OH) ppm 13C-NMR (DMSO-d6, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  56.22 (2 × OCH3), 101.43, 111.82, 116.23, 121.62, 123.70, 126.86, 141.28, 148.53, 149.88, 183.76 ppm Mass (EI): m/z 369 (MH+)

#### Data of Co:

IR (KBr): v 3398, 2942, 1684, 1605, 1172, 1025 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.54 (1H, s, H-4), 6.73 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-7), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-6), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-2), 7.27 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 2Hz, H-4′, 4′′), 7.37 (4H, dd, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3′′, 5′′), 7.51 (4H, dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2′′, 6′′), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.2 (C-4), 118.3 (C-6), 122.9 (C-2), 126.5 (C-4′, 4′′), 128.3 (C-2′, 6′, 2′′, 6′′), 128.6 (C-3′, 5′, 3′′, 5′′), 135.2 (C-1', 1"), 140.5 (C-7), 142.3 (C-1), 182.4 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cn:

IR (KBr): v 3422, 2942, 1672, 1605, 1172, 1025 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 2.35 (6H, s, ArCH3), 6.52 (1H, s, H-4), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-7), 6.87 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-6), 7.06 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-2) 7.13 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 2Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3′′, 5″), 7.47 (4H, dd, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2″, 6′′), 7.69 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3): δ 21.4 (CH3), 101.1 (C-4), 118.5 (C-6), 123.2 (C-2), 128.4 (C-2′, 6′, 2″, 6′′), 128.7 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″′), 130.9 (C-4′, 4″), 132.2 (C-1′, 1″′), 140.4 (C-7), 142.2 (C-1), 182.2 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cm:

IR (KBr): v 3422, 2932, 1685, 1603, 1172, 1025 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.57 (1H,s, H-4), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-7), 6.88 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-6), 7.08 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-2), 7.32 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 2Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 7.52 (4H, dd, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2″, 6″), 7.71 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.0 (C-4), 118.9 (C-6), 123.5 (C-2), 128.6 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 129.2 (C-2′, 6′, 2″, 2″), 131.9 (C-1′, 1″), 133.6 (C-4′, 4″), 140.6 (C-7), 142.4 (C-1), 182.5 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cl:

IR (KBr): v 3374, 2932, 1627, 1683, 1173 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.61 (1H,s, H-4), 6.87 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-6), 6.87 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.09 (1H, d, J = 16Hz, H-7), 7.28 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 2 Hz, H-4′, 4′′), 7.33 (2H, J = 8, 2 Hz, H-5′, 5′′), 7.37 (2H, dd, J = 8, 2 Hz, H-6′, 6′′), 7.48 (2H, dd, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3′, 3′′), 7.84 (2H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.5 (C-4), 118.6 (C-6), 123.7 (C-2), 127.3 (C-5′, 5′′), 128.4 (C-6′, 6′′), 129.2 (C-4′, 4′′), 129.7 (C-3′, 3′′), 132.9 (C-1′, 1′′), 134.6 (C-2′, 2′′), 140.4 (C-7), 142.7 (C-1), 182.8 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Ck:

IR (KBr): v 3441, 2933, 1672, 1600, 1177, 1028, 977, 826 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  3.84 (6H, s, 2-ArOCH3), 6.74 (1H, s, H-4), 6.82 (1H, d, J =16 Hz, H-7), 6.92 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 6.98 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5′′), 7.06 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.46 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2″, 6″), 7.69 (2H, d, J = 15.7 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  56.2 (OCH3), 101.3 (C-4), 114.6 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 118.6 (C-6), 123.5 (C-2), 128.1 (C-1′, 1′′), 130.4 (C-2′, 6′, 2″′, 2″′), 140.6 (C-7), 142.4 (C-1), 159.7 (C-4′, 4″′), 182.3 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Cj:

IR (KBr): v 3412, 3391, 1615, 1255, 1142, 961, 752 cm-1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 6.16 (1H, s, H-4), 6.64(1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-6), 6.87 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-3′,

#### Volume 10 Issue 2, February 2021

#### www.ijsr.net

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Paper ID: SR21212174709 DOI: 10.21275/SR21212174709

ResearchGate Impact Factor (2018): 0.28 | SJIF (2019): 7.583

3´´), 6.95 (2H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 16Hz, H-7), 7.25 (4H, m, H-4´, 5´, 4´´, 5´´), 7.67 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-6´, 6´´), 7.89 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-1) ppm 13C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  101.3 (C-4), 117.2 (C-3´, 3´´), 118.9 (C-6), 121.1 (C-5´, 5´´), 122.2 (C-1´, 1´´), 122.9 (C-2), 127.3 (C-5´, 5´´), 128.8 (C-6´, 6´´), 129.4 (C-4´, 4´´), 140.1 (C-7), 142.6 (C-1), 157.3 (C-2´, 2´´), 182.4 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### Data of Ch:

IR (KBr): v 3452, 2933, 1692, 1608, 1177, 1028, 977, 826 cm–1 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  6.83 (1H, s, H-4), 6.91(1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-7), 7.08 (2H, d, J = 15.7 Hz, H-,6), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, H-2), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 15.7 Hz,H-1), 8.12 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-2′, 6′, 2′′, 6″), 7.98 (4H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″) ppm 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  101.8 (C-4), 118.8 (C-6), 123.6 (C-2), 123.8 (C-3′, 5′, 3″, 5″), 129.2 (C-2′, 6′, 2″, 2″), 140.6 (C-7), 141.3 (C-1′, 1″), 142.6 (C-1), 147.4 (C-4′, 4″), 182.8 (C-3, C-5) ppm

#### 4. Conclusion

In the conclusion the present work describes simplistic method to synthesize curcumin and its congeners using a cheap Barium hydroxide by microwave method. Compared to literature methods the present route is mentionable in terms of reaction condition, high yield, energy efficient, and less time.

#### 5. Acknowledgement

Author thanks to Dr.V.D. Barhate, Principal of Changu Kana Thakur ACS College Panvel (Autonomous) and Dr. S.S. Patil, Director of students Welfare University of Mumbai.

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Volume 10 Issue 2, February 2021 www.ijsr.net

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Paper ID: SR21212174709 DOI: 10.21275/SR21212174709