



## Research article

## 7-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-1, 2-dihydroquinoline derivatives: synthesis via one-pot, three-component reaction and structure elucidation

Rukhsana Tabassum<sup>a,\*</sup>, Muhammad Ashfaq<sup>a,\*\*</sup>, Hiroyuki Oku<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur, 36100, Pakistan<sup>b</sup> Division of Molecular Science, Graduate School of Science & Engineering Gunma University, Gunma, 376-8515, Japan

## ARTICLE INFO

## Keywords:

Analytical chemistry  
Organic chemistry  
Quinoline  
Quinoline derivatives  
One-pot synthesis  
Heterocyclic compounds

## ABSTRACT

We have developed a new and facile one pot three component protocol catalyzed by ammonium acetate for construction of new functionalized 7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives. A variety of quinoline derivatives were obtained in good to excellent yield from inexpensive reagents and catalyst in mild reaction conditions that provide atom economy and cost efficacy. Various spectroscopic techniques like FTIR, <sup>1</sup>HNMR and <sup>13</sup>CNMR were employed to study their structure while mass of the synthesized compounds were confirmed through MALDI-TOF-MS and EI mass spectrometry.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years one pot multicomponent reactions attracted great attention due to simplicity, atom economy, and greater efficiency with less wastage of products during separation due to reduced number of intermediate purification steps that increase the yield of target products. These reactions may proceed through one step protocol or by many successive steps with generation of diversity of heterocyclic compounds in one pot [1, 2]. Multicomponent one pot reactions due to their efficiency and effectiveness provide a prevailing platform to access sustainable, complexity as well as diversity oriented synthesis of heterocyclic compounds from simple and inexpensive starting materials [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]. Quinoline derivatives are heterocyclic compounds that are used as selective and potent drugs against many diseases. They show excellent antiviral activity against dengue virus [11], zika virus [12], avian influenza virus [13] and now in recent pandemic conditions against COVID-19 [14, 15, 16, 17]. They also possess pharmacological properties such as anti-inflammatory [18, 19, 20], antimalarial [21, 22, 23, 24, 25], anti-cancer [26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31], anti-hypertension [32], anti-bacterial [33, 34, 35, 36, 37], anti-tubercular [38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43], anti-fungal [33, 44, 45, 46, 47], anti-urease [48], anti-Alzheimer [49], anti-diabetic [50] and anti-oxidant [51, 52, 53]. Quinoline moiety is a vital part of various natural and pharmacologically active compounds exhibiting a wide-range of biological activities [54, 55, 56]. Owing to their vital role in medicinal agents and natural products,

quinolines have become important synthetic targets for chemists. A diverse range of one pot multicomponent protocols including both catalytic and non-catalytic synthetic methods have been developed that use diverse starting materials to construct the quinoline ring with virtually boundless combinations of functionality [10, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63]. L-proline as catalyst was reported for the synthesis of 4-phenyl quinoline derivatives from anilines but reaction time was 8–12h [58] so we use ammonium acetate as catalyst in one pot protocol which reduced the reaction time to 20min- 90min. Ammonium acetate is used as catalyst as well as reagent in synthesis of a wide range of heterocyclic compounds [64, 65]. In this paper we report a quick one pot, three component facile reaction of malononitrile, 3-aminophenol and substituted aldehydes for the synthesis of quinoline derivatives catalyzed by ammonium acetate.

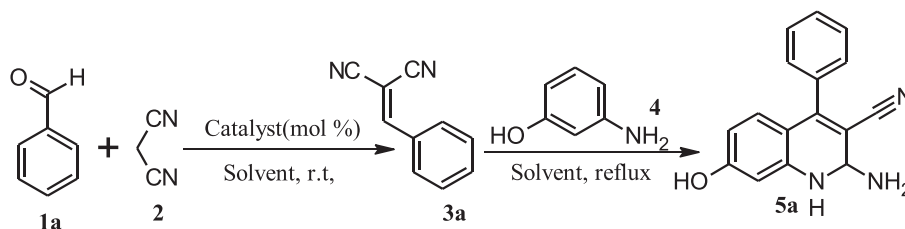
## 2. Results and discussion

Our study instigated with optimization of reaction conditions by choosing benzaldehyde (1a) malononitrile (2) and 3-amino phenol (4) as model substrates in the absence and presence of different catalysts. The results are summarized and enlisted in Table 1. Surprisingly we got 4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline products instead of 4-phenyl quinoline derivatives as confirmed by EIMS and <sup>1</sup>HNMR. At the beginning we tried to obtain product without using any catalyst and to our delight 35% of product was separated in 1 h at reflux temperature (entry 1 Table 1). Intermediate 3 was not obtained by the reaction of 1a and 2 but after

\* Corresponding author.

\*\* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: [rukhsana.tabassum@iub.edu.pk](mailto:rukhsana.tabassum@iub.edu.pk) (R. Tabassum), [chashfaqiub@yahoo.com](mailto:chashfaqiub@yahoo.com) (M. Ashfaq).

Table 1. Optimization of reaction conditions.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	Catalyst amount mol%	Solvent	Time	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1 <sup>c</sup>	-	-	Ethanol	1h	35
2	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	20	Ethanol: Water (4:1)	1h	43 (40) <sup>d</sup>
3	Et <sub>3</sub> N	10	Ethanol	2h	50 (46) <sup>d</sup>
4	Et <sub>3</sub> N	20	Ethanol	2h	50 (46) <sup>d</sup>
5	L-Proline	20	Ethanol	12h	NR <sup>e</sup>
6	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	10	Ethanol	1h	65
7	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	20	Ethanol: Water (4:1)	1h	40
8	NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	20	Ethanol: Water (4:1)	8h	NR
9	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	20	Ethanol	40min	76
10	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	25	Ethanol	30min	87
11	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	Ethanol	20min	95 <sup>f</sup>
12	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	35	Ethanol	20min	95
13	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	Water	2h	NR
14	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	Methanol	2h	NR
15	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	n-Propanol	2h	20 <sup>g</sup>
16	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	n-Butanol	2h	15 <sup>g</sup>
17	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	DCM	40min	45
18	CH <sub>3</sub> COONH <sub>4</sub>	30	Ethanol: Water (1:1)	1h	60

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (2mmol), **2** (2mmol), catalyst, Solvent (5mL) Stirred at room temperature then added **4** (2mmol), Solvent (5mL) and refluxed.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield in hot reaction mixture.

<sup>c</sup> Without any catalyst.

<sup>d</sup> In parentheses is the isolated yield through one step reaction.

<sup>e</sup> NR stands for no reaction.

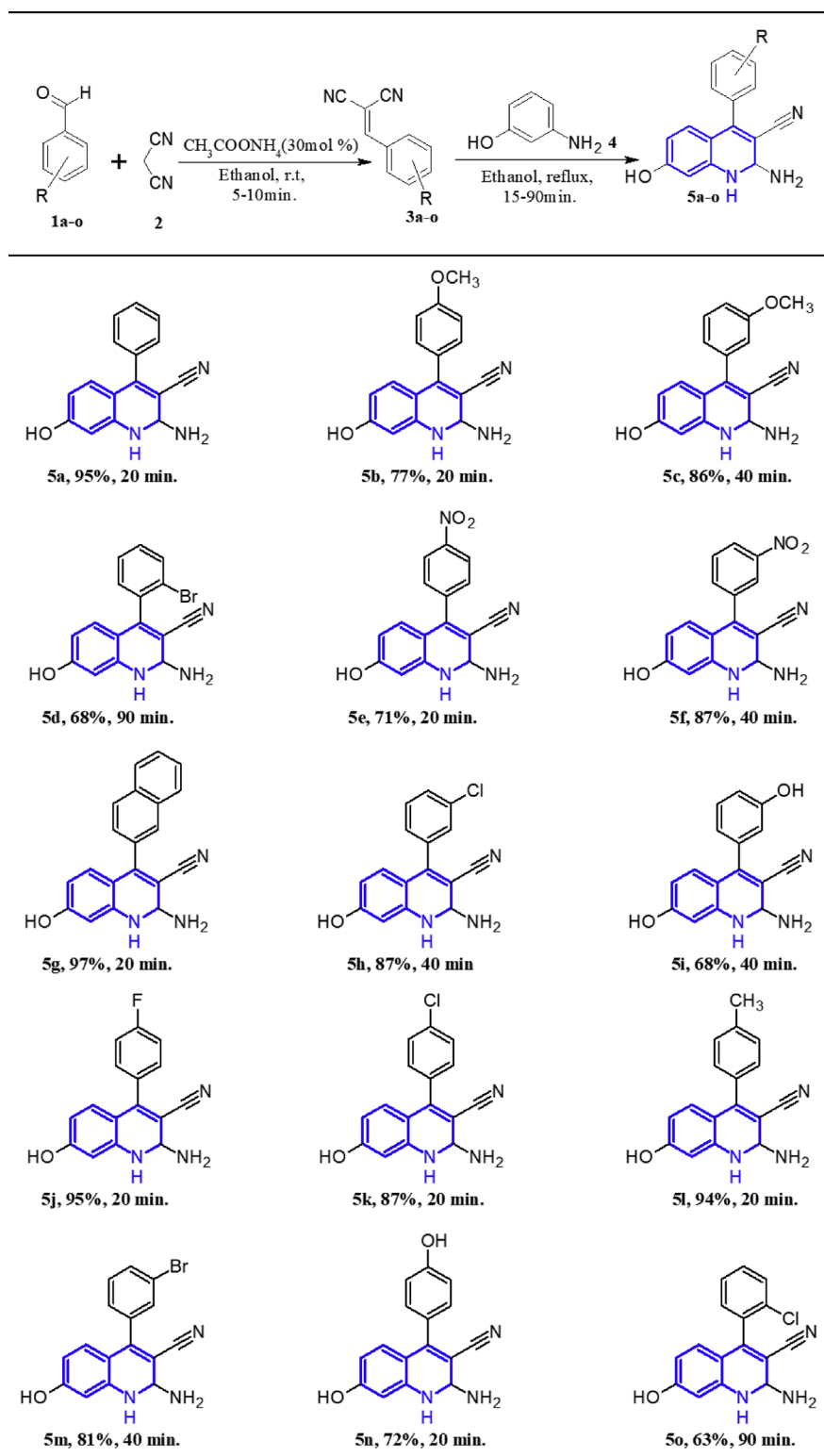
<sup>f</sup> Most suitable reaction conditions.

<sup>g</sup> Product was isolated after cooling the reaction mixture at room temperature.

addition of **4**, at first intermediate **3** was produced at room temperature then on reflux it yielded the product **5a**, and from these results it was concluded that catalyst is necessary and 3-aminophenol itself acted as catalyst for the reaction. So to increase the yield we tried different catalyst and recorded results in Table 1 and found that 25 mol% of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in ethanol and water (4:1) solvent system yielded 43% of product **5a** when reaction was proceeded through two steps that is firstly **1a** allowed to react with **2** at room temperature and then solution of **4** was added at reflux temperature while 40% yield was obtained when all reactants were added together (one step multicomponent protocol) (entry 2 Table 1). Next we used Et<sub>3</sub>N 10 mol% and 20 mol% (Table 1 entry 3 and 4) but the yield was not exceeded from 50% and 46% through two steps and one step reaction respectively. With L. proline (Table 1 entry 5) reaction was not accomplished and reactants **1a** and **2** remains as such even after 12 h of stirring. As from above results it was clear that adding all reactants together decrease the yield to some extent and it may be due to the involvement of **4** as catalyst in the production of benzylidenemalononitrile (**3a**), we further investigated other catalyst only through two steps reactions. We tried different ammonium salts (Table 1 entries 6–8) as catalyst and amazingly got 65% yield of product with ammonium acetate in 1 h at reflux temperature. Then we used different quantities of ammonium acetate and best result was obtained with 30 ml% of ammonium acetate (Table 1 entry 11) which was 95% yield of product in just 20 min (5min stirring at room temperature (step 1) and 15 min stirring at reflux temperature (step 2)). After the selection of appropriate catalyst we further investigated different solvents for reaction (Table 1

entries 13–18) Reaction was not proceeded in water that might be due to the insolubility of **1a** and **4** in water while in methanol inspite the solubility of reactants **1a** did not react with **2** to yield solid product rather slight change in color occurred which when monitored with TLC showed a third component in reaction medium beside **1a** and **2** but when **4** was added in reaction mixture no product was separated at all. Ethanol was found to be the most suitable solvent for reaction as product separated during heating and no further purification was required except washing the product with hot ethanol.

With optimized reaction conditions (Table 1 entry 11) in hand we further evaluated the scope and generality of substrates for this one pot reaction and results are enlisted in Figure 1. A variety of aldehydes, non-substituted (**1a**, **1g**) and substituted with electron withdrawing groups such as NO<sub>2</sub> (**1e**, **1f**), Cl (**1h**, **1k**), Br (**1d**, **1m**), F (**1j**) and electron donating groups like OCH<sub>3</sub> (**1b**, **1c**), CH<sub>3</sub> (**1l**, **1o**) and OH (**1i**, **1n**) reacted smoothly with 3-amino phenol (**4**) and malononitrile (**2**) and furnished the corresponding 4-phenyl quinoline derivatives in good to excellent yield (63–97%) under mild reaction conditions. Non-substituted aldehydes **1a** and **1g** produced the required products **5a** and **5g** in highest yields which are 95% and 97% respectively in just 20 min (1<sup>st</sup> step in 5min and second step in 15 min). Substitution on aldehydes effected the time of completion of reaction for example non substituted and *para* substituted aldehydes converted into products in 20 min. while *meta* substituted aldehydes took 40 min. for completion of reaction and for *ortho* substituted aldehydes longest time was required to convert the reactants into desired product (90 min.). Beside the effect on time of



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 1(5.0 mmol), 2(5.0mmol), 4(5.0 mmol), ammonium acetate(30mol %), ethanol (20ml), reaction proceeded firstly at room temperature then at reflux temperature.<sup>b</sup>Isolated yields, <sup>c</sup> Reaction completion time

**Figure 1.** Substrate scope for synthesis of 7-hydroxy-4-phenyl quinoline derivatives (5a-o).<sup>a,b,c</sup>

reaction *ortho* substitution on aldehydes irrespective of activating or deactivating group also decreased the yield of corresponding quinoline derivatives 5 as compared to *meta* and *para* substitution. This effect may be aroused due to steric hindrance of groups present at *ortho* position.

Methoxy (OCH<sub>3</sub>) group at *meta* position of aldehyde (1c) produced excellent yield of product 5c (86%) as compared to *para* methoxy benzaldehyde (1b) which 77% converted into product 5b while *ortho* methoxy benzaldehyde did not produce the desired product at all.

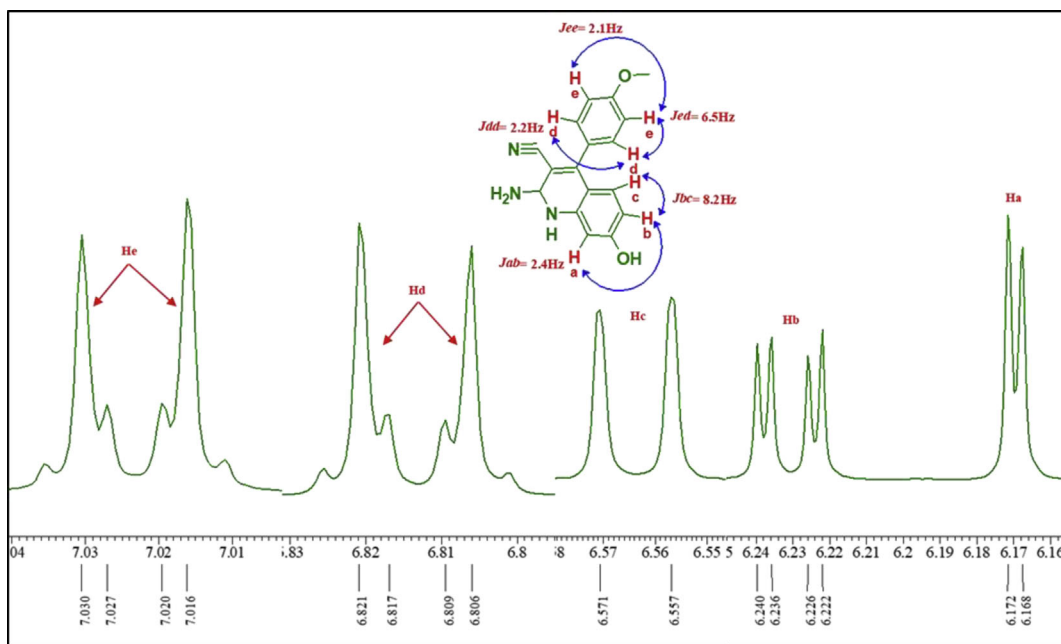


Figure 2. Elaborated <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 5b to explain coupling constants.

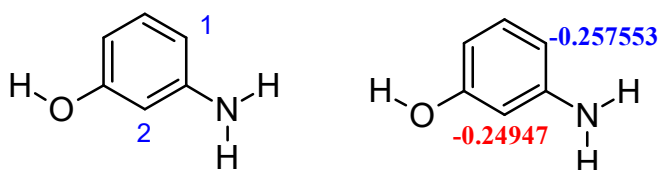


Figure 3. The NPA charges at the MP2/6-31\*G (d, p) level [58].

Methyl group showed an opposite effect than that of OCH<sub>3</sub> as its presence at *para* position gave excellent yield (94%) of 5l. NO<sub>2</sub> group at *meta* position of 1 furnished the product 5f in 87% yield while *para* nitro group produced lesser yield (71%) of product. Halogen groups (F, Cl, and Br) produced 95%, 87% and 81% of required products irrespective of the position of substituents while OH at *para* position resulted in higher yield (72%) of products as compared OH at *meta* position (68%). Some aldehydes did not yielded the products, for example *para* dimethyl amino

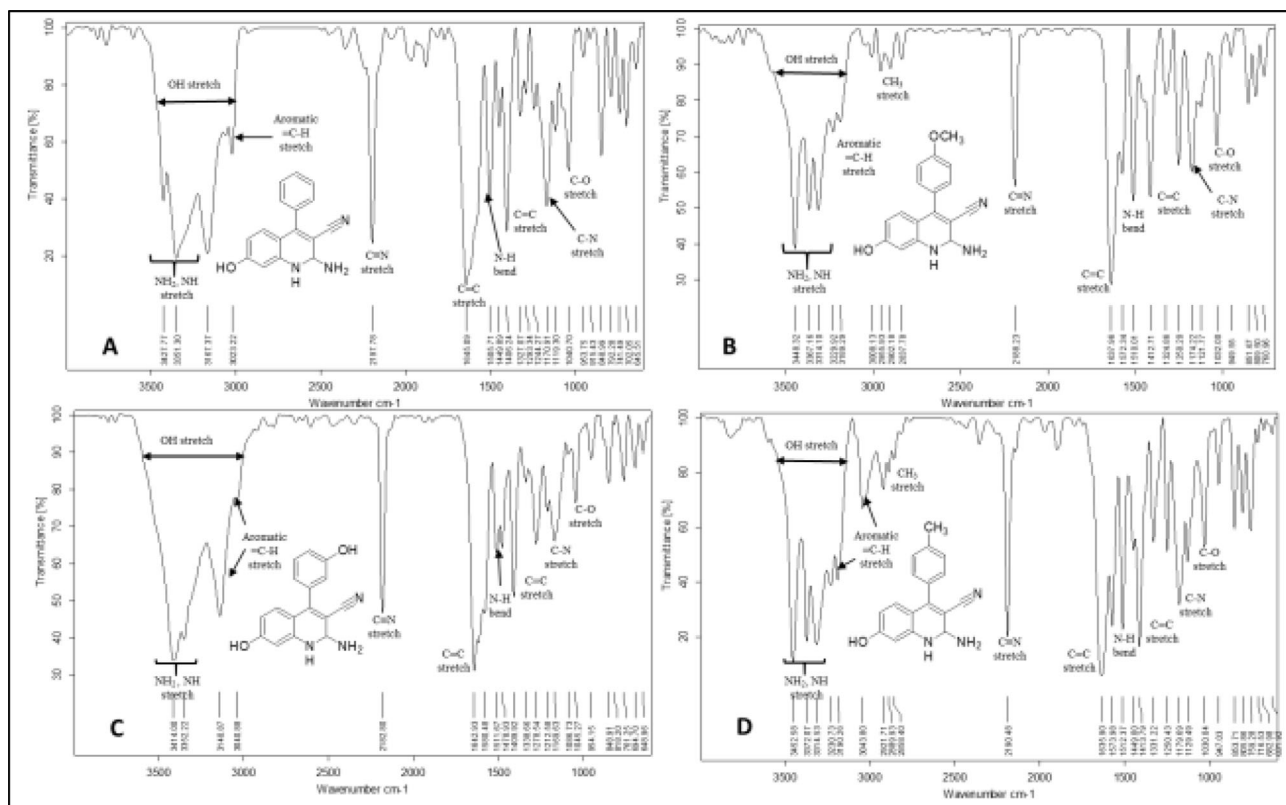


Figure 4. FTIR spectra of A) 5a B) 5b C) 5i D) 5l.

benzaldehyde only furnished the intermediate **3** and did not converted into product **5**, similarly heterocyclic aldehydes like 2-pyridine aldehyde, furfural aldehyde did not reacted to produce the corresponding products.

### 2.1. Rigioselectivity of reaction

This multicomponent one pot protocol furnished 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-aryl-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile derivatives confirmed by NMR studies as represented in elaborated  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of **5b** (Figure 2) that clearly indicated that Hb showed a doublet peak due to coupling with *ortho* Hc with 8.2 Hz coupling constant while Hb showed doublet of doublet ( $J = 8.2, 2.4\text{Hz}$ ) as it has one *ortho* (Hc) and one *meta* (Ha) neighboring proton. Ha coupled with Hb which is at its meta position and showed a doublet with  $J = 2.4\text{ Hz}$ . Hd and He coupled with their *ortho* as well as meta protons giving doublet of doublet with coupling constant 6.7, 2.2 Hz and 6.5, 2.1 Hz respectively. These studies showed that Michael addition take place at position 1 of 3-aminophenol which is more reactive than position 2 (Figure 3) and thus the product obtained was more stable in accordance with Ali Khalafi-Nezhad et al. who explained it on the basis of NPA charges calculations (Figure 3), thermodynamics and steric hindrance [58]. They also explained the

oxidation process in 3-carbonitrile derivatives which helped to aromatize the product but in our case we obtained 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives instead of 1,4-dihydroquinoline derivatives so aromatization did not take place in products we obtained as reported in Figure 1.

### 2.2. FTIR study for structure elucidation of 5a-o

FTIR spectra of all synthesized compounds were recorded in  $4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  domain and all spectra have prominent peaks characteristic of synthesized quinoline derivatives such as  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{N}$  and  $\text{C}-\text{O}$  peaks in the vibrational range of  $3500\text{--}1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figures S1–S15).  $\text{NH}_2$  and  $\text{NH}$  peaks appear in the range of  $3500\text{--}3300\text{cm}^{-1}$  while  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$  showed peaks in the region of  $2200\text{--}2100\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $\text{OH}$  peaks appear as broadened  $\text{NH}_2$  peak from  $3500\text{--}3000\text{cm}^{-1}$  in all spectra of compounds 5a-o. In exemplary spectra of **5a**, **5b**, **5i** and **5l** (Figure 4)  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$  stretching vibration appears as sharp and strong peak at  $2197.78, 2188.23, 2182.20$  and  $2190.48\text{ cm}^{-1}$  respectively.  $\text{NH}_2$  vibrations appear as strong double peaks (asymmetric and symmetric stretch) in all spectra while  $\text{NH}$  vibration overlapped by  $\text{NH}_2$  vibration in **5a** and is not visible while it is visible in **5b** and **5l** and in **5i** broad two  $\text{OH}$  groups peak overlapped it as well.  $\text{Sp}^3\text{ CH}$  stretching

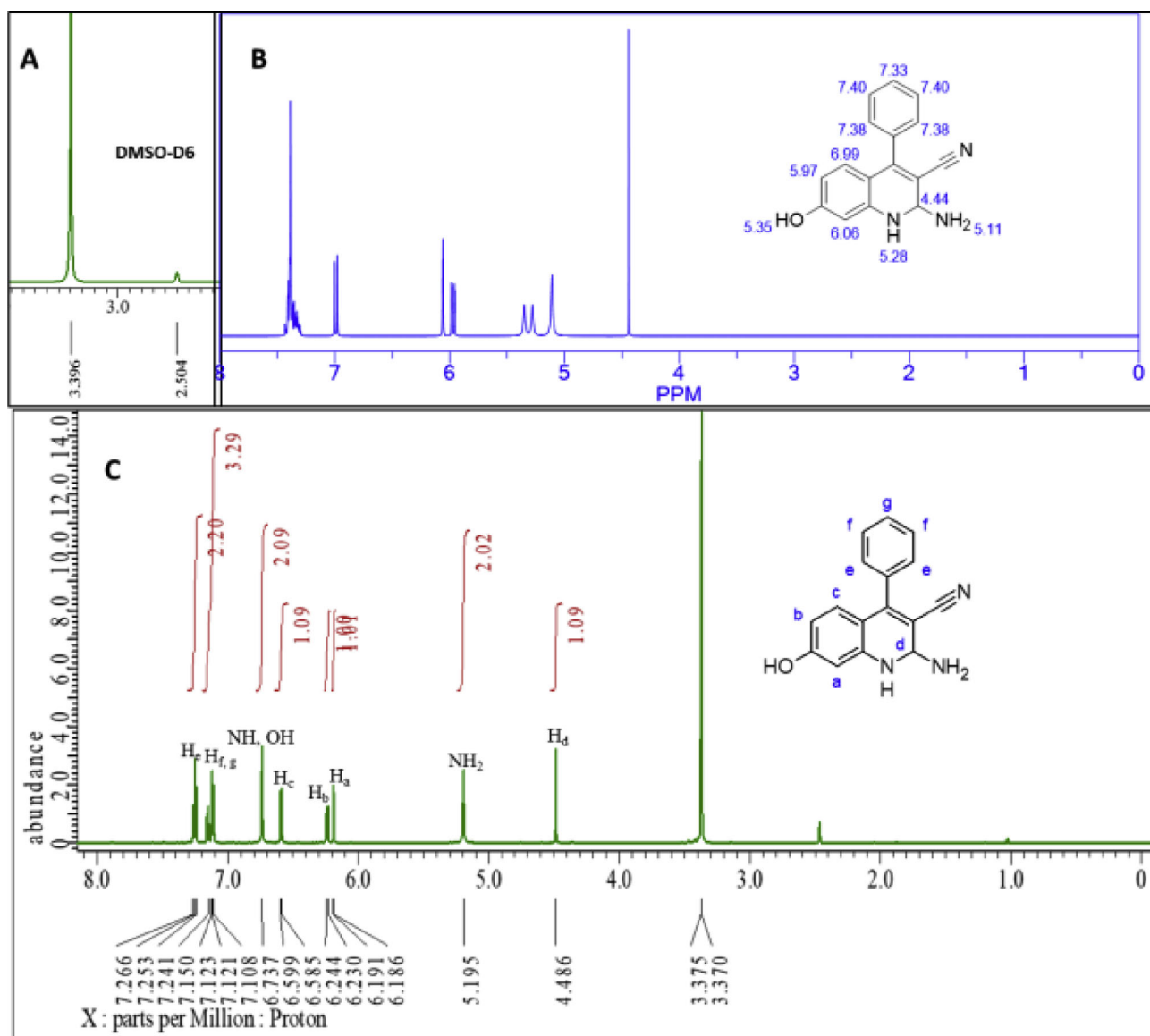


Figure 5.  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of A) DMSO-D6 B) **5a** theoretical C) **5a** experimental.

signals can also be clearly seen in spectra of **5b** and **5l**. Strong stretching band in the region of 1650–1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are assigned to C=C groups of aromatic ring of reported compounds. All these peaks are in accordance with the proposed structure of reported compounds.

### 2.3. NMR study for structure elucidation of **5a-o**

In  $^1\text{H}$ NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of all synthesized compounds (**5a-5o**) all required signals conforming the respective proton and carbon nuclei

of suggested structures are observed at agreeing chemical shifts (ppm) values which helped in unambiguous characterization of 7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives (Figures S16–S30). Experimental spectra are almost in accordance with theoretical spectra obtained by using Chem draw ultra 12.0. Exemplary  $^1\text{H}$ NMR of **5a** (Figure 5C) allows us to identify different proton's chemical shift values, for example, signal at 4.49 ppm (s) is assigned to CH attached to  $\text{NH}_2$  while overlapped singlet peak of two protons at 5.20 ppm is of  $\text{NH}_2$ , peaks originating due to  $\text{H}_a$ ,  $\text{H}_b$  and  $\text{H}_c$  are observed at 6.19 ppm (d,  $J =$

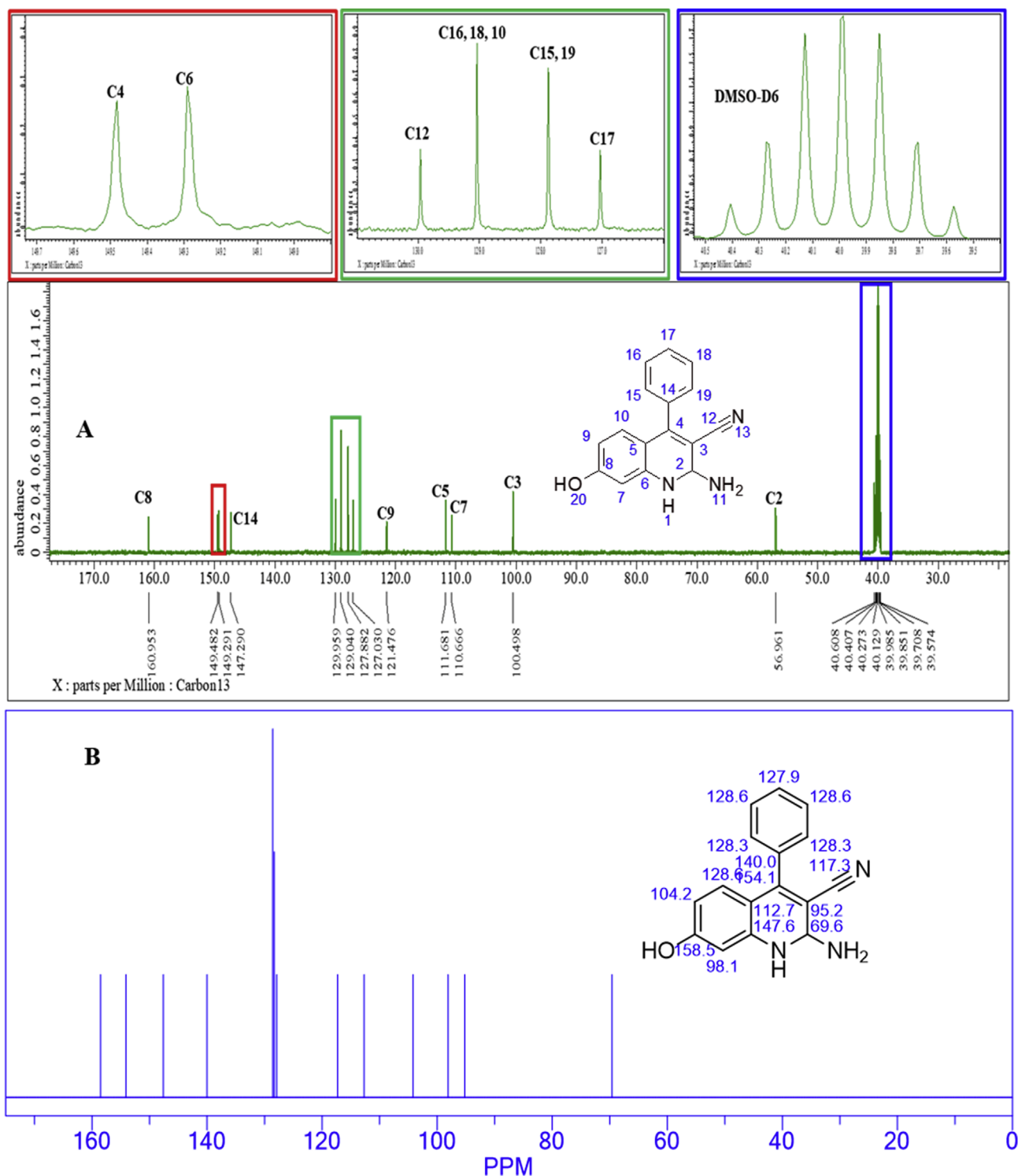


Figure 6.  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of **5a** A) experimental B) Theoretical.



**Table 2.** Observed peaks in MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of 5a-o.

Compound	$[M + H]^+$	$M^{++}$	$[M-H]^+$	$[M-H_2]^+$	$[M-H-H_2]^+$
5a	-	-	262.22	261.24	260.22
5b	-	293.68	292.67	291.66	-
5c	294.63	-	292.63	291.64	-
5d	342.53	341.21	340.61	-	338.87
5e	-	-	307.84	306.61	-
5f	-	-	307.30	306.10	305.06
5g	-	-	312.05	311.04	310.02
5h	-	297.07	296.03	295.05	294.02
5i	-	-	278.13	-	276.18
5j	-	-	280.09	279.07	278.04
5k	-	297.64	296.62	-	294.62
5l	-	-	276.35	275.09	274.90
5m	-	341.07	340.49	-	338.86
5n	-	-	278.94	277.49	-
5o	-	-	296.48	-	-

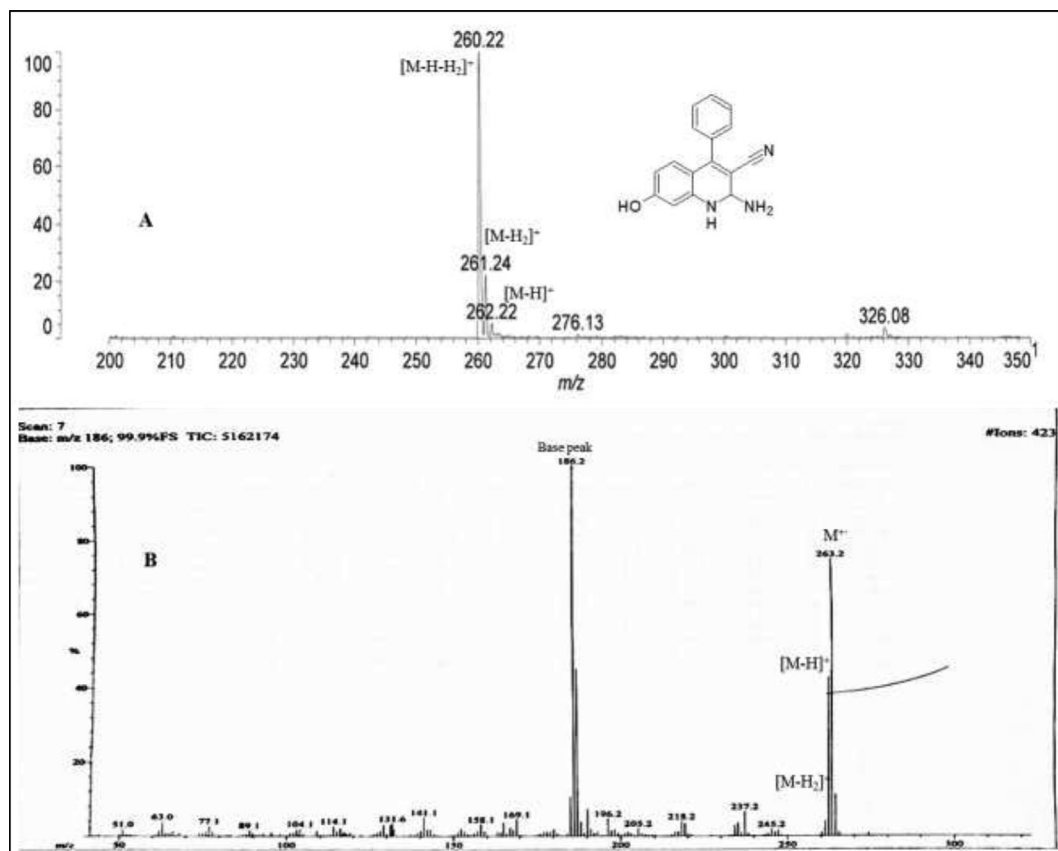
2.7 Hz), 6.24 ppm (dd,  $J = 8.2, 2.1$  Hz) and 6.59 ppm (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz) respectively and aromatic protons of Ar produce signals in the range of 7.25 ppm (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H) and 7.16–7.11 ppm (m, 3H). NH, and OH signal appear at 6.71 ppm as singlet strong peak of two protons. Experimental  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra is almost in accordance with predicted  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra (Figure 5B) that confirms the formation of our required products.

Similarly  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of 5a (Figure 6A) showed distinct resonances all corresponding to respective carbon nuclei. Carbon bonded to  $\text{NH}_2$  group resonated at 56.96 ppm while the signals of carbon atom attached with nitrile group is evident at 100.68 ppm and aromatic carbon attached to OH group appear at 160.95 ppm. In addition quaternary carbon C10

attached to nitrogen of pyridine ring resonate at 149.29 ppm. Carbon of nitrile group appear at 129.96 ppm. All other carbon nuclei also appear in aromatic region which are in accordance with predicted  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of 5a (Figure 6B).  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of all other 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives showed same trend of peaks which confirms the formation of our desired products (Figures S31–S45).

#### 2.4. MALDI-TOF-MS and EI-MS study

Mass of the synthesized compounds were determined by EI-MS using electron ionization (Figures S61–S63) and MALDI-TOF-MS by using

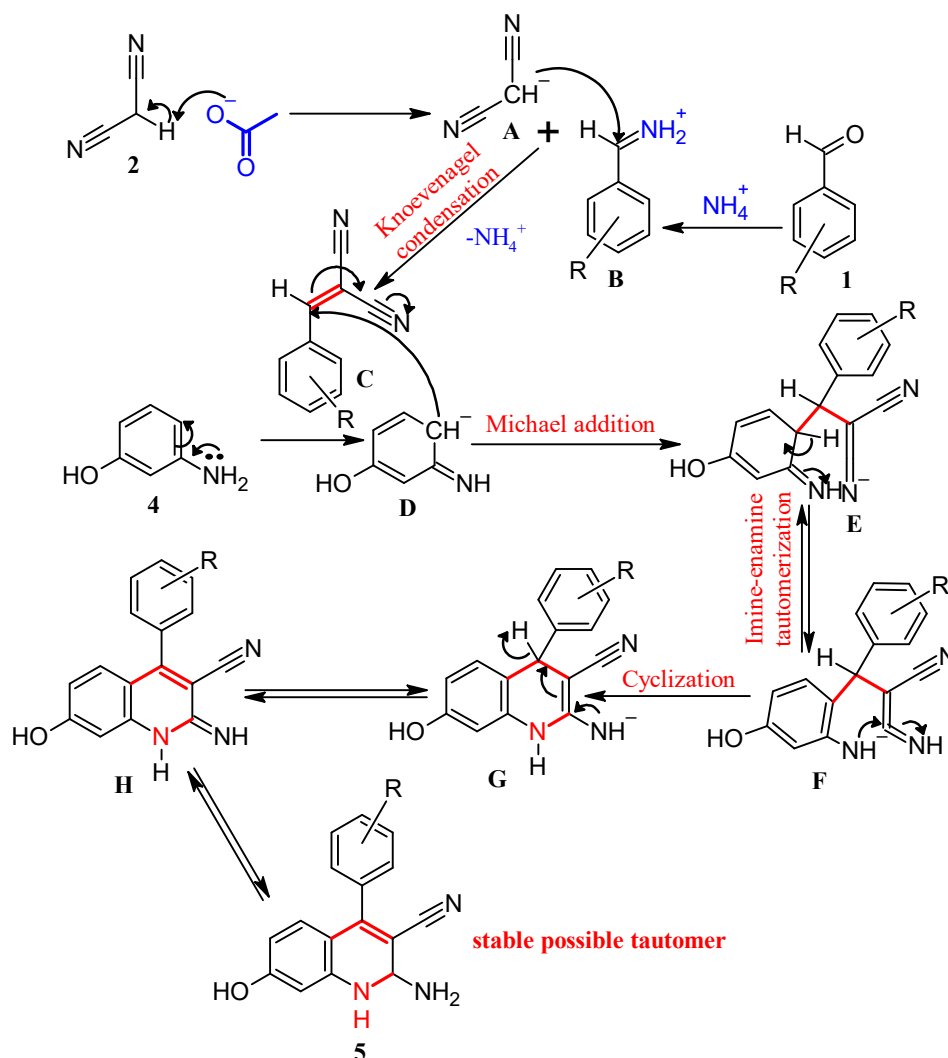
**Figure 7.** Mass spectra of 5a A) MALDI-TOF-MS B) EI-MS.

Alpha-Cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid ( $\alpha$ -CHCA) as matrix in positive ion, reflectron mode (Figures S46–S60). MALDI-TOF uses soft ionization method to generate ions and is well known as a high throughput technique [66]. Previously it was mostly used for compounds with higher molecular weight but now a days it is also employed for compounds with low molecular weight with great success [67, 68]. Surprisingly  $[M-H]^+$  and  $M^{++}$  peaks were observed in almost all investigated compounds instead of  $[M+H]^+$  peaks which are observed only in 5c (Figure S48) and 5d (Figure S49) spectra, this indicated that these type of compounds produce  $[M-H]^+$ ,  $[M-H-H_2]^+$ ,  $[M-H_2]^+$  and  $M^{++}$  positive ions by this soft ionization technique (Table 2).  $[M-H]^+$  peak is observed in all spectra which may appear due to; a) transfer of hydrogen atom from radical cation of analyte or b) by hydride removal from neutral molecule of analyte, or c) removal of  $H_2$  from protonated molecule of analyte [69, 70, 71, 72]. All these three mechanisms may occur simultaneously or not depending on the structure of analyte molecule [73].  $M^{++}$  observed in spectra of 5b, 5d, 5h, 5k and 5m (Figures S47, S49, S53, S56 and S58) may be due to photoionization process.  $[M-H-H_2]^+$  appeared as strongest peak in almost all spectra which produced due to removal of  $H_2$  molecule from  $[M-H]$  ion similarly  $[M-H_2]^+$  peak is also observed in many compounds due to  $H_2$  molecule from  $M^{++}$  molecular ion. In exemplary MALDI spectra of 5a (Figure 7A)  $[M-H]^+$  peak appear at 262.22 and most intense peak is  $[M-H-H_2]^+$  at 260.22 m/z while peak observed at 261.24 m/z is due to the removal of hydrogen molecule from positive molecular ion

( $M^{++}$ ) of 5a. Similarly EI-MS spectra of some selected compound like 5a, 5b and 5f were recorded in positive ion mode using JEOL-600H-1 mass spectrometer which confirmed the results obtained from MALDI-TOF spectra and molecular mass of synthesized compounds. EI-MS spectrum of 5a (Figure 7B) showed molecular ion ( $M^{++}$ ) peak at 263.2 m/z with 74.5% abundance while  $[M-H]^+$  and  $[M-H_2]^+$  peaks were also observed at 262.2 and 261.2 with 42.6% and 4.2% abundance respectively and confirmed the formation of 5a.

### 2.5. Proposed mechanism

Based on the experimental results and previous literature [65, 74, 75] a proposed mechanism of the reaction was shown in Scheme 1. According to proposed mechanism acetate ion facilitate the removal of H from 2 to yield A while ammonium ion catalyzed the formation of iminium ion (B) which due to higher reactivity than carbonyl group expedite the Knoevenagel condensation between A and B followed by elimination of ammonium ion to yield benzylidenemalononitrile (C). Then C through Michael addition with intermediate D produced E which by imine-enamine rearrangement and cyclization yielded F and G respectively. Intermediate G may exist in three possible forms that are G, H and 5 (7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydro quinoline derivatives) is most stable as predicted by spectroscopic data.



Scheme 1. Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of compound 5.



### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we successfully synthesized 7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives (5a-o) by a convenient one pot, three component protocol in 63–97% yield. The reaction proceeded through Knoevenagel condensation, Michael addition, rearrangement and cyclization. Notably, this protocol proceeded without the use of toxic solvents, co-catalysts, precious metals, inert atmosphere and harsh reaction conditions. This one pot atom economic method eliminates the wastage of products and exhibits wide range of functional group tolerance with high substrate scope under mild reaction conditions with excellent yield of corresponding products as high as 97%. Furthermore, structure of all synthesized compounds were elucidated by various techniques including FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, MALDI-TOF-MS and EI-MS which confirmed that the obtained products are 7-hydroxy-1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives instead of 7-hydroxy quinolines. Further applicability of this protocol to a wide variety of substrates and bio screening of these compounds are in progress in our laboratory.

### 4. Experimental

#### 4.1. General information

All reagents were commercially available which were used without further purification. Melting points were recorded by open capillary method on Stuart SMP10 and are uncorrected. Silica gel plates were used to monitor the progress of reaction and purity of compounds by thin layer chromatography technique using ethanol: n-hexane (1: 1), acetone: n-hexane (1:1) and acetone: n-hexane (7:3) solvent system which were visualized under UV. FTIR spectra were recorded on Bruker Tensor 27 FTIR spectrophotometer using KBr discs. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL DELTA2 NMR spectrophotometer operating at 600 MHz and Bruker DMZ NMR spectrophotometer operating at 300 MHz. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data are reported as: chemical shift (multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz)). Multiplicity is represented as: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet. Mass spectra were recorded by MALDI-TOF-MS technique on Shimadzu Biotech Axima Performance mass spectrometer using Alpha-Cyano-4- hydroxycinnamic acid ( $\alpha$ -CHCA) as matrix in positive ion, reflectron mode. EI-MS spectra were recorded in positive ion mode using JEOL-600H-1 mass spectrometer.

#### 4.2. General procedure for the synthesis of 7-hydroxy-4-phenylquinoline derivatives (5a-o)

To a solution of malononitrile **2** (0.33g, 5.0mmol) and ammonium acetate (0.116g, 30 mol %) in 10ml ethanol, appropriate benzaldehyde **1** (5.0 mmol) was added and stirred at room temperature for 5–10 min. Intermediate benzylidenemalononitrile **3** was obtained as solid product. Then the temperature of the reaction mixture was increased to 70 °C which helped in dissolving **3** in ethanol. After getting clear solution of reaction mixture, solution of 3-amino phenol (0.545g, 5.0 mmol) in 10mL ethanol was added in it and refluxed for 15–90 min. The solid thus obtained was filtered and washed with hot ethanol to obtain highly pure corresponding product **5a-o** in up to 97% yield.

##### 4.2.1. 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-phenyl-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5a)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 95%, m.p: 235–237 °C, Rf: 0.69 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3427.77, 3351.30 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3167.37, 3023.22 (Ar CH), 2197.78 (C≡N), 1645.09 (C=C), 1505.71 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend) 1406.24 (C=C), 1170.91 (C–N), 1040.70 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H, He), 7.15–7.11 (m, 3H, Hf, Hg), 6.74 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.59 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.24 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.19 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.19 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.49 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  160.9 (C8), 149.5 (C4), 149.3 (C6), 147.3 (C14), 129.9 (C12), 129.0 (C16, C18, C10), 127.9 (C15,

C19), 127.0 (C17), 121.5 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 110.6 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 56.97 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: [M-H]<sup>+</sup>, required for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>: 262.097, found: 262.22, EI-MS m/z: M<sup>+</sup> required for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>: 263.11, found: 263.2.

##### 4.2.2. 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5b)

yellow solid, Yield: 77%, m.p: 218–221 °C, Rf: 0.56 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3448.31, 3367.16, 3314.10 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3229.92, 3189.29, 3008.13 (Ar CH), 2955.93, 2902.18, 2837.78 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2188.23 (C≡N), 1637.96 (C=C), 1510.01 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1412.71 (C=C), 1174.22 (C–N), 1032.00 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.02 (dd,  $J$  = 6.5, 2.1 Hz, 2H, He), 6.81 (dd,  $J$  = 6.7, 2.2 Hz, 2H, Hf), 6.69 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.23 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.17 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.18 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43 (s, 1H, Hd), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  160.7 (C8), 158.3 (C17), 149.3 (C4), 149.1 (C6), 139.3 (C14), 129.9 (C12), 128.8 (C15, C19), 121.4 (C9), 114.3 (C16, C18), 111.6 (C5), 110.9 (C7), 100.4 (C3), 57.2 (C2), 55.5 (C21, OCH<sub>3</sub>), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: [M-H]<sup>+</sup>, required for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 292.11, found: 292.67, EI-MS m/z: M<sup>+</sup> required for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 293.12, found: 293.2.

##### 4.2.3. 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5c)

Dark yellow solid, Yield: 86%, m.p: 196–198 °C, Rf: 0.67 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3462.98, 3376.91, 3337.02 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3243.98, 3201.22, 3050.12, 3009.30 (Ar CH), 2964.27, 2935.25, 2841.80 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2192.16 (C≡N), 1638.71 (C=C), 1512.98 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1407.58 (C=C), 1172.63 (C–N), 1044.69 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.19–7.17 (m, 1H, Hf), 6.75–6.72 (m, 3H, NH, OH, He), 6.69–6.68 (m, 2H, He, Hg), 6.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.25 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.19 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.20 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.46 (s, 1H, Hd), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.0 (C18), 159.8 (C8), 149.4 (C4), 149.3 (C6), 148.9 (C14), 130.1 (C16), 129.9 (C10), 121.4 (C9), 120.1 (C15), 114.0 (C12), 111.9 (C17), 111.6 (C5, C19), 110.5 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 56.8 (C2), 55.5 (C21, OCH<sub>3</sub>), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: [M-H]<sup>+</sup>, required for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 292.11, found: 292.63.

##### 4.2.4. 2-amino-4-(2-bromophenyl)-7-hydroxy-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5d)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 68%, m.p: 194–196 °C, Rf: 0.61 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3462.01, 3376.59, 3336.67 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3231.58, 3186.68, 3066.43 (Ar CH), 2192.36 (C≡N), 1640.01 (C=C), 1512.39 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1413.84 (C=C), 1173.91 (C–N), 1126.20 (C–Br), 1036.38 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Hh), 7.30–7.11 (m, 3H, He, Hf, Hg), 6.88 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.32 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H, Hb, Ha), 5.20 (d,  $J$  = 43.3 Hz, 3H, NH<sub>2</sub>, Hd) <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.1 (C8), 149.5 (C4, C6), 145.5 (C14), 133.2 (C18), 131.4 (C12), 129.2 (C16, C10), 129.1 (C17), 128.8 (C19), 122.8 (C15), 121.0 (C9), 111.8 (C5), 109.6 (C7), 100.6 (C3), 55.9 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: [M-H]<sup>+</sup>, required for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>: 340.00, found: 340.61.

##### 4.2.5. 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5e)

Dark yellow solid, Yield: 71%, m.p: 193–195 °C, Rf: 0.63 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3478.58, 3432.99, 3385.93, 3339.23 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3248.52 (Ar CH), 2189.38 (C≡N), 1643.38 (C=C), 1514.16 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1412.26 (C=C), 1345.29 (NO<sub>2</sub> stretch), 1173.83 (C–N), 1042.81 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.18 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H, Hf), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H, He), 6.94 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.31–6.25 (m, 2H, Hb, Ha), 5.31 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.75 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.0 (C8), 154.7 (C17), 149.7 (C4), 149.4 (C6), 146.7 (C14), 129.9 (C12), 129.1 (C15, C19), 124.4 (C16, C18), 121.0 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 109.0 (C7), 100.5

(C3), 55.7 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}N_4O_3^+$ : 307.08, found: 307.84.

#### 4.2.6. 2-amino-7-hydroxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5f)

yellow solid, Yield: 87%, m.p: 207–209 °C, Rf: 0.61 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3447.78, 3366.62, 3314.86 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3229.61, 3186.51, 3051.97 (Ar CH), 2188.95 (C≡N), 1635.69 (C=C), 1510.91 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1412.96 (C=C), 1327.31 (NO<sub>2</sub> stretch), 1170.93 (C–N), 1031.31 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.04 (dq, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Hg), 7.95 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, Hh), 7.62–7.57 (m, 2H, He, Hf), 6.92 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.26 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.22 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.28 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.77 (s, 1H, Hd) <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 161.1 (C8), 149.6 (C4), 149.5 (C6), 148.4 (C18), 134.7 (C14), 130.7 (C12), 129.9 (C15), 122.2 (C17, C19), 121.1 (C9), 111.8 (C5), 109.3 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 56.0 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}N_4O_3^+$ : 307.08, found: 307.30, EI-MS m/z:  $M^{++}$  required for  $C_{16}H_{12}N_4O_3^+$ : 308.09, found: 308.2.

#### 4.2.7. 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5g)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 97%, m.p: 261–264 °C, Rf: 0.74 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3448.28, 3367.07, 3315.09 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3231.40, 3187.34, 3051.81 (Ar CH), 2189.06 (C≡N), 1636.56 (C=C), 1510.36, 1413.02 (C=C), 1170.80 (C–N), 1032.29 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, Hf), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, Hg), 7.70 (s, 1H, Hi), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 13.2, 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H, Hh), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, He), 6.82 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.24 (td, *J* = 4.5, 2.2 Hz, 2H, Hb, a), 5.23 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.68 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 160.8 (C8), 149.4 (C4), 149.3 (C6), 144.4 (C14), 133.3 (C10), 132.5 (C17), 130.1 (C22), 128.9 (C18), 128.1 (C21), 128.0 (C15), 126.7 (19), 126.5 (C20), 126.2 (C23), 125.9 (C12), 121.4 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 110.2 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 56.8 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{20}H_{14}N_3O^+$ : 312.11, found: 312.05.

#### 4.2.8. 2-Amino-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-7-hydroxy-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5h)

Off white solid, Yield: 87%, m.p: 222–224 °C, Rf: 0.56 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3811.32, 3459.81, 3378.02, 3333.69, 3233.16 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3189.23, 3072.58 (Ar CH), 2193.38 (C≡N), 1638.68 (C=C), 1512.55 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1413.54 (C=C), 1177.27 (C–N), 1126.90 (C–Cl), 1035.16 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, Hf), 7.21 (dq, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H, Hg), 7.15 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H, He), 7.11–7.10 (m, 1H, Hh), 6.85 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.28 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.23 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.25 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.57 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 161.0 (C8), 149.7 (C4), 149.5 (C6), 149.4 (C14), 133.6 (C16), 131.0 (C18), 129.9 (C12), 127.5 (17), 127.0 (C15), 126.6 (C19), 121.2 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 109.7 (C7), 100.4 (C3), 56.2 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}ClN_3O^+$ : 296.06, found: 296.03.

#### 4.2.9. 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5i)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 68%, m.p: 209–212 °C, Rf: 0.54 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3414.00, 3352.22 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3140.87, 3040.87 (Ar CH), 2182.80 (C≡N), 1642.93 (C=C), 1511.67 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1409.92 (C=C), 1169.63 (C–N), 1045.27 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, Hf), 6.73 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.63–6.56 (m, 3H, Hg, Hh, He), 6.52 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.27 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.21 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.18 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.40 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 160.9 (C8), 160.8 (C16), 149.4 (C4), 149.1 (C6), 148.7 (C14), 129.8 (C10, C18), 121.4 (C12), 118.5 (C9), 114.5 (C17), 114.0 (C15), 111.5 (C5), 110.7

(C7), 100.4 (C3), 56.9 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{12}N_3O_2^+$ : 278.09, found: 278.13.

#### 4.2.10. 2-Amino-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-hydroxy-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5j)

White solid, Yield: 95%, m.p: 220–222 °C, Rf: 0.67 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3450.28, 3368.22, 3317.72 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3232.34, 3189.07, 3048.76 (Ar CH), 2189.18 (C≡N), 1637.19 (C=C), 1509.74 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1414.27 (C=C), 1230.27 (C–F), 1181.41 (C–N), 1030.44 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.17 (td, *J* = 6.0, 2.7 Hz, 2H, Hf), 7.08–7.05 (m, 2H, He), 6.79 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.29 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.26 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.21 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.55 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 163.0–159.7 (C17(C–F) *J* = 242.65), 160.8 (C8), 149.4 (C4), 149.3 (C6), 143.4 (C14), 129.9 (C15), 129.7 (C19), 129.6 (C12), 121.3 (C9), 115.8 (C16), 115.5 (C18), 111.7 (C5), 110.4 (C7), 100.4 (C3), 56.8 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}FN_3O^+$ : 280.09, found: 280.09.

#### 4.2.11. 2-Amino-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-hydroxy-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5k)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 80%, m.p: 226–229 °C, Rf: 0.71 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3447.77, 3367.73, 3313.88 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3231.93, 3186.42, 3042.10 (Ar CH), 2189.89 (C≡N), 1636.50 (C=C), 1514.28 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1414.33 (C=C), 1131.58 (C–N), 1092.97 (C–Cl), 1026.00 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Hf), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, He), 6.83 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.31–6.25 (m, 2H, Hb, Ha), 5.26 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.57 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 160.9 (C8), 149.4 (C4, C6), 146.2 (C14), 131.6 (C12), 129.9 (C17), 129.7 (C16, C18, C10), 128.9 (C15, C19), 121.3 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 110.0 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 56.5 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M + H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}ClN_3O^+$ : 296.06, found: 296.62.

#### 4.2.12. 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(4-methylphenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5l)

Off white solid, Yield: 94%, m.p: 242–244 °C, Rf: 0.45 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3452.58, 3372.07, 3314.53 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3230.73, 3190.26, 3043.80 (Ar CH), 2921.71 (C≡N), 2889.92, 2858.39 (CH<sub>3</sub> stretch), 2190.48 (C≡N), 1635.90 (C=C), 1512.37 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1413.79 (C=C), 1179.69 (C–N), 1030.04 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.07 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 8.1 Hz, 4H, He, Hf), 6.77 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.31–6.24 (m, 2H, Hb, Ha), 5.23 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.49 (s, 1H, Hd), 2.24 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 160.8 (C8), 149.4 (C4), 149.1 (C6), 144.2 (C14), 136.0 (C17), 129.9 (C12), 129.5 (C16, C18), 127.7 (C15, C19), 121.4 (C9), 111.6 (C5), 110.8 (C7), 100.5 (C3), 57.1 (C2), 21.1 (C21, CH<sub>3</sub>), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{17}H_{14}N_3O^+$ : 276.11, found: 276.35.

#### 4.2.13. 2-Amino-4-(3-bromophenyl)-7-hydroxy-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5m)

Light yellow solid, Yield: 81%, m.p: 224–227 °C, Rf: 0.59 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3462.01, 3376.59, 3336.67 (NH<sub>2</sub>, NH stretch), 3231.58, 3186.67, 3066.43 (Ar CH), 2192.36 (C≡N), 1640.01 (C=C), 1512.39 (NH<sub>2</sub> bend), 1413.84 (C=C), 1173.91 (C–N), 1126.20 (C–Br), 1036.38 (C–O), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, Hg), 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H, Hf, He), 7.19 (s, 1H, Hh), 6.86 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.32–6.28 (m, 1H, Hb), 6.24 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.28 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.58 (s, 1H, Hd), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 161.0 (C8), 150.0 (C4), 149.5 (C6), 149.4 (C14), 131.3 (C12), 130.4 (C16), 129.9 (C17, C15), 127.0 (C18), 122.3 (C19), 121.2 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 109.7 (C7), 100.4 (C3), 56.3 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[M-H]^+$ , required for  $C_{16}H_{11}BrN_3O^+$ : 340.00, found: 340.49.

#### 4.2.14. 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5n)

Yellow solid, Yield: 72%, m.p: 259–261 °C, Rf: 0.59 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3454.62, 3395.25, 3326.41 ( $\text{NH}_2$ , NH stretch), 3201.42, 3047.74 (Ar CH), 2182.64 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 1649.34 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 1510.77 ( $\text{NH}_2$  bend), 1399.76 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 1168.89 ( $\text{C}-\text{N}$ ), 1036.80 ( $\text{C}-\text{O}$ ),  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  6.95 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, Hf), 6.68 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 5H, He, 2OH, NH), 6.61 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.27 (dd,  $J = 8.2$ , 2.2 Hz, 1H, Hb), 6.20 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H, Ha), 5.19 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 4.41 (s, 1H, Hd)  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  160.7 (C8), 156.3 (C17), 149.3 (C4), 149.0 (C6), 137.7 (C14), 129.9 (C12), 128.8 (C15, C19), 121.5 (C9), 115.6 (C16, C18), 111.5 (C5), 111.2 (C7), 100.4 (C3), 57.4 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ , required for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ : 278.09, found: 278.94.

#### 4.2.15. 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-1, 2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (5o)

Off white solid, Yield: 63%, m.p: 196–198 °C, Rf: 0.61 (Acetone: n-hexane (7:3)), FTIR (KBr disc,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3476.84, 3378.07 ( $\text{NH}_2$ , NH stretch), 3220.45, 3166.05, 3050.89 (Ar CH), 2182.15 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 1649.04 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 1511.60 ( $\text{NH}_2$  bend), 1401.46 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 1178.57 ( $\text{C}-\text{N}$ ), 1124.76 ( $\text{C}-\text{Cl}$ ), 1039.45 ( $\text{C}-\text{O}$ ),  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.39 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H, Hh), 7.29–7.17 (m, 3H, He, Hf, Hg), 6.87 (s, 2H, NH, OH), 6.62 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, Hc), 6.30 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 2H, Hb, Ha), 5.27 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 5.10 (s, 1H, Hd),  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  161.2 (C8), 149.5 (C4), 149.5 (C6), 143.7 (C14), 132.3 (C12), 131.1 (C15), 130.1 (C17), 129.3 (C16), 128.8 (C19), 128.2 (C18), 121.1 (C9), 111.7 (C5), 109.4 (C7), 100.6 (C3), 55.6 (C2), MALDI-TOF-MS m/z:  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ , required for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$ : 296.06, found: 296.05.

### Declarations

#### Author contribution statement

Rukhsana Tabassum: Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Wrote the paper.

Muhammad Ashfaq: Conceived and designed the experiments; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data.

Hiroyuki Oku: Analyzed and interpreted the data.

#### Funding statement

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

#### Competing interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### Additional information

Supplementary content related to this article has been published online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05035>.

### Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful for The Department of Chemistry, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur for providing the necessary research facilities.

### References

- [1] B. Maleki, H. Veisi, Facile and efficient synthesis of bicyclic ortho-aminocarbonitrile derivatives using nanostructured diphosphate  $\text{Na}_2\text{CaP}_2\text{O}_7$ , *Org. Prep. Proced. Int.* 52 (2020) 232–237.
- [2] B. Maleki, H. Natheghi, R. Tayeb, H. Alinezhad, A. Amiri, S.A. Hossieni, S.M.M. Nouri, Synthesis and characterization of nanorod magnetic Co–Fe mixed

- oxides and its catalytic behavior towards one-pot synthesis of polysubstituted pyridine derivatives, *Polycycl. Aromat. Comp.* 40 (2020) 633–643.
- [3] H. Christopher, G. Vijay, “Multi-component reactions : emerging chemistry in drug discovery” ‘from xylocain to crivivan’, *Curr. Med. Chem.* 10 (2003) 51–80.
- [4] A. Dömling, Recent developments in isocyanide based multicomponent reactions in applied chemistry, *Chem. Rev.* 106 (2006) 17–89.
- [5] M. Ghandi, N. Zarezaadeh, A. Taheri, A novel isocyanide-based three-component synthesis of benzimidazo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepinones, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 52 (2011) 1228–1232.
- [6] K. Lu, T. Luo, Z. Xiang, Z. You, R. Fathi, J. Chen, Z. Yang, A concise and diversity-oriented strategy for the synthesis of benzofurans and indoles via ugi and Diels–Alder reactions, *J. Comb. Chem.* 7 (2005) 958–967.
- [7] M. Murakami, New catalyzed three-component cycloadditions for the synthesis of eight-membered carbocycles, *Angew. Chem. Int.* 42 (2003) 718–720.
- [8] C. Simon, T. Constantieux, J. Rodriguez, Utilisation of 1,3-dicarbonyl derivatives in multicomponent reactions, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2004 (2004) 4957–4980.
- [9] I. Ugi, B. Werner, A. Dömling, The chemistry of isocyanides, their MultiComponent reactions and their libraries, *Molecules* 8 (2003).
- [10] J. Zhu, Recent developments in the isonitrile-based multicomponent synthesis of heterocycles, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2003 (2003) 1133–1144.
- [11] C. De la Guardia, D.E. Stephens, H.T. Dang, M. Quijada, O.V. Larionov, R. Leonart, Antiviral activity of novel quinoline derivatives against dengue virus serotype 2, *Molecules* 23 (2018) 672.
- [12] Y. Han, H.T. Pham, H. Xu, Y. Quan, T. Mesplède, Antimalarial drugs and their metabolites are potent Zika virus inhibitors, *J. Med. Virol.* 91 (2019) 1182–1190.
- [13] J. Kos, C.F. Ku, I. Kapustikova, M. Oravec, H.-J. Zhang, J. Jampilek, 8-Hydroxyquinoline-2-Carboxanilides as antiviral agents against avian influenza virus, *ChemistrySelect* 4 (2019) 4582–4587.
- [14] L. Dong, S. Hu, J. Gao, Discovering drugs to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), *Drug Discov. Ther.* 14 (2020) 58–60.
- [15] X. Yao, F. Ye, M. Zhang, C. Cui, B. Huang, P. Niu, X. Liu, L. Zhao, E. Dong, C. Song, S. Zhan, R. Lu, H. Li, W. Tan, D. Liu, In vitro antiviral activity and projection of optimized dosing design of hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), *Clin. Infect. Dis.* (2020).
- [16] M. Wang, R. Cao, L. Zhang, X. Yang, J. Liu, M. Xu, Z. Shi, Z. Hu, W. Zhong, G. Xiao, Remdesivir and chloroquine effectively inhibit the recently emerged novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in vitro, *Cell Res.* 30 (2020) 269–271.
- [17] P. Gautret, J.-C. Lagier, P. Parola, V.T. Hoang, L. Meddeb, M. Mailhe, B. Doudier, J. Courjon, V. Giordanengo, V.E. Vieira, H.T. Dupont, S. Honoré, P. Colson, E. Chabrière, B. La Scola, J.-M. Rolain, P. Brouqui, D. Raoult, Hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment of COVID-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial, *Int. J. Antimicrob. Agents* (2020) 105949.
- [18] A. Zarghi, R. Ghodsi, Design, synthesis, and biological evaluation of ketoprofen analogs as potent cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors, *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* 18 (2010) 5855–5860.
- [19] H. Hosseinzadeh, F. Mazaheri, R. Ghodsi, Pharmacological effects of a synthetic quinoline, a hybrid of tomoxioprole and naproxen, against acute pain and inflammation in mice: a behavioral and docking study, *Iran, J. Basic Med. Sci.* 20 (2017) 446–450.
- [20] K.D. Upadhyay, N.M. Dodia, R.C. Khunt, R.S. Chaniara, A.K. Shah, Synthesis and biological screening of pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline analogues as anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents, *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* 9 (2018) 283–288.
- [21] K. Suresh, B. Sandhya, G. Himanshu, Biological activities of quinoline derivatives, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 9 (2009) 1648–1654.
- [22] Y.-Q. Hu, C. Gao, S. Zhang, L. Xu, Z. Xu, L.-S. Feng, X. Wu, F. Zhao, Quinoline hybrids and their antiparasitic and antimalarial activities, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 139 (2017) 22–47.
- [23] Y.-L. Fan, X.-W. Cheng, J.-B. Wu, M. Liu, F.-Z. Zhang, Z. Xu, L.-S. Feng, Antiparasitic and antimalarial activities of quinolone derivatives: an overview, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 146 (2018) 1–14.
- [24] A. Kumar, K. Srivastava, S. Raja Kumar, M.I. Siddiqi, S.K. Puri, J.K. Sexana, P.M.S. Chauhan, 4-Anilinoquinoline triazines: a novel class of hybrid antimalarial agents, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 46 (2011) 676–690.
- [25] G. Beata, K. Katarzyna, Quinoline – a promising fragment in the search for new antimalarials, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 14 (2014) 332–344.
- [26] N. Shobeiri, M. Rashedi, F. Mosaffa, A. Zarghi, M. Ghandadi, A. Ghasemi, R. Ghodsi, Synthesis and biological evaluation of quinoline analogues of flavones as potential anticancer agents and tubulin polymerization inhibitors, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 114 (2016) 14–23.
- [27] O. Afzal, S. Kumar, M.R. Haider, M.R. Ali, R. Kumar, M. Jaggi, S. Bawa, A review on anticancer potential of bioactive heterocycle quinoline, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 97 (2015) 871–910.
- [28] C.S. Prabodh, C. Monika, S. Archana, P. Mona, R. Harish, P. Om, Insight view on possible role of fluoroquinolones in cancer therapy, *Curr. Top. Med. Chem.* 13 (2013) 2076–2096.
- [29] L. Jia-Chun, N. Suresh, Z. Kang, Z. Wen, A review on the antitumor activity of various nitrogenous-based heterocyclic compounds as NSCLC inhibitors, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 19 (2019) 1517–1530.
- [30] S. Vaibhav, M. Dinesh Kumar, D. Rina, Synthetic methods of quinoline derivatives as potent anticancer agents, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 17 (2017) 1557–1572.
- [31] A.P. Shivaputra, A.P. Siddappa, P. Renukadevi, H. Rintaro, Imidazoquinolines: recent developments in anticancer activity, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 16 (2016) 309–322.
- [32] H. Ebisu, M. Nishikawa, M. Tanaka, T. Okazoe, Y. Morizawa, H. Shinyama, N. Nakamura, Pharmacologic profiles of GA0113, a novel quinoline derivative angiotensin II AT1-receptor antagonist, *J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol.* 34 (1999) 526–532.



- [33] M.F. El Shehry, M.M. Ghorab, S.Y. Abbas, E.A. Fayed, S.A. Shedid, Y.A. Ammar, Quinoline derivatives bearing pyrazole moiety: synthesis and biological evaluation as possible antibacterial and antifungal agents, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 143 (2018) 1463–1473.
- [34] Y.-L. Chen, K.-C. Fang, J.-Y. Sheu, S.-L. Hsu, C.-C. Tzeng, Synthesis and antibacterial evaluation of certain quinolone derivatives, *J. Med. Chem.* 44 (2001) 2374–2377.
- [35] G.-F. Zhang, S. Zhang, B. Pan, X. Liu, L.-S. Feng, 4-Quinolone derivatives and their activities against Gram positive pathogens, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 143 (2018) 710–723.
- [36] A.S.G. Prasad, T.B. Rao, D. Rambabu, V.B.R. Mandava, P. Manojit, Ultrasound assisted synthesis of quinoline derivatives in the presence of SnCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O as a precatalyst in water: evaluation of their antibacterial activities, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 18 (2018) 895–903.
- [37] D. Nisheeth, T. Amit, P. Unnat, D. Amit, V.K. Rao, D. Priyanka, Hybrid bioactive heterocycles as potential antimicrobial agents: a review, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 16 (2016) 1500–1526.
- [38] Z. Xu, C. Gao, Q.-C. Ren, X.-F. Song, L.-S. Feng, Z.-S. Lv, Recent advances of pyrazole-containing derivatives as anti-tubercular agents, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 139 (2017) 429–440.
- [39] Y.-L. Fan, J.-B. Wu, X.-W. Cheng, F.-Z. Zhang, L.-S. Feng, Fluoroquinolone derivatives and their anti-tubercular activities, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 146 (2018) 554–563.
- [40] Z. Xu, S. Zhang, C. Gao, J. Fan, F. Zhao, Z.-S. Lv, L.-S. Feng, Isatin hybrids and their anti-tuberculosis activity, *Chin. Chem. Lett.* 28 (2017) 159–167.
- [41] R.S. Keri, S.A. Patil, Quinoline, A promising antitubercular target, *Biomed. Pharmacother.* 68 (2014) 1161–1175.
- [42] S.D. Joshi, U.A. More, D. Parkale, T.M. Aminabhavi, A.K. Gadad, M.N. Nadagouda, R. Jawarkar, Design, synthesis of quinolinyl Schiff bases and azetidines as enoyl ACP-reductase inhibitors, *Med. Chem. Res.* 24 (2015) 3892–3911.
- [43] V.P. Rahul, K. Young-Soo, P. Se Won, Nitroimidazoles, quinolones and oxazolidinones as fluorine bearing antitubercular clinical candidates, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 15 (2015) 1174–1186.
- [44] L. Zhang, K.V. Kumar, R.-X. Geng, C.-H. Zhou, Design and biological evaluation of novel quinolone-based metronidazole derivatives as potent Cu<sup>2+</sup> mediated DNA-targeting antibacterial agents, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 25 (2015) 3699–3705.
- [45] J. Ramírez-Prada, S.M. Robledo, I.D. Vélez, M.d.P. Crespo, J. Quiroga, R. Abonia, A. Montoya, L. Svetaz, S. Zacchino, B. Insuasty, Synthesis of novel quinoline-based 4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazoles as potential anticancer, antifungal, antibacterial and antiprotozoal agents, *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 131 (2017) 237–254.
- [46] G.A. Chioma, A.A. Blessing, Y.M. Xavier, Hybrid molecules development: a versatile landscape for the control of antifungal drug resistance: a review, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 19 (2019) 450–464.
- [47] D.S. Dnyaneshwar, H.S. Mubarak, G.T. Santosh, V.D. Mukund, M.K. Vijay, C.J. Prakash, B.S. Bapurao, Facile and solvent-free domino synthesis of new quinolidinyl-2,4-thiazolidinones: antifungal activity and molecular docking, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 18 (2018) 622–630.
- [48] P.A. Channar, A. Saeed, F. Albericio, F.A. Larik, Q. Abbas, M. Hassan, H. Raza, S.-Y. Seo, Sulfonamide-linked ciprofloxacin, sulfadiazine and amantadine derivatives as a novel class of inhibitors of jack bean urease; synthesis, kinetic mechanism and molecular docking, *Molecules* 22 (2017) 1352.
- [49] Z. Wang, J. Hu, X. Yang, X. Feng, X. Li, L. Huang, A.S.C. Chan, Design, synthesis, and evaluation of orally bioavailable quinoline-indole derivatives as innovative multitarget-directed ligands: promotion of cell proliferation in the adult murine Hippocampus for the treatment of alzheimer's disease, *J. Med. Chem.* 61 (2018) 1871–1894.
- [50] D. Edmont, R. Rocher, C. Plisson, J. Chenault, Synthesis and evaluation of quinoline carboxyguanidines as antidiabetic agents, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 10 (2000) 1831–1834.
- [51] L. Savagnago, A.I. Vieira, N. Seus, B.S. Goldani, M.R. Castro, E.J. Lenardão, D. Alves, Synthesis and antioxidant properties of novel quinoline-chalcogenium compounds, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 54 (2013) 40–44.
- [52] A. aszczyk, A. Augustyniak, J. Skolimowski, Ethoxyquin: an antioxidant used in animal feed, *Int. J. Food Sci.* 2013 (2013) 12.
- [53] O. Valentina, V. Graziella, Glycoconjugates of quinolines: application in medicinal chemistry, *Mini Rev. Med. Chem.* 16 (2016) 1185–1194.
- [54] C. Crifar, A.A. Dörr, W.D. Lubell, Copper-catalyzed cascade addition route to 2,3,4-trisubstituted quinoline derivatives, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 56 (2015) 3451–3453.
- [55] J. Achan, A.O. Talisuna, A. Erhart, A. Yeka, J.K. Tibenderana, F.N. Baliraine, P.J. Rosenthal, U. D'Alessandro, Quinine, an old anti-malarial drug in a modern world: role in the treatment of malaria, *Malar. J.* 10 (2011) 144.
- [56] C. Gómez, V. Kouznetsov, Recent Developments on Antimicrobial Quinoline Chemistry, 2013.
- [57] J.B. Bharate, R.A. Vishwakarma, S.B. Bharate, Metal-free domino one-pot protocols for quinoline synthesis, *RSC Adv.* 5 (2015) 42020–42053.
- [58] A. Khalafi-Nezhad, S. Sarikhani, E.S. Shahidzadeh, F. Panahi, I-Proline-promoted three-component reaction of anilines, aldehydes and barbituric acids/malononitrile: regioselective synthesis of 5-arylpyrimido[4,5-b]quinoline-diones and 2-amino-4-arylquinoline-3-carbonitriles in water, *Green Chem.* 14 (2012) 2876–2884.
- [59] K. Kobayashi, S. Fujita, S. Fukamachi, H. Konishi, One-pot synthesis of quinoline-2(1H)-thiones from 2-isocyanostyrenes via electrocyclic reaction of the corresponding 2-isothiocyanatostyrenes, *Synthesis* 2009 (2009) 3378–3382.
- [60] Y.-M. Ren, C. Cai, R.-C. Yang, Molecular iodine-catalyzed multicomponent reactions: an efficient catalyst for organic synthesis, *RSC Adv.* 3 (2013) 7182–7204.
- [61] S.J. Tu, B. Jiang, R.H. Jia, J.Y. Zhang, Y. Zhang, C.S. Yao, F. Shi, An efficient one-pot, three-component synthesis of indeno[1,2-b]quinoline-9,11(6H,10H)-dione, acridine-1,8(2H,5H)-dione and quinoline-3-carbonitrile derivatives from enamines, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 4 (2006) 3664–3668.
- [62] Z. Fan, S. Yang, X. Peng, C. Zhang, J. Han, J. Chen, H. Deng, M. Shao, H. Zhang, W. Cao, Metal-free synthesis of 2-difluoromethylated quinolines via DBU-promoted cascade michael addition/cyclization of methyl 4,4-difluorobut-2-ynoate with 2-aminobenzonitriles, *Tetrahedron* 75 (2019) 868–873.
- [63] A. Thanetchaiyakup, H. Rattanarat, N. Chuanopparat, P. Ngermmeesri, One-pot synthesis of substituted indolo[1,2-a]quinolines under transition-metal-free conditions, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 59 (2018) 1014–1018.
- [64] R. Tayebbe, A. Gohari, The dual role of ammonium acetate as reagent and catalyst in the synthesis of 2, 4, 5-triaryl-1H-imidazoles, *Eurasian chem. commun.* 2 (2020) 581–586.
- [65] S. Kanakaraju, B. Prasanna, S. Basavoju, G.V.P. Chandramouli, Ammonium acetate catalyzed an efficient one-pot three component synthesis of pyrano[3,2-c]chromene derivatives, *Arab. J. Chem.* 10 (2017) S2705–S2713.
- [66] J.H. Lee, H.S. Choi, K.A. Nasr, M. Ha, Y. Kim, J.V. Frangioni, High-throughput small molecule identification using MALDI-TOF and a nanolayered substrate, *Anal. Chem.* 83 (2011) 5283–5289.
- [67] S. Zhang, J.a. Liu, Y. Chen, S. Xiong, G. Wang, J. Chen, G. Yang, A novel strategy for MALDI-TOF MS analysis of small molecules, *J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.* 21 (2010) 154–160.
- [68] P.J. Trim, M.F. Snel, Small molecule MALDI MS imaging: current technologies and future challenges, *Methods (San Diego, Calif.)* 104 (2016) 127–141.
- [69] C. Kang, Y. Zhou, Z. Du, Z. Bian, J. Wang, X. Qiu, L. Gao, Y. Sun, Dehydrogenation and dehalogenation of amines in MALDI-TOF MS investigated by isotopic labeling, *J. Mass Spectrom.* 48 (2013) 1318–1324.
- [70] H. Awad, M.J. Stoudemayer, L. Usher, I.J. Amster, A. Cohen, U. Das, R.M. Whittall, J. Dimmock, A. El-Aneed, The unexpected formation of [M – H]<sup>+</sup> species during MALDI and dopant-free APPI MS analysis of novel antineoplastic curcumin analogues, *J. Mass Spectrom.* 49 (2014) 1139–1147.
- [71] X. Lou, A.J.H. Spiering, B.F.M. de Waal, J.L.J. van Dongen, J.A.J.M. Vekemans, E.W. Meijer, Dehydrogenation of tertiary amines in matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry, *Int. J. Mass Spectrom.* 43 (2008) 1110–1122.
- [72] S. Sioud, N. Kharbatia, M.H. Amad, Z. Zhu, C. Cabanetos, A. Lesimple, P. Beaujuge, The formation of [M–H]<sup>+</sup> ions in N-alkyl-substituted thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6-dione derivatives during atmospheric pressure photoionization mass spectrometry, *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.* 28 (2014) 2389–2397.
- [73] J.L. Bronzel Jr., C.D.F. Milagre, H.M.S. Milagre, Analysis of low molecular weight compounds using MALDI- and LDI-TOF-MS: direct detection of active pharmaceutical ingredients in different formulations, *J. Mass Spectrom.* 52 (2017) 752–758.
- [74] Swathi Bandaru, R.K. Majji, S. Bassa, P.N. Chilla, R. Yellapragada, S. Vasamsetty, R.K. Jeldi, R.B. Korupolu, P.D. Sanasi, Magnetic nano cobalt ferrite catalyzed synthesis of 4H-Pyrano[3,2-h]quinoline derivatives under microwave irradiation, *Green Sustain. Chem.* 6 (2016) 101–109.
- [75] H. Sheibani, K. Saidi, M. Abbasnejad, A. Derakhshani, I. Mohammadzadeh, A convenient one-pot synthesis and anxiolytic activity of 3-cyano-2(1H)-iminopyridines and halogen derivatives of benzo[h]chromenes, *Arab. J. Chem.* 9 (2016) S901–S906.