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# One-pot two-step synthesis of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins and their Pd/C-catalyzed annulation to coumestans†

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An efficient protocol for the synthesis of various coumestans from the intramolecular annulation of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins through C–H activation has been developed. When 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins were treated with 10% Pd/C (0.3 mol% Pd) in the presence of sodium acetate, the corresponding coumestans were produced in good to excellent yield. Reusability of the palladium catalyst was investigated in up to three consecutive cycles and it was found that the yield of the reaction was almost unaltered. Sequential iodination and *O*-arylation of 4-hydroxy coumarins leading to the 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins were also achieved in a one-pot two-step process starting from aryl iodides in high yield. Pivalic acid was revealed to be the most effective additive for the later method to produce 3-iodo-4-phenoxy coumarins. Different functional groups bearing electron-donating as well as withdrawing groups are also tolerant to the reaction conditions.

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## Introduction

Benzofuran-fused coumarins, commonly called coumestans, constitute a class of plant products (secondary metabolites) found abundantly in split peas, pinto beans, lima beans, alfalfa and clover sprouts. Coumestans including coumestrol, wedelolactone, isoglycyrol, psoralidin, erosnin, medicagol, and many others exhibit diverse biological properties such as phytoestrogenic, antioxidant, antihepatotoxic, antifungal and antitumor activities (Fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> Further, these compounds serve as chemopreventive agents for breast and prostate cancers.<sup>2</sup> Considering their physiological and pharmacological potential, it is desirable to develop more efficient synthetic strategies to achieve newer coumestans for pharmaceutical research.<sup>3</sup> Among the reported synthetic protocols, transition metal mediated assembly of furan nucleus of the fused tetracyclic scaffold is emerged to be the most promising. Annulation of 3-aryl-4-hydroxyl coumarins through oxidative C–O bond formation (Scheme 1, path a) is a classical pathway to achieve coumestans.<sup>4</sup> Zhao and co-workers developed a FeCl<sub>3</sub>-mediated dehydrogenative C–O cross-coupling protocol to achieve coumestans.<sup>5</sup> However, limited substrate scope, multistep sequence to access starting material and use of stoichiometric excess of catalyst which in-turn is wasteful, often vitiates its large scale use.

On the other hand, ring closure of preformed aryl-coumarin ether through C–C bond formation has been employed successfully (Scheme 1, path b) to construct the coumestan skeletal framework. In 1990, Laschober and Kappe<sup>6</sup> first reported the PdCl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 equiv.) mediated synthesis of coumestans (3 examples) from 4-aryloxy-3-iodocoumarins in triethyl amine. Later, in 2013, Kapdi and co-workers<sup>7</sup> employed palladacycles to construct the furan ring through C–H functionalization of substituted 4-(2-bromophenoxy)-coumarins. Recently, Cheng *et al.* developed a Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed one-pot, two-step cyclization reaction of iodobenzene with coumarin to produce the corresponding coumestan.<sup>8</sup> McGlacken<sup>9</sup> developed an intramolecular direct arylation approach using pre-halogen functionalized 4-aryloxy coumarins as substrates. Very recently, McGlacken<sup>10a</sup> and Xu<sup>10b</sup> independently reported Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed cross-dehydrogenative coupling reaction of 4-phenoxy coumarins to access coumestans in the presence of excess amount of expensive silver salt. Despite largely improved efficiency, these methodologies generally requires the use of ligands, precious transition metal catalyst such as Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, PdCl<sub>2</sub>, AgOAc, Ag<sub>2</sub>O and multi-step strategy to the starting materials (*e.g.* 4-aryloxy coumarin and 3-halo 4-aryloxy coumarin). In this context, development of a stable and less expensive catalytic system to achieve these biologically potent tetracycles under ligand-free conditions is admirable from the synthetic point of view. In continuation of our recent interest in the synthesis of heterocycles,<sup>11</sup> herein, we report a more convenient ligand-free and less expensive catalytic method using Pd supported on charcoal (*i.e.* Pd/C) as a heterogeneous catalyst for the successful synthesis tetracyclic coumestans (path c) through C–H activation reaction. It is noteworthy that

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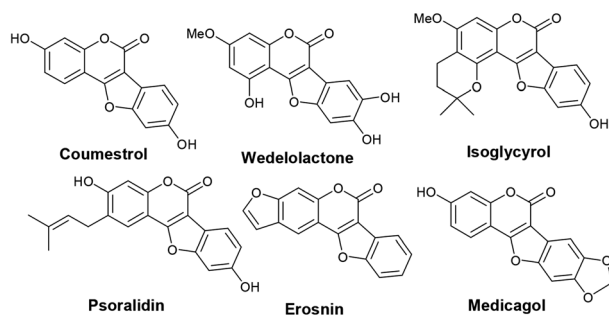


Fig. 1 Examples of biologically potent naturally occurring coumestans.

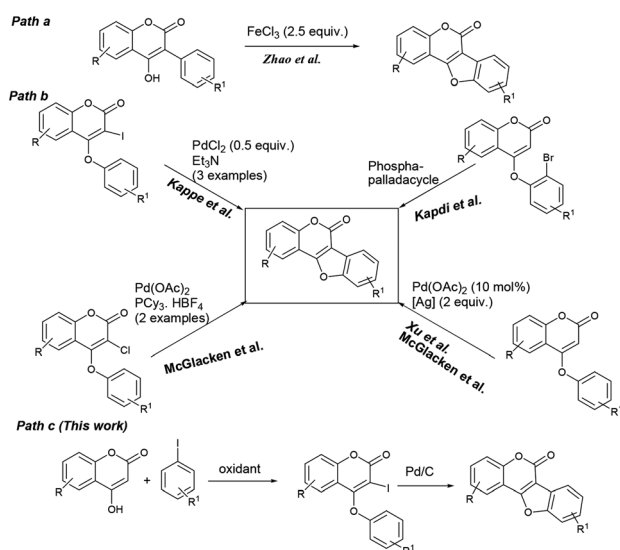
the precursor for coumestans *i.e.* *o*-iodocoumarin-aryl ethers were also achieved in a more simplified process directly from the reaction of coumarins and aryl iodides in one-pot.

## Results and discussion

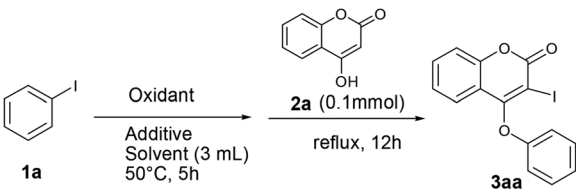
We initiated our work with the development of an amicable protocol for the synthesis of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarin (**3aa**) from 4-hydroxy coumarin (**2a**) using *in situ* generated hypervalent iodine for intramolecular annulation. Note worthy that hypervalent diaryliodonium salts are typically used for selective *O*-arylation reactions.<sup>12</sup> However, use of diaryliodonium salt causes the loss of an equimolar amount of expensive iodobenzene impedes its large-scale utility. On the other hand, hypervalent iodine reagent such as phenyl iododiacetate (PIDA) could be employed for sequential *ortho*-iodination and *O*-arylation reactions.<sup>13</sup> Notably, iodonium salts are produced in such methods; that subsequently undergo phenyl migration leading to *ortho*-iodo-*O*-phenyl arene. Despite of remarkable success of the reaction with PIDA, similar reactions with other substituted hypervalent iodine derivatives always end with a poor result. Indeed, preparation of such substituted aryl iododiacetates for tandem iodination/arylation is often associated with certain

limitations. Not only stoichiometric excess (10 equiv. in most cases) of oxidants were employed for the synthesis of aryl iododiacetates, tedious purification procedure resulting in poor yield of the reagent. Therefore, we motivated to access *o*-iodo-diaryl ethers (*e.g.* **3aa**) directly in a one-pot two-step method using readily available aryl iodide for both arylating as well as iodinating agent. Notably, aryl iodide-catalyzed oxidative C–C and C–N bond formation reactions leading to heterocyclic carbazoles, benzimidazoles, indoles and phenanthridinones were reported in the literature.<sup>14</sup> It has been proposed that aryl iodide oxidized by the terminal oxidant (*e.g.* *m*CPBA, K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, Oxone®, *etc.*) in hexafluoro isopropanol (HFIP) to hypervalent iodine(III) species, which served as the catalyst for the said oxidative transformations under metal-free conditions. Contrastingly, use of *in situ* generated hypervalent iodine species for tandem iodination and *O*-arylation is not much literature precedent.

Our optimization studies commenced with 4-hydroxy coumarin **2a** and iodobenzene (**1a**) by the screening of tandem *O*-arylation and *ortho*-iodination promoters in one-pot (Table 1). Firstly, iodobenzene was treated with oxidant at 50 °C over a period of 5 h for the formation of hypervalent iodine reagent, and then **2a** was added and refluxed for overnight for sequential iodination and *O*-arylation reaction. We began our study with the use of an oxidants such as Oxone®, K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, NaIO<sub>4</sub>, TBHP and NaBO<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O for *in situ* oxidation of iodobenzene and subsequent transformation to 3-iodo 4-aryloxy coumarin (**3aa**). Unfortunately, in all such cases the desired product **3aa** was not observed (entries 1–5). Interestingly, when the reaction was conducted in the presence of *m*CPBA (3 equiv.) in polar solvent like 1,4-dioxane, **3aa** was obtained in 38% yield (entry 6). When the reaction was carried out in the non-polar solvent such as toluene under reflux, **3aa** was obtained in 45% yield (entry 7). Gratifyingly, the yield of the desired product was further enhanced up to 70% by conducting the reaction in the presence of acetic acid as an additive (entries 8 and 9). Effect of other additives in the above reaction was also examined (entries 10–13). In the presence of the base such as Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, no desired product was achieved. Significantly, when the reaction was performed in the presence of 3 equiv. of pivalic acid (as an additive) and *m*CPBA (3 equiv.) in toluene, **3aa** was produced in 90% yield (entry 13). To realize the solvent effect on reaction yield, other solvents (such as DMF, DMSO, CH<sub>3</sub>CN and DCE) were screened (entries 14–18) and none of the cases the better result was produced. While attempting to reduce the concentrations of iodobenzene and oxidant towards the development of a cost-effective method, we noticed that 1 equiv. of iodobenzene reacts with 4-hydroxy coumarin (1 equiv.) in the presence of 1 equiv. of *m*CPBA and pivalic acid (3 equiv.) in toluene affords **3aa** in 45% yield (entry 19). The increase in the concentration of iodobenzene and *m*CPBA to 1.5 equiv. each, produces **3aa** in 68% yield (entry 20). Further raising the oxidant concentration to 2 equiv., **3aa** was achieved in 88% yield (entry 21). Additionally, the effect of inert atmosphere for the reaction was not realised as the yield of the reaction was unchanged both in the presence of air as well as nitrogen atmosphere.



Scheme 1 Transition metal catalyzed routes to coumestans.

Table 1 Optimization of reaction condition<sup>a</sup>


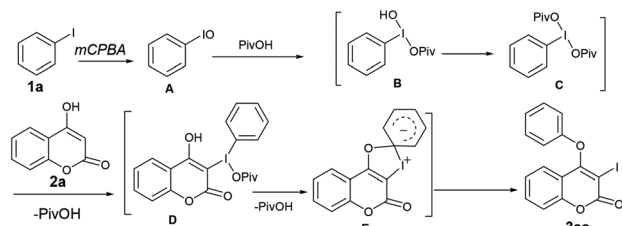
Entry	Oxidant (equiv.)	PhI (equiv.)	Additive (3 equiv.)	Solvent	% yield <sup>b</sup>
1	Oxone (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	n.d.
2	NaIO <sub>4</sub> (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	n.d.
3	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	n.d.
4	TBHP (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	n.d.
5	NaBO <sub>3</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	n.d.
6	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	—	1,4-Dioxane	38
7	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	—	Toluene	45
8	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	AcOH	1,4-Dioxane	50
9	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	AcOH	Toluene	70
10	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	TsOH	Toluene	n.r.
11	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	TFA	Toluene	60
12	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Toluene	n.r.
13	<b><i>m</i>CPBA</b> (3)	<b>3</b>	<b>PivOH</b>	<b>Toluene</b>	<b>90</b>
14	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	PivOH	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	16
15	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	PivOH	MeOH	37
16	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	PivOH	DCE	48
17	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	PivOH	DMF	n.d.
18	<i>m</i> CPBA (3)	3	PivOH	DMSO	n.d.
19	<i>m</i> CPBA (1)	1	PivOH	Toluene	45
20	<i>m</i> CPBA (1.5)	1.5	PivOH	Toluene	68
21	<b><i>m</i>CPBA</b> (2)	<b>1.5</b>	<b>PivOH</b>	<b>Toluene</b>	<b>88</b>
22	<i>m</i> CPBA (2)	1.5	AcOH	Toluene	70

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: a mixture of oxidant and iodobenzene was heated at 50 °C for 5 h in a sealed tube. Then, **2a** was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed. <sup>b</sup> GC yield.

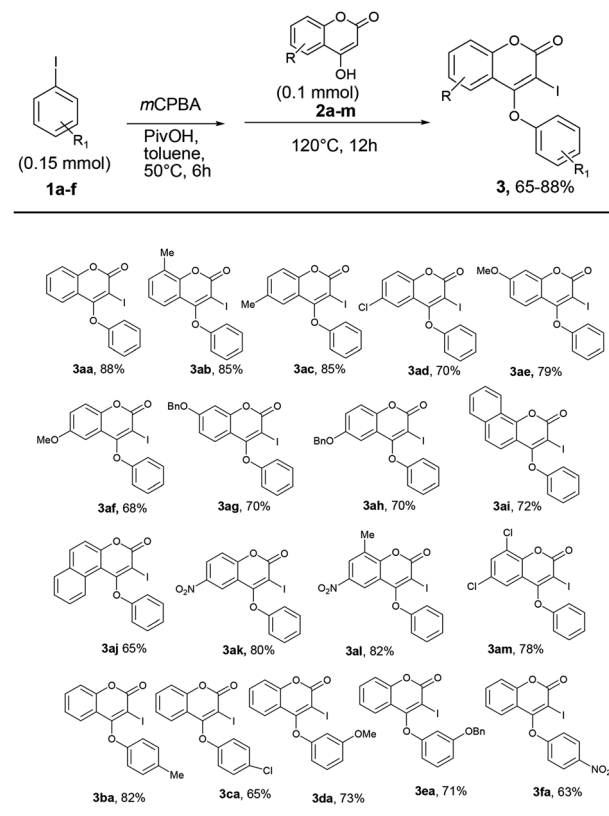
Towards the mechanistic insight, we speculated that *m*CPBA could oxidize the iodobenzene to iodosobenzene (PhIO, **A**), which might be one of the key intermediates<sup>14a,b</sup> (Scheme 2). According to the previous report of Lei *et al.*,<sup>15</sup> iodosobenzene could react with pivalic acid to form **B**, which further gives rise to phenyl iododipivalate (PhI(OPiv)<sub>2</sub>, **C**) in the presence of PivOH. Indeed, the formation of **C** was evident from <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude reaction mixture. For instance, the appearance of signals at  $\delta$  8.13–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H) and 1.02 (s, 18H) in <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum along with the signals for PhIO and PhIO<sub>2</sub> confirms the formation of **C**. The reaction of **C** with **2a** might produce the intermediate **D**. Subsequent intramolecular aromatic nucleophilic attack of the oxygen atom causes the intramolecular migration of phenyl

group from iodo to oxygen to produce **3aa** with the release of PivOH. Indeed, when PhIO, prepared from the decomposition of PIDA with NaOH, was treated with **2a** in the absence of pivalic acid, **3aa** was formed fairly in low yield (40%), whereas similar reaction in the presence of pivalic acid, affords **3aa** in excellent yield (90%). This observation suggests that pivalic acid serves as a better ligating agent in the overall transformation. Additionally, when over oxidized iodine(v) derivative *i.e.* PhIO<sub>2</sub>, produced from the disproportionation of PhIO, was treated with **2a** both in the presence of pivalic acid, **3aa** was achieved in 42% whereas similar reaction in the absence of the later results in 43% of **3aa**. Thus, the *in situ* generated PhIO from PhI is the active intermediate for sequential iodination and *O*-arylation of coumarins and not the PhIO<sub>2</sub>.

With the optimum reaction condition in hand, we next explored the scope and generality of the tandem iodination and *O*-arylation of coumarins (Scheme 3). Thus, the one-pot two-step reaction of coumarins with different substitutions such as –Me, –OMe, –Cl, –OBn, –NO<sub>2</sub> *etc.* and PhI in the presence of *m*CPBA produced 4-phenoxy 3-iodo coumarins in moderate to good yield. Furthermore, aryl iodides bearing electron-donating as well as withdrawing substituents (–Me, –Cl, –OMe, –OBn, –NO<sub>2</sub>) coupled with 4-hydroxy coumarin to produce **3** in good yield (63–82%) though the yield of reaction slightly diminished



Scheme 2 Plausible mechanism.



**Scheme 3** Synthesis of 4-aryloxy 3-iodo isocoumarins. <sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: a mixture of **1** and *m*CPBA (2 equiv.) in toluene was heated at 50 °C for 5 h in a sealed tube. Then, **2** was added and the reaction mixture was heated at 120 °C for 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

in the case of aryl halides containing an electron withdrawing group over a period of 12 h, while prolonged heating for 24 h did not improve the yield of the reaction.

Next, we turn our focus towards intramolecular annulation of 4-aryloxy 3-iodocoumarins to coumestans using less expensive reusable Pd-catalyst. Notably, earlier reports on coumestan synthesis from 4-aryloxy 3-halocoumarins rely on the use of PdCl<sub>2</sub>, Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and phospho-palladacycles in the presence of expensive phosphorous-ligands. As a side note, to the best of our knowledge there is no report for the cross-coupling reaction of coumarin using heterogeneous Pd-catalyst. The quest for commercially viable, highly active, recoverable, and reusable palladium catalysts for the cross-coupling reaction allows us to start our investigation with Pd on carbon (*i.e.* Pd/C) catalyst for intramolecular C–C bond formation. Despite the low-cost, stability and reusability, the catalytic activity of Pd/C was underdeveloped except in catalytic hydrogenation. Moreover, scattered precedents of Pd/C-catalyzed C–C coupling reactions<sup>16</sup> gratify its catalytic potential. Thus, when 3-iodo-4-phenoxy coumarin was reacted with NaOAc (3 equiv.), in the presence of Pd/C catalyst in DMA at 130–140 °C, tetracyclic coumestan **4aa** was produced along with the dehalogenated product, **5aa**. Lowering of temperature to 110 °C did not produce the product **4aa** over a prolonged period of 24 h; rather the dehalogenated product was produced in 35% yield with the recovery of

remaining starting material. To suppress the undesired dehalogenated product, alternative additives were tested for the intramolecular annulation (Table 2). These experiments revealed that other bases such as <sup>t</sup>BuOK, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> afford **5aa** only (80% yield). Notably, after several experimentations, it has been realized that 1.5 equiv. of NaOAc in DMF at 130–140 °C produces **4aa** predominantly in 93% yield. Furthermore, replacing the solvent from DMF to DMA, **4aa** was also isolated in 94% yield without detection of any trace of dehalogenated product **5aa**.

In the course of optimization study as we are isolating some amount of dehalogenated product, **5aa**, it may be envisaged that the annulation might be occurring through Pd/C-catalyzed C–C bond formation through double dehydrogenative cross-coupling in the presence of atmospheric oxygen. However, when **5aa** was treated with Pd/C following method C in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, no conversion occurred. With this optimum reaction condition, we attempted the cyclization of synthesized 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins **3** to coumestans **4**. To our delight, in all cases, coumestans are produced in good to excellent yield.

Recycle and reusability is a prime concern in heterogeneous catalysis. Leaching and deactivation of catalyst often encountered by resulting in the decrease in the rate of reaction and hence yield of the isolated product. To investigate the reusability and catalytic efficiency of the catalyst in annulation process (**3aa** → **4aa**), the workup process was modified slightly. After completion of the reaction, yield was calculated by GC. Then, to the reaction mixture another equiv. (0.1 mmol) of **3aa** and 1.5 equiv. of the base were added for the 2<sup>nd</sup> catalytic cycle. Our effort to study the catalytic activity of Pd/C for three consecutive cycles reveals that yield of the annulation process is almost unaltered (cycle 1, 94%; cycle 2, 93%; and cycle 3, 92% GC yield) though the rate of the reactions becomes sluggish. Additionally, in another batch of reaction, after 7 h, the catalyst was filtered out under hot condition (61% yield from GC analysis) and the filtrate was heated at 140 °C for the completion of the reaction. Notably, after 30 h the yield (60%) of the reaction was not increased any more. This confirms that the leaching of Pd from the catalyst (Pd/C) is not significant for the completion of the reaction. It may be assumed that the annulation reaction proceeds through the usual oxidative addition to C–I bond, *ortho* C–H insertion and finally reductive elimination cycle<sup>11c</sup> to produce the coumestans **4**. As leaching of Pd(0) is not occurring significantly to the solution, probably the overall transformation is occurring on the surface of the catalyst. Alternatively, after 1<sup>st</sup> catalytic cycle (after 16 h) the catalyst was filtered and washed with methanol and dried in an oven for 3 h at 140 °C (along with the filter paper). Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle was performed using the catalyst obtained from the first cycle (along with the filter paper) in the presence of 1.5 equiv. of NaOAc at 140 °C. After 24 h, the yield of the reaction was found to be 90%. For cycle 3 and 4 similar procedure was repeated, and yield of the annulation process was monitored after 30 h (88% yield) and 36 h (88% yield) respectively. This confirms that Pd/C is truly a heterogeneous catalyst and can be reusable for C–C coupling reactions to afford coumestans. Notably, the slight



Table 2 Synthesis of coumestans

Method	Reagents	4aa	5aa
<b>Method A:</b>	NaOAc (3 equiv), DMF	58%	25%
	NaOAc (3 equiv), DMA	60%	25%
	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, (3 equiv), DMA	0%	85%
	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , (3 equiv), DMA	0%	80%
	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3 equiv), DMA	0%	82%
<b>Method B:</b>	NaOAc (1.5 equiv), DMF	93%	n.d.
<b>Method C:</b>	NaOAc (1.5 equiv), DMA	94%	n.d.

Entry	Substrate (3)	Coumestan (4)	% yield <sup>a</sup>
1	3aa		94
2	3ab		94
3	3ac		85
4	3ad		90
5	3ae		79
6	3af		78
7	3ag		96
8	3ah		89
9	3ai		89

Table 2 (Contd.)

Method	Reagents	4aj	5aj
<b>Method A:</b>	NaOAc (3 equiv), DMF	58%	25%
	NaOAc (3 equiv), DMA	60%	25%
	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, (3 equiv), DMA	0%	85%
	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , (3 equiv), DMA	0%	80%
	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3 equiv), DMA	0%	82%
<b>Method B:</b>	NaOAc (1.5 equiv), DMF	93%	n.d.
<b>Method C:</b>	NaOAc (1.5 equiv), DMA	94%	n.d.

Entry	Substrate (3)	Coumestan (4)	% yield <sup>a</sup>
10	3aj		91
11	3ba		93
12	3ca		75
13	3da		81
14	3ea		73

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: [method C] a mixture of 3 (0.1 mmol), Pd/C (10 wt%) (3 mg, 0.3 mol%), NaOAc (1.5 equiv.) in 3 mL of DMA at 140 °C for 16 h.

lowering of obtained yield for the catalytic cycles from the GC yield might be due to the handling loss, as the reaction was performed in small scale.

## Conclusions

In summary, an efficient one-pot two step strategy for the synthesis of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarin from the reaction of 4-hydroxy coumarin and aryl iodide was developed. Both electron-donating and withdrawing groups are observed to be inert towards sequential *ortho*-iodination and *O*-arylation reaction. Intramolecular annulation leading to a series of coumestans

through C–C bond formation was achieved using commercially viable Pd on charcoal (Pd/C) catalyst under ligand free conditions. Simple workup procedure and utilization of low-cost reusable catalyst in the present method show promising synthetic potential in exploring biologically potent compounds of the coumestan family. Application of this method for the total synthesis of psoralidin, medicagol and isoglycyrol is going on in our laboratory.

## Experimental

### General information

Unless otherwise noted, the reagents (chemicals) were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. The reactions were monitored by TLC, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (Ranchem, India), using an ethyl acetate–petroleum ether (60–80 °C) mixture as eluent. All NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz (for <sup>1</sup>H NMR) and 100 MHz (for <sup>13</sup>C NMR) NMR spectrometer, and chemical shifts were expressed in  $\delta$  units relative to the TMS signal as an internal reference in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Multiplicities are indicated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet, when multiplicity is complex) for <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Coupling constants, *J* were reported in Hz. High-resolution mass spectrometry (ESI-HRMS) (Agilent 6520 Q-TOF) was used to determine the elemental composition.

### General procedure for synthesis of 4-hydroxy coumarins

**Synthesis of 4-hydroxy coumarins (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2i, 2j).**<sup>17</sup> A mixture of phenol (10 mmol), malonic acid (10 mmol), ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (30 mmol) and POCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mmol) was stirred at 60 °C. After 30 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into cold water (50 mL) during which precipitation occurred. The precipitate filtered and washed with water 4–5 times. Then, it was dissolved in 1 N NaOH solution (50 mL) and the insoluble suspension was removed by filtration. The filtrate was acidified further with concentrated HCl, and the precipitate was collected by filtration. The crude product was recrystallized using methanol to afford **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**, **2i**, **2j** and were used for the next step directly without further characterization.

**Synthesis of 4-hydroxy coumarins (2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2m).**<sup>18</sup> A mixture of phenol (10 mmol), acetic acid (40 mmol) and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (10 mmol) was heated to reflux for 5–6 h. Then, it was allowed to cool to room temperature and poured into cooled water. The organic component was extracted by ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography to afford *o*-hydroxy acetophenone derivatives. To a mixture of *o*-hydroxy acetophenone (5 mmol) and sodium hydride (60%) (15 mmol, 3 equiv.) in dry toluene (10 mL), diethyl carbonate (5 mL) was added drop-wise at 0–5 °C with continuous stirring. After 1 h, the reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C for 12–20 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), it was allowed to cool to room temperature. Then, it was poured into an ice cold water. Acidification of the reaction mixture with dilute HCl resulted precipitation. The precipitated

was collected by filtration and recrystallized from methanol to afford the corresponding 4-hydroxycoumarins **2e**, **2f**, **2g**, **2h** and **2m**.

**Synthesis of 4-hydroxy coumarins (2k, 2l).**<sup>19</sup> To an ice-cooled solution of NaNO<sub>3</sub> (0.52 g, 6.17 mmol) and concentrated sulfuric acid (20 mL) was added 4-hydroxycoumarin (1.00 g, 6.17 mmol) and stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. Then, the reaction mixture was poured into ice-cooled water for precipitation. Upon filtration, the crude product was separated and recrystallized from EtOAc/hexanes (7 : 3) to give the desired nitro compounds (**2k** and **2l**) as white crystalline solid.

### General procedure for the synthesis of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins

In a dry sealed tube, a mixture of aryl iodide (1.5 equiv.), *m*-CPBA (2 equiv.), and pivalic acid (3 equiv.) in 3 mL of toluene was added and stirred at 50 °C, during which yellowish white solid was formed. After 5 h, 4-hydroxy coumarin (0.1 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and heated at 120 °C for 12 h. Then, it was cooled to room temperature and 20 mL of water was added and extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with dilute sodium bicarbonate (10%) solution (2 × 10 mL). Then, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (60–120 mesh) using mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as eluent to give 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins.

### General procedure for the Pd/C-catalyzed synthesis of coumestans

To a mixture of 3-iodo-4-aryloxy coumarins (0.1 mmol) and NaOAc (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in DMA (3 mL) was added 3 mg (0.3 mol%) of Pd/C (10 wt%) and the reaction mixture was heated at 130–140 °C for 16 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), it was cooled to room temperature and poured into water (10 mL). Then, the product was extracted with ether (3 × 15 mL), and solvent was removed by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (60–120 mesh) using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as eluent to afford the coumestans.

### Reusability study

To a mixture of **3aa** (0.5 g, 1.37 mmol) and NaOAc (168.5 mg, 2.05 mmol) in DMA (7 mL) was added 41 mg of Pd/C (10 wt%) and the reaction mixture was heated at 140 °C for 16 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), it was cooled to room temperature and sampling was made for GC analysis, which shows 95% yield of the product. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, to the original reaction mixture additional amount of **3aa** (0.5 g, 1.37 mmol) and NaOAc (168.5 mg, 2.05 mmol) was added and heated at the same temperature for 20 h. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and yield of the reaction was calculated to be 93%. For 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle additional 0.5 g (1.37 mmol) of **3aa** and NaOAc (168.5 mg, 2.05 mmol) was added and heated at 140 °C. After 30 h, the yield of the reaction was calculated to be 92% (by GC analysis). For the isolation of the product, the

reaction mixture was poured into water (50 mL) and extracted with ether (3 × 25 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (60–120 mesh) using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as eluent to afford the coumestan **4aa** (894 mg from 1.5 g of **3aa** in 92% over all yield from three consecutive batches). Following general procedure, the isolated yield for the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle is 306 mg from 0.5 g of **3aa** (94.4% yield) which is agreeable with the GC yield (95%).

### Analytical data

**3-Iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one**<sup>6</sup> (**3aa**). Pale yellow solid (88% yield); mp 138–139 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.61 (t, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 2 Hz), 7.56–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.10–6.95 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.9, 159.6, 155.4, 153.3, 133.1, 130.1, 124.6, 123.8, 123.7, 116.8, 116.1, 115.8, 80.5; MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 386.9 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%).

**3-Iodo-8-methyl-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ab**). Yellow solid (85% yield); mp 130–132 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47–7.41 (m, 4H), 7.18–7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.94 (m, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.3, 159.6, 155.6, 151.8, 134.3, 130.1, 126.6, 124.2, 123.6, 121.6, 116.1, 115.9, 80.3, 15.7; MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 400.9 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 378.9831, found 378.9828.

**3-Iodo-6-methyl-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ac**). White solid (85% yield); mp 104–106 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.42–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.20–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.94 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.1, 159.8, 155.4, 151.6, 134.6, 134.2, 130.1, 123.6, 123.3, 116.6, 116.1, 115.9, 80.4, 20.9; MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 400.9 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 378.9831, found 378.9825.

**6-Chloro-3-iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ad**). White solid (70% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.01–6.95 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.9, 159.1, 155.0, 151.7, 133.1, 130.2, 124.1, 123.1, 121.1, 118.3, 117.5, 116.0, 81.6; MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 420.9 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 436.8 ([M + K]<sup>+</sup>, 40%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClIO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 398.9285, found 398.9281.

**3-Iodo-7-methoxy-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ae**). Reddish solid (79% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.42 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.39–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.99–6.93 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.63 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 9.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 3.88 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.1, 163.6, 160.0, 155.4, 155.2, 130.0, 124.9, 123.5, 115.8, 112.8, 109.6, 110.5, 75.2, 55.8. GC MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 393.9 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 394.9780, found 394.9776.

**3-Iodo-6-methoxy-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3af**). Colourless solid (68% yield); mp 146–148 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.42–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.22–7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 8

Hz), 6.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 3.70 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.7, 159.7, 156.0, 155.2, 147.8, 130.0, 123.7, 121.0, 117.9, 116.5, 116.0, 105.6, 80.8, 55.6. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 393.9 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 394.9780, found 394.9783.

**7-(Benzyloxy)-3-iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ag**). Redish solid (70% yield); mp 126–128 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47–7.32 (m, 9H), 7.15 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.00–6.94 (m, 3H), 6.84 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 5.14 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.0, 162.6, 159.9, 155.4, 155.1, 135.3, 130.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 124.9, 123.5, 115.8, 113.5, 101.5, 75.9, 70.5. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 470 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>IO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 471.0093, found 471.0079.

**6-(Benzyloxy)-3-iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ah**). White solid (70% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.41–7.29 (m, 8H), 7.25 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.05–6.93 (m, 2H), 4.93 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.6, 159.6, 155.2, 155.0, 147.9, 135.7, 130.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 123.7, 121.8, 117.9, 116.5, 115.9, 106.9, 81.0, 70.5. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 470 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>IO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 471.0093, found 471.0090.

**3-Iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-one** (**3ai**). Pale yellow solid (72% yield); mp 188–190 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.66–8.61 (m, 1H), 7.89–7.84 (m, 1H), 7.74–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.41–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.04–6.97 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.7, 159.8, 155.6, 151.3, 135.2, 130.2, 129.5, 127.9, 127.6, 124.7, 123.7, 122.7, 122.6, 119.0, 115.9, 112.0, 79.4. MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 414.9 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 414.9831, found 414.9799.

**2-Iodo-1-phenoxy-3H-benzo[*f*]chromen-3-one** (**3aj**). White solid (65% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 8.11 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.89 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 9.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2 Hz), 7.61–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.12 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 6.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.1, 160.3, 154.6, 154.2, 135.4, 130.9, 130.1, 129.2, 129.1, 127.4, 126.3, 125.5, 123.6, 116.8, 116.1, 111.2, 82.1. MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 414.9 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 414.9831, found 414.9826.

**3-Iodo-6-nitro-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3ak**). White solid (80% yield); mp 128–130 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 8.47 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.44–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.98 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.9, 158.2, 156.4, 154.8, 144.1, 130.4, 127.6, 124.6, 120.0, 118.2, 116.9, 116.3, 81.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>INO<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 408.9447, found 408.9442.

**3-Iodo-8-methyl-6-nitro-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one** (**3al**). Off white solid (82% yield); mp 142–144 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.35–8.31 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.02–6.98 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.3, 158.3, 154.9, 143.5, 130.4, 128.8, 128.3, 124.4, 117.5, 116.6, 116.2, 81.7, 16.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>INO<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 422.9604, found 422.9599.

**6,8-Dichloro-3-iodo-4-phenoxy-2H-chromen-2-one (3am).** White solid (78% yield); mp 192–194 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.66 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 7.48 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.99–6.94 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.6, 157.9, 154.9, 147.8, 133.0, 130.3, 130.1, 124.2, 123.0, 121.7, 118.5, 116.0, 82.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_7\text{Cl}_2\text{IO}_3^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  431.8817, found 431.8812.

**3-Iodo-4-(*p*-tolylloxy)-2H-chromen-2-one (3ba).** White solid (82% yield); mp 148–150 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.64–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 7.25–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 6.90–6.84 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.1, 159.5, 153.3, 153.3, 133.2, 132.9, 130.4, 124.5, 123.8, 116.7, 116.2, 115.6, 80.1, 20.5. MS (ESI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 400.9 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{IO}_3^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  378.9831, found 378.9830.

**4-(4-Chlorophenoxy)-3-iodo-2H-chromen-2-one (3ca).** Yellow solid (65% yield); mp 84–85 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.50 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.6$  Hz), 7.41 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.30 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 6.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz), 7.27–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.91 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 7.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.5, 159.2, 153.8, 153.2, 133.2, 128.8, 124.7, 123.5, 117.2, 116.8, 115.8, 115.3, 80.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{ClIO}_3^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  398.9285, found 398.9251.

**3-Iodo-4-(3-methoxyphenoxy)-2H-chromen-2-one (3da).** Gummy liquid (73% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.64–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.23–7.17 (m, 2H), 6.68 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz), 6.58 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 6.49 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.2$  Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.8, 161.1, 159.4, 156.3, 153.2, 132.9, 130.4, 124.5, 123.7, 116.7, 116.1, 109.0, 107.8, 102.6, 80.5, 55.4. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 393.9 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{IO}_4^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  394.9780, found 394.9778.

**4-(3-(Benzyloxy)phenoxy)-3-iodo-2H-chromen-2-one (3ea).** Gummy liquid (71% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.31 (m, 6H), 7.30–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.78 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz), 7.65–6.54 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.8, 160.2, 159.4, 156.3, 153.2, 136.2, 133.0, 130.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 124.6, 123.7, 116.8, 116.1, 109.9, 108.3, 103.4, 80.6, 70.2. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 470 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{IO}_4^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  471.0093, found 471.0090.

**3-Iodo-4-(4-nitrophenoxy)-2H-chromen-2-one (3fa).** White solid (63% yield); mp 150–152 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 7.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.2$  Hz), 7.72–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.11 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 7.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.8, 159.4, 158.9, 153.2, 143.6, 133.6, 126.3, 124.9, 123.1, 117.1, 116.1, 115.5, 81.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{IO}_5^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  409.9525, found 409.9527.

**6H-Benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>6</sup> (4aa).** White solid (94% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2$  Hz), 8.05 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 7.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2$  Hz), 7.72–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.39 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.9, 158.0, 155.4, 153.6, 131.8, 126.7, 125.1, 124.5, 123.3, 121.8, 117.4, 112.5, 111.6, 105.8; MS (ESI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 259 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%).

**4-Methyl-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>5</sup> (4ab).** White solid (94% yield); mp 166–168 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.19–8.13 (m, 1H), 7.91–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.68 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 2.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.6$  Hz), 7.53–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 2.57 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.4, 158.1, 155.5, 152.0, 133.3, 127.1, 126.6, 125.1, 124.2, 123.5, 121.8, 119.5, 112.3, 111.7, 105.6, 16.22; MS (ESI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 273 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%).

**2-Methyl-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>3f</sup> (4ac).** White solid (92% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.16–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.66 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 6.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.4$  Hz), 7.51–7.37 (m, 4H), 2.49 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.0, 158.3, 155.4, 151.8, 134.5, 133.0, 126.6, 125.1, 123.5, 121.8, 121.5, 117.2, 112.2, 111.7, 105.7, 20.9; MS (ESI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 273 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%).

**2-Chloro-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>3f</sup> (4ad).** White solid (90% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.20–8.14 (m, 1H), 8.04 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 7.70 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 7.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.2$  Hz), 7.61–7.44 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.6, 157.5, 155.6, 151.9, 131.9, 130.2, 127.2, 125.4, 123.1, 122.0, 121.3, 118.9, 113.7, 111.9, 106.6; MS (ESI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 293 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%).

**3-Methoxy-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>3f</sup> (4ae).** White solid (88% yield); mp 156–158 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13–8.07 (m, 1H), 7.91 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 5.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.6$  Hz), 7.67–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.95 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.9, 158.2, 155.4, 155.1, 130.2, 126.0, 124.9, 123.5, 122.7, 121.3, 121.2, 112.9, 111.4, 105.7, 101.3, 55.7. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 266 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%).

**2-Methoxy-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>20</sup> (4af).** White solid (78% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.17–8.11 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.16 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.8$  Hz), 3.94 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.8, 158.2, 156.3, 155.4, 148.2, 126.7, 125.2, 123.5, 121.9, 120.2, 118.7, 112.7, 111.7, 106.0, 103.3, 55.9. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 266 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%).

**3-(Benzyloxy)-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one (4ag).** White solid (96% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.19–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.96–7.91 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.35 (m, 7H), 7.11–7.04 (m, 2H), 5.19 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.9, 160.5, 158.2, 155.4, 155.1, 135.5, 128.6, 128.3, 127.4, 126.0, 124.9, 123.5, 122.7, 121.4, 113.6, 113.0, 111.4, 106.0, 102.4, 70.5. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 342 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  343.0970, found 343.0969.

**2-(Benzyloxy)-6H-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one (4ah).** White solid (89% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 7.66 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 7.54–7.37 (m, 9H), 7.27–7.20 (m, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.7, 155.4, 155.3, 148.2, 136.0, 128.6, 128.2, 127.4, 126.6, 125.1, 123.4, 121.8, 120.7, 118.6, 117.9, 115.9, 112.7, 111.5, 105.9, 104.7, 70.7. GC MS (EI, +ve)  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 342 ( $[\text{M}]^+$ , 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4^+ [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  343.0970, found 343.0951.



**8*H*-Benzo[*H*]benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-8-one (4ai).** Yellow solid (89% yield); mp 116–118 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.70–8.62 (m, 1H), 8.21–8.15 (m, 1H), 8.00 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.91 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 7.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.73–7.62 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.45 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.9, 157.9, 155.5, 150.9, 134.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 126.6, 125.1, 124.9, 123.5, 123.3, 122.7, 121.8, 117.4, 111.7, 107.8, 105.3. MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 287 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 287.0708, found 287.0703.

**8*H*-Benzo[*f*]benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-8-one (4aj).** Yellow solid (91% yield); mp 176–178 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 8.26–8.19 (m, 1H), 8.03 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.85–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.48 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.2, 157.9, 155.3, 153.7, 133.0, 130.7, 130.2, 128.7, 127.4, 126.6, 126.2, 125.4, 125.2, 122.7, 121.7, 117.3, 111.6, 107.0, 106.0. MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 287 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 287.0708, found 287.0597.

**8-Methyl-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>10a</sup> (4ba).** White solid (93% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.6 Hz), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.64–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.28 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.6 Hz), 2.52 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.9, 158.0, 153.8, 153.4, 135.0, 131.6, 127.8, 124.4, 123.3, 121.6, 121.5, 117.3, 112.6, 111.0, 105.5, 21.2. MS (ESI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 273 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%).

**8-Chloro-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>10a</sup> (4ca).** White solid (73% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.16–8.13 (m, 1H), 8.07–7.93 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.0, 157.7, 153.8, 153.8, 132.4, 131.1, 127.0, 124.8, 122.7, 122.0, 121.5, 117.6, 112.8, 112.3, 105.2.

**9-Methoxy-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one<sup>5</sup> (4da).** White solid (81% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.44–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.06 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.0 Hz), 3.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.5, 159.1, 158.0, 156.6, 153.0, 131.1, 124.4, 121.8, 121.3, 117.2, 116.3, 113.4, 112.6, 104.4, 96.5, 55.7. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 266 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%).

**9-(Benzyloxy)-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-6-one (4ea).** White solid (73% yield); mp 154–156 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.04–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.99–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.36 (m, 7H), 7.26 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.16 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.2 Hz), 5.18 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.2, 158.6, 158.0, 156.5, 153.1, 136.2, 131.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.4, 126.7, 124.5, 121.9, 121.3, 117.3, 116.6, 114.2, 112.6, 97.8, 70.5. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 342 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 343.0970, found 343.0963.

**4-Phenoxy-2*H*-chromen-2-one<sup>10a</sup> (5aa).** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.6, 154.0, 139.8, 132.9, 129.6, 124.9, 123.1, 122.6, 122.0, 119.2, 116.7, 112.1. GC MS (EI, +ve) *m/z* (relative intensity) 238 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 100%).

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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