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Larvicidal activity of novel anthraquinone analogues and their molecular docking studies

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ABSTRACT

To investigate the larvicidal activities of novel anthraquinones (**1a–1k**) against *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquito larvae. Novel anthraquinones (**1a–1k**) derivatives were synthesized via condensation method. The compounds were confirmed through FT-IR spectroscopy, ¹H & ¹³C NMR spectrum, and mass spectral studies. The larvicidal activity of compound **1c** was highly active LD₅₀ 20.92 µg/mL against *Culex quinquefasciatus* compared standard **permethrin** with LD₅₀ 25.49 µg/mL. Molecular docking studies were carried out for compound **1c** against Odorant-binding protein of *Culex quinquefasciatus*. The compound **1c** (–9.8 Kcal/mol) was a potent larvicide with more binding energy than control **permethrin** (–9.7 Kcal/mol). Therefore, compound (**1c**) may be more significant inhibitors of mosquito larvicidal.

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1. Introduction

Mosquitoes are disreputable as the main vectors for the spread a number of diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, schistosomiasis Japanese encephalitis, filariasis, and yellow fever (Georges et al., 2008; Govindarajan, 2010). These types of disease reason an affect the economic and social impact in all over the world, especially *Culex quinquefasciatus* is vectors which are obtained frequently from urban and rural human habitat. Control of mosquito has been used big challenge and currently using most effective mosquito inhibitors such as organophosphates, fenthion, chlorpyrifos, menthophrene, and temephos, then usage of this big challenge in various environmental condition. In this reason, we selected anthraquinones, which is most suitable environmental safe secondary metabolites. Anthraquinones analogues are a large group of pigmented polyketides extensively formed by fungi. Basically, different substituted anthraquinone derivatives are most active in

biological systems, such as the addition of methyl (–CH₃), carboxyl (–COOH), hydroxyl (–OH), and methoxyl (–OCH₃) groups of 9,10-anthracenedione outcomes in a broad-spectrum of medicinal properties (Tutin et al., 1911). Fig. 1 shows important larvicidal active compounds that based on structure, relation of target compounds. Larvicidal activities of benzoquinone (LC₅₀: 90 µg/mL) were evaluated on third-instar larvae of *A. aegypti* (De Sousa et al., 2010). 2-methoxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (LC₅₀: 0.085 µg/mL) against *Estagio larval* and isolated from Balsaminaceae (*Impatiens glandulifera*), (Kim and Ahn, 2017). Naphthalene-1,4-dione (LC₅₀: 1.64 µg/mL) against *Culex pipiens pallens*, (Jeon et al., 2015), anthracene-9,10-dione (LC₅₀: >25.0 µg/mL) (*A. aegypti*), tectoquinone LC₅₀: 3.3 µg/mL (*A. aegypti*), and emodin LC₅₀: 5.3 µg/mL (*A. aegypti*) (Cheng et al., 2008). However, the above chemicals are problems for usage of environmental factor, such as widespread development of resistance, leading to occurrences of mosquito species, disrupted natural biological control systems, and effects of infection from soil, water, air (Park et al., 2005). Therefore, the above drawback requires the new selective control of mosquito larvae (Yang et al., 2013). Odorant-binding proteins were transporting the odorants to olfactory receptors, which plays in major activities of host-seeking (Bazaes et al., 2013; De March and Golebiowski, 2014; Pechlaner and Oostenbrink, 2015). The above scientific information, we have chosen a hydroxyanthraquinone target against *Culex quinquefasciatus* and using odorant-binding protein (PDB ID: 3OGN) for molecular docking studies. In the present study, synthe-

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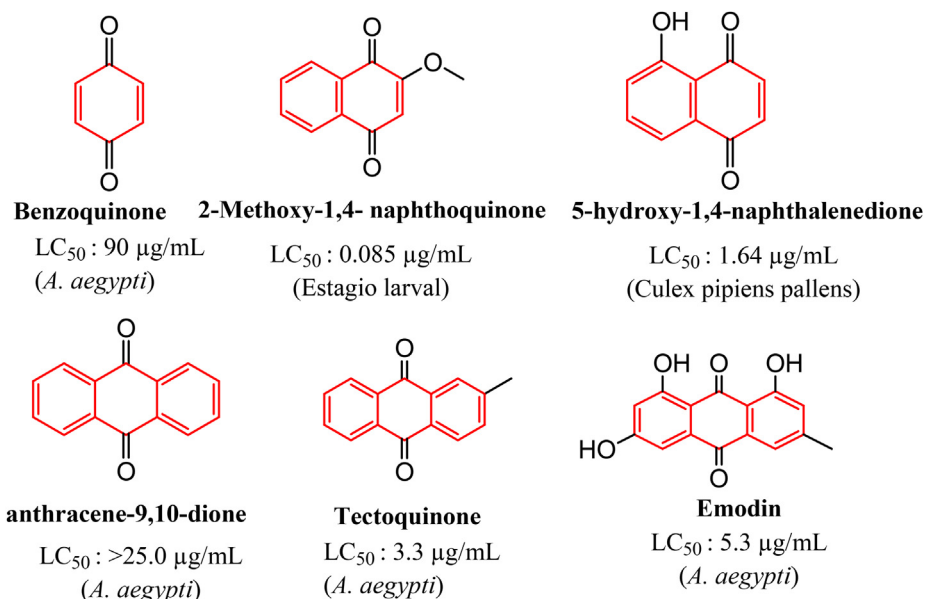


Fig. 1. Some important Larvicidal active compounds.

sis of new hydroxyanthraquinone Mannich base derivatives for evaluation of larvicidal activity.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Chemistry

The chemicals were obtained from commercially and fully purified all chemicals before using the reactions. The FT-IR Shimadzu 8201PC (4000–400 cm⁻¹), and ¹H & ¹³C NMR spectra of Bruker DRX-300 MHz were used by analysis all newly synthesized compounds. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) technique was used by check purity of the compounds with using silica gel plates.

2.1.1. General method for preparation of 4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1a**).

A mixture of 1,4-dihydroxy anthraquinone (0.0005 mol, 0.1 mg), benzaldehyde (0.002 mol, 0.5 ml) and aniline (0.001 mol, 0.5 ml) are dissolved in ethanol. The mixture was refluxed by 24 h at 60 °C. The final target compound was monitored by TLC. The product was recrystallized in suitable alcohol. The same experimental method was used for preparation of other compounds **1b-k**.

2.1.2. 4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1a**)

IR (kBr, cm⁻¹): 1714, 1691, 1462, 822, 752; ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ ppm 8.37–8.33 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.82–7.80 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.72 Hz, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 2H), 6.95–6.93 (d, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 2H), 6.79–6.77 (d, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.61 (s, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz): δ 187.9, 152.5, 149.1, 133.0, 132.9, 129.0, 128.2, 126.1, 114.6, 114.1, 121.4, 54.9; EI-MS *m/z*(rel.int): 358.4 (M⁺, 26%); Anal C₂₂H₁₅NO₄: C, 73.94; H, 4.23; N, 3.92; Found: C, 73.92; H, 4.26; N, 3.91;

2.1.3. 4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-1,3-di((E)-prop-1-en-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1b**)

IR (kBr, cm⁻¹): 1762, 1689, 1452, 812, 741; ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.38–8.36 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.82–7.80 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.72 Hz, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 2H), 6.95–6.93 (d,

J = 7.75 Hz, 2H), 6.77–6.75 (d, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (s, 2H), 5.48–5.46 (q, 2H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 2.12 (d, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.8, 152.4, 148.9, 133.9, 132.7, 129.1, 128.8, 125.6, 125.0, 124.3, 122.1, 115.8, 115.1, 72.6, 17.5; EI-MS *m/z*(rel.int): 438.0 [M⁺, 26%]; Anal C₂₈H₂₃NO₄: C, 76.87; H, 5.30; N, 3.20; Found: C, 76.88; H, 5.32; N, 3.21;

2.1.4. 4,11-dihydroxy-1-((E)-4-methylpenta-1,3-dien-1-yl)-3-((Z)-4-methylpenta-1,3-dien-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1c**)

IR (kBr, cm⁻¹): 1744, 1678, 1451, 816, 738; ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.31–8.28 (d, *J* = 13.04 Hz, 2H), 7.80–7.78 (d, *J* = 13.04 Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.70 Hz, 2H), 6.95–6.93 (d, *J* = 7.70 Hz, 2H), 6.76–6.75 (d, *J* = 7.71 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (s, 2H), 6.10 (d, 2H), 5.90 (d, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 2.14 (s, 6H), 1.98 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO *d*₆, δ (ppm)): 187.5, 151.6, 148.5, 135.9, 133.2, 132.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.2, 128.0, 126.3, 126.1, 122.3, 113.9, 114.1, 70.6, 27.6, 20.5; EI-MS *m/z*(rel.int): 518.25 (M⁺, 35%); Anal C₃₄H₃₁NO₄: C, 78.88; H, 6.04; N, 2.71; Found: C, 78.86; H, 6.08; N, 2.70;

2.1.5. 4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-1,3-di((E)-styryl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1d**)

IR (kBr, cm⁻¹): 1769, 1674, 1462, 812, 738; ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.32–8.30 (d, *J* = 13.70 Hz, 2H), 7.86–7.84 (d, *J* = 13.72 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.44 (m, Ph), 7.26–7.24 (dd, *J* = 7.70 Hz, 2H), 6.92–6.87 (d, *J* = 7.70 Hz, 2H), 6.69–6.67 (d, *J* = 7.70 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 6.69 (s, 2H), 6.21 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.9, 152.5, 149.1, 138.5, 132.9, 132.7, 129.0, 128.5, 128.2, 126.1, 121.4, 114.6, 114.1, 125.9, 71.2, 124.2, 128.9, 54.9; EI-MS *m/z*(rel.int): 562.21 (M⁺, 45%); 44(18); Anal C₃₈H₂₇NO₄: C, 81.27; H, 4.85; N, 2.49; Found: C, 81.25; H, 4.81; N, 2.48;

2.1.6. 1,3-di(furan-2-yl)-4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1e**)

IR (kBr, cm⁻¹): 1725, 1681, 1461, 823, 712; ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.39–8.36 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.86–7.82 (d, *J* = 13.74 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.62 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.20 (dd, *J* = 7.72 Hz, 2H), 6.94–6.91 (d, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 2H), 6.71–6.68 (d, *J* = 7.75 Hz, 1H), 6.25–6.21 (d, *J* = 7.62 Hz, 2H), 6.45–6.42 (d, *J* = 7.62 Hz, 2H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 5.36 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.4, 151.9, 150.6,

147.9, 141.0, 135.6, 131.9, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 122.6, 115.7, 115.2, 109.1, 67.1, 53.7; EI-MS m/z (rel.int): 490(M^+ , 78%); Anal $C_{30}H_{19}NO_6$: C, 73.61; H, 3.91; N, 2.86; Found: C, 73.60; H, 3.90; N, 2.84;

2.1.7. 4,11-dihydroxy-1,2,3-triphenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1f**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 1747, 1697, 1455, 809, 744; 1H NMR(300 MHz): δ 8.40–8.36(d, $J = 13.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.85–7.83 (d, $J = 13.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.28(m 10H, Ph), 7.26–7.23 (dd, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 6.99–6.97 (d, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 2H), 6.78–6.75 (d, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.2, 153.6, 149.8, 146.2, 133.6, 132.2, 132.9, 130.0, 128.9, 125.6, 128.9, 126.2, 122.6, 114.5, 113.8, 71.6; EIMS m/z (rel.int): 510.23(M^+ , 56%); Anal $C_{34}H_{23}NO_4$: C, 80.14; H, 4.55; N, 2.75; Found: C, 80.15; H, 4.56; N, 2.76;

2.1.8. 1,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1g**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 1741, 1641, 1462, 821, 765, 659; 1H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.34–8.30 (d, $J = 13.69$ Hz, 2H), 7.86–7.81 (d, $J = 13.69$ Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.30(d, $J = 7.69$ Hz, 4H), 7.24–7.21(dd, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.20–7.18(d, $J = 7.69$ Hz, 4H), 6.97–6.91(d, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 6.71–6.69(d, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 1H), 5.39(s, 2H), 5.12(s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.0, 153.6, 147.8, 140.4, 133.5, 132.9, 132.2, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.3, 125.2, 121.2, 115.8, 113.7, 71.0; EI-MS m/z (rel.int): 578.23 (M^+ , 47%); Anal $C_{34}H_{21}Cl_2NO_4$: C, 70.60; H, 3.66; N, 2.42; Found: C, 71.25; H, 3.67; N, 3.68;

2.1.9. 4,11-dihydroxy-1,3-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1h**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 3232, 1749, 1680, 1461, 810, 741; 1H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.43–8.40 (d, $J = 13.63$ Hz, 2H), 7.81–7.78 (d, $J = 13.63$ Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.22 (dd, $J = 7.74$ Hz, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.10–7.08(d, $J = 7.70$ Hz, 4H), 6.96–6.94 (d, $J = 7.74$ Hz, 2H), 6.73–6.70 (d, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 1H), 6.68–6.63(d, $J = 7.70$ Hz, 4H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.9, 157.2, 152.5, 149.1, 135.9, 132.9, 132.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 126.0, 122.9, 118.6, 113.9, 114.1, 71.2; EIMS m/z (rel.int): 542.12 (M^+ , 22%); Anal $C_{34}H_{23}NO_6$: C, 75.41; H, 4.28; N, 2.59; Found: C, 75.40; H, 4.21; N, 2.55;

2.1.10. 4,11-dihydroxy-1,3-bis(3-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1i**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 1752, 1684, 1545, 1465, 804, 745; 1H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.40–8.38 (d, $J = 13.78$ Hz, 2H), 8.12(d, $J = 7.70$ Hz, 4H), 7.90–7.87 (d, $J = 13.78$ Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.56(d, $J = 7.70$ Hz, 4H), 7.26–7.24 (dd, $J = 7.72$ Hz, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 2H), 6.95–6.93 (d,

$J = 7.75$ Hz, 2H), 6.83–6.80 (d, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 5.26 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.1, 152.5, 149.1, 146.8, 142.9, 135.8, 133.3, 133.0, 131.1, 129.0, 127.9, 126.5, 126.1, 122.9, 121.4, 114.1, 113.9, 68.5; EIMS m/z (rel.int): 600.21 (M^+ , 36%); Anal $C_{34}H_{21}N_3O_8$: C, 68.11; H, 3.53; N, 7.01; Found: C, 68.17; H, 3.57; N, 7.18;

2.1.11. 1,3-bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-4,11-dihydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1j**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 1753, 1681, 1469, 795, 745; 1H NMR(300 MHz): δ 8.37–8.34 (d, $J = 13.74$ Hz, 2H), 7.82–7.80 (d, $J = 13.74$ Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (dd, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.08–7.05(d, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 4H), 6.95–6.93 (d, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 2H), 6.79–6.76 (d, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 1H), 6.68–6.62(d, $J = 7.75$ Hz, 4H), 5.29(s, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 3.04(s, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.9, 152.5, 149.1, 148.9, 133.2, 133.1, 132.9, 128.0, 128.6, 128.2, 125.9, 121.4, 113.8, 114.1, 114.1, 70.2, 42.3; EIMS m/z (rel.int): 596.32 (M^+ , 20%); Anal $C_{38}H_{33}N_3O_4$: C, 76.62; H, 5.58; N, 7.05; Found: C, 76.63; H, 5.59; N, 7.09;

2.1.12. 4,11-dihydroxy-1,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]isoindole-5,10-dione (**1k**)

IR (kBr, cm^{-1}): 2821, 1742, 1682, 1469, 812, 740; 1H NMR (300 MHz): δ 8.56–8.41 (d, $J = 13.70$ Hz, 2H), 7.89–7.86 (d, $J = 13.65$ Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.19(dd, $J = 6.65$ Hz, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (4H, CH), 6.90–6.88 (d, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 2H), 6.75–6.73 (d, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 1H), 6.69(4H, CH), 5.27(s, 2H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 3.85(s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, δ (ppm)): 187.1, 159.8, 153.0, 148.9, 136.8, 133.2, 132.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.1, 127.3, 122.2, 116.1, 114.2, 115.6, 70.5, 55.9; EIMS m/z (rel.int): 570.10 (M^+ , 30%); Anal $C_{36}H_{27}NO_6$: C, 75.91; H, 4.78; N, 2.46; Found: C, 75.05; H, 4.77; N, 2.45;

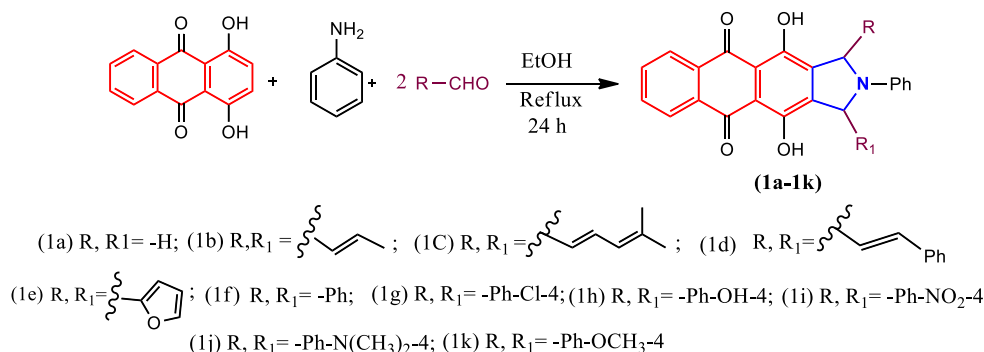
2.2. Biological activity

2.2.1. Larvicidal activity

Larvicidal activities of 10, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu g/mL$ of compounds (**1a–1k**) were screened as we previously described in publication Idhayadhulla et al., (Sathishkumar et al., 2020). Mortality caused by the compounds was evaluated as ratios (%) of the numbers of dead vs. live larvae. The 50% lethal doses (LD_{50}) values of the compounds were calculated using probit analysis and statistically analyzed using SPSS version 16.0 software.

2.2.2. Statistical analysis

Larvicidal activities results were calculated through 3 independent evaluations and Microsoft Excel was used to analysis the standard deviations (SD) of each compound.



Scheme 1. Route of synthesis larvicidal active target molecules.

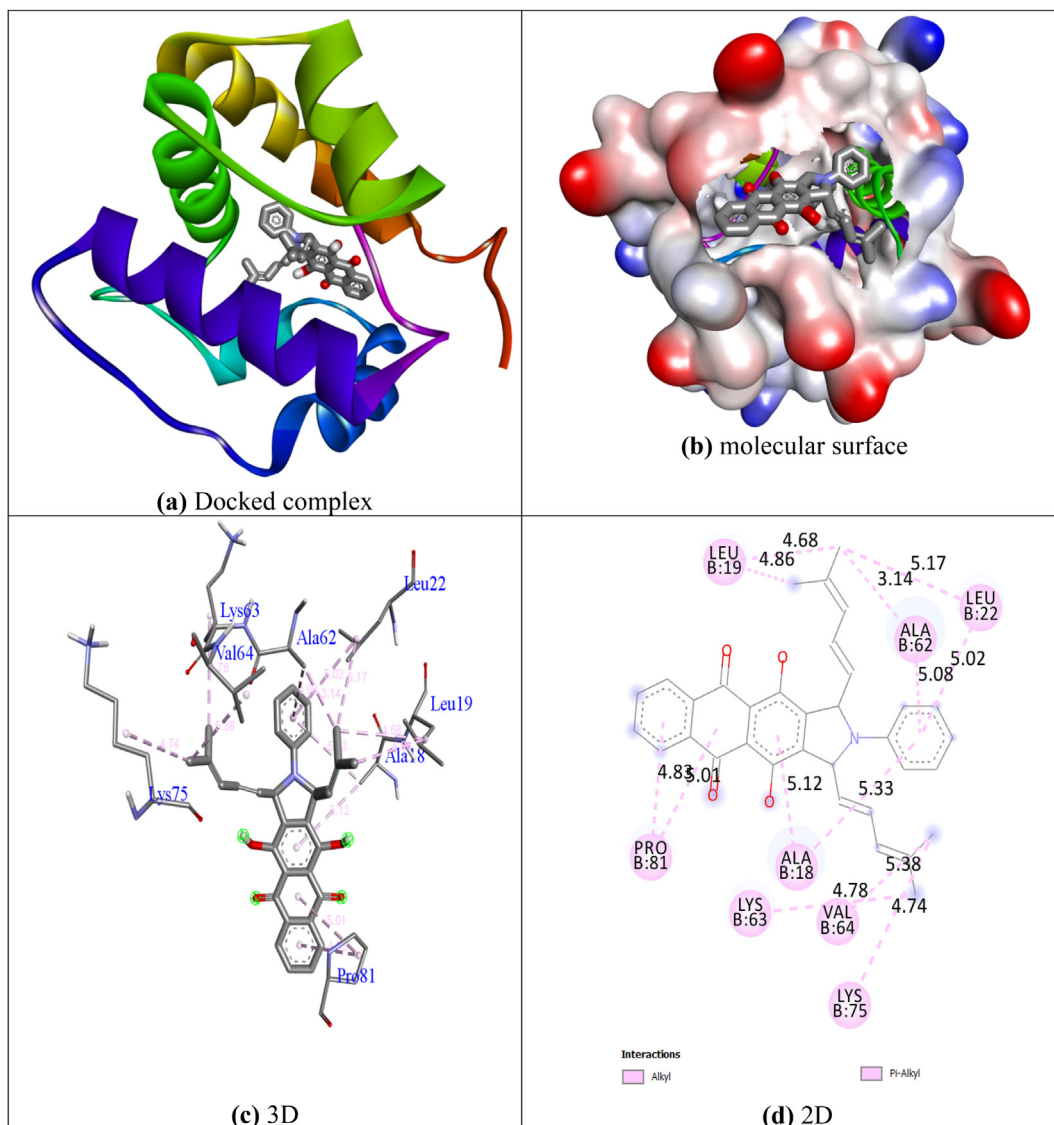


Fig. 2. Molecular docked modes of **1c** with binding site of 3OGN.

2.2.3. Molecular docking

This study was carried out via Autodock vina 1.1.2. (Trott and Olson, 2010), which using to interpret the binding mode of compounds (**1c**) and permethrin with mosquito odorant protein. Cryst-

tal structure of mosquito odorant binding protein (PDB ID: 3OGN) was collected from protein data bank web link. The 3D association of the compound (**1c**) and permethrin was accomplished through Chem Draw Ultra 12.0 software. The 3OGN protein was fixed at

Table 1
Larvicidal activity of anthraquinone analogues (**1a-1k**) and permethrin.

Compounds	Concentration ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)/Mortality (%)				LD ₅₀ ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)
	10	25	50	100	
1a	–	0 \pm 0.00	16 \pm 0.27	36 \pm 0.97	>100
1b	7 \pm 0.89	23 \pm 1.25	36 \pm 0.96	55 \pm 0.00	85.42
1c	41 \pm 0.00	65 \pm 1.31	100 \pm 1.34	–	20.92
1d	5 \pm 1.76	22 \pm 1.12	43 \pm 1.87	60 \pm 1.61	74.17
1e	4 \pm 1.14	15 \pm 1.48	38 \pm 1.46	54 \pm 0.88	86.27
1f	–	–	0 \pm 0.00	20 \pm 0.47	>100
1g	22 \pm 1.87	46 \pm 1.21	62 \pm 0.56	88 \pm 0.30	37.95
1h	0 \pm 0.00	10 \pm 1.87	20 \pm 0.67	40 \pm 1.89	>100
1i	–	–	21 \pm 0.00	38 \pm 0.09	>100
1j	22 \pm 0.95	36 \pm 1.65	57 \pm 1.41	100 \pm 1.14	37.59
1k	–	–	0 \pm 0.00	40 \pm 1.23	>100
Permethrin	23 \pm 1.76	55 \pm 1.23	82 \pm 1.94	100 \pm 0.00	25.49

^aValues are the means of three replicates \pm SD.

3.3. Docked results with AutoDock Vina

The Autodock Vina program was used to study for compound (**1c**) and **permethrin** docking with 3OGN protein. The compound **1c** shows significant binding affinity (−9.8 kcal/mol) than **permethrin** (−9.7 kcal/mol). Stability of protein and ligand was confirmed through the bond distance calculation, which is less than 3.5 Å form H-donor and the H-acceptor of bond distance (Taha et al., 2015). The compound **1c** was not conceded for any hydrogen bond in 3OGN. The residues Ala18, Leu19, Leu22, Ala62, Lys63, Val64, Lys75 and Pro81 were complex with hydrophobic connections. The molecular interaction of compound **1c** and 3OGN were shown in Fig. 2. The control **permethrin** was also not conceded any hydrogen bond in 3OGN. The hydrophobic interactions were involved due to the formation of Leu15, Leu19, Phe59, Leu73, Leu76, His77, Leu80, Ala88, Met89, Gly92, His111, Trp114, Phe123, and Leu124. Fig. 3 shows that the molecular interaction of **permethrin** with 3OGN. Therefore, the compound **1c** having remarkable inhibition capability than **permethrin** in mosquito odorant-binding protein. The results are presented in Table 2.

4. Conclusion

Novel anthraquinones (**1a-1k**) moiety were synthesized and screened for larvicidal activity. The Compound **1c** was highly active (LD₅₀ 20.92 µg/mL) against second instar *C. quinquefasciatus* mosquito larvae than **permethrin** with LD₅₀: 25.49 µg/mL. Molecular docking findings supported the potent larvicidal activity of compound **1c** (−9.8 Kcal/mol) compared with Permethrin with binding energy values of (−9.7 Kcal/mol). Therefore, these compounds might serve as a new class of products with larvicidal activity and prospective foundation for emerging ecologically important bioactive compound.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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