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## Synthesis of a new class of naphthoquinone glycoconjugates and evaluation of their potential as antitumoral agents

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### Abstract

A novel series of carbohydrate-based naphthoquinones was synthesized and evaluated for cytotoxicity against different cancer cell lines. The compounds derived from 5-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (juglone) showed better cytotoxicity profiles against HCT-116, A-549 and MDA-MB 435 human cancer cells than the parent compound. The results suggest that the hydroxyl group on the aromatic ring increased the pro-oxidant activity of these new naphthoquinone derivatives. Furthermore, two derivatives were found to be more active against melanoma cells (MDA-MB435) than the clinically useful anticancer agent doxorubicin, and none of the compounds caused mouse erythrocyte lysis.

## 1 Introduction

Natural glycoconjugated compounds<sup>1-3</sup>, **1-7** (Figure 1), are useful drugs that are commonly used clinically in the treatment of cancer. The importance of the carbohydrate residues in these structures has been well established: these moieties are important for solubilization and also decrease the toxicity and improve the pharmacokinetics of the compounds<sup>4</sup>. Indeed, several cases in the literature<sup>5</sup> show the benefit to biological activity of a carbohydrate moiety in the structure of a molecule. For example, the sugar moieties in antibiotic anthracycline derivatives **1-3** (Figure 1) participate in the molecular recognition of the main cellular targets, DNA and topoisomerase II, forming a DNA–drug–topoisomerase II ternary complex in which the enzyme is covalently linked to a broken DNA strand, which is critical for the induction of apoptosis and cell death<sup>6,7</sup>.

[Figure 1 near here]

Other mechanisms can be involved in quinone toxicity of such as redox cycles, which result in the production of semiquinone radicals and reactive oxygen species (ROS). These events lead to the depletion of glutathione in cells as well as damage to other intracellular components<sup>3</sup>.

The importance of exploring the synthesis of sugar-conjugated compounds to increase the selectivity of drug uptake is based on the Warburg effect<sup>8</sup>, which is related to the large consumption of glucose by cancerous cells compared to normal cells due to the high rate of aerobic glycolysis in the former<sup>8</sup>.

Recently, our group described the synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of a series of carbohydrate-based quinones. In this study<sup>5</sup>, compounds **8a-b** (Figure 2) (IC<sub>50</sub> below 3.0 μM) were found to exhibit significant activity against a melanoma cell line (MDA-MB 435).

[Figure 2 near here]

Quinones containing heterocyclic aromatic rings in their structures have been extensively explored by many research groups<sup>9,10</sup>. Structure–activity relationship studies

have revealed that the number and position of nitrogen (N) atoms in the five- or six-membered heterocyclic ring are critical factors for enhancing antitumor activity<sup>9,10</sup>.

Among nitrogen-containing heterocycles, 1,2,3-triazole derivatives exhibit a broad spectrum of biological properties<sup>11-15</sup> and may serve as scaffold structures for the development of new pharmaceutical compounds. This heterocyclic system is resistant to metabolic degradation and can interact with biological targets through hydrogen bonds and dipole interactions, properties that may be responsible for the enhanced biological activities of many synthetically versatile molecules<sup>16</sup>.

To extend our investigation into the synthesis and biological evaluation of quinone glycoconjugate compounds<sup>5,17</sup> and 1,2,3-triazole derivatives<sup>11-15</sup>, we prepared a new series of naphthotriazoles, **9a-c** (Scheme 1), and assessed their activity against three types of cancer cells: human colorectal carcinoma (HCT-116), human lung adenocarcinoma (A-549) and human melanoma (MDA-MB435).

[Scheme 1 near here]

The synthesis of derivatives<sup>17</sup> **10a-c**, which possess aminocarbohydrate chains at the C-2 position of the quinone moiety (Scheme 1), was also performed to verify the possible pharmacophoric effects of the 1,2,3-triazole moiety fused to naphthoquinone.

Naturally occurring hydroxy naphthoquinone (juglone, **12**) exhibits a toxicological effect through its ability to undergo redox cycling to damage macromolecules, such as DNA, lipids and proteins<sup>18</sup>. Several studies have shown that the introduction of a hydroxyl group at the carbon of the benzene moiety improves the pro-oxidant properties of naphthoquinone derivatives, stimulating lipid peroxidation and adduct formation with macromolecules<sup>18</sup>.

Based on these reports, we also decided to prepare a new series of hydroxylated naphthoquinones, **11a-c**, exploring cycloaddition between juglone (**12**) and azide-functionalized carbohydrates **13a-c** (Scheme 1), and to investigate the influence on biological activity of a hydroxyl group at position 5 of the benzene ring.

The compounds **10a-c** and **11a-c** were also evaluated for their cytotoxic activities against cancer cell lines HCT-116, A-549 and MDA-MB435.

## 2 Results and Discussion

### 2.1 Chemistry

Naphthotriazole derivatives **9a-c** (Scheme 2) were obtained in moderate yields via a [3 + 2] cycloaddition reaction between glycosyl azides **13a-c** and 1,4-naphthoquinone (**14**) (Scheme 2). The probable mechanism for the formation of these compounds involves an initial 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between the azide carbohydrates **13a-c** and 1,4-benzoquinone (**14**), producing the corresponding triazoline intermediates **15a-c**, which are tautomerized and oxidized to form the desired glycotriazole derivatives **9a-c**.

[Scheme 2 near here]

Glycosyl azides **13a-c** were prepared from their corresponding commercially available reagents D-ribose, D-xylose and D-galactose using previously described methods for carbohydrate derivatization<sup>19,20</sup> (Scheme 3).

[Scheme 3 near here]

The aminonaphthoquinone analogs **10a-c** (Scheme 2) were synthesized in moderate yields via ultrasound-accelerated 1,4-cycloaddition between 1,4-naphthoquinone (**14**) and different aminocarbohydrates (**16a-c**), according to our previous report<sup>17</sup>. Reduction of the azide derivatives **13a-c** in the presence of a catalytic amount of 10% Pd/C (Scheme 3) led to the corresponding amines **16a-c**.

Juglone **12**, prepared in 85% yield via the methodology described by Ferreira and coworkers<sup>21</sup>, was reacted with azide compounds **13a-b**. Although it is possible to form a mixture of the 5- and 8-hydroxy-naphthotriazole regioisomers (Scheme 4) via this thermal 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction, only 5-hydroxy-1-substituted-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*][1,2,3-]triazole-4,9-dione derivatives **11a-b** were isolated, in moderate

yields. Furthermore, unexpected products **22a-b**, possessing a carbohydrate chain at the C-2 position of the quinone ring, were also isolated.

[Scheme 4 near here]

The reaction of compound **13c** with juglone (**12**) gave a crude product which upon TLC analysis showed to be a mixture of two major compounds with retention factors (Rf) very similar. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of this mixture led to the conclusion that one of the substances corresponded to **11c**, the desired compound, and that the other substance was the amine **22c**. Attempts to separate the products by chromatography on silica gel column were unsuccessful.

[Scheme 5 near here]

The structures of the new compounds **9a-c**, **11a-b** and **22a-b** were established by spectral data: one- and two-dimensional  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -APT, COSY- $^1\text{H} \times ^1\text{H}$ , HSQC and HMBC], IR and elemental analysis.

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **11a-b** and **22a-b** indicate that only one of the two possible isomers was formed. The regiochemistry of the reaction was investigated based on X-ray crystallographic analysis of substances **11a** and **22a** (Figure 3). Figure 3 shows the ORTEP diagrams of these compounds, and crystal data and refinements are provided in Table 2. The diagram shows that the carbohydrate chains are in the anti-position to the hydroxyl group attached to the quinone ring of **11a** and **22a**. The carbohydrate moieties of **11a** and **22a** adopt envelope and twist conformations, respectively.

[Figure 3 near here]

[Table 1 near here]

## 2.2 Biological assay

Compounds **9a-c**, **10a-c**, **11a-b**, **12**, **14** and **22a-b** were tested *in vitro* against three cancer cell lines and normal cells, human blood peripheral leukocytes, using the MTT assay. Doxorubicin was used as the positive control. Erythrocyte lysis was evaluated at a concentration of 200  $\mu\text{M}$ . The concentrations inducing 50% inhibition of cell growth ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ ) are reported in Table 2. The compounds were classified according to their activity as highly active ( $\text{IC}_{50} < 2 \mu\text{M}$ ), moderately active ( $2 \mu\text{M} < \text{IC}_{50} < 10 \mu\text{M}$ ), or inactive ( $\text{IC}_{50} > 10 \mu\text{M}$ )<sup>22</sup>.

[Table 2 near here]

The naphthoquinone derivatives **9a-c**, **10a-c**, **11a-b**, **12**, **14** and **22a-b** (Table 2) did not exhibit a lytic effect against either erythrocytes or normal human leukocytes.

Among naphthotriazoles **9a-c**, only derivative **9b** showed significant activity against HCT-116 cells, with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of 4.85  $\mu\text{M}$ . This result indicates that the presence of the glycol 1,2,3-triazole subunit determines the biological activity assessed. Aminoquinones **10a-c** showed no activity against the three cell lines, allowing us to speculate that the presence of the amino group attached to carbon 2 has no effect on the biological activity of the compounds.

Aminoquinone analogs **22a-b** showed higher cytotoxic activities than compounds **10a-b**. This can be attributed to the presence of the hydroxyl group connected to the benzene ring in these derivatives, possibly contributing to their pro-oxidant activities<sup>18</sup>.

In addition, the new glycoconjugate compounds **22a** and **22b** were also more active than juglone (**12**). We speculate that cellular permeability of these 5-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinonic derivatives could be improved by the presence of the carbohydrate chain at the C-2 position of the quinone moiety. As **22a** and **22b** were active against different cell lines, it appears that they can bind to different targets in a specific background.

The series of quinones **11a-c** displayed greater activity in all tested cancer cell lines than naphthoquinone derivatives **9a-b**, possibly indicating that these quinones have increased pro-oxidant capacity. One can speculate that the hydroxyl attached to the C5 carbon in these derivatives is responsible for their increased anti-tumor activity.

Derivatives **11a** and **11b** were also more active against melanoma cancer cells (MDA-MB435) than the clinically useful anticancer agent doxorubicin. Although doxorubicin

is considered an important drug for cancer chemotherapy, it has several clinical limitations, such as cardiotoxic effects and a high incidence of multi-drug resistance. Therefore, glycoconjugate compounds **11a-b** and **22a-b** can be considered promising prototypes in drug development for cancer therapy.

### 3 Conclusion

The thermal cycloaddition reaction of glycosyl azides **13a-c** with 1,4-naphthoquinone (**14**) produced the new glyconaphthotriazoles **9a-c** in moderate yields. Under the same conditions, parent compound **21** afforded the corresponding glyconaphthotriazoles, **11a-b**, in moderate yields as well as the unexpected aminonaphthoquinones **22a-b**. These carbohydrate-based naphthoquinones, **11a-b** and **22a-b**, derived from juglone (**12**) showed the best cytotoxicity profile against human cell lines HCT-116, A-549 and MDA-MB 435 when compared with the parent compounds, **9a-b** and **10a-b**, respectively. These data show the importance of the hydroxyl group to the pro-oxidant action of these naphthoquinone compounds. Indeed, derivatives **11a** and **11b** were more active than the clinically useful anticancer agent doxorubicin against melanoma cancer cells (MDA-MB435 cells). However, none of the compounds exhibited lytic effects against mouse erythrocytes.

Molecules **11a**, **11b**, **22a** and **22b** can be considered promising prototypes for cancer therapy.

## 4 Experimental

### 4.1 Materials and measurements

Melting points were determined with a Fisher-Johns – Melting Point Apparatus instrument, and the values are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR 1600 spectrophotometer using KBr pellets. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity Plus 300 MHz or 500 MHz spectrometer using the specified solvents. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm, and the coupling constants ( $J$ ) are



expressed in Hz. Column chromatography was performed with silica gel flash from Acros. The reactions were routinely monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel pre-coated F<sub>254</sub> Merck plates. Microanalyses were performed using a Perkin-Elmer Model 2400 instrument, and all values were within  $\pm 0.4\%$  of the calculated compositions.

#### 4.2 General procedure for the preparation of new naphthotriazoles **9a-c**

The glycosyl azides **13a-c** (1.0 mmol) and 1,4-naphthoquinone (**14**) (0.158 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in toluene and heated at 100 °C for 24 hours. After completion of the reaction, which was monitored using TLC (eluted with hexane/EtOAc = 1/1), the mixture was cooled, and the solvent was removed. The residual solid product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel and eluted with an increasing polarity gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (100% to 50%) to afford compounds **9a-c**.

*(Methyl 5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosid-5'-yl)-1H-naphtho[2,3-d][1,2,3]triazole-4,9-dione (9a):*

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between naphthoquinone **12** and glycosyl azide **13a** yielded glyconaphthotriazole **9a** (121.0 mg, 63%) as an orange solid: mp 225-227 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1588 and 1686 (C=O).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500.00 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.44 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.41 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.72-4.73 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-2'), 4.86 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-3'), 5.01 (dd, 2H, *J* = 7.5 and 1.0 Hz, H-5'a and H-5'b), 5.02 (s, 1H, H-1'), 7.82 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.5 and 1.5 Hz, H-7), 7.86 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.5 and 1.5 Hz, H-6), 8.24 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.5 and 1.5 Hz, H-8), 8.34 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.5 and 1.5 Hz, H-5) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.0 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 25.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.2 (C-5'), 55.9 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 81.8 (C-3'), 84.6 (C-4'), 85.3 (C-2'), 110.4 (C-1'), 113.1 (-OCO-), 127.5 (C-8), 128.5 (C-5), 132.8 (C-8a), 133.5 (C-4a), 133.6 (C-9a), 134.5 (C-7), 135.4 (C-6), 145.7 (C-3a), 175.6 (C-9), 176.7 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 59.22; H, 4.97; N, 10.90. Found: C, 59.05; H, 5.29; N, 10.79%.

*1-(6'-Deoxy-1',2':3',4'-di-O-isopropylidene-D-galactopyranos-6'-yl)-1H-naphtho[2,3-d][1,2,3]triazole-4,9-dione (9b):*

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between naphthoquinone **12** and glycosyl azide **13b** yielded glyconaphthotriazole **9b** (126.0 mg, 57%) as a light yellow solid: mp 160-162 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1689 and 1593 (C=O).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (300.00 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.22 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.35 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.38 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.57 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.31 (dd, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  and 2.7 Hz, H-2'), 4.36 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$  and 2.0 Hz, H-3'), 4.46-4.49 (m, 1H, H-5'), 4.68 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$  and 2.6 Hz, H-4'), 4.82 (dd, 1H,  $J = 13.9$  and 3.4 Hz, H-6'a), 5.32 (dd, 1H,  $J = 13.9$  and 9.6 Hz, H-6'b), 5.40 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, H-1'), 7.80 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-7), 7.85 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-6), 8.24 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.6$  and 1.2 Hz, H-8), 8.34 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.6$  and 1.2 Hz, H-5) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (75.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 24.8 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 24.9 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 25.8 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 26.2 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 50.7 (C-6'), 67.2 (C-5'), 70.4 (C-2'), 71.2 (C-4'), 71.4 (C-3'), 96.3 (C-1'), 109.1 (-OCO-), 110.4 (-OCO-), 127.4 (C-5), 127.9 (C-8), 133.0 (C-8a), 133.6 (C-4a), 134.3 (C-7), 134.4 (C-9a), 135.2 (C-6), 145.6 (C-3a), 175.5 (C-9), 176.9 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7$ : C, 59.86; H, 5.25; N, 9.52. Found: C, 59.32; H, 5.63; N, 9.25%.

*1-(5'-Deoxy-1',2'-O-isopropylidene-D-xylofuranos-5'-yl)-1H-naphtho[2,3-d][1,2,3]triazole-4,9-dione (9c):*

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between naphthoquinone **12** and glycosyl azide **13c** yielded glyconaphthotriazole **9c** (90.0 mg, 48%) as a light yellow solid: mp 240-243 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1687 and 1592 (C=O).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500.00 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$ : 1.21 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.31 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.18 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, H-3'), 4.50 (d, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, H-2'), 4.61-4.64 (m, 1H, H-4'), 5.00-5.01 (m, 2H, H-5'a and H-5'b), 5.88 (d, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, H-1'), 7.92 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-7), 7.95 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-6), 8.17 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-8), 8.19 (dd, 1H,  $J = 6.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-5) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.0 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$ : 26.1 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 26.7 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 49.4 (C-5'), 73.8 (C-3'), 78.5 (C-4'), 85.1 (C-2'), 104.5 (C-1'), 110.9 (-OCO-), 126.8 (C-5), 126.9 (C-8), 132.9 (C-8a), 133.1 (C-4a), 134.3 (C-9a), 134.5 (C-7), 135.1 (C-6), 144.8 (C-3a), 175.1

(C-9), 176.8 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $C_{18}H_{17}N_3O_6$ : C, 58.22; H, 4.61; N, 11.32. Found: C, 58.61; H, 4.35; N, 11.52%.

#### 4.3 General procedure for the preparation of new naphthoquinone derivatives **11a-b** and **22a-b**.

The glycosyl azides **13a-b** (1.0 mmol) and juglone **12** (0.174 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in toluene and heated at 100 °C for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography using silica gel and eluted with an increasing polarity gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (100% to 70%) to give the desired compounds **11a-b** and the unexpected aminoquinones **22a-b**.

*5-Hydroxy-(methyl-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-β-D-ribofuranosid-5'-yl)-1H-nafto[2,3-d][1,2,3]triazole-4,9-dione (11a) and 5-Hydroxy-2-(methyl-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-β-D-ribofuranosid-5'-yl)-amino-1,4-naphthoquinone (22a):*

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between juglone **12** and glycosyl azide **13a** gave glyconaphthotriazole **11a** (136.0 mg, 68%) and amino compound **22a** (5.6 mg, 3%).

The compound **11a** was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 144-147 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 3434 (OH), 1649(C=O), 1449 (C=C).  $^1H$  NMR (500.00 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.31 (s, 3H,  $\underline{CH}_3$ ), 1.45 (s, 3H,  $\underline{CH}_3$ ), 3.41 (s, 3H,  $\underline{OCH}_3$ ), 4.70-4.72 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.72 (d, 1H,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, H-2'), 4.85 (d, 1H,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, H-3'), 4.98 (dd, 2H,  $J = 7.5$  and 2.5 Hz, H-5'a and H-5'b), 5.02 (s, 1H, H-1'), 7.38 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 1.0 Hz, H-6), 7.68 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 7.5 Hz, H-7), 7.80 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.0 Hz, H-8), 12.31 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}C$  / APT NMR (125.0 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 25.1 ( $\underline{CH}_3$ ), 26.5 ( $\underline{CH}_3$ ), 53.3 (C-5'), 56.0 ( $\underline{OCH}_3$ ), 81.8 (C-4'), 84.6 (C-2'), 85.3 (C-3'), 110.4 (C-1'), 113.1 (- $\underline{OCO}$ -), 115.5 (C-4a), 120.8 (C-8), 126.9 (C-6), 133.2 (C-8a), 133.9 (C-9a), 136.9 (C-7), 145.5 (C-3a), 163.6 (C-5), 174.8 (C-9), 182.7 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_7$ : C, 56.86; H, 4.77; N, 10.47. Found: C, 58.04; H, 5.25; N, 9.05%.

The compound **22a** was obtained as a red solid: mp 128-130 ° C; **IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )** : 3401 (OH), 3263 (N-H); 1623, 1592 (C=O), 1468 (C=C).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500.00 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$** : 1.32 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.50 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.29-3.34 (m, 2H, H-5'a and H-5'b), 3.41 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.49-4.51 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.63 (dd, 1H,  $J = 6.0$  and 1.0 Hz, H-3'), 4.66 (d, 1H,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, H-2'), 5.05 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.64 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.66-6.68 (m, 1H, N-H), 7.25 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 1.0 Hz, H-6), 7.47 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 7.5 Hz, H-7), 7.59 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.0 Hz, H-8), 12.98 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  / APT NMR (125.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ ppm**: 25.1 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 45.6 (C-5'), 55.7 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 82.3 (C-3'), 84.5 (C-4'), 85.4 (C-2'), 100.5 (C-3), 109.8 (C-1'), 113.1 (-OCO-), 115.0 (C-4a), 119.2 (C-8), 126.1 (C-6), 130.7 (C-8a), 134.2 (C-7), 149.0 (C-2), 161.3 (C-5), 181.1 (C-1), 189.2 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$ : C, 60.79; H, 5.64; N, 3.73. Found: C, 61.61; H, 6.00; N, 3.21%.

*5-Hydroxy-1-(6'-deoxy-1',2':3',4'-di-O-isopropylidene-D-galactopyranos-6'-yl)-1H-nafto[2,3-d][1,2,3]triazole-4,9-dione (11b) and 5-Hydroxy-2-(6'-Deoxy-1',2':3',4'-di-O-isopropylidene-D-galactopyranos-6'-yl)-amino-1,4-naphthoquinone (22b)*

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction between juglone **12** and glycosyl azide **13b** gave glyconaphthotriazole **11b** (64.0 mg, 28 %) and amino compound **22b** (4.3 mg, 2%).

The compound **11b** was obtained a yellow solid: mp 160-162 °C; **IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )** : 3416 (OH), 1654 (C=O), 1453 (C=C).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.00 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$** : 1.23 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.36 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.38 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.57 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.32 (dd, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  and 2.5 Hz, H-2'), 4.36 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 2.0 Hz, H-4'), 4.44-4.47 (m, 1H, H-5'), 4.69 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 2.5 Hz, H-3'), 4.81 (dd, 1H,  $J = 14.0$  and 3.5 Hz, H-6'a), 5.31 (dd, 1H,  $J = 14.0$  and 10.0 Hz, H-6'b), 5.39 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, H-1'), 7.36 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 1.5 Hz, H-6), 7.66 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  and 7.5, H-7), 7.77 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.0 Hz, H-8), 12.34 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  / APT NMR (75.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$** : 24.9 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.8 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 50.8 (C-6'), 67.1 (C-5'), 70.4 (C-2'), 71.2 (C-3'), 71.4 (C-4'), 96.3 (C-1'), 109.1 (-OCO-), 110.5 (-OCO-), 115.6 (C-4a), 120.5 (C-8), 126.6 (C-6), 133.4 (C-8a), 134.4 (C-9a), 136.7 (C-7), 145.2 (C-3a), 163.5 (C-5), 174.7 (C-9), 183.0 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_8$ : C, 57.76; H, 5.07; N, 9.19. Found: C, 57.99; H, 5.34; N, 8.78%.

The compound **22b** was obtained as a red solid: mp 203-205 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3400 (OH), 3341 (N-H), 1615(C=O), 1469 (C=C).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.00 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.33 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.37 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.49 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.44-3.48 (m, 2H, H-6'a and H-6'b), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H, H-5'), 4.25 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$  and 1.8 Hz, H-4'), 4.35 (dd, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  and 2.4 Hz, H-2'), 4.65 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$  and 2.4 Hz, H-3'), 5.55 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, H-1'), 5.67 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.52-6.56 (m, 1H, N-H), 7.23 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  and 1.2 Hz, H-6), 7.46 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  and 7.5 Hz, H-7), 7.59 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  and 1.2 Hz, H-8), 13.05 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  / APT NMR (75.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 24.5 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.1 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 43.3 (C-6'), 64.9 (C-5'), 70.5 (C-3'), 70.6 (C-4'), 71.9 (C-2'), 96.5 (C-1'), 99.9 (C-3), 109.0 (-OCO-), 110.0 (-OCO-), 115.1 (C-4a), 119.2 (C-8), 125.9 (C-6), 130.7 (C-8a), 134.0 (C-7), 149.1 (C-2), 161, 2 (C-5), 181.0 (C-1), 189.1 (C-4) ppm. Anal. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_8$ : C, 61.25; H, 5.84; N, 3.25. Found: C, 61.97; H, 6.18; N, 3.31%.

## 5 X-Ray determination

X-ray diffraction was performed using an Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur Atlas Gemini ultra Diffractometer at 150 K with Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation. The collection and reduction of the data were performed using the CrysAlisPro software. The structures (Table 1) were solved by direct methods and refined using full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$  with the SHELX-97 software package<sup>23</sup>. The CCDC reference numbers for **11a** and **22a** are 1055525 and 1055524, respectively.

## 5 Biology

### 5.1 Cytotoxicity against cancer cell lines

The compounds (0.15-20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were tested for cytotoxic activity against cell lines HCT-116 (human colorectal carcinoma, ATCC # CCL-247), A-549 (human lung adenocarcinoma, ATCC # CCL-185) and MDA-MB435 (human melanoma, ATCC # HTB-129) as well as against freshly prepared human blood leukocytes and erythrocytes.

All cell lines were maintained in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 mg/mL streptomycin at 37 °C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Each compound was dissolved with DMSO and diluted with the cell culture medium to obtain a concentration of 100 μM, which was then incubated with the cells for 72 hours. The negative control received the same amount of DMSO (0.005% at the highest concentration). Doxorubicin was used as a positive control. Cell viability was determined by the reduction of the yellow dye 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazol)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) to a blue formazan product after 3 hours of incubation, as described by Denizot (1986)<sup>24</sup>.

## 5.2 Cell membrane disruption

Cytotoxicity testing was performed as described previously<sup>25</sup> in 96-well plates using a 2% mouse erythrocyte suspension in 0.85% NaCl containing 10 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. The compounds, which were diluted as mentioned above, were tested at a concentration of 200 μM. After incubation at room temperature for 30 min and centrifugation, the supernatant was removed, and the liberated hemoglobin was measured spectrophotometrically at 540 nm. DMSO was used as a negative control and Triton X-100 (1%) was used as a positive control.

## Acknowledgments

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### Table Captions

**Table 1:** X-ray crystallographic data for compounds **11a** and **22a**.

**Table 2:** Cytotoxic activity expressed as the IC<sub>50</sub> (μM) of the compounds against different cell lines.

### Figure Captions

**Figure 1:** Examples of natural glycoconjugated compounds (**1-7**) with antitumoral activity.

**Figure 2:** Examples of synthetic molecules (**8a-b**) with antitumoral activities.

**Figure 3:** ORTEP diagrams of compounds **11a** (a) and **22a** (b), showing 50% probability ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

### Scheme Captions

**Scheme 1:** Strategy for the synthesis of naphthoquinone derivatives **9a-c**, **10a-c** and **11a-c**.

**Scheme 2:** Synthesis of the novel naphthotriazole derivatives **9a-c** and 2-aminonaphthoquinones **10a-c**.

**Scheme 3:** Preparation of derivatives of carbohydrates **13a-c** and **16a-c**.

**Scheme 4:** Preparation of isomeric glycotriazole derivatives **11a-c** and aminonaphthoquinone derivatives **22a-c**.

**Scheme 5:** Synthesis of naphthoquinone compounds **11c** and **22c**.



Table 1

-	<b>11a</b>	<b>22a</b>
Chemical formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO <sub>7</sub>
M <sub>r</sub>	401.37	375.37
Crystal size/mm	<u>0.44</u> × <u>0.19</u> × <u>0.07</u> mm	0.43 × <u>0.33</u> × <u>0.21</u> mm
Crystal color, habit	Yellow, Plate	Yellow, Prism
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub>	Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub>
Temperature (K)	150	150
a, b, c (Å)	5.9539 (2), 5.7856 (2), 25.9610 (11)	5.8376 (2), 11.9174 (4), 12.2331 (5)
β (°)	91.139 (4)	94.745 (4)
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	894.10 (6)	848.13 (5)
Z	2	2
Radiation type	Mo Kα	Mo Kα
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.12	0.11
Tmin, Tmax	0.810, 1	0.918, 1
No. of measured, independent and observed [I > 2σ(I)] reflections	7869, 3770, 3232	9555, 3667, 3075
R <sub>int</sub>	0.036	0.030
R[F <sup>2</sup> > 2σ(F <sup>2</sup> )], wR(F <sup>2</sup> ), S	0.042, 0.098, 1.10	0.035, 0.078, 0.97
No. of parameters	263	248
Δρmax, Δρmin (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.19, -0.20	0.19, -0.21



Figure 2

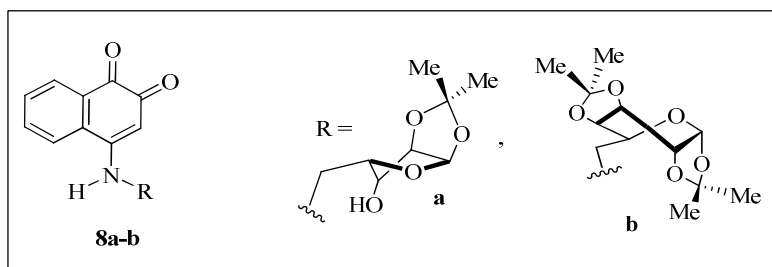
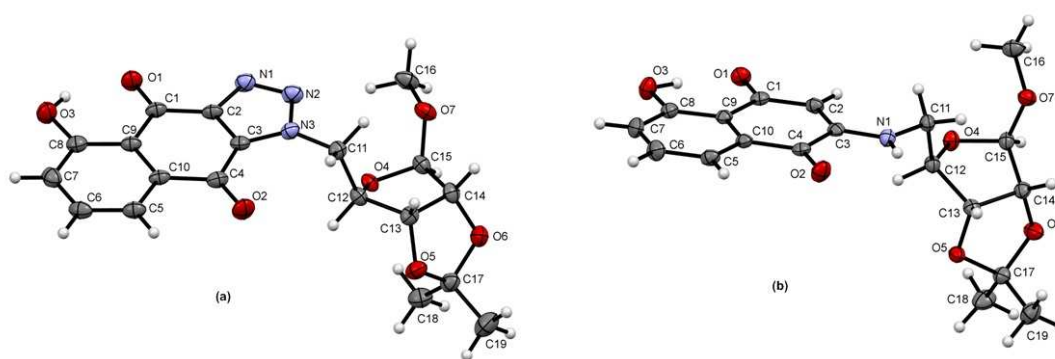
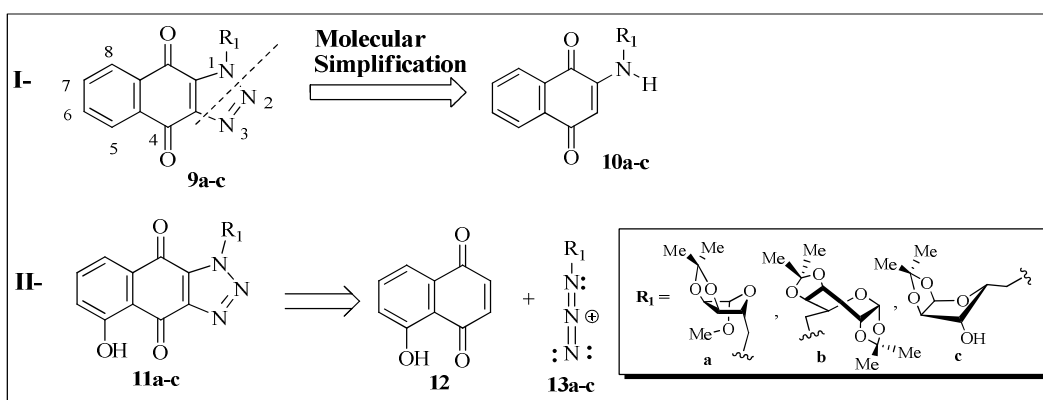


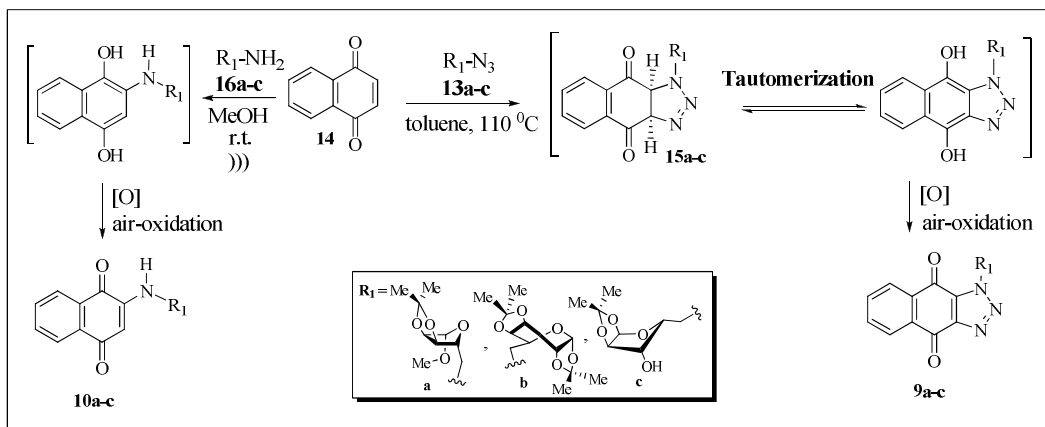
Figure 3:



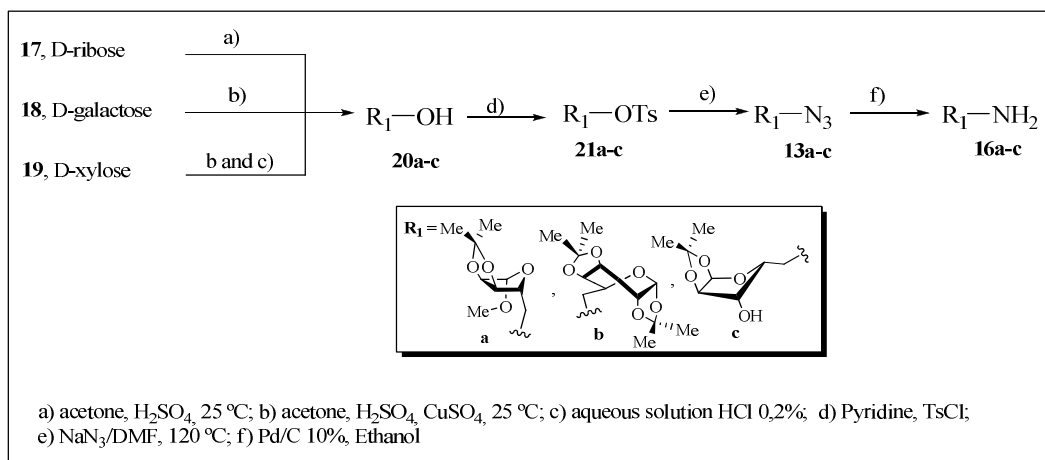
Scheme 1



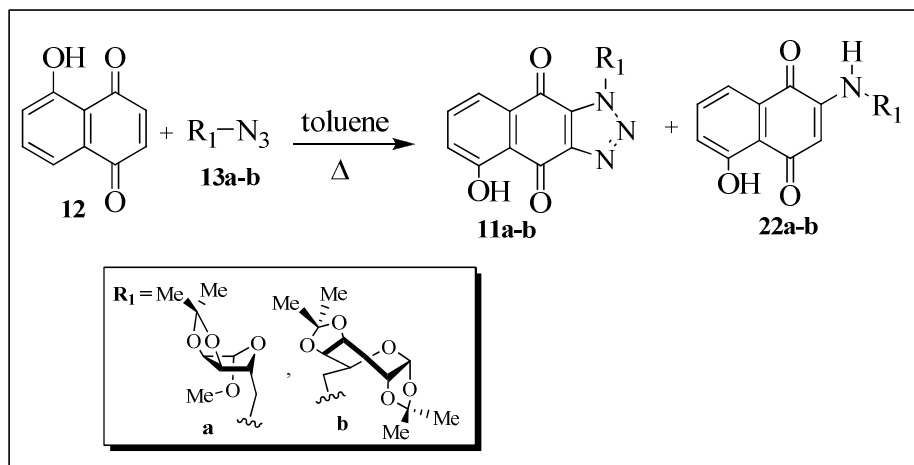
Scheme 2



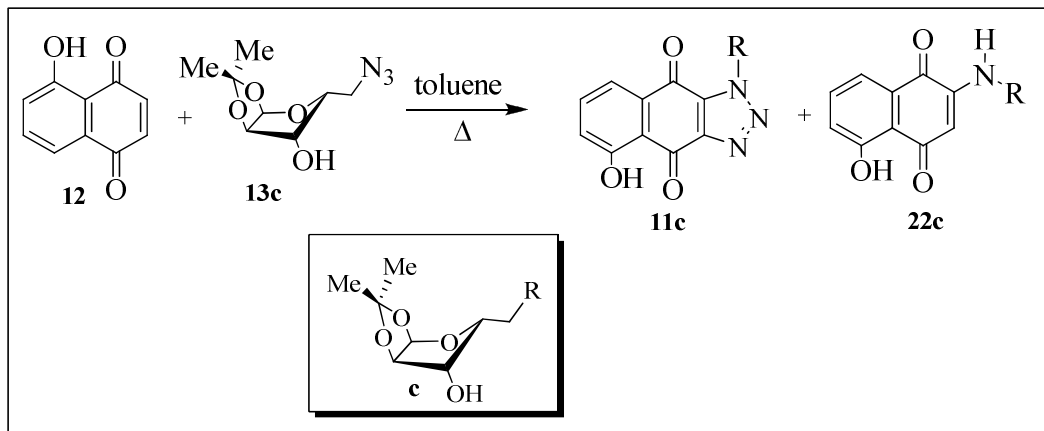
Scheme 3



Scheme 4

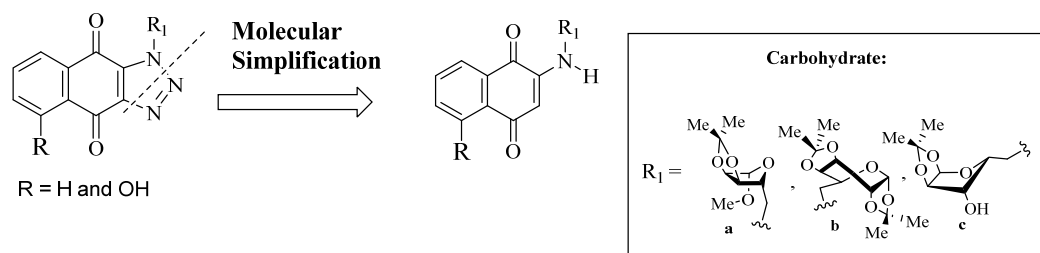


Scheme 5



## Graphical Abstract

### Synthesis of a new class of naphthoquinone glycoconjugates and evaluation of their potential as antitumoral agents



A novel series of carbohydrate-based naphthoquinones was synthesized and evaluated for cytotoxicity against different cancer cell lines. The compounds derived from 5-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (juglone) showed better cytotoxicity profiles against HCT-116, A-549 and MDA-MB 435 human cancer cells than the parent compound. The results suggest that the hydroxyl group on the aromatic ring increased the pro-oxidant activity of these new naphthoquinone derivatives. Furthermore, two derivatives were found to be more active against melanoma cells (MDA-MB435) than the clinically useful anticancer agent doxorubicin, and none of the compounds caused mouse erythrocyte lysis.