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Synthesis and biological evaluation of pyrano and furano fused ring isoflavene derivatives

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Idronoxil (IDX) is a clinically tested isoflavene with anticancer and anti-inflammatory activity. While it has shown favourable safety and efficacy profiles in early trials, further optimisation is needed to improve its potency and pharmacokinetic properties. Structural modifications at the C6 and C7 positions of IDX have yielded promising leads; however, dual functionalisation of these sites remains underexplored. In this study, we report the synthesis of novel fused-ring IDX derivatives incorporating coumarin, pyran, and furan moieties *via* Pechmann and Knoevenagel condensations, Rap–Stoermer cyclisations, and [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions involving *o*-quinone methide intermediates. A selection of analogues with differing functionality was evaluated for anticancer activity across prostate (PC-3), neuroblastoma (SKN-BE(2)C), and triple-negative breast cancer (MDA-MB-231) cell lines. These findings establish synthetic strategies for the incorporation of various fused rings to isoflavene scaffolds and offer insights for structure–activity optimisation.

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1 Introduction

Isoflavonoids are a naturally occurring class of flavonoids found predominantly in soy based foods, and have garnered attention for their anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, antioxidant and antimicrobial effects, with many having been tested in clinical trials.¹ Among them, genistein (1) and daidzein (2) (Fig. 1) have been widely studied, however, their moderate potency, low bioavailability, and promiscuity have limited their clinical translation.^{2,3} Idronoxil (IDX) (3) (Fig. 1), a semi-synthetic isoflavene, has shown promise as an anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer agent. IDX has been tested in multiple clinical trials as both standalone and combination therapies, where it was well tolerated by patients.^{4–6} However, despite improvements over other isoflavonoids, IDX's clinical efficacy is hampered by poor drug properties, stressing a need for further improvements.^{2,4–7}

Various modifications of IDX, particularly on the A-ring, have been tested to improve potency, selectivity and solubility.^{8–10} Previous work from the Kumar group has focused on the C6 and C7 positions of IDX, where Mannich substitutions or *O*-alkylation generated analogues with nanomolar cytotoxicity in breast cancer and neuroblastoma cell lines.^{8,11} Petasis reaction at the C6 position was also successful in potentiating the anti-inflammatory potency of IDX to nanomolar levels *via* TBK1

inhibition. C4 alkylation of similar benzoxazine molecules also resulted in anticancer analogues with low micromolar IC₅₀ values against PC-3 cells.¹²

Although individual modification at the C6 position and C7 phenol have yielded promising anticancer and anti-inflammatory leads, dual functionalisation of these sites remains underexplored. Chen *et al.* synthesized a series of benzoxazines *via* Mannich reaction of IDX with anticancer activity against MDA-MB-231 cells (4, IC₅₀ = 0.7 μM, Fig. 2), however, other fused ring structures such as furan or pyran have not been incorporated into IDX. Fused ring functionalisation reduces a structure's flexibility and increases three-dimensional complexity, which can often lead to an improvement in the selectivity, potency and pharmacokinetics of lead candidates.^{13–15} Furthermore, the rigid planar shape of certain isoflavonoids and flavonoids mechanistically favours cancer cytotoxicity by intercalating between DNA base pairs and/or poisoning topoisomerase I.¹⁶ IDX is known to undergo extensive first-pass and post-absorption metabolism, with a short plasma half-life of ~45 minutes.¹⁷ Its phenolic groups are key sites for rapid metabolic clearance, as they are readily subjected to both phase I oxidation and phase II conjugation (glucuronidation and sulfation), processes that increase polarity and promote rapid elimination.¹⁸ Fused-ring compounds contain one fewer phenolic hydroxyl group than IDX. This modification is predicted to reduce hydrogen bond donor count and polar surface area, which can improve bioavailability while also lowering susceptibility to metabolism at that position.

Fused pyran and furan rings have played a pivotal role in the pharmacological activities of many natural and synthetic

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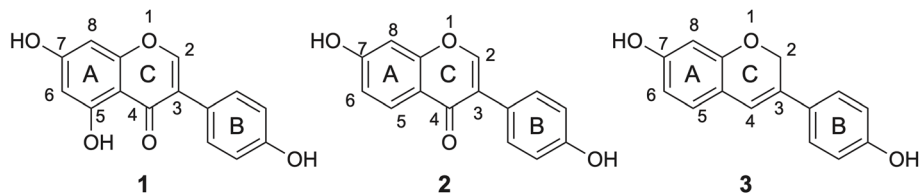


Fig. 1 Chemical structures of isoflavonoids genistein (1) daidzein (2) and IDX (3).

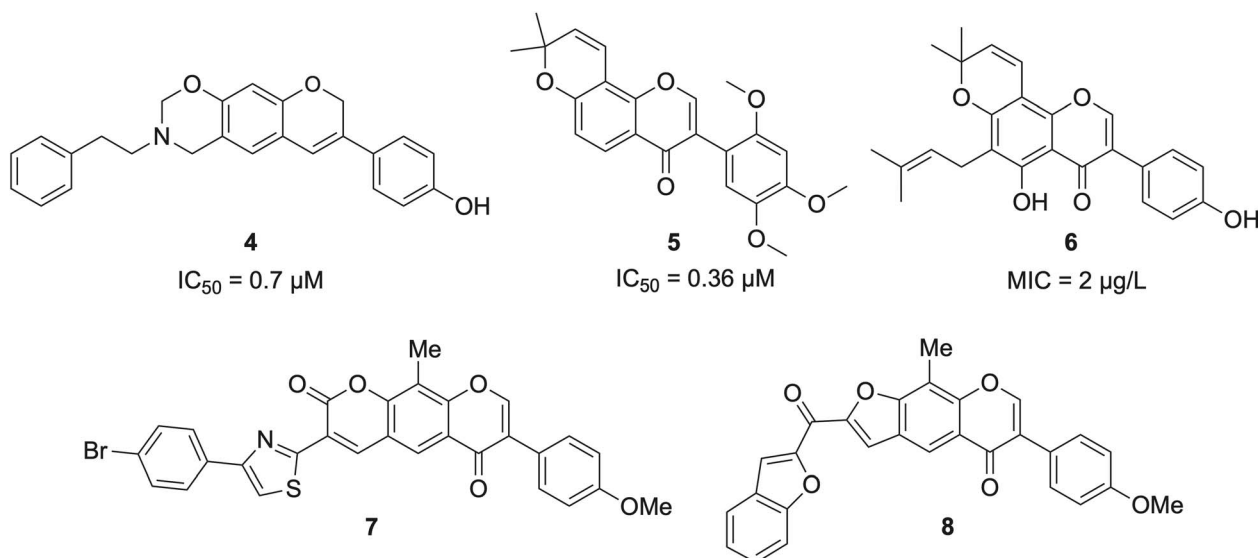


Fig. 2 Biologically active pyrano- and furano-functionalized isoflavonoids.

isoflavonoids, including their anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, and antimicrobial effects. A flagship example is barbigerone (5) (Fig. 2), a natural pyranoisoflavone. Barbigerone was reported to induce apoptosis and possess nanomolar inhibition in liver and lung cancer models (IC_{50} = 0.61 μ M, 0.36 μ M, respectively), demonstrating superior levels of potency that are usually observed among other natural isoflavones.^{19,20} Compound 5 also possesses anti-inflammatory properties through its inhibition of TNF- α at an IC_{50} of 8.5 μ M.²¹ Similarly, the natural pyranoisoflavone osajin (6) (Fig. 2), possesses highly potent antimicrobial properties (MIC against *Staphylococcus aureus* = 2 μ g mL⁻¹).²² Pyran rings can also be fused to isoflavones to form coumarins, which consist of a 2H-1-benzopyran-2-one core. The coumarin core is frequently present in natural products and has been used as a scaffold and pharmacophore to create clinical agents possessing antibacterial,²³

anticoagulant,²⁴ vasodilator,²⁵ anti-inflammatory²⁶ and anti-tumour effects²⁷ (Fig. 2).²⁷ The synthesis of coumarin (7) and pyrano (8) fused rings with isoflavones has been reported (Fig. 2), however, these compounds were not evaluated against any biological assays.²⁸

Coumarins can be synthesized through many methods, including reacting an activated phenol *via* Pechmann condensation,²⁹ or an *ortho*-hydroxybenzaldehyde *via* Perkin,³⁰ Knoevenagel,³¹ Wittig,³² and Reformatsky reactions.³³ Isoflavonoids have not been reported to react under Pechmann conditions, possibly due to the harsh conditions and poor solubility associated with the C6 phenol bearing scaffolds.³⁴ Shokol *et al.* synthesized compounds 7 and 8 *via* formylation of an isoflavone followed by a Knoevenagel condensation. In their approach, a methyl group was introduced at the C8 position to block formylation and subsequent cyclisation at that site, which would

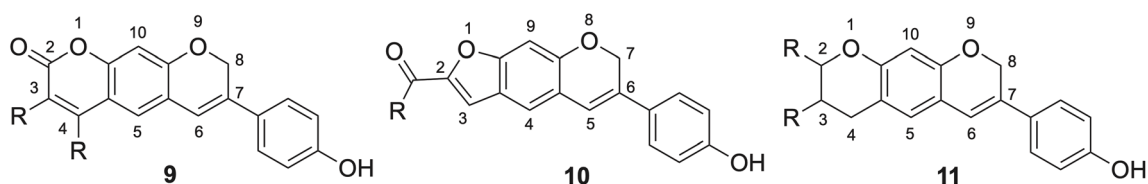


Fig. 3 Target fused-ring isoflavene structures.



otherwise occur preferentially in isoflavones.^{28,35} Unlike isoflavones, IDX can be selectively formylated at the C6 position without requiring a blocking group at C8, providing a synthetic advantage in the design of C6 and C7 fused pyrano- and furanoisoflavones **9** and **10**, respectively (Fig. 3).⁸ Pyranoisoflavonoid fused rings can also be achieved through the formation of quinone methide intermediates. This intermediate can be adopted to undergo [4 + 2] cycloaddition with a variety of dienophiles through an inverse electron-demand Diels–Alder reaction to fuse various rings onto the IDX structure **11** (Fig. 3).³⁶

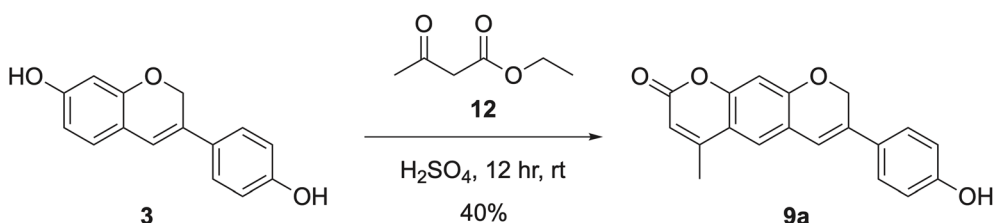
2 Results and discussion

2.1 Pechmann condensation

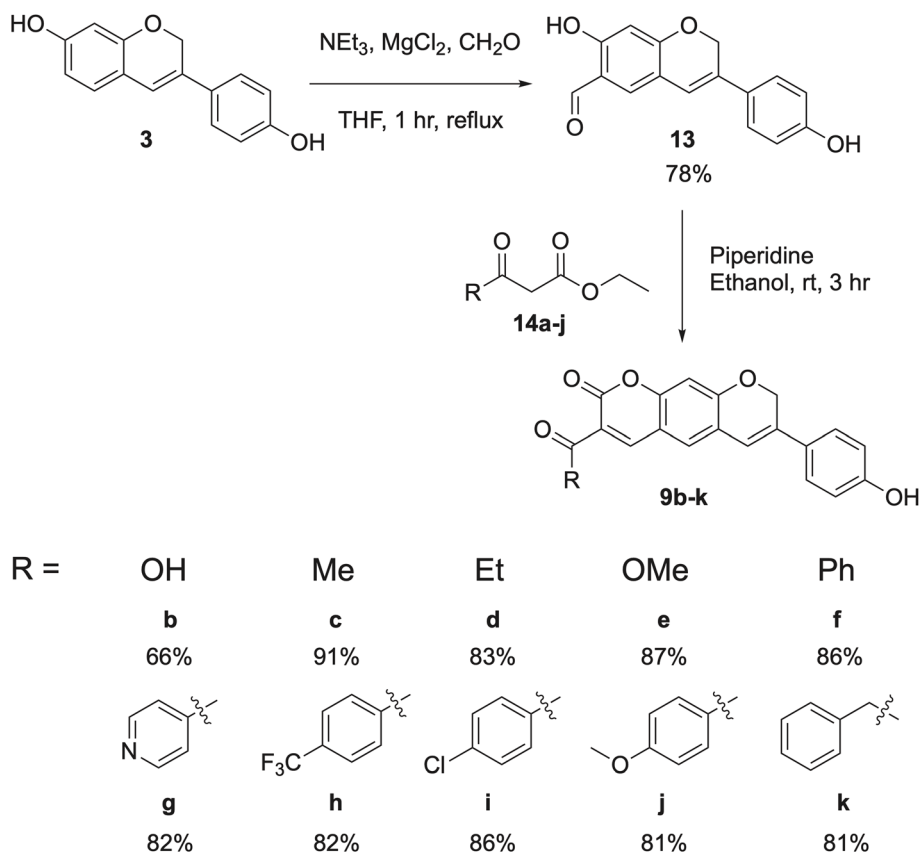
The synthetic approach of this project began with the attempt to incorporate a coumarin core selectively onto the IDX A ring *via*

a Pechmann condensation. This would result in the formation of compound **9a** in only one step using ethyl acetoacetate (**12**) (Scheme 1).

A key challenge with this reaction is the fact that IDX is often unstable under the strongly acidic conditions, and in fact decomposed when heated with various acids (Table S1, entries 1, 4 and 7).³⁷ To decrease the degradation of IDX, various protic and non-protic acids were investigated at lower temperatures, and the reaction time was also reduced (Table S1). The use of mild Pechmann conditions in the form of the nonprotic Lewis acid InCl₃ was envisaged to be ideal for minimising IDX degradation that might occur with strong acids.^{38,39} Although InCl₃ has been a successful catalyst for Pechmann conditions in the literature,^{38,39} it was ineffective at generating any product at varying temperatures and timepoints (Table S1, entries 1–3). Consequently, the more conventional strong acids HCl (Table



Scheme 1 Successful Pechmann reaction on IDX.



Scheme 2 Synthesis of fused ring coumarins *via* Knoevenagel condensation.



S1, entries 5–6) and H₂SO₄ (Table S1, entries 3b–d) were investigated at room temperature and different reaction times. Both acid-catalysed conditions did not convert a significant amount of starting material after 5 hours of stirring at room temperature (Table S1, entries 5 and 8), however, most of the starting material was consumed after 12 hours (Table S1, entries 6 and 9). Entry 9 resulted in the highest yield of 40%, which is more than double that obtained by HCl (Table S1, entry 6). This may be due to the H₂SO₄ forming fewer side products than HCl or converting IDX to the more stable coumarin form faster than HCl. A yield of 40% is low, but understandable considering that the starting material and product are unstable in strongly acidic conditions. This was corroborated by increasing the reaction time to more than 12 hours (Table S1, entry 10), which was detrimental to the yield of **9a**, likely due to decomposition under the strongly acidic conditions. Finally, the desired coumarin product **9a** was obtained in 40% yield using H₂SO₄ at room temperature for 12 hours (Scheme 1).

2.2 Knoevenagel condensation

Although the Pechmann condensation offered a direct and regioselective method to annulate the A-ring of IDX, the optimized conditions still resulted in relatively low yields. To improve this limitation, a more reliable 2-step approach was adopted leveraging the selective formylation of IDX at the C6 position reported by Chen *et al.* to form the IDX aldehyde **13**.⁸ The intermediate **13** was then able to undergo a Knoevenagel condensation on the A ring with different ethoxy 1,3-dicarbonyls **14a–j** enabling the synthesis of the coumarin products **9b–k** (Scheme 2) with various R groups installed at the 3 position of the fused coumarin structure, resulting in moderate 2-step yields (Table 1). The formation of products **9b–k** was confirmed by the appearance of an extra aromatic singlet around 8.80–8.42 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectra, and the absence of the *O*-ethyl protons in the aliphatic region. Literature conditions utilising a 2-hydroxyquinoline-3-aldehyde in neat ethyl acetoacetate and piperidine as a catalyst were initially tested, but aldehyde **13** had poor solubility in the neat reagent.⁴⁰ Instead, the conditions were adapted by introducing ethanol as a co-solvent, which assisted the dissolution of all starting materials, as well as precipitating the final products **9b–k**, which could be filtered as pure solids in high yields. This adjustment significantly improved the yield of the coumarin products **9b–k**; for example, the yield of **9c** increased from 61% to 91% when adding ethanol as a co-solvent, which equates to overall two-step yields of 48% vs. 71% starting from IDX, respectively.

2.3 Intramolecular furan condensations

To further expand the scope of A ring cyclisations, the synthesis of similar furan fused ring structures was investigated utilising the Rap–Stoermer condensation conditions for the cyclisation of salicylaldehydes.⁴¹ These conditions involve the cascade of nucleophilic substitution, nucleophilic addition, and elimination of water.⁴¹ The Rap–Stoermer conditions were adapted for the reaction of IDX aldehyde **13** with an acetophenone derivative **15a** to form compound **10a** (Scheme 3).⁴¹ However, under such

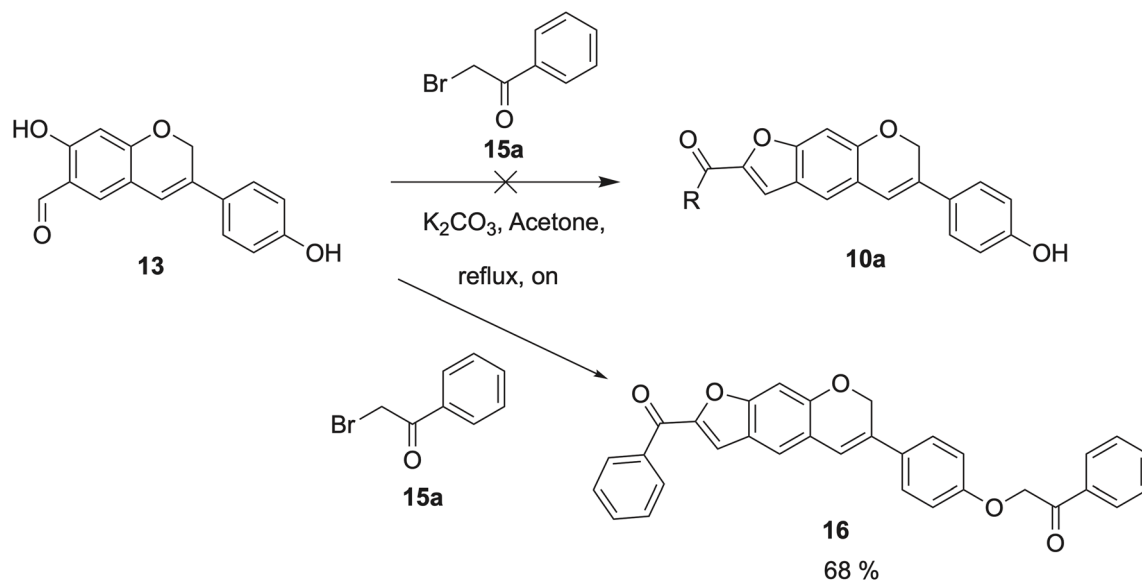
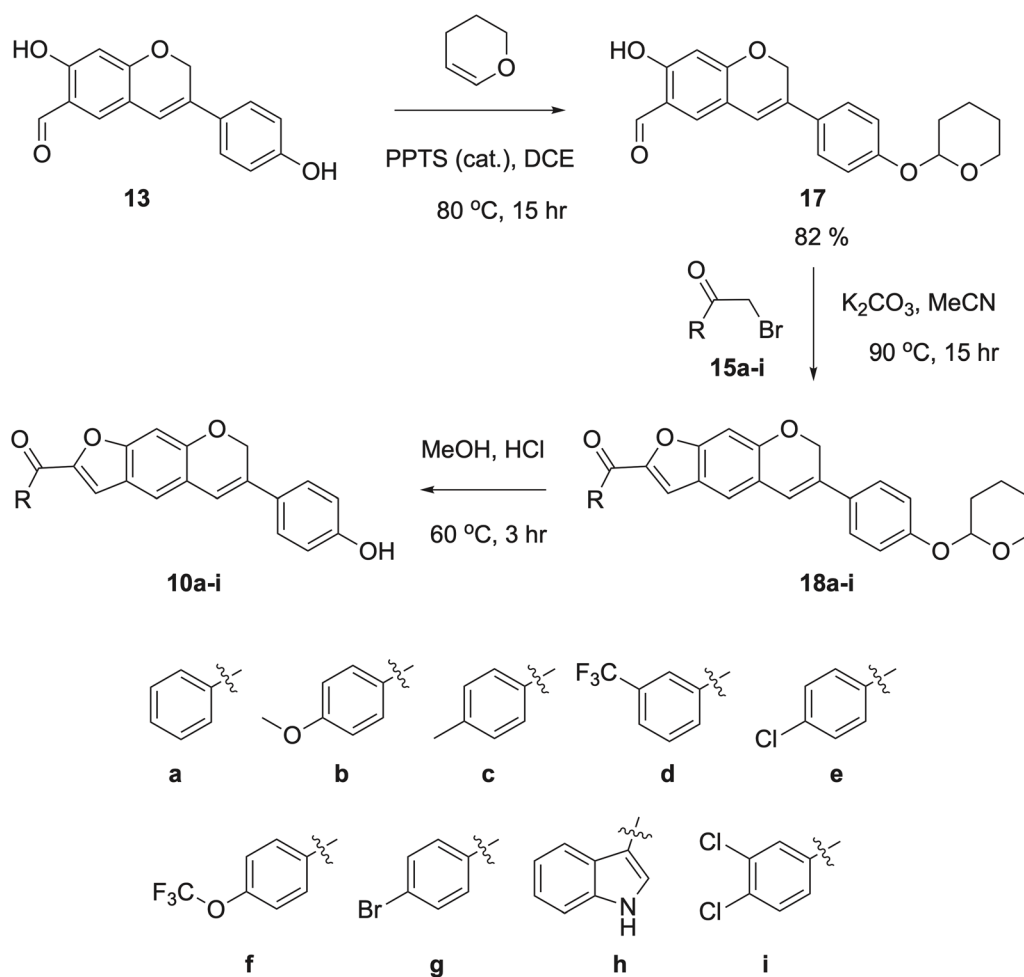
Table 1 Reaction yields for the synthesis of pyrans **9b–k**

R	Yield of 9 (%)	Overall yield of 9 from IDX (%)
b	66	52
–OH		
c	91	71
–Me		
d	83	65
–Et		
e	87	68
–OMe		
f	86	67
–Ph		
g	82	64
h	82	64
i	86	67
j	81	63
k	81	63

conditions the cyclisation of the A-ring was coupled with the *O*-alkylation of the B ring phenol, resulting in compound **16** instead (Scheme 3). The formation of **16** was confirmed by ¹H NMR, by the absence of phenol peaks in the spectrum, and the appearance of an *O*-CH₂ peak at 5.65 ppm as well as five additional aromatic protons. Unfortunately, utilising the acetophenone **10a** as a limiting reagent did not improve the selectivity for A-ring cyclisation without alkylating the second phenol. However, the synthesis of compound **16** is useful, as it will serve as a direct comparison to **10a** to undergo the structure activity relationship (SAR) analysis of the B-ring phenol for biological activity.

The selectivity issue with A/B ring phenol alkylation was avoided by selectively protecting the B-ring phenol with a tetrahydropyranyl (THP) group to form the protected intermediate **17** (Scheme 4). The successful addition of the THP protecting group was observed by the disappearance of an OH signal, combined with a novel hemiacetal triplet at 5.50 ppm, two OCH₂- multiplets between 3.8–3.4 ppm, and two CH₂- multiplets between 2.0–1.4 ppm. Compound **17** was reacted with 2-

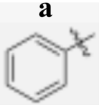
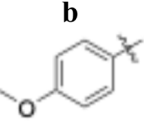
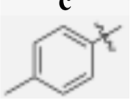
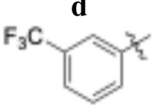
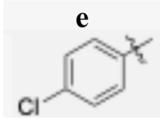
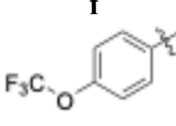
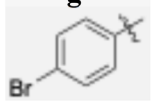
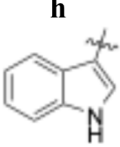
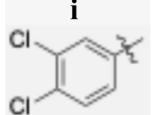


Scheme 3 Attempted selective annulation of **13** via Rap-Stoermer condensation.

Scheme 4 A-ring selective synthesis of fused furan rings on IDX.



Table 2 Reaction yields for the synthesis of furans 10a–i^a

R	Yield of 18 (%)	Yield of 10 (%)	Overall yield of 10 from IDX (%)
	76	94	45
		75*	48
	59	95	35
	54	95	32
	81	92	45
	88	95	51
		70	43
		69*	42
	80	92	46

^a * = two step yield of 18 + 10.

bromoacetophenones **15a–i** to give the THP protected fused pyran compounds **18a–i** in high yields (Scheme 4 and Table 2). The generation of the new furan ring was confirmed by the appearance of a new singlet peak between 7.9–7.7 ppm on ¹H NMR. Compounds **18a–i** were then deprotected to yield the desired compounds **10a–i**. The completion of the deprotection was confirmed with ¹H NMR by the removal of the THP OCH-, OCH₂-, and CH₂- signals, and in some cases the appearance of a broad phenol peak between 10–9 ppm.

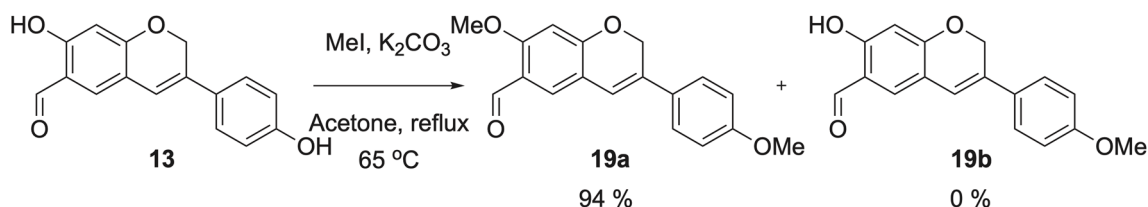
The selectivity of THP protection for the B ring phenol is likely due to steric hindrance and intramolecular hydrogen bonding between the phenolic OH and aldehyde C=O of compound **13**. This interaction may stabilise an unreactive hydrogen bonded conformation, increasing the enthalpic barrier for protection at the A-ring phenol. In comparison, protection with methyl iodide, which is smaller and highly electrophilic, showed no selectivity between the two phenols, preferentially forming the diprotected product **19a** (Scheme 5).

2.4 [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions

An *o*-quinone methide (*o*-QM) intermediate of IDX was explored in [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions to construct fused-ring analogues. The *o*-QM intermediate was generated by synthesizing the Mannich precursor **20** through the reaction of IDX with bis(dimethylamino)methane. Under strong heat, **20** generated an *o*-QM intermediate, which then reacted *via* [4 + 2] cycloaddition with different dienophiles **21a–f** to yield 6 new fused ring analogues **11a–f** (Scheme 6).

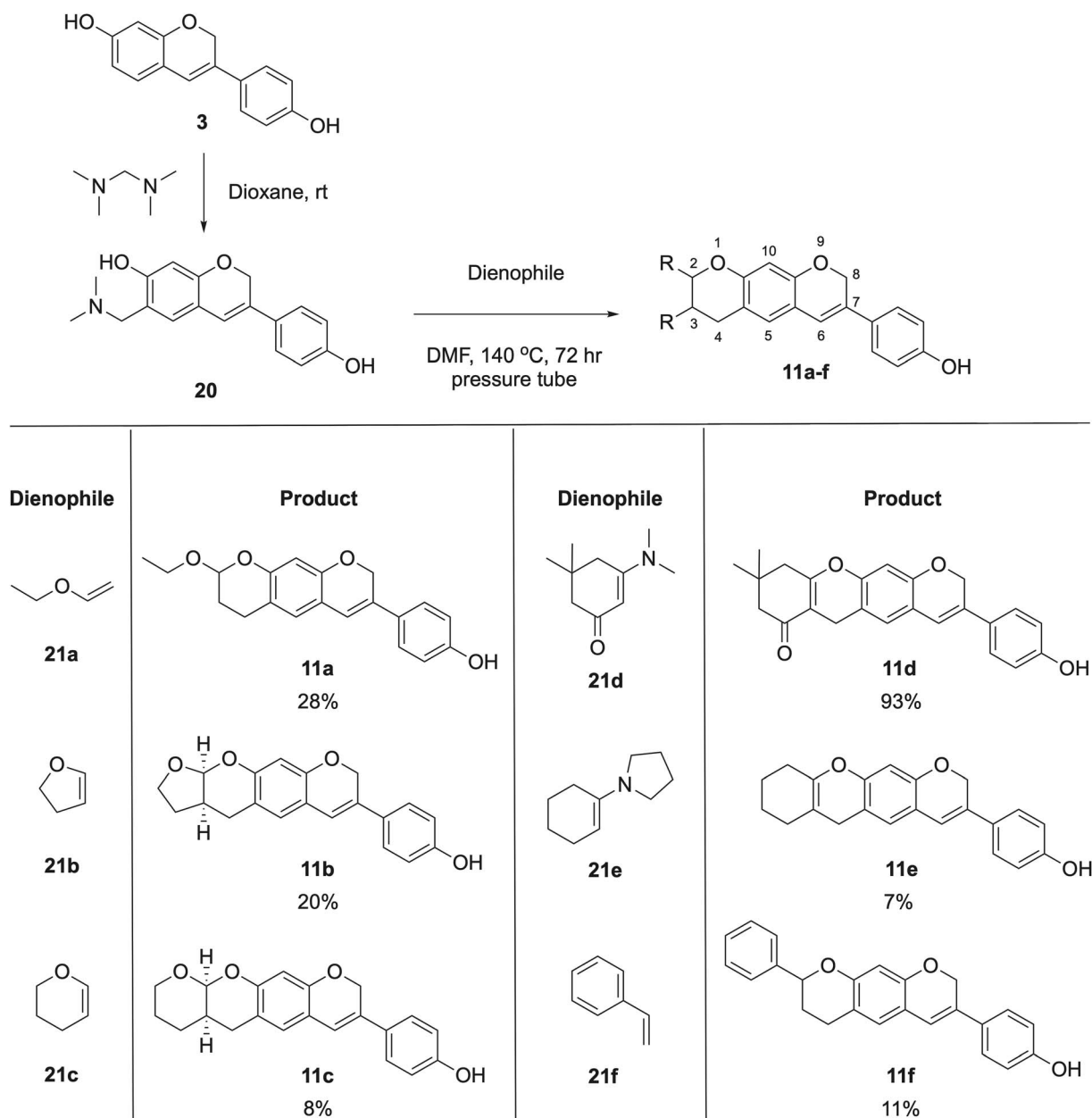
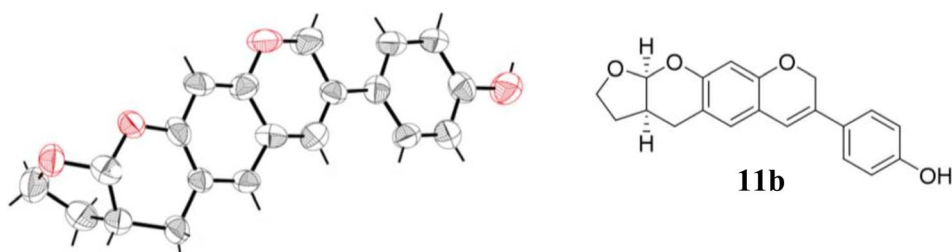
While most of the cycloaddition products were obtained in low yields ranging from 8–28%, compound **11d** was an exception, being isolated in an excellent yield of 93%. This notably higher yield is likely due to the enhanced reactivity of the enaminoketone dienophile, which features a conjugated push-pull system comprising an electron-donating enamine and an electron-withdrawing carbonyl group. This electronic activation facilitates efficient addition to the *o*-QM intermediate, followed by elimination of the enamine moiety to yield the desired fused structure.

Crystals of **11b** were obtained through recrystallisation from DCM, and resulted in the determination of an X-ray crystal structure (Fig. 4). The structure indicates the non-planar orientation of the molecule, where the tetrahydrofuran ring is positioned at a 90-degree angle to the adjacent pyran ring. The asymmetric unit was the monoclinic space group P21/C.



Scheme 5 Experimentation with the selectivity of phenols across different IDX scaffolds.



Scheme 6 [4 + 2] cycloadditions via *o*-QM.Fig. 4 ORTEP diagram of compound **11b**. CCDC = 2476513.

2.5 Biological evaluation

A selection of fused ring analogues was evaluated across an array of cancer cell lines. Fused ring coumarins **9**, **10** and **16** were

screened against PC-3 prostate cancer cells at a dosage of 25 μ M (Fig. 5). By comparison, the reported IC_{50} of IDX in the literature is 7.0 μ M against PC-3 cells.^{2,42} The results of the screen resulted

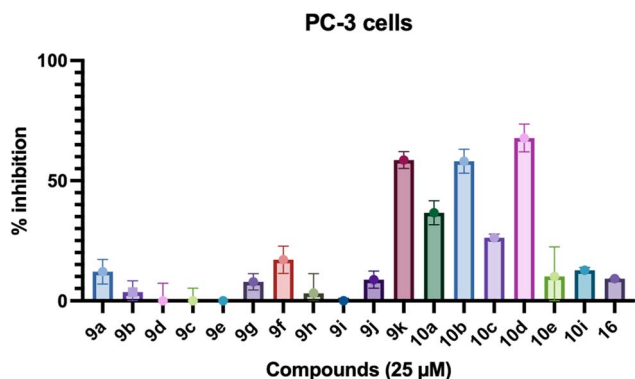


Fig. 5 Anticancer screen of fused ring analogues in PC-3 cells. Green = inhibition above 50%.

in negligible activity for most pyran compounds **9a–k**. Therefore, no SAR trend could be established between the 4-substituted coumarin (**9a**) and the 3-substituted coumarins (**9b–k**). The benzyl analogue **9k** was the only pyran-fused ring to show appreciable activity, inhibiting 58.6% of cells. The superior inhibition of the benzyl **9k** compared to a large selection of phenyl substituents (**9f–9j**) suggests that a further protruding aryl group is necessary for anticancer activity. However, at a dose of 25 μM this level of inhibition indicates relatively poor potency, with an IC_{50} of approximately 25 μM, three-fold less than IDX. The *O*-alkylated furan side product **16** displayed a three-fold lower inhibition than its counterpart **10a** with a free OH group. This result indicates a trend that B ring *O*-alkylation is detrimental for activity, however, this trend lacks biological significance due to both compounds' weak inhibition of less than 50% at 25 μM. Unlike the inactive phenyl substituents (**9f–9j**), the *para*-methoxy **10b** and *meta*-trifluoromethyl **10d** furan compounds also displayed moderate inhibitory activities of 58.1 μM and 67.8 μM. This data indicates that aryl substituents are necessary for the anticancer activity of both compounds. However, the low inhibition values at the relatively high screening dose of 25 μM provide only weak evidence for such conclusions.

A selection of [4 + 2] cycloaddition products with variation in functionality and ring size was also screened against different cancers, namely neuroblastoma (SKN-BE(2)C) and triple negative breast cancer (MDA-MB-231) (Table 3). Against MDA-MB-231 cells, compounds **11b** and **11e** (GI_{50} = 39.0–41.8 μM) possessed comparable inhibitory potency to IDX (GI_{50} = 31.3

Table 3 Antiproliferative screen of IDX and [4 + 2] cycloaddition products in SKN-BE(2)C and MDA-MB-231 cell lines

Compound	GI_{50} μM	
	SKN-BE(2)C	MDA-MB-231
IDX	4.5 ± 0.3	31.3 ± 0.4
11b	>100	39.0 ± 4.6
11d	>100	>100
11e	29.7 ± 0.8	41.8 ± 1.2
11f	69.9 ± 0.9	73.5 ± 0.7

μM). The remainder of the compounds were at least two times less active than IDX. In the case of SKN-BE(2)C cells, all compounds had more than 6-fold less potent antiproliferative activity than IDX. Overall, while some analogues retained modest activity, the [4 + 2] cycloaddition modifications did not yield improvements over IDX in either cancer model.

2.6 Conclusion

A novel library of pyran- and furan-fused isoflavenes was successfully synthesised from the IDX scaffold *via* Pechmann and Knoevenagel condensations, as well as intramolecular cyclisations and *o*-QM cycloadditions. The selective C6 formylation or Mannich reaction enabled the directed functionalisation of the A-ring of IDX through minimal synthetic steps. Challenges in selectivity during furan synthesis were addressed through selective THP protection of the C7 phenol. Biological evaluation revealed that, despite the successful synthesis of various fused ring systems, the compounds exhibited limited anticancer activity. Nonetheless, this work establishes a flexible platform for designing a variety of structurally rigid isoflavene derivatives.

3 Experimental section

3.1 Materials and methods

Melting points (uncorrected) were measured using a Mel-Temp melting point apparatus. Infrared spectra were recorded as Nujol mulls on a PerkinElmer 298 or a PerkinElmer 580B spectrometer. 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained in the designated solvents on a Bruker AC300F (400 MHz) or (600 MHz) spectrometer. 1H NMR data were recorded as follows: chemical shift measured in parts per million (ppm) downfield from TMS (δ), multiplicity, observed coupling constant (J) in Hertz (Hz), proton count. Multiplicities are reported as singlet (s), broad singlet (bs), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (quin) and multiplet (m). ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield from TMS and identifiable carbons are given. The EI and ES mass spectra were recorded on an AEI MS 12 mass spectrometer at 70 eV ionizing potential and 8000 V accelerating voltage with an ion source temperature of 2100C. Kieselgel 60H (Merck, Art 7736) was employed for flash chromatography. Solvents and reagents were purified by literature methods.

3.2 Cellular assays

3.2.1 Cytotoxicity screen. Cytotoxicity was determined using a CellTitre-Glo assay using PC-3 cells. A stock solution of each compound was prepared at 10 mM in DMSO. Single dose screen values were determined at 25 μM concentrations. IC_{50} values were determined by testing cell growth inhibition across 10 compound concentrations, starting at 50 μM and using 3-fold serial dilution in a 96-well plate. Each compound concentration was tested in technical duplicate. DMSO final concentration was normalised at 0.5%. PC-3 cell plates were incubated for 72 hours at 37 °C and 5% CO_2 . Cell lines were obtained from Shanghai ChemPartner Co., Ltd.



3.2.2 Anti-proliferative (GI) assay. For anti-proliferative assay, SKN-BE(2)C and MDA-MB-231 cells were seeded at 2250, 3000, 3000 and 3000 cells per well in 96-well plates respectively to ensure sustained exponential growth for 4 days. Cells were treated 24 h after seeding with a range of concentrations from 1 to 300 μM of compounds. After 72 h drug incubation, 25 μL of Alamar blue was added and the cells were incubated for another 6 h. The metabolic activity was detected by spectrophotometric analysis by assessing the absorbance of Alamar blue (difference between 570 nm and 595 nm) using a Bio Rad multiplate reader. Cell viability was determined and expressed as a percentage of untreated control cells. The determination of GI_{50} values was performed using GraphPad Prism 6. Cell lines were obtained from the Children's Cancer Institute Australia, Lowy Cancer Research Centre, UNSW.

3.3 General procedures

3.3.1 General procedure A: Pechmann coumarin synthesis. IDX (3) (100 mg, 0.417 mmol) was added to a stirring solution of ethyl acetoacetate (67 μL , 0.52 mmol) in sulfuric acid (1.0 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and the precipitate was collected. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography in 2.5% MeOH/DCM to afford the coumarin product as a yellow solid.

3.3.2 General procedure B: Knoevenagel coumarin synthesis. Piperidine (10 mL, 0.10 mol), was added to a stirring solution of IDX aldehyde (13) (100 mg, 0.350 mmol) and the corresponding ethoxy 1,3-dicarbonyls 14a–j (67 μL , 0.52 mmol) in ethanol (1.5 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours, monitoring by TLC. Orange precipitate was collected by vacuum filtration and washed with ethanol (5 mL) to afford the coumarin product.

3.3.3 General procedure C: Rap-Stoermer reaction. The corresponding bromoacetophenone 15a–i (0.700 mmol) was added to a suspension of THP-IDX aldehyde (17) (100 mg, 0.350 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) at room temperature. The suspension was heated to a homogenous solution at 90 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and stirred overnight. The cloudy reaction mixture was cooled and water (10 mL) was added. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water (5 mL) and hexane (5 mL) to afford protected products 18a–i.

3.3.4 General procedure D: THP deprotection. Concentrated HCl (4 drops) was added to the THP-Product 18a–i (50 mg) in methanol (3 mL) and the suspension was heated at 60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 3 hours. Water (10 mL) was added and the precipitate was filtered and washed with water (5 mL) and hexane (5 mL) to afford furan products 10a–i.

3.3.5 General procedure E: o-QM reactions. 6-((Dimethylamino)methyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-chromen-7-ol 20 (20–40 mg) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL) and the corresponding dienophiles (20 eq.) were added in a pressure tube held under an argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 130–140 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 48 h and the reaction mixture was evaporated, purified through column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc) or prep-HPLC to obtain the desired product or as otherwise stated.

3.4 Experimental data

3.4.1 3-Acetyl-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (16). 2-Bromoacetophenone (139 mg, 0.700 mmol) was added to a suspension of IDX aldehyde (33) (100 mg, 0.350 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) at room temperature. The suspension was heated to a homogenous solution at 90 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and stirred overnight. The cloudy reaction mixture was cooled and water (10 mL) was added. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water (5 mL) and hexane (5 mL) to afford 63 as a yellow solid (116 mg, 68%). M.P. 189–192 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.07–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.98–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.68 (m, 3H), 7.62–7.56 (m, 5H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.07–7.00 (m(appt. d), 2H), 5.64 (s, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.43, 182.67, 158.06, 156.11, 154.56, 151.23, 137.05, 134.37, 133.79, 132.76, 131.11, 128.93, 128.82, 128.67, 128.33, 127.85, 126.03, 121.21, 120.71, 117.82, 117.44, 114.90, 98.60, 70.16, 66.78. IR 1688, 1617, 1539 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5$ (M + H) $^+$ 487.1540. Found 487.1540.

3.4.2 7-Hydroxy-3-(4-((tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-2H-chromene-6-carbaldehyde (17). IDX aldehyde (13) (800 mg, 2.98 mmol), DHP (1.62 mL, 18.0 mmol) and PPTS (150 mL, 0.598 mol) were stirred in DCE (20 mL) at room temperature. The suspension was stirred overnight at 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was cooled and washed with water (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 \times 20 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography (1/9 EtOAc/Hexane) to give yellow flakes of 17 (600 mg, 63%) M.P. 146–149 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.02 (s, 1H), 10.06 (s, 1H), 7.49–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.10–7.00 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.83–6.78 (m, 1H), 6.41–6.39 (m, 1H), 5.52 (t, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.79–3.70 (m, 1H), 3.61–3.51 (m, 1H), 1.95–1.68 (m, 3H), 1.66–1.49 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 189.82, 162.65, 159.60, 156.40, 128.60, 127.68, 125.78, 117.04, 116.58, 115.52, 102.68, 95.62, 67.05, 61.52, 29.75, 24.67, 19.14, 18.54. IR 3237, 2938, 2847, 1685, 1600, 1512, 1490 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_5$ (M + H) $^+$ 353.1384. Found 353.1384.

3.4.3 7-Methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2H-chromene-6-carbaldehyde (19a). Methyl iodide (2.6 mL, 41.7 mmol) was added to a suspension of IDX aldehyde (13) (800 mg, 2.98 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (464 mg, 3.36 mmol) in acetone (600 mL, 2.24 mmol). The suspension was refluxed for 6 hours, monitoring by TLC. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and solvent was removed under reduced pressure, resulting in a yellow solid 33 (723 mg, 82%) M.P. 164–167 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.16 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.12–7.03 (m, 3H), 7.02–6.99 (m, 1H), 6.77–6.70 (m, 2H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 187.90, 162.42, 161.77, 158.05, 132.90, 132.11, 129.08, 126.44, 119.27, 115.60, 114.63, 113.98, 100.94, 67.62, 55.40, 48.24. IR 2931, 2840, 1668, 1605,



1554, 1513 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 297.1121, found 297.1121.

3.4.4 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-methyl-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9a). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure A and isolated as a yellow solid (51 mg, 40%). M.P. 220 °C, (dec.); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 3H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 159.97, 157.92, 155.83, 153.75, 153.24, 126.13, 122.60, 115.61, 115.14, 113.97, 111.41, 102.64, 66.96, 18.22. IR 3205, 1693, 1606 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 307.0965, found 307.0966.

3.4.5 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-oxo-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromene-3-carboxylic acid (9b). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (78 mg, 66%). M.P. 197–201 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.00 (s, 1H), 9.76 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.33 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.15, 158.29, 158.06, 157.06, 155.89, 131.81, 127.01, 126.26, 120.46, 115.57, 114.42, 114.25, 102.42, 67.30. IR 3284, 3044, 1725, 1550 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_6$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 337.0707. Found 337.0707.

3.4.6 3-Acetyl-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9c). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (105 mg, 91%). M.P. 146–149 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 195.18, 159.18, 159.05, 158.56, 156.65, 147.77, 132.30, 128.05, 126.72, 126.27, 121.08, 121.06, 116.06, 114.85, 113.09, 102.85, 67.86, 30.52. IR 3278, 1708, 1612, 1545 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$)⁺ 357.0733. Found 357.0734.

3.4.7 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-propionyl-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9d). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (107 mg, 83%). M.P. 210–211 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.84–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 197.77, 158.62, 158.48, 158.09, 156.05, 147.17, 131.85, 127.51, 126.29, 125.81, 120.60, 115.59, 114.42, 112.68, 102.39, 67.37, 40.06, 34.86, 7.99. IR 3282, 1700, 1609, 1548 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 349.1071. Found 349.1068.

3.4.8 Methyl 7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-oxo-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromene-3-carboxylate (9e). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (107 mg, 87%). M.P. 208–210 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.49–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.33 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 190.62, 164.14, 158.68, 158.50, 157.89, 155.72, 145.49, 132.51, 132.26, 129.61, 126.97, 126.74, 126.37, 123.68, 120.94, 116.05, 115.07, 114.44, 113.16, 103.15, 67.68, 56.13. IR 3374.8, 3045.5, 2950, 1722, 1560 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_6$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 351.0863. Found 351.0867.

3.4.9 3-Benzoyl-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9f). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (126 mg, 86%). M.P. 120–122 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 6.85–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.34 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 192.33, 158.60, 158.52, 158.20, 155.97, 146.53, 137.04, 134.03, 132.31, 129.89, 129.10, 127.20, 126.75, 126.36, 123.09, 121.00, 116.07, 115.03, 113.14, 103.16, 67.75. IR 3235, 1700, 1612, 1553 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 419.0890. Found 419.0889.

3.4.10 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-isonicotinoyl-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9g). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B, with heating to 50 °C and isolated as a red solid (114 mg, 82%). M.P. 210–211 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 8.82–8.76 (m, 2H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.76–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 2H), 6.96 (s, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.36 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 191.58, 158.46, 158.08, 156.08, 150.34, 148.34, 143.65, 139.96, 131.89, 127.20, 126.29, 125.78, 122.09, 121.48, 120.59, 115.58, 114.38, 112.71, 102.69, 67.37. IR 2820, 2697, 1730 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 398.1023 found 398.1018.

3.4.11 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9h). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as a red solid (133 mg, 82%). M.P. 202–205 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.76 (br. s, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.35 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 191.18, 158.16, 158.09, 158.04, 155.83, 147.57, 140.35, 132.41 (q, J = 32 Hz, CF₃), 131.82, 129.88, 126.97, 126.22, 125.76, 125.43 (q, J = 5.1 Hz), 125.10, 121.52, 120.52, 115.53, 114.39, 112.66, 102.63, 67.30. IR 3254, 1695, 1549 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 465.0944. Found 465.0942.

3.4.12 3-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9i). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (130 mg, 86%). M.P. 207–210 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.94–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.56 (m, 3H), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 6.85–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 191.34, 158.64, 158.53, 158.38, 156.13, 147.18, 138.85, 135.91, 132.31, 131.75, 129.19, 127.29, 126.76, 126.32, 122.62, 121.00, 116.05, 114.97, 113.17, 103.16, 67.76. IR 3223, 1689, 1610, 1552 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClO}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺ 431.0681. Found 431.0680.

3.4.13 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-2-one (9j). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as a yellow solid (127 mg, 81%). M.P. 210–215 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.77 (br. s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s,



1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 190.62, 164.14, 158.68, 158.50, 157.89, 155.72, 145.49, 132.51, 132.26, 129.61, 126.97, 126.74, 126.37, 123.68, 120.94, 116.05, 115.07, 114.44, 113.16, 103.15, 67.68, 56.13. IR 3238, 1688, 1600, 1554 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₆H₁₉O₆ (M + H)⁺ 449.0996. Found 449.0995.

3.4.14 7-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-(2-phenylacetyl)-2H,8H-pyrano[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-one (9k). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure B and isolated as an orange solid (123 mg, 81%). M.P. 267–268 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 5.34 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 195.41, 159.14, 159.09, 158.56, 156.62, 148.26, 135.34, 132.33, 130.33, 128.68, 128.00, 126.98, 126.74, 126.23, 121.11, 120.90, 116.05, 114.81, 113.12, 102.89, 67.87, 48.02. IR 3236, 1682, 1609 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₆H₁₉O₅ (M + H)⁺ 433.1046. Found 433.1040.

3.4.15 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (10a). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow/green solid (38 mg, 94%). M.P. 172–176 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.98–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.55 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 183.19, 158.29, 156.50, 155.01, 151.67, 137.55, 133.28, 132.00, 129.45, 129.19, 126.76, 126.62, 121.89, 121.68, 120.95, 118.38, 116.83, 116.04, 99.06, 67.31. IR 2945, 2898, 1613, 1512 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₄H₁₇O₄ (M + H)⁺ 369.1121. Found 369.1132.

3.4.16 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (10b). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and procedure D without intermediate purification. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography to afford the product as a yellow/green solid (103 mg, 75%). M.P. 167–170 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 8.07–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.18–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.87–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 181.14, 163.09, 157.78, 155.76, 154.24, 151.58, 131.48, 129.46, 126.35, 126.15, 121.32, 121.21, 120.30, 116.69, 116.44, 115.56, 114.06, 98.59, 66.80, 55.61. IR 3203, 1682, 1611, 1554 cm⁻¹ HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₅H₁₈O₅Na (M + Na)⁺ 421.1046. Found 421.1044.

3.4.17 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(*p*-tolyl)methanone (10c). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow solid (41 mg, 95%). M.P. 209–213 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 7.91–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.22 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 182.79, 158.27, 156.38, 154.88, 151.83, 143.75, 134.87, 131.97, 129.74, 129.63, 126.79, 126.62, 121.84, 121.68, 120.88, 117.86, 116.87, 116.04, 99.06, 67.29, 21.67. IR 3386, 3120, 1601, 1539 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₅H₁₈O₄Na (M + Na)⁺ 405.1097. Found 405.1098.

3.4.18 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (10d). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow solid (42 mg, 95%). M.P. 196–201 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 181.82, 158.29, 156.73, 155.30, 151.27, 138.40, 132.08, 130.50, 130.08, 129.76, 129.56 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 126.74, 126.63, 125.79 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 122.01, 121.67, 121.06, 119.11, 116.03, 99.05, 67.35. IR 3042, 2965, 1650, 1611, 1512 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₅H₁₅F₃O₄Na (M + Na)⁺ 459.0815. Found 459.0814.

3.4.19 (4-Chlorophenyl)(6-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)methanone (10e). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow solid (38 mg, 92%). M.P. 181–185 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.71 (s, 1H), 8.02–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 181.47, 157.80, 156.10, 154.66, 150.98, 137.68, 135.72, 131.57, 130.91, 128.83, 126.29, 126.15, 121.49, 121.17, 120.46, 118.12, 116.34, 115.56, 98.59, 66.85. IR 3256, 3122, 1620, 1545 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₄H₁₆ClO₄ (M + H)⁺ 403.0732. Found 403.0731.

3.4.20 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)methanone (10f). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow solid (42 mg, 95%). M.P. 161–165 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 8.13–8.07 (m, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.55 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 181.75, 158.27, 156.62, 155.18, 151.67 (q), 151.40, 136.43, 132.05, 131.93, 129.45, 126.76, 126.63, 121.98, 121.67, 121.33, 120.97, 118.80, 116.80, 116.03, 99.06, 67.33. IR 3474, 2834, 1616, 1541 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₅H₁₅F₃O₅Na (M + Na)⁺ 475.0764. Found 475.0760.

3.4.21 (4-Bromophenyl)(6-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)methanone (10g). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and procedure D without intermediate purification. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography to afford the product as a yellow/green solid (110 mg, 70%). M.P. 170–173 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.83–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.84–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 182.12, 156.59, 151.46, 151.39, 136.55, 136.48, 132.82, 132.06, 132.01, 131.66, 130.96, 130.91, 127.13, 121.98, 121.67, 116.53, 115.50, 99.60, 98.53, 67.33. IR 3242, 3110, 1614, 1551 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₄H₁₆O₄Br (M + H)⁺ 447.0232. Found 447.0231.

3.4.22 (6-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-*g*]chromen-2-yl)(1H-indol-3-yl)methanone (10h). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and procedure D without intermediate purification. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography to afford the product as a yellow/



green solid (98 mg, 69%). M.P. 186, (dec.); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.05 (s, 3H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 176.61, 166.59, 155.65, 154.09, 153.88, 131.79, 130.64, 127.16, 127.01, 126.85, 126.57, 122.49, 122.01, 121.81, 121.69, 121.50, 120.25, 117.09, 116.06, 115.53, 114.69, 112.91, 112.81, 99.26, 67.21. IR 3389, 3203, 3052, 1668, 1612, 1554, 1520 cm^{-1} HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 408.1236. Found 408.1236.

3.4.23 (4-Chlorophenyl)(6-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)methanone (10i). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure D and isolated as a yellow solid (41 mg, 92%). M.P. 146–150 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.78 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 180.72, 158.30, 156.74, 155.33, 151.15, 137.78, 135.99, 132.15, 132.09, 131.50, 131.20, 129.55, 126.75, 126.63, 122.02, 121.65, 121.02, 119.16, 116.78, 116.04, 99.05, 67.37. IR 3491, 3091, 1617, 1539 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 459.0161. Found 459.0160.

3.4.24 Phenyl(6-(4-((tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)methanone (18a). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow solid (98 mg, 76%). M.P. 175–178 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.00–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.72–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.58–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 2H), 5.53 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.80–3.71 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.51 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.70 (m, 3H), 1.69–1.46 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 183.19, 157.06, 156.62, 155.06, 151.72, 137.55, 133.29, 131.64, 129.45, 129.31, 129.19, 126.49, 121.72, 121.70, 121.26, 118.39, 118.06, 117.07, 99.14, 96.09, 67.27, 61.99, 30.22, 25.14, 19.01. IR 2933, 2863, 1614, 1512 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 453.1697. Found 453.1670.

3.4.25 (6-(4-((Tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)(*p*-tolyl)methanone (18c). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow solid (78 mg, 59%). M.P. 150–154 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.92–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 2H), 5.53 (t, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 3.79–3.71 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.52 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.93–1.71 (m, 3H), 1.67–1.50 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 182.79, 157.06, 156.51, 154.94, 152.36, 143.77, 134.98, 131.61, 129.64, 129.32, 129.11, 126.48, 121.71, 121.19, 120.06, 118.09, 117.87, 117.08, 99.13, 96.02, 67.25, 61.99, 30.22, 25.13, 21.67, 19.00. IR 2937, 2862, 1617, 1538 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 467.1853. Found 467.1853.

3.4.26 (6-(4-((Tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (18d). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow solid (80 mg, 54%). M.P. 172–176 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.27 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H),

7.79 (s, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.53 (t, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.80–3.71 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.52 (m, 1H), 1.90–1.71 (m, 3H), 1.66–1.51 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 181.39, 156.63, 156.39, 154.89, 150.86, 137.93, 133.02, 131.26, 130.05, 129.71, 129.12 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 128.80, 126.04, 125.34 (q, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 121.86, 121.36, 121.24, 120.92, 118.66, 117.52, 116.61, 98.66, 95.63, 66.85, 61.53, 29.76, 24.67, 18.54. IR 2939, 2868, 1641, 1617, 1542 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 521.1570. Found 521.1572.

3.4.27 (4-Chlorophenyl)(6-(4-((tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)methanone (18e). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow/green solid (112 mg, 81%). M.P. 226 $^\circ\text{C}$, (dec.); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.02–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 5.53 (t, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.79–3.71 (m, 1H), 3.59–3.53 (m, 1H), 1.97–1.69 (m, 4H), 1.69–1.46 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 181.95, 157.10, 156.70, 155.19, 151.53, 138.17, 136.19, 135.64, 131.70, 131.38, 129.30, 126.49, 121.78, 121.68, 121.25, 118.04, 118.56, 117.10, 99.13, 96.14, 67.31, 63.51, 30.24, 25.14, 20.49. IR 2935, 2863, 1618, 15.37 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClO}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 487.1307. Found 487.1300.

3.4.28 (6-(4-((Tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)methanone (18f). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow solid (134 mg, 88%). M.P. 217–220 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.17–8.05 (m, 2H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.63–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 2H), 5.53 (t, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.80–3.71 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.51 (m, 1H), 1.92–1.70 (m, 3H), 1.67–1.50 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 181.76, 157.08, 156.74, 155.23, 151.69 (q), 151.45, 136.42, 131.94, 131.69, 129.28, 126.49, 121.79, 121.72, 121.71, 121.34, 121.28, 118.81, 118.01, 117.07, 99.14, 96.09, 67.29, 61.98, 30.22, 25.14, 19.00. IR 2935, 1617, 1539 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{O}_6\text{Na}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 559.1339. Found 559.1340.

3.4.29 (3,4-Dichlorophenyl)(6-(4-((tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)oxy)phenyl)-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-2-yl)methanone (18i). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure C and isolated as a yellow solid (118 mg, 80%). M.P. 176–180 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.14 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 5.54 (t, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.78–3.72 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.53 (m, 1H), 1.94–1.70 (m, 3H), 1.69–1.48 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 180.80, 157.07, 155.36, 154.89, 137.78, 135.99, 132.14, 131.72, 131.52, 131.23, 129.58, 129.24, 126.50, 121.84, 121.69, 121.34, 119.29, 117.96, 117.05, 99.16, 96.03, 67.30, 61.96, 40.49, 30.21, 25.13, 18.99. IR 3135, 2936, 1620 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$ 521.0917. Found 521.0912.

3.4.30 4-(8-Ethoxy-7,8-dihydro-2H,6H-pyrano[3,2-g]chromen-3-yl)phenol (11a). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (12 mg, 28%). M.P. 156 $^\circ\text{C}$ dec. ^1H NMR (400



MHz, CD₃CN): δ 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 5.23 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (s, 2H), 3.85–3.77 (m, 1H), 3.66–3.58 (m, 1H), 2.81–2.73 (m, 1H), 2.59–2.53 (m, 1H), 1.99–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 157.8, 153.5, 153.4, 130.2, 129.5, 128.0, 126.9, 117.9, 116.8, 116.5, 104.4, 98.1, 67.7, 64.5, 27.4, 20.4, 15.5. IR 3372, 2972, 1624, 1605, 1493, 1441, cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₀H₂₀O₄Na (M + Na)⁺ 347.1254. Found 347.1251.

3.4.31 4-(6a,7,8,9a-Tetrahydro-2H,6H-furo[2,3-*b*]pyrano[3,2-*g*]chromen-3-yl)phenol (11b). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (10 mg, 20%). M.P. 224 °C dec. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.62 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 5.59 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.87–3.76 (m, 2H), 2.90 (dd, J = 5.7 and 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 2.6, 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.48 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 157.3, 153.1, 152.1, 128.8, 126.9, 125.8, 116.8, 116.4, 115.5, 114.4, 103.3, 101.3, 67.4, 66.3, 37.1, 27.5, 24.8. IR 3361, 2949, 1620, 1514, 1445, cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈O₄Na (M + Na)⁺ 345.1097. Found 345.1095.

3.4.32 4-(6a,8,9,10a-Tetrahydro-2H,6H,7H-dipyran[2,3-*b*:3',2'-*g*]chromen-3-yl)phenol (11c). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (5 mg, 8%). M.P. 140–143 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.60 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 5.28 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.83–3.79 (m, 1H), 3.62–3.59 (m, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, J = 16.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.63–1.43 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 157.2, 152.6, 151.9, 128.8, 127.0, 125.8, 116.7, 116.4, 115.5, 113.0, 102.5, 96.1, 66.3, 61.9, 34.49, 31.1, 27.2, 23.6, 22.8. IR 3311, 2929, 1621, 1513, 1452 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₄Na (M + Na)⁺ 359.1254; found 359.1252.

3.4.33 3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-9,9-dimethyl-6,8,9,10-tetrahydro-2H,7H-pyrano[3,2-*b*]xanthen-7-one (11d). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (13 mg, 93%). M.P. 201 °C dec. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 3.29 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 2H), 1.04 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 196.9, 164.2, 157.7, 151.9, 148.8, 130.7, 127.2, 126.5, 126.1, 120.1, 115.7, 115.5, 112.9, 108.1, 103.0, 66.4, 50.0, 40.3, 31.8, 27.8, 19.9. IR 2957, 2425, 2289, 1619, 1515 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₃O₄ (M + H)⁺ 375.1591; found 375.1590.

3.4.34 4-(7,8,9,10-Tetrahydro-2H,6H-pyrano[3,2-*b*]xanthen-3-yl)phenol (11e). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (3 mg, 7%). M.P. 200–204 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.58 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.25 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 3.16 (s, 2H), 1.65–1.24 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 157.1, 152.8, 152.2, 151.7, 128.3, 127.2, 126.7, 125.7, 116.6, 116.0, 115.8, 115.5, 103.0, 96.9, 66.2, 48.6, 29.2, 27.0, 25.0, 22.8. IR 3295, 2932, 2854, 1621, 1576, 1513,

1442 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₁O₃ (M + H)⁺ 333.1485; found 333.1487.

3.4.35 4-(8-Phenyl-7,8-dihydro-2H,6H-pyrano[3,2-*g*]chromen-3-yl)phenol (11f). The title compound was synthesised by following general procedure E and isolated as a white powder (6 mg, 11%). M.P. 154–158 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.60 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.30 (m, 7H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 5.10 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 2.90–2.82 (m, 1H), 2.66–2.59 (m, 1H), 2.17–2.11 (m, 1H), 2.02–1.92 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 157.2, 154.7, 151.9, 141.4, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 127.0, 126.0, 125.8, 116.4, 115.5, 114.8, 102.9, 77.0, 66.3, 29.2, 23.6. IR 3025, 2922, 2846, 1621, 1513, 1451 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₁O₃ (M + H)⁺ 357.1485; found 357.1480.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: N. K. and V. F., methodology: V. F., E. Y. and S. S. software V. F., validation: V. F., formal analysis: V. F., E. Y. and S. S., investigation: V. F. and E. Y., resources: N. K., data curation, writing – original draft: V. F., writing – review & editing: V. F. and N. K., visualization: V. F. supervision: N. K. and D. S. W., project administration: N. K., funding acquisition: N. K.

Conflicts of 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.

Data availability

CCDC 2476513 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper.⁴³

All experimental data supporting the findings of this study are included in the article and its supplementary information (SI). Additional raw data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. The compound characterization data, including ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, are provided in the SI. Supplementary information is available. See DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/d5ra06129f>.

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