

Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry

Accepted Manuscript



This is an *Accepted Manuscript*, which has been through the Royal Society of Chemistry peer review process and has been accepted for publication.

Accepted Manuscripts are published online shortly after acceptance, before technical editing, formatting and proof reading. Using this free service, authors can make their results available to the community, in citable form, before we publish the edited article. We will replace this *Accepted Manuscript* with the edited and formatted *Advance Article* as soon as it is available.

You can find more information about *Accepted Manuscripts* in the [Information for Authors](#).

Please note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the text and/or graphics, which may alter content. The journal's standard [Terms & Conditions](#) and the [Ethical guidelines](#) still apply. In no event shall the Royal Society of Chemistry be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this *Accepted Manuscript* or any consequences arising from the use of any information it contains.

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c0xx00000x

www.rsc.org/xxxxxx

An expedite synthesis of isoquinolinones by intramolecular coupling of amides and ketones

Wen-Tao Wei, Yu Liu, Lin-Miao Ye, Rong-Hui Lei, Xue-Jing Zhang and Ming Yan*

Received (in XXX, XXX) Xth XXXXXXXXX 20XX, Accepted Xth XXXXXXXXX 20XX

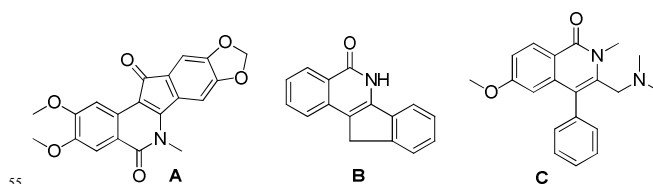
DOI: 10.1039/b000000x

The intramolecular coupling of amides and ketones was achieved in the presence of KO*t*-Bu/DMF. The reaction provided a variety of isoquinolinones in good yields. A reaction mechanism of radical addition and subsequent E2-elimination is proposed.

Introduction

Isoquinolinones are important structural motif in natural products and drugs.¹ For example (Scheme 1), compound **A** is a lead molecule for the development of inhibitors of topoisomerase I.^{2a} Tetracyclic indeno[1,2-*c*]-isoquinolinone **B** showed attractive inhibition activity against poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1.^{2b} The compound **C** is a potassium channel inhibitor and is potentially useful for the treatment of cardiac diseases.^{2c} The synthesis of isoquinolinones has been receiving the great attentions.³⁻⁴ The typical methods include base-promoted condensation of 2-(bromomethyl)benzotrile,⁵ the rearrangement of 2-(2-benzofuranyl)-benzotrile,⁶ double metalation of arylbenzamides,⁷ the cyclization of 2-chlorobenzotrile and β -ketoesters,⁸ Ugi and Heck reactions.⁹ Among the numerous methods, the transition metal catalyzed cyclizations of aryl amides and alkynes are most popular.¹⁰ To the best of our knowledge, the synthesis of isoquinolinones through intramolecular radical coupling of benzamides and ketones has never been reported. Recently, we found that KO*t*-Bu/DMF can promote the generation of α -aminoalkyl radicals from tertiary amines. The consequent radical additions to alkenes and ketones are highly efficient for the synthesis of α -alkyl amines and

nitrogen heterocycles.¹¹⁻¹² We also found that KO*t*-Bu/DMF promotes the intra- and inter- molecular addition of tetrahydroisoquinoline derived amides to styrenes.¹³ The experiment data suggested that the generation of α -amidoalkyl radical intermediates in the reaction. We speculate the α -amidoalkyl radicals are also reactive with ketones. Such a reaction can provide a new strategy for the synthesis of isoquinolinones and other nitrogen heterocycles. Herein, we report the intramolecular coupling of amides and ketones in the presence of KO*t*-Bu/DMF. The reaction provided a series of isoquinolinones in good yields.



Scheme 1. Representative examples of biologically active isoquinolinones.

Results and discussion

Tetrahydroisoquinoline derived amides **1a-1e** were readily prepared from tetrahydroisoquinolines and 2-benzoyl benzoic acids through the dehydration in the presence of EDCI. The other substrates **1f-1r** were prepared from the substituted benzylamines via the same procedure (see the supporting information for the details). Initially, **1a** was treated in DMF with 3.0 equivalents of KO*t*-Bu at 90 °C. The expected product **2a** was obtained in low yield. Instead, the ring-opening product **3a** was obtained in moderate yield. Compound **3a** was obviously generated from **2a** by a base-promoted C-N cleavage.¹³⁻¹⁴ The concentration of KO*t*-Bu probably exerts significant effect

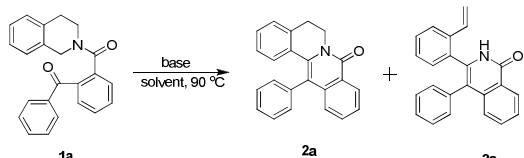
Institute of Drug Synthesis and Pharmaceutical Process, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou 510006, China. E-mail: yanming@mail.sysu.edu.cn; Fax/Tel: + 86-20-39943049

† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Synthetic procedures of the substrates. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of products. See DOI: 10.1039/c0xx00000x/

on this side reaction. The loading of KO*t*-Bu was examined and the results are summarized in Table 1. While the loading of KO*t*-Bu was decreased, the generation of **3a** was inhibited (Table 1, entries 1-5). The best yield of **2a** was obtained with 1.2 equivalents of KO*t*-Bu (Table 1, entry 3). The influence of reaction temperature was also explored. Inferior yields were obtained at 120 °C and 60 °C respectively (Table 1, entries 6-7).

Other bases were examined and the results are listed in Table 1. NaO*t*-Bu, LiO*t*-Bu, KOMe, NaOMe also promoted the reaction, but the yields were lower (Table 1, entries 8-13). KOH, NaOH gave poor yields of **2a**. CsCO₃ and Et₃N were inefficient. The effect of reaction solvents was also investigated. *N,N*-Dimethylacetamide (DMA) is applicable, however lower yield was obtained (Table 1, entry 14). The reaction in DMSO provided **3a** exclusively (Table 1, entry 15). Other solvents such as toluene, acetonitrile, dioxin, *t*-BuOH, and THF are incompatible with the reaction. The radical scavenger *p*-benzoquinone, oxygen and DPPH inhibited the reaction significantly (Table 1, entries 16,17 and 19), however TEMPO showed slight effect on the yield (Table 1, entry 18).

Table 1. The optimization of reaction conditions^a

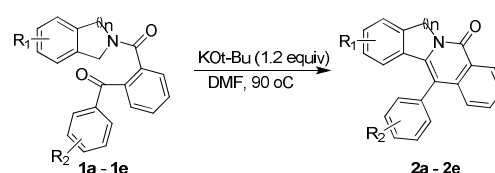


| Entry | Base (equiv.) | Solvent | Time (h) | Yield (%) ^b | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | 2a | 3a |
| 1 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (3.0) | DMF | 1 | 30 | 62 |
| 2 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (2.0) | DMF | 1 | 52 | 39 |
| 3 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 81 | 12 |
| 4 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.0) | DMF | 1 | 69 | 16 |
| 5 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (0.5) | DMF | 1 | 59 | 6 |
| 6 ^c | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 69 | 24 |
| 7 ^d | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1.5 | 44 | 28 |
| 8 | LiO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 31 | 37 |
| 9 | NaO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 50 | 22 |
| 10 | KOMe (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 63 | 15 |
| 11 | NaOMe (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 72 | 6 |
| 12 | KOH (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 15 | - |
| 13 | NaOH (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 9 | - |
| 14 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMA | 1 | 56 | 6 |
| 15 | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMSO | 1 | - | 37 |
| 16 ^e | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 35 | - |
| 17 ^f | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | - | - |
| 18 ^g | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | 70 | - |
| 19 ^h | KO <i>t</i> -Bu (1.2) | DMF | 1 | - | - |

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), base, solvent (1 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere. ^b Isolated yields. ^c Reaction was carried out at 120 °C. ^d Reaction was carried out at 60 °C. ^e Reaction was carried out under an oxygen atmosphere. ^f *p*-Benzoquinone (0.12 mmol) was added. ^g TEMPO (0.12 mmol) was added. ^h DPPH (0.12 mmol) was added.

The reaction was extended to a number of tetrahydroisoquinoline derived amides and the results are summarized in Table 2. The reaction of 4-methylphenyl ketone **1b** and 4-chlorophenyl ketone **1c** provided the expected products in good yields (Table 2, entries 3-4). Tetrahydroisoquinoline derivative **1d** with 6,7-dimethoxy substitution gave product **2d** in a good yield (Table 2, entry 4). The isoindoline derived amide **1e** was also examined. The product **2e** was obtained in a moderate yield (Table 2, entry 5).

Table 2. Intramolecular coupling of benzamides **1a-1e**^a

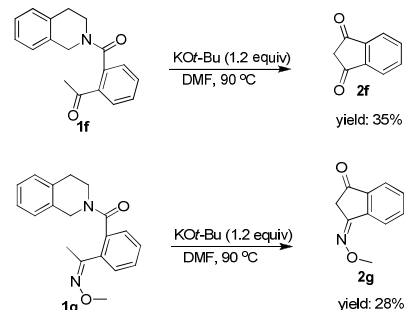


| Entry | 1 | R ¹ | R ² | n | Product yield ^b (%) |
|-------|-----------|------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 1a | H | H | 2 | 2a /81 |
| 2 | 1b | H | 4-Me | 2 | 2b /82 |
| 3 | 1c | H | 4-Cl | 2 | 2c /85 |
| 4 | 1d | 3,4-(MeO) ₂ | H | 2 | 2d /82 |
| 5 | 1e | H | H | 1 | 2e /68 |

^a Reaction conditions: **1a-1e** (0.2 mmol), KO*t*-Bu (0.24 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 1 h. ^b Isolated yields.

The reaction of acetophenone derivative **1f** and its oxime **1g** did not give the expected products (Scheme 2). Instead the intramolecular condensation and the cleavage of the amide bond led to **2f** and **2g** in low yields. The results indicated the ketones with α -H are not compatible with the reaction.

Scheme 2. Intramolecular condensation of acetophenone derivative **1f** and its oxime **1g**^a



^a Reaction conditions: **1f** and **1g** (0.2 mmol), KO*t*-Bu (0.24 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 1 h.

The reaction is further extended to arylmethylamine derived amides **1h-1r** and the results are summarized in Table 3. The expected isoquinolinones **2h-2r**, together

with *trans*-4-hydroxy-dihydroisoquinolinones **3h-3r** were obtained in good yields. The *N*-substitution with methyl, ethyl, isopropyl and benzyl are tolerated well. The substrates with electron-donating groups (**1l**, **1m**) obviously favor the formation of *trans*-4-hydroxy-dihydroisoquinolinones (Table 3, entries 5-6). On the other hand, the substrate **1q** with electron-withdrawing group (cyano group) gave the dehydration product **2q** exclusively (Table 3, entry 10). The steric hindrance of the substrate also exerts significant effect on the ratio of the dehydration product and *trans*-4-hydroxy-dihydroisoquinolinone. The substrates **1o** and **1p** with naphthyl and 2-chloro-phenyl provided higher ratios of *trans*-4-hydroxy-dihydroisoquinolinones than the substrate **1h** (Table 3, entries 8-9 vs 1). The substrate **1r** with thiophenyl group was also examined in the reaction, the expected products **2r** and **3r** were obtained in good yield (Table 3, entry 11). The control experiments with **3h** and **3o** demonstrated that the dehydration did not occur in the presence of KO*t*-Bu/DMF. However the treatment of **3h** and **3o** with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (PTSA) in toluene gave **2h** and **2o** in good yields (Scheme 3).

Table 3. Intramolecular coupling of arylmethylamine derived substrates **1h-1r**^a

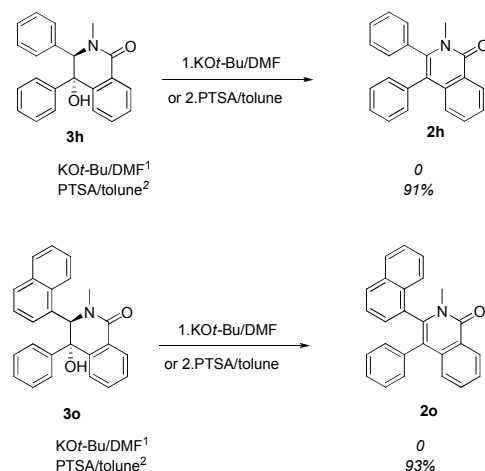
| Entry | 1 | R ¹ | R ² | R ³ | Product yield ^b (%) | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1h | ph | Me | ph | 2h /37 | 3h /45 |
| 2 | 1i | ph | Et | ph | 2i /36 | 3i /57 |
| 3 | 1j | ph | <i>i</i> -pr | ph | 2j /39 | 3j /46 |
| 4 | 1k | ph | Bn | ph | 2k /42 | 3k /44 |
| 5 | 1l | 4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄ | Me | ph | 2l /15 | 3l /66 |
| 6 | 1m | 4-Me-C ₆ H ₄ | Me | ph | 2m /28 | 3m /64 |
| 7 | 1n | ph | Me | 4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ | 2n /36 | 3n /47 |
| 8 | 1o | 2-naphthyl | Me | ph | 2o /26 | 3o /69 |
| 9 | 1p | 2-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ | Me | ph | 2p /20 | 3p /45 |
| 10 | 1q | 4-CN-C ₆ H ₄ | Me | ph | 2q /67 | - |
| 11 | 1r | ph | Me | 2-thiophenyl | 2r /34 | 3r /47 |

^a Reaction conditions: **1h-1r** (0.2 mmol), KO*t*-Bu (0.24 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 3 h. ^b Isolated yields.

The reaction of allyl amine derived amide **1s** provided 3-vinylisoquinolinone **2s** and 4-hydroxy-3-ethylidene-dihydroisoquinolinone **3s** (Scheme 4). The reaction of α -cyano methylamine derived amide **1t** provided product **2t** in a good yield. Dialkyl amine derived amides **1u**, **1v** and

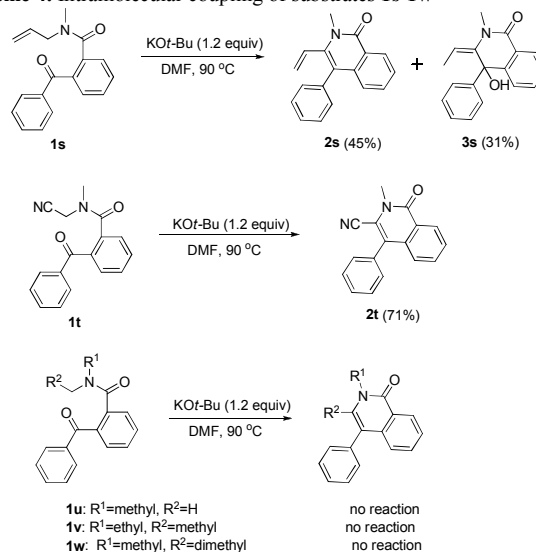
1w are unreactive under the present reaction conditions. The activation of amides with α -aryl, allyl or cyano groups seems to be necessary for the reaction. Since these substituents are capable of stabilizing the neighboring alkyl radicals, the results are in good accordance to α -amidoalkyl radical reaction pathway.

Scheme 3. The dehydration of **3h** and **3o**



¹Reaction conditions: **3h** or **3o** (0.1 mmol), KO*t*-Bu (0.12 mmol), DMF (1.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 15 h. ²Reaction conditions: **3h** or **3o** (0.1 mmol), PTSA (0.12 mmol), toluene (1.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 2 h.

Scheme 4. Intramolecular coupling of substrates **1s-1w**^a

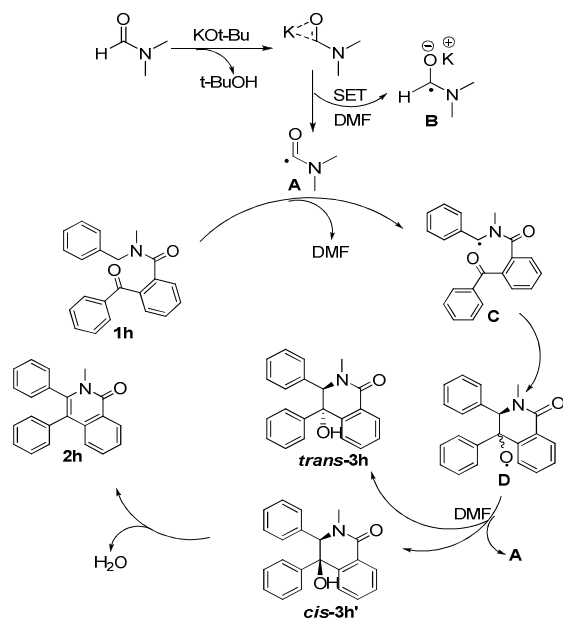


^aReaction conditions: **1s-1w** (0.2 mmol), KO*t*-Bu (0.24 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL), at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere, 3 h.

A tentative reaction mechanism is suggested (Scheme 5).¹¹ The carbamoyl radical **A** generated in KO*t*-Bu/DMF abstracts a hydrogen from **1h**. The resulted radical intermediate **C** adds to the carbonyl group. The radical intermediate **D** gets a hydrogen from DMF to generate *cis* and *trans*-4-hydroxy-dihydroisoquinolinone. The *cis*-isomer **3h'** undergoes a base-promoted E2-elimination to give the product **2h**. The *trans*-isomer **3h** is resistant to E2-elimination due to the unfavorable arrangement of the

hydroxyl group and the hydrogen. In the case of tetrahydroisoquinoline derived amides **1a-1e**, the fused ring structures may result in the stereoselective formation of *cis*-isomers. The subsequent dehydration leads to the isoquinolinone products **2a-2e** exclusively.

Scheme 5. Tentative reaction mechanism



Conclusion

In summary, we have developed an intramolecular coupling of amides and ketones in the presence of KOt-Bu/DMF. The reaction is applicable for tetrahydroisoquinoline and arylmethylamine derived amides. A series of multi-substituted isoquinolinones were prepared in good yields. A radical addition and subsequent E2-elimination reaction mechanism is suggested. The method represents a new strategy for the synthesis of isoquinolinones.

Experimental

Representative experiment procedure

A solution of (2-benzoylphenyl)(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)methanone **1a** (68.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), KOt-Bu (27.0 mg, 0.24 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was stirred at 90 °C under an argon atmosphere. After the completion of the reaction as shown by TLC, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3) to give **2a** as a white solid (52.3 mg, yield: 81%).

12-phenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquino[3,2-a]isoquinolin-8-one (2a).

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 81%. White solid. Mp 208–209 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.72, 138.41, 137.77, 137.36, 134.73, 131.98, 131.03, 130.46, 128.97, 128.31, 127.81, 127.57, 126.96, 126.70, 125.58, 124.89, 117.84, 41.53, 29.70. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 2932, 1638, 1588, 1482, 1345, 1158, 925, 704, 699. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₃H₁₈NO (M+H)⁺: 324.1383, found: 324.1375.

12-p-tolyl-5,6-dihydroisoquino[3,2-a]isoquinolin-8-one (2b).

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 82%. White solid. Mp 198–199 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 3H), 7.17–7.09 (m, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.71, 138.34, 137.56, 137.24, 134.62, 131.92, 131.78, 131.06, 130.59, 129.71, 128.23, 127.77, 126.93, 126.64, 125.67, 125.61, 124.88, 117.82, 41.56, 29.70, 21.35. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 2933, 1639, 1589, 1484, 1347, 1158, 926, 699, 708. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺: 338.1539, found: 338.1532.

12-(4-chlorophenyl)-5,6-dihydroisoquino[3,2-a]isoquinolin-8-one (2c)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 85%. White solid. Mp 205–206 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.12 (m, 4H), 6.89–6.77 (m, 2H), 4.35 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.66, 138.51, 137.05, 136.29, 135.02, 133.61, 133.37, 132.14, 130.97, 130.14, 129.29, 128.57, 127.95, 127.14, 126.87, 125.80, 125.21, 124.87, 116.46, 41.54, 29.65. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 2882, 1643, 1484, 1343, 1266, 1158, 1091, 1017, 856, 763, 699, 523, 463. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₃H₁₇NOCl (M+H)⁺: 358.0993, found: 358.0990.

2,3-dimethoxy-12-phenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquino[3,2-a]isoquinolin-8-one (2d)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 82%. White solid. Mp 213–214 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 3H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 3H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.75, 148.89, 146.29, 138.47, 137.48, 134.72, 132.02, 131.95, 131.53, 129.26, 127.80, 127.46, 126.35, 125.25, 124.52, 122.30, 116.35, 114.32, 109.56, 55.81, 55.31, 41.45, 29.07. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 3000, 2932, 2834, 1635, 1604, 1512, 1462, 1342, 1229, 1165, 1095, 928, 876, 778, 695, 504. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₅H₂₂NO₃ (M+H)⁺: 384.1594, found : 384.1586.

12-phenylisoindolo[2,1-b]isoquinolin-5(7H)-one (2e)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 68%. White solid. Mp 256–258 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 6H), 7.45 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.77, 138.78, 138.43, 138.10, 135.25, 134.42, 132.00, 131.11, 129.45, 129.24, 128.44, 127.92, 127.28, 126.24, 125.21, 124.18, 124.05, 123.08, 114.52, 51.83. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2868, 1766, 1651, 1621, 1477, 1341, 1311, 761, 696, 552. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₂H₁₆NO (M+H)⁺: 310.1226, found : 310.1219.

1H-indene-1,3(2H)-dione (2f)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 35%. Purple solid. Mp 131–132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.86–7.84 (m, 2H), 3.25 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.39, 143.37, 135.58, 123.20, 45.04. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2868, 1716, 1651, 1341, 761, 696, 552. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₉H₅O₂ (M-H)⁻: 145.0295, found : 145.0297.

(E)-3-(methoxyimino)-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-one (2g)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 28%. Brown solid. Mp 85–87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.98, 152.17, 144.85, 138.43, 135.21, 130.87, 123.55, 121.90, 62.63, 37.47. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 1680, 1492, 1380, 1110, 933, 827, 568. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₀H₈NO₂ (M-H)⁻: 174.0561, found : 174.0566.

2-methyl-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2h)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 37%. White solid. Mp 233–234 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.09 (m, 9H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.77, 141.26, 137.19, 136.49, 135.08, 132.03, 131.54, 129.95, 128.20, 127.92, 127.84, 126.80, 126.61, 125.36, 124.94, 118.91, 34.35. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2881, 1640, 1513, 1463, 1343, 1267, 1159, 830, 760, 698, 589, 520. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈NO (M+H)⁺: 312.1383, found: 312.1377.

2-ethyl-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2i)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 36%. White solid. Mp 216–217 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.12 (m, 9H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.07, 141.11, 137.20, 136.62, 134.82, 132.01, 131.54, 130.21, 128.19, 127.92, 127.87, 127.80, 126.74, 126.55, 125.35, 125.23, 119.11, 41.38, 14.15. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2886, 1645, 1533, 1467, 1353, 1277, 1157, 835, 767, 692, 589. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₃H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺: 326.1539, found : 326.1531.

2-isopropyl-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2j)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 39%. White solid. Mp 243–244 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 4H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (dt, *J* = 13.5, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.66, 141.76, 136.98, 135.77, 131.88, 131.52, 129.70, 128.09, 128.05, 127.83, 127.48, 126.62, 126.49, 126.44, 125.20, 119.04, 53.57, 19.47. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2882, 1640, 1531, 1465, 1350, 1271, 1156, 825, 767, 692, 520. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂NO (M+H)⁺: 340.1696, found: 340.1988.

2-benzyl-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2k)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 42%. White solid. Mp 162–163 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.09 (m, 8H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 5.21 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.73, 141.35, 137.78, 137.40, 136.44, 134.36, 132.31, 131.52, 130.48, 128.28, 128.20, 128.14, 127.88, 127.61, 126.96, 126.88, 126.80, 126.75, 125.51, 125.20, 119.48, 49.14. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2881, 1643, 1531, 1485, 1467, 1353, 1266, 1157, 856, 767, 698, 529. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₈H₂₂NO (M+H)⁺: 388.1702, found : 388.1696.

3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-4-phenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2l)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 15%. White solid. Mp 204–205 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 7.00–6.95 (m, 4H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.83, 158.15, 140.11, 136.18, 135.72, 130.95, 130.50, 130.16, 126.95, 126.79, 126.42, 125.70, 125.48, 124.30, 123.89, 118.16, 112.58, 54.12, 33.27. IR (KBr, thin film) ν /cm⁻¹: 2883, 1644, 1513, 1251, 778, 740, 705, 694, 543. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₃H₂₀NO₂ (M+H)⁺: 342.1489, found: 342.1477.

2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-p-tolyloisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2m)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 28%. White solid. Mp 210–211 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.10 – 6.97 (m, 6H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.83, 141.39, 137.97, 137.24, 136.67, 132.14, 131.96, 131.54, 129.78, 128.89, 127.92, 127.81, 126.72, 126.50, 125.32, 124.89, 118.90, 34.31, 21.23. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2883, 1640, 1514, 1466, 1346, 1264, 1157, 1072, 830, 769, 619, 514. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₃H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺: 326.1539, found: 326.1527.

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-3-phenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2n)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 36%. White solid. Mp 207–208 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.26 (m, 4H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.10 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.69, 141.52, 136.87, 135.04, 134.82, 132.87, 132.83, 132.17, 129.81, 128.46, 128.41, 128.25, 127.97, 126.77, 125.02, 124.96, 117.57, 34.32. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2884, 1643, 1517, 1458, 1380, 1363, 1266, 1158, 1091, 1015, 1039, 856, 760, 698, 589, 520. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇NOCl (M+H)⁺: 346.0993, found: 346.0985.

2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-phenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2o)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 26%. White solid. Mp 228–229 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.81, 139.57, 137.32, 136.39, 133.13, 132.43, 132.10, 132.08, 131.32, 129.90, 129.04, 128.65, 128.48, 127.93, 127.84, 127.59, 127.07, 126.87, 126.78, 126.22, 125.47, 125.15, 125.02, 124.92, 119.86, 33.41. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2881, 1644, 1513, 1454, 1334, 1267, 1159, 1028, 830, 741, 690, 587. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₆H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺: 362.1539, found: 362.1524.

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-4-phenylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2p)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 20%. White solid. Mp 179 – 181 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 6H), 7.13 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.58, 138.44, 137.12, 136.13, 134.32, 134.26, 132.05, 131.94, 131.17, 130.13, 130.11, 129.41, 128.34, 127.92, 127.72, 127.22, 126.90, 126.77, 125.49, 125.25, 119.16, 32.94. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2885, 1641, 1517, 1458, 1382, 1361, 1256, 1148, 1091,

1037, 846, 761, 696, 585. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇NOCl (M+H)⁺: 346.0093, found: 346.0987.

4-(2-methyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinolin-3-yl)benzotrile (2q)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 67%. White solid. Mp 244–246 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 – 8.46 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.07 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 3.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.52, 139.68, 139.10, 136.81, 135.62, 132.34, 132.06, 131.37, 130.91, 128.31, 127.93, 127.40, 127.26, 125.55, 125.13, 119.32, 118.12, 112.29, 34.45. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2889, 1655, 1543, 1470, 1356, 1279, 1167, 845, 767, 696, 589. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₃H₁₇N₂O (M+H)⁺: 337.1335, found : 337.1341.

2-methyl-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)isoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2r)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 34%. White solid. Mp 238–240 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.76, 143.58, 137.67, 137.30, 134.99, 132.31, 129.70, 129.62, 128.51, 128.29, 127.76, 126.83, 126.51, 126.44, 125.19, 124.71, 111.06, 34.49. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2889, 1672, 1523, 1473, 1333, 1287, 1179, 835, 761, 698, 589, 523. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₀H₁₆NOS (M+H)⁺: 318.0947, found: 318.0957.

2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-vinylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2s)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 45%. White solid. Mp 189–191 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dd, *J* = 17.8, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dd, *J* = 17.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.62, 138.54, 137.18, 137.00, 131.91, 131.55, 130.29, 128.42, 127.76, 127.28, 126.53, 125.46, 124.63, 124.06, 118.23, 33.25. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 2930, 1635, 1431, 1244, 1128, 1015, 967, 878, 743, 564. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆NO (M+H)⁺: 262.1226, found: 262.1223.

2-methyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinoline-3-carbonitrile (2t)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 71%. White solid. Mp 271–274 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 – 8.51 (m, 1H), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.45 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.01, 134.91, 133.23, 132.81, 130.52, 130.32, 130.03, 129.42, 129.03, 128.34, 127.42, 126.78, 115.37, 113.24, 34.42. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3430, 3060, 2921, 2223, 1656, 1589, 1494, 1328, 1129, 1021, 783, 696, 567, 457. HRMS

(ESI) calcd. for $C_{17}H_{13}N_2O$ (M+H)⁺: 261.1022, found: 261.1019.

4-phenyl-3-(2-vinylphenyl)isoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3a)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 12%. Yellow solid. Mp 189–191 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 5H), 7.15 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 6.75–6.68 (m, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.28, 138.43, 136.48, 136.42, 135.31, 133.95, 133.30, 132.66, 130.79, 129.20, 128.06, 127.63, 127.44, 127.21, 126.69, 125.57, 125.41, 125.30, 118.37, 116.54. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 2848, 1653, 1479, 1345, 1152, 1031, 909, 776, 664, 581. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{23}H_{18}NO$ (M+H)⁺: 324.1383, found: 324.1370.

4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3,4-diphenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3h)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 45%. White solid. Mp 180–180 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30–8.20 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 8H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 2.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.09, 144.84, 140.71, 134.71, 132.90, 128.96, 128.91, 128.89, 128.66, 128.60, 128.41, 128.02, 127.53, 126.06, 125.39, 75.03, 74.50, 34.47. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3342, 2848, 1638, 1575, 1490, 1385, 1302, 1263, 1242, 1068, 700, 614, 542. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{22}H_{20}NO_2$ (M+H)⁺: 330.1489, found: 330.1476.

2-ethyl-4-hydroxy-3,4-diphenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3i)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 57%. White solid. Mp 204–205 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.34 – 8.20 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.24 (m, 8H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 2H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 3.92 (dq, *J* = 14.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dq, *J* = 14.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 1H), 0.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.49, 144.59, 140.22, 135.31, 132.87, 129.34, 129.09, 128.85, 128.76, 128.64, 128.26, 128.04, 127.39, 126.33, 125.31, 75.50, 72.20, 41.21, 11.79. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3343, 2849, 1638, 1577, 1492, 1385, 1305, 1263, 1068, 773, 616, 544. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{23}H_{22}NO_2$ (M+H)⁺: 344.1645, found: 344.1636.

4-hydroxy-2-isopropyl-3,4-diphenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3j)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 46%. White solid. Mp 174–175 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 – 8.22 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.29 (s, 4H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 4.86 (dt, *J* = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 2.06 (s, 1H), 0.67 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.44 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.50, 144.22,

139.71, 137.00, 132.85, 130.17, 128.97, 128.69, 128.66, 128.49, 128.26, 128.08, 127.54, 126.63, 125.17, 76.04, 67.03, 45.24, 20.06, 18.76. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3346, 2848, 1648, 1565, 1498, 1375, 1302, 1263, 1068, 730, 614, 540. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{24}H_{24}NO_2$ (M+H)⁺: 358.1802, found: 358.1791.

2-benzyl-4-hydroxy-3,4-diphenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3k)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 44%. White solid. Mp 184–185 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 – 8.26 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.22–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.06 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.53 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (s, 1H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.06, 144.34, 140.21, 135.71, 134.69, 133.12, 129.17, 128.99, 128.92, 128.73, 128.29, 128.22, 127.96, 127.71, 126.92, 126.44, 125.49, 75.32, 70.54, 48.45. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3343, 2848, 1639, 1575, 1492, 1385, 1305, 1263, 1242, 1068, 981, 730, 654, 542. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{28}H_{24}NO_2$ (M+H)⁺: 406.1802, found: 406.1787.

4-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3l)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 66%. White solid. Mp 179–180 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.01, 160.08, 144.82, 140.83, 132.87, 130.08, 128.69, 128.55, 128.38, 127.96, 127.47, 126.29, 126.07, 125.48, 114.32, 75.00, 74.01, 55.27, 34.38. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3373, 2945, 1630, 1574, 1514, 1397, 1247, 1179, 1068, 1037, 835, 737, 697, 530. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{23}H_{22}NO_3$ (M+H)⁺: 360.1594, found: 360.1584.

4-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-p-tolyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3m)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 64%. White solid. Mp 209–210 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 – 8.20 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.09, 144.89, 140.80, 138.92, 132.83, 131.52, 129.62, 128.79, 128.71, 128.52, 128.37, 127.96, 127.47, 126.10, 125.43, 74.98, 74.28, 34.43, 21.04. IR (KBr, thin film) ν/cm^{-1} : 3343, 2848, 1639, 1575, 1490, 1385, 1302, 1263, 1068, 742, 614, 542. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $C_{23}H_{22}NO_2$ (M+H)⁺: 344.1645, found: 344.1630.

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3n)

The product was obtained following the general procedure.

Yield: 47%. White solid. Mp 224–225 °C. ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 7H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (s, 1H), 2.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.94, 143.35, 140.31, 134.34, 133.95, 133.07, 129.15, 129.01, 128.88, 128.84, 128.52, 127.68, 127.58, 125.29, 74.63, 74.55, 34.52. IR (KBr, thin film) *v*/cm⁻¹: 3379, 2921, 1631, 1578, 1490, 1398, 1255, 1070, 1014, 848, 760, 694, 534, 471; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₂H₁₉NO₂Cl (M+H)⁺: 364.1099, found: 364.1090.

4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3o)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 69%. White solid. Mp 216–217 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 4H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.43, 145.47, 140.74, 133.91, 133.61, 132.95, 130.75, 129.56, 129.03, 128.65, 128.61, 128.03, 127.44, 126.80, 126.04, 125.81, 125.52, 125.41, 125.35, 123.72, 76.04, 68.94, 34.68. IR (KBr, thin film) *v*/cm⁻¹: 3345, 2858, 1639, 1577, 1492, 1477, 1396, 1304, 1254, 1067, 774, 640, 544; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₆H₂₂NO₂ (M+H)⁺: 380.1645, found: 380.1629.

3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3p)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 45%. White solid. Mp 241–243 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 – 8.16 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.94, 143.32, 140.27, 134.34, 133.91, 133.07, 129.15, 129.01, 128.88, 128.84, 128.62, 128.52, 127.68, 127.58, 125.29, 74.66, 74.55, 34.52. IR (KBr, thin film) *v*/cm⁻¹: 3375, 2920, 1641, 1575, 1493, 1398, 1256, 1070, 1016, 848, 765, 694, 534, 470; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₂H₁₉NO₂Cl (M+H)⁺: 364.1099, found: 364.1096.

4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3r)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 47%. White solid. Mp 199–201 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 – 8.12 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.25 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.83 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (s, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.34, 144.09, 139.64, 135.95, 132.33, 129.35, 128.71, 128.47, 128.20, 128.00, 127.40, 127.23, 126.43, 125.09, 76.41, 76.29, 34.64. IR (KBr, thin film) *v*/cm⁻¹: 3345, 2841, 1639, 1578, 1494, 1385, 1302, 1273, 1242, 1069, 700, 614, 542. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈NO₂S (M+H)⁺: 336.1053, found: 336.1069.

3-ethylidene-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3s)

The product was obtained following the general procedure. Yield: 31%. Yellow solid. Mp 186–188 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.16 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 5.86 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 1H), 1.78 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.05, 144.47, 143.05, 142.71, 132.41, 131.54, 128.47, 128.31, 128.29, 128.00, 126.28, 123.88, 109.46, 77.23, 36.03, 13.26. IR (KBr, thin film) *v*/cm⁻¹: 3369, 2930, 1635, 1451, 1367, 1246, 1129, 1016, 967, 872, 743, 554. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈NO₂(M+H)⁺: 280.1332, found: 280.1329.

Acknowledgements

We thank the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 21202208, 21172270, 21472248) and Guangdong Engineering Research Center of Chiral Drugs for the financial supports of this study.

Notes and references

- (a) J. R. Lewis, *Nat. Prod. Rev.*, 1994, **11**, 329. (b) Z. Zhang, S. Li, S. Zhang, C. Liang, D. Gorenstein and R. S. Beasley, *Planta Med.*, 2004, **70**, 1216. (c) M. Nagarajan, A. Morrell, B. C. Fort, M. R. Meckley, S. Antony, G. Kohlhausen, Y. Pommier and M. Cushman, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2004, **47**, 5651. (d) A. L. Ruchelman, P. J. Houghton, N. Zhou, A. Liu, L. Liu and E. J. LaVoie, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2005, **48**, 792. (e) A. Cappelli, M. G. Pericot, G. Giuliani, S. Galeazzi, M. Anzini, L. Mennuni, F. Ferrari, F. Makovec, E. Kleinrath, T. Langer, M. Valoti, G. Giorgi and S. Vomero, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2006, **49**, 6451. (f) M. Sera, M. Yamashita, Y. Ono, T. Tabata, E. Muto, T. Ouchi and H. Tawada, *Org. Process Res. Dev.*, 2014, **18**, 446.
- (a) G. Kohlhausen, K. Paull, M. Cusgman, P. Nagafuji and Y. Pommier, *Mol. Pharmacol.* 1998, **54**, 50. (b) L. Virag, C. Szabó, *Pharmacol. Rev.* 2002, **54**, 375. (c) B. W. Trotter, C. Claiborne, G. S. Ponticello, C. J. Mcintyre, N. Liverton and D. A. Claremon, Patent WO2005030791A.
- For reviews of isoquinolinone synthesis, see: (a) V. A. Glushkov and Y. V. Shklyayev, *Chem. Heterocycl. Compd.*, 2001, **37**, 663. (b) I. Nakamura and Y. Yamamoto, *Chem. Rev.*, 2004, **104**, 2127. (c) J. E. R. Sadig and M. C. Willis, *Synthesis*, 2011, **1**, 1.
- For the selected recent examples of the synthesis of isoquinolinones, see: (a) P. G. Jagtap, E. Baloglu, G. Southan, W. Williams, A. Roy, A. Nivorozhkin, N. Landrau, K. Desisto, A. L. Salzman and C. Szabo, *Org. Lett.*, 2005, **7**, 1753. (b) R. J. Snow, T. Butz, A. Hammach, S. Kapadia, T. M. Morwick, A. S. Prokopowicz, H. Takahashi, J. Tan, M. A. Tschantz and X. Wang, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2002, **43**, 7553. (c) S. E. Davis, A. C. Church, C. L. Griffith and C. F. Beam, *Synth. Commun.*, 1997, **27**, 2961. (d) T. Yao and R. C. Larock, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2005, **70**, 1432. (e) H. Gao and J. Zhang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2009, **351**, 85. (f) N. Guimond, S. I. Gorelsky and K. Fagnou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 6449.
- P. G. Jagtap, E. Baloglu, G. Southan, W. Williams, A. Roy, A. Nivorozhkin, N. Landrau, K. Desisto, A. L. Salzman and C. Szabo, *Org. Lett.*, 2005, **7**, 1753.

6. J. Gutillaumel, N. Boccara, P. Demerseman and R. Royer, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.*, 1998, 1604.
7. (a) L. E. Fisher, J. M. Muchowski and R. D. Clark, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1992, **57**, 2700. (b) S. E. Davis, A. C. Church, C. L. Griffith and C. F. Beam, *Synth. Commun.*, 1997, **27**, 2961.
8. R. J. Snow, T. Butz, A. Hammach, S. Kapadia, T. M. Morwick, A. S. Prokopowicz, H. Takahashi, J. Tan, M. A. Tschantza and X. Wang, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2002, **43**, 7553.
9. Z. Xiang, T. Luo, K. Lu, J. Cui, X. Shi, R. Fathi, J. Chen and Z. Yang, *Org. Lett.*, 2004, **6**, 3155.
10. For the recent examples of isoquinolinone synthesis through transition metal catalysis, see: (a) L. Ackermann and S. Fenner, *Org. Lett.*, 2011, **13**, 6548. (b) B. Li, H. Feng, S. Xu and B. Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2011, **17**, 12573. (c) L. Ackermann, A. V. Lygin and N. Hofmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2011, **50**, 6379. (d) N. Zhang, B. Li, H. Zhong and J. Huang, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2012, **10**, 9429. (e) A. Dieudonné-Vatran, M. Azoulaya and J. C. Florent, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2012, **10**, 2683.
11. (a) Y. Chen, X. Zhang, H. Yuan, W. Wei and M. Yan, *Chem. Commun.*, 2013, **49**, 10974. (b) W. Wei, X. Dong, S. Nie, Y. Chen, X. Zhang and M. Yan, *Org. Lett.*, 2013, **15**, 6018.
12. For reviews of α -aminoalkyl radicals in organic synthesis, see: (a) P. Renaud and L. Giraud, *Synthesis*, 1996, **8**, 913. (b) J. Cossy, In *Radicals in Organic Synthesis*; P. Renaud, M. P. Sibi, Eds, Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, **2001**; Vol. 1, pp 229. (c) J. M. Aurrecoechea and R. Suero, *ARKIVOC*, 2004, (xiv), **10**.
13. W. Wang, X. Zhao, L. Tong, J. Chen, X. Zhang and M. Yan, *J. Org. Chem.*, ASAP (DOI: 10.1021/jo501179t).
14. (a) H. E. Zimmerman and O. D. Mitkin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, **128**, 12743. (b) B. Lal, R. M. Gidwani and N. J. Souza, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1990, **55**, 5117. (c) M. Treus, C. O. Salas, M. A. Gonazález, J. C. Estévez, R. A. Tapia and R. J. Estévez, *Tetrahedron*, 2010, **66**, 9986.