

## Synthesis of Isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione Derivatives *via* the Reductive One-Pot Reaction of *N*-Substituted 2-Nitrobenzamides and 2-Formylbenzoic Acids

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Various isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione derivatives **3** were synthesized in good yields by means of the reductive reaction of *N*-substituted 2-nitrobenzamides **1** and 2-formylbenzoic acids **2** in the presence of SnCl<sub>2</sub> · 2 H<sub>2</sub>O under reflux in EtOH (*Scheme, Table*). The procedure needed two steps, the reduction of the nitro group of the 2-nitrobenzamide and ring closure by nucleophilic addition of the NH<sub>2</sub> group to both the formyl and carboxylic acid C=O groups.

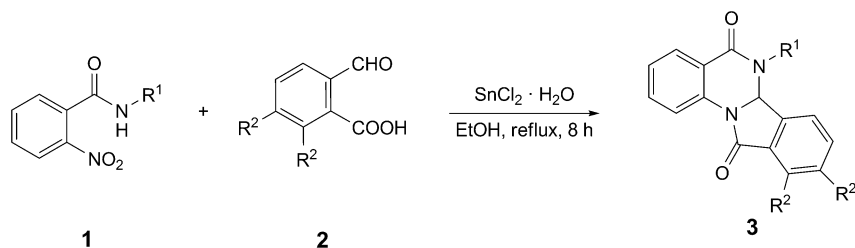
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**Introduction.** – Isoindolin-1-ones (=2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindol-1-ones) and their derivatives exhibit important physiological and chemotherapeutic activities [1]. Also they have shown a wide range of activities including antioxidant [2], antimicrobial [3], and anticancer activity [4]. Some 2-[3-(cyclopentyloxy)-4-methoxyphenyl]isoindolin-1-one derivatives were synthesized and screened for a developed allosteric mGluR1 antagonist by Park and co-workers [5]. They are potent inhibitors of TNF- $\alpha$  production in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells.

The 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-one-centered compounds play also an important role in organic chemistry, as key structural units in many natural products and important pharmaceuticals [6][7]. A considerable number of 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones are well-known as antibacterial [8], vasodilatory [9], antispermatogenic [10], antifibrillatory [11], and analgesic [12] agents.

Although isoindolin-1-ones and 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones individually possess important biological properties, to the best of our knowledge, only a few studies have been published on the synthesis and biological activities of fused isoindoloquinazolinone derivatives [13–19]. Thus, herein, in continuation of our work on the synthesis new heterocycles [20], particularly bioactive compounds [21], we wish to report an efficient route for the synthesis of isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione derivatives **3** *via* reaction of 2-nitrobenzamides **1** and 2-formylbenzoic acids **2** in the presence of SnCl<sub>2</sub> · 2 H<sub>2</sub>O under reflux conditions in EtOH (*Scheme*). The reductive reaction of 2-nitrobenzamides in the presence of SnCl<sub>2</sub> with diverse substrates has been investigated, and proficient routes for the synthesis of heterocyclic scaffolds have been provided [22–24].

Scheme. Synthesis of Isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione-Derivatives **3**. For R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, see Table.



**Results and Discussion.** – We began our study with the reaction of *N*-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-2-nitrobenzamide (**1a**) and 2-formylbenzoic acid (**2a**), investigating the influence of different amounts of SnCl<sub>2</sub> · 2 H<sub>2</sub>O and solvents under various conditions with the aim of improving the yield of the product **3a**. It was found that the use of 1 mmol of each starting material **1a** and **2a** and 4 mmol of SnCl<sub>2</sub> · 2 H<sub>2</sub>O in refluxing EtOH gave the optimized conditions, and **3a** was obtained in 85% yield (Table).

With these results in hand, reactions were performed with various 2-nitrobenzamides **1** to explore the substrate scope with regard to two 2-formylbenzoic acid derivatives **2a** (R<sup>2</sup> = H) and **2b** (R<sup>2</sup> = MeO; Table). It should be noted that all the reactions reached completion within 8 h, furnishing the products **3a–3h** in very good yields.

The structures of compounds **3a–3h** were elucidated from their elemental analysis, mass, IR, and <sup>1</sup>H-, and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra.

The reaction proceeded in two steps, first the reduction of the NO<sub>2</sub> group of **1** and then ring closure by nucleophilic addition of the NH<sub>2</sub> group to both the CHO and COOH groups of **2**.

In conclusion, we developed the direct preparation of isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione derivatives **3** in a one-pot reductive reaction of *N*-substituted 2-nitrobenzamides **1** and 2-formylbenzoic acids **2**. Availability of the starting materials, one-pot procedure, and high yield provide a very useful route to construct differently substituted isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-diones.

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### Experimental Part

*General.* M.p.: Kofler hot-stage apparatus; uncorrected. IR Spectra: Shimadzu-470 spectrophotometer; in KBr;  $\tilde{\nu}$  in cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectra: Bruker FT-500; CDCl<sub>3</sub> solns.;  $\delta$  in ppm rel. to Me<sub>4</sub>Si as internal standard, *J* in Hz. MS: Agilent-Technology (HP) mass spectrometer, ionization potential 70 eV; in *m/z*. Elemental analysis: VarioEL CHNS mode (Elementar Analysensystem GmbH).

*Isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione Derivatives 3: Typical Procedure.* A soln. of 2-nitrobenzamide **1** (1 mmol), 2-formylbenzoic acid **2** (1 mmol), and SnCl<sub>2</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O (4 mmol) in EtOH (8 ml) was stirred under reflux for 8 h. The reaction was quenched with 3% HCl soln. (15 ml) and the resulting mixture filtered. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from EtOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 4 : 1: pure **3**.

6-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-6,6a-dihydroisoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (**3a**) [18]. White crystals. M.p. 166–168°. IR: 1721, 1668, 1602, 1488. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.04–7.38 (*m*, 8 arom. H); 7.53 (*d*, *J* = 3.0, 1 H, fur);

Table. Synthesis of Isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione Derivatives **3**

R <sup>1</sup> in 2-Nitrobenzamide <b>1</b>	R <sup>2</sup>	Product		Yield [%] <sup>a)</sup>
	H		<b>3a</b> [18]	85
	H		<b>3b</b>	90
	MeO		<b>3c</b> [25]	80
	MeO		<b>3d</b>	80
	MeO		<b>3e</b>	80
	H		<b>3f</b> [14]	85
	MeO		<b>3g</b>	80
	H		<b>3h</b>	85

6.63 (s, CH); 6.32 (t,  $J = 3.0$ , 1 H, fur); 6.14 (d,  $J = 3.0$ , 1 H, fur); 5.11 (d,  $J = 16.8$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.76 (d,  $J = 16.8$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 164.3; 163.0; 150.4; 142.3; 138.1; 136.6; 133.6; 130.6; 128.6; 133.1; 126.1; 125.1; 124.2; 121.4; 119.9; 119.8; 110.5; 107.4; 70.2; 45.0. MS: 330 ( $M^+$ ), 249, 235, 207, 179. Anal. calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (330.34): C 72.72, H 4.27, N 8.48; found: C 72.52, H 4.39, N 8.37.

**6,6a-Dihydro-6-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3b)**: White crystals. M.p. 212–214°. IR: 1721, 1660, 1597. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.49–7.23 (m, 12 arom. H); 6.81 (s, CH); 5.26 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.90 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 164.3; 163.3; 156.7; 149.0; 138.1; 136.9; 136.8; 133.5; 132.8; 131.9; 130.5; 128.6; 125.9; 125.0; 124.1; 122.2; 121.2; 119.9; 119.8; 70.6; 47.5. MS: 341 ( $M^+$ ), 249, 207, 93. Anal. calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (341.36): C 73.89, H 4.43, N 12.31; found: C 73.67, H 4.61, N 12.50.

**6-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-6,6a-dihydro-9,10-dimethoxyisoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3c)** [25]: White crystals. M.p. 181–183°. IR: 1731, 1660, 1601. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.01–7.36 (m, 6 arom. H); 7.56 (d,  $J = 2.0$ , 1 H, fur); 6.46 (s, CH); 6.36 (dd,  $J = 3.0$ , 2.0, 1 H, fur); 6.17 (d,  $J = 3.0$ , 1 H, fur); 5.06 (d,  $J = 16.7$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.64 (d,  $J = 16.7$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.91 (s, MeO); 3.88 (s, MeO). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 162.9; 162.5; 153.8; 150.5; 147.1; 142.3; 136.7; 133.4; 130.3; 128.5; 124.9; 123.8; 121.6; 120.2; 120.0; 117.4; 110.6; 107.3; 69.0; 61.7; 56.4; 47.2. MS: 390 ( $M^+$ ), 295, 280, 252, 224. Anal. calc. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (390.39): C 67.69, H 4.65, N 7.18; found: C 67.50, H 4.75, N 7.35.

**6-Benzyl-6,6a-dihydro-9,10-dimethoxyisoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3d)**: White crystals. M.p. 197–200°. IR: 1709, 1655, 1601, 1491. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.05–7.07 (m, 11 arom. H); 6.54 (s, CH); 5.06 (d,  $J = 16.9$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.90 (d,  $J = 16.9$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.86 (s, MeO); 3.81 (s, MeO). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 163.2; 162.4; 153.6; 146.9; 137.3; 136.8; 133.3; 130.2; 128.6; 128.4; 126.6; 126.0; 125.0; 123.8; 121.5; 120.2; 120.1; 117.3; 69.1; 61.7; 56.3; 45.5. MS: 400 ( $M^+$ ), 296, 252, 224, 179, 152. Anal. calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (400.43): C 71.99, H 5.03, N 7.00; found: C 72.15, H 5.22, N 7.10.

**6-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-6,6a-dihydro-9,10-dimethoxyisoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3e)**: White crystals. M.p. 180–182°. IR: 1725, 1658, 1605, 1490. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.04–7.07 (m, 10 arom. H); 6.53 (s, CH); 4.97 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.86 (s, MeO); 3.82 (s, MeO). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 163.2; 162.4; 153.7; 147.0; 136.7; 133.5; 133.3; 131.1; 130.2; 128.6; 128.3; 127.9; 125.0; 123.7; 121.6; 120.2; 120.1; 117.3; 69.1; 61.7; 56.3; 45.0. MS: 434 ( $M^+$ ), 436 ( $[M + 2]^+$ ), 295, 280, 252, 125. Anal. calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (434.87): C 66.29, H 4.40, N 6.44; found: C 66.44, H 4.55, N 6.65.

**6-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-6,6a-dihydroisoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3f)** [14]: White crystals. M.p. 180–182°. IR: 1718, 1661, 1605, 1491. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.05–7.07 (m, 12 arom. H); 6.71 (s, CH); 5.08 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 5.01 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 164.3; 163.3; 137.9; 136.6; 136.5; 133.5; 132.9; 131.7; 131.1; 130.5; 128.6; 128.2; 127.8; 126.1; 125.1; 124.1; 119.9; 70.2; 45.1. MS: 374 ( $M^+$ ), 376 ( $[M + 2]^+$ ), 280, 235, 167, 149. Anal. calc. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (374.82): C 70.50, H 4.03, N 7.47; found: C 69.95, H 4.20, N 7.50.

**6,6a-Dihydro-9,10-dimethoxy-6-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3g)**: White crystals. M.p. 210–212°. IR: 1725, 1658, 1602, 1590. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.50–7.12 (m, 10 arom. H); 6.64 (s, CH); 5.22 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.82 (d,  $J = 17.2$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.82 (s, MeO); 3.89 (s, MeO). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 163.2; 162.5; 156.7; 153.7; 149.0; 147.0; 137.0; 136.9; 133.3; 130.3; 128.5; 124.9; 123.9; 122.2; 121.4; 121.3; 120.1; 117.2; 69.5; 61.7; 56.3; 47.2. MS: 401 ( $M^+$ ), 309, 225, 190, 69. Anal. calc. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (401.41): C 68.82, H 4.77, N 10.47; found: C 69.05, H 4.85, N 10.55.

**6-(2-Chlorobenzyl)-6,6a-dihydroisoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (3h)**: White crystals. M.p. 185–188°. IR: 1709, 1686, 1602, 1490. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: 8.23–7.05 (m, 12 arom. H); 6.37 (s, CH); 5.27 (d,  $J = 17.5$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 5.04 (d,  $J = 17.5$ , 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: 164.9; 164.2; 137.4; 137.0; 133.9; 133.6; 132.7; 132.4; 132.1; 130.6; 129.8; 129.5; 128.4; 127.2; 126.8; 125.4; 124.9; 124.8; 120.3; 120.0; 70.7; 44.7. MS: 374 ( $M^+$ ), 376 ( $[M + 2]^+$ ), 280, 235, 149. Anal. calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (374.82): C 70.50, H 4.03, N 7.47; found: C 70.77, H 4.32, N 6.60.

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