

Supporting Information

Thiamine hydrochloride as a recyclable organocatalyst for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes, tris(indolyl)methanes, 3,3-di(indol-3-yl)indolin-2-ones and biscoumarins

Sivagami Mathavan, Keerthana Kannan and Y.B.R.D. Rajesh*

Address: Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical and Biotechnology, SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur – 613 401, Tamil Nadu, India.

Email: Y.B.R.D. Rajesh* - ybrdrajesh@gmail.com

* Corresponding author

Contents	Page
1. General information.....	S2
2. General procedure for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes.....	S3
3. Characterization data of bis(indolyl)methane products.....	S7
4. Green chemistry matrices calculations for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes.....	S7
5. General procedure for the synthesis of 3,3-di(indol-3-yl)indolin-2-one derivatives.....	S9
6. Characterization data of 3,3-di(indol-3-yl)indolin-2-one derivatives.....	S9
7. General procedure for the synthesis of biscoumarin derivatives.....	S10
8. Characterization data of biscoumarin derivatives.....	S11
9. Green chemistry matrices calculations for the synthesis of biscoumarin derivatives.....	S13
9. References.....	S14
10. ¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR spectra of products	S15-S40

General Information

Reagents and all solvents were analytically pure grade and were used without further purification. All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar and Avra Synthesis, Pvt. Ltd. India and used as received. Melting points were recorded on a Fischer – John’s apparatus and are uncorrected. ^1H NMR spectra was recorded on Bruker 300 MHz spectrometer. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 75 MHz spectrometer. ^1H NMR chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ) downfield from tetramethylsilane (with the CHCl_3 peak around 7.26 ppm used as standard). ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ) downfield from tetramethylsilane (with the central peak of CHCl_3 around 77.2 ppm used as standard). All ^{13}C spectra were measured with complete proton decoupling. NMR coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz), and splitting patterns are indicated as follows: br, broad; s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, doublet of doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. Elemental analysis was performed on a PerkinElmer 2400 elemental analyser. Melting points were recorded using apparatus manufactured by GUNA enterprises, India in the open capillary tube and are uncorrected.

General procedure for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes:

Method A: A mixture of aldehyde (0.25 mmol), indole (0.5 mmol) and VB₁ (1 mg) in 1 mL water were taken in a 5 mL round-bottomed flask and the mixture was stirred for appropriate time at room temperature. After completion (monitored by TLC using a 3:7 mixture of EtOAc/n-hexane), 2 mL water was added and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over anhyd. Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was recrystallized from EtOH to get the pure product.

Method B: A mixture of aldehyde (0.25 mmol), indole (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) was stirred in a 5 mL round-bottomed flask at room temperature under solvent-free conditions for the appropriate time. After completion (monitored by TLC using a 3:7 mixture of EtOAc/n-hexane), EtOAc (2 x 3 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, triturated and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to get the crude product which was recrystallized from EtOH to get the pure product. The catalyst was collected from the residue and washed with EtOAc (5 mL), dried and used for the next cycle.

Method C: A mixture of aldehyde (0.25 mmol), indole (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) in a agate mortar were grinded without solvent at room temperature for 20-30 min. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC using a 3:7 mixture of EtOAc/n-hexane), water was added and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL), dried over anhyd. Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was recrystallized from EtOH to get the pure product.

Analytical Data for Products

Characterization data of bis(indolyl)methane Products

1. 3,3'-(Phenylmethylene)bis(1H-indole) (3a)^{II} Yield 96 %, 77.5 mg; pale pink solid; mp 91-93 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 2H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.30 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.2, 136.7, 128.8, 128.4, 127.1, 126.3, 123.8, 122.0, 120.0, 119.6, 119.3, 111.3, 40.3.

2. 3,3'-(4-Nitrophenyl)methylene)bis(1H(indole) (3b)^{II} Yield 86 %, 79.2 mg; yellow solid; mp 220-222 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃+DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.23 (br s, 2H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz,

DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.6, 146.2, 137.1, 129.9, 126.8, 124.4, 123.9, 121.60, 119.4, 118.9, 117.2, 112.1, 40.0.

3. 3,3'-(4-Chlorophenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole) (3c)^[1] Yield 90 %, 80.5 mg; white solid; mp 78-80 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (br s, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.86 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.6, 136.7, 131.8, 130.1, 128.4, 126.9, 123.6, 122.1, 119.8, 119.4, 119.2, 111.2, 39.6.

4. 3,3'-(4-Bromophenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole) (3d)^[1] Yield 84 %, 84.6 mg; pink solid; mp 112-114 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.3 Hz, 6H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 4H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 4.5 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.84 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.1, 136.7, 131.4, 130.6, 126.9, 123.8, 122.2, 120.0, 119.9, 119.4, 119.0, 111.3, 111.2, 39.7.

5. 3,3'-(4-Methoxyphenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole) (3e)^[1] Yield 86 %, 76.1 mg; orange solid; mp 191-192 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (s, 2H), 7.40 – 7.34 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.97 (m, 3H), 6.83 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.84 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 136.7, 136.2, 129.6, 127.1, 123.5, 121.9, 120.0, 112.0, 119.2, 113.6, 111.0, 55.2, 39.3.

6. 3,3'-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole) (3f)^[2] Yield 89 %, 91.8 mg; pale pink solid; mp 202-204 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.39 (s, 2H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.5, 140.7, 136.6, 135.7, 126.7, 123.5, 120.8, 119.1, 118.1, 118.1, 111.4, 105.9, 60.0, 55.8, 40.0.

7. 3,3'-(*o*-Tolyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole) (3g) Yield 89 %, 75.1 mg; white colour solid; mp 161-163 °C ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.51 (d, *J* = 18.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.08 (m, 4H), 7.05 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 136.7, 136.0, 130.2, 127.20, 123.9, 121.9, 119.8, 119.2, 119.1, 111.0, 36.2, 19.5; Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₀N₂: C, 85.68; H, 5.99; N, 8.33. Found: C, 85.65; H, 5.93; N, 8.29.

8. 2-(Di(1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)phenol (3h)^[5] Yield 87 %, 73.7 mg; orange solid; mp > 300 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.19 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 6.4 Hz, 4H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.00 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.6, 136.0, 130.1, 128.8, 126.3, 125.9, 123.0, 120.0, 118.8, 117.7, 117.4, 114.5, 110.4, 31.6.

9. 4-(di(1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)benzonitrile (3i)^[4] Yield 85 %, 73.8 mg; pale pink solid; mp 201-203 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (br s, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.7, 136.7, 132.4, 129.4, 126.7, 123.7, 122.3, 119.9, 119.6, 119.2, 118.3, 111.3, 110.1, 40.4.

10. 3,3'-(2-nitrophenyl)methylene)bis(1*H*-indole) (3j)^[5] Yield 86 %, 79.2 mg; yellow colour solid; mp 136-138 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃+ DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.83 (s, 2H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.8, 146.6, 136.7, 129.5, 126.7, 123.7, 122.4, 119.64, 119.58, 118.2, 111.3, 40.2.

11. 3-(di(1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)-4-nitrophenol (3k) Yield 87 %, 83.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (br s, 2H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (br s, 1H), 6.78 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.1, 145.5, 136.8, 133.9, 126.9, 123.8, 122.2, 119.8, 119.5, 118.8, 117.9, 117.8, 115.2, 111.2, 39.8; Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇N₃O₃: C, 72.05; H, 4.47; N, 10.96. Found: C, 72.09; H, 4.52; N, 10.98.

12. 3,3'-(pyridin-2-yl)methylene)bis(1*H*-indole) (3l)^[2] Yield 84 %, 68.3 mg; brown solid; mp 185-187 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.36 (dt, *J* = 6.7, 5.5 Hz, 5H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9, 148.7, 136.4, 126.7, 123.6, 122.5, 121.2, 120.9, 118.9, 118.2, 116.9, 111.4, 42.6.

13. 3,3'-(thiophen-2-yl)methylene)bis(1*H*-indole) (3m)^[3] Yield 84 %, 69.1 mg; brown solid; mp 187-189 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (br s, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 – 6.88 (m, 2H),

6.84 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.16 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.0, 136.9, 126.8, 125.1, 124.2, 123.7, 121.4, 119.6, 118.7, 118.6, 111.9, 35.3.

14. tri(1H-indol-3-yl)methane (3n)^[4] Yield 80 %, 72.4 mg; white solid; mp 163-165 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 9.43 (br s, 3H), 7.46 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 3H), 7.08 (app t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H), 6.91 (app t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H), 6.80 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 3H), 6.12 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 137.0, 127.2, 123.7, 121.1, 119.7, 118.7, 118.4, 111.8.

15. 3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(5-methoxy-1H-indole) (3o)^[4] Yield 89 %, 85.3 mg; pink solid; mp 220-222 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (br s, 2H), 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 6.84 – 6.78 (m, 4H), 6.66 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 3.69 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.7, 143.9, 131.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.5, 126.1, 124.4, 119.3, 111.9, 111.7, 102.0, 55.9, 40.3.

16. 3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(5-bromo-1H-indole) (3p)^[3] Yield 86 %, 103.4 mg; red solid; mp 243-245 °C ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (br s, 2H), 7.47 (s, 2H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.25 - 7.23 (m, 4H), 6.65 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.76 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.8, 135.7, 128.8, 128.7, 126.5, 125.7, 123.9, 121.6, 118.1, 114.0, 111.4.

17. 3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(2-methyl-1H-indole) (3q)^[8] Yield 82 %, 71.9 mg; pink solid; mp 252-254 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 9.07 (br s, 2H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 7H), 7.00 – 6.92 (m, 4H), 6.78 (dd, $J = 11.0, 3.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 2.07 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.7, 135.0, 131.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.1, 126.0, 120.6, 119.4, 119.1, 113.4, 110.0, 39.2, 12.5.

18. 3,3'-(Phenylmethylene)bis(1-ethyl-1H-indole) (3r)^[4] Yield 90 %, 85.3 mg; white solid; mp 160-162 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38 – 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.97 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.58 (s, 2H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 4.06 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.4, 136.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.6, 125.9, 121.1, 120.2, 118.5, 118.2, 109.1, 40.8, 40.2, 15.5.

19. Di(1H-indol-3-yl)methane (3s)^[4] Yield 87%, 81 mg; white solid; mp 159-161 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.79 (br s, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.13 (dd, $J = 11.1, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (dd, $J = 10.9, 3.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 135.9, 126.7, 121.8, 120.4, 118.1, 117.7, 114.1, 110.6, 20.5.

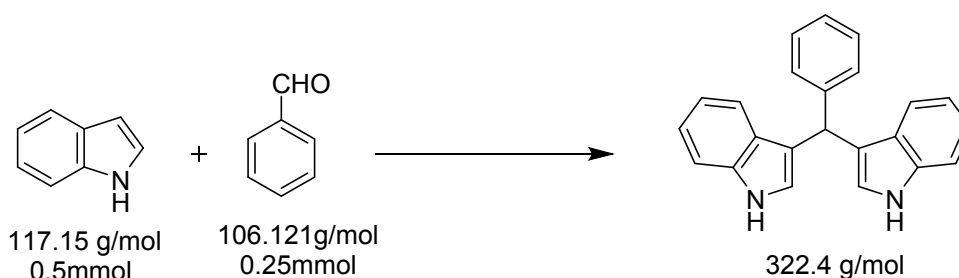
20. 3,3'-(ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole)(3t)^[4] Yield 78%, 101.4 mg; colourless oil; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (br s, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.6, 126.9, 121.7, 121.2, 119.7, 119.0, 111.0, 28.1, 21.7.

21. 1,4-bis(di(1H-indol-3-yl)methyl)benzene(3u)^[6] Yield 87%, 81 mg; red solid; mp 192-193 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 7.19 (s, 4H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 3.9 Hz, 4H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 4H), 5.72 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.5, 136.5, 128.5, 126.9, 123.7, 121.7, 119.9, 119.3, 118.9, 111.2, 39.9.

Green chemistry matrices calculations: Green chemistry matrix has been calculated based on the following parameters.

- 1) E-factor or environmental factor
- 2) Atom economy (AE)
- 3) Product mass intensity (PMI)
- 4) Reaction mass efficiency (RME)

Green chemistry matrices calculations for the synthesis of bis(indolyl)methanes



E-factor or environmental factor: E-factor is defined as the ratio of the mass of waste per mass of the product.

$$\text{E-factor} = [\text{mass of waste}] / \text{mass of product}$$

Where mass of waste = total mass of raw materials minus the total mass of product

$$E - factor = \frac{(117.15 \text{ mg} \times 0.5) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25) - 77.5 \text{ mg}}{77.5 \text{ mg}}$$

$$= 0.098 \text{ (Ideal value of E-factor is considered zero)}$$

Atom economy (AE): AE of a chemical reaction is a measure of the efficiency of that reaction with regard to how many atoms from the starting materials reside within the product. The ideal value of AE factor is 100% (i.e., all atoms from the starting materials reside in the product).

$$AE = \text{MW of product} \div \Sigma(\text{MW of stoichiometric reactants}) \times 100$$

$$Atom \text{ economy} = \frac{322.4}{117.15 \times 2 + 106.121}$$

$$= 0.947 \times 100$$

$$= 94.7 \%$$

Product mass intensity (PMI): PMI is defined as the total mass used in a chemical process divided by the mass of product.

$$PMI = \Sigma(\text{mass of stoichiometric reactants} + \text{solvent}) / \text{mass of product}$$

$$PMI = \frac{(117.15 \text{ mg} \times 0.5) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25)}{77.5 \text{ mg}}$$

$$= 1.098$$

$$\text{(OR) ideal value for PMI} = E\text{-factor} + 1$$

$$\text{Hence PMI} = 0.098 + 1 = 1.098$$

Reaction mass efficiency (RME): Reaction mass efficiency is defined as the mass of product divided by the sum of total mass of stoichiometric reactants. The value of RME varies from 0-100%. The larger number of RME is considered as better as it is the measure of “cleanness” of the reaction.

$$RME = \text{mass of product} / \Sigma(\text{mass of stoichiometric reactants}) \times 100$$

$$RME = \frac{77.5 \text{ mg}}{(117.15 \text{ mg} \times 0.5 \text{ mg}) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25)}$$

$$= 0.9106 \times 100$$

$$= 91.0 \%$$

General procedure for the synthesis of 3,3-di(indol-3-yl)indolin-2-one derivatives:

Method A: A mixture of isatin (0.25 mmol), indole (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) in 1 mL water were taken in a 5 mL round-bottomed flask and the mixture was stirred for the appropriate time at room temperature. After completion, the precipitated product was filtered, washed with water (1 mL) and dried to get the pure product. The obtained solid was found to be pure enough for further characterization.

Method B: A mixture of isatin (0.25 mmol), indole (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) was stirred in a 5 mL round-bottomed flask at room temperature under solvent-free conditions for the appropriate time. After completion, (monitored by TLC using a 3:7 mixture of EtOAc/n-hexane), EtOAc (2 x 3 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, triturated and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to get the crude product. The catalyst was collected from the residue, and washed with EtOAc (5 mL), dried and used for the next cycle.

Characterization data of 3,3-di(indol-3-yl)indolin-2-one derivatives

1. 3,3'-(cyclohexane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole) (5a)^[4] Yield 75 %, 59.0 mg; white colour solid; mp 278-280 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (br s, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.03 (m, 4H), 6.88 (app t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.55 – 2.52 (m, 4H), 1.65 – 1.57 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 131.1, 126.5, 123.4, 121.3, 121.1, 120.9, 118.5, 110.1, 38.6, 29.6, 23.9.

2. 1H,1''H-[3,3':3',3''-terindol]-2'(1'H)-one (5b)^[7] Yield 90 %, 81.7 mg; white colour solid; mp > 300 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.97 (s, 2H), 10.61 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.96-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.93 - 6.89 (m, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 179.6, 141.3, 136.8, 134.5, 127.7, 125.6, 124.8, 124.2, 121.4, 120.8, 120.7, 118.1, 114.2, 111.5, 109.5, 52.5.

3. 5,5''-dimethoxy-[3,3':3',3''-terindolin]-2'-one (5c) Yield 88 %, 93.3 mg; white colour solid; mp 280-282 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-*d*₆) 9.99 (br s, 1H), 9.90 (br s, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.02 – 6.89 (m, 4H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.72 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 179.0, 152.1, 140.5, 134.0, 131.6, 126.9, 125.6, 124.6, 124.4, 120.9, 113.2, 111.2, 110.2, 108.9, 102.6, 54.7, 54.3. Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₃O₃: C, 73.74; H, 5.00; N, 9.92. Found: C, 73.69; H, 4.95; N, 9.84.

4. 5,5''-dibromo-1H,1''H-[3,3':3',3''-terindol]-2'(1'H)-one (5d)^[7] Yield 85 %, 110.6 mg; pale brown colour solid; mp 285-287 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.29 (br s, 2H), 10.80 (s, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.4 Hz, 4H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 179.5, 142.2, 137.8, 136.6, 135, 128.9, 128.4, 126.7, 126.4, 125.8, 125.2, 124.4, 124.2, 122.5, 121.9, 121.1, 119.3, 115, 114.9, 114.6, 112.6, 111.8, 110.6, 53.3.

5. 2,2''-dimethyl-[3,3':3',3''-terindolin]-2'-one (5e)^[7] Yield 82 %, 80.3 mg; white colour solid; mp >300 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.25 (br s, 2H), 10.15 (s, 1H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 6.97 – 6.81 (m, 5H), 6.65 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 179.2, 140.2, 134.9, 134.3, 134.2, 133.6, 131.1, 126.7, 119.0, 118.8, 117.2, 109.9, 109.4, 108.7, 52.0, 12.6, 12.4.

6. 1,1''-diethyl-1H,1''H-[3,3':3',3''-terindol]-2'(1'H)-one (5f) Yield 86 %, 90.4 mg; white colour solid; mp 273-275 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.36 (br s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 178.0, 140.1, 139.2, 135.3, 134.8, 133.4, 126.2, 125.5, 123.7, 120.6, 120.0, 117.3, 112.7, 108.3, 108.1, 51.6, 28.2, 14.2, 14.7; Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₅N₃O: C, 80.16; H, 6.01; N, 10.02. Found: C, 80.21; H, 6.14; N, 10.11.

General procedure for the synthesis of biscoumarin derivatives:

Method A: A mixture of aldehyde (0.25 mmol), 4-hydroxy coumarin (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) in 1 mL water were taken in a 5 mL round-bottomed flask and the mixture was stirred for the appropriate time at room temperature. After completion, the precipitated product was filtered, washed with water (1 mL) and dried to get the pure product. The obtained solid was found to be pure enough for further characterization.

Method B: A mixture of aldehyde (0.25 mmol), 4-hydroxy coumarin (0.5 mmol), and VB₁ (1 mg) were stirred in 5 mL round-bottomed flask at room temperature under solvent-free conditions for the appropriate time. After completion, (monitored by TLC using a 3:7 mixture of EtOAc/n-hexane), EtOAc (2 x 3 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, triturated and

filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to get the pure product. The catalyst was collected from the residue and washed with EtOAc (5 mL), dried and used for the next cycle.

Characteristic data of biscoumarin Products

1. 3,3'-((Phenylmethylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7a)^[8] Yield 95 %, 98.1 mg; white colour solid; mp 230-232 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.53 (s, 1H), 11.31 (br s, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (td, *J* = 8.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 6.11 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.70, 136.96, 132.83, 128.60, 127.99, 127.66, 127.55, 127.24, 124.88, 124.39, 116.63, 114.95, 109.10, 70.08, 35.54.

2. 3,3'-((4-Nitrophenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7b)^[8] Yield 94 %, 107.5 mg; white colour solid; mp 229-231 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.57 (s, 1H), 11.38 (br s, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (app t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 6H), 6.13 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 167.0, 166.4, 164.8, 152.6, 152.3, 146.9, 143.3, 133.8, 127.5, 125.1, 123.9, 116.8, 116.6, 104.7, 104.2, 36.5.

3. 3,3'-((4-Chlorophenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7c)^[3] Yield 90 %, 105.3 mg; pale pink solid; mp 250-252 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.55 (s, 1H), 11.32 (br s, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 22.3, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.18, 154.35, 142.86, 132.08, 130.99, 130.05, 127.15, 126.79, 126.45, 125.34, 125.76, 112.01, 110.24, 100.60, 100.60, 88.42, 18.32.

4. 3,3'-((4-Bromophenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7d)^[8] Yield 90 %, 110.7 mg; white solid; mp 262-264 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.55 (br s, 1H), 11.36 (br, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (app t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.40 (m, 6H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 166.8, 166.0, 164.4, 152.5, 152.3, 134.4, 133.0, 131.7, 128.3, 125.0, 124.4, 120.8, 116.7, 105.2, 103.6, 35.8.

5. 3,3'-((3-Fluorophenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7e) Yield 82 %, 88.4 mg; pale pink solid; mp 184-186 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.60 (s, 1H), 11.31 (br s,

1H), 8.02 (dd, $J = 11.4, 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.92 (m, 3H), 6.07 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 166.8, 166.0, 164.7, 161.5, 152.5, 152.2, 138.1, 133.0, 130.1, 125.00, 124.4, 122.1, 116.7, 116.3, 113.8, 105.2, 103.5, 36.1; Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_6$: C, 69.77; H, 3.51. Found: C, 69.84; H, 3.58.

6. 3,3'-((4-Methoxyphenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7f)^[8] Yield 89 %, 98.4 mg; white solid; mp 243-245 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.51 (s, 1H), 11.31 (br, 1H), 8.05 – 8.00 (br m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 4H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.3, 166.8, 165.7, 164.5, 158.4, 132.8, 127.6, 126.9, 124.8, 124.3, 116.6, 114.0, 105.7, 104.2, 55.2, 35.5.

7. 3,3'-((o-Tolyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7g)^[8] Yield 85 %, 90.7 mg; white solid; mp 217-219 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.45 (s, 2H), 8.04 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.62 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9, 166.6, 164.7, 152.3, 136.1, 133.8, 132.8, 131.8, 127.4, 127.2, 126.0, 124.8, 124.4, 116.5, 106.3, 104.8, 35.6, 21.0.

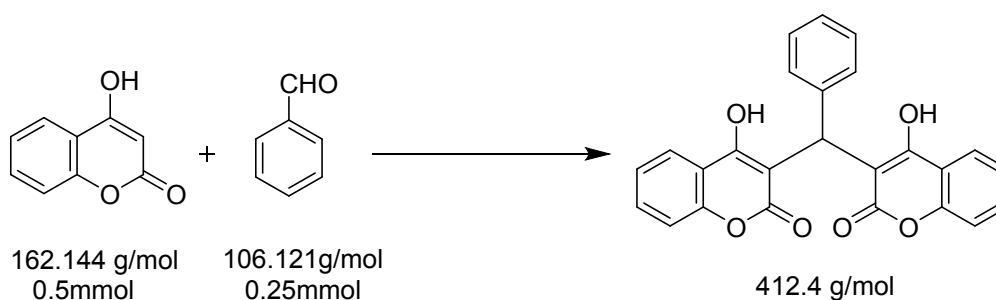
8. 3,3'-((3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7h) Yield 88 %, 110.6 mg; white solid; mp 219-220 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.56 (br s, 1H), 11.30 (br s, 1H), 8.07 (br m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 4H), 6.42 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.3, 166.8, 165.6, 164.2, 153.3, 137.2, 132.9, 130.9, 124.9, 124.3, 116.7, 104.2, 60.9, 56.3, 36.2; Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_9$: C, 66.93; H, 4.41. Found: C, 66.99; H, 4.52.

9. 4-(bis(4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)methyl)benzonitrile (7i)^[10] Yield 88 %, 96.2 mg; white solid; mp 239-240 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 11.66 (br s, 2H), 8.07 (app d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 6.32 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 169.0, 167.3, 164.7, 152.6, 148.4, 132.3, 131.9, 128.3, 124.5, 123.7, 119.6, 119.3, 116.4, 108.3, 103.4, 37.5.

10. 3,3'-((Pyridine-2-yl)methylene)bis(4-hydroxy-2H-chromen-2-one) (7j) Yield 84 %, 86.8 mg; white solid; mp 209-211 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.43 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (br m, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (br m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 6H), 7.38 – 7.22 (s, 3H), 6.74 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 168.8,

164.4, 153.2, 132.1, 124.7, 123.7, 119.8, 116.2, 101.3, 37.4. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₁₅NO₆: C, 69.73; H, 3.66; N, 3.39. Found: C, 69.76; H, 3.73; N, 3.46.

Green chemistry matrices calculations for the synthesis of biscoumarins



E-factor or environmental factor

E-factor = [mass of waste]/ mass of product

Where mass of waste = total mass of raw materials minus the total mass of product

$$E - factor = \frac{(162.144 \text{ mg} \times 0.5) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25) - 98.1 \text{ mg}}{98.1 \text{ mg}}$$

$$= 0.0968$$

Atom economy (AE)

AE = MW of product ÷ Σ(MW of stoichiometric reactants) × 100

$$Atom \text{ economy} = \frac{412.4}{162.144 \times 2 + 106.121}$$

$$= 0.958 \times 100$$

$$= 95.8 \%$$

Product mass intensity (PMI)

PMI = Σ(mass of stoichiometric reactants + solvent) / mass of product

$$PMI = \frac{(162.144 \text{ mg} \times 0.5) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25)}{98.1 \text{ mg}}$$

$$= 1.096$$

Reaction mass efficiency (RME)

$$\text{RME} = \text{mass of product} / \Sigma(\text{mass of stoichiometric reactants}) \times 100$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RME} &= \frac{98.1 \text{ mg}}{(162.144 \text{ mg} \times 0.5) + (106.121 \text{ mg} \times 0.25)} \\ &= 0.911 \times 100 \\ &= 91.1 \% \end{aligned}$$

References:

1. Z. Wu, G. Wang, S. Yuan, D. Wu, W. Liu, B. Ma, S. Bi, H. Zhan, X. Chen, *Green Chem.*, 2019, **21**, 3542.
2. P. N. de Azevedo, L. S. Behenck, J. S. B. Forero, J. A. H. Muñoz, E. M. de Cavalho, J. J. Junior, and F. M. da Silva, *Current Organic Synthesis*, 2014, **11**, 605.
3. N. V. T. S. M. Gorantla, P. G. Reddy, S. M. A. Shakoor, R. Mandal, S. Roy and K. C. Mondal, *ChemistrySelect* 2019, **4**, 7722.
4. A. Bahuguna, S. Kumar, V. Sharma, K. L. Reddy, K. Bhattacharyya, P. C. Ravikumar and V. Krishnan, *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* 2017, **5**, 8551.
5. V. P. Jejurkar, C. K. Khatri, G. U. Chaturbhuji and S. Saha, *ChemistrySelect* 2017, **2**, 11693.
6. H. Veisi, B. Maleki, F. H. Eshbala, H. Veisi, R. Masti, S. S. Ashrafi, M. Baghayeri, *RSC Adv.*, 2014, **4**, 30683.
7. K. Rad-Moghadam, M. Sharifi-Kiasaraie, H. Taheri-Amlashi, *Tetrahedron* 2010, **66**, 2316.
8. F. Shirini, A. Fallah-Shojaei, L. Samavi and M. Abedini, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**, 48469.
9. X. Wang, C. C. Aldrich, *PLoS ONE* 2019, **14**, e0216008.
10. K. Tabatabaeian, H. Heidari, A. Khorshidi, M. Mamaghani, N. O. Mahmoodi, *J. Serb. Chem. Soc.* 2012, **77**, 407.

