Synthesis of 7-hydroxy-6*H*-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one via

TsOH-Mediated Tandem reaction

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General information

Chemical reagents. Unless otherwise noted, materials and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and without further purification. *p*-Toluenesulfonic acid (TsOH) and 2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (Meldrum's acid) were purchased from Innochem. CDCl₃ and TFA-*d* were purchased from J&K and Cambridge Isotope Laboratories.

Instrumentation. NMR data were obtained on Bruker 400 M and JEOL 400 M nuclear resonance spectrometers. CDCl₃ as the deuterium solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard were employed. TFA-*d* was used as co-solvent when the compound is difficult to be dissolved by CDCl₃. The data of ¹H NMR was reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. Chemical shifts for ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in ppm from TMS using the central peak of CDCl₃ (77.0 ppm) as the internal standard. Column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel with the indicated solvent system according to standard techniques. HRMS (ACPI) analysis was performed on the Bruker MAXIS mass spectrometer.

Optimization of reaction conditions

| \uparrow° | ОН | + | catalyst | | ОООН |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------|-----------------------|
| | | | solvent, Temp. | | |
| | 1a | 2 | | 3 | a 📎 |
| Entry | Meldrum's acid 2 (x equiv) | catalyst | solvent | Temp. (°C) | Yield ^b |
| 1 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 17% |
| 2 | 2.0 | Yb(OTf) ₃ (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 10% |
| 3 | 2.0 | MsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | ND |
| 4 | 2.0 | H ₂ SO ₄ (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | ND |
| 5 | 2.0 | TFA (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | NR |
| 6 | 2.0 | FeCl ₃ (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | NR |
| 7 | 2.0 | AICI ₃ (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | ND |
| 8 | 2.0 | TsOH (10 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 6% |
| 9 | 2.0 | TsOH (30 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 15% |
| 10 | 2.0 | TsOH (50 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 16% |
| 11 | 2.0 | TsOH (1.0 eq) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | NR |
| 12 | 1.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 9% |
| 13 | 3.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 18% |
| 14 | 4.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene | 150 | 15% |
| 15 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | toluene | 150 | 21% |
| 16 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | PhCF ₃ | 150 | 7% |
| 17 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | mesitylene | 150 | mess |
| 18 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | PhCl | 150 | 14% |
| 19 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | DMF | 150 | NR |
| 20 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | 1,4-dioxane | 150 | NR |
| 21 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | DCE | 150 | NR |
| 22 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 150 | 31% |
| 23 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 170 | 17% |
| 24 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 120 | trace |
| 25 | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 100 | NR |
| 26 ^c | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 150 | 63% |
| 27 ^d | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 150 | 72% ^c |
| 28 ^e | 2.0 | TsOH (20 mol%) | <i>p</i> -xylene/toluene (1/1, v/v) | 150 | 73%(70%) ^f |

Table S1. Optimization of reaction conditions^a

^a The reactions were carried out on a 1.0 mmol scale of **1a**. ^b The yields were determined by ¹H NMR analysis with dibromomethane and 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as the internal standard. ^c Another batch of TsOH (20 mmol%) and meldrum's acid (2.0 equiv.) was added when the reaction have been stirred for 1h. ^d The third batch of TsOH (20 mmol%) and meldrum's acid (2.0 equiv.) was added when the reaction have been stirred for 2h. ^e The third batch of TsOH (10 mmol%) and meldrum's acid (1.0 equiv.) was added when the reaction have been stirred for 2h. ^f Isolated yield. ND: no detected product.

Preparation and characterization of reaction substrates

All substrates were prepared according to literature's method. General procedure is illustrated as follows.

Method A: Fries rearrangement



To a solution of the carboxylic acid **S1** (20 mmol) in DCM (0.3M) was added oxalyl chloride (2.79 g, 22 mmol) dropwise. DMF (3 drops) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature until no more gas bubbles were observed (within 3-4 h). The crude acid chloride was obtained by removing the solvent under reduced pressure, which was used for the next step without further purification.^[1]

The crude acid chloride was added to a solution of phenol (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) dissolved in 10% aq. NaOH (10 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction finished (ca. 2 h), 50 mL EtOAc was added, and the mixture was washed by 10% aq. NaOH (20 mL) twice to remove the residual phenol and carboxylic acid. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and filtered. The organic solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the ester product S2, which was usually pure and used without further purification.^[2]

To the solvent of ester compound **S2** (10 mmol) in chlorobenzene (3.0 M) was added $AlCl_3$ (1.87 g, 14 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for about 3 h. Then the reaction was poured into ice water, and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residual was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give compound **1**.^[3]

1-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1b)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.22 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, J = 8.6, 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.91, 162.94, 136.58, 133.95, 130.44, 129.46, 128.81, 127.23, 119.08, 119.02, 118.70, 45.17.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.04 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.73, 160.84, 137.67, 134.04, 130.06, 129.51, 128.77, 128.09, 127.18, 118.76, 118.44, 45.03, 20.62.



1-(2-hydroxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1d)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.25 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26 (M, 3H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.28, 163.09, 148.27, 134.23, 130.35, 129.43, 128.78, 127.15, 120.35, 118.67, 116.91, 45.04, 21.98.



1-(2-hydroxy-4,6-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1e)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.93 (s, 1H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.57, 162.76, 145.94, 138.87, 134.54, 129.68, 128.69, 127.12, 124.83, 119.83, 116.71, 50.51, 24.54, 21.68.



1-(2-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1f)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.39 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.97, 159.38, 138.59, 134.29, 129.53, 128.75, 127.57, 127.41, 127.28, 127.12, 118.08, 45.08, 20.63, 15.51.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(o-tolyl)ethan-1-one (10)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.03 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.70, 160.64, 137.76, 137.07, 132.86, 130.49, 129.75, 128.24, 127.66, 126.31, 119.00, 118.56, 43.05, 20.73, 19.88.

1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (1p)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.07 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.06, 160.87, 137.69, 136.92, 130.96, 130.14, 129.57, 129.45, 128.13, 118.81, 118.48, 44.73, 21.21, 20.72.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(m-tolyl)ethan-1-one (1q)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.07 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.99, 160.88, 138.54, 137.74, 133.97, 130.30, 130.17, 128.74, 128.16, 128.05, 126.62, 118.84, 118.49, 45.05, 21.53, 20.73.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (1r)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.98 (s, 1H), 7.94 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.86 – 7.77 (m, 3H), 7.56 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.73, 160.77, 137.89, 133.94, 132.28, 130.79, 129.83, 129.03, 128.33, 128.28, 128.27, 126.54, 125.96, 125.58, 123.78, 118.95, 118.64, 42.66, 20.74.



2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)ethan-1-one (1s)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.95 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.21, 160.87, 137.96, 133.26, 132.45, 131.01, 129.89, 128.98, 128.30, 118.61, 44.33, 20.72.

The preparation for compound 1g, 1j, 1m and 1n followed the Method A except the rearrangement of

the ester. The procedure of rearrangement was described as follows:^[4]



The methanesulfonic anhydride (175 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added to methanesulfonic acid (6.0 mL, ca. 0.83 M vs S2), and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 1 h. To the $(MeSO_2)_2O/MeSO_3H$ solution was added the ester (S2, 5.0 mmol) under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 24 h. Then the reaction was poured into ice water, and extracted with EtOAc three times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residual was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give compound **1**.



1-(4-(tert-butyl)-2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1g)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.22 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.23, 163.00, 161.27, 134.25, 130.20, 129.50, 128.86, 127.22, 116.87, 116.83, 115.37, 45.14, 35.44, 30.84.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1j)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.82 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.10 (dd, J = 9.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.50, 157.39, 151.75, 134.02, 129.49, 128.94, 127.35, 124.49, 119.59, 118.54, 113.12, 56.03, 45.57.



1-(4-bromo-2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1m)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.31 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.51, 163.41, 133.60, 131.44, 131.07, 129.44, 128.99, 127.47, 122.67, 121.96, 117.95, 45.40.



1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (1n)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.09 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.20, 160.87, 158.80, 137.71, 130.64, 130.13, 128.16, 125.99, 118.77, 118.48, 114.30, 55.36, 44.22, 20.73.

Method B: Alkaline hydrolysis of isoflavone.^[5]



To a solution of isoflavone S3 (5 mmol) in MeOH (20mL) was added 10% aq. NaOH (10 mL). The mixture was stirred at 60 $^{\circ}$ C for about 3 h, at this time TLC indicated completion. After reaction was cooled to room temperature, the organic solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The residue was dissolved in 30 mL EtOAc, and the solvent was acidified with 10% aq. HCl (ca. 15 mL). The organic and aqueous layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc twice. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent removed under reduced pressure and the residual was further purified by a short flash column chromatography to give compound **1**.

O OH

1-(2-hydroxy-4-isopropoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1a)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.71 (s, 1H), 7.77 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.40 (m, 2H), 4.58 (hept, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.89, 165.93, 164.83, 134.57, 132.23, 129.44, 128.83, 127.16, 112.91, 109.01, 102.21, 70.51, 44.87, 21.94.



1-(2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1h)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.20 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.03, 167.16, 164.51, 141.38, 134.69, 129.68, 128.65, 127.08, 115.33, 112.24, 99.26, 55.49, 50.06, 25.39.



1-(2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1i)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.72 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.47 – 6.38 (m, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.06, 166.27, 165.96, 134.48, 132.15, 129.44, 128.85, 127.18, 113.25, 107.95, 101.10, 55.69, 44.95.

1-(4-fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1k)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.54 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.72 – 6.53 (m, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H).

 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -98.85.

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.74 (s), 167.47 (d, J = 257.2 Hz), 165.54 (d, J = 14.3 Hz), 133.74 (s), 132.82 (d, J = 11.8 Hz), 129.35 (s), 128.88 (s), 127.33 (s), 116.19 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 107.35 (d, J = 22.9 Hz), 105.20 (d, J = 23.6 Hz), 45.28 (s).



1-(4-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.35 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, J = 8.0, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.29, 163.66, 142.41, 133.66, 131.51, 129.44, 128.98, 127.46, 119.81, 118.81, 117.67, 45.39.

General procedure for TsOH-mediated tandem reaction



To a 25 mL round-bottomed flask with a condenser pipe was added 1-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylethanone **1** (1.0 mmol), meldrum's acid **2** (288 mg, 2.0 mmol), TsOH (35 mg, 20 mol%), followed by the solvent of toluene (5.0 mL) and *p*-xylene (5.0 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at 150 °C for 1 h. Then, another batch of meldrum's acid **2** (288 mg,

2.0 mmol) and TsOH (35 mg, 20 mol%) was added to the above mixture. The reaction was stirred at 150 $^{\circ}$ C for another one hour. At the end, the third batch of meldrum's acid **2**(144 mg, 1.0 mmol) and TsOH (18 mg, 10 mol%) was added to the reaction, and the reaction was stirred another 1.5 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and then concentrated. The crude product was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give desired product **3**.



7-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3a)

Yellow solid. m.p. 156.2-157.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.55 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.82, 162.60, 159.60, 151.30, 137.84, 130.65, 129.07, 127.57, 125.44, 124.20, 124.15, 122.99, 114.23, 111.36, 109.32, 103.24, 99.59, 70.58, 21.91. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇O₄ [M + H]⁺ 321.1121; found 321.1132.



7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3b)

Yellow solid. m.p. 202.8-203.9 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.54 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.47, 162.51, 150.09, 137.46, 130.69, 130.04, 128.50, 127.77, 125.97, 125.08, 124.09, 123.52, 123.11, 118.73, 117.72, 110.55, 99.94. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₁O₃ [M + H]⁺263.0703; found 263.0705.



7-hydroxy-2-methyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3c)

Yellow solid. m.p. 213.0-213.7 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.62 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.67, 162.55, 148.20, 137.50, 134.72, 130.95, 130.64, 128.67, 127.76, 125.88, 124.12, 123.51, 123.11, 118.29, 117.43, 110.40, 100.04, 21.13. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃O₃ [M + H]⁺ 277.0859; found 277.0863.



7-hydroxy-3-methyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3d)

Yellow solid. m.p. 188.3-189.4 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.57 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.71, 162.50, 150.03, 140.86, 137.60, 130.61, 128.79, 127.69, 126.18, 125.71, 124.10, 123.32, 122.87, 117.81, 116.03, 110.03, 99.92, 21.34. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃O₃ [M + H]⁺ 277.0859; found 277.0864.



7-hydroxy-1,3-dimethyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3e)

Yellow solid. m.p. 199.7-200.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.98 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.81, 162.66, 151.02, 139.39, 137.25, 136.39, 130.52, 130.48, 130.02, 128.23, 125.98, 123.84, 122.84, 116.26, 115.78, 115.41, 100.36, 25.65, 20.93. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 291.1016; found 291.1019.



7-hydroxy-2,4-dimethyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3f)

Yellow solid. m.p. 210.0-210.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.64 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 11.6, 4.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.60, 162.38, 146.53, 137.49, 133.99, 132.44, 130.49, 129.03, 127.73, 126.60, 125.70, 124.02, 123.31, 120.66, 117.92, 110.42, 99.95, 21.04, 15.78. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 291.1016; found 291.1020.



3-(tert-butyl)-7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3g)

Yellow solid. m.p. 148.0-148.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.61 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H),

7.37 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.82, 162.54, 154.36, 150.06, 137.64, 130.63, 128.79, 127.73, 125.76, 124.14, 123.41, 122.81, 122.54, 116.05, 114.55, 110.18, 100.04, 35.01, 31.12. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₁H₁₉O₃ [M + H]⁺ 319.1329; found 319.1342.



7-hydroxy-3-methoxy-1-methyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3h)

Yellow solid. m.p. 213.1-213.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 168.21, 162.83, 159.18, 151.67, 138.34, 137.77, 131.21, 129.71, 128.22, 126.19, 123.95, 122.29, 117.32, 115.40, 111.24, 100.07, 99.15, 55.64, 25.96. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₄ [M + H]⁺ 307.0965; found 307.0973.



7-hydroxy-3-methoxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3i)

Yellow solid. m.p. 191.1-191.7 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.53 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.73, 162.61, 161.19, 151.26, 137.82, 130.68, 128.95, 127.58, 125.50, 124.17, 124.14, 123.03, 112.88, 111.67, 109.40, 101.69, 99.56, 55.67. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃O₄ [M + H]⁺293.0808; found 293.0816.



7-hydroxy-2-methoxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3j)

Yellow solid. m.p. 214.3-215.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.28 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 168.07, 162.61, 156.61, 143.95, 137.66, 131.37, 127.97, 127.86, 126.48, 124.18, 123.34, 119.24, 118.76, 117.07, 111.13, 106.63, 98.93, 56.10. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃O₄ [M + H]⁺ 293.0808; found 293.0815.



3-fluoro-7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3k)

Yellow solid. m.p. 250.3-251.4 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 168.22, 163.27 (d, ¹ $J_{C-F} = 251.7$ Hz), 162.92, 150.04 (d, ³ $J_{C-F} = 12.2$ Hz), 137.99, 131.68, 127.77, 127.53, 126.52, 124.79 (d, ³ $J_{C-F} = 9.4$ Hz), 124.27, 123.22, 115.17, 113.74 (d, ² $J_{C-F} = 22.4$ Hz), 109.96, 105.16 (d, ² $J_{C-F} = 25.7$ Hz), 98.57. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -109.42. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₀FO₃ [M + H]⁺ 281.0608; found 281.0617.



3-chloro-7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3l)

Yellow solid. m.p. 228.0-228.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 167.84, 162.84, 149.49, 137.85, 135.83, 131.67, 127.86, 127.31, 126.69, 126.25, 124.26, 124.09, 123.37, 117.92, 117.26, 111.28, 98.66. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₀ClO₃ [M + H]⁺ 297.0313; found 297.0325.



3-bromo-7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3m)

Yellow solid. m.p. 214.9-215.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 167.54, 162.77, 149.51, 137.76, 131.64, 129.02, 127.87, 127.34, 126.70, 124.26, 124.23, 123.46, 123.40, 120.85, 117.66, 111.23, 98.73. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₀BrO₃ [M + H]⁺ 340.9808; found 340.9823.



7-hydroxy-9-methoxy-2-methyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3n)

Yellow solid. m.p. 217.4-218.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.52 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.11 (m,

2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.78, 160.86, 157.86, 147.94, 134.64, 132.93, 130.39, 129.34, 126.50, 124.44, 123.68, 122.82, 118.51, 117.33, 110.35, 101.61, 100.33, 55.53, 21.14. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₄ [M + H]⁺ 307.0965; found 307.0973.



7-hydroxy-2,11-dimethyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (30)

Yellow solid. m.p.190.1-191.4°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.47 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.51, 162.57, 148.10, 136.55, 134.64, 134.17, 131.21, 130.82, 128.09, 125.49, 123.48, 122.79, 122.12, 118.39, 117.34, 106.47, 99.63, 21.13, 19.67. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 291.1016; found 291.1026.



7-hydroxy-2,9-dimethyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3p)

Yellow solid. m.p. 193.9-194.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.54 (s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.73, 161.89, 148.05, 135.95, 135.69, 134.62, 132.87, 130.63, 127.71, 127.61, 123.52, 122.99, 122.91, 118.43, 117.35, 110.25, 100.00, 21.79, 21.14. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 291.1016; found 291.1026.



7-hydroxy-2,10-dimethyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3q')

Yellow solid. m.p. 194.5-194.9 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.61 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.84, 162.62, 148.31, 141.29, 137.98, 134.73, 130.95, 128.87, 128.29, 126.98, 124.07, 123.21, 121.75, 118.53, 117.54, 109.96, 99.60, 22.19, 21.27. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 291.1016; found 291.1026.



7-hydroxy-2-methyl-6H-phenanthro[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (3r)

Yellow solid. m.p. 228.4-229.7 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.23 (s, 1H), 8.50 – 8.45 (m, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.17, 161.15, 148.34, 135.80, 134.70, 133.77, 131.05, 129.75, 129.13, 128.79, 128.41, 126.85, 126.77, 123.52, 122.91, 121.16, 120.51, 118.30, 117.43, 105.22, 101.26, 21.17. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺327.1016; found 327.1027.



4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-6-methyl-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic acid (3s)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.5 Hz,1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.72, 164.17, 163.36, 150.87, 136.59, 136.19, 135.38, 132.81, 129.68, 129.14, 127.25, 119.52, 117.39, 113.67, 34.30, 21.40.

Gram-scale synthesis



To 100 mL round-bottomed flask with added a а condenser pipe was 1-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one 1p (4.5 mmol, 1.08 g), meldrum's acid 2 (9.0 mmol, 1.3 g), TsOH (20 mol%, 155 mg), followed by the solvent of toluene (22.5 mL) and p-xylene (22.5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at 150 °C for 1 h. Then, another batch of meldrum's acid 2 (9.0 mmol, 1.3 g) and TsOH (20 mol%, 155 mg) was added to the above mixture. The reaction was stirred at 150 °C for another one hour. At the end, the third batch of meldrum's acid 2 (4.5 mmol, 650 mg) and TsOH (10 mol%, 78 mg) was added to the reaction, and the reaction was stirred another 1.5 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and then concentrated. The crude product was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give desired

product **3p** (0.915 g, 70% isolated yield).

Mechanistic studies

Procedure for the synthesis of intermediate (4)



To a 25 mL tube were added 1-(2-hydroxy-4-isopropoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (**1a**, 1.35 g, 5.0 mmol), Diethyl malonate (2.4 g, 15 mmol), and DBU (76 mg, 0.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred at 150 $^{\circ}$ C for 5 h. And the crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give the desired product **S4** (0.89 g yellow oil, 48%).

Then the compound **S4** (0.73 g, 2.0 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (6.0 mL, 0.33 M), and 15% aq. NaOH (6.0 mL) was added to the reaction. The mixture was stirred at 100 $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h. After reaction was cooled to room temperature, the organic solvent was removed under reduce pressure. The residuewas dissolved in 20 mL EtOAc, and the solvent was acidified with 10% aq. HCl (ca. 10 mL). The organic and aqueous layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc twice. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residual was further purified by a short flash column chromatography to give compound **4** (0.53 g white solid, 78%).



ethyl 4-benzyl-7-isopropoxy-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylate (S4)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.16, 161.78, 158.54, 155.40, 151.80, 136.67, 128.89, 128.35, 127.56, 127.00, 119.02, 114.05, 111.37, 102.13, 70.83, 62.06, 35.73, 21.76, 14.05.



4-benzyl-7-isopropoxy-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic acid (4)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.21 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 4.71 – 4.59 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.60, 165.45, 164.03, 163.74, 155.01, 137.22, 129.42, 128.94, 128.37, 126.86, 116.08, 113.33, 109.68, 101.60, 71.67, 34.90, 21.80.

Transformation of the 7-hydroxy-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one



Procedure for the synthesis of 7-(phenylethynyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (10a-d)

Compound **3a** (0.5 mmol) and DIPEA (130 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in 4.0 mL DCM, and the solution of Tf_2O (212 mg, 1.5 equiv) in 1.0 mL DCM was added dropwise at 0 °C. Then the mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred 1 h. The crude product **5** was obtained by removing the solvent under reduced pressure, which was used for the next step without further purification.^[6]

The alkynylation of **5** followed reported literature.^[7] To a 50 mL tube containing **5** were added ethynyl arene (1.5 equiv), $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2(3 \text{ mol}\%)$, and CuI (6 mol%). The tube was filled with argon, then the Et₃N (10 mL) was added to the tube. The mixture was heated at 90 °C for 12 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and then concentrated. The crude product was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give desired product **6a-d**.

Procedure for the synthesis of 7-aryl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6e-i)



The compound **5** was prepared according to above procedure. The arylation of **5** followed reported literature.^[8] Then to a 50 mL tube containing **5** were added arylboronic acid (1.3 equiv), $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (3 mol%), and K_3PO_4 (1.6 equiv). The tube was filled with argon, then the 1,4-dioxane (5.0 mL) was added to the tube. The mixture was heated at 100 °C for 12 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and then concentrated. The crude product was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give desired product **6e-i**.

Procedure for the synthesis of 7-cyano-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6j)



The compound **5** was prepared according to above procedure. The cyanation of **5** followed reported literature.^[9] Then to a 50 mL tube containing **5** were added ZnCN_2 (2.0 mmol) and $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (5 mol%). The tube was filled with argon, and then the DMF (3.0 mL) was added to the tube. The mixture was heated at 100 °C for 12 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and then concentrated. The crude product was further purified by silica gel chromatography to give desired product **6**j.



3-isopropoxy-6-oxo-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-7-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (5)

m.p. 150.0-150.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.66 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 6.88 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (hept, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.38, 158.21, 151.87, 147.55, 137.25, 131.15, 130.54, 128.11, 128.02, 125.43, 124.23, 122.75, 119.84, 118.768 (d, J = 320.9 Hz), 114.31, 111.39, 109.58, 102.92, 70.74, 21.95. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -72.12. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₁H₁₆FO₆S [M + H]⁺ 453.0614; found 453.0612.



3-isopropoxy-7-(phenylethynyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6a)

m.p. 125.3-126.2 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.66 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 6.85 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 – 4.57 (m, 1H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.79, 159.59, 152.09, 135.31, 133.07, 132.22, 130.83, 129.45, 129.10, 128.50, 128.20, 127.94, 127.33, 126.10, 123.97, 123.44, 119.55, 119.25, 113.58, 110.62, 104.44, 102.85, 87.11, 70.50, 21.95.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₈H₂₁O₃ [M + H]⁺405.1485; found 405.1478.



3-isopropoxy-7-((4-cyanophenyl)ethynyl)- 6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6b)

m.p. 235.8-236.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (hept, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_I) δ 162.12, 159.96, 135.54, 132.91, 132.64, 132.34, 130.76, 130.08, 128.40, 127.99, 127.51, 125.03, 124.03, 120.72, 118.39, 118.05, 114.51, 111.50, 110.39, 102.84, 102.28, 90.72, 70.98, 21.93.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₀NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 430.1438; found 430.1435.



3-isopropoxy-7-((4-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6c)

m.p. 163.3-164.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.67 – 4.54 (m, 1H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.12 (d, ¹ J_{C-F} = 250.8 Hz), 159.82, 159.59, 152.09, 135.32, 134.19 (d, ³ J_{C-F} = 8.6 Hz), 132.96, 130.88, 129.45, 128.20, 127.83, 127.33, 125.94, 123.95, 119.55, 119.44 (d, ² J_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 115.94, 115.72, 113.62, 110.60, 103.27, 102.86, 86.90, 70.53, 21.93.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -109.52.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₈H₂₀FO₃ [M + H]⁺ 423.1391; found 423.1381.



3-isopropoxy-7-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6d) m.p. 168.2-169.5 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.63 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.83, 159.38, 151.99, 135.18, 132.89, 132.33, 130.79, 130.50 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 129.45, 128.20, 127.55, 127.48, 127.21, 125.34 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 125.00, 123.98 (q, *J* = 272.3 Hz), 123.90, 120.09, 119.53, 113.58, 110.39, 102.78, 102.18, 89.11, 70.50, 21.92.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.72.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₀F₃O₃ [M + H]⁺ 473.1359; found 473.1351.



3-isopropoxy-7-phenyl-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6e)

m.p. 208.7-209.4 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.45 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.70 – 4.54 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.75, 159.69, 152.23, 147.01, 139.79, 135.84, 132.68, 130.75, 129.09, 128.61, 128.59, 128.11, 127.78, 127.25, 126.36, 124.09, 119.72, 116.18, 113.75, 111.05, 102.77, 70.49, 21.94.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₆H₂₁O₃ [M + H]⁺ 381.1485; found 381.1474.



3-isopropoxy-7-(4-fluorophenyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6f)

m.p. 223.7-224.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.23 (s, 2H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.67 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.24 (d, J = 245.7 Hz), 159.78, 159.76, 152.17, 145.86, 135.84, 135.50 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 132.72, 130.78, 130.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 129.15, 128.32, 127.86, 126.51, 124.09, 119.94, 116.40, 115.22 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 113.80, 110.95, 102.77, 70.52, 21.92.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.26.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₆H₂₀FO₃ [M + H]⁺ 399.1391; found 399.1386.



3-isopropoxy-7-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6g)

m.p. 224.7-225.4 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.65 – 4.56 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.83, 159.81, 152.11, 145.09, 143.79, 135.85, 132.14, 130.75, 129.41 (d, J = 32.1 Hz), 129.29, 129.03, 128.01, 127.95, 126.74, 125.14 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 124.43 (q, J = 272.0 Hz), 124.10, 120.26, 116.13, 113.88, 110.77, 102.78, 70.53, 21.90.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.19.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₇H₂₀F₃O₃ [M + H]⁺ 449.1359; found 449.1359.



3-isopropoxy-7-(4-cyanophenyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6h)

m.p. 270.7-271.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (hept, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.95, 152.11, 145.29, 144.43, 135.95, 132.11, 131.82, 130.84, 129.61, 129.52, 128.17, 127.79, 127.03, 124.22, 120.65, 119.23, 116.07, 114.06, 111.27, 110.69, 102.81, 70.62, 21.99.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₇H₂₀NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 406.1438; found 406.1439.



3-isopropoxy-7-(4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromen-6-one (6i)

m.p. 210.0-210.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.67 – 4.57 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.87, 159.68, 152.22, 147.90, 147.06, 146.88, 135.87, 133.70, 132.80, 130.81, 129.55, 129.29, 129.09, 128.69, 127.82, 126.38, 124.51, 124.10, 123.30, 122.79, 119.58, 116.43, 113.60, 111.13, 102.84, 70.50, 21.93.HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₃₈H₃₀NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 548.2220; found 548.2227.



3-isopropoxy-6-oxo-6H-naphtho[2,3-c]chromene-7-carbonitrile (6j)

m.p. 257.2-258.0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.12 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (hept, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, TFA- d_1) δ 160.62, 160.56, 151.23, 135.58, 132.91, 131.11, 130.78, 130.08, 128.84, 126.23, 125.21, 124.12, 120.21, 115.01, 111.96, 109.16, 103.18, 71.30, 21.83. HRMS (APCI): m/z: calcd. for C₂₁H₁₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 330.1125; found 330.1116.

| No. | λ_{abs} (nm) | $\lambda_{	extbf{ex}}$ (nm) | λ_{em} (nm) | Stokes shift (nm) | Φ F (%) |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 3a | 390 | 389 | 459 | 70 | 17 |
| 5 | 394 | 392 | 483 | 91 | 19 |
| 6a | 413 | 415 | 496 | 81 | 78 |
| 6b | 419 | 420 | 511 | 91 | 77 |
| 6c | 412 | 414 | 496 | 82 | 78 |
| 6d | 415 | 417 | 502 | 85 | 74 |
| 6e | 384 | 386 | 463 | 77 | 28 |
| 6f | 385 | 386 | 464 | 78 | 31 |
| 6g | 386 | 387 | 472 | 85 | 36 |
| 6h | 388 | 387 | 480 | 93 | 39 |
| 6i | 392 | 390 | 563 | 173 | 14 |
| 6j | 413 | 412 | 514 | 102 | 39 |

Table S2. Spectral properties of 3a, 5 and 6 in dichloromethane solution (10⁻⁵ mol/L)

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NMR Spectra



S23



S24















S28



S29



¹³C NMR of **3h** in CDCl₃ & TFA- d_1







¹³C NMR of **3j** in CDCl₃ & TFA- d_1



¹³C NMR of **3k** in CDCl₃ & TFA- d_1







¹³C NMR of **3m** in CDCl₃ & TFA- d_1







S37























¹³C NMR of **6b** in CDCl₃ & TFA- d_1







S46











S49











