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---Electronic supplementary information---

# Aerobic primary and secondary amine oxidation cascade by a copper amine oxidase inspired catalyst

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## 1. General information.

All experiments were carried out under an aerial condition in a round bottom flask. Solvents were dried using standard procedures before use. Products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (100–200 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on either JEOL-ECS400 or Bruker-AVANCE500 spectrometer at 278 K in CDCl<sub>3</sub> as well as DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solvent. Signals are assigned as  $\delta$  values in ppm using residual protonated solvent signals as the internal standard (<sup>1</sup>H NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  7.26 ppm and DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>:  $\delta$  2.50 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m =multiplet) and coupling constants in (Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on either JEOL-ECS400 or Bruker-AVANCE500 spectrometer with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm with the solvent as the internal reference (<sup>13</sup>C NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$ 77.16 ppm and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>: δ 39.5 ppm). FT-IR spectra were recorded in a Perkin–Elmer FT– IR Spectrometer. Gas chromatography were recorded in the Thermo Fisher GC-MS spectrometer with appropriate internal standard. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker mass spectrometer. Benzylamines, metal salts, and other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa-Aesar, Spectrochem, Avra Synthesis and used without further purification. 2-Aminoaryl amides (1b-1h) were prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Numbering of starting materials.



#### 3. Reaction optimization.

Optimization for the 2-benzylquinazolin-4(3H)-one **3aa** by using 2-aminobenzamide **1a** and benzylamine **2a** as the model substrates.

# Table S1. Effect of catalyst.<sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), catalyst (20 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100 °C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yield.

#### Table S2a. Effect of M-salts<sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), M-salt (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h, air. [b] GC yields with *n*-decane as an internal standard.

#### Table S2b. Effect of M-salts and additional Bu<sub>4</sub>NI<sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), M-salt (10 mol%), *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (5 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $\degree$ C, 24 h, air. [b] GC yields with *n*-decane as an internal standard.

# Table S3. Effect of Cu-salts <sup>[a]</sup>

NH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> 1a	+ Ph NH <sub>2</sub>	phd (20 mol <sup>6</sup> Cu-salt (10 mo TsOH (10 mo PhCl, air, 100 °C	(3, 24 h)	
Entry	Cu-	salts	Yield of <b>3aa</b> (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	
1.	C	uCl	83	
2.	Cu	uBr	66	
3.	C	uI	91	
4.	Cu	ICN	21	
5.	Cu	ıCl <sub>2</sub>	75	
6.	Cu (	OAc) <sub>2</sub>	62	
7.	Cu (	OTf) <sub>2</sub>	91	
8.	C	uO	45	
9.	Cu(t	ohd) <sub>2</sub> I	94	
10.	Cu(pł	$rd)_2 PF_6$	92	
11.	Cu(ph	$(d)_2BF_4$	88	
12.		-	53	

[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), (TsOH 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h, air. [b] GC yields with *n*-decane as an internal standard.

## Table S4. Effect of catalyst and Cu-salt loading <sup>[a]</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd, Cu-salt, TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields. n.r. = no reaction.

#### Table S5. Effect of solvent <sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in a solvent (0.5 mL), 100 °C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

## Table S6. Effect of solvent concentration <sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), (TsOH 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100 °C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

#### Table S7. Effect of temperature <sup>[a]</sup>

3.



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), (TsOH 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), temperature, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields. n.r. = no reaction.

60

n.r

#### Table S8. Effect of the concentration of benzylamine [a]



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a**, phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), (TsOH 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL),  $100 \degree$ C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

# Table S9. Effect of reaction time



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100 °C, time, air. [b] Isolated yields.

#### Table S10. Effect of additive <sup>[a]</sup>

NH <sub>2</sub>			phd (20 mol%) Cul (10 mol%) Additive (10 mol%)		O NH
		+ 111 1112			
	1.1.2		PhCI, air, 100	°C, 24 h	Ý N PN
	1a	2a			3aa
	Entry	Additiv	/e	Yield of	of <b>3aa</b> (%) <sup>[b]</sup>
	1.	TsOH	L		94
	2.	Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>			39
	3.	TsOH•H <sub>2</sub> O			90
	4.	-			63

[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), additive, in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100 °C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

#### Table S11. Effect of reaction condition <sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), Cu-salt (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $\degree$ C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

#### Table S12. Effect of quinone catalyst.<sup>[a]</sup>



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), quinone (20 mol%), CuI (10 mol%), (TsOH 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL), 100  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h, air. [b] Isolated yields.

#### 4. Biomimicking synthesis and characterization of 3.

#### 4.1 General procedure



In a 5 mL round bottom flask, 2-aminobenzylamide **1** (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) were stirred at room temperature in open air. Then amine **2** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added and the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, mixture was quenched with 2 mL water and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (100-200 mesh) with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain compound **3**.

#### 4.2 Characterization data:

#### 2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3aa)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield 94% (21 mg, 0.094 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.92 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.21-8.18 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.1, 151.9, 149.7, 135.1, 133.0, 131.8, 129.2, 128.2, 127.6, 127.0, 126.5, 121.0. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3437, 2920, 2850, 1664, 1602, 1559, 1480,

1470, 767, 693. **2-(o-tolyl)quinazolin-4(3***H***)-one (3ab)**<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield 97% (23 mg, 0.097 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.78 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.4, 153.6, 149.2, 137.0, 135.1, 133.7, 131.6, 130.7, 128.9, 128.0, 127.2, 126.5, 126.4, 120.8, 20.2. IR

(neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3437, 2919, 2850, 1726, 1684, 1611, 1594, 1242, 759, 721.

#### 2-(m-tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one(3ac)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield 97% (53 mg, 0.097 mmol).<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  11.77 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  164.1, 152.1, 149.7, 139.0, 135.0, 132.9, 132.6, 129.1, 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 126.4, 124.7,

121.0, 21.7. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3435, 2920, 2850, 1681, 1638, 1611, 765, 716, 682.

#### 2-(p-tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ad)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield of  $R^3$ = H, 93% (22 mg, 0.093 mmol),  $R^3$ = CH<sub>3</sub>, 76% (18 mg, 0.076 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.59 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.1, 152.0, 149.8, 142.3, 135.0, 130.1, 129.9,

128.0, 127.5, 126.7, 126.5, 120.9, 21.7. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3435, 2920, 2850, 1639, 1561, 768, 728, 686, 636.

#### 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ae)<sup>3</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield of  $R^3$ = H, 63% (16 mg, 0.063 mmol),  $R^3$ = CH<sub>3</sub>, 70% (16 mg, 0.070 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.46 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 4H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.9, 160.3, 151.7, 149.6, 135.1, 134.3, 130.3, 128.2, 128.0, 126.5, 55.7 ID (a) 140.0 mmol.

121.1, 119.7, 118.4, 112.3, 55.7. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3435, 2920, 2850, 1638, 1309, 854,767, 720, 681.

#### 2-(4-methoxyphenyl) quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3af)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 99% (25 mg, 0.099 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 11.43 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m,1H), 7.08 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.0, 162.6, 151.6, 149.9, 135.0, 129.2, 127.9, 126.5, 125.3, 120.7, 114.6, 55.7. IR (neat / cm<sup>-</sup>) 5, 1634, 1484, 1248, 764, 686

<sup>1</sup>): 3436, 2920, 2850, 1676, 1634, 1484, 1248, 764, 686.



**2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3***H***)-one (3ag) <sup>4</sup>** Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.20$ ; Yield 99% (28 mg, 0.099 mmol).<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d\_6):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-D6)  $\delta$  12.43 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d\_6):  $\delta$ 

162.4, 151.9, 151.6, 148.9, 148.6, 134.6, 127.3, 126.2, 125.9, 124.7, 121.2, 120.7, 111.4, 110.7, 55.7. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 2922, 2858,2257, 2129, 1649, 1047, 1025, 996, 827, 766, 690. **2-(2-fluorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ah)** <sup>5</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 75% (18 mg, 0.075 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.04 (s, 1H), 8.37 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 7.82 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.21 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 162.2 (d, J = 18.3 Hz), 162.0, 149.1, 148.4, 135.0, 133.7, 131.5, 128.2, 127.4, 126.7, 125.4, 121.4, 120.2 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 116.8 (d, J = 23.4 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F

**NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ -115.3. **IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 3436, 2920, 2850, 1695, 1681, 1655, 1602, 1482, 1455, 1386, 761, 739.

#### 2-(2-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ai)<sup>3</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 97% (25 mg, 0.097 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.02 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.77 (m, 3H), 7.52 – 7.40 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8 162.7, 151.3, 149.1, 135.0, 133.0, 132.3, 132.0, 131.5, 130.6, 128.1, 127.5, 127.4, 126.6, 121.2. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 2922, 2855, 1666, 1472, 765, 732.

## 2-(2-bromophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3aj)<sup>5</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield of  $R^{3}$ = H, 83% (25 mg, 0.083 mmol),  $R^{3}$ = CH<sub>3</sub>, 66% (20 mg, 0.066 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  12.64 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 162.0, 153.7, 148.9, 136.0, 135.3,

133.1, 132.3, 131.1, 128.2, 127.9, 127.7, 126.3, 121.5, 121.3. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 2945, 1658, 1472, 1304, 1255, 1025, 996, 765.

#### 2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ak)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 92% (22 mg, 0.092 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 12.56 (s, 1H), 8.30 - 8.19 (m, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 165.2(d, J = 251.34 Hz), 162.5, 151.4, 148.6, 134.6, 130.4 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 129.2, 127.4,

126.6, 125.9, 120.9, 115.6 (d, J = 21.9 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -109.0. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 2920, 2850, 2254, 2128, 1661, 1049, 1025, 1003, 825, 764, 684, 632. 2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3al)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 78% (20 mg, 0.078 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 12.61 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  162.2, 151.4, 148.6, 136.3, 134.7, 131.6, 129.6, 128.7, 127.6, 126.8, 125.9, 121.0.

IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3416, 2920, 2850, 2256, 2129, 1651, 1478, 1048, 1025, 999, 826, 765.

#### 2-(4-bromophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3am)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield of  $R^3$  = H, 80% (24 mg, 0.080 mmol),  $R^3$  = CH<sub>3</sub>, 70% (21 mg, 0.070 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.14 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 - 7.72 (m, 3H),7.54 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  162.7, 152.0, 149.0, 135.4, 132.3, 132.2, 130.3, 128.0, 127.5, 126.4, 125.8,

121.3. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3435, 2945, 1660, 1644, 1336, 1025, 995, 699. 2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3an)<sup>4</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 82% (24 mg, 0.082 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.42 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 3H). ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.4, 149.2, 148.9, 135.1, 134.7, 132.7, 131.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 126.6, 121.4. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3132, 3030, 2785, 1680, 1608, 1469, 1431, 791, 731. 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ao)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 58% (17 mg, 0.058 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  12.75 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.90 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ 162.1, 151.1, 148.4, 136.6, 134.7, 131.5 (q, J = 31.33 Hz), 128.7,

128.1, 127.7, 127.1, 125.9 (d, JC-F = 3.43 Hz), 122.7 (g, JC-F = 272.7, 121.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 **MHz**, **DMSO-d**<sub>6</sub>): δ -61.24 (s). **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3412, 2925, 2854, 2257, 2129, 1680, 1449, 1047, 1025, 998, 827, 776.

#### 2-(furan-2-vl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ap)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 84% (18 mg, 0.084 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.69 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 1H), 6.67-6.66 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.6, 149.4, 146.4, 145.7, 143.6, 135.2, 127.9, 127.0, 126.7, 121.2, 114.1, 113.1 **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 2919, 2851, 1627, 1605,

1552, 1459, 1021, 772.

2-(thiophen-2-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3aq)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 84% (19 mg, 0.084 mmol<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 12.09 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J =0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.0, 149.7, 147.5, 137.7, 135.2, 131.5, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 126.7, 126.6, 120.8. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 1664, 1613, 847, 769, 713.

#### 2-(pyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ar)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 44% (10 mg, 0.044 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.96 (s, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H),7.93 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 161.6, 149.3, 149.1, 148.9, 148.6, 137.7, 134.7, 128.2, 127.5, 126.9, 126.4, 122.7, 122.2 **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 2924, 2852, 1634, 1472, 768, 739, 688, 615.

#### 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3as)<sup>6</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 94% (28 mg, 0.094 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-D6): δ 8.33 - 8.10 (m, 1H), 7.86 - 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.62 - 7.30 (m, 7H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H). **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3438, 2915, 2851, 1664, 1602, 1559, 1480, 1470, 767, 693.

# 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3at)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield 78% (21 mg, 0.078 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  12.66 (s, 1H), 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.10 – 7.97 (m, 3H), 7.91 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**101 MHz, DMSO-d**<sub>6</sub>): δ 162.8, 152.8, 149.3, 135.2, 134.7, 132.8.

130.5, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 127.2, 126.4, 125.0, 121.6. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 2922, 2856, 1638, 1305, 817, 769, 743.

#### 2-(anthracen-9-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3au)<sup>5</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 68% (22 mg, 0.068 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.92 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.01 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.87 – 7.78 (m, 4H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  162.3, 152.3, 149.1, 135.1, 131.2, 129.9, 129.7, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 127.3, 126.7, 125.7, 124.7, 121.3. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 2920, 2850, 1646, 1466, 1439, 770, 732, 667, 653.

2-(quinolin-2-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3av)<sup>7</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 84% (23 mg, 0.084 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 11.23 (s, 1H), 8.67 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H). ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.0, 148.7, 148.5, 147.6, 146.3, 137.2, 134.1,

130.0, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 126.3, 122.2, 118.0. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2945, 1684, 1634, 1422, 1327, 841, 741.

#### 7-chloro-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ba)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield of  $R^3 = H$ , 78% (20 mg, 0.078 mmol) and  $R^3 = CH_3$ , 74% (19 mg, 0.074 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  162.2, 154.3, 150.2, 139.8, 132.6, 132.3, 129.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 126.9, 120.0.

**IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3401, 1649, 1451, 1025, 998, 827, 765. 6-bromo-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3ca) <sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield 70% (21 mg, 0.070 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.16 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (dd, J= 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.47 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.6, 153.4, 148.0, 138.0, 132.7, 132.1, 129.2, 129.1, 128.3, 128.2, 122.8, 119.4. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>):

3400, 1651, 1463, 1025, 996, 827, 766.

#### 6-bromo-2-(o-tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3cd)



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield 79% (25 mg, 0.079 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.22 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.2, 155.4, 147.9, 137.8, 136.5, 134.1, 131.0, 130.6, 130.0, 129.4, 128.3, 126.2, 122.8, 119.5,

19.8. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 1651, 1463, 1025, 826, 765. HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{12}BrN_2O$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 315.0128; found, 315.0128.

#### 6-bromo-2-(2-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ck)



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.40$ ; Yield 73% (26 mg, 0.073 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-D6 $\delta$  160.6, 152.9, 147.5, 137.7, 133.4, 132.1, 131.5, 131.0, 129.9, 129.8, 128.1, 127.5, 122.8, 119.8. IR

(**neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 3400, 1644, 1469, 1025, 828, 766. HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrClN<sub>2</sub>O [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 334.9581; found, 334.9576.

#### 6-iodo-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3da)<sup>1c</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield 63% (22 mg, 0.063 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.19 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 5H), 8.10 (s, 6H), 8.08 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 6H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 6H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 7H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 15H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.5, 153.2, 147.8, 138.0, 132.7, 132.1, 130.2, 129.1, 128.4, 128.2, 122.8,

119.5. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3404, 1658, 1480, 1050, 996, 823, 734.

#### 6,8-dibromo-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ea)<sup>8</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield 66% (25 mg, 0.066 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.33 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dd, J = 11.4, 4.5 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  161.4, 153.8, 145.8, 140.2, 132.6, 132.5, 129.6, 128.4, 128.3, 124.0, 123.9, 119.1. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 1651, 1454,

1025, 826, 765.

#### 6,8-diiodo-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3fa) 9



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield 54% (26 mg, 0.054 mmol) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  161.5, 154.0, 146.0, 140.4, 132.7, 132.6, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 124.2, 124.0, 119.3.

IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 1651, 1453, 1025, 826, 765.

#### 2,6,8-triphenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ga)<sup>1a</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.25$ ; Yield 45% (17 mg, 0.045 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.79 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.8, 155.4, 142.6, 140.2, 138.6, 134.8, 133.6, 131.5,

131.2, 129.8, 129.1, 128.94, 128.87, 128.3, 128.1, 127.5, 126.0, 125.00. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3435, 1634, 1465, 1290, 846, 770.

#### 3-phenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,2,4]thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (3ha)<sup>10</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.35$ ; Yield of  $R^3 = H$ , 74% (19 mg, 0.074 mmol) and  $R^3 = CH_3$ , 69% (18 mg, 0.069 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  155.4, 135.7, 133.8, 133.4, 132.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 127.4, 123.7, 121.6, 118.8. IR (neat /

cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3412, 1651, 1459, 1160, 1025, 827, 765.

#### 3-(p-tolyl)-2H-benzo[e][1,2,4]thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (3hd)<sup>10</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.20$ ; Yield 73% (20 mg, 0.073 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.92 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 8.5Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6):  $\delta$ 

155.8, 144.5, 136.3, 134.2, 130.3, 129.6, 129.1, 127.8, 124.2, 122.2, 119.3, 22.0. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3410, 1644, 1469, 1025, 828, 766.

## 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2H-benzo[e][1,2,4]thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (3hf)<sup>10</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.15$ ; Yield 75% (21 mg, 0.075 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSOd<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.01 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6):  $\delta$  163.9, 155.3, 136.2, 134.1, 131.1, 130.7, 127.5,

124.1, 122.1, 119.1, 115.2, 56.5. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3412, 1641, 1465, 1160, 1035, 825, 765.

#### 3-(quinolin-2-yl)-2H-benzo[e][1,2,4]thiadiazine 1,1-dioxide (3hv)<sup>11</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.30$ ; Yield 68% (21 mg, 0.068 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.65 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, J = 17.3, 8.2 Hz, 3H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6):  $\delta$  152.6, 148.4, 147.1, 139.5, 135.6, 134.4, 132.0, 130.3, 130.0, 129.1, 128.1,

124.3, 122.2, 119.9, 119.7. **IR** (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3412, 1655, 1359, 1160, 1025, 830, 745.

#### 5. Gram scale experiment:



In a 50 mL round bottom flask, 2-aminobenzylamide **1a** (681 mg, 5 mmol, 1 equiv), phd (210 mg, 0.20 mmol, 20 mol%), CuI (190 mg, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol%), TsOH (170 mg, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol%) in chlorobenzene (25 mL) were stirred at room temperature in open air. Then benzylamine **2a** (803.6 mg, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added and the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100 °C for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, mixture was quenched with 100 mL water and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (100-200 mesh) with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain compound **3aa** (1.0 g, 90% yield).

# 6. Synthesis and characterization of phd and its copper complex

# 6.1 Synthesis of 1,10-phenanthroline-5,6-dione (phd) <sup>12</sup>

1,10-Phenanthroline-5,6-dione (phd), was prepared according to the previously reported procedure.<sup>12a</sup> 1,10-phenanthroline (0.40 g, 2.2 mmol) and KBr (0.41 g, 3.44 mmol) were combined in a round bottom flak and an ice-cooled mixture of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub> (2:1) was slowly added to the solids. The mixture was heated to reflux for 4 h, and then pour onto 50 mL ice cooled water. The yellow aqueous solution was carefully neutralized with NaOH (pH = 6 – 7), then extracted into DCM, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated to give nearly quantitative 1,10-phenanthroline-5,6-dione. The yellow solid was recrystallized from methanol to give pale yellow compound.



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.50$ ; Yield 93% (430 mg, 2.04 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.12-9.10 (m, 2H), 8.51-8.49 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  178.7, 156.5, 152.9, 137.4, 128.1, 125.7. IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1687, 1560, 1416, 1294, 736.

6.2 Preparation of [Cu(phd)2]<sup>+/+2</sup> complex <sup>12c</sup>

# Synthesis of [Cu(phd)2]I:



In an oven-dried 15 mL Schlenk tube, CuI (38.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phd (84.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were stirred in dry acetonitrile (2 mL) under argon at room temperature. The

solution turned brown yellow to dark brown in 30 min to 1 h. It indicates that  $[Cu(phd)_2]I$  complex was formed. It was then filtered and washed with ether twice. Finally, dark brown precipitate was obtained. The complex was dried in vacuo for 24 h and stored in a desiccator.

**Analytical data:** Yield 85% (80 mg, 0.17 mmol). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d\_6):**  $\delta$  8.78 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 4H), 8.05 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 4H), 7.49 (t, J = 3.5 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d\_6):**  $\delta$  190.5, 163.6, 155.8, 132.6, 130.3, 126.1. **IR (neat / cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 1699, 1563, 1406, 839, 563. HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>63</sup>CuN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> 483.0149; found 483.0158 and calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>65</sup>CuN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> 485.0131; found 483.0149.

# <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-D6) spectrum of Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>I complex



# IR spectrum of Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>I complex:



# HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) spectrum of Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>I complex:



## **6.3** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration study:

**Experimental procedure:** In an oven-dried NMR tube, phd (21.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was taken in 0.5 mL DMSO- $d_6$  in an argon filled glove box. Then, CuI (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added at room temperature. After 30 min the reaction mixture was analyzed by using <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. Every, 30 min time intervals CuI were added sequentially (up to 0.05 mmol) and analyzed by using <sup>1</sup>H NMR.



**6.4 Synthetic of [Cu(phd)**<sub>2</sub>](**PF**<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.2**H**<sub>2</sub>**O**: A solution of CuCl<sub>2</sub>.2**H**<sub>2</sub>**O** (26.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phen-dione (phd) (84.1 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was mixed with in (2.0 mL) ethanol solvent. Upon mixing, the solution turned green, indicative of complex formation. After the mixture was allowed to stir for 30 min, the complex was precipitated (green solid) by the addition of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (20.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The complex was collected, washed with water, and dried with ether. Because this material, as well as the other complexes, adsorbed very strongly on alumina and silica gel, recrystallization from acetonitrile/ ether was used for purification. The complex was dried in vacuo for 24 h and stored in a desiccator.

**6.5** [Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>: A solution of CuCl<sub>2</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O (26.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phen-dione (phd) (84.1 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was mixed with in (2.0 mL) ethanol solvent. Upon mixing, the solution turned green, indicative of complex formation. After the mixture was

allowed to stir for 30 min, the complex was precipitated (blue solid) by the addition of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>BF<sub>4</sub> (32.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The complex was collected, washed with water, and dried with ether. Because this material, as well as the other complexes, adsorbed very strongly on alumina and silica gel, recrystallization from acetonitrile/ ether was used for purification. The complex was dried in vacuo for 24 h and stored in a desiccator.

### 7. Mechanistic studies.

## 7.1 Detection of the intermediate II/II' via the reaction of Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>I with benzyl amine.

**Experimental procedure:** In an oven-dried 15 mL Schlenk tube, benzylamine (11.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>I (4.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1equiv) were stirred in 0.5 mL of dry acetonitrile. After 3 h at room temperature; crude reaction mixture was analyzed by HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>). We have observed the mass m/z = 594.0598, 595.1621, 596.0580 and 597.1643, which to the natural isotopic copper complexes of the formula  $[C_{31}H_{18}^{63}CuN_5NaO_3]^+$ ,  $[C_{31}H_{19}^{63}CuN_5NaO_3]^{2+}$ ,  $[C_{31}H_{18}^{65}CuN_5NaO_3]^+$ , and  $[C_{31}H_{19}^{65}CuN_5NaO_3]^{2+}$ , respectively for the isomeric intermediate **II** or **II'**.



#### 7.2 Detection of the intermediates under catalytic condition:

**Experimental procedure:** In an oven-dried 5 mL round bottom flask, 2-amino benzamide **1a** (13.6 mg,0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), benzylamine **2a** (16.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), CuI (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) were stirred in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at 100 °C under air. After 4 h, the crude reaction mixture was monitor in HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>). We have observed the mass m/z = 233.0344 corresponds to  $C_{12}H_6N_2NaO_2^+$  [phd + Na]<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 483.0158, and 483.0149 corresponds to  $C_{24}H_{12}^{63}CuN_4O_4$  [Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> and  $C_{24}H_{12}^{65}CuN_4O_4$  [Cu(phd)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, respectively, and m/z = 595.3828, 596.3864 and 597.3886, which to the natural isotopic copper complexes of the formula [ $C_{31}H_{19}^{63}CuN_5NaO_3$ ]<sup>2+</sup>, [ $C_{31}H_{18}^{65}CuN_5NaO_3$ ]<sup>+</sup>, and [ $C_{31}H_{19}^{65}CuN_5NaO_3$ ]<sup>2+</sup>, respectively for the isomeric intermediate **II** or **II**'.



#### 7.3 Kinetic monitoring of the reaction via gas chromatography:



**Experimental procedure:** In an oven-dried 5 mL round bottom flask, 2-amino benzamide **1a** (13.6 mg,0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), benzylamine **2a** (16.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), phd (20 mol%), CuI (10 mol%), TsOH (10 mol%) and *n*-decane (0.1 mmol) were stirred in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at 100 °C under air. The reaction was monitored by taking an aliquot of the reaction mixture and analyzing the distribution of the products *via* gas chromatography at specified time interval.

Time (h)	[ <b>1a</b> ] mmol	[ <b>2a</b> ] mmol	[ <b>4a</b> ] mmol	[5a] mmol	[ <b>3</b> aa]	[ <b>3</b> aa]
					mmol	mmol w/o
						CuI
0	0.1	0.15	0	0	0	0
1	0.098	0	0.004	0.07	0	0
2	0.092	0	0.002	0.072	0	0
3	0.086	0	0.009	0.072	0	0
5	0.072	0	0.011	0.068	0.002	0.0015
7	0.064	0	0.015	0.058	0.004	0.003
9	0.055	0	0.016	0.06	0.01	0.005
11	0.043	0	0.011	0.049	0.021	0.008
14	0.033	0	0.014	0.055	0.037	0.0105
17	0.02	0	0.012	0.045	0.053	0.012
19	0.009	0	0.007	0.042	0.068	0.016
22	0.002	0	0.009	0.03	0.083	0.028
25	0	0	0.007	0.027	0.087	0.042
28	0	0	0.003	0.026	0.088	0.043

The same analysis was repeated in the absence of CuI.



Figure S1. Kinetic monitoring of the bio-mimicking synthesis of 3aa.

#### 7.4 Monitoring the reaction of 1a with 5a via gas chromatography.



**Experimental procedure:** In an oven-dried 5 mL round bottom flask, 2-amino benzamide **1a** (13.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *N*-benzylidene-1-phenylmethanamine **5a** (29.2 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), H<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 equiv) and *n*-decane (0.1 mmol) in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) was added at room temperature and then the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100 °C. The reaction was monitored by taking an aliquot of the reaction mixture and analyzing the distribution of the products *via* gas chromatography at specified time interval. Small amount of **3aa** (0-5%) was formed due to areal oxidation of **3'aa**. The same analysis was repeated in the presence of phd (20 mol%) and CuI (10 mol%).

Time (h)	Without CuI/phd		W	ith CuI/phd
	[1a] mmol [3aa + 3'aa] mmol		[ <b>1a</b> ] mmol	[ <b>3aa</b> + <b>3'aa</b> ] mmol
0	0.1	0	0.1	0
1	0.099	0.0027	0.0955	0.0054
2	0.087	0.0139	0.0948	0.00998
3	0.0798	0.0218	0.0926	0.01232
4	0.0794	0.0205	0.09	0.015
5	0.0786	0.0204	0.0857	0.0156



Figure S2. Kinetic monitoring of the bio-mimicking synthesis of 3aa.

#### 7.5 Isolation of the intermediate 3'aa.



**Experimental procedure:** In a 5 mL round bottom flask, 2-amino benzyl amide **1a** (13.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), benzylamine **2a** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were taken in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at room temperature in aerial condition. Then the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100  $^{\circ}$ C for 16 h. The mixture was then quenched with 2 mL water and extracted in dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (100-200 mesh) with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain compound **3'aa** (8.8 mg, 39%) along with **3aa** (12.2 mg, 55%).

# 2-phenyl-2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-one (3'aa)<sup>2</sup>



Analytical TLC on silica gel, 8:2 hexane/ethylacetate  $R_f = 0.50$ ; Yield 39% (8.8 mg, 0.039 mmol).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H), 4.40 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):165.1, 147.4, 138.8, 134.2, 130.3, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 119.9, 115.8, 114.8, 69.3. IR (neat /

**cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 3305, 2922, 2850, 1653, 747, 698, 665.

#### 7.6 Oxidation of the intermediate 3'aa to 3aa.



**Experimental procedure:** In a 5 mL round bottom flask, the intermediate **3'aa** (22.4 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%) were taken in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at room temperature in aerial condition. Then the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. The mixture was then quenched with 2 mL water and extracted in dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (100-200 mesh) with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain **3aa** (21.3 mg, 95%).

On the other hand, in the absence of CuI/phd catalyst system **3aa** was isolated in 5.6 mg, 25% yield.

## 7.7 Kinetics of the oxidation of the intermediate 3'aa to 3aa.



**Experimental procedure:** In a 5 mL round bottom flask, the intermediate **3'aa** (22.4 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), and *n*-decane (0.1 mmol) were taken in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at room temperature in aerial condition. Then the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100  $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was monitored by taking an aliquot of the reaction mixture and analyzing the distribution of the products via gas chromatography at specified time interval.

The same analysis was repeated in the presence of phd (20 mol%) and CuI (10 mol%).

Time (h)	<b>3aa</b> (mmol) in the presence of phd/CuI	<b>3aa</b> (mmol) in the absence of phd/CuI
0	0	0
1	0.008	0
2	0.014	0.002
3	0.02	0.003
4	0.026	0.0042
5	0.033	0.006
6	0.0385	0.0071
7	0.044	0.008



Figure S3. Kinetics of the oxidation of the intermediate 3'aa to 3aa.

#### 7.8 Determination of the kinetic isotope effect.



**Experimental procedure:** In a 5 mL round bottom flask, the intermediate 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1H)-one **3'as** (30.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), and *n*-decane (0.1 mmol) were taken in chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) at room temperature in aerial condition. Then the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 100  $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was monitored by taking an aliquot of the reaction mixture and analyzing the products via gas chromatography at specified time interval.

The same analysis was repeated deuterium isotopologue 3'as-D (30.1 mg, 0.1 mmol).

The KIE =  $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D}$  = 1.73 was determined from the initial rates of such reaction.

Time (h)	3as (mmol) from 3'as	3as (mmol) from 3'as-D
0	0	0
1	0.005	0.0015
2	0.009	0.004
3	0.0125	0.0065
4	0.017	0.009
5	0.0205	0.0115
6	0.024	0.0145
7	0.0278	0.017



Figure S4. Determination of the kinetic isotope effect.

#### 7.9 Hammett correlation study.



**Experimental procedure:** In five different 5 mL round bottom flask, **3'af** (X = OMe), **3'ad** (X = Me), **3'aa** (X = H), **3'al** (X = Cl), and **3'am** (X = Br) (0.1 mmol) were taken. Then, CuI (1.9 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), phd (4.2 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol%), TsOH (1.7 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), *n*-decane (0.1 mmol), and chlorobenzene (0.5 mL) were added at room temperature. The mixture was then placed in a preheated oil bath at 100 °C. The reactions were monitored by taking an aliquot of the reaction mixture and analyzing the products via gas chromatography at specified time interval.

Initial rates were determined. The plot of  $\log(k_X/k_H)$  against the Hammett substituent constants  $\sigma$  was found to be linear indicating the applicability of the Hammett linear-free-energy relationship. The slope of such linear plot gave the  $\rho = -0.16$ .

Time (h)	3'af	3'ad	3'aa	3'al	3'am
	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)
	X = OMe	X = Me	X = H	X = Cl	X = Br
0	0	0	0	0	0.007
1	0.009	0.0085	0.008	0.0072	0.0123
2	0.0155	0.015	0.014	0.0128	0.0185
3	0.022	0.021	0.02	0.019	0.024
4	0.029	0.028	0.026	0.025	0.031
5	0.038	0.038	0.033	0.032	0.035
6	0.042	0.04	0.0385	0.036	0.007



Figure S5. Determination of the initial rates for the oxidation of the intermediate 3'.

Hammett analysis

	3'af	3'ad	<b>3'</b> aa	3'al	3'am
	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)	(mmol)
	X = OMe	X = Me	$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{H}$	X = Cl	X = Br
Initial rates $k_X$	$7.05  imes 10^{-3}$	$6.86  imes 10^{-3}$	$6.16  imes 10^{-3}$	$6.06  imes 10^{-3}$	$5.88  imes 10^{-3}$
σ	-0.27	-0.17	0	0.23	0.23
$\log (k_{\rm X}/k_{\rm H})$					



Figure S6. Hammett correlation study.

#### 7.10 Cyclic voltammetry Studies

**Experimental procedure**: Cyclic Voltammetry of  $Cu(phd)_{2^+}$ , **3'aa**, and mixture of  $(Cu(phd)_{2^+} \text{ complex and } 3'aa)$  was performed using a CHI760D workstation at a scan rate of 0.1 V/s in acetonitrile with 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate as supporting electrolyte. Polished glassy carbon, platinum wire and Ag/AgCl (0.01 M KCl) were used as the working, counter, and reference electrodes, respectively. To convert the potentials from Ag/AgCl (0.1 M KCl) to SCE, ferrocene was measured under the above conditions into acetonitrile (3 mL), and 0.11 mV were added from the measured values. The  $Cu(phd)_{2^+}$  and **3'aa** was added into acetonitrile (3 mL) respectively. The solutions stirred 15 mins, and carried the respective experiments. As showed in Figure, the oxidation potential peak of  $Cu(phd)_{2^+}$  (E = 0.35 V vs SCE in CH<sub>3</sub>CN), **3'aa** (E = 1.22 V vs SCE in CH<sub>3</sub>CN), and mixture of ( $Cu(phd)_{2^+}$  complex and **3'aa**)<sup>+</sup> was (E = 0.37, and 1.20 V vs SCE in CH<sub>3</sub>CN), respectively.



**Figure S7**. Cyclic voltammograms graph: (a) **Cu(phd)**<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> complex, (b) **3'aa**, (c) Mixture of (**Cu(phd)**<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> complex and **3'aa**), and (d) Comparison plot with ferrocene as an internal standard. CV of ferrocene is shown in plot (e).

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# 9. Copies of NMR spectra.



























<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):







# <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

















43	$\begin{array}{c} 119 \\ 911 \\ 008 \\$
163.	149. 135. 134. 132. 131. 132. 127. 127. 121.
Ť.	





<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6):



# <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-D6):















# <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-D6):







25	28 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15
162.	152. 135. 135. 135. 129. 129. 127. 127. 127. 127. 127. 127. 127. 127
1	





![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_1.jpeg)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-D6):

![](_page_56_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_1.jpeg)

# <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-D6):

![](_page_58_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_1.jpeg)

## <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-D6):

![](_page_59_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_1.jpeg)

## <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-D6):

![](_page_61_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_1.jpeg)

200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)

![](_page_64_Figure_1.jpeg)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6):

![](_page_64_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Figure_1.jpeg)

190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)