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Electronic Supplementary Information

Improved, gram-scale synthesis of sildenafil in water using arylacetic acid as the acyl source in the pyrazolo[4,3-*d*]pyrimidin-7-one ring formation

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Contents

I.Experimental procedure	S2-S4
II. Characterization data of substrates	S4-S8
III. Copies of NMR spectra of substrates	S9-S32
IV. HRMS of intermediate 20	S33
IV. References	S34

General considerations

Unless noted otherwise, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. All reactions were performed in a screw capped sealed tube. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆ as solvent using a 400 MHz and 100 MHz spectrometer respectively with Me₄Si as an internal standard. Coupling constants (*J* values) are reported in hertz (Hz). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-120 mesh, 100-200 mesh or 230-400 mesh).

I. Experimental Procedures

1. Preparation of 2-ethoxyphenylacetic acid (10)

In an oven-dried screw cap sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-hydroxyphenylacetic acid (0.5 mmol), ethyl iodide (1 equiv) and K_2CO_3 (1 equiv). CH₃CN (2 mL) was then added in the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by using column chromatography (100-200 # silica, EtOAc – Hexane = 3:7) to give the desired product as off-white solid.

2. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 1-methyl-5-phenyl-3-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7Hpyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (7)

In an oven-dried screw cap sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (0.5 mmol), phenylacetic acid (1 equiv) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (3 equiv). Water (2 mL) was then added in the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by using column chromatography (100-200 # silica, EtOAc – Hexane = 3:7) to give the desired cyclized product.

3. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 5-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3-propyl-1Hpyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one (5)

In an oven-dried screw cap sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (0.5 mmol), 2-ethoxyphenylacetic acid (1 equiv) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (3 equiv). Water (2 mL) was then added in the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by using column chromatography (100-200 # silica, EtOAc – Hexane = 3:7) to give the desired cyclized product.

4. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 4-ethoxy-3-(1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)benzenesulfonyl chloride (5a)

Following a literature procedure, 1 5-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one (0.3 mmol) was added portion wise to chlorosulphonic acid (0.25 mL) and thionyl chloride (0.1 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. Then the reaction mixture was poured to crushed ice. White precipitates were formed, which were then filtered, washed with cold water and dried under reduced pressure to give the desired product as white solid (115 mg, 92%).

5. Typical procedure for the synthesis of5-(2-Ethoxy-5-((4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-3-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (Sildenafil) (4)

To a solution of sulfonyl chloride derivative (0.25 mmol) in acetone (2 mL), excess of *N*-methyl piperazine was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After the completion of the reaction, acetone was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with cold water. The resulting precipitates were filtered, washed with cold water and dried under reduced pressure to give the desired product as white solid (125 mg, 90%)

6. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-arylquinazolin-4(3H)-ones (9,9a-9j)

In an oven-dried screw cap sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2aminobenzamide derivatives (0.25 mmol), arylacetic acid (1 equiv) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (3 equiv). Water (1 mL) was then added in the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 6 - 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by using column chromatography (100-200 # silica, EtOAc – Hexane = 3:7) to give the desired cyclized product.

7. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-arylbenzo[d]thiazoles (12a-12h)

In an oven-dried screw cap sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2aminothiophenol (0.25 mmol), arylacetic acid (1 equiv) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (3 equiv). Water (1 mL) was then added in the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 6 - 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by using column chromatography (100-200 # silica, EtOAc – Hexane = 3:7) to give the desired cyclized product.

II. Characterization data

2-Ethoxyphenylacetic acid (10)

 $\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{\text{COOH}}^{\text{COOH}} & \text{White solid (85\%); }^{1}\text{H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-}d_{6}\text{): }\delta 12.11 (s, 1H), 7.22 (dt, J = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dt, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 1.29 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H). \end{array}$

1-methyl-5-phenyl-3-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (7)²



White solid (59%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 12.41 (s, 1H), 8.07-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.51 (m, 3H), 4.15 (s, 3H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (sx, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H),0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

5-(2-Ethoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one (5)³



White solid (67%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.13 (s, 1H), 8.49 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.33-4.28 (m, 5H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H),1.80 (sx, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H),1.62 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H),1.05 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

4-Ethoxy-3-(1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5yl)benzenesulfonyl chloride (5a)³



5-(2-Ethoxy-5-((4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-3-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (Sildenafil) (4)³

White solid (90%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.83 (s, 1H), 8.82 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 3H), 3.10 (bs, 4H), 2.92 (t, J = 7.4)

Hz, 2H), 2.50 (bs, 4H), 2.28 (s, 3H),1.86 (sx, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H),1.64 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H),1.03 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

2-Phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (9)³



White solid (72%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.09 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.23-8.21 (m, 2H), 7.87-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.55 (dt, *J* = 6.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H).

2-(p-Tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9a)³



White solid (62%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.31 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dt, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9b)³



White solid (68%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.99 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H),

7.10 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H).

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9c)³



White solid (65%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.22-8.15 (m, 3H), 7.87(dt, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.64(d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H).

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9d)³



White solid (62%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.5 (s, 1H), 8.28-8.24 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.9 Hz,1H), 7.86 (dt,J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d,J = 8.0 Hz,1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H) 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H).

2-(*o*-Tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9e)³



White solid (76%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.60 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57- 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H).

2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9f)⁴



White solid (78%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.95 (s, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H),

4.09 (s, 3H).

2-(2-Ethoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9g)⁴

White solid (69%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.05 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dt, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H).

2-(2-Bromophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9h)³



White solid (45%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.31 (bs, 1H), 8.32-8.29 (m, 1H), 7.84-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H).

2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (9i)³



White solid (65%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.53 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dt, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17

(dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H).

6-Chloro-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (9j)³



White solid (69%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 12.71 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.16 (m, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.54 (m, 3H).

2-Phenylbenzo[d]thiazole (12a)³



2-(p-Tolyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12b)³

NCH3White solid (69%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz,
1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dt, J = 8.3,
1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12c)⁵

White solid (72%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08-8.04 (m, 3H), 7.9 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dt, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H).

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12d)³

White solid (60%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H),

8.02-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.40 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H).

2-(o-Tolyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12e)³



White solid (68%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dt, *J* = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.32 (m, 4H), 2.69 (s, 3H).

2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12f)⁶



White solid (70%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.58 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.38 (m. 3H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H).

2-(2-Bromophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12g)⁷



White solid (58%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dt, J = 7.8,

1.7 Hz, 1H).

2-(3-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (12h)⁷



White solid (65%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14-8.09 (m, 2H), 7.97-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dt, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 3H).

III. NMR Spectras





































S-28

IV. References

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