

Library synthesis and cytotoxicity of a family of 2-phenylacrylonitriles and discovery of an estrogen dependent, breast cancer lead compound

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Supplementary Data

Experimental Section

Materials

All starting materials were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and Lancaster Synthesis. Solvents were bulk, and distilled from glass prior to use. Reaction progress was monitored by TLC, on aluminium plates coated with silica gel with fluorescent indicator (Merck 60 F₂₅₄) and flash chromatography was conducted utilizing SNAP Biotage KP-SIL columns.

Cell culture and stock solutions

Stock solutions were prepared as follows and stored at -20 °C: drugs were prepared as 40 mM solutions in DMSO. All cell lines with the exception of MCF10A were cultured at 37 °C, under 5 % CO₂ in air and were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Trace Biosciences, Australia) supplemented with 10 % foetal bovine serum, 10 mM sodium bicarbonate penicillin (100 µg mL⁻¹), streptomycin (100 µg mL⁻¹), and glutamine (4 mM). MCF10A were cultured as above and further supplemented with insulin (2mg/ml), hydrocortisone (0.25mg/ml), cholera toxin (1mg/ml), and epidermal growth factor

(100 µg/ml).

In vitro growth inhibition assays

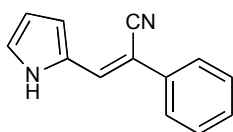
Cells in logarithmic growth were transferred to 96-well plates. Cytotoxicity was determined by plating cells in duplicate in medium (100 µL) at a density of 2500-4000 cells/well. On day 0 (24 h after plating), when the cells were in logarithmic growth, medium (100 µL) with or without the test agent was added to each well. After 72 h of drug exposure, growth inhibitory effects were evaluated using the MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide) assay and their absorbance was read at 540 nm. Percentage growth inhibition was determined at a fixed drug concentration of 100 µM. A value of 100 % is indicative of total cell growth inhibition. Those analogues showing appreciable percentage growth inhibition underwent further dose response analysis to allow the calculation of GI₅₀ values. The GI₅₀ value is defined as the drug concentration at which cell growth is 50 % inhibited based on the difference between the optical density values on day 0 and those at the end of drug exposure.^{1,2}

Chemistry

General methods

THF was freshly distilled from sodium–benzophenone. Flash chromatography was carried out using silica gel 200–400 mesh (60 Å). ¹H and ¹³CNMR were recorded at 300 MHz and 75 MHz respectively using a Bruker Avance 300 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃ and DMSO-*d*₆. GCMS was performed using a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2100. The instrument uses a quadrupole mass spectrometer and detects samples via electron impact ionization (EI). The University of Wollongong, Australia, Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry Laboratory analyzed samples for HRMS. The spectra were run on the VG Autospec-oa-tof tandem high resolution mass spectrometer using CI (chemical ionization), with methane as the carrier gas and PFK (perfluorokerosene) as the reference.

*(Z)-2-Phenyl-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (1)*³

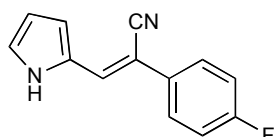


1H-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (165 mg, 1.74 mmol), was added to a vigorously stirred solution of water (10 mL) and heated to 50 °C up on which it dissolved. 2-

Phenylacetone nitrile (193 mg, 1.65 mmol) was then slowly added forming a suspension. Once a clear solution was evident, typically 5-10 minutes, 40 % PhCH₂NMe₃(OH) (7 mL) was added dropwise. After complete addition, the reaction vessel was sealed and stirred at 50 °C for 5 hours. After this period, the solution was filtered hot, washed with warm water and dried under suction to yield a solid. The crude solid was then recrystallised from EtOH to afford **1** as a brown solid; 73%; 94–96 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 9.81 (br, 1H, NH), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H, Ar H₂; Ar H₆), 7.45-7.40 (m, 2H, Ar H₃; Ar H₅), 7.42 (s, 1H, HC=C), 7.35-7.30 (m, 1H, Ar H₄), 7.08-7.06 (m, 1H, Pyr H-5), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 3.7 Hz, 1H, Pyr H₃), 6.37 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 3.7, 1H (Pyr H₄); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 133.4, 130.7, 128.5 (2 x Ar), 127.6, 127.2, 124.4 (2 x Ar), 123.5, 120.1, 118.5, 110.3, 100.8; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3396 (NH), 2205 (CN), 1683 (C=C), 1601 (Ar), 1589 (Ar), 1496 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 195.

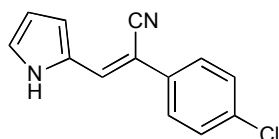
(E)-2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**2**)³



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde and 4-fluorophenylacetone nitrile to afford **2** as a yellow solid; 78%; mp 115-116 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 9.82 (br, 1H, NH), 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H, Ar H₂; Ar H₆), 7.32 (s, 1H, HC=C), 7.13-7.06 (m, 3H, Ar H₃; Ar H₅; Pyr H₅), 6.71-6.70 (m, 1H, Pyr H₃), 6.36-6.34 (m, 1H, Pyr H₄); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 130.7, 129.6, 127.0, 126.1 (2 x Ar), 123.5, 119.9, 118.5, 115.7, 115.4, 110.3 (2 x Ar), 99.7; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3401 (NH), 2205 (CN), 1641 (C=C), 1597 (Ar), 1507 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 213.

(Z)-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**3**)³

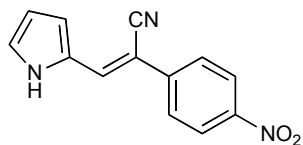


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde and 4-chlorophenylacetone nitrile to afford **3** as a yellow solid; 67%; mp 112–114 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 9.78 (br, 1H, NH), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H, Ar H₂; Ar H₆), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H, Ar H₃; Ar H₅; HC=C), 7.08 (s, 1H, Pyr H₅), 6.72 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H, Pyr H₃), 6.36 (s, 1H, Pyr H₄); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 133.4, 131.9, 130.9, 128.7 (2 x

Ar), 126.9, 125.6 (2 x Ar), 123.8, 119.7, 118.9, 110.4, 99.5; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3380 (NH), 2213 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1603 (Ar), 741 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M+1) 229.

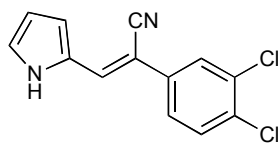
(Z)-2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**4**)³



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde and 4-nitrophenylacetonitrile to afford **4** as a dark green solid; 70%; mp 130–134 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 9.80 (br, 1H, NH), 8.23-8.26 (m, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 7.74-7.70 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.56 (s, 1H, HC=C), 7.18-7.17 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 6.84 (dd, $J = 1.3, 3.8$ Hz, 1H, Pyr H3), 6.42 (dd, $J = 1.3, 3.8$ Hz, 1H, Pyr H4); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 133.1, 132.0, 129.3, 126.9, 125.4, 124.7 (2 x Ar), 124.0 (2 x Ar), 123.0, 121.0, 119.3, 111.1; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3398 (NH), 2205 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1602 (Ar), 1578 (Ar), 1508 (Ar) 1331 (NO); LRMS (APCI M+1) 210.

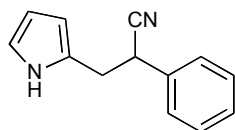
(Z)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**5**)³



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **3** as a dark yellow solid; 72%; mp 140–142 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 9.78 (br, 1H, NH), 7.88 (s, 1H, HC=C), 7.78 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H, Ar H5), 7.64-7.56 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 7.21-7.20 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 6.39-6.37 (m, 1H, Pyr H4); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 135.0, 132.7, 132.0, 130.5, 130.1, 127.1, 125.7, 124.1, 123.9, 117.8, 114.4, 110.8, 98.3; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3415 (NH), 2199 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1604 (Ar), 1588 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 263.

2-Phenyl-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (**6**)

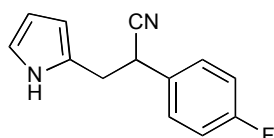


(Z)-2-Phenyl-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**1**) (5.1 mmol) was dissolved into sufficient freshly distilled dry acetone to form a 0.05 M solution. This solution hydrogenated using

the ThalesNano H-cube™ using a 10% Pd/C catalyst at 1 mL/min at 50 °C and 50 bar H₂ pressure. The solvent was then removed *in vacuo* and the crude oil was subjected to flash silica chromatography (1:1 CHCl₃:Hexanes) to afford **6** as a brown oil; 98%.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 8.03 (br, 1H, NH), 7.42-7.35 (m, 3H, Ar H3; Ar H4; Ar H5), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 6.69-6.67 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 6.15-6.13 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 6.03-6.02 (m, 1H, Pyr H4), 4.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.28-3.14 (m, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): 134.5, 128.6 (2 x Ar), 127.8, 126.8, 125.7 (2 x Ar), 120.4, 117.3, 108.1, 107.4, 38.4, 34.0; ν_{max}(film)/cm⁻¹: 3384 (NH), 2242 (CN), 1597 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 197; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₃H₁₂N₂, calculated 197.1079; found 197.1083

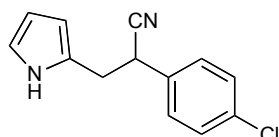
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (**7**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **6**, from (*Z*)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**2**) to afford **7** as a light brown oil; 95%.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 8.06 (br, 1H, NH), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H5), 7.09-7.03 (m, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 6.69 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, Pyr H5), 6.15-6.12 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 5.98 (s, 1H, Pyr H4), 4.00 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.25-3.14 (m, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 163.6, 130.2, 128.6 (2 x Ar), 125.3, 120.2, 117.4, 115.4, 108.2 (2 x Ar), 107.6, 37.6, 34.0; ν_{max}(film)/cm⁻¹: 3404 (NH), 2244 (CN), 1602 (Ar), 1509 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 215; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₃H₁₁FN₂, calculated 215.0985; found 215.0986

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (**8**)

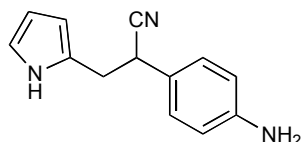


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **6**, from (*Z*)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**3**) to afford **7** as a light yellow oil; 76%.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 8.04 (br, 1H, NH), 7.38-7.32 (m, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 6.70-6.68 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 6.15-6.12 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 5.99-5.98 (m, 1H, Pyr H4), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.25-3.12 (m, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 132.9, 128.7 (2 x Ar), 128.6, 128.2, 126.8 (2 x Ar), 229.9, 117.4,

108.2, 107.7, 37.8, 33.9; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3398 (NH), 2215 (CN), 1598 (Ar), 1511 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 231; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{CN}_2$, calculated 231.0689; found 231.0694.

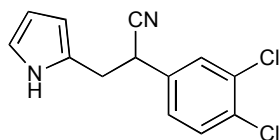
2-(4-Aminophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (9)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **6**, from (*Z*)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**4**) to afford **9** as a dark brown oil; 12%.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.96 (br, 1H, NH), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 6.68-6.64 (m, 3H, Ar H3; Ar H5; Pyr H5), 6.14-6.10 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 6.01 (s, 1H, Pyr H4), 3.88 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 3.75 (br, 2H, NH_2), 3.22-3.09 (m, 2H, CH_2); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 145.9, 127.8 (2 x Ar), 126.1, 124.1, 120.8, 117.2, 114.8 (2 x Ar), 107.9, 107.3, 37.6, 34.1; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3434 (NH), 3402 (NH), 2235 (CN), 1602 (Ar), 1505 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 212; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$, calculated 242.0930; found 242.0933.

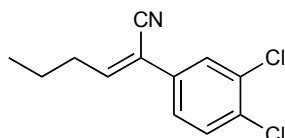
2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (10)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **6**, from (*Z*)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**2**) to afford **10** as a yellow oil; 65%.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 8.10 (br, 1H, NH), 7.45-7.33 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H5), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H, Ar H6), 6.72-6.70 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 6.16-6.13 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 5.98 (s, 1H, Pyr H4), 3.97 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 3.25-3.12 (m, 2H, CH_2); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 134.4, 132.7, 132.2, 130.4, 128.8, 126.2, 124.7, 119.4, 117.6, 108.3, 107.9, 37.6, 33.7; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3392 (NH), 2221 (CN), 1600 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 267; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2$, calculated 265.0299; found 265.0305.

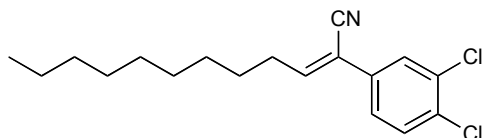
(Z)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)hept-2-enenitrile (11)



Pentanal (97 mg, 1.13 mmol) was dissolved in distilled ethanol (10 mL) to this was added 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile (199 mg, 1.07 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL). The resultant solution was stirred and heated to 70 °C upon which piperidine was added (2 drops). The solution was then heated under reflux for 2 hours. After this time, the solution was cooled in the to 0 °C and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to yield an oil. Subsequent flash chromatography (1:19 EtOAc:Hexanes) to afford **11** as a clear oil; 35%.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.62-7.61 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.48-7.45 (m, 1H, Ar H2), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H, Ar H6), 6.85 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.60 (q, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 1.60-1.33 (m, 4H, CH_2CH_2), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 148.4, 132.8, 132.7, 132.5, 130.3, 126.8, 124.3, 115.3, 113.4, 31.5, 30.0, 21.8, 13.3; ν_{max} (film)/ cm^{-1} : 2958 (CH), 2957 (CH), 2870 (CH), 2218 (CN), 1615 (C=C), 1473 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M-1) 252; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2$, calculated 254.0503; found 254.0501.

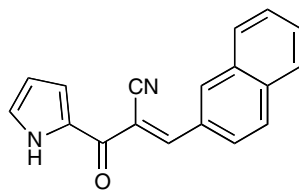
(E)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)dodec-2-enitrile (**12**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **11**, from decanal and 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile to afford **12** as a clear oil; 21%.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): 7.62-7.61 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H, Ar H2), 7.37 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H, Ar H6), 6.87-6.82 (m, 1H, CH=C), 2.63-2.52 (m, 4H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{C}$), 2.34-2.14 (m, 4H, CH_2CH_2), 1.59-1.52 (m, 6H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$), 0.91-0.85 (m, 5H, CH_2CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): 148.4, 132.8, 132.5, 130.3, 126.1, 125.2, 124.9, 115.3, 113.4, 31.9, 31.3, 31.2, 29.1, 28.8, 28.7, 28.0, 22.2, 13.5; ν_{max} (film)/ cm^{-1} : 2957 (CH), 2930 (CH), 2860 (CH), 2219 (CN), 1619 (C=C), 1482 (CH); LRMS (APCI M-1) 322 HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2$, calculated 324.1286; found 324.1289.

(E)-3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**14**)

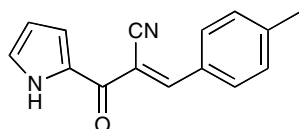


Cyano acetic acid (1.360g, 16 mmol) was added to Ac₂O (8 mL) and the resultant suspension was stirred and heated to 50 °C upon which the solid material dissolved. Pyrrole (1.073g, 16 mmol) was then added and the solution was heated at 75 °C for 35 minutes. The solution was then diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with 0.1M NaOH (3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was then collected and dried using MgSO₄. The solvent was then removed under vacuum and the residue purified by flash silica chromatography (1:10 EtOAc:Hexanes to 1:1 EtOAc:Hexanes) to afford 3-oxo-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile, 70%.

Next, to an ethanolic solution (10 mL) of 2-naphthaldehyde (1.56 mmol) was added an ethanolic solution (10 mL) of 3-oxo-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanenitrile (1.56 mmol). This mixture was heated to 70 °C at which time, piperidine (2 drops) was added, and the solution was then heated under reflux for an additional 2 hours. After this time, the solution was cooled and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to afford a brown oil which was purified by flash chromatography (1:10 EtOAc:Hexanes) to afford **14** as a brown solid; 35%; mp 140-142 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (300 MHz): δ 12.27 (br, 1H, NH), 8.57 (s, 1H, Ar H1), 8.44-8.42 (s, 1H, CH=C), 8.23-8.21 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 8.11-7.99 (m, 3H, Ar H3; Ar H4; Ar H8), 7.70-7.60 (m, 2H, Ar H7; Pyr H5), 7.35-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar H6; Pyr H3), 6.35-6.34 (m, 1H, Pyr H4); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (75 MHz): δ 174.8, 153.2, 134.4, 133.4, 132.4, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 124.7, 119.5, 119.2, 110.8, 109.1; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3291 (NH), 2215 (CN), 1617 (C=O); LRMS (APCI M+1) 273; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₈H₁₂N₂, calculated 272.0950; found 272.0954.

(E)-2-(1H-Pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-3-*p*-tolylacrylonitrile (**15**)

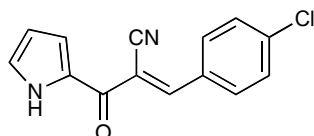


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 4-methylbenzaldehyde to afford **15** as a yellow solid, 81%; mp 242-244 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (300 MHz): δ 12.22 (br, 1H, NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH=C), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H, Pyr H5; Pyr H3), 6.33-6.30 (m, 1H, Pyr H4), 2.37 (s, 3H, ArCH₃); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (75

MHz): δ 174.8, 153.2, 143.5, 130.6 (2 x Ar), 129.7 (2 x Ar), 129.3, 129.0, 127.9, 119.3, 117.7, 110.8, 107.8, 21.2; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3291 (NH), 2210 (CN), 1622 (C=O); LRMS (APCI M+1) 237; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2$, calculated 209.1079; found 209.1082.

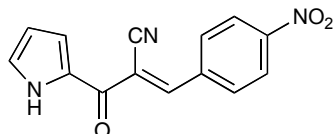
(E)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**16**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 4-chlorobenzaldehyde to afford **16** as a yellow solid, 39%; mp 192-194 °C.

^1H NMR (Acetone- d_6) (300 MHz): δ 11.30 (br, 1H, NH), 8.28 (s, 1H, CH=C), 8.13-8.11 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.66-7.63 (m, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 7.45-7.44 (m, 1H, Pyr H5), 7.35-7.34 (m, 1H, Pyr H3), 6.38-6.36 (m, 1H, Pyr H4); ^{13}C NMR (Acetone- d_6) (75 MHz): δ 173.6, 151.1, 137.4, 131.7 (2 x Ar), 130.8, 128.8 (2 x Ar), 126.9, 119.7, 118.7, 116.6, 110.4, 109.5; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3284 (NH), 2211 (CN), 1627 (C=O), 760 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M+1) 257; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{ClN}_2$, calculated 229.0533; found 229.0537.

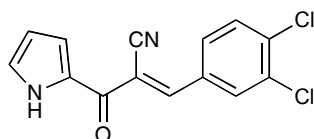
(E)-3-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**17**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde to afford **17** as a purple solid, 37%; mp 199-200 °C.

^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) (300 MHz): δ 12.32 (br, 1H, NH), 8.40-8.38 (m, 3H, Ar H3; Ar H5; Pyr H5), 8.24-8.21 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.24 (m, 2H, Pyr H5; Pyr H3), 6.34 (s, 1H, Pyr H4); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) (75 MHz): δ 174.2, 150.6, 148.8, 138.2, 131.3 (2 x Ar), 130.6, 128.7, 124.0 (2 x Ar), 120.3, 116.6, 113.1, 111.1; $\nu_{\max}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3308 (NH), 2228 (CN), 1633 (C=O), 1517 (NO) 1343 (NO); LRMS (APCI M+1) 238; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$, calculated 240.0773; found 240.0777.

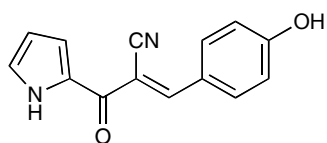
(E)-3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**18**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 3,4-dichlorobenzaldehyde to afford **18** as a yellow solid; 66%; mp 178-181 °C.

¹H NMR (Acetone-*d*₆) (300 MHz): δ 11.31 (br, 1H, NH), 8.29-8.27 (m, 2H, Ar H5; CH=C), 8.11-8.08 (m, 1H, Ar H6), 7.84-7.81 (m, 1H, Ar H2), 7.45-7.36 (m, 2H, Pyr H5; Pyr H3), 6.39-6.37 (m, 1H, Pyr H4); ¹³C NMR (Acetone-*d*₆) (75 MHz): δ 173.4, 149.6, 135.0, 132.4, 132.1, 131.7, 130.8, 129.3, 127.2, 127.0, 119.0, 116.3, 111.0, 110.5; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3310 (NH), 2222 (CN), 1632 (C=O); LRMS (APCI M+1) 290; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₃H₈Cl₂N₂, calculated 263.0143; found 263.0144.

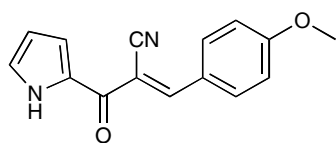
(E)-3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**19**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde to afford **19** as an orange solid; 43%; mp 240-243 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (300 MHz): δ 12.07 (br, 1H, NH), 8.68 (br, 1H, OH), 8.18 (s, 1H, CH=C), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.7Hz, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H, Pyr H5; Pyr H3), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7Hz, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 6.30-6.27 (m, 1H, Pyr H4); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (75 MHz): δ 175.0, 162.3, 153.3, 133.6 (2 x Ar), 129.2, 127.3, 123.1, 118.6, 118.4, 116.2 (2 x Ar), 110.5, 104.1; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3419 (OH), 3290 (NH), 2218 (CN), 1617 (C=O), 1603 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M+1) 239; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₃H₁₀N₂O, calculated 211.0871; found 211.0875.

(E)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)acrylonitrile (**20**)

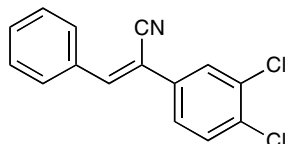


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **14**, from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde to afford **20** as a yellow solid; 83%; mp 166-168 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (300 MHz): δ 12.14 (br, 1H, NH), 8.24 (s, 1H, CH=C), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.9Hz, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.28-7.25 (m, 2H, Pyr H5; Pyr H3), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.9Hz, 2H, Ar H3; Ar H5), 6.31 (s, 1H, Pyr H4), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) (75 MHz): δ 174.9, 163.0, 153.0, 133.1 (2 x Ar), 129.1, 127.5, 124.6, 118.9, 118.2, 114.8 (2 x Ar), 110.6, 105.5, 55.6; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 3306 (NH), 2209 (CN), 1617 (C=O), 1507 (Ar); LRMS

(APCI M+1) 253; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O, calculated 225.1028; found 225.1029.

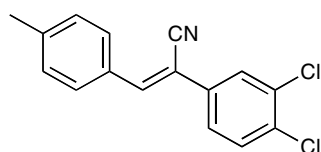
(Z)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile (**21**)⁴



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from benzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **21** as a white solid; 89%; mp 146-147 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 7.91-7.87 (m, 2H, Ar H₂; Ar H₅), 7.77-7.76 (m, 1H, Ar H₆), 7.53-7.47 (m, 6H, Ar₂ H₂; Ar₂ H₃; Ar₂ H₄; Ar₂ H₅; Ar₂ H₆; CH=C); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 143.0, 133.9, 133.0, 132.8, 132.6, 130.6, 130.4, 128.9 (2 x Ar), 128.5 (2 x Ar), 127.2, 124.6, 116.7, 108.8; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 2212 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1590 (Ar), 1568 (Ar), 1496 (Ar), 676 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 273.

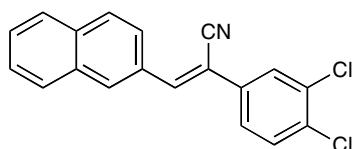
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-*p*-tolylacrylonitrile (**22**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-methylbenzaldehyde and 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile to afford **22** as a yellow solid; 71%; mp 164-165 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Ar₂ H₂; Ar₂ H₆), 7.74 (m, 1H, Ar H₅), 7.50-7.7.49 (m, 3H, Ar H₂; Ar H₆; CH=C), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Ar₂ H₃; Ar₂ H₅), 2.42 (s, 3H, ArCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 143.0, 141.4, 134.1, 132.9, 132.5, 130.4, 129.8, 129.3 (2 x Ar), 129.0 (2 x Ar), 127.0, 124.5, 117.0, 107.4, 21.1; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 2214 (CN), 1637 (C=C), 1594 (Ar), 1509 (Ar), 811 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 287; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₆H₁₁NCl₂, calculated 288.0347; found 288.0350.

(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**23**)

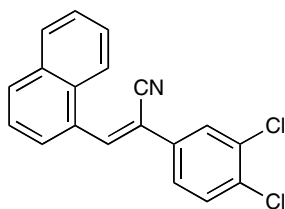


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 2-naphthaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **23** as a yellow solid; 71%; mp 170-171 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) (300 MHz): δ 8.42 (s, 1H, Ar₂ H₁), 8.32 (s, 1H, CH=C), 8.12-7.97

(m, 5H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5; Ar2 H6; Ar2 H7; Ar2 H8), 7.76 (m, 2H, Ar2 H4; Ar H5), 7.61 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) (75 MHz): δ 144.7, 134.5, 133.7, 132.4, 132.0, 131.7, 131.2, 130.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.7, 127.3, 127.1, 126.1, 124.7, 117.4, 107.9; ν_{max} (KBr)/ cm^{-1} : 2210 (CN), 1626 (C=C), 1598 (Ar), 1591 (Ar), 1477 (Ar), 1466 (Ar), 809 (Ar-Cl), 743 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 323; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$, calculated 324.0347; found 325.0353.

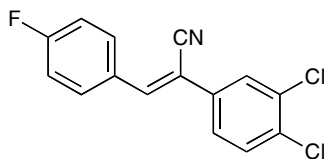
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)acrylonitrile (**24**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 1-naphthaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **24** as a yellow solid; 72%; mp 218-219 °C.

^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) (300 MHz): δ 8.84 (s, 1H, CH=C), 8.19-8.18 (m, 2H, Ar2 H4; Ar2 H8), 8.10-7.99 (m, 3H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H5; Ar2 H7), 7.82-7.81 (m, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H6), 7.67-7.61 (m, 3H, Ar H2; Ar H5 Ar H6); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) (75 MHz): δ 143.5, 134.0, 133.0, 132.0, 131.9, 131.1, 130.9, 130.8, 128.5, 127.8, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 125.3, 125.2, 124.3, 117.0, 112.3; ν_{max} (KBr)/ cm^{-1} : 2216 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1508 (Ar), 1474 (Ar), 776 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 323; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$, calculated 324.0347; found 324.03523.

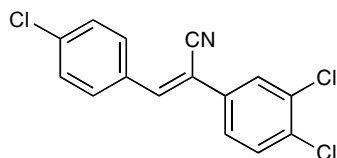
(E)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylonitrile (**25**)⁵



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-fluorobenzaldehyde and 4-chlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **25** as a white solid; 94%; mp 156-157 °C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.93-7.88 (m, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.75-7.74 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.51-7.48 (m, 3H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5; CH=C), 7.20-7.15 (m 2H, Ar H5; Ar H6); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 141.5, 133.7, 133.0 (2 x Ar), 132.9, 131.1, 131.0, 130.5, 128.9, 127.1, 124.6 (2 x Ar), 116.6, 115.9, 115.7; ν_{max} (KBr)/ cm^{-1} : 2213 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1596 (Ar), 809 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 291.

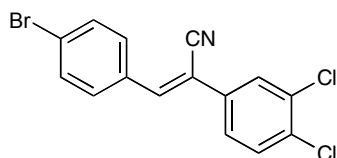
(Z)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (**26**)⁶



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-chlorobenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **26** as a white solid; 66%; mp 167-168 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.75-7.74 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.51-7.49 (m, 3H Ar H2; Ar H6; CH=C), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.1Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 143.0, 141.4, 134.1, 132.9, 132.6, 130.4, 129.9, 129.3 (2 x Ar), 129.0 (2 x Ar), 127.1, 124.5, 117.0, 107.5; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 2214 (CN), 1637 (C=C), 1594 (Ar), 1478 (Ar), 810 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 307.

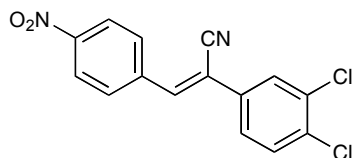
(Z)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (**27**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-bromobenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **27** as a yellow solid; 85%; mp 120-121 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 7.75 (m, 3H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6; CH=C), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.56 Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 7.50 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H5), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.45 Hz, 1H, Ar H6); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (75 MHz): δ 141.8, 134.1, 133.6, 133.6, 132.2, 131.9, 131.0, 130.7 (2 x Ar), 127.6 (2 x Ar), 125.6, 125.1, 116.9, 110.1; ν_{max}(KBr)/cm⁻¹: 2214 (CN), 1635 (C=C), 1598 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M-1) 351; HRMS (ESI M+H) for C₁₅H₈BrCl₂N, calculated 351.9295; found 351.9298.

(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (**28**)

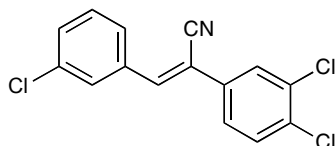


Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **28** as a purple solid; 75%; mp 133-134 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) (300 MHz): δ 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.81-7.80 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.58-7.56 (m, 2H, Ar H2 + Ar H6),

7.26 (s, 1H, CH=C), ; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 139.6, 138.3, 133.3, 132.8, 132.1, 130.7, 129.5 (2 x Ar), 129.1, 127.4, 124.9, 123.7 (2 x Ar), 115.8, 113.2; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 2215 (CN), 1674 (C=C), 1592 (Ar), 1513 (NO), 1345 (NO); LRMS (APCI M+1) 289; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$, calculated 319.0041; found 319.0048.

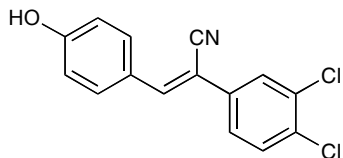
(Z)-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (**29**)⁵



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 3-chlorobenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **29** as a white solid; 65%; mp 138-140 °C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.76 (s, 1H, CH=C), 7.52-7.51 (m, 2H, Ar2 H4; Ar2 H5), 7.45-7.42 (m, 3H, Ar H2; Ar H5; Ar H6); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 141.0, 134.6, 134.2, 133.4, 133.3, 133.1, 130.5, 130.4, 129.8, 128.9, 127.3, 126.6, 124.7, 116.2, 110.5; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 2212 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 1601 (Ar), 677 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-1) 307.

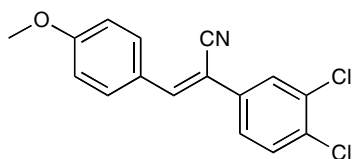
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**30**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **11**, from 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde and 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile to afford **30** as a yellow solid; 90%; mp 153-154 °C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.90-7.89 (m, 4H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6; CH=C; Ar H5), 7.67-7.66 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 6.97-6.94 (m, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 5.98 (br, 1H, OH); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 161.1, 143.6, 135.3, 132.0, 131.4 (2 x Ar), 130.9, 130.5, 126.5, 124.8, 123.9, 117.3, 115.6 (2 x Ar), 103.0; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3467 (OH), 2210 (CN), 1580 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M-1) 288; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$, calculated 290.0139; found 290.0144.

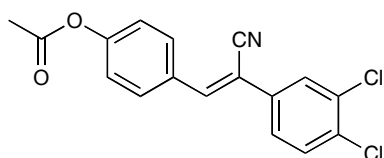
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**31**)⁶



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **31** as a yellow solid; 79%; mp 166-167 °C.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.89 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.73 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.49-7.44 (m, 3H, Ar H2; Ar H6; CH=C), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 161.4, 142.5, 134.4, 132.9, 132.3, 130.9 (2 x Ar), 130.3, 126.9, 125.4, 124.4, 117.2, 114.0 (2 x Ar), 105.7, 54.9; ν_{max} (KBr)/ cm^{-1} : 2212 (CN), 1638 (C=C), 1609 (Ar), 1593 (Ar), 1513 (Ar); LRMS (APCI M-1) 303.

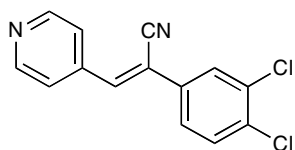
(Z)-4-(2-cyano-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyl)phenyl acetate (32)



(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (30) (290 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in Ac_2O (5 mL), and 3 drops of conc. H_2SO_4 were added and the solution stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with H_2O (10 mL) and the resultant precipitate was collected under suction, and recrystallised from EtOH to afford **32** as a yellow solid; 35%; mp 154-155 °C.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.92 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.75 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.51-7.49 (m 3H, Ar H2; Ar H6; CH=C), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 2.33 (s, 3H, COCH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 168.4, 152.0, 141.7, 133.8, 133.0, 132.9, 131.1, 130.4, 130.2 (2 x Ar), 127.1, 124.6, 121.8 (2 x Ar), 116.6, 108.8, 20.6; ν_{max} (KBr)/ cm^{-1} : 2210 (CN), 1764 (C=O), 1597 (Ar), 1507 (Ar), 1221 (CO); LRMS (APCI M-1) 331; HRMS (ESIM+H) for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$, calculated 332.0245; found 332.0249.

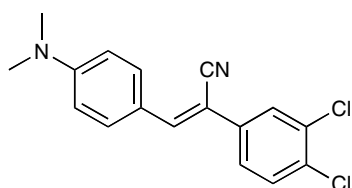
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(pyridin-4-yl)acrylonitrile (33)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **33** as a white solid; 66%; mp 188-189 °C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 8.77 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 7.79 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.69 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.55-7.54 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.47 (s, 1H, CH=C); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 150.3 (2 x Ar), 139.6, 139.4, 134.1, 133.3, 132.7, 130.7, 127.5, 124.9, 122.0 (2 x Ar), 115.6, 113.7; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 2217 (CN), 1636 (C=C), 816 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M+1) 275; HRMS (ESI M+H) for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2$, calculated 275.0143; found 275.0144.

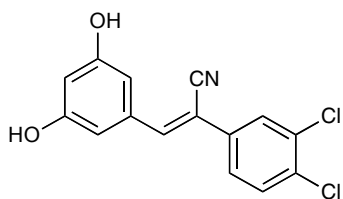
(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**34**)⁶



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **1**, from 4-*N,N*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **34** as a yellow solid; 40%; mp 210-212°C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ 7.86 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H6), 7.71- 6.69 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.46-7.45 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H6), 7.37 (s, 1H, CH=C), 6.72 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, Ar2 H3; Ar2 H5), 3.08 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): δ 151.5, 143.0, 135.2, 134.2, 132.6, 131.1 (2 x Ar), 130.2, 126.4, 124.0, 120.4, 118.3, 111.0 (2 x Ar), 101.1, 29.5; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 2208 (CN), 1614 (C=C), 1580 (Ar), 805 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M+1) 317.

(Z)-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(3,5-dihydroxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**35**)



Synthesized using the general procedure as for **11**, from 3,5-dihydroxybenzaldehyde and 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile to afford **35** as a brown solid; 25%; mp >300 °C.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): 8.76 (br, 2H, 2 x OH), 7.92-7.91 (m, 1H, Ar H5), 7.82 (s, 1H, CH=C), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H, Ar H2; Ar H5), 6.99 (m, 2H, Ar2 H2; Ar2 H5), 6.52-6.51 (m, 1H, Ar2 H6); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (75 MHz): 158.3 (2 x Ar), 144.0, 134.7, 132.1, 131.7, 130.5, 129.7, 127.7, 127.0, 125.3, 116.5 (2 x Ar), 107.5, 105.2; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3437 (OH), 2218 (CN), 1582 (Ar), 804 (Ar-Cl); LRMS (APCI M-2) 304; HRMS (ESI M+H) for

C₁₅H₉Cl₂NO₂, calculated 306.0089; found 306.0095.

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