## **Supporting Information**

# Metal nano particle in "on-water" organic synthesis: one-pot nano CuO catalyzed synthesis of isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazolines

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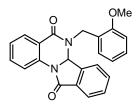
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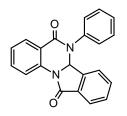
**General:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were determined on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) and are referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard and the signals were reported as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet) and coupling constants *J* were given in Hz. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution. TLC was done on silica gel coated glass slide (Merck, Silica gel G for TLC). Silica gel (60-120 mesh, SRL, India) was used for column chromatography. Petroleum ether refers to the fraction boiling in the range of 60-80 °C unless otherwise mentioned. All solvents were dried and distilled before use. Commercially available substrates were freshly distilled before the reaction. Solvents, reagents and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich, Fluka, Merck, SRL, Spectrochem and Process Chemicals.

## Typical procedure for synthesis of 6-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4h)



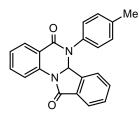
A mixture of isatoic anhydride (163 mg, 1 mmol), 2-carboxybenzaldehyde (150 mg, 1 mmol) and 2-methoxybenzyl amine (130  $\mu$ L, 137 mg, 1 mmol) was stirred in presence of CuO nano (5 mol%) in water (3 mL) under refluxed conditions for 10h (TLC). After completion, ethyl acetate (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. Then the insoluble CuO nanoparticles was filtered by Teflon membrane (PTFE, 0.2  $\mu$ m pore size) and the filtrate was extracted with ethylacetate (5 mL) followed by washing with brine (5 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of solvent the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1 to 3:1) as eluent. The CuO nanoparticles were thoroughly washed with the ethanol and reused for the next cycle. Yield: 314 mg, 85%; White solid, mp. 160-162 °C; IR (KBr): 3024, 1959, 1716, 1656, 1476 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.1, 164.2, 156.5, 138.0, 137.0, 133.6, 132.6, 132.5, 130.5, 129.4, 128.3, 127.1, 125.4, 125.3, 124.8, 124.4, 120.9, 120.5, 120.2, 110.5, 70.9, 55.4, 42.4.

Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{23}H_{18}N_2O_3$ : C, 74.58; H, 4.90; N, 7.56%; Found: C, 74.51; H, 4.82; N, 7.52%.



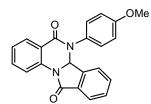
6-phenyl-6,6a-dihydroisoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4a)<sup>1</sup>

Yield: 280 mg, 86%; White solid, mp. 184-186 °C; IR (KBr): 3029, 1963, 1721, 1658, 1468 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10-8.09 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.5, 164.3, 138.8, 138.3, 137.2, 134.0, 132.3, 132.2, 130.4, 129.9, 129.5, 129.3, 125.5, 125.4, 124.6, 120.4, 120.3, 120.2, 72.1.



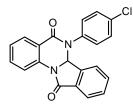
6-*p*-Tolyl-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4b)<sup>2</sup>

Yield: 285 mg, 84%; Gummy mass; IR (KBr): 3015, 1718, 1655, 1472 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.12-8.09 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.18 (m, 4H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.13 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.3, 164.2, 139.0, 138.7, 137.0, 135.3, 134.3, 133.8, 132.1, 132.0, 130.3, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 125.4, 125.2, 124.3, 120.2, 72.2, 21.3.



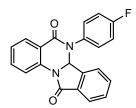
6-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4c)

Yield: 285 mg, 80%; White solid, mp. 141-143 °C; IR (KBr): 3033, 1967, 1717, 1661, 1482 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.04-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.50 (m, 3H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.10 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.1, 164.2, 159.6, 138.6, 136.9, 133.6, 132.0, 131.9, 130.6, 130.0, 129.2, 125.4, 125.0, 124.2, 120.2, 120.0, 114.9, 114.5, 72.2, 55.4. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 74.15; H, 4.53; N, 7.86%; Found: C, 74.07; H, 4.42; N, 7.77%.



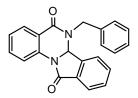
6-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4d)<sup>2</sup>

Yield: 280 mg, 78%; White solid, mp. 186-188 °C; IR (KBr): 3021, 1954, 1718, 1656, 1479 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.19-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 4H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.4, 164.4, 138.5, 137.3, 136.8, 135.2, 134.3, 132.5, 132.3, 130.6, 130.1, 129.6, 129.5, 125.5, 124.8, 120.5, 120.2, 120.1, 72.3.



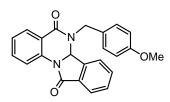
#### 6-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4e)

Yield: 258 mg, 75%; Gummy mass; IR (KBr): 3027, 1951, 1718, 1659, 1477 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.18-8.13 (m, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.08-6.74 (m, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.1, 164.2, 162.5 (d, <sup>1</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 247 Hz), 138.4, 137.0, 134.0, 133.9 (d, <sup>4</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 3 Hz), 132.2, 132.0, 130.3, 129.4, 125.2 (d, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 6 Hz), 124.6, 120.3, 120.0, 116.8, 116.5, 115.7 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 21 Hz), 72.2; Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.25; H, 3.81; N, 8.14%; Found: C, 73.17; H, 3.76; N, 8.07%.



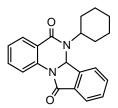
## 6-Benzyl-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4f).<sup>1</sup>

Yield: 282 mg, 83%; White solid, mp. 154-156 °C; IR (KBr): 3024, 1956, 1715, 1660, 1482 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.11 (m, 7H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 5.42 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.8, 164.1, 137.6, 136.8, 136.1, 133.7, 132.6, 132.5, 130.5, 129.4, 129.0, 127.2, 126.2, 125.4, 125.3, 124.9, 120.1, 120.0, 70.6, 46.6.



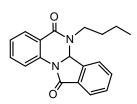
6-(4-Methoxy-benzyl)-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4g).<sup>1</sup>

Yield: 314 mg, 85%; White solid, mp. 143-145 °C; IR (KBr): 3028, 1959, 1718, 1656 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.09 (dd,  $J_1 = 7.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.9, 164.2, 158.7, 137.7, 136.8, 133.7, 132.6, 130.6, 129.8, 129.4, 128.0, 127.6, 125.5, 125.3, 125.0, 120.3, 120.2, 114.4, 70.7, 55.3, 46.1.



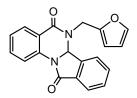
### 6-Cyclohexyl-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4i).<sup>1</sup>

Yield: 252 mg, 76%; White solid, mp. 150-152 °C; IR (KBr): 3021, 1717, 1659, 1468 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 6.92-6.83 (m, 2H), 6.02 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89-3.82 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.38 (m, 5H), 1.26-1.16 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  169.4, 168.2, 146.0, 145.4, 134.6, 132.8, 130.6, 127.8, 127.0, 125.6, 123.1, 118.9, 117.7, 114.1, 86.2, 48.5, 33.1, 25.5, 24.8.



#### 6-Butyl-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4j)

Yield: 251 mg, 82%; White solid, mp. 158-160 °C; IR (KBr): 3022, 1965, 1714, 1660, 1452 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.14-8.02 (m, 3H), 7.74-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.92-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.67 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.31 (m, 4H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.7, 163.5, 138.1, 136.5, 133.2, 132.8, 132.6, 130.5, 128.9, 125.2, 125.1, 125.0, 120.4, 120.0, 70.4, 42.7, 30.2, 20.0, 13.7. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 74.49; H, 5.92; N, 9.14%;. Found: C, 74.41; H, 5.84; N, 9.08%.



#### 6-Furan-2-ylmethyl-6,6a-dihydro-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]quinazoline-5,11-dione (4k)

Yield: 250 mg, 76%; Gummy mass; IR (KBr): 3023, 1718, 1657, 1474 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.02-7.90 (m, 4H), 7.65-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.32-6.30 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.0, 163.8, 150.4, 142.1, 138.1, 136.8, 133.6, 132.8, 132.6, 130.6, 129.2, 126.0, 125.2, 125.0, 120.3, 120.1, 110.8, 108.6, 70.9, 39.6. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 72.72; H, 4.27; N, 8.48%;. Found: C, 72.64; H, 4.21; N, 8.43%.

## **E-factor Calculations:**<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1** Three-component coupling of 2-carboxybenzaldehyde, isatoic anhydride and various amines: E-factor value for this protocol.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Isatoic anhydride (mmol)	2-Carboxy benzaldehyde (mmol)	Amines (mmol)	Product	Isolated yield $(\%)^b$	Time (h)	E factor (kg waste/kg product) <sup><math>c</math></sup>
1	1	1	Aniline (1)	<b>4</b> a	86	10	0.45
2	1	1	<i>p</i> -Toluidine (1)	4b	84	10	0.47

<sup>*a*</sup> All reactions are performed with CuO nano (5 mol%) in 3 mL of water under reflux. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yields.

<sup>c</sup> Exclusion of ethyl acetate used for work up procedure, exclusion of the amount of the CuO nano used, and exclusion of ingredients used for chromatography.

Note (**Regarding Table 1, SI**): When the Authors have not reported the amount of solvent used in the work-up procedure, we have not accounted for solvent and considered that solvent can be recovered. By considering the CuO nano catalyst is recyclable and hence, waste is essentially eliminated.

## For Entry 1, Table1 (SI)

E = [0.163 g (isatoic anhydride) + 0.150 g (2-carboxybenzaldehyde) + 0.093 g (aniline) - 0.280 g (product × yield)] / 0.280 g

= 0.45

## For Entry 1, Table1 (SI)

E = [0.163 g (isatoic anhydride) + 0.150 g (2-carboxybenzaldehyde) + 0.107 g (p-toluidine) - 0.285 g (product × yield)] / 0.285 g

= 0.47

in Manuscript)<sup>*a*</sup>

H-Ph OHC + HOOC 2	CuO Nano Solvent, 10	<u>→</u>	
Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$	
1	EtOH	75	
2	MeOH	70	
3	MeCN	52	
4	THF	50	
5	Toluene	57	
6	Dioxane	54	

 Table 2 Effect of solvents on the synthesis of 4a from compound A (Scheme 2)

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: 1 mmol of **A** and 1 mmol of **2** in the presence of CuO nano (5 mol%) in 3 mL of solvents at 100 °C for 10 h. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yields.

#### **Reusability of the catalyst:**

After completion of the reaction, ethylacetate (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. Then the insoluble CuO nanoparticles were filtered by Teflon membrane (PTFE, 0.2  $\mu$ m pore size). The CuO nanoparticles was thoroughly washed with the ethanol, dried and reused for the next cycle. The catalyst was found to be effective upto sixth cycle giving a conversion of 78% in the case of **4a**.

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