Supporting information

Synthesis of polysubstituted quinolines *via* copper(II)-catalyzed annulation of 2-aminoaryl ketones with alkynoates

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General. ¹H NMR spectra was determined on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ) 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. ¹³C NMR spectra was recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl₃ solution. Elemental analyses were done by a Perkin-Elmer autoanalyzer. 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. All reactions were executed using oven dried glassware.

Typical procedure for the synthesis of 6-chloro-2,4-diphenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (Table 2, 3aa).¹



2-Amino-5-chlorobenzophenone (231 mg, 1 mmol) and ethyl phenylpropiolate (174 mg, 1 mmol) was mixed in a sealed tube and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then copper triflate (36 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and heated at 110 °C. After completion (TLC), the reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL x 2). Solvent was evaporated to furnish the crude product which was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as an eluent to obtain the analytically pure product (348 mg, 90 %). Yellow oil. IR (KBr): 1722 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.23 (m, 8H), 3.74 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.65 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.5, 155.9, 146.0,

145.9, 139.6, 134.6, 132.8, 131.2, 131.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.2, 127.7, 126.0, 124.9, 61.1,

13.1.



2,4-Diphenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3ba).¹

Yellow solid (324 mg, 92%); Mp 86-88 °C; IR (KBr): 1722 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 9H), 3.79 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.1, 155.9, 147.8, 147.1, 140.2, 135.5, 130.4, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.5, 125.5, 61.2, 13.3.



6-Nitro-2,4-diphenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3ca).¹

Yellow solid (318 mg, 80%); Mp 124-126 °C; IR (KBr): 1722 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.53 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 3.94 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.2, 159.3, 149.7, 149.0, 145.8, 139.2, 133.9, 131.5, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 124.8, 123.8, 123.5, 61.6, 13.3.



6-Chloro-4-(2-chloro-phenyl)-2-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3da).

Yellow gummy mass (345 mg, 82%); IR (KBr): 1722 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (m, 1H), 7.77-7.31 (m, 11H), 3.88 (m, 2H), 0.80 (m, 3H) ; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.2, 156.4, 145.9, 143.9, 139.6, 133.8, 133.5, 133.2, 131.5, 131.4, 130.8, 130.3, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 126.6, 125.7, 124.7, 61.3, 13.2. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₁₇Cl₂NO₂: C, 68.26; H, 4.06; N, 3.32. Found: C, 68.17; H, 4.01; N 3.23.



4-Methyl-2-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3ea).¹

Yellow oil (265 mg, 91%); IR (KBr): 1717 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.21 (m, 4H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 155.7, 146.8, 142.3, 140.3, 129.9, 129.8, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.0, 126.5, 125.6, 123.6, 61.1, 15.2, 13.2.



6-Chloro-2-methyl-4-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3ab).

Yellow gummy mass (286 mg, 88%); IR (KBr): 1714 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.21 (m,

2H), 3.95 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.8, 154.7, 145.8, 145.1, 134.8, 132.1, 130.9, 130.3, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 125.7, 124.9, 61.2, 23.5, 13.4. Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₆ClNO₂: C, 70.05; H, 4.95; N, 4.30. Found: C, 70.01; H, 4.87; N 4.19.



2,4-Dimethylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3eb).

Yellow oil (204 mg, 89%); IR (KBr): 1714 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 757-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 154.0, 146.7, 141.1, 129.7, 128.9, 127.7, 126.0, 125.4, 123.7, 61.4, 23.5, 15.4, 13.9. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO₂: C, 73.34; H, 6.59; N, 6.11. Found: C, 73.24; H, 6.48; N, 6.05.



4-Phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid diethyl ester (3bc).²

Pale yellow solid (304 mg, 87%); Mp 94-96 °C; IR (KBr): 1740 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.26 (m, 2H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.0, 165.1, 147.8, 147.0, 145.7, 134.6, 130.8, 130.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 127.4, 126.9, 126.5, 62.5, 61.4, 14.1, 13.5.



6-Chloro-4-phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid diethyl ester (3ac).²

White solid (321 mg, 84%); Mp 154-156 °C; IR (KBr): 1738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 2H), 4.70-4.40 (m, 2H), 4.30-4.00 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 3H), 1.01-0.98 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.7, 165.0, 147.1, 145.9, 145.3, 135.3, 134.0, 132.1, 131.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 125.3, 62.7, 61.6, 14.1, 13.5.



4-Methylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid diethyl ester (3ec).²

Brown oil (250 mg, 87%); IR (KBr): 1740 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 1H), 4.46-4.36 (m, 4H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.6, 165.2, 146.0, 145.6, 143.6, 130.7, 130.4, 128.6, 127.6, 126.8, 123.8, 62.2, 61.6, 15.2, 13.9, 13.8.



4-Phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (3bd).²

Brown solid (273 mg, 85%); Mp 124-126 °C; IR (KBr): 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.5, 165.4, 147.9, 146.9, 144.7, 134.4, 130.9, 130.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 127.5, 127.1, 126.5, 53.3, 52.3.



6-Chloro-4-phenylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (3ad).²

Pale yellow solid (295 mg, 83%); Mp 164-165 °C; IR (KBr): 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.1, 165.1, 147.1, 145.3, 144.8, 135.5, 133.6, 132.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 125.3, 53.4, 52.4.



4-Methylquinoline-2,3-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (3ed).

Brown oil (218 mg, 84%); IR (KBr): 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.1, 165.5, 146.1, 144.7, 143.6, 130.7, 130.6, 128.8, 127.7, 126.9, 123.8, 53.1, 52.6, 15.3. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₄: C, 64.86; H, 5.05; N, 5.40. Found: C, 64.78; H, 5.01; N, 5.34.



6-Chloro-4-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (3be).

Yellow gummy mass (196 mg, 66%); IR (KBr): 1718 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.31 (s, 1H), 8.22-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.7, 150.1, 149.9, 136.3, 131.0, 129.5, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 127.2, 52.1. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₂ClNO₂: C, 68.58; H, 4.06; N, 4.70. Found: C, 68.52; H, 4.01; N, 4.62.



4-Methylquinoline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (3ee).

Yellow gummy mass (137 mg, 68%); IR (KBr): 1722 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.24 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.1, 150.2, 148.4, 147.8, 130.8, 130.0, 127.6, 127.1, 124.9, 122.9, 52.3, 15.3. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₁NO₂: C, 71.63; H, 5.51; N, 6.96. Found: C, 71.54; H, 5.43; N, 6.87.



6-Chloro-4-(2-chloro-phenyl)-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (3de).

Brown gummy mass (199 mg, 60%); IR (KBr): 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.4, 150.5, 147.8, 146.9, 134.8, 133.7, 132.7, 132.3, 131.3, 130.0, 130.0, 129.5, 127.4, 126.7, 125.6, 123.0, 52.4. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₁C₁₂NO₂: C, 61.47; H, 3.34; N, 4.22. Found: C, 61.41; H, 3.24; N, 4.15.

Typical procedure for the synthesis of 6-chloro-2,4-diphenylquinoline (5af).²



2-Amino-5-chlorobenzophenone (231 mg, 1 mmol) and phenylpropioloic acid (146 mg, 1 mmol) was mixed in a sealed tube and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then copper triflate (36 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and heated at 110 °C. After completion (TLC), the reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL x 2). Solvent was evaporated to furnished the crude product which

was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel to obtain the analytically pure product using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as an eluent (white solid, 277 mg, 88%); Mp 124-125 °C; IR (KBr): 1620 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08-8.05 (m, 3H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.33 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.0, 148.3, 147.1, 139.1, 137.6, 132.1, 131.6,130.3, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.4, 126.4, 124.4, 119.9.



4-Methyl-2-phenylquinoline (5ef).²

White oil (184 mg, 84%); IR (KBr): 1640 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08-8.02 (m, 3H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 4H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.1, 148.1, 144.9, 139.8, 130.3, 129.4, 129.2, 128.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.1, 123.7, 119.8, 19.0.



(4-Methyl-2-phenyl-quinolin-3-yl)-phenyl-methanone (7eg).³

Yellow oil (281 mg, 87%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.5-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.43 (dd, *J*₁ = 1.6 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.08 (m, 5H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.4, 156.1, 147.3, 142.5, 140.0, 137.5, 133.5, 132.5, 130.3, 130.2, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.0, 126.3, 124.0, 15.8.



2,8-Dichloro-6,12-diphenyldibenzo[*b*,*f*][1,5]diazocine (8).²

Yellow solid, 230 mg, 54%; Mp 210-212 °C; IR (KBr): 1586 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.45-7.24 (m, 8H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 150.2, 13.2, 131.7, 130.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.2, 127.3, 122.6.

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