

Facile synthesis of azaarene-2-substituted chromanone derivatives via tandem sp³ C–H functionlization/ decarboxylation of azaarenes with 4-oxo-4H-chromene-3-carboxylic acid

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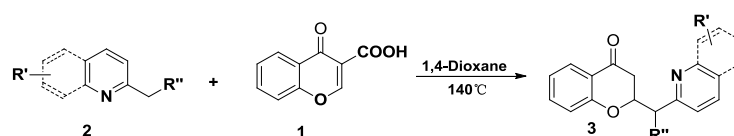
1. General Methods

All the chemical reagents were purchased from commercial companies and all the solvents were dried according to standard procedures before use. All reactions were performed in pressure-proof pipe and monitored by TLC with 0.2 mm silica gel-coated HSGF 254 plates. The reaction mixtures were purified by flash column chromatography (200-300 mesh silica gel) eluted with the gradient of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate.

Proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (^1H NMR) were recorded on a Bruker AMX 500 spectrophotometer (CDCl_3 as solvent). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm using tetramethylsilane (TMS, δ (ppm) = 0.00 ppm) as the internal standard, and relative to the signal of chloroform-d (δ 7.26, singlet). The number of protons (n) for a given resonance is indicated by $n\text{H}$. Coupling constants are reported as a J value in Hz. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), doublet of doublets (dd), and multiplet (m). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (^{13}C NMR) were reported in parts per million using solvent CDCl_3 (δ (ppm) = 77.0 ppm) as an internal standard. HRMS analyses were performed on a Waters XEVO QTOF mass spectrometer. The compounds chromone-3-carbaldehyde^{1,2}, chromone-3-carboxylic acid³ and 3-acetyl-chromone⁴ were prepared according the reported procedures.

2. Experimental Procedures

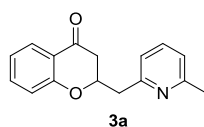
General Procedure for Synthesis of Azaarenes-Substituted Chromanones



To a 25 mL pressure tube equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar were added dioxane (1 mL), azaarenes **2** (0.75 mmol) and chromanone-3-carboxylic acids **1** (0.3 mmol). The mixture was then stirred at 140 °C and monitored by TLC until **1** was consumed up. Then the reaction was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **3**.

3. Characterization of Products

3.1 2-((6-Methylpyridin-2-yl) methyl) chroman-4-one

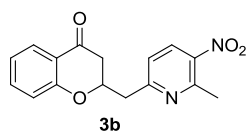


Red-brown solid, yield 67%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.97-4.89 (m, 1H), 3.36 (dd, J = 13.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.2, 161.4, 158.2, 155.8, 136.7,

135.9, 126.9, 121.5, 121.2, 121.1, 121.0, 117.9, 77.4, 43.4, 42.5, 24.3. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 254.1176, found: 254.1176.

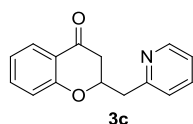
3.2 2-((6-Methyl-5-nitropyridin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown solid, yield 56%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.05-4.97 (m, 1H), 3.41 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.84-2.80 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6, 161.1, 161.0, 153.7, 144.3, 136.1, 132.9, 127.0, 122.4, 121.6, 120.9, 117.8, 76.6, 43.2, 42.6, 24.0. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 299.1027, found: 299.1025.

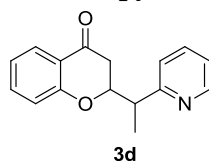
3.3 2-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 70%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.00-4.91 (m, 1H), 3.39 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.6 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.2, 161.4, 156.7, 149.6, 136.6, 136.0, 127.0, 124.3, 122.0, 121.4, 121.1, 118.0, 77.4, 43.4, 42.6. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₅H₁₄NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 240.1020, found: 240.1020.

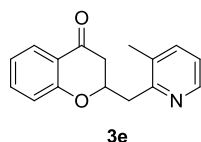
3.4 2-(1-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 37%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.88-4.77 (m, 1H), 3.44-3.37 (p, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.5, 161.5, 161.4, 149.2, 136.4, 135.8, 126.9, 123.0, 121.9, 121.2, 121.0, 117.9, 80.8, 45.6, 40.1, 15.3. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 254.1176, found: 254.1175.

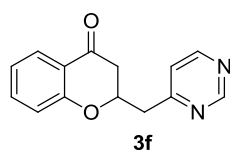
3.5 2-((3-methylpyridin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 57%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.08-5.00 (m, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.88-2.75 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.3, 161.5, 155.2, 146.8, 137.9, 135.9, 132.1, 127.0, 121.9, 121.2, 121.1, 117.9, 77.5, 42.7, 40.0, 19.0. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺:254.1176, found: 254.1176.

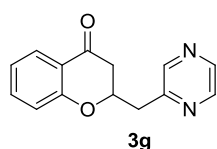
3.6 2-(Pyrimidin-4-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 41%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.17 (s, 1H), 8.70 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.05-4.97 (m, 1H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.78 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.4, 165.4, 160.9, 158.8, 156.9, 136.1, 127.0, 121.8, 121.6, 120.9, 117.8, 76.2, 42.7, 42.6. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 241.0972, found: 241.0972.

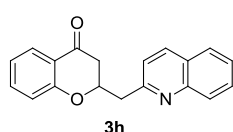
3.7 2-(Pyrazin-2-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 25%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.99-4.89 (m, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.79 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6, 161.1, 152.7, 145.6, 144.2, 143.1, 136.1, 127.0, 121.6, 120.9, 117.9, 76.6, 42.6, 40.6. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 241.0972, found: 241.0973.

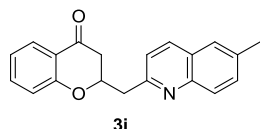
3.8 2-(Quinolin-2-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 53%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 2H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.12-5.04 (m, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.82 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.0, 161.3, 157.2, 147.9, 136.5, 135.9, 129.6, 128.9, 127.5, 126.9, 126.2, 125.8, 122.2, 121.3, 121.0, 117.9, 77.4, 44.0, 42.6. **HRMS (ESI)**: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 290.1176, found: 290.1170.

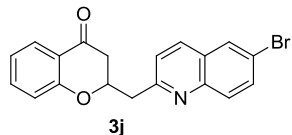
3.9 2-((6-Methylquinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 45%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.09-5.01 (m, 1H), 3.53 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.80 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.1, 161.3, 156.2, 146.5, 136.0, 135.9, 135.7, 131.8, 128.5, 126.9, 126.9, 126.3, 122.2, 121.3, 121.0, 117.9, 77.4, 43.9, 42.6, 21.4. **HRMS (ESI)**: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 304.1333, found: 304.1327.

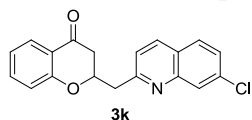
3.10 2-((6-Bromoquinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 43%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.77 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.12-5.04 (m, 1H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.83 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.9, 161.2, 157.8, 146.4, 135.9, 135.3, 133.0, 130.6, 129.5, 128.0, 126.9, 123.1, 121.4, 121.0, 120.0, 117.9, 77.1, 43.9, 42.6. **HRMS (ESI)**: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅BrNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 368.0281, found: 368.0275. C₁₉H₁₅⁸¹BrNO₂ [M+H+2]⁺: 370.0261, found: 370.0260.

3.11 2-((7-chloroquinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one

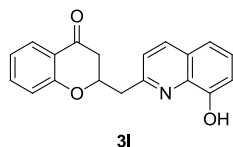


Brown liquid, yield 39%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19-4.98 (m, 1H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.77 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.0, 161.3, 158.5, 148.2, 136.0, 135.5, 133.8, 128.7, 127.0, 125.3, 125.24, 122.5, 121.4, 121.0, 118.2, 117.9, 77.2, 43.9, 42.6. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 324.0786, found: 324.0781. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}^{37}\text{ClNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}+2]^+$: 326.0757, found: 326.0458.

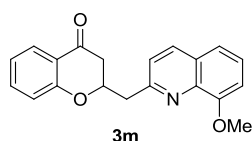
3.12 2-((8-hydroxyquinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 48%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.11-5.02 (m, 1H), 3.53 (dd, $J = 14.1, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.1, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.7, 161.2, 155.1, 151.7, 137.7, 136.6, 136.0, 127.4, 127.1, 126.9, 122.9, 121.4, 121.0, 117.9, 117.6, 110.2, 77.1, 43.4, 42.5. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 306.1125, found: 306.1129.

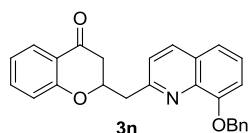
3.13 2-((8-methoxyquinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 67%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.11 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.11-5.03 (m, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 13.9, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 13.9, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.84 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.1, 161.4, 156.4, 155.1, 140.0, 136.3, 135.9, 128.2, 127.0, 126.4, 122.9, 121.3, 121.1, 119.5, 118.0, 108.0, 77.7, 56.1, 44.2, 42.7. **HRMS (ESI):** calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 320.1282, found: 320.1280.

3.14 2-((8-(benzyloxy)quinolin-2-yl)methyl)chroman-4-one

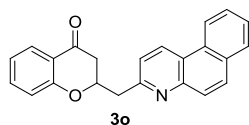


Brown liquid, yield 71%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.08 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.97 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 5.16-5.07 (m, 1H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 14.1, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 14.1, 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.91-2.83 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.1, 161.4, 156.3, 154.1, 140.3, 137.1, 136.3, 135.9, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.7, 126.9, 126.2, 122.8, 121.3, 121.1, 119.9, 117.9, 111.0, 77.5, 71.0, 43.9, 42.6. **HRMS**

(ESI): calcd. for C₂₆H₂₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 396.1595, found: 396.1596.

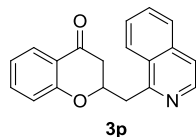
3.15 2-(benzo[f]quinolin-3-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 59%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.05-7.85 (m, 4H), 7.72-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18-5.06 (m, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, *J* = Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.75 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.1, 161.4, 156.7, 147.9, 135.9, 131.5, 131.2, 131.0, 129.5, 128.7, 127.8, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 124.0, 122.5, 122.2, 121.3, 121.09, 117.9, 77.4, 43.7, 42.7. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C₂₃H₁₇NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 339.1254, found: 339.1250.

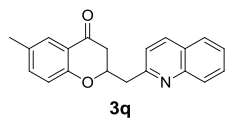
3.16 2-(isoquinolin-1-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown liquid, yield 57%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 1H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.24-5.16 (m, 1H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.83 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.2, 161.5, 156.6, 141.9, 136.4, 135.9, 130.1, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.0, 125.1, 121.4, 121.1, 120.1, 118.0, 77.3, 42.9, 40.0. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 290.1176, found: 290.1170.

3.17 6-methyl-2-(quinolin-2-ylmethyl)chroman-4-one



Brown viscous liquid, 51%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 - 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.07-5.0 (m, 1H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.85 - 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.4, 159.4, 157.4, 147.9, 137.0, 136.5, 130.8, 129.6, 128.9, 127.5, 127.0, 126.5, 126.2, 122.3, 120.6, 117.7, 77.4, 44.1, 42.7, 20.4. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 304.1333, found: 304.1337.

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4. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR Spectras

