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Supporting Information

Diversified facile synthesis of benzimidazoles, quinazolin-4(*3H*)-ones and 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones via palladium-catalyzed transfer hydrogenation/condensation cascade of nitroarenes under microwave irradiation

Kaicheng Zhu, Jian-Hong Hao, Cheng-Pan Zhang, Jiajun Zhang, Yiqing Feng* and Hua-Li Qin*

School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Life Science, Wuhan University of Technology, 205 Luoshi Road, Wuhan, Hubei Province, 430070, P.R. China

Supporting Information

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1. General experimental details

o-nitrobenzamides (1)and 2-nitrobenzoyl-α-amino acid methyl esters (5) were prepared according to the reported method,¹ other chemicals were purchased from Aladdin. All the reactions and manipulations were performed in atmosphere. All reactions were monitored by TLC with silica gel-coated plates. NMR spectra were recorded on BRUKER DRX 400 or 500 spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) down field from TMS with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Coupling constants (*J*) were reported in Hz and referred to apparent peak multiplications. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Bruker microTOF mass instrument (ESI). IR spectra were recorded on BRUKER TENSOR 27 spectrometers.Biotage356007 was used as the microwave reactor for the palladium-catalyzed transfer hydrogenaation/condensation cascade.

2. Synthesis of Benzimidazoles, Quinazolin-4(3H)-ones and 1, 4-Benzodiazepine-2, 5-diones

2.1 Synthesis of Quinazolin-4(*3H*)-ones (2)



General procedure: 1.0 mmol *o*-nitrobenzamides(1)was dissolved in 0.8 g of TEAF (4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv), 5.5 mg of 10% Pd/C (0.5mol%) was added. The suspension was then heated by microwave at 150 °C for 8 min. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was mixed with 15 mL of methanol and filtered through a Celite pad to remove the catalyst. Methanol was evaporated and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (10 mL) was added to the residue. After gas evolution, the solution was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL X 3) and the combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of EtOAc gave crystalline product **2**in most cases. Otherwise flash chromatography was applied.

2.2 Synthesis of Benzimidazoles (4)

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow{\mu}_{NO_{2}}^{NHR} \xrightarrow{Pd/C, TEAF}_{150 °C, 5 min} 1_{R} \xrightarrow{\mu}_{N}^{N}$$

General procedure: 1.0 mmol *o*-nitroaniline (**3**) was dissolved in 0.8 g of TEAF (4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv), 5.5 mg of 10% Pd/C (0.5mol%) was added. The suspension was then heated by microwave at 150 °C for 5 min. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was mixed with 15 mL of methanol and filtered through a Celite pad to remove the catalyst. Methanol was evaporated and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (10 mL) was added to the residue. After gas evolution, the solution was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL X 3) and dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of EtOAc gave crystalline product in most cases.Otherwise flash chromatography was applied.

2.3 Synthesis of 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones (6)





(4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv), 5.5 mg of 10% Pd/C (0.5 mol%) was added. The suspension was then heated by microwave at 160 °C for 8 min. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was mixed with 15 mL of methanol and filtered through a Celite pad to remove the catalyst. Methanol was evaporated and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (10 mL) was added to the residue. After gas evolution, the solution was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL X 3) and dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of EtOAc gave crystalline product in most cases. Otherwise flash chromatography was applied.

3. Experimental characterization data for products

Quinazolin-4(3H)-one (2a)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.²

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ (ppm) 7.53 (t, 1H, J = 8.0Hz), 7.67 (d, 1H, J = 8.0Hz), 7.82 (dt, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.5Hz), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.12 (t, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.5Hz), 12.24 (brs, 1H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_7N_2O [M + H]^+147.0553$, found 147.0553.

3-isopropyl-quinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2b**)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.³

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.78–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.21 (m, 1H), 1.50 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}N_2O [M + H]^+189.1028$, found 189.1030.

3-butyl-quinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2c**)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁴

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ (ppm) 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.16 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.73-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.31 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_{12}H_{15}N_2O [M + H]^+ 203.1179$, found 203.1179.

3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)quinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2d**)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁵

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.5 Hz,1H), 7.72-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H) 6.93-6.82 (m, 2H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}N_2O_3[M+H]^+$ 281.0921, found281.0922.

3-Phenylquinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2e**) All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁴ ¹H-NMR (400 MHz,DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.22 (dd, *J*= 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.63 (m, 6H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₁N₂O[M+H]⁺223.0871, found223.0869.

3-p-tolylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (2f)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁴

¹H-NMR (400 MHz,DMSO-*d*₆): 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.20 (dd, *J*= 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86–7.90 (m, 1H),7.74 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz,1H), 7.57–7.61 (m, 1H),7.42 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 2H),7.36 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}N_2O[M+H]^+237.1028$, found 237.1030.



3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (2g)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁴

¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz): 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, J= 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.74(d, J= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,J= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₁N₂O₂[M+H]⁺253.0977, found253.0979.

7-methoxy-3-phenylquinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2h**)

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.33 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 7.5, 2.0 Hz,2H), 7.22 (d,J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H);

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 164.7, 160.3, 150.1, 146.8, 137.5, 129.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.0, 125.2, 117.4, 115.7, 108.5, 55.72;

HR-MS (ESI) for C₁₅H₁₂N₂O₂ [M +H]253.0971, found 253.0975.

3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(*3H*)-one (**2i**) ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ(ppm) 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.07(s, 1H), 7.70-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ(ppm) 161.5, 152.3, 147.4, 147.0, 134.9, 130.8, 127.9, 127.8, 127.2, 127.1, 125.4, 121.8, 120.9, 118.8;

HR-MS (ESI) for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2O_2$ [M + H]239.0815, found 239.0824.

2-[4-Oxoquinazolin-3(4H)-yl]benzoic Acid (2j)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁶

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 1 H), 7.56 (dt, *J* = 7.5,1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.76 (m, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H);

HR-MS (ESI) for C₁₅H₁₁N₂O₃[M + H] 267.0772,found 267.0775.

7-fluoroquinazolin-4(3H)-one (2k)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁷

¹H NMR (500 MHz, methanol- d_4) δ (ppm) 8.30 (dd, J = 8.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13(s, 1H), 7.31-7.42 (m, 2H) HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₈H₆FN₂O[M + H]⁺ 165.0459, found 165.0459.

Benzimidazo[l,2-c]quinazoline (**2**I) All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁸ ¹H-NMR(500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 9.05 (s, 1H), 8.65 (dd, *J*= 6.5, 1.5 Hz,1H), 8.10-7.10 (m, 7H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₃[M + H]⁺220.0875, found 220.0877.

1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4a**) All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.⁹ ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500MHz) δ (ppm) 7.18 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 8.22 (s, 1H); ESI-MS: $m/z = 119.3 \text{ [M + H]}^+$.

1-Methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4b)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁰

¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500MHz) δ (ppm) 8.26 (s, 1H),7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_9N_2[M + H]^+133.0766$, found 133.0764.

6-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4c)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹¹

¹H-NMR (500MHz,CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 9.70 (brs, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dt, J = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_9ON_2$ [M + H]⁺149.0715, found 149.0719.

6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4d)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 11.50 (s, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (s, 1H); 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_9N_2$ [M + H]⁺ 133.0760, found 133.0760.

5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4e)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹² ¹H NMR (500 MHz, methanol- d_4): δ (ppm) 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 6H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₉H₁₁N₂[M + H]⁺147.0917, found 147.0917.

$$\overbrace{\qquad N}_{\substack{N \\ Ph}}^{N} 4f$$

1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4f**)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹³ ¹H-NMR(500 MHz,CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.88–7.90 (m, 1H),7.46–7.60 (m, 6H),7.33–7.36 (m, 2H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₂ [M + H]⁺195.0922, found 195.0924.

$$\overbrace{\substack{N \in O_2C}}^N 4g$$

Methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-7-carboxylate (4g)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁴

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.26 (brs, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H),

7.35 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₉H₉N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺177.0658, found 177.0660.

5-(trifluoromethoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4h**)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹²

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₈H₅F₃N₂O203.0427, found 203.0427.

1-Benzyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4i)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁵

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J*= 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.19 (d, *J*=7.0 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (s, 2H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}N_2$ [M + H]⁺209.1077, found 209.1079.

3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine (4j)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁶

¹H-NMR (400MHz,CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.44 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.30 (m, 1H);

HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $C_6H_6N_3[M + H]^+$ 120.0556, found 120.0557.

3H-imidazo[4,5-g]quinoline (4k)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁴

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 8.86–8.85 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (br s, 1H), 8.38 (brs, 1 H), 7.97 (brd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H); HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₈N₃ [M + H]⁺ 170.0713, found 170.0713.

3,4-Dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-2,5-dione (6a)

All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁷

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ(ppm) 3.59 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.5Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 10.34 (s, 1H); ESI-MS: *m/z* = 177.1 [M + H]⁺.

3-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepine-2,5-dione(**6b**) All the characterization data are consistent with the previous report.¹⁸ ¹H-NMR (500 MHz,DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 2.83 (dd,*J* = 14.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 14. 0, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.65 (m, 9H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 10.40 (s, 1H); ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 267.1 [M + H]⁺.

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Selected spectra 5.





















