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# An efficient phosphorus-free chlorination of hydroxy aza-arenes and its application in one-pot pharmaceutical synthesis

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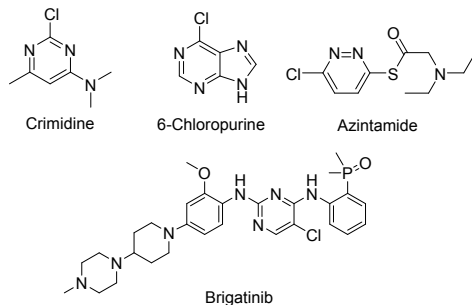
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**ABSTRACT:** The chlorination of hydroxy aza-arenes with BTC and SOCl<sub>2</sub> has been effectively performed by refluxing with 5 wt% DMAP as catalyst. Various substrates are chlorinated with high yields. The obtained chlorinated aza-arenes can be used directly with simple workup for succedent one-pot synthesis in large scale.

**KEYWORDS:** phosphorus-free chlorination; hydroxy aza-arenes; simple workup; one-pot synthesis

## INTRODUCTION

Chlorinated aza-arenes can be used as active ingredients in many agrochemicals,<sup>1</sup> pharmaceuticals,<sup>2</sup> and other functional chemicals<sup>3</sup>. As reactive intermediates, they also have been widely applied for building carbon-carbon bond and carbon-hetero bond by direct reactions with nucleophile,<sup>4</sup> or through organometallic reactions such as Suzuki coupling,<sup>5</sup> Stille reaction,<sup>6</sup> Heck reaction,<sup>7</sup> etc.<sup>8</sup> (Scheme 1)



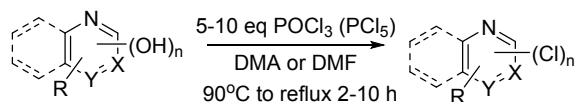
**Scheme 1.** Examples of chlorinated aza-arenes as functional molecules or their key intermediates.

The conventional method for synthesizing chlorinated heterocycles includes direct substitution of the hydroxy group of their corresponding compounds with POCl<sub>3</sub> or PCl<sub>5</sub>.<sup>9</sup> Reaction conditions for these chlorinations have little changed over past 100 years,<sup>10</sup> which usually involve tertiary amine (or amide) as catalyst and large excess POCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent (Scheme 2-a). The waste which contains phosphorus thus produced in

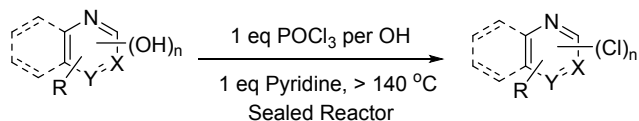
industry usually causes eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems and stricter limitations of phosphorus-contained industrial wastewater discharge has been set worldwide.<sup>11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e</sup> Although the amount of POCl<sub>3</sub> can be reduced to 1 eq when reaction takes place in high temperature in a sealed reactor with stoichiometric base (Scheme 2-b),<sup>11f, 11g</sup> the inconvenient workup of handling POCl<sub>3</sub> /catalyst after reaction and the phosphorus-containing waste limits its industrial application due to the evergrowing environmental requirements.

One alternative for replacing POCl<sub>3</sub> as the chlorinating agent/solvent is SOCl<sub>2</sub>, waste of which are HCl and SO<sub>2</sub> without any phosphorus.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, SO<sub>2</sub> can be removed through our previously reported process.<sup>12a</sup> However, the scope of reported SOCl<sub>2</sub>-chlorination substrates is confined to quinoxalines,<sup>12b, 12c</sup> quinazolines,<sup>12d</sup> etc.<sup>12e</sup> (Scheme 2-c). All of these substrates are benzoazaheterocycles, the only exception disclosed is chlorination of pyridines with narrow substrate scope.<sup>12f</sup> As a cheap and stable chlorinating agent for various substrates, BTC (bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate, solid phosgene) has been widely used in chemical industry as a replacement for phosgene.<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, it has seldom been used for chlorination of hydroxy aza-arenes. Herein, we report an efficient chlorination system for hydroxy aza-arenes with BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub> (Scheme 2-d).

(a) Conventional chlorination with  $\text{POCl}_3$  (cf. ref. 9)



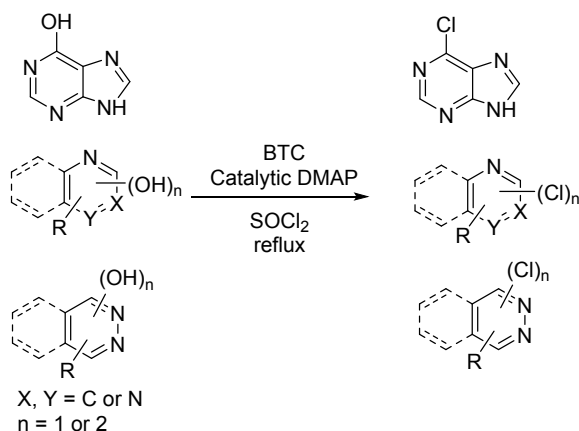
(b) Chlorination with 1 eq  $\text{POCl}_3$  (cf. ref. 12)



(c) Chlorination with  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (cf. ref. 13)



(d) This work



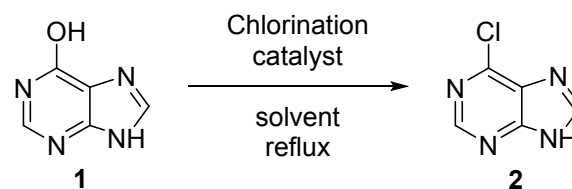
**Scheme 2.** Some representative chlorinations of hydroxy aza-arenes.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**1. Optimization of reaction conditions.** At the beginning of our investigation, hypoxanthine (**1**) was chosen as the model substrate to synthesize 6-chloropurine (**2**), a key intermediate for many medicines and bioactive compounds, since it is hard to carry out this conversion by many conventional agent(s) due to its extremely poor solubility of **1** in many solvents.<sup>14</sup> According to the literature,<sup>15</sup>  $\text{POCl}_3/\text{DMA}$  (*N,N*-dimethylaniline) was optimized for chlorination of hypoxanthine **1**, which was confirmed by our experiment as shown in Table 1 (Table 1, entry 1). Replacing  $\text{POCl}_3$  with  $\text{SOCl}_2$  as solvent ( $\text{POCl}_3/\text{SOCl}_2$ ) causes significant decrease of product yield (Table 1, entries 2-3). However, BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$  (a solution of BTC in  $\text{SOCl}_2$ ) is effective for this reaction, especially, in the presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP), which shows best catalytic activity (Table 1, entry 4, and Table S1 of Supporting Information). Other solvent rather than  $\text{SOCl}_2$  in this system while shows much less efficiency (See details in Table S1 of Supporting Information). It reveals that the reaction proceeds poorly if any component of the chlorination system of BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$ /DMAP missed (Table 1, entries 5-7). Particularly, BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$ /DMAP is more effective

than  $\text{POCl}_3$  system for this conversion (Table 1, entries 4 and 1), the resulting mixture of the latter is a black and viscous solution with vast amount of phosphorus-containing wastewater after workup (Table 1, entry 1). Whereas BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$  reaction only results in a slight yellow clear solution, which gives light yellow powder after evaporation of the solvent (Table 1, entry 4). Besides, as a solvent, most  $\text{SOCl}_2$  can be recovered by evaporation in this BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$ /DMAP system after reaction, this is particularly conducive to its industrial application. Thus we choose 6-hydroxypurine (1 g), 1 equimolar BTC (1 equimolar for each hydroxy group), 5 wt. % DMAP and 8 mL  $\text{SOCl}_2$  under reflux as optimized condition for the following substrate scope investigation.

**Table 1. Optimization of hypoxanthine chlorination.<sup>a</sup>**



| entry            | chlorination reagent | solvent         | catalyst | yield % <sup>b</sup> |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>c,d</sup> | $\text{POCl}_3$      | $\text{POCl}_3$ | DMA      | 94                   |
| 2 <sup>c,d</sup> | $\text{POCl}_3$      | $\text{SOCl}_2$ | DMA      | 31                   |
| 3 <sup>c,d</sup> | $\text{POCl}_3$      | $\text{SOCl}_2$ | DMAP     | 42                   |
| 4 <sup>e</sup>   | BTC                  | $\text{SOCl}_2$ | DMAP     | 96 (90)              |
| 5                | $\text{SOCl}_2$      | $\text{SOCl}_2$ | DMAP     | 15                   |
| 6                | BTC                  | $\text{SOCl}_2$ | DMA      | 29                   |
| 7                | BTC                  | toluene         | DMAP     | 25                   |

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate (1 g), chlorination reagent (1 equimolar), catalyst (5 wt. %), solvent (8 mL).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by HPLC. Number in the parenthesis is isolated yield.

<sup>c</sup> Reaction conditions: substrates (1 g), chlorination reagent (3 equimolar), catalyst (5 wt. %), solvent (5 mL).

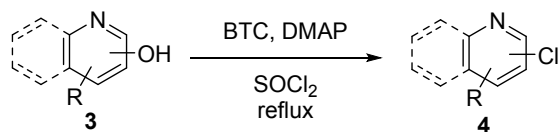
<sup>d</sup> Reaction presents heterogenous and turbid mixture during entire process.

<sup>e</sup> Reaction mixture becomes clear solution after several hours.

**2. Substrate scope extension.** Our attempt to explore the scope of the substrates started with pyridines, monoaza-arenes. As shown in Table 2, the hydroxy group on pyridines can be converted to chloro- by BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$ /DMAP in good yields (Table 2, entries 1-2). The substrates with electron-donating group (EDG, Table 2, entries 3-4) and electron-withdrawing group (EWG, Table 2, entries 5-8) all result in decent yields, while the substrates with EDG convert to corresponding chlorinated product much faster (Table 2, entries 1-4). Correspondingly, electron-deficient pyridine derivatives proceed with longer reaction time (not strictly) and slightly lower yields (Table 2, entries 5-8). This protocol also applies to

hydroxy benzopyridine (quinoline) with excellent result (Table 2, entry 9).

Table 2. Chlorination of hydroxy pyridines with BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub>.<sup>a</sup>



| entry | substrate | time (h) | product | yield (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|-----------|----------|---------|------------------------|
| 1     |           | 4        |         | 89                     |
| 2     |           | 3.5      |         | 94 <sup>c</sup>        |
| 3     |           | 1        |         | 95                     |
| 4     |           | 1.5      |         | 93                     |
| 5     |           | 5        |         | 93                     |
| 6     |           | 4.5      |         | 95                     |
| 7     |           | 5        |         | 91                     |
| 8     |           | 7        |         | 87                     |
| 9     |           | 3        |         | 91                     |

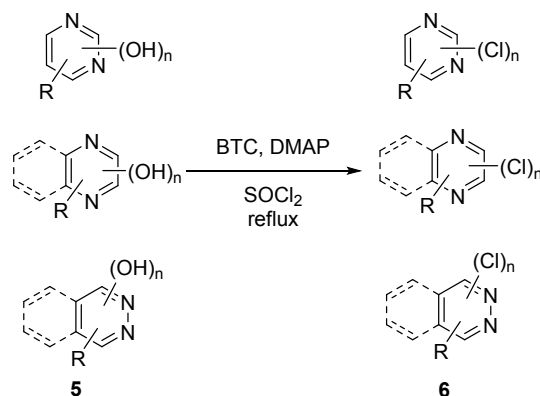
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **3** (1 g), BTC (1 equivolar), DMAP (5 wt %), SOCl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL), reflux (90 °C oil bath).

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

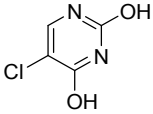
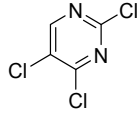
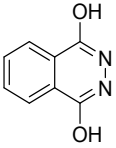
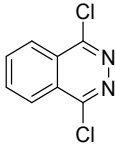
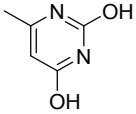
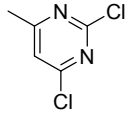


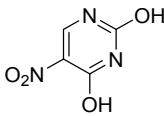
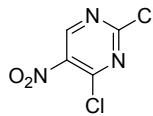
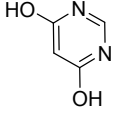
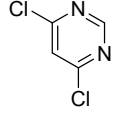
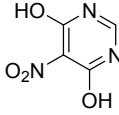
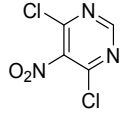
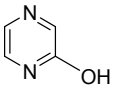
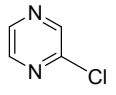
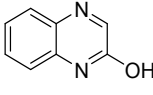
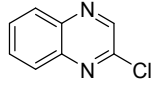
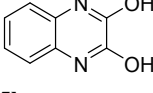
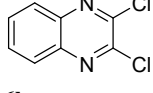

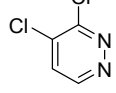


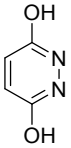
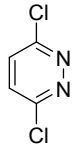
<sup>c</sup> Product obtained in hydrochloride salt form.

Next, the scope of the substrates was extended with diaza-arenes, such as pyrimidine, pyridazine and pyrazine derivatives. All substrates tested can be converted to chlorinated ones with good yields (Table 3). For substrates with same heterocyclic nucleus, the benzo-substrates react faster than monocyclic ones (Table 3, compare entry 10 with 11, entry 15 with 16). Dichlorination proceeds slower than monochlorination for same heterocyclic ring (Table 3, entries 11-12). Same as pyridine derivatives, substrates with EWG group proceeds more moderately, especially nitro-substituted ones (Table 3, entries 3-5, 7, 9). Notably, mono- hydroxy pyridazine **5m** gives ortho-dichloropyridazine **6m** as major product, which means the hydrogen next to hydroxy group on the ring is also substituted by chlorine (Table 3, entry 13). While structurally similar pyridazine **5n** only results in monochloropyridazine **6n** (Table 3, entry 14). And **5m** only converts to 3-chloropyridazine when POCl<sub>3</sub> is used as chlorinating agent.<sup>16a</sup> The possible mechanism might be involved in a disproportional reaction of SOCl<sub>2</sub>, which needs to be further studied.

Table 3. Substrate expansion of BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub> chlorination.<sup>a</sup>



| entry | substrate | time (h) | product ( <b>6</b> ) | yield (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|-----------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1     |           | 9.5      |                      | 95                     |
| 2     |           | 8        |                      | 93                     |
| 3     |           | 10       |                      | 87                     |
| 4     |           | 12.5     |                      | 90                     |

|                 |  |      |  |    |   |   |  |    |
|-----------------|--|------|--|----|---|---|--|----|
| 5               | <b>5d</b><br>   | 10   | <b>6d</b><br>   | 91 | <b>5o</b><br> | 8 | <b>6o</b><br> | 97 |
| 6               | <b>5e</b><br>   | 7.5  | <b>6e</b><br>   | 92 | <b>5p</b><br> |   | <b>6p</b><br> |    |
| 7               | <b>5f</b><br>   | 13.5 | <b>6f</b><br>   | 75 |   |   |  |    |
| 8               | <b>5g</b><br>   | 7.5  | <b>6g</b><br>   | 95 |   |   |  |    |
| 9               | <b>5h</b><br>   | 14   | <b>6h</b><br>   | 72 |   |   |  |    |
| 10 <sup>c</sup> | <b>5i</b><br> | 10.5 | <b>6i</b><br> | 89 |   |   |  |    |
| 11 <sup>c</sup> | <b>5j</b><br> | 6.5  | <b>6j</b><br> | 94 |   |   |  |    |
| 12              | <b>5k</b><br> | 8    | <b>6k</b><br> | 93 |   |   |  |    |
| 13 <sup>c</sup> | <b>5l</b><br> | 10   | <b>6l</b><br> | 85 |   |   |  |    |
| 14 <sup>c</sup> | <b>5m</b><br> | 9.5  | <b>6m</b><br> | 93 |   |   |  |    |
| 15              | <b>5n</b><br> | 11   | <b>6n</b><br> | 94 |   |   |  |    |

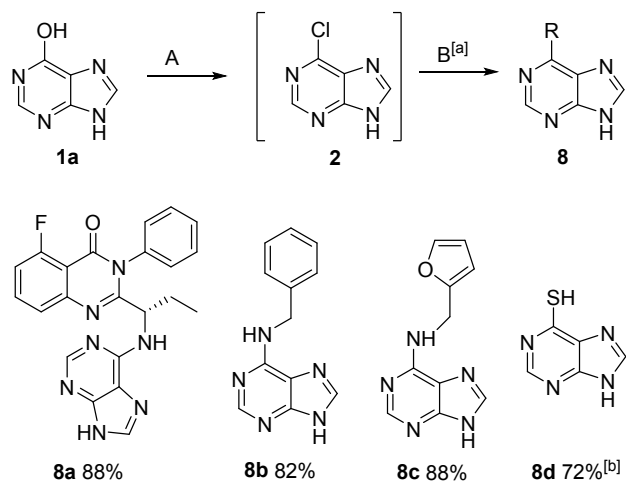
<sup>a</sup> Conditions: **5** (1g), BTC (2 equimolar), DMAP (5 wt %), SOCl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL), reflux (90 °C oil bath), 12h.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

<sup>c</sup> 1 equimolar BTC is used.

**3. Application in one-pot pharmaceutical synthesis.** The comparatively broad substrate scope and simple workup of this method prompt us to synthesize some functional molecules in a large scale. 6-Substituted purines are important bioactive molecules, e.g., idelalisib (**8a**) is the first PI3K- $\delta$  inhibitor and approved by FDA in 2014 for treatment of blood cancer.<sup>16b, 16c, 16d, 16e</sup> Traditional methods to obtain this compound require two-step synthesis where hypoxanthine (**1**) is chlorinated with POCl<sub>3</sub> and the resulting product 6-chloropurine is isolated as intermediate before next step after quenching with water.<sup>16f, 16g</sup> The drawback is obvious: cumbersome process including quenching with water, filtration, pH adjusting, etc. are needed for isolation of the intermediate **2**, and excessive phosphor-containing waste is produced simultaneously. While with BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub>/DMAP system, the protocol can be simplified as a one-pot two-step synthesis: SOCl<sub>2</sub> was removed after the complete conversion of 50 gram **1**, after which reactants **7** are added directly to the mixture without isolation; then exhaustion of the intermediate **2** is monitored by TLC, followed with simple workup and recrystallization to give the final product **8** in good yields without chromatographic isolation, which validate its possibility of industrial application (Scheme 3). Besides **8a**, several bioactive molecules also contains 6-substituted purine structure: 6-benzylaminopurine (**8b**) is the first synthetic cytokinin,<sup>14a, 17</sup> kinetin (**8c**) is a cytokinin plant growth regulator<sup>14c, 18</sup> and mercaptopurine (**8d**) is a highly effective antineoplastic agent for cancer and autoimmune diseases,<sup>14b, 19</sup> they can all be obtained from 6-substituted purines as a reaction substrate using the same method as idelalisib (**8a**). The products obtained by BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub>/DMAP system is identical to the products obtained by POCl<sub>3</sub>/DMA system. Besides, other hydroxyaromatic heterocyclic compounds can be also reacted by the system to obtain corresponding derivatives.

The possible mechanism of this chlorination was summarized in Scheme 4 using hypoxanthine (**1**) as the model substrate based on reported literature.<sup>20</sup> Substrate is activated by BTC and then DMAP to form the pyridium intermediate **1c**, which finally release CO<sub>2</sub> and DMAP to form the chlorinated product **2**.

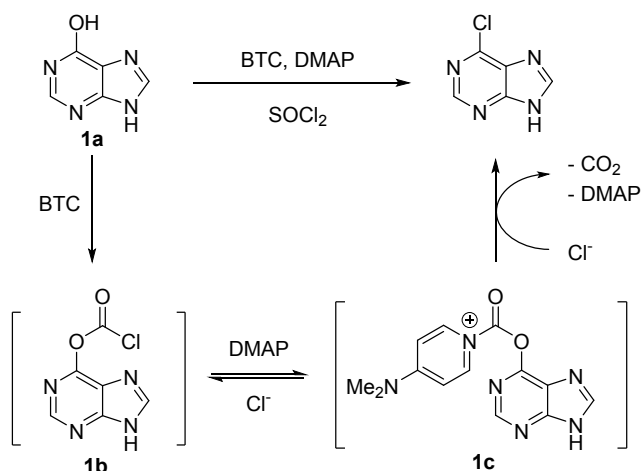


18 Conditions: A: **1a** (50 g), BTC (100 g), DMAP (2.5 g),  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (400 mL), reflux (90 °C oil bath); B:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (74 g), ethanol (100 mL), **7** (1.2 equivolar), yield of isolated product.

19 [a] **7a** (for synthesizing **8a**): (S)-2-(1-aminopropyl)-5-fluoro-3-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one; **7b** (for synthesizing **8b**): benzylamine; **7c** (for synthesizing **8c**): furfurylamine; **7d** (for synthesizing **8d**): thiocarbamide;

20 [b] No  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  added in second step.

21 **Scheme 3.** Large-scale application of BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$  chlorination in one-pot pharmaceutical synthesis.



43 **Scheme 4.** Possible mechanism of BTC/DMAP chlorination system.

## 44 CONCLUSION

45 In summary, we have developed a phosphorus-free system of BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$ /DMAP for chlorination of hydroxy aza-arenes. Its broad substrate scope as well as comparatively simple process and workup indicate its environmentally friendly applicability in chemical industry and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Four examples of large scale one-pot synthesis of bioactive molecules were also conducted. The chlorinated aza-arenes thus obtained, in many cases, can be used directly as substrate for succeeding synthesis without further purification, in which the residual DMAP might also be used as the catalyst. Our next plan will emphasize on studying the selectivity and mechanism of this chlorination system.

## EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Condensing of solvent during reaction was carried with cooling liquid circulator DLSB-5/20. Analytical TLC was performed with silica gel GF254 plates. HPLC was performed by TECHCOMP LC2000 (column: Diamonsil C8 (2) 250\*4.6 mm) with methanol: water: acetonitrile = 5: 90: 5 as eluant. Melting point were recorded on melting point apparatus X-4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Model Avance III 500M and 126 MHz or Ascend Bruker 600 MHz and 151 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  solutions referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) (0.00 ppm) or  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (7.26 ppm),  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  (2.50 ppm),  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (4.79 ppm) for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (77 ppm) and  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  (39.5 ppm) for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. Flash chromatography was carried out with silica gel (200-300 mesh).

**General procedure of chlorination.** To a 50 mL round-bottomed flask with substrate 1000 mg, DMAP 50 mg,  $\text{SOCl}_2$  4 mL, and BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$  solution (1 equivolar BTC per reactive OH dissolved in 4 mL  $\text{SOCl}_2$ ) was added dropwise under reflux with low-temperature-condenser (with circulating coolant at -10--20 °C, for large-scale preparation, with a normal condenser connected with a low-temperature-condenser on the top), and refluxing for certain hours after addition.

### Post-reaction workup for chlorination.

*Post-reaction workup for products except 2 and 4b.* After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed and the residue was quenched with cold water (0 °C, 10 mL) and adjusted to pH 8-9 with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (Except for hydrochloride salt **4b**). The mixture was then extracted with dichloromethane (Except **2** and **4b**), dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Finally, solvent was removed by rotary evaporator and product was obtained by column chromatography on silica gel. *Workup for 2.* After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed and the residue was quenched with cold water (0 °C, 10 mL) and adjusted to pH 8-9 with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution. Then water was removed by rotary evaporator and product was finally obtained by column chromatography on silica gel.

*Workup for 4b.* After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC, the solvent was removed and the residue was quenched with cold water (0 °C, 10 mL). Then water was removed by rotary evaporator and hydrochloride salt of the target was obtained by column chromatography on silica gel (product is not stable unless in hydrochloride salt form).

### Procedure for one-pot pharmaceutical synthesis.

*Procedure for synthesizing idelalisib (8a).* In a 1000 mL round-bottomed flask with 50 g 6-hydroxypurine, 200 mL  $\text{SOCl}_2$ , 2.5 g DMAP, the mixture was heated to reflux. BTC/ $\text{SOCl}_2$  solution (100 g BTC were dissolved in 200 mL of  $\text{SOCl}_2$  was added dropwise. Then the reaction was monitored by TLC until complete exhaustion of 6-hydroxypurine.  $\text{SOCl}_2$  was recovered by evaporation (recovered  $\text{SOCl}_2$  385 mL) to give a light yellow powder (6-chloroindole and DMAP hydrochloride) as crude intermediate. 74 g  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  and 100 mL ethanol were directly added to the intermediate, and the mixture was heated to reflux again, into which 110 g (S)-2-(1-aminopropyl)-5-fluoro-3-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**7a**) was dripping under nitrogen protection. Stopped reaction when TLC showed complete

conversion of 6-chloroindole. Ethanol was removed under reduced pressure and 500 mL water was added. The aqueous mixture was then extract with ethyl acetate (1000 mL\*3) and the organic layer was dried by Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Crude product was obtained by removal of solvent from organic layer. Finally, recrystallization in ethanol to give the product.

*Procedure for synthesizing 6-benzylaminopurine (8b).* In a 1000 mL round-bottomed flask with 50 g 6-hydroxypurine, 200 mL SOCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.5 g DMAP, the mixture was heated to reflux. BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub> solution (100 g BTC were dissolved in 200 mL of SOCl<sub>2</sub>) was added dropwise. Then the reaction was monitored by TLC until complete exhaustion of 6-hydroxypurine. SOCl<sub>2</sub> was recovered by evaporation (recovered SOCl<sub>2</sub> 385 mL) to give a light yellow powder (6-chloroindole and DMAP hydrochloride) as crude intermediate. 74 g Et<sub>3</sub>N and 100 mL of ethanol were directly added to the intermediate, and the mixture was heated to reflux again, into which 43 g benzylamine (**7b**) was dripping under nitrogen protection. Stopped reaction when TLC showed complete conversion of 6-chloroindole. Ethanol was removed under reduced pressure and 500 mL water was added. The aqueous mixture was then extract with ethyl acetate (1000 mL\*3) and the organic layer was dried by Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Crude product was obtained by removal of solvent from organic layer. Finally, recrystallization in ethanol to give the product.

*Procedure for synthesizing kinetin (8c).* In a 1000 mL round-bottomed flask with 50 g 6-hydroxypurine, 200 mL of SOCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.5 g of DMAP, the mixture was heated to reflux. BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub> solution (100 g BTC were dissolved in 200 mL of SOCl<sub>2</sub>) was added dropwise. Then the reaction was monitored by TLC until complete exhaustion of 6-hydroxypurine. SOCl<sub>2</sub> was recovered by evaporation (recovered SOCl<sub>2</sub> 388 mL) to give a light yellow powder (6-chloroindole and DMAP hydrochloride) as crude intermediate. 74 g Et<sub>3</sub>N and 100 mL of ethanol were directly added to the intermediate, and the mixture was heated to reflux again, into which 39 g furfurylamine (**7c**) was dripping under nitrogen protection. Stopped reaction when TLC showed complete conversion of 6-chloroindole. Ethanol was removed under reduced pressure and 500 mL water was added. The aqueous mixture was then extract with ethyl acetate (1000 mL\*3) and the organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. Finally, recrystallization in ethanol to give the product.

*Procedure for synthesizing 6-mercaptapurine (8d).* In a 1000 mL round-bottomed flask with 50 g 6-hydroxypurine, 200 mL of SOCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.5 g of DMAP, the mixture was heated to reflux. BTC/SOCl<sub>2</sub> solution (100 g BTC were dissolved in 200 mL of SOCl<sub>2</sub>) was added dropwise. Then the reaction was monitored by TLC until complete exhaustion of 6-hydroxypurine. SOCl<sub>2</sub> was recovered by evaporation (recovered SOCl<sub>2</sub> 391 mL) to give a light yellow powder (6-chloroindole and DMAP hydrochloride) as crude intermediate. 33 g thiocarbamide (**7d**) and 100 mL ethanol were directly added to the intermediate and then heated to reflux until the conversion of 6-chloropurine was complete (TLC monitoring). The mixture was poured into 200 mL 30% NaOH aqueous solution, to which acetic acid was added dropwise to deposit solid. Stop adding acetic acid when no more solid is formed. After filtration, the final product was recrystallized from ethanol.

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## Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI:

(1) Supplementary data for optimization of hypoxanthine chlorination; (2) Characterization of all products (3) NMR spectra of all products (PDF)

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