

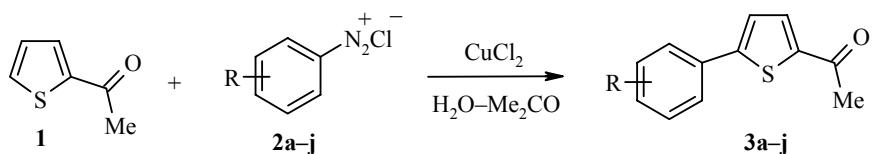
## SYNTHESIS OF HETEROCYCLES ON THE BASIS OF ARYLATION PRODUCTS OF UNSATURATED COMPOUNDS. 19.\* ARYLATION OF 2-ACETYLTHIO- PHENE AND THE SYNTHESIS OF 2-(5-ARYL-2-THIEN- YL)-4-QUINOLINECARBOXYLIC ACIDS

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The reaction of 2-acetylthiophene with acetylthiophene with arenediazonium chlorides in the presence of cupric chloride as catalyst gives 2-acetyl-5-arylthiophenes. These products react with 5-chloro- and 5-bromoisatins to give 6-chloro- and 6-bromo-substituted 2-(5-aryl-2-thienyl)-4-quinolinecarboxylic acids.

**Keywords:** 2-acetyl-5-aryltiophenes, 2-acetylthiophene, 4-quinolinecarboxylic acid derivatives, arylation, Meerwein reaction, Pfitzinger reaction.

Some heteroaromatic compounds are arylated by arenediazonium compounds under conditions of the Meerwein reaction [2-5]. Furan derivatives (especially furfural) have been studied extensively in this reaction since they have proved to be the most reactive [5-8]. Various workers [9-12] have described the arylation of 2-thiophenecarbaldehyde by arenediazonium salts. Shridhar et al. [13] have demonstrated the use of 2-acetylthiophene in this reaction. 2-Acetyl-5-aryltiophenes have usually been obtained by other methods, namely, by acylation of 2-aryltiophenes [14] or by the palladium-catalyzed arylation of 2-acetylthiophene using various reagents [15-18]. We should note that, in the latter case, the reactions do not always proceed



**a** R = 4-Me, **b** R = 4-F, **c** R = 2-Cl, **d** R = 4-Cl, **e** R = 4-Br, **f** R = 3-NO<sub>2</sub>, **g** R = 4-NO<sub>2</sub>,  
**h** R = 3-CF<sub>3</sub>, **i** R = 2,5-Cl<sub>2</sub>, **j** R = 2-Cl-5-CF<sub>3</sub>

\* For Communication 18 see [1].

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selectively [19]. On the other hand, the preparative synthesis of 2-acetyl-5-arylthiophenes using the Meerwein reaction is attractive since it does not require the use of not readily available starting compounds and catalysts.

With this in mind, we have carried out a detailed study of the arylation of 2-acetylthiophene **1** by arenediazonium chlorides **2a-j**. This reaction proceeds in the presence of cupric chloride as catalyst at room temperature to give 5-aryl-2-acetylthiophenes **3a-j** (Tables 1 and 2).

The yields of acetylthiophenes **3** are usually in the range 30-55%, which indicates that acetylthiophene is somewhat less reactive than acetylfuran in this reaction [20]. Moderate yields of 30-40% are characteristic for the Meerwein reaction [2, 5]. However, the starting reagents for the preparation of acetylthiophenes **3** in this case are readily available aromatic amines and 2-acetylthiophene.

TABLE 1. Characteristics of Products **3a-j** and **5a-n**

Com- ound	Empirical formula	Found, %			mp, °C	Yield %
		C	H	N		
<b>3a</b>	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>12</sub> OS	71.87 72.19	5.43 5.59		115-116	20
<b>3b</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> FOS	65.31 65.44	4.03 4.12		97-98	41
<b>3c</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> ClOS	60.46 60.89	3.76 3.83		67-68	47
<b>3d</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> ClOS	60.74 60.89	3.72 3.83		114-115	30
<b>3e</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> BrOS	51.04 51.26	3.19 3.23		140-142	33
<b>3f</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S	58.21 58.29	3.54 3.67	5.51 5.66	148-149	40
<b>3g</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S	58.18 58.29	3.49 3.67	5.83 5.66	153-154	55
<b>3h</b>	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>9</sub> F <sub>3</sub> OS	57.89 57.77	3.28 3.36		87-88	29
<b>3i</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>8</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> OS	52.91 53.15	3.05 2.97		112-113	44
<b>3j</b>	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>8</sub> ClF <sub>3</sub> OS	51.37 51.24	2.49 2.65		74-75	49
<b>5a</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClNO <sub>2</sub> S	66.22 66.40	3.54 3.71	3.53 3.69	268-269	74
<b>5b</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>14</sub> BrNO <sub>2</sub> S	59.17 59.44	3.12 3.33	3.16 3.30	283-284	55
<b>5c</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> ClFNO <sub>2</sub> S	62.37 62.59	2.75 2.89	3.49 3.65	284-285	82
<b>5d</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> BrFNO <sub>2</sub> S	55.98 56.09	2.45 2.59	3.14 3.27	294-295	79
<b>5e</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	59.84 60.01	2.71 2.77	3.38 3.50	258-259	83
<b>5f</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> BrClNO <sub>2</sub> S	53.84 54.01	2.42 2.49	3.06 3.15	272-273	71
<b>5g</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	59.88 60.01	2.59 2.77	3.33 3.50	283-284	78
<b>5h</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>11</sub> BrClNO <sub>2</sub> S	53.98 54.01	2.37 2.49	3.02 3.15	292-293	74
<b>5i</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>11</sub> ClF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	58.00 58.14	2.43 2.56	3.07 3.23	253-254	76
<b>5j</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>11</sub> BrF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	52.63 52.74	2.30 2.32	2.86 2.93	287-288	69
<b>5k</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>10</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	55.04 55.26	2.41 2.32	3.01 3.22	245-246	77
<b>5l</b>	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>10</sub> BrCl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	49.94 50.13	1.78 2.10	3.10 2.92	253-254	69
<b>5m</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>10</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> F <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	53.78 53.86	1.98 2.15	3.05 2.99	290-291	83
<b>5n</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>10</sub> BrClF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	49.02 49.19	1.80 1.97	2.59 2.73	> 300	67

TABLE 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectra of **3a-j** and **5a-n**

Compound	Chemical shifts, $\delta$ , ppm, ( $J$ , Hz)*	
	1	2
<b>3a</b>	2.39 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 2.55 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.24 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.29 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.52 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.66 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene)	
<b>3b</b>	2.53 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.11 (2H, t, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.26 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.2, thiophene); 7.57 (2H, dd, $J$ = 8.4 and $J$ = 5.2, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.66 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.2, thiophene)	
<b>3c</b>	2.54 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.43 (1H, t, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.45-7.55 (2H, m, thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.74 (1H, d, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.79 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.94 (1H, d, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ )	
<b>3d</b>	2.53 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.45 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.54 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.72 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.83 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.4, thiophene)	
<b>3e</b>	2.52 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.41 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.57-7.64 (3H, m, thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.87 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.4, thiophene)	
<b>3f</b>	2.56 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.44 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.62 (1H, t, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.67 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.96 (1H, d, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 8.17 (1H, d, $J$ = 7.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 8.40 (1H, s, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ )	
<b>3g</b>	2.56 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.78 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.8, H-4 thiophene); 7.91 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.8, H-3 thiophene); 7.99 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 8.26 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ )	
<b>3h</b>	2.54 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.60-7.82 (4H, m, thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.84 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.2, thiophene); 8.05 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ )	
<b>3i</b>	2.52 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.47 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ); 7.56 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 7.74 (1H, dd, $J$ = 8.4 and $J$ = 2.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ); 7.97 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, thiophene); 8.08 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ )	
<b>3j</b>	2.53 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.48 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.4, thiophene); 7.65-7.79 (3H, m, thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ); 8.03 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ )	
<b>5a</b>	2.38 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.23 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ); 7.49 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-4 thiophene); 7.61 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.70 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.4 and $J$ = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.96-8.04 (2H, m, H-3 thiophene + H-8 quinoline); 8.47 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.84 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.4, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5b</b>	2.38 (3H, s, $\text{CH}_3$ ); 7.24 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ); 7.47 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-4 thiophene); 7.61 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.0, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.84 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.0 and $J$ = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.93 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 7.96 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-3 thiophene); 8.43 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.95 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5c</b>	7.13 (2H, t, $J$ = 8.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.39 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-4 thiophene); 7.66 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.0 and $J$ = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.69-7.73 (2H, m, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.87 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 7.99 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 8.43 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.84 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5d</b>	7.13 (2H, t, $J$ = 7.8, H-3,5 $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.38 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-4 thiophene); 7.68-7.73 (2H, m, H-2,6 $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.78 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.86 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 7.92 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 8.41 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 9.00 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5e</b>	7.34-7.40 (2H, m, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.48 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-4 thiophene); 7.54 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.2 and $J$ = 7.6, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.69 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.2 and $J$ = 7.6, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.72 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.4 and $J$ = 9.2, H-7 quinoline); 7.98 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-3 thiophene); 8.03 (1H, d, $J$ = 9.2, H-8 quinoline); 8.47 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.81 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.4, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5f</b>	7.36-7.40 (2H, m, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.47 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-4 thiophene); 7.54 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.2 and $J$ = 7.6, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.69 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.2 and $J$ = 7.6, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.83 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.0 and $J$ = 9.2, H-7 quinoline); 7.96 (1H, d, $J$ = 9.2, H-8 quinoline); 7.99 (1H, d, $J$ = 4.0, H-3 thiophene); 8.45 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.98 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5g</b>	7.37 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.4, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.45-7.52 (3H, m, H-4 thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.70 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.6 and $J$ = 9.2, H-7 quinoline); 7.87 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 8.02 (1H, d, $J$ = 9.2, H-8 quinoline); 8.45 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.82 (1H, d, $J$ = 1.6, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5h</b>	7.36 (2H, d, $J$ = 8.8, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.47-7.53 (3H, m, H-4 thiophene + $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ); 7.82 (1H, dd, $J$ = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.88 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 7.94 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 8.41 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 9.01 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	

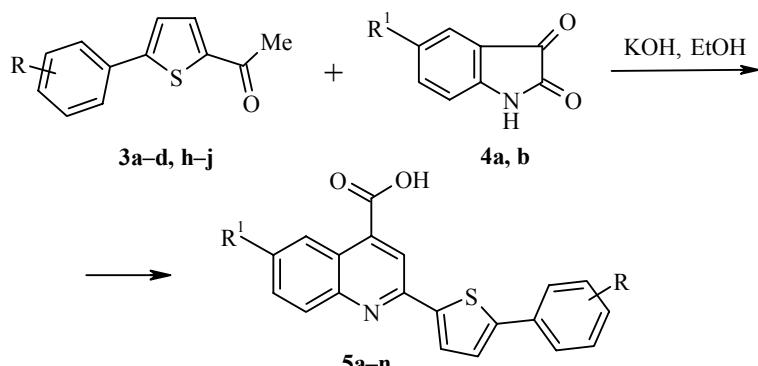
TABLE 2 (continued)

	1	2
<b>5i</b>	7.54-7.63 (3H, m, H-4 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ); 7.67 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.89-7.96 (3H, m, H-3 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ); 8.00 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 8.43 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.85 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5j</b>	7.53-7.62 (3H, m, H-4 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ); 7.80 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.89-7.99 (4H, m, H-3 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> + H-8 quinoline); 8.43 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.99 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5k</b>	7.31 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 1.6 and <i>J</i> = 7.8, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.48-7.54 (2H, m, H-4 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.71 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 2.0 and <i>J</i> = 9.2, H-7 quinoline); 7.91 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 8.01-8.07 (2H, m, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> + H-8 quinoline); 8.46 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.84 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 2.0, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5l</b>	7.32 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 1.2 and <i>J</i> = 7.8, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.48-7.53 (2H, m, H-4 thiophene + C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.80 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.91-7.97 (2H, m, H-3 thiophene + H-8 quinoline); 8.04 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 1.2, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 8.42 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 9.02 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5m</b>	7.53 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.9, H-4 thiophene); 7.61 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-4 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.69 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 2.0 and <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.73 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-3 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.92 (1H, s, H-6 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.96 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.9, H-3 thiophene); 8.05 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-8 quinoline); 8.48 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 8.87 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	
<b>5n</b>	7.53 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.9, H-4 thiophene); 7.62 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.8, H-4 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.74 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.8, H-3 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.82 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.8, H-7 quinoline); 7.92 (1H, s, H-6 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ); 7.95-8.02 (2H, m, H-3 thiophene + H-8 quinoline); 8.47 (1H, s, H-3 quinoline); 9.04 (1H, s, H-5 quinoline)	

\*The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were obtained in CDCl<sub>3</sub> for **3a-c** and **3f** and in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> for **3d**, **3e**, **3g-j**, and **5a-n**.

2-Acetyl-5-arylthiophenes are promising reagents for organic synthesis. We have studied the reaction of ketones **3** with 5-chloroisatin **4a** and 5-bromo isatin **4b** under conditions of the Pfitzinger reaction [21, 22]. This reaction of ketones with isatin is the most convenient method for the synthesis of cinchonic (4-quinoline-carboxylic) acids. Many derivatives of cinchonic acid possess biological activity and several such compounds are drugs [22, 23]. Acetylthiophenes **3a-d** and **3h-j** react with isatins **4a,b** in ethanol at reflux in the presence of KOH to give 2-(5-aryl-2-thienyl)-4-quinolinecarboxylic acids **5a-n** in high yield.

Thus, we have shown that the arylation of 2-acetylthiophene by arenediazonium salts is a convenient method for the synthesis 2-acetyl-5-arylthiophenes, which may be used for the preparation of synchonic acids with arylthienyl fragments.



- 5 a** R = 4-Me, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **b** R = 4-Me, R<sup>1</sup> = Br; **c** R = 4-F, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **d** R = 4-F, R<sup>1</sup> = Br;  
**e** R = 2-Cl, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **f** R = 2-Cl, R<sup>1</sup> = Br; **g** R = 4-Cl, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **h** R = 4-Cl, R<sup>1</sup> = Br;  
**i** R = 3-CF<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **j** R = 3-CF<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Br; **k** R = 2,5-Cl<sub>2</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **l** R = 2,5-Cl<sub>2</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Br;  
**m** R = 2-Cl-5-CF<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Cl; **n** R = 2-Cl-5-CF<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>1</sup> = Br

## EXPERIMENTAL

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of thiophenes **3a-c**, **3f**, and **5a-n** were taken on a Varian Mercury 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz, while the corresponding spectra of thiophenes **3d**, **3e**, and **3g-j** were taken on a Bruker WM-250 spectrometer at 250 MHz using TMS as the internal standard.

**2-Acetyl-5-arylthiophenes 3a-j.** Aromatic amine (0.1 mol) was dissolved in 20% hydrochloric acid (60 ml), heating when necessary. The solution was cooled to 0–5°C and a solution of  $\text{NaNO}_2$  (7 g) in water (25 ml) was added dropwise with stirring. After completion of the reaction, the solution of arenediazonium salt **2a-j** was filtered and added dropwise to a mixture of 2-acetylthiophene **1** (12.6 g, 0.1 mol),  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1 g), and acetone (40 ml). The reaction was carried out at 15–25°C such that nitrogen was released at a moderate rate. After nitrogen evolution ceased, 150 ml water was added to the reaction mixture. The precipitate formed was filtered off and thiophenes **3c-g** and **3i**. If an oil is formed, as in the case of compounds **3a,b,h,j**, it was extracted with chloroform. After distilling off the solvent, the residue was distilled in vacuum and recrystallized from ethanol.

**6-Chloro- and 6-Bromo-substituted 2-(5-aryl-2-thienyl)-4-quinolinecarboxylic acids 5a-n.** Ethanol (50 ml) and water (5 ml) were added to a mixture of 5-aryl-2-acetylthiophene **3** (4 mmol), 5-chloroisatin **4a** or 5-bromoisatin **4b** (4 mmol), and KOH (0.70 g, 12.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 6 h, then poured into water (100 ml), and brought to pH 7 by adding glacial acetic acid. The residue was filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol-DMF.

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