

γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@mel@(CH₂)₄SO₃H as a magnetically bifunctional and retrievable nanocatalyst for green synthesis of benzo[c]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones and 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes

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$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@Si\text{-(CH}_2)_3@mel@(CH_2)_4SO_3H$ as a magnetically bifunctional and retrievable nanocatalyst for green synthesis of benzo[c]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones and 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes

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ABSTRACT

The present work describes the synthesis and characterization of melamine functionalized with sulfonic acid supported on the magnetic nanoparticle, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@Si\text{-(CH}_2)_3@melamine@butyl$ sulfonic acid nanoparticle as a green and retrievable bifunctional catalyst. This catalyst was assigned by FT-IR, XRD, EDX, TEM, VSM, CHN, and TGA analyses. In addition, the catalytic activity of this new catalyst was investigated for the synthesis of 7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[c]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones from aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes, dimedone and 1-naphthylamine in excellent yields and 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes were provided using manufactured nanocatalyst in good-to-high yield under mild reaction condition. The $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@Si\text{-(CH}_2)_3@melamine@butyl$ sulfonic acid heterogeneous catalyst showed the advantages such as very simple and eco-friendly due to use from magnetic nanoparticles as high reusability of the catalyst, magnetically separable catalyst, excellent yield, and mild reaction condition. The synthesis of some new derivatives of dibenzo[c]acridines and 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes in the presence of this nanocatalyst is also reported.

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Introduction

Almost the heterocyclic compounds are the most attention in pharmaceutical chemistry. Among heterocyclic compounds, the tricyclic compounds containing acridine skeleton is a significant pharmacophore and interesting structure in pharmacology. Acridine derivatives have antitumor,^[1] carcinogenic,^[2] and anti-malaria activities.^[3] In addition, these organic compounds can be applied for heart defibrillation^[4] and as DNA-intercalating anticancer drugs.^[5] Therefore, the synthesis of acridine derivatives is principal task in modern organic chemistry. Although numerous methods have been introduced in the providing of benzoacridine derivatives,^[6–15] in recent studies, Borah's group successfully synthesized benzoacridine derivatives via *N,N*-disulfo-1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidinium carboxylate ionic liquids as a catalyst,^[16] Murugesan et al. used sulfonic acid functionalized boron nitride as a catalyst in the preparation of acridine derivatives,^[17] Wan et al. modified glucose sulfonic acid and applied in the synthesis of acridine derivatives,^[18] and Shen et al. synthesized acridine derivatives using imidazolium salts as ionic liquids catalyst,^[19] but these methods in spite of advantages have their shortcomings, such as low yield, high reaction temperature, and prolong reaction time.

On the other hand, more progress in the field of green synthesis has reported magnetically recoverable nanocatalysts which possess expansive surface area, high activity, reusability, and long lifetime.^[22–29] The use of magnetic nanocatalysts is an interesting area for the development of sustainable and green procedures due to external magnetic separation and no

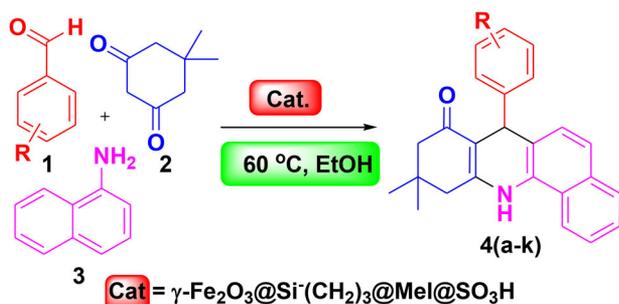
needing to catalyst filtration or centrifugation, and providing simple and practical method for the recovering of these catalysts. Also, multi-component reactions (MCRs) are very powerful weapons in the organic and medicinal chemistry for the preparation of the bulky products in a one-pot and almost one-step from small starting materials. The combination of magnetic nanocatalysts and MCRs will become a merits protocol for the introducing of green procedures in green synthesis.^[30] Moreover, on the base of the best our knowledge, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@Si\text{-(CH}_2)_3@melamine@butyl$ sulfonic acid as a new, reusable, bifunctional heterogeneous nanoparticles catalyst was first utilized in the one-pot preparation of benzo[c]acridines. In this communication, in the present work, we enclosed the synthetic applicability of a prepared catalyst (magnetic-based butyl sulfonic acid–melamine complex) in the synthesis of benzo[c]acridines in one-pot and under mild reaction condition in ethanol at 60 °C with low reaction times (Scheme 1).

Experimental

Chemicals were purchased from Merck Chemical Company. Drying of the solvents was done using standard methods. NMR spectra were recorded in $CDCl_3$ and $DMSO-d_6$ on a Bruker Advance DPX-300 instrument, Germany country. SEM analysis was determined by using FE-TESCAN, model Mira3-XMU, Czech Republic country at accelerating voltage of 15 KV. TEM analysis was performed using Philips CM30

instrument, Nederland country. XRD analysis was measured on a Bruker D8-advance X-ray diffractometer or on an X'Pert Pro MPD diffractometer, Nederland country with Cu K α ($\lambda = 0.154$ nm) radiation. TGA analysis was recorded using a Shimadzu Thermogravimetric analyzer (TG-50), Japan country. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT-IR 460 plus spectrophotometer, Japan country. Elemental analysis was performed on a Costech 4010 CHN elemental analyzer, Italy country.

Synthesis of γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid nanoparticle. The synthesis of magnetic Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles, γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃Cl nanoparticles, and γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine nanoparticles were carried out according to the previous procedure reported in the literature.^[31,32] Then, the γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine nanoparticles (1.0 g) were sonicated in 30 mL of dry THF at 30 min. Next, 1,4-butane sultone (5.0 mmol) was added and refluxed at 24 h. Then, the catalyst was separated using an external magnet, washed with ethanol (3 \times 15 mL), water (2 \times 15 mL), and dried in a vacuum oven at 50 $^{\circ}$ C and 4.0 h (Scheme 2).



Scheme 1. Providing of benzo[c]acridin-8(7H)-ones.

General procedure for the synthesis of 7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[c]acridine-8(9H)-ones using γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid. A mixture of 1-naphthylamine (1.0 mmol), dimedone (1.0 mmol), aldehydes (1.0 mmol), and prepared magnetic nanoparticle (0.004 g) in ethanol (2.0 mL) was taken in a flask and the reaction mixture was mixed at 60 $^{\circ}$ C for appreciating times in Table 1. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the catalyst was removed with an external magnet and then water poured to the reaction mixture to obtain precipitation. Finally, the isolated precipitation recrystallized with ethanol to attained absolute product in 95% yield.

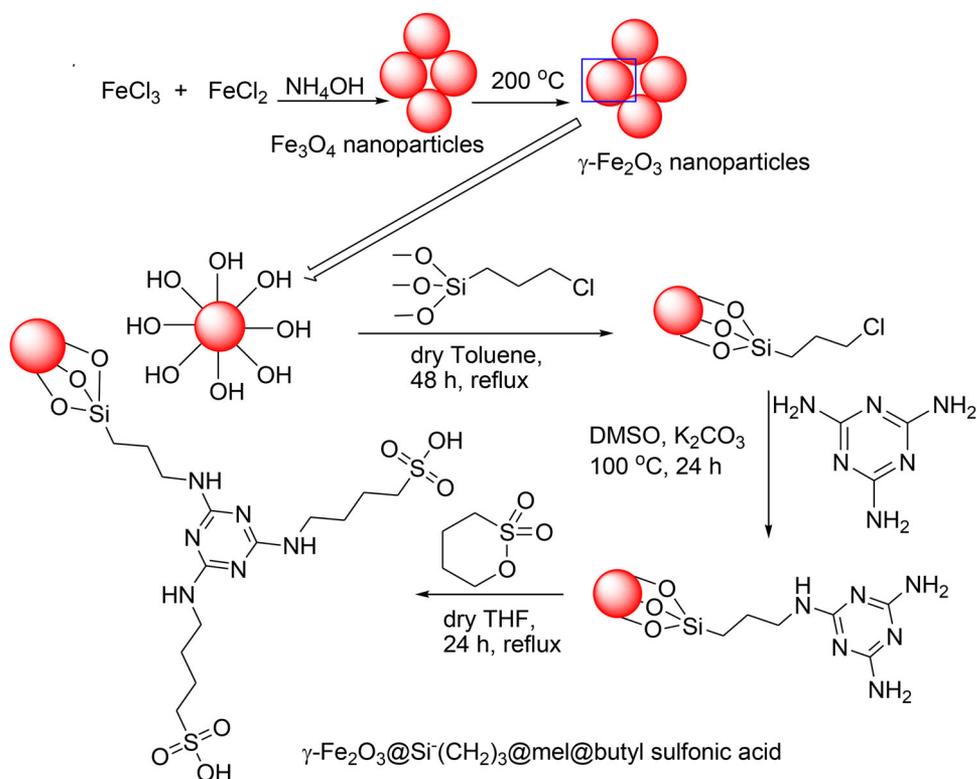
Reusability of the catalyst

The reusability of the catalyst was examined in the synthesis of **4a**. At the end of the reaction, the catalyst was removed with an external magnet and washed with ethanol (2 \times 5 mL) and then used it without further purification. The separated catalyst was reused three times in the preparation of **4a** without considerable loss of its catalytic activity (entry 1, Table 1; 95%, 95%, and 94%). In addition, FT-IR analysis was exhibited that the catalytic activity of the catalyst was the same as those of the freshly used catalyst (Figure 1).

Results and discussion

Characterization of the nanocatalyst

The FT-IR spectra of the intermediate nanoparticles and final catalyst are shown in Figure 2. The band at 1025 cm⁻¹



Scheme 2. Manufactured of γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid nanoparticle.

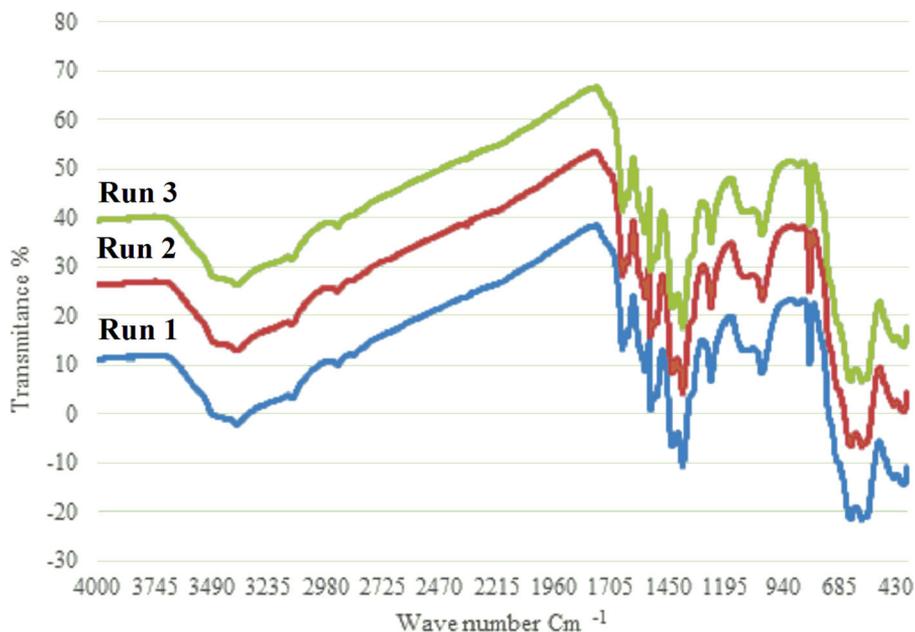


Figure 1. FT-IR spectra of the recovered $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ after three runs.

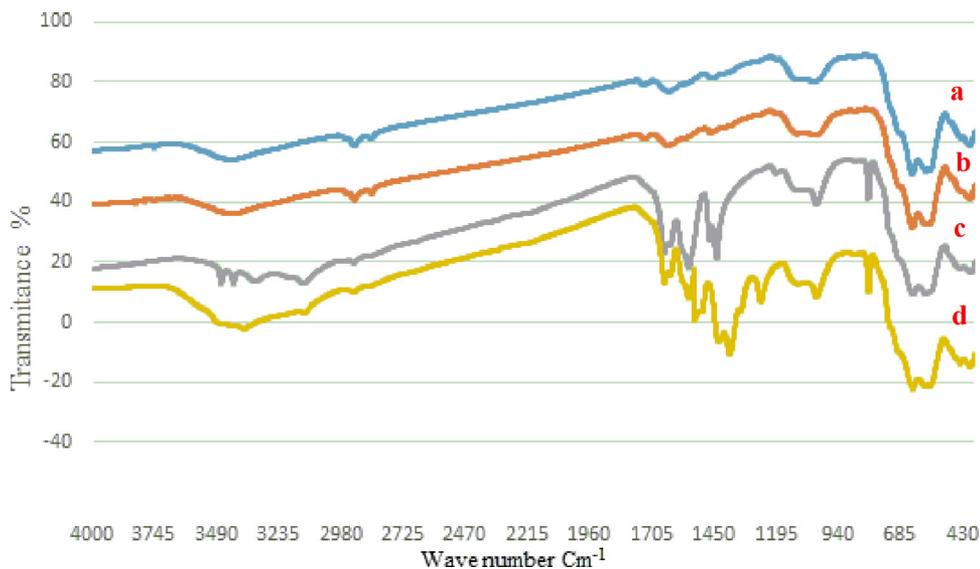


Figure 2. FT-IR spectra of intermediate nanoparticles and prepared catalyst: $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (a), $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{Cl}$ (b), $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel}$ (c), and $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ (d).

relatives to SiO of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3$ the nanoparticles, and that at 2921 cm^{-1} is related to CH_2 of propyl in $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3$ nanoparticles. The band at 3424 and 3415 cm^{-1} confirms the presence of NH_2 group of melamine, loaded on the surface of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel}$. The broadband at 3380 cm^{-1} corresponds to the OH group, and that at 1653 cm^{-1} is related to $\text{S}=\text{O}$ of SO_3H in $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

The TGA curve of the synthesized catalyst is indicated in Figure 3. The first mass loss up to 160°C (region A) is due to the release of adsorbed water; the second from 200 to 515°C is related to the decomposition of organic matter on the $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ core (region B). Region C attributes to $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. The TGA curve of the synthesized catalyst demonstrates high thermal stability, with decomposition starting at around 200°C under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Also, the XRD pattern of the catalyst is shown in Figure 4. The reflection planes of (220), (311), (400), (422), (511), and (440) at $2\theta = 30.3, 35.7, 43.4, 53.8, 57.4,$ and 63.0 , which are attributed to the diffraction scattering of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ were readily recognized from the XRD pattern. These characteristic peaks adopted with those of standard $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (JCPDS file No 04-0755). The observed diffraction peaks were indicated that $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ mostly exist in a face-centered cubic structure.

The SEM and TEM images of the synthesized magnetic nanocatalyst are shown in Figures 5–7. As can be seen from SEM images (Figure 5), the geometric shape of the nanoparticles is spherical. To investigate the morphology and topography of the described catalyst, TEM was carried out as shown in Figure 6. As it is clearly approved the spherical uniform of the catalyst particles and confirmed that the catalyst has nanosize particles.

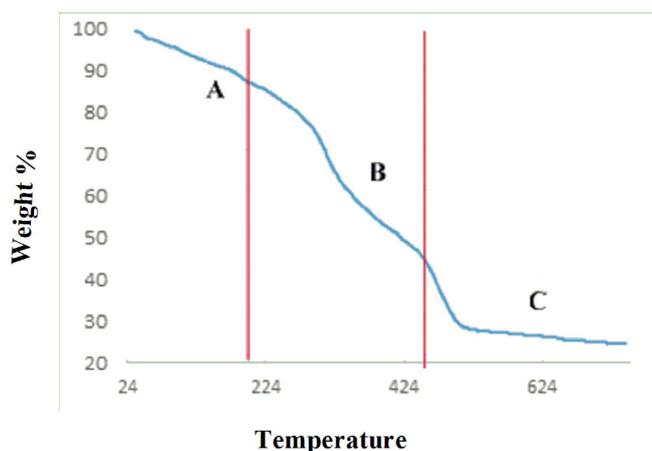


Figure 3. TGA analysis of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$. A) $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ without H_2O ; B) $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel}$, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3$; C) $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$.

The cumulative distribution function shows that the nanoparticles have sizes between 12 and 24 nm that the utmost of nanoparticle size was 17 nm (Figure 7), respectively, that according to research, the smaller and uniform particles exhibited better physical and magnetic properties.^[28]

The loading amount of melamine on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@melamine}$ was determined by elemental analysis, and the C, N, and H contents of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@melamine}$ was quantified 9.56, 9.88, and 1.55, respectively, that it can result from 1.2 mmol melamine on the surface of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3$. Thus $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@melamine}$ can react with 4.8 mmol 1,4-butan sultone to achieve SO_3H functionalized theoretically, whereas the S content of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@melamine@SO}_3\text{H}$ was 4.1 mmol approximately based on EDAX analysis (Figure 8).

To evaluate the magnetic properties of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ and to investigate the effect of $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ on the magnetic feature of

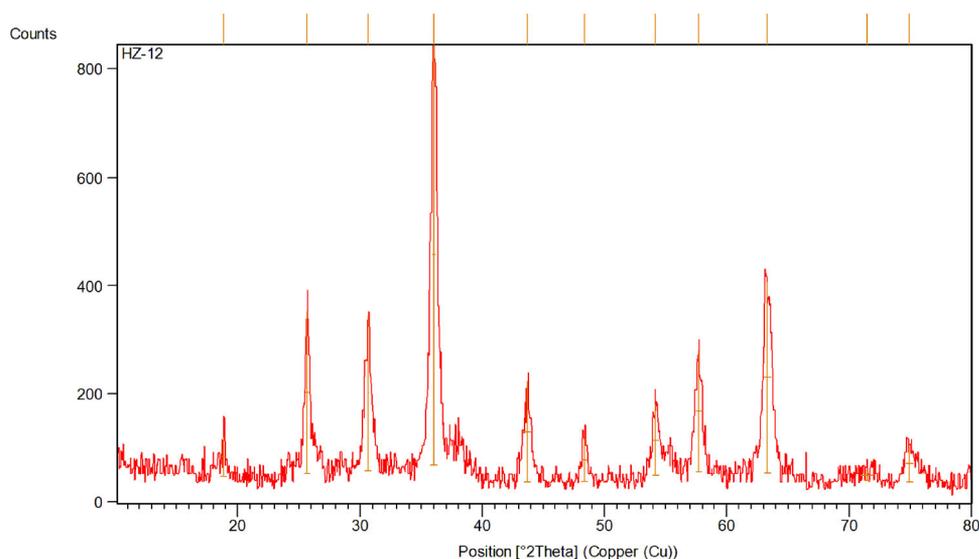


Figure 4. XRD analysis of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

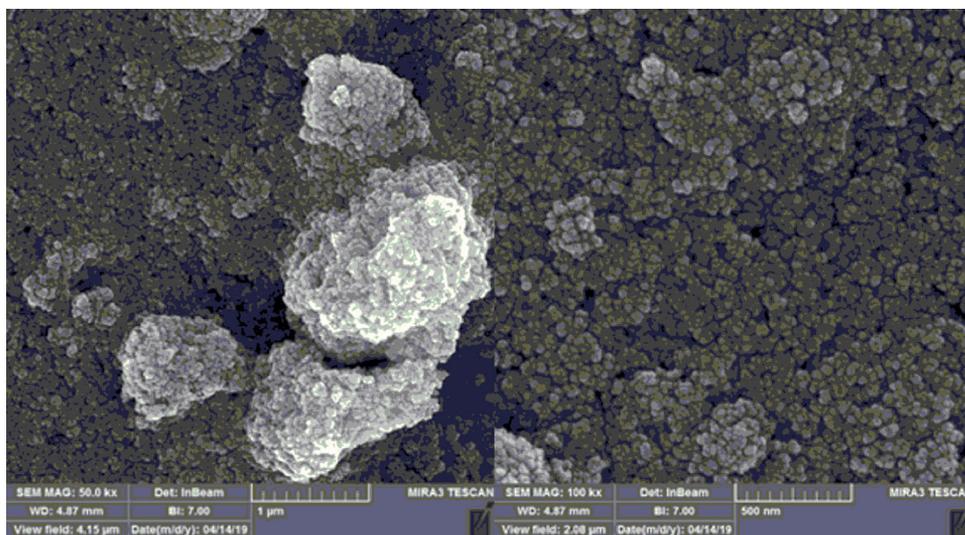


Figure 5. SEM analysis of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

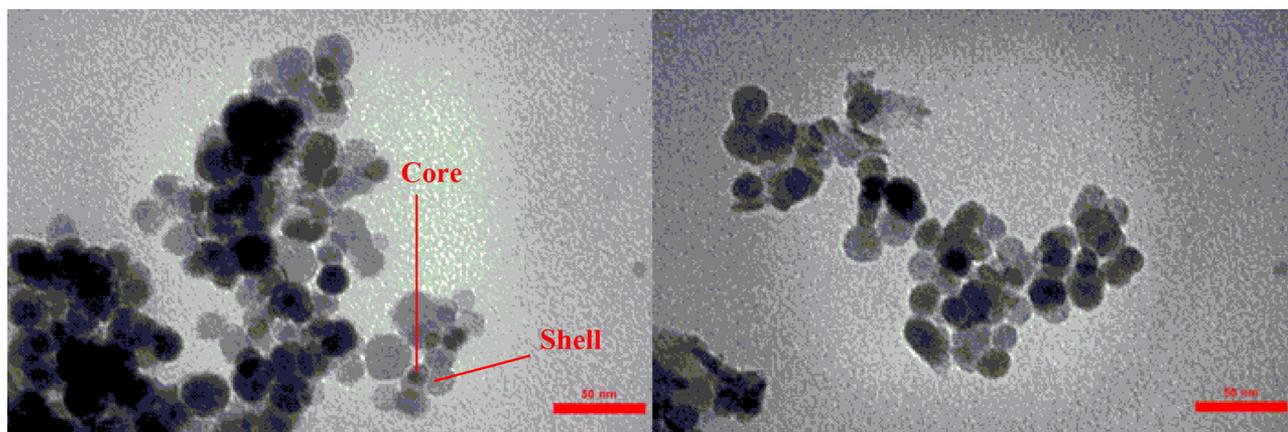


Figure 6. TEM analysis of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

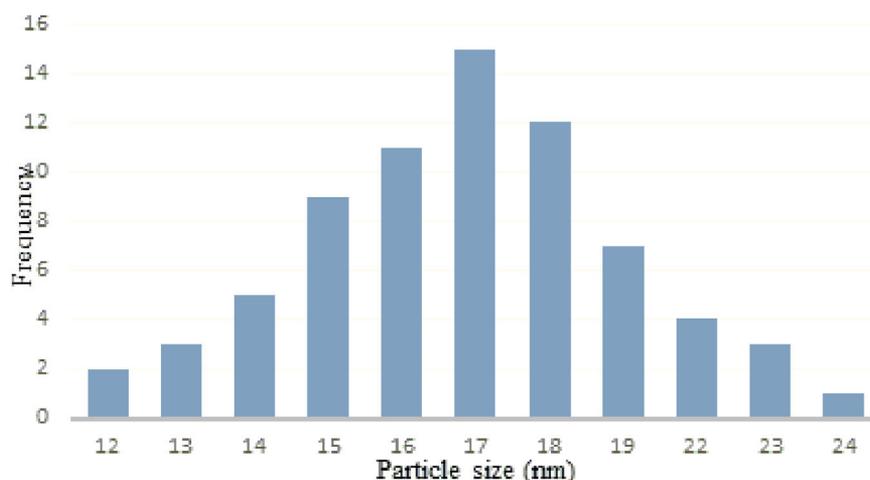


Figure 7. Particle size of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

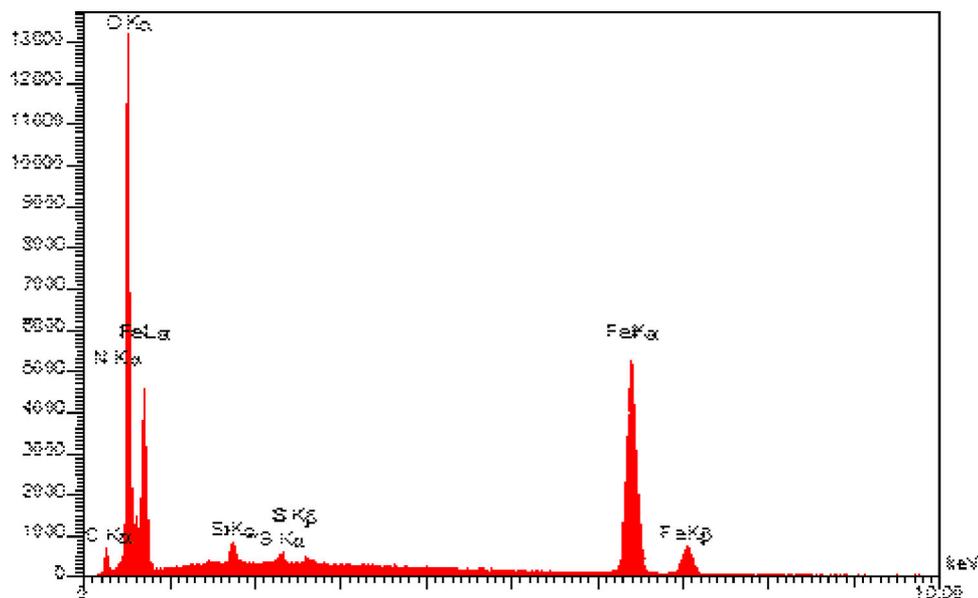


Figure 8. EDX analysis of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$.

$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, the magnetic property of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ was performed *via* VSM analysis and compared with that of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. The results, in Figure 9 showed that upon bonding between Si-

$(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ and $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, the magnetic property decreased from 95 to 65 μemg^{-1} . This result is not beyond expectation as incorporation of nonmagnetic component, $\text{Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$, can decrease the

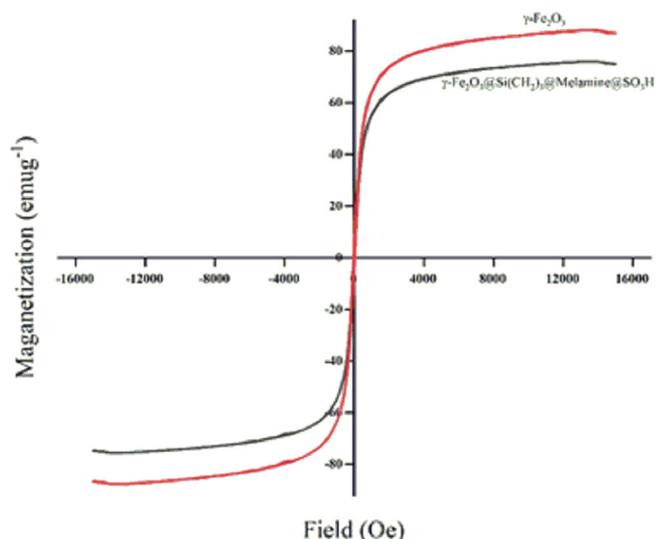


Figure 9. VSM analyses of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ and $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$.

magnetic property. Despite the decrease of the magnetic property, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ could be magnetically recovered *via* using an external magnet.

Catalytic activity evaluation

To examine the solvent type effect on the reaction yield and time, the model reaction for the providing of **4a** was subjected in various solvents including dimethylformamide (DMF), water, tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) and ethanol, n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, and without solvent. The results are presented in Table 2. The reaction was first carried out at room temperature and 60°C under solvent-free condition in 120 min and the product was resulted in 10% and 35% yield. When the benchmark reaction was tested by the above mention solvents, the desired product was yielded in better condition than without solvent. As can be seen in Table 2, the best solvent was ethanol. To more investigate the catalyst amount effect on the reaction time, the obtained optimum solvent was repeated in the different amount of the catalyst including to 0.002, 0.004, 0.006 g, and without the catalyst. As one can see, in the absence of catalyst, even with a time greater than 15 min, the yield is low (45%). Also, increasing the catalyst amount to 0.006 g did not effect on reaction time and yield. So, the catalyst is essential component for the progress of the reaction. Therefore, entry 9, Table 2 was used as the best optimum reaction condition.

Also, the model reaction was examined for the synthesis of **4a** in the presence of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{Cl}$, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel}$ and the results were compared with those of using $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$. As shown in Table 1, the best result was obtained by $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@Mel@butylSO}_3\text{H}$ (entry 5, Table 3).

To generalize this model reaction, the optimum reaction condition was fixed for a series of aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes with electron-withdrawing and electron-donating groups for the synthesis of the corresponding dibenzo[*c*]acridines. Found in Table 1, in all cases, the yields were

Table 1. Synthesis of 7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones using $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{@Si-(CH}_2\text{)}_3\text{@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid}$ nanoparticle.

| Entry | Aldehyde | Product | Time (min) | Yield% ^a | m.p ($^\circ\text{C}$) [ref.] |
|-------|----------|---------|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | | 4a | 15 | 95 | 258–261[10] |
| 2 | | 4b | 15 | 90 | 260–260[13] |
| 3 | | 4c | 10 | 98 | 284–286[7] |
| 4 | | 4d | 10 | 95 | 268–270[14] |
| 5 | | 4e | 25 | 95 | 175–178 [14] |
| 6 | | 4f | 30 | 92 | 277–279 [33] |
| 7 | | 4g | 50 | 93 | 219–221[14] |
| 8 | | 4h | 60 | 91 | 267–270[6] |
| 9 | | 4i | 30 | 90 | 190–192 [34] |
| 10 | | 4j | 40 | 94 | 187–191[14] |
| 11 | | 4k | 35 | 90 | 214–216 (new) |

^aIsolated yield.

excellent. Therefore, this protocol is suitable for both aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes bearing electron-releasing and electron-withdrawing groups. Also, cinnamaldehyde and acetaldehyde were subjected as aliphatic aldehydes under reaction condition and the reaction was carried out well in good yields and short reaction times (entry 5 and 9, Table 1). In addition, the method is easy to operate, very simple, and eco-friendly due to use from magnetic nanoparticle as

Table 2. The optimization of reaction condition for the preparation of **4a** using γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid nanoparticle.

| Entry | Catalyst (g) | Solvent | Temp. (°C) | Time (min) | Yield ^a % |
|-------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 0.004 | Free | r.t | 120 | 10 |
| 1 | 0.004 | Free | 60 | 120 | 35 |
| 2 | 0.004 | H ₂ O | 100 | 15 | 60 |
| 3 | 0.004 | EtOH | r.t. | 300 | 75 |
| 4 | 0.004 | THF | 60 | 120 | 40 |
| 5 | 0.004 | DMF | 60 | 60 | 55 |
| 6 | 0.004 | DMSO | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| 7 | – | EtOH | 60 | 120 | 45 |
| 8 | 0.002 | EtOH | 60 | 20 | 90 |
| 9 | 0.004 | EtOH | 60 | 15 | 95 |
| 10 | 0.006 | EtOH | 60 | 15 | 95 |
| 11 | 0.004 | n-Hexane | Reflux | 180 | 10 |
| 12 | 0.004 | CH ₂ Cl ₂ | Reflux | 180 | 10 |
| 13 | 0.004 | EtOAc | Reflux | 180 | 75 |

^aReaction condition: 1-naphthylamine (1 mmol), dimedone (1 mmol), benzaldehyde (1 mmol) catalyst in solvent (5 mL) at different times.

Table 3. The optimization of reaction condition for the preparation of **4a** using different of nanoparticle catalysts.

| Entry | Catalyst | Yield ^a % |
|-------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Free | 35 |
| 2 | γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ | 40 |
| 3 | γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ @Si-(CH ₂) ₃ Cl | 40 |
| 4 | γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ @Si-(CH ₂) ₃ @Mel | 55 |
| 5 | γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ @Si-(CH ₂) ₃ @Mel@butylSO ₃ H | 95 |

^aReaction condition: 1-naphthylamine (1 mmol), dimedone (1 mmol), benzaldehyde (1 mmol), catalyst (0.004 g) in ethanol (5 mL) at 60 °C and in 15 min.

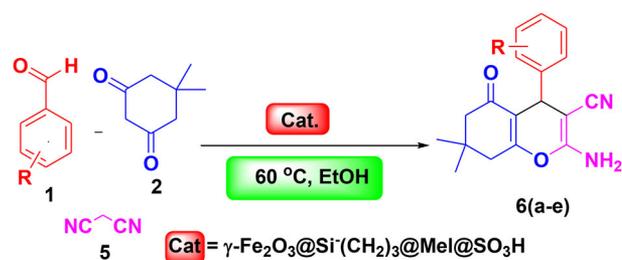
high reusability of the catalyst, magnetically separable catalyst, excellent yield, and mild reaction condition. All compounds have been characterized based on physical and spectral data and were good matched with authentic samples in the literature (Table 1). Also, when we used 4-isopropyl benzaldehyde, we obtained a new derivative of benzo[*c*]acridines in good yield (entry 11, Table 1).

Owing to wide range of useful biological activities in the field of medicinal chemistry^[35] and to have anti-cancer and anti-coagulant activities^[36] of 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes and, to evaluate catalytic activity of prepared catalyst, the synthesis of 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes was studied using aryl aldehydes, dimedone, and malononitrile in the presence of prepared nanocatalyst in good-to-high yield (Scheme 3).

The results have been shown in Table 4. The main advantages of this synthesis method are mild reaction condition, separation of the catalyst using external magnet, eco-friendly, non-corrosive, and reusable catalytic system at least five times without loss of activity with high isolated yield of the products and the synthesis of two new derivatives of 2-amino-4*H*-chromene (entry 5 and 6, Table 4).

The suggested mechanism for the preparation of 7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones has been depicted in Scheme 4. As shown in Scheme 4, the enolic form of dimedone **1** attacks to activated-magnetic nanocatalyst aldehyde **2** to form intermediate **3**. Dehydration of **3** obtains Knoevenagel product **4**. Michel like-addition of 1-naphthyl amine **5** to **4** and following cyclization and assisted-dehydration *via* basic part of the catalyst give intermediate **8** that is tautomerized to **4**.

To show the merits of this procedure in comparison with the previously reported protocols, we compared the

**Scheme 3.** Synthesis of 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes.**Table 4.** Preparation of 2-amino-4*H*-chromene.

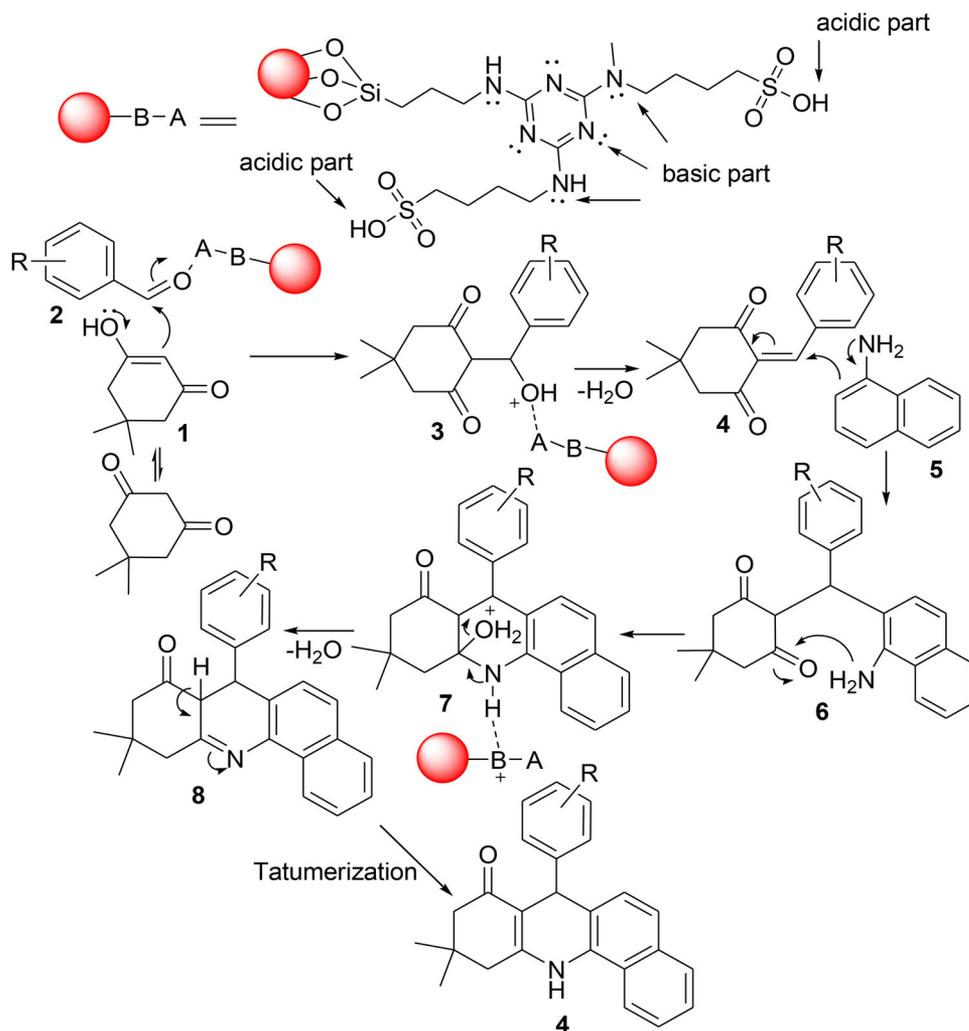
| Entry | Aldehyde | Product | Time (min) | Yield ^a % | m.p (°C) [ref.] |
|-------|----------|-----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | | 6a | 15 | 92 | 227–228 [37] |
| 2 | | 6b | 10 | 90 | 201–203[37] |
| 3 | | 6c | 25 | 95 | 210–212[37] |
| 4 | | 6d | 40 | 80 | 202–204[39] |
| 5 | | 6e | 25 | 85 | 208–210 (new) |
| 6 | | 6f | 45 | 82 | 245–247 (new) |

^aReaction condition: malononitrile (1.0 mmol), dimedone (1.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (1.0 mmol) and catalyst (0.004 g) in ethanol (2.0 mL) at 60 °C.

synthesis of 10,10-dimethyl-7-phenyl-7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-8(9*H*)-one (**4a**) and 2-Amino-7,7-dimethyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromene-3-carbonitrile (**6a**) under various conditions (Tables 5 and 6). The advantages of our procedure are the use of γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid as heterogeneous, high reusability of the bifunctional, and magnetically separable catalyst, excellent yield and mild reaction condition, which are very important in the chemical industry.

Conclusion

In summary, the synthesis of dibenzo[*c*]acridines has been developed using a magnetic nanocatalyst catalyst. The reaction is usable to a wide variety of aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes with excellent yields. This synthesis protocol develops an attractive pathway for dibenzo[*c*]acridines production using a magnetic nano bifunctional catalyst, and forming H₂O as the sole byproduct. Also, 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes was synthesized in the presence of prepared nanocatalyst in good-to-high yield under mild reaction condition.



Scheme 4. Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-8(9*H*)-ones.

Table 5. Synthesis procedure for the synthesis of 4a using different catalysts.

| Entry | Catalyst | Temp. (°C) | Time (min) | Yield% | Ref. |
|-------|--|------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | FePO ₄ ^a (10 mol.%) | 20 | 60 | 90 | 14 |
| 2 | <i>L</i> -Proline ^a (10 mol.%) | r.t. | 60 | 95 | 34 |
| 3 | MW/ 160 w ^b | 20 | 20 | 93.5 | 10 |
| 4 | Succinimide- <i>N</i> -sulfonic acid ^a (4 mol%) | 60 | 30 | 96 | 33 |
| 5 | ultrasonic waves ^a | r.t. | 60 | 85 | 12 |
| 6 | SnCl ₂ .2H ₂ O (20 mol%) / ultrasonic irradiation ^a | r.t. | 60 | 85 | 13 |
| 7 | NH ₂ SO ₃ H/ H ₆ P ₂ W ₁₈ O ₆₂ .18H ₂ O | 110 | 120 | 70 | 15 |
| 8 | Without catalyst | 80 | 1200 | 28 | 6 |
| 9 | Presented catalyst ^a (0.004 g) | 60 | 15 | 95 | This work |

^aUsed solvent is EtOH.

^bSolvent-free.

^c γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid.

Table 6. Synthesis protocol for the preparation of 6a using different catalysts.

| Entry | Catalyst | Solvent | Temp. (°C) | Time (min) | Yield% | Ref. |
|-------|---|------------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | ZnO nanoparticle(0.003 g) | EtOH | Reflux | 10 | 90 | 38 |
| 2 | MNPs@Cu (0.01 g) | Free | 90 | 17 | 91 | 39 |
| 3 | <i>L</i> -proline (10 mol.%) | EtOH | Reflux | 60 | 93 | 37 |
| 4 | Ba(OTf) ₂ (20 mol.%) | PEG-water | r.t. | 30 | 88 | 40 |
| 5 | MCM-41@Schif base (0.01 g)/Co(OAc) ₂ (10 mol%) | H ₂ O | 100 | 180 | 94 | 41 |
| 6 | Presented catalyst ^a (0.004 g) | EtOH | 60 | 15 | 92 | This work |

^a γ -Fe₂O₃@Si-(CH₂)₃@melamine@butyl sulfonic acid.

Another advantage of this method is the synthesis of some new derivatives of dibenzo[*c*]acridines and 2-amino-4*H*-chromenes.

FT-IR spectra data

*10,10-Dimethyl-7-phenyl-7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(9*H*)-one (4a)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3301 (NH), 3083 (CH-aromatic), 2956 (CH-aliphatic), 1689 (C=O), 1595 (C=C aromatic), 1072.

*3,3-Dimethyl-9-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,3,4,9,10-hexahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-1-one (4b)*.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3334 (NH), 3030 (CH-aromatic), 2958 (CH-aliphatic), 1605 (C=O), 1572 (C=C aromatic), 1492, 1374, 1262, 1148, 1090, 1014, 851, 822, 757.

*3,3-Dimethyl-9-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,3,4,9,10-hexahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-1-one (4c)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3304 (NH), 3065 (CH-aromatic), 2960 (CH-aliphatic), 1684 (C=O), 1590, 1518 (C=C aromatic), 1385, 1262, 1149, 1095, 1037, 880, 807, 754.

*3,3-Dimethyl-9-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,2,3,4,9,10-hexahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine-1-one (4d)*.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3310 (NH), 3050 (CH-aromatic), 2956 (CH-aliphatic), 1589 (C=O), 1530 (C=C aromatic), 1387, 1262, 1150, 1093, 831, 807, 758, 611.

*10,10-Dimethyl-7-(2-phenylethenyl)-7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(9*H*)-one (4e)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3342 (NH), 3080 (CH-aromatic), 2956 (CH-aliphatic), 1635 (C=O), 1590, 1557 (C=C aromatic).

*10,10-Dimethyl-7-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-9,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(7*H*)-one (4f)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3321 (NH), 3066 (CH-aromatic), 2898 (CH-aliphatic), 1666 (C=O), 1577, 1522 (C=C aromatic), 1435, 1140, 815.

*10,10-Dimethyl-7-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(9*H*)-one (4g)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3500 (NH), 3100 (CH-aromatic), 2997 (CH-aliphatic), 1641 (C=O), 1587, 1515 (C=C aromatic), 1487, 1409, 1260, 1175, 1143, 1026, 845, 819, 755, 746.

*7,10,10-Trimethyl-9,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(7*H*)-one (4h)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3336 (NH), 3087 (CH-aromatic), 2987 (CH-aliphatic), 1643 (C=O), 1543, 1532 (C=C aromatic), 1465, 1132, 818.

*7-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-10,10-dimethyl-7,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(9*H*)-one (4i)*. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3314 (NH), 3070 (CH-aromatic), 2956 (CH-aliphatic), 1640 (C=O), 1550, 1520 (C=C aromatic), 1468, 1047.

*2-amino-7,7-dimethyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromene-3-carbonitrile (6a)*. IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3395, 3324 (NH₂), 2199 (CN), 1680 (C=O), 1214 (C-O).

*2-Amino-7,7-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromene-3-carbonitrile (6b)*. IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3429, 3334 (NH₂), 2186 (CN), 1680 (C=O), 1210 (C-O).

*Ethyl 6-amino-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-cyano-2-methyl-4*H*-pyran-3-carboxylate (6c)*. IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3382, 3316 (NH₂), 2192 (CN), 1682 (C=O), 1213 (C-O).

*2-Amino-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7,7-dimethyl-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromene-3-carbonitrile (6d)*. IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3378, 3319 (NH₂), 2196 (CN), 1680 (C=O), 1217 (C-O).

Physical and spectra data for new compounds

*10,10-Dimethyl-7-(4-isopropylphenyl)-9,10,11,12-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-8(7*H*)-one (4k)*. Melting point: 214–216 °C: withe powder, IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3321, 3060, 2897, 1667, 1567, 1522, 1435, 1340, 1275, 815; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.00 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.21 (6H, d, $J=7.67$ Hz, 2 × CH₃), 2.22–2.44 (m, 2H), 2.55–2.80 (m, 2H), 3.11 (1H, m, CH), 5.26 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.77 (m, 9H), 8.77 (d, $J=7.6$ Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 198, 146, 140, 137, 134, 132, 128, 126, 124, 118, 108, 51, 42, 36, 31, 30, 27, 23. Combustion analysis for C₂₈H₂₉NO: Calculated (%). C, 85.02; H, 7.39; N, 3.54; found (%): C, 85.01; H, 7.36; N, 3.52.

*2-amino-7,7-dimethyl-5-oxo-4-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromene-3-carbonitrile (6e)*: Melting point: 208–2110 °C.; withe powder, IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3395, 3324 (NH₂), 2199 (CN), 1680 (C=O), 1214 (C-O). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 0.98 (3H, s, Me), 1.06 (3H, s, Me), 1.23 (6H, d, $J=7.67$ Hz, 2 × CH₃), 2.10 (1H, d, $J=16.0$ Hz, H-6), 2.25 (1H, d, $J=16.0$ Hz, H-6), 2.49 (2H, brs, CH₂), 3.12 (1H, m, CH), 4.19 (1H, s, H-4), 7.02 (2H, brs, NH₂), 7.10 (2H, d, $J=8.24$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.13 (2H, d, $J=8.24$ Hz, H-Ar). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 198, 159, 155, 142, 139, 128, 125, 117, 113, 58, 56, 44, 37, 36, 30, 27, 23. Combustion analysis for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₂: Calculated (%). C, 74.97; H, 7.19; N, 8.33; found (%): C, 74.95; H, 7.17; N, 8.30.

*N-(4-(2-amino-3-cyano-7,7-dimethyl-5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-chromen-4-yl)phenyl)acetamide (6f)*: Melting point: 245–247 °C, withe powder, IR (KBr/ cm^{-1}): 3395, 3328 (NH₂), 2199 (CN), 1680 (C=O), 1667 (C=O), 1214 (C-O). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 0.97 (3H, s, Me), 1.05 (3H, s, Me), 2.00 (3H, s, Me), 2.08 (1H, d, $J=16.0$ Hz, H-6), 2.24 (1H, d, $J=16.0$ Hz, H-6), 2.49 (2H, brs, CH₂), 4.10 (1H, s, H-4), 6.98 (2H, brs, NH₂), 7.04 (2H, d, $J=8.0$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.24 (2H, d, $J=8.0$ Hz, H-Ar), 9.90 (1H, s, NH). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 198, 168, 159, 155, 137, 135, 128, 121, 117, 113, 58, 51, 44, 37, 30, 27, 22. Combustion analysis for C₂₀H₂₁N₃O₃: Calculated (%). C, 68.36; H, 6.02; N, 11.96; found (%): C, 68.32; H, 6.01; N, 11.93.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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