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Synthesis of 4-Quinolones via a Carbonylative Sonogashira Cross-Coupling Using Molybdenum Hexacarbonyl as a CO Source

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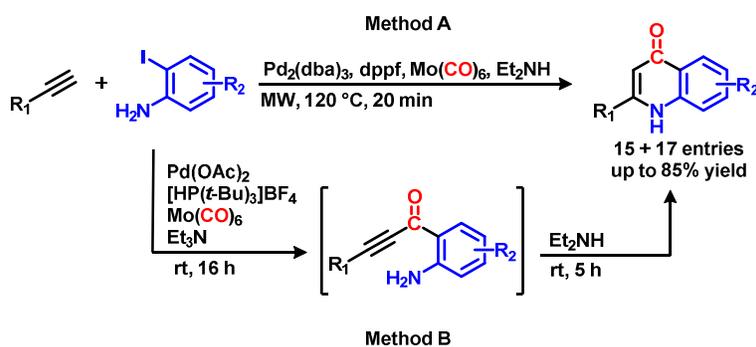
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2
3 ABSTRACT
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6 A palladium-catalyzed CO gas-free carbonylative Sonogashira/cyclization sequence for the
7 preparation of functionalized 4-quinolones from 2-iodoanilines and alkynes via two different
8 protocols is described. The first method (A) yields the cyclized products after only 20 minutes
9 of microwave (MW) heating at 120 °C. The second method (B) is a gas-free one-pot two-step
10 sequence which runs at room temperature allowing the use of sensitive substituents (e.g. nitro
11 and bromide groups). For both protocols, molybdenum hexacarbonyl was used as a solid
12 source of CO.
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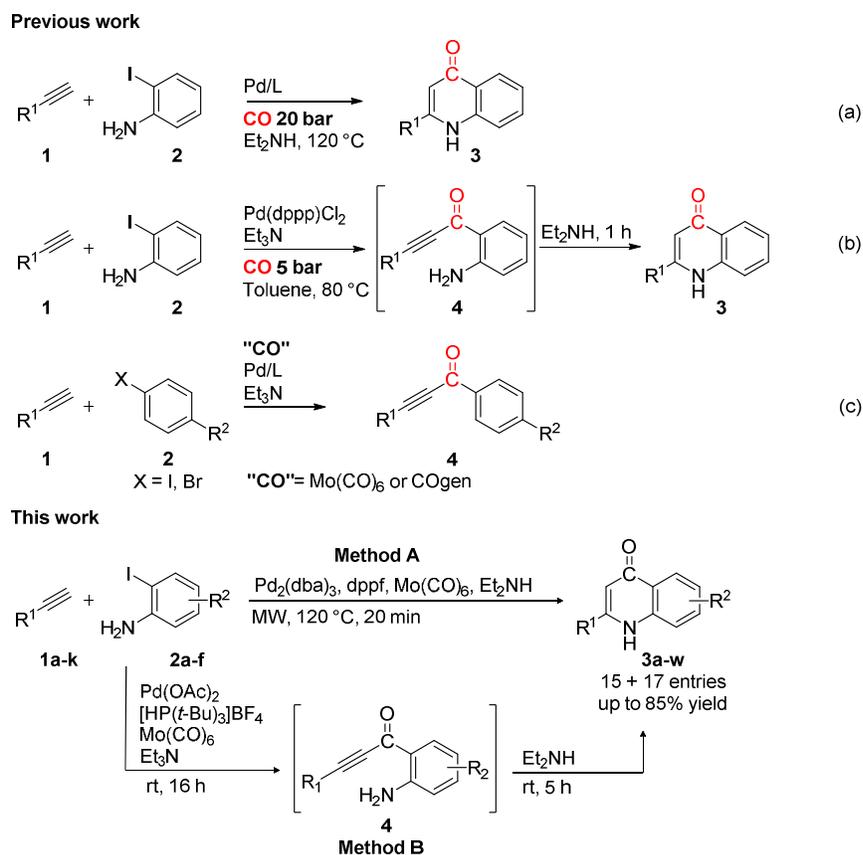
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25 INTRODUCTION
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27 4-Quinolones are commonly used in the pharmaceutical chemistry as a versatile scaffold with
28 a wide range of biological activities e.g. antibacterial,¹ antimalarial² and anticancer.³ As a
29 result, the synthesis of 4-quinolones has attracted considerable interest and there are several
30 synthetic procedures available in the literature.⁴ The most general method for the preparation
31 of 2-substituted-4-quinolones is the condensation of anilines with β -keto esters followed by
32 cyclization of the formed β -arylaminoacrylates. However, the reaction often performs poorly
33 when using electron-deficient anilines.^{5,6} Further strategies include the heterocyclization of 2-
34 aminochoalcone⁷ and the palladium-catalyzed carbonylation of *N*-tosyl-*o*-iodoanilines with
35 allenes.⁸
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47 In addition, the palladium(0)-catalyzed multicomponent⁹ carbonylative coupling of terminal
48 acetylenes (**1**) with 2-iodoanilines (**2**) under elevated pressures of carbon monoxide has
49 previously been described as a method to prepare functionalized 4-quinolones (**3**)^{8,10,11}
50 (Scheme 1, reaction a-b). This approach was first reported for aryl iodides, which were
51 carbonylatively coupled to terminal acetylenes using PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ or Pd(dppf)Cl₂ in neat
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3 diethylamine with in situ cyclization of the formed intermediate alkynone to generate 4-
4 quinolones (**3**).¹⁰⁻¹² (Scheme 1, reaction a). The methodology was later adapted by Genelot
5 and co-workers to enable the use of precatalyst, Pd(dppp)Cl₂ under milder conditions using a
6 two-step procedure providing **3** from **4** after addition of Et₂NH (Scheme 1, reaction b¹³). This
7 synthetic protocol was applied in the preparation of the key quinolone substructure of the
8 serine protease inhibitor BILN 2061.¹⁴ However, the published carbonylative reactions
9 require high pressures of CO gas, making them less attractive for lab-scale medicinal
10 chemistry.
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Scheme 1. Palladium(0)-catalyzed carbonylative Sonogashira cross-couplings, cyclizations, and the method developed herein.



Palladium(0)-catalyzed carbonylation reactions, involving an aryl halide (or pseudohalide), CO and a nucleophile, are commonly used for the synthesis of a multitude of arylcarbonyl derivatives (e.g. amides, esters, acids, ketones etc).^{15–19} However, since many carbonylation reactions are performed above atmospheric pressure, specialized equipment which can withstand elevated pressures is often required to enable safe handling. In addition, CO is a highly toxic and flammable gas, which is invisible, odorless, and tasteless. As a result, the interest in solid reagents which release CO in a controlled manner has increased in the last decades.^{19–31} $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ has been successfully used in several different carbonylative reactions, e.g. aminocarbonylations,^{32–36} amidocarbonylations³⁷ and carbonylative cross-couplings.^{20,38,39}

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3 In addition to this work, a non-gaseous Sonogashira carbonylative coupling providing
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5 alkynones using $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ has been described by Iizuka et al. (Scheme 1, reaction c).²⁰
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7 Nonetheless, one of the potential disadvantages of $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ is its ability to reduce nitro
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9 containing aromatic substrates.⁴⁰⁻⁴² In our group, we recently used a bridged two-chamber
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11 system,⁴³ originally developed by Skrydstrup et al.,²²⁻²⁴ where CO is released from $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$
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13 in one of the two compartments. The solid CO-source is separated from the reaction mixture
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15 and carbonylation occurs after free diffusion of the gas between the two chambers.⁴³ Using
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17 CO generated from COgen^{22,24} ex situ in a two-chamber system, Neumann et al. recently
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19 reported a carbonylative Sonogashira for the preparation of alkynones from aryl bromides
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21 with excellent functional group tolerance (Scheme 1, reaction c).⁴⁴ Despite the advantage with
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23 the two-chamber procedure it nevertheless demands specialized glassware and it is therefore
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25 of practical value to develop carbonylative reactions which can be conducted in a standard
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27 single vial system and tolerate sensitive functional groups.
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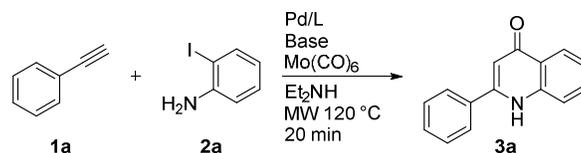
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32 In this study, we present two approaches for the preparation of 4-quinolones (**3**) using non-
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34 gaseous $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ -promoted carbonylative methods. The first protocol provides the desired
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36 compounds after only 20 minutes of microwave (MW) heating whereas the second procedure
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38 is a one-pot two-step approach which operates at ambient temperature and tolerates sensitive
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40 functional groups, i.e. nitro groups and bromides. Both methods furnished a diverse set of 4-
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42 quinolone products in moderate to good yields.
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48 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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51 Initially, the feasibility of the carbonylative reaction was evaluated using a model reaction and
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53 microwave heating at 120 °C for 20 minutes in sealed vials. Phenylacetylene (**1a**, 2 equiv)
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55 and 2-iodoaniline (**2a**) were treated with various palladium catalysts (10 mol%) in the
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57 presence of base (3 equiv), $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ (2 equiv) with diethylamine (1.5 mL) as the solvent. The
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3 results of the screening are presented in Table 1. When Pd(dppf)Cl₂ was employed using
4 sodium acetate as the base, the product **3a** was obtained in 76% isolated yield (entry 1).
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6 Changing to a triphenylphosphine catalytic system (Pd(OAc)₂ and PPh₃) only furnished trace
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8 amounts of the product (entry 2). When Pd[(*t*-Bu)₃P]₂ or a phosphine-free ligand system with
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10 Pd₂(dba)₃ was used, moderate yields were obtained (entries 3-4, 52% and 41%, respectively).
11
12 Upon changing the base to Cs₂CO₃ with Pd(dppf)Cl₂ as the catalytic species, 82% of **3a** was
13
14 isolated after chromatography (entry 5). DBU was found to be deleterious for the reaction
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16 (entry 6). Finally, when Pd₂(dba)₃ (5 mol%) was used with an excess (20 mol%) of dppf the
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18 desired product was isolated in 85% yield (entry 7). Mo(CO)₆ has been reported to have
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20 catalytic activity in carbonylation reactions.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ Therefore, a control reaction without the
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22 addition of a palladium catalyst was performed, but no conversion of aryl iodide was observed
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27 (entry 8).
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Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions for the synthesis of 4-quinolone **3a** from **1a** and **2a** using MW.



Entry	Pd/L ^a	Base	Yield (%) ^b
1	Pd(dppf)Cl ₂	NaOAc	76
2	Pd(OAc) ₂ , PPh ₃ ^c	NaOAc	Trace
3	Pd[(<i>t</i> -Bu) ₃ P] ₂	NaOAc	52
4	Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	NaOAc	41
5	Pd(dppf)Cl ₂	Cs ₂ CO ₃	82
6	Pd(dppf)Cl ₂	DBU	-
7	Pd₂(dba)₃^d, dppf^c	Cs₂CO₃	85
8	-	Cs ₂ CO ₃	-

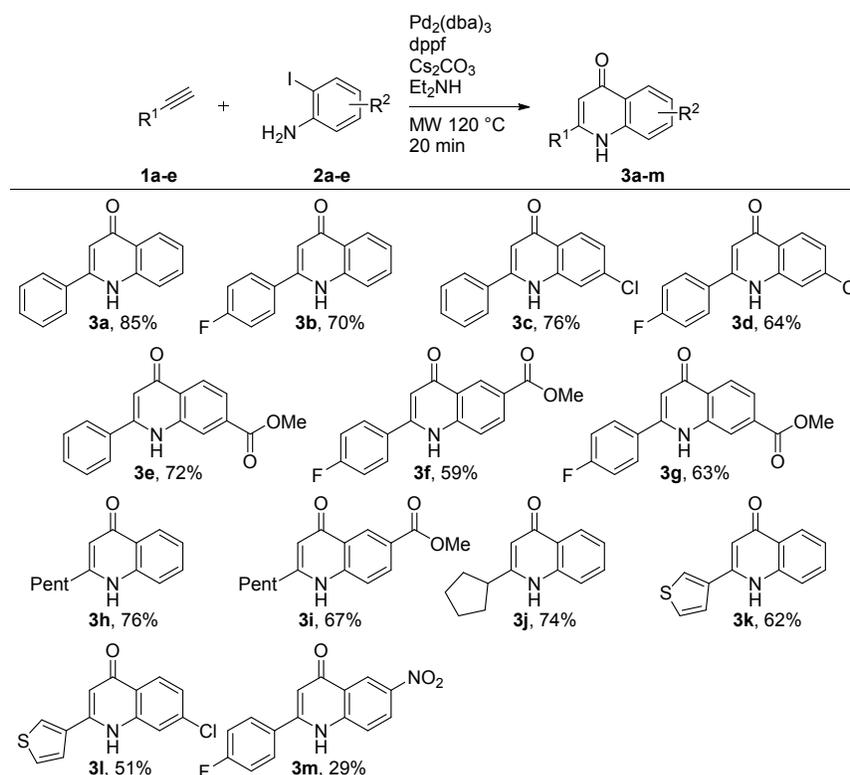
Reaction conditions: 2-Iodoaniline **2a** (0.5 mmol), phenylacetylene (1 mmol), base (1.5 mmol), Mo(CO)₆ (1 mmol), Et₂NH, 120 °C, 20 min. ^a10 mol% of palladium catalyst.

^bIsolated yield. ^c20 mol%. ^d5 mol%.

Based on the reaction conditions developed, the scope of the microwave heated carbonylative Method A was investigated next. When the aromatic 1-ethynyl-4-fluorobenzene (**1b**) was reacted with **2a**, 4-quinolone **3b** was obtained in 70% yield. The chloro-substituted 2-iodoaniline (**2b**) gave products **3c-d** in 64-76% yield. Methyl ester substituted 2-iodoanilines

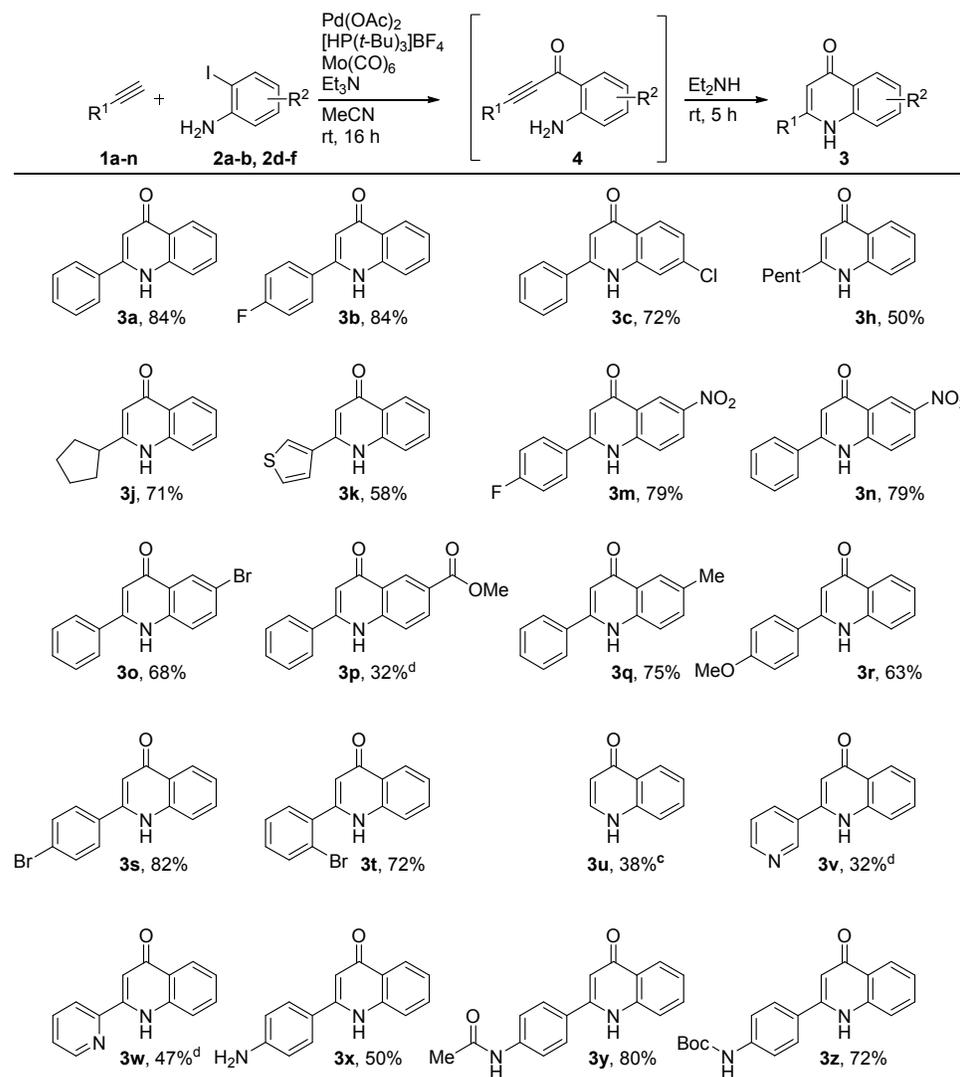
(**2c** and **2d**) furnished the 6- or 7-substituted 4-quinolones **3e-g** and **3i** in 59-72% yield. In addition, the aliphatic alkynes, 1-heptyne (**1c**) and cyclopentylacetylene (**1d**), performed well in the reaction and furnished products **3h-j** in 67-76% yield. Moreover, when 3-ethynylthiophene (**1e**) was used **3k** and **3l** were obtained in 62% and 51% yield, respectively. In contrast, 2-iodo-4-nitroaniline (**2e**) gave product **3m** in a low yield of 29%. The lower isolated yield was probably due to the known thermally induced reduction of the nitro group by Mo(CO)₆.^{41,43}

Table 2. Scope of the Mo(CO)₆-mediated reaction of 2-iodoanilines with acetylenes using MW (Method A).^{a, b}



^aReaction conditions: **1** (1 mmol), **2** (0.5 mmol), 5 mol% Pd₂(dba)₂, 12 mol% dppf, Mo(CO)₆ (1 mmol), Et₂NH, 120 °C, 20 min. ^b Isolated yield.

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3 To further expand the preparative scope of the reaction, we sought to develop an alternative
4 method (Method B) that would tolerate the use of reduction-prone and other sensitive
5 moieties. Based on the work by Iizuka et al. (Scheme 1, c)²⁰ we believed that 2-iodoanilines
6 could also be used in a gas-free Mo(CO)₆-mediated procedure at room temperature to yield
7 the arylalkynone intermediate (**4**) followed by subsequent cyclization induced by
8 diethylamine. With the aim to develop Method B to be carried out at room temperature, the
9 use of a catalyst with stabilizing bidentate dppf was not optimal. Gratifyingly, the desired
10 product **3m** was obtained in 67% when **2e** and **1b** were stirred in acetonitrile with
11 triethylamine, Pd(OAc)₂, [HP(*t*-Bu)₃]BF₄ and Mo(CO)₆ at room temperature for 16 h
12 followed by the addition of 3.5 equiv of diethylamine. Minor adjustments to the ligand
13 loading and the amount of diethylamine led to a reliable protocol, which furnished nitro group
14 containing **3m** in 79% isolated yield (Table 3), a considerable increase in yield compared to
15 when the MW-heated protocol was used (29%, see Table 2).
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Table 3. Scope and limitations of the Mo(CO)₆-mediated carbonylative two-step protocol(Method B).^{a,b}

^aReaction conditions: i) **1** (1 mmol), **2** (0.5 mmol), 3 mol% Pd(OAc)₂, 6 mol% [HP(*t*-Bu)₃]BF₄, Mo(CO)₆, Et₃N, MeCN, rt, 16 h. ii) Et₂NH, rt, 5 h. ^bIsolated yield. ^cPrepared from trimethylsilylacetylene (**1h**). ^dThe reaction gave full conversion of the limiting reagent but a problematic purification in combination with low solubility contributed to the low yield.

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3 Next, we wanted to investigate the scope and limitations of the reaction using various 2-
4 iodoanilines (Table 3). In general, the reaction was found to be insensitive towards changes in
5 the electronic properties of the aniline. The unsubstituted 2-phenyl-4-quinolone was obtained
6 in 84% (**3a**) which is comparable to the result obtained using method A (85%, see Table 2).
7 Anilines bearing electron-withdrawing substituents afforded the desired product in 68-79%
8 yield (**3c**, **3m** and **3n-o**) with the exception of the methyl ester (**3p**) which was obtained in
9 32% isolated yield. When compound **3p** was produced by Method B, unidentified byproducts
10 were formed, which were difficult to separate from the product. In addition, the compounds
11 were poorly soluble in most common organic solvents which gave broad bandwidth on the
12 silica column. These two factors contributed to the low yield. The electron-donating methyl
13 substituted aniline also performed well and the product was isolated in 75% (**3q**). Due to the
14 mild reaction conditions nitro groups were well tolerated and no reduced by-products could be
15 observed by LC-MS or ¹H-NMR (**3m-n**; both obtained in 79%). Furthermore, 6-bromo-2-
16 phenylquinolin-4(1*H*)-one (**3o**) was prepared in 68% yield and no traces of dehalogenated or
17 other by-products resulting from palladium-mediated activation of the Ar-Br bond were
18 detected (LC-MS).
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38 To further evaluate the scope of the reaction we investigated the performance of various
39 alkyne substrates in the reaction (Table 3). Aliphatic 1-heptyne and cyclopentylacetylene
40 were transformed into the desired products in moderate to good yields (**3h** and **3j**; 50% and
41 71% respectively). Electron-poor arylacetylenes performed well in the reaction (**3b**, **3m**, **3s**,
42 **3t**; 72-84%) which may be related to the acidity of the acetylenic proton. In contrast, electron-
43 rich arylacetylenes in general gave slightly lower yields (**3r**, **3x-y**; 50-72%). Although the
44 yield of aniline **3x** is probably related to the formation of unidentified byproducts or
45 coordination to the metal-catalyst.
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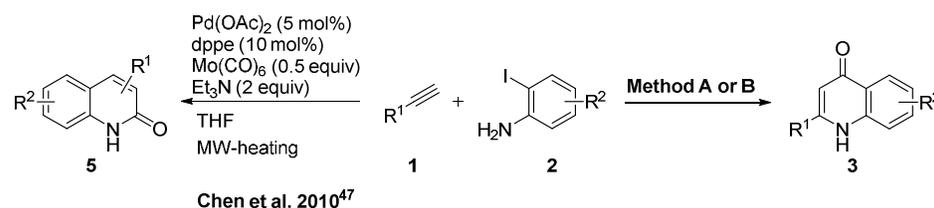
Demonstrating the mild conditions, 1-bromo 4-ethynylbenzene (**1f**) and 1-bromo-2-ethynylbenzene (**1g**) were used to prepare aryl bromide products **3s** and **3t** in high yields (82% and 72% respectively). Moreover, the Boc-protected aniline were well tolerated in the reaction (**3z**; 72%). The parent compound quinolin-4(1*H*)-one (**3u**) could be prepared from trimethylsilylacetylene (TMS-acetylene) (**1h**) and was isolated after spontaneous deprotection of the TMS group under the basic reaction conditions in 38% yield. In conjunction, when TBDMS-protected and free propargyl alcohol were tested as substrates in Method B only traces of the alkynone intermediate were observed after the initial carbonylative Sonogashira cross-coupling. Various heterocycles could, however, also be incorporated albeit in low to moderate yields (**3k** and **3v-w**; 32-58%).

These results compare favorably to the pressurized CO-gas carbonylations in the literature in which 5 examples of **3** were obtained in yields of 26-75% (1 example was obtained in 98% when isolated as a hydrochloride salt).¹³ Notably, 2-phenyl-quinolin-4-one (**3a**) has previously been obtained in 62% yield,¹³ however, using our non-gaseous carbonylation Method B we were able to isolate the same compound in an improved yield of 84% (Table 3).

Several attempts were made to adapt the developed protocol to 2-bromoanilines. However, no conversion of starting material was observed and the desired product could not be detected even at elevated temperatures.

Scheme 2. Comparison of the synthesis of 2-quinolones (**5**) and 4-quinolones (**3**) from **1** and

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6 Interestingly, Chen et al. have reported a Mo(CO)₆-mediated protocol for the synthesis of 2-
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8 quinolones (**5**) from **1** and **2** using similar reaction conditions as in Method A but using a
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10 tertiary amine base (Scheme 2).⁴⁸ Under those conditions, a mixture of 3- and 4-substituted 2-
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12 quinolones (**5**) were obtained following a non-carbonylative Sonogashira cross-coupling and a
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14 carbonylative cyclization. In contrast, the formation of 2-quinolones was never detected
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16 (confirmed by NMR) using the protocol described herein, not even when Et₃N was used in
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18 place of Et₂NH. Under our conditions (A and B) we firmly believe that a carbonylative
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20 Sonogashira reaction yields the alkynone (**4**) which is subsequently cyclized by addition of
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22 diethylamine. This is in accordance with previous studies showing that arylalkynones with
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24 *ortho*-amine or hydroxyl substituents can be cyclized in a *6-endo-trig* mode to yield 4-
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26 quinolones and flavones, respectively, by the addition of secondary amines such as
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28 diethylamine.^{11,13,49} To confirm that the reaction follows the proposed mechanism, alkynone
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30 **4a** was also prepared using our Method B in 72% yield, and subsequently cyclized to **3a** in
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32 82% isolated yield.
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40 CONCLUSION

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42 In conclusion, we report two new methods for the CO gas-free carbonylative heteroannulation
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44 using Mo(CO)₆ as a convenient solid source of CO. Method A rapidly produces products in
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46 the absence of sensitive functional groups and as a complement, Method B tolerates nitro and
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48 bromide substituents. The developed protocols have a broad scope and quinolones can be
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50 obtained in moderate to good yields from a wide variety of 2-iodoanilines and alkynes,
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52 including electron-rich and electron-poor anilines, arylacetylenes, aliphatic alkynes and
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54 heterocyclic alkynes. Despite the use of a one-pot system, we could prepare nitro substituted
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56 quinolones in good yields using Method B. The problem with Mo(CO)₆-mediated nitro
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3 reduction has previously been solved by separating Mo(CO)₆ from the reaction mixture in a
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5 two-chamber system.⁴³ However, due to the mild reaction conditions employed in Method B,
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7 nitro substituted quinolones were obtained and no reduced by-products could be detected.
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9 Finally, several bromo substituted quinolones, suitable for subsequent functionalization, were
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11 prepared in good yields.
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14 15 16 17 EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

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20 **General Information.** Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica
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22 gel 60 F-254 plates and visualized with UV light. Flash column chromatography was
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24 performed on silica gel 60 (40-63 μm). ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded at 400 and
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26 101 MHz, respectively. The chemical shifts for ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR are referenced to TMS
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28 via residual solvent signals (¹H, MeOD at 3.31 ppm, CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm and DMSO-d₆ at
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30 2.50 ppm; ¹³C, MeOD at 49.0 ppm, CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm and DMSO-d₆ at 39.5 ppm).
31
32 Analytical HPLC/ESI-MS was performed using electrospray ionization (ESI) and a C18
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34 column (50x3.0 mm, 2.6 μm particle size, 100 Å pore size) with CH₃CN/H₂O in 0.05%
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36 aqueous HCOOH as mobile phase at a flow rate of 1.5 ml/min. High resolution molecular
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38 masses (HRMS) were determined on a mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI source and 7-
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40 T hybrid linear ion trap (LTQ). Compounds **1m**⁵⁰, **1n**⁵¹, **2g**⁵², **3a**⁵³, **3b**⁵⁴, **3c**⁵⁵, **3h**⁵⁶, **3k**⁵⁷, **3n**¹³,
41
42 **3o**⁶, **3q**⁵⁵, **3r**⁵⁵, **3s**⁵⁴, **3u**⁵³, **3v**⁵⁷, **3w**⁵⁷ and **4a**¹³ are known and spectral data were in agreement
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44 with the proposed structures and matched those reported in the literature.
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48
49 *Caution! The closed-vessel carbonylation reactions described in this paper should not be*
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51 *repeated on a larger scale or at higher temperatures than reported as this could result in an*
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53 *explosion unless an appropriate pressure relief device is used.*
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3 ***N*-(4-ethynylphenyl)acetamide (1m)**: The title compound was obtained as a white solid (720
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5 mg, 90%) according to the literature.⁵⁰
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8 ***tert*-Butyl(4-ethynylphenyl)carbamate (1n)**: The title compound was obtained as a white
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10 solid (620 mg, 57%) according to the literature.⁵¹
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13 **2-Iodo-4-methylaniline (2g)**: Was prepared according to a published procedure.⁵⁸ Beige solid
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15 (759 mg, 64%).⁵²
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20 **General procedure for the preparation of 4-quinolones using method A.** To a 0.5-2 mL
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22 Smith® microwave vial was added corresponding 2-iodoaniline (0.5 mmol), corresponding
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24 ethylene (1.0 mmol, 2 equiv), tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0) (9.2 mg, 0.01 mmol),
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26 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (11.2 mg, 0.02 mmol), Mo(CO)₆ (132 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1
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28 equiv), cesium carbonate (490 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv) and 1.5 mL diethylamine. The vial was
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30 purged with nitrogen, capped and irradiated in a Smith Initiator® at 120 °C for 20 minutes.
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32 The reaction mixture was poured over water and extracted with chloroform (3 x 15 mL). The
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34 combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced
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36 pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography eluting with CHCl₃/MeOH
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38 (100:1-20:1) to yield the desired products.
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46 **General procedure for the preparation of 4-quinolones using method B**
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49 A mixture of 2-iodoaniline (0.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (3 mg, 0.01 mmol), tri-*tert*-
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51 butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (9 mg, 0,03 mmol) and Mo(CO)₆ (198 mg, 0.75 mmol) in
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53 a sealed vial was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen three times. Acetonitrile (2 mL), the
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55 alkyne (1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.14 mL, 1 mmol) were added through the septa by a
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57 syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 hours where after all
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3 starting material had been consumed (LC-MS). Diethylamine (0.26 mL, 2.5 mmol) was added
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5 to the reaction mixture and stirring was maintained at rt for 5 h. The reaction mixture was
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7 poured over water and extracted with chloroform (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases
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9 were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was
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11 purified by column chromatography eluting with CHCl₃/MeOH (100:1-20:1) to yield the
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13 desired products.
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19 **2-Phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3a):**⁵³ Prepared from **1a** and **2a** using Method A or B yielding
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21 **3a** as a tan powder. Method A (94 mg, 85%); 5 mmol of **2a** (957 mg, 87%); Method B: 1
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23 mmol of **2a** (185 mg, 84%); IR (MeOH/CHCl₃) cm⁻¹ 1633.
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26 **2-(4-Fluorophenyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3b):**⁵⁴ Prepared from **1b** and **2a** using Method A or
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28 B yielding **3b** as a tan powder. Method A (84 mg, 70%) and Method B (106 mg, 84%); ¹³C
29
30 NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.9, 163.4 (d, *J* = 248.2 Hz), 149.0, 140.5, 131.9, 130.7 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz),
31
32 129.9 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 124.8, 124.7, 123.3, 118.7, 116.0 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 107.4.
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35 **7-Chloro-2-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3c):**⁵⁵ Prepared from **1a** and **2b** using Method A or
36
37 B yielding **3c** as a tan powder. Method A (97 mg, 76%) and Method B (95 mg, 72%); ¹H
38
39 NMR (CDCl₃/Methanol-*d*₄ + 1 drop of conc HCl) δ 8.26-8.23 (m, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz,
40
41 1H), 7.81-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.27 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃/Methanol-*d*₄ + 1
42
43 drop of conc HCl) δ 169.8, 156.7, 141.3, 140.5, 132.7, 130.8, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 125.3,
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45 119.2, 118.0, 104.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₁ClNO [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 256.0529, found *m/z*
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47 256.0535; LC purity (254 nm) >99%.
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51 **7-Chloro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3d):** Prepared from **1b** and **2b** using
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53 Method A yielding **3d** as a yellow powder (88 mg, 64%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.70 (br s,
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55 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36
56
57 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H); Due to low solubility in common organic solvents a
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¹³C-NMR spectrum could not be obtained for **3d**. This problem is known in the literature for quinolones⁵⁵; HRMS calcd C₁₅H₁₀ClFNO [M + H]⁺ 274.0435, found 274.0437; LC purity (254 nm) = 98%.

Methyl 4-oxo-2-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-7-carboxylate (3e): Prepared from **1a** and **2c** using Method A yielding **3e** as a yellow powder (101 mg, 72%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.98 (br s, 1H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 3H), 7.70-7.50 (m, 3H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.8, 165.8, 150.8, 143.4, 133.8, 131.6, 130.7, 129.0, 127.5, 127.2, 124.2, 124.1, 119.4, 108.4, 52.2; HRMS calcd C₁₇H₁₄NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 280.0974, found 280.0971; LC purity (254 nm) = 99%.

Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-6-carboxylate (3f): Prepared from **1b** and **2d** using Method A yielding **3f** as a yellow powder (87 mg, 59%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.99 (br s, 1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); Due to low solubility in common organic solvents a ¹³C-NMR spectrum could not be obtained for **3f**. This problem is known in the literature for quinolones⁵⁵; HRMS calcd C₁₇H₁₃FNO₃ [M + H]⁺ 298.0879, found 298.0883; LC purity (254 nm) = 97%.

Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-7-carboxylate (3g): Prepared from **1b** and **2c** using Method A yielding **3g** as a tan powder (93 mg, 63%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.00 (br s, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); Due to low solubility in common organic solvents a ¹³C-NMR spectrum could not be obtained for **3g**. This problem is known in the literature for quinolones⁵⁵; HRMS calcd C₁₇H₁₃FNO₃ [M + H]⁺ 298.0879, found 298.0883; LC purity (254 nm) = 96%.

2-Pentylquinolin-4(1*H*)-one (3h):⁵⁶ Prepared from **1c** and **2a** using Method A or B yielding **3h** as a tan powder. Method A (82 mg, 76%) and Method B (54 mg, 50%).

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3 **Methyl 4-oxo-2-pentyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-6-carboxylate (3i):** Prepared from **1c** and **2d**
4 using Method A yielding **3i** as a grey powder (92 mg, 67%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.74 (br
5 s, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s,
6 3H), 2.65 – 2.53 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.37 – 1.28 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H);
7 ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.7, 165.8, 154.5, 143.1, 131.3, 127.3, 123.9, 123.6, 118.5, 108.7,
8 52.2, 33.2, 30.7, 27.9, 21.8, 13.9; HRMS calcd C₁₆H₂₀NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 274.1443, found
9 274.1440; LC purity (254 nm) = 95%.

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19 **2-Cyclopentylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3j):** Prepared from **1d** and **2a** using Method A or
20 yielding **3j** as a white powder. Method A (79 mg, 74%) and Method B (82 mg, 71%); ¹H
21 NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.37 (br s, 1H), 8.08-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.28 (ddd, *J* =
22 8.1, 6.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.07-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.16-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.90-
23 1.60 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 177.0, 156.7, 140.2, 131.4, 124.69, 124.66, 122.7,
24 117.9, 105.4, 43.4, 32.0, 24.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 214.1232,
25 found *m/z* 214.1229; LC purity (254 nm) >99%.

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35 **2-(Thiophen-3-yl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3k):**⁵⁷ Prepared from **1e** and **2a** using Method A or B
36 yielding **3k** as an off-white powder. Method A (70 mg, 62%) and Method B (67 mg, 58%).

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41 **7-Chloro-2-(thiophen-3-yl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3l):** Prepared from **1e** and **2b** using Method
42 A yielding **3l** as a brown powder (67 mg, 51%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.55 (br s, 1H),
43 8.41-8.27 (m, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H),
44 7.34 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.5, 173.6, 145.1,
45 141.1, 136.3, 135.0, 128.2, 127.0, 126.6, 126.3, 123.5, 117.7, 107.0; HRMS calcd
46 C₁₃H₉ClNOS [M + H]⁺ 262.0093, found 262.0096; LC purity (254 nm) = 99%.

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54 **2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-6-nitroquinolin-4(1H)-one (3m):** Prepared from **1b** and **2e** using
55 Method B. Yellow powder (519 mg, 79%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H),
56 7.96 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81
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(s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 187.4, 161.9 (d, $J = 244.4$ Hz), 161.8, 155.3, 134.6, 133.1 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 130.1 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 126.9, 126.7, 120.0, 115.9, 115.1 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 93.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z 285.0675, found m/z 285.0670; LC purity (254 nm) = 96%.

6-Nitro-2-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3n):¹³ Prepared from **1a** and **2e** using Method B. Yellow powder (208 mg, 79%); IR (MeOH/ CHCl_3) cm^{-1} 3019, 1616, 1512, 1319.

6-Bromo-2-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3o):⁶ Prepared from **1a** and **2f** using Method B. Yellow powder (100 mg, 68%); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 /Methanol- d_4 + 1 drop of conc HCl) δ 168.8, 156.2, 138.7, 137.9, 132.7, 130.8, 129.5, 128.4, 126.0, 121.8, 121.6, 120.8, 104.6.

Methyl 4-oxo-2-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-6-carboxylate (3p): Prepared from **1a** and **2d** using Method B. Off-white powder (46 mg, 32%); ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 8.76 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.65-7.56 (m, 3H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H); Due to low solubility in common organic solvents a ^{13}C -NMR spectrum could not be obtained for **3p**. This problem is known in the literature for quinolones⁵⁵; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z 280.0974, found m/z 280.0968; LC Purity (254 nm) >95%.

6-Methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one (3q):⁵⁵ Prepared from **1a** and **2g** using Method B. Off-white solid (91 mg, 75%).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3r):⁵⁵ Prepared from **1i** and **2a** using Method B. Beige solid (83 mg, 63%).

2-(4-Bromophenyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3s):⁵⁴ Prepared from **1f** and **2a** using Method B. Tan powder (124 mg, 82%); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 176.9, 148.8, 140.5, 133.3, 131.92, 131.90, 129.5, 124.9, 124.7, 124.0, 123.3, 118.7, 107.4.

2-(2-Bromophenyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3t): Prepared from **1g** and **2a** using Method B. Dark red solid (111 mg, 72%); ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 7.70-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.41 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.2$

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3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.4, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (ddd, $J =$
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5 8.4, 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.42
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7 (br s, 1H), 5.87 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 188.4, 158.4, 149.8, 138.3, 132.0, 131.3,
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9 129.7, 129.44, 129.38, 127.4, 121.9, 121.7, 116.3, 114.4, 93.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for
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11 $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrNO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 300.0024 m/z , found 300.0027 m/z ; LC purity (254 nm) >99%.

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14 **Quinolin-4(1H)-one (3u):**⁵³ Prepared from **1h** and **2a** using Method B. Yellow powder (28
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16 mg, 38%).

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19 **2-(Pyridin-3-yl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3v):**⁵⁷ Prepared from **1j** and **2a** using Method B. Tan
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21 powder (33 mg, 32%).

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24 **2-(Pyridin-2-yl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (3w):**⁵⁷ Prepared from **1k** and **2a** using Method B. Tan
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26 powder (51 mg, 47%).

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29 **2-(4-Aminophenyl)quinoline-4(1H)-one (3x):** Prepared from **1l** and **2a** using Method B. The
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31 reaction mixture was poured into saturated NaHCO_3 and extracted with 3 x 25 mL EtOAc.
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33 The combined organic phases were extracted with 3 x 25 mL 1 M HCl (aq). The combined
34
35 aqueous phases were made basic with 6 M NaOH (aq). After cooling the formed precipitate
36
37 was collected by filtration and washed with MeCN. The precipitate was dissolved in
38
39 chloroform and methanol and heated with activated charcoal to remove any residual
40
41 molybdenum residues yielding **3x** as a yellow solid (61 mg, 50%); ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ
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43 11.43 (br s, 1H), 8.08 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.56 (m, 3H),
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45 7.31 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.76- 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.29 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ
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47 176.4, 151.3, 150.6, 140.5, 131.4, 128.3, 124.5 (two overlapping signals found by HMBC),
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49 122.9, 120.1, 118.5, 113.6, 104.8; IR (DMSO) cm^{-1} 3428 (broad signal), 1629; HRMS (ESI)
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51 calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 237.1028 m/z , found 237.1038 m/z ; LC purity (254 nm) >99%.

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3 ***N*-(4-(4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinolin-2-yl)phenyl)acetamide (3y)**: Prepared from **1m** and **2a**
4 using Method B yielding **3y** as a beige solid (107 mg, 80%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.61 (br
5 s, 1H), 10.24 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 5H), 7.68 (ddd, *J* = 8.4,
6 6.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR
7 (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.9, 168.7, 149.5, 141.3, 140.5, 131.7, 128.3, 127.9, 124.8, 124.7, 123.1,
8 118.9, 118.6, 106.6, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₅N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ 279.1134 *m/z*, found
9 279.1143 *m/z*; LC purity (254 nm) >99%.

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19 ***tert*-Butyl (4-(4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinolin-2-yl)phenyl)carbamate (3z)**: Prepared from **1n**
20 and **2a** using Method B yielding **3z** as a white solid (120 mg, 72%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ
21 11.57 (br s, 1H), 9.70 (s, 1H), 8.10 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.75 (m, 3H), 7.71-7.64 (m,
22 3H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR
23 (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.8, 152.6, 149.6, 141.7, 140.5, 131.6, 127.9, 127.3, 124.8, 124.7, 123.1,
24 118.6, 117.9, 106.5, 79.5, 28.1; IR (MeOH/CHCl₃) cm⁻¹ 3268, 3019, 2943, 1720, 1633, 1216,
25 1158; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₁N₂O₃ [M + H]⁺ 337.1552 *m/z*, found 337.1566 *m/z*; LC
26 purity (254 nm) >99%.

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37 **1-(2-Aminophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one (4a)**:¹³ A mixture of **2a** (110 mg, 0.50 mmol),
38 Pd(OAc)₂ (4.2 mg, 0.02 mmol), tri-*tert*-butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (9.6 mg, 0.03
39 mmol) and Mo(CO)₆ (204 mg, 0.77 mmol) in a sealed vial was evacuated and backfilled with
40 nitrogen three times. Acetonitrile (2 mL), **1a** (0.11 mL, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.14
41 mL, 1.0 mmol) were added through the septa by a syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at
42 ambient temperature for 20 hours where after all starting material had been consumed (TLC).
43 The reaction mixture was poured over water and extracted with chloroform (3 x 15 mL). The
44 combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced
45 pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography eluting with CH₂Cl₂ to yield
46 **4a** as an orange solid (80 mg, 72%).
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3 **Cyclization of 4a:** Diethylamine (80 μ L, 0.77 mmol) was added to a solution of **4a** (34 mg,
4 0.15 mmol) in acetonitrile (2 mL) and stirred at rt for 22 h. The reaction mixture was filtered
5 over activated charcoal and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield **3a** (28 mg, 82%).
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10 11 12 ASSOCIATED CONTENT

13 14 15 **Supporting Information**

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18 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra and chromatograms of products. This material is available free of
19 charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.
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23 24 25 26 AUTHOR INFORMATION

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34 35 36 **Notes**

37 The authors declare no competing financial interest.
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