



Synthesis of [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazoles as antitumour agents



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ABSTRACT

A series of 40 derivatives of the [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazoles ring system have been prepared with good yields using a versatile and convenient route. Annelation of the [1,2]oxazole ring on the indazole-4-one system was achieved by reaction of the corresponding enaminoketones with hydroxylamine hydrochloride. Derivatives of the title ring system were tested by the National Cancer Institute of Bethesda and one of them (**13t**) showed growth-inhibitor activity against all the 54 human tumour cell lines generally at low micromolar concentrations.

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1. Introduction

Although scarcely found in nature, pyrazoles are known for their wide range of pharmacological applications as herbicides, antipsychotic, antibacterial, antimycotic and antiinflammatory agents.^{1–3} Benzocondensation to the pyrazole nucleus, leads to indazole derivatives, which are reported to be endowed with remarkable antitumour activity by different mechanisms. Leading examples are Lonidamine **1** (LND) and analogues **2** and **3** (Chart 1). LND is a potent antitumour drug, used in the treatment of several neoplasia as breast, lung, kidney, bladder as well as sarcomas of soft

tissue acting via inhibition of the energy metabolism, nowadays in phase III clinical trials.^{4–6}

Moreover LND acts as a photosensitizer thus potentiating the cytotoxic effect of UV light targeting mainly mitochondria and membrane structures.⁷ The potent activity of LND, encouraged through the years the synthesis of several analogues,^{8–11} and have attracted our attention also because of our recent interest on antitumour agents including those with photosensitizing properties,^{12–22} encouraging us the development of new molecules containing the pyrazole core. We have recently turned our attention to the incorporation of the [1,2]oxazole moiety on tricyclic systems containing the pyrrole ring. In fact several examples of compounds incorporating an [1,2]oxazole are reported as potent antitumour agents.^{23,24} Thus, we synthesized the ring system [1,2]oxazolo[4,5-*g*]indole **4**, which demonstrated very promising antitumour properties when tested at the NCI of Bethesda on a panel of 60 human tumour cell lines.²⁵

In consideration of the potent antitumour activity of compounds bearing the pyrazole and [1,2]oxazole moieties we planned the synthesis of a series of [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazoles (**5**) with the intent of investigating the effect of the simultaneous presence in the tricyclic system of both the pyrazole and the [1,2]oxazole systems.

2. Results and discussion

Our approach to the synthesis of the title ring system consisted on the preparation of a number of tetrahydroindazole-4-ones of

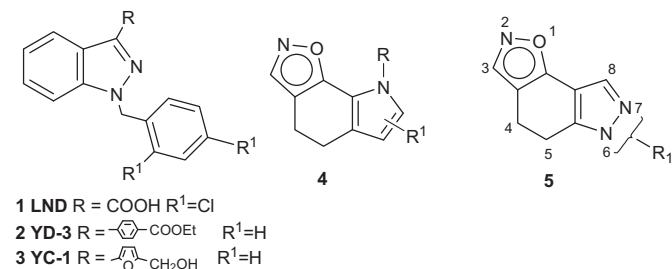
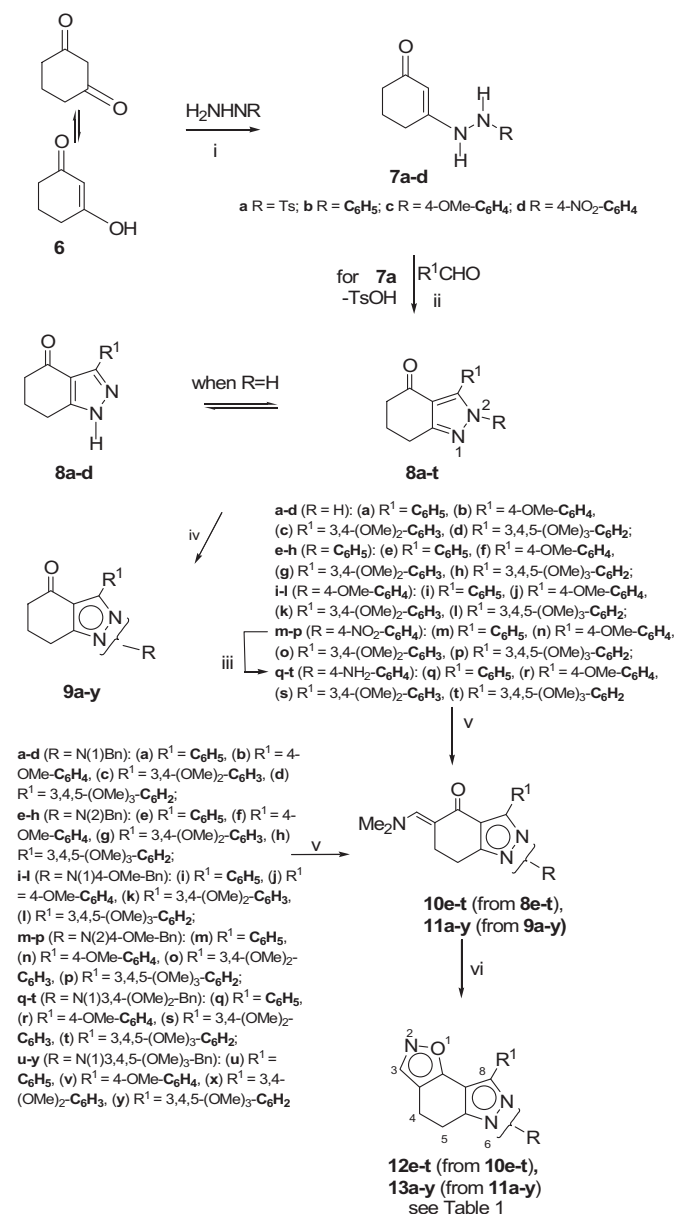


Chart 1. Structures of LND (**1**), YD-3 (**2**), YC-1 (**3**), [1,2]oxazolo[4,5-*g*]indole (**4**), [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazole (**5**).

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type **8** and **9**, which could be further functionalized in α position to the carbonyl group with an enamino functionality to give compounds **10** and **11**, key synthons for the annelation of the [1,2]oxazole moiety (Scheme 1). Tetrahydroindazol-4-ones **8a–t** were conveniently prepared by reaction of the commercially available cyclohexane-1,3-dione **6**, with substituted hydrazines to give achieve the corresponding hydrazones **7a–d** in very good yield (74–96%).



Scheme 1. Synthesis of [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-e]indazoles **12** and **13**. Reagents: (i) 80% AcOH/water (1:1) for **7a** or water for **7b–d**, 0 °C then rt 10 min–2 h, 74–96%; (ii) DMF, AcOH, piperidine, 80–100 °C, 50 min–3 h, 70–98%; (iii) EtOH, H₂, 10% Pd/C, 50–69%, rt, 24 h; (iv) benzylhalides, NaH, DMF, 0 °C then rt or reflux, 1–24 h, 10–83%; (v) DMFDMA, MW (PW 150, T 150 °C), 15 min–2 h, 45–98%; (vi) NH₂OH, MeOH/AcOH (2:1), reflux, 50 min, 50–92%.

Benzaldehyde and its mono-, di- and tri-methoxy substituted derivatives were reacted with **7a–d** in a mixture of dimethylformamide and acetic acid in the presence of catalytic amount of piperidine to furnish the desired tetrahydroindazoles **8a–p** in 70–98% yields. The nitro derivatives **8m–p** were converted into the corresponding amino derivatives **8q–t** by reduction with H₂

and 10% Pd/C in reasonable yields (50–69%). From reaction of the tosylhydrazone **7a**, spontaneous elimination of toluenesulfonic acid occurred and the NH indazoles **8a–d** were obtained. Indazoles **8a–d** were then subjected to alkylation at the pyrrole nitrogen with benzylchlorides or bromides, in the presence of NaH yielding the N(1)-substituted derivatives **9a–y** (10–83%). Among these, the N(1)-benzyl and 4-methoxybenzyl derivatives **9a–d, i–l** were isolated as main components (65–83%) from mixtures with their corresponding N(2) regioisomers **9e–h, m–p** (10–15%), being the N(1) isomers the most favoured of the two. Spectroscopic data of **9e–h, m–p** are in agreement with the N(2) structure of **8e–t**.²⁶

Recently we have reported that the enamino functionality can be introduced in α position to the annular carbonyl in tetrahydroindolone systems using *tert*-butoxybis(dimethylamino)methane (TBDMA), in the case of poor reactive substrates,^{17–22} or alternatively dimethylformamide dimethylacetal (DMFDMA), less reactive but indeed available at low cost. Thus, tetrahydroindazol-4-ones **8e–t** and **9a–y** were converted into the corresponding enaminoketones **10e–t** and **11a–y** in DMFDMA under microwave irradiation (PW 150, T 150 °C) in 45–95% and 68–98% yields, respectively.

Annellation of the [1,2]oxazole ring was accomplished by reaction of enaminoketones **10, 11** with hydroxylamine hydrochloride as 1,3 dinucleophile, in refluxing ethanol and catalytic amount of acetic acid. By this route 40 derivatives (**12e–t, 13a–y**) of the [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-e]indazoles were generally obtained in good yields (50–92%, Table 1).

Table 1
[1,2]Oxazolo[5,4-e]indazoles **12, 13**

	R ¹	R	Yields (%)
12e	C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅	56
12f	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	C ₆ H ₅	70
12g	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	C ₆ H ₅	78
12h	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	C ₆ H ₅	74
12i	C ₆ H ₅	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	86
12j	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	72
12k	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	90
12l	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	92
12m	C ₆ H ₅	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	62
12n	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	68
12o	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	50
12p	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	50
12q	C ₆ H ₅	4-NH ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	58
12r	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	4-NH ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	60
12s	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	4-NH ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	70
12t	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	4-NH ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	72
13a	C ₆ H ₅	N(1)Bn	72
13b	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(1)Bn	86
13c	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(1)Bn	84
13d	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(1)Bn	56
13e	C ₆ H ₅	N(2)Bn	68
13f	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(2)Bn	58
13g	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(2)Bn	50
13h	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(2)Bn	65
13i	C ₆ H ₅	N(1)4-OMe-Bn	80
13j	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(1)4-OMe-Bn	64
13k	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(1)4-OMe-Bn	60
13l	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(1)4-OMe-Bn	72
13m	C ₆ H ₅	N(2)4-OMe-Bn	63
13n	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(2)4-OMe-Bn	76
13o	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(2)4-OMe-Bn	68
13p	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(2)4-OMe-Bn	54
13q	C ₆ H ₅	N(1)3,4-(OMe) ₂ -Bn	50
13r	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(1)3,4-(OMe) ₂ -Bn	54
13s	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(1)3,4-(OMe) ₂ -Bn	58
13t	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(1)3,4-(OMe) ₂ -Bn	54
13u	C ₆ H ₅	N(1)3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -Bn	70
13v	4-OMe-C ₆ H ₄	N(1)3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -Bn	70
13x	3,4-(OMe) ₂ -C ₆ H ₃	N(1)3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -Bn	72
13y	3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -C ₆ H ₂	N(1)3,4,5-(OMe) ₃ -Bn	66

The structure of all synthesized compounds were confirmed by spectroscopic data (IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR) and elemental analysis (C, H, N) reported in the [Supplementary data](#). [1,2]Oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazoles **12** and **13** were submitted at the NCI of Bethesda for the in vitro antitumour screenings. Among these derivatives **12e–l**, **q–t** and **13a–y** were prescreened according to the NCI protocol at the 10^{-5} M dose on the full panel of 60 human cancer cell lines derived from nine human cancer cell types that have been grouped in disease sub-panels including leukaemia, non-small-cell lung, colon, central nervous system, melanoma, ovarian, renal, prostate, and breast tumour cell lines. Disappointingly, only 6-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)-8-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-[1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazole **13t**, was selected for further screenings at five concentrations at 10-fold dilution (10^{-4} – 10^{-8} M) on the full panel reaching micromolar and submicromolar concentrations against all the 54 tested cell lines with a GI_{50} range of 0.11–58.1 μM and a p GI_{50} MG_MID value of 5.33 (see [Table 2 in the supplementary data](#)). In particular the best selectivity was observed against the HL-60(TB) cell line of the leukaemia sub-panel (0.11 μM) ([Table 2](#)). This latter subpanel together with the colon, the CNS and the breast cancer sub-panels are those towards which **13t** shows the best selectivity with GI_{50} ranges of 0.11–3.76 μM , 3.63–5.85 μM , 1.39–7.99 μM and 1.94–8.00 μM , respectively. Moreover with the exception of the NCI-H322M cell line (GI_{50} 58.1 μM) of the Non-Small Cell Lung cancer subpanel and the OVCAR-5 (GI_{50} 26.6 μM) and OVCAR-8 cell lines (GI_{50} 19.6 μM) of the ovarian cancer, compound **13t** shows activity in the low micromolar range (GI_{50} 3.17–6.85 μM and 3.02–7.28 μM) against the two sub-panels.

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, we have set up a simple and versatile pathway for the synthesis of new derivatives of the [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazole ring system.

Various substituted indazol-4-ones were prepared and converted into the corresponding enaminoketones using DMFDMA for the direct introduction of the enamino functionality, thus giving us the chance to investigate the reactivity of pyrazole derivatives in comparison with our previous series containing the pyrrole moiety. Preliminary results of the in vitro studies at the NCI of Bethesda indicated the [1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazole **13t** as a hit candidate of the series with inhibitory activity in the submicromolar and low micromolar range encouraging further optimization from a structural point of view.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General

All melting points were taken on a Buchi–Tottoli capillary apparatus and were uncorrected; IR spectra were determined, in CHBr_3 , with a Shimadzu FT/IR 8400S spectrophotometer; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ or CDCl_3 solutions (TMS as internal reference), at 200 and 50.3 MHz, respectively, using a Bruker Avance II series 200 MHz spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed with Merck silica gel 230–400 Mesh ASTM or with a SEPACORE chromatography apparatus BÜCHI. Elemental analyses (C, H, N) were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical values. Reaction under microwave irradiations was performed using a CEM Discover Labmate TM apparatus. Mass spectra were obtained using a MarinerTM mass spectrometer, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA). A Harvard model 11 syringe pump (Holliston, MA) was used to infuse the sample solutions. The ESI source was operated in positive ion mode with an electrospray voltage of 4.5 kV.

4.2. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds **7a–d** (**7a** as an example)

To a solution of cyclohexane-1,3-dione **6** (2.8 g, 25 mmol) in 80% AcOH/water (1:1) (100 mL) for **7a** or water (100 mL) for **7b–d** (see [supplementary data](#)), a solution of suitable hydrazine (25 mmol) in water (70 mL) was added at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt. From the reaction mixture a solid was separated. Then it was filtered off and dried.

4.2.1. 4-Methyl-N'-(3-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)benzenesulfonylhydrazide (7a). This compound was obtained by reaction with tosylhydrazine after 10 min at rt according to a reported procedure.²⁶ White solid; $R_f=0.15$ (EtOAc); mp 205–206 °C; yield 82%; IR cm^{-1} : 3296 (NH), 3294 (NH), 1608 (CO). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 1.68–1.80 (2H, m, CH_2), 2.05 (2H, t, $J=5.7$ Hz, CH_2), 2.21 (2H, t, $J=5.7$ Hz, CH_2), 2.39 (3H, s, CH_3), 5.14 (1H, s, CH), 7.42 (2H, d, $J=8.2$ Hz, H-3' and H-5'), 7.70 (2H, d, $J=8.2$ Hz, H-2' and H-6'), 8.64 (1H, s, NH), 9.76 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 21.0 (q), 21.4 (t), 25.3 (t), 36.5 (t), 98.0 (d), 127.5 (d $\times$ 2), 129.7 (d $\times$ 2), 135.6 (s), 143.5 (s), 143.6 (s), 195.4 (CO). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ (280.34): C, 55.70; H, 5.75; N, 9.99. Found: C, 55.91; H, 5.87; N, 9.75.

4.3. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds (**8a–p**)

To a solution of **7a–d** (7.14 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (8 mL), the suitable benzaldehyde (7.14 mmol), AcOH (0.35 mL) and piperidine (1.4 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 80–100 °C. Then, it was poured onto crushed ice and the solid collected and dried. For compounds **8b–p** see [supplementary data](#).

4.3.1. 3-Phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4*H*-indazol-4-one (8a). This compound was obtained from the reaction of **7a** with benzaldehyde after 1 h at 85 °C. White solid; $R_f=0.20$ ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOAc}$ 95:5); mp 187–188 °C; yield 92%; IR cm^{-1} : 3210 (NH), 1649 (CO). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 1.99–2.12 (2H, m, CH_2), 2.46 (2H, t, $J=6.1$ Hz, CH_2), 2.87 (2H, t, $J=6.1$ Hz, CH_2), 7.35–7.48 (3H, m, H-3'', H-4'' and H-5''), 8.04 (2H, d, $J=7.5$ Hz, H-2'' and H-6''), 13.38 (1H, s, NH). ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 21.6 (t), 23.0 (t), 39.2 (t), 113.9 (s), 114.0 (s), 127.9 (d $\times$ 2), 128.2 (d $\times$ 2), 128.5 (d), 131.5 (s), 153.8 (s), 192.7 (CO). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ (212.25): C, 73.56; H, 5.70; N, 13.20. Found: C, 73.71; H, 5.53; N, 13.11. MS m/z 213 (MH^+). HRMS: $[\text{MH}]^+$, found 213.1058. $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ requires 213.1022.

4.4. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds (**8q–t**)

To a solution of **8m–p** (1.5 mmol) in ethanol, palladium 10% on carbon was added and the reaction mixture was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere for 24 h. Then it was filtered and the filtrate was dried under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography column, using dichloromethane: ethyl acetate (9:1) as eluent. For compounds **8r–t** see [supplementary data](#).

4.4.1. 2-(4-Aminophenyl)-3-phenyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4*H*-indazol-4-one (8q). This compound was obtained from **8m**. Yellow solid; $R_f=0.14$ ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOAc}$ 95:5); mp 207–208 °C; yield 69%; IR cm^{-1} : 3430–3346 (NH_2), 1664 (CO). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 2.01–2.14 (2H, m, CH_2), 2.43 (2H, t, $J=6.1$ Hz, CH_2), 2.84 (2H, t, $J=6.1$ Hz, CH_2), 5.37 (2H, s, NH_2), 6.44 (2H, d, $J=8.7$ Hz, H-2' and H-6'), 6.83 (2H, d, $J=8.7$ Hz, H-3' and H-5'), 7.23–7.35 (5H, m, Ar). ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 22.7 (t), 23.0 (t), 39.3 (t), 113.2 (d $\times$ 2), 115.7 (s), 126.6 (d $\times$ 2), 127.2 (s), 127.7 (d $\times$ 2), 128.7 (d), 128.8 (s), 130.2 (d $\times$ 2), 142.2 (s), 148.7 (s), 155.9 (s), 193.0 (CO). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ (303.36): C, 75.23; H, 5.65; N, 13.85. Found: C, 75.08; H, 5.92; N, 13.77. MS m/z

304 (MH⁺). HRMS: [MH]⁺, found 304.1409. C₁₉H₁₇N₃O requires 304.1444.

4.5. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds (9a–y)

To a solution of **8a–d** (5.7 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (14 mL), NaH (5.7 mmol) was added at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at rt. The suitable benzyl halide (8.55 mmol) was added at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt or at reflux. Then, it was poured onto crushed ice and the solid collected and dried. Purification by chromatography column, using dichloromethane as eluent, gave the expected product. For compounds **9b–y** see supplementary data.

4.5.1. 1-Benzyl-3-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indazol-4-one (9a). This compound was obtained from the reaction of **8a** with benzyl bromide after 24 h at rt. White solid; *R*_f=0.61 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc 95:5); mp 91–92 °C; yield 69%; IR cm⁻¹: 1667 (CO). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.00–2.12 (2H, m, CH₂), 2.44 (2H, t, *J*=6.2 Hz, CH₂), 2.91 (2H, t, *J*=6.2 Hz, CH₂), 5.41 (2H, s, CH₂), 7.25–7.45 (8H, m, Ar), 8.03 (2H, d, *J*=7.5 Hz, H-2'' and H-6''). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 21.2 (t), 22.5 (t), 38.6 (t), 52.3 (t), 115.0 (s), 127.4 (d×2), 127.7 (d), 127.8 (d×2), 128.3 (d×2), 128.4 (d), 128.7 (d×2), 132.2 (s), 136.3 (s), 149.3 (s), 151.8 (s), 192.2 (CO). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O (302.37): C, 79.44; H, 6.00; N, 9.26. Found: C, 79.32; H, 6.19; N, 9.08. MS *m/z* 303 (MH⁺). HRMS: [MH]⁺, found 303.1521. C₂₀H₁₈N₂O requires 303.1491.

4.6. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds (10e–t, 11a–y)

To a solution of the suitable ketone **8e–t**, **9a–y** (0.66 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL), DMFDMA (0.88 mL, 6.6 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred under microwave irradiation (PW 150, T 150 °C). The reaction mixture was poured onto crushed ice and solid was filtered off and dried. For compounds **10f–t**, **11a–y** see supplementary data.

4.6.1. 5-[(Dimethylamino)methylidene]-2,3-diphenyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indazol-4-one (10e). This compound was obtained from **8e** after 30 min. Brown solid; *R*_f=0.68 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc 95:5); mp 147–148 °C; yield 83%; IR cm⁻¹: 1643 (CO). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.79 (2H, t, *J*=6.2 Hz, CH₂), 2.99 (2H, t, *J*=6.2 Hz, CH₂), 3.07 (6H, s, 2× CH₃), 7.17–7.34 (11H, m, Ar and CH). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 22.7 (t), 23.4 (t), 43.2 (q×2), 102.6 (s), 117.5 (s), 125.4 (d×2), 127.5 (d×2), 127.6 (d), 128.5 (d), 128.8 (d×2), 129.1 (s), 130.5 (d×2), 139.2 (s), 142.1 (s), 148.4 (d), 154.7 (s), 181.5 (CO). Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₃O (343.42): C, 76.94; H, 6.16; N, 12.24. Found: C, 77.11; H, 5.93; N, 12.01.

4.7. General procedure for the synthesis of compounds (12e–t, 13a–y)

To a solution of the suitable enaminones **10e–t**, **11a–y** (1.0 mmol) in methanol:acetic acid (2:1), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 50 min. The solvent was evaporated, the residue poured onto crushed ice and the precipitated was filtered, dried and purified by flash chromatography using dichloromethane as eluent. For compounds **12f–t**, **13a–y** see supplementary data.

4.7.1. 7,8-Diphenyl-5,7-dihydro-4H-[1,2]oxazolo[5,4-*e*]indazole (12e). This compound was obtained from the reaction of **10e**. Light green solid; *R*_f=0.38 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc 95:5); mp 157–158 °C; yield 56%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.92 (2H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH₂), 3.08 (2H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH₂), 7.23–7.46 (10H, m, Ar), 8.15 (1H, s, H-3). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 19.0 (t), 22.0 (t), 109.0 (s), 110.2 (s), 125.1 (d×2), 127.6 (d),

128.5 (d×2), 128.6 (s), 129.0 (d×2), 129.1 (d), 129.7 (d×2), 137.6 (s), 139.5 (s), 148.7 (d), 152.0 (s), 161.7 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₅N₃O (313.35): C, 76.66; H, 4.82; N, 13.41. Found: C, 76.47; H, 4.98; N, 13.59. MS *m/z* 314 (MH⁺). HRMS: [MH]⁺, found 314.1314. C₂₀H₁₅N₃O requires 314.1288.

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Supplementary data

Table 2 describing the GI₅₀ values of compound **13t**, the spectroscopic data (IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR) and elemental analysis (C, H, N) of compounds **7b–d**, **8b–p**, **9b–y**, **10f–t**, **11a–y** are reported in the supplementary data. Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2013.05.083>.

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