

## Supporting Information

# Design, synthesis and in vitro evaluation of benzofuro[3,2-*c*]quinoline derivatives as potential antileukemia agents

Ying Lin<sup>a</sup>, Dong Xing<sup>a</sup>, Wen-Biao Wu<sup>d,e</sup>, Gao-Ya Xu<sup>d,e</sup>, Li-Fang Yu<sup>a</sup>, Jie Tang<sup>a,c</sup>, Yu-Bo Zhou<sup>d,e</sup>, Jia Li<sup>b,d,e\*</sup> and Fan Yang<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Shanghai Engineering Research Center of Molecular Therapeutics and New Drug Development, School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, East China Normal University, Shanghai, 200062, PR China; [fyang@chem.ecnu.edu.cn](mailto:fyang@chem.ecnu.edu.cn).

<sup>b</sup> Open Studio for Druggability Research of Marine Natural Products, Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (Qingdao), 1 Wenhai Road, Aoshanwei, Jimo, Qingdao, 266237, PR China.

<sup>c</sup> Shanghai Greenchem & Biotech Co., Ltd., Shanghai, 200062, PR China.

<sup>d</sup> National Center for Drug Screening, Shanghai Institute of Material Medica, Chinese Academy of Science, Shanghai, 201203, PR China; [jli@simmm.ac.cn](mailto:jli@simmm.ac.cn).

<sup>e</sup> University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 19A Yuquan Road, Beijing, 100049, PR China.

\* Correspondence: [fyang@chem.ecnu.edu.cn](mailto:fyang@chem.ecnu.edu.cn), [jli@simmm.ac.cn](mailto:jli@simmm.ac.cn); Tel.: +86-21-62232764 (F.Y.), +86-21-50806600 (J. L.)

Received: date; Accepted: date; Published: date

## 1. Condition Optimization on the demethylation/cyclization

**Table S1** Condition optimization on the demethyl-cyclization (one pot)

Entry	Condition	Tempo ( °C)	Time (h)	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
1	48% HBr/AcOH	reflux	8	no product <sup>1</sup>
2	HI	reflux	12	no product <sup>1</sup>
3	BBr <sub>3</sub> /DCM	reflux	8	no product <sup>1</sup>
4	Pyridine	reflux	5	no reaction <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> demethylation occurs smoothly while further cyclized **2a** could not obtained; <sup>2</sup> only starting material **1a**

**Table S2** Condition optimization on the cyclization (stepwise) <sup>1</sup>

Entry	Condition	Tempo ( °C)	Time (h)	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
1	AcOH/EtOH	reflux	6	no reaction
2	Pyridine	reflux	10	no reaction
3	KOt-Bu/ <i>t</i> -BuOH	reflux	8	no reaction
4	NaH/DMF	100	7	no reaction

<sup>1</sup> demethylation of **1a** through BBr<sub>3</sub>/DCM at room temperature, then next cyclization was optimized.

## 2. Condition Optimization on the cyclization

**Table S3** Condition optimization on the cyclization from **4a** to **2a** <sup>1</sup>

Entry	Base	Solvent	Tempo ( °C)	% Yield of <b>2a</b> (%) <sup>2</sup>
1	NaH	MeCN	70	82
2	KOH	MeCN	70	59
3	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	70	83
4	KOt-Bu	MeCN	70	87
5	Et <sub>3</sub> N	MeCN	70	n.r. <sup>3</sup>
6	Pyridine	MeCN	70	n.r.
7	KOt-Bu	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	70	n.r.
8	KOt-Bu	THF	70	trace
9	KOt-Bu	<i>t</i> -BuOH	70	trace
10	KOt-Bu	DMF	70	89
11	KOt-Bu	DMF	60	88
12	KOt-Bu	DMF	50	70

<sup>1</sup> **4a** (1mmol), base (2 mmol), solvent (5 ml); <sup>2</sup> Isolated yield; <sup>3</sup> no reaction.

### 3. NMR charts

















































