Supporting Information

A Unified Approach to benzo[c]phenanthridines via Cascade Dual Annulation/Formylation of 2-Alkynyl/alkenylbenzonitriles

Shalini Verma, Manoj Kumar and Akhilesh K. Verma*

Synthetic Organic Chemistry Research Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, Delhi- 110007, India

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X-Ray Crystallographic Studies



Figure I. Crystal structure of compound 10b. CCDC No. 2067325

General Experimental Procedure

General Method. ¹H NMR (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) and 19F NMR (376 MHz) spectra were recorded in CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆. Chemical shifts for protons and carbons are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonance of the solvent. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublet), coupling constants in Hertz and integration. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on electrospray mass spectrometer (ESI-TOF). Crystal structure analysis was accomplished on single needles X-ray diffractometer. TLC analysis was performed on commercially prepared 60 F₂₅₄ silica gel plates and visualized by UV irradiation. All purchased chemicals were used as received. All melting points are uncorrected.

Reagents. All reagents were used directly as obtained commercially unless otherwise noted. HPLC grade ACN, THF, DMF, DMSO, MeOH, DMPU, 1,4-dioxane, hexanes, ethyl acetate,

and CH₂Cl₂ were purchased from Merck Chemical Co. Palladium(II) chloride, PPh₃, alkynes, 2-bromobenzonitrile, 2-chloronicotinonitrile, 3-methylthiophene-2-carbonitrile and 2-methylbenzonitrile derivatives were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

General procedure for the preparation of *o*-alkynylbenzonitriles (1)

To probe the viability of the designed tandem strategy, 2–alkynylbenzonitriles **1a-m** was readily prepared by standard Sonogashira cross–coupling¹ reaction of commercially available 2–halobenzonitriles with terminal alkynes. This coupling procedure has readily accommodated a large variety of functional groups and provided the coupling products in good to excellent yields. The structure and purity of starting materials were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR).^{1,2}

Standardization of reaction conditions

To determine the optimal reaction condition, we chose 2-(phenylethynyl)benzonitrile 1a and 2-methylbenzonitrile 2a as a model substrate. Having successful results with KOH-DMSO system,¹¹ we envisioned that reaction of **1a** with **2a** using 1.0 equiv of KOH in DMSO could yield the desired product, however, there was no reaction (Table 1, entry 1). The use of K'BuO instead of KOH was also not successful to proceed with the reaction (entry 2). Switching the solvent from DMSO to DMF gives the only trace of product 11phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine **3a** (entry 3). Increasing loading of K'BuO to 3.0 equiv able to give only 10% yield of **3a** only (entry 4-5). Further increasing the loading of K^tBuO to 6.0 equiv also not led to complete consumption of starting material 1a and enhance the yield of **3a** only up to 16% yield along with a trace of product *N*-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide 6a (entry 6). Running the reactions in other solvents such as DMA, DCE and toluene was completely unfavorable for this reaction and led to no reaction (entry 7-9). Surprisingly, conducting the reaction in THF resulted in the formation of 3-(otolyl)isoquinolin-1-amine 12 in 85% yield by self-condensation of 2a with complete recovery of 1a (entry 10 and Scheme 5). To our delight conducting the reaction in N,N'-Dimethylpropyleneurea (DMPU) affords the desired product 3a in 88% yield only in 5 min. (entry 11). Increasing the loading of K'BuO to 4.0 equiv does not have much effect on yield (entry 12) while decreasing the loading of K'BuO to 1.0 equiv decreases the yield of 3a with the recovery of 1a (entry 13-14). After having an optimal reaction condition for product 3a (entry 11) and intrigued by the formation of **6a** in the case of DMF (entry 6), we desire to optimize for product 6a which is expected to form via in-situ formylation of product 3a. We

anticipated that the addition of DMF as a co-solvent with DMPU could enhance the yield of **6a**; however, increasing the ratio of DMF alone did not have much effect on yield (entry 15-17). Interestingly, increasing the loading of K'BuO to 6.0 equiv furnished the desired product **6a** selectively in 82% yield (entry 18). Further, increasing or decreasing the loading of K'BuO has a deleterious effect on the yield of **6a** (entry 19-20).

			NH ₂	ИНСНО
	+ CN Me -	base (x equiv)	N Ph	+ Ph
Б	1a 2a	1 (•)	3a	6a
En	try solvent	base (equiv)	t (h/min)	yield $(\%)^{b}$ 3a/6a
1	DMSO	KOH (1.0)	24 h	NR
2	DMSO	K ^t BuO (1.0)	24 h	NR
3	DMF	K ^t BuO (1.0)	24 h	trace
4	DMF	K ^t BuO (2.0)	24 h	trace
5	DMF	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	10/00 ^c
6	DMF	K ^t BuO (6.0)	24 h	$16/\text{trace}^c$
7	DMA	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	NR
8	DCE	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	NR
9	toluene	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	NR
10	THF	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	00
11	DMPU	K ^t BuO (3.0)	5 min	88/00
12	DMPU	K ^t BuO (4.0)	5 min	86/00
13	DMPU	K ^t BuO (2.0)	5 min	$56/00^{c,d}$
14	DMPU	K ^t BuO (1.0)	5 min	$24/00^{c,d}$
15	DMPU/DMF (1:1)	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	82/trace
16	DMPU/DMF (1:2)	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	80/12
17	DMPU/DMF (1:4)	K ^t BuO (3.0)	24 h	78/18
18	DMPU/DMF (1:4)	K ^t BuO (6.0)	16 h	00/82
19	DMPU/DMF (1:4)	K ^t BuO (7.0)	16 h	00/79
20	DMPU/DMF (1:4)	K ^t BuO (5.0)	16 h	12/78

Table S1.	Optimization	of reaction	conditions
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^{*a*}Reactions were performed using 0.5 mmol of **1a**, 1.0 equiv of **2a** and base in 2.0 mL of solvent at rt. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}Incomplete consumption of starting material. ^{*d*}results were same even after 24 h.

General procedure for the synthesis of functionalized 11aryl/alkylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3a-m) and 4-arylbenzo[h]thieno[3,2c]quinolin-11-amine (4a-d)

In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-alkynylbenzonitrile **1** (0.5 mmol), 2methylbenzonitrile **2a/2b** (1.0 equiv) and K/BuO (3.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMPU was stirred at rt for 5 minutes. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 85/15). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹⁹F NMR and HRMS).





11-Phenylbenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine (3a).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **3a** as white solid (140.8 mg, 88%): mp 165–166 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.36 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 5H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.7, 144.9, 142.7, 137.6, 134.7, 132.8, 130.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 126.8, 126.1, 125.0, 122.9, 118.9, 116.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇N₂ 321.1386, found 321.1371.



Me 11-(o-Tolyl) benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3b as white solid

(145.3 mg, 87%): mp 168–169 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 2H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 2.0 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.4, 144.5, 142.2, 136.9, 136.2, 135.2, 132.9, 130.4, 129.7, 129.4, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.1, 123.0, 118.6, 116.6, 20.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂ 335.1543, found 335.1530.



^{Me} **11-(***m***-Tolyl)benzo[***c***]phenanthridin-6-amine (3c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3c as white solid (143.6 mg, 86%): mp 170–171 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 9.26 (d,** *J* **= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,** *J* **= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.77 (dd,** *J* **= 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,** *J* **= 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d,** *J* **= 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 154.4, 144.8, 138.5, 137.6, 134.8, 134.3, 132.7, 129.6, 128.74, 128.72, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 126.2, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 123.6, 122.8, 118.9, 116.3, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂ 335.1543, found 335.1530.**



¹/_{OMe} **11-(3-Methoxyphenyl)benzo**[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine** (**3d**). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **3d** as white solid (157.5 mg, 90%): mp 177–178 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz CDCl₃) δ 9.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.01 (m, 3H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 154.5, 146.2, 142.5, 137.3, 134.7, 132.7, 130.3, 129.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.3, 126.6, 126.1, 126.0, 124.9, 122.8, 121.7, 118.9, 116.2, 114.4, 112.9, 55.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂O 351.1492, found 351.1488. NH2 N

Me **11-(***p***-Tolyl)benzo[***c***]phenanthridin-6-amine (3e). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3e as pale yellow needles (141.9 mg, 85%): mp 169-170 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 9.22 (d,** *J* **= 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,** *J* **= 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t,** *J* **= 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,** *J* **= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 154.4, 141.9, 137.5, 136.7, 134.9, 134.3, 132.8, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 127.4, 127.2, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 123.6, 122.8, 118.9, 116.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂ 335.1543, found 335.1530.**



¹/_{Bu} **11-(4-(***tert***-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[***c***]phenanthridin-6-amine (3f). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3f** as pale yellow needles (161.7 mg, 86%): mp 165-166 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.26 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.71 (m, 4H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 1H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.4, 150.1, 141.8, 137.4, 134.8, 134.3, 132.8, 130.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 126.0, 125.8, 125.7, 124.9, 123.6, 122.7, 118.9, 116.5, 34.7, 31.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₅N₂ 377.2012, found 377.1992.



11-(4-Butylphenyl)benzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine (3g).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **3g** as pale yellow needles (167.3 mg, 89%): mp 163-164 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (q, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (q, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.70-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.47 (td, *J* = 14.7, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.4, 142.0, 141.8, 137.5, 134.8, 134.3, 132.8, 128.93, 128.88, 128.7, 128.1, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 123.6, 122.8, 118.9, 116.4, 35.4, 33.7, 22.4, 14.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₅N₂ 377.2012, found 377.1992.



F 11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3h). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3h as pale yellow needles (142.0 mg, 84%): mp 113-114 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 6.9 Hz, 3H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.1 (d, *J* = 255.8 Hz, 1C), 154.3, 142.5, 140.8 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1C), 136.4, 134.5, 134.2, 132.6, 130.6 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 130.2, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 127.2, 126.9, 126.1, 124.9, 123.7, 122.9, 118.9, 116.1, 115.8 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz, 1C); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –115.3 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆FN₂ 339.1292, found 339.1288.



CF₃ **11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo**[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine** (3i). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **3i** as off-white solid (157.1 mg, 81%): mp 158-159 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.5, 148.5, 142.7, 135.9, 134.3, 134.3, 132.6, 130.4, 129.4, 129.0, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 127.1, 126.4, 126.2, 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1C), 125.0, 123.7, 123.0, 119.0, 115.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₆F₃N₂ 389.1260, found 389.1245.



 \downarrow s 11-(Thiophen-3-yl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3j). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3j as white solid

(141.8 mg, 87%): mp 178–179 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.20 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.62 (dd, J = 14.9, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 20.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.6, 145.2, 142.3, 134.8, 132.7, 132.0, 130.3, 129.4, 129.2, 127.54, 127.49, 127.3, 126.8, 126.3, 126.1, 124.8, 123.8, 123.0, 121.7, 118.9, 116.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅N₂S 327.0950, found 327.0935.



8-Fluoro-11-phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3k). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3k as white solid (131.8 mg, 78%): mp 148–149 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.88 (dd, J = 11.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 6H), 7.39 (td, J = 8.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 1H), 5.52 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.3 (d, J = 244.7 Hz, 1C), 154.5, 144.6, 141.8, 136.7, 134.6, 131.5 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1C), 129.5 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1C), 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.2, 126.3 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1C), 122.9, 119.1, 117.1 (d, J = 25.5 Hz, 1C), 116.7, 109.2 (d, J = 23.3 Hz, 1C); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –114.0 (s);HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆FN₂ 339.1292, found 339.1288.



8-Fluoro-11-phenylbenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine (31).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **31** as white solid (128.1 mg, 61%): mp 172–173 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.19 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 6H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.6, 144.6, 142.4, 138.3, 134.6, 132.4, 131.7, 130.7, 129.7, 129.0, 128.95, 128.86, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.3, 126.29, 126.27, 125.1, 123.4, 122.8, 122.0, 119.0, 116.9, 90.2, 90.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₁H₂₁N₂ 421.1699, found 421.1692.



(8S,9S,13S,14S)-3-(6-Aminobenzo[c]phenanthridin-11-yl)-

7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16-octahydro-6*H***-cyclopenta[***a***]phenanthren-17(14***H***)-one (3m). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 3m** as white solid (103.0 mg, 43%): mp 182–183 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.68 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (s, 2H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 2.51-2.60 (m, 3H), 2.03-2.25 (m, 5H), 1.54-1.71 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 221.1, 154.7, 142.2, 138.7, 137.4, 137.2, 137.1, 135.0, 134.9, 132.9, 129.3, 129.0, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 127.1, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.7, 124.9, 122.9, 118.9, 116.3, 50.9, 48.0, 44.4, 38.3, 36.0, 31.9, 29.4, 26.7, 25.5, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M]⁺ Calcd for C₃₄H₃₀N₂O 482.2353, found 482.2352.



4-Phenylbenzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 4a as white solid (150.0 mg, 92%): mp 176–177 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 7.50 – 7.37 (m, 7H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 5.49 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 144.8, 141.3, 138.7, 137.1, 136.9, 134.9, 129.25, 129.20, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.1, 125.9, 124.5, 123.1, 122.3, 119.2, 115.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅N₂S 327.0950, found 327.0935.



4-(*m*-Tolyl)benzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 4b as white solid (153.0 mg, 90%): mp 179–180 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 4H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 144.9, 138.8, 138.7, 137.2, 135.0, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 126.3, 126.0, 124.5, 123.1, 122.3, 119.1, 115.1, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{22}H_{17}N_2S$ 341.1107, found 341.1125.



^tBu **4-(4-(***tert***-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[***h***]thieno[2,3-***c***]quinolin-11-amine (4c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 4c** as white solid (168.1 mg, 88%): mp 179–180 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 5.57 (s, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 150.1, 144.9, 141.7, 138.9, 137.2, 129.3, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 126.0, 125.6, 124.5, 123.2, 122.5, 34.7, 31.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₃N₂S 383.1576, found 383.1558.



10-Phenylthieno[2,3-*c***][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (4d).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **4d** as white solid (119.3 mg, 73%): mp 192–193 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.31 (q, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.3, 145.9, 140.1, 138.1, 132.7, 131.9, 130.8, 129.4, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 125.8, 124.8, 123.1, 120.7, 113.6, 108.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₄N₃S 328.0903, found 328.0919.

General procedure for the synthesis of 11-aryl/alkylbenzo[c]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5a-d)

In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-(arylethynyl)nicotinonitrile **1** (0.5 mmol), 2-methylbenzonitrile **2** (1.0 equiv) and K'BuO (3.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMF/DMPU (4:1) was stirred at rt for 5 minutes. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous

saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 70/30). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS).





^{Me} **11-(***m***-Tolyl)benzo[***c***][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 5a as white solid (117.2 mg, 70%): mp 193–194 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 9.54 (d,** *J* **= 8.3 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (d,** *J* **= 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d,** *J* **= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,** *J* **= 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.40 (m, 5H), 5.59 (s, 2H), 2.414 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 155.0, 151.0, 147.9, 143.8, 141.6, 139.4, 138.7, 134.4, 133.5, 129.5, 129.1, 128.8, 128.20, 128.17, 127.2, 126.6, 126.0, 123.0, 120.9, 118.9, 116.5, 114.0, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃ 336.1495, found 336.1508.**



F 11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 5b as white solid (115.3 mg, 68%): mp 190– 191 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.52 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.62 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.4 (d, *J* = 246.6 Hz, 1C), 155.0, 151.1, 147.8, 140.2, 140.0 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1C), 134.3, 133.5, 130.5 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1C), 129.2, 127.8, 127.4, 126.7, 123.0, 121.1, 119.0, 116.3, 116.0 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –114.6 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₅FN₃ 340.1245, found 340.1231.



11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 5c as white solid (126.4 mg, 65%): mp 199–200 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.53 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 9.02 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 151.3, 147.9, 147.7, 142.5, 139.6, 134.0, 133.5, 129.8, (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 2C), 129.30, 129.26, 127.8, 127.6, 126.7, 126.1, 125.7 (q, *J* = 37.8 Hz, 1C), 122.2 (q, *J* = 178.0 Hz, CF₃), 119.0, 115.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –62.2 (s, CF₃); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₅F₃N₃ 390.1213, found 390.1201.



5-Phenylbenzo[*c*]naphtho[1,2-*j*][1,7]phenanthrolin-16-amine (5d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 5d as white solid (126.3 mg, 60%): mp 204–205 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.66 (m, 4H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 5H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 5.48 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.7, 144.6, 138.3, 134.7, 132.4, 131.9, 130.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.5, 126.5, 125.2, 123.5, 123.0, 122.1, 119.1, 117.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₀H₂₀N₃ 422.1652, found 422.1650.

General procedure for the synthesis of *N*-(11-aryl/alkylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6a-i)

In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-alkynylbenzonitrile **1** (0.5 mmol), 2methylbenzonitrile **2** (1.0 equiv) and K/BuO (6.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMF/DMPU (4:1) was stirred at rt for 16 h. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; After 5 min starting material was completely consumed and a new spot formed which corresponds to the aminated compounds 3, further stirring the reaction mixture started the formylation of amino group to yield the product 4. Therefore, the reaction was stirred for 16 h and the progression was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 80/20). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS).



N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford **6a** as white solid (142.7 mg, 82%): mp 205–206 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.46 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.98 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.20 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.50 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.6, 148.8, 144.1, 140.8, 137.2, 134.8, 132.7, 130.5, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 128.5, 128.0, 127.5, 127.2, 125.2, 124.8, 119.5, 118.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₇N₂O 349.1335, found 349.1341.



HN_CHO

Me N-(11-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford 6b as white solid (153.8 mg, 85%): mp 211–212 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.44 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 9.96 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 9.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dt, *J* = 19.1, 6.9 Hz, 5H), 1.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.7, 148.5, 143.8, 140.5, 136.5, 135.7, 135.1, 132.8, 130.9, 130.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 127.2, 125.3, 124.9, 119.1, 118.5, 20.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{25}H_{19}N_2O$ 363.1492, found 363.1491.



^{Me} *N*-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford 6c as white solid (141.2 mg, 78%): mp 213–214 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.44 (s, 1H), 9.96 (s, 1H), 9.16 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.73 (p, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.7, 148.6, 144.1, 140.7, 138.8, 137.3, 134.6, 132.6, 130.4, 130.0, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 126.3, 125.1, 124.7, 119.4, 118.2, 21.5 HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O 363.1492, found 363.1491.



^bMe *N*-(11-(3-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 6d as white solid (162.5 mg, 86%): mp 218–219 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.43 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 9.15 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.5, 160.2, 148.6, 145.5, 140.7, 137.0, 134.6, 132.7, 130.6, 130.5, 130.0, 128.9, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 125.1, 124.7, 121.5, 119.4, 118.1, 114.6, 113.6, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O₂ 379.1441, found 379.1423.



Me *N*-(11-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6e). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford 6e as white solid (152.0 mg, 84%): mp 209–210 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.44 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 9.97 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 9.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.71-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 4H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.7, 148.8, 141.2, 140.8, 137.2, 137.1, 134.8, 132.8, 130.4, 130.2, 130.1, 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 127.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 125.2, 124.8, 119.4, 118.4, 21.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O 363.1492, found 363.1491.



N-(11-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide

(6f). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford 6f as white solid (167.7 mg, 83%): mp 211–212 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.47 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 9.98 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 9.19 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.08 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.77 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 10.3 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.7, 150.5, 148.7, 141.2, 140.8, 137.1, 134.7, 132.7, 130.4, 130.0, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 126.3, 125.1, 124.7, 119.4, 118.3, 34.9, 31.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₈H₂₅N₂O 405.1961, found 405.1979.



N-(11-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6g). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 6g as white solid (166.3 mg, 88%): mp 221–222 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.37 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 9.89 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 9.09-9.07 (m, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.61 (m, 4H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 2H) DMSO- d_6) δ 164.7, 159.2, 148.6, 140.8, 136.9, 136.4, 134.8, 132.7, 130.4, 130.3, 130.0, 129.1, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 125.1, 124.7, 119.4, 118.4, 115.0, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O₂ 379.1441, found 379.1423.



N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-

yl)formamide (6h). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) to afford 6h as white solid (173.3 mg, 81%): mp 224–225 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 14.05 (s, 1H), 10.06 (s, 1H), 9.22 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 2H), 7.83-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.74 (s, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.8, 158.1, 148.9, 140.9, 139.3, 137.2, 134.9, 134.6, 134.0, 132.8, 130.5, 130.1, 129.7, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 125.2, 124.8, 119.7, 118.2, 106.4, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁N₂O₂ 429.1598, found 429.1582.



 ∇ *N*-(11-cyclopropylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6i). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford 6i as white solid (115.4 mg, 74%): mp 195–196 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 9.90 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 9.69 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 9.13-9.11 (m, 1H), 8.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 3H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.7, 148.2, 140.5, 137.3, 135.4, 132.8, 131.0, 130.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 126.7, 125.2, 124.7, 120.6, 119.4, 20.1, 10.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O 313.1335, found 313.1354.

General procedure for the synthesis of *N*-(11-arylbenzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6yl)formamide (7a-d) In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-(arylethynyl)nicotinonitrile1 (0.5 mmol), 2-methylbenzonitrile 2 (1.0 equiv) and K/BuO (6.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMF/DMPU (4:1) was stirred at rt for 16 h. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; After 5 min starting material was completely consumed and a new spot formed which corresponds to the aminated compounds 5, further stirring the reaction mixture started the formylation of amino group to yield the product 7. Therefore, the reaction was stirred for 16 h and the progression was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 60/40). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS).





N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40) to afford 7a as offwhite solid (108.2 mg, 62%): mp 220–221 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.96 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (q, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.56 (m, 10H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 156.8, 151.5, 148.0, 144.3, 143.5, 141.5, 134.1, 133.2, 131.0, 129.6, 129.3, 128.9, 128.1, 127.1, 126.9, 125.6, 125.1, 125.0, 121.4, 119.5, 114.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆N₃O 350.1288, found 350.1289.



Me *N*-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40) to afford 7b as white solid (116.1 mg, 64%): mp 223–224 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.49 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 9.98 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 9.48 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 9.03 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.8, 152.2, 149.4, 147.7, 143.5, 141.0, 140.6, 139.0, 134.4, 133.5, 130.3, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 127.9, 127.3, 126.1, 125.6, 124.8, 122.5, 119.4, 118.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₈N₃O 364.1444, found 364.1429.



^bMe *N*-(11-(3-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40) to afford 7c as white solid (123.2 mg, 65%): mp 229–230 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.41 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.96 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (q, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO*d*₆) δ 160.2, 156.7, 151.5, 148.0, 145.6, 143.4, 141.2, 134.0, 133.2, 130.5, 129.3, 127.3, 126.9, 125.4, 125.0, 121.4, 119.4, 114.7, 114.3, 113.6, 55.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₈N₃O₂ 380.1394, found 380.1410.



N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6yl)formamide (7d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40) to afford 7d as white solid (124.4 mg, 58%): mp 235–236 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.47 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.93 (dd, J = 12.5, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 3H), 7.53 (dd, J = 13.1, 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.43 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 158.3, 156.8, 151.2, 141.8, 139.2, 134.1, 134.0, 133.7, 130.2, 129.6, 129.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 125.0, 121.5, 119.6, 119.4, 115.0, 106.5, 55.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₈H₂₀N₃O₂ 430.1550, found 430.1569.

General procedure for the synthesis of 11-aryl-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c] phenanthridin-6-amine (9a-d)

In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-alkenylbenzonitrile **8** (0.5 mmol), 2methylbenzonitrile **2** (1.0 equiv) and K/BuO (3.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMPU was stirred at rt for 5 minutes. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 90/10). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS).



NH2 N

11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine (9a).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) to afford **9a** as white solid (138.5 mg, 86%): mp 132–133 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.12 (m, 6H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 4.78 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.6, 144.3, 143.4, 136.5, 135.4, 134.7, 130.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.1, 126.4, 125.4, 124.7, 123.8, 123.3, 118.1, 117.9, 38.9, 37.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₉N₂ 323.1543, found 323.1522.



11-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-

dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-amine (9b).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) to afford **9b** as white solid (165.6 mg, 81%): mp 134–135 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (q, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.88 (td, *J* = 8.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 5.19 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5 (d, *J* = 260.1 Hz, 1C), 156.1, 143.7, 138.3, 137.0 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1C), 136.0, 133.4, 132.7, 131.0, 130.3, 129.8 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1C), 129.5, 127.2, 126.2, 123.4 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1C), 118.1, 117.4, 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 1C), 111.8 (d, *J* = 24.1 Hz, 1C), 34.8, 33.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.3 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆Cl₂FN₂409.0669, found 409.0664.



11-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]

phenanthridin-6-amine (9c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) to afford 9c as white solid (162.2 mg, 78%): mp 144–145 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.03-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (td, J = 8.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (s, 2H), 4.79 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, J = 15.3, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5 (d, J = 242.7 Hz, 1C), 155.4, 141.7, 140.7, 139.3, 136.1, 131.1, 129.9 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1C), 129.6 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1C), 128.6, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 127.0, 126.2, 123.9, 123.7, 118.2 (d, J = 32.7 Hz, 1C), 115.0 (d, J = 21.8 Hz, 1C), 111.5 (d, J = 24.0 Hz, 1C), 38.5, 36.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –115.5 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₂₂FN₂ 417.1762, found 417.1758.



8-Fluoro-11-(naphthalen-1-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-

amine (9d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) to afford **9d** as white solid (144.3 mg, 74%): mp 142–143 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 3.65 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, J = 21.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5 (d, J = 241.9 Hz, 1C), 155.7, 143.7, 137.4, 136.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 136.2, 134.3, 130.8, 130.7, 130.3, 129.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 129.5, 127.1, 126.4, 125.9, 125.6, 125.5, 125.4, 123.8, 123.3, 122.8, 118.3 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1C), 114.7 (d, J = 21.8 Hz, 1C), 111.7 (d, J = 23.2 Hz, 1C), 34.8, 34.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –115.7 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₀FN₂ 391.1605, found 391.1595.

General procedure for the synthesis of *N*-(11-aryl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*] phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10a-g)

In an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask, a solution of 2-alkenylbenzonitrile **8** (0.5 mmol), 2methylbenzonitrile **2a** (1.0 equiv) and K/BuO (6.0 equiv) in 2 mL of DMF/DMPU (4:1) was stirred at rt for 16 h. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis; After 5 min starting material was completely consumed and a new spot formed which corresponds to the aminated compounds **9**, further stirring the reaction mixture started the formylation of amino group to yield the product **10**. Therefore, the reaction was stirred for 16 h and the progression was monitored by TLC analysis; after complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution and dried over Na₂SO₄. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100–200) (hexane:ethyl acetate; 85/15). The structure and purity of products were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS).





N-(11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide

(10a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 10a as white solid (133.0 mg, 76%): mp 184–185 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 10.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.72 (dd, J = 5.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, J = 15.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.2, 147.6, 143.9, 142.8, 136.8, 134.6, 134.3, 131.0, 129.0, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 127.0, 126.5, 124.9, 123.9, 123.7, 118.4, 39.0, 36.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂O 351.1492, found 351.1476.



N-(11-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-11,12-

dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-yl**)**formamide (10b).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford **10b** as white solid (202.4 mg, 92%): mp 190–191 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.66 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 10.04 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.31-8.37 (m, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (s, 2H), 4.78 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 7H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.3, 153.1, 147.8, 143.7, 138.5, 136.7, 136.6, 134.8, 134.7, 131.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.3, 127.1, 124.8, 123.8, 123.6, 123.2, 118.4, 104.5, 60.8, 56.1, 39.1, 36.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₅N₂O₄ 441.1809, found 441.1791.



N-(11-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-11,12-

dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-yl**)**formamide (10c).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 10c as white solid (163.5 mg, 83%): mp 183–184 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.25 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 9.74 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.6, 149.1, 147.6, 146.2, 143.3, 137.3, 136.5, 135.1, 134.7, 131.8, 129.3, 128.9, 127.5, 127.3, 125.2, 124.8, 124.1, 123.4, 123.3, 120.8, 108.5, 108.3, 101.3, 37.4, 36.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O₃ 395.1390, found 395.1375.



N-(11-(thiophen-2-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-

yl)formamide (10d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **10d** as white solid (138.8 mg, 78%): mp 178–179 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.23 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 9.72 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67-6.69 (m, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.5, 149.0, 146.9, 142.6, 136.2, 135.3, 134.4, 131.7, 129.5, 129.1, 127.6, 127.4, 126.8, 125.3, 125.2, 124.7, 124.5, 124.1, 123.7, 118.6, 36.3, 33.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇N₂OS 357.1056, found 357.1090.



N-(11-(pyridin-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-

yl)formamide (10e). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 80/20) to afford **10e** as white solid (119.3 mg, 68%): mp 202–203 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 9.74 (s, 1H), 8.40-8.45 (m, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.01-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.39-3.53 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.6, 162.2, 149.7, 149.1, 143.6, 137.2, 136.9, 135.2, 134.5, 131.9, 129.3, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 125.3, 124.8, 124.0, 122.3, 122.2, 121.8, 118.5, 55.6, 34.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃O 352.1444, found 352.1459.



N-(11-(9-methyl-9H-carbazol-3-yl)-11,12-

dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-yl**)**formamide (10f).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 10f as white solid (158.5 mg, 70%): mp 196–197 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.27 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 9.80 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.5, 149.0, 143.3, 141.3, 139.9, 136.6, 135.4, 135.0, 134.0, 131.7, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 127.2, 126.1, 125.6, 125.2, 124.7, 124.2, 123.8, 122.6, 122.2, 120.5, 119.2, 119.0, 109.6, 109.4, 38.0, 37.3, 29.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₁H₂₄N₃O 454.1914, found 454.1900.



N-(11-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-

dihydrobenzo[*c*]**phenanthridin-6-yl**)**formamide (10g).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford **10g** as white solid (154.1 mg, 75%): mp 192–193 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.28 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.79 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.6, 162.2 (d, *J* = 230.3 Hz, 1C), 149.6, 149.1 142.1, 137.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 136.4, 131.7, 131.3 (d, *J* = 32.7 Hz, 1C), 112.8, 111.5 (d, *J* = 23.2 Hz, 1C), 36.9, 35.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.7 (s); HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₂₃FN₃O 412.1820, found 412.1797.



 NH_2

N-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide

(11). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 85/15) to afford 11 as white solid (155.4 mg, 74%): mp 192–193 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.35 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H), 9.11 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.67 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.7, 157.0, 148.5, 144.4, 141.2, 137.2, 136.4, 132.6, 130.6, 129.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.5, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 126.3, 125.2, 124.4, 118.7, 117.9, 115.1, 79.7, 28.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₈H₂₅N₂O₂ 421.1911, found 421.1899.

Me **3-(o-Tolyl)isoquinolin-1-amine (12).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) to afford **12** as white solid (99.4 mg, 85%): mp 122–123 °C: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz,

1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 151.9, 140.9, 137.9, 135.5, 130.6, 130.3, 129.7, 127.9, 127.3, 126.0, 125.8, 122.8, 116.6, 112.0, 20.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂ 235.1230, found 235.1251.

References:

1. (a) Verma, S.; Mishra, P. K.; Kumar, M.; Sur S.; Verma, A. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, *83*, 6650; (b) Verma, S.; Kumar, M.; Verma, A. K. *Org. Lett.* **2020**, *22*, 130.

2. (a) He, Y.; Zhang, X.; Fan, X. *Chem. Commun.*, **2014**, *50*, 5641; (b) Zhu, X.-T.; Zhao, Q.; Liu, F.; Wang, A.-F.; Cai, P.-J.; Hao, W.-J.; Tu, S.-J.; Jiang, B. *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 6828; (c) Madhubabu, M. V.; Shankar, R.; More, S. S.; Rao, M. V. B.; Kumar, U. K. S.; Raghunadh, A. *RSC Adv.* **2016**, *6*, 36599.

Copies of ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR and HRMS

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)







HRMS



11-Phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3a)





11-(o-Tolyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3b)



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)







HRMS



11-(o-Tolyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3b)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



11-(*m*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3c)




11-(*m*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3c)

















11-(3-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3d)





11-(*p*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3e)





11-(*p*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3e)





11-(*p*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-amine (3e)





11-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3f)





11-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3f)





11-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3f)





11-(4-Butylphenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3g)





11-(4-Butylphenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3g)





11-(4-Butylphenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3g)











11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3h)







11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3h)





11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3h)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3i)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3i)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3i)











11-(Thiophen-3-yl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3j)







11-(Thiophen-3-yl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3j)





8-Fluoro-11-phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3k)





8-Fluoro-11-phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3k)





8-Fluoro-11-phenylbenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3k)











11-Phenyl-9-(phenylethynyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3l)





11-Phenyl-9-(phenylethynyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3l)







11-Phenyl-9-(phenylethynyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (3l)





(8S,9S,13S,14S)-3-(6-aminobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-11-yl)-7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16octahydro-6*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17(14*H*)-one (3m)





(8S,9S,13S,14S)-3-(6-aminobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-11-yl)-7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16octahydro-6*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17(14*H*)-one (3m)





(8S,9S,13S,14S)-3-(6-aminobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-11-yl)-7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16octahydro-6*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17(14*H*)-one (3m)





4-Phenylbenzo[h]thieno[2,3-c]quinolin-11-amine (4a)





4-Phenylbenzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4a)







4-Phenylbenzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4a)
















4-(*m*-Tolyl)benzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4b)





4-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4c)





4-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4c)





4-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[*h*]thieno[2,3-*c*]quinolin-11-amine (4c)





10-Phenylthieno[2,3-c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (4d)





10-Phenylthieno[2,3-c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (4d)







10-Phenylthieno[2,3-c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (4d)

















11-(*m*-Tolyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5a)





11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5b)





11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5b)





11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5b)





11-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5b)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5c)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5c)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5c)





11-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[c][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-amine (5c)





5-Phenylbenzo[c]naphtho[1,2-j][1,7]phenanthrolin-16-amine (5d)





5-Phenylbenzo[c]naphtho[1,2-j][1,7]phenanthrolin-16-amine (5d)













N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6a)





N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6a)







N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6a)





N-(11-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6b)





N-(11-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6b)





N-(11-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6b)





N-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6c)











N-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6c)

















N-(11-(3-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6d)





N-(11-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6e)




N-(11-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6e)







N-(11-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6e)





N-(11-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6f)





N-(11-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)benzo[c]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6f)



























N-(11-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6g)





N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6h)









HRMS









N-(11-cyclopropylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6i)





N-(11-cyclopropylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6i)







N-(11-cyclopropylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (6i)





N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7a)





N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7a)







N-(11-phenylbenzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7a)





N-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7b)









HRMS



N-(11-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7b)





N-(11-(3-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7c)



















N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7d)







N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7d)



HRMS



N-(11-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,7]phenanthrolin-6-yl)formamide (7d)





11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9a)





11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9a)







11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9a)











HRMS











11-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9c)





11-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9c)







11-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9c)




11-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[c]phenanthridin-6-amine (9c)











HRMS











N-(11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10a)





N-(11-Phenyl-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10a)













N-(11-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10b)





N-(11-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10b)







N-(11-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10b)





N-(11-(Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10c)





N-(11-(Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10c)



HRMS



N-(11-(Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10c)





N-(11-(Thiophen-2-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10d)





N-(11-(Thiophen-2-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10d)



HRMS



N-(11-(Thiophen-2-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10d)





N-(11-(pyridin-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10e)



6.0

6.541 >

2.041 × 0.05

4.0

3.0

2.0

1.0

-0.057

10.0

6.73£

9.0

12.0



N-(11-(pyridin-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10e)





N-(11-(pyridin-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10e)





N-(11-(9-Methyl-9*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10f)





N-(11-(9-Methyl-9*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10f)







N-(11-(9-Methyl-9*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10f)





N-(11-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10g)





N-(11-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10g)







N-(11-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10g)





N-(11-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-8-fluoro-11,12-dihydrobenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (10g)





N-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (11)





N-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (11)



HRMS



N-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-11-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-yl)formamide (11)











3-(o-Tolyl)isoquinolin-1-amine (12)



HRMS



3-(o-Tolyl)isoquinolin-1-amine (12)

