

Supporting Information

One-pot π -extension approach of iminoindoles-to- α -carbolines as blue-light emitters using the cooperative basic system

Rajni Lodhi,^a S Banuprakash Goud^a and Sampak Samanta^{*,a}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Simrol, 453552, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Table of Contents

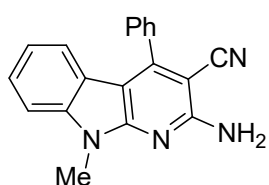
General information.....	S1
General experimental procedure for the synthesis of α -carboline derivatives 3aa-3if	S1
Characterization data of 3aa-3if	S1-S12
Characterization data of 3ga-5af	S12-S13
References.....	S14
Copies of ¹ H, ¹³ C and ¹⁹ F NMR.....	S15-S54
Copies of HRMS spectra.....	S55-S68

General Information: All the reactions were carried out either under an inert atmosphere or air and monitored by TLC using Merck 60 F₂₅₄ pre-coated silica-gel plates and the products were visualized by UV detection. Flash chromatography was carried out using silica gel (200-300 mesh). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 500 MHz and 125 MHz spectrometers, respectively. Data for ¹H NMR are reported as a chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant *J* (Hz), integration, and assignment, data for ¹³C are reported as a chemical shift. High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) data analysis was carried out using ESI-TOF-MS. The UV-Vis experiments were monitored in a quartz cuvette (10 × 10 mm²) using a Varian carry 100 Bio UV-vis spectrophotometer. Cyclic voltammetry was measured by using Metrohm Potentiostat/Galvanostat with the three-electrode system at room temperature. Melting points were recorded on an Electro thermal melting points apparatus and are uncorrected.

Starting materials: All the iminoindoles (**1a-i**)¹ and alkylidene malononitriles (**2a-x**)² were synthesized by literature known procedures. All the starting materials were known in the literatures. All the catalysts were purchased from commercial suppliers.

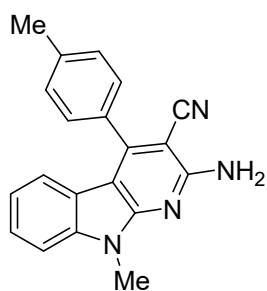
General experimental procedure for the synthesis of α -carboline derivative (3). To a stirred solution of compound iminoindole **1** (0.2 mmol), arylidene malononitrile **2** (0.24 mmol), DABCO (20 mol%) and NaHCO₃ (50 mol%) in DCE (2.0 mL) was heated at 60 °C under an argon-atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL), washed with brine and dried Na₂SO₄. The combined organic phases were evaporated by rotary evaporator under reduced pressure to give the crude mass, which was purified by column chromatography over silica-gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane to afford the pure α -carboline **3**. The products were characterized by their ¹H, ¹³C NMR and HRMS data.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-phenyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3aa): White solid;



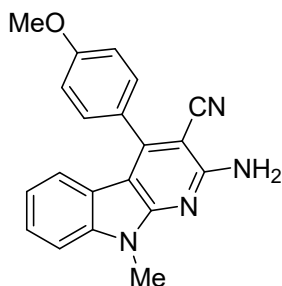
mp 202-204 °C; yield = 77%; *R_f* = 0.35 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.71-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.91 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 160.0, 153.4, 150.0, 140.0, 136.1, 129.8, 129.3, 128.7, 125.5, 120.9, 120.7, 119.9, 118.1, 110.1, 105.2, 83.3, 28.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₄N₄Na⁺ 321.1111, found 321.1131.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ab):



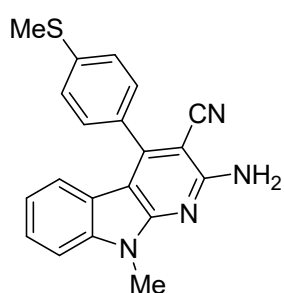
White solid; mp 181-183 °C; yield = 78%; R_f = 0.35 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.2, 150.0, 140.0, 139.6, 132.5, 129.6, 128.5, 125.5, 121.0, 120.9, 120.7, 118.2, 108.9, 106.9, 84.1, 27.6, 21.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{Na}^+$ 335.1267, found 335.1266.

2-Amino-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile(3ac):



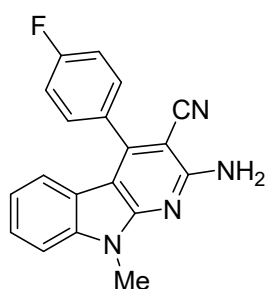
White solid; mp 196-198 °C; yield = 73%; R_f = 0.33 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.6, 158.8, 153.2, 149.7, 140.0, 130.1, 127.6, 126.5, 125.5, 121.0, 120.7, 118.4, 114.3, 108.9, 107.0, 84.2, 55.4, 27.66 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{NaO}^+$ 351.1216, found 351.1202.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile



(3ad): White solid; mp 187-189 °C; yield = 73%; R_f = 0.33 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.52 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.2, 149.2, 140.8, 140.0, 131.7, 129.1, 126.1, 125.6, 121.0, 120.8, 120.7, 118.2, 109.0, 106.8, 83.9, 27.6, 15.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{NaS}^+$ 367.0988, found 367.0962.

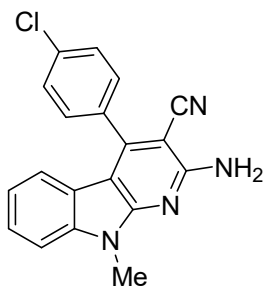
2-Amino-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ae):



White solid; mp 185-187 °C; yield = 81%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H),

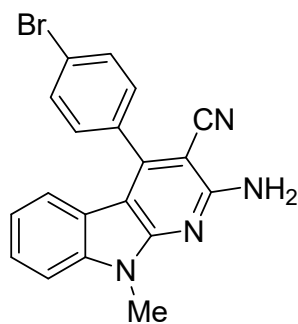
7.04 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.4 (d, $J = 249.7$ Hz), 158.7, 153.2, 148.6, 140.1, 131.4 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 130.6 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 125.7, 120.9, 120.7, 120.6, 118.0, 116.1 (d, $J = 21.9$ Hz), 109.1, 106.9, 84.0, 27.6 ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 114.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}$ N_4^+ 317.1197, found 317.1205.

2-Amino-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3af):



White solid; mp 189-191 °C; yield = 84%; $R_f = 0.36$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.2, 148.3, 140.1, 135.7, 133.9, 130.0, 129.3, 125.8, 120.9, 120.8, 120.5, 117.9, 109.1, 106.8, 83.8, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_4^+$ 333.0902, found 333.0888.

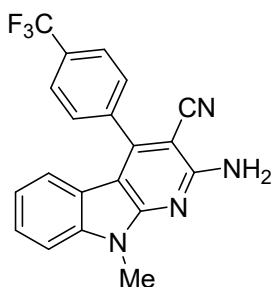
2-Amino-4-(4-bromophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ag):



White solid; mp 192-194 °C; yield = 78%; $R_f = 0.37$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.2, 148.2, 140.1, 134.4, 132.2, 130.3, 125.8, 124.0, 120.9, 120.8, 120.5, 117.9, 109.1, 106.7, 83.7, 27.7 ppm;

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_4^+$ 377.0396, found 377.0414.

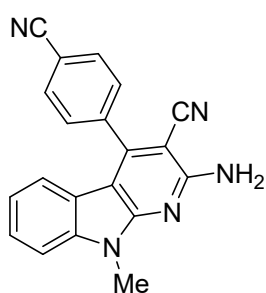
2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ah):



White solid; mp 201-203 °C; yield = 77%; $R_f = 0.31$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 153.2, 147.8, 140.2, 139.2, 131.8, 131.5, 131.3, 129.2, 126.88–125.84 (1C, q), 121.0, 120.7, 120.3, 117.7, 109.2, 106.7, 83.6,

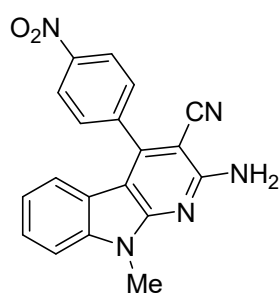
27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{N}_4\text{Na}^+$ 389.0985, found 389.0963.

2-Amino-4-(4-cyanophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ai):



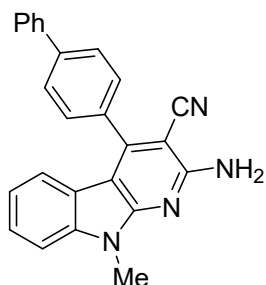
White solid; mp 205-207 °C; yield = 82%; R_f = 0.33 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.91 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.09–6.96 (m, 2H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 153.2, 147.0, 140.3, 140.2, 132.8, 129.6, 126.1, 121.1, 120.5, 120.1, 118.3, 117.5, 113.6, 109.3, 106.5, 83.2, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_5^+$ 324.1244, found 324.1263.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3aj):



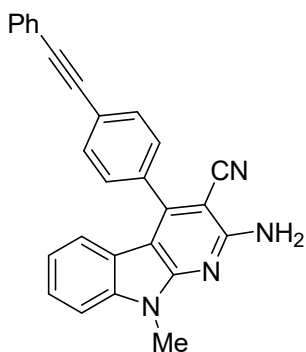
White solid; mp 210-212 °C; yield = 81%; R_f = 0.34 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 153.2, 148.6, 146.7, 142.1, 140.3, 129.9, 126.2, 124.3, 121.1, 120.5, 120.1, 117.4, 109.4, 106.6, 83.2, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$ 366.0961, found 366.0946.

4-((1,1'-Biphenyl)-4-yl)-2-amino-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ak):



White solid; mp 195-197 °C; yield = 79%; R_f = 0.34 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.8, 153.2, 149.4, 142.3, 140.3, 140.1, 134.3, 129.1, 128.9, 127.8, 127.5, 127.2, 125.6, 121.0, 120.9, 120.8, 118.2, 109.0, 106.9, 83.9, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{Na}^+$ 397.1424, found 397.1401.

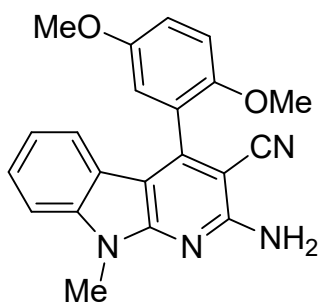
2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile



(3al): White solid; mp 208-210 °C; yield = 75%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.40 -7.36 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.2, 148.9, 140.1, 135.3, 132.1, 131.7, 128.7, 128.5,

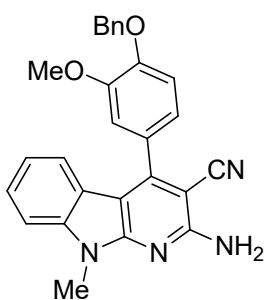
128.4, 125.7, 124.7, 123.0, 121.0, 120.9, 120.6, 117.9, 109.1, 106.7, 90.9, 88.8, 83.7, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{27}H_{18}N_4Na^+$ 421.1424, found 421.1450.

2-Amino-4-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile



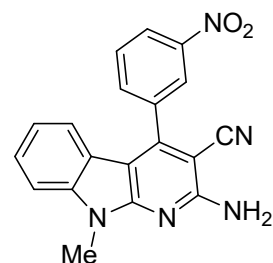
(3am): White solid; mp 199-201 °C; yield = 62%; R_f = 0.32 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.37 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 3H), 7.05–6.99 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.5, 153.7, 153.2, 150.6, 146.4, 140.0, 125.4, 124.9, 121.0, 120.9, 120.8, 118.0, 116.2, 115.4, 113.0, 108.8, 107.5, 84.9, 56.3, 55.9, 32.7, 27.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{21}H_{18}N_4NaO_2^+$ 381.1322, found 381.1346.

2-Amino-4-(4-(benzyloxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3an):



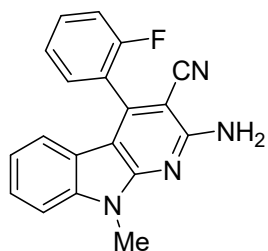
White solid; mp 180-182 °C; yield = 61%; R_f = 0.31 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.52–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.09 (m, 3H), 7.06–6.99 (m, 1H), 5.27 (s, 4H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.8, 153.2, 149.7, 149.6, 149.2, 140.0, 136.8, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 127.5, 125.5, 121.3, 121.1, 120.9, 120.7, 118.3, 113.8, 112.3, 109.0, 106.9, 84.1, 71.1, 56.1, 27.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{27}H_{22}N_4NaO_2^+$ 457.1635, found 457.1612.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ao):



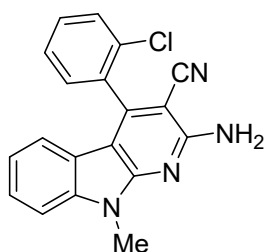
Light yellow solid; mp 210-212 °C; yield = 80%; R_f = 0.34 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR(500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.59–8.33 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.08–6.88 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.3, 152.4, 147.3, 145.3, 139.1, 136.4, 134.0, 129.4, 124.8, 123.3, 122.6, 119.9, 119.1, 118.9, 116.6, 108.4, 104.9, 82.1, 26.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{15}N_5O_2^+$ 344.1142, found 344.1116.

2-Amino-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ap):



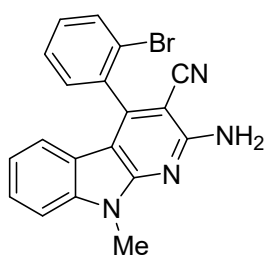
White solid; mp 183-185 °C; yield = 83%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.08–7.01 (m, 2H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.05 (d, J = 248.2 Hz), 158.6, 153.1, 143.1, 140.1, 131.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 130.7 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 125.8, 124.7 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.2 (d, J = 15.8 Hz), 121.0, 120.6, 120.5, 117.6, 116.51 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 109.1, 107.6, 84.5, 27.6 ppm; ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 470 MHz) δ 113.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_4^+$ 317.1197, found 317.1205.

2-Amino-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3aq):



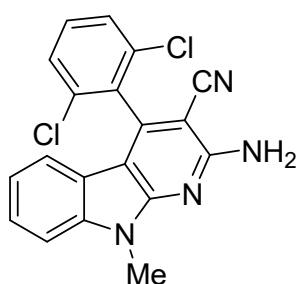
White solid; mp 198-200 °C; yield = 80%; R_f = 0.37 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.5, 153.1, 146.3, 140.1, 134.5, 132.6, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 127.4, 125.8, 121.1, 120.6, 117.4, 109.1, 107.4, 84.2, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_4\text{Na}^+$ 355.0721, found 355.0706.

2-Amino-4-(2-bromophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ar):



White solid; mp 205-207 °C; yield = 77%; R_f = 0.37 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.5, 153.1, 147.8, 140.1, 136.6, 133.4, 130.9, 130.0, 128.0, 125.8, 122.0, 121.1, 120.7, 120.6, 117.4, 109.1, 107.3, 84.1, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_4^+$ 377.0396, found 377.0414.

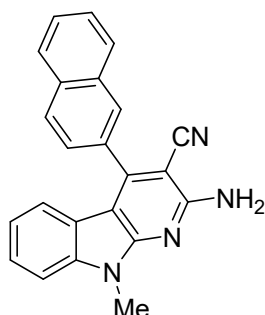
2-Amino-4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3as):



White solid; mp 209-211 °C; yield = 71%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 153.4, 143.5, 140.2,

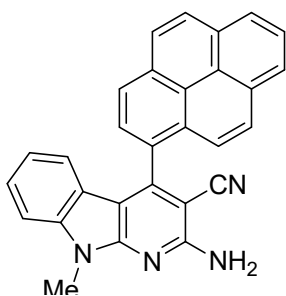
134.2, 133.3, 131.1, 128.6, 126.0, 121.3, 120.3, 120.1, 116.9, 109.2, 107.1, 83.8, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{13}Cl_2N_4^+$ 367.0512, found 367.0520.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3at):



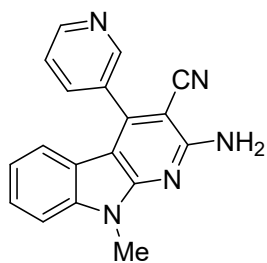
White solid; mp 190-192 °C; yield = 76%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.7, 153.2, 149.7, 140.1, 133.7, 133.2, 132.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.1, 126.7, 126.0, 125.6, 121.0, 120.9, 120.8, 118.1, 109.0, 107.1, 84.2, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{23}H_{17}N_4^+$ 349.1448, found 349.1418.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(pyren-1-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3au):



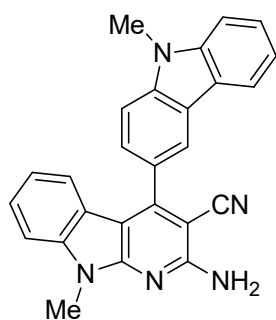
White solid; mp 180-182 °C; yield = 73%; R_f = 0.35 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.17–8.10 (m, 2H), 8.10 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.12 (m, 2H), 6.57 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.8, 153.1, 148.6, 140.1, 132.1, 131.3, 130.9, 130.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 126.4, 126.3, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 125.1, 124.8, 124.7, 124.2, 121.0, 120.9, 120.7, 117.9, 108.9, 108.6, 85.6, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{29}H_{18}N_4Na^+$ 445.1424, found 445.1396.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3av):



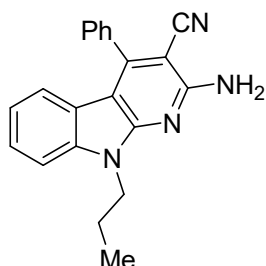
White solid; mp 175-177 °C; yield = 78%; R_f = 0.31 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.87 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.7, 153.2, 150.7, 149.2, 145.6, 140.2, 136.3, 126.0, 123.7, 121.1, 120.6, 120.4, 117.6, 109.2, 107.1, 83.8, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{14}N_5^+$ 300.1244, found 300.1238.

2-Amino-9-methyl-4-(9-methyl-9H-carbazol-3-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile



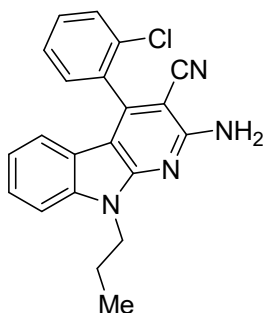
(3aw): White solid; mp 220-222 °C; yield = 66%; R_f = 0.33 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.92 – 6.88 (m, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.8, 153.2, 151.1, 141.6, 141.5, 140.0, 126.3, 125.8, 125.4, 123.0, 122.7, 121.2, 121.0, 120.9, 120.7, 120.6, 119.4, 118.6, 108.93, 108.9, 108.7, 107.3, 84.7, 29.3, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_5^+$ 402.1713, found 402.1685.

2-Amino-4-phenyl-9-propyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ba): White solid;



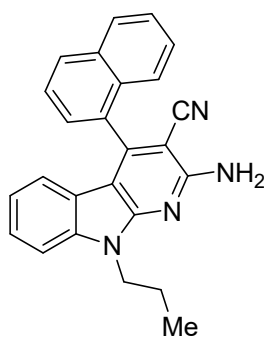
mp 173-175 °C; yield = 79%; R_f = 0.35 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.06 (m, 1H), 7.03–6.91 (m, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 1.91 (s, 2H), 1.00 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 153.0, 149.7, 139.5, 135.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 125.4, 121.0, 120.9, 120.5, 118.1, 109.3, 106.8, 84.1, 43.1, 21.9, 11.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_4^+$ 327.1604, found 327.1619.

2-Amino-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-9-propyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3bq):



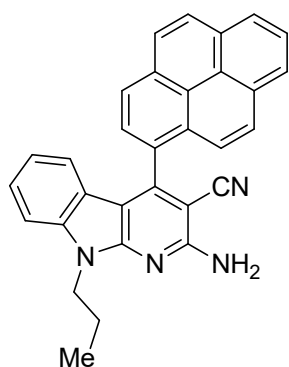
White solid; mp 190-192 °C; yield = 80%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 2H), 7.01–6.98 (m, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 4.40–4.17 (m, 2H), 2.07–1.76 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.4, 152.9, 146.2, 139.5, 134.6, 132.6, 130.7, 130.2, 130.1, 127.4, 125.6, 120.8, 120.7, 117.5, 109.3, 107.3, 84.2, 43.2, 22.0, 11.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_4^+$ 361.1215, found 361.1206.

2-Amino-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-9-propyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3bx):



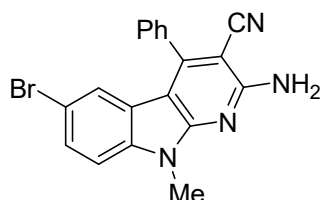
White solid; mp 182-184 °C; yield = 78%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 1H), 6.76 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 4.54–4.21 (m, 2H), 2.08–1.81 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 152.8, 148.0, 139.5, 133.6, 133.2, 130.5, 129.7, 128.5, 126.9, 126.5, 126.4, 125.6, 125.4, 125.1, 121.1, 120.7, 120.6, 117.7, 109.2, 108.2, 85.2, 43.2, 22.0, 11.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4^+$ 377.1761, found 377.1748.

2-Amino-9-propyl-4-(pyren-1-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3bu):



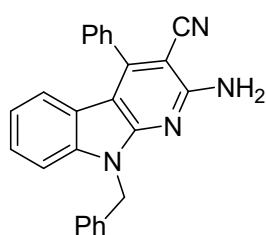
White solid; mp 203-205 °C; yield = 71%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.22–8.16 (m, 2H), 8.15 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.62 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 4.49–4.17 (m, 2H), 2.14–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.8, 152.9, 148.5, 139.6, 132.1, 131.3, 131.0, 130.2, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.4, 126.4, 126.3, 125.7, 125.6, 125.4, 125.1, 124.9, 124.8, 124.3, 121.1, 120.8, 120.7, 117.9, 109.2, 108.5, 85.6, 43.2, 22.0, 11.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 473.1737, found 473.1718.

2-Amino-6-bromo-9-methyl-4-phenyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3da):



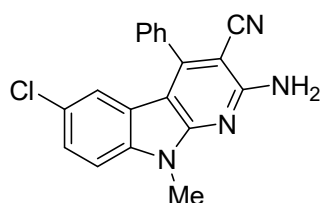
White solid; mp 193-195 °C; yield = 70%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.57–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.9, 153.2, 150.4, 138.7, 134.9, 130.0, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 123.5, 122.5, 117.7, 113.7, 110.4, 105.8, 84.6, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_4^+$ 377.0396, found 377.0414.

2-Amino-9-benzyl-4-phenyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile(3ca): White solid; mp



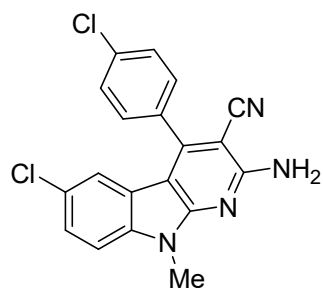
208-210 °C; yield = 73%; $R_f = 0.35$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67–7.54 (m, 5H), 7.33 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.56 (s, 2H), 5.30 (s, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.8, 153.1, 150.0, 139.3, 136.6, 135.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.0, 125.6, 121.1, 121.0, 120.9, 118.0, 109.8, 106.8, 84.5, 45.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_4^+$ 375.1604, found 375.1599.

2-Amino-6-chloro-9-methyl-4-phenyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3ea): White



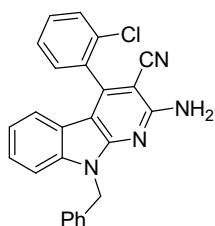
solid; mp 189-191 °C; yield = 71%; $R_f = 0.36$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 – 7.53 (m, 5H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.9, 153.4, 150.4, 138.4, 134.9, 129.9, 129.1, 128.4, 126.2, 125.5, 121.9, 120.6, 117.7, 109.9, 106.0, 84.6, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_4^+$ 333.0902, found 333.0888.

2-Amino-6-chloro-9-methyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile



(3ef): Light yellow solid; mp 215-217 °C; yield = 75%; $R_f = 0.33$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.9, 153.4, 148.9, 138.4, 136.1, 133.3, 129.9, 129.5, 126.4, 125.8, 121.7, 120.4, 117.6, 110.0, 105.8, 84.4, 27.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_4\text{Na}^+$ 389.0512, found 389.0306.

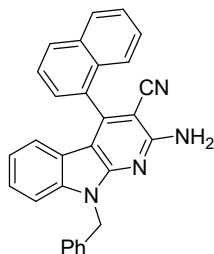
2-Amino-9-benzyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-*b*]indole-3-carbonitrile (3cq):



White solid; mp 185-187 °C; yield = 78%; $R_f = 0.37$ (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.37–7.11 (m, 7H), 7.01–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.63–5.49 (m, 2H), 5.30 (s, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 153.1, 146.5, 139.4, 136.5, 134.5, 132.6, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 128.8, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 125.8, 121.2, 120.8, 120.7, 117.3,

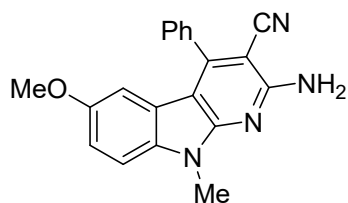
109.9, 107.4, 84.7, 45.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{18}ClN_4^+$ 409.1215, found 409.1210.

2-Amino-9-benzyl-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3cx):



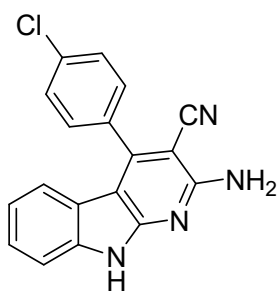
White solid; mp 199-201 °C; yield = 72%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.65–5.54 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.8, 152.9, 148.3, 139.3, 136.6, 133.6, 133.1, 130.4, 129.8, 128.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.1, 127.0, 126.5, 126.4, 125.5, 125.0, 121.1, 121.0, 120.9, 117.6, 109.7, 108.2, 85.7, 45.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{29}H_{21}N_4^+$ 425.1761, found 425.1786.

2-Amino-6-methoxy-9-methyl-4-phenyl-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3fa):



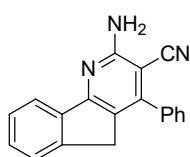
White solid; mp 194-196 °C; yield = 76%; R_f = 0.33 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.71–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.6, 154.5, 153.2, 149.8, 135.3, 134.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.6, 121.3, 118.1, 113.4, 109.5, 106.8, 105.0, 83.6, 55.6, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{16}N_4NaO^+$ 351.1216, found 351.1202.

2-Amino-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-9H-pyrido[2,3-b]indole-3-carbonitrile (3if): Yellow solid;



mp 203-205 °C; yield = 83%; R_f = 0.31 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ 10.98 (s, 1H), 8.10–9.99 (m, 1H), 7.81 – 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.54–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.08 (m, 1H), 6.43 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ 156.5, 143.6, 143.5, 136.4, 134.8, 132.8, 131.6, 129.5, 129.2, 124.7, 121.4, 120.6, 119.8, 118.0, 112.7, 87.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{11}ClN_4Na^+$ 341.0564, found 341.0547.

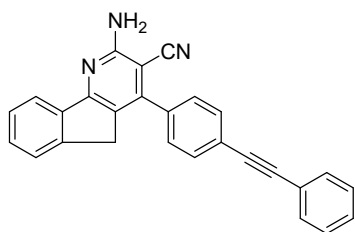
2-Amino-4-phenyl-5H-indeno[1,2-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile(3ga): White solid; mp 191-



193 °C; yield = 76%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 15:85); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.02 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.48 (m, 6H), 7.48–7.42

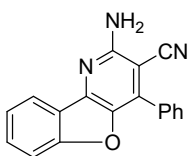
(m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.9, 160.9, 150.4, 145.8, 139.6, 135.6, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.4, 127.5, 125.2, 125.1, 121.9, 117.5, 88.0, 33.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3^+$ 284.1182, found 284.1179.

2-Amino-4-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)-5H-indeno[1,2-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile(3gl):



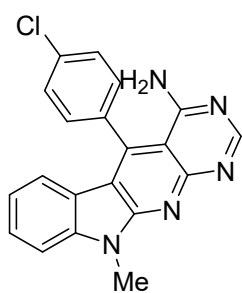
Light yellow solid; mp 195-197 °C; yield = 72%; R_f = 0.36 (EtOAc/hexane = 15:85); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10-8.01 (m, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60–7.50 (m, 5H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.40 -7.30 (m, 3H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.7, 149.8, 145.8, 139.4, 135.1, 132.0, 131.7, 130.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 125.2, 125.1, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 117.3, 91.1, 88.6, 87.7, 33.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3^+$ 384.1495, found 384.1523.

2-Amino-4-phenylbenzofuro[3,2-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile(3ha):³ White solid; mp 201-



203 °C; yield = 75%; R_f = 0.34 (EtOAc/hexane = 25:75); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.12 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.48 (m, 5H), 7.42 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.1, 158.0, 146.1, 144.2, 141.0, 130.9, 130.7, 130.4, 129.6, 128.9, 123.7, 122.2, 122.0, 117.1, 112.5, 88.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ 286.0975, found 286.0998.

5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-10-methyl-10H-pyrimido[5',4':5,6]pyrido[2,3-b]indol-4-amine (5af):



Yellow solid; mp 260-262 °C; yield = 91%; R_f = 0.35 (EtOAc/hexane = 80:20); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 18.4, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.9, 158.2, 157.3, 154.5, 142.6, 140.5, 136.2, 135.7, 130.6, 129.5, 128.3, 122.4, 121.0, 120.2, 116.7, 109.3, 102.1, 27.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_5^+$ 360.1010, found 360.1040.

The relative quantum yield was evaluated by employing the following equation:

$$\Phi = \Phi_S \cdot I / I_S \cdot OD_S / OD \cdot \eta^2 / \eta_S^2$$

where, Φ is the quantum yield, I is the integrated intensity at a specified wavelength, OD is the optical density at the same excitation wavelength and η is the refractive index of the solvent used for dissolution. The subscript S refers to the standard quinine sulfate ($\Phi = 0.54$ in $0.1M H_2SO_4$).

References:

1. (a) K. Selvaraj and K. C. K. Swamy, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2018, **83**, 15043; (b) G. Sheng, K. Huang, Z. Chi, H. Ding, Y. Xing, P. Lu and Y. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 5096. (c) S. Debnath, A. S. Kumar, S. Chauhan and K. C. Kumara Swamy, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2021, **86**, 11583; (d) G. Sheng, K. Huang, Z. Chi, H. Ding, Y. Xing, P. Lu and Y. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 5096. (e) R. Ma, X. Wang, Q. Zhang, L. Chen, J. Gao, J. Feng, D. Wei and D. Du, *Org. Lett.*, 2021, **23**, 4267.
2. (a) R.V. Hangarge, S.A. Sonwane, D.A. Jarikote and M. S. Shingare, *Green Chem.*, 2001, **3**, 310; (b) N. Salaverri, B. Carli, Gratal, B. Patrici, L. Marzo and J. Aleman, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2022, **364**, 1689; (c) M. Lian, J. Liu, S. Tang, G. Liu, C. Ma, Q. Meng, H. Peng and D. Zhu, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 2597.
3. Q. Wu, Y. Zhang and S. Cui, *Org. Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 1350.

