Navigation

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December 2018: Volume8, Issue12

**1. Identification of Potent Lead Molecules for Furin Receptor Through HTVS and Molecular Docking**
*Harsha Vardhan P, Vikas Reddy V, Mourya Reddy Ch, Rathi Suganya P*
**Abstract**

**2. Evaluation of TNF-A Expression After Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells (ASCs) Treatment Combined with Freeze-Dried Amniotic Membrane Wrapping in Rat Sciatic Nerve Defect Model**
*Utomo P, Permatasari N, Fibrianto Y H, Widodo M A*
**Abstract**

**3 Drug-Hormone Interference Affects Pituitary-Thyroid-Adrenal Axis in Urinary Tract Infection**
*Ahmed A Abd-Rabou, Hanaa H Ahmed, Emad F Eskander*
**Abstract**

**4 Altered Acetylcholinesterase and $Na^+$-$K^+$ATPase Activities in Different Areas of Brain in Relation to Thyroid Gland Function and Morphology Under the Influence of Excess Iodine**
*Jagadis Mandal, Arijit Chakraborty, Amar K Chandra*
**Abstract**

Barrier Transmigration Using the Novel Chrysin Embedded Solid Lipid Nanoformulation: A Salient Approach on Physico-Chemical Characterization, Pharmacokinetics and Biodistribution Studies

f Staphylococci Concerning Strains Included in Food Industry in Egypt

uad E A, Gaber E S

**7 Antiobesity Effect of *Benincasa hispida* Fruit Extract in High Fat Diet Fed Wistar Albino Rats**

*Nadhiya K, Vijayalakshmi K, Gaddam Aadinath Reddy G*

**Abstract**

**8 Fas-Ligand and Granzyme-b Levels in Children with Nephrotic Syndrome**

*Gamila S M Elsaeed, Manal F Elshamaa, Doaa M Salah, Enas Mokhtar, Tarek Farid, Eman A Elghoroury*

**Abstract**

**9 Synthesis and Molecular Docking Study of 4-Chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3h]-One Derivatives as COX-2 Inhibitor**

*Tutuk Budiati, Suko Hardjono, Melanny Ika Sulistyowaty*

**Abstract**

**10 Formulation and Evaluation of Moxifloxacin Ocusert**

*Gadhave M V, Pawar Sagar Dhondiram, Khilari Shobha Sopan, Gaikwad D D, Jadhav S J, Vjsm's*

**Abstract**

**ation of Thymoquinone Using Solid Lipid Nanoparticle for very: Physicochemical Characterization, Pharmacokinetics dies**

*Surekha R, Sumathi T*

**s of *Flacourtia rukam* Zoli. & Moritzi Fruit**

*Madeleine Ann Reyes, Theresa Joyce Tabin, Maria Carmen S ert Brkljača, Sylvia Urban*

**Abstract**

**13 Impact of Tobacco Smoking on Renal Function Tests in Asymptomatic Individuals**

*Fateheya M Metwally, Asmaa Mahmoud Mohammed*

**Abstract**

**14 Effect of Progressive Muscle Relaxation and Aerobic Exercise on Anxiety, Sleep Quality, and Fatigue in Patients with Chronic Renal Failure Undergoing Hemodialysis**

*Elham Amini, Iraj Goudarzi, Reza Masoudi, Ali Ahmadi, Ali Momeni*

**Abstract**

**15 Comparative Medication Histories Between Newly Hospitalized Hypertensive Patients and Hypertensive Outpatients in Cote D'Ivoire**

*Danho Pascal Abrogoua, Annick Grah, Armand Angely Koffi, Elisée Doffou, Beugré Kouassi, Toussaint Toutou*

**Abstract**

**16 Isolation and Identification of Flavonoid Fractions from the Leaves of *Volkameria inermis* and its *In-vitro* Cytotoxic Study**

*Lavanya Krishnadhas, Santhi R, Annapurani*

**Abstract**

**17 Comparative Evaluation of Antimicrobial Properties of Leaf Extracts of *Achyranthes aspera* Plant and Chlorohexidine Against *Streptococcus mutans, Enterococcus***

***faecalis*** **and Whole Salivary Samples of Children in Mixed Dentition Age Group**

*U R, Shep S V, Gupta S L*

Pharmaceutics Focussed Journal

Pharmacology Focussed Journal

**s from *Ficus ampelas* Burm.F.**

*Consolacion Y Ragasa, Maria Roxanne Macuha, Mariquit M De Los Reyes, Emelina H Mandia, Chien-Chang Shen*

Pharmaceutical Analysis Journal

Clinical Research Focussed Journal

**R-2 and TLR-4 Protein in the Epithelial Cells of the Oral ecurrent Apthous Stomatitis (RAS)**

*Dian Savitri Ernawati, Desiana Radithia, Bagus Soebadi, Aulanni'Am Aulanni'Am*

**Abstract**

**20 Chemical Constituents of *Melanolepis multiglandulosa* (Reinw. Ex Blume)**

*Phelan G Apostol, Mariquit M De Los Reyes, Ian A Van Altena, Consolacion Y Ragasa*

**Abstract**

**21 Moderate Concentrations of TNF- α Induce BMP-2 Expression in Endothelial Cells**

*Oski Illiandri, Hidayat Sujuti, Nungki Permatasari, Setyawati Soeharto*

**Abstract**

**22 Antibacterial Activity of Several Plant Extracts Against *Proteus species***

*Wurood Alwan Kadhim, Mohanad Jawad Kadhim, Imad Hadi Hameed*

**Abstract**

**23 Medicinal Plants Used for Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Review**

*Mohanad Jawad Kadhim, Ashwak Falih Kaizal, Imad Hadi Hameed*

**Abstract**


The SJR indicator measures the scientific influence of the average article in a journal, it expresses how central to the global scientific discussion an average article of the journal is. The above trend is for 2009-2016 during which journal was indexed with scopus. Cites per Doc. (2y) measures the scientific impact of an average article published in the journal, it is computed using the same formula that journal impact factor ™ (Thomson Reuters).

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Research Article

# Synthesis and Molecular Docking Study of 4-Chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3h]-One Derivatives as COX-2 Inhibitor

Tutuk Budiati*, Suko Hardjono, Melanny Ika Sulistyowaty

*Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Airlangga*

*Available Online: 25th December, 2016*

**ABSTRACT**

According to data from the World Health Organization in 2014, cancer was the second biggest cause of death after heart disease. Several attempts have been made to produce the anticancer drug candidate. Modification of molecules against cancer drugs have been done so they became more effective and efficient. One mechanism of action of cancer drugs is to inhibit COX-2. Quinazolinone derivative compounds has anticancer activity, so this study synthesized some phenylquinazolinone derivatives. Virtual screening was carried out through docking the design compounds into the binding site of COX-2 enzyme (PDB code 3LN1) to predict if these compounds had analogous binding mode to the COX-2 inhibitor. Results obtained in the form of bond energy, indicated by the value of RS. Novel of phenylquinazolinone (**4a-h**) have been synthesized using anthranilic acid as starting material in three steps reaction. The purity of synthesized compounds was tested by TLC and m.p. data. The structures of the synthesized compound were identified using UV, IR and $^1$H-NMR spectra. The small RS value indicated a molecular bond that was stable and predictable had high activity. The smallest RS value was -122.54 kcal / mol and synthesized ranged between 70-85%.

**Keyword**: molecular docking, synthesis, phenylquinazolinone, cyclooxygenase-2.

## INTRODUCTION

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in the world, the second after cardiovascular disease. According to the WHO (2014), breast cancer became the most common cancer in women[1]. This fact makes many researchers in the world try to design a new effective anticancer drug. Breast cancer is a multi-factorial disease caused by epigenetic changes and genetic mutations that occur in genes directly involved in the process of cell division and programmed cell death[2].

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) appear to reduce the risk of developing cancer. One mechanism through which NSAIDs act to reduce carcinogenesis is to inhibit the activity of cyclooxy-genase-2 (COX-2), an enzyme that is over-expressed in various cancer tissue. Over-expression of COX-2 increases cell proliferation and inhibits apoptosis. Several attempts have been made to produce the anticancer drug candidate. Modification of molecules against cancer drugs have been done so they became more effective and efficient. One mechanism of action of cancer drugs is to inhibit COX-2. Quinazolinone derivative compounds have anticancer activity, Compounds containing the 4[3H]-quinazolinone ring system posses various biological activities[3]. Some 2,3-diaryl-4[3H]-quinazolinone derivatives exhibit COX-2 inhibitory and anti-inflammatory activities[4,5]. The majority of COX-2 inhibitors are diaryl heterocycles. The heterocycle part could be a five- or six membered ring, a quinazoline ring, or as a acyclic form (Fig. 1: a, b, c). The precence of *para*-sulfonamides or *para*-sulfonylmethanes on one of the aryl ring was found to be essential for optimum COX-2 selectivity and inhibitory potency[6]. On the other aryl ring, no specific substituents were needed.

So, in this study, we will synthesize some 4-chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3H]-ones (Fig. 1d), followed by molecular docking and *in silico* studies that were carried out in an attempt to evaluate the drug candidature as COX-2 inhibitor.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

*Chemistry.*

*General Procedures*

All solvents, chemicals, and reagents were obtained commercially and used without purification. Purity test of the products was performed by the TLC methods on silica gel 60 F254 plates (Merck). Spot detection was performed with UV 254 nm. Melting points were measured with an Electrothermal melting point apparatus without correction. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded in KBr pellet on a FTIR spectrophotometer (Jasco FT-IR 5300). $^1$H-NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL NMR 500 spectrometer, using TMS as internal standard.

*Synthesis of 4-chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3h]-one derivatives*

The title compounds **4a-h** was synthesized stepwise by the method summarized in Scheme 1.

*Synthesis of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4H-3,1-benzo-xazin-4-one* **(2)**.

4-chlorobenzoyl chloride (0.015mol) was added drop wise to a stirred solution of anthranilic acid **(1)** (0.01mol)

**Author for Correspondence: tutukbudiati@yahoo.com.*

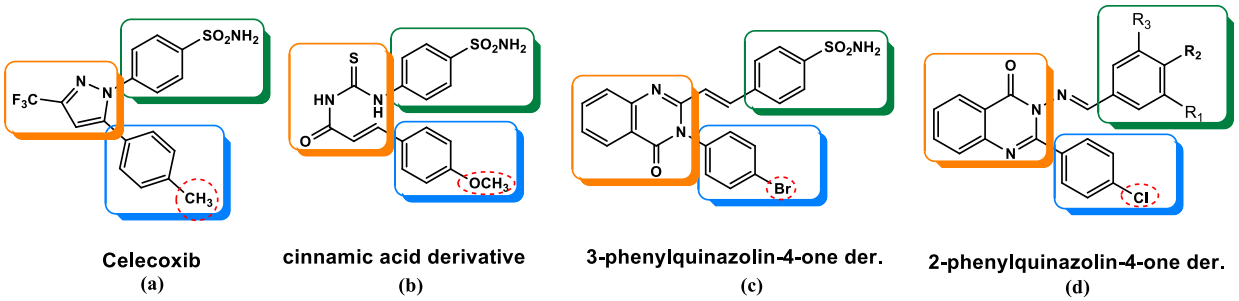
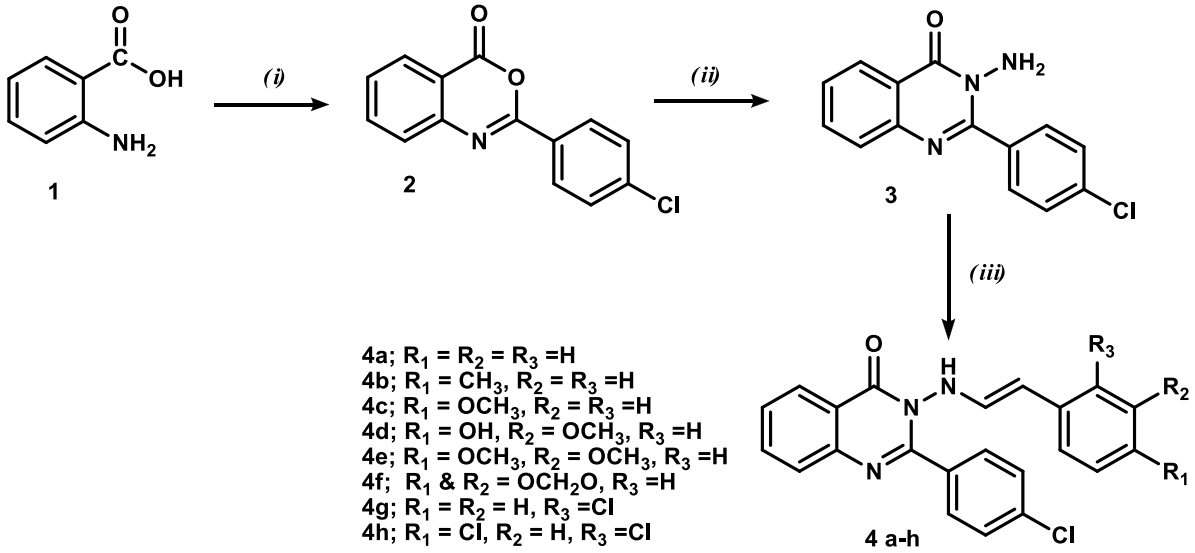



Figure 1: The similarity of some compounds that act as COX-2 inhibitor.




Scheme 1: *Synthesis of 4-chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3H]-ones*
*Reagents and conditions*: (i) 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride, pyridine, r.t., 1 h.
(ii) hydrazine hydrate, ethanol, reflux, 3h.
(iii) benzaldehydes, HCl, ethanol, r.t., 1h.

Table 1: Yields and m.p. of 4-chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3H]-ones.

| Compound No. | Substituents ($R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$) | Yields (%) | m.p. ($^0$C) | Rerank Score (RS) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | 85 ± 3 | 171 - 173 | |
| 3 | | 76 ± 5 | 225 - 226 | |
| 4a | $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = H$ | 73 ± 2 | 237 - 239 | -112.90 |
| 4b | $R_1 = CH_3$, $R_2 = R_3 = H$ | 85 ± 1 | 254 - 256 | -106.15 |
| 4c | $R_1 = OCH_3$, $R_2 = R_3 = H$ | 79 ± 1 | 229 - 231 | -112.75 |
| 4d | $R_1 = OH$, $R_2 = OCH_3$, $R_3 = H$ | 86 ± 2 | 240 - 242 | -122,54 |
| 4e | $R_1 = OCH_3$, $R_2 = OCH_3$, $R_3 = H$ | 82 ± 1 | 255 - 257 | -105,65 |
| 4f | $R_1$ & $R_2 = OCH_2O$, $R_3 = H$ | 77 ± 2 | 239 - 240 | -122,05 |
| 4g | $R_1 = R_2 = H$, $R_3 = Cl$ | 70 ± 1 | 223 - 224 | -115,83 |
| 4h | $R_1 = Cl$, $R_2 = H$, $R_3 = Cl$ | 65 ± 3 | 243 -245 | -117,40 |
| 4i | Celecoxib | | | -139.61 |

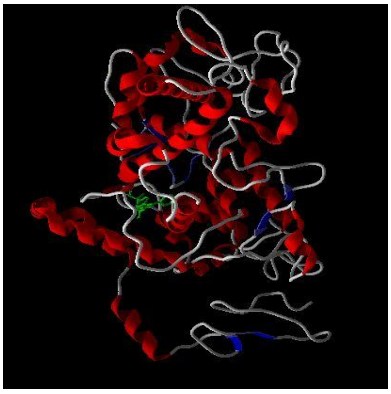
in pyridine (30 ml) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto cold water and filtered off through a Buchner funnel. The solid product was washed with cold 10% $Na_2CO_3$ solution. The solid obtained was filtered, wash several times with water and crystallized from aceton-water.

*Synthesis of 3-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quina-zolin-4(3H)-one***(3)**.

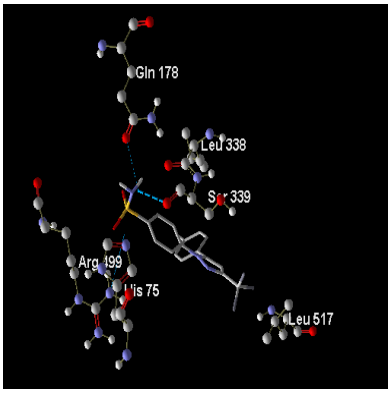
A mixture of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-one**(2)** (0.01mol) and hydrazine hydrate (0.02mol) in ethanol (50ml) was heated under reflux for 3 h. The separated solid was filtered, washed with water and crystallized with ethanol.

*Synthesis of (E)-3-(benzylideneamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one* derivatives **(4a-h)**

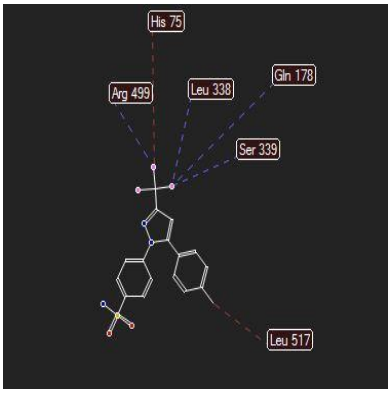
3-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **(3)**, benzaldehyde or their derivatives (0.015mol) and 2 drops HCl in ethanol (30ml) were mixed and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto cold water and filtered off through a Buchner funnel. The solid product was washed with cold 10% $Na_2CO_3$



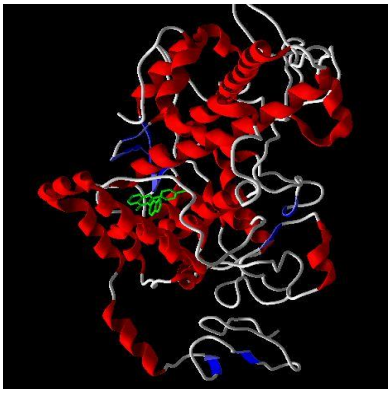
Celecoxib Position in 3LN1



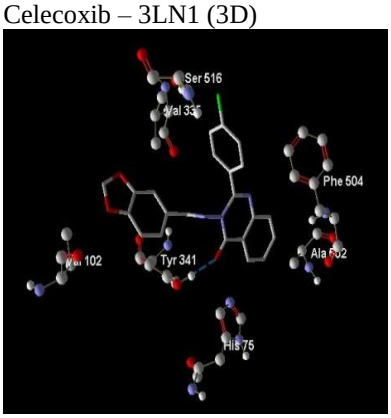

Hydrogen bond in interaction of Celecoxib – 3LN1 (3D)



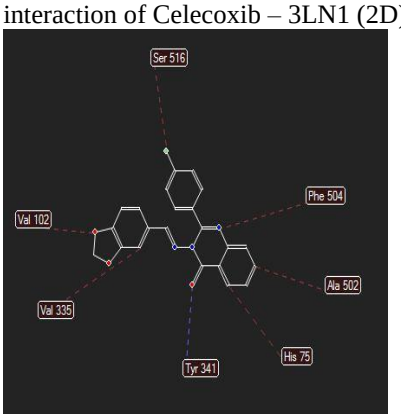

Hydrogen and Steric bond in interaction of Celecoxib – 3LN1 (2D)



Compound 4f Position in 3LN1




Hydrogen bond in interaction of Compound 4f – 3LN1 (3D)




Hydrogen and Steric bond in interaction of Compound 4f – 3LN1 (2D)

Figure 2: Molecular docking of Celecoxib and Compound 4f in interaction with 3LN1.

solution. The separated solid was filtered, washed with water and crystallized with ethanol.

*Molecular Docking Study*

To estimate the anticancer activity of derivatives of some 4-chlorophenyl-quinazoline-4-[3H]-ones, molecular docking was performed using Molegro Virtual Docker (MVD) Ver.5.5. We used receptor cyclooxygenase-2 or COX-2, (PDB code: 3LN1) as the target protein. 3LN1 is a receptor model of celecoxib inhibitor, with the ligand code: S58_701. The most stable chemical conformation of the target compounds was determined. The active conformation of 3LN1 and S58_701 was selected for the preparation step. Cavity was detected to select the pocket binding site (active site of the enzyme). The target compounds (**4a-h**) and celecoxib, were then docked on to the protein, on the same cavity. The results, concluded which conformation produced the lowest energy state when bound to the target protein, were shown as rerank score (RS).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

*Chemistry*

In the present work, an attempt has been made to undertake the synthesis of some 4-chlorophenyl-quinazoline-4-[3H]-ones through a multi step process. For this purpose, the required 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-one **(2)** was prepared by cyclisation reaction between anthranilic acid **1** and 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride at room temperature using pyridine as a solvent and also a base. Formation of the product was confirmed by a sharp band at 1768 $cm^{-1}$ due to the presence of carbonyl group along with a peak at 1249 $cm^{-1}$ for C-O stretching in IR spectra. In the $^1$H-NMR spectra showed eight protons of the two benzenoid rings appear as multiplet peak at 7.51 – 8.20 ppm. Benzoxazine **(2)** was converted to 3-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **(3)** by its nucleophilicsubstitution reaction with hydrazine hydrate in ethanol under reflux condition for 3 hours. Insertion of nitrogen in the ring was characterized by disappearance of band at 1249 $cm^{-1}$ of C-O and shift of carbonyl band from 1768 to 1662 $cm^{-1}$. Appearance of new peaks near 3299 and 3209 $cm^{-1}$ for N-H stretching also helped in assigning structure of **(3)**. In the $^1$H-NMR spectra showed eight protons at 7.26 – 8.27 ppm (multiplet), and a broad singlet peak of two protons of $NH_2$ at 4,46 – 4.92 ppm. When **(3)** was treated with different benzaldehydes using HCl as catalyst in ethanol and stirred at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction goes by its condensation afforded corresponding arylidenes derivatives **(4a-h)** in quantitative yields. The existence of donor-electron groups in the *para* position of benzaldehydes will facilitate modthe reaction so that the yield is high. On the other hand, electron-withdrawing group, such as Clsubstituent, will complicate the reaction. Substituent in the *ortho* position will decrease the reaction yield (Table 1). The formation of **4a** was

proved bythe existence of the benzilidene group; it was identified from NMR spectra, ie there is one proton signal at 11.92 (s, 1H) (compound **6a**) or 11.55 (s, 1H) (compound **6b**) which is a proton from = C-H. Lactam ring-6 remains from the IR spectra in the wave number of 1657 (**6a**) or 1671 $cm^{-1}$ (**6b**).

*Molecular Docking Study Result*

The molecular docking study of tested compounds with receptor 3LN1 is shown in Table 1. Rerank score (**RS**) is a parameter which strictly determines potential activity of drug-receptor. It is also a logarithmic cumulative energy between drug-receptor interaction by hydrogen, electronic, and steric bond interaction. The smaller rerank score shows the smaller amount of energy required in forming drug-receptor interaction that give an assumption the drug is more suitable to occupying active site of the receptor. Therefore, compound which has the lower rerank score than the ligand, to be estimated has stronger activity than the ligand's. Table 2 showed the rerank scores of the tested compounds, including the ligand, Celecoxib. The synthesized compounds (**4a-h**) have RS score range at -105.65 to -122.54; lower than the **RS** of celecoxib.

*Experimental Section*

*2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-one* **(2)**.

A brownish yellow crystalline powder was obtained, yield 85%; mp. 171 - 173$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm: 288 and 300. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 1768, 1611, 1479, 1316, 1249, 764. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.51 – 8.20 (multiplet), 8H.

*3-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(3)**.

A white crystalline powder was obtained, yield 76%; mp. 224 - 226$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 240; 274 and 304. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: : 3299 & 3209, 1662, 1596, 1442, 1316, 748. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.26 – 8.27 (multiplet), 8H; 4,46 – 4.92 (singlet), 2H.

*(E)-3-(benzylideneamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4a)**

White crystalline powder, yield 73%; mp. 237 - 239$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 292 and 306. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3058, 1674, 1594, 1443, 1279, 752. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.27 – 8.57 (multiplet), 13H; 11.99 (singlet), 1H.

*(E)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-methylbenzylideneamino)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4b)**.

white voluminous powder; yield 85%; mp. 255 - 256$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 320. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3058, 2938, 1674, 1595, 1442, 1312, 750. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.23 – 8.69 (multiplet), 12H; 12.00 (singlet), 1H; 2,38 (singlet), 3H.

*(E)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene-amino)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4c)**.

White voluminous powder; yield 79%; mp. 229 - 230$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 322. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3026, 2920, 1680, 1598, 1445, 1319, 745. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 6.81 – 8.64 (multiplet), 12H; 12.07 (singlet), 1H; 3.81 (singlet), 3H.

*(E)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylideneamino)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4d)**.

white voluminous powder; yield 86%; mp. 240 - 241$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 330. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3485 *sh*, 3045, 2949, 1670, 1633, 1440, 1278, 1023, 751. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 6.81 – 8.57 (multiplet), 11H; 11.93 (singlet), 1H; 3.85 (singlet), 3H; 9.56 (singlet), 1H.

*(E)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxybenzylideneamino)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4e).**

white voluminous powder; yield 82%; mp. 255 - 256$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 249 and 330. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3025, 2919, 1679, 1636, 1447, 1268, 1020, 746. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 6.98 – 8.55 (multiplet), 11H; 11.94 (singlet), 1H; 3.82 (singlet), 6H.

*(E)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyleneamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one* **(4f).**

white voluminous powder; yield 77%; mp. 239 - 240$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 295 and 330. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3061, 2901, 1643, 1522, 1438, 1313, 1020, 739. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 6.95 – 8.57 (multiplet), 11H; 11.97 (singlet), 1H; 6.10 (singlet), 2H.

*(E)-3-(2-chlorobenzylideneamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4g).**

white voluminous powder; yield 70%; mp. 223 - 224$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 294 and 312. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3053, 2920, 1682, 1599, 1447, 1271, 746. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.20 – 8.87 (multiplet), 12H; 12.07 (doublet), 1H.

*(E)-3-(2,4-dichlorobenzylideneamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one***(4h)**.

white voluminous powder; yield 65%; mp. 243 - 244$^0$C; UV-Vis (EtOH), nm.: 318. IR (KBr) $\nu_{max,}$ $cm^{-1}$: 3053, 2919, 1674, 1596, 1446, 1278, 757. $^1$H-NMR (DMSO-$d_6$), □/ppm: 7.21 – 8.59 (multiplet), 11H; 12.03 (singlet), 1H.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, we had synthesized some derivatives of 4-chlorophenylquinazoline-4-[3H]-ones, with the range of 65% to 86% yields. From *in silico* study data the smallest RS value was -122.54 kcal/mol. The molecular docking study signified that the compounds can act as COX-2 inhibitor. The *generated pharmacophore could further be* used to design and develop new drugs.

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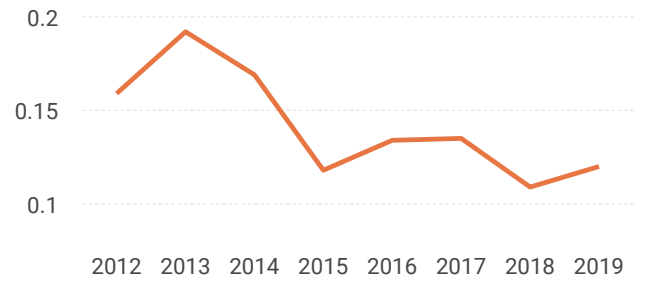


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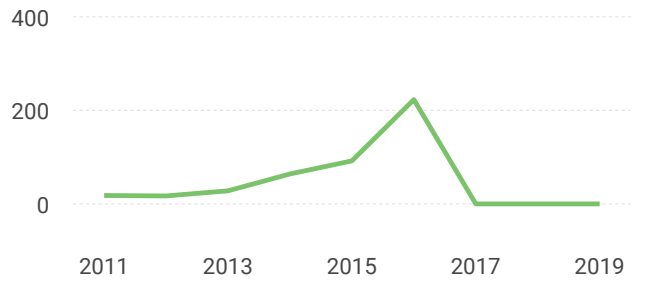


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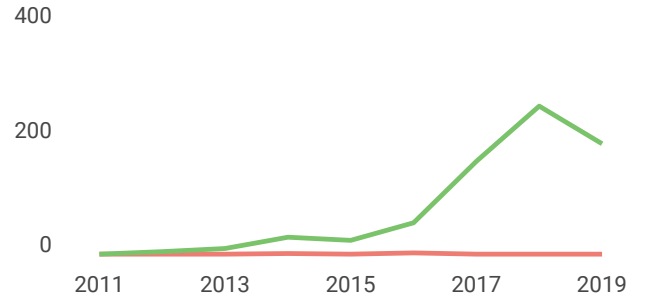


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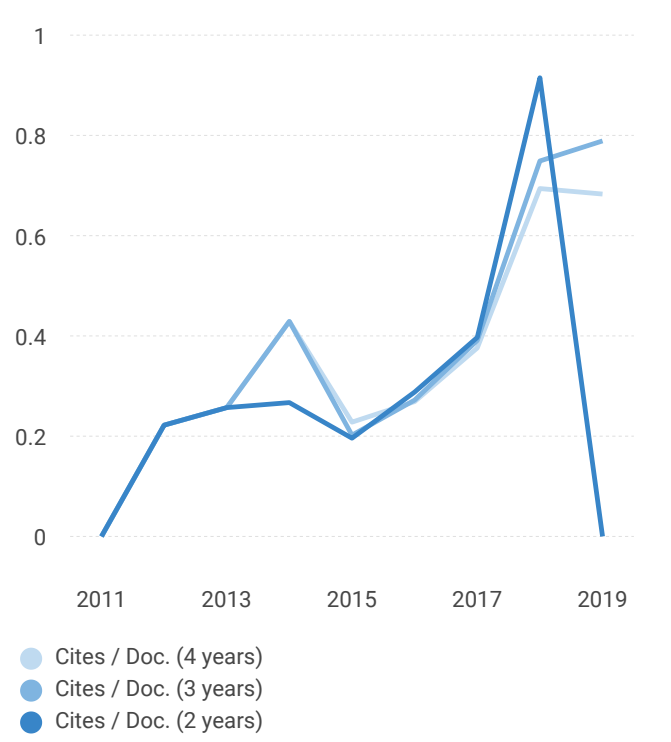


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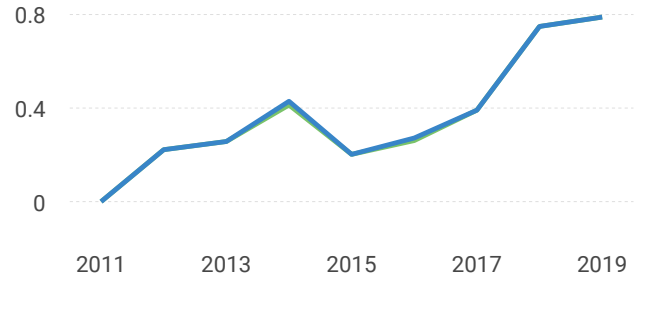


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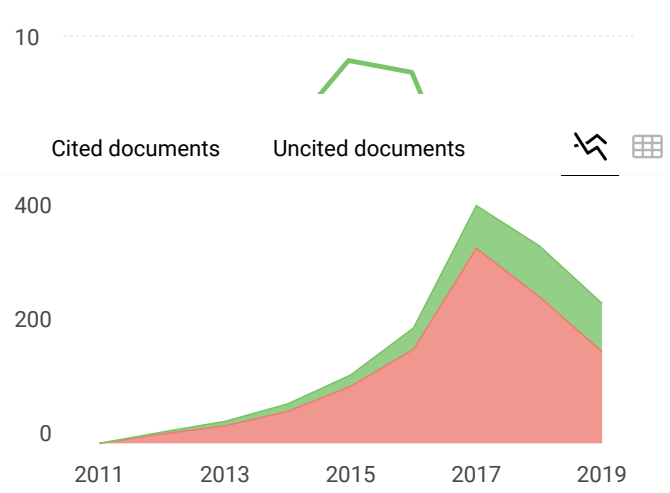



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