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Novel heterocyclic derivatives of pyrano[3,2-*c*]quinolinone from 3-(1-ethy1-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1*H*)-quinolin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanoic acid

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1. Introduction

4-Hydroxyquinolin-2(1H)-ones represents one of the most important class of heterocycles possessing wide spectrum of biological activities [1-8]. Heating N-ethylaniline with two equivalent diethylmalonate gave 4-hydroxypyrano[3,2-c]quinolin-2(1*H*)one (1) in one-pot double cyclocondensation process [9,10]. The pyranoquinolinone **1** is a valuable intermediate for the synthesis of a variety of quinolin-2-ones bearing various functional groups in position 3 via chemical degradation of pyrone ring in compound 1. For example, degradation of 1 in boiling 2N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution yielded 1-ethyl-3-acetyl-4-hydroxyquinolin-2(1*H*)-one through pyrone ring opening, followed by decarboxylation [11,12]. In continuation to previous research on 4hydroxyquinolin-2(1*H*)-ones [13-18], the present paper reports the synthesis of the new 3-(1-ethy1-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1*H*)-quinolin-3-yl)-3-oxo-propanoic acid (2) and the study of its chemical reactivity towards some ortho-hydroxyaldehydes and ortho-aminoaldehydes, in search of new quinolinone derivatives of potential biological activity.

2. Experimental

2.1. Instrumentation

Melting points were determined on a digital Stuart SMP3 apparatus. Infrared spectra were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 293 spectrophotometer (cm⁻¹), using KBr disks. ¹H NMR spectra were measured on Gemini-200 (200 MHz) and/or Mercury-300BB (300MHz) spectrometers, using DMSO- d_6 as solvent and TMS (δ) as internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Mercury-300BB (75MHz) spectrometer, using

ABSTRACT

3-(1-Ethyl-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1*H*)-quinolin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanoic acid (2) has been synthesized. The chemical behaviour of β -ketoacid 2 was studied towards condensation reactions with salicylaldelyde, 2-hydroxy-1-naphthaldehyde, 1-phenyl-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-quinoline-3-carboxaldehyde, 2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine-3-carboxaldehyde, 2-amino-3-formylchromone and its 8-allyl analog, 3-cyanochromone and its 8-allyl analog. Structures of the newly synthesized products have been deduced from their elemental analysis and spectral data.

DMSO- d_6 as solvent and TMS (δ) as internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained using a GC-2010 Shimadzu Gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (70 eV) instrument. Elemental microanalyses were performed on a Perkin–Elmer CHN-2400 analyzer.

2.2. 3-(1-Ethy1-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1H)-quinolin-3-yl)-3oxopropanoic acid (2)

A solution of 6-ethyl-4-hydroxy-2*H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]quino line-2,5(6H)-dione (1) (25.7 g, 100 mmol) in 1N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution (250 mL) was warmed at 40-50 °C for 30 min (Scheme 1). The solution so formed was filtered and the clear solution was acidified with 10% HCl. The precipitate so formed was filtered, washed several times with water, air dried and crystallized from acetic acid to give 2 as yellow crystals. M.p.: 226 °C. Yield: 21 g, 76%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3429 (OH), 3220 (OH), 3074 (CHarom.), 2978, 2934, 2869 (CH₃, CH₂), 1727 (C=O_{carboxy}), 1673 (C=O_{quinolinone}), 1613 (C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, δ): 1.26 (t, 3H, J=6.8 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 4.35 (q, 2H, J=6.8 Hz, CH2CH3), 5.56 (s, 2H, CH2), 7.48 (d, 1H, J=6.8 Hz, H-8), 7.84 (m, 2H, H-6 and H-7), 8.06 (d, 1H, /= 8.0 Hz, H-5), 12.02 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{carboxy}), 13.41 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{quinolinone}). M/z (relative intensity): 257 (M⁺ - H₂O), 229 (100), 214 (9), 200 (79), 184 (11), 158 (12), 118 (6), 104 (4), 77 (3). Anal. Calcd for C14H13NO5 (275.26): C, 61.06; H, 4.76; N, 5.09%. Found C, 61.31; H, 4.99; N, 5.31%.

2.3. 2-[(1-Ethyl-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-quinolin-3-yl)carbonyl)]-3-(2-hydroxy phenyl)-prop-2-enoic acid (3)

A mixture of β -ketoacid **2** (0.55 g, 2 mmol) and salicylaldehyde (0.21 mL, 2 mmol), in glacial acetic acid (10

mL) and freshly fused sodium acetate (0.2 g), was heated at reflux for 3h (Scheme 2). The yellow crystals obtained after cooling were filtered and recrystallized from acetic acid to give **3** as yellow crystals. M.p.: 256 °C. Yield: 0.37 g, 49%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3429 (OH), 3045 (CH_{arom.}), 2975, 2890 (CH₃, CH₂), 1724 (C=O_{carboxy}), 1642 (C=O_{quinolinone}), 1603 (C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.14 (t, 3H, *J*=6.8 Hz, CH₃), 4.17 (q, 2H, *J*=6.8 Hz, CH₂), 5.70 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 7.36–7.88 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 8.15-8.18 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 11.72 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{salicylaldehyde}), 14.69 (br, 2H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{quinoline} and OH_{carboxy}). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₁₇NO₆ (379.36): C, 66.49; H, 4.52; N, 3.69%. Found: C, 66.42; H, 4.36; N, 3.46%.







2.4. 6-Ethyl-3-(2-hydroxybenzylidene)-2H-pyrano[3,2c]quinoline-2,4,5(3H,6H) trione (4)

2.4.1. Method A

Compound **3** (0.379 g, 1 mmol) in concentrated H_2SO_4 (5 mL) was heated on a water bath for 2h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured onto ice/water, the precipitate so formed was filtered, washed several times with H_2O and crystallized from DMF to give **4** as yellow crystals. M.p.: 240-241 °C. Yield: 0.23 g, 64% (Scheme 2).

2.4.2. Method B

A mixture of compound **1** (0.514 g, 2 mmol) and salicylaldehyde (0.21 mL, 2 mmol), in glacial acetic acid (10 mL) and freshly fused sodium acetate (0.2 g), was heated at reflux for 3h, the yellow crystals obtained after cooling were filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **4** as yellow crystals (Scheme 2). M.p.: 241 °C. Yield: 0.41 g, 57%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3430 (OH), 3044 (CH_{arom.}), 2976, 2920 (CH₃, CH₂), 1725 (OC=0), 1642 (C=Oquinolinone), 1611 (C=Oketone). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.13 (t, 3H, *J*= 6.9 Hz, CH₃), 4.13 (q, 2H, *J*= 6.9 Hz, CH₂), 7.29-7.43 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.69 (t, 1H, *J*= 7.5 Hz, Ar-H), 7.78-7.82 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.13 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 12.4 (CH₃), 36.2 (CH₂), 106.5 (C4_a), 114.8 (C7), 116.1 (C3'), 118.3 (C5'), 120.5 (C_{10a}), 122.1 (C9), 125.6 (C4'), 125.3 (C_{6'}), 129.1 (C₈), 130.1 (C₁₀), 132.5 (C₃), 135.2 (C1'), 139.0 (C_{6a}), 140.4 (CH_{methine}), 153.3 (C_{10b} as C-O), 157.4 (C2'), 168.9 (C5

as C=O), 173.3 (C₂ as C=O), 201.5 (C₄ as C=O). M/z (relative intensity): 362 (M⁺ +1, 28), 361 (M⁺, 100), 332 (22), 304 (11), 288 (67), 261 (11), 188 (25), 160 (8), 132 (10), 118 (6), 101 (3), 77 (2). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{15}NO_5$ (361.35): C, 69.80; H, 4.18; N, 3.88%. Found: C, 69.43; H, 4.26; N, 3.79%.

2.5. 2-[(1-Ethyl-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-quinolin-3yl)carbonyl]-3-(1-hydroxy naphthalen-2-yl)-prop-2-enoic acid (6)

A mixture of β-ketoacid **2** (0.55 g, 2 mmol) and 2-hydroxy-1-naphthaldehyde (0.344 g, 2 mmol), in glacial acetic acid (10 mL) and freshly fused sodium acetate (0.2 g), was heated under reflux for 4h (Scheme 3). The yellow crystals obtained after cooling were filtered and recrystallized from acetic acid to give **6** as yellow crystals. M.p.: 280 °C. Yield: 0.39 g, 45%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3496, 3350, 3200 (30H), 3063 (CH_{arom}), 2979, 2885 (CH₃, CH₂), 1719 (C=O_{carboxy}), 1617 (C=O_{quinolinone} and C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.13 (t, 3H, *J*=7.8 Hz, CH₃), 4.14 (q, 2H, *J*=7.8 Hz, CH₂), 5.60 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 7.33-8.10 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 8.58-8.91 (m, 2H, CH_{methine}), 10.81 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{naphthalene}), 13.50 (br, 2H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{quinolinone} and OH_{carboxy}). Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉NO₆ (429.43): C, 69.92; H, 4.46; N, 3.26%. Found: C, 69.60; H, 4.60; N, 3.08%.



2.6. 6-Ethyl-3-[(2-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)methylidene)]-2H-pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline-2,4,5(3H,6H)trione (7)

2.6.1. Method A

Compound **6** (0.429 g, 1 mmol) in concentrated H_2SO_4 (5 mL) was heated on a water bath for 2h. After cooling the reaction mixture was poured onto ice/water, the precipitate so formed was filtered, washed several times with H_2O and crystallized from acetic acid to give **7** as yellow crystals. M.p.: 177 °C. Yield: 0.28 g, 68% (Scheme 3).

2.6.2. Method B

A mixture of compound **1** (0.514 g, 2 mmol) and 2-hydroxy-1-naphthaldehyde (0.34 g, 2 mmol), in glacial acetic acid (10 mL) and freshly fused sodium acetate (0.2 g), was heated under reflux for 4 h. The yellow crystals obtained after cooling were filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **7** as white crystals (Scheme 3). M.p.: 177 °C. Yield: 0.46 g, 56%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3432 (OH), 3055 (CH_{arom.}), 2976, 2927 (CH₃, CH₂), 1715 (OC=0), 1673 (C=O_{quinolinone}), 1619 (C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.24 (t, 3H, *J*=7.4 Hz, CH₃), 4.36 (q, 2H, *J*=7.4 Hz, CH₂), 7.48-7.99 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 8.23 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 14.45 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH_{naphthalene}). Anal. Calcd (C₂₅H₁₇NO₅ (411.41): C, 72.99; H, 4.16; N, 3.40%. Found: C, 72.52; H, 4.08; N, 3.28%.

2.7. 6-Ethyl-3-(4-hydroxy-1-phenyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinolin-3-yl)methylidene)2H-pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline-2,4,5(3H,6H)trione (10)

A mixture of β -ketoacid **2** (0.275 g, 1 mmol) and 4-hydroxy-2-oxo-1-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde (8)(0.265 g, 1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) containing few drops of piperidine was heated at reflux for 2h. The solid deposited after cooling was filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give 10 as vellow crystals (Scheme 4). M.p.: 265 °C. Yield: 0.21 g, 42%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3445 (OH), 3058 (CH_{arom.}), 2934, 2859 (CH₂, CH₃), 1746 (OC=O), 1661 (2C=Oquinolinone), 1636 (C=Oketone). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, δ): 1.22 (t, 3H, CH₃), 4.34 (q, 2H, CH₂), 6.61-6.64 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.35-7.45 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.59-7.65 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 8.05 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 8.09-8.14 (m, 2H, Ar-H). ¹³C NMR (DMSOd₆, δ): 14.2 (CH₃), 42.3 (CH₂), 110.2, 113.7, 115.1, 115.6, 115.7, 116.2, 118.6, 118.8, 120.5, 120.9, 127.0, 129.6, 130.2, 130.3, 130.6, 131.7, 136.0, 139.5, 143.5 (CHmethine), 153.4, 154.7, 163.0 (C2⁻ as C=0), 165.3 (C5 as C=0), 167.9 (C2 as C=0), 194.5 (C4 as C=O). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₂₀N₂O₆ (504.49): C, 71.36; H, 3.96, N, 5.55%. Found: C, 71.32; H, 3.87; N, 5.90%.



2.8. 6-Ethyl-3-[(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrimidin-3-yl)methylidene]-2H-pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline-2,4,5(3H,6H)trione (11)

A mixture of β-ketoacid **2** (0.275 g, 1 mmol) and 2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine-3-carboxaldehyde (**9**) (0.19 g, 1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) containing few drops of piperidine was heated at reflux for 2h. The solid deposited after cooling was filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **11** as orange crystals (Scheme 4). M.p.: 215 °C. Yield: 0.20 g, 47%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3407 (OH), 3060 (CH_{arom}), 2978, 2927 (CH₂, CH₃), 1732 (OC=O), 1671 (2C=O), 1623 (C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.29 (t, 3H, *J*=7 Hz, CH₃), 4.39 (q, 2H, *J*=7 Hz, CH₂), 7.30-7.92 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 8.02 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 8.08 (d, 1H, *J*=7.2 Hz, Ar-H), 14.14 (bs, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, OH). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₁₅N₃O₆ (429.38): C, 64.33; H, 3.51, N, 9.79%. Found: C, 64.33; H, 3.70; N, 9.71%.

2.9. 3-(2-Amino-4-oxo-4H-chromen-3-yl)methylidene)-6ethyl-2H-pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline-2,4,5(3H,6H)-trione (14a,b)

2.9.1. Method A

A mixture of β -ketoacid **2** (0.55 g, 2 mmol) and 2-amino-3formyl chromones **12a**, **b** (2 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) containing few drops of piperidine was heated at reflux for 2h. The solid deposited after cooling was filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **14a**, **b** as yellow crystals (Scheme 5).

2.9.2. Method B

A mixture of compound **1** (0.514 g, 2 mmol) and 2-amino-3formylchromones **12a**, **b** (2 mmol), in glacial acetic acid (10 mL) and freshly fused sodium acetate (0.2 g), was heated at reflux for 2h. The solid deposited after cooling was filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **14a**, **b** as yellow crystals (Scheme 5).

2.9.3. Method C

A mixture of β -ketoacid **2** (0.55 g, 2 mmol) and chromone-3-carbonitriles **16a, b** (2 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) containing few drops of piperidine was heated at reflux for 1h. The solid deposited after cooling was filtered and recrystallized from DMF to give **14a, b** as yellow crystals (Scheme 6).

For compound **14a**: M.p.: 277 °C. Yield: 48-55%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3437 (NH₂), 3068 (CH_{arom.}), 2977, 2933, 2867 (CH₃, CH₂), 1732 (OC=O), 1657 (C=O_Y-pyrone C=O_{quinolinone} and C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , δ): 1.29 (t, 3H, CH₃), 4.24 (q, 2H, CH₂), 7.22-7.84 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 8.02 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 8.40 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, 1H of NH₂), 8.99 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O, 1H of NH₂). M/z (relative intensity): 428 (M⁺, 0.5), 342 (87), 314 (100), 297 (42), 286 (23), 268 (3), 257 (6), 241 (6), 229 (9), 214 (8), 189 (4), 171 (4), 157 (2). Anal.Caled for C₂₄H₁₆ N₂O₆ (428.39): C, 67.29; H, 3.76; N, 6.54%. Found: C, 67.24; H, 3.65; N, 6.20%.

For compound **14b**: M.p.: 213 °C. Yield: 43-51%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3438 (NH₂), 3076 (CH_{arom}.), 2972, 2929 (CH₂, CH₃), 1736 (OC=O), 1661 (C=O_{y-pyrone}, C=O_{quinoline} and C=O_{ketone}). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 1.31 (t, 3H, CH₃), 3.76 (br, 2H, CH₂), 4.37 (q, 2H, CH₂), 5.18 (m, 2H, CH=*CH*₂), 6.15 (m, 1H, *CH*=CH₂), 7.25-7.94 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 8.04 (s, 1H, CH_{methine}), 8.71 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O 1H of NH₂), 9.92 (br, 1H exchangeable with D₂O 1H of NH₂). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₀N₂O₆ (468.46). C. 69.22; H, 4.30, N, 5.98%. Found: C, 69.02; H, 4.07; N, 5.72%.

3. Results and Discussion

In the course of the present work, we found, warming pyranoquinolinone (1) in sodium hydroxide solution (1N) at 40-50 °C for 30 min. afforded the novel 3-(1-ethy1-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1*H*)-quinolin-3-yl)-3-oxo-propanoic acid (2) in 76% yield (Scheme 1). Structure of compound **2** was confirmed from its correct elemental analysis and spectral data. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed a characteristic singlet signal at δ 5.56 ppm attributed to the active methylene protons, in addition to two exchangeable signals at δ 12.02 and 13.41 ppm assigned to 20H protons. The mass spectrum of compound **2** did not show the molecular ion peak at m/z 275 but showed a peak at m/z 257 which was in agreement with its molecular mass after loss of one molecule of water, and the base peak at m/z 229.

Some new quinolinone derivatives were prepared from the reaction of β -ketoacid **2** with different *ortho*-hydroxyaldehydes and ortho-aminoaldehydes. Thus, condensation of 2 with salicylaldehyde in glacial acetic acid containing freshly fused sodium acetate gave the Knoevenagel condensation product 3 (Scheme 2). The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **3** revealed the presence of two exchangeable signals at δ 11.71 (OH_{salicylaldehyde}) and 14.69 ppm (OHquinolinone and OHcarboxy). Compound 3 can undergo intramolecular cyclization in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ leading to either pyranoquinoline derivative 4 or coumarine derivative 5 (Scheme 2). The product obtained from this reaction was found to be identical (the same mp, mixed mp and identical spectra) with the product obtained from the reaction of pyranoquinoline 1 and salicylaldehyde, in glacial acetic acid and freshly fused sodium acetate. Therefore, cyclization of compound 3 in concentrated







b, $R = CH_2$ -CH=CH₂





Lactonization





H₂SO₄ vielded 6-ethyl-3-(2-hydroxybenzylidene)pyrano[3,2*c*]quinoline-2,4,5-(3*H*,6*H*)-trione (4) not the coumarine derivative 5. The reaction of pyranoquinoline 1 with salicylaldehyde proceeds through the tautomeric 1,3-dione form, which in turn possesses an active methylene group. The IR spectrum of compound 4 showed characteristic absorption bands at 3430 (OH), 1725 (O-C=O) and 1642 cm⁻¹ (C=O). The methine proton observed at δ 8.13 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum, while the methine carbon appeared at δ 140.4 ppm in the ¹³CNMR spectrum. The structure of compound 4 was further deduced from its mass spectrum which revealed the molecular ion peak at m/z 361 as the base peak, which is coincident with the formula weight (361.35) and support the identity of the structure.

Similarly, condensation of β -ketoacid **2** with 2-hydroxy-1naphthaldehyde, in glacial acetic acid and freshly fused sodium acetate, afforded the Knoevenagel condensation product 6 which underwent intramolecular cyclization in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ to yield 6-ethyl-3-(2-hydroxy-1naphthylidene)pyrano[3,2-*c*]quinoline-2,4,5-(3*H*,6*H*)-trione(7). Compound 7 was also obtained from the condensation of 4-hydroxypyranoquinoline derivative 1 with 2-hydroxy-1naphthaldehyde (Scheme 3).

Interestingly, condensation of β -ketoacid **2** with 4-hydroxy-2-oxo-1-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde (8)[19] and 2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine-3carboxaldehyde (9) [20] in boiling DMF, containing few drops of piperidine, furnished directly the cyclized products, 6-ethyl-3-[(4-hydroxy-1-phenyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinolin-3-yl)met hyldene-2*H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]quinoline-2,4,5-(3*H*,6*H*)-trione (10) and 6-ethyl-3-[(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrimidin-3yl)methylidene]-2H-pyrano[3,2-c]quinoline-2,4,5-(3H,6H)-tri one (11), respectively, in one step reactions. Under these Knoevenagel conditions the reaction condensation intermediates were not isolated, but underwent intramolecular nucleophilic lactonization to form the cyclized products 10 and

11 (Scheme 4). On the other hand, when β -ketoacid **2** was subjected to react with 2-amino chromone-3-carboxaldehyde (12a) [21] and its 8-allyl analog 12b, [22] in boiling DMF containing few drops of piperidine as a catalyst, pyranoquinoline derivatives 14a, b or chromenopyridine derivatives 15a, b were expected as products for this reaction (Scheme 5). Herein again, the reaction proceeds initially via Knoevenagel condensation to produce the intermediates $13a\ \mbox{and}\ 13b\ \mbox{respectively}.$ These intermediates can undergo intramolecular nucleophilic lactonization forming pyranoquinoline derivatives 14a, b or lactimization forming chromenopyridine derivatives 15a, b. The elemental and mass analyses of the products are not differential because both structures are isomers. The ¹H NMR spectra were used to distinguish the structure of the products. The signals assigned to the OH and NH protons of compounds 15a, b were not observed in the spectra, and therefore structures 15a, b were excluded. The spectra of compounds 14a, b showed characteristic exchangeable signals attributed to the NH_2 protons. Compounds **14a** and **14b** were also obtained from the reaction of pyranoquinoline 1 with 2aminochromone-3-carboxaldehydes (12a, b) in glacial acetic acid and freshly fused sodium acetate.

In continuation to our previous work on the chemistry of chromone-3-carbonitrile [23], we found that 2-amino-3formylchromone is chemically equivalent to chromone-3carbonitrile under certain nucleophilic conditions. Thus, treating β -ketoacid **2** with chromone-3-carbonitriles (**16a**, **b**) [21,22] in boiling DMF containing few drops of piperidine afforded compounds 14a, b. Formation of compounds 14a, b from carbonitriles 16a, b was accomplished via a tandem cyclization reaction through Michael addition of the active methylene group in compound **2** to the γ -pyrone moiety of

carbonitriles **16a**, **b** producing intermediates **A** (non-isolable). The base-mediated retro-Michael reaction of A gave the open chain intermediates **B** (non-isolable), the attack of hydroxyl group onto the nitrile function gave intermediates C (nonisolable) which underwent lactonization leading to 14a, b. The transformation of 16 into 14 can be regarded as a domino "Michael / retro-Michael / nitrile-addition / lactonization" as shown in Scheme 6 [24].

4. Conclusion

We have developed a new and convenient method for the synthesis of novel pyrano[3,2-c]quinolinone derivatives via condensation reactions of 3-(1-ethyl-4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2(1H)quinolin-3-yl)-3-oxopropanoic acid with some orthohydroxyaldehydes and ortho-aminoaldehydes.

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