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First synthesis of 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[h]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthol & 3-

(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*g*]chromen-2-yl))-2-naphthol from 1- and 2-naphthol derivatives

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Abstract

Two new structurally isomeric, 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1naphthol (**1**) & 3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*g*]chromen-2-yl))-2-naphthol (**3**) have been synthesized from 2-acetyl-1-naphthol and ethyl-3-hydroxy-2-naphthoate respectively involving Grignard reaction, dehydration of the corresponding tertiary alcohols and hetero Diels-Alder dimerization. The two benzochromenes (**1** & **3**) have been fully characterized by IR, NMR and HRESIMS data. Their structures are further supported by crystallography of their corresponding acetates (**2** & **4**).

Keywords: benzochromenes, Grignard, hetero Diels-Alder, naphthol, structural isomers

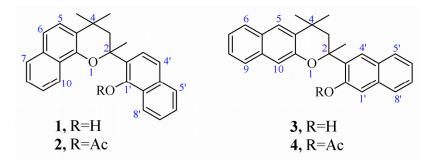
Introduction

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Naturally occurring 2-phenylchromans commonly called flavans, characterized by the presence of a benzopyran core, exist widely in the plant kingdom and exhibit many important biological and pharmacological activities [1]. Flavans substituted in the heterocyclic ring (3- and 4-positions, eg catechins) are frequently encountered in nature, but natural flavans with methyl substituents at 2- and 4-positions on the heterocyclic ring are comparatively rare [2].

To our knowledge there is only one report on a naturally occurring flavan of this type called inulavosin [2-(2'-hydroxy)-2,4',4,4,7-penta methyl flavan] isolated [2] from *Inula nervosa* (Compositae) having piscicidal activity [2] and recently discovered as a melanogenesis inhibitor [3]. The flavan inulavosin is a dimer of thymol and was prepared [4] from *m*-cresol and acetone much before its isolation as a natural product. Several synthetic methyl substituted flavans similar to inulavosin have also been prepared from *o*-cresol [5], *p*-cresol [5,6,7], resorcinol [8,7], 2,3-dimethyl phenol and 3,4-dimethyl phenol [7] but so far no such compounds from naphthols have been reported.

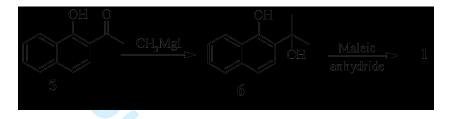
In this paper we describe the synthesis of 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthol **1** & 3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*g*]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthol **3** and their acetates (**2** & **4**) from 1- and 2-naphthol derivatives using Grignard reaction followed by dehydration of the corresponding tertiary alcohols and hetero Diels-Alder dimerization. The numbering pattern is given for clarity (Figure 1).





Results and Discussion

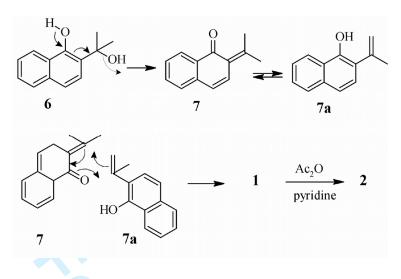
We chose to prepare **1** by using a simple approach (Figure 2). Grignard reaction on 2acetyl-1-naphthol [9] **5** afforded 2-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-1-naphthol [10] **6** as colorless oil in quantitative yield. Heating **6** with maleic anhydride on water bath gave 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthol **1** as viscous oil which solidified on standing.





IR spectrum of **1** showed peak at 3364 cm⁻¹ indicating the presence of hydroxyl group. In its ¹H NMR three singlets at δ 1.21, 1.48 and 1.83 integrating for 3H each were assigned to the three methyl groups. Equally spaced doublets at δ 2.17 and 2.63 with *J* = 14.5 Hz were assigned to geminal protons of C-3. Its¹³C NMR showed in all 26 proton decoupled carbon signals, which comprised of 20 *sp*² and 6 *sp*³ carbons. From DEPT 135 experiment it showed that 2 *sp*³ carbons are quaternary one of which is bearing oxygen atom (δ 83.2). Among the aromatic signals, the two downfield signals at δ 144.4 and 149.9 are attributed to oxygen bearing ²*sp* carbon atoms. HRESIMS data on **1** showed the presence of a peak at m/z 369.1853 [M[‡]H] indicating the formation of pseudomolecular ion of **1**.

The dehydration of tertiary alcohol **6** using maleic anhydride gives **7** which dimerizes with its tautomer **7a** to give the benzochromene **1** (Figure 3). Maleic anhydride was converted to maleic acid by water molecule released during the dehydration reaction and was identified by comparison with an authentic sample (m.p., co-TLC and IR).





Acetylation of the phenolic hydroxyl in **1** using acetic anhydride and pyridine gave 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthyl acetate **2** as a crystalline solid having mp 168 °C. Single crystal X-ray studies [11] of benzochromene acetate **2** further supported the structure for the benzochromene **1** (Figure 4).

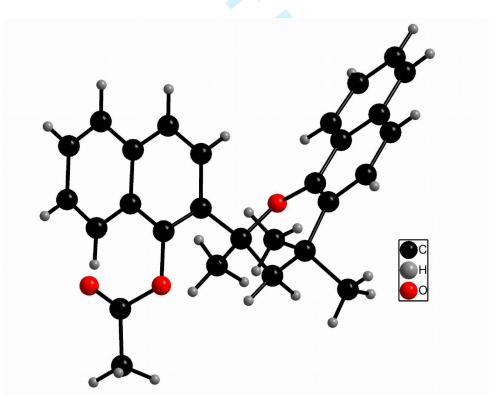
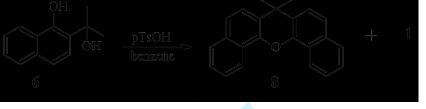


Figure 4 – Crystallographic structure of benzochromene acetate 2

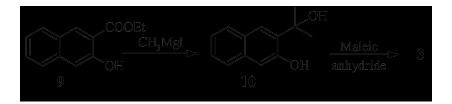
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Dehydration of **6** using *p*-TsOH in refluxing benzene [12] gave two compounds, 7,7dimethyl-7*H*-dibenzo[*c*,*h*]xanthene **8** and benzochromene **1** (Figure 5). The benzoxanthene **8** was obtained as silvery white flakes (m.p. 180 °C). GCMS showed molecular ion peak at m/z 310.1 [M⁺] and a base peak at m/z 295 [M – 15] ⁺ due to the doubly benzylic ion formed by the loss of one methyl group. Benzoxanthene **8** is reported in literature [13] and prepared by the reaction of 1-naphthol with acetone in presence of POCl ₃. No spectroscopic data was reported on **8** hence, it was characterized by spectral data and is included in experimental section. The identity of **8** was further confirmed by its synthesis from 1-naphthol and acetone in the presence of *p*-TsOH [14].





Grignard reaction on ethyl-3-hydroxy-2-naphthoate [15] **9** gave 3-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-2-naphthol [16] **10** as solid in 98% yield. Although **10** is reported in literature [16], no spectroscopic data was reported hence it was characterized by detail NMR and MS data. GCMS of **10** gave peak at m/z 184 [M – 18]⁺ indicating loss of water molecule. Heating **10** with maleic anhydride on water bath gave 3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*g*]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthol **3** as viscous oil which solidified on standing (Figure 6).





The ¹H, ¹³C NMR and HRESIMS (given in experimental section) on **3** were similar to that observed for **1** since both compounds are structural isomers. The formation of benzochromene **3** is based on a similar mechanism as for the formation of benzochromene **1**. Acetylation of the phenolic hydroxyl in **3** gave 3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[*g*]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthyl acetate**4**as greenish crystalline solid (m.p. 136 °C) which on single crystal X-ray diffraction studies [11] provided further support to the structure of benzochromene**3**(Figure 7). Dehydration of**10**using*p*-TsOH in refluxing benzene [12] gave benzochromene**3**as the sole product.

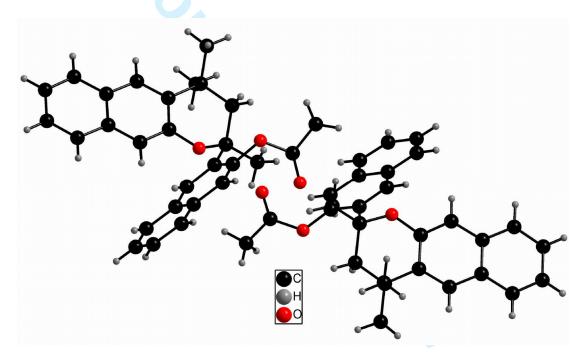


Figure 7 – Crystallographic structure of benzochromene acetate 4

Experimental

Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2450 UV-VISIBLE spectrophotometer. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu (IR Prestige-21) FTIR spectrophotometer in the range 4000-400 cm⁻¹ as KBr diluted pellets in the solid state or as film in NaCl plates. NMR spectra were

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recorded on a Bruker WT 300 MHz FTNMR spectrophotometer with TMS as the internal standard. The multiplicities of carbon signals were obtained from a distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT-135). Coupling constants (*J*) are expressed in Hz. Diethyl ether was distilled and stored over sodium wire.

2-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-1-naphthol (6). Grignard reagent was prepared by dropwise addition of methyl iodide (1.7 mL, 3.82 g, 27 mmol) in ether (5 mL) to a stirred suspension of magnesium metal (0.65 g, 27 mmol) in ether (5 mL) containing a crystal of I $_2$. After addition was complete (30 min), the mixture was refluxed for additional 30 min. The Grignard reagent was cooled in ice bath and to this a solution of 5 (2.0 g, 11 mmol) in ether (5 mL) was added dropwise with vigorous stirring. After addition was completed, the resulting mixture was refluxed for 2 h, cooled and added to a saturated solution of NH $_4$ Cl in crushed ice. This was extracted with ether, washed with water, brine and dried over anhydrous Na $_2$ SO₄. Evaporation of the ether afforded 2-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-1-naphthol **6** as oil in quantitative yield; IR: 3520, 3258, 1574, 1464, 1385, 1304, 1107, 955, 876 cm $^{-1}$; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl ₃): δ 1.63 (s, 6H, 2 × CH ₃), 2.49 (s, 1H, 1' OH), 7.01 (d, 1H, H-4, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.25 (d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.37-8.25 (m, 4H, H-5, 6, 7, 8), 9.78 (s, 1H, OH).

2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[h]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthol (1). A mixture of **6** (0.662 g, 3.27 mmol) and maleic anhydride (0.482 g, 4.9 mmol) was heated on a water bath for 1 h. Reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with water and extracted with ether. The organic extract was washed with saturated NaHCO₃, water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of the ether afforded 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthol **1** as oil. Purification by silica gel column chromatography using benzene and petroleum ether (1:1) as eluant gave pure **1** (0.6 g, 99.5%) which solidified on standing, mp 68-

⁷⁰ °C; UV (MeOH): 296, 235, 213 nm; IR: 3364, 2963, 1574, 1387, 1074, 806, 748, 677 cm ⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.21 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.17 (d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 14.5 Hz), 2.63 (d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 14.5 Hz), 7.17-7.47 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.68-7.76 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.19 (d, 2H, Ar-H, *J* = 9 Hz), 9.26 (s, 1H, OH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 27.3 (CH₃), 31.5 (CH_b), 32.9 (CH_b), 48.5 (C-3), 75.5 (C-4), 83.2 (C-2), 119.1 (C-4'), 121.2 (C-6), 121.8 (C-7'), 122.3 (C-2'), 122.5 (C-9), 124.2 (C-6'), 124.4 (C-8), 125.3 (C-5'), 125.7 (C-4a, 10a, 8'a), 126.1 (C-3'), 126.2 (C-7), 126.5 (C-5), 127.0 (C-10), 127.7 (C-8'), 133.1 (C-4'a), 133.8 (C-6a), 144.4 (C-1a), 149.9 (C-1'); HRESIMS: m/z [M + H]⁺ Found: 369.1853, Calcd. for C₂₆H₂₅O₂: 369.1849.

2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthyl acetate (2). A mixture of benzochromene 1 (0.3 g, 0.8 mmol), acetic anhydride (4 mL) and pyridine (2 mL) was heated on a water bath for 5 min and kept overnight. The reaction mixture was poured over crushed ice to which few drops of conc. HCl were added, stirred and extracted with ether. The ethereal layer was washed with water, brine and dried over anhydrous Na ₂SO₄. Evaporation of ether afforded 2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*h*]chromen-2-yl)-1-naphthyl acetate 2 (0.27 g, 80.8%) as colorless solid; mp 168 °C (hexane); IR: 1769 (CO), 1385, 1366, 1198, 1082, 810, 750 cm⁻¹.
Dehydration of 6 with *p*-TsOH, formation of 7,7-dimethyl-7*H*-dibenzo[*c*,*h*]xanthene (8) and benzochromene (1). A mixture of 6 (0.516 g, 2.5 mmol) and catalytic amount of *p*-TsOH (0.05 g) was heated under reflux in benzene (10 mL) for 7 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with water and extracted with ether. The organic extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO ₃, water and dried over anhydrous Na ₂SO₄. Evaporation of ether gave crude oil (0.529 g). TLC of the oil in benzene showed 2 spots which were separated by silica gel column chromatography. Elution with petroleum ether gave silvery white flakes of

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7,7-dimethyl-7*H*-dibenzo[*c*,*h*]xanthene **8** (0.09 g, 22.7%); mp 180 °C (hexane) (lit [13] 186 °C); IR: 2966, 1566, 1393, 1371, 1211, 1111, 808, 746, 677 cm ⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl ₃): δ 1.80 (s, 6H, 2 × CH₃), 7.55-7.67 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.85 (d, 2H, H-5, 9, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 8.64 (d, 2H, H-6, 8, *J* = 8.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl ₃): δ 33.2 (<u>CH</u> ₃ × 2), 34.1 (C-7), 121.8 (C-5, 9), 122.7 (C-2, 12), 123.1 (C-6a, 8a), 124.2 (C-3, 11), 124.3 (C-1a, 13a), 126.0 (C-4, 10), 126.2 (C-6, 8), 127.4 (C-1, 13), 133.1 (C-4a, 9a), 144.2 (C-14a, 14b); GCMS: m/z 310.1 [M] 295. Further elution with benzene:petroleum ether (3:7) gave **1** (0.233 g, 49.6%) as oil and found to be identical with that obtained earlier.

7,7-Dimethyl-7*H***-dibenzo**[*c*,*h*]**xanthene (8).** To a mixture of acetone (0.25 mL, 3.5 mmol) and distilled 1-naphthol (1.0 g, 6.9 mmol), *p***-**TsOH (13.3 mg, 0.07 mmol) was added and stirred at 125°C for 1 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with water and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was washed with dilute NaOH, water and dried over anhydrous Na $_2SO_4$. Evaporation of the solvent gave crude solid (1.08 g). Purification through a small bed of silica using petroleum ether as eluant gave **8** (0.766 g, 71.2%) as silvery white flakes, mp 180 °C (hexane) (lit [13] 186 °C).

3-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-2-naphthol (10). Grignard reagent was prepared by dropwise addition of methyl iodide (6.2 mL, 14.2 g, 0.1 mol) in ether (10 mL) to a stirred suspension of magnesium metal (2.4 g, 0.1 mol) in ether (10 mL) containing a crystal of I ₂. After addition was complete (30 min), the mixture was refluxed for additional 30 min. The Grignard reagent was cooled in ice bath and to this a solution of **9** (2.14 g, 0.01 mol) in ether (10 mL) was added dropwise with vigorous stirring. After addition was complete, the resulting mixture was refluxed for 5 h, cooled and added to a saturated solution of NH ₄Cl in crushed ice. This was extracted with ether, washed with water, brine and dried over anhydrous Na ₂SO₄. Evaporation of the ether

afforded 3-(1'-hydroxy-1'-methyl ethyl)-2-naphthol **10** (1.96 g, 98%) as solid; mp 140 ^oC (benzene) (lit [16] 140 ^oC); IR: 3418, 2982, 1634, 1599, 1369, 1240, 1199, 947, 874, 748 cm ⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl ₃): δ 1.77 (s, 6H, 2 × CH ₃), 2.56 (bs, 1H, 1' OH), 7.23 (s, 1H, H-1), 7.25-7.39 (m, 2H, H-6,7), 7.56 (s, 1H, H-4), 7.65 (d, 1H, H-8, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.70 (d, 1H, H-5, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 8.97 (bs, 1H, OH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 30.3 (C-2', 3'), 75.9 (C-1'), 111.9 (C-1), 123.5 (C-6), 124.5 (C-7), 125.9 (C-4), 126.4 (C-8), 127.8 (C-5), 128.0 (C-3), 133.4 (C-4a), 134.4 (C-8a), 153.9 (C-2); GCMS: m/z 184 [M-18]⁺.

3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[q]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthol (3). A mixture of 10 (0.2 g, 0.9 mmol) and maleic anhydride (0.11 g, 1.48 mmol) was heated on a water bath for 1 h. Reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with water and extracted with ether. The organic extract was washed with saturated NaHCO 3, water and dried over anhydrous Na ₂SO₄. Evaporation of the ether afforded 3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*q*]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthol **3** as oil. Purification by silica gel column chromatography using benzene and petroleum ether (1:1) as eluant gave pure **3** (0.153 g, 84%) which solidified on standing, mp 82-84 °C; UV (MeOH): 333, 320, 278, 269, 244 nm; IR: 3381, 2961, 1634, 1504, 1444, 1339, 1252, 1165, 1060, 947, 868, 744 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDC)): δ 1.31 (s, 3H, CH), 1.59 (s, 3H, CH), 1.88 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.30 (d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 14.4 Hz), 2.89 (d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 14.4 Hz), 3.50 (s, 1H, OH), 7.24-7.76 (m, 12H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 28.9 (CH₃), 32.6 (CH₃), 32.8 (CH₃), 47.5 (C-3), 77.2 (C-4), 81.7 (C-2), 111.9 (C-1'), 113.0 (C-10), 123.5 (C-6'), 124.1 (C-7), 125.6 (C-7'), 125.7 (C-8), 125.9 (C-4'), 126.2 (C-5), 126.3 (C-8'), 126.4 (C-9), 127.4 (C-5'), 127.9 (C-6), 128.2 (C-3'), 129.9 (C-4a), 132.7 (C-4a), 133.2 (C-5a), 134.1 (C-8a), 134.3 (C-9a), 149.7 (C-10a), 152.7 (C-2'); HRESIMS: $m/z [M + H]^+$ Found: 369.1851, Calcd. for $C_{26}H_{25}O_2$: 369.1849.

3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2*H***-benzo[***g***]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthol (3) by** *p***-TsOH method.** (Procedure as followed for compound 1). Found to be identical (mp, IR, NMR) with that obtained earlier.

3-(2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[g]chromen-2-yl)-2-naphthyl acetate
 (4).

 (Procedure as followed for compound 2) greenish crystals, mp 136
 °C (hexane); IR: 2970, 1757, 1633, 1599, 1500, 1442, 1369, 1255, 1199, 1037, 950 cm⁻¹.

Conclusion

A simple and convenient synthesis of two new substituted benzochromenes **1** and **3** has been achieved. They have been fully characterized by IR, NMR, HRESIMS data and supported by crystallographic structures of their corresponding acetates (**2** & **4**).

Acknowledgment

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