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Design, Synthesis, and biological evaluation of isocryptolepine derivatives: SAR of indolo [3, 2-c] quinoline as anti-oxidants and anti-tyrosinase agents

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Abstract

Objectives: This study aims to create 3D QSAR models to confirm the antioxidant and anti-tyrosinase activity of indolo[3,2-c] quinoline analogs and determine nearly all appreciative structural features in contemplation of developing novel medicinal medicines.

Methods: To appraise predicted precision of the QSAR framework, the datasets were split into a training set and test set. The training set encompasses 39 analogs, chosen randomly, whereas the test set comprised 10 analogs. The chemicals were selected to guarantee a variety of structures and a broad spectrum of biological effects in the dataset. The IC₅₀ values were transformed into pIC₅₀ to get higher numerical values.

Results: The cross-validated r² (q²) values for the training set of 39 analogs in the CoMFA, CoMSIA, & HQSAR models are 0.470, 0.572, and 0.639, respectively. Conversely, the conventional r² values for the identical models are 0.982, 0.809, and 0.960. A total of 49 derivatives of the indolo [3, 2-c] quinoline core were expose to docking and QSAR analyses. The final results act as a prototype for the development of a chemical compound that is more powerful in combating oxidative stress.

Conclusion: The utilization of 3D-QSAR models, in conjunction with the inventive incorporation of contour maps and chemical descriptors, presents new ideas and methods for the creation of indolo [3, 2-c] quinoline analogs with antioxidant and antityrosinase properties.

Keywords: QSAR, HQSAR, Docking, Antioxidant activity, Antityrosinase activity.

1. Introduction:

Antioxidants are substances that prevent oxidation, a chemical process that can generate free radicals and trigger cascading reactions that may harm cells.¹⁻⁴ They have a crucial function in the prohibition on cancer, cardiovascular, as well as neurological disorders.⁵⁻⁶ Excessive tyrosinase activity and the presence of oxidative stress are associated with several diseases and skin conditions characterized by oxidative damage. As a result, they are considered potential targets for treatment approaches.⁷⁻¹⁰ Oxidative stress is characterized by the

dysregulation of RNS and ROS. Furthermore, these species not only induce cellular and molecular damage but also disrupt normal physiological processes and detoxification mechanisms.¹¹⁻¹² ROS and RNS free radicals are responsible for several health conditions such as cataracts, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases.¹³⁻¹⁵ Oxidative stress is associated with over 100 diseases and has negative effects on aging, imbalances in physiological function, the development of further diseases, and human lifespan.¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Antioxidants, obtained from both natural and artificial sources, have effectively been used to decrease the production of free radicals and protect the body's detoxifying mechanisms.¹⁸⁻²⁰ RNS and ROS free radicals, such as O₂, H₂O₂, HO, and NO, are involved in avoiding damage according to references.²¹⁻²³ Antioxidants are efficacious remedies for conditions associated with oxidative stress due to their ability to function as reducing agents or radical scavengers.²⁴⁻²⁵ They halt chain reactions by scavenging various free radicals generated during oxidative processes.²⁶⁻²⁷ The bulk of synthetic antioxidants now available on the market consist of heterocyclic and polyphenolic chemicals.²⁸⁻²⁹ By utilizing insilico design procedures on this nucleus,³⁰⁻³¹ there is a notable probability of generating novel and captivating organisms. One widely used method for assessing the impact of different molecule fragments and characteristics on biological activity is the quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR).³²⁻³³ Various descriptors, including hydrophobic, steric, electrostatic, donor, and acceptor, are used in 3D QSAR (CoMFA and CoMSIA) to create statistical models.³⁴⁻³⁵ The HQSAR fragment differentiation map provides a good illustration of the robust statistical correlation between biological activity and structure. This fragmentation map provides information about the contributions made by different structural components to activity.³⁶⁻³⁷ Docking studies elucidate the interconnection allying ligand & the active site of the macromolecular protein, revealing the molecular basis of binding affinity and specificity. By utilizing different amino acid binding's necessary for a physiological response, we can evaluate interactions between enzymes and ligands at the molecular level.³⁸⁻³⁹

2. Materials and methods:

A dataset of 49 indolo[3, 2-c]quinoline analogs to conduct docking studies, revealing the molecular basis of binding affinity and specificity, and their corresponding biological activity was obtained from previous publications N. Wang et al., 2014.⁴⁰ The Chemdraw Ultra Version 8.0 program is used to create 2D structures, which are then converted into 3D Chemdraw Ultra Version 8.1 models using MOPAC. SYBYL 2.0 is used for CoMFA, CoMSIA, and HQSAR models, while SYBYL 2.1 is used for docking studies. The training set consists of 39 compounds, while the test set contains 10 compounds. Table 1 also displays the structures of all the substances under investigation accompanied by the biological data where applicable.

Table 1: Residual values of training and test set of molecules of the CoMFA, CoMSIA and HQSAR model.

Compound Number	Actual pIC ₅₀	CoMFA		CoMSIA		HQSAR A/B/Ch/D	
		Predicted pIC ₅₀	Residual value	Predicted pIC ₅₀	Residual value	Predicted pIC ₅₀	Residual value
1	4.991	5.1217	-0.1307	5.3606	-0.3696	5.02852	-0.03752
2	7.8633	7.6635	0.1998	7.3607	0.5026	7.75807	0.10523
3	7.4425	7.6471	-0.2046	7.584	-0.1415	7.48026	-0.03776
4*	7.8996	7.7293	0.1703	7.7016	0.198	7.451	0.4486
5	7.8239	7.7957	0.0282	7.7996	0.0243	7.41139	0.41251
6	7.5784	7.7392	-0.1608	7.8173	-0.2389	7.70755	-0.12915
7	7.1993	7.2175	-0.0182	7.2443	-0.045	7.14355	0.05575
8	8.0269	7.6884	0.3385	7.7738	0.2531	7.8794	0.1475
9	6.852	6.8786	-0.0266	6.7139	0.1381	6.9152	-0.0632

10	6.6449	7.0356	-0.3907	7.2286	-0.5837	7.14354	-0.49864
11	6.9454	6.9497	-0.0043	6.8916	0.0538	6.76758	0.17782
12	7.7305	7.4773	0.2532	7.3829	0.3476	7.82539	-0.09489
13	6.4994	6.5832	-0.0838	6.3431	0.1563	6.47631	0.02309
14*	7.8861	7.6904	0.1957	7.3717	0.5144	7.489	0.3971
15	8.0915	7.6881	0.4034	7.3628	0.7287	7.68653	0.40497
16	7.4425	7.6413	-0.1988	7.4529	-0.0104	7.6491	-0.2066
17*	8.2076	7.6347	0.5729	7.3499	0.8577	7.603	0.6046
18	7.5302	7.5812	-0.051	7.6105	-0.0803	7.58891	-0.05871
19	7.5935	7.5731	0.0204	7.7806	-0.1871	7.47109	0.12241
20	7.6556	7.7472	-0.0916	7.5728	0.0828	7.74001	-0.08441
21*	7.6289	7.9545	-0.3256	7.1685	0.4604	8.094	-0.4651
22	8.6198	8.1842	0.4356	7.8157	0.8041	8.0938	0.526
23	7.5901	7.5033	0.0868	7.7174	-0.1273	7.69779	-0.10769
24*	6.5396	7.7828	-1.2432	7.7247	-1.1851	7.746	-1.2064
25	7.6478	7.6586	-0.0108	7.8852	-0.2374	7.89492	-0.24712
26	7.6271	7.9024	-0.2753	7.9668	-0.3397	7.98483	-0.35773
27	7.767	7.8302	-0.0632	7.5497	0.2173	7.94927	-0.18227
28	7.6162	7.4923	0.1239	7.7603	-0.1441	7.52303	0.09317
29	7.5686	7.8557	-0.2871	7.8073	-0.2387	7.81153	-0.24293
30	7.9626	7.839	0.1236	7.7866	0.176	7.87949	0.08311
31	7.9747	8.0013	-0.0266	7.9991	-0.0244	7.904	0.0707
32*	7.2652	7.4174	-0.1522	7.7023	-0.4371	7.359	-0.0938
33	7.1427	7.3313	-0.1886	7.1109	0.0318	6.87815	0.26455
34*	7.3862	7.6133	-0.2271	7.5479	-0.1617	8.123	-0.7368
35	7.1403	7.2878	-0.1475	7.4763	-0.336	7.13718	0.00312
36	5.1316	4.8368	0.2948	5.1884	-0.0568	5.1583	-0.0267
37	7.1409	7.2545	-0.1136	7.1	0.0409	7.26311	-0.12221
38*	6.5627	7.2144	-0.6517	7.457	-0.8943	7.131	-0.5683
39	7.0306	7.2705	-0.2399	7.4816	-0.451	7.24409	-0.21349
40	7.5045	7.3055	0.199	7.1485	0.356	7.43991	0.06459
41	7.2343	7.3233	-0.089	7.4984	-0.2641	7.30787	-0.07357
42	7.3134	7.2859	0.0275	7.5452	-0.2318	7.42089	-0.10749
43	7.451	7.2861	0.1649	7.1416	0.3094	7.32305	0.12795
44	7.0205	7.301	-0.2805	7.4759	-0.4554	7.19101	-0.17051
45	7.3883	7.2489	0.1394	7.5208	-0.1325	7.30403	0.08427
46	7.2782	7.2553	0.0229	7.098	0.1802	7.2312	0.047
47	7.5031	7.2814	0.2217	7.2098	0.2933	7.25571	0.24739
48*	7.4828	7.155	0.3278	7.1214	0.3614	7.083	0.3998
49*	8.1367	7.324	0.8127	7.3265	0.8102	7.471	0.6657

(*) test compounds

2.1 Structural alignment:

The molecular modeling studies, were conducted using SYBYL X 2.0 software. The compound structures were energy minimized utilizing Tripos energy shield and Gasteiger-Huckel charges, Convergence was determined at 0.05 kcal/mol, ideally based on CoMFA and CoMSIA.⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ Crucially, for both CoMFA and CoMSIA, primary requirement is superimposition of all 3D structures, ideally based on a pharmacophore in its active conformation.

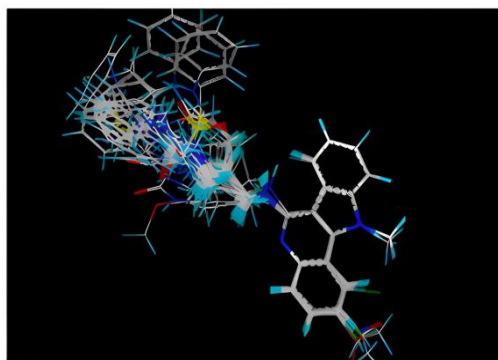


Figure 1: Structure alignment of all indolo [3, 2-c] quinoline analogues

3. Experiment:

3.1 CoMFA and CoMSIA statistical results:

CoMFA employed to establish a correlation link chemical structure and biological activity of a compound, it consist of contour maps representing the interaction energies of a probe atom with aligned molecules.⁴²⁻⁴⁷ The steric and electrostatic probable fields were generated at each intersection of a square grid of 2.0 Å for the selected compounds significant biological characteristics.⁴⁸⁻⁵³ CoMFA & CoMSIA incorporates a Gaussian-type function to model distance dependence of physicochemical properties.⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵ Several factors such as coefficient of determination (r^2), cross-validated coefficient of determination (q^2), and standard error of estimation are used to construct the QSAR model. To establish the external predictability, the Leave-One-Out (LOO) cross-validation was used as a method, and from this also emerged the cross-validated r^2 (q^2) and the number of components.⁵⁶⁻⁵⁷ The best CoMFA & CoMSIA models were obtained using the Gasteiger charge as the almost comparable charge, yielding the q^2 values of 0.470 and 0.572 respectively. As for the results of the CoMFA & CoMSIA analyses, the values of the coefficient of determination (r^2) were equal to 0.982 and 0.809, respectively. The CoMFA steric field contribution was 0, implying that again the feasibility of the compound alternatives is not influenced by steric hindrance factors. 485, meanwhile the electrostatic field's contribution was 0.515. This indicates that the electron-donating as well as electron-withdrawing groups are prominent in the activity. Thus, in CoMSIA analysis, better statistical results are obtained regarding the cross-validated r^2 (or q^2). CoMSIA analysis examines more fields than the CoMFA analysis, while the choice of these fields is carried out according to certain criteria.⁵⁸⁻⁵⁹ The CoMSIA study described steric and electrostatic fields and hydrophobic and donor fields also. These are highlighted in table 2 below. The steric, electrostatic, hydrophobic, and donor fields of the best CoMSIA model have contributions of 0.313, 0.037, 0.080, and 0.570, respectively.

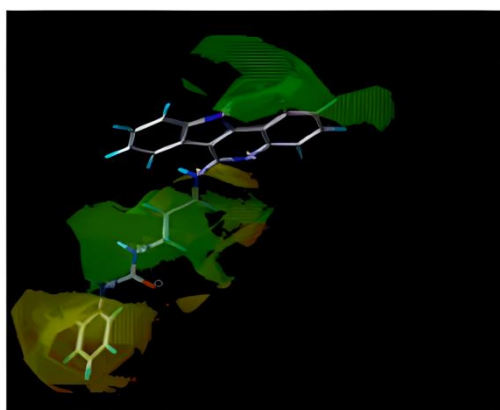
Table 2: Summary of statistical results of best CoMFA and CoMSIA models.

QSAR	Parameters					Contributions			
	q^2	r^2	NC	F-value	SEE	S	E	H	D
CoMF A	0.470	0.982	6	135.931	0.078	0.485	0.515	-	-
CoMSI A	0.572	0.809	1	84.051	0.222	0.313	0.037	0.080	0.570

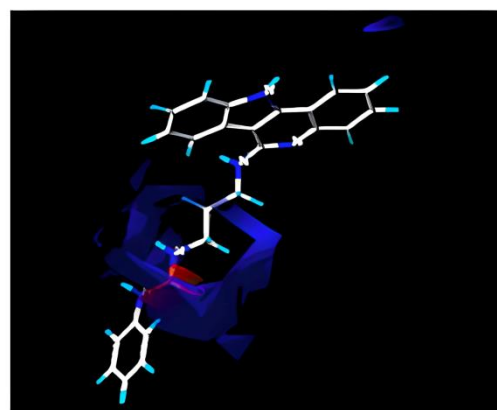
q^2 is Cross validated r^2 , NC is Number of Components, SEE is Standard error of estimate, S- Steric, E-Electrostatic, H-Hydrophobic and D-H bond donor.

3.2 CoMFA Steric and Electrostatic Contour Map Analysis:

The presence of a green contour around the substituted side chain connected to the pyridine ring of the quinoline skeleton suggests the need for a large group to enhance antioxidants and anti-tyrosinase activity in the nitrogen of the indole ring and the phenyl ring of the quinoline moiety. Never the less, the presence of a yellow contour above the phenyl ring connected to the terminal end of the substituted side chain signifies that the addition of any large group nearby will certainly reduce the antioxidants and anti-tyrosinase activity. In the CoMFA electrostatic field contour, regions with higher electronegativity that enhance binding affinity are depicted in red, while regions with higher electropositivity that enhance binding affinity are depicted in blue. Figure 2 illustrates these interactions.



a. Steric contour

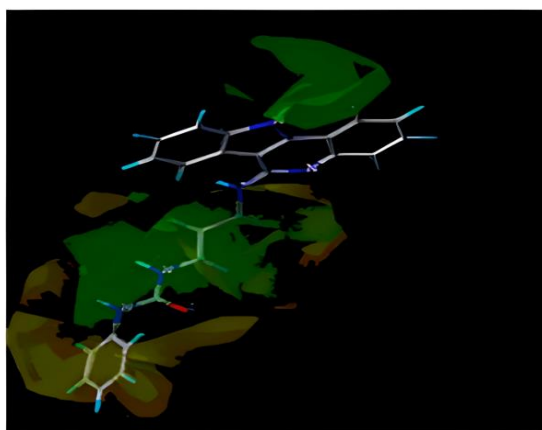


b. Electrostatic contour

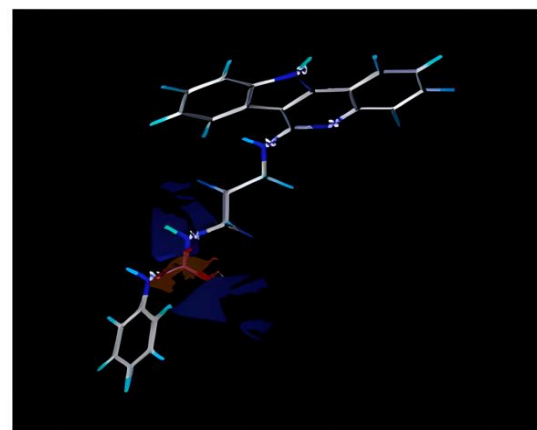
Figure 2: CoMFA Steric and Electrostatic contour map analysis molecule 22.

3.3 CoMSIA Steric, Electrostatic, HB Acceptor, HB Donor, and Hydrophobic contour:

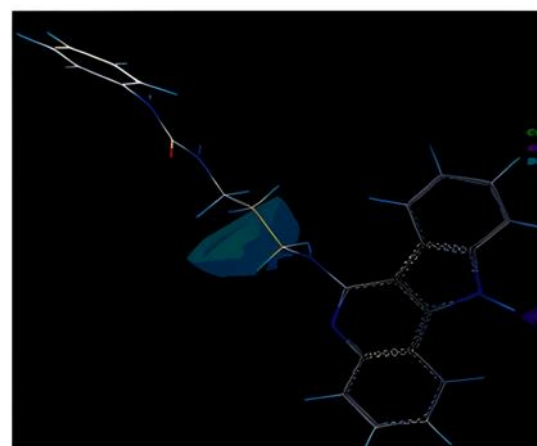
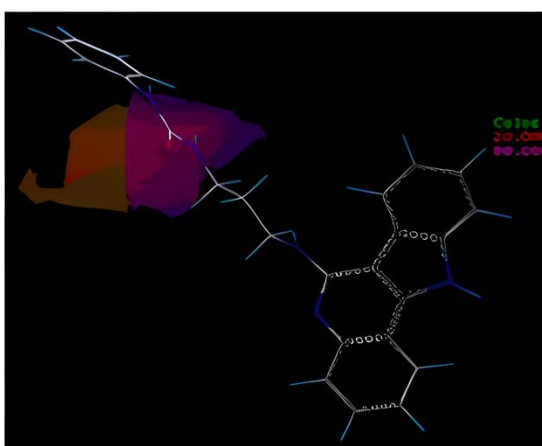
The green contour map in CoMSIA steric analysis represents advantageous spatial arrangements for bulky groups, whereas the yellow contour indicates non-tolerant positions for such groups. The green contour above the phenyl ring of the quinoline structure and around the substituted side chain indicates the need for a large group to enhance antioxidants and anti-tyrosinase activity. The electrostatic field contour map shows regions where electronegative groups enhance binding affinity, while electropositive groups enhance binding affinity. The magenta contour near the urea attachment site indicates the need for hydrogen bond acceptor (HB-acceptor) groups, while the cyan contour near the urea group indicates the need for hydrogen bond donor (HB-donor) groups. Figure 3 illustrates these interactions.



a. Steric contour



b. Electrostatic contour



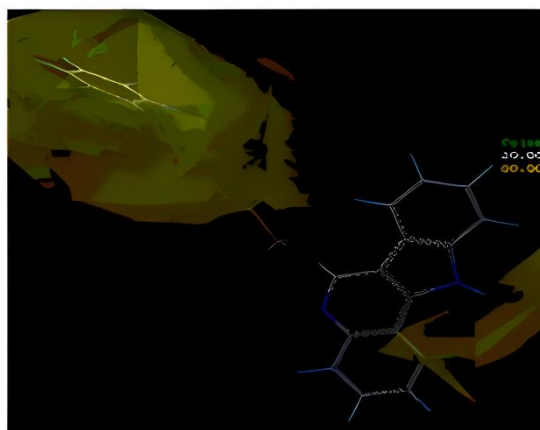
c. HB Acceptor**d. HB Donor****e. Hydrophobic**

Figure 3: CoMSIA Steric, Electrostatic, HB Acceptor, HB Donor, and Hydrophobic contour molecule 22.

3.4 HQSAR analysis:

2D QSAR approaches utilize various atomic fragments such as atoms, bonds, and connections in the form of a molecular hologram to establish correlations between the pharmacological actions of substances. This technique possesses a distinctive characteristic that allows for the examination of the individual contribution of each molecule being studied to the biological activity. The fragment distinctions were employed using various fragment sizes to facilitate the construction of the model.⁶⁰⁻⁶¹ The statistical analysis shows that the model development yields the best results when using a distinct A/B/Ch/D fragment with a size ranging from 4 to 8 fragments, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: A/B/Ch/D fragment distinct with different fragment sizes.

Model No.	Fragment Size	q ²	r ²	Q ² S.E.	r ² S.E.	Ensemble	Best length	N.C
1	2-5	0.679	0.912	0.292	0.172	0.912	199	6
2	3-6	0.655	0.928	0.311	0.161	0.928	199	6
3	4-7	0.632	0.950	0.322	0.134	0.950	199	6
4	5-8	0.635	0.961	0.330	0.119	0.961	199	6
5	6-9	0.520	0.962	0.378	0.118	0.962	199	6
6	7-10	0.402	0.976	0.422	0.093	0.976	199	6
7	2-6	0.652	0.929	0.312	0.161	0.929	199	6
8	3-7	0.623	0.950	0.326	0.134	0.950	199	6
9	4-8	0.639	0.960	0.328	0.120	0.960	199	6
10	5-9	0.536	0.962	0.372	0.118	0.962	199	6
11	6-10	0.420	0.977	0.416	0.091	0.977	199	6

3.5 HQSAR contour analysis:

The HQSAR analysis of compound number 22 reveals a green contour at the urea replacement of the terminal phenyl ring, indicating a beneficial influence on the antioxidants and anti-tyrosinase activity (see Figure 4).

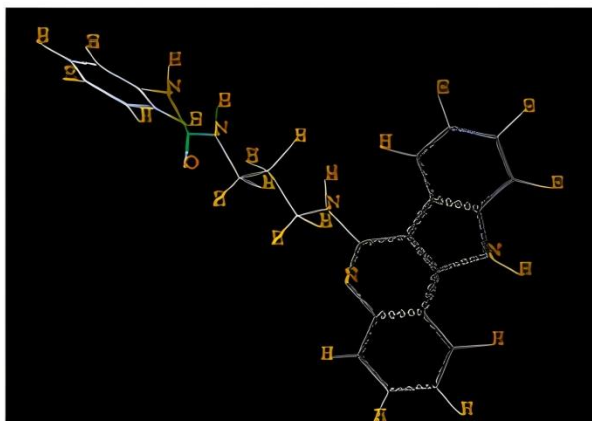


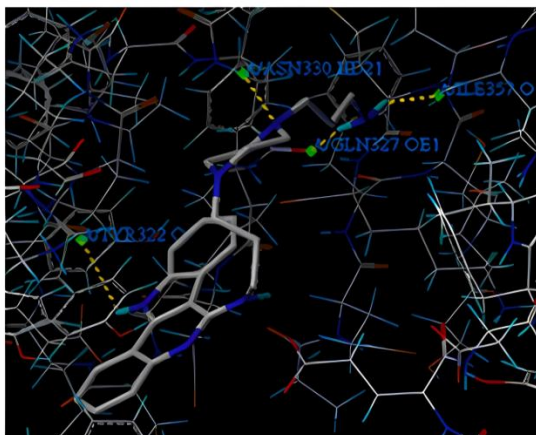
Figure 4: HQSAR fragment contribution in most active compound 22.

3.6 Docking analysis:

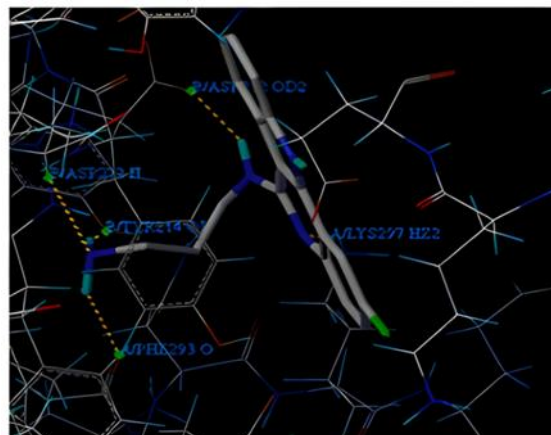
The Surflex Dock module of SYBYL X 2.1 is used here in molecular docking investigations. The rationale for using docking was to obtain the probable binding orientations of the indole [3, 2-c] quinoline derivatives with the receptor. The crystal structure of mushroom tyrosinase (PDB ID: 2Y9X Human serotonin 5-HT₇ receptor structure was downloaded from the Protein Data Bank of the RCSB and was used as the docking template.⁶²⁻⁶⁵ The terminal structure was energy minimized, and charges were calculated in the AMBER7FF99 method. Subsequently, the intended complex protein structure was utilized to assess and validate the docking technique. The protein, ligands, and solvation water molecules were removed from the crystal structure. The protocol was configured with a bloat value of 1 and a threshold value of 0.5. The active receptor binding sites were identified based on the positions considered in Table 4 and binding biological activity, as seen in Figure 5.

Table 4: Docking score of Compounds on 2Y9X.

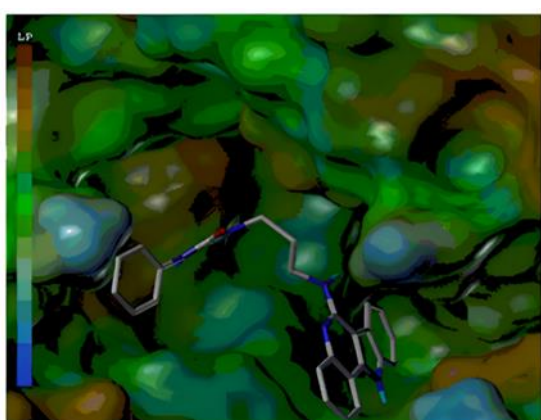
S. No.	Compound No.	Total Score	S. No.	Compound No.	Total Score
1	5	8.55	25	19	6.36
2	23	8.49	26	43	6.36
3	48	8.26	27	17	6.27
4	38	8.11	28	8	6.16
5	47	8.01	29	18	6.04
6	40	7.89	30	14	6.03
7	20	7.76	31	31	5.94
8	37	7.74	32	34	5.91
9	3	7.67	33	29	5.76
10	33	7.59	34	45	5.67
11	49	7.5	35	46	5.62
12	26	7.49	36	16	5.62
13	41	7.28	37	35	5.61
14	15	7.22	38	42	5.55
15	25	7.13	39	39	5.39
16	4	7.11	40	44	5.3
17	10	7.06	41	11	5.08
18	2	7.04	42	24	5.06
19	6	6.94	43	7	5
20	30	6.91	44	21	4.71
21	27	6.84	45	13	4.62
22	28	6.77	46	9	4.24
23	32	6.69	47	12	3.85
24	22	6.54	48	36	2.58



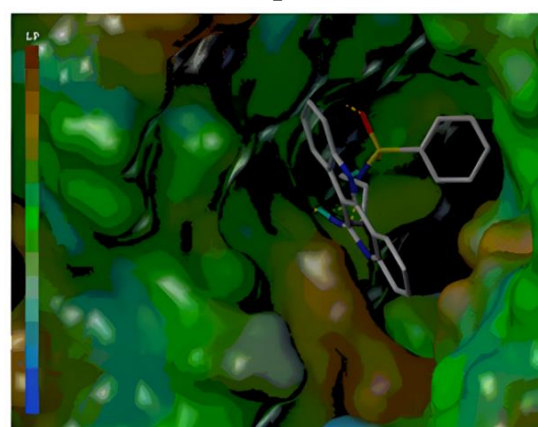
a. Compound 5



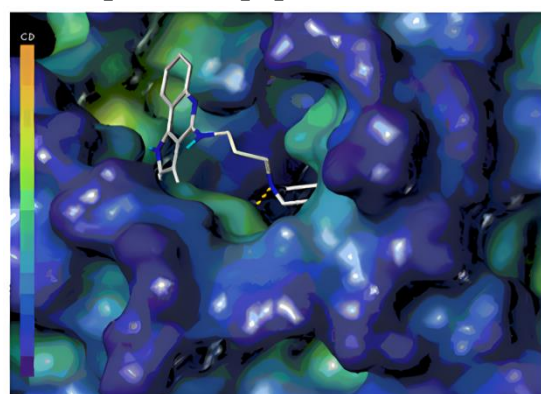
b. Compound 23



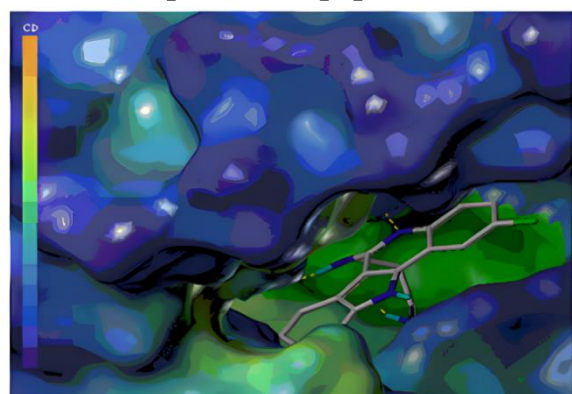
a. Compound 5 lipophilic interaction



b. Compound 23 lipophilic interaction



a. Compound 5 cavity depth view



b. Compound 23 cavity depth view

3.7 Designing of compounds:

Based on the documented association between the structure and activity of indole [3, 2-c] quinoline analogs as antioxidants and anti-tyrosinase agents, we conducted QSAR research using CoMFA, CoMSIA, HQSAR, and Docking techniques. We created and analyzed thirty compounds, as presented in Table 5. The outcome confirmed the SAR acquired in the investigation depicted in Figure 6.

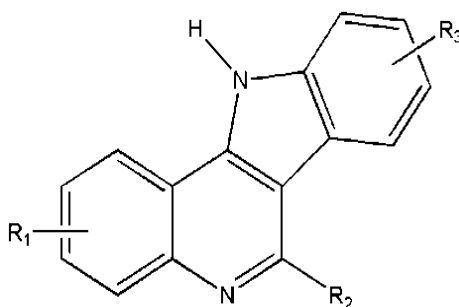


Figure 6: Designed compound with different substitution at R₁, R₂ and R₃ Position.

Table 5: The structures and predicted pIC₅₀ values of designed derivatives.

C. N.	Substituents			Pred pIC ₅₀		HQ SAR	Docking Score
	R1	R2	R3	CoMF A	CoMSIA		
1	7-Chloro	Methylamino	Chloro	6.8522	6.0315	7.643	7.83
2	7-Chloro	N-methyl piperazino	Chloro	6.7931	5.9774	8.529	8.40
3	7-Chloro	N-ethyl piperazino	Chloro	6.7886	5.933	8.609	6.71
4	7-Chloro	Benzyl amino	Chloro	6.8674	6.5704	7.914	5.92
5	7-Chloro	N-butyl amino	Chloro	6.8199	6.4092	7.724	4.42
6	Methoxy	N-Hydrogen	Hydroxyl	6.6508	5.6205	8.056	7.01
7	7-Chloro	3-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	6.9484	6.6479	7.397	7.12
8	7-Chloro	4-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	6.9597	6.5336	7.51	6.53
9	7-Chloro	4-bromo aniline	Chloro	6.922	6.4537	6.972	8.12
10	7-Chloro	2,3 dichloro aniline	Chloro	7.2207	6.6878	6.868	5.12
11	7-Chloro	2-nitro aniline	Chloro	7.2969	6.6612	6.869	3.45
12	7-Chloro	4-fluro aniline	Chloro	6.9697	6.3577	6.978	3.94
13	7-Chloro	3-chloro aniline	Chloro	7.0951	6.6701	7.559	5.12
14	7-Methyl	Methylamino	Chloro	6.7292	5.8543	7.648	6.32
15	7-Methyl	N-methyl piperazino	Chloro	6.6365	5.8718	8.534	3.14
16	7-Methyl	N-ethyl piperazino	Chloro	7.2135	6.0927	8.614	7.18
17	7-Methyl	Benzyl amino	Chloro	6.7666	6.5202	7.919	8.14
18	7-Methyl	N-butyl amino	Chloro	6.6241	6.2255	7.732	7.49
19	7-Methyl	4-(3-amino propylmorpholino)	Chloro	6.6046	5.5994	8.06	6.35
20	7-Methyl	3-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	6.819	6.4798	7.402	7.96
21	7-Methyl	4-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	6.8468	6.4276	7.515	7.69
22	7-Methyl	4-bromo aniline	Chloro	6.7718	6.3227	7.054	5.32
23	7-Methyl	2,3 dichloro aniline	Chloro	7.0359	6.5145	6.95	3.32
24	7-Methyl	2-nitro aniline	Chloro	7.0603	6.5919	6.952	4.34
25	7-Methyl	4-fluro aniline	Chloro	6.9576	6.4757	7.061	4.35
26	5-Ethoxy	3-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	7.6258	7.2641	7.449	7.14
27	5-Ethoxy	4-hydroxy aniline	Chloro	7.6068	7.1671	7.562	4.81
28	5-Ethoxy	4-bromo aniline	Chloro	7.7858	7.277	7.118	5.94
29	5-Ethoxy	2,3-dichloro aniline	Chloro	7.9243	7.2907	7.014	6.06
30	5-Ethoxy	2-nitro aniline	Chloro	8.0938	7.4107	7.016	4.06

3.8 Synthetic scheme:

Bergman's 2003 method for synthesizing 5, 11-dehydroindolo[3,2-c]quinoline-6-one using isatin and 2-aminobenzylamine.⁶⁶ All the reagents were used without any additional purification, using commercially available reagents. The synthesis of Isatin involved introducing M-anisidine, m-taurolidine, and 3-chloroaniline into a flask, followed by adding water and strong hydrochloric acid. Two solutions were added, one containing anhydrous sodium sulfate and chloral hydrate, and the other hydroxylamine hydrochloride. The mixture was heated to 100⁰C for 6 hours, then cooled and dissolved in sodium hydroxide. The solid

components were collected, washed and dried. The chlorination of 2-AminoBenzylamine involved a mixture of methanol and water, treated with dilute hydrochloric acid, and extracted with dichloromethane. The synthesis of intermediates involved a mixture of Chlorinated Aminobenzylamine and substituted Isatin, which was heated and refluxed for 17 hours. Dehydrative chlorination with POCl₃ was conducted, and amino groups were added to the carbon atom at position 13 using an ArSN reaction using various amines, as shown in Figure 7.

2a. 3-(4-(3,8-dichloro-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoli-6-yl)morpholin-2-yl)propan-1-amine: Yield 22.9%, M.P. 70 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.6 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) C-Cl stretch- 505.70, 602.32, N-H stretch- 3270.65, N-H bend-1559.44, O-H stretch 3600.75, Aromatic C sp²-3006.62, ¹H NMR (δppm) A ring: 5.0-7.0 (1H, 3CH), C ring: 9.83 (1H, 1NH), D ring: 5.0-8.2 (1H, 3CH), E ring: 2.05-4.6 (1H, 3CH₂), F: 2.05-2.53 (1H, 3CH₂), G: 2.04 (1H, 1NH₂), ¹³CNMR A ring: 126.32-157.10, B ring: 112.82-169.79, C ring: 137.64, D ring: 110.68-111.81, E ring: 38.28-38.68, F (aliphatic chain): 23.70, MASS(m/z) 429 [M⁺].

2b. 8-chloro-3-methyl-6-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline Yield 24.9%, M.P. 87 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.7 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) C-Cl stretch- 565.59, 709.76. N-H stretch- 3304.13, C (sp²)-H stretch- 3093.65, ¹H NMR (δppm) A ring: 2.28-2.33 (3H, 1CH₃), E ring: 2.05-3.73 (1H, 4CH₂), F(CH₃): 2.05-2.54 (3H, 1CH₃), ¹³CNMR A ring CH₃: 21.05, B ring: 168.39-172.08, E ring: 53.40-53.78, F (CH₃): 44.31-44.41, MASS(m/z) 294.

2c. 8-chloro-6-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-methyl-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline Yield 40.9%, M.P. 93 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.9 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) C-Cl stretch- 776.78, N-H bend- 1514.50, Alkanes-C-H stretch- 2816.36, 2880.49, CH₃ bend- 1371.78, ¹H NMR (δppm) A ring: 2.26-2.99 (1H, 1CH₃), E ring: 2.5-4.5 (1H, 4CH₂), F: 1.23-1.77 (1H, 1C₂H₅), ¹³CNMR A ring CH₃: 22.56-29.05, B ring: 168.93, E ring: 38.12-40.07, F (CH₃CH₂): 13.47-13.62, MASS(m/z) 392.

2d. N-benzyl-8-chloro-3-methyl-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinolin-6-amine Yield 22.9%, M.P. 87 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.4 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) C-Cl stretch- 618.14, Aromatic C=C stretch- 1463.87, C(sp²)-H stretch- 3187.63, ¹H NMR (δppm) A ring: 7.10-7.49 (1H, 3CH), 2.28-2.54 (1H, 1CH₃), C ring: 8.45 (1H, 1NH), D ring: 7.10-7.49 (1H, 3CH) E: 3.98 (1H, NH), F: 4.22-4.68 (1H, 1CH₂), G ring: 7.10-7.49 (1H, 5CH), ¹³CNMR A ring: 139.43-159.49, A ring CH₃: 17.52-22.47, B ring: 169.50, C ring: 133.95, D ring: 116.30-133.95, E: 40.17-42.21, F ring: 126.35-139.43, MASS(m/z) 389.7.

2e. N-butyl-8-chloro-3-methyl-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinolin-6-amine Yield 45.9%, M.P. 53 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.6 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) C-Cl stretch- 756.53, Alkane CH₃ bend- 1443.62, N-H bend- 1575.25, 1598.88, N-H stretch- 3367.48, 3381.95, Asym. CH₃ stretch- 2973.51, ¹H NMR (δppm) A ring: 2.05-2.74 (1H, 1CH₃), E: 4.67-4.72 (1H, 1NH), F: 1.11-3.07 (1H, C₄H₉), ¹³CNMR A ring: 126.36-131.53, A ring CH₃: 21.01, B ring: 116.25-172.00, C ring: 131.53, D ring: 79.22-131.53, E (aliphatic chain): 10.20-51.07, MASS(m/z) 298.7.

2f. 4-methoxy-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-8,9-diol Yield 85%, M.P. 95 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.7 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) OCH₃ 2786, OH 3348 ¹H NMR (δppm) 6.70-6.85 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 9.8 (s, H, NH), 8.94 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 6.93-7.38 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 3.78 (s, 1H, OCH) ¹³C NMR (δppm) A ring: 131.0-135.2, B ring: 127.8-128.7, C ring: 125.5-119.0, D ring: 114.3-111.1, 55.8 (OCH₃). MASS (m/z) 198.80 [M⁺].

2g. Ethyl 8-fluoro-11,11a-dihydro-11-methyl-6aH-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-6-carboxylate Yield: 38%, M.P. 61 ± 3°C, Rf value 0.8 cm⁻¹, FTIR (cm⁻¹) N-CH₃ 2752, C = O 1498-1589, ¹H NMR (δppm) 6.9-8.2 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 4.4 (q, 2H, CH₂), 4.0 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.9 (t,

3H, CH₃), ¹³C NMR (δppm) 168.2 (C=O), 149.9 (C-F), 154.5 (C=O), A ring: 128.1-131.2, B ring: 121.9-130, C ring: 114.8-121.8, D ring: 108.5-120.0, 69.1 (CH₂), 41.2 (N-CH₃), 15.3 (CH₃); MASS (m/z) 319.

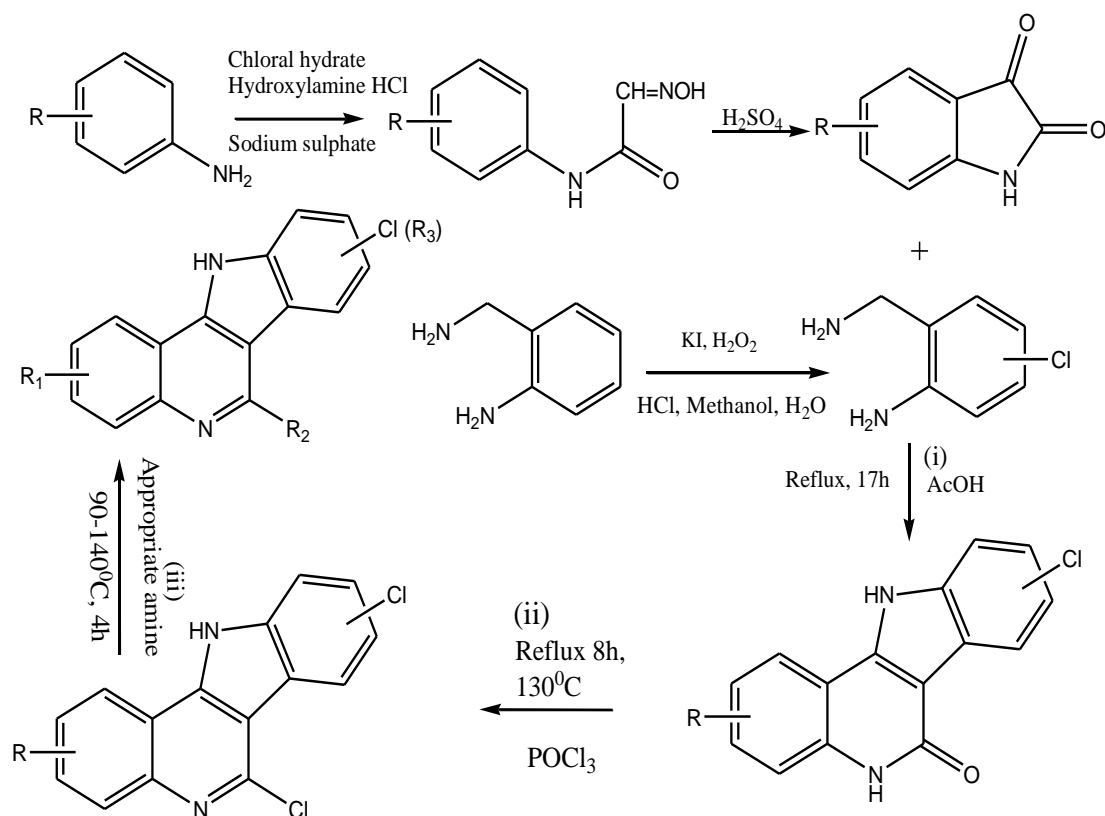


Figure 7: Synthetic scheme isocryptolepine derivatives

2h. 11-bromo-6-ethyl-6, 11-dihydro-8-methoxy-5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline

Yield: 62%, M.P. $98 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.7 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) N-CH₃ 2761, C=O 1553-1744, ¹H NMR (δppm) 6.65–7.30 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 4.5 (q, 2H, CH₂), 4.1 (q, 2H, CH); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.83 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), ¹³C NMR (δppm) C-O 160.1, A ring: 110.2-129.7 B ring: 60.6-138.5 C ring: 112-119 D ring: 102.1-155.6, 65.3(CH₂), 55.7 (OCH₃), 35.5 (N-CH₃). MASS (m/z) 404 [M⁺]

2i. 11-fluoro-2-iodo-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-8-ol Yield: 62%, M.P. $68 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.2 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) I 1357, N-F 1048, O-H 1340, ¹H NMR (δppm) 7.69–8.22 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 7.99 (s, H), 6.1-7.2 (t, 2H, CH); 5.07 (s, H, OH), ¹³C NMR (δppm) A ring: 110.2-139.1 B ring: 119.8-148.6 C ring: 135.1-132.9 D ring: 117.1-152.6, MASS (m/z) 279.71.

2j. 9-bromo-6,11-dihydro-5-methyl-11-nitro-5H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-6-ol Yield: 62%, M.P. $64 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.2 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) CH₃ bend 1405, O-H 3670- 3578, Br 686-510, NO₂ 1651, ¹H NMR (δppm) 6.66–7.31 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 5.64 (s, H), 6.9-7.6 (t, 3H, CH); 2.37 (s, H, OH), ¹³C NMR (δppm) A ring: 110.3-138.8 B ring: 123.1-85.6 C ring: 139.1-123.9 D ring: 115.9-140.3, MASS (m/z) 299.21 [M+2].

2k. 11-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)-6, 11-dihydro-5H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-9-ol Yield: 69%, M.P. $101 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.4 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) O-H 3198, Br 689, CF₃ 1301, ¹H NMR (δppm) 5.8–7.4 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 4.7 (s, H), 3.5-4.13 (d, 2H, Ar-H); 5.57-6.94 (t, H, Ar-H), ¹³C NMR (δppm) A ring: 94.9-146.9 B ring: 117.4-126 C ring: 58.6-112.9 D ring: 108.1-150.2, MASS (m/z) 381.6.

2l. 11-bromo-11,11a-dihydro-9-hydroxy-6aH-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-3-carboxylic acid Yield: 78%, M.P. $99 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.8 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) O-H 3234, Br 843, COOH 3298, ¹H NMR (δppm) 4.89–5.99 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 4.8 (s, H), 4.1-4.27 (t, 3H, Ar-H); 7.32-8.18 (t, H,

Ar-H), ^{13}C NMR (δppm) A ring: 98.3-156.5 C ring: 58.1-163.7 D ring: 122.2-141.8, C chain: 169.4 MASS (m/z) 365.74.

2m. 11-bromo-11,11a-dihydro-3-(nitromethyl)-6aH-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-9-ol Yield: 48%, M.P. $108 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.3 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) O-H 3401, Br 736, NO_2 1493, ^1H NMR (δppm) 6.08–6.78 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 5.7 (s, OH), 3.4-7.58 (t, 3H, Ar-H); 7.12-7.61 (t, H, Ar-H), ^{13}C NMR (δppm) A ring: 101.1-166.1 C ring: 71.7-168.1 D ring: 123.1-138.1, C chain: 79.2 MASS (m/z) 298.76.

2n. 3-amino-5-(9-chloro-4-ethoxy-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-6-yl)phenol Yield: 68%, M.P. $110 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.8 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) O-H 3287, NH₂ 1575, Cl 757, C-O 1598, CH₃ 1482, ^1H NMR (δppm) 7.40–7.87 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 9.1 (s, NH), 5.89-6.78 (t, 3H, Ar-H); 5.02-6.31 (t, H, Ar-H), 5.73 (s, OH), 1.30-4.08 (d, CH₂) 6.05 (s, NH₂), ^{13}C NMR (δppm) A ring: 124.1-171.0 B ring: 119.1-137.8, C ring: 144.9-161.3 D ring: 117.8-147.5, E ring: 102.7-149.1 Co chain: 17.1, MASS (m/z) 319.42 [M+2].

2o. 2-amino-4-(9-chloro-4-ethoxy-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinolin-6-yl)phenol Yield: 46%, M.P. $123 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.5 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) O-H 3312, NH₂ 1564, Cl 621, C-O 1645, CH₃ 1396, ^1H NMR (δppm) 6.78–7.49 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 9.8 (s, NH), 5.75-7.62 (t, 3H, Ar-H); 5.59-6.9 (t, H, Ar-H), 5.12 (s, OH), 2.18-3.87 (d, CH₃) 3.85 (s, NH₂), ^{13}C NMR (δppm) A ring: 117.9-136.9 B ring: 121.3-138.2 C ring: 142.1-159.0 D ring: 121.1-145.5, E ring: 131.2-146.2 Co chain: 17.8-64.8, MASS (m/z) 278.32 [M+].

2p. 3,4-dichloro-5-(9-chloro-4-ethoxy-11H-indolo[3,2-c]quinoline-6-yl)benzenamine Yield: 76%, M.P. $168 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$, Rf value 0.6 cm^{-1} , FTIR (cm^{-1}) NH₂ 1391, Cl 674, C-O 1476, CH₃ 1389 ^1H NMR (δppm) 6.78–7.81 (t, 3H, Ar-H), 8.7 (s, NH), 7.12-7.67 (t, 3H, Ar-H); 5.71, 6.95 (d, 2H, Ar-H), 2.12-3.79 (d, CH₃) 4.09 (s, NH₂), ^{13}C NMR (δppm) A ring: 123.7-135.7 B ring: 123.0-141.8, C ring: 141.3-157.1 D ring: 131.0-149.7, E ring: 116.2-148.0 Co chain: 16.1-63.7, MASS (m/z) 321.20.

4. Results and discussion

Emanate from the SAR and docking studies generated through molecular modeling analysis, 30 novel antioxidants were auspiciously crafted, showing promising speculated activities across computational avenue. Subsequently, 16 of the top compounds were synthesized to evaluate their antioxidant and anti-tyrosinase activities in vitro.

4.1 In vitro antioxidant activities

Four different types of antioxidant assay methods viz. DPPH, Hydrogen peroxide, and superoxide assay define the radical scavenging ability of synthesized compounds and FRAP activity measures the reducing capacity of the synthesized compounds. All the compounds found good statistical correlation and the activities are reported in Table 6.

a) DPPH scavenging activity

The experiment evaluated substances' antioxidant capacity by measuring their ability to eliminate or neutralize free radicals. The compound 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) was used as the radical.⁶⁷⁻⁶⁸ Synthesized substances were prepared at various concentrations and tested in a test tube. A control solution, BHT, was used as a positive control. The absorbance was measured at a wavelength of 517 nm using a UV-visible spectrophotometer.⁶⁹ All the synthesized compounds manifest a various degree of DPPH scavenging action with IC₅₀ values ranging from 183.42 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and 893.31 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. 2f (IC₅₀ 183.42 \pm 1.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) displayed activity comparable with BHT (IC₅₀ 171.11 \pm 0.51 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). The antioxidant activity of 2f may be because of the presence of electron-donating hydroxyl and methoxy substituent on the phenyl ring. 2m (IC₅₀ 210.13 \pm 0.59 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) also displayed activity

comparable with BHT because of the presence of methyl and hydroxyl electron-donating substituent. Other synthesized compounds 2e, 2g, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2l, 2o, and 2p with IC₅₀ values 463.92, 331.53, 480.71, 392.73, 250.53, 529.64, 213.13 μg/ml also show good scavenging activity. The descending order of activity is-

BHT>2f>2m>2o>2k>2h>2g>2p>2j>2n>2e>2i>2l>2c>2b>2d>2a

b) FRAP assay

This technique converts ferric ions into ferrous ions under acidic conditions. A test tube contains TPTZ solution, FeCl₃ solution, and synthesized chemicals. Absorption at 593 nm is measured after 30 minutes, with a control without synthesized ingredients. The absorbance of the synthesized compounds was compared to standard absorbance (BHT).⁷⁰⁻⁷¹ Results convey that 2f exhibited potential reducing power with an EC₅₀ of 220.09 ± 0.74 μg/ml which is almost equal to standard BHT (223.03 ± 1.3 μg/ml). Besides 2f other compounds 2k (293.32 ± 0.17 μg/ml), 2m (312.11 ± 0.22 μg/ml), and 2o (252.05 ± 0.27 μg/ml) also show good activity. The descending order of activity is-

2f>BHT>2k>2g>2m>2h>2p>2i>2n>2j>2o>2e>2d>2l>2c>2a>2b

c) Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) scavenging assay

The scavenging activity involves converting hydrogen peroxide into water. A 40 mM solution was prepared, mixed with synthesized compounds, and measured at wavelength of 230 nm. A control was prepared using hydrogen peroxide without any synthesized chemicals.⁷²⁻⁷³ None of the synthesized compounds tested here are more active than BHT concerning hydrogen peroxide scavenging. 2f (IC₅₀ 172.24 ± 0.53 μg/ml) displayed activity comparable with BHT (140.4 ± 1.7 μg/ml). This is because of the presence of hydroxyl and methoxy groups (electron-donating substituent) on the terminal phenyl ring.

BHT>2f>2o>2m>2k>2g>2j>2p>2h>2i>2n>2l>2d>2e>2a>2c>2b

d) Superoxide (SOD) radical scavenging activity

The superoxide radical assay measured the antioxidant's ability to prevent NBT reduction in an alkaline DMSO solution, prepared by mixing nitroblue tetrazolium and synthesized chemicals. The absorbance at 560 nm was measured after 10 minutes.⁷⁴⁻⁷⁷ The most active compound 2f (IC₅₀ 193.49 ± 0.86 μg/ml) having 2-hydroxyl and 4-methoxy substituent on the phenyl ring displayed activity comparable with BHT (IC₅₀ 207.6 ± 0.97 μg/ml). 2k, 2m and 2o (IC₅₀ 253.50, 329.43, and 252.35 μg/ml respectively) displayed activity comparable with BHT (IC₅₀ 207.6 ± 0.97 μg/ml).

2f>BHT>2o>2k>2h>2m>2j>2g>2p>2i>2n>2d>2l>2c>2e>2b>2a

Table 6: Antioxidant activities of synthesized indolo [3, 2-c] quinoline derivatives

S. No.	DPPH (IC ₅₀ , μg/ml)	FRAP (EC ₅₀ , μg/ml)	H ₂ O ₂ (IC ₅₀ , μg/ml)	Superoxide (IC ₅₀ , μg/ml)
2a	893.31±0.9***	972.7±0.45***	872.07±0.7***	913.72±0.5***
2b	657.5±0.6***	1013.32±0.4***	913.04±0.7***	862.73±0.55***
2c	641.40±1.8***	893.09±0.47***	907.90±0.6***	819.5±0.65***
2d	676.7±1.2***	752.37±1.2***	810.39±0.8***	772.06±0.75***
2e	463.92±0.71***	620.02±0.7***	817.29±0.6***	840.45±0.65***
2f*	183.42±1.4***	220.09±0.7 ^{ns}	172.24±0.5***	193.49±0.86***
2g	331.53±2.3***	302.09±0.7***	313.35±2.2***	345.34±0.95***
2h	293.39±0.74***	330.32±0.5***	352.05±0.5***	310.95±0.45***
2i	480.71±0.83***	454.07±1.3***	395.09±0.6***	445.72±1.73***

2j	392.73±1.4***	551.07±0.7***	325.45±0.9***	344.07±0.59***
2k	250.53±0.62***	293.32±0.6***	295.23±0.7***	253.50±0.66***
2l	529.64±0.74***	752.67±0.9***	767.52±0.9***	804.02±0.79***
2m	210.13±0.59***	312.11±0.8***	287.75±0.6***	329.43±0.75***
2n	410.35±0.72***	512.29±0.7***	529.12±0.6***	515.55±0.65***
2o	213.13±0.59***	252.05±0.6***	220.13±0.7***	252.35±0.95***
2p	352.01±0.67***	352.29±1.9***	331.02±1.3***	352.47±0.85***
BHT	171.11±0.71	223.03±0.76	140.4±1.7	207.6±0.97

***p<0.0001 (significantly different from standard)

ns- not significantly different from standard

4.2 Tyrosinase Inhibition Assay

The tyrosinase inhibitory activity was assessed using the modified dopachrome technique.⁷⁸⁻⁷⁹ Synthesized compounds were created in a solution containing 50% DMSO. The absorbance was quantified at a wavelength of 475 nm, with kojic acid serving as the positive control. The results were compared to a control group where 50% of DMSO was used instead of the synthesized molecule.⁸⁰⁻⁸¹ 2f (IC₅₀ 123.49 ± 0.86 µg/ml) displayed antityrosinase activity comparable with Kojic acid (IC₅₀ 90.21± 1.2 µg/ml). 2a was showing very weak antityrosinase activity (IC₅₀ 913.72 ± 0.5).

Table 7: Antityrosinase activities of IPH6 and IPH15

S. No.	Compound ID	Antityrosinase activity (IC ₅₀ µg/ml)
1.	2f	123.49 ± 0.86 ***
2.	2a	413.72 ± 0.5***
3.	Kojic acid (Standard)	90.21±1.2

***p<0.0001(significantly different from standard)

5. Conclusion:

This work aimed to develop 2D and 3D QSAR relationship of indolo[3, 2-c]quinoline derivatives by parameters. The aim stood in fact, to establish the relationship that exists between the structures of these analogs and their therapeutic effect. The final conception was to obtain information for designing enhanced antioxidants and potential inhibitors against tyrosinase. Results CoMFA, CoMSIA, and HQSAR revealed significance result concerning internal validation (q²) for indolo[3,2-c]quinoline derivatives. By comparing the q² values obtained by different QSAR techniques, it can be stated that we have designed three rational and reasonable QSAR models. While CoMFA pinpointed advantageous and disadvantageous fields, the models of CoMSIA rendered information about the advantageous field and disadvantageous fields respectively. Similarly, the model of HQSAR provided details of positive field, negative field and intermediate field concerning the sub-structural fingerprint needs to impact on biological activity. According to the flexible docking methodology, the binding mode of the indole [3,2-c] quinoline analogs was predicted. Further, it was concluded that HBD interactions are significant for the stability of protein on PDB 2Y9X during the binding process. This information is essential to understanding the manner and conditions that are necessary for the formation of certain biological outcomes. Laboratory experiments showed that all the synthesized indolo[3, 2-c]quinoline derivatives proved to have high antioxidant and antityrosinase activity. Across all the assays and between them, the levels of activity differed. Similarly, in the DPPH assay, it was found that IC₅₀ was 183.42 ± 1.4µg/ml.

In the experience with the FRAP assay, the EC₅₀ was close to the decrease in IC₅₀ of the standard drug which was 220.09 ± 0.74µg/ml. In the H₂O₂ scavenging assay all the synthesized compounds had less activity than the BHT standard but compound 2f had almost similar activity. The obtained value of the IC₅₀ for compound 2f in the SOD radical scavenging assay is 172.24 ± 0 of successfully tested concentrations, the studied substance proved to be more active with an IC₅₀ value of 53µg/ml, while the standard has an IC₅₀ value of 193.49 ± 0.86µg/ml.

Conflict of interest:

The authors assert that no competing interests exist.

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List of abbreviations:

CoMFA: comparative molecular field analysis, **CoMSIA:** comparative similarity indices analysis, **HQSAR:** Hologram quantitative structure-activity relationship, **PLS:** Partial least-squares, **PRESS** is the sum of squares of the prediction errors, **q²:** Predictive squared correlation coefficient, **r²:** Non-cross-validated correlation coefficient, **F:** Yields to optimistic predictive abilities, **IC₅₀:** Half-maximal inhibitory concentration, **pIC₅₀:** Negative log of the IC₅₀ value when converted to molar, **SE:** Standard error, **HB:** Hydrogen bond, **ROS:** Reactive oxygen species, **RNS:** Reactive nitrogen species, **O₂:** Oxygen, **H₂O₂:** Hydrogen peroxide, **HO:** Hydroxide, **NO:** Nitrous oxide, **BHT:** Butylated hydroxyl toluene, **DPPH:** 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl, **TPTZ:** 2,4,6-Tripyridyl-s-triazine, **NBT:** Nitro blue tetrazolium chloride, **DMSO:** Dimethyl sulfoxide, **FRAP:** Ferric reducing antioxidant power, **A/B/C/H/Ch/DA** Atoms/bonds/connections/hydrogen atoms/ chirality/donor, acceptor.

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