




Short Note

2,9-Dimethyl-4*H*-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-*f*]quinolin-4-one

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Abstract: The new 2,9-dimethyl-4*H*-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-*f*]quinolin-4-one was successfully prepared through the three-component iodine-catalyzed reaction of *n*-butyl vinyl ether with the new 8-amino-2-methyl-4*H*-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one. The latter was prepared by the reduction of 2-methyl-8-nitro-4*H*-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one with Pd/C in a hydrogen atmosphere. The above nitro compound was synthesized by the condensation of *N*-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-3-yl)acetamide with P₂O₅ under microwave irradiation. The above acetamide derivative was prepared during the nitration of 2-methyl-4*H*-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one with H₂SO₄ and KNO₃. The structure of the newly synthesized compounds was confirmed by FT-IR, LC-MS, ¹H-NMR, and ¹³C-NMR analyses. Preliminary biological tests show significant anti-lipid peroxidation activity for the title compound and the other synthesized new intermediates, as well as interesting soybean lipoxygenase inhibition for acetamide **2** (IC₅₀ 55 μM) and nitro-compound **3** (IC₅₀ 27 μM).

Keywords: I₂-catalysis; fused pyridocoumarin; fused oxazolocoumarin; amino-substituted fused oxazolocoumarin; microwave irradiation



Citation: Vlachou, E.-E.N.; Balalas, T.D.; Hadjipavlou-Litina, D.J.; Litinas, K.E.; Douka, M. 2,9-Dimethyl-4*H*-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-*f*]quinolin-4-one. *Molbank* **2023**, *2023*, M1591. <https://doi.org/10.3390/M1591>

Academic Editor: R. Alan Aitken

Received: 26 January 2023

Revised: 13 February 2023

Accepted: 14 February 2023

Published: 17 February 2023



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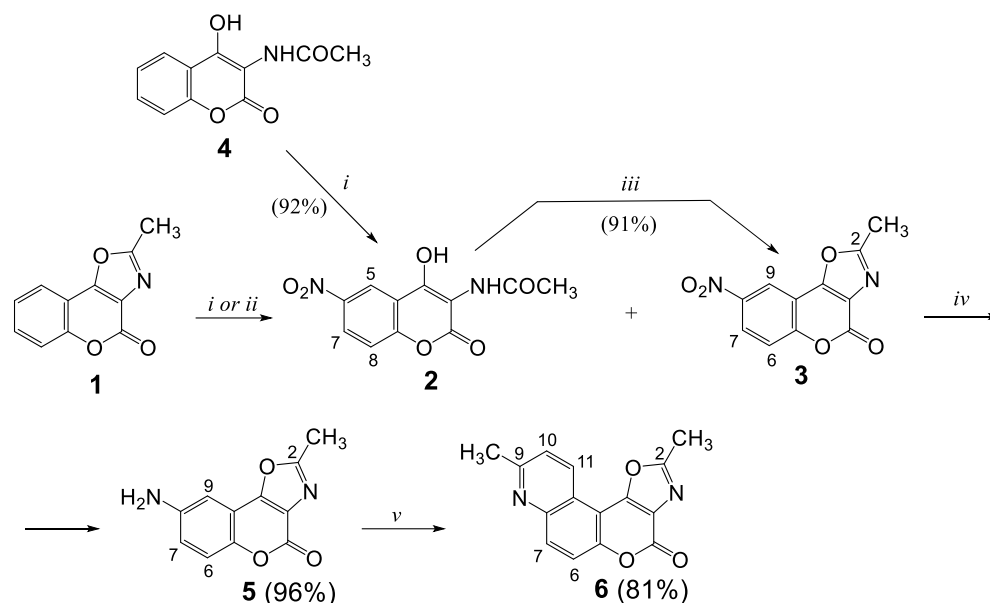
1. Introduction

Coumarin derivatives are widely distributed in nature or synthetically prepared. They act on neurodegenerative diseases and present important biological properties, such as anti-HIV, anticoagulant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, antioxidant, and antidiabetic [1–7]. Fused coumarins, as well as fused oxazolocoumarins, exhibit antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, or photoreleasing aminolevulinic acid activities [8–11]. Pyridocoumarins are also biologically active [12] with anticancer, antifungal, antibacterial, antimalarial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and wound-healing properties [12–17].

The synthesis of fused oxazolocoumarins is achieved by the condensation of *o*-aminohydroxycoumarins with aldehydes [9,18–20], acids [19], or anhydrides [18,20]. The condensation of *o*-amidohydroxycoumarins with anhydrides [21], POCl₃ [22], or P₂O₅ [23] has also led to oxazolocoumarins. The reduction of 4-hydroxy-3-nitrosocoumarin in acetic anhydride in the presence of Pd/C [24] or 4-hydroxy-3-nitrocoumarins in liquid carboxylic acids in the presence of Pd/C or PPh₃ and P₂O₅ [11] leads to fused oxazolocoumarins. Recently, we have prepared fused oxazolocoumarins by the one-pot tandem reaction of *o*-hydroxynitrocoumarins with benzyl alcohols in toluene under gold nanoparticle catalysis supported on TiO₂ [25,26], with FeCl₃ [26], or with silver nanoparticles supported on TiO₂ [26].

The preparation of pyridocoumarins [12] succeeded under Skraup synthesis from nitrocoumarin and glycerol [27] via the one-pot Povarov reaction of aminocoumarins with aromatic aldehydes and cyclic enol ethers [28], the reaction of aminocoumarins with vinyl ketones [29], or the three-component reaction of aminocoumarins with phenylacetylene and benzaldehydes catalyzed by I₂ [30], by other Lewis acids [17,31], or by

o-vinylaminocoumarins under Vilsmeier conditions [32]. Earlier, we synthesized fused pyridocoumarins through the three-component reaction of aminocoumarins with *n*-butyl vinyl ether and I₂ catalysis [33]. The cycloisomerization of propargylaminocoumarins, catalyzed by AgSbF₆ [34] or BF₃·Et₂O [35] or Au/nanoparticles [36], followed by oxidation, also resulted in the synthesis of pyridocoumarins. Due to our interest in the synthesis and biological evaluation of fused oxazolocoumarins [11,25,26] and pyridocoumarins [12,17,31,33,35,36], we combined in one new framework pyridine, oxazole, and coumarin moieties, and studied the biological impact of the new compounds. The reactions studied, and the synthesized products are depicted in Scheme 1.



Scheme 1. Reagents and Conditions: (i) H₂SO₄ (98%) (80 equiv.), HNO₃ (65%) (1.5 equiv.), 0 °C, 15 min then r.t. 1 h [2 (61%), 3 (22%)]; (ii) H₂SO₄ (98%) (75 equiv.), KNO₃ (1.5 equiv.), 0 °C, 15 min, then r.t. 1 h [2 (91%)]; (iii) P₂O₅ (3 equiv.), toluene, MW, 150 °C, 3 h; (iv) Pd/C (10%), ethanol, H₂, r.t., 1 h; (v) *n*-butyl vinyl ether (3 equiv.), I₂ (0.1 equiv.), acetonitrile, reflux, overnight.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Synthesis

The starting material for the synthesis of the title compound was the new compound 2-methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one (3), which was prepared in 91% yield in one-pot cyclization-dehydration of *N*-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (2) in the presence of P₂O₅ under microwave irradiation (Scheme 1). In the ¹H-NMR spectrum of 3, there are downfield shifts for aromatic protons at 8.72 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H) for 5-H, 8.43 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 9.1 Hz, 1H) for 7-H and at 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H) for 8-H.

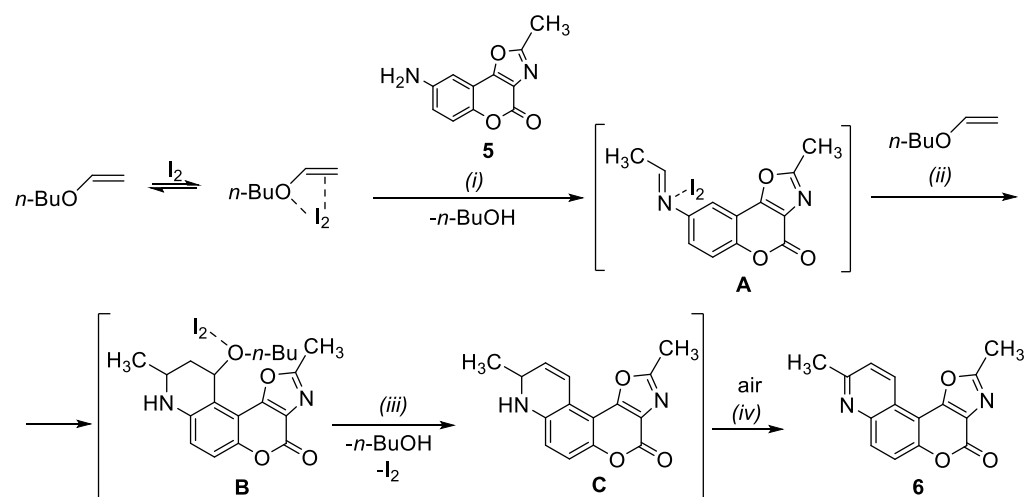
At first, we tried to synthesize nitro-compound 3 through nitration of 2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one (1) [11]. The nitration in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ and HNO₃ resulted in nitration product 3 (22%) and the hydrolyzed nitro compound 2 (61%). When the nitration was performed in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ and KNO₃, acetamide 2 was the sole product with a 91% yield. Nitro-compound 2 was prepared, also, by nitration of *N*-(4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (4) [11] in the presence of concentrated H₂SO₄ and HNO₃. In the ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) spectrum of 2, there is one doublet at 8.60 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H) for 5-H, one doublet at 8.44 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H) for 7-H, and one doublet at 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H) for 8-H, revealing the 7-position for NO₂ group. The peaks for the OH and NH protons are at 12.71 and 9.56 ppm. The same protons in the ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) are at 13.79 and 8.10 ppm, respectively.

The reduction of 2-methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-*d*]oxazol-4-one (3) with Pd/C under H₂ atmosphere resulted to the preparation of 8-amino-2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-

d]oxazol-4-one (**5**) in 96% yield. In this new compound, there is an upfield shift of aromatic protons $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum at 6.92–6.88 (m, 2H) for 5-H and 7-H and at 7.27 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H) for 8-H, while the NH_2 group appeared at 5.50 (brs, 2H). In the FT-IR, there are absorptions at 3417 and 3244 cm^{-1} for the NH_2 group.

For the formation of pyridine moiety in the fused coumarin skeleton, we applied the Povarov-type reaction as we previously used it through the three-component reaction of aminocoumarin with *n*-butyl vinyl ether under iodine catalysis [33]. The reaction of amine **5** with 3 equivalents of *n*-butyl vinyl ether in the presence of I_2 (10%) in CH_3CN under reflux overnight led to 2,9-dimethyl-4*H*-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-*f*]quinolin-4-one (**6**) in 81% yield. This product was isolated from the column chromatography separation of the complicated reaction mixture. In the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum, there are four doublets for the pyridine and benzene protons at 7.53 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.95 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), revealing the angular regioselective formation of pyridine moiety. The NOE experiment verifies the position (9- CH_3) of pyridine-methyl, as there are correlations of 11-H at 8.95 ppm with the proton at 7.53 ppm (2.75%) and the methyl-protons at 2.81 (2.67%) and 2.80 ppm (2.36%). There are also two methyls at 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.81 ppm (s, 3H), with the corresponding shifts in $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ at 14.6 (methyl carbon of oxazole ring) and 25.3 ppm (methyl carbon of pyridine ring), as shown by HSQC, see Supplementary Materials. The latter is quite similar to the 2-methyl carbon (25.4 ppm) of 2-methylquinoline [37] and not the 4-methyl carbon (18.6 ppm) of 4-methylquinoline [38].

The mechanism of this reaction is similar to that proposed by us [33], with the initial formation of an *N*-iminocoumarin **A**, which was at first catalyzed by iodine acting as a mild Lewis acid (Scheme 2). An Aza-Diels–Alder reaction of the imine **A** with a second molecule of *n*-butyl vinyl ether, also catalyzed by iodine, gave, after tautomerization, the intermediate **B**. The elimination of *n*-BuOH resulted in intermediate **C**, which by air oxidation, led to the final product **6**.



Scheme 2. (i) Lewis acid catalyzed imine formation. (ii) Aza-Diels–Alder reaction catalyzed by the Lewis acid, followed by tautomerization. (iii) Lewis acid catalyzed *n*-butanol elimination. (iv) Oxidation.

2.2. Biology

Preliminary biological experiments were performed *in vitro*. The new compounds **2**, **3**, **5**, and **6** were tested as possible antioxidant agents and inhibitors of soybean lipoxygenase according to our previous published assays [11,17]. The anti-lipid peroxidation activity was very high at 100 μM (74.4%, 93.1%, 98.1%, and 91.7% for compounds **2**, **3**, **5**, and **6**, respectively), as tested by the 2,2'-azobis(2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride (AAPH) protocol. The inhibition of soybean lipoxygenase was low at 100 μM for the title compound

6 (28%) and the intermediate amine **5** (41%), while the intermediates **2** and **3** were more potent with IC₅₀ 55 μ M and 27 μ M, respectively.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Materials

All the chemicals were purchased from either Sigma–Aldrich Co. or Merck & Co., Inc. Melting points were determined with a Kofler hotstage apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were obtained with a Perkin–Elmer Spectrum BX spectrophotometer as KBr pellets. NMR spectra were recorded with an Agilent 500/54 (DD2) (500 MHz and 125 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C, respectively) using TMS as an internal standard. *J* values are reported in Hz. Mass spectra were determined with an LCMS-2010 EV Instrument (Shimadzu) under electrospray ionization (ESI) conditions. HRMS (ESI-MS) were recorded with a ThermoFisher Scientific (168 Third Avenue, Waltham, MA USA 02451) model LTQ Orbitrap Discovery MS. Silica gel No. 60, Merck KGAA (Frankfurter Strasse 250, Darmstadt, 64293, Germany) was used for column chromatography.

3.2. Nitration of 2-Methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**1**) Synthesis of N-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**2**) and 2-methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**3**)

A. H₂SO₄ 98% (2 mL, 37.5 mmol) and compound **1** (101 mg, 0.5 mmol) were placed in a round-bottom flask in an ice bath. A mixture of H₂SO₄ 98% 1.12 mL, 2.25 mmol) and HNO₃ 65% (0.052 mL, 0.75 mmol) was then added dropwise for 15 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then it was poured into a 20 mL mixture of water and crushed ice. The mixture was filtered under vacuum, and the precipitate was washed with 2 \times 20 mL cooled water, dried under vacuum, and separated by column chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ethyl acetate (2:1)] to give compound **3** (27 mg, 22% yield) followed by compound **2** (81 mg, 61% yield).

B. H₂SO₄ 98% (2 mL, 37.5 mmol) and compound **1** (101 mg, 0.5 mmol) were added in a round-bottom flask in an ice bath, followed by the addition of KNO₃ (76 mg, 0.75 mmol) for 15 min. The mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 1 h, poured into a 20 mL mixture of water and crushed ice, and filtered under a vacuum. The precipitate was washed with 2 \times 20 mL cooled water and dried under vacuum to give compound **2** (120 mg, 91% yield).

N-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**2**): Light beige solid, m.p. 231–232 °C (CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 3412, 3311, 3070, 2924, 2857, 1698, 1684, 1634, 1614 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 2.11 (s, 3H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 9.56 (s, 1H), 12.71 (brs, 1H). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.36 (s, 3H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (brs, 1H), 8.40 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.89 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 13.79 (s, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 22.7, 104.6, 117.2, 117.9, 119.5, 126.7, 143.6, 154.7, 156.1, 159.3, 171.0. LC-MS (ESI): 297 [M + H + MeOH]⁺.

2-Methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**3**): Beige solid, m.p. 171–172 °C (ethyl acetate/hexane). IR (KBr): 3017, 2924, 2857, 1751, 1636, 1618 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.76 (s, 3H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 14.5, 112.1, 117.7, 118.9, 126.2, 126.25, 144.3, 154.3 (2C), 155.9, 165.2. LC-MS (ESI): 269 [M + Na]⁺.

3.3. Nitration of N-(4-Hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**4**) Synthesis of N-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**2**)

According to method 3.2.A., from **4** (110 mg, 0.5 mmol) compound **2** (121 mg, 92% yield) was obtained after drying.

3.4. Condensation of N-(4-Hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**2**) Synthesis of 2-Methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**3**)

The compound **2** (132 mg, 0.5 mmol), toluene (5 mL), and P₂O₅ (0.213 g, 1.5 mmol) were added in a vial suitable for a microwave oven and irradiated at 150 °C for 3 h. After

cooling, the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel containing H₂O (20 mL) and ethyl acetate (10 mL). After separation, the organic layer was washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (3 × 10 mL) and then, with H₂O (2 × 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated to give compound **3** (112 mg, 91% yield).

3.5. Synthesis of 8-Amino-2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**5**)

Compound **3** (123 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added to ethanol (20 mL) in a round bottom flask. After removing of air, Pd/C 10 % (27 mg, 0.025 mmol) was added to the solution under argon, and the mixture was stirred under an H₂ atmosphere for 1 h. Filtration through the celite layer was followed, the celite was washed with ethanol (30 mL), and the filtrate was evaporated to afford 8-amino-2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**5**) (104 mg, 96% yield), light beige solid, m.p. 295–297 °C (dec.) (ethyl acetate/hexane). IR (KBr): 3417, 3244, 3017, 2924, 2857, 1731, 1634, 1611 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 2.64 (s, 3H), 5.50 (brs, 2H), 6.92–6.88 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 13.9, 102.4, 111.3, 117.7, 118.4, 123.9, 144.0, 146.2, 155.4, 155.7, 163.33. LC-MS (ESI): 239 [M + Na]⁺.

3.6. Synthesis of 2,9-Dimethyl-4H-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-f]quinolin-4-one (**6**)

8-Amino-2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**5**) (30 mg, 0.139 mmol) was added to CH₃CN (2 mL) in a round bottom flask followed by the addition of *n*-butylvinyl ether (0.053 mL, 0.416 mmol) and I₂ (3.5 mg, 0.014 mmol). The mixture was refluxed overnight and, after cooling, poured in ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with saturated Na₂S₂O₄ (25 mL), brine (25 mL), and H₂O (25 mL). The complicated reaction mixture, after drying over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtration, and evaporation, was separated by column chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ethyl acetate (2:1)] and gave 2,9-dimethyl-4H-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-f]quinolin-4-one (**6**) (30 mg, 81% yield), light yellow solid, m.p. 231–233 °C (ethyl acetate/hexane). IR (KBr): 3016, 2924, 2857, 1748, 1636, 1614 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 14.6, 25.3, 106.2, 120.2, 120.8, 124.1, 125.4, 133.0, 133.2, 145.0, 151.8, 155.8, 156.3, 159.7, 163.9. LC-MS (ESI): 267 [M + H]⁺, 289 [M + Na]⁺. HR-MS (ESI), (M.W.: 266): *m/z* [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₀NaN₂O₃: 289.0589, found: 289.0594.

3.7. Biological Experiments: In Vitro Assays

The compounds were dissolved in DMSO.

- Antilipid peroxidation. The AAPH protocol was performed [17].
- Lipoygenase inhibition. The soybean lipoygenase/linoleic sodium protocol was used [17].

4. Conclusions

We have demonstrated the regioselective formation of 2,9-dimethyl-4H-oxazolo[5',4':4,5]pyrano[3,2-f]quinolin-4-one (**6**) via the three-component iodine-catalyzed reaction of 8-amino-2-methyl-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**5**) with *n*-butyl vinyl ether. The preliminary biological assays pointed out that compound **6** presents significant anti-lipid peroxidation activity and low inhibition activity on soybean lipoygenase, while the intermediates *N*-(4-hydroxy-6-nitro-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)acetamide (**2**) and 2-methyl-8-nitro-4H-chromeno[3,4-d]oxazol-4-one (**3**) possess interesting soybean lipoygenase inhibition.

Supplementary Materials: ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of compounds **2**, **3**, **5**, **6**.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, writing—original draft preparation, supervision, K.E.L.; biological tests, review, and editing the manuscript, D.J.H.-L.; the experiments, E.-E.N.V.; the experiments, editing, in part, the manuscript, T.D.B.; the experiments, data curation, M.D. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund—ESF) through the Operational Programme «Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014–2020» in the context of the project “Synthesis of Fused Pyranoquinolinone Derivatives with possible Biological Interest” (MIS 5066801). (For K.E.L., D.J.H.-L., E.-E.N.V., and T.D.B.).

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Data is contained within the article or supplementary material.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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