

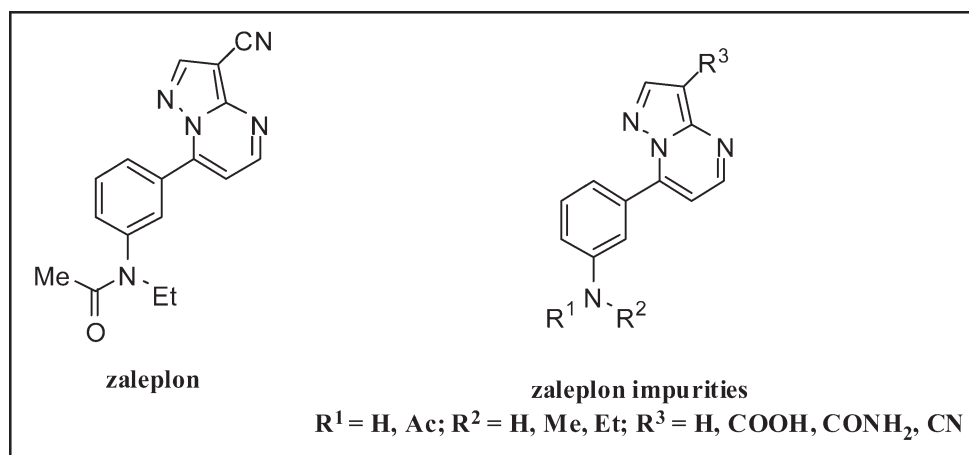
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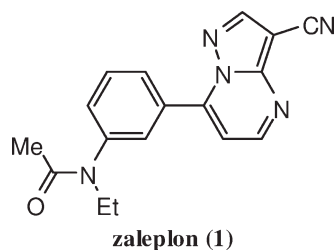


Synthesis of several potential impurities and/or degradation products of zaleplon is identified. All the prepared compounds were unambiguously identified by NMR techniques. Spectral characteristics (IR, UV, MS) of these compounds are also given.

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INTRODUCTION

Zaleplon (**1**) is a nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic belonging with zolpidem and zopiclon to the so-called Z-hypnotic class [1,2]. Clinical results have shown that zaleplon is efficacious in the treatment of insomnia where difficulty in falling asleep is the primary problem. Zaleplon unlike many other hypnotic drugs does not interfere with sleep architecture and can be administered for up to 5 weeks without the risk of dependence or rebound insomnia upon discontinuation [3].

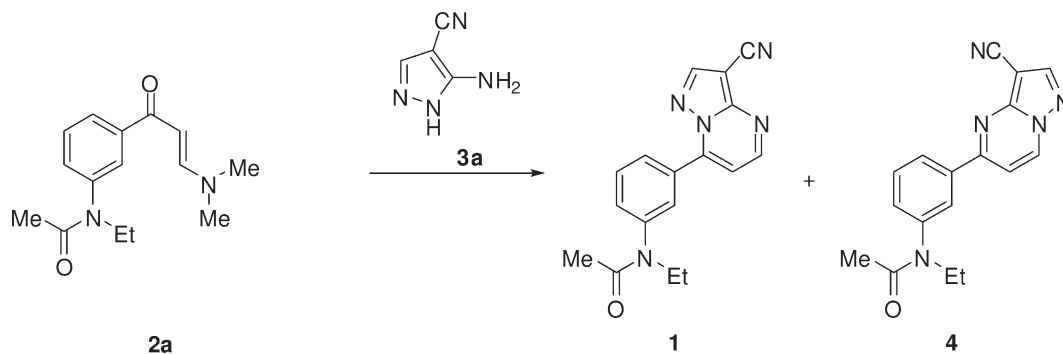


Most of the described methods [4–7] of preparation of zaleplon are based on reaction of *N*-[3-[(2*E*)-3-(dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]-*N*-ethylacetamide (**2a**)

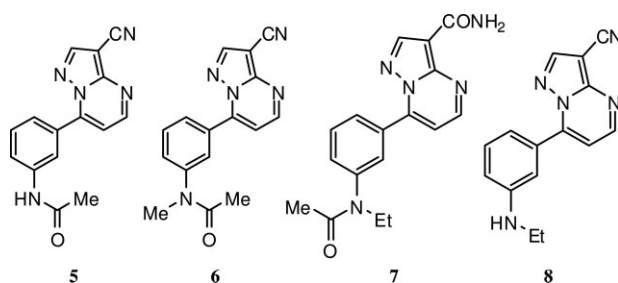
with 5-amino-1*H*-pyrazol-4-carbonitrile (**3a**) under acidic conditions. The original patent [4] describes the reaction in anhydrous acetic acid, but under these conditions considerable amounts of the corresponding isomer **4** is formed. Much better results are achieved using aqueous acetic [5] or formic [6] acids. Probably the best results regarding purity and yields are obtained when the reaction is done in aqueous alcohols in the presence of hydrochloric acid [7,8] (Scheme 1).

One of the principal parts of documentation of any active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) is description of impurities and/or degradation products which can be present. Identified impurities should be included in the specification when they are present at a level higher than the identification threshold, which is usually 0.10%. These impurities must be not only identified but also either isolated or independently synthesized.

Several impurities of zaleplon, including regioisomer **4** and compounds **5–8**, have recently been isolated and identified [9]. We have recently reported synthesis of zaleplon regioisomer **4** based on the Suzuki-Miyaura coupling [10]. To the best of our knowledge, no report on the synthesis of compounds **5–8** has been published

Scheme 1. Formation of zaleplon (**1**) and its regioisomer **4**.

and therefore we decided to synthesize these and other potential impurities as standards.

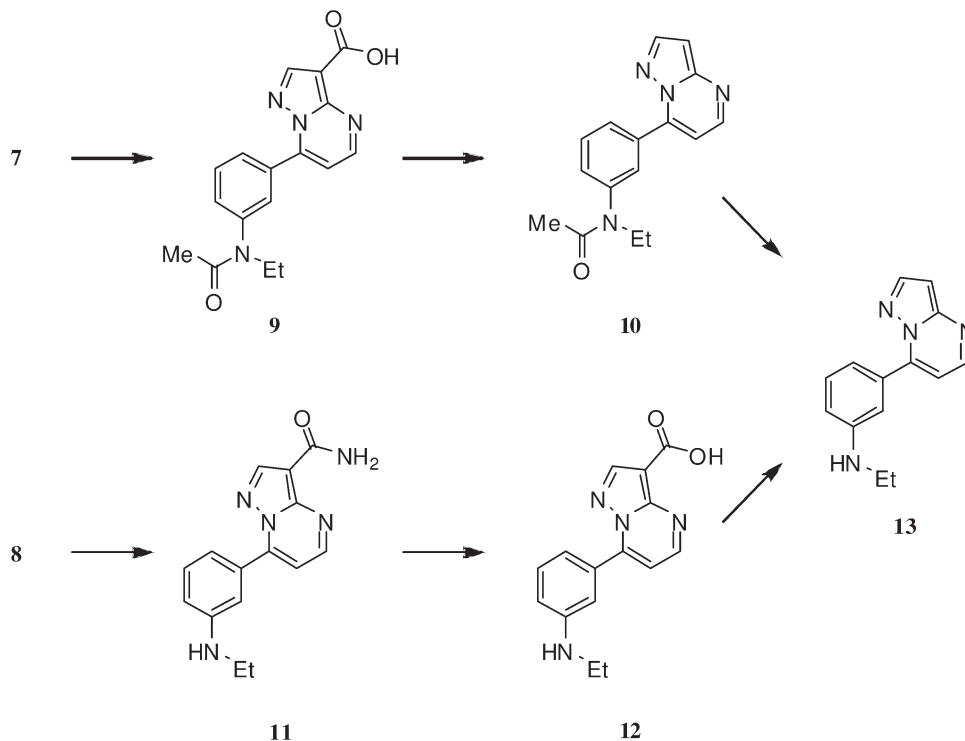


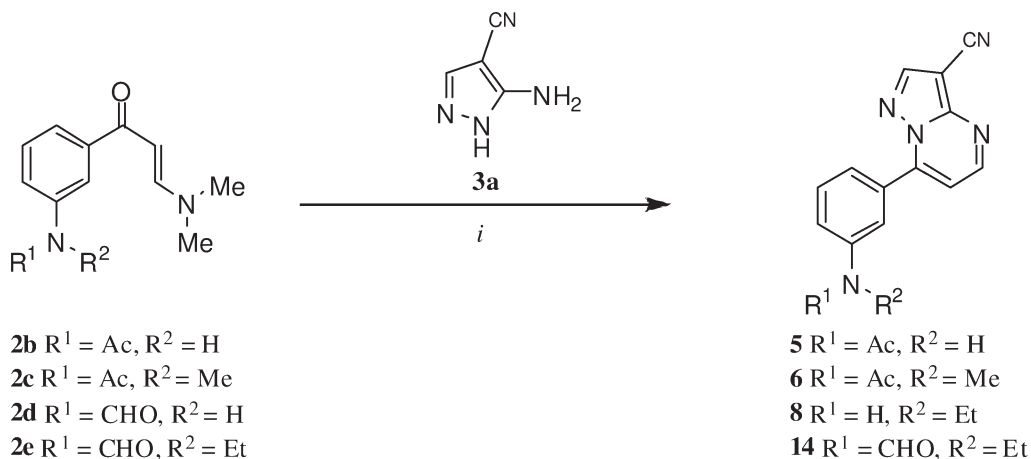
From the structures, it is evident that compounds **5** and **6** are process-related impurities formed by reaction

of the corresponding impurities in **2** with **3a**. On the other hand, compounds **7** and **8** are products of hydrolysis of zaleplon leading to the nitrile group hydrolysis and anilide group hydrolysis, respectively. Our initial stress tests of zaleplon envisaged also formation of other similar impurities, as shown in Scheme 2, and therefore we decided to synthesise them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During our development of generic zaleplon, we decided to prepare compounds **5–13** as standards. Compounds **5** and **6** were prepared analogously as zaleplon starting from commercially available compound **2b** and compound **2c**, respectively. Compound **2c** was prepared

Scheme 2. Possible degradation pathways of zaleplon under stress tests conditions.

Scheme 3. Preparation of process-related impurities **5** and **6** and impurity **8**.

i; HCl, EtOH, reflux

from **2b** using sodium hydride/iodomethane. For the synthesis of compounds **8**, **11–13**, we decided to start from **2d** ($R^1 = \text{CHO}, R^2 = \text{H}$), which was easily obtained from 3-aminoacetophenone by subsequent formylation, followed by treatment with DMFDMA. Compound **2d** then provided **2e** using NaH/DMF and EtI.

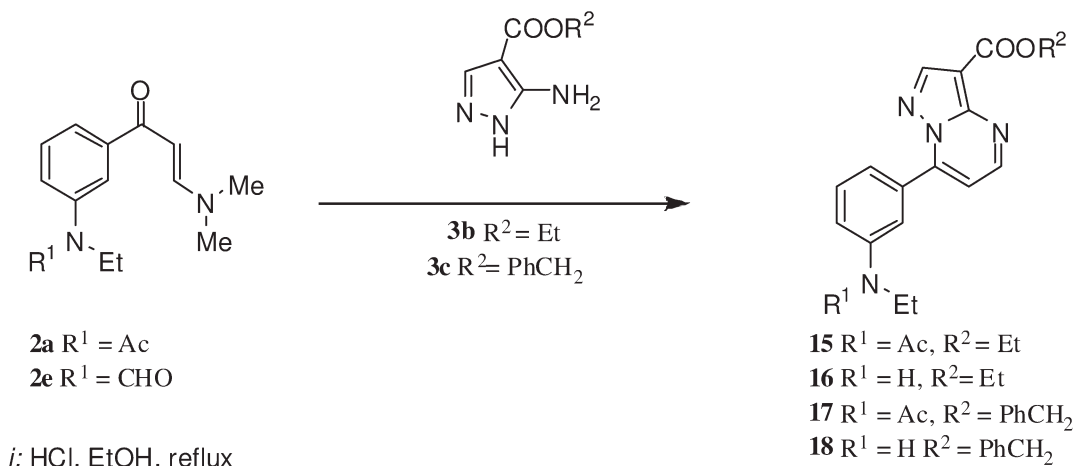
^1H NMR spectra of all of the compounds **2** showed that the methyl groups are nonequivalent as a result of the hindered rotation of dimethylamino group.

Compounds **2b** and **2c** heated with pyrazole **3a** in EtOH or MeOH and small amounts of concentrated hydrochloric acid provided good yields of the corresponding products **5** and **6**. Formyl derivative **2e** under the same conditions, was completely deprotected to give compound **8**. When the reaction was done with anhydrous solution of HCl in EtOH or in formic acid, the

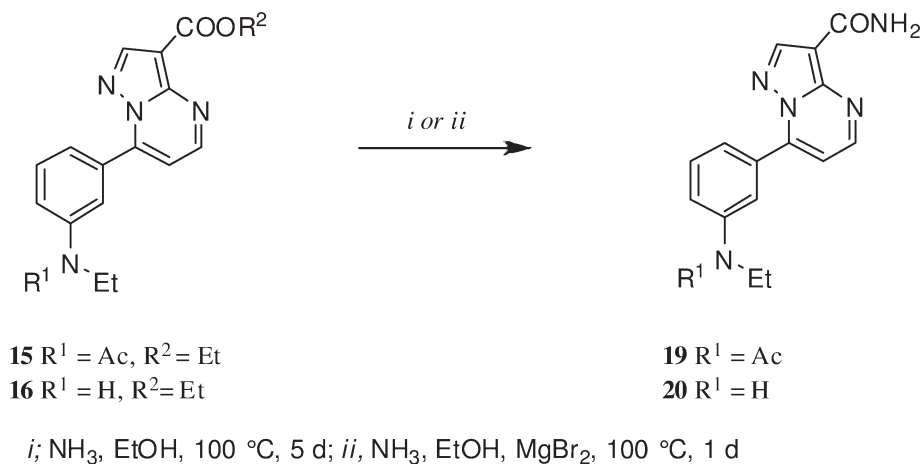
corresponding formyl derivative **14** was obtained (Scheme 3).

We intended to prepare amide impurity **7** by aminolysis of the corresponding ethyl ester and we also hoped that hydrolysis of this ester can provide acid **9**. For this purpose we prepared pyrazolocarboxylate **3b** using a modification of the literature procedure [11]. Similarly, also the corresponding benzyl ester **3c** was prepared [12]. Using general procedure described above, starting from compounds **2a** and **2e**, esters **15–18** were prepared (Scheme 4).

Aminolysis of both esters **15** and **16** to the corresponding amides **19** and **20** was very sluggish even using saturated ethanolic ammonia at 100°C under pressure; the mixtures after five days still contain about 10% of the starting compounds. Compound **19** was also

Scheme 4. Preparation of esters **15–18**.

i; HCl, EtOH, reflux

Scheme 5. Aminolysis of esters **15** and **16**.

obtained using catalysis [13] with MgBr_2 , which shortened the reaction time but the crude mixture contained several impurities not present in case the reaction was done without the catalyst (Scheme 5).

Our initial attempts to synthesize acid **9** by hydrolysis of the corresponding ester **15** led under all conditions used to complex mixtures. Therefore the benzyl esters **17** and **18** were prepared and their hydrogenolytic debenzylation provided the corresponding acids **9** and **12** (Scheme 6). However, prolongation of the reaction time led to partial overreduction providing compounds having molecular weight higher by 4H (LC-MS).

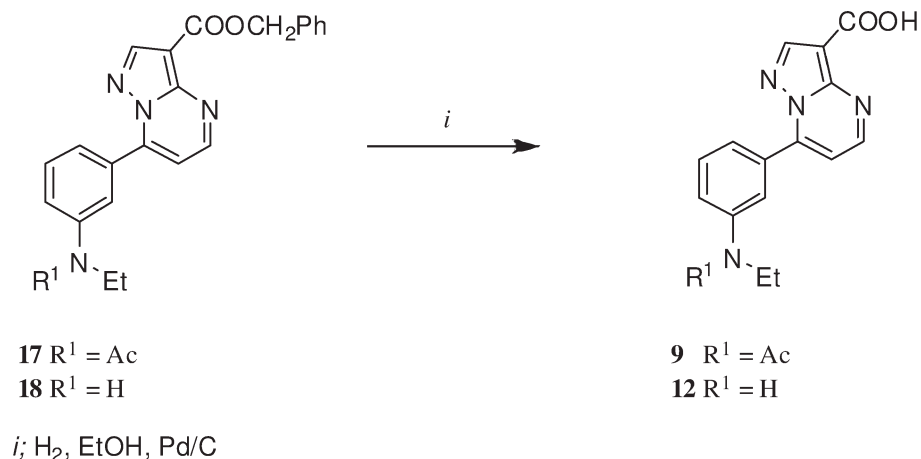
Initially we tried to avoid direct condensation of compounds **2a** and **2e** with 3-amino-4-pyrazol carboxylic acid (**3d**) and its amide (**3e**) since we expected partial hydrolysis and decarboxylation during the reaction. When we tried to do the reaction of **2a** with **3d** in a mixture of ethanol and hydrochloric acid, a mixture of the required acid **9** and its ethyl ester **15** was formed.

However, we found that at 50°C in acetic acid the reaction is clean to give the required product **9** in good yield. Similarly, using formic acid and the following hydrolysis with aqueous hydrochloric acid, unsubstituted compound **12** was obtained (Scheme 7).

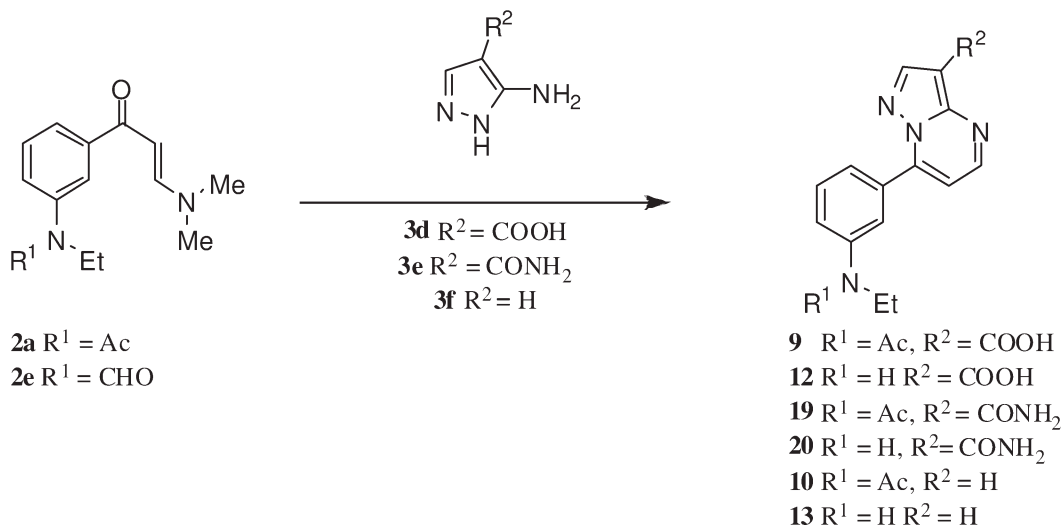
EXPERIMENTAL

Reagents used in the synthesis were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and were used without purification.

Melting points were measured on a Kofler block and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were measured on a Nicolet Nexus FTIR instrument (Thermo) by accumulation of 64 scans with 4 cm^{-1} resolution using the ATR technique (ZnSe crystal); wavenumbers are given in cm^{-1} . The UV spectra were recorded on a Hewlett-Packard 8452A spectrophotometer (ethanol) in the range 190–400 nm. NMR experiments were carried out on a Bruker Avance 250. The Mass spectra [MS/MS; ionization mode APCI(+)] were measured on an API 3000 PE machine (Sciex Instruments, Applied Biosystems).

Scheme 6. Debzilyation of benzyl esters **17** and **18**.

Scheme 7. Preparation of amides and acids by direct condensation.



The purity of the prepared substances was evaluated by TLC on silica gel (FP KG F 254, Merck). Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel Merck, particle size 0.04–0.063 mm. Centrifugally accelerated axial chromatography was done using Cyclograph™ instrument (Analtech) with silica gel pre-scraped rotors.

***N*-[3-[(2*E*)-3-(Dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]-*N*-methylacetamide (2c).** *N*-[3-[(2*E*)-3-(Dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]acetamide (**2b**, 5.8 g, 25 mmol) was added to a stirred 50% suspension of NaH (1.5 g) in DMF (80 mL) and the mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 1 h. Then a solution of iodomethane (5 g, 35 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the mixture and stirred at ambient temperature for 2.5 hrs. The mixture was poured into water (300 mL), washed with hexane and then the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 ($5 \times 50 \text{ mL}$, $5 \times 20 \text{ mL}$). The extract was washed with brine and dried with MgSO_4 . Crystallization of the residue after evaporation from ethyl acetate provided 5.2 g of yellow crystals (91%), mp 140–144°C. IR: CH 2815, C=O 1637, C=C 1585, 1538, CH 1367 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.89 (s, 3H, CH_3CO), 2.88 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.17 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.29 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 5.65 (d, $J = 12.5$, 1H, =CHCO), 7.26–7.87 (m, 5H, Ar–H, =CH–N); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): 22.45, 37.10, 45.15, 91.66, 126.07, 126.62, 129.29, 129.43, 142.32, 144.56, 154.65, 170.46, 186.96. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$: C 68.27; H 7.37; N 11.37. Found: C 68.22; H 6.94; N 11.06. HRMS Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 247.14465. Found: 247.14406.

***N*-(3-Acetylphenyl)formamide.** A mixture of 3-aminoacetophenone (10 g, 0.07 mol) and formic acid (100 mL) was refluxed for 10 hrs. Residue after evaporation was then crystallized from toluene (charcoal) to provide 10.5 g of beige crystals (87%); mp 92–94°C [ref. 14 mp 93–94°C (Et_2O)]. IR: NH 3256, 3194, 3139, CH 3076, 3021, C=O 1667, C=C 1591, 1556, 1477 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 2.61 (s, 3H, CH_3), 7.27–8.07 (m, 4H, Ar–H), 8.44 (s, 1H, CHO). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2$: C 66.25; H 5.56; N 12.06. Found: C 66.38; H 5.78; N 12.34. HRMS Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 164.07116. Found: 164.07104.

***N*-[3-[(2*E*)-3-(Dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]formamide (2d).** A solution of *N*-(3-acetylphenyl)formamide (3.25 g, 20 mmol) and DMFDMA (4.5 g, 37.8 mmol) in DMF (8 mL) was refluxed for 8 hrs and then stirred overnight. The formed yellow crystals were filtered off; yield 2.5 g (66%), mp 162–165°C. IR: NH 3229, 3184, CH 3066, 2846, 2767, C=O 1698, 1636, C=C 1595, 1516 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 2.91 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.14 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 5.73 (d, 1H, $J = 12.5$, [dnond]CHCO), 7.37–8.01 (m, 5H, Ar–H, =CH–N), 8.30 (s, 1H, CHO), 10.23 (bs, 1H, NH). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$: C 66.04; H 6.47; N 12.84. Found: C 66.21; H 6.67; N 13.01. HRMS Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 219.11335. Found: 219.11310.

***N*-[3-[(2*E*)-3-(Dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]-*N*-ethylformamide (2e).** Compound **2d** (2.52 g, 11.6 mmol) was added to a stirred 50% suspension of NaH (0.7 g, 14.6 mmol) in DMF (40 mL), and the mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 1 h. The mixture was cooled with ice-water and a solution of iodoethane (2.3 g, 15 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was added dropwise and stirred at ambient temperature for 4 hrs. After that the mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The extract was washed with brine and dried with MgSO_4 . Crystallization of the residue after evaporation from ethyl acetate provided 0.63 g of yellow crystals (22%), mp 69–73°C. IR: CH 2922, 2809, C=O 1667, 1634, C=C 1548, 1482 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.17 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$, CH_3), 2.96 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.17 (s, 3H, NCH_3), 3.85 (q, 2H, $J = 7.2$, NCH_2), 5.71 (d, 1H, $J = 12.3$, =CHCO), 7.23–7.86 (m, 5H, Ar–H, =CH–N), 8.38 (s, 1H, CHO). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$: C 68.27; H 7.37; N 11.37. Found: C 68.21; H 7.52; N 11.51. HRMS Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 247.14465. Found: 247.14392.

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 5, 6, 15, 17. Typically, a mixture of 3-(dimethylamino)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one **2** (10 mmol) and pyrazole **3** (10 mmol), ethanol (50 mL) and hydrochloric acid (1 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. The mixture was cooled down, the formed precipitate was filtered off to give the crude product, which was then crystallized from an appropriate solvent.

***N*-[3-(3-Cyanopyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-yl)phenyl]acetamide (5).** This compound was obtained after crystallization from *i*-PrOH in 77% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 257–261°C (ref. 15 mp 254–255°C). IR: NH 3314, CH 3092, CN 2235, C=O 1687, C=C + C=N 1615, 1583, 1538, 1478 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 204 (4.30), 234 (4.60), 338 (3.91). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.09 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 7.50–8.34 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 8.86 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0, H-5), 10.23 (bs, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 23.94, 81.34, 110.62, 113.37, 119.89, 122.01, 124.27, 129.05, 129.82, 139.41, 147.20, 147.51, 151.05, 153.71, 168.65. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁N₅O: C 64.97; H 4.00; N 25.26. Found: C 65.22; H 3.94; N 12.26. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂N₅O (M+H)⁺ 278.10419. Found: 278.10364.

***N*-[3-(3-Cyanopyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-yl)phenyl]-*N*-methylacetamide (6).** This compound was obtained after crystallization from *i*-PrOH in 60% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 202–205°C. IR: CH 3075, C≡N 2231, C=O 1645, C=C + C=N 1613, 1549, 1479 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 204 (4.40), 232 (4.58), 338 (3.85). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.01 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.36 (s, 3H, CH₃N), 7.21–7.51 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.68 (t, 1H, *J* = 10.0, H-14), 7.94–7.99 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 8.44 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0, H-5). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 22.63, 35.76, 83.73, 109.87, 112.51, 128.41, 129.57, 130.35, 131.03, 131.65, 143.47, 146.94, 147.11, 151.32, 152.61, 169.63. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃N₅O: C 65.97; H 4.50; N 24.04. Found: C 66.12; H 4.65; N 24.36. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₅O (M+H)⁺ 292.11983. Found: 292.11948.

Ethyl 7-[3-(acetyl(ethylamino)phenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxylate (15). This compound was obtained after crystallization from EtOH in 93% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 127–132°C. IR: OH 3390, CH 2971, C=O 1688, 1651, C=C + C=N 1602, 1547, 1489 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.36), 234 (4.42), 340 (3.79). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.18 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1, NCH₂CH₃), 1.41 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1, OCH₂CH₃), 1.95 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.81 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1, NCH₂), 4.45 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1, OCH₂), 7.14 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.7, H-6), 7.29–8.01 (m, 4H, Ar–H), 8.61 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.7, H-5). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 13.11, 14.51, 23.00, 44.09, 60.47, 103.33, 109.11, 128.72, 129.60, 130.20, 131.11, 131.67, 143.30, 146.48, 147.41, 148.91, 152.44, 162.47, 169.87. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀N₄O₃: C 64.76; H 5.72; N 15.90. Found: C 64.36; H 5.93; N 16.17. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₁N₄O₃ (M+H)⁺ 353.16137. Found: 353.16077.

Benzyl 7-(3-(*N*-ethylacetamido)phenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxylate (17). This compound was obtained after flash chromatography (hexane–acetone 6 : 4) and following crystallization from EtOH in 62% yield according to the above general procedure (reaction time 4 hrs); mp 112–114°C. IR: CH 2968, 2930, C=O 1694, 1652, C=C + C=N 1610, 1545, 1480. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.54), 234 (4.52), 340 (3.95). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.17 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, CH₃), 1.94 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.82 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2, NCH₂), 5.46 (s, 2H, OCH₂), 7.12–8.00 (m, 10H, Ar–H), 8.62 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0, H-5). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 13.12, 22.99, 44.07, 65.94, 103.08, 109.12, 128.05, 128.18, 128.50, 128.67, 129.61, 130.19, 131.12, 131.66, 136.42, 143.38, 146.47, 147.47, 149.15, 152.37, 162.10, 169.75. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂N₄O₃: C 69.55; H 5.35; N 13.52. Found: C 69.44; H 5.39; N 11.67. HRMS Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₃N₄O₃ (M+H)⁺ 415.17702. Found: 415.17682.

***N*-[3-(3-Cyanopyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-yl)phenyl]-*N*-ethylformamide (14).** A mixture of **2e** (0.62 g, 2.5 mmol) and pyrazole **3a** (0.3 g, 2.7 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (10 mL) and then a saturated solution of HCl in ethanol (1 mL) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 3–4 hrs, evaporated and the residue was crystallized from MeOH provided 0.45 g (62%) of yellow crystals; mp 125–128°C. IR: CH 3089, 2974, C≡N 2230, C=O 1678, C=C + C=N 1611, 1552, 1493 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 204 (4.41), 234 (4.63), 338 (3.89). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.24 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.5, CH₃), 3.95 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.5 CH₂), 7.14–8.65 (m, 8H, Ar–H, NCHO). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): 13.09, 40.15, 83.51, 109.90, 111.09, 112.48, 124.83, 126.98, 127.46, 130.36, 131.01, 141.54, 146.60, 147.17, 151.07, 152.60, 161.69. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃N₅O: C 65.97; H 4.50; N 24.04. Found: C 66.23; H 4.72; N 24.24. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₅O (M+H)⁺ 292.11984. Found: 292.11935.

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 8, 16, 18, 10, 13. Typically, a mixture of 3-(dimethylamino)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one **2** (10 mmol), pyrazole **3** (10 mmol), ethanol (50 mL) and 10% hydrochloric acid (10 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. The mixture was evaporated, the residue was triturated with 10% Na₂CO₃, the insoluble portion was filtered off to give the crude product, which was then crystallized from an appropriate solvent.

7-[3-(Ethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carbonitrile (8). This compound was obtained after crystallization from EtOH in 95% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 172–179°C. IR: CH 3071, 2707, 2662, 2478, C≡N 2227, C=C + C=N 1612, 1544, 1495 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.15), 234 (4.32), 338 (3.68). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.24 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.5, CH₃), 3.26 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.5, CH₂), 7.26–8.91 (m, 7H, Ar–H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.75, 81.32, 110.65, 113.37, 129.60, 130.39, 147.20, 147.50, 151.05, 153.69. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₃N₅: C 68.42; H 4.98; N 26.60. Found: C 68.18; H 4.73; N 26.86. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₄N₅ (M+H)⁺ 264.12492. Found: 264.12436.

Ethyl 7-[3-(ethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxylate (16). This compound was obtained after crystallization from EtOH in 84% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 189–202°C. IR: CH 3072, 2664, 2485, C=O 1705, C=C + C=N 1611, 1581, 1548, 1494 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 208 (4.31), 244 (4.44), 340 (3.84). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.25 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, NCH₂CH₃), 1.33 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, OCH₂CH₃), 3.29 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.5, NCH₂), 4.34 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2, OCH₂), 7.33–7.90 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 8.66 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0, H-5). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.53, 14.40, 44.09, 59.55, 101.97, 109.88, 128.55, 129.61, 130.22, 130.98, 131.09, 131.76, 143.33, 146.68, 146.85, 148.16, 153.01, 161.69. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈N₄O₂: C 65.79; H 5.85; N 18.05. Found: C 65.47; H 6.04; N 18.25. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₉N₄O₂ (M+H)⁺ 311.15080. Found: 311.15021.

Benzyl 7-[3-(ethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxylate (18). This compound was obtained after flash chromatography (hexane–acetone 7 : 3 to hexane–acetone–methanol 7 : 3 : 1) followed by crystallization from EtOH in 60% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 145–157°C. IR: CH 3051, 2964, 2518, 2378, C=O 1695, C=C + C=N 1608, 1588, 1544, 1492 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 210 (4.35), 246 (4.46), 338 (3.88). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.47 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, CH₃), 3.50 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.5, NCH₂), 5.44 (s, 2H, OCH₂), 7.13–8.86 (m, 12H, Ar–H), 11.50 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR

(CDCl₃): 11.00, 48.21, 66.01, 103.06, 109.51, 124.77, 126.43, 128.07, 128.14, 128.50, 130.44, 131.97, 135.93, 136.31, 145.58, 147.39, 148.99, 152.64, 162.13. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₂₀N₄O₂: C 70.95; H 5.41; N 15.04. Found: C 70.68; H 5.33; N 15.22. HRMS Calcd. for C₂₂H₂₁N₄O₂ (M+H)⁺ 373.16645. Found: 373.16605.

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(3-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ylphenyl)acetamide (10).** This compound was obtained after crystallization from EtOH in 72% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 105–108°C. IR: CH 3051, 2973, C=O 1646, C=C + C=N 1600, 1537, 1393 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 204 (4.33), 234 (4.61), 350 (3.55). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.04 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1, CH₃), 1.82 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.70 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1, NCH₂), 6.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.2, H-3), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.3, H-6), 7.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9, H-4' or H-6'), 7.67 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.9, H-5'), 8.07 (m, 1H, H-2'), 8.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9, H-4' or H-6'), 8.27 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.2, H-2), 8.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.3, H-5). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.90, 22.64, 43.07, 96.61, 107.85, 129.16, 129.67, 130.61, 131.79, 142.56, 144.46, 144.50, 149.34, 149.48, 170.03. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆N₄O: C 68.55; H 5.75; N 19.99. Found: C 68.46; H 5.90; N 20.16. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇N₄O (M+H)⁺ 281.14024. Found: 281.13962.

***N*-Ethyl-*N*-(3-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-ylphenyl)amine (13).** This compound was obtained after crystallization from EtOH in 66% yield according to the above general procedure; mp 185–190°C. IR: CH 3062, 2913, 2661, 2483, C=C + C=N 1606, 1580, 1538, 1452 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 204 (4.08), 232 (4.53), 352 (3.62). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.27 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, CH₃), 3.37 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2, CH₂), 6.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4, H-3), 7.25 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4, H-6), 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3, H-4' or H-6'), 7.61 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.9, H-5'), 7.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3, H-4' or H-6'), 7.97 (m, 1H, H-2'), 8.28 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4, H-2), 8.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4, H-5), 11.75 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.07, 42.96, 96.60, 107.75, 128.33, 129.24, 129.70, 130.33, 131.72, 142.72, 144.50, 144.94, 149.30, 149.54. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₄N₄: C 70.57; H 5.92; N 23.51. Found: C 70.21; H 5.66; N 23.04. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₅N₄ (M+H)⁺ 239.12967. Found: 239.12918.

7-(3-(*N*-Ethylacetamido)phenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine-3-carboxamide (19).

Method A. A mixture of compound **15** (1 g, 2.8 mmol) and ethanol saturated with ammonia (10 mL) was heated in a pressure tube at 100°C for 5 days (TLC; toluene–ethanol–dioxane–ammonia 5 : 2 : 4 : 1). The residue after evaporation was purified by flash chromatography (hexane–acetone, 7 : 3) to give 0.65 g of crude compound **19** and its crystallization (EtOH) provided 0.45 g (50%) of yellowish crystals; mp 233–237°C. IR: NH 3394, 3121, CH 2984, C=O 1652, C=C + C=N 1622, 1597, 1544, 1482 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.49), 234 (4.51), 350 (3.82). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.06 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2, NCH₂CH₃), 1.85 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.72 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2, CH₂), 7.54–8.20 (m, 7H, 5 × Ar–H, 1 × CONH₂), 8.61 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.86 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5, H-5). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.91, 22.67, 43.37, 105.49, 109.32, 128.81, 129.43, 129.75, 130.11, 131.12, 142.63, 145.73, 146.09, 147.53, 151.86, 162.54, 169.70. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.49), 234 (4.51), 350 (3.82). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₇N₅O₂: C 63.15; H 5.30; N 21.66. Found: C 63.38; H 5.48; N 21.99. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈N₅O₂ (M+H)⁺ 324.14605. Found: 324.14551.

Method B. The procedure is similar as Method (A), only 0.2 g of MgBr₂ was added and the mixture was heated for 1 day to provide after chromatography 38% of **19**.

Method C. A mixture of **2a** (0.2 g, 0.8 mmol), 3-amino-4-pyrazol carboxamide (**3e**; 0.1 g, 0.8 mmol), and ethanol (3.8 mL) with concentrated HCl (0.1 mL) was heated in a vial at 50°C for 24 hrs. A solid precipitated during the heating. The mixture was cooled down, the precipitate was filtered off to give 0.17 g of yellow crystals (66%); mp 233–237°C.

7-[3-(Ethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxamide (20). Using Method A described for the preparation of 7-[3-[acetyl(ethyl)amino]phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-3-carboxamide (**19**), compound **20** was obtained in 60% yield; mp 193–203°C. IR: NH 3366, 3305, 3116, CH 2950, C=O 1666, C=C + C=N 1626, 1543, 1513, 1472 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.07), 246 (4.15), 350 (3.81). ¹H NMR (DMSO): δ 1.20 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1, CH₃), 3.10 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1, CH₂), 5.90 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.3, NH), 6.80–7.38 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.50 (s, 1H, CONH₂), 7.63 (s, 1H, CONH₂), 8.59 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5, H-5). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 14.21, 37.22, 105.17, 108.77, 112.55, 114.79, 116.61, 129.06, 130.45, 145.60, 146.80, 148.18, 148.88, 151.77, 162.64. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅N₅O: C 64.04; H 5.37; N 24.90. Found: C 63.87; H 5.22; N 25.34. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆N₅O (M+H)⁺ 282.13549. Found: 282.13510.

7-(3-(*N*-Ethylacetamido)phenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine-3-carboxylic acid (9). A mixture of *N*-[(2*E*)-3-[3-(dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]-*N*-ethylacetamide (**2a**, 1 g, 4 mmol), 3-amino-4-pyrazolecarboxylic acid (**3d**; 0.5 g, 4 mmol), acetic acid (20 mL) was stirred at 50°C for 24 hrs. The mixture was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and extracted with 10% solution of Na₂CO₃ (5 × 8 mL). Insoluble particles were filtered off from the collected aqueous portions and the clear solution was acidified with acetic acid. Then the solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 × 15 mL) and the extract was dried with MgSO₄. The residue after evaporation was triturated with water and the insoluble portion was filtered off to give 0.3 g (48%); mp 195–200°C (decomp.). IR: NH 3293, CH 2973, 2934, C=O 1652, 1575, 1544, C=C + C=N 1402, CO 1299 cm⁻¹. UV λ_{max} (log ε): 206 (4.11), 236 (4.33), 352 (3.56). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO): 1.05 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1, NCH₂CH₃), 2.08 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.72 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.1, CH₂), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4, H-6), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6, H-4' or H-6'), 7.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6, H-5'), 8.01 (m, 1H, H-2'), 8.11 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6, H-4' or H-6'), 8.34 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.65 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4, H-5). ¹³C NMR (DMSO): 12.93, 22.65, 43.55, 107.78, 111.84, 128.59, 129.17, 129.67, 130.67, 131.81, 142.60, 145.00, 146.92, 147.06, 150.34, 165.72, 174.69. HRMS Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₇N₄O₃ (M+H)⁺ 325.13007. Found: 325.129469.

7-(3-(*N*-Ethylamino)phenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine-3-carboxylic acid (12). A mixture of *N*-[(2*E*)-3-[3-(dimethylamino)prop-2-enoyl]phenyl]-*N*-ethylformamide (**2a**) (**2e**, 0.25 g, 1 mmol), 3-amino-4-pyrazolecarboxylic acid (**3d**; 0.13 g, 1 mmol), formic acid (4 mL) was stirred at 75°C for 16 hrs. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was stirred with concentrated hydrochloric acid (3 mL) at 50°C for 15 min. The residue after evaporation was dissolved in water (10 mL), alkalized with 10% NaOH and extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 5 mL). The extract was dried with MgSO₄ and the residue after evaporation containing according to TLC pure product of decarboxylation **13** (50 mg, 21%). The aqueous layer was neutralized with acetic acid and extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL). The extract was washed with water and dried with MgSO₄. The residue after evaporation was triturated with water and the insoluble

portion was filtered off to provide 0.19 g (64%) of yellowish crystals; mp 198–206°C (decomp.). IR: CH 2981, 2941, C=O 1667, 1652, NH 1538, CO 1231 cm^{-1} . UV λ_{max} (log ϵ): 204 (4.35), 236 (4.43), 352 (3.40). ^1H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO): 1.18 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$, NCH_2CH_3), 3.07 (q, 2H, $J = 7.2$, CH_2), 6.78 (d, 1H, $J = 4.4$, H-6), 7.14–7.35 (m, 4H, arom. H), 8.57 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.78 (d, 1H, $J = 4.4$, H-5). ^{13}C NMR (DMSO): 14.23, 37.99, 109.22, 112.57, 114.69, 114.97, 116.62, 129.02, 130.17, 130.61, 147.01, 147.97, 152.40, 163.23, 173.05. HRMS Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 298.106590. Found: 298.11893.

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