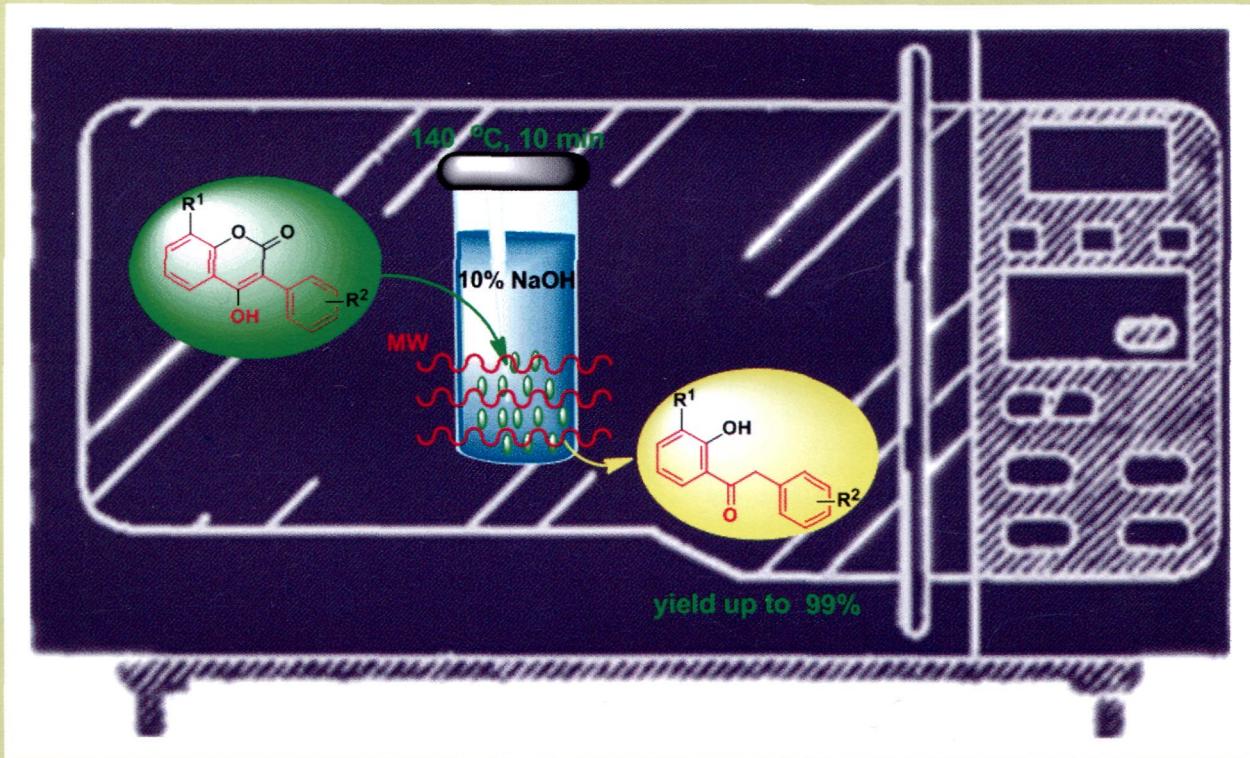


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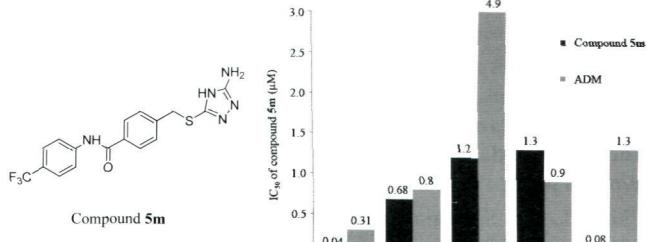
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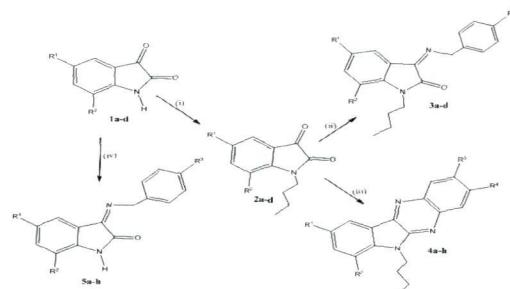
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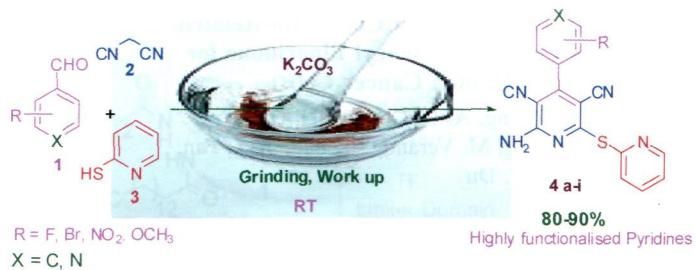
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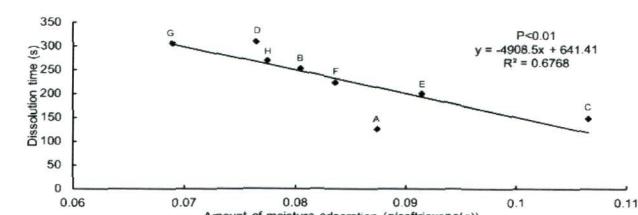
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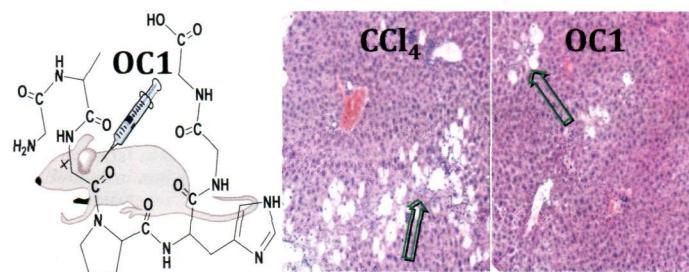


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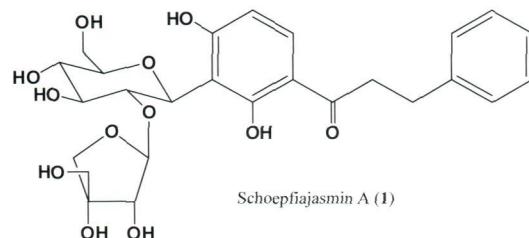
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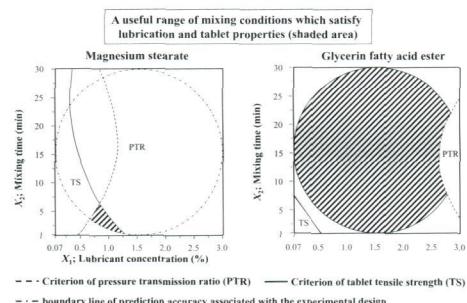
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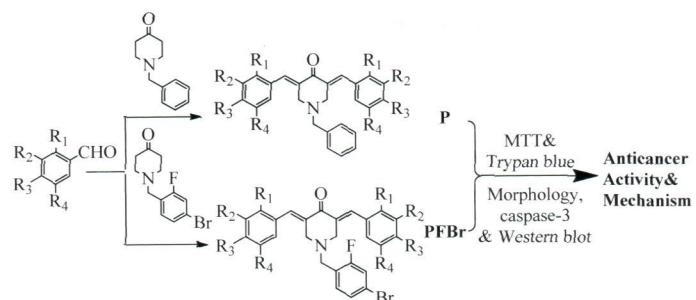
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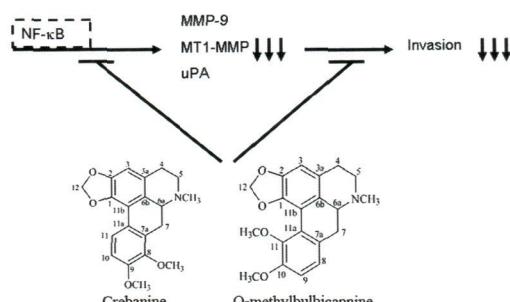
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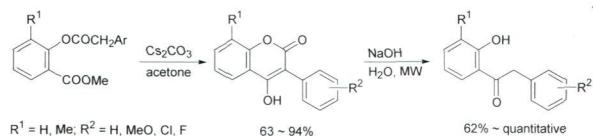
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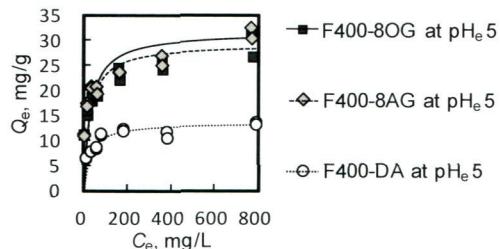


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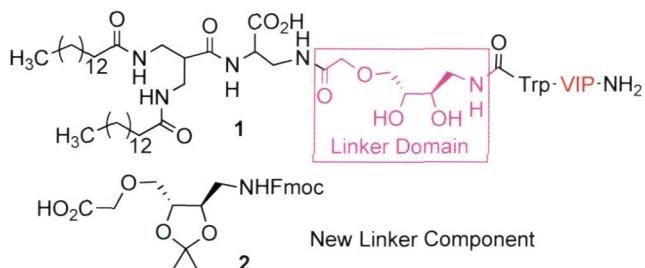
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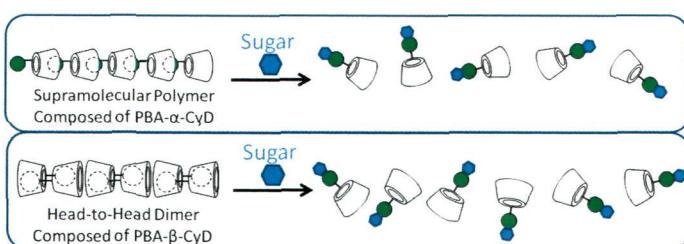
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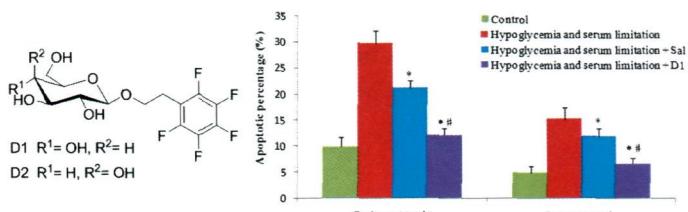
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About the cover: An operationally simple, green and efficient approach for the synthesis of 2-hydroxydeoxybenzoins bearing diverse substituents was developed by the microwave-assisted alkali degradation of 3-aryl-4-hydroxycoumarins in water. The latter compounds were readily prepared from the intramolecular Claisen condensation reaction of methyl 2-(2-arylacetoxy)benzoates in the presence of Cs₂CO₃/acetone, in excellent yields without laborious workup procedures. This method is highly atom-economic and applicable for the large-scale synthesis of 2-hydroxydeoxybenzoins. See the article by Zhou *et al.* on page 1166 of this issue.