

Supporting Information

Two-Photon “Caging” Groups: Effect of Position-Isomery on the Photorelease Properties of Aminoquinoline-Derived Photolabile Protecting Groups

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1. GENERALS

Chromatography: Thin layer chromatography was performed on aluminium-backed Merck Kieselgel 60 F 254 pre-coated plates.

Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (^{13}C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 250 spectrometer (250 MHz and 63 MHz) and on a Bruker AV-500 spectrometer (500 MHz and 125 MHz). Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane (TMS) and are referenced to residual proton in the NMR solvent (CDCl_3 : δ 7.26, CD_3OD : δ 3.31). Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent (CDCl_3 : δ 77.16, CD_3OD : δ 49.00). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = double doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz). All solvents and inorganic reagents were from commercial sources and used without purification unless otherwise noted. Methods for HPLC analysis: the HPLC analyses were carried out on Waters device using X-Terra® MS C18 column (length: 75 mm, diameter: 4.6 mm, stationary phase: 2.5 μm) using a Waters 2487 Dual Absorbance Detector (260-360 nm) and an isocratic system of elution (MeOH-MeCN- H_2O 7-2-1 / H_2O AcONH₄ 10 mM pH 4.6). The volume of injection was 50 μL . The Mass analyser was an Agilent from ThermoFisher. The capillary tension was 3.5 kV. The cone tension was 24 V. The temperature of the source was 130 $^\circ\text{C}$ and the temperature of desolvation was 350 $^\circ\text{C}$. Data were treated on ThermoQuest.

The UV and NIR irradiation experiences were realized by irradiation for 0.5-1 hours of solution in roughly 0.1 mM concentration in an acetonitrile/TRIS buffer 1/1 solvent mixture (pH 7.4). The plot of $\ln A$ versus irradiation time showed a linear correlation for the disappearance of the starting material, which suggested a first order reaction, obtained by the linear least squares methodology for a straight line. The photochemical quantum yields (Q) were calculated based on time to 90% reaction ($t_{90\%}$), molar absorptivities (ϵ) and the incident photon flux (I_0), which was determined by using Dore's method.¹ The reference 7-dimethylaminoquinoline acetate was prepared according to ref. 1. For the UV irradiation, an aliquot (1 mL) of this solution was irradiated at approximately 366 nm by using 8W Carl Roth lamp. Single-photon quantum yields were determined by using Eq 1:²

$$Q_u = [1000 \epsilon(\lambda_{\text{exc}}) I_0(\lambda_{\text{exc}}) t_{90\%}]^{-1} \quad (\text{Eq 1})$$

where $\epsilon(\lambda_{\text{exc}})$ is the molar extinction coefficient of the compound at the excitation wavelength in, L

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$\text{cm}^{-1}\text{millimole}^{-1}$, $t_{90\%}$ is the time at which 90% of the cage was converted, as determined by HPLC, and $I_0(\lambda_{\text{exc}})$ is the light intensity at the excitation wavelength and is measured in $\text{einstein} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$. Between each duration, a small aliquot (50 μL) of the solution was removed for analysis by reverse-phase HPLC using dual absorbance detection at 260 and 360 nm. Optical densities at 366 nm were kept around 0.1 so that inner-filtering of the irradiation and spatial gradients of concentrations could be neglected, and the progress curves were simple decaying exponentials. Dark hydrolysis rates were measured similarly except without illumination.

Uncaging two photon cross-sections (δ_u) were calculated from the fractional conversion of the cage with exposures of approx. 4 hours in a 45 microlitres cuvette of 3 mm pathlength. The expanded output of a MaiTai BB (Spectra-Physics) pulsed laser was focused with a 50 mm focal length lens into the cuvette. The two-photon excitation volume was entirely contained within the cuvette volume to obviate the need to measure the beam waist. Beam parameters were 720 or 730 nm with 100 fs pulse width at 80 MHz and 100 mW average power after the cuvette. Samples were centrifuged if necessary to remove particles if apparent in the transmitted beam. For reference the two-photon uncaging cross-section was compared to the widely used MNI-caged glutamate determined in this way was 0.05 GM ($10^{-50} \text{ cm}^4 \cdot \text{s}/\text{photon}$). The conversion of the product was assayed by HPLC analysis of the remaining caged compound. The two-photon uncaging cross-section δ_u was calculated as follows:

$$\delta_u = (8 \cdot C \cdot F \cdot T \cdot V \cdot h^2 c^2) / (C_0 \cdot \pi \cdot n \cdot t \cdot \lambda \cdot P^2) \text{ (Eq 2)}$$

where C/C_0 = fractional conversion; δ_u = TP uncaging cross-section ($\text{cm}^4 \cdot \text{s}/\text{photon}$); P = average power (W); λ = wavelength (cm); h = Planck constant (J. sec); c = velocity of light (cm/s); F = pulse frequency (Hz); T = pulse width (s); n = refractive index; V = sample volume (cm^3); t = exposure time (s).

The solubility of **36** was determined by sonicating a small amount of sample, around 0.25 mg, in 20 μL of 20 mM TRIS buffer (pH 7.4), for 30 min at 40 °C. The sample was centrifuged in a microfuge for 10 min and 4 μL of the supernatant diluted with 36 μL AcCN and used for measurements. The absorbance at 343 nm was determined in 2 μL samples in a 1 mm path Nanodrop spectrometer and compared with the known molar absorption coefficient at 343 nm of 2000 L/mol.cm in AcCN.

2. SYNTHESIS OF CARBOXY-SUBSTITUTED 8-DMAQ-ACETATES, **12**, **17**, **23**

N,N-Dimethyl-2-nitroaniline

A solution of dimethylamine in ethanol (5.6 M, 73.2 mL, 410 mmol, 10 eq) was slowly added to 2-fluoronitrobenzene **6** (5.8 g, 4.3 mL, 41 mmol, 1.0 eq) at 0 °C. The reaction was heated for 30 min at 65 °C. After cooling to room temperature an 10% aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added and the product was extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed twice with water and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the compound as a dark orange oil (6.7 g, 98%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.71 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.35 (1H, t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.99 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.77 (1H, t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 2.80 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 146.2, 139.3, 133.3, 126.6, 118.1, 117.8, 42.3. MS (APCI): *m/z* = 167 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₈H₁₀N₂O₂+H]⁺ 167.0821, found 167.0814.

N^{*l*},*N*^{*l*}-Dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine

N,N-Dimethyl-2-nitroaniline (16.9 g, 101.5 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added to a suspension of Pd/C 10% (0.6 g, 0.5 mmol, 0.005 eq) in EtOH/AcOEt (200 mL/350 mL) under hydrogen atmosphere (1 atm) at room temperature. The reaction was supplied with hydrogen until the disappearance of the yellow starting product; the mixture was then filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the product as a brown oil (12.8 g, 93%). The product was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.05 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.94 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.77 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.75 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.99 (2H, s), 2.60 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 141.5, 140.8, 124.3, 119.5, 118.6, 115.2, 43.7. MS (APCI): *m/z* = 137 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₈H₁₂N₂ + H]⁺ 137.1079, found 137.1073.

8-(Dimethylamino)quinaldine (**7**)

N^{*l*},*N*^{*l*}-Dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine (10.8 g, 79.4 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in a solution of aqueous HCl (6 M, 144 mL), after addition of crotonaldehyde (13 mL, 158.8 mmol, 2.0 eq) the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. Then toluene (75 mL) was added and the reaction was refluxed 4 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the organic layer was removed. The aqueous layer was neutralized by addition of NaOH, then the solution was extracted with DCM and the organic layer was washed twice with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM /Cyclohexane: 1/1). The quinoline was obtained as a yellow oil (6.53 g, 44 %). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35, 7.31 (ABx, *J* = 10.0 Hz, *J* = 6.0 Hz, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (X, *J* = 6.0 Hz, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (s, 6H), 2.76 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 156.3, 149.8, 142.1, 136.5, 127.8, 125.7, 121.5, 120.5, 115.4, 44.6, 25.7. MS (APCI): *m/z* = 187 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₂H₁₄N₂ + H]⁺ 187.1235, found 187.1227.

5-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline **7** (250 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in chloroform (6.7 mL). Recrystallized *N*-bromosuccinimide (191 mg, 1.1 mmol, 0.8 eq) was then added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The mixture was hydrolyzed by a solution of sodium thiosulfate and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the product as a brown oil (354 mg, quant.). The product was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.31 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.88 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.06 (6H, s), 2.76 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 156.8, 149.7, 142.7, 135.8, 129.2, 126.5, 122.6, 115.7, 112.9, 44.4, 25.4. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 265, 267 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₂H₁₃BrN₂+H]⁺ 265.0340 and 267.0320, found 265.0340 and 267.0320.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-5-carbonitrile (**8**)

5-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline (196 mg, 0.7 mmol, 1.0 eq) and CuCN (113 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.7 eq) were dissolved in DMF (576 μL). The mixture was heated at 170 °C for 12 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude product was poured on a solution of ice and water. The solid was solubilized in ethylene diamine and extracted with toluene. The organic phase was washed twice with KCN 10%, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the compound as a dark oil (144 mg, 92%). The product was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.30 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.70 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.38 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 6.87 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 3.26 (6H, s), 2.74 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 156.5, 153.4, 140.3, 133.7, 132.8, 123.4 (2 C), 118.4, 112.6, 98.5, 44.1, 25.4. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 212 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₃H₁₃N₃+H]⁺ 212.1188, found 212.1187.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-5-carboxylate (**9**)

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-5-carbonitrile **8** (104 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (4 mL). H₂SO₄ (cc, 1.5 mL) and H₂O (4 drops) were then added and the mixture was heated at 75 °C for 2 days. The crude product was neutralized with NaOH (2 M) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the compound as a dark oil (81 mg, 68%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 9.35 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.16 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.94 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 3.94 (3H, s), 3.23 (6H, s), 2.75 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 167.2, 155.3, 153.9, 141.0, 134.7, 131.4, 127.1, 122.8, 116.4, 112.3, 51.62, 44.2, 25.3. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 245.3 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂+H]⁺ 245.1290 and 246.1324, found 245.1290 and 246.1324.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-5-carboxylate

To a solution of methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-5-carboxylate **9** (81 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dioxane (1.7 mL), selenium dioxide (48 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.3 eq) was then added and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the compound as an orange solid (81 mg, 95%). The product was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 10.17 (1H, s), 9.65 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 8.33 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 6.95 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 3.95 (3H, s), 3.39 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 193.3, 167.0, 154.5, 148.7, 145.2, 140.7, 136.1, 135.2, 131.9, 118.5, 112.0, 52.0, 44.5. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 259 [M+H]⁺, HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₄N₂O₃+H]⁺ 259.1083 and 260.1117, found 259.1082 and 260.1116.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-5-carboxylate (10)

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-5-carboxylate (81 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (1.6 mL). NaBH₄ (24 mg, 0.6 mmol, 2.0 eq) was then added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The crude product was then neutralized with HCl (1 M) and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow solid (68 mg, 84%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 9.44 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.17 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.92 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 4.89 (2H, s), 3.92 (3H, s), 3.21 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 167.2, 155.6, 153.6, 139.9, 135.8, 132.2, 128.6, 119.4, 116.4, 112.7, 64.4, 51.9, 44.2. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 261 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₃+H]⁺ 261.1239, found 261.1239.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-5-carboxylic acid (11)

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-5-carboxylate **10** (23 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (270 μL) and H₂O (120 μL). LiOH (3.7 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 5 °C for 12 h. The crude product was neutralized with HCl (1 M, pH 7-8), filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the product as an orange solid (26 mg, quant.). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 9.23 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.89 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.59 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 4.89 (2H, s), 3.03 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 176.3, 160.4, 152.2, 142.5, 138.0, 132.4, 128.6, 128.0, 119.8, 116.5, 66.3, 45.2. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 247 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₃+H]⁺ 247.1083 and 248.1116, found 247.1079 and 248.1113.

2-(Acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-5-carboxylic acid (12)

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-5-carboxylic acid **11** (30.5 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) was solubilized in distilled pyridine (488 μL). Acetic anhydride (18 μL, 19 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.5 eq) and DMAP (cat.) were added to the mixture. The yellow solution was stirred at room

temperature for 1 h, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by chromatography on silica gel (DCM /MeOH: 98/2). The compound was obtained as a yellow oil (22 mg, 63%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.46 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.78 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 5.41 (2H, s), 3.32 (6H, s), 2.21 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 171.5, 170.9, 154.8, 152.2, 140.6, 135.9, 134.3, 129.1, 120.6, 114.1, 112.0, 67.5, 44.4, 21.1. MS (ESI): m/z = 289 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₅H₁₆N₂O₄-H]⁻ 287.1032, found 287.1020.

6-Bromo-8-fluoro-2-methylquinoline

4-Bromo-2-fluoroaniline **13** (950 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in a solution of aqueous HCl (6 M, 20 mL). After addition of crotonaldehyde (0.83 mL, 10.0 mmol, 2.0 eq) the mixture was stirred 1 h at room temperature. Then toluene (5 mL) was added and the reaction was heated at reflux temperature for 3 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the organic layer was removed. The aqueous layer was neutralized with NaOH and the solution was extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed twice with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM /Cyclohexane: 2/1). The quinaldine was obtained as yellow crystals (636 mg, 53%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.90 (1H, dd, J = 8.7, 1.6 Hz), 7.65 (1H, m), 7.44 (1H, dd, J = 9.8, 2.1 Hz), 7.31 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 2.74 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 159.9, 159.3, 155.1, 136.8 (d, J = 11.5 Hz), 134.7 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 128.7 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 125.4 (d, J = 4.8 Hz), 123.9, 117.8 (d, J = 8.6 Hz), 117.3, 25.5. MS (ESI): m/z = 239 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₀H₇BrFN+H]⁺ 239.9824 and 241.9804, found 239.9817 and 241.9795.

8-Fluoro-2-methylquinoline-6-carbonitrile (**14**)

6-Bromo-8-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (500 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) and CuCN (317 mg, 3.5 mmol, 1.7 eq) were dissolved in DMF (1.4 mL). The mixture was heated at 170 °C for 12 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude product was poured on a solution of ice and water. The solid was solubilized in ethylene diamine and extracted with toluene. The organic phase was washed twice with KCN 10%, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the product as a brown solid (335 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.11 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (1H, m), 7.50 (2H, m), 2.82 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 163.2, 159.6, 139.7 (d, J = 10.7 Hz), 136.2 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 129.6 (d, J = 4.8 Hz), 127.7 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 124.8, 117.6 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 114.6 (d, J = 23.0 Hz), 108.9 (d, J = 9.8 Hz), 25.8. MS (ESI): m/z = 187 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₁H₇FN₂+H]⁺ 187.0672 and 188.0706, found 187.0671 and 188.0704.

8-Fluoro-2-formylquinoline-6-carbonitrile

8-Fluoro-2-methylquinoline-6-carbonitrile **14** (100 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in dioxane (2.7 mL). Selenium dioxide (77 mg, 0.8 mmol, 1.3 eq) was then added and the mixture

was heated at 80 °C for 3h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the compound as an orange solid (129 mg, quant.). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 192.5, 160.8, 156.6, 154.6, 138.1, 131.0, 129.9 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 120.0, 117.2, 115.7 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 112.9 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 201 [M+H]⁺, HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₁H₅FN₂O+H]⁺ 201.0464 and 202.0498, found 200.0463 and 202.0496.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-6-carbonitrile

8-Fluoro-2-methylquinoline-6-carbonitrile (277 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in a solution of dimethylamine in ethanol (5.6 M, 3.7 mL, 20 mmol, 19 eq). The reaction was heated at 65 °C for 12 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure. A solution of NaHCO₃ 10% was added to the crude product and the solution was extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed twice with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by chromatography on silica gel (DCM) and the quinoline was obtained as an orange solid (217 mg, 85%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 10.21 (1H, s), 8.28 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.69 (1H, s), 7.14 (1H, s), 3.31 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 192.9, 151.5, 151.4, 142.8, 138.5, 131.3, 123.9, 118.9, 118.5, 115.4, 113.4, 44.4. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 226 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₃H₁₁N₃O+H]⁺ 226.0980 and 227.1014, found 226.0982 and 227.1016.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-6-carbonitrile (15)

To a solution of 8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-6-carbonitrile (52 mg, 0.23 mmol, 1.0 eq) in MeOH (1.2 mL), NaBH₄ (17 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2 eq) was then added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The crude product was then quenched with HCl (1 M) and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the compound as a yellow solid (60 mg, quant.). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 7.41 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.10 (1H, d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 4.94 (2H, s), 3.13 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 159.7, 150.4, 142.1, 137.8, 128.3, 125.3, 119.6, 119.2, 115.8, 110.2, 64.8, 44.1. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 228.1 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₃H₁₃N₃O+H]⁺ 228.1137 and 229.1176, found 228.1135 and 229.1170.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-6-carboxylate

To a solution of 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-6-carbonitrile **15** (56 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq) in MeOH (2.3 mL). H₂SO₄ (cc, 813 μL) and H₂O (3 drops) were then added and the mixture was heated at 65 °C for 12 h. The crude product was neutralized with NaOH (2 M) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄,

filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a red solid (47 mg, 72%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz): δ 8.19 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 8.13 (1H, s), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 4.95 (2H, s), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.16 (6H, s). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz): δ 167.2, 159.0, 149.9, 142.9, 138.9, 128.3, 128.1, 123.3, 118.9, 115.4, 64.8, 52.5, 44.5. MS (ESI): m/z = 261 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3+\text{H}]^+$ 261.1239, found 261.1239.

Methyl 2-(acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-6-carboxylate (16)

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-6-carboxylate (47 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (563 μL) and H_2O (188 μL). LiOH (7.5 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 5 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h. The crude product was neutralized with HCl (1 M), filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the compound as an orange solid (70 mg, quant.). ^1H NMR (500 MHz): δ 8.34 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 7.88 (1H, 1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 7.63 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.90 (2H, s), 3.04 (6H, s). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz): δ 174.1, 161.6, 150.2, 143.8, 139.7, 136.0, 129.3, 124.6, 119.9, 118.5, 66.3, 45.2. MS (ESI): m/z = 247 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3+\text{H}]^+$ 247.1083 and 248.1117, found 247.1077 and 248.1048.

2-(Acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-6-carboxylic acid (17)

To a solution of methyl 2-(acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-5-carboxylate **16** (35 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1.0 eq) in pyridine (683 μL), acetic anhydride (20 μL , 22 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.5 eq), and DMAP (cat.) were added to the mixture. The yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by chromatography on silica gel (MeOH). The product was obtained as a yellow oil (28 mg, 69%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz): δ 8.35 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 8.18 (1H, s), 7.81 (1H, s), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.41 (2H, s), 3.08 (6H, s), 2.20 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz): δ 180.6, 174.8, 172.5, 156.4, 150.3, 143.9, 139.9, 129.5, 124.0, 120.3, 118.4, 68.2, 45.0, 24.2. MS (ESI): m/z = 289 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4-\text{H}]^-$ 287.1100, found 287.1082.

7-Bromo-2-methyl-8-nitroquinoline

7-Bromo-2-methylquinoline **18**³ (2.5 g, 11 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in H_2SO_4 (cc, 5 mL). A solution of H_2SO_4 (cc, 5 mL) and HNO_3 (cc, 2.5 mL) was added to the mixture at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$. The crude was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and was then heated at 50 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was neutralized with NaOH, dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated under reduced pressure and the quinoline was obtained as a brown solid (2.4 g, 83%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.07 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.64 (1H, d, J =

(3) Petit, M.; Bort, G.; Doan, B.-T.; Sicard, C.; Ogden, D.; Scherman, D.; Ferroud, C.; Dalko, P. I. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 9708.

8.5 Hz), 7.41 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 2.73 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 162.9, 140.1, 135.7, 130.0, 129.0 (2 C), 126.1, 124.2, 113.5, 25.7. MS (ESI): $m/z = 267$ and 269 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2]^+$ 265.9691 and 267.9670 found 265.9721 and 267.9681.

7-Bromo-2-methylquinolin-8-amine

To a solution of 7-bromo-2-methyl-8-nitroquinoline (1.8 g, 6.6 mmol, 1.0 eq) in EtOAc (34 mL), SnCl_2 (3.76 g, 20 mmol, 3.0 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. The crude was then dissolved in a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 , extracted with EtOAc, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the product as a red solid (2 g, quant.). The quinoline was used without further purification. ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.44 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 7.12 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 6.79 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 6.56 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 5.14 (2H, br), 2.37 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 156.5, 141.2, 137.3, 135.7, 129.1, 125.3, 121.9, 115.5, 104.0, 24.9. MS (ESI): $m/z = 237$ and 239 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{BrN}_2+\text{H}]^+$ 236.9900 and 238.9900, found 237.0027 and 239.0005.

7-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)quinaldine (19)

7-Bromo-2-methylquinolin-8-amine (2 g, 8.4 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in DMF (14 mL). K_2CO_3 (3.5 g, 25 mmol, 3.0 eq) and CH_3I (1.6 mL, 3.6 g, 25 mmol, 3.0 eq) were added to the mixture. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The crude was filtered and the solid was solubilized in DCM, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the compound as a brown solid (1.4 g, 63%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.93 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.60 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.32 (1H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 3.16 (6H, s), 2.72 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 157.4, 148.1, 147.3, 136.4, 130.3, 127.3, 124.7, 124.2, 121.5, 44.4, 25.7. MS (ESI): $m/z = 265$ and 267 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2+\text{H}]^+$ 265.0300 and 267.0300, found 265.0200 found 267.0300.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-7-carbonitrile (20)

7-Bromo-8-*N,N*-(dimethylamino)-quinaldine **19** (265 mg, 1.0 mmol) and CuCN (152 mg, 1.7 mmol) were dissolved in DMF (1.0 mL). The mixture was heated at 170 °C for 12 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude product was poured on a solution of ice and water. The solid was solubilized in ethylene diamine and extracted with toluene. The organic phase was washed twice with KCN 10%, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The quinoline was obtained as a brown solid (172 mg, 81%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz): δ 7.89 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.29 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 3.39 (6H, s), 2.70 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz): δ 157.2, 154.5, 146.3, 136.3, 129.9, 128.6, 123.6, 120.2, 120.1, 101.3, 45.3, 25.5. MS (ESI): $m/z = 212$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3+\text{H}]^+$ 212.1100 and 213.1100, found 212.1186 and 213.1220.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-7-carboxylate

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-7-carbonitrile **20** (154 mg, 0.07 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (8 mL). H₂SO₄ (cc, 5 mL) and H₂O (12 drops) were then added and the mixture was heated at 75 °C for 7 days. The crude product was neutralized with NaOH (2 M) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the quinaldine as a dark oil (80 mg, 45%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.93 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.51 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.30 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.25 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 3.95 (3H, s), 3.19 (6H, s), 2.74 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 169.7, 157.2, 149.8, 144.8, 136.4, 129.0, 126.2, 124.3, 122.7, 120.6, 52.3, 44.8, 25.9. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 245 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂+H]⁺ 245.1200 and 246.1200, found 245.1284 and 246.1318.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-7-carboxylate

To a solution of methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinoline-7-carboxylate (80 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dioxane (1.7 mL), selenium dioxide (48 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.3 eq) was added and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was filtered on celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The compound was obtained as an orange solid (89 mg, quant.). ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 10.17 (1H, s), 8.17 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.99 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.72 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.32 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 3.96 (3H, s), 3.27 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 193.4, 168.8, 151.1, 150.5, 144.7, 137.6, 133.2, 130.7, 123.1, 119.2, 118.3, 52.5, 45.2. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 259 [M+H]⁺, HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₄N₂O₃+H]⁺ 259.1000 and 260.1000, found 259.1082 and 260.1116.

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-7-carboxylate (21)

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinoline-7-carboxylate (89 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (1.7 mL). NaBH₄ (26 mg, 0.7 mmol, 2.0 eq) was then added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The crude product was then neutralized with HCl (1 M) and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow solid (73 mg, 82%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.05 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.36 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.27 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 4.90 (2H, s), 3.96 (3H, s), 3.17 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 169.3, 157.4, 149.3, 143.7, 137.4, 130.3, 127.1, 125.3, 120.9, 119.2, 64.2, 52.5, 44.8. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 261 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₃+H]⁺ 261.1200, found 261.1228.

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-7-carboxylic acid (22)

Methyl 8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-7-carboxylate **21** (15 mg, 0.06 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (394 μL). NaOH (2 M, 200 μL) was added and the mixture

was then stirred at room temperature for 2 days. The crude product was neutralized with HCl (1 M), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow solid (7 mg, 49%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 8.43 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 8.26 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 5.02 (2H, s), 3.34 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): δ 167.6, 160.2, 145.3, 143.1, 138.1, 131.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.7, 120.4, 64.0, 44.3. MS (ESI): m/z = 247 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₃+H]⁺ 247.1000 and 248.1000, found 247.1081 and 248.1115.

2-(Acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-7-carboxylic acid (23)

8-(Dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinoline-7-carboxylic acid **22** (11 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 eq) was solubilized in DCM (225 μ L). Acetic anhydride (6.3 μ L, 6.8 mg, 0.07 mmol, 1.5 eq), triethylamine (9.5 μ L, 4.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.5 eq) and DMAP (cat.) were added to the mixture. The yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by chromatography on silica gel (DCM /MeOH: 98/2). The carboxylic acid was obtained as a yellow solid (12 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.43 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 8.26 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.85 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 5.44 (2H, s), 3.32 (6H, s), 2.23 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 170.6, 167.7, 156.2, 145.5, 143.5, 138.0 (2 C), 131.2, 127.9 (2 C), 120.9, 67.0, 44.1, 21.0. MS (ESI): m/z = 289 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₅H₁₆N₂O₄-H]⁻ 287.1100, found 287.1016.

3. SYNTHESIS OF C5 BRANCHED ANALOGS

3.1 Synthesis of the 5-Acyl-8-DMAQ Acetate (27)

(*E*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-(8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinolin-5-yl)acrylate (24)

In a suspension of 5-bromo-8-(dimethylamino)-2-methylquinolin (250 mg) and K₂CO₃ in dimethyl acetamide (DMA, 10 ml) were added Pd(OAc)₂ (28 mg), P(tBu)₃ (4 ml) and *tert*-butyl acrylate (0.4 ml). The tube was sealed, and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C overnight, then cooled to rt, filtered through a pad of Celite and concentrated. The product was obtained after purification on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt gradient eluent mixture. Amorphous brown solid (62%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 1.57 (s, 9H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 3.16 (s, 6H), 6.37 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 25.4, 28.3, 44.2, 80.2, 114.4, 119.4, 121.9, 123.2, 124.9, 126.0, 131.9, 139.2, 141.4, 151.4, 155.8, 166.6. MS (ESI): m/z = 313 ([M+H]⁺), HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for [C₁₉H₂₅O₂N₂]⁺ 313.1911, found 313.1911.

(*E*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-(8-(dimethylamino)-2-formylquinolin-5-yl)acrylate

To a solution of **24** (78 mg) in dioxane (3 ml) SeO₂ (57 mg) is introduced. The reaction is stirred at 80 °C for 3 h then filtered through Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The

product is obtained after purification on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt gradient eluent mixture. Orange amorphous solid (55%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 1.59 (s, 9H), 3.34 (s, 6H), 6.40 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 10.22 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 28.3, 44.4, 80.6, 114.4, 117.5, 120.3, 122.4, 128.8, 130.2, 133.2, 138.4, 141.1, 149.3, 152.3, 166.4, 193.2. MS (ESI): m/z = 327 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2 + \text{H}]^+$, 327.1700, found 327.1703.

(*E*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-(8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinolin-5-yl) acrylate (25)

To a solution of aldehyde (237 mg) in methanol (4 ml) NaBH_4 (57.6 mg) was added at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1h, then quenched with a drop of HCl (1 M), reduced to dryness and extracted with water/DCM. The product was obtained after purification on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt gradient eluent mixture. Orange amorphous solid (76%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 1.51 (s, 9H), 3.35 (s, 6H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 6.38 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (m, m , 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 28.2, 45.7, 64.7, 81.0, 118.6, 119.9, 123.3, 125.0, 126.5, 129.4, 132.9, 137.8, 139.3, 144.5, 160.1, 165.8. MS (ESI): m/z = 329 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2]^+$ 329.1860, found 329.1867.

(*E*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-(2-(acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)acrylate (26)

25 (12 mg) was acylated in DCM (250 μl) with Ac_2O (5.7 μl) in the presence of Et_3N (9 μl) and a catalytic amount of DMAP. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour then concentrated and the crude purified on silica gel using cyclohexane/AcOEt gradient eluent mixture. Yellow amorphous solid (88%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 1.58 (s, 9H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 6H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 6.39 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 21.0, 28.3, 44.3, 67.4, 80.4, 114.6, 119.3, 119.8, 123.0, 126.0, 127.3, 132.9, 139.0, 141.1, 151.6, 153.0, 166.6, 170.7. MS (ESI): m/z = 371 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2]^+$ 371.1965 found 371.1963.

(*E*)-3-(2-(Acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl) acrylic acid (27)

26 (10 mg) was treated with HCl (4M in dioxane, 500 μl). The reaction was stirred under argon for 4 h, concentrated and purified under reverse phase HPLC. Yellow solid (94%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 2.25 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 6H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 8.88 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 20.7, 47.1, 67.7, 122.3, 122.9, 125.8, 126.3, 127.8, 135.5, 139.5, 140.1, 140.5, 140.6, 160.1, 169.2, 172.3. MS (ESI): m/z = 315 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2]^+$ 315.1339 found 315.1344.

3.2 Synthesis of the 5-Benzoyl-8-DMAQ Acetate (36)

8-(Dimethylamino)quinoline-2-carbaldehyde

Selenium dioxide (190 mg, 1.7 mmol, 1.3 eq) in suspension in dioxane (10 mL) and water (0.1 mL) was heated at 80 °C for 30 min. 8-(dimethylamino)quinoline 7 (250 mg, 1.34 mmol, 1.0 eq) was then introduced and the mixture was vigorously stirred at 80 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtered on Celite, eluted with DCM and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM /Cyclohexane: 1/1) and the compound was obtained as a red dark oil (245 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 10.24 (1H, s), 8.24 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.00 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.56 (1H, t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.40 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.14 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 3.22 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 193.8, 151.1, 149.9, 142.0, 137.7, 131.9, 129.8, 119.8, 117.0, 115.8, 44.6. MS (APCI): *m/z* = 201 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₂H₁₂N₂O + H]⁺ 201.1028, found 201.1027.

5-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-2-carbaldehyde

To a solution of 8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (800 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) in chloroform (20 mL), was added recrystallized *N*-bromosuccinimide (570 mg, 3.2 mmol, 0.8 eq), the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The mixture was then washed with a solution of Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed twice with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The compound was obtained as a yellow solid and used without further purification (1.0 g, 90%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 10.23 (1H, s), 8.60 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 8.05 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.77 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 6.96 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 3.20 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 192.9, 150.8, 149.8, 142.3, 137.2, 133.1, 130.0, 117.9, 115.8, 111.5, 44.4. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 279.1, 281 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₂H₁₁BrN₂O+H]⁺ 279.0100 and 281.0100, found 279.0135 and 281.0114.

(5-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-2-yl)methanol (28)

5-Bromo-8-(dimethylamino)quinoline-2-carbaldehyde (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (18 mL). NaBH₄ (271 mg, 7.2 mmol, 2.0 eq) was then added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The crude product was then neutralized with HCl (1 M) and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow solid (830 mg, 82%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.46 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.65 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.38 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.96 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 4.95 (2H, s), 3.09 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 157.8, 149.3, 141.5, 136.4, 129.7, 127.4, 119.1, 116.1, 112.9, 64.7, 44.3. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 281, 283 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₂H₁₃BrN₂O+H]⁺ 281.0200 and 283.0200, found 281.0289 and 283.0268.

5-Bromo-2-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-*N,N*-dimethylquinolin-8-amine (29)

A solution of the (5-bromo-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-2-yl)methanol **28** (777 mg, 2.8 mmol, 1.0 eq), TBSCl (833 mg, 5.5 mmol, 2.0 eq) and imidazole (374 mg, 5.5 mmol, 2.0 eq) in DMF (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature overnight, then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. CH₂Cl₂ was added and the organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The compound was obtained as a brown oil (1.1 g, quant.) and was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (250 MHz) δ 8.50 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.76 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.61 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 6.91 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 5.06 (2H, s), 3.06 (6H, s), 0.98 (9H, s), 0.14 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz): δ 159.7, 149.6, 142.1, 136.3, 129.4, 127.3, 119.1, 115.6, 112.9, 66.6, 44.3, 25.8, 18.2, -5.4. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 395, 397 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₁₈H₂₇BrN₂OSi+H]⁺ 395.1149 and 397.1149, found 395.1142 and 397.1120.

2-(((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)quinolin-8-amine (31)

To a solution of 5-bromo-2-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-*N,N*-dimethylquinolin-8-amine **29** (200 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dry Et₃N (510 μL) and dry THF (2.55 mL), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (18 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.03 eq) and 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane **30** (82 μL, 0.6 mmol, 1.1 eq) were added. The mixture was heated at 100°C overnight in a sealed tube under argon, and then was filtered through silica gel and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was obtained as a yellow oil (250 mg, quant.). ¹H NMR (250 MHz) δ 9.12 (1H, d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 7.99 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 7.02 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 5.03 (2H, s), 3.13 (6H, s), 1.39 (12H, s), 0.98 (9H, s), 0.14 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.2, 152.8, 141.1, 137.7, 136.5, 132.7, 128.5, 118.4, 114.7, 83.4, 67.1, 44.4, 26.0, 25.0, 18.4, -5.2. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 443 [M+H]⁺. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for [C₂₄H₃₉BN₂O₃Si+H]⁺ 443.2896, found 443.2885.

tert-Butyl 4-(2-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate (33)

A mixture of *tert*-butyl 4-bromobenzoate **32**⁴ (65 mg, 0.03 mmol, 1.1 eq), the boronate **31** (102 mg, 0.02 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (13 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 eq), 2M Na₂CO₃ (230 μL) and DME (1.2 mL) were heated to 80°C overnight under argon. The mixture was extracted in EtOAc and the organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Cyclohexane/EtOAc: 9/1). The benzoate was obtained as a yellow oil (62 mg, 55%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz) δ 8.22 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 8.10 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.63 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.13 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.07 (2H, s), 3.13 (6H, s), 1.63

(4) (a) Egawa, T.; Hirabayashi, K.; Koide, Y.; Kobayashi, C.; Takahashi, N.; Mineno, T.; Terai, T.; Ueno, T.; Komatsu, T.; Ikegaya, Y.; Matsuki, N.; Nagano, T.; Hanaoka, K. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 3874; (b) Mineno, T.; Ueno, T.; Urano, Y.; Kojima, H.; Nagano T. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 5963.

(9H, s), 0.97 (9H, s), 0.14 (6H, s). ^{13}C (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.8, 159.3, 150.0, 144.4, 141.6, 135.0, 132.0, 130.8, 130.1, 129.6, 126.9, 126.7, 118.4, 114.9, 81.1, 67.1, 44.7, 28.4, 26.1, 18.5, -5.2. MS (ESI): m/z = 493 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Si}+\text{H}]^+$ 493.2881, found 493.2893.

***tert*-Butyl 4-(8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate (34)**

To a solution of *tert*-butyl 4-(2-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate **33** (61 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) in acetonitrile (620 μL), a solution of HF/pyridine (8 drops) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The alcohol was obtained as a yellow solid (94 mg, quant.). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.17 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 8.10 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.48 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.25 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.18 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 4.94 (2H, s), 3.16 (6H, s), 1.64 (9H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 165.7, 156.6, 149.5, 144.2, 140.9, 135.4, 132.0, 130.9, 130.1, 129.7, 127.4, 127.0, 118.3, 115.5, 81.3, 64.6, 44.5, 28.4. MS (ESI): m/z = 379 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3+\text{H}]^+$ 379.2016, found 379.2021.

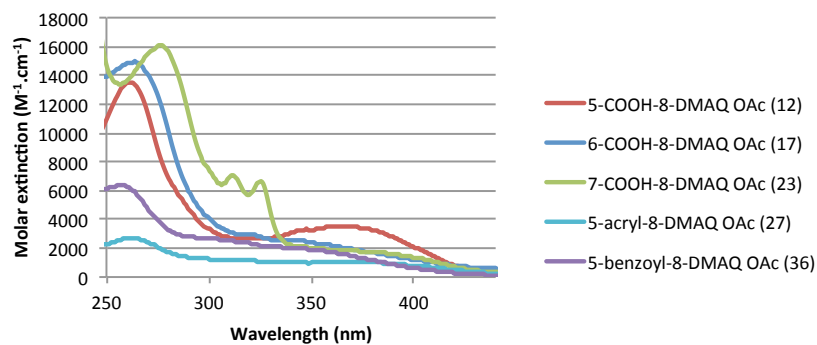
***tert*-Butyl 4-(2-(acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate (35)**

tert-Butyl 4-(8-(dimethylamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate **34** (29 mg, 0.08 mmol, 1.0 eq) was solubilized in DCM (383 μL). Acetic anhydride (11 μL , 12 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.5 eq), triethylamine (14 μL , 11 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.5 eq) and DMAP (cat.) were added to the mixture. The yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by chromatography on silica gel (DCM /MeOH: 98/2). The compound was obtained as a yellow oil (13 mg, 40%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.20 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.09 (2H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.48 (2H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 5.45 (2H, s), 3.15 (6H, s), 2.19 (3H, s), 1.63 (9H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 170.8, 165.8, 153.4, 150.1, 144.2, 141.8, 135.4, 131.7, 130.9, 130.1, 129.7, 127.7, 127.0, 119.1, 115.2, 81.3, 67.8, 44.6, 28.4, 21.1. MS (ESI): m/z = 421 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4+\text{H}]^+$ 421.2122, found 421.2123.

4-(2-(Acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)benzoic acid (36)

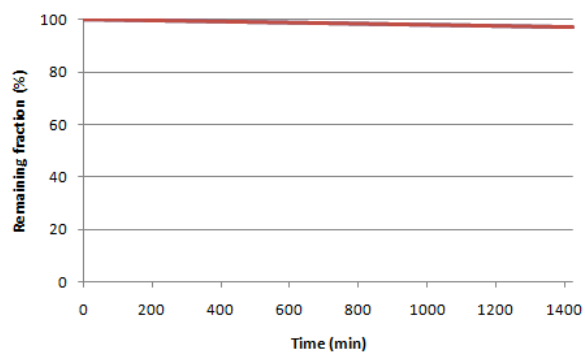
tert-Butyl 4-(2-(acetoxymethyl)-8-(dimethylamino)quinolin-5-yl)benzoate **35** (13 mg, 0.03 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in a solution of HCl in dioxane (4 M, 1 mL). The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The benzoic acid **36** was obtained as an orange solid (11 mg, quant.). ^1H NMR (250 MHz): δ 8.29 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 8.07 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.52-7.41 (4H, m), 7.31 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 5.42 (2H, s), 3.08 (6H, s), 2.19 (3H, s). ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz): δ 172.5, 160.1, 155.3, 150.6, 142.9, 136.8, 135.3, 134.8, 130.5 (2C), 128.6, 128.2, 120.2, 117.2, 68.1, 45.0, 20.8. MS (ESI): m/z = 365 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4+\text{H}]^+$ 365.1500, found 365.1496.

4. ABSORPTION SPECTRA OF **12**, **17**, **23**, **27** AND **36**, IN ACETONITRILE/TRIS BUFFER (20 mM) 1/1 AT 293 K

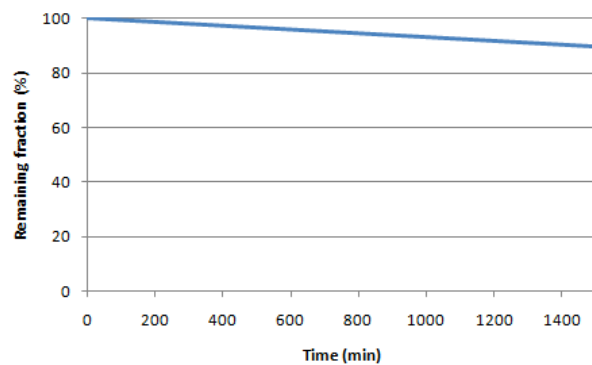


5. DARK HYDROLYSIS

5.1 The dark Hydrolysis of **36** in Acetonitrile/TRIS Buffer (20 mM) 1/1 at 293 K

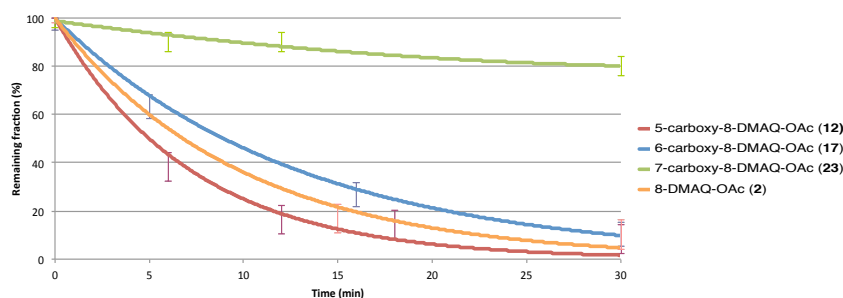
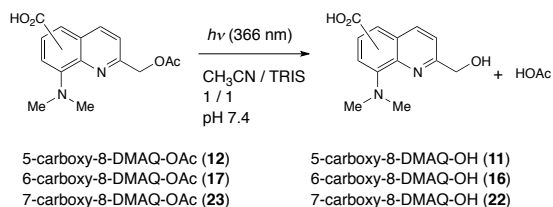


5.2 The dark hydrolysis of **36** in TRIS buffer (20 mM) at 293 K

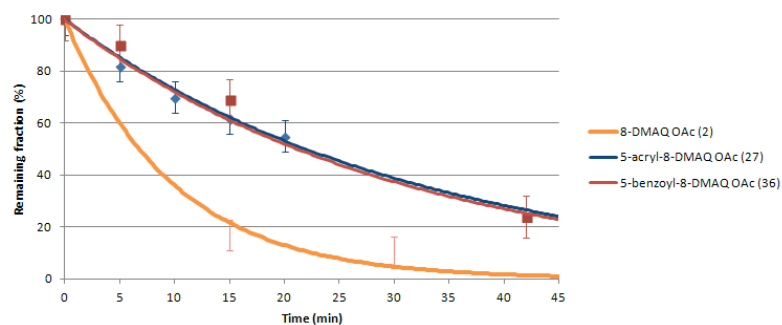


6. UV PHOTOLYSIS

6.1 The Photolysis of **12**, **17** and **23** in Acetonitrile/TRIS Buffer (20 mM) 1/1 at 293 K Compared to 8-DMAQ-OAc at 366 nm with the Calculated Time Course Determined by HPLC⁵



6.2 The Photolysis of **27** and **36**, in Acetonitrile/TRIS Buffer (20 mM) 1/1 at 293 K Compared to 8-DMAQ-OAc at 366 nm with the Calculated Time Course Determined by HPLC



⁵ The calculated curves take into account the the background hydrolysis.

7. TP PHOTOLYSIS OF CARBOXY-8-DMAQ ACETATES **12**, **27** AND **36**

Two-photon uncaging cross-sections (δ_u) values of 5-carboxy-8-DMAQ acetate, **12**, 5-acrylate-8-DMAQ acetate, **27** and 5-benzoyl-8-DMAQ acetate, **36** were measured directly from the fractional conversion of the acetate to the free carbinol. No quantitative analysis of the liberated acetate was made. A 45 μ l volume was irradiated in a 3 mm pathlength quartz cuvettes by the beam of a Ti:S mode-locked laser (MaiTai BB; SpectraPhysics) at 730 nm wavelength with 100 fs pulses at 86 MHz. The expanded beam was focused with a 50 mm fl lens so that the whole of the excitation volume was contained in the cuvette. Samples were irradiated for 2-4 hours at 100 mW average power. The loss of the cage was measured by HPLC and the photolysis cross-sections calculated from the rate of reduction of the fractional cage concentration at the laser beam parameters given above. It was seen, that the 5-carboxy-8-DMAQ acetate **12** had $\delta_u = 0.11$ GM (10^{-50} cm⁴/s/photon) photolysis cross-section, **27** had $\delta_u = 0.25$ GM photolysis cross-section and **36** had $\delta_u = 2.0$ GM photolysis cross-section, respectively.

8. ^1H AND ^{13}C NMR SPECTRA