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Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 2-Phenylimino-5-(5-phenylfuran-2-yl)methylene)thiazolidin-4-ones as IKK2 Inhibitors

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Abstract

In a search for novel molecules to treat inflammatory disorders, we identified several compounds with inhibitory action against the IKK2 enzyme using *in silico* methods. Based on the virtual hit of compounds **1** and **2**, a novel series of 2-((5-phenylimino-5-phenylfuran-2-yl)methylene)thiazolidin-4-one derivatives was designed, synthesized, and evaluated for IKK2 inhibitory activity. Among the synthesized derivatives, compounds **17f** and **19f** showed good IKK2 inhibitory potency, which have 4-carboxaminophenyl on the 2-furan ring and a methoxy group on the phenylimino moiety at the 2-position of the core structure. The most potent compound was 2-((2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)imino-5-(5-carboxaminophenyl)furan-2-yl)methylene)thiazolidin-4-one (**19f**, $IC_{50} = 0.94 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$), which represents a synergic effect of the two virtual hit compounds against IKK2. We also identified compounds showing inhibitory activities against interleukin (IL)-17, CCK-8, and tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α), which are NF- κ B-dependent pro-inflammatory cytokine mediators.

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```