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# Facile Approach to the N,O,S-Heteropentacycles via Condensation of Sterically Crowded 3H-Phenoxazin-3-one with ortho-amino-, hydroxy- and mercaptoanilines 

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#### Abstract

A convenient method for the synthesis of a series of 2-arylamino-3H-phenoxazin-3ones based on the nucleophilic substitution reaction between sterically crowded 3 H -phenoxazin-3-one and arylamines performed by short-term heating of the melted reactants at $230-250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is described and the compounds are characterized by means of single-crystal X-ray crystallography, NMR, UV/vis, IR spectroscopy and cyclic voltammetry. Involvement into the reaction of arylamines with o-amino-, o-hydroxy and


o-mercapto-substituents widens its scope and provides for an access to derivatives of N,O- and N,S-heteropentacyclic quinoxalinophenoxazine, triphenodioxazine and oxazinophenothiazine systems.

## Keywords

3H-phenoxazin-3-one; pentacyclic heterocycles; synthesis; fluorescence; molecular structure

## Introduction

3H-phenoxazin-3-one and its derivatives widely distributed in the natural world in microorganisms and fungi represent the key structural units of a number of important drugs with antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, anti-inflammatory and antiviral activities [1,2]. Due to the presence in their molecules of several active reaction centers (Fig. 1) 3 H -phenoxazin-3-ones easily accessed through the oxidation couplings of o aminophenols [3, 4] or N -aryl-o-benzoquinone imines [5, 6] can serve as efficient precursors to pentacyclic N, O-heterocyclic compounds possessing promising properties for application in fluorescent probe, organic light-emitting diode and organic solar cells devices [2, 7-9]. The principal way to the formation of these compounds is the nucleophilic addition of aromatic amines to 3 H -phenoxazin-3-ones and the subsequent cyclization of the initially formed adducts [10-12]. Reactivity of $3 \mathrm{H}-$ phenoxazin-3-ones is primarily determined by the properties of its p-quinone imine moiety. Therefore, these compounds can react with nucleophiles, in particular with amines, via one of the three pathways: Schiff base formation (attack at $C(3)$ center), Michael type addition (at $\mathrm{C}(4)$ ) or nucleophilic substitution $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} \mathrm{H}\right.$ ) at $\mathrm{C}(2)$ center [13-15]. The chose of one of the paths is strongly depends on the reaction conditions and
electrophilicity of the reaction centers $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ of a derivative of 6,8 -di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1. Condensation of 1 with aromatic amines performed in toluene solution in the presence of catalytic amounts of $p$-toluenesulfonic acid affords ( $E$ )-N-(6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-ylidene)anilines 3 but proceeds smoothly only with highly basic amines [6] (Scheme 1).


Scheme 1: Synthesis of (6,8-di-tert-butyl)-3H-phenoxazin-3-ylidene)anilines [6] 2 and (6,8-di-tert-butyl)-2-arylamino-3H-phenoxazin-3-ones 3.

As shown in Fig. 1 demonstrating distribution of the electronic density in a molecule of a 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 (the basic compound for the following transformations studied in this work) the largest positive charge in this triad is concentrated at the $\mathrm{C}(2)$ atom. It comes, therefore, with no surprise that interaction of arylamines with 5-hydroxy and 5-acetoxy derivatives of 3 H -phenoxazin-3-one is directed at its $C(2)$ reaction center to yield 2-aminophenoxazinones as the final products at aerobic conditions [10, 16]. The reactions proceed readily on refluxing acidified $\left(\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}=1-5\right)$ ethanol solutions of the amine hydrochlorides to give 2monosubstituted derivatives 2-(arylamino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-ones 3 in moderate yields. In the present work, we have suggested an improved procedure for the
synthesis of compounds 3 and extended it to arylamines with o-amino-, hydroxy- and mercapto-substituents to provide for the access to heteropolycyclic $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{S}$-containing structures.




Figure 1: The DFT B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) calculated molecular geometry and distribution of electronic density in a molecule of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1: Mulliken charges and molecular electrostatic potential (isovalue $=0.004$ ).

## Results and Discussion

We have found that a convenient way to a 2-arylamino-phenoxazin-3-ones 3 consists in a short-term heating (about 30 min ) of the melted mixture of $\mathbf{1}$ and an arylamine at $250-270^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ followed by purification of the products on a chromatographic column. As seen from the data collected in Scheme 2, the nucleophilic substitution reaction occurs in good yields with no restrictions on basicity of the amines.


3b (82\%)







Scheme 2: 2-Arylamino-phenoxazin-3-ones 3 prepared by the one-pot reaction between 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one $\mathbf{1}$ and aromatic amines (the yields are given in brackets).

Molecular structures of compounds $\mathbf{3 c}$,d,f were $X$-ray determined and are shown in Fig. 2 (3f) and Figs. S1, S2 (3c, 3d). The geometry of the phenoxazine-one fragments of the compounds $\mathbf{3 c}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{f}$ practically coincides with that found for 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 [6]. A strong hydrogen bridge $\mathrm{N}(15)-\mathrm{H} . . \mathrm{O}(31)$ is formed between the nitro and imino groups of the N -aryl ring.

b)


Figure 2: Molecular structure of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-(o-nitrophenylamino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3f. a) Selected bond distances: ( $\AA$ ) and angles: N1-C11 1.3061(19), N1-C14 1.3836(18), O23-C4 1.2314(19), N15-C3 1.3765(19), N15-C16 1.383(2), C11-N1-C14 117.55(12), C3-N15-C16 131.12(14). b) Package of molecules $3 \mathbf{f}$ in crystal.

The main crystallographic parameters and bond distances are given in SI (Tables S1 and S4). Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50\% probability level.

The compounds 3a-h intensely absorb light in the spectral range of $400-550 \mathrm{~nm}$ with maxima at 439-459 nm, $\varepsilon=20600-37100 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \cdot \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (Fig. 3, Table 1). Introduction of an amino-group into p-position of the $N$-phenyl fragment gives rise to appearance of an additional long wavelength absorption band with $\lambda_{\max }=520 \mathrm{~nm}$ and $\varepsilon=9200 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.


Figure 3: UV/vis spectra of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-arylamino-3H-phenoxazin-3-ones 3a-h (toluene, $C=2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}, I=1 \mathrm{~cm}, T=293 \mathrm{~K}$ ).

Table 1: UV/vis absorption data of ( $\lambda_{\max }, \varepsilon$ ) of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-arylamino-3H-phenoxazin-3-nes 3a-h in toluene.

| Compound | $\lambda_{\max , \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon, 10^{4} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \cdot \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 3a | $445(2.75)^{\text {sh }}, 458(2.80)$ |
| 3b | $447(3.04)$ |
| 3c | $444(2.83)^{\text {sh }}, 459(2.88)$ |


| 3d | 449 (2.99) |
| :--- | :--- |
| 3e | 357 (1.26), 457 (3.19) |
| 3f | 459 (3.71) |
| $\mathbf{3 g}$ | 439 (2.07), 459 (2.06), 520 (0.92) |
| 3h | 309 (2.35), 454 (3.20) |

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Involvement of o-phenylenediamine into reaction with 3H-phenoxazin-3-ones makes possible simultaneous activation of two principal reaction channels associated with SNH and Schiff base reaction paths. By using the procedure similar to that applied for the synthesis of compounds $\mathbf{3}$ we have succeeded in the preparation of derivatives of 12H-quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazine 4 (Scheme 3).



Scheme 3: Synthesis of 12H-quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazines 4, 5.
The nitrogen atoms in the oxazine and pyrazine rings of 4 offer three possible positions $\left(N_{7}, N_{12}, N_{14}\right)$ for allocation of a mobile hydrogen atom, therefore, three tautomeric forms are possible for the compounds 4 (Scheme 4), one of which, 7H, inevitably adopts a bipolar/biradical structure. According to the data of DFT calculations performed at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) approximation (Fig. S6) the energy preferred
tautomer is represented by the $\mathbf{1 2 H}$ form. The least stable $\mathbf{7 H}$ isomeric structure conforms to a minimum on the corresponding potential energy surface, but its stable wave function corresponds to the electronic state with the so-called "broken symmetry" [17] conclusively indicating at the presence of two unpaired electrons and the singlet biradical form.

In the previous studies of coupling derivatives of 3 H -phenoxazin-3-one with ophenylenediamine [10, 11] the preference was given to 14 H -quinoxaline[2,3b]phenoxazine form (Scheme 5). A series of N -aryl derivatives of this form have also been obtained via treatment of $\mathrm{N}-6,8$-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-ylideneanilines various arylamines in the presence of excessive amounts of trifluoroacetic acid [9].


Scheme 4: Relative stability of the prototropic tautomeric forms of quinoxaline[2,3b]phenoxazine calculated using the DFT B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method.


Scheme 5: Preparation of quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazines: from 2-amino-[10]- and 2-ethoxy-[11]-3H-phenoxazin-3-ones.

The structure of the compounds 4 synthesized in the present work as the derivatives of an earlier unexplored 12H-quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazine system has been unambiguously established based on the data of COSY, HSQC, heteronuclear multiple bond correlation spectroscopy (HMBC) NMR techniques and ${ }^{15}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{4 a}$
identifying its ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}(12)$ as a typical pyrrole-type and ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}(7),{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}(14)$ as pyridine-type nuclei $[18,19]$ (Fig. S31). The molecular structure of $4 \mathbf{a}$ was also determined using Xray crystallography (Fig. 4).


Figure 4: Molecular structure of 10-ethylcarboxylate-2,4-di-tert-butyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine $\mathbf{4 c}$ with the atom numbering scheme. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles: N1-C5 1.390(2), N1-C6 1.365(3), N2-C14 1.363(3), N2-C15 1.336(3), N3-C8 1.338(3), N3-C9 1.356(3), C6-N1-C5 122.13(17), C15-N2-C14 116.88(17), C8-N3-C9 116.66(17). All bond lengths, angles and principal crystallographic parameters are given in SI Tables S5, S6. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

We assumed that the scope of the reaction shown in Scheme 3 could be expanded via replacement of one of the amino groups of o-phenylenediamine by another strong nucleophilic center. It was earlier found [20] that condensation of 3 H -phenoxazin-3one 1 with various o-aminophenols (reflux of DMF solution during 8-10 h) occurring through the intermediate formation of the corresponding imine affords derivatives of benzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenoxazines (triphenodioxazines) 6a,b. As has been shown in the present work, this reaction can be also successfully performed at the conditions applied for the preparation of 12 H -quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazines 4 . The
reaction proceeds readily with o-mercaptoaniline to produce a derivative of benzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenothiazine system 6c (Scheme 6).


Scheme 6: Derivatives of triphenodioxazine and oxazinophenothiazine systems via condensation of 3 H -phenoxazin-3-one with o-amino- and o-mercaptophenols.

Electronic absorption spectra of the prepared 12H-quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazines 4, 5 (Table 2, Figs. 5-7, S7-S11) exhibit broad high-intensity longest wavelength absorption bands in the range of 450-550 nm encompassing the strongest emissive part of the solar spectrum. In contrast with non-fluorescent 2-arylaminophenoxazin-3ones 3, compounds 4, 5 display intense fluorescence of their solutions at room temperature (Figs. 5). The excitation spectra of the compounds (Figs. S7-S11) correspond to their longest wavelength absorption bands. The absorption and emission spectra of benzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenothiazine 6c (Fig. 7) are batochromically (by about 50 nm ) shifted relative those of the quinoxaline[2,3b]phenoxazines 5.

Table 2: UV/vis $\left(\lambda_{\max }, \varepsilon\right)$ and fluorescence emission $\left(\lambda_{\mathrm{f}}\right)$ data of compounds $\mathbf{4 a - c}, \mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$ and $6 \mathbf{c}$ in toluene. $\Phi_{\mathrm{fl}}$ - quantum yield of the fluorescence.

| Compound | Absorption $\lambda_{\text {max }}$, $\mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon, 10^{4} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \cdot \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | Emission $\lambda_{\text {fl }}$ nm | $\Phi_{\text {fi }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4a | $\begin{aligned} & 311(1.13), 327^{\text {sh }}(0.83), 380^{\text {sh }}(0.46), \\ & 400(0.59), 466(2.36), 486^{\text {sh }}(2.18) \end{aligned}$ | 526, $550{ }^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.19 |
| 4b | $\begin{aligned} & 307(1.07), 326^{\text {sh }}(0.72), 379^{\text {sh }}(0.45), \\ & 401^{\text {sh }}(0.60), 462(2.23), 482(2.12) \end{aligned}$ | 519, $542^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.20 |
| 4c | $\begin{aligned} & 325(1.32), 339(1.22), 389^{\text {sh }}(0.59), 408 \\ & (1.47), 484(2.52), 505^{\text {sh }}(2.32) \end{aligned}$ | 550, $573{ }^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.13 |
| 5a | $\begin{aligned} & 310(1.04), 326^{\text {sh }}(0.78), 379^{\text {sh }}(0.41), \\ & 399(0.49), 471(2.29), 486^{\text {sh }}(2.10) \end{aligned}$ | 531, $555{ }^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.19 |
| 5b | $\begin{aligned} & 314(1.11), 327^{\text {sh }}(0.93), 380^{\text {sh }}(0.46), \\ & 400(0.55), 473(2.64), 497(2.50) \end{aligned}$ | 531, $555^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.19 |
| 6c | $474{ }^{\text {sh }}$ (2.13), 502 (4.61), 538 (6.56) | 556, 590 ${ }^{\text {sh }}$ | 0.35 |

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Figure 5: UV/vis (solid lines) and fluorescence emission ( $\lambda_{\text {ex }}=365 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) (dashed) spectra of compounds $\mathbf{4 a - c}$ (toluene, $C=2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}, I=1 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) (a). Solutions photographs
of compounds 4a-c in toluene: before irradiation (no emission) (b); during irradiation (photoluminescence, $\lambda_{e x=} 365 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) (c) at room temperature.


Figure 6: UV/vis (solid lines) and fluorescence emission ( $\lambda_{\mathrm{ex}}=365 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) (dashed) spectra of $\mathbf{5 a}$ and $\mathbf{5 b}$ (toluene, $C=2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}, I=1 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) at room temperature.


Figure 7: UV/vis, fluorescence emission ( $\lambda_{e x}=500 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) and fluorescence excitation $\left(\lambda_{\text {obs }}=590 \mathrm{~nm}\right)$ spectra of benzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenothiazine $6 \mathbf{c}$ (toluene, $C$ $\left.=2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}(\mathrm{Abs}), C=2 \cdot 10^{-6} \mathrm{M}(\mathrm{Fl}, \mathrm{Ex}), I=1 \mathrm{~cm}\right)$ at room temperature .

Electrochemical behavior of compounds $\mathbf{3 a - h}, \mathbf{4 a - c}, \mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{6 c}$ was studied using cyclic voltammetry (CV). As exemplified by the CV curves (Fig. S12), 2-arylamino-3H-phenoxazin-3-ones 3a-h manifest two reduction waves at $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}{ }^{\mathrm{RED} 1}=-1.36 \div-1.69 \mathrm{~V}$ and $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}$ RED2 $=-1.85 \div-2.12 \mathrm{~V}$. Oxidation of $3 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{f}, \mathrm{h}$ occurs as an irreversible process at $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2} \mathrm{OX}=0.81-1.07 \mathrm{~V}$. For 3 g bearing an amino group the oxidation potential is shifted to $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2} \mathrm{OX}=0.25 \mathrm{~V}$. The irreversible, two-wave $\left(\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}{ }^{\mathrm{RED} 1}=-1.40 \div-1.60 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ and $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}{ }^{\text {RED2 }}$ $=-1.92 \div-2.45 \mathrm{~V}$ ) reduction is also characteristic of 2 H -quinoxaline[2,3b]phenoxazines $\mathbf{4 a} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{c}$ and $\mathbf{5 a , b}$. In contrast to $\mathbf{4 a} \mathbf{c}$ and $\mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$, benzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenothiazine $\mathbf{6 c}$ is reversibly reduced at $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}{ }^{\mathrm{RED} 1}=-1.39$ V to a radical-anion and then undergoes irreversible reduction at $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}{ }^{\mathrm{RED2}}=-1.91 \mathrm{~V}$ and irreversible oxidation at $\mathrm{E}_{1 / 2} \mathrm{OX}=0.48 \mathrm{~V}$. These CV parameters are close to those recorded for triphenodioxazines [20]. The energies of the HOMO and LUMO orbitals assessed on the basis of the CV and electronic absorption spectra data are given in Table 3.

Table 3: CV parameters and calculated energy levels of 3a-h, 4a-c, 5a-b and $\mathbf{6 c}$.

| Compound | CV (vs. $\mathrm{Fc}^{+} / \mathrm{Fc}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  | UV/vis |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{E}_{1 / 2} \mathrm{ox}, \\ & \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{E}_{1 / 2}^{\text {red } 1} \\ & \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{E}_{1 / 2} \mathrm{red} 2, \\ & \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | HOMO, eV | LUMO, eV | $\Delta \mathrm{E}$, <br> eV | $\Delta \mathrm{E}$, <br> eV | LUMO, eV |
| 3a | 0.89 | -1.41 | -1.97 | -5.69 | -3.39 | 2.30 | 2.71 | -2.98 |
| 3b | 0.91 | -1.36 | -1.90 | -5.71 | -3.44 | 2.27 | 2.77 | -2.94 |
| 3c | 0.83 | -1.42 | -1.92 | -5.63 | -3.38 | 2.25 | 2.70 | -2.93 |
| 3d | 0.81 | -1.36 | -1.94 | -5.61 | -3.44 | 2.17 | 2.76 | -2.85 |


| $\mathbf{3 e}$ | 1.07 | -1.59 | -1.91 | -5.87 | -3.21 | 2.66 | 2.71 | -3.16 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{3 f}$ | 1.05 | -1.69 | -2.12 | -5.85 | -3.11 | 2.74 | 2.70 | -3.15 |
| $\mathbf{3 g}$ | 0.25 | -1.54 | -1.96 | -5.05 | -3.26 | 1.79 | 2.38 | -2.67 |
| $\mathbf{3 h}$ | 0.92 | -1.43 | -1.85 | -5.72 | -3.37 | 2.35 | 2.73 | -2.99 |
| $\mathbf{4 a}$ | 0.86 | -1.40 | -2.32 | -5.66 | -3.40 | 2.26 | 2.55 | -3.11 |
| $\mathbf{4 b}$ | 0.95 | -1.60 | -2.45 | -5.75 | -3.20 | 2.55 | 2.57 | -3.18 |
| $\mathbf{4 c}$ | 0.82 | -1.40 | -2.15 | -5.62 | -3.40 | 2.22 | 2.46 | -3.16 |
| $\mathbf{5 a}$ | 1.10 | -1.45 | -1.92 | -5.9 | -3.35 | 2.55 | 2.55 | -3.35 |
| $\mathbf{5 b}$ | 1.15 | -1.48 | -2.02 | -5.95 | -3.32 | 2.63 | 2.49 | -3.46 |
| $\mathbf{6 c}$ | 0.48 | -1.39 | -1.91 | -5.28 | -3.41 | 1.87 | 2.30 | -2.98 |

## Conclusion

The diverse reactions of derivatives of 3H-phenoxazin-3-one with nucleophilic agents are primarily directed to their $p$-quinone imine fragment [5,13,15]. In the presence of protonic acids the reaction with amines proceeds through the Schiff base formation reaction channel [6], whereas without an acidic catalyst it is driven by the distribution of electronic density (Fig. 1) and the nucleophilic attack is aimed at the most electrophilic $C(2)$ center. With these reasons in mind, we have suggested a convenient procedure for the $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} \mathrm{H}$ reaction of aromatic amines with sterically crowded 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 that afforded a series of 2-arylaminophenoxazin-3-ones 3 prepared in 68-93\% yields (Scheme 2). Involvement into the process of o-amino-, o-hydroxy- and o-mercapto-substituted anilines allowed activation of both principal reaction channels associated with $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} \mathrm{H}$ and Schiff base reaction paths and led to the formation of derivatives of an earlier unexplored $12 H$-quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazine system 4 (Scheme 3) and N,O- and N,S-heteropentacyclic triphenodioxazines and
oxazinophenothiazine 6a-c. The earlier assignments [10,11] of the N,O-products of this reaction to derivatives of the 14 H -quinoxaline[2,3-b]phenoxazines were corrected on the basis on the DFT B3LYP (6-311++G(d,p)) calculations, X-ray structural study and NMR (COSY, HSQC and HMBC) experiments.

Electronic absorption spectra of the heteropentacyclic compounds 4-6 (Table 2, Figs. 5-7) and their electrochemical properties (Table 3) are characteristic of the compounds suitable for testing these as donors for organic solar cells and dye-sensitizers for DSSC [21, 22].

## Experimental

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources (Aldrich) and used without additional purification. The compounds were characterized by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ NMR (NMR spectra of compounds $\mathbf{3 a - h}, \mathbf{4 a - c}, \mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{6 c}$ are given in SI Figs. S13S43), mass-spectroscopy (Figs. S44-S56), IR-, UV/vis absorption and elemental analysis. The NMR spectra were recorded on spectrometers Varian UNITY-300 (300 MHz for $\left.{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)$ and Bruker AVANCE-600 $\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}\right.$ for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}, 151 \mathrm{MHz}$ for ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ and 60 MHz for ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ ) in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ solutions, the signals were referred regarding the signals of residual protons of deuterated solvents ( 7.24 ppm for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ ), ( 77.0 ppm for ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ ) and ( 384 ppm for ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ - nitromethane). $\delta$ values were measured with precision 0.01 ppm and 0.1 Hz for spin-spin coupling constants $J$. The assignment of resonance peaks was carried out using two-dimensional correlation techniques COSY (Correlation Spectroscopy ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-$ ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ ), HSQC (Heteronuclear Single Quantum Correlation ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ ), HMBC (Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Correlation ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}, 1 \mathrm{H}-{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ ). Melting points were determined using a PTP (M) apparatus and were left uncorrected IR spectra were recorded on a Varian Excalibur 3100 FT-IR instrument using the attenuated total
internal reflection technique (ZnSe crystal). UV/vis spectra were recorded for $2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ toluene solutions with a Varian Cary 100 spectrophotometer. Photoluminescent spectra were recorded for $2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ (compounds $\mathbf{4 a} \mathbf{- c}$ and $\mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$ ) and for $2 \cdot 10^{-6} \mathrm{M}$ (compound 6c) toluene solutions with a Varian Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer. UV/Vis and fluorescence spectra were recorded using standard 1 cm quartz cells at room temperature. Toluene of the spectroscopic grade (Aldrich) was used to prepare solutions. Fluorescence quantum yields determined relative to quinine bisulfate in $0.05 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ as standard ( $\Phi_{\mathrm{F}}=0.52$; excitation at 365 nm ) (compounds 4a-c and 5a,b) [23] and cresyl violet perchlorate in ethanol ( $\Phi_{F}=0.54$; excitation at 510 nm ) (compound 6c) [24]. Mass spectrometric analysis was performed on a Bruker UHR-TOF Maxis ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Impact (resolving power (FWHM) of 40000 at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ 1222) (electrospray ionization). The cyclic voltammetry of compounds $\mathbf{3 a} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{4 a - c}, \mathbf{5 a , b}$ and 6c was measured with the use of three-electrode configuration (glassy-carbon working electrode, Pt counter electrode, $\mathrm{Ag} / \mathrm{Ag}^{+}$reference electrode ( $0.01 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{AgNO}_{3}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ ) ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(\mathbf{3 a} \mathbf{- h}), \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}(\mathbf{4 a - c}, \mathbf{5 a}, \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{6 c})$ and potentiostat-galvanostat Elins P-45X. The data collection has been performed on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer using microfocus X -ray source with copper anode (CuKa $\lambda=1.54184$ ) and Atlas S2 CCD detector. The diffraction data of $\mathbf{3 c} \mathbf{- e}, \mathbf{4 c}$ and $\mathbf{6 b}$ were obtained at 100 K . Crystals of 4c were obtained in the form of solvate with molecules of isopropanol and water. Protons on heteroatoms were localized from difference Fourier synthesis and refined with isotropic thermal parameters. The collection of reflexes, determination and refinement of unit cell parameters were performed by using the specialized CrysAlisPro 1.171.38.41 software suite [25]. The structures were solved by using SheIXT program [26], structure refinement was also performed with ShelXL program [27]. Molecular graphics were rendered and prepared for publication with the Olex2 version 1.3.0 software suite [28]. The complete X-ray diffraction datasets were deposited at the

Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (deposit CCDC 2292841, 2292840, 2292847, 2308520, 2292848) (SI Tables S1-S8). The density functional theory (DFT) [29] calculations were performed using the Gaussian 16 program package [30] with the B3LYP functional [31] and $6-311++G(d, p)$ basis set. The structures discussed in the work, which correspond to minima on the potential energy surface (PES) and states with "broken symmetry" (BS) [17], were found through complete optimization of the geometry without imposing symmetry restrictions, followed by checking the stability of the DFT wave function. Graphic images of molecular structures presented in Figures 1 and S6 were obtained using the ChemCraft program [32].

## Synthesis

## General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 3a-h

309 mg ( 1 mmol ) of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 powder was mixed with 3 mmol of the corresponding amine powder, placed in a round-bottom flask and heated in a glycerin bath for 30 minutes at a temperature of $250-270^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, stirring melt with a spatula every 10 min . For compounds $3 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{h}$, the reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography (carrier $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$, eluent toluene), and the resulting fraction was recrystallized from diethyl ether.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-(phenylamino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3a

Dark orange solid with m.p. $145-147^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $80 \%(320 \mathrm{mg})$. Rf $\sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-}$ ${ }^{1}$ ): 3269 (N-H), 2950 (t-Bu), 2903 (t-Bu), 2863 (t-Bu), 1566 (C=O), 1519 (C=N), 1266 (C-N), 1239 (C-N), 1182 (C-O), 1159 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.71$ (s, 1H), $7.63(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.37(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.33(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.12(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.00(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.52(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.36(\mathrm{~s}$, $9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(151 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 180.08,149.34,147.85,147.53,141.98,139.45$,
138.94, 136.75, 134.20, 129.57, 125.33, 124.39, 123.81, 121.39, 103.20, 99.48, 35.17, 34.87, 31.40, 30.08. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} 401.2224$; Found 401.2229.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-((2-iodophenyl)amino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3b

Orange needle crystals with m.p. $170-173^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $82 \%$ ( 431 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3243 ( $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ ), 2961 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 2902 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 2868 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 1580 ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ ), 1529 ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ ), 1264 (C-N), 1208 (C-N), 1162 (C-O), 1150 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.89$ (d, $J=7.9,1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.50(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.38(\mathrm{t}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.89(\mathrm{t}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.85(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.55(\mathrm{~s}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.36(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 179.74,149.28,147.88$, $147.45,141.81,140.03,139.86,136.78,134.08,129.21,126.17,125.60,123.83$, 122.13, 103.33, 100.05, 93.67, 35.15, 34.84, 31.36, 30.03. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ 527.1132; Found 527.1135.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-((3-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3c

Brown needle crystals with m.p. $163-165^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $87 \%$ ( 374 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3316 (N-H), 2952 (t-Bu), 2904 (t-Bu), 2868 (t-Bu), 1580 (C=O), 1523 (C=N), 1256 (C-N), 1238 (C-N), 1174 (C-O), 1143 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.69$ $(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.28(\mathrm{t}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03$ (s, 1H), 6.94 (dd, $J=8.1,2.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.85(\mathrm{t}, J=2.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.68(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.1,2.2$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.51(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.81(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.36(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 151 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 180.03, 160.69, 149.29, 147.83, 147.48, 141.80, 140.10, 139.41, 136.71, $134.18,130.27,125.34,123.78,113.63,109.73,107.41,103.14,99.94,55.36,35.13$, 34.83, 31.36, 30.03. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{31} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} 431.2329$; Found 431.2339.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-((3-chlorophenyl)amino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3d

Brown needle crystals with m.p. 171-174 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $79 \%(344 \mathrm{mg}) . \operatorname{Rf} \sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3274 (N-H), 2952 (t-Bu), 2905 (t-Bu), 2866 (t-Bu), 1574 (C=O), 1519 (C=N), 1264 (C-N), 1239 (C-N), 1207 (C-O), 1157 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.72$ (s, 1H), $7.65(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.51(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{t}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.29$ (t, J=8.0 Hz, 1H), $7.20(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.09(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.01$ (s, 1H), $6.52(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.37(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) $\delta 179.69$, 149.26, 147.97, 147.29, 141.27, 140.25, 139.46, 136.76, 135.25, 134.09, 130.49, $125.71,124.21,123.86,120.86,119.19,103.15,100.35,35.12,34.83,31.32,30.00$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{CIN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ 435.1834; Found 435.1837.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-((4-nitrophenyl)amino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3e

Dark orange powder with m.p. $180-183^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $88 \%(391 \mathrm{mg}) . \operatorname{Rf} \sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3250 (N-H), 2953 (t-Bu), 2904 (t-Bu), 2866 (t-Bu), 1637 (C=O), 1582 (C=N), 1574 (N=O), 1269 (C-N), 1240 (C-N), 1155 (C-O), 1111 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.24(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.15(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.67(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.56(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.22(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.55(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.37(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 151 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) ~ \delta 179.39,149.32,148.37,146.97,145.27,142.72,139.75,139.71,136.98$, 134.15, 126.73, 125.73, 124.24, 118.89, 103.50, 103.33, 35.22, 34.92, 31.35, 30.05. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M-H] calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ 444.1929; found 444.1933.

## 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2-((2-nitrophenyl)amino)-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3f

Orange needle crystals with m.p. $178-180^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $93 \%(414 \mathrm{mg}) . \mathrm{Rf} \sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3221 (N-H), 2997 (t-Bu), 2961 (t-Bu), 2869 (t-Bu), 1589 (C=O), 1572 (N=O), 1509 (C=N), 1262 (C-N), 1241 (C-N), 1153 (C-O), 1111 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 10.19(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.23(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4,1 \mathrm{H}), 7.86(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{t}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.54(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.13(\mathrm{t}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.56$
(s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 9H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) $\delta 179.46,149.08$, 148.10, 147.26, 140.27, 139.73, 138.71, 136.94, 136.08, 135.04, 134.00, 126.91, $126.51,124.15,122.29,120.56,104.37,103.76,35.18,34.86,31.33,30.01$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M-Na] ${ }^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{NaO}_{4} 468.1894$; found 468.1887.

## 2-((4-aminophenyl)amino)-6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 3g

Dark green powder with m.p. $156-158^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $68 \%(282 \mathrm{mg})$. Rf $\sim 0.70$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-}$ ${ }^{1}$ ): 3410 (N-H), 3262 (N-H), 3208 (N-H), 2953 (t-Bu), 2902 (t-Bu), 2867 (t-Bu), 1637 (C=O), 1573 (C=N), 1265 (C-N), 1240 (C-N), 1182 (C-O), 1155 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (600 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.60(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.49(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.45(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.11(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.74(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.69(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.48(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.69(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.50$ (s, 9H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 180.22,149.42,147.63,147.44$, 143.86, 143.14, 139.24, 136.60, 134.18, 129.63, 124.71, 123.87, 123.50, 115.82, 103.04, 97.89, 35.08, 34.78, 31.34, 30.01. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{2} 416.2342$; Found 416.2333.

## methyl 4-((6,8-di-tert-butyl-3-oxo-3H-phenoxazin-2-yl)amino)benzoate 3h

Red-brown powder with m.p. 174-177 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $81 \%$ (371 mg). Rf $\sim 0.70$. IR (neat, cm $\left.{ }^{1}\right): 3264$ (N-H), 2950 (t-Bu), 2902 (t-Bu), 2869 (t-Bu), 1713 (C=O), 1580 (C=O), 1531 (C=N), 1280 (C-N), 1265 (C-N), 1182 (C-O), 1156 (C-O), 1111 (C-O). ¹H NMR (600 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.04(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.95(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.66(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.36(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.16(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.53(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.90(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.51$ (s, 9H), 1.37 (s, 9H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 179.68,166.39,149.26,148.06$, 147.26, 143.35, 140.44, 139.55, 136.82, 134.14, 131.31, 126.00, 125.01, 124.02, 119.22, 103.23, 101.81, 51.98, 35.15, 34.86, 31.34, 30.02. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}]^{-}$ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4} 457.2133$; Found 457.2131.

## General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 4a-c

309 mg (1 mmol) of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 powder was mixed with 3 mmol of the corresponding o-phenylenediamine powder, placed in a round-bottom flask and heated in a glycerin bath for 30 minutes at a temperature of $200-250{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, stirring the melt with a spatula every 10 min . The reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right.$ carrier, eluent dichloromethane and isopropanol ( $/=40$ $c m, d=15 \mathrm{~mm}))$. The resulting fraction was recrystallized from isopropanol.

## 2,4-di-tert-butyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 4a

Red powder with m.p. $>260^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $93 \%$ ( 369 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.45$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3264 (N-H), 3087 (t-Bu), 2949 (t-Bu), 2902 (t-Bu), 2865 (t-Bu), 1618 (C=N), 1593 (C=N), 1235 (C-N), 1211 (C-N), 1179 (C-N), 1139 (C-O), 1113 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.01(\mathrm{~s} 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.96(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.87(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) 7.26(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.85(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $6.42(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.46(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.13(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{NMR}\left(151 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 148.97, 146.46, 144.11, 143.58, 142.19, 141.67, 138.09, 136.94, 136.53, 129.10, 128.98, 128.02, 127.80, 127.28, 117.04, 109.69, 109.64, 102.35, 34.93, 34.38, 31.20, 29.98. ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ NMR $\left(60 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 314.85,296.56,92.79$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}$ 398.2227; Found 398.2218.

## 2,4-di-tert-butyl-9,10-dimethyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 4b

Red powder with m.p. $>260^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $69 \%$ ( 293 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.48$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3245 (N-H), 2952 (t-Bu), 2867 (t-Bu), 1615 (C=N), 1592 (C=N), 1238 (C-N), 1212 (C-N), 1168 (C-N), 1110 (C-O), 1032 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.72$ (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), $7.25(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.79(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.42(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $2.37(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.36(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.46(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.15(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.151 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 148.36, 146.23, 143.42, 142.80, 141.43, 140.93, 140.04, 138.90, 138.12, 136.90,
$135.83,127.63,127.61,126.71,116.87,109.79,109.48,102.86,34.91,34.36,31.20$, 29.95, 20.35, 20.26. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O} 426.2540$; Found 426.2534.

## ethyl 2,4-di-tert-butyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine-10-carboxylate 4c

Violet powder with m.p. $>260^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $63 \%$ (295 mg). Rf $\sim 0.54$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3330 ( $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ ), 2952 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 2902 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 2866 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 1701 (C=O), 1646 ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ ), 1592 ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ ), 1261 (C-N), 1233 (C-N), 1196 (C-N), 1174 (C-O), 1088 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 600 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.64(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.11(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65-7.45(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.84(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.80(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.46(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.36(\mathrm{q}, J=7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 2 H ), $1.44(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.35(\mathrm{t}, J=7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.18(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ $166.08,150.01,146.82,145.07,144.82,143.39,141.54,138.03,137.21,136.64$, $131.11,130.57,129.04,127.32,126.97,117.49,109.79,109.55,102.72,61.35,34.96$, 34.49, 31.25, 29.96, 14.25. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{31} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{3} 470.2438$; Found 470.2444 .

## General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 5a,b

$100 \mathrm{mg}(0.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ of 2,4-di-tert-butyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine in 15 ml of acetone was added to 40 mg ( 1 mmol ) of sodium hydroxide. After the solution took on an intense blue color, $0.1 \mathrm{ml}(1.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ methyl iodide was added for 5 a or 254 mg ( 1 $\mathbf{m m o l}$ ) 1-iodonanane for $\mathbf{5 b}$ and stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the mother liquor was recrystallized from acetone.

## 2,4-di-tert-butyl-14-methyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 5a

Red powder with m.p. $232-235{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $97 \%$ ( 398 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.80$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2950 (t-Bu), 2924 (t-Bu), 2860 (t-Bu), 1579 (C=N), 1563 (C=N), 1342 (C-N), 1301 (CN), 1236 (C-N), 1222 (C-N), 1128 (C-O), 1070 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ $8.01(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.63(\mathrm{t}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.60(\mathrm{t}, J=$
$8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.93(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1,1 \mathrm{H}), 6.71(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=2.1,1 \mathrm{H}), 3.37$ (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.31 (s, 9H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $151 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 150.45,146.30$, $144.48,143.17,142.70,141.90,140.04,139.19,136.92,130.84,129.07,128.90$, $128.49,128.31,117.35,109.17,108.55,103.54,34.97,34.83,32.45,31.45,30.03$. ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ NMR $\left(60 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 311.64,305.64,83.69$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}$ 412.2383; Found 412.2389.

## 2,4-di-tert-butyl-14-nonyl-14H-quinoxalino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 5b

Red powder with m.p. $154-157^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $91 \%$ ( 476 mg ). Rf $\sim 0.73$. IR (neat, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2948 (t-Bu), 2927 (t-Bu), 2863 (t-Bu), 1582 (C=N), 1568 (C=N), 1346 (C-N), 1299 (CN), 1231 (C-N), 1220 (C-N), 1128 (C-O), 1083 (C-O). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ $7.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.97(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.63(\mathrm{t}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.59(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.29(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.91(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.90(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1,1 \mathrm{H}), 6.70(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1,1 \mathrm{H}), 3.79$ $(\mathrm{t}, J=8.3,2 \mathrm{H}), 1.85(\mathrm{qvin}, J=7.6,2 \mathrm{H}), 1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.50(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.45(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.42$ $(\mathrm{m} 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.35(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.32(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.31(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 0.89(\mathrm{t}, J=7.0,3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) ~ \delta 149.87,146.04,144.76,143.29,142.74,141.90,139.44$, 137.50, 136.82, 129.19, 129.02, 128.89, 128.34, 128.17, 117.25, 108.99, 108.41, 102.76, 45.61, 34.99, 34.77, 31.83, 31.41, 29.99, 29.54, 29.39, 29.21, 26.97, 24.74, 22.65, 14.07. ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}$ NMR ( $60 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 310.36,303.85,96.38$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]+ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{35} \mathrm{H}_{46} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O} 524.3635$; Found 524.3640.

## General procedure for the synthesis of compounds $\mathbf{6 a , b}$

309 mg ( 1 mmol ) of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 powder was mixed with 3 mmol of the corresponding o-aminophenol powder, placed in a round-bottom flask and heated in a glycerin bath for 30 minutes at a temperature of $250-270^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, stirring the melt with a spatula every 10 minutes. The structure of the obtained products $\mathbf{6 a , b}$ corresponded to those previously described [20].

## 2,4-di-tert-butylbenzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 6a

The reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography on $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$, toluene, Rf $\sim 0.70$. Red powder. Yield 55\% (219 mg). M.p. $228-229^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

## 2,4-di-tert-butyl-9-nitrobenzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenoxazine 6b

The reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography on $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$, toluene, Rf $\sim 0.75$. Red powder. Yield $65 \%(288 \mathrm{mg})$. M.p. $>260^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

## 2,4-di-tert-butylbenzo[5,6][1,4]oxazino[2,3-b]phenothiazine 6c

$309 \mathrm{mg}(1 \mathrm{mmol})$ of 6,8-di-tert-butyl-3H-phenoxazin-3-one 1 powder was mixed with 375 mg ( 3 mmol ) of 2-aminobenzenethiol powder, placed in a round-bottom flask and heated in a glycerin bath for 30 minutes at a temperature of $200-250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, stirring melt with a spatula every 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography ( $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ carrier, eluent dichloromethane $(I=40 \mathrm{~cm}, d=15 \mathrm{~mm})$ ). Violet powder with m.p. $211-215^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Yield $36 \%$ (149 mg). Rf ~ 0.80. IR (neat, cm ${ }^{-1}$ ): 2943 (tBu ), 2867 ( $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{Bu}$ ), 1569 (C=N), 1516 (C=N), 1333 (C-N), 1310 (C-N), 1267 (C-N), 1241 (C-N), 1141 (C-O), 1122 (C-O), 569 (C-S). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.43$ (d, $J=$ $7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.28(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.24(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.13-7.07(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.76(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.57(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.43(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.30(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (151 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 151.00,149.15,148.33,147.26,141.26,141.17,136.09,135.39$, 132.07, 131.27, 127.73, 127.70, 124.78, 124.71, 123.75, 121.77, 118.80, 108.44, 34.90, 34.62, 31.30, 29.89. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{OS} 415.1839$; Found 415.1845.

## Supporting Information

Supporting information to this article can be found online at

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