



# A Quick Access to Structurally Diverse Triazoloquinazoline Heterocycles via the MIL-101(Cr)-Catalyzed One-Pot Multi-Component Reaction of a Series of Benzaldehydes, Dimedone, and 1*H*-1,2,4-Triazol-3-Amine Under Green Conditions

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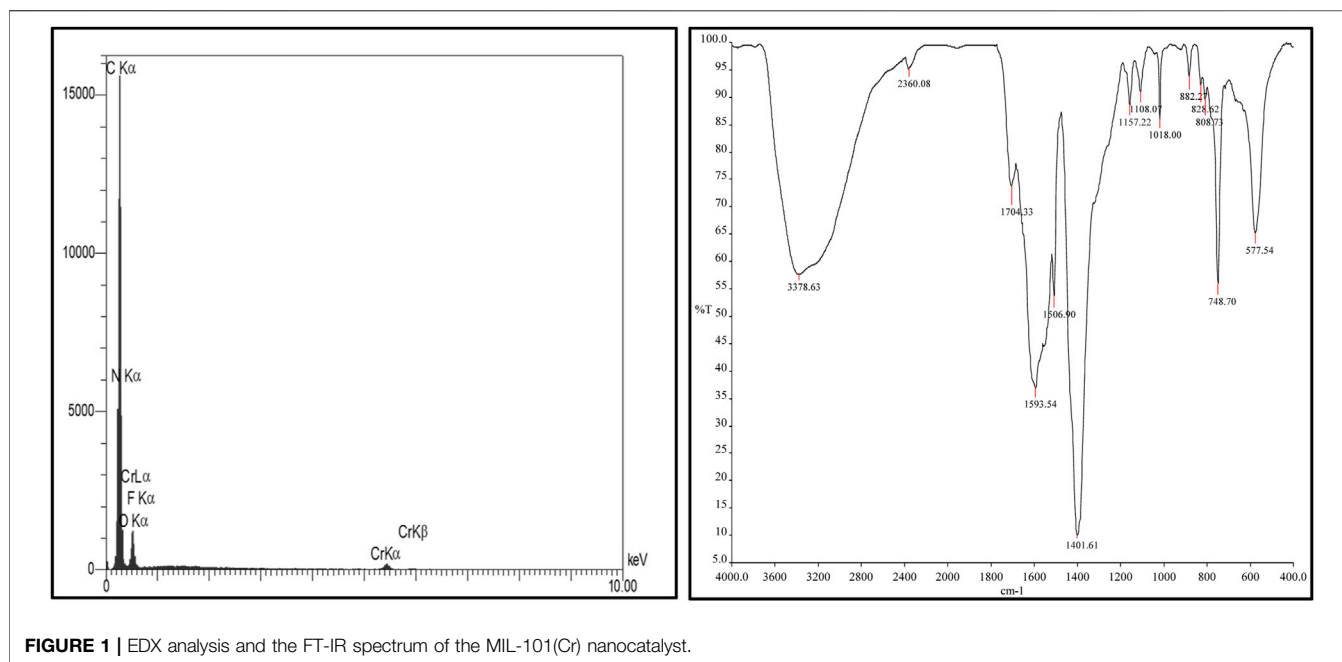
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A one-pot multicomponent reaction of a variety of benzaldehydes, dimedone, and 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine for the efficient synthesis of quinazolinone derivatives under green conditions is reported. It was proved that MIL-101(Cr) could carry out successfully this multicomponent strategy to afford target products in high yields. The scope and limitation of this catalytic system concerning the aldehyde substrates were explored. Different aldehydes could be conveniently delivered to quinazolinones at room temperature with short reaction times in an atom-economy way. Notably, MIL-101(Cr) was also characterized by different analytic methods such as FT-IR, SEM, and EDX. The outstanding benefits of this methodology are the availability of substrates, using green conditions, excellent functional group compatibility, and reusability of catalysts, therefore providing easy access to a range of products of interest in organic and medicinal chemistry.

**Keywords:** short reaction times, green conditions, heterogeneous catalyst, MIL-101(Cr), heterocycles

## INTRODUCTION

Nitrogen-containing heterocycles occur in natural products (Yadav et al., 2014), ionic liquids (Wang et al., 2006), bioactive molecules (Kundu et al., 1999; Wiglenda et al., 2005; Wiglenda and Gust, 2007; Mashayekh and Shiri, 2019), and dyes (Wang et al., 2013). A concise review of the most active molecules displays that *N*-heterocyclic systems are the most dominant scaffolds of biologically active molecules (Alizadeh et al., 2017a; Alizadeh et al., 2017b; Sharghi et al., 2018; Alizadeh et al., 2019; Mashayekh and Shiri, 2019; Henary et al., 2020; Shiri, 2020). They are of much interest as antitumor agents (Al-Soud et al., 2003; Shiri, 2021), antibacterial agents (Dixit et al., 2005; Shiri and Aboonajmi, 2020), antipsychotic agents (Perregaard et al., 1992), antiestrogens (Von Angerer et al., 1987), cyclooxygenases (COX)-1 inhibitors (Sano et al., 2006), and antifungal agents (Rezaei et al., 2009) and also have wide usage in materials science (Novak et al., 2009; Anderson and Long, 2010).



**FIGURE 1** | EDX analysis and the FT-IR spectrum of the MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst.

Quinazolinone derivatives have been proven to exhibit interesting medicinal and therapeutic activities, including antitumor, antihypertensive, antifungal, analgesic and anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antihistaminic, anticancer, antioxidant, and anti-HIV activities (Karan et al., 2021). To the best of our knowledge, a few reports are available for the preparation of triazoloquinazolinones by condensation of 3,5-diamino-1,2,4-triazole, aromatic aldehydes, and dimedone (Lipson et al., 2003; Heravi et al., 2008; Heravi et al., 2010; Krishnamurthy and Jagannath, 2013; Puligoundla et al., 2013; Mousavi and Maghsoodlou, 2015) such as  $H_6P_2W_{18}O_{62} \cdot 18H_2O$  (Heravi et al., 2008), microwave (Krishnamurthy and Jagannath, 2013), molecular iodine ( $I_2$ ) (Puligoundla et al., 2013), refluxing in DMF (Lipson et al., 2003), and more recently,  $TiO_2$  nanoparticles supported ionic liquids (Bakhshali-Dehkordi et al., 2020),  $Sc(OTf)_3$  (Gajaganti et al., 2018) and DABCO-based ionic liquid supported on  $Fe_3O_4@TiO_2$  nanoparticles (Bakhshali-Dehkordi et al., 2020). Despite the usefulness of these catalysts, they also have some limitations, including high toxicity, use of expensive materials, complex synthetic processes, requirement of expensive and hazardous catalysts, and sometimes low yields.

Performing the transformation in one-pot multicomponent has gained much attention in the view point of environmental friendliness, energy efficiency, and atom economy (Aboonajmi et al., 2020; Keri et al., 2021; Shiri and Amani, 2021; Shiri et al., 2021). Nowadays, multicomponent strategies have a superior position in the organic and pharmacy industries. The concept of multicomponent refers to combining more than two substrates in a one-pot reaction, providing more complexity and diversity in a green way. Indeed, the significance of this subject can be highlighted by the considerable number of related articles and review articles (Khangah et al., 2021; Bedard et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2022). Moreover, the construction of numerous compounds that

are crucial to address the necessities of our societies must be handled with key terms such as synthetic efficiency and, more importantly, atom economy by increasing the utilization of the number of atoms in the substrates that end up in the structure of the final products (Biesen and Müller, 2021).

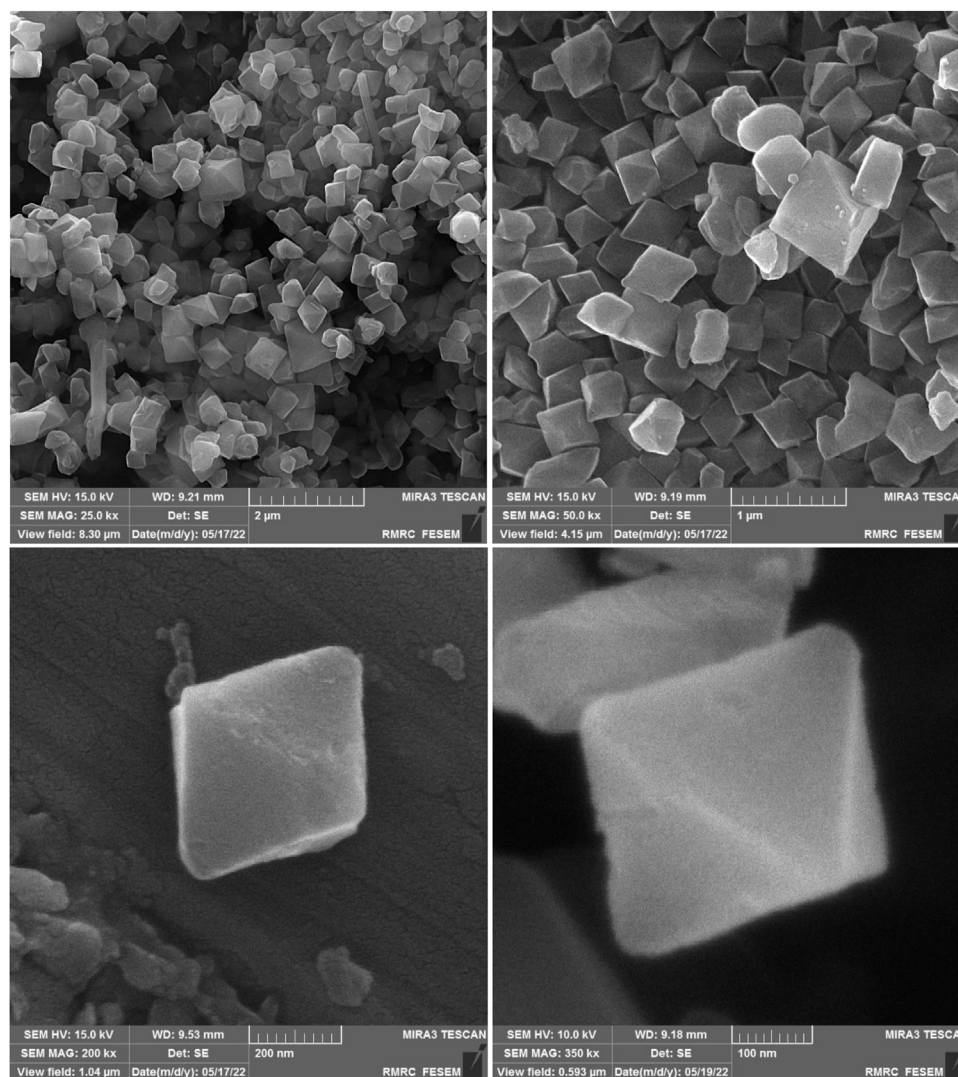
In recent years, tremendous development has been achieved in the field of MOFs (metal-organic frameworks) architectures as a novel class of porous materials. The MOFs incorporate the advantages of sustainable synthesis with heterogeneous catalysis, which indeed make easier workup procedure, and are more applicable in industries and academics. Due to global energy and environmental problems, the finding of unique catalysts in a simple way with high reusability has become increasingly crucial in managing the associated challenges. An increase in the number of articles and review articles on the subject of MOFs as novel heterogeneous catalysts has demonstrated a profound interest in investigating these structures and their applications as a new class of catalysts (Koolivand et al., 2021; Ma et al., 2021).

In the light of these considerations, based on our previous research, which focused on the heterocyclic systems under green conditions (Shiri et al., 2021), we aimed to report our efforts to carry out the one-pot multicomponent synthesis of structurally diverse quinazolinone heterocycles using a novel, efficient, and easily prepared MIL-101(Cr) catalyst in the current study.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### Instrumentation, Analyses, and Starting Materials

Chemical materials and solvents were either synthesized in our laboratory or purchased from Fluka, Aldrich, and Merck



**FIGURE 2** | SEM images of the MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst.

Companies. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance DPX-250 ( $^1\text{H}$ -NMR 250 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR 62.9 MHz) spectrometer in pure deuterated solvents with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. The purity determination of the starting materials and monitoring of reactions were accomplished by TLC on silica gel PolyGram SILG/UV 254 plates.

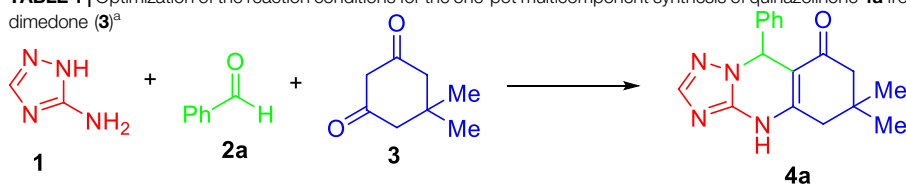
### Synthetic Route for the MIL-101(Cr) Catalyst

MIL-101(Cr) catalyst was synthesized according to the previously reported procedure (Niknam et al., 2018). First, a mixture of  $\text{Cr}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5.4 g) and terephthalic acid (1.5 g) was added to deionized water (45 ml) and hydrofluoric acid (0.6 ml,  $5 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ) in a Teflon-lined stainless steel autoclave. After sonication for 10 min, the mixture was heated in an oven at  $220^\circ\text{C}$  for 9 h. In continuation, the mixture was cooled down to r. t., and then the mixture was filtered and washed several times with hot water and

hot DMF. The resulting MIL-101(Cr) catalyst was dried and purified further with hot filtration in DMF at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h. The solid was washed several times with hot DMF and hot ethanol. Finally, the solid was filtered and dried at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for 6 h. MIL-101(Cr) catalyst was characterized, as mentioned in the Results and Discussion section (Niknam et al., 2018).

### General Procedure for the One-Pot Multicomponent Synthesis of Structurally Diverse Quinazolinone Heterocycles

MIL-101(Cr) (7.0 mg) as the catalyst was added to a mixture of aldehyde (1.0 mmol), dimedone (1.0 mmol), and 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (1.0 mmol) in acetonitrile (2.0 ml) and stirred at r. t. for an appropriate time. After the completion of the reaction, the catalyst was separated by centrifugation which was used for the next run. After evaporation of the solvent, the

**TABLE 1** | Optimization of the reaction conditions for the one-pot multicomponent synthesis of quinazolinone **4a** from 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**), benzaldehyde (**2a**), and dimedone (**3**)<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst loading	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (min)	Yield (%)	TON <sup>b</sup>	TOF(h <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>c</sup>
1	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	acetonitrile (4 ml)	r.t.	30	94	376	752
2	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	ethanol (4 ml)	r.t.	45	60	240	320
3	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	methanol (4 ml)	r.t.	45	50	200	266.7
4	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	water (4 ml)	r.t.	45	45	180	240
5	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	water/ethanol (4 ml)	r.t.	45	52	208	277.4
6	3.5 mg (0.12 mol%)	acetonitrile (4 ml)	r.t.	30 (60)	81 (89)	675 (741.7)	1350 (741.7)
7	9 mg (0.32 mol%)	acetonitrile (4 ml)	r.t.	30	93	290.6	581.2
8	-	acetonitrile (4 ml)	r.t.	45	Trace	-	-
9	<b>7 mg (0.25 mol%)</b>	<b>acetonitrile (2 ml)</b>	<b>r.t.</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>752</b>
10	7 mg (0.25 mol%)	acetonitrile (4 ml)	reflux	15	93	372	1488

<sup>a</sup>The reactions were carried out with of 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**, 1.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (**2a**, 1.0 mmol), and dimedone (**3**, 1.0 mmol).

<sup>b</sup>TON = mmol product/mol% catalyst.

<sup>c</sup>TOF = TON/reaction time (h<sup>-1</sup>).

product was obtained using recrystallization of the solid residue in hot ethanol.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Synthesis and Characterization of MIL-101(Cr)

First, MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst was characterized using FT-IR spectrum displaying index peaks in agreement with the literature (Figure 1). Figure 1 shows the EDX spectrum of MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst. This spectrum proved the elements of C, O, Cr, F, and N in the composition (Niknam et al., 2018; Yang and Yan, 2011).

The SEM images of the MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst also exhibited discrete octahedrons containing smooth surfaces with an average size of 350 nm. The SEM images also displayed octahedron MIL-101(Cr) nanocatalyst, but they were not uniform (Figure 2). The content of Cr in the synthesized nanocatalysts was determined by ICP to be about 0.35 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> of MIL-101(Cr) (Niknam et al., 2018).

### Application of MIL-101(Cr) as a Novel Heterogeneous Catalyst for the One-Pot Multicomponent Synthesis of Structurally Diverse Quinazolinone Heterocycles

For our primary exploring experiments, 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**), dimedone (**3**), and benzaldehyde (**2a**) were chosen as the model starting materials to optimize the reaction conditions. Initially, the effect of several solvents on the coupling of 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**), dimedone (**3**), and benzaldehyde (**2a**) was explored in the presence of MIL-101(Cr) as a novel heterogeneous catalyst (7 mg) at r. t. (Table 1, entries 1–5). The usage of acetonitrile as solvent

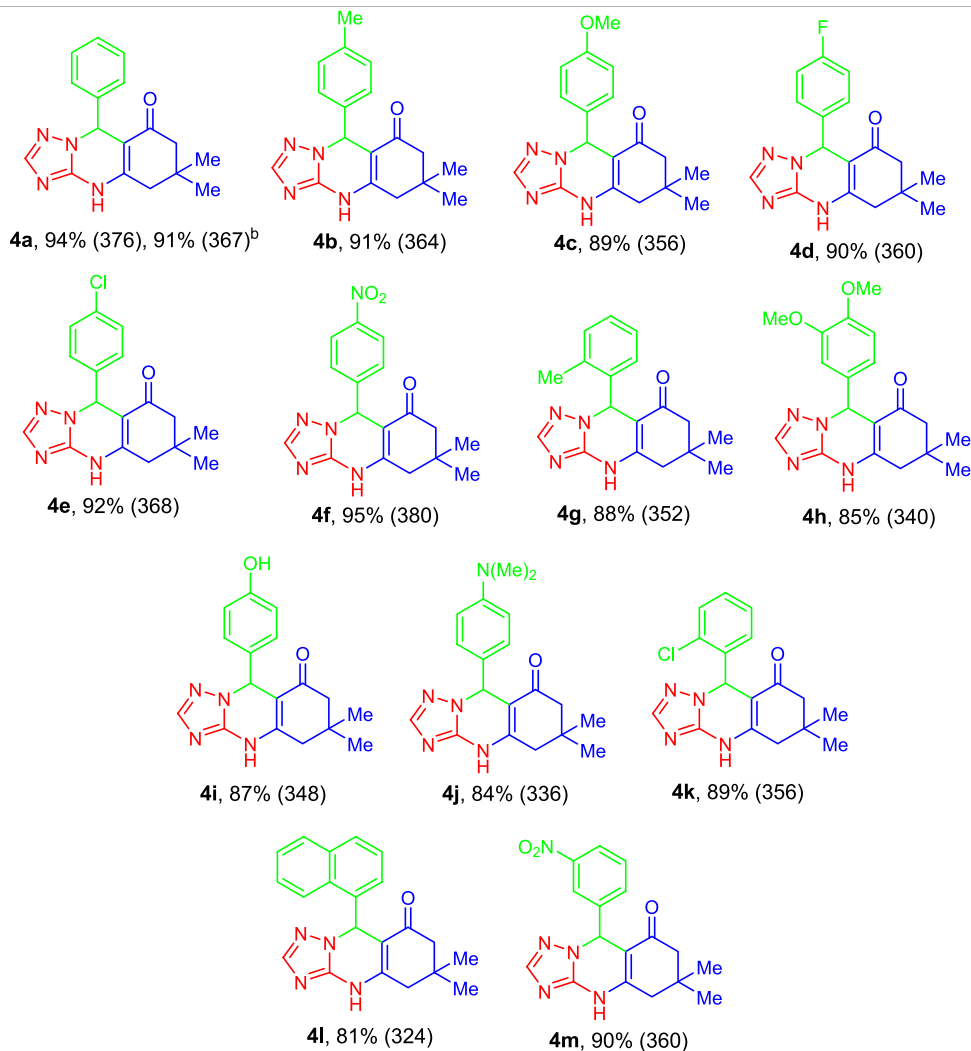
gave the corresponding product **4a** in 94% yield (Table 1, entries 1), whereas other solvents, including methanol, ethanol, water, and ethanol/water were considerably less effective and provided lower yields of the product (Table 1, entries 2–5). Acetonitrile was found to be the most effective solvent, affording quinazolinone heterocycles **4a** with a yield of 94% (Table 1, entry 1).

In the next step, the alteration of catalyst loading was explored for the coupling reaction. The highest yield (94%) of the product was formed when 7 mg (0.25 mol%) of the catalyst was exploited (Table 1, entries 1 and 9). By decreasing the catalyst loading to 3.5 mg (0.12 mol%), the product was achieved in 81% yield (Table 1, entry 6), whereas it was observed that increasing the catalyst loading had no significant effect on the product yield (Table 1, entry 7). Moreover, without using MIL-101(Cr), the reaction failed to proceed even after 45 min (Table 1, entry 8). The reaction time was sharply decreased to 10 min once the reaction was performed under reflux conditions (Table 1, entry 10).

Finally, for decreasing the level of environmental pollution, the volume of used solvent was decreased to 2 ml (Table 1, entry 9). It was observed that **4a** was achieved in 94% yield in the presence of MIL-101(Cr) (7 mg) in acetonitrile (2 ml) at r. t. for 30 min (Table 1, entry 9).

Next, the scope and limitations of this catalytic system were explored with respect to aldehyde substrates (**2**). A wide range of aldehyde compounds (**2**) was coupled with 1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**) and dimedone (**3**) under standard reaction conditions to form excellent yields of desired quinazolinone derivatives (**4**). The results of this exploration are illustrated in Table 2. Diverse aldehyde compounds (**2a–m**) containing electron-donating or electron-deficient functional groups were coupled with their partners to produce high yields of corresponding quinazolinones (**4a–m**).

It is worth noting that the corresponding products could be obtained with both electron-releasing and electron-withdrawing groups on different positions of arenes such as 4-OH, 3-NO<sub>2</sub>, 4-

**TABLE 2** | Synthesis of a variety of quinazolones under optimized conditions<sup>ab</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>Coupling of 1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**, 1.0 mmol), dimedone (**2**, 1.0 mmol), and benzaldehyde derivatives (**3**, 1.0 mmol) has been performed under standard conditions for 30 min.

<sup>b</sup>The numbers in the parentheses are TON.

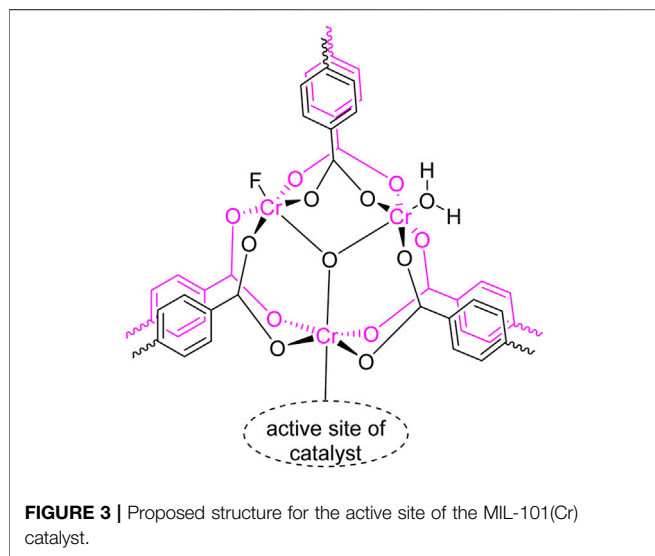
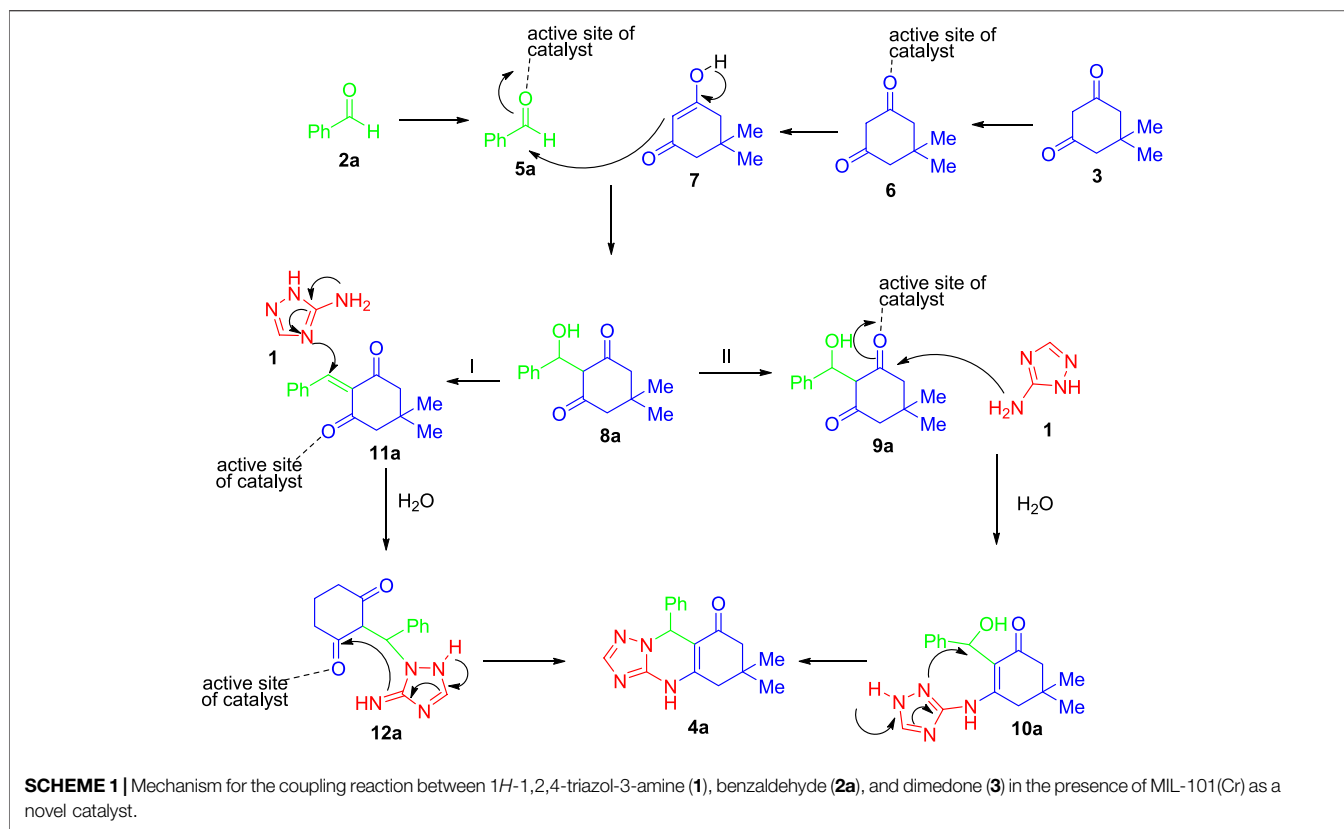
<sup>c</sup>The yield for a 10 mmol scale.

Me<sub>2</sub>N, 2-Cl, 3,4-diMeO, 2-Me, 4-Me, 4-Cl, 4-MeO, 4-NO<sub>2</sub>, and 4-F in high yields within a short reaction time (**Table 2**). The study displayed that there is no notable difference between these functional groups except in the case of ortho-substituted aldehyde substrates, which could be due to steric hindrance. Naphthaldehyde could also tolerate the reaction conditions to afford the target product in 81% yield. The reaction for the synthesis of quinazolone could be scaled up under the standard reaction conditions without a significant decrease in the yield of **4a** (**Table 2**).

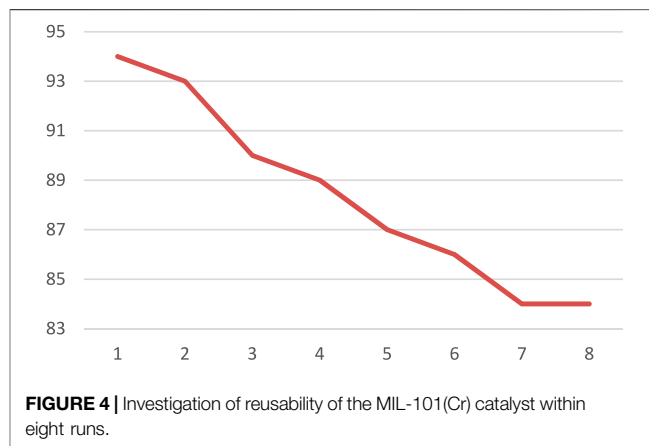
Based on literature studies (Bakhshali-Dehkordi et al., 2020), herein, we assumed a possible mechanism for the one-pot multicomponent reaction of 1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine (**1**), benzaldehyde (**2a**), and dimedone (**3**) in the presence of MIL-101(Cr) as a novel catalyst (**Scheme 1**). According to the structure of MIL-101(Cr) reported in the literature, the active catalytic site of

MIL-101(Cr) is conceivable, as shown in **Figure 3** (Niknam et al., 2018). The reaction could proceed *via* two reasonable mechanisms to afford the corresponding product (**4a**) in the presence of MIL-101(Cr) as a catalyst. According to the proposed route I, the reaction may carry out through the coupling of **7** and **5a** (named Knoevenagel condensation) to give  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds **8a** with the loss of a water molecule. In the next step, an intermolecular Mannich-type reaction followed by annulation transformation may produce the final product **4a**. The reaction may also give the final product **4a** *via* route II. According to this route, **8a** is activated by MIL-101(Cr) as a catalyst for further nucleic attack of amine substrate (**1**). Upon realizing two water molecules and intramolecular annulation, final product **4a** is obtained (**Scheme 1**).

The stability and recovery of catalysts are crucial aspects for modern societies challenged with economic and environmental issues. In this regard, screening of the reusability of MIL-101(Cr)



as a novel catalyst must be performed. Therefore, the reusability of the catalyst was explored for the model reaction. In order to reuse MIL-101(Cr) as a novel catalyst, the mixture of reaction was centrifuged to separate the MIL-101(Cr) catalyst, and then the MIL-101(Cr) catalyst was washed several times with DCM. After drying, the MIL-101(Cr) catalyst was utilized for the next run. To our delight, the MIL-101(Cr) catalyst could be used for eight runs



(**Figure 4**). The major issue in the case of heterogeneous catalysis is the leaching of active centers during the reaction. We tested the leaching experiment (heterogeneity test) of this catalyst. The evaluation of the Cr content in the structure of the catalyst utilizing ICP analysis revealed that about 6.7% of Cr was removed from the MIL-101(Cr). The reused catalyst from the reaction mixture was also characterized by IR analysis, and the results are shown in **Supplementary Scheme S1**.

A comparative analysis of catalytic activity results of MIL-101(Cr) with other catalysts was also performed, and the results are given in **Table 3**.

**TABLE 3** | The comparison between this catalytic system and previously reported catalytic systems<sup>a</sup>.

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)	Yield (%)	Ref.
1	NH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> H (50 mol%)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN (5 ml)	61	30	95	Heravi et al. (2010)
2	Nano-SiO <sub>2</sub> (15 mol%)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN (5 ml)	r.t.	30	96	Mousavi and Maghsoudlou (2015)
3	H <sub>6</sub> P <sub>2</sub> W <sub>18</sub> O <sub>62</sub> -18H <sub>2</sub> O (1 mol%)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN (5 ml)	80	15	96	Heravi et al. (2008)
4 <sup>b</sup>	silica gel	-	120	3	95	Krishnamurthy and Jagannath (2013)
5	iodine (10 mol%)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN (5 ml)	reflux	10	81.2	Pulligoundla et al. (2013)
6 <sup>c</sup>	T@ILs <sup>d</sup> nanocatalyst (10 mg)	EtOH (5 ml)	reflux	35	92	Bakhshali-Dehkordi et al. (2020)
7 <sup>c</sup>	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @TiO <sub>2</sub> -IL (0.008 g)	-	80	45	95	Bakhshali-Dehkordi et al. (2020)
8	MIL-101(Cr) (0.25 mol%)	acetonitrile (2 ml)	r.t.	30	94	This work

<sup>a</sup>The data are for performing the reaction using benzaldehyde, 1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine, and dimedone as substrates.

<sup>b</sup>Under irradiation with microwaves of 150 W at 120°C and pressure of 100 psi.

<sup>c</sup>The data are for performing the reaction using p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-amine, and dimedone.

<sup>d</sup>T@ILs, nanocatalyst = TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles supported ionic liquids.

## CONCLUSION

Finally, we have established a comprehensive and feasible MIL-101(Cr) catalyzed synthesis of structurally diverse quinazolinone heterocycles, which could be exploited for the subsequent preparation of biologically significant compounds. This strategy could produce numerous quinazolinones by employing several mono- or bis-functionalized benzaldehyde compounds in the presence of a highly active catalyst using a low amount of solvent, which also makes our protocol an extremely useful complement to the current procedures for the quinazolinone formation. Moreover, all products were obtained in high yields via recrystallization.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/**Supplementary Material**; further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors worked equally in the experimental section. PS analyzed spectral characterization of synthesized molecules. PS wrote the manuscript. AA edited the manuscript.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fchem.2022.898658/full#supplementary-material>

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