

Supporting Information

Discovery of Chalcone Derivatives as Antileishmanial Agents: Phenotypic Screening, Exploratory Docking and Enzymatic Assays on Trypanothione Reductase and Related Flavoproteins

Margherita Ortalli^{1,2^}, Sara Morselli^{1^}, Tommaso Gritti¹, Livia Anahita Suprani¹, Germano Castelli³, Federica Bruno³, Eugenia Oliveri³, Fabrizio Vitale³, Andrea Cannarozzi⁴, Giulia C.M. Perrone⁴, Serena Spadone⁴, Alessandra Bisi⁵, Silvia Gobbi⁵, Stefania Varani^{1*}, Ciro Leonardo Pierri^{4°}, Federica Belluti^{5°*}

¹*Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

²*Microbiology Unit, Department for Integrated Infectious Risk Management, IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

³*Centro di Referenza Nazionale per le Leishmaniosi (C.Re.Na.L.), WOAHL Leishmania Reference Laboratory, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Via Gino Marinuzzi 3, 90129 Palermo, Italy*

⁴*Laboratory of Biochemistry, Molecular and Structural Biology, Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari, Bari, Italy*

⁵*Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

*Corresponding authors: federica.belluti@unibo.it and stefania.varani@unibo.it

^contributed equally to this work and should be regarded as co-first authors

°contributed equally to this work and should be regarded as co-senior authors

Content

Synthesis and characterization of 2-4, 7, 9, 12-15, 18, 21.	S1-S5
Figure S1. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 against <i>L.infantum</i> promastigotes.	S6
Figure S2. Dose-response curves for the determination of the cytotoxicity (CC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 in U937-derived human macrophages.	S7
Figure S3. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 against <i>L.infantum</i> amastigotes.	S8
Figure S4. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 against <i>L.donovani</i> amastigotes.	S9
Figure S5. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 against <i>L.tropica</i> amastigotes.	S10
Figure S6. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC ₅₀) of the chalcones 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 against <i>L.major</i> amastigotes.	S11
Figure S7. Redocking. Best-ranked docked poses of natural cofactors in <i>Leishmania infantum</i> trypanothione reductase (TR).	S12
Figure S8. SDS-PAGE analysis for <i>Li</i> TR and <i>Ct</i> NDH2 quantification.	S13
Figure S9. ¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃ MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 1 .	S14
Figure S10. ¹³ C NMR (CDCl ₃ MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 1 .	S14
Figure S11. ¹ H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 2 .	S15
Figure S12. ¹³ C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 2 .	S15
Figure S13. ¹ H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 5 .	S16
Figure S14. ¹³ C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 5 .	S16
Figure S15. ¹ H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 12 .	S17
Figure S16. ¹³ C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d ₆) of compound 12 .	S17
Table S1. Results of the docking of chalcones on TR crystallized structure.	S18
Table S2. Results of docking on the <i>L.infantum</i> DLD.	S19
Table S3. Results of the docking of 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 on <i>L.infantum</i> NDH2.	S20
Table S4. Results of the docking of 1 , 2 , 5 , and 12 on deCoAR.	S21
References	S22

Synthesis

(*E*)-3-(3-(2,4-Bis(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-hexylpyridin-1-ium bromide (2) [2]. Starting from **Lead 3** (0.23 g, 0.73 mmol), 1-Br-hexane (0.36 g, 0.30 mL, 2.19 mmol) and following the general procedure C, a crude product was obtained that was purified by FCC (gradient elution: first ethyl acetate, then ethyl acetate/methanol 9:1) affording **2** as a solid, mp: 104-105 °C, 0.18 g, 51% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ; 9.45 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H, H-2'), 9.07 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 8.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H-6'), 8.21 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'), 7.88 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, α-C=CH), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.60 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, β-C=CH), 6.87 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-5), 4.97 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.93 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.61-4.58 (m, 2H, CH₂N⁺), 3.65 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, C≡CH), 3.62 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, C≡CH), 1.90-2.00 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.34-1.24 (m, 6H, (CH₂)₃), 0.89-0.79 (m, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 188.61, 162.14, 158.37, 144.65, 144.59, 142.65, 135.32, 133.47, 133.08, 132.20, 128.04, 121.60, 107.56, 101.36, 79.22, 79.00, 78.78, 78.58, 61.16, 56.73, 56.02, 30.59, 30.44 25.09, 21.86, 13.87. HRMS (*m/z*): calc for C₂₆H₂₉BrNO₃ 482.1331; found 482.1330 [M + H]⁺.

(*E*)-3-(3-(2,4-Bis(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-dodecylpyridin-1-ium bromide (3) [2]. Starting from **Lead 3** [3] (0.20 g, 0.63 mmol), 1-Br-dodecane (0.20 g, 0.27 mL, 1.9 mmol) in acetonitrile (6.3 mL) and following the General Procedure C, a crude product was obtained that was purified by FCC (gradient elution: ethyl acetate and ethyl acetate/methanol 4:1) affording **3** as a solid, mp: 130-132 °C, 0.09 g, 25% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.45 (s, 1H, H-2'), 9.07 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 8.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-6'), 8.23-8.19 (m, 1H, H-5'), 7.88 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, α-C=CH), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.59 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, β-C=CH), 6.87 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-5), 4.97 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.03 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.58 (t, *J* = 7.4, 2H, CH₂N⁺), 3.62-3.52 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.01-1.95 (m, 2H, C≡CH), 1.34-1.18 (m, 18H, (CH₂)₉), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 187.73, 162.96, 159.10, 144.24, 143.36, 142.78, 136.87, 135.02, 133.65, 131.53, 128.36, 121.57, 107.66, 100.76, 78.02, 77.53, 65.87, 62.57, 57.20, 56.14, 32.03 1, 31.92, 29.67, 29.64, 29.62, 29.58, 29.49, 29.36, 29.33, 29.07, 26.10, 22.69, 14.14. HRMS (*m/z*): calc for C₃₂H₄₁BrNO₃ 566.2270, found 567.2358 [M + H]⁺.

(E)-1-(2,4-bis(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (4) [1]. Starting from **27a** (0.15 g, 0.66 mmol), 4-dimethylamino benzaldehyde (0.11 g, 0.72 mmol), EtOH (6.6 mL) piperidine (0.32 mL, 3.3 mmol), AcOH (0.19 mL, 3.3 mmol) and following General Procedure B2, compound **4** was obtained as red crystals, mp: 106-108 °C, 0.075 g, 32% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHCl₃) δ: 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 7.79 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H, H-α), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-2' e H-6'), 7.35 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H, H-β), 7.63 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, H-2 e H-6), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H-3 e H-5), 4.78 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.06 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.57 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, C≡CH). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CHCl₃) δ: 191.6, 164.21, 162.11, 150.01, 141.66, 133.47, 133.08, 131.12, 129.34, 129.14, 125.11, 121.36, 112.41, 112.36, 101.34, 79.27, 79.16, 78.78, 78.57, 56.64, 56.27, 41.28, 41.18. HRMS (*m/z*): calc for C₂₃H₂₁NO₃ 359.1521, found 360.1590 [M+H]⁺.

(E)-1-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (7) [1]. Starting from **28a** (0.15 g, 0.86 mmol), 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.10 g, 0.95 mmol), Ba(OH)₂ (1.00 g, 5.9 mmol), EtOH (5.0 mL), and following the General Procedure B3, a crude product was obtained that was purified by crystallization from EtOH, to afford analogue **7** as solid, mp: 87–88 °C, 0.10 g, 66.7 % yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHCl₃) δ: 8.87 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.64 (dd, *J* = 1.6 and 4.8 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6), 7.95 (m, 1H, H-5'), 7.80 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H, α-CH=C), 7.61 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H, β-CH=C), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 5.2 and 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-6'), 7.09 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 4.82 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 2.58 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 189.99, 163.25, 149.84, 142.03, 141.74, 132.16, 130.76, 130.45, 129.64, 123.87, 123.45, 114.65, 114.22, 87.91, 76.11, 56.98. HRMS (*m/z*): calc for C₁₇H₁₃NO₂ 263.0946, found: 263.1025 [M + 1].

(E)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)-1-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (9) [1]. Starting from **28a** (0.20 g, 1.15 mmol), 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.19 g, 1.26 mmol), KOH (0.22 g, 3.96 mmol), EtOH (3.3 mL) and following the General Procedure B1, compound **9** was obtained as a solid, mp: 103–105 °C, 0.06 g, 55 % yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-5), 7.84 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, α-CH=C), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 7.67 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, β-CH=C), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 4.82 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 2.60 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, C≡H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 189.60, 163.74, 147.64, 145.98, 141.07, 130.54, 129.11, 123.87, 121.18, 114.77, 78.11, 76.54,

56.21. HRMS (m/z): calc for $C_{18}H_{13}NO_4$ 308.0923, found 309.1002 $[M + H]^+$ **(E)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(2-methoxy-4-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (12)** [3]. Starting from **27b** (0.23 g, 0.98 mmol) and 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.1 mmol), KOH (0.06 g, 6.0 mmol), EtOH (5.0 mL). and following general procedure B1, a crude final product was obtained that was purified by purified by FCC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 9:1) and then crystallized from EtOH to obtain **12** as a white solid, mp: 130-132 °C, 0.12 g, 35% yield. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 7.76 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.65 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H, α -CH=C), 7.57-7.60 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 1.78 (s, 3H, CH_3), 7.46 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H, β -CH=C), 7.06-7.11 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 6.58 (dd, $J = 1.6$ Hz and 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-5), 6.53 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.49-5.53 (m, 1H, CH), 4.59 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.78 (s, 3H, CH_3). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 193.4, 168.2, 162.7, 145.9, 138.4, 131.2, 130.0 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 124.6, 119.3 (d, $J = 22$ Hz), 118.9, 107.4, 103.8, 65.1, 55.7, 25.8, 18.2. ESI-MS (m/z): calcd for $C_{21}H_{21}FO_3$ 340.1475, found 341.1558 $[M + H]^+$.

(E)-1-(4-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)phenyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (13) [1]. Starting from **26b** (0.45 g, 1.22 mmol), 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.24 g, 1.6 mmol), $Ba(OH)_2$ (1.64 g, 9.6 mmol), EtOH (12 mL) and following general procedure B3, a crude product was obtained that was purified by crystallisation from EtOH, yielding **13** as a solid, mp: 100-102 °C, 0.26 g, 70% yield. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.29 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 8.07 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6), 7.90 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, α -CH=C), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 7.66 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, β -CH=C), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 5.51 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.62 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2), 1.85 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH_3). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 189.32, 163.21, 145.36, 138.11, 129.95, 129.45, 123.87, 121.08, 119.08, 114.63, 64.08, 24.11, 18.52. HRMS (m/z): calc for $C_{20}H_{19}NO_4$ 337.1314, found 338.1389 $[M+H]^+$.

(E)-1-(4-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)phenyl)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (14) [1]. Starting from **26b** (0.25 g, 1.22 mmol), 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.34 mmol), $Ba(OH)_2$ (1.25 g, 7.32 mmol), EtOH (12 mL) and following the General Procedure B3, a crude product was obtained that was purified by crystallization from EtOH, to obtain **14** as solid, mp: 87-88 °C, 0.17 g, 60% yield. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.87 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H, H-2'), 8.63 (dd, $J = 1.6$ and 4.8 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 8.05 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6), 7.95 (dd, $J = 1.6$ and 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 7.79 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, α -CH=C), 7.62 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, β -CH=C), 7.37 (dd, $J = 2.4$ and 8.2

Hz, 1H, H-5'), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 5.11 (t, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.62 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.78 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 195.3, 167.04, 163.54, 162.47, 162.18, 142.85, 131.64, 130.56, 130.31, 130.21, 128.64, 123.44, 118.21, 113.11, 105.74, 101.33, 72.15, 60.02, 55.87, 54.21. HRMS (m/z): calc for C₁₉H₁₉NO₂ 293.1416 found 294.1490 [M+H]⁺.

(E)-1-(4-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)phenyl)-3-(pyridin-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (15) [1]. Starting from **26b** (0.25 g, 1.22 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.34 mmol), Ba(OH)₂ (1.25 g, 7.32 mmol), EtOH (12 mL) and following the General Procedure B3, a crude product was obtained that was purified by crystallization from EtOH, to obtain **15** as solid mp: 91-93 °C, 0.41 g, 75% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.69 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6), 7.66 (s, 2H, H- α and H- β), 7.48 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 5.51 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.62 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.78 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 191.66, 164.77, 149.16, 144.00, 138.08, 130.51, 127.88, 123.74, 119.65, 114.22, 64.21, 21.41, 18.32, 18.57. HRMS (m/z): calc for C₁₉H₁₉NO₂ 293.1416 found 294.1488 [M+H]⁺.

(E)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (18) [1]. Starting from **26c** (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.1 mmol), KOH (0.06 g, 6.0 mmol), and following the general procedure B1, a solid was formed and collected by *vacuum* filtration and purified by FCC (Petroleum Ether/EtOAc 4:1), to give **18** as solid (0.19 g), 67% yield. ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆) δ : 8.12 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6), 7.83-7.88 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 7.81 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, α -CH=), 7.72 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H, β -CH=), 7.20 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 7.05 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5), 4.02-4.04 (br, 1H, OH), 4.18 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.92-3.96 (m, 2H, CH₂OH). ¹³C NMR δ (acetone-*d*₆) δ : 168.01, 160.21, 145.16, 131.45, 131.15, 130.97, 130.22, 129.65, 120.54, 116.80, 114.12, 69.9, 60.9. HRMS: calcd for C₁₇H₁₅FO₃ 287.1083, found 288.1154 [[M+H]⁺.

(E)-2-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-6-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (21) [4]. Starting from **33** (0.20 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-F-benzaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol), KOH (0.34 g, 5.1 mmol), EtOH (5.1 mL) and following general procedure B1, a crude product was obtained that was purified by FCC (toluene), affording **21** as solid mp >250 °C, 0.153 g, 50%, yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.82 (s, 1H, =CH), 7.68 (dd, $J = 6.0$ Hz and 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'), 7.34-7.41 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'), 7.13 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz and 2.4 Hz

1H, H-5), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, H-5), 5.02 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.21-3.27 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.08 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H, CH₂), 2.17 (t, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H, C≡CH). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 187.65, 137.98, 129.33, 130.76, 130.48, 130.43, 136.46, 131.28, 162.25, 166.02, 126.55, 115.74, 115.98, 113.54, 112.77, 56.09, 28.26, 27.72, 23.11, 16.07. HRMS (m/z): calc for C₂₀H₁₅FO₂ 306.1056. found 307.1155 [M+H]⁺.

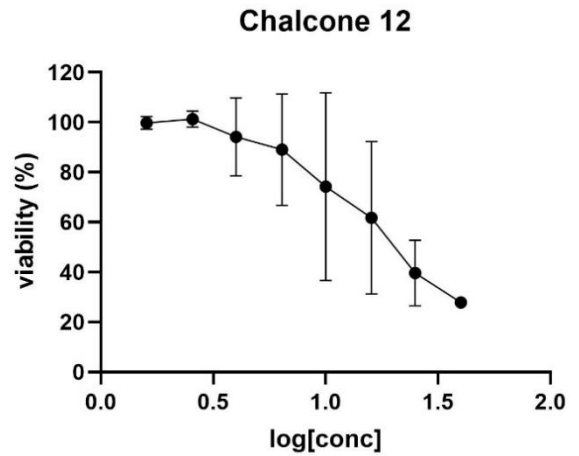
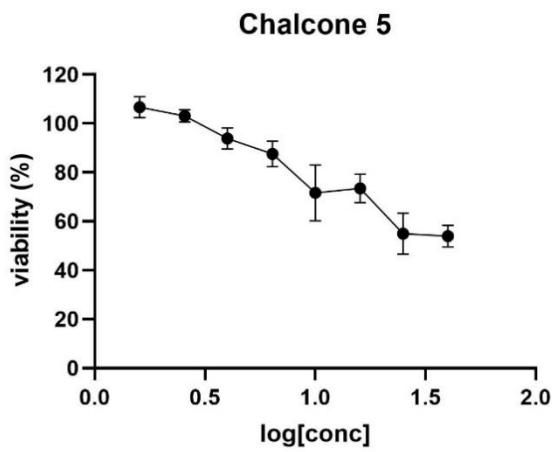
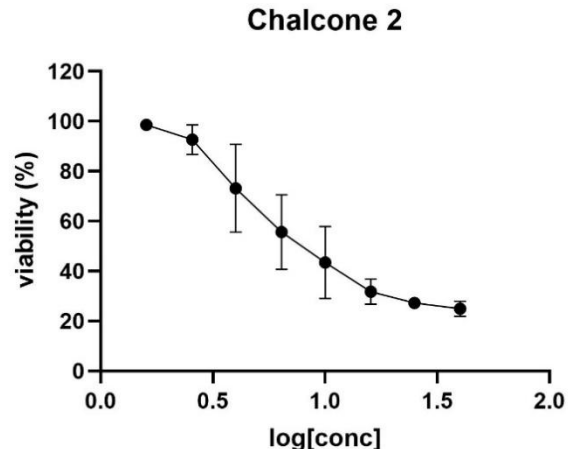
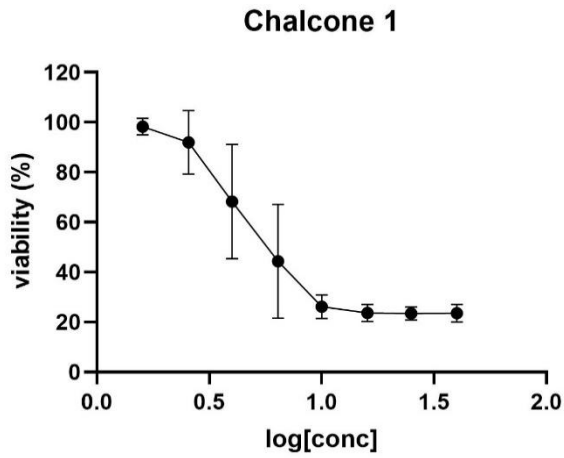


Figure S1. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 against *L.infantum* promastigotes. Four experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

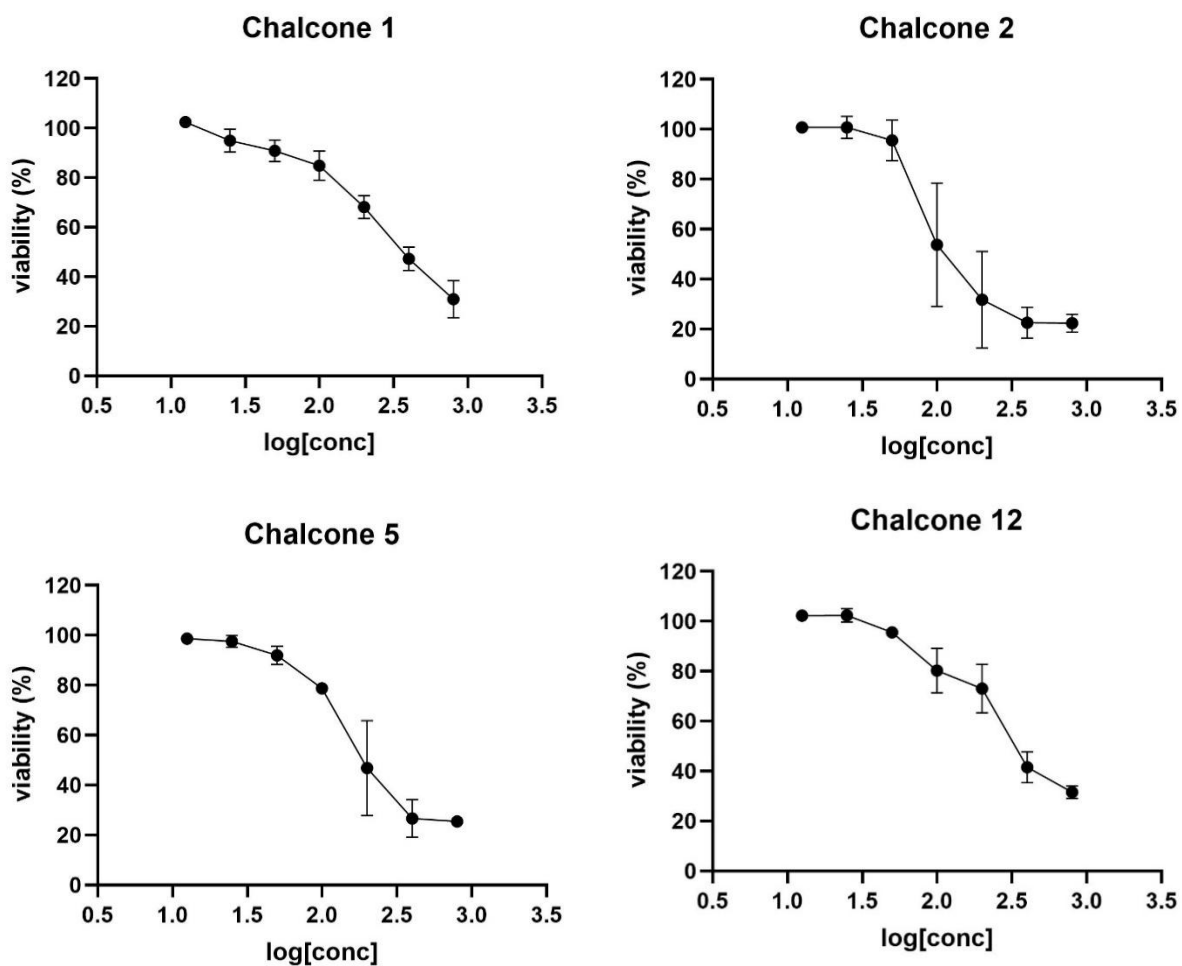


Figure S2. Dose-response curves for the determination of the cytotoxicity (CC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 in U937-derived human macrophages. Two experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

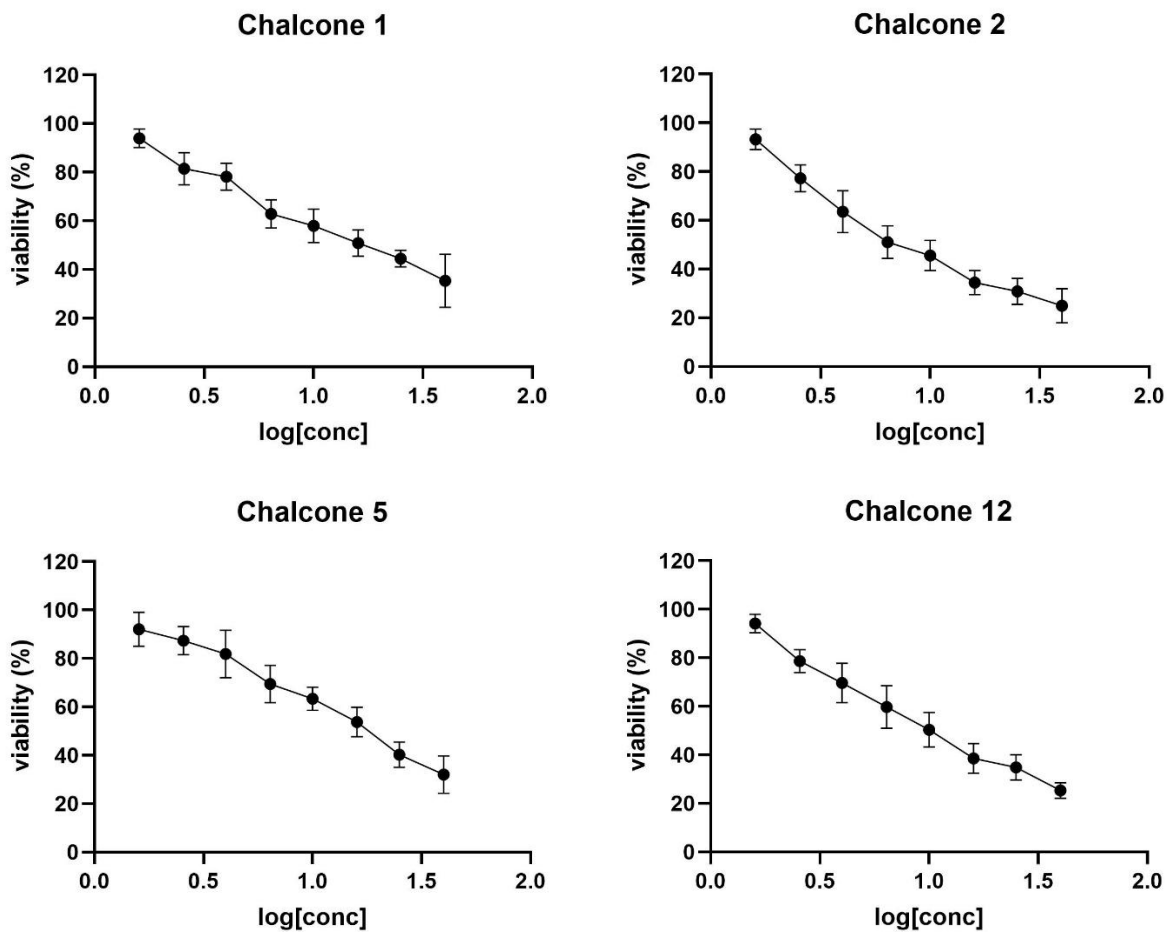


Figure S3. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 against *L.infantum* amastigotes. Three experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

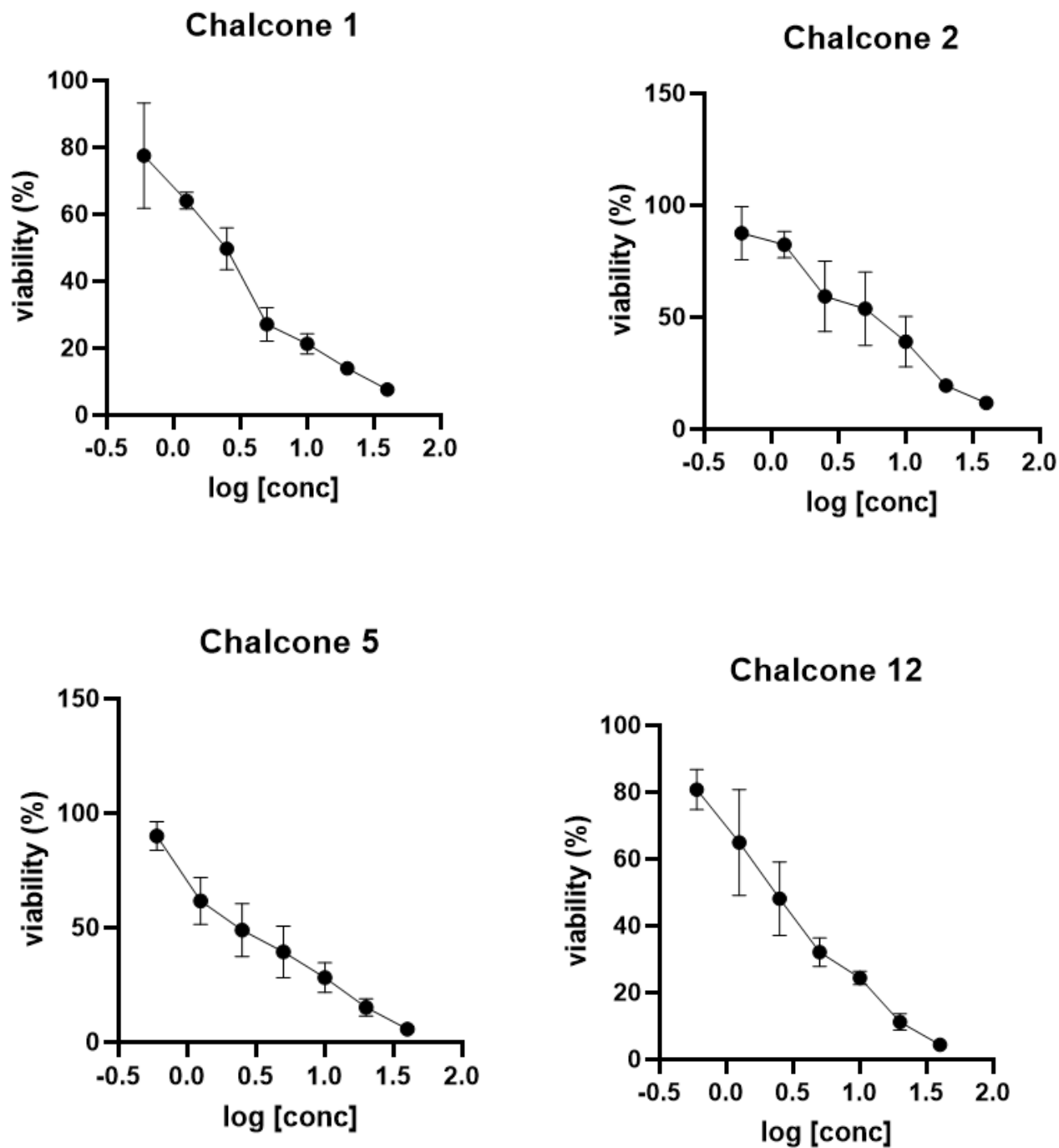


Figure S4. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 against *L.donovani* amastigotes. Two experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

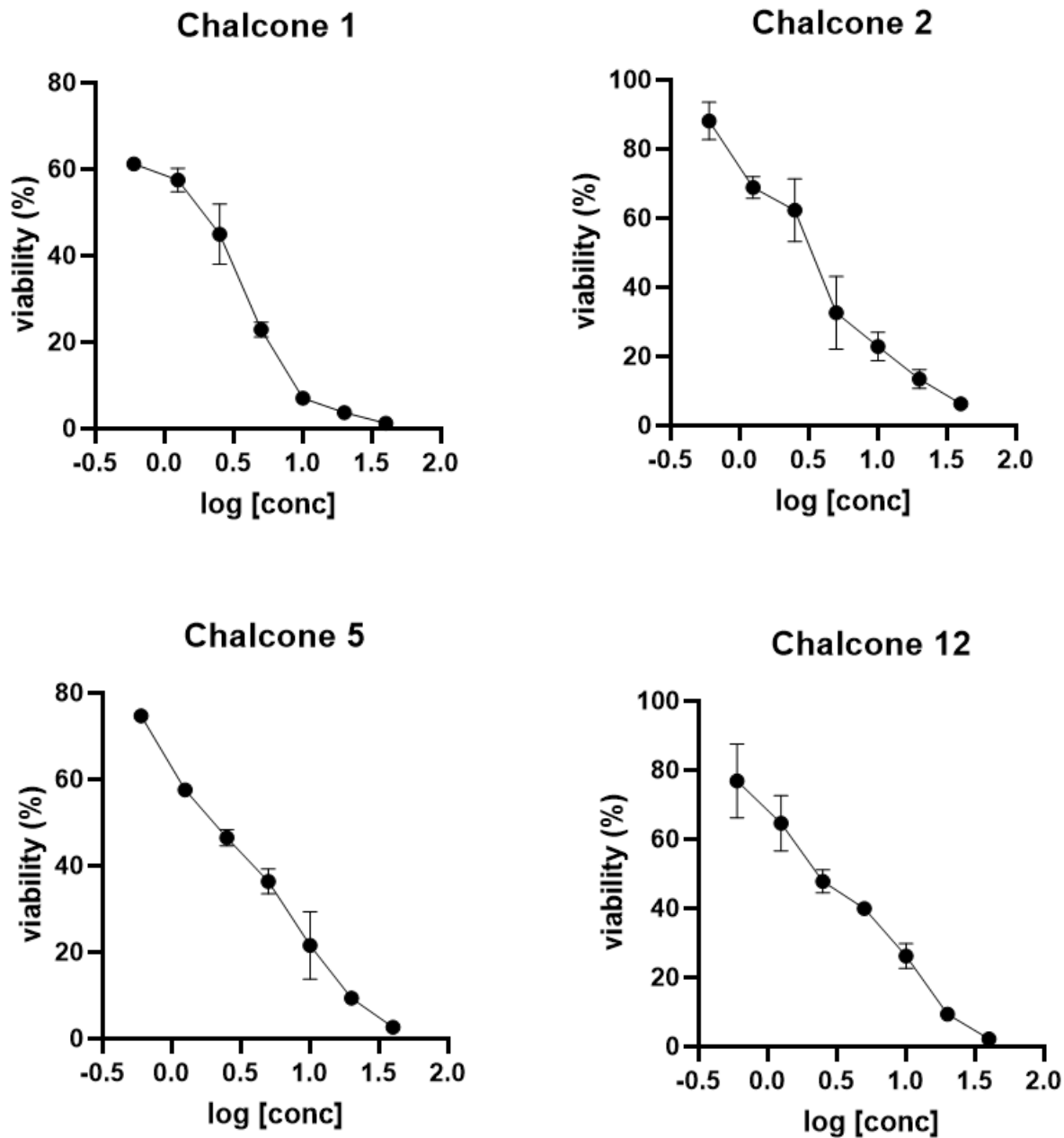


Figure S5. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 against *L.tropica* amastigotes. Two experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

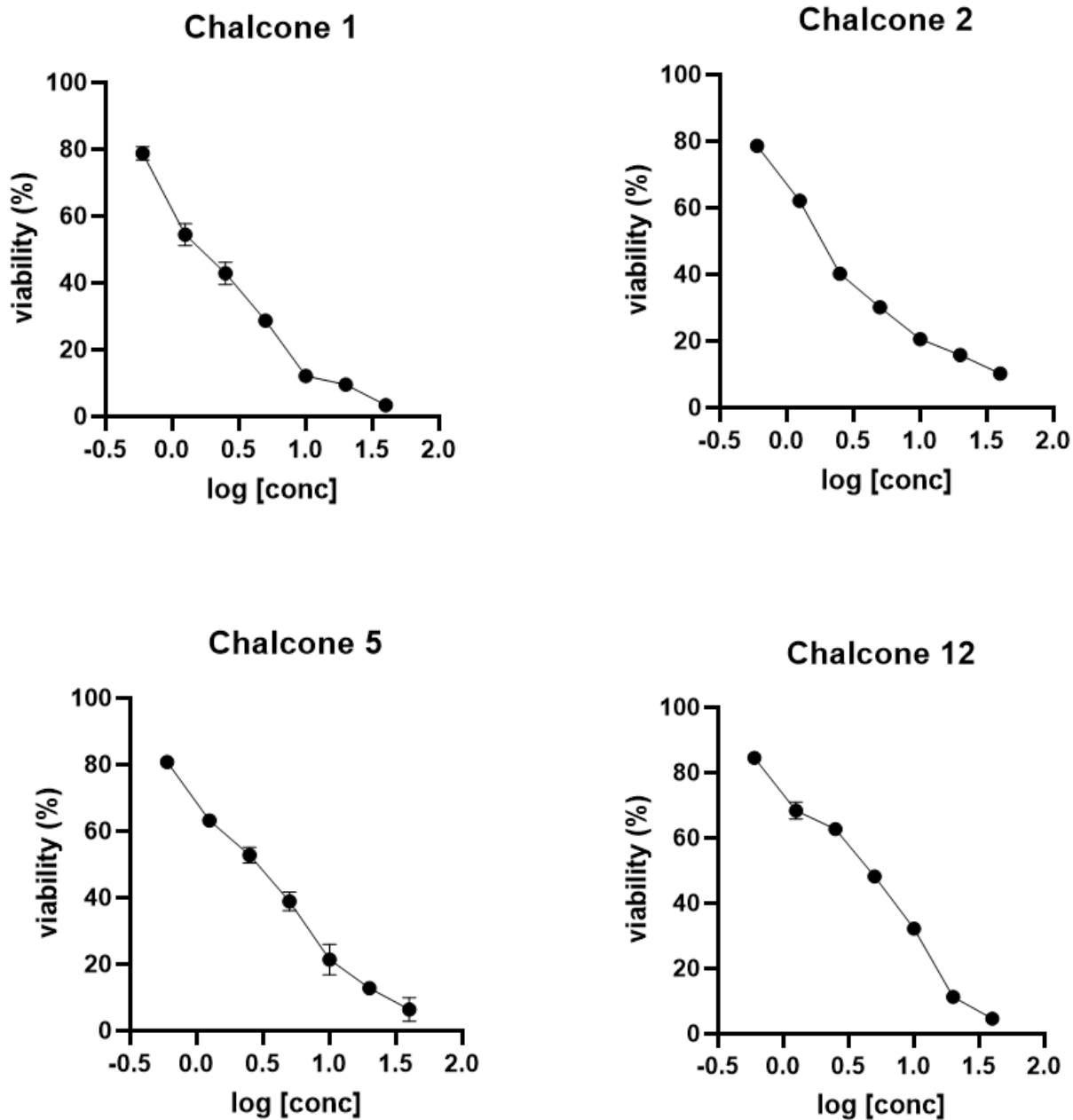


Figure S6. Dose-response curves for the determination of the inhibitory activity (IC_{50}) of the chalcones 1, 2, 5, and 12 against *L.major* amastigotes. Two experimental replicates were carried out for each chalcone analogue.

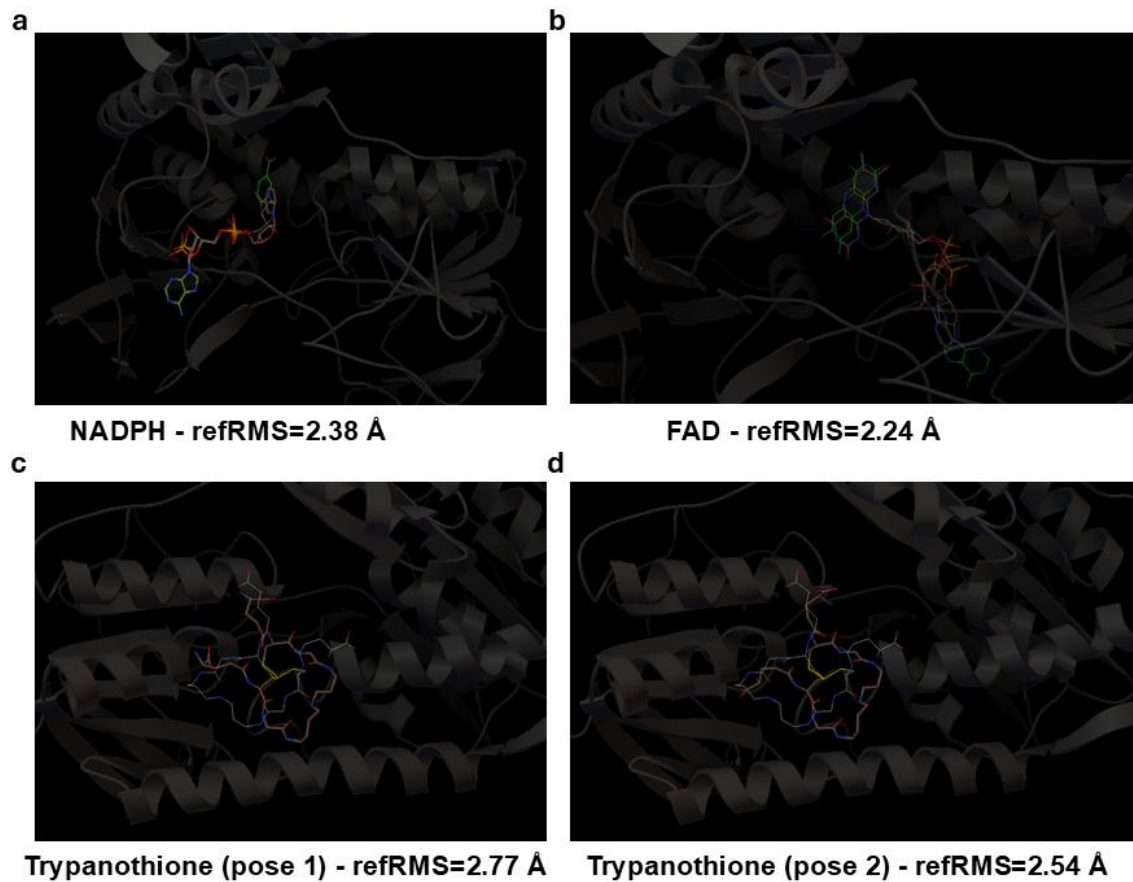


Figure S7. Redocking. Best-ranked docked poses of natural cofactors in *Leishmania infantum* trypanothione reductase (TR). (a) NADPH, (b) FAD, and (c) GCG are shown in their best-scoring docked conformations superimposed onto the corresponding crystallographic binding sites. (d) Second-best docked pose of trypanothione, displaying a slightly lower RMSD relative to the crystallographic reference compared with the pose shown in panel c. Docking poses were obtained using AutoDock4 and evaluated based on binding free energy and RMSD values calculated with respect to the experimental structures. Protein residues are shown as cartoon representation, while ligands are displayed as sticks.

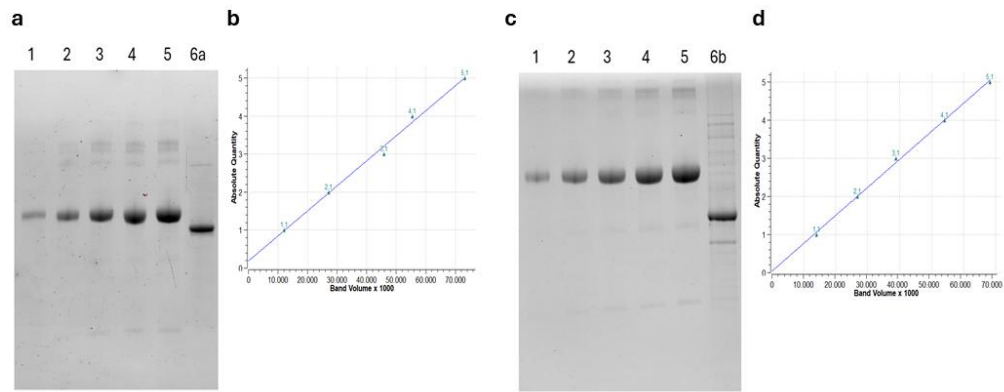


Figure S8. SDS-PAGE analysis for *LiTR* and *CtNDH2* quantification. (a), (c): 1-2-3-4-5 μg of BSA (lanes 1-5); purified *LiTR* 1 μl (lane 6a); purified *CtNDH2* 2-5 μl (lane 6b). (b), (d): Standard curves calculation through ImageLab software.

Spectra copies of compounds 1, 2, 5, and 12.

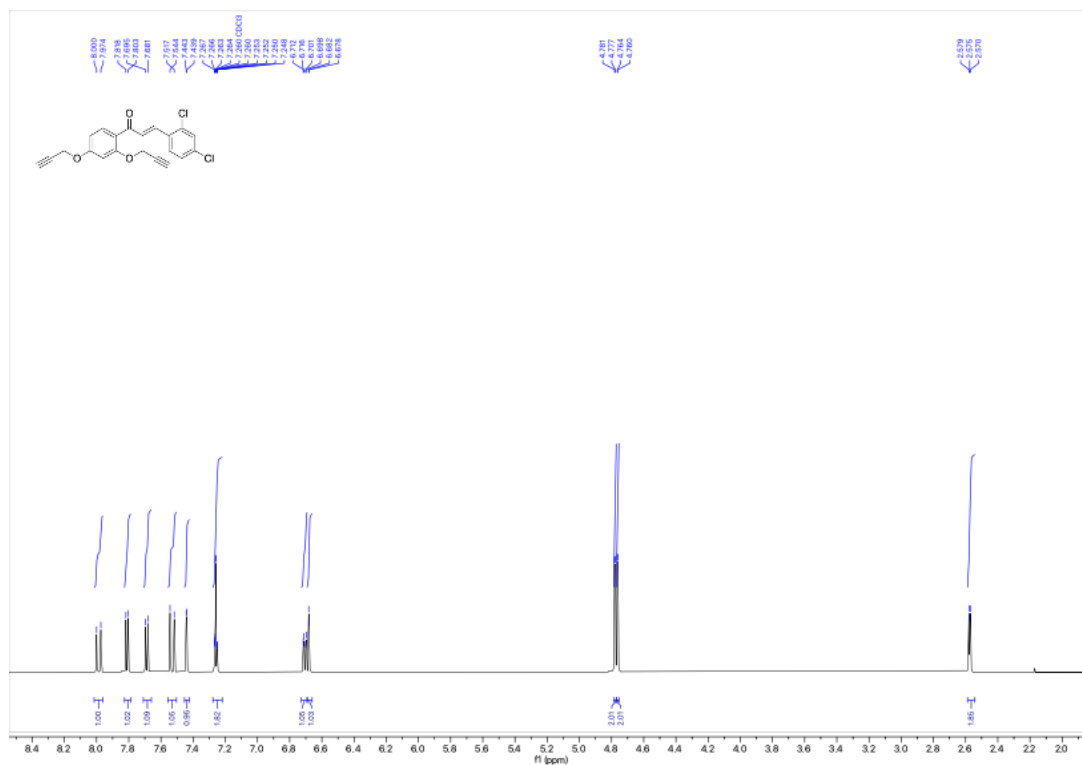


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectra (600 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 1.

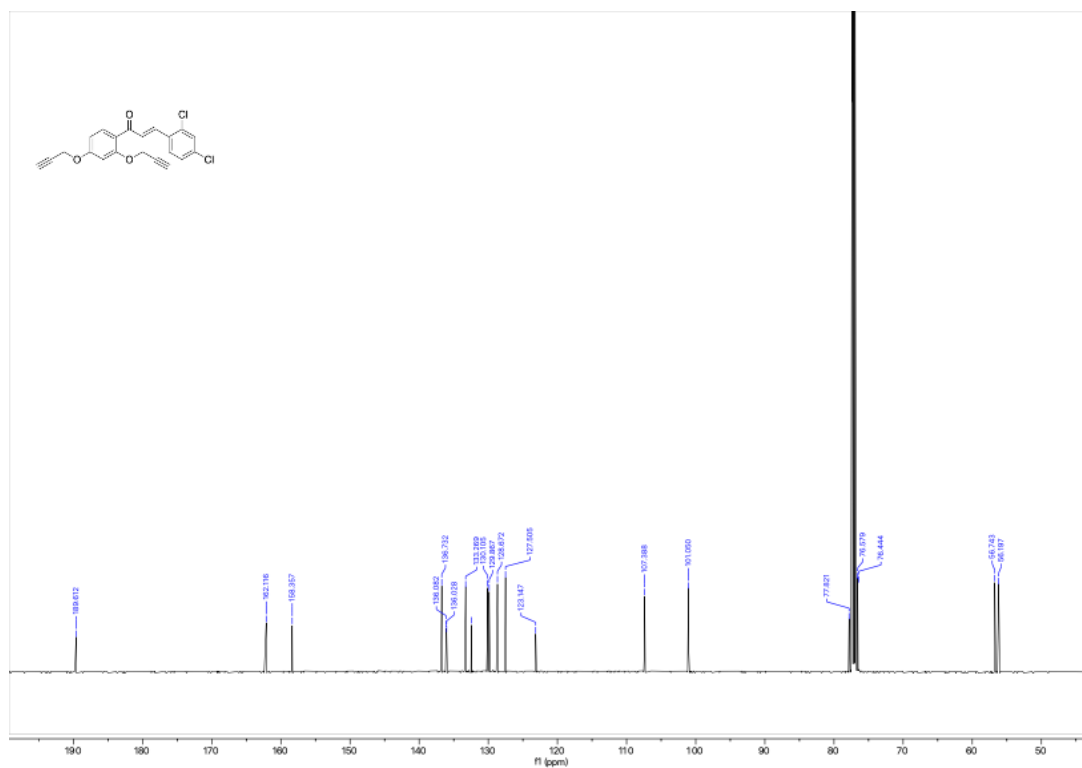


Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectra (600 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 1.

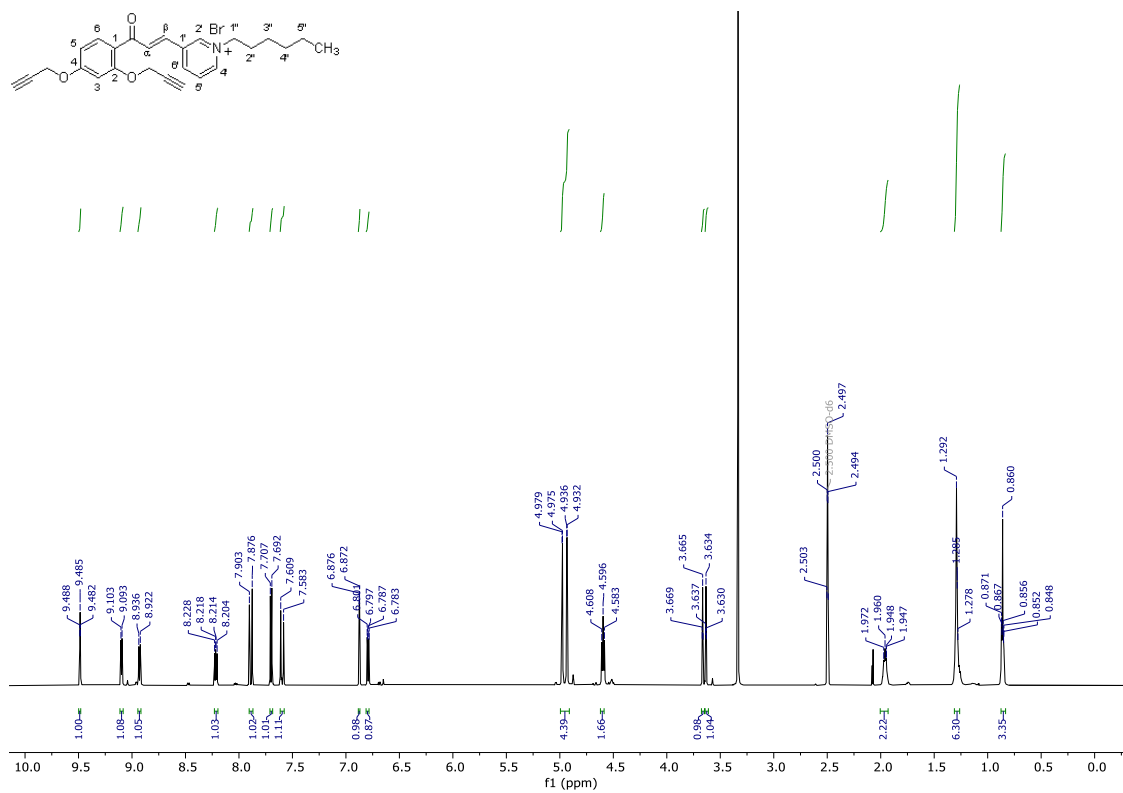


Figure S11. ¹H NMR spectra (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2.

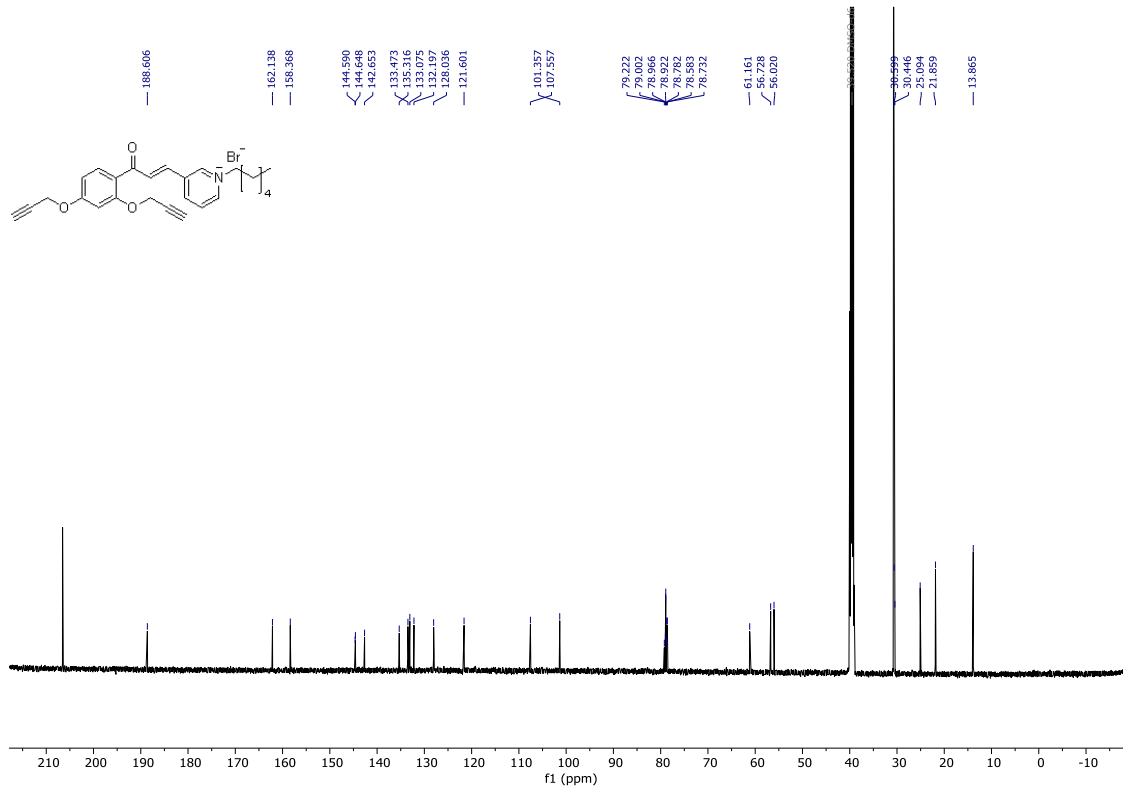


Figure S12. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2.

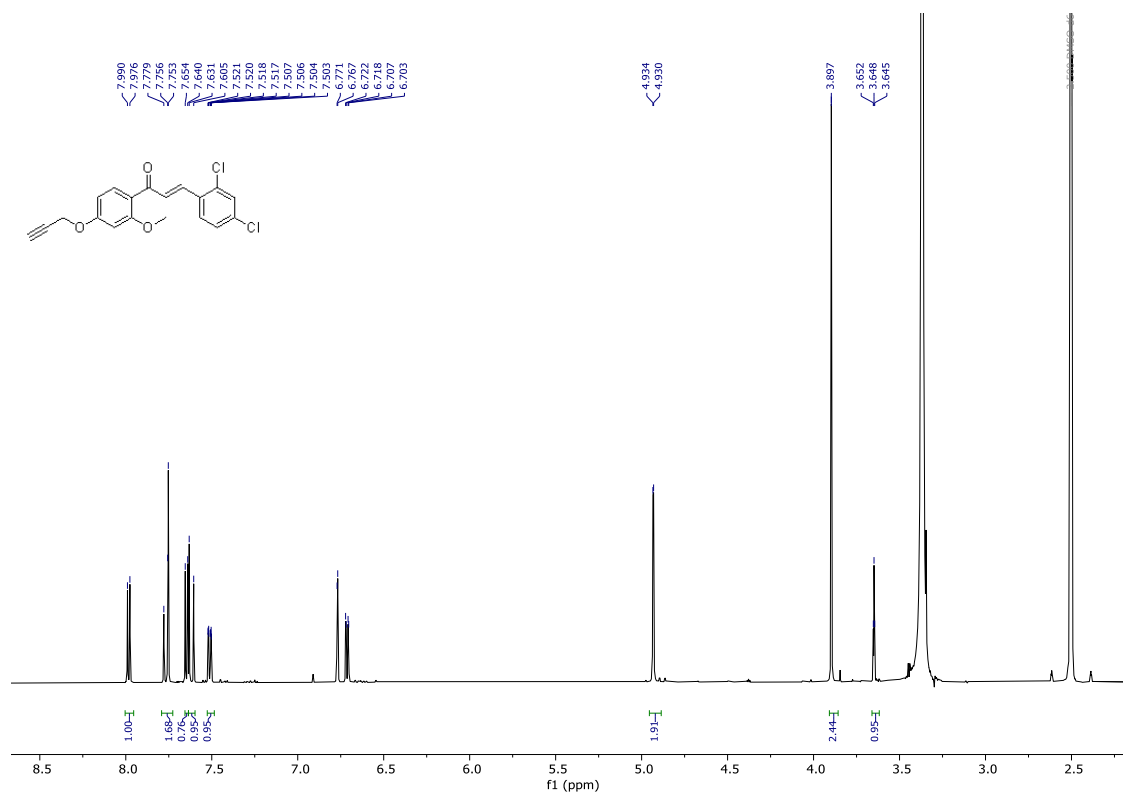


Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectra (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 5.

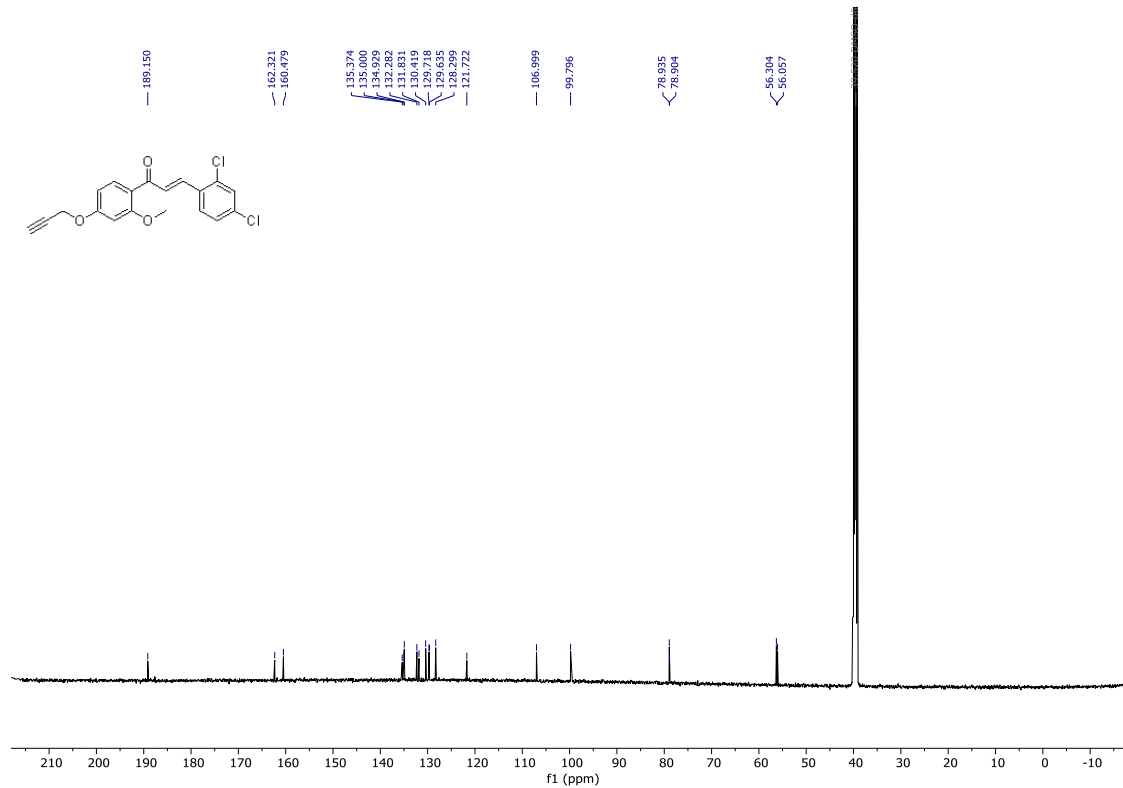


Figure S14. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 5.

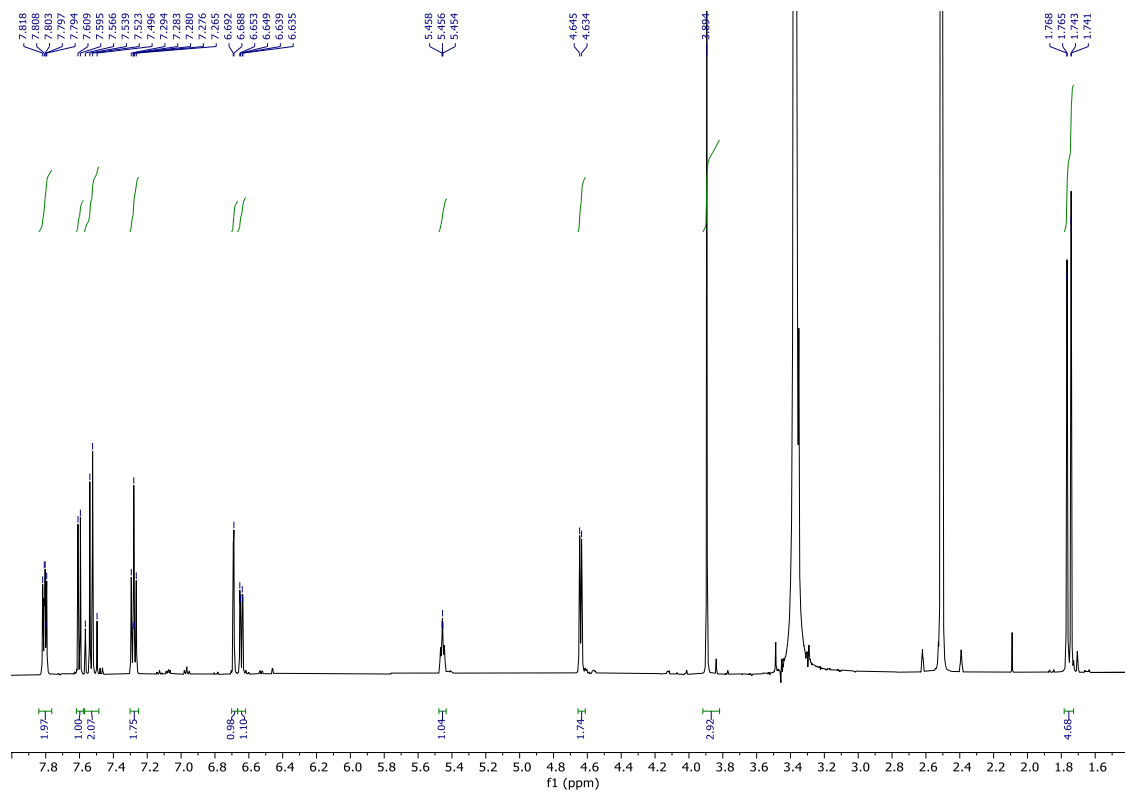


Figure S15. ^1H NMR spectra (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound **12**.

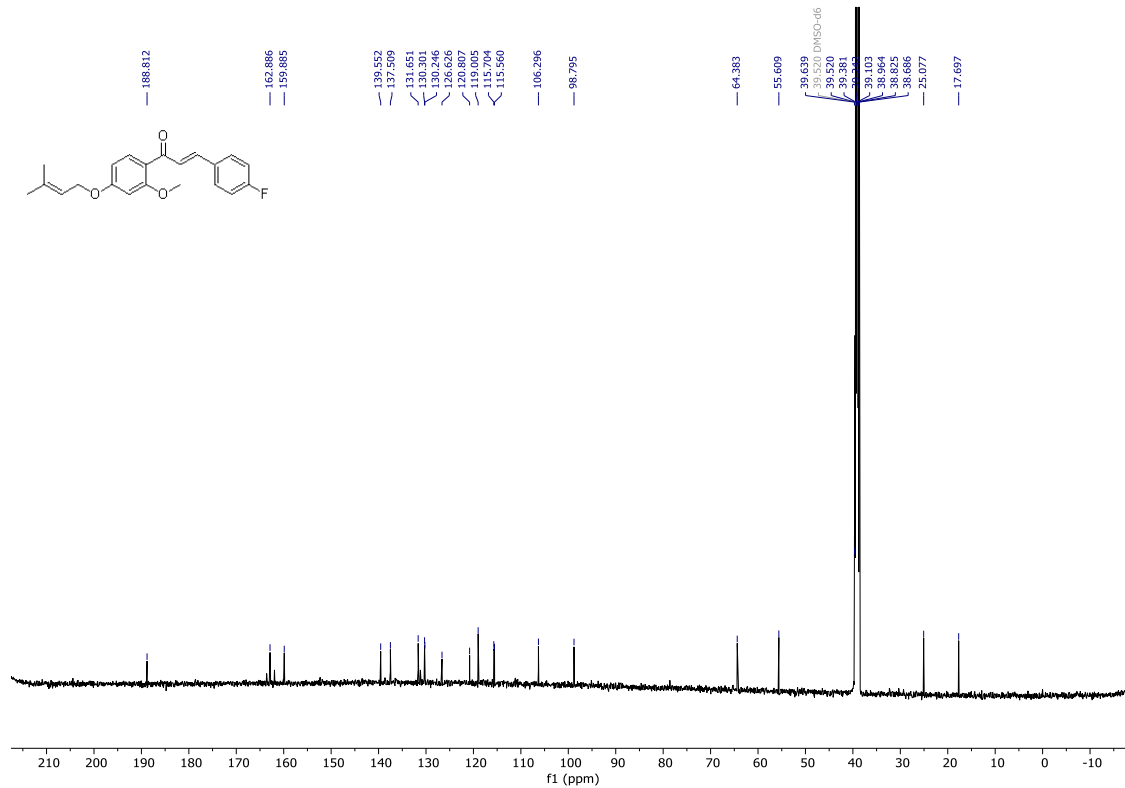


Figure S16. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound **12**.

Table S1: Results of the docking of chalcones on TR crystallized structure (4apn.pdb)

PDB ID	Cofactor binding Site	Binding energy calculated for the corresponding cofactor (kcal/mol)	Ki calculated for the corresponding cofactor	Inhibitor (chalcone number)	Binding energy of the chalcone inhibitors (kcal/mol)	Ki of the chalcone inhibitors
4apn	FAD	-8.92	289.54nM	1	-10.85	11.06nM
				2	-11.54	3.5nM
				5	-9.76	69.94nM
				12	-10.24	31.05nM
	NADPH	-7.67	2.4mM	1	-9.28	156.96nM
				2	-8.64	462.55nM
				5	-8.46	633.48nM
				12	-7.81	1.89μM
	UQ5c	-6.42	19.61mM	1	-7.33	4.24μM
				2	-6.95	8.03μM
				5	-6.97	7.79μM
				12	-6.96	7.90μM
GCGc	-0.65	334.9mM	1	-5.52	89.51μM	
			2	-4.48	518.94μM	
			5	-5.36	118.08μM	
			12	-5.15	168.91μM	

PDB ID, protein databank accession number

° GCG corresponds to trypanothione, whereas UQ5 is an ubiquinone derivative.

Table S2. Results of docking on the *L.infantum* DLD (XP_001468025.1) 3D comparative model.

Modelled sequence	Cofactor binding Site	Binding energy calculated for the corresponding cofactor (kcal/mol)	Ki calculated for the corresponding cofactor	Inhibitor (chalcone number)	Binding energy of the chalcone inhibitors (kcal/mol)	Ki of the chalcone inhibitors
XP001468025.1 (DLD)	FAD	-7.52	3.05 μ M	1	-10.89	40.15nM
				2	-10.02	44.99nM
				5	-9.31	148.62nM
				12	-9.83	61.98nM
	NADH	-7.77	2.01 μ M	1	-8.49	599.01nM
				2	-6.9	8.71 μ M
				5	-7.95	1.49 μ M
				12	-7.51	3.13 μ M
	UQ5c	-4.55	463.67 μ M	1	-6.22	27.61 μ M
				2	-5.27	136.32 μ M
				5	-5.74	61.58 μ M
				12	-5.46	99.67 μ M

c UQ5 is a ubiquinone derivative.

Table S3. Results of the docking of the four selected chalcones on *L.infantum* NDH2 (XP_001469921.1) 3D comparative model.

Modelled sequence	Cofactor binding Site	Binding energy calculated for the corresponding cofactor (kcal/mol)	Ki calculated for the corresponding cofactor	cmpd	Binding energy of the chalcone inhibitors (kcal/mol)	Ki of the chalcone inhibitors
XP001469921.1 (NDH2)	FAD	-9.03	151.39 nM	1	-9.35	140.94 nM
				2	-7.62	2.62 μ M
				5	-8.47	614.24 nM
				12	-8.37	737.97 nM
	NADH	-7.83	1.82 μ M	1	-8.06	1.23 μ M
				2	-6.76	11.12 μ M
				5	-6.91	8.60 μ M
				12	-6.88	9.02 μ M
	UQ5 c	-7.09	6.36 μ M	1	-7.31	4.38 μ M
				2	-7.25	4.83 μ M
				5	-7.35	4.12 μ M
				12	-7.69	2.31 μ M

c UQ5 is a ubiquinone derivative.

Table S4. Results of the docking of the four selected chalcones on deCoAR (XP_001468165.1) 3D comparative model.

Modelled sequence	Cofactor binding Site	Binding energy calculated for the corresponding cofactor (kcal/mol)	Ki calculated for the corresponding cofactor	Inhibitor (chalcone number)	Binding energy of the chalcone inhibitors (kcal/mol)	Ki of the chalcone inhibitors
XP001468165.1 (deCoAR)	FAD	-10.48	20.76nM	1	-8.2	975.36nM
				2	-7.94	1.50μM
				5	-8.69	427.02nM
				12	-8.69	425.71nM
	NADPH	-9.58	95.53nM	1	-6.54	16.19μM
				2	-6.01	39.56μM
				5	-7.11	6.10μM
				12	-7.06	6.66μM

References

- [1] F. Bonvicini, G.A. Gentilomi, F. Bressan, S. Gobbi, A. Rampa, A. Bisi, F. Belluti, Functionalization of the chalcone scaffold for the discovery of novel lead compounds targeting fungal infections, *Molecules* 24 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules24020372>.
- [2] F. Seghetti, R. Ocello, A. Bisi, M. Masetti, S. Gobbi, F. Falchi, G.A. Gentilomi, F. Bonvicini, F. Belluti, Alkyl Tail Variation on Chalcone-Based Quaternary Pyridinium Salts as Rule-of-Thumb for Antimicrobial Activity, *Archiv Der Pharmazie* 358 (2025) e70003. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ardp.70003>.
- [3] M. Ortalli, A. Ilari, G. Colotti, I. De Ionna, T. Battista, A. Bisi, S. Gobbi, A. Rampa, R.M.C. Di Martino, G.A. Gentilomi, S. Varani, F. Belluti, Identification of chalcone-based antileishmanial agents targeting trypanothione reductase, *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* 152 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2018.04.057>.
- [4] F. Seghetti, F. Belluti, A. Rampa, S. Gobbi, J. Legac, S. Parapini, N. Basilico, A. Bisi, Hitting Drug-Resistant Malaria Infection With Triazole-Linked Flavonoid–Chloroquine Hybrid Compounds, *Future Medicinal Chemistry* 14 (2022) 1865–1880. <https://doi.org/10.4155/fmc-2022-0173>.