

Molecular Docking and Dynamics Simulation Study of *Hyrtios erectus* Isolated Scalarane Sesterterpenes As Potential SARS-CoV-2 Dual Target Inhibitors

Sameh S. Elhady ^{1,†,*}, Reda F. A. Abdelhameed ^{2,†}, Rania T. Malatani ³, Abdulrahman M. Alahdal ³, Hanin A. Bogari ³, Ahmad J. Almalki ⁴, Khadijah A. Mohammad ⁴, Safwat A. Ahmed ², Amgad I. M. Khedr ^{5,6} and Khaled M. Darwish ^{7,*}

¹ Department of Natural Products, Faculty of Pharmacy, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia; ssahmed@kau.edu.sa

² Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Suez Canal University, Ismailia 41522, Egypt; omarreda_70@yahoo.com (R.F.A.A.); safwat_aa@yahoo.com (S.A.A.)

³ Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmacy, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia; rmalatani@kau.edu.sa (R.T.M.); aalahdal2@hotmail.com (A.M.A.); hbogari@kau.edu.sa (H.A.B.)

⁴ Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia; ajalmalki@kau.edu.sa (A.J.A.); kmohammad@kau.edu.sa (K.A.M.)

⁵ Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Port Said University, Port Said 42526, Egypt; a_mansour7799@yahoo.com

⁶ Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Horus University-Egypt, New Damietta 34518, Egypt

⁷ Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Suez Canal University, Ismailia 41522, Egypt

* Correspondence: ssahmed@kau.edu.sa (S.S.E.); khaled_darwish@pharm.suez.edu.eg (K.M.D.);

Tel.: +966-544-512-552 (S.S.E); +20-100-5330-114 (K.M.D.)

† These authors equally contributed to this work.

Additional Experimental Detail

- 1) **Table S1.** Descriptive ligand/M-pro binding interactions through directed docking protocol.
- 2) **Table S2.** Descriptive ligand/Nsp15 NendoU binding interactions through directed docking protocol.
- 3) **Table S3.** Estimated RMSD and Rg parameter of investigated ligands and reference compound, lopinavir, complexed with M-pro proteins throughout the triplicate all-atom MD simulation.
- 4) **Table S4:** Estimated ΔRMSF^a parameter of ligands/M-pro proteins across stable structure trajectories (last 20 ns).
- 5) **Table S5.** Estimated RMSD and Rg parameter of investigated ligands and reference compound, Benzopurpurin 4B, complexed with Nsp15 NendoU proteins throughout the triplicate all-atom MD simulation.
- 6) **Table S6:** Estimated ΔRMSF^a parameter of ligands/Nsp15 NendoU proteins across stable structure trajectories (last 20 ns).
- 7) **Table S7.** Total binding-free energies and individual energy term ($\Delta G \pm SD$) of the promising scalarane-based compounds and reference ligands within Nsp15 NendoU and/or M-pro protein binding site, across the three MD simulation runs.
- 8) **Figure S1.** Superimposing the crystallized (green sticks) and redocked (yellow sticks) ligands at (a) M-pro and (b) Nsp15 NendoU for validating the adopted directed docking protocol.
- 9) **Figure S2.** The 3D structural representation of the promising scalarane-based hits (sticks) and reference ligands showing respective pharmacophoric features (mesh spheres) as well as projected virtual points (arrows). Features and directionality of H-bond donor, H-bond acceptor, or aromaticity are colored in violet, cyan, or orange, respectively.

Table S1. Descriptive ligand/M-pro binding interactions through directed docking protocol

| Compound | Ligand-target interaction description [Type; Length (Å); Angle (°); Binding Residues] |
|------------------|--|
| 2 | H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 132 ° ; Glu166 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 3.1 Å ; 131 ° ; Thr190 (main chain NH with 19α-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 3.0 Å ; 121 ° ; Gln192 (side chain NH ₂ with 19α-OC(O)CH ₃) Sulphur-Dipole ; 3.3 Å ; Thr165 (side chain SCH ₃ with 19α-COOCH ₃) |
| 4 | H-bond ; 3.2 Å ; 157 ° ; Glu166 (main chain NH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) |
| 6 | H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 126 ° ; Cys145 (side chain SH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 2.7 Å ; 137 ° ; Glu166 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) π-H interaction ; 3.4 Å ; His41 (side chain) |
| 8 | H-bond ; 4.0 Å ; 106 ° ; His41 (side chain NH with 20-CHO) H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 159 ° ; Glu166 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) Sulphur-Dipole ; 3.4 Å ; Thr165 (side chain SCH ₃ with 20-CHO) |
| 11 | H-bond ; 4.0 Å ; 106 ° ; Glu166 (side chain NH ₂ with 19-OH) H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 159 ° ; Thr190 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 159 ° ; Gln192 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) Sulphur-Dipole ; 3.4 Å ; Thr165 (side chain SCH ₃ with 20-CHO) |
| 12 | H-bond ; 3.5 Å ; 101 ° ; Thr190 (main chain NH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 4.1 Å ; 93 ° ; Ala191 (main chain NH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 3.6 Å ; 105 ° ; Gln192 (side chain NH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) |
| 15 | H-bond ; 3.5 Å ; 117 ° ; Arg188 (main chain NH with 16β-OH) H-bond ; 2.4 Å ; 126 ° ; Arg188 (main chain CO with 16β-OH) H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 101 ° ; Gln192 (side chain NH ₂ with 20-C=O) |
| Lopinavir | H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 120 ° ; Glu166 (main chain NH with amide linker C=O) H-bond ; 2.1 Å ; 108 ° ; Glu166 (main chain CO with pyrimidine NH) H-bond ; 4.1 Å ; 132 ° ; Gln189 (side chain CO with amide linker NH) |

Table S2. Descriptive ligand/Nsp15 NendoU binding interactions through directed docking protocol

| Compound | Ligand-target interaction description [Type; Length (Å); Angle (°); Binding Residues] |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 | H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 111 ° ; His235 (side chain NH with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 2.4 Å ; 135 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 1.8 Å ; 130 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 3.2 Å ; 101 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 152 ° ; Try343 (side chain OH with 16β-OC(O)CH ₃) |
| 2 | H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 148 ° ; Leu246 (main chain CO with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 1.7 Å ; 161 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 2.4 Å ; 148 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NHH with 12β-OH) |
| 4 | H-bond ; 2.4 Å ; 111 ° ; Gly248 (side chain NH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 3.6 Å ; 99 ° ; His250 (main chain NH with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 2.9 Å ; 153 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 2.8 Å ; 174 ° ; Ser294 (main chain NH with δ-lactone O) π-H interaction ; 3.8 Å ; Tyr343 (side chain) |
| 6 | H-bond ; 1.7 Å ; 141 ° ; Gln245 (side chain NH ₂ with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 2.7 Å ; 104 ° ; Leu246 (main chain CO with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 2.9 Å ; 156 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 12β-OH) H-bond ; 2.9 Å ; 136 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 1.9 Å ; 116 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 12β-OH) |
| 10 | H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 113 ° ; Gln245 (side chain NH ₂ with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 2.1 Å ; 138 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 2.8 Å ; 132 ° ; His250 (side chain NH with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 2.8 Å ; 148 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 1.7 Å ; 144 ° ; Thr341 (side chain OH with 20-OH) |
| 11 | H-bond ; 2.1 Å ; 98 ° ; Gln245 (side chain NH with 16α-OCH ₃) H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 161 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with δ-lactone O) H-bond ; 2.4 Å ; 114 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 20-C=O) H-bond ; 1.7 Å ; 132 ° ; Tyr343 (side chain OH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) |
| 12 | H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 135 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 2.5 Å ; 97 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NH ₂ with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 170 ° ; Ser294 (side chain NH with 19-C=O) H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 123 ° ; Ser294 (side chain NH with δ-lactone O) π-H interaction ; 3.2 Å ; Tyr343 (side chain) |
| 15 | H-bond ; 3.4 Å ; 137 ° ; Gln245 (side chain CO with 19α-OH) H-bond ; 1.8 Å ; 147 ° ; Gln245 (side chain NHH with 19α-OH) H-bond ; 2.3 Å ; 163 ° ; Gly248 (main chain NH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 144 ° ; Lys290 (side chain NHH with 12β-OC(O)CH ₃) π-H interaction ; 3.2 Å ; Tyr343 (side chain) |
| Benzopurpurin 4B | H-bond ; 2.1 Å ; 152 ° ; Asp240 (side chain COOH with SO ₂ OH) H-bond ; 2.5 Å ; 164 ° ; Asn278 (side chain NHH with SO ₂ OH) H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 159 ° ; Glu340 (side chain COOH with Ar-NH ₂) H-bond ; 2.6 Å ; 164 ° ; Leu346 (main chain NH with SO ₂ OH) π-H interaction ; 3.1 Å ; Tyr343 (side chain) |

Table S3. Estimated RMSD and Rg parameter of investigated ligands and reference compound, lopinavir, complexed with M-pro proteins throughout the triplicate all-atom MD simulation

| Compound 6 / M-pro complex | | | | Compound 15 / M-pro complex | | | | Lopinavir / M-pro complex | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | |
| 1 st MD run | Max. | 3.91 | 3.96 | 4.48 | 23.66 | 5.98 | 6.02 | 4.57 | 23.13 | 4.18 | 4.91 | 2.98 | 22.80 |
| | Min. | 1.52 | 1.59 | 0.53 | 21.71 | 1.45 | 1.48 | 0.69 | 21.61 | 1.39 | 1.50 | 0.52 | 21.87 |
| | Mean^a | 2.58 ±0.24 | 2.63 ±0.24 | 2.94 ±0.46 | 22.41 ±0.27 | 4.30 ±0.55 | 4.30 ±0.49 | 2.87 ±0.42 | 22.20 ±0.25 | 3.10 ±0.38 | 3.41 ±0.42 | 2.21 ±0.30 | 22.31 ±0.14 |
| 2 nd MD run | Max. | 3.95 | 4.56 | 3.72 | 23.07 | 4.36 | 4.37 | 3.97 | 23.69 | 3.70 | 3.97 | 5.60 | 23.11 |
| | Min. | 1.40 | 1.43 | 0.95 | 21.98 | 1.80 | 1.81 | 1.15 | 22.39 | 1.31 | 1.34 | 0.88 | 22.02 |
| | Mean^a | 2.51 ±0.34 | 3.09 ±0.50 | 2.52 ±0.39 | 22.40 ±0.16 | 3.14 ±0.35 | 3.64 ±0.34 | 2.74 ±0.3 | 22.95 ±0.16 | 2.70 ±0.41 | 3.14 ±0.32 | 3.80 ±0.60 | 22.54 ±0.14 |
| 3 rd MD run | Max. | 4.72 | 6.72 | 4.55 | 23.28 | 5.09 | 6.55 | 3.77 | 23.69 | 4.82 | 6.23 | 3.99 | 22.84 |
| | Min. | 1.43 | 1.48 | 0.49 | 21.91 | 1.54 | 1.56 | 0.86 | 21.93 | 1.48 | 1.46 | 0.43 | 21.93 |
| | Mean^a | 3.42 ±0.59 | 4.70 ±0.94 | 2.79 ±0.77 | 22.43 ±0.30 | 4.22 ±0.46 | 5.19 ±0.53 | 2.69 ±0.50 | 22.78 ±0.24 | 3.74 ±0.56 | 4.17 ±0.76 | 2.74 ±0.44 | 22.41 ±0.13 |
| Average ± SD/SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Max.^a | 4.19 ±0.45 | 5.08 ±1.45 | 4.25 ±0.46 | 23.34 ±0.30 | 5.15 ±0.81 | 5.65 ±1.14 | 4.10 ±0.42 | 23.50 ±0.32 | 4.23 ±0.56 | 5.04 ±1.14 | 4.19 ±1.32 | 22.92 ±0.17 |
| | Min.^a | 1.45 ±0.06 | 1.50 ±0.08 | 0.66 ±0.25 | 21.87 ±0.14 | 1.60 ±0.18 | 1.62 ±0.18 | 0.90 ±0.23 | 21.98 ±0.40 | 1.39 ±0.09 | 1.44 ±0.08 | 0.61 ±0.24 | 21.94 ±0.08 |
| | Mean^b | 2.83 ±0.18 | 3.47 ±0.63 | 2.75 ±0.12 | 22.41 ±0.01 | 3.86 ±0.02 | 4.37 ±0.26 | 2.77 ±0.05 | 22.65 ±0.23 | 3.18 ±0.18 | 3.57 ±0.32 | 2.91 ±0.47 | 22.42 ±0.07 |

^a Standard deviation of the mean (SD); ^b Standard error of the mean (SE).

Table S4: Estimated ΔRMSF^a parameter of ligands/M-pro proteins across stable structure trajectories (last 20 ns).

| Sub-pocket | Residue | Compound 6 / M-pro protein residues | | | | Compound 15 / M-pro protein residues | | | | Lopinavir / M-pro protein residues | | | |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| | | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD |
| S1' | His41 | 0.36 | 0.31 | 0.39 | 0.35 ±0.04 | -0.70 | -0.69 | -2.09 | -1.16 ±0.81 | 0.23 | 0.39 | 0.35 | 0.32 ±0.09 |
| | Gly143 | -0.48 | -0.35 | -0.29 | -0.37 ±0.10 | 0.06 | -0.05 | -0.14 | -0.04 ±0.10 | -0.37 | -0.32 | -0.91 | -0.53 ±0.33 |
| | Ser144 | -0.19 | -0.19 | -0.12 | -0.17 ±0.04 | -0.21 | -0.26 | -0.27 | -0.24 ±0.03 | -0.18 | -0.11 | -0.24 | -0.18 ±0.06 |
| | Cys145 | -0.07 | -0.08 | -0.01 | -0.05 ±0.03 | -0.33 | -0.37 | -0.37 | -0.36 ±0.03 | -0.09 | -0.02 | -0.16 | -0.09 ±0.07 |
| S1 | Phe140 | 0.12 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.21 ±0.08 | 0.52 | 0.44 | 0.50 | 0.49 ±0.04 | -0.06 | 0.04 | -0.06 | -0.03 ±0.06 |
| | Leu141 | -0.50 | -0.20 | -0.23 | -0.31 ±0.16 | 0.28 | 0.14 | 0.21 | 0.21 ±0.07 | -0.69 | -0.53 | -0.39 | -0.53 ±0.15 |
| | Asn142 | -0.69 | -0.44 | -0.42 | -0.52 ±0.15 | 0.11 | -0.10 | -0.02 | 0.001 ±0.10 | -0.75 | -0.74 | -0.71 | -0.73 ±0.02 |
| | His163 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.48 | 0.44 ±0.03 | -0.33 | -0.84 | -0.29 | -0.48 ±0.31 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.45 ±0.01 |
| | Glu166 | 0.74 | 0.65 | 0.86 | 0.75 ±0.11 | 0.74 | 0.34 | 0.65 | 0.58 ±0.21 | 0.78 | 0.86 | 0.84 | 0.83 ±0.04 |
| | Met49 | 1.24 | 1.45 | 1.96 | 1.55 ±0.37 | 1.71 | 1.83 | 1.64 | 1.73 ±0.09 | 1.33 | 1.30 | 1.00 | 1.21 ±0.18 |
| S2 | Tyr54 | 0.48 | 0.68 | 0.70 | 0.62 ±0.12 | 0.23 | 0.34 | 0.29 | 0.29 ±0.05 | 0.66 | 0.59 | 0.51 | 0.59 ±0.08 |
| | His164 | 0.33 | 0.36 | 0.42 | 0.37 ±0.05 | -0.29 | -0.91 | -0.38 | -0.53 ±0.34 | 0.42 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.43 ±0.01 |
| | Asp187 | 0.91 | 0.94 | 1.01 | 0.95 ±0.05 | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.59 | 0.55 ±0.04 | 0.75 | 0.82 | 0.93 | 0.84 ±0.09 |
| | Arg188 | 0.78 | 0.84 | 0.96 | 0.86 ±0.09 | 0.63 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.50 ±0.11 | 0.76 | 0.36 | 0.68 | 0.60 ±0.22 |
| | Met165 | 0.31 | 0.09 | 0.42 | 0.27 ±0.17 | 0.01 | -0.60 | -0.13 | -0.24 ±0.32 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.35 | 0.43 ±0.07 |
| S3 | Leu167 | 0.70 | 0.45 | 0.91 | 0.69 ±0.23 | 1.01 | 0.74 | 0.92 | 0.89 ±0.14 | 0.73 | 0.79 | 0.71 | 0.74 ±0.04 |
| | Gln189 | 0.49 | 0.40 | 0.77 | 0.55 ±0.20 | 0.71 | 0.46 | 0.53 | 0.56 ±0.13 | -0.40 | -0.03 | 0.36 | -0.02 ±0.38 |
| | Thr190 | 0.15 | 0.01 | 0.47 | 0.21 ±0.24 | 0.35 | 0.20 | 0.21 | 0.25 ±0.09 | -1.46 | -0.24 | 0.05 | -0.55 ±0.80 |
| | Gln192 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.11 ±0.18 | -0.34 | -0.06 | 0.06 | -0.11 ±0.21 | -1.84 | -0.09 | 0.15 | -0.59 ±1.09 |
| | Pro39 | 0.49 | 0.57 | 0.60 | 0.55 ±0.06 | -0.48 | 0.01 | -0.23 | -0.23 ±0.25 | 0.51 | 0.60 | 0.49 | 0.53 ±0.06 |
| Vicinal residues | Val42 | 1.14 | 1.09 | 1.19 | 1.14 ±0.05 | -0.06 | 0.01 | -1.19 | -0.41 ±0.67 | 1.06 | 1.18 | 1.09 | 1.11 ±0.06 |
| | Ile43 | 1.71 | 1.73 | 1.80 | 1.75 ±0.04 | 0.89 | 0.85 | 0.73 | 0.82 ±0.08 | 1.72 | 1.76 | 1.66 | 1.71 ±0.05 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Cys44 | 2.14 | 2.15 | 2.42 | 2.24 ± 0.16 | 1.68 | 2.13 | 1.36 | 1.72 ± 0.38 | 2.22 | 2.37 | 2.18 | 2.25 ± 0.10 |
| Thr45 | 1.89 | 1.51 | 2.27 | 1.89 ± 0.38 | 1.43 | 2.30 | 1.34 | 1.69 ± 0.53 | 1.79 | 2.30 | 1.59 | 1.89 ± 0.36 |
| Ser46 | 1.52 | 1.20 | 2.10 | 1.60 ± 0.46 | 0.79 | 2.29 | 1.38 | 1.49 ± 0.76 | 1.84 | 1.68 | 1.36 | 1.62 ± 0.24 |
| Glu47 | 2.04 | 2.36 | 2.76 | 2.39 ± 0.36 | 1.69 | 3.12 | 1.33 | 2.05 ± 0.95 | 1.71 | 1.99 | 1.98 | 1.89 ± 0.16 |
| Asp48 | 1.80 | 1.44 | 2.41 | 1.89 ± 0.49 | 1.81 | 2.12 | 1.86 | 1.93 ± 0.17 | 0.71 | 1.63 | 1.17 | 1.17 ± 0.46 |
| Leu50 | 0.69 | 1.09 | 1.66 | 1.15 ± 0.49 | 1.34 | 1.39 | 1.18 | 1.30 ± 0.11 | 1.28 | 0.51 | 0.13 | 0.64 ± 0.59 |
| Asn53 | -0.03 | 0.53 | 0.06 | 0.18 ± 0.30 | 0.61 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.51 ± 0.09 | 0.42 | 0.00 | -0.03 | 0.13 ± 0.25 |
| Pro168 | 0.05 | -0.24 | 0.45 | 0.09 ± 0.34 | 0.75 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.70 ± 0.04 | 0.24 | 0.16 | -0.03 | 0.13 ± 0.14 |
| Phe185 | 0.36 | 0.40 | 0.52 | 0.43 ± 0.08 | -0.51 | 0.05 | -0.34 | -0.27 ± 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.35 | 0.49 | 0.37 ± 0.11 |
| Val186 | 0.66 | 0.70 | 0.84 | 0.73 ± 0.10 | -0.24 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.001 ± 0.20 | 0.55 | 0.49 | 0.74 | 0.59 ± 0.13 |

^a Relative difference root-mean-square fluctuation (Δ RMSF) estimated for each ligand-bound protein relative to the apo state of COVID-19 M-pro. Only values with significant mobility changes (Δ RMSF > 0.3 Å) are represented in bold.

Table S5. Estimated RMSD and Rg parameter of investigated ligands and reference compound, Benzopurpurin 4B, complexed with Nsp15 NendoU proteins throughout the triplicate all-atom MD simulation

| Compound 6 / Nsp15 NendoU complex | | | | Compound 15 / Nsp15 NendoU complex | | | | Benzopurpurin 4B / Nsp15 NendoU complex | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | RMSD protein (Å) | RMSD complex (Å) | RMSD ligand (Å) | Rg complex (Å) | |
| 1 st MD run | Max. | 4.16 | 4.77 | 4.80 | 24.89 | 4.64 | 5.07 | 4.52 | 24.75 | 4.57 | 5.40 | 4.26 | 25.00 |
| | Min. | 1.45 | 1.72 | 1.83 | 23.39 | 2.02 | 2.01 | 1.54 | 23.21 | 1.85 | 1.86 | 0.98 | 23.40 |
| | Mean^a | 2.61 ±0.32 | 3.55 ±0.41 | 3.59 ±0.32 | 23.931 ±0.20 | 2.79 ±0.30 | 4.01 ±0.37 | 3.55 ±0.36 | 23.80 ±0.20 | 2.69 ±0.31 | 4.00 ±0.42 | 2.98 ±0.47 | 23.96 ±0.19 |
| 2 nd MD run | Max. | 4.03 | 5.11 | 4.92 | 24.58 | 4.82 | 6.10 | 4.85 | 25.44 | 4.57 | 4.77 | 4.80 | 24.82 |
| | Min. | 1.69 | 1.79 | 1.83 | 23.40 | 1.64 | 1.89 | 2.11 | 23.41 | 1.67 | 1.67 | 0.96 | 23.36 |
| | Mean^a | 2.55 ±0.27 | 3.00 ±0.42 | 4.07 ±0.45 | 23.87 ±0.19 | 2.82 ±0.36 | 4.29 ±0.51 | 3.32 ±0.41 | 24.02 ±0.31 | 2.63 ±0.36 | 2.83 ±0.36 | 2.94 ±0.32 | 23.84 ±0.18 |
| 3 rd MD run | Max. | 4.23 | 5.07 | 4.80 | 25.12 | 4.81 | 4.87 | 5.44 | 25.17 | 4.12 | 4.55 | 4.26 | 25.26 |
| | Min. | 1.79 | 2.01 | 1.76 | 23.32 | 1.89 | 2.01 | 1.59 | 23.35 | 1.66 | 1.82 | 1.00 | 23.42 |
| | Mean^a | 2.72 ±0.37 | 4.01 ±0.37 | 3.59 ±0.32 | 23.89 ±0.25 | 2.65 ±0.41 | 3.95 ±0.31 | 4.12 ±0.44 | 24.01 ±0.30 | 2.70 ±0.35 | 3.41 ±0.28 | 2.98 ±0.47 | 23.92 ±0.24 |
| Average ± SD/SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Max.^a | 4.14 ±0.10 | 4.98 ±0.18 | 4.84 ±0.07 | 24.86 ±0.27 | 4.76 ±0.10 | 5.34 ±0.66 | 4.94 ±0.46 | 25.12 ±0.35 | 4.42 ±0.26 | 4.91 ±0.44 | 4.44 ±0.31 | 25.03 ±0.22 |
| | Min.^a | 1.64 ±0.17 | 1.84 ±0.15 | 1.81 ±0.04 | 23.37 ±0.04 | 1.85 ±0.19 | 1.97 ±0.07 | 1.75 ±0.32 | 23.32 ±0.10 | 1.73 ±0.11 | 1.87 ±0.10 | 0.50 ±0.03 | 23.39 ±0.03 |
| | Mean^b | 2.62 ±0.19 | 3.52 ±0.23 | 3.75 ±0.21 | 23.90 ±0.12 | 2.75 ±0.21 | 4.08 ±0.23 | 3.66 ±0.23 | 23.95 ±0.16 | 2.67 ±0.20 | 3.41 ±0.20 | 2.97 ±0.24 | 23.91 ±0.12 |

^a Standard deviation of the mean (SD); ^b Standard error of the mean (SE).

Table S6: Estimated ΔRMSF^a parameter of ligands/Nsp15 NendoU bound proteins across stable structure trajectories (last 20 ns).

| Sub-pocket | Residue | Compound 6 / Nsp15 NendoU protein residues | | | | Compound 15 / M-pro protein residues | | | | Lopinavir / M-pro protein residues | | | |
|------------------|---------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD | 1 st MD run | 2 nd MD run | 3 rd MD run | Mean ± SD |
| B0 | Asn278 | 0.09 | 0.12 | -0.98 | -0.26 ±0.62 | -0.09 | 0.11 | 0.10 | 0.04 ±0.11 | -0.02 | -0.06 | -0.03 | -0.04 ±0.02 |
| | Lys345 | 1.53 | 0.74 | 0.88 | 1.05 ±0.42 | 1.21 | 1.19 | 1.58 | 1.32 ±0.22 | 0.71 | -0.03 | 1.14 | 0.61 ±0.59 |
| | Leu346 | 1.42 | 0.10 | 0.34 | 0.62 ±0.70 | 0.48 | 0.30 | 1.02 | 0.66 ±0.59 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.03 | 1.02 ±0.006 |
| B1 | Gln245 | -0.28 | -0.18 | -1.40 | -0.62 ±0.68 | -0.38 | -0.21 | -0.03 | -0.21 ±0.18 | 0.11 | -0.13 | 0.07 | 0.01 ±0.13 |
| | Gly248 | -0.06 | -0.03 | -0.53 | -0.21 ±0.28 | -0.07 | -0.06 | 0.13 | 0.15 ±0.11 | 0.23 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.12 ±0.10 |
| | His250 | 0.01 | -0.01 | -0.35 | -0.12 ±0.20 | -0.06 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.01 ±0.09 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.06 | 0.04 ±0.04 |
| | Lys290 | 0.44 | 0.31 | 0.17 | 0.31 ±0.14 | 0.37 | 0.20 | 0.39 | 0.32 ±0.10 | -0.01 | -0.13 | -0.03 | -0.06 ±0.07 |
| | Ser294 | -0.09 | 0.02 | -0.73 | -0.27 ±0.40 | -0.22 | 0.02 | -0.05 | -0.09 ±0.13 | 0.07 | -0.05 | 0.01 | 0.01 ±0.06 |
| | Tyr343 | 0.11 | -0.09 | -0.19 | -0.06 ±0.15 | 0.02 | -0.08 | 0.17 | 0.04 ±0.12 | -0.04 | -0.04 | 0.10 | 0.002 ±0.08 |
| | His235 | -0.17 | -0.18 | -0.62 | -0.33 ±0.26 | -0.28 | -0.05 | -0.14 | -0.16 ±0.12 | 0.16 | -0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 ±0.09 |
| B2 | Gly247 | -0.14 | -0.07 | -0.75 | -0.32 ±0.38 | -0.21 | -0.03 | 0.16 | -0.03 ±0.18 | 0.21 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.08 ±0.11 |
| | Trp333 | 0.25 | -0.04 | -0.10 | 0.04 ±0.19 | 0.33 | 0.27 | 0.38 | 0.33 ±0.06 | 0.19 | -0.03 | 0.22 | 0.12 ±0.14 |
| | Thr341 | -0.06 | -0.20 | -0.49 | -0.25 ±0.22 | -0.04 | -0.05 | 0.08 | -0.01 ±0.07 | 0.15 | -0.04 | 0.11 | 0.07 ±0.10 |
| | Asp240 | 0.65 | 0.71 | 0.13 | 0.50 ±0.32 | 0.68 | 0.77 | 0.89 | 0.78 ±0.11 | 0.72 | 0.53 | 0.65 | 0.63 ±0.10 |
| B3 | His243 | 0.52 | 0.62 | 0.24 | 0.46 ±0.20 | 0.52 | 0.62 | 0.79 | 0.64 ±0.13 | 0.72 | 0.49 | 0.71 | 0.64 ±0.13 |
| | Glu340 | -0.09 | -0.18 | -0.64 | -0.03 ±0.30 | -0.02 | -0.05 | 0.12 | 0.01 ±0.09 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.13 ±0.11 |
| | Leu215 | 0.39 | 0.48 | 0.36 | 0.41 ±0.06 | 0.28 | 0.42 | 0.45 | 0.38 ±0.09 | 0.21 | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.18 ±0.05 |
| Vicinal residues | Ile223 | 0.47 | 0.61 | 0.21 | 0.43 ±0.21 | 0.40 | 0.51 | 0.52 | 0.48 ±0.07 | 0.23 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.20 ±0.03 |
| | Tyr226 | 0.28 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.24 ±0.18 | 0.27 | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.31 ±0.04 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.17 ±0.01 |
| | Leu228 | 0.23 | 0.43 | 0.06 | 0.24 ±0.18 | 0.29 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.35 ±0.05 | 0.22 | 0.17 | 0.11 | 0.17 ±0.05 |
| | Gly239 | 0.34 | 0.31 | -0.09 | 0.19 ±0.24 | 0.29 | 0.41 | 0.48 | 0.39 ±0.10 | 0.36 | 0.16 | 0.26 | 0.26 ±0.10 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Phe241 | 1.07 | 1.17 | 0.21 | 0.82 ± 0.53 | 1.14 | 1.20 | 1.36 | 1.23 ± 0.11 | 1.14 | 0.91 | 1.05 | 1.03 ± 0.12 |
| Ser242 | 0.77 | 0.89 | -0.28 | 0.46 ± 0.64 | 0.83 | 0.86 | 1.04 | 0.91 ± 0.11 | 0.94 | 0.74 | 0.94 | 0.87 ± 0.11 |
| Leu332 | 0.20 | -0.01 | 0.11 | 0.10 ± 0.10 | 0.32 | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.33 ± 0.03 | 0.21 | -0.06 | 0.22 | 0.13 ± 0.16 |
| Cys334 | 0.50 | 0.24 | 0.01 | 0.25 ± 0.24 | 0.58 | 0.41 | 0.64 | 0.54 ± 0.12 | 0.24 | -0.05 | 0.27 | 0.15 ± 0.18 |
| Lys335 | 0.23 | 0.01 | -0.61 | -0.12 ± 0.43 | 0.29 | 0.05 | 0.34 | 0.23 ± 0.16 | 0.26 | -0.03 | 0.36 | 0.19 ± 0.20 |

^a Relative difference root-mean-square fluctuation (Δ RMSF) estimated for each ligand-bound protein relative to the apo state of COVID-19 Nsp15 NendoU. Only values with significant mobility changes (Δ RMSF > 0.3 Å) are represented in bold.

Table S7. Total binding-free energies and individual energy term ($\Delta G \pm SD$) of the promising scalarane-based compounds and reference ligands within Nsp15 NendoU and/or M-pro protein binding site, across the three MD simulation runs.

| | Energy (kJ/mol \pm SD) | M-pro complex | | | Nsp15 NendoU complex | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | | Comp. 6 | Comp. 15 | Lopinavir | Comp. 6 | Comp. 15 | Benzopurpurin 4B |
| 1st MD run | van der Waal | -110.60 \pm 18.86 | -119.83 \pm 11.25 | -215.43 \pm 19.69 | -102.33 \pm 14.27 | -80.21 \pm 11.17 | -117.31 \pm 20.19 |
| | Electrostatic | -13.65 \pm 26.693 | -13.82 \pm 18.22 | -26.62 \pm 20.49 | -46.560 \pm 13.84 | -8.39 \pm 17.01 | -82.22 \pm 33.47 |
| | Solvation; Polar | 70.06 \pm 32.18 | 85.87 \pm 23.47 | 160.01 \pm 35.13 | 115.28 \pm 24.61 | 26.98 \pm 35.32 | 143.16 \pm 42.38 |
| | Solvation; SASA | -13.50 \pm 1.49 | -14.76 \pm 1.44 | -21.76 \pm 1.83 | -12.78 \pm 1.20 | -11.80 \pm 1.80 | -17.89 \pm 2.87 |
| | Binding energy | -67.69 \pm 16.45 | -62.53 \pm 12.37 | -103.81 \pm 31.62 | -46.43 \pm 27.21 | -73.42 \pm 25.24 | -74.26 \pm 34.28 |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2nd MD run | van der Waal | -149.98 \pm 21.32 | -105.14 \pm 22.53 | -178.95 \pm 33.26 | -95.76 \pm 15.75 | -75.83 \pm 32.75 | -105.49 \pm 21.29 |
| | Electrostatic | -6.94 \pm 10.30 | -20.54 \pm 19.49 | -32.07 \pm 14.69 | -56.13 \pm 8.54 | -10.13 \pm 4.11 | -112.62 \pm 4.91 |
| | Solvation; Polar | 87.58 \pm 11.60 | 62.37 \pm 35.58 | 146.35 \pm 28.35 | 105.52 \pm 14.81 | 16.20 \pm 51.13 | 153.72 \pm 44.05 |
| | Solvation; SASA | -16.28 \pm 1.04 | -11.12 \pm 3.01 | -19.69 \pm 2.84 | -12.75 \pm 1.71 | -6.65 \pm 3.33 | -14.05 \pm 2.22 |
| | Binding energy | -85.63 \pm 16.05 | -74.44 \pm 19.91 | -84.36 \pm 21.68 | -59.12 \pm 14.68 | -76.41 \pm 43.76 | -78.44 \pm 22.75 |
| | | | | | | | |
| 3rd MD run | van der Waal | -138.19 \pm 14.81 | -95.14 \pm 22.06 | -174.33 \pm 12.35 | -98.08 \pm 10.69 | -99.74 \pm 18.93 | -110.28 \pm 34.65 |
| | Electrostatic | -7.46 \pm 12.43 | -8.81 \pm 10.97 | -35.98 \pm 14.71 | -53.16 \pm 18.98 | -4.63 \pm 6.50 | -112.53 \pm 28.68 |
| | Solvation; Polar | 86.31 \pm 10.14 | 43.24 \pm 35.17 | 140.20 \pm 20.91 | 120.34 \pm 27.70 | 32.90 \pm 50.22 | 173.66 \pm 42.55 |
| | Solvation; SASA | -16.46 \pm 1.46 | -7.40 \pm 3.19 | -20.51 \pm 1.09 | -12.74 \pm 1.25 | -12.31 \pm 1.88 | -16.62 \pm 3.53 |
| | Binding energy | -75.79 \pm 17.85 | -68.11 \pm 37.80 | -90.62 \pm 21.23 | -43.65 \pm 18.04 | -83.78 \pm 32.28 | -65.78 \pm 35.29 |
| | | | | | | | |

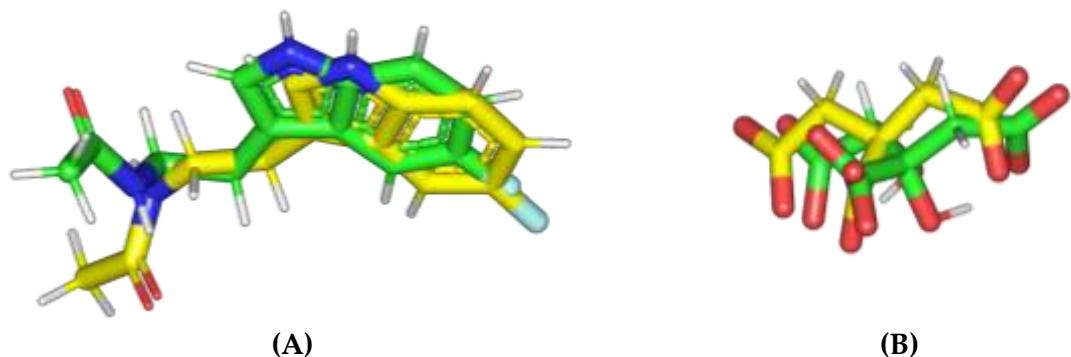


Figure S1. Superimposing the crystallized (green sticks) and redocked (yellow sticks) ligands at **(A)** M-pro and **(B)** Nsp15 NendoU for validating the adopted directed docking protocol.

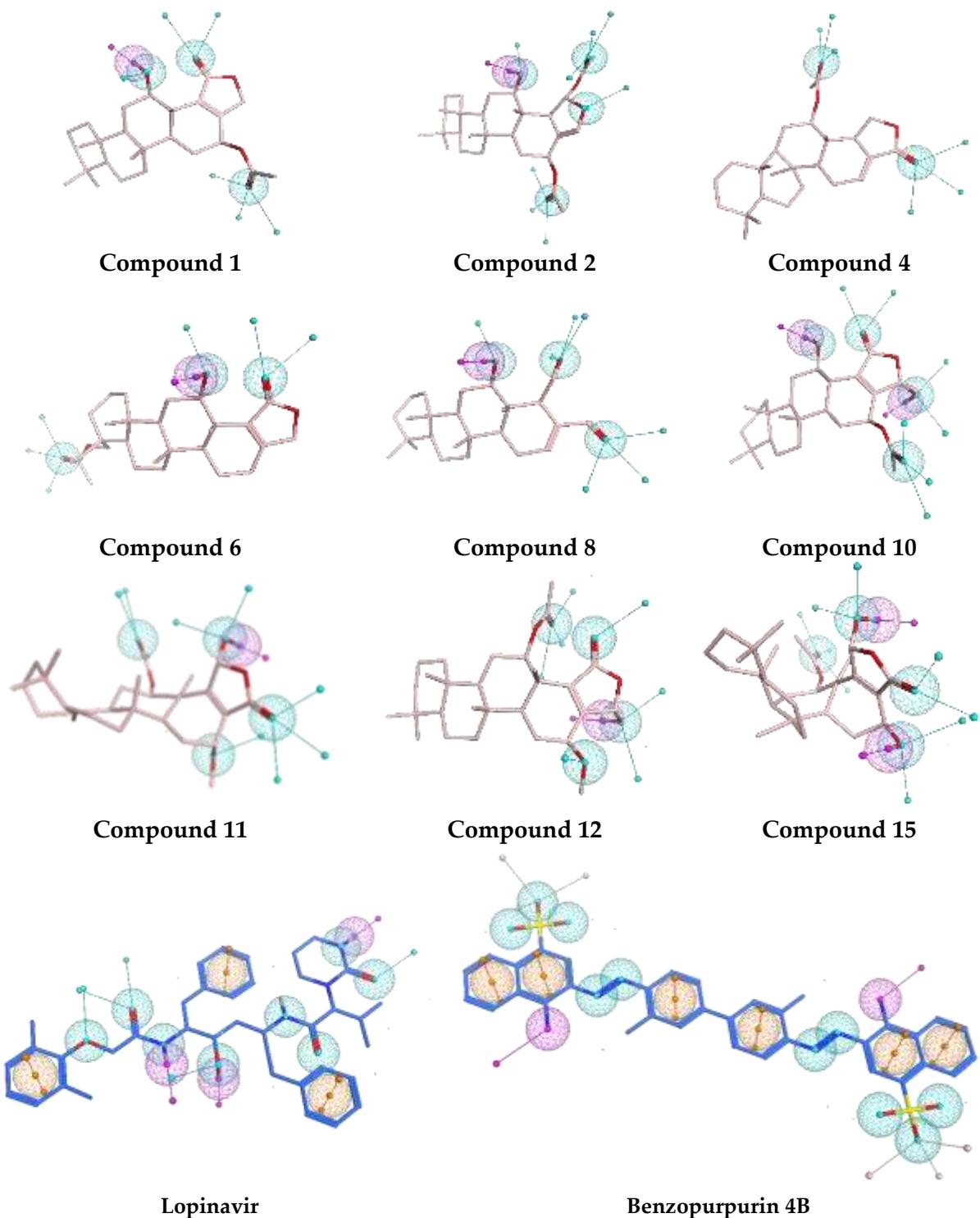


Figure S2. The 3D structural representation of the promising scalarane-based hits (sticks) and reference ligands showing respective pharmacophoric features (mesh spheres) as well as projected virtual points (arrows). Features and directionality of H-bond donor, H-bond acceptor, or aromaticity are colored in violet, cyan, or orange, respectively.