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Exploring the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole scaffold as a novel antimalarial chemotype

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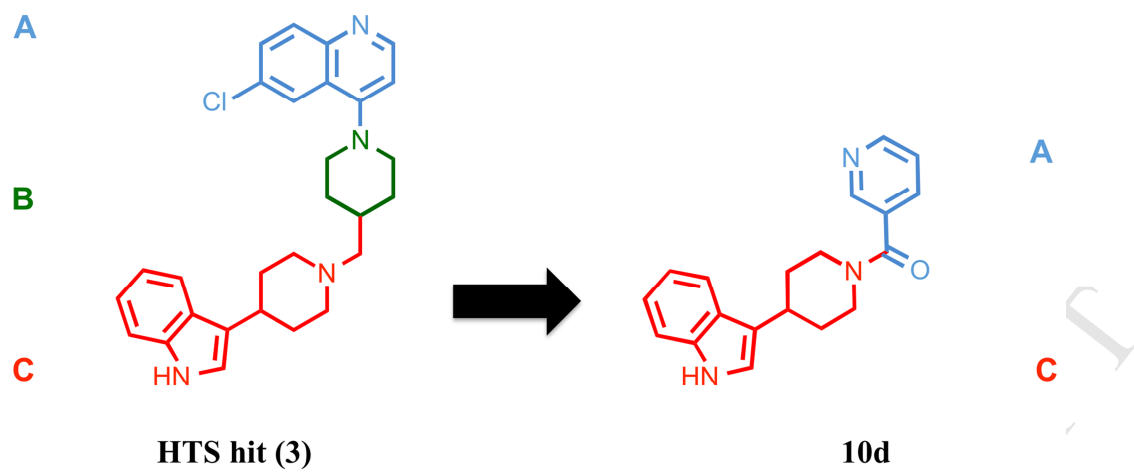
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Title:

EXPLORING THE 3-PIPERIDIN-4-YL-1H-INDOLE SCAFFOLD AS A NOVEL
ANTIMALARIAL CHEMOTYPE

Abstract:

A series of 3-piperidin-4-yl-1H-indoles with building block diversity was synthesized based on a hit derived from an HTS whole-cell screen against *Plasmodium falciparum*. Thirty-eight compounds were obtained following a three-step synthetic approach and evaluated for anti-parasitic activity. The SAR shows that 3-piperidin-4-yl-1H-indole is intolerant to most N-piperidinyl modifications. Nevertheless, we were able to identify a new compound (**10d**) with lead-like properties (MW = 305; cLogP = 2.42), showing antimalarial activity against drug-resistant and sensitive strains (EC₅₀ values ~ 3 µM), selectivity for malaria parasite and no cross-resistance with chloroquine, thus representing a potential new chemotype for further optimization towards novel and affordable antimalarial drugs.

Keywords: antimalarial, drug lead, indole, reagent-based diversity

1. Introduction:

Malaria is one of the most life-threatening diseases, with almost one-third of the world's population at risk it represents a major public health problem due to its morbidity and mortality.[1, 2] An estimated 198 million cases led to nearly 584,000 deaths in 2013, 90% of which were reported in sub-Saharan Africa.[1] Malaria has a broad impact throughout tropical and subtropical areas of the globe, affecting indigenous populations as well as an increasing number of travelers [3-5]. According to the 2014 World Health Organization (WHO) Malaria Report, about 78% of deaths attributed to malaria occur in African

children under age of 5 [1]. In addition to the human cost of malaria, the economic burden of the disease is significant with a huge impact upon individual households due to lost wages and healthcare costs as well as detrimental affect on the national scale with about 40% of African health budgets spent on malaria every year [6].

Five *Plasmodium* species are known to infect humans and cause malaria: *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae*, *P. knowlesi* and *P. falciparum* [7]. Of these species, *P. falciparum* is the most widespread in nearly all malaria endemic countries and is responsible for the majority of malaria mortality.[8]. The parasite has a complex life cycle, which involves alternate developmental stages within the human host and the female *Anopheles* mosquito [2, 9]. Within the human host, the asexual erythrocytic stage of the infection accounts for the clinical symptoms and constitutes the target for most chemotherapeutics used in the clinic, such as chloroquine (**1**) (**Figure 1**) and artemisin combination therapies (ACTs) [9-11].

The emergence of drug resistance has already rendered once-effective malaria treatments less reliable. Today, ACTs are the front line therapies for treatment of symptomatic malaria, however, we are at risk of losing their utility due to the emergence and spread of resistance [12-14]. The *Plasmodium* parasite has demonstrated an ability to evolve and adapt to every drug introduced thus far, and with this in mind, it is crucial that efforts are made to develop new analogues active against resistant strains, to identify new drugs, or even identify new therapeutic targets in the parasite [11, 15].

The strategies currently used for the development of novel antimalarial drugs include many approaches such as: the discovery of new active molecules from natural sources [16-23], repurposing of commercially available drugs, the development of hybrid compounds [24], and rational drug design with chemical modifications of existing antimalarials and hits [25-27], amongst others. Also, a great number of drug discovery and development programs from both public and private institutions, and public-private partnerships, using phenotypic screening with sensitive and resistant strains of *P. falciparum* have been pursued in the past recent years. Among them were large libraries from Novartis, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) [28, 29].

Joining these international efforts, we analyzed the recently disclosed Tres Cantos Antimalarial Set (TCAMS) from GSK to identify novel indole-based antimalarials as starting points for the development of next –generation antimalarial drugs. Indoles are an emerging antimalarial fragment present in several lead drug candidates with new mechanisms of action, such as the spiroindolone (**2**) [30-34] and aminoindoles classes [33, 35]. We were intrigued by TCMDC-134281 (**3**) (**Figure 1**), which emerged as a very potent antiplasmodial compound, with a reported EC₅₀ of 34 nM against the chloroquine-sensitive

P. falciparum 3D7 strain. Additionally, compound **3** did not demonstrate measurable cytotoxicity as its EC₅₀ against the human HepG2 hepatoma cell line was greater than 10 μ M [28].

However, this compound showed poor drug-like properties and cross-resistance with chloroquine, possibly due to the presence of the 4-aminoquinolinyl fragment, which is the essential pharmacophore of chloroquine (CQ). To address these liabilities, we decided to remove one of the piperidin-4-yl fragments and to replace the 4-aminoquinoline fragment. This resulted in an overall reduction of the compound's LogP and MW and chemically differentiates the molecule from the 4-aminoquinoline antimalarials, which we hypothesized would overcome the observed cross-resistance with CQ. We herein report a structure-activity study aiming to explore the antimalarial potential of the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole scaffold (**Figure 1**). We synthesized three series of derivatives following a reagent-based diversity approach, in a total of 38 compounds, and assayed them against the multidrug resistant *P. falciparum* Dd2 strain at a fixed 5 μ M concentration. The most potent derivatives were further profiled in dose-response against both *P. falciparum* drug-resistant (Dd2) and sensitive (3D7) strains to determine activity and parasite selectivity.

2. Results and Discussion:

2.1. Chemistry

We first resynthesized the original hit compound **3**, following a six-step synthesis, as shown in **scheme 1**. Starting with the condensation of the indole with *N*-benzyl-4-piperidone in the presence of a base, compound **4** was obtained in high yield (98%). Subsequent debenzylation with concurrent olefin reduction afforded the common intermediate 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole (**5**) with 96% yield. Compound **5** was coupled with 1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperidine-4-carboxylic acid to give the amide intermediate **6** in moderate yield (60%). Reduction of the carbonyl group afforded compound **7**, followed by Boc-deprotection to yield the amine compound **8**. Compound **3** was obtained by nucleophilic aromatic substitution of 4,6-dichloroquinoline with the amine intermediate **8** (**Scheme 1**).

The first series of derivatives was designed to explore the structure-activity relationship (SAR) of *N*-piperidinyl modifications. These compounds were obtained by reductive

amination[36] of the amine intermediate **5** with the corresponding aldehydes to give the title compounds **9a-s** (**Scheme 2**), with yields ranging from 25%-100% (**Table 1**). All but two derivatives from this series were obtained using commercially available aldehydes. Aldehydes **A** and **B**, used in the synthesis of compounds **9o** and **9n**, were previously obtained by reductive amination of terephthalaldehyde with piperidine or morpholine, respectively (**Scheme 2**).

We next synthesized a series of amide derivatives to assess the importance of the basic amine versus an amide linkage and resulting rotational hindrance. These compounds were synthesized by coupling the amine intermediate **5** with commercially available acid chlorides under standard Schotten Baumann conditions to afford the desired compounds **10a-f** (**Scheme 2**), in 25% to quantitative (Quant.) yields (**Table 1**). To access the derivatives **10g-j** (**Scheme 2**) in high yields we screened several coupling reagents and found PyBOP to give the best results (**Table 1**). Analogue **10j**, which consisted of the bis-amide compound with a benzyl linker, was synthesized by reacting excess of the amine intermediate **5** with terephthalic acid using PyBOP coupling conditions, with quantitative yield (**Scheme 2; Table 1**). Next we examined the importance of the 4-aminoquinoline fragment, the essential pharmacophore of chloroquinoline. We synthesized derivative **11**, which was obtained through a nucleophilic substitution between 4,6-dichloroquinoline and the amine intermediate **5** (**Scheme 2; Table 1**).

As a part of our SAR studies an additional series of derivatives was designed in order to maintain both the second piperidinyl group, as well as the amide linkages, while exploring the chemical variation at the terminal piperidinyl fragment. To synthesize this set of analogues the intermediate compound **6** was Boc-protected, followed by acylation of the free amine **12** with commercially available acid chlorides using standard Schotten Baumann conditions to obtain the desired compounds **13a-f** (**Scheme 3**), in 25% to quantitative yields (**Table 1**).

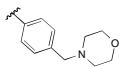
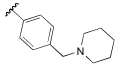
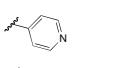
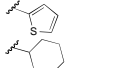
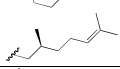
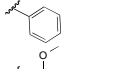
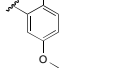
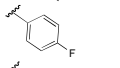
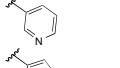
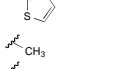
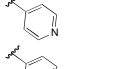
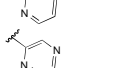
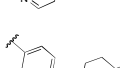
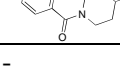
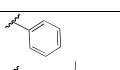
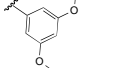
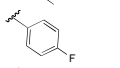
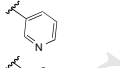
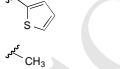



All synthesized compounds were purified by flash chromatography and the purity was assessed with HPLC-ELSD-MS prior to profiling for antiparasitic activity (purity was >90%). The structures of all compounds were confirmed by NMR spectroscopy using ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and twodimensional experiments, including ¹H-¹H COSY, HMQC and HMBC (see details in Methods).

2.2. *In vitro* antimalarial activity

The synthesized derivatives were first evaluated at 5 μ M fixed concentration for their growth inhibitory activity against the erythrocytic stage of the CQ-resistant *P. falciparum* strain Dd2 (**Table 1**). Lipophilicity of the synthesized indole compounds, expressed in terms of their partition coefficient values (clog *P*), molecular weight in g/mol and violations of Lipinski's rule of 5 (Ro5) were calculated in Instant JChem (Chemaxon) and considered as a preliminary test of the drug-likeness of the compounds (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Final step yield of synthesized compounds, their drug-like properties (MW, cLogP and compliance with “Lipinski’s Rule of 5”) and results from antimalarial activity screening.

Series	Compound	R	Yield (%)	MW (g/mol)	cLogP	Ro5 (≤ 2 violations)	% Inhibition at 5 μ M <i>P. falciparum</i> Dd2
	3	-	15	459.03	5.70	Yes	100
	5	-	96	200.28	2.18	Yes	<10
	8	-	Quant.	297.44	2.66	Yes	<10
	9a		79	400.52	3.41	Yes	<10
	9b		76	371.47	3.70	Yes	70
	9c		99	357.45	3.98	Yes	<10
	9d		55	346.49	5.16	Yes	16
	9e		53	290.40	4.28	Yes	15
	9f		55	304.43	4.80	Yes	11
	9g		42	366.45	3.47	Yes	<10
	9h		99	350.45	3.44	Yes	<10
	9i		60	419.34	5.18	Yes	<10
	9j		72	308.39	4.43	Yes	14
	9k		69	358.40	5.16	Yes	<10
	9l		25	318.41	4.00	Yes	20
Amine	9m		30	502.69	6.60	Yes	100

Amine	9n		38	389.53	4.01	Yes	66
	9o		54	387.56	5.08	Yes	100
	9p		97	291.39	3.07	Yes	<10
	9q		65	296.43	4.20	Yes	<10
	9r		Quant.	296.45	4.67	Yes	<10
	9s		98	340.55	5.10	Yes	17
Amide	10a		55	304.39	3.64	Yes	<10
	10b		Quant.	364.44	3.33	Yes	<10
	10c		95	322.38	3.78	Yes	<10
	10d		25	305.37	2.42	Yes	100
	10e		66	310.41	3.55	Yes	<10
	10f		73	242.32	1.79	Yes	<10
	10g		60	305.37	2.42	Yes	14
	10h		95	305.37	2.81	Yes	<10
	10i		Quant.	306.36	1.59	Yes	<10
	10j		Quant.	530.66	5.31	Yes	80
Bis-amide	11	-	25	361.87	5.21	Yes	32
	13a		80	415.53	3.35	Yes	<10
	13b		75	475.58	3.04	Yes	10
	13c		75	433.52	3.50	Yes	<10
	13d		10	416.52	2.14	Yes	30
	13e		73	415.53	3.35	Yes	<10
	13f		40	475.58	3.04	Yes	10

Compounds inhibiting more than 95% of parasite growth at 5 μ M concentration were further profiled for dose-response to determine half maximal effective concentrations (EC₅₀) against CQ-resistant Dd2 and CQ-sensitive 3D7. The reference antimalarials chloroquine, atovaquone, amodiaquine and artesunate were included as controls and resulted in EC₅₀s in agreement with published results. The original hit molecule **3** and its simplified derivative **11** were also tested for comparison to the newly synthesized compounds (**Table 2**). Cytotoxicity (EC₅₀) of selected

compounds for human cells (HepG2) and selectivity index for CQ-resistant Dd2 (SI_{res}) and CQ-sensitive 3D7 strains (SI_{sen}) are reported in **Table 2**.

Table 2: *In vitro* antimalarial activity (EC_{50}) and cytotoxicity (EC_{50}) of selected compounds.

Compound	<i>P. falciparum</i>		HepG2 EC_{50} (μ M) \pm SD	Selectivity Index	
	EC_{50} (μ M) \pm SD			SI_{res}^a	SI_{sen}^b
	Dd2	3D7			
3	0.94 \pm 0.51	0.24 \pm 0.08	3.86 \pm 0.50	4.10	16.08
9m	0.21 \pm 0.05	0.08 \pm 0.03	0.46 \pm 0.03	2.19	5.75
9o	2.91 \pm 0.35	1.35 \pm 0.45	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
10d	2.95 \pm 0.30	3.80 \pm 0.50	12.80 \pm 0.28	4.33	3.37
11	5.01 \pm 1.50	6.30 \pm 1.50	4.24 \pm 0.21	0.85	0.67
Chloroquine	285 \pm 58 ^c	23 \pm 1 ^c	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Atovaquone	0.19 \pm 0.06 ^c	0.35 \pm 0.14 ^c	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Amodiaquine	12.30 \pm 4.21 ^c	5.85 \pm 2.20 ^c	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Artesunate	1.76 \pm 0.43 ^c	1.97 \pm 0.29 ^c	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.

^a $SI_{res} = EC_{50} \text{ HepG2} / EC_{50} \text{ PfDd2}$; ^b $SI_{sen} = EC_{50} \text{ HepG2} / EC_{50} \text{ Pf3D7}$; n.d.= not determined; ^c EC_{50} values in nM; n.d.= not determined.

The hit compound **3** was resynthesized and tested against the Dd2 and 3D7 strains and exhibited an EC_{50} of 0.94 μ M (Dd2) and 0.24 μ M (3D7), which confirmed the previously observed cross-resistance with CQ (resistance index (RI) calculated as $EC_{50} \text{ Dd2} / EC_{50} \text{ 3D7} = 4$). Interestingly, we found significantly decreased activity for this compound in our assay compared to that reported ($EC_{50} \text{ 3D7} = 0.03 \mu\text{M}$) [28]. This discrepancy in activities could be the consequence of different assays conditions, or possibly the result of inaccurate compound assay concentration, or presence of a biological active contaminant in the original HTS assay plates.

In a first approach to determine the requirement of each fragment of hit **3** for its antimalarial activity, we tested intermediates **5** and **8**, and concluded that the 4-amino-chloroquinoline moiety is essential for activity. Next, we investigated the requirement of the distal piperidinyl fragment

for the antimalarial activity of **3**. Removal of this fragment leads to a compound (**11**), which had substantially decreased antimalarial activity when compared to compound **3** (Tables 1 and 2).

We then further explored the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole scaffold. The effect of chemically diverse substituents linked to the N-piperidinyl group was investigated within the first series of amine derivatives (**9a-s**). Various aromatic fragments, including bicyclic (**9a-d**), monocyclic (**9e-l**) and mono heterocyclic (**9p-q**), as well as alkyl fragments (**9r-s**) were introduced in place of the 4-aminoquinoline. The results indicate that, with the exception of the N-acyl indole fragment (**9b**), none of the smaller fragments tested lead to compounds with anti-parasitic activity. However, the introduction of a second 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole group linked through the *p*-position of the benzyl ring afforded a compound (**9m**) with significant antimalarial activity against both Dd2 and 3D7 strains of *P. falciparum* (EC₅₀s of 0.21 and 0.08 μM, respectively). Due to the increased lipophilic properties of **9m**, simplification of the latter benzyl substitution was investigated. The introduction of a basic piperidine group resulted in a compound (**9o**) with some antimalarial activity against both strains of *P. falciparum* (Dd2 EC₅₀ = 2.91 and 3D7 EC₅₀ = 1.35 μM), whereas the introduction of a less basic morpholine group decreases the activity (**9n**). Overall, the results indicate that in the amine series the antimalarial activity depends mostly on lipophilicity and the basic characteristics of the compounds, which may be a nonspecific antiproliferative effect as compound **9m** also showed an equivalent EC₅₀ (0.46 μM) against the HepG2 cell line.

We next investigated the effect of an amide linkage in place of the basic amine, conferring rotational hindrance to the molecules, decreased basicity, as well as providing a hydrogen bond acceptor. A series of N-acyl substituted 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indoles with a wide variety of aromatic groups was synthesized. However, only one of the tested amide derivatives (**10a-j**) was active against Dd2. Compound **10d**, which was derived from N-acyl pyridin-3-yl substitution, demonstrated antimalarial activity (EC₅₀ = 2.95 μM) comparable to analogue **9o**. Notably **10d** has a significantly improved cLogP compared to **9o** (2.42 vs 5.08). Moreover, **10d** did not show cross-resistance with CQ (RI = 1.3) and was modestly selective (4x) for *P. falciparum* over the tested human cell line (EC₅₀ = 12.8 μM). Interestingly, the activity was highly susceptible to the substitution position of the pyridinyl moiety, with the N-acyl pyridine-4-yl (**10g**) and N-acyl pyridine-2-yl (**10h**) derivatives being inactive against the parasite, suggesting that the relative spatial disposition of the carbonyl group and the nitrogen atom is required for activity.

Comparison of the activity of bis-3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole compound **9m** and its bis-amide counterpart **10j**, suggests that the amide bond significantly reduces the antimalarial activity (**10j** with EC₅₀ > 5 μM). To broaden our structure-activity relationship study we also examined a small series of analogues containing the 4-(piperidine-1-carbonyl)piperidin-1-yl scaffold with structurally diverse N-acyl substituents (**13a-f**). No significant antimalarial activity was observed for the tested N-acyl derivatives, (**13a-f** with EC₅₀ > 5 μM). Moreover, when comparing the N-acyl pyridin-3-yl substitution in the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole series (**10d**) to the same N-acyl substitution in the 4-(4-piperidine-1-carbonyl)piperidin-1-yl-1*H*-indole series (**13d**), the introduction of the second piperidinyl group results in loss of antimalarial activity.

3. Conclusion:

Despite efforts to protect the useful lifespan of frontline therapies, antimalarial drug resistance remains an ever-present threat. This challenge demands new drugs, preferably new chemotypes active against drug resistant parasites, with a good pharmacologic profile and affordable to endemic areas. Here we applied a rational fragment-based approach to design three related series of 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indoles around TCMDC-134281 (**3**), which was previously identified by GSK in a HTS campaign, to develop robust SAR and to validate this chemotype for further preclinical development. Altogether, 38 compounds were synthesized and evaluated for antimalarial activity. Compounds that demonstrate promising activity against the multidrug-resistant *P. falciparum* Dd2 strain were also tested in the 3D7 parasite strain and counterscreened in human HepG2 cells.

The SAR study revealed that the 4-aminoquinolinyl moiety present in hit **3** can be replaced by some smaller groups without significantly affecting activity. Compounds, which retained activity in spite of the absence of the chloroquine motif, demonstrate the potential of the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole scaffold as a new class of antimalarial drugs independent from the 4-aminoquinolines.

Our results suggest that the 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole scaffold is very sensitive to most *N*-piperidinyl modifications. Out of the analogues synthesized, only three were active (**9m**, **9o** and **10d**). While **9o** showed cross-resistance to chloroquine and **9m** was not selective in HepG2 cytotoxicity assays, the (4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(pyridin-3-yl)methanone (**10d**) showed *in vitro* antimalarial activity (EC₅₀ values ~3 μM), no cross-resistance with chloroquine,

selectivity for the parasite, and lead-like properties ($c\text{LogP} \leq 3$; $\text{MW} \leq 300$). This represents a promising new antimalarial chemotype with a potential novel mechanism of action. Further medicinal chemistry efforts are underway to improve the potency of compound **10d** and disclose its antimalarial mechanism of action.

4. Experimental:

4.1. Chemistry

4.1.1. General

All chemicals were purchased from Chem-Impex International, Aldrich, Fluka, and Sigma- Aldrich Co. and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. All solvents for syntheses were anhydrous. Thin layer chromatography was performed with precoated aluminum-backed TLC plates obtained from VWR: Aluminum Oxide 60, Neutral F254 & Silica Gel 60, Neutral F254. Visualization of TLC plates was performed with ninhydrin, iodine, or an UVGL-25 Compact UV Lamp 254/365 UV (UVP 115V~60Hz/0.16 Amps). Purifications were performed on a Biotage Isolera 4 Purification System equipped with a 200-400 nm diode array detector. For flash purifications, Biotage SNAP Flash Chromatography Cartridges were used. Purity of compounds was determined by analytical LC-ELSD-MS performed on a Waters 2545 HPLC equipped with a 2998 diode array detector, a Waters 3100 ESI-MS module, using a XTerraMS C18 5 μm , 4.6 x 50 mm column at a flow rate of 5 mL/minute with a linear gradient (95% A: 5% B to 100% B with 90 seconds and 30 seconds hold at 100% B, solvent A = water + 0.1% formic acid, solvent B = acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid). Proton and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra) were recorded on a Bruker AscendTM instrument at 400 and 101 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to residual solvent peaks for DMSO (2.5 ppm), CHCl_3 (7.26 ppm), H_2O (4.79 ppm) and CH_3OH (3.31 ppm). Data is reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s= singlet, d= doublet, t= triplet, q= quadruplet, m= multiplet, br=broad), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. Instant JChem was used for structure database management, search and prediction, Instant JChem 5.9.3, 2012, ChemAxon (<http://www.chemaxon.com>).

4.1.2. Synthesis

3-(1-benzyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1H-indole (4)

5 g (42.7 mmol) of indole were dissolved in isopropanol (50 mL). To this solution, potassium hydroxide (7.18 g, 128 mmol) in isopropanol (50 mL) was added, followed by the addition of 1-benzypiperidine-4-one (20 mL, 108 mmol) in isopropanol (50 mL). The reaction refluxed for 6h, after which it was cooled to room temperature. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure.

The crude product was purified using flash chromatography using a gradient elution of Hexane/Ethyl Acetate. The desired product was obtained as a yellow solid (12.01 g, 98%).

ESI-MS: C₂₀H₂₀N₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 289.16, Found: 289.18. **¹H NMR** δ (MeOD) 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.31 (m, 6H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.14 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (tt, *J* = 3.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.26 (m, 2H), 2.80 (t, *F* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** δ (MeOD) 138.8, 138.3, 131.7, 130.9, 129.4, 128.5, 126.4, 123.1, 122.5, 121.2, 120.4, 118.3, 117.7, 112.5, 63.8, 54.1, 51.1, 29.6.

3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (5)

4 g (13.8 mmol) of compound **4** were dissolved in 10% acetic acid in ethyl acetate (160 mL). To this solution, 1.2 g of 10% palladium over activated carbon were added. The reaction was placed under 1 atm of H₂ (balloon) and stirred for 50 h, at r.t. Reaction mixture was filtered over Celite™ and washed with ethyl acetate followed by acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1). Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product purified with flash chromatography using a gradient elution of ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) with 1% ammonium hydroxide to afford compound **5** as a yellow solid (2.66 g, 96%).

ESI-MS: C₁₃H₁₆N₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 201.13, Found: 201.42. **¹H NMR** δ (MeOD) 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.01 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 3.22 – 3.06 (m, 3H), 2.23 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.92 (s, NH); **¹³C NMR** δ (MeOD) 136.9, 126.0, 121.1, 119.9, 118.3, 118.0, 117.9, 111.1, 44.2, 31.5, 29.7.

tert-butyl 4-(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (6)

To 1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperidine-4-carboxylic acid (1 g, 4.36 mmol) in acetonitrile (25 mL) was added compound **5** (873.2 mg, 4.36 mmol) in acetonitrile (25 mL), followed by N,N'-

dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (899.6 mg, 4.36 mmol) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (589.1 mg, 4.36 mmol). The reaction stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Suspension was filtered and solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified using reverse phase flash chromatography using a gradient elution of water/acetonitrile to afford compound **6** as a white solid (1.08 g, 60%).

ESI-MS: C₂₄H₃₃N₃O₃, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 412.25, Found: 412.42. **¹H NMR** δ (MeOD) 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 4.69 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 3.34–3.31 (m, 1H), 3.21–3.13 (tt, *J* = 12.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.21 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.60 (m, 6H), 1.50 (s, 9H); **¹³C NMR** δ (MeOD) 173.7, 155.0, 136.9, 126.3, 120.9, 119.9, 119.8, 119.0, 118.1, 110.9, 79.7, 45.9, 42.5, 37.9, 33.7, 32.5, 28.2, 27.3.

tert-butyl 4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (7)

To a solution of **6** (100 mg, 0.24 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at -78°C was added DIBAL in THF (730 μL of 1M solution, 0.73 mmol). The reaction stirred at -78°C for 1 h and then quenched with MeOH followed by addition of 1M aq. sodium potassium tartrate. The reaction mixture stirred until clear and was extracted with ethyl acetate. Organic phase was washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product purified with flash chromatography using a gradient elution of ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford compound **7** as a beige solid (33.4 mg, 35%).

ESI-MS: C₂₄H₃₅N₃O₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 398.27, Found: 398.47. **¹H NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 8.05 (s, NH), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.71 (t, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (td, *J* = 11.9, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.64 (m, 5H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.11 (qd, *J* = 12.1, 3.4 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 154.8, 136.2, 126.5, 121.7, 121.4, 119.5, 118.9, 118.8, 111.0, 79.0, 64.9, 54.8, 33.7, 33.4, 32.8, 30.8, 28.3, 28.2.

3-(1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (8)

Compound **7** (30 mg, 0.075 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 2M HCl in MeOH (3 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 20 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by reverse phase flash chromatography using a gradient elution of water/acetonitrile to afford the desired product as a yellow solid (22.4 mg, qtt yield).

ESI-MS: C₁₉H₂₇N₃, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 298.22, Found: 298.45. **¹H NMR** δ (D₂O) 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.24 – 3.05 (m, 7H), 2.32 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 2.16 – 1.97 (m, 4H), 1.94 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.60 (q, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR** δ (D₂O) 136.3, 125.4, 122.1, 121.3, 119.3, 118.7, 117.5, 112.1, 61.3, 53.7, 43.2, 30.5, 29.6, 28.7, 26.2.

4-(4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)piperidin-1-yl)-6-chloroquinoline (3)

To a solution of compound **8** (20 mg, 0.067 mmol) and DIPEA (35.21 μL, 0.202 mmol) in isopropanol (2 mL) was added 4,6-dichloroquinoline (19.80 mg, 0.10 mmol). The reaction mixture stirred under reflux for 56 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography using a gradient elution of ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford compound **3** as a beige oil (4.6 mg, 15%).

ESI-MS: C₂₈H₃₁ClN₄, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 459.22, Found: 459.37. **¹H NMR** δ (MeOD) 8.68 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (br, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.67-3.81 (m, 4H), 3.24-3.29 (m, 5H), 3.04 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 2.28-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (qd, *J* = 12.5, 3.7 Hz, 2H).

General Procedure A:

Aldehyde (1.5 eq.) and amine (1 eq.) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane, followed by addition of sodium triacetoxyborohydride (1.4 eq.). The reaction was stirred at room temperature under inert atmosphere for 4 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO₃, and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford the desired product.

General Procedure B:

To a solution of acid chloride (1 eq.) in DCM (3 mL) was added a suspension of compound **5** (1.1 eq.) in sat. aq. NaHCO₃ (3 mL). The reaction mixture stirred vigorously at room temperature for 10 min. The organic phase was washed with HCl (aq., 10%), sat. aq. NaHCO₃ and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford the desired product.

General Procedure C:

To a solution of acid chloride (1 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) was added a solution of compound **5** (1.1 eq.) and DIPEA (3 eq.) in DCM (2 mL). The reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 h and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford the desired product.

General Procedure D:

To a solution of carboxylic acid (1 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) was added a solution of compound **5** (1 eq.) and DIPEA (3 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) followed by PyBOP (1.1 eq.). The reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 h and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford the desired product.

4-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)benzaldehyde

Reaction of terephthaldehyde (235.2 mg, 1.75 mmol), piperidine (100 mg, 1.17 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (348.6 mg, 1.64 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 166.25 mg (70 %) of desired aldehyde as a light yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₁₃H₁₇NO, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 204.13, Found: 204.33. **¹H NMR** δ (MeOD) 10.01 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.52 – 2.46 (m, 4H), 1.70 – 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.53 – 1.49 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** δ (MeOD) 192.4, 144.6, 135.8, 129.9, 129.3, 62.8, 54.1, 25.1, 23.7.

4-(morpholinomethyl)benzaldehyde

Reaction of terephthaldehyde (231.2 mg, 1.73 mmol), morpholine (100 mg, 1.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (340.6 mg, 1.60 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 136.80 mg (58 %) of desired aldehyde as a light yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₁₂H₁₅NO₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 206.11, Found: 206.71. ¹H NMR δ (MeOD) 10.01 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.77 – 3.71 (m, 4H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 2.55 – 2.48 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ (MeOD) 192.4, 144.8, 135.8, 129.6, 125.7, 66.4, 62.4, 53.3.

4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)-1,5-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-pyrazol-3-one (9a)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde (32.4 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 28.4 mg (79 %) of desired compound as a yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₅H₂₈N₄O, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 401.23, Found: 401.14. ¹H NMR δ (MeOD) 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.2, 1.2 Hz 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.00 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.49 (t, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.92 (qd, *J* = 12.1, 3.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (MeOD) 166.0, 154.4, 136.9, 134.2, 129.2, 127.9, 126.4, 125.9, 120.8, 119.7, 119.4, 118.2, 117.9, 110.9, 101.4, 53.3, 49.3, 33.7, 32.9, 32.0, 10.0.

1-(3-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (9b)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 1-acetyl-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (28.1 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 25.3 mg (76 %) of desired amine as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₂₄H₂₅N₃O, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 372.21, Found: 372.41. ¹H NMR δ (CDCl₃) 8.45 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 8.2, 1.2 Hz 1H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J*

= 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 3.15 (d, $J = 11.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.87 (tt, $J = 12.9, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 (td, $J = 11.8, 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.07 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.88 (qd, $J = 12.3, 3.6$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl₃) 169.0, 136.9, 136.4, 131.3, 127.1, 125.7, 124.8, 124.6, 123.9, 123.5, 122.4, 121.8, 120.1, 119.6, 117.0, 111.9, 111.7, 54.9, 54.0, 33.9, 33.4, 24.5.

2-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (9c)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), 8-hydroxyquinoline-2-carbaldehyde (64.8 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 92.6 mg (99 %) of desired amine as a light yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₃H₂₃N₃O, m/z calculated for [M+H]⁺: 358.18, Found: 358.20. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (MeOD) 8.17 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (ddd, $J = 7.5, 6.9, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.28 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 2.97 (tt, $J = 11.4, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.75 (td, $J = 11.6, 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.14 – 1.96 (m, 4H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (MeOD) 154.2, 153.7, 139.4, 138.5, 138.3, 129.6, 128.9, 127.7, 122.6, 122.4, 121.3, 119.9, 119.6, 119.0, 118.4, 112.54, 112.4, 63.6, 55.2, 33.5, 32.2.

3-(1-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9d)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), benzo[b]thiophene-3-carbaldehyde (60.7 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 47.6 mg (55 %) of desired amine as a light yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₂H₂₂N₂S, m/z calculated for [M+H]⁺: 347.15, Found: 347.16. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (DMSO) 10.77 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.95 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 3.00 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.77 (tt, $J = 12.0, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (t, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.98 – 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.69 (qd, $J = 12.3, 3.7$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (DMSO) 139.9, 138.8, 136.4, 133.4, 126.3, 124.8, 124.3, 123.9, 122.8, 122.7, 120.8, 120.5, 119.6, 118.5, 118.0, 111.4, 56.2, 53.9, 33.1, 32.8.

3-(1-benzylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9e)

Reaction of compound **5** (100 mg, 0.50 mmol), benzaldehyde (79.4 mg, 0.7 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (118.6 mg, 0.75 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 76.2 mg

(53 %) of desired amine as a dark yellow solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{20}H_{22}N_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 291.18, Found: 291.12. 1H NMR δ (MeOD) 7.58 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 7.08 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.00 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.80 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (td, $J = 12.2, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.02 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.84 (qd, $J = 12.1, 3.3$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ (MeOD) 136.9, 132.8, 129.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.1, 126.5, 120.8, 119.7, 118.4, 117.9, 110.9, 63.1, 53.8, 33.4, 32.3.

3-(1-(2-methylbenzyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9f)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), 2-methylbenzaldehyde (44.9 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 41.8 mg (55 %) of desired amine as a light orange solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{21}H_{24}N_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 305.19, Found: 305.17. 1H NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 4H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.09 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.87 (tt, $J = 12.0, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.28 (td, $J = 12.1, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.12 – 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.84 (qd, $J = 12.2, 3.3$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 137.7, 136.5, 130.5, 130.3, 130.3, 127.4, 126.8, 125.8, 121.9, 121.3, 119.9, 119.2, 119.1, 111.3, 60.7, 54.3, 33.5, 32.8, 19.6.

4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)-3,5-dimethoxyphenol (9g)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 4-hydroxy-2,6-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (27.3 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 13.6 mg (42 %) of desired amine as a yellow solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{22}H_{26}N_2O_3$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 367.19, Found: 367.12. 1H NMR δ (DMSO) 10.91 (s, 1H), 10.12 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.21 (s, 2H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.40 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 3.11 – 2.94 (m, 3H), 2.22 – 1.92 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR δ (DMSO) 161.1, 160.1, 136.4, 125.8, 120.9, 120.8, 118.8, 118.2, 117.7, 111.5, 91.9, 55.8, 55.4, 51.9, 48.8, 43.5, 31.0, 30.7, 29.5, 29.0.

2-(3-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)phenoxy)ethan-1-ol (9h)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzaldehyde (62.3 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general

procedure A, gave 86.7 mg (99 %) of desired amine as an orange oil.

ESI-MS: $C_{22}H_{26}N_2O_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 351.20, Found: 351.21. **1H NMR** δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.13 (dd, $J = 5.3, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (dd, $J = 5.3, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.15 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.88 (tt, $J = 11.4, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.36 (t, $J = 10.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.13 – 1.93 (m, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** δ ($CDCl_3$) 159.1, 136.5, 129.5, 126.6, 122.6, 121.9, 120.6, 120.1, 119.2, 119.0, 115.9, 114.4, 111.4, 69.4, 62.8, 61.5, 53.9, 33.1, 32.1.

3-(1-(2,6-dichloro-3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9i)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), 2,6-dichloro-3,4-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (87.6 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 62.9 mg (60 %) of desired amine as red solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{22}H_{24}Cl_2N_2O_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 419.12, Found: 419.33. **1H NMR** δ (DMSO) 10.74 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.09 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.94 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 2.92 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.77 (tt, $J = 12.0, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 (t, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.92 (d, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.62 (qd, $J = 12.2, 3.5$ Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** δ (DMSO) 152.6, 143.9, 136.3, 130.3, 130.2, 126.3, 120.7, 120.4, 119.5, 118.5, 117.9, 112.6, 111.4, 60.1, 56.5, 56.4, 53.7, 32.8.

3-(1-(4-fluorobenzyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9j)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (46.4 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 55 mg (72 %) of desired amine as yellow oil.

ESI-MS: $C_{20}H_{21}FN_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 309.17, Found: 309.09. **1H NMR** δ (MeOD) 7.60 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.17 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.94 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (t, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.11 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.93 (qd, $J = 12.1, 3.3$ Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** δ (MeOD) 164.1 (d, $^1J_{CF} = 245$ Hz), 138.3, 133.3, 127.7, 122.3, 121.2, 120.3, 119.6, 119.5, 116.4, 116.2, 112.4, 62.6, 54.7, 34.0, 32.9.

3-(1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9k)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (26.1 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 22.2 mg (69 %) of desired amine as a beige oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₁H₂₁F₃N₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 359.17, Found: 359.32. ¹H NMR δ (MeOD) 7.72 – 7.55 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 7.00 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.06 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (tt, *J* = 12.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (td, *J* = 12.3, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.89 (qd, *J* = 12.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (MeOD) 143.3, 138.3, 131.3, 127.9, 126.2, 126.2, 126.1, 122.2, 121.1, 121.0, 119.6, 119.3, 112.3, 63.7, 55.3, 34.7, 33.8.

4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)benzaldehyde (9l)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), terephthalaldehyde (50.3 mg, 0.37 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 19.9 mg (25 %) of desired amine as beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₂₁H₂₂N₂O, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 319.17, Found: 319.23. ¹H NMR δ (CDCl₃) 10.00 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.01 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (td, *J* = 11.8, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (qd, *J* = 11.9, 3.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃) 191.9, 145.7, 136.2, 135.2, 129.6, 129.5, 126.8, 121.7, 121.1, 119.5, 118.9, 111.0, 62.9, 54.2, 33.2, 32.7.

1,4-bis((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)benzene (9m)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), terephthalaldehyde (50.3 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 37.7 mg (30 %) of desired amine as beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₃₄H₃₈N₄, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 503.31, Found: 503.29. ¹H NMR δ (DMSO) 10.74 (s, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.25 (m, 6H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (s, 4H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 4H), 2.75 (tt, *J* = 12.2, 3.8 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (td, *J* = 11.8, 2.5 Hz, 4H), 1.96 – 1.86 (m, 4H), 1.69 (qd, *J* = 12.0, 3.4 Hz, 4H);

^{13}C NMR δ (DMSO) 137.2, 136.3, 128.6, 126.3, 120.7, 120.5, 119.6, 118.5, 117.9, 111.4, 62.4, 53.8, 33.1, 32.8.

4-(4-((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methyl)benzyl)morpholine (9n)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 4-(morpholinomethyl)benzaldehyde (30.8 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 14.8 mg (38 %) of desired amine as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_3\text{O}$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 390.25, Found: 390.17. ^1H NMR δ (CDCl_3) 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.16 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (ddd, $J = 7.8, 7.1, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.76 – 3.67 (m, 4H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 3.22 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.52 – 2.37 (m, 6H), 2.10 – 2.06 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR δ (CDCl_3) 136.5, 130.4, 130.3, 129.6, 129.6, 126.6, 122.1, 120.1, 119.3, 118.9, 111.5, 67.1, 63.2, 62.2, 53.7, 32.8, 31.7.

3-(1-(4-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)benzyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9o)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), 4-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)benzaldehyde (30.5 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 20.9 mg (54 %) of desired amine as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_3$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 388.27, Found: 388.43. ^1H NMR δ (CDCl_3) 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.18 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 3.03 (d, $J = 11.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.84 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 – 2.31 (m, 4H), 2.17 (td, $J = 11.9, 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.08 – 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.83 (qd, $J = 12.0, 3.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.58 (m, 4H), 1.44 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ (CDCl_3) 137.2, 137.1, 136.4, 129.1, 129.0, 126.7, 121.9, 121.7, 119.6, 119.0, 111.1, 63.7, 63.4, 54.5, 54.4, 33.5, 33.1, 25.9, 24.4.

3-(1-(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9p)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), isonicotinaldehyde (40.1 mg, 0.37 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 70.6 mg (97 %) of desired amine as orange oil.

ESI-MS: C₁₉H₂₁N₃, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 292.17, Found: 292.36. ¹H NMR δ (MeOD) 8.49 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.84 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (t, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (qd, *J* = 12.0, 3.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (MeOD) 150.0, 149.8, 149.7, 138.3, 127.9, 126.0, 122.7, 122.2, 121.1, 120.9, 119.7, 119.4, 112.3, 62.8, 55.4, 34.6, 33.8.

3-(1-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9q)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), thiophene-2-carbaldehyde (16.8 mg, 0.15 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (29.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 19.24 mg (65 %) of desired amine as a light yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₁₈H₂₀N₂S, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 297.13, Found: 297.37. ¹H NMR δ (CDCl₃) 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (t, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (qd, *J* = 11.8, 3.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃) 142.0, 136.8, 127.2, 126.9, 126.7, 125.4, 122.4, 121.9, 120.1, 119.6, 119.5, 111.6, 57.9, 54.4, 33.9, 33.4.

3-(1-(cyclohexylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indole (9r)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), (*S*)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-enal (42.1 mg, 0.375 mmol) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 74.1 mg (qtt yield) of desired amine as orange oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₀H₂₈N₂, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 298.23, Found: 298.20. ¹H NMR δ (CDCl₃) 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.15 – 1.97 (m, 4H), 1.95 – 1.79 (m, 4H), 1.78 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.36 – 1.08 (m, 4H), 1.02 – 0.82 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃) 136.5, 126.8, 121.9, 121.6, 119.9, 119.2, 119.1, 111.3, 66.3, 55.1, 35.3, 33.7, 32.9, 32.3, 26.9, 26.3.

3-(1-((S)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl)indoline (9s)

Reaction of compound **5** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol), (*S*)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-enal (57.7 mg, 0.375 mmol)

and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (74.1 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure A, gave 83.4 mg (98 %) of desired amine as a dark orange oil.

ESI-MS: $C_{23}H_{36}N_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 341.29, Found: 341.28. 1H NMR δ (DMSO) 10.75 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.94 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.01 (m, 1H), 2.94 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.72 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.11 – 1.80 (m, 6H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.07 (m, 4H), 0.87 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR δ (DMSO) 136.4, 130.4, 126.3, 124.7, 120.7, 120.4, 119.7, 118.5, 117.9, 111.4, 58.8, 56.3, 54.3, 53.9, 36.7, 33.6, 33.3, 32.9, 30.2, 25.5, 24.9, 19.6, 17.5.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (10a)

Reaction of compound **5** (78.6 mg, 0.39 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (50 mg, 0.36 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 59.9 mg (55 %) of desired amide as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{20}H_{20}N_2O$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 305.16, Found: 305.13. 1H NMR δ (DMSO) 10.81 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, $J = 7.9, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.61 (br, 1H), 3.68 (br, 1H), 3.23 (br, 1H), 3.08 (tt, $J = 3.4, 12.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.95 (br, 1H), 2.15 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.68 – 1.58 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ (DMSO) 169.4, 137.0, 136.8, 129.7, 128.9, 127.1, 126.6, 121.4, 121.3, 119.4, 118.9, 118.6, 111.9, 48.2, 42.6, 33.6.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (10b)

Reaction of compound **5** (54.9 mg, 0.27 mmol) and 2,5-dimethoxybenzoyl chloride (50 mg, 0.25 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 91.04 mg (qtt yeild) of desired amide as a white solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{22}H_{24}N_2O_3$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 365.18, Found: 365.16. 1H NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.37 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.51 (t, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (br, 1H), 3.91 (br, 1H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.20 (br, 1H), 3.13 (tt, $J = 11.8, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.98 (br, 1H), 2.18 (br, 1H), 2.06 (br, 1H), 1.82 (br, 1H), 1.66 (br, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 170.1, 160.9, 138.3, 136.6, 126.4, 122.1, 120.2, 119.9, 119.3, 118.9, 111.5, 104.8, 101.6, 55.6, 48.4, 42.9, 33.9, 32.6, 29.8.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (10c)

Reaction of compound **5** (69.6 mg, 0.35 mmol) and 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride (50 mg, 0.32 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 97.9 mg (95%) of desired amide as a yellow oil.

ESI-MS: C₂₀H₁₉FN₂O, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 323.15, Found: 323.33. **¹H NMR** δ (DMSO) 10.73 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.90 (m, 1H), 4.52 (br, 1H), 3.59 (br, 1H), 3.10 (br, 1H), 3.01 (tt, *J* = 11.8, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (br, 1H), 1.91 (br, 2H), 1.57 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** δ (DMSO) 168.5, 162.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 246 Hz), 136.8, 133.4, 129.8, 126.6, 121.3, 119.4, 118.9, 118.6, 115.9, 111.9, 48.4, 42.7, 33.6, 33.2, 29.5.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(pyridin-3-yl)methanone (10d)

Reaction of compound **5** (78.1 mg, 0.39 mmol), nicotinoyl chloride (50 mg, 0.35 mmol) and DIPEA (182.9 μL, 1.05 mmol) according to general procedure C, gave 26.7 mg (25%) of desired amide as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₁₉H₁₉N₃O, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 306.15, Found: 306.38. **¹H NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 8.73 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (s, NH), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (br, 1H), 3.85 (br, 1H), 3.28 (br, 1H), 3.15 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (br, 1H), 2.20 (br, 1H), 2.08 (br, 1H), 1.83 (br, 1H), 1.70 (br, 1H); **¹³C NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 167.8, 150.7, 147.9, 136.6, 135.0, 132.3, 126.4, 123.6, 122.2, 120.0, 119.9, 119.3, 118.9, 111.5, 48.6, 43.2, 33.8, 33.7, 32.5.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (10e)

Reaction of compound **5** (76.1 mg, 0.38 mmol) and 2-thiophenecarbonyl chloride (50 mg, 0.35 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 71.1 mg (66%) of desired amide as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₁₈H₁₈N₂OS, *m/z* calculated for [M+H]⁺: 311.11, Found: 311.29. **¹H NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 8.12 (s, NH), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (br, 2H), 3.25 – 3.08 (m,

3H), 2.17 (br, 1H), 2.14 (br, 1H), 1.79 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 163.8, 137.7, 136.6, 128.7, 128.4, 126.8, 126.5, 122.3, 120.5, 119.9, 119.5, 119.0, 111.5, 34.0, 33.3, 29.9, 22.9, 14.3.

1-(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (10f)

Reaction of compound **5** (140.4 mg, 0.70 mmol) and acetyl chloride (50 mg, 0.64 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 112.8 mg (73%) of desired amide as a yellow solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 243.14, Found: 243.37. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 8.04 (s, NH), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.77 (m, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.26 (ddd, $J = 13.4, 12.9, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (tt, $J = 11.8, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.75 (ddd, $J = 13.4, 12.9, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.76 – 1.60 (m, 4H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 168.9, 136.4, 126.4, 122.2, 120.5, 119.7, 119.3, 118.9, 111.3, 47.1, 42.3, 33.8, 33.6, 32.3, 21.6.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(pyridin-4-yl)methanone (10g)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), isonicotinic acid (12.3 mg, 0.10 mmol), DIPEA (52.3 μL , 0.3 mmol) and PyBOP (57.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) according to general procedure D, gave 18.30 mg (60 %) of desired amide as a yellow oil.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 306.15, Found: 306.09. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 8.71 (dd, $J = 5.9, 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.06 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.86 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (td, $J = 12.5, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (tt, $J = 3.7, 11.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.0 (td, $J = 12.9, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.63 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 167.5, 150.1, 143.9, 136.3, 126.1, 122.1, 120.9, 119.9, 119.5, 119.2, 118.7, 111.2, 48.0, 42.6, 33.6, 32.2, 29.5.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(pyridin-2-yl)methanone (10h)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), picolinic acid (12.3 mg, 0.10 mmol), DIPEA (52.3 μL , 0.3 mmol) and PyBOP (57.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) according to general procedure D, gave 28.98 mg (95 %) of desired amide as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 306.15, Found: 306.38. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 8.71 (s, 2H), 8.22 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.20 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.1,$

1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.1, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.86 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (td, $J = 12.7, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.01 (td, $J = 12.9, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.60 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 167.7, 150.3, 144.0, 136.4, 126.3, 122.2, 121.1, 119.9, 119.8, 119.3, 118.8, 111.4, 48.2, 42.8, 33.7, 33.6, 32.4.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(pyrazin-2-yl)methanone (10i)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), pyrazine-2-carbonyl chloride (14.19 mg, 0.10 mmol), DIPEA (52.3 μL , 0.3 mmol) and PyBOP (57.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) according to general procedure D, gave 30.62 mg (qtt yield) of desired amide as a yellow solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 307.15, Found: 307.38. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 8.94 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.56 (dd, $J = 2.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, NH), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.31 (td, $J = 12.7, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (tt, $J = 11.8, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.04 (td, $J = 12.9, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.95 – 1.76 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3) 165.7, 150.4, 145.7, 145.6, 143.2, 138.2, 126.8, 122.6, 120.7, 120.3, 119.8, 119.3, 111.8, 48.5, 43.8, 34.2, 33.9, 32.9.

1,4-phenylenebis((4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)methanone) (10j)

Reaction of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol), terephthalic acid (8.30 mg, 0.05 mmol), DIPEA (52.3 μL , 0.3 mmol) and PyBOP (57.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) according to general procedure D, gave 53.02 mg (qtt yield) of desired amide as a white solid.

ESI-MS: $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$, m/z calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 531.27, Found: 531.45. $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (DMSO) 10.81 (s, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (s, 4H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.61 (br, 2H), 3.70 (br, 2H), 3.26 (br, 2H), 3.09 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (br, 2H), 2.07 (br, 1H), 1.93 (br, 1H), 1.70 – 1.60 (m, 4H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (DMSO) 168.8, 137.8, 136.8, 127.3, 126.6, 121.4, 121.3, 119.4, 118.9, 118.6, 111.9, 49.1, 48.2, 33.6, 33.1, 14.4.

4-(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)-6-chloroquinoline (11)

To a solution of compound **5** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol) and DIPEA (52.3 μ L, 0.3 mmol) in isopropanol (2 ml) was added 4,6-dichloroquinoline (19.80 mg, 0.10 mmol). The reaction mixture stirred under reflux for 56h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography using a gradient elution of ethyl acetate/acetonitrile:water:methanol (1:1:1) to afford compound **11** as a yellow oil (9.05 mg, 25%).

ESI-MS: $C_{22}H_{20}ClN_3$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 362.13, Found: 361.14. **1H NMR** (DMSO) 10.89 (s, NH), 8.66 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.22 – 8.09 (m, 2H), 8.02 (dd, $J = 9.1, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (ddd, $J = 7.8, 7.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 4.28 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.70 (td, $J = 12.8, 2.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.29 (tt, $J = 11.4, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.20 (dd, $J = 11.9, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.02 (qd, $J = 12.9, 2.4$ Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** δ (DMSO) 159.5, 142.0, 138.5, 136.4, 133.5, 131.9, 130.3, 126.1, 125.3, 121.0, 120.9, 120.0, 118.6, 118.4, 118.2, 111.5, 106.2, 52.4, 32.4.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(piperidin-4-yl)methanone (12)

Compound **6** (200 mg, 0.49 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 2M HCl in MeOH (6 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 40 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by reverse phase flash chromatography using a gradient elution of water/acetonitrile to afford the desired product as a yellow solid (151.2 mg, qtt yield).

ESI-MS: $C_{19}H_{25}N_3O$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 312.20, Found: 312.41. **1H NMR** δ (MeOD) 8.49 (s, NH), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.01 (ddd, $J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (m, 2H), 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.24 – 3.08 (m, 4H), 2.87 (td, $J = 12.9, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.12 (d, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.86 (m, 4H), 1.70 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** δ (MeOD) 173.7, 138.3, 127.7, 122.3, 121.2, 120.3, 119.5, 119.4, 112.3, 47.5, 44.4, 43.9, 36.7, 35.2, 34.9, 33.9, 26.8, 26.6, 25.9.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(1-benzoylpiperidin-4-yl)methanone (13a)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (7.56 mg, 0.054 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 22.4 mg (80 %) of desired product as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{26}H_{29}N_3O_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 416.23, Found: 416.22. 1H NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.66 (s, NH), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.76 (m, 1H), 4.52 (br, 1H), 4.03 (m, 1H), 3.87 (br, 1H), 3.25 (t, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.09 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.70 (m, 5H), 2.23 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.59 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 172.6, 170.7, 136.6, 135.9, 133.1, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.9, 126.3, 121.9, 120.0, 119.8, 119.1, 118.8, 111.5, 51.9, 47.4, 46.3, 42.9, 42.0, 40.9, 38.4, 33.9, 32.5, 28.9.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(1-(3,5-dimethoxybenzoyl)piperidin-4-yl)methanone (13b)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) and 3,5-dimethoxybenzoyl chloride (10.8 mg, 0.054 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 19.24 mg (75 %) of desired product as a beige oil.

ESI-MS: $C_{28}H_{33}N_3O_4$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 476.25, Found: 476.42. 1H NMR δ (MeOD) 7.61 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, $J = 2.9, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.70 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.24 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 6H), 3.80 (br, 1H), 3.30 – 3.07 (m, 3H), 3.01 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.22 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.14 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.99 – 1.55 (m, 7H); ^{13}C NMR δ (MeOD) 174.8, 172.1, 162.6, 138.9, 138.3, 127.7, 122.3, 121.2, 120.4, 119.5, 119.4, 112.3, 105.5, 102.5, 56.0, 47.4, 43.9, 39.3, 35.3, 35.1, 33.9.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(1-(4-fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-4-yl)methanone (13c)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) and 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride (8.53 mg, 0.054 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 17.54 mg (75 %) of desired product as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{26}H_{28}FN_3O_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 434.22, Found: 434.23. 1H NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.11 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 7.5, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.06 (m, 3H), 6.95 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, $J = 12.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 (br, 1H), 4.03 (d, $J = 12.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (br, 1H), 3.27 (t, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.12 (tt, $J = 11.9, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.01 (br, 1H), 2.93 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.19 (d, $J = 12.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.96 – 1.56 (m, 7H); ^{13}C NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 172.3, 169.6, 163.4 (d, $^1J_{CF} = 248$ Hz), 136.4, 132.0,

129.2, 126.3, 122.2, 120.2, 119.7, 119.3, 118.8, 115.7, 115.5, 111.4, 46.2, 42.7, 40.9, 38.4, 33.9, 32.4.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(1-nicotinoylpiperidin-4-yl)methanone (13d)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol), nicotinoyl chloride (7.61 mg, 0.054 mmol) and DIPEA (52.3 μ L, 0.16 mmol) according to general procedure C, gave 5.6 mg (25%) of desired product as a beige solid.

ESI-MS: C₂₅H₂₈N₄O₂, m/z calculated for [M+H]⁺: 417.22, Found: 417.41. **¹H NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 8.73 – 8.60 (m, 2H), 8.23 (s, NH), 7.76 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (br, 1H), 4.02 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (br, J = 1H), 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.12 (tt, J = 11.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (br, 1H), 2.86 (td, J = 9.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (t, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 1.95 – 1.79 (m, 3H), 1.77 – 1.58 (m, 4H); **¹³C NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 172.1, 167.8, 150.7, 147.8, 136.5, 134.9, 131.9, 126.3, 123.5, 122.1, 120.1, 119.8, 119.3, 118.8, 111.4, 50.8, 46.2, 42.7, 38.2, 33.9, 32.4.

(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl)(1-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)piperidin-4-yl)methanone (13e)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) and thiophene-2-carbonyl chloride (7.88 mg, 0.054 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 16.6 mg (73 %) of desired product as a white solid.

ESI-MS: C₂₄H₂₇N₃O₂S, m/z calculated for [M+H]⁺: 422.18, Found: 422.19. **¹H NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 8.19 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 2H), 3.18–3.01 (m, 4H), 2.91–2.84 (m, 2H), 2.16 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 2.03–1.52 (m, 8H); **¹³C NMR** δ (CDCl₃) 172.8, 164.2, 137.6, 136.9, 129.1, 128.9, 127.1, 126.8, 122.6, 120.6, 120.2, 119.7, 119.3, 111.8, 52.4, 41.4, 38.8, 34.3, 29.2, 28.7.

1-(4-(4-(1H-indol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)piperidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (13f)

Reaction of compound **12** (20 mg, 0.06 mmol) and acetyl chloride (4.21 mg, 0.054 mmol) according to general procedure B, gave 7.62 mg (40 %) of desired product as a white solid.

ESI-MS: $C_{21}H_{27}N_3O_2$, m/z calculated for $[M+H]^+$: 354.21, Found: 354.20. 1H NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 8.15 (s, NH), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.77 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (t, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 – 3.08 (m, 2H), 2.88 – 2.66 (m, 2H), 2.24–2.16 (m, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.56 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR δ ($CDCl_3$) 172.9, 169.4, 136.9, 126.8, 122.6, 120.7, 120.2, 119.7, 119.3, 111.8, 49.6, 46.7, 46.3, 43.1, 41.5, 38.8, 34.4, 32.8, 26.1, 25.4, 21.9.

4.2. Biological Evaluation

4.2.1. *In vitro* Drug Sensitivity and EC_{50} Determination.

Drug assays were performed as previously described [37], with modifications for 384-well format. Briefly, synchronized ring-stage parasites were cultured in the presence of triplicate 12 point 2-fold serial dilutions of test compounds in 40 μ l of RPMI-1640 (Sigma, USA) supplemented with 0.5% AlbuMAX® II (Gibco®, 11021-045) at 1.0% hematocrit and an initial parasitemia of 1.0% in black clear-bottom plates (Greiner Bio-one, 781090). Following a 72 hr incubation under standard culture conditions, SYBR Green I dye (Invitrogen, S7563) was added to a dilution of 1:5,000, and plates were stored at room temperature until fluorescence signal was read on a Spectramax M5 plate reader (Molecular Devices, ex 494 nm, em 530 nm). After background subtraction and normalization, EC_{50} values were calculated using a non-linear regression curve fit as implemented in the Mac OS X Prism 6.0c software package (GraphPad Software, Inc.).

4.2.2. *In vitro* Cytotoxicity to human cells.

HepG2 A16 human hepatic cell line viability was determined based on the MTT assay. An *in vitro* culture of HepG2 cells was maintained in standard culture conditions. Briefly, cells were seeded in a flat-bottomed 96-well tissue culture plate at a density of 1×10^4 cells/well and allowed to adhere overnight. After removing the medium, 200 μ L of fresh medium containing 7 ten-fold dilutions (100 μ M – 1 nM) of each compound were added, and a negative control was performed by adding 200 μ L of drug free medium. The plate was incubated for 24 h under standard culture conditions, medium was then substituted by fresh medium containing identical concentrations of the compounds, and the plates incubated another 24 h. At the end of the

incubation period (48 h), 20 μ L of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium (Sigma-Aldrich) (MTT; 5 mg/mL in PBS) was added to each well, wells were incubated for 3 h at standard culture conditions, supernatant was removed and 200 μ L of acidified isopropanol was added to each well. Absorbance was read at 570 nm on a multi-mode microplate reader (Triad, Dynex Technologies), to produce a log dose-dependence curve. The EC₅₀ was estimated for each compound by non-linear interpolation of the dose-dependence curve (GraphPad Software).

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supplementary Information: NMR spectra, including signals assignments for ¹H and ¹³C of **10d**, ESI-MS spectra and HPLC-ELSD chromatograms of all compounds.

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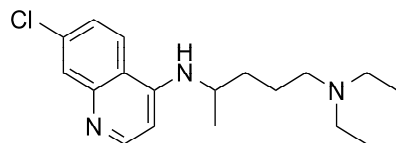
List of captions

Figure 1: Structures of (1), (2), TCMDC-134281 (3) and the indole-based explored scaffold.

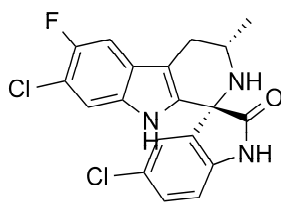
Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: **a)** KOH, isopropanol, reflux, 6h, 98%; **b)** 10% Pd/C, 10% glacial acetic acid in ethyl acetate, H₂, 48h, r.t., 96%; **c)** DCC, HOBT, CH₃CN, 2h, r.t., 60%; **d)** DIBAL, THF, 1h, -78°C, 35%; **e)** 2M HCl/MeOH, 20 min, r.t., 99%; **f)** DIPEA, isopropanol, 56h, reflux, 15%.

Scheme 2. R fragments and yields are given in **Table 1**; Reagents and conditions: **a)** NaBH(OAc)₃, DCE, 1 h, r.t., 58-70 %; **b)** NaBH(OAc)₃, DCE, 4h, r.t. or NaBH₃CN, MeOH, Microwave at 100 °C, 20 min; **c)** DIPEA, isopropanol, 56 h, reflux, 25 %; **d)** DCM, aq. NaHCO₃, 10 min, r.t. or DIPEA, DCM, 30 min, r.t. or PyBOP, DIPEA, DCM, 0.5-1 h, r.t.

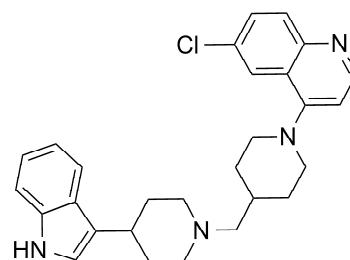
Scheme 3. R fragments and yields are listed in **Table 1**; Reagents and conditions: **a)** 2M HCl/MeOH, 40 min, r.t., quantitative yield; **b)** DCM, aq. NaHCO₃, 10 min, r.t.



Chloroquine (1)

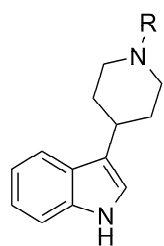


Spiroindolone (2)

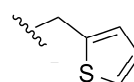
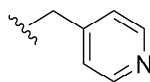
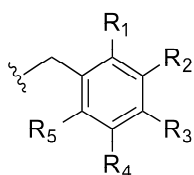
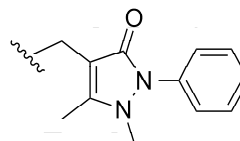
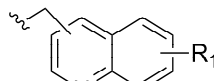
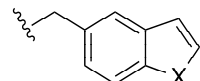


TCMDC-134281 (3)

Amine series (9a-s)

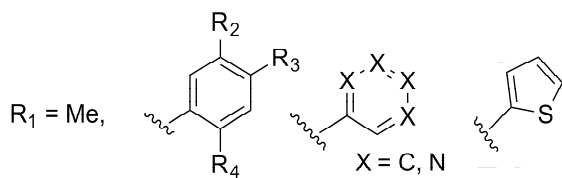
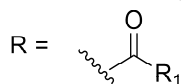
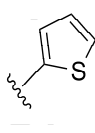
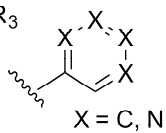


R =

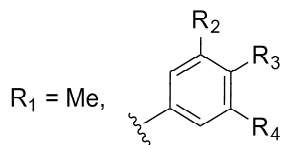
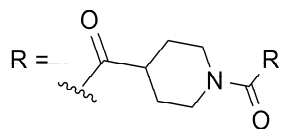
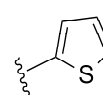
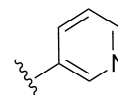


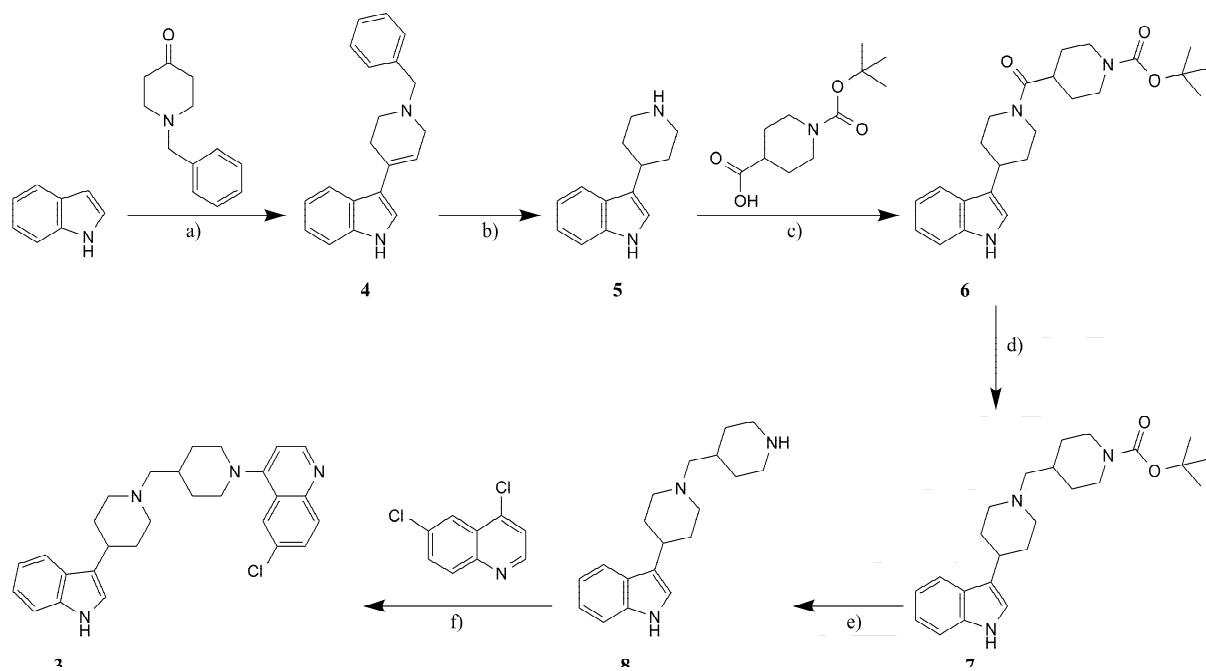
, alkyl, cycloalkyl

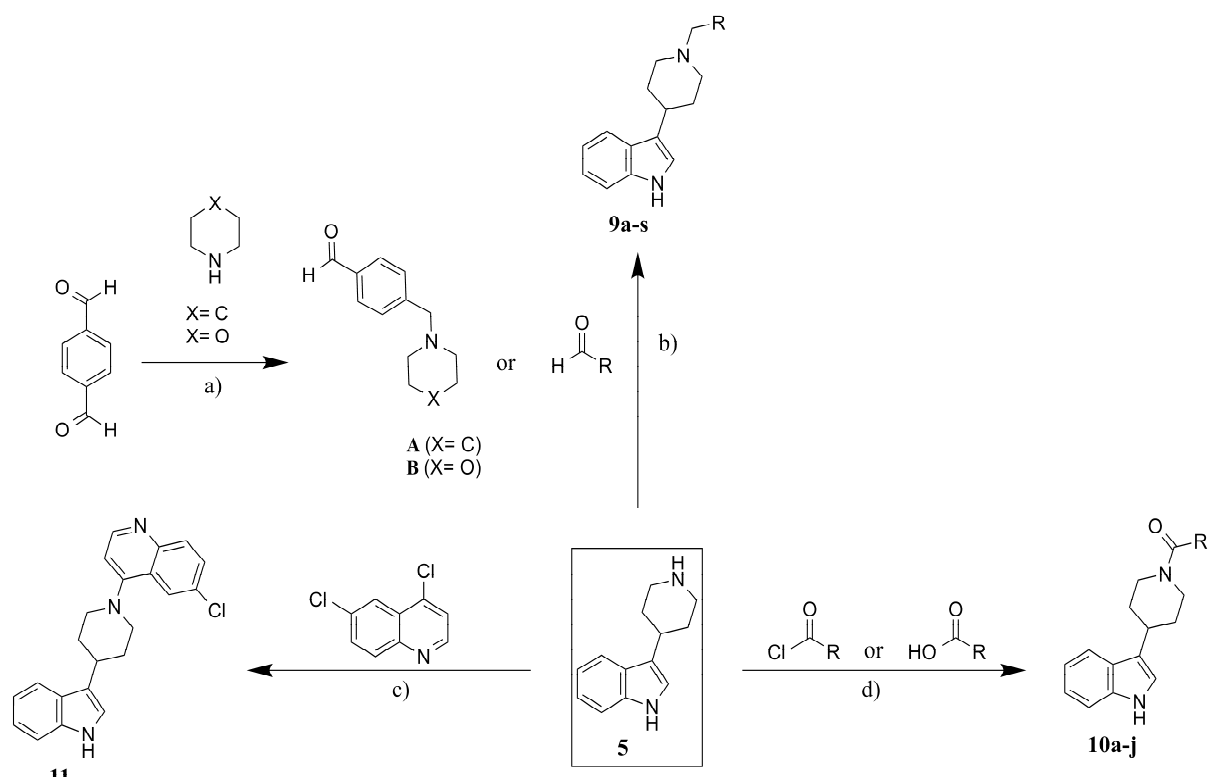
Amide series (10a-k)

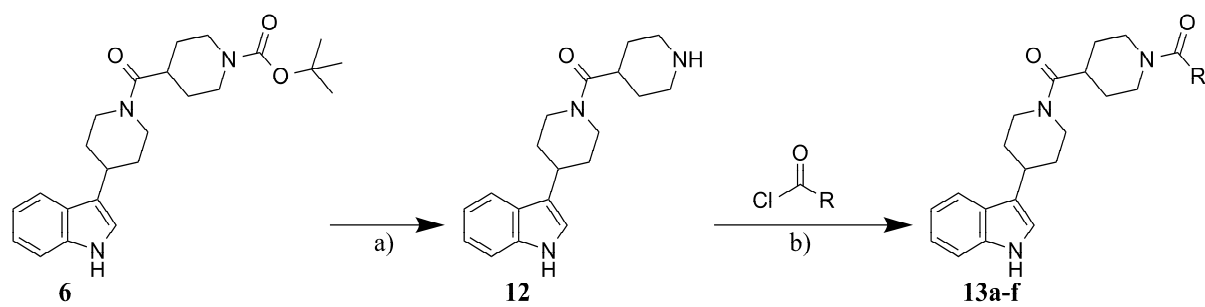
R₁ = Me,

Bis-amide series (13a-f)

R₁ = Me,







ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Highlights:

- A SAR library of new 3-piperidin-4-yl-1*H*-indole derivatives was synthesized.
- A succinct synthetic approach amenable to parallel combinatorial synthesis was developed.
- Activity against drug-sensitive and drug-resistant blood-stage *P. falciparum* was determined.
- Identification of a new compound (**10d**) with lead-like properties, antimalarial activity, selectivity and no cross-resistance with chloroquine.
- New chemotype independent from 4-aminoquinolines identified for further antimalarial drug development.

Supplementary Information**EXPLORING THE 3-PIPERIDIN-4-YL-1H-INDOLE SCAFFOLD AS A NOVEL
ANTIMALARIAL CHEMOTYPE**

Sofia A. Santos ^{a,b}, Amanda K. Lukens ^{c,d}, Lis Coelho ^e, Fátima Nogueira ^e, Dyann F. Wirth ^{c,d},
Ralph Mazitschek ^{b,c,d}, Rui Moreira ^a, Alexandra Paulo ^{a*}

HPLC-ELSD chromatogram and NMR spectra	Page
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<u>Compound 4</u>	6
<u>Compound 5</u>	8
<u>Compound 6</u>	10
<u>Compound 7</u>	12
<u>Compound 8</u>	14
<u>Compound 9a</u>	16
<u>Compound 9b</u>	18
<u>Compound 9c</u>	20
<u>Compound 9d</u>	22
<u>Compound 9e</u>	24
<u>Compound 9f</u>	26
<u>Compound 9g</u>	28
<u>Compound 9h</u>	30
<u>Compound 9i</u>	32
<u>Compound 9j</u>	34

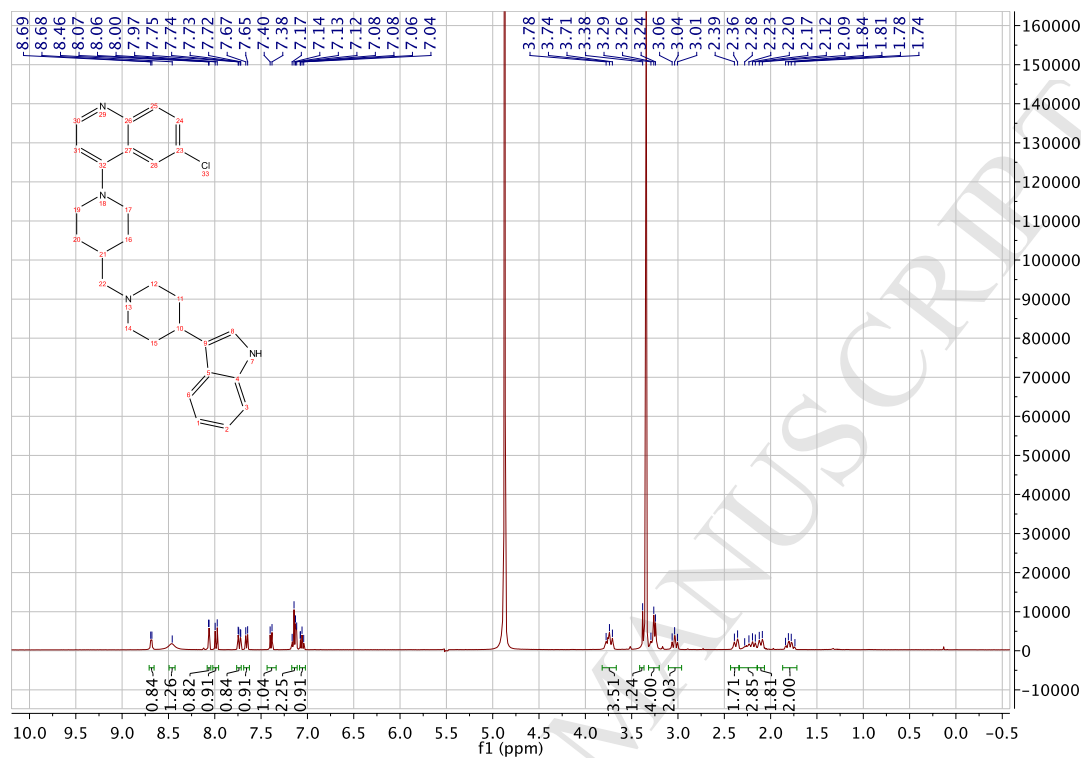
<u>Compound 9k</u>	36
<u>Compound 9l</u>	38
<u>Compound 9m</u>	40
<u>Compound 9n</u>	42
<u>Compound 9o</u>	44
<u>Compound 9p</u>	46
<u>Compound 9q</u>	48
<u>Compound 9r</u>	50
<u>Compound 9s</u>	52
<u>Compound 10a</u>	54
<u>Compound 10b</u>	56
<u>Compound 10c</u>	58
<u>Compound 10d</u>	60
<u>Compound 10e</u>	64
<u>Compound 10f</u>	66
<u>Compound 10g</u>	68
<u>Compound 10h</u>	70
<u>Compound 10i</u>	72
<u>Compound 10j</u>	74
<u>Compound 11</u>	76
<u>Compound 12</u>	78

<u>Compound 13a</u>	80
<u>Compound 13b</u>	82
<u>Compound 13c</u>	84
<u>Compound 13d</u>	86
<u>Compound 13e</u>	88
<u>Compound 13f</u>	90

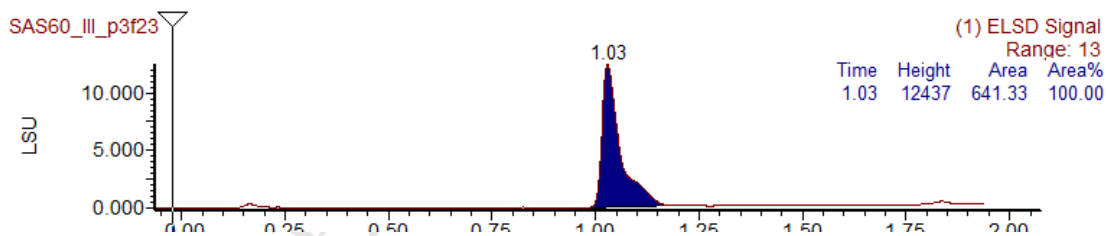
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Compound 3

NMR

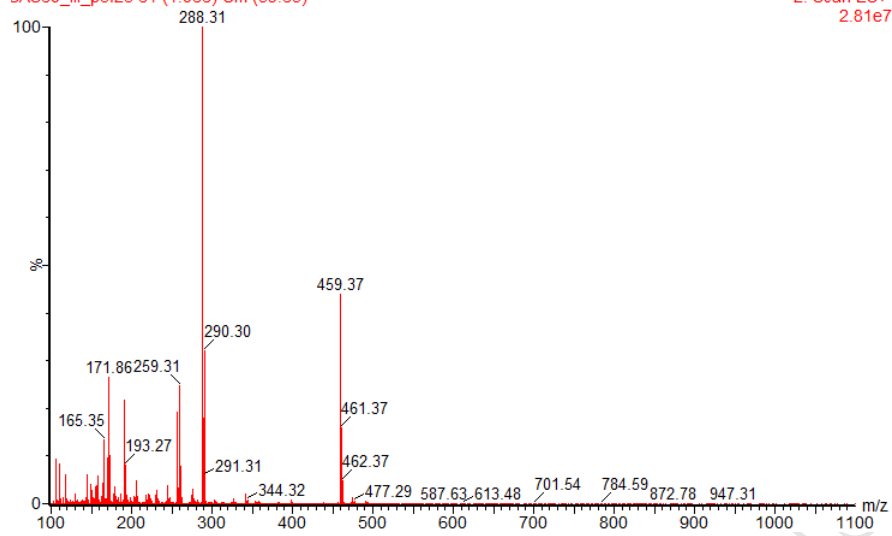


ELSD



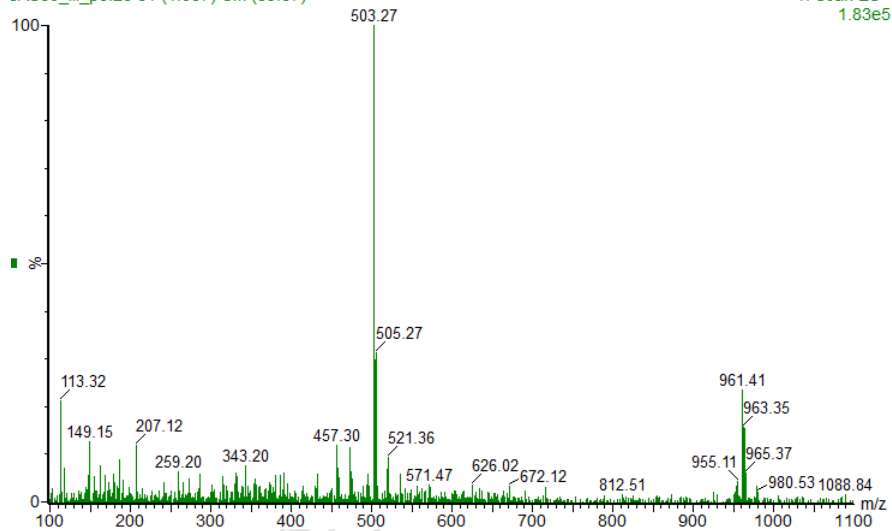
ES+

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2: Scan ES+
2.81e7

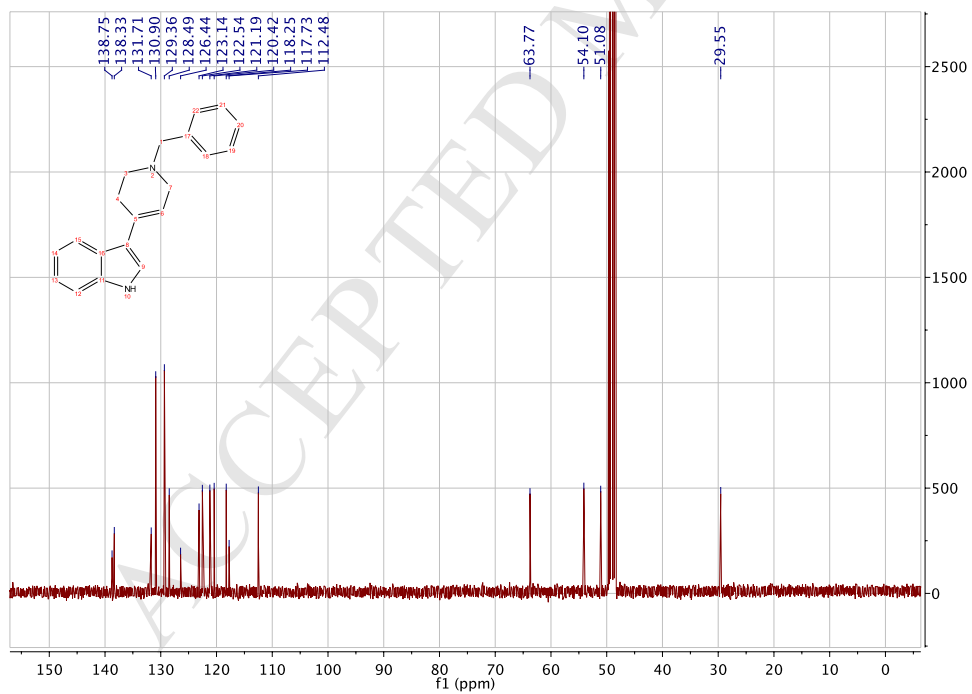
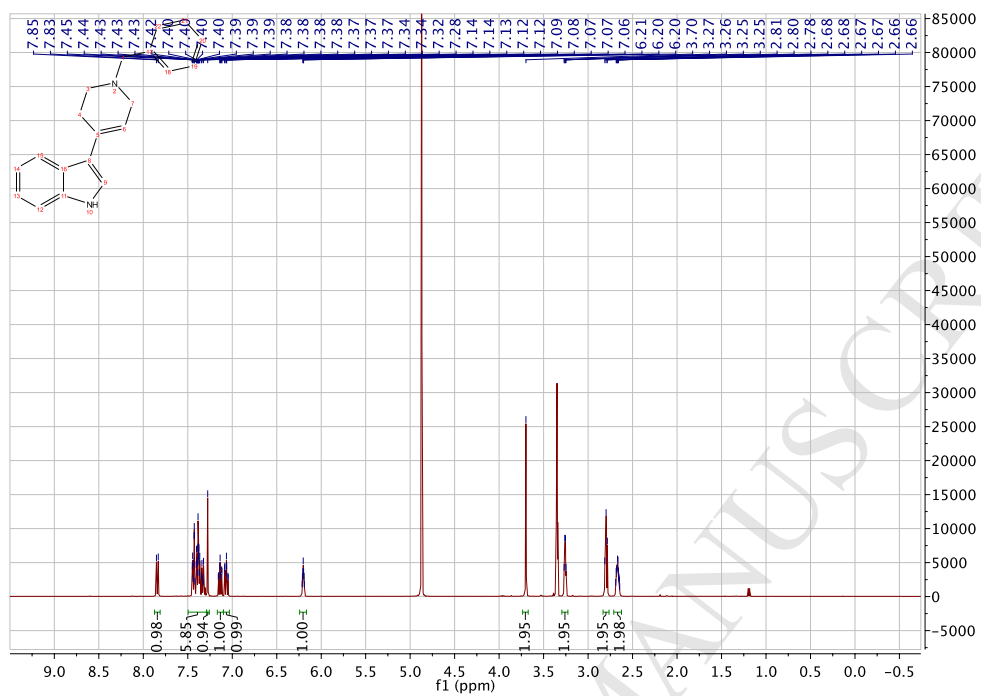
ES-

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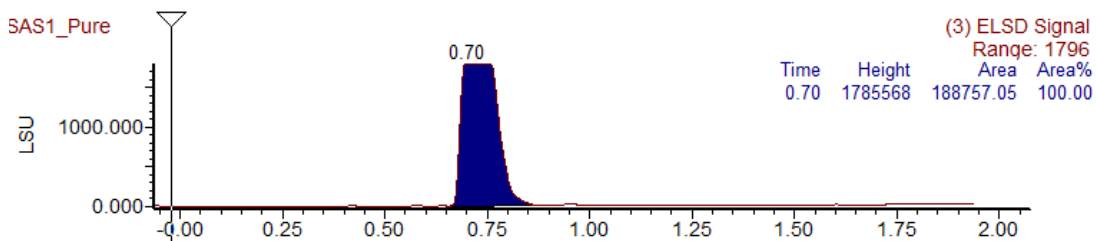
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Compound 4

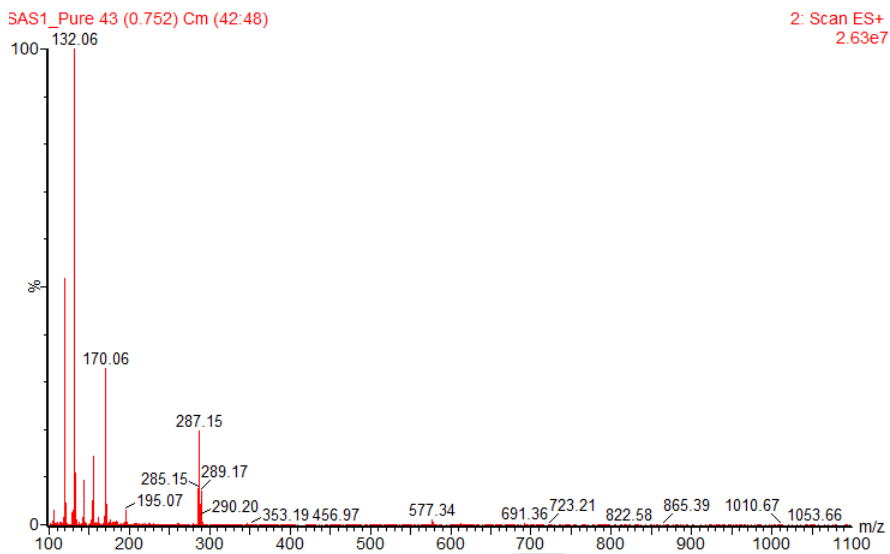
NMR



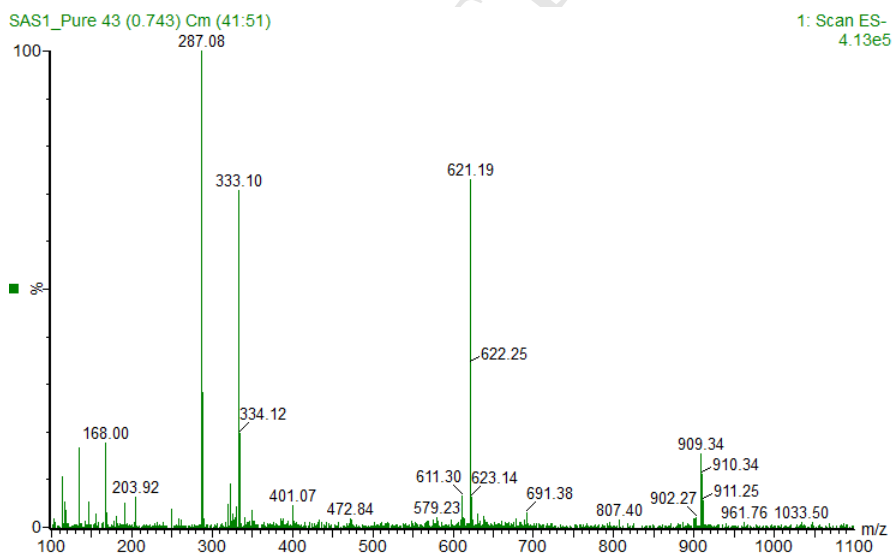
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ES+

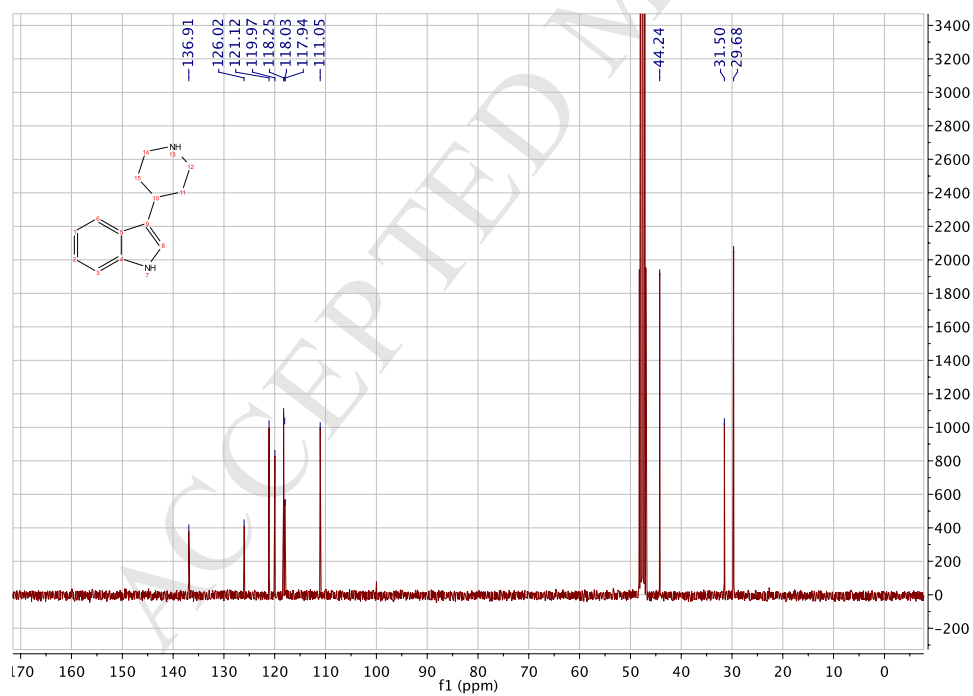
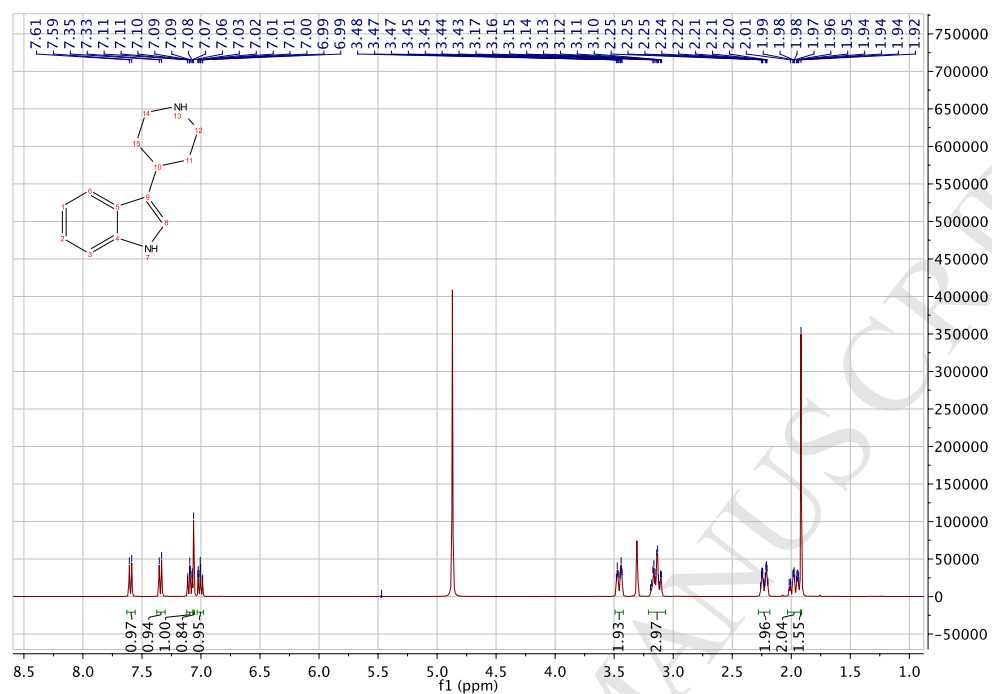


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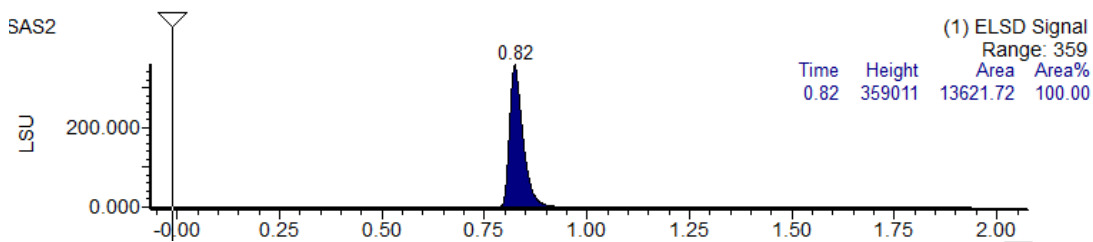


Compound 5

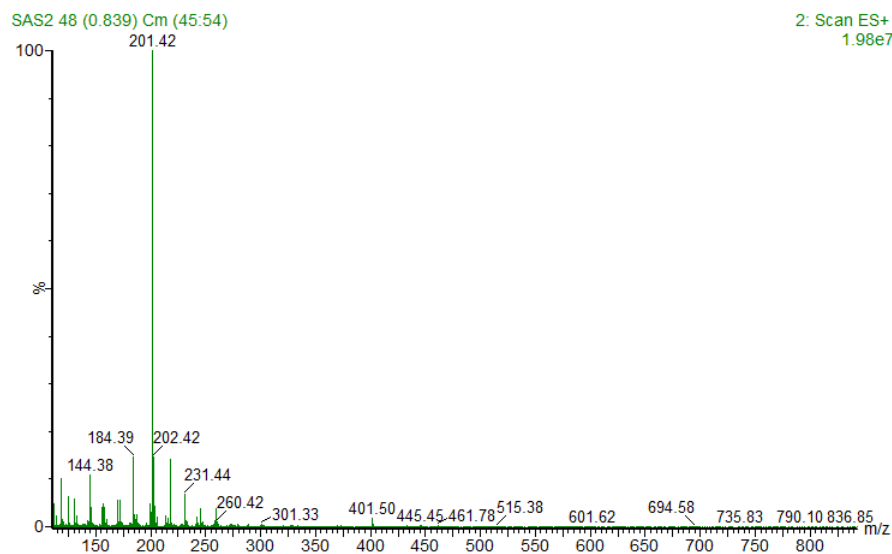
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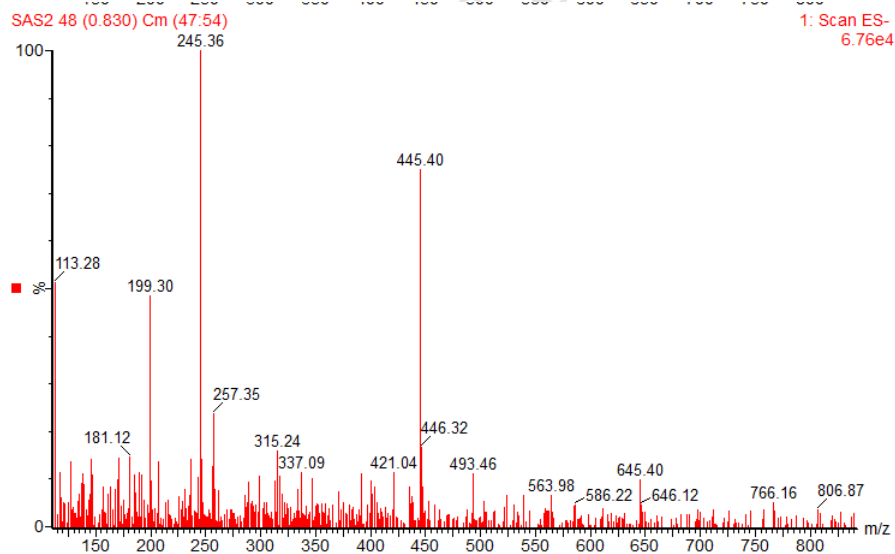
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ES+

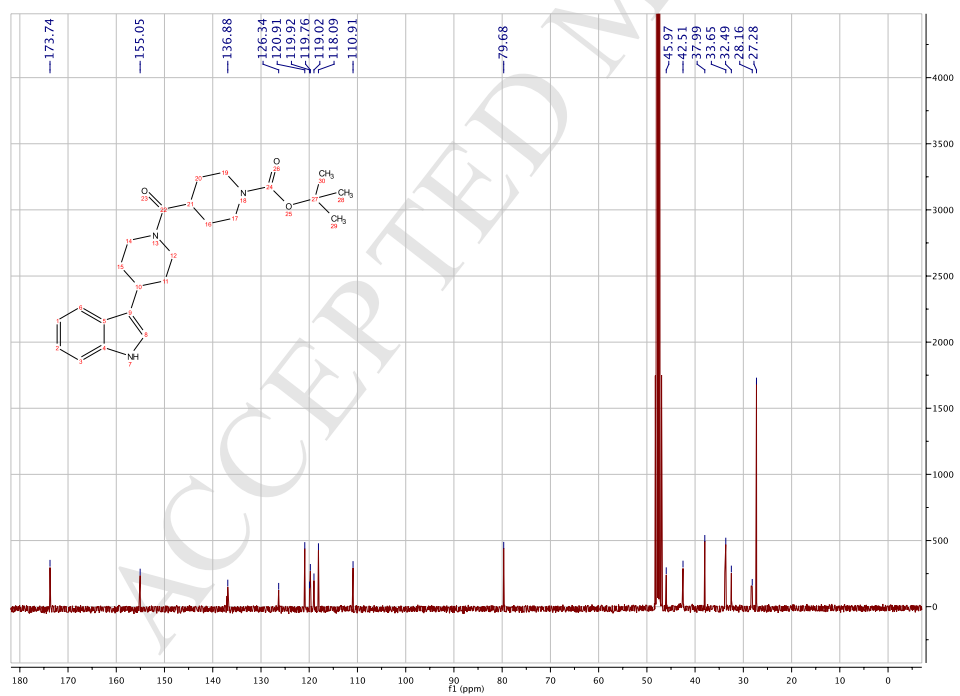
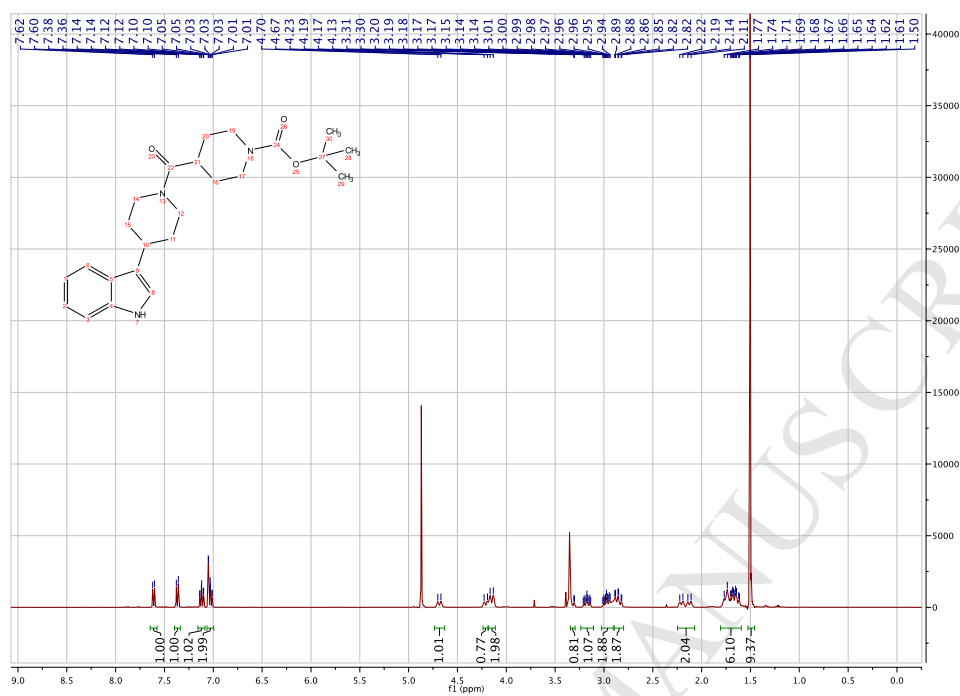


ES-

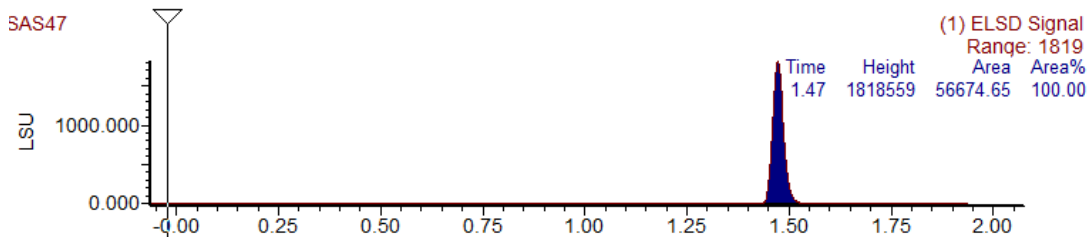


Compound 6

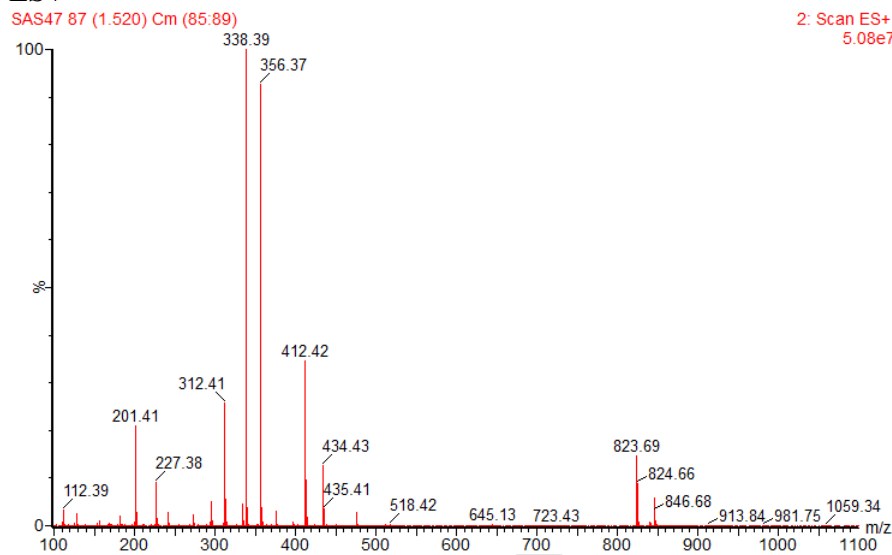
NMR



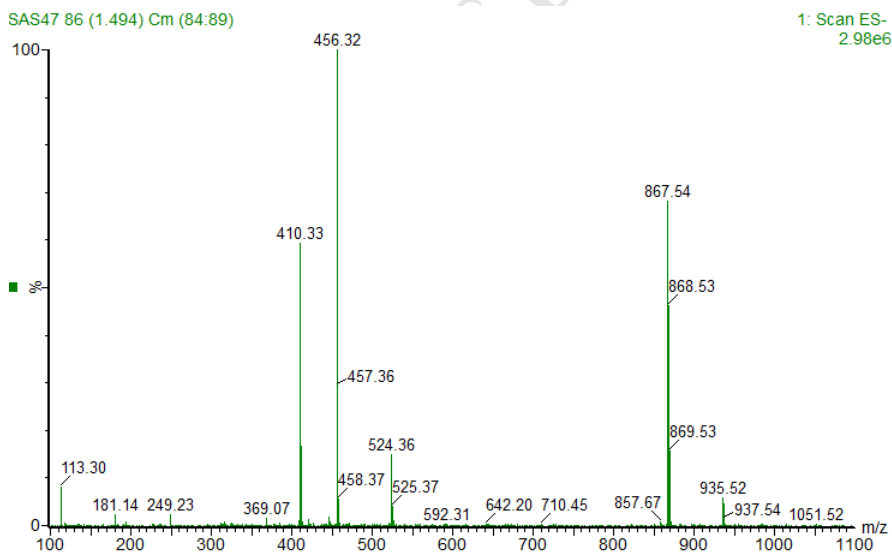
ELSD



ES+

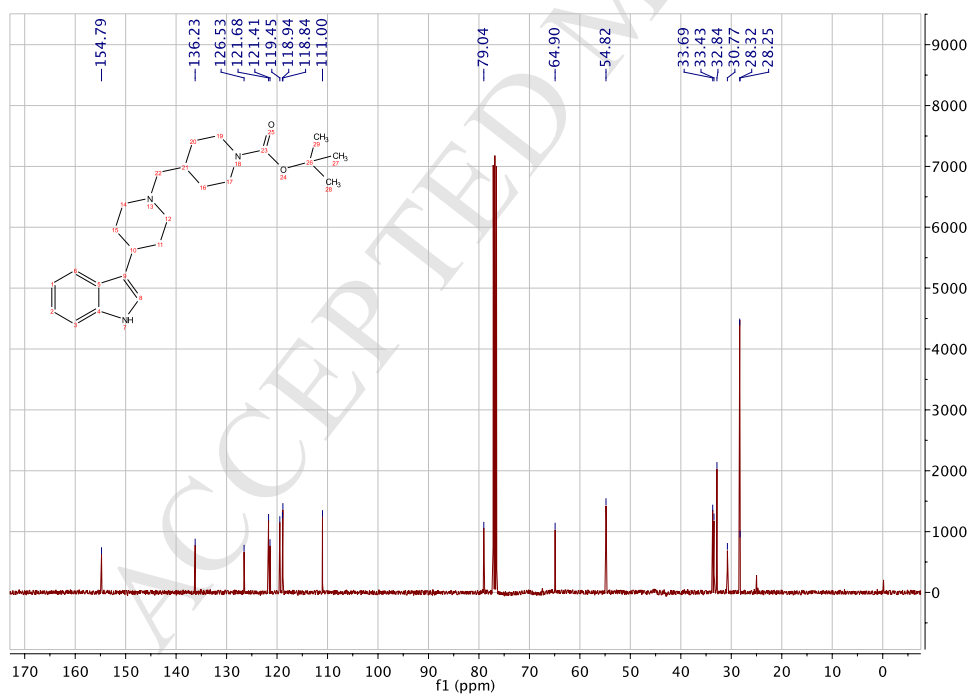
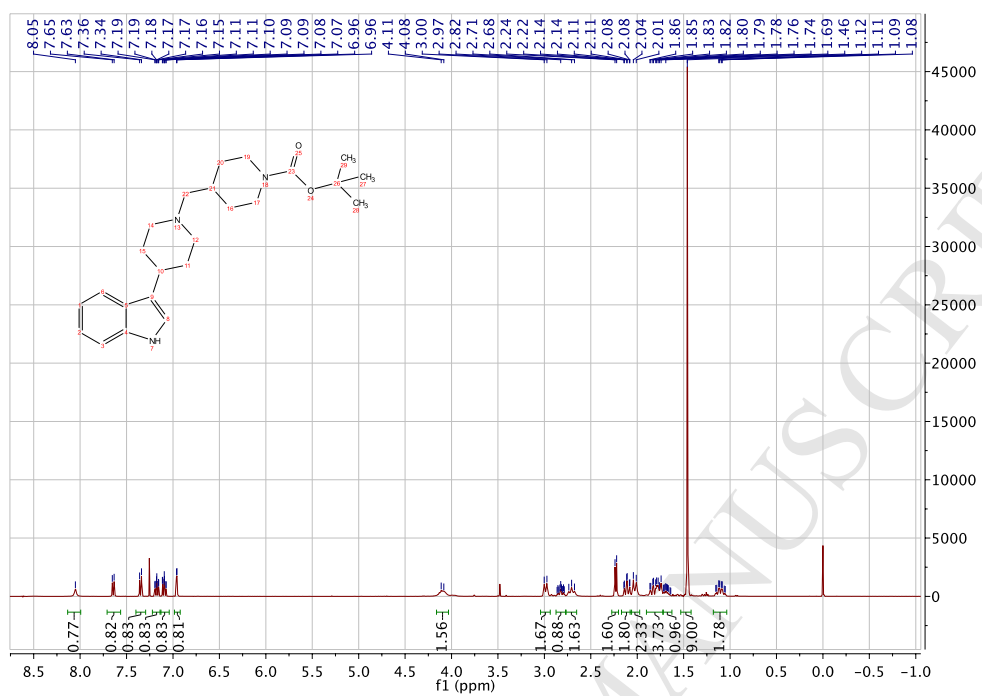


ES-

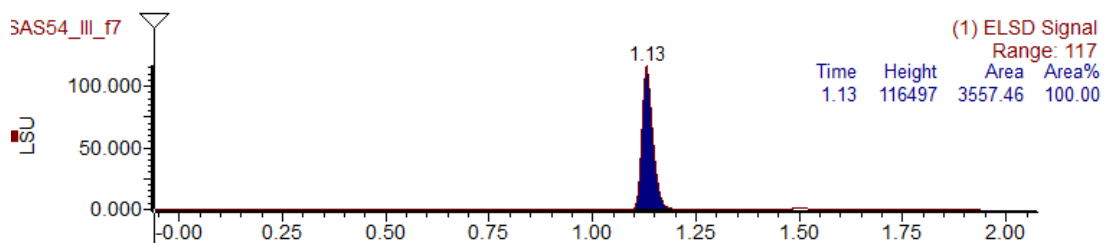


Compound 7

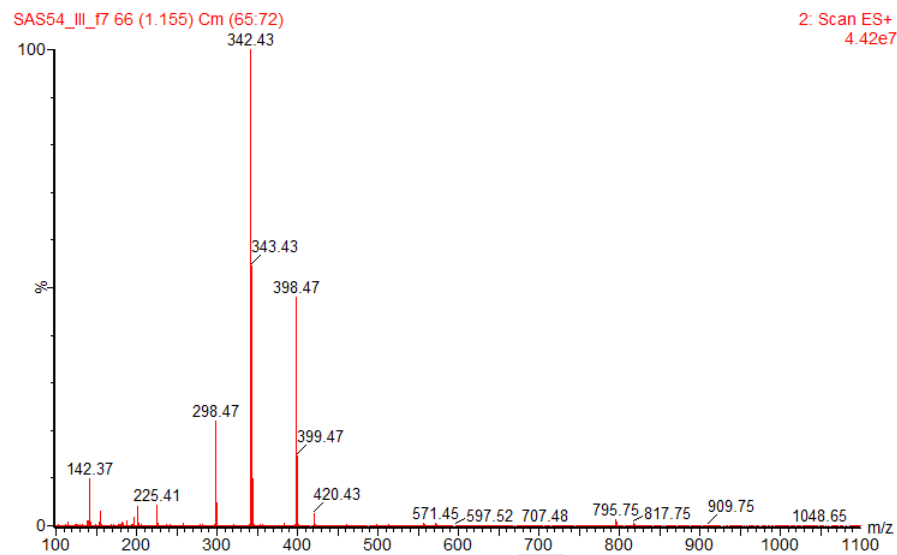
NMR



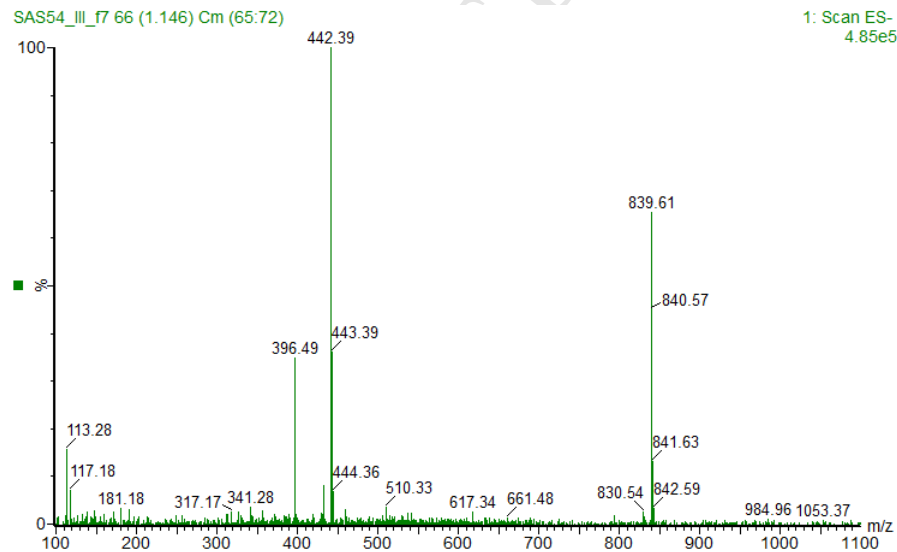
ELSD



ES+

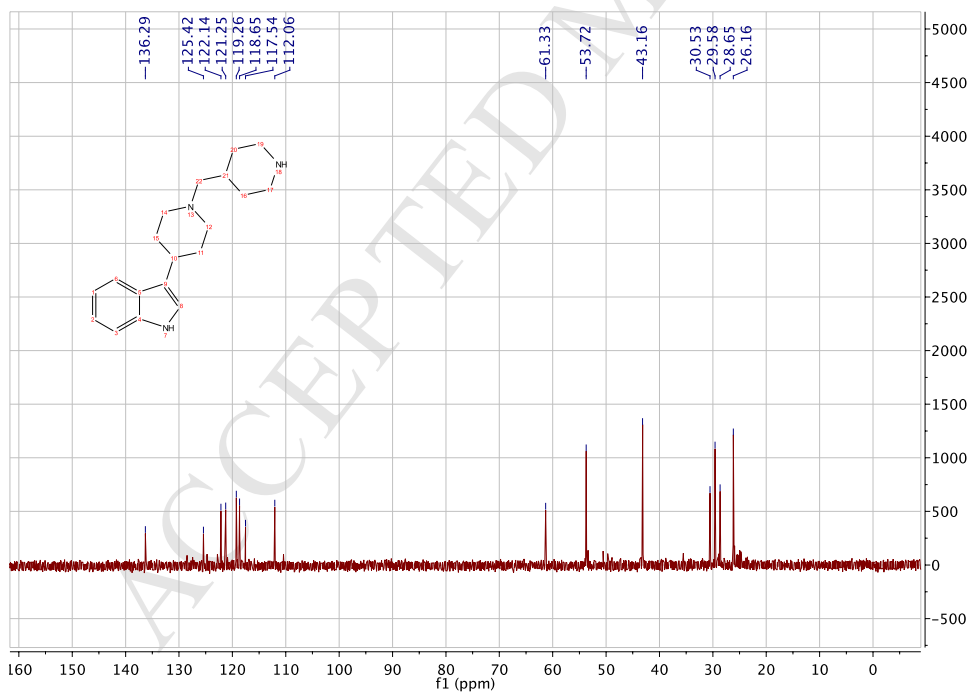
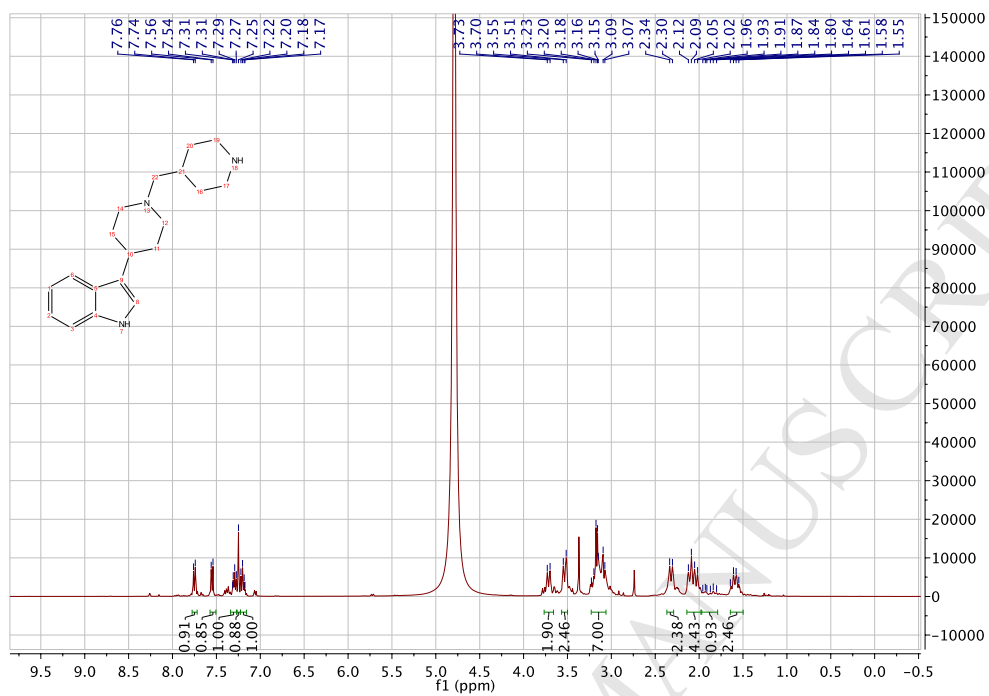


ES-

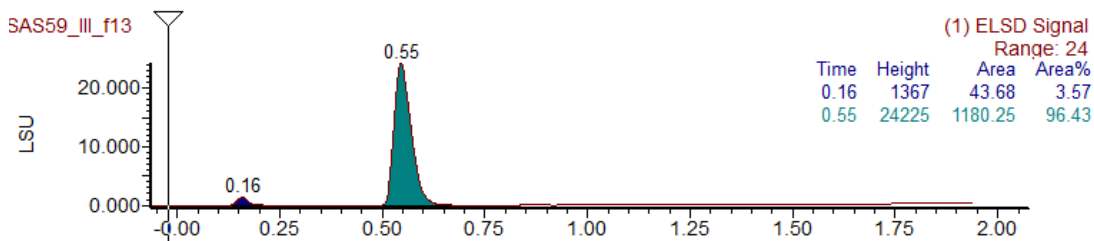


Compound 8

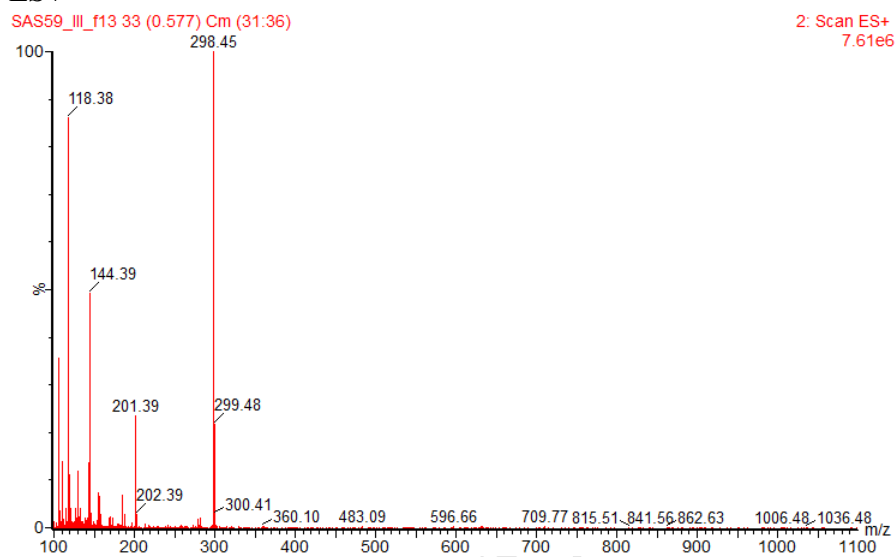
NMR



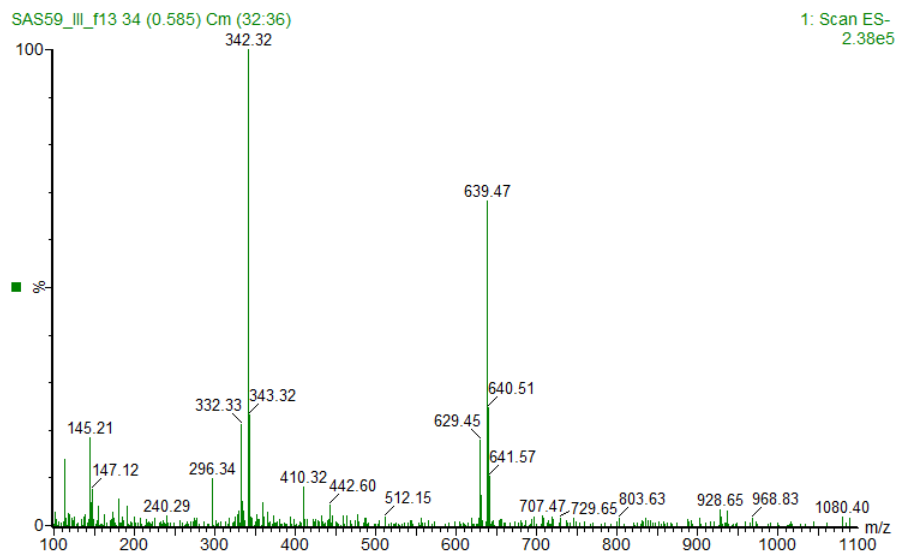
ELSD



ES+

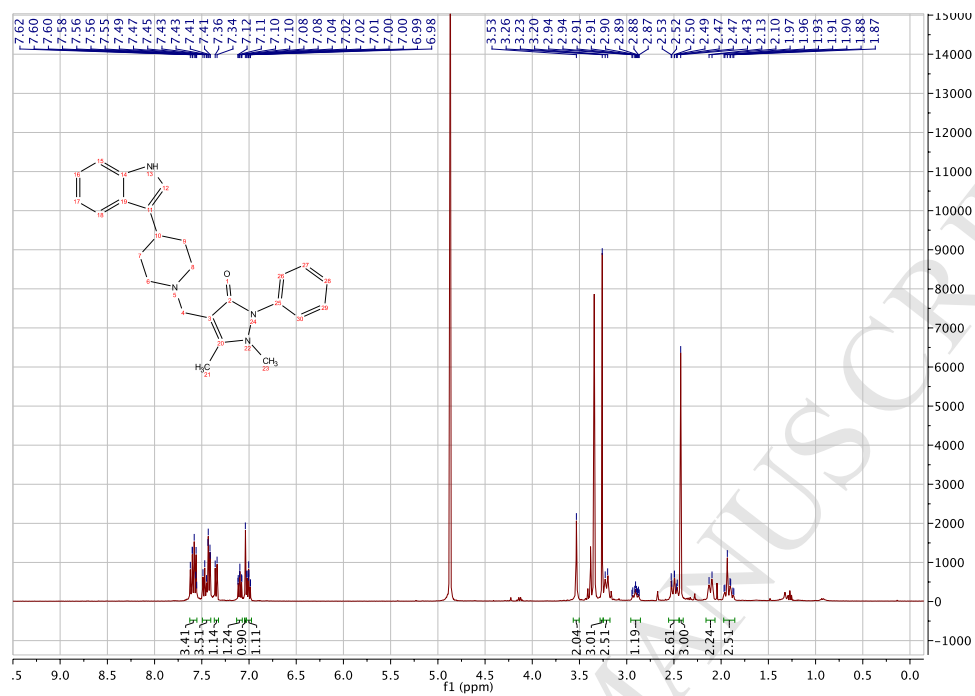


ES-



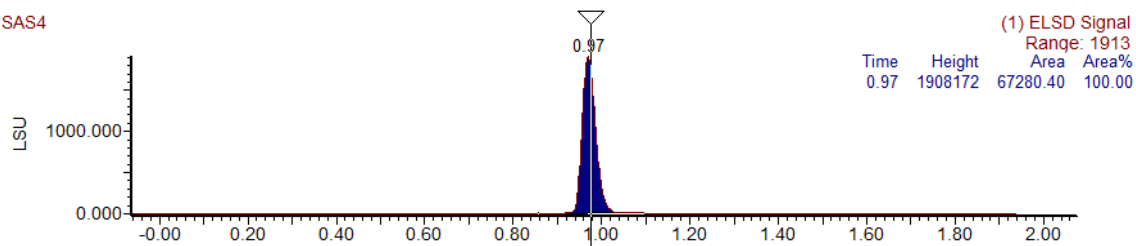
Compound 9a

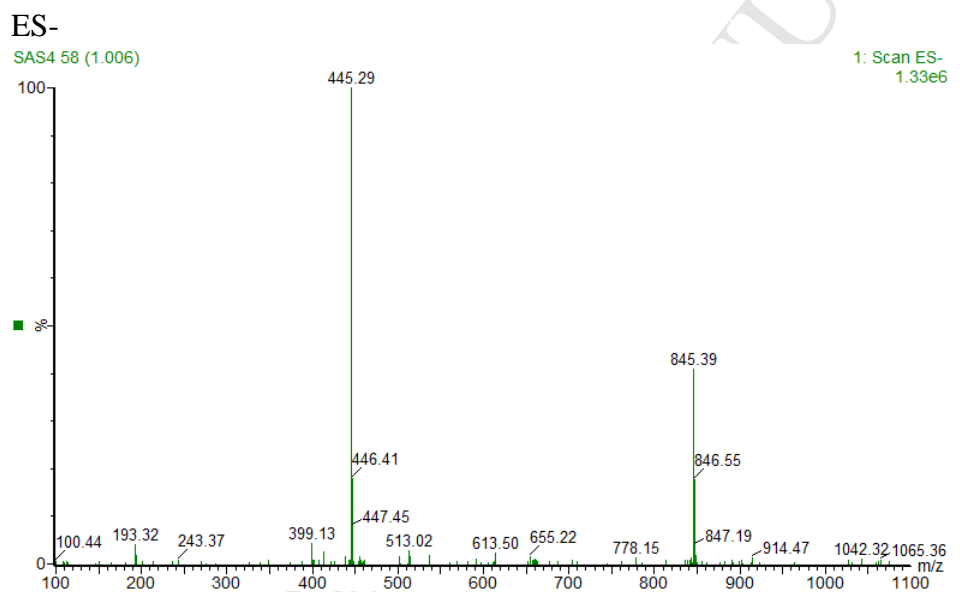
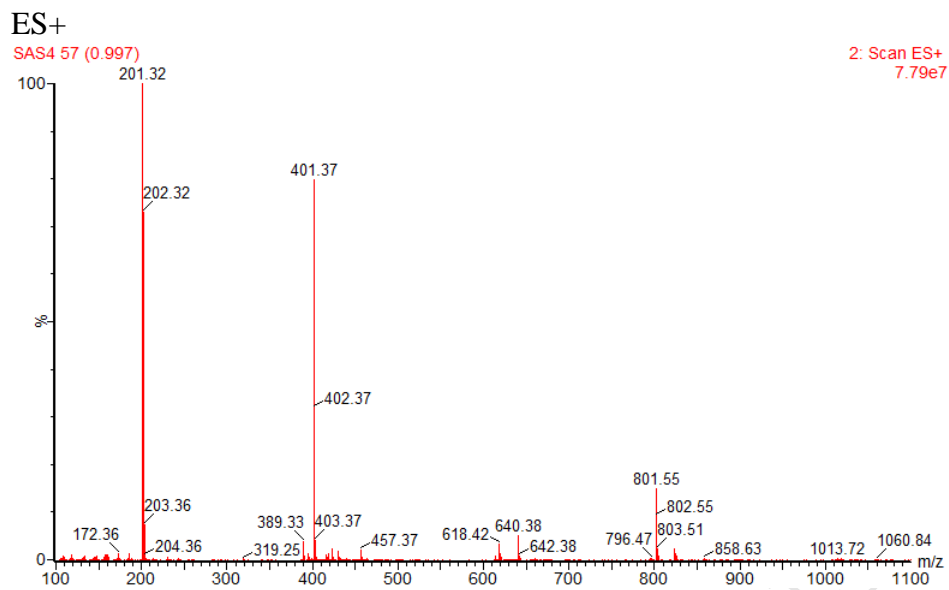
NMR



ELSD

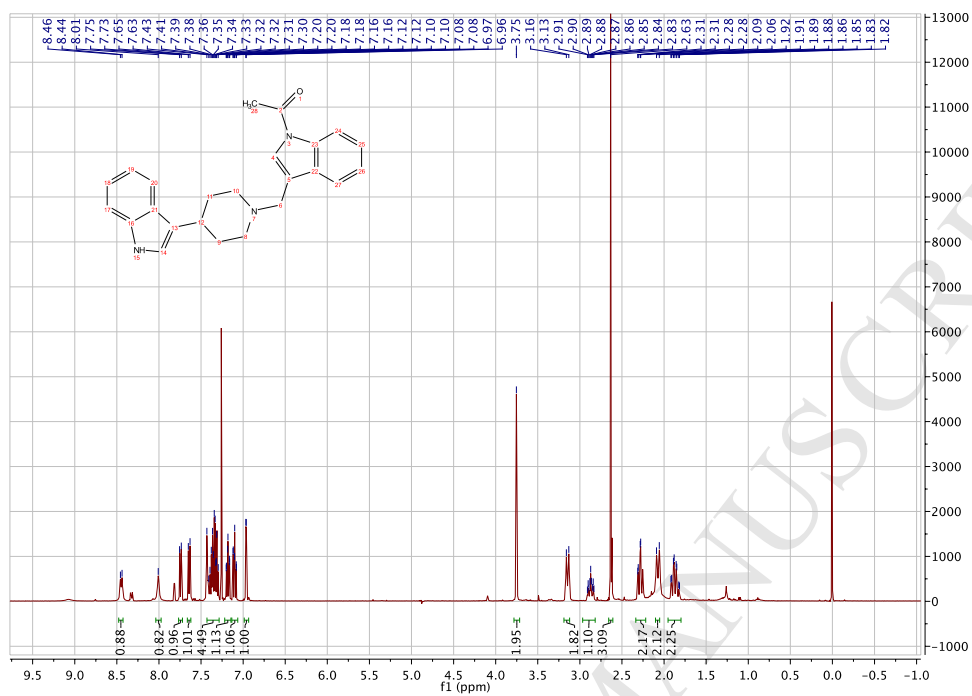
SAS4



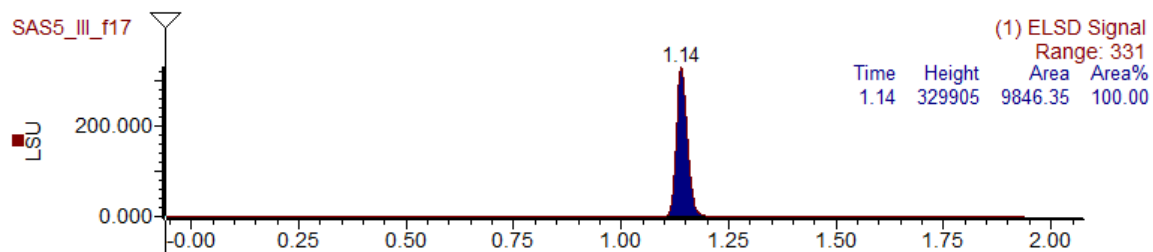


Compound 9b

NMR

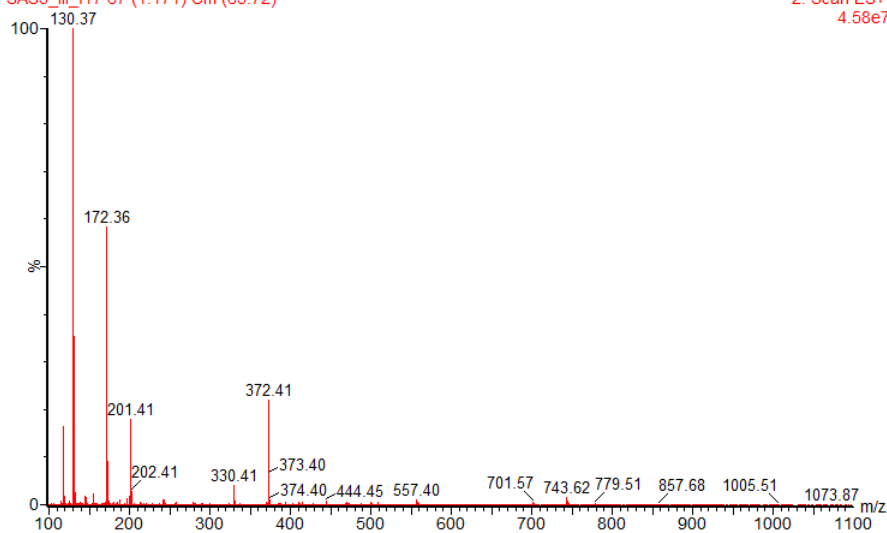


ELSD



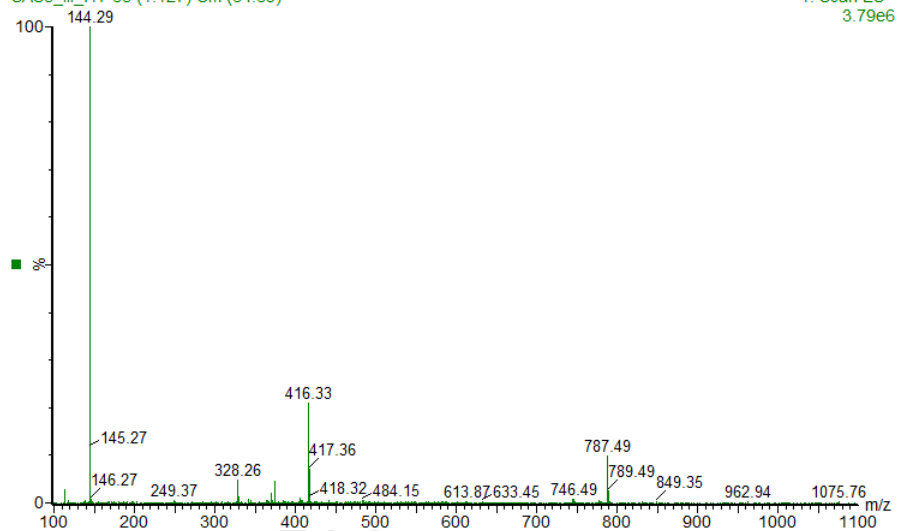
ES+

SAS5_III_f17 67 (1.171) Cm (65:72)

2: Scan ES+
4.58e7

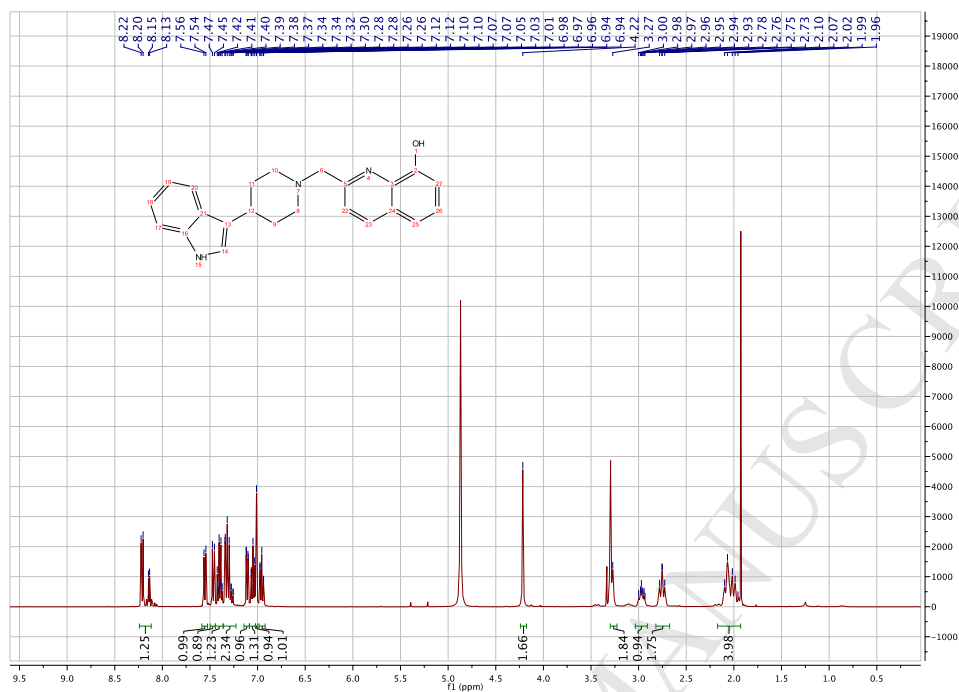
ES-

SAS5_III_f17 65 (1.127) Cm (64:69)

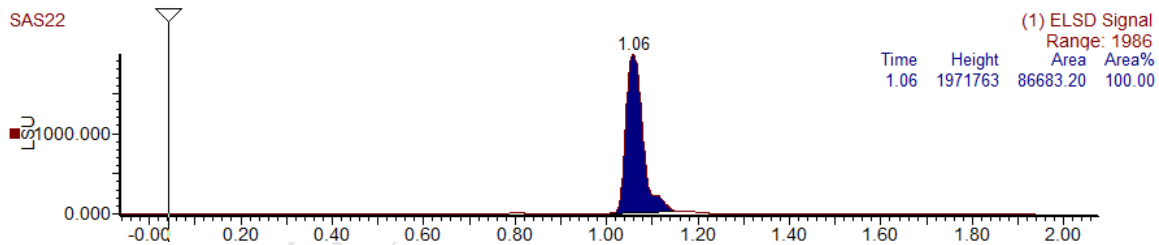
1: Scan ES-
3.79e6

Compound 9c

NMR

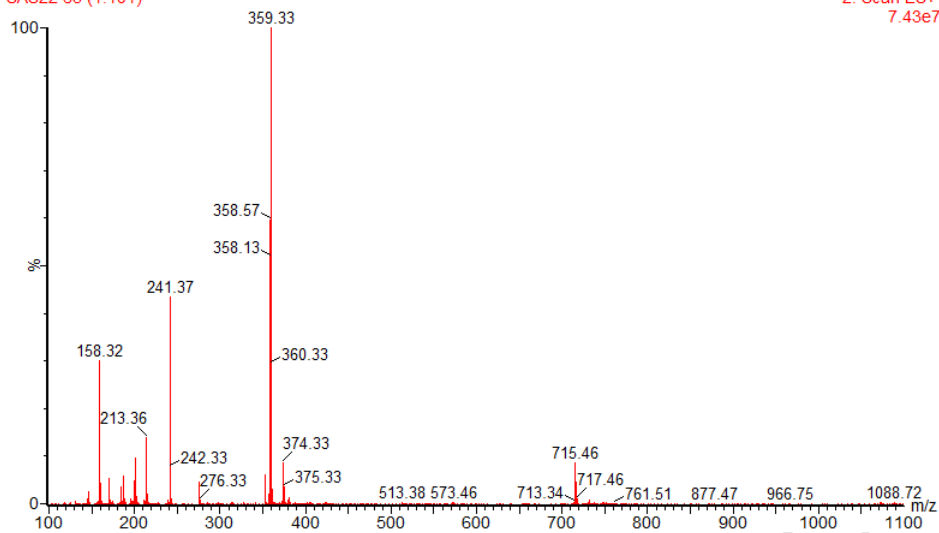


ELSD



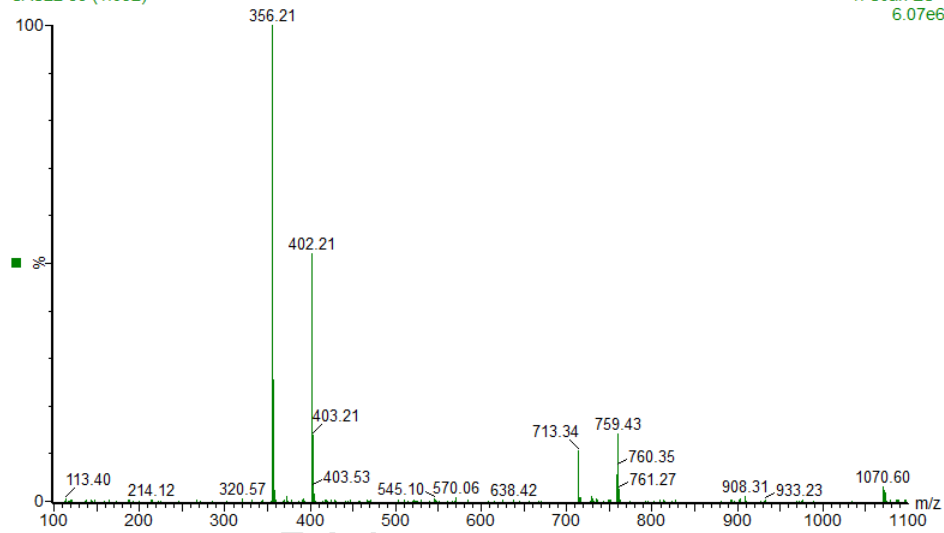
ES+

SAS22 63 (1.101)

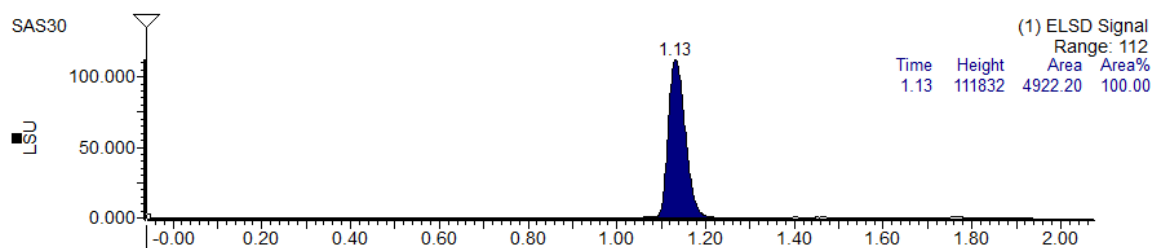
2: Scan ES+
7.43e7

ES-

SAS22 63 (1.092)

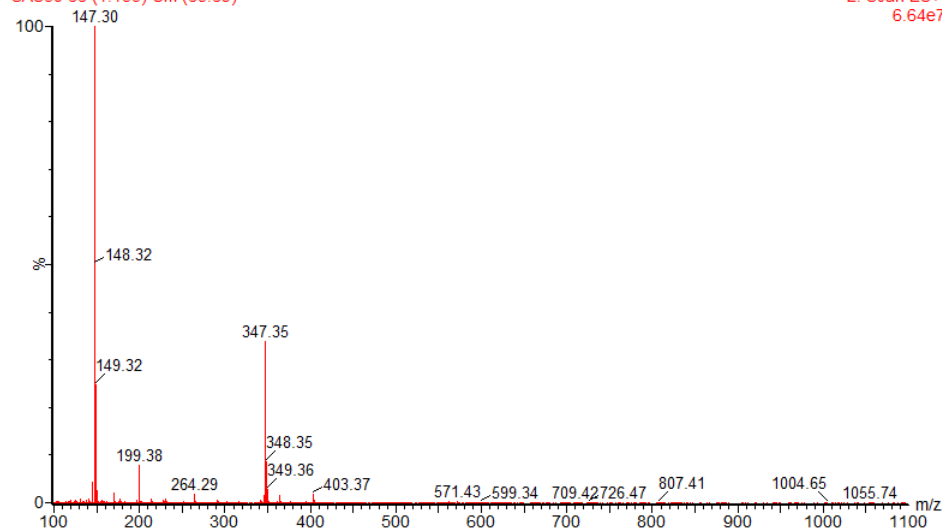
1: Scan ES-
6.07e6

ELSD



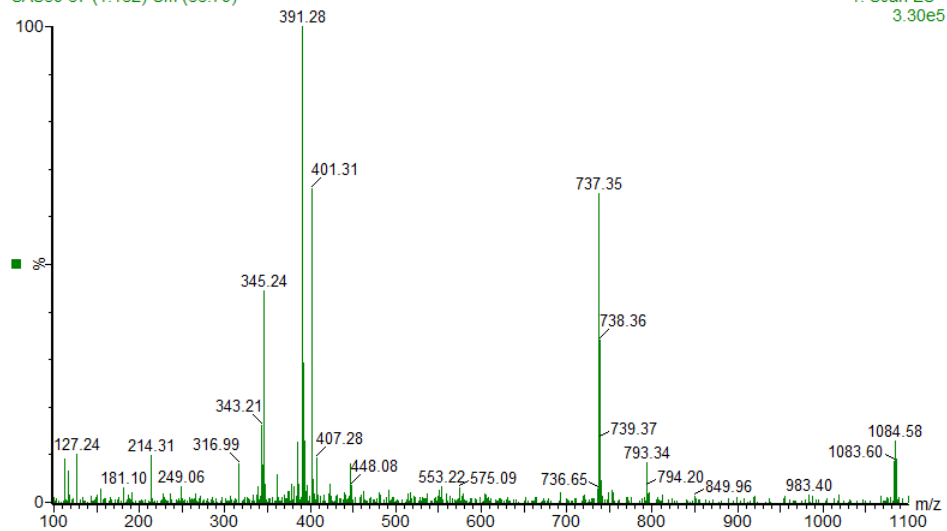
ES+

SAS30 66 (1.153) Cm (65:69)

2: Scan ES+
6.64e7

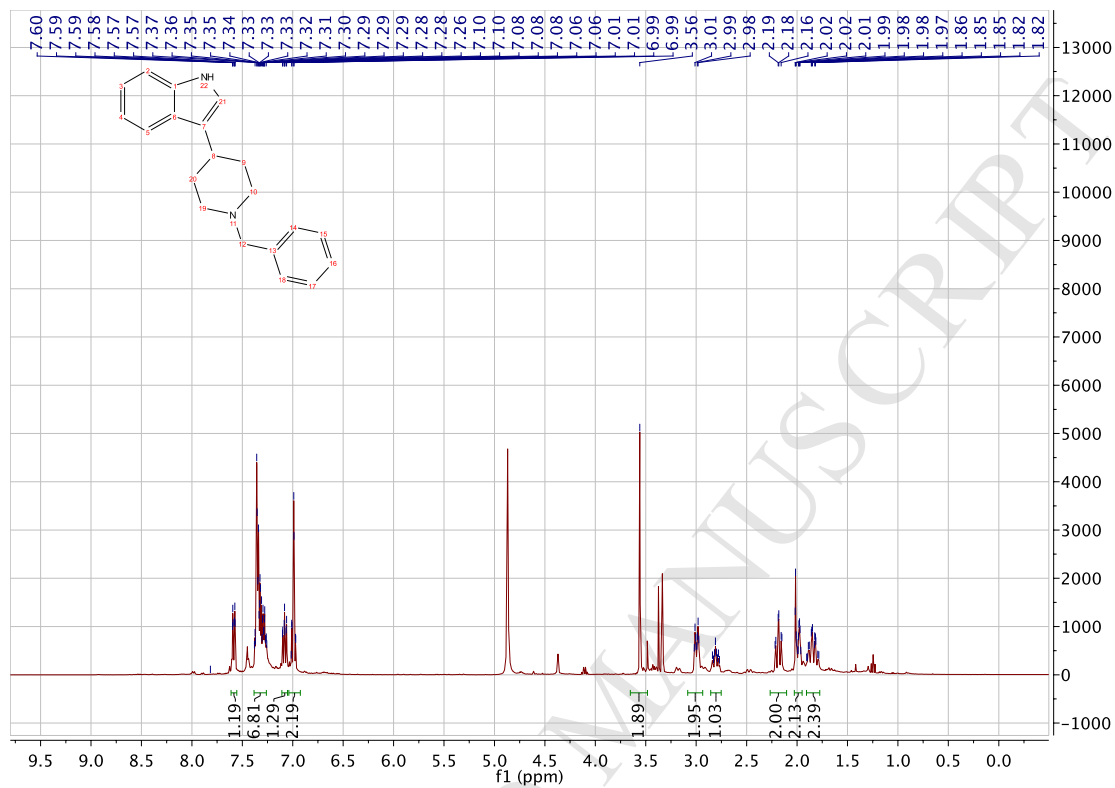
ES-

SAS30 67 (1.162) Cm (66:70)

1: Scan ES-
3.30e5

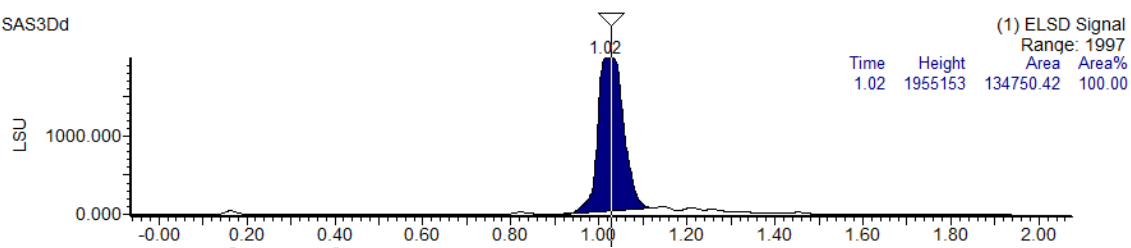
Compound 9e

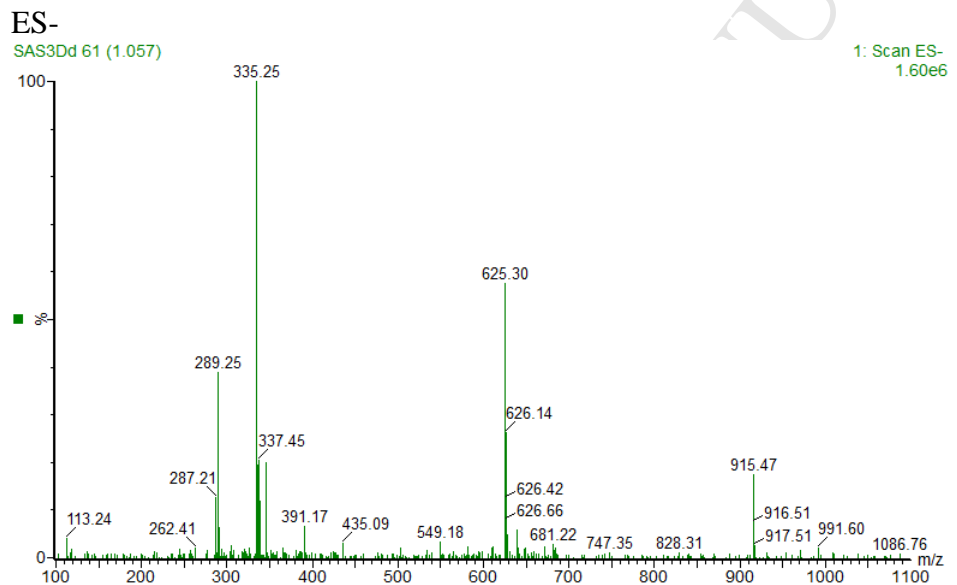
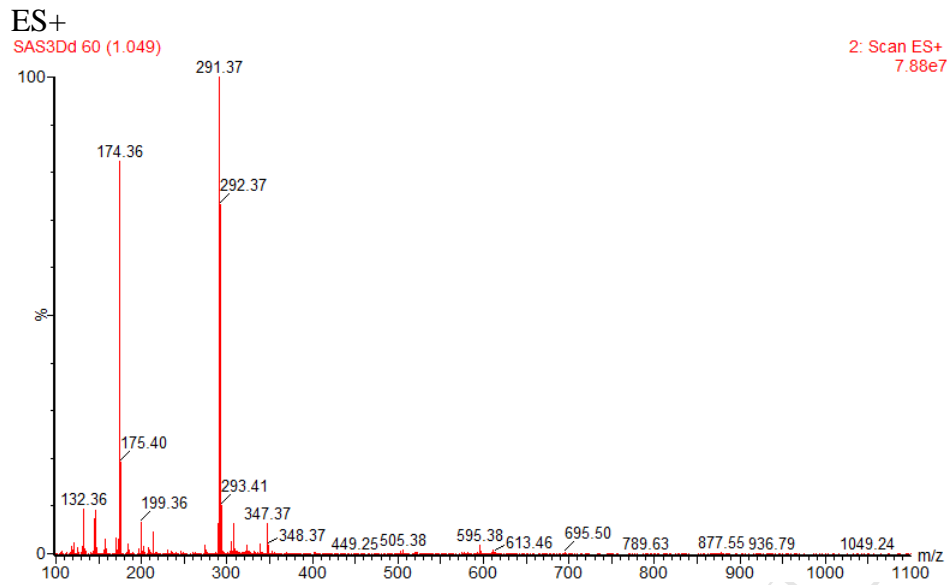
NMR



ELSD

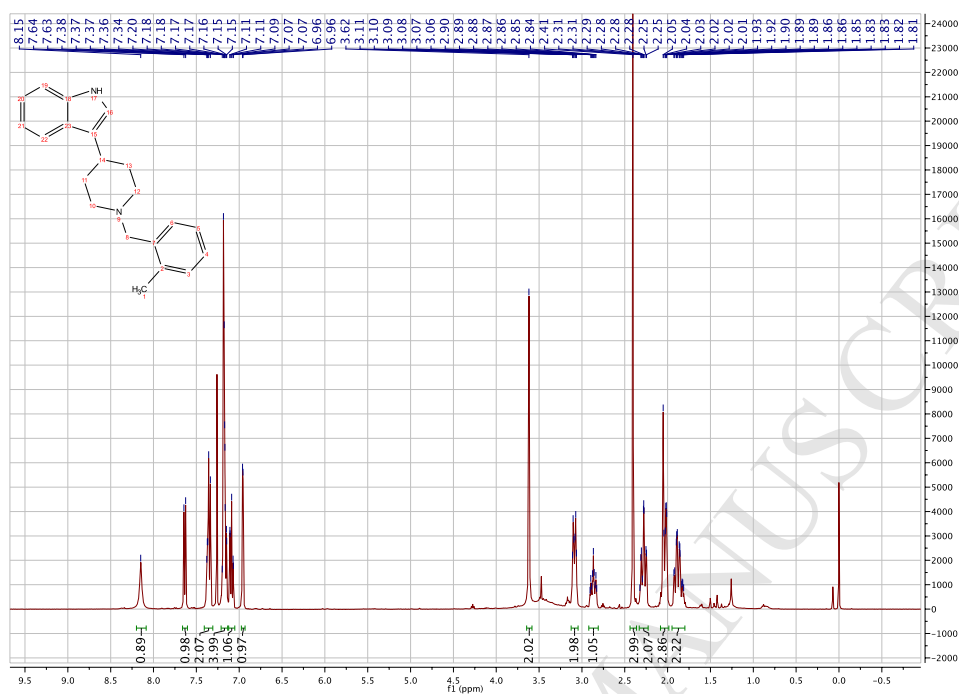
SAS3Dd



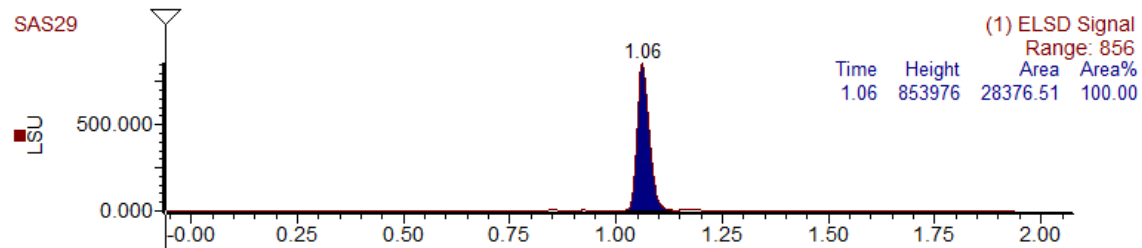


Compound 9f

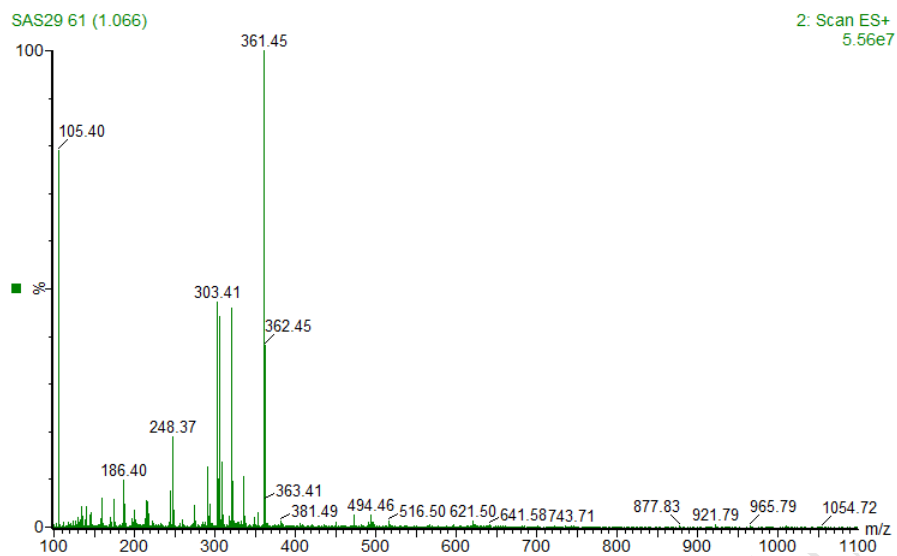
NMR



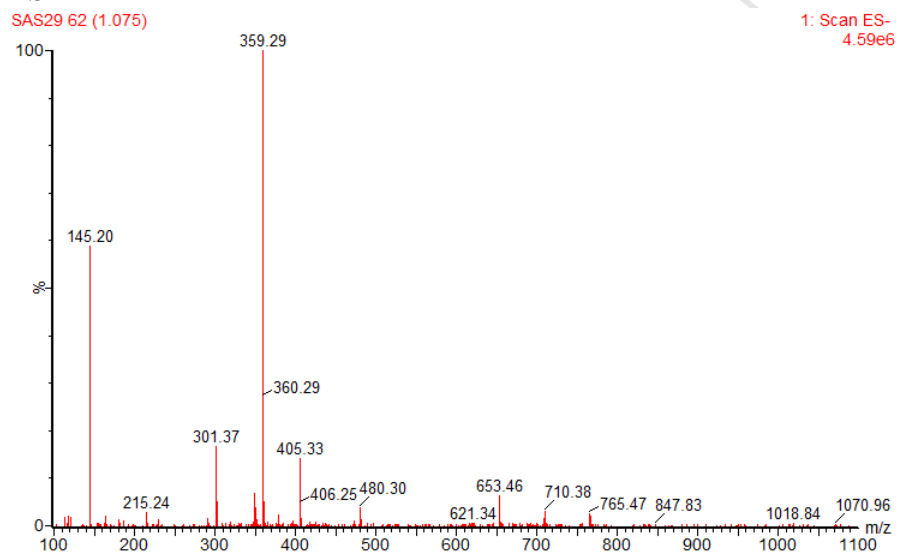
ELSD



ES+

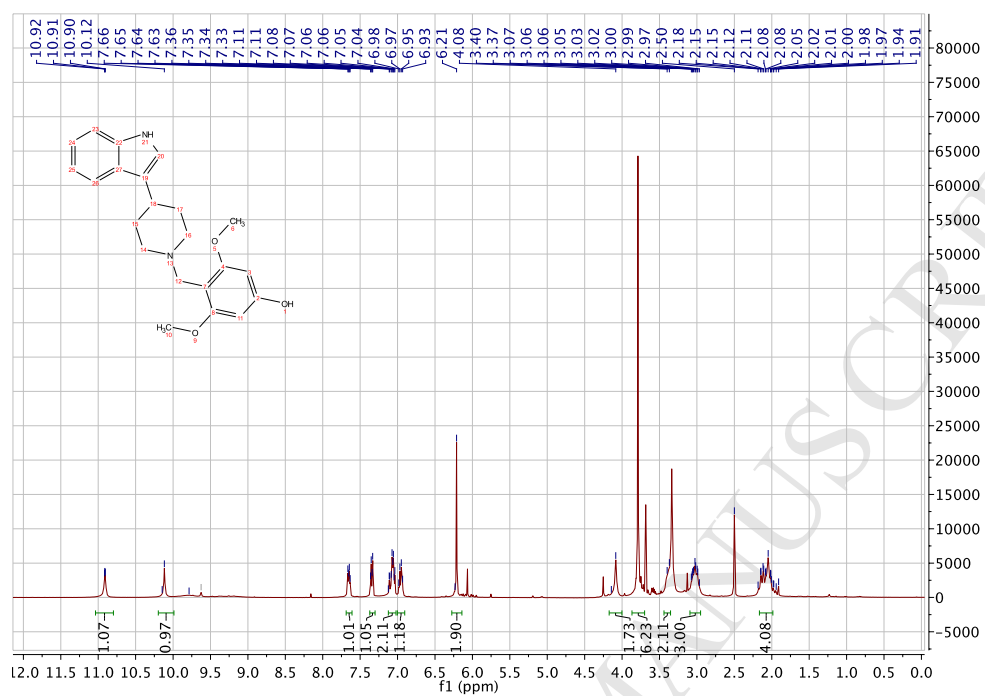


ES-

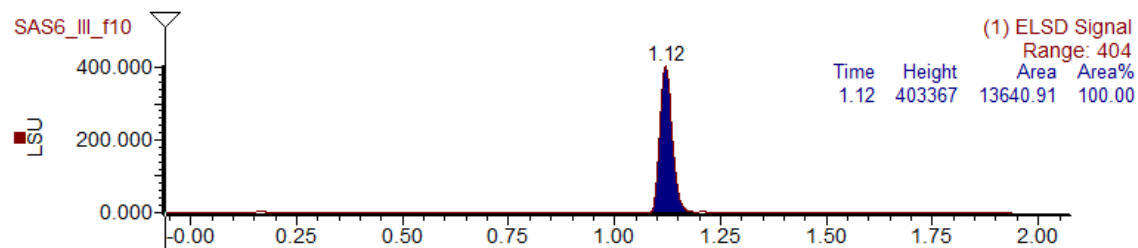


Compound 9g

NMR

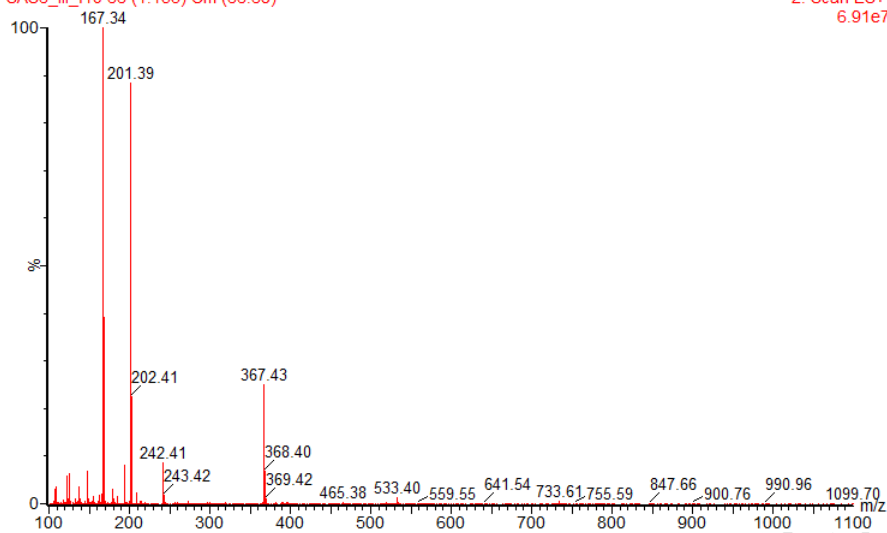


ELSD



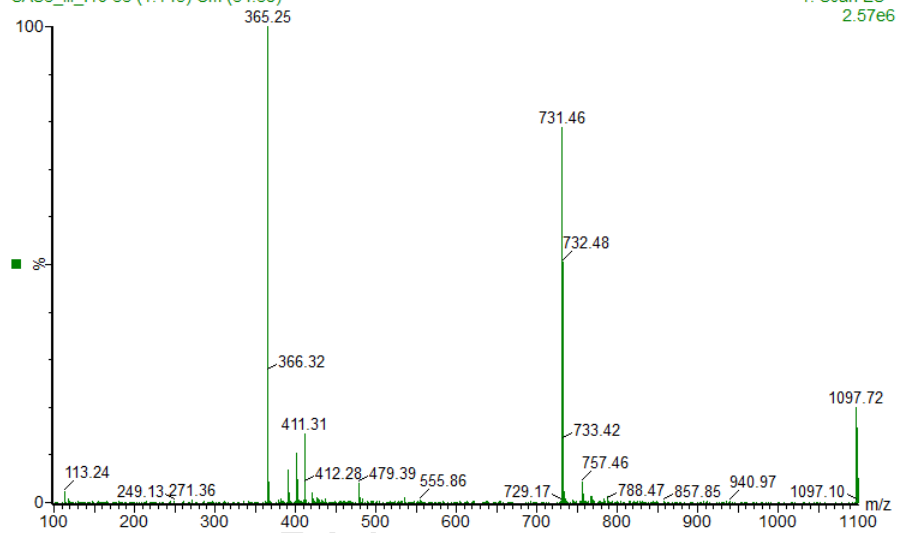
ES+

SAS6_III_f10 66 (1.153) Cm (66:68)

2: Scan ES+
6.91e7

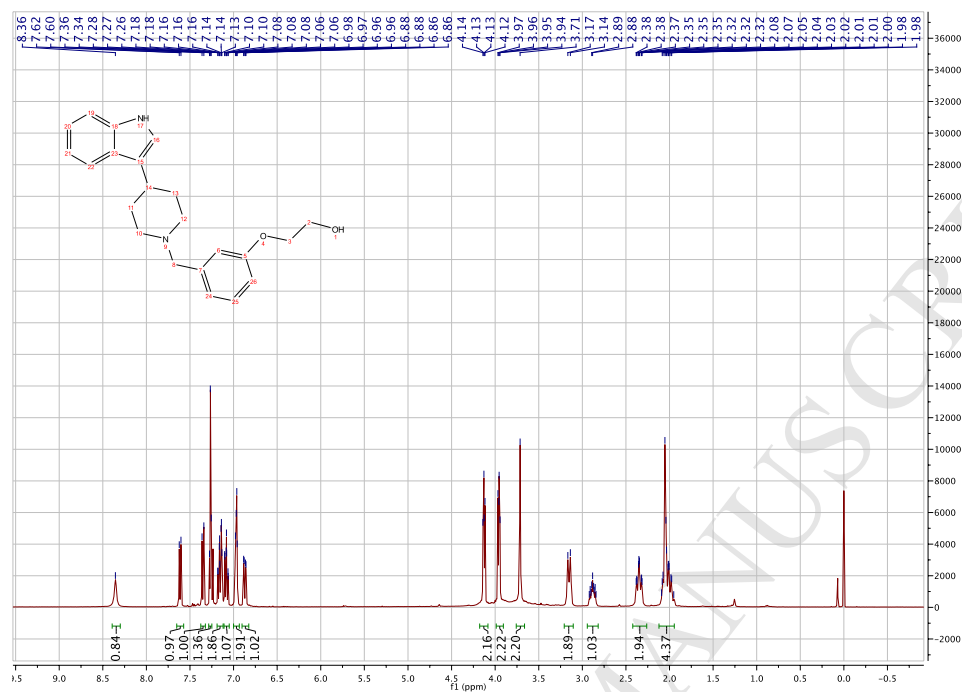
ES-

SAS6_III_f10 66 (1.145) Cm (64:68)

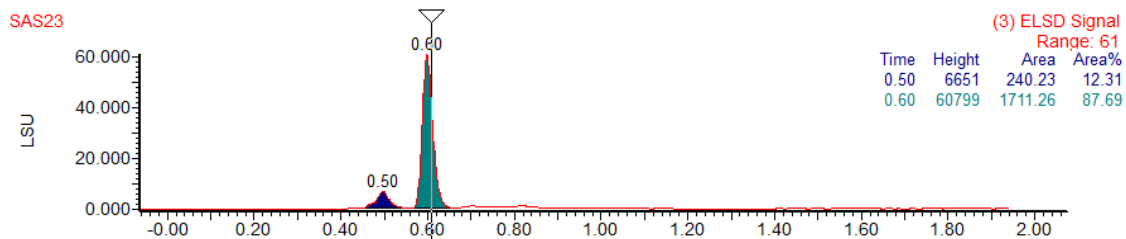
1: Scan ES-
2.57e6

Compound 9h

NMR

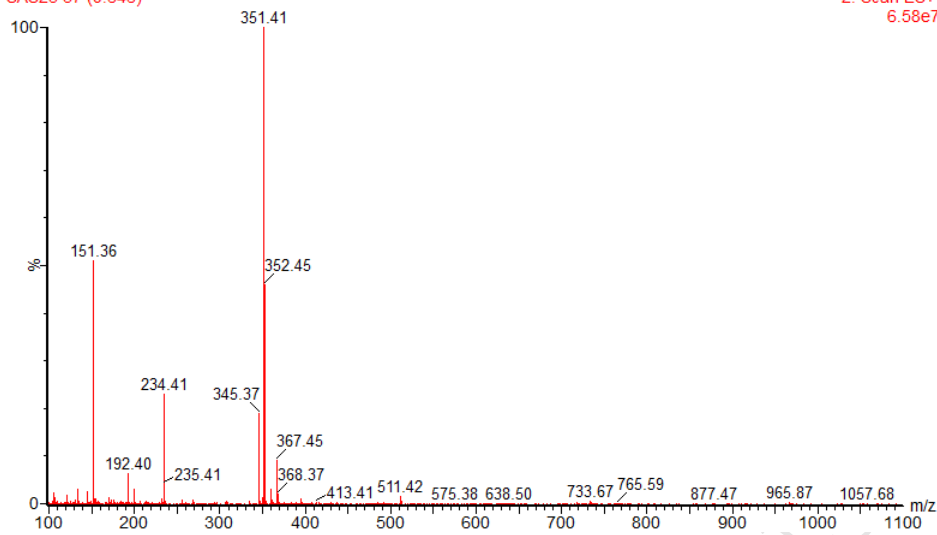


ELSD



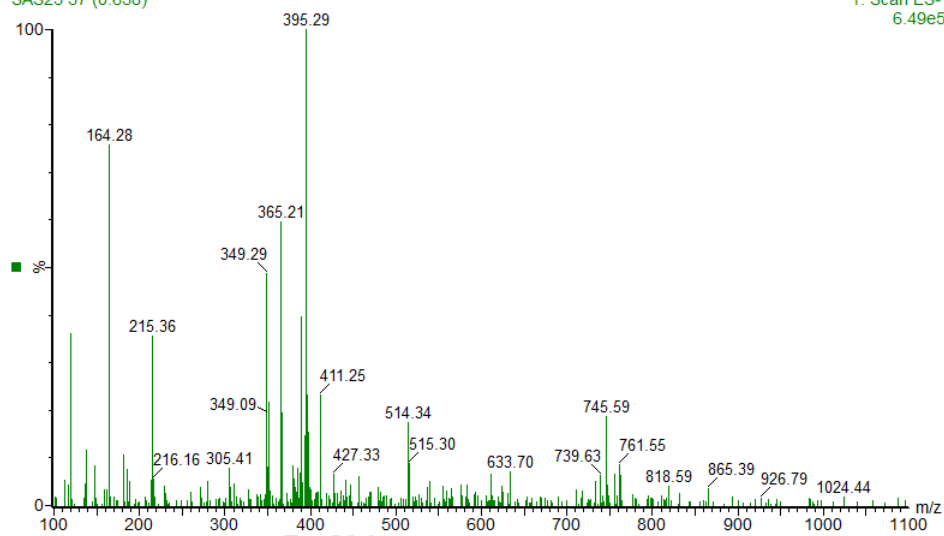
ES+

SAS23 37 (0.646)

2: Scan ES+
6.58e7

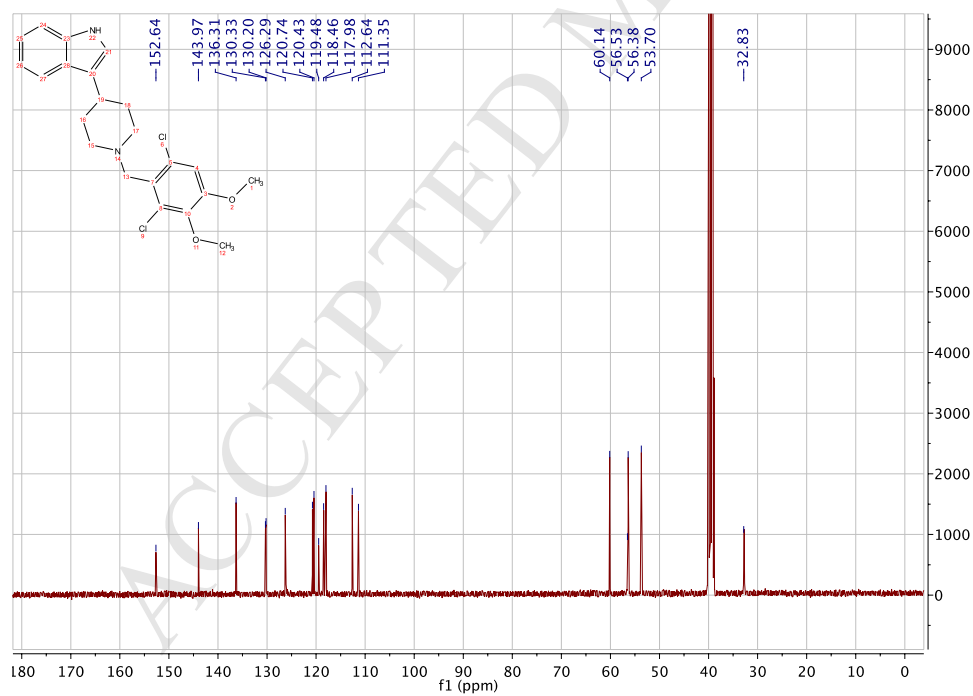
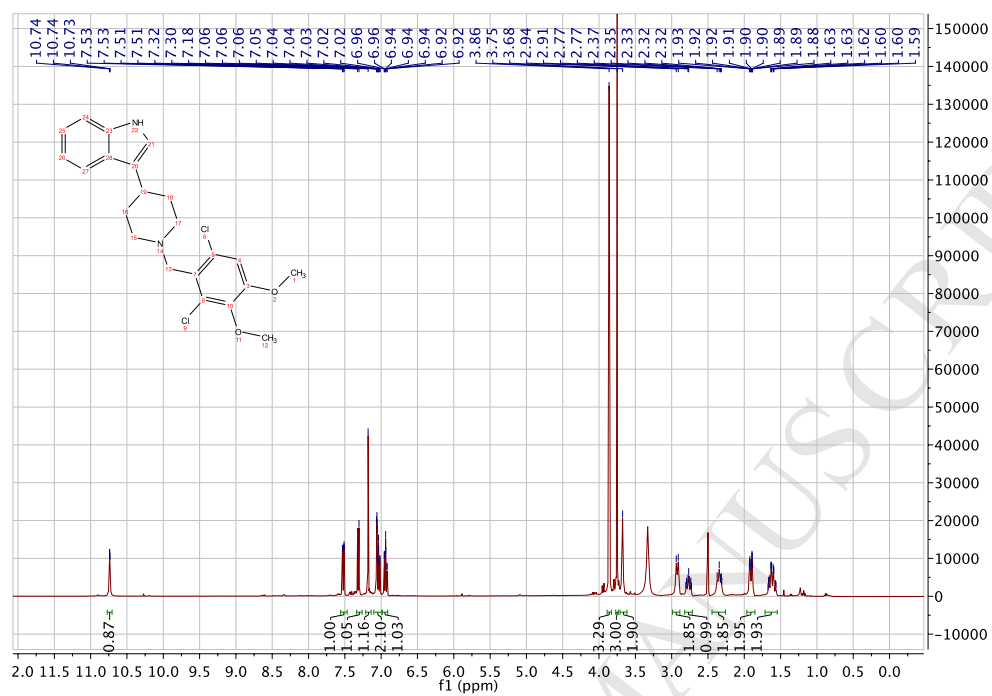
ES-

SAS23 37 (0.638)

1: Scan ES-
6.49e5

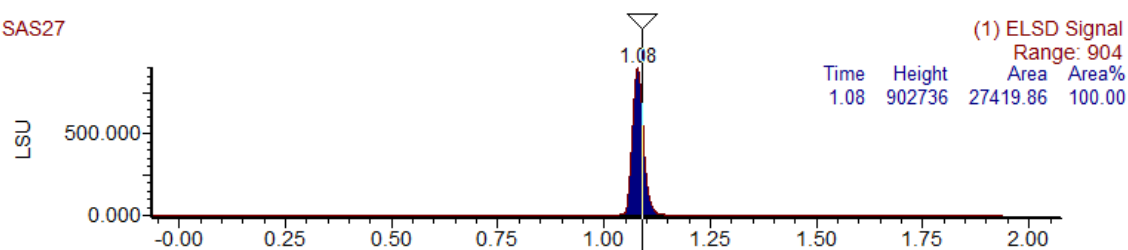
Compound 9i

NMR



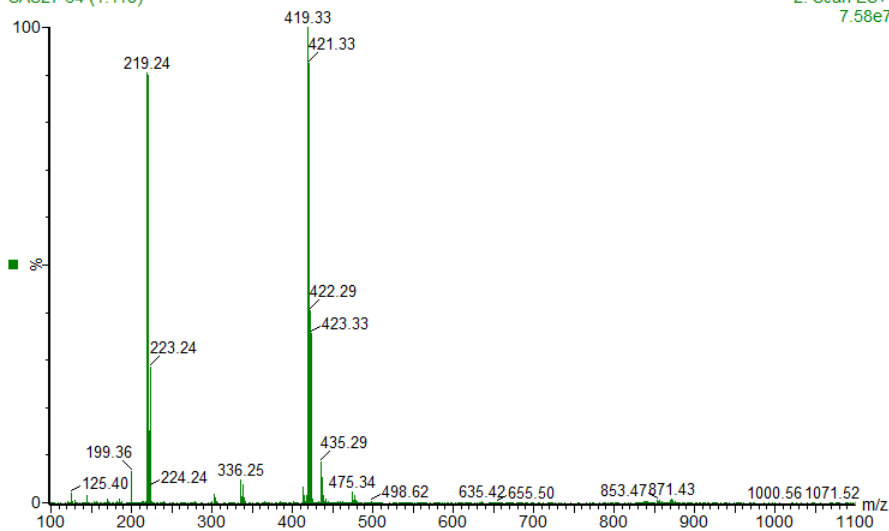
ELSD

SAS27



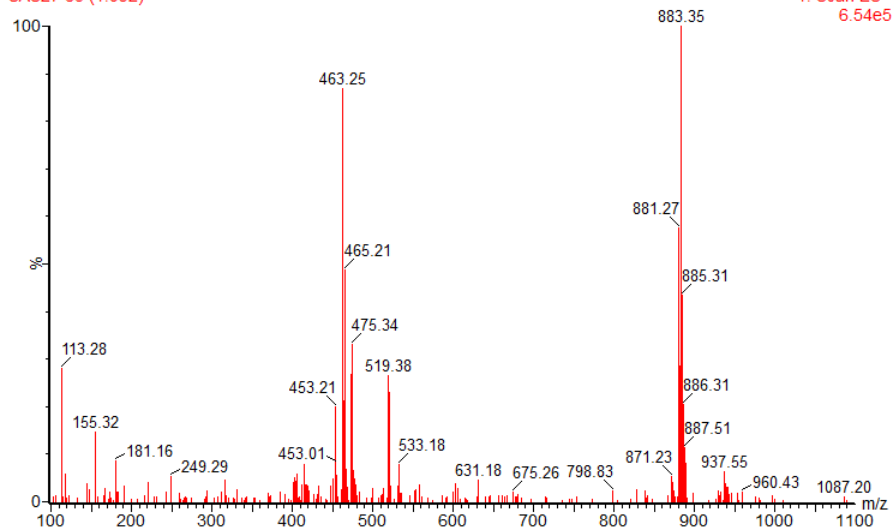
ES+

SAS27 64 (1.118)



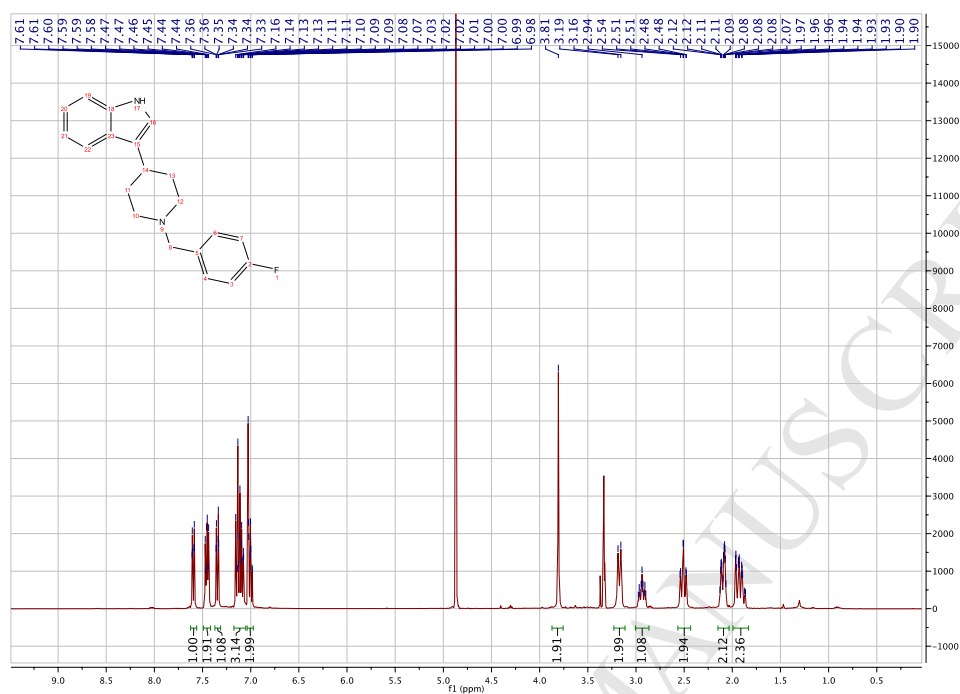
ES-

SAS27 63 (1.092)



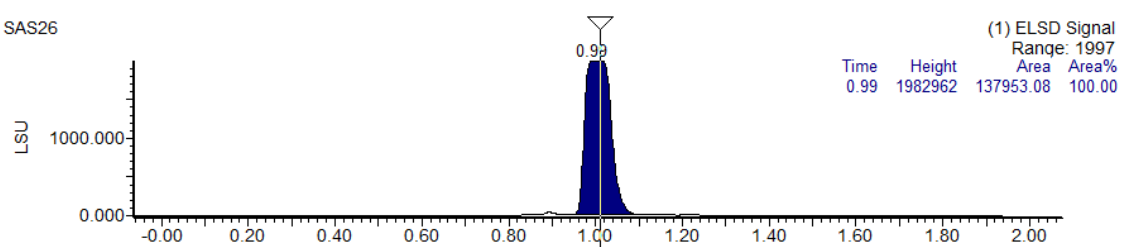
Compound 9j

NMR



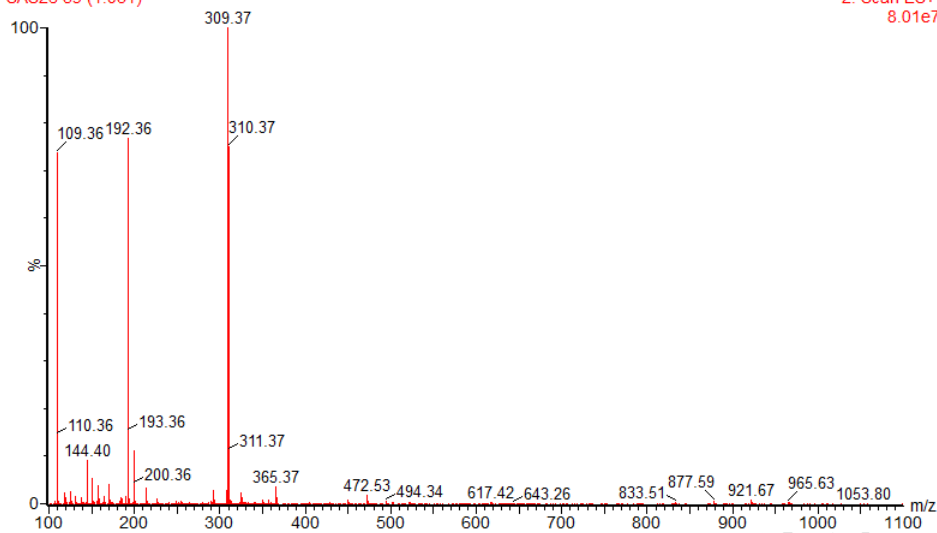
ELSD

SAS26



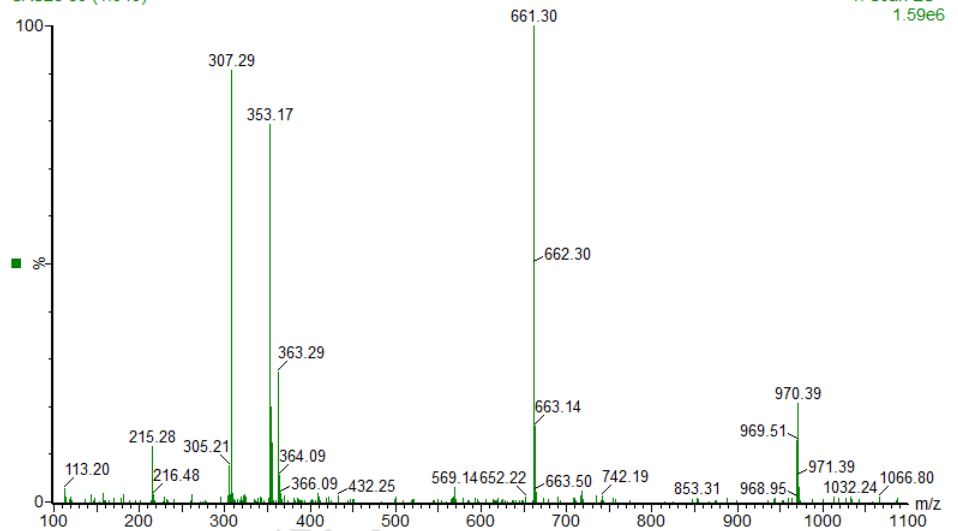
ES+

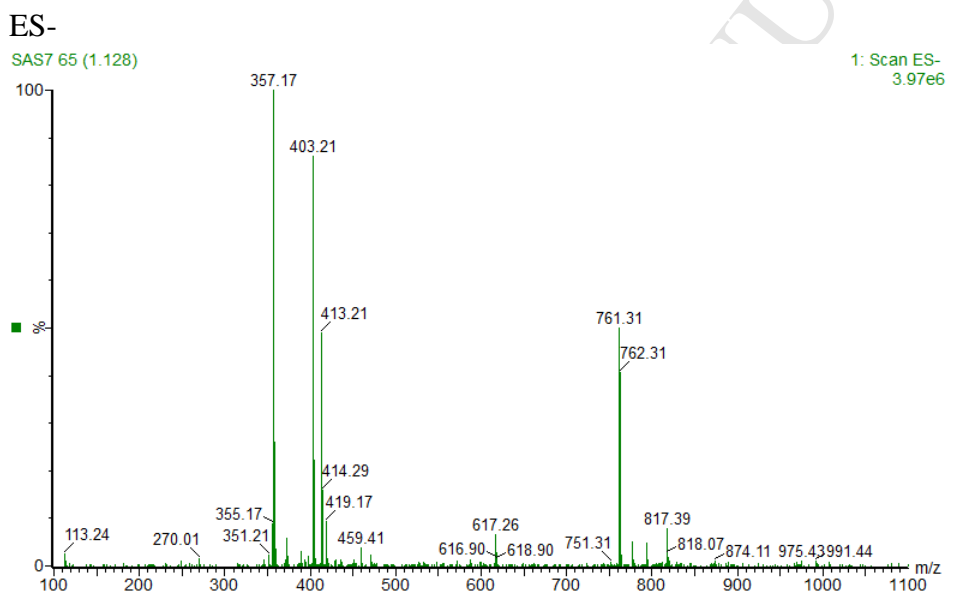
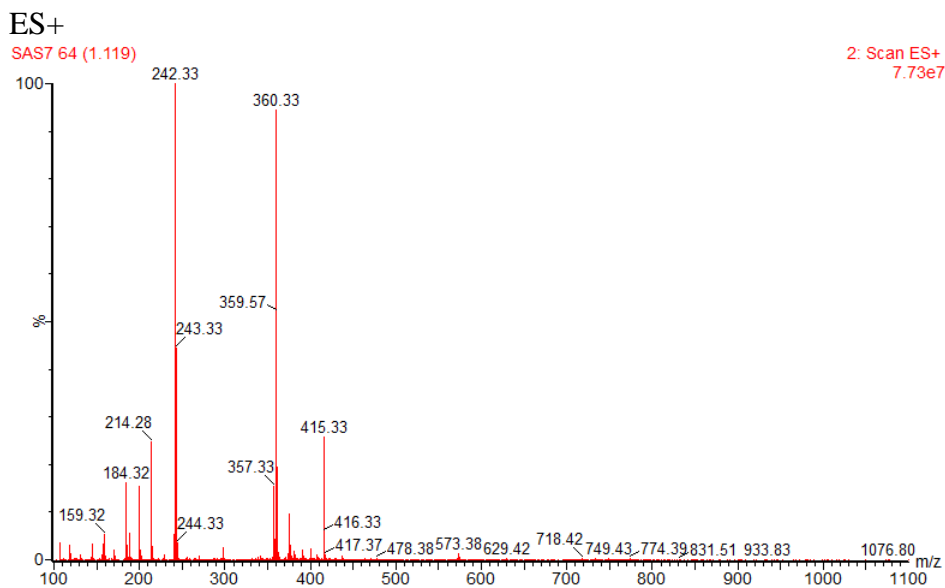
SAS26 59 (1.031)

2: Scan ES+
8.01e7

ES-

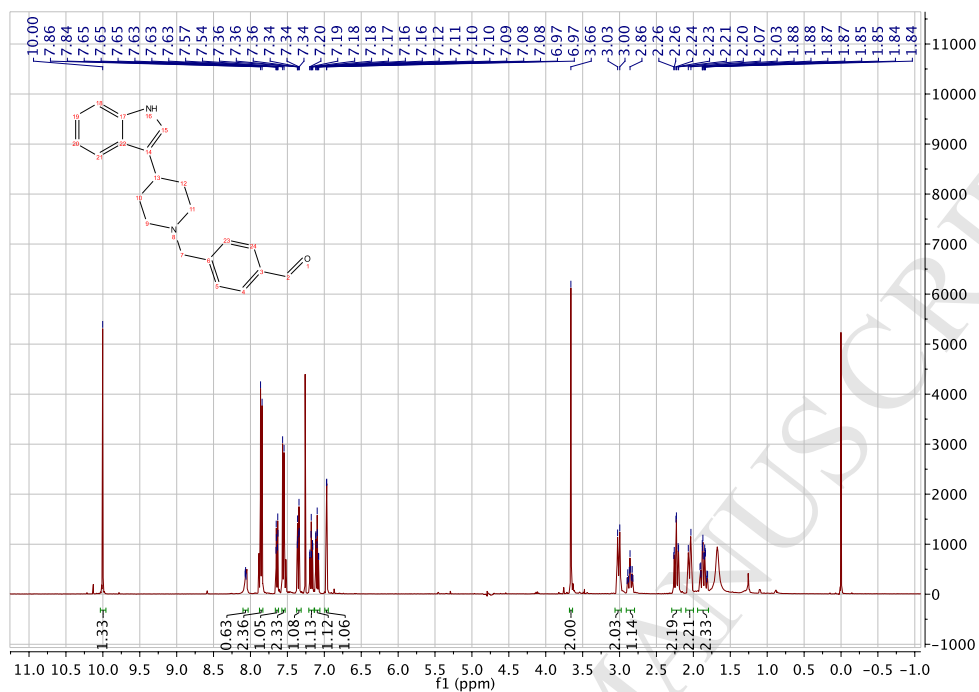
SAS26 60 (1.040)

1: Scan ES-
1.59e6

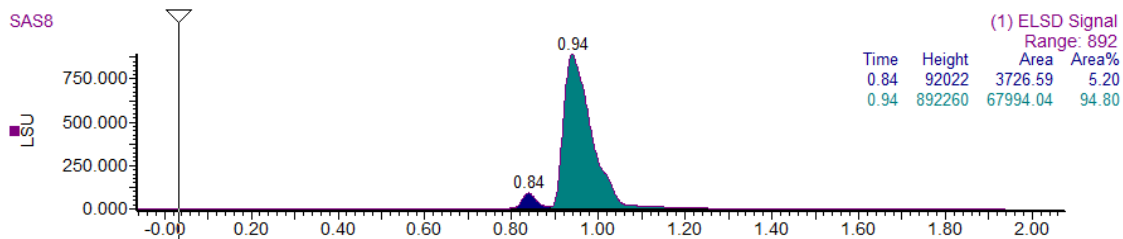


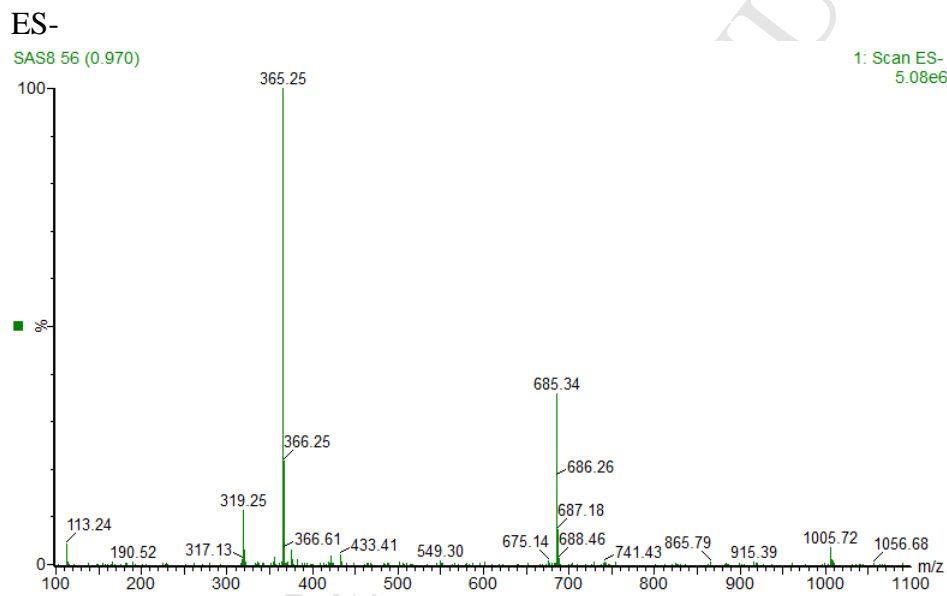
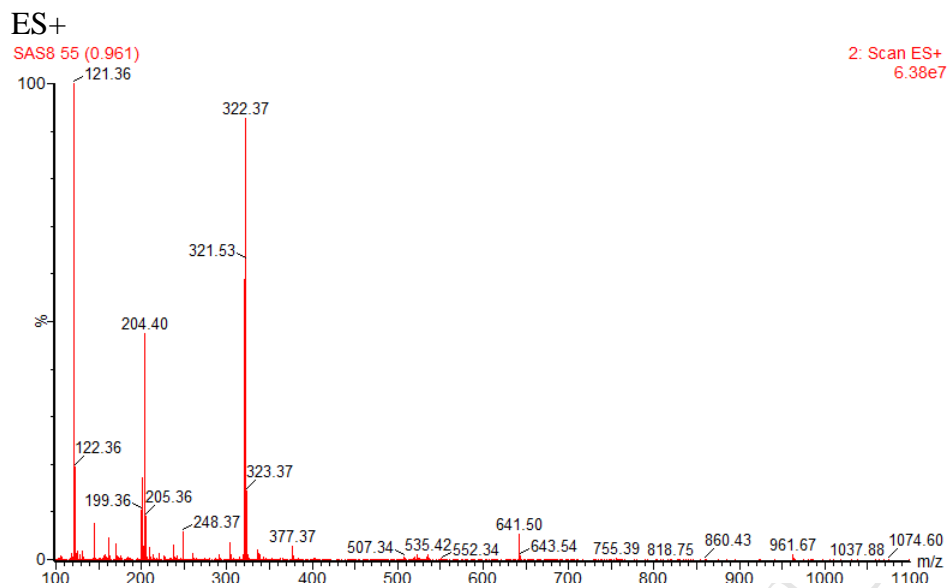
Compound 9l

NMR



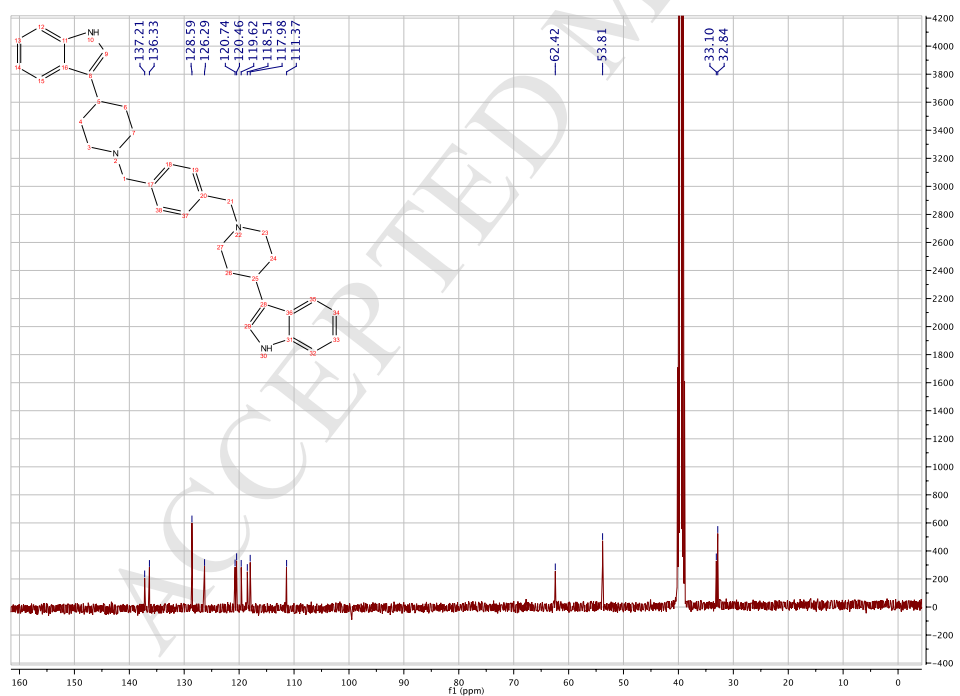
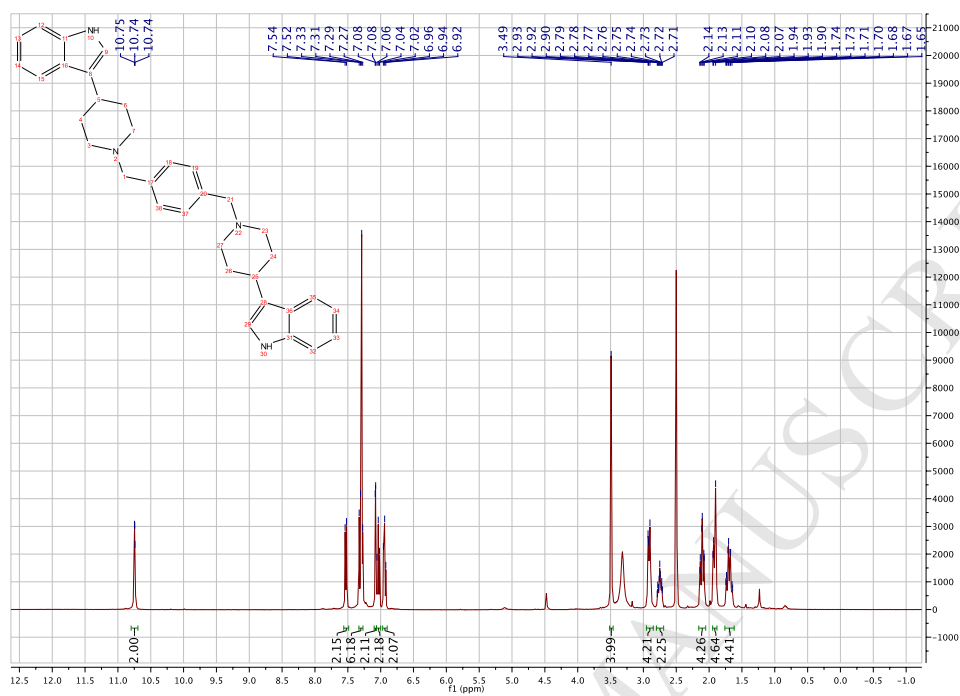
ELSD



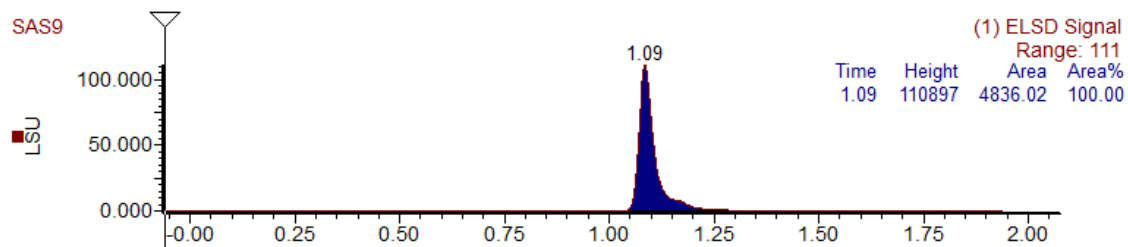


Compound 9m

NMR

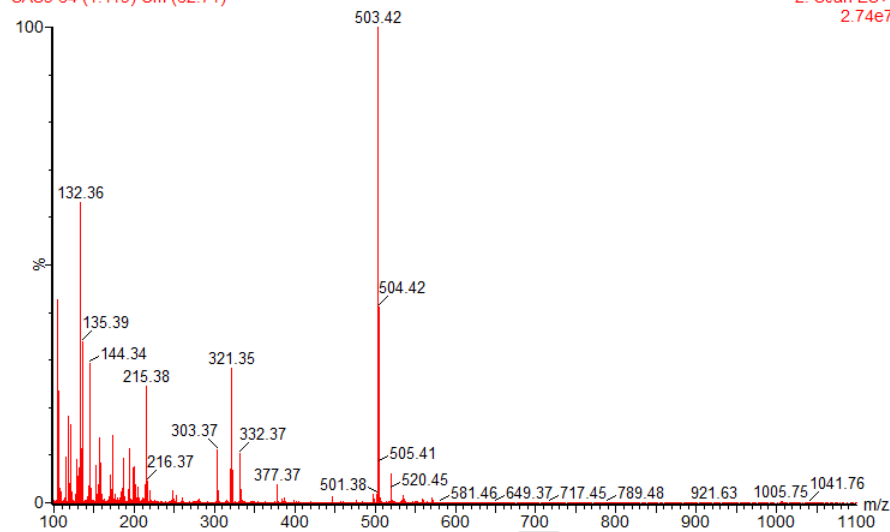


ELSD



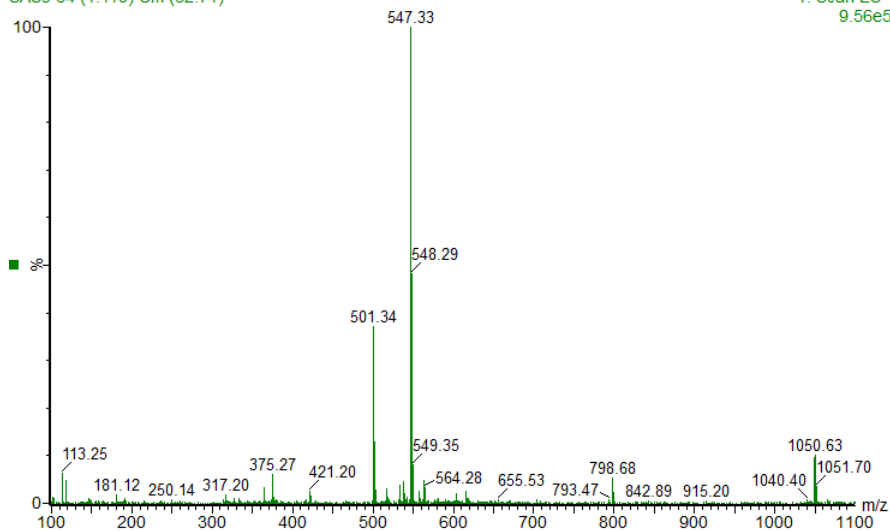
ES+

SAS9 64 (1.119) Cm (62:71)

2: Scan ES+
2.74e7

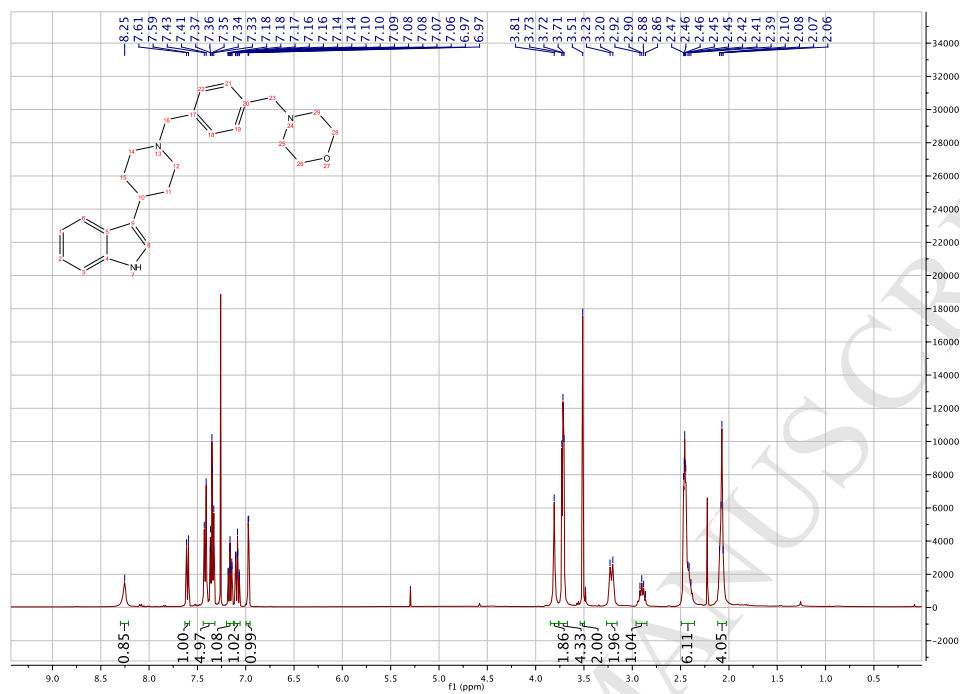
ES-

SAS9 64 (1.110) Cm (62:71)

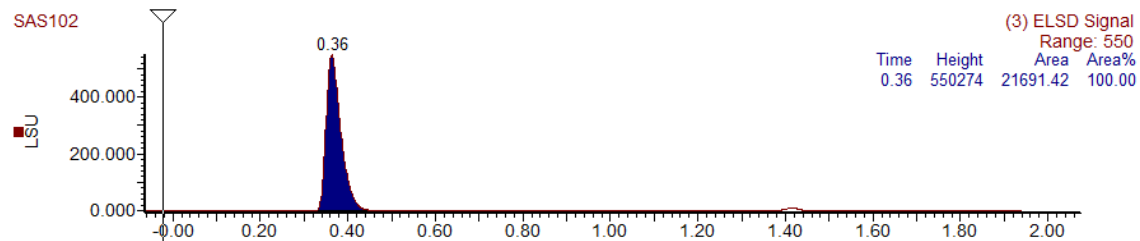
1: Scan ES-
9.56e5

Compound 9n

NMR

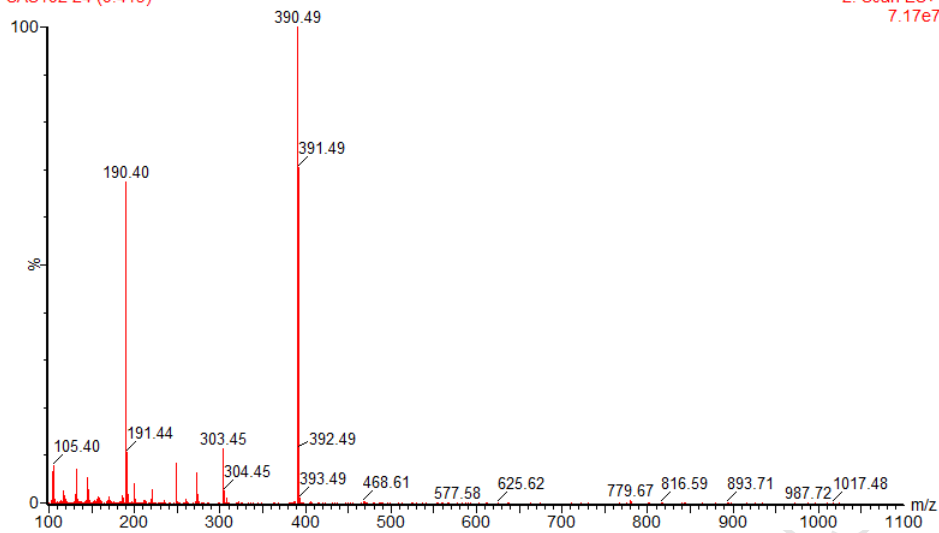


ELSD



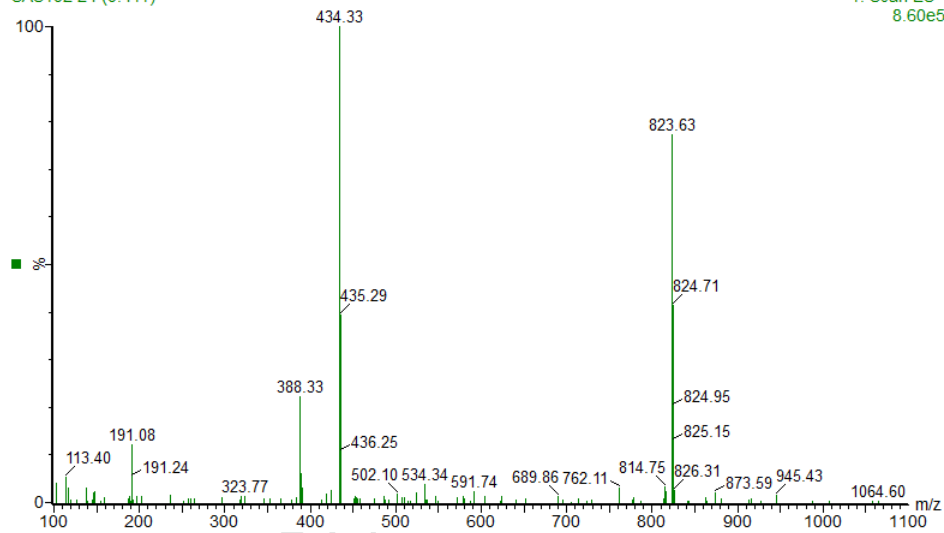
ES+

SAS102 24 (0.419)

2: Scan ES+
7.17e7

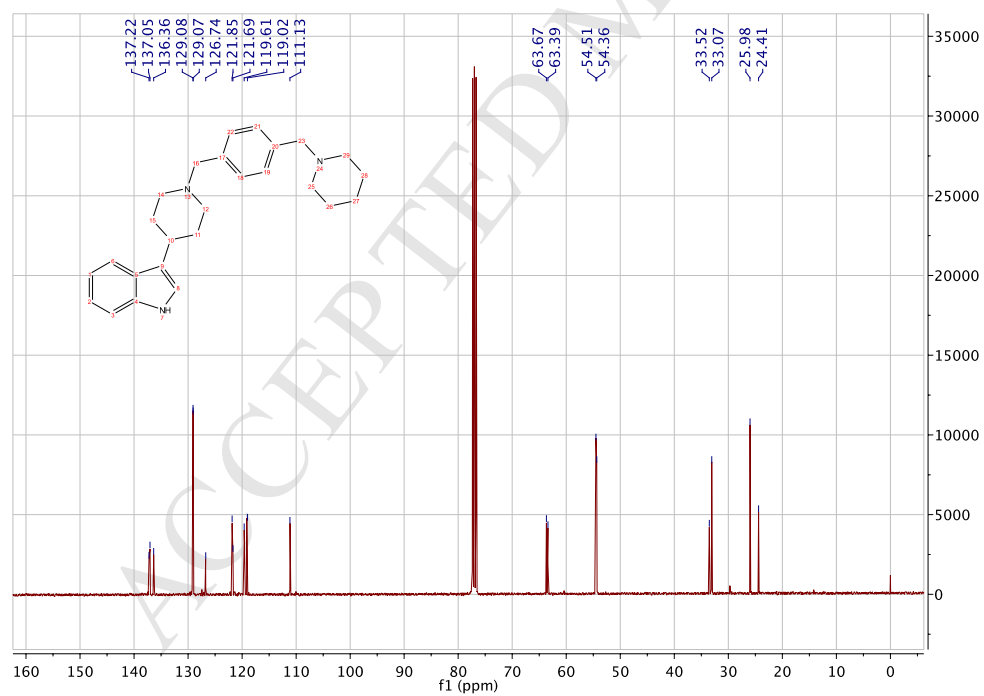
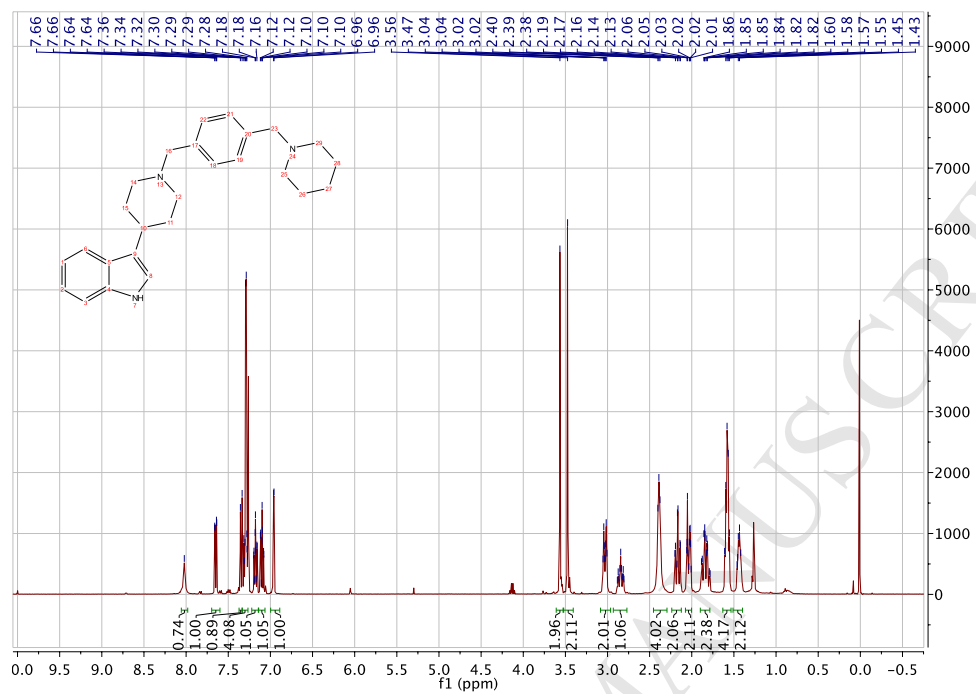
ES-

SAS102 24 (0.411)

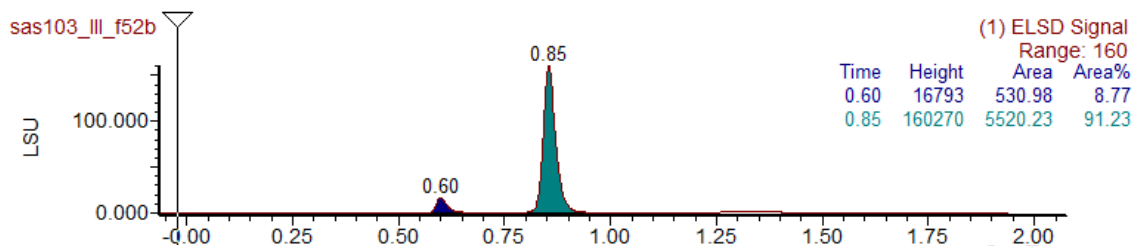
1: Scan ES-
8.60e5

Compound 9o

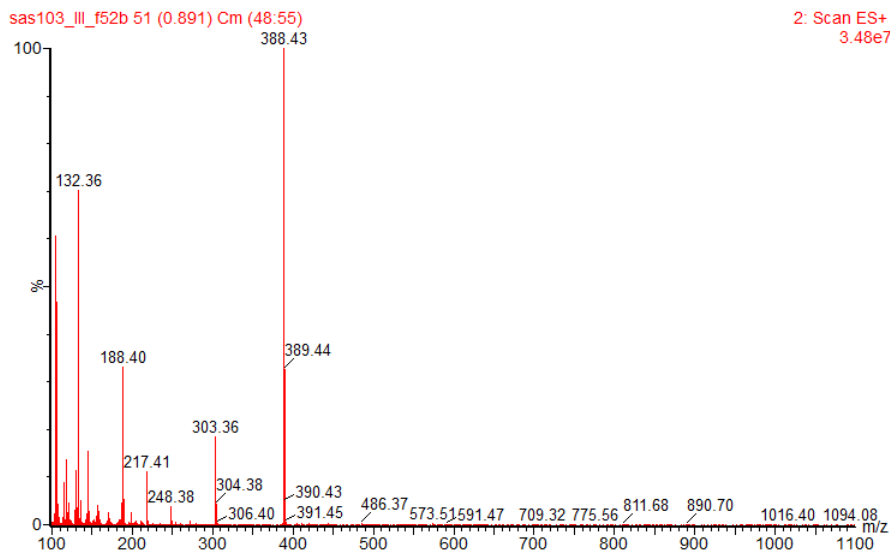
NMR



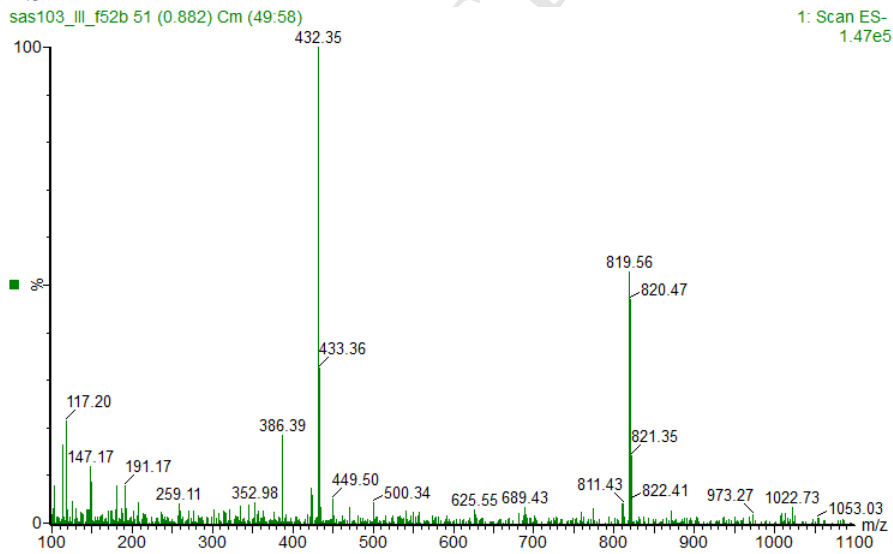
ELSD



ES+

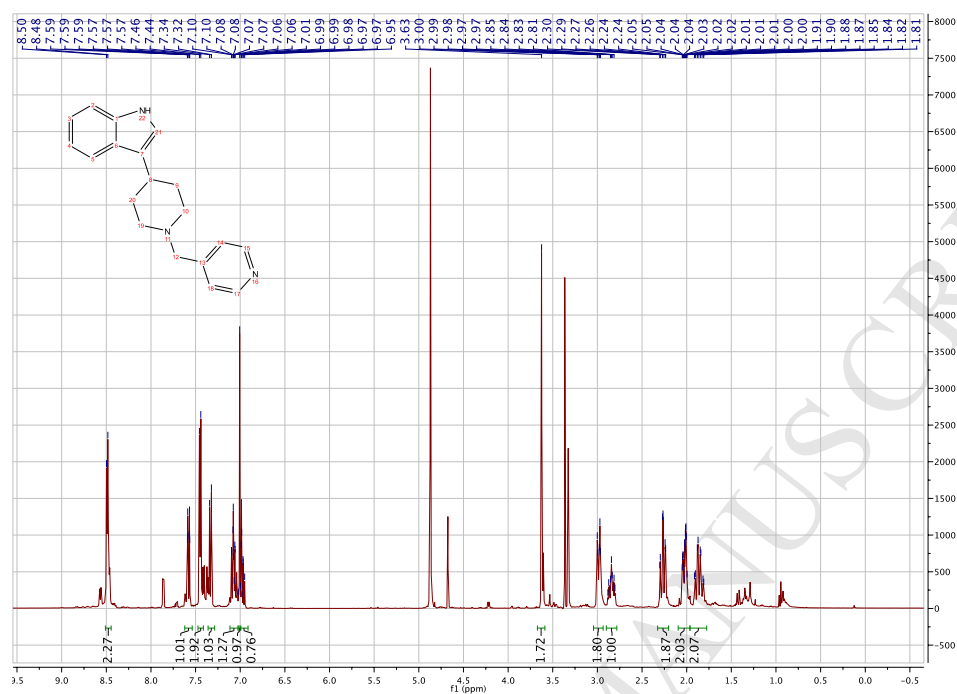


ES-

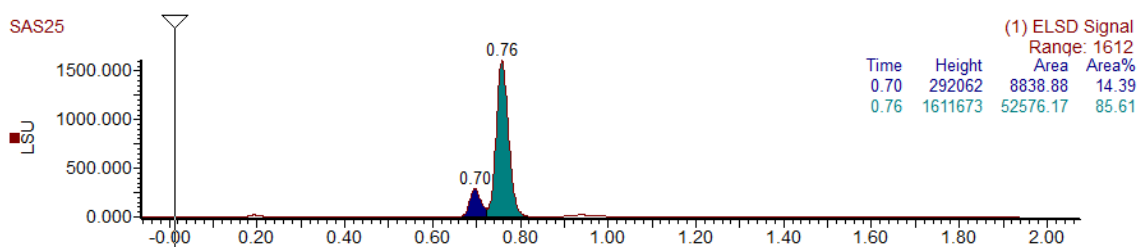


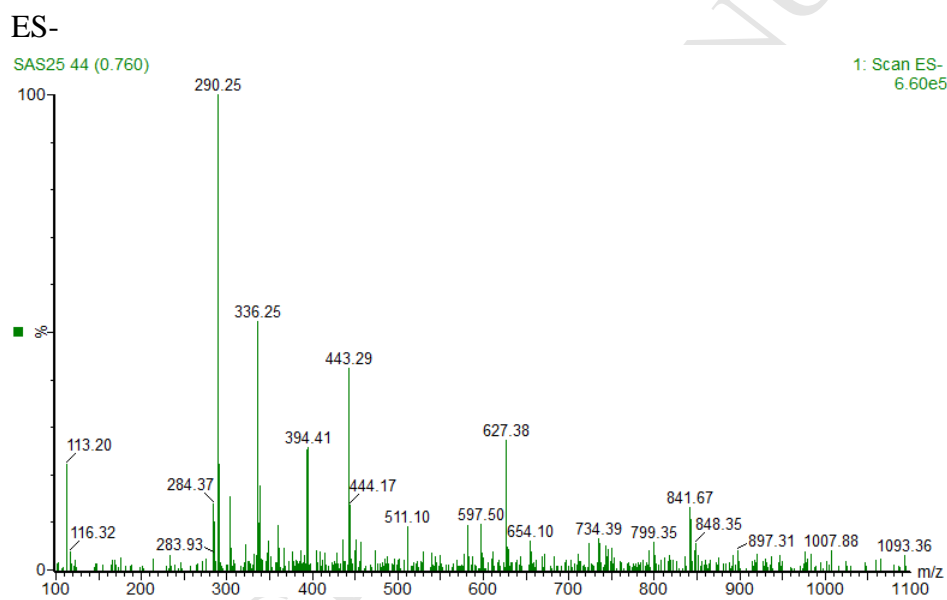
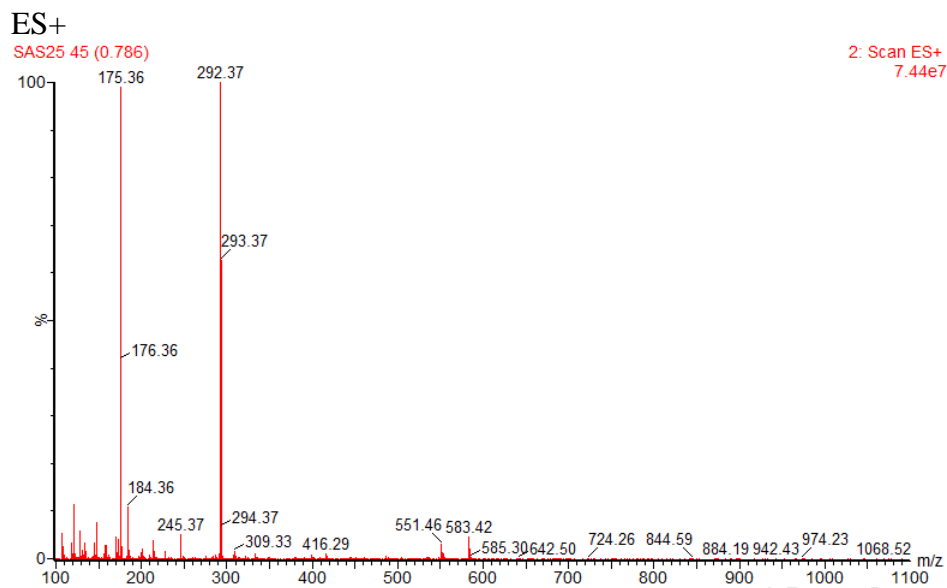
Compound 9p

NMR



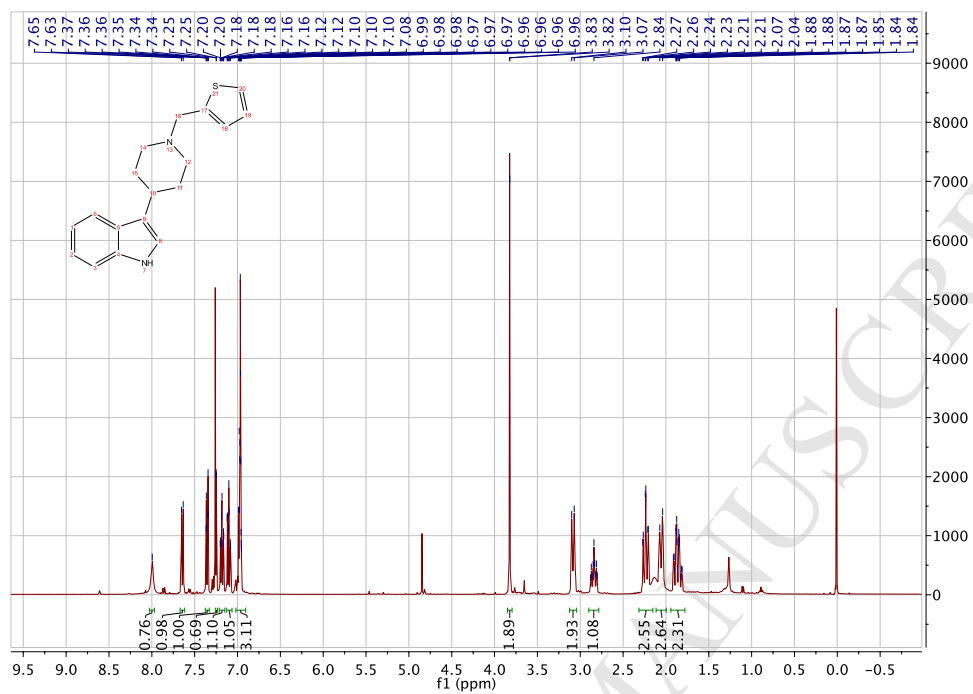
ELSD



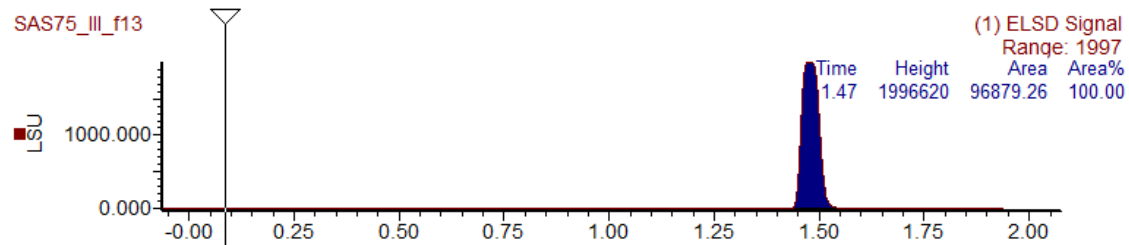


Compound 9q

NMR

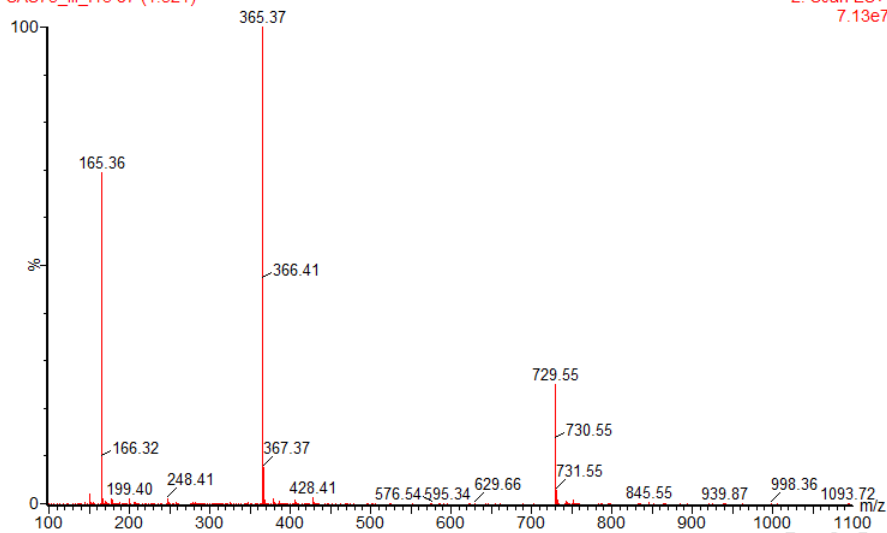


ELSD



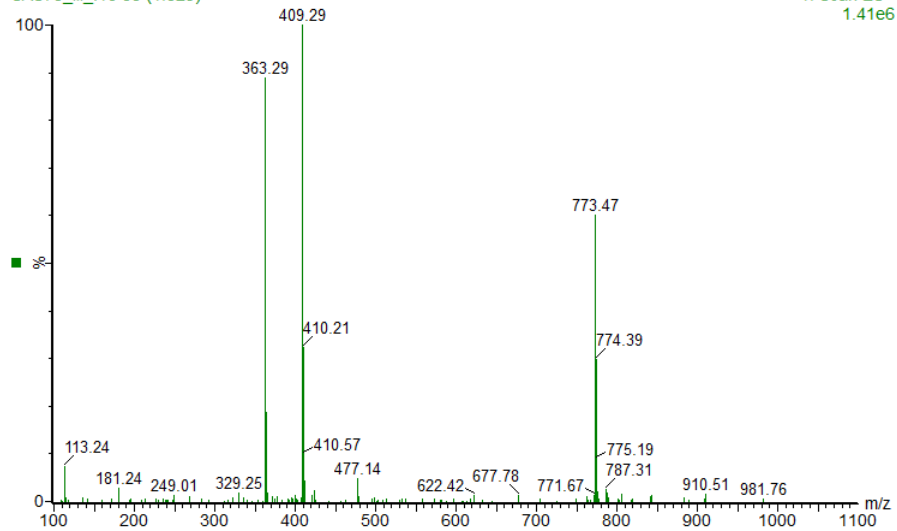
ES+

SAS75_III_f13 87 (1.521)

2: Scan ES+
7.13e7

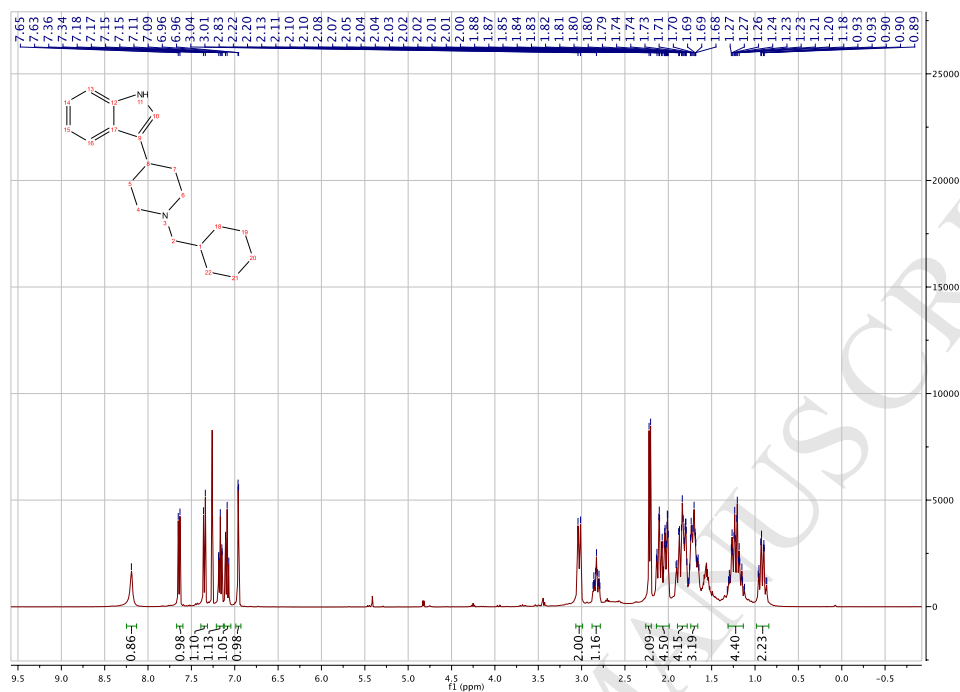
ES-

SAS75_III_f13 88 (1.529)

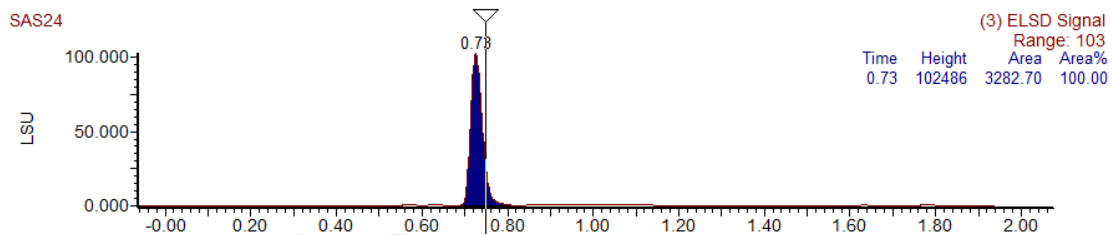
1: Scan ES-
1.41e6

Compound 9r

NMR

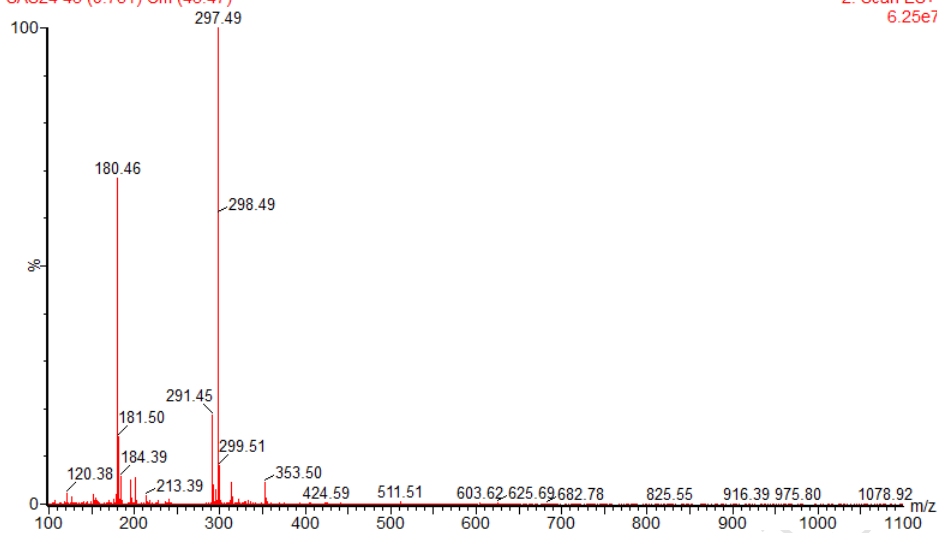


ELSD



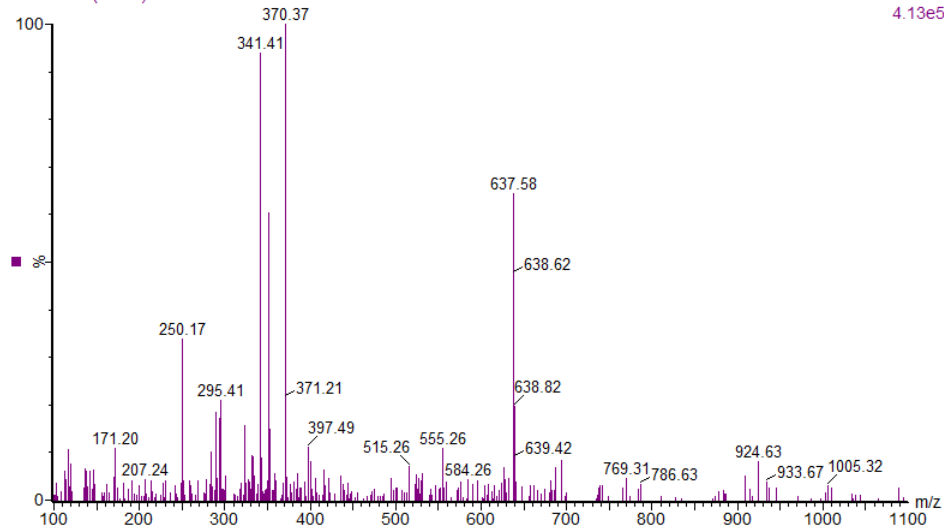
ES+

SAS24 43 (0.751) Cm (43.47)

2: Scan ES+
6.25e7

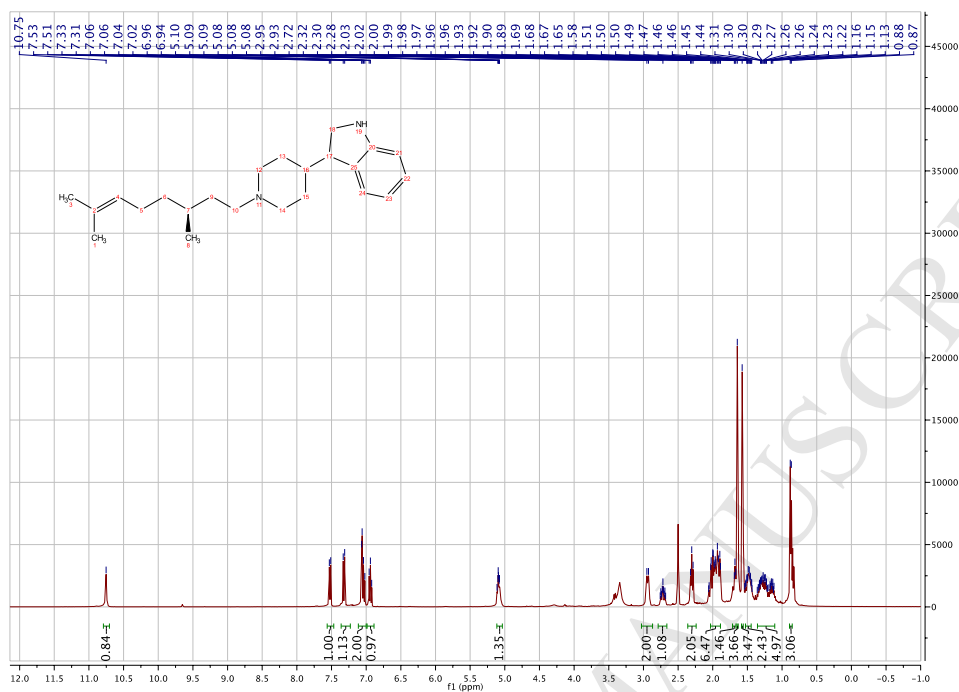
ES-

SAS24 45 (0.778)

1: Scan ES-
4.13e5

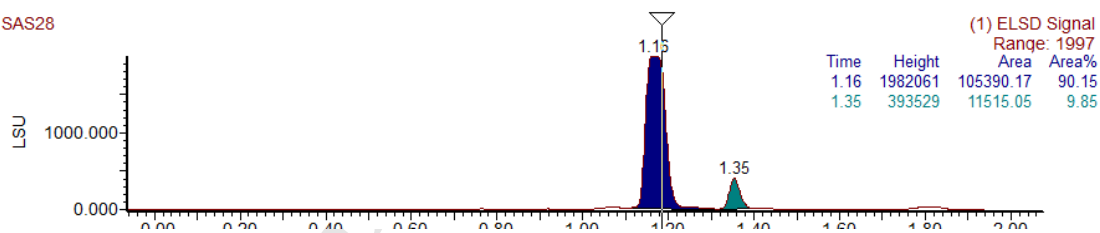
Compound 9s

NMR

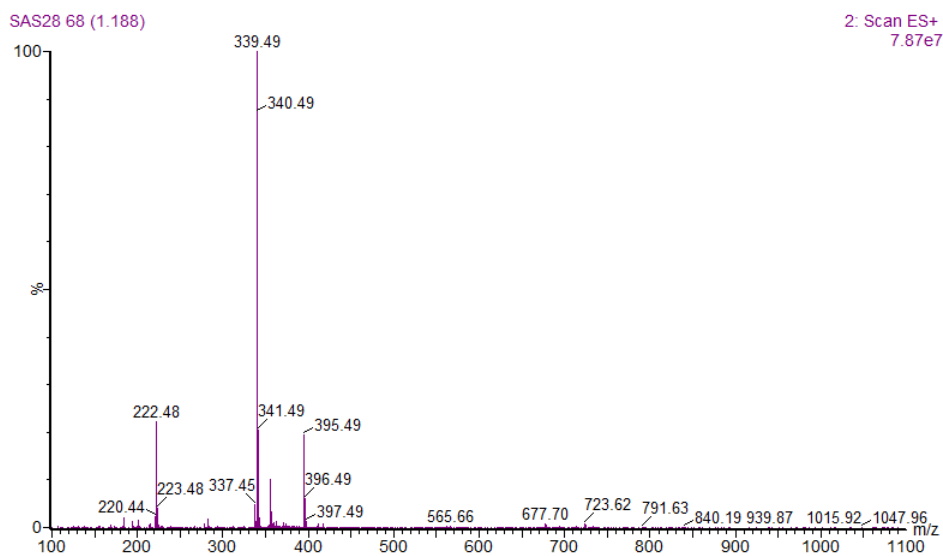


ELSD

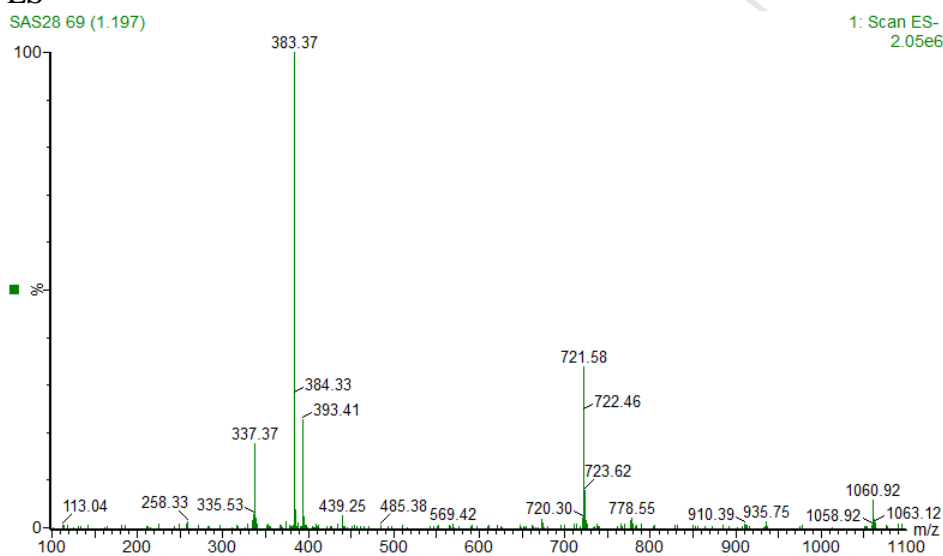
SAS28



ES+

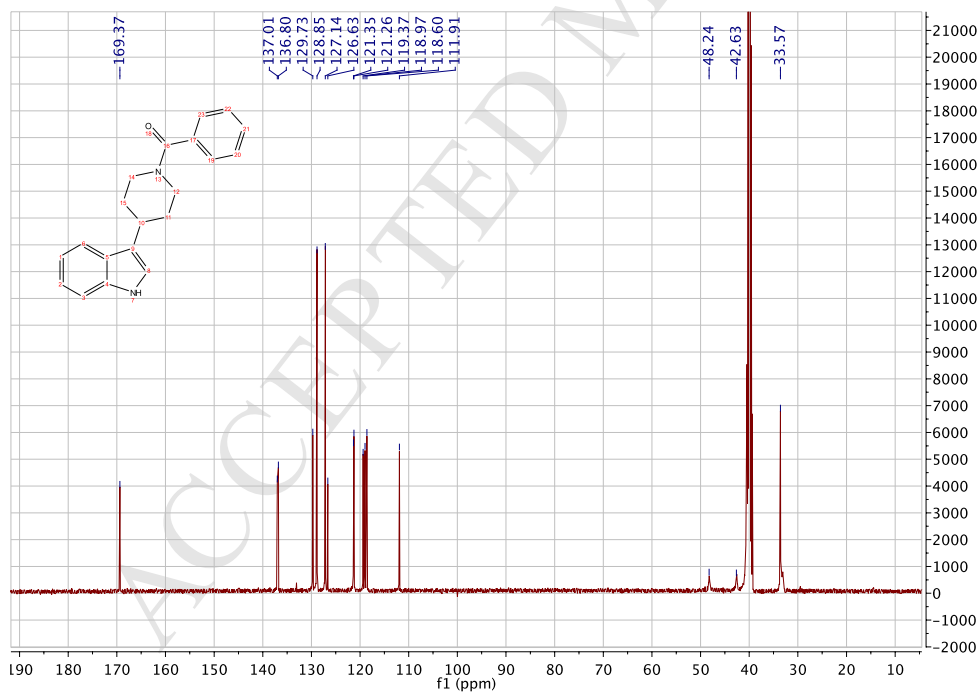
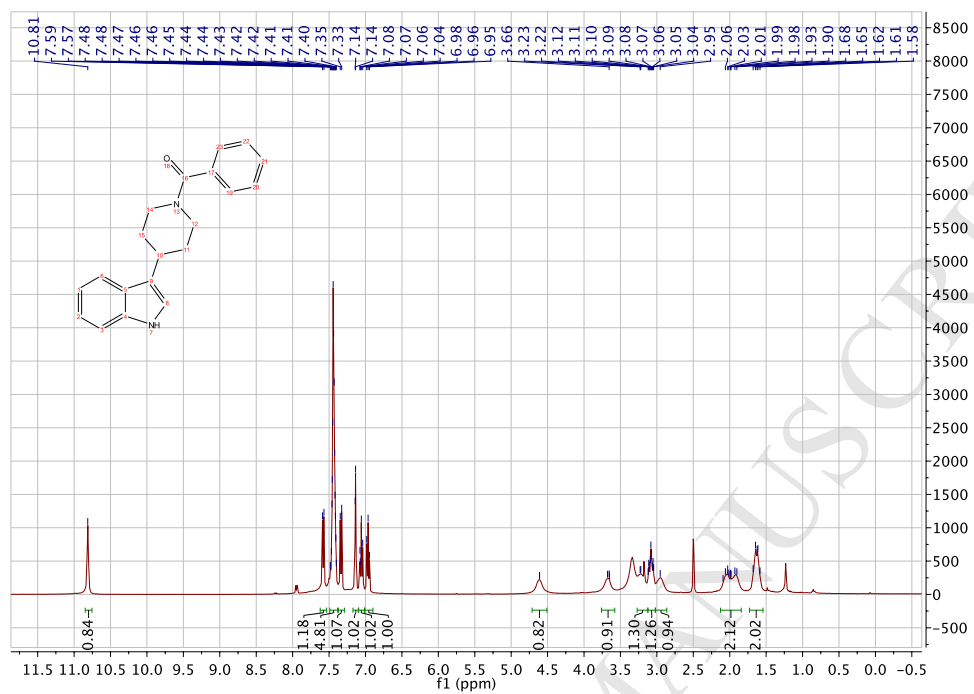


ES-

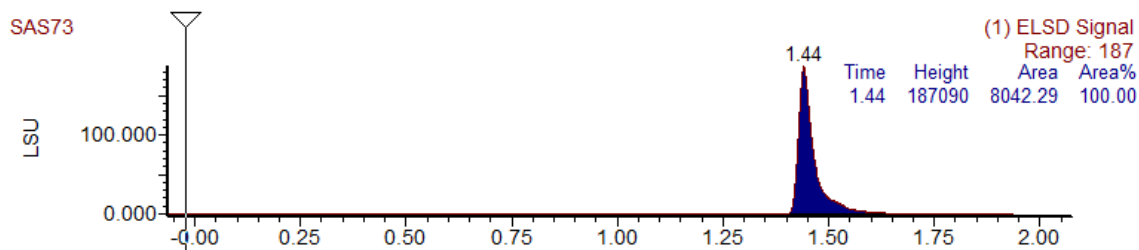


Compound 10a

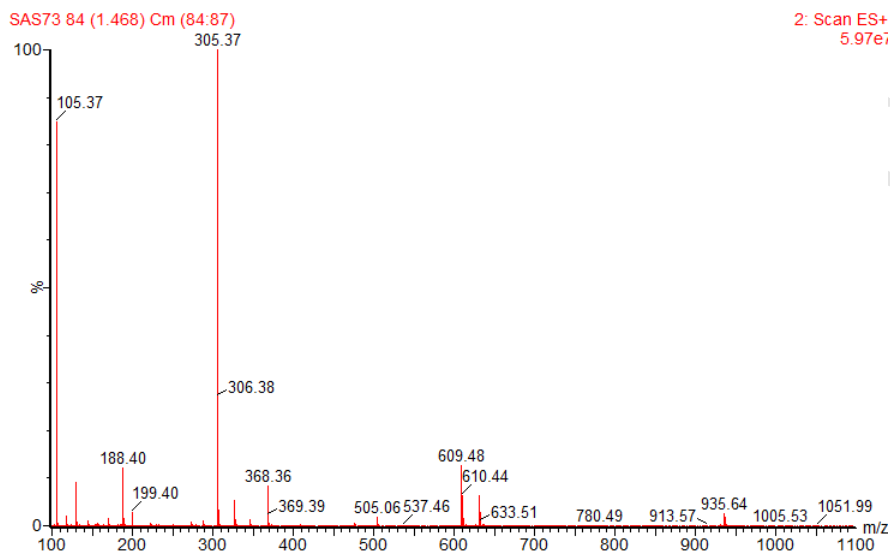
NMR



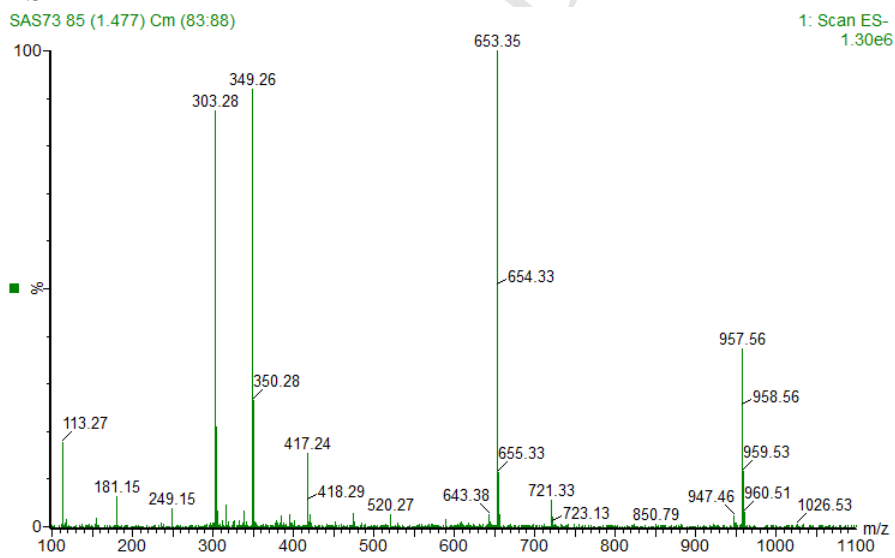
ELSD



ES+

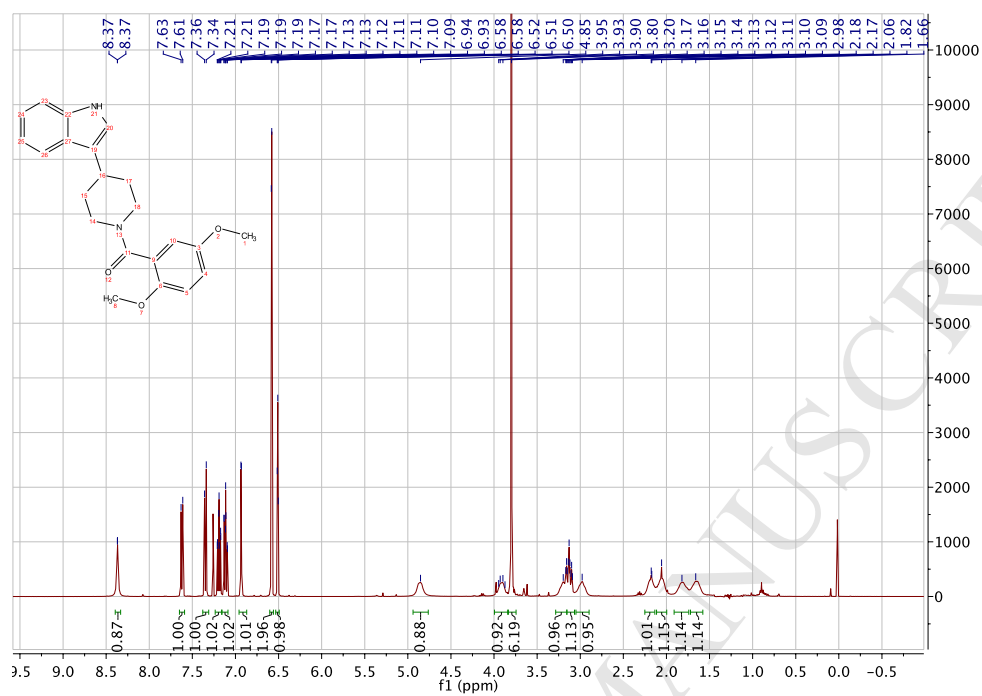


ES-

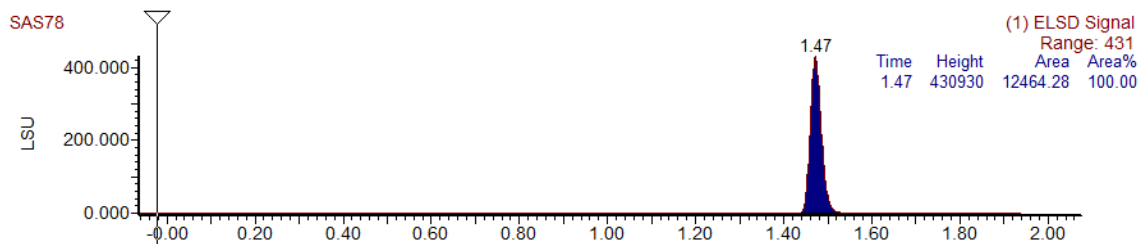


Compound 10b

NMR

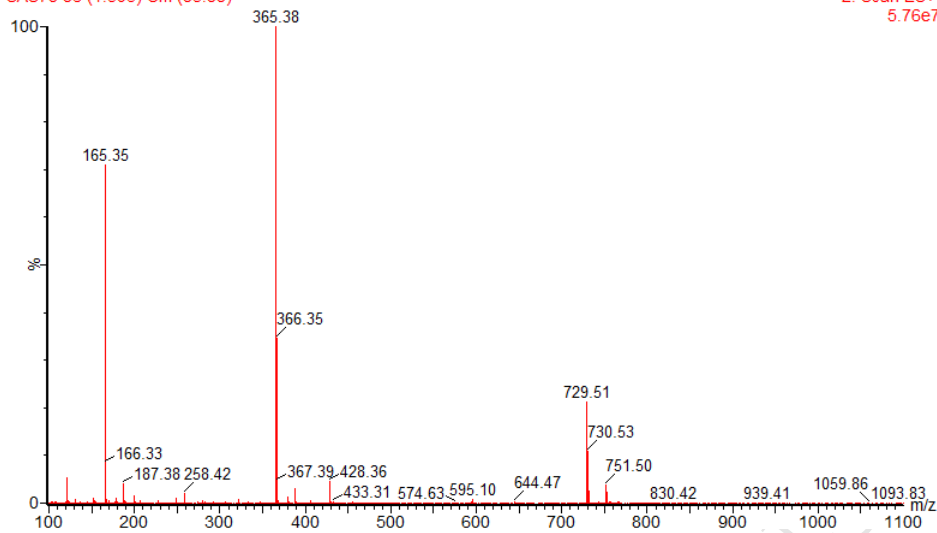


ELSD



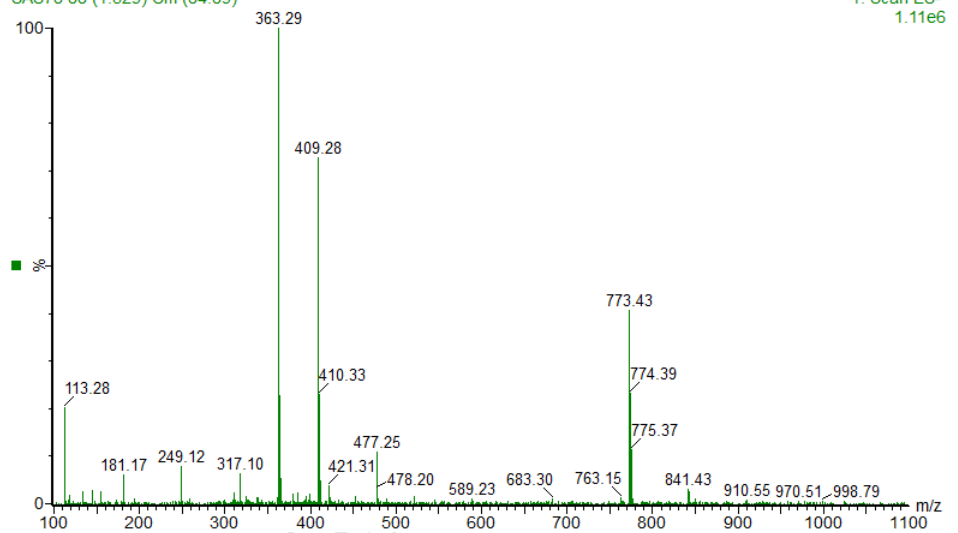
ES+

SAS78 86 (1.503) Cm (85:88)

2: Scan ES+
5.76e7

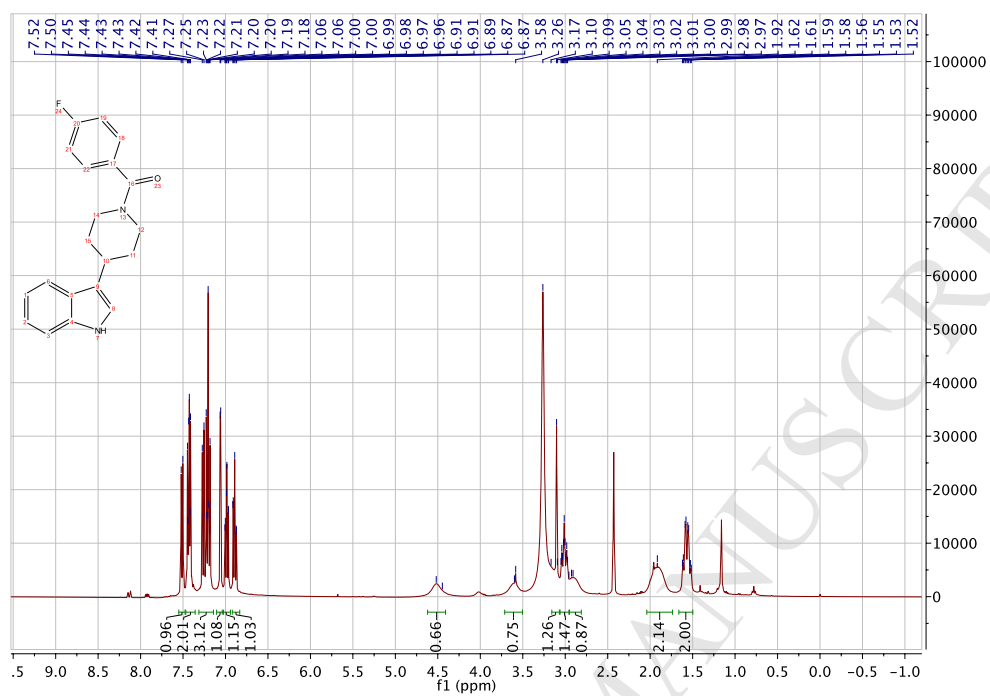
ES-

SAS78 88 (1.529) Cm (84:89)

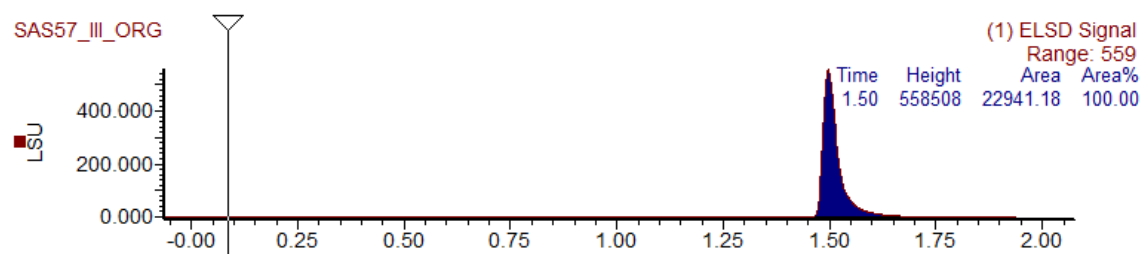
1: Scan ES-
1.11e6

Compound 10c

NMR

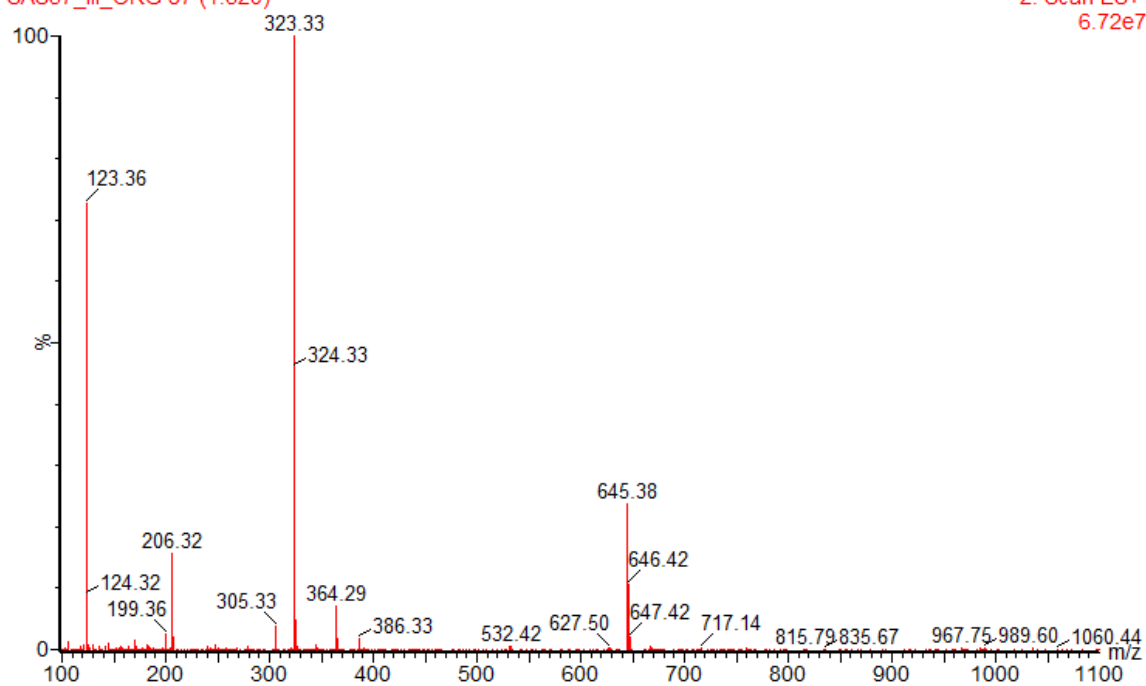


ELSD



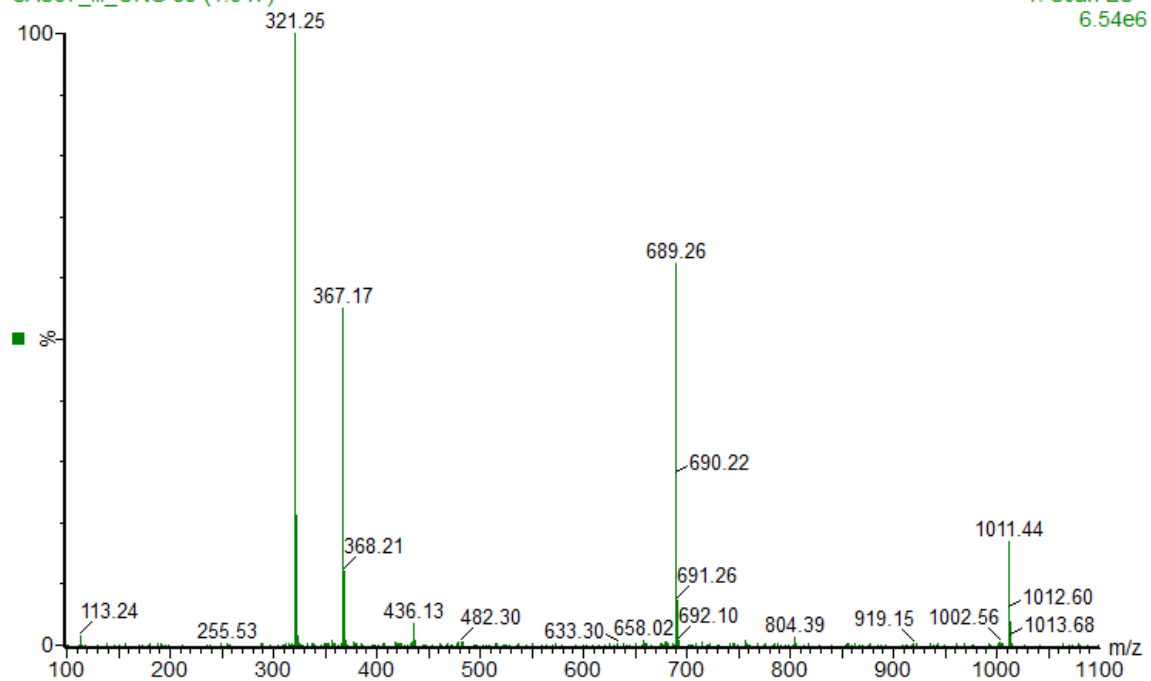
ES+

SAS57_III_ORG 87 (1.520)

2: Scan ES+
6.72e7

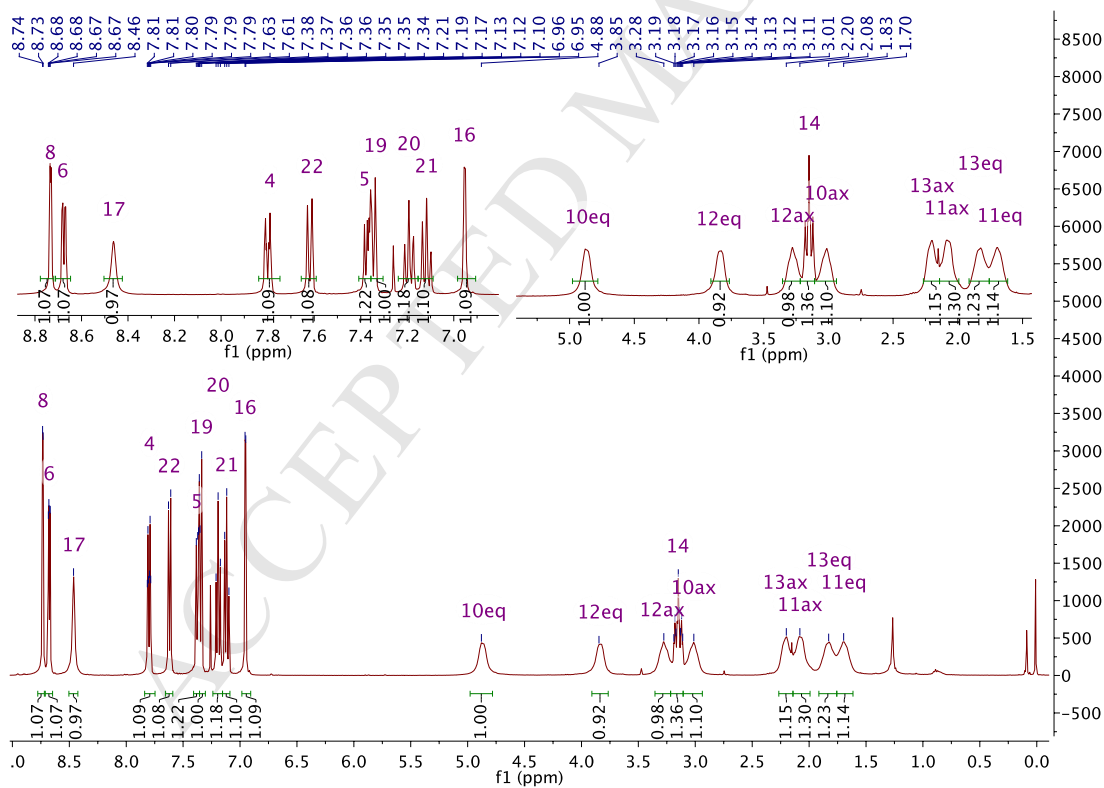
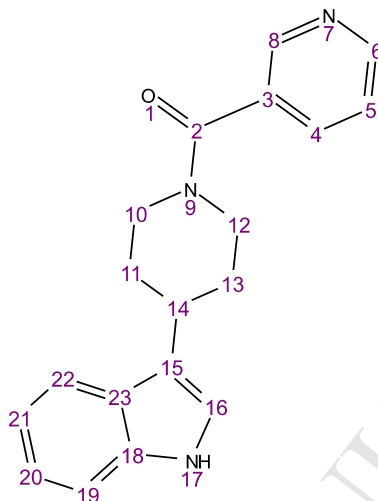
ES-

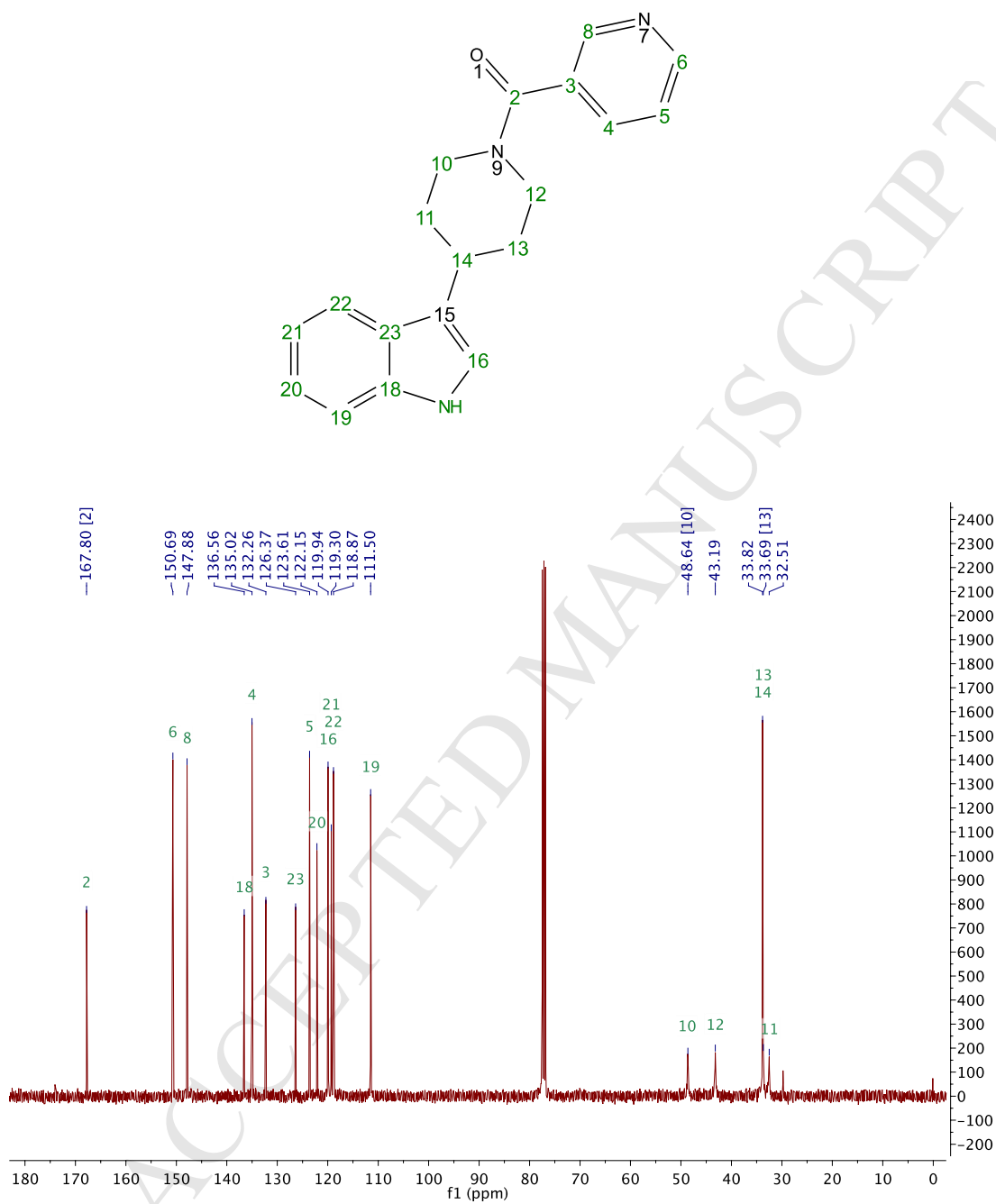
SAS57_III_ORG 89 (1.547)

1: Scan ES-
6.54e6

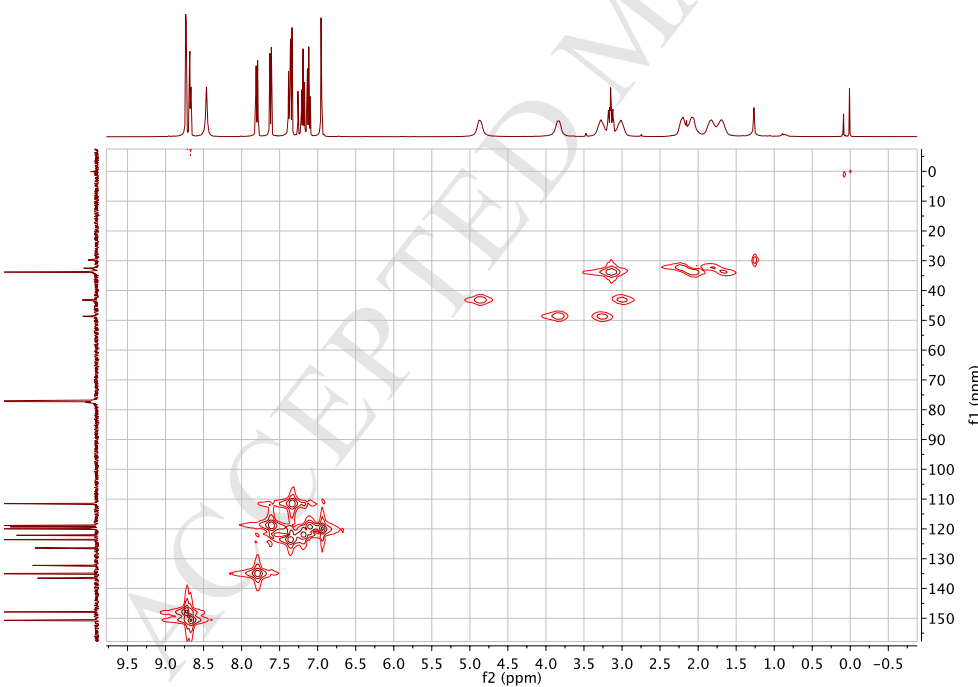
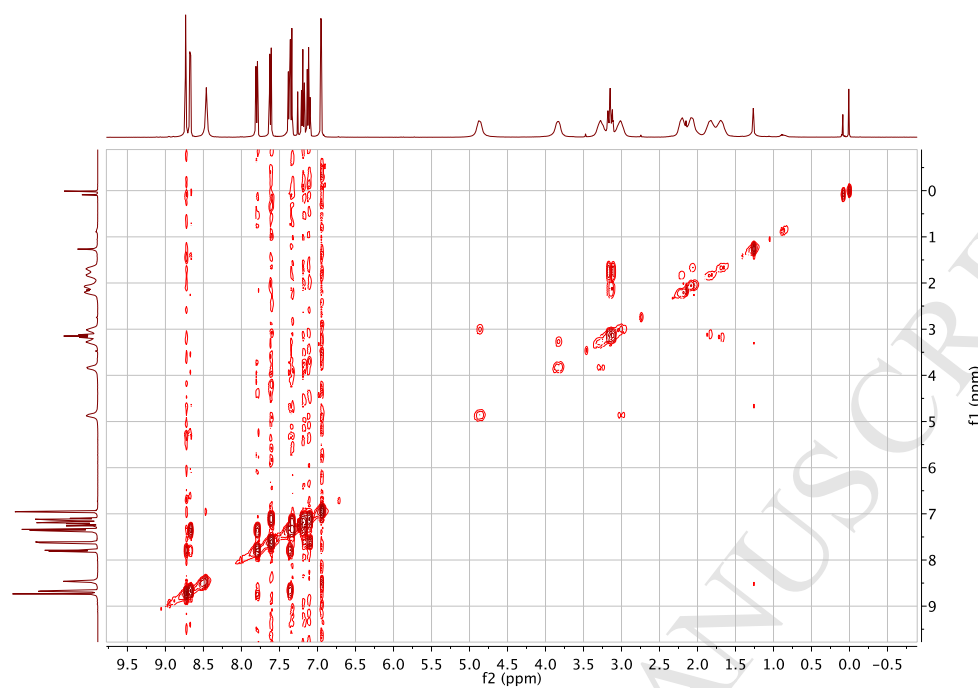
Compound 10d

NMR

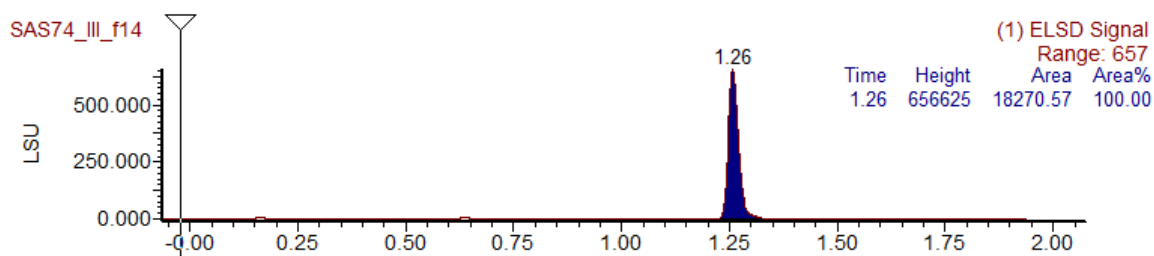
¹H-NMR

^{13}C -NMR

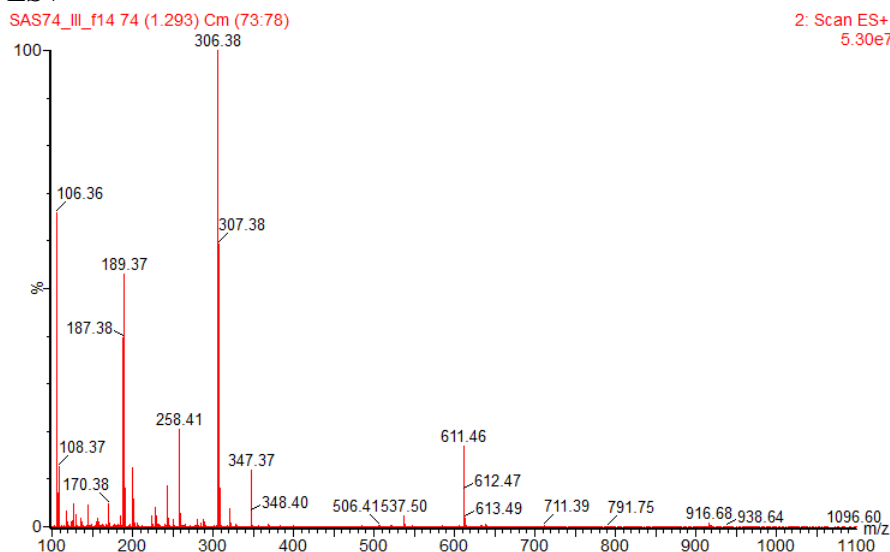
COSY and HMQC



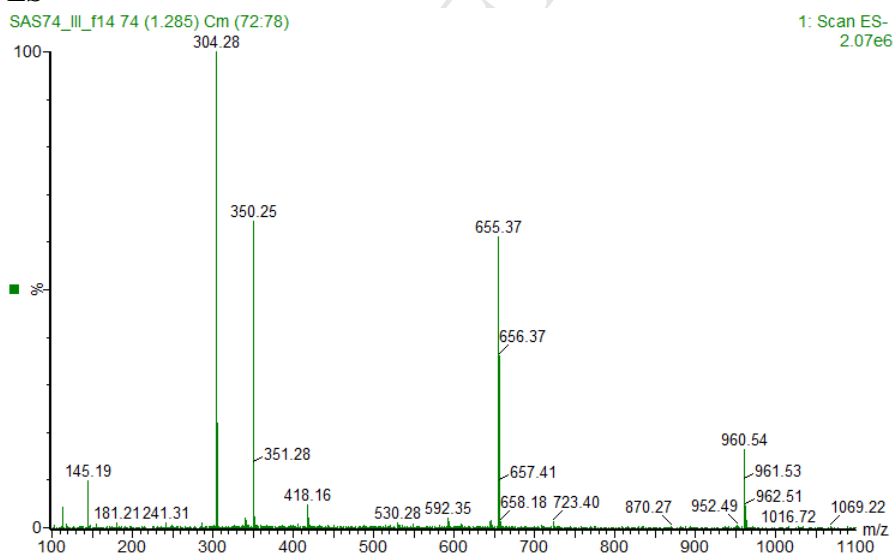
ELSD



ES+

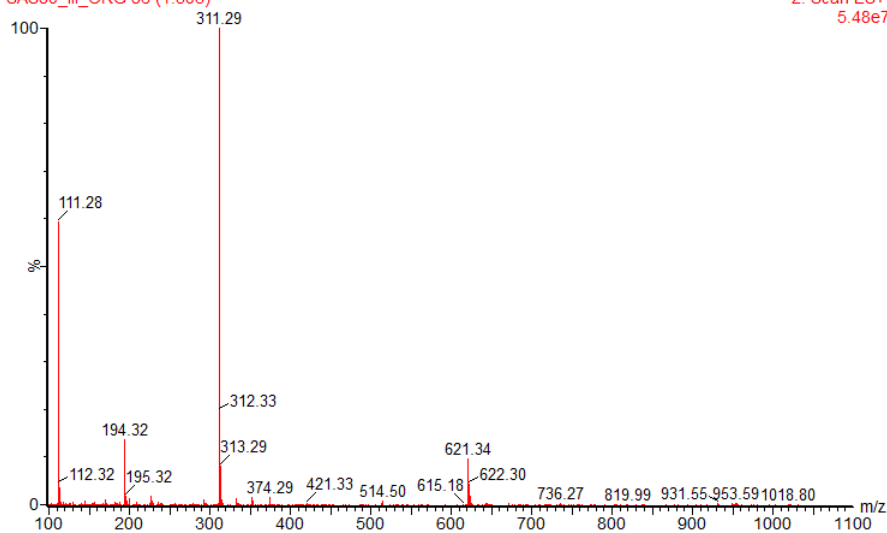


ES-



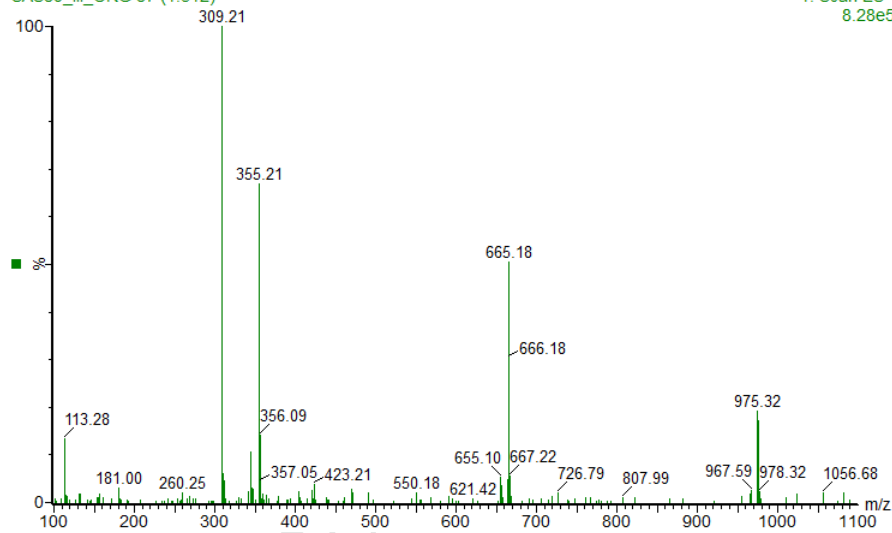
ES+

SAS80_III_ORG 86 (1.503)

2: Scan ES+
5.48e7

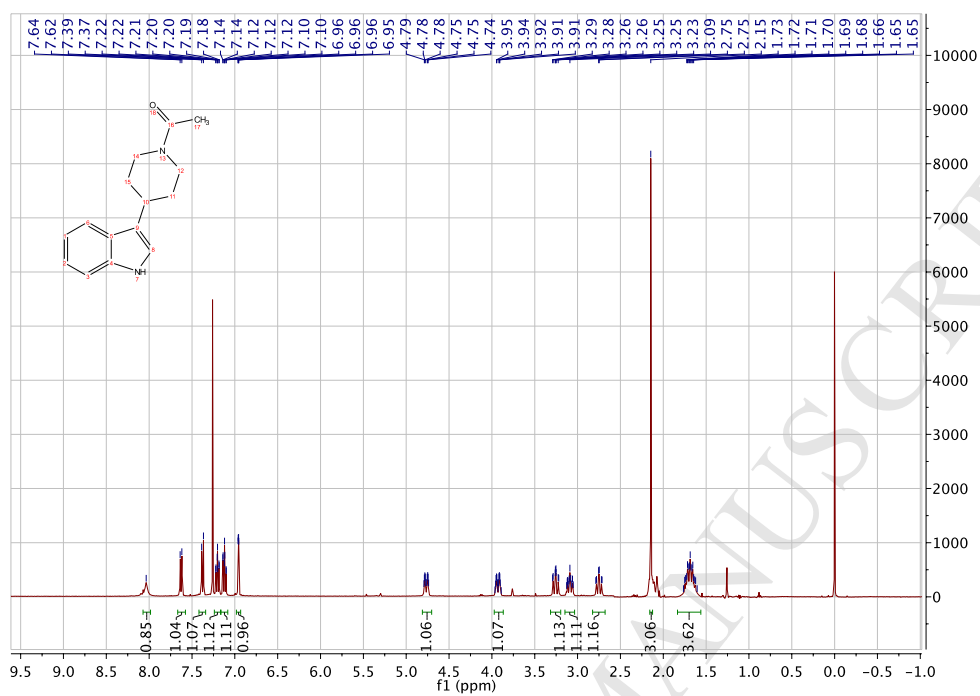
ES-

SAS80_III_ORG 87 (1.512)

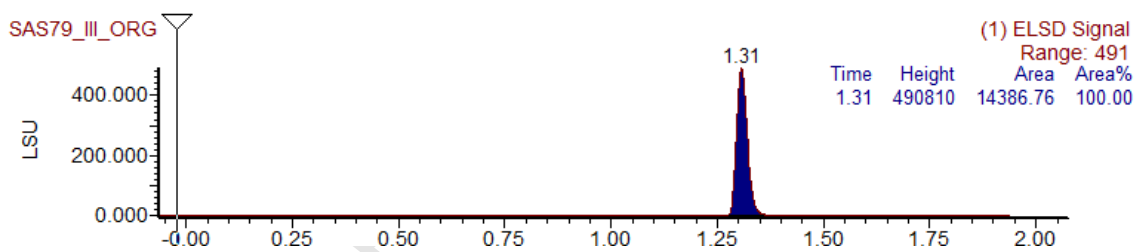
1: Scan ES-
8.28e5

Compound 10f

NMR

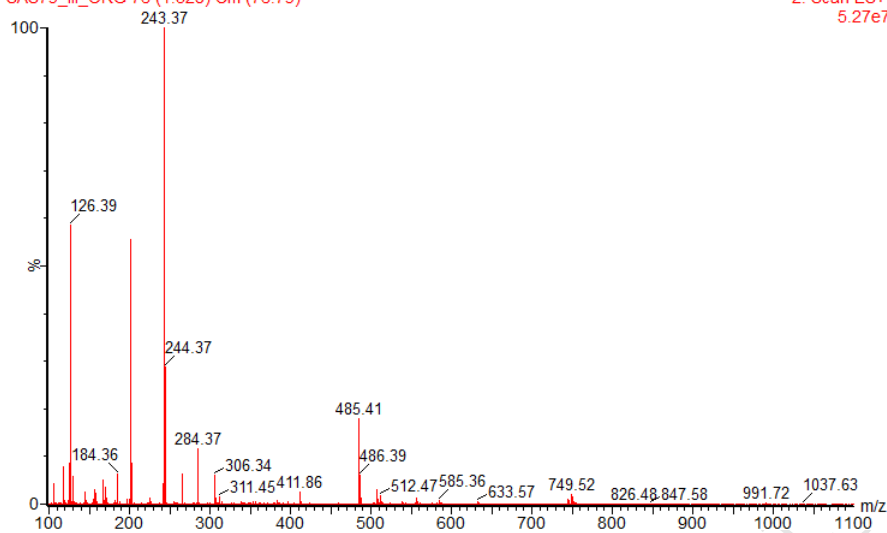


ELSD



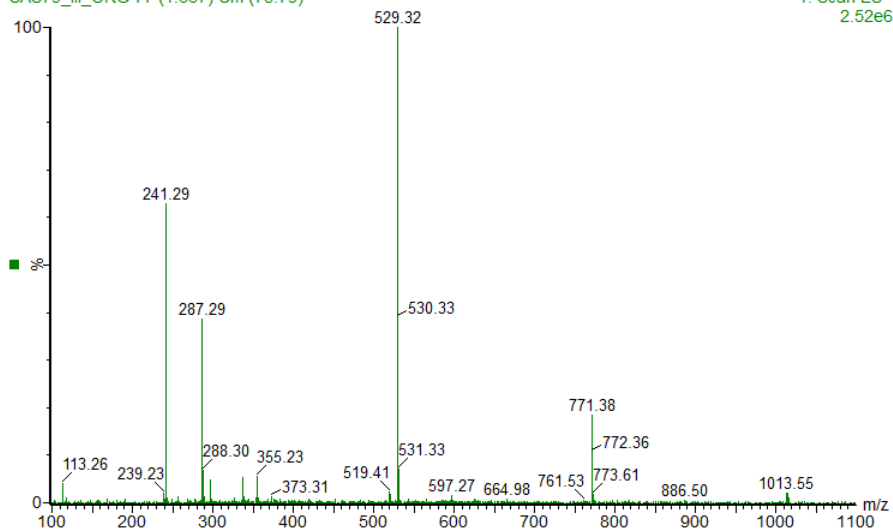
ES+

SAS79_III_ORG 76 (1.328) Cm (76:79)

2: Scan ES+
5.27e7

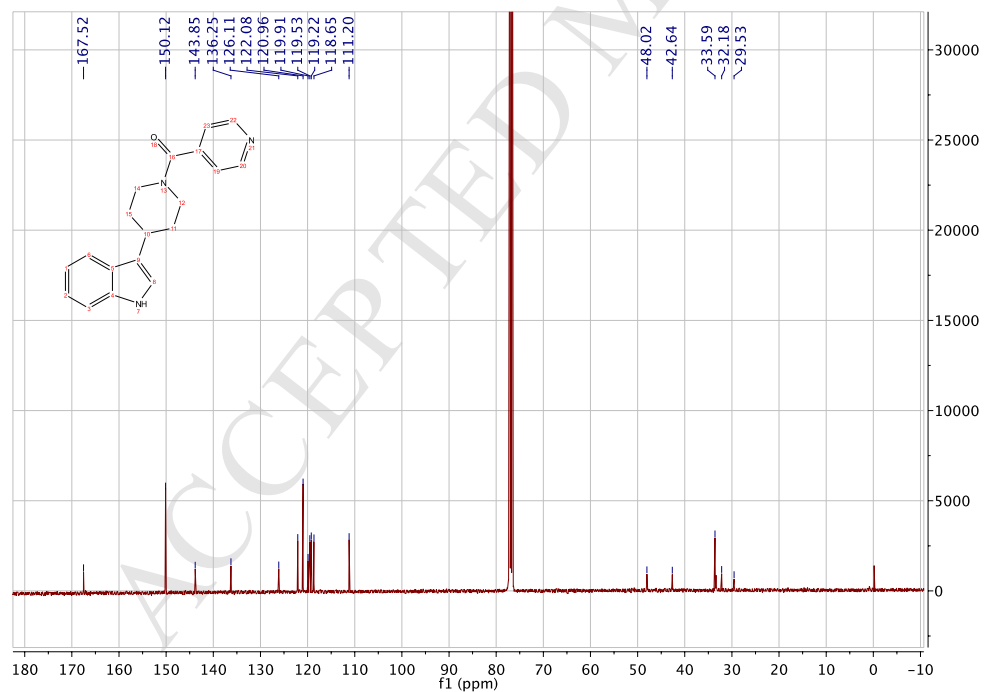
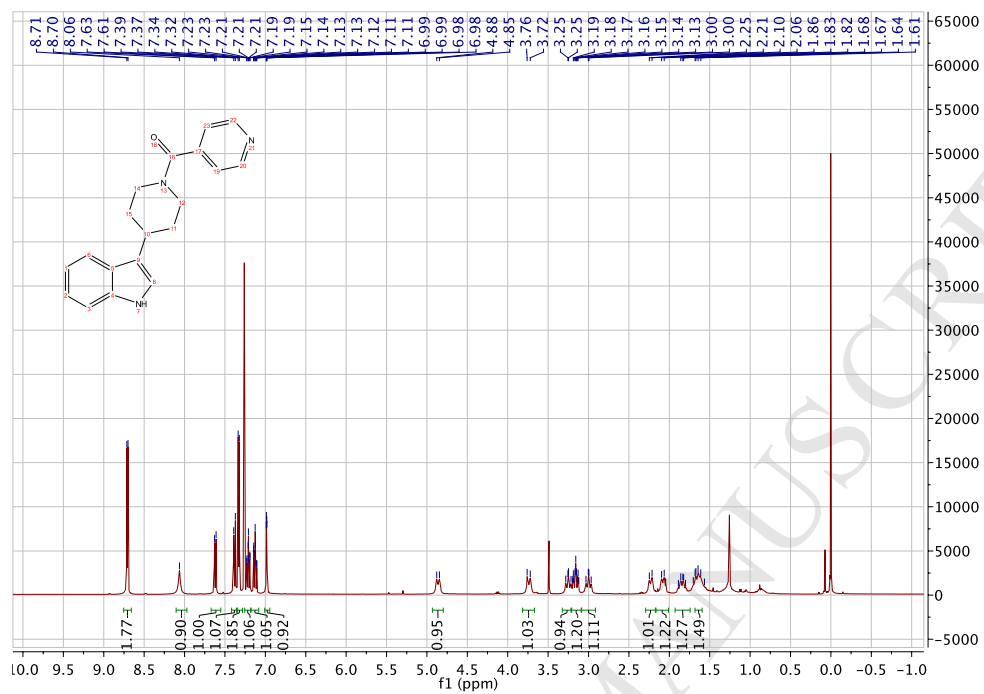
ES-

SAS79_III_ORG 77 (1.337) Cm (75:79)

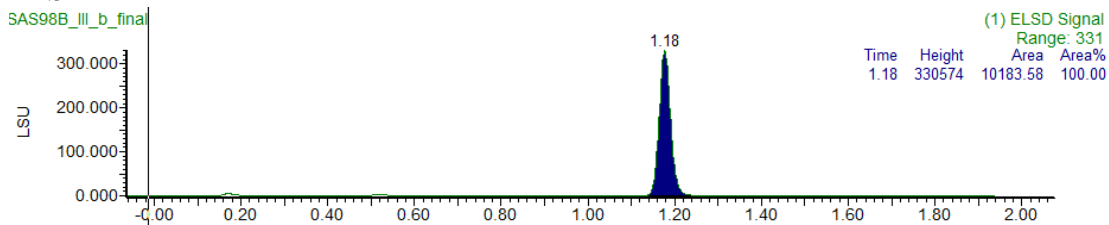
1: Scan ES-
2.52e6

Compound 10g

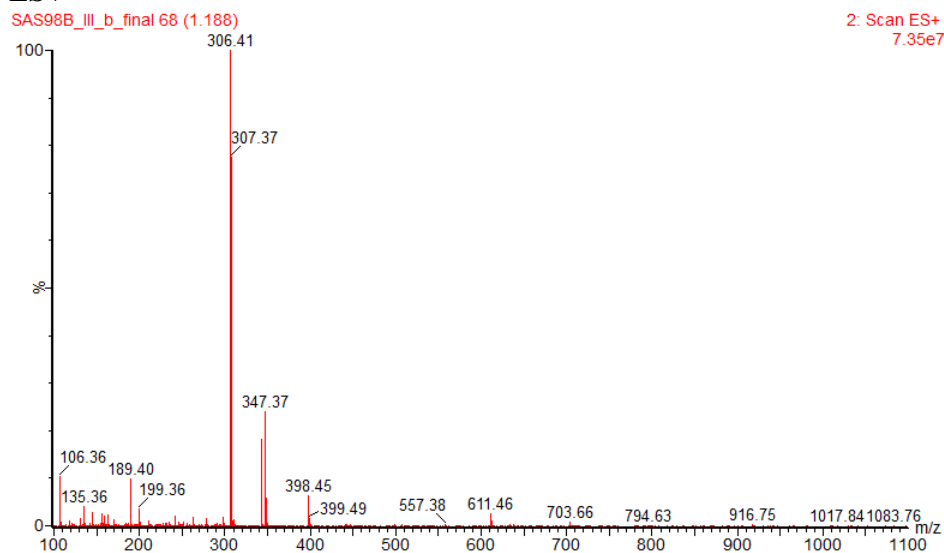
NMR



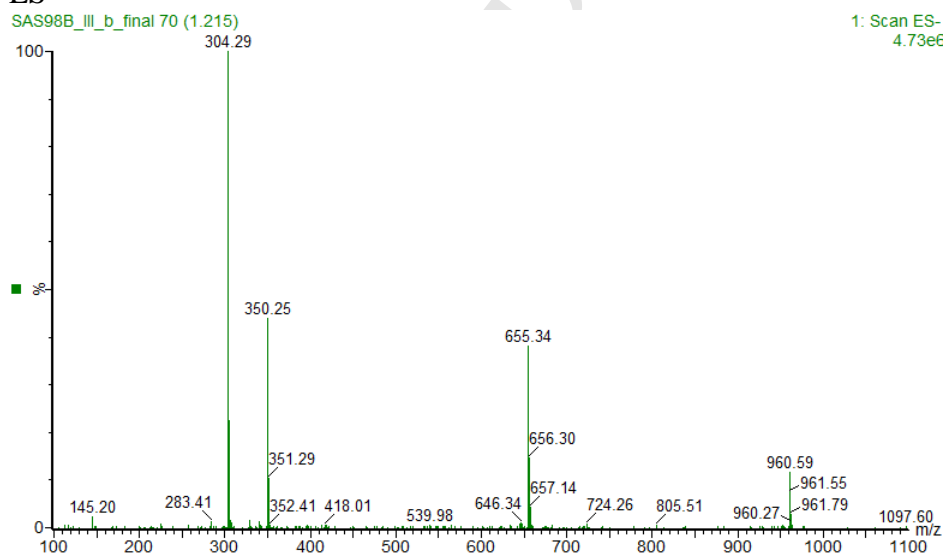
ELSD



ES+

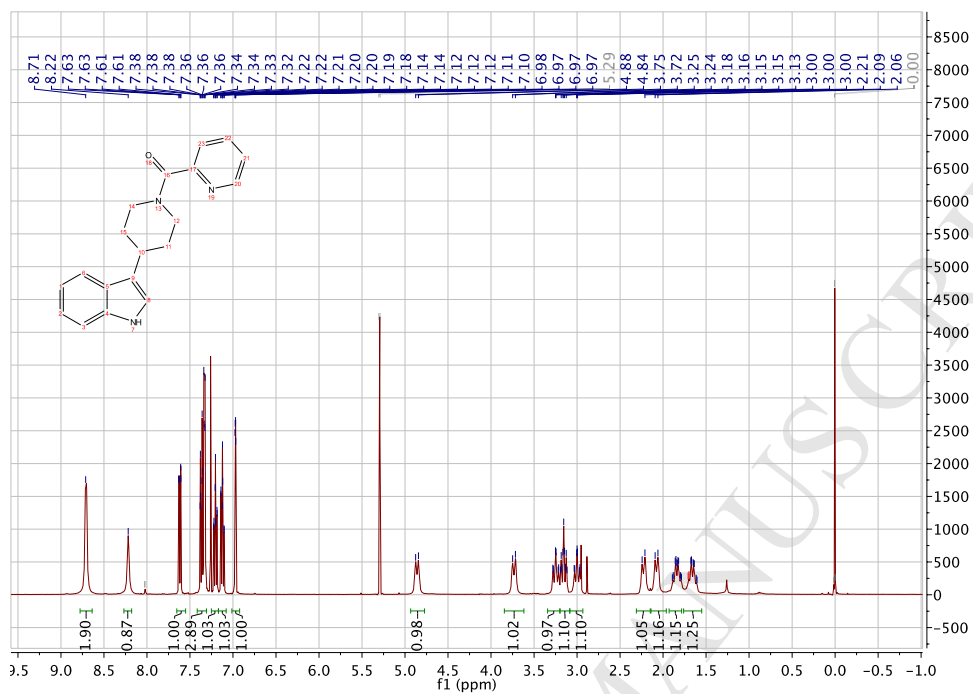


ES-

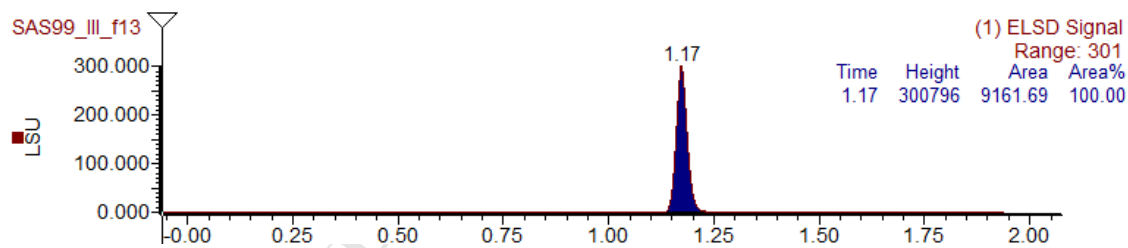


Compound 10h

NMR

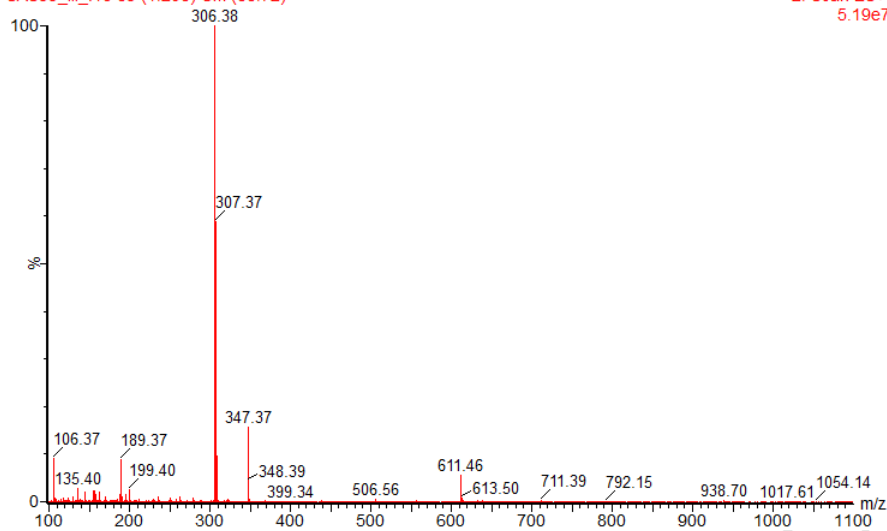


ELSD



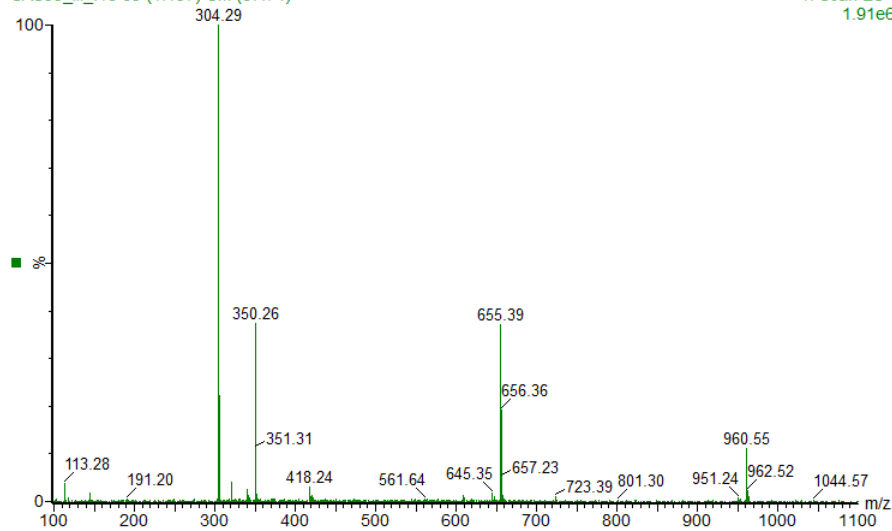
ES+

SAS99_III_f13 69 (1.206) Cm (66:72)

2: Scan ES+
5.19e7

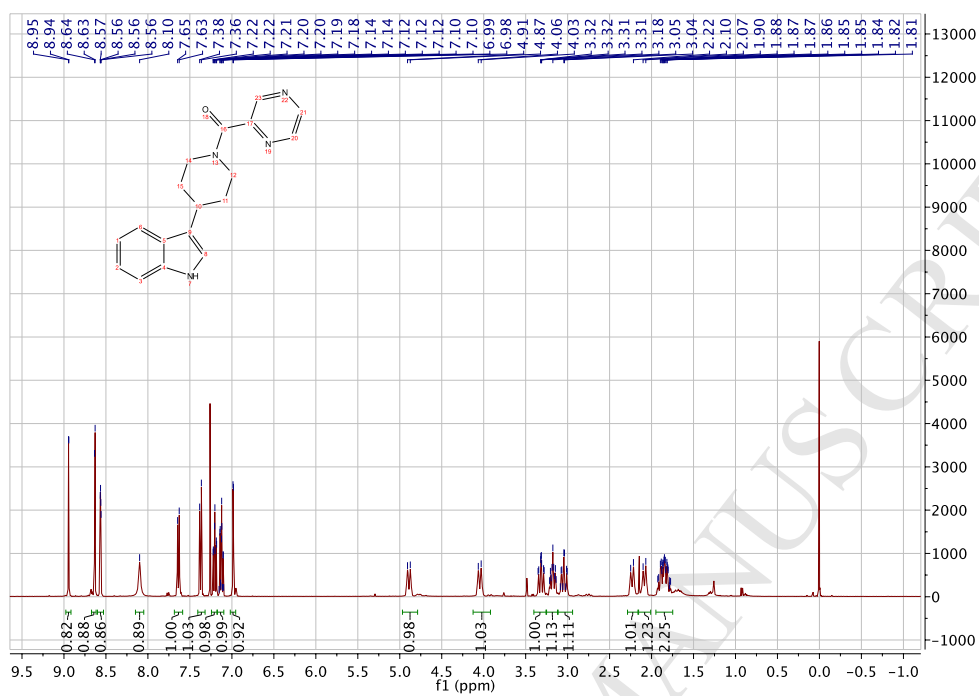
ES-

SAS99_III_f13 69 (1.197) Cm (67:74)

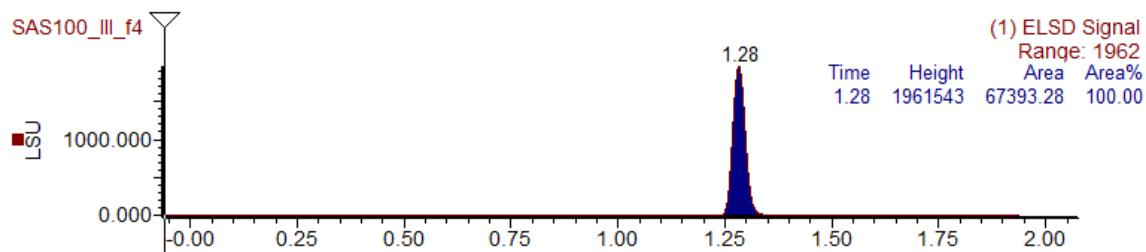
1: Scan ES-
1.91e6

Compound 10i

NMR

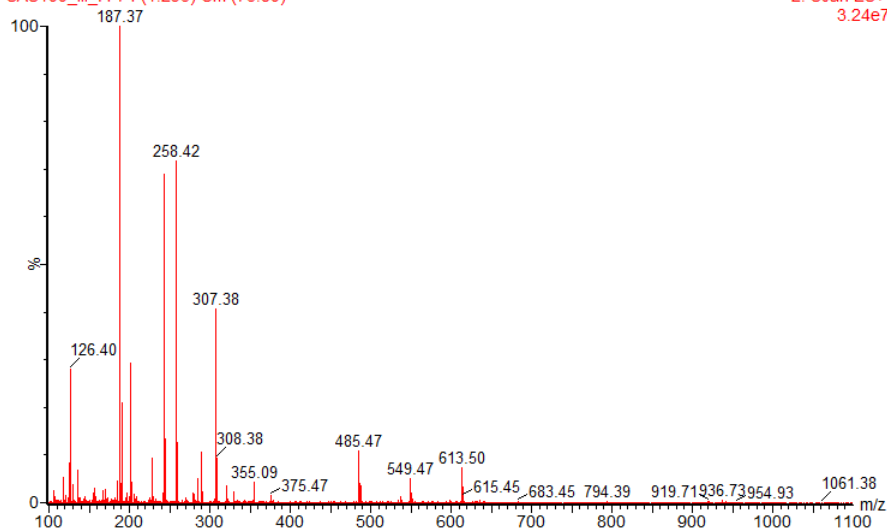


ELSD



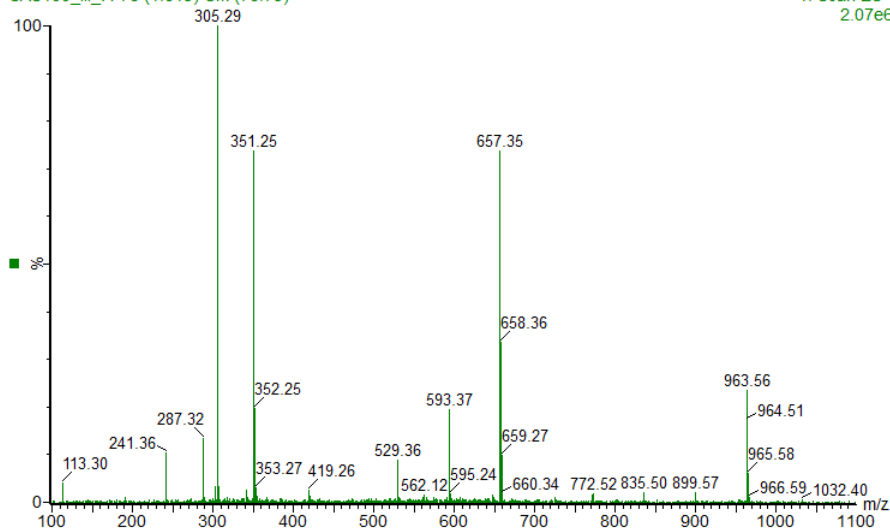
ES+

SAS100_III_f4 74 (1.293) Cm (73:80)

2: Scan ES+
3.24e7

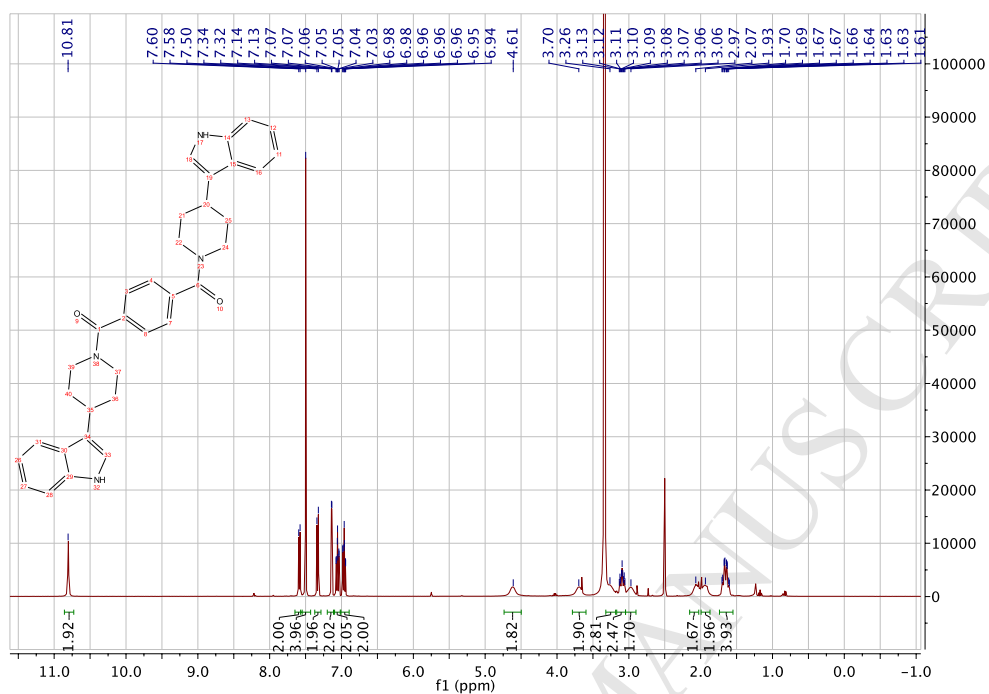
ES-

SAS100_III_f4 76 (1.319) Cm (73:79)

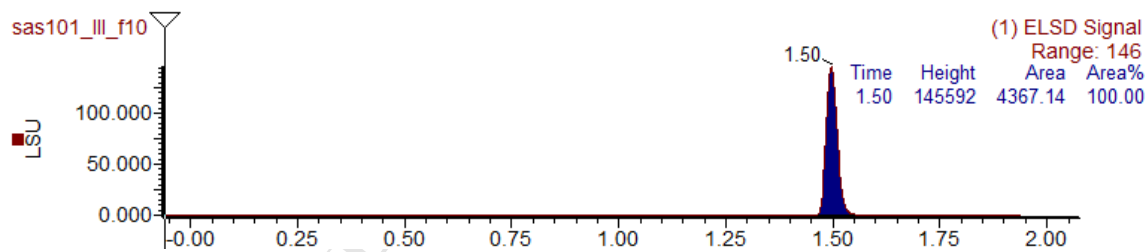
1: Scan ES-
2.07e6

Compound 10j

NMR

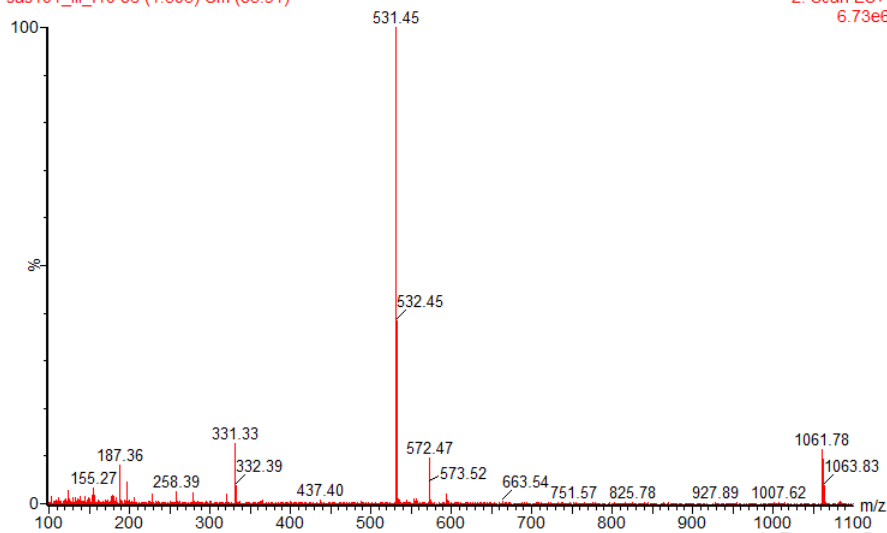


ELSD



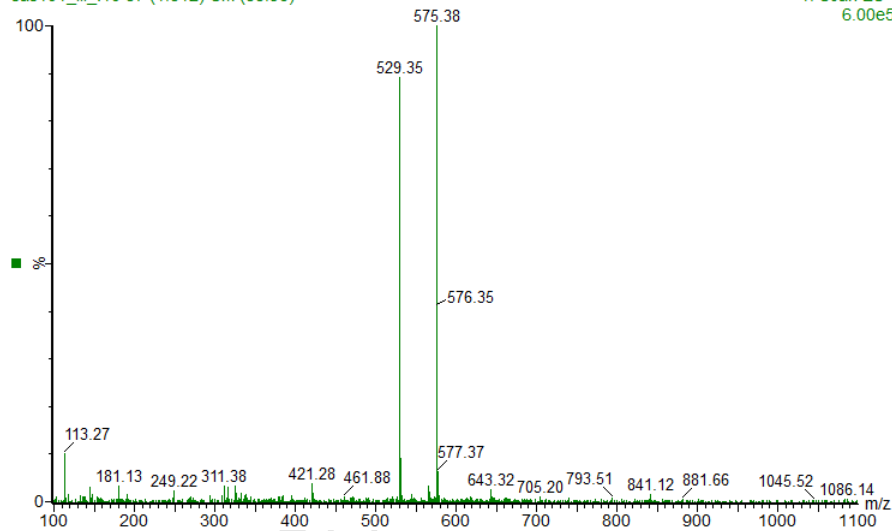
ES+

sas101_III_f10 86 (1.503) Cm (85:91)

2: Scan ES+
6.73e6

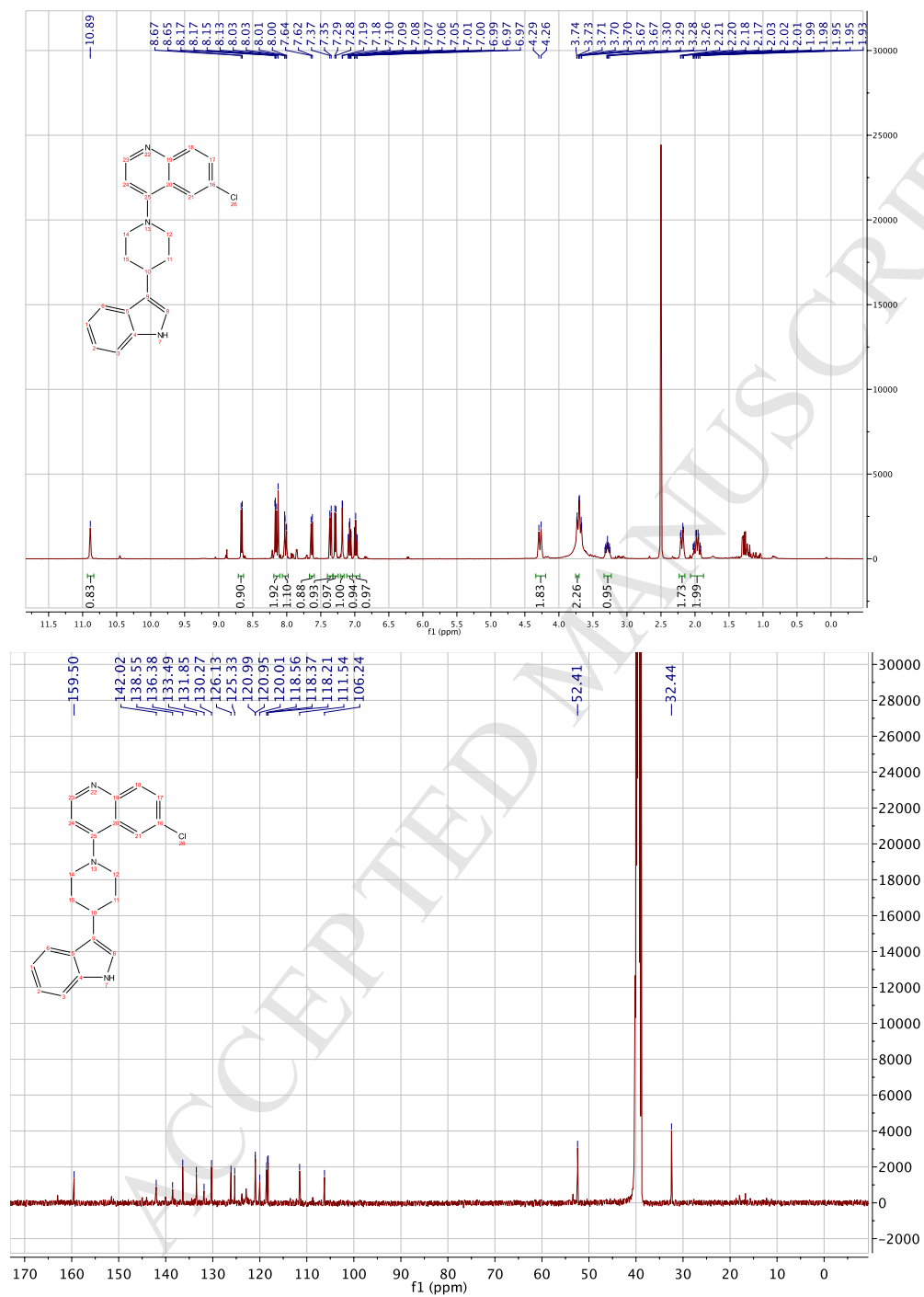
ES-

sas101_III_f10 87 (1.512) Cm (85:93)

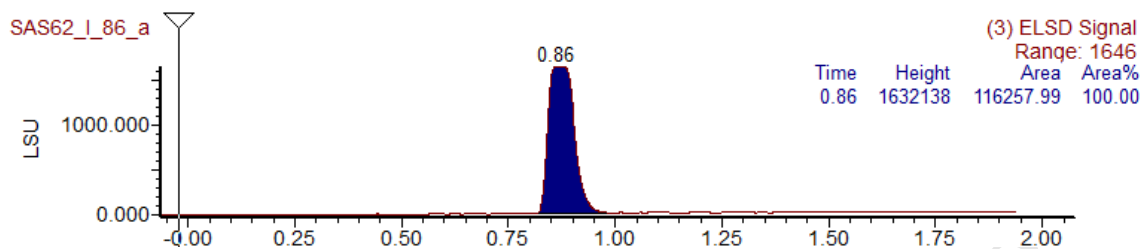
1: Scan ES-
6.00e5

Compound 11

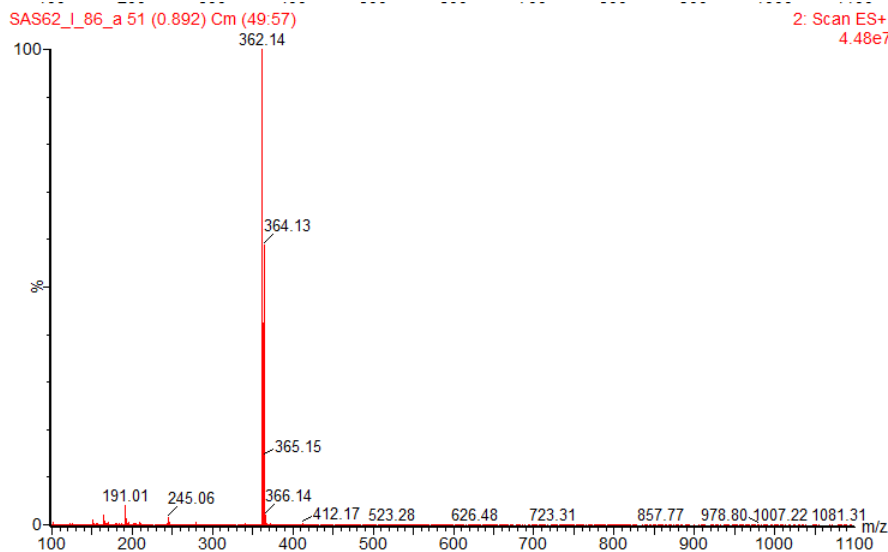
NMR



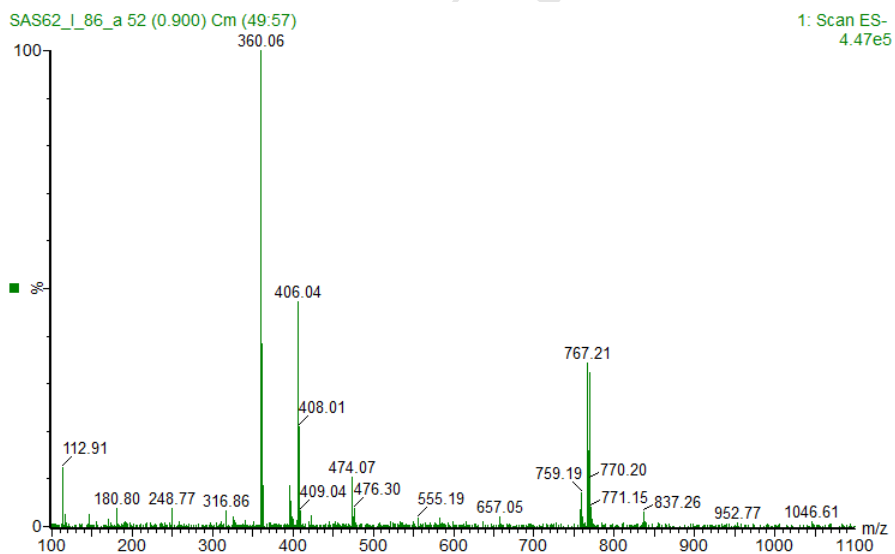
ELSD



ES+

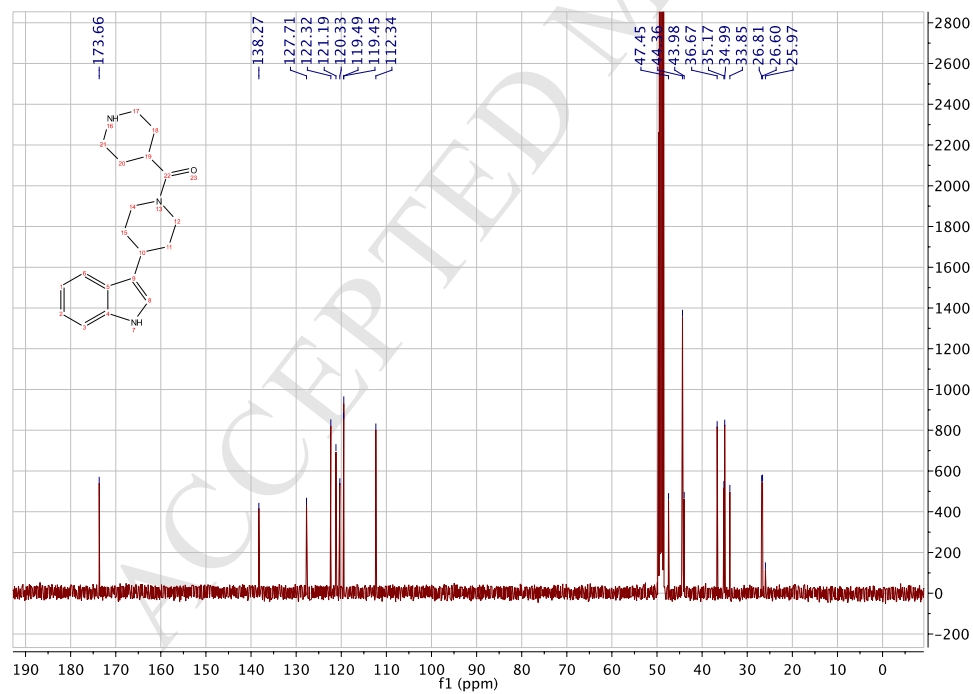
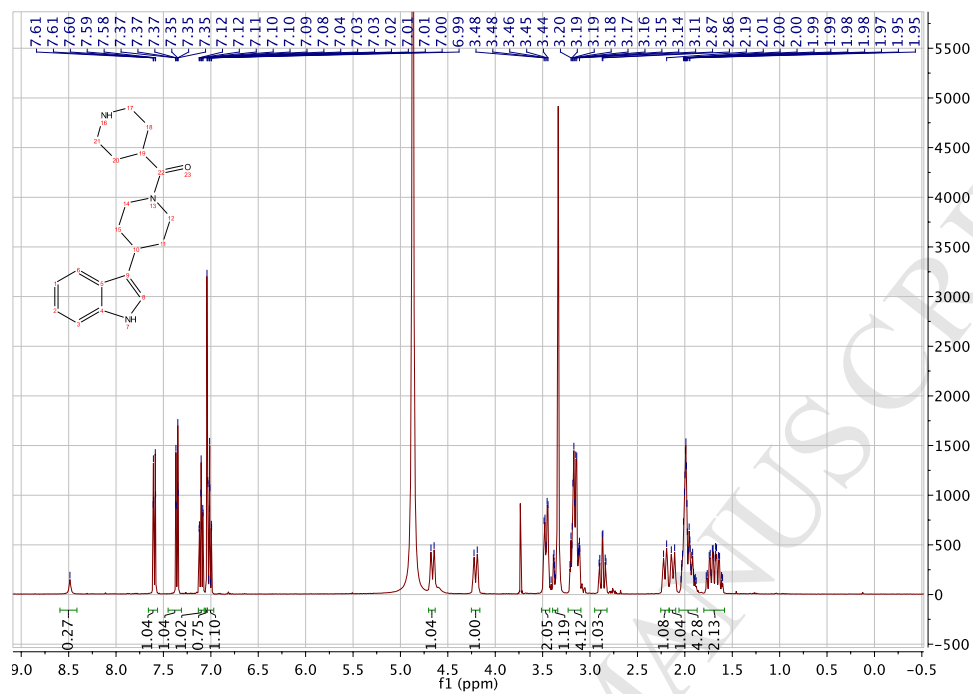


ES-



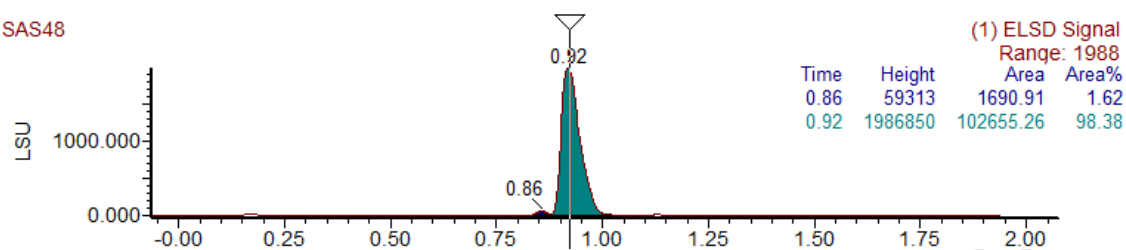
Compound 12

NMR



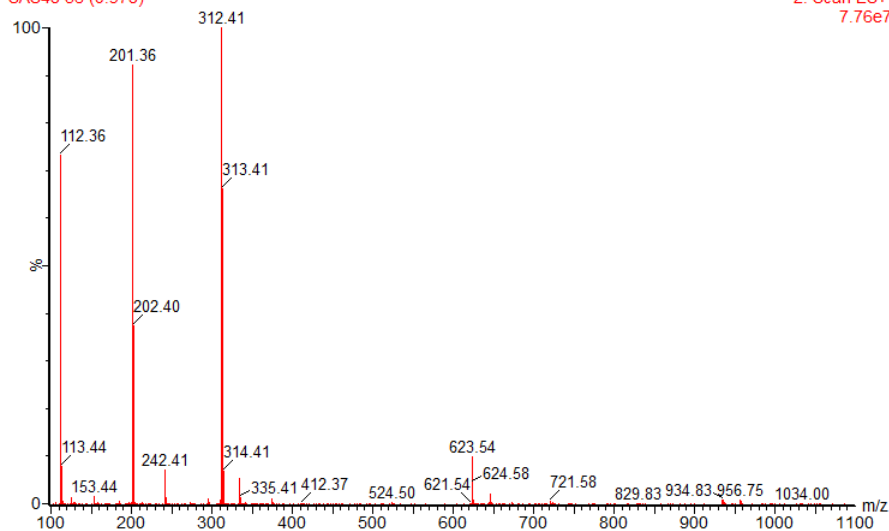
ELSD

SAS48



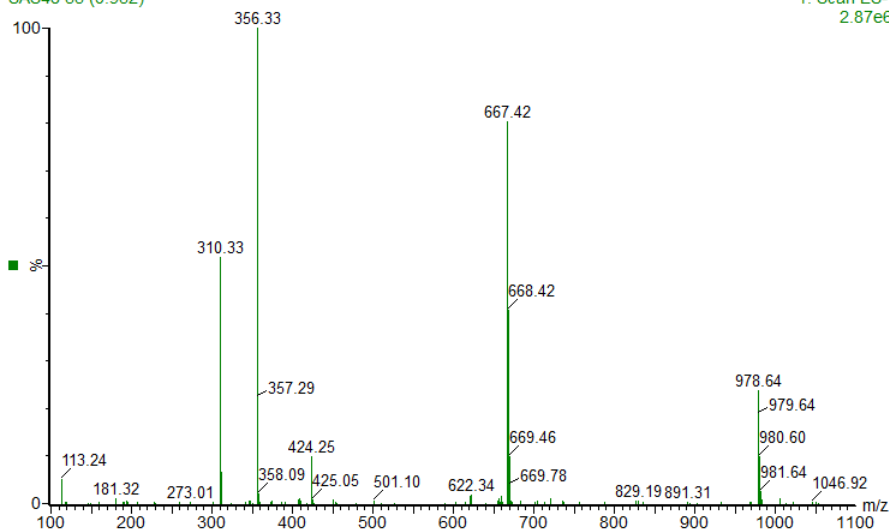
ES+

SAS48 56 (0.978)

2: Scan ES+
7.76e7

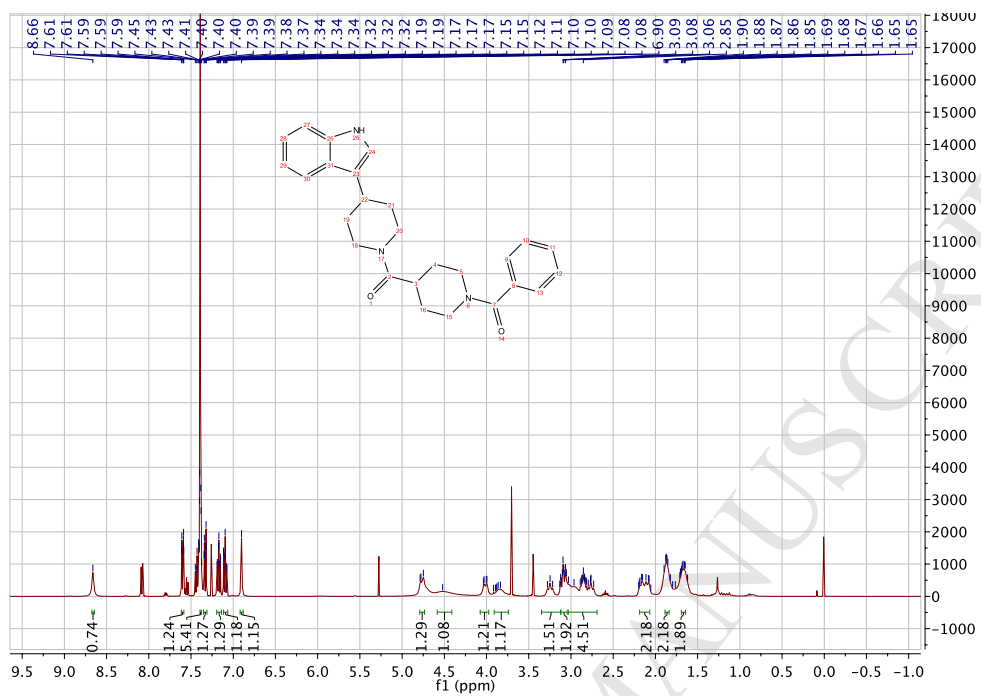
ES-

SAS48 55 (0.952)

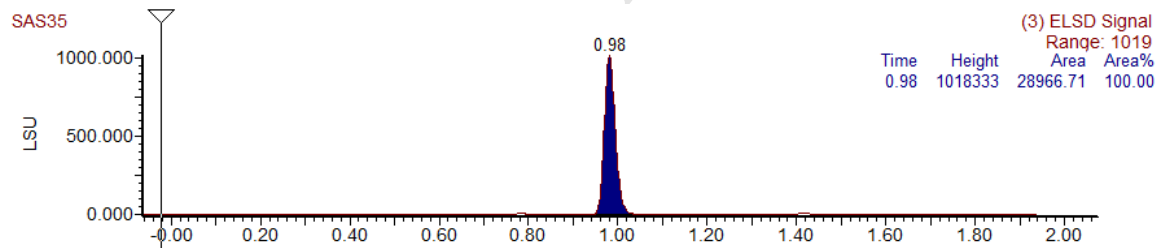
1: Scan ES-
2.87e6

Compound 13a

NMR

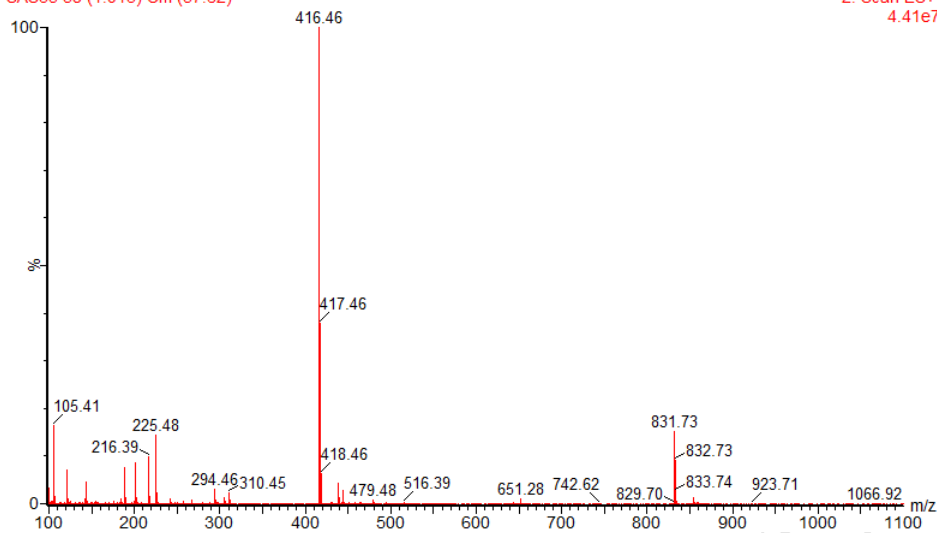


ELSD



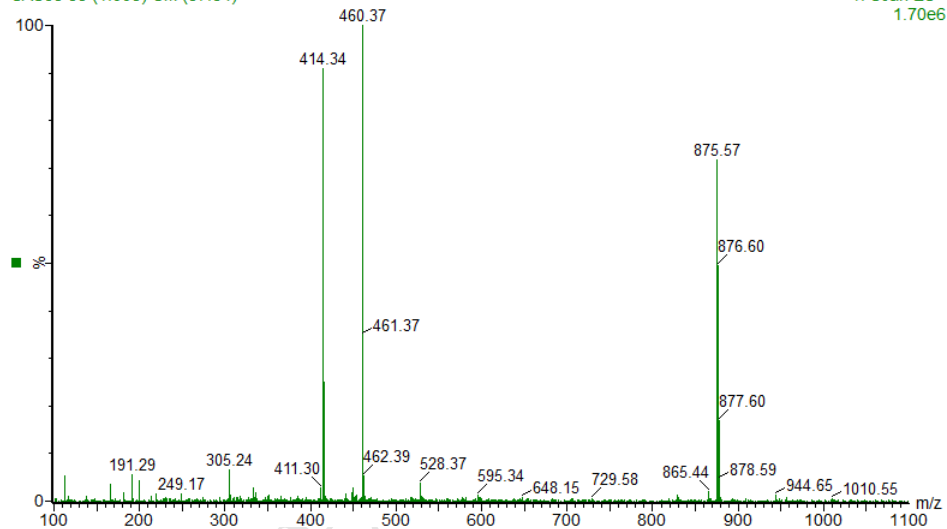
ES+

SAS35 58 (1.013) Cm (57.62)

2: Scan ES+
4.41e7

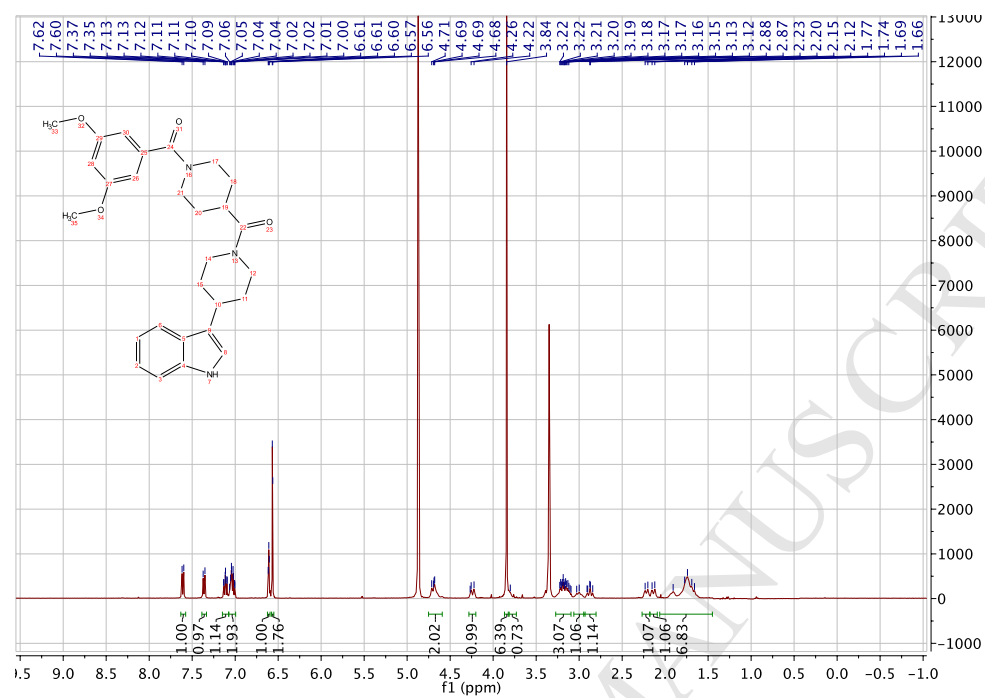
ES-

SAS35 58 (1.005) Cm (57.64)

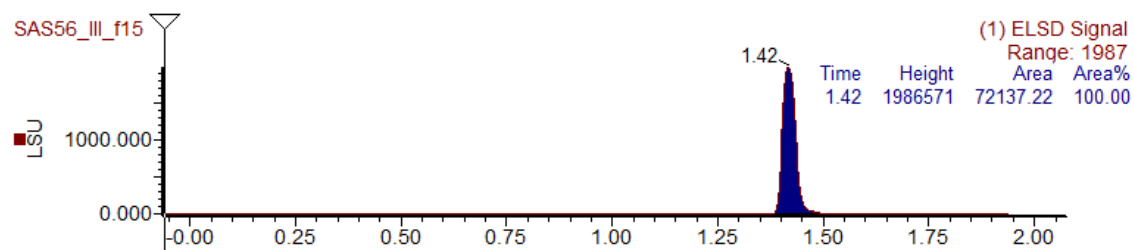
1: Scan ES-
1.70e6

Compound 13b

NMR

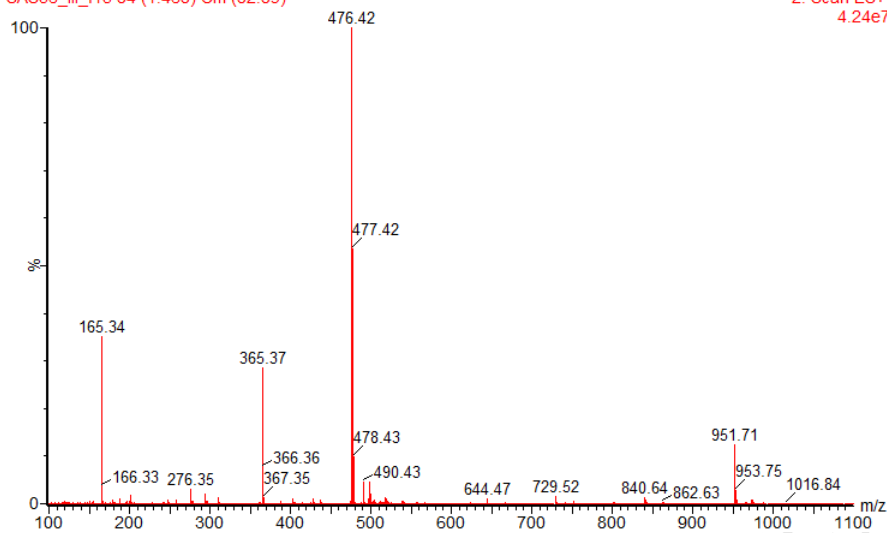


ELSD



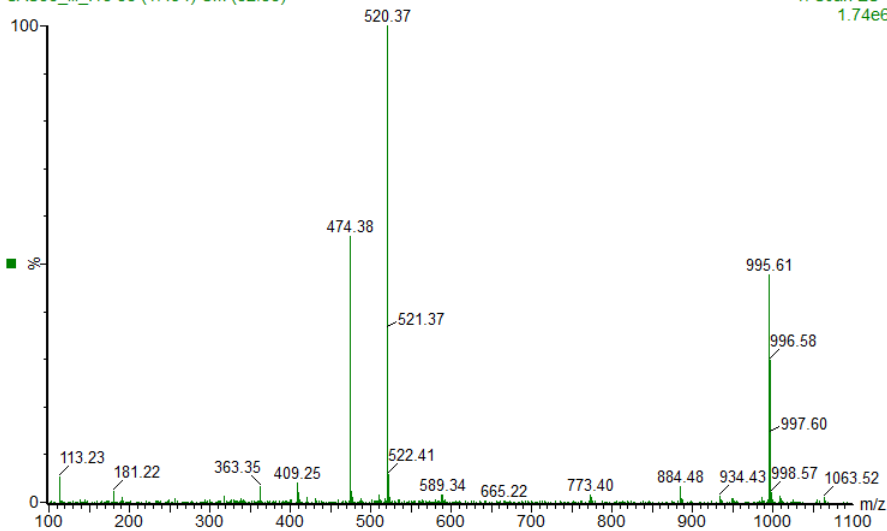
ES+

SAS56_III_f15 84 (1.468) Cm (82:89)

2: Scan ES+
4.24e7

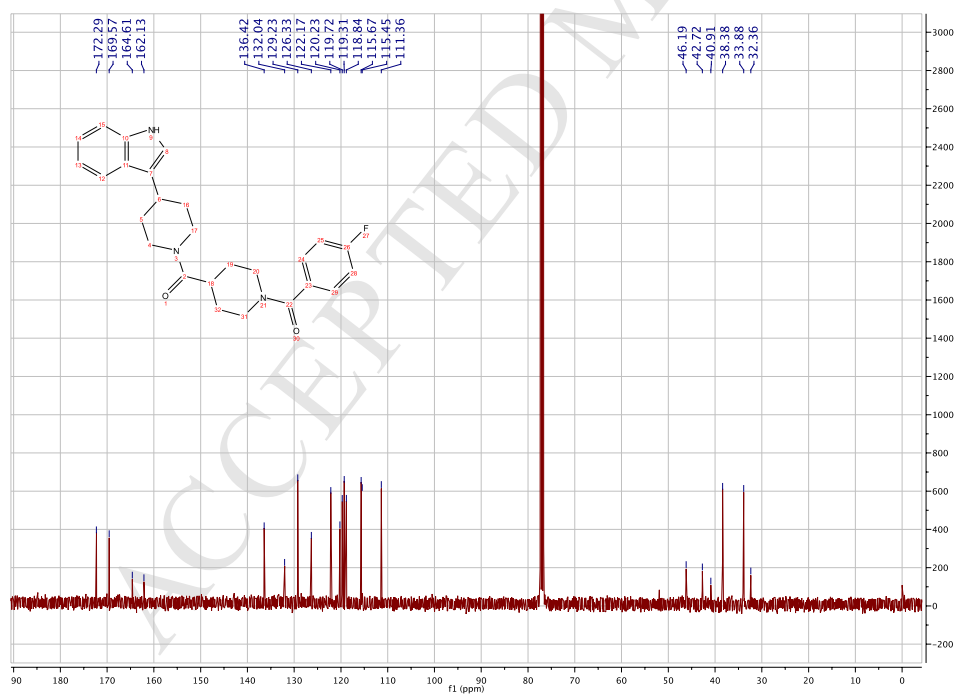
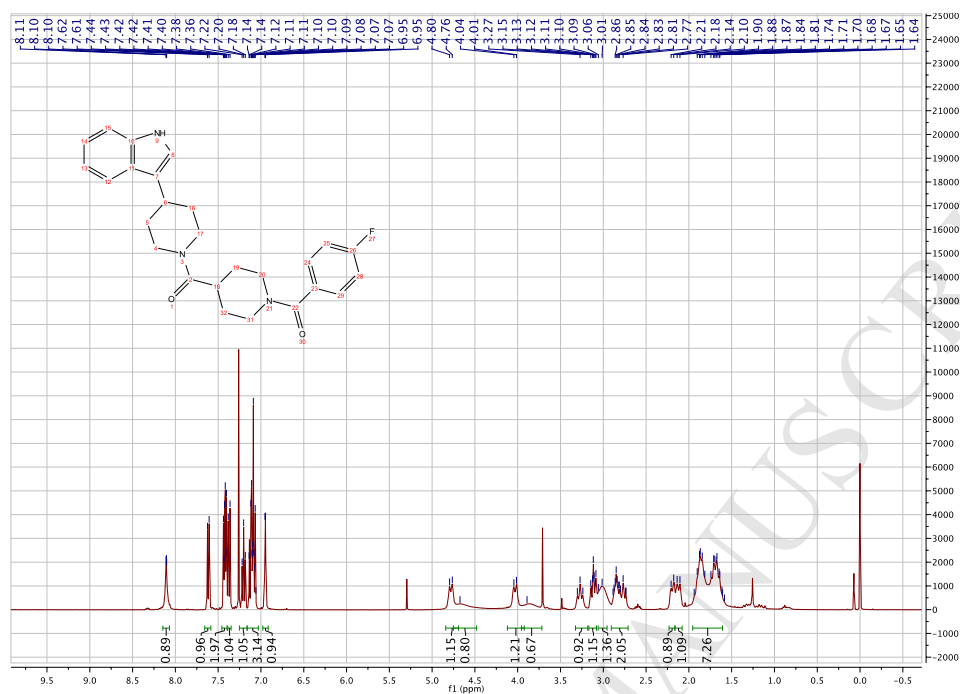
ES-

SAS56_III_f15 86 (1.494) Cm (82:86)

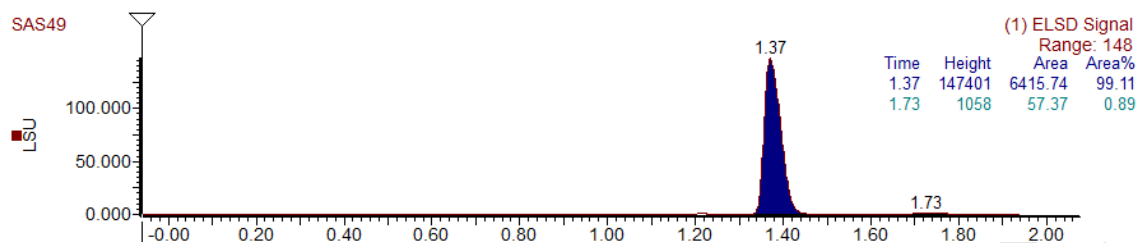
1: Scan ES-
1.74e6

Compound 13c

NMR

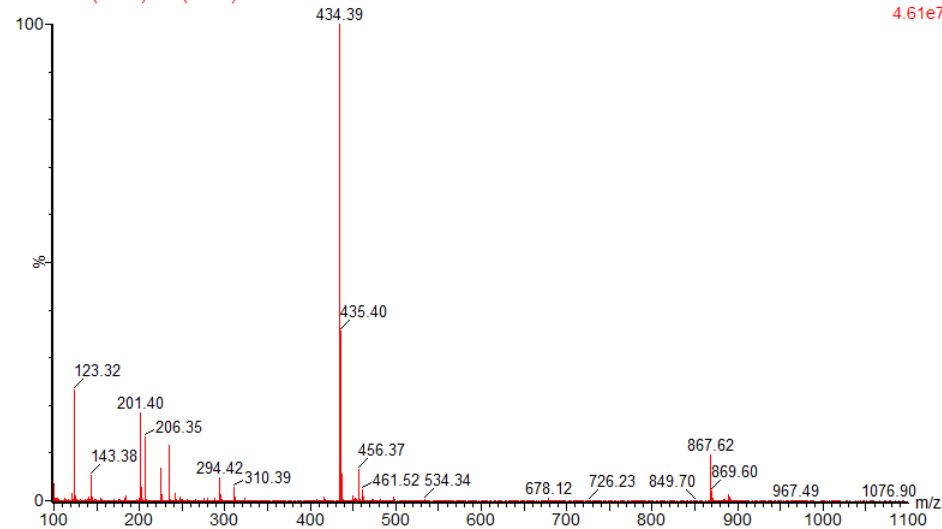


ELSD



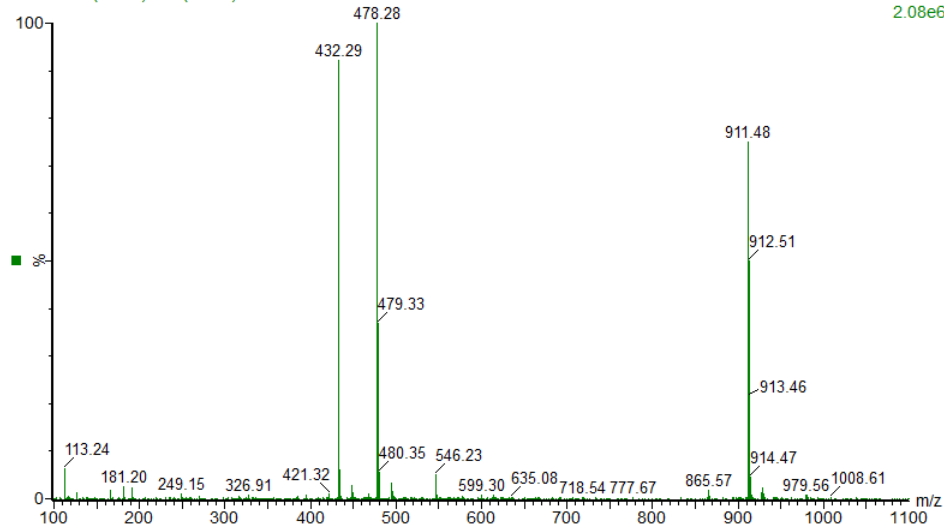
ES+

SAS49 80 (1.398) Cm (78:83)

2: Scan ES+
4.61e7

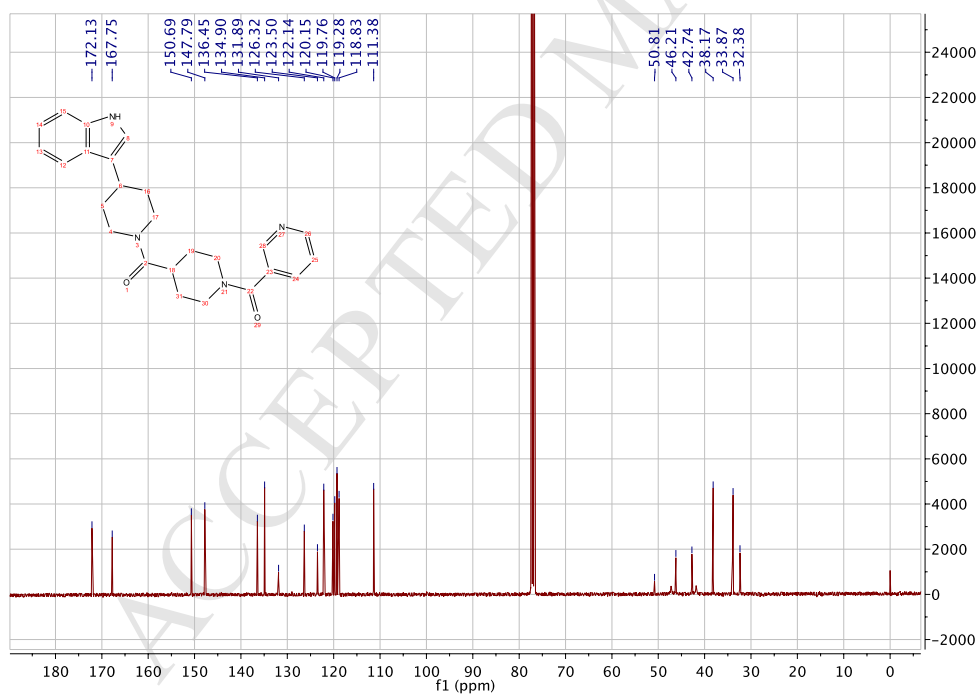
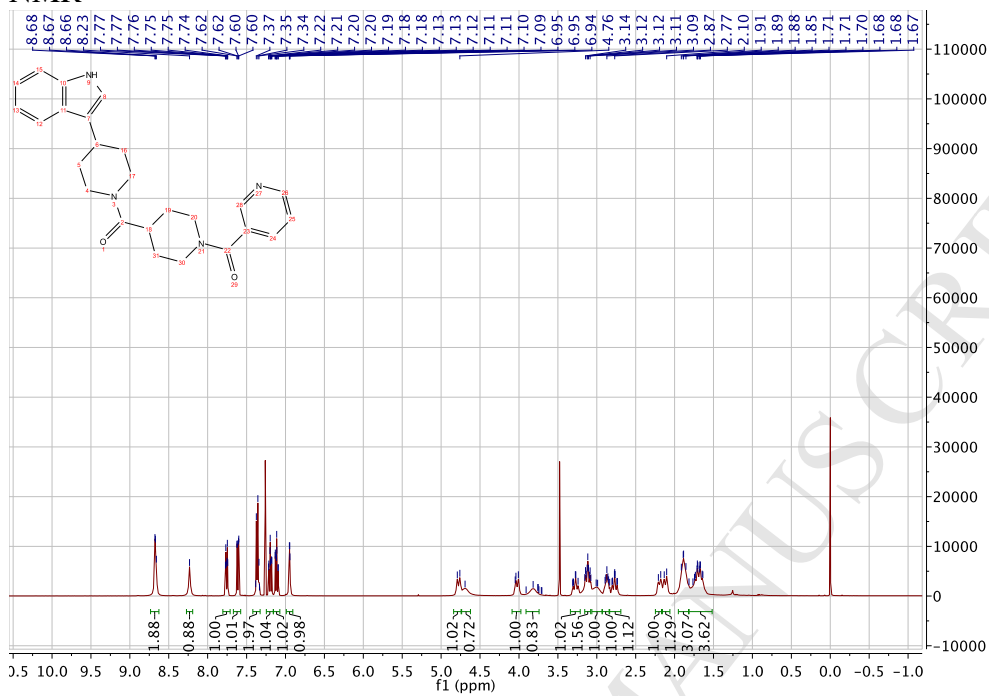
ES-

SAS49 81 (1.407) Cm (79:85)

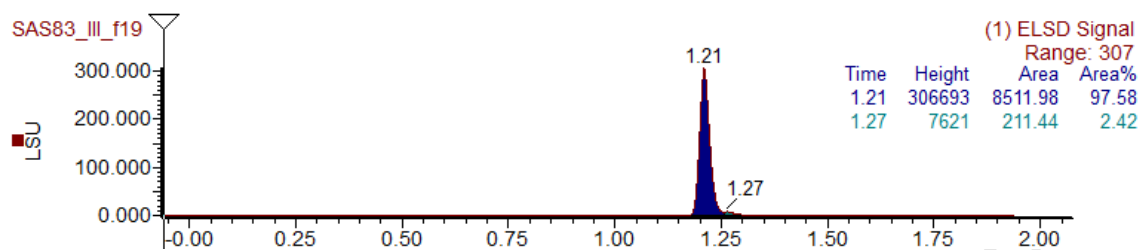
1: Scan ES-
2.08e6

Compound 13d

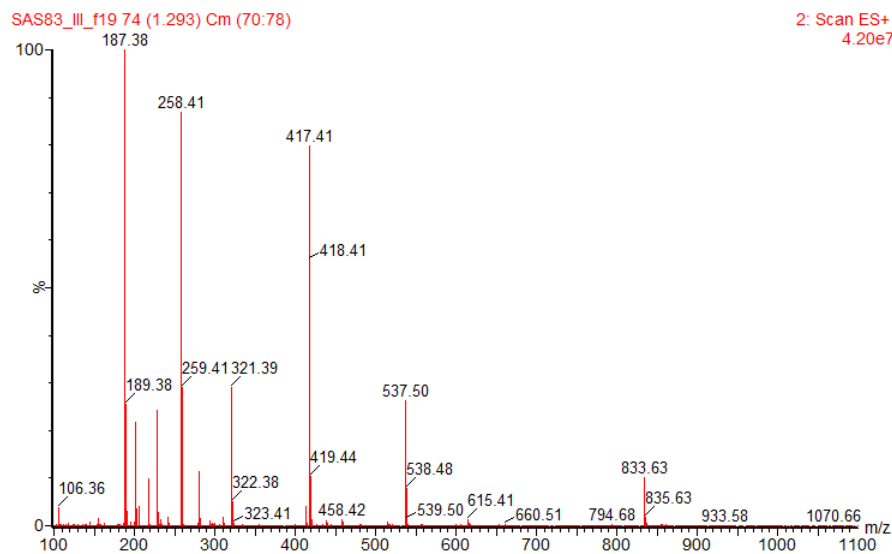
NMR



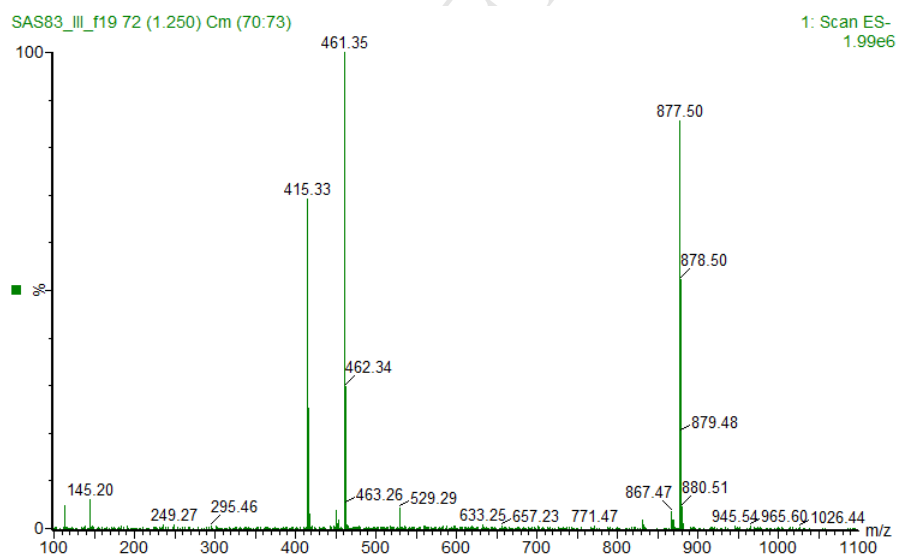
ELSD



ES+

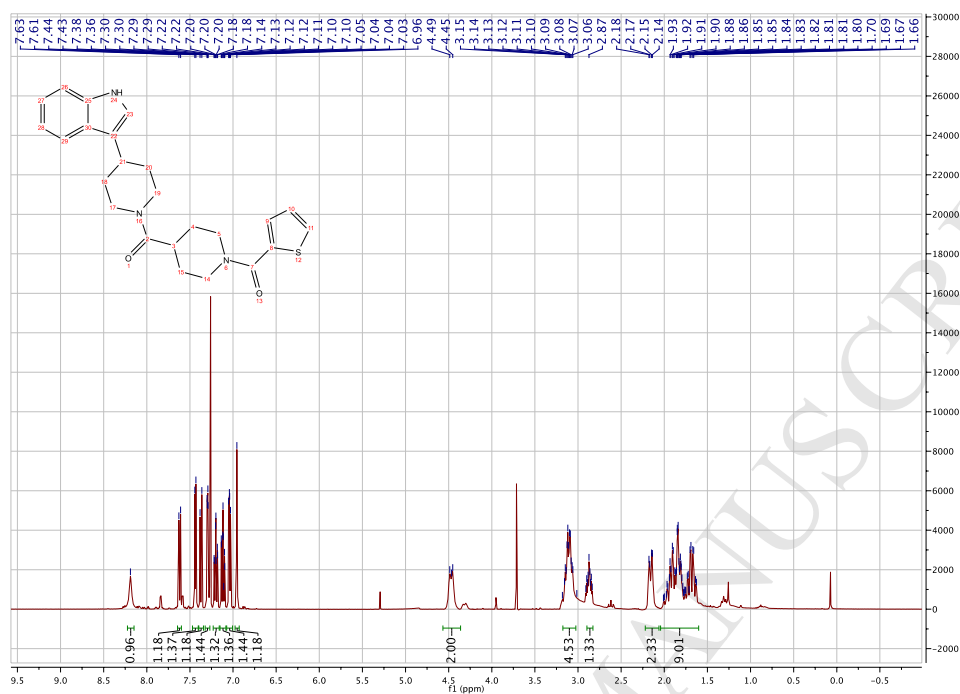


ES-

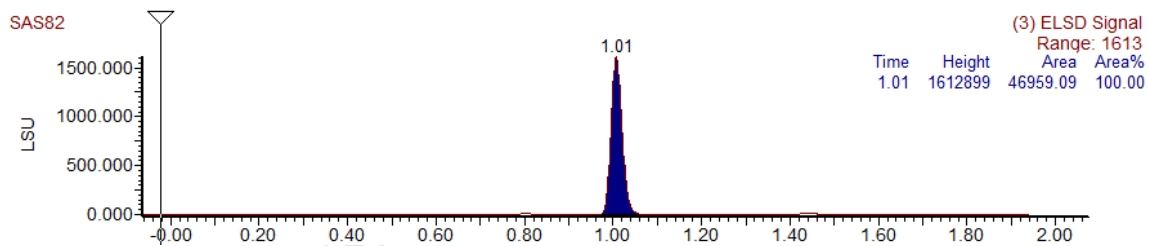


Compound 13e

NMR

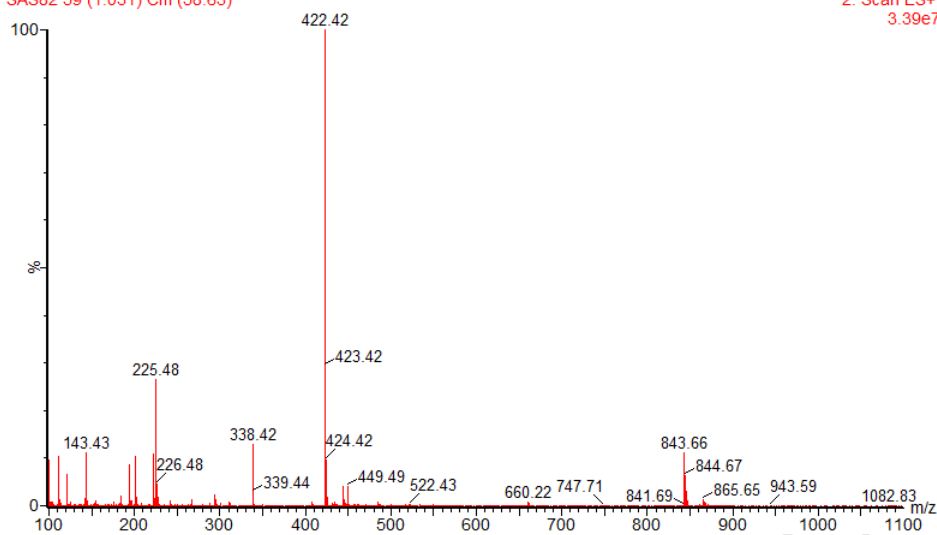


ELSD



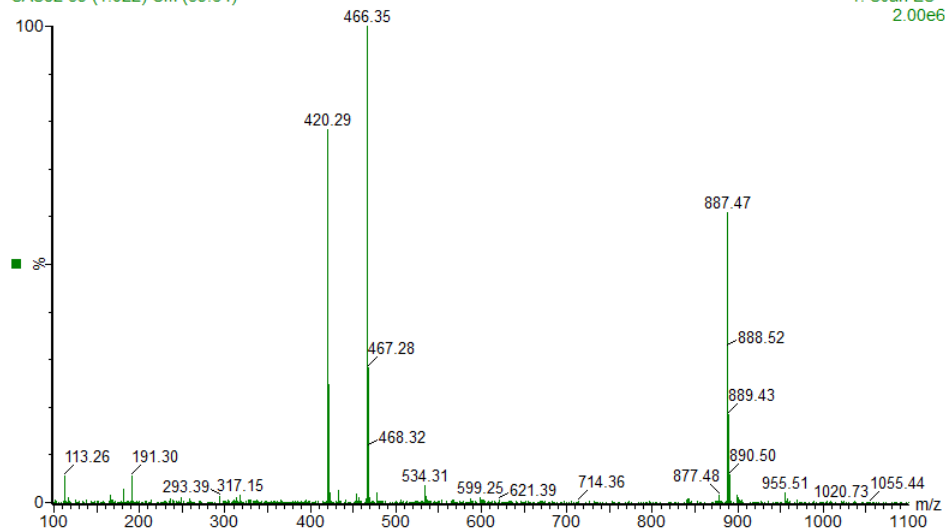
ES+

SAS82 59 (1.031) Cm (58.63)

2: Scan ES+
3.39e7

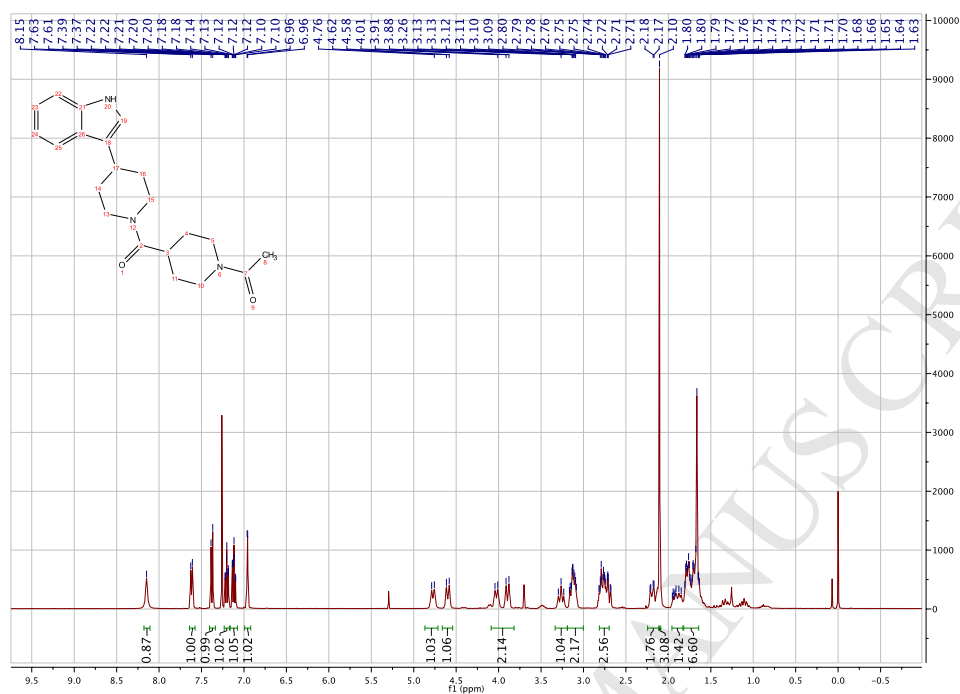
ES-

SAS82 59 (1.022) Cm (59.64)

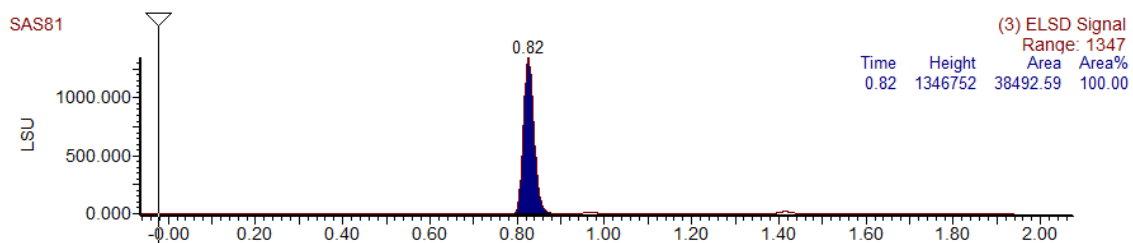
1: Scan ES-
2.00e6

Compound 13f

NMR

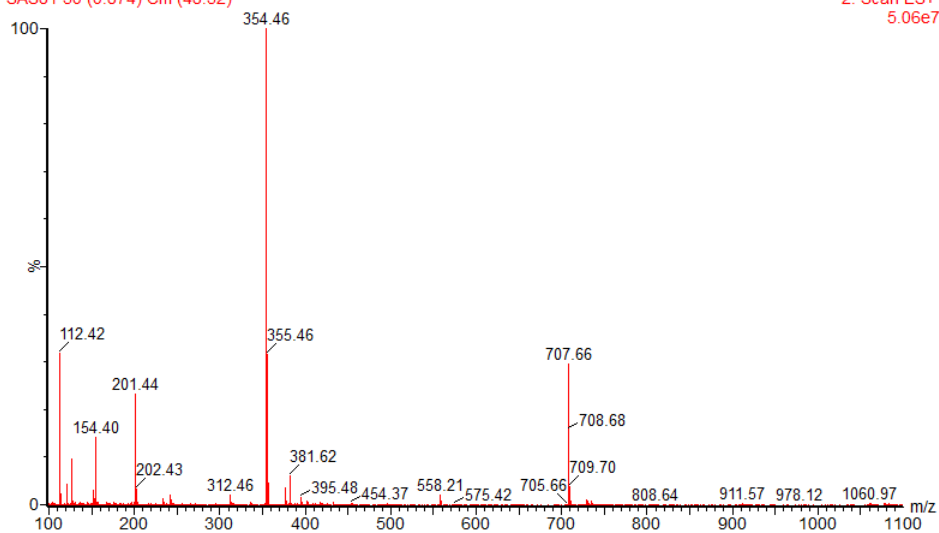


ELSD



ES+

SAS81 50 (0.874) Cm (48.52)

2: Scan ES+
5.06e7

ES-

SAS81 49 (0.848) Cm (49.52)

1: Scan ES-
4.64e6