Syntheses of the Stemona Alkaloids (±)-Stenine, (±)-Neostenine, and (±)-13-Epineostenine Using a Stereodivergent Diels–Alder/Azido-Schmidt Reaction

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Supporting Information

Experimental details S-2

Copies of ¹H and ¹³C spectra of new compounds S-42

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Experimental Section

General Procedures. All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. Methylene chloride and THF were dried by being passed through two packed columns of neutral alumina under argon using a commercial solvent purification system prior to use. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 and 100 MHz respectively in CDCl₃ (with 0.03% TMS as an internal standard). Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from TMS. ¹³C multiplicities were determined with the aid of an APT pulse sequence, differentiating the signals for methyl and methane carbons as "d" from methylene and quarternary carbons as "u". The infrared (IR) spectra were acquired as thin films on a FT-IR spectrometer and the absorbtion frequencies are reported in cm⁻¹. Melting points were determined on a capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Low resolution mass spectroscopic data (CI, chemical ionization or FAB⁺, fast atom bombardment) were obtained with a quadrupole instrument. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) [ESI+] were obtained using either a TOF or a double focusing spectrometer. Reaction flasks were oven or flame-dried and cooled under vacuum then purged with argon.

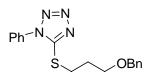
BnOOOH

3-Benzyloxypropan-1-ol. Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in oil, 5.80 g, 116.0 mmol) was washed in triplicate with hexanes. After decanting the solvent the final time, dry DMF was added (150 mL). The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and 1,3-propanediol (8.0 g, 105 mmol) was added slowly. After stirring for 10 min, benzyl bromide (12.5 ml, 105 mmol) was added cautiously. The mixture was allowed to acclimate to room temperature

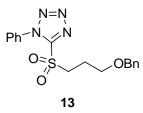
and stirred for 18 h. The reaction was quenched upon addition of water (200 mL) and subsequently extracted with EtOAc (6 x 100 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexane) gave the known 3-benzyloxypropan-1-ol¹ (17.3 g, 104.0 mmol, 92% yield) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.86 (p, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (br s, 1H) 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (m, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 7.30 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.8, 60.9, 68.8, 73.5, 128.0, 128.8, 138.7; IR (neat) 3330, 2850, 1090 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 167 (M⁺+1), 91; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₅O₂ (M⁺+1): 167.1072, found 167.1067.



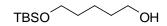
3-Benzyloxy-1-bromopropane. To a solution of benzyloxypropan-1-ol (10.2 g, 61.4 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (150 mL) was added CBr₄ (25.4 g, 76.7 mmol). After cooling the solution to 0 °C, PPh₃ (29.0 g, 110 mmol) was added in portions. The resulting red solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the precipitate washed several times with ether (6 x 100 mL) and filtered. The collective ether extracts were concentrated to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/hexane) gave the known 3-benzyloxy-1-bromopropane² (14.0 g, 61.1 mmol, 99% yield) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.06 (p, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 7.29 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 31.2, 33.5, 68.2, 73.6, 128.13, 128.15, 128.9, 138.8; IR (neat) 2820, 1090, 730, 690 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/z 228 (M⁺-1), 91; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₂OBr (M⁺-1): 227.0072, found 227.0067.



5-(3-Benzyloxypropylsulfanyl)-1-phenyl-1H-tetrazole. Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in oil, 3.70 g, 92.9 mmol) was washed in triplicate with hexanes. After decanting the solvent the final time, dry DMF was added (225 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and 1-phenyl-1H-tetrazole-5-thiol (17.7 g, 77.4 mmol) was added slowly. After stirring for 10 min, 3-benzyloxy-1-bromopropane (13.8 g, 77.4 mmol) was added slowly, and the resulting solution was stirred for 18 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched upon addition of water (500 mL) and subsequently extracted with EtOAc (6 x 100 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (25%) EtOAc/hexane) gave 5-(3-benzyloxypropylsulfanyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole (25.0 g, 76.6 mmol, 99% yield) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.18 (p, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H) 3.63 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.56 (s, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 29.6, 30.8, 68.4, 73.5, 124.2, 128.11, 128.13, 128.8, 130.2, 130.5, 134.1, 138.5, 154.8; IR (neat) 2820, 1680, 1480 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z327 (M⁺+1), 173, 91, 84; HRMS calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}N_4OS$ (M⁺+1): 327.1280, found 327.1292.

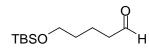


5-(3-Benzyloxy-propane-1-sulfonyl)-1-phenyl-1*H***-tetrazole 13.** To a stirred solution of 5-(3-benzyloxypropylsulfanyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole (17.1 g, 52.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (400 mL) was added NaHCO₃ (13.2 g, 157 mmol) and *m*-CPBA (27.1 g, 157.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred under an Ar atmosphere for 18 h and then quenched with 10% aq NaOH solution (150 mL). After extracting the aqueous layer with EtOAc (5 x 100 mL), the organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford an orange oil. Flash chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexane) gave **13** (17.5 g, 48.8 mmol, 93% yield) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.25-2.32 (m, 2H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (m, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.60-7.70 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.4, 54.0, 67.5, 73.4, 125.6, 128.2, 128.3, 128.9, 130.1, 131.9, 133.4, 138.2, 153.9; IR (neat) 2820, 1580, 1480, 1320, cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/z 359 (M⁺+1), 131; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₁₉N₄O₃S (M⁺+1): 359.1178, found 359.1182.



5-(tert-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentan-1-ol. Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in oil, 3.20 g, 63.4 mmol) was washed in triplicate with hexanes. After decanting the solvent the final time, dry THF was added (275 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and 1,5-pentanediol was added slowly (6.0 g, 57.6 mmol). After stirring for 45 min at room temperature, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and *tert*-butyldimethylchlorosilane

(8.60 g, 57.6 mmol) was added cautiously. The mixture was allowed to acclimate to room temperature and stirred for an additional 45 min. The reaction was quenched upon addition of 10% aq K₂CO₃ and subsequently extracted with ether (4 x 100 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) gave 5-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentan-1-ol³ (12.6 g, 57.7 mmol, 99% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 1.37-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.63 (m, 4H), 1.71 (br s, 1H), 3.61-3.67 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.9, 18.8, 22.4, 26.4, 32.8, 32.9, 63.3, 63.5; IR (neat) 3300, 2900, 1240 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 219 (M⁺+1), 161, 105, 92, 75, 69; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₂₇O₂Si (M⁺+1): 219.1780, found 219.1763.



5-(tert-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentanal. A solution of oxalyl chloride (5.0 mL, 57.8 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL) was cooled to -78 °C under an atmosphere of Ar. A solution of DMSO (8.20 mL, 116 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added at a rate such that the reaction temperature remained below -65 °C. After stirring for 5 min, a solution of 5-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentan-1-ol (12.6 g, 57.8 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) was added slowly, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min. Next, NEt₃ (40 mL, 289 mmol) was added slowly. After stirring the reaction for 10 additional min at -70 °C, the cooling bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to warm for ca. 45 min. Upon reaching room temperature, water (100 mL) was added and stirring continued for 15 min. The reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, washed

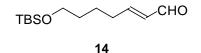
successively with 5% HCl (100 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL), and brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford an oil. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) gave 5-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentanal⁴ (12.5 g, 57.8 mmol, 99% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.04 (s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.50-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.69 (p, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (dt, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 9.76 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.98, 18.7, 19.0, 26.3, 32.5, 44.0, 62.9, 203.0; IR (neat) 2940, 1730 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 217 (M⁺+1), 154, 136; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₂₅O₂Si (M⁺+1): 217.1624, found 217.1609.



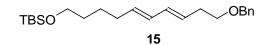
(E)-7-(tert-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enoic acid ethyl ester. A solution of 5-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-pentanal (5.10)23.6 g, mmol) and (carbethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane (8.20 g, 23.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (175 mL) was heated to reflux for 18 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with pentane. The organic extract was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) gave (E)-7-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enoic acid ethyl ester⁵ (6.6 g, 23.0 mmol, 98% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.50-1.54 (m, 4H), 2.19-2.24 (m, 2H), 3.59-3.62 (m, 2H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.83 (dd, J = 15.5 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dt, J = 15.6 Hz, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.9, 14.7, 18.7, 24.7, 26.3, 32.3, 32.6, 60.5, 63.1, 121.8, 149.5, 167.1; IR (neat) 2925, 1720, 1660 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 287 (M⁺+1), 229, 81; HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₃₁O₃Si (M⁺+1): 287.2042, found 287.2063.



(E)-7-(tert-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-en-1-ol. To a solution of (E)-7-(tert-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enoic acid ethyl ester (11.2 g, 39.1 mmol) in diethyl ether (250 mL) was added DIBAL-H (1.0 M in hexanes, 86.0 mL, 86.1 mmol) at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at -20 °C for 1 h and then warmed to room temperature. After stirring at room temperature for 2 h, an equal volume of saturated ag potassium sodium tartrate was added slowly, and the resulting voluminous mixture was stirred for an additional 18 h. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 150 mL). The organic extracts were combined, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford a colorless oil. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) gave (E)-7-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-en-1-ol⁶ (9.5 g, 38.9 mmol, 99% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 1.42-1.56 (m, 5H), 2.07 (m, 2H), 3.62 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 5.61-5.74 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.9, 18.8, 25.8, 26.4, 32.4, 32.7, 63.4, 64.2, 129.5, 133.7; IR (neat) 3330, 2930, 1470 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 245 (M⁺+1), 227, 187, 115; HRMS calcd for $C_{13}H_{29}O_2Si (M^++1)$: 245.1937, found 245.1930.



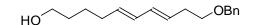
(E)-7-(tert-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enal 14. (E)-7-(tert-Butyldimethylsilvloxy)-hept-2-enal⁷ 14 was prepared from (*E*)-7-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2en-1-ol using a Swern oxidation, as described above for 5-(tert-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-EtOAc/hexane) pentanal. Flash chromatography (15%)gave (*E*)-7-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enal 14 (7.1 g, 29.3 mmol, 99% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.57 (m, 4H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 3.63 (m, 2H), 6.12 (dd, J = 15.6 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dt, J = 15.6 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 9.51 Hz(d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.9, 18.7, 24.6, 26.3, 32.5, 32.9, 63.0, 133.4, 159.1, 194.5; IR (neat) 2900, 1670, 1080 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 243 (M⁺+1), 185, 111, 75; HRMS calcd for $C_{13}H_{27}O_2Si$ (M⁺+1): 242.1780, found 243.1775.



(5E,7E)-(10-Benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dienyloxy)-tert-butyldimethylsilane 15. A

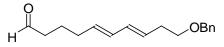
solution of sulfone **13** (10.0 g, 27.9 mmol) in THF (175 mL) was cooled to -78 °C, and a solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (30.7 mL, 30.7 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added slowly. The resulting solution was stirred at -65 °C for 1 h, and then a solution of (*E*)-7-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy)-hept-2-enal **14** (6.90 g, 28.5 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added at a rate such that the temperature remained below -65 °C. The orange solution was stirred for an additional hour at -65 °C and then allowed to acclimate to room temperature over 18 h. Water (150 mL) was added and the resulting mixture stirred

for 1 h. The reaction was transferred to a separatory funnel, extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/hexane) gave **15** (9.6 g, 25.6 mmol, 90% yield) as a pale yellow oil. The ratio of (*5E*,*7E*)-**15**/(*5E*,*7Z*)-**15** was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (*5E*,*7E*)-**15**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.08 (s, 6H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.59 (m, 2H), 2.08-2.13 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.44 (m, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 5.57-5.65 (m, 2H), 6.01-6.14 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.37 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ - 4.68, 18.8, 22.6, 26.4, 32.8, 33.1, 33.5, 63.6, 70.3, 73.3, 127.9, 128.0, 128.4, 128.7, 130.8, 132.7, 133.3, 138.9; IR (neat) 2900, 1450, 1090 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 375 (M⁺+1), 243, 91; HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₃₉O₂Si (M⁺+1): 375.2719, found 375.2690. (*5E*,*7Z*)-**15**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 2.51-2.56 (m, 2H), 4.56 (m, 2H), 5.33-5.42 (m, 1H), 5.65-5.75 (m, 1H), 6.34-6.42 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 26.0, 28.8, 33.0, 63.4, 70.3, 125.7, 126.1, 128.0, 129.1, 130.9, 135.6.

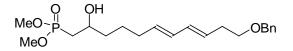


(5*E*,7*E*)-10-Benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dien-1-ol. To a stirred solution of diene 15 (5.70 g, 15.2 mmol) in ethanol (150 mL) was added pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (1.10 g, 4.57 mmol). After stirring for 18 h, the solution was concentrated to give a viscous oil. Flash chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexane) gave (5*E*,7*E*)-10-Benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dien-1-ol (3.8 g, 14.6 mmol, 95% yield) as a colorless oil. The ratio of (5*E*,7*E*)-diene/(5*E*,7*Z*)-diene was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (5*E*,7*E*)-diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41-1.63 (m, 5H), 2.11 (m, 2H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 3.53 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 5.62 (dt, *J* = 14.4 Hz, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (m, 2H),

7.32 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.9, 32.6, 32.7, 33.5, 63.2, 70.3, 73.3, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 128.8, 130.9, 132.6, 133.0, 138.8; IR (neat) 3350, 2900, 1440, 1090 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/*z* 261 (M⁺+1), 243, 169, 91; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₅O₂ (M⁺+1): 261.1855, found 261.1853. (5*E*,7*Z*)-diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 2.42 (m, 2H), 5.37 (m, 1H), 5.71 (m, 1H), 6.34 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 25.8, 28.8, 33.0, 70.2, 126.0, 126.2, 128.1, 130.8, 135.3.

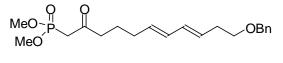


(5*E*,7*E*)-10-Benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dienal. The corresponding aldehyde was prepared from (5*E*,7*E*)-10-Benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dien-1-ol using a Swern oxidation, as described above. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) gave (5*E*,7*E*)-10-benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dienal (10.0 g, 38.7 mmol, 99% yield) as a yellow oil. The ratio of (5*E*,7*E*)-diene /(5*E*,7*Z*)-diene was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (5*E*,7*E*)-diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.62-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.97–2.10 (m, 2H), 2.32-2.38 (m, 4H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 5.45-5.61 (m, 2H), 5.95-6.07 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 5H), 9.67 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.0, 32.2, 33.5, 43.5, 70.2, 73.2, 127.9, 128.0, 128.8, 129.2, 131.7, 131.8, 132.3, 139.0, 202.6; IR (neat) 2800, 1695, 1080 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/*z* 259 (M⁺+1), 154, 136; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₂₃O₂ (M⁺+1): 259.1698, found 259.1689. (5*E*,7*Z*)- diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 2.49 (m, 2H), 5.33 (m, 1H), 6.33 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, 134.1.



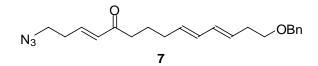
(6E,8E)-(11-benzyloxy-2-hydroxy-undeca-6,8-dienyl)-phosphonic acid

dimethyl ester. To a cooled solution of dimethyl methyl phosphonate (2.60 mL, 23.8) mmol) in THF (25 mL) at -78 °C was added n-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexanes, 15.5 mL, 23.3 mmol) slowly. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, and then (5E,7E)-10benzyloxy-deca-5,7-dienal (2.80 g, 10.8 mmol) was added as a solution in THF (10 mL). Stirring was continued at -78 °C for 3h and then at 0 °C for an additional hour. The reaction mixture was quenched at 0 °C with saturated aq NH₄Cl solution, transferred to a separatory funnel, and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) gave β -hydroxyphosphonate (3.8 g, 9.9 mmol, 92% yield) as a pale yellow oil. The ratio of (6E, 8E)-diene/(6E, 8Z)-diene was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (6*E*,8*E*)-diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.39-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 2.01-2.14 (m, 2H), 2.33-2.40 (m, 2H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (d, J =10.9 Hz, 6H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 3.96 (br s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 5.46-5.60 (m, 2H), 5.93-6.08 (m, 2H), 7.26 (m, 5H); 13 C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.5, 32.7, 33.4, 38.1, 38.2, 52.6, 52.8, 66.5, 70.2, 73.2, 127.9, 128.0, 128.6, 128.7, 131.0, 132.9, 138.8; IR (neat) 3350, 2890, 1200 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 383 (M⁺+1), 357, 207, 91; HRMS calcd for $C_{20}H_{32}O_5P$ (M⁺+1): 383.198, found 383.1968. (6*E*,8*Z*)-diene: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 2.46 (dd, J = 13.3 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 5.33 (m, 1H), 5.60 (m, 1H), 6.34 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) & 28.8, 32.7, 33.0, 33.7, 38.1, 38.3, 52.7, 52.8, 66.5, 70.2, 127.9.

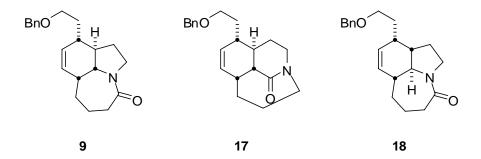


16

(6E,8E)-(11-Benzyloxy-2-oxo-undeca-6,8-dienyl)-phosphonic acid dimethyl ester 16. To a stirred solution of hydroxyphosphonate (2.90 g, 7.58 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was added activated 4Å sieves, N-morpholine-N-oxide (1.30 g, 11.4 mmol) and TPAP (0.13 g, 0.38 mmol). After stirring the resulting black mixture for 72 h, the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and washed with EtOAc. Concentration of the filtrate provided a black oil. Flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) gave 16 (2.2 g, 5.8 mmol, 75% yield) as a yellow oil. The ratio of (6E,8E)-16/(6E,8Z)-16 was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (6*E*,8E)-16: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.64-1.73 (m, 2H), 2.05-2.19 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.41 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.63 (m, 2H), 3.05 (d, J = 22.7 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (d, J = 22.7 Hz, 3Hz, 3Hz(t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.75-3.77 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 6H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 5.49-5.63 (m, 2H), 5.97-6.09 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.3, 32.0, 33.5, 41.1, 43.7, 53.4, 70.2, 73.3, 127.9, 128.1, 128.8, 129.1, 131.5, 132.0, 132.3, 138.8, 202.2; IR (neat) 2950, 1720, 1035 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 381 (M⁺+1), 345, 255, 91; HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₅P (M⁺+1): 381.1831, found 381.1836. (6*E*,8*Z*)-16: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 2.47-2.52 (m, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 5.34-5.39 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.34 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 28.8, 32.3, 42.4, 70.2, 126.4, 126.8, 130.5, 134.3.



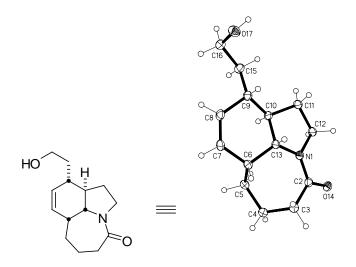
(3E,9E,11E)-1-Azido-14-benzyloxy-tetradeca-3,9,11-trien-5-one 7. Prior to use, Ba(OH)₂•8H₂O was dried in a 140 °C oven for 2 h (NOTE: drying of the hydroxide for shorter or longer periods of time resulted in lower overall yields of 7). Phosphonate 16 (1.30 g, 3.42 mmol) was placed in a 100 mL flask with THF (30 mL) and Ba(OH)₂•8H₂O (0.86 g, 2.74 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30-45 min, causing it to turn white in color. 3-azidopropanal⁸ (0.34 g, 3.42 mmol) was added slowly in 40:1 THF/H₂O (15 mL). After stirring the gelatinous material for 6 h, the solution was poured over saturated NaHCO₃ solution and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 100 mL). The extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hex) afforded 7 (1.0 g, 2.8 mmol, 85% yield) as a yellow oil. The ratio of (3E,9E,11E)-7/(3E,9E,11Z)-7 was determined to be ca. 85:15 by ¹H NMR. (3*E*,9*E*,11*E*)-7: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.67-1.76 (m, 2H), 2.02-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.43 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.55 (m, 4H), 3.39 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 5.45-5.70 (m, 2H), 5.97-6.09 (m, 2H), 6.14 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dt, J = 16.0 Hz, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.9, 32.2, 32.3, 33.5, 39.9, 50.0, 70.2, 73.3, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.8, 129.0, 131.3, 132.3, 132.4, 132.7, 142.2, 200.2; IR (neat) 2050, 1700, 1650, 1600 cm⁻¹; MS (FAB⁺) m/z354 ($M^{+}+1$), 154, 136; HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₈N₃O₂ ($M^{+}+1$): 354.2182, found 354.2162. (3E,9E,11Z)-7: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only): δ 5.34-5.38 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.35 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, diagnostic peaks only) δ 14.6, 21.5, 27.4, 28.8, 32.6, 39.9, 60.8, 126.3, 126.8, 130.6, 134.6.



Lactams 9, 17 and 18. To a flame dried 50 mL flask was added azidotriene 7 (0.25 g, 0.71 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL) and MeAlCl₂ (0.71 mL, 1.0 M soln in toluene, 0.71 mmol). Refluxing the yellow solution for 48 h produced a dark greenish solution that was cooled to room temperature and then poured over saturated aq NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL). Upon shaking, the dark solution turned yellow in color. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3×100 mL), the combined organic layers dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) afforded the major lactam isomer **9** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol, 43% yield) as a viscous oil, the bridged lactam **17** (56 mg, 0.17 mmol, 24% yield) as a viscous oil, and the minor lactam isomer **18** (27 mg, 0.083 mmol, 12% yield as a white solid.

Major lactam **9** ($R_f = 0.17$): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.39-1.48 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.93 (m, 2H), 2.13-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.28 (ddd, J =13.2 Hz, 5.1 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (m, 1H), 2.67 (m, 1H), 3.42 (m, 1H), 3.47-3.52 (m, 3H), 3.57 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (m, 2H), 5.53-5.59 (m, 1H), 5.63-5.66 (m, 1H), 7.31 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.2, 25.4, 26.8, 33.2, 33.4, 36.5, 38.0, 43.9, 45.9, 62.6, 68.0, 73.5, 128.01, 128.03, 128.8, 130.7, 130.9, 138.7, 171.5; IR (neat) 2840, 1625 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 326 (M⁺+1), 234, 91; HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₈NO₂ (M⁺+1): 326.2120, found 326.2129. Bridged lactam **17** ($R_f = 0.63$): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.40-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.72-2.01 (m, 5H), 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.48 (dt, J = 12.4 Hz, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (dd, J = 10.0 Hz, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dt, J = 11.2 Hz, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (dt, J = 15.3 Hz, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.49 (m, 2H), 5.62-5.67 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.37 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.9, 25.4, 31.3, 32.2, 39.3, 39.9, 41.3, 53.4, 56.2, 56.8, 68.2, 73.6, 128.0, 128.1, 128.8, 132.6, 133.4, 138.8, 188.1; IR (neat) 2940, 1690 cm⁻¹; MS (FAB⁺) m/z 326 (M⁺+1), 234, 91; HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₈NO₂ (M⁺+1): 326.2120, found 326.2122.

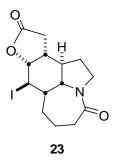
Minor lactam **18** ($R_f = 0.25$). Mp: 85-88 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20-1.26 (m, 1H), 1.44-1.47 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.99 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.31 (t, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.59-2.67 (m, 2H), 3.00 (dd, J = 10.7 Hz, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.20-3.27 (m, 1H), 3.55-3.61 (m, 2H), 3.90 (dd, J = 11.6 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (m, 2H), 5.37 (m, 1H), 5.75-5.79 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.36 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.2, 25.7, 30.8, 34.4, 37.0, 38.8, 45.1, 46.8, 47.2, 60.1, 68.7, 73.5, 128.1, 128.8, 131.3, 138.7, 175.3; IR (neat) 2820, 1600, 1430 cm⁻¹; MS (FAB⁺) m/z 326 (M⁺+1), 234, 91; HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₈NO₂ (M⁺+1): 326.2120, found 326.2102.



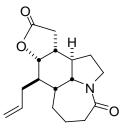
10-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-1,2,6,7,7a,10,10a,10b-octahydro-5H-azepino[3,2,1-

*hi*Jindol-4-one. Ammonia (10 mL) was condensed into a solution of lactam **9** (250 mg, 0.77 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at -78 °C. Sodium was added, and upon stirring, the reaction mixture turned blue. The reaction was quenched with solid NH₄Cl, and the ammonia was allowed to evaporate. The resulting mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30mL). The organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a colorless oil. Flash chromatography (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) afforded the tricyclic alcohol (180 mg, 0.76 mmol, 99% yield) as a white crystalline solid. Mp 158-160 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.65 (m, 3H), 1.72-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.92 (m, 2H), 2.13-2.18 (m, 1H), 2.28 (ddd, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 5.1 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dt, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (m, 1H), 3.41-3.59 (m, 3H), 3.72-3.79 (m, 2H), 5.57-5.62 (m, 1H), 5.66-5.69 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.1, 25.4, 26.8, 33.1, 36.3, 36.5, 37.6, 43.9, 45.9, 60.4, 62.7, 130.7, 130.8, 171.6; IR (neat) 2920, 1600 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 236 (M⁺-1), 111, 69; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂ (M⁺-1): 236.1651, found 236.1640. Recrystallization from

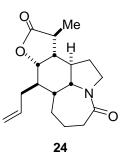
CH₂Cl₂/Hexanes gave white crystals (Mp 158-160 °C) that were subjected to singlecrystal x-ray analysis.



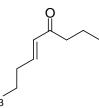
Iodolactam 23. Freshly prepared Jones reagent (8.0 N, 2.7 M) was added dropwise to an ice-cooled solution of tricyclic alcohol (100 mg, 0.43 mmol) in acetone (10 mL) until an orange color persisted. The solution was stirred for 3 h at 0 °C and then 30 min at room temperature. After quenching with 2-propanol, the mixture was concentrated to afford a blue-green solid. To this material was added saturated aq NaHCO₃ solution (10 mL), THF (5 mL), Et₂O (5 mL), and solid NaHCO₃ (ca. 0.5 g). The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and then I₂ (0.32 g, 1.28 mmol) was added. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0 °C and then at room temperature for 15 h. After adding saturated ag sodium thiosulfate solution, the solution was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 $(3 \times 50 \text{ mL})$, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) afforded 23 (128 mg, 0.34 mmol, 80% yield) as a white solid. Mp 187 °C (dec.), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.92 (m, 3H), 1.74-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.90-2.13 (m, 3H), 2.33-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.45 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H, 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.88 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 10.0 Hz, 1H, 3.45 (m, 1H),3.69 (dd, J = 11.6 Hz, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dd, J = 11.8 Hz, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (t, J = 10.9Hz, 1H), 4.94 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.2, 25.0, 27.9, 33.3, 33.6, 33.9, 38.0, 43.2, 44.2, 47.0, 60.6, 83.4, 171.4, 174.6; IR (neat) 1770, 1630 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 376 (M⁺+H), 248; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₉NO₂ (M⁺+1): 376.0410, found 376.0405.



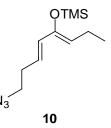
Allylated lactam. To a solution of lactam 23 (86 mg, 0.23 mmol) in degassed benzene (15 mL) was added allyltributyltin (0.14 mL, 0.459 mmol) and AIBN (8.0 mg, 0.0459 mmol). The solution was refluxed for 22 h, cooled to room temperature, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a colorless oil. Flash chromatography (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) afforded the allylated lactam (62 mg, 0.21 mmol, 93% yield) of a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.42-1.80 (m, 6H), 1.90-2.03 (m, 3H), 2.10-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.50 (m, 4H), 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (m, 2H), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (dd, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.84-5.94 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.6, 23.6, 28.2, 33.5, 33.6, 34.3, 35.3, 37.7, 42.2, 44.7, 47.1, 60.8, 81.2, 119.1, 134.3, 171.5, 176.3; IR (neat) 1760, 1620 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* 290 (M⁺+1), 246, 84; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₄NO₃ (M⁺+1): 290.1756, found 290.1755.



Methylated lactam 24. To a cooled solution of allylated lactam (0.16 g, 0.57 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in hexanes, 1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol) slowly. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, and then iodomethane (0.35 mL, 5.67 mmol) was added quickly. The vellow solution was stirred at -78 °C for 40 min longer, and then the reaction was guenched with the addition of 20%aq HCl (ca. 6 mL). After warming to room temperature, the solution was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 30mL). The organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford an off-white solid. Flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/50% Hex) afforded 24 (0.13 g, 0.43 mmol, 77% yield) as a white crystalline solid. An analytical sample was furnished by reverse-phase prep HPLC (50% acetonitrile/50% water/0.1% TFA). Mp: 119-121 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.34 $(d, J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}), 1.37-1.53 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 1.60-1.76 \text{ (m, 3H)}, 1.87-2.02 \text{ (m, 3H)}, 2.13-2.21 \text{ (m$ (m, 2H), 2.34-2.46 (m, 5H), 3.47 (m, 2H), 3.74 (dd, J = 12.2 Hz, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dd, J = 12.3 Hz, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (m, 2H), 5.79-5.89 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 15.9, 22.5, 23.4, 28.2, 33.0, 34.1, 35.3, 40.2, 42.0, 44.7, 45.9, 47.5, 61.0, 78.7, 119.2, 134.2, 172.2, 178.9; IR (neat) 1779, 1639 cm⁻¹; MS (FAB⁺) m/z 304 (M⁺+1), 154, 136; HRMS calcd for $C_{18}H_{26}NO_3$ (M⁺+1): 304.1908, found 304.1913.

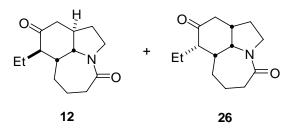


(*E*)-8-Azidooct-5-en-4-one. To a solution of NaH (60%, 1.2 g, 30 mmol) in THF (60 mL) under Ar at -78 °C was added slowly β-keto phosphonate **25**⁹ (5.90 g, 30 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The resulting solution was allowed to slowly warm up to -25 °C over 2 h to give a white gel-like suspension. This suspension was cooled in an ice bath followed by dropwise addition of 3-azidopropional^{8b} (3.0 g, 30 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The mixture was stirred in an ice bath for 1 h and then quenched with water (50 mL). The reaction mixture was partitioned between water and Et₂O. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. Chromatography (2-10% EtOAc/hexane) afforded (*E*)-8-azidooct-5-en-4-one (4.6 g, 27.5 mmol, 92% yield) as a colorless oil. R_f = 0.48 (15% EtOAc/hexane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (h, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (m, 4H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 17.7, 32.0, 42.3, 49.8, 132.5, 141.8, 200.2; IR (neat) 2100, 1697, 1674 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) *m/z* 168 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₈H₁₄N₃O (M⁺+H): 168.1137, found 168.1116.



[(3Z,5*E*)-8-Azidoocta-3,5-dien-4-yloxy]trimethylsilane 10. To a solution of (*E*)-8-azidooct-5-en-4-one (1.67 g, 10.0 mmol) in anhydrous ethyl ether (35 mL) under Ar was added Et₃N (2.1 g, 20 mmol) at 0 °C followed by the addition of TMSOTf (3.3 g, 15 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the diene 10 (2.27 g, 9.5 mmol, 95% yield) as a light yellow oil. This diene was used directly for the next step. $R_f = 0.75$ (5:95 EtOAc/hexane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.23 (s, 9H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.11 (m, 2H), 2.42 (m, 2H), 3.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (m, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.6, 14.1, 19.4, 31.7, 51.0, 117.1, 123.5, 131.7, 147.3; IR (neat) 2100 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) *m*/z 240 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₂₂N₃OSi (M⁺+H): 240.1532, found 240.1519.

General procedure for the intermolecular Diels–Alder/intramolecular Schmidt reaction involving the diene 10. To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of enone (5.0–10 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20–40 mL) under Ar was added a Lewis acid such as SnCl₄ (1 equiv) followed by the addition of diene 10 (1.8 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C and allowed to warm to -55 °C over 2 h. After slow addition of another portion of the same Lewis acid (1.5 equiv), the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and quenched with aqueous NH₄Cl. The mixture was partitioned between water and CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was collected, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. Chromatography (10-50% EtOAc/hexane followed by 1-2% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2) afforded the reaction products.

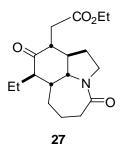


10-Ethyloctahydroazipino[**3,2,1-***h,i*]**indol-4,9**(**1***H*, **5***H*)**dione 12** and **26**. 2-Cyclohexen-1-one (95%, 500 mg, 5.0 mmol) was reacted with **10** using SnCl₄ as Lewis acid to afford 820 mg (70%) of **12** and **26**, an oil, as a ca. 3: 1 (**12** : **26**) mixture of diastereomers based on HPLC/MS analysis. Repeated chromatography afforded pure **12** (600 mg, 2.55 mmol, 52% yield) and **26** (200 mg, 0.85 mmol, 17% yield) as brown syrups. Lactam **12**: $R_f = 0.38$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.62-2.70 (complex, 13H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dt, *J* = 6.7, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 12.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.9, 21.0, 22.5, 24.9, 28.3, 32.9, 38.4, 38.7, 43.4, 46.9, 53.5, 62.2, 171.0, 212.0. IR (neat) 1707, 1612 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/*z* 236 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂ (M⁺+H): 236.1651, found 236.1634.

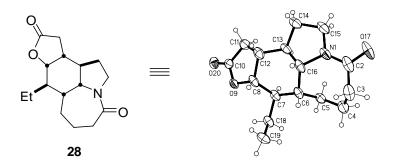
Lactam **26**: $R_f = 0.32$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (m, 1H), 1.26 (septet, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.52-2.54 (complex, 10H), 2.88 (sextet, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dt, J = 6.6, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dd, J = 9.6, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (dd, J = 5.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.4, 19.3,

21.6, 21.9, 27.3, 33.3, 37.1, 37.7, 39.4, 44.8, 52.1, 59.9, 171.9, 211.2. IR (neat) 1713, 1624 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 236 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂ (M⁺+H): 236.1651, found 236.1644.

Compound **26** was obtained as the only product in 35% yield (415 mg) when $BF_3 \bullet OEt_2$ as Lewis acid; the physical and spectra data were identical as above.

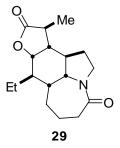


Ethyl 10-ethyl-4,9-dioxo-dodecahydroazipino[3,2,1-*h*,*i*]indol-8-yl)acetate 27. Ketone 12 (500 mg, 2.12 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added to a solution of LiHMDS (1 M, 3.8 mL, 3.8 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at -78 °C under Ar. After stirring at -78 °C for 1 h, ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.78 g, 10.6 mmol) was added followed by HMPA (1.14 g, 6.4 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 3.5 h and then quenched with aq 2 N HCl. After warming up to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between water and CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. Chromatography (10-50% EtOAc/hexane followed by 1-2% MeOH/EtOAc and finally1-2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) afforded **27** (500 mg, 1.56 mmol, 73% yield) as a yellow syrup. R_f = 0.42 (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.60-2.09 (complex, 7H), 2.30-2.47 (m, 4H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.4, 14.2, 21.8, 22.4, 25.2, 26.8, 32.9, 34.7, 38.0, 42.6, 46.6, 49.2, 53.2, 60.9, 62.1, 171.0, 171.3, 213.0. IR (neat) 1732, 1713, 1632 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) m/z 322 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₂₈NO₄ (M⁺+H): 322.2018, found 322.2015.

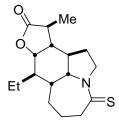


(±)-13-Desmethyl-5-oxostenine 28. To a solution of ketoester 27 (400 mg, 1.25 mmol) in MeOH (30 mL) at 0°C was added NaBH₄ (118 mg, 3.8 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred under for 1.5 h and then quenched with aq 2 N HCl. After concentration to ca 20 mL, the mixture was partitioned between water and CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give a light yellow syrup. Chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane followed by 2-5% MeOH/EtOAc and then 2-5% MeOH/ CH₂Cl₂) afforded **28** (220 mg, 0.79 mmol, 64% yield) as off-white crystalline solid. Mp 143-144 °C; $R_f = 0.28$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.37-1.75 (complex, 7H), 1.80-2.10 (complex, 4H), 2.26-2.59 (m, 4H), 2.78 (dd, J = 10.0, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd, J = 9.0, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 9.3, 11.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.2, 22.5, 23.0, 23.5, 27.8, 33.0, 33.1, 35.5, 37.4, 42.5, 44.2, 46.7, 60.6, 81.6, 171.1, 176.0. IR (neat) 1772, 1628 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) m/z 278 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₄NO₃ (M⁺+H):

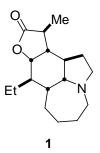
278.1756, found 278.1734. Crystals for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane.



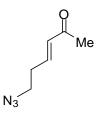
(±)-5-Oxostenine 29. To a solution of 56 mg (0.2 mmol) of lactone 28 in 10 mL of THF at -78 °C under Ar was added LiHMDS (1 M, 0.3 mL, 0.3 mmol). After stirring at -78 °C for 1 h, MeI (142 mg, 1 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h and then guenched with ag 2 N HCl. After warming up to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between water and CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was collected, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give a yellow syrup. Chromatography (10-50% EtOAc/hexane followed by, 1-2% MeOH/EtOAc) afforded 29 (46 mg, 0.16 mmol, 79% yield) as a light yellow crystalline solid. An analytical sample was furnished by reverse-phase preparative HPLC (50% acetonitrile/50% water/0.1% TFA). Mp 164-165 °C; $R_f = 0.34$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.40-1.75 (complex, 7H), 1.84-2.04 (complex, 4H), 2.14-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.31 (dd, J = 4.6, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (m, 2H), 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.73 (dd, J = 9.2, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd, J = 9.3, 12.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.2, 15.4, 22.5, 22.8, 23.4, 27.8, 33.0, 35.8, 39.8, 42.3, 44.3, 45.7, 46.9, 60.5, 79.2, 171.1, 178.7. IR (neat) 1763, 1634 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) m/z 292 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for $C_{17}H_{26}NO_3$ (M⁺+H): 292.1913, found 292.1906. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra matched data reported by Wipf et al for (–)-29.¹⁰



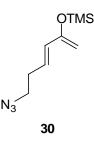
(±)-**5**-**Thiostenine.** To a solution of **29** (24 mg, 0.082 mmol) in 5 mL of CH₂C1₂ was added at room temperature 49 mg (0.123 mmol) of Lawesson's reagent. After 3 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and chromatographed on SiO₂ (EtOAC/hexane, 1: 3 to 1: 1) to give (±)-4-thiostenine (24 mg, 0.078 mmol, 93% yield) as a colorless solid. Mp 180-181 °C; $R_f = 0.49$ (1:1 EtOAc/hexane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.37 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.75 (complex, 7H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 3H), 2.46 (m, 2H), 2.87 (dt, J = 5.6, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 3.9, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (m, 2H), 4.14 (dd, J = 8.7, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (dd, J = 8.9, 12.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.1, 15.6, 22.6, 23.2, 24.7, 27.8, 35.6, 39.7, 42.2, 42.7, 44.6, 45.5, 55.2, 65.8, 78.8, 178.4, 199.3. IR (neat) 1768 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) m/z 308 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NSO₂ (M⁺+H): 308.1684, found 308.1667.



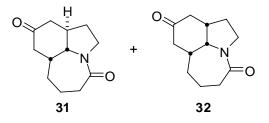
(±)-**Stenine 1.** A solution of 5-thiosteine (20 mg, 0.065 mmol) in 95% EtOH (10 mL) was treated at room temperature with Raney Ni (350 mg). The reaction mixture was shaken for 30 min and filtered through a cotton filter. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the solid residue was chromatographed on SiO₂ (EtOAc) to give stenine **1** (16 mg, 0.058 mmol, 89% yield) as a light yellow oil. $R_f = 0.1$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.30-1.75 (complex, 10H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 2.05-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.86 (dt, J = 4.2, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dt, J = 3.5, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd, J = 9.2, 12.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.8, 15.0, 22.3, 26.2, 27.5, 29.5, 29.8, 39.8, 40.4, 42.5, 43.2, 47.4, 53.1, 55.0, 68.0, 80.5, 179.6. IR (neat) 1770 cm⁻¹; MS (ES+) *m/z* 278 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₈NO₂ (M⁺+H): 278.2120, found 278.2106.



(*E*)-6-Azido-3-hexen-2-one. To a solution of commercially-available dimethyl 2oxopropylphosphonate (1.60 g, 10 mmol) in THF/H₂O (4:1, 40 mL) was added K₂CO₃ (2.10 g, 15 mmol). The resulting solution was cooled in an ice bath followed by dropwise addition of the 3-azidopropanal⁸ (1.0 g, 10 mmol) in THF (4 mL). The mixture was stirred in an ice bath for 1 h and then quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The reaction mixture was partitioned between water and EtOAc. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. Chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexane) afforded (*E*)-6-azido-3-hexen-2-one (940 mg, 6.76 mmol, 68% yield) as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.46$ (25% EtOAc/hexane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.5, 32.2, 50.0, 133.6, 143.4, 198.5; IR (neat) 1709, 1644 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m*/*z* 140 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₆H₁₀N₃O (M⁺+H): 140.0824, found 140.0853.

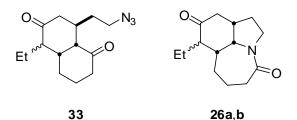


(*E*)-6-Azido-2-trimethylsilyloxy-1,3-hexadiene 30. To a solution of (*E*)-6-azido-3-hexen-2-one (1.4 g, 10 mmol) in anhydrous ethyl ether (35 mL) under argon was added Et₃N (2.1 g, 20 mmol) at 0 °C followed by the addition of TMSOTf (3.3 g, 15 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The reaction mixture was partitioned between water and EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated under reduced pressure to give **30** (2.18 g, 10.3 mmol, 98% yield) as a very light yellow oil oil. This diene was used directly for the next step without further purification. $R_f = 0.52$ (2% EtOAc/hexane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.26 (s, 9H), 2.42 (m, 2H), 3.36 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 5.92 (m, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -0.1, 31.5, 50.7, 95.3, 126.4, 130.5, 154.3; IR (neat) 2098 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) m/z 212 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₉H₁₈N₃OSi (M⁺+H): 212.1219, found 212.1196.



(±)-5-Octahydro-azipino[3,2,1-h,i]indol-4,9-dione 31 and 32. To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of 2-cyclohexenone (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) under argon was added SnCl₄ (261 mg, 1.0 mmol) followed by the addition of diene **30** (380 mg, 1.8 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h. After slow addition of another portion of SnCl₄ (391 mg, 1.5 mmol), the mixture was stirred at for 12 h, and then quenched with aqueous NaHCO₃. The mixture was partitioned between water and CHCl₃. The organic layer was collected, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. Chromatography (10-50% EtOAc/hexane followed by 1-2% MeOH/CHCl₃) afforded a viscous oil of the desired lactams 31 and 32 (170 mg, 0.82 mmol, 82% yield) as a ca. 1:3.4 (31:32) mixture of diastereomers. The mixture solidified upon standing. $R_f = 0.32$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); IR (neat) 1709, 1624 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 208 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for $C_{12}H_{18}NO_2$ (M⁺+H): 208.1338, found 208.1357. A pure sample of the major diastereomer was obtained after recrystallization from hexanes/EtOAc. Mp 131-133 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.54-1.84 (complex, 6H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 2.11 (d, J = 15.7Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dd, J = 4.0, 15.9 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (m, 3H), 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.99 (m, 1H), 3.24

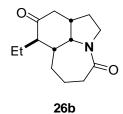
(two sets of t, J = 6.56, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (m, 1H), 4.13 (d, 1H, J = 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.5, 31.2, 33.6, 35.7, 38.0, 39.3, 39.7, 43.3, 45.8, 59.7, 174.3, 211.2. Minor diastereomer (diagnostic peaks only, from the mixture): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.51 (m), 3.75 (m); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.1, 26.6, 28.4, 31.9, 39.7, 43.2, 45.6, 47.3, 62.6, 171.6, 211.5.



10-Ethyloctahydroazepino[**3,2,1**]**indole-4,9**(**1***H*,**5***H*)-**dione 26a,b**. To a solution of 2-cyclohexen-1-one (562 mg, 5.85 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieve pellets (7.00 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (80 mL) BF₃•OEt₂ (0.89 mL, 7.02 mmol, 1.20 equiv) was added at -78 °C. After stirring for 5 min, enol ether **11** (2.14 g, 8.77 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added portionwise over 15 min. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. Saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added and the reaction extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to yield a dark brown oil. Silica chromatography afforded a diastereomeric mixture of the ethyl tricylic ketoamides **26a,b** (587 mg, 2.50 mmol, 43% yield) as a light orange oil and ca. 0.32 g of a mixture of cyclohexenone and the azide-containing Diels-Alder adduct **33**. The diketoazide **33** mixture was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL), TiCl₄ (0.18 mL, 1.60 mmol, 1.30 equiv) was added, and the reaction stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was worked up and purified as above to yield an additional portion of mixed diastereomeric lactams **26a,b** as a light organge oil (166

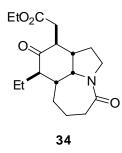
mg, 0.71 mmol, 12% additional yield). The characterization of the major diastereomer of **26a** was in agreement with those previously reported.¹¹ $R_f = 0.32$ (1:10 MeOH/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (m, 1H), 1.26 (septet, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.52-2.54 (complex, 10H), 2.88 (sextet, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dt, J = 6.6, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dd, J = 9.6, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (dd, J = 5.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.4, 19.3, 21.6, 21.9, 27.3, 33.3, 37.1, 37.7, 39.4, 44.8, 52.1, 59.9, 171.9, 211.2. IR (neat) 1713, 1624 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) *m/z* 236 (M⁺+1); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂ (M⁺+H): 236.1651, found 236.1644.

For the diketoazide **33**: $R_f = 0.43$ (25% EtOAc in hexanes); ¹H NMR (major isomer, 400 MHz) δ 0.83 (t, J = 7.3 hz, 3 H), 1.40-1.52 (m, 2 H), 1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.85 (m, 2 H), 1.92-2.08 (complex, 3 H), 2.19-2.34 (complex, 3 H), 2.49 (m, 2 H), 2.68 (dd, J = 11.1, 14.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.78 (m, 1 H), 2.92 (m, 1 H), 3.27 (m, 1 H), 3.36 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (major isomer, 100 MHz) δ d 11.9, 35.8, 42.3, 49.7, 55.1; u 19.7, 23.7, 25.3, 31.2, 41.3, 41.6, 49.2, 212.1, 213.0.



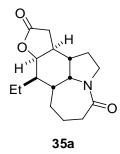
10-Ethyloctahydroazepino[3,2,1]indole-4,9(1*H*,5*H*)-dione 26b. The collected diastereomeric ketolactams 26a,b (3.80 g, 16.15 mmol) were epimerized by dissolution in MeOH (75 mL) followed by the addition of sodium methoxide (1.74 g, 32.3 mmol, 2.0 equiv) After stirring at room temperature for approximately 14 h, the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and filtered through Celite.

Silica gel chromatography afforded diastereomerically pure ketoamide **26b** (3.17 g, 13.5 mmol, 83% yield) as a light orange solid. For **26b** $R_f = 0.58$ (1:1 acetone:CH₂Cl₂) mp 92-95 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.85 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 Hz), 1.45 (m, 1 H), 1.65-1.74 (complex, 4 H), 1.84 (m, 1 H), 1.92-1.99 (m, 1 H), 2.00-2.07 (m, 1 H), 2.17-2.18 (m, 1 H), 2.28-2.32 (m, 2 H), 2.43 (m, 1 H), 2.60-2.71 (m, 2 H), 2.97-3.03 (m, 1 H), 3.10 (dt, J = 6.3, 11.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 12.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.12 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 10.2, 38.0, 39.1, 46.0, 60.2; u 17.8, 21.2, 30.4, 31.4, 38.1, 43.7, 46.0, 173.8, 213.9; IR 3554, 1707, 1618 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂ 236.1651, found 236.1639.



Ethyl 2-(10'-ethyl-4',9'-dioxododecahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indol-8'-yl)acetate 34. To a solution of ketone 26b (229 mg, 0.97 mmol) in THF (10.0 mL) and HMPA (0.52 mL, 3.00 mmol) at -78 °C was added LHMDS (2.5 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 2.50 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 1.75 h at -78 °C, then ethyl bromoacetate (0.54 mL, 4.86 mmol) was added neat. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction stirred for 3 h, then quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc (1 × 20 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The reaction residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the ketoester **34** as a light yellow oil (296 mg, 0.92 mmol, 95% yield). $R_f = 0.49$ (1:1 CH₂Cl₂:acetone); ¹H NMR

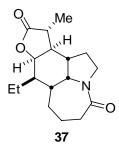
(400 MHz) δ 0.84 (t, J = 7.32 Hz, 3 H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.32 Hz, 3 H), 1.43-1.49 (m, 2 H), 1.51-1.57 (m, 2 H), 1.63-1.70 (m, 2 H), 1.80-1.90 (m, 1 H), 2.04-2.15 (m, 2 H), 2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.41 (dd, J = 3.2, 16.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.45-2.75 (complex, 5 H), 3.58 (m, 1 H), 3.93 (dd, J = 2.3, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.00-4.12 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.5, 14.2, 41.3, 46.1, 46.8, 48.0, 62.1; u 17.8 (2 C), 28.3, 31.7, 33.5, 39.3, 47.3, 60.7, 172.0, 175.1, 210.0; IR 3450, 2935, 2878, 1719, 1643 (s) cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₂₈NO₄ 322.2018, found 322.2029.



8-Ethyldecahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]furo[3,2-e]indole-4,10(31H,11bH)-dione

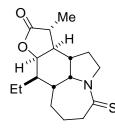
35a. A solution of the keto ester **34** (334 mg, 1.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added to a slurry of anhydrous cerium trichloride (388 mg, 1.56 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and L-SelectrideTM solution (2.1 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 2.10 mmol) was then added. The reaction was stirred for 15 h, slowly warming to rt. The reaction was filtered through a short plug of celite and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica chromatography to give a mixture of two diastereomeric lactols **36** and a small amount of lactone **35a** (233 mg, 0.80 mmol, based on the lactol MW), which was used without further purification. For the lactol mixture **36**: ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.0, 33.2, 33.5, 36.9, 43.3, 61.7, 80.0, 97.6, 98.2; u 17.6, 20.8, 28.3, 30.8, 38.5, 39.5, 47.4, 175.2, 176.4; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₆NO₃ 280.1913, found 280.1896.

The mixture of the lactone **35a** and lactols **36** (233 mg, 0.80 mmol based on the lactol MW) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) and added to 4 Å molecular sieve pellets (1.50 g). To this mixture was successively added N-methylmorpholine N-oxide (187 mg, 1.60 mmol) then tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (28 mg, 0.08 mmol) as solids. The reaction was stirred for 1.5 h at room temperature, filtered through a plug of Celite and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica chromatography to give lactone **35a** as a white solid (182 mg, 0.66 mmol, 63% yield over two steps). For **35a** R_f = 0.33 (1:1 acetone: CH₂Cl₂); mp 143-145 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.39 (m, 1 H), 1.48-1.71 (complex, 6 H), 1.85 (m, 1 H), 2.10 (m, 2 H), 2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 15.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 16.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.42 (dt, J = 6.0, 11.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (dd, J = 2.0, 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.92 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.67 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 4.6 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.0, 33.3, 33.5, 37.0, 43.3, 61.6, 80.0; u 17.6, 20.8, 28.3, 30.9, 38.5, 39.6, 47.3, 175.1, 176.3; IR 2935, 2253, 1772, 1615 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₄NO₃ 278.1756, found 278.1756.



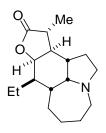
13-Epi-5-oxoneostenine 37. A mixture of lactone 35a (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) and HMPA (0.10 mL, 0.56 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was cooled to -78 °C, a solution of

LHMDS (0.36 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 0.36 mmol, 2.5 equiv) was added, and the reaction stirred at -78 °C for 2 h. A solution of methyl iodide (102 mg, 0.72 mmol, 5 equiv) in THF (1 mL) was added and the reaction warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL). The organics were dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to a viscous oil. Silica gel chromatography gave the methylated lactone **37** (37 mg, 0.13 mmol, 92% yield) as a white solid. R_f = 0.49 (1:1 acetone: CH₂Cl₂); mp 154-156 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3 H), 1.52-1.67 (complex, 6 H), 1.84-1.93 (m, 2 H), 2.17 (m, 1 H), 2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.69 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (dt, *J* = 6.7, 10.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.87 (ddd, *J* = 2.0, 8.8, 12.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 5.6 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.1, 15.4, 33.5, 34.0, 43.0, 43.7, 44.7, 60.9, 77.4; u 17.7, 20.7, 28.5, 30.2, 38.9, 46.9, 174.6, 179.2; IR 1769, 1630 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₃ 292.1913, found 292.1932.



13-Epi-5-thioneostenine. Lactam 37 (37 mg, 0.12 mmol) and phosphorous pentasulfide (18 mg, 0.04 mmol) were combined in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL). A solution of hexamethyldisiloxane (19 mg, 0.37 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was added and the reaction monitored by TLC. After 2 h, the reaction was filtered through a plug of silica gel and concentrated to a viscous oil. The crude mixture was purified by silica chromatography to

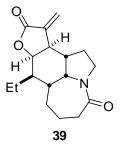
give the pure thioamide as an off-white solid (31 mg, 0.10 mmol, 84% yield). $R_f = 0.84$ (1:1 acetone:CH₂Cl₂); mp 192-196 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.00 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.37 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.50 (dt, J = 3.8, 15.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.58-1.80 (complex, 6 H), 1.88 (m, 1 H), 2.11 (dd, J = 7.3, 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.20 (m, 2 H), 2.52 (m, 2 H), 2.82 (m, 1 H), 3.42 (m, 1 H), 3.86 (m, 1 H), 4.13 (m, 1 H), 4.20 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.86 (dd, J = 2.9, 7.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.1, 15.7, 33.8, 36.4, 41.8, 42.9, 43.0, 64.0, 76.5; u 19.8, 20.8, 28.3, 29.2, 46.9, 54.6, 178.8, 202.4; IR 2975, 2932, 2876, 1761, 1753 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₂S 308.1684, found 308.1700.



13-epineostenine 38

13-Epineostenine 38. To a solution of 13-epi-4-thioneostenine (31 mg, 0.10 mmol) in EtOH (2 mL) was added Raney nickel 2800 slurry in water (600 mg). The mixture was stirred vigorously for 2 h, filtered through a Celite plug and the solvents removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by chromatography on basic alumina to give 13-epineostenine **38** as a white solid (22 mg, 0.079 mmol, 93% yield). $R_f = 0.20$ (acetone); mp 106-108 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.33-1.43 (m, 2 H), 1.53-1.64 (complex, 4 H), 1.66-1.74 (m, 3 H), 1.83 (m, 2 H), 2.26-2.46 (complex, 5 H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 12.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.85 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 8.5 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.4, 15.4, 35.1, 38.9, 39.4, 41.5, 42.8, 65.6, 77.4; u 19.8, 22.9, 31.2, 31.3, 56.0, 57.6,

179.8; IR 2930, 1772, 1634 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for $C_{17}H_{28}NO_2$ 278.2120, found 278.2124.

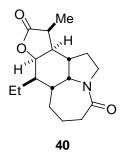


8-Ethyl-11-methylenedecahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]furo[3,2-e]indole-

4,10(31H,11bH)-dione 39. A mixture of lactone **35a** (52 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HMPA (0.10 mL, 0.56 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was cooled to -78 °C, a solution of LHMDS (0.47 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 0.47 mmol) was added, and the reaction stirred at -78 °C for 1 h. Carbon dioxide was then bubbled through the reaction for 15 min and the reaction warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL). The organics were dried with Na₂SO₄ and the solvent removed in vacuo to give the β-carboxylic acid lactone as a yellow oil, which was used without further purification or characterization.

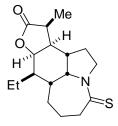
A methylenation reagent stock solution was prepared as described by Greene and coworkers¹² by combining N-methylaniline (5.2 mL), sodium acetate (600 mg), and aqueous formaldehyde solution (15 mL, 37% solution) in acetic acid (20 mL). The methylenation reagent stock solution (0.5 mL) was added to the crude β -carboxylic acid lactone. The reaction mixture stirred at rt for 2.5 h, diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried with Na₂SO₄ and the solvent removed in vacuo. The crude product mixture was purified on

silica chromatography to give the methylene lactone as a white solid (27 mg, 0.09 mmol, 49% yield from **35a**). $R_f = 0.46$ (1:1 acetone: CH₂Cl₂); mp 149-151 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.00 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.42 (m, 1 H), 1.57-1.83 (complex, 5 H), 1.99 (m, 1 H), 2.45 (m, 2 H), 2.65 (m, 1 H), 2.91 (t, J = 6.1, 1 H), 3.52 (m, 1 H), 3.82 (m, 1 H), 3.88 (dd, J = 2.5, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.77 (dd, J = 3.0, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.67 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.23 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 11.2, 33.7, 35.0, 40.2, 42.8, 59.5, 76.9; u 18.0, 20.4, 28.7, 29.2, 37.8, 46.3, 121.0, 140.7, 171.0, 174.1; IR 1753, 1625 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₄NO₃ 290.1756, found 290.1779.

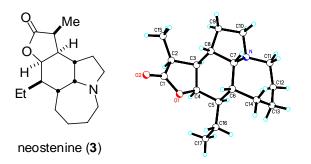


5-Oxoneostenine 40. Methylene lactone **39** (67 mg, 0.23 mmol) and platinum (IV) oxide (20 mg, 0.09 mmol) were suspended in methanol (1 mL) and acetic acid (1 mL). The mixture was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere at 1 atmfor 16 h at room temperature, filtered through Celite and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica chromatography to give 5-oxoneostenine **40** (60 mg, 0.21 mmol, 91% yield) as a white solid. $R_f = 0.56$ (1:1 CH₂Cl₂:acetone); mp 203-205 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.28 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.37-1.69 (complex, 7 H), 1.87 (m, 1 H), 2.08 (m, 1 H), 2.17 (m, 3 H), 2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.71 (m, 1 H), 2.95 (m, 1 H), 3.40 (m, 1 H), 3.80 (m, 1 H), 3.93 (m, 1 H), 4.57 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 9.4, 11.0, 32.2, 33.3, 38.2,

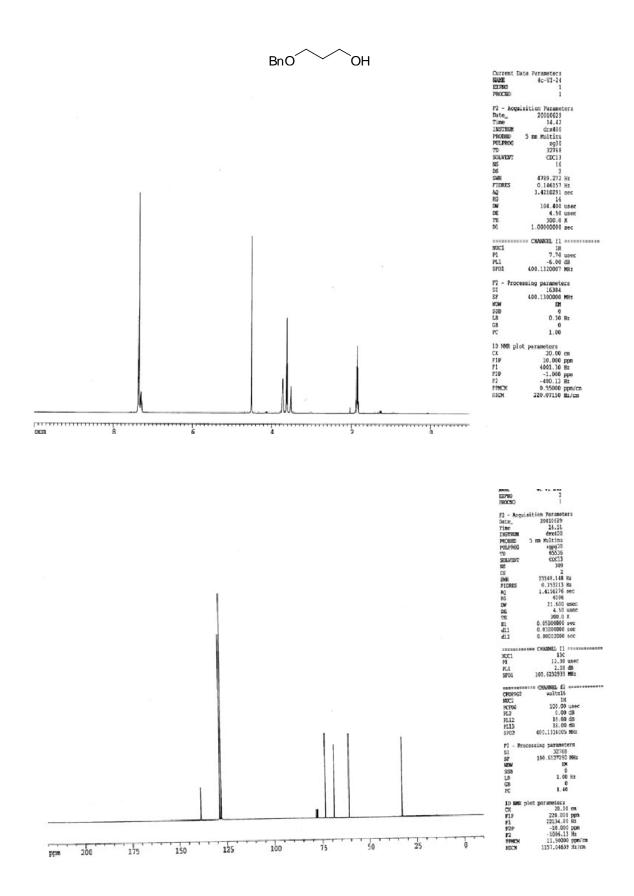
40.5, 42.0, 61.9, 78.2; u 17.6, 20.5, 29.1, 30.9, 39.6, 47.2, 175.0, 178.6; IR 1759, 1636 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for $C_{17}H_{26}NO_3$ 292.1913, found 292.1932.



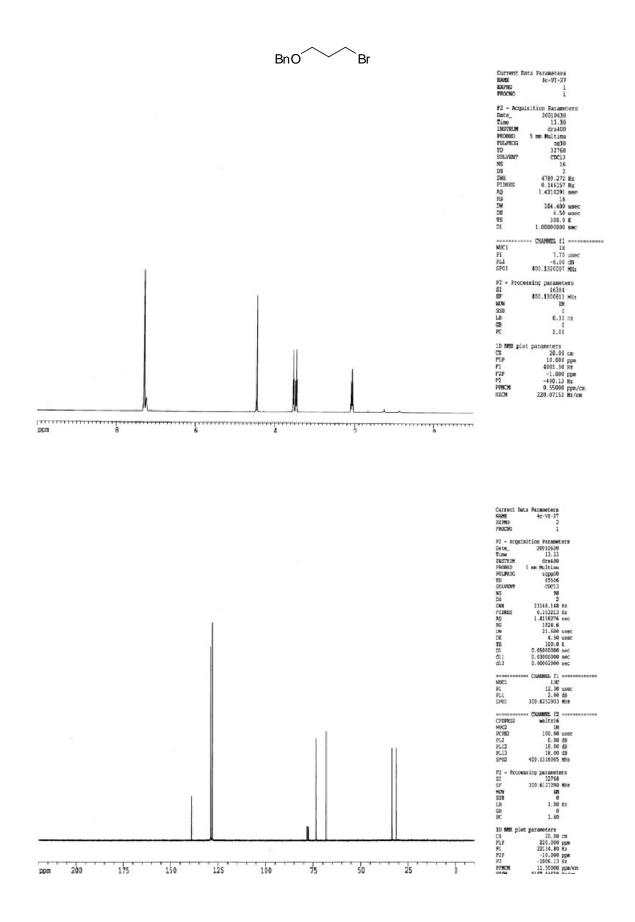
5-Thioneostenine. 5-Oxoneostenine **40** (63 mg, 0.23 mmol) and phosphorous pentasulfide (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) were combined in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). A solution of hexamethyldisiloxane (73 mg, 0.45 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added and the reaction monitored by TLC. After 2 h, the reaction was filtered through a plug of silica gel and concentrated to give a viscous oil. The crude mixture was purified by silica chromatography to give the pure thioamide as a white solid (49 mg, 0.16 mmol, 70% yield). $R_f = 0.45$ (1:1 EtOAc:hexanes); mp 212-214 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.38 (m, 1 H), 1.49-1.64 (complex, 5 H), 1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.99 (m, 1 H), 2.12 (m, 1 H), 2.25 (m, 1 H), 2.33 (m, 1 H), 2.67 (m, 1 H), 2.98 (m, 1 H), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 14.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.78 (dt, *J* = 6.3, 12.1 Hz, 1 H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.37 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 13.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.60 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 4.6, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 9.4, 10.9, 33.1, 34.0, 38.9, 40.6, 41.8, 66.8, 77.8; u 19.2, 20.6, 29.6, 30.7, 49.4, 56.4, 178.3, 204.6; IR 2977, 2933, 2878, 1764, 1482 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₂S 308.1684, found 308.1691.

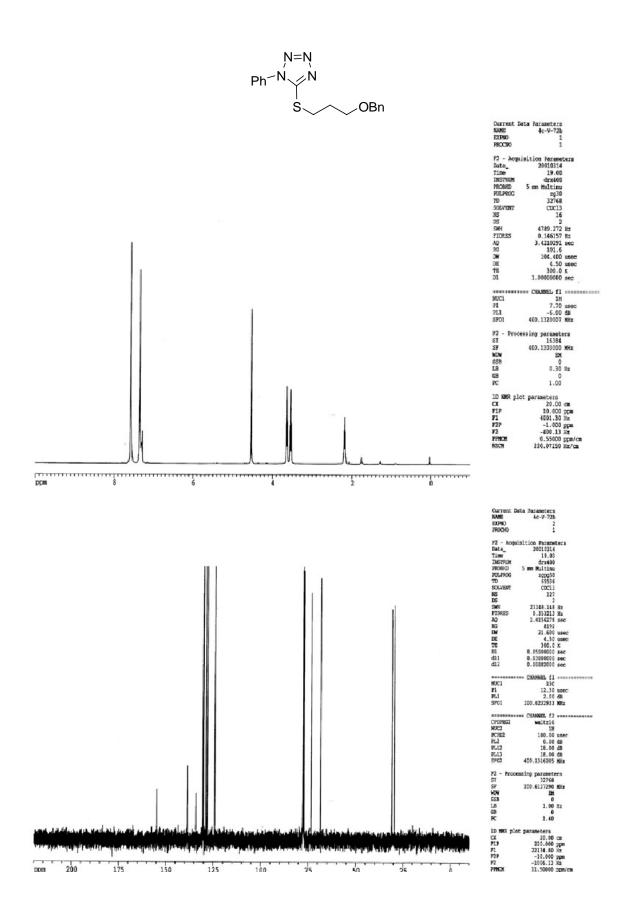


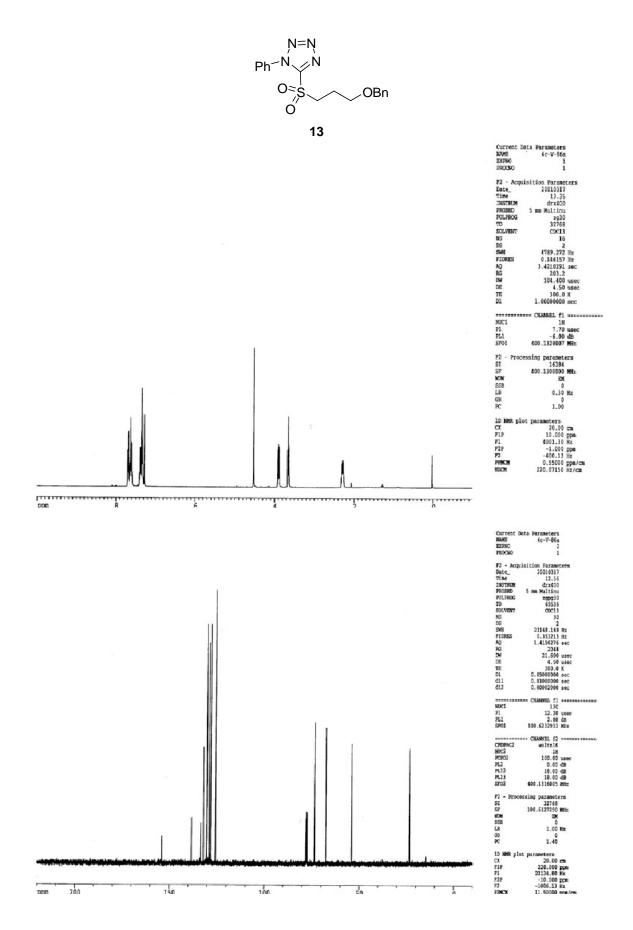
Neostenine 3. To a solution of 5-thioneostenine (26 mg, 0.085 mmol) in THF (1 mL) and EtOH (1 mL) was added Raney nickel 2800 slurry in water (230 mg). The mixture was stirred vigorously for 1.5 h, filtered through a Celite plug and the solvents removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by chromatography on basic alumina to give neostenine as a white solid (22 mg, 0.079 mmol, 93% yield). $R_f = 0.31$ (acetone); mp 126-128 °C (lit¹³ 90-92 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.22 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.41 (m, 1 H), 1.56-1.91 (complex, 10 H), 1.98 (m, 1 H), 2.26 (m, 1 H), 2.33 (m, 1 H), 2.39-2.48 (m, 2 H), 2.86 (m, 1 H), 3.19 (m, 1 H), 4.51 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ d 10.6, 11.8, 34.8, 37.8, 38.0, 43.0, 43.5, 71.4, 79.9; u 21.6, 21.7, 28.6, 28.9, 30.7, 56.1, 56.4, 180.2; IR 2985, 2934, 1762, 1638 cm⁻¹; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₂₈NO₂ 278.2120, found 278.2131. Except for the increased melting point, these data are in agreement with those obtained by Lin and coworkers¹³.

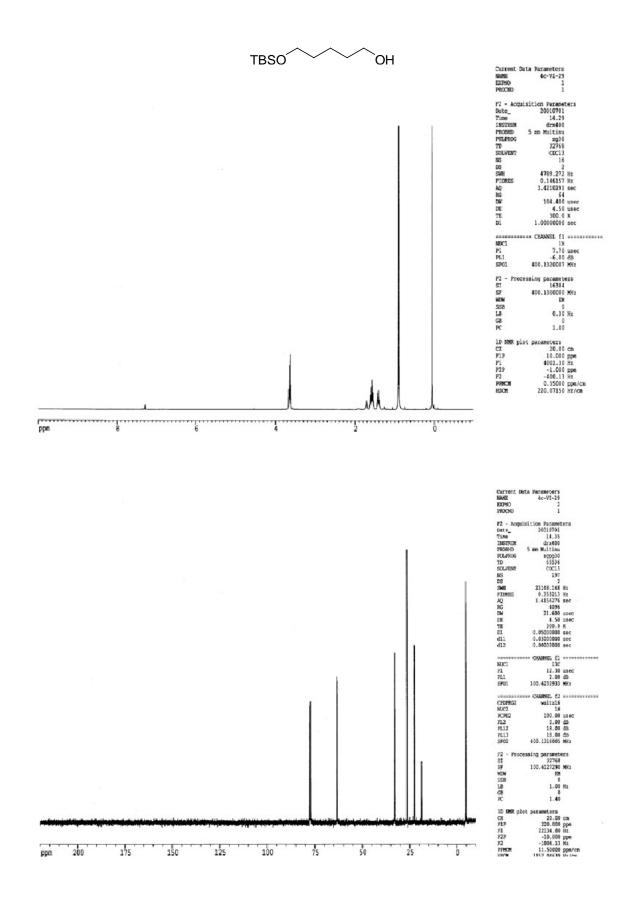


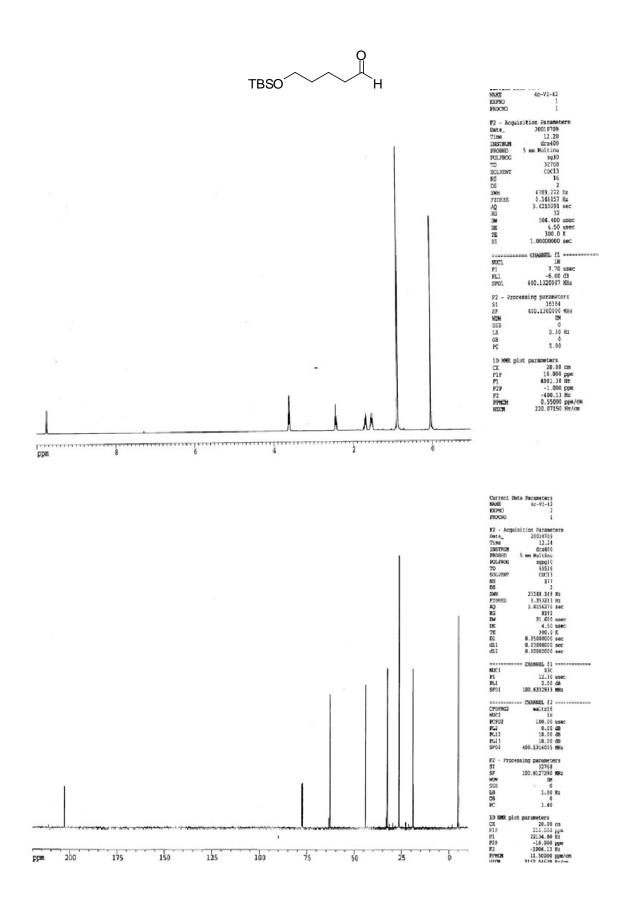
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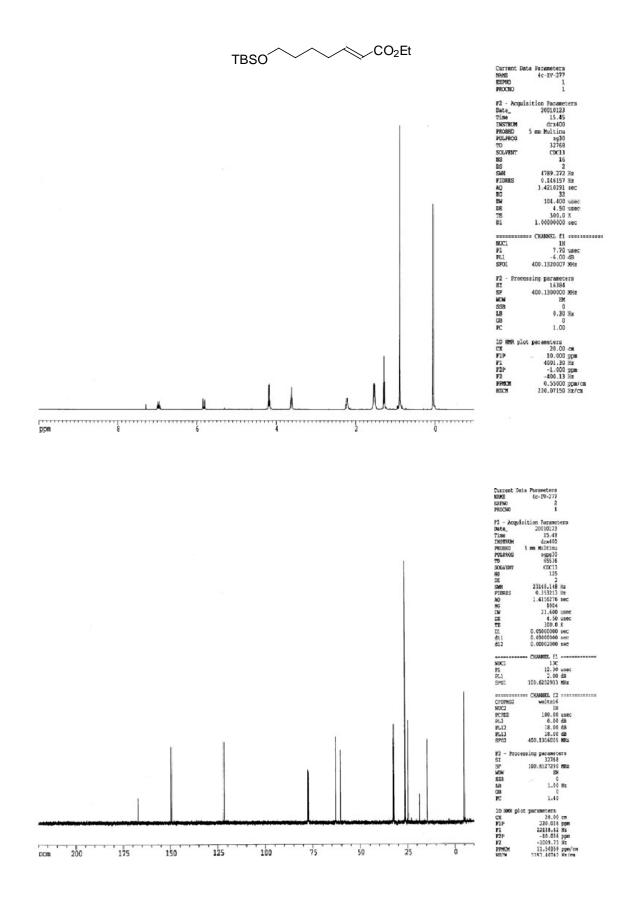


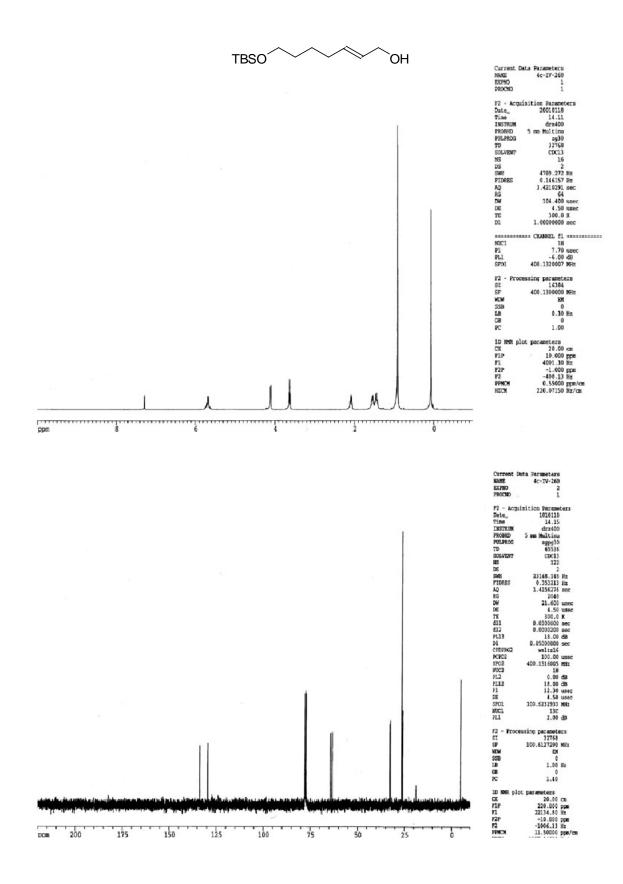


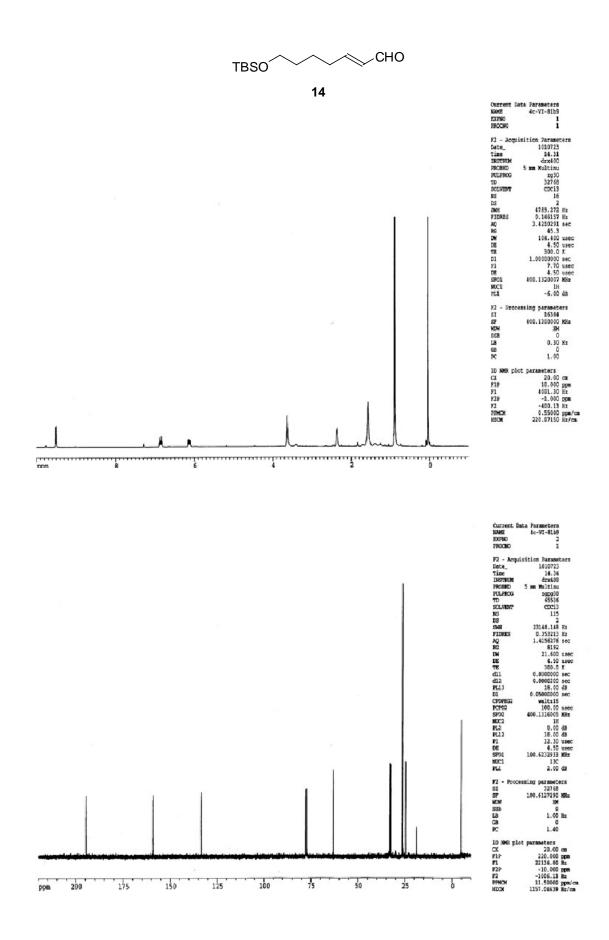


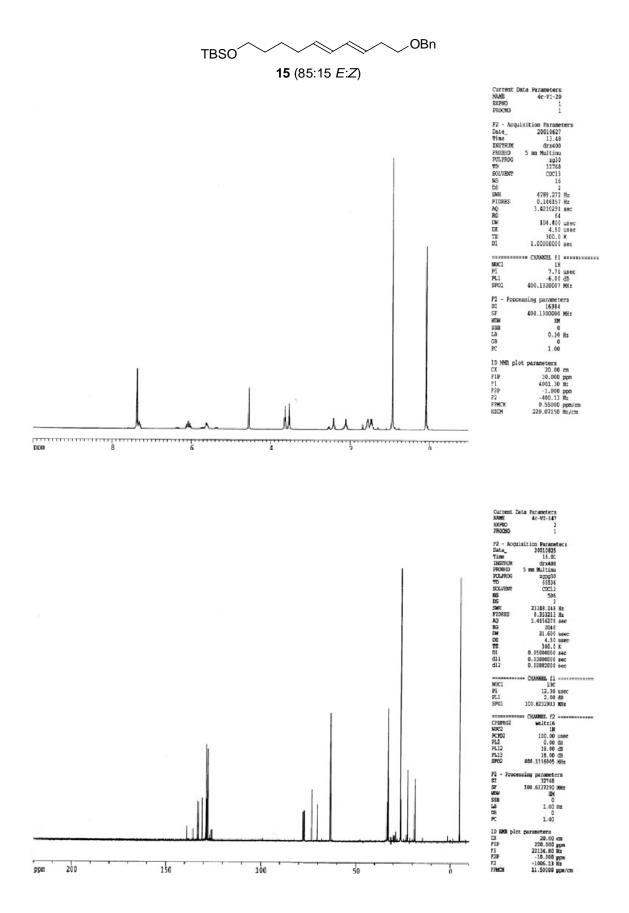


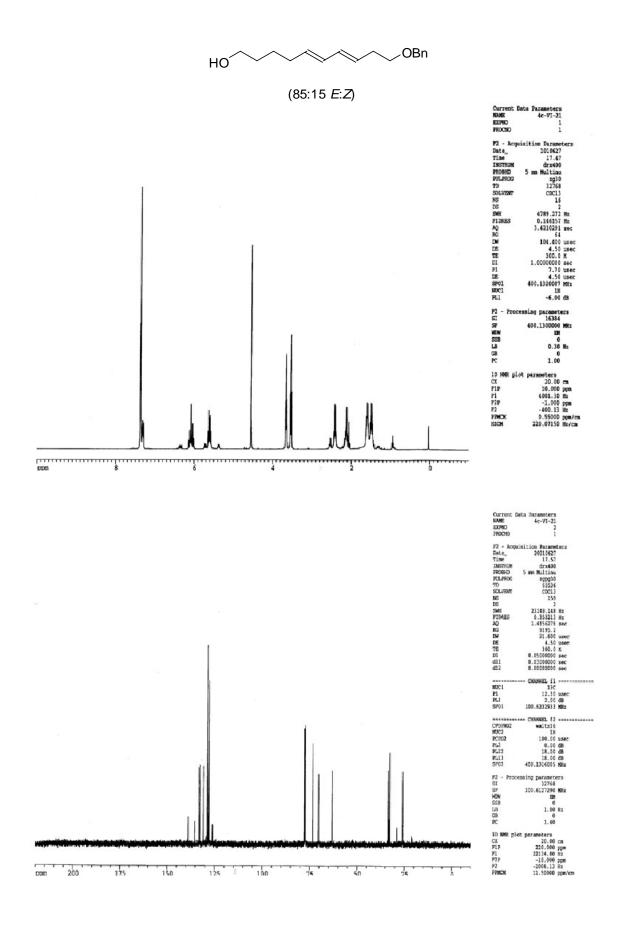


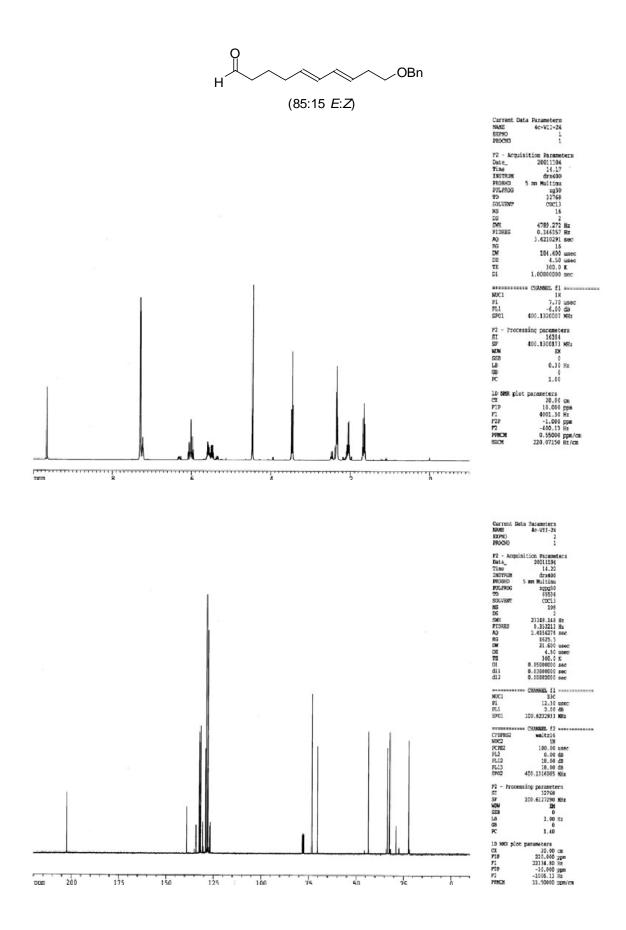


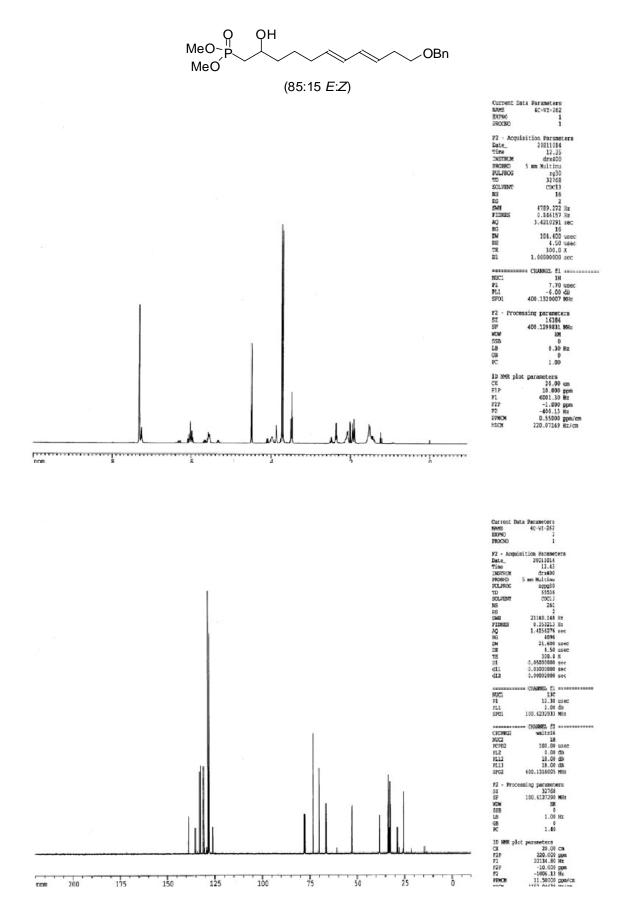


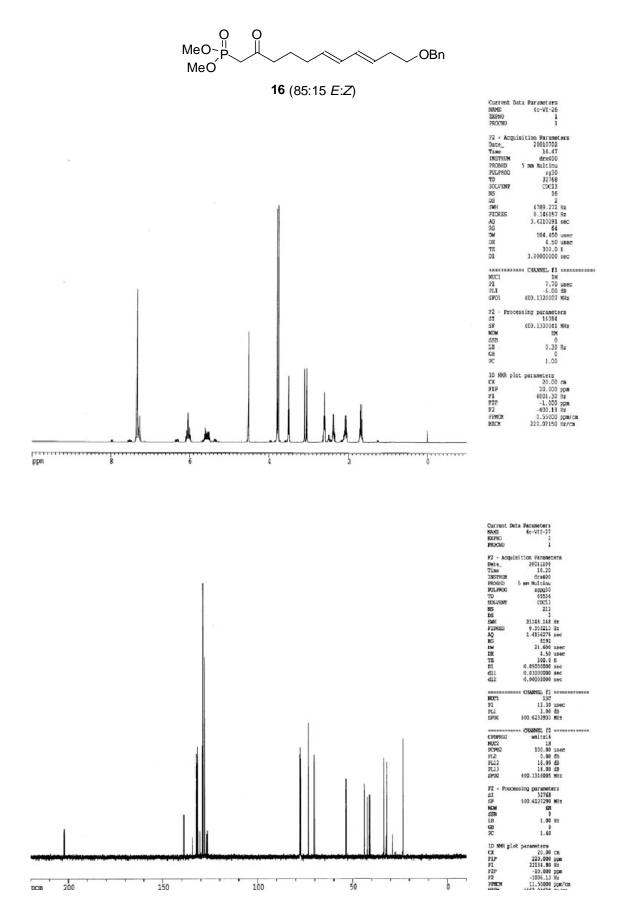


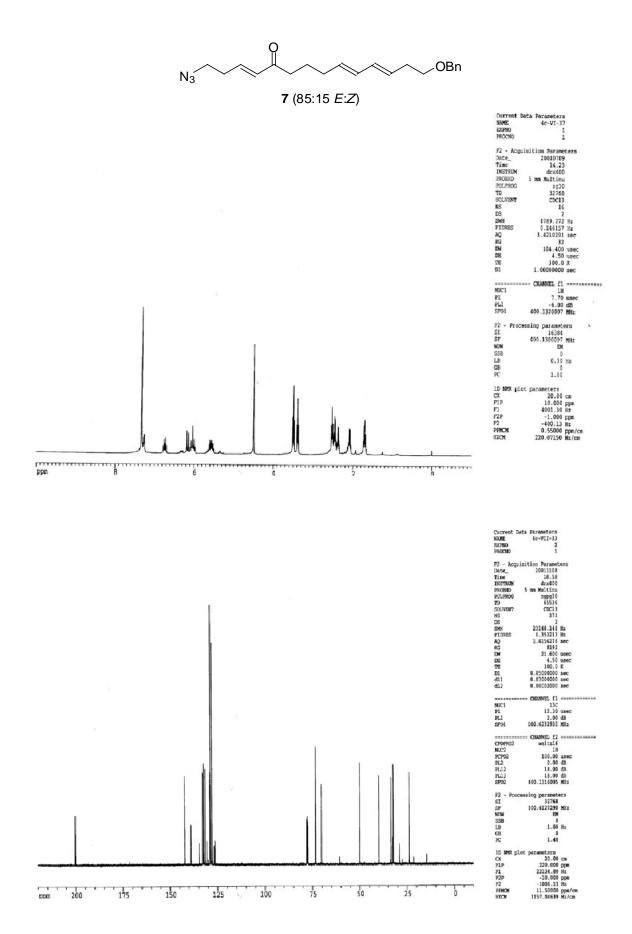


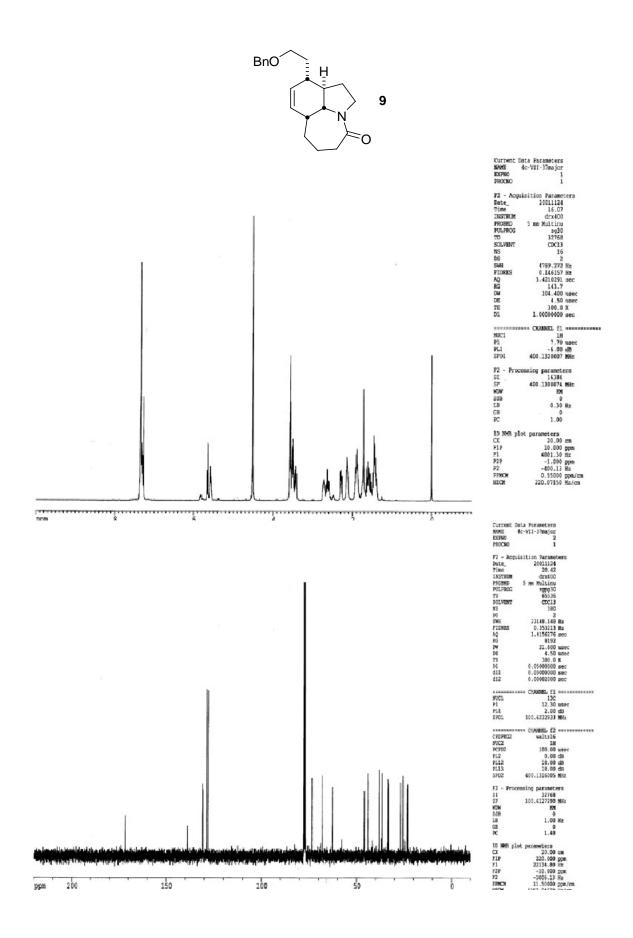


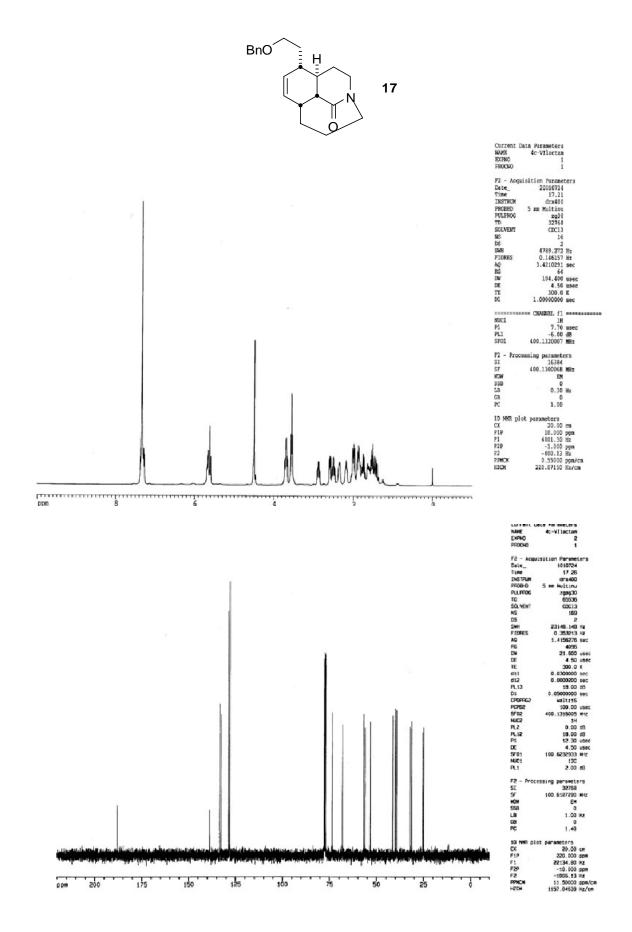


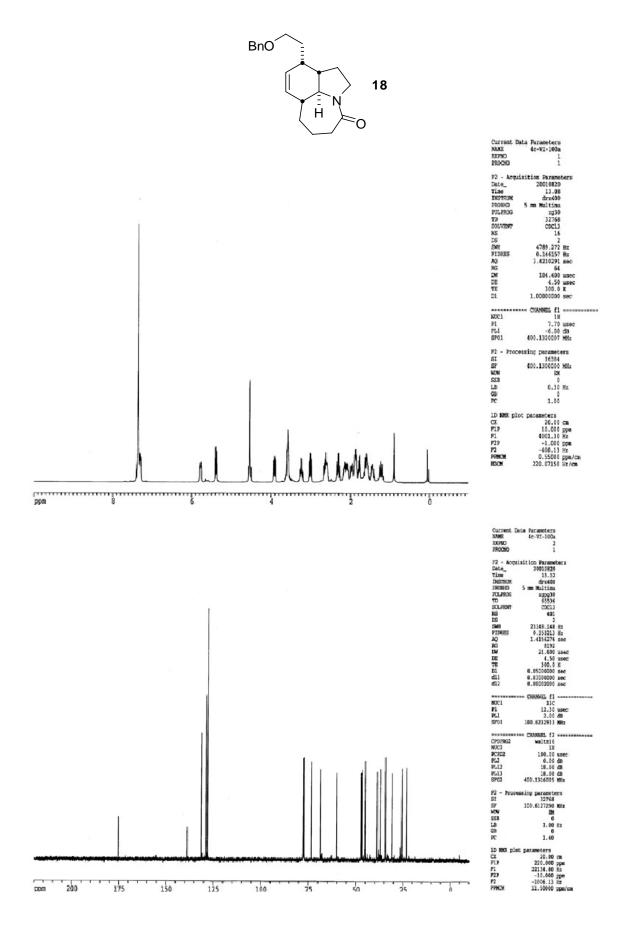


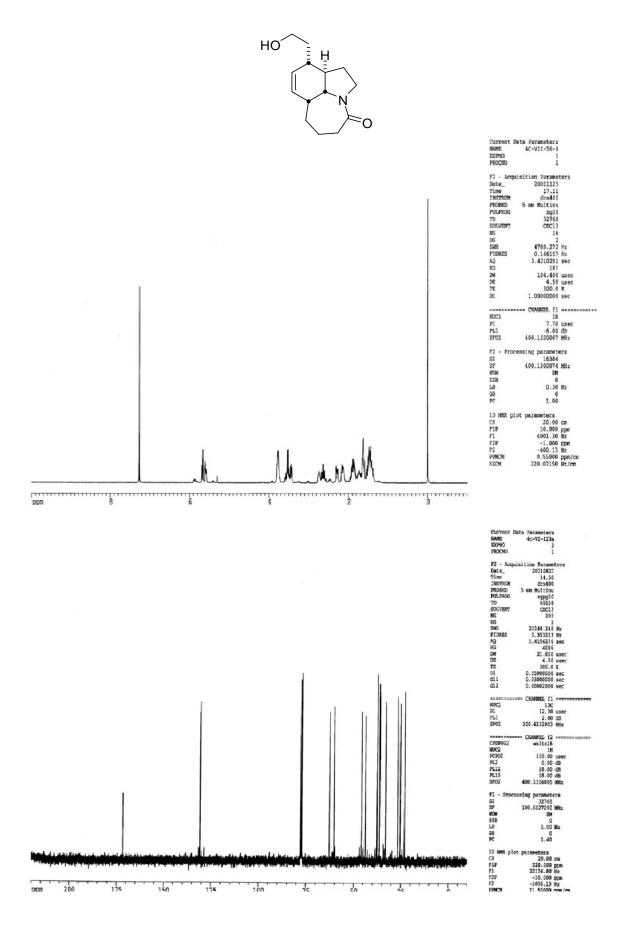


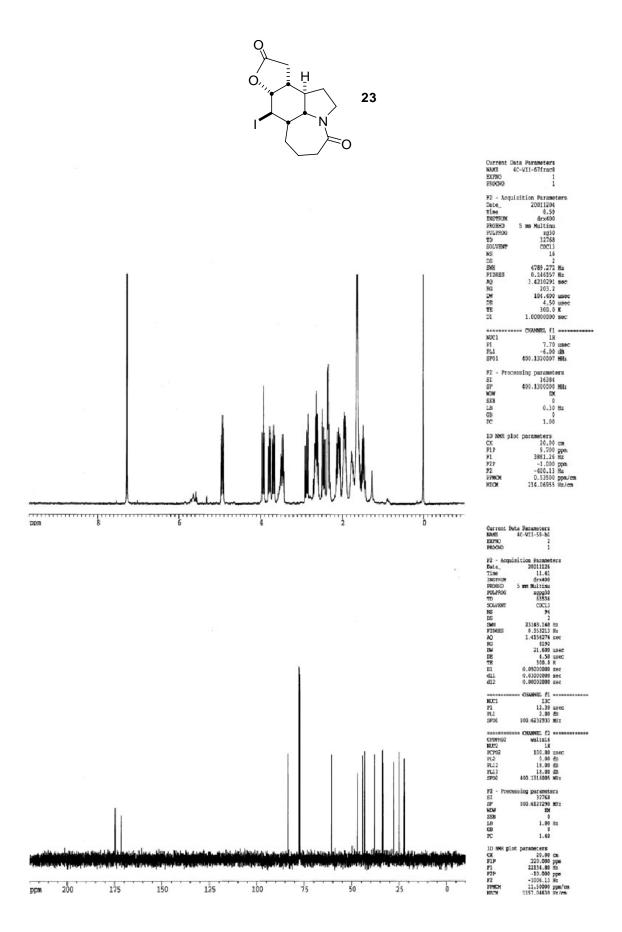


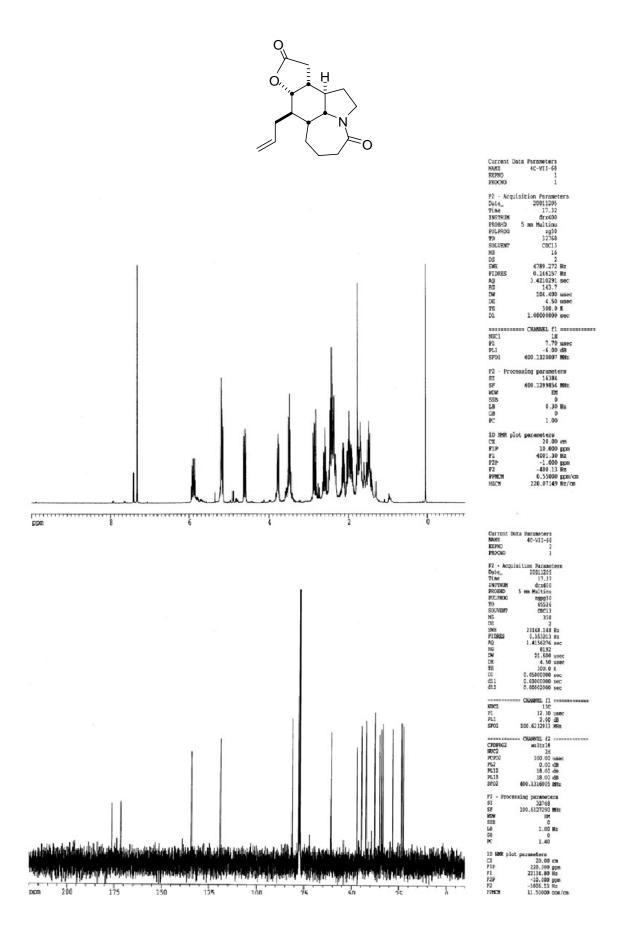


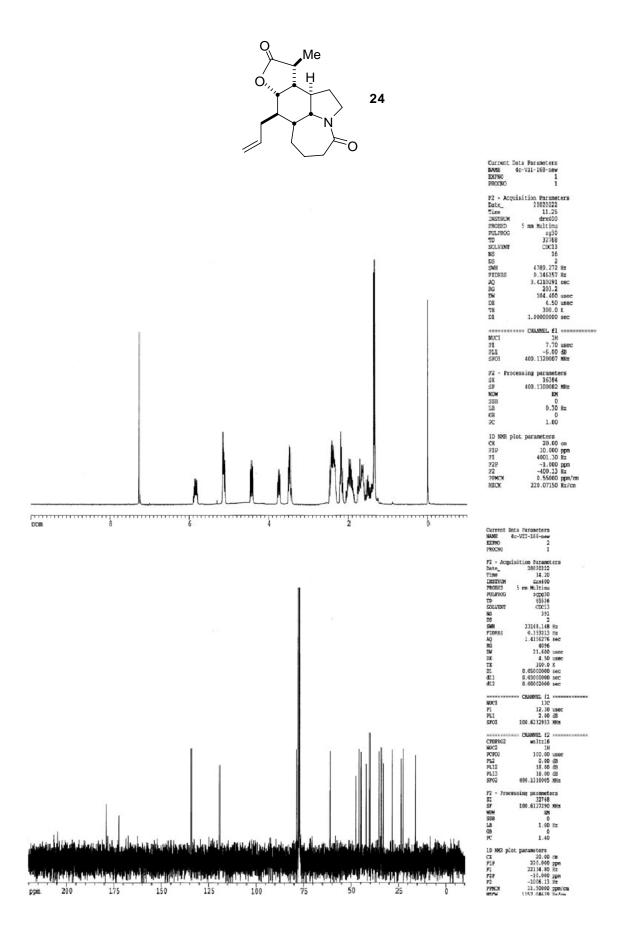


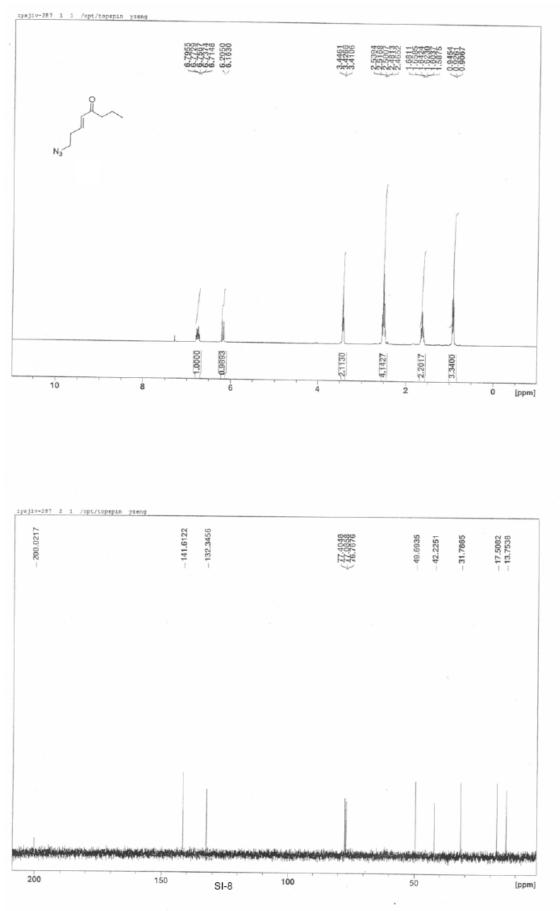


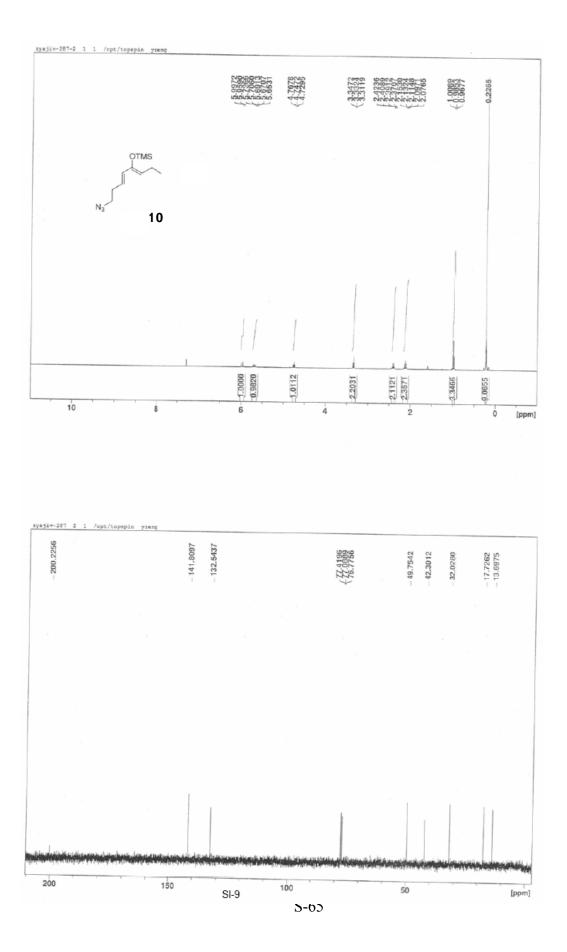


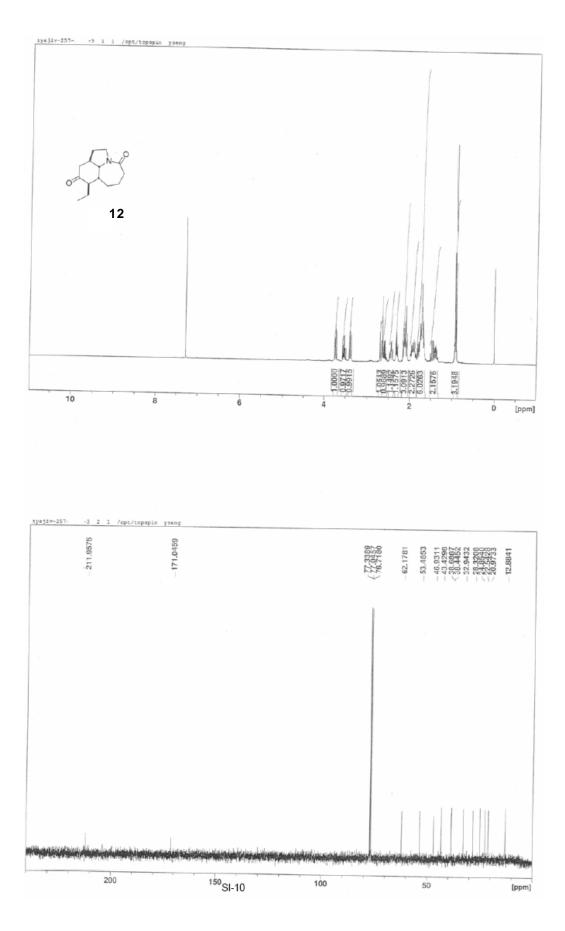


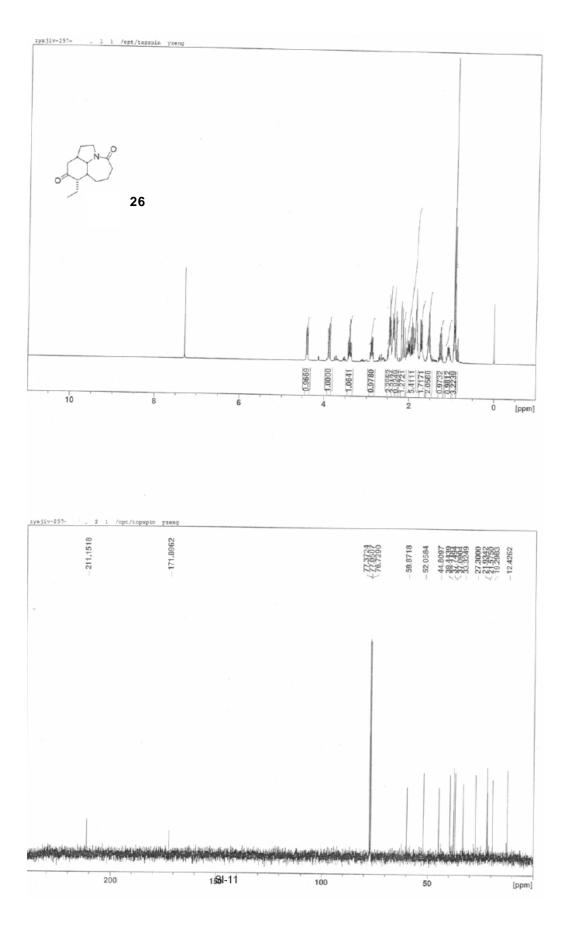


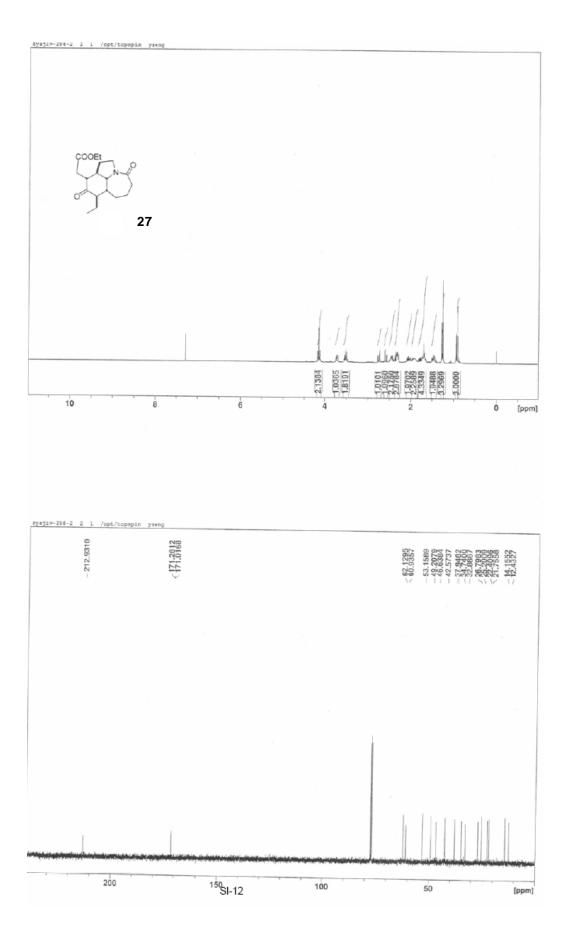


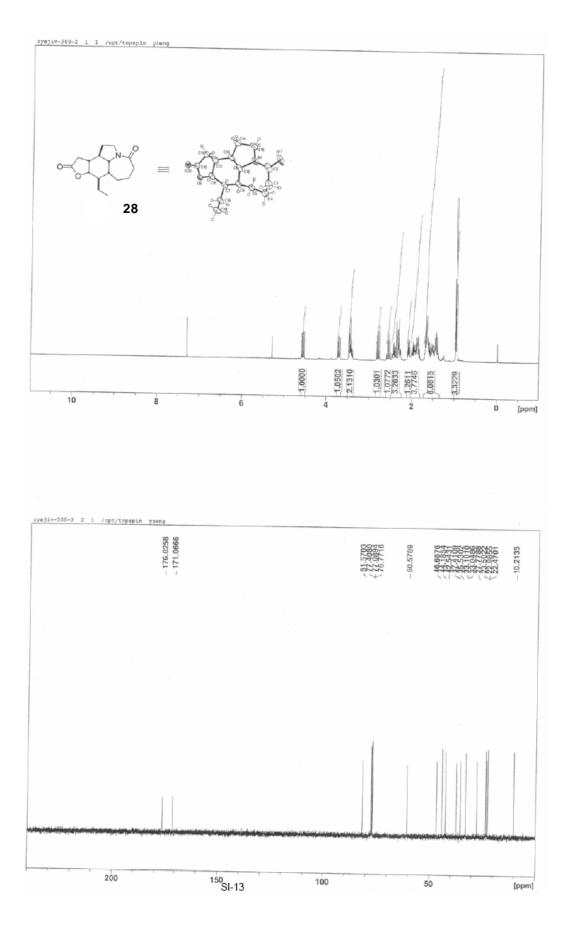


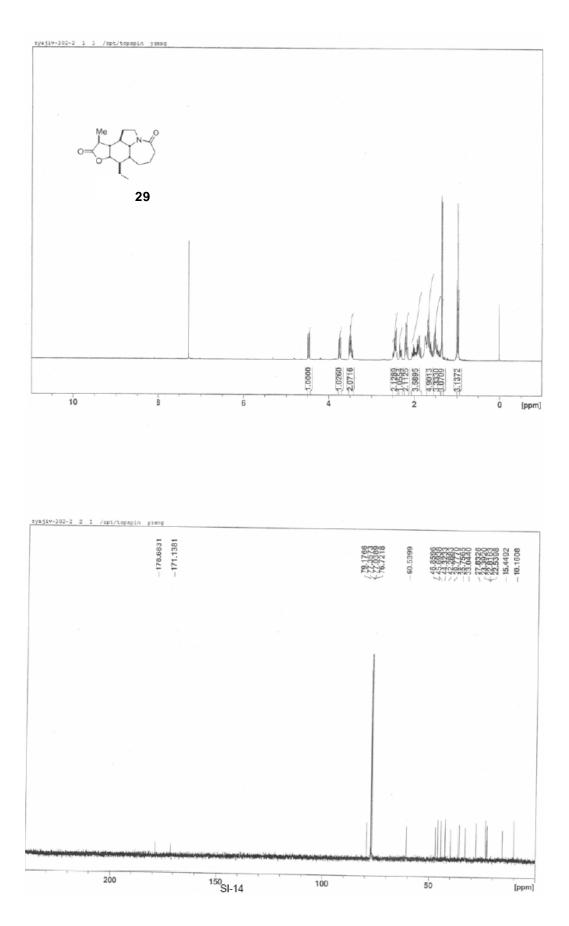


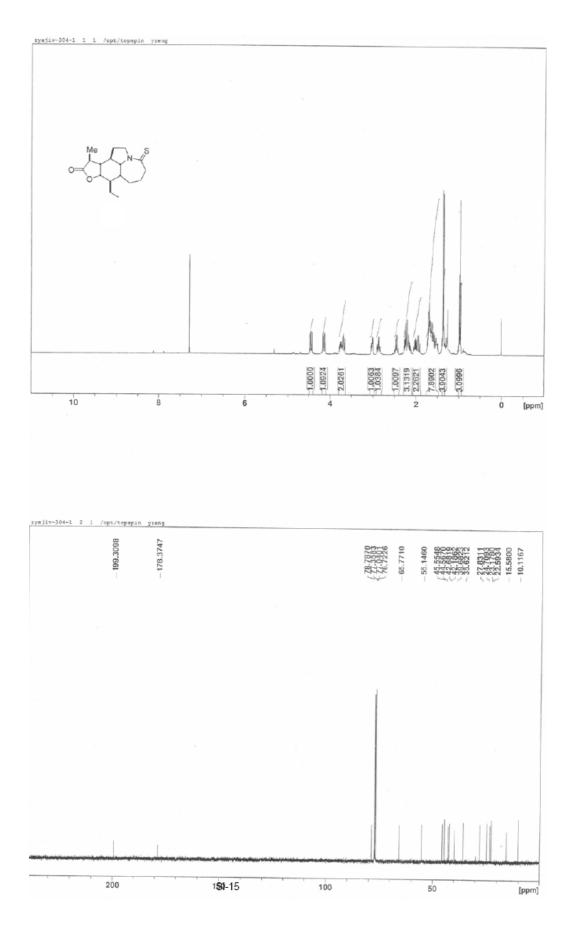


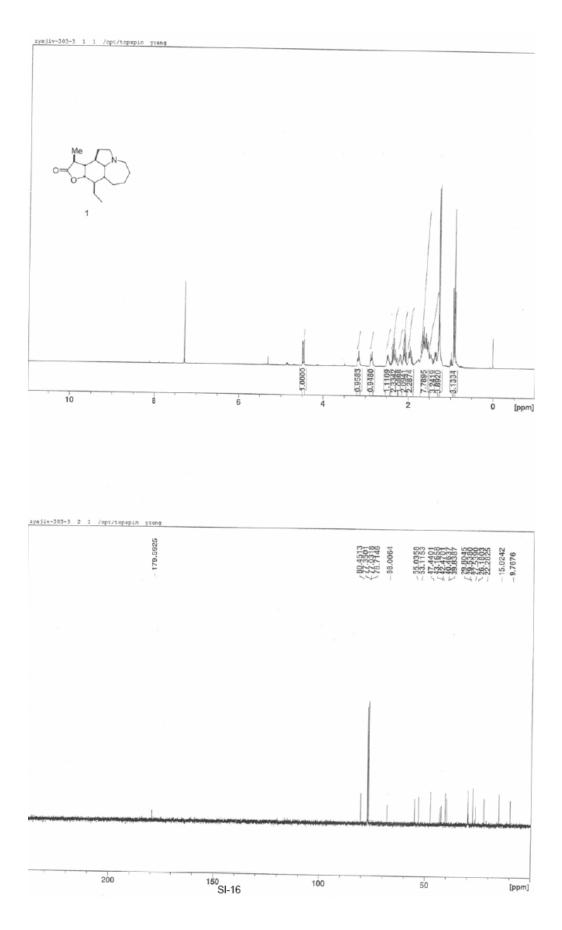


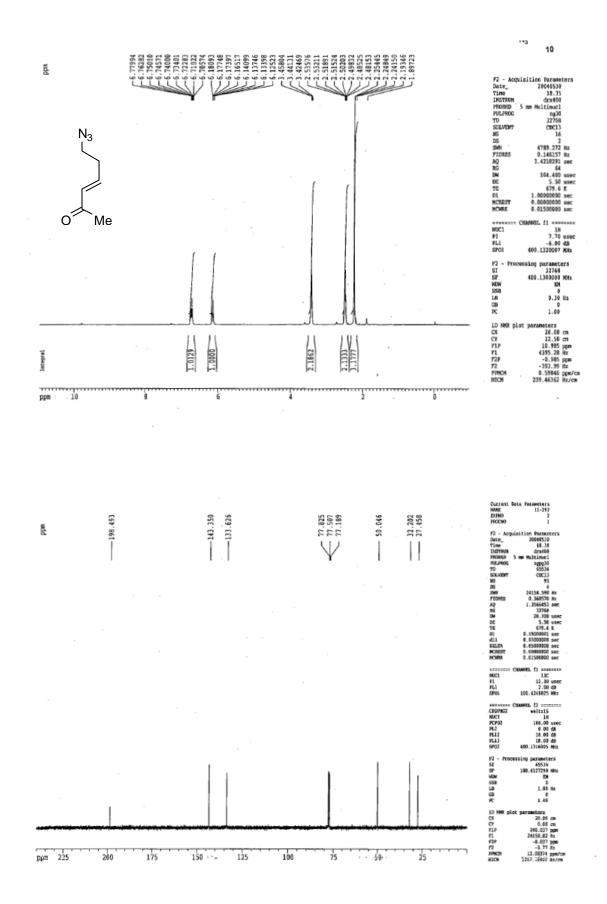




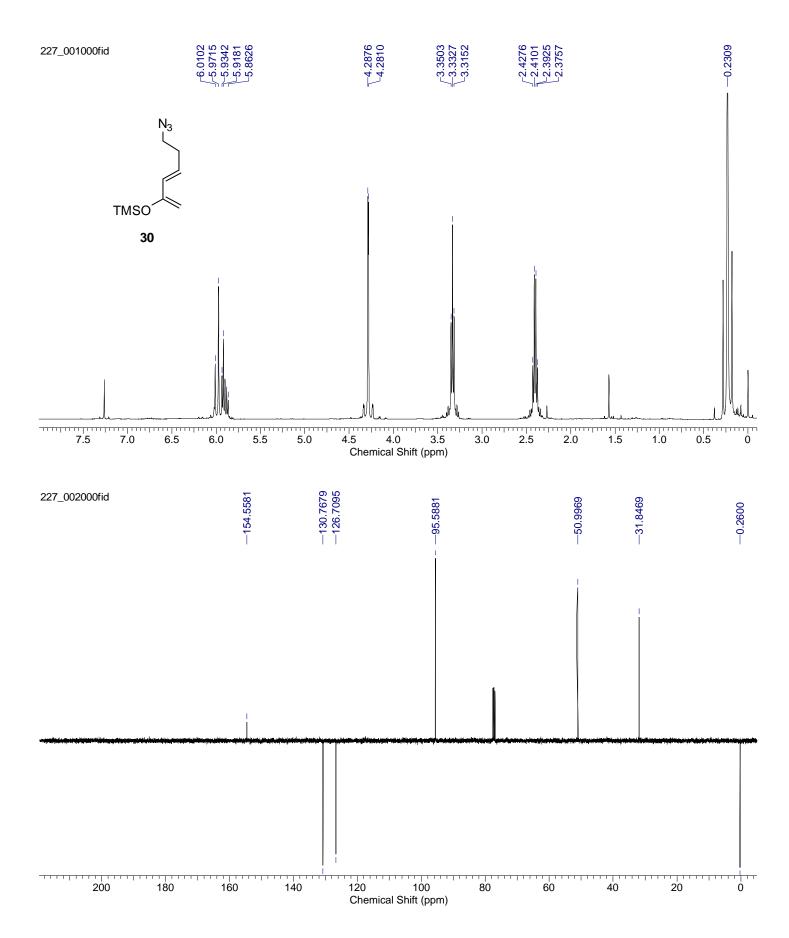


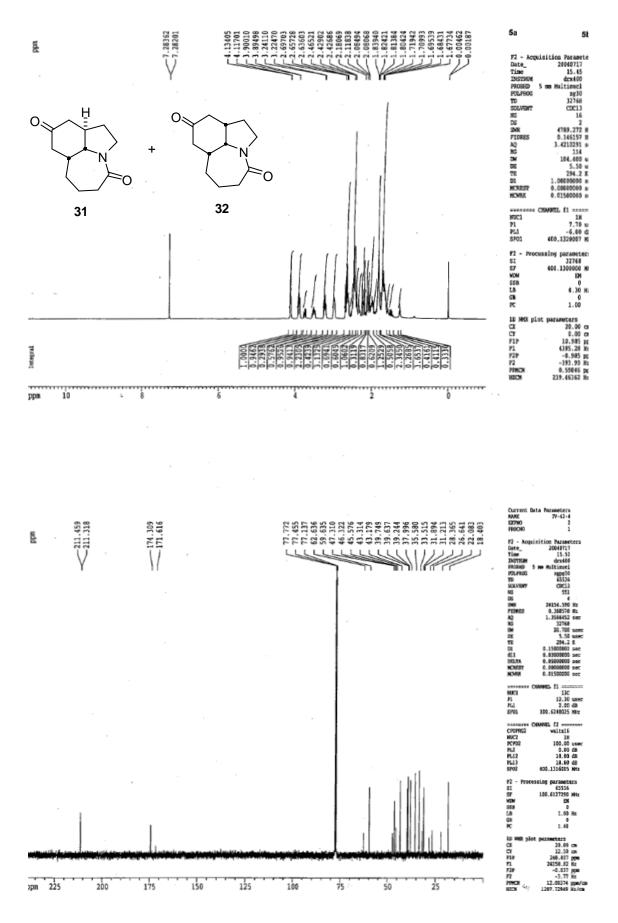




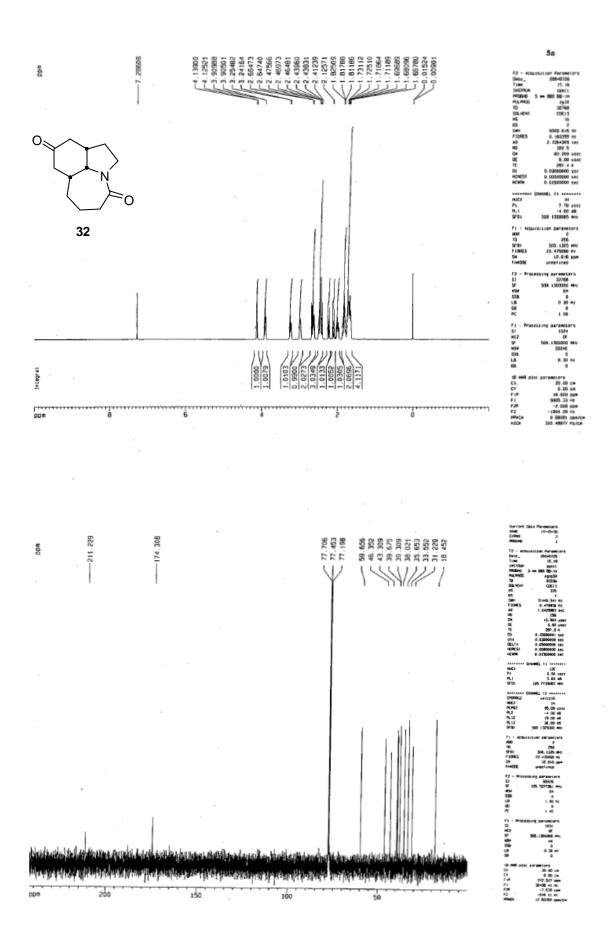


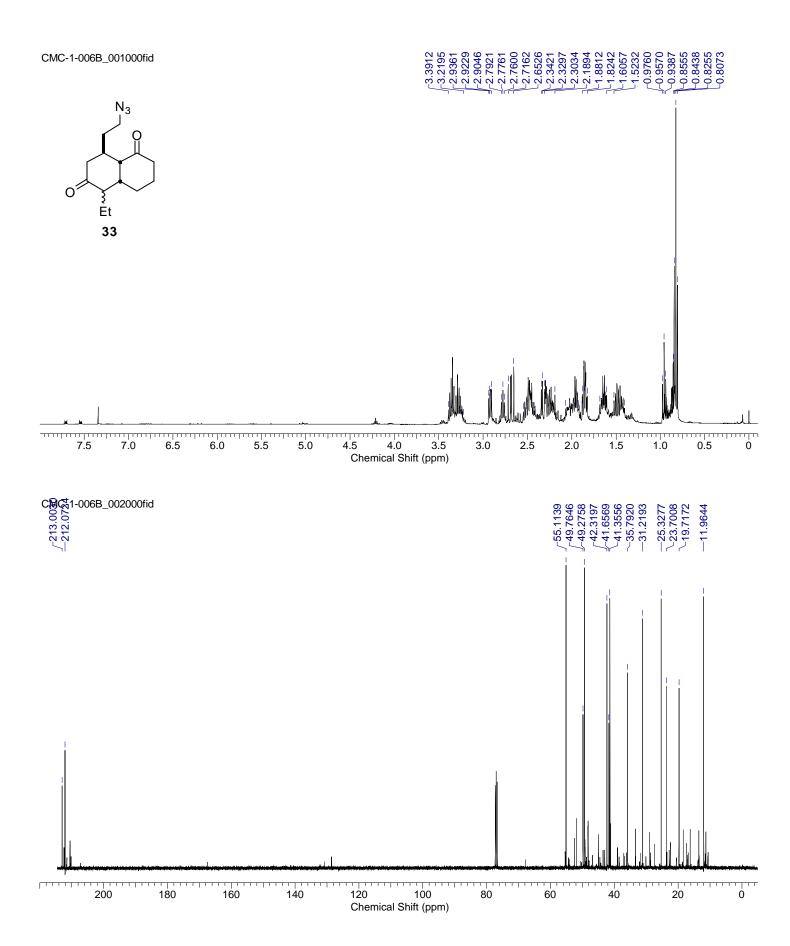
S-73

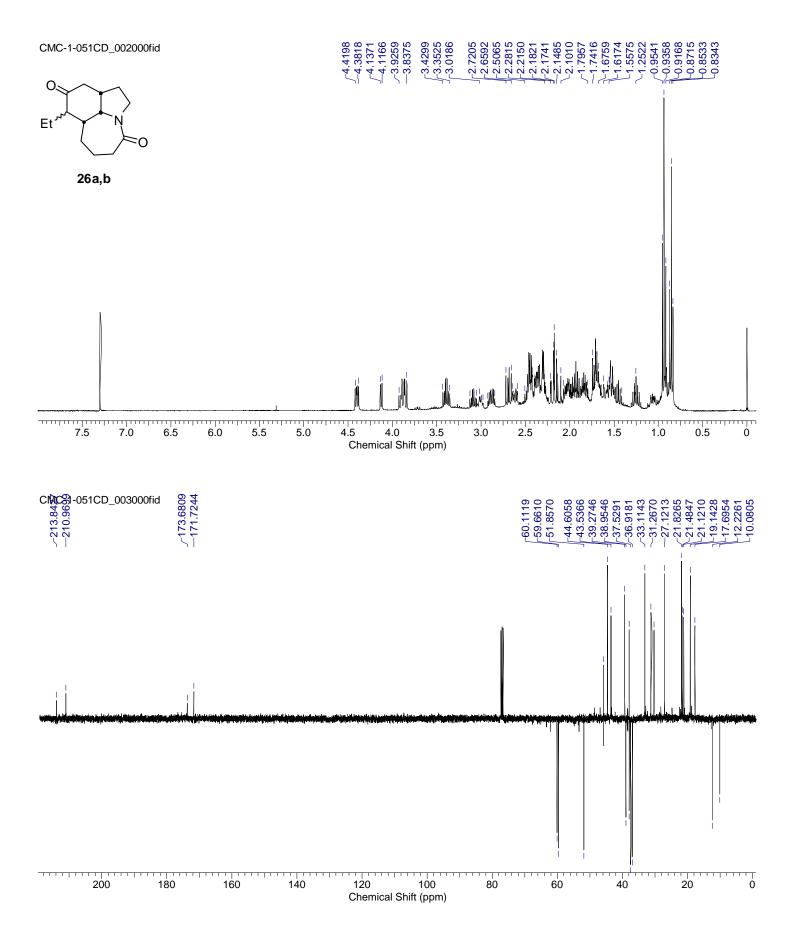


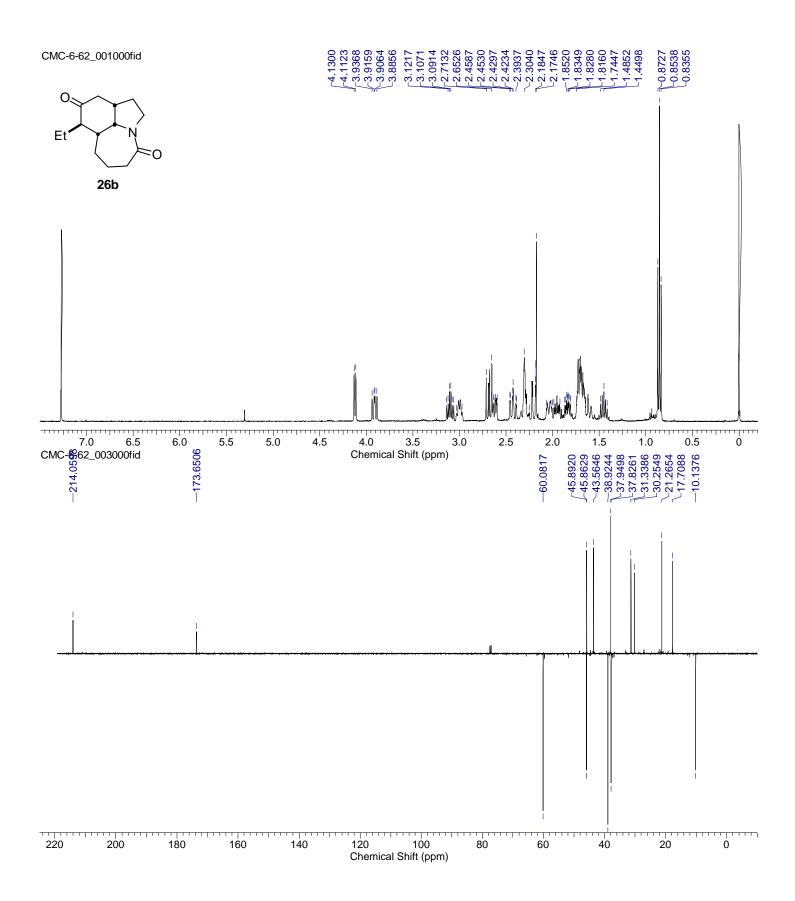


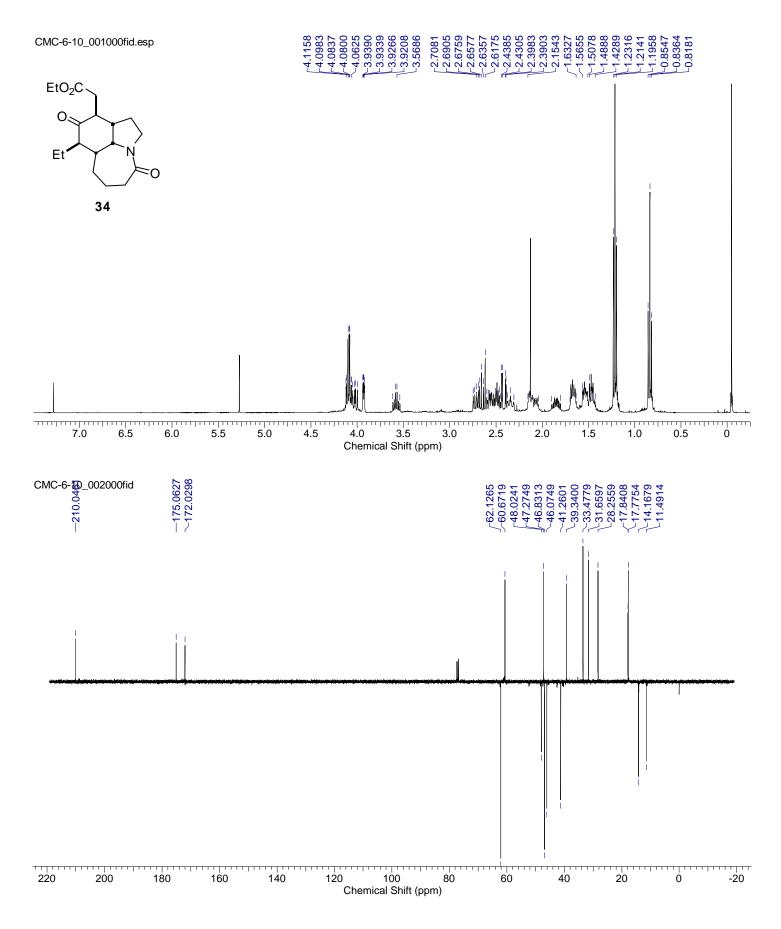
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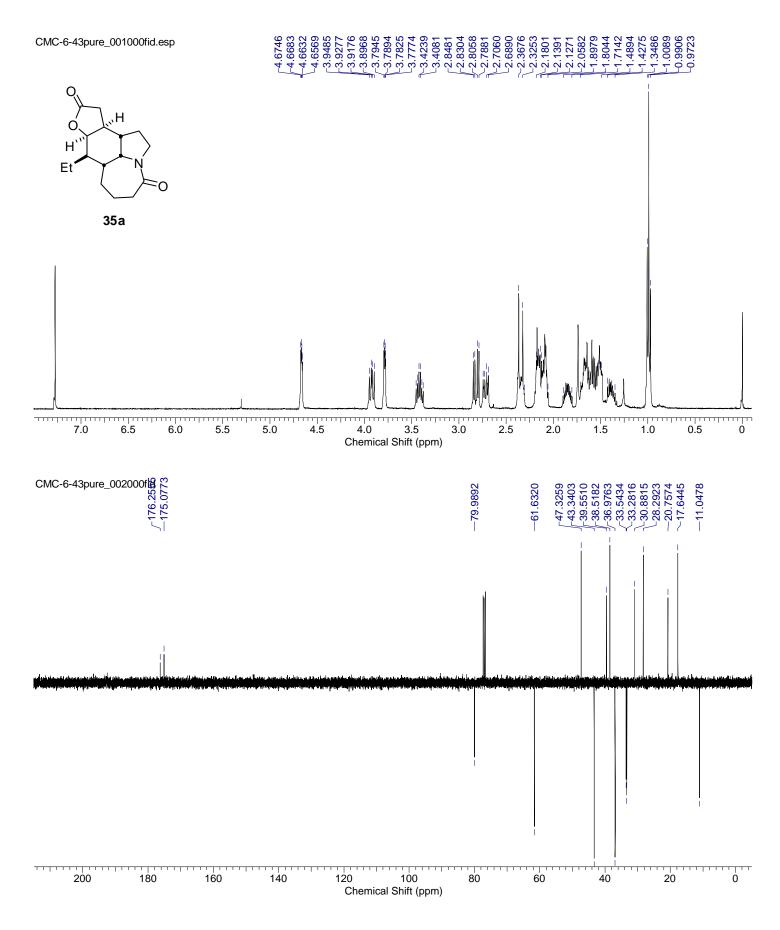


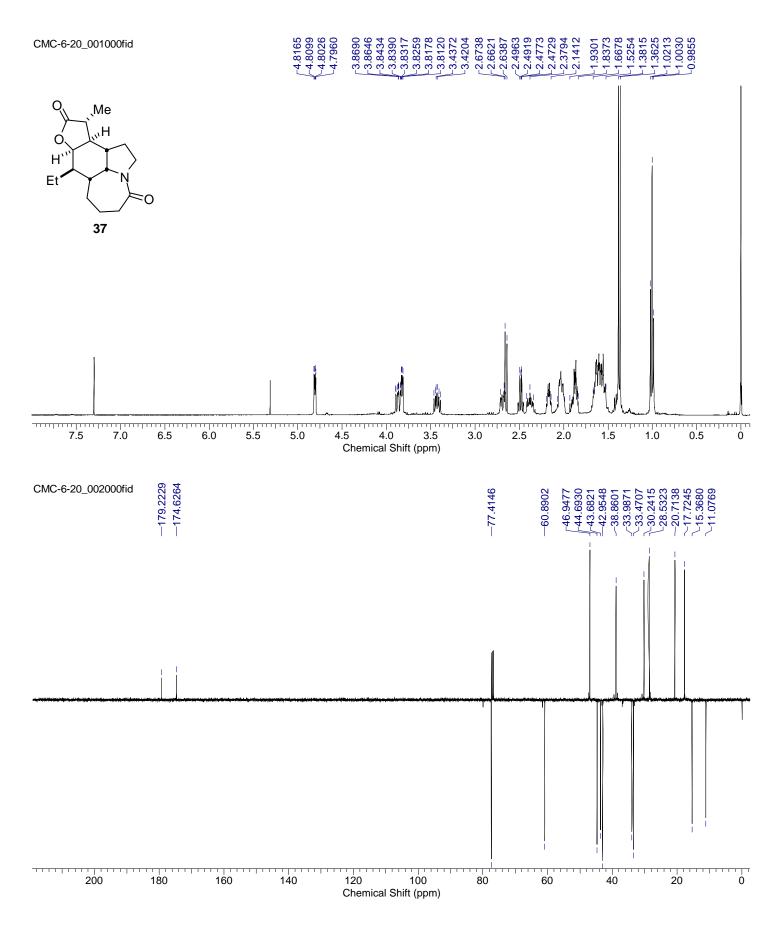


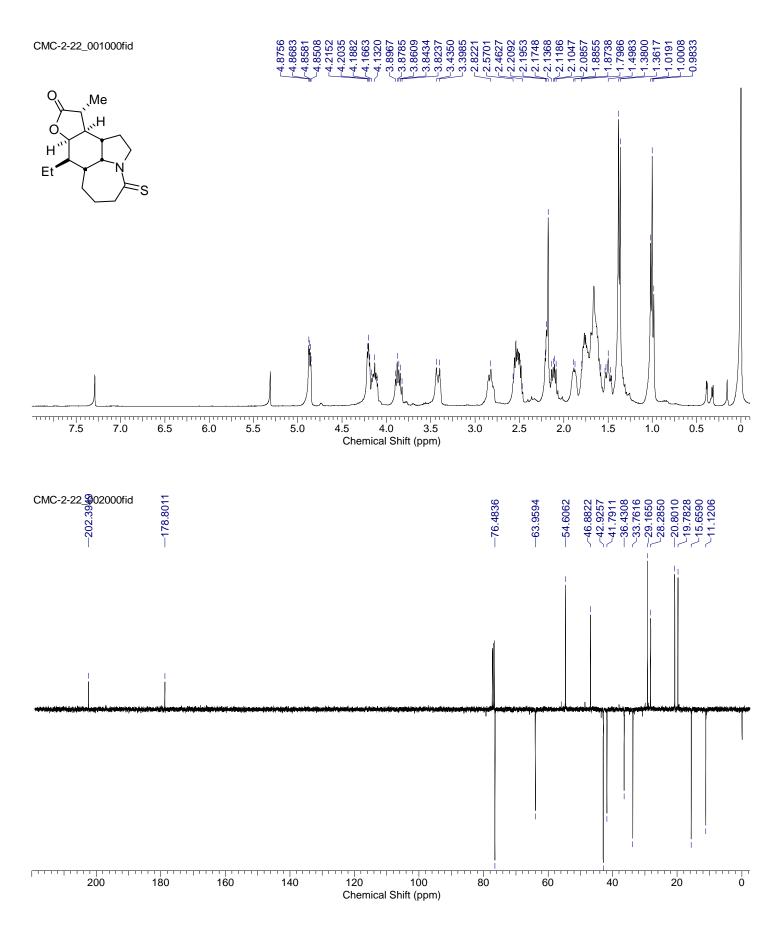


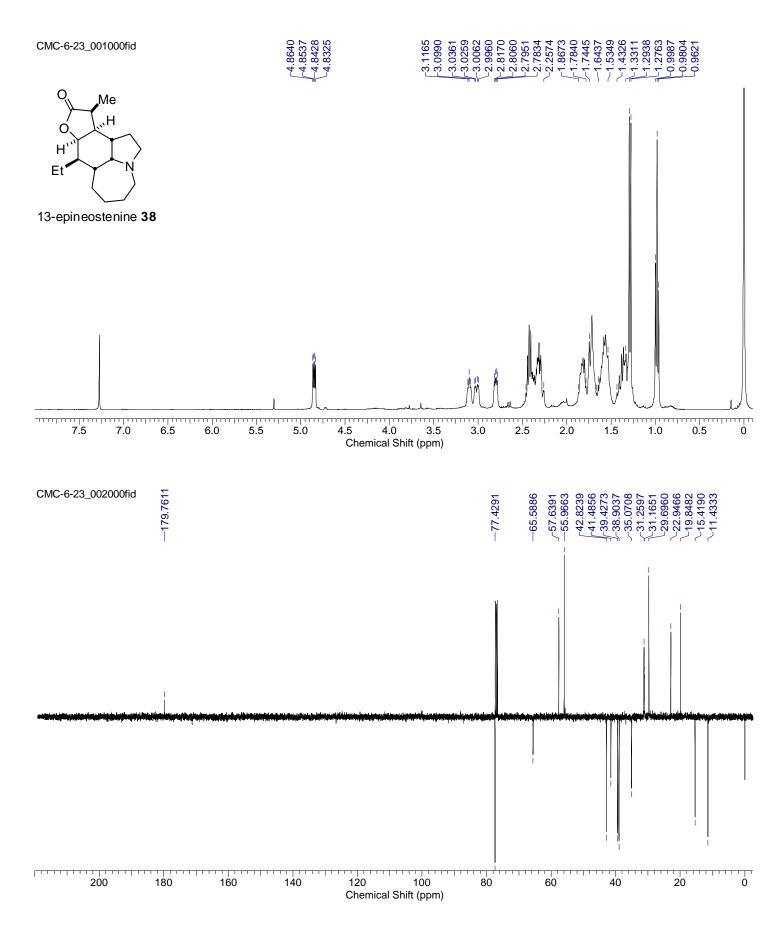


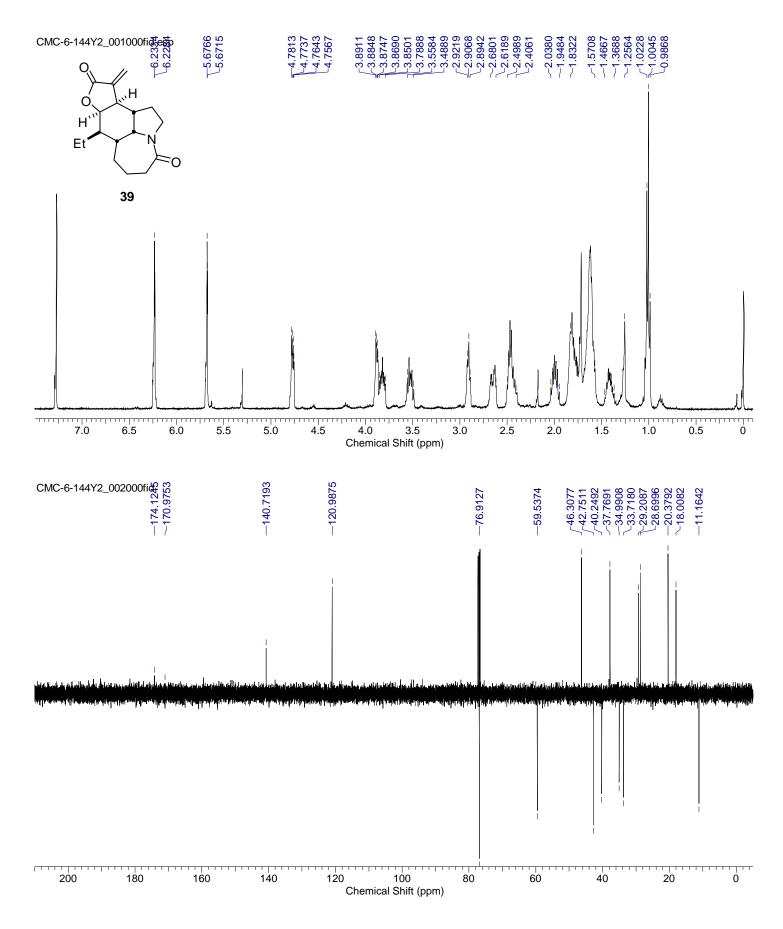


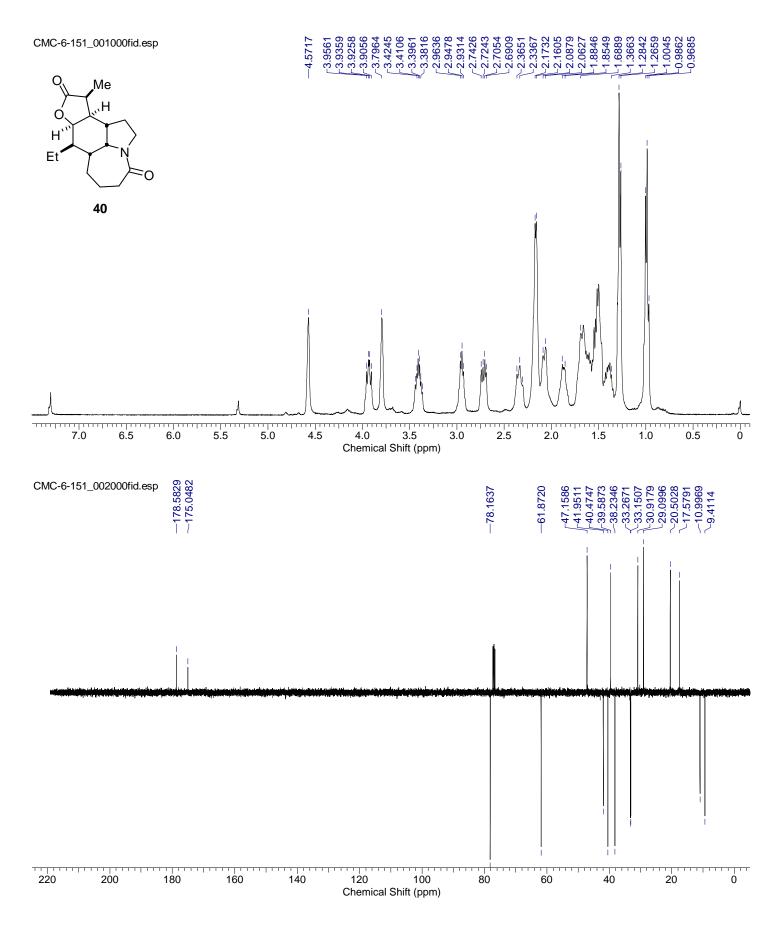


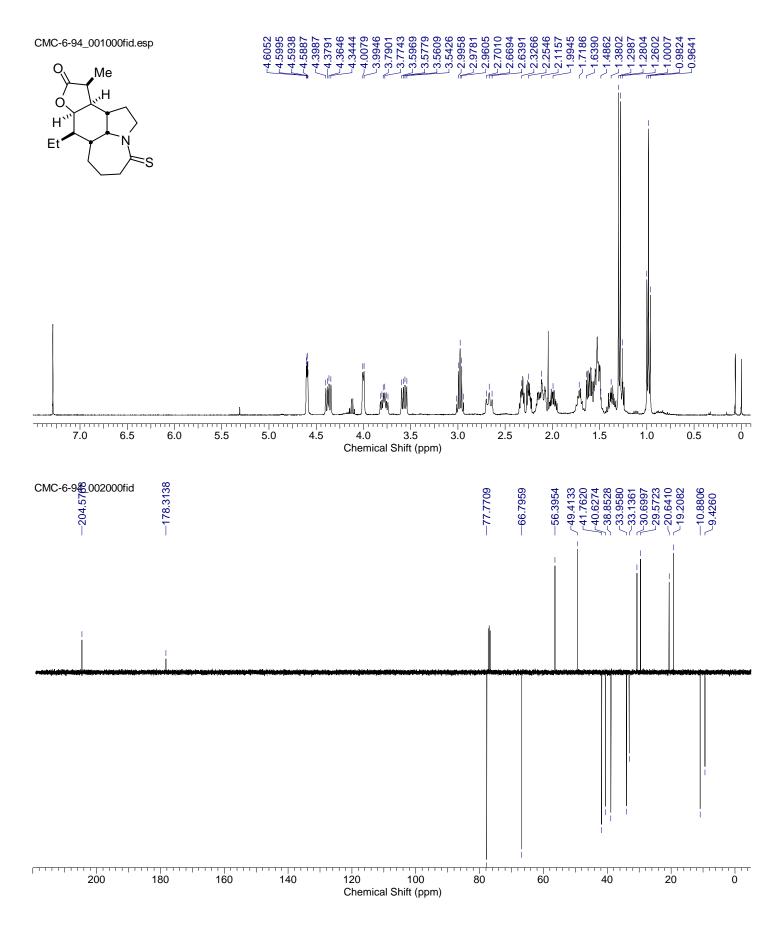


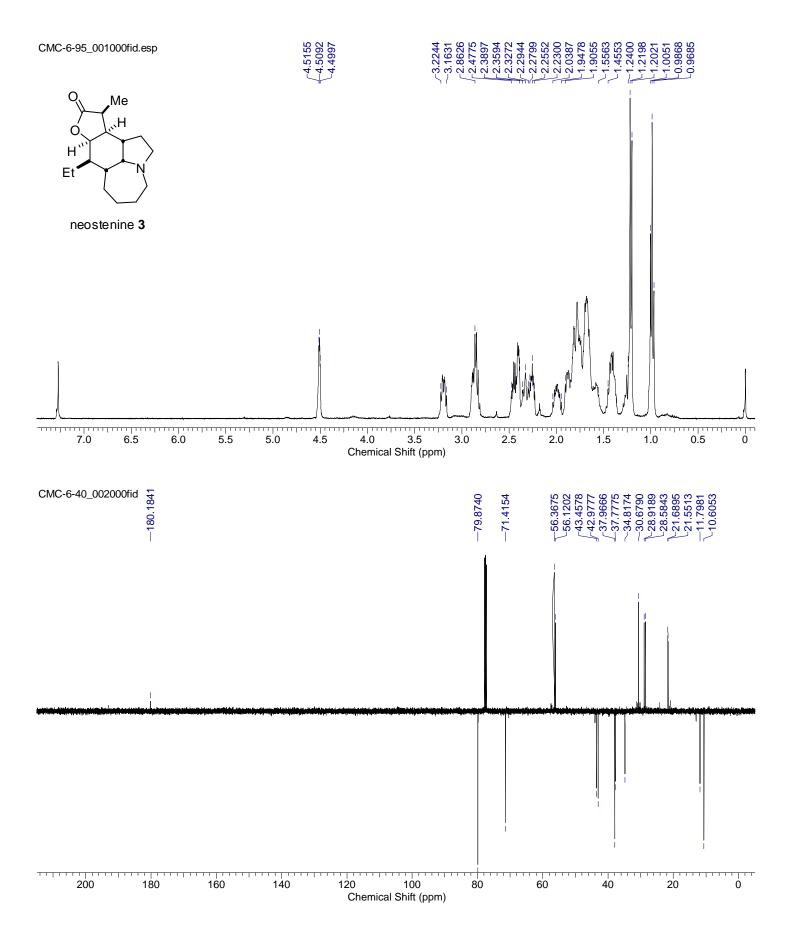












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