

Mitoxantrone and Analogues Bind and Stabilise i-Motif Forming DNA Sequences

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION for Scientific Reports

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1. FRET MELTING EXPERIMENTS

The initial hits from the screen, were vetted to remove known cross-linking agents and were repeated again in both high (100 mM NaCl) and low (5 mM NaCl) salt buffer conditions to give 13 final hits which displayed a ΔT_m of at least 5°C (Fig. S1). Out of these, there were some compounds (eg. P2C5 and P9C11) which precipitated, rather than stabilised DNA so these were avoided. Out of the rest P9H8, **mitoxantrone**, offered the best stabilisation potential in both buffer conditions.

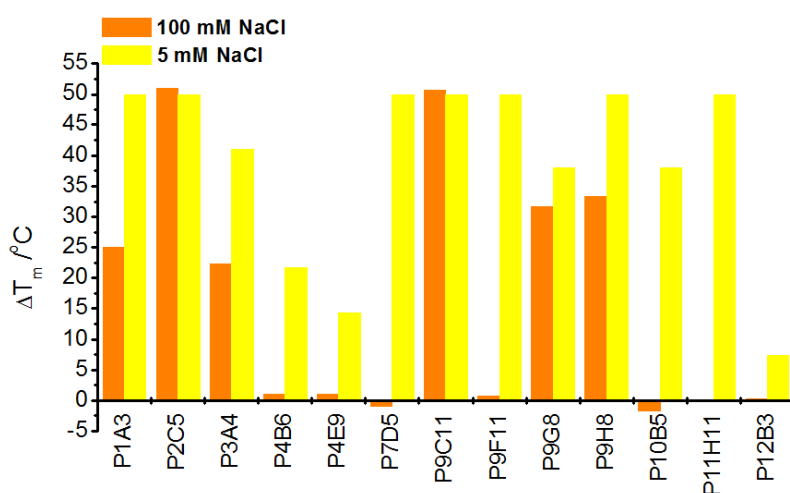


Figure S1: Comparison of the measured ΔT_m values of the 13 repeated compounds. DNA = 200 nM hTelo_{C_{FRET}}, buffer = 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM or 5 mM NaCl at pH 5.5.

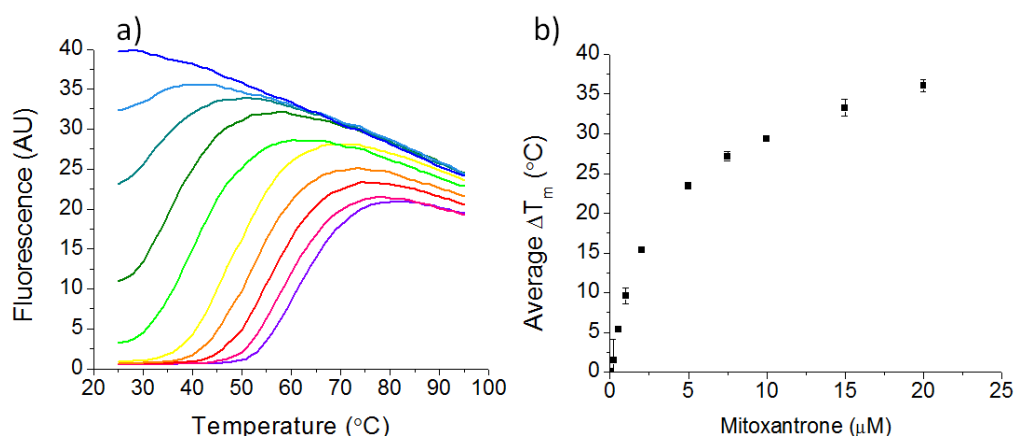


Figure S2: a) Example FRET melting curves for c-myc_{C_{FRET}} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 7.4 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for c-myc in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 7.4 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

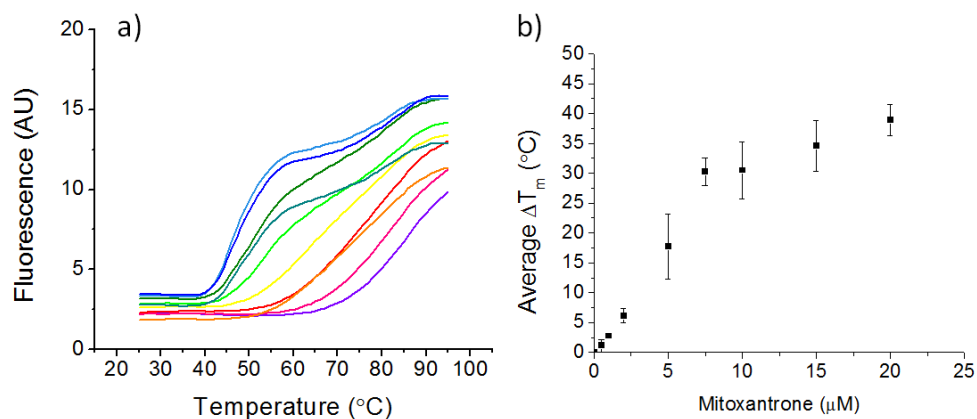


Figure S3: a) Example FRET melting curves for c-myc_{FRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 5.5 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for c-myc in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 5.5 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

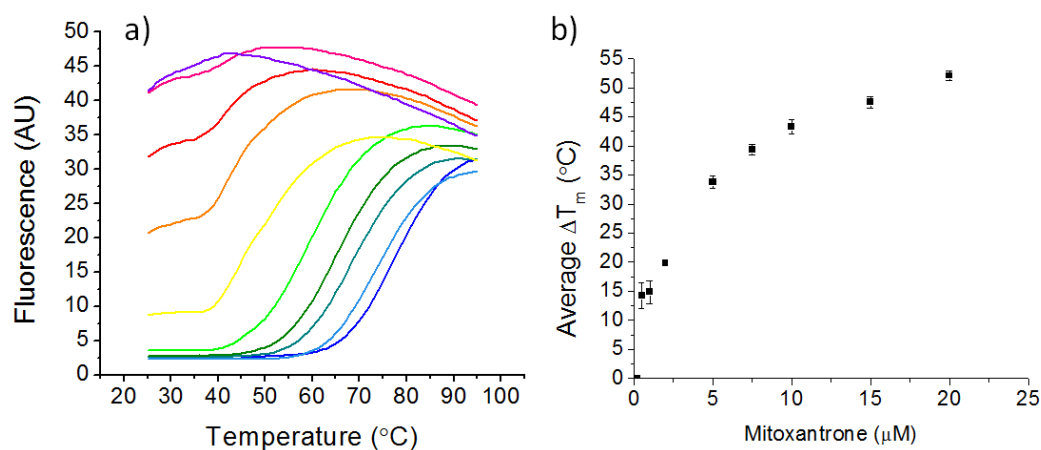


Figure S4: a) Example FRET melting curves for c-myc_{FRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 6.6 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for c-myc in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 6.6 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

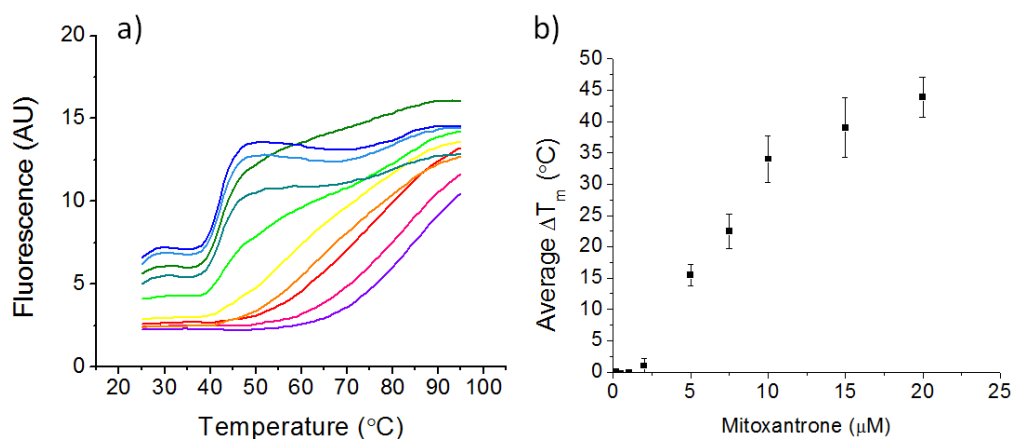


Figure S5: a) Example FRET melting curves for hTelo_{CFRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 5.5 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for hTeloC in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 5.5 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

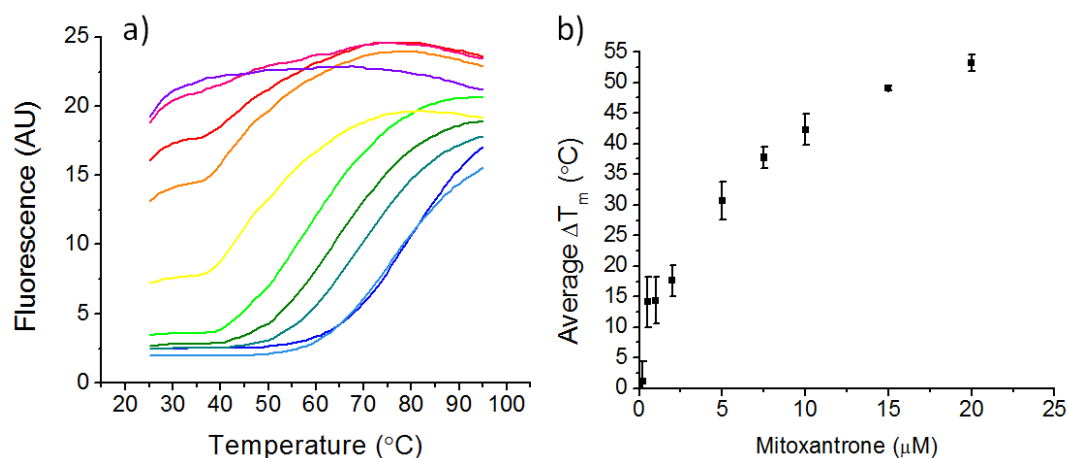


Figure S6: a) Example FRET melting curves for hTelo_{CFRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 6.0 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for hTeloC in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 6.0 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

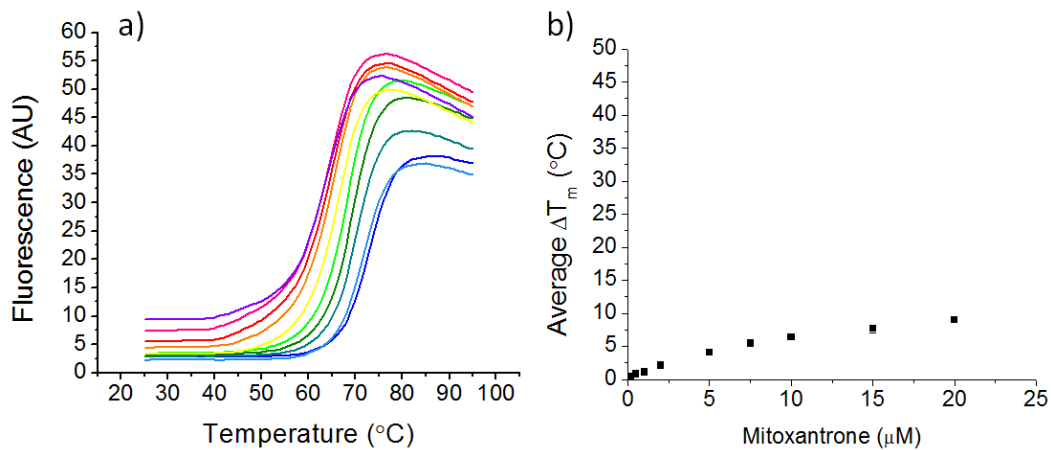


Figure S7: a) Example FRET melting curves for DS_{FRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 7.4 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for DS in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 7.4 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

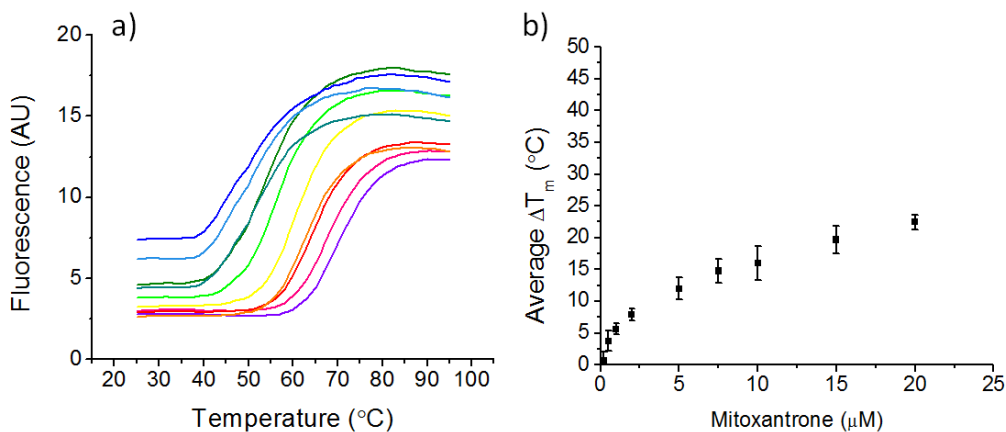


Figure S8: a) Example FRET melting curves for hTeloG_{FRET} (200 nM) with 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 7.5, 10 and 10 μM mitoxantrone in pH 7.4 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl. b) Plots of change in DNA melting temperature against concentration of mitoxantrone for DS in 10 mM sodium cacodylate at pH 7.4 with 100 mM, the error bars represent the standard deviation from three experiments.

2. CIRCULAR DICHROISM EXPERIMENTS

The CD spectrum of hTeloC in 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl at pH 5.5 has a negative signal at 255 nm and a positive signal at 288 nm, consistent with i-motif structure.¹ Titration of 10 μM **mitoxantrone** into the i-motif sample did not alter the signal, but further additions of ligand resulted in a decrease in the positive signal at 288 nm and a shift towards longer wavelengths (Fig. S9). The resulting signals are not consistent with any known DNA structure and are most likely to be the result of an induced CD signal, which indicates binding between the ligand and the DNA.²

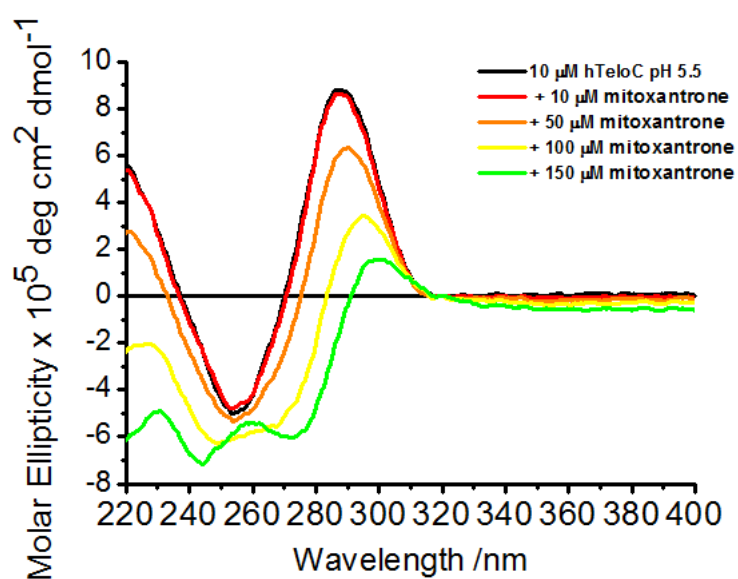


Figure S9: Example circular dichroism experiments of hTeloC (10 μM in 10 mM sodium cacodylate and 100 mM NaCl at pH 5.5) with 0-150 μM mitoxantrone.

3. SURFACE PLASMON RESONANCE (SPR) EXPERIMENTS

Table S1: Dissociation Constants (K_d , μM) Determined by SPR in pH 5.5 10 mM sodium cacodylate, 100 mM NaCl, 0.05% Tween-20 and 5% DMSO.

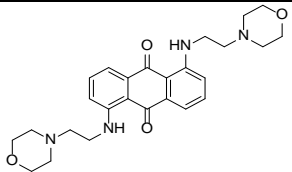
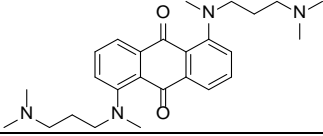
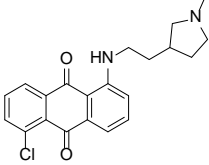
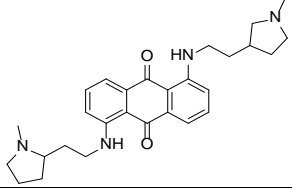
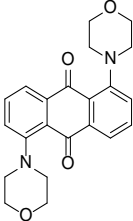
Compound	Dissociation constant, K_d (μM)		
	hTeloC	c-myc	DS
Mitoxantrone	12 ± 3	12 ± 3	71 ± 22
1	31 ± 5	34 ± 7	181 ± 90
2	99 ± 30	251 ± 70	15 ± 2
3	NSB	NSB	NSB
4	80 ± 15	92 ± 20	34 ± 12
5	36 ± 10	42 ± 12	33 ± 11
6	NSB	NSB	8.3 ± 1.4

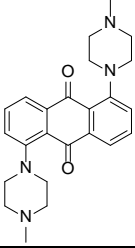
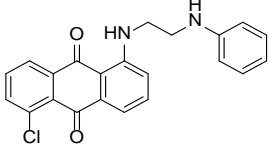
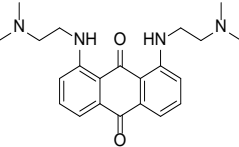
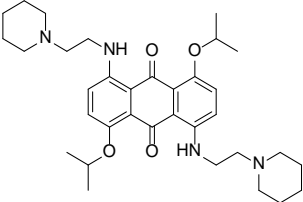
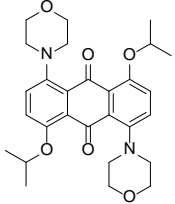
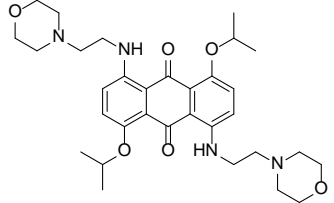
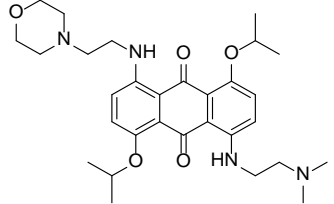
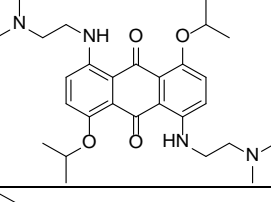
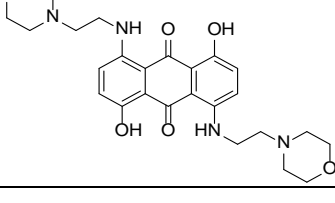
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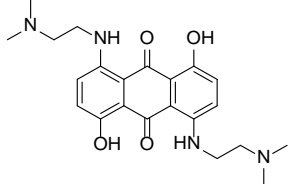
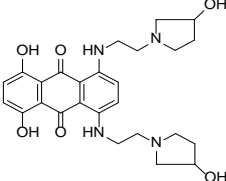
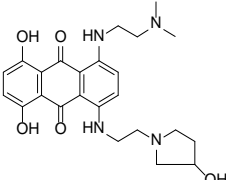
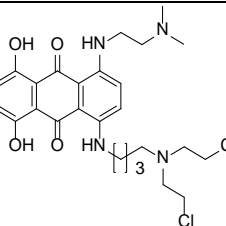
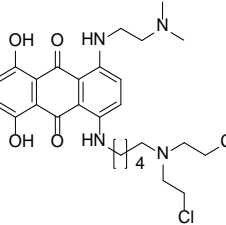
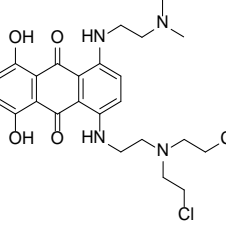
5. ANALOGUE LIBRARY FRET SCREEN

The screening experiments were performed once (Fig. S10). Key ligands which did not show remarkable interaction with ds DNA were repeated another two times and these are given in the main manuscript.

Figure S10. Numbering and structures of the anthraquinones, source or synthesis route, and stabilisation potentials (ΔT_m) determined by FRET melting.

Compound	Source/ Route	ΔT_m at 10 μ M [ligand] with 0.2 μ M [DNA]					
		hTeloC pH 5.5	hTeloC pH 6.0	cMycC pH 5.5	cMycC pH 6.6	hTeloG pH 7.4	DS pH 7.4
6 	Fig. S11	1.9	4.3	0.2	-1	1	-1
7 	Fig. S11	-1.3	0	-1.3	-8	3.2	-2.9
8 	Fig. S11	0.5	2.8	1	8.7	8.5	1.9
9 	Fig. S11	22.1	23.3	21.5	20.6	19	9.1
10 	Fig. S11	0.1	-0.6	-2	-16.5	2	-1.9

11		Fig. S11	-0.3	7.3	0.8	-4	3.8	-0.4
12		Fig. S11	-0.5	0	-1.4	-14.9	1.5	-2.2
13		Fig. S11	8.6	12.3	3	18.5	17.2	6.1
14		Fig. S12	-4.5	11	-3.8	4	-1	-1.5
15		Fig. S12	-0.2	-1.3	0.4	-14	0.5	-2.2
16		Fig. S12	-1.5	-0.9	-1.7	-0.1	1.3	-0.9
17		Fig. S12	-2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.4	1	-0.9
18		Fig. S12	0.6	-1.5	-1.4	-10	3.5	-2.3
19		Fig. S12	1.2	-0.2	4.2	5.2	0.3	-0.8

20		Fig. S12	5.4	19	5.7	20	16	6.8
21		Fig. S13	29	38.5	30.2	30.9	18.6	6.2
22		Fig. S13	35.2	40.5	28.2	35.2	21.3	8.5
23		Previously described ³	>49.4	>58	>44.2	>60	>49	>28.8
24		Previously described ³	>49.2	>63.5	>44.2	>57.7	>46.8	>28.7
25		Previously described ³	>49.3	>63.6	>44.3	>57.8	>46.9	>28.8

6. SYNTHETIC PROTOCOLS AND CHARACTERISATION OF MITOXANTHRONE ANALOGUES

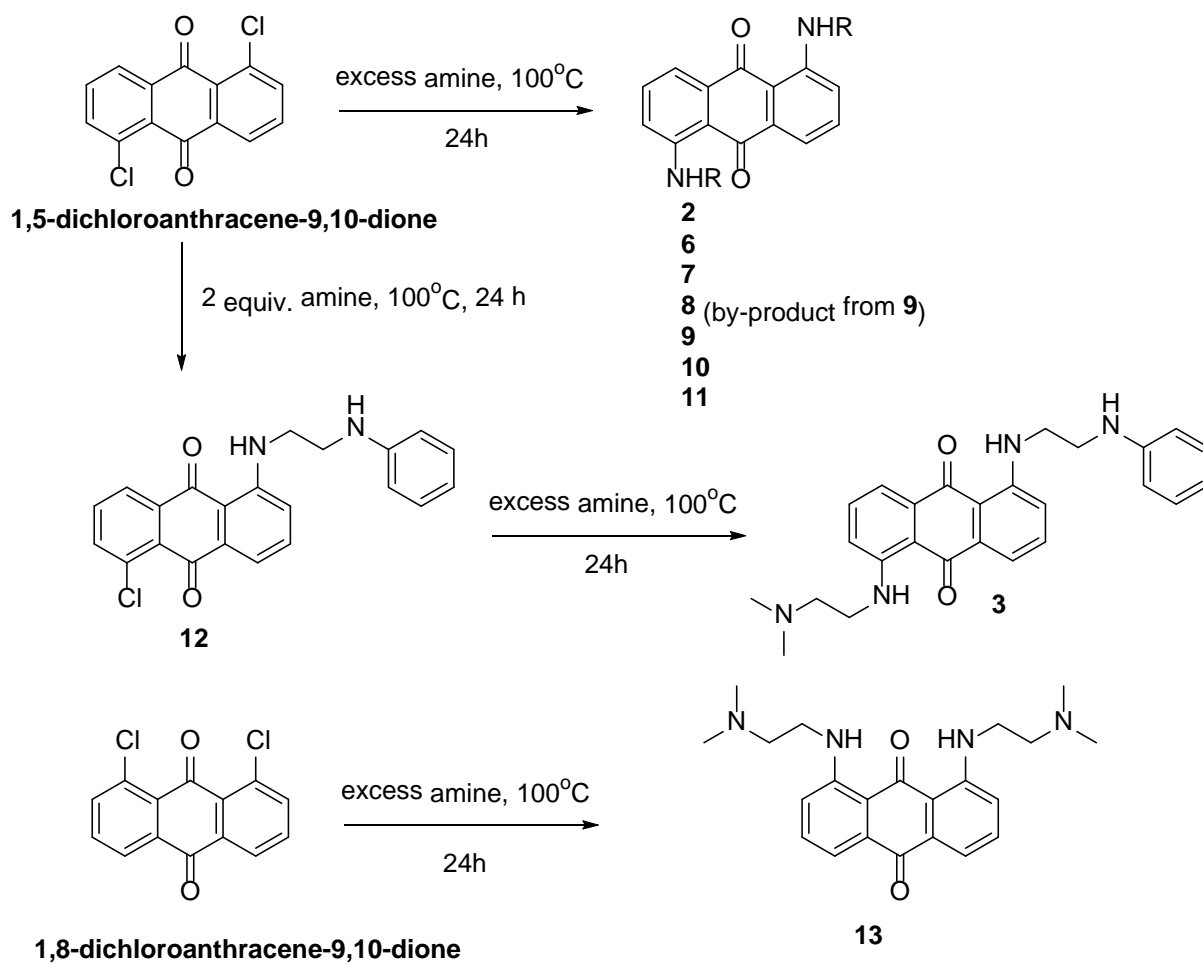


Figure S11: General routes to 1-mono and 1,5-disubstituted aminoanthracene-9,10-diones

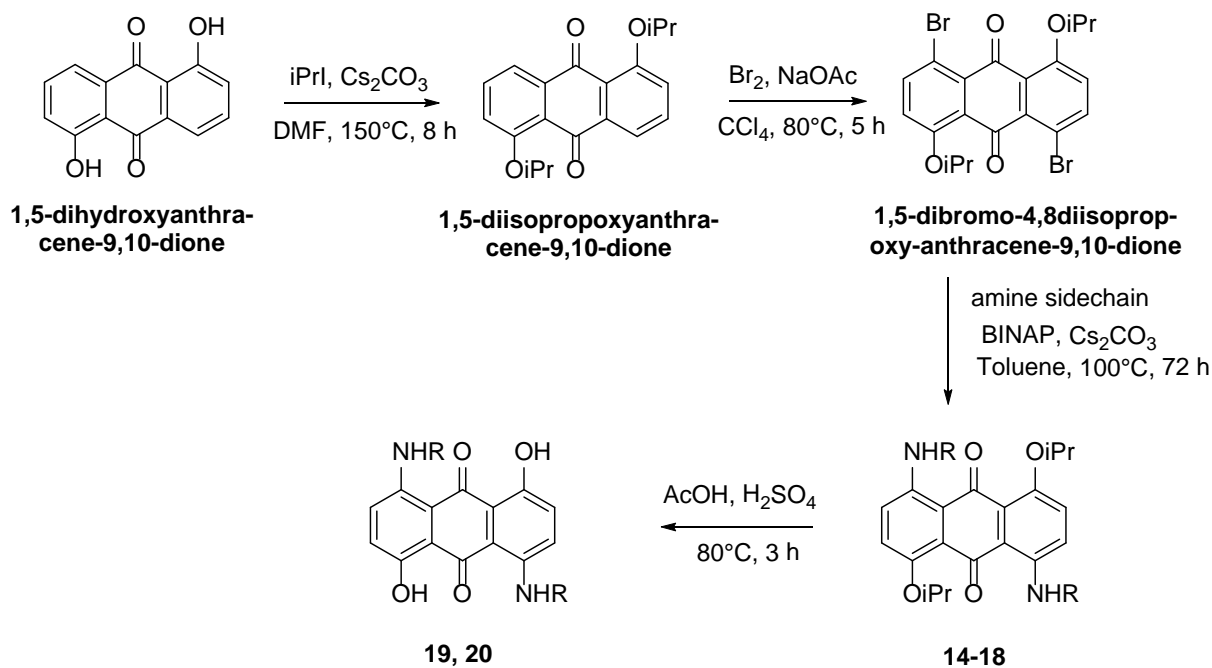
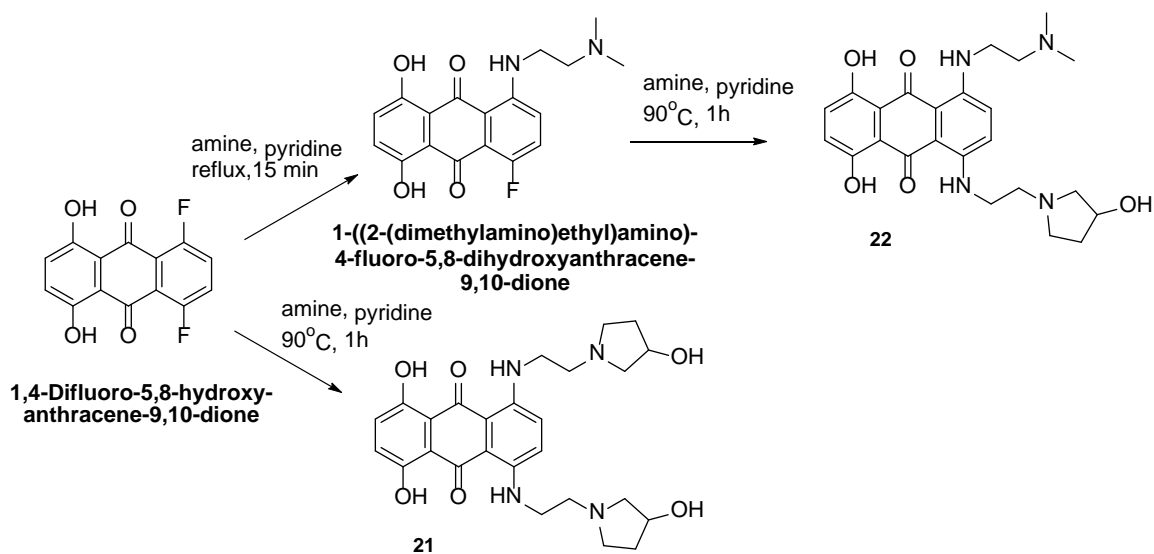


Figure S12: General route to 1,5-dihydroxylated and isopropyl-protected aminoanthracene-9,10-diones



re S13: General route to 1,4-disubstituted aminoanthracene-9,10-diones

Fig

1,5-bis((2-morpholinoethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (6)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and 2-morpholinoethylamine (1 mL). The product **6** was afforded as a red solid (67.9 mg, 81%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.84 (s, 2H, Ar-NH), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.81 (m, 8H, CH₂OCH₂), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.76 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.58 (m, 8H, NCH₂CH₂O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 186.37 (2C, C=O), 151.37 (2C, C1 & C6), 136.35 & 113.27, 135.17, 116.36 & 114.91, 67.06, 56.96, 53.57, 39.93; *m/z* 465 ([M+H]⁺, 100%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₃₂N₄O₄, 465.2496; found, 465.2487.

1,5-bis((3-(dimethylamino)propyl)(methyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (7)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and *N*¹,*N*¹,*N*²-trimethylethane-1,2-diamine (1 mL). The title compound **7** was afforded as a red powder (48.9 mg, 62%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.43 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.32 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, ArNCH₂CH₂CH₂), 2.82 (s, 6H, ArNCH₃), 2.24 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, ArNCH₂CH₂CH₂), 2.15 (12H, s, ArNCH₃), 1.80 (4H, dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, ArNCH₂CH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 182.28, 151.67, 138.21, 120.20, 133.14, 121.35, 117.11, 56.91, 52.78, 45.47, 42.13, 25.44; *m/z* 437 ([M+H]⁺, 64%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₃₆N₄O₂, 437.2911; found, 437.2901.

1-chloro-5-((2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (8)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and 2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethylamine (1 mL). The title compound, a by-product from the synthesis of **9**, was afforded as a red powder (12.7 mg, 19%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.56 (s, 1H, Ar-NH), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.55 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 7.2 and 4.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.33 (m, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂), 3.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 1.5-2.27 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 183.38, 182.59, 151.29, 137.58, 135.76, 134.46, 129.36 & 112.27, 136.43, 135.17, 133.41, 126.23, 117.21 & 115.99, 64.40, 57.10, 40.52, 40.35, 32.67, 30.62, 22.03; *m/z* 369 ([M+H]⁺, 100%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁ClN₂O₂, 369.1364; found, 369.1366.

1-((2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)amino)-5-((2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethyl)amino)-anthracene-9,10-dione (9)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and 2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethylamine (1 mL). The title compound **9** was afforded as a red powder (50.7 mg, 61%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.64 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, Ar-NH), 7.46 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.33 (m, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 3.10 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.25-1.5 (m, 16H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 185.45, 151.34, 136.29, 112.95, 135.24, 116.34, 114.78, 64.31, 57.16, 40.54, 40.35, 32.91, 30.68, 22.00; *m/z* 361 ([M+H]⁺, 30%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₃₆N₄O₂, 461.2911; found, 461.2908.

1,5-dimorpholinoanthracene-9,10-dione (10)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and morpholine (1 mL). The product **10** was afforded as a red powder (47.8 mg, 70 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.57 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.94 (m, 8H, NCH₂CH₂O), 3.12 (m, 8H, NCH₂CH₂O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 181.51, 151.50, 137.63, 121.14, 133.47, 121.95, 119.95, 66.01, 51.81; *m/z* 379 ([M+H]⁺, 100%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₄, 379.1652; found, 379.1653.

1,5-bis(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)anthracene-9,10-dione (11)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and *N*-methylpiperazine (1 mL). The title compound **11** was afforded as a red powder (48.9 mg, 67%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 3.16 (m, 8H, ArNCH₂CH₂), 2.68 (m, 8H, ArNCH₂CH₂), 2.35 (s, 6H, NCH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 182.58, 152.52, 138.63, 122.05, 134.32, 123.12, 120.60, 55.12, 52.35, 46.12; *m/z* 405 ([M+H]⁺, 20%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₈N₄O₂, 405.2285; found, 405.2277.

1-chloro-5-((2-(phenylamino)ethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (12)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,5-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol), *N*¹-phenylethane-1,2-diamine (49.6 μL, 0.379 mmol) and pyridine (1 mL). The title compound **12** was afforded as a red powder (35.4 mg, 52%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.68 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, ArNH), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 7.49 (m, 2H, *ArH*), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 3.88 (br, s, 1H, CH₂NHPh), 3.56 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂NHPh), 3.47 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂NHPh); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 183.85, 182.51, 151.41, 147.35, 137.29, 136.56, 135.85, 134.36, 133.49, 129.42, 126.30, 120.84, 119.47, 118.05, 117.19, 116.37, 113.06, 113.05, 43.11, 42.20; *m/z* 377 ([M+H]⁺, 100%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₁₇ClN₂O₂, 377.1051; found, 377.1054.

1,8-bis((2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (13)

The method follows that of **2** using 1,8-dichloroanthracene-9,10-dione (50 mg, 0.181 mmol) and *N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine (1 mL). The title compound **13** was afforded as a red powder (35 mg, 51%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.65 (s, 2H, Ar-NH), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 7.44 (m, 4H, *ArH*), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 3.34 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.61 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.29 (s, 12H, N-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 184.92, 150.98, 134.38, 134.11,

117.60, 114.86, 114.63, 58.10, 45.68, 41.19; m/z 381 ($[M+H]^+$, 100%); HRMS (m/z): $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{22}H_{28}N_4O_2$, 381.2285; found, 381.2287.

1,5-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione

To a stirred solution of 1,5-dihydroxyanthracene-9,10-dione (2.0 g, 8.326 mmol, 1 eq.) in anhydrous DMF (17 mL) was added cesium carbonate (40.69 g, 124.88 mmol, 15 eq.). The resulting mixture was stirred and heated at 150°C under N_2 . 2-iodopropane (25 mL, 249.77 mmol, 30 eq.) was added in portions of 3 mL over 8 hours. The purple colored reaction mixture was left to stir overnight at 150°C. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtered and washed with CH_2Cl_2 through a short pad of silica to remove the cesium carbonate. The resulting orange/brown solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a brown residue, which was purified by flash column chromatography using EtOAc:PE (1:9) to yield the title compound (2.36 g, 87%) as an orange/brown solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 7.87 (2H, dd, $J = 7.0, 1.5$ Hz, *ArH*), 7.64 (2H, t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, *ArH*), 7.25 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, *ArH*), 4.71 (2H, m, $CH-(CH_3)_2$), 1.48 (12H, d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, $CH-(CH_3)_2$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 182.5.1, 158.4, 137.8, 134.6, 122.1, 120.0, 119.7, 72.3, 22.1; m/z 325 ($[M+H]^+$, 100%).

1,5-dibromo-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione

To a stirred solution of **1,5-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione** (1.0 g, 3.08 mmol, 1 eq.) in CCl_4 (25 mL) was added sodium acetate (1.64 g, 20.04 mmol, 6.5 eq.). The resulting solution was heated at 80°C and bromine (2.53 mL, 49.34 mmol, 16 eq.) in CCl_4 (6.5 mL) was added dropwise within 30 minutes. The resulting solution was heated at 80°C for 5 hours before it was concentrated *in vacuo* to give an orange residue. The resulting solid was purified by flash column chromatography using EtOAc:PE (1:9→2:8) to yield the title compound (0.99 g, 67%) as an orange solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.71 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$, *ArH*), 7.02 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, *ArH*), 4.58 (2H, m, *CH*-(CH_3)₂), 1.41 (12H, d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, *CH*-(CH_3)₂); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 182.2, 156.2, 139.5, 135.9, 126.8, 120.9, 110.1, 73.5, 21.9; m/z 481/483/485 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 50%).

1,5-diisopropoxy-4,8-bis((2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (14)

Toluene (4 mL) was added to palladium acetate (4.4 mg, 0.019 mmol) and BINAP ((\pm)-2,2'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene) (15.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) under argon. The resulting solution was degassed by bubbling argon through the solution for 30 minutes. 1,5-dibromo-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione (49 mg, 0.099 mmol), cesium carbonate (128.6 mg, 0.395 mmol) and 2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethylamine (1 mL) were then added to the solution, which was stirred and heated at 100°C for 72 hours under argon. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature before it was filtered through a short pad of celite to remove the palladium and the cesium carbonate. The remaining solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 : CH_3OH (95:5 \rightarrow 90:10) to yield the title compound **14** (41.1 mg, 72%) was afforded as a dark purple solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 9.50 (t, $J = 4.72$ Hz, 2 H, *Ar-NH*), 7.11 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 6.83 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 4.23 (hept, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, isopropyl-*CH*), 3.31 (m, 4 H, *ArNHCH}_2\text{CH}_2*), 2.60 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H, *ArNHCH}_2\text{CH}_2*), 2.42 (m, 8H, *NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2*), 1.57 (m, 8H, *NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2*), 1.42 (m, 4H, *NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2*), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 12H, isopropyl-*CH}_3*); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 186.11, 147.52, 146.60, 130.58, 117.16, 126.31, 114.52, 75.26, 57.64, 54.68, 40.51, 26.03, 24.42, 22.41; m/z 577 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 40%); HRMS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{48}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$, 577.3748; found, 577.3738.

1,5-diisopropoxy-4,8-dimorpholinoanthracene-9,10-dione (15)

The method follows that of **14** using palladium acetate (6.2 mg, 0.027 mmol), BINAP ((\pm)-2,2'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene) (21.3 mg, 0.035 mmol), 1,5-dibromo-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione (69 mg, 0.138 mmol), cesium carbonate (180 mg, 0.553 mmol)

and morpholinoethylamine (1 mL). The title compound **15** (46.5 mg, 66%) was afforded as a dark purple solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.03 (m, 4H, *ArH*), 4.42 (hept, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, isopropyl-*CH*), 3.83 (m, 8H, $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 3.00 (m, 8 H, $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 12H, isopropyl- CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 185.73, 150.58, 144.64, 129.11, 128.53, 123.72, 122.26, 73.30, 67.11, 53.20, 22.16; m/z 413 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 100%); HRMS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$, 495.2490; found, 495.2481.

1,5-diisopropoxy-4,8-bis((2-morpholinoethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (16)

The method follows that of **14** using palladium acetate (9.3 mg, 0.041 mmol), BINAP ((\pm)-2,2'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene) (32 mg, 0.052 mmol), 1,5-dibromo-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione (103 mg, 0.207 mmol), cesium carbonate (270 mg, 0.829 mmol) and morpholino (1 mL). The title compound **16** (61 mg, 61%) was afforded as a dark purple solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 9.65 (t, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 2H, *Ar-NH*), 7.21 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 6.91 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 4.33 (hept, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, isopropyl-*CH*), 3.81 (m, 8H, CH_2OCH_2), 3.40 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.74 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.58 (m, 8H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$), 1.38 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 12H, isopropyl- CH_3). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 185.48, 147.00, 145.78, 129.81, 116.54, 125.62, 114.01, 74.55, 66.42, 56.43, 52.91, 39.27, 21.83; m/z 581 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 52%); HRMS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$, 581.3334; found, 581.3328.

1-((2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)amino)-4,8-diisopropoxy-5-((2-morpholinoethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (17)

The method is described under **16** and is a by-product, which was afforded as a dark purple solid (15.6 mg, 14 %).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 9.56 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H, *ArNH*), 9.49 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H, *ArNH*), 7.13 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 7.12 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 6.84 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 6.82 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H, *ArH*), 4.33 (m, 2H, isopropyl-*CH*), 3.72 (m, 8H, CH_2OCH_2), 3.31 (m, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.65 (t, $J = 6.8$

Hz, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.59 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.49 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂), 2.28 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H, isopropyl-CH₃), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H, isopropyl-CH₃). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 186.20, 186.09, 147.00, 146.53, 146.45, 130.61, 130.44, 117.18, 117.11, 126.36, 126.17, 114.62, 114.58, 75.49, 75.14, 67.06, 58.10, 57.06, 53.54, 45.56, 41.11, 39.90, 22.45, 22.35; *m/z* 539 ([M+H]⁺, 30%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₃₀H₄₂N₄O₅, 539.3228; found, 539.3218.

1,5-bis((2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)amino)-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione (18)

The method follows that of **14** using palladium acetate (3.72 mg, 0.016 mmol), BINAP ((±)-2,2'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene) (12.8 mg, 0.021 mmol), 1,5-dibromo-4,8-diisopropoxyanthracene-9,10-dione (41.4 mg, 0.083 mmol), cesium carbonate (108 mg, 0.332 mmol) and *N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine (1 mL). The title compound **19** (32.6 mg, 79%) was afforded as a dark purple solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.48 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2 H, *Ar-NH*), 7.12 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 6.83 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 4.21 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H, isopropyl-CH), 3.31 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4 H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.58 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.28 (s, 12H, NCH₃), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 12H, isopropyl-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 186.19, 147.69, 146.56, 126.27, 114.58, 130.57, 117.13, 75.44, 58.11, 45.57, 41.12, 22.35; *m/z* 497 ([M+H]⁺, 40%); HRMS (*m/z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₄₀N₄O₄, 497.3122; found, 497.3119.

1,5-dihydroxy-4,8-bis((2-morpholinoethyl)amino)anthracene-9,10-dione (19):

To a stirred solution of **14** (75 mg, 0.129 mmol) in acetic acid (25 mL) was dropwise added sulphuric acid (0.5 mL) over a period of 10 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80°C for 3 hours before it was allowed to cool to room temperature and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH (95:5→90:10 + 0.1% conc. NH₃ ammonia) to yield the title compound **19** (48 mg, 75%) as a dark blue solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 14.01 (s, 2H, *Ar-OH*), 9.88 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H, *ArNH*), 7.15 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 6.99 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H, *ArH*), 3.71 (m, 8H, CH₂OCH₂), 3.39 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H, NHCH₂CH₂)

2.67 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.49 (m, 8H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 186.69, 155.19, 146.87, 128.76, 115.21, 120.99, 109.66, 67.09, 56.83, 53.46, 39.94; m/z 497 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 100%); HRMS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$, 497.2395; found, 497.2388.

1,5-bis((2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)amino)-4,8-dihydroxyanthracene-9,10-dione (20)

The method follows that of **14** using **18** (25 mg, 0.050 mmol), acetic acid (20 mL) and sulphuric acid (0.5 mL). The product **20** was afforded as a dark blue powder (11.3 mg, 55 %).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 13.95 (s, 2H, ArOH), 9.74 (t, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 2H, ArNH), 7.14 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.98 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.37 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.59 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4H, NHCH_2CH_2), 2.27 (s, 12H, NCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 186.64 (2C, $\text{C}=\text{O}$), 155.11 (2C, C4 & C9), 147.00 (2C, C1 & C6), 128.76 & 120.82 (4C, C2, C3, C7 & C8), 115.18 & 109.57 (4C, C11, C12, C13 & C14), 58.21 (2C, NHCH_2CH_2), 45.64 (4C, NCH_3), 41.16 (2C, NHCH_2CH_2); m/z 413 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 100%); HRMS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$, 413.2183; found, 413.2183.

1,4-Bis-([2-(3-hydroxypyrrolidine)ethyl]amino)-5,8-dihydroxy-anthracene-9,10-dione (21)

1,4-Difluoro-5,8-hydroxyanthracene-9,10-dione (75 mg, 0.272 mmol) and 1-(2-aminoethyl)pyrrolidin-3-ol (1 g, 7.7 mmol) were stirred in pyridine (2 mL) at 90 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was added to ice-cold brine and set aside at 4 °C overnight. The precipitated solid was isolated by filtration and lyophilised. The desired product was purified by flash chromatography, initially eluting with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ (95:5) to remove non-polar impurities, followed by a gradual increase of CH_2Cl_2 to $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ (85:15). The chromatographed product was then crystallised from CHCl_3 affording the title compound **21** was afforded as a dark blue powder (59.2 mg, 44%) as a dark blue powder (0.11 g, 34%).

^1H NMR (270 MHz, $\text{DMSO}/\text{CDCl}_3(1:1)$): δ (ppm) 13.55 (s, 2H, ArOH), 10.55 (t, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 2H, ArNH), 7.3 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.05 (s, 2H, ArH), 4.10 (m, 2H, CH_2CHOH), 3.60 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz 4H, $\text{HNCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 2.80 (t, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz 4H, $\text{HNCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 2.75 (m, 10H, ring- H and OH), 2.05 (m, 2H, ring- H), 1.60 (m, 2H, ring- H); ^{13}C NMR (62.9 MHz, $\text{DMSO}/\text{CDCl}_3(1:1)$): δ (ppm) 183.21, 154.38, 146.43, 124.90, 123.79,

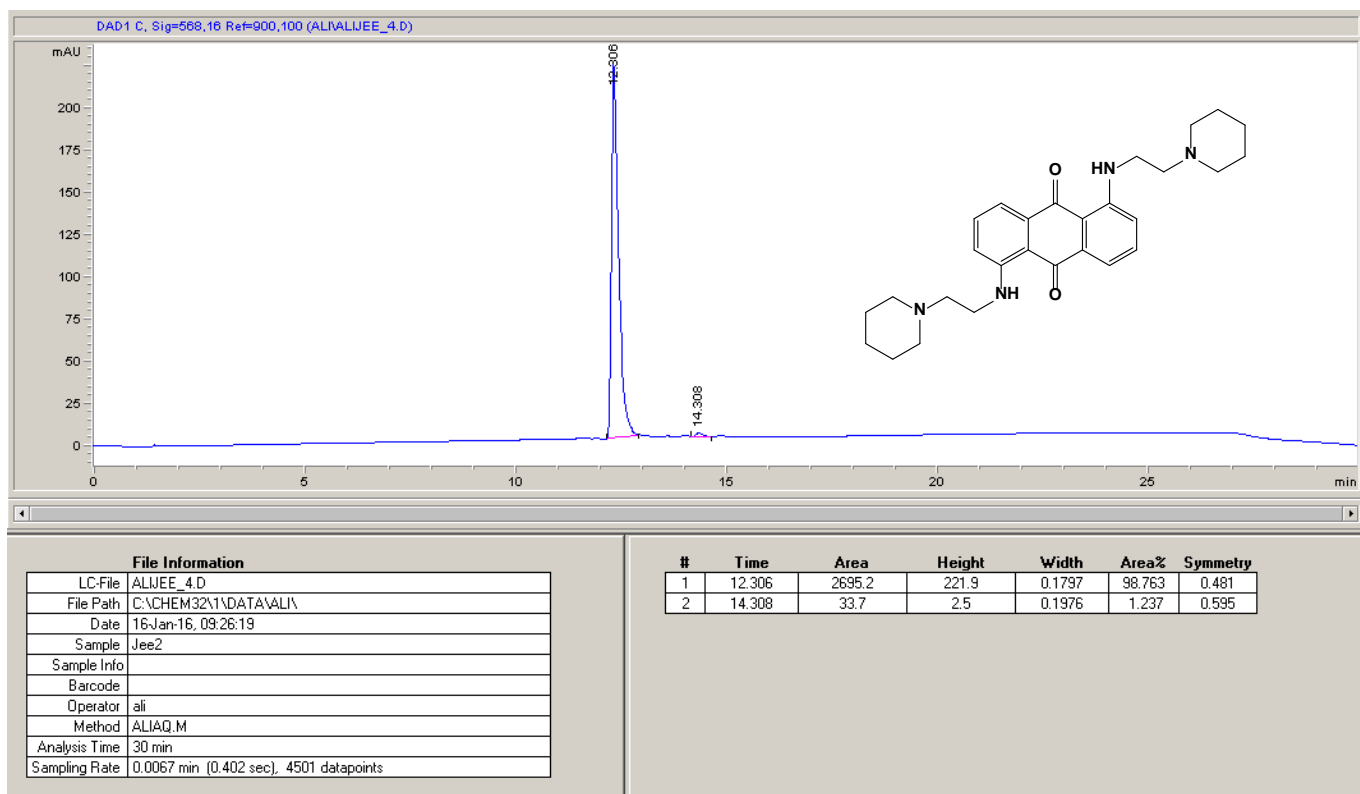
115.04, 107.01, 69.26, 62.33, 54.42, 52.18, 41.22, 34.73, 28.01; m/z 497 ($[M+H]^+$, 100%); Anal. Calcd for $C_{26}H_{32}N_4O_6$: C, 62.88; H, 6.51; N, 11.28. Found: C, 62.50; H, 6.54; N, 11.00.

1-([(2-Dimethylamino)ethyl]amino)-4-([2-(3-hydroxypyrrolidine)ethyl]amino)-5,8-dihydroxy-anthracene-9,10-dione (22)

The method follows that of **21** using 1-(2-Dimethylamino)ethylamino-4-fluoro-5,8-dihydroxy-anthracene-9,10-dione (45 mg, 0.13 mmol), 1-(2-aminoethyl)-pyrrolidin-3-ol (880 mg, 6.77 mmol), pyridine (1 mL). The product **22** was afforded as a dark blue powder (24 mg, 41 %)

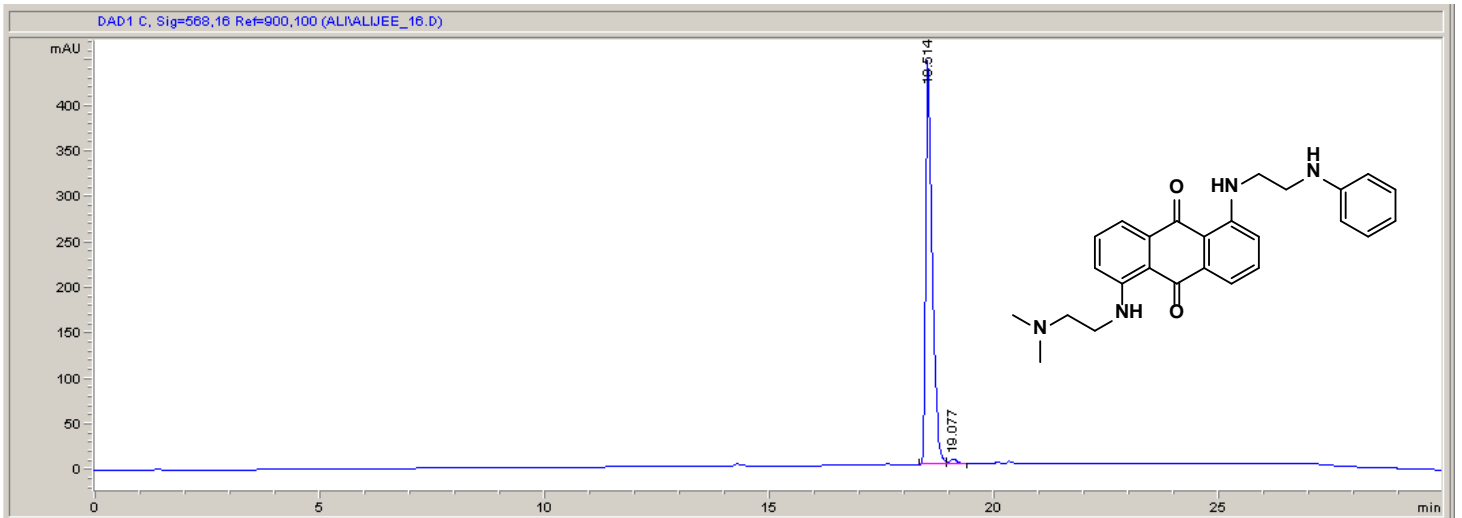
1H NMR (270 MHz, DMSO/ $CDCl_3$ (1:1): δ (ppm) 13.5 (s, 2H, ArOH) 10.5 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H, ArNH), 7.4 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.1 (s, 2H, ArH), 4.25 (m, 1H, CH_2CHOH), 3.53 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, $HNCH_2CH_2N$), 2.75 (m, 2H, ring-H and OH), 2.55 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H, $HNCH_2CH_2N$), 2.38 (m, 1H, ring-H), 2.3 (s, 6H, NCH_3), 2.00 (m, 2H, ring-H), 1.62 (m, 1H, ring-H); ^{13}C NMR (62.9 MHz, DMSO/ $CDCl_3$ (1:1): δ (ppm) 183.16, 154.38, 146.90, 124.90, 123.79, 114.78, 107.18, 69.26, 62.33, 54.42, 52.18, 41.22, 34.19; m/z 455 ($[M+H]^+$, 100%).

7. HPLC TRACES



Compound 2

Compound 3

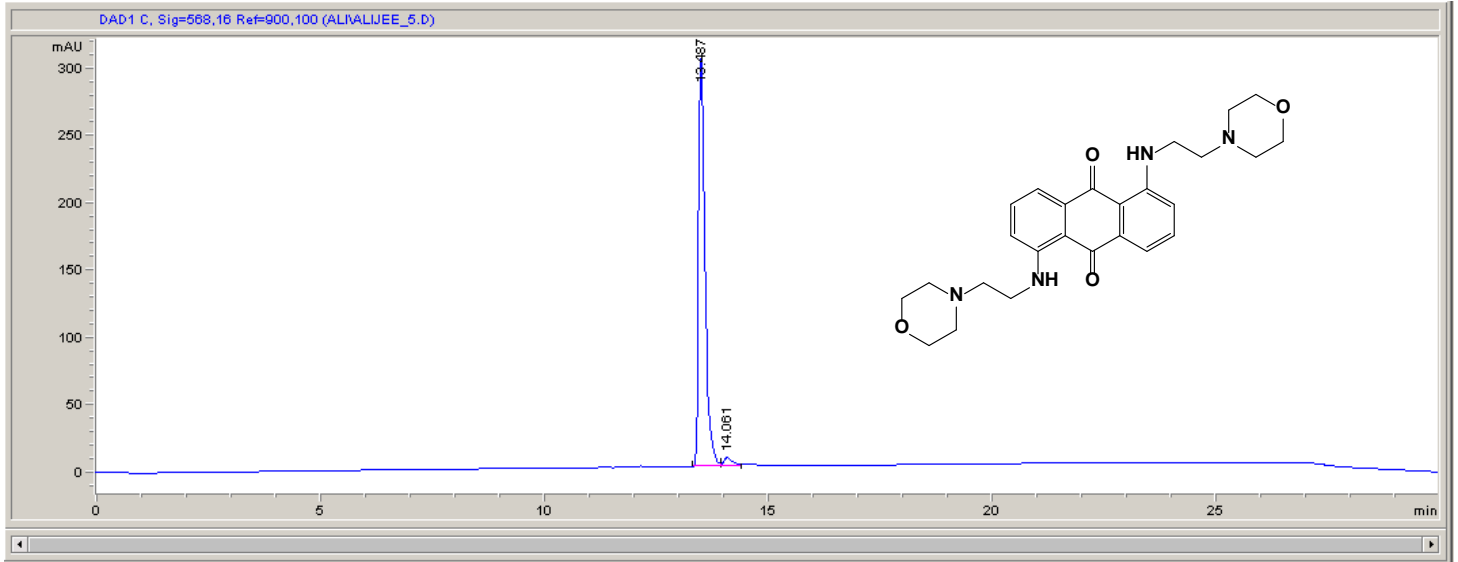


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Barcode	
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Method	ALIAQ.M
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Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

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Compound 6

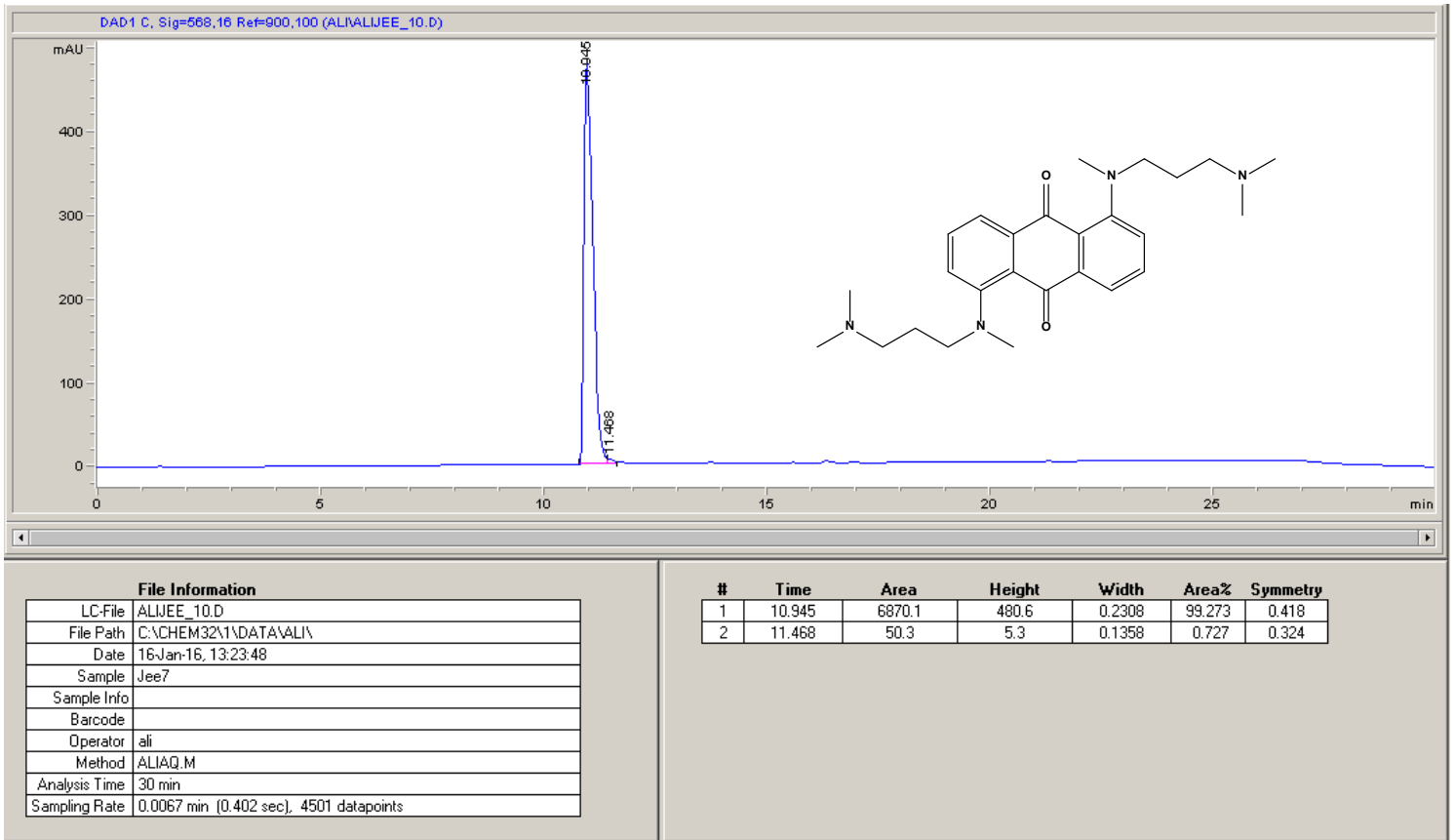


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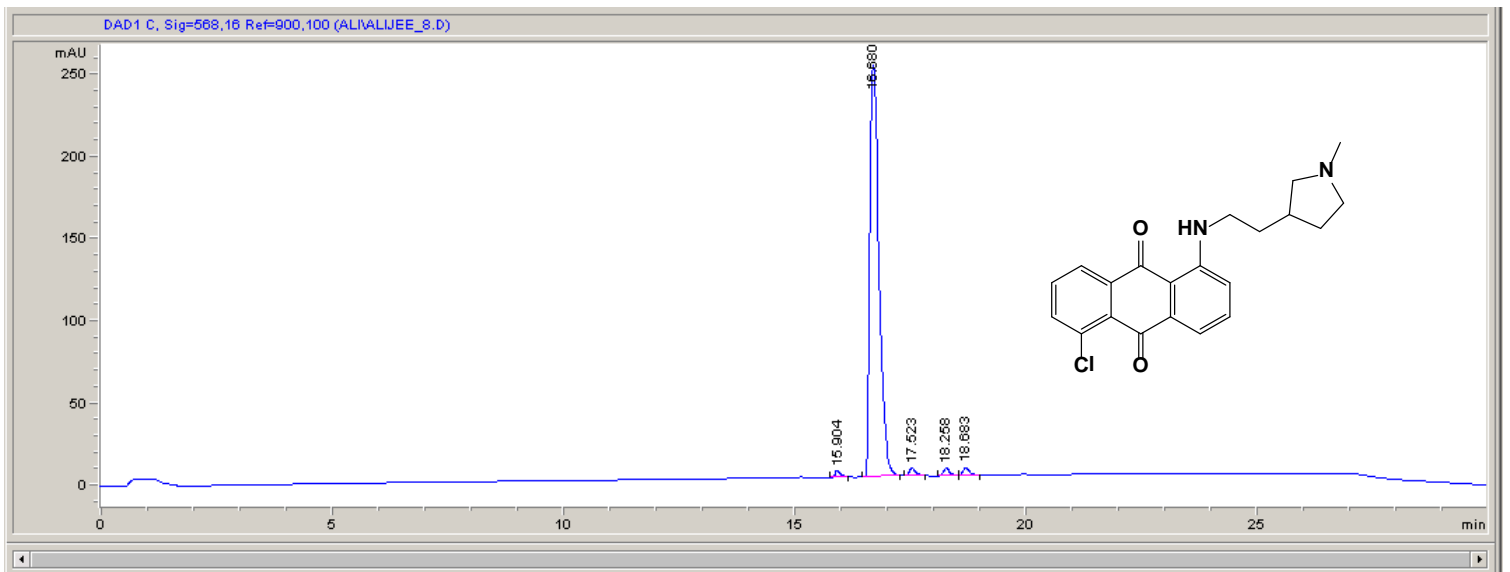
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Method	ALIAQ.M
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Compound 7



Compound 8

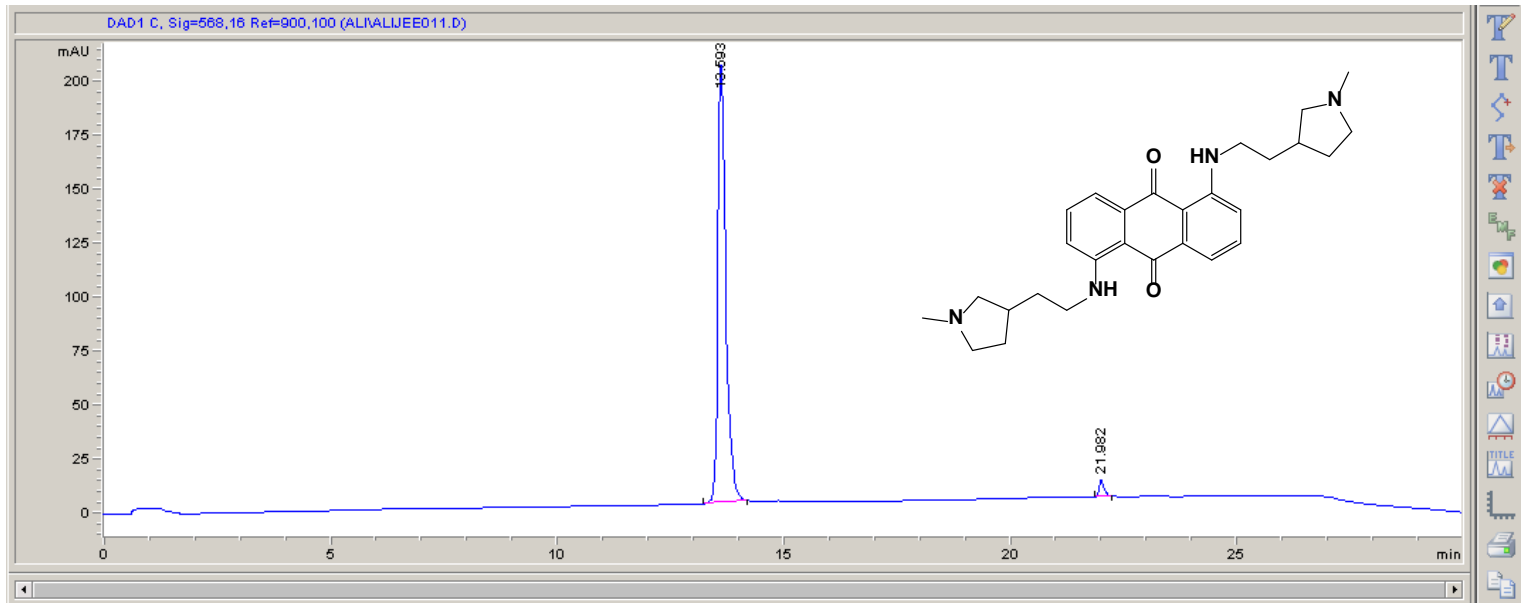


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Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4500 datapoints

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1	15.904	35.3	3.8	0.1388	0.998	0.602
2	16.68	3363.3	250.4	0.2127	94.979	0.471
3	17.523	52.1	4.7	0.1595	1.473	0.579
4	18.258	43.7	4.5	0.1428	1.233	0.608
5	18.683	46.6	4.7	0.1446	1.317	0.612

Compound 9

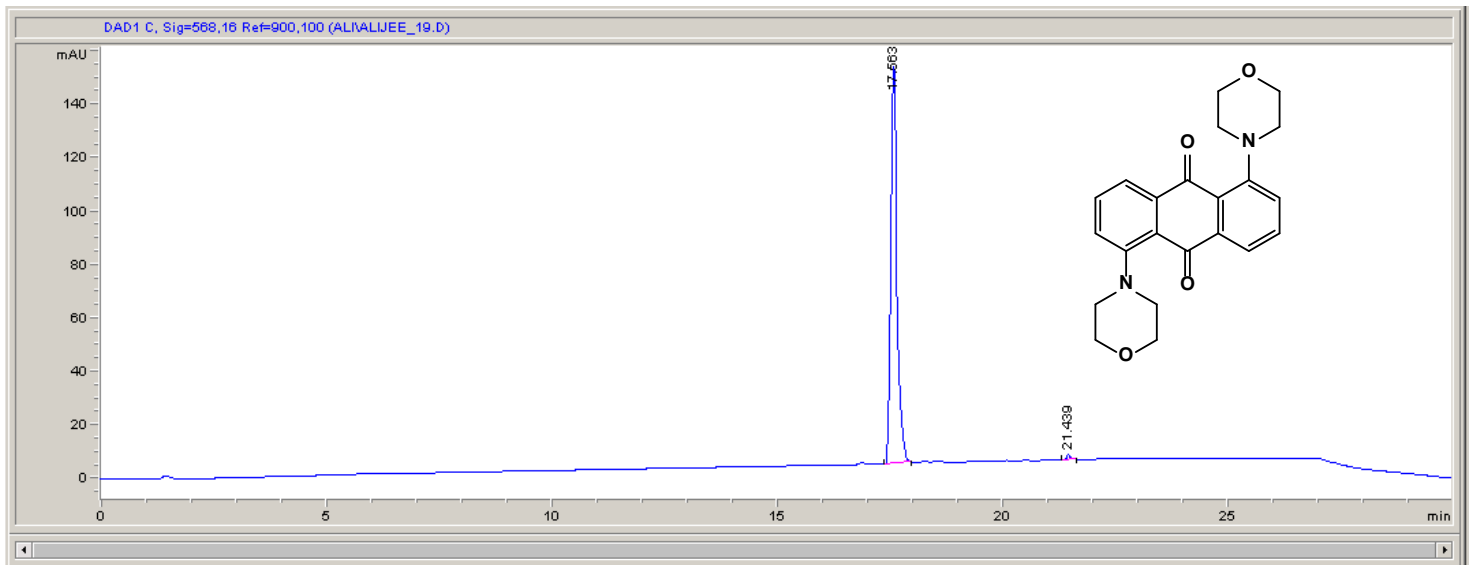


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE011.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	03-Feb-16, 08:12:30
Sample	JEE5D1 Pd
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ALI
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	13.593	2454	203.1	0.177	97.422	0.582
2	21.982	64.9	8.2	0.1165	2.578	0.594

Compound 10

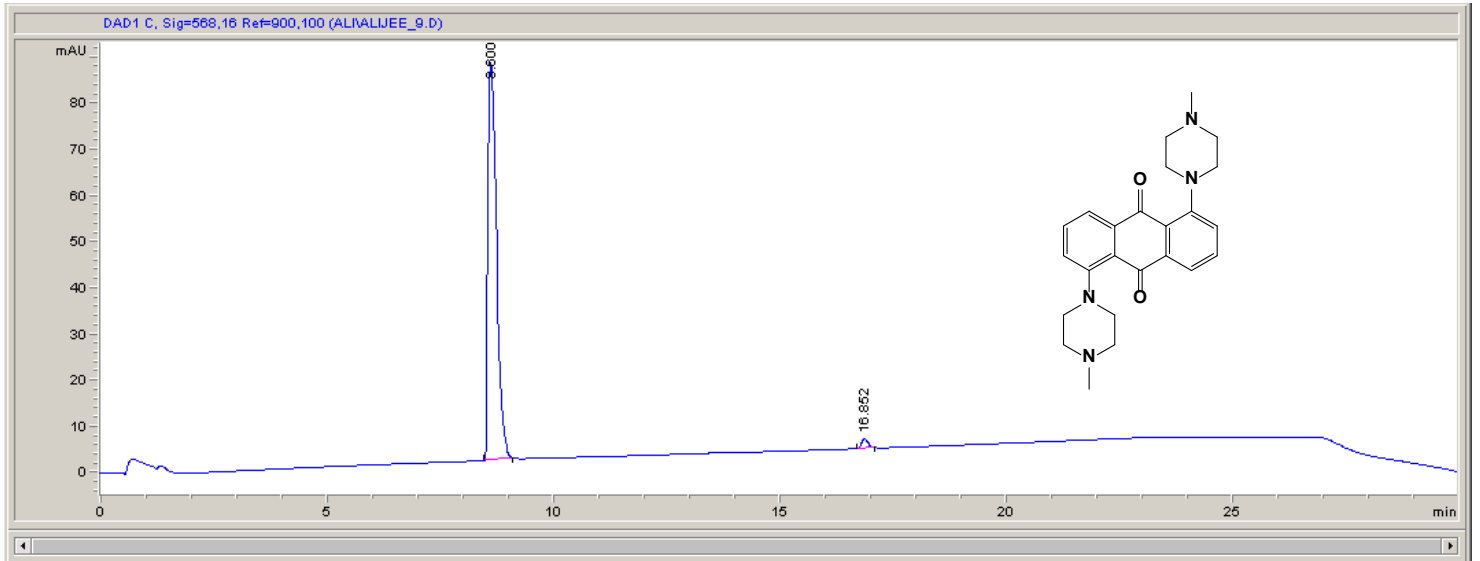


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_19.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	17-Jan-16, 11:27:33
Sample	Jee9
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	17.563	1405.3	148.6	0.1403	99.069	0.679
2	21.439	13.2	1.8	0.1074	0.931	0.601

Compound 11

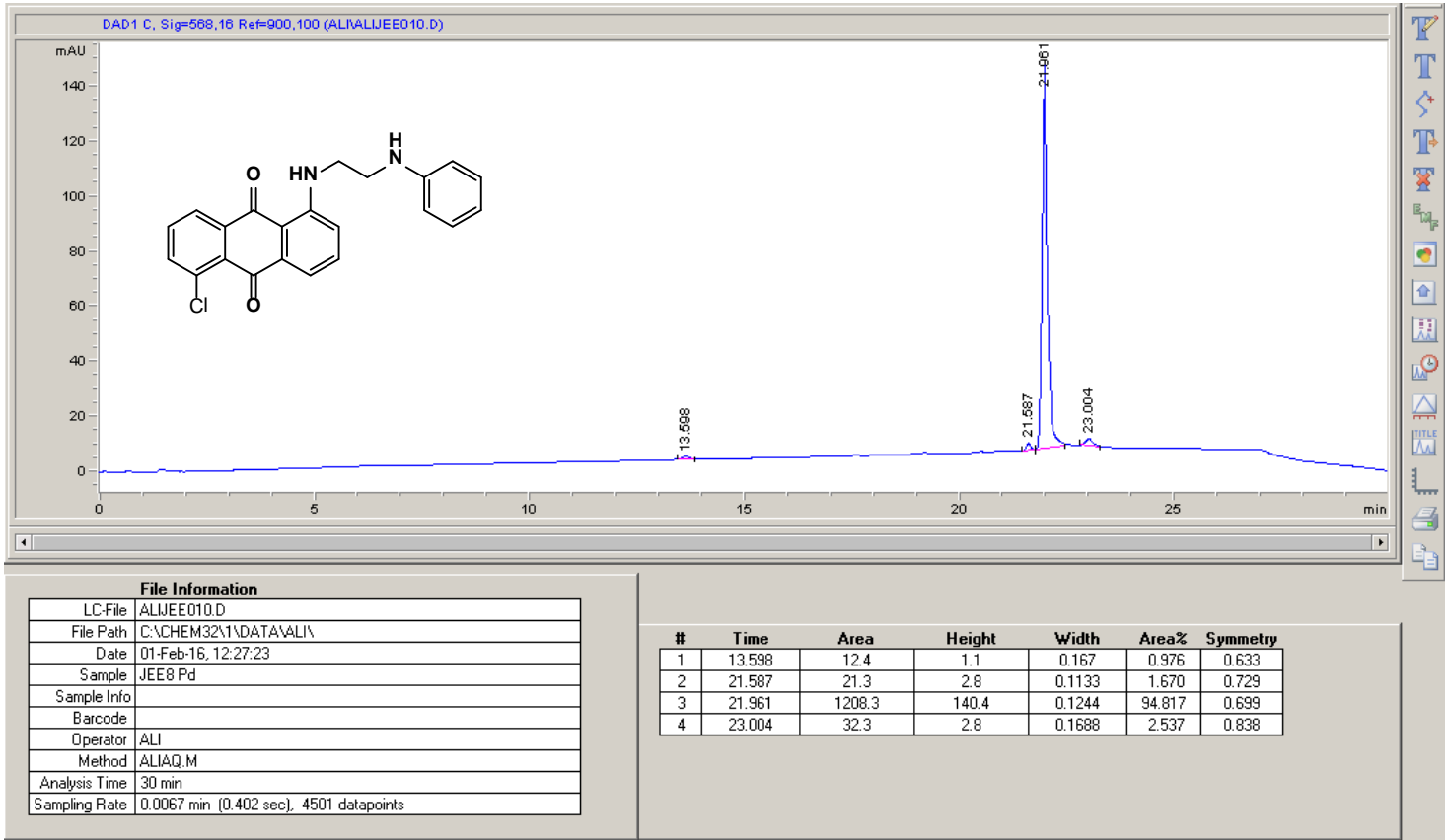


File Information

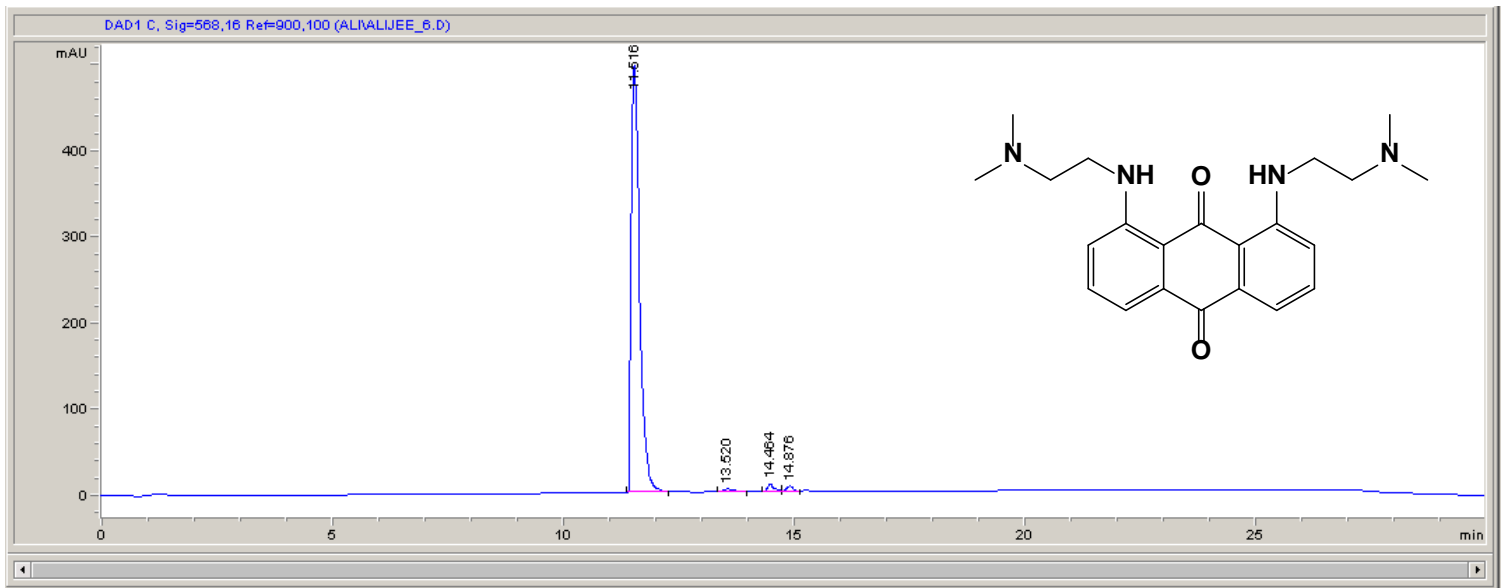
LC-File	ALJEE_9.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	16-Jan-16, 12:37:45
Sample	Jee6
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	8.6	1109	86.1	0.2042	98.138	0.451
2	16.852	21	2.1	0.1444	1.862	0.604

Compound 12



Compound 13

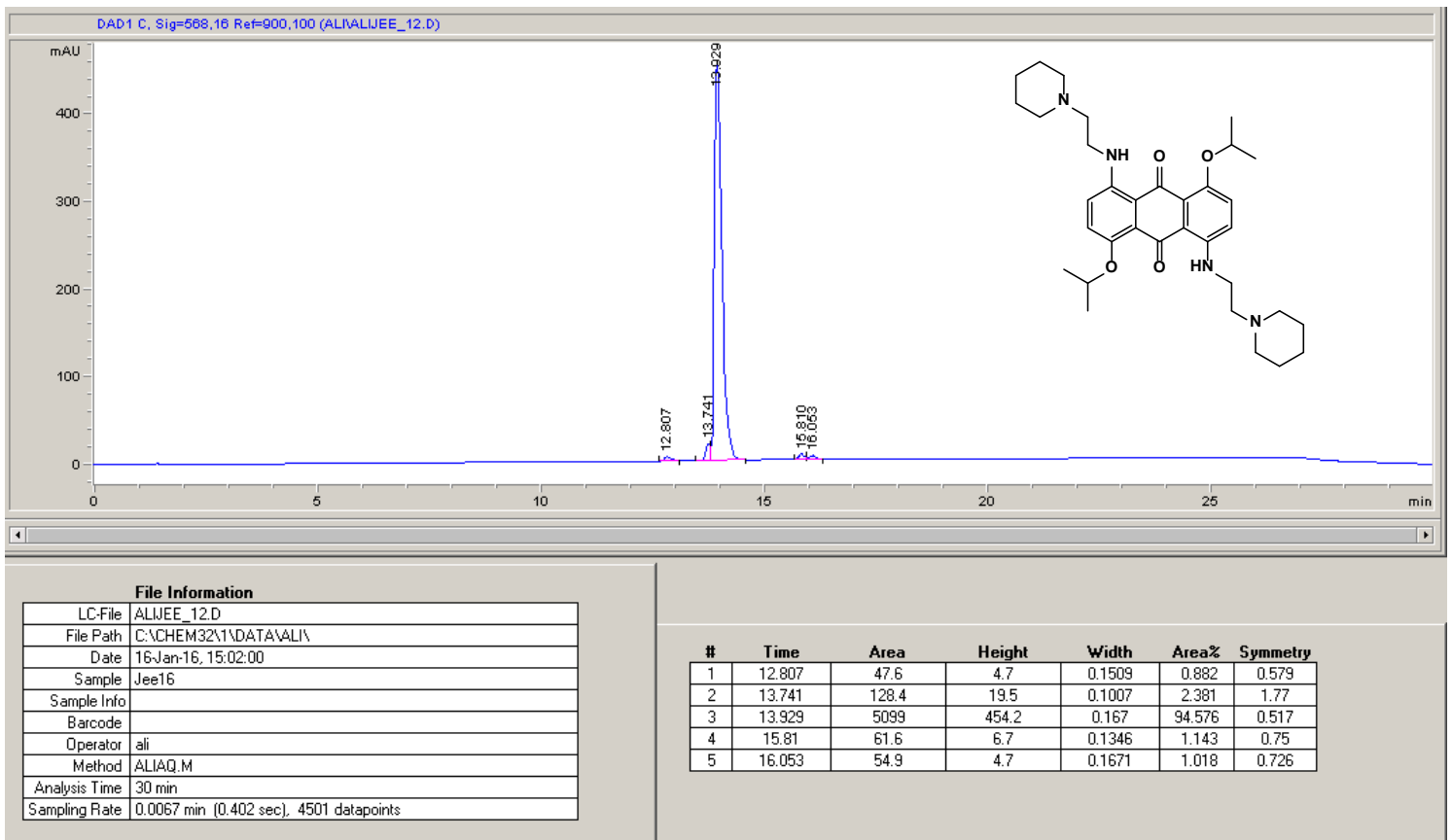


File Information

LC-File	ALIJE_6.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI
Date	16-Jan-16, 10:43:03
Sample	Jee4
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	11.516	6141.3	495.2	0.1907	96.489	0.472
2	13.52	60.2	3.5	0.2308	0.946	0.433
3	14.464	93.5	9.2	0.1489	1.469	0.583
4	14.876	69.8	6.7	0.1541	1.096	0.753

Compound 14

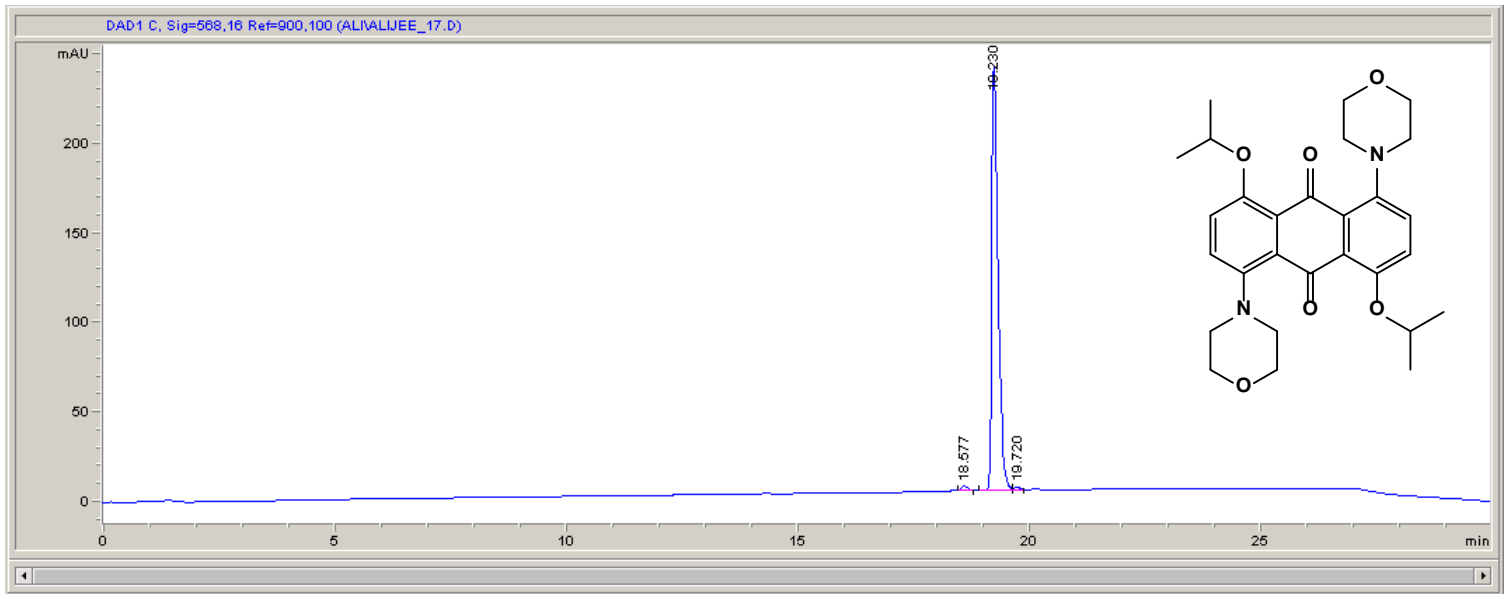


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_12.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	16-Jan-16, 15:02:00
Sample	Jee16
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALJAJ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	12.807	47.6	4.7	0.1509	0.882	0.579
2	13.741	128.4	19.5	0.1007	2.381	1.77
3	13.929	5099	454.2	0.167	94.576	0.517
4	15.81	61.6	6.7	0.1346	1.143	0.75
5	16.053	54.9	4.7	0.1671	1.018	0.726

Compound 15

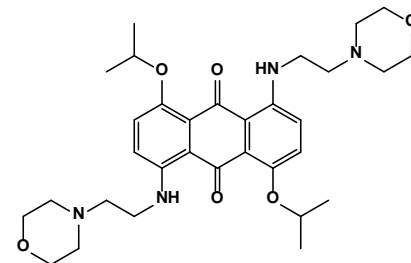
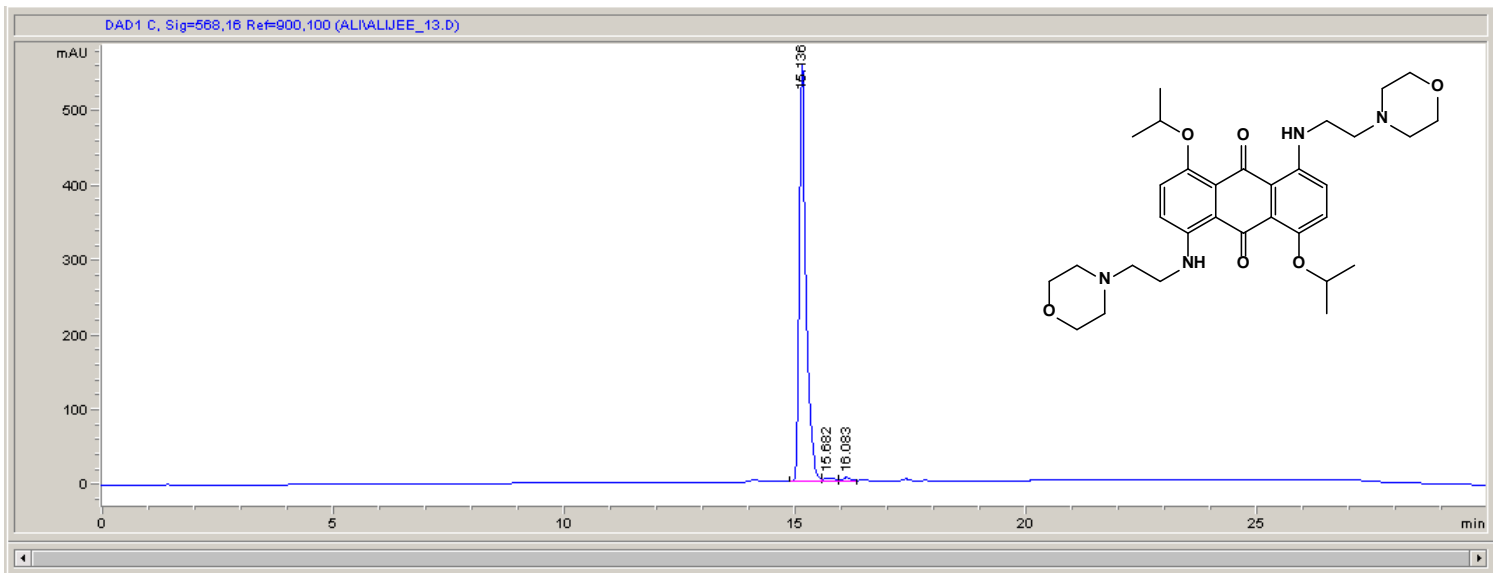


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_17.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	17-Jan-16, 10:13:19
Sample	Jee12
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	18.577	27.3	2.8	0.1423	1.208	0.659
2	19.23	2218.5	236.8	0.1393	98.030	0.601
3	19.72	17.2	2.2	0.1108	0.761	0.697

Compound 16

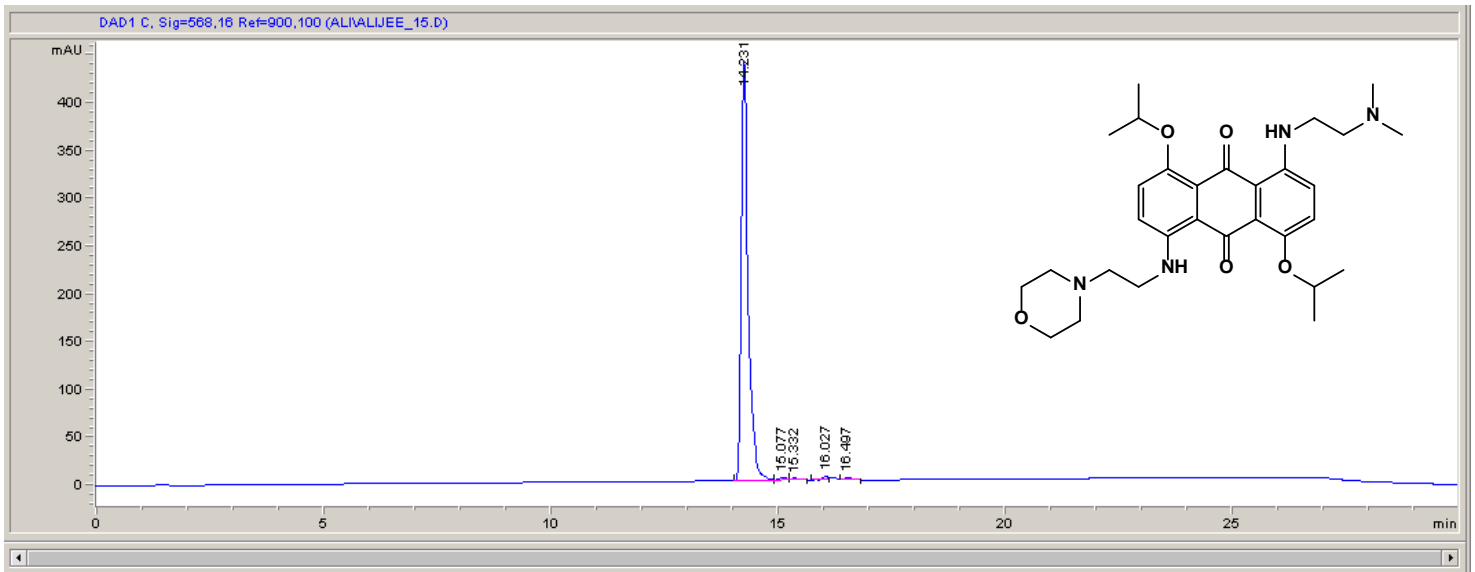


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_13.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	16-Jan-16, 15:42:22
Sample	Jee18
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	15.136	5787.1	556.5	0.1553	97.587	0.569
2	15.682	80	4.6	0.2286	1.348	0.388
3	16.083	63.1	5.3	0.1701	1.065	0.615

Compound 17

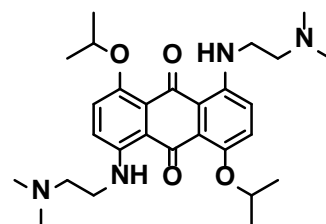
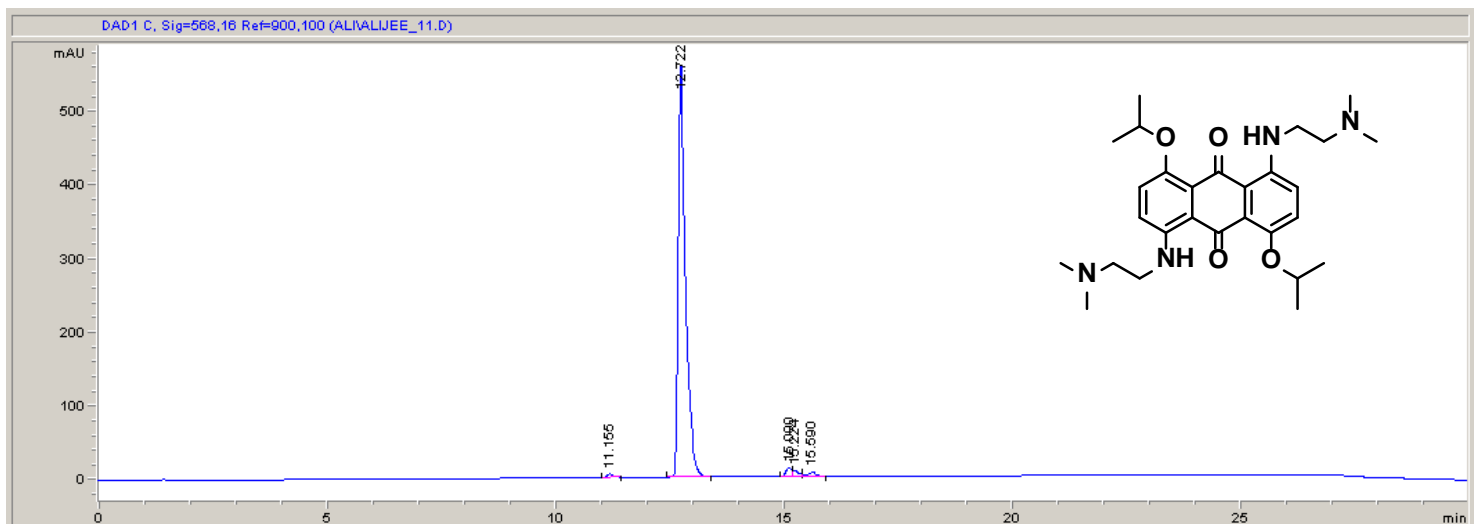


File Information

LC-File	ALIJEE_15.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	17-Jan-16, 08:56:04
Sample	Jee22
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	14.231	4639.7	437.5	0.1577	96.797	0.527
2	15.077	40.5	3.5	0.1686	0.845	0.826
3	15.332	34.8	2.7	0.18	0.726	0.565
4	16.027	40.5	4.1	0.1423	0.845	1.234
5	16.497	37.7	3.2	0.1659	0.787	0.537

Compound 18

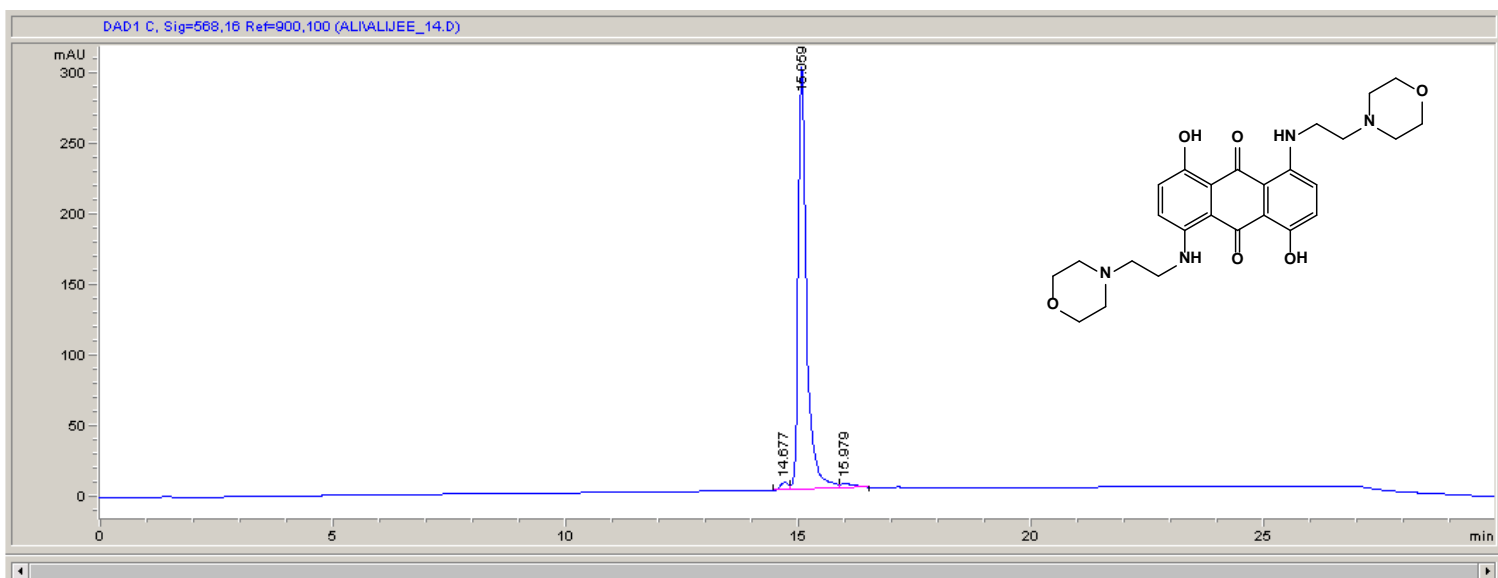


File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_11.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALIN
Date	16-Jan-16, 14:00:23
Sample	Jee11
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	29.993 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4500 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	11.155	51	5	0.1492	0.771	0.519
2	12.722	6307.6	558.8	0.1697	95.378	0.491
3	15.09	104.1	11.8	0.1311	1.575	0.933
4	15.224	70.8	8	0.1276	1.070	0.331
5	15.59	79.7	6.3	0.178	1.205	1.066

Compound 19

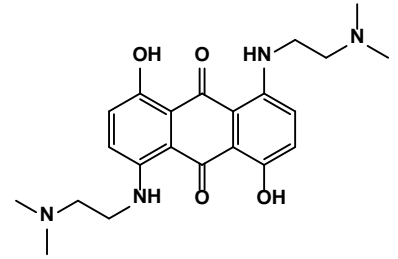
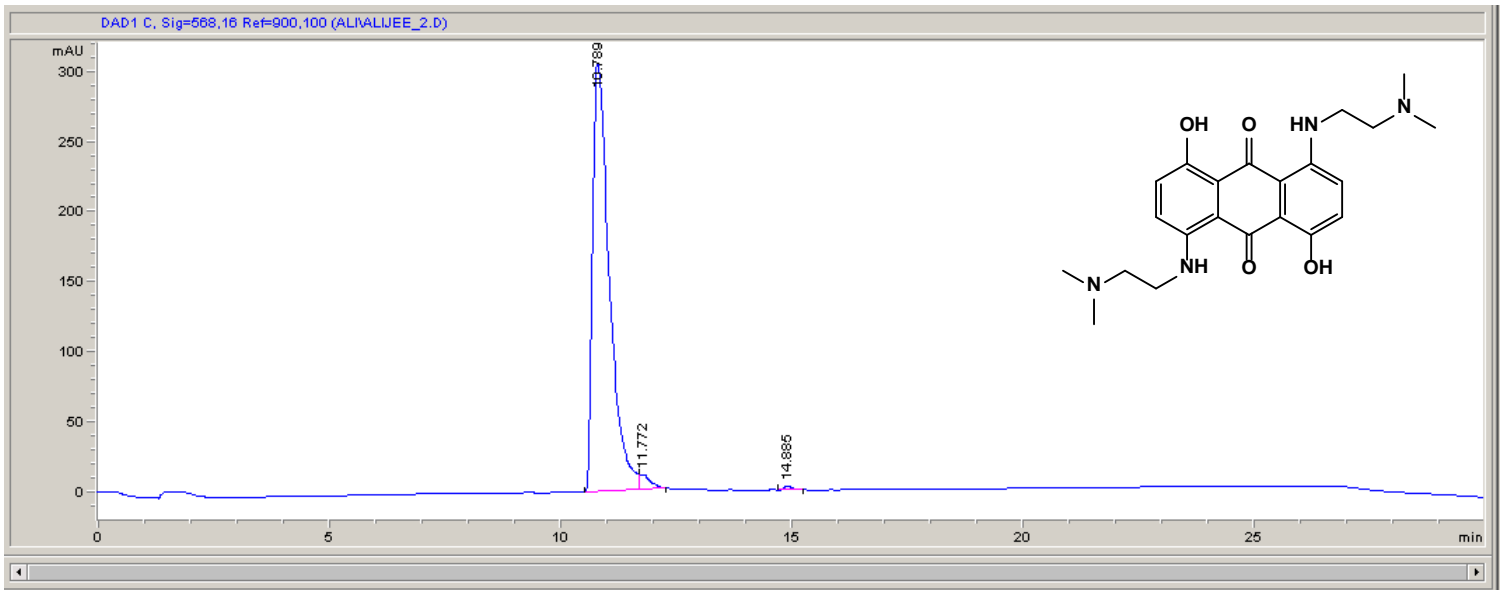


File Information

LC-File	ALIJEE_14.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	16-Jan-16, 16:20:31
Sample	Jee18DP
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	14.677	62	5.1	0.1847	1.627	0.761
2	15.059	3673.1	299.1	0.1733	96.330	0.634
3	15.979	77.9	3.8	0.2644	2.043	0.334

Compound 20



File Information

LC-File	ALJEE_2.D
File Path	C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\ALI\
Date	15-Jan-16, 12:27:23
Sample	Jee11DP
Sample Info	
Barcode	
Operator	ali
Method	ALIAQ.M
Analysis Time	30 min
Sampling Rate	0.0067 min (0.402 sec), 4501 datapoints

#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	10.789	7812.2	305.3	0.3885	97.367	0.429
2	11.772	174.7	10.9	0.2245	2.177	0.295
3	14.885	36.5	2.9	0.1811	0.455	0.474

8. SUPPORTING INFORMATION REFERENCES

1. Kypr, J., Kejnovska, I., Renciuik, D. & Vorlickova, M. Circular dichroism and conformational polymorphism of DNA. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **37**, 1713-1725 (2009).
2. Garbett, N.C., Ragazzon, P.A. & Chaires, J.B. Circular dichroism to determine binding mode and affinity of ligand-DNA interactions. *Nat. Protoc.* **2**, 3166-3172 (2007).
3. Abdallah, Q.M. et al. Minor structural modifications to alchemix influence mechanism of action and pharmacological activity. *Biochem. Pharmacol.* **83**, 1514-1522 (2012).