

Supplementary Material

Optimization of Substituted Imidazobenzodiazepines as Novel Asthma Treatments

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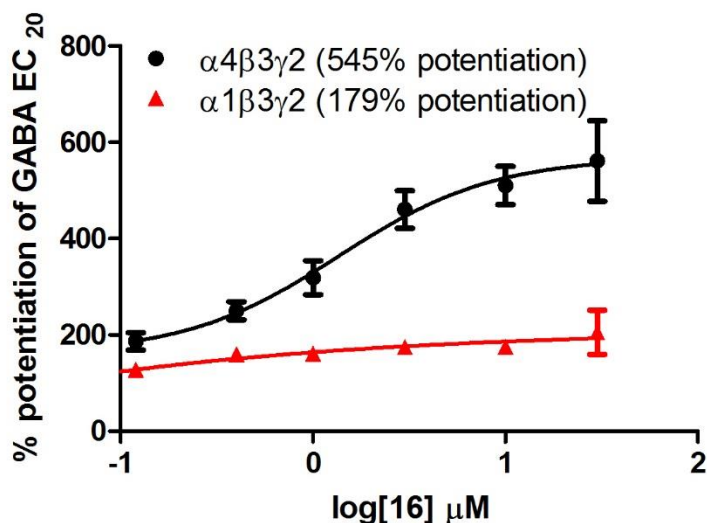
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Patch clamp assay: HEK293T stably expressing $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ GABA_AR or $\alpha 4\beta 3\gamma 2$ were maintained RPMI 1640 medium with L-glutamine supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. Automated patch-clamp studies were conducted as described previously.[1] Briefly, the IonFlux plate layout consists of units of 12 wells: two wells contain intracellular solution (ICS containing 140 mM CsCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, 11 mM EGTA, 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.2 with CsOH), one contains cells diluted in extracellular solution (ECS containing 140 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM D-glucose monohydrate, and 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4 with NaOH), eight contain different concentration of **16** in the presence of GABA at 0.1% DMSO. Well 1 is for waste collection. Cells are captured from suspension by

applying suction to microscopic channels in ensemble recording arrays. Once the array is fully occupied, the applied suction breaks the membranes of captured cells, which establishes whole cell voltage clamp. For compound applications, pressure is applied to the appropriate compound wells, which introduces the compound into the extracellular solution rapidly flowing over the cells. For recording GABA_AR induced currents, cell arrays were voltage clamped at a hyperpolarizing holding potential of -80 mV. Prior to use on the automated patch clamp, cells were centrifuged at 380g for 5 minutes and resuspended gently in ECS. This was repeated two more times before the cells were dispensed into the plate. All compound application were carried out for 3 seconds followed by a 5 second washout.



Microsomal stability assay procedure

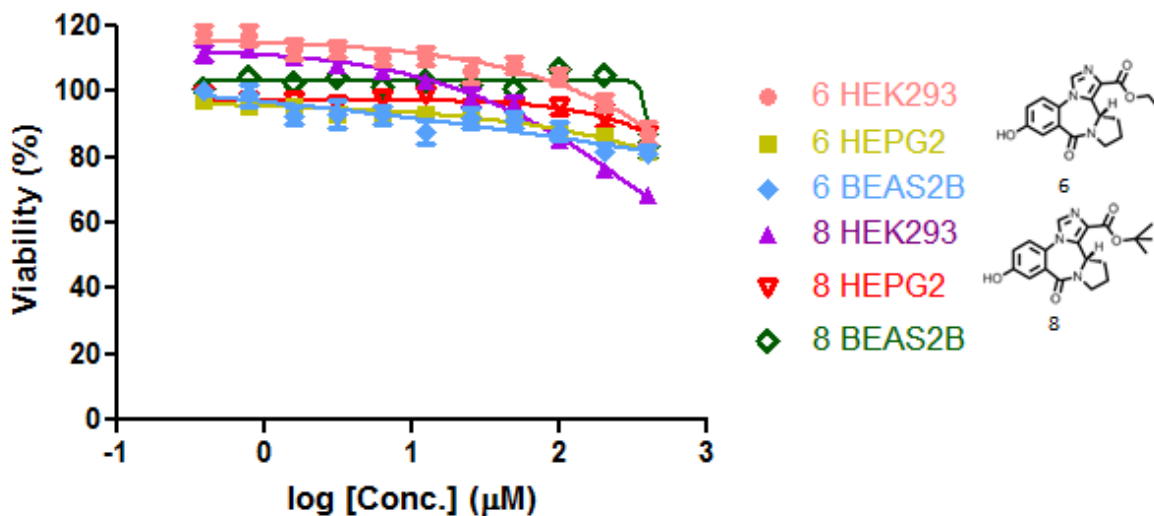
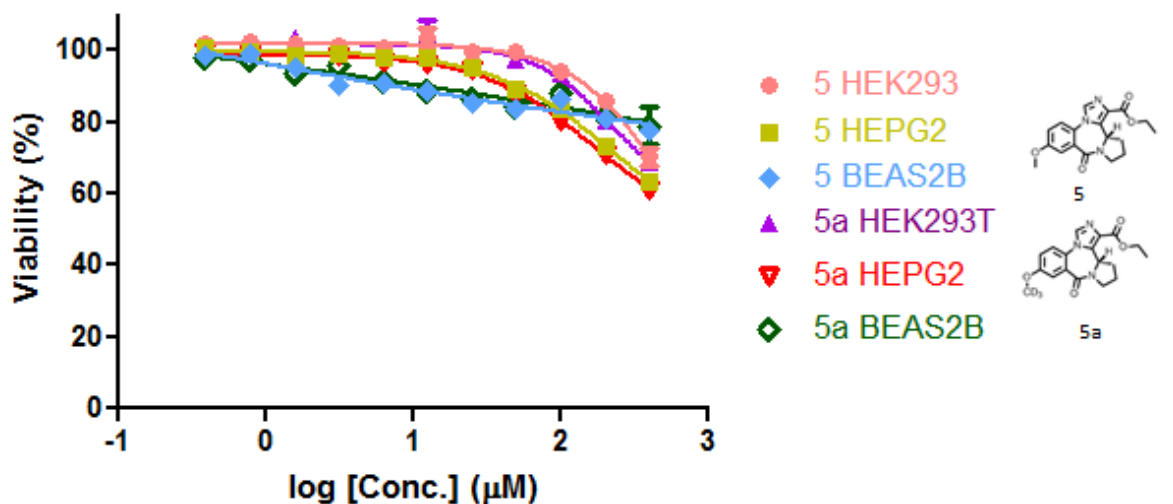
4 μ L of 1 mM test compound at a final concentration of 10 μ M in DMSO were preincubated at 37°C for 5 minutes on a digital heating shaking dry bath (Fischer scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) in a mixture containing 282 μ L of water, 80 μ L of phosphate buffer (0.5 M, pH 7.4) 20 μ L of NADPH Regenerating System Solution A (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA) and 4 μ L of NADPH Regenerating System Solution B (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA) in a total volume of 391.2 μ L. Following preincubation, the reaction was initiated by addition of 8.8 μ L of either human liver microsomes (BD Gentest, San Jose, CA) or mouse liver microsomes (Life technologies, Rockford, IL) at a protein concentration of 0.5 mg/mL. Aliquots of 50 μ L were taken at time intervals of 0 (without microsomes), 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 minutes. Each aliquot was added to 100 μ L of cold acetonitrile solution containing 1 μ M of verapamil HCl as internal standard. This was followed by sonication for 10 seconds and centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 5 minutes. 100 μ L of the supernatant was transferred into Spin-X HPLC filter tubes (Corning Incorporated, NY) and centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5 minutes. The filtrate was diluted 100 fold and subsequently analyzed by LC-MS/MS with Shimadzu LCMS 8040, (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Columbia, MD). The ratio of the peak areas of the internal standard and test compound was calculated for every time point and the natural log of the ratio were plotted against time to

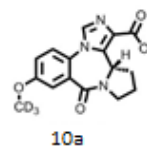
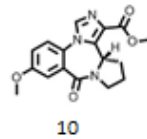
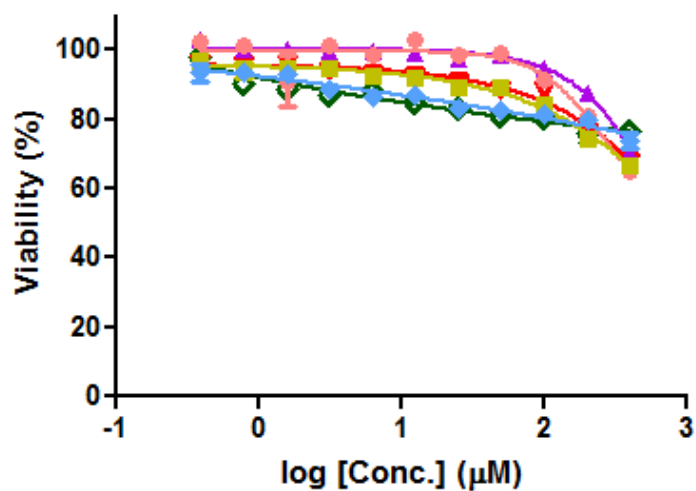
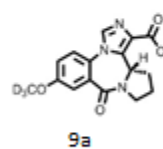
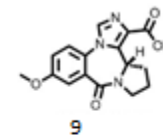
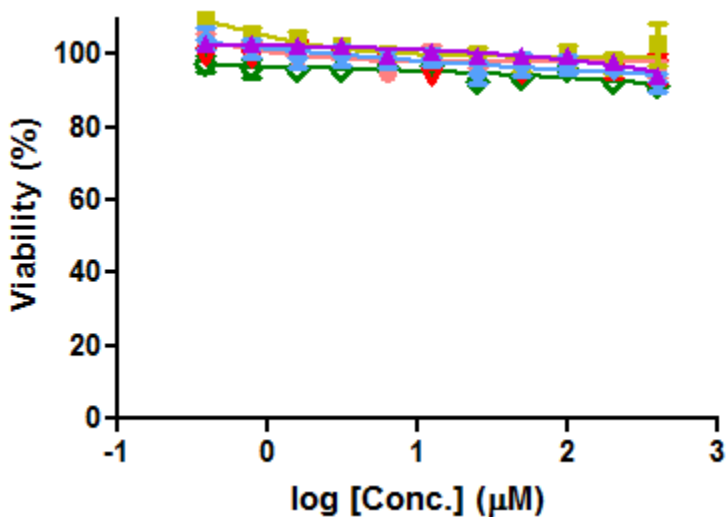
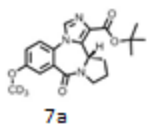
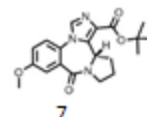
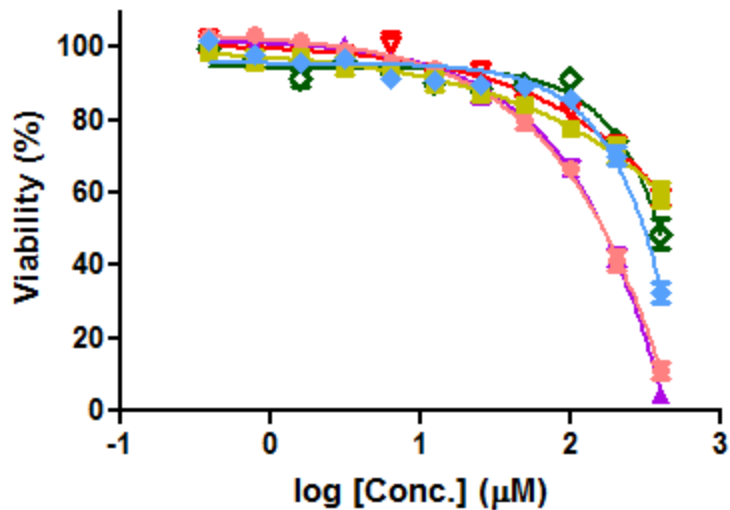
determine the linear slope (k). The metabolic rate ($k \cdot C_0/C$), half-life ($0.693/k$), and internal clearance ($V \cdot k$) were calculated, where k is the slope, C_0 is the initial concentration of test compound, C is the concentration of microsomes, and V is the volume of incubation in μL per microsomal protein in mg. All experiments were repeated three times in duplicates.

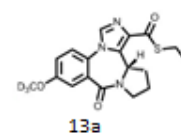
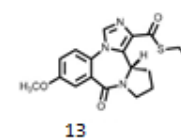
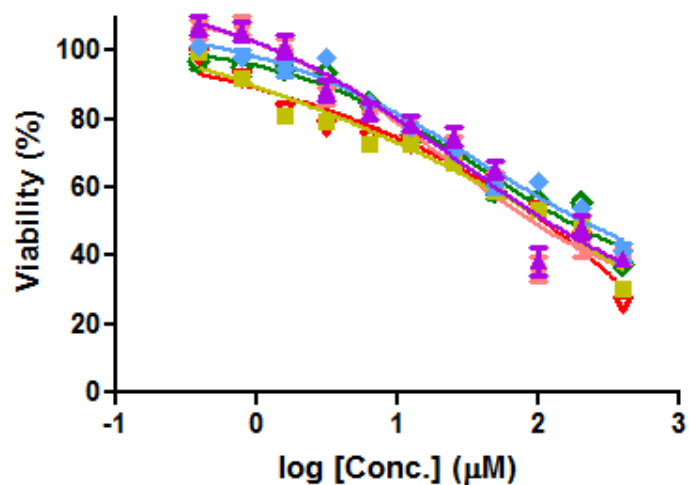
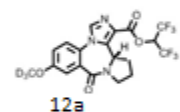
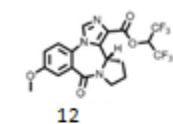
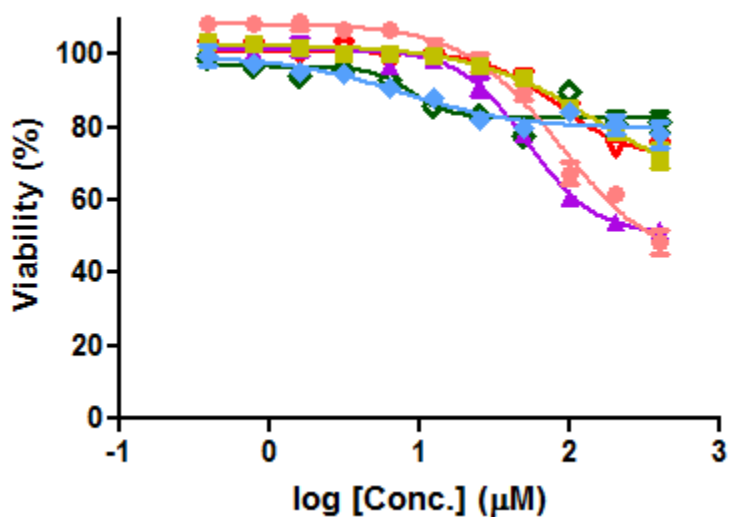
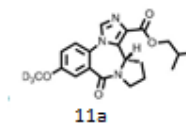
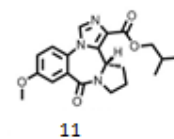
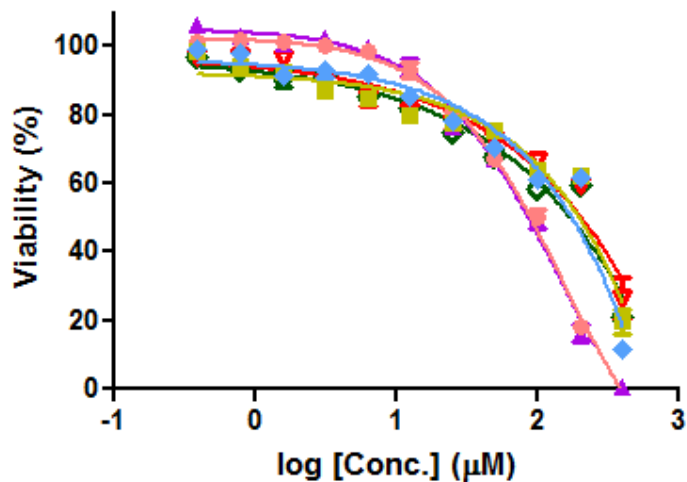
Entry	Compound	Microsomal stability (human) Half-life (min)	Microsomal stability (human) % left after 1 hour	Microsomal stability (mouse) Half-life (min)	Microsomal stability (mouse) % left after 1 hour
1	5	-	99.1 ± 0.1	318.3 ± 66	85.4 ± 0.3
2	5a	841 ± 133	92.8 ± 0.3	351 ± 96	85.5 ± 0.3
3	7	713 ± 171	92.1 ± 1.0	24.1 ± 0.8	16.2 ± 0.2
4	7a	1014 ± 241	91.9 ± 0.4	25.7 ± 1.1	17.6 ± 0.2
5	6	659 ± 178	91.74 ± 0.2	540 ± 83	91.05 ± 0.14
6	8	579 ± 105	90.55 ± 0.15	57.6 ± 2.8	46.6 ± 0.3
7	9	80.1 ± 10.1	56.1 ± 0.5	73.4 ± 6.5	52.9 ± 0.5
8	9a	336 ± 70	84.6 ± 0.3	282.6 ± 28.5	84.6 ± 0.16
9	10	666 ± 200	89.74 ± 0.22	128.85 ± 8	70.32 ± 0.2
10	10a	979 ± 406	92.9 ± 0.2	285 ± 34	85.88 ± 0.2
11	11	169 ± 13	77.8 ± 0.2	19.5 ± 1.0	13.38 ± 0.9
12	11a	201 ± 18	78.7 ± 0.2	26.9 ± 1.0	22.36 ± 0.25
13	12	Insoluble	For	Rotarod	Studies
14	12a	204 ± 25	77.05 ± 0.25	109.09 ± 9.83	62.48 ± 0.30
15	13	Insoluble	For	Rotarod	Studies
16	13a	Insoluble	For	Rotarod	studies
17	14	Insoluble	For	Rotarod	Studies
18	14a	Insoluble	For	Rotarod	Studies
19	15	976 ± 466	93.8 ± 0.3	64.7 ± 2.3	54.3 ± 0.2
20	15a	1433 ± 845	94.9 ± 0.2	77.4 ± 5.7	56.8 ± 0.3
21	16	705 ± 281	90.7 ± 0.3	63.3 ± 3.4	50.1 ± 0.2
22	16a	799.3 ± 217	93.5 ± 0.2	1482 ± 910	94.8 ± 0.2
23	17	732.6 ± 281	92.4 ± 0.2	283 ± 59	82.5 ± 0.3
24	17a	1280 ± 987	96.3 ± 0.3	273 ± 34	83.1 ± 0.2
25	18	194 ± 19	79.9 ± 0.2	624 ± 184	91.3 ± 0.2
26	18a	429 ± 73	88.1 ± 0.2	1290 ± 834	94.1 ± 0.2
27	19	788 ± 114	92.8 ± 0.5	13.3 ± 0.5	4.2 ± 0.2
28	19a	1799 ± 1077	95.6 ± 0.2	17.7 ± 1.2	9.4 ± 0.4

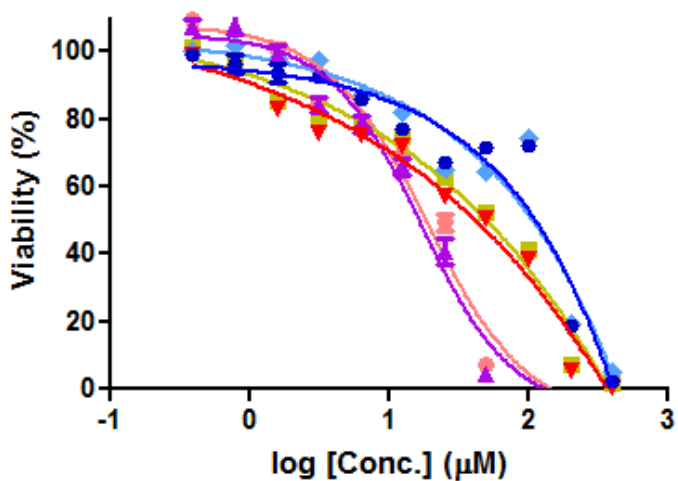
Cytotoxicity assay. Human liver hepatocellular carcinoma (HEPG2), human embryonic kidney 293T (HEK293T) and human bronchial epithelial (BEAS 2B) cell lines were purchased (ATCC) and cultured in 75 cm² flasks (CellStar). Cells were grown in DMEM/High Glucose (Hyclone, #SH3024301) media to which non-essential amino acids (Hyclone, #SH30238.01), 10 mM HEPES (Hyclone, #SH302237.01), 5 x 10⁶ units of penicillin and streptomycin (Hyclone, #SV30010), and 10% of heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (Gibco, #10082147) were added. Cells were harvested using 0.05% Trypsin (Hyclone, #SH3023601), washed with PBS, and dispensed into sterile white, optical bottom 384-well plates (NUNC, #142762). After three hours, small molecule solutions

were transferred with a Tecan Freedom EVO liquid handling system equipped with a 100 nL pin tool (V&P Scientific). The controls were 3-dibutylamino-1-(4-hexyl-phenyl)-propan-1-one (25 mM in DMSO, positive control) and DMSO (negative control). The cells were incubated for 48 hours followed by the addition of CellTiter-Glo™, a luminescence-based cell viability assay (Promega, Madison, WI). All luminescence readings were performed on a Tecan Infinite M1000 plate reader. The assay was carried out in quadruplet with three independent runs. The data was normalized to the controls and analyzed by nonlinear regression (GraphPad Prism).

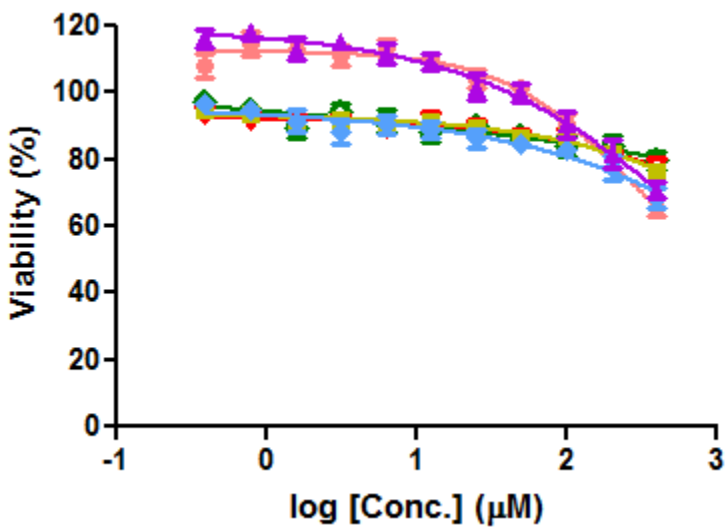
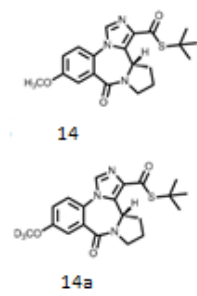




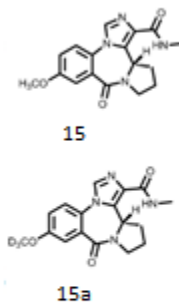


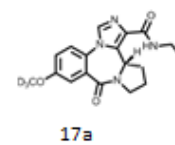
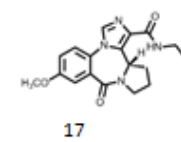
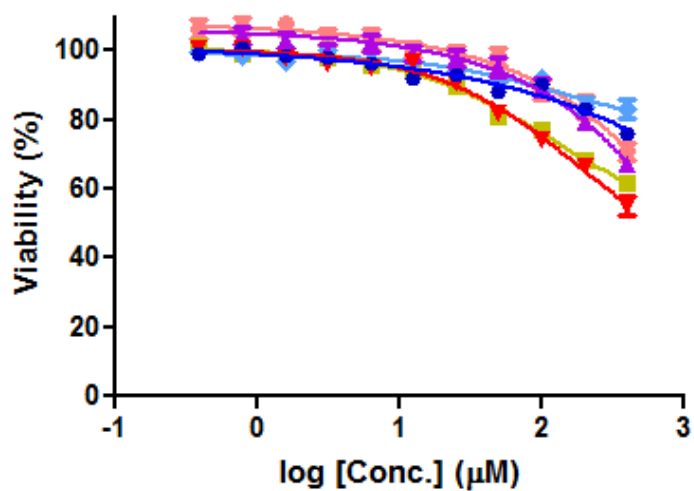
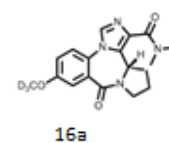
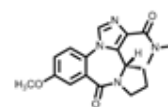
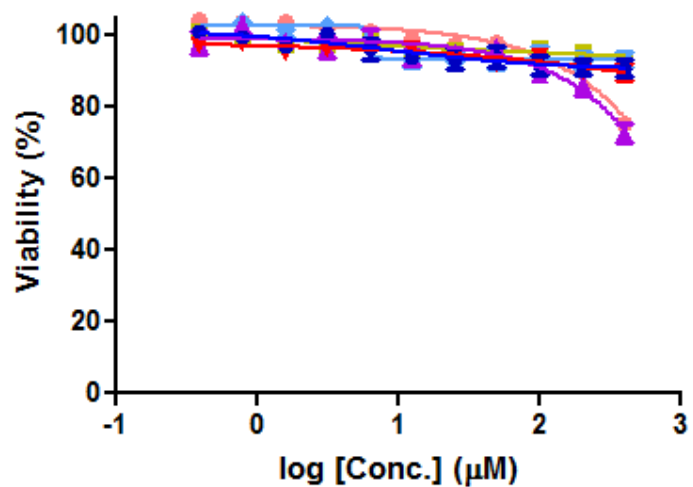


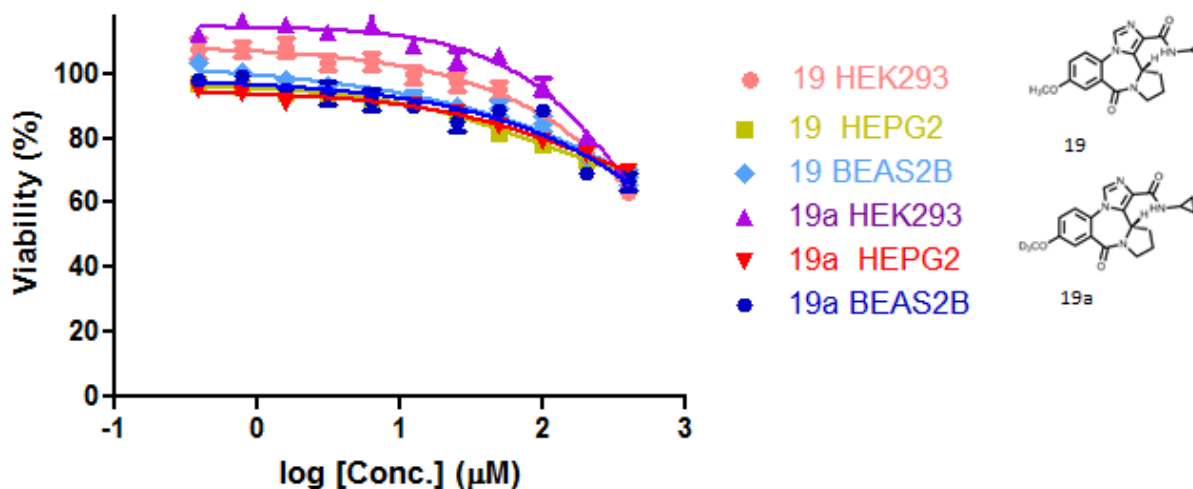
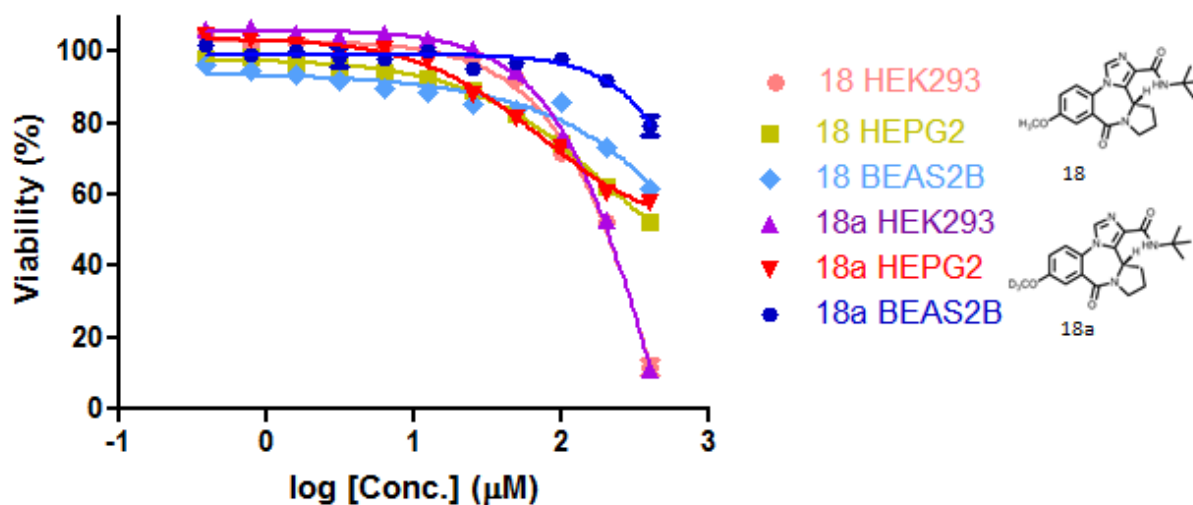
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Pharmacokinetic study: Blood samples were thawed on ice, vortexed for 10 seconds, and a 100 µL aliquot was taken and added to 400 µL cold acetonitrile containing [20 nM] internal standard 1 (Hz166). Samples were vortexed for 30 seconds and centrifuged at 13,000 RPM for 3 minutes. The supernatant layer was then transferred to clean tubes and evaporated overnight. The residue was reconstituted with 300 µL of mobile phase and spin-filtered through 0.22 µm nylon centrifugal filter units (Costar). After reconstitution, verapamil (internal standard 2) was added and 5 µL of the sample was injected to the LC-MS/MS.

Brain and lung tissue samples were stored in liquid nitrogen prior to homogenization and extraction. Whole organs were thawed over ice, weighed, and homogenized directly into 500 µL ACN containing internal standard 1 (HZ166) using a Benchmark Scientific BeadBug Homogenizer with three 3.2mm stainless steel beads. Samples were homogenized for 30 seconds, centrifuged for 3 minutes at 13,000 RPM. This process was repeated for a total of three extractions.

The supernatants were combined and prepared in the same manner as the blood samples for LC-MS/MS analysis.

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed with Shimadzu Nexera X2 LC30AD series pumps (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) that include a 20A5R degassing unit, SIL 30AC autosampler and a 20A column oven. Analytes were separated by a Restek Ultra Biphenyl II column (2.1 mm × 50 mm, 5 μm particle size, Restek, California, US) under gradient elution at a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min. The mobile phase was acetonitrile and water (both containing 0.1% formic acid). Time program: 10% B → 99% B (3 min), hold at 99% B (3.75 min), return to 10% B (4 min), hold (4.5 min). Column Temperature: 50°C.

Analytes were monitored under positive mode by Shimadzu 8040 triple quadrupole mass analyzer (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) electrospray (ESI) and atmospheric pressure ionization (APCI) run in dual (DUIS) mode. The following transitions are monitored in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode. Ion transition pairs for **17** are 340.85 > 296.00, 340.85 > 277.95, 340.85 > 268.10 and 340.85 > 227.15. Transition pairs for HZ-166 are m/z 356.90 > m/z 311.15, m/z 356.90 > m/z 283.15, and m/z 356.90 > m/z 282.15. Transition pairs for verapamil (internal standard) are 454.70 > 165.15, 454.70 > 150.20, and 454.70 > 303.30. Collision energy is optimized for each transition to obtain optimal sensitivity. The mass spectrometer was operated with the heat block temperature of 400°C, drying gas flow of 15 L/min, desolvation line temperature of 250°C, nebulizing gas flow of 1.5 L/min, and both needle and interface voltages of 4.5 kV. The response acquisition was performed using LabSolutions software.

Sample preparation of calibration standards and quality control for LC-MS/MS: HZ-166 was chosen as an internal standard (I.S.) because it has similar chemical structure as that of **17** and was therefore used to account for sample dilution, evaporation, and matrix effects. Verapamil was also used as a second standard to monitor instrumental variations. Stock solutions of all were prepared at concentration of 2 mg/mL separately in ACN and stored in a -20 °C freezer, with the exception of the acid which was prepared in 80:20 ACN:water. Intermediate working solutions of each were prepared by serial dilution with mobile phase (80:20, ACN:water with 0.1% formic acid). Calibration curve cocktails were prepared at concentrations of 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, and 150 nM.

The intra-run/within-run validation was performed on concentrations of 10, 25 and 75 nM with three replicates for each concentration. For separate validations, separate standard curves were freshly prepared. The standard curves were fitted by a linear regression and the validation samples were calculated back by the calibration curve of that day. The mean and the coefficient of variance (CV) were calculated accordingly. Accuracy was calculated by comparing calculated concentrations to corresponding nominal.

Pharmacokinetic parameters were calculated with PK solutions software 2.0 and fitted to the following equation: $c = A \cdot e^{-at} + B \cdot e^{-bt}$. Due to the rapid absorption two phases could be identified as distribution/absorption phase and elimination phase.

Compound characterization

(*S*)-*tert*-Butyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**7a**): The *tert*-butyl ester **7a** was prepared from ethyl ester **5a** by following the same procedure employed for preparation of *tert*-Butyl ester **7** in 67% yield: M.p = 114-115 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.65 (s, 9H), 2.15-2.34 (m, 3H), 3.50-3.63 (m, 2H), 3.77-3.84 (m, 1H), 4.75 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.8 Hz), 7.27-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.79 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 28.2, 28.4, 46.7, 53.5, 81.8, 114.4, 119.8, 124.6, 126.3, 129.3, 130.6, 135.7, 136.5, 159.3, 162.6, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁²H₃N₃O₄ 373.1950; Found 373.1951.

The ¹³C-D signal was not observed due to *due to long relaxation time, reduced NOE effect and spin-spin coupling for most deuterium analogs.*

(*S*)-*tert*-Butyl-7-hydroxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**8**): The *tert*-butyl ester **8** was prepared from phenolic ethyl ester **6** following the same procedure employed for preparation of *tert*-Butyl ester **7** in 65% yield: M.p = 174-175 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.63 (s, 9H), 2.09-2.34 (m, 3H), 3.50-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.77-3.85 (m, 1H), 4.79 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.10 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2.2 Hz), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.77 (bs, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 9.75 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 28.2, 28.3, 46.9, 53.7, 82.0, 117.4, 120.7, 124.9, 125.1, 129.1, 129.6, 135.8, 136.2, 157.7, 162.3, 164.6; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O₄ 356.1605; Found 356.1615.

(*S*)-11,12,13,13a-Tetrahydro-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-9H-imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepine-1-carboxylic acid (**9a**): The acid **9a** was prepared from ester **5a** following the procedure employed for preparation of acid **9** in 82% yield: M.p = 210-212 °C; [α]_D²⁵ = +8.00 (c 0.25%, in CH₃OH); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.17-2.34 (m, 3H), 3.48-3.83 (m, 3H), 4.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.3 Hz), 7.31-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.82 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 28.5, 46.7, 53.2, 114.7, 119.8, 124.5, 125.7, 126.7, 130.8, 134.8, 137.5, 159.7, 161.5, 163.6; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃²H₃N₃O₄ 317.1324; Found 317.1328. This material was employed directly in the next step.

(*S*)-Methyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**10a**): The methyl ester **10a** was prepared from acid **5a** following the procedure employed for preparation of methyl ester **10** in 97% yield: M.p = 182-183 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.17-2.37 (m, 3H), 3.50-3.63 (m, 2H), 3.75-3.83 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.76 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.34 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.82 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 28.4, 46.6, 52.2, 53.5, 114.5, 119.8, 124.6, 126.0, 127.3, 130.6, 135.9, 137.9, 159.4, 163.2, 163.7. HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅²H₃N₃O₄ 331.1480; Found 331.1486.

(*S*)-Isobutyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**11a**): The isobutyl ester **11a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with dry isobutanol as the nucleophile. The crude residue was

purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (7:3)] to yield pure isobutyl ester **11a** as a solid in 61% yield: M.p = 125-127 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.03 (d, 6H, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.12-2.31 (m, 4H), 3.51-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.82 (m, 1H), 4.14 (d, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz), 4.76 (d, 1H, J = 6.9 Hz), 7.16 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.32 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.59 (d, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 7.81 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.1, 24.2, 27.6, 28.2, 46.4, 53.3, 71.0, 114.3, 119.5, 124.5, 125.9, 127.5, 130.4, 135.7, 137.4, 159.2, 162.8, 163.5. HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁²H₃N₃O₄ 373.1950; Found 373.1955.

(S)-1,1,1,3,3,3-Hexafluoropropan-2-yl-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-c]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**12**): The hexafluoro isopropyl ester **12** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with dry 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-ol as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (1:1)] to yield pure ester **12** as a solid in 95% yield: M.p = 204-205 °C; [α]_D²⁵ = +16.67 (c 0.3%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.16-2.29 (m, 3H), 3.38-3.40 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.62 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 4.77 (d, 1H, J = 7.3 Hz), 5.98-6.08 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.8 Hz), 7.33 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.61 (d, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.87 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.3, 28.3, 46.6, 53.4, 55.9, 66.7 (sep, J = 34.5 Hz), 114.7, 119.9, 120.6 (q, J = 279 Hz), 124.3, 124.6, 125.6, 130.6, 136.8, 140.6, 159.4, 159.7, 163.6; HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅F₆N₃O₄Na 486.0864; Found 486.0875.

(S)-1,1,1,3,3,3-Hexafluoropropan-2-yl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-c]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxylate (**12a**): The hexafluoro isopropyl ester **12a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with dry 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-ol as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (7:3)] to yield pure ester **12a** as a solid in 97% yield: M.p = 204-206 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.15-2.34 (m, 3H), 3.38-3.42 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.86 (m, 1H), 4.79 (d, 1H, J = 7.3 Hz), 5.98-6.10 (sep, 1H, J = 6.1 Hz), 7.19 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.34 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.62 (d, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 7.89 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.3, 28.3, 46.6, 53.4, 66.7 (sep, J = 34.5 Hz), 114.6, 119.9, 120.6 (q, J = 279 Hz), 124.3, 124.6, 125.6, 130.6, 136.8, 140.6, 159.5, 159.7, 163.6; HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₁₃²H₃F₆N₃O₄ 467.1228; Found 467.1230.

(S)-S-Ethyl-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-c]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepine-1-carbothioate (**13**): The thio ethyl ester **13** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with dry ethanethiol as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure thio ester **13** as a solid in 70% yield: M.p = 228-230 °C; [α]_D²⁵ = -14.29 (c 0.28%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.35 (t, 3H, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.14-2.25 (m, 3H), 3.00 (q, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz), 3.42-3.60 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.71 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.8 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.59 (d, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.79 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.6, 23.1, 24.4, 28.6, 46.5, 53.3, 55.9, 114.5, 119.8, 124.5, 125.9, 130.6, 132.5, 134.6, 135.5, 159.5, 163.6, 188.1. HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉N₃O₃SNa 380.1045; Found 380.1047.

(*S*)-*S*-Ethyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carbothioate (**13a**): The thio ethyl ester **13a** was prepared from **9a** following the general procedure with dry ethanethiol as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure thio ester **13a** as a solid in 80% yield: M.p = 229-231 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.36 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 2.18-2.26 (m, 3H), 3.02 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 3.44-3.61 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.83 (m, 1H), 4.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 7.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.81 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.6, 23.1, 24.4, 28.6, 46.5, 53.4, 114.6, 119.8, 124.5, 125.9, 130.7, 133.6, 134.6, 135.5, 159.5, 163.6, 188.1. HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₁₇²H₃N₃O₃S 361.1408; Found 361.1405.

(*S*)-*S*-*tert*-Butyl-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carbothioate (**14**): The thio *tert*-butyl ester **14** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with dry *tert*-butyl mercaptan as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure thio ester **14** as a solid in 82% yield: M.p = 130-132 °C; [α]_D²⁷ = -23.54 (c 0.17% in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.57 (s, 9H), 2.18-2.20 (m, 3H), 3.41-3.59 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 4.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 3.0 Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 7.74 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.3, 28.5, 29.7, 46.4, 47.1, 53.3, 55.8, 114.4, 119.6, 124.5, 125.9, 130.5, 134.2, 135.1, 159.3, 163.5, 188.7; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₄N₃O₃S 386.1533; Found 386.1532.

(*S*)-*S*-*tert*-Butyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carbothioate (**14a**): The thio *tert*-butyl ester **14a** was prepared from **9a** following the general procedure with dry *tert*-butyl mercaptan as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [silica gel, EtOAc/hexane (1:1)] to yield pure thio ester **14a** as a solid in 89% yield: M.p = 129-131 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.52 (s, 9H), 2.11-2.20 (m, 3H), 3.31-3.53 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.75 (m, 1H), 4.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 7.08-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 7.72 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 28.6, 29.8, 46.5, 47.1, 53.4, 114.5, 119.7, 124.6, 126.0, 130.6, 134.3, 134.4, 135.2, 159.4, 163.6, 188.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁²H₃N₃O₃S 389.1721; Found 389.1725.

(*S*)-7-Methoxy-*N*-methyl-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**15**): The *N*-methyl amide **15** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with a solution of methylamine (33 wt % in absolute ethanol, 3 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, 1% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂] to yield pure amide **15** as a solid in 75% yield: M.p = 180-182 °C; [α]_D²⁵ = +3.70 (c 0.5%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.12-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 3.50-3.62 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.89 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.16 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2.3 Hz), 7.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.72 (brs, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.5, 26.2, 28.7, 46.8, 53.5, 55.9, 114.7,

119.8, 124.7, 125.6, 128.5, 130.9, 134.2, 135.6, 159.8, 161.3, 163.5. HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈N₄O₃Na 349.1277; Found 349.1300.

(S)-7-(²H₃)-Methoxy-*N*-methyl-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9*H*-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**15a**): The *N*-methyl amide **15a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with a solution of methylamine (33 wt % in absolute ethanol, 3 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, 1% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂] to yield pure amide **15a** as a solid in 92 % yield: M.p = 180-182 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.12-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 3.50-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.91 (m, 2H), 4.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.48-7.54 (bm, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.70 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.5, 25.8, 28.6, 46.5, 53.4, 114.3, 119.4, 124.4, 126.2, 130.2, 130.6, 134.5, 134.9, 159.1, 162.8, 163.7. HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆²H₃N₄O₃ 330.1640; Found 330.1637.

(S)-7-Methoxy-*N,N*-dimethyl-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9*H*-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**16**): The *N,N*-dimethyl amide **16** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with a solution of *N,N*-dimethylamine (11% in ethanol, 5 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂] to yield pure dimethyl amide **16** as a solid in 70% yield: M.p = 186-188 °C; [α]_D²⁵ = +52.00 (c 0.25%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.01-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.89-2.94 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.82 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.73 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 3.0 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.34 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 7.57 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.97 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.9, 27.8, 35.3, 39.1, 47.2, 52.3, 55.8, 114.9, 119.7, 124.2, 126.1, 130.1, 131.0, 132.0, 134.8, 159.1, 164.2, 165.7. HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀N₄O₃Na 363.1433; Found 363.1410.

(S)-7-(²H₃)-Methoxy-*N,N*-dimethyl-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9*H*-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**16a**): The *N,N*-dimethyl amide **16a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with a solution of *N,N*-dimethylamine (11% in ethanol, 5 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂] to yield pure amide **16a** as a solid in 88% yield: M.p = 185-186 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.01-2.10 (m, 2H), 2.24-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.89-2.98 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.82 (m, 2H), 4.72 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.13 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.9, 27.9, 35.3, 39.1, 47.2, 52.3, 114.9, 119.7, 124.2, 126.3, 130.1, 131.4, 132.0, 134.9, 159.0, 164.3, 166.1. HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈²H₃N₄O₃ 344.1796; Found 344.1798.

(S)-*N*-Ethyl-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9*H*-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**17**): The *N*-ethyl amide **17** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with a solution of ethylamine (2.0 M in THF, 1 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane

(8:2)] to yield pure ethyl amide **17** as a solid in 75% yield: M.p = 175-177 °C; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27} = +8.33$ (c 0.12%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 2.13-2.41 (m, 3H), 3.40-3.59 (m, 3H), 3.74-3.87 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 4.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 3.0 Hz), 7.28 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.48-7.50 (bm, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 7.69 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.9, 24.6, 28.8, 34.0, 46.7, 53.6, 55.8, 114.4, 119.6, 124.5, 126.3, 130.3, 130.7, 134.5, 135.2, 159.3, 162.0, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₂₁N₄O₃ 341.1608; Found 341.1601.

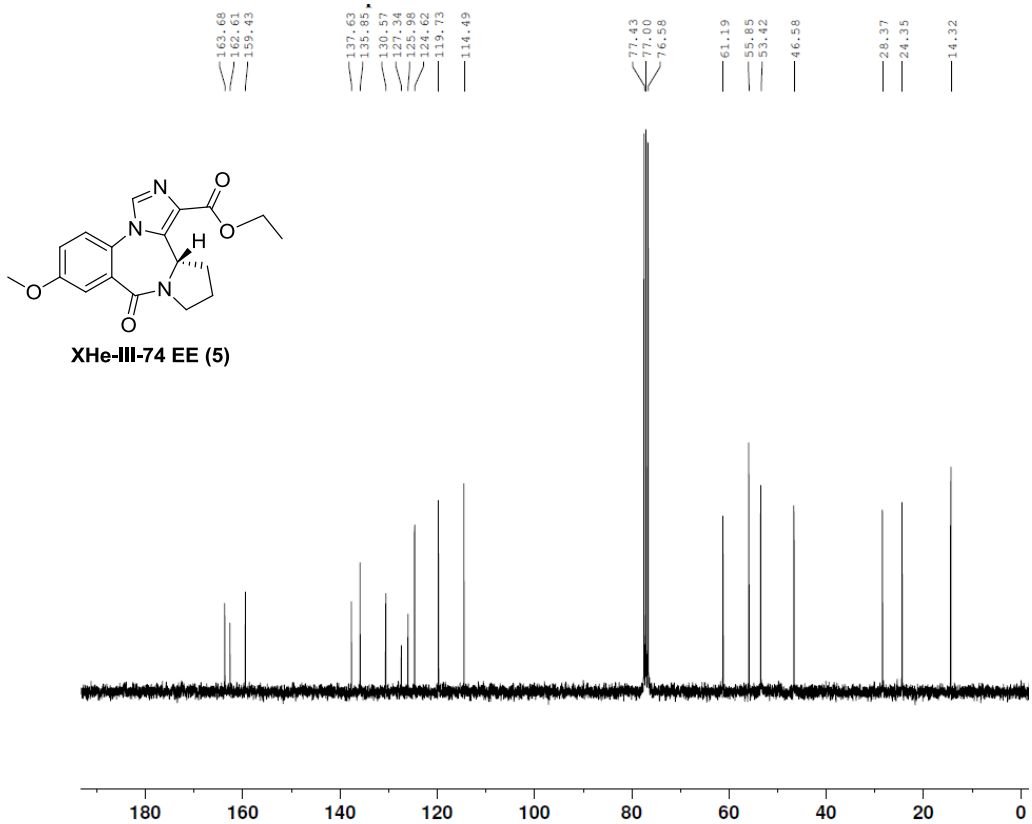
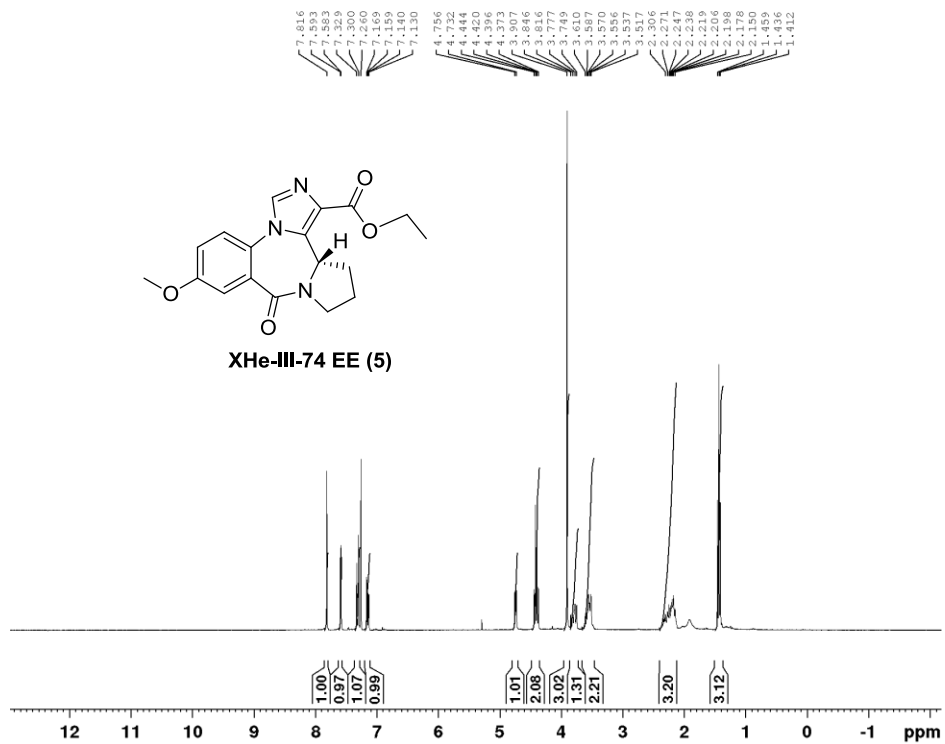
(*S*)-*N*-Ethyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**17a**): The *N*-ethyl amide **17a** was prepared from **9a** following the general procedure with a solution of ethylamine (2.0 M in THF, 1 mL) as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [Neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure amide **17a** as a solid in 96 % yield: M.p = 176-177 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 2.12-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.42 (m, 1H), 3.40-3.60 (m, 3H), 3.74-3.91 (m, 2H), 4.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.47-7.53 (bm, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.70 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.9, 24.6, 28.8, 34.0, 46.7, 53.6, 114.4, 119.6, 124.5, 126.4, 130.4, 130.7, 134.6, 135.2, 159.3, 162.1, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈²H₃N₄O₃ 344.1796; Found 344.1797.

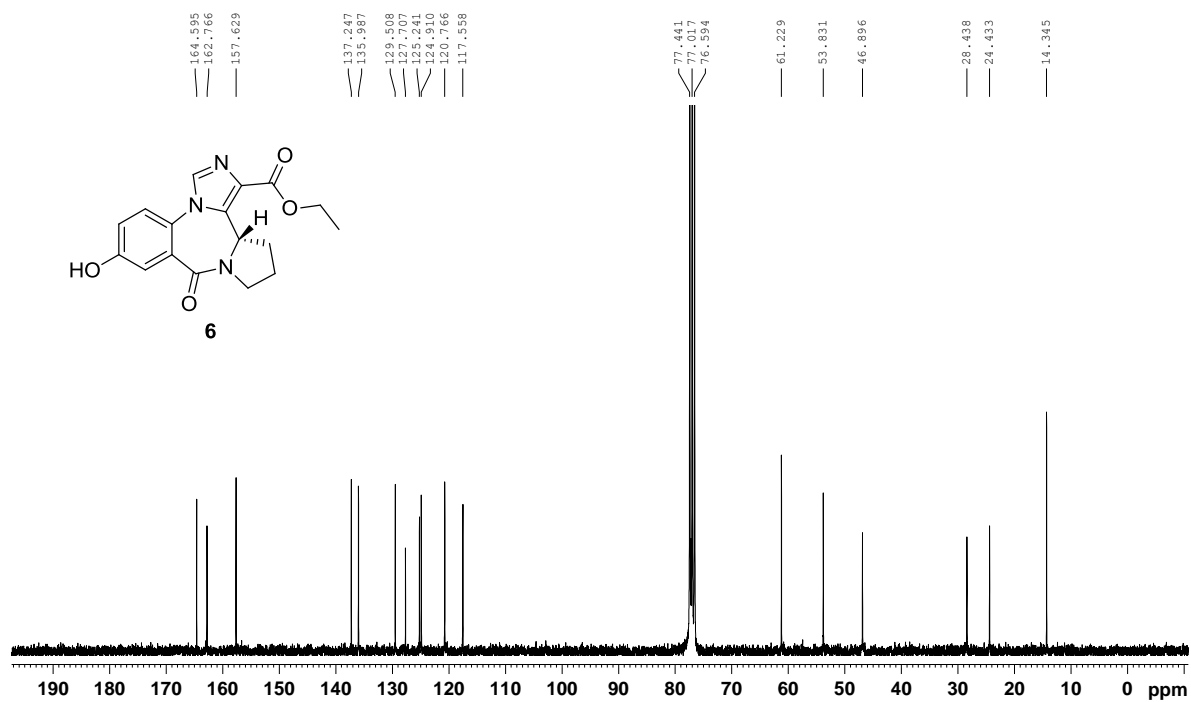
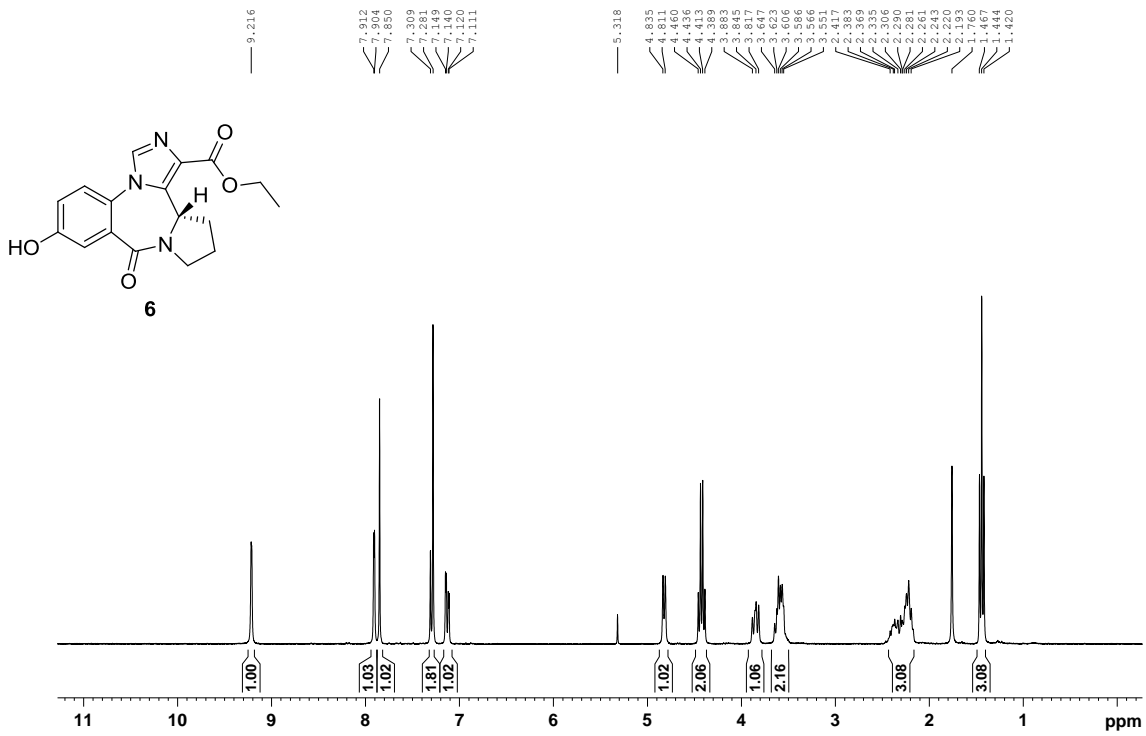
(*S*)-*N*-(*tert*-Butyl)-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**18**): The *N*-*tert*-butyl amide **18** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with *tert*-butyl amine as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure amide **18** as a solid in 80 % yield: M.p = 152-154 °C; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27} = +170.00$ (c 0.10%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.47 (s, 9H), 2.11-2.37 (m, 3H), 3.50-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.86 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 3.0 Hz), 7.26-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.45 (bs, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 7.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.5, 28.8, 46.7, 50.9, 53.6, 55.8, 114.4, 119.6, 124.6, 126.3, 130.7, 131.2, 134.3, 134.9, 159.2, 161.5, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₅N₄O₃ 369.1921; Found 369.1920.

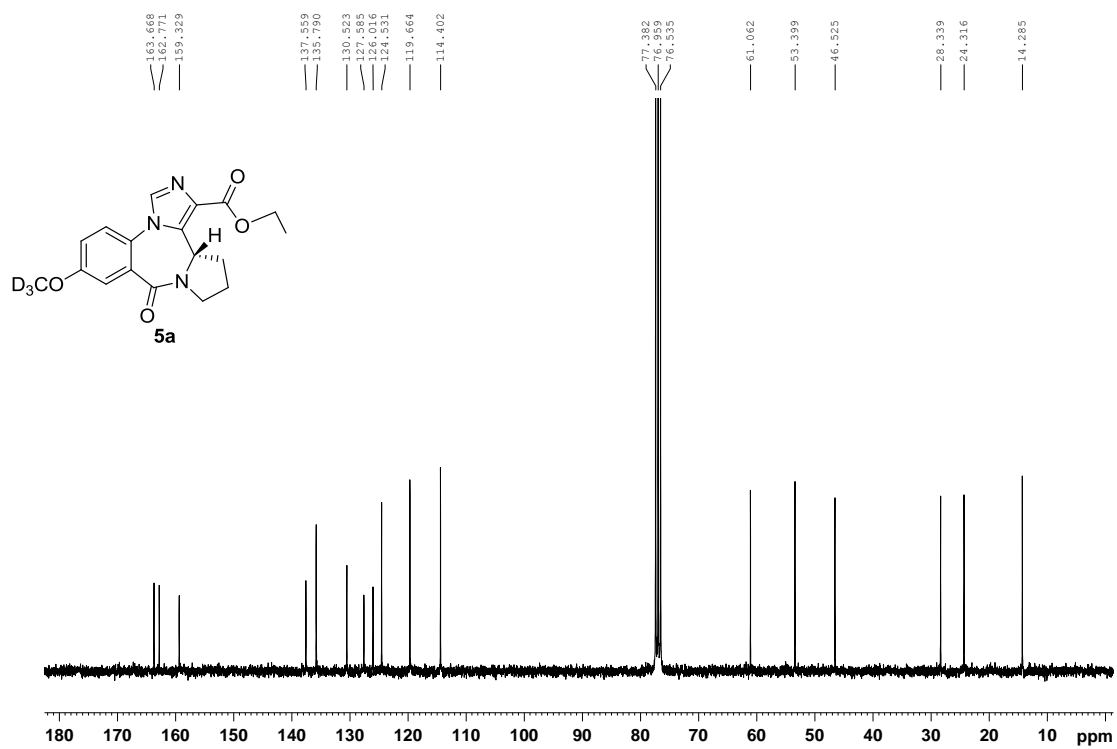
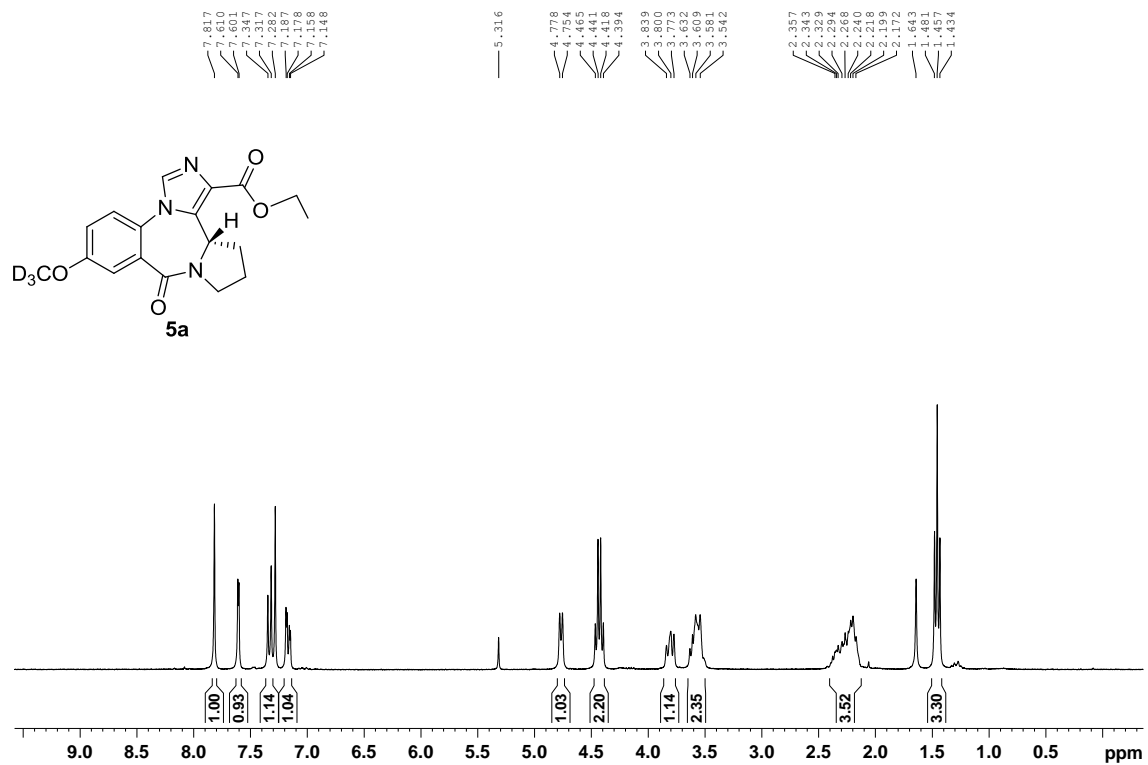
(*S*)-*N*-(*tert*-Butyl)-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[*e*]imidazo[5,1-*c*]pyrrolo[1,2-*a*][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**18a**): The *N*-*tert*-butyl amide **18a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with *tert*-butyl amine as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane (8:2)] to yield pure amide **18a** as a solid in 85% yield: M.p = 153-155 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.49 (s, 9H), 2.12-2.39 (m, 3H), 3.51-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.94 (m, 2H), 4.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.39 (bs, 1H), 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 7.68 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 28.9, 46.7, 50.9, 53.7, 114.4, 119.7, 124.5, 126.5, 130.7, 131.4, 134.3, 134.8, 159.3, 161.7, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁²H₃N₄O₃ 372.2108; Found 372.2109.

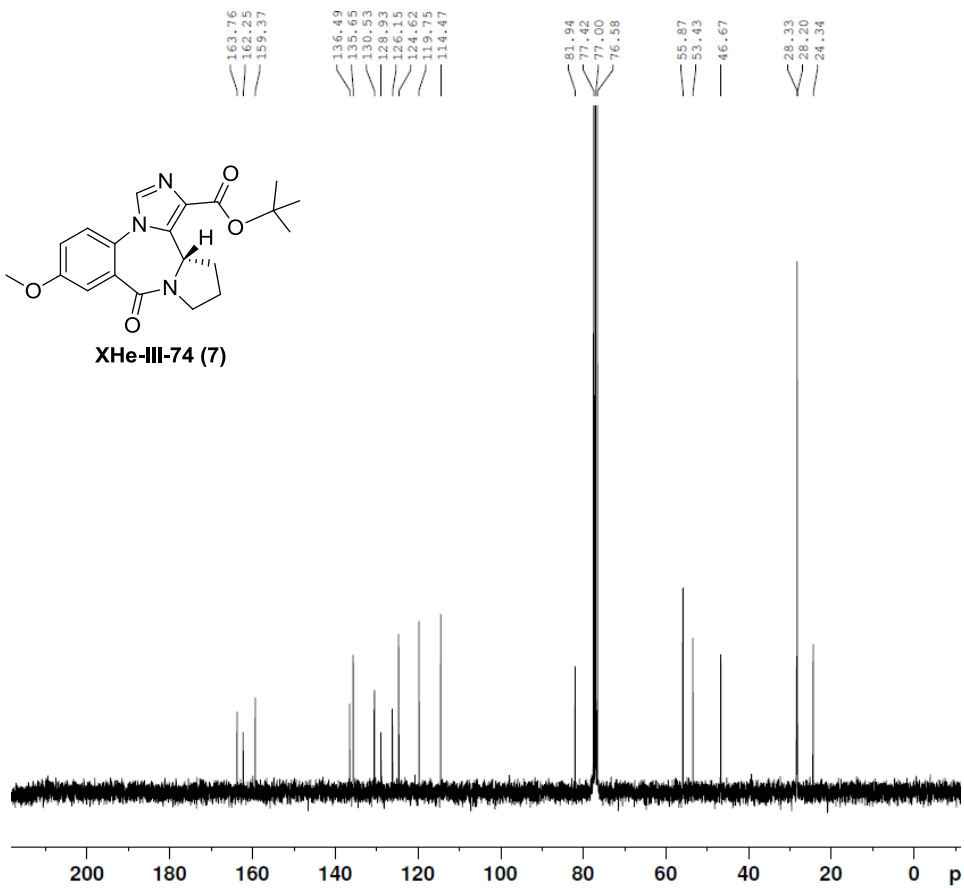
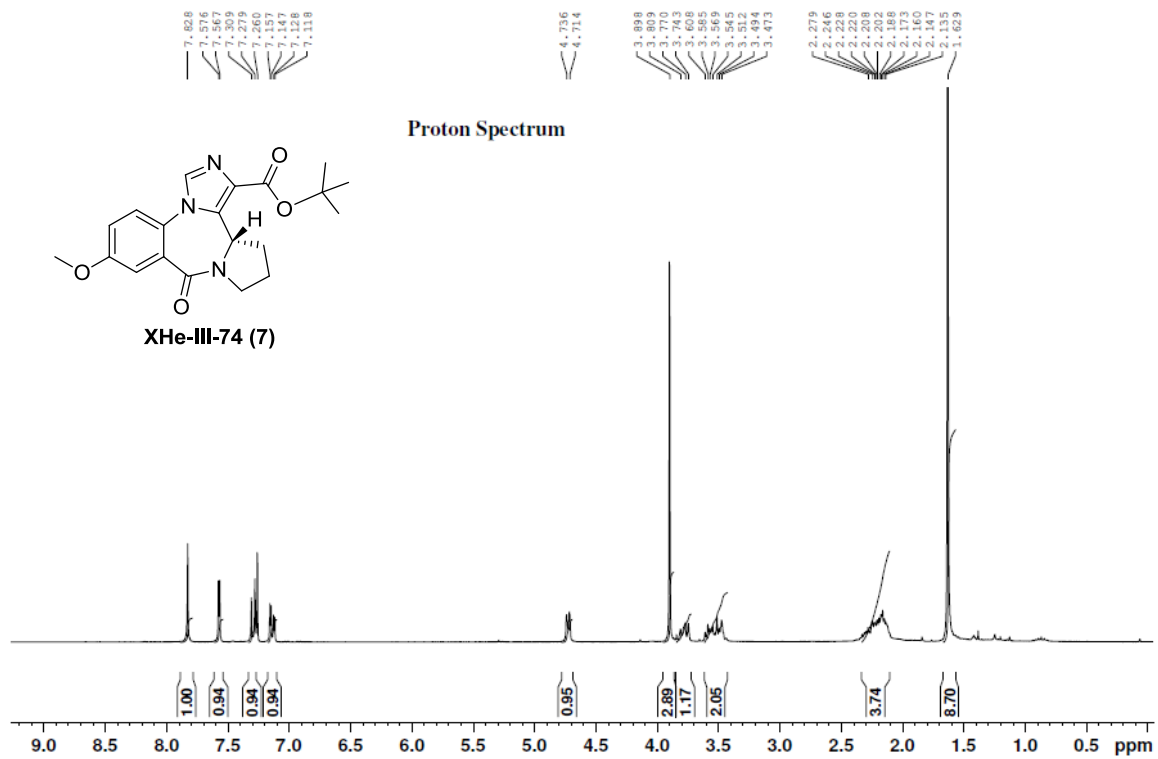
(S)-*N*-Cyclopropyl-7-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-c]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**19**): The *N*-cyclopropyl amide **19** was prepared from acid **9** following the general procedure with dry cyclopropylamine as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography [neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane (1:1)] to yield pure amide **19** as a solid in 82% yield: M.p = 189-190 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -6.67$ (c 0.3%, in CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.54-0.59 (m, 2H), 0.76-0.82 (m, 2H), 2.06-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.81 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.81 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.65 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.07 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.8 Hz), 7.19-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.50 (bs, 1H), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 7.61 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.5, 6.6, 22.3, 24.6, 28.8, 46.6, 53.6, 55.8, 114.4, 119.6, 124.4, 126.3, 130.0, 130.7, 134.5, 135.3, 159.3, 163.7, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+Na)⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀N₄O₃Na 375.1433; Found 375.1440.

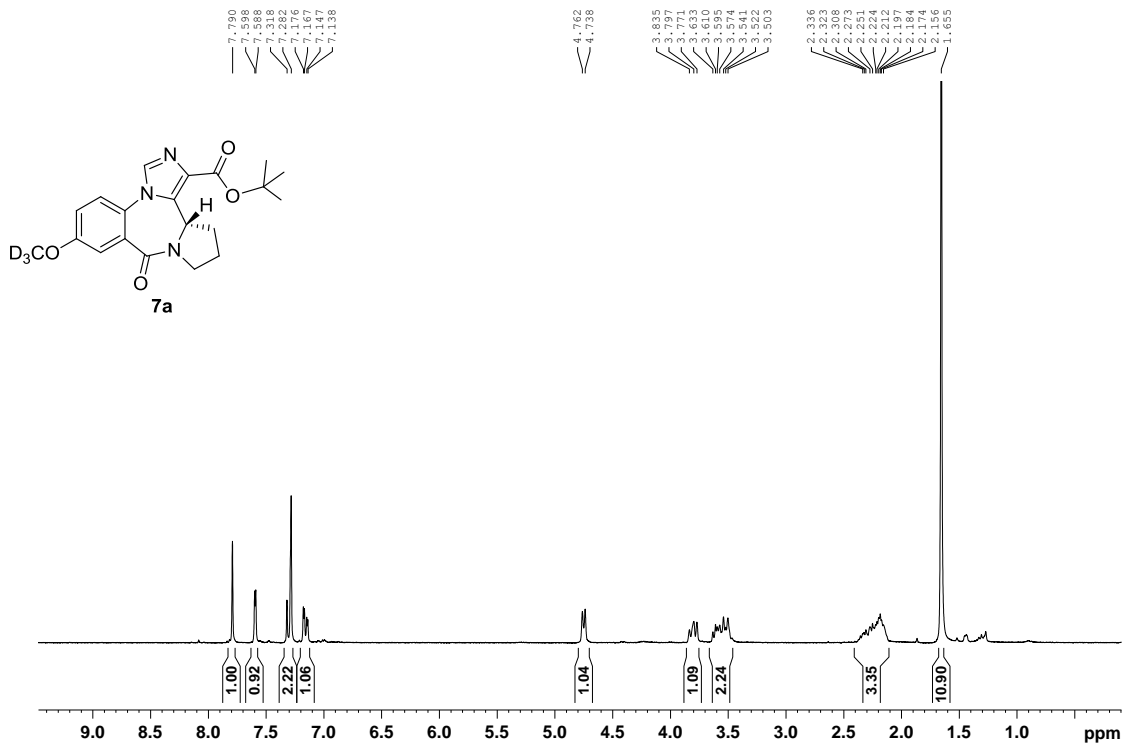
(S)-*N*-Cyclopropyl-7-(²H₃)-methoxy-9-oxo-11,12,13,13a-tetrahydro-9H-benzo[e]imidazo[5,1-c]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,4]diazepine-1-carboxamide (**19a**): The *N*-cyclopropyl amide **19a** was prepared from acid **9a** following the general procedure with dry cyclopropylamine as the nucleophile. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography [neutral alumina, EtOAc/hexane (1:1)] to yield pure amide **19a** as a solid in 86% yield: M.p = 189-190 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.62-0.67 (m, 2H), 0.84-0.90 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.33-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.83-2.89 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.93 (m, 2H), 4.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.5, 6.6, 22.3, 24.7, 28.8, 46.7, 53.6, 114.4, 119.7, 124.5, 126.3, 130.1, 130.8, 134.6, 135.3, 159.3, 163.7, 163.8; HRMS (ESI) (M+H)⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈²H₃N₄O₃ 356.1796; Found 356.1796.



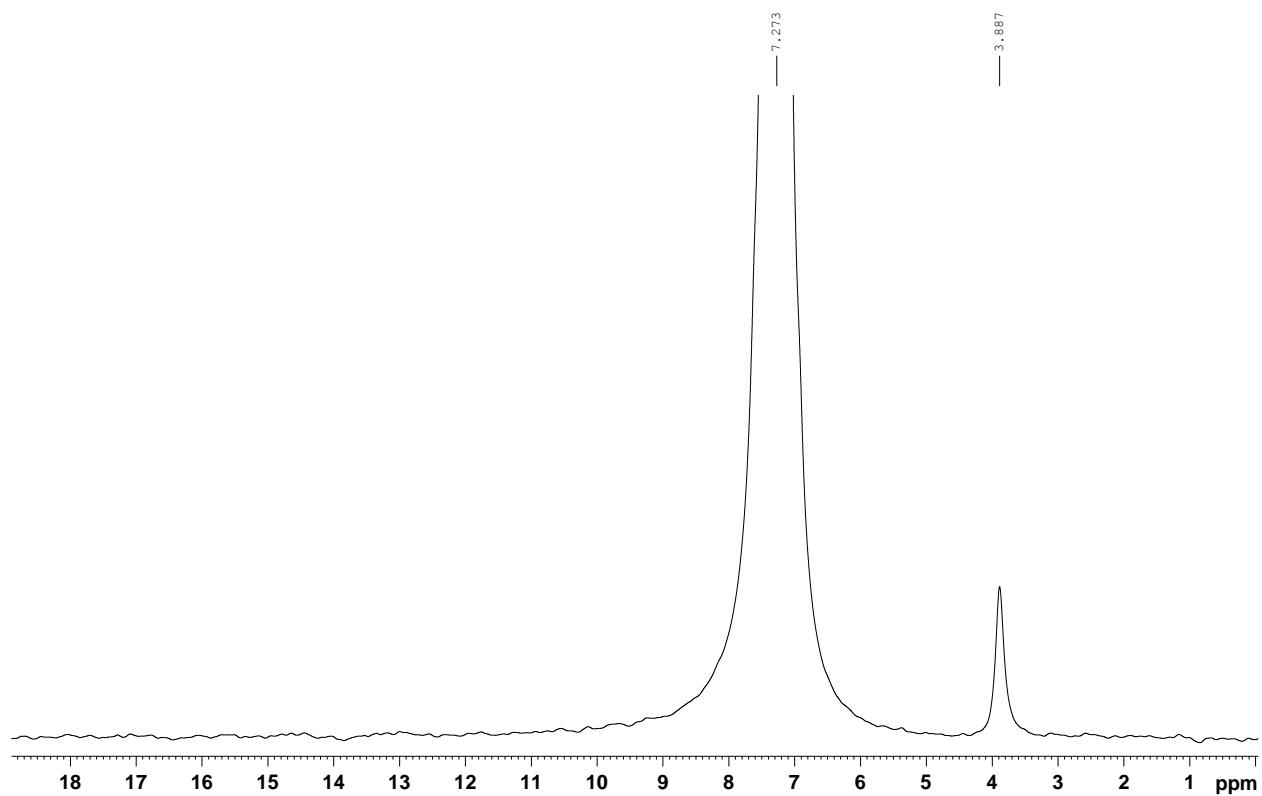
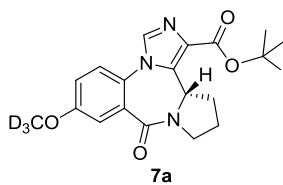


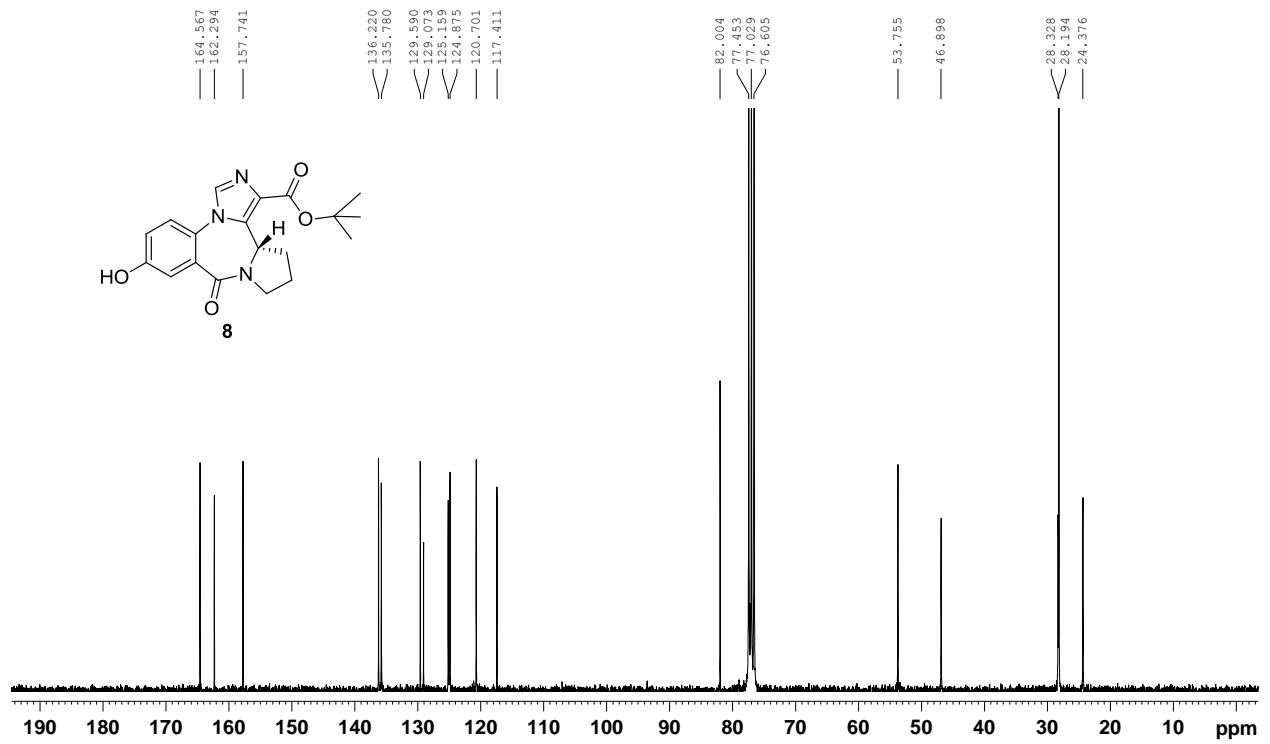
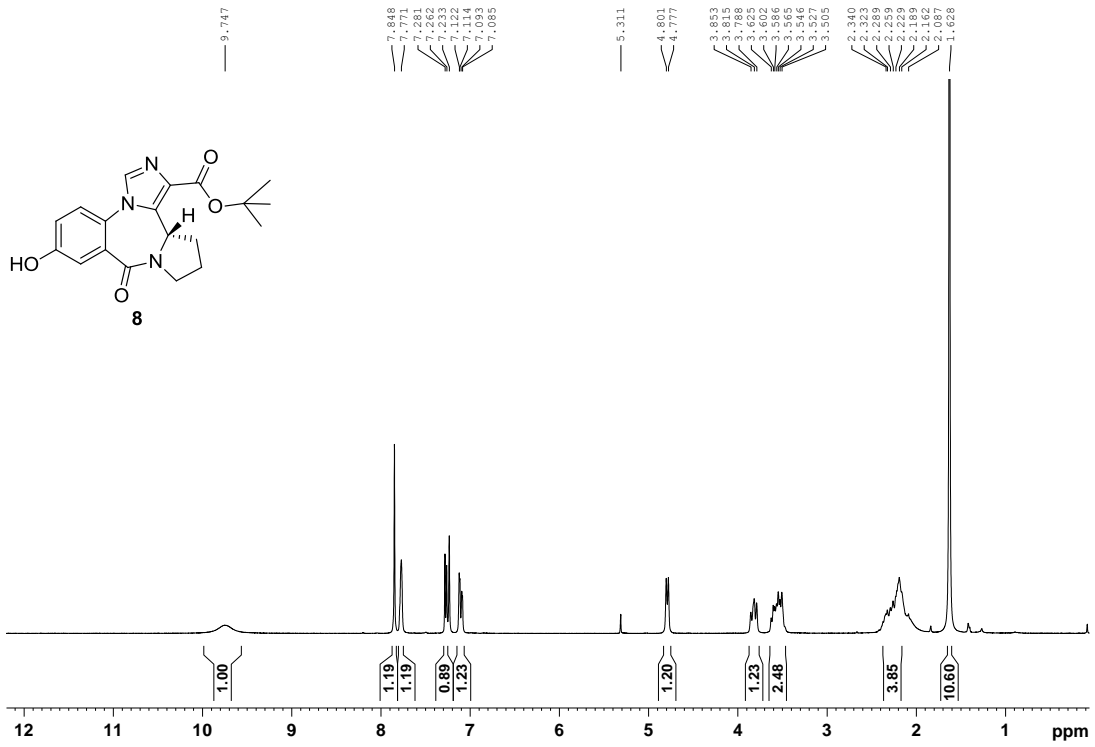


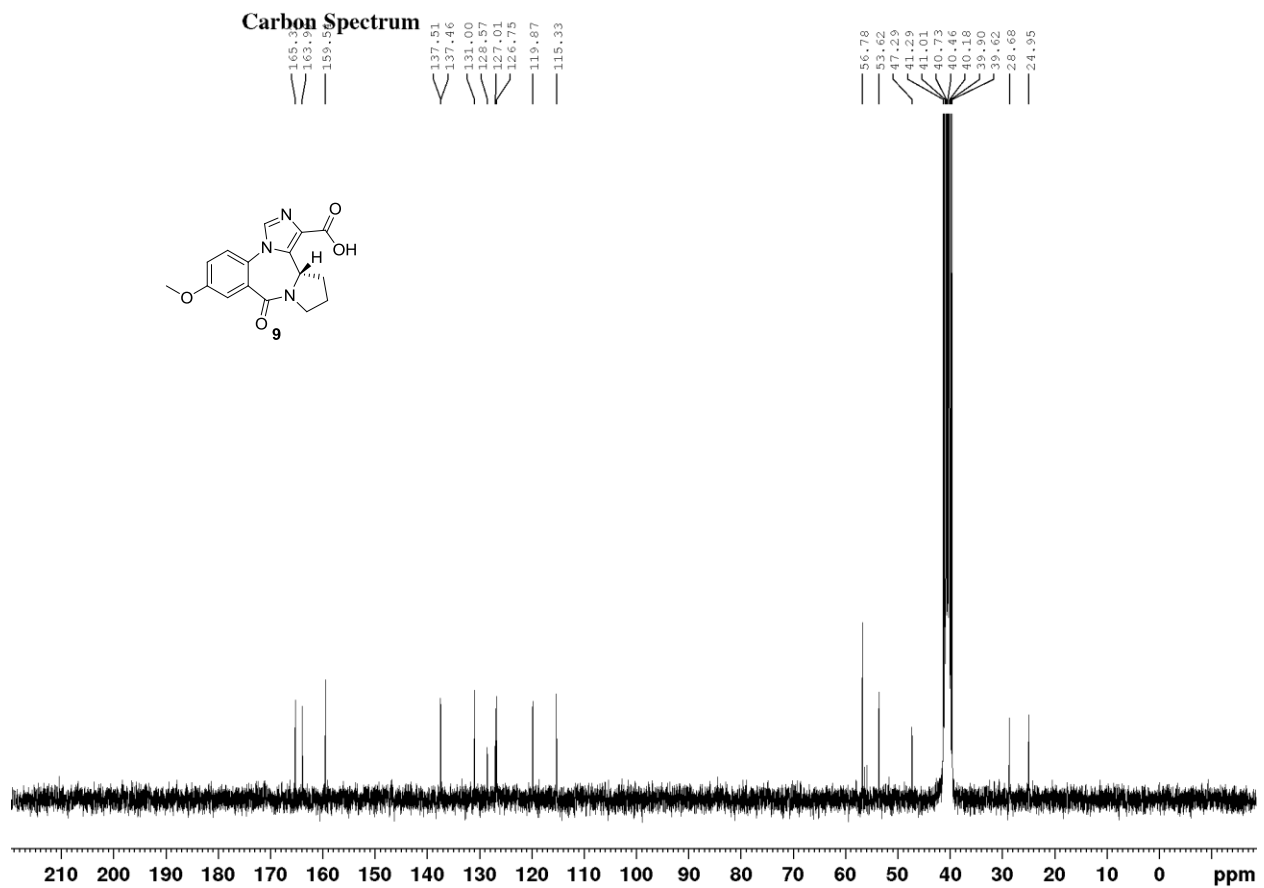
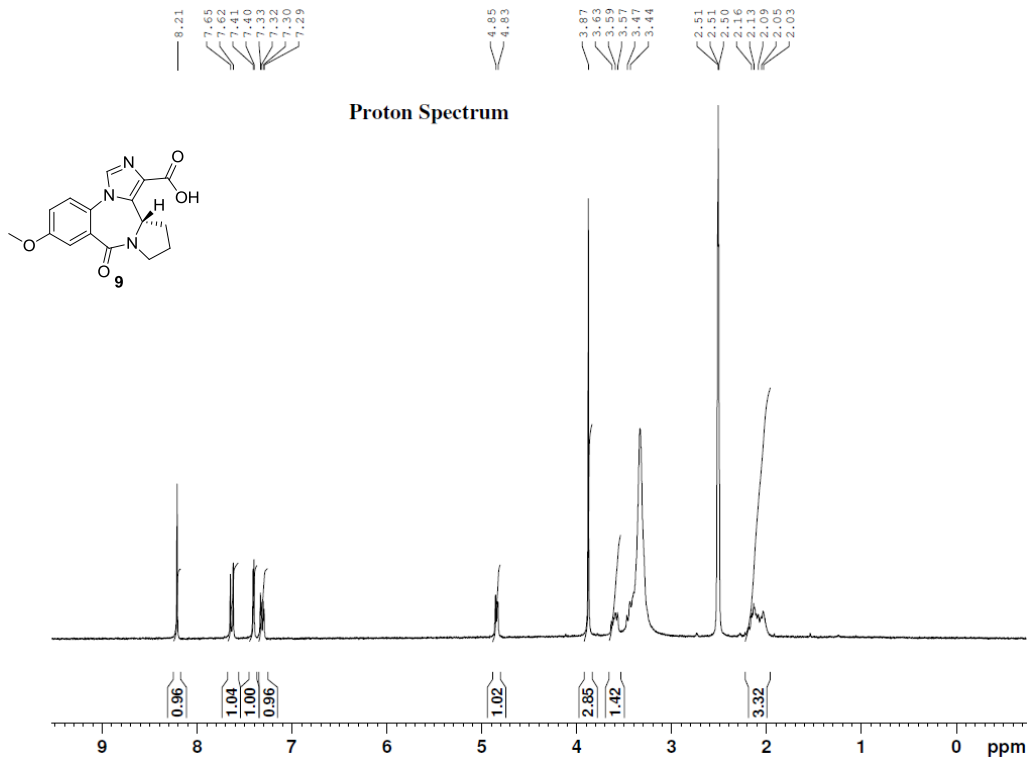


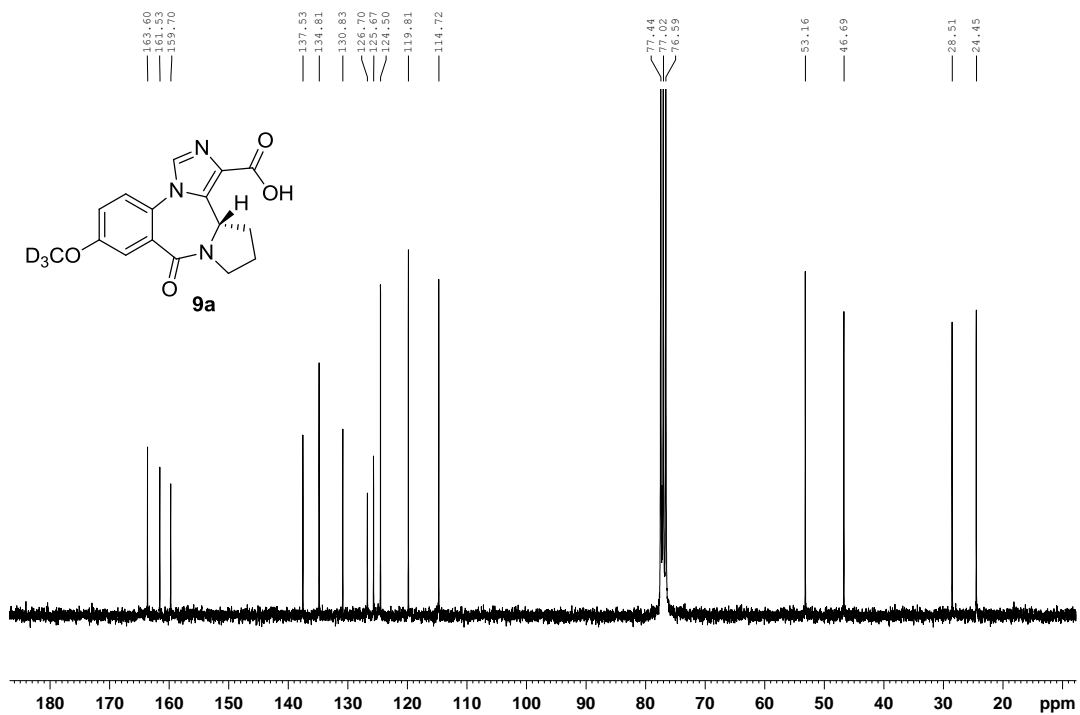
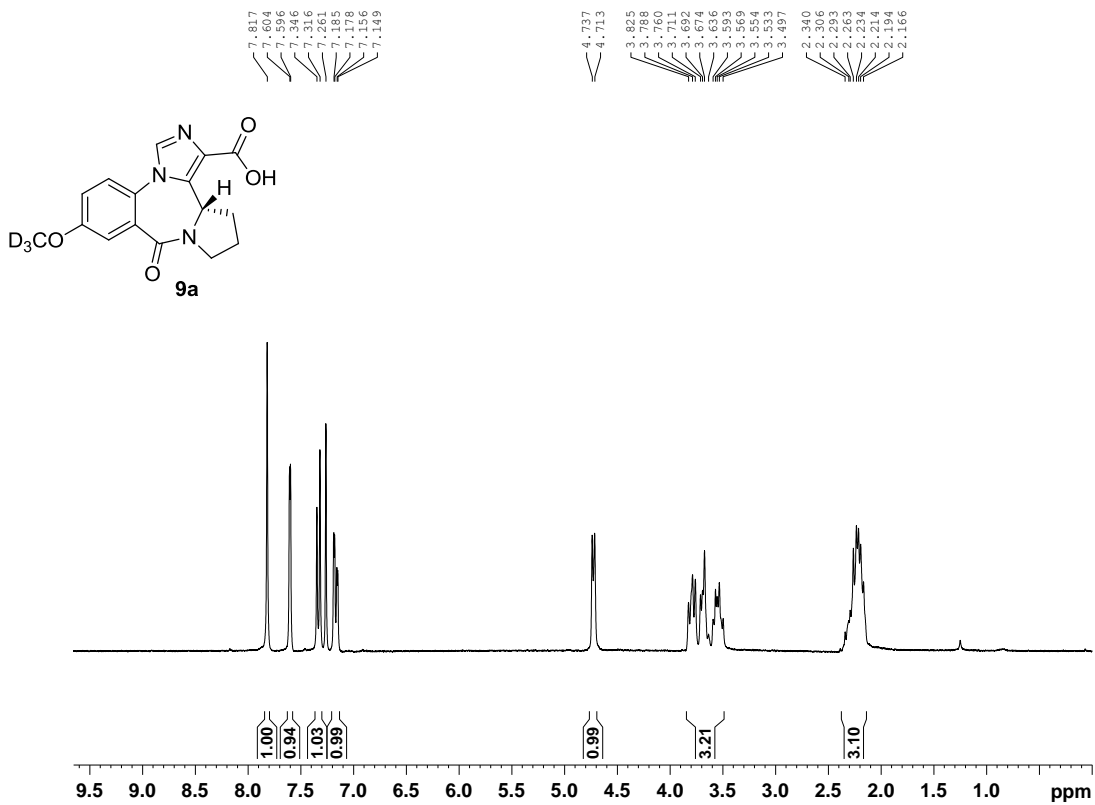


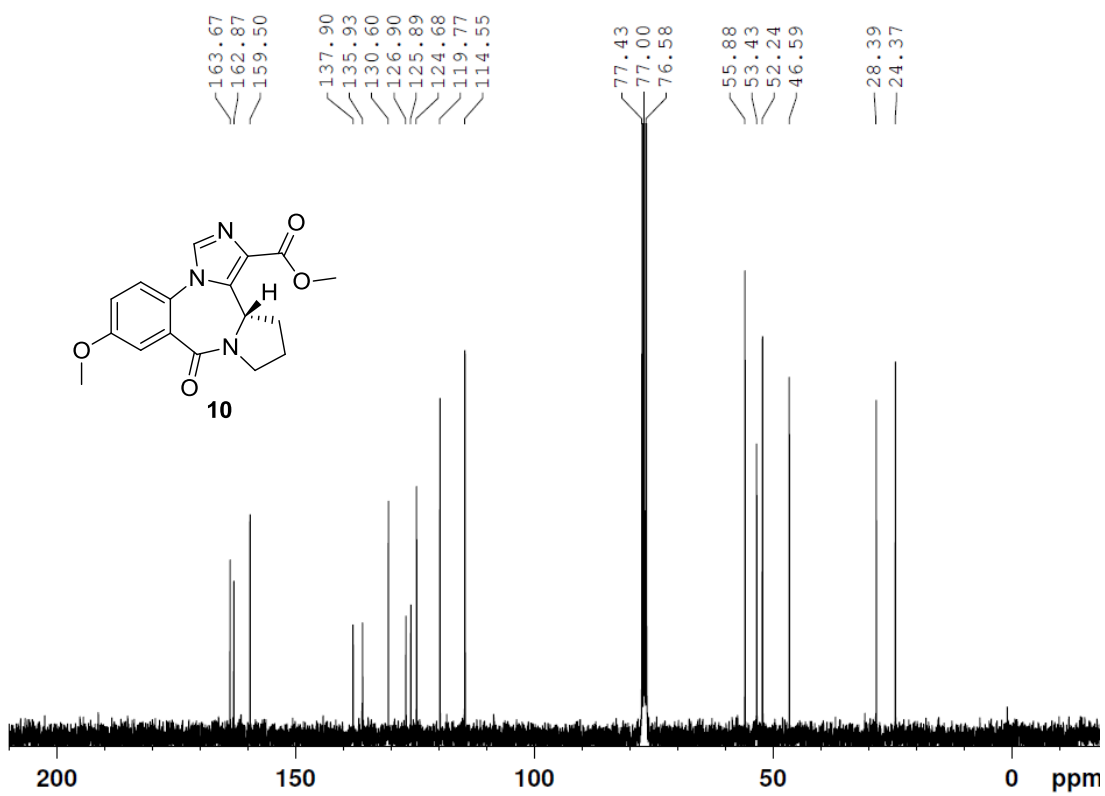
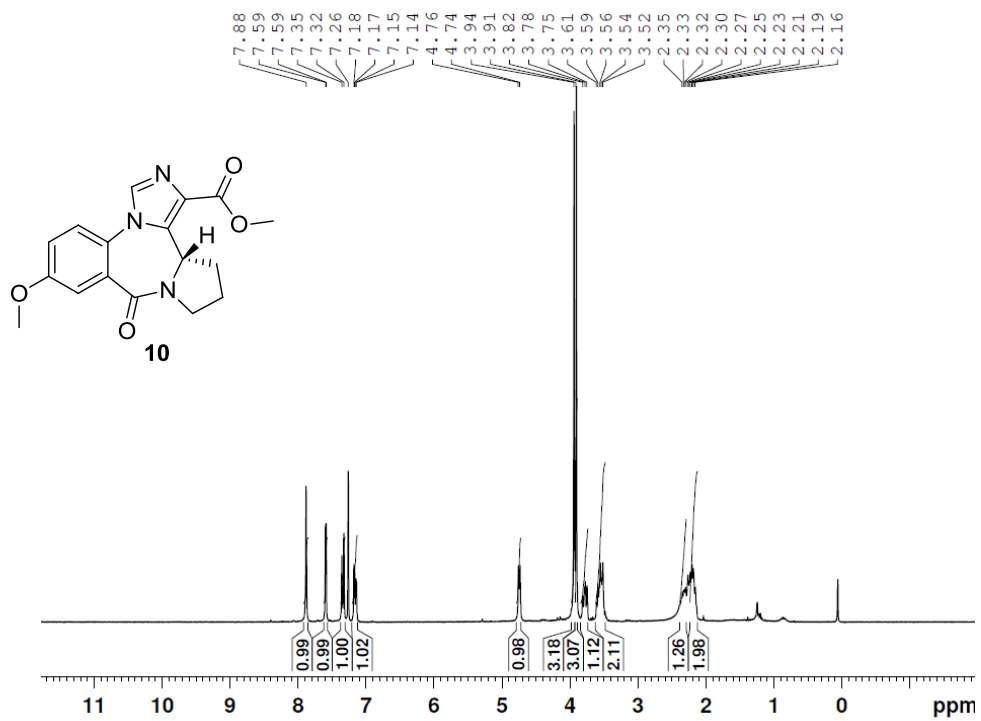
^2H -NMR

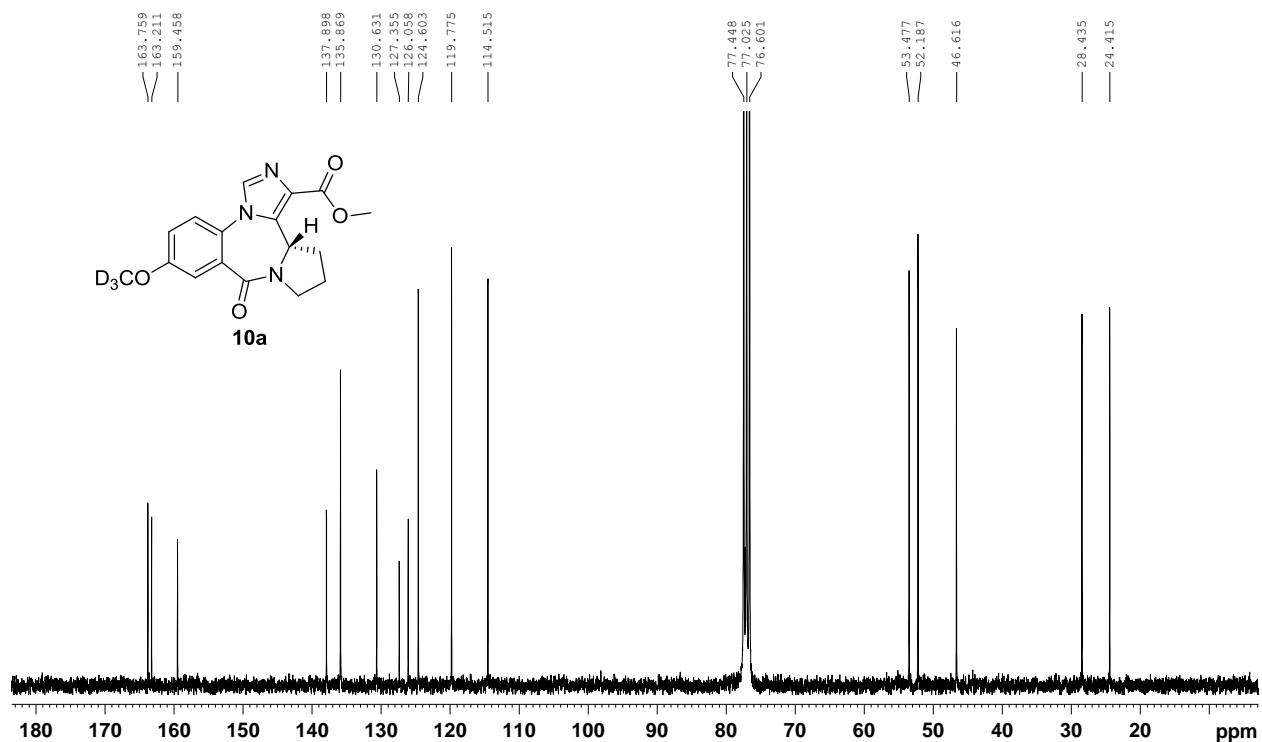
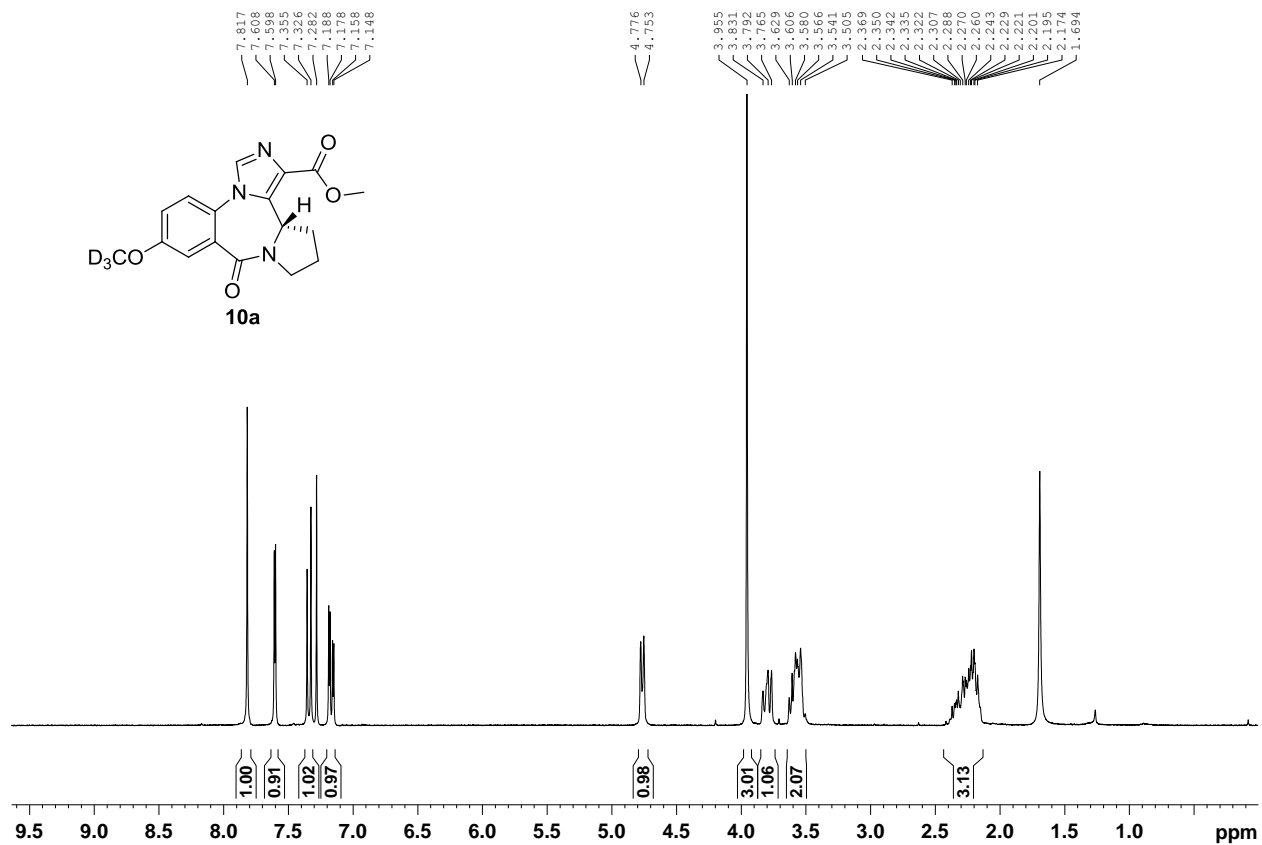


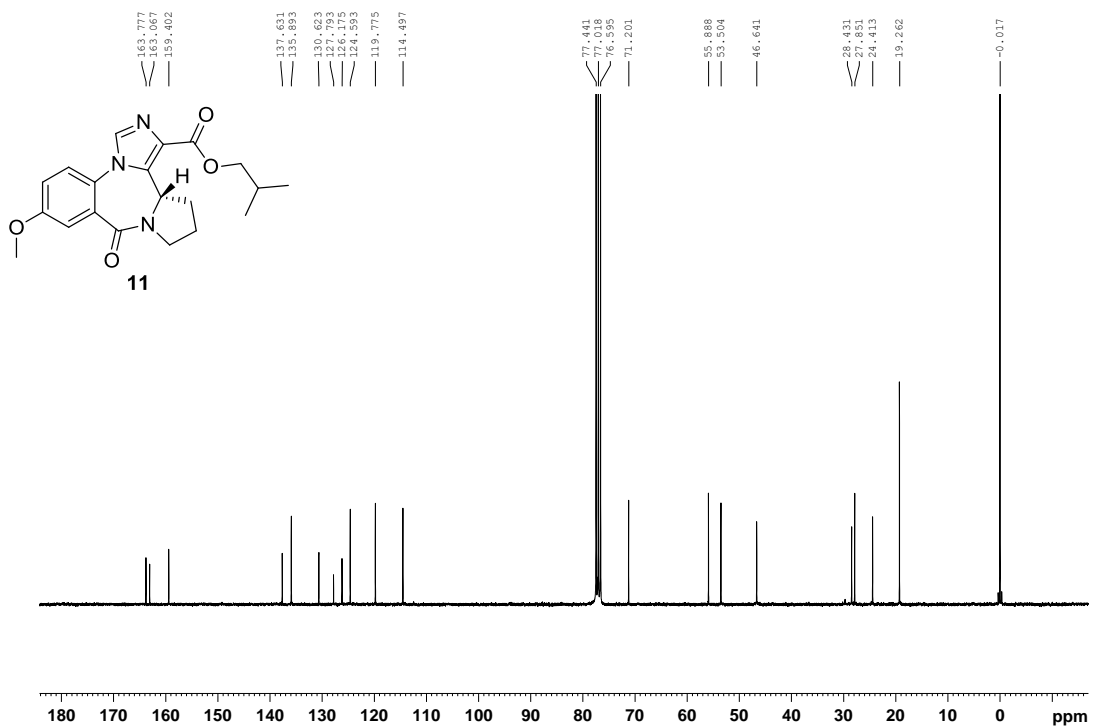
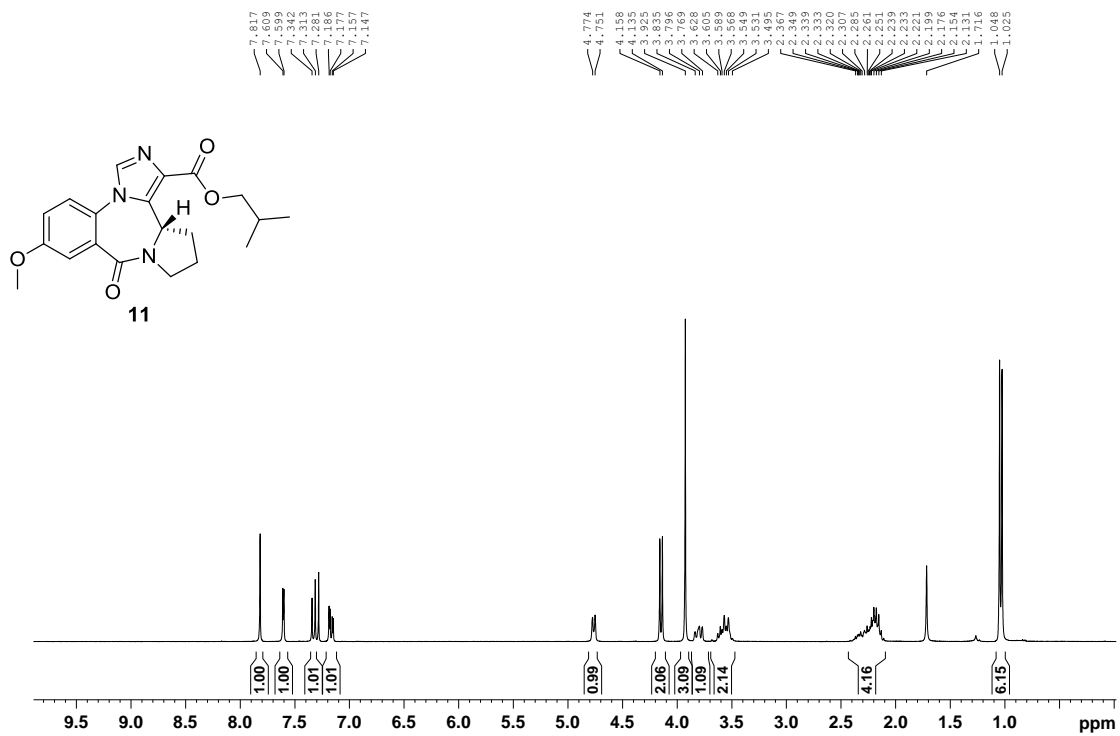


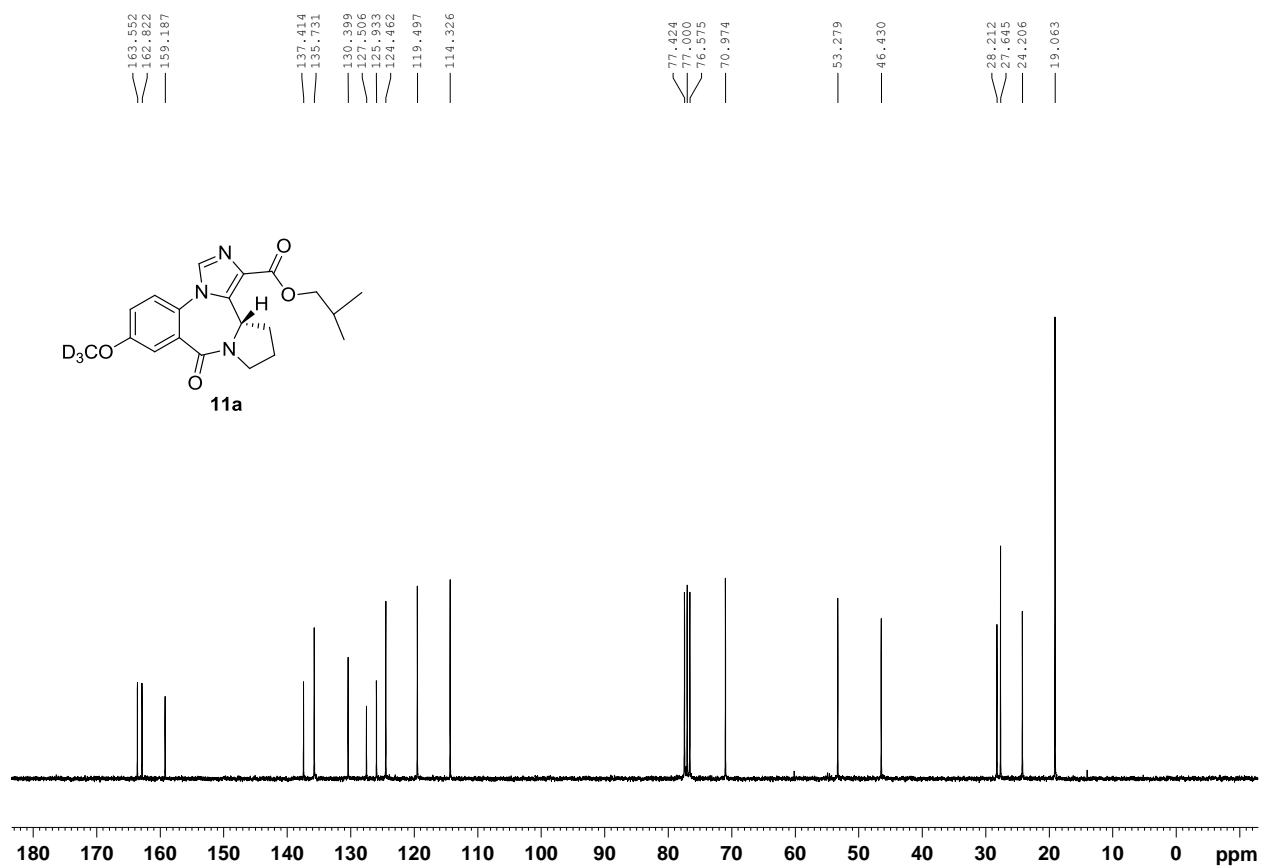
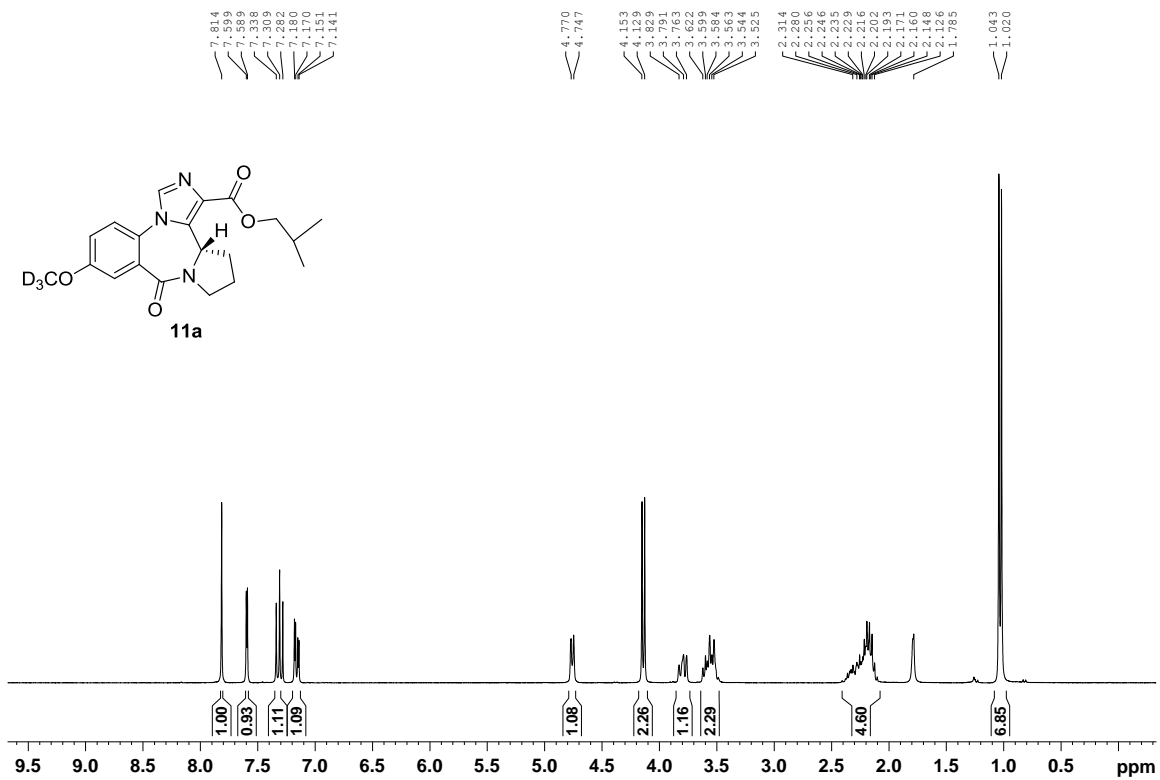


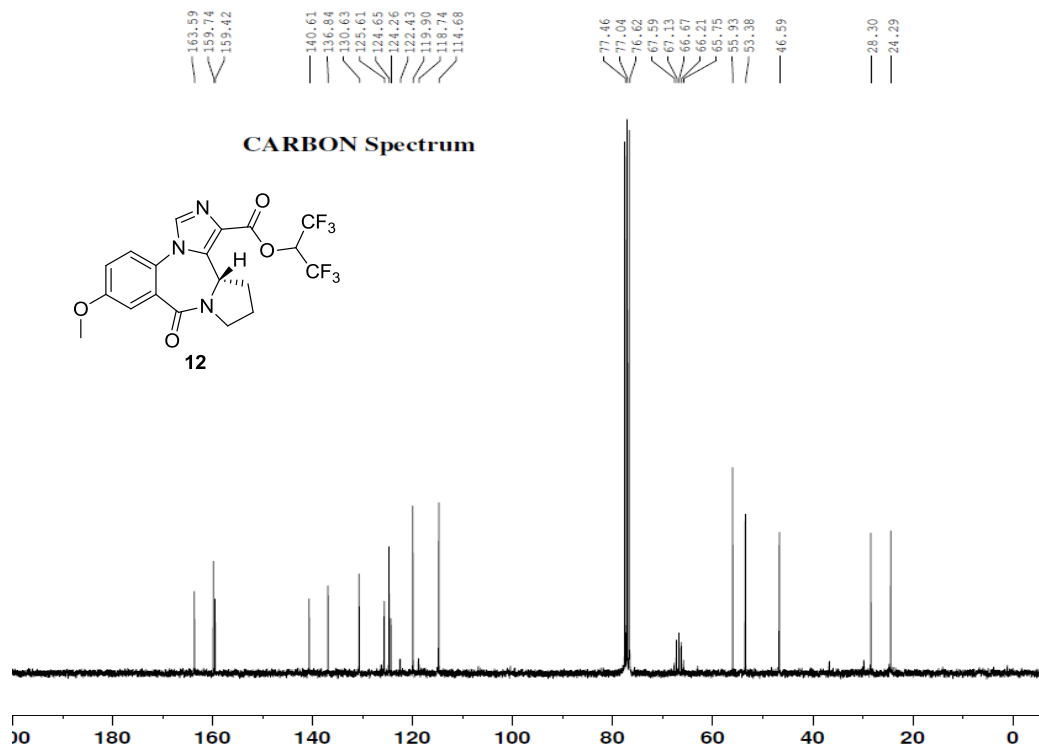
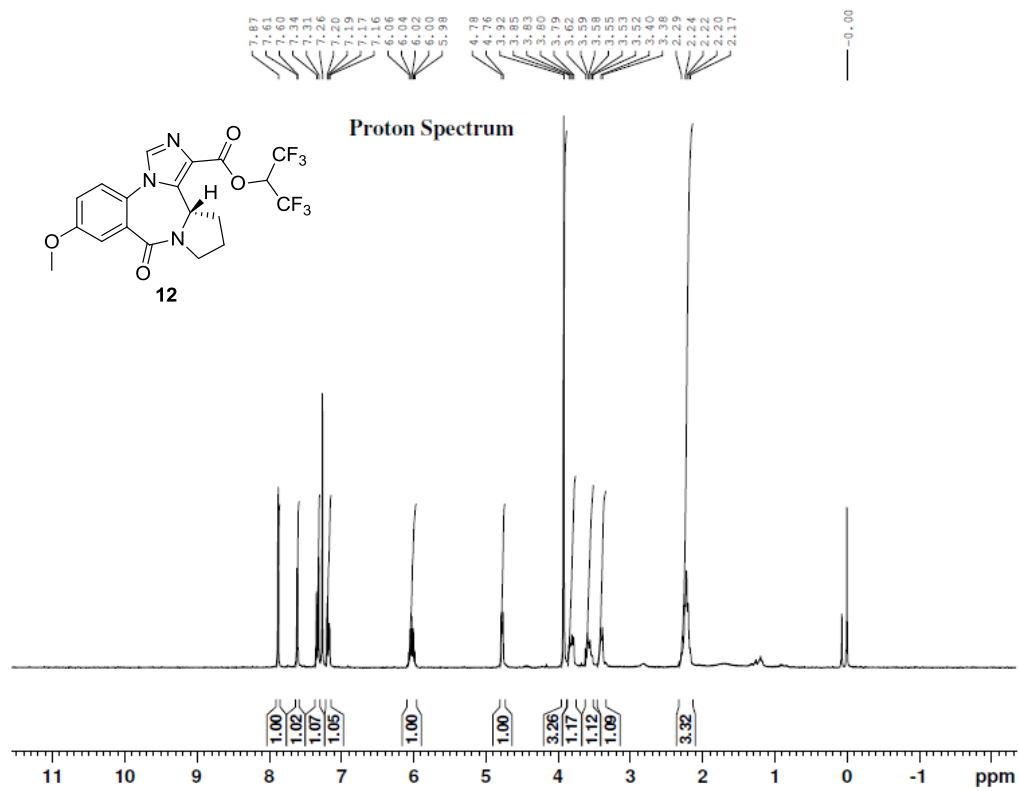


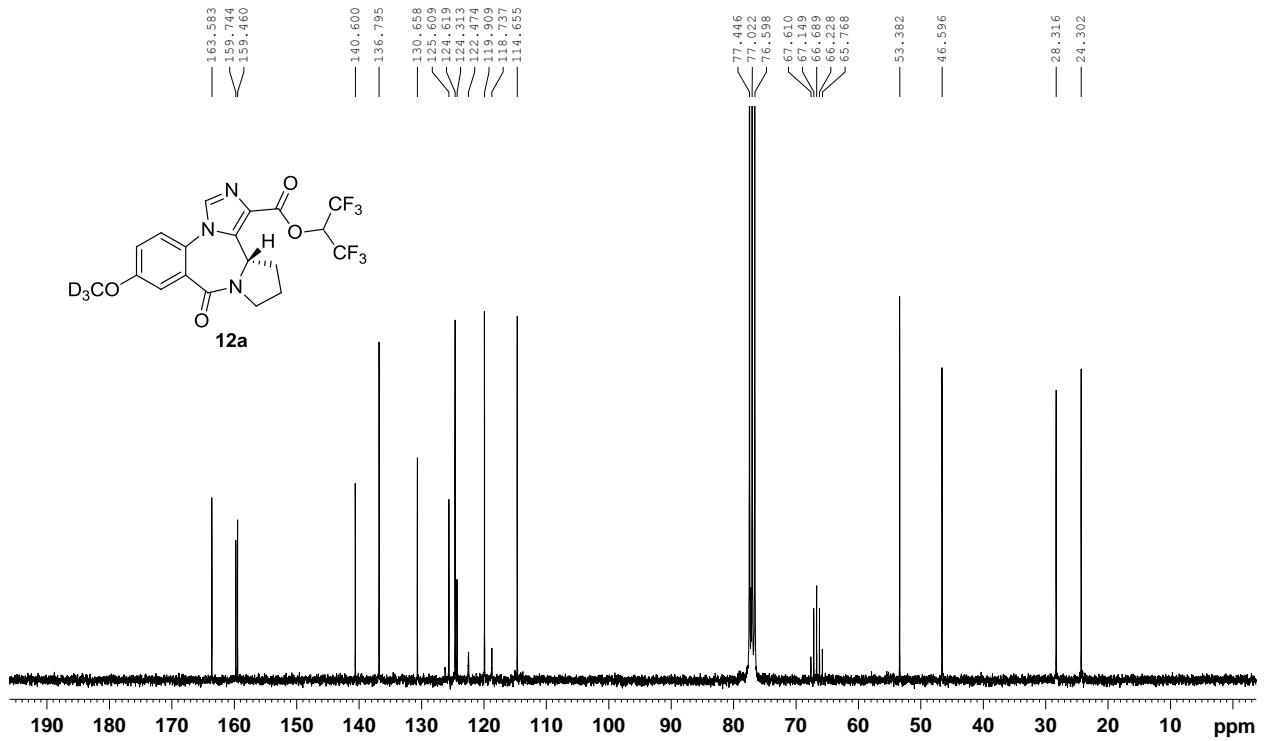
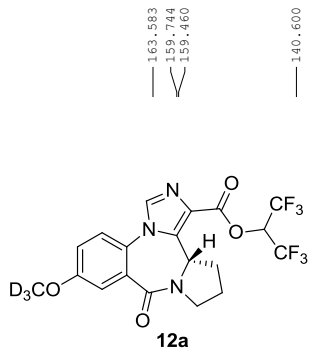
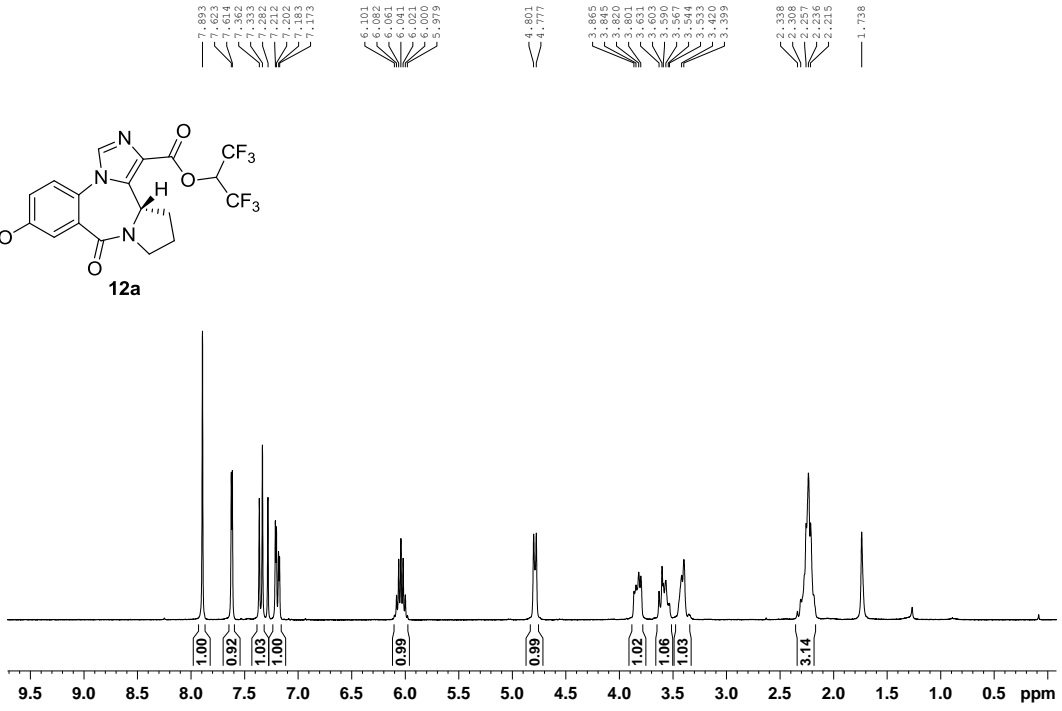
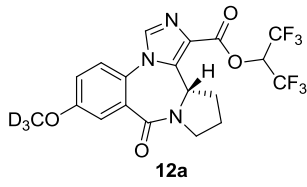


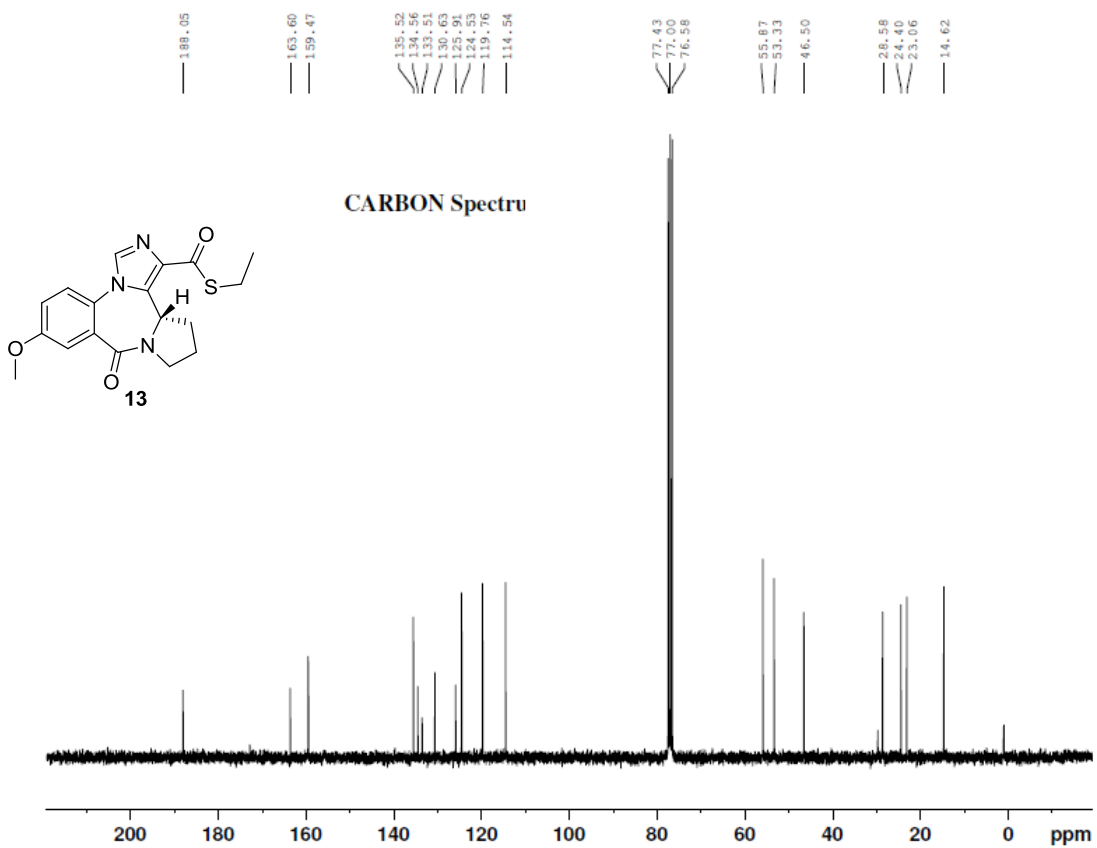
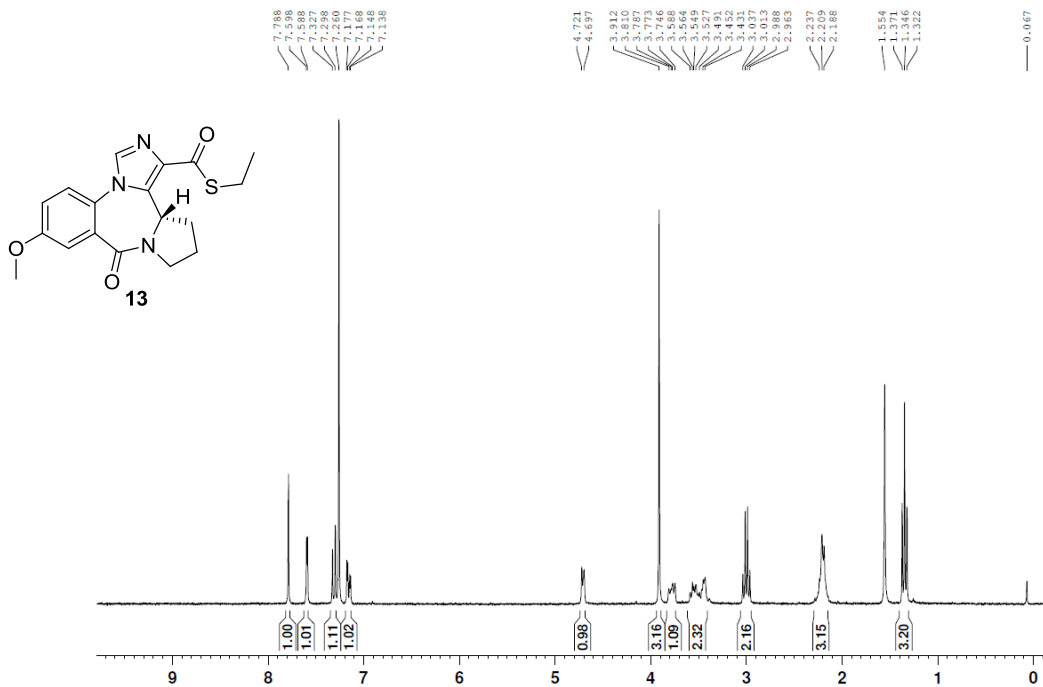


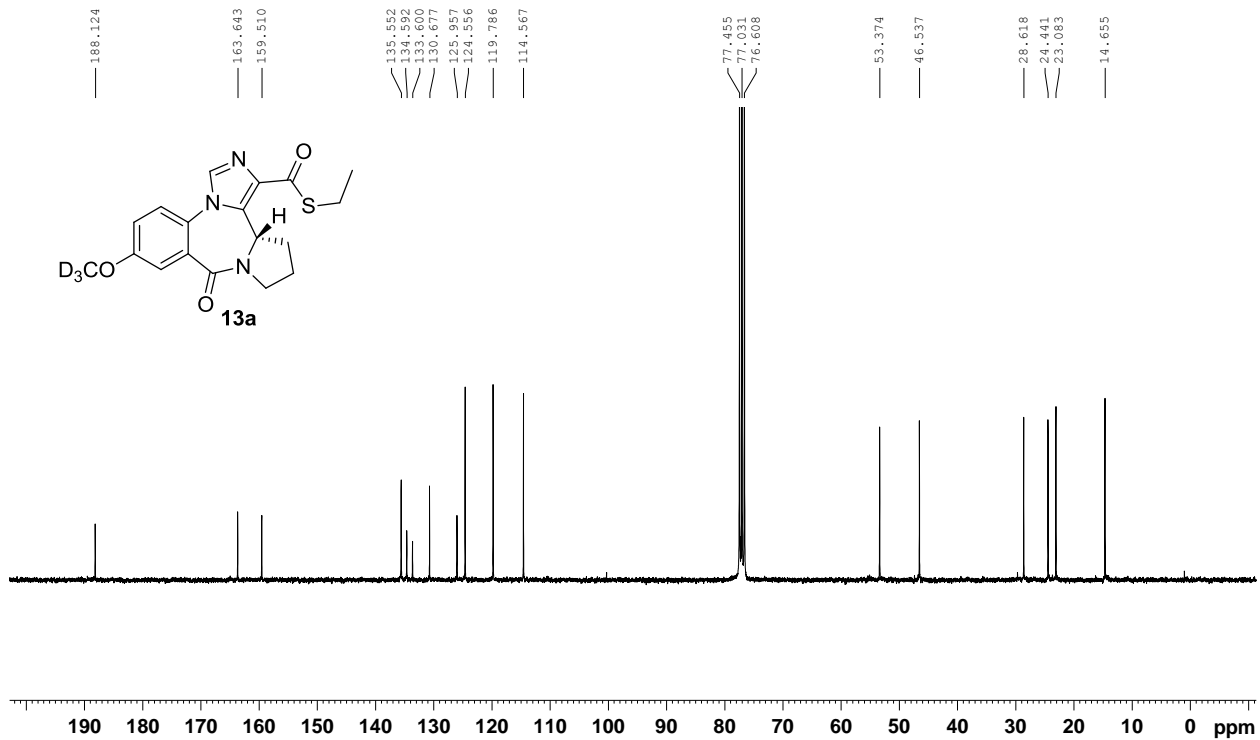
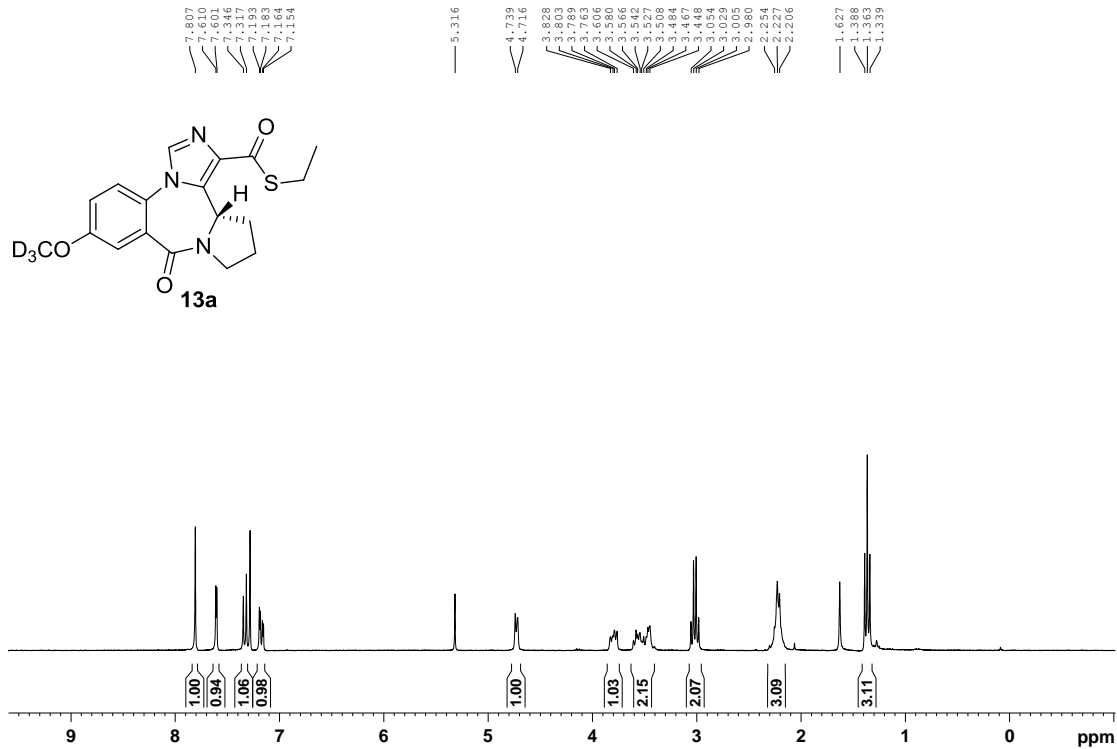
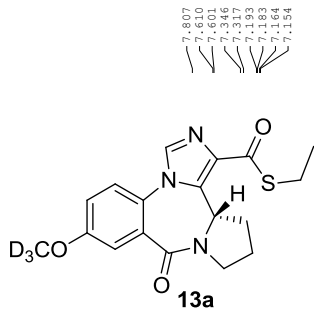


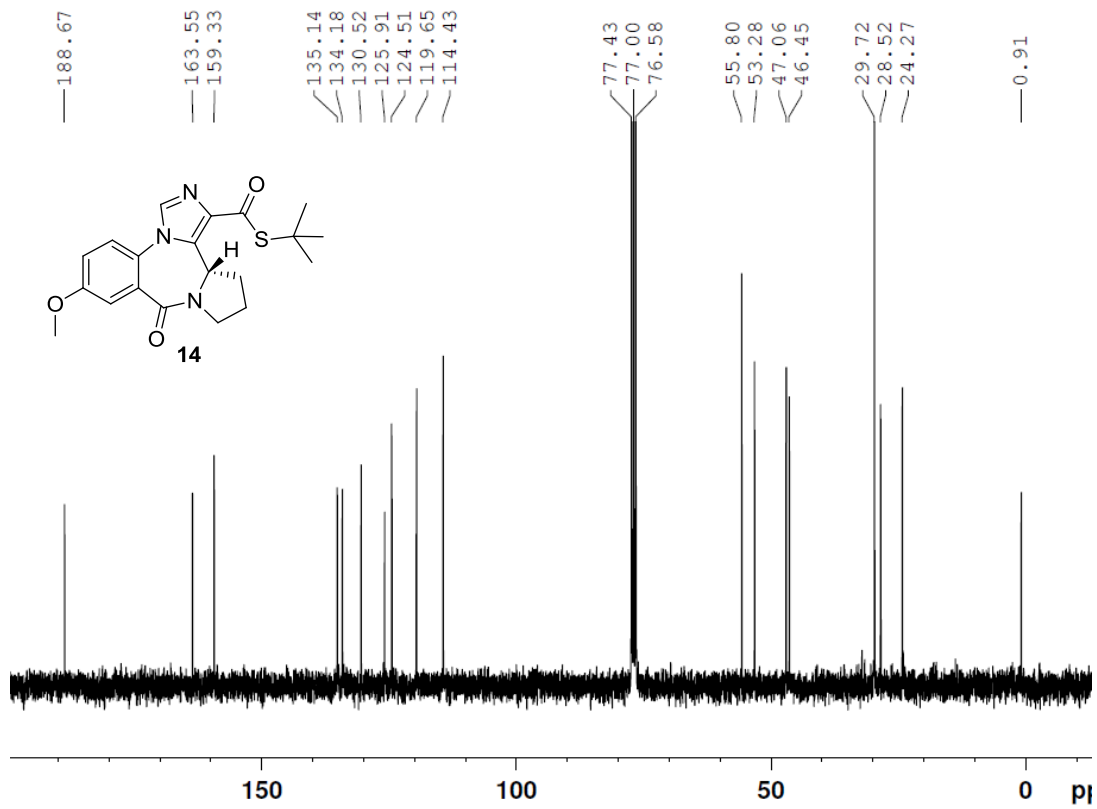
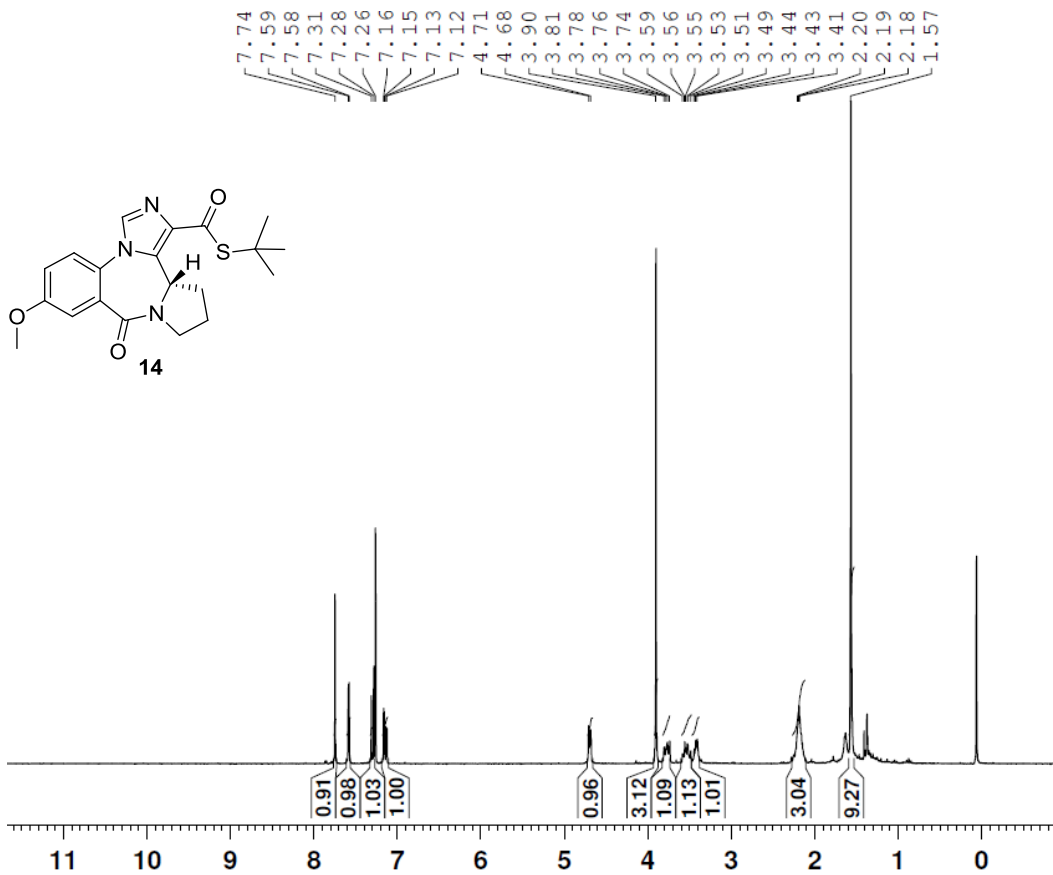


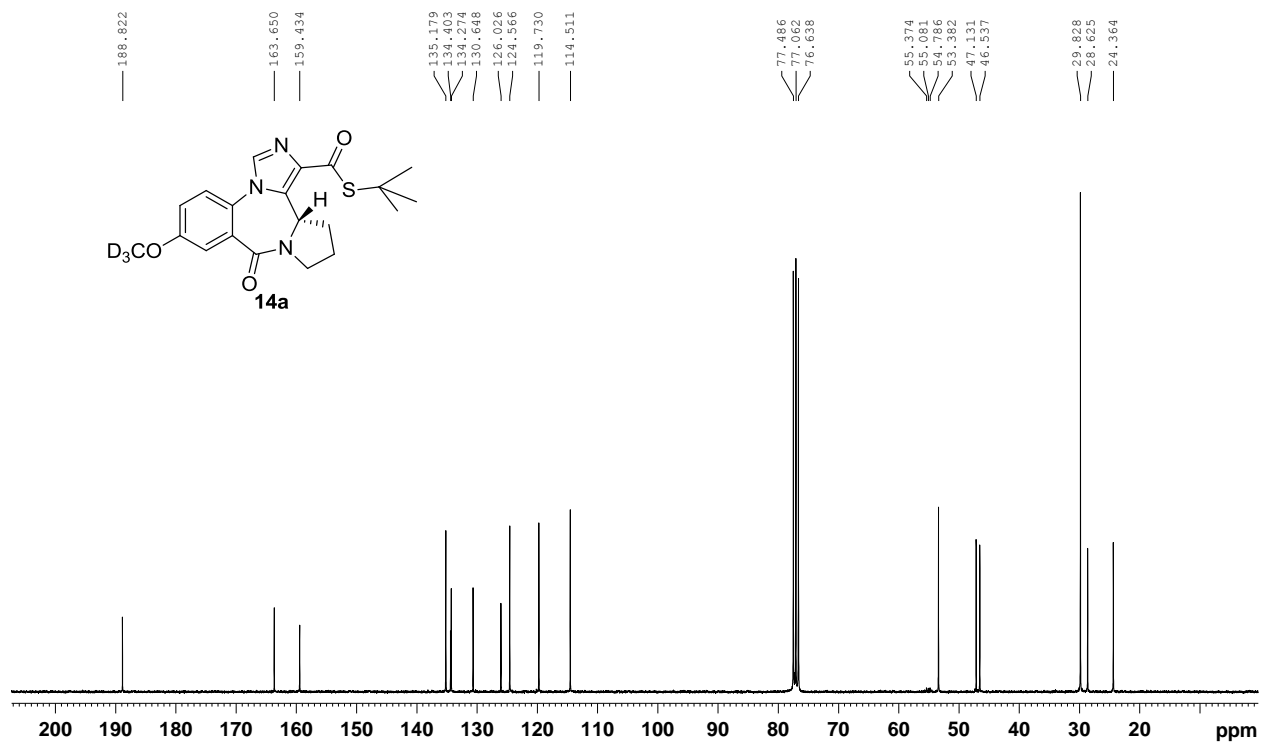
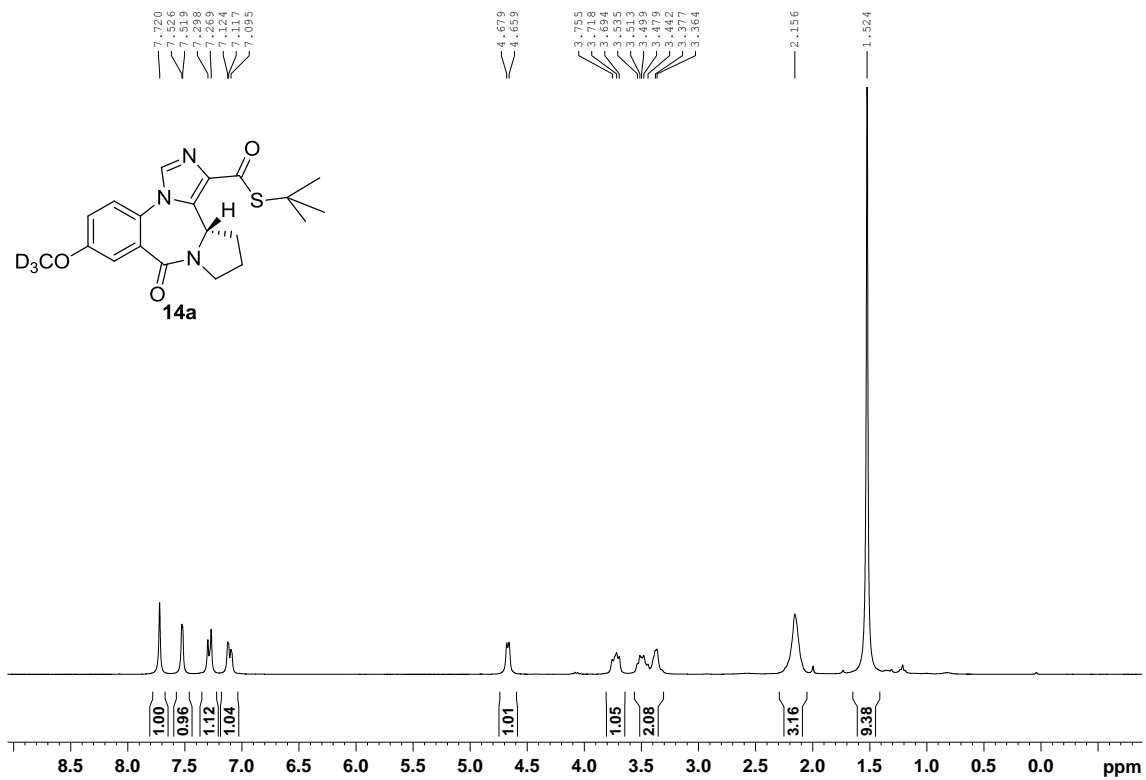


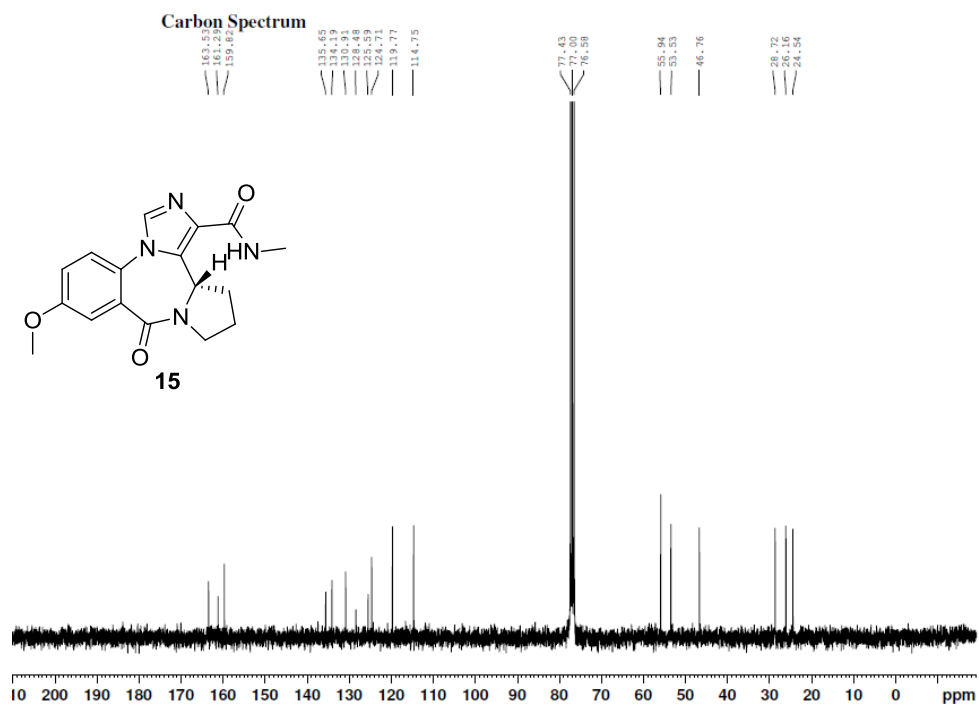
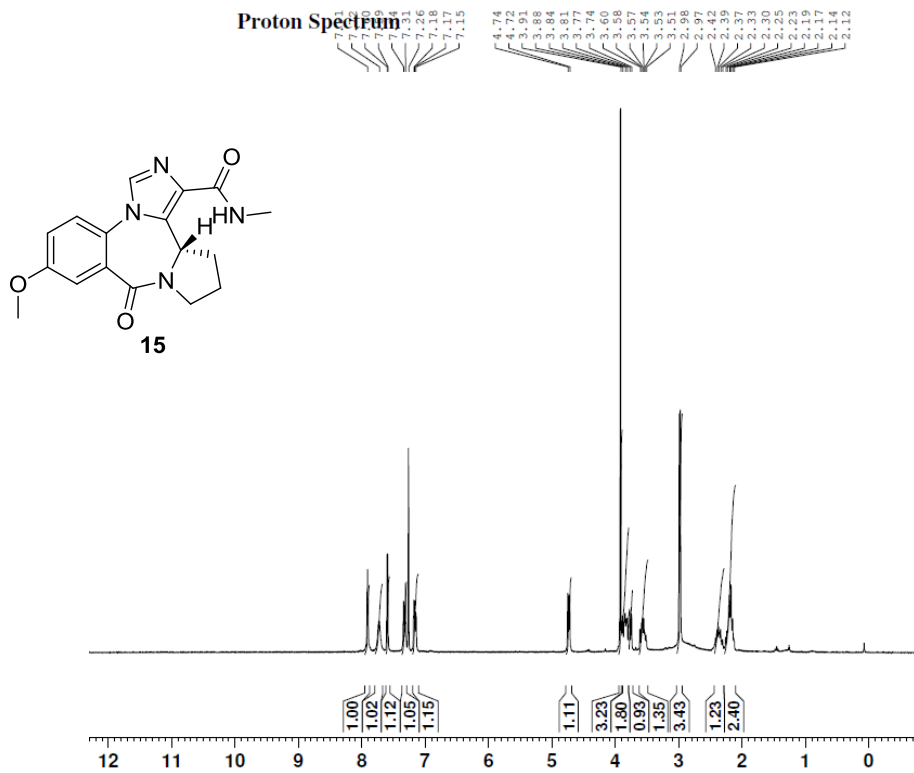


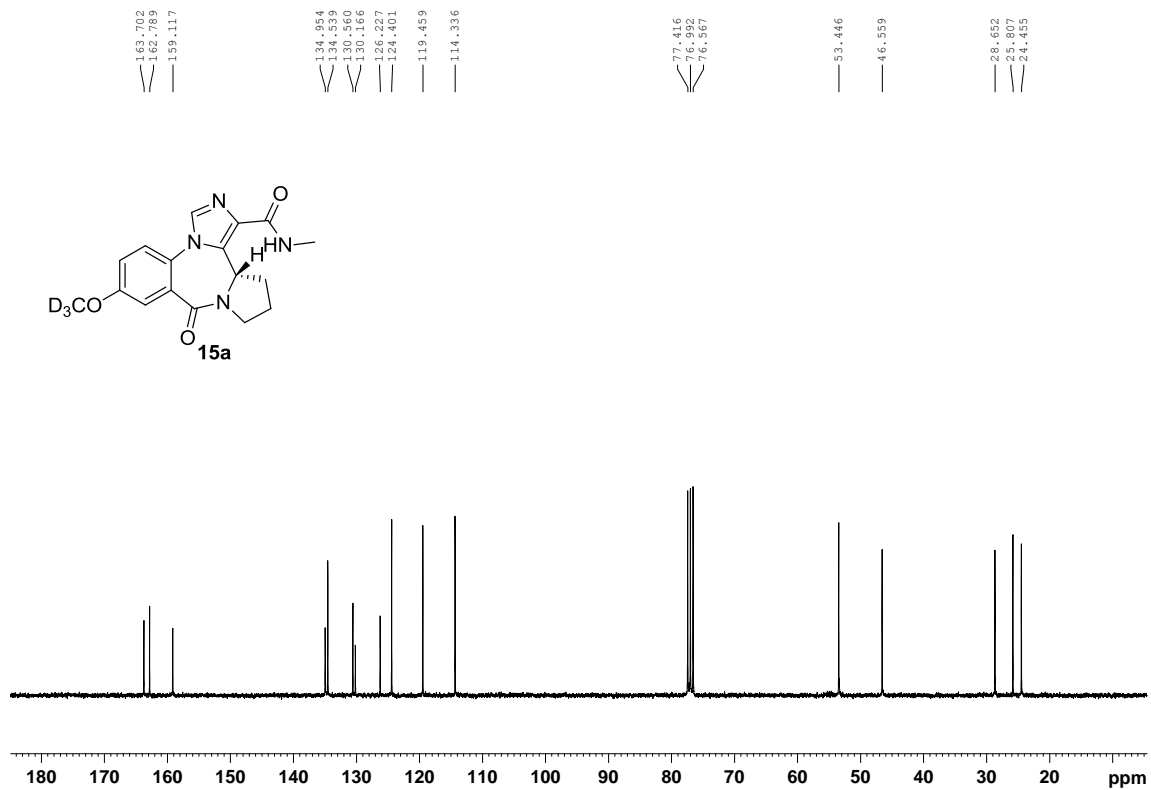
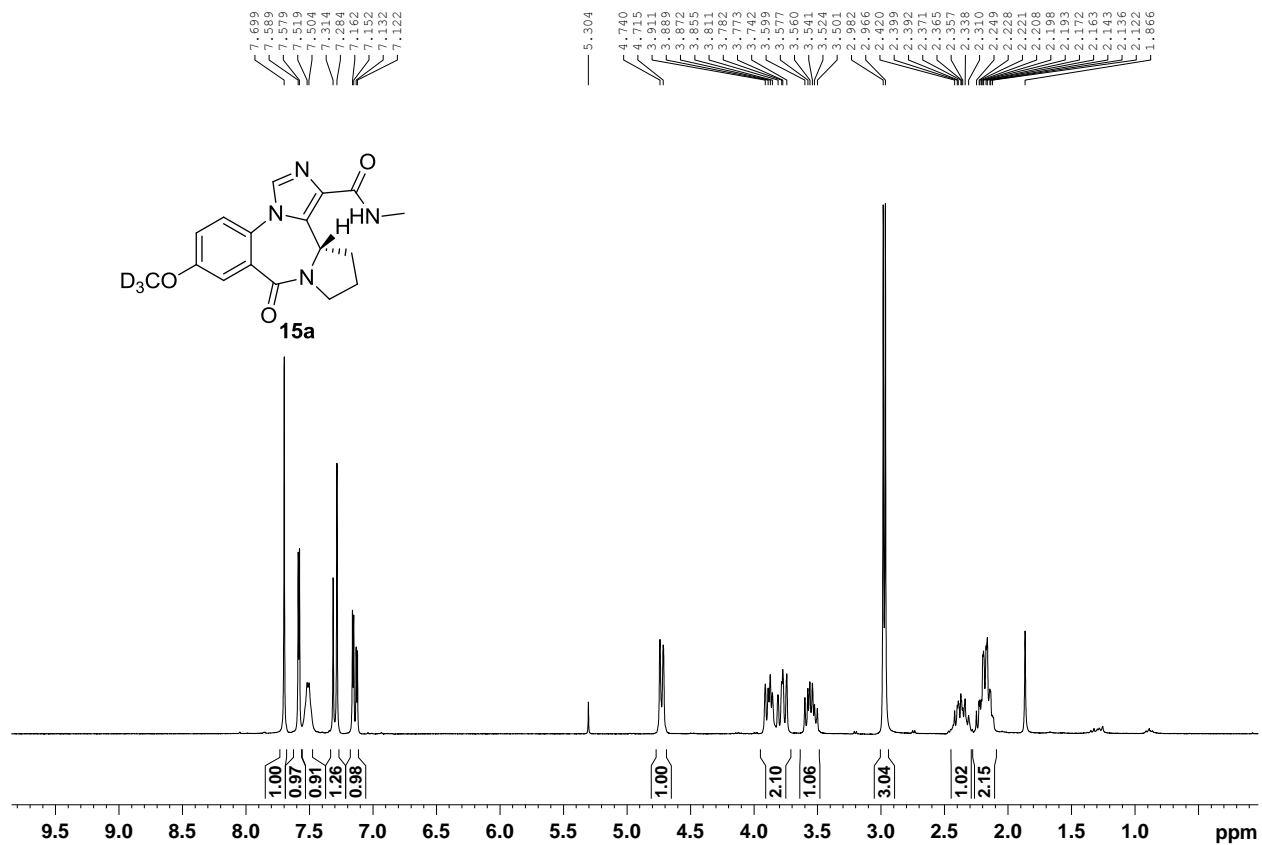


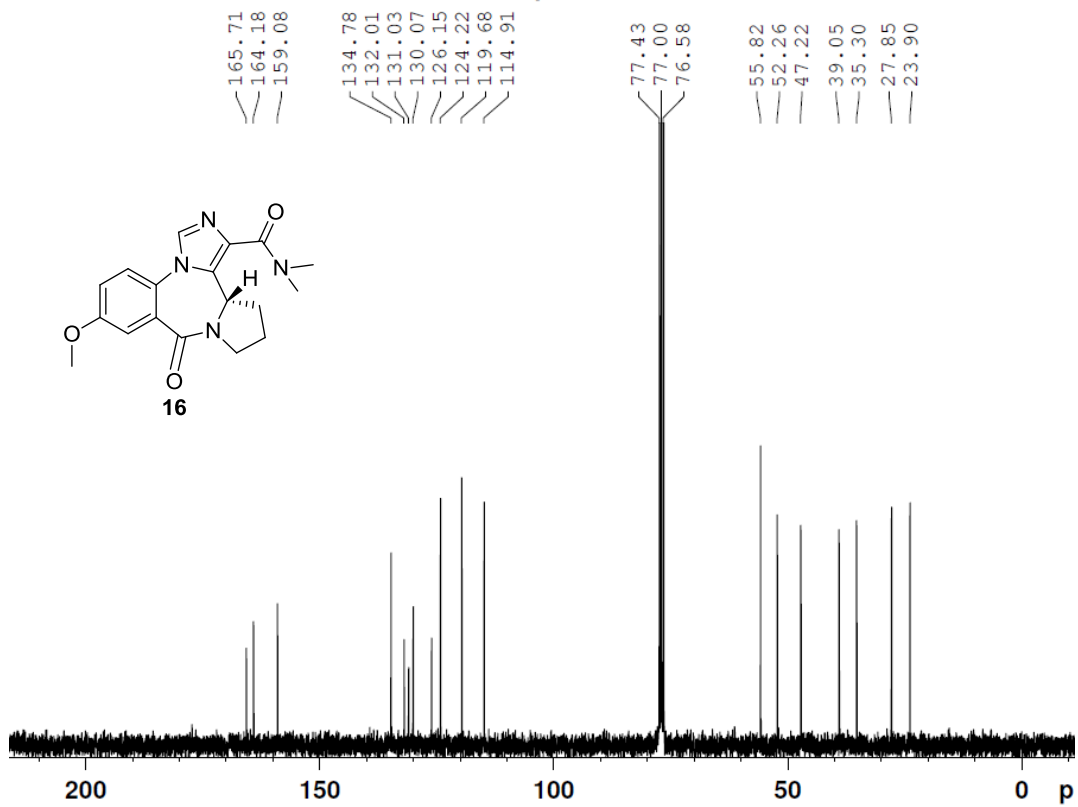
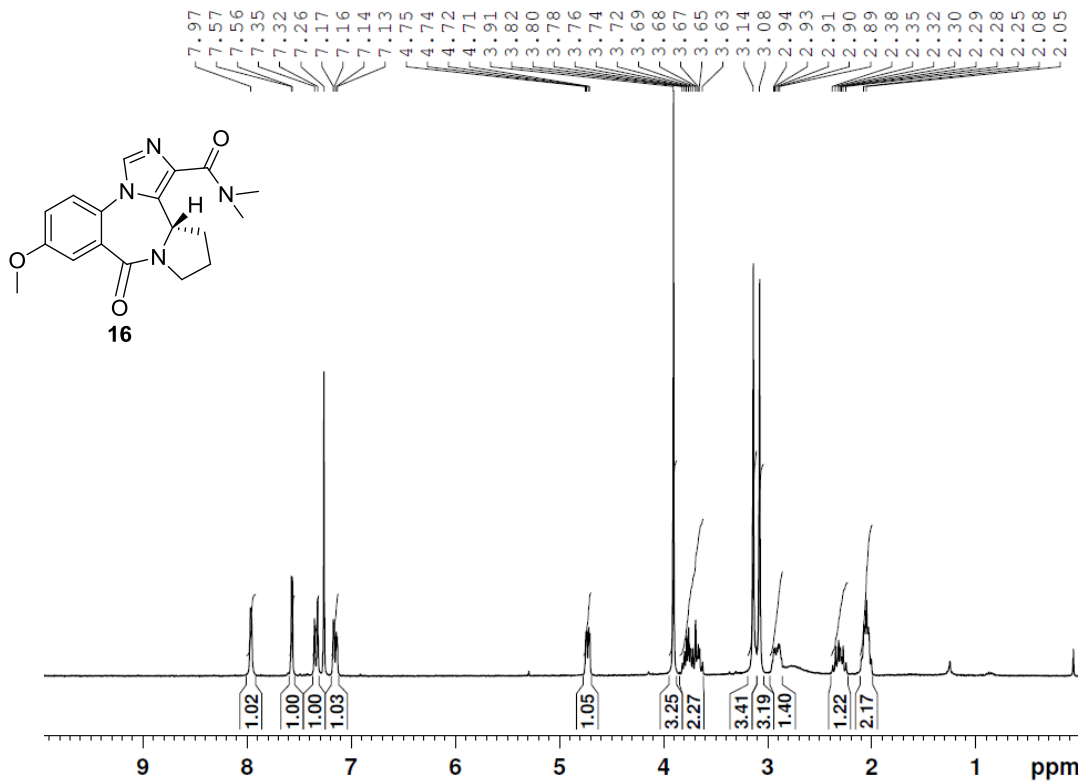


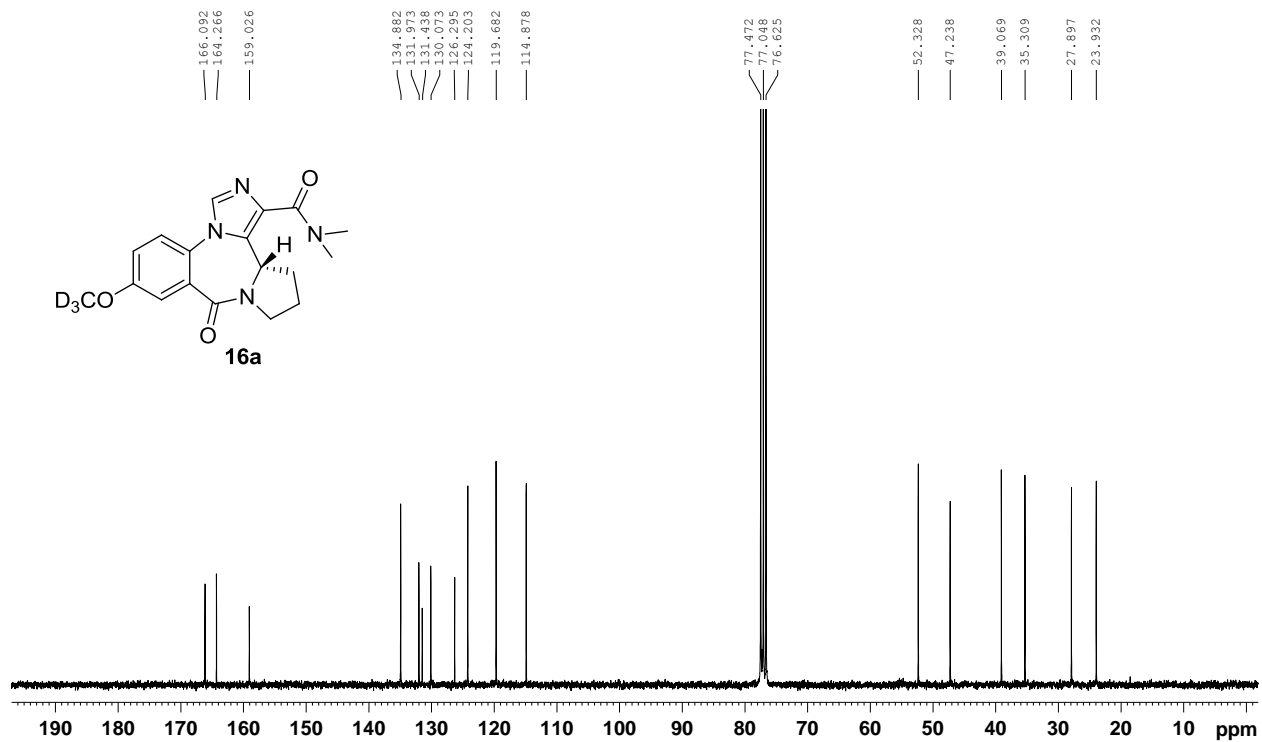
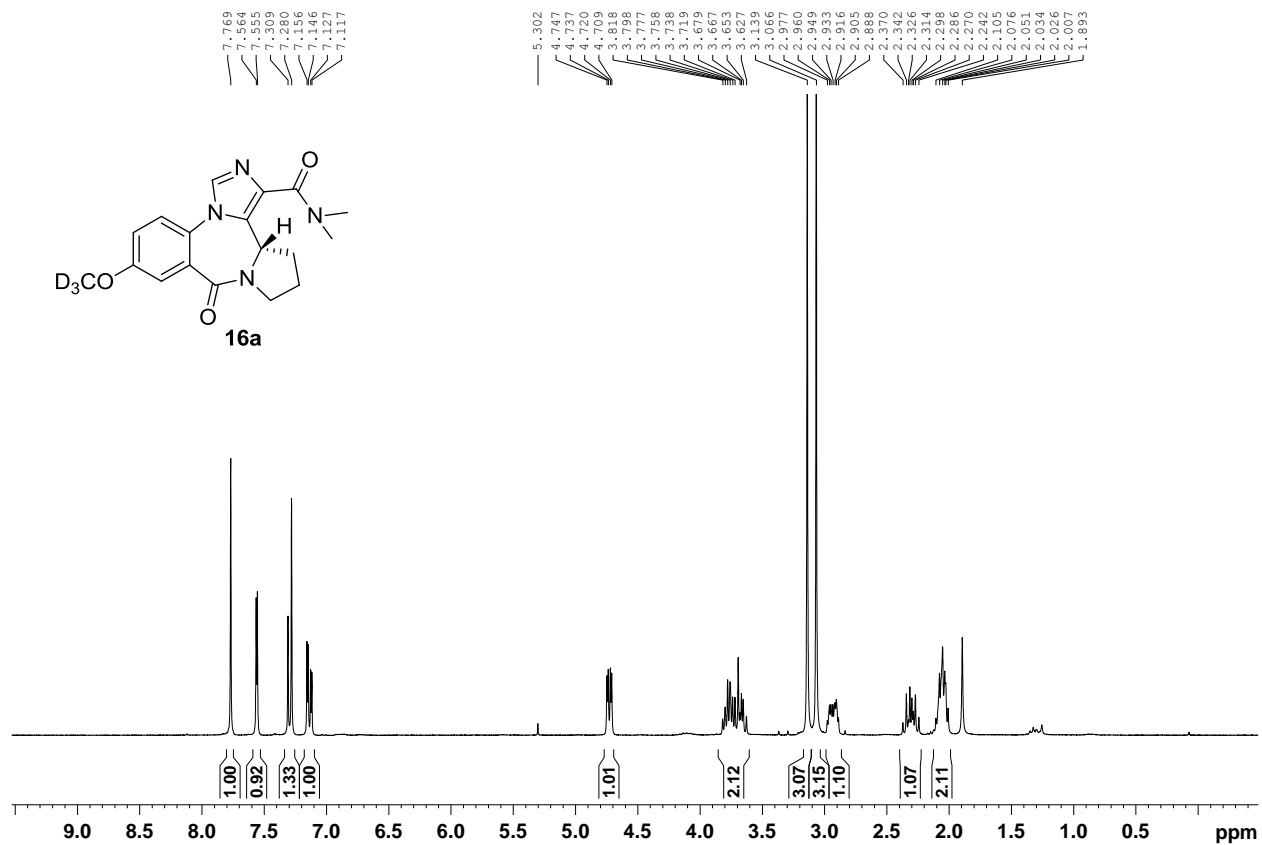


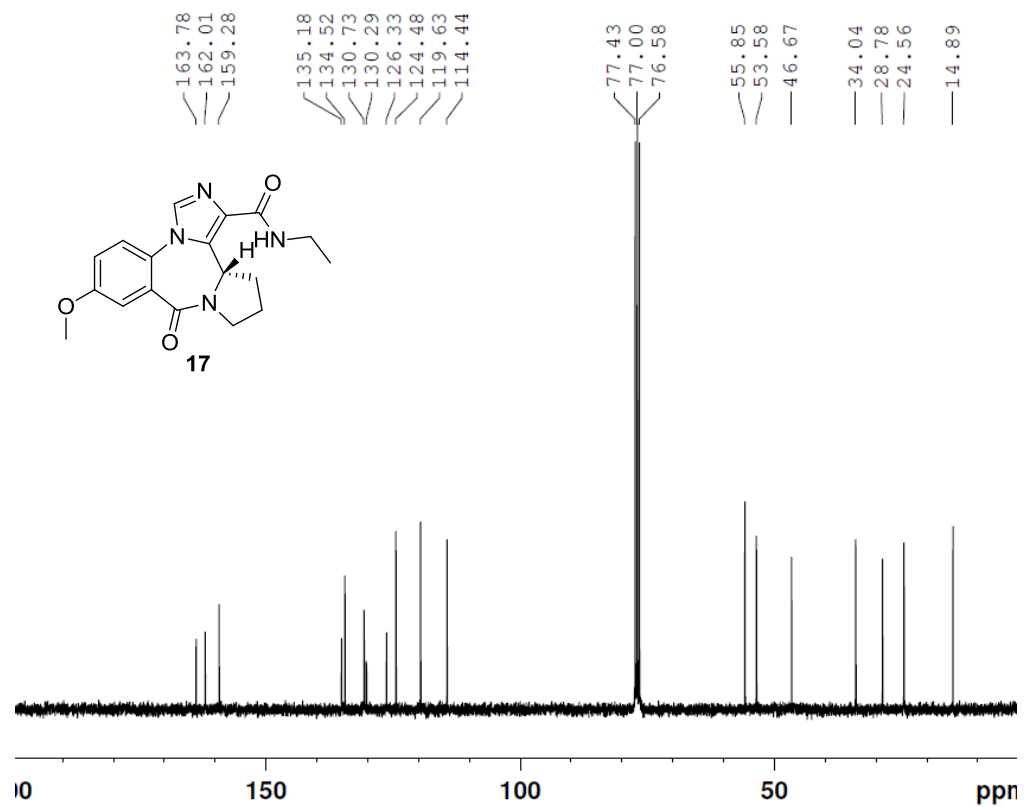
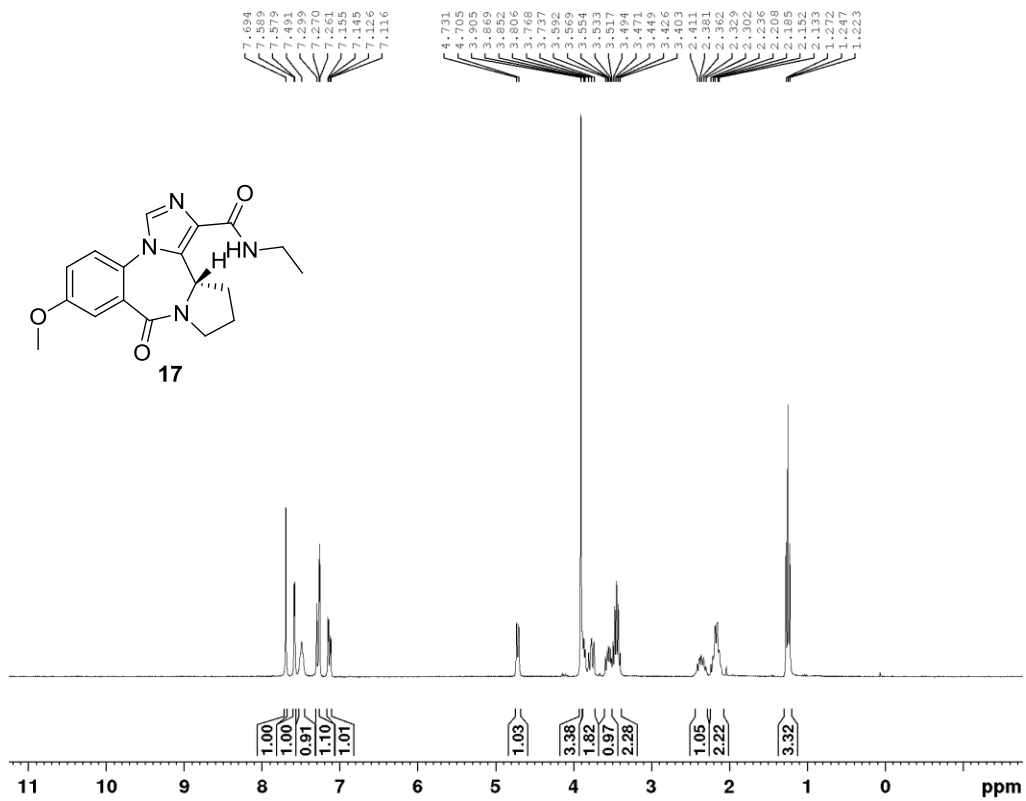


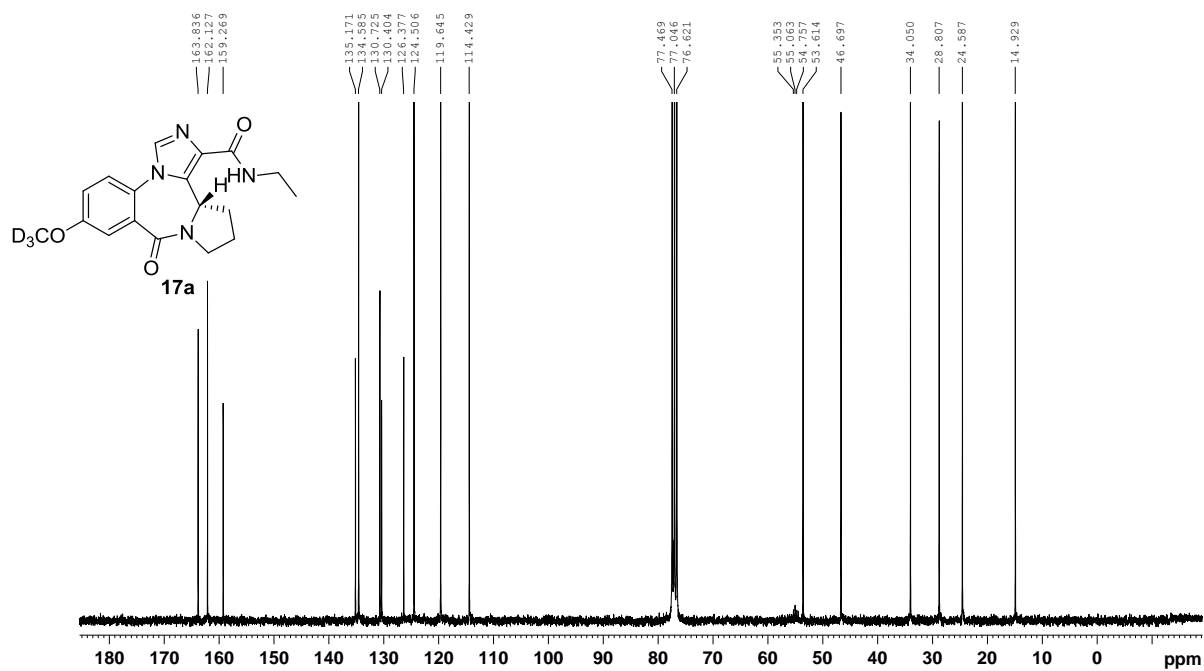
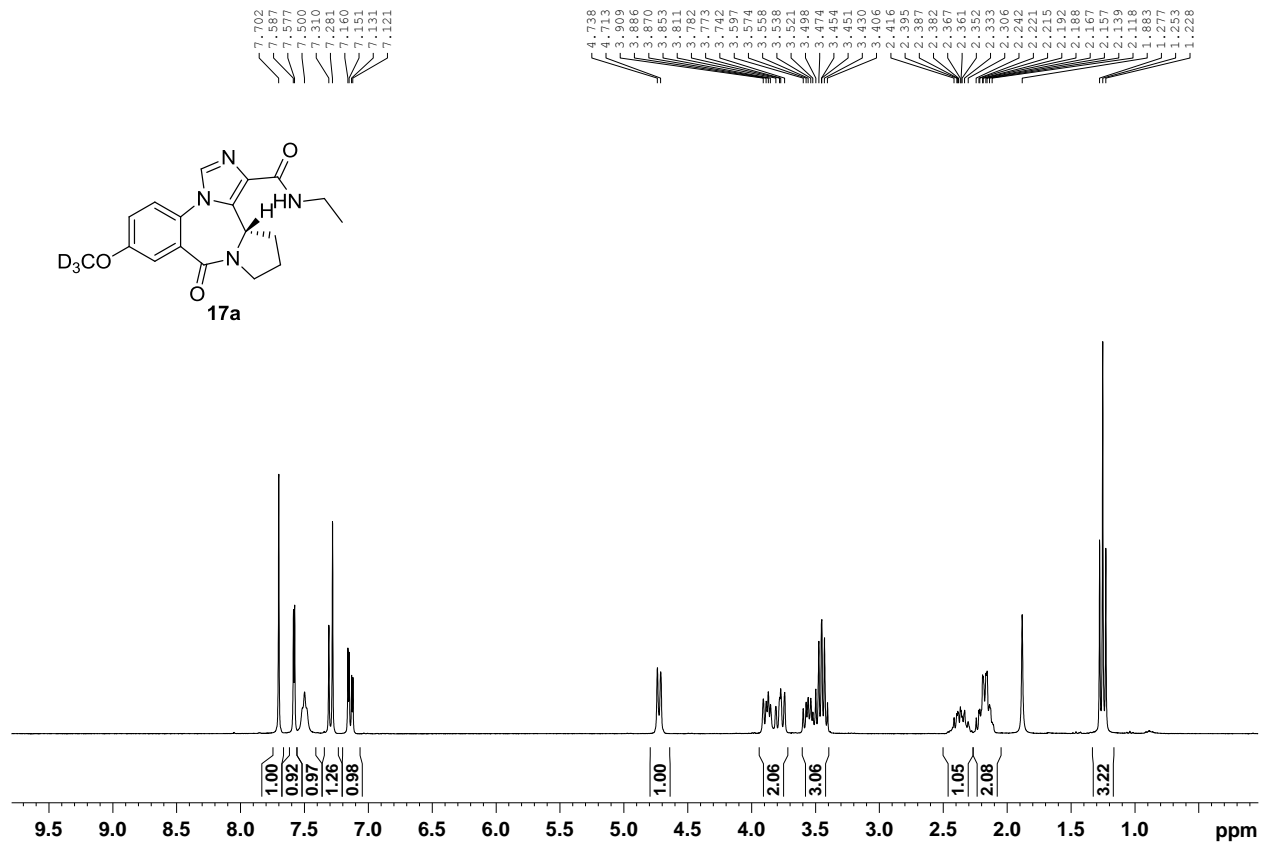


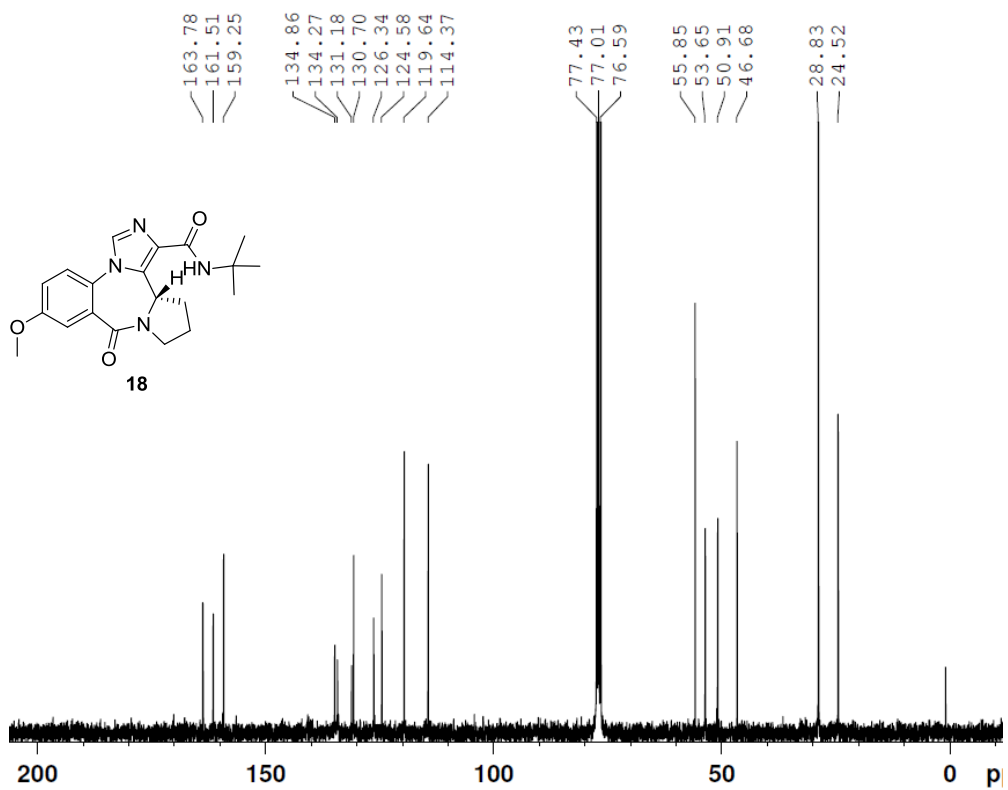
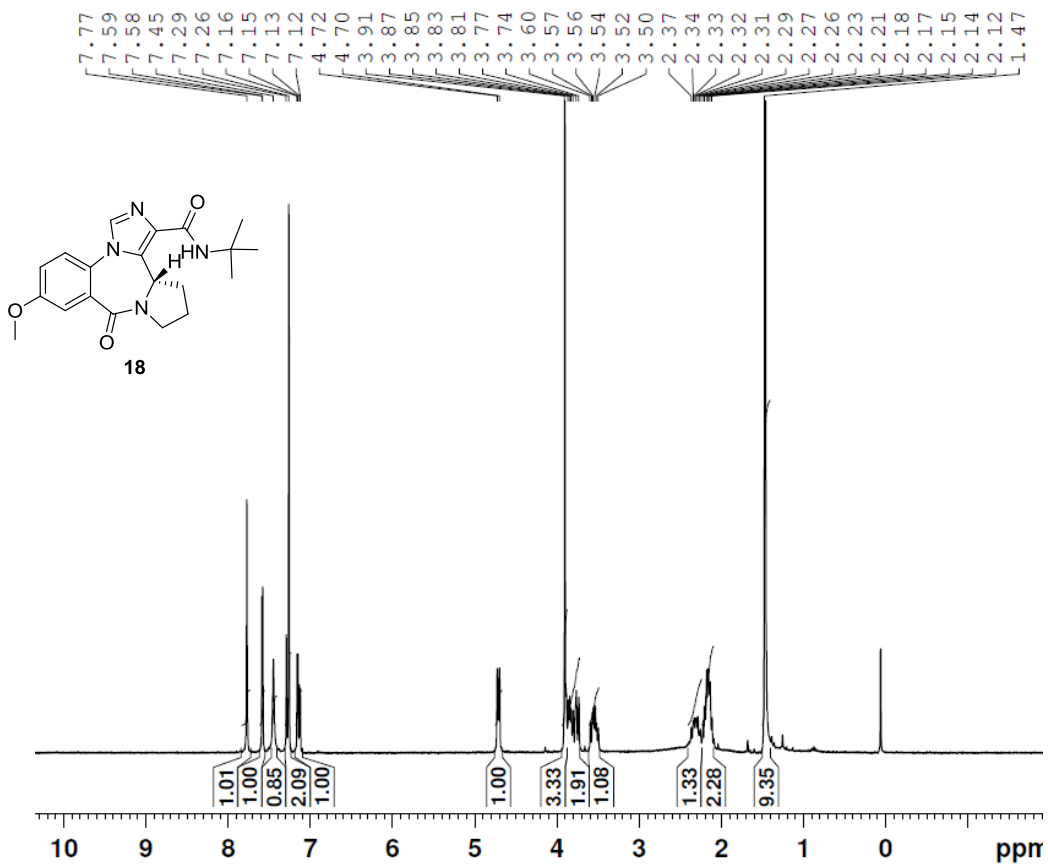


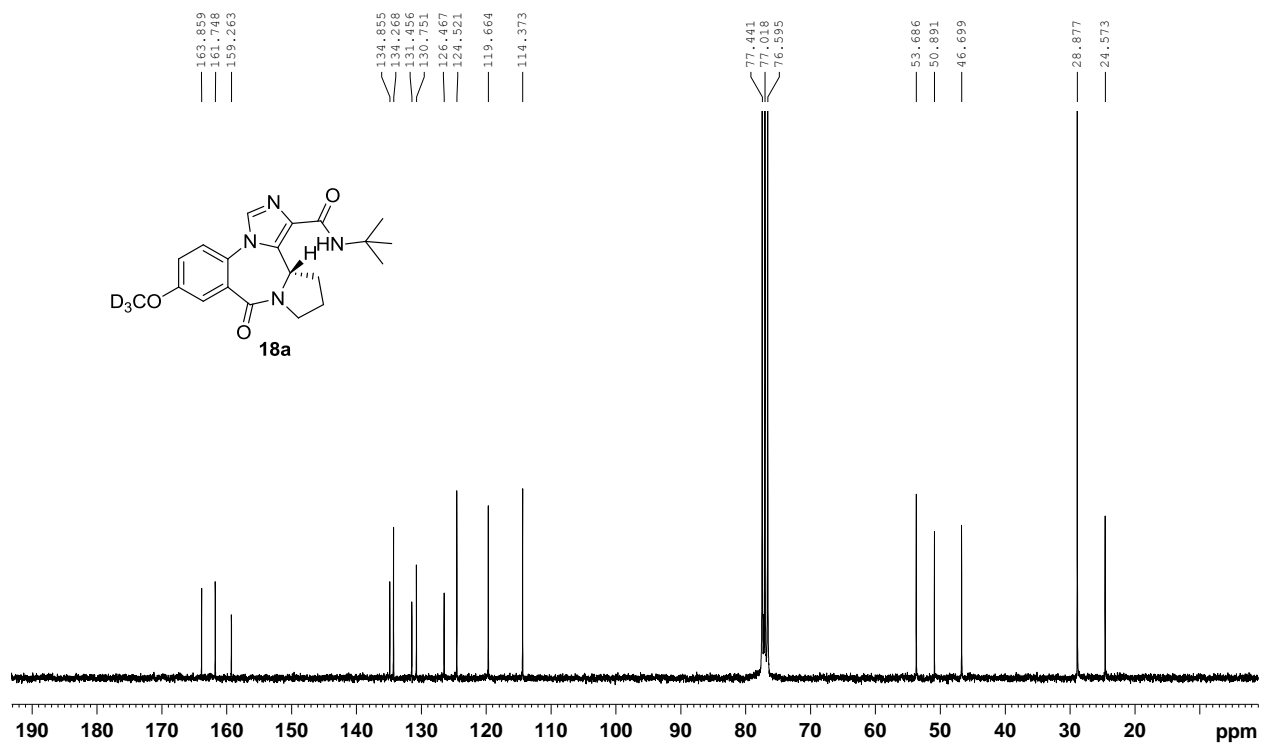
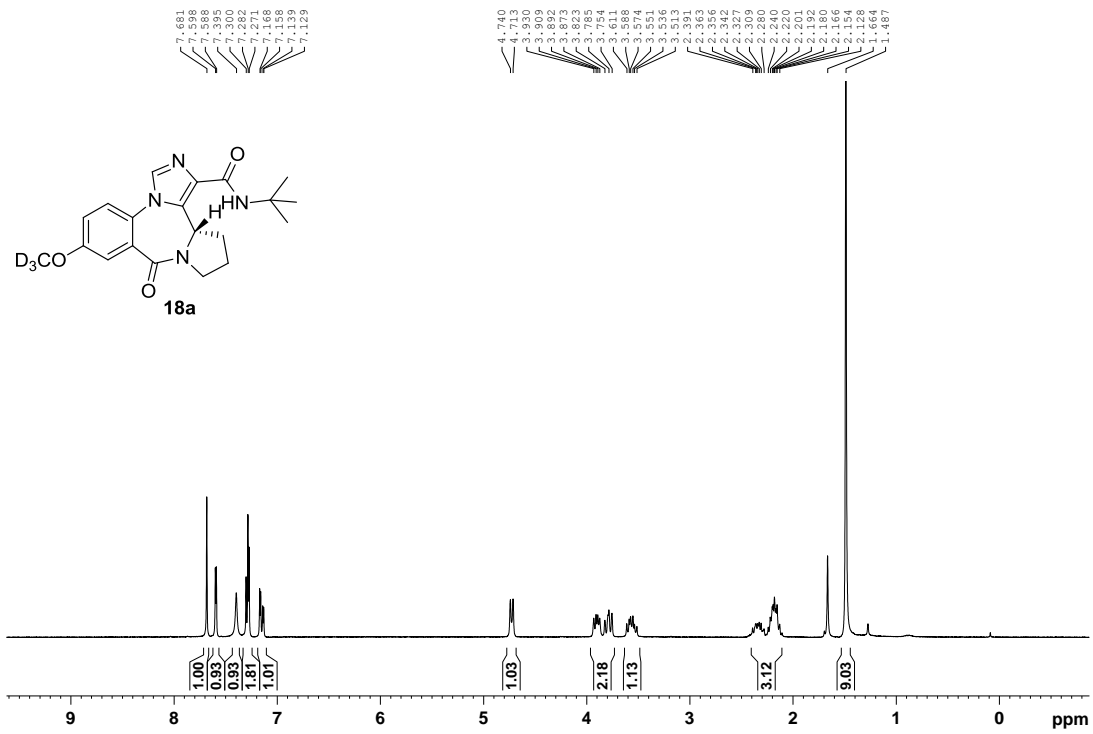


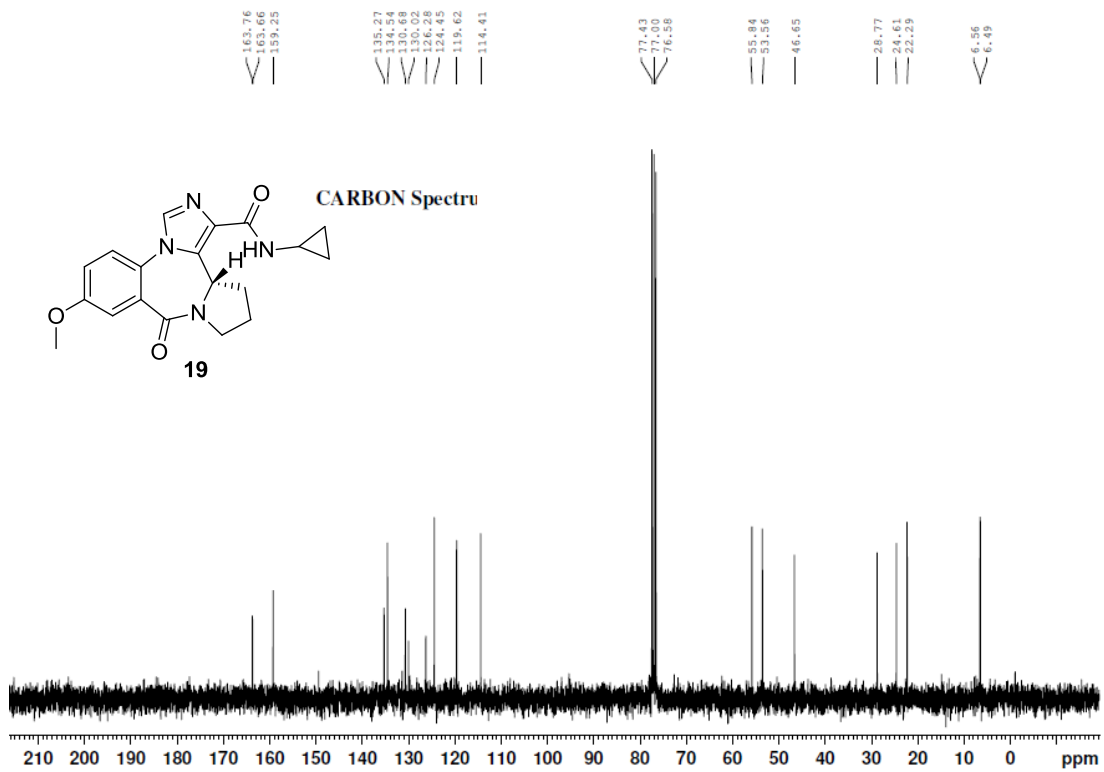
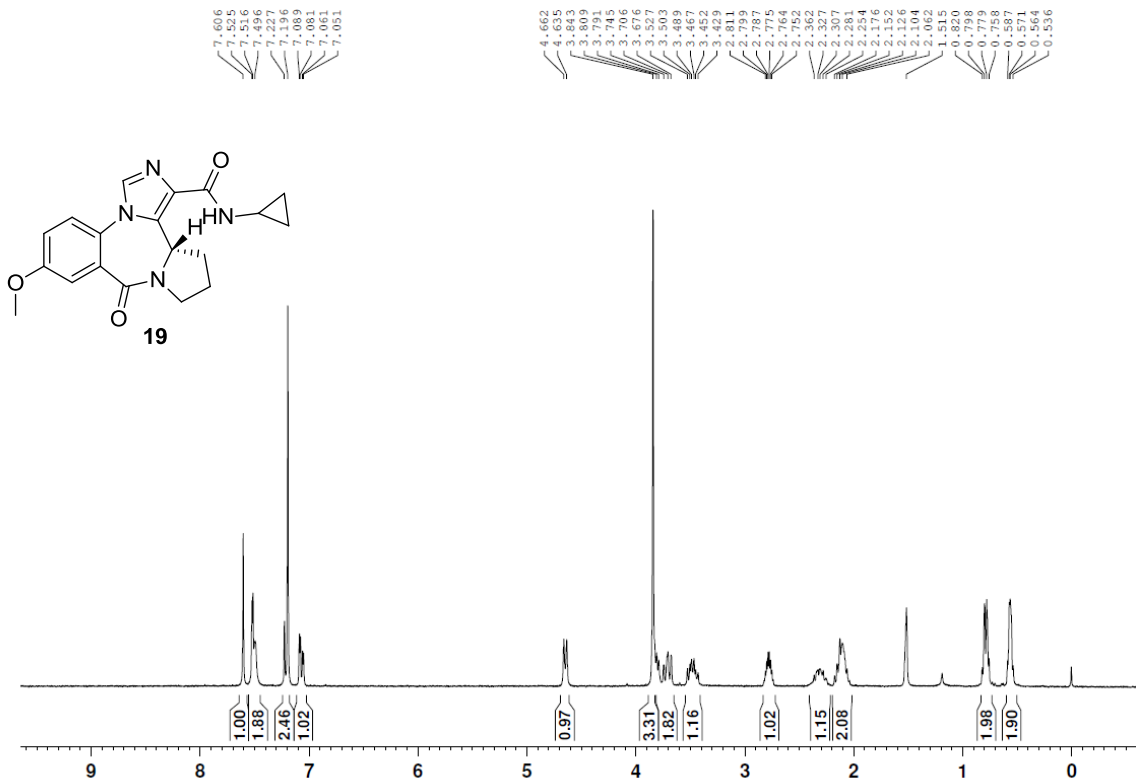


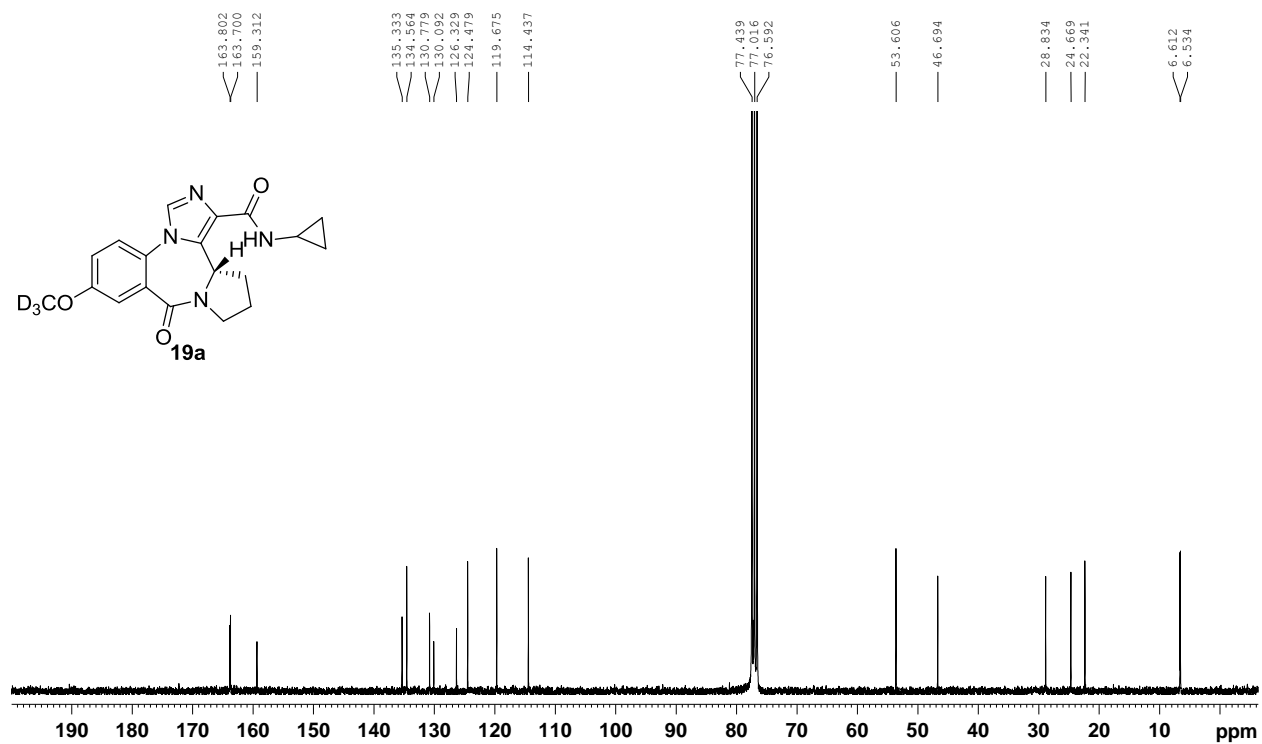
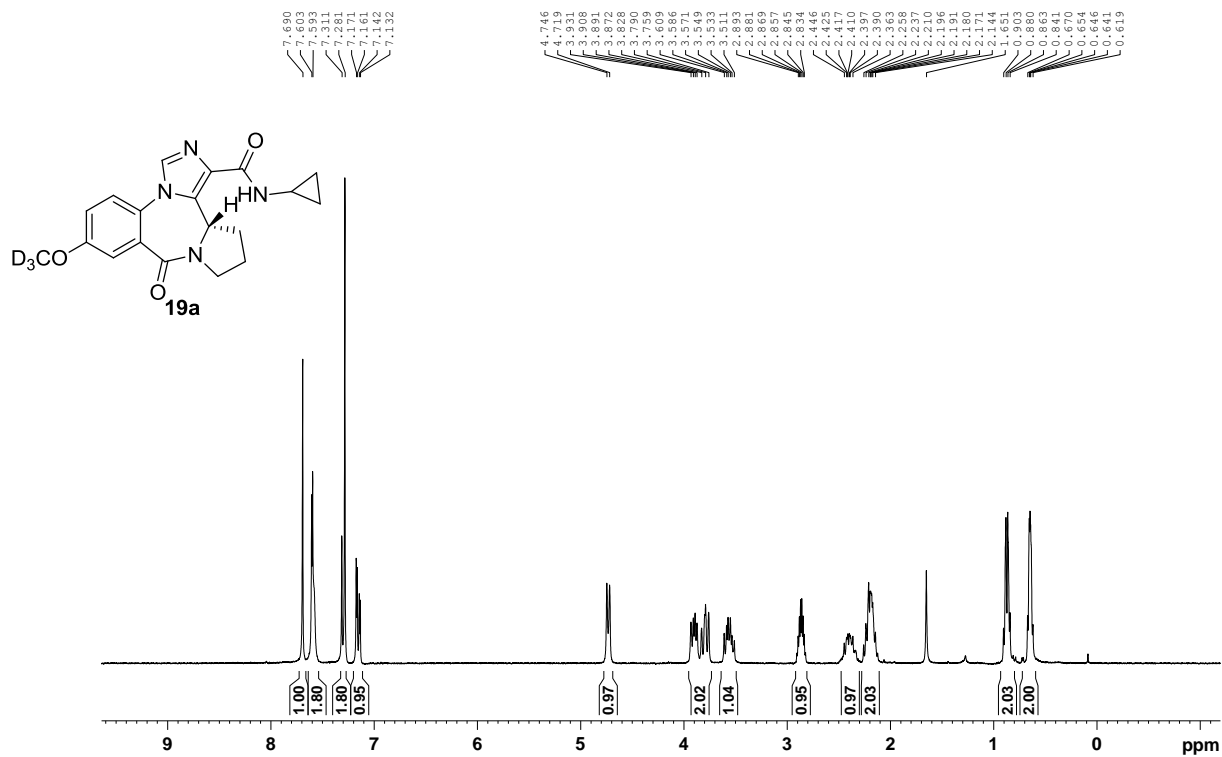












[1] G.S. Forkuo, M.L. Guthrie, N.Y. Yuan, A.N. Nieman, R. Kodali, R. Jahan, M.R. Stephen, G.T. Yocum, M. Treven, M.M. Poe, G. Li, O.B. Yu, B.D. Hartzler, N.M. Zahn, M. Ernst, C.W. Emala, D.C. Stafford, J.M. Cook, L.A. Arnold, Development of GABAA Receptor Subtype-Selective Imidazobenzodiazepines as Novel Asthma Treatments, *Mol Pharm*, 13 (2016) 2026-2038.