

Supporting Information

for

A mechanochemical approach to access the pro-line–proline diketopiperazine framework

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Experimental part

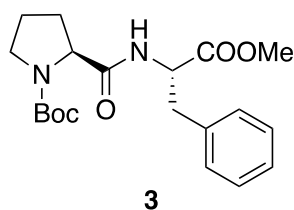
General. All reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka, Novabiochem or Senn Chemicals and were used without further purification. The milling treatments were carried out either in a vibrating Retsch Mixer Mill 200 or 400 (vbm) or in a Fritsch Pulverisette 7 Planetary Mill (pbm). The milling load (ML) is defined as the sum of the mass of reagents per free volume in the jar. The free volume is the volume of the jar minus the volume of the ball. ML is expressed in mg/mL. η is the ratio of added liquid volume to the mass of reagents. It is expressed in $\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE DPX 300 MHz, a Bruker AVANCE III 400 MHz, a Bruker AVANCE III 500 MHz or a Bruker AVANCE III 600 MHz spectrometer and are reported in ppm using solvent as an internal standard (CDCl_3 at 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet or overlap of non-equivalent resonances; integration; coupling constant in Hz. ^{13}C NMR spectra are reported in ppm using the solvent as an internal standard (CDCl_3 at 77.16 ppm).

Analytical high performance liquid chromatography was performed on a Waters Millennium 717 that was equipped with an autosampler and had a variable wavelength diode detector. A Chromolith RP18 column (50×4.6 mm) was employed, and a flow rate of 5 mL min^{-1} was used with a linear gradient of CH_3CN in water of 0–100% (0.1% TFA) over 4.5 min. Flash chromatography was performed by using prepacked silica columns on a Biotage® Isolera™ Four system.

High resolution LC–UV–MS analyses were performed on UPLC Acquity H-Class from Waters with Kinetex C18 100 \AA 2.1×2.6 mm column from Phenomenex hyphenated to a Synapt G2-S mass spectrometer with a dual ESI source from Waters. UV chromatograms were recorded with a PDA detector from 200 to 400 nm. Analyses were carried out with the column oven at $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, with a flow rate of $500 \mu\text{L min}^{-1}$ and an injection volume of $1 \mu\text{L}$. Elution solvents used were water and acetonitrile each supplemented with 0.1% formic acid. Gradient elution was performed from 0% to 100% of acetonitrile 0.1% formic acid in 12 min. Mass spectra were recorded in positive mode from 100 to 1500 Da with a capillary voltage of 3000 V and a cone voltage of 30 V. Source and desolvation temperatures were respectively $140 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $450 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Computational details. Geometry optimizations have been performed with the Gaussian 09 package¹ at the wB97XD level of hybrid density functional theory,² with inclusion of both implicit solvent influence using the SMD model for methanol,³ and the D3(bj) corrections in the optimization process.^{4,5} The atoms were represented by a def2-svp basis set.⁶ To gain a better estimate of the energies, single point calculations on the solvent-optimized geometries were carried out using a def2-qzvpp basis set for all the atoms.⁷ All energies reported in the present work are Gibbs free energies obtained by summing the energy (including D3 corrections) computed with the def2-qzvpp basis sets and the Gibbs contribution as deduced on the solvent-optimized geometries with the def2-svp basis sets at 298 K and 1 atm.

Boc-Pro-Phe-OMe (3)



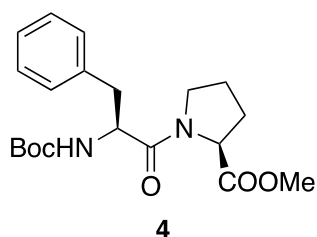
Procedure:⁸ Boc-L-proline *N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester (**1**, 130 mg, 0.42 mmol), L-phenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride (90 mg, 0.42 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaHCO₃ (84 mg, 0.62 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and EtOAc (330 μ L, $\eta = 1.20 \mu\text{L}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}$) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 10 mL stainless steel grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and placed within the vibratory ball-mill for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the aqueous one was extracted once with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed twice with 1 N aqueous NaOH solution, twice with 1 N aqueous HCl solution and once with brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the dipeptide Boc-Pro-Phe-OMe **3** (150 mg, 0.40 mmol, 95%) was obtained as a white solid. Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁹

TLC: R_f = 0.56 (cyclohexane/EtOAc 50/50) (ninhydrin)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (minor rotamer in parentheses) 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.77 (br s, 2H), 1.99 (m, 1H), 2.26 (br s, 1H), 3.01 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 7.0 Hz), 3.19 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 5.6 Hz), 3.29 (3.40) (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 4.19 (4.28) (br s, 1H), 4.86 (br s, 1H), 6.46 (br s, 1H), 7.09 (d, 2H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 7.20-7.30 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (minor rotamer in parentheses) 23.5 (24.6), 28.4 (30.8), 38.2, 47.0, 52.4, 52.7 (53.4), 60.0 (61.1), 80.5 (80.9), 127.1 (127.3), 128.5 (128.7), 129.3, 135.9 (136.2), 154.7 (155.8), 171.8, 172.3.

Boc-Phe-Pro-OMe (4)



Procedure:⁸ Boc-L-phenylalanine *N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester (140 mg, 0.38 mmol), L-proline methyl ester hydrochloride **2** (63 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaHCO₃ (48 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.5 eq) and EtOAc (270 μ L, $\eta = 1.07 \mu\text{L}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}$) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 10 mL stainless steel grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and submitted to vibration milling for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted once with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed twice with 1 N aqueous NaOH solution, twice

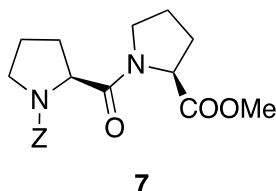
with 1 N aqueous HCl solution and once with brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the dipeptide Boc-Phe-Pro-OMe **4** (118 mg, 0.31 mmol, 82%) was obtained as a colorless wax. Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁰

TLC: R_f = 0.55 (cyclohexane/EtOAc 50/50) (ninhydrin)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (minor rotamer in parentheses) 1.38 (1.42) (s, 9H), 1.84-2.00 (1.60-1.76) (m, 3H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.91 (m, 1H), 3.06 (m, 1H), 3.19 (3.31) (m, 1H), 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.74 (3.69) (s, 3H), 4.50 (4.42) (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 8.1 Hz), 4.65 (m, 1H), 5.34 (5.45) (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.19-7.34 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (minor rotamer in parentheses) 24.9 (22.3), 28.4 (29.1), 39.2 (41.2), 46.9 (46.1), 52.3 (52.8), 53.3 (53.9), 59.0, 79.7 (79.6), 126.8 (127.1), 128.4 (128.6), 129.8 (129.4), 136.4 (136.6), 155.3 (154.8), 170.9, 172.4 (171.9).

Z-Pro-Pro-OMe (7)



Procedure:¹¹ (*S*)-proline methyl ester hydrochloride (**2**, 73 mg, 0.44 mmol), (*S*)-*N*-benzyloxycarbonylproline **5** (132 mg, 0.53 mmol, 1.2 equiv), NaHCO₃ (150 mg, 1.76 mmol, 4 equiv), oxyma (75 mg, 0.53 mmol, 1.2 equiv), EDCI (95 μL, 0.53 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and EtOAc (260 μL, η = 0.50 μL mg⁻¹) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 10 mL stainless steel grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and submitted to vibration milling for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the organic one was washed with 1 N aqueous HCl solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the dipeptide **7** (154 mg, 0.41 mmol, 90%) was obtained as a colorless wax and engaged in the next step without further purification. Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹²

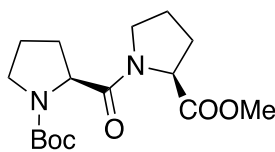
TLC: R_f = 0.50 (EtOAc) (UV, ninhydrine)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (2 rotamers) 1.62-2.25 (m, 8H), 3.33-3.84 (m, 4H), 3.70, 3.71 (s, 3H), 4.35-4.44 (m, 1H), 4.54-4.61 (m, 1H), 4.96-5.19 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.36 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (2 rotamers) 23.7, 24.4, 24.9, 25.1, 28.7, 28.9, 29.2, 30.3, 46.6, 46.7, 46.8, 47.4, 52.3, 52.3, 57.6, 58.3, 58.7, 58.9, 67.0, 67.3, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.5, 128.6, 136.8, 136.9, 154.2, 155.1, 171.1, 171.4, 172.7, 173.0.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₉H₂₅N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 361.1763, found 361.1765.

Boc-Pro-Pro-OMe (8)



8

Procedure:¹¹ (*S*)-proline methyl ester hydrochloride **2** (110 mg, 0.66 mmol), (*S*)-*N*-tert-butyloxycarbonylproline **6** (172 mg, 0.80 mmol, 1.2 equiv), NaH₂PO₄ (320 mg, 2.66 mmol, 4 equiv), oxyma (114 mg, 0.80 mmol, 1.2 equiv), EDCI (142 μ L, 0.80 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and EtOAc (450 μ L, $\eta = 0.53 \mu\text{L}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}$) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 15 mL PTFE grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and submitted to vibration milling for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the aqueous one was extracted once with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed with 1 N aqueous HCl solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the dipeptide **8** (183 mg, 0.66 mmol, 85%) was obtained as a colorless wax and engaged in the next step without further purification. Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹³

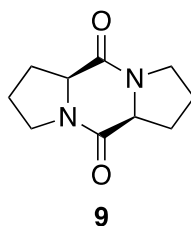
TLC: R_f = 0.47 (EtOAc) (ninhydrin)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (2 rotamers) 1.37, 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.77-2.22 (m, 8H), 3.34-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.65 (m, 2H), 3.69, 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.70-3.79 (m, 1H), 4.36-4.58 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (2 rotamers) 23.7, 24.2, 25.1, 25.2, 28.5, 28.6, 28.8, 28.9, 29.2, 30.1, 46.6, 46.8, 47.0, 52.2, 52.3, 57.8, 57.9, 58.8, 79.6, 153.9, 154.7, 171.3, 171.7, 172.8, 173.1.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₆N₂O₅Na [M+Na]⁺ 349.1739, found 349,1737.

Cyclo(Pro-Pro) (9)



9

Procedure:

a) From Z-Pro-Pro-OMe (7): to a solution of the dipeptide **7** (300 mg, 0.83 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (9 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (46 mg) and NaHCO₃ (77 mg, 0.92 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The reaction mixture was placed under hydrogen atmosphere and stirred at rt for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered on Celite, rinsed with MeOH, and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in dichloromethane, filtered and evaporated in vacuo to furnish the crude DKP as a slightly yellow solid. Purification by

flash chromatography on silica (dichloromethane/MeOH 100/0 to 95/05) allowed to obtain pure DKP **9** (135 mg, 0.69 mmol, 83%) as a white solid.

b) From Boc-Pro-Pro-OMe (**8**): the Boc-protected dipeptide **8** (90 mg, 0.27 mmol) was submitted to gaseous HCl for 2 h.¹⁴ The crude hydrochloride (72 mg) was then dissolved in anhydrous MeOH (3 mL) and stirred for 24 h in the presence of an excess of NaHCO₃ (57 mg, 0.68 mmol, 2.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue taken up in dichloromethane, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica (dichloromethane/MeOH 100/0 to 95/05) to furnish pure DKP **9** (38 mg, 0.19 mmol, 70% over 2 steps) as a white solid.

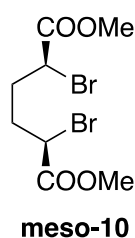
Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁵

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 1.84-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.96-2.06 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.35 (m, 2H), 3.52 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 3.53 (dd, 2H, *J* = 8.6, 1.6 Hz), 4.16 (t, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 23.4, 27.8, 45.3, 60.6, 166.5.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₅N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 195.1134, found 195.1136.

meso-Dimethyl-2,5-dibromohexanedioate (meso-**10**)



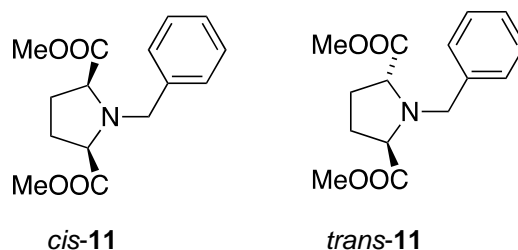
Procedure: thionyl chloride (200 g, 1.68 mol, 2.45 equiv) was added dropwise to adipic acid (100 g, 0.685 mol) under stirring. At the end of the addition, the reaction mixture was heated at 70–80 °C for 3 h. After cooling to rt, the excess of thionyl chloride was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure. Bromine (250 g, 1.56 mol, 2.27 equiv) was then added dropwise to the resulting acid chloride over 6 h at 80 °C. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt, then poured in a dropping funnel and added slowly to 500 mL of anhydrous methanol at –5 °C. The solution was stirred at rt for 12 h, after which meso dimethyl dibromoadipate (**10**) precipitates by cooling of the methanolic solution. The resulting solid was filtered, washed several times with cold methanol and recrystallized from methanol. The filtrate was evaporated under vacuum, the oily residue dissolved in diethyl ether (500 mL) and washed successively with 2% aqueous sodium bisulfite solution (100 mL), 3% aqueous sodium hydrogenocarbonate solution (100 mL) and water. The organic phase was dried with K₂CO₃ (17 g) and concentrated. The oily residue was dissolved in a minimal amount of methanol and allowed to stand at 5–7 °C until precipitation of residual meso compound. The crystallized product was filtered, washed and recrystallized from methanol. The gathered solids gave 183 g (0,55 mol, 83%) of the title compound meso-**10**.¹⁶

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 2.02-2.12 (m, 2H), 2.23-2.37 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 4.23-4.28 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 32.6, 44.4, 53.3, 169.8.

m.p.: 76 °C (76-77 °C litt.)

cis-2,5-Dimethyl-*N*-benzylpyrrolidine-2,5-dicarboxylate (*cis*-**11**) and *trans*-2,5-dimethyl-*N*-benzylpyrrolidine-2,5-dicarboxylate (*trans*-**11**)



Procedure: Dimethyl (*R,S*)-2,5-dibromohexanedioate **10** (785 mg, 2.36 mmol, 1 equiv), benzylamine (340 μL , 3.10 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and potassium carbonate (720 mg, 5.21 mmol, 2.2 equiv) and EtOAc (600 μL , $\eta = 0.33 \mu\text{L}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}$) as liquid grinding assistant were introduced in a 45 mL stainless steel grinding bowl with 19 stainless steel balls (10 mm diameter). The bowl was closed and placed for 120 min within the planetary mill at 500 rpm. Then, the reaction mixture was taken up in EtOAc, filtered and washed with water and brine. After drying on MgSO_4 , the organic layer was evaporated under vacuum to furnish the crude product as a colourless oil (*cis/trans* ratio of 97/03 measured by ^1H NMR). Purification by flash chromatography on silica (cyclohexane/EtOAc 100/0 to 80/20) allowed to isolate the expected pyrrolidine *cis*-**11** (490 mg, 1.77 mmol, 75% yield) and the minor isomer *trans*-**11** (15 mg, 0.05 mmol, 2.3%), each as colourless oil. Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature for both isomers.¹⁷

cis-2,5-Dimethyl-*N*-benzylpyrrolidine-2,5-dicarboxylate (*cis*-**11**)

TLC: $R_f = 0.35$ (cyclohexane/EtOAc 80/20)

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 2.06-2.08 (m, 4H), 3.44-3.49 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 6H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 7.21-7.34 (m, 5H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 28.7, 52.0, 57.8, 65.5, 127.5, 128.2, 129.8, 137.0, 173.8.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 278.1392, found 278.1395.

trans-2,5-Dimethyl-*N*-benzylpyrrolidine-2,5-dicarboxylate (*trans*-**11**)

TLC: $R_f = 0.53$ (cyclohexane/EtOAc 80/20)

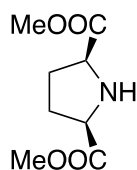
Appearance: slight yellow oil

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 1.89-1.97 (m, 2H), 2.26-2.37 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 6H), 3.79 (d, 1H, $J = 13.0$ Hz), 3.82-3.86 (m, 2H), 3.98 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.33 (m, 5H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 28.5, 51.7, 54.3, 63.5, 127.4, 128.4, 129.2, 138.4, 174.6.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 278.1392, found 278.1394.

cis-Dimethyl-2,5-pyrrolidine-2,5-dicarboxylate (12)



12

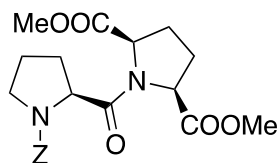
Procedure: To a solution of pyrrolidine *cis*-**11** (280 mg, 1.01 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (55 mg). The reaction mixture was placed under a hydrogen atmosphere and stirred overnight at rt. The mixture was filtered on Celite, rinsed with methanol, and the filtrate was evaporated under vacuum. The debenzylated pyrrolidine **12** (183 mg, 0.96 mmol, 95%) was obtained as a yellow oil and used without further purification. Analytical data obtained were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁸

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 1.89-1.97 (m, 2H), 2.10-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.63 (br s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 6H), 3.79-3.84 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 29.9, 52.4, 60.4, 174.7.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₈H₁₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 188.0925, found 188.0923.

Z-Pro-Pyr-(OMe)₂ (13)



13

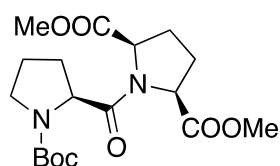
Procedure: *cis*-Pyrrolidine **12** (130 mg, 0.69 mmol), (*S*)-*N*-benzyloxycarbonylproline 210 mg, 0.83 mmol, 1.2 equiv) **5**, NaH₂PO₄ (250 mg, 2.10 mmol, 3 equiv), oxyma (120 mg, 0.83 mmol, 1.2 equiv), EDCI (185 μL, 1.04 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and EtOAc (400 μL, η = 0.46 μL.mg⁻¹) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 10 mL stainless steel grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and submitted to vibration milling for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the organic one was washed with 1 N aqueous HCl solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the pseudo-dipeptide **13** (234 mg, 0.54 mmol, 78%) was obtained as a slight yellow oil and engaged in the next step without further purification.

TLC: R_f = 0.26 (cyclohexane/EtOAc 50/50) (UV, ninhydrin)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (rotamers) 1.77-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.93-2.39 (m, 6H), 3.40-3.67 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 1.5H), 3.72 (s, 1.5H), 3.73 (s, 1.5H), 3.78 (s, 1.5H), 4.26-4.33 (m, 1.2H), 4.46 (dd, 0.6H, J = 7.9, 4.5 Hz), 4.61 (t, 0.6H, J = 15.8 Hz), 4.88 (d, 0.4H, J = 11.7 Hz), 5.02 (d, 0.6H, J = 12.5 Hz), 5.11-5.16 (m, 1.6H), 7.28-7.38 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (rotamers) 23.9, 24.8, 27.4, 27.8, 29.1, 29.8, 29.9, 30.1, 31.3, 47.2, 47.8, 52.3, 52.7, 57.3, 57.9, 59.7, 59.8, 59.9, 60.1, 67.1, 67.6, 127.7, 128.1, 128.6, 128.8, 128.9, 136.5, 136.7, 153.9, 155.2, 171.4, 171.6, 171.8, 171.9, 172.9, 173.0.
HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₂₁H₂₇N₂O₇ [M+H]⁺ 419.1818, found 419.1823.

Boc-Pro-Pyr-(OMe)₂ (14)



Procedure: cis-Pyrrolidine **12** (94 mg, 0.50 mmol), (*S*)-*N*-*tert*-butyloxycarbonylproline **6** (130 mg, 0.60 mmol, 1.2 equiv), NaH₂PO₄ (180 mg, 1.50 mmol, 3 equiv), oxyma (86 mg, 0.60 mmol, 1.2 equiv), EDCI (107 μL, 0.60 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and EtOAc (100 μL, η = 0.17 μL.mg⁻¹) as liquid assistant were introduced in a 15 mL PTFE grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and submitted to vibration milling for 1 h at 30 Hz. The residue was then dissolved in EtOAc and water, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted once with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed with 1 N aqueous HCl solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the pseudo-dipeptide **14** (141 mg, 0.36 mmol, 61%) was obtained as a colorless wax and engaged in the next step without further purification.

TLC: R_f = 0.27 (cyclohexane/EtOAc 50/50) (ninhydrin)

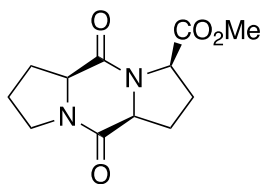
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (rotamers) 1.39, 1.41, 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.96-2.38 (m, 7H), 3.37 (m, 0.6H), 3.44 (m, 0.4H), 3.51 (m, 0.6H), 3.59 (m, 0.4H), 3.70, 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.76, 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.30 (dd, 0.3H, J = 7.7, 4.1 Hz), 4.40 (dd, 0.6H, J = 7.7, 4.1 Hz), 4.5-4.54 (m, 0.2H), 4.57 (m, 0.9H), 4.68 (dd, 0.3H, J = 8.2, 2.2 Hz), 5.10 (dd, 0.6H, J = 7.7, 2.7 Hz).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): (rotamers) 23.6, 24.6, 27.6, 27.8, 28.6, 28.7, 30.0, 30.1, 30.3, 31.3, 47.3, 47.3, 52.2, 52.6, 52.8, 57.3, 57.5, 59.9, 60.0, 79.6, 79.8, 153.5, 154.7, 171.5, 171.5, 171.9, 173.1, 173.4.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₈N₂O₇Na [M+Na]⁺ 407.1794, found 407.1795.

m.p.: 122.5-123.5 °C.

Diketopiperazine 15a



15a

Procedure:

a) From Z-pseudo-dipeptide 13: to a solution of **13** (160 mg, 0.38 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (5.0 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (25 mg) and NaHCO₃ (35 mg, 0.42 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The reaction mixture was placed under hydrogen atmosphere and stirred at rt for 20 h. The reaction mixture was filtered on Celite, rinsing with MeOH, and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in dichloromethane, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo* to furnish the expected DKP **15a** as a white solid (92 mg, 0.36 mmol, 95%).

b) From Boc-pseudo-dipeptide 14: the Boc-protected pseudo-dipeptide **14** (140 mg, 0.36 mmol) was submitted to gaseous HCl for 2 h. The crude hydrochloride (116 mg) was then dissolved in anhydrous MeOH (4 mL) and stirred for 24 h in the presence of an excess of NaHCO₃ (76 mg, 0.90 mmol, 2.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue taken up in dichloromethane, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica (dichloromethane/MeOH 100/0 to 95/05) to furnish the expected DKP **15a** (73 mg, 0.29 mmol, 80% over 2 steps) as a white solid.

TLC: R_f = 0.55 (dichloromethane/MeOH 95/05) (potassium permanganate)

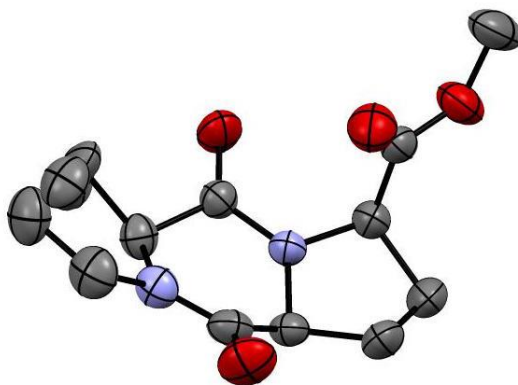
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 1.91 (m, 1H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 2.15-2.33 (m, 6H), 3.52 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 4.0, 8.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.64 (dt, 1H, *J* = 7.9, 11.5 Hz), 3.71 (s, 3H), 4.18 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 4.28 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 4.52 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 23.5, 26.3, 27.7, 28.9, 45.4, 52.7, 58.0, 60.5, 61.2, 166.2, 166.9, 171.2.

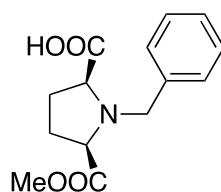
HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₇N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 253.1188, found 253.1191.

m.p.: 122.5-123.5 °C

RX:



(2S,5R)-N-benzyl-5-methoxycarbonylproline 17

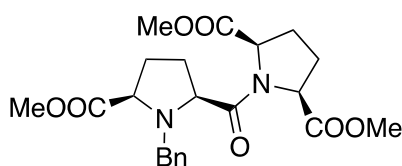


17

Procedure: diester **11cis** (135 mg, 0.48 mmol) was dissolved in acetone (1.50 mL) and 0,06 M phosphate buffer of pH 8 (12.5 mL). PLE (15 mg, 270 units) was added and the emulsion stirred vigorously at 30 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was acidified with HCl 1 N to pH 1–2, concentrated under reduced pressure and extracted several times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated under vacuum to furnish the half ester **17** as a viscous yellow oil (100 mg, 0.38 mmol, 79%). Analytical data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 1.89 (m, 1H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.35 (m, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.73-3,84 (m, 2H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 5H).

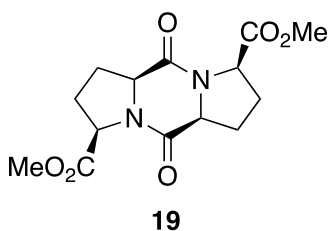
Pseudodipeptide 18



18

Procedure: acid **17** (80 mg, 0.30 mmol), *cis*-pyrrolidine **11** (70 mg, 0.37 mmol, 1.2 equiv), NaH₂PO₄ (145 mg, 1.20 mmol, 4 equiv), oxyma (88 mg, 0.60 mmol, 2 equiv), EDCI (110 μL, 0.60 mmol, 2 equiv) and EtOAc (50 μL, η = 0.46 μL.mg⁻¹) as liquid grinding assistant were introduced in a 15 mL PTFE grinding jar with one stainless steel ball (10 mm diameter). The jar was closed and subjected to grinding for 50 min in the vibratory ball mill operated at 30 Hz. The residue was then taken up in EtOAc, washed with 1 N aqueous HCl solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, filtration and evaporation under vacuum, the pseudo-dipeptide **18** (120 mg, 0.27 mmol, 90%) was obtained as a yellow wax and engaged in the next step without further purification.

Diketopiperazine 19



Procedure: to a solution of compound **18** (20 mg, 0.046 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (2,0 mL) was added 20% Pd(OH)₂/C (5 mg) and acetic acid (25 μL). The reaction mixture was placed under a hydrogen atmosphere and stirred at rt for 20 h. The reaction mixture was filtered with Celite, rinsed with MeOH, and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica (dichloromethane/MeOH 100/0 to 95/05) to furnish the expected DKP **19** (7,5 mg, 0.024 mmol, 52%) as a white solid.

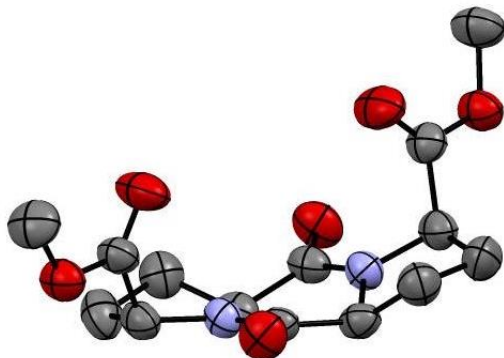
TLC: R_f = 0.38 (dichloromethane/MeOH 95/05) (potassium permanganate)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 2.18-2.34 (m, 8H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 4.32 (app. t, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 4.55 (app. d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 26.1, 29.1, 52.7, 58.1, 61.1, 166.6, 171.0.

HRMS ESI-(+) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₉N₂O₆ [M+H]⁺ 311.1243, found 311.1243.

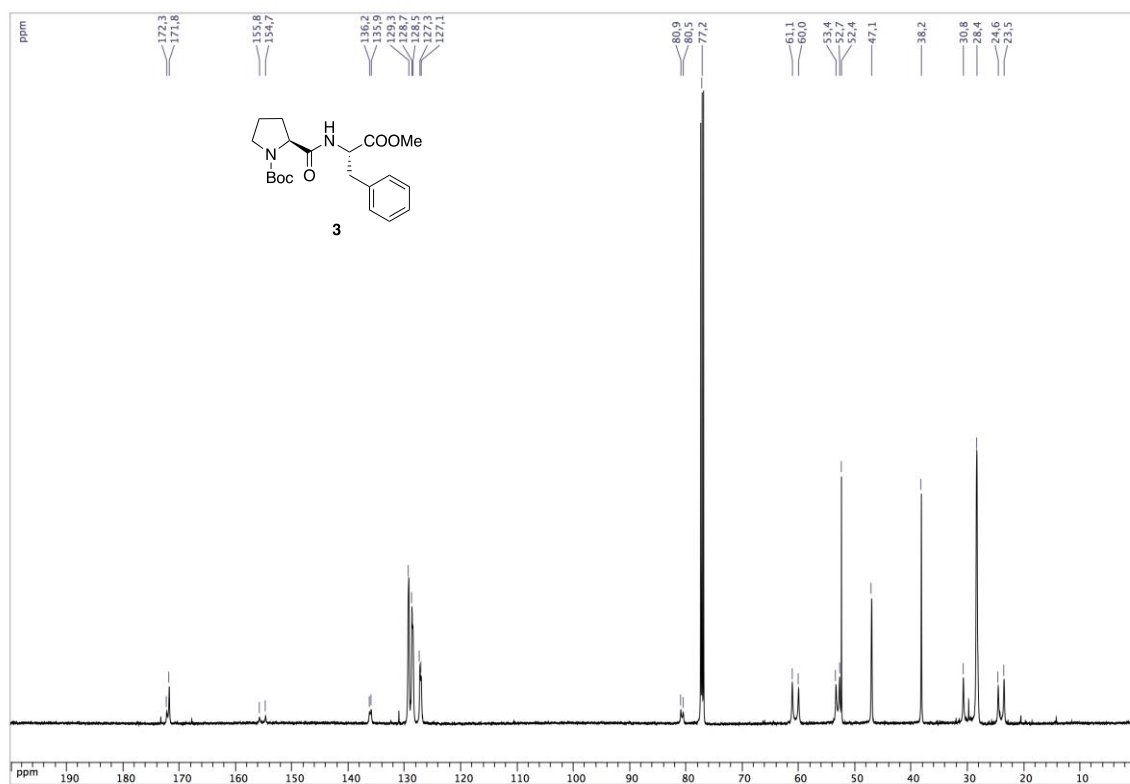
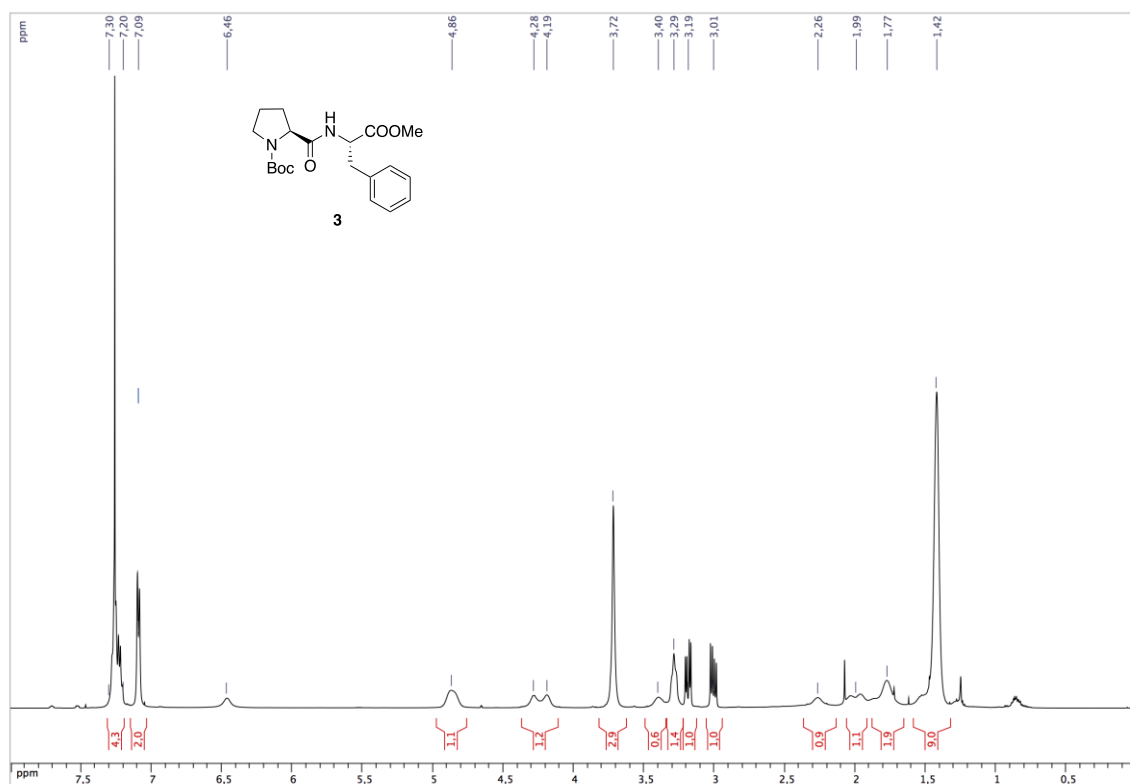
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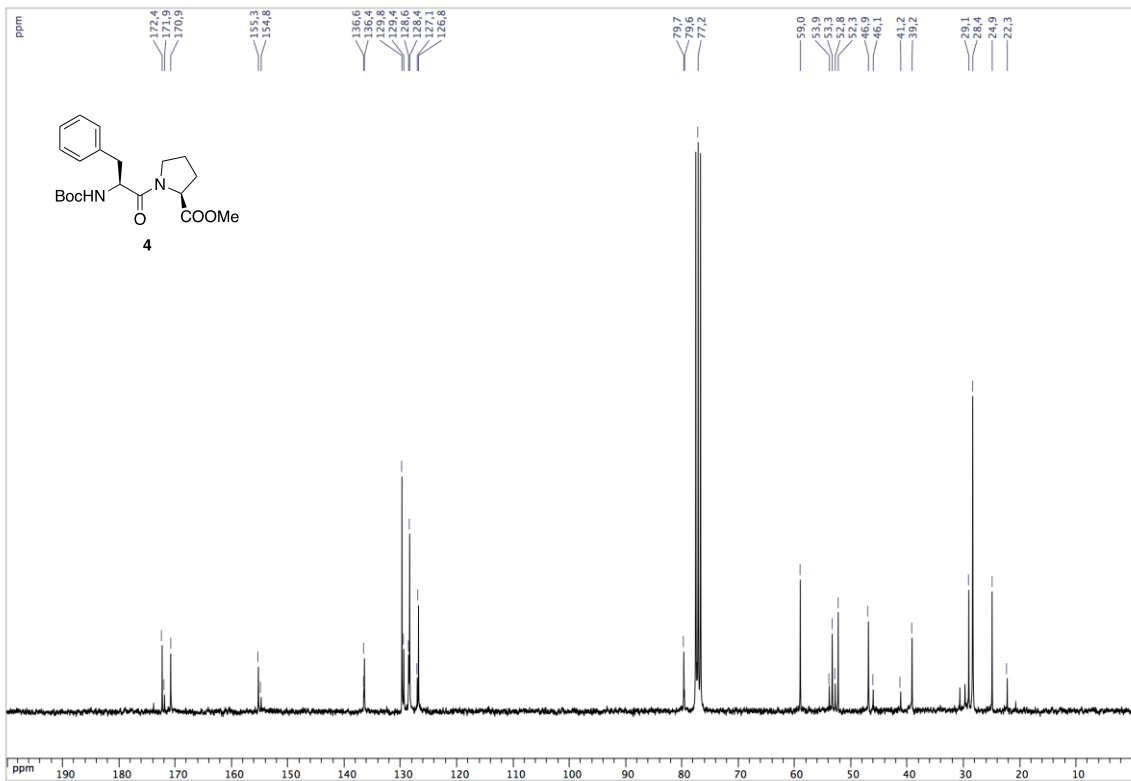
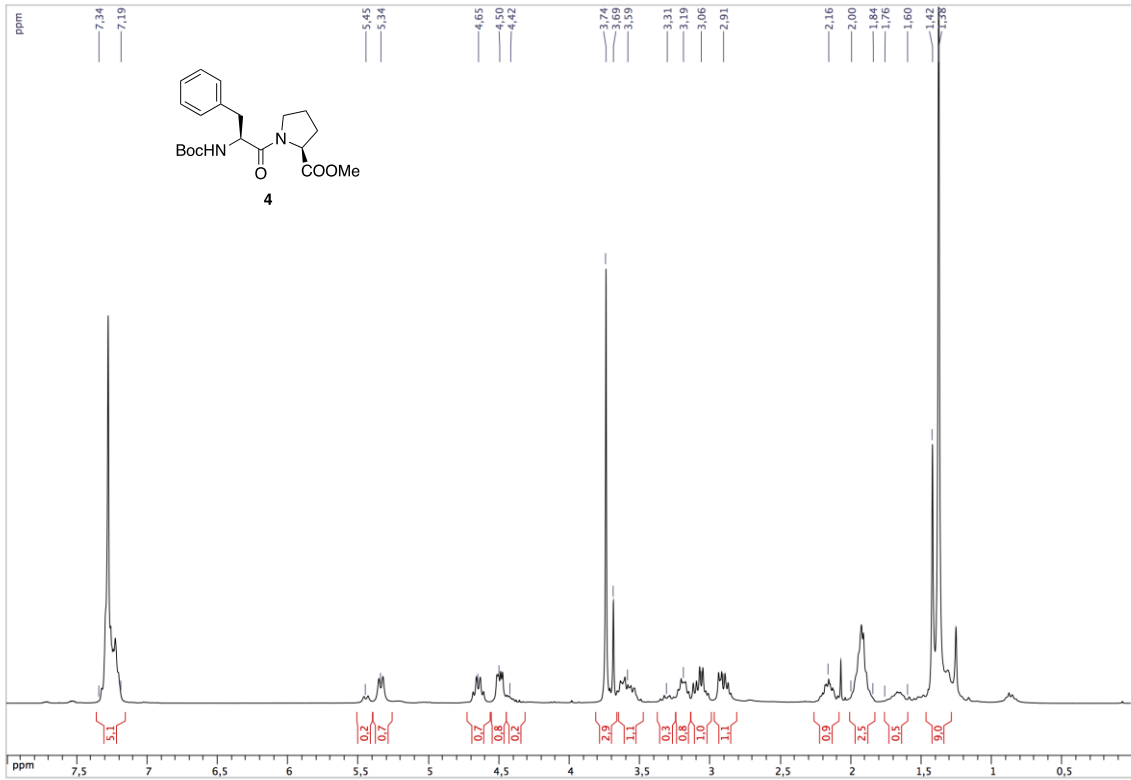


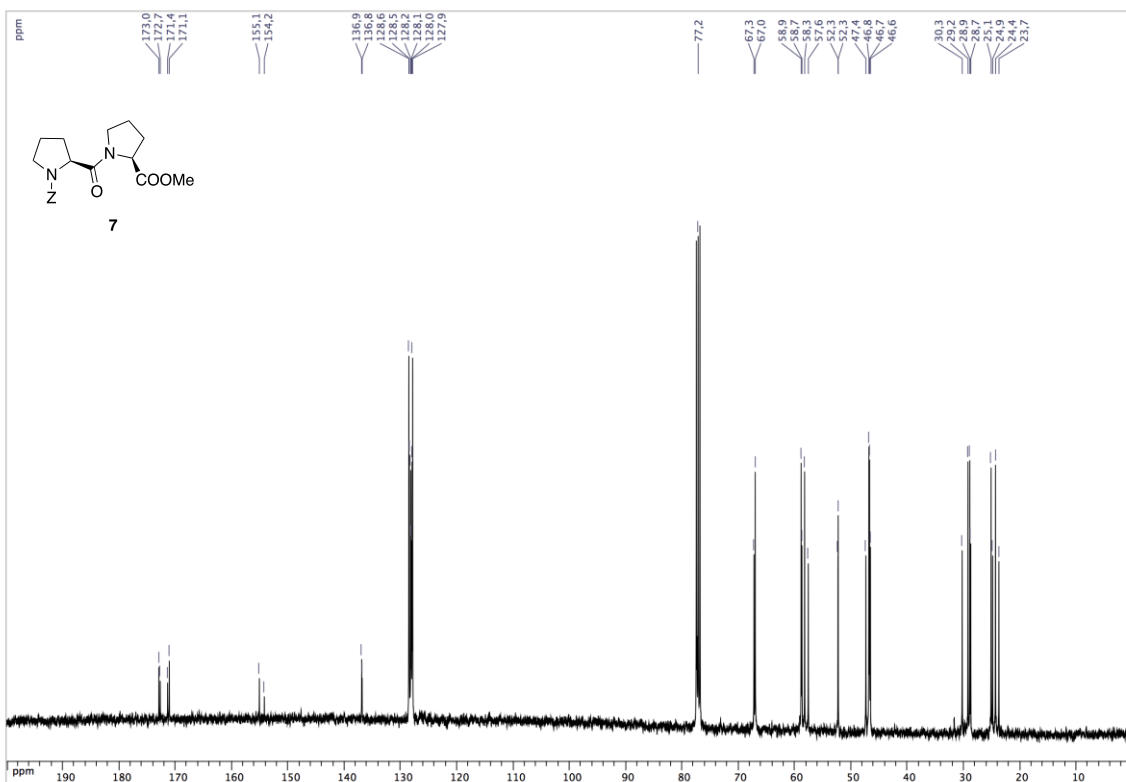
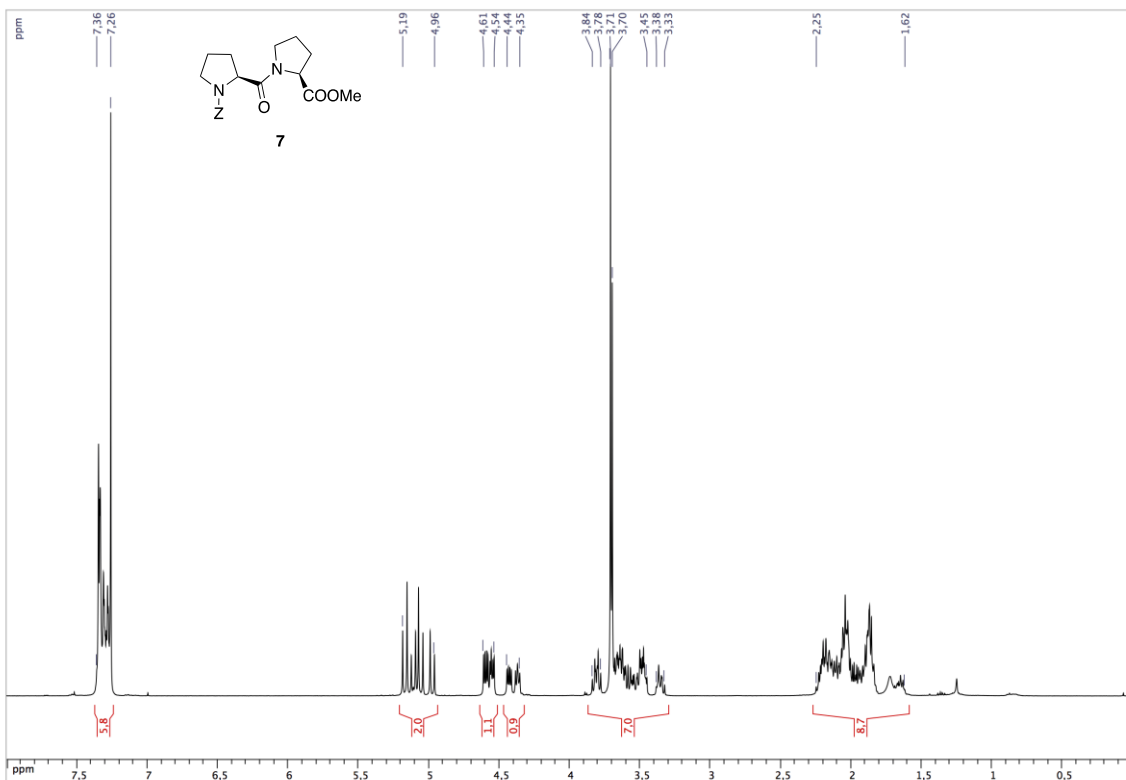
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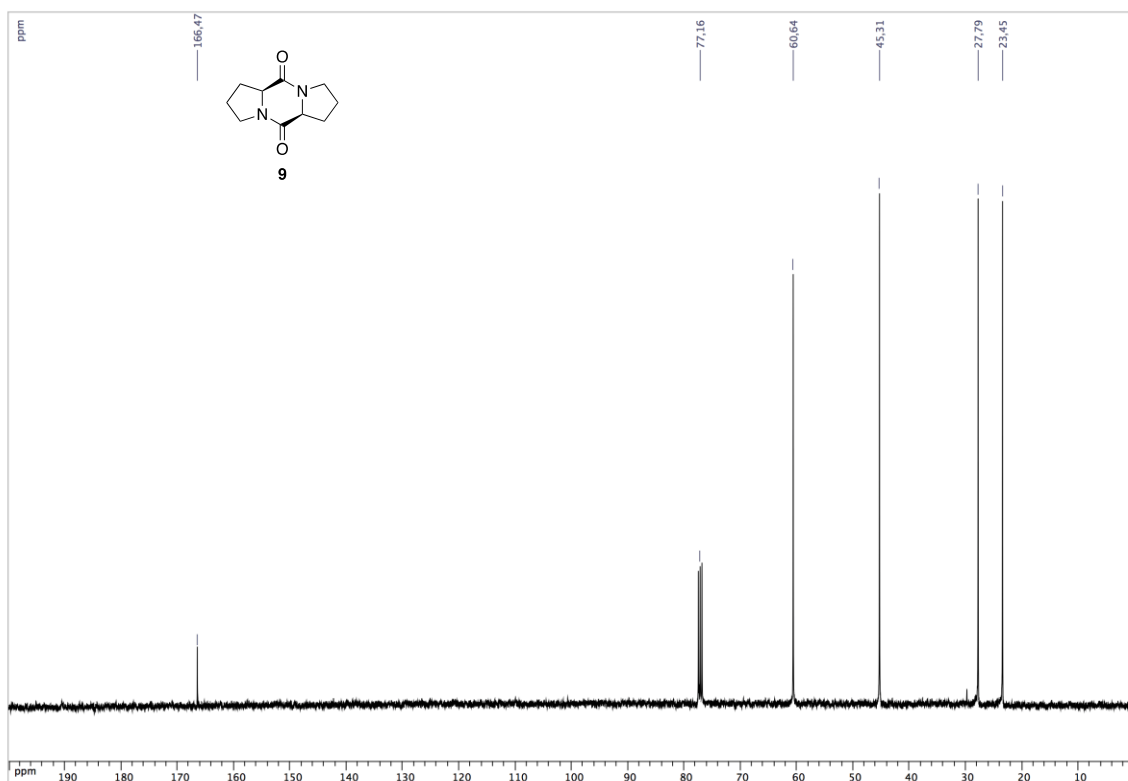
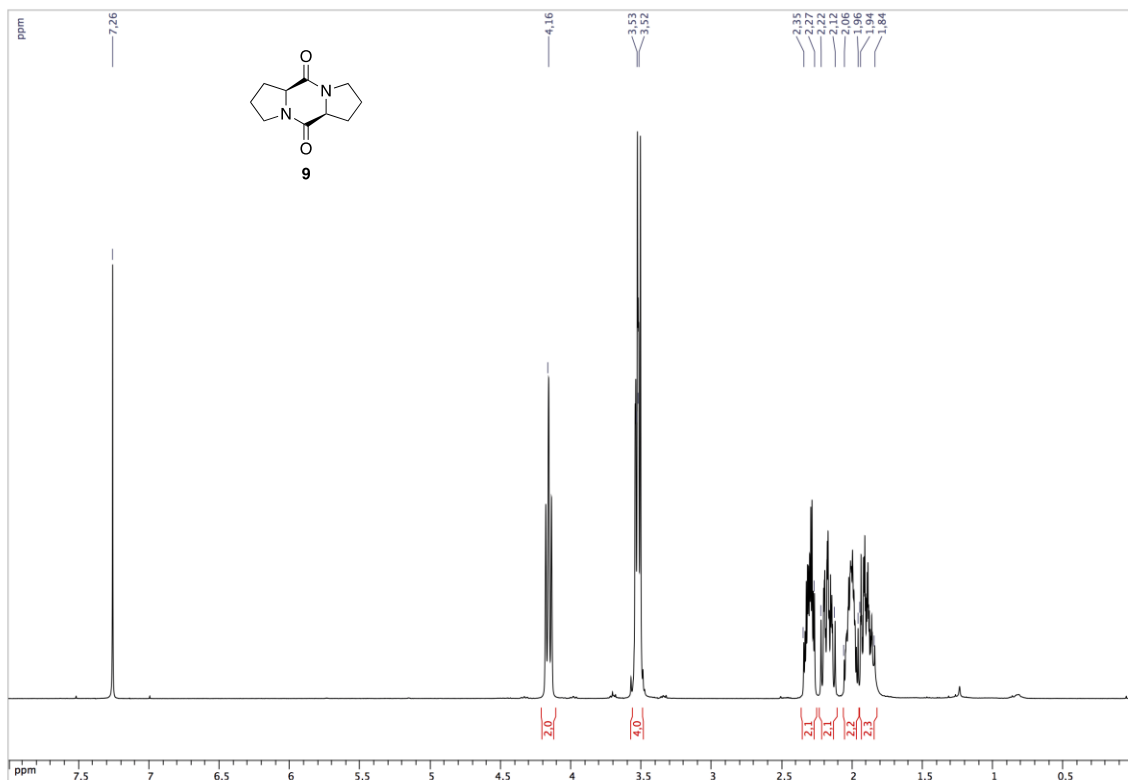
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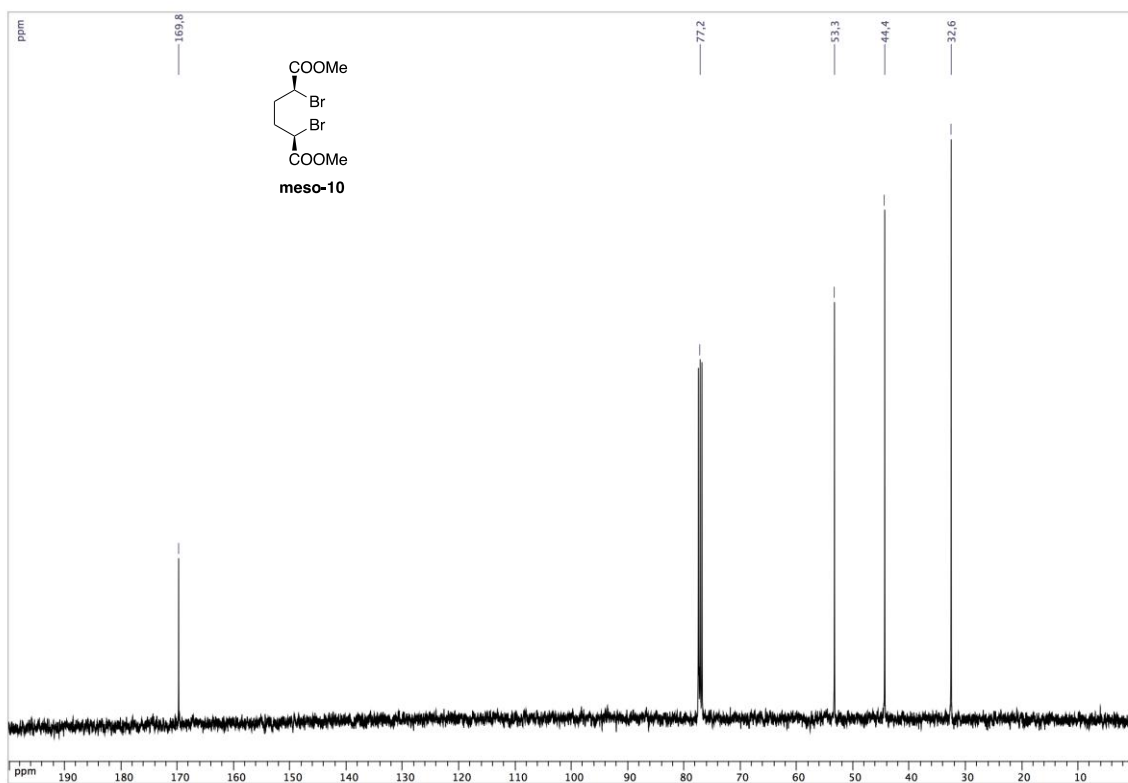
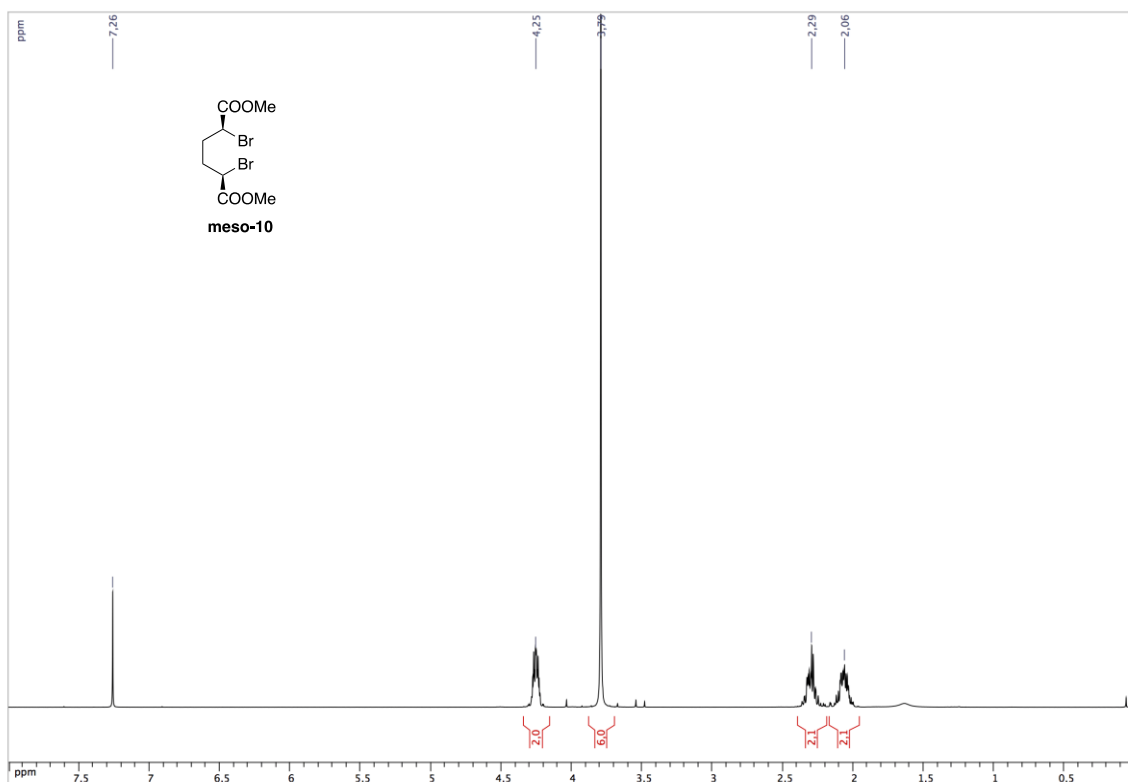
NMR spectra of synthesized compounds

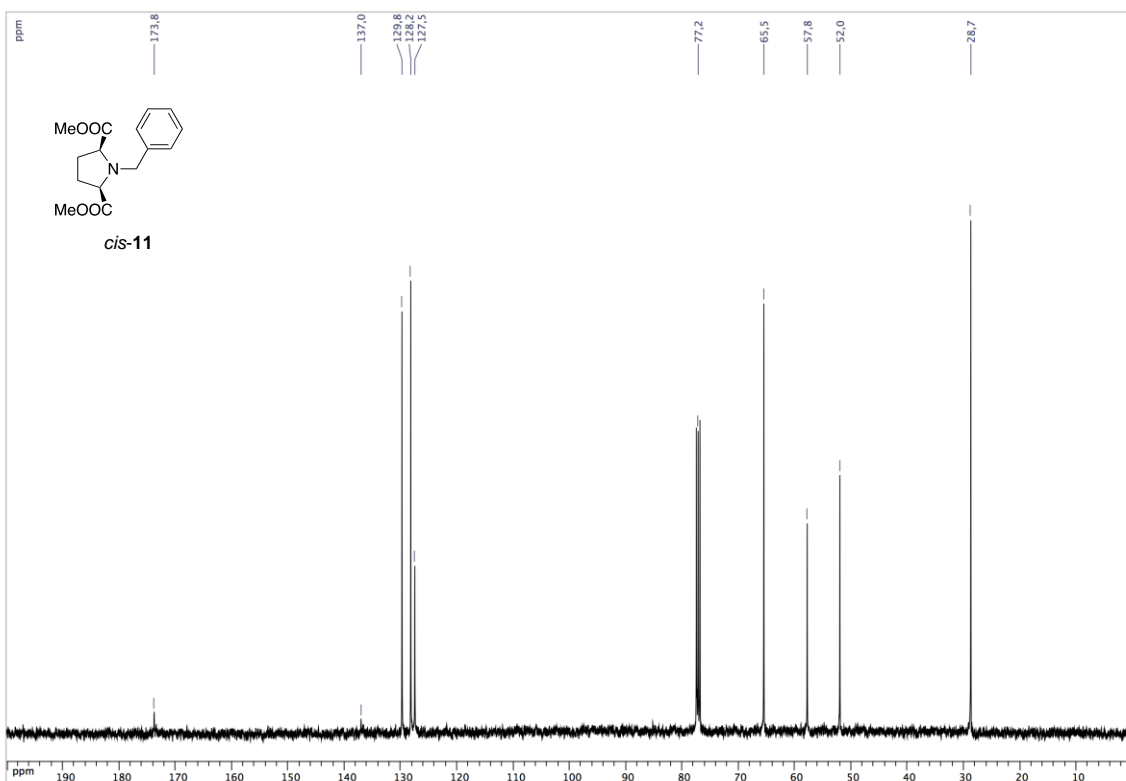
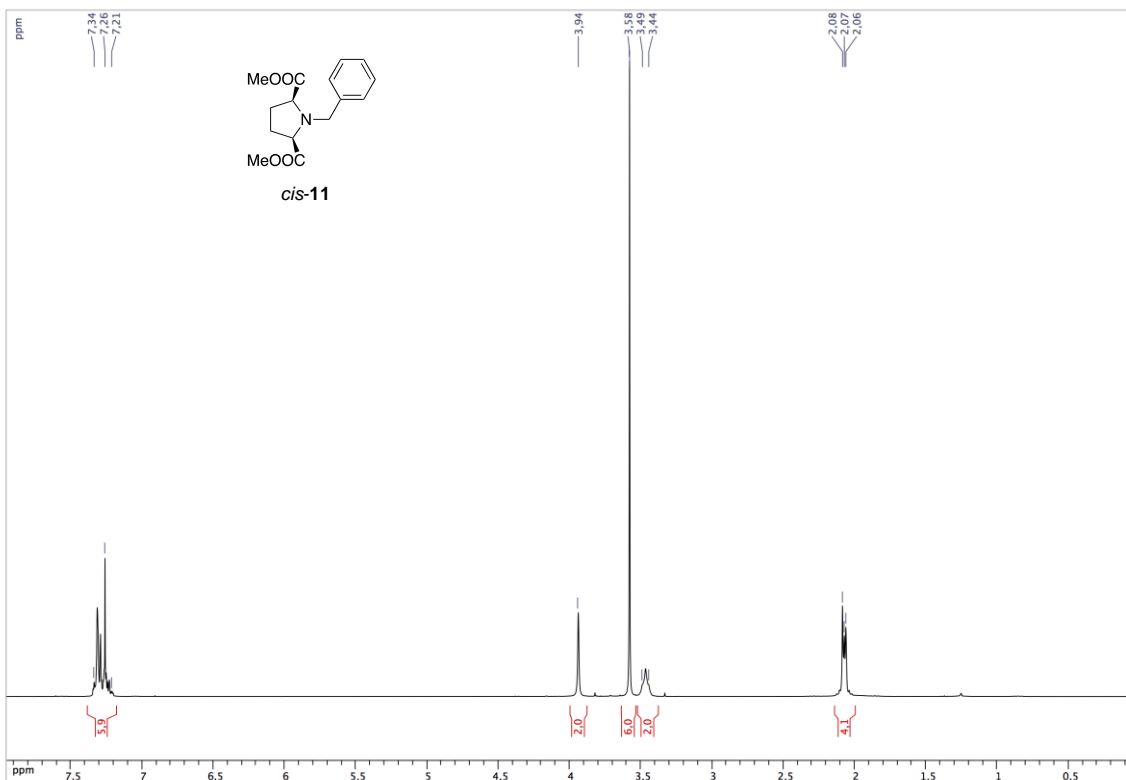


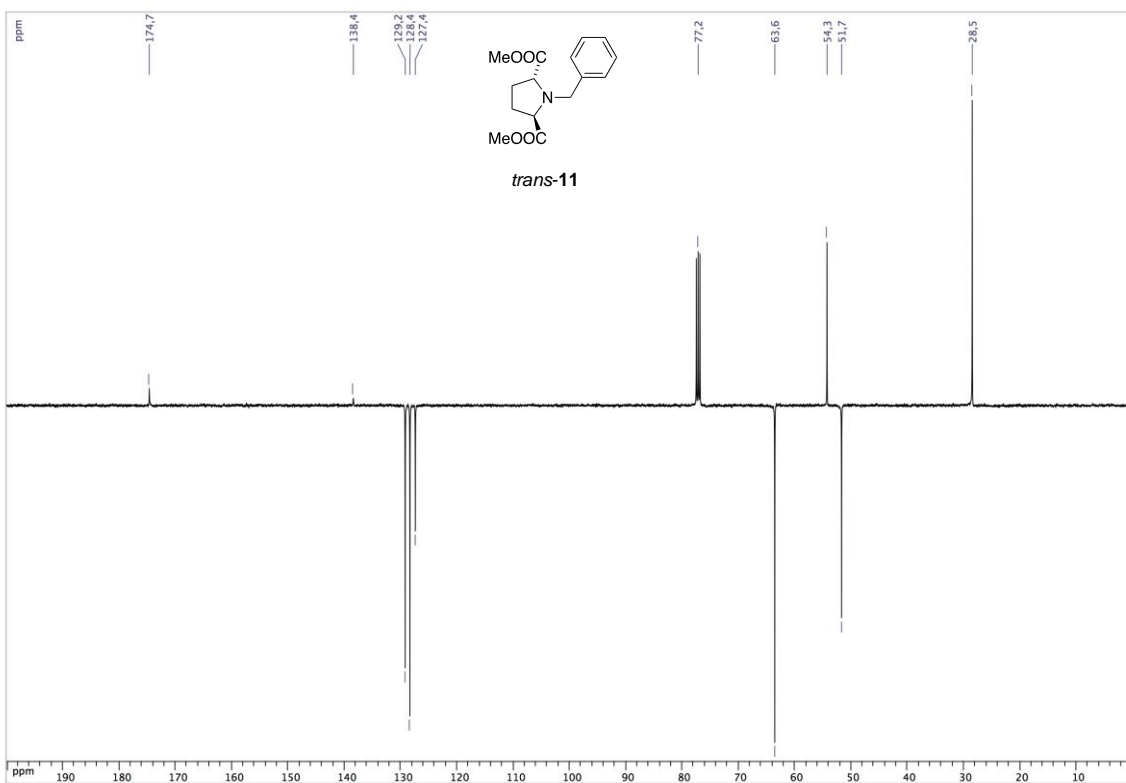
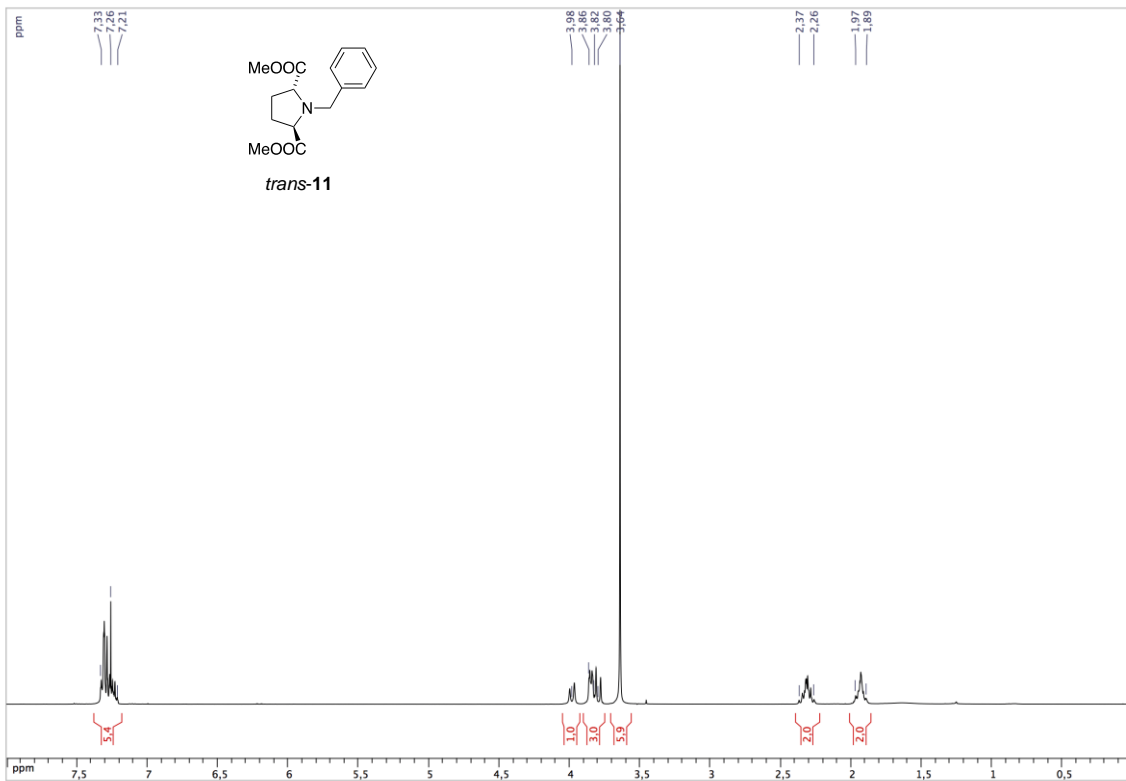


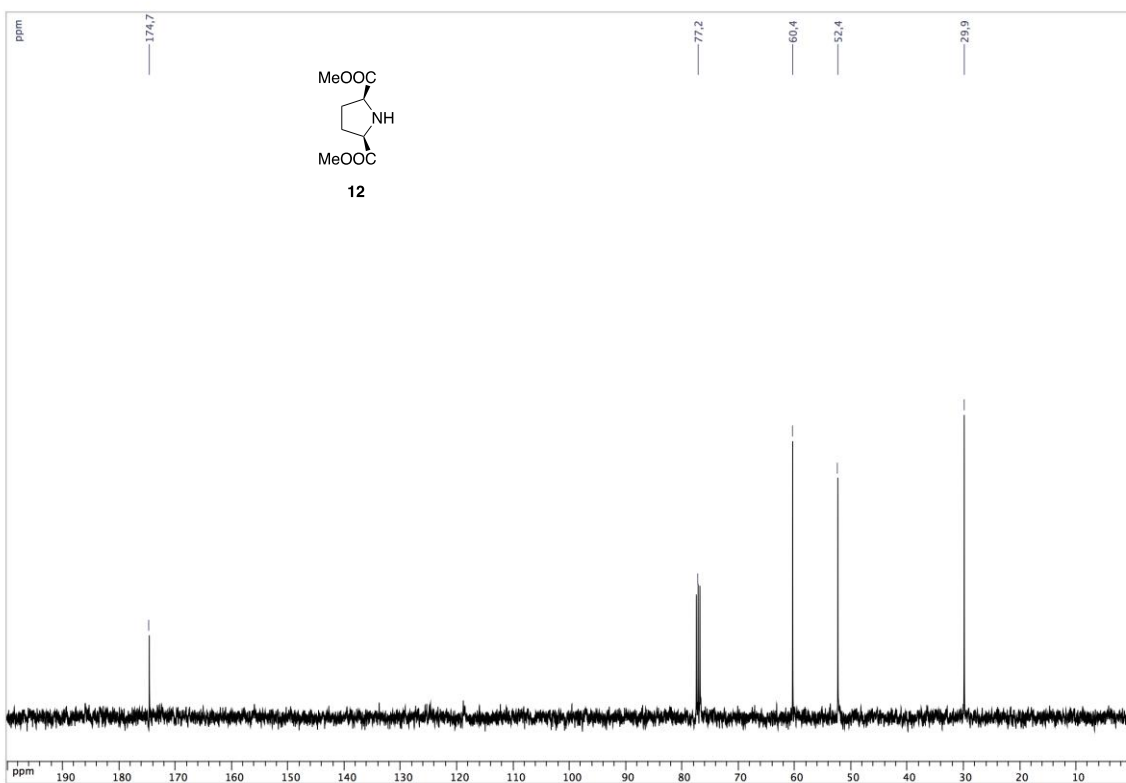
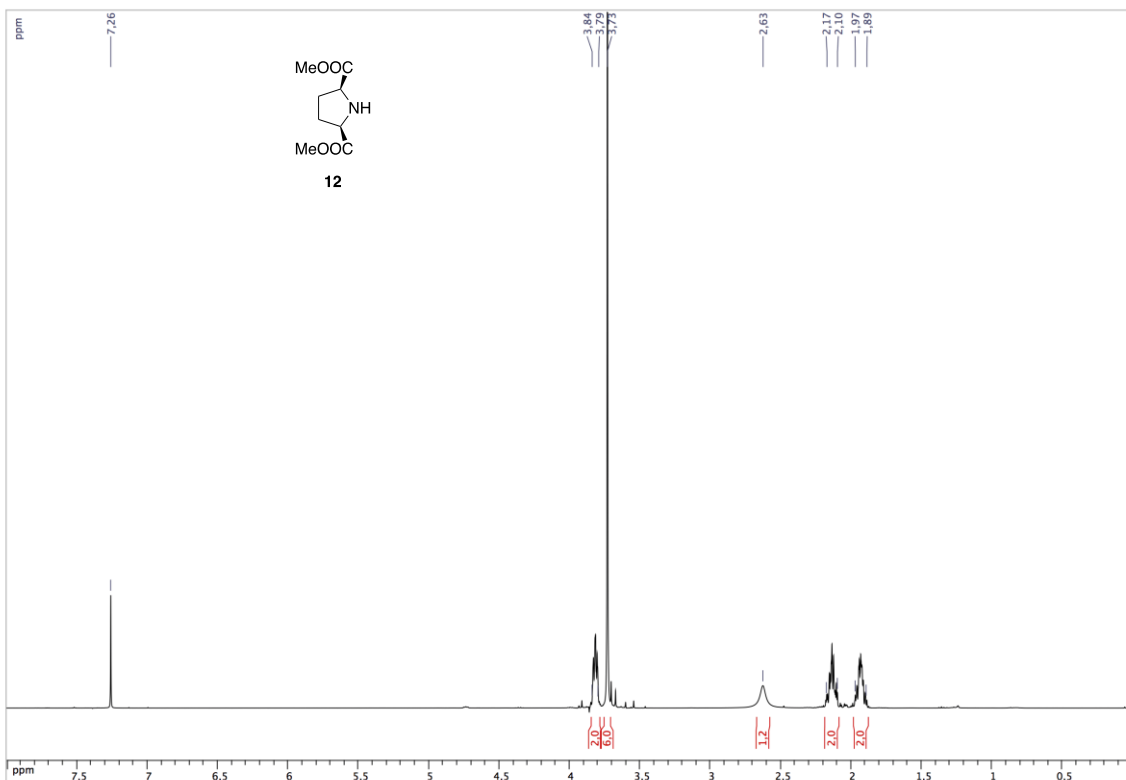


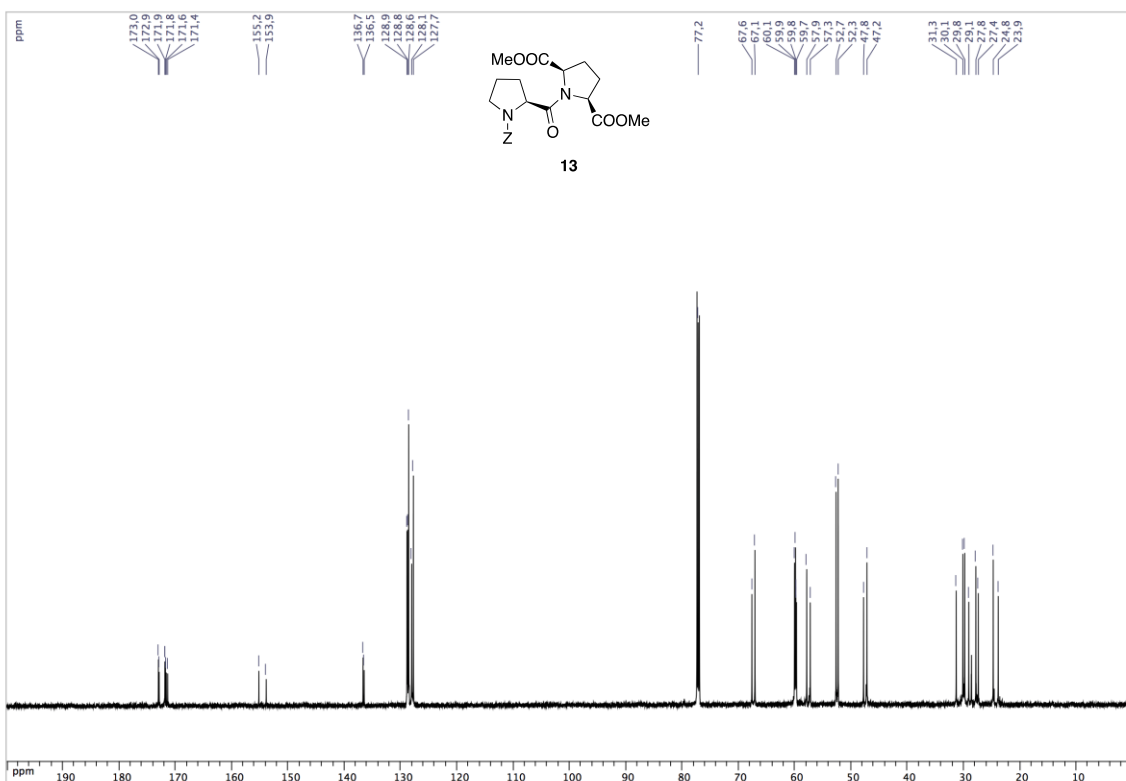
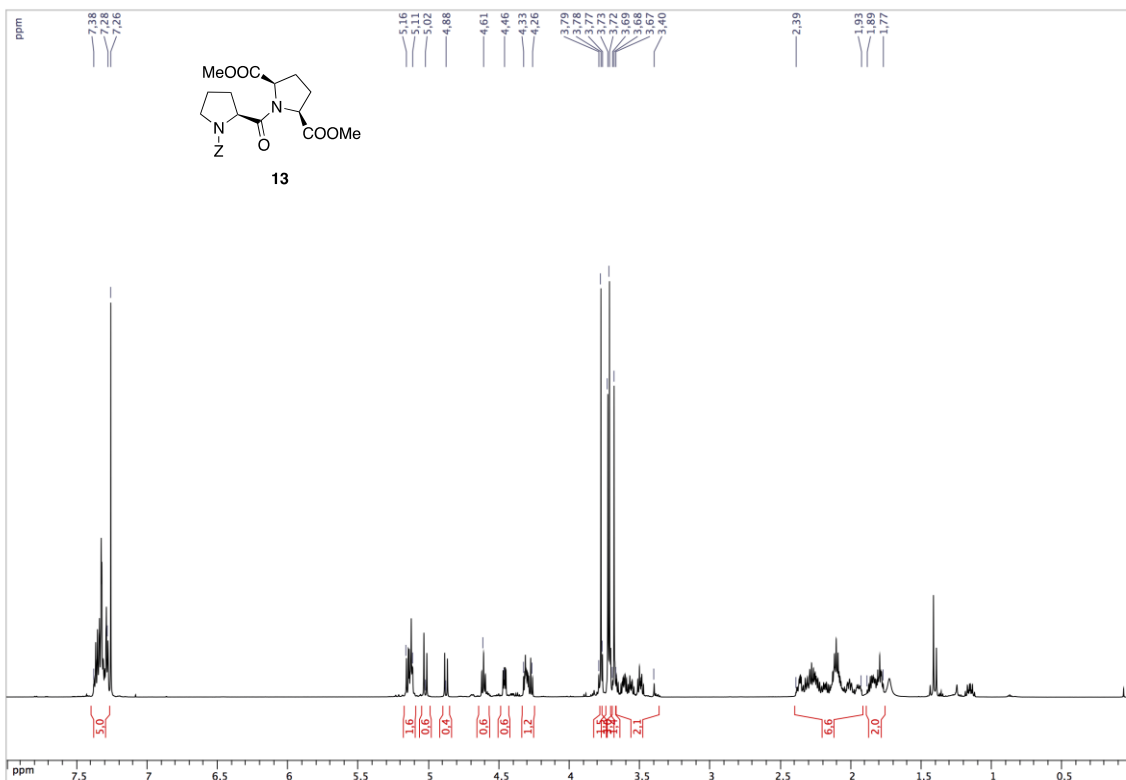


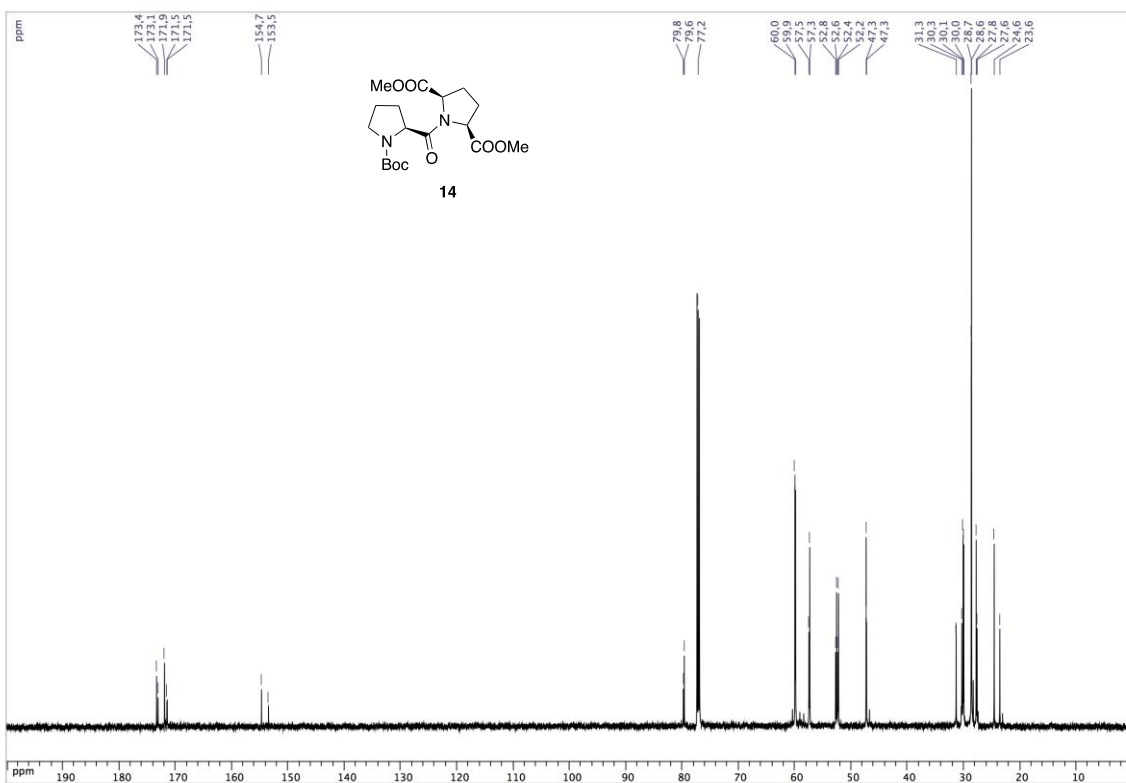
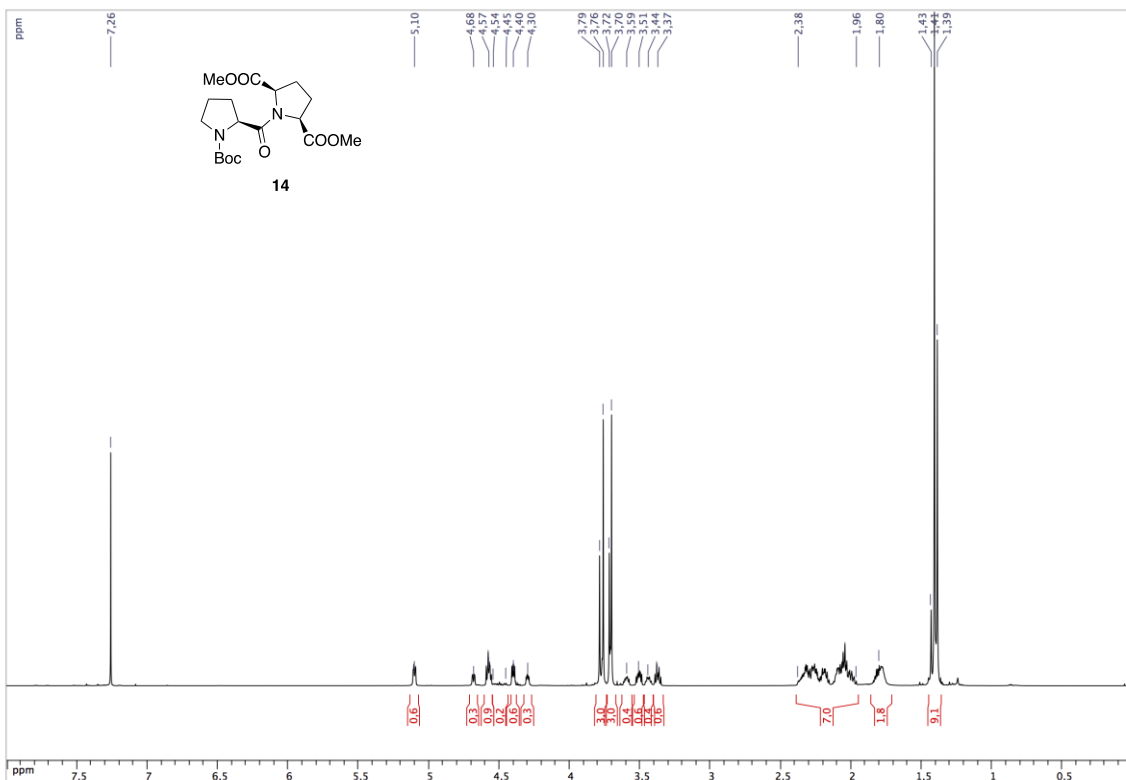


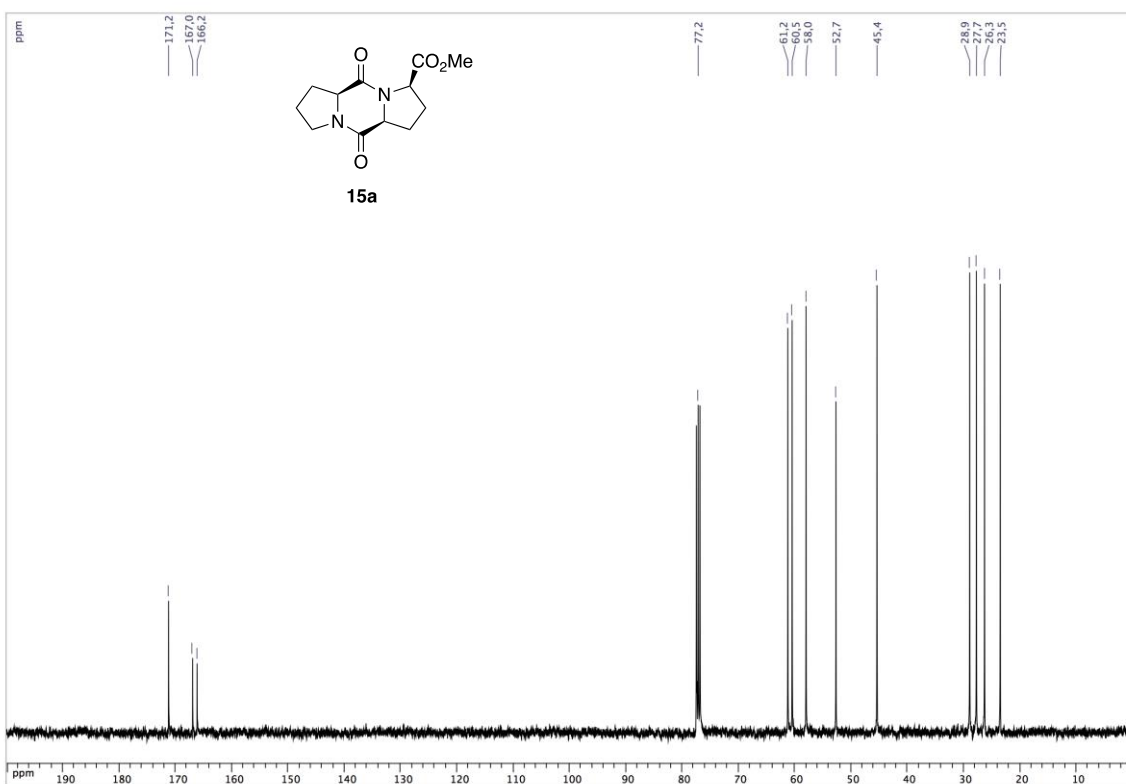
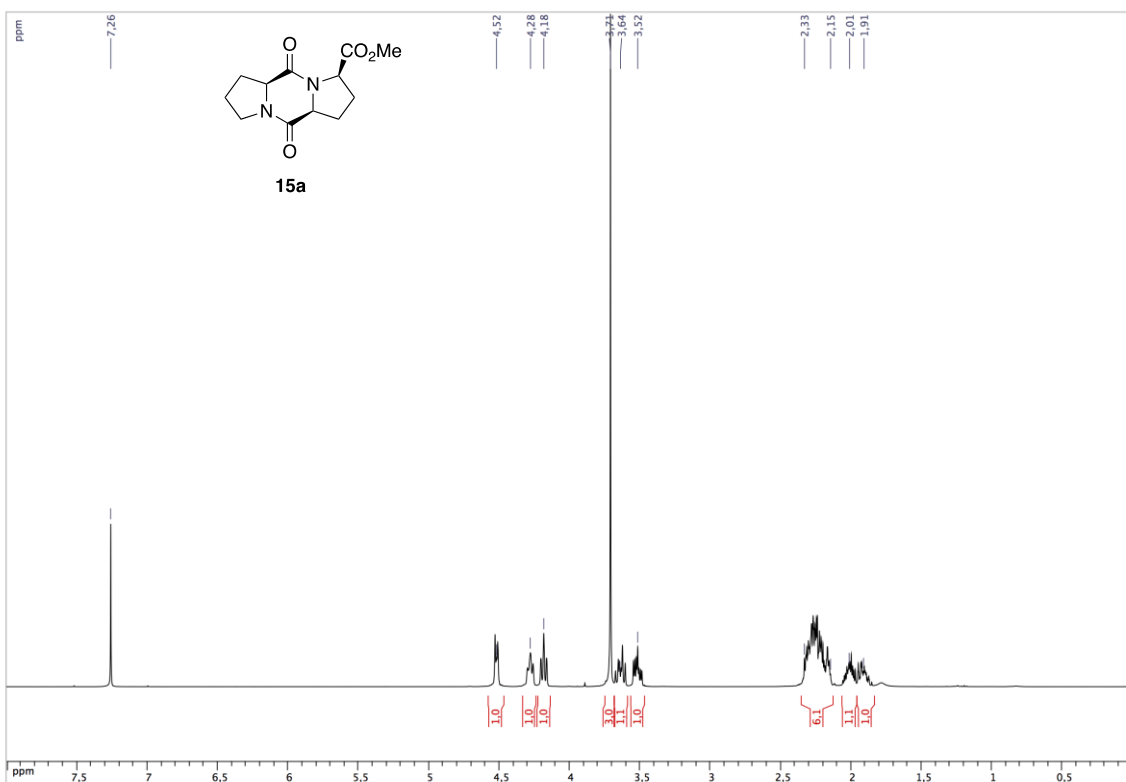


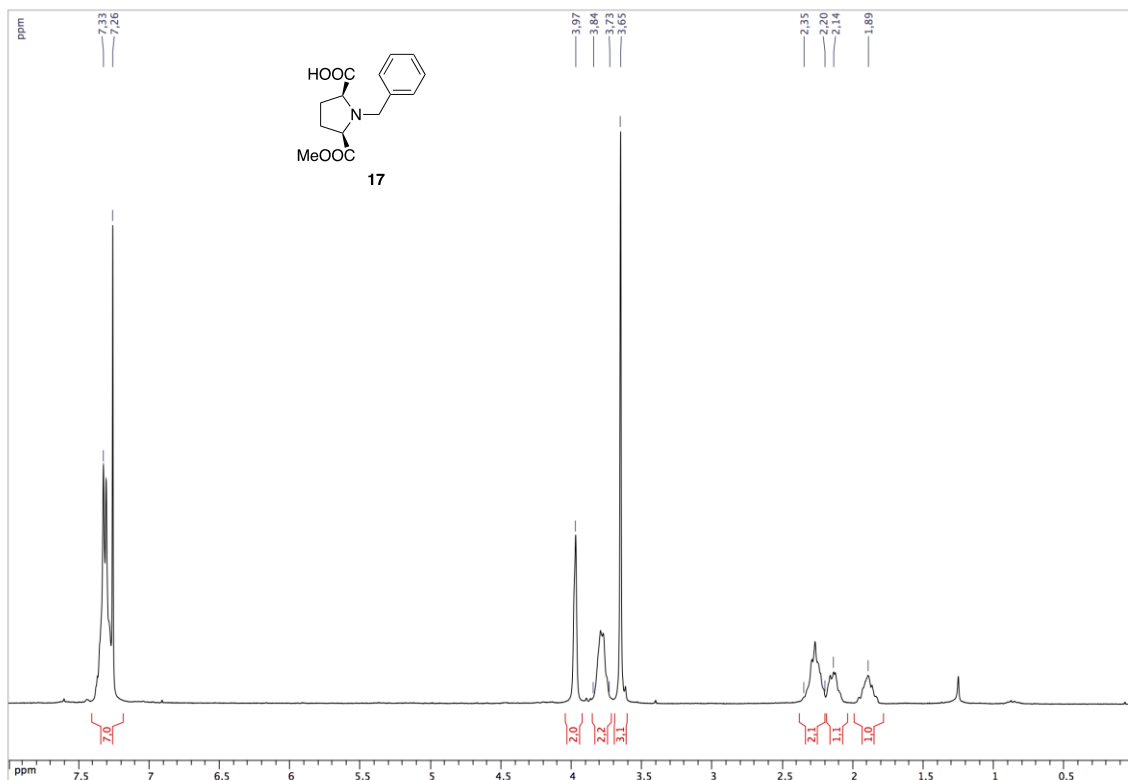


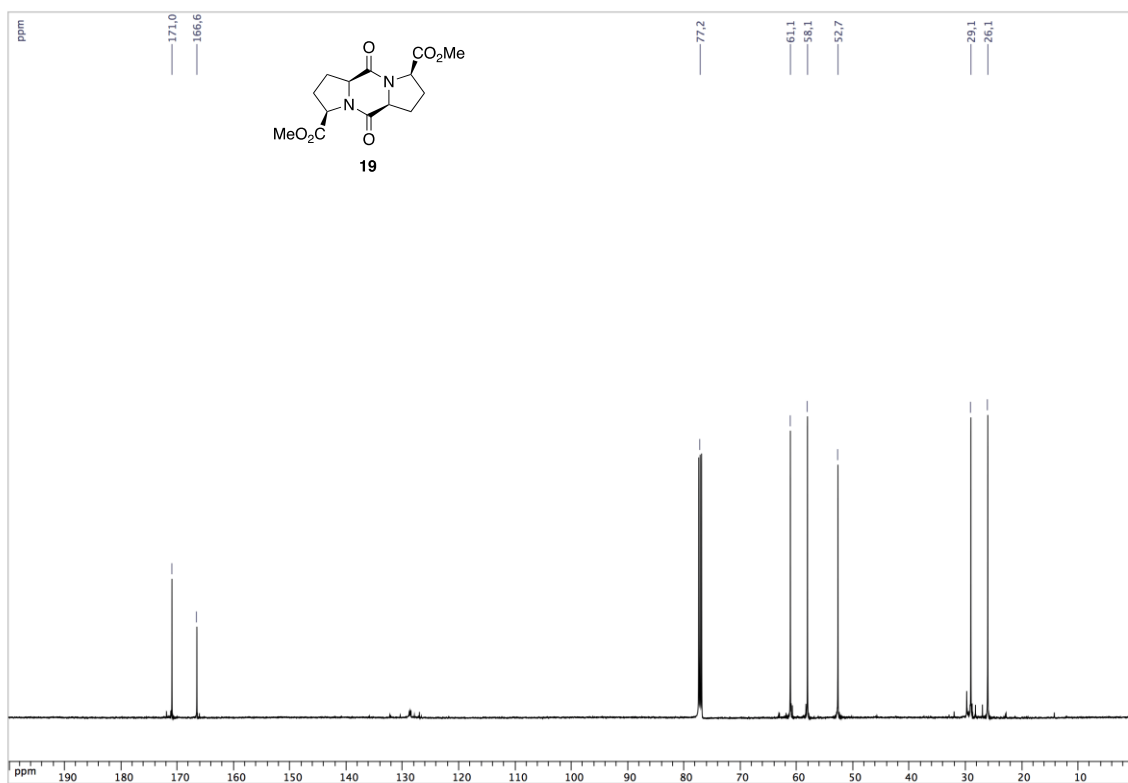
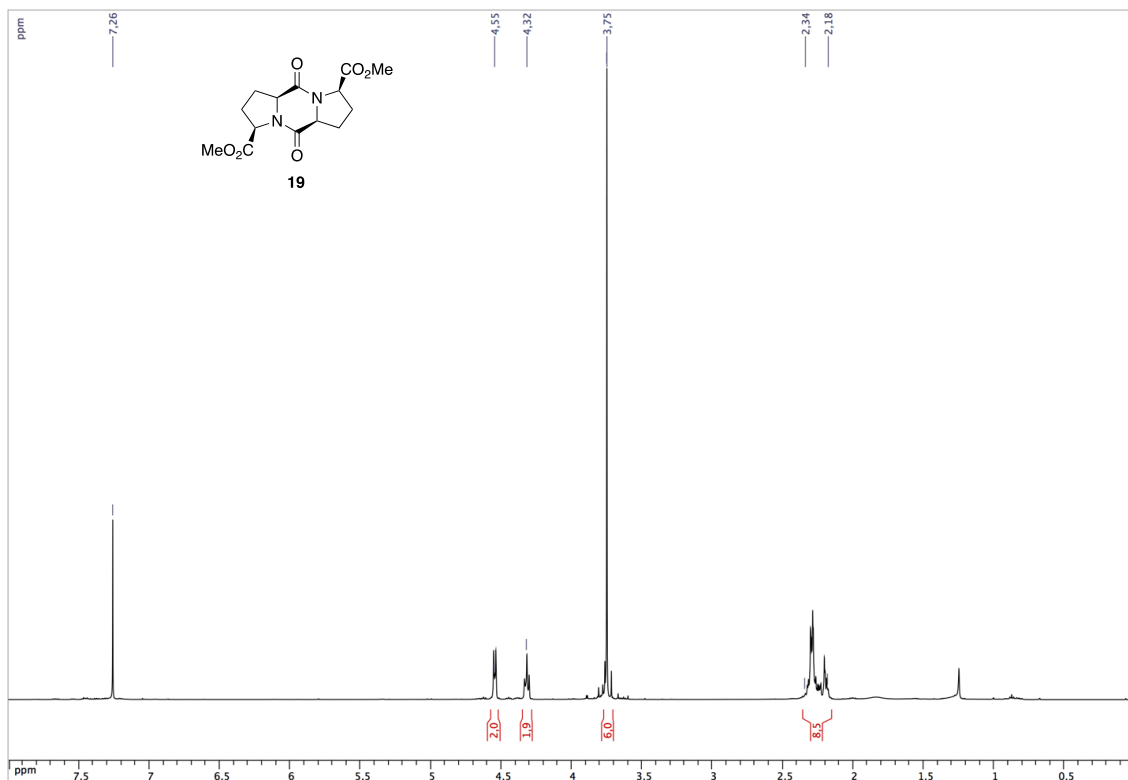








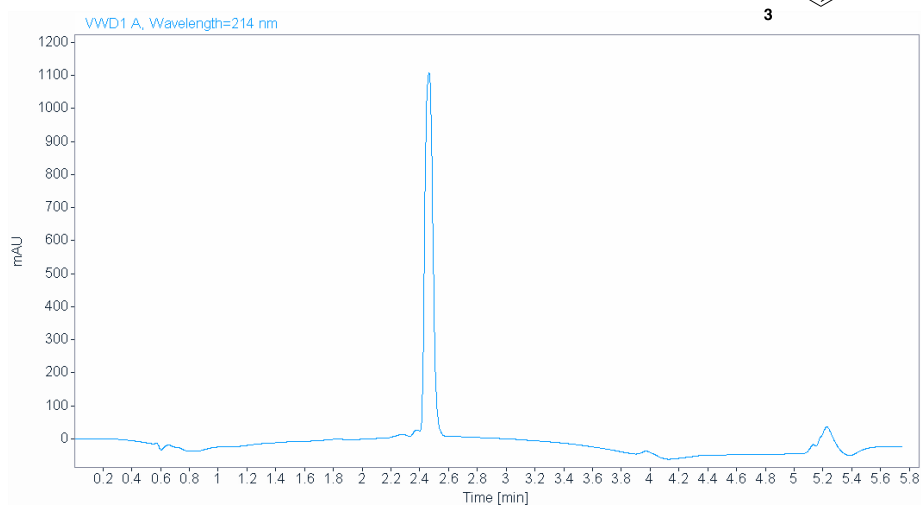
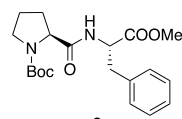




HPLC traces of compounds 3, 4, 7, 8 and 13

IBMM-UMR5247 - Laboratoire des acides aminés, peptides et protéines

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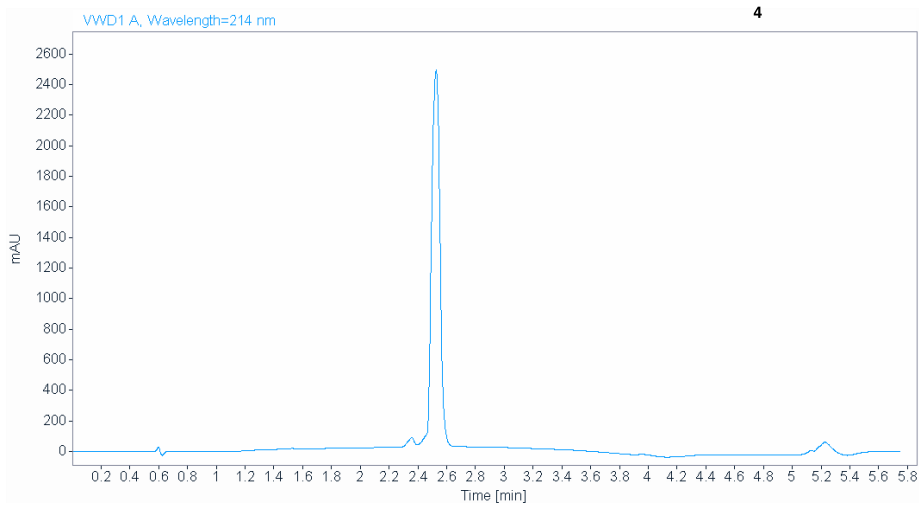
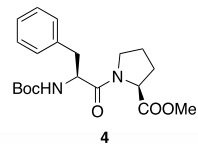
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Signal: VWD1 A, Wavelength=214 nm

RT [min]	Area	Height	Peak Area Percent
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IBMM-UMR5247 - Laboratoire des acides aminés, peptides et protéines

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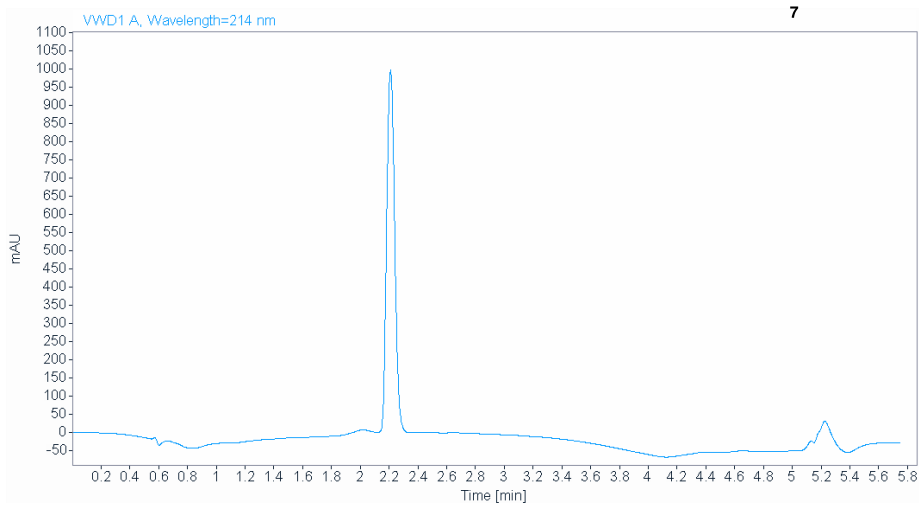
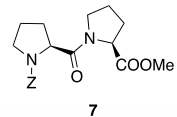


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Signal: VWD1 A, Wavelength=214 nm
RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**

IBMM-UMR5247 - Laboratoire des acides aminés, peptides et protéines

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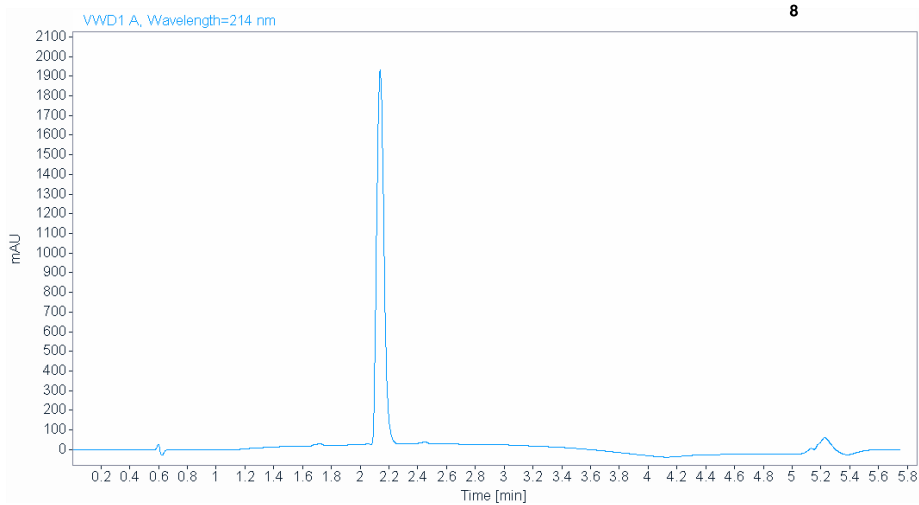
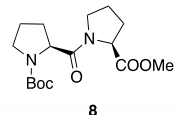


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RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**

Signal: VWD1 A, Wavelength=214 nm
RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**

IBMM-UMR5247 - Laboratoire des acides aminés, peptides et protéines

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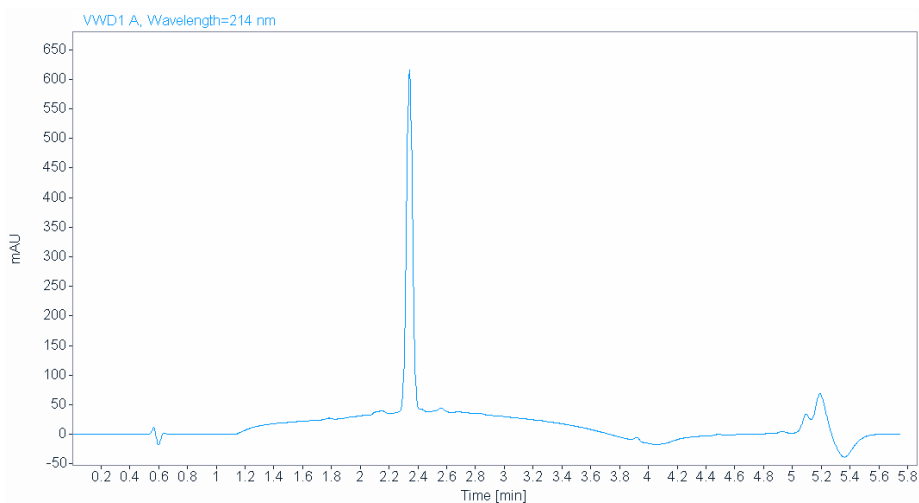
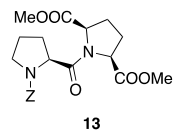


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RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**

IBMM-UMR5247 - Laboratoire des acides aminés, peptides et protéines

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Signal: DAD1 A, Sig=254,4 Ref=off
RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**

Signal: VWD1 A, Wavelength=214 nm
RT [min] **Area** **Height** **Peak Area Percent**