Supporting Information

Discovery and Development of 8-Substituted Cycloberberine Derivatives as Novel Antibacterial Agents against MRSA

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Experimental section

General

Melting point (mp) was obtained with CXM-300 melting point apparatus and uncorrected. The ¹H NMR spectra was performed on a Varian Inova 500 or 600 MHz spectrometer (Varian, San Francisco, CA) and ¹³C NMR on a Bruker Avance III 500 or 600 spectrometer with Me₄Si as the internal standard. ESI high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) was recorded on an Autospec Ultima-TOF mass spectrometer (Micromass UK Ltd, Manchester, UK). Flash chromatography was performed on CombiflashRf 200 (Teledyne, Nebraska, USA), particle size 0.038 mm.

Chemistry

General synthesis procedures for compounds 5a-l.

To a stirred solution of 1 (7.4 g, 20 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (8.3 g, 60 mmol) in

methanol (250 mL), 5% NaOH (10 mL) solution containing NaBH₄ (0.83 g, 22 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and the precipitated solid was filtered, washed with distilled water (100 mL) and 80% ethanol (100 mL) to give lime-green solid **3** (7.1 g, 81%). Intermediate **3** (7.1 g, 16 mmol) was then reacted with 40% glyoxal (3 mL) in the stirred solvent mixture of CH₃CN (160 mL) and HOAc (40 mL), which was heated to 93 °C for 6 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and methanol/HCl (2:1 by vol., 100 mL) was added into the residue. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. And then, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was recrystallized from 95% ethanol to obtain orange solid CBBR (5.6 g, 67%). Mp: 185–187 °C.

Then, CBBR (3.6 g, 9.1 mmol) was heated at 195–210 °C in a dry oven under vacuum (20–30 mmHg) for 40 min and the crude material was acidified with concentrated HCl/ethanol (5:95 by vol.) to obtain red solid 4 (3.2 g, 92%). KOH (120 mg, 2.08 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 4 (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (6 mL), and then corresponding bromides (2.08 mmol) were added after 15 min. The reaction mixture was heated at 68–75 °C for 4–24 h. The solvent was removed by evaporation, the residue was purified with flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH as eluent to obtain the desired compounds **5a–1**.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-oxobutoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine bromide (5a). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 1-bromo-2-butanone (2.08 mmol, 212 μ L) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5a** as an orange solid, yield: 27%; Mp: 199 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600

MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.22 (s, 1H), 8.90–8.70 (m, 2H), 8.27–8.15 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 6.40 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 206.6, 149.4, 147.1, 146.6, 143.9, 140.9, 129.3, 128.1, 126.5, 126.0, 122.9, 122.0, 121.0, 119.6, 119.1, 117.0, 116.0, 110.4, 102.9, 76.6, 57.1, 56.0, 31.0, 26.1, 7.0; HRMS: calcd for C₂₅H₂₂NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 416.1493, found: 416.1481.

1,2-*Methylenedioxy-8-(2-tert-butyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine* bromide (*5b*). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 1-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone (2.08 mmol, 280 μL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5b** as an orange solid, yield: 28%; Mp: 207 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.89 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.60 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (s, 9H).; ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 210.1, 149.2, 147.3, 146.7, 144.0, 141.0, 129.4, 128.2, 126.6, 126.0, 123.0, 122.1 (2), 119.7, 118.7, 117.1, 116.1, 110.4, 103.0, 73.5, 57.1, 56.0, 42.3, 26.2, 25.9 (3); HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₂₆NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 444.1806, found: 444.1792.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-cyclopropyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine bromide (*5c*). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-cyclopropylethanone (208 mmol, 203 μ L) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5c** as an orange solid, yield: 31%; Mp: 193 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.86 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 6.40 (s, 2H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 5.25 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.31–2.22 (m, 1H), 1.08–0.91 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 205.8, 149.4, 147.2, 146.7, 143.9, 141.0, 129.4, 128.1, 126.6, 126.0, 123.0, 122.1, 121.1, 119.6, 119.2, 117.1, 116.0, 110.4, 103.0, 77.1, 57.1, 56.0, 26.1, 16.8, 10.7 (2); HRMS: calcd for C₂₆H₂₂NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 428.1493, found: 428.1481.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-adamantyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine bromide (5d). The title compound was prepared from compound 4 (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 1-adamantyl bromomethyl ketone (2.08 mmol, 535 mg) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound 5d as an orange solid, yield: 34%; Mp: 223 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.22 (s, 1H), 8.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.56 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.84 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 6H), 1.74–1.70 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 209.1, 148.9, 147.1, 146.5, 144.0, 140.8, 129.3, 128.1, 126.4, 125.9, 122.8, 121.9, 120.9, 119.5, 118.4, 117.0, 115.9, 110.2, 102.8, 73.4, 57.0, 55.9, 44.4, 37.1 (3), 35.8 (3), 27.1 (3), 26.1; HRMS: calcd for C₃₃H₃₂NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 522.2275, found: 522.2257.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-phenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine bromide (5e). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and α -bromoacetophenone (2.08 mmol, 280 µL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5e** as a brown solid, yield: 31%; Mp: 222 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 8.92 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.84 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (t, J =7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.54 (m, 3H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.5, 149.3, 147.3, 146.9, 144.0, 141.0, 134.0, 129.6, 129.4, 129.0 (2), 128.3, 127.8 (2), 126.6, 126.1, 123.0, 122.1, 121.1, 119.7, 119.0, 117.1, 116.1, 110.4, 102.9, 75.0, 57.1, 56.0, 26.2; HRMS: calcd for C₂₉H₂₂NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 464.1493, found: 464.1500.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-p-fluorophenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine

bromide (*5f*). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 4-fluorophenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 288 µL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5f** as a reddish solid, yield: 38%; Mp: 209 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.91 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.13–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 193.1, 165.3, 149.2, 147.1, 146.6, 143.9, 140.9, 130.8 (2), 130.7, 129.3, 102.8, 74.8, 57.0, 55.9, 26.1; HRMS: calcd for C₂₉H₂₁FNO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 482.1398, found: 482.1382.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-p-trifluoromethylphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberbe rine bromide (**5g**). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 348 μL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5g** as an orange solid, yield: 42%; Mp: 211 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.92–8.89 (m, 1H), 8.86–8.82 (m, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25–8.21 (m, 3H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 6.00 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.6, 149.7, 147.6, 147.1, 144.3, 141.4, 137.8, 133.5, 129.9, 129.2 (2), 128.7, 127.0, 126.5, 126.4 (2), 124.1, 123.4, 122.6, 121.5, 120.1, 119.1, 117.5, 116.5, 110.8, 103.4, 75.8, 57.6, 56.5, 26.6; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₁F₃NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 532.1366, found: 532.1349.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-o-trifluoromethoxyphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberb erine bromide (5h). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 589 mg) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5h** as an orange solid, yield: 28%; Mp: 202 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 8.88 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.82 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (td, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.77 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 194.1, 149.0, 147.0, 146.6, 145.9, 143.5, 140.8, 134.6, 130.5, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.9, 126.4, 125.9, 122.9, 122.0, 121.5, 120.9, 119.8, 119.4, 119.0, 117.0, 115.9, 110.3, 102.8, 76.5, 57.0, 56.0, 26.0; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₁F₃NO₆Br [M–Br]⁺: 548.1316, found: 548.1297. *1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-m-trifluoromethoxyphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycyclober berine bromide* (*5i*). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 589 mg) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5i** as a red solid, yield: 23%; Mp: 181 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.89 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11–8.06 (m, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.82–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 193.5, 149.3, 148.6, 147.2, 146.7, 143.8, 140.9, 136.1, 131.3, 129.4, 128.2, 127.1, 126.5, 126.4, 126.0, 123.0, 122.1, 121.0, 120.0 (2), 119.6, 119.2, 117.1, 116.0, 110.4, 102.9, 75.2, 57.1, 56.0, 26.1; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₁F₃NO₆Br [M–Br]⁺: 548.1316, found: 548.1296.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-p-methoxy-m-trifluoromethylphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-metho xycycloberberine bromide (5j). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(4-methoxy-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl) ethanone (2.08 mmol, 618 mg) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5**j as a red solid, yield: 30%; Mp: 209 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.90 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 192.4, 160.9, 149.3, 147.2, 146.6, 143.9, 140.8, 134.5, 129.3, 128.1, 126.6 (2), 126.4, 126.2, 126.0, 123.1, 122.9, 122.0, 121.0, 119.6, 119.0, 117.0, 115.9, 113.1, 110.3, 102.8, 74.8, 57.0, 56.8, 55.9, 26.1; HRMS: calcd for C₃₁H₂₃F₃NO₆Br [M–Br]⁺: 562.1472, found: 562.1451.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-m-methoxylphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine

bromide (5k). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 3-methoxylphenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 328 µL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **5k** as a yellow solid, yield: 33%; Mp: 193 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 8.94–8.87 (m, 1H), 8.86–8.79 (m, 1H), 8.31–8.25 (m, 1H), 8.25–8.20 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.97 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.2, 159.4, 149.2, 147.2, 146.6, 143.9, 140.8, 135.2, 130.1, 129.3, 128.1, 126.5, 126.0, 122.9, 122.0, 121.0 (2), 119.8, 119.6, 118.9, 117.0, 115.9, 112.2, 110.3, 102.8, 75.0, 57.0, 55.9, 55.3, 26.1; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO₆Br [M–Br]⁺: 494.1598, found: 494.1581.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-p-methylphenyl-2-oxoethoxy)-9-methoxycycloberberine

bromide (51). The title compound was prepared from compound **4** (198 mg, 0.52 mmol) and 4-methylphenacyl bromide (2.08 mmol, 446 µL) in the same manner as described above to obtain compound **51** as a red solid, yield: 37%; Mp: 218 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 8.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 193.9, 149.2, 147.2, 146.6 144.4, 144.0, 140.8, 131.4, 129.4 (2), 129.3,

128.1, 127.8 (2), 126.5, 126.0, 122.9, 122.0, 121.0, 119.6, 118.8, 117.0, 115.9, 110.3, 102.8, 74.8, 57.0, 55.9, 26.1, 21.2; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO₅Br [M–Br]⁺: 478.1649, found: 478.1657.

General synthesis procedures for compounds 6a-c and 7.

The corresponding amines (15.0 mmol) were added to CBBR (395 mg, 1.0 mmol), the mixture was stirred and heated for 4–32 h at 100–116°C. The mixture was cooled, and purified with C18 column using H₂O and MeOH as gradient eluent to obtain the desired compounds **6a–c** and **7**.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-benzylamino-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (6a). The title compound was prepared from CBBR (395 mg, 1.0 mmol) and phenylmethanamine (1.6 mL, 15.0 mmol) in the same manner as the above procedures to obtain compound **6a** as a purple solid, yield: 37%; Mp: 206 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD, CDCl₃) δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (s, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 4.89 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD, CDCl₃) δ 149.5, 148.1, 147.8, 142.8, 140.9, 140.4, 129.7 (3), 129.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.3 (2), 126.4, 123.9, 122.8, 121.3, 118.8, 117.4, 116.5, 114.0, 111.1, 104.0, 57.2, 57.0, 53.7, 28.0; HRMS: calcd for C₂₈H₂₃N₂O₃Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 435.1703, found: 435.1698.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-p-methoxybenzylamino-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (**6b**). The title compound was prepared from CBBR (395 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4-methoxybenzylamine (2.0 mL, 15.0 mmol) in the same manner as the above

procedures to obtain compound **6b** as a purple solid, yield: 30%; Mp: 212 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD, CDCl₃) δ 9.64 (s, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (s, 2H), 4.91 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 149.2, 147.8, 147.4, 142.6, 140.6, 131.6, 129.5 (2), 129.1, 128.9, 125.7, 124.0, 123.7, 122.3, 120.9, 118.5, 117.0, 116.2, 114.9 (2), 113.8, 111.0, 103.7, 57.1, 56.7, 55.6, 53.2, 27.9; HRMS: calcd for C₂₉H₂₅N₂O₄Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 465,1809, found: 465.1803.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(1-(furan-2-yl)methylamino)-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (*6c*). The title compound was prepared from CBBR (395 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 1-(furan-2-yl)methanamine (1.3 mL, 15.0 mmol) in the same manner as the above procedure to obtain compound **6c** as a purple solid, yield: 29%; Mp: 192 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 9.75 (s, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 6.35–6.25 (m, 5H), 5.05 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 154.6, 151.1, 148.5, 148.3, 143.9, 143.1, 140.2, 130.1, 129.9, 127.3, 124.2, 124.1, 123.8, 121.6, 119.1, 118.5, 117.7, 115.9, 111.6, 111.5, 109.1, 104.6, 57.6, 57.5, 47.0, 28.3; HRMS: calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂O₄CI [M–CI]⁺: 425.1496, found: 425.1490.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-o,p-dimethoxybenzylamino-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (7). The title compound was prepared from CBBR (395 mg, 1.0 mmol) and

(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methanamine (2.3 mL, 15 mmol) in the same manner as the above procedure to obtain compound **7** as a purple solid, yield: 33%; Mp: 170 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.03 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (s, 2H), 5.01 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 160.4, 158.4, 148.3, 148.2, 146.6, 141.2, 140.2, 130.2, 128.7, 128.2, 126.6, 122.9, 122.4 (2), 121.6, 120.0, 117.4, 116.5, 115.7, 112.9, 110.6, 104.7, 103.2, 98.8, 57.2, 55.8, 55.7, 55.6, 47.6, 26.9; HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₇N₂O₅Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 495.1915, found: 495.1921.

Synthesis procedures for 1,2-methylenedioxy-8-amino-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (8).

Compound 7 (530 mg, 1.00 mmol) was added to a mixed solution of methanol/HCl (1:1 by vol., 6 mL), and the mixture was reacted for 12 h at room temperature. Then the solution was concentrated to obtain a crude compound, which was further purified through flash column chromatography on silica gel with CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluents to get the desired compound **8** as a purple solid, yield: 81%; Mp: 244 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.33 (s, 1H), 8.69 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 6.37 (s, 2H), 4.96 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.59 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 147.4, 145.9, 144.0, 140.6, 140.2, 127.9, 126.6, 125.9, 121.7, 121.6, 121.1, 121.0, 116.9, 116.1, 111.1, 110.1,

108.5, 102.6, 56.3, 54.9, 26.3; HRMS: calcd for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O₃Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 345.1234, found: 345.1237.

General synthesis procedures for compounds 9a-f.

To a stirred solution of compound **8** (100 mg, 0.26 mmol) in anhydrous CH₃CN (6 mL) were added pyridine (2.34–8.19 mmol) and corresponding acyl chloride (1.56–5.46 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 40–91 °C for 3–72 h. The mixture was cooled, filtered and the resulting residue was purified using flash column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as gradient eluent to obtain desired compounds **9a–f**.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(1-adamantanecarbonylamino)-9-methoxycycloberberine

chloride (9a). The title compound was prepared from compound **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 1-adamantanecarbonyl chloride (872 µL, 5.46 mmol) with pyridine (669 µL, 8.19 mmol) at 48 °C for 72 h using the above procedure to obtain compound **9a** as an orange solid, yield: 37%; Mp: 298 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 9.54 (s, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H), 9.09 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.94 (dd, J = 1.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.31 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 10H), 1.78 (s, 5H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 177.6, 154.6, 147.0, 146.6, 140.9, 129.3, 128.2, 126.5, 124.7, 124.6, 123.3, 123.1 (2), 122.5, 120.9, 116.9, 116.0, 110.2, 102.8, 57.0, 56.1, 40.8, 38.39, 38.4 (2), 36.1 (3), 27.6 (3), 26.0; HRMS: calcd for C₃₂H₃₁N₂O₄Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 507.2278, found: 507.2281.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(2-cyclopentylacetamido)-9-methoxycyclocberberine chloride

(9b). The title compound was prepared from compound **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and cyclopentylacetyl chloride (210 µL, 1.56 mmol) with pyridine (189 µL, 2.34 mmol) at 45 °C for 2 h using the above procedure to obtain compound **9b** as a red solid, yield: 17%; Mp: 219 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.11 (s, 1H), 9.81 (s, 1H), 9.07 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.94 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.25 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43–2.26 (m, 1H), 1.94–1.15 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 172.3, 154.1, 147.6, 146.6, 140.9, 129.2, 128.1, 126.4, 124.5, 124.1, 123.1, 123.0, 122.5, 122.4, 120.9, 116.9, 115.9, 110.2, 102.8, 56.9, 55.9, 41.4, 36.2, 31.9 (2), 26.0, 24.6 (2); HRMS: calcd for C₂₈H₂₇N₂O₄Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 455.1965, found: 455.1950.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-nicotinoylamino-9-methoxycycloberberine chloride (9c). The title compound was prepared from compound **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and nicotinoyl chloride (210 µL, 1.56 mmol) with pyridine (189 µL, 2.34 mmol) at 70 °C for 3 h using the above procedure to obtain compound **9c** as a red solid, yield: 28%; Mp: 227 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.90 (s, 1H), 10.12 (s, 1H), 9.35 (s, 1H), 9.14 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.86 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.0, 154.7, 152.4, 149.3, 147.4, 146.6, 140.9, 135.9, 129.5, 129.1, 128.3, 126.5, 124.5, 123.9, 123.4 (2), 123.1 (2), 122.4, 120.9, 116.9, 115.9, 110.2, 102.8, 56.9, 55.7, 25.9; HRMS: calcd for

 $C_{27}H_{20}N_{3}O_{4}Cl [M-Cl]^{+}: 450.1448$, found: 450.1449.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(1,5-dimethylpyrazole-3-carbonylamino)-9-methoxycycloberbe rine chloride (9d). The title compound was prepared from compound **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 1,5-dimethylpyrazole-3-carbonyl chloride (376 μL, 3.12 mmol) with pyridine (567 μL, 7.02 mmol) at 91 °C for 48 h using the above procedure to obtain compound **9d** as a red solid, yield: 33%; Mp: 228 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.07 (s, 1H), 9.93 (s, 1H), 9.00–8.97 (m, 1H), 8.84–8.81 (m, 1H), 8.30–8.26 (m, 1H), 8.16–8.14 (m, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.39 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.62 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 161.1, 154.5, 147.7, 146.5, 143.8, 140.8, 140.7, 129.1, 128.0, 126.4, 124.3, 123.9, 123.2, 122.9, 122.8, 122.2, 120.7, 116.8, 115.8, 110.2, 106.3, 102.8, 56.8, 55.7, 36.5, 26.0, 10.7; HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₂₃N₄O₄Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 467.1714, found: 467.1716.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(1,2,3-thiadiazole-4-carbonylamido)-9-methoxycyclo berberine chloride (9e). The title compound was prepared from compound **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 1,2,3-thiadiazole-4-carbonyl chloride (231 mg, 1.56 mmol) with pyridine (189 µL, 2.34 mmol) at 45 °C for 2 h using the above procedure to obtain compound **9e** as a red solid, yield: 56%; Mp: 212 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.25 (s, 1H), 10.17 (s, 1H), 10.00 (s, 1H), 9.09 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.88 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 6.40 (s, 2H), 5.26 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 158.3, 156.8, 154.8, 147.4, 146.6, 143.3, 140.8, 129.3, 128.2, 126.4, 124.5, 124.0, 123.0 (2), 122.8, 122.3, 120.7, 116.8, 115.8, 110.2, 102.8, 56.9, 55.7, 25.9; HRMS: calcd for $C_{24}H_{17}N_4O_4CI [M-CI]^+$: 457.0965, found: 457.0973.

1,2-Methylenedioxy-8-(3,5-dimethylisoxazole-4-carbonylamido)-9-methoxycycloberbe rine chloride (9f). The title compound was prepared from **8** (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 3,5-dimethylisoxazole-4-carbonyl chloride (231 mg, 1.56 mmol) with pyridine (630 µL, 7.80 mmol) at 71 °C for 10 h using the above procedure to obtain **9f** as an orange solid, yield: 39%; Mp: 279 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.08 (s, 1H), 10.01 (s, 1H), 9.16 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 6.42 (s, 2H), 5.30 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 171.0, 161.6, 158.8, 154.5, 147.4, 146.7, 140.9, 129.4, 128.3, 126.5, 124.5, 123.8, 123.2, 123.1, 122.8, 122.4, 120.9, 117.0, 115.9, 112.5, 110.3, 102.8, 57.0, 55.8, 26.0, 12.6, 10.8; HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₂₂N₃O₅Cl [M–Cl]⁺: 468.1554, found: 468.1552.

Antimicrobial Assays in vitro

Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of the target compounds were determined by using the agar dilution assay at various concentrations of 64.0, 32.0, 16.0, 8.0, 4.0, 2.0, 1.0, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.06 and 0.03 mg/mL described by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute. Organisms used in this study included strains from the ATCC collection and clinical isolates from Chinese hospitals. The test medium was Mueller-Hinton agar, and the inoculum was 104 colony forming units (cfu)/spot. Culture plates were incubated at 35 °C for 18 h, and MICs were defined as

the lowest concentrations that prevented visible growth of the bacteria.

Blood Stability Assay

The fresh blood were collected from SD rat on the day of experiment and pre-warmed at 37 °C in a water bath. Compounds **2**, **5d** and **9e** (10 mM) or control (enalapril maleate salt stock solutions) were prepared in DMSO, and then diluted with 45% MeOH/H₂O to obtain 100 μ M dosing solutions. Each dosing solution (2 μ L) was incubated with 98 μ L of blank blood at 37 °C in water bath. The testing sample was taken out at 0, 30, 60, 120, 240 and 420 min, respectively. At the end of incubation, for each sample, 100 μ L water and 800 μ L of stop solution (200 ng/mL tolbutamide plus 20 ng/mL buspirone in ACN) were immediately added to precipitate protein and centrifuge at 4,000 rpm for 20 min. An aliquot of supernatant (100 μ L) was then extracted, mixed with 200 μ L H₂O and then shook at 800 rpm for about 10 min before submitting to LC-MS/MS analysis. The experiment was repeated two times.

Cytotoxicity Assay

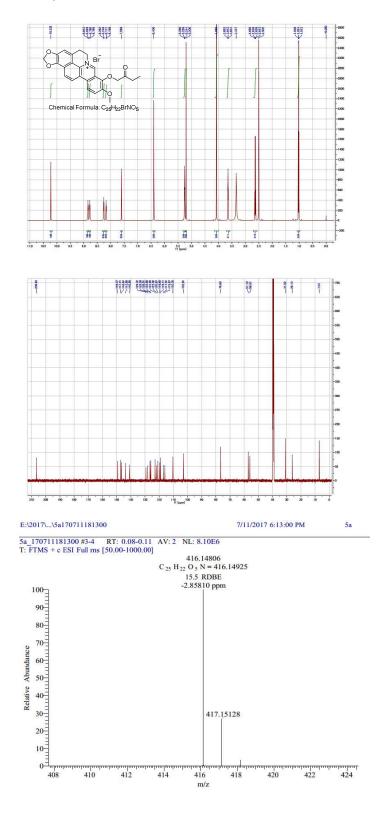
Cell suspensions (100 μ L) of A549 cells at concentration of 50% confluence were seeded into the 96-well plates, and then were treated with various concentrations of compounds **2**, **5d** and **9e**. After 24 h of incubation, 20 μ L of the MTT (1 mg/mL) solution was added into each plate and incubated for 4 h at 37 °C, 5% CO₂. Subsequently, the culture supernatant was replaced with 150 μ L DMSO to dissolve the formazan crystal made from succinic dehydrogenase in the mitochondria and its substrate MTT. The optical density (OD) at 550 and 630 nm were measured using a microplate reader. The net absorbance (OD630–OD550) indicates the enzymatic activity of mitochondria and provides information on cell viability.

DNA-cleaving Assay

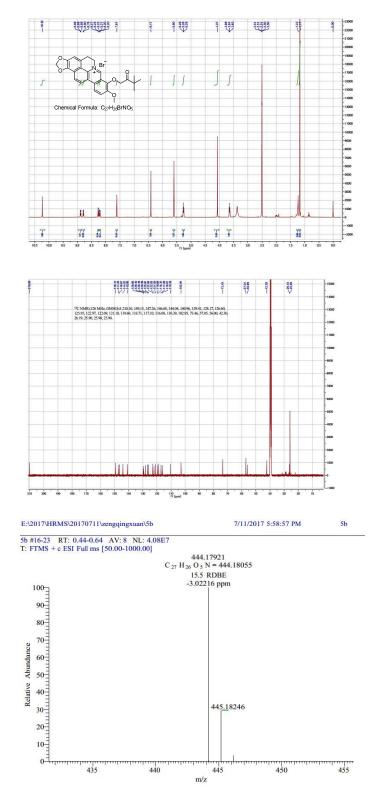
The DNA cleavage experiments were conducted by using the Agarose gel electrophoresis (GEP). *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) expression vector (pET-32a vector) was purchased from Novagen. The plasmid pET-32a was transformed into *E. coli* DH5-alpha and *E. coli* cells were grown in Luria-Bertani (LB) broth or on agar at 37 °C supplemented with the following antibiotics as appropriate: Ampicillin at 100 μ g/mL. The plasmid was extracted by using plasmid extraction kit (Tiangen, Beijing, China). Typically, a mixture of pET-32a DNA (7 μ L) and compound **9e** (6 μ L) of varying concentrations (61.5, 123, 246 and 492 μ g/mL) in DMSO and incubated at 37 °C for 4 h. The solution was then loaded on 1% agarose gel containing ethidium bromide (EB) (1.0 mg/L). Bands were visualized by UV light and photographed.

¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, HRMS-ESI spectra of all the target compounds

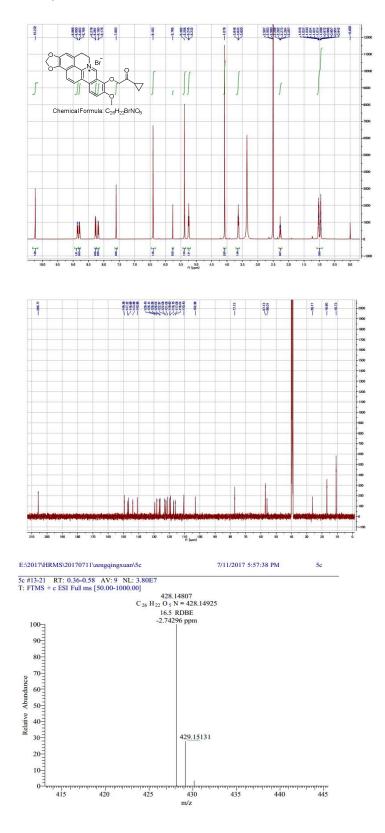
Compound 5a:



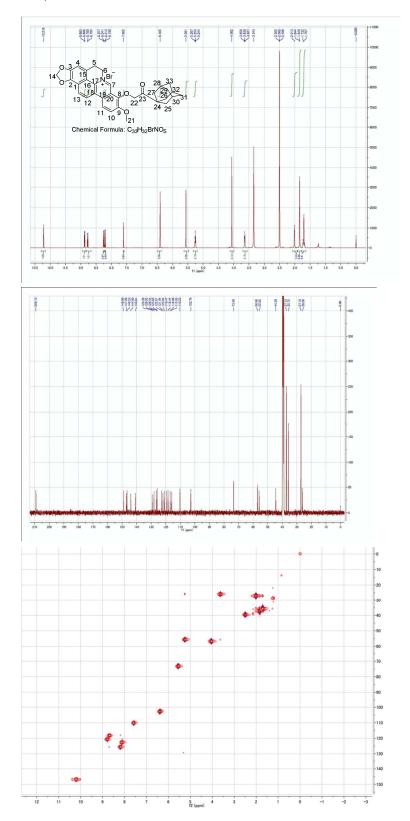
Compound **5b**:

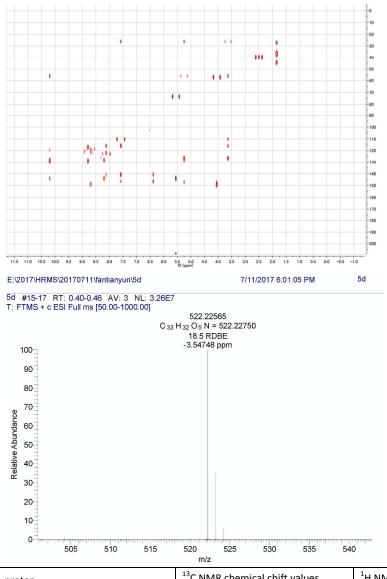


Compound **5c**:



Compound 5d:

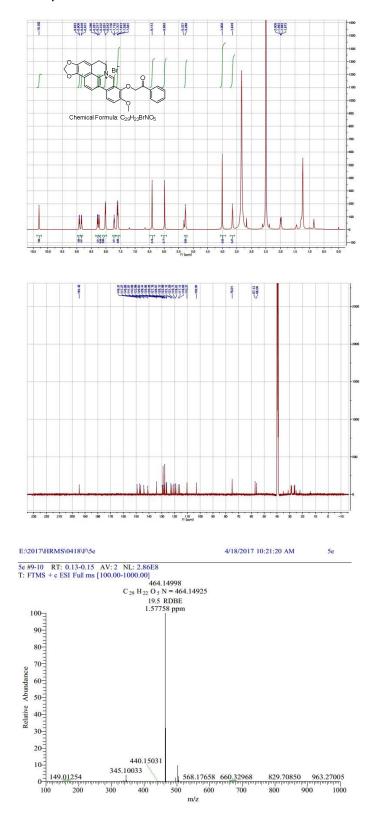




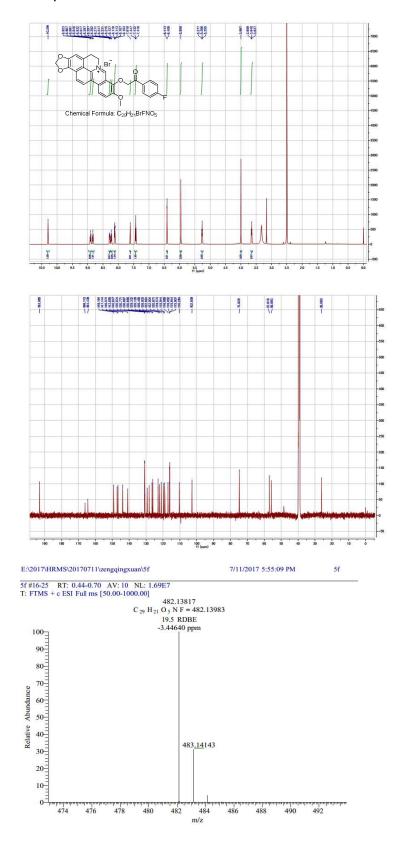
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3	146.5	
4	110.2	7.60 s
5	26.1	3.64 t
6	55.9	5.26 t
7	147.1	10.22 s
8	144.0	
9	148.9	
10	125.9	8.21 d
11	118.4	8.77 d

	1	,
12	120.9	8.88 d
13	122.8	8.25 d
14	102.8	6.41 s
15	115.9	
16	126.4	
17	128.1	
18	117.0	
19	129.3	
20	119.4	
21	57.0	4.06 s
22	73.4	5.56 s
23	209.1	
24	44.4	
25	37.1	1.84 d
26	37.1	1.84 d
27	37.1	1.84 d
28	27.1	2.01 s
29	35.8	1.71 m
30	27.1	2.01 s
31	35.8	1.71 m
32	27.1	2.01 s
33	35.8	1.71 m

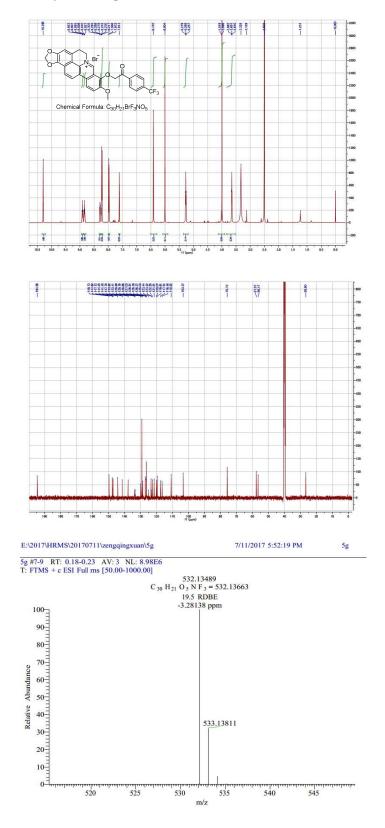
Compound 5e:



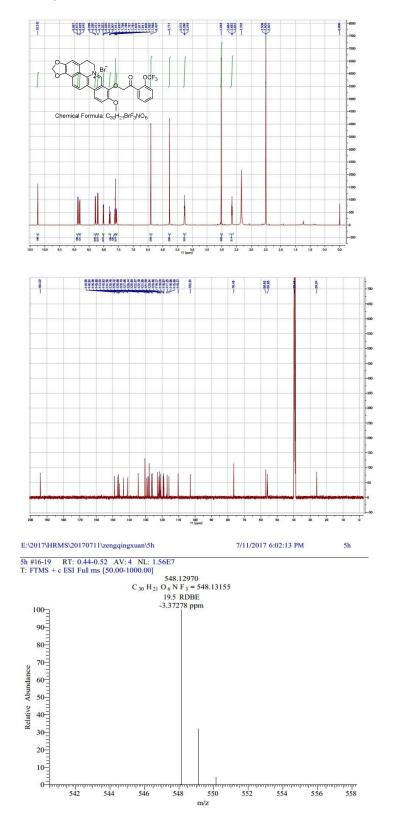
Compound 5f:



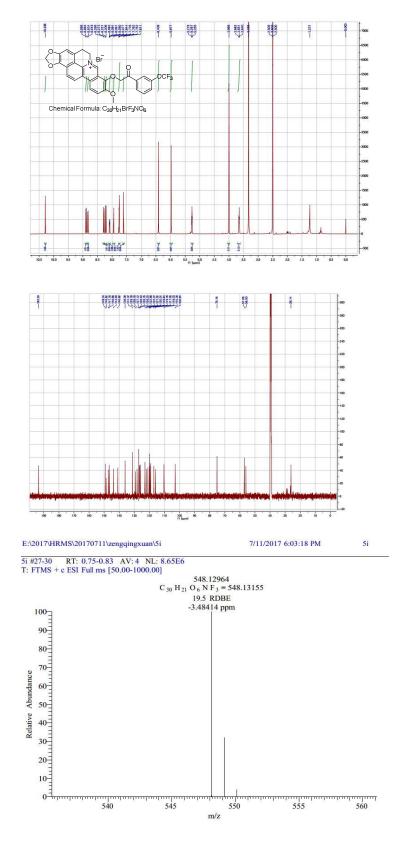
Compound 5g:



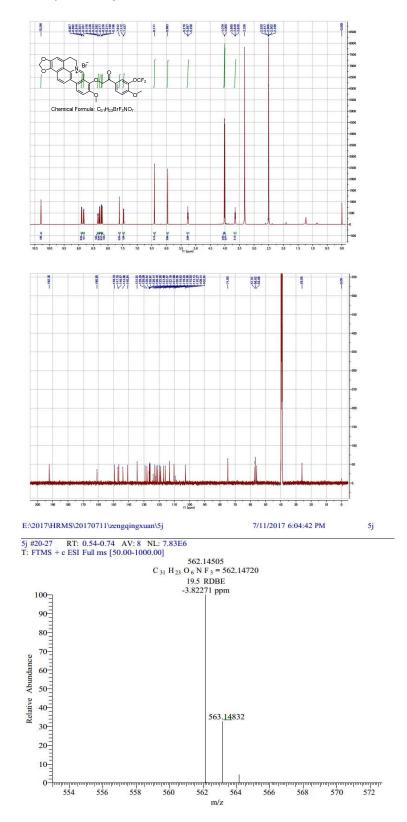
Compound **5h**:



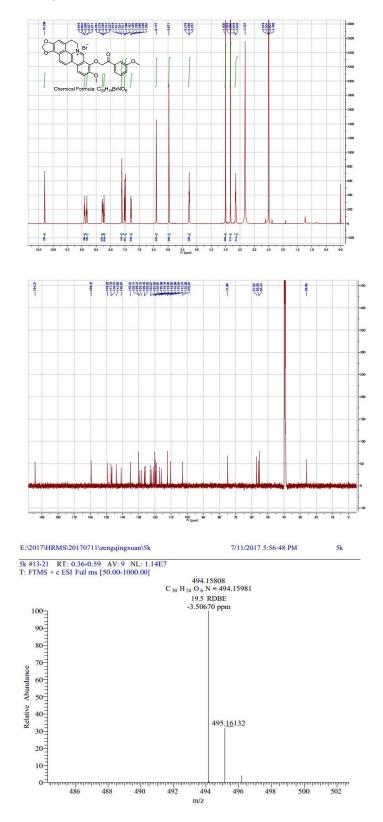
Compound 5i:



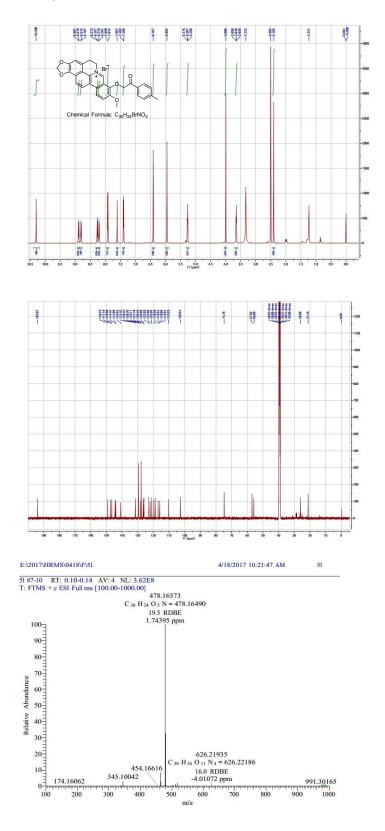
Compound 5j:



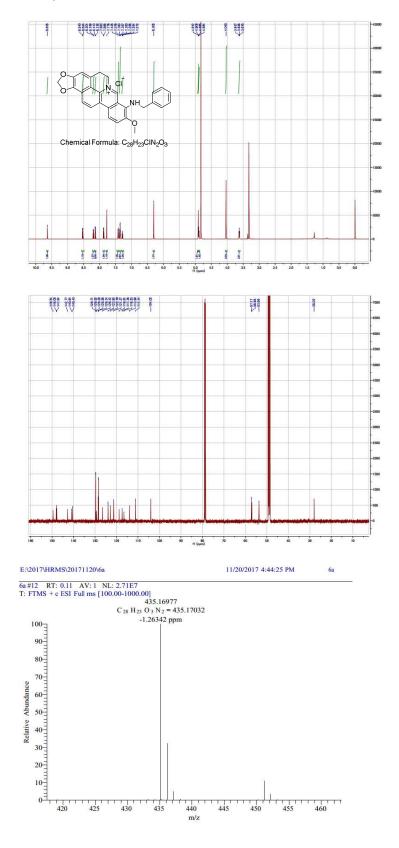
Compound 5k:



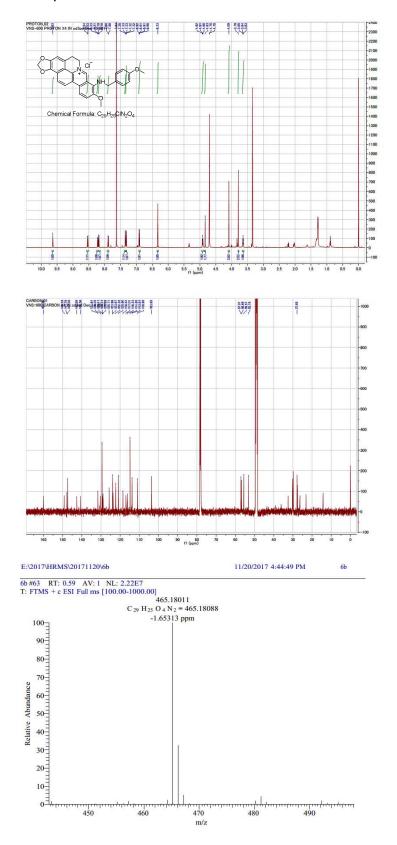
Compound 5I:



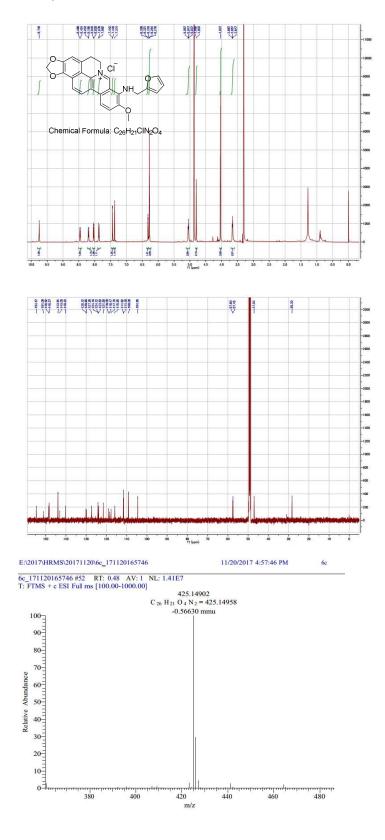
Compound 6a



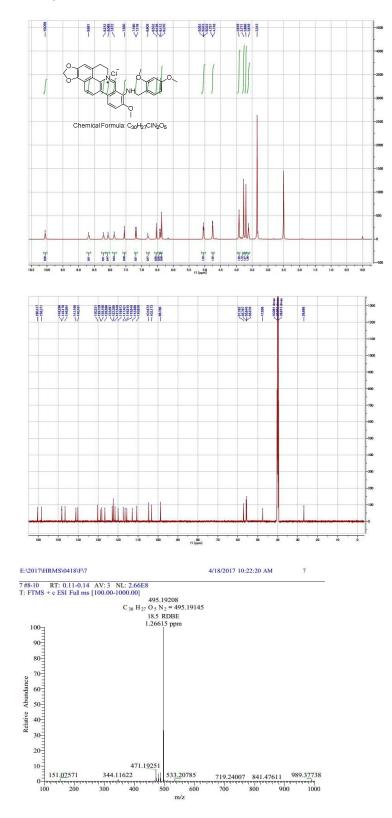
Compound **6b**:



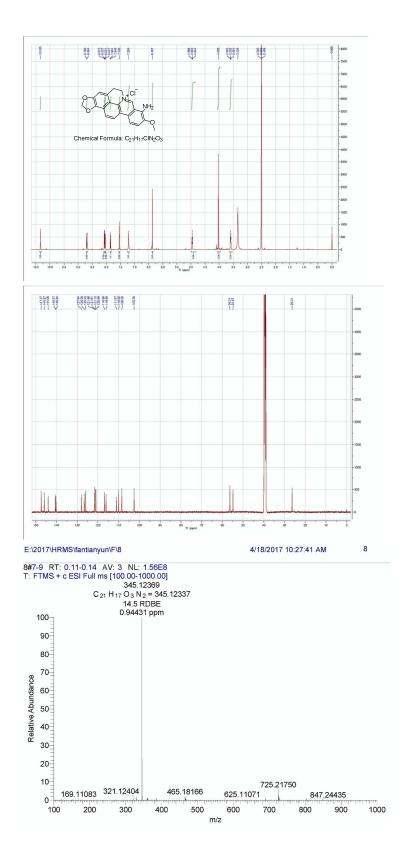
Compound 6c:



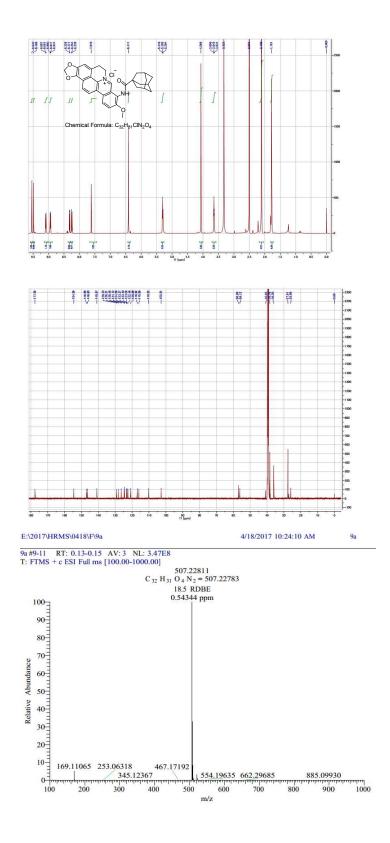
Compound 7:



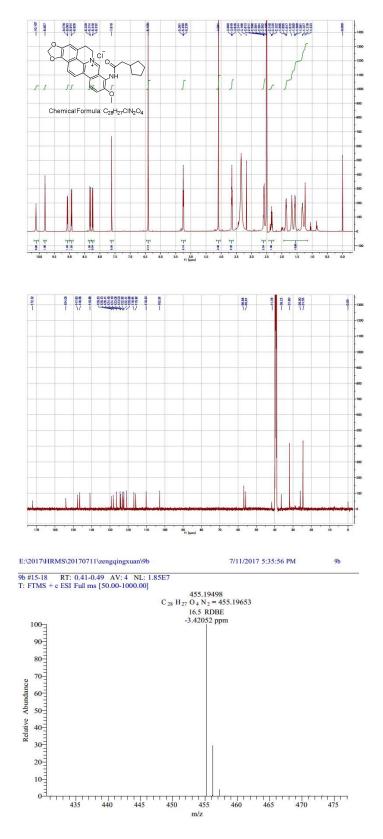
Compound 8:



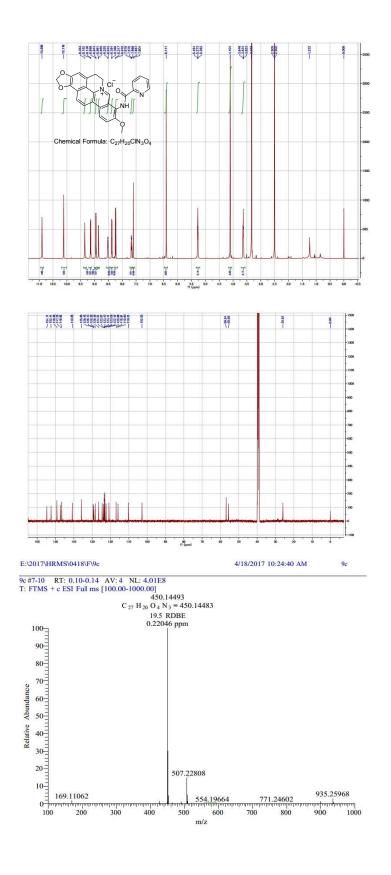
Compound 9a:



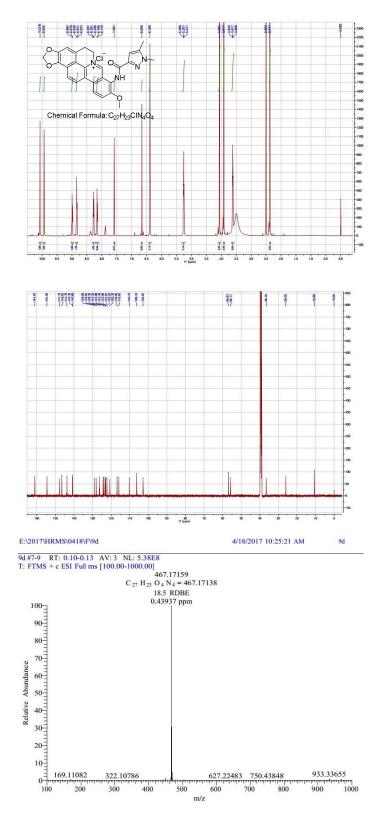
Compound **9b**:



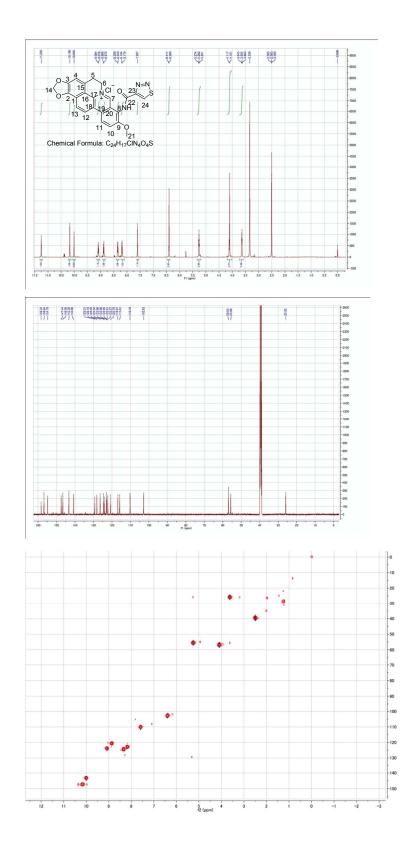
Compound **9c**:

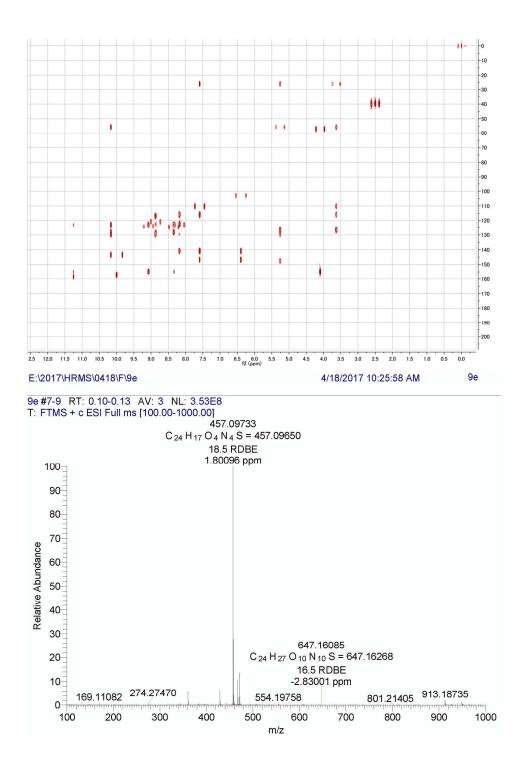


Compound 9d:



Compound 9e





proton	¹³ C NMR chemical shift values	¹ H NMR chemical shift values	
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[
1	122.3	
2	140.8	
3	146.6	
4	110.2	7.60 s
5	25.9	3.63 t
6	55.7	5.26 t
7	147.4	10.17 s
8	123.0	
9	154.8	
10	124.0	9.09 d
11	124.5	8.34 d
12	120.7	8.88 d
13	122.8	8.19 d
14	102.8	6.40 s
15	115.8	
16	126.4	
17	129.3	
18	116.9	
19	128.2	
20	123.0	
21	56.9	4.11 s
22	158.3	
23	156.8	
24	143.3	10.00 s
NH		11.25 s

Compound 9f:

