

Supplementary Information

Metabolites profiling and pharmacokinetics of troxipide and its pharmacodynamics in rats with gastric ulcer

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Table S1 The calibration curve of plasma and tissue.

Table S2 Precision and accuracy of troxipide in rat plasma and stomach ($x \pm s$, ng/mL).

Table S3 Extraction recovery of troxipide in rat plasma and tissue.

Table S4 Matrix effects of troxipide in rat plasma and tissue.

Table S5 Stability of troxipide in rat plasma and Stomach ($x \pm s$, ng/mL).

Table S6 The dilution integrity of troxipide in rat plasma ($x \pm s$, ng/mL).

Table S7 The instrument carryover of troxipide in rat plasma ($x \pm s$, ng/mL).

Table S8 The rats body weights record at the end of the experiment ($x \pm s$, g).

Table S9 The rats food intake record in at the end of the experiment ($x \pm s$, g).

Table S10 The rats water intake record at the end of the experiment ($x \pm s$, mL).

Table S11 The Ulcer Area and the Ulcer Inhibition in rats.

Table S12 The scoring criteria of ulcer index and HE staining in stomach .

Figure S1. The possible fragmentations pattern of the troxipide.

Figure S2. LC-MS/MS spectra of troxipide metabolites (M0-M45).

Figure S3. Representative SRM chromatograms of troxipide and IS in the rat plasma and tissues. (A) a blank plasma and all tissues sample; (B) a blank plasma and all tissue sample spiked with troxipide (LLOQ, 5 ng/mL); (C) plasma and all tissue sample 60 min after administration of single dosage 40 mg/kg.

Figure S4 A linear relationship between drug C_{max} to dose in vivo in rats.

Figure S5 A linear relationship between drug $AUC_{(0-t)}$ to dose in vivo in rats.

Figure S6 A linear relationship between drug $AUC_{(0-\infty)}$ to dose in vivo in rats.

Figure S7. MTL, GAS, TNF- α , PG-I , PG-II, IL-17, IFN- γ , AP-1 and IL-6 levels in the rat plasma before troxipide treatment. NCG, normal group (0.9% normal saline 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹); GUG, gastric ulcer group (5% acetic acid 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹). Values are presented as means \pm SD for all groups (n = 10). *P < 0.05 and **P < 0.01 indicate statistically significant differences when the GUG is compared with the NCG.

Figure S8. Macroscopic and microscopic analysis of stomach tissue before troxipide treatment. (A) Macroscopic analysis of GU before troxipide treatment. (B) Sections of the gastric mucosa (H&E staining) (100 \times). (C) Sections of the gastric mucosa (H&E staining) (400 \times). NCG, normal group (0.9% normal saline 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹); GUG, gastric ulcer group (5% acetic acid 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹).

Supplementary Results and Discussion

Metabolic study: Identification of troxipide metabolites in feces; Identification of troxipide metabolites in urine

Pharmacokinetics and tissue distribution study: Method validation

Supplementary Materials and Methods

Chemicals and reagents

Sample preparation

Method validation

Table S1 The calibration curve of plasma and tissue.

Analytes	$y=ax+b$	R2
Plasma	$y=0.0035x+0.0029$	0.9999
Heart	$y=0.0039x+0.0225$	0.9999
Liver	$y=0.0031x+0.0489$	0.9999
Spleen	$y=0.0035x+0.0045$	0.9999
Lung	$y=0.0047x+0.1664$	0.9999
Kidney	$y=0.0207x+0.7752$	0.9999
Brain	$y=0.0195x+0.1174$	0.9999
Stomach	$y=0.0126x+0.1917$	0.9999
Pancreas	$y=0.0065x+0.2015$	0.9999
Intestinal	$y=0.0067x+0.1528$	0.9999

Table S2 Precision and accuracy of troxipide in rat plasma and stomach ($\bar{x} \pm s$, ng/mL).

Concentration		Mean \pm SD	Intra-day		Inter-day		
			RSD(%)	RE(%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)	
Plasma	15	Day1	15.29 \pm 0.54	3.6	2.0		
		Day2	15.05 \pm 0.03	5.4	0.4	1.8	0.2
		Day3	14.76 \pm 0.85	5.8	-1.6		
	400	Day1	420.07 \pm 20.35	4.8	5.0		
		Day2	410.18 \pm 16.65	4.1	2.5	1.8	3.0
		Day3	405.71 \pm 10.31	2.5	1.4		
	8000	Day1	8381.56 \pm 376.90	5.6	-4.3		
		Day2	8250.54 \pm 381.42	4.4	4.7	4.8	1.1
		Day3	7648.20 \pm 433.14	4.6	3.1		
Stomach	15	Day1	15.51 \pm 1.55	10.0	3.4		
		Day2	16.41 \pm 2.26	13.8	9.4	4.3	4.4
		Day3	15.07 \pm 1.17	7.8	0.5		
	400	Day1	424.75 \pm 30.65	7.2	6.2		
		Day2	409.53 \pm 19.14	4.7	2.4	2.1	4.9
		Day3	424.62 \pm 12.14	2.9	6.2		
	8000	Day1	7643.76 \pm 623.82	8.2	-4.5		
		Day2	8047.84 \pm 599.26	7.4	0.6	4.2	0.3
		Day3	8317.34 \pm 293.58	3.5	4.0		

Table S3 Extraction recovery of troxipide in rat plasma and tissue.

	15			400			8000		
	Mean±SD (%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)	Mean(%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)	Mean(%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)
Plasma	103.28 ± 4.49	4.35	4.49	108.37±8.43	7.78	8.37	94.43 ± 7.85	8.32	-5.57
Heart	102.60 ± 5.60	5.45	5.60	105.30 ± 12.65	12.01	5.30	93.22 ± 5.86	6.29	-6.79
Liver	101.00 ± 5.65	5.59	5.65	102.08 ± 8.35	8.18	2.08	98.04 ± 9.50	9.68	-1.96
Spleen	98.00 ± 1.45	1.48	1.45	103.57 ± 9.58	9.25	3.57	99.76 ± 6.83	6.85	-0.23
Lung	102.92 ± 7.14	6.94	7.14	110.00 ± 1.84	1.67	10.01	95.98± 9.62	10.03	-4.02
Kidney	101.85 ± 11.05	8.91	9.00	108.99 ± 3.47	3.18	8.99	92.10 ± 5.70	7.22	-12.74
Brain	98.35 ± 11.23	11.42	11.23	103.99 ± 8.50	8.18	3.99	90.64 ± 3.33	7.72	-12.42
Stomach	92.50 ±2.07	2.23	2.07	100.67 ± 5.19	5.16	6.68	96.30 ± 10.23	14.31	-5.98
Intestinal	92.31 ±1.91	2.07	1.91	101.96 ± 7.02	6.89	1.97	101.72 ± 6.91	6.80	1.72
Pancreas	95.17 ±3.07	3.22	3.07	105.41 ± 3.56	3.37	5.42	101.86 ± 6.67	6.55	1.87

Table S4 matrix effects of troxipide in rat plasma and tissue.

	15			400			8000		
	Mean±SD (%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)	Mean(%)	RSD(%)	RE (%)	Mean(%)	RSD(%)	RE(%)
Plasma	106.39 ± 5.71	5.37	6.39	98.54 ± 3.41	3.46	-1.46	95.65 ± 9.53	9.96	-4.35
Heart	101.82 ± 8.41	8.26	1.82	98.61± 3.50	3.56	-1.39	99.06 ± 4.54	4.58	-0.94
Liver	100.78 ± 6.74	6.69	0.78	99.18 ± 2.64	2.67	-0.82	96.57 ± 7.20	7.45	-3.43
Spleen	100.95 ± 6.72	6.66	0.95	103.57 ± 9.58	4.90	-2.99	91.66 ± 3.43	3.74	-8.34
Lung	99.83 ± 8.41	8.43	-0.17	110.00 ± 1.84	3.56	-6.93	93.44 ± 6.51	6.97	6.56
Kidney	95.01 ± 4.89	5.15	-4.99	108.99 ± 3.47	3.49	-6.96	100.43 ± 10.71	10.67	0.43
Brain	93.00 ± 17.24	1.85	-7.00	103.99 ± 8.50	4.35	-5.17	102.80 ± 7.33	7.13	2.80
Stomach	92.50 ± 2.07	2.23	-7.50	100.67 ± 5.19	1.85	-3.78	99.49 ± 10.24	10.29	-0.51
Intestinal	92.31 ± 1.91	2.07	-7.69	101.96 ± 7.02	2.11	-3.32	95.05 ± 3.51	3.69	-4.95
Pancreas	95.17 ± 3.42	3.59	-4.83	105.41 ± 3.56	2.02	-4.31	95.44 ± 3.81	4.00	-4.56

Table S5 Stability of troxipide in rat plasma and Stomach ($\bar{x} \pm s$, ng/mL).

	Plasma				Stomach			
	Concentration (ng/mL)		RSD(%)	RE(%)	Concentration (ng/mL)		RSD(%)	RE(%)
	Nominal	Found			Nominal	Found		
room temperature (4H)	15	15.66± 1.34	8.5	4.4	15	14.32 ± 0.84	5.8	-4.5
	400	389.90 ± 20.90	5.3	-2.5	400	407.05 ±33.12	8.1	1.8
	8000	8395.40 ± 402.58	4.8	4.9	8000	7935.956±342.258	4.3	-0.8
auto-sampler (24H)	15	15.43 ± 0.85	5.5	2.8	15	15.69 ± 1.25	7.9	3.6
	400	379.27 ± 17.59	4.6	-5.2	400	39.58±13.26	3.4	-1.0
	8000	8123.76 ± 344.58	4.2	1.5	8000	8350.76±517.40	6.2	4.4
Three freeze–thaw	15	14.87 ± 0.58	4.0	-0.9	15	14.64 ± 0.74	5.1	-0.02
	400	385.62 ± 24.60	6.4	-3.6	400	404.07±11.67	2.9	1.0
	8000	8166.72 ± 318.06	3.9	2.1	8000	8077.28±166.10	2.1	0.1
–80°C, 30 days	15	15.40 ± 0.86	5.6	2.7	15	15.58 ± 0.97	6.3	3.9
	400	389.82 ± 18.55	4.8	-2.5	400	377.64±23.99	6.3	-0.6
	8000	7985.42 ± 270.27	3.4	-0.1	8000	7761.92±387.84	5.0	-2.9

Table S6 The dilution integrity of troxipide in rat plasma ($\bar{x} \pm s$, ng/mL).

Concentration (ng/mL)	Observed concentration (mean \pm SD, ng/mL)	RSD(%)	RE(%)
15	14.620 \pm 0.563	3.9	-2.5
2000	1910.792 \pm 130.280	6.9	-4.1
100000	104000.588 \pm 7740.264	7.4	4.0

Table S7 The instrument carryover of troxipide in rat plasma ($\bar{x} \pm s$, ng/mL).

Concentration	Observed concentration	RSD(%)	RE(%)
0	0.185 \pm 0.007	6.7	8.4
8000	8731.110 \pm 504.706	5.8	9.1

Table S8 The rats body weights record at the end of the experiment (x ± s, g).

	0 days	4 days	8 days	12 days	16 days	20 days	24 days	28 days
NC	201.31±20.17	227.42±16.04	250.07±15.86	267.54±15.60	288.18±15.90	307.28±14.74	327.89±13.26	345.06±15.44
GUG	203.54±24.47	220.89±22.23	235.53±18.12*	247.50±17.40**	256.45±17.26**	265.02±14.31**	274.27±13.99**	282.00±13.83**
THG	200.54±21.77	220.40±21.28	237.75±19.63 [#]	245.39±19.80 ^{##}	260.84±21.06 ^{###}	288.20±18.95 ^{###}	312.34±16.70 [#]	340.19±14.92
TMG	205.30±23.78	218.53±20.19	234.50±19.55 [#]	246.95±19.73 ^{##}	260.30±19.16 ^{###}	280.43±16.94 ^{###}	305.19±14.79 ^{##}	321.50±11.74 [#]
TLG	206.49±24.49	217.74±20.88	237.58±20.31 [#]	249.86±18.27 ^{##}	258.36±17.33 ^{###}	263.93±16.06 ^{###}	285.75±16.33 ^{###}	308.92±15.28 [#]

Table S9 The rats food intake record at the end of the experiment (x ± s, g).

	4 days	8 days	12 days	16 days	20 days	24 days	28 days
NC	23.37±2.09	25.52±2.50	29.47±3.23	30.20±4.98	33.32±3.76	34.21±3.86	36.25±5.07
GUG	17.73±1.92**	20.59±1.90**	22.74±3.34**	24.11±3.38**	23.35±2.36**	21.34±2.86**	20.58±4.50**
THG	16.17±2.90 ^{##}	19.31±2.45 ^{##}	21.05±2.34 ^{##}	24.28±2.35 ^{##}	28.58±1.28 ^{##}	32.80±3.45 [#]	34.84±3.67
TMG	17.59±3.38 ^{##}	21.18±1.58 ^{##}	22.02±2.16 ^{##}	25.42±2.14 ^{##}	27.46±3.29 ^{##}	30.83±3.50 [#]	31.56±6.06 [#]
TLG	16.59±2.38 ^{##}	20.09±2.55 ^{##}	21.16±2.30 ^{##}	23.44±2.56 ^{##}	24.22±2.46 ^{##}	25.05±3.53 ^{##}	26.02±4.24 ^{##}

Table S10 The rats water intake record at the end of the experiment (x ± s, mL).

	4 days	8 days	12 days	16 days	20 days	24 days	28 days
NC	16.32±2.06	20.32±2.48	21.13±2.55	23.02±2.45	25.19±3.57	26.38±3.85	28.09±2.57
GUG	24.37±2.41**	26.05±2.17**	28.58±2.56**	29.87±3.43**	32.17±4.27**	34.09±3.16**	37.01±3.56**
THG	25.23±1.56 ^{##}	26.24±2.18 ^{##}	28.47±2.31 ^{##}	28.10±3.89 ^{##}	29.55±4.50 ^{##}	30.41±3.58 ^{##}	31.40±4.81 ^{##}
TMG	26.98±2.37 ^{##}	27.02±3.77 ^{##}	29.48±3.91 ^{##}	29.57±3.15 ^{##}	30.16±3.56 ^{##}	31.30±4.14 ^{##}	33.53±4.50 ^{##}
TLG	25.18±2.14 ^{##}	28.14±3.49 ^{##}	30.31±3.05 ^{##}	30.65±4.15 ^{##}	31.31±4.47 ^{##}	32.70±3.93 ^{##}	34.28±4.48 ^{##}

Table S11 The Ulcer Area and the Ulcer Inhibition in rats.

	Ulcer Area(mm ²)	Ulcer Inhibition (%)
NC	0	100
GUG	19.243 ± 1.771	0
THG	2.053 ± 0.407	89.3
TMG	5.93 ± 0.717	69.2
TLG	10.82 ± 1.189	43.8

Table S12 The scoring criteria of ulcer index and HE staining in stomach .

	scoring criteria	score
Ulcer index	normal stomachs	0
	loss of mucosal folding	+1
	mucosal discoloration	+1
	edema	+1
	hemorrhage	+1
	ulcers/cm ² less than 1 mm	+2
	ulcers more than 1 mm/cm ²	+3
	perforated ulcers	+4
H&E staining	normal stomachs	0
	mild damage (edema)	+1
	Moderate damage (inflammatory infiltration)	+2
	usevere damage (degeneration and necrosis)	+3

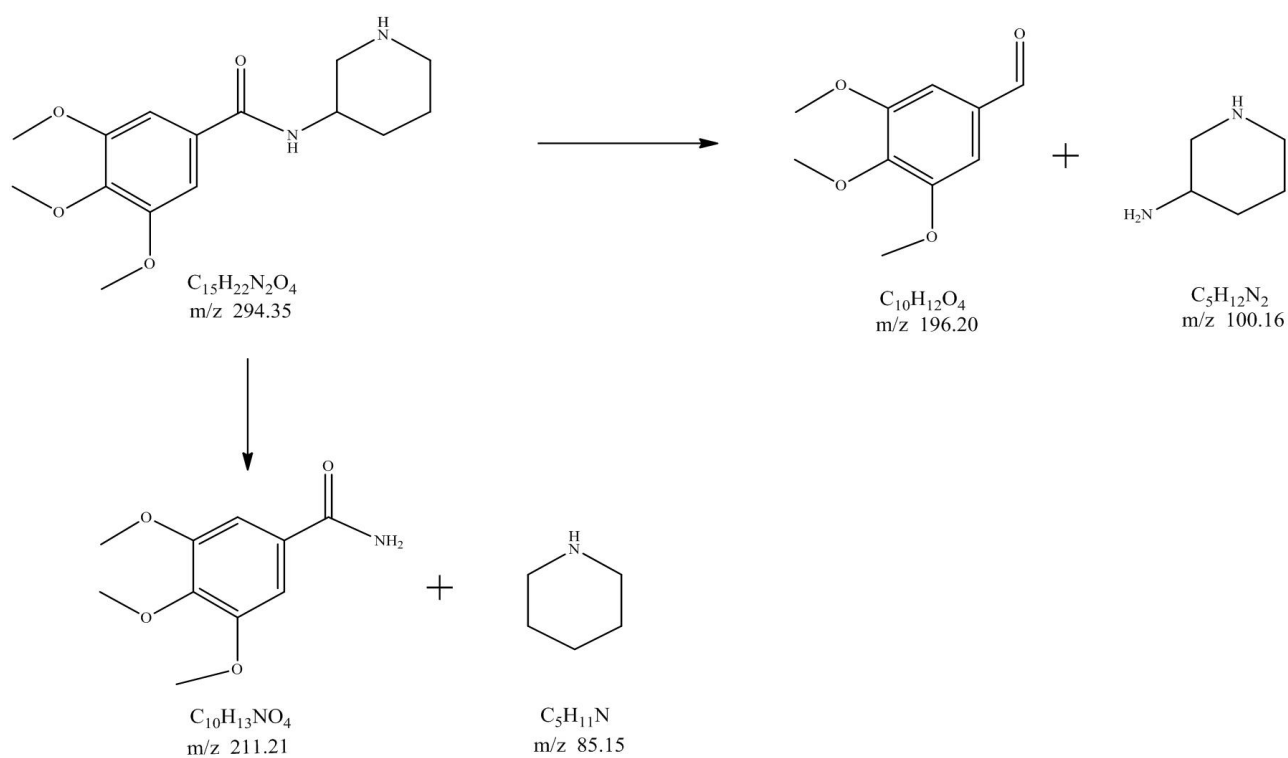
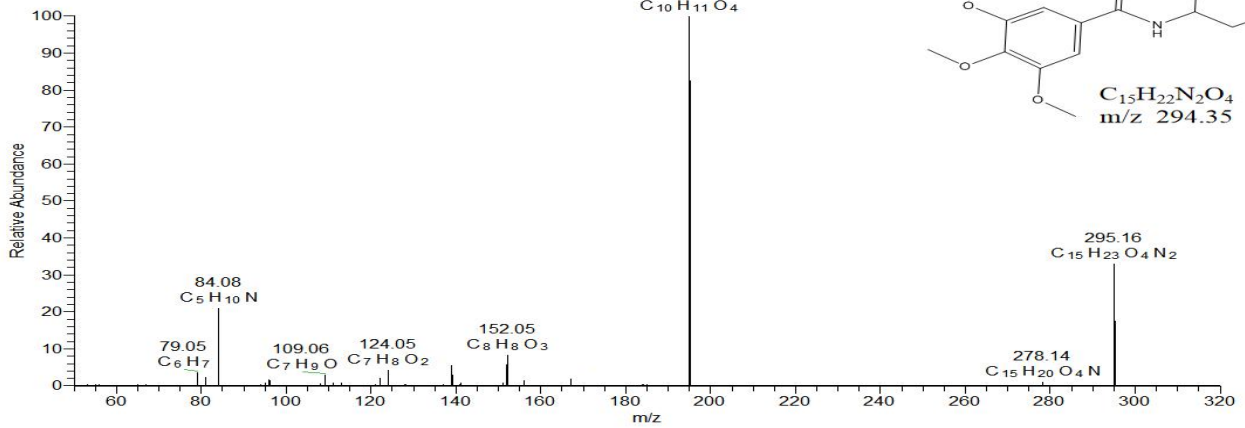
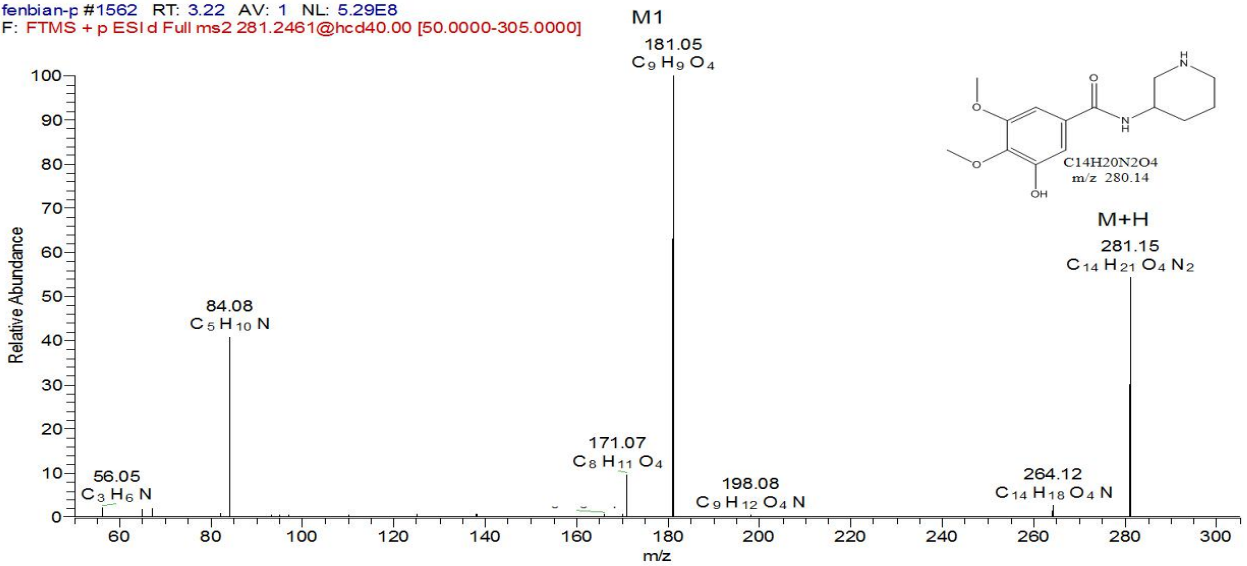


Figure S1. The possible fragmentations pattern of the troxipide.

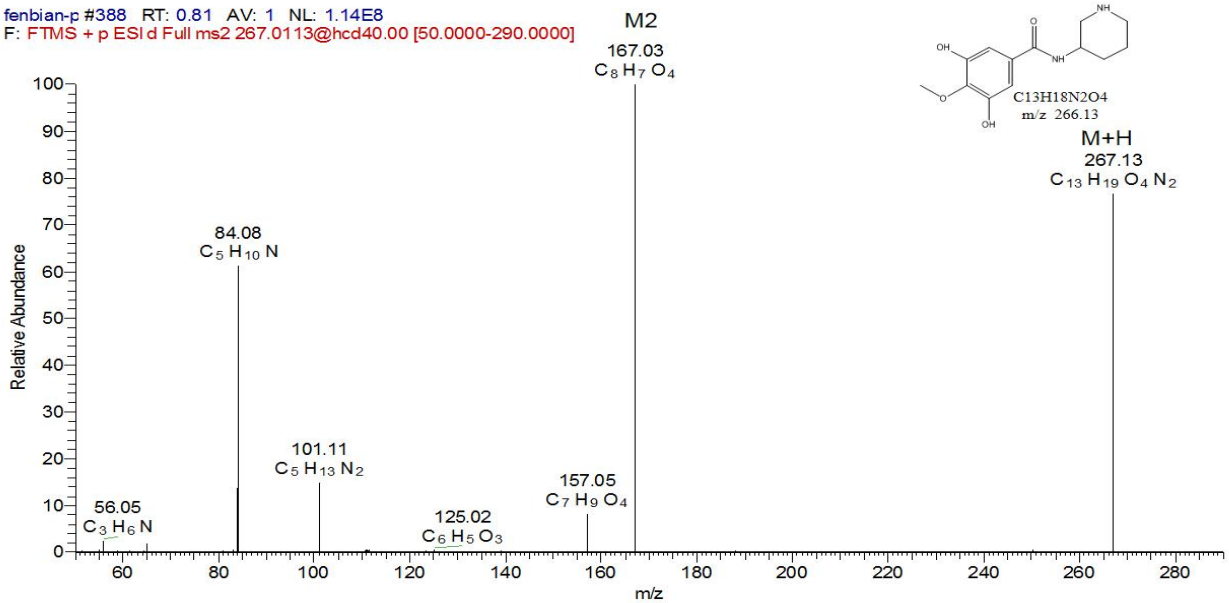
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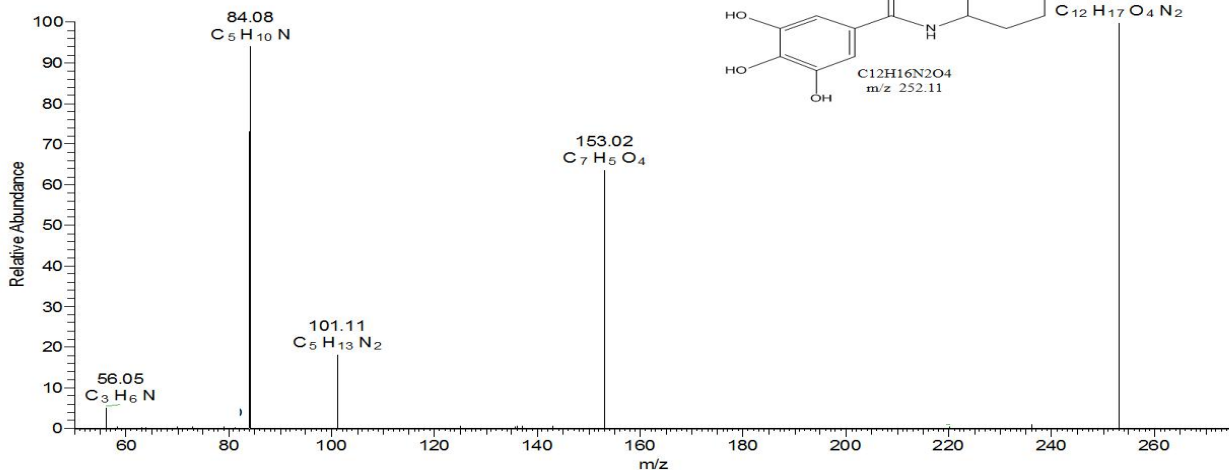
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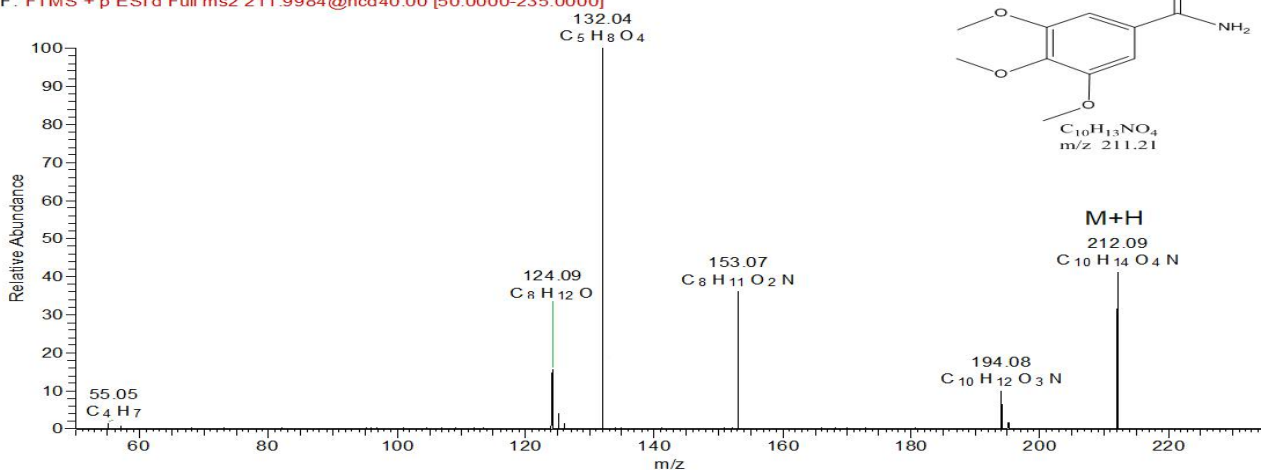
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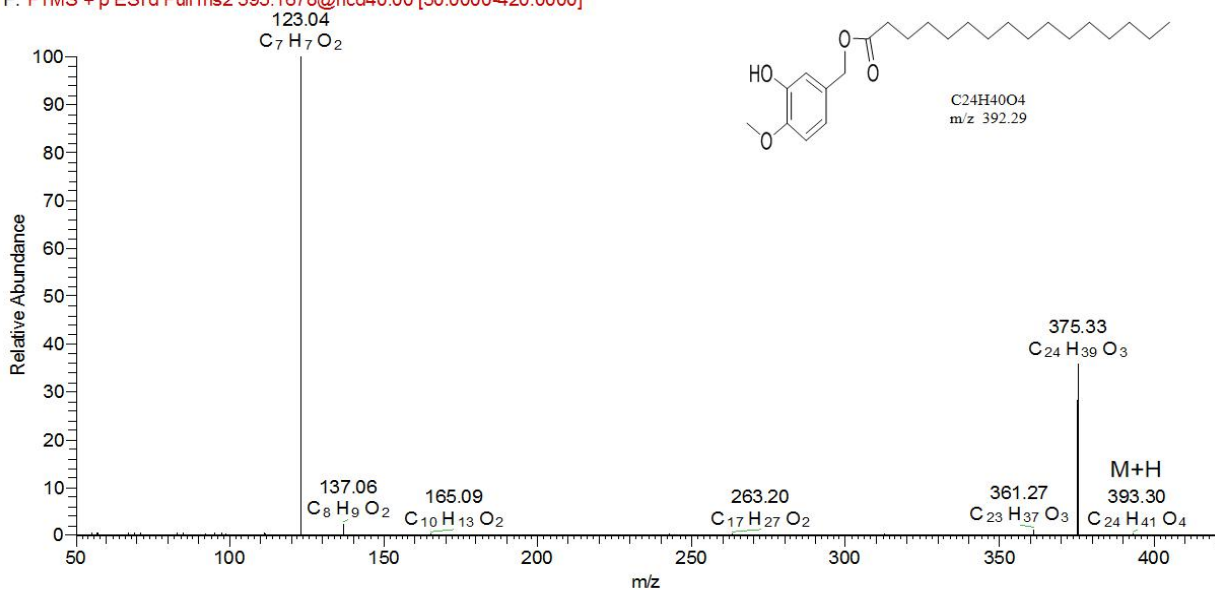
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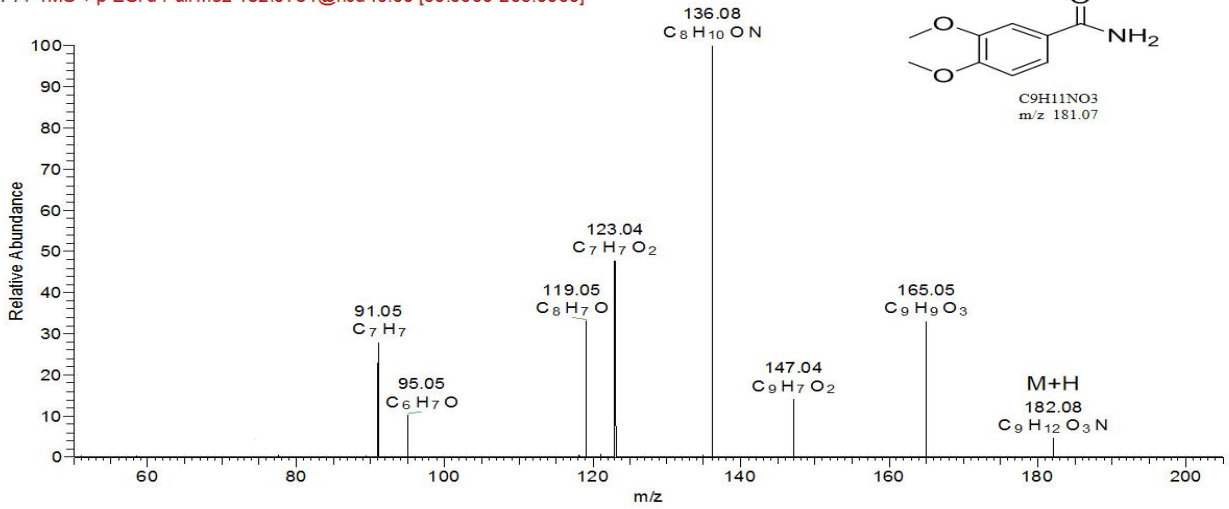


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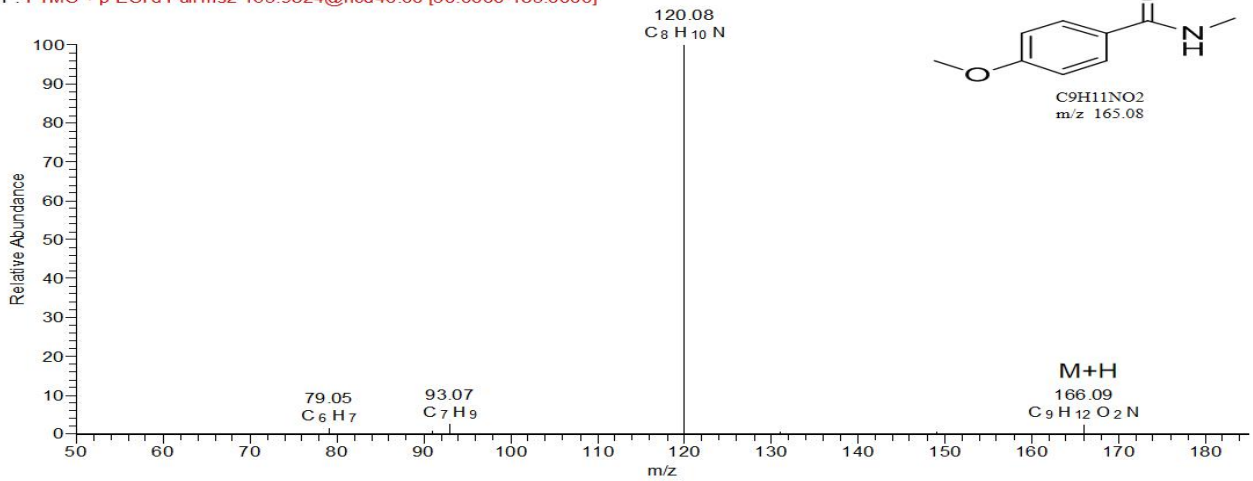
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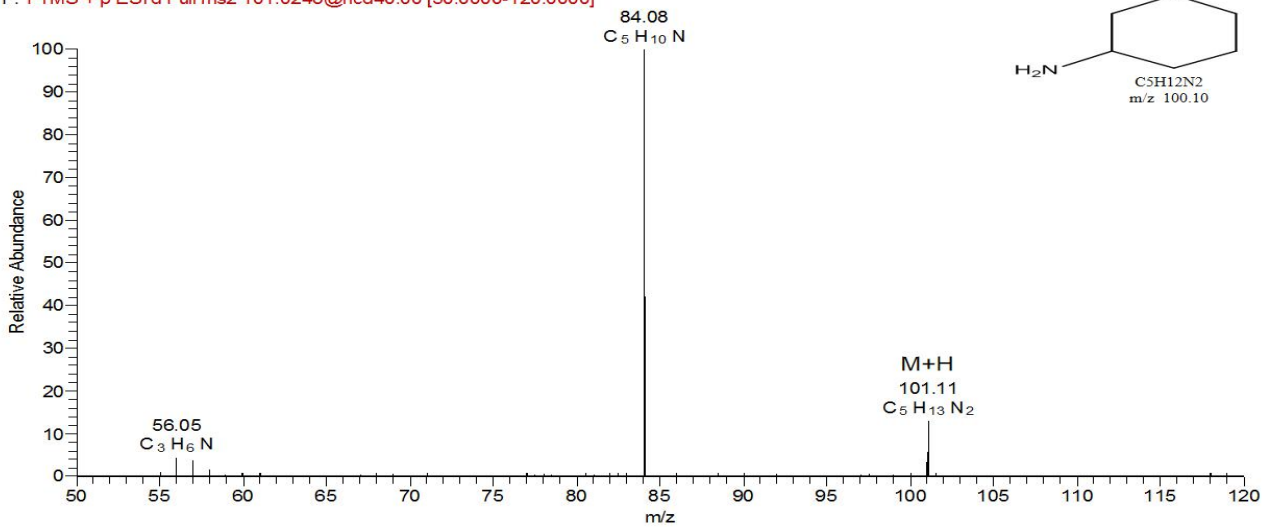
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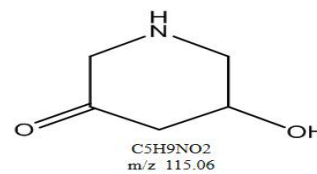
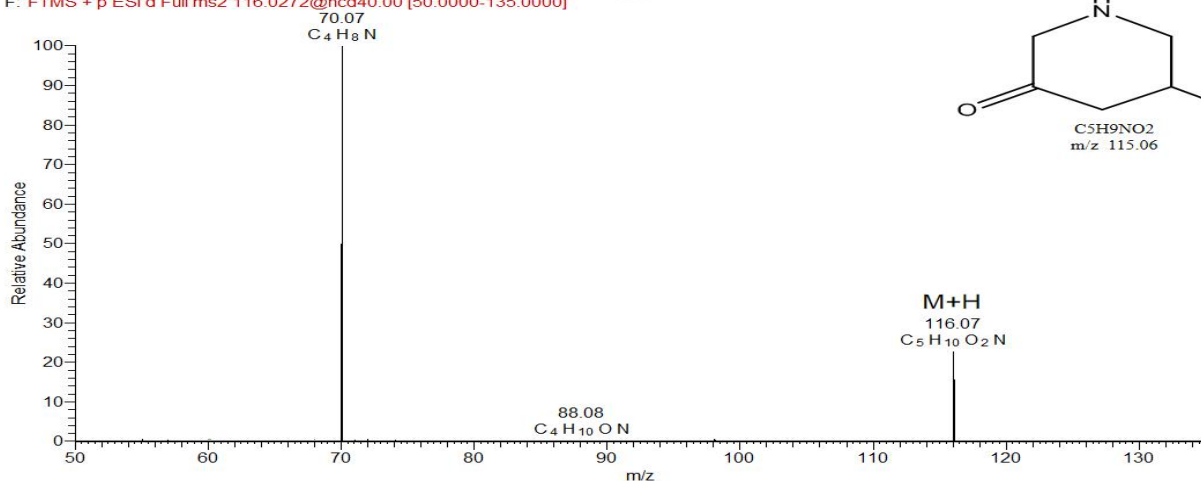
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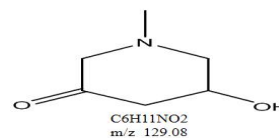
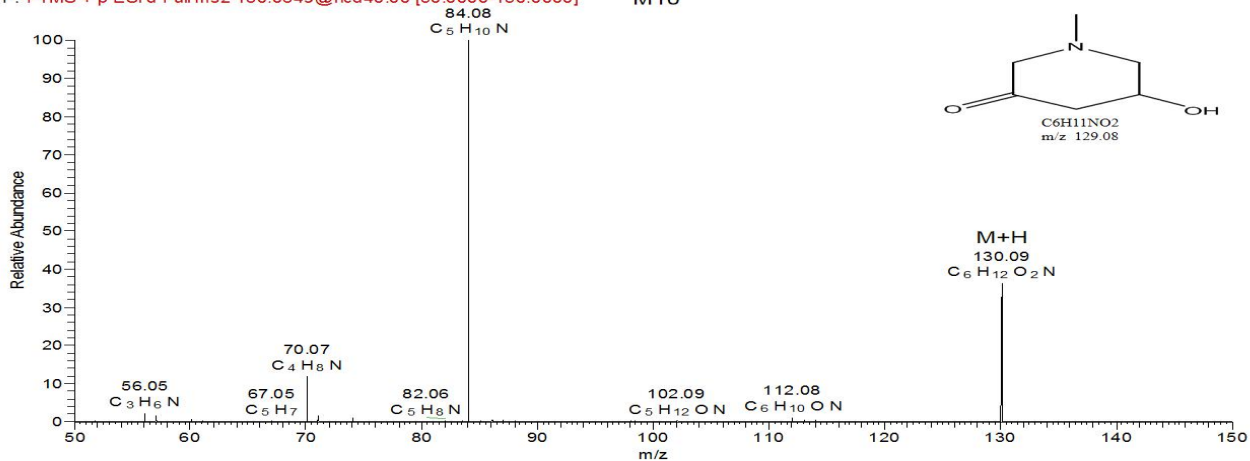
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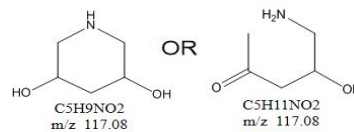
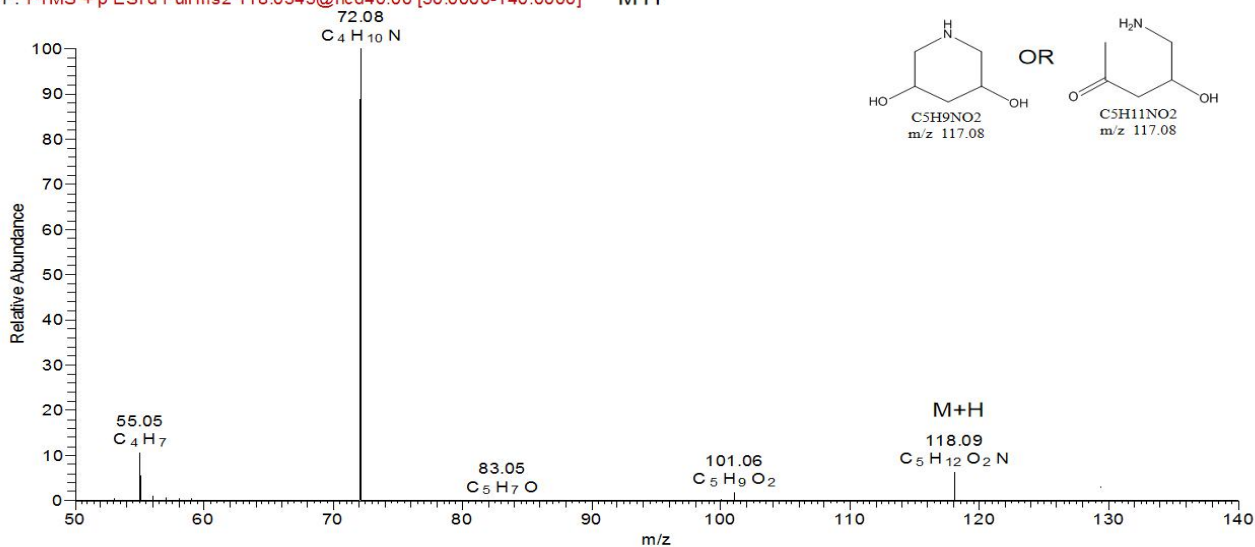
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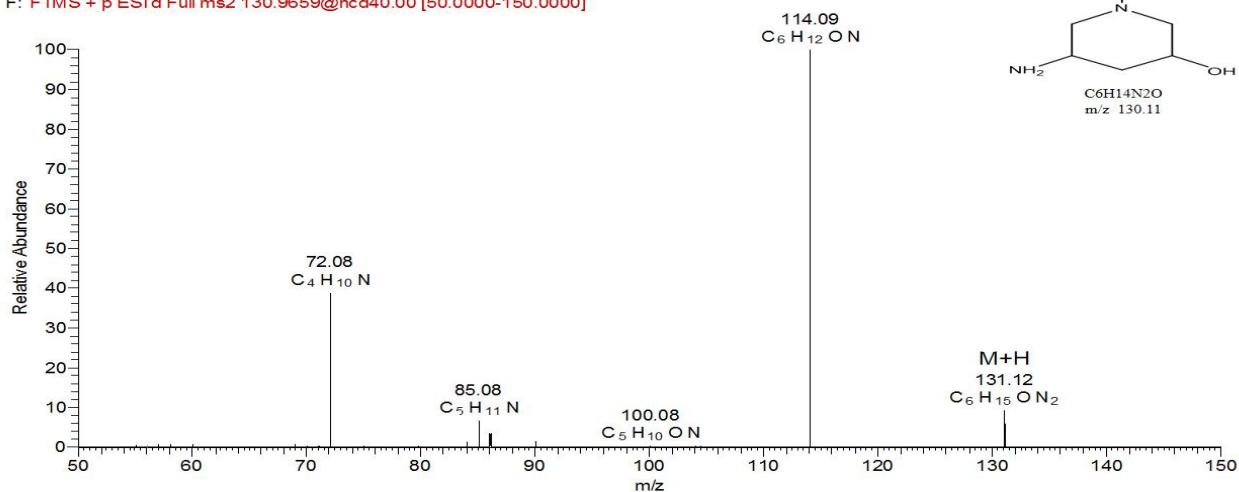
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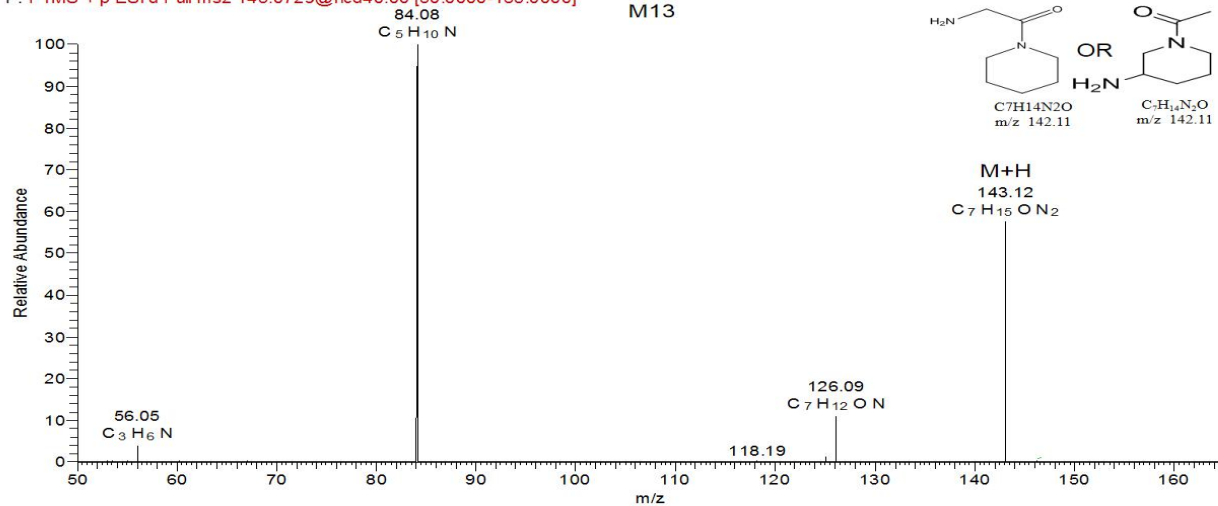
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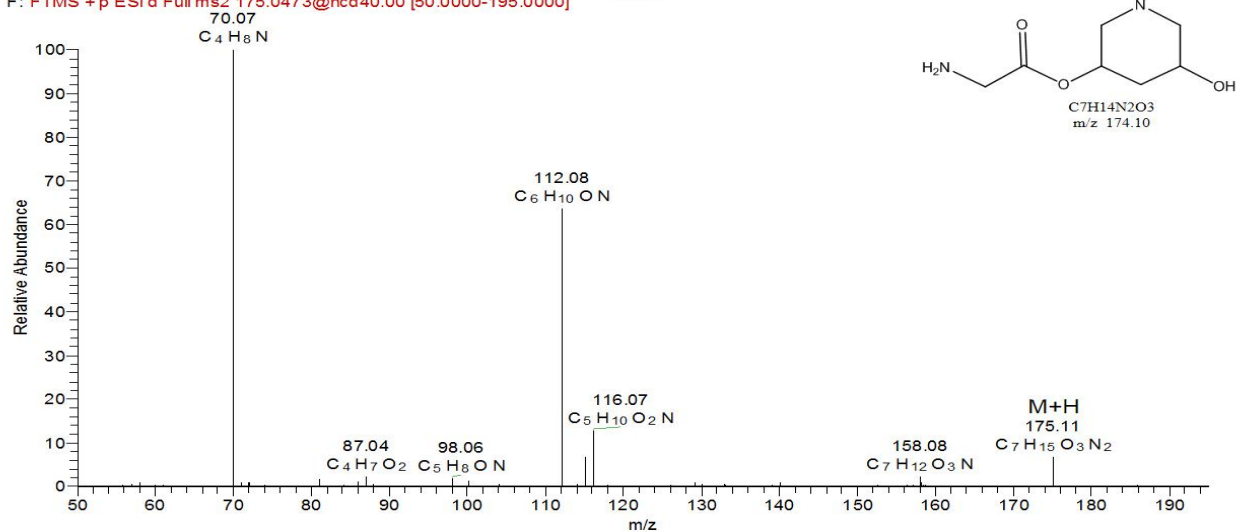
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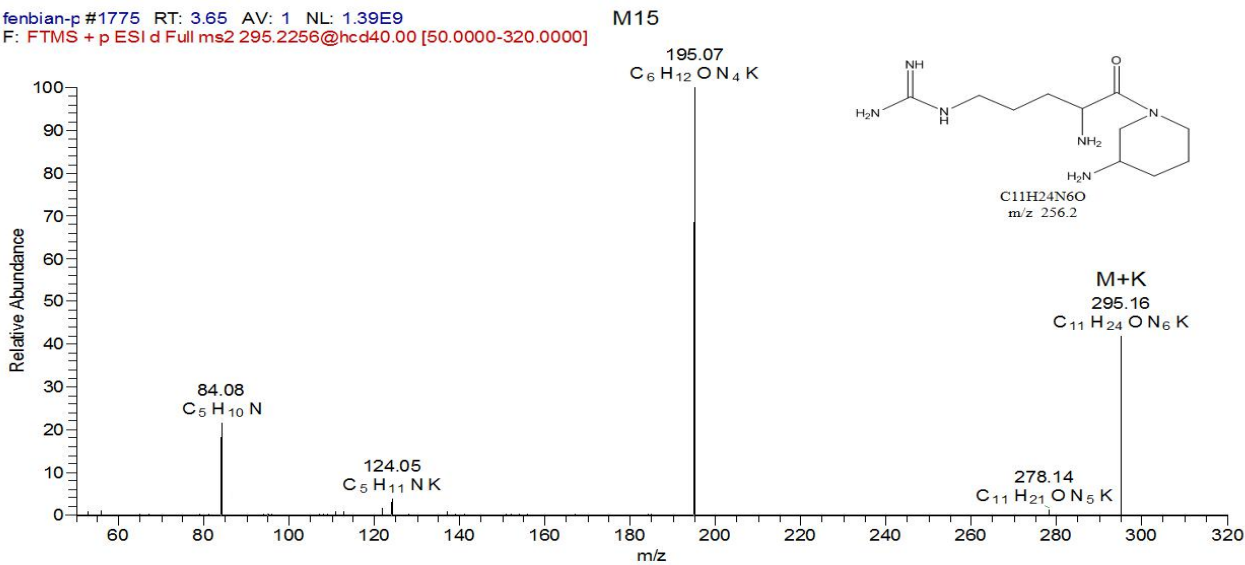


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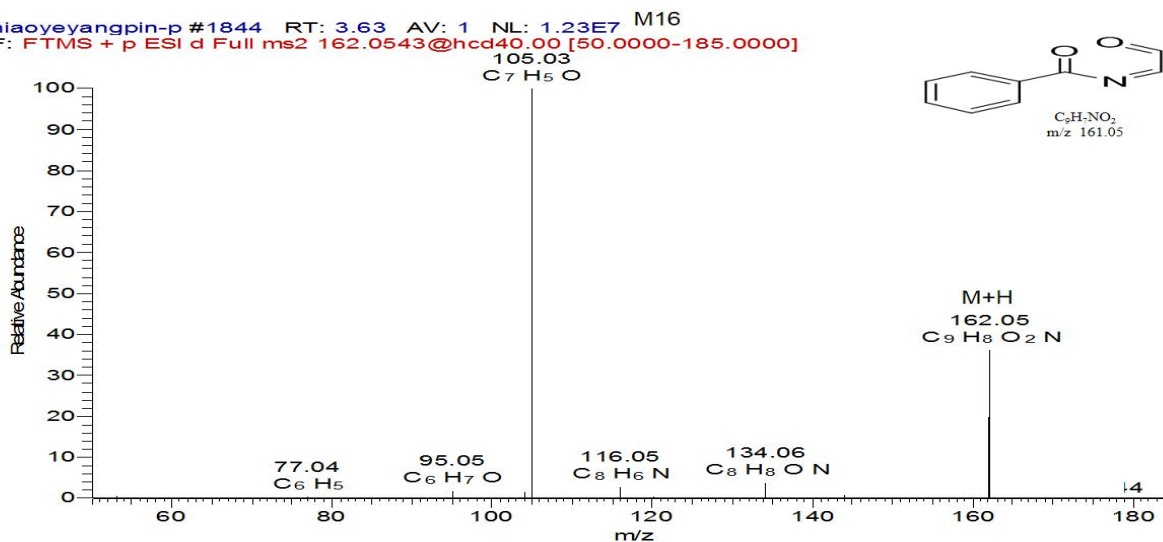
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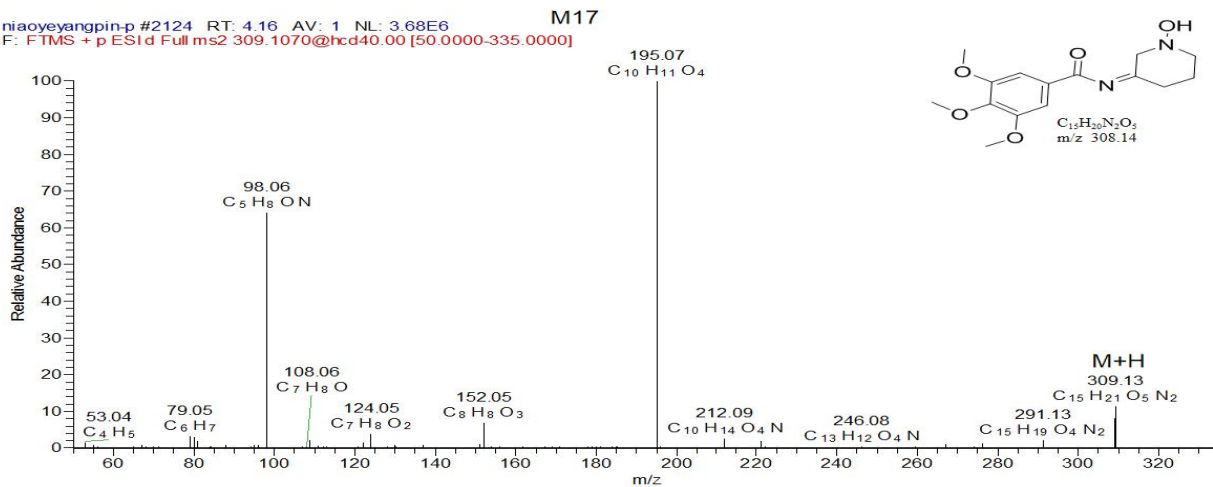
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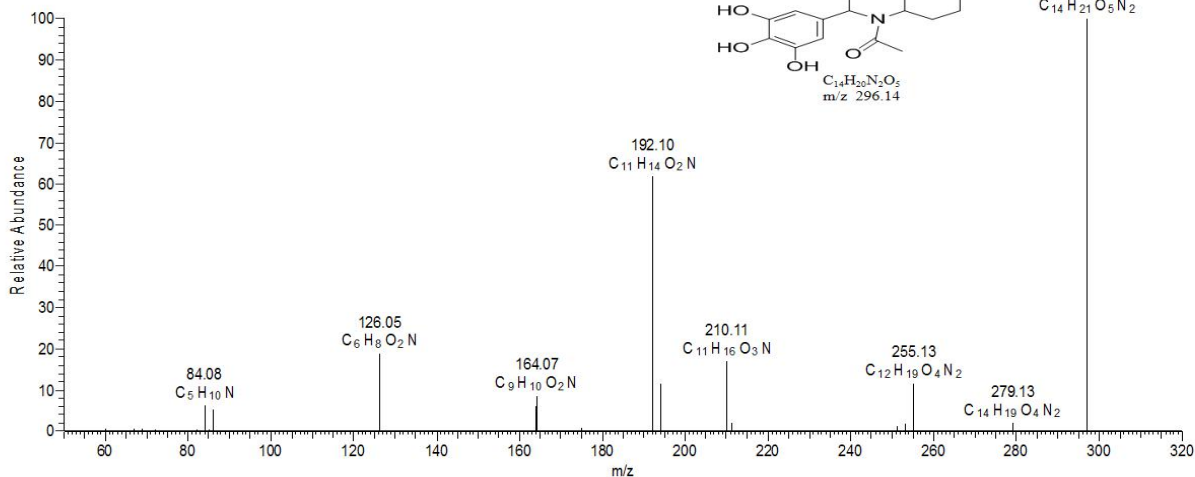


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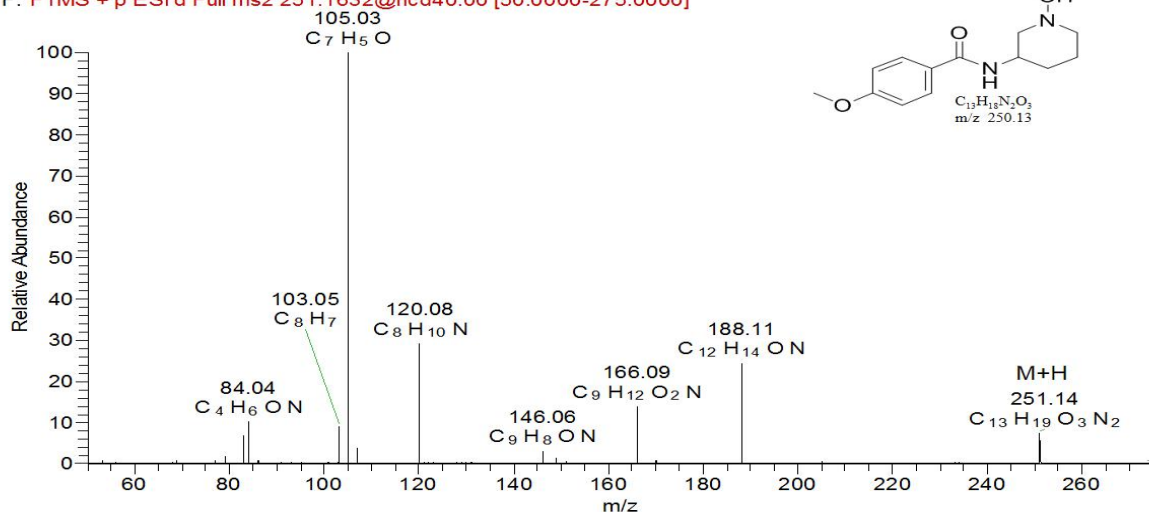
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M21



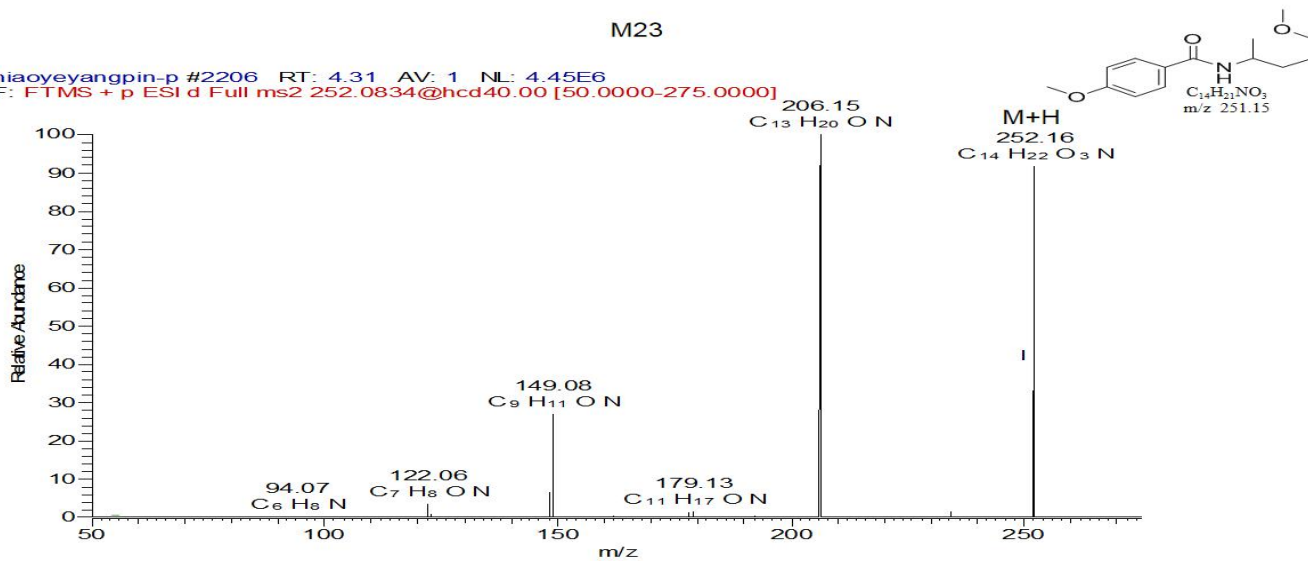
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M22

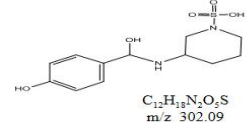
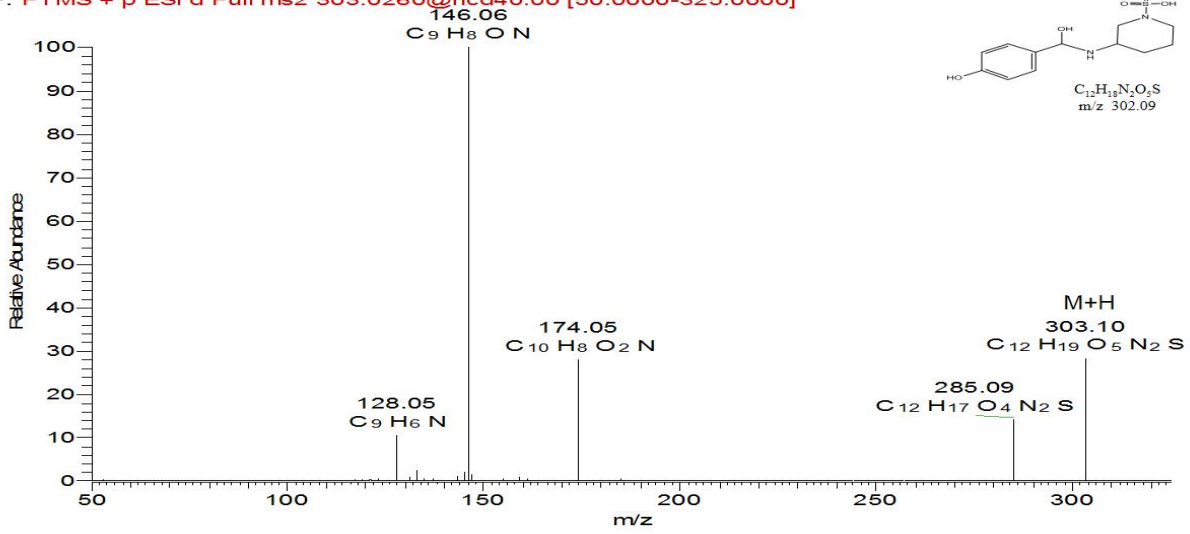


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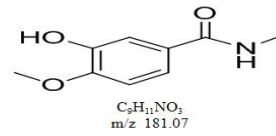
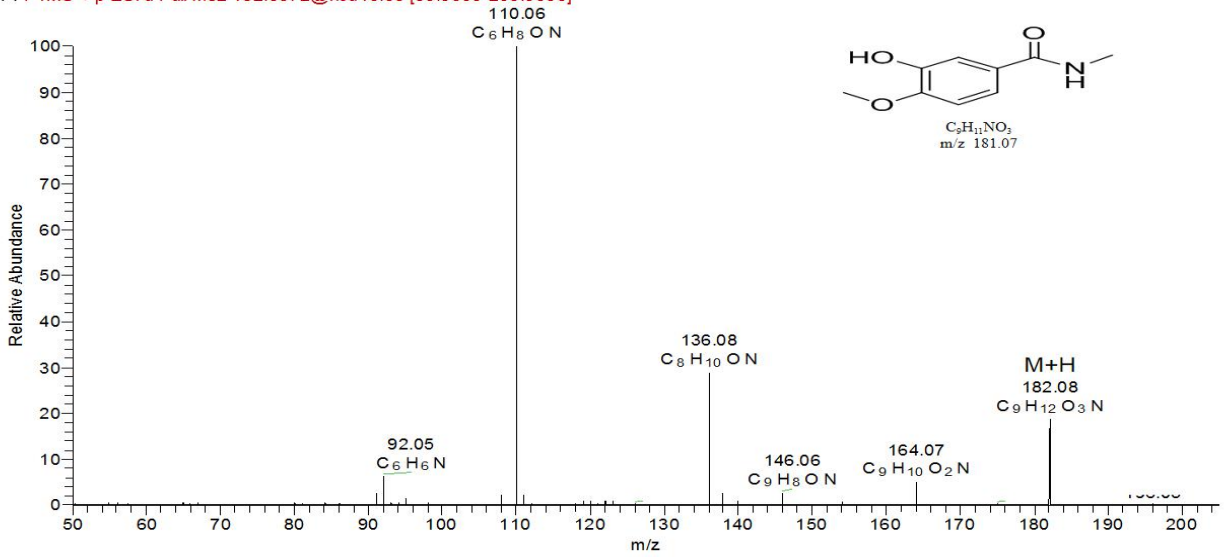
M23



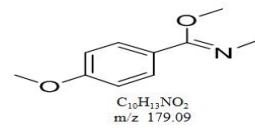
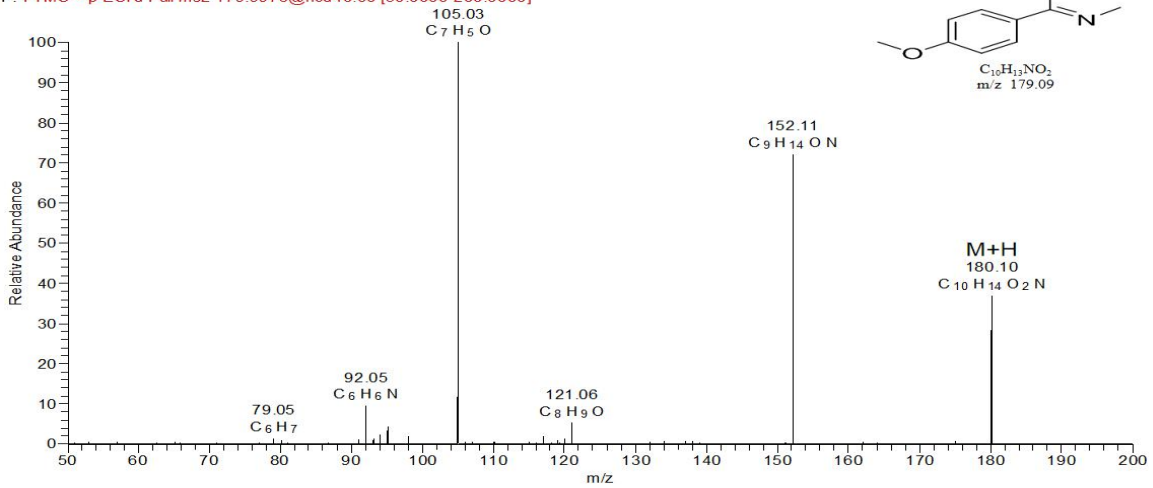
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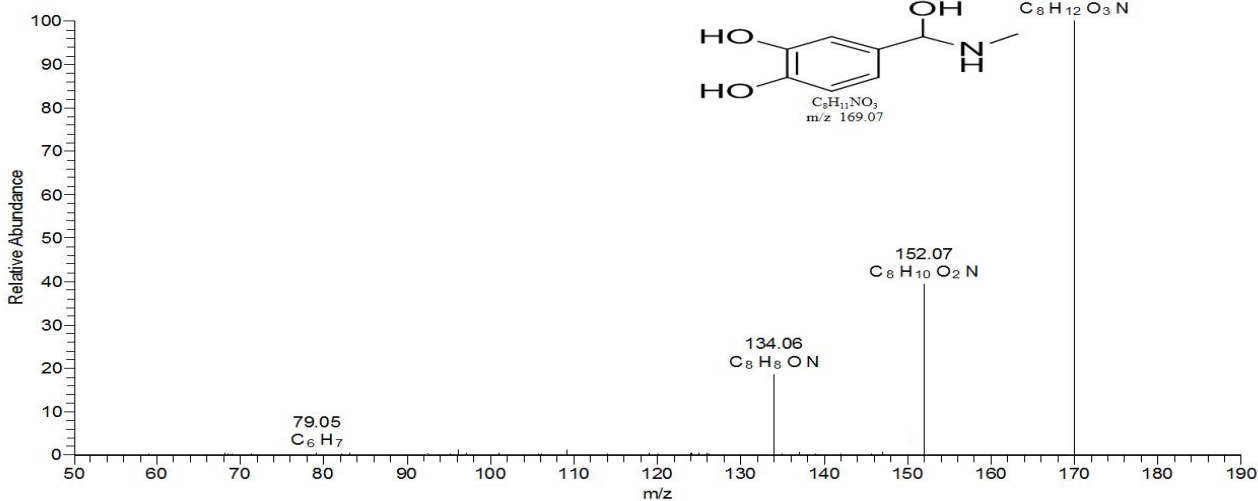
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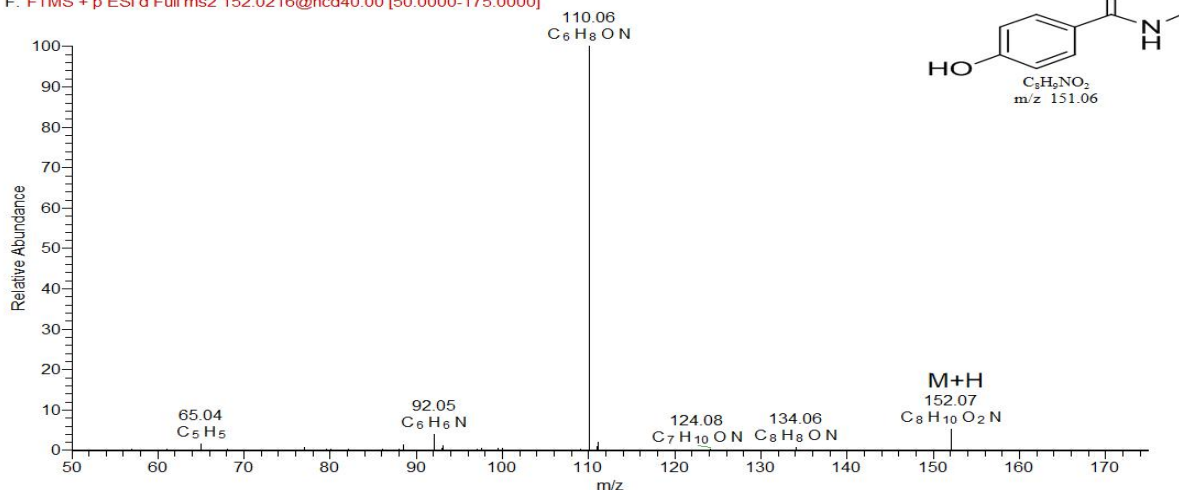
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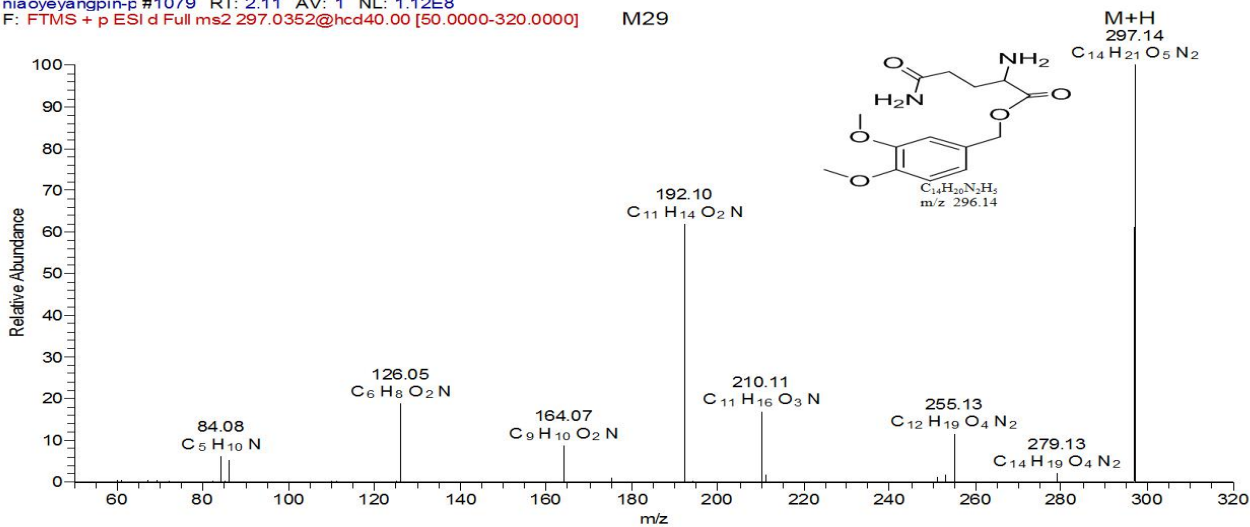
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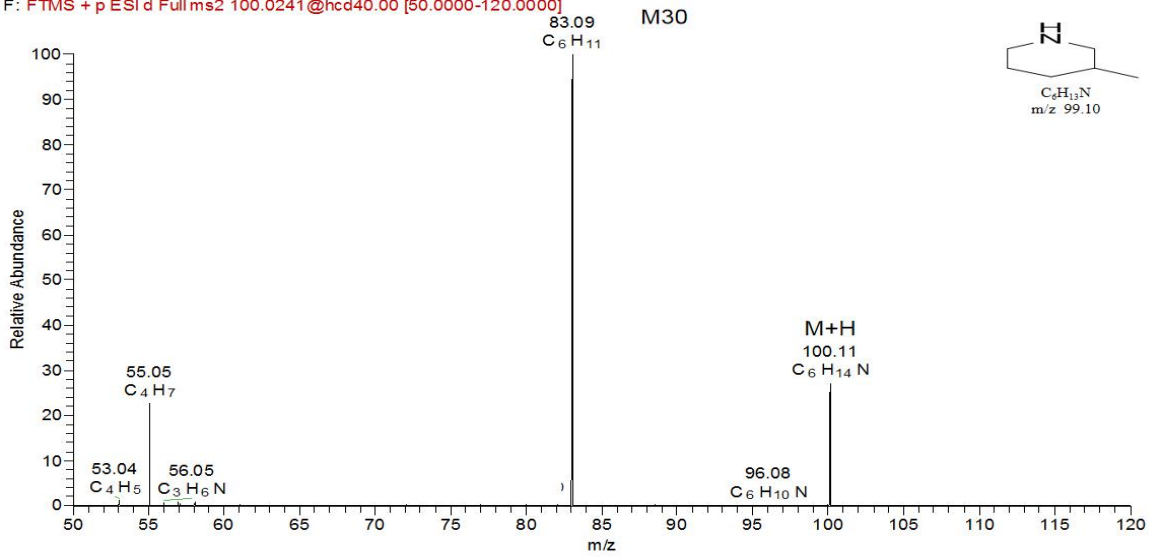
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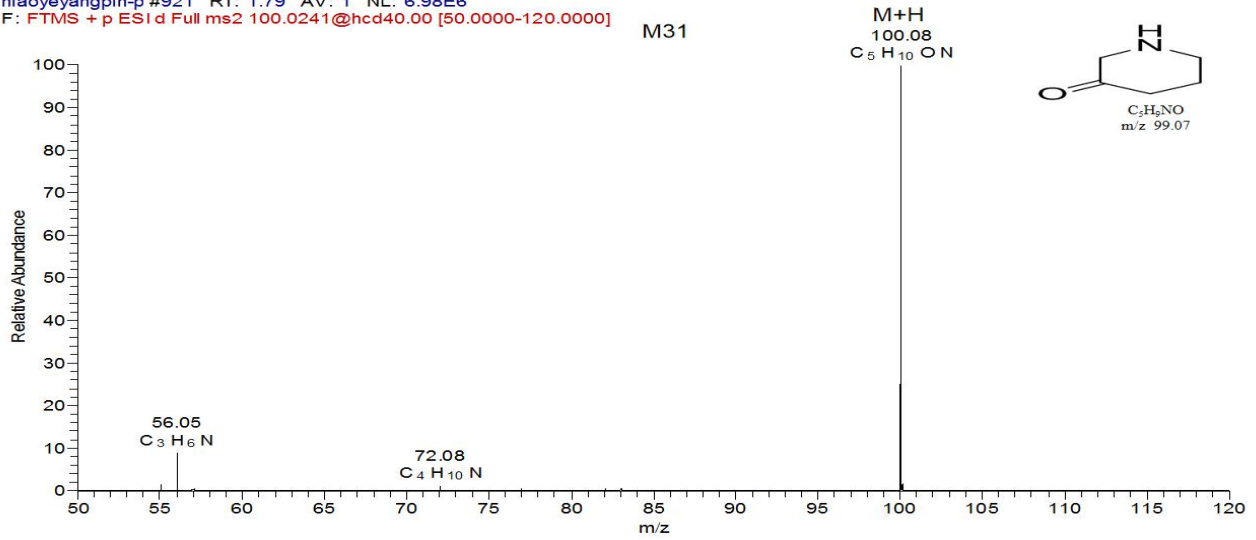
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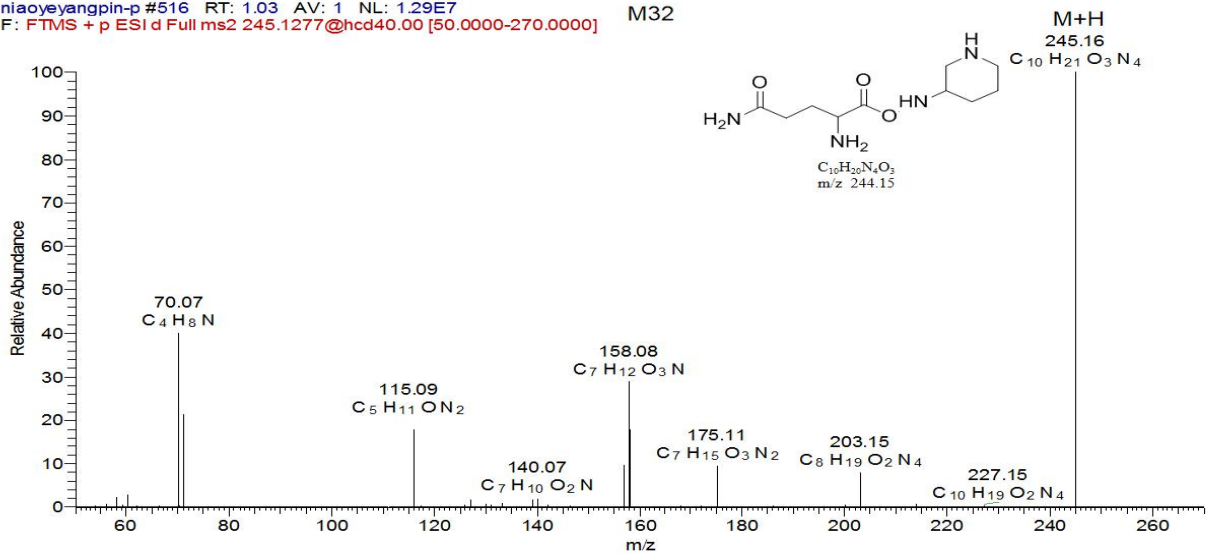
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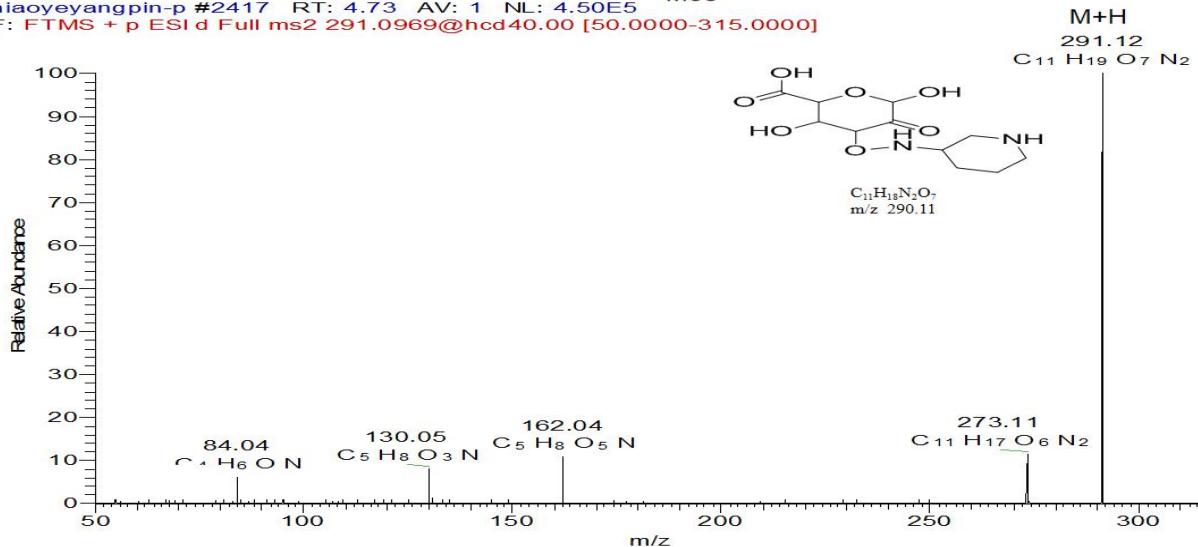


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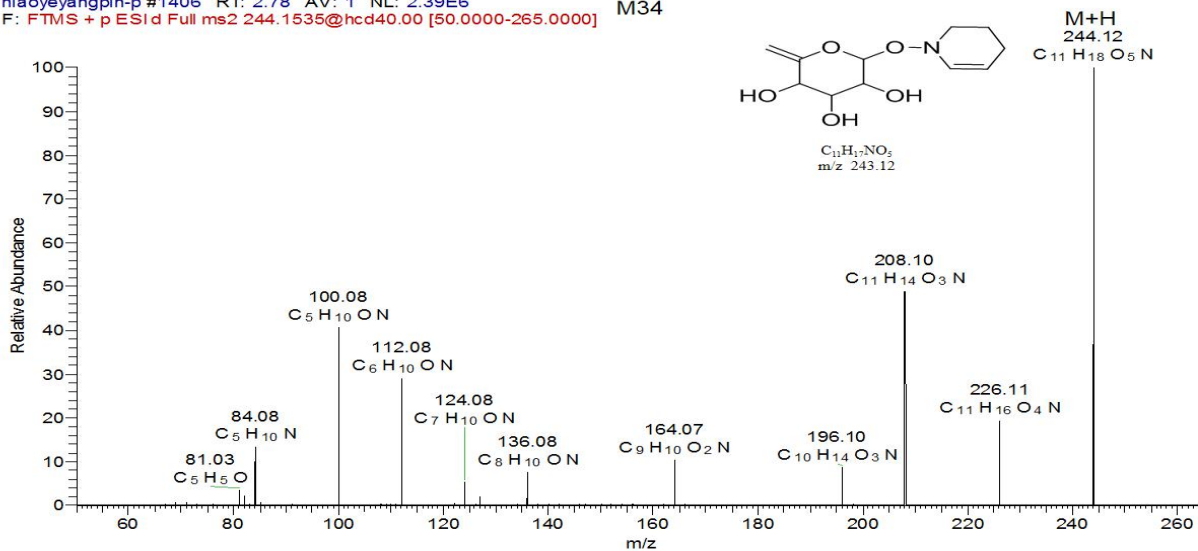
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M33



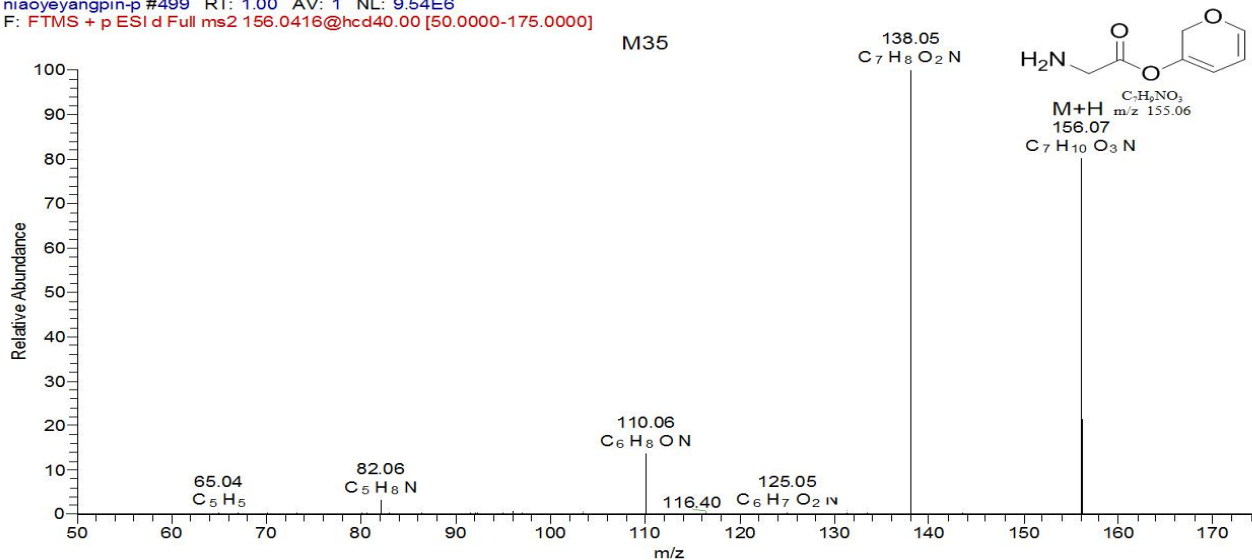
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M34

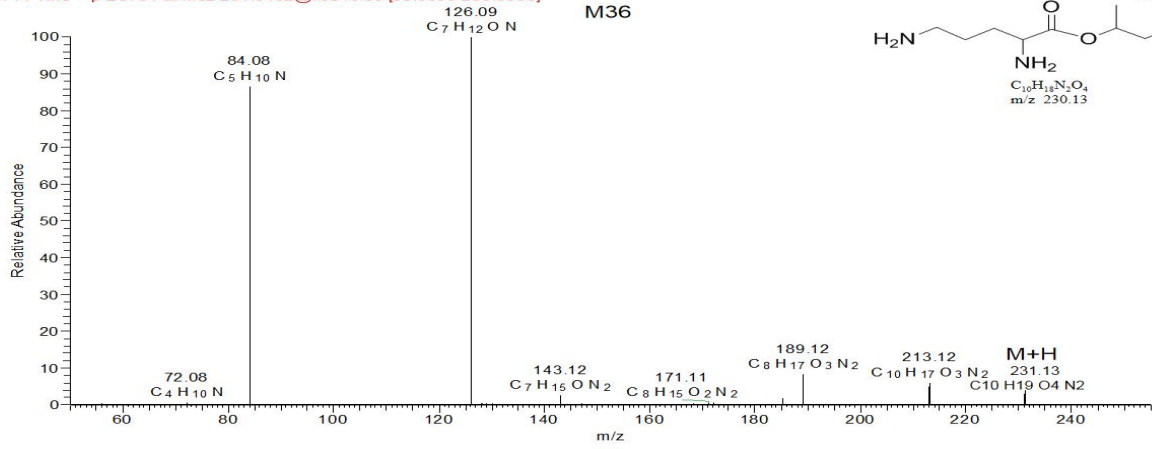


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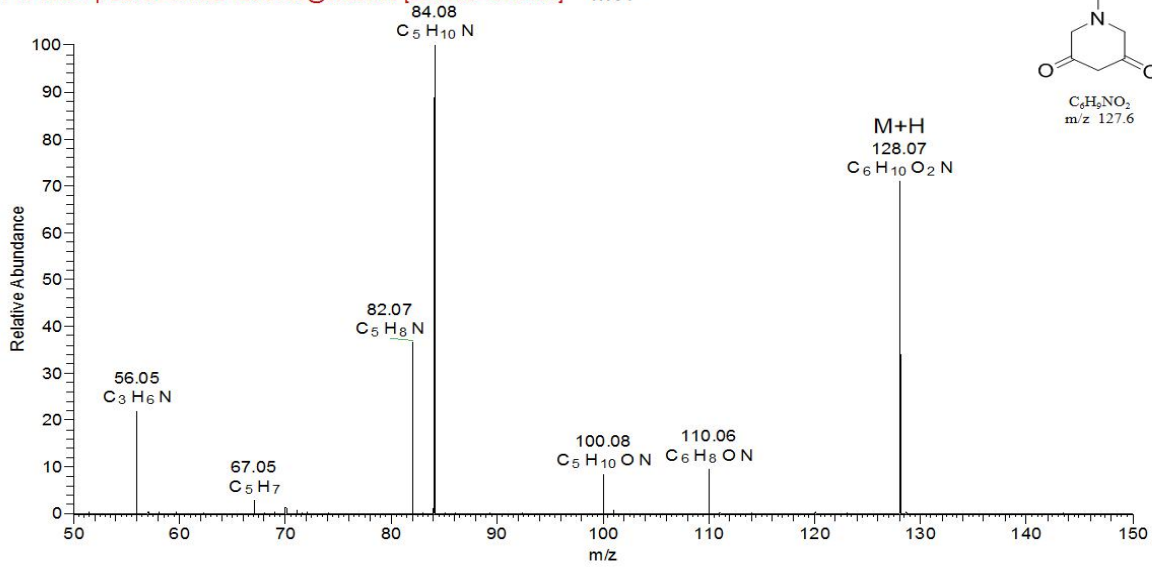
M35



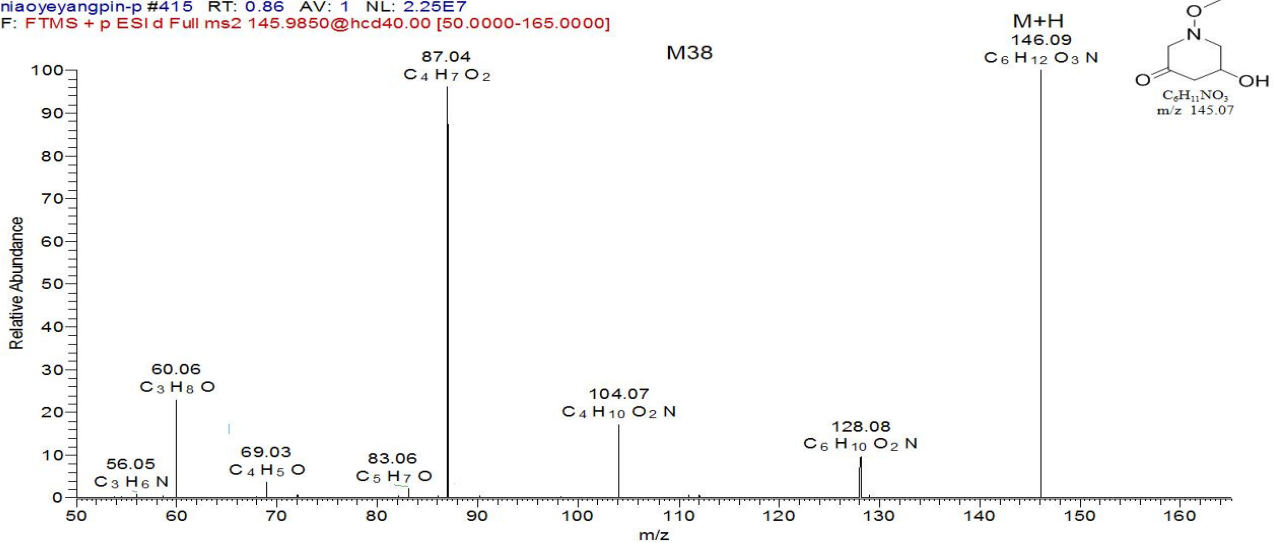
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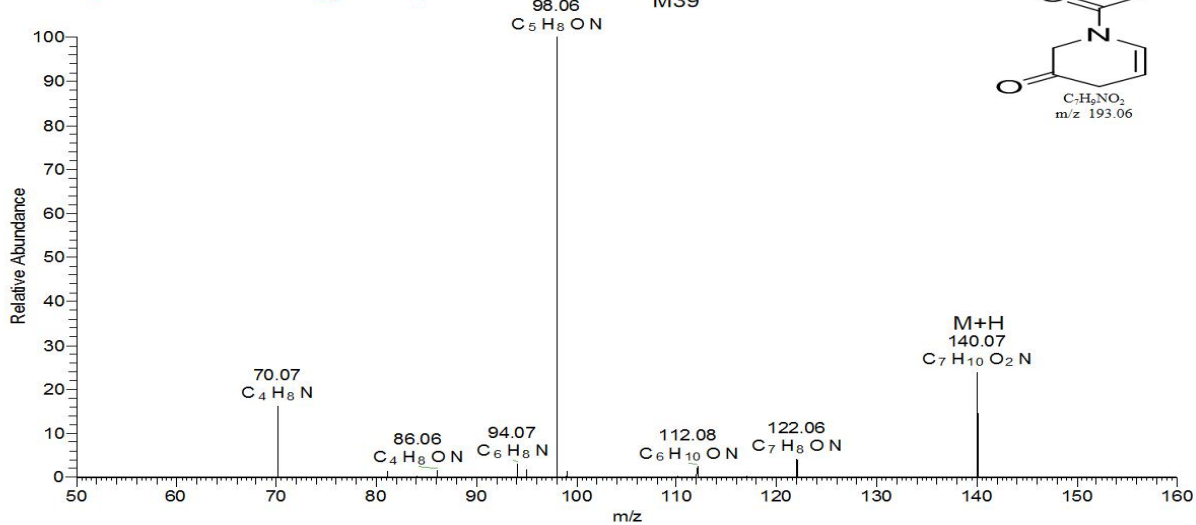
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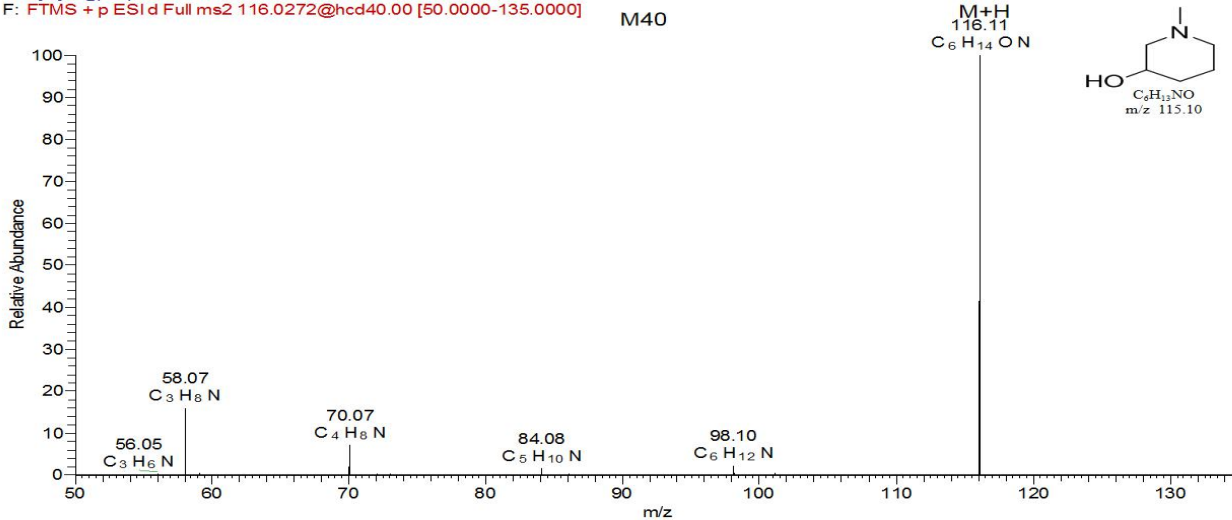
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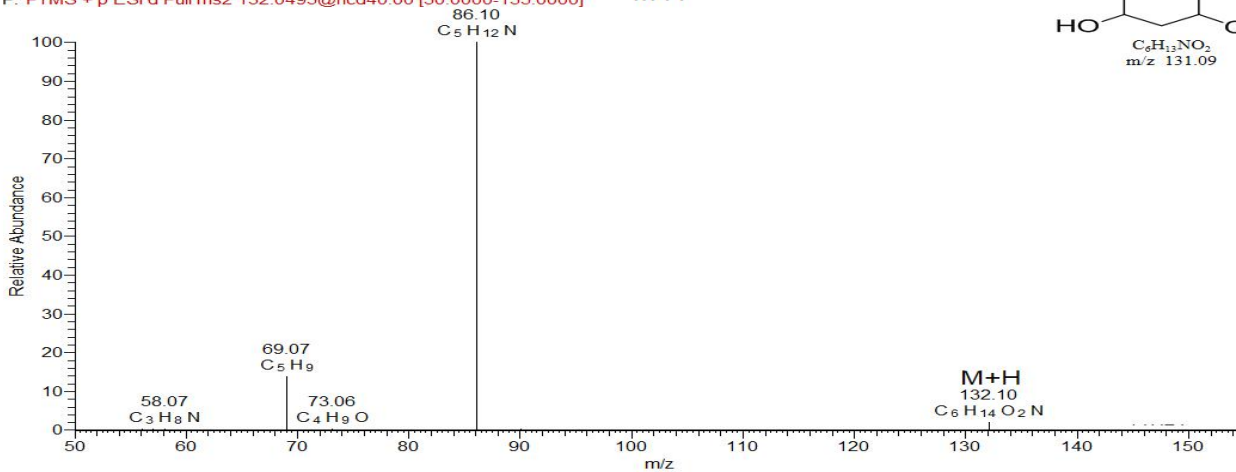
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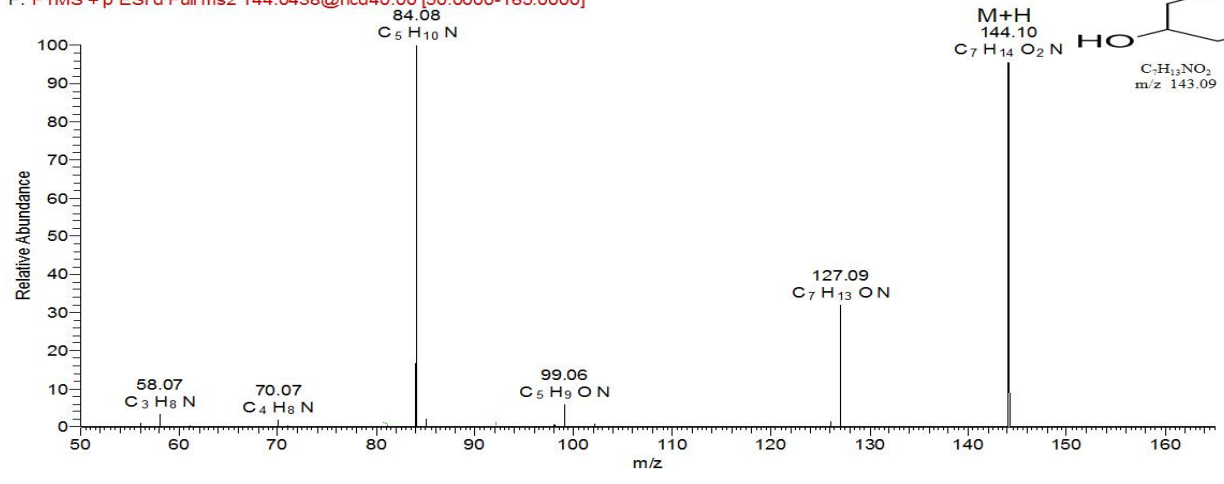


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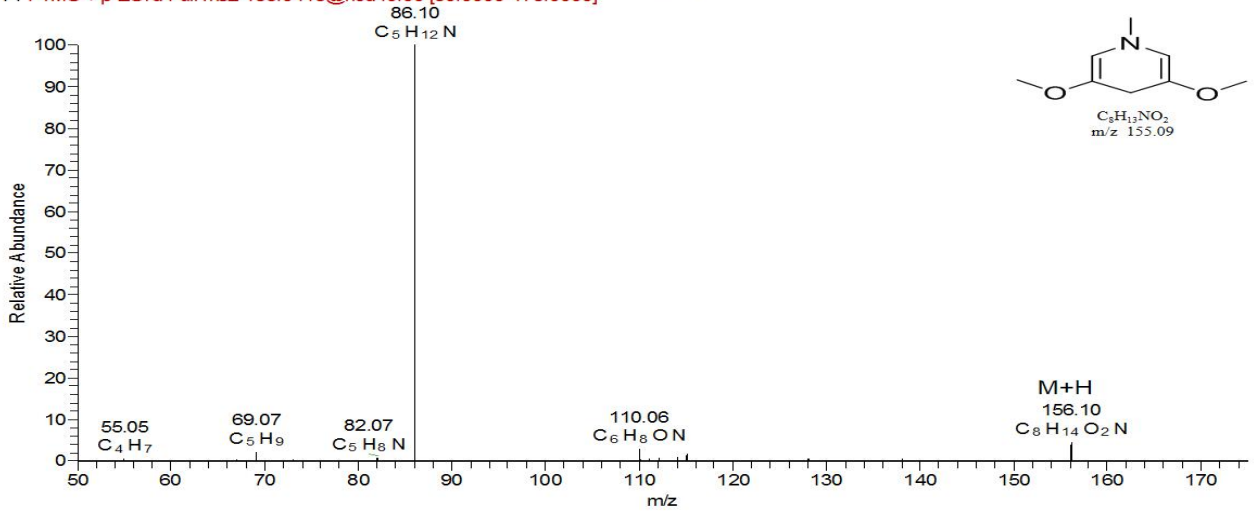
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M42



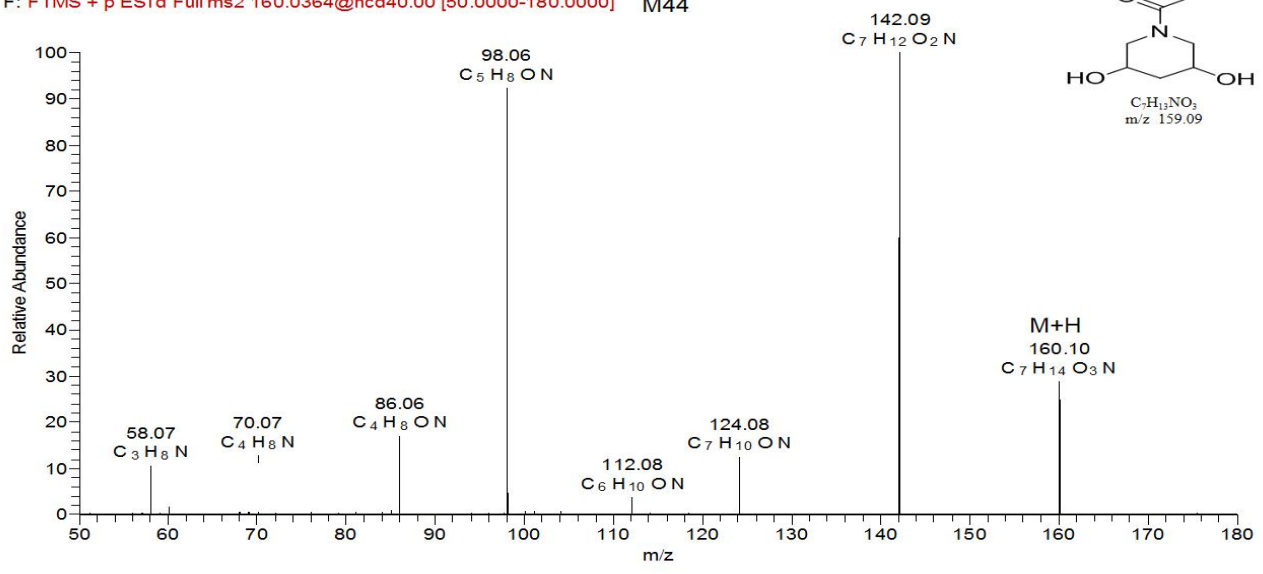
niaoyeyangpin-p #2075 RT: 4.06 AV: 1 NL: 1.36E6
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M43



niaoyeyangpin-p #640 RT: 1.25 AV: 1 NL: 2.41E6
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M44



niaooyangpin-p #999 RT: 1.95 AV: 1 NL: 2.80E6
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M45

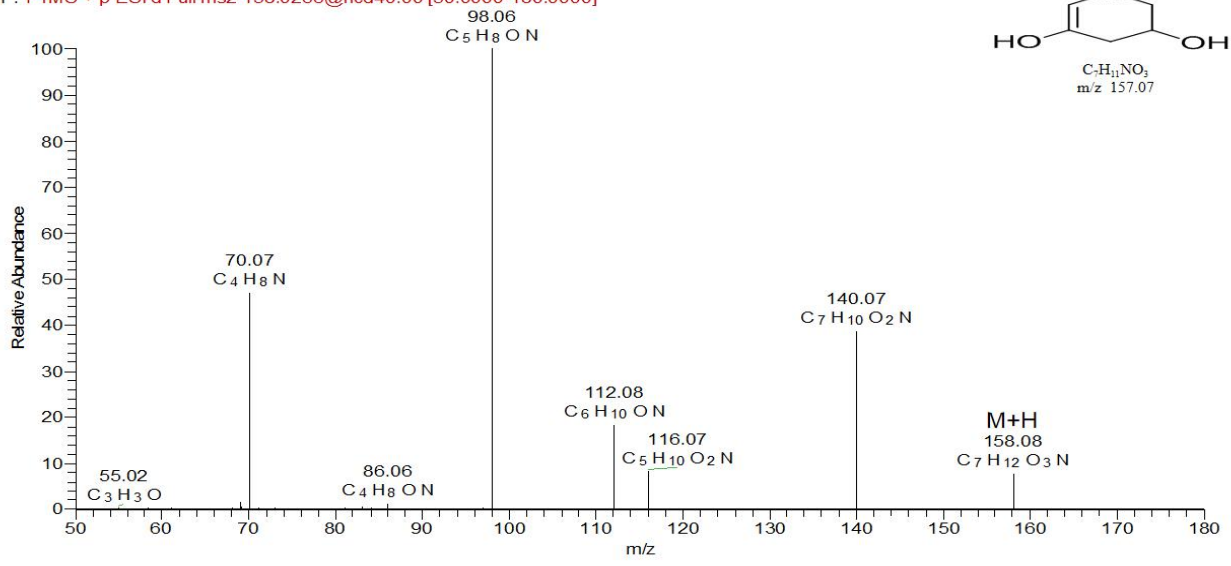
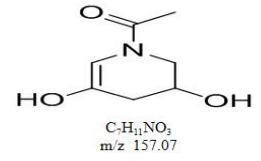


Figure S2. LC-MS/MS spectra of troxidone metabolites (M0-M45).

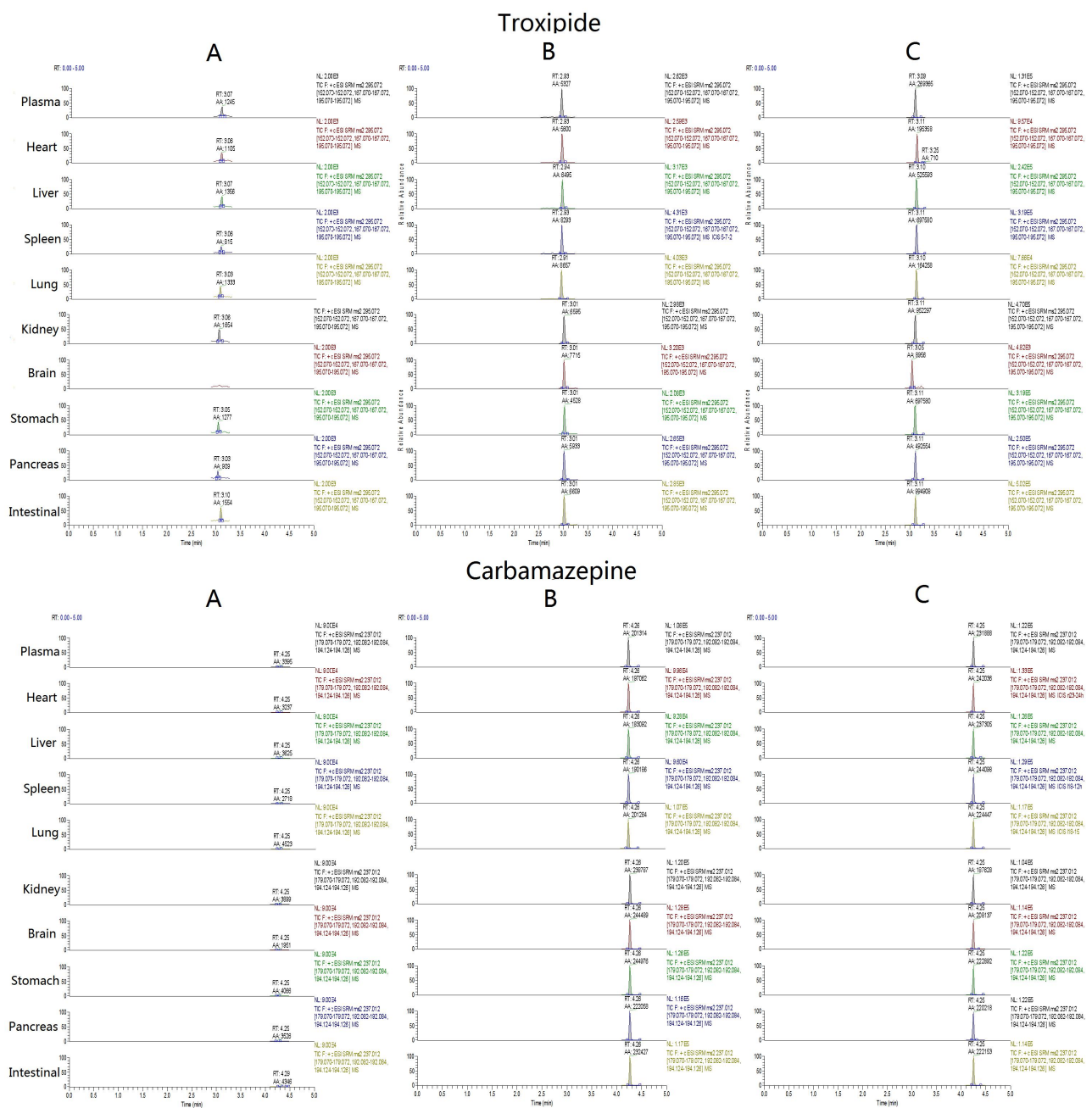


Figure S3. Representative SRM chromatograms of troxicide and IS in the rat plasma and tissues. (A) a blank plasma and all tissues sample; (B) a blank plasma and all tissue sample spiked with troxicide (LLOQ, 5 ng/mL); (C) plasma and all tissue sample 60 min after administration of single dosage 40 mg/kg.

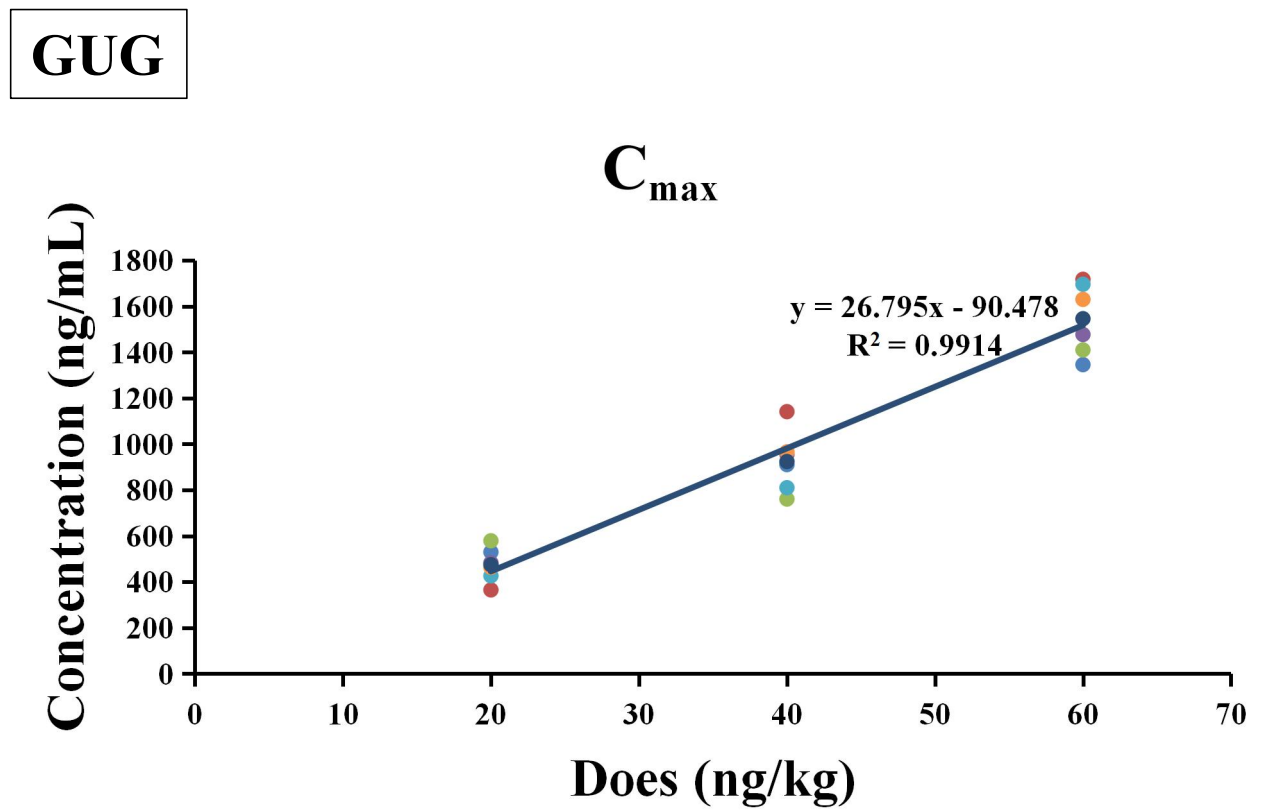
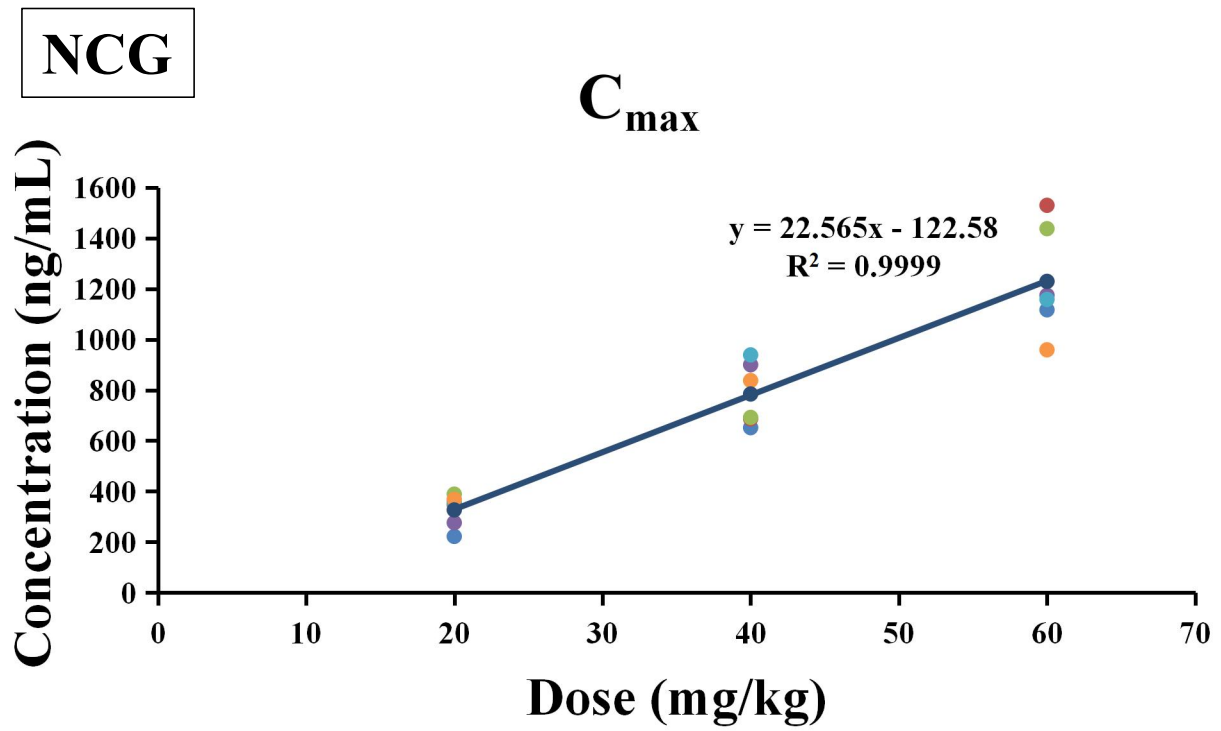
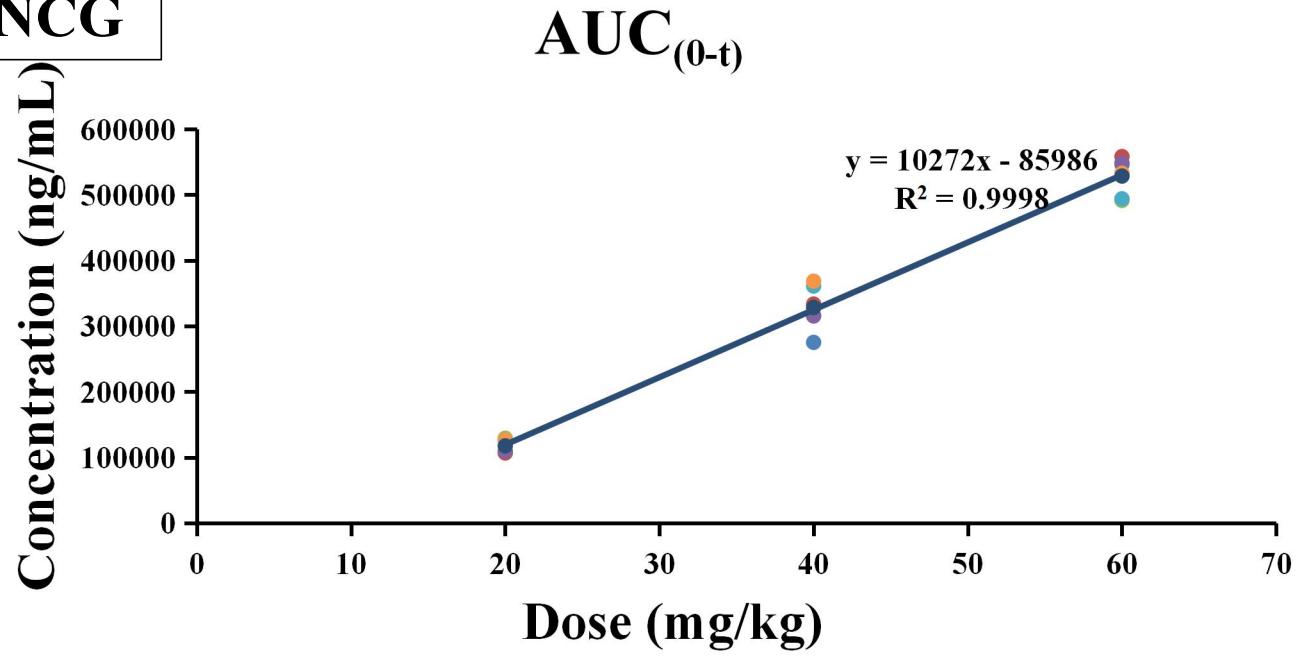


Figure S4 A linear relationship between drug C_{max} to dose in vivo in rats.

NCG



GUG

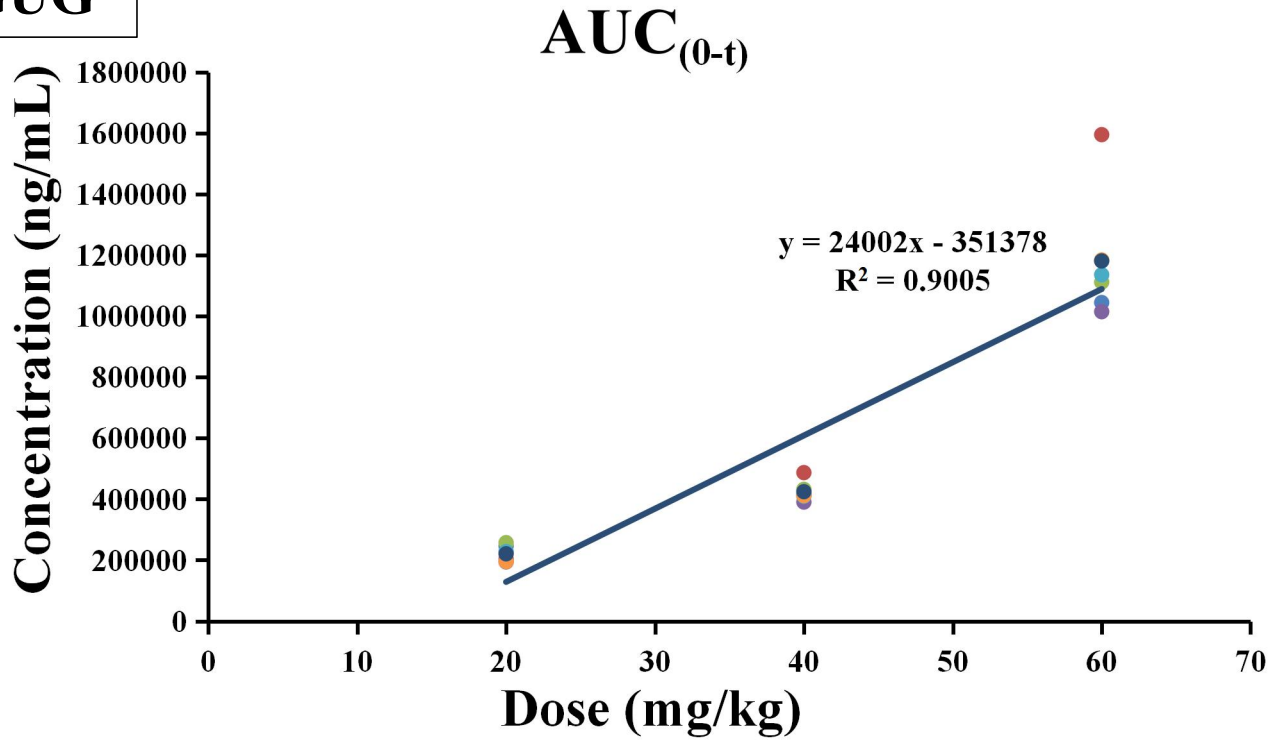
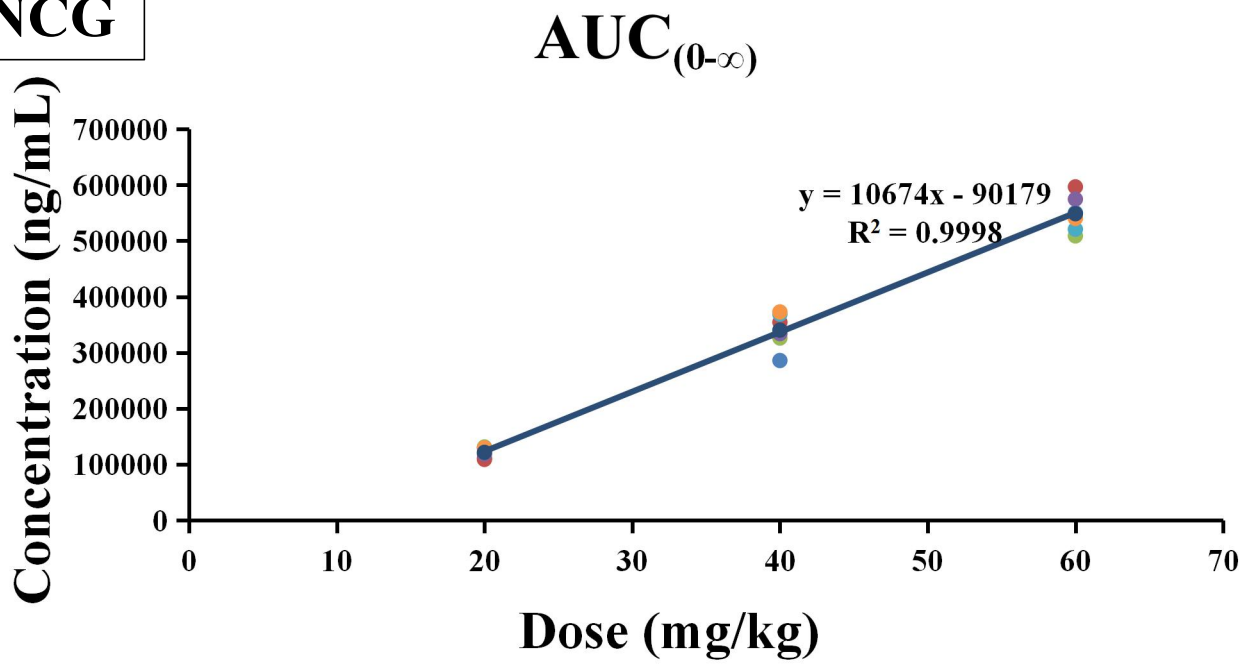


Figure S5 A linear relationship between drug AUC_(0-t) to dose in vivo in rats.

NCG



GUG

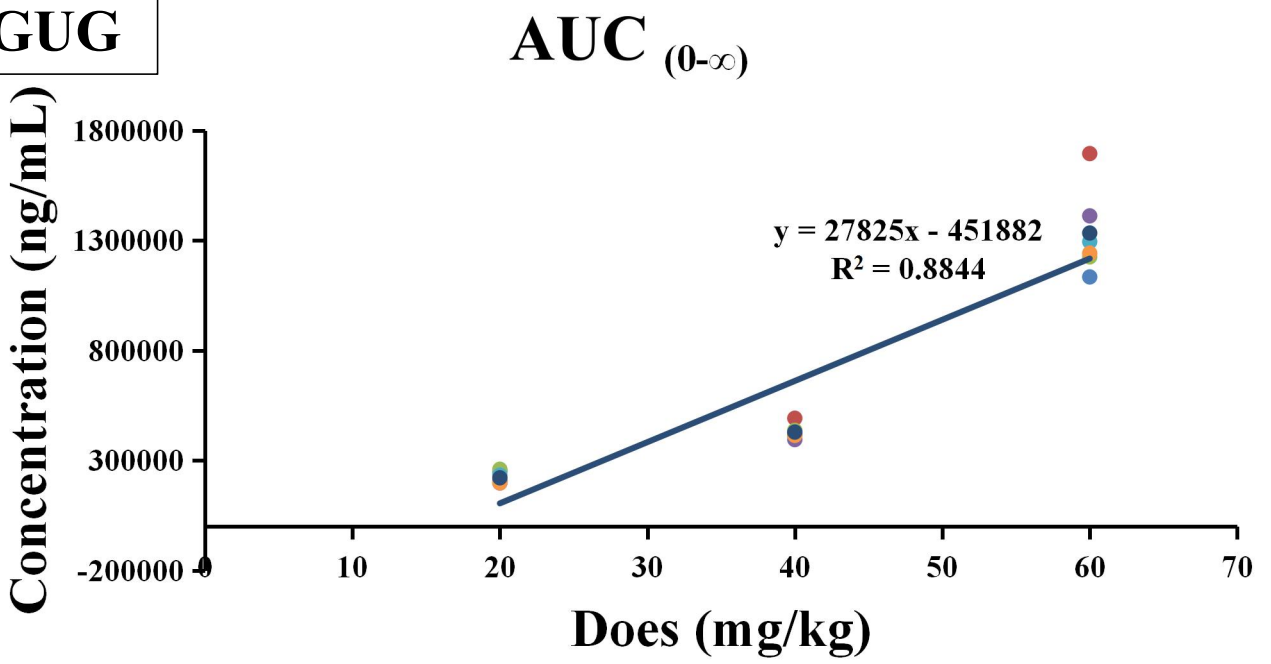


Figure S6 A linear relationship between drug AUC_(0-∞) to dose in vivo in rats.

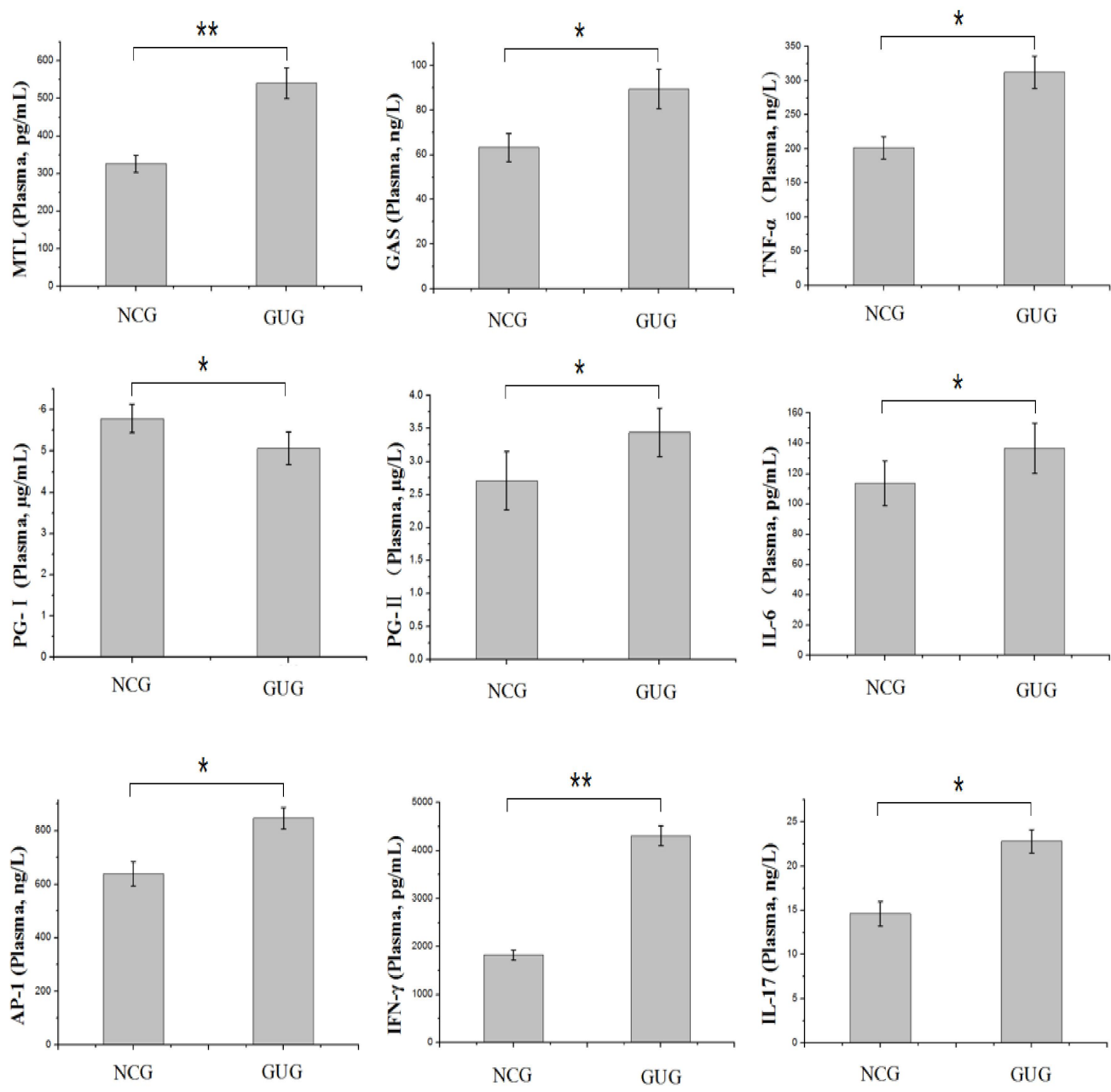


Figure S7. MTL, GAS, TNF- α , PG-I , PG-II, IL-17, IFN- γ , AP-1 and IL-6 levels in the rat plasma before troxipide treatment. NCG, normal group (0.9% normal saline 10 mL kg-1 day-1); GUG, gastric ulcer group (5% acetic acid 10 mL kg-1 day-1). Values are presented as means \pm SD for all groups (n = 10). *P < 0.05 and **P < 0.01 indicate statistically significant differences when the GUG is compared with the NCG.

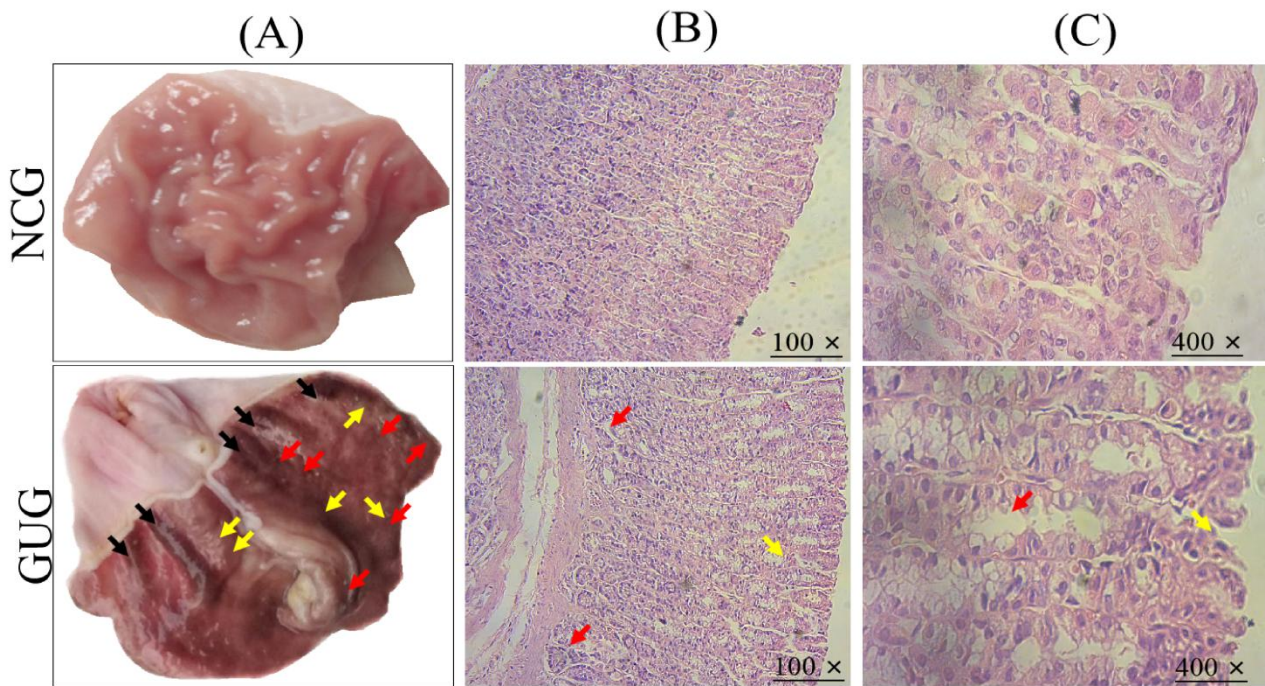


Figure S8. Macroscopic and microscopic analysis of stomach tissue before troxipide treatment. (A) Macroscopic analysis of GU before troxipide treatment. (B) Sections of the gastric mucosa (H&E staining) (100 \times). (C) Sections of the gastric mucosa (H&E staining) (400 \times). NCG, normal group (0.9% normal saline 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹); GUG, gastric ulcer group (5% acetic acid 10 mL kg⁻¹ day⁻¹).

Supplementary Results and Discussion

Metabolic study

1. Identification of troxipide metabolites in feces

The molecular ion of metabolite 1 (M1), metabolite 2 (M2), metabolite 3 (M3) were respectively m/z 281.15 ($C_{14}H_{20}N_2O_4$), 267.13 ($C_{13}H_{18}N_2O_4$) and 253.12 ($C_{12}H_{16}N_2O_4$) and were eluted at 3.45, 0.81 and 1.08 min. The product ions of m/z 281.15 (M1) were m/z 181.15 ($C_9H_9O_4$) and 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$), and all 14 Da less than m/z 295.16 (M0) and its product ions were m/z 195.07 ($C_{10}H_{11}O_4$) and 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$). Similarly, the product ions of m/z 267.13 (M2) and 253.12 (M3) were all 14 Da less than 281.15 ($C_{14}H_{20}N_2O_4$) and 267.13 ($C_{13}H_{18}N_2O_4$). The results of above indicated that M1, M2 and M3 was probably demethylation product of M0.

Metabolite 5 (M5) with m/z 393.30 ($C_{24}H_{41}O_4$) was separated at 9.54 min in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode of which elemental composition without nitrogen atoms and the degree of unsaturation was 5, indicated that the amide group was broken on the M0, and the group was completely removed with amino group. According to the fragmentation regular of M5, the MS/MS characteristic ions of M4 were 123.04 ($C_7H_7O_2$) and 375.33 ($C_{24}H_{39}O_3$). M5 was a product which was demethylated, reduced and palmitoyl conjugated of M0 by Mass Frontier verification.

Metabolite 6 (M6) at m/z 181.07 ($C_9H_{12}NO_3$) was tested at 1.12 min with $[M+H]^+$ ion which its degree of unsaturation was 5 and product ions were m/z 123.04 ($C_7H_7O_2$) and 136.08 ($C_8H_{10}NO$), and its elemental composition loss a methoxyl compared to M4. Based on these data and Mass Frontier verification, M6 was a product which loss pyridine, demethylation and dehydration of M0.

Metabolite 7 (M7) at 1.74 min with $[M+H]^+$ ion was observed at m/z 166.09 ($C_9H_{12}NO_2$), of which the composition was less one oxygen atom (O) than the M6. Under high-energy collision, the product ion m/z 166.09 ($C_8H_{10}N$) was formed due to less 16 Da than M6. The results suggested the M7 was a product which was oxidation, dehydration and methylation of M0.

Metabolite 9 (M9) was separated at 0.88 min with m/z 116.07 ($C_5H_{10}NO_2$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion, of which the unsaturation degree was 3. Thus, the major fragment ions were m/z 70.07 (C_4H_8N) and 88.08 ($C_4H_{10}NO$).

Based on data, it was inferred that M9 was the product derived from oxylation of the M8. By Mass Frontier verification to fragments ion of M9, it was proofed that M9 was oxidation and hydration on the M0.

Metabolite 10 (M10) with m/z 130.09 ($C_6H_{12}NO_2$) was presented at 0.89 min in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode, which was 14 Da more than M9 and was judged to be a methylated product of M9 by Mass Frontier verification. The product ions M10 were at m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) and 56.05 (C_3H_6N). Based on these data, M10 was a product of oxidation and methylation on the M0.

Metabolite 11 (M11) at $[M+H]^+$ ion was diagnosed at 0.91 min with m/z 118.09 ($C_5H_{12}NO_2$), of which the accurate mass was 2 Da more than M9 and its fragment ions was 72.08 ($C_4H_{10}N$). Thence, by Mass Frontier and verification, M11 was proposed to be the metabolite which was obtained by M9 reduction. However, the specific reduction position may be two reduction pathway which were the carbonyl group or that of the imino group. Overall, M11 may be oxidation, hydration and reduction on the M0. Meantime, M11 may be also oxidative deamination to alcohol and hydration product of M0.

Metabolite 12 (M12) was separated at 0.80 min with m/z 131.12 ($C_6H_{15}N_2O$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion mode, of which the molecular ions were m/z 114.09 ($C_6H_{12}NO$) and 72.08 ($C_4H_{10}N$). According to the composition of the elements and the regulation of molecular cleavage, M12 was produced by oxidation, methylation and hydration of M0.

Metabolite 13 (M13) was detected at the retention 0.80 min. They showed an accurate $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 143.12 ($C_7H_{15}N_2O$), which suggested the M13 was increased 42 Da compared with the protonated molecular ion of M8. So, the M13 could be a oxidation aand acetylation metabolite of M0. Meantime, the product ions of 14 was 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) which was a piperidine ring. The M13 was more 59 Da than piperidine ring. So, the M13 also could be Glycine Conjugation metabolite of piperidine ring which was a Nitro-reduction product of the M0.

Metabolite 14 (M14) with 0.80 min at $[M+H]^+$ ion was detected at 175.11 ($C_7H_{15}N_2O_3$) of which the degree of unsaturation was 2 and the fragmentation ions were m/z 70.07 (C_4H_8N) and 112.08 ($C_6H_{10}NO$). The molecular formula of M14 was equivalent to a composition of C_2H_3NO less than the M11. By Mass Frontier and

verification, M14 was assumed to be the metabolite which was oxidative deamination to alcohol and glycine conjugated of M0.

Metabolite 15 (M15) was diagnosed at 3.65 min with $[M+K]^+$ ion at m/z 295.16 ($C_{11}H_{24}N_6OK$) of which the fragmentation ions were m/z 195.07 ($C_6H_{12}N_4OK$) and 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$), suggested the structure of M15 contained a piperidine ring. According to element composition and cracking law of parent ion, M16 should be the oxidation and arginine conjugation product of M0.

2. Identification of troxipide metabolites in feces

Metabolite 16 (M16) was found at 3.63 min with m/z 161.05 ($C_9H_8NO_2$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion that its degree of unsaturation was 7 and product ions were m/z 105.03 (C_7H_5O) and 134.06 (C_8H_8NO). Because of the hydroxyl group on the aromatic ring dose not readily change to a carbonyl group and the degree of unsaturation of the benzene ring was 4, the methoxy group was completely removed on the benzene ring. Based on analysis of the data and verification of Mass Frontier, M16 was suggested demethylation, dehydration and oxidation of M0.

Metabolite M17 (M17) had a retention time of 4.171 min and showed $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 309.14449 ($C_{15}H_{21}N_2O_5$), and the characteristic product ions of M17 were 195.07 ($C_{10}H_{11}O_4$) and 98.06 (C_5H_8NO), which was more 14Da than M0. And then , the unsaturation degree of M17 was 7. Based on these data, it had been verified that M18 was obtained by desaturation and oxidation on the basis of M0.

Metabolite M18 (M18) at m/z 457.18 ($C_{20}H_{29}N_2O_{10}$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion was eluted at 2.92 min and its product ions were m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$), 181.05 ($C_9H_9O_4$) and 281.15 ($C_{14}H_{21}N_2O_4$). The M18 was more 176 Da compared with 281.15 ($C_{14}H_{21}N_2O_4$) of M1 and the fragmentation pathways of M18 and M1 were similar. The above results suggests that M18 could be formed by demethylation and glucoside conjugation of M0.

Metabolite M19 (M19) showed with $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 287.16 ($C_{13}H_{23}N_2O_5$) at 3.26 min, of which degree of unsaturation was 4. The results suggests piperidine ring has been broken and carbonyl group was reduced in M0 structure. The elemental composition of M19 was compared with M0 loss two carbon atoms and increase one hydroxyl group and its product ions were 115.09 ($C_5H_{11}N_2O$) and 175.11 ($C_7H_{13}N_2O_2$) which have been

verified by mass measurements. So, Metabolite M19 was confirmed as demethylation, reduction and hydration of M0.

Metabolite 20 (M20) was shown in urine at m/z 311.16 ($C_{15}H_{23}N_2O_5$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at 2.97 min, of which degree of unsaturation was 6 and product ions were m/z 84.05 ($C_5H_{10}N$), 140.07 ($C_7H_{10}NO_2$) and 269.15 ($C_{13}H_{21}N_2O_4$). The m/z 269.15 ($C_{13}H_{21}N_2O_4$) was acquired by metabolite 20 loss deacetylation (C_2H_2O). The m/z 269.15 ($C_{13}H_{21}N_2O_4$) was increased 2D compared with M2, of which the results suggested metabolite 20 proceed carbonyl reduction and acetylation on the basis of metabolite 2. Ultimately, it is shown that M20 was obtained by M0 demethylation, carbonyl reduction and N-acetylation.

Metabolite 21 (M21) with $[M+H]^+$ ion m/z 297.14 ($C_{14}H_{21}N_2O_5$) was detected at 2.11 min, and its degree of unsaturation was 6 and product ions were m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$), 126.05 ($C_6H_8NO_2$) and 192.10 ($C_{11}H_{14}NO_2$) which was lost methylene compared with M20. However, since the molecular ion dissociation mode of M21 was different from that of M20, it was presumed that the site of acetylation was different from that of M21. It was verified by Mass Frontier simulation of the dissociation process that it was demethylated, reduced and N-acetylated on the amide by M0.

Metabolite 22 (M22) at m/z 251.13 ($C_{13}H_{18}N_2O_3$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion was eluted at 3.39 min, of which its degree of unsaturation was 6 and product ions were m/z 84.04 (C_4H_6NO), 105.03 (C_7H_5O) and 188.11 ($C_{12}H_{14}NO$). According to the above data information and Mass Frontier verification, M22 was a metabolite of demethylation, dehydration and hydration on the basis of M0.

Metabolite 23 (M23) with m/z 252.16 ($C_{14}H_{22}NO_3$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion was detected at 4.31 min. The product ions of M23 were m/z 149.08 ($C_9H_{11}NO$) and 206.15 ($C_{13}H_{20}NO$). Due to the degree of unsaturation was 5 and the elemental composition of M23, it can be judged that the piperidine ring has been broken and oxidative deamination to alcohol. It is finally concluded that the structure of M23 may be due to demethylation, oxidantion, methylation of M0.

Metabolite 24 (M24) was eluted at 4.90 min with m/z 303.10 ($C_{12}H_{19}N_2O_5S$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion. The unsaturation degree of M24 was 5 and product ions were m/z 146.06 (C_9H_8NO) and 174.05 ($C_{10}H_8NO_2$). The data shown a conclusion which metabolite may be a disrupted piperidine or a reduced carbonyl group. In addition, because

of the elemental composition of M24, it can be inferred that M24 may be a sulfonate. Based on these data and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 24 was a metabolite of demethylation, reduction and N-sulfation on the basis of M0.

Metabolite 25 (M25) at m/z 181.07 ($C_9H_{12}NO_3$) was tested at 3.46 min with $[M+H]^+$ ion, of which its degree of unsaturation was 5 and product ions were m/z 110.06 (C_6H_8NO) and 136.08 ($C_8H_{10}NO$). And, its elemental composition was loss 30 Da (CH_2O) compared to M4. But, Based on these data and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 25 was a metabolite of demethylation, dehydration and methylation after losing pyridine of M0.

Metabolite 26 (M26) was discovered at 4.11 min with m/z 180.10 ($C_{10}H_{14}NO_2$) in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode and its unsaturation was 6 and product ions were m/z 105.03 (C_7H_5O) and 152.11 ($C_9H_{14}NO$). The elemental composition of M26 was two O less than M4. According to the above data analysis and verification of Mass Frontier, Metabolite 26 was inferred a metabolite of demethylation, dehydration, desaturation and methylation on the basis of M0.

Metabolite 27 (M27) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 170.08 ($C_8H_{12}NO_3$) was verified at 1.04 min. The unsaturation of M27 was 4 and product ions were m/z 152.07 ($C_8H_{10}NO_2$) and 134.06 (C_8H_8NO). According to the elemental composition, the M27 was loss $C_7H_{11}NO_2$ (125Da) than M0. The results suggested the piperidine of M0 was loss and the carbonyl of M0 was destroyed. Based on the above data and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 27 was a metabolite of demethylation, desaturation and methylation on the basis of M0.

Metabolite 28 (M28) with m/z 170.08 ($C_8H_{12}NO_3$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion was proved at 3.25 min, of which the unsaturation of M28 was 5 and product ions were m/z 110.06 (C_6H_8NO) and 134.06 (C_8H_8NO). The elemental composition of M28 was less two methoxy group than M4. Based on the above data and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 28 was a metabolite of demethylation, dehydration and methylation after losing pyridine of M0.

Metabolite 29 (M29) was detected at 2.11 min with m/z 297.14 ($C_{14}H_{21}N_2O_5$) in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode and its product ions were m/z 192.10 ($C_{11}H_{14}NO_2$) and 255.13 ($C_{12}H_9N_2O_4$), and degree of unsaturation was 6. After multiple analysis of the data and verification of Mass Frontier, M29 was a product of Glutamine Conjugation.

Finally, it was speculated that M29 was a demethylation, reduction, and Glutamine Conjugated product after M0 amide bond cleavage.

Metabolite 30 (M30) was identified at $[M+H]^+$ ion at 1.63min with m/z 100.11 ($C_6H_{14}N$) that its product ions were m/z 55.05 (C_4H_7) and 83.09 (C_6H_{11}), and its degree of unsaturation was 1. In summary, Metabolite 30 was indicated a methylated piperidine ring.

Metabolite 31 (M31) was observed at m/z 100.08 ($C_5H_{10}NO$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at 1.79 min which its degree of unsaturation was 2 and product ions were m/z 56.05 (C_3H_6N) and 72.08 ($C_4H_{10}N$). According to elemental composition and verification of Mass Frontier, Metabolite 31 can be postulated to be formed through oxidative Deamination to Ketone at M8 in vivo.

Metabolite 32 (M32) with m/z 245.16 ($C_{10}H_{21}N_4O_3$) was separated at 1.03 min in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode which its degree of unsaturation was 3 and product ions were m/z 70.07 (C_4H_8N) and 158.08 ($C_7H_{12}NO_3$). The elemental composition of M32 were 144Da more than those of M8. By Multiple analysis of known data and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 32 was proved that reduction, glutamine conjugation with M0.

Metabolite 33 (M33) was observed at 4.37 min with m/z 291.12 ($C_{11}H_{19}N_2O_7$) at $[M+H]^+$ ion of which elemental composition was more 190 Da ($C_6H_7O_7$) than M8. Its degree of unsaturation was 4 and product ions were m/z 162.04 ($C_5H_8NO_5$) and 273.11 ($C_{11}H_{17}N_2O_6$). After multiple speculations and Mass Frontier verification, Metabolite 33 was confirmed to be the product of M0 reduction and glucuronide conjugation.

Metabolite 34 (M34) with $[M+H]^+$ ion was appeared m/z 244.12 ($C_{11}H_{18}NO_5$) at 2.78 min, of which its product ions were m/z 84.08 ($C_{11}H_{14}NO_3$), 100.08 ($C_5H_{10}NO$) and 208.10 ($C_{11}H_{14}NO_3$). The product ion m/z 84.08 was similar to fragment of M8. The unsaturation degree of M34 was 4, and its elemental composition and fragments in the MS/MS spectrum could be predicted that the amino group had been lost on the piperidine ring. According above stated and Mass Frontier verification, M34 was predicted to be metabolite of oxidation and glucoside conjugation after the amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 35 (M35) was identified at m/z 156.07 ($C_7H_{10}NO_3$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at 1.00 min, of which unsaturation degree was 5. The product ions of M35 were 138.05 ($C_7H_8NO_2$) and 110.06 (C_6H_8NO).

According to its elemental composition and fragments in the MS/MS spectrum, the M35 could be predicted that it was oxidation and glycine conjugation after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 36 (M36) was separated at 1.12 min with $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 231.13 ($C_{10}H_{18}N_2O_4$), of which its product ions were 126.09 ($C_7H_{12}NO$) and 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$), and unsaturation degree was 3. According to its fragments in the MS/MS spectrum and Mass Frontier verification, the M36 could be produced by oxidation and ornithine conjugation after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 37 (M37) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 128.07 ($C_6H_{10}NO_2$) was eluted at 1.19 min of which product ions were at m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) and m/z 56.05 (C_3H_6N) were found to be similar to similar fragmentation spectra of M10 and the $[M+H]^+$ was 2 Da less than that of M10. Based on the unsaturation degree of M36, it was speculated that M37 was formed oxidation of hydroxyl group on M10 by Mass Frontier verification.

Metabolite 38 (M38) was detected at m/z 146.09 ($C_6H_{12}NO_3$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at 0.86 min of which accurate mass was 30 Da higher than M9 and unsaturation degree was 2. According to element composition of M38 and Mass Frontier verification, it was deduced to be the product of M9 N-Methoxylation.

Metabolite 39 (M39) at 1.82 min was found at m/z 140.07 ($C_7H_{10}NO_2$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion of which the mass of characteristic fragment ions were m/z 70.07 (C_4H_8N) and 98.06 (C_5H_8NO) which less than 2 Da compared to m/z 72.08 ($C_4H_{10}N$) and 100.08 ($C_5H_{10}NO$) of M31 fragmentations, suggested that the part of M39 structure was formed by reduction of M31. By comparing element composition and Mass Frontier verification, the mass of the remaining part (42Da) was the mass of the acetyl group. Based on the above data, M39 should be the oxidative deamination to ketone and acetylation product after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 40 (M40) at m/z 116.11 ($C_6H_{14}NO$) was detected at 0.84 min with $[M+H]^+$ ion that its unsaturation degree was 1 and the mass of characteristic fragment were m/z 58.07 (C_3H_8N), 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) and 98.10 ($C_6H_{12}N$). The molecular ion of M40 at m/z 98.10 ($C_6H_{12}N$) may be due to the loss a molecule water from the parent ion. The molecular ion at m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) may be a piperidinyl group which can be attributed to the decrease a methyl group relative to the fragment ion at m/z 98.10 ($C_6H_{12}N$). Thus, M40 was provided a product which was obtained by oxidation deaminated to alcohol and methylation after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 41 (M41) was revealed at 1.09 min with m/z 132.10 ($C_6H_{14}NO_2$) in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode, which was 16 Da (O) greater than M40. The M41 product ions were m/z 86.10 ($C_5H_{12}NO$) and m/z 69.07 (C_5H_9). According to unsaturation degree and element composition, M41 was supposed as oxidative deamination to alcohol, methylation and oxidation product after amide bond cleavage of M0 by Mass Frontier verification.

Metabolite 42 (M42) was disclosed at m/z 144.10 ($C_7H_{13}NO_2$) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at 1.02 min of which product ions were showed at m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) and 127.09 ($C_7H_{13}NO$) suggested the parent nucleus of M42 was piperidinyl (m/z 84.08). Because of the elemental composition and cracking law, the m/z 144.10 ($C_7H_{13}NO_2$) was loss 17 Da (OH) led to produce of fragment ion m/z 127.09 ($C_7H_{13}NO$), which indicated to loss a hydroxyl group. The fragment ions at m/z 84.08 ($C_5H_{10}N$) was 43 Da (C_2H_3O) less than ion at m/z 127.09 ($C_7H_{13}NO$), which showed to remove an acetyl group. Based on the above analysis data and Mass Frontier verification, it was conjectured that M42 was a metabolite to be oxidative deaminated to alcohol and acetylation after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 43 (M43) with $[M+H]^+$ ion at m/z 156.10 ($C_8H_{14}NO_2$) was displayed at 4.06 min of which fragment ions were 86.10 ($C_5H_{12}N$) and 110.08 (C_5H_8NO). According to unsaturation and elemental composition, M45 was judged a product which was oxidation and methylation on the M0.

Metabolite 44 (M44) at m/z 160.09 ($C_7H_{14}NO_3$) was showed at 1.25 min with $[M+H]^+$ ion of which fragment ions were m/z 98.06 (C_5H_8NO) and 142.09 ($C_7H_{12}NO_2$). A difference of 16 Da (O) mass units compared with that of M42 combined with the elemental composition indicated that M44 could be formed by oxidation of M42. By Mass Frontier and unsaturation degree verification, The structure of M44 was acquired by oxidation deaminated to alcohol, acetylation and oxidation after amide bond cleavage of M0.

Metabolite 45 (M45) was collected at 1.95 min with m/z 158.07 ($C_7H_{12}NO_3$) in $[M+H]^+$ ion mode of which was 2 Da less than that of M44. Therefore, M45 was speculated as a oxidation deaminated to alcohol, acetylation oxidation and desaturation product after amide bond cleavage of M0 by Mass Frontier verification.

Pharmacokinetics and tissue distribution study

Method validation

1. Specificity and LLOQ

The specificity of the methods was verified by comparing blank samples (plasma and tissue), blank samples spiked with troxipide and IS working solution, and samples that were collected after drug administration. Due to the efficient sample preparation and high selectivity of selective reaction monitoring (SRM), the results showed that endogenous factors in the plasma and tissue did not interfere with the detection of troxipide and IS (Fig. S3) at the RT. By comparing the area and height of the signals, we found that the lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ, 5 ng/mL) signal was 5 times greater than the blank plasma and tissue sample signals. The accuracy and precision of the LLOQ was within 20%. Moreover, all biological sample signals were more than 10 times that of the blank plasma and tissue sample signals. According to European Medicine Agency (EMA) guideline, this methods could be applicable to pharmacokinetics study.

2. Calibration Curve

The LLOQ was detected at 5 ng/mL for troxipide. The good linearity for samples (plasma and tissue) was evaluated in range of 5-10000 ng/mL, and the calibration curve of plasma was $y=0.0035x+0.0029$, $R^2=0.9999$. The results was summarized in Table S1, which meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and EMA guidelines requirements.

3. Accuracy and precision

The intra-day and inter-day accuracy and precision of troxipide in plasma and stomach was presented in Table S2 at three concentration QC levels (15, 400, 8000 ng/mL), of which all results were within the acceptable range. The intra-day and inter-day accuracy (RE, %) for troxipide were within the range of -4.3 % to 9.4 %, and the precision (RSD, %) were ranged from 1.8 % to 13.8 % in plasma and tissue.

4. Extraction Recovery and Matrix Effect

The mean results of extraction recoveries and matrix effect were shown in Table S3 and Table S4 at three concentration QC levels. The extraction recoveries were $(92.10 \pm 5.70) \%$ to $(102.60 \pm 5.60) \%$, of which the RSD were 2.07 % - 14.31 % and the RE were -12.42 % - 11.23 %. The matrix effect values for troxipide were $(91.66 \pm 3.43) \%$ to $(106.39 \pm 5.71) \%$, of which the RSD were 1.85 % - 10.67 % and the RE were -7.69 % - 6.56 %. All results of above extraction recoveries and matrix effect could meet the requirements for detecting troxipide in rats vivo, which indicated the effect of extraction methods and matrix could be negligible.

5. Stability

The stability results of troxipide was summarized in Table S5 in six replicates samples at three level QC samples in different conditions (4 h exposure at room temperature, the auto-sampler 4 °C for 24 h , three freeze-thaw cycles, frozen at -80 °C for 30 days). And, the accuracy and precision were within acceptable range, which suggested the troxipide were stable under a variety condition, and the methods could be acceptable for this study.

6. Dilution Integrity

As shown in table S6, the accuracy and precision for troxipide diluted integrity (50-dilution) were 6.9 % and -4.1 %, which meet the requirements of pharmacokinetic study. The results shown that the samples of high concentration simulated plasma could be analyzed by any of the tested dilution factors, which suggested the dilution sample had no interference detection.

7. Carryover effect

As shown in table S7, no obvious carryover for troxipide and IS were observed when the blank sample was detected subsequent to ULOQ (10000 ng/mL). And, the carryover effect results of analytes were less than 20 % of LLOQ, which indicated that the carryover did not effect accuracy and precision and could be negligible during the analysis samples.

Supplementary Materials and Methods

Chemicals and reagents

Troxipide (purity >98.0 %) was purchased from the Laibao Technology Co., Ltd. (Beijing, China). Carbamazepine (purity >99.99 %) of internal standard (IS) was obtained from China Institute of Food and Drug Verification (Beijing, China). Methanol and acetonitrile (UPLC-MS grade) was obtained from Fisher Scientific Co., Ltd. (Pittsburgh, PA, USA). Formic acid of (LC-MS grade) was purchased from Aladdin Industrial Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). The ultra-pure water was prepared in our laboratory by a Milli-Q water purification system (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). Acetic acid glacial (analytical grade) was purchased from Tianjin Damao Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Tianjin, China). The 0.22 μm membranes were obtained from Tianjin Jinteng Experimental Equipment Co., Ltd. (Tianjin, China). All other chemicals and reagents were of analytical grade and obtained commercially. Pierce Triple Quadrupole Calibration Solution TA260772 was purchased from Thermo Fisher scientific (NYSE: TMO, Rockford, USA).

Sample preparation

1. Sample Preparation for Metabolite Identification

The plasma samples were prepared by adding acetonitrile (300 μL) to rat plasma sample (100 μL). The above mixture were then vortex-mixed for 3 min and centrifuged at 13000 r/min for 10 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was transferred into a 1.5 mL centrifuge tube and evaporated to dryness in a vacuum centrifugal concentrator. The residue was dissolved by using 50 % methanol (50 μL) and was vortex-mixed for 1 min. Finally, it was centrifuged at 13000 r/min for 5 min at 4 °C and then 5 μL supernatant injected into the UHPLC-MS/MS system.

The 200 μL of urine was added into 200 μL pure water, vortexing for 1 min. After centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C, the supernatant was filtered by the 0.20 μm organic membrane for analysis. The mashed

faeces (1.0 g) of was added to 10 mL methanol, and ultrasonic dissolved soluble substances for 15 min, and then centrifuged for 10 min at 13000 rpm. The supernatant was filtered by the 0.20 µm organic membrane for further analysis. Finally, the 5 µL sample was injected into the UHPLC-MS/MS system.

2. Sample Preparation for Pharmacokinetic Study

The one-step protein precipitation method was applied for extracting troxipide and IS. Plasma samples (90 µL) and IS (10 µL) working solution (1 µg/mL) were added into a 1.5 mL centrifuge tube. The mixture was vortexed for 2 min. Afterwards, 300 µL acetonitrile was pipetted into the above mixture for precipitating protein. The tubes were then vortex-mixed for 5 min and centrifuged at 13000 r/min for 10 min at 4 °C. The supernatant (100 µL) was then transferred into a sample bottle vial for analysis.

In the tissue distribution study, the preparation method and process for tissue homogenate samples was same as the above plasma samples description.

Method validation

1. Specificity

To ensure no endogenous detection of the troxipide and IS, the specificity of this methods were evaluated by comparing the chromatograms of blank samples (plasma and tissue), blank samples spiked with troxipide at lower limit of quantification (LLOQ) and IS, and the samples (plasma and tissue) after the intravenous or intragastric administration of troxipide, respectively.

2. Calibration Curve and LLOQ

Calibration curves ($y = ax + b$) of troxipide were obtained by plotting peak area ratio (y) of troxipide to IS versus the concentrations of troxipide (x) using $1/x^2$ weighted least squares linear regression model. The criterion for calibration curve correlation coefficient (r^2) was at lease 0.99 or better at nine concentration levels ranging from 5 to 10000 ng/mL. In addition, the LLOQ ($S/N > 10$) was defined as the lowest

concentration in the calibration curve, of which the precision (expressed as relative standard deviation, RSD, %) should be within 20 % and the accuracy (expressed as relative error, RE, %) should be within ± 20 %.

3. Accuracy and precision

The accuracy and precision (plasma and stomach) were determined by evaluating three concentration level QC samples (15, 400, 8000 ng/mL) in six replicates on one day (intra-day) and three consecutive days (inter-day). In agreement with the guidance of FDA, the intra-day and inter-day precision were required within ± 15 % and the acceptability criterion for accuracy was within 85 %–115 %. Especially, the precision of LLOQ should be below 20 % and the accuracy should be within 20 %.

4. Extraction Recovery and Matrix Effect

Extraction recovery was evaluated by the peak mean area ratios of blank sample (plasma and tissue) spiked with troxipide before extraction to those of spiked after extraction at three QC levels (15, 400, 8000 ng/mL) in six replicates, respectively. The matrix effect was determined by the ratio of the peak area of troxipide spiked after extraction with those of the same concentrations of the neat standard solutions at three QC levels (15, 400, 8000 ng/mL) in six replicates. The acceptability criterion of matrix factor was within 85 % - 115 %, which can be suggested that there were no matrix effects for determining biological samples.

$$\text{Recovery} = \frac{\text{peak areas of troxipide before extraction}}{\text{peak areas of troxipide after extraction}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Matrix effect} = \frac{\text{peak areas of troxipide after extraction}}{\text{peak areas of same concentrations of standard solutions}} \times 100$$

5. Stability

The stability (plasma and stomach) of troxipide was studied by analyzing six replicate samples at three QC sample (15, 400, 8000 ng/mL) under different condition: 4 h exposure at room temperature (short-term stability), the auto-sampler (4 °C) for 24 h (post-treatment stability), three freeze-thaw cycles (freeze-thaw

stability) and frozen at 80 °C for 30 days (long-term stability). The acceptable criteria of accuracy and precision should be within $\pm 15\%$.

6. Dilution Integrity

The dilution integrity of troxipide were studied by diluting high concentration simulated plasma (100000 ng/mL) with blank samples (plasma and tissue) to low concentration (2000 ng/mL). The accuracy and precision were evaluated by freshly prepared calibration curve at six replicate, which should be within $\pm 15\%$.

7. Carryover

The upper limit of quantification ULOQ (10000 ng/mL) was injected into HPLC-MS/MS system before injection of blank samples (plasma and tissue) for evaluating the carryover of this methods. The blank sample concentration should be below 20 % of troxipide LLOQ.