

Quinolines and oxazino-quinoline derivatives as small molecule GLI1 inhibitors identified by virtual screening

Fabrizio Manetti,^{1,*} Luisa Maresca,² Enrica Crivaro,² Sara Pepe,² Elena Cini,¹ Snigdha Singh,¹ Paolo Governa,¹ Samuele Maramai,¹ Giuseppe Giannini,³ Barbara Stecca,^{2,*} Elena Petricci^{1,*}

¹Dipartimento di Biotecnologie Chimica e Farmacia, Università di Siena, via A. Moro 2, I-53100 Siena, Italy

²Istituto per lo Studio, la Prevenzione e la Rete Oncologica (ISPRO), Viale Pieraccini 6, I-50139 Firenze, Italy

³R&D, Alfasigma SpA, I-00071 Pomezia (Roma), Italy

Computational details	page S2
Chemistry: synthetic procedures and analytical data	page S2
Biology	page S8
¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra	page S9
References	page S43

COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

A pharmacophoric-based virtual screening approach and molecular docking simulations were applied following computational protocols already described [1-3]. Small molecules were drawn with Maestro (version 11.9, release 2019-1), their structure was optimized within the LigPrep routine (OPLS3e force field), while ionization and tautomerism at $\text{pH } 7 \pm 1$ were considered with Epik. A Systematic Pseudo Monte Carlo conformational search was then applied to each compound.

Application of the common feature pharmacophoric hypothesis generation of the software Phase resulted in the five-feature pharmacophoric model for putative GLI1 inhibitors previously reported [3], which was in turn used to perform a virtual screening of the commercially available compounds stored in both the Asinex [4] and AKos [5] databases. In further detail, the Ligand Screening routine of Phase was used to generate a ranked list of putative GLI1 ligands based on the fitness score. Among the best scored entries, structurally different compounds were selected (at maximum, five entries were kept that belonged to the same structural class, based on Tanimoto coefficient comparison), avoiding compounds with undesired features, such as chemically reactive groups, or pan-assay interference compounds. The final list was constituted by 41 entries that were purchased from vendors and submitted to biological evaluation.

The three-dimensional structure of the five-finger GLI/DNA complex (protein data bank pdb code 2gli, 2.6 Å resolution) was prepared with the Protein Preparation Wizard of the Maestro 2019-1 suite, as already described [3]. The SiteMap routine was next applied to the whole structure of the target to find putative binding sites for small molecule ligands. Two regions of the GLI1 structure were identified, located at the zinc-finger 4 and between the zinc-fingers 1 and 3, respectively. Molecular docking simulations were performed on the two putative binding sites, by application of the extra-precision mode of the software Glide. Ligands were considered as flexible structures. At most, ten poses *per* ligand were kept, on which a post-dock minimization was performed with default parameters.

EXPERIMENTAL

Chemistry

All the compounds purchased from either Asinex or Akos had a purity higher than 90%, as declared by vendors.

All reagents were used as purchased from commercial suppliers without further purification. Flash column chromatography was performed in glass columns using Merck silica gel 60 Å, 230-400 mesh particle size or using an automatic LC Isolera Biotage system. For analytical thin-layer chromatography, Merck aluminium-backed plates pre-coated with silica gel 60 (UV254) were used and visualized by staining with a solution of *p*-anisaldehyde in EtOH or a KMnO_4 solution. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C using a 400 or 600 MHz Bruker Advance NMR spectrometer. Deuterated chloroform, or dimethylsulfoxide were used as the solvents. Chemical shift (δ) values are given in parts per million (ppm) and refer to the residual signals of the deuterated solvent (δ 7.26 for ^1H and δ 77.6 for ^{13}C in CDCl_3 , δ 2.50 for ^1H and δ 39.52 for ^{13}C in d_6 -DMSO). The data are presented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet or multiple resonances, bs = broad singlet), coupling constant (J) in hertz and the integration in ppm. Mass spectrometry analyses were recorded by electrospray ionization on an Agilent 1100 Series instrument (flux: 9 L/min, T: 350 °C, P: 40 psi, frag: 70 eV). MW assisted reactions were performed in a CEM Discover MW oven equipped with a 10 mL tube for reactions under pressure and an external IR sensor to record the reaction temperature during irradiation (CEM Corporation).

No unexpected or unusually high safety hazards were encountered.

General procedure for synthesis of open chain 8-hydroxyquinoline derivatives 2-5 and 15-23

To a solution of aldehyde (1.38 mmol, 1 eq.) in MeOH (2 mL), the proper amine (1.38 mmol, 1 eq.) and 8-idrossiquinoline derivative (1.38 mmol, 1 eq.) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux overnight. After evaporation *in vacuo*, the crude was purified by flash chromatography.

General procedure for synthesis of tricyclic 8-hydroxyquinoline derivatives 26-41

An EtOH (20 mL) solution of the proper amine (2.06 mmol, 1.25 eq.) and paraformaldehyde (191 mg, 6.21 mmol, 3.70 eq.) was refluxed for 6 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to rt, and the proper 8-hydroxyquinoline (1.66 mmol, 1 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt overnight. After evaporation *in vacuo*, the crude was purified by flash chromatography.

General procedure for synthesis of tricyclic 8-hydroxyquinoline derivatives 42-43

The proper 8-hydroxyquinoline derivative **2** or **5** (1.66 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in dry THF (20 mL) and carbonyldiimidazole (1.66 mmol, 1 eq.) and Et₃N (3.32, 2 eq.) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under N₂ at reflux, overnight. The solution was cooled down to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and washed 3 times with 1N HCl (10 mL x 3). The organic phase was dried over dry Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude obtained was purified by flash chromatography.

7-((2,4-Dichlorophenyl)(phenethylamino)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (**2**)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.85 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.09 (m, 11H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 3.10-3.00 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.83 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 152.12, 148.37, 138.89, 138.63, 137.14, 135.34, 130.17, 129.11, 128.28, 128.14, 127.13, 126.93, 126.00, 121.29, 120.09, 117.35, 60.75, 49.18, 35.55. ES-MS: 424 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₄H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 68.09, Cl, 16.75, H, 4.76, N, 6.62, O, 3.78; found C, 68.32, Cl, 16.51, H, 4.91, N, 6.78. Yield = 6%.

7-((2,4-Dichlorophenyl)(phenethylamino)methyl)-3-methylquinolin-8-ol (**3**)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.69 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.06 (m, 12H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 3.09-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.95-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.25, 150.32, 138.66, 137.28, 134.06, 133.77, 133.55, 130.80, 130.22, 129.09, 128.29, 128.15, 127.90, 127.14, 126.98, 126.00, 119.04, 116.77, 60.91, 49.17, 35.55, 18.29. ES-MS: 438 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₅H₂₂Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 68.65, Cl, 16.21, H, 5.07, N, 6.41, O, 3.66; found C, 68.81, Cl, 16.04, H, 5.00, N, 6.79. Yield = 68%.

5-Chloro-7-[(phenethylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (**4**)

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆ + MeOH, δ ppm): 8.87 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.02 (m, 4H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 2.87 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.32-2.23 (m, 1H). ES-MS: 313 [M+H]⁺. Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (90:10). Elemental Analysis for C₁₈H₁₇ClN₂O: calcd. C, 69.12, Cl, 11.33, H, 5.48, N, 8.96, O, 5.12; found C, 69.35, Cl, 11.41, H, 5.30, N, 9.03. Yield = 30%.

7-[(Phenethylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (**5**)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm) 8.78 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.3, 1.6 Hz), 8.00 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz), 7.38-7.01 (m, 8H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 2.92 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 2.82 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm) 151.86, 148.10, 139.01, 138.54, 135.34, 128.32, 128.24, 127.62, 125.90, 120.82, 119.45, 116.87, 50.16, 49.59, 35.55. ES-MS: 279 [M+H]⁺. Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (90:10). Elemental Analysis for C₁₈H₁₈N₂O: calcd. C, 77.67, H, 6.52, N, 10.06, O, 5.75; found C, 77.88, H, 6.76, N, 10.23. Yield = 31%.

7-[(Cyclohexylamino)(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl]-8-quinolinol (**15**)

Column chromatography: PE/EtOAc (from 0 to 50% di EtOAc in 10 min, from 50 to 100% di EtOAc in 3 min, 100% EtOAc 3 min).

¹H NMR:(400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 8.86 (d, 1H; *J* = 2 Hz); 8.31-8.25 (m, 2H); 7.58- 7.41 (m, 2H); 7.01-6.77 (m, 3H); 3.32 (s, 1H); 1.93-1.49 (m, 2H); 1.52-1.08 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR:(100

MHz, DMSO-d₆, δppm) as mixture of rotamers: 147.85; 147.09; 132.72; 131.22; 129.35; 129.17; 127.79; 121.18; 120.58; 117.29; 116.71; 109.60; 108.57; 58.44; 55.06; 32.93; 25.42; 24.57. ES-MS: 401 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₂H₂₂Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 65.84, Cl, 17.67, H, 5.53, N, 6.98, O, 3.99; found C, 65.70, Cl, 17.83, H, 5.25, N, 7.03. Yield = 12%.

7-((Cyclopentylamino)(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (16)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.85 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 3.26-3.14 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 2H), 1.61-1.42 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.83, 148.49, 139.21, 135.28, 133.67, 130.62, 129.16, 128.01, 127.30, 126.85, 121.18, 120.41, 117.26, 59.99, 58.15, 32.39, 31.95, 23.20. ES-MS: 388 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₁H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 65.12, Cl, 18.31, H, 5.21, N, 7.23, O, 4.13; found C, 65.02, Cl, 18.39, H, 5.55, N, 7.04. Yield = 11%.

7-[(Butylamino)(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl]-8-quinolinol (17)

Column chromatography: PE/EtOAc (from 0 to 50% EtOAc in 10 min, from 50 to 100% EtOAc in 3 min, 100% EtOAc 3 min).

¹H NMR:(400 MHz, CDCl₃, δppm): 8.86 (d, 1H; *J*=3.2 Hz); 8.05 (d, 1H; *J*=8.4 Hz); 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H); 7.31 (d, 1H; *J*=8.4 Hz); 7.18 (d, 1H; *J*= 4.8 Hz); 7.14-7.07 (m, 2H); 5.53 (s, 1H); 2.76 (t, 2H; *J*= 7.2 Hz); 1.62-1.49 (m, 2H); 1.39-1.30 (m, 2H); 0.87 (t, 3H; *J*= 7.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.73; 148.45; 139.10; 137.13; 135.53; 135.32; 133.72; 130.39; 129.14; 128.05; 127.26; 126.97; 119.77; 117.29; 116.68; 61.57; 48.15; 31.36; 18.95; 13.46. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 64.01, Cl, 18.89, H, 5.37, N, 7.46, O, 4.26; found C, 64.15, Cl, 19.01, H, 5.61, N, 7.22. Yield = 14%.

7-[(Butylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (18)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (97:3). ¹H NMR:(400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.85 (d, 1H; *J*= 1.6 Hz); 8.03 (d, 1H; *J*= 1.6 Hz); 7.35-7.21 (m, 2H); 7.09 (d, 1H; *J*= 8.4 Hz); 4.10 (s, 2H); 2.80-2.71 (m, 2H); 1.51-1.23 (m, 4H); 0.89-0.77 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δppm): 148.86, 148.08, 135.42, 135.29, 127.60, 125.49, 120.89, 120.58, 118.65, 116.82, 80.61, 47.41, 29.59, 29.41. ES-MS: 231 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₄H₁₈N₂O: C, 73.01, H, 7.88, N, 12.16, O, 6.95; found C, 73.17, H, 7.61, N, 11.96. Yield = 13%.

7-[(Cyclopentylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (19)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (95:5). ¹H NMR:(400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.76 (d, 1H; *J*=3.6 Hz); 8.08 (t, 1H; *J*= 8.6 Hz); 7.73 (d, 1H; *J*= 8.2 Hz); 7.42-7.37 (m, 1H); 7.35-7.23 (m, 1H); 4.20 (s, 2H); 2.79-2.74 (m, 1H); 2.20-2.10 (m, 2H); 1.57-1.37 (m, 4H); 1.23-1.08 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR:(100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 147.95; 135.65; 129.14; 128.19; 121.92; 55.53; 55.33; 41.91; 29.26; 29.13; 28.87; 25.16; 24.49; 24.12. ES-MS: 243 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₅H₁₈N₂O: calcd. C, 74.35, H, 7.49, N, 11.56, O, 6.60; found C, 74.61, H, 7.53, N, 11.74. Yield = 3%.

7-((Butylamino)(4-chlorophenyl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (20)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.79 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 2.69 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.54 (dt, *J* = 13.7, 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 151.30, 148.24, 147.61, 140.86, 135.60, 135.29, 132.90, 130.14, 128.48, 128.36, 127.84, 126.57, 122.03, 121.07, 117.30, 116.66, 64.25, 47.82, 31.54, 19.97, 13.49. ES-MS: 341 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₁ClN₂O: calcd. C, 70.48, Cl, 10.40, H, 6.21, N, 8.22, O, 4.69; found C, 70.76, Cl, 10.66, H, 6.42, N, 8.09. Yield = 12%.

7-((Butylamino)(3,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (21)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.81 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.16 (m, 7H), 5.36 (dd, *J* = 30.6, 20.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.65 (m, 2H), 1.59 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (dt, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.06-0.73 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 150.40, 148.10, 142.58, 138.46, 135.45, 132.19, 130.91, 130.19, 128.93, 127.58, 126.41, 126.22, 121.93, 121.27, 117.59, 62.24, 47.64, 31.37, 19.96, 13.48, 0.58. ES-

MS: 376 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 64.01, Cl, 18.89, H, 5.37, N, 7.46, O, 4.26; found C, 64.17, Cl, 19.01, H, 5.65, N, 7.72. Yield = 14%.

7-((Butylamino)(3,5-dichlorophenyl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (22)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 2.91-2.53 (m, 2H), 1.51 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 150.07, 148.00, 146.56, 138.36, 135.48, 134.61, 127.51, 126.94, 126.14, 125.47, 122.67, 121.23, 117.60, 61.75, 47.66, 31.74, 20.00, 13.54. ES-MS: 376 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 64.01, Cl, 18.89, H, 5.37, N, 7.46, O, 4.26; found C, 64.15, Cl, 18.63, H, 5.59, N, 7.67. Yield = 17%.

7-((Butylamino)(3-chlorophenyl)methyl)quinolin-8-ol (23)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.69 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.06 (m, 3H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.53-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.21 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 150.81, 148.02, 147.42, 144.82, 138.64, 135.34, 134.00, 129.52, 127.55, 127.08, 126.47, 125.20, 122.67, 121.00, 117.36, 63.32, 47.72, 31.63, 19.99, 13.54. ES-MS: 341 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₁ClN₂O: calcd. C, 70.48, Cl, 10.40, H, 6.21, N, 8.22, O, 4.69; found C, 70.63, Cl, 10.75, H, 6.05, N, 8.46. Yield = 36%.

4-Butoxy-7-[(cyclohexylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (24)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (95:5). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.69 (d, 1H; *J* = 5.2 Hz); 7.66 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.8 Hz); 7.06 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 6.68 (d, 1H; *J* = 5.2 Hz); 5.23 (s, 2H); 4.16 (t, 3H; *J* = 6 Hz); 1.80-1.97 (m, 2H); 1.91-1.86 (m, 4H); 1.61-1.54 (m, 6H); 1.34-1.17 (m, 6H). ES-MS: 351 [M+Na]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₀H₂₈N₂O₂: calcd. C, 73.14, H, 8.59, N, 8.53, O, 9.74; found C, 73.42, H, 8.78, N, 8.81. Yield = 8%.

4-(Benzyloxy)-7-[(cyclohexylamino)methyl]-8-quinolinol (25)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (99:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.68 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 2.81-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.85 (m, 2H); 1.72-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.15 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 161.15; 148.40; 135.26; 128.11; 127.73; 127.30; 127.04; 126.77; 121.12; 101.40; 100.57; 55.29; 29.24; 28.48; 23.81. ES-MS: 362 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₃H₂₆N₂O₂: calcd. C, 76.21, H, 7.23, N, 7.73, O, 8.83; found C, 76.45, H, 7.38, N, 7.92. Yield = 53%.

2-Phenethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (26)

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.86 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.02 (m, 8H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 6.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 149.00, 139.29, 135.46, 128.26, 127.93, 127.66, 125.71, 125.60, 120.76, 118.50, 117.68, 82.68, 76.98, 76.67, 76.35, 52.97, 50.39, 34.48. Elemental Analysis for C₁₉H₁₈N₂O: calcd. C, 78.59, H, 6.25, N, 9.65, O, 5.51; found C, 78.81, H, 6.48, N, 9.87. Yield = 22%.

7-Fluoro-2-phenethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (27)

Column chromatography: EtOAc. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.67 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21-6.98 (m, 7H), 5.08 (s, 2H); 4.05 (s, 2H); 2.99 (q, 2H; *J* = 7.6 Hz); 2.80 (q, 2H; *J* = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 157.87, 155.33, 149.90, 140.02, 139.60, 136.36, 136.33, 136.32, 128.74, 128.65, 128.60, 128.54, 128.48, 128.41, 128.32, 127.53, 118.64, 118.47, 118.30, 117.37, 117.35, 83.25, 53.36, 50.51, 34.85. ES-MS: 309 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₉H₁₇FN₂O: calcd. C, 74.01, F, 6.16, H, 5.56, N, 9.09, O, 5.19; found C, 74.32, F, 6.23, H, 5.78, N, 9.31. Yield = 55%.

1-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-phenethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (28)

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.93 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.00 (m, 6H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 5.09 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 3.46-3.89 (m,

3H), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): δ 150.05, 149.26, 139.09, 138.49, 135.58, 135.23, 133.80, 131.80, 129.54, 128.32, 128.22, 127.91, 126.79, 126.05, 125.70, 121.39, 118.65, 117.10, 59.70, 54.28, 34.38. ES-MS: 436 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₅H₂₀Cl₂N₂O: calcd. C, 68.97, Cl, 16.29, H, 4.63, N, 6.43, O, 3.68; found C, 69.07, Cl, 16.39, H, 4.86, N, 6.77. Yield = 21%.

2-[2-(3-Indolyl)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (29)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (90:10). ¹H NMR:(400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 10.59 (bs, 1H); 8.79 (d, 1H; *J* = 3.6 Hz); 8.26 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.49 (m, 2H); 7.33 (q, 2H; *J* = 26.4 Hz); 7.19 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 6.91 (m, 2H); 3.95 (s, 2H); 3.63 (s, 2H); 2.85 (t, 2H; *J* = 10.8 Hz); 2.68 (d, 2H; *J* = 4.8 Hz). ES-MS: 330 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₁H₁₉N₃O: calcd. C, 76.57, H, 5.81, N, 12.76, O, 4.8613; found C, 76.79, H, 5.94, N, 12.85. Yield = 10%.

9-Chloro-2-[2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (30)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (90:10). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 10.60 (bs, 1H); 8.90 (s, 1H); 8.44 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.67 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.8 Hz); 7.55 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.31 (d, 1H; *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.20 (d, 1H; *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.03 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 6.97-6.87(m, 2H); 3.95 (s, 2H); 3.66 (s, 2H); 3.86 (s, 2H); 2.69 (s, 2H). ES-MS: 364 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₁H₁₈ClN₃O: calcd. C, 69.32, Cl, 9.74, H, 4.99, N, 11.55, O, 4.40; found C, 69.54, Cl, 9.92; H, 5.08; N, 11.76. Yield = 16%.

2-[(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (32)

Column chromatography: PE/EtOAc: (50:50). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.86 (d, 1H; *J* = 4.4 Hz); 8.03 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.0 Hz); 7.32 (q, 1H; *J* = 12.4 Hz); 7.25 (q, 3H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.04 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 6.82 (d, 2H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 5.12 (s, 2H); 4.05 (s, 2H); 3.89 (s, 2H); 3.75 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 158.98, 149.50, 149.37, 139.32, 135.91, 130.19, 130.08, 128.10, 126.17, 121.15, 119.00, 117.86, 113.81, 83.07, 55.22, 55.17, 49.42. ES-MS: 307 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₉H₁₈N₂O₂: calcd. C, 74.49, H, 5.92, N, 9.14, O, 10.44; found C, 74.64, H, 6.02, N, 9.36. Yield = 48%.

2-(1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (33)

Column chromatography: EtOAc. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.84 (d, 1H; *J* = 3.2 Hz); 7.98 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.55 (t, 1H; *J* = 8.8 Hz); 7.28 (q, 1H; *J* = 12.4 Hz); 7.20 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.11 (q, 2H; *J* = 8.8 Hz); 7.02 (d, 1H; *J* = 4.4 Hz); 6.99 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.8) 5.25 (t, 2H; *J* = 14.4 Hz); 4.24 (d, 1H; *J* = 8 Hz); 4.15 (d, 1H; *J* = 17.6 Hz) 3.85 (d, 1H; *J* = 17.6 Hz); 2.64 (m, 2H); 2.04 (q, 1H; *J* = 14.8 Hz); 1.78 (t, 1H; *J* = 12.4 Hz); 1.60 (q, 2H; *J* = 12.4 Hz). ES-MS: 317 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O: calcd. C, 79.72, H, 6.37, N, 8.85, O, 5.06; found C, 79.88, H, 6.25, N, 8.64. Yield = 51%.

2-Cyclohexyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (34)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (90:10). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.84 (t, 1H; *J* = 4.4 Hz); 8.02 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.36-7.19 (m, 1H); 7.10 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 5.23 (s, 2H); 4.19 (s, 2H); 2.75 (q, 1H; *J* = 21.6 Hz); 1.99 (t, 2H, *J* = 21.8 Hz); 1.68 (d, 2H; *J* = 12.4 Hz); 1.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.6 Hz); 1.32-1.18 (m, 6H). ES-MS: 269 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O: calcd. C, 76.09, H, 7.51, N, 10.44, O, 5.96; found C, 76.31, H, 7.80, N, 10.73. Yield = 35%.

2-Cyclohexyl-7-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (35)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (9:1). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.67 (d, 1H; *J* = 2.8 Hz); 7.59 (q, 1H; *J* = 11.6 Hz); 7.22 (d, 1H; *J* = 8 Hz) 7.11 (d, 1H *J* = 8.4 Hz); 5.2 (s, 2H); 4.18 (s, 2H); 2.78- 2.71 (m, 1H); 1.94 (d, 2H; *J* = 12.3 Hz) 1.69 (d, 2H; *J* = 12.3 Hz) 1.54 (d, 1H; *J* = 12.3 Hz) 1.30-1.06 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 157.89, 155.35, 150.91, 140.13, 139.86, 136.59, 128.40, 128.35, 127.12, 119.07, 119.04, 118.55, 118.38, 117.93, 117.88, 81.46, 59.48, 47.25, 31.63, 25.77, 25.47. ES-MS: 287 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₇H₁₉FN₂O: calcd. C, 71.31, F, 6.63, H, 6.69, N, 9.78, O, 5.59; found C, 71.55, F, 6.78, H, 6.54, N, 9.91. Yield = 48%.

2-(4-Methylcyclohexyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (36)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/toluene/MeOH (90:5:5). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.81 (d, 1H; *J* = 17.6 Hz); 8.01 (d, 1H; *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.31-7.00 (m, 3H); 5.23 (s, 2H); 4.18 (s, 2H); 2.86-2.81 (m, 1H); 1.77-1.58 (m, 4H); 1.40-1.20 (m, 4H); 0.88 (d, 3H; *J* = 6.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 147.98; 135.34; 128.19; 127.71; 120.91; 120.66; 119.10; 117.04; 82.78; 77.05; 51.01; 28.60; 27.98; 20.09; 19.86; 13.46. ES-MS: 283 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O: C, 76.56, H, 7.85, N, 9.92, O, 5.67; found C, 76.65, H, 7.89, N, 9.99. Yield = 18%.

2-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (37)

Column chromatography: PE/EtOAc (50:50). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.75 (t, 1H; *J* = 4.4 Hz); 7.90 (t, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.23-7.15 (m, 1H); 6.99 (d, 1H; *J* = 8 Hz); 5.00 (s, 2H); 3.98 (s, 2H); 2.52 (d, 2H; *J* = 7.2 Hz); 1.48 (m, 9H); 1.14 (q, 2H; *J* = 37.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 149.70, 149.34, 139.33, 135.88, 128.01, 126.17, 121.10, 118.67, 118.22, 84.05, 58.49, 51.05, 36.34, 31.38, 26.72, 26.01. ES-MS: 283 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O: calcd. C, 76.56, H, 7.85, N, 9.92, O, 5.67; found C, 76.79, H, 7.91, N 9.76. Yield = 48%.

2-Cycloheptyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (38)

Column chromatography: PE/EtOAc (50:50). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.77 (d, 1H; *J* = 3.6 Hz); 7.92 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.22-7.11 (m, 3H); 5.11 (s, 2H); 4.08 (s, 2H); 2.89 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.8 Hz); 1.38 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 149.35, 135.85, 127.89, 125.58, 121.05, 118.63, 81.74, 62.56, 47.73, 32.97, 27.86, 24.65. ES-MS: 283 [M+H]⁺, 305 [M+Na]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O: calcd. C, 76.56, H, 7.85, N, 9.92, O, 5.67; found C, 76.60, H, 7.88, N, 9.89. Yield = 87%.

2-Cyclooctyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthrene (39)

Column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (95:5). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.76 (brs, 1H); 7.80 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.4 Hz); 7.30-7.23 (m, 2H); 7.15 (d, 1H; *J* = 8 Hz); 5.24 (s, 2H); 4.15 (s, 2H); 2.79 (brs, 1H); 1.65-1.40 (m, 14H). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 147.87; 138.77; 134.97; 128.14; 127.94; 127.67; 120.81; 117.05; 116.37; 76.42; 57.76; 47.08; 30.58; 26.60; 23.45. Elemental Analysis for C₁₉H₂₄N₂O: calcd. C, 76.99; H, 8.16; N, 9.45; O, 5.40; found C, 76.66; H, 8.28; N, 9.63. Yield = 15%.

2-Phenethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthren-3-one (42)

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.97 (dt, *J* = 4.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.12 – 8.05 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 4H), 7.18 (tt, *J* = 6.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 3.76-3.68 (m, 2H), 3.07 – 2.98 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 150.46, 135.25, 128.42, 128.25, 126.19, 122.88, 122.55, 121.58, 50.95, 48.39, 32.76. ES-MS: 305 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₂: calcd. C, 74.98, H, 5.30, N, 9.20, O, 10.51; found C, 75.15, H, 5.51, N, 9.55. Yield = 12%.

1-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-phenethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-4-oxa-2,5-diazaphenanthren-3-one (43)

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.02 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.13 (m, 7H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.99 (dq, *J* = 12.1, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dt, *J* = 13.0, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (tq, *J* = 13.0, 5.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 150.68, 135.30, 130.19, 129.33, 128.45, 128.34, 128.21, 126.20, 123.43, 122.71, 122.01, 58.27, 49.18, 33.07. ES-MS: 450 [M+H]⁺. Elemental Analysis for C₂₅H₁₈Cl₂N₂O₂: calcd. C, 66.83, Cl, 15.78, H, 4.04, N, 6.23, O, 7.12; found C, 66.99, Cl, 15.91, H, 4.26, N, 6.48. Yield = 15%.

Biology

Cell lines and treatments

Human melanoma cells A375 (CRL-1619), medulloblastoma cells Daoy (HTB-186), and murine NIH3T3 cells (CRL-1658) were obtained from ATCC (Manassas, VA). Cells were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Euroclone, Milan, Italy) (A375 and NIH3T3) or Eagle's Minimum Essential Medium (EMEM) (Euroclone) (Daoy) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% penicillin-streptomycin, 1% glutamine (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland). Cells were periodically screened for mycoplasma contamination by PCR. A375 and Daoy cells were plated in 24-well or 96-well plates, treated with increasing concentrations of each compound for 72 h in complete medium supplemented with 1% FBS and viable cells counted by trypan blue-exclusion or crystal violet staining. All experimental points were set up in triplicate wells and all experiments were repeated at least three times. IC₅₀ were calculated using GraphPad Prism version 6.0 (GraphPad software).

Western blot analysis

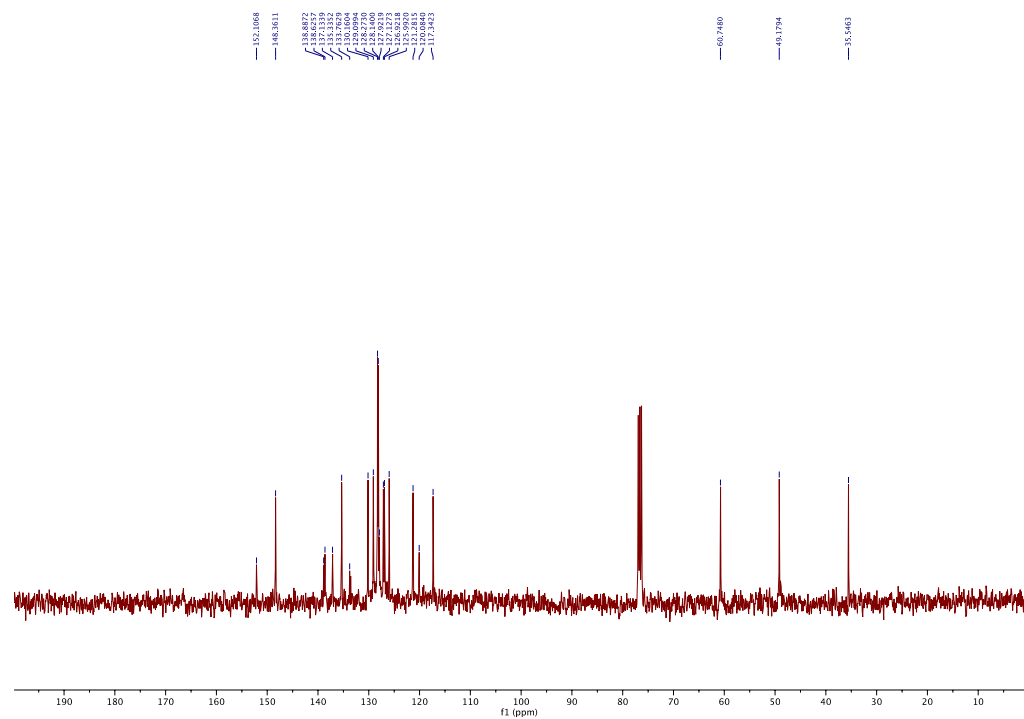
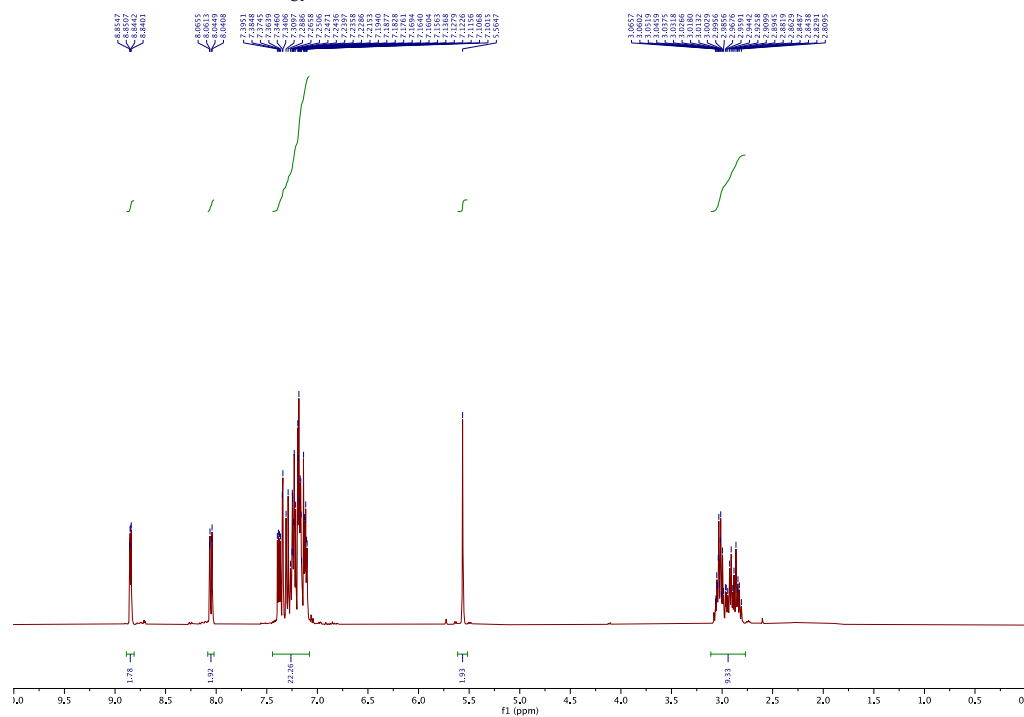
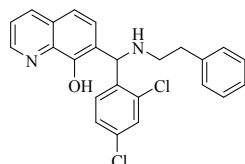
Cells were lysed in ice-cold RIPA buffer supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors, centrifuged at 4 °C, and supernatant was collected, as previously described [6,7]. Equal amounts of protein were resolved by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, transferred into nitrocellulose membranes, and incubated in blocking buffer. The following antibodies were used: mouse anti-GLI1 (#2643) (Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA), goat anti-GLI2 (AF-3635, R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN), mouse anti-HSP90 (sc-13119) (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA), and the anti-mouse HRP-conjugated (Cell Signaling). Blotted membranes were developed using SuperSignal West Femto (ThermoFisher Scientific, Italy) and imaged with ChemiDoc™ Imaging Systems (Bio-Rad, Italy).

Statistical analysis

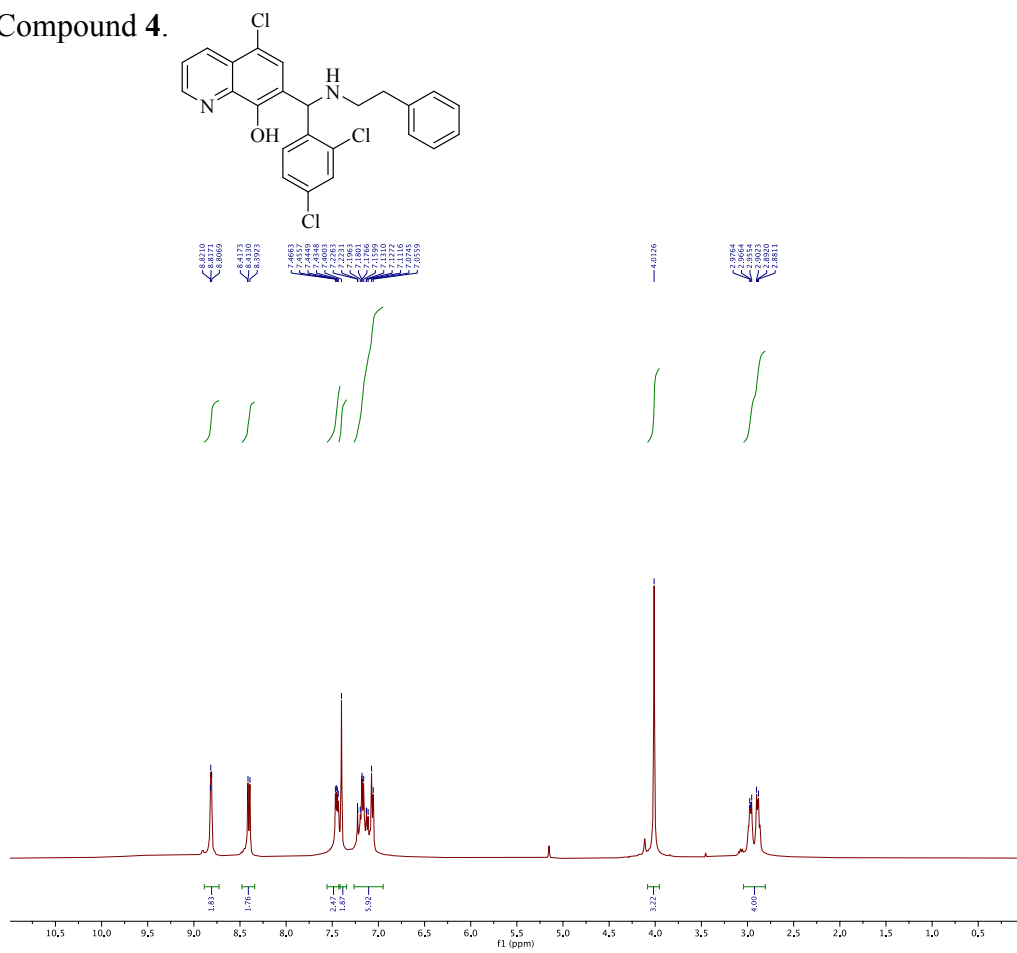
Data represent mean ± SD or mean ± SEM values calculated on at least 3 independent experiments. p Values were calculated using Student's t-test or one-way ANOVA. A two-tailed value of p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

¹H and ¹³C NMR of synthesized compounds.

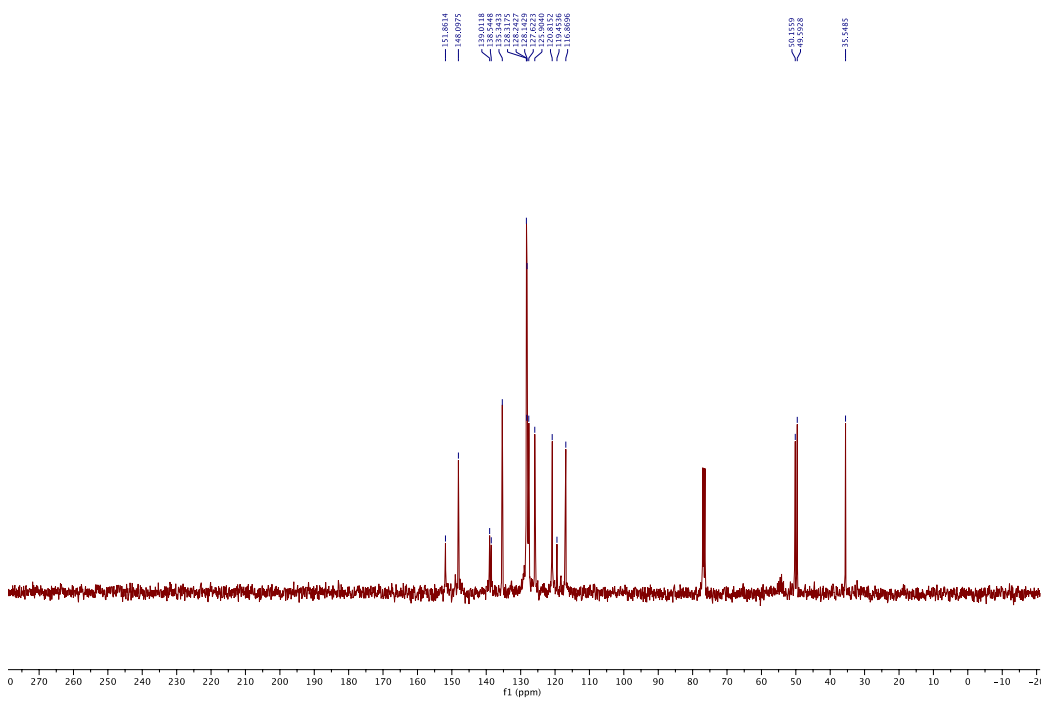
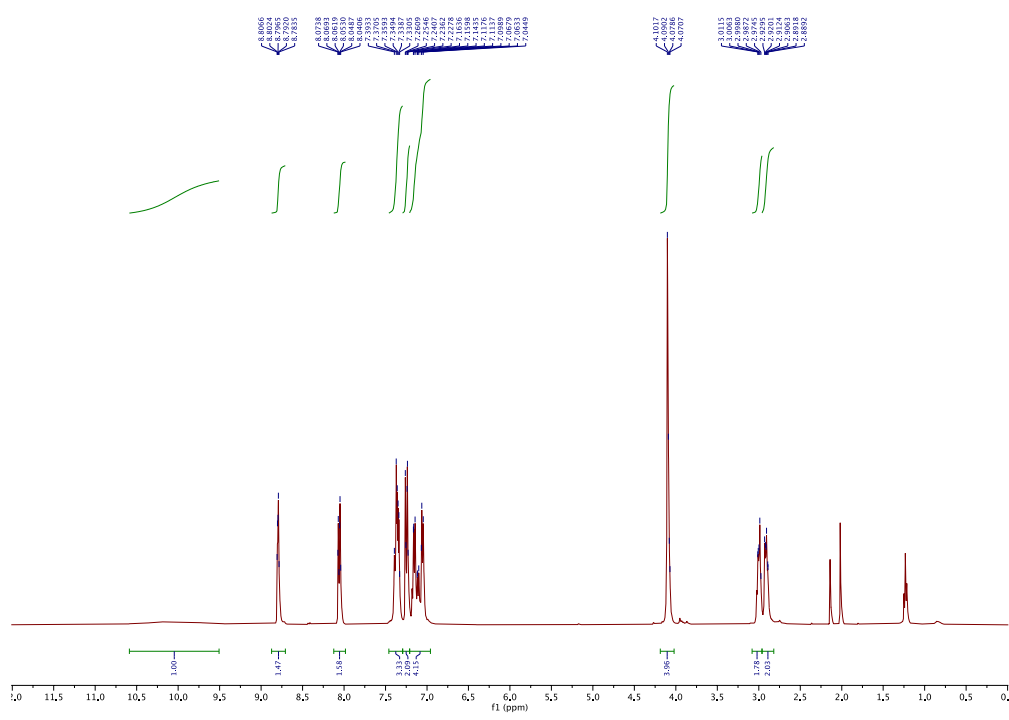
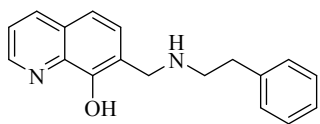
Compound 2.



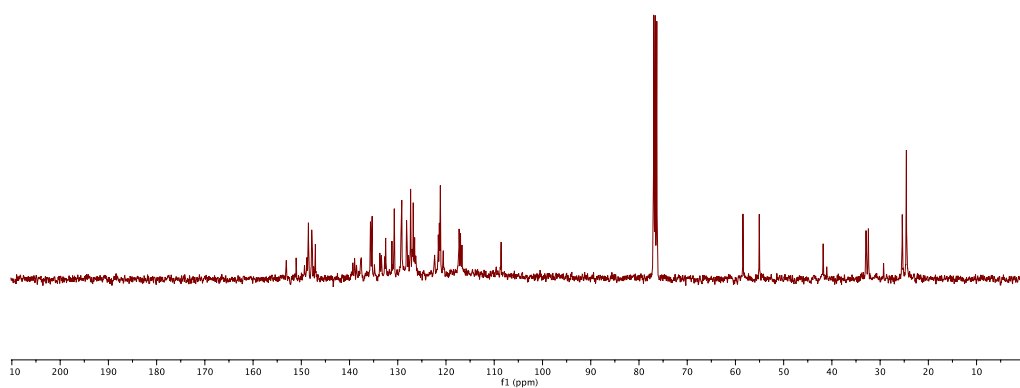
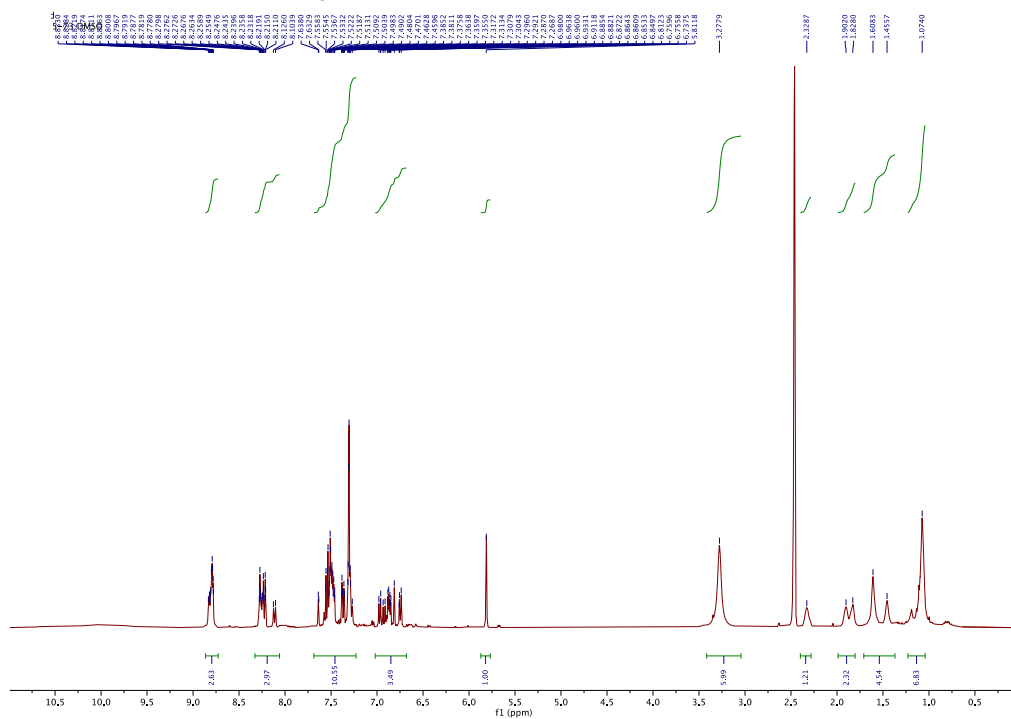
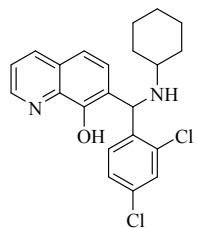
Compound 4.



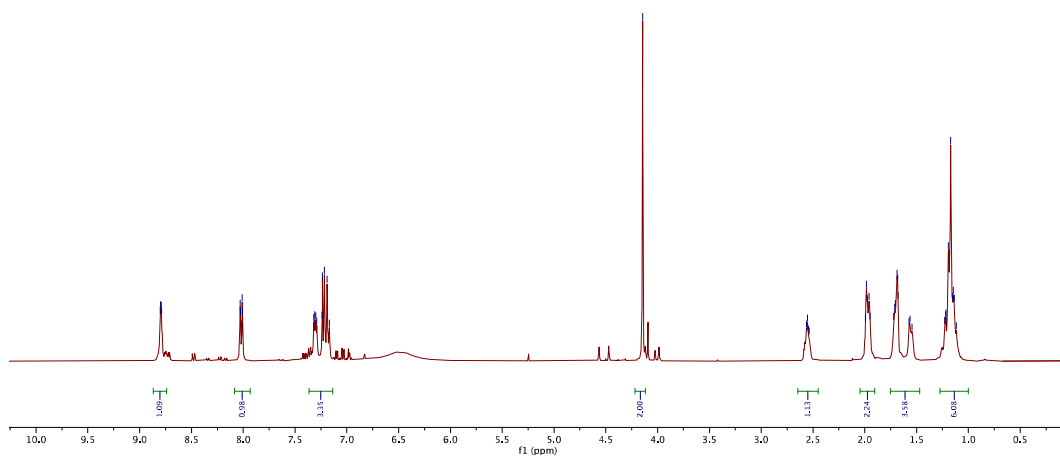
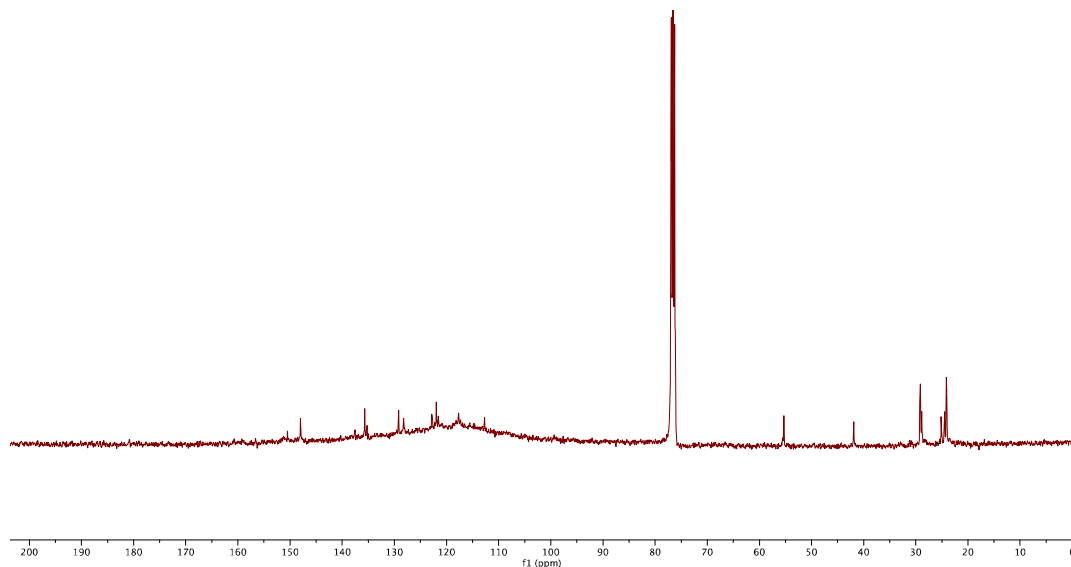
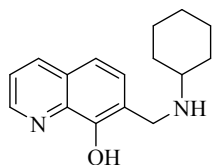
Compound 5.



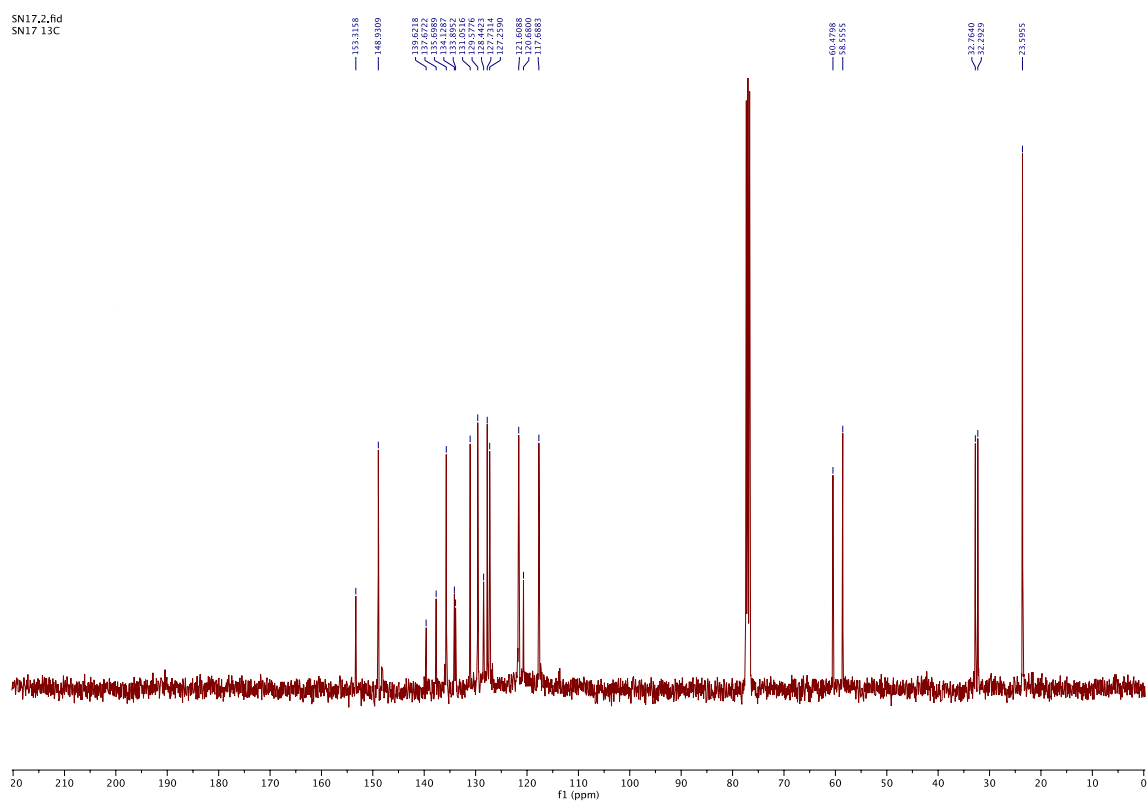
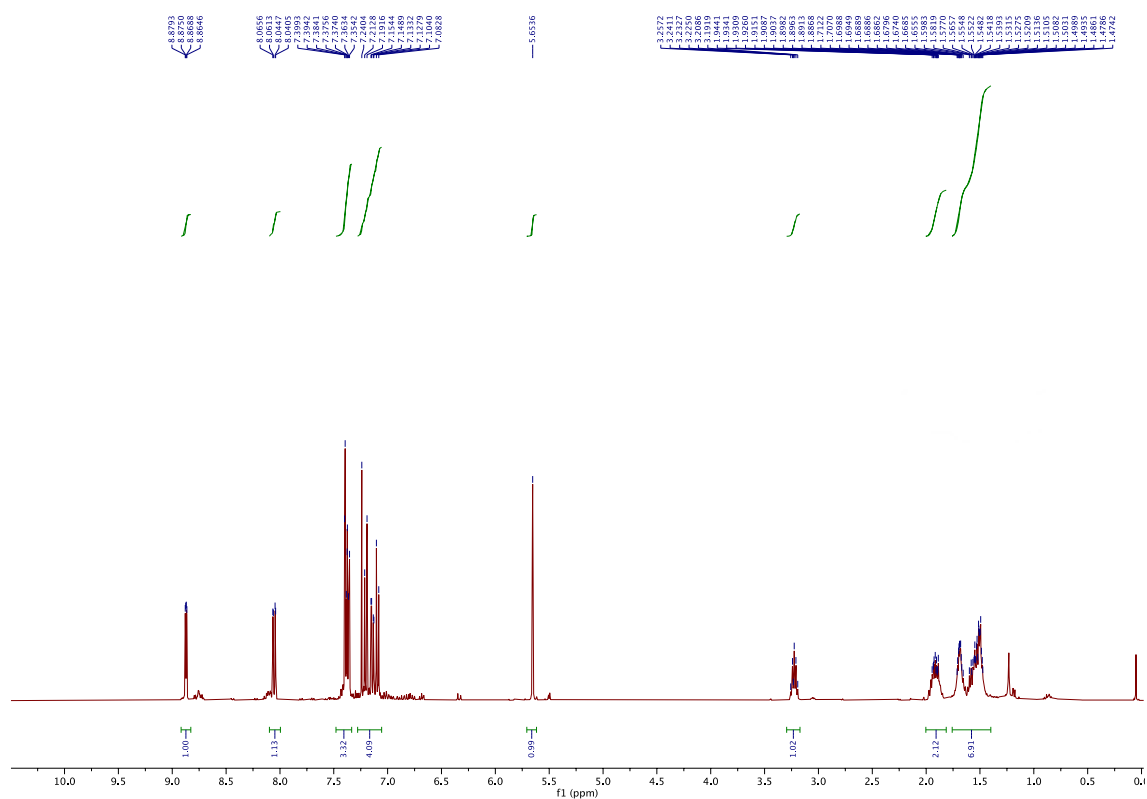
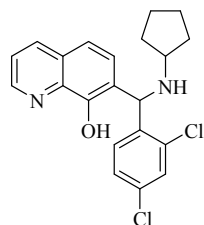
Compound 15.

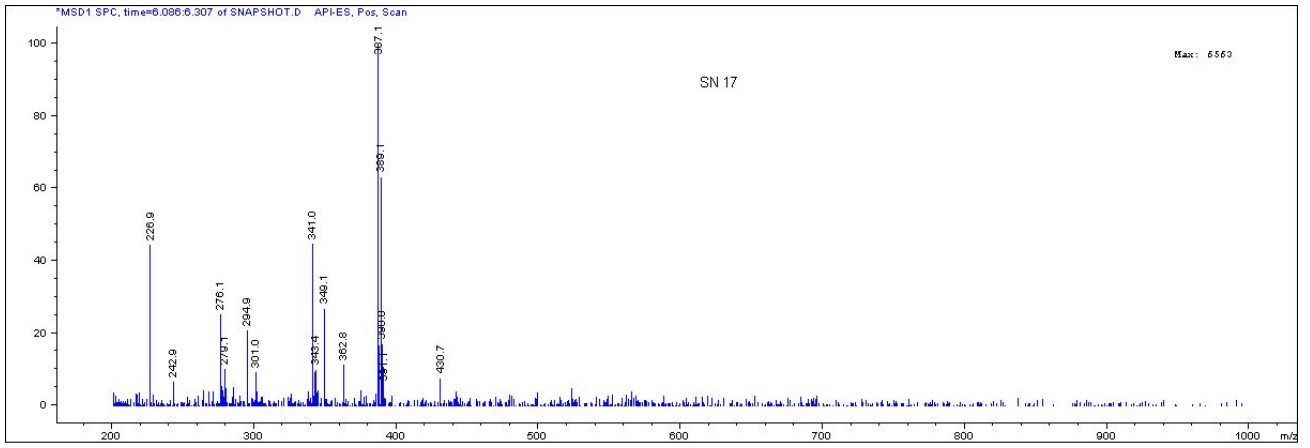


Compound 19.

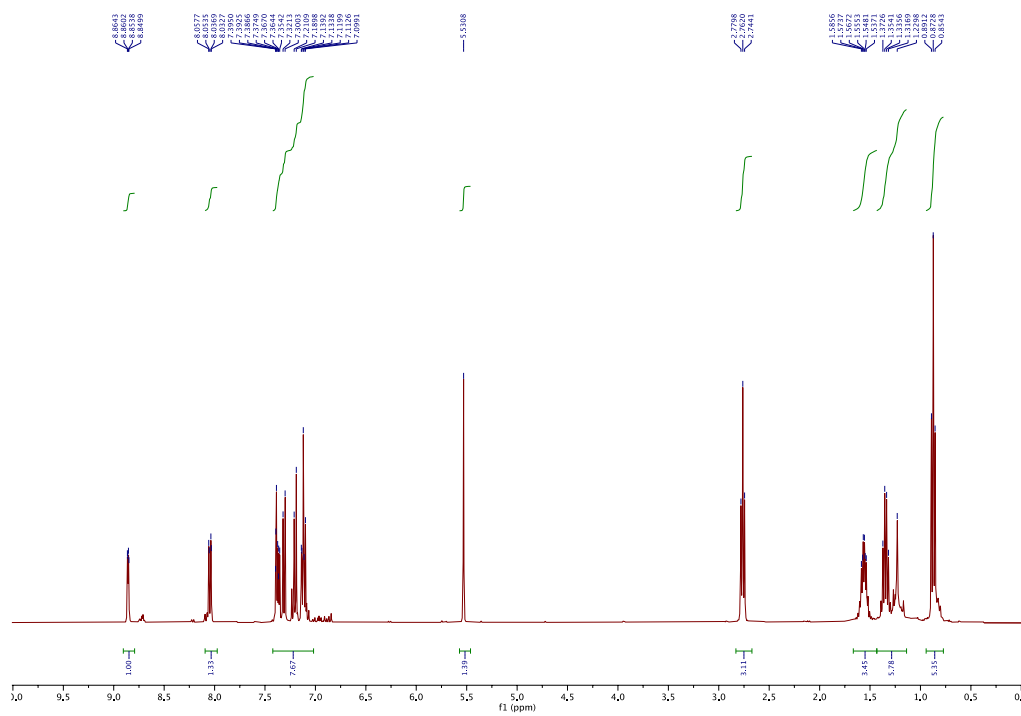
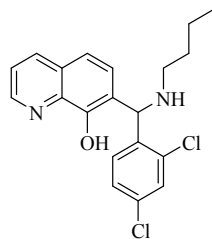


Compound 16.

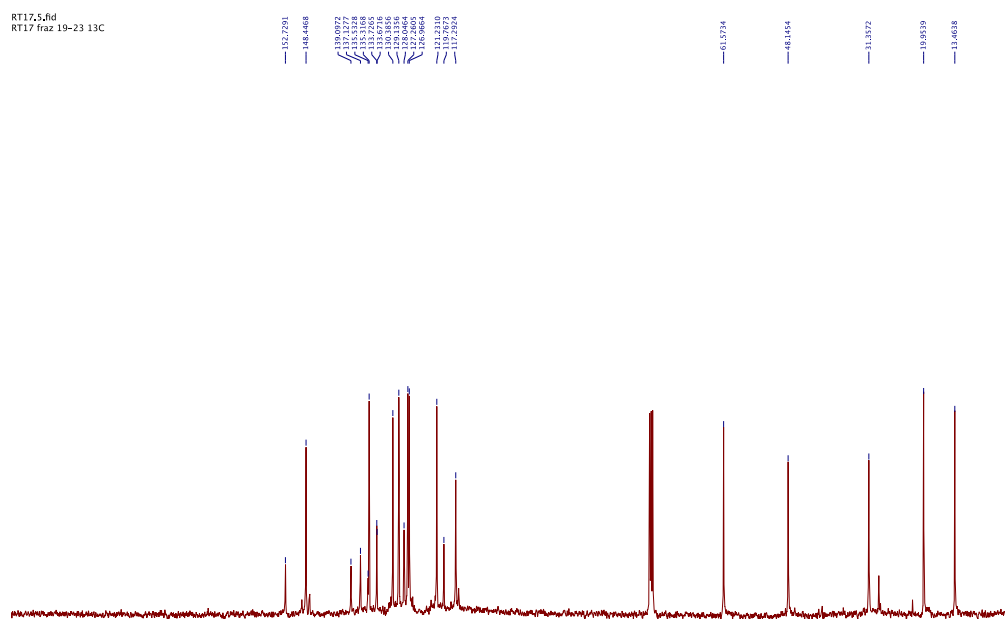




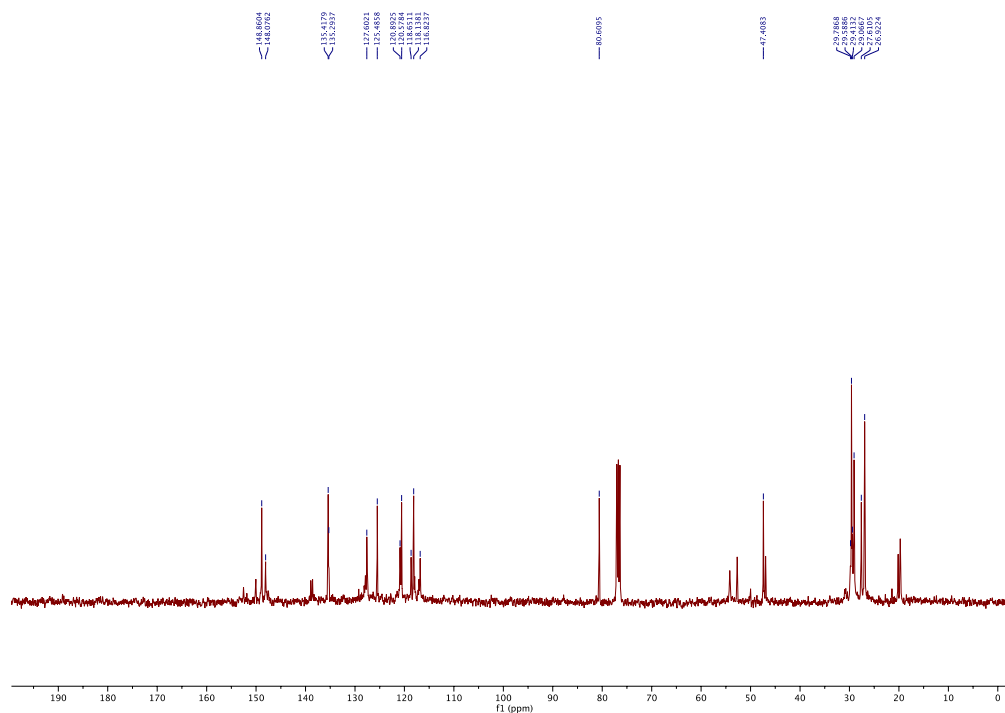
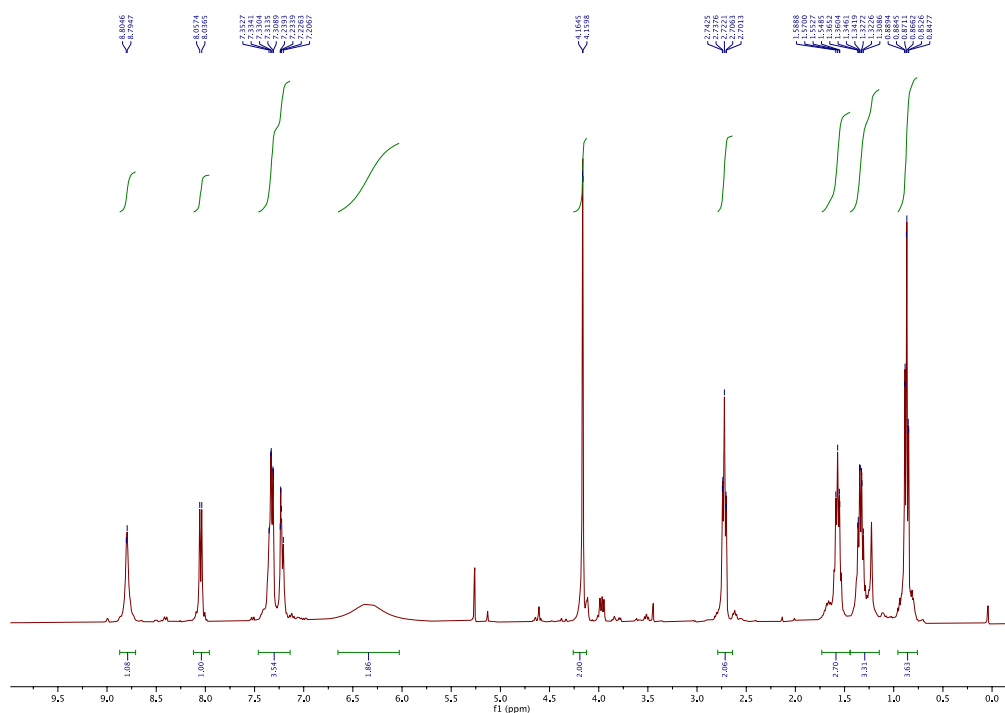
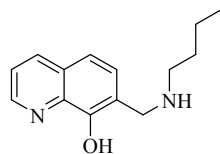
Compound 17.



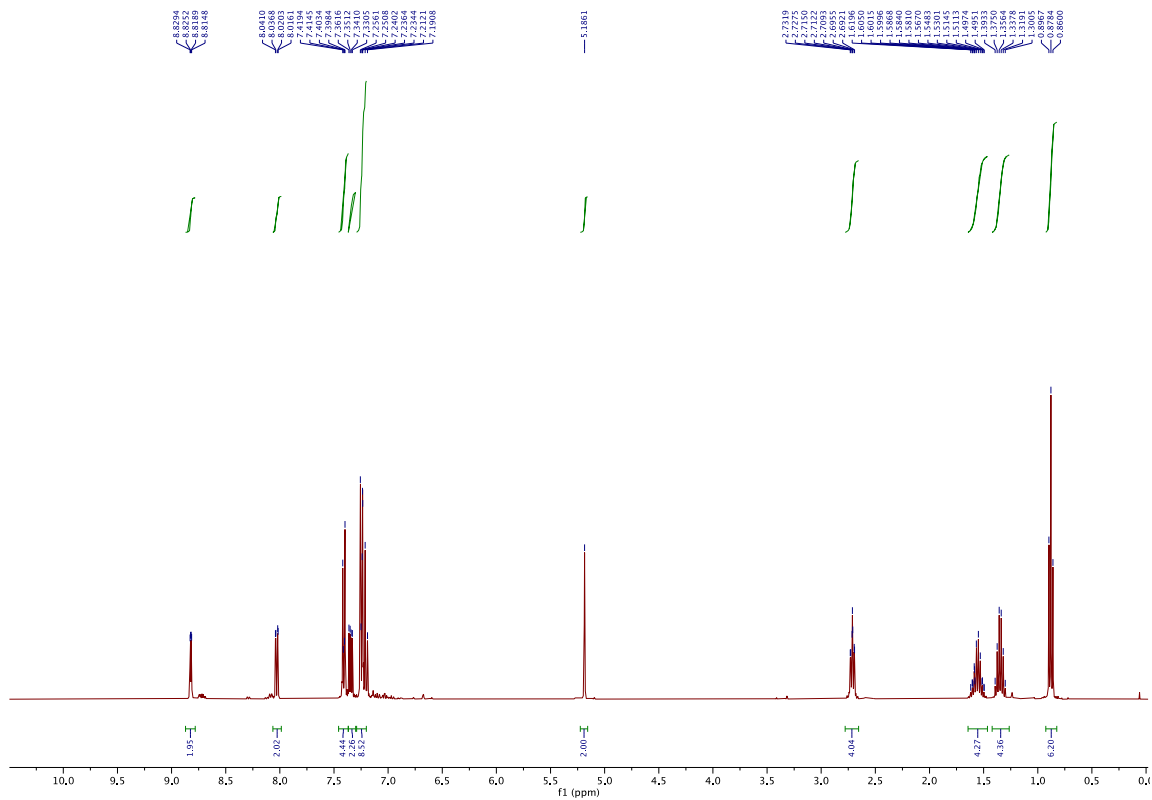
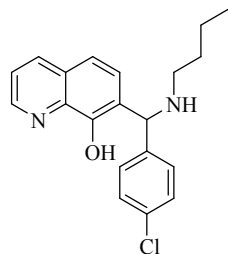
RT17.5.fid
RT17 faz 19-23 13C

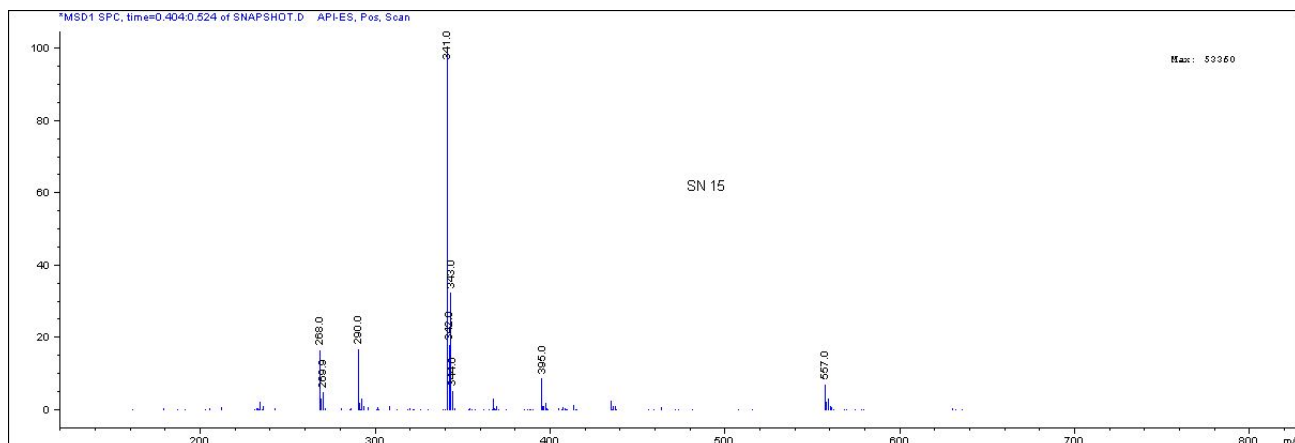
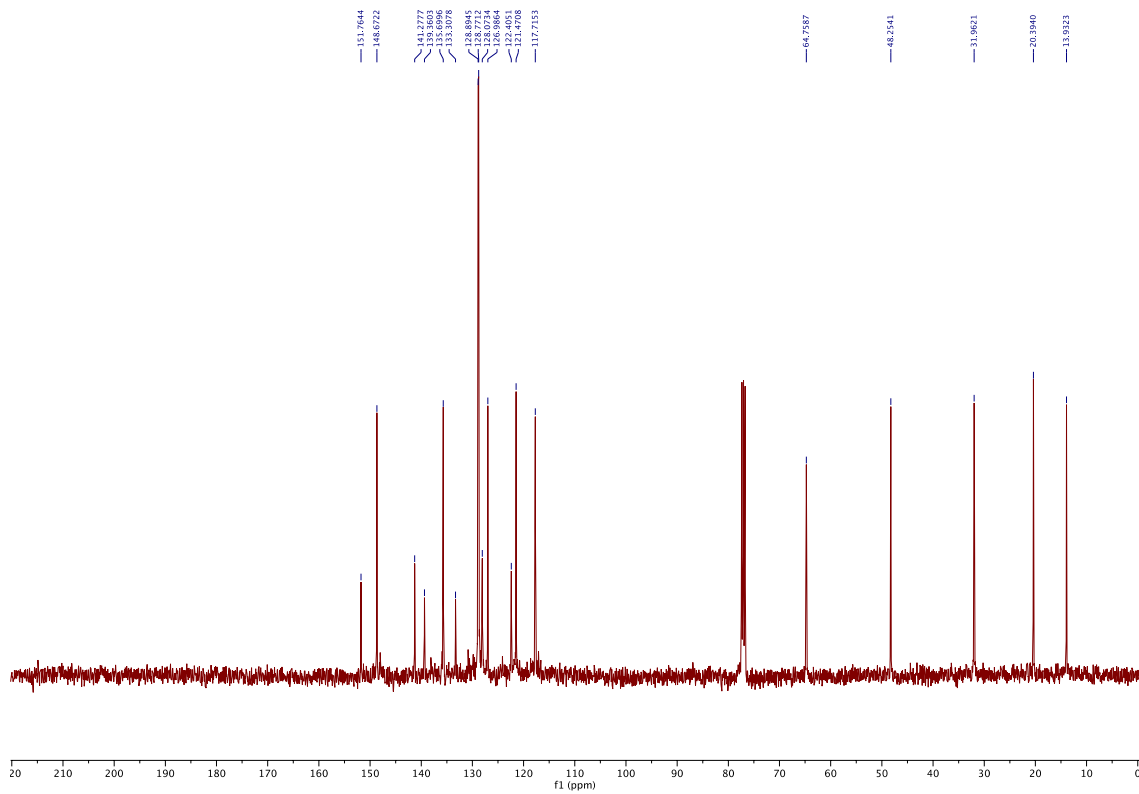


Compound 18.

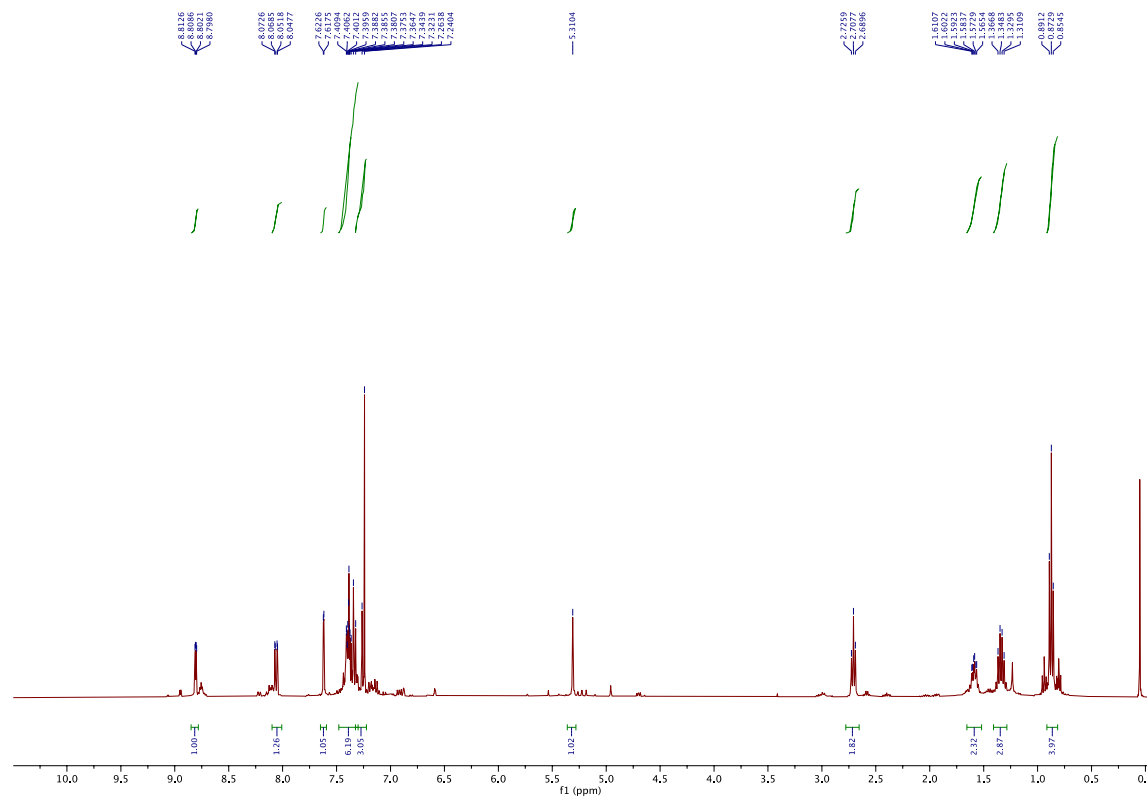
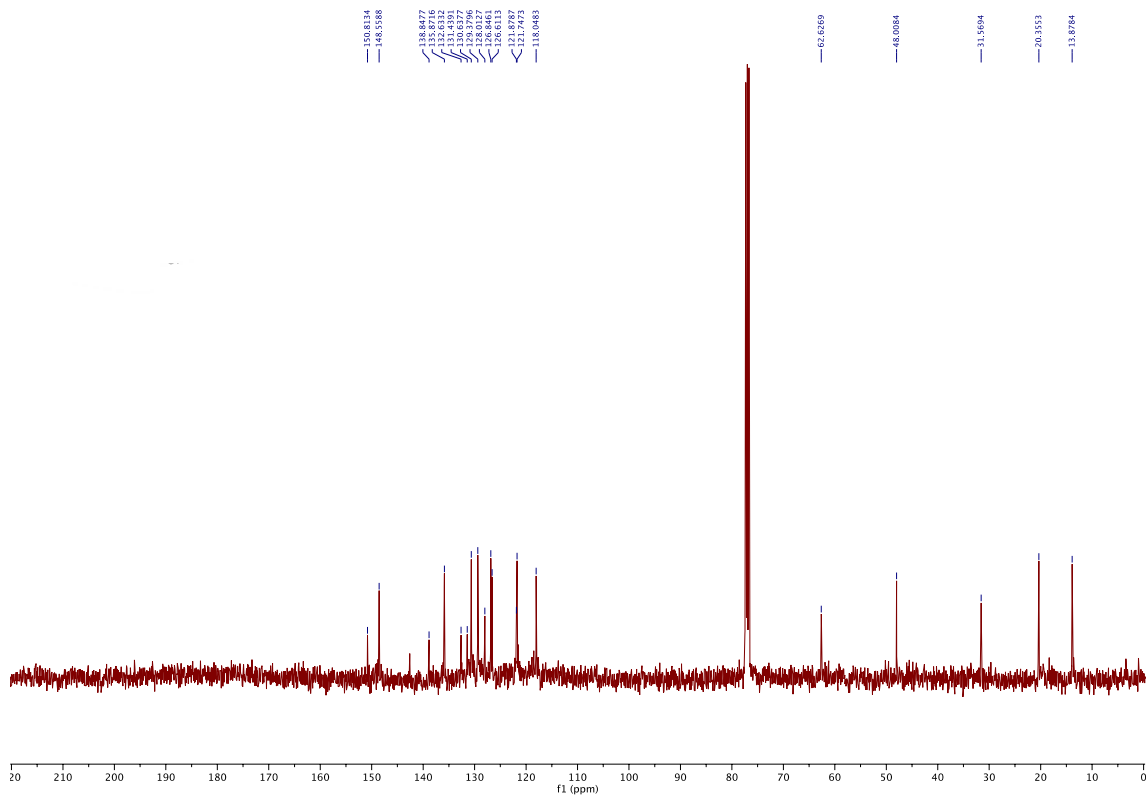
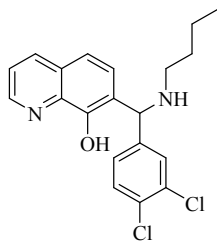


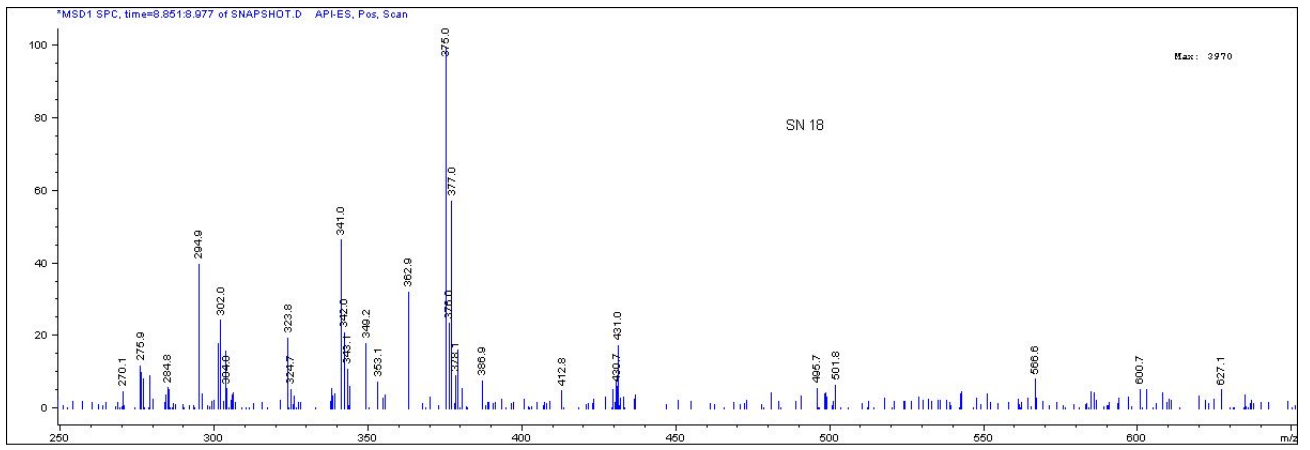
Compound 20.



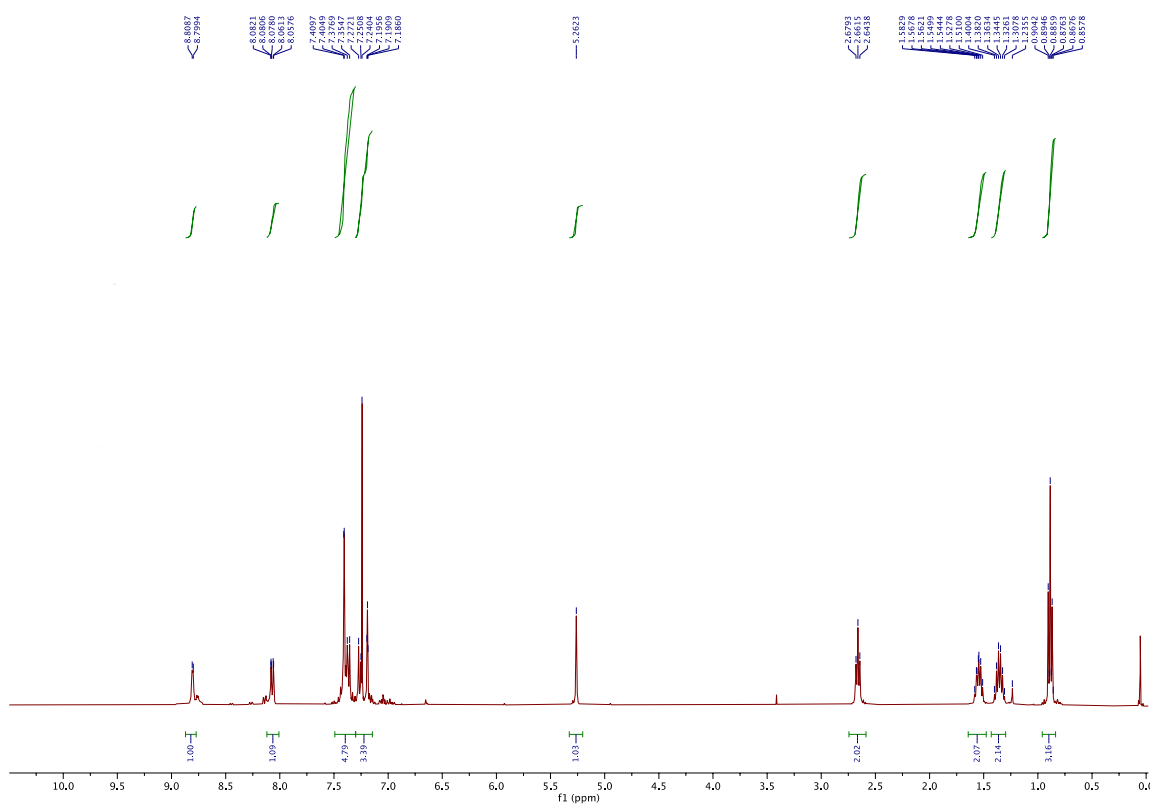
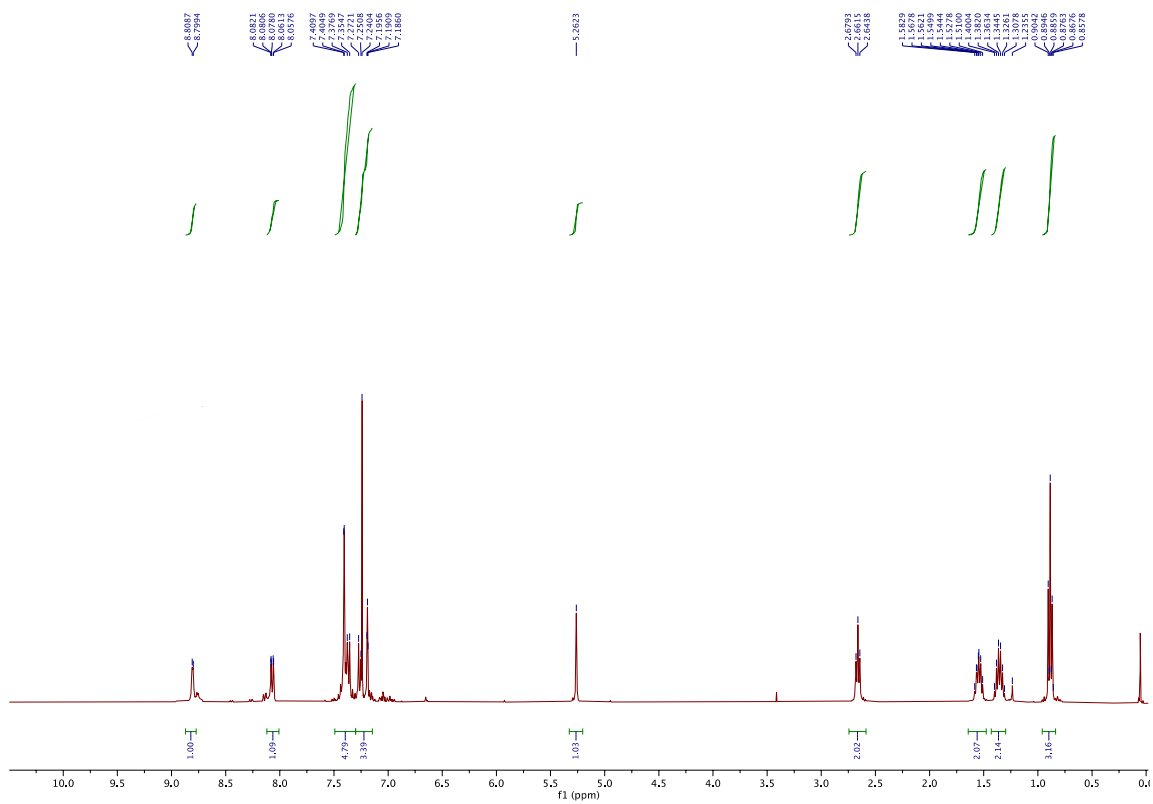
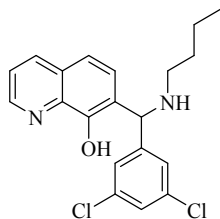


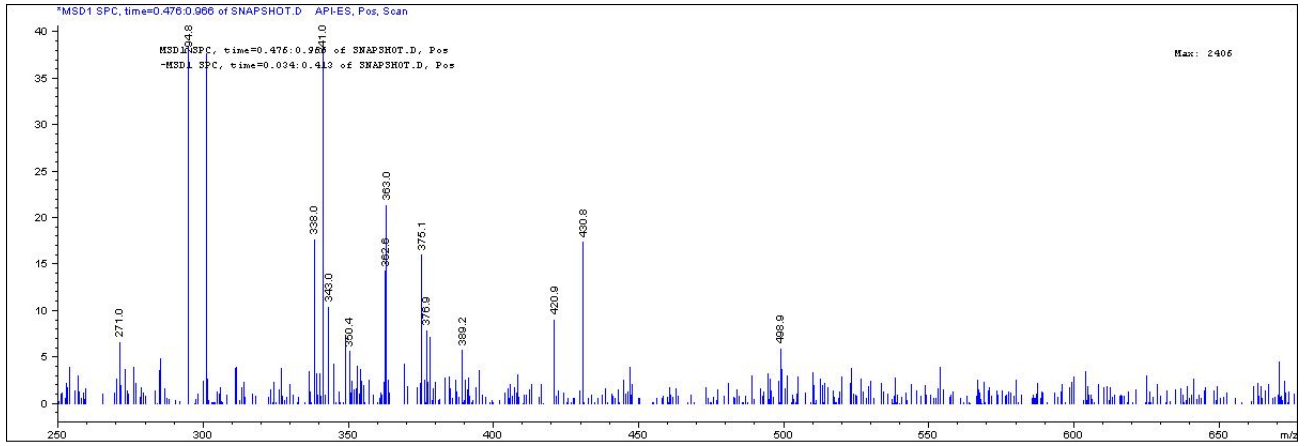
Compound 21.



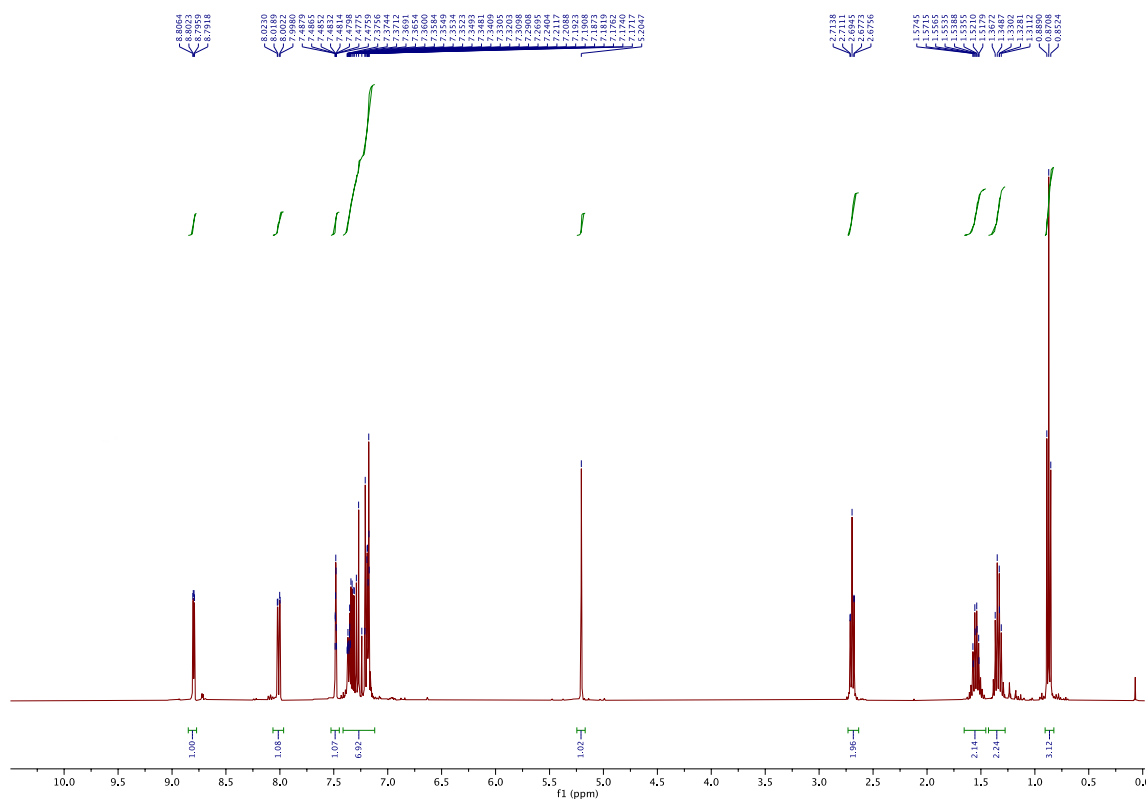
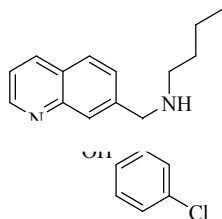


Compound 22.

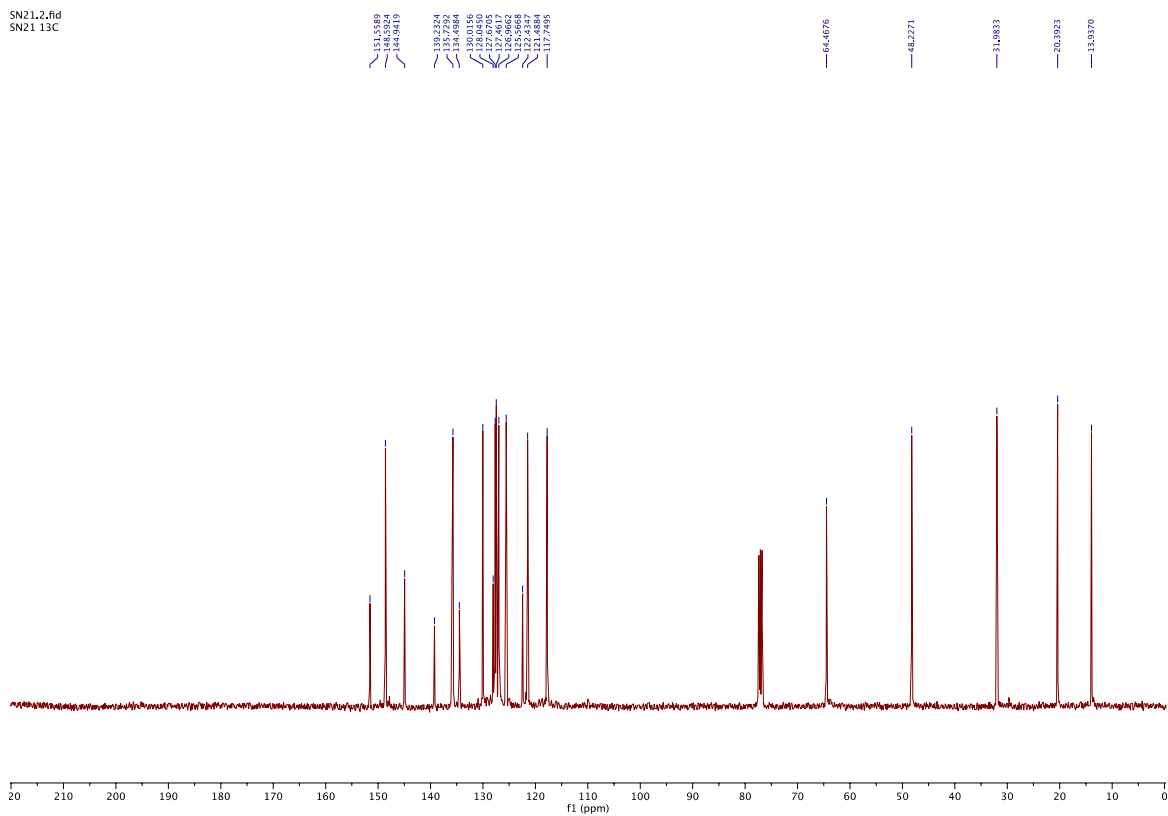




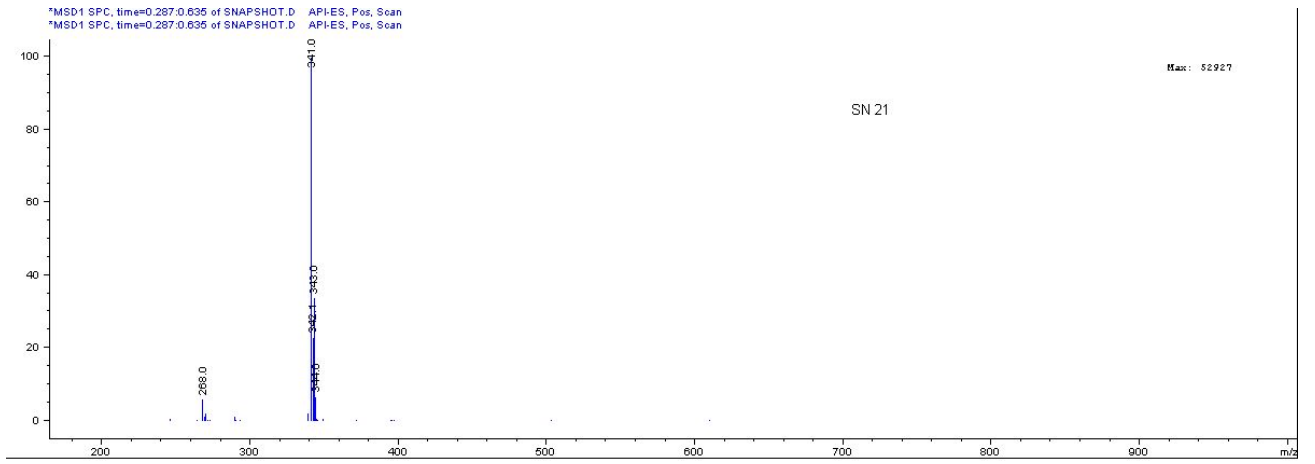
Com



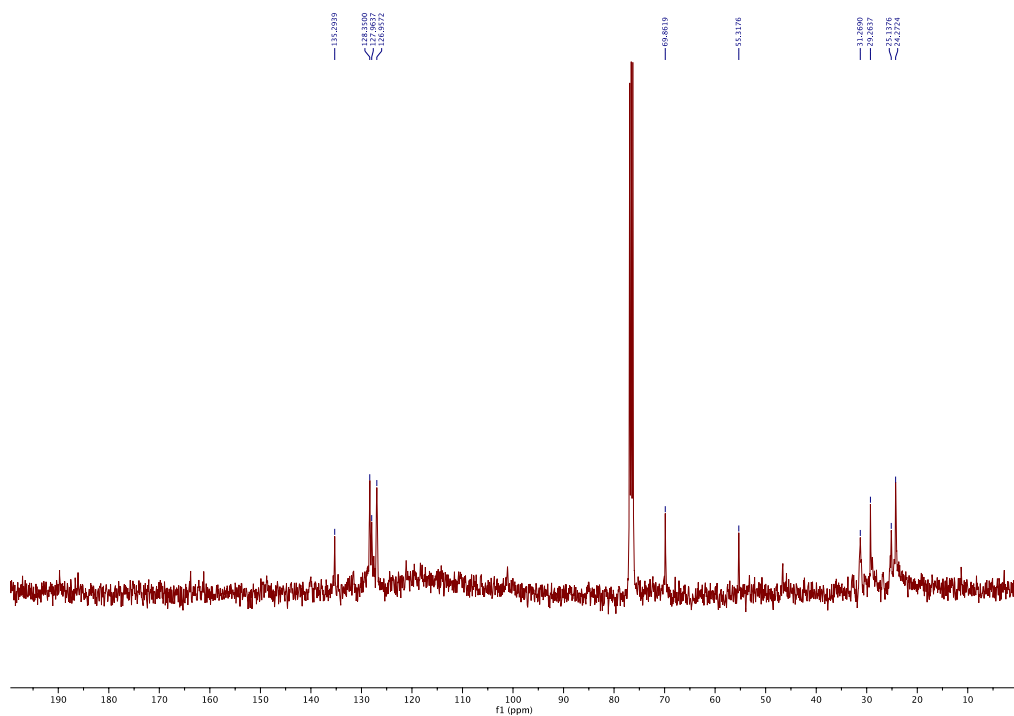
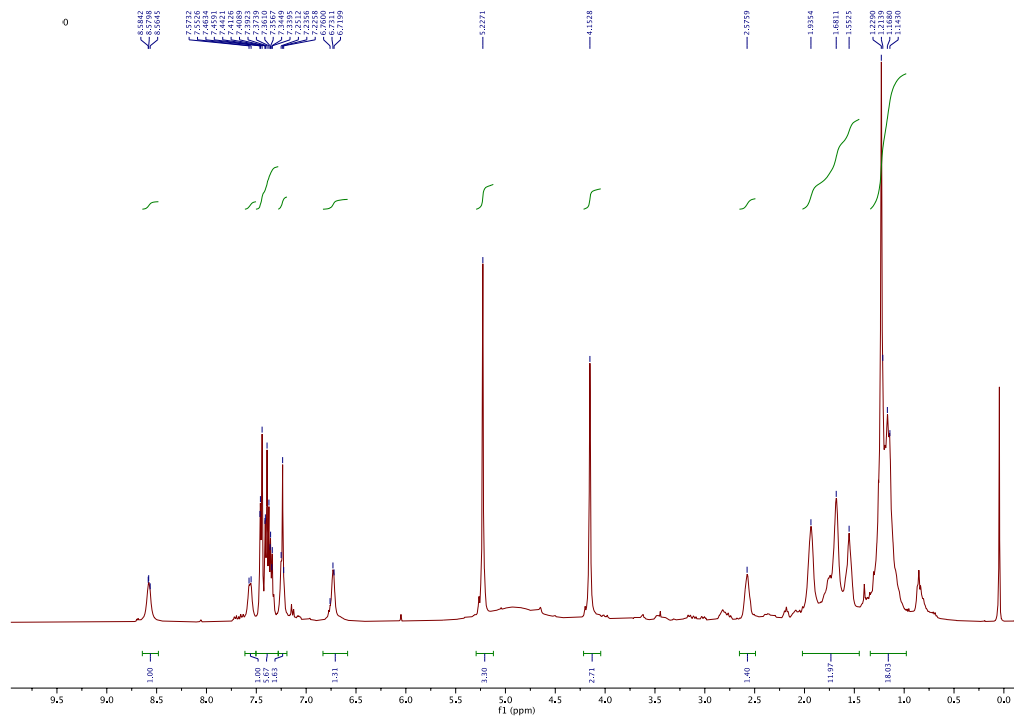
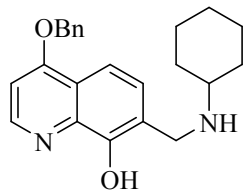
SN21.2.fid
SN21.13C



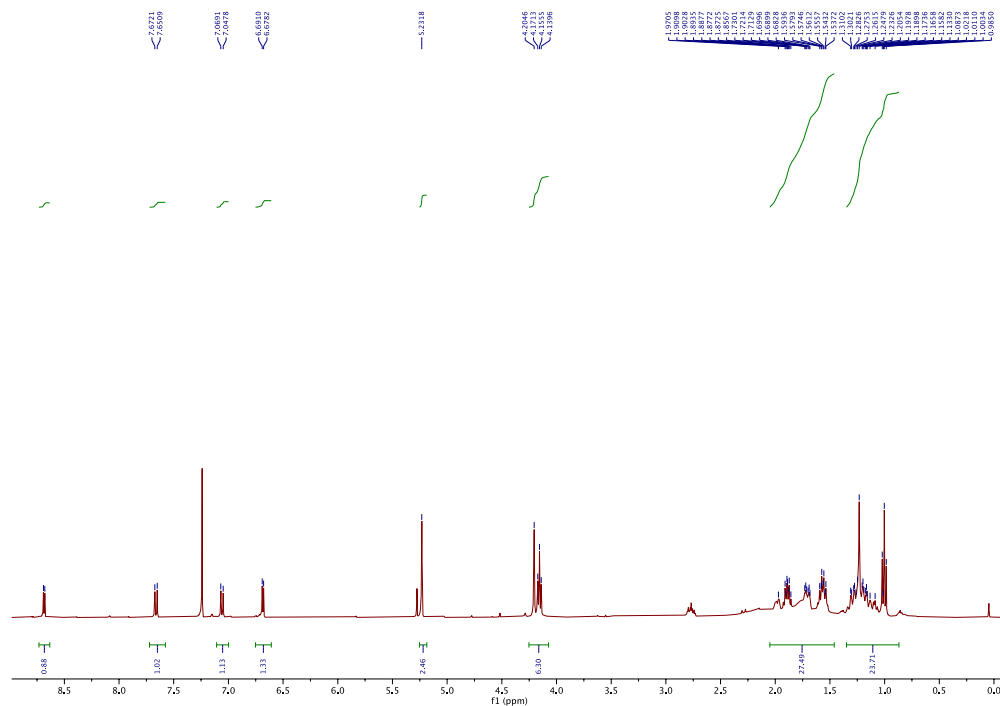
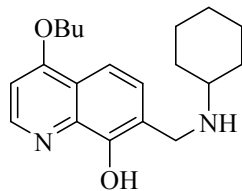
*MSD1 SPC, time=0.287,0.635 of SNAPSHOT.D API-ES, Pos, Scan
*MSD1 SPC, time=0.287,0.635 of SNAPSHOT.D API-ES, Pos, Scan



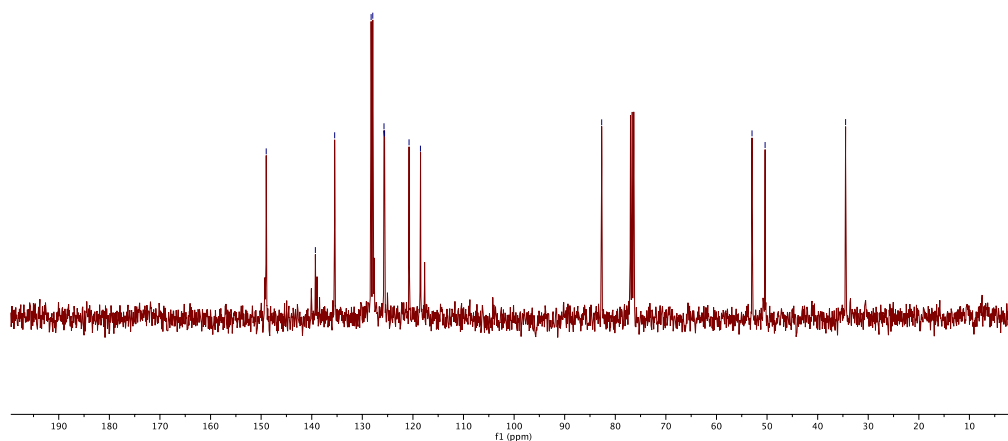
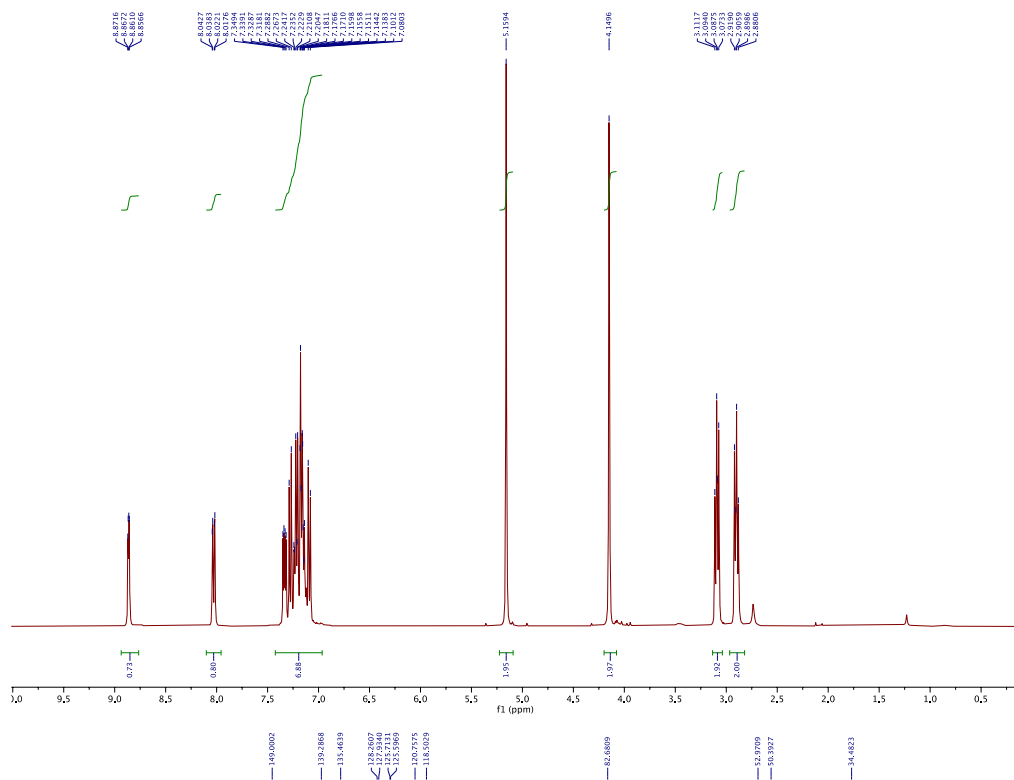
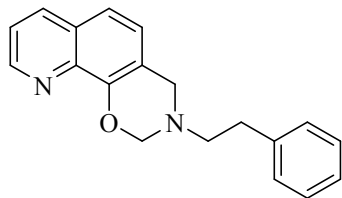
Compound 25.



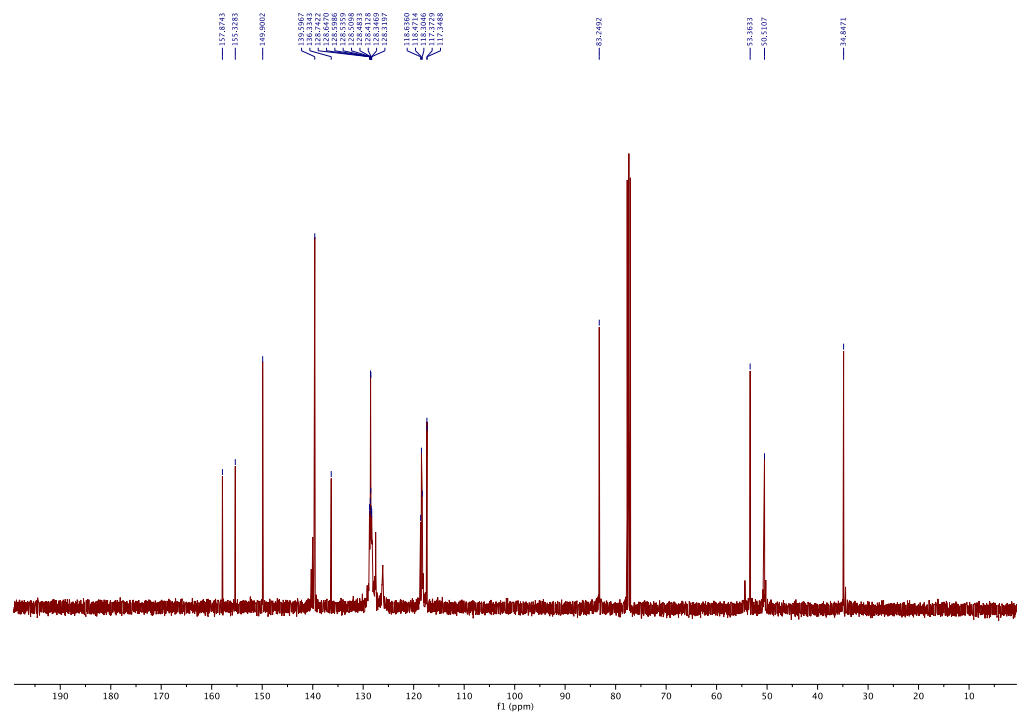
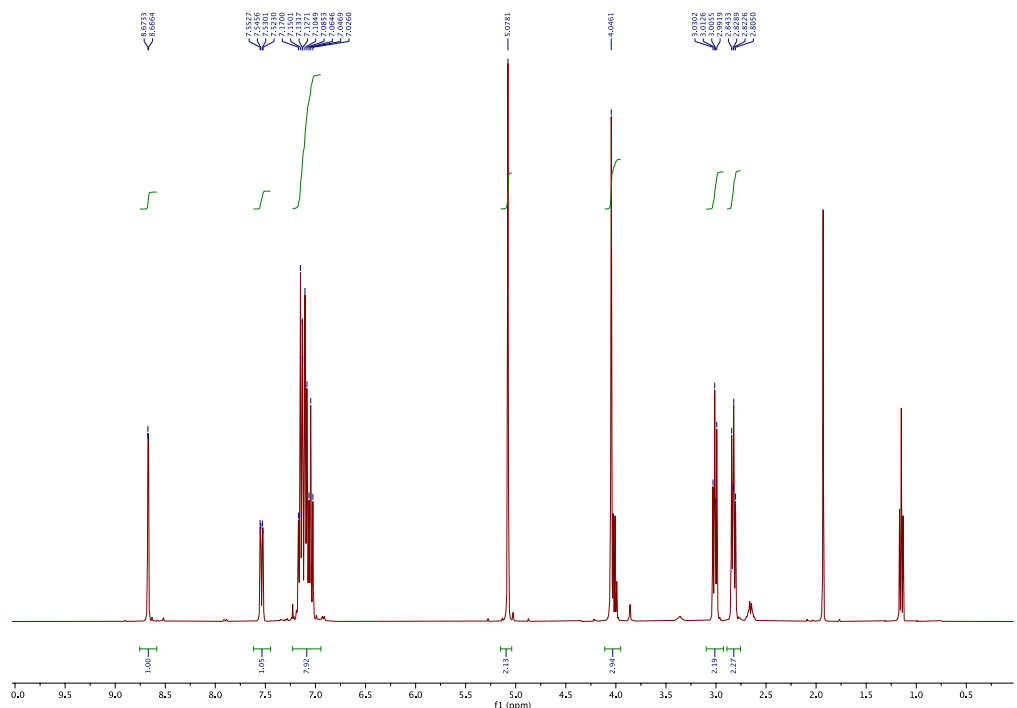
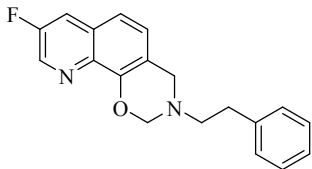
Compound 24.



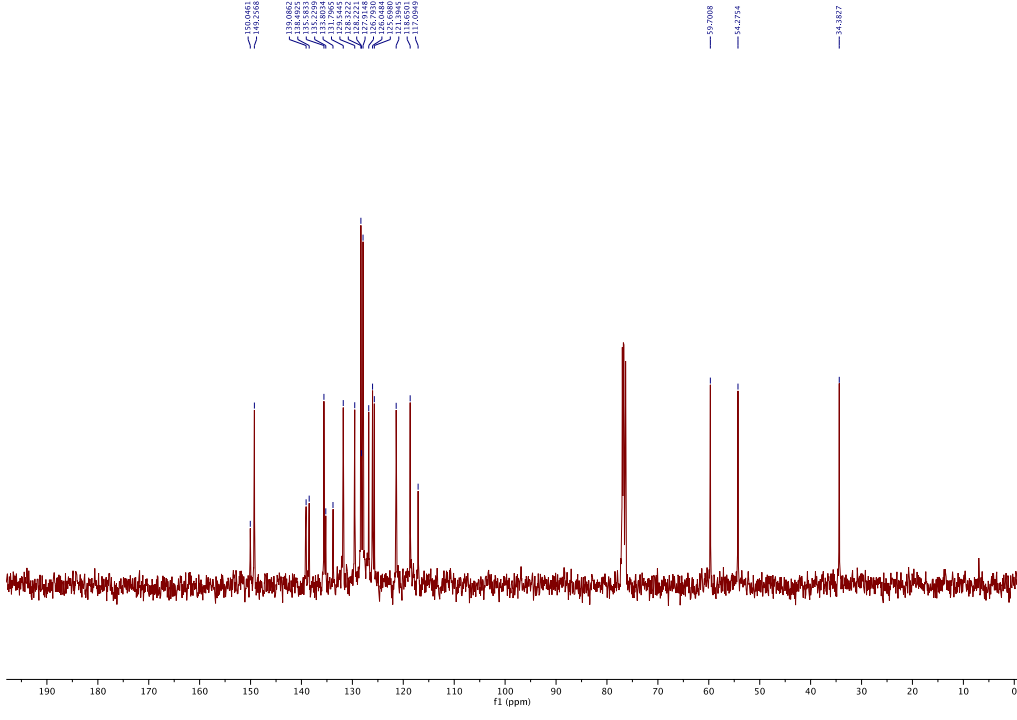
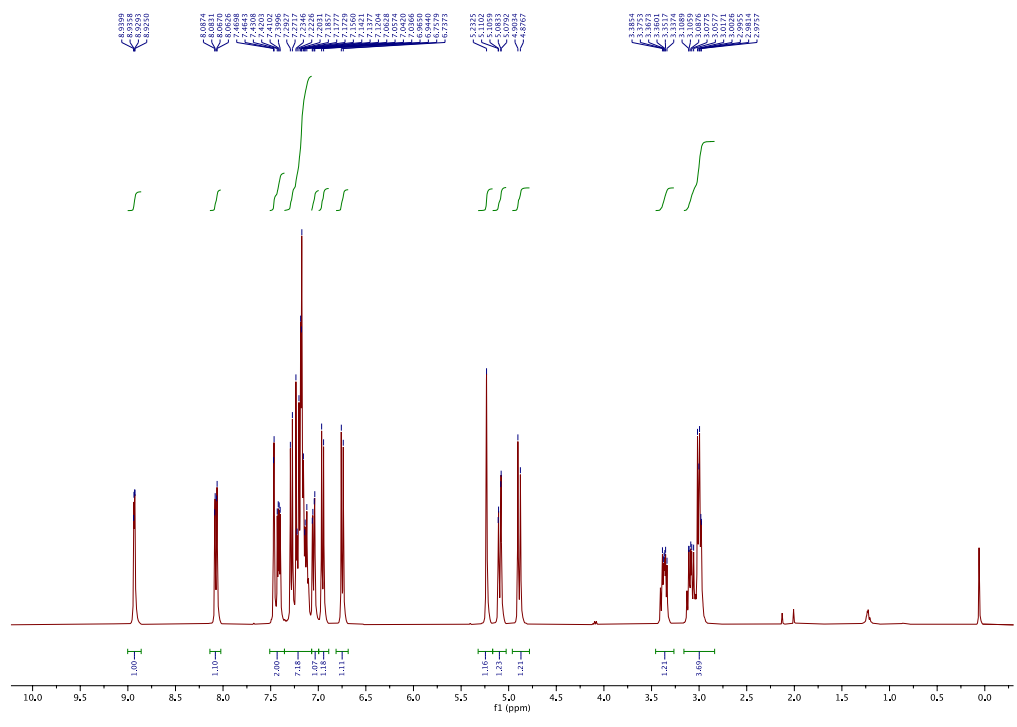
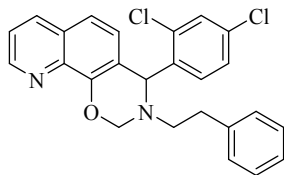
Compound 26.



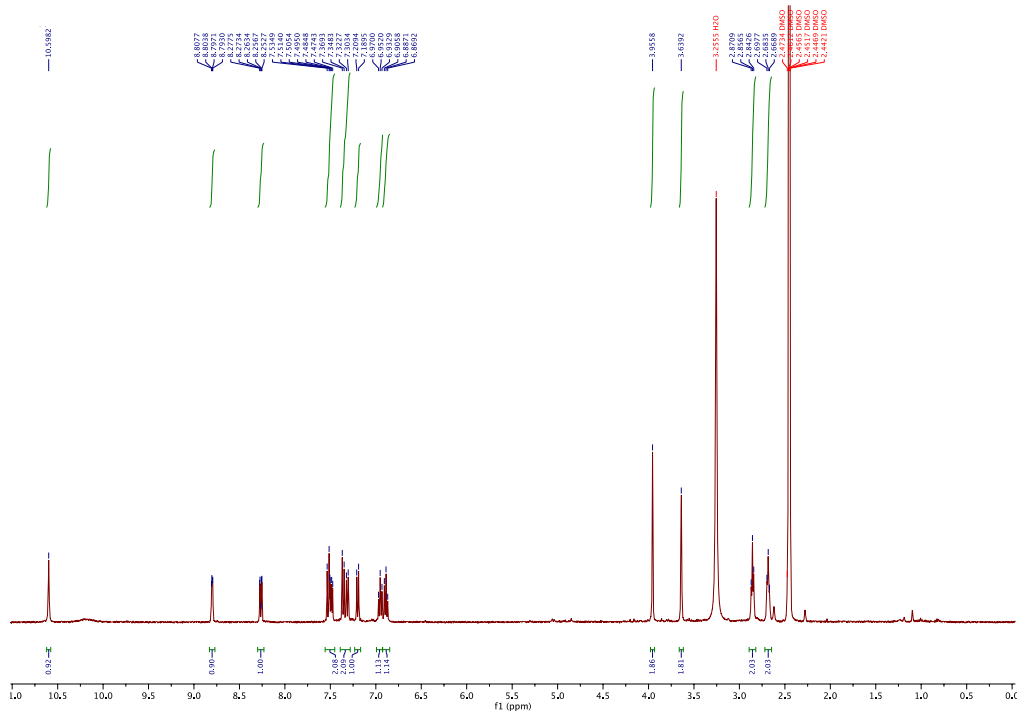
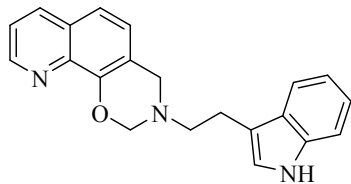
Compound 27.



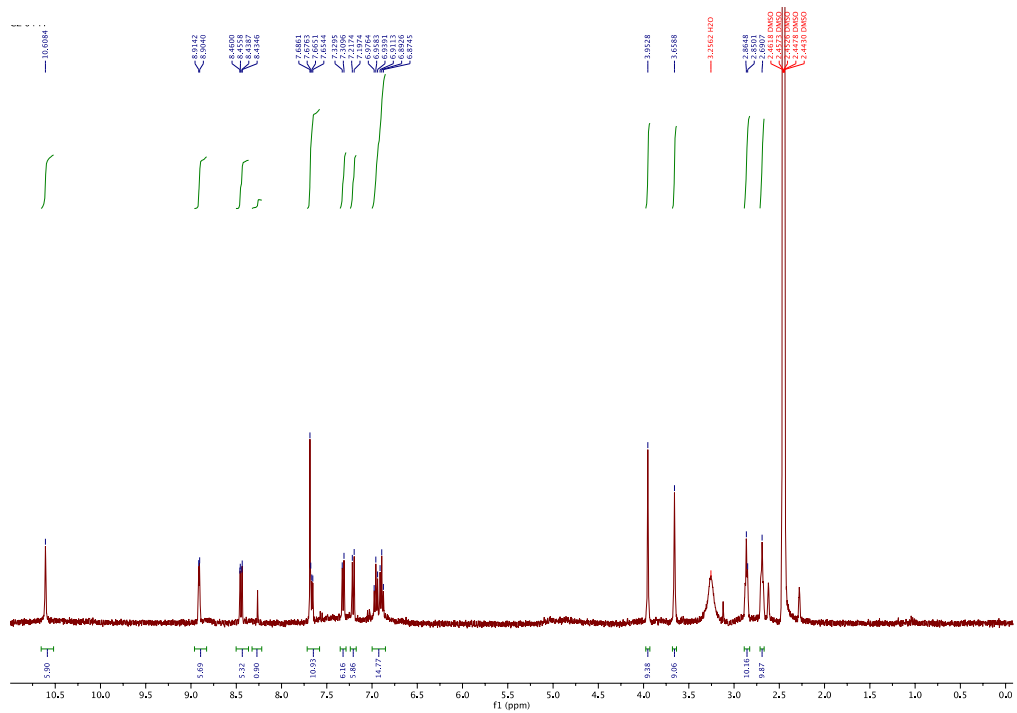
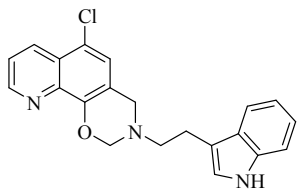
Composto **28**.



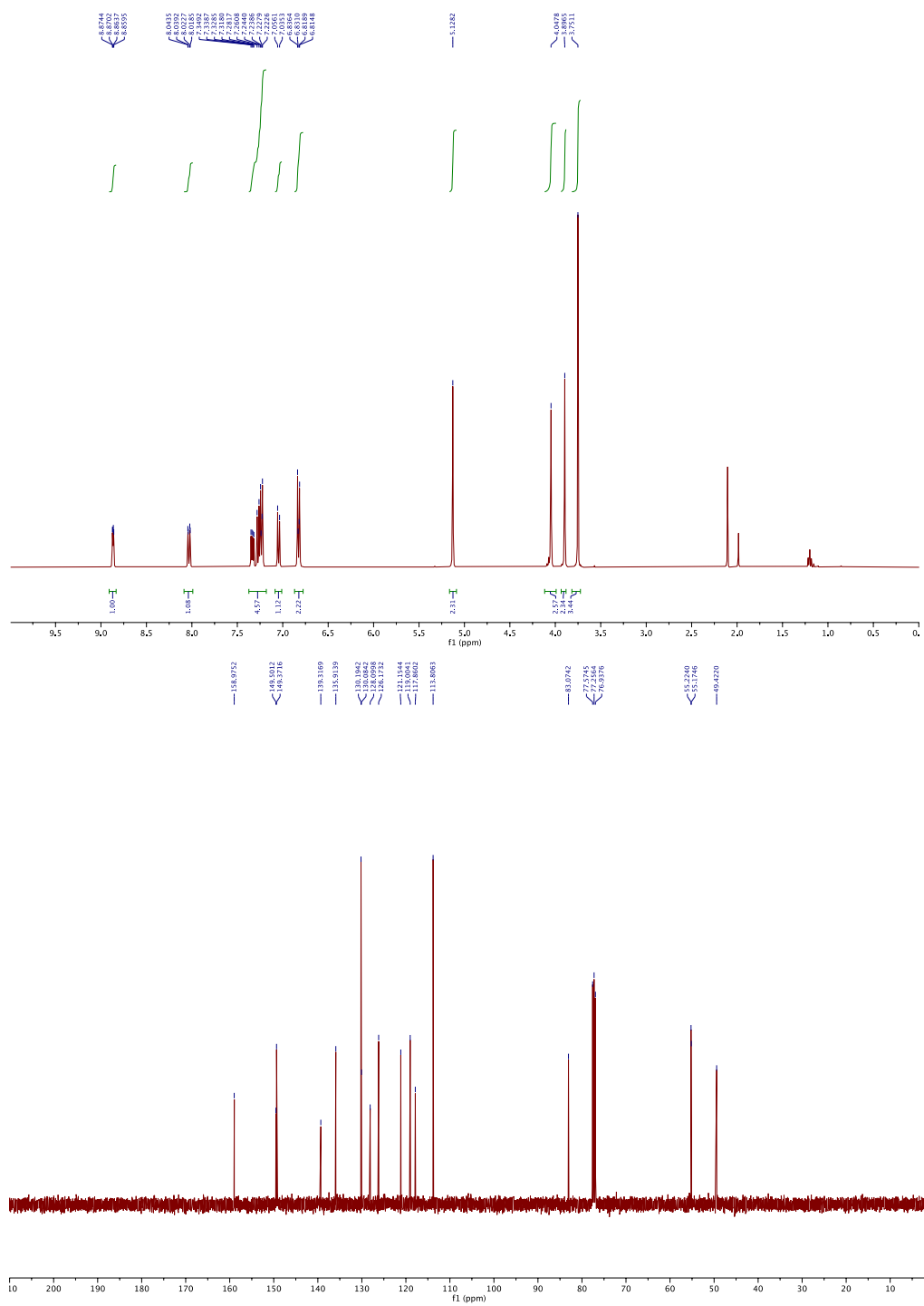
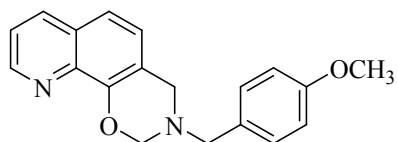
Composto 29.



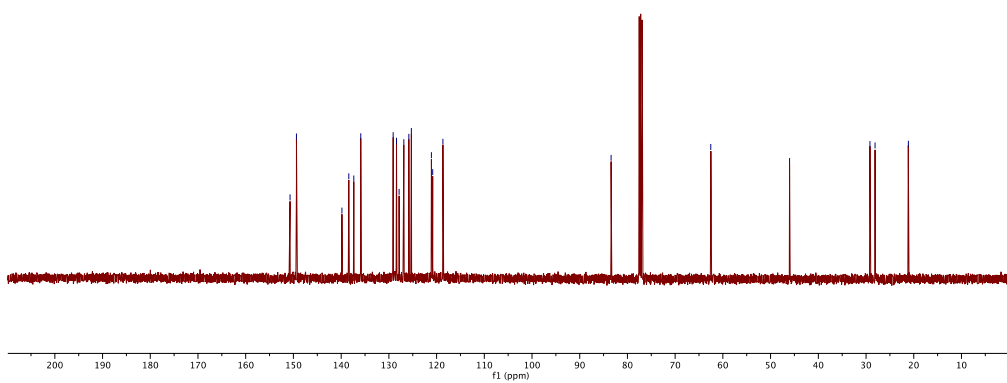
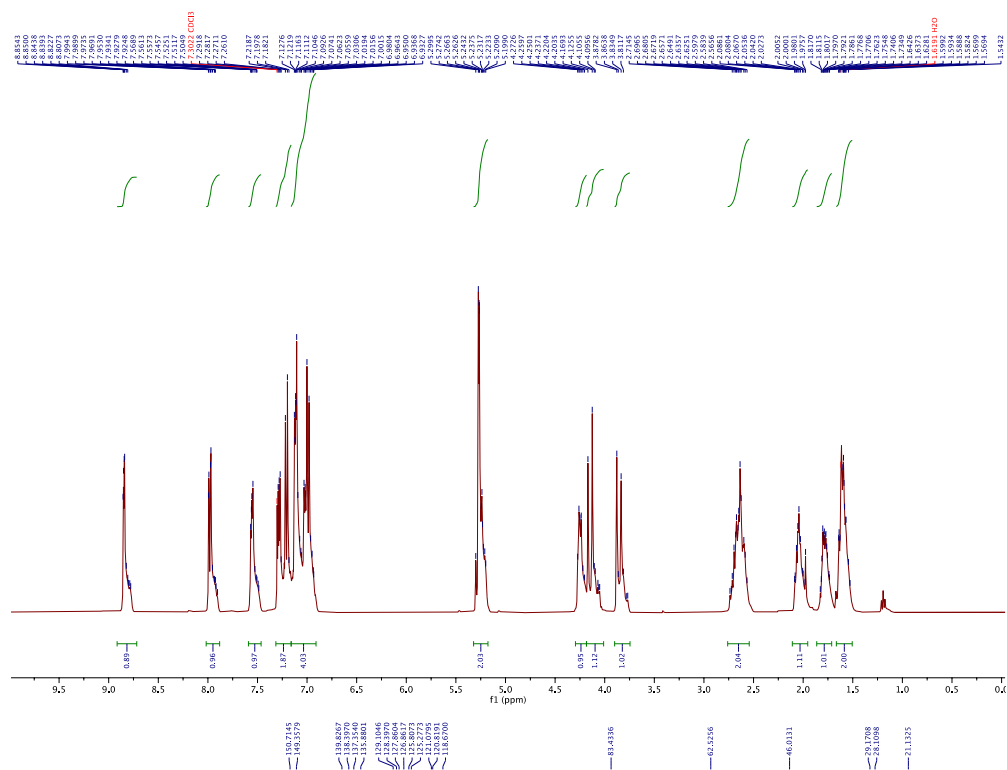
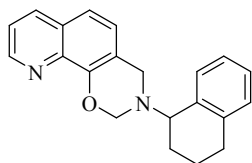
Composto 30.



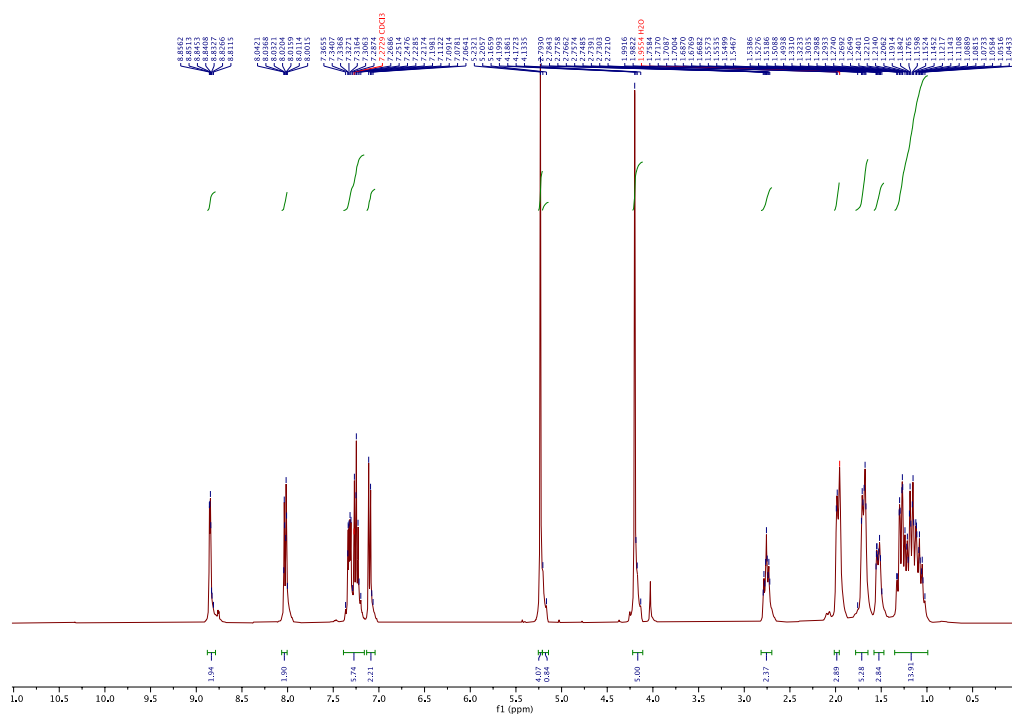
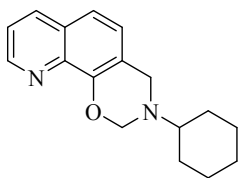
Composto 32.



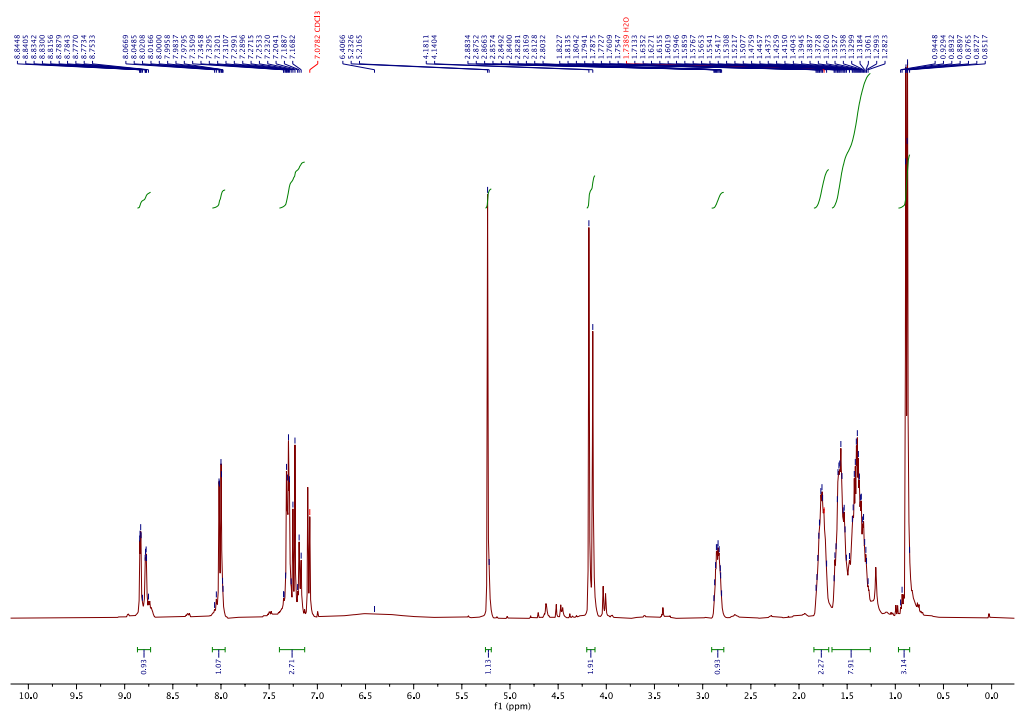
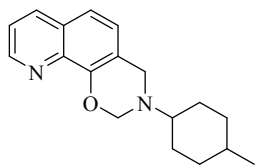
Composto 33.



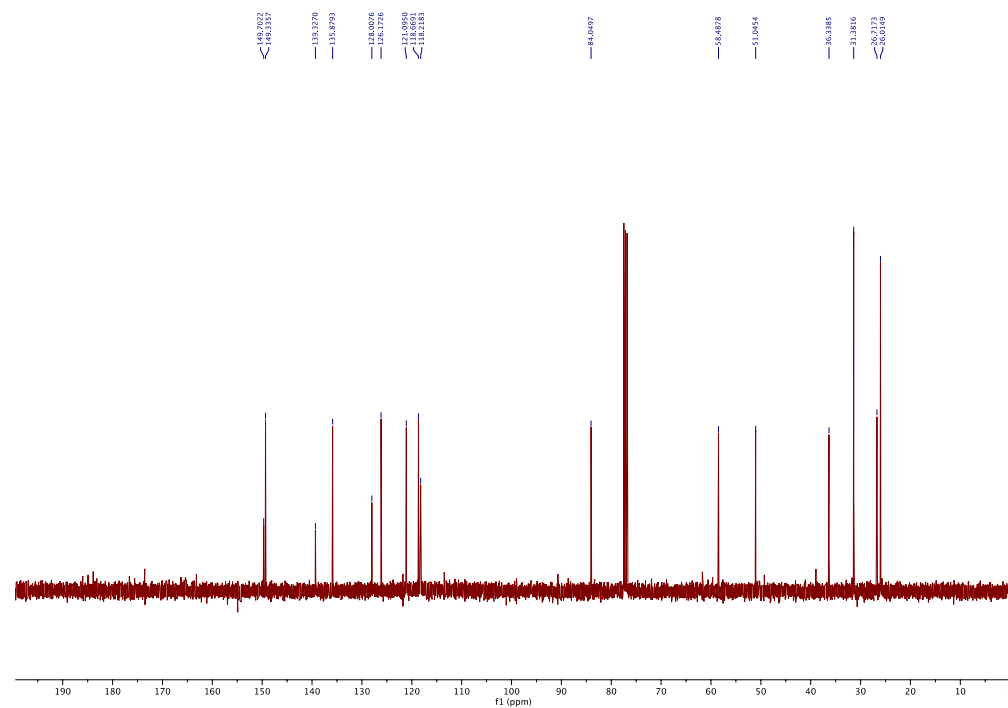
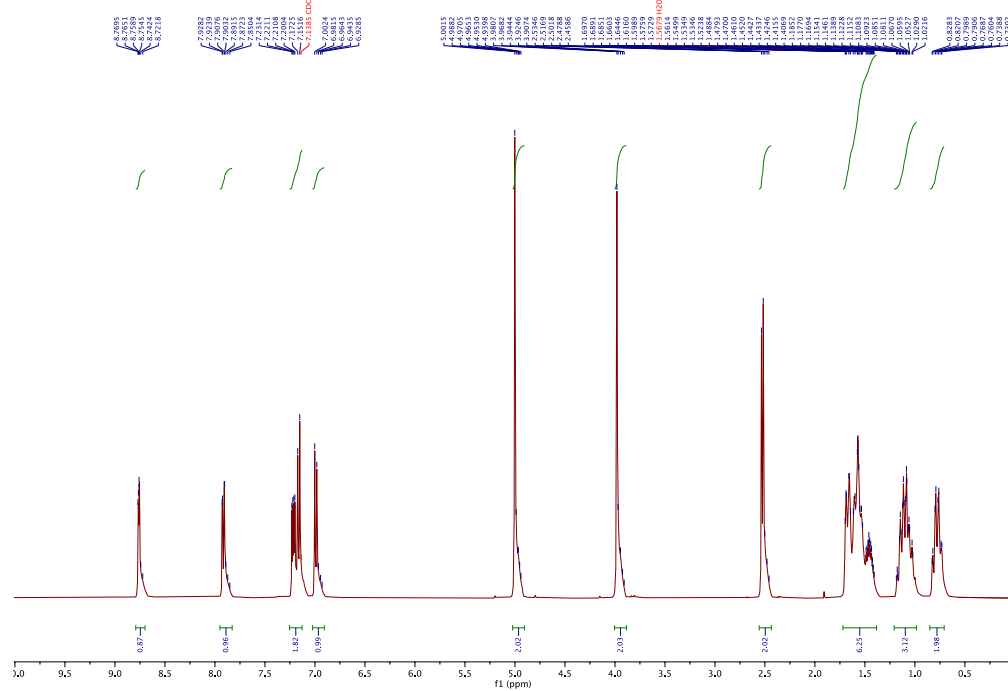
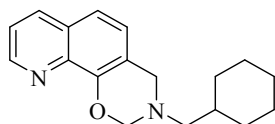
Composto **34**.



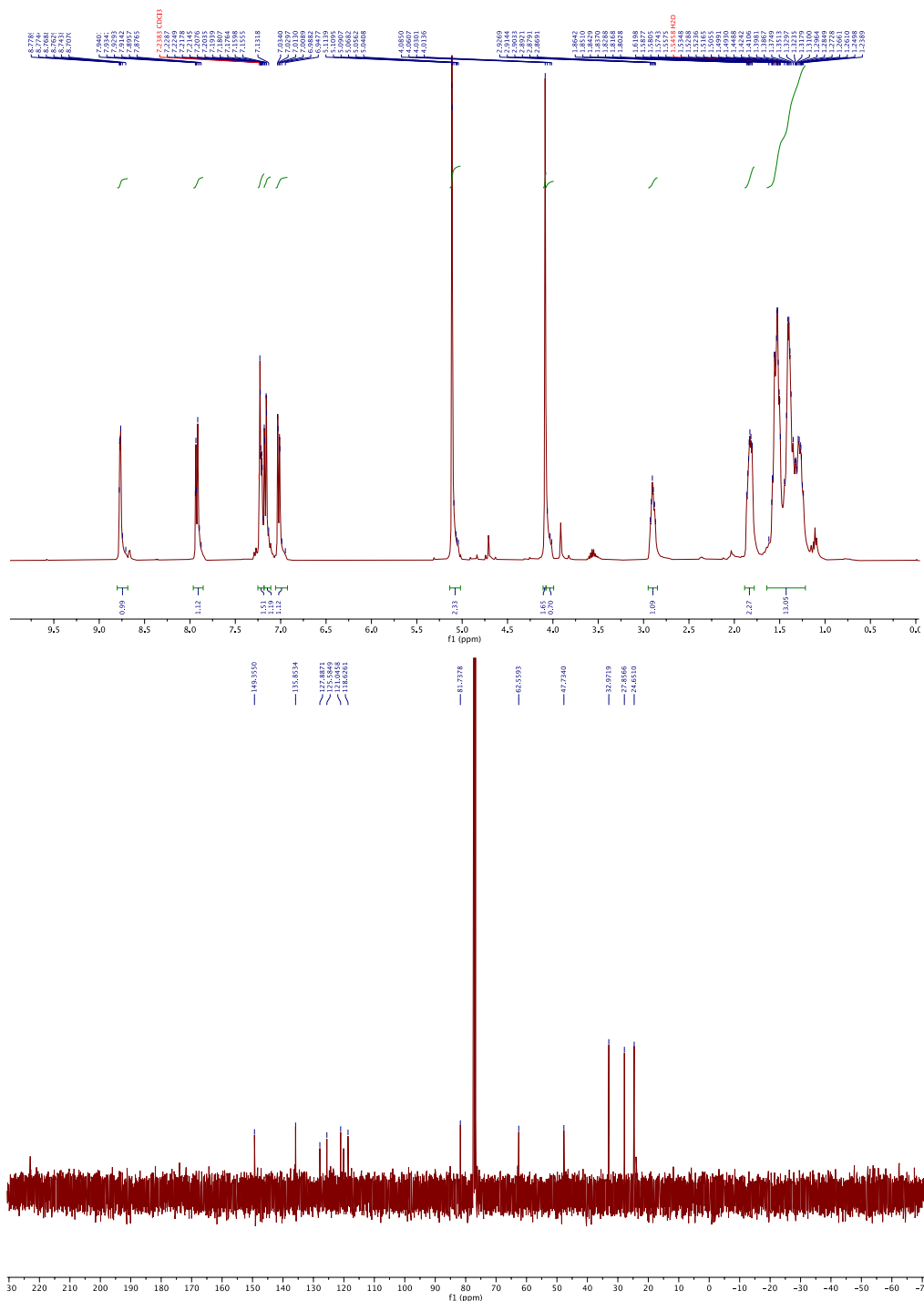
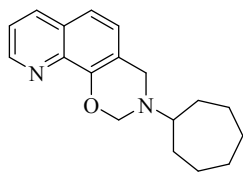
Composto 36.



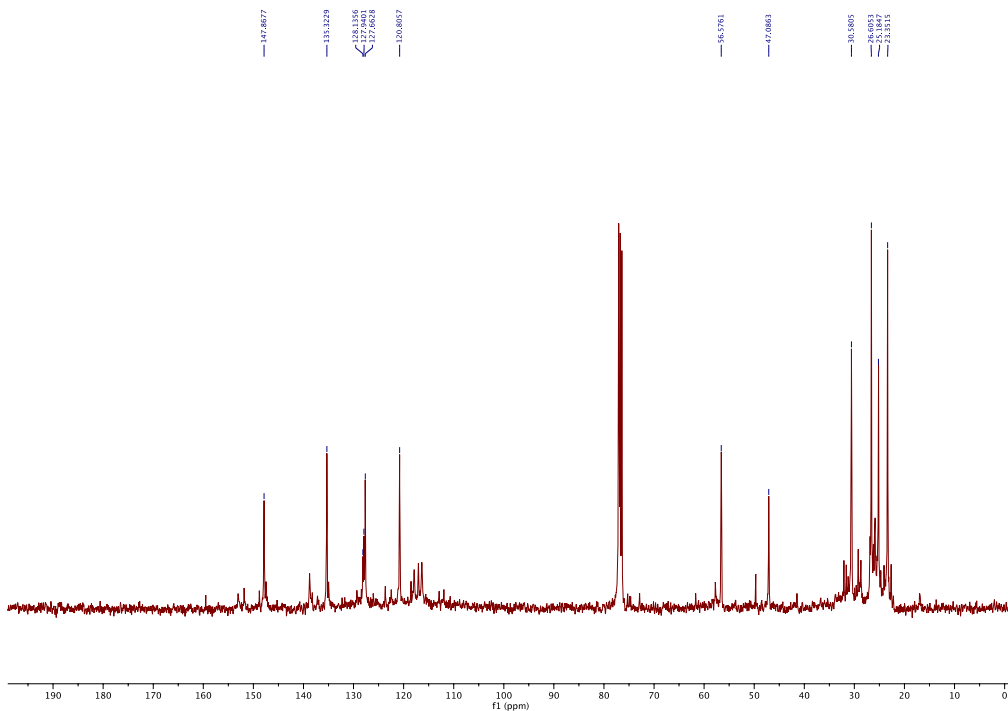
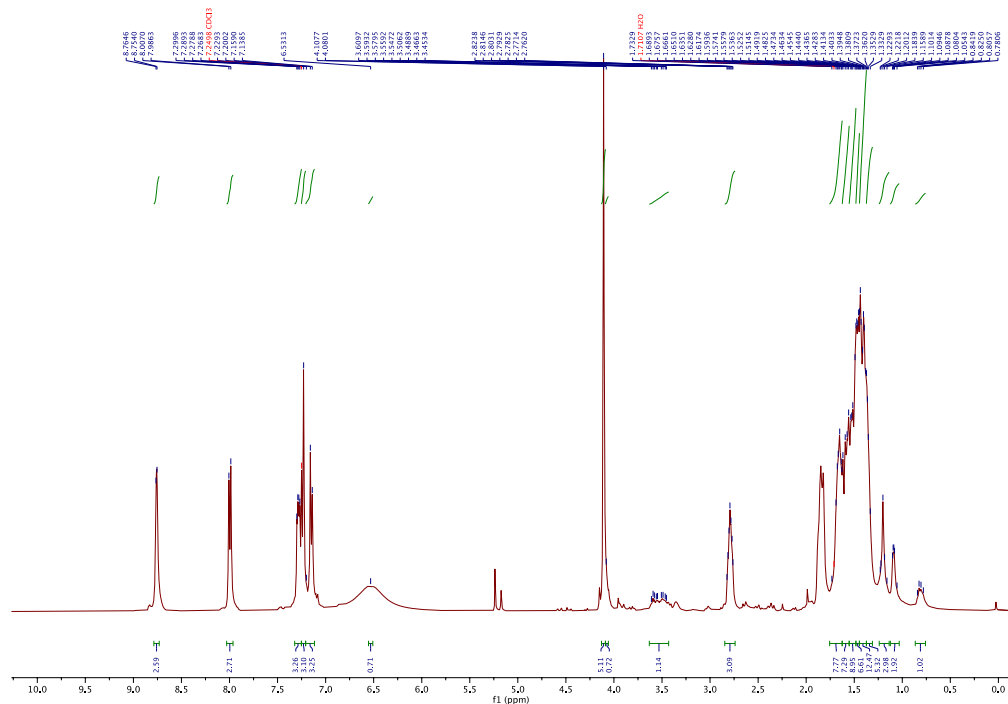
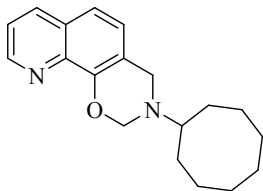
Composto 37.



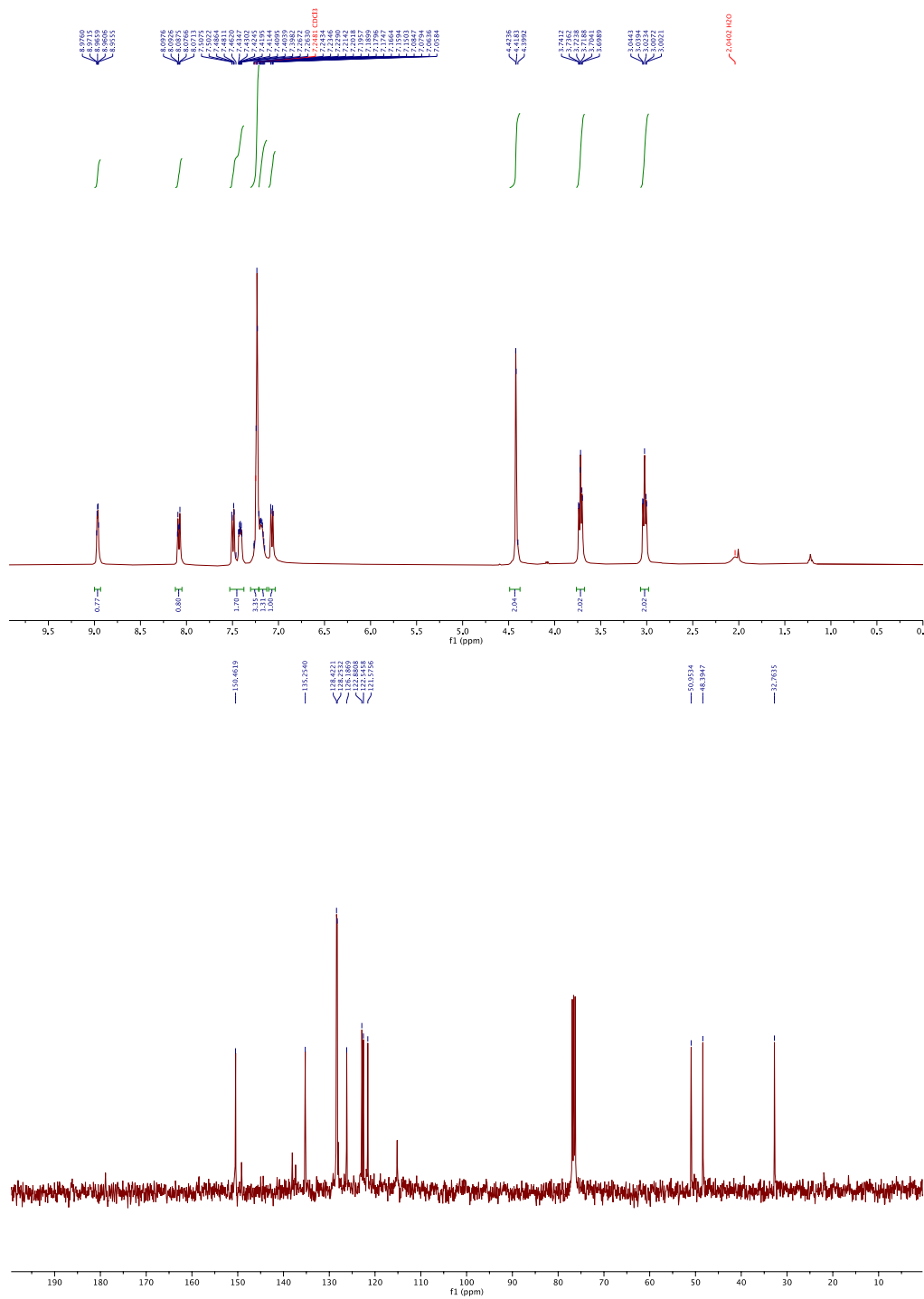
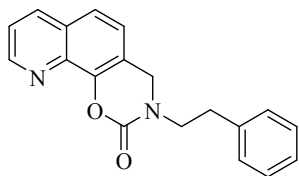
Composto 38.



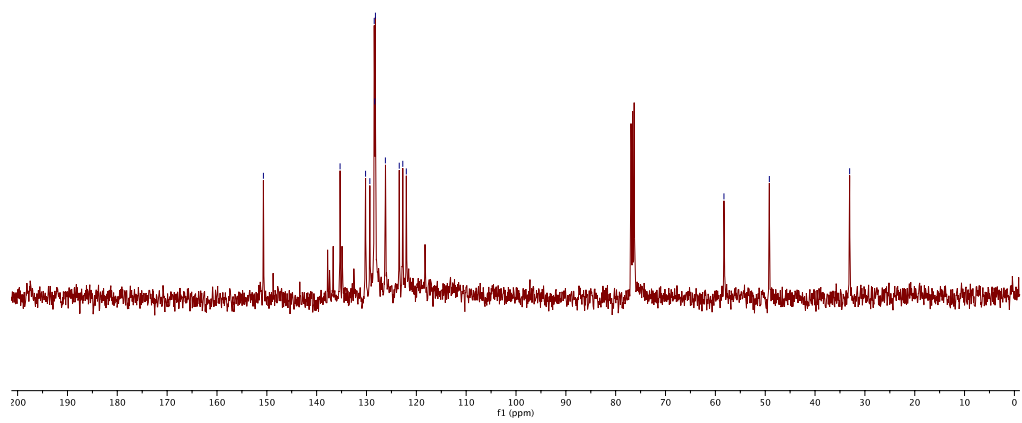
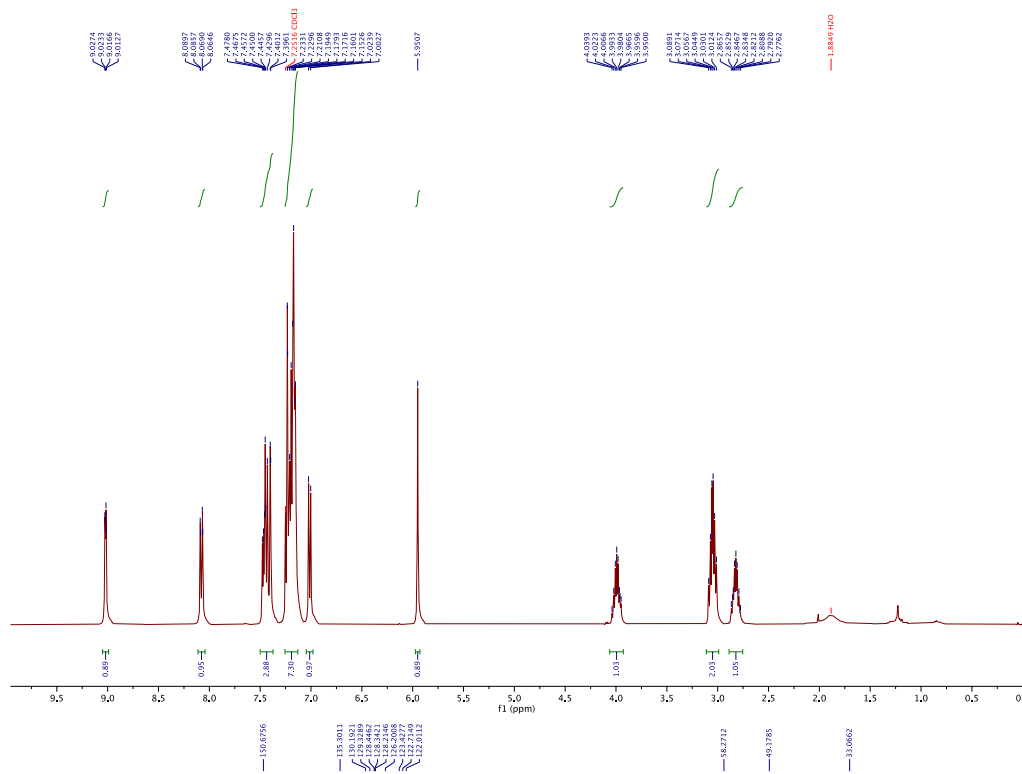
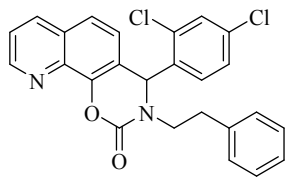
Composto 39.



Composto 42.



Composto 43.



REFERENCES

1. Bhakta, S.; Scalacci, N.; Maitra, A.; Brown, A. K.; Dasugari, S.; Evangelopoulos, D.; McHugh, T. D.; Mortazavi, P. N.; Twist, A.; Petricci, E.; Manetti, F.; Castagnolo, D. Design and synthesis of 1-((1,5-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-*1H*-pyrrol-3-yl)methyl)-4-methylpiperazine (BM212) and *N*-adamantan-2-yl-*N'*-((*E*)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dienyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (SQ109) pyrrole hybrid derivatives: discovery of potent antitubercular agents effective against multidrug-resistant *Mycobacteria*. *J. Med. Chem.* **2016**, *59*, 2780-2793.
2. Badolato, M.; Carullo, G.; Perri, M.; Cione, E.; Manetti, F.; Di Gioia, M. L.; Brizzi, A.; Caroleo, M. C.; Aiello, F. Quercetin/oleic acid-based G-protein-coupled receptor 40 ligands as new insulin secretion modulators. *Future Med. Chem.* **2017**, *9*, 1873-1885.
3. Manetti, F.; Stecca, B.; Santini, R.; Maresca, L.; Giannini, G.; Taddei, M.; Petricci, E. Pharmacophore-based virtual screening for identification of negative modulators of GII1 as potential anticancer agents. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *11*, 832-838.
4. Asinex Corporation, www.asinex.com.
5. AKos Consulting & Solutions GmbH, <http://www.akosgmbh.de>.
6. Pandolfi, S.; Montagnani, V.; Lapucci, A.; Stecca, B. HEDGEHOG/GLI-E2F1 axis modulates iASPP expression and function and regulates melanoma cell growth. *Cell Death Differ.* **2015**, *22*, 2006-2019.
7. Pietrobono, S.; Santini, R.; Gagliardi, S.; Dapporto, F.; Colecchia, D.; Chiariello, M.; Leone, C.; Valoti, M.; Manetti, F.; Petricci, E.; Taddei, M.; Stecca, B. Targeted inhibition of Hedgehog-GLI signaling by novel acylguanidine derivatives inhibits melanoma cell growth by inducing replication stress and mitotic catastrophe. *Cell Death Dis.* **2018**, *9*, 142.