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Data Access Statement: The coordinates of the CysF X-ray crystal structures were deposited to PDB 8RA0. The AlphaFold structure of BhCysFE can be accessed at <https://www.alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/entry/A0A562R406> (AF-A0A562R406-F1-model_v4). Structures used for modeling and docking studies can be accessed from PDB 5BSM, 5BSR, 5WM3, 5IE3, 4FUT, 4GXR and 4GXQ. All proteins characterized in this study can be accessed from UniProt using the accession codes presented in Supplementary Tables 1–3 and their synthetic gene sequences are provided in Supplementary Data 1. The remaining data are available in the main text or the Supplementary Information. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to J.M.

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Supplementary Information

Cryptic Enzymatic Assembly of Peptides Armed with β -Lactone Warheads

Guangcai Xu, Daniele Torri, Sebastian Cuesta-Hoyos, Deepanjan Panda, Luke R. L. Yates, Rémi Zallot, Kehan Bian, Dongxu Jia, Andreea I. Iorgu, Colin Levy, Sarah A. Shepherd and Jason Micklefield*

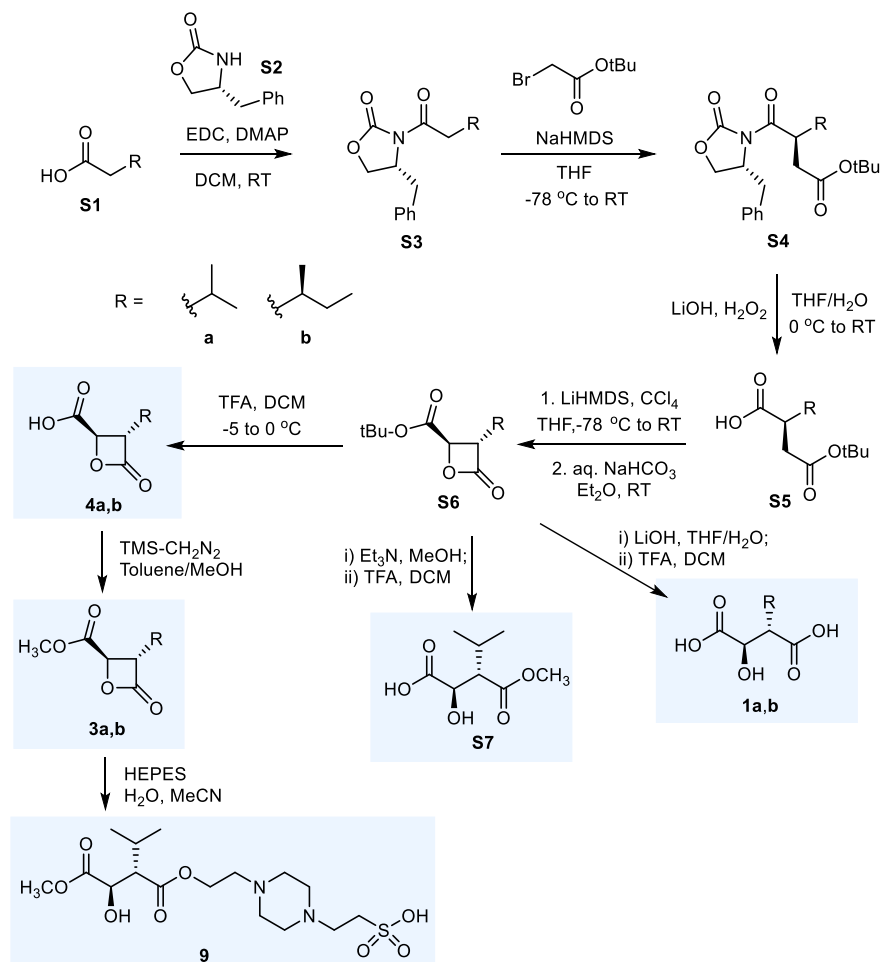
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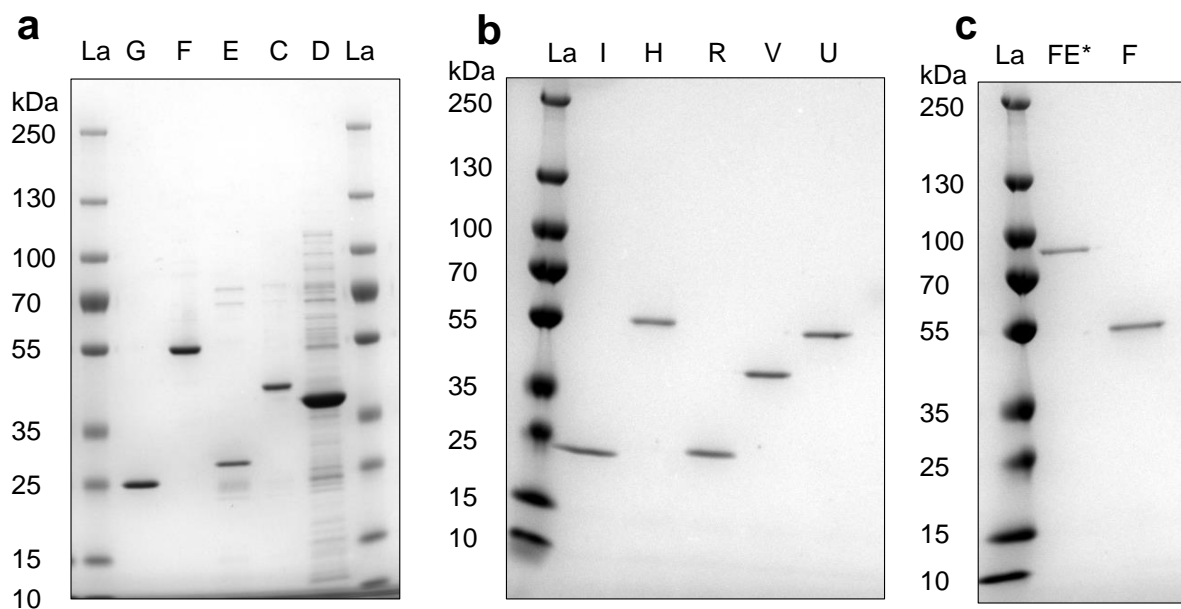
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1. Supplementary figures and tables



Supplementary Fig. 1. Synthesis of standards **1a/b**, **3a/b**, **4a/b**, **9**, and **S7** for the validation of β -lactone warhead assembly pathway. **1a** is also commercially available. For detailed synthesis procedure see method section 5 (synthesis of substrates and standards).



Supplementary Fig. 2. SDS-PAGE gel image of all purified enzymes in this study. (a) All purified enzyme in the Cys pathway. **(b)** All purified enzyme in the Bel pathway. **(c)** Comparison of fused-CysFE and CysF. La = protein ladder, G = CysG (26.5 kDa), F = CysF (54.3 kDa), E = CysE (30.5 kDa), C = CysC (43.0 kDa), D = CysD (37.9 kDa), I = BelI (25.3 kDa), H = BelH (54.3 kDa), R = BelR (29.3 kDa), V = BelV (43.1 kDa), U = BelU (47.4 kDa), FE* = *Bh*CysFE fusion (84.4 kDa).

Supplementary Table 1. Cys pathway^[1] proteins

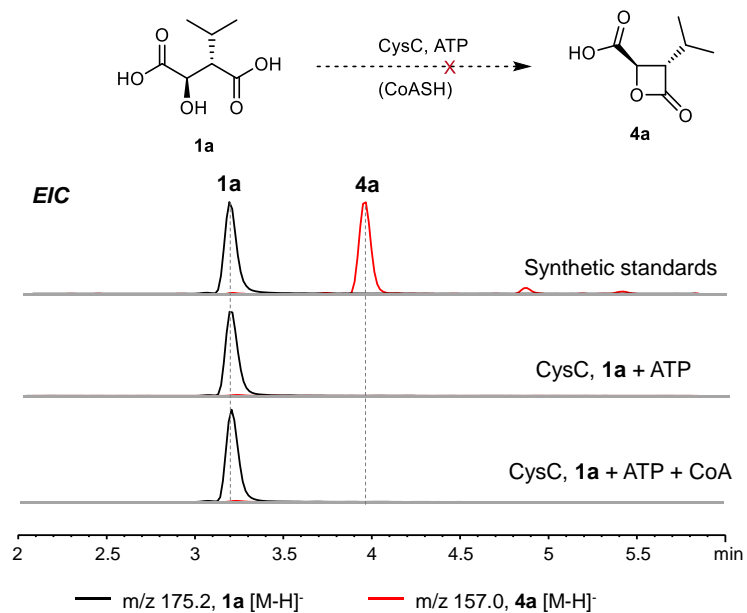
| Name | AA ^[2] | Function ^[4] | Expression vector | Uniprot ID | His-tag terminal | MW (kDa) ^[3] |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| CysG | 228 | Methyltransferase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R556 | C | 26.53 |
| CysF | 491 | Lactone synthetase | pET-21a(+) | A0A1W6R555 | C | 54.28 |
| CysE | 271 | Hydrolase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R564 | C | 30.48 |
| CysC | 392 | Amide bond synthetase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R559 | C | 43.04 |
| CysD | 333 | ATP-grasp ligase | pET-21a(+) | A0A1W6R558 | C | 37.87 |

[1] Organism: *Kitasatospora cystarginea* NRRL B16505. [2] Amino acid length of the original protein without His-tag. [3] Molecular weight of the protein with His-tag. [4] Functions determined in this study.

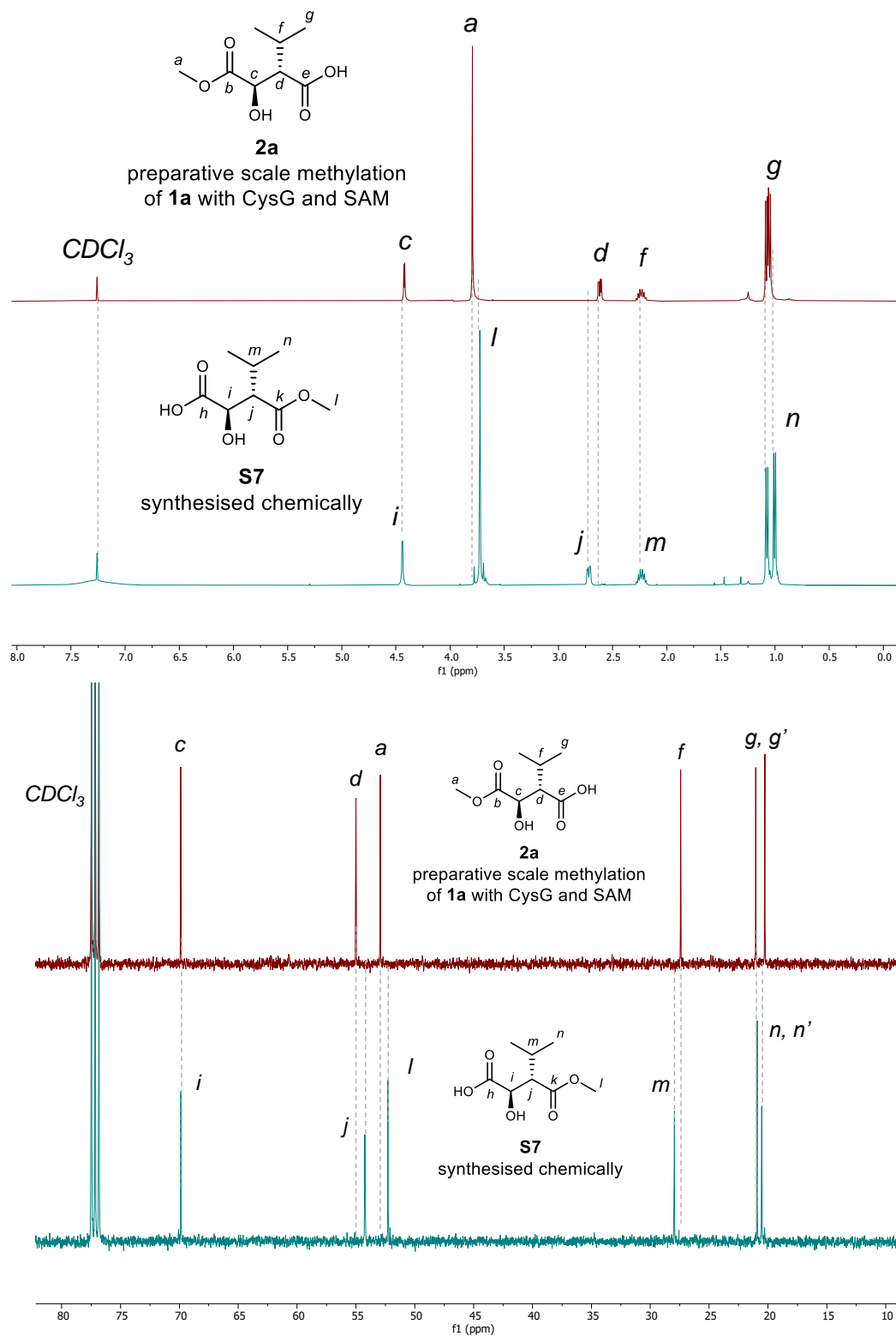
Supplementary Table 2. Bel pathway^[1] proteins

| Name | AA ^[2] | Function ^[4] | Expression vector | UniProt ID | His-tag terminal | MW (kDa) ^[3] |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| BelI | 228 | Methyltransferase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R583 | C | 25.32 |
| BelH | 491 | Lactone synthetase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R584 | N | 54.26 |
| BelR | 269 | Hydrolase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R592 | C | 29.27 |
| BelV | 389 | Amide bond synthetase | pET-28a(+) | A0A1W6R589 | C | 43.10 |
| BelU | 420 | ATP-grasp ligase | pET-21a(+) | A0A1W6R594 | C | 47.43 |

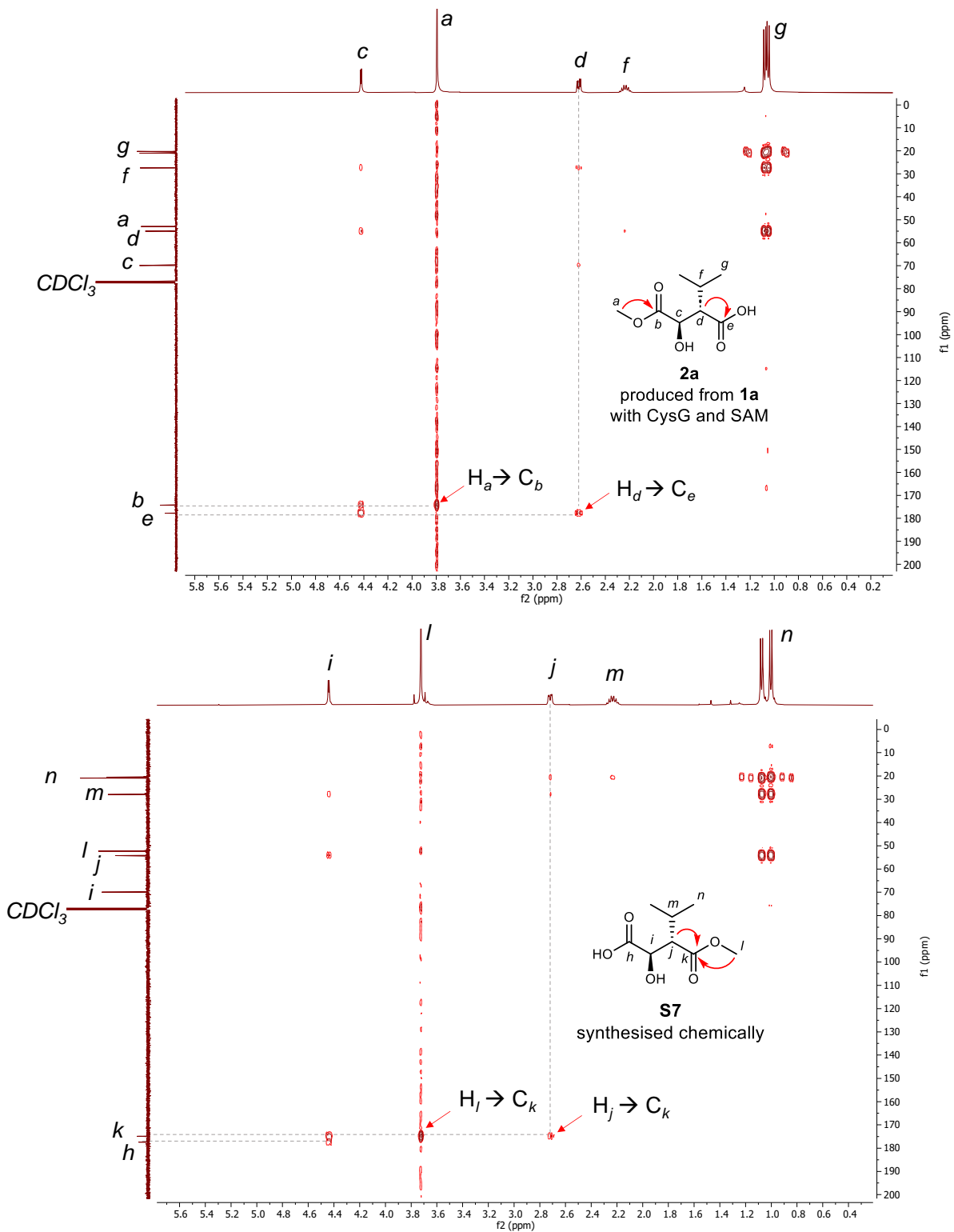
[1] Organism: *Streptomyces* sp. UCK 14. [2] Amino acid length of the original protein without His-tag. [3] Molecular weight of the protein with His-tag. [4] Functions determined in this study.



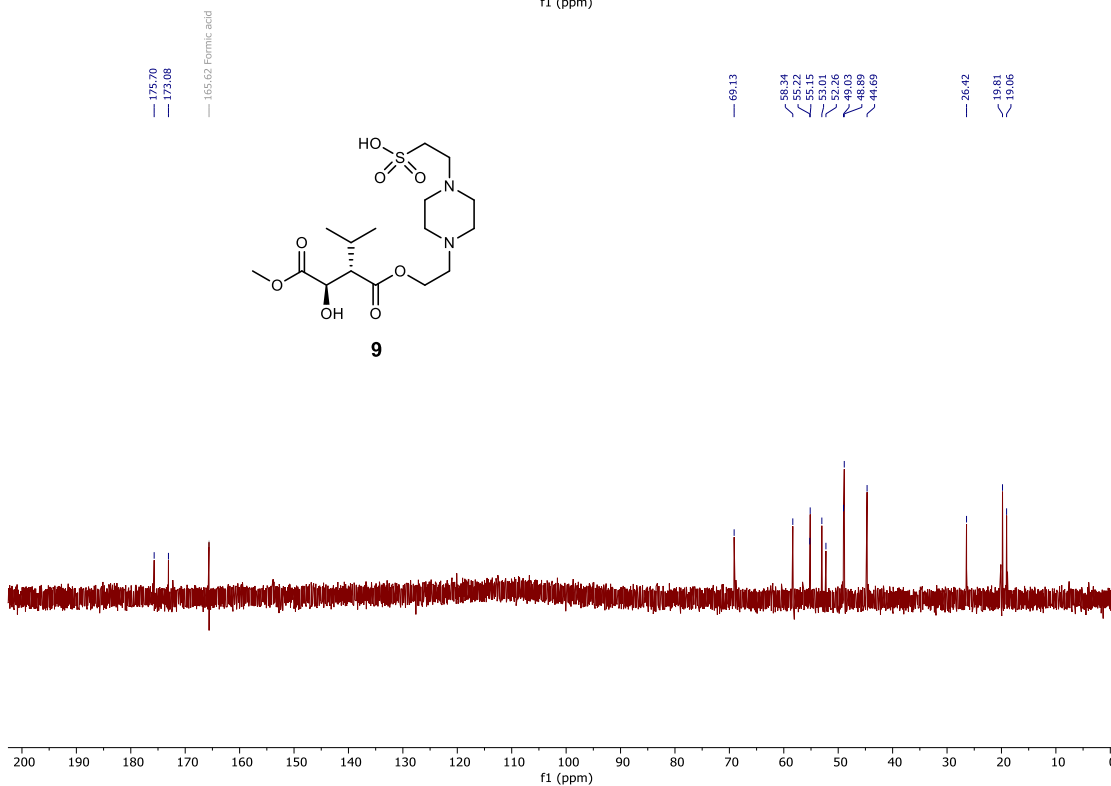
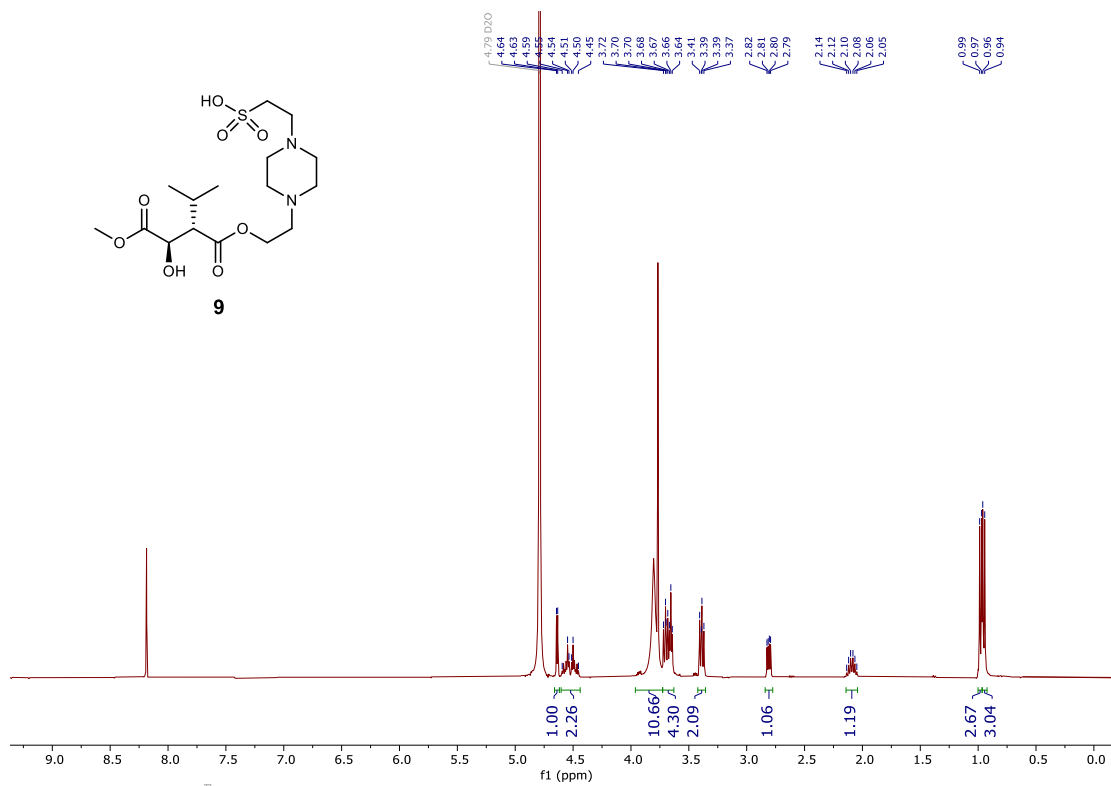
Supplementary Fig. 3. Testing the proposed lactonisation activity of CysC. For reaction conditions see experimental method (enzyme assays).



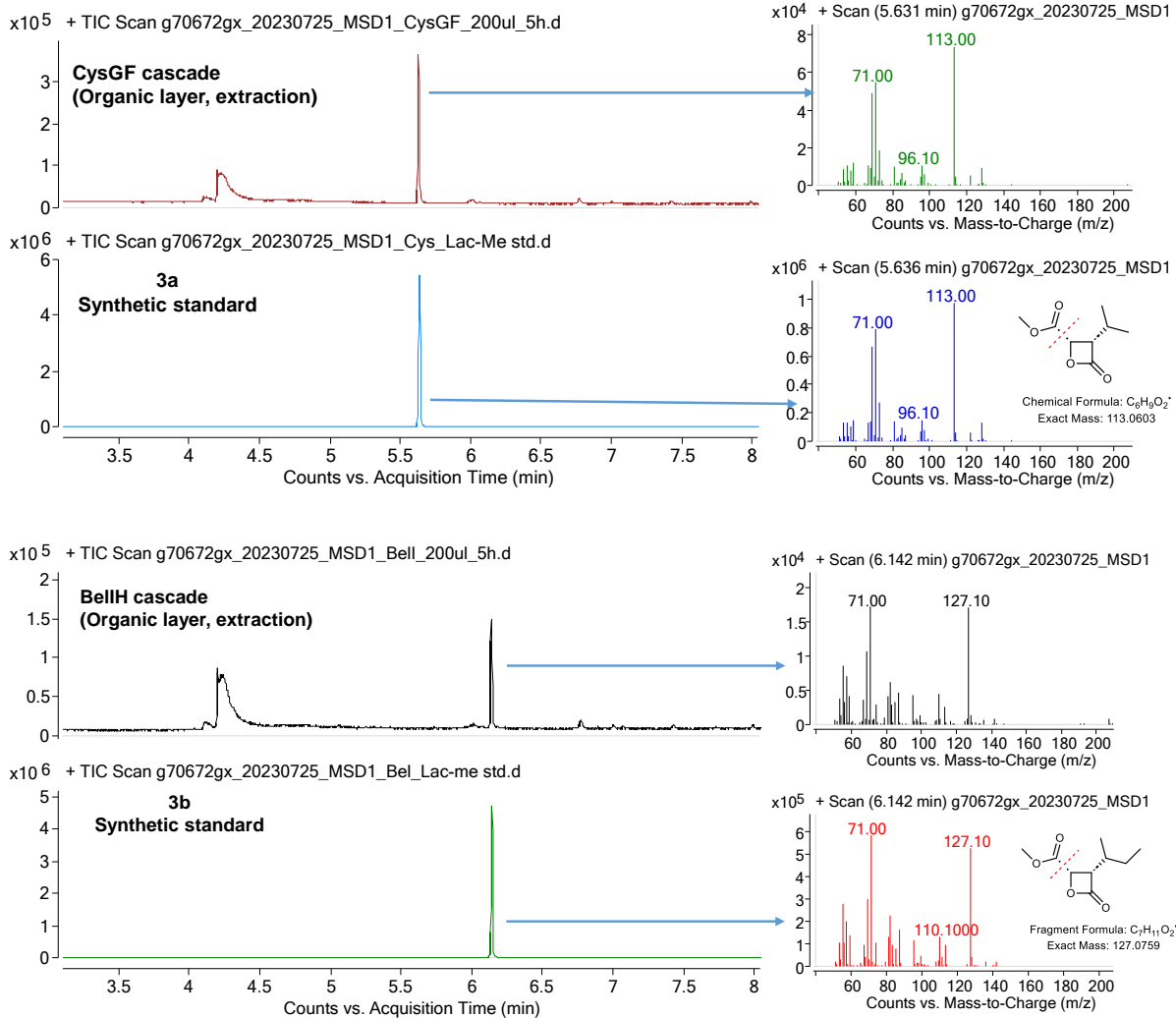
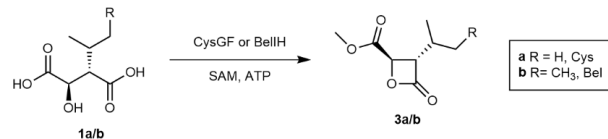
Supplementary Fig. 4. Comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra between enzymatic (CysG) product **2a** and the synthetic standard **S7**.



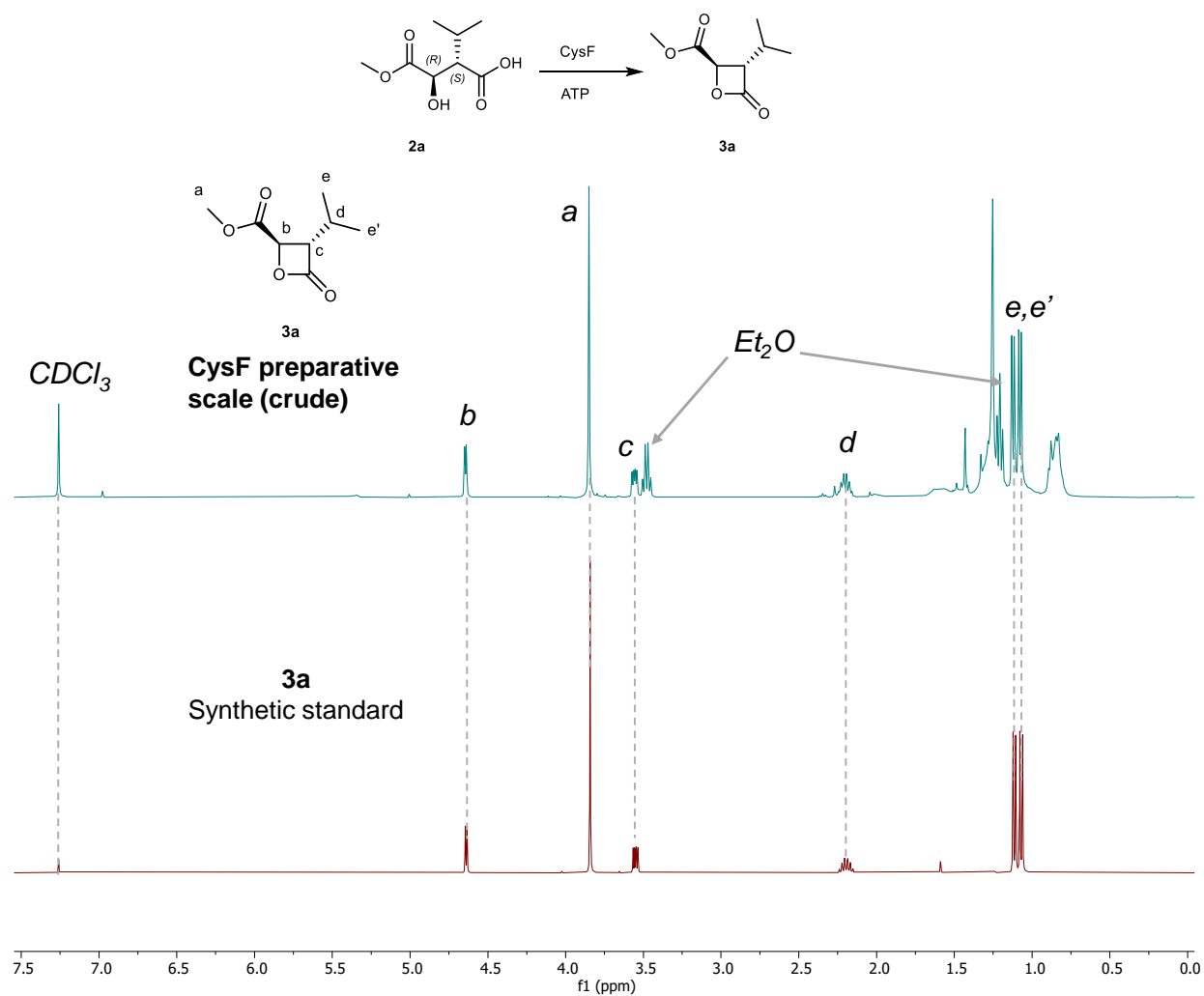
Supplementary Fig. 5. Comparison of the HMBC spectra of **2a** (enzymatic, top) and **S7** (synthetic standard, bottom).



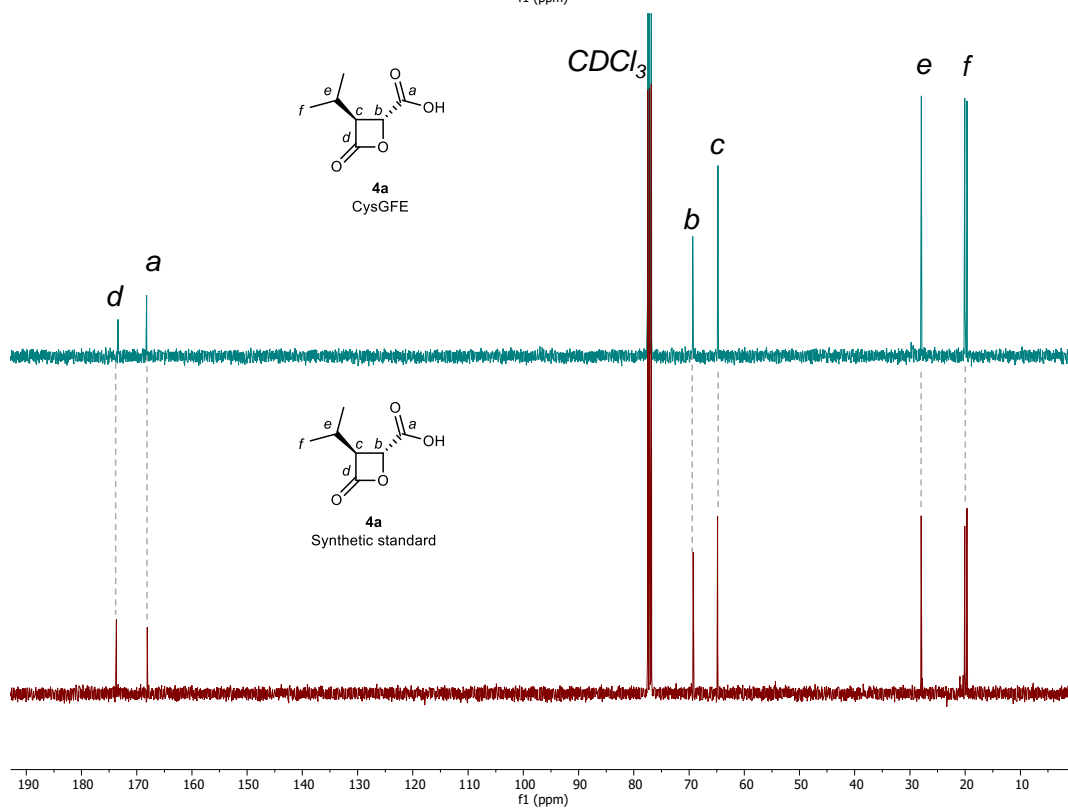
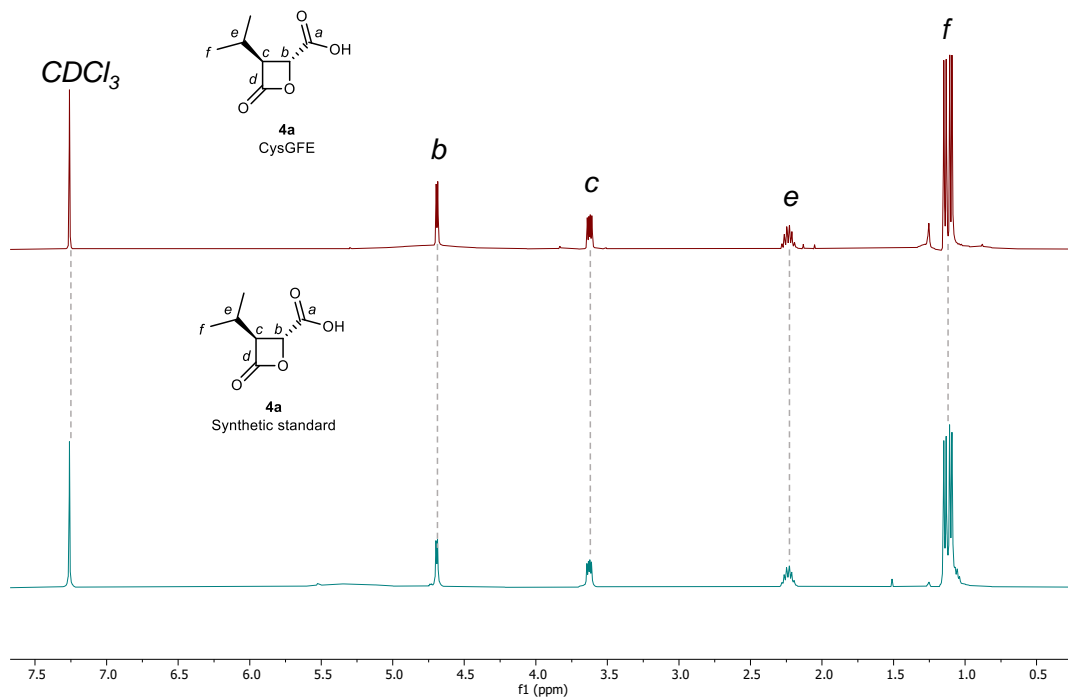
Supplementary Fig. 6. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the HEPES buffer adduct **9**.



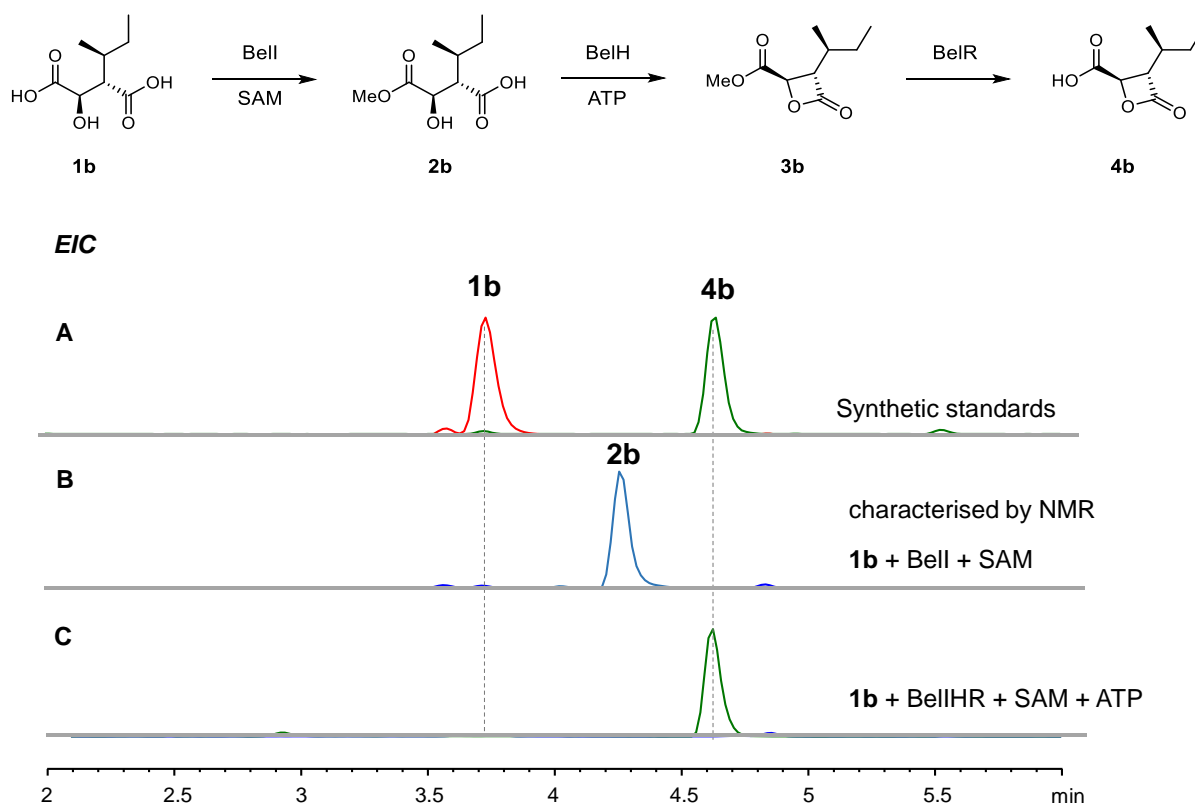
Supplementary Fig. 7. GC-MS analysis of the CysGF and BellH cascade confirmed the formation of **3a/b**.



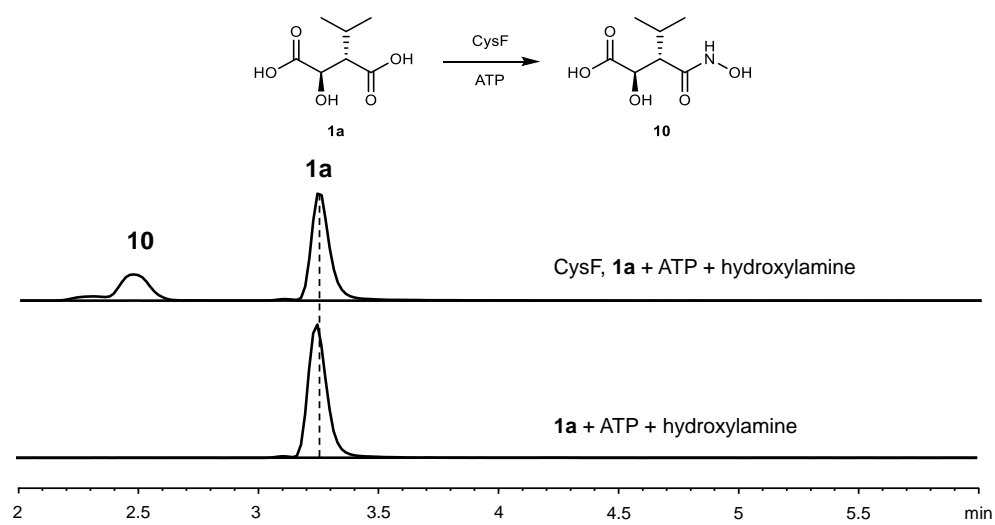
Supplementary Fig. 8. Comparison of the ^1H NMR of **3a** prepared enzymatically (crude product) using CysF, and chemically by methylation of **4a** using TMS-diazomethane (column purified).



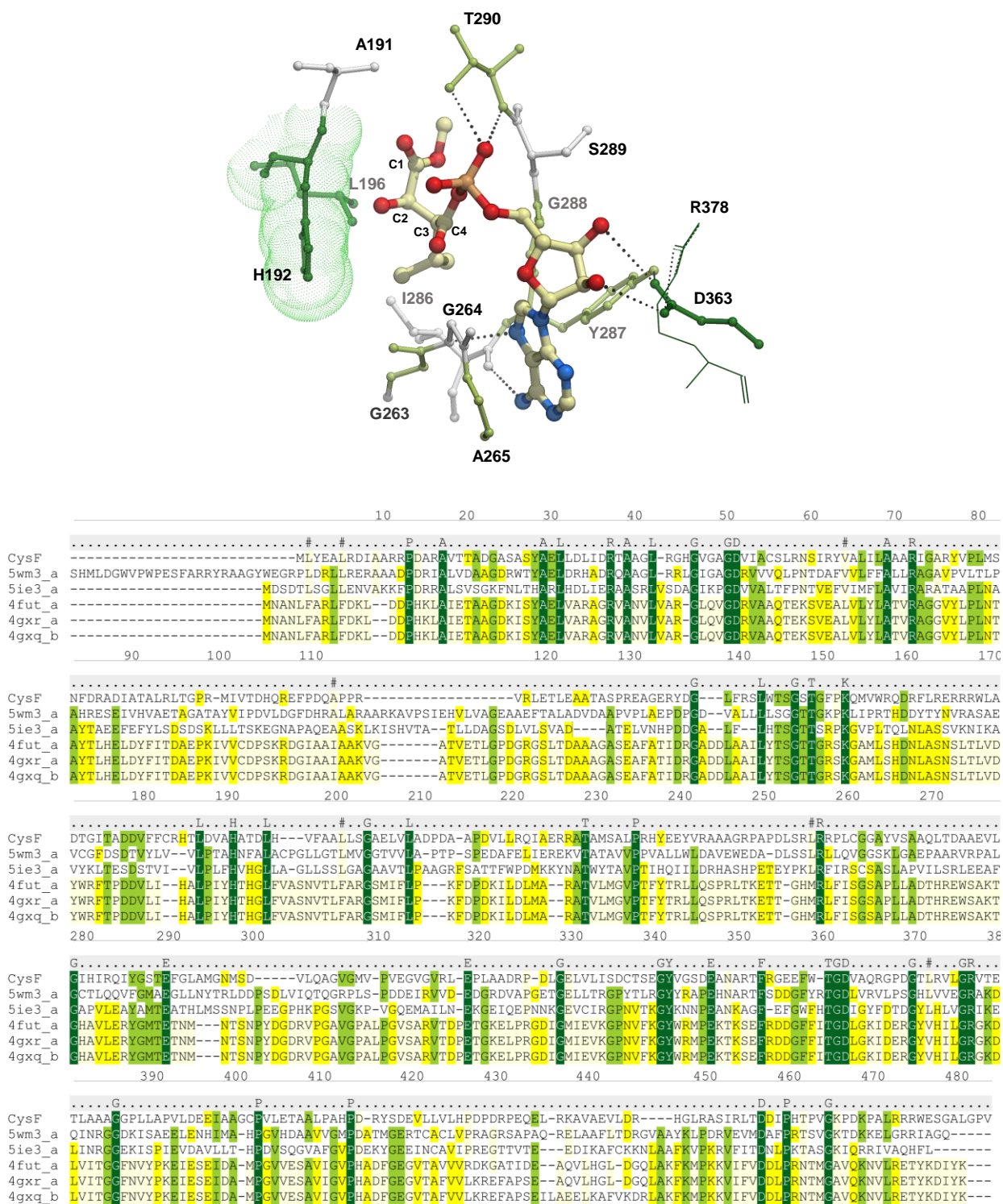
Supplementary Fig. 9. Comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR of **4a** between enzymatically (CysGFE cascade) produced and chemically synthesised.



Supplementary Fig. 10. Bel pathway lactone formation LC-MS assay. See experimental information (enzyme assay) for experimental details.

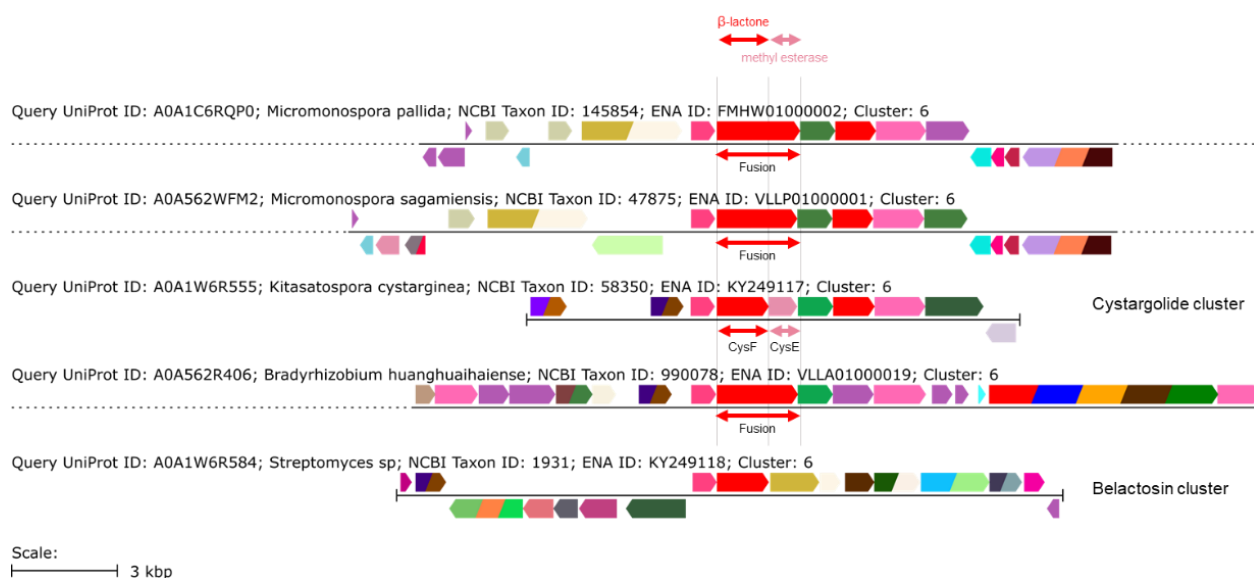


Supplementary Fig. 11. CysF catalysed reaction of hydroxylamine with **1a**.



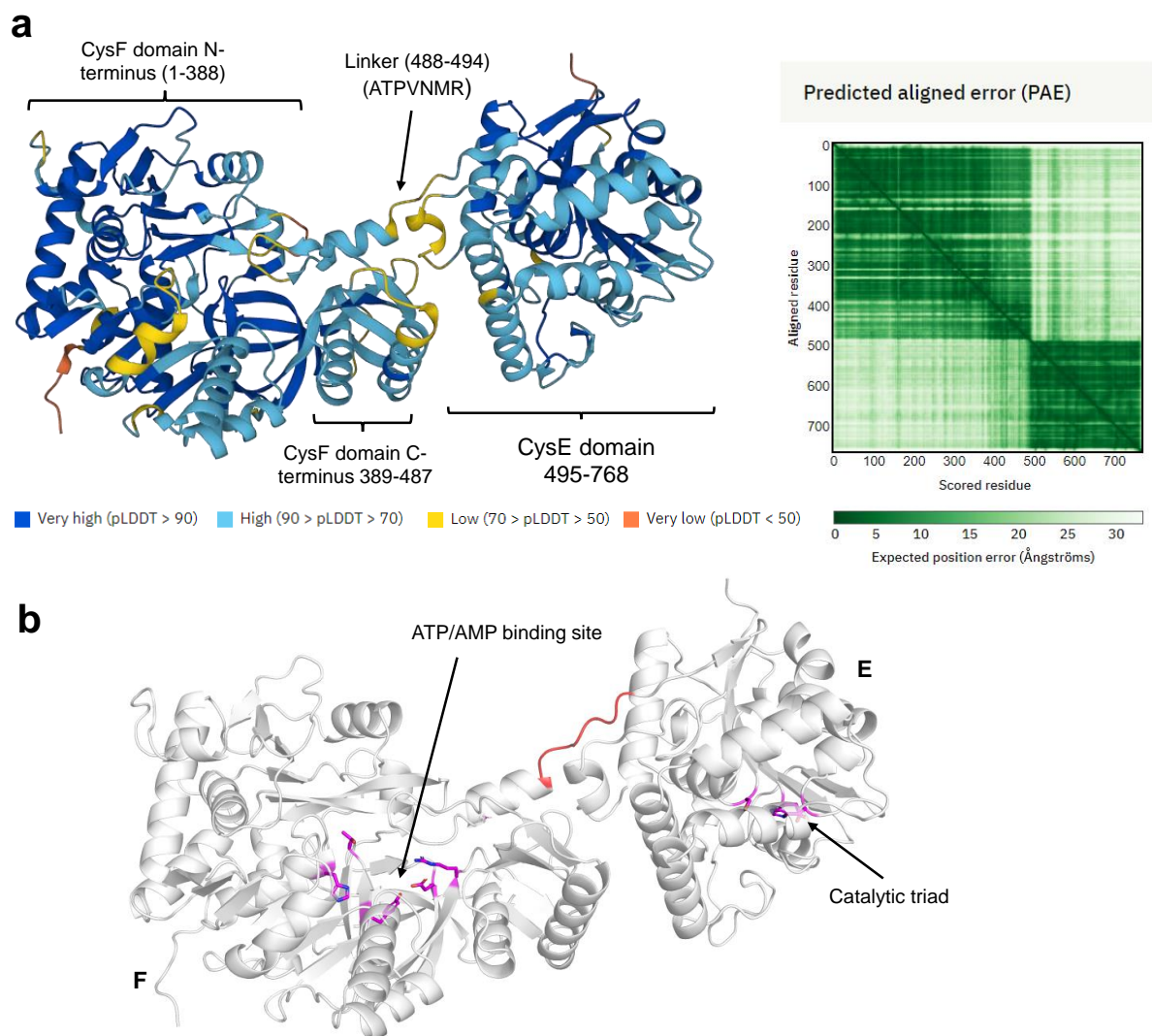
Supplementary Fig. 12. *In silico* docking of **2a**-AMP in the crystal structural of CysF and sequence alignment of CysF with other adenylate-forming enzymes. Pairwise levels of sequence identities between CysF and the related adenylate-forming enzymes (5IE3, 4GXR, 5WM3, 4GXQ & 4FUT)^{39–43} are between 18 – 30% and the key residues involved in the binding of AMP are highly conserved (T290, D363, R378). The docked conformation of **2a**-AMP suggests H192

may perform the role of a general base during β -lactone formation. The close proximity of the C1-methyl ester to the phosphoryl group, of the docked **2a**-AMP, further underscores the potential for electrostatic repulsion if the C1-carboxylate group was not methylated. Polyethylene glycol (PEG4) is observed to occupy a region of the putative active site in the crystal structure of CysF, which is likely to be an artifact of the crystallisation process. Additional electron density is present in the crystal structure which is consistent with carboxylation resulting in an N-terminal carbamate stabilised by interactions to R131. Carboxylation is suggested to be a common, spontaneous and reversible post translation modification.^{S1} Given the CysF N-terminus is not located near the active site, it is unlikely that this modification has any effect on the catalytic mechanism of the enzyme.

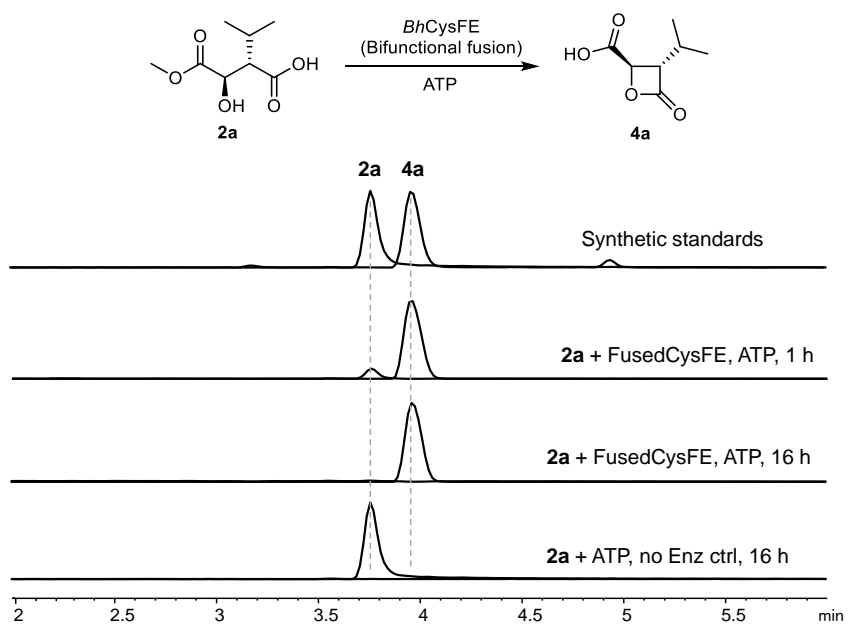


| Name ^[1] | AA ^[2] | Organism | UniProt ID | MW ^[3] (kDa) |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Bh</i> CysFE | 768 | <i>Bradyrhizobium huanghuaihaiense</i> | A0A562R406 | 84.3 |
| <i>Ms</i> CysFE | 762 | <i>Micromonospora sagamiensis</i> | A0A562WFM2 | 83.3 |
| <i>Mp</i> CysFE | 788 | <i>Micromonospora pallida</i> | A0A1C6RQP0 | 85.8 |

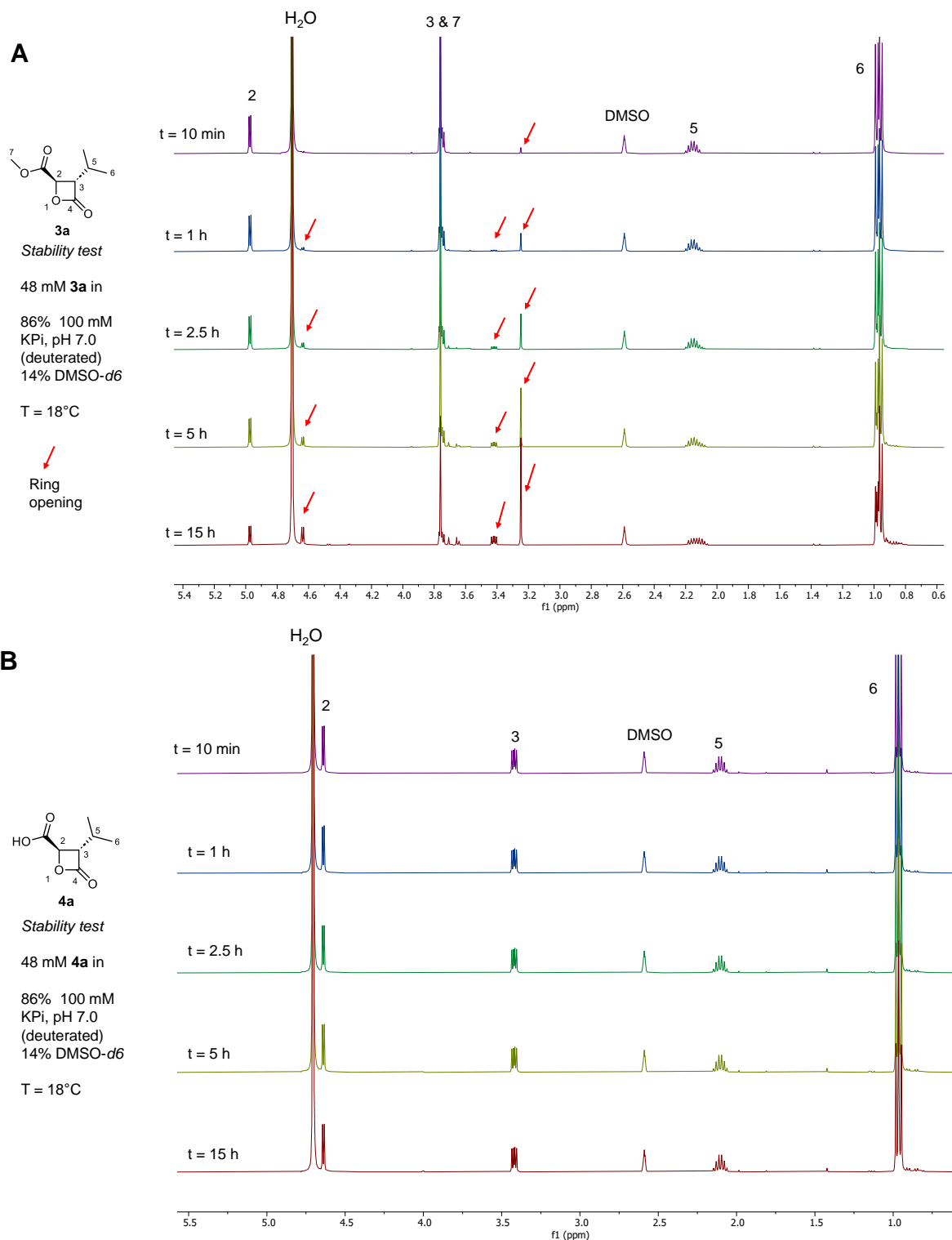
Supplementary Fig. 13. Examples of BGCs that contain fused-CysFE in nature. [1] bifunctional lactone synthetase-hydrolase. [2]: Amino acid length of the original protein without His-tag. [3] Molecular weight of the protein with His-tag.



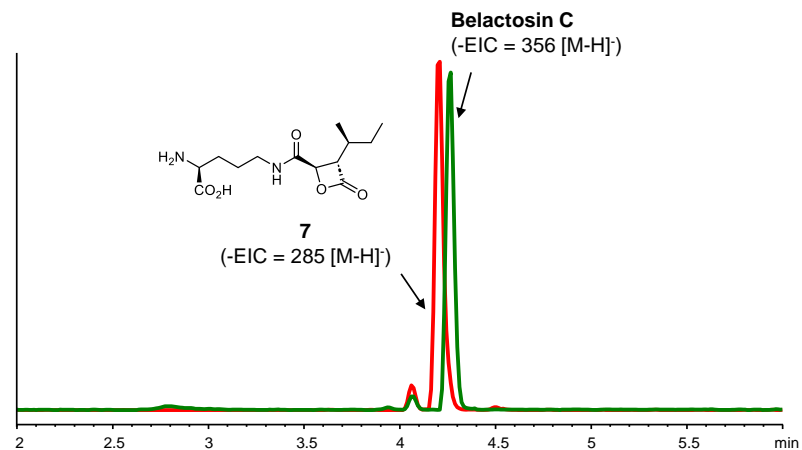
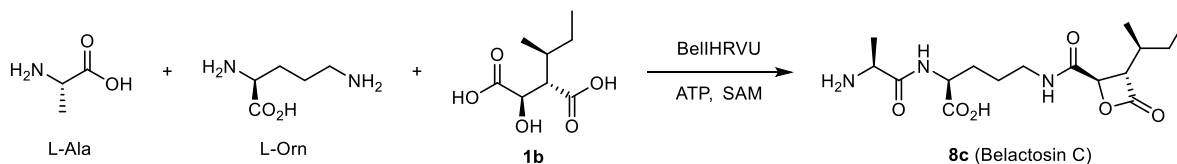
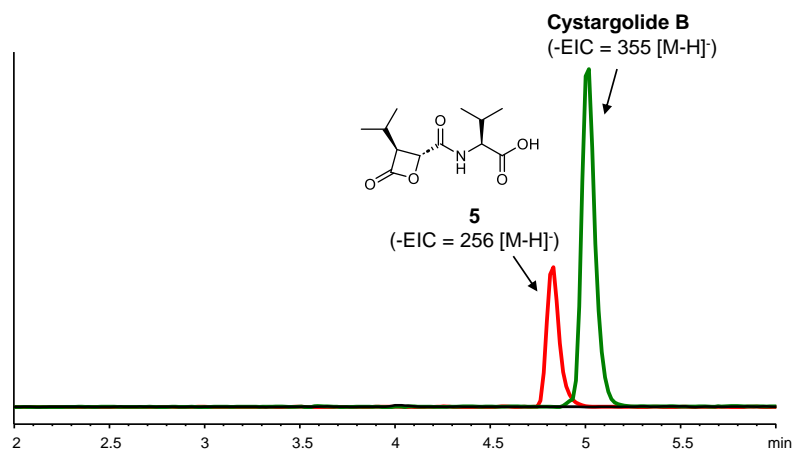
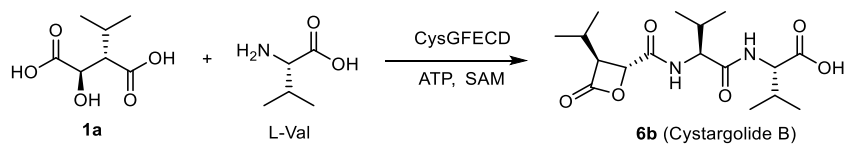
Supplementary Fig. 14. AlphaFold2 model of bifunctional enzyme *BhCysFE*. (a) Structural prediction revealed two domains similar to CysF (aa. 1-487) and CysE (aa. 495-768), connected by a short linker (sequence ATPVNMR) colour coded showing regions with lower (orange) to higher accuracy (blue). (b) The position of the predicted active site residues of the F domain are highlighted in magenta based on sequence alignment and docking as described in supplementary fig. 12. The predicted catalytic triad present in the E domain Glu607, His739 and Ser582, which is highly conserved in hydrolase enzymes is also highlighted in magenta.



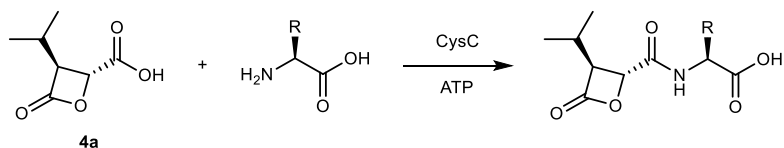
Supplementary Fig. 15. Assay of the bifunctional fusion *BhCysFE* with **2a** results in direct formation of **4a**.



Supplementary Fig. 16. Stability comparison of **3a** and **4a** in KPi buffer. 0.02 mmol of **3a/4a** was dissolved in 90 μ L of DMSO-*d*₆ and mixed with 540 μ L of 100 mM deuterated KPi buffer. The mixture was transferred to NMR tube immediately and ¹H-NMR was recorded at different time points (T = 18 °C). Hydrolysis product formation is indicated by the red arrows.



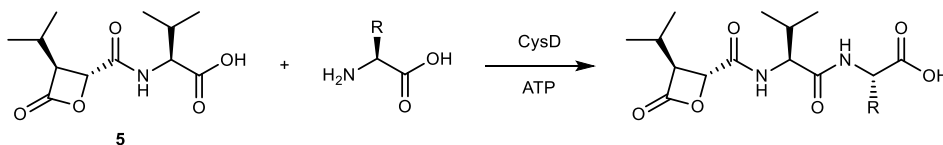
Supplementary Fig. 17. Reconstitution of the Cys and Bel pathway *in vitro*. LC-MS data. For detailed experimental procedure, see method section 3 (enzyme assay).



Accepted
(Product confirmed by LCMS) L-amino acids: Val, Ile, Leu, Met, Ala, Ser, Thr, Asn, Arg, His, Lys

Not accepted
(No product detected)

L-amino acids: Phe, Tyr, Trp, Cys, Gly, Pro, Gln, Asp, Glu
D-amino acids: Val

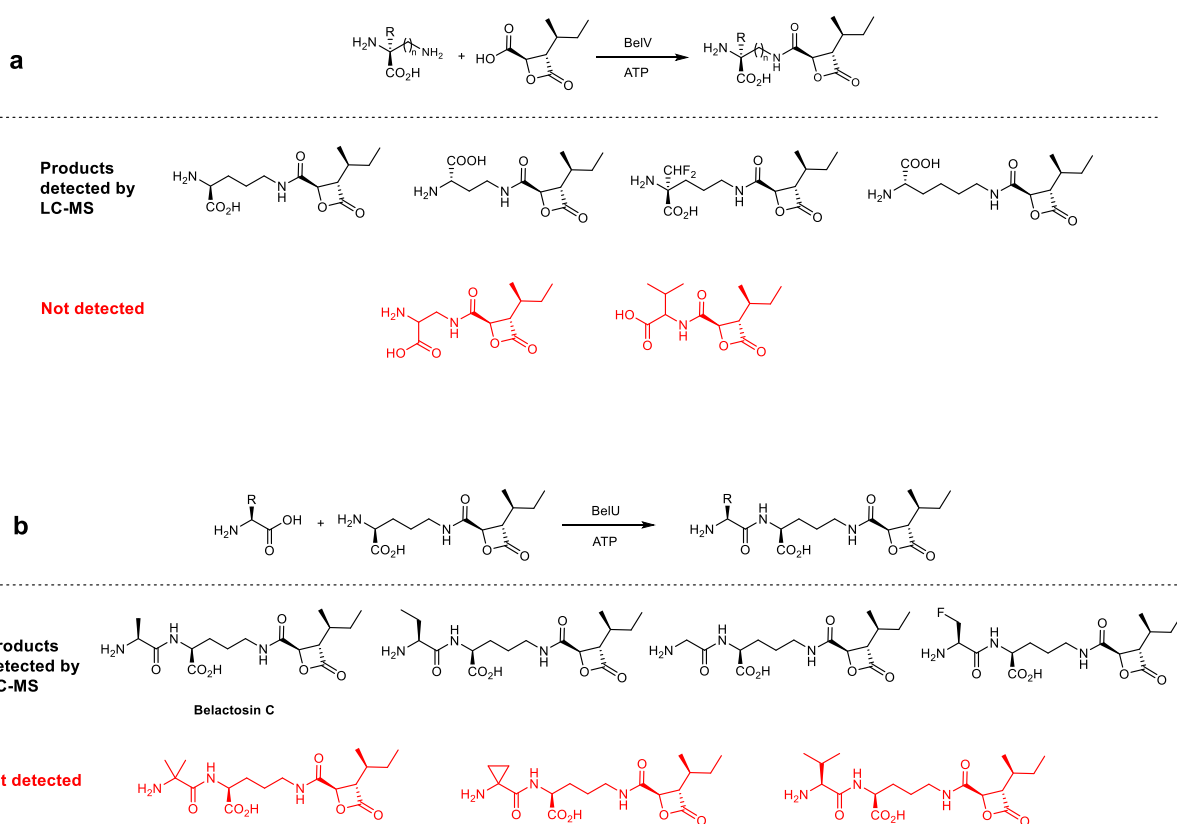


Accepted
(Product confirmed by LCMS) L-amino acids: Val, Ile, Leu, Met, Ala, Gly, Thr

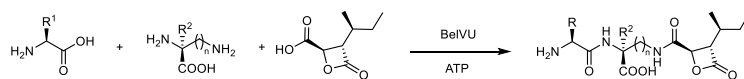
Not accepted
(No product detected)

L-amino acids: Phe, Tyr, Trp, Cys, Pro, Ser, Asn, Gln, Arg, His, Lys, Asp, Glu
D-amino acids: Val

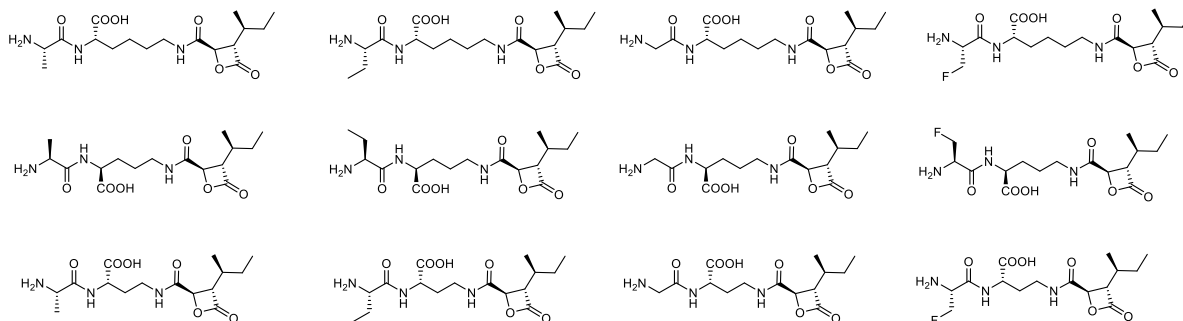
Supplementary Fig. 18. Ligation of natural donor carboxylic acid **4a** or **5** with acceptor proteinogenic amino acids catalysed by CysC or CysD. Reactions were carried out on analytical scale (see method section 3 enzyme assays). **Tandem mass (MS/MS) data of products are shown in section 9.**



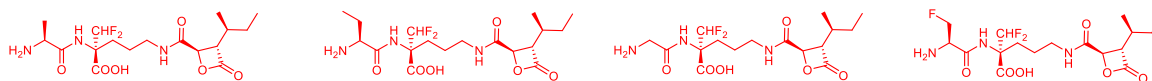
Supplementary Fig. 19. Amino acid substrates tested for BelV and BelU. The reaction was analysed by LC-MS. Black colour compounds have anticipated product mass detected, while the red colour indicated no product mass was detected. For assay conditions see methods section 3 (enzyme assays). **Tandem mass (MS/MS) data of products are shown in section 9.**



Product detected by LC-MS



Product not detected



Supplementary Fig. 20. BelVU enzyme cascade for the synthesis of belactosin analogues. The reaction was analysed by LC-MS. Black colour compounds have anticipated product mass detected, while the red colour product mass was not detected. Detailed experimental conditions see ‘enzyme assay’ section. **Tandem mass (MS/MS) data of products are shown in section 9.**

Supplementary Table 3. Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics. Statistics for the highest-resolution shell are shown in parentheses.

| | CysF |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wavelength | 0.9537 |
| Resolution range | 50.65 - 1.89 (1.94 - 1.89) |
| Space group | P 1 21 1 |
| Unit cell | 44.1 68.8 75.4 90 96.8 90 |
| Total reflections | 248200 (18265) |
| Unique reflections | 35831 (2630) |
| Multiplicity | 6.9 (6.9) |
| Completeness (%) | 99.46 (95.43) |
| Mean I/sigma(I) | 5.03 (0.60) |
| Wilson B-factor | 26.08 |
| R-merge | 0.2418 (2.187) |
| R-meas | 0.2616 (2.368) |
| R-pim | 0.099 (0.89) |
| CC1/2 | 0.99 (0.38) |
| CC* | 0.998 (0.74) |
| Reflections used in refinement | 35745 (2612) |
| Reflections used for R-free | 1763 (142) |
| R-work | 0.1928 (0.3186) |
| R-free | 0.2374 (0.3521) |
| Number of non-hydrogen atoms | 4033 |
| macromolecules | 3752 |
| ligands | 26 |
| solvent | 255 |
| Protein residues | 485 |
| RMS(bonds) | 0.008 |
| RMS(angles) | 0.85 |
| Ramachandran favored (%) | 97.30 |
| Ramachandran allowed (%) | 2.7 |
| Ramachandran outliers (%) | 0.00 |
| Rotamer outliers (%) | 0.26 |
| Clashscore | 2.38 |
| Average B-factor | 33.15 |
| macromolecules | 33.13 |
| ligands | 39.93 |
| solvent | 32.75 |

2. Materials and general methods

General information

Chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluorochem, Acros Organics, Fisher Scientific UK, Bachem, Alfa Aesar or Apollo Scientific and used without further purification unless otherwise stated. Molecular biology enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs unless otherwise stated. Codon optimised genes were synthesised by Twist Bioscience. Proteins were analysed by SDS-PAGE on precast gels (Invitrogen Novex™ WedgeWell™ 8-16% Tris-Glycine Gel). Low resolution LC-MS was performed on Agilent 1260 LC system fitted with Agilent 6130 Quadrupole MS. High resolution Mass spectrometry (LC-HRMS) and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) was recorded on Agilent 6560 Q-TOF + Agilent 1290 Infinity LC system. GC-MS was performed on Agilent GC 7890B coupled with 5975 Series MSD. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker machines.

Cloning

Synthetic genes for CysF, BelH, CysD and BelU were initially cloned into the pET28-a(+) plasmid (using *NdeI* and *XhoI* sites) with an N-terminal histidine tag sequence. However, N-terminal histidine tagged CysF produced insoluble protein. N-terminal histidine tagged CysD and BelU produced soluble expression but with no activity. CysF, CysD and BelU were therefore cloned into the pET21-a(+) plasmid (using *NdeI* and *XhoI* site) to insert a C-terminal histidine tag (Supplementary table 1-3). Synthetic genes for CysG, CysE, CysC, Bell, BelR, BelV and *BhCysFE* were inserted into the pET28-a(+) plasmid (using *NcoI* and *XhoI* site) carrying C-terminal histidine tag sequences (Supplementary table 1-2).

Protein expression general method

LB media (10 mL) with 50 µg/mL of kanamycin (pET28-a(+)) or 100 µg/ml ampicillin (pET21-a(+)) was inoculated with *E. coli* BL21(DE3) containing a plasmid and incubated for 18 hrs at 37 °C, 180 rpm. The resulting seed culture (8 mL) was then used to inoculate 800 mL of autoinduction 2YT broth (with trace elements from Formedium) containing 50 µg/mL of kanamycin (pET28-a(+)) or 100 µg/mL of ampicillin (pET21-a(+)). After incubation for 4 hrs at 37 °C, with shaking (180 rpm), the temperature was reduced to 20 °C and incubation was continued for a further 18 hrs (180 rpm). The cultures were then harvested by centrifugation (3000 × *g*, 4 °C, 10 min), cells were resuspended in 80 mL PBS, transferred into 2 × 50 mL falcon tubes, pelleted by centrifugation (3000 × *g*, 4 °C, 15 min) and then frozen until further usage. CysE (with C-terminal His-tag) produced mainly insoluble protein. A small amount of soluble CysE was, however, obtained (ca. 5 mg of protein from 1 L of cell culture) after the standard protein purification method described below. For the three fused bifunctional CysFE enzymes tested, only *BhCysFE* was produced in soluble form. *MsCysFE* afforded a very low level of expression, whilst *MpCysFE* showed good expression, but formed inclusion bodies.

Protein purification general method

Frozen cell pellets were thawed and resuspended in 40 mL lysis buffer (50 mM NaH₂PO₄, 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole, 10% glycerol, pH 7.8) and lysed by sonication (10 min, 50% pulse, 60% amplitude). The lysate was then cleared *via* centrifugation (23224 × g, 40 min, 4 °C), 1 mL of pre-equilibrated Ni-NTA resin was added and the tube incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The lysate with resin was loaded onto a gravity-flow column (Bio-Rad) and flowthrough was collected. The resin was washed with 10 mL of lysis buffer, followed by 2 × 10 mL of wash buffer (50 mM NaH₂PO₄, 300 mM NaCl, 40 mM imidazole, 10% glycerol, pH 7.8), and eluted with 10 mL of elution buffer (50 mM NaH₂PO₄, 300 mM NaCl, 100 mM imidazole, 10% glycerol, pH 7.8). The eluent from the column was monitored by Bio-Rad protein assay and elution continued until no further protein could be seen eluting. Sample of wash and elution fractions were analysed by SDS-PAGE. The wash and elution fractions that contained the protein of interest (with good purity) were combined and concentrated down to 2.5 mL using a centrifugal concentrator (Sartorius, Vivaspin 20 MWCO 30 kDa or 10 kDa depending on the size of the protein of interest). The 2.5 mL solution was applied to an equilibrated PD-10 desalting column (GE Healthcare, performed according to manufacturer's instructions). The column was eluted with 3.5 mL of protein storage buffer (20 mM NaH₂PO₄, 300 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, pH 7.8). If necessary, the resulting eluent was further concentrated to approximately 10 mg/mL or more. Protein was aliquoted into single use tubes, flash frozen using liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C.

Further purification for protein crystallisation

For the protein crystallisation, the plasmid encoding CysF gene was transformed with NiCo21(DE3) competent *E. coli* cells. Following transformation, glycerol stocks were prepared from the overnight cultures of a single colony (sequencing confirmed). The enzyme was expressed and first purified using Ni-NTA column according to the general procedure described above. The wash/eluted protein fraction with good purity (judged by SDS-PAGE) were combined and concentrated using a Vivaspin centrifugal concentrator (MWCO 30 kDa) up to 20 mg/mL. For further purification, approximately 0.6 mL of this concentrated protein solution was injected into a 2 mL loop attached to the ÄKTA pureTM protein purification system. The protein was passed down a Superdex[®] 200 Increase 10/300 GL gel filtration column which was pre-equilibrated with gel filtration buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10% glycerol, pH 7.5). CysF was eluted with gel filtration buffer and buffer exchanged to crystallisation buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 5% glycerol, pH 7.5) using a PD-10 desalting column (pre-equilibrated with crystallisation buffer). The resulting fraction was concentrated to 8-10 mg/mL using an Amicon Ultra 0.5 mL (30 kDa MWCO) concentrator.

Crystallogensis

Single crystals of CysF were prepared by mixing 200 nL of 8 mg/mL protein in crystallisation buffer with equal volumes of precipitant. All trials were conducted by sitting drop vapour diffusion and incubated at 4°C. Crystals of the apo protein were formed in 0.1 M sodium citrate pH 5.5, 20% w/v PEG 3000 (JCSG + Eco A2, Molecular Dimensions). Individual crystals were cryoprotected in mother liquor supplemented with 25% PEG 200 prior to flash cooling in liquid nitrogen. Data were collected from single crystals at Diamond Light Source (MX31850-i04) and

subsequently scaled and reduced with Xia2. Preliminary phasing was performed by molecular replacement in Phaser using a search model generated in AlphaFold. Iterative cycles of rebuilding and refinement were performed in COOT and Phenix.refine, respectively. Structure validation with MolProbity and PDBREDO were integrated into the iterative rebuild and refinement process. The resolution cut of the data was determined by paired refinement as implemented in PDBREDO. Complete data collection and refinement statistics can be found in the Supplementary Table 3. Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank under accession code 8RA0.

Bioinformatic analysis of CysF and the discovery of fused CysFE

Bioinformatic analysis was conducted on the Cys and Bel pathway enzymes using the Enzyme Function Initiative tools.^{S2} The analyses utilised databases UniProt 2022-04, InterPro 91, and corresponding ENA information. The identification of the fused CysFE configuration began with a BLAST query using Uniprot ID A0A1W6R555 for CysF to generate a Sequence Similarity Network (SSN) with default settings. An alignment score threshold of 106 was chosen to identify a sub-network containing both CysF and BelH as they are isofunctional in their enzymatic capabilities. The obtained SSN was further analysed with the Genome Neighbourhoods Tool, leading to the obtention of genome neighbourhood diagrams (Supplementary Fig. 13). Manual inspection of these diagrams revealed three genomes exhibiting a CysF and CysE fusion, indicating a bifunctional enzyme.

CysF closed conformation modelling

The crystal structure of CysF was used to search for homologues via Foldseek and Dali. Identified homologues were observed that displayed structures in both open and closed conformations. Crystal structures of 4-Coumarate CoA Ligase in both open and closed conformations (PDB-ID 5BSM open and PDB-ID 5BSR closed) were utilised as templates upon which to model a closed state of CysF. 4-Coumarate CoA Ligase structure revealed that domain closure is achieved through a hinge like rigid body reorganisation of the two domains. A closed model of CysF was therefore modelled by superposition of the N-terminal domain of CysF with the corresponding N-terminal domain of the template (RMSD of 1.86 Å after secondary structure alignment). Subsequently, the C-terminal domain of CysF was superimposed with the C-terminal domain of the template in the closed conformation (RMSD of 3.03 Å after secondary structure alignment) followed by an energy minimisation (Yasara).

CysF docking studies.

A model of **2a**-AMP was constructed and docked into the crystal structure of CysF. The pocket for docking was identified using ICM Pocket Finder as implemented in ICM-Pro.^{S3} The top hit from the docking as ranked by RTCNN score (-29.78) is presented in Supplementary fig. 12. The docked pose was compared to structures of similar enzymes (5WM3, 5IE3, 4FUT, 4GXR, & 4GXQ). A multiple sequence alignment of these enzymes is presented in Supplementary fig. 13.

Chromatography

LC-MS analysis was performed using a Kinetex XB-C18 Core Shell column (100 mm x 4.6 mm, 5 μ m, Phenomenex), flow = 1.0 mL/min, column oven temperature = 40 °C, mobile phase A = water with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid, mobile phase B = MeCN with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid, mobile phase gradient see table below.

Method 1:

| Time | A [%] | B [%] |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 0:00 | 95.0 | 5.0 |
| 6:00 | 5.0 | 95.0 |
| 7:00 | 5.0 | 95.0 |
| 7:50 | 95.0 | 5.0 |
| 11:00 | 95.0 | 5.0 |

Method 2:

| Time | A [%] | B [%] |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 0:00 | 95.0 | 5.0 |
| 15:00 | 5.0 | 95.0 |
| 16:00 | 5.0 | 95.0 |
| 16:50 | 95.0 | 5.0 |
| 20:00 | 95.0 | 5.0 |

GC-MS analysis was performed using a VF-5ht column (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.1 μ m, J&W), inlet temperature = 240 °C, split ratio = 100:1, inlet pressure = 7.6 psi, flow = 1 mL/min, carrier gas = helium, oven temperature programme see below.

| | Rate [°C/min] | Value [°C] | Hold Time [min] |
|---------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| Initial | | 50 | 2 |
| Ramp | 30 | 350 | 3 |

3. Enzyme assays

Enzyme assays for testing proposed pathway.³²

CysC was initially assayed for the lactonisation of **1a** to **4a** (Fig. 2a) in a reaction mixture (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a**, 5 mM ATP, with or without 5 mM CoASH, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysC in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1).

CysGE and BelIR were tested for methylation-lactonisation activity (**1a** to **4a**, Fig. 2a) in reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a**, 5 mM SAM, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysG/BelI and 20 μ M CysE/BelR in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reactions were quenched and analysed by LC-MS analysis (as above).

The proposed amide-bond forming activities of CysF and BelH (Fig 4a and 4d) were tested in reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **4a** (CysF) or **4b** (BelH), 5 mM H-Val-Val-OH (CysF) or Ala-Orn (**12**, BelH), 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂ and 20 μ M CysF or BelH in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8, with 300 mM NaCl and 10% v/v glycerol) incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reactions were quenched and subjected to LC-MS analysis (as above).

The proposed amide-bond forming activities of CysD and BelU (Fig 4a and 4d) were also tested in reactions (100 μ L) with 2 mM L-Val (for CysD) or 2 mM L-Orn and 2 mM L-Ala (for BelU), 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂ and 20 μ M CysD or BelU in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reactions were quenched and analysed (as above).

Enzyme assays for new pathways (Fig. 2 and 4)

CysG and BelI assay mixtures (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a** or **1b**, 5 mM SAM, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysG or BelI in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reactions were quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1).

CysGF and BelIH cascade reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a** or **1b**, 5 mM SAM, 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysG/BelI and 20 μ M CysF/BelH in 100 mM HEPES or KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1). For GC-MS analysis, the reaction was scaled up to 200 μ L, and reaction time was 5 h. The reaction was quenched by extracting with EtOAc (200 μ L). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and analysed by GC-MS.

CysFE and BelHR cascade reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **2a** or **2b**, 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysF or BelH and 20 μ M CysE or BelR in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1).

CysGFE and BelIHR cascade reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a** or **1b**, 5 mM SAM, 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysG or BelI, 20 μ M CysF or BelH and 20 μ M CysE or BelR in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1).

CysC and BelV assays (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **4a** or **4b**, 4 mM L-Val or L-Orn, 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysC or BelV in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 2 h. The reaction was quenched and analysed (see directly above).

CysD and BelU assays (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **5** or **7**, 4 mM L-Val or L-Ala, 5 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysD or BelU in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 2 h. The reaction was quenched (as above) subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1 for CysD and method 2 for BelU reactions). We noted that potassium ions serve as an activator for CysD catalysis and are essential for the activity of BelU.

CysCD and BelVU cascade reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **4a** or **4b**, 6 mM L-Val (CysC) or 4 mM L-Orn with 4 mM L-Ala (BelG), 10 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysC or BelV, and 20 μ M CysD or BelU in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched (as above) and subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1 for CysCD; method 2 for BelVU reactions).

Substrate scope analysis (Fig. 5)

CysGFECED enzyme cascades reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1a**, 3 mM SAM, 9 mM ATP, 6 mM L-Val (or other amino acids), 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M CysG, 20 μ M *BhCysFE*, 20 μ M CysC, and 20 μ M CysD in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 6 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1). Reaction yields (average of three replicates) were determined from calibration curves using synthetic product standards.

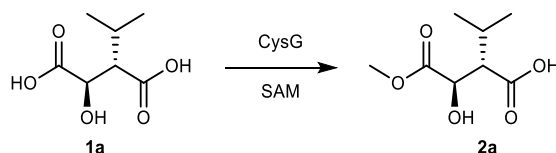
BelHRVU enzyme cascade reactions (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **1b**, 3 mM SAM, 9 mM ATP, 5 mM L-Orn (or other amino acids), 5 mM L-Ala (or other amino acids), 10 mM MgCl₂, 15 μ M BelI, 15 μ M BelH, 15 μ M BelR, 15 μ M BelV, and 15 μ M BelU in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 6 h. The reactions were quenched and analysed (as above).

CysC and BelV reactions mixture (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **4a** or **4b**, 3 mM amino acid, 3 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysC or BelV in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 5 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of 100 μ L MeCN and the precipitated protein was removed by centrifugation. The supernatant was diluted 10 times with MeCN/H₂O (50:50) and subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1). Product yields for CysC reactions (average of three replicates) were determined from calibration curves using synthetic product standards. The yield of **25** was determined by ¹⁹F-NMR.

CysD and BelU reaction mixture (100 μ L) containing 2 mM **5** or **7**, 3 mM amino acid, 3 mM ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 20 μ M CysD or BelU in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) were incubated at 25 °C for 5 h. The reaction was quenched as described above. The supernatant was diluted 10 times with MeCN/H₂O (50:50) and subjected to LC-MS analysis (method 1). Product yields for CysD reactions (average of three replicates) were determined using calibration curves. The yield of **36** was determined by ¹⁹F-NMR.

4. Preparative scale enzymatic reactions

Preparative scale CysG catalysed methylation of **1a**



A reaction mixture (20 mL) consisting of **1a** (35.2 mg, 10 mM), SAM (Sigma, $\geq 75\%$ purity, 12 mM), MgCl_2 (10 mM), purified CysG (5 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.5) was incubated at 30 $^\circ\text{C}$ with 200 rpm shaking for 18 h. A sample (50 μL) was taken for LC-MS analysis and indicated reaction completion before acidifying the reaction with 2 mL 1 M HCl to pH 2-3. The reaction was then extracted three times with EtOAc (20 mL, 10 mL, 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain 30.7 mg of **2a** as colourless oil in 81% yield.

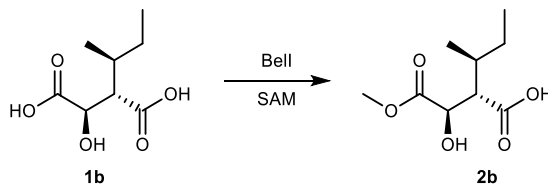
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.42 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.62 (dd, $J = 8.6, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.07 (dd, $J = 11.1, 6.7$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.8, 174.3, 69.9, 55.0, 52.9, 27.4, 21.0, 20.3.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5$: 213.0739 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 213.0732.

The NMR spectra agree with literature.^{S4}

Preparative scale Bell catalysed methylation of **1b**



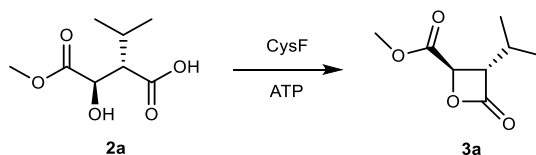
A reaction mixture (10 mL) consisting of **1b** (19 mg, 10 mM), SAM ($\geq 75\%$ purity, treated as 75%, 12 mM), MgCl_2 (10 mM), purified Bell (5 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.5) was incubated at 30 $^\circ\text{C}$ with 200 rpm shaking for 18 h. A sample (10 μL) was taken for LC-MS analysis and indicated reaction completion before acidifying the reaction with 2 mL 1 M HCl to pH 2-3. The reaction was then extracted with EtOAc three times (20 mL, 10 mL, 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain 15.6 mg **2b** as colourless oil in 76% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.42 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.77 (dd, $J = 8.3, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.33 – 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 178.3, 174.4, 69.5, 53.2, 53.0, 33.7, 27.6, 16.4, 11.4.

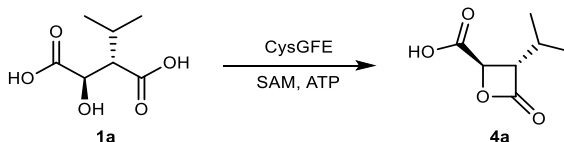
HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_5$: 227.0890 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 227.0889.

Preparative scale CysF catalysed lactonisation of **2a**



A reaction mixture (15 mL) consisting of **2a** (28.5 mg, 10 mM), ATP (50 mM), MgCl₂ (10 mM), purified CysF (10 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.5) was incubated at 30 °C with 200 rpm shaking for 18 h before extracting three times with Et₂O (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain 5 mg crude product. The crude product was subjected to ¹H-NMR analysis (see supplementary Fig. 8).

Preparative scale CysGFE enzymatic cascade for the synthesis of **4a**



A reaction mixture (25 mL) consisting of **1a** (22.0 mg, 5 mM), SAM (≥ 75% purity, 6 mM), ATP (10 mM), MgCl₂ (10 mM), purified CysG (20 μM) and purified *Bh*CysFE (20 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (containing 10% glycerol v/v, pH 7.5) was incubated at 25 °C with 200 rpm shaking for 24 h. A sample (50 μL) was taken for LC-MS analysis and indicated reaction completion before acidifying the reaction with 5 mL 1 M HCl to pH 2-3. The reaction was then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain 18.5 mg **4a** as light-yellow oil in 94% yield.

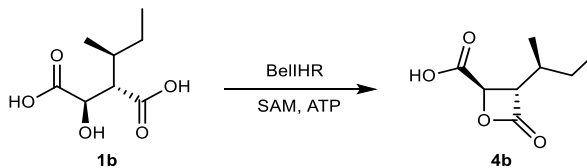
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.69 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.4, 168.2, 69.3, 64.8, 28.0, 20.1, 19.7.

The NMR spectra agree with chemically synthesised **4a**.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI-) calcd for C₇H₁₀O₄: 157.0506 [M-H]⁻, found 157.0508.

Preparative scale BelIHR enzymatic cascade for the synthesis of **4b**



A reaction mixture (25 mL) consisting of **1b** (23.7 mg, 5 mM), SAM (≥ 75% purity, 6 mM), ATP (10 mM), MgCl₂ (10 mM), purified BelI (20 μM), BelH (20 μM), and BelR (20 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.5) was incubated at 25 °C with 200 rpm shaking for 24 h. A sample (50 μL) was taken for LC-MS analysis and indicated reaction completion before acidifying the reaction with 5 mL 1 M HCl to pH 2-3. The reaction was then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain 18.7 mg **4b** as light-yellow oil in 87% yield.

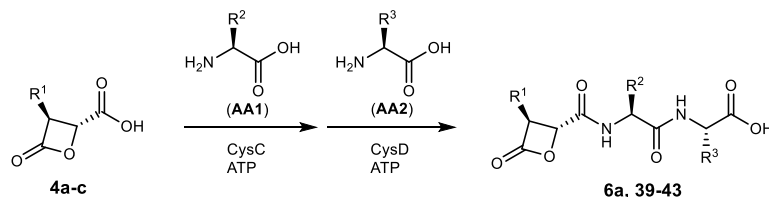
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.71 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (dd, $J = 7.9, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.72 – 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.39 – 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.75, 168.51, 68.79, 63.33, 33.83, 26.85, 16.37, 11.10.

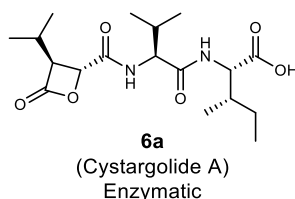
The NMR spectra agree with chemically synthesised **4b**.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4$: 171.0663 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 171.0667.

Preparative scale CysCD enzymatic cascade (stepwise)



General method: A reaction mixture (20 mL) consisting of **4a-c** (4 mM, 1.0 equiv, 0.08 mmol), **AA1** (4 mM, 1.0 equiv), ATP (4.4 mM, 1.1 equiv), MgCl_2 (10 mM), 100 mM NaCl, and purified CysC (20 μM) in 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7.8) was incubated at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$ with 200 rpm shaking. After 12 h of incubation, additional ATP (1.1 equiv, 0.88 mL of 100 mM stock solution in KPi buffer), **AA2** (1.25 equiv, 1.0 mL of 100 mM stock solution in KPi buffer), and purified CysD (20 μM) were then added. The reaction mixture was incubated at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$ with 200 rpm shaking for another 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ on ice before acidifying with 1.0 M HCl (1.8 mL) to pH 5-6. The resulting mixture was extracted with ice-cold EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). During extraction, the mixture was kept ice-cold to minimise acid catalysed β -lactone ring opening in water. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (20 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain crude product. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (DCM/MeOH with 0.1% AcOH, 1-4% MeOH) to obtain purified warhead-peptides.

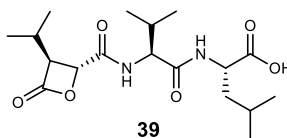


6a was obtained as white solid, 16 mg, 54% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.14 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.58 – 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.29 – 1.21 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 – 0.91 (m, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.5, 173.3, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.2, 60.2, 58.22, 38.3, 32.0, 28.8, 26.2, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.8, 16.0, 11.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 369.2031 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 369.2054.



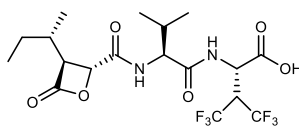
39
Enzymatic

39 was obtained as white solid, 8 mg, 27% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 1.72 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.65 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.91 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 175.7, 173.2, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.3, 60.2, 52.0, 41.6, 32.0, 28.8, 25.9, 23.4, 21.8, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 369.2031 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 369.2096.



40
Enzymatic

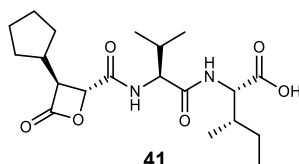
40 was obtained as a light yellow solid, 24 mg, 63% yield over two steps. Unlike other examples, the racemic amino acid (**AA2**, 2.5 equiv) was used in this case. We observed the formation of only one diastereomer, indicating a complete kinetic resolution by the enzyme.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 5.41 (s, 1H), 4.82 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.27 (m, 1H), 3.66 (dd, $J = 8.0, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.20 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.68 – 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.36 – 1.30 (m, 1H), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 – 0.91 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 173.5, 170.8, 170.5, 71.6, 63.8, 60.2, 34.8, 31.6, 27.7, 19.6, 18.6, 16.6, 11.3.

^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, MeOD) δ -63.6 (q, $J = 9.3$ Hz), -67.1 (q, $J = 8.9$ Hz).

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 477.1460 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 477.1453.



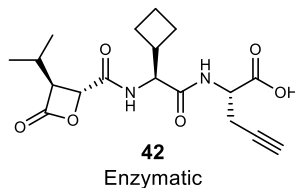
41
Enzymatic

41 was obtained as a light yellow solid, 10 mg, 32% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.76 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, $J = 8.8, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.97 – 1.83 (m, 3H), 1.75 – 1.59 (m, 4H), 1.57 – 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 1.27 – 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.01 – 0.91 (m, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.6, 173.2, 170.9, 170.5, 72.9, 62.9, 60.2, 58.3, 39.5, 38.3, 31.9, 31.2, 30.8, 26.2, 26.0, 25.7, 19.7, 18.9, 16.0, 11.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 395.2182 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 395.2147.

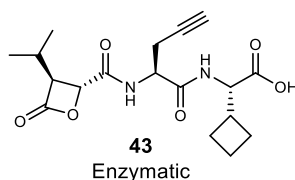


42 was obtained as a white solid, 10 mg, 34% yield over two steps.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.79 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 – 4.43 (m, 2H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.79 – 2.67 (m, 3H), 2.32 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.97 (m, 3H), 1.93 – 1.81 (m, 3H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.4, 170.7, 170.6, 80.3, 72.2, 72.1, 65.4, 59.0, 53.0, 38.6, 28.9, 26.2, 26.2, 22.5, 20.4, 19.8, 18.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 363.1556 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 363.1570.



43 was obtained as a white solid, 4 mg, 14% yield over two steps.

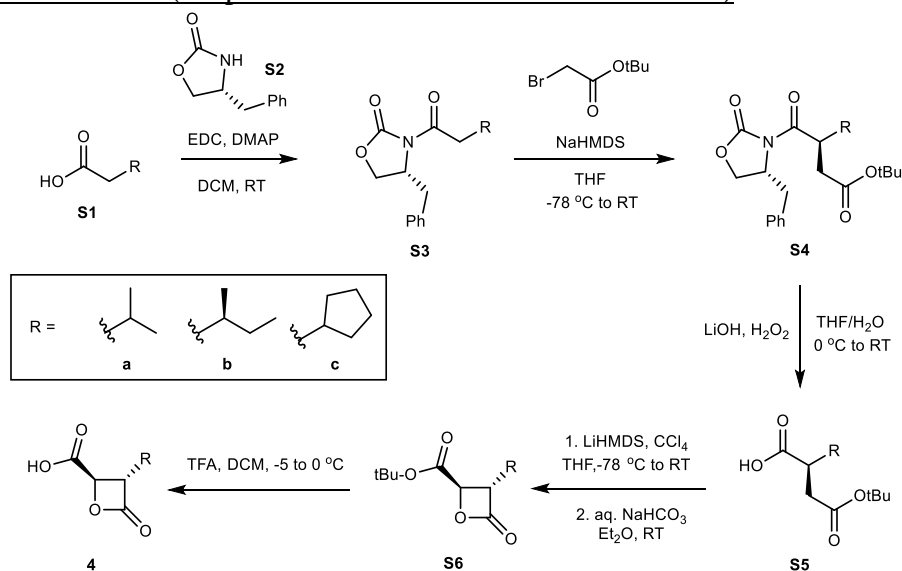
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.79 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, $J = 8.7$, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.63 (m, 3H), 2.39 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.95 (m, 3H), 1.93 – 1.79 (m, 3H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.0, 170.7, 170.6, 80.1, 72.4, 72.2, 65.4, 57.9, 53.4, 38.5, 28.9, 26.3, 25.9, 22.6, 20.5, 19.8, 18.7.

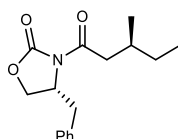
HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 363.1556 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 363.1508.

5. Synthesis of substrates and standards

Synthesis of β -lactones **4a-c** (adapted from literature with modifications)^{37, S5}



General procedure synthesis of S3 (Step 1): To a solution of Evans' chiral auxiliary **S2** (751 mg, 4.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 10 mL DCM, at room temperature, was added EDC hydrochloride (1.6 g, 8.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), carboxylic acid **S1** (5.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMAP (513 mg, 4.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The mixture was stirred at RT for 16-20 h. The reaction was diluted with DCM and washed with 1 M HCl, followed by sat. NaHCO₃, sat. NH₄Cl, and finally brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 20-30% EtOAc) to obtain **S3b** and **S3c**. A sample of **S3a** was also purchased from Fluorochem (UK) and used for the next step directly.



S3b

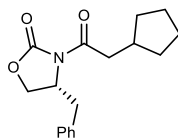
S3b was obtained as a white solid, 4.36 g, 89% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.79 – 4.65 (m, 1H), 4.28 – 4.15 (m, 2H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99 – 2.71 (m, 3H), 2.12 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.41 (m, 1H), 1.38 – 1.22 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.1, 153.6, 135.5, 129.6, 129.1, 127.5, 66.2, 55.4, 42.3, 38.1, 31.4, 29.5, 19.4, 11.5.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.^{S6}

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₁₆H₂₁NO₃: 298.1414 [M+Na]⁺, found 298.1410.



S3c

S3c was obtained as a white solid, 960 mg, 79% yield,

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 4.76 – 4.63 (m, 1H), 4.28 – 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.44 – 2.28 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.53 (m, 4H), 1.33 – 1.15 (m, 2H).

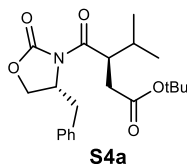
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 153.6, 135.5, 129.6, 129.1, 127.4, 66.2, 55.3, 41.5, 38.1, 35.9, 32.7, 32.6, 25.1, 25.1.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.²⁹

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NO₃: 310.1419 [M+Na]⁺, found 310.1422.

General procedure for the synthesis of S4: To a solution of **S3** (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 50 mL of dry THF (cooled to -78 °C under N₂ atmosphere) was added NaHMDS (7.5 mL of 2 M solution in THF, 30 mmol, 1.5 equiv) dropwise and the solution was kept at -78 °C for 1 h before *tert*-butyl bromoacetate (3.9 g, 20 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred for 16 h and gradually reached room temperature before quenching with 1.3 mL of acetic acid. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was added to 100 mL ethyl acetate, followed by washing with 100 mL water and 50 mL brine. The organic layer was dried

over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to give crude product, which was either recrystallised in EtOAc/hexane (1/20) or purified by silica gel column to give **S4**.



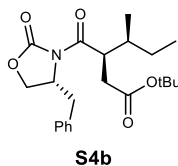
S4a was obtained as light-yellow needle shape crystal, 3.0 g, 80% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 4.72 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.20 – 4.08 (m, 3H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.7, 172.0, 136.1, 129.7, 129.1, 127.3, 80.8, 65.9, 55.9, 44.6, 37.6, 33.7, 29.9, 28.2, 20.9, 18.5.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.^{S7}

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₂₁H₂₉NO₅: 398.1943 [M+Na]⁺, found 398.1962.

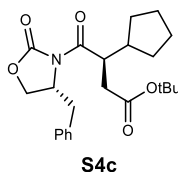


S4b was obtained as light-yellow needle shape crystal, 4.0 g, 64% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 4.68 – 4.54 (m, 1H), 4.24 – 4.15 (m, 1H), 4.15 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.34 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.82 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.31 (m, 10H), 1.31 – 1.17 (m, 1H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.7, 172.1, 153.1, 136.0, 129.7, 129.0, 127.3, 80.8, 65.9, 55.9, 43.6, 37.6, 35.8, 32.4, 28.2, 28.0, 14.9, 12.0.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₂₂H₃₁NO₅: 412.2100 [M+Na]⁺, found 412.2110.



S4c was obtained as white needle shape crystal, 1.0 g, 79% yield.

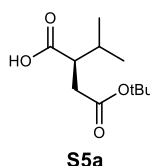
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.73 – 4.54 (m, 1H), 4.27 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 4.14 – 4.08 (m, 2H), 3.36 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.45 (m, 6H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.31 – 1.16 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.4, 171.6, 153.3, 136.2, 129.6, 129.0, 127.3, 80.8, 65.9, 56.0, 42.9, 42.7, 37.5, 37.0, 30.2, 30.0, 28.2, 25.0, 24.9.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₂₃H₃₁NO₅: 424.2100 [M+Na]⁺, found 424.2102.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.²⁹

General Procedure for the synthesis of S5: A solution of **S4a** (3.0 g, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 40 mL of THF and 7 mL of water was cooled to 0 °C and treated with 5.6 mL of a 30% wt. H₂O₂ solution. The mixture was stirred for 5 min, followed by addition of LiOH (monohydrate, 0.85 g, 20 mmol, 2.5 equiv, freshly prepared in 13 mL of water) dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred and allowed to gradually reach room temperature for 16 h before cooling back to 0 °C and quenching with 9 mL of a 2 M Na₂S₂O₃ solution. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and the resulting solution was diluted with 20 mL water. The pH was adjusted to 8-9 using 2 M NaOH solution (if necessary). The aqueous solution was washed with EtOAc to remove the Evans' chiral auxiliary. The aqueous layer was then acidified with 2 M HCl solution (to pH 1-2) and extracted with EtOAc three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 20% EtOAc) to give 1.5 g of **S5a** in 87% yield.



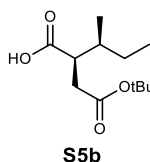
S5a was obtained as a colourless oil, 1.5 g, 87% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.75 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.36 (dd, *J* = 16.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 8H), 0.97 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 6.8 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.7, 81.1, 47.6, 34.2, 30.0, 28.1, 20.3, 19.6.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₁₁H₂₀O₄: 239.1259 [M+Na]⁺, found 239.1266.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.³⁷



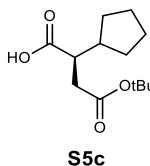
S5b was obtained as a colourless oil, 1.2 g, 62% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.92 – 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.58 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.92 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.32 (m, 10H), 1.30 – 1.16 (m, 1H), 0.96 – 0.81 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.3, 171.8, 81.0, 45.8, 36.3, 32.8, 28.1, 27.3, 15.9, 11.9.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₁₂H₂₂O₄: 253.1416 [M+Na]⁺, found 253.1410.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.^{S8}



S5c was obtained as colourless oil, 480 mg, 80% yield.

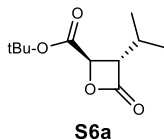
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.69 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.49 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.68 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.38 – 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.27 – 1.14 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 181.1, 181.1, 171.4, 81.2, 46.5, 42.2, 36.8, 30.6, 30.6, 28.1, 25.1, 25.0.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$: 241.1445 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 241.1448.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.²⁹

General Procedure for synthesis of S6: A solution of **S5a** (1.5 g, 6.9 mmol, 1 equiv) in 20 mL of dry THF was cooled to $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and treated with 14 mL of 1 M LiHMDS (14 mmol, 2 equiv) dropwise. The solution was kept at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h before dry CCl_4 (1.3 g, 8.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred and allowed to gradually reach room temperature for 12 h before concentrating *in vacuo*. The resulting gummy solid residue was suspended in 100 mL of Et_2O and 50 mL of 5% (w/v) NaHCO_3 solution. The mixture was vigorously stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then diluted with Et_2O , washed with sat. NaHCO_3 solution and brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column ($\text{EtOAc}/\text{Hexane}$, 2%-10% EtOAc) to give **S6a**.



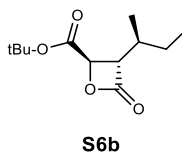
S6a was obtained as a white solid, 1.0 g, 67% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.52 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H), 1.12 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9, 167.6, 83.7, 70.3, 64.2, 28.1, 27.8, 20.1, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$: 237.1103 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 237.1105.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.³⁷



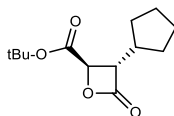
S6b was obtained as a white solid, 760 mg, 64% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.53 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 7.7, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.05 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.68 – 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.39 – 1.26 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 167.6, 83.6, 69.6, 62.5, 33.6, 28.0, 26.9, 16.4, 11.2.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.⁵⁵

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$: 251.1259 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 251.1254.



S6c

S6c was obtained as a light-yellow solid, 172 mg, 36% yield.

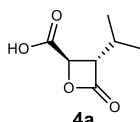
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.49 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 8.6, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.27 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.58 (m, 4H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.45 – 1.32 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 167.6, 83.6, 71.0, 61.7, 38.3, 30.2, 29.9, 28.1, 25.1, 24.9.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.²⁹

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$: 263.1259 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 263.1260.

General Procedure for the synthesis of 4: A solution of **S6a** (262 mg, 1.2 mmol) in 1 mL of DCM was cooled to 0 °C and treated with 1 mL of TFA dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -5 °C to 0 °C for 12 h before removal of the DCM and TFA at 0 °C under high vacuum to give **4a**. (Note that removal of DCM and TFA at higher temperature can lead to partial epimerisation of product). The crude product was purified (in the case of **4c**) by silica gel column (DCM/MeOH with 0.1% acetic acid, 0-5% MeOH).



4a

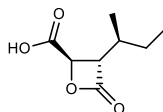
4a was obtained as a viscous oil, 190 mg, in quantitative yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.69 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.14 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.7, 168.1, 69.2, 64.8, 28.0, 20.1, 19.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_4$: 157.0506 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 157.0507.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.³⁷



4b

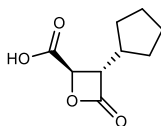
4b was obtained as a viscous oil, 264 mg, in quantitative yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.71 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (dd, $J = 7.9, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.40 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.9, 168.4, 68.8, 63.4, 33.8, 26.9, 16.4, 11.1.

The NMR data is in agreement with published data.⁵⁹

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4$: 171.0663 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 171.0668.



4c

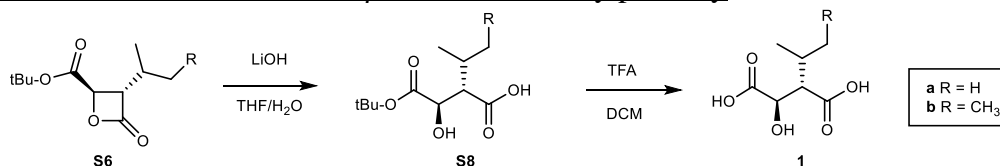
4c was obtained as a viscous light-yellow oil, 45 mg, 60% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.67 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 – 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.55 (m, 4H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 2H).

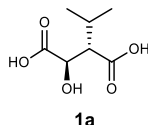
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.6, 168.5, 70.1, 62.4, 38.3, 30.2, 30.0, 25.2, 25.0.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4$: 183.0657 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 183.0651.

Synthesis of standards for validation of β -lactone assembly pathway



Synthesis of 1: To a solution of **S6** (1.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 14 mL THF was added LiOH solution dropwise (2.0 mmol, 1.4 equiv, dissolved in 7 mL of water). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4–6 h until reaction complete (judged by TLC). The reaction was diluted with water (40 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF. The resulting aqueous solution was washed with 40 mL EtOAc (this organic layer was discarded), and then adjusted to pH 2 using 1M HCl. The acidified aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc three times. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in 1 mL DCM and cooled to 0 °C. To this solution was added 1 mL of TFA dropwise. The reaction was kept at 0 °C for 16 h before solvent and excess reagent was removed by a stream of nitrogen gas at 0 °C. The residue was dissolved in water and lyophilised to obtain **1**.



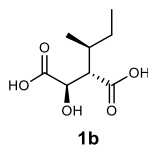
(2*R*,3*S*)-2-hydroxy-3-isopropylsuccinic acid (**1a**) was obtained as a white powder, 201 mg, 82%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_2O) δ 4.55 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, $J = 9.0, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.17 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.02 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, D_2O) δ 176.8, 176.6, 69.3, 55.4, 26.4, 19.9, 19.3.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5$: 199.0582 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 199.0578.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.^{S10}



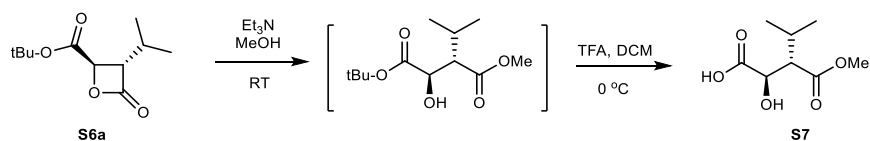
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-((*S*)-*sec*-butyl)-3-hydroxysuccinic acid (**1b**) was a white powder, 72 mg, 89% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_2O) δ 4.57 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, $J = 8.9, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.98 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.29 – 1.16 (m, 1H), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, D_2O) δ 177.1, 176.8, 69.1, 53.8, 32.7, 26.8, 15.4, 10.4.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.²⁷

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5$: 191.0914 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 191.0915.

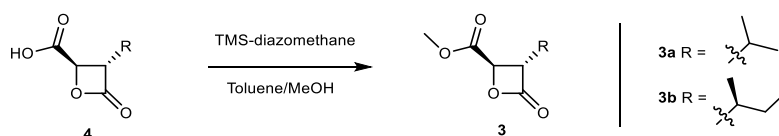


Synthesis of S7: This procedure adapted from literature.^{S11} To a solution of **S6a** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 2 mL MeOH was added triethyl amine (81 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h before concentrating *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in 0.5 mL DCM and cooled to 0 °C. To this solution was added 0.5 mL of TFA dropwise. The reaction mixture was kept at 0 °C for 16 h. The DCM and TFA was removed by a stream of nitrogen gas at 0 °C and the residue was further dried under high vacuum to obtain 39 mg of **S7** in quantitative yield.

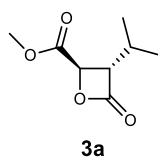
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.44 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.4, 174.9, 69.9, 54.2, 52.3, 28.0, 20.9, 20.5.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI-) calcd for C₈H₁₄O₅: 189.0763 [M-H]⁻, found 189.0719.



Synthesis of 3: To a solution of **4a** (as an example, 0.21 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 1.25 mL MeOH and 5 mL Toluene (MeOH/Toluene = 1:4, v/v) was added TMS-diazomethane solution (2 M in Hexane, 300 μL, 3.3 equiv) dropwise at RT. The mixture was stirred at RT for 5-10 min until N₂ bubbling ceased and the yellow colour of the solution persists. The reaction was quenched by adding 50 μL acetic acid and the yellow colour of the solution disappear. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 5-10% EtOAc) to obtain **3** as colourless oil.

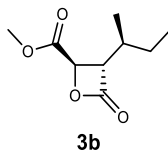


3a was obtained as a colourless oil, 21 mg, 58% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.64 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 168.4, 69.8, 64.3, 53.1, 27.8, 20.1, 19.6.

HR-MS by ESI was not successful.

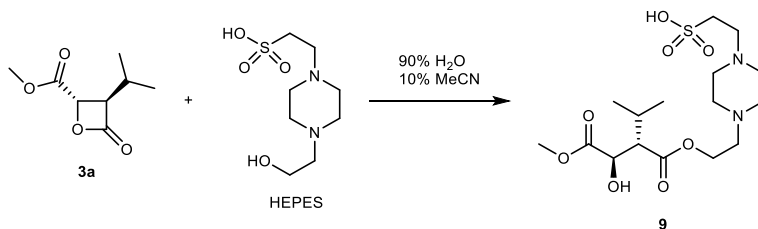


3b was obtained as a colourless oil, 19 mg, 88% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.66 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.68 (dd, $J = 7.8, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.39 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.0, 168.8, 69.3, 62.9, 53.1, 33.7, 26.9, 16.4, 11.1.

HR-MS by ESI was not successful.

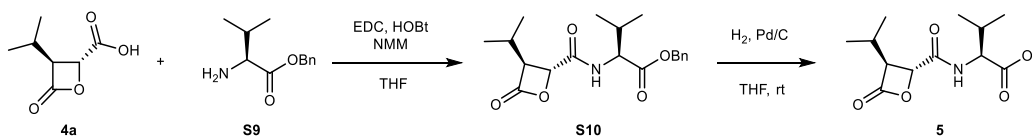


Synthesis of 9 (buffer adduct): A 100 μL solution of **3a** (200 mM, 3.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) in MeCN was mixed with 900 μL HEPES buffer (200 mM, pH 7.0). The mixture was incubated at room temperature for 3 h and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by preparative HPLC on a C18 column (mobile phase A = H_2O with 0.1% formic acid, mobile phase B = MeCN with 0.1% formic acid, gradient B: 2-50%) to obtain 1.5 mg of **9** as white solid in 37% isolated yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_2O with 0.3% DCI) δ 4.64 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 – 4.44 (m, 2H), 3.80 (brs, 8H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.73 – 3.63 (m, 4H), 3.39 (dd, $J = 8.4, 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, $J = 8.3, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.14 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 0.98 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (201 MHz, D_2O with 0.3% DCI) δ 175.7, 173.1, 69.1, 58.3, 55.2, 55.2, 53.0, 52.3, 49.0, 48.9, 44.7, 26.4, 19.8, 19.1.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{S}$: 409.1645 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 409.1602.



Synthesis of CysC product 5: At 0 $^\circ\text{C}$, to a solution of lactone acid **4a** (80 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and N-methyl morpholine (NMM, 152 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in 10 mL THF was added H-Val-OBn hydrochloride **S9** (122 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The solution was stirred at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 5 min before EDC $\cdot\text{HCl}$ (105 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and HOBt $\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (74 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) were quickly added in one portion. The reaction was flushed with nitrogen and the mixture stirred and allowed to gradually reach room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up with EtOAc (50 mL), washed with 5% (wt) citric acid solution, sat. NaHCO_3 , brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 5-20% EtOAc) to obtain 95 mg **S10** as colourless oil in 55% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 6.73 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.58 (dd, $J = 8.9, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 8.2, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.09 (dd, $J = 9.3, 6.7$ Hz, 6H), 0.95 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.9, 168.6, 168.1, 135.2, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 71.2, 67.4, 64.6, 57.1, 31.0, 28.0, 20.1, 19.5, 19.2, 17.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5$: 370.1630 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 370.1625.

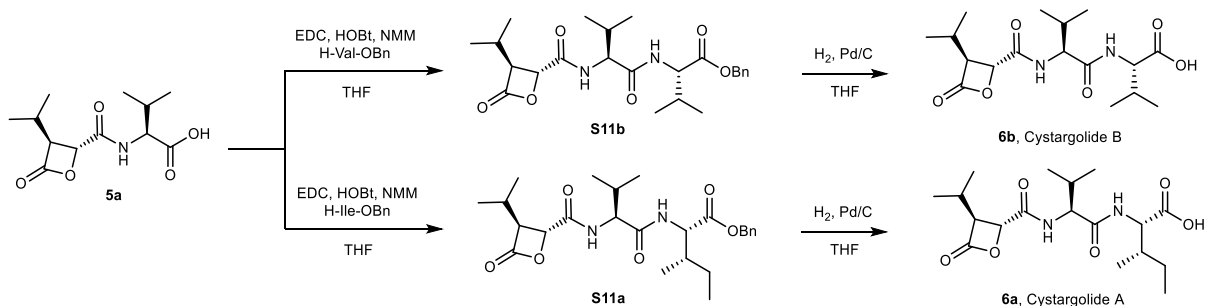
A solution of **S10** (95 mg, 0.27 mmol) in 5 mL of dry THF was treated with Pd/C (45 mg, 10% wt.). The reaction flask was flushed with hydrogen gas and the mixture stirred under hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was diluted with THF and filtered through a celite plug, rinsing with THF. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to give 60 mg of **5** as white solid (yield 87%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.77 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dd, $J = 8.9, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, $J = 8.2, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.11 (m, 2H), 1.12 (dd, $J = 10.3, 6.6$ Hz, 6H), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H).

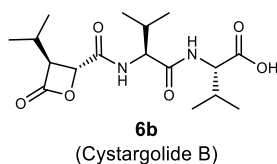
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.5, 168.8, 168.7, 71.1, 64.6, 57.1, 30.8, 28.0, 20.1, 19.5, 19.2, 17.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$: 280.1161 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 280.1150.

Synthesis of Cystargolide A (**6a**) and B (**6b**)



The procedure used for the synthesis of **6a/b** Cystargolide A and B were the same as the synthesis of **5a** mentioned above. Briefly, **5a** was coupled with either H-Val-OBn or H-Ile-OBn to obtain **S11a/b**, which underwent deprotection to obtain **6a/b**.



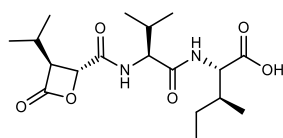
6b was obtained as white solid, 30 mg, 54% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.56 (brs, 1H), 8.55 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.42 – 4.35 (m, 1H), 4.16 – 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.51 (dd, $J = 8.3, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.19 – 1.99 (m, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.92 – 0.80 (m, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 172.8, 170.8, 170.1, 167.3, 70.1, 62.7, 57.33, 57.26, 30.90, 29.60, 26.68, 19.42, 19.29, 19.09, 18.09, 17.88.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 355.1875 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 355.1879.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.³⁷



6a
(Cystargolide A)

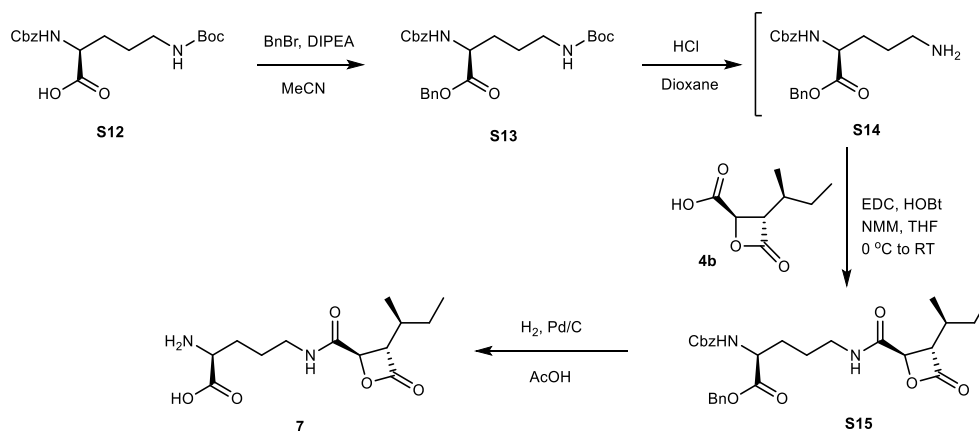
6a was obtained as white solid, 20 mg, 40% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 – 4.35 (m, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.96 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.28 (d, $J = 16.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.01 – 0.88 (m, 12H).

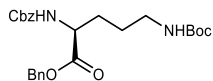
^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.6, 173.2, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.3, 60.2, 58.3, 38.3, 32.0, 28.8, 26.2, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.8, 16.0, 11.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI $^-$) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 369.2031 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 369.2036.

Synthesis of **7**



Synthesis of S13: Cbz-Orn-(N-Boc) **S12** (672.8 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in MeCN (17.5 mL). To this solution was added DIPEA (271.4 mg, 1.05 equiv, 2.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (359.2 mg, 1.05 equiv, 2.1 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 14 h, before solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was re-dissolved in ethyl acetate (25 mL) and washed with water and brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column to obtain 680 mg of **S13** in 75% yield.



S13

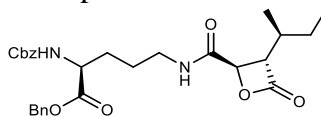
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41 – 7.28 (m, 10H), 5.37 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 – 5.03 (m, 4H), 4.58 – 4.34 (m, 2H), 3.15 – 2.99 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 11H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.2, 156.0, 136.3, 135.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 79.4, 67.4, 67.2, 53.8, 40.1, 30.1, 28.5, 26.1.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data.^{S12}

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for C₂₅H₃₂N₂O₆: 479.2158 [M+Na]⁺, found 479.2150.

Synthesis of S15: A solution of **S13** (137 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 3 mL 4 M HCl in dioxane was stirred at room temperature for over 3 h. Afterwards, TLC indicated complete removal of Boc protecting group and the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (**S14**) was taken up in 1 mL THF and added to a solution of lactone acid **4b** (52 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and N-methyl morpholine (NMM, 91 mg, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in 4 mL THF at 0 °C. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min before EDC·HCl (69 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and HOBt·H₂O (49 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were quickly added in one portion. The reaction was flushed with nitrogen and the mixture stirred and allowed to gradually reach room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up with EtOAc (50 mL), washed with 5% (wt) citric acid solution, sat. NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 20-50% EtOAc) to give 80 mg **S15** as white solid in 52% yield over two steps.



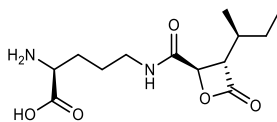
S15

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 – 7.28 (m, 10H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 5.38 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.23 – 5.07 (m, 4H), 4.56 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.49 – 4.36 (m, 1H), 3.57 (dd, $J = 7.6, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.37 – 3.21 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.76 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.57 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.33 (d, $J = 21.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.0, 169.3, 168.2, 156.0, 136.2, 135.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 70.8, 67.5, 67.2, 63.0, 53.5, 38.6, 33.9, 30.1, 26.8, 25.3, 16.4, 11.1.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for C₂₈H₃₄N₂O₇: 533.2264 [M+Na]⁺, found 533.2261.

Synthesis of 7: A solution of **S15** (79 mg, 0.15 mmol) in acetic acid (10 mL) was treated with Pd/C (45 mg, 10% wt.). The reaction was flushed with hydrogen gas and the mixture stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (balloon) at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was filtered through a short celite plug, rinsing with acetic acid. The collected filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residual was purified by Bond ElutTM C18 column (Agilent, eluent H₂O/MeCN, 0-30% MeCN). The fractions containing pure product were combined, concentrated *in vacuo* to remove MeCN and then lyophilised to obtain 28 mg **7** as white powder in 63% yield.



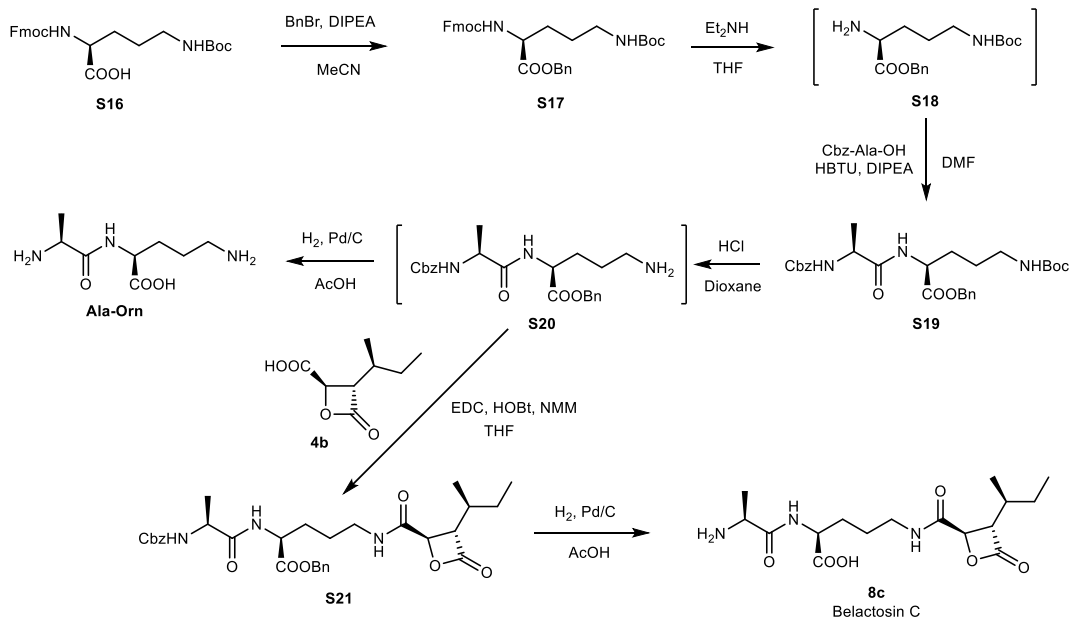
7

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.93 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, $J = 7.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.13 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.98 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.49 (m, 3H), 1.41 – 1.26 (m, 1H), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

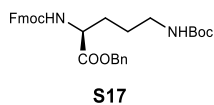
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.3, 172.6, 170.4, 71.0, 62.0, 54.4, 38.6, 32.8, 27.7, 26.2, 24.2, 15.4, 10.3.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI+) calcd for C₁₃H₂₂N₂O₅: 287.1607 [M+H]⁺, found 287.1609.

Synthesis of **Ala-Orn** and belactosin C (**8c**)



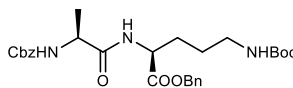
Synthesis of S17: Fmoc-Orn-(N-Boc) **S16** (909 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to MeCN (17.5 mL). To the mixture was added DIPEA (271.4 mg, 1.05 equiv, 2.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (359.2 mg, 1.05 equiv, 2.1 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 14 h before solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was taken up by ethyl acetate (25 mL) and washed with 5% wt. citric acid and brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 20-50% EtOAc) to obtain 710 mg of **S17** in 65% yield.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.27 (m, 9H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.26 – 5.10 (m, 2H), 4.60 – 4.32 (m, 4H), 4.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.18 – 2.96 (m, 2H), 1.97 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.58 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H).
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.3, 156.1, 144.0, 143.8, 141.4, 135.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 127.2, 125.2, 120.1, 79.4, 67.4, 67.1, 53.8, 47.3, 40.0, 30.0, 28.5, 26.2.
 HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI⁺) calcd for C₃₂H₃₆N₂O₆: 567.2471 [M+Na]⁺, found 567.2465.

Synthesis of S19: A solution of **S17** (700 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 2.5 mL THF was treated with 2.5 mL diethylamine. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h before another 1 mL diethylamine was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for additional 2 h before concentrating *in vacuo*. The residue was azeotroped with toluene (2 × 2 mL) under reduced pressure, and the crude product was taken up in DMF (2 mL). To this solution was added Cbz-Alanine (290 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), HBTU (606 mg, 1.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DIPEA (504 mg, 3.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h before diluting with DCM (50 mL). The resulting solution was washed with 5% wt. citric acid, brine,

dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 20-50% EtOAc) to give 531 mg **S19** as white solid in 78% yield over two steps.



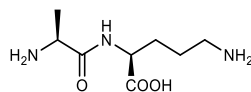
S19

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.27 (m, 10H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 5.23 – 5.02 (m, 4H), 4.70 – 4.53 (m, 2H), 4.34 – 4.22 (m, 1H), 3.14 – 2.96 (m, 2H), 1.96 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 171.9, 156.3, 156.1, 136.4, 135.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 79.5, 67.4, 67.1, 52.3, 50.6, 39.9, 29.0, 28.5, 26.2, 18.6.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₂₈H₃₇N₃O₇: 550.2529 [M+Na]⁺, found 550.2523.

Synthesis of Ala-Orn: A solution of **S19** (200 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 5 mL 4 M HCl (in dioxane) was stirred at room temperature for over 3 h. After TLC indicated complete removal of Boc protecting group the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in acetic acid (5 mL). To this solution was treated with Pd/C (60 mg, 10% wt.). The reaction was flushed with hydrogen gas and the mixture stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (balloon) at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was filtered through a short celite plug, rinsing with acetic acid. The collected filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residual was purified by Bond ElutTM C18 column (Agilent, eluent H₂O/MeCN with 0.1% HCl, 0-30% MeCN). The fractions containing pure product were combined, concentrated to remove MeCN and then lyophilised to obtain 80 mg **Ala-Orn** di-hydrochloride salt as yellow solid in 76% yield.



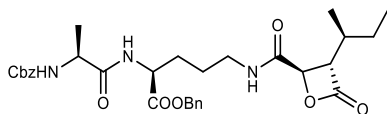
Ala-Orn

¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.45 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.71 (m, 3H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.7, 170.9, 52.4, 48.9, 38.8, 27.3, 23.2, 16.4.

HR-MS, *m/z* (ESI+) calcd for C₈H₁₇N₃O₃: 202.1197 [M-H]⁻, found 202.1204.

Synthesis of S21: A solution of **S19** (158 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 3 mL 4M HCl (in dioxane) was stirred at room temperature for over 3 h. After TLC indicated complete removal of Boc protecting group the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (**S20**) was taken up in 1 mL THF and added to a solution of lactone acid **4b** (52 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and N-methyl morpholine (NMM, 91 mg, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in 4 mL THF at 0 °C. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min before EDC·HCl (69 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and HOBt·H₂O (50 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were quickly added in one portion. The reaction was flushed with nitrogen and the mixture stirred and allowed to gradually reach room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up with EtOAc (50 mL), washed with 5% (wt) citric acid solution, sat. NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel column (EtOAc/Hexane, 50-60% EtOAc) to give 85 mg **S21** as white solid in 49% yield over two steps.



S21

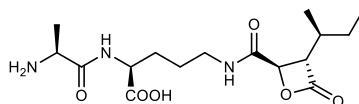
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 – 7.25 (m, 10H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 5.41 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.25 – 5.03 (m, 4H), 4.67 – 4.57 (m, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.32 – 4.18 (m, 1H), 3.56 (dd, J = 7.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.34 – 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.58 (m, 4H), 1.57 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.37 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.34 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 171.7, 169.4, 168.3, 156.2, 136.2, 135.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 70.9, 67.4, 67.2, 62.9, 51.9, 50.5, 38.5, 33.8, 29.3, 26.7, 25.4, 18.7, 16.4, 11.1.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_3\text{O}_8$: 604.2635 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 604.2610.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data^{S9}.

Synthesis of 8c: A solution of **S21** (80 mg, 0.14 mmol) in acetic acid (10 mL) was treated with Pd/C (45 mg, 10% wt.). The reaction was flushed with hydrogen gas and the mixture stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere (balloon) at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was filtered through a short celite plug, rinsing with acetic acid. The collected filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residual was purified by Bond ElutTM C18 column (Agilent, eluent $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{MeCN}$, 0-30% MeCN). The fractions containing pure product were combined, concentrated to remove MeCN and then lyophilised to obtain 26 mg Belactosin C (**8c**) as white powder in 53% yield.



8c
(Belactosin C)

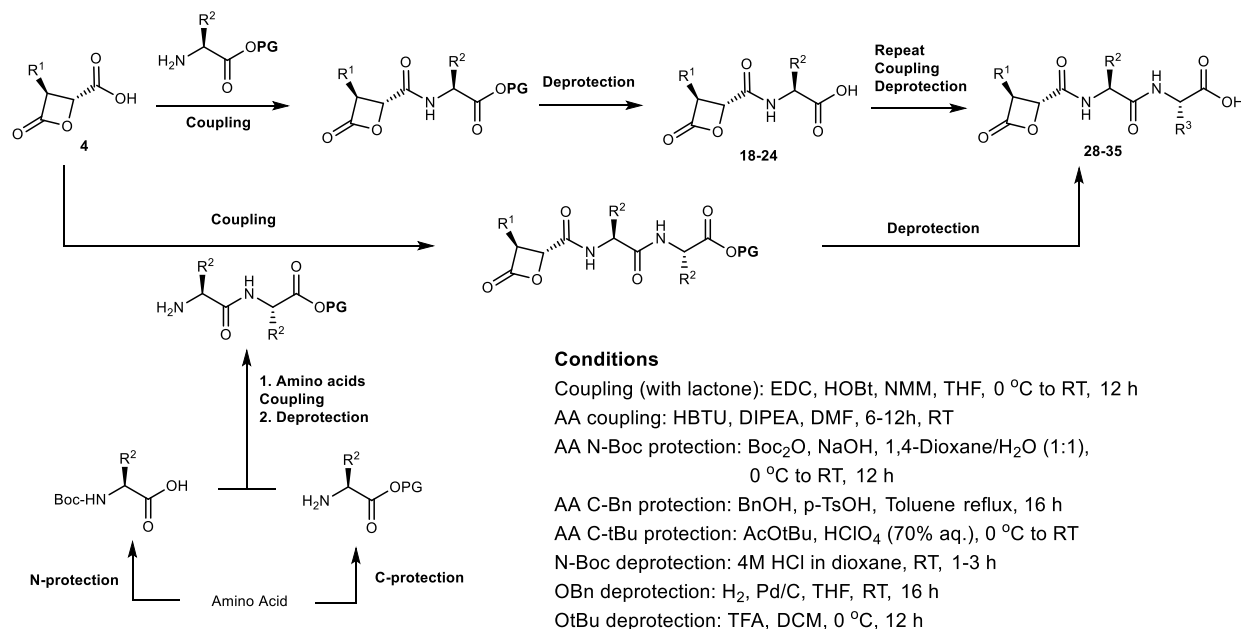
^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_2O) δ 4.92 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, J = 8.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd, J = 7.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.13 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.66 – 1.49 (m, 6H), 1.40 – 1.28 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, D_2O) δ 178.1, 172.7, 170.2, 170.0, 71.0, 62.0, 55.1, 49.0, 38.8, 32.8, 28.6, 26.2, 24.9, 16.4, 15.4, 10.3.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$: 358.1978 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 358.1985.

The NMR spectra is in agreement with published data^{S13}.

Synthesis of Cystargolide analogues



General procedure A: Bn Protection of amino acids. To a solution of amino acid (**AA**) (2.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 5 mL Toluene was added TsOH monohydrate (590 mg, 3.1 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and BnOH (2.2 mL, 21 mmol, 10.0 equiv). The mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 18 h before diluting with 50 mL water and washed with Et₂O. The aqueous layer was basified with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc (3 times). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the crude **H-AA-OBn**, which was used in the coupling step without further purification.

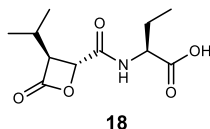
General procedure B: tBu Protection of amino acids. To a solution of amino acid (**AA**) (0.88 mmol) in AcOtBu (2.2 mL), 70% aqueous HClO₄ (2.64 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added dropwise at 0 °C. After completion of the addition of HClO₄, the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature, and then quenched with 1 M aqueous HCl. The aqueous layer was diluted with H₂O and washed with Et₂O. Then the aqueous layer was basified with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (pH 9) and extracted with DCM (3 times). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to afford the crude **H-AA-OtBu**, which was used in the next reaction without further purification.

General procedure C: N-Boc protection of amino acids. At 0 °C, to a solution of amino acid (**AA**, 4.0 mmol) and NaOH (6.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in H₂O/1,4-dioxane (H₂O/dioxane = 1:1, 30 mL) was added Boc₂O (6.0 mmol dissolved in 8 mL 1,4-dioxane). The reaction was then allowed to reach room temperature and kept stirring for 12 h. The mixture was diluted with water and washed with EtOAc. The aqueous layer was adjusted to pH 2-3 with 5% citric acid, extracted with EtOAc, dried and concentrated *in vacuo* to give **Boc-AA-OH**.

General procedure D: coupling of protected amino acids. To a solution of **Boc-AA-OH** (1.0 mmol) and C-protected amino acid (**H-AA-OBn/OtBu**, 1.0 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF was added

HBTU (1.0 mmol) and DIPEA (2.0 mmol). After stirring at RT for 12 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with sat. NaHCO₃, 1 M HCl, brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give protected dipeptide.

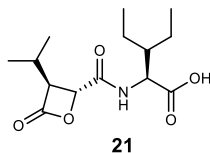
The coupling of β -lactone containing acid with C-protected amino acids or dipeptides followed the same procedure as the synthesis of CysC product **5** (using EDC, HOBt, NMM, THF). The crude product was deprotected using either H₂, Pd/C (in the case of OBn protection, following the same procedure as described in the synthesis of **5**), or TFA/DCM (in the case of OtBu protection, following the same procedure as described in the synthesis of **4**).



18 was prepared as a white solid, 22.3 mg, 29% yield over two steps.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.78 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.42 – 4.32 (m, 1H), 3.58 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 2.03 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.7, 170.7, 170.7, 72.2, 65.2, 55.0, 28.8, 25.5, 20.4, 19.8, 10.6.
HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for C₁₁H₁₇NO₅: 242.1034 [M-H]⁻, found 242.1082.

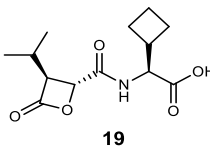


21 was prepared as a white solid, 18.2 mg, 32% yield over two steps.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.85 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, J = 8.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.52 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.24 (m, 2H), 1.08 (dd, J = 16.5, 6.7 Hz, 6H), 1.01 – 0.87 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 169.3, 169.2, 70.6, 63.9, 53.7, 43.6, 27.4, 22.8, 22.4, 22.1, 19.0, 18.5, 10.6, 10.5.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for C₁₄H₂₃NO₅: 284.1503 [M-H]⁻, found 284.1569.

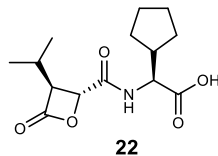


19 was prepared as a white solid, 30 mg, 35% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.79 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.90 – 2.58 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 1.78 (m, 6H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.0, 170.8, 170.7, 72.1, 65.3, 57.9, 38.1, 28.8, 26.7, 26.2, 20.4, 19.8, 18.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₅: 268.1190 [M-H]⁻, found 268.1187.

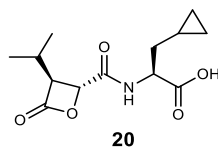


22 was prepared as a white solid, 32 mg, 38% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.80 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.39 – 4.32 (m, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.5$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.71 – 1.53 (m, 4H), 1.47 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.6, 170.6, 170.5, 72.1, 65.2, 57.3, 42.9, 30.4, 30.0, 28.8, 26.3, 25.9, 20.4, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5$: 282.1347 $[\text{M-H}]^-$, found 282.1393.

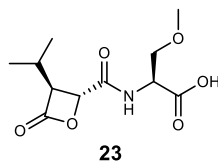


20 was prepared as a white solid, 10 mg, 13% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.79 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.53 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.89 – 0.68 (m, 1H), 0.59 – 0.35 (m, 2H), 0.26 – 0.02 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.7, 170.7, 170.6, 72.3, 65.2, 54.2, 37.2, 28.9, 20.4, 19.8, 8.6, 5.2, 4.5.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$: 268.1185 $[\text{M-H}]^-$, found 268.1166.

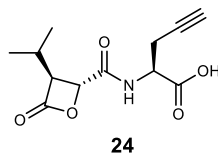


23 was prepared as a white solid, 3 mg, 5% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.82 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd, $J = 5.2$, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (dd, $J = 9.8$, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, $J = 9.8$, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 8.3$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.25 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.6, 170.6, 170.6, 72.6, 72.2, 65.3, 59.3, 53.9, 28.9, 20.4, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_6$: 258.0978 $[\text{M-H}]^-$, found 258.0959.

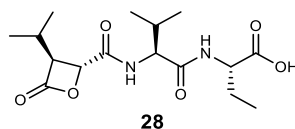


24 was prepared as a white solid, 35 mg, 42% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.82 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.62 (dd, $J = 7.6$, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.39 (t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.7, 170.6, 79.9, 72.3, 72.1, 65.4, 52.3, 28.9, 22.0, 20.4, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_5$: 252.0877 $[\text{M-H}]^-$, found 252.0889.

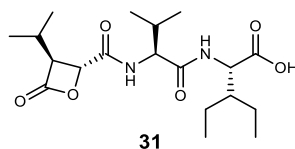


28 was prepared as a light-yellow oil, 15.8 mg, 24% yield over two steps.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.57 (dd, $J = 8.5$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.03 – 0.93 (m, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 173.6, 171.8, 169.2, 169.0, 70.8, 63.8, 58.7, 53.7, 30.7, 27.4, 24.5, 19.0, 18.4, 18.3, 17.4, 9.2.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 341.1718 [M-H] $^-$, found 341.1788.

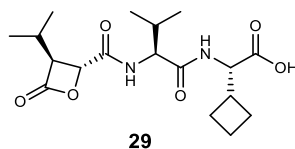


31 was prepared as a white solid, 20 mg, 35% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.80 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd, $J = 8.5$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.26 (m, 4H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.03 – 0.86 (m, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 175.1, 173.6, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.3, 60.2, 55.2, 45.0, 31.8, 28.8, 23.6, 23.4, 20.4, 19.9, 19.7, 18.8, 12.0, 12.0.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 383.2182 [M-H] $^-$, found 383.2167.

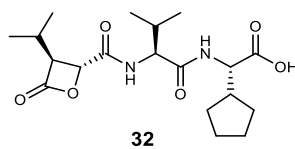


29 was prepared as a white solid, 30 mg, 53% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.82 – 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.23 – 1.78 (m, 8H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.4, 173.3, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.2, 60.1, 58.0, 38.4, 32.0, 28.8, 26.3, 26.1, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.7, 18.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 367.1875 [M-H] $^-$, found 367.1869.

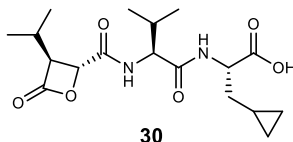


32 was prepared as a white solid, 30 mg, 44% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.80 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (dd, $J = 9.7$, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (dd, $J = 8.5$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.21 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 1.82 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.61 – 1.52 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.9, 173.2, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.3, 60.1, 57.2, 43.0, 32.0, 30.2, 29.9, 28.8, 26.3, 26.0, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 381.2026 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 381.2081.

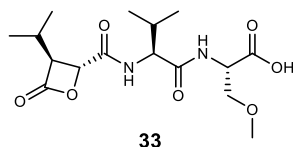


30 was prepared as a white solid, 30 mg, 42% yield over two steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.81 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 – 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.88 – 0.77 (m, 1H), 0.53 – 0.40 (m, 2H), 0.21 – 0.05 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 175.0, 173.0, 170.6, 170.4, 72.2, 65.2, 60.1, 54.2, 37.7, 32.1, 28.8, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.8, 8.6, 5.2, 4.7.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 367.1869 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 367.1845.

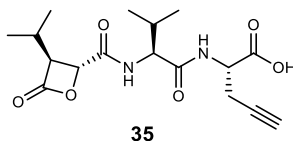


33 was prepared as a white solid, 5 mg, 9% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.82 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 4.35 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, $J = 9.7, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, $J = 9.7, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.23 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.8, 170.6, 170.5, 73.3, 72.2, 65.2, 60.0, 59.3, 32.1, 28.9, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.6.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$: 357.1662 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 357.1506.

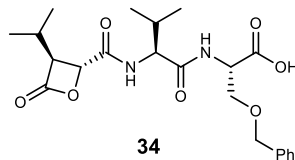


35 was prepared as a white solid, 25 mg, 32% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.47 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 4.39 – 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 1H), 2.24 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 173.0, 170.6, 170.5, 80.1, 72.2, 72.2, 65.3, 60.0, 52.6, 32.2, 28.9, 22.3, 20.4, 19.8, 19.7, 18.6.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 351.1562 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 351.1553.

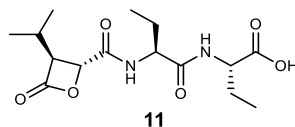


34 was prepared as a white solid, 20 mg, 23% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.39 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.81 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 2H), 4.42 – 4.31 (m, 1H), 3.89 (dd, J = 9.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 9.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dd, J = 8.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.09 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 171.6, 171.4, 169.2, 169.0, 137.8, 128.0, 127.4, 127.3, 72.8, 70.8, 69.2, 63.8, 58.5, 52.7, 48.2, 48.0, 47.8, 47.6, 47.4, 47.2, 47.0, 30.8, 27.4, 19.0, 18.4, 18.3, 17.2.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$: 433.1975 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 433.1964.

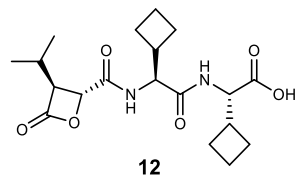


11 was prepared as an oil, 39.3 mg, 43% yield over three steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.77 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.41 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.61 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.93 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 175.0, 173.8, 170.6, 170.5, 72.2, 65.2, 56.0, 55.0, 28.8, 26.4, 25.9, 24.0, 20.4, 19.8, 10.6.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 327.1562 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 327.1583.

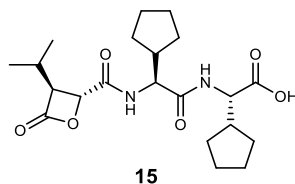


12 was prepared as a white solid, 18.2 mg, 32% yield over three steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.78 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.24 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 1.76 (m, 12H), 1.07 (dd, J = 16.3, 6.7 Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.8, 171.4, 169.2, 169.2, 70.8, 63.9, 57.6, 56.3, 37.2, 37.1, 27.4, 25.0, 24.8, 24.5, 24.5, 19.0, 18.4, 17.3, 17.3.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 379.1875 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 379.1908.

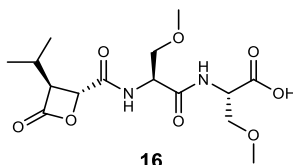


15 was prepared as a white solid, 5 mg, 8% yield over three steps.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.77 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 8.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.23 (m, 2H), 2.22 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.50 (m, 13H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 4H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 173.4, 170.6, 170.3, 72.2, 65.3, 59.0, 57.4, 43.4, 43.2, 30.4, 30.2, 29.7, 28.8, 26.3, 26.2, 26.0, 25.9, 20.4, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 407.2182 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 407.2104.

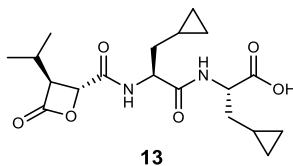


16 was prepared as a white solid, 30 mg, 53% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.80 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dd, $J = 9.8, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.68 – 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.24 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.7, 171.4, 170.7, 170.6, 72.9, 72.7, 72.3, 65.3, 59.4, 59.3, 54.3, 54.1, 28.9, 20.4, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: 359.1454 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 359.1436.

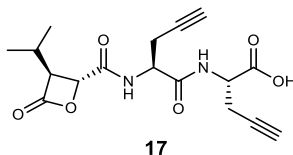


13 was prepared as a white solid, 29 mg, 24% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 4.77 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 – 4.45 (m, 2H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.65 (m, 4H), 1.10 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.88 – 0.73 (m, 2H), 0.55 – 0.41 (m, 4H), 0.21 – 0.07 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 173.6, 173.5, 170.6, 170.4, 72.3, 65.2, 55.2, 54.2, 37.9, 37.8, 28.9, 20.4, 19.8, 8.5, 8.5, 5.2, 5.1, 4.7, 4.6.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 379.1875 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 379.1912.



17 was prepared as a white solid, 20 mg, 30% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 – 4.62 (m, 1H), 4.60 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 3.63 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.85 – 2.54 (m, 4H), 2.39 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 (t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.11 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 172.9, 171.7, 170.7, 170.6, 80.0, 79.9, 72.5, 72.4, 72.2, 65.5, 53.2, 52.6, 28.9, 22.5, 22.4, 20.5, 19.8.

HR-MS, m/z (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: 347.1243 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, found 347.1263.

6. DNA and protein sequences

(DNA sequence codon optimised for *E. coli*, His-tag shown in bold)

cys pathway

>CysG DNA sequence

ATGGGCCAGACCGCCTACCGAGAATTGAACTCTGGAATCCCGAGACGTATGACGC
GCTTCGTCGCCAACTGATTCCCAGCTTTGACTTACTGTACGGCTCAGCAGTGAGCGT
TGTGGCCATGTCAGTACCAGCTACAGCCAGAATTCTTGACTTAGGTGCCGGAAGTGG
TCTTCTGGGTGCTGCGCTGCGTGAGCGCCTTCCCGATGCGGAACTGCTGCTTCAGGA
TCGATCCCAAGCAATGCTGGAGCAGGCGCGCCAACGTTTTGCCGACGACGACCAAG
TGGCAATTCGCGTAGCTGACCACCTTGATGAGTTACCTGCAGGTCCGTTTCGACGCTG
TAGTGTCCGCCTTGTCCATTCATCATTTGGAGCATCAGGACAAGCAGGATTTATTCA
CACGCATTCGTAAGATCCTGCGCCCAGGCGGTATTTTCGTCAACGTTGAGCAAGTGC
TGGCGCCTACTTCAGAACTTGAGAAAATGTATGACCGCCAACACGAGGCTCATGTAC
TGGCTTCTGACACTCCGGCAGAAGAGTGGGCGGCAGGCCGCGAAAGAATGAAGCAC
GACATCCCAATCGATGTGGAGACTCAAATTCATGGCTGAGAGACGCAGGGTTTAC
TACCGCTGACTGTCTGGCTAAGGACTGGCGGTTTGCAACCTACGCGGGCTGGAATGG
CAGTCTCGAGCACCACCACCACCACACTGA

>CysG protein sequence

MGQTASPRIELWNPETYDALRRQLIPSFLLYGS AVSVVAMSVPATARILDLGAGTGLL
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LSIHHLEHQDKQDLFTRIRKILRPGGIFVNVEQVLAPTSELEKMYDRQHEAHV LASDTPA
EEWAAGRERMKHDIPIDVETQIQWLRDAGFTTADCLAKDWRWFATYAGWNGS**LEHHH**
HHH

>CysF DNA sequence

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ACAACCTGCAGATGGTGGGAGCGCGTCTTACGCGGAGCTTCTGGATCTGATTGATCGT
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ATACGTCGGCTCGGATGAAGCGAACGCACGGACGTTTCGCGGCGAAGAATTTTGGACCGGCGATGTGGCCCAGCGCGGTCCGGATGGGACTCTTCGGGTATTGGGCCGTGTGACAGAACTCTCGCTGCCGCCGGCGGCCCACTGCTGGCGCCCCTGCTGGACGAAGAGATTGCTGCGGGCTGCCAGTGCTGGAAACGGCGGCGCTGCCGGCGCACCCCTGACCGCTACAGCGATGAAGTCTTATTAGTCTTGCACCCCGATCCCGATCGCCCCGGAACAGGAGCTGCGGAAAGCAGTTGCGGAGGTCTTGGATCGTCATGGCTTGCCTGCATCGATTGCGTGACCGACGATATCCCGCATAACGCCGGTCGGCAAGCCAGATAAGCCGGCCTTGTGTCGTCGGTGGGAGTCTGGTGCTCTGGGTCCCGTAGGTGAATGGCACCATGGCCTC**GAGCACCACCACCACC**ACTGA

>CysF protein sequence

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>CysE DNA sequence

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>CysE protein sequence

MAELLLEDGQSIHYQETGKGSVLLVHGLGAPSAFLAATAEGLARDHRVVTFDLRGHG RTPLGTGPVGDRCADLHAVAGKLDLRAVTLVGWSLGATVAYRYLERYGAQRVARL VSVEQSPYLLYEDGWEHAAFGRLLTAADAETVRQNLAGTDRAVAADQVAGYFAEGTVP DPDLLARLADAVATCSPAARQQLWQDVVRQDWRERLALPVPVLFVHGARSRIYPSA VGSRLADTVPGARLEVFENSGHLPFLEPERFQRTIRSWVAR**LEHHHHHH**

>CysC DNA sequence

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CGAGCCCGCAGAGTTGAGCGTCTGACACGCATTGAACGCACAAATAAGGTGCCGGC
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CACCACCACCACTGA

>CysC protein sequence

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SSGTTGRPKLTYVPHGMGLTRLLEHWRPLRPGNVLLNLFNAGRMWGSYHYMQTLAE
RSGCTVIPSPYSPAEVAGWLPMLAEVGDALAGTPTGLADFAQGVIDAGGTLPVRTVI
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>CysD DNA sequence

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GGCTTTCCGAAGTCGAGCCAGATGGTGCCGTAGGATTCGCCGACTCAGAGCAGACG
GAGCGTGAACAGCGGAAGGTAATAGCCGATAGATTTGCGGCCTATGCCGATGCCCA
CCGCCAATTCTTGAATCGTAAAGATGCGATTCGACTCGAGCACCACCACCACC
CACTGA

>CysD protein sequence

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HLSFIANDKAATMLHLADSPQPVTVRIGTGRDTAQRSYEAALASLSYPAIVKPAYWG
MGMGVCLVRNAEELKGVAGIASGADTALVCQPYLGEGINDFRVWVVGKPHTVLRRIP
KGASLTANLSSGGGMEHVPLPPELAETVDYVAARMPPYIAVDLWDGERFWLSEVEP
DGAVGFADSEQTEREQRKVIADRFAAYADAHRQFLNRKDAIRLEHHHHHH

bel pathway

>BelI DNA sequence

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GCGCTCCGTCGTCAACTCATTCCATCATTGACCTCATTTACGAAGCCGCTGTGAGA
ACGGTAGCCGCTACAGTCCCGACCGCGCCGCGTGTACTGGACTTAGGTGCCGGTACC
GGTCTCTTATCTGCAGCAATTCTTCGAGAAGTCCCGACTCTGAGGTAGTCCTGGT
GACCGCTCTGAACTTATGCTCACGCAAGCCCGCGGGAGATTCGCTAGCCAAGACGG
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CGTGGTGAGCGGCTTGCGGATTCATCACTTGAGCCACACTGGCAAGAGAGATCTGTT
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TAATTCGCGAGCAGGCACCTGCCACGAGTGGGCAGCGGGGCGTGAACGGATGAAG
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CGAAGCGTGGACTGCTTAGCTAAGGATTTCCGTTTCGCTACCTATGCAGGGTGGGTG
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>BelI protein sequence

MAQTFEIKGNDLWDPTTFDALRRQLIPSFDLIYEAAVRTVAATVPTAPRVLDLGAGTGL
LSAAILRELDPSEVVLVDRSELMLTQARGRFASQDGVTVQTGDLTDPLPEGGFDAVVS
LAIHLSHTGKRDLFRRIREALRPGGVFNVEQVQGPHLESLYDSQHELHVIREQAPA
HEWAAGRERMKFDVCIDLETQLQWLRDAGFRSVDCLAKDFRFATYAGWVSLHHHH
HH

>BelH DNA sequence

ATGGGCAGCAGCCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCGGCCTGGTGCCGCGCGG
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Naturally occurring Fused-CysFE

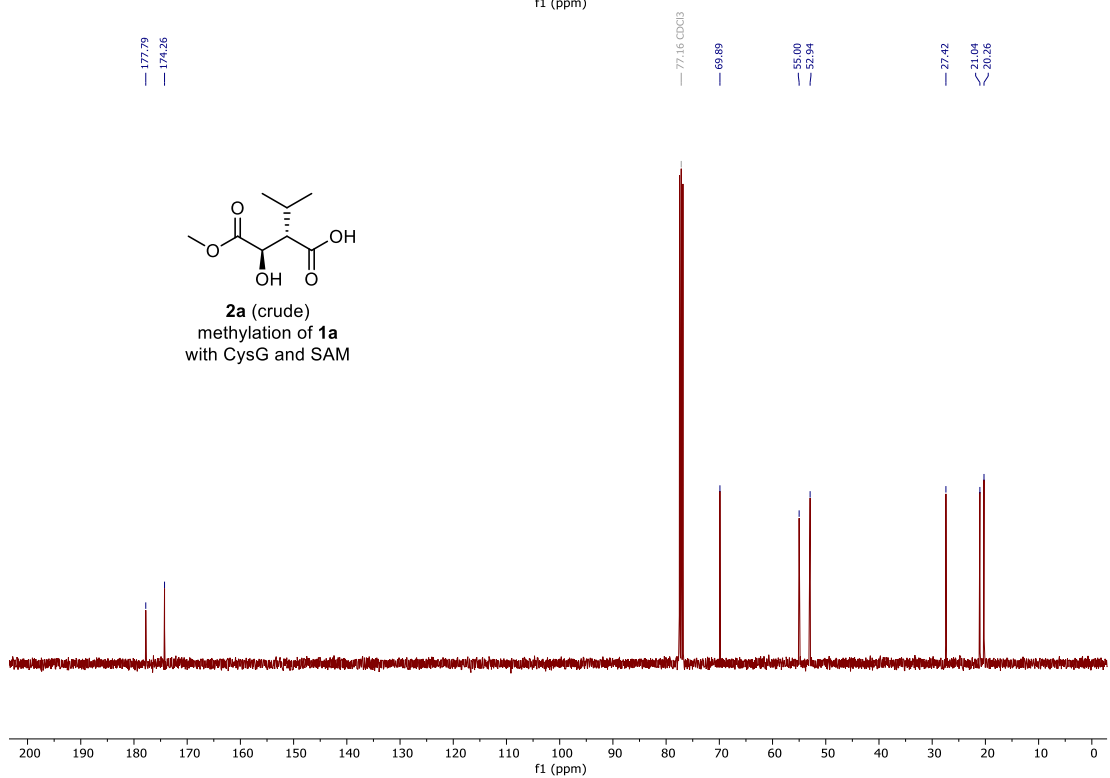
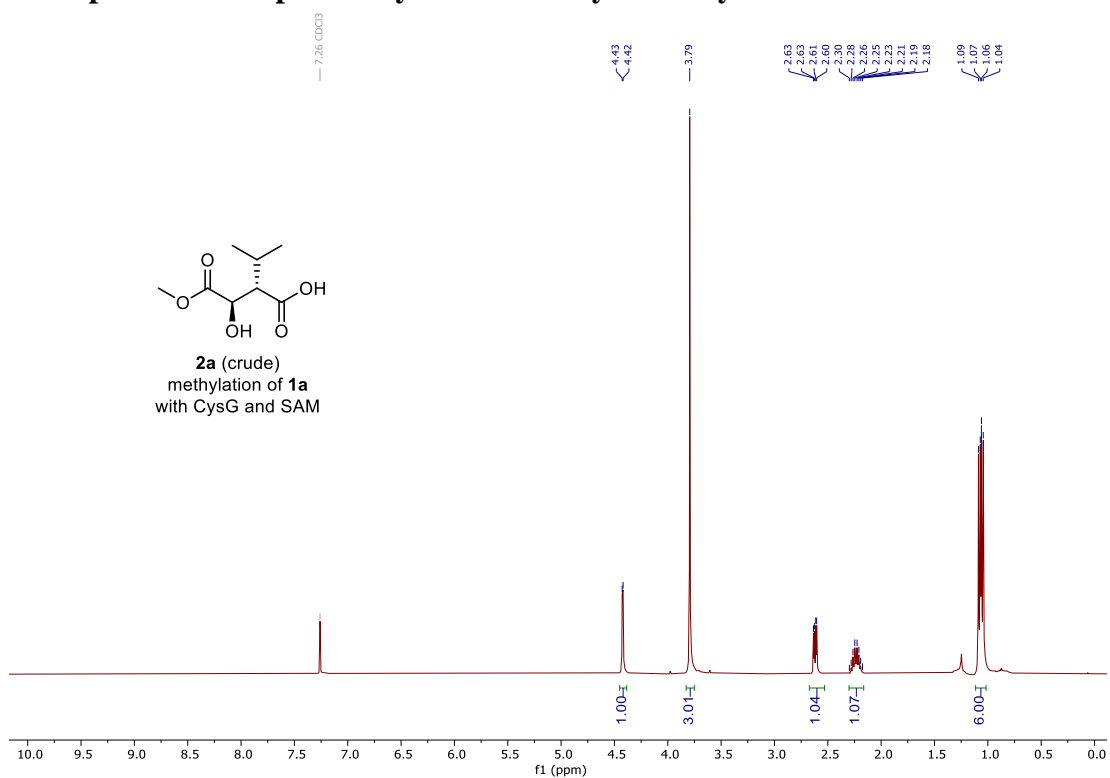
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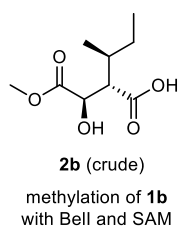
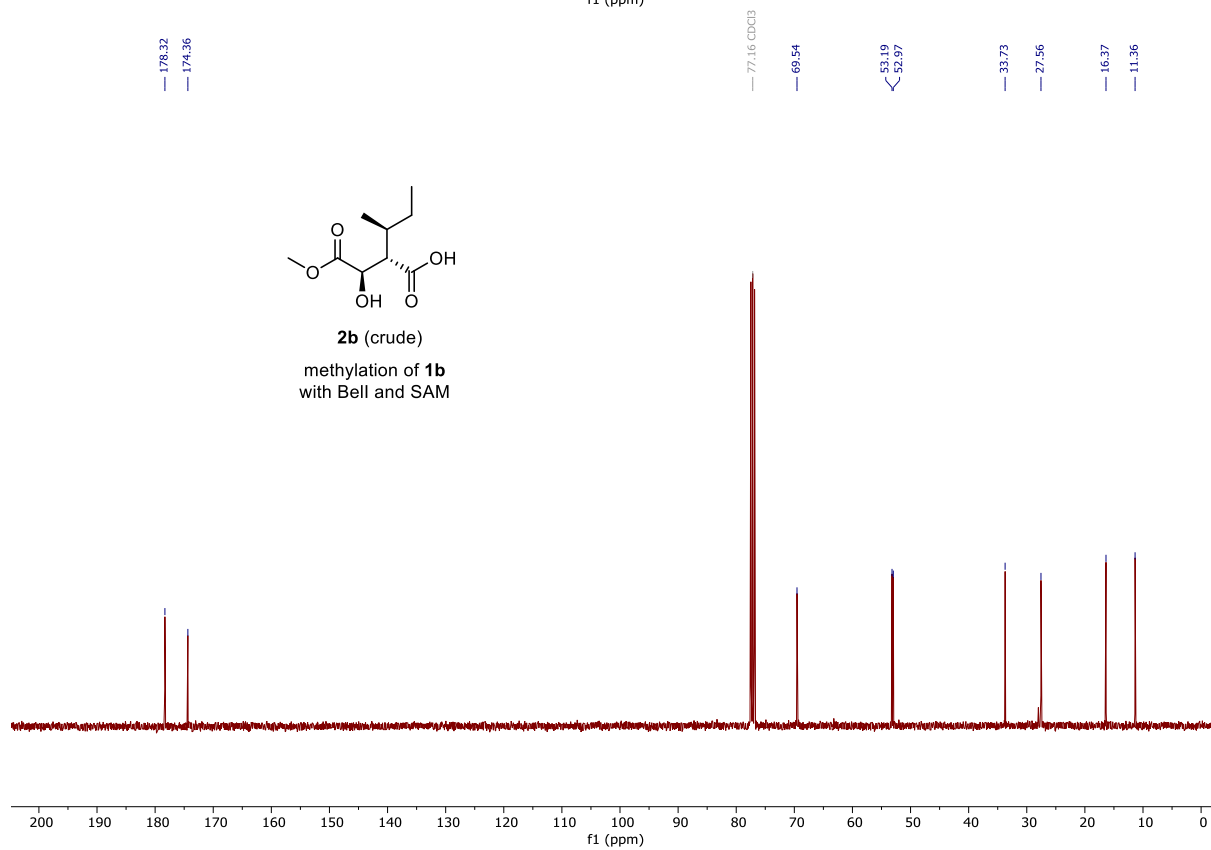
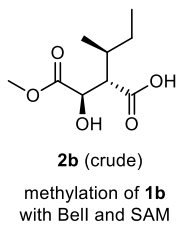
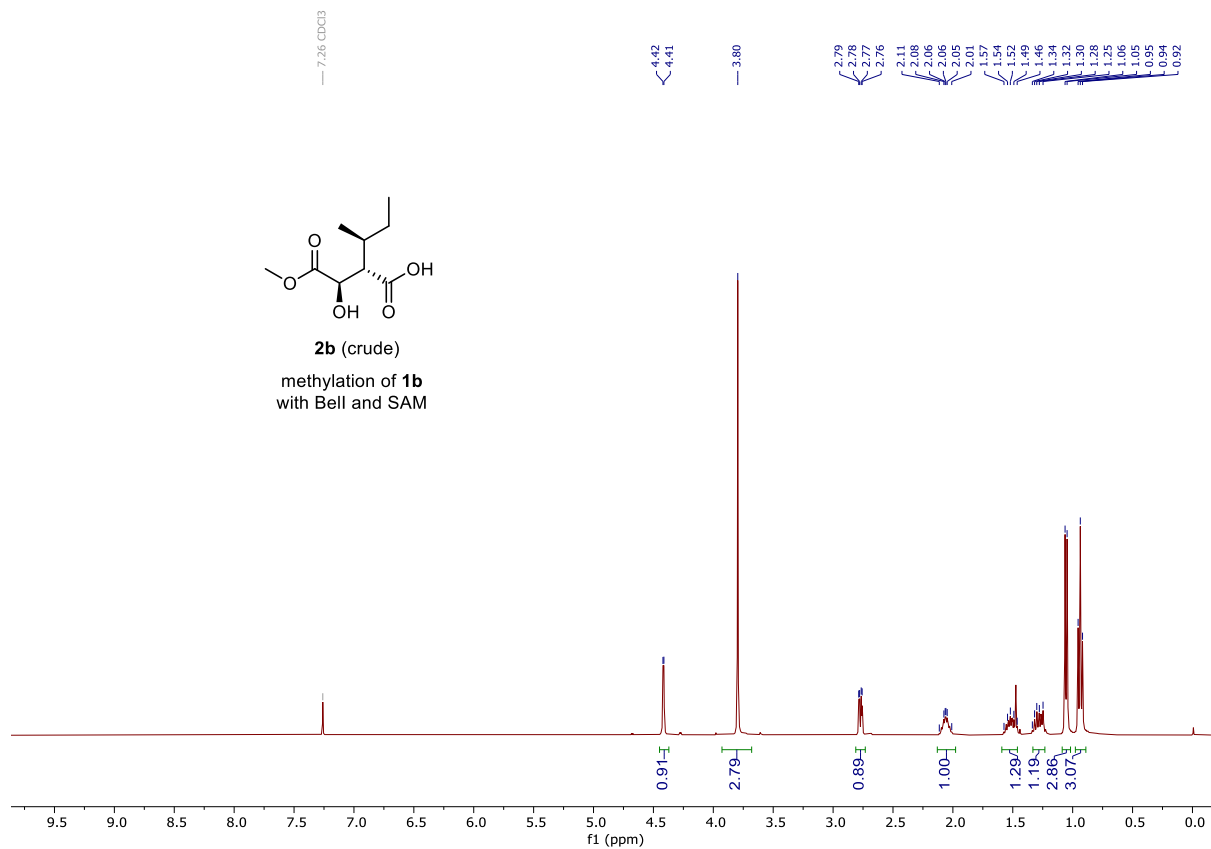
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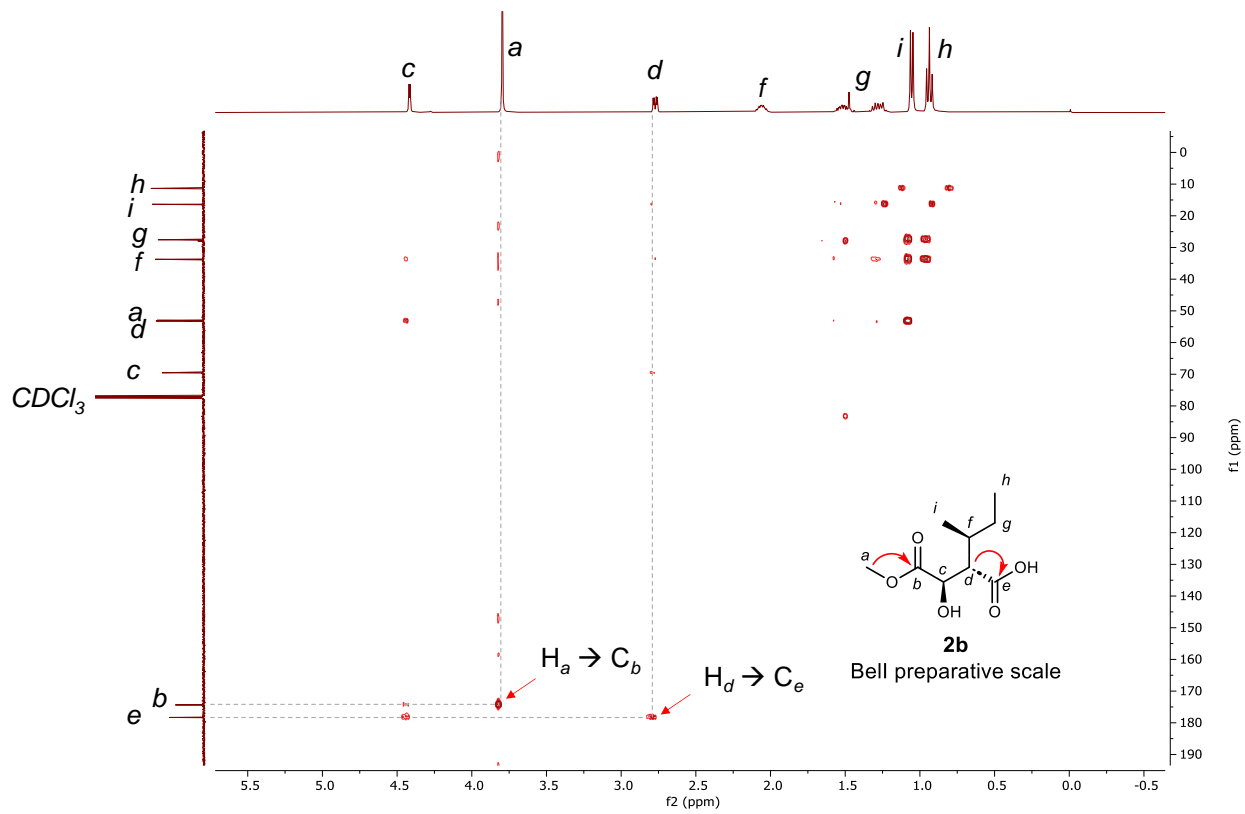
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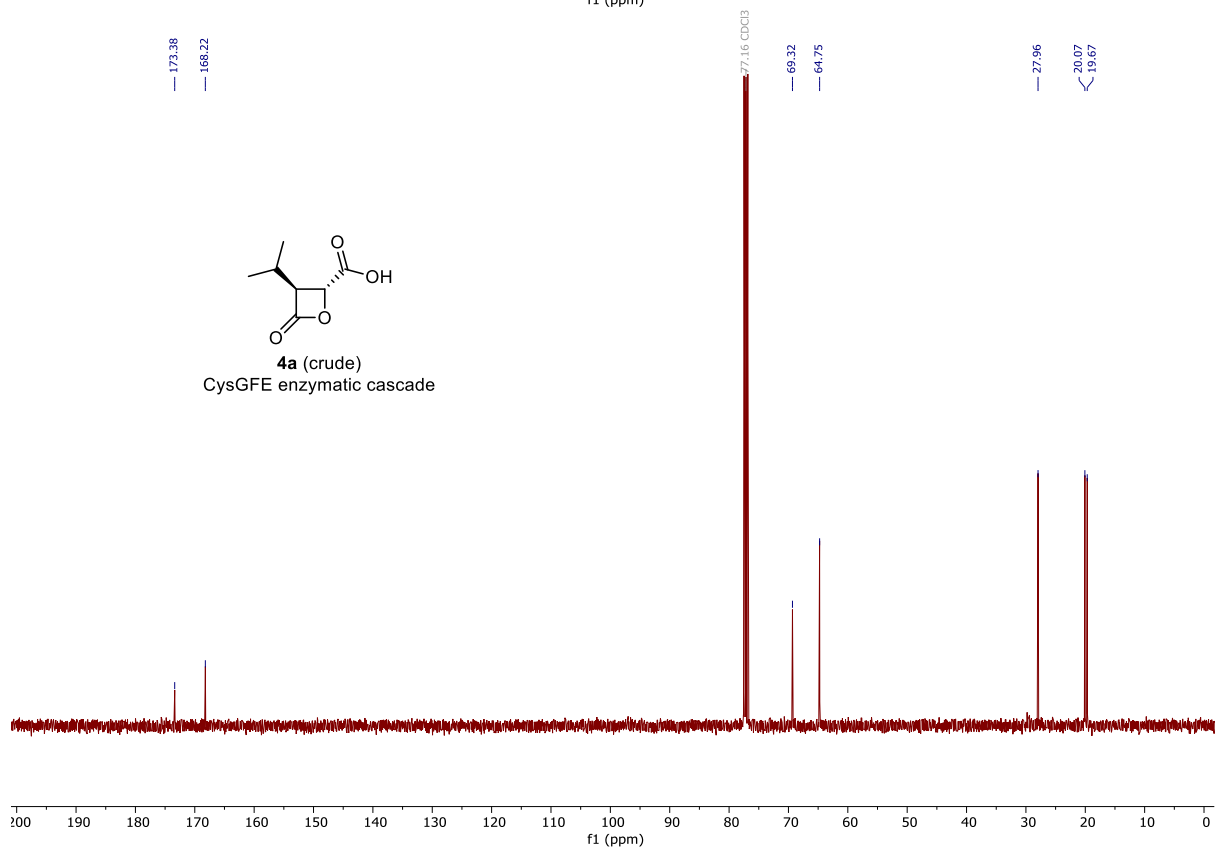
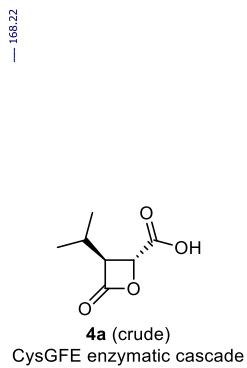
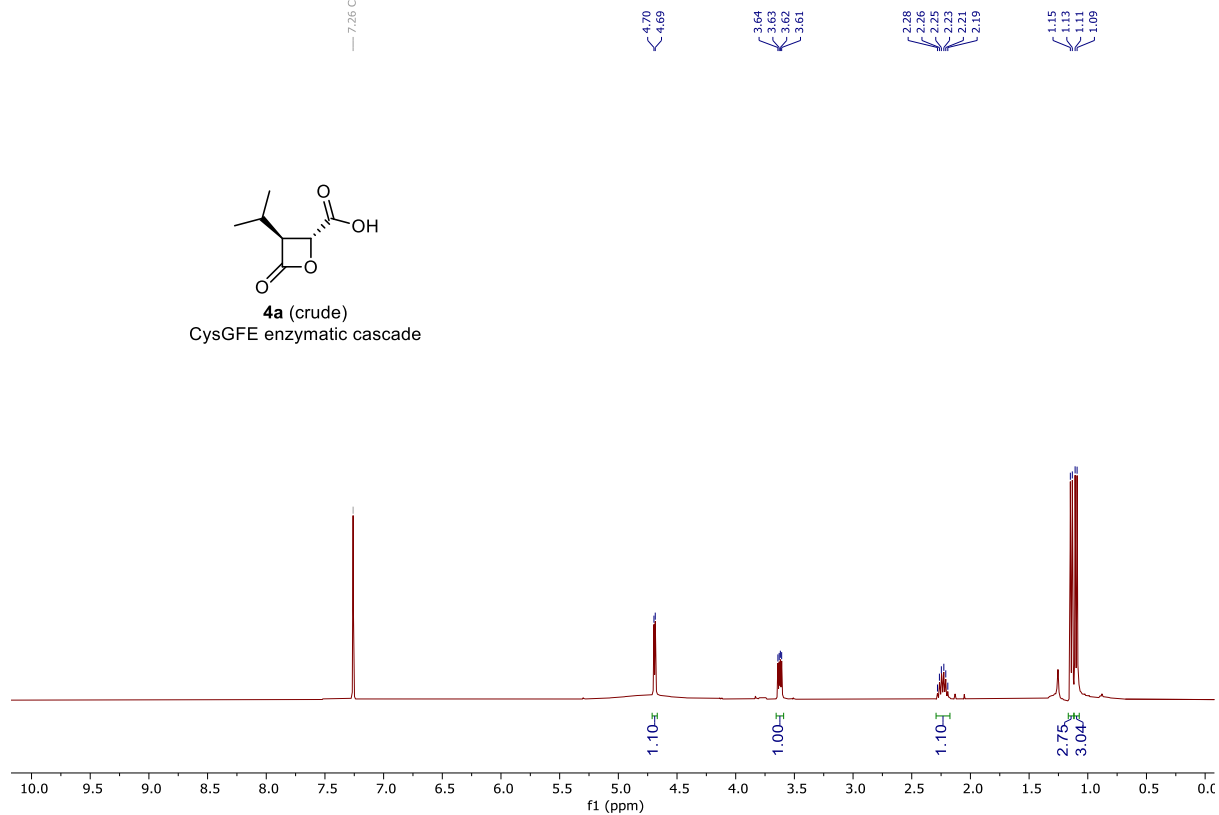
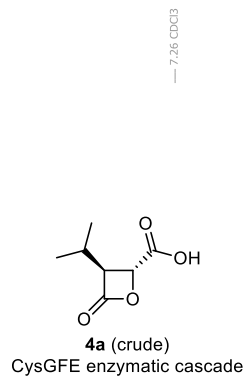
7. NMR spectra of compounds synthesised enzymatically

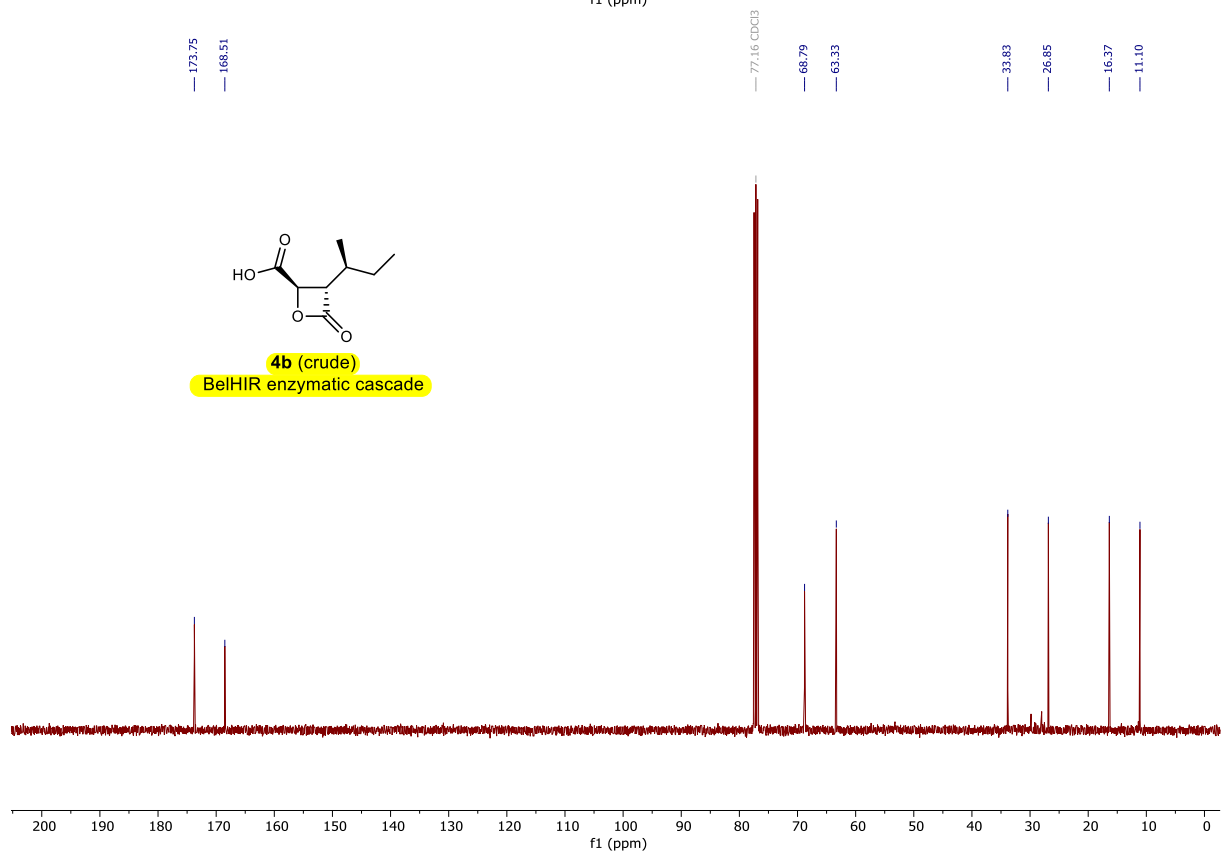
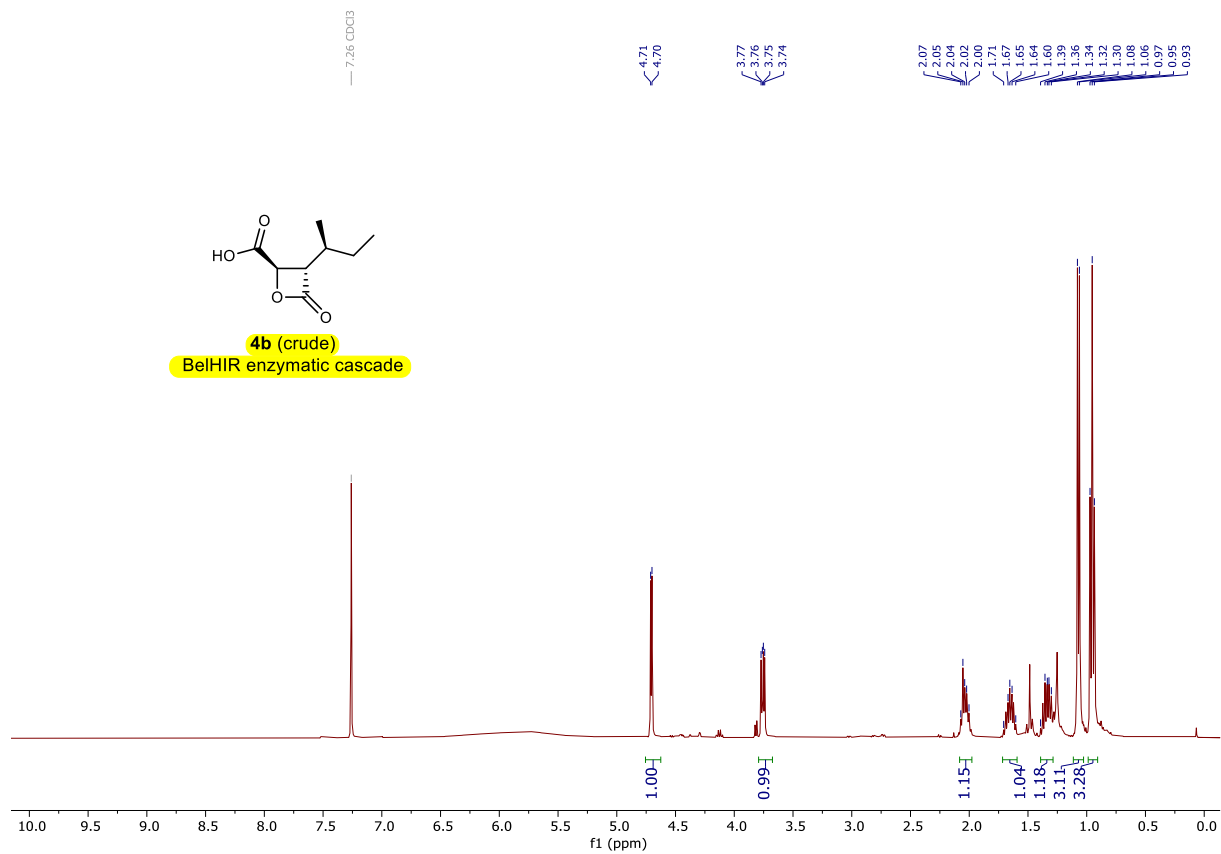


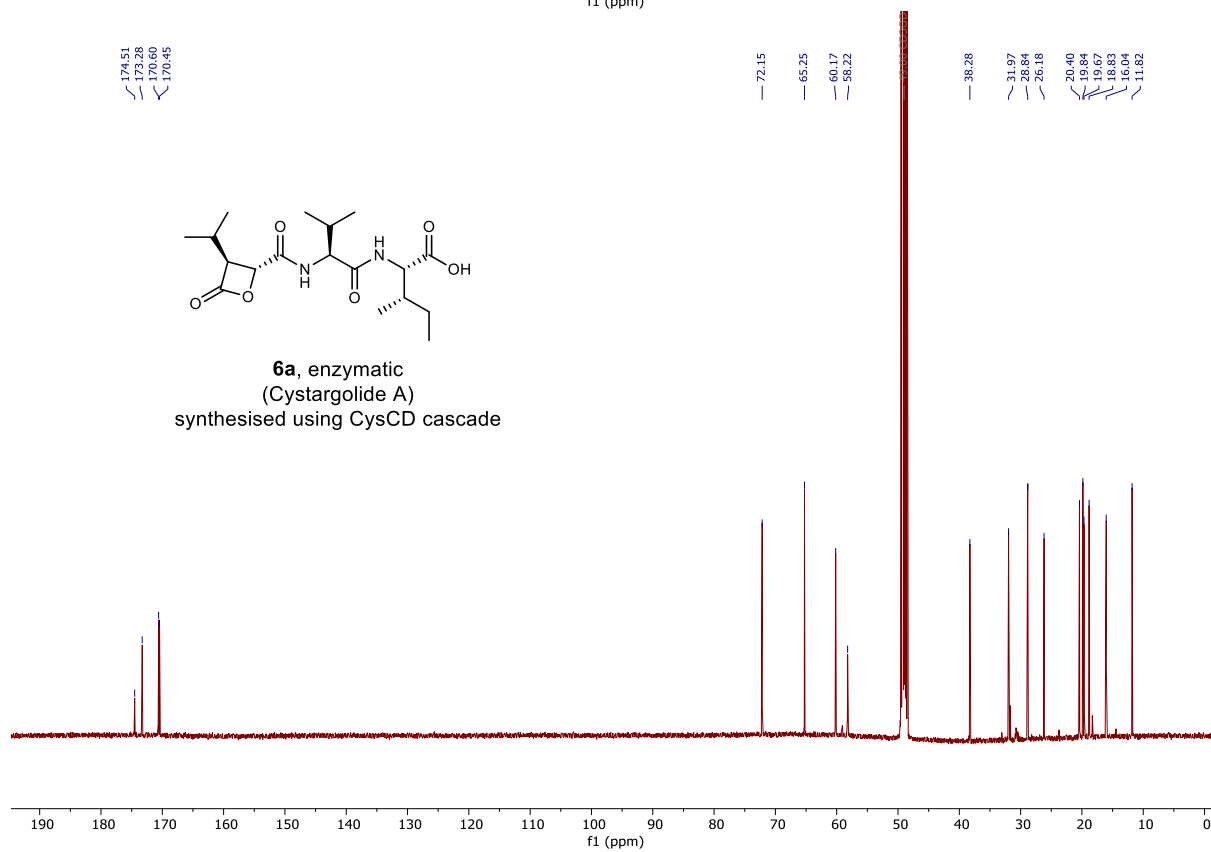
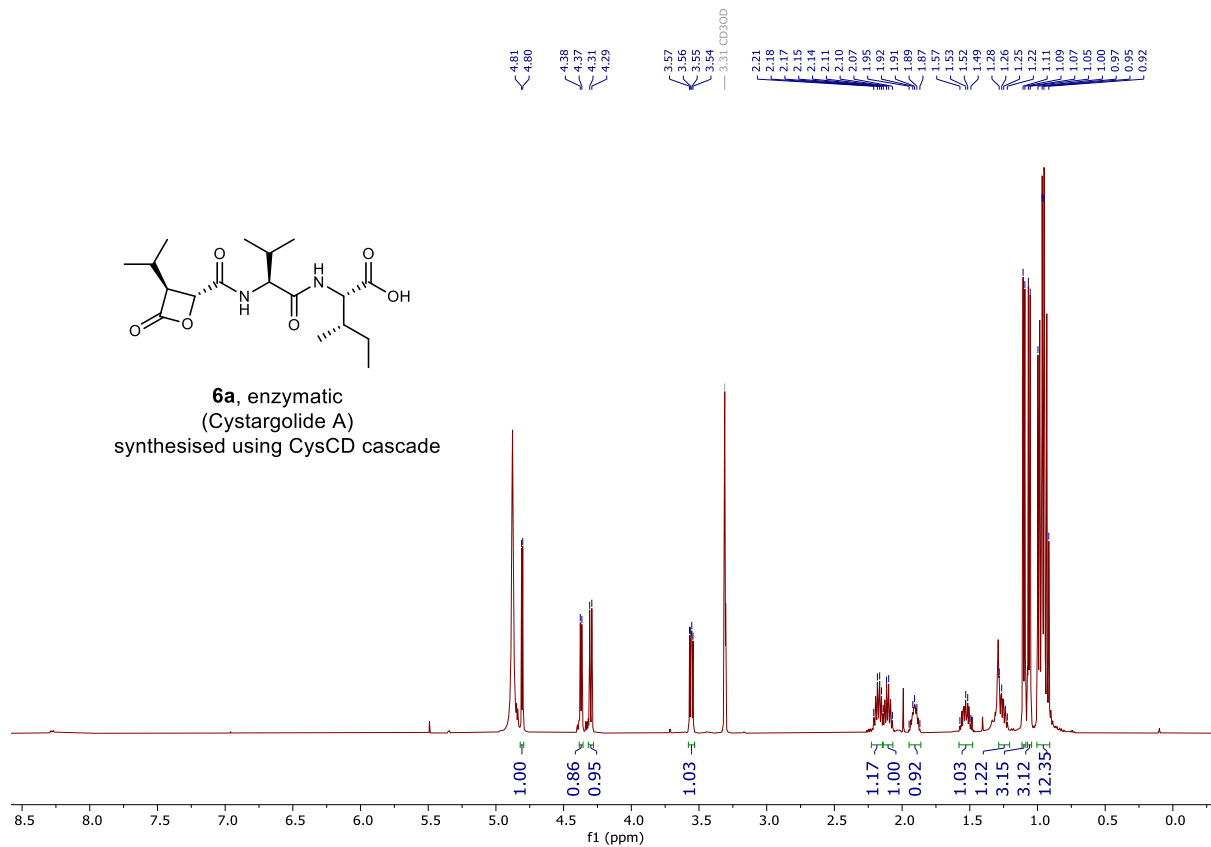


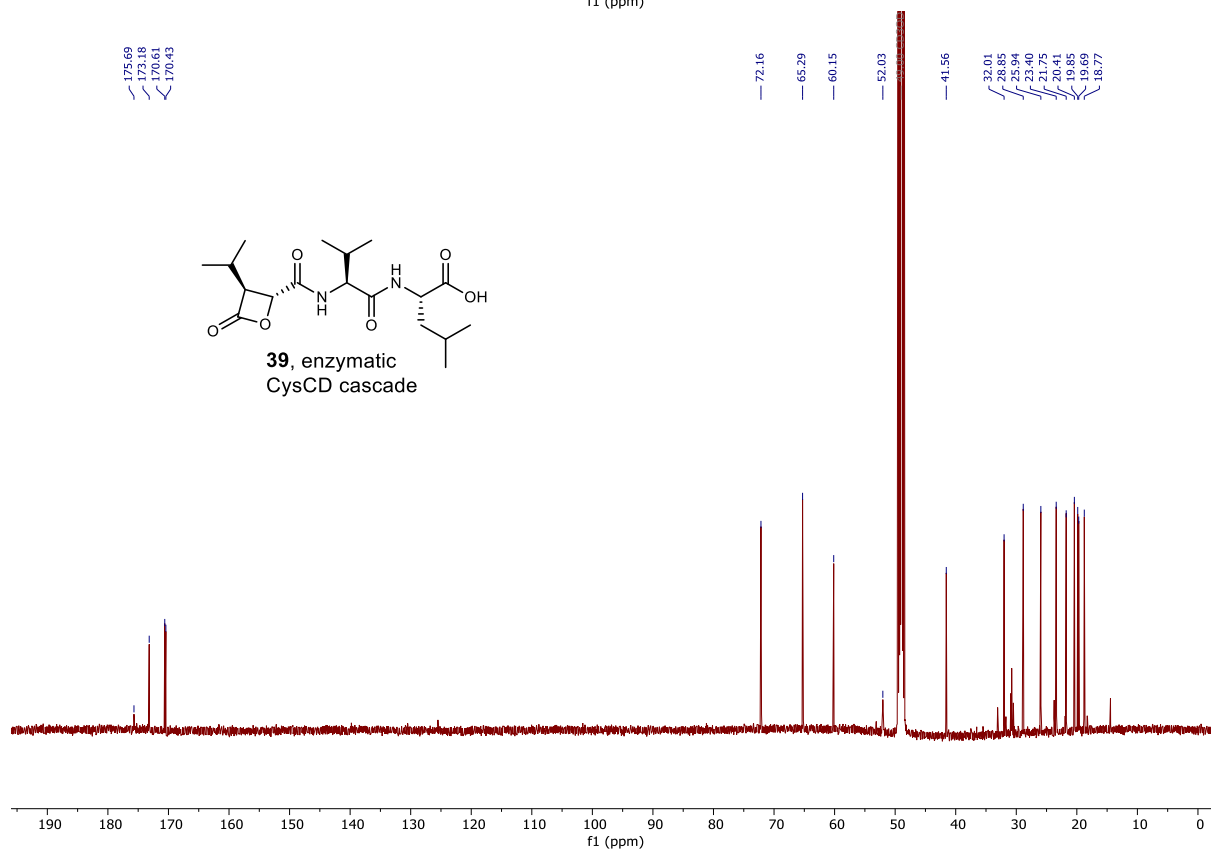
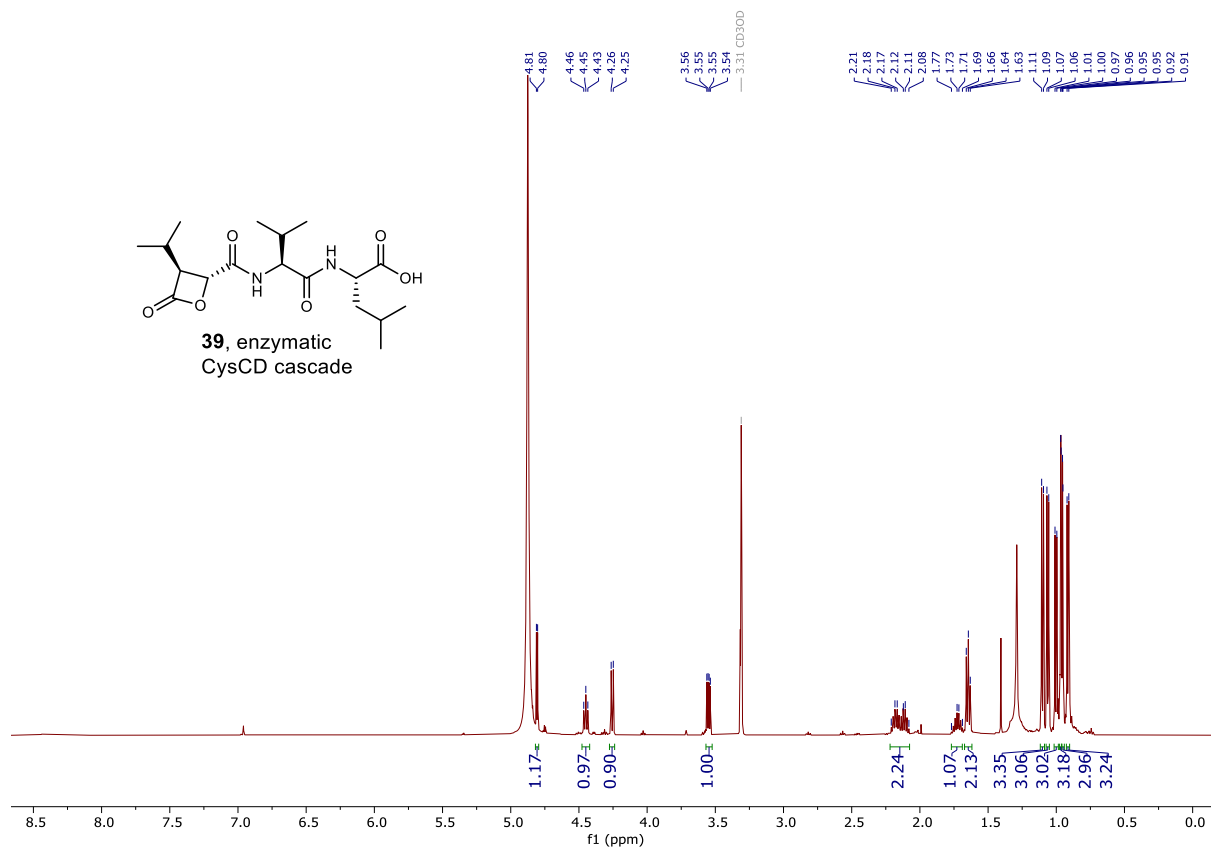


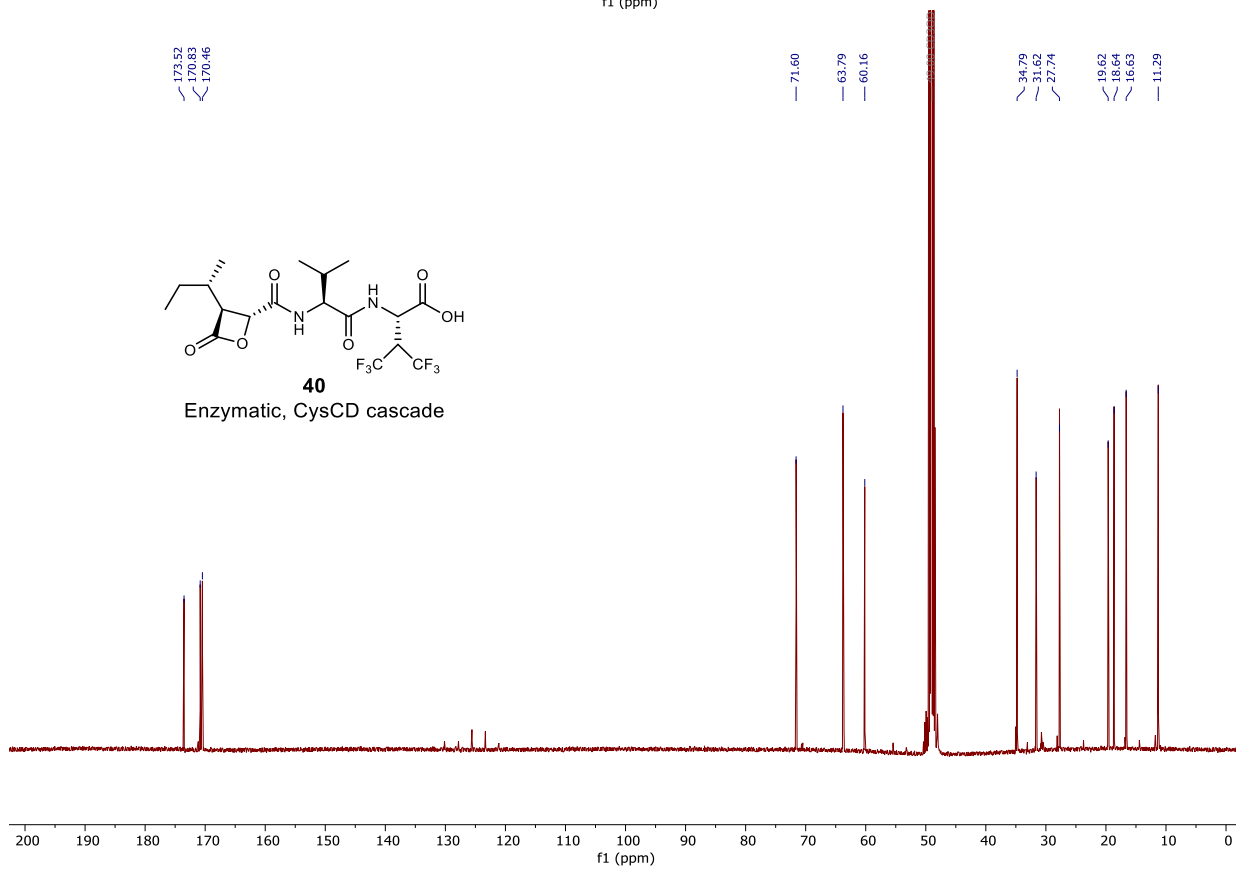
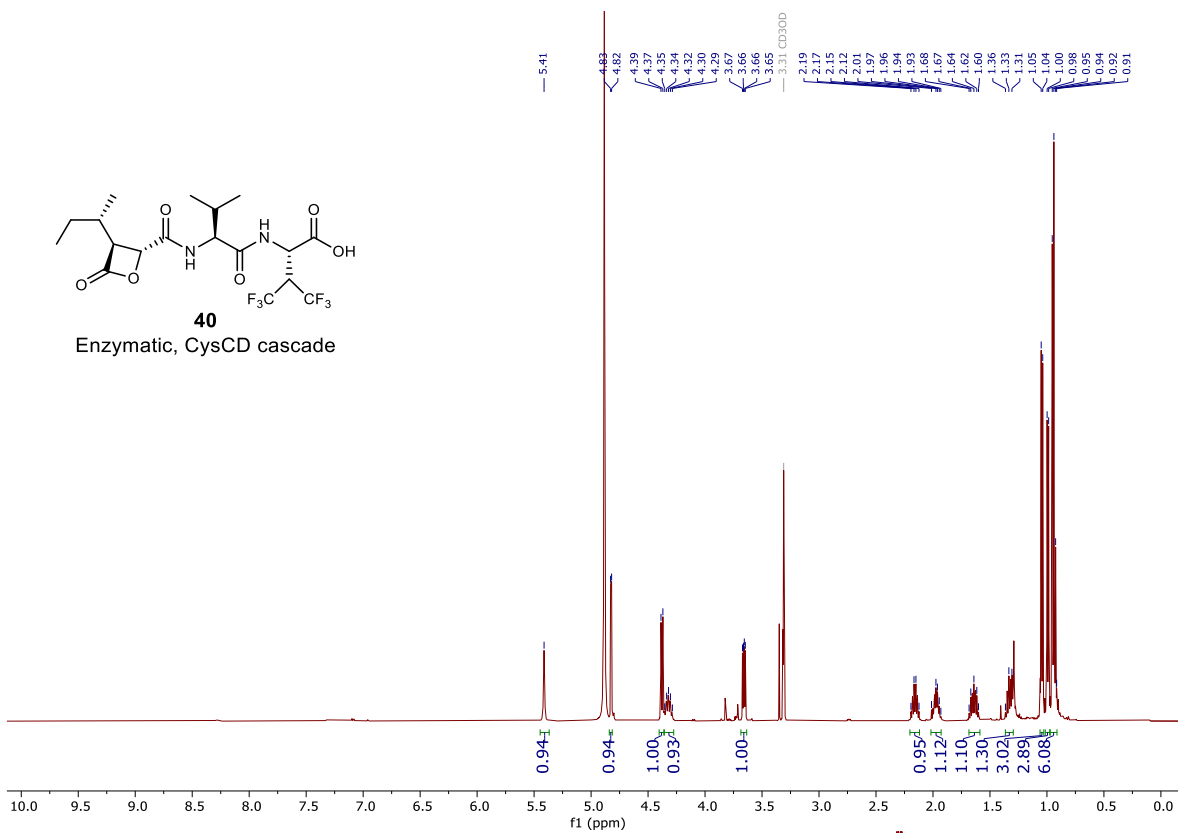
HMBC spectra of **2b** from enzymatic preparative scale reaction.

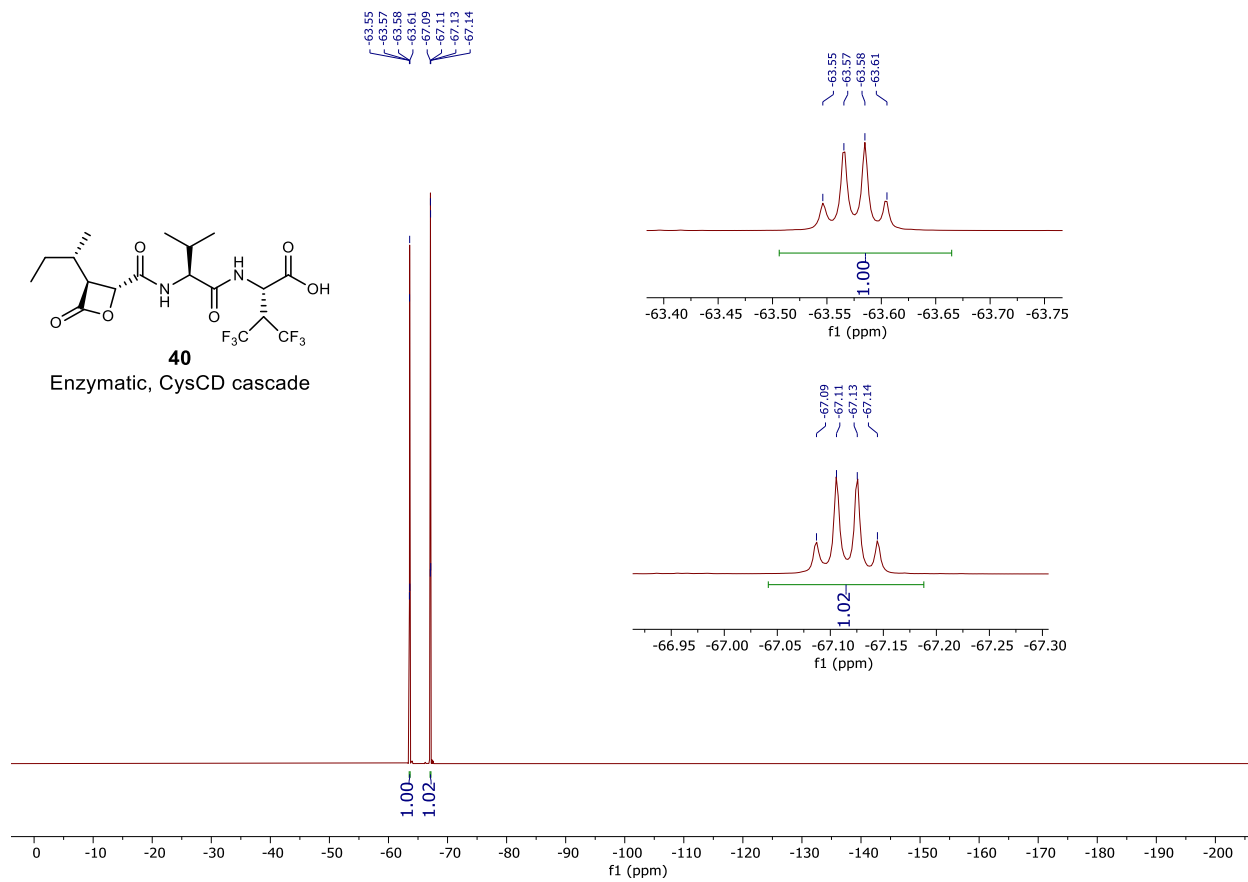




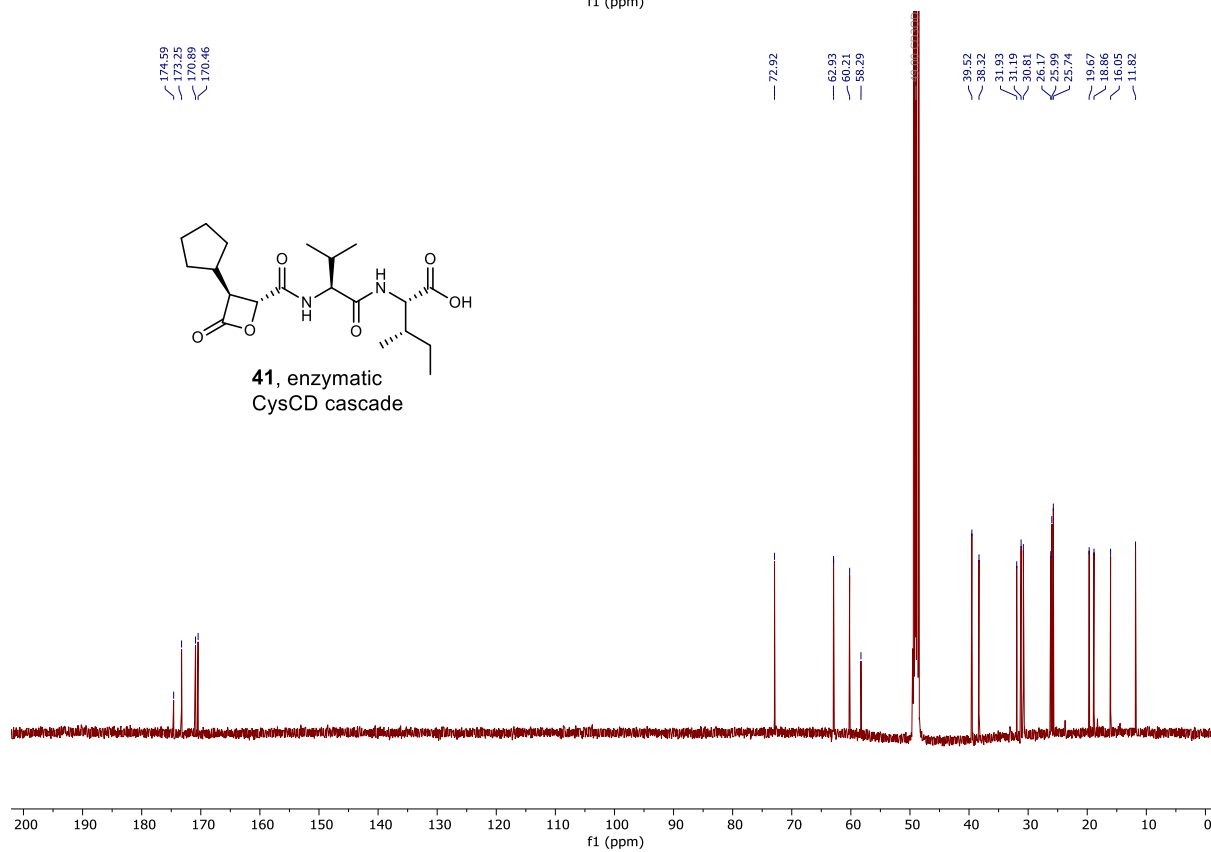
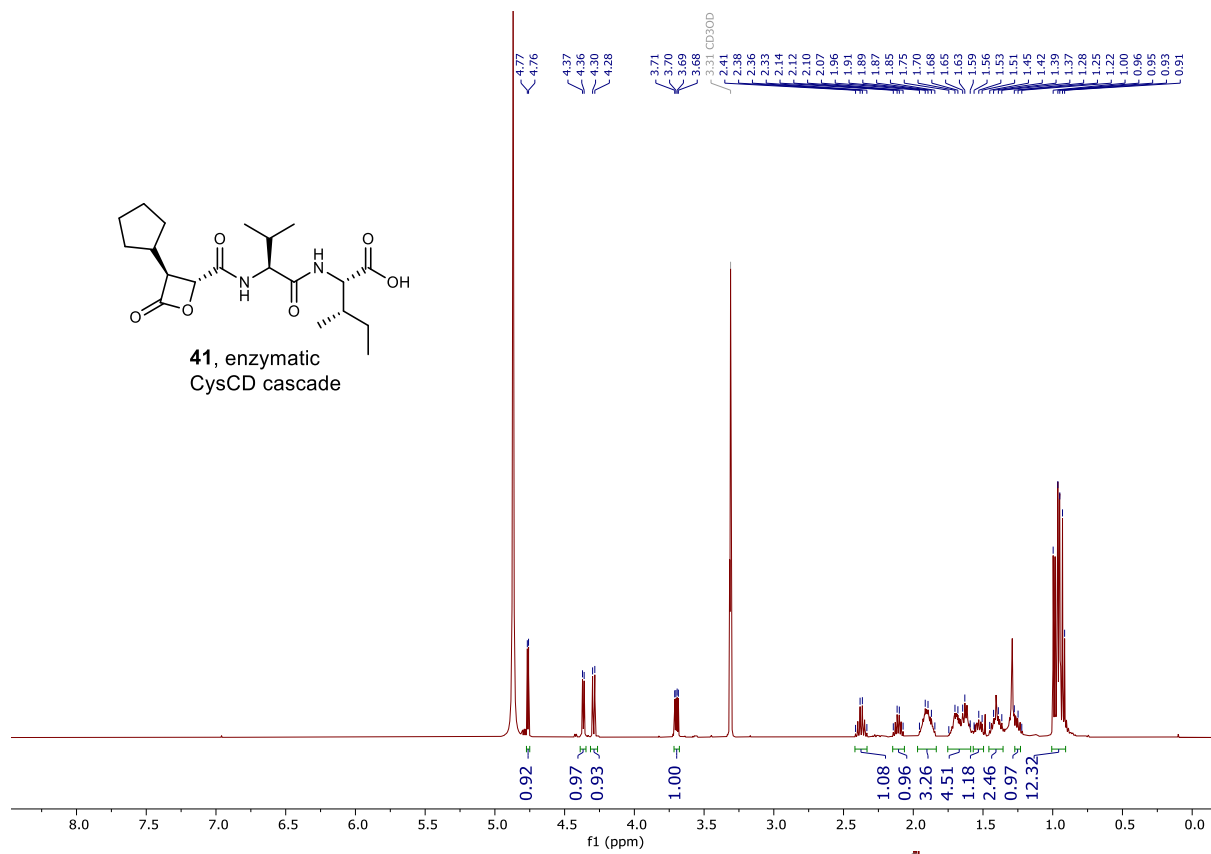


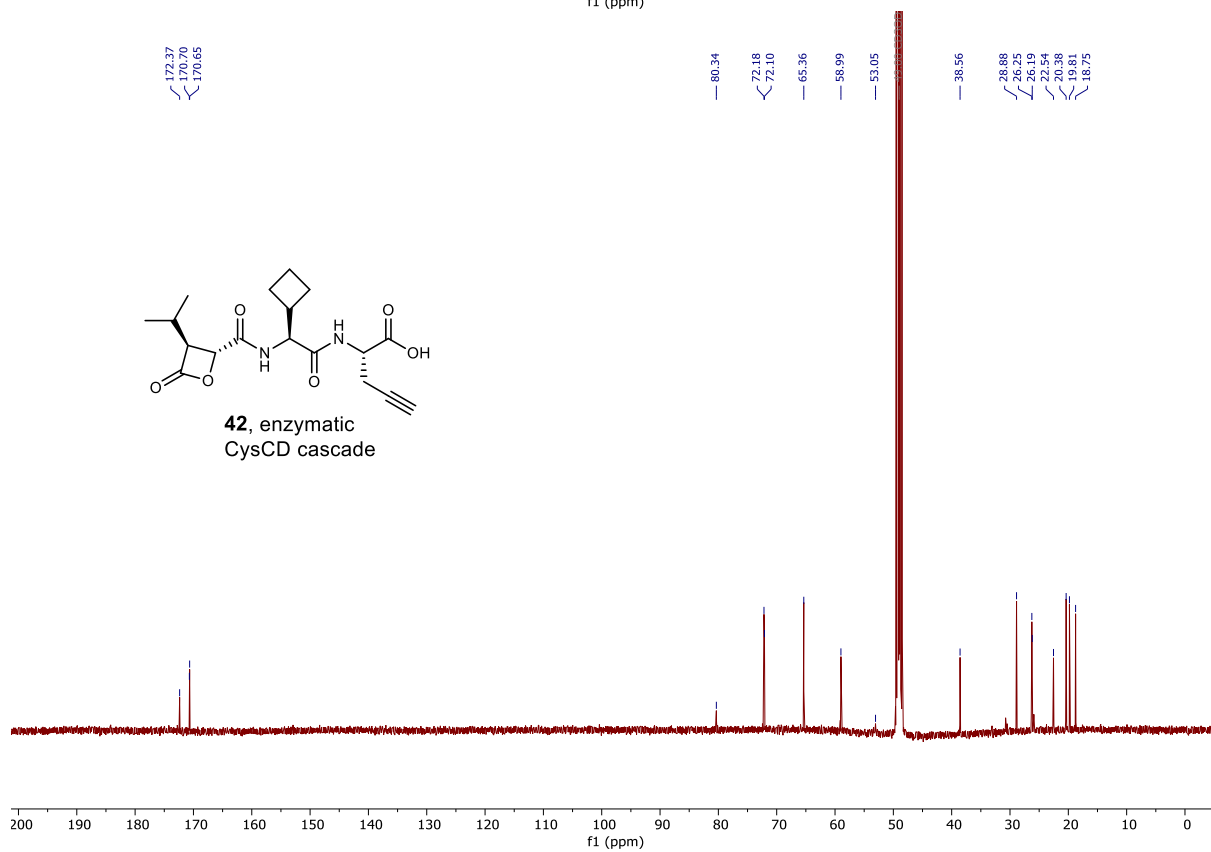
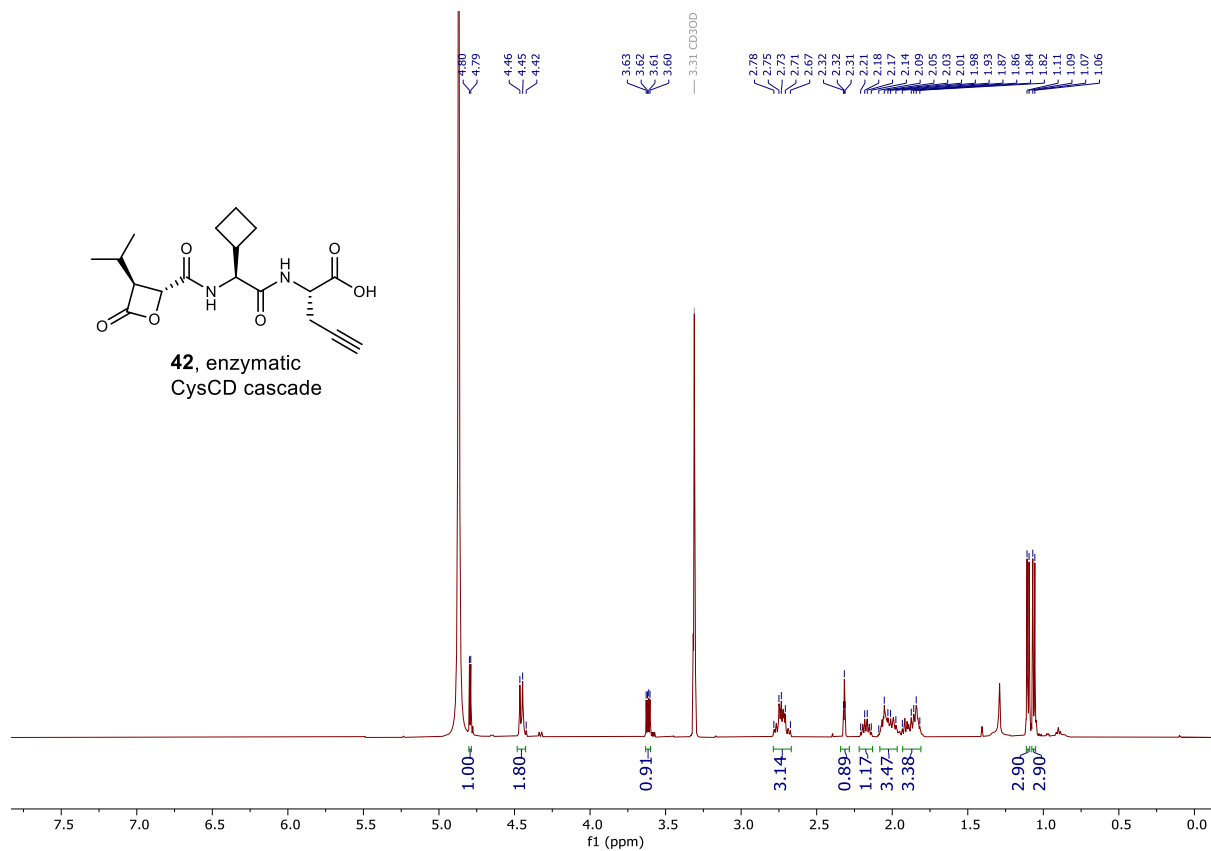


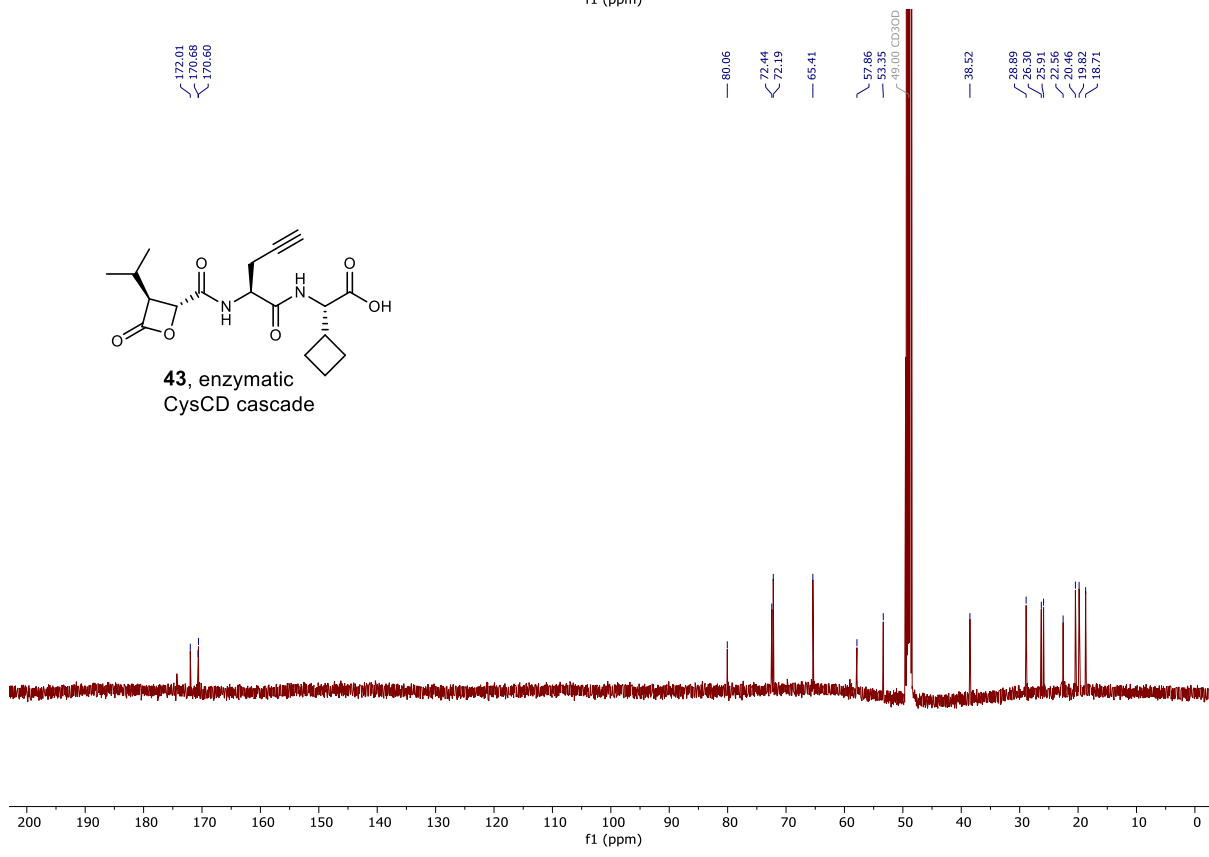
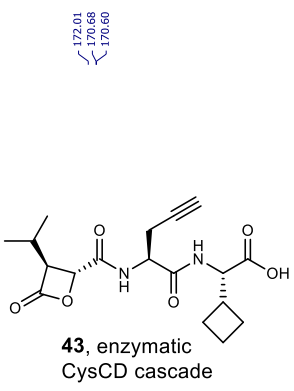
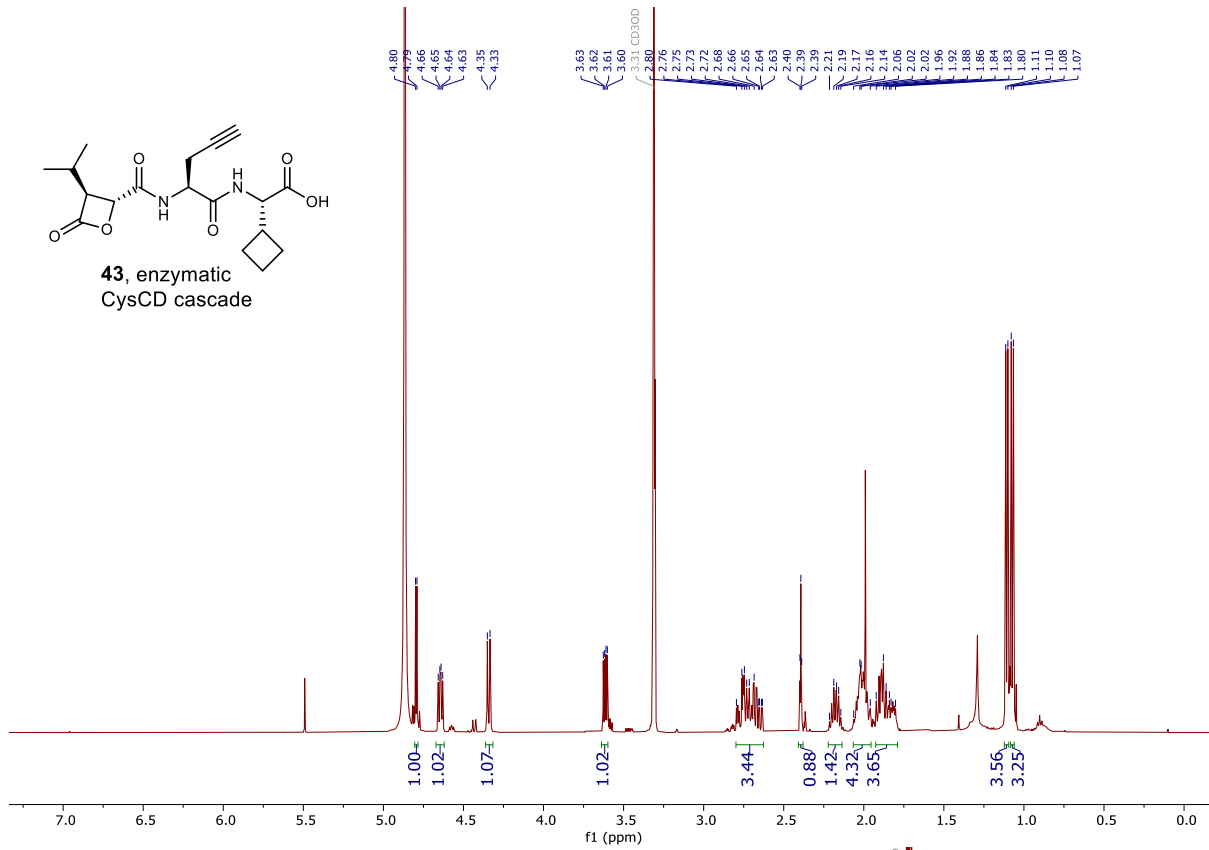
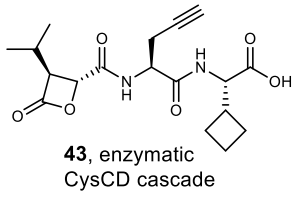




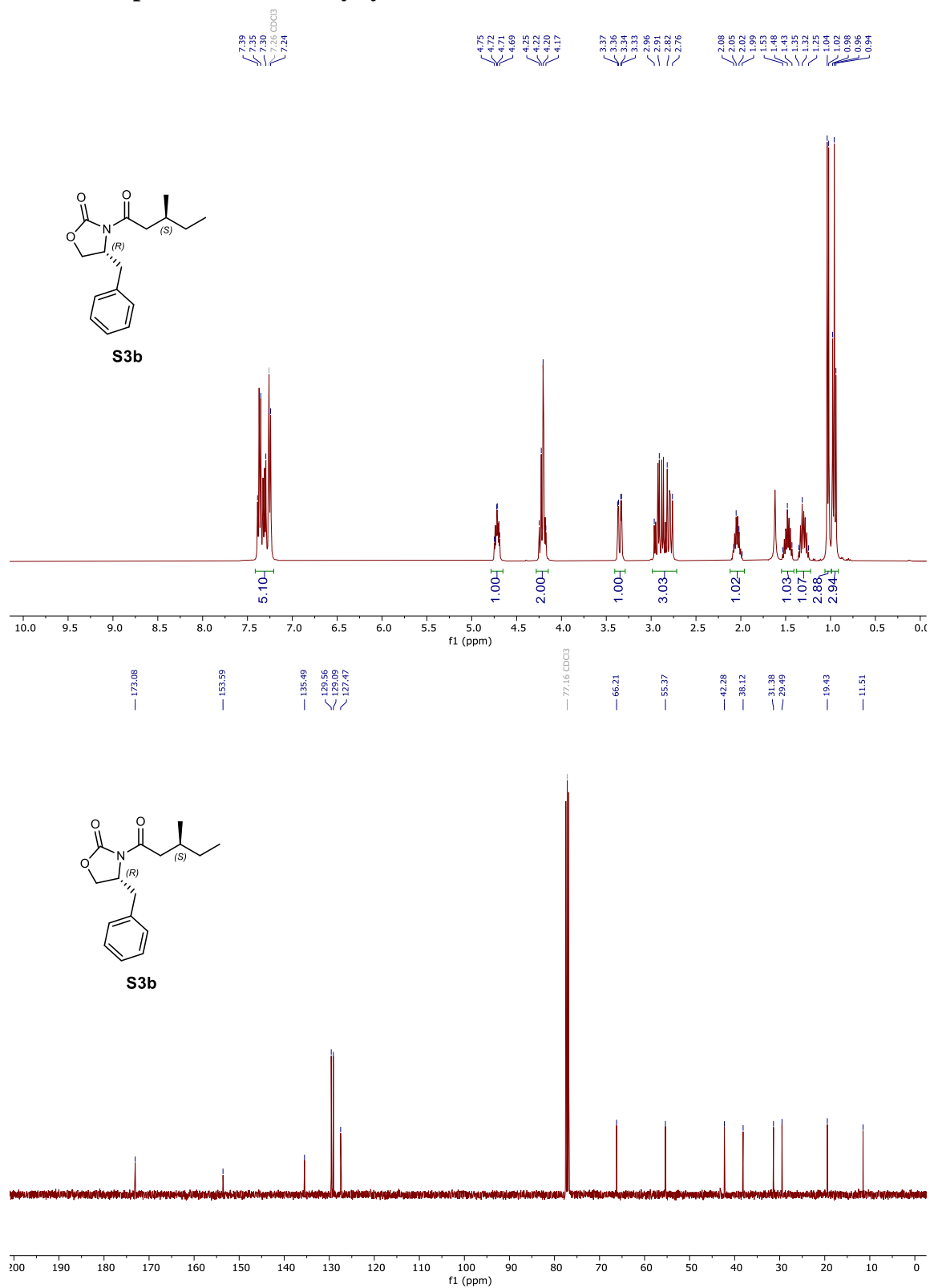
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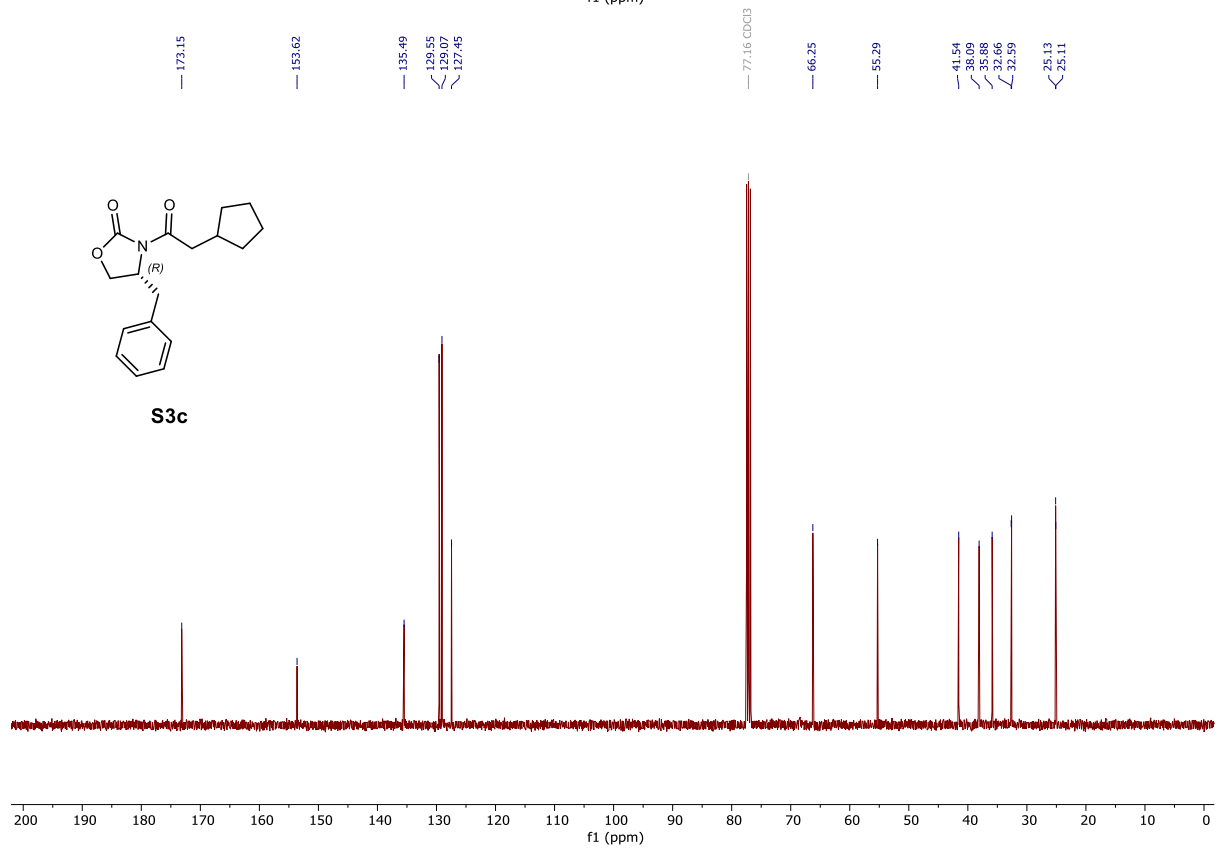
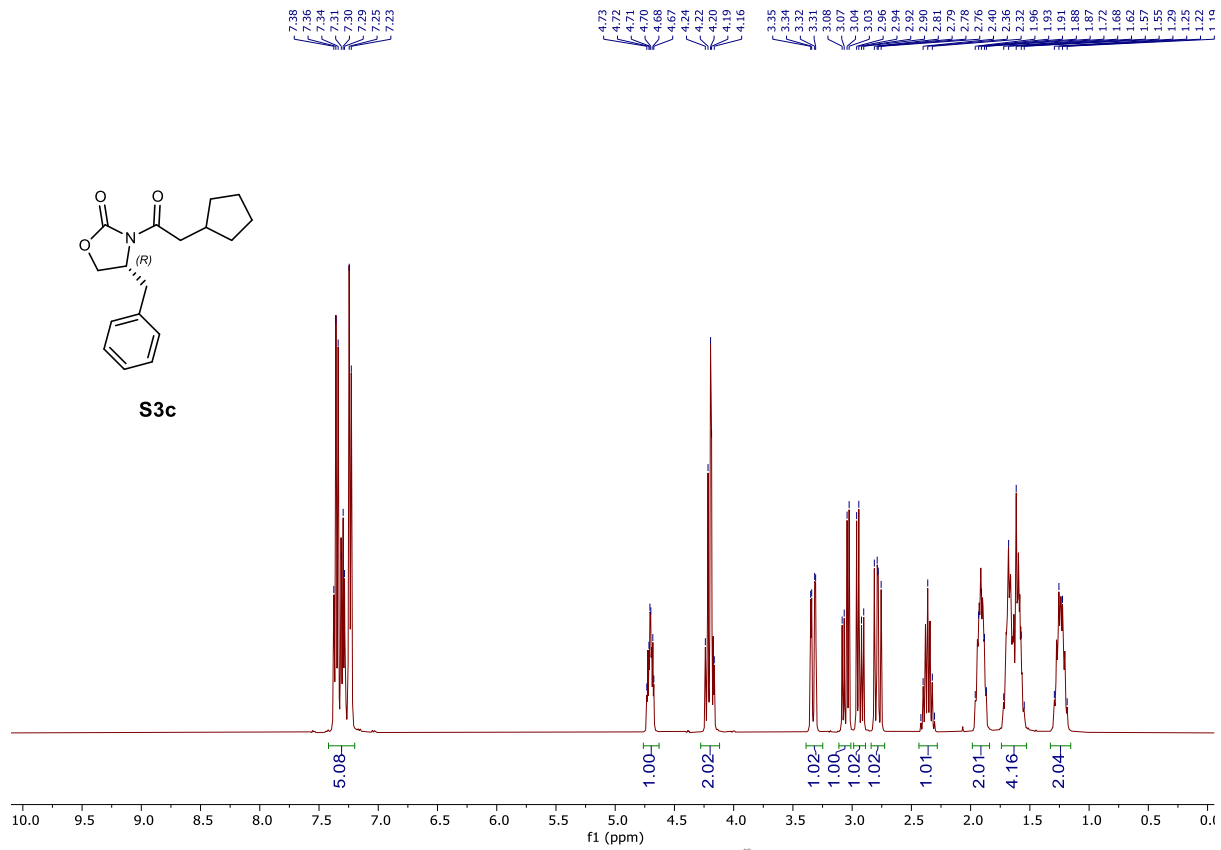


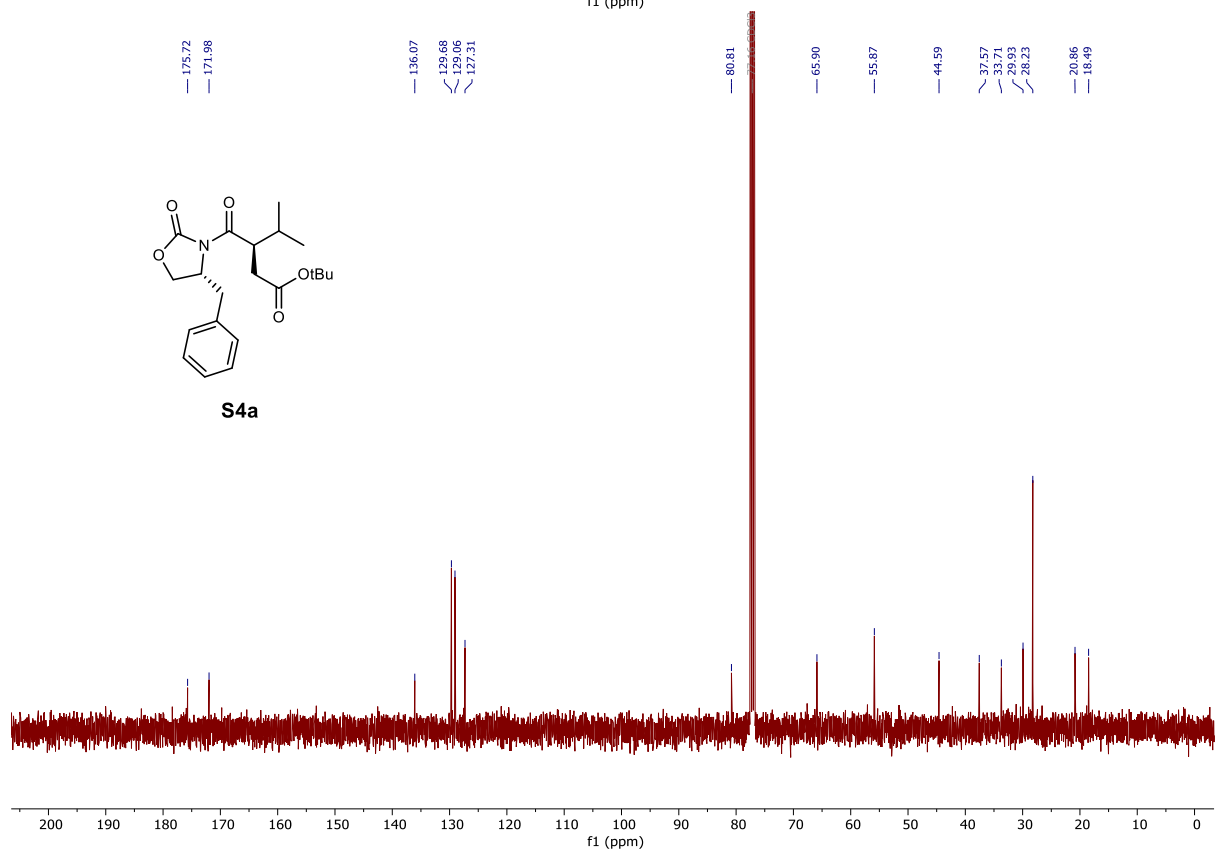
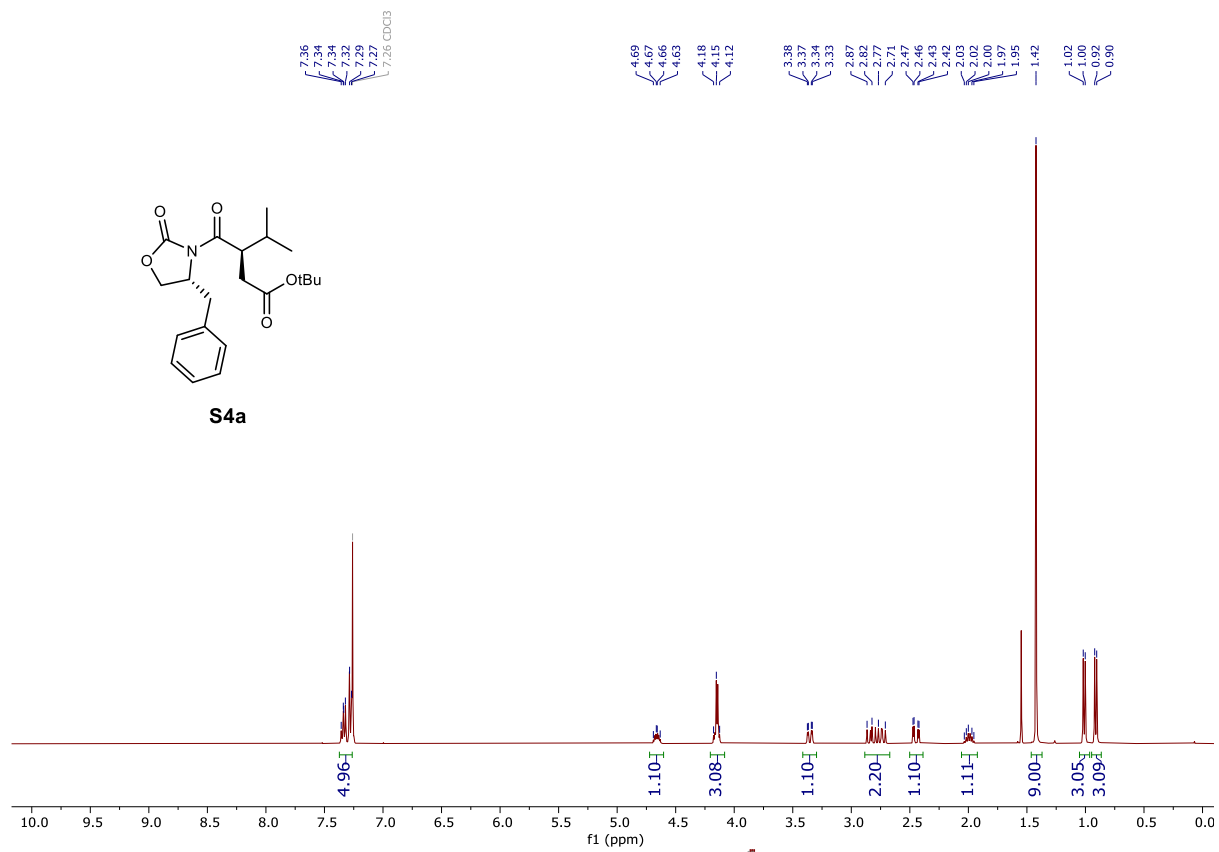


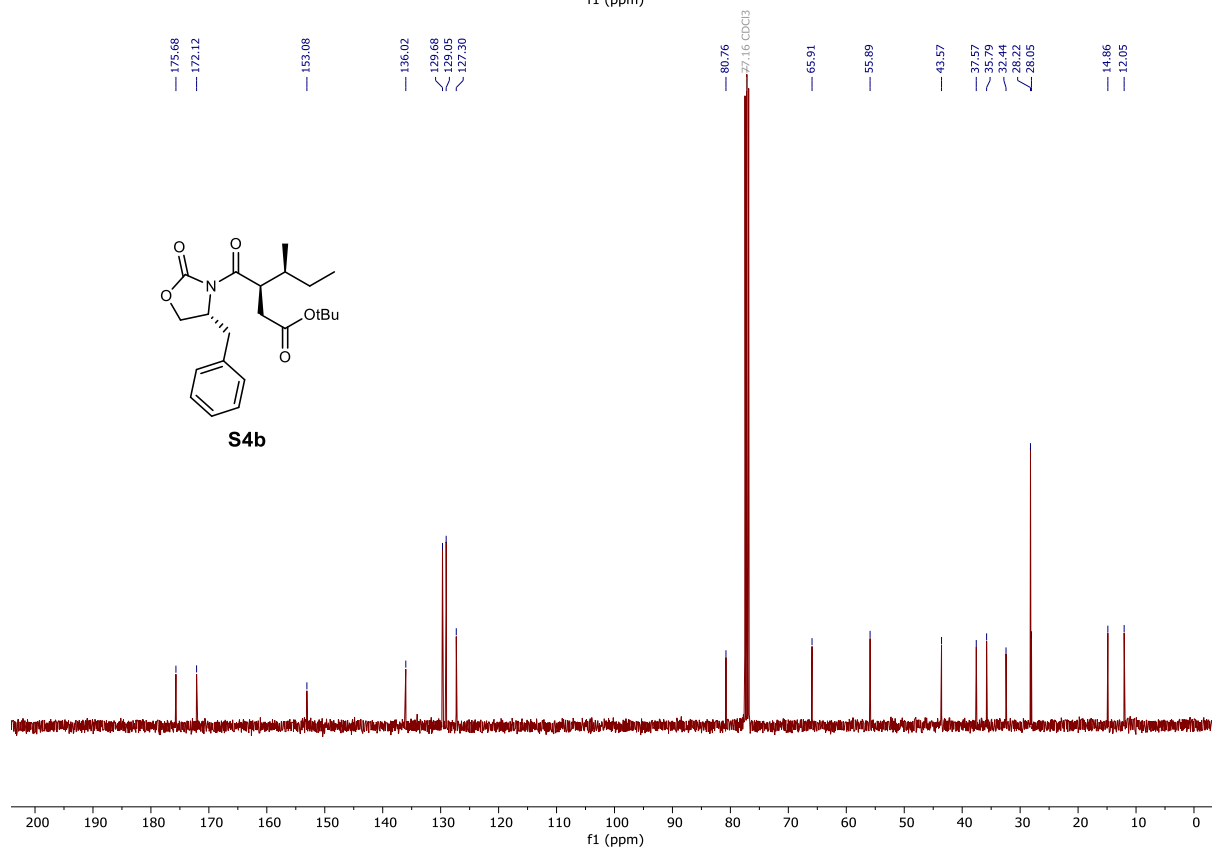
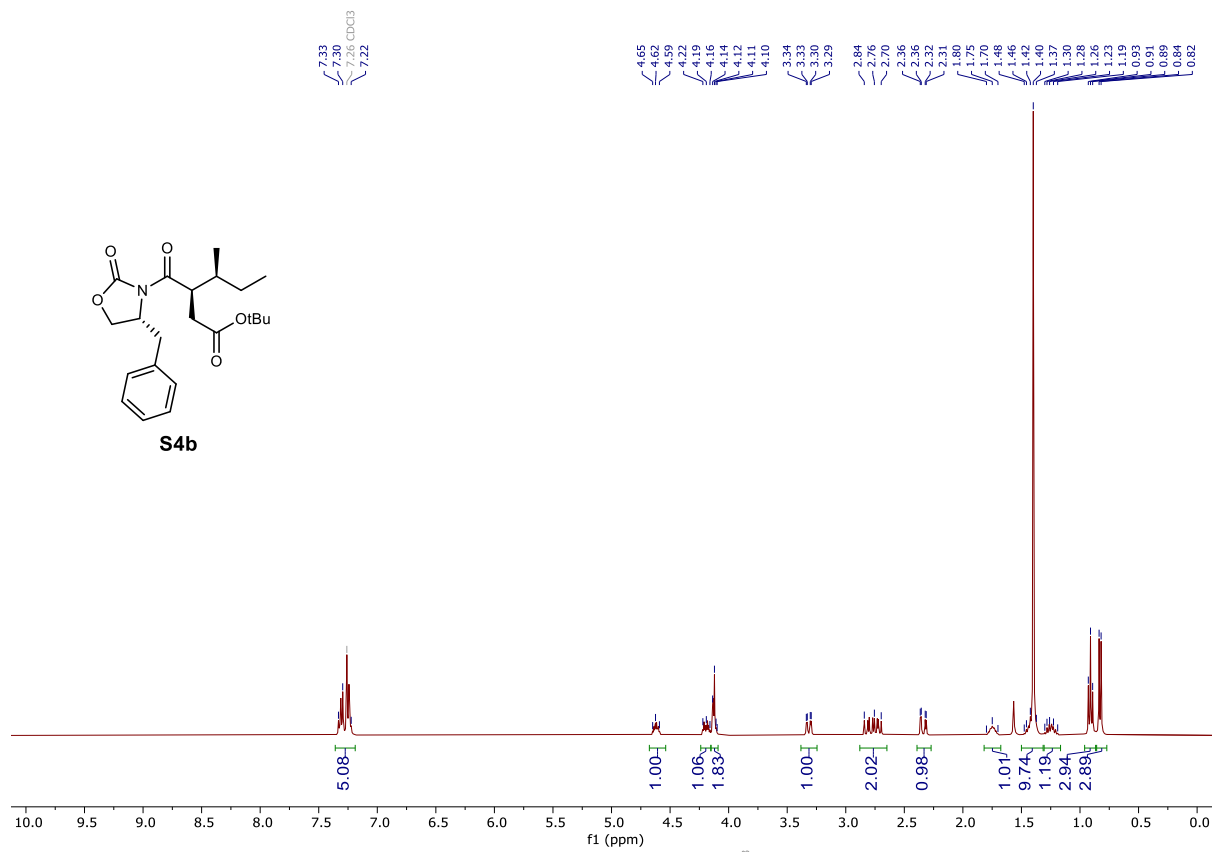


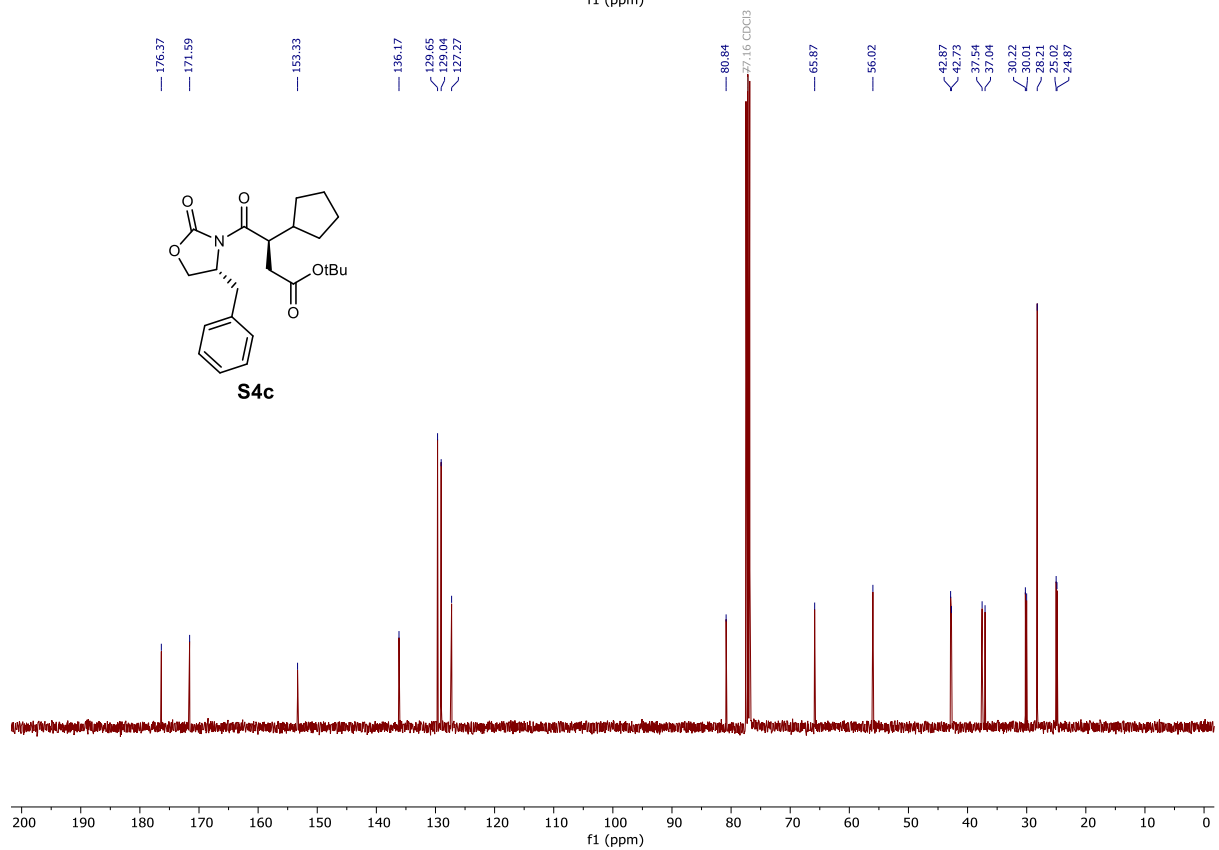
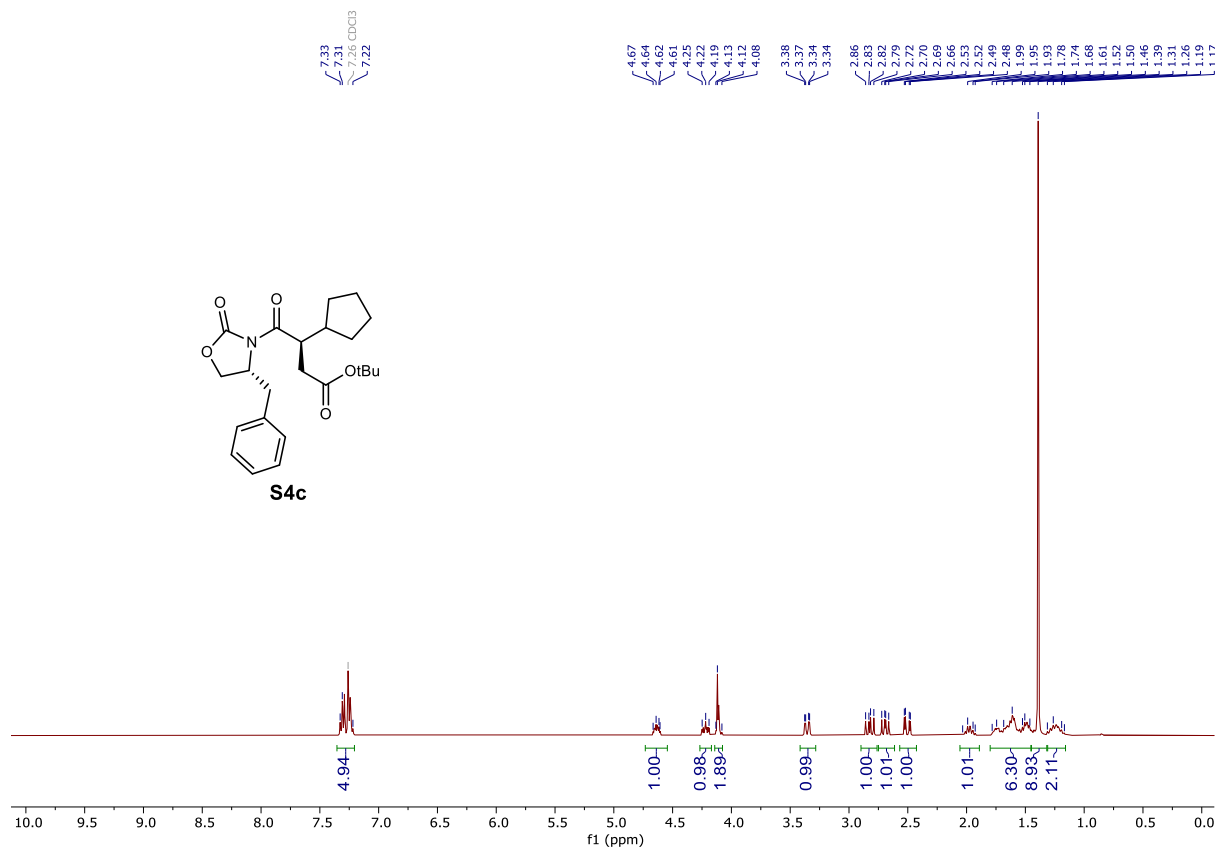
8. NMR spectra of chemically synthesised standards

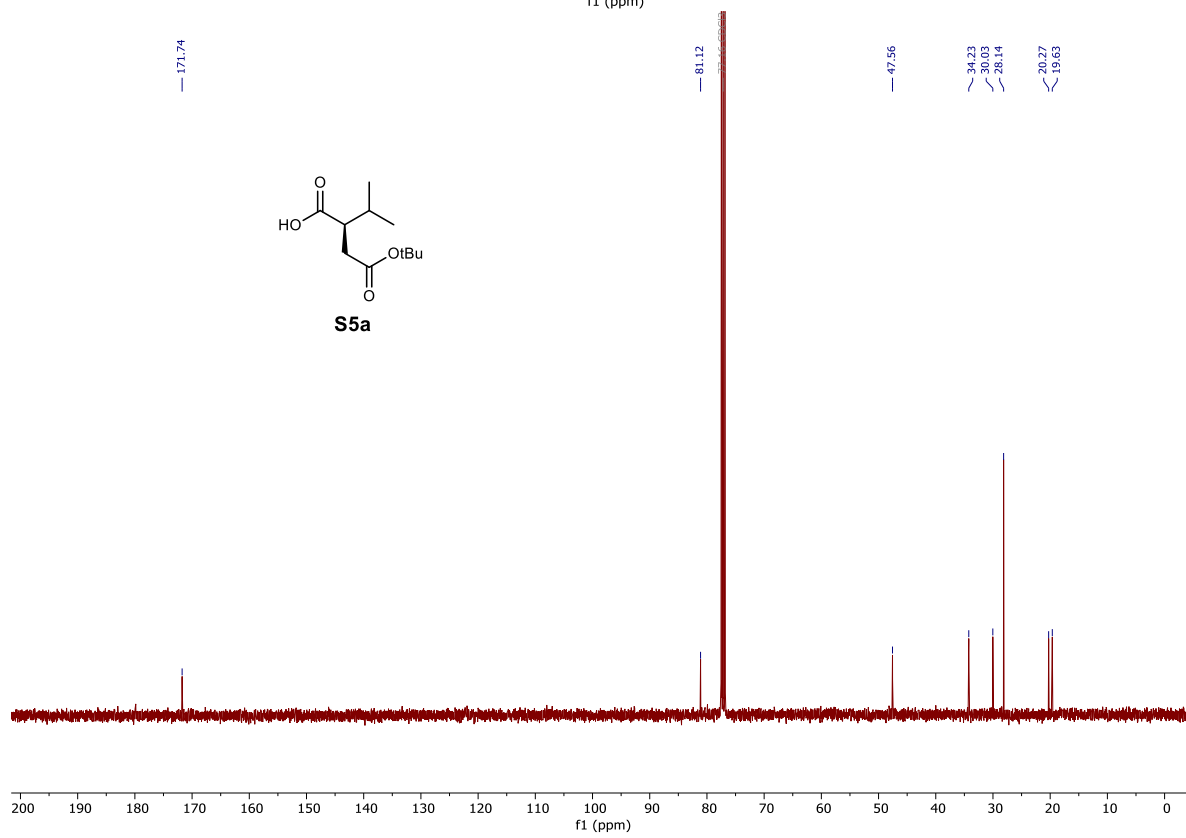
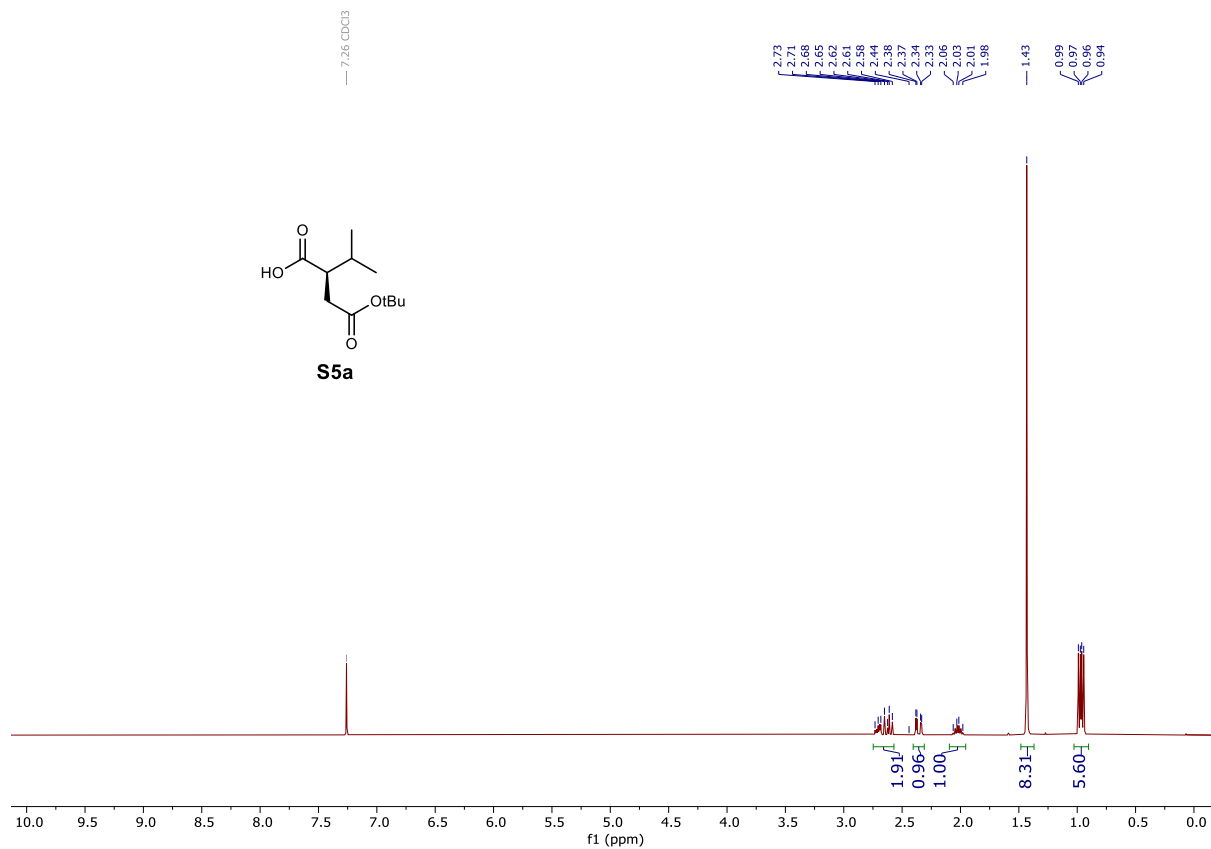


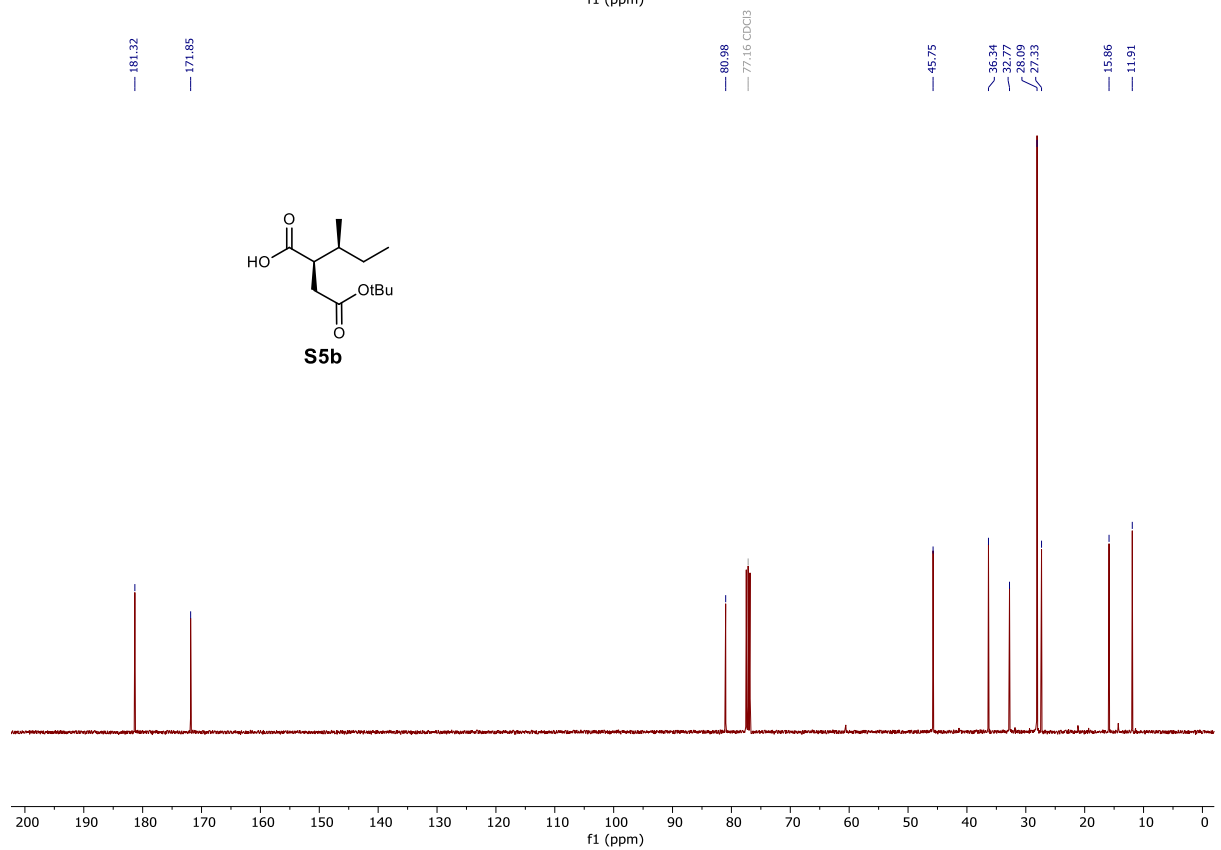
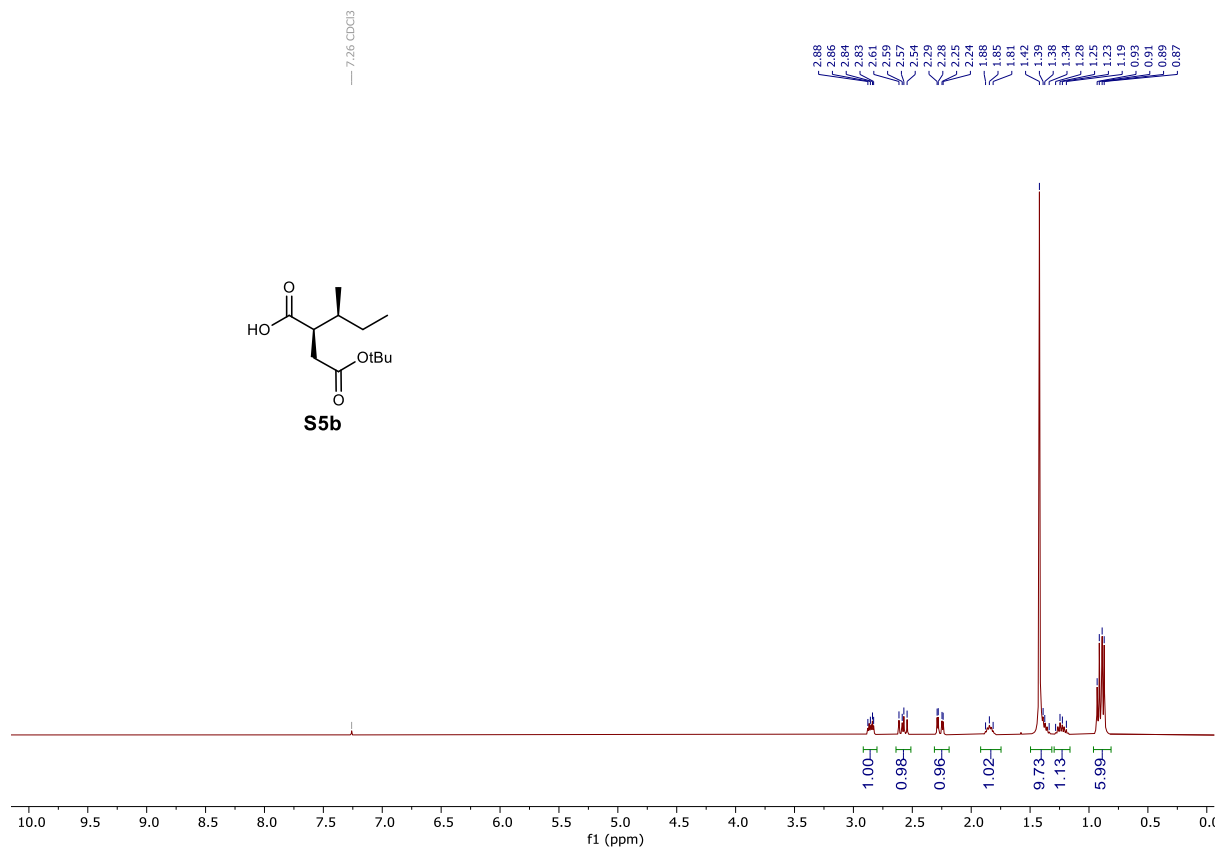


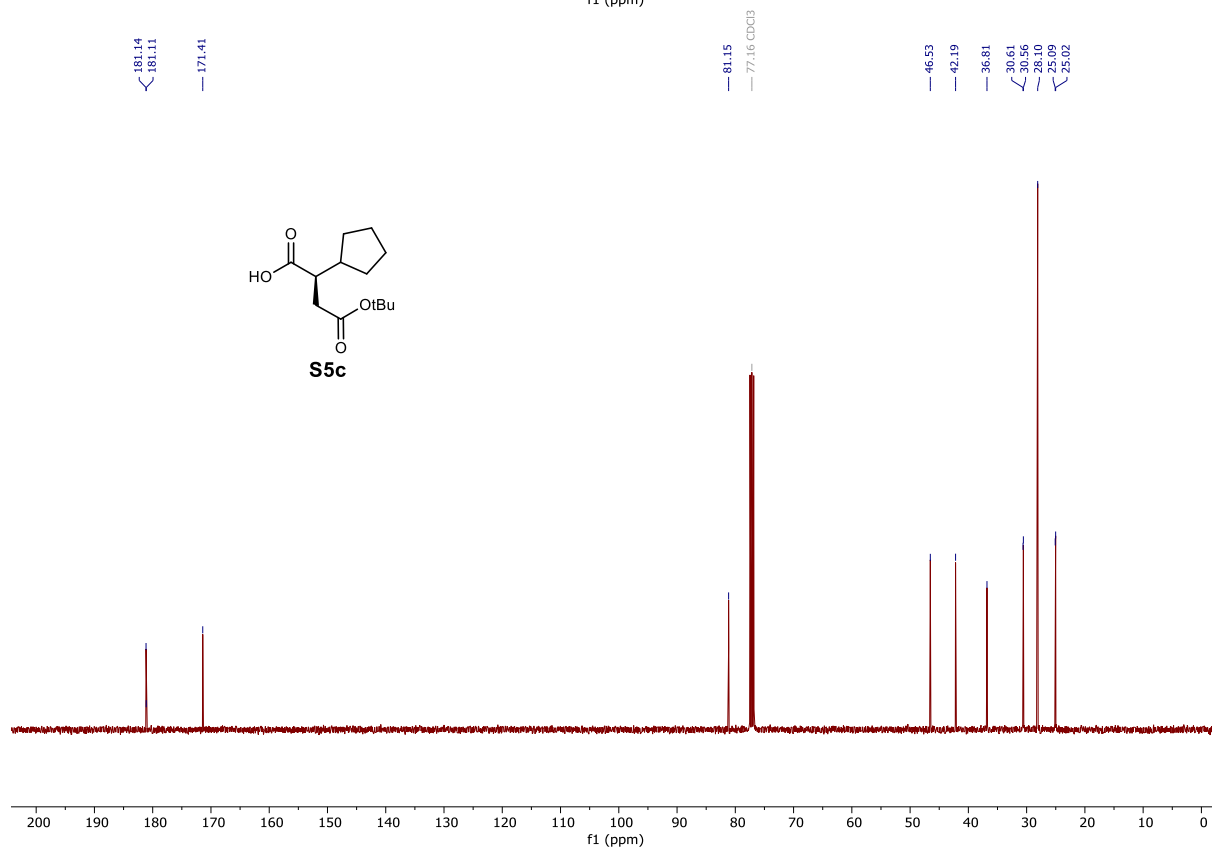
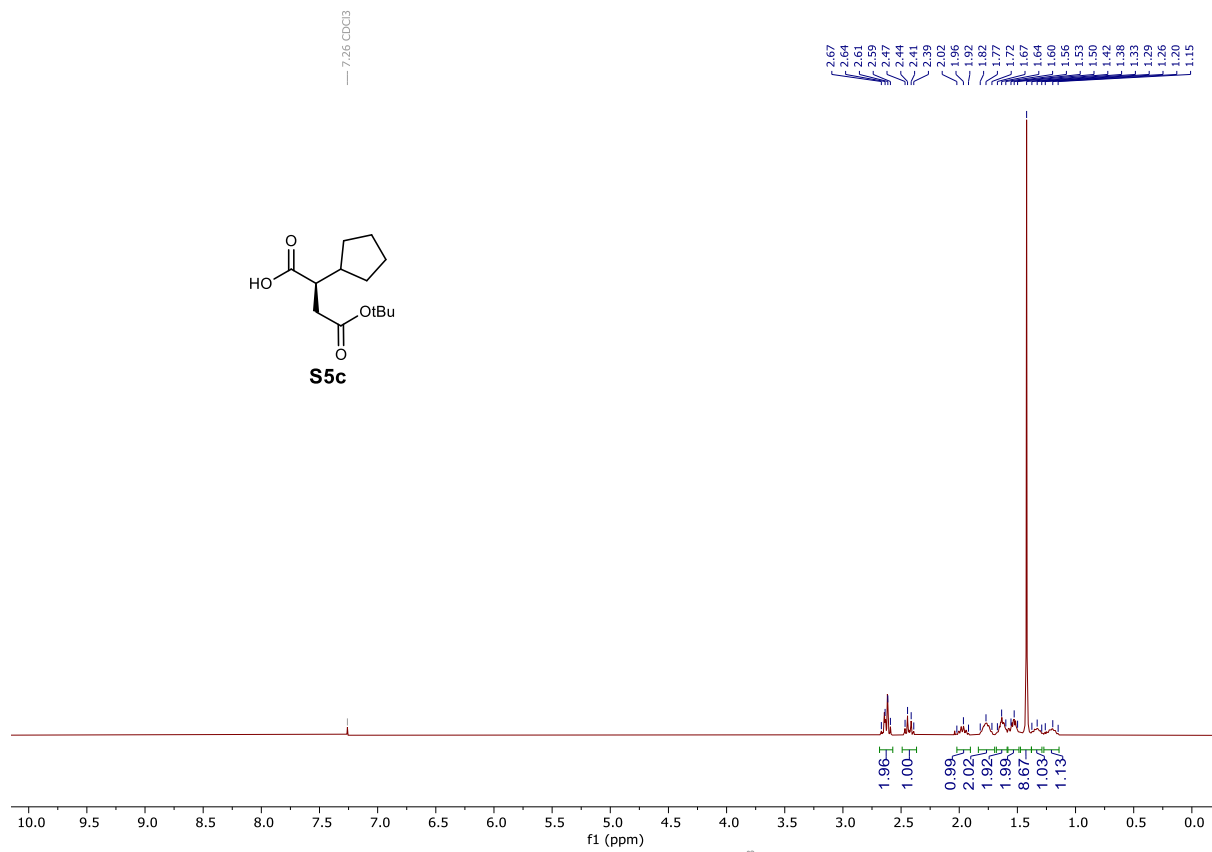


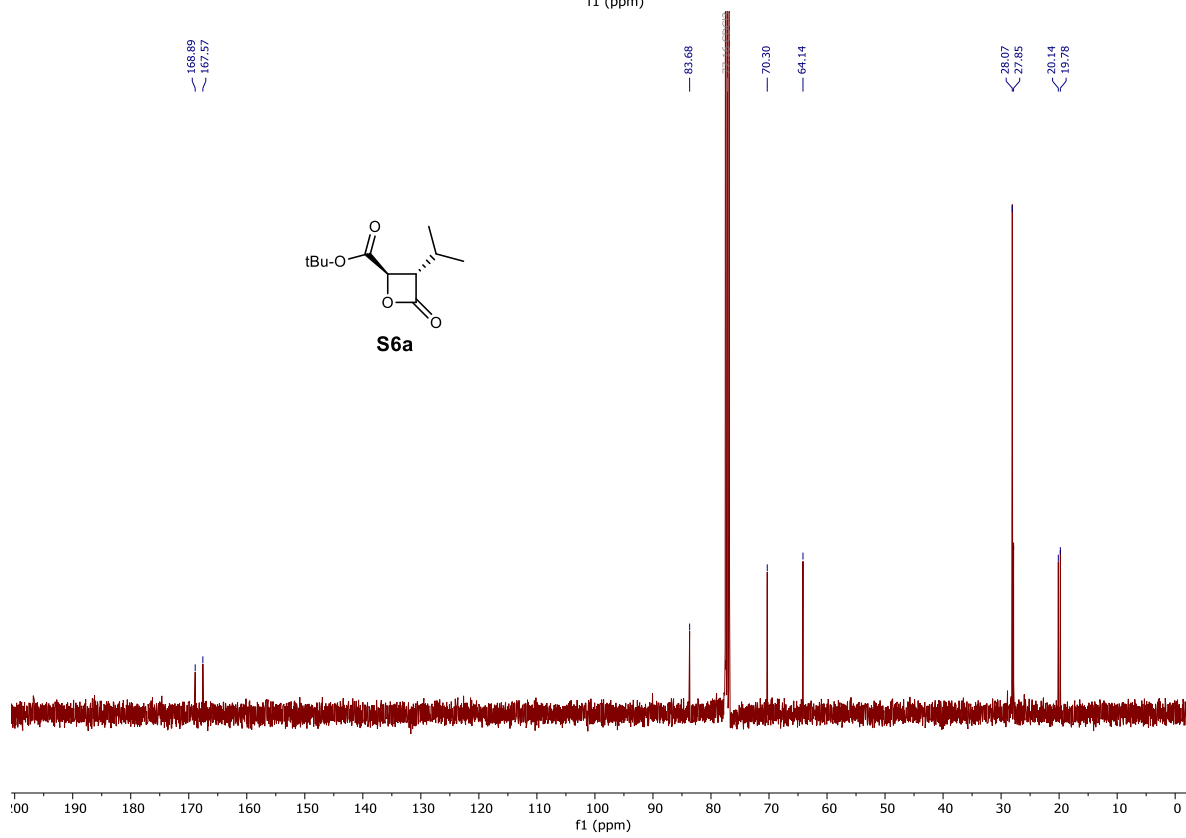
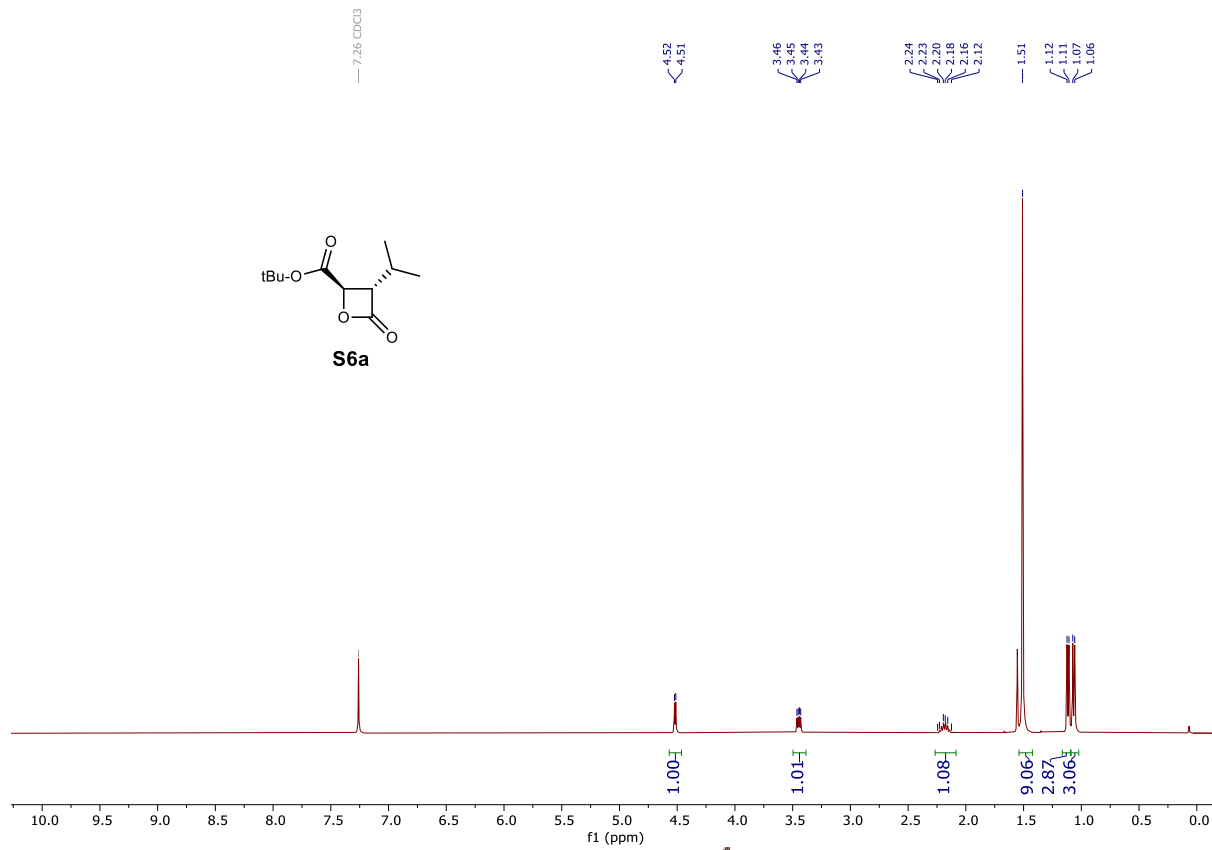


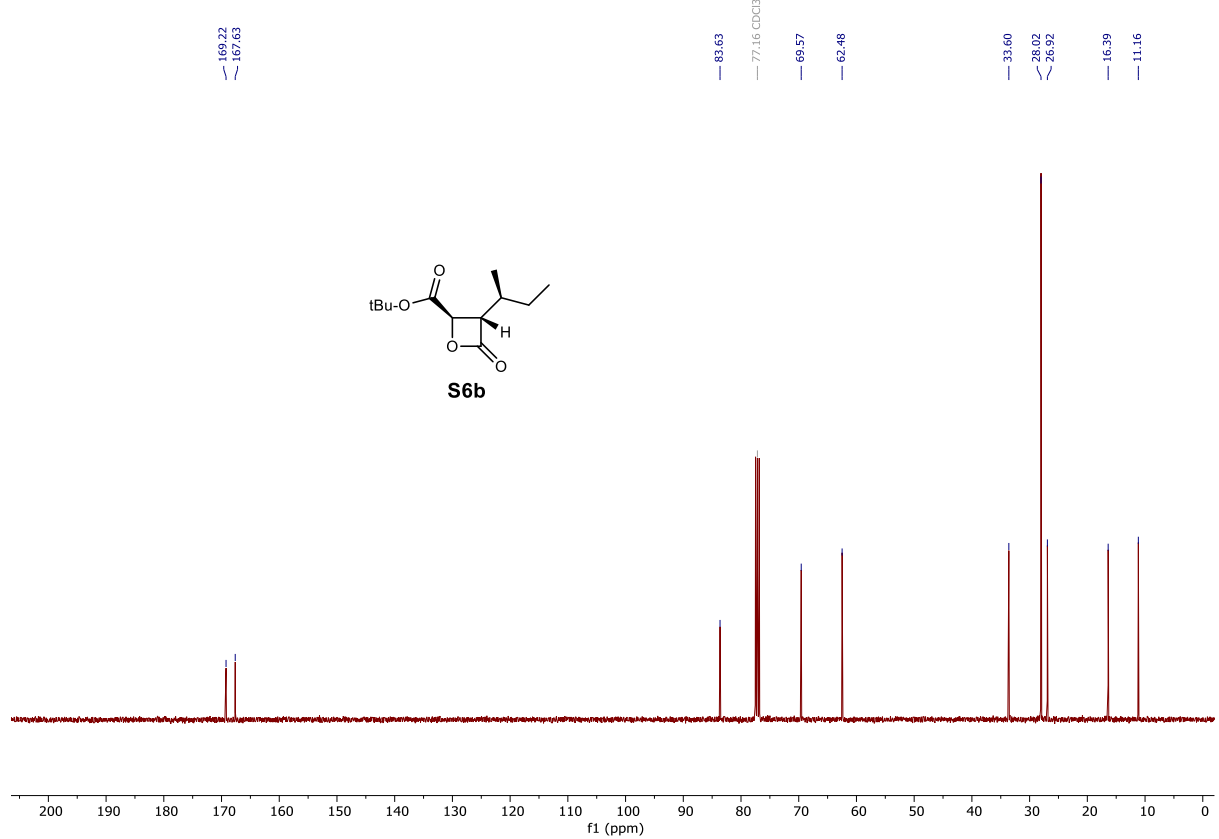
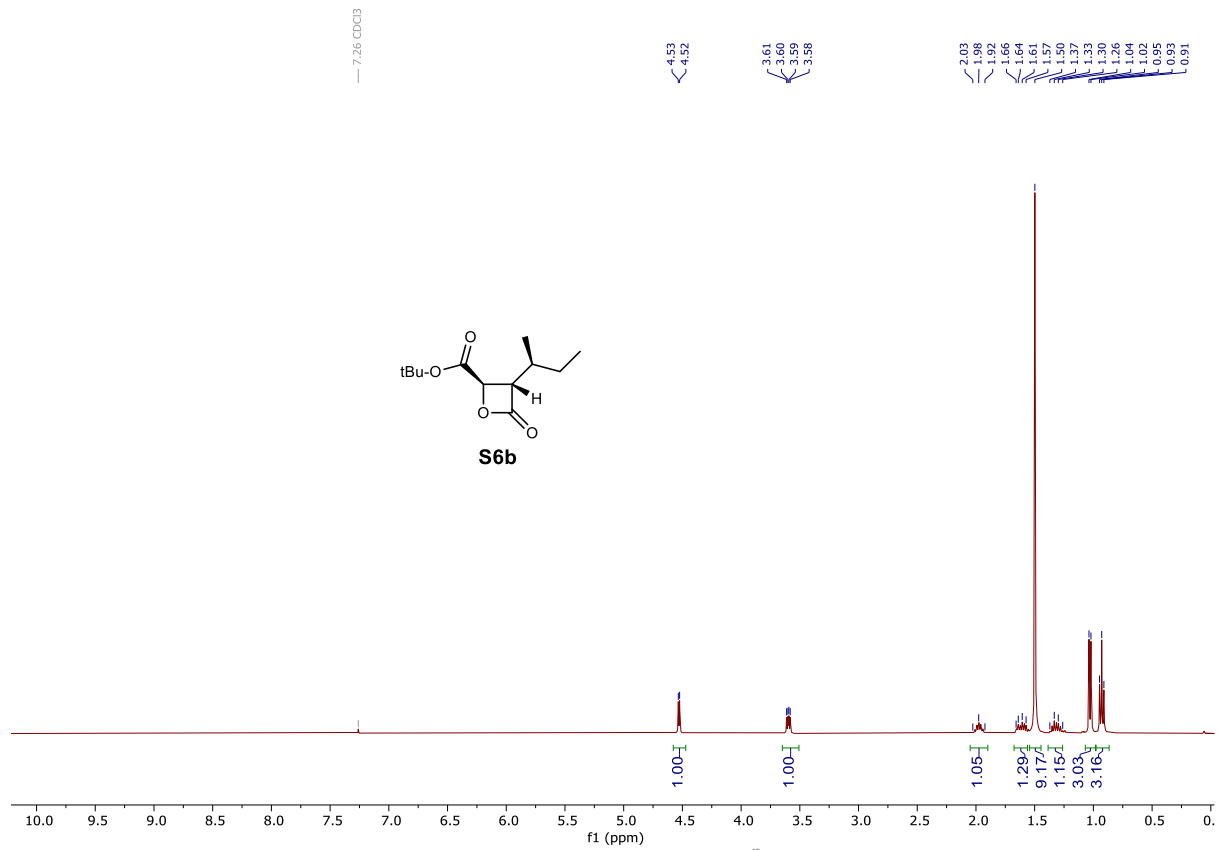


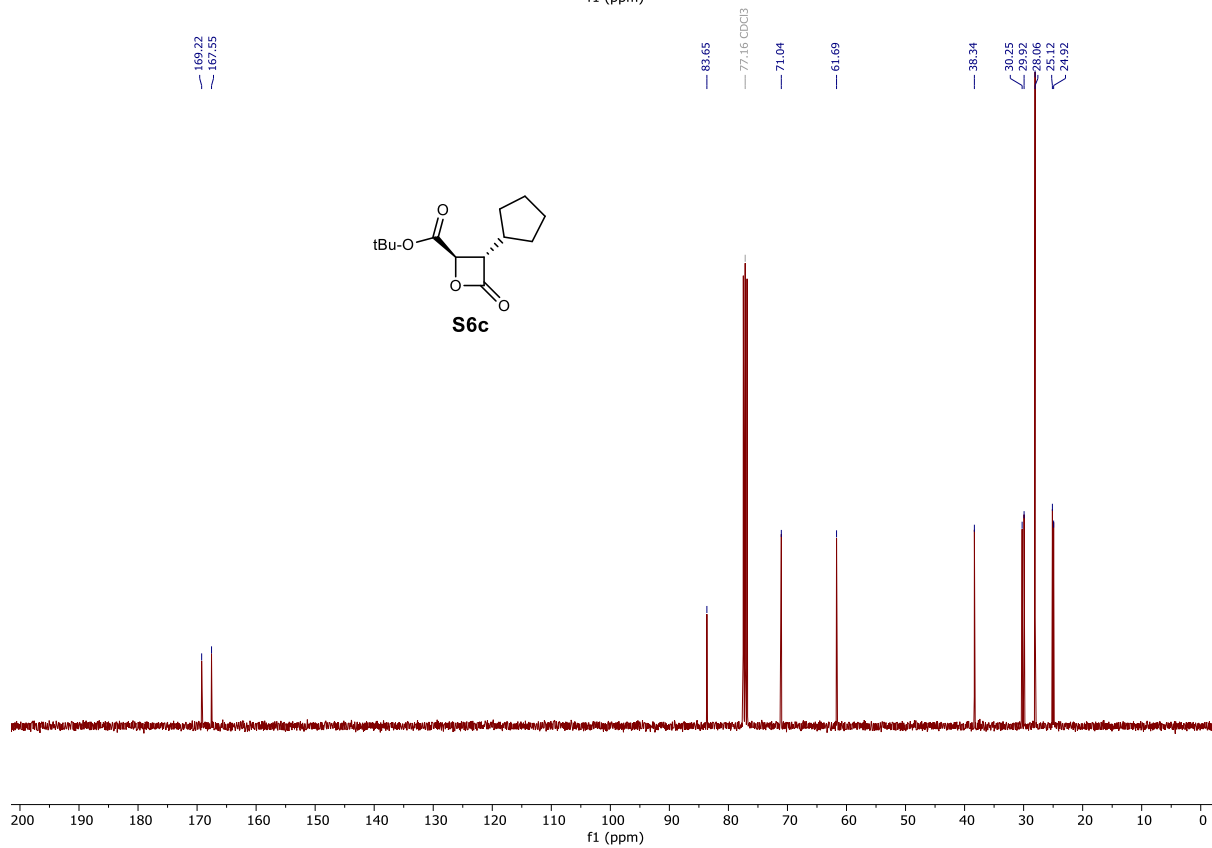
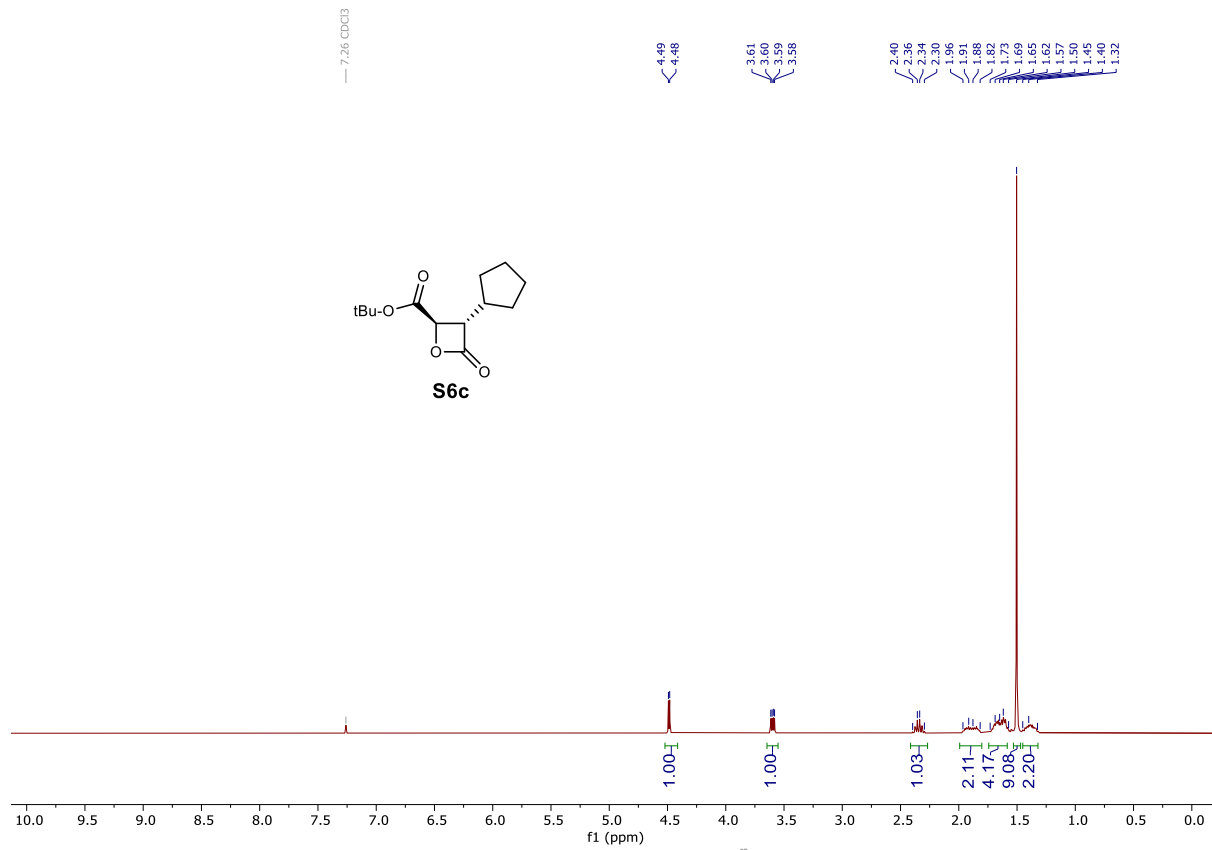


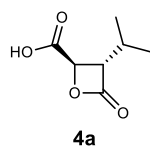
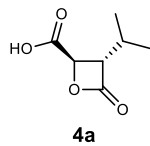
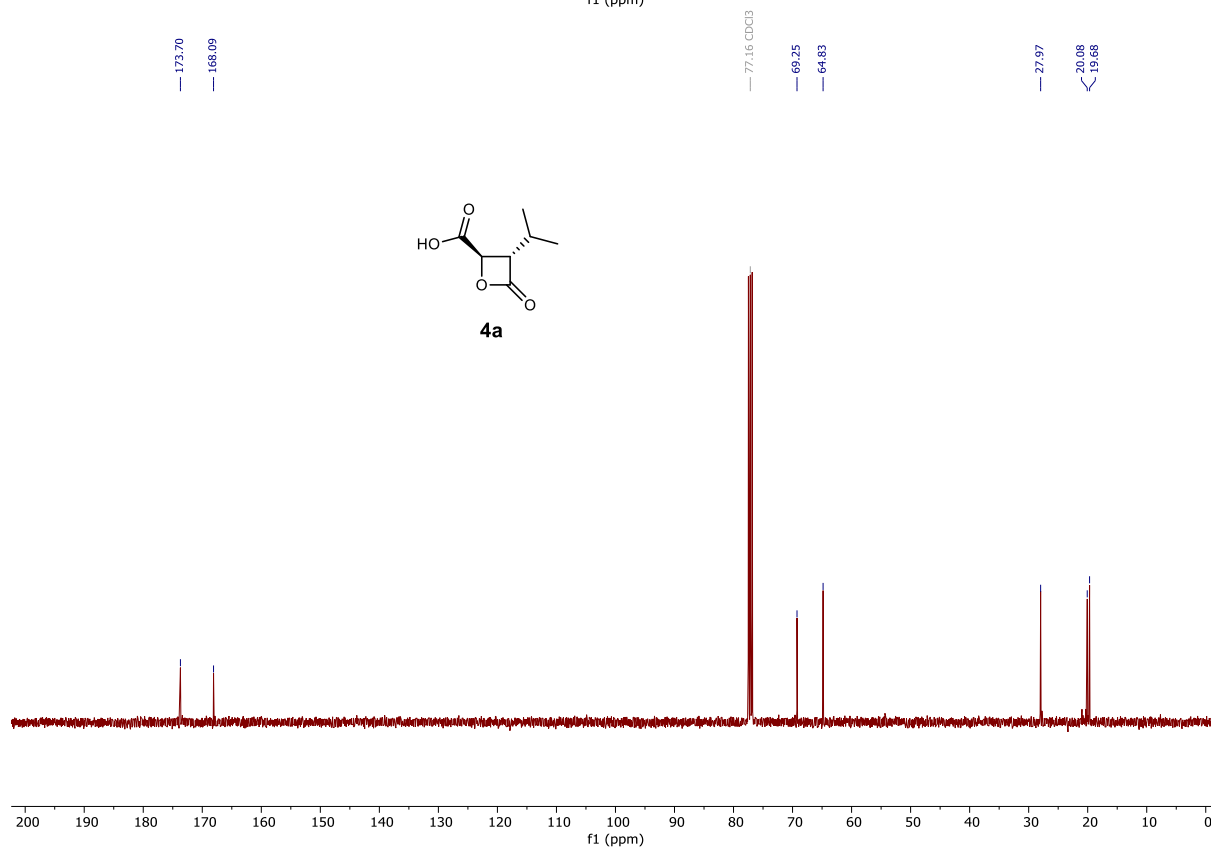
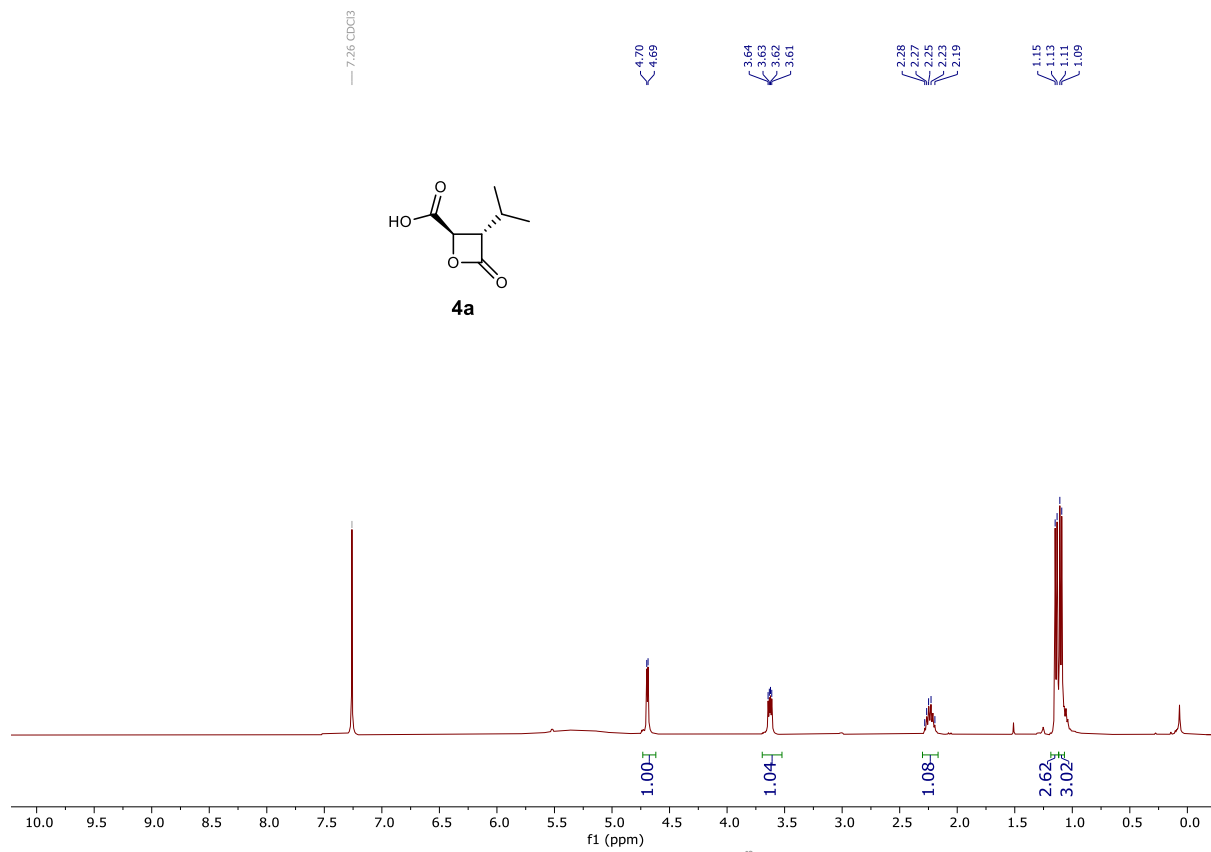


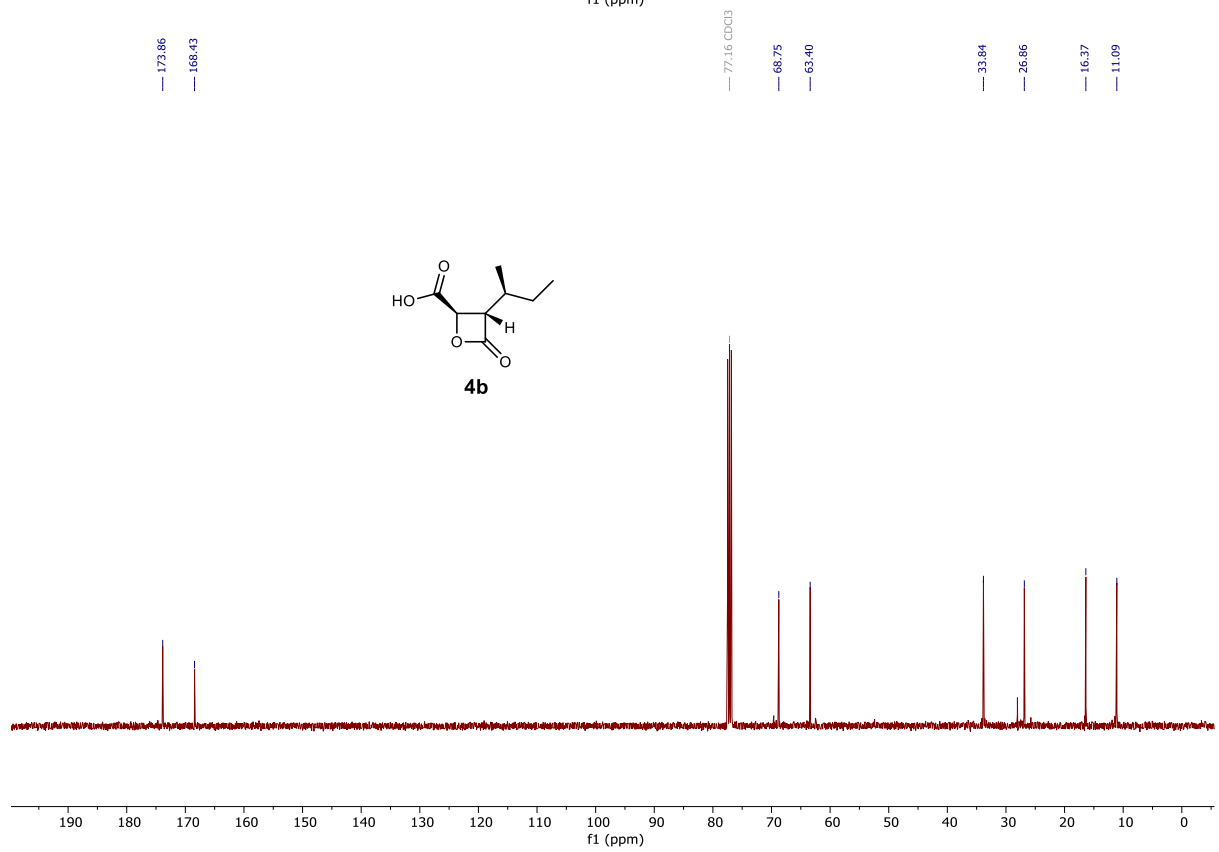
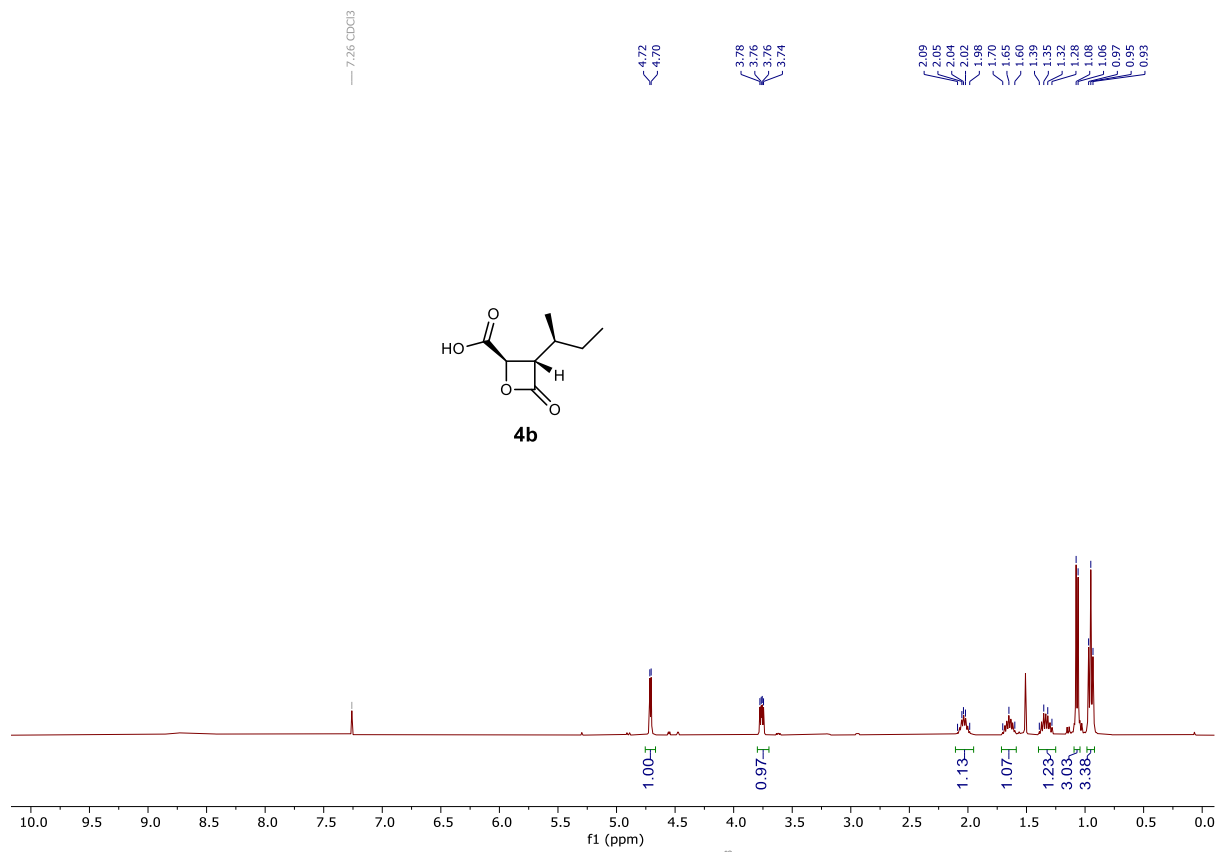


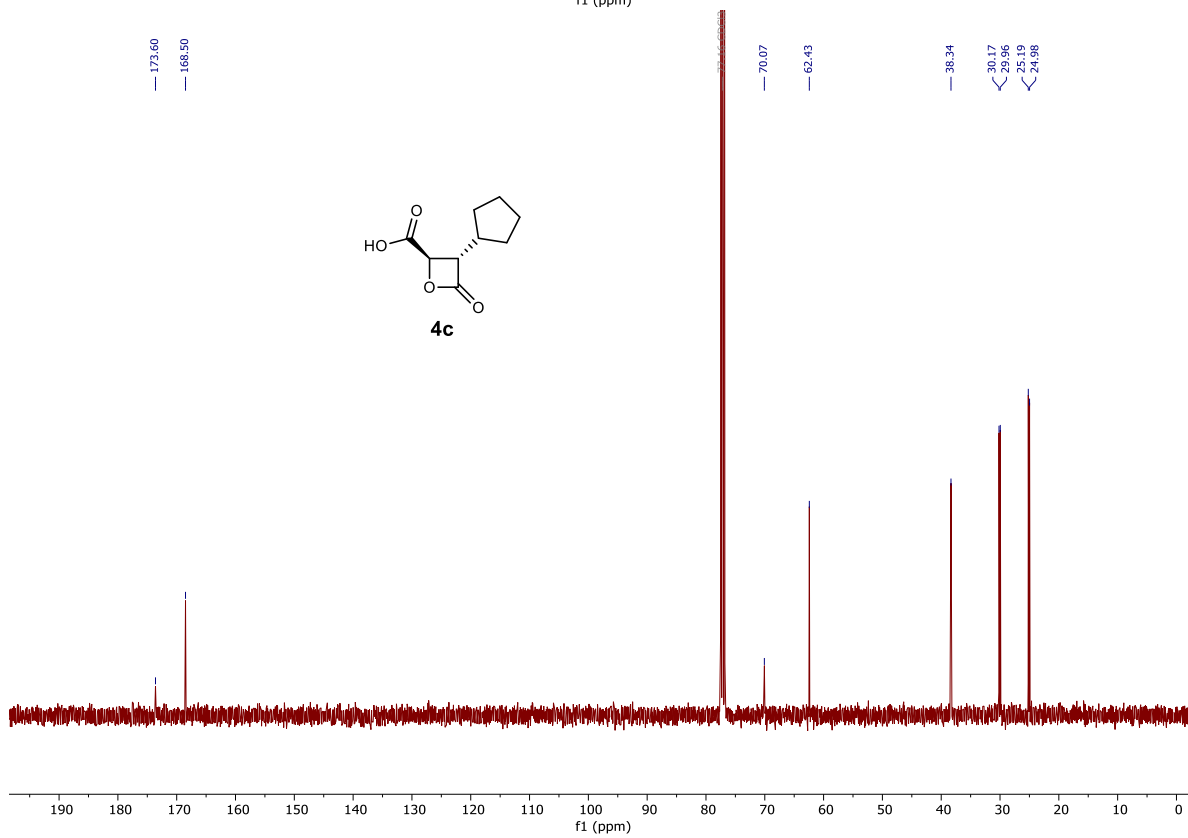
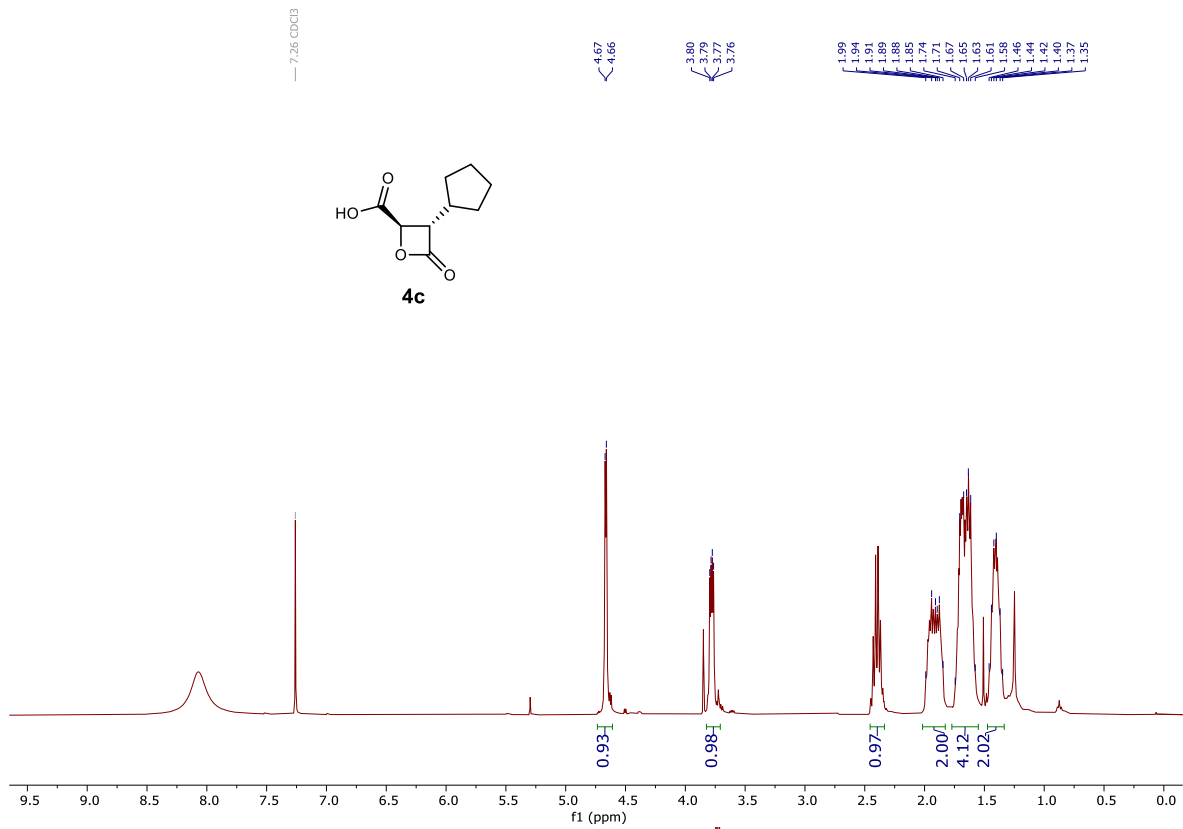


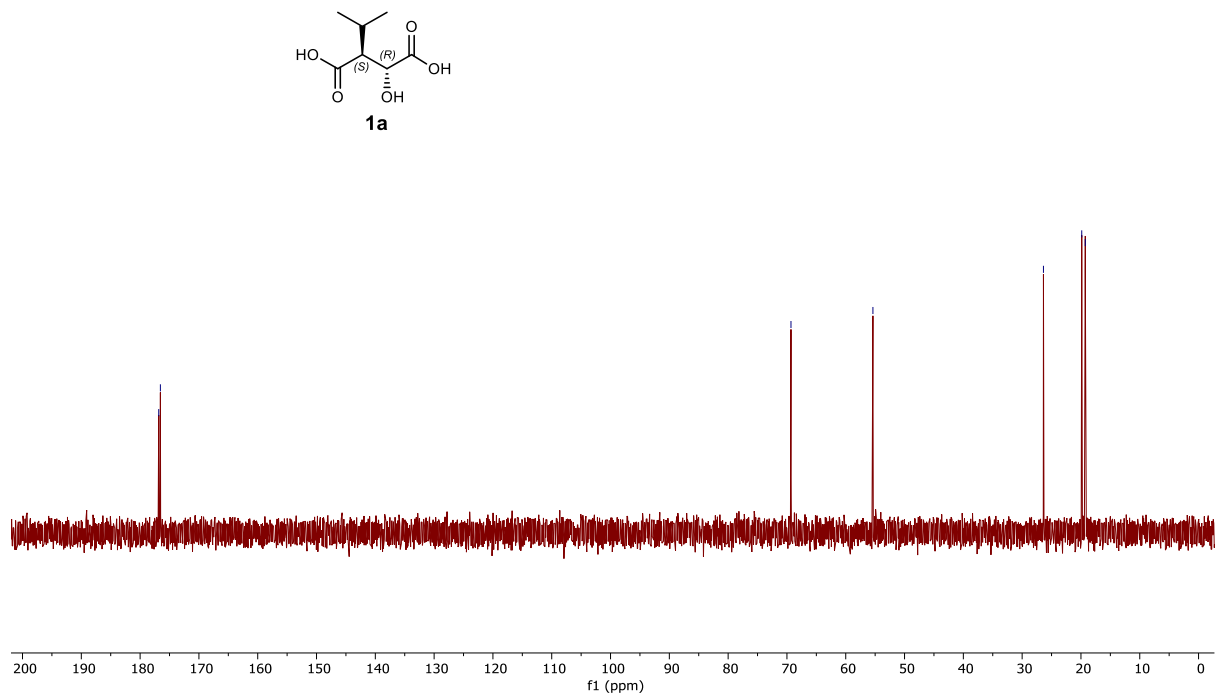
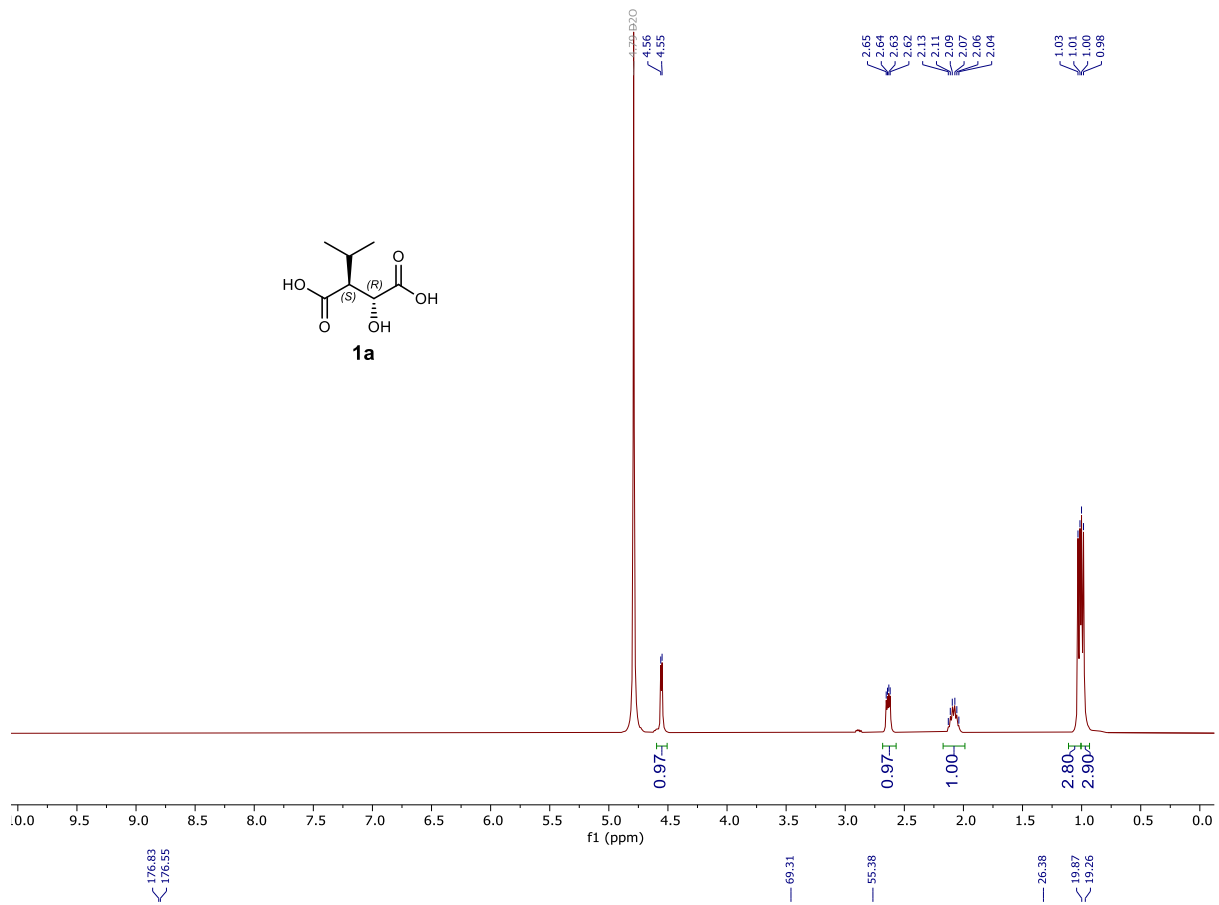


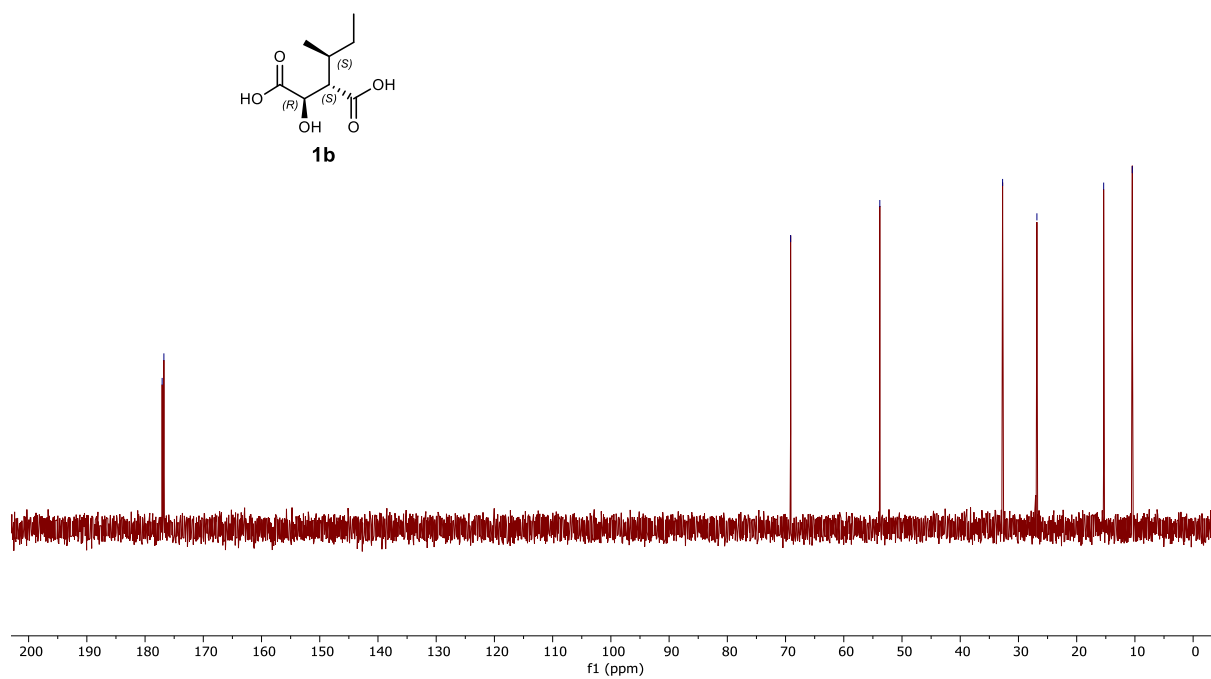
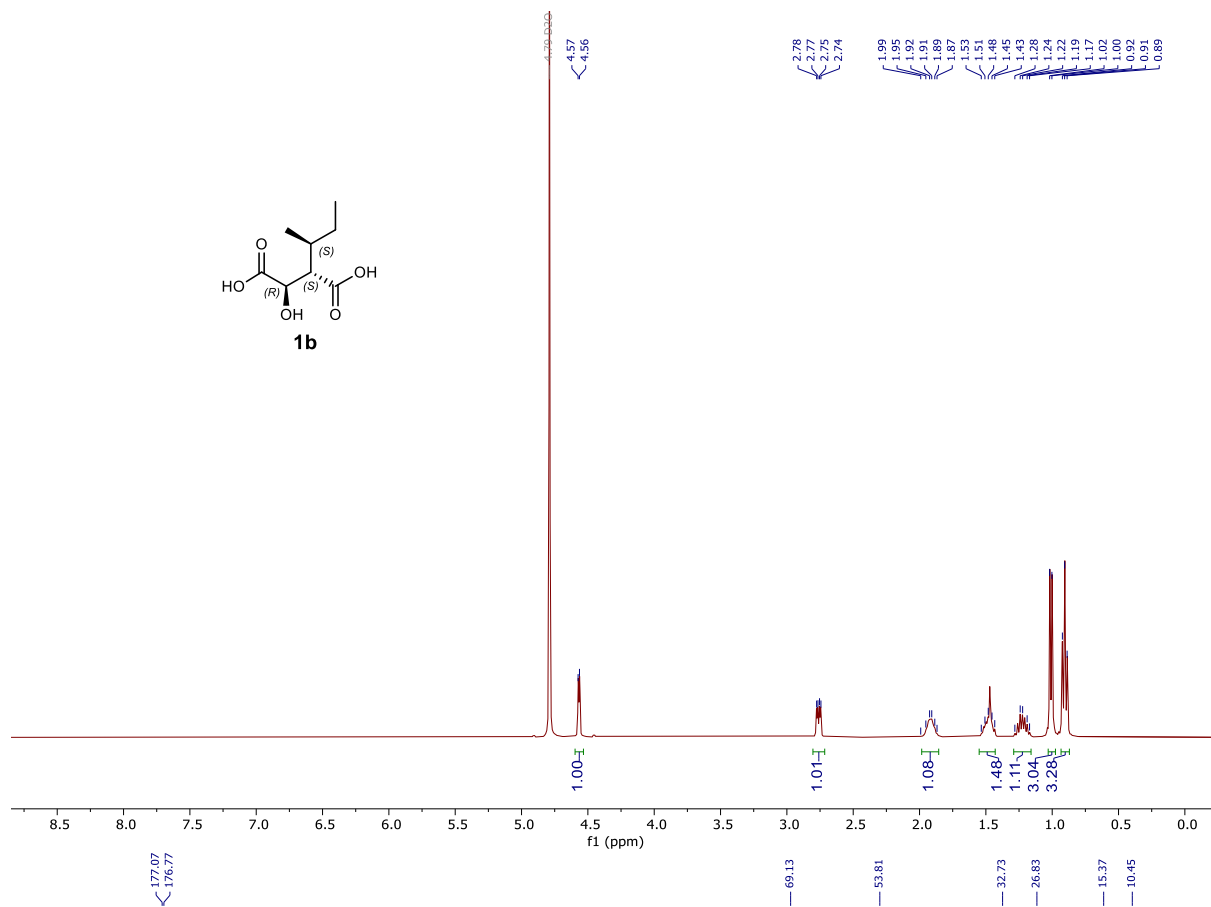


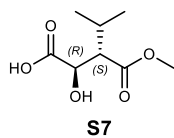
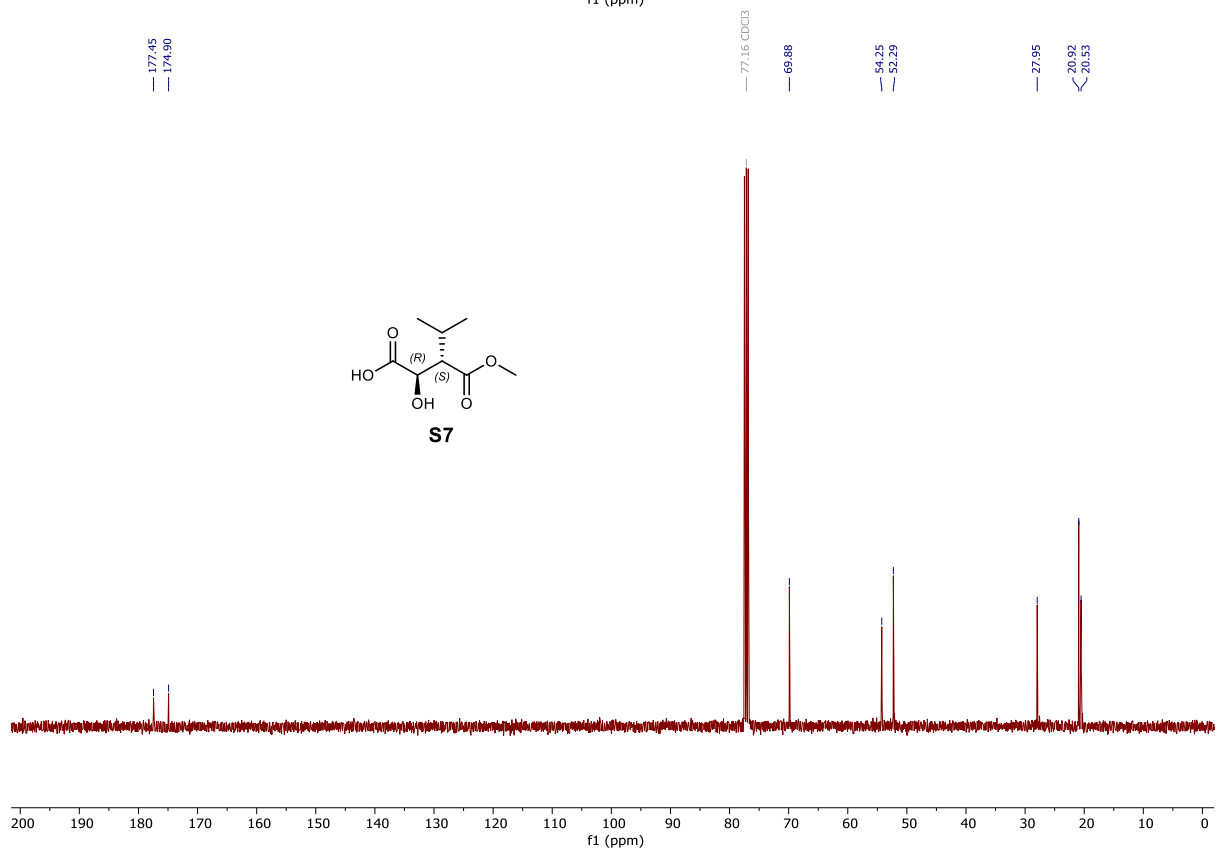
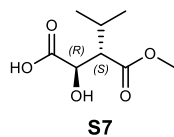
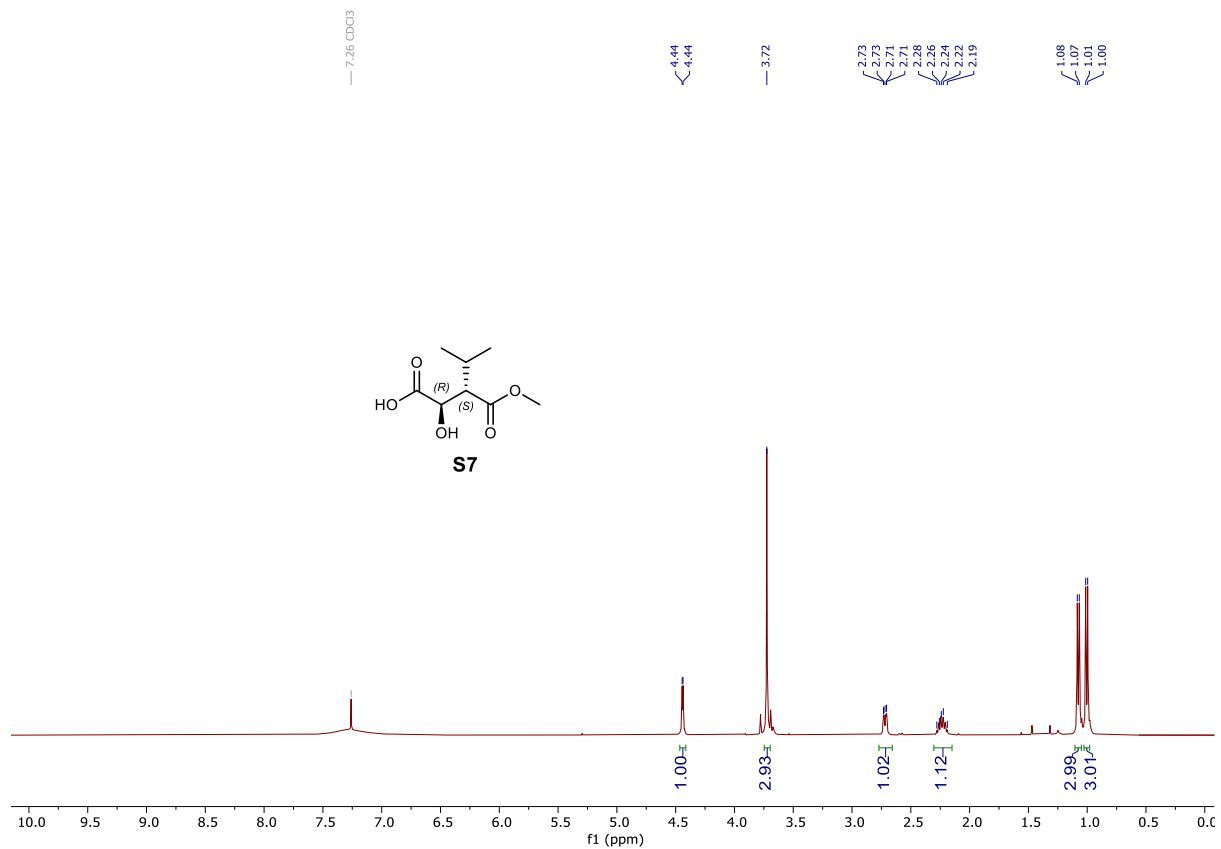


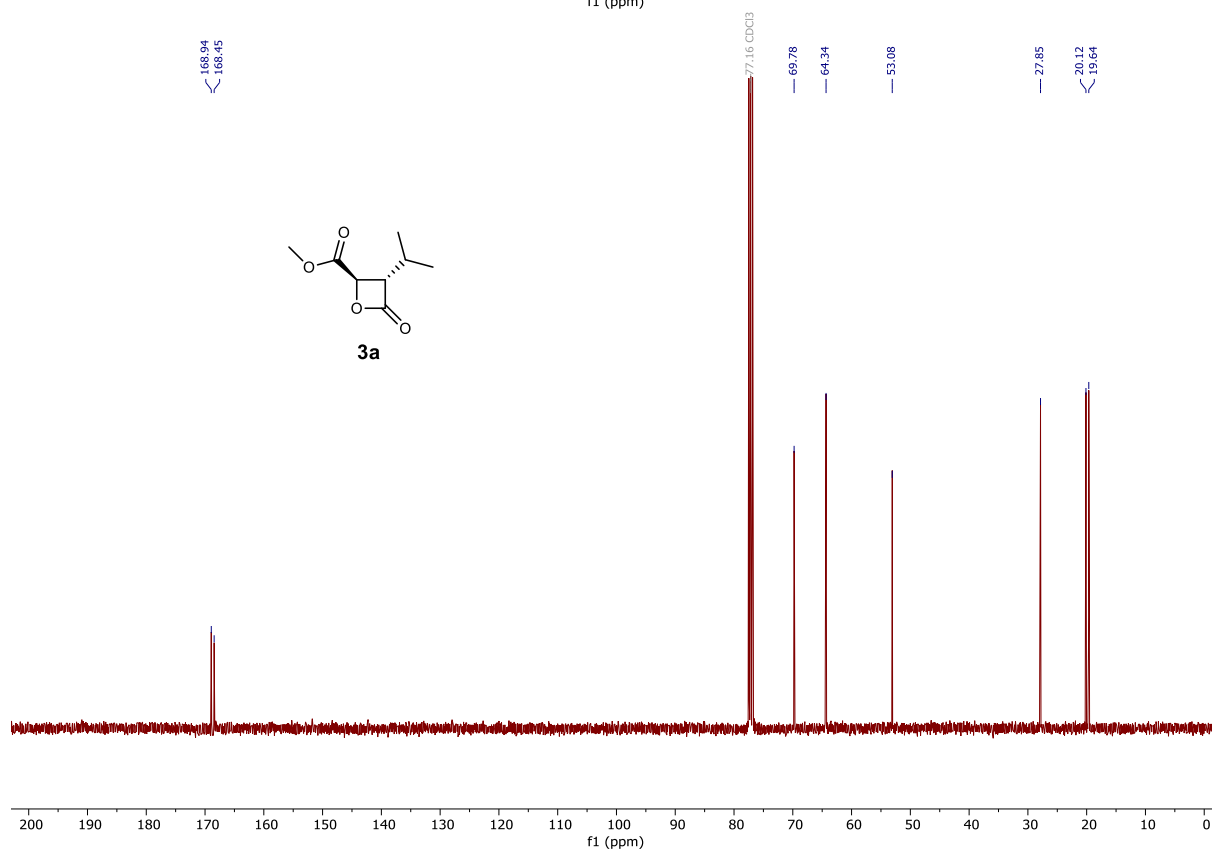
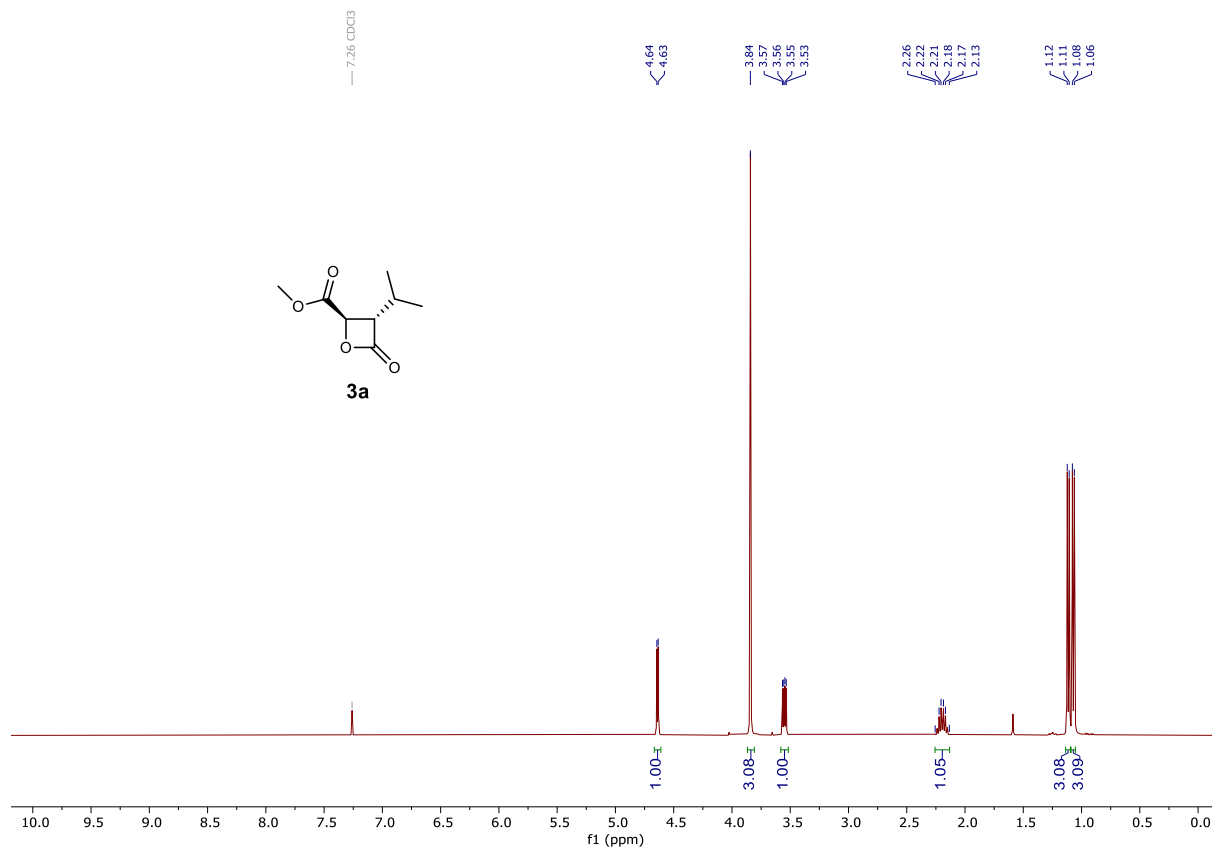


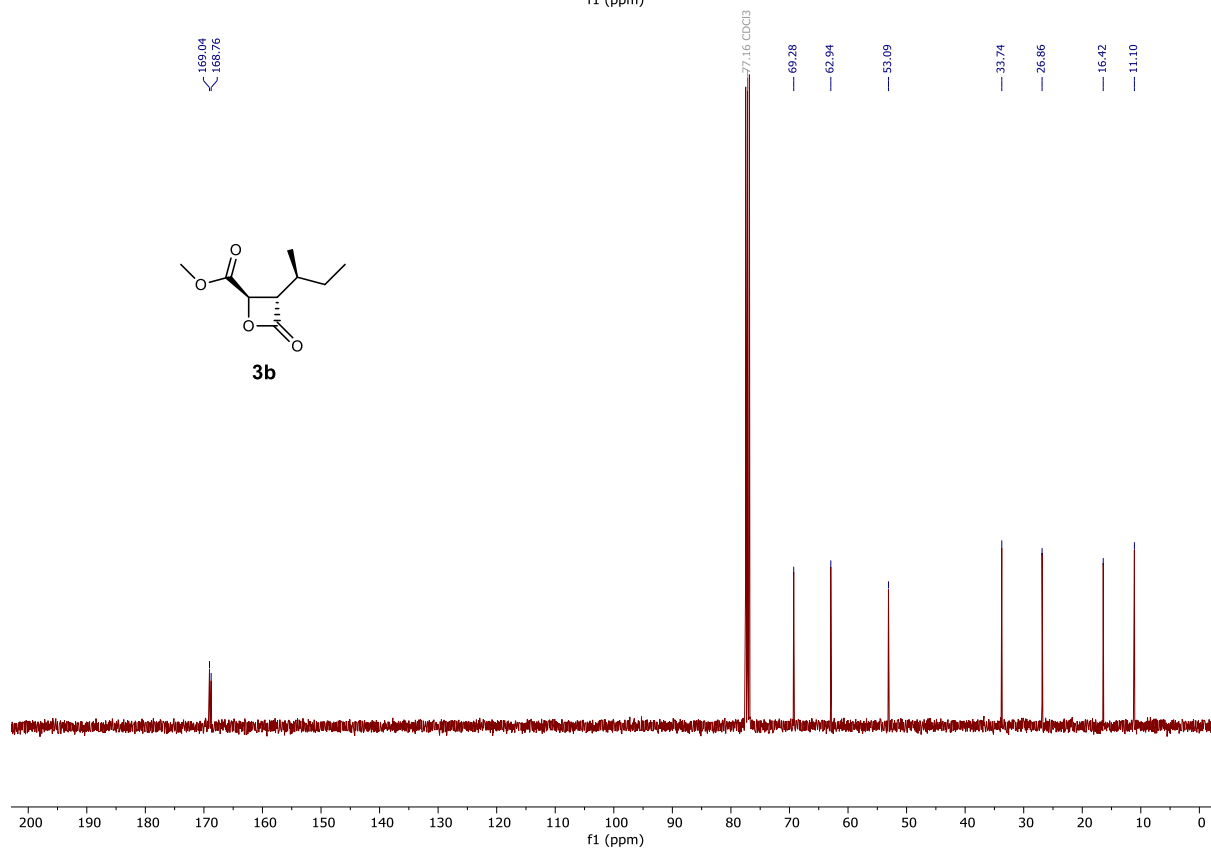
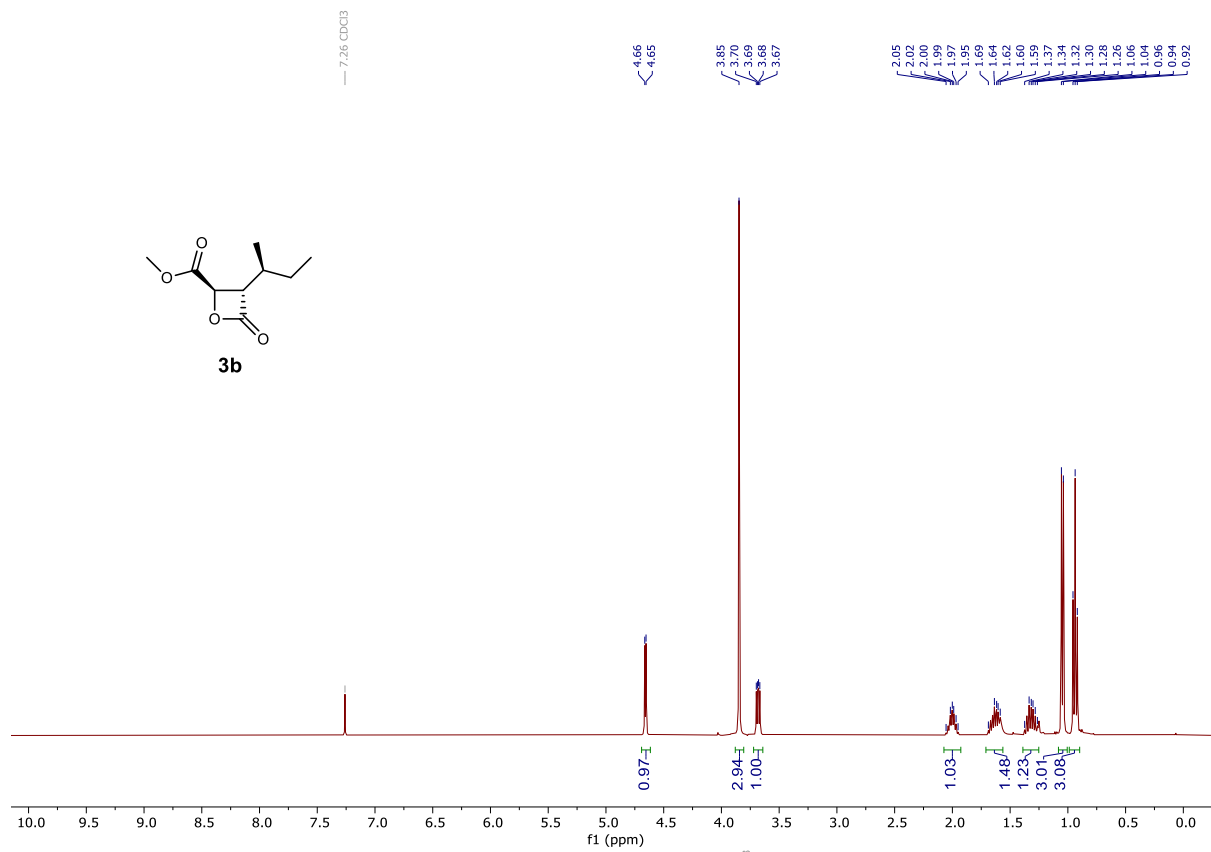


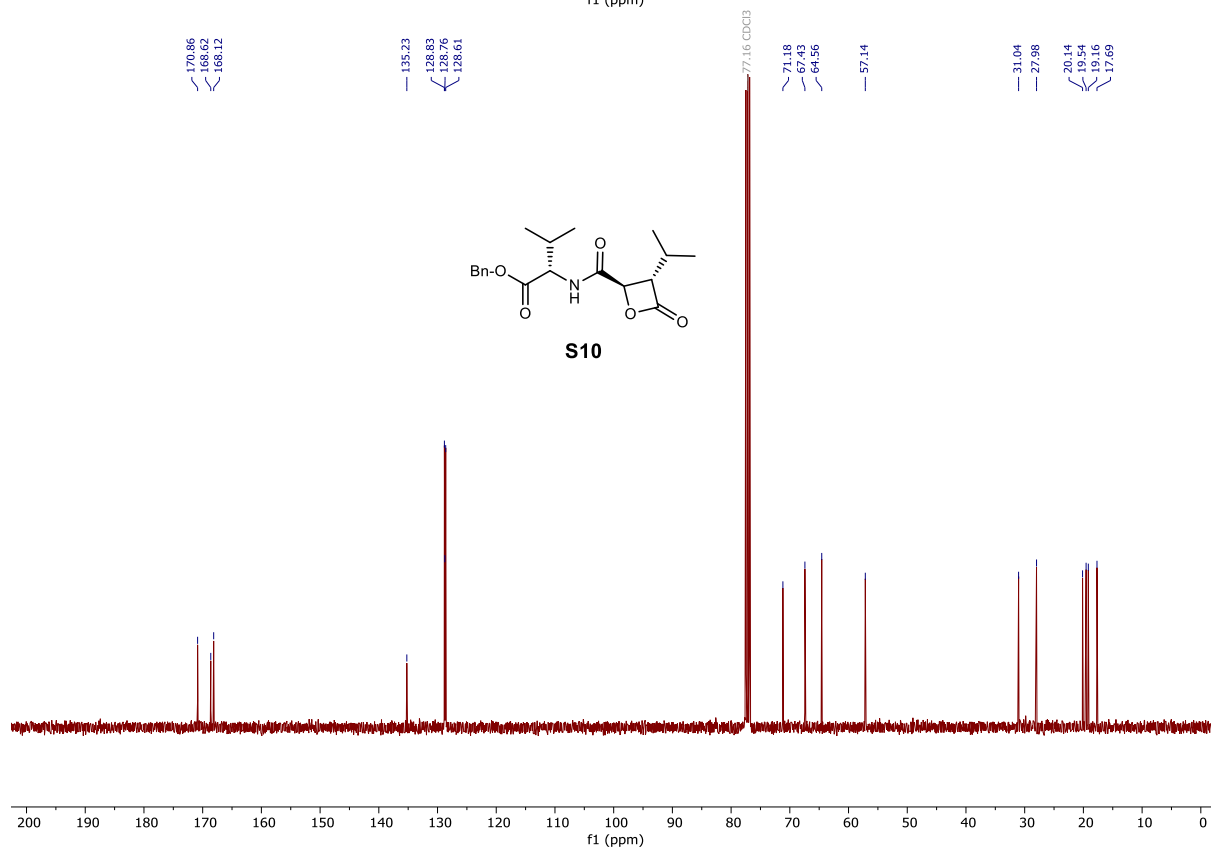
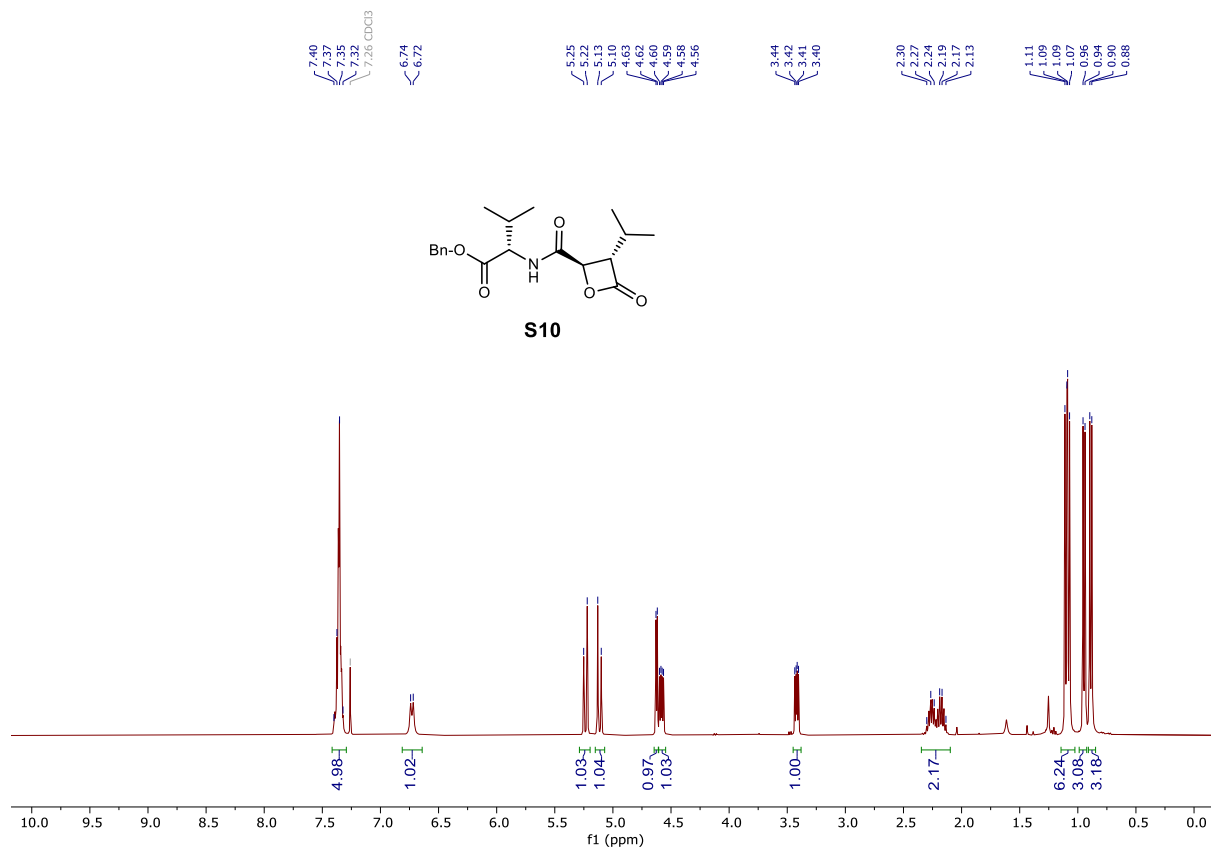


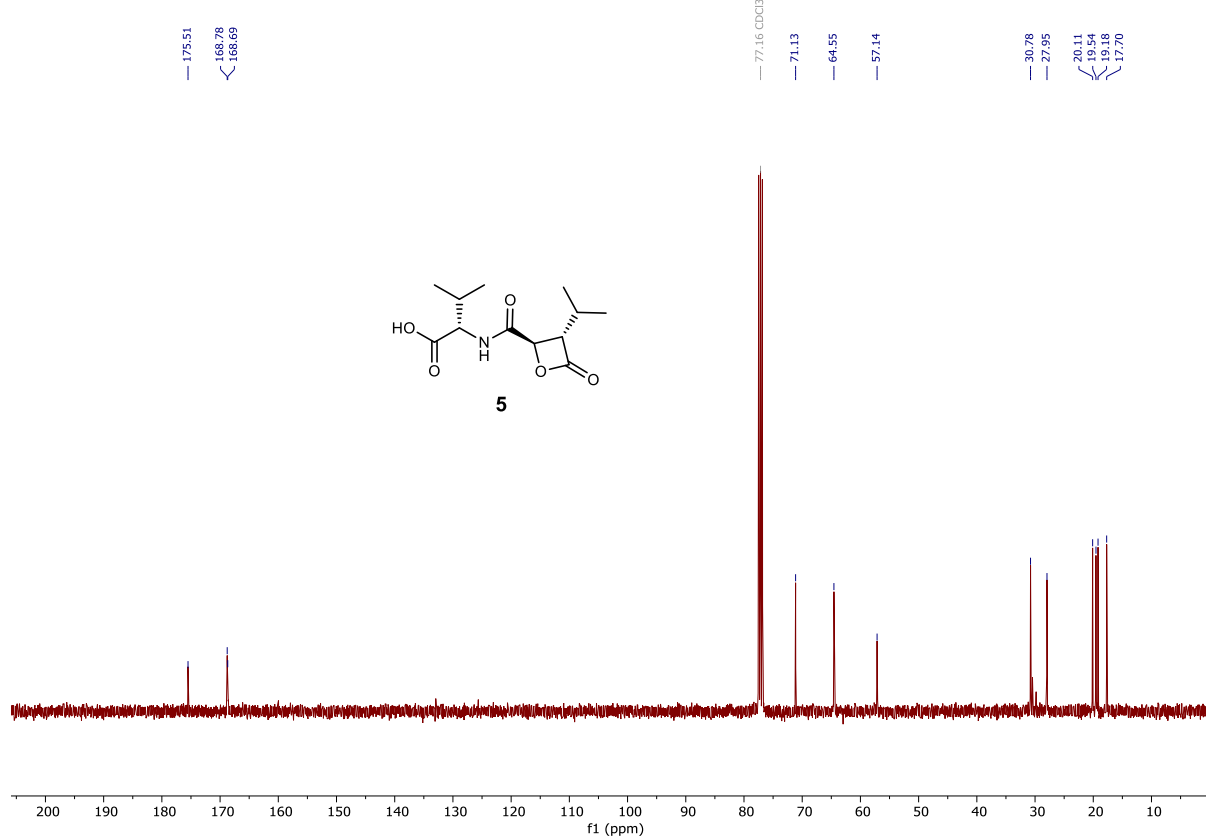
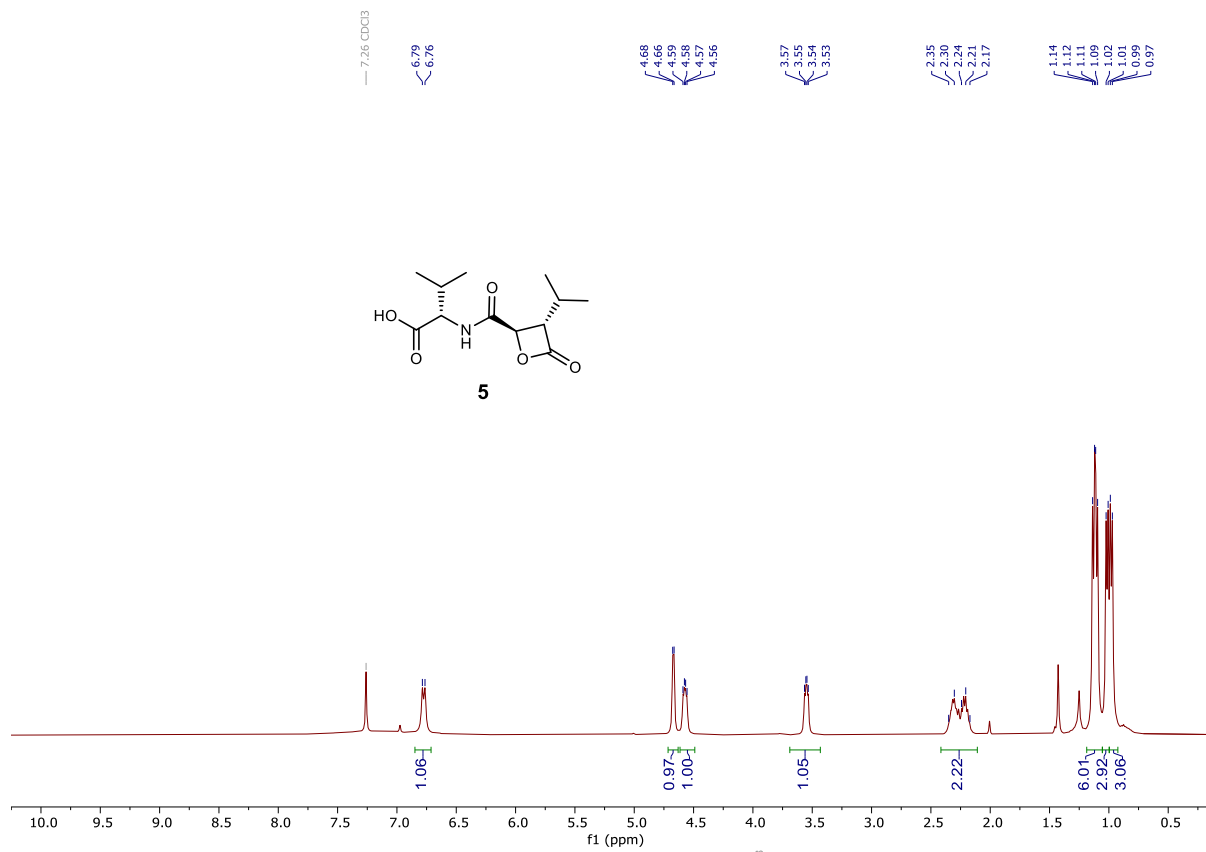


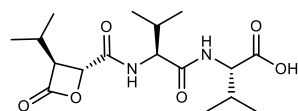
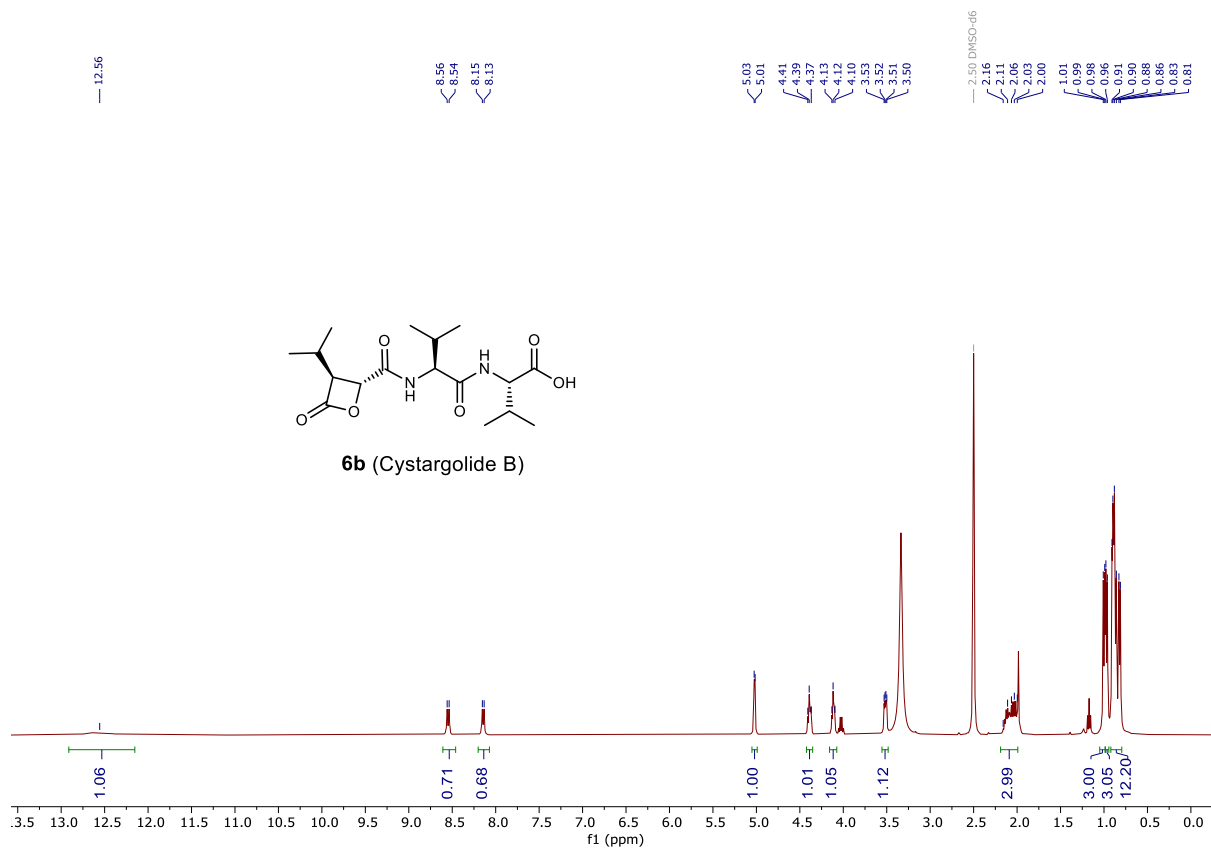




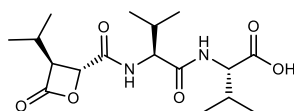
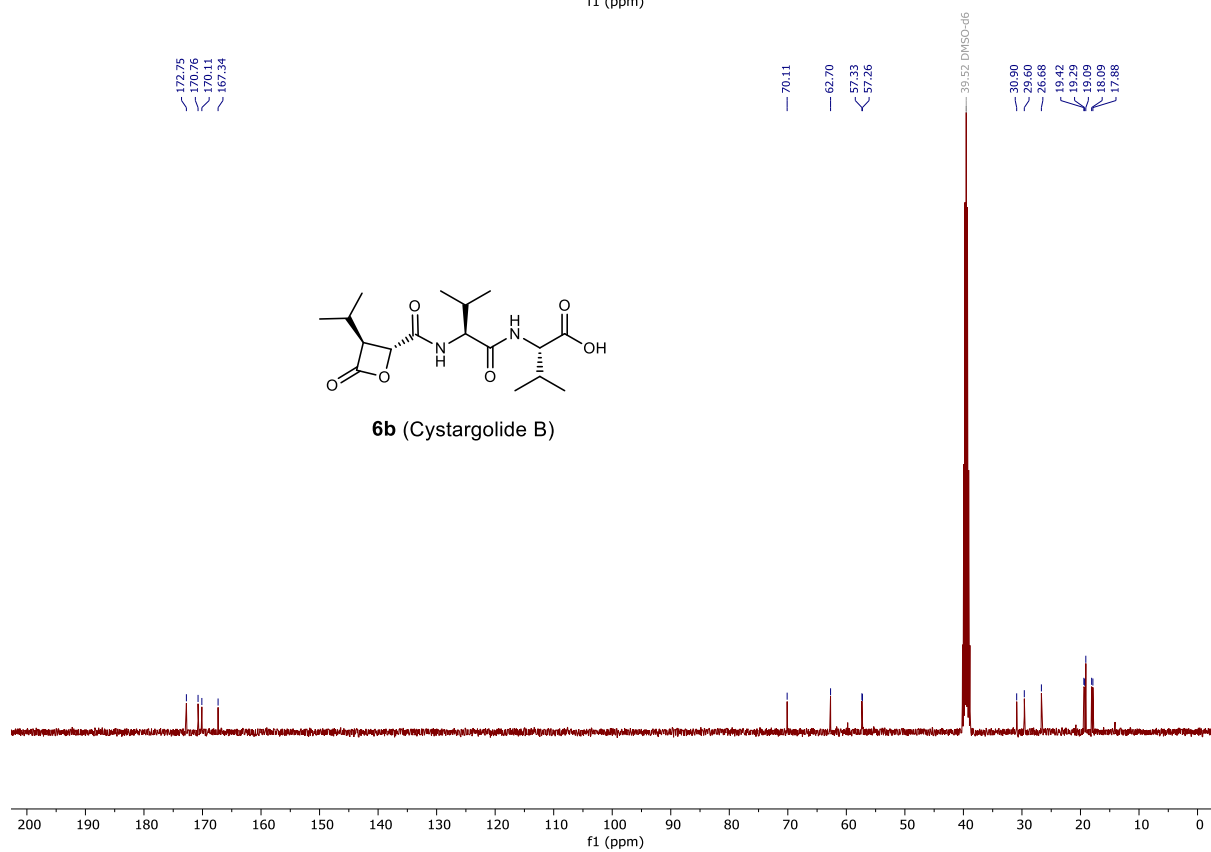




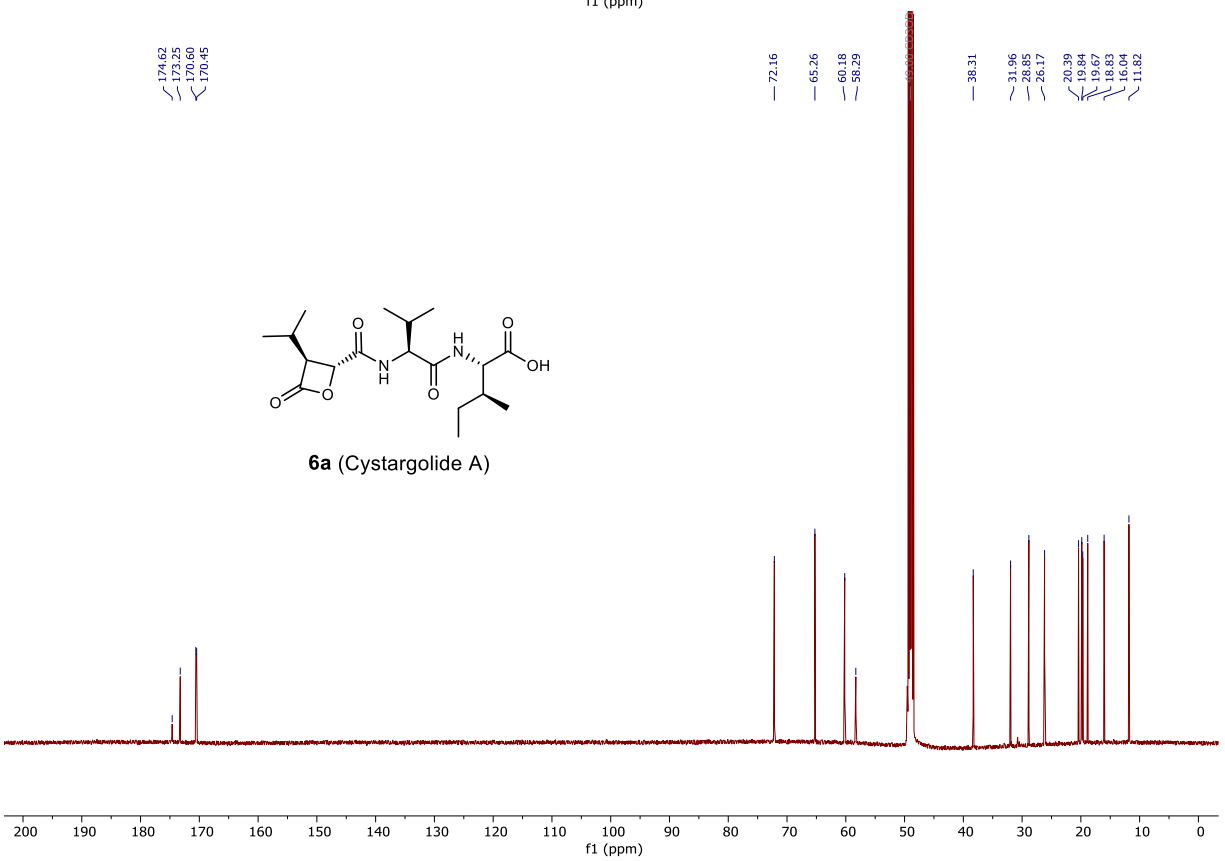
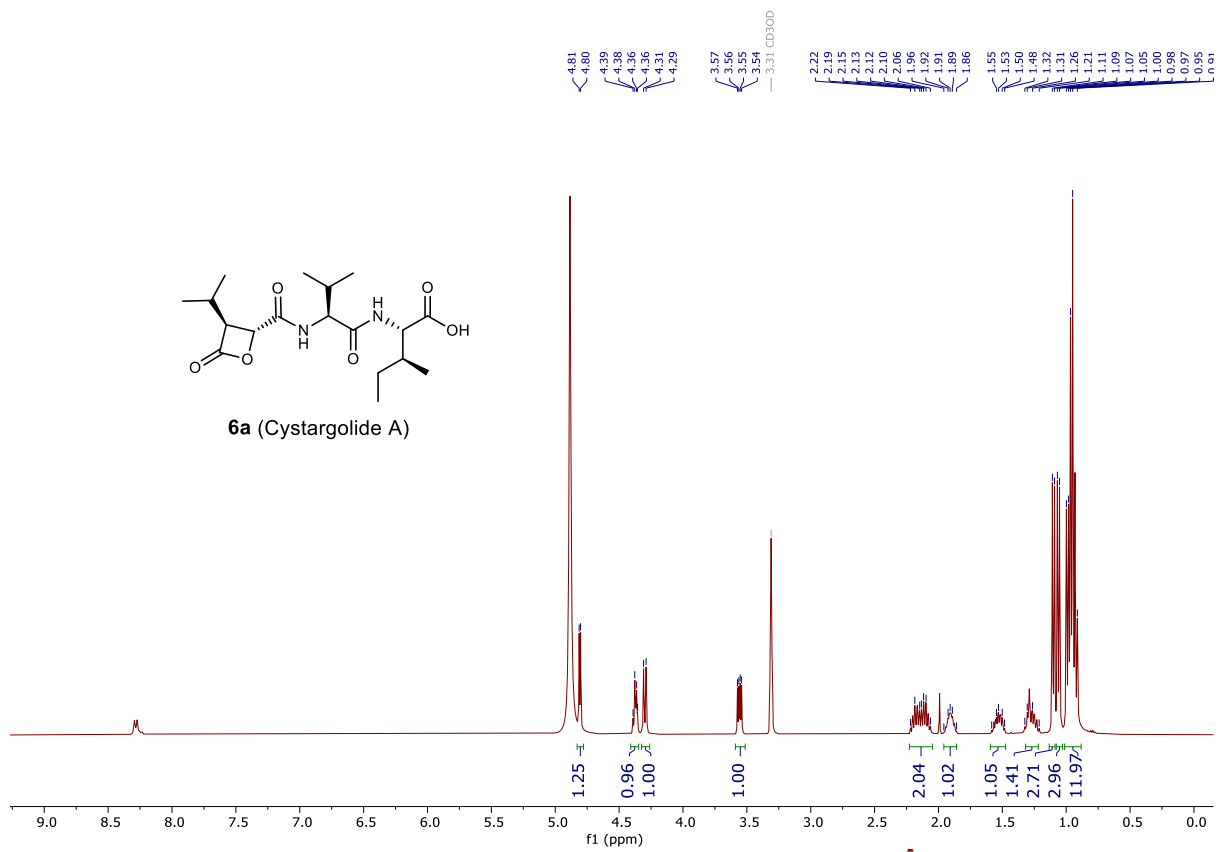


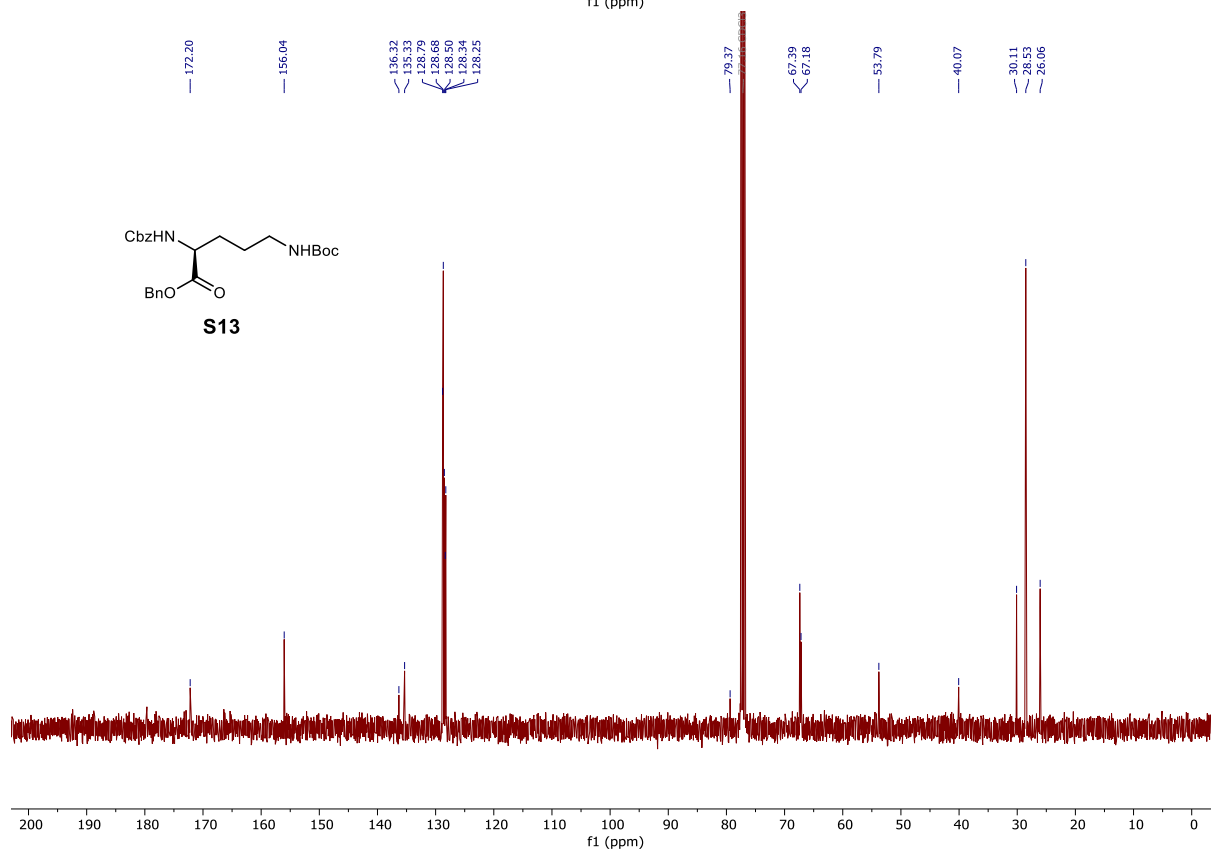
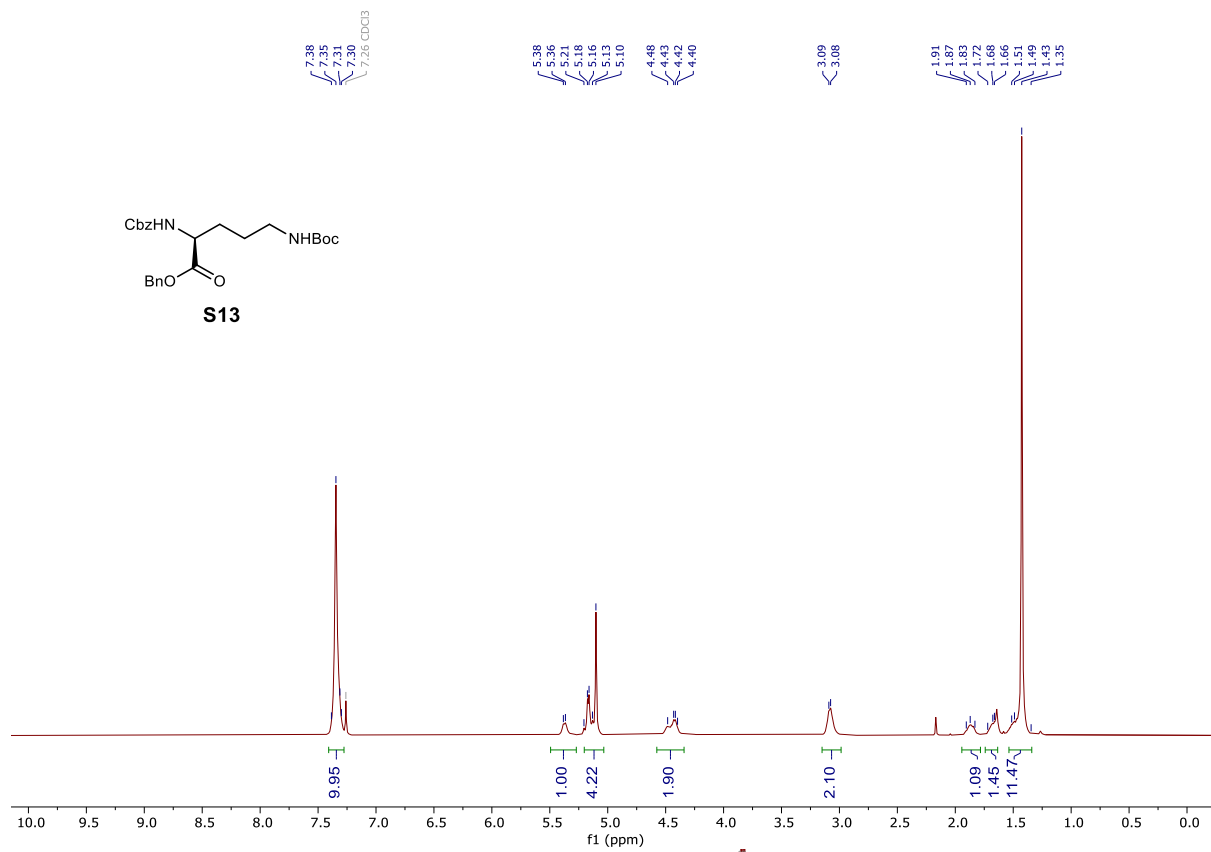


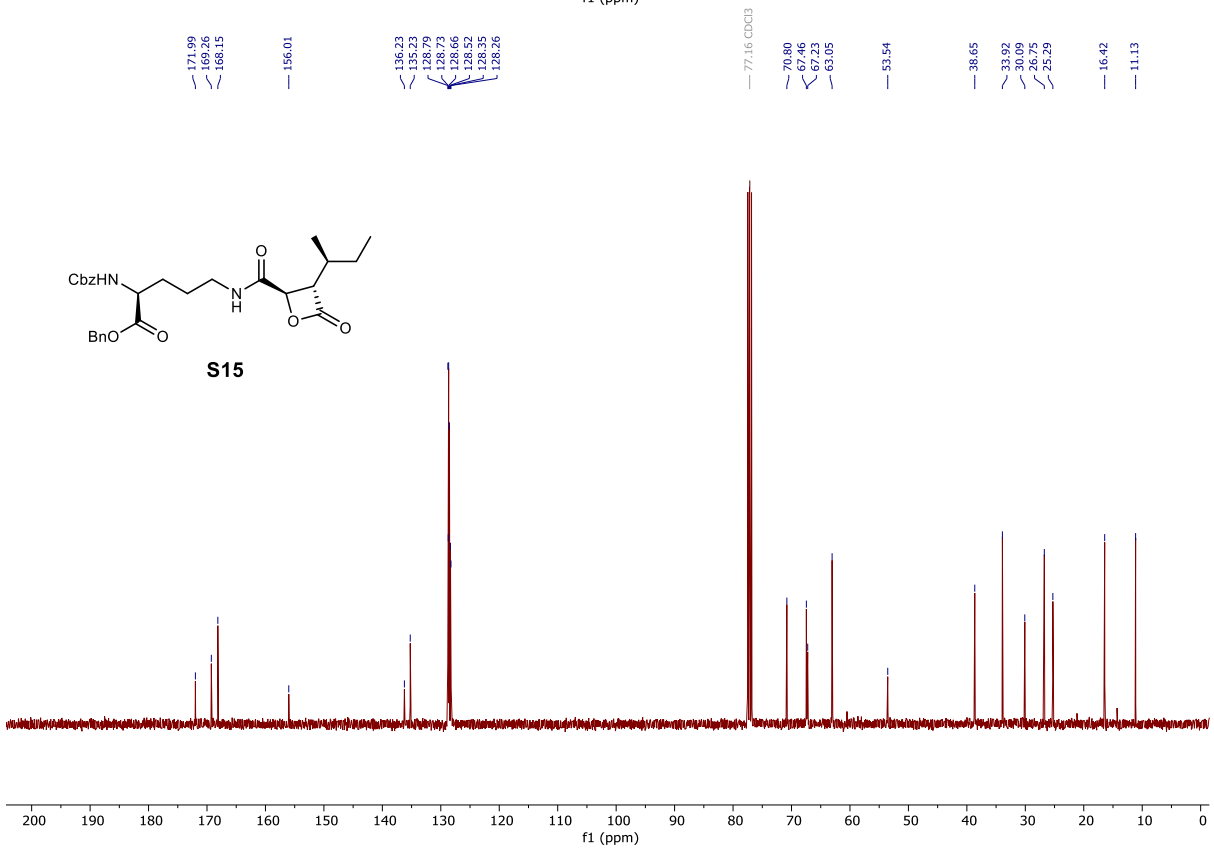
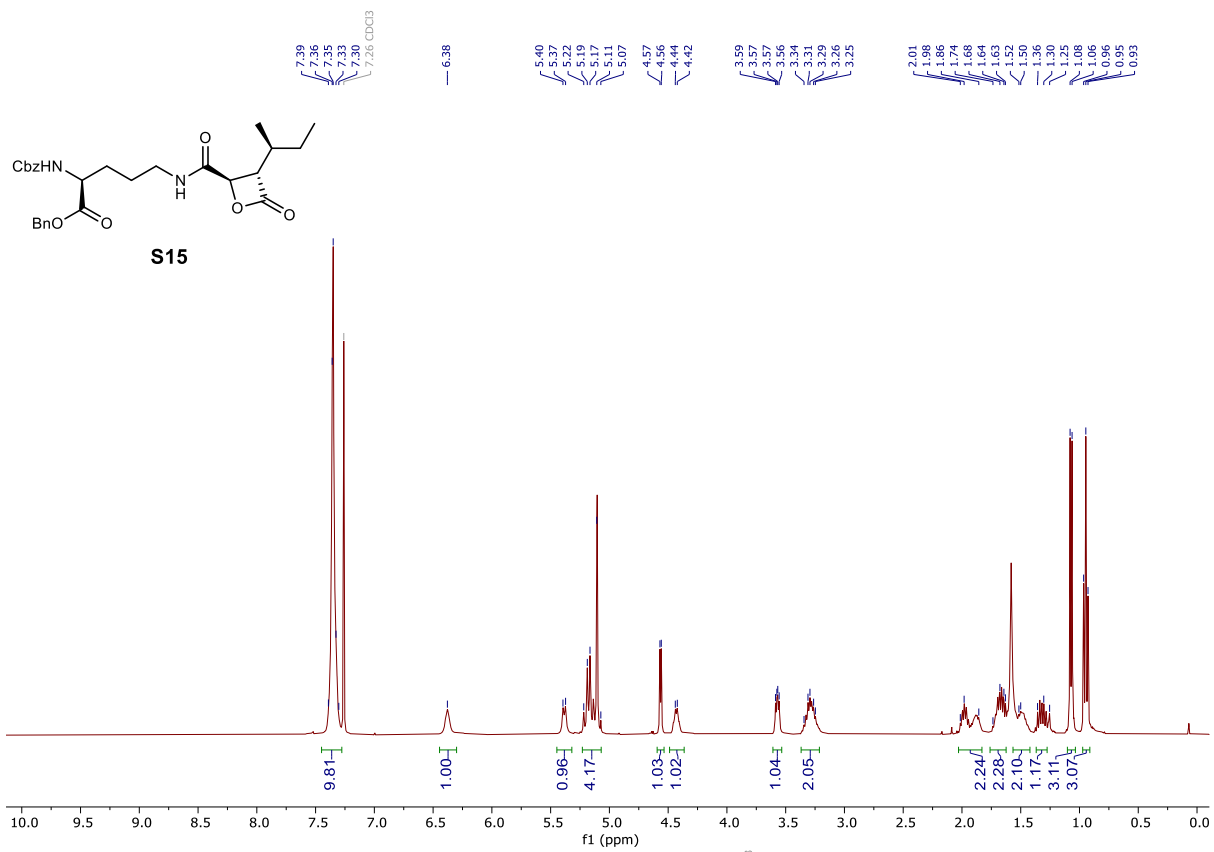
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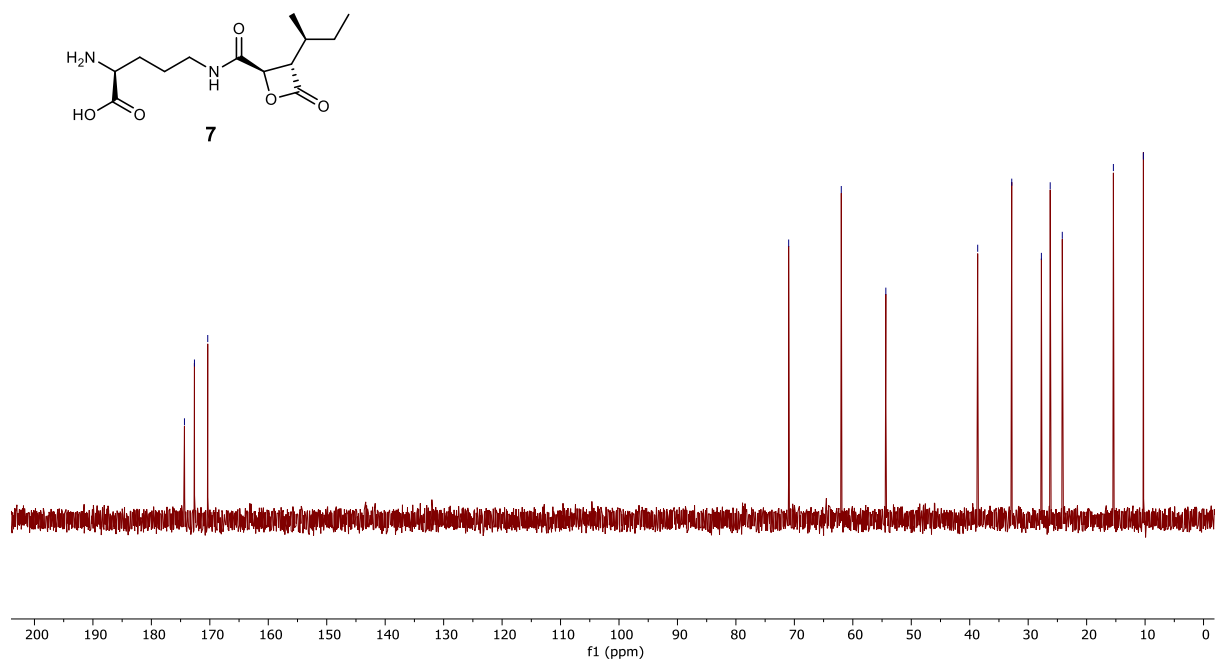
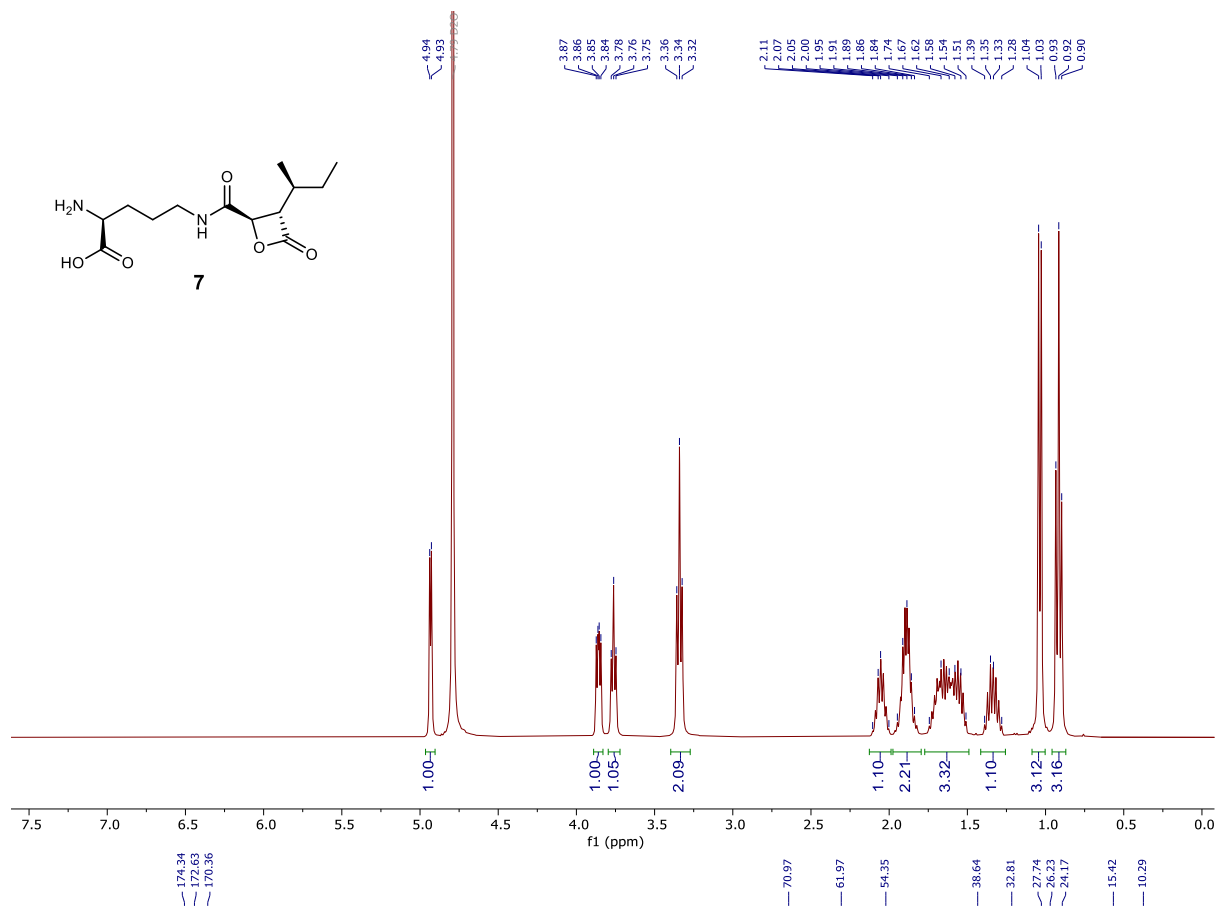


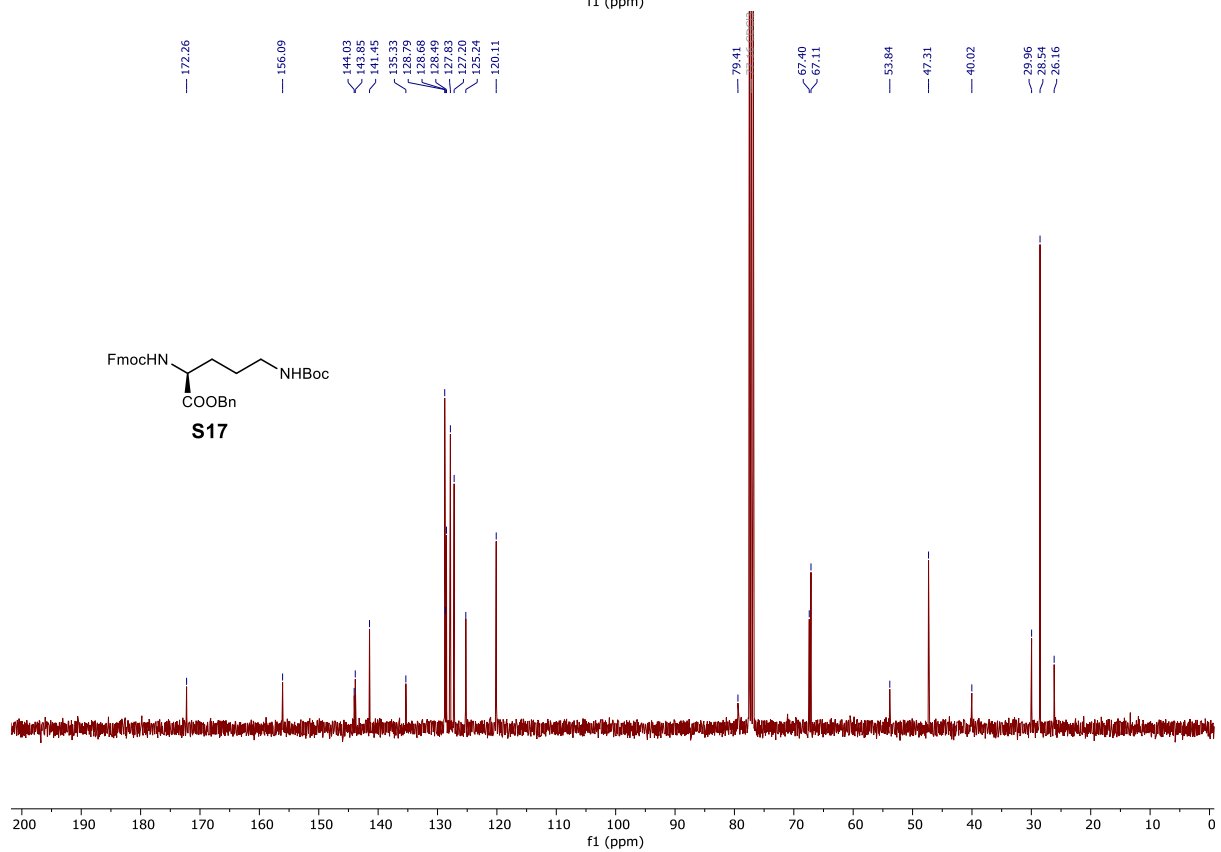
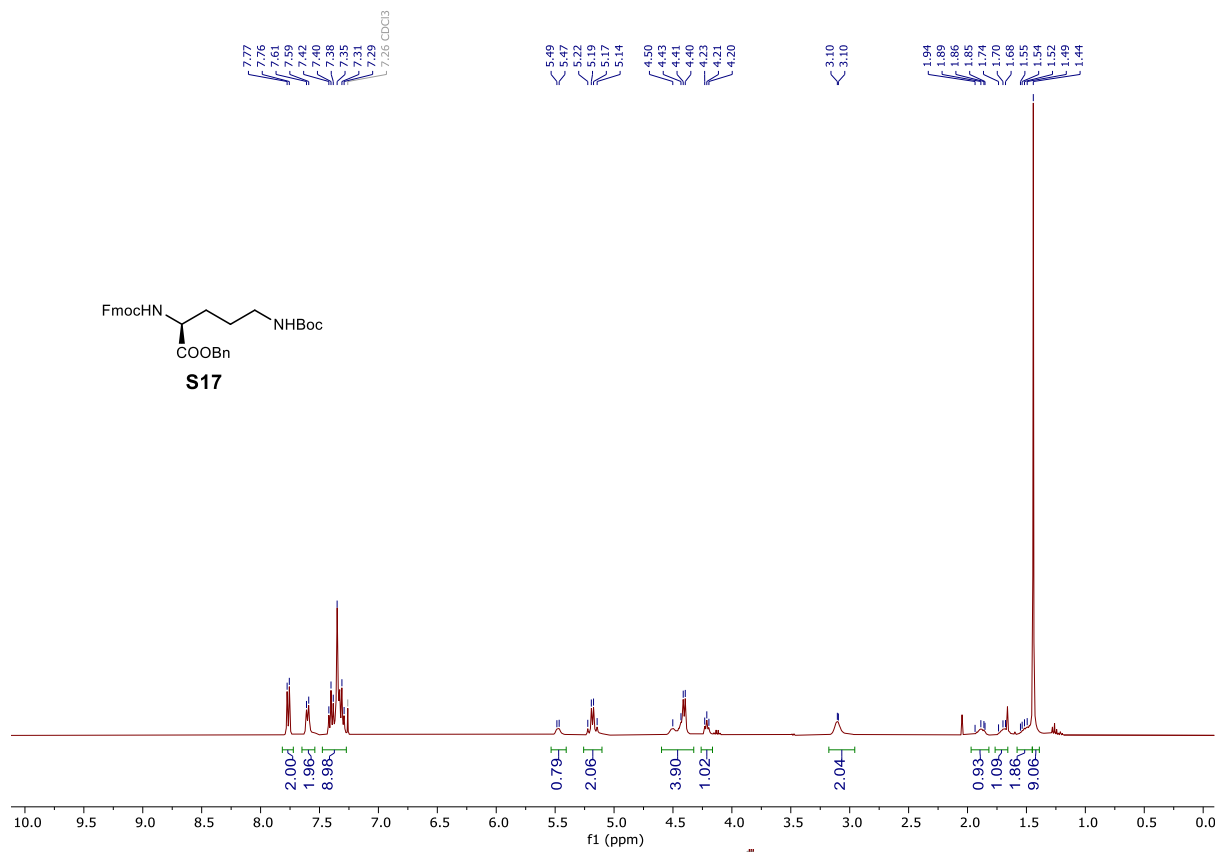
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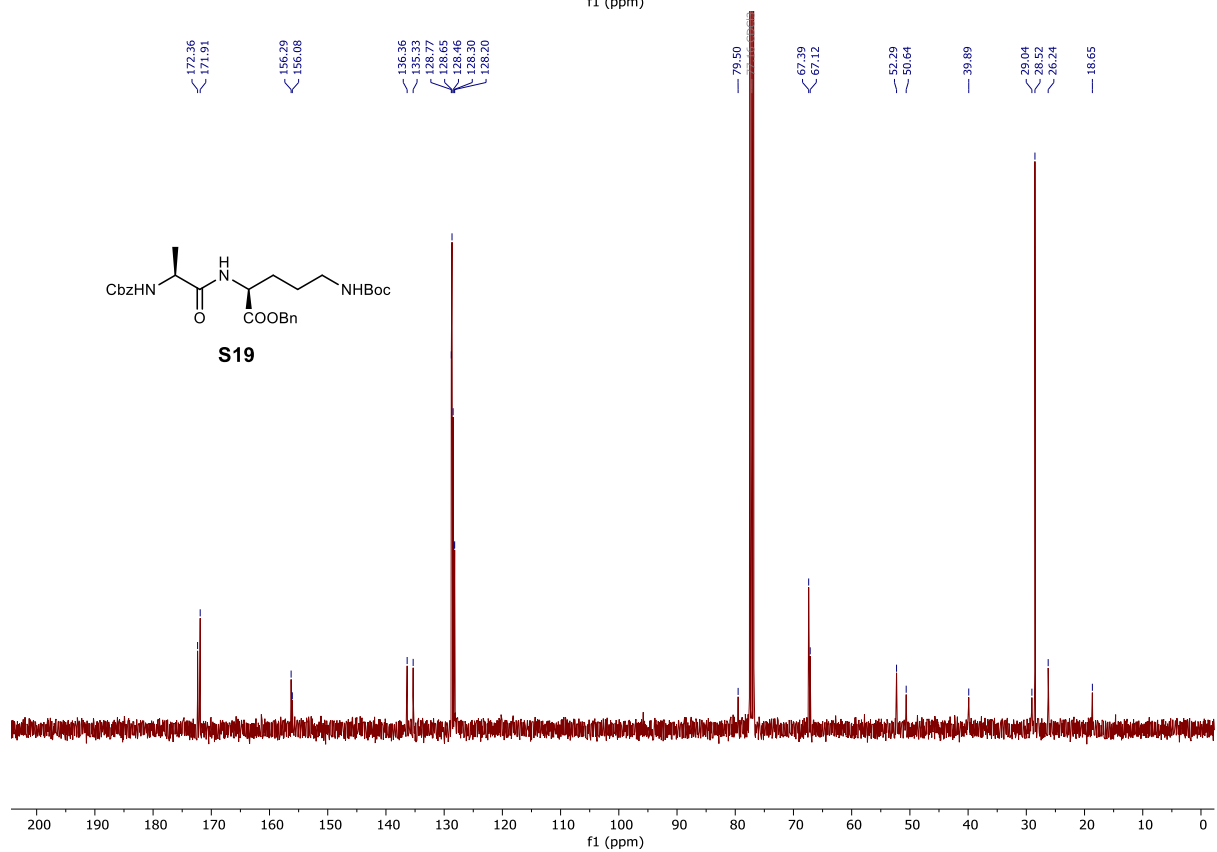
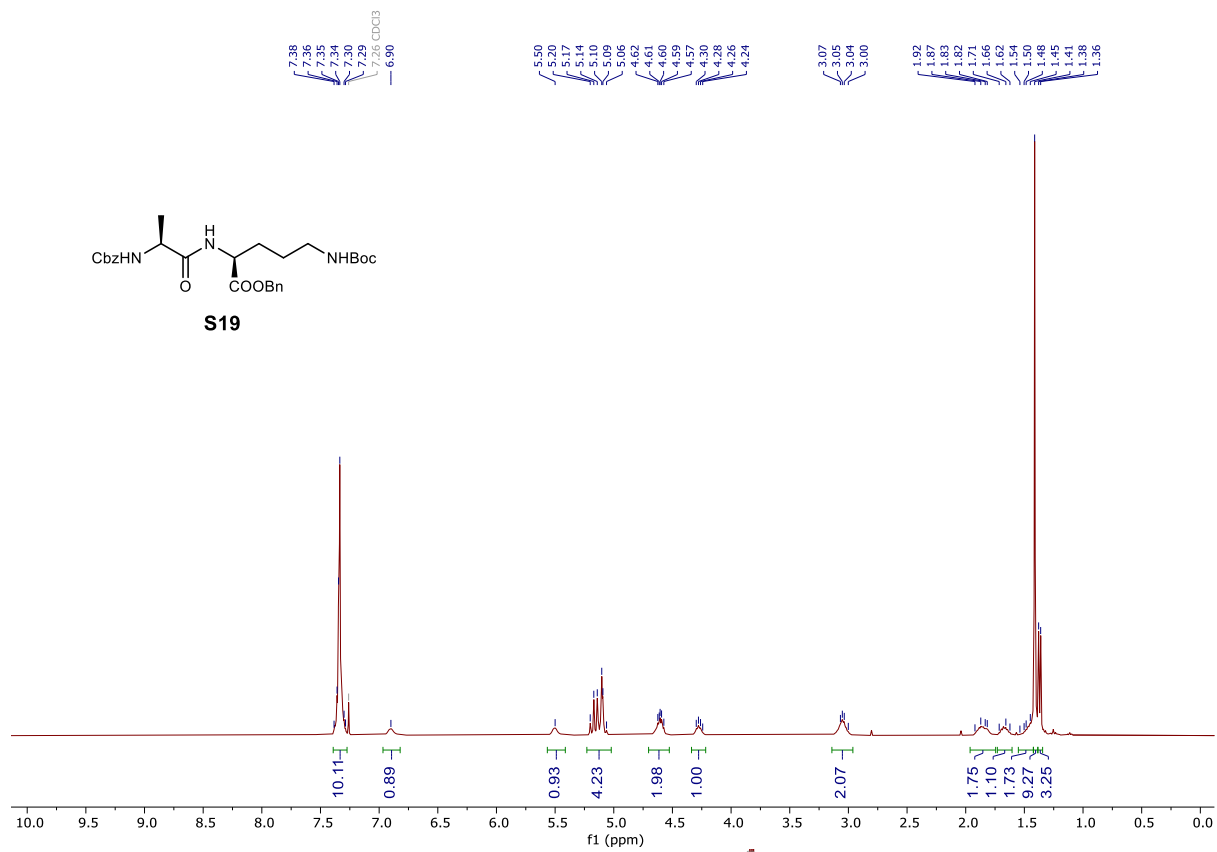


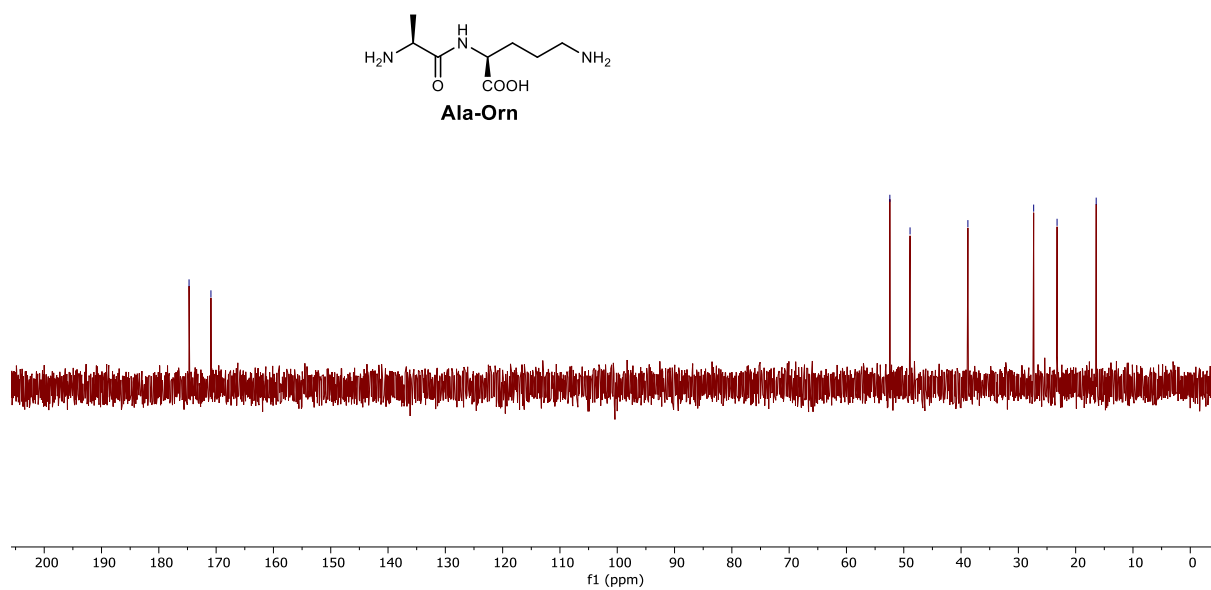
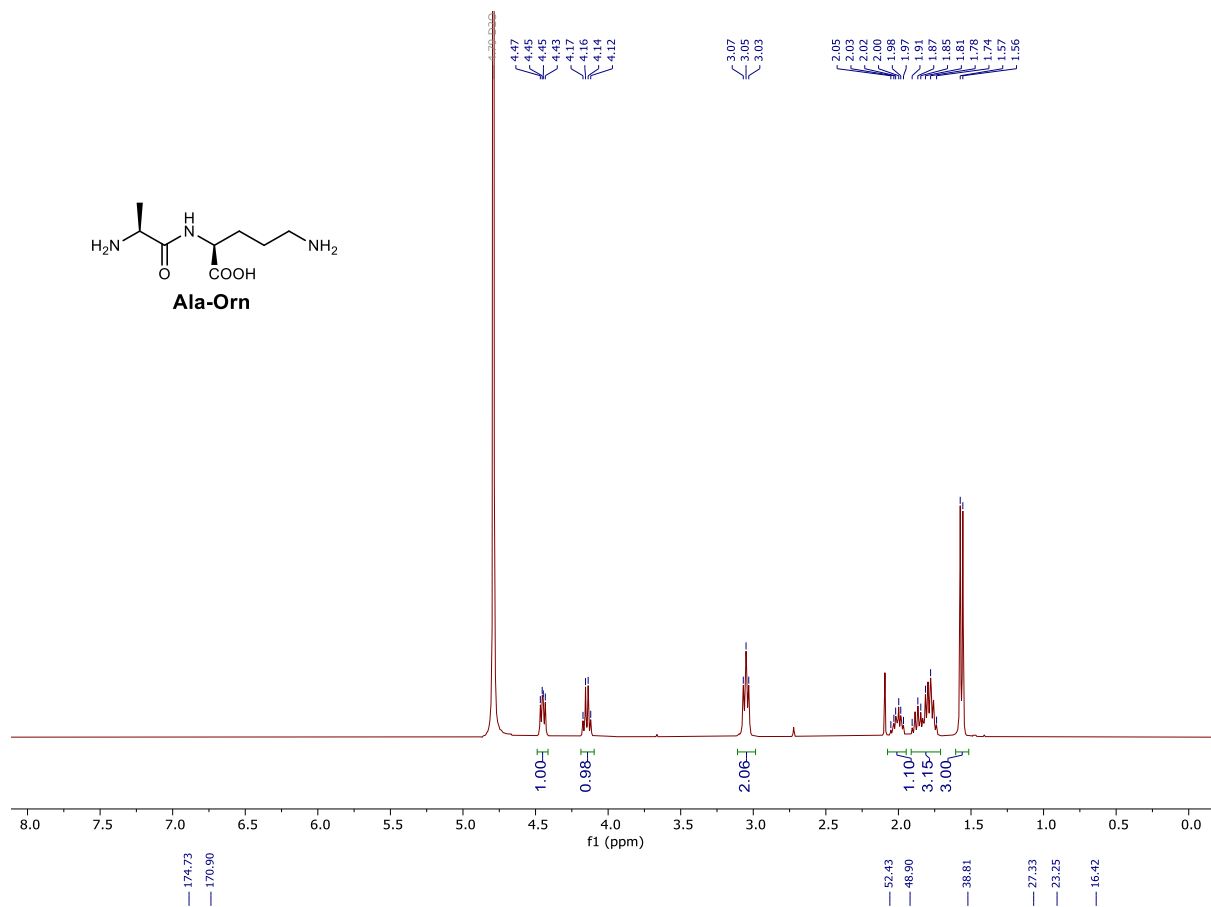


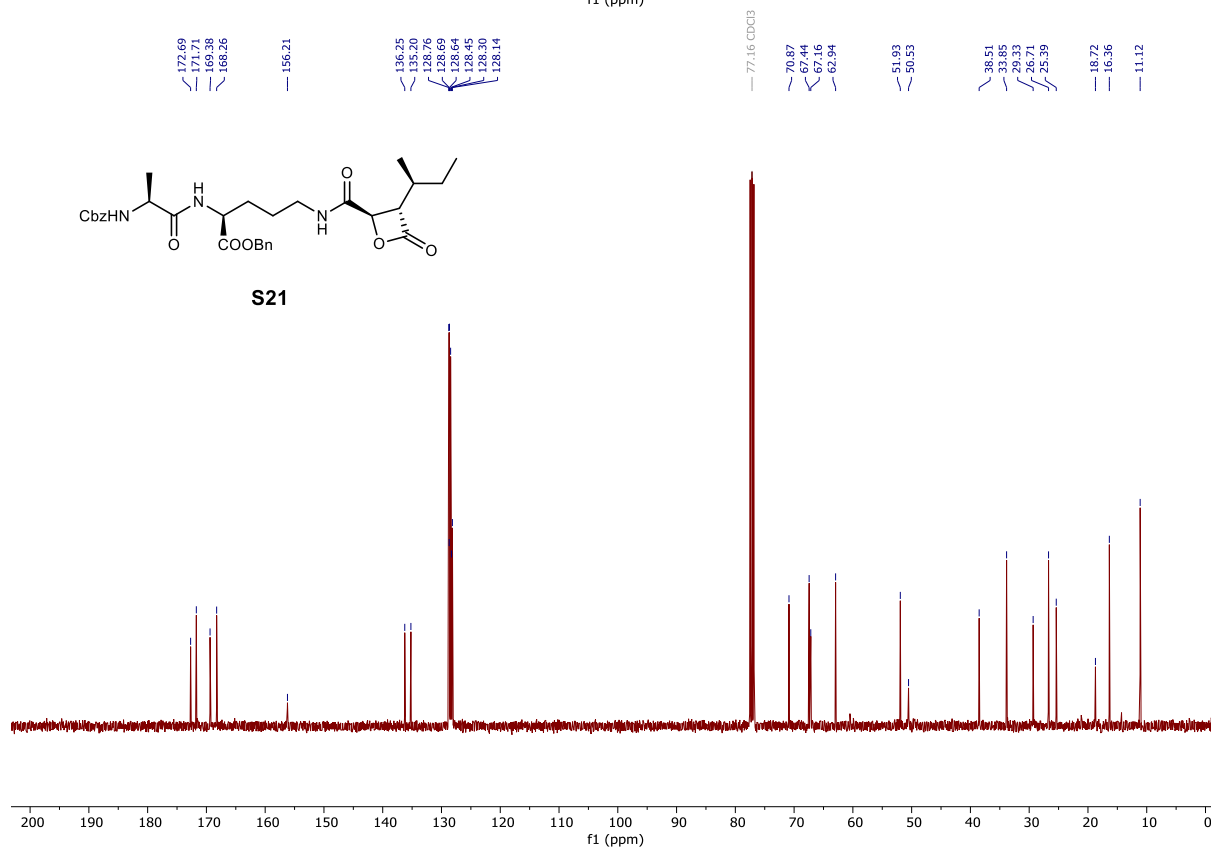
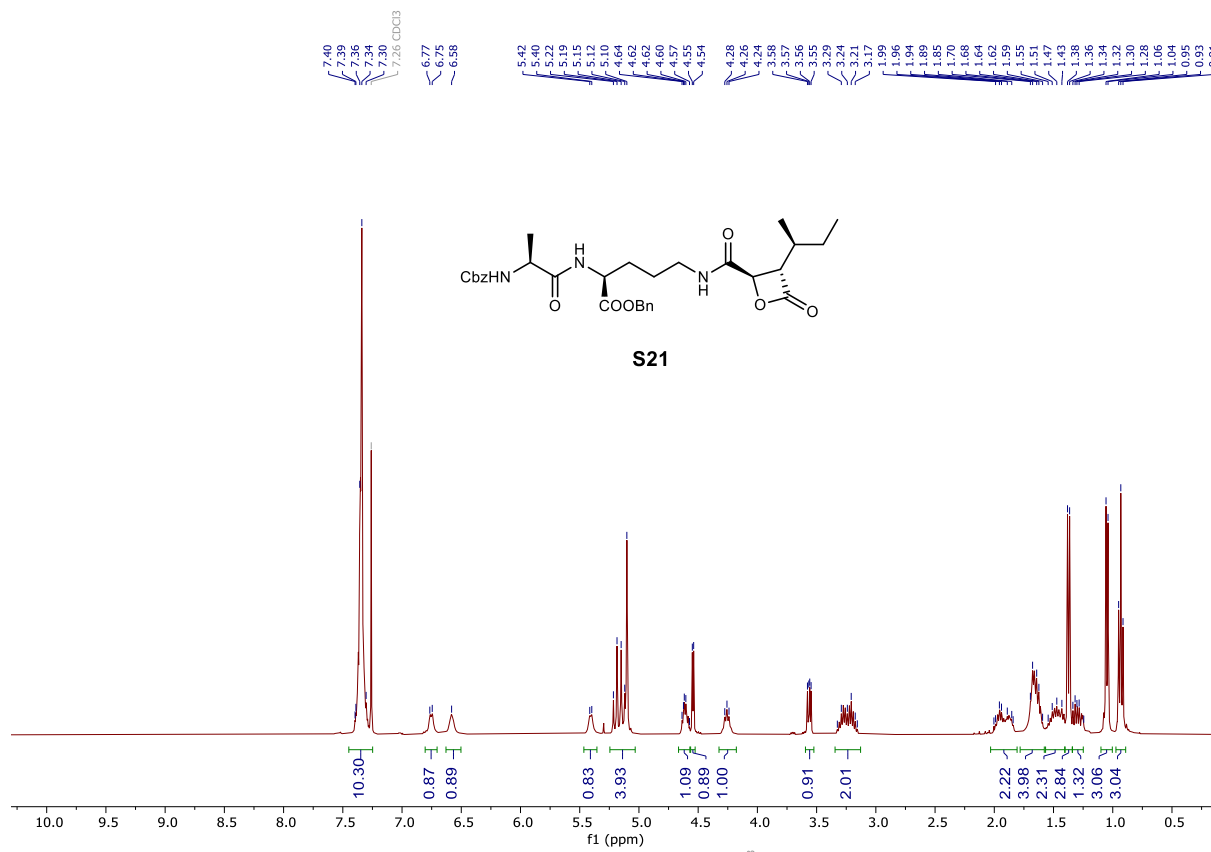


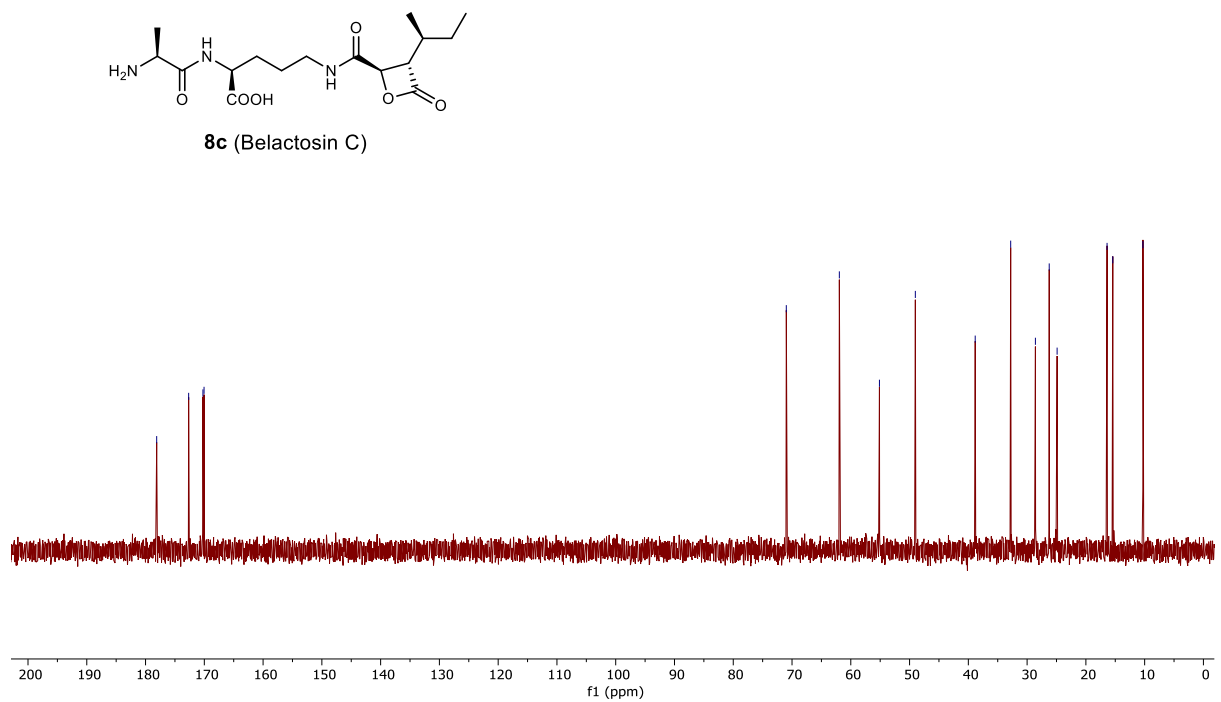
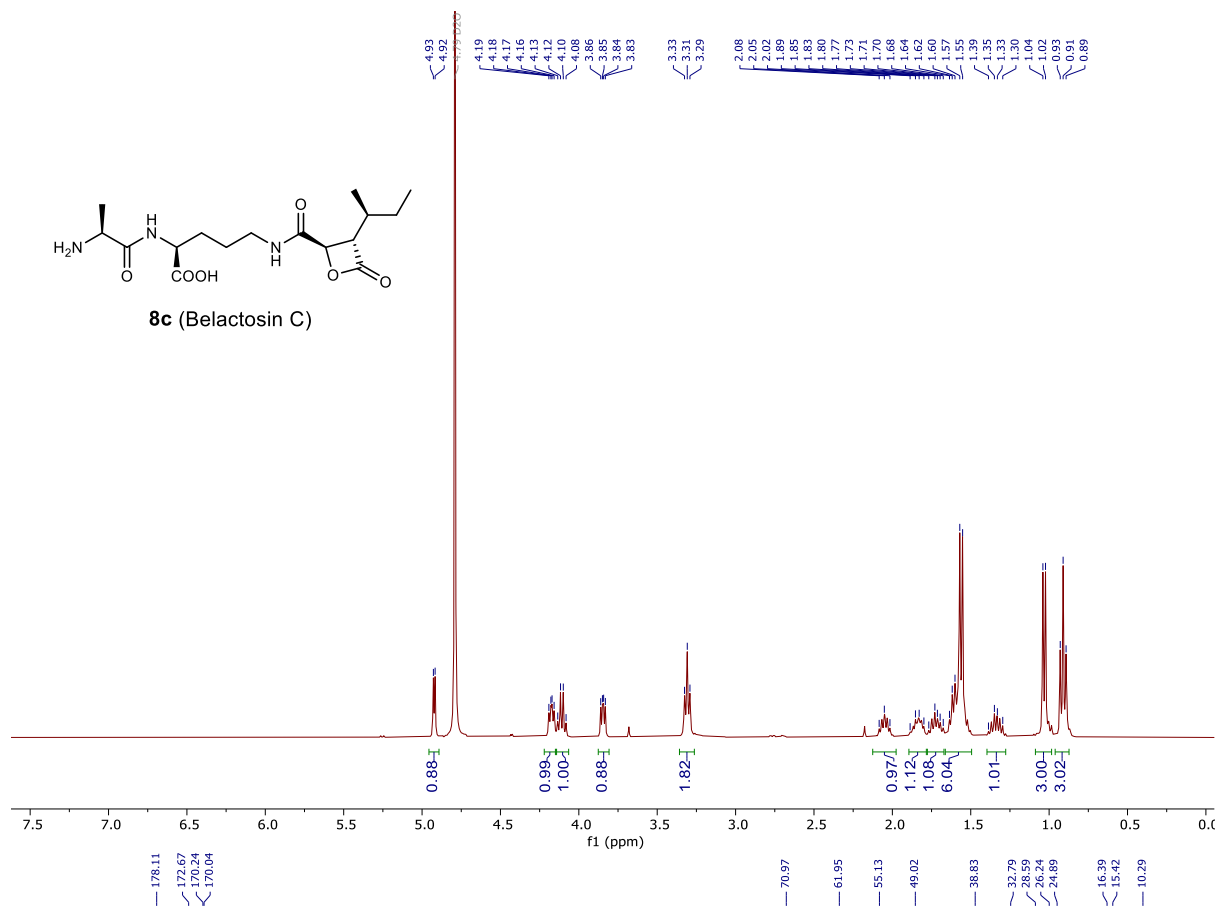


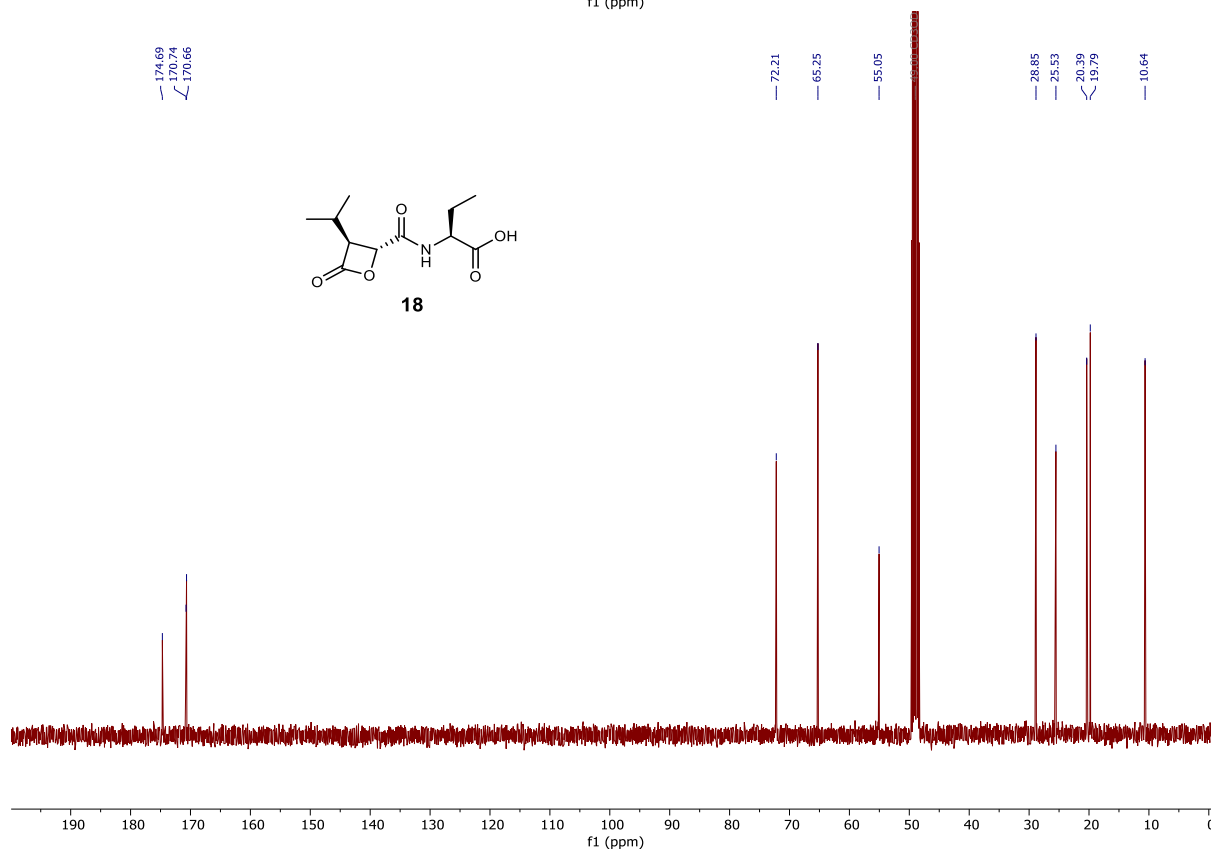
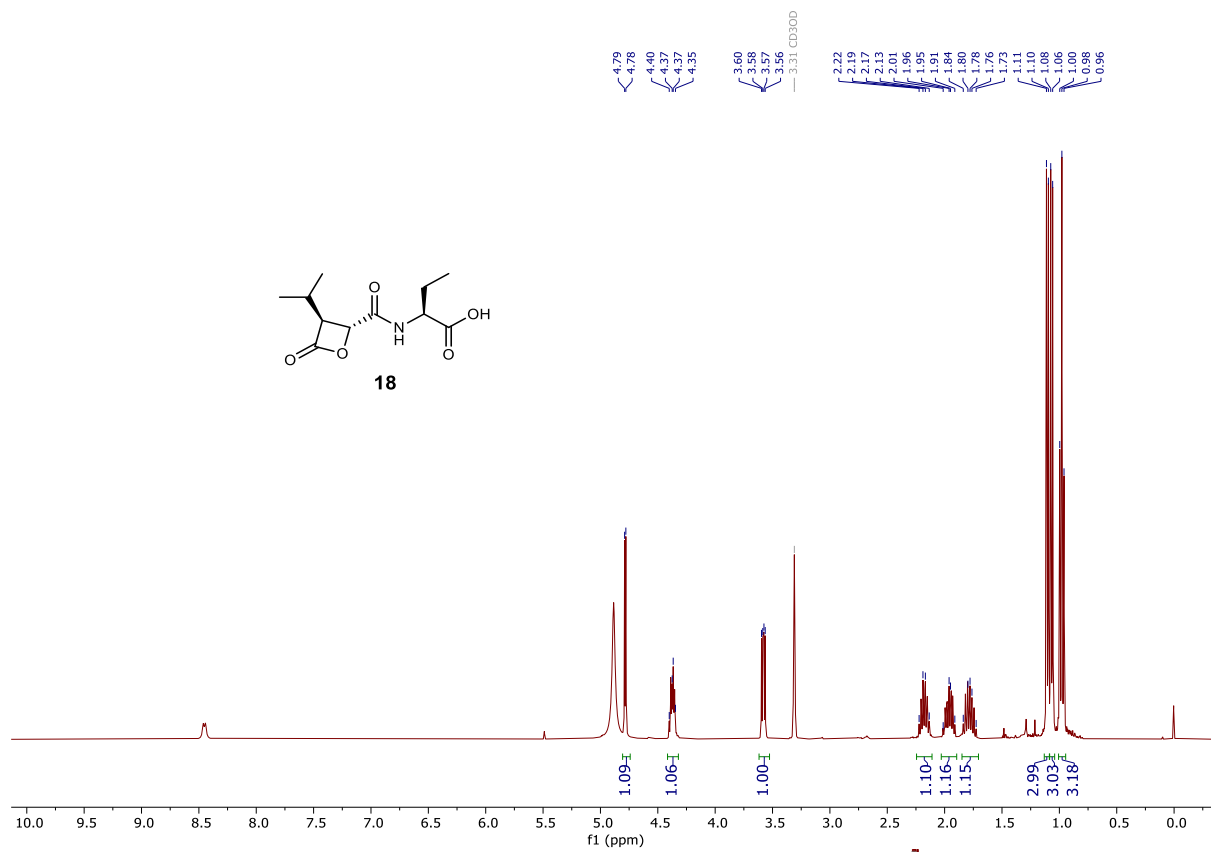


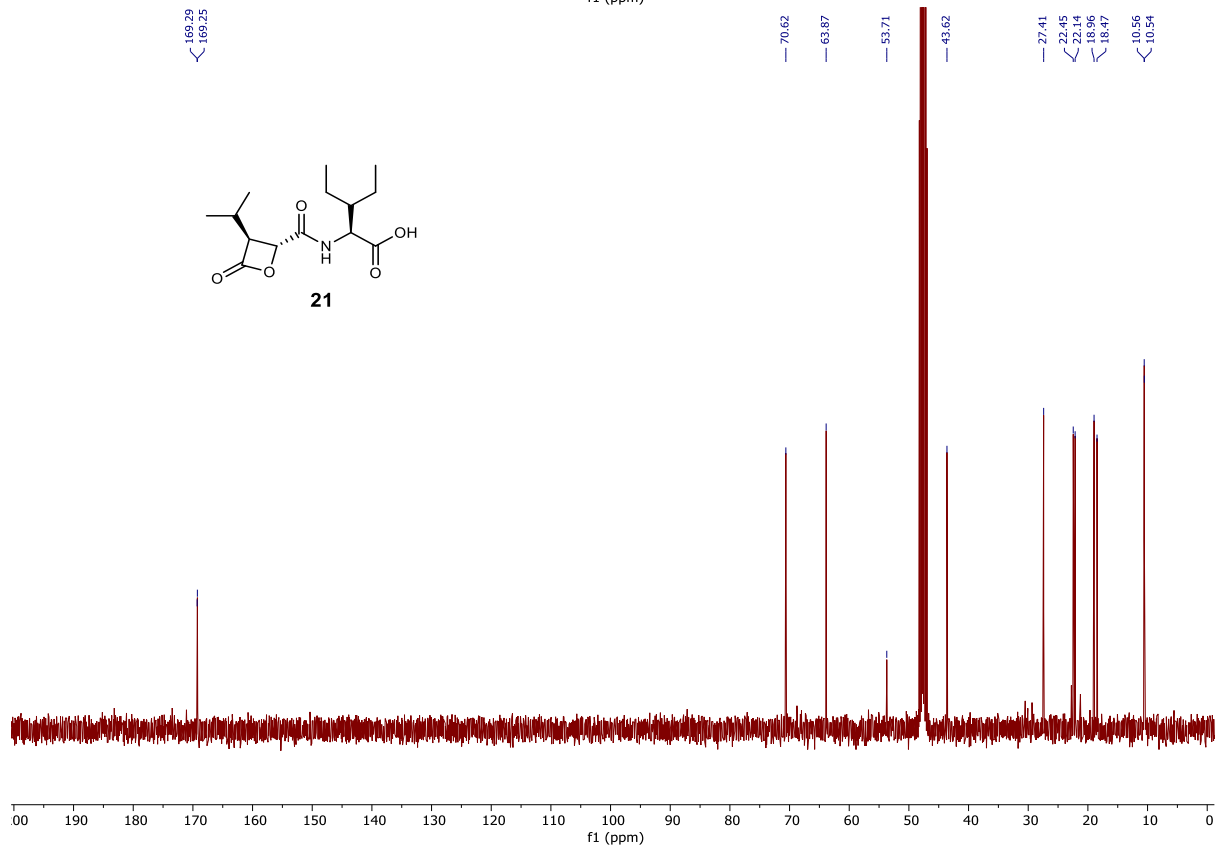
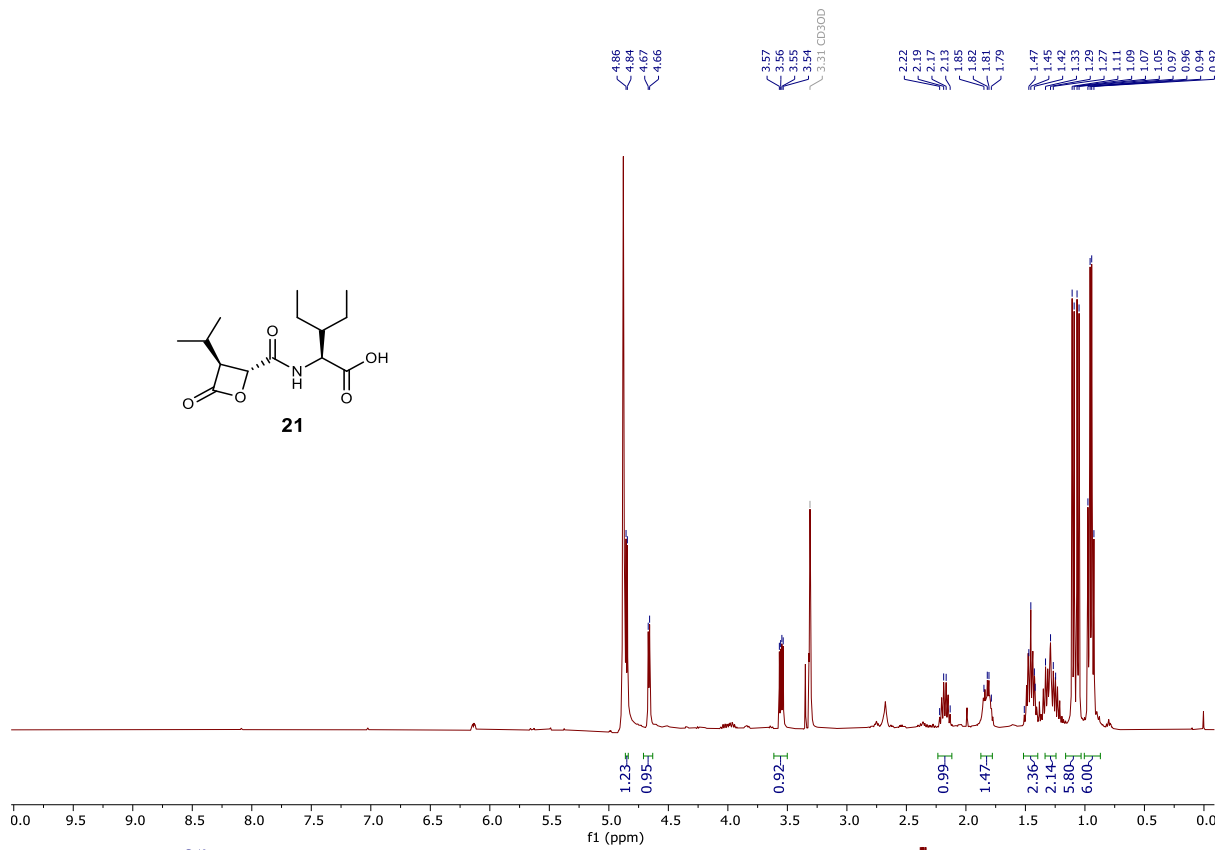


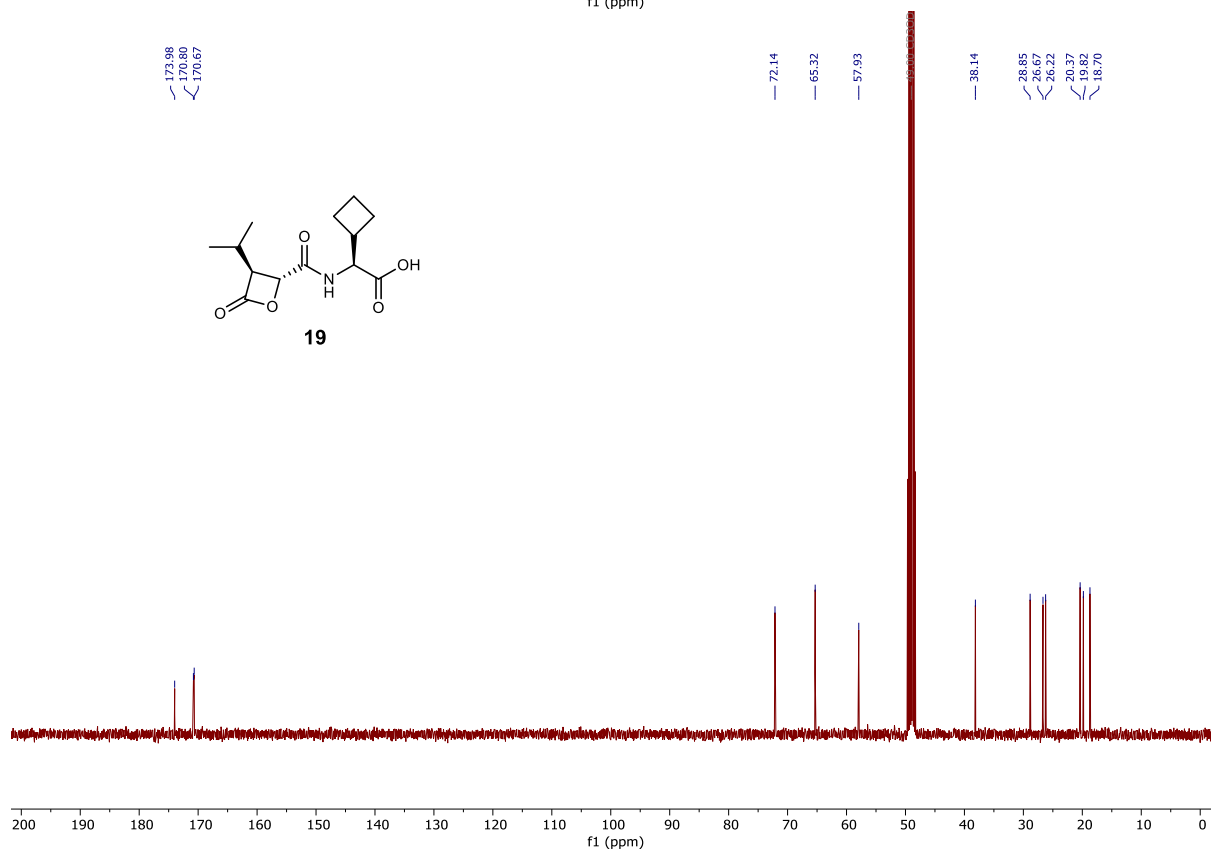
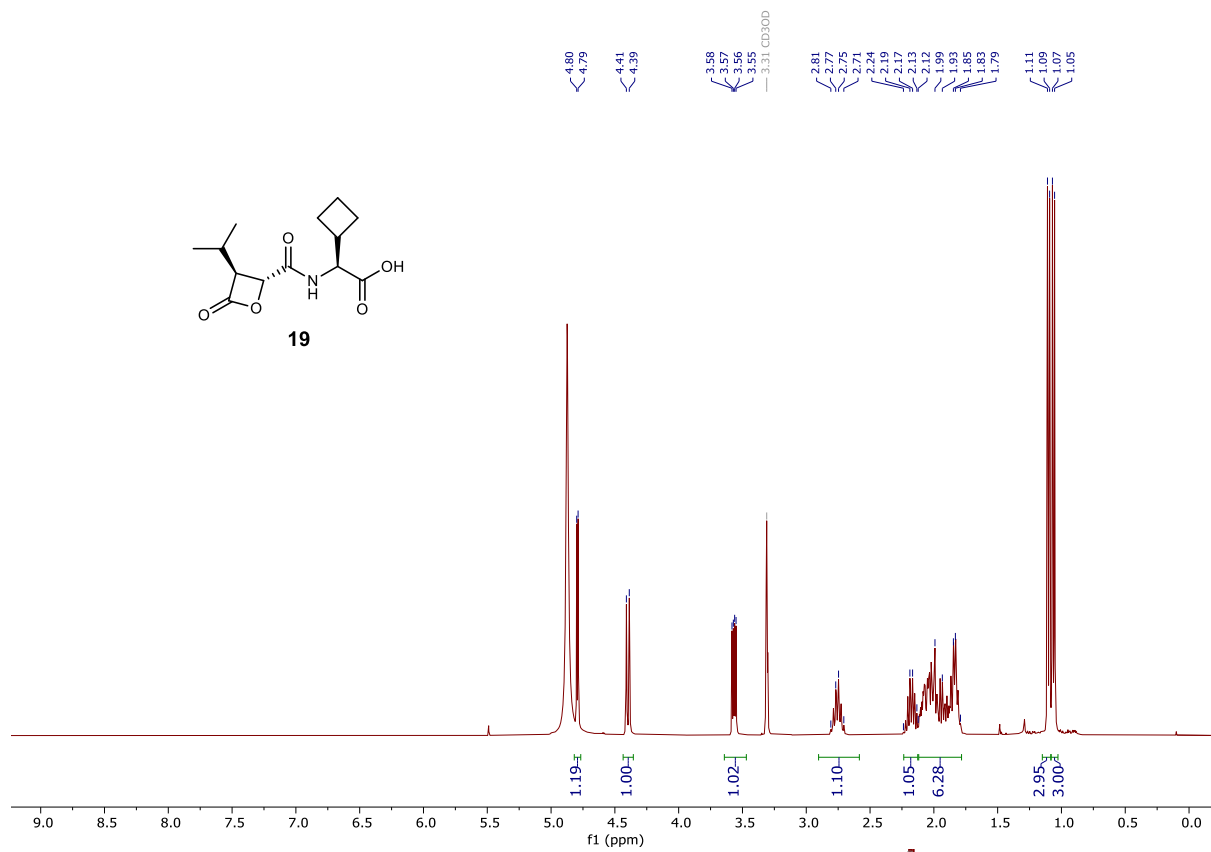


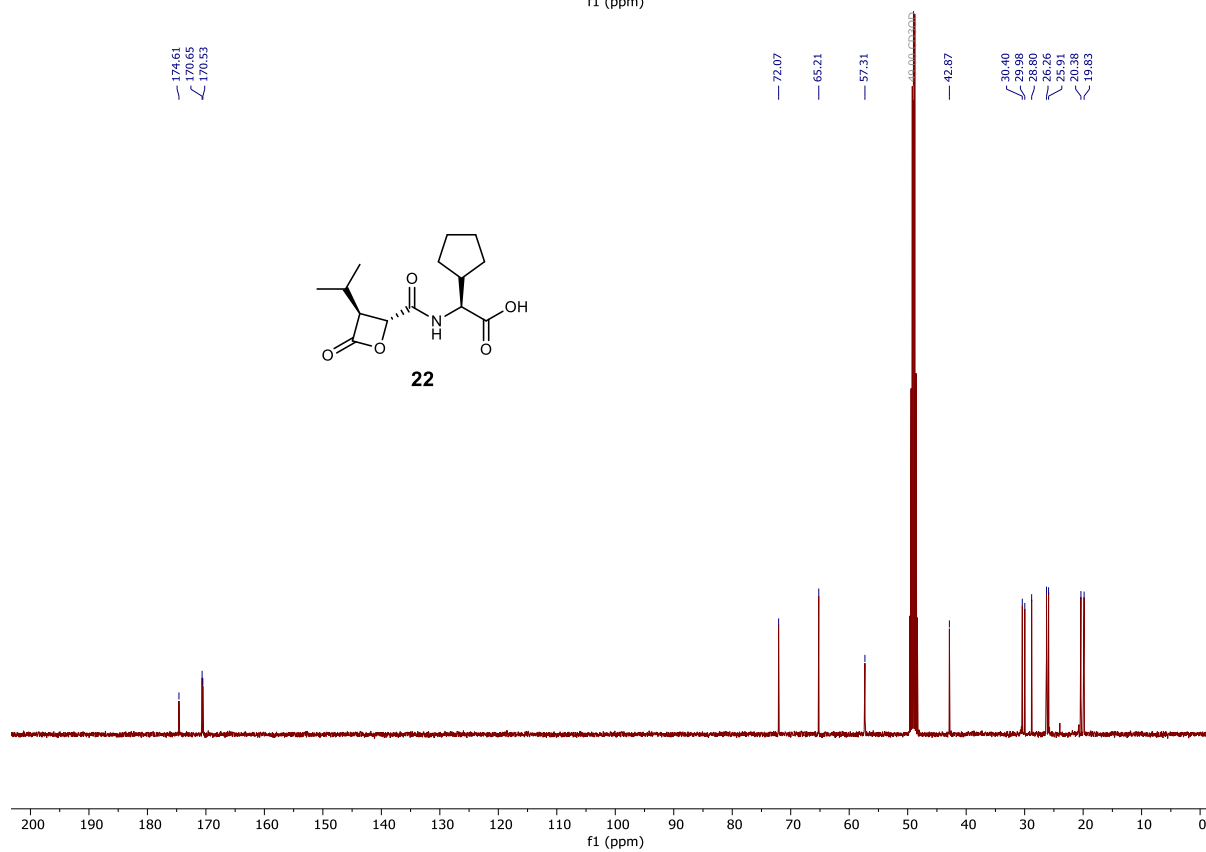
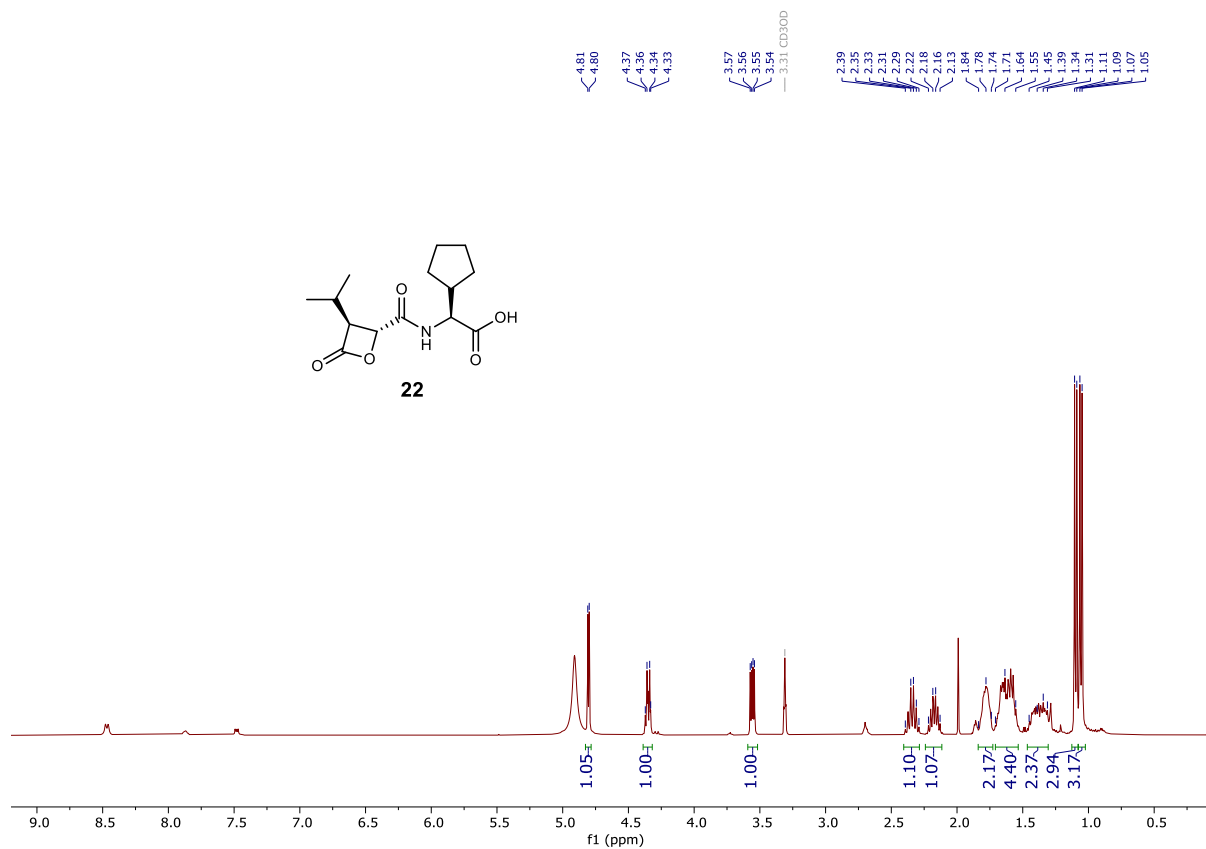


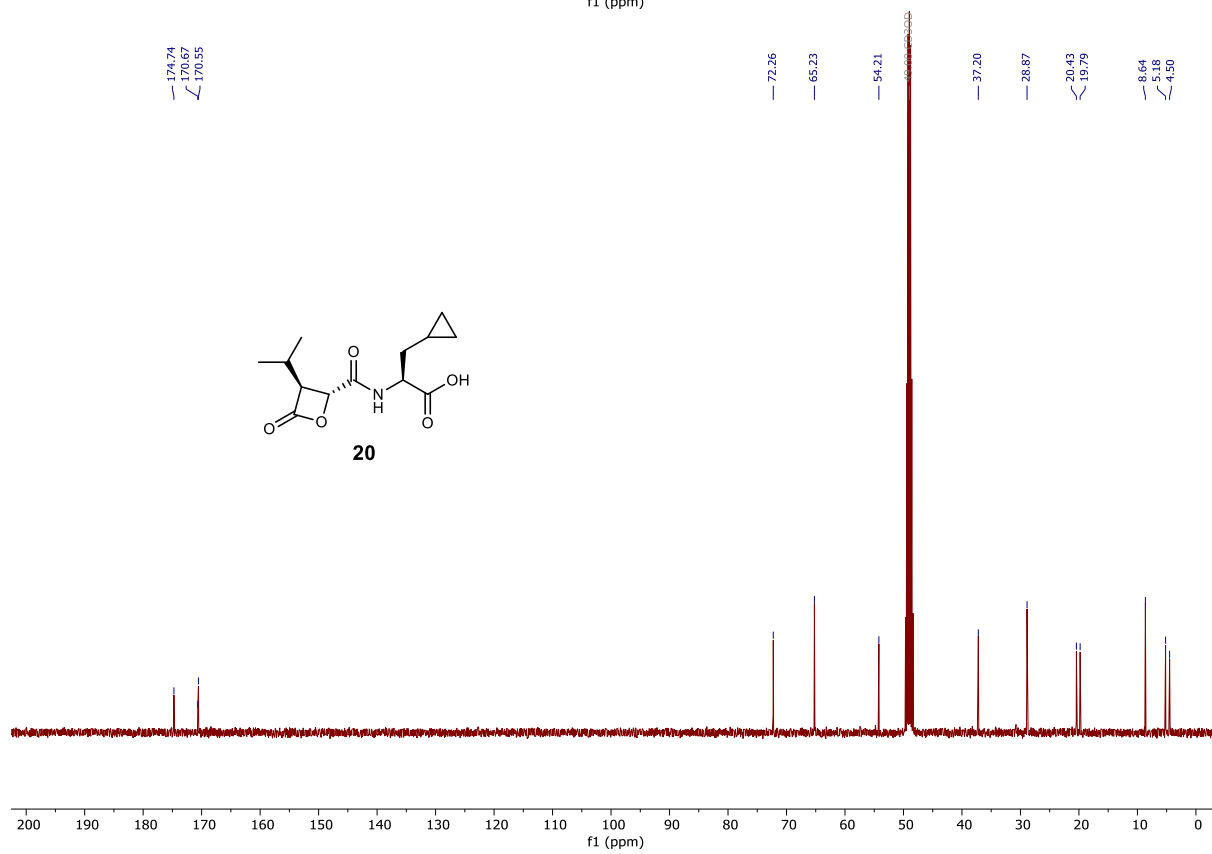
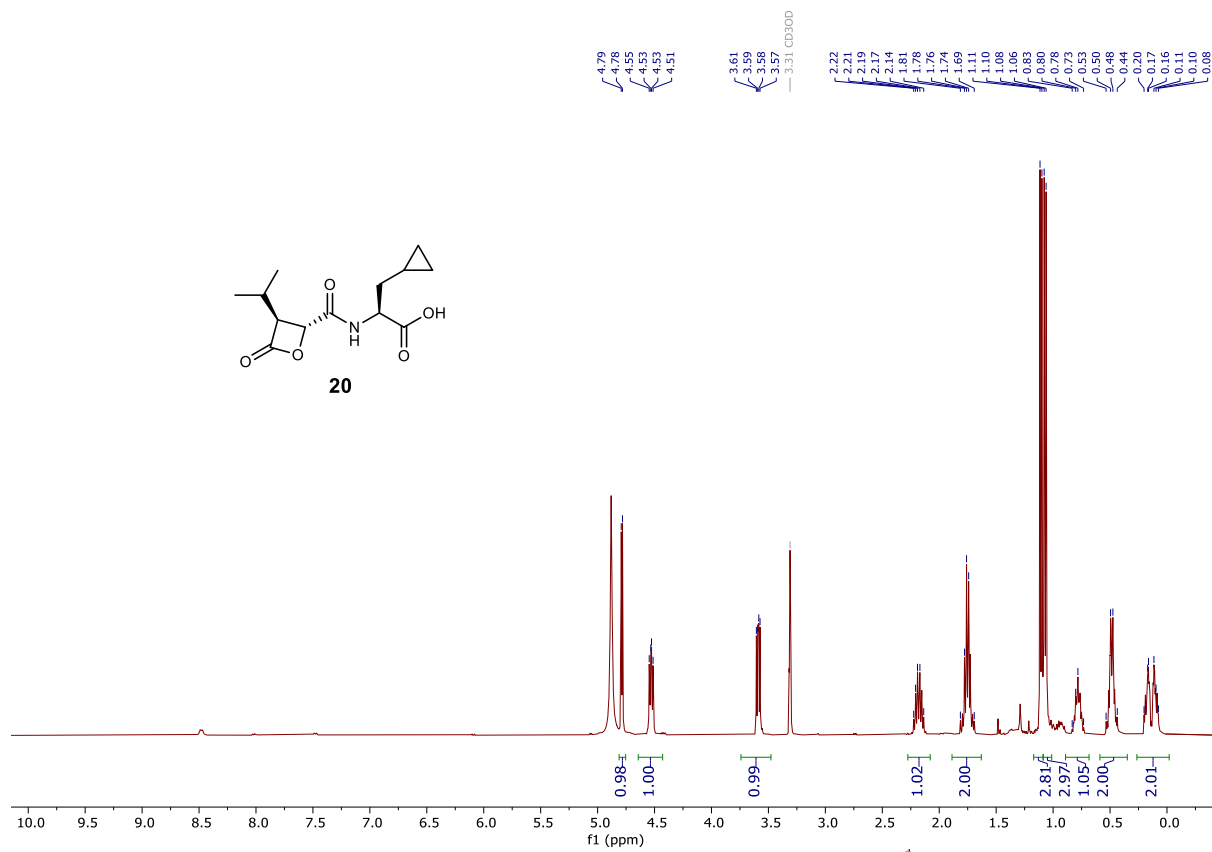


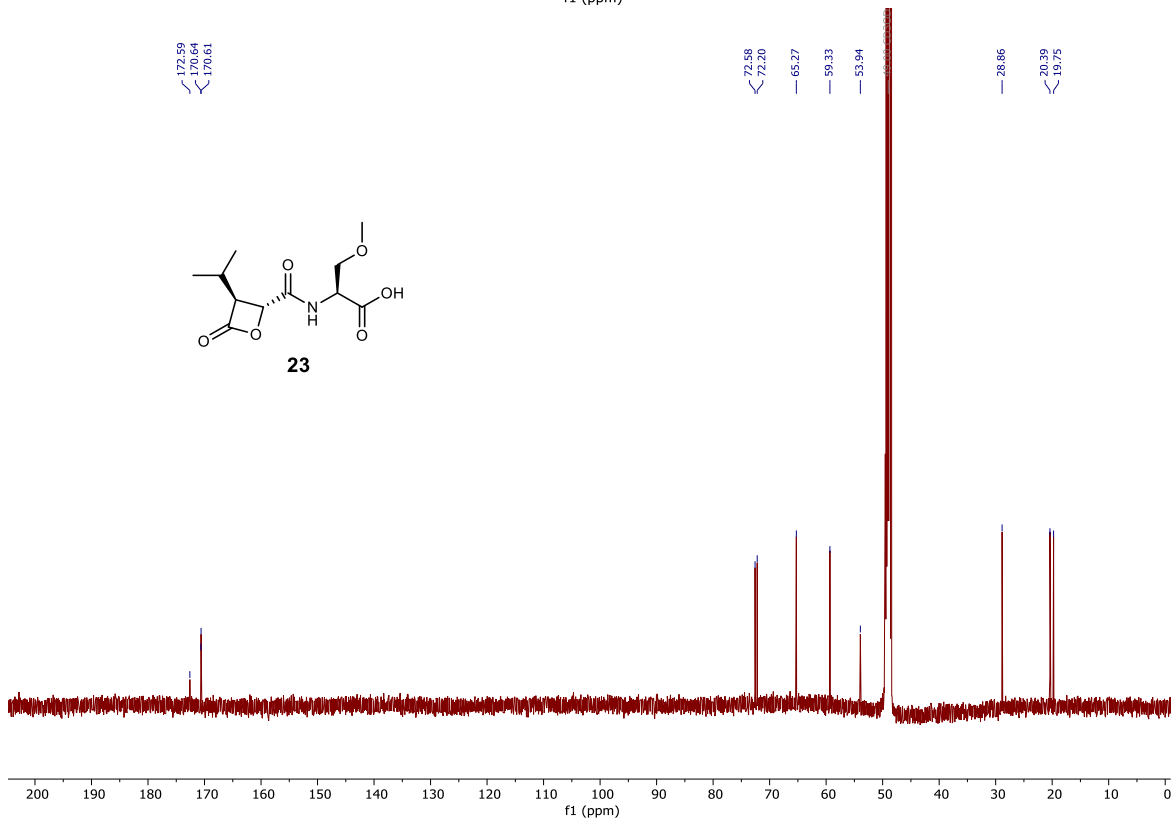
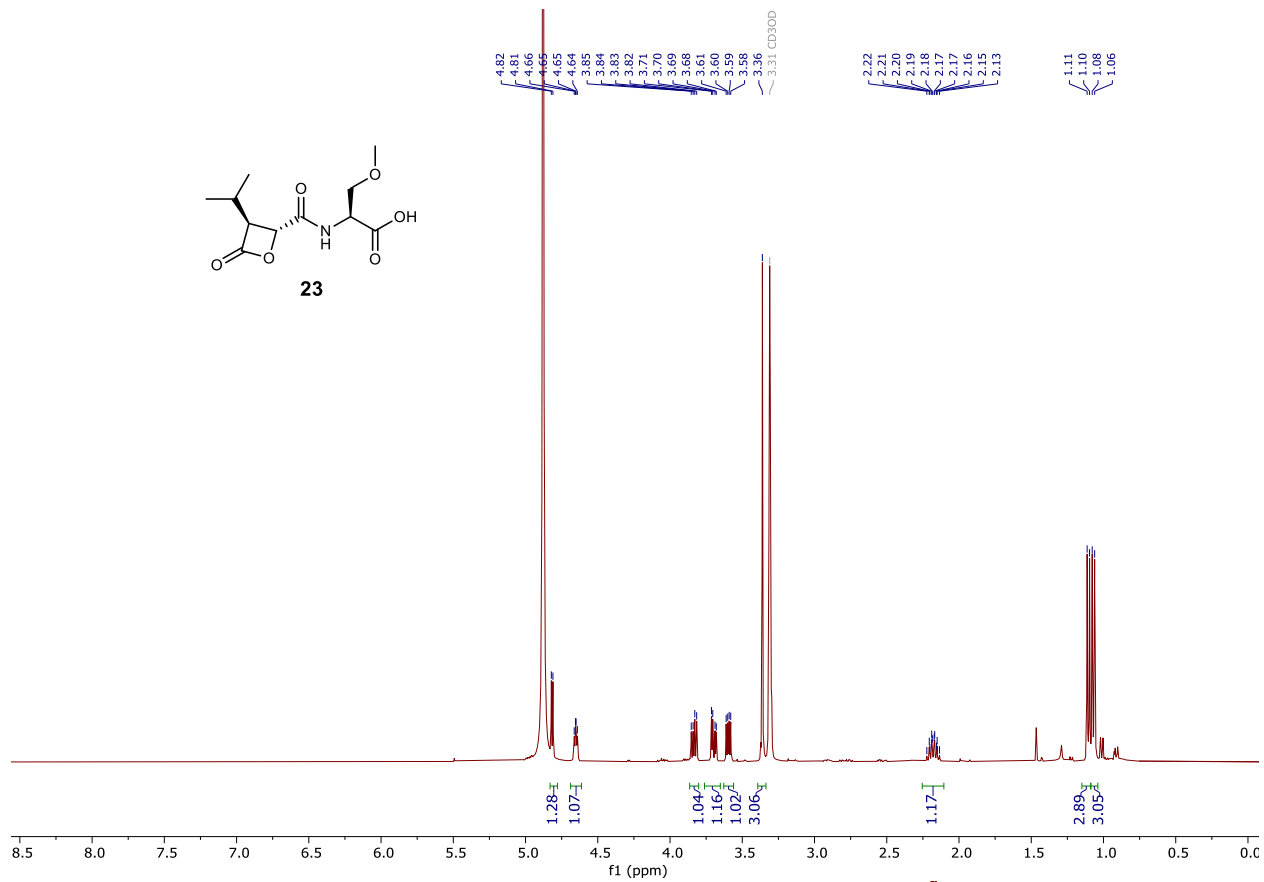


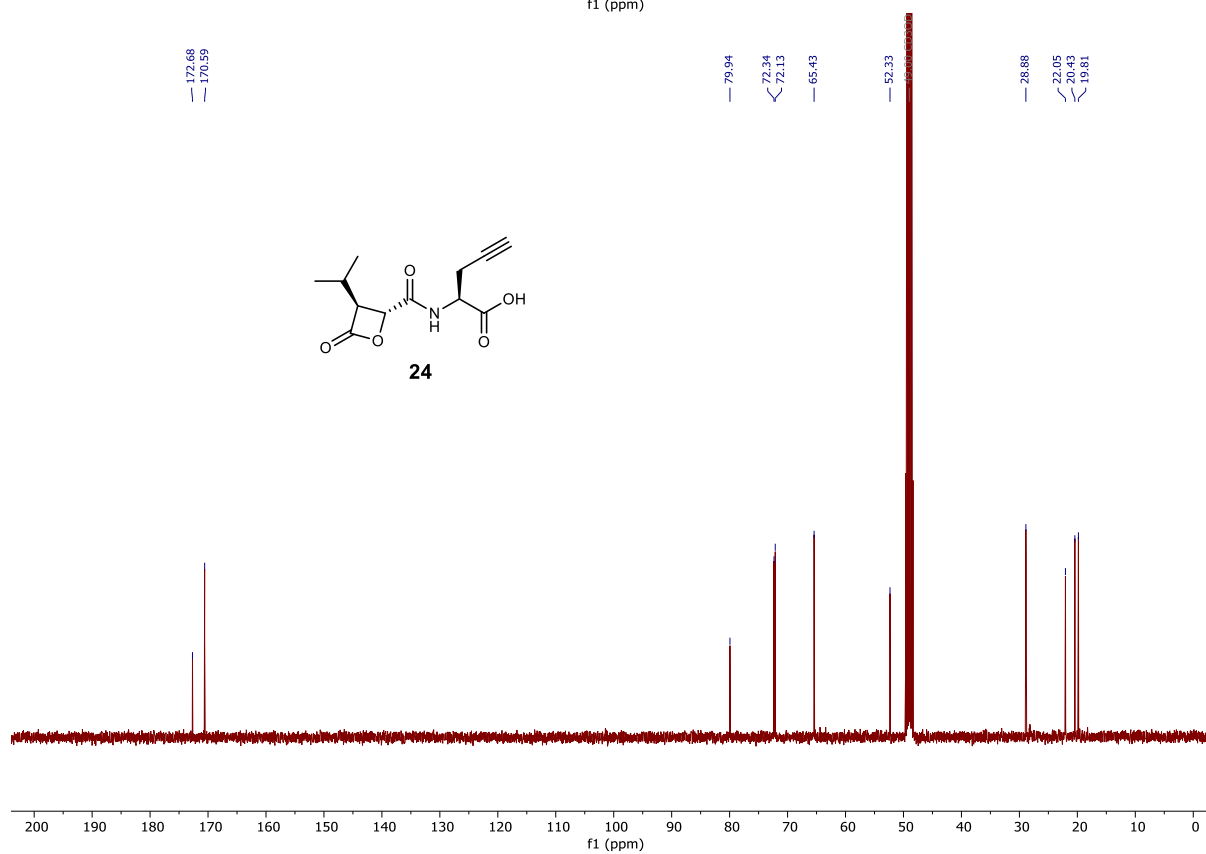
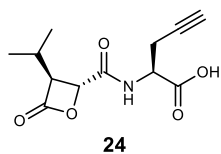
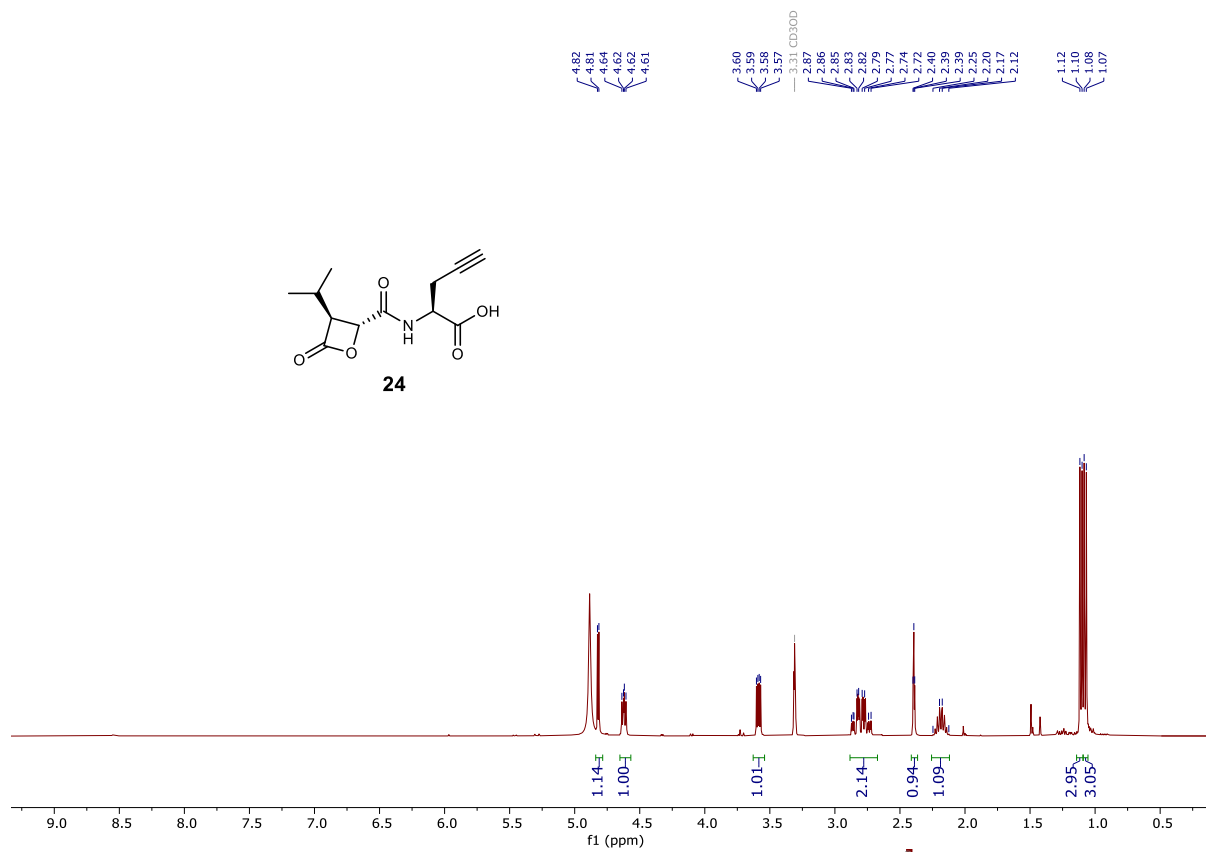
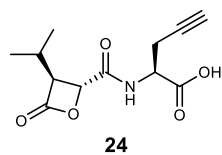


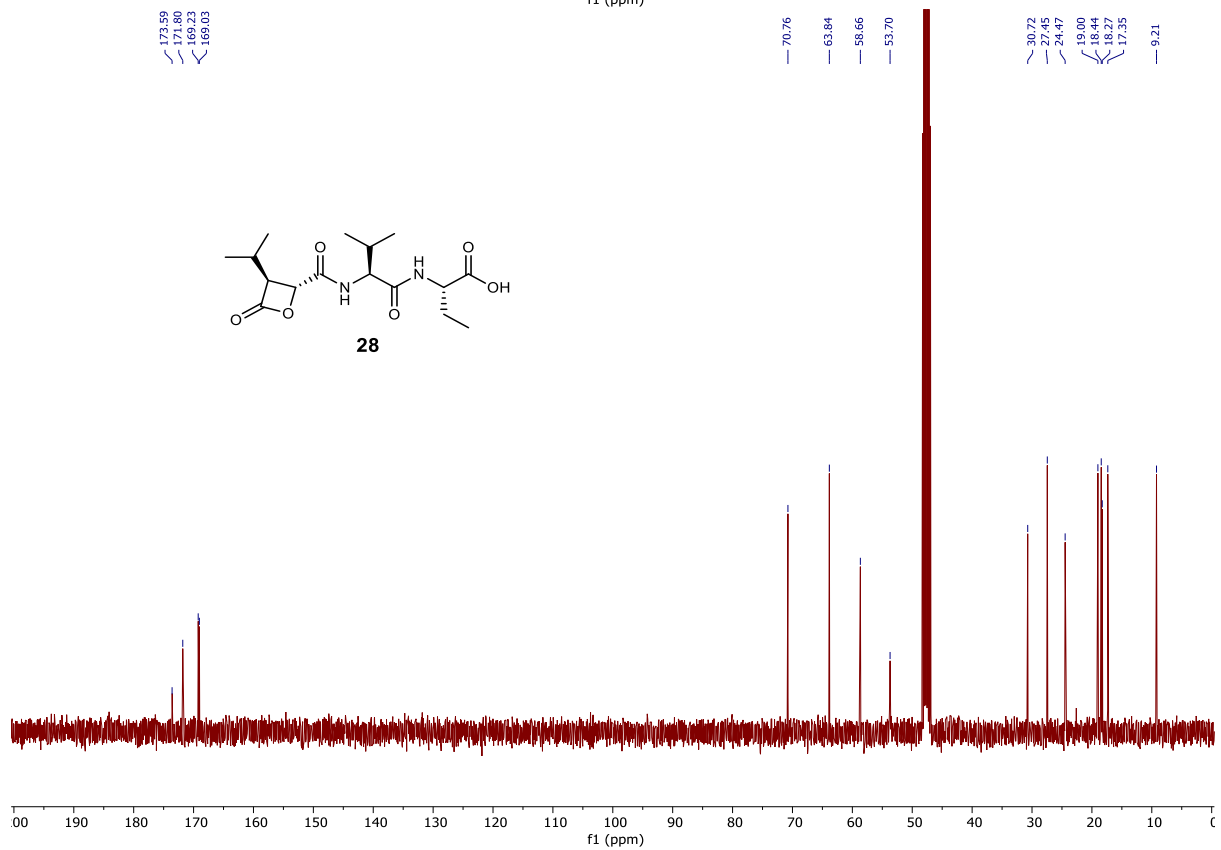
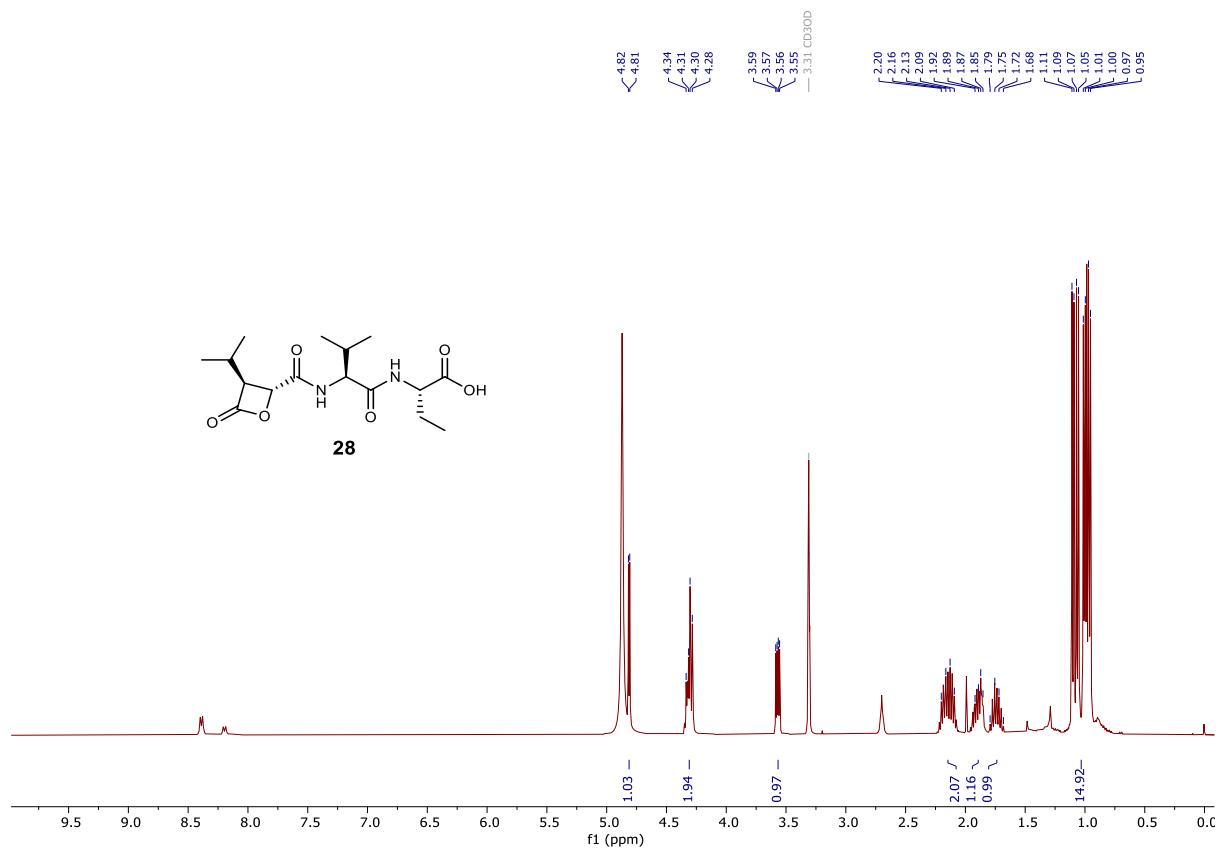


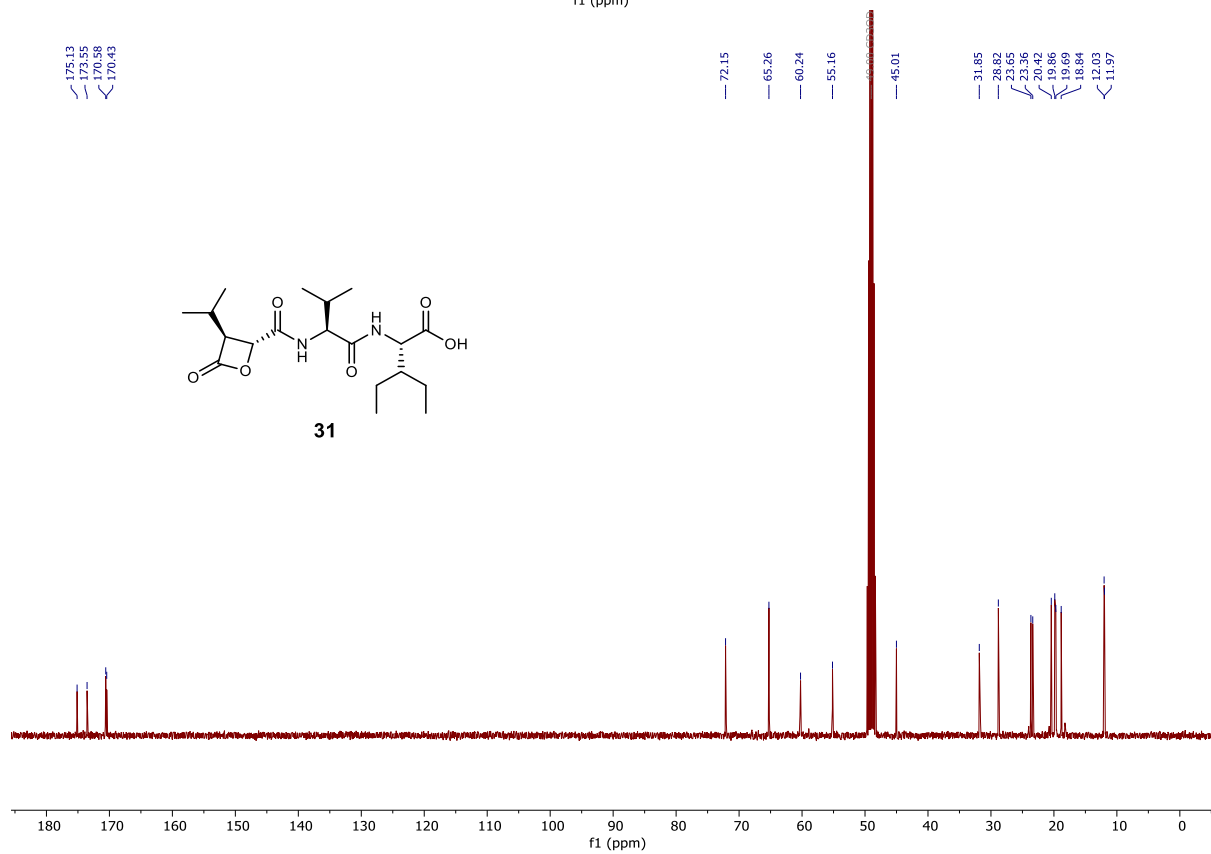
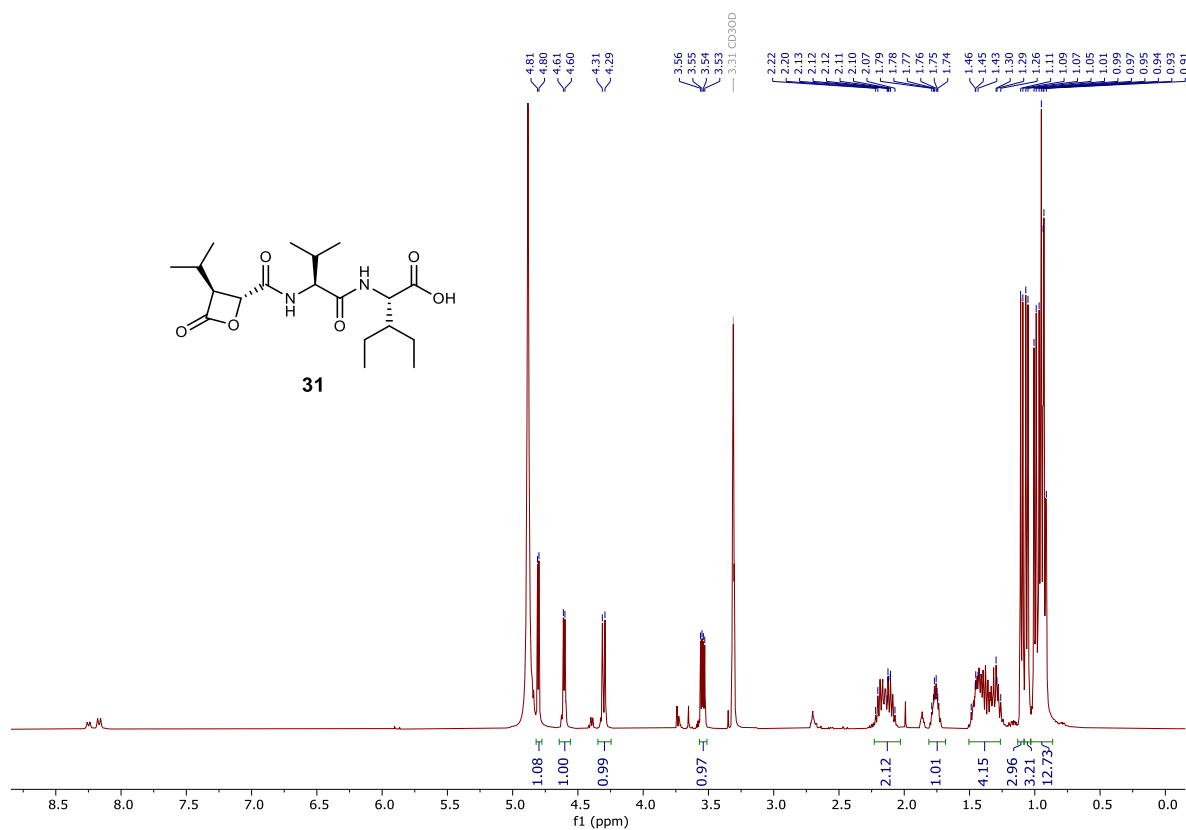


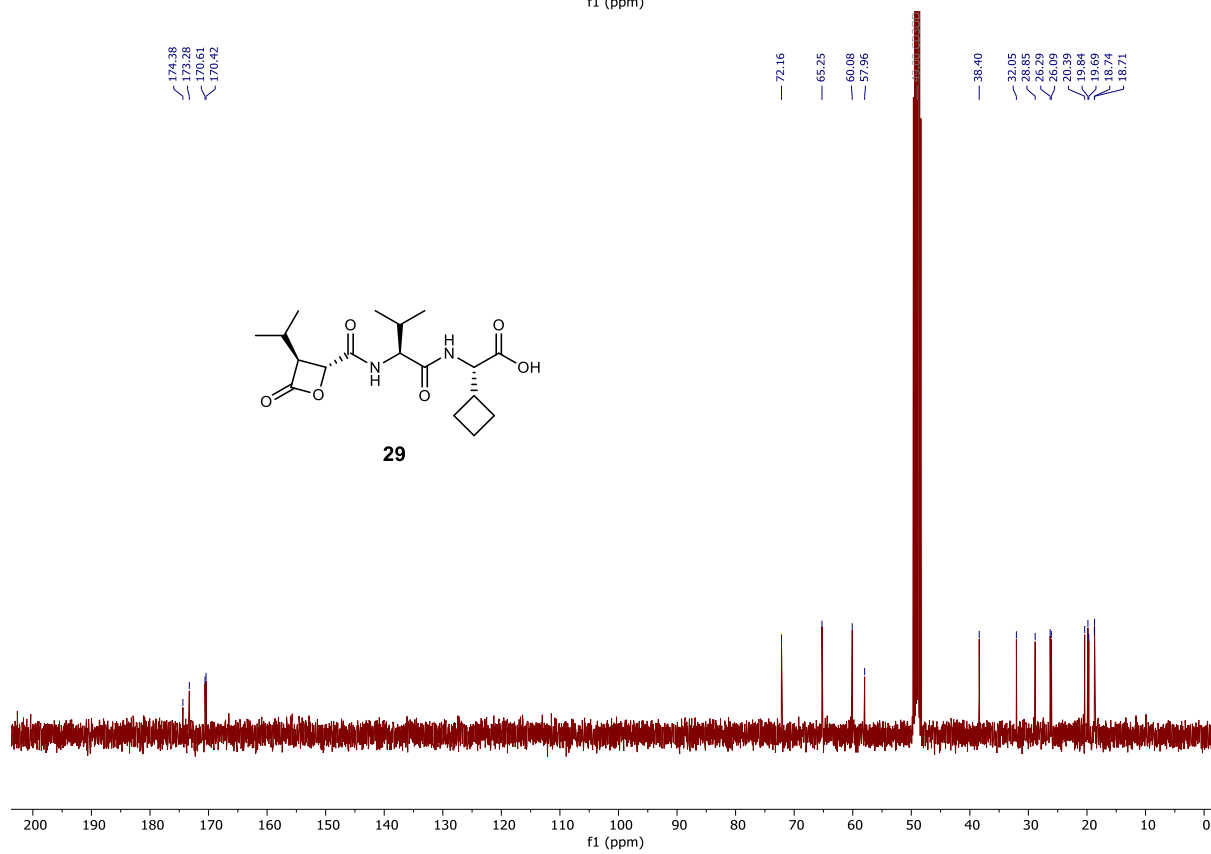
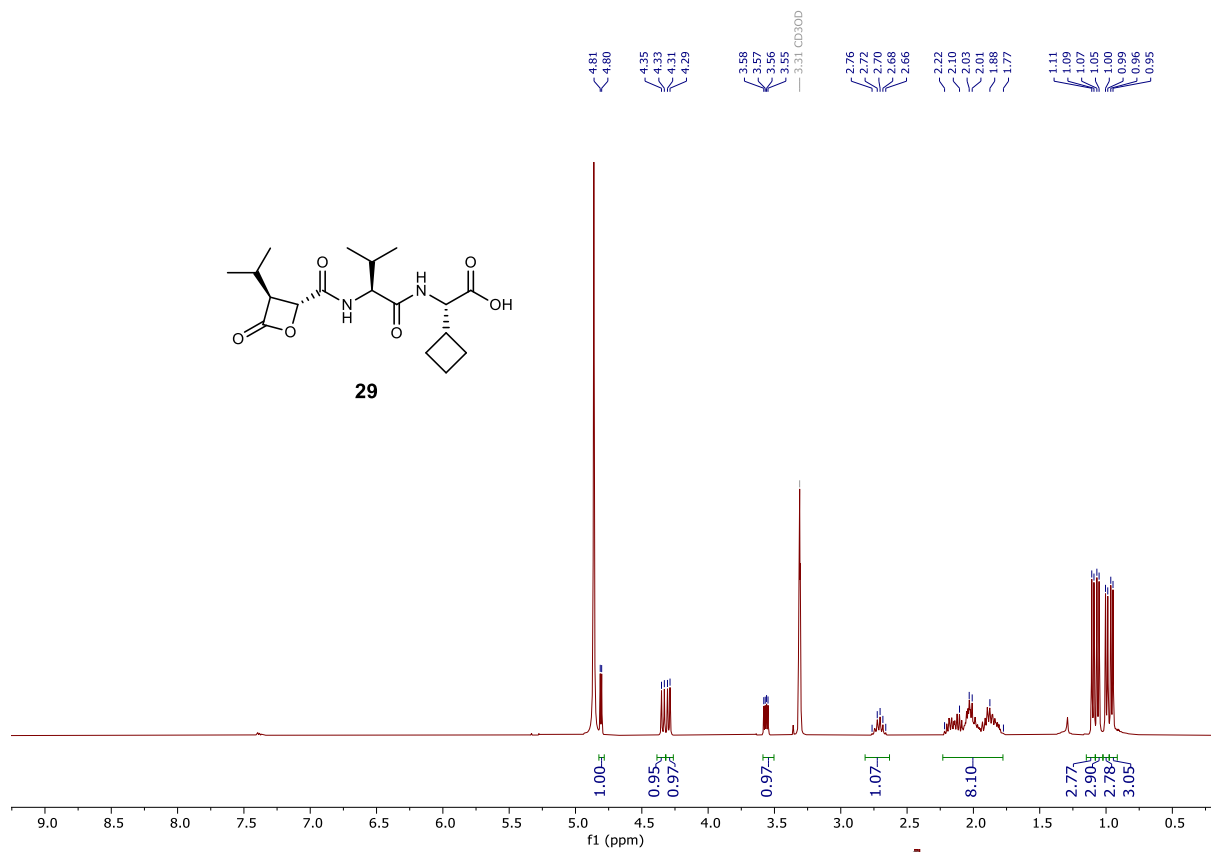


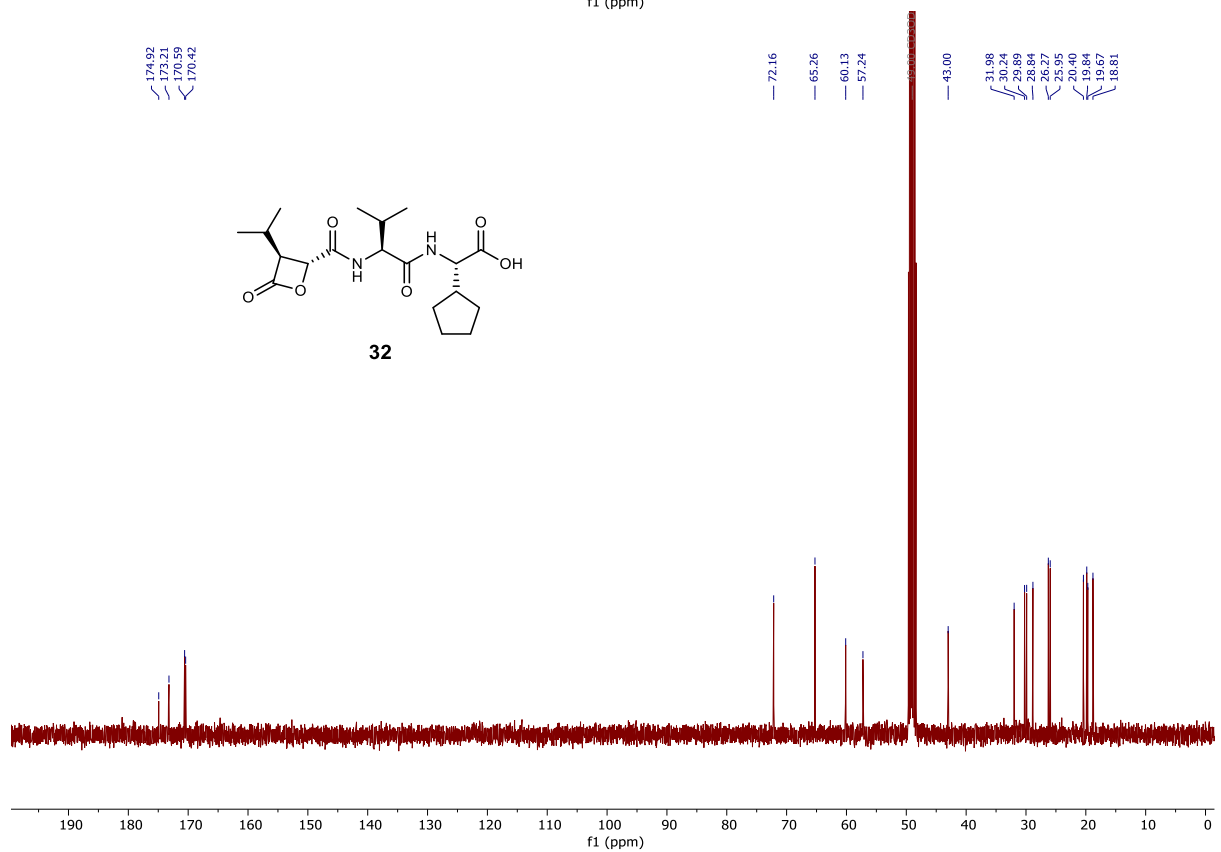
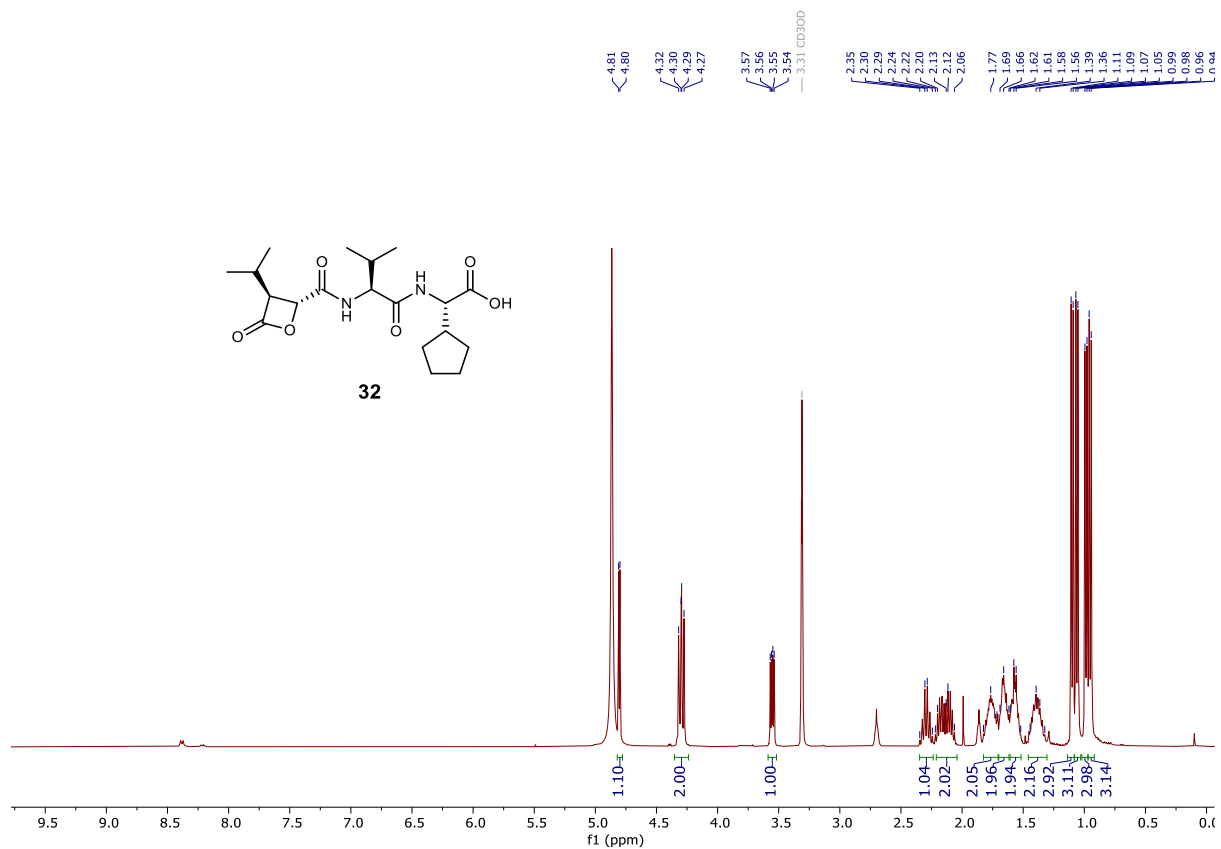


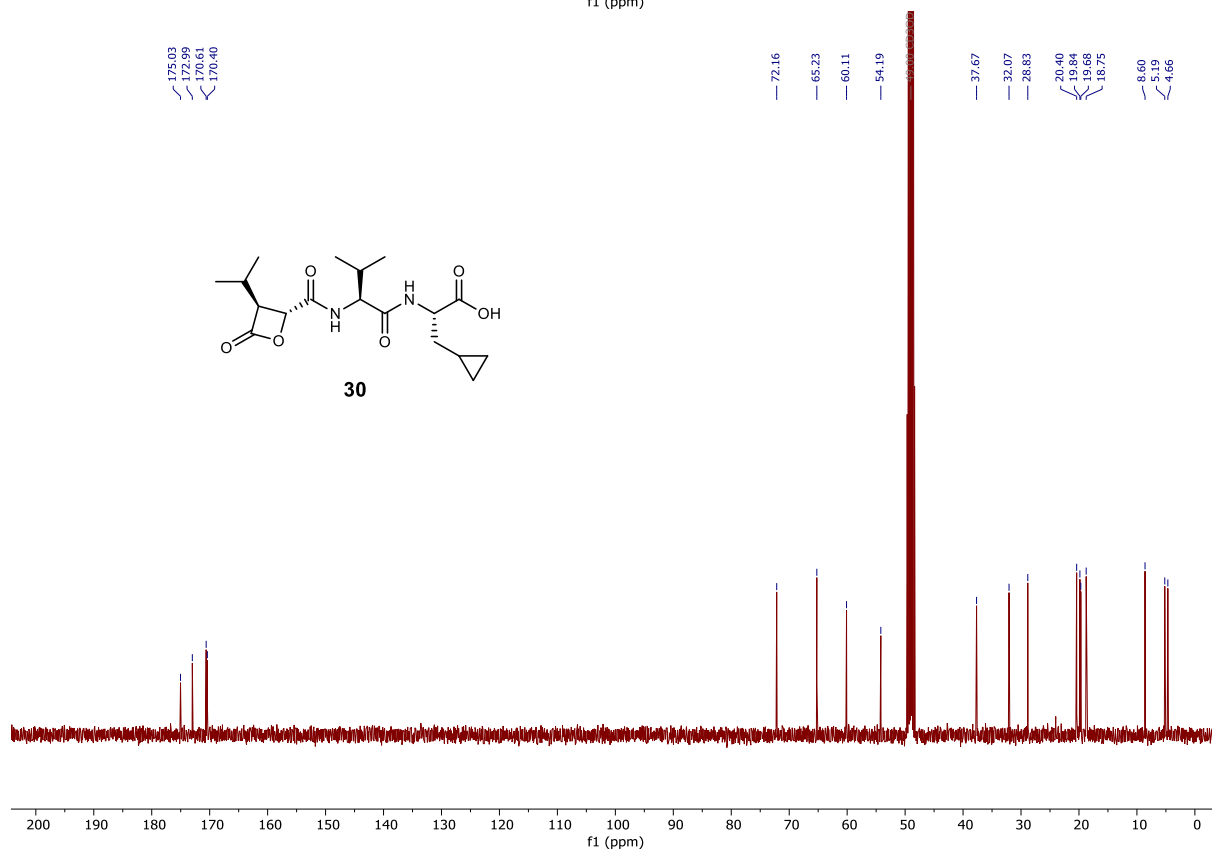
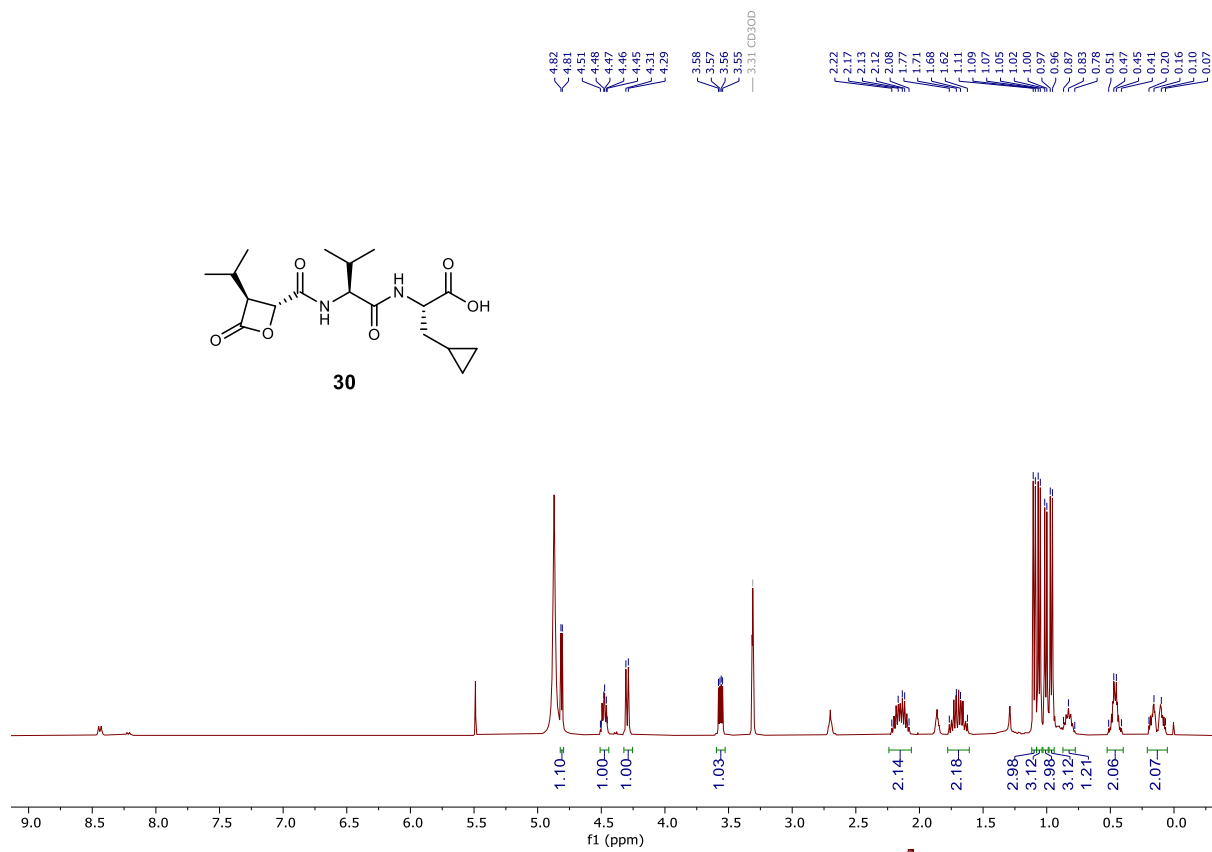


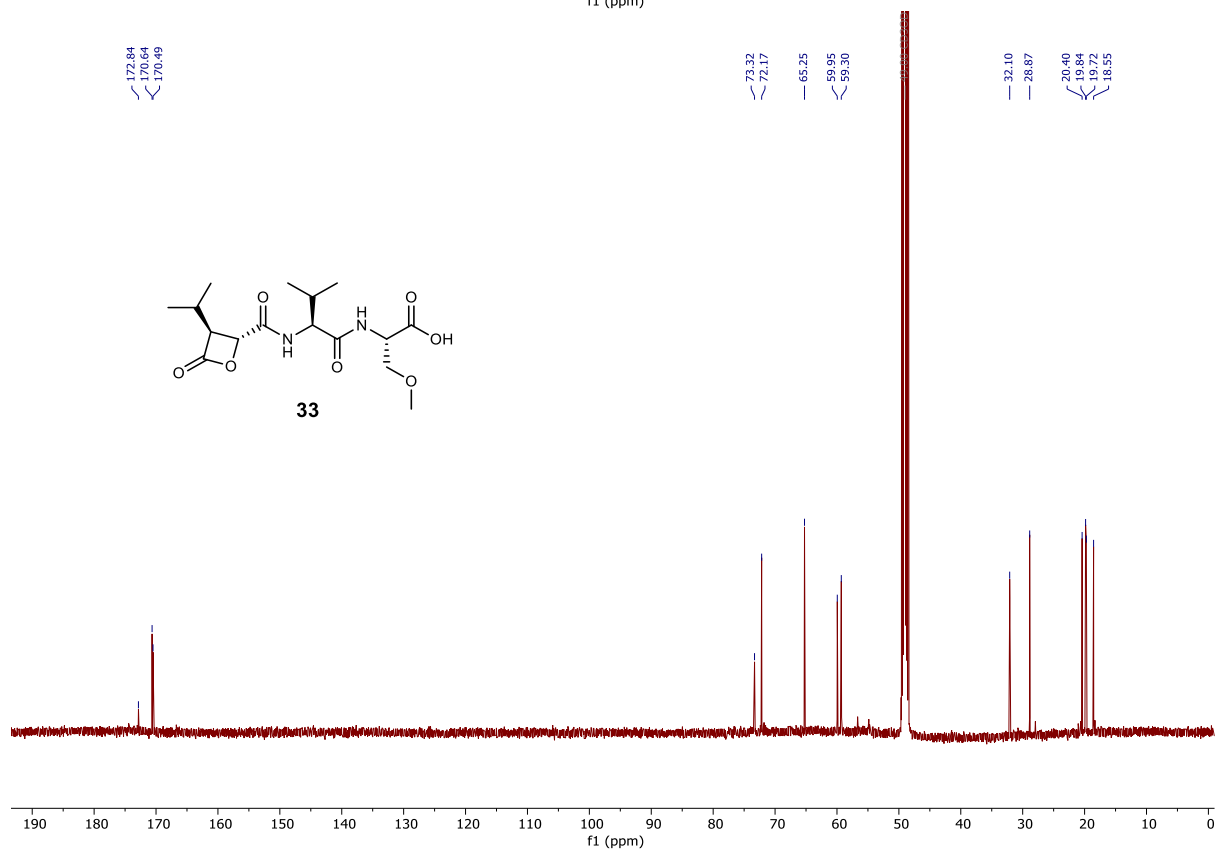
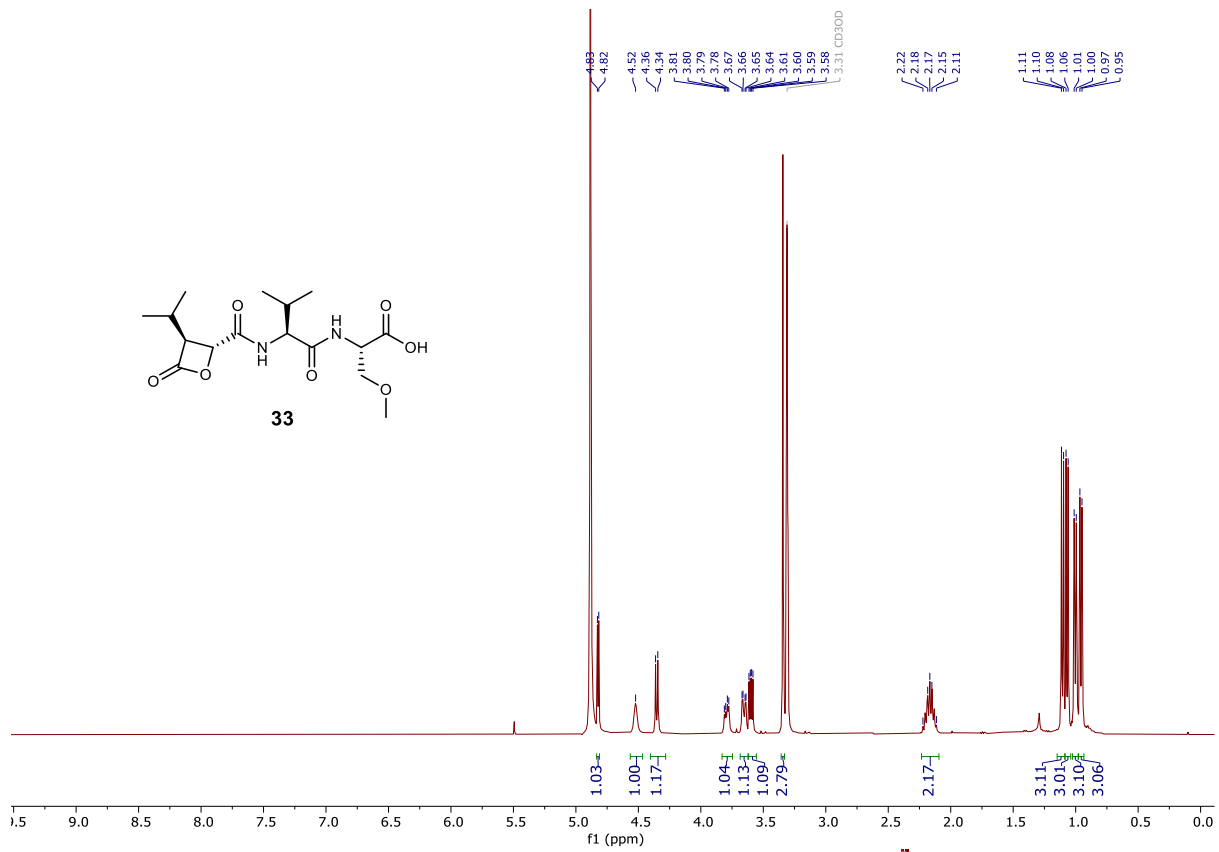


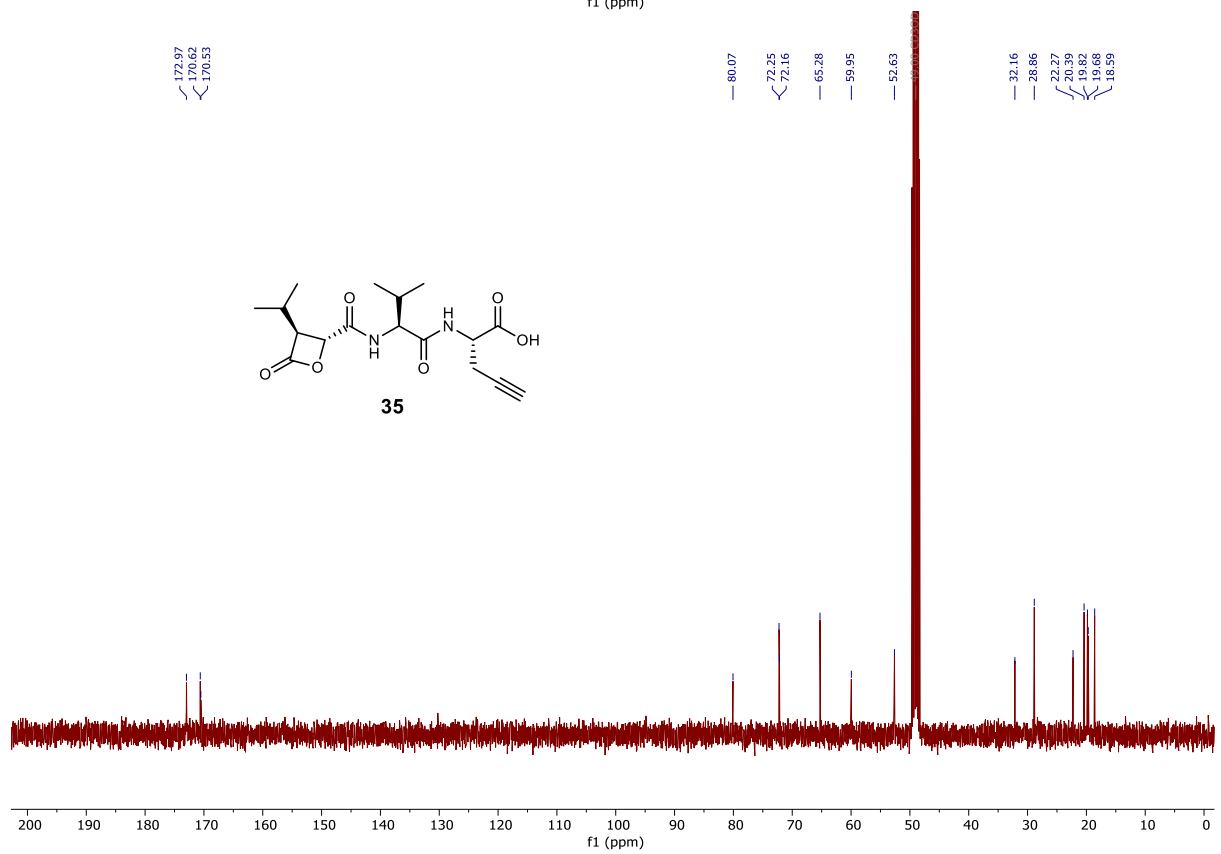
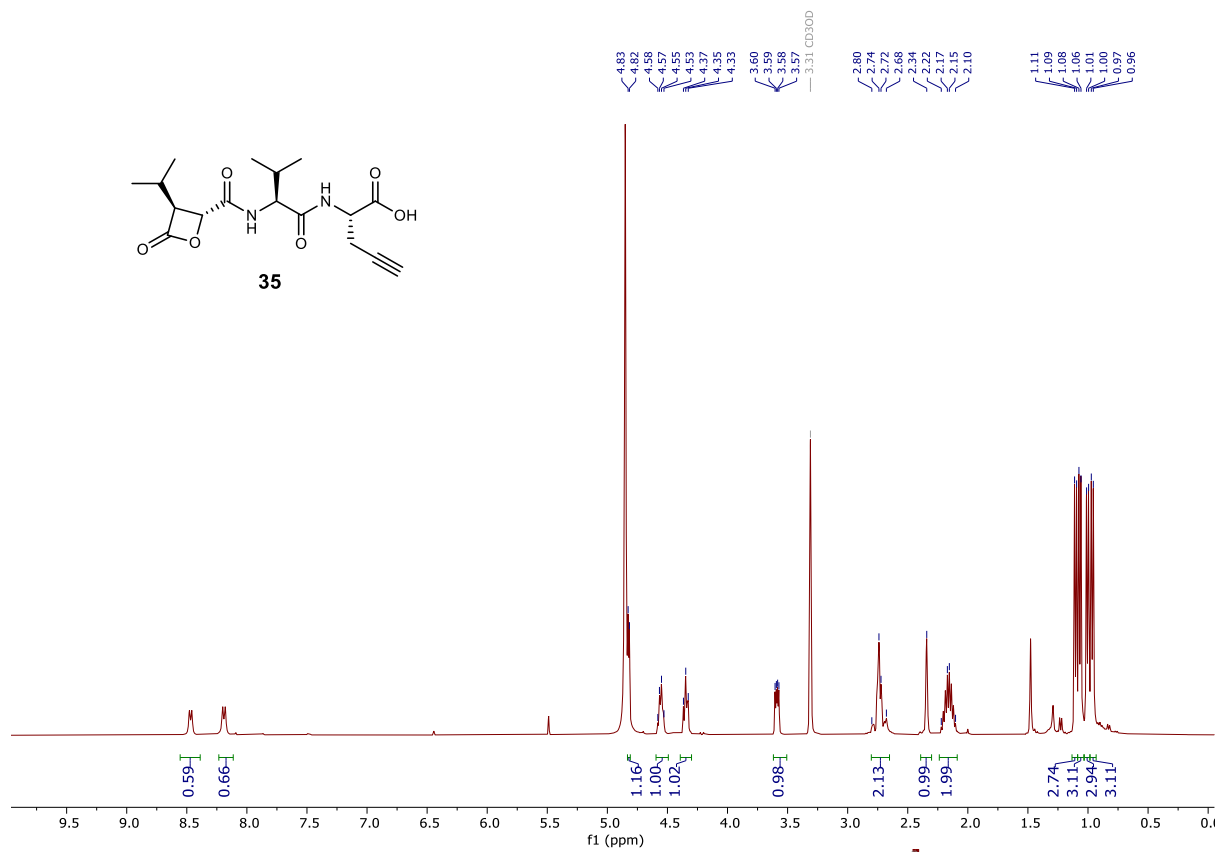


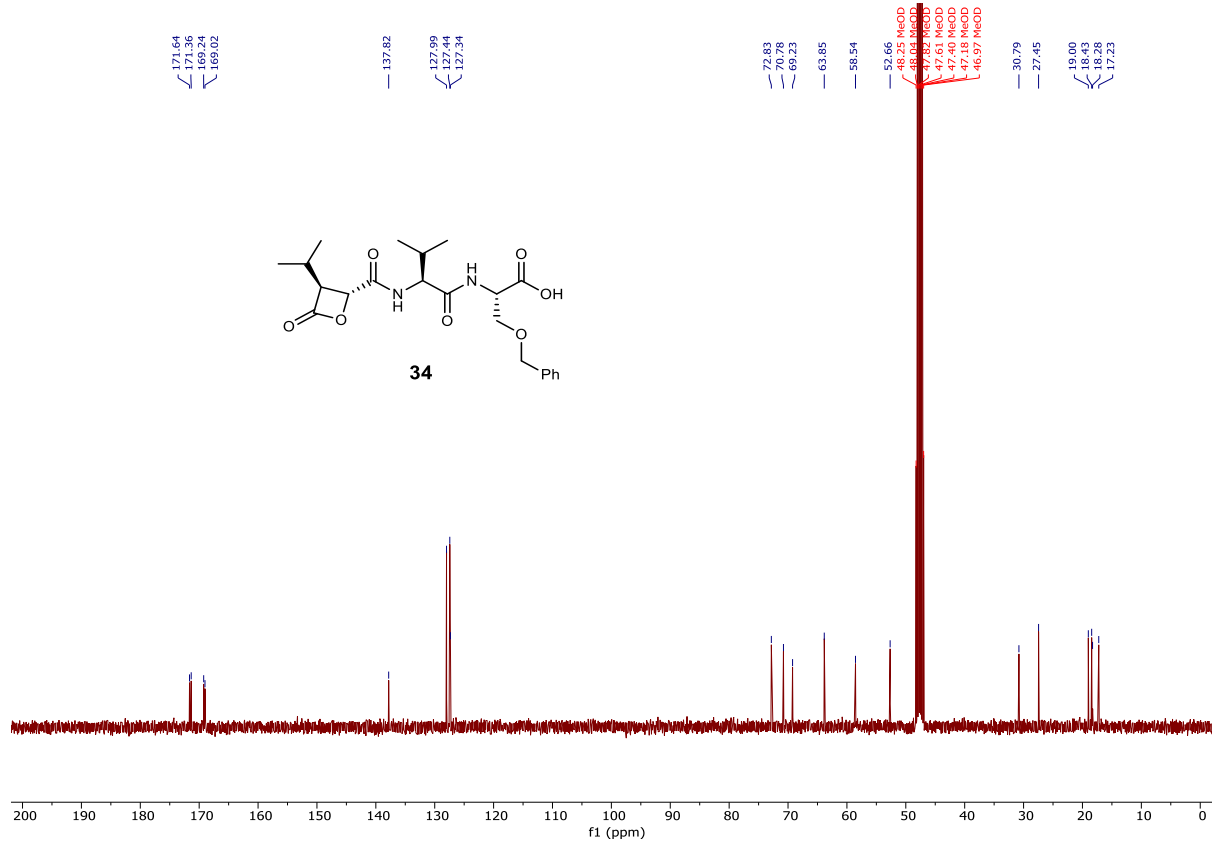
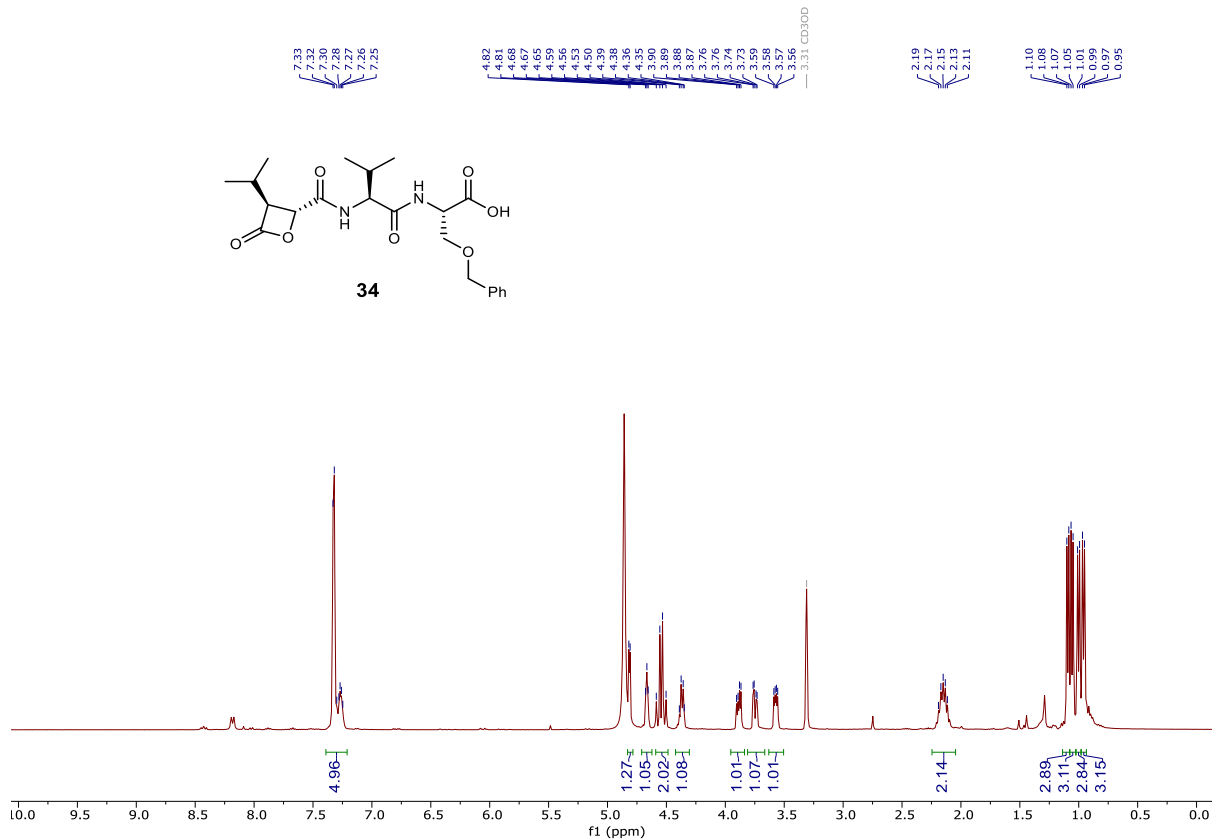


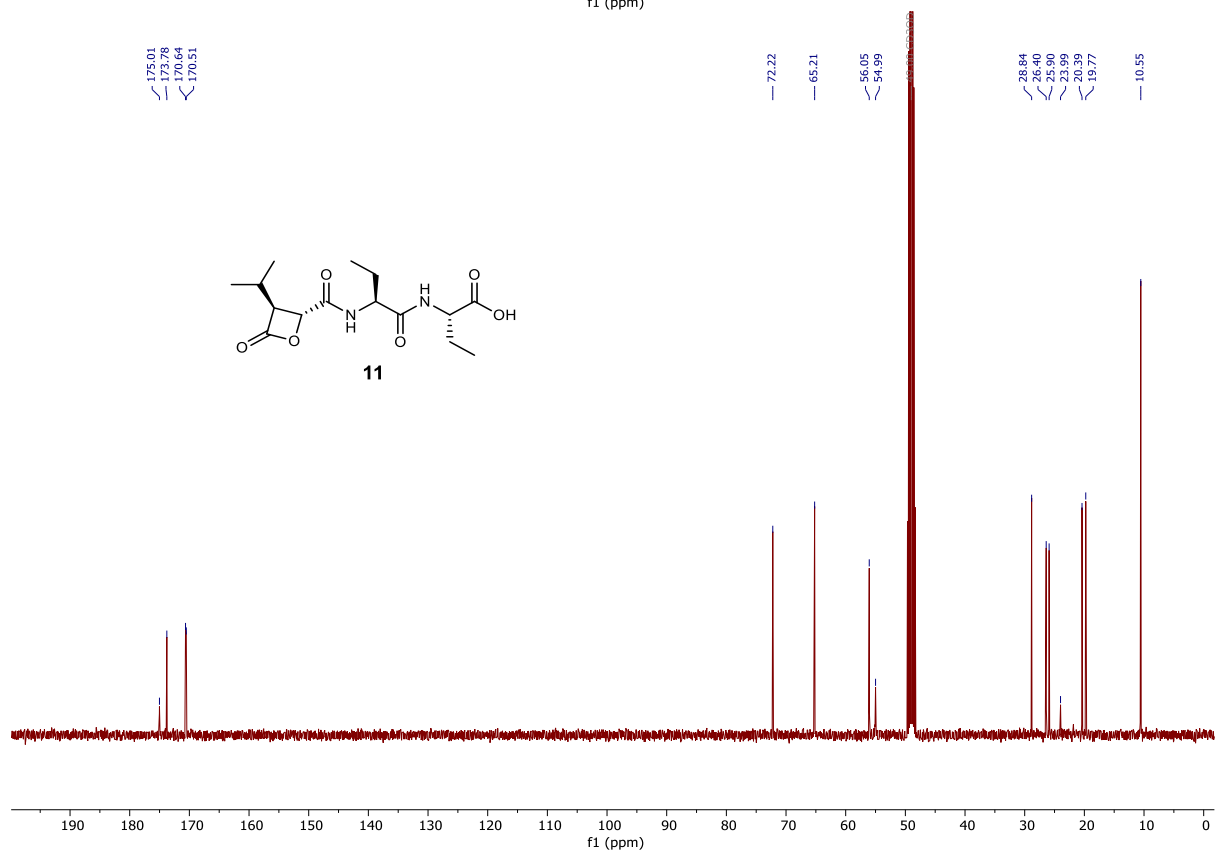
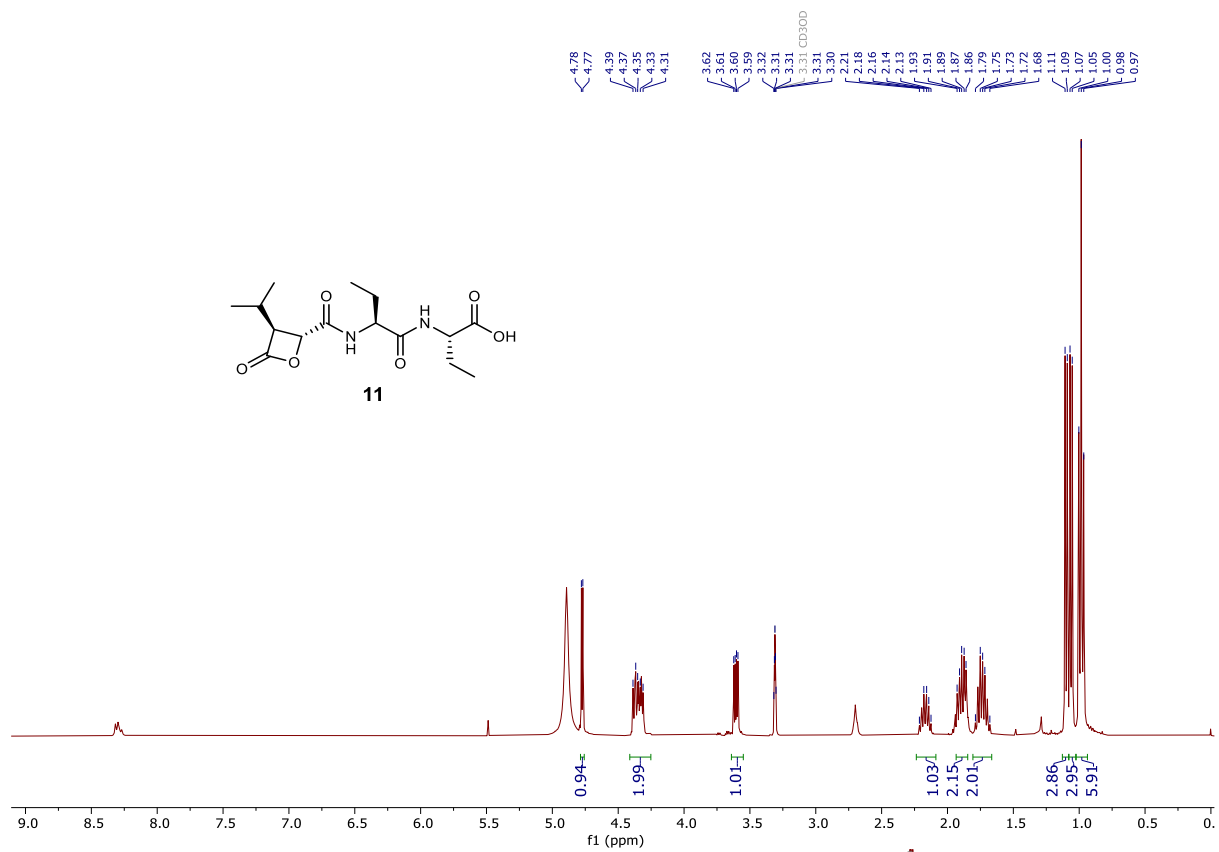


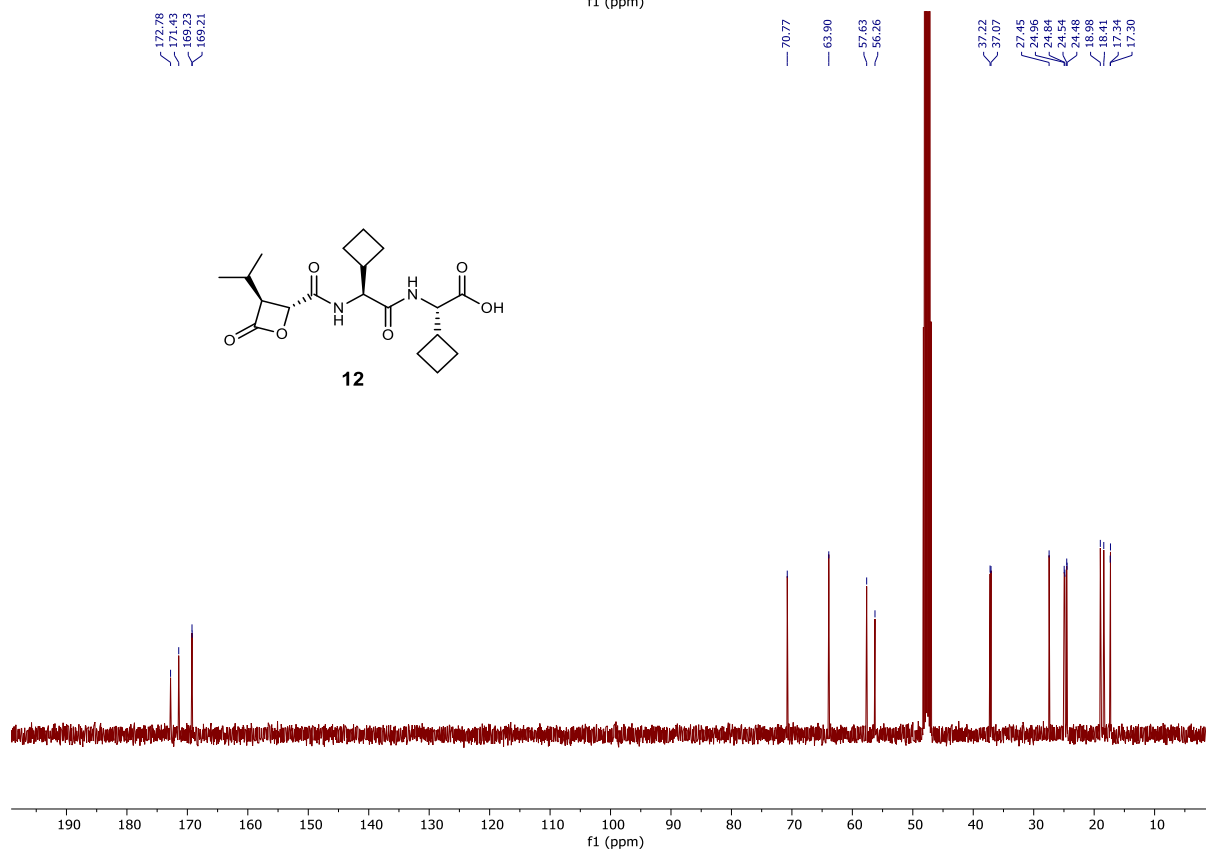
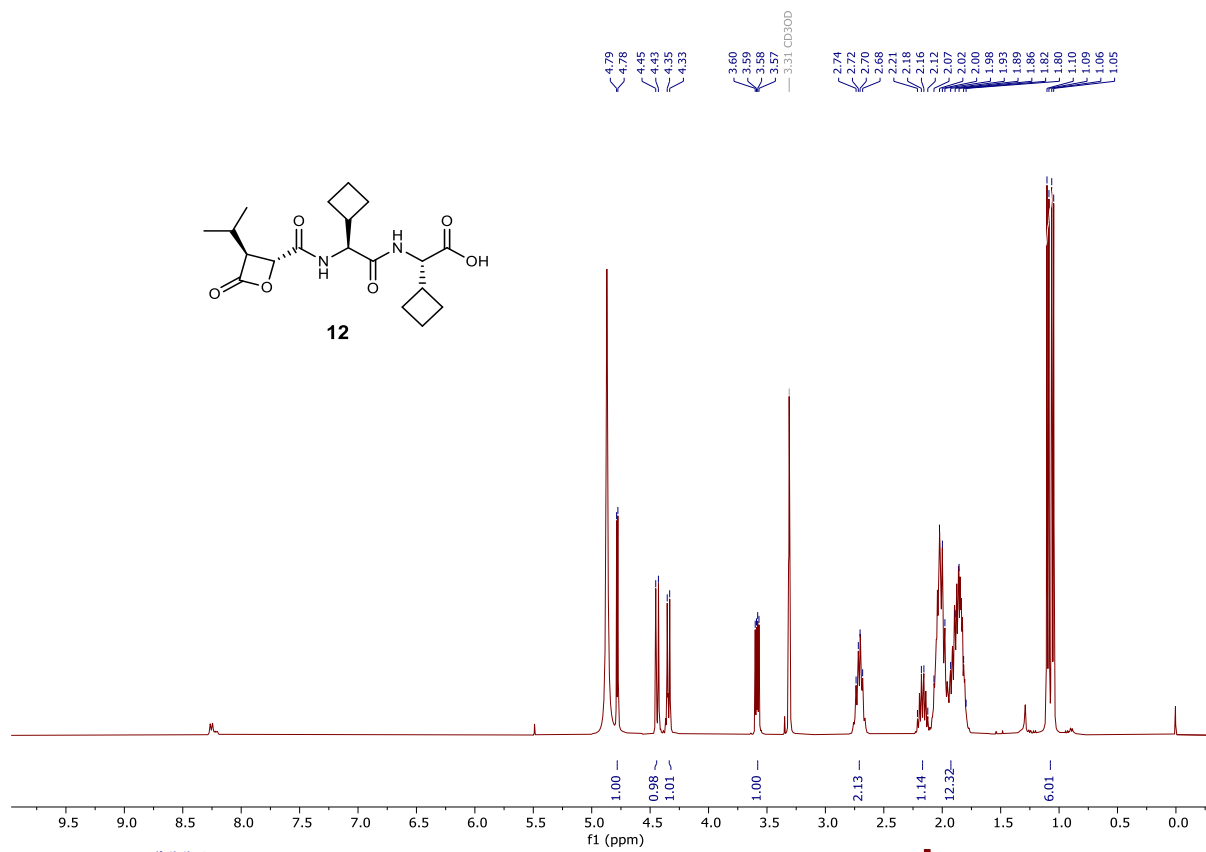


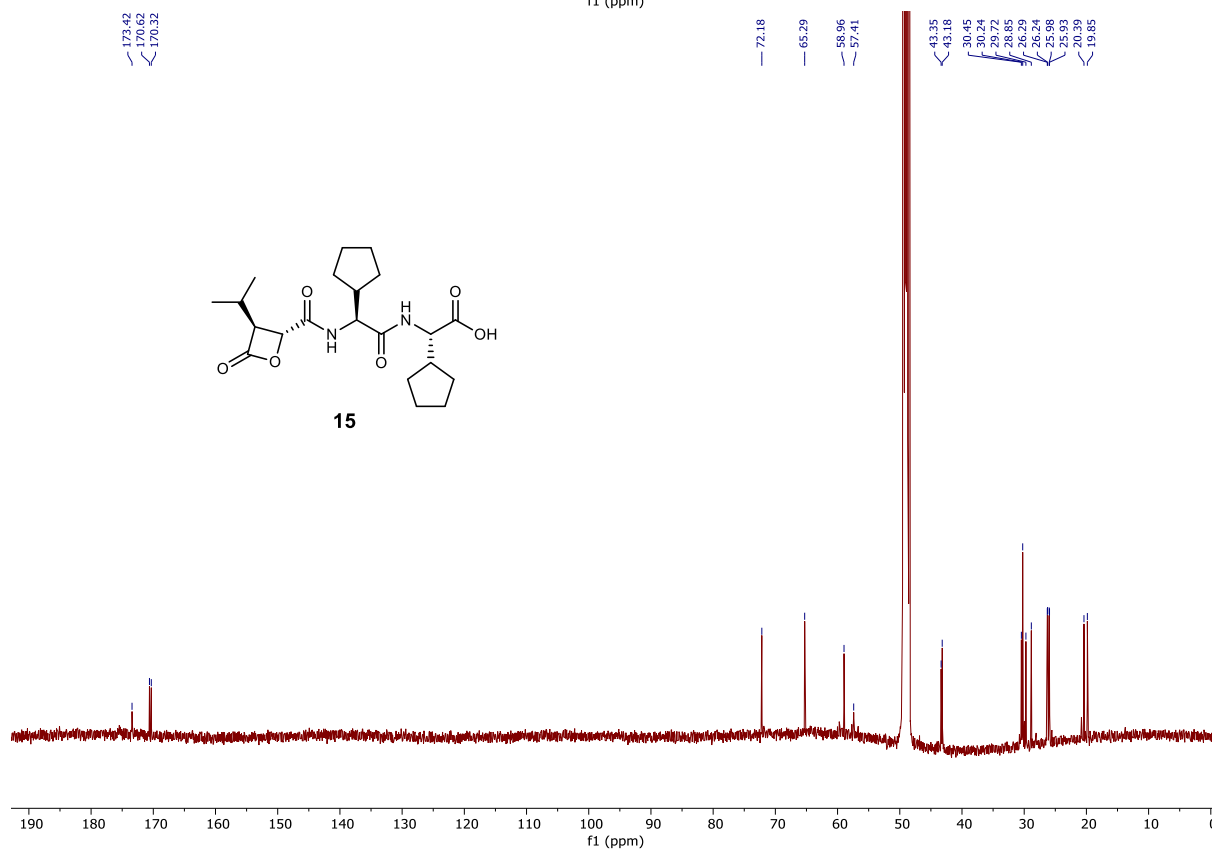
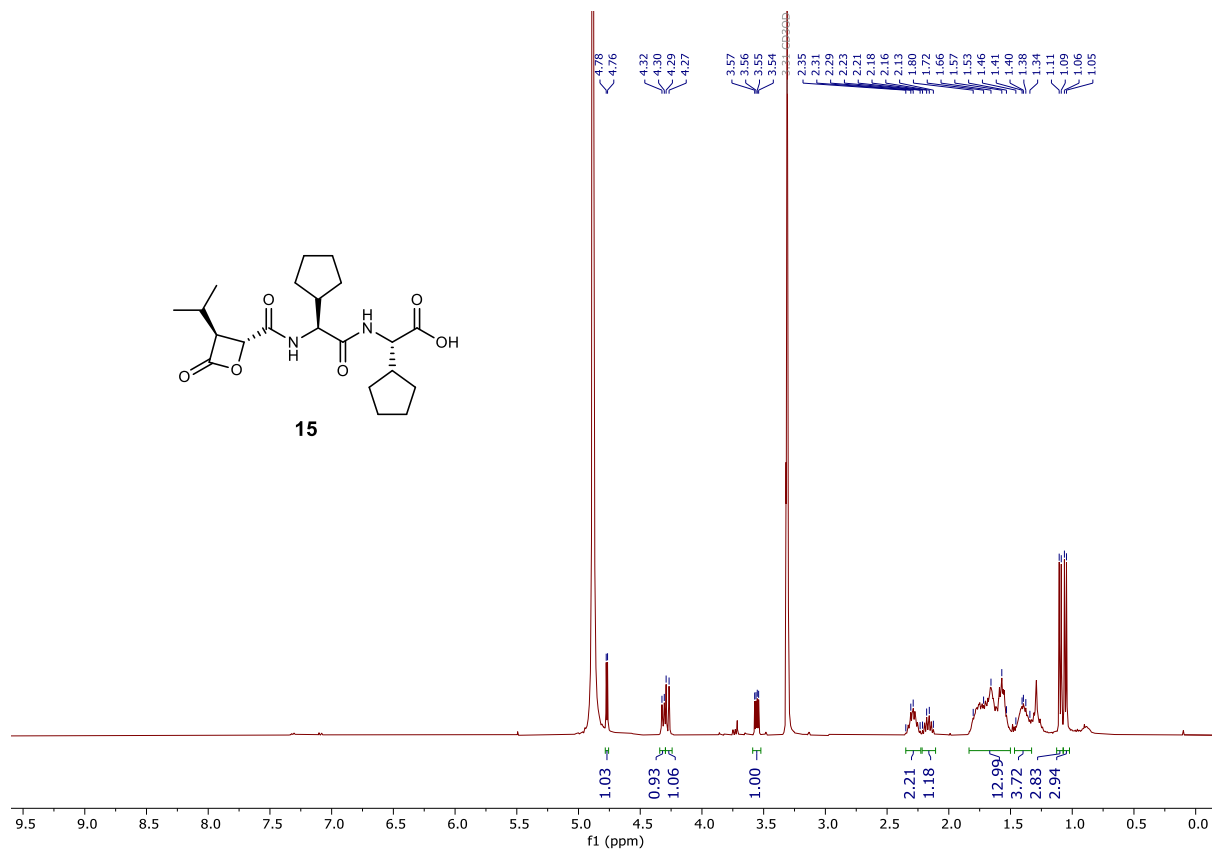


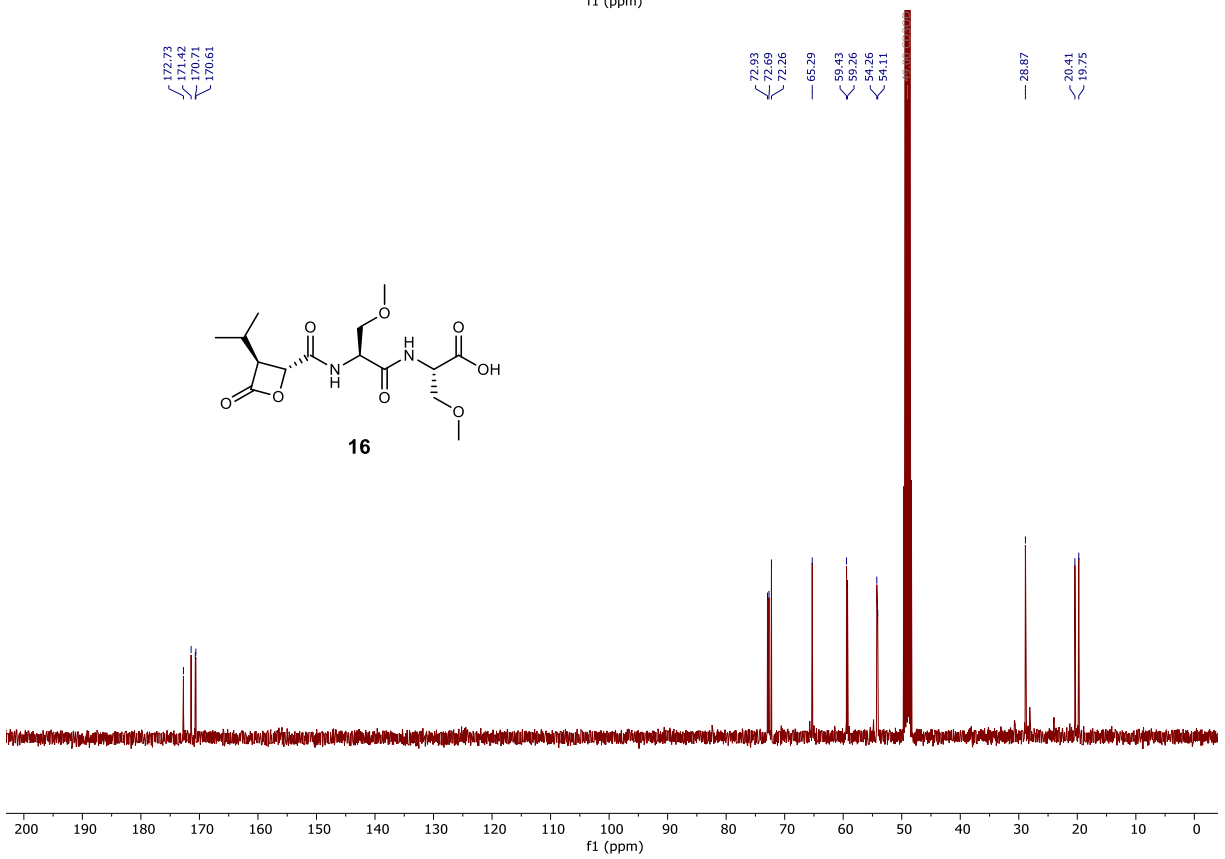
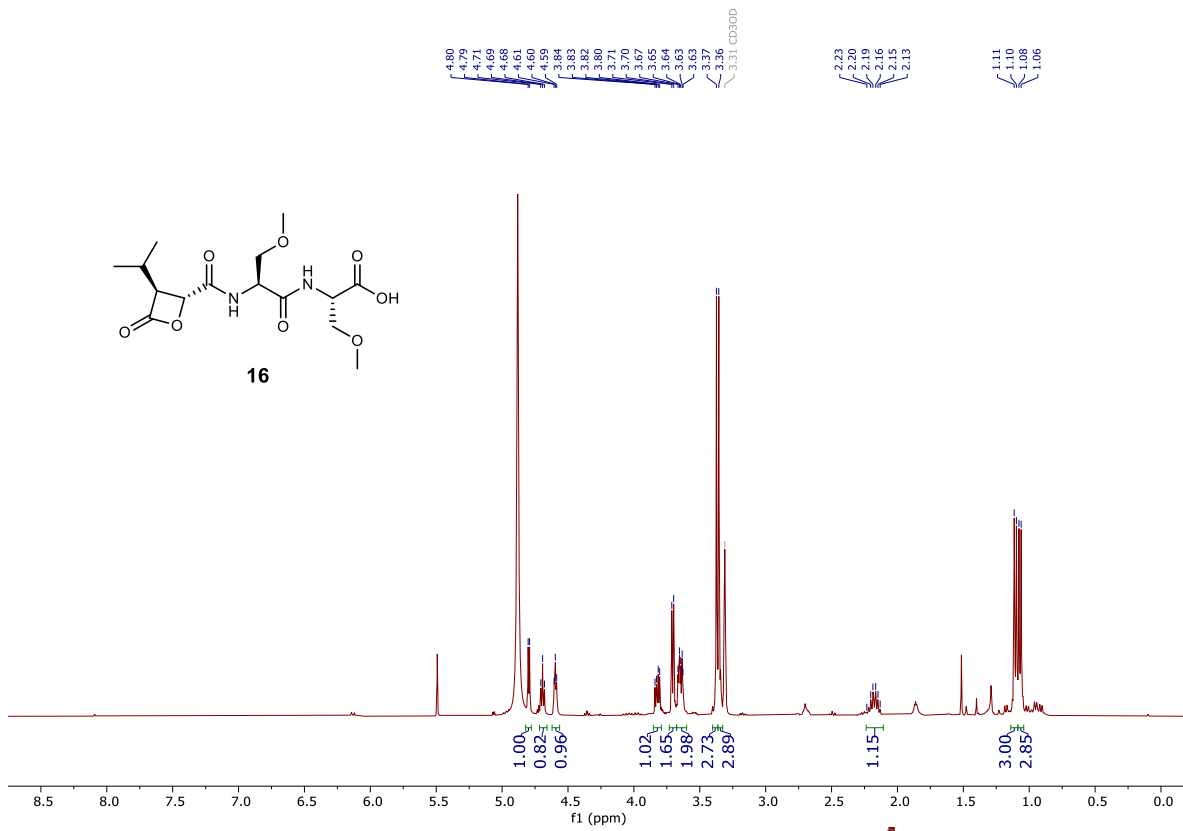


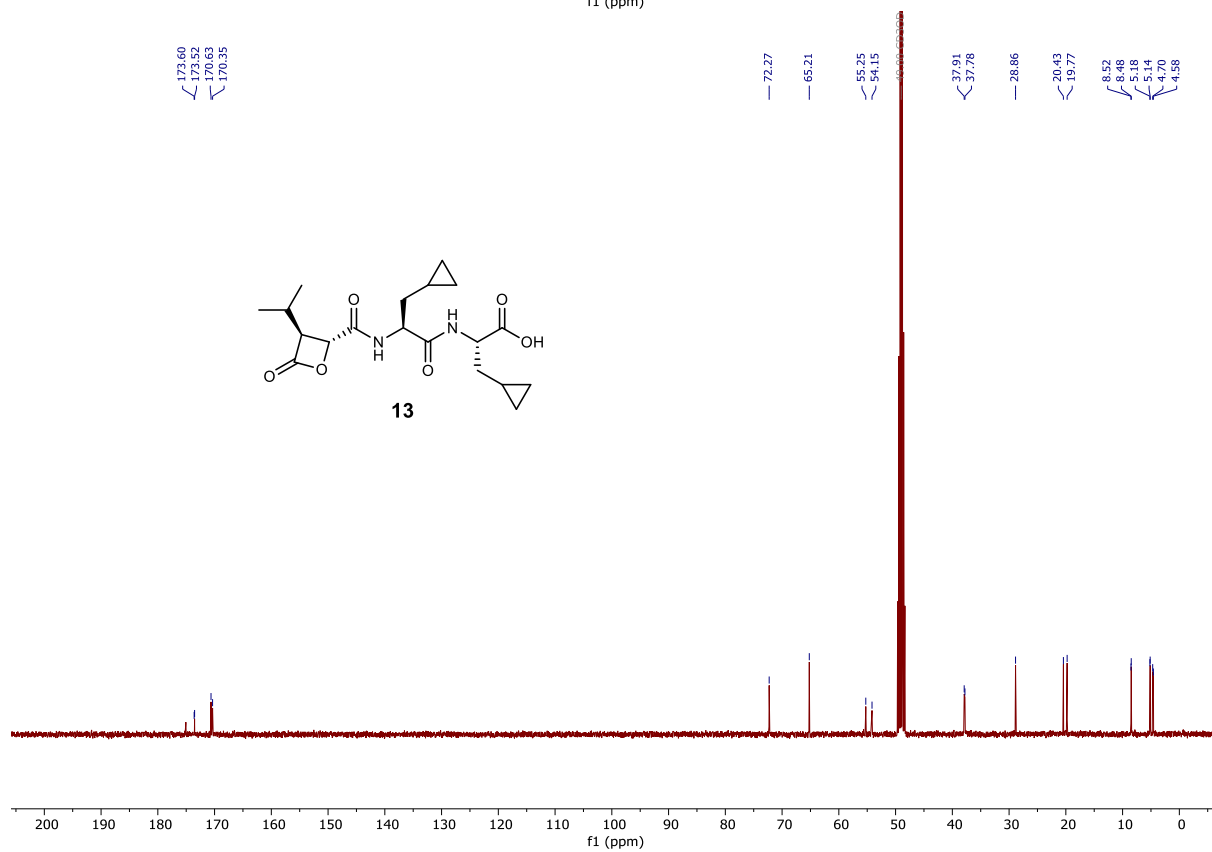
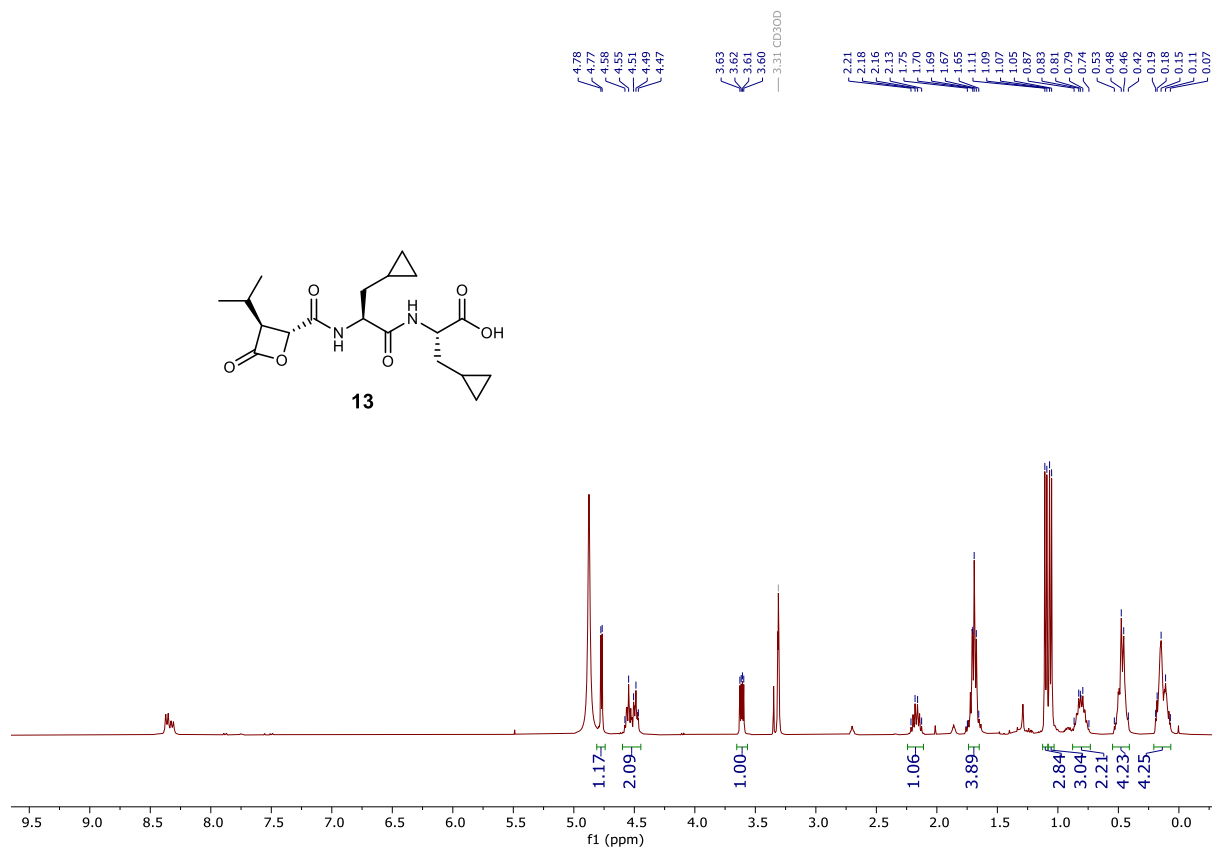


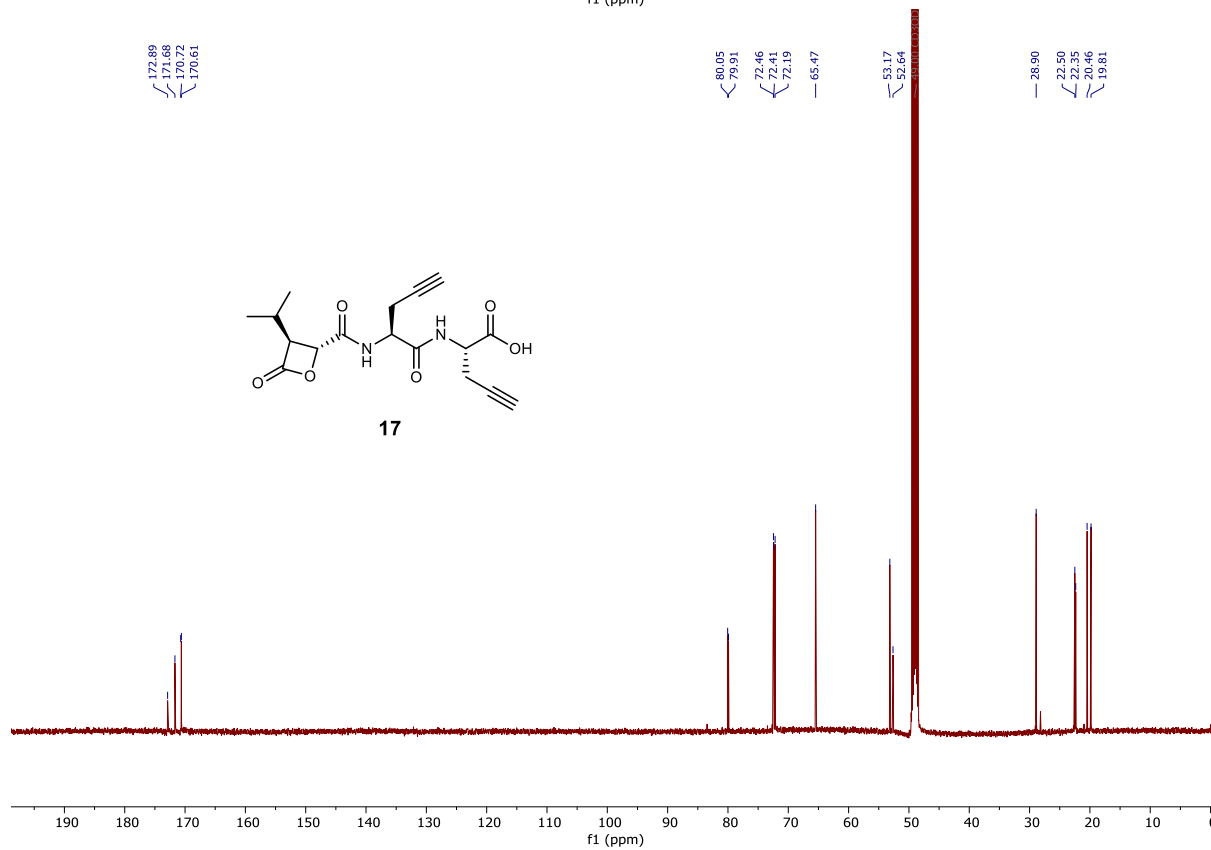
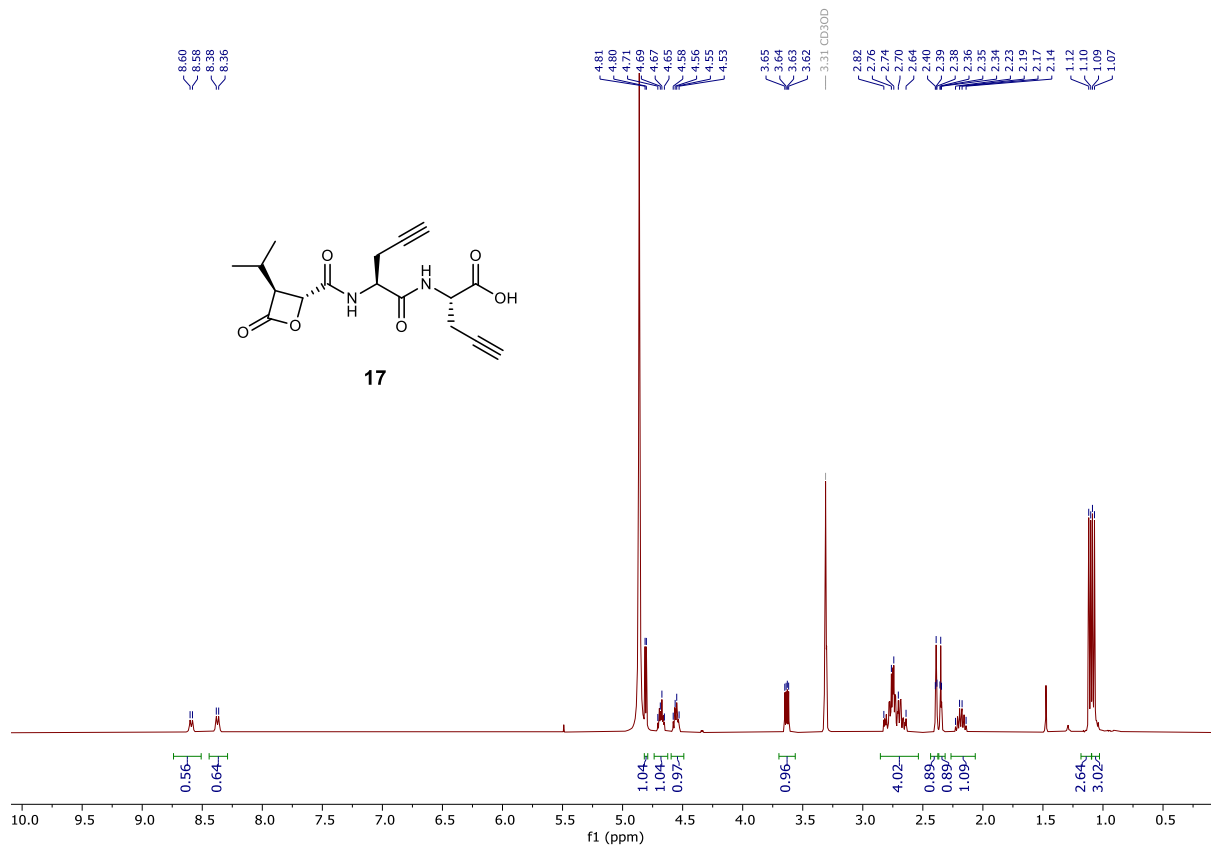






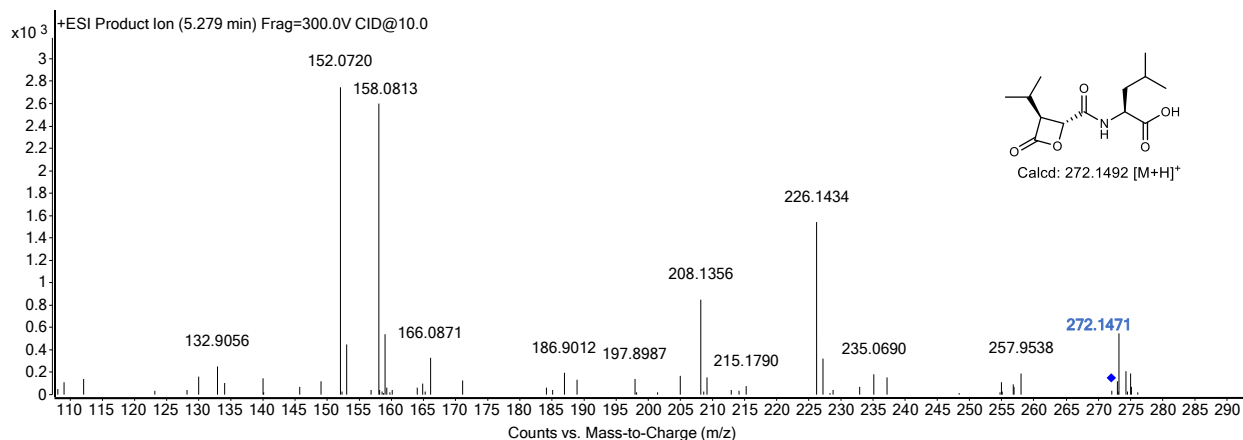
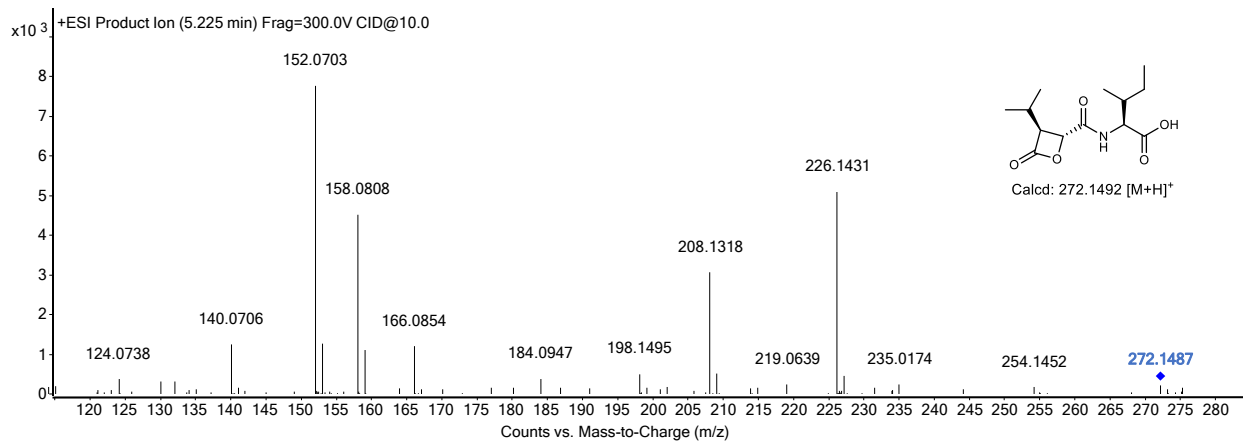
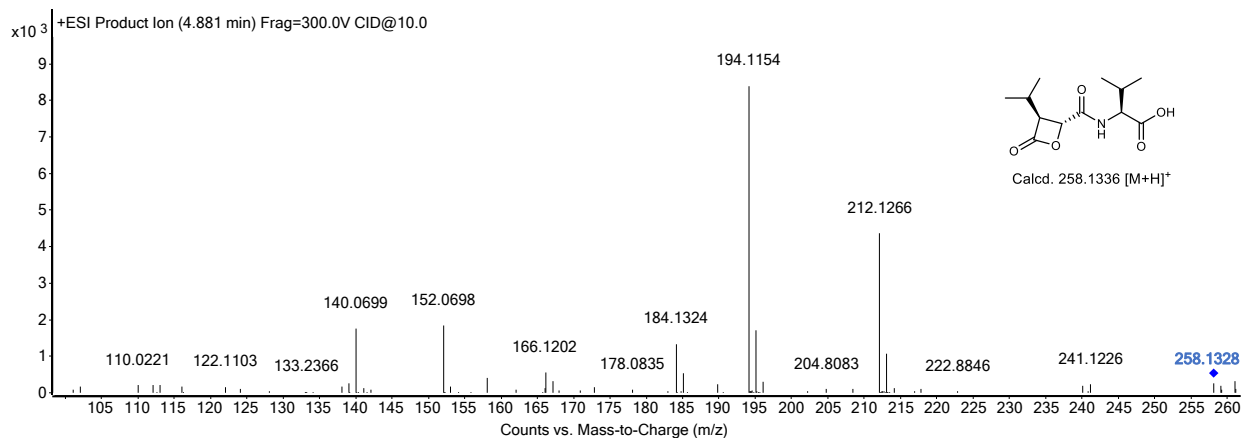


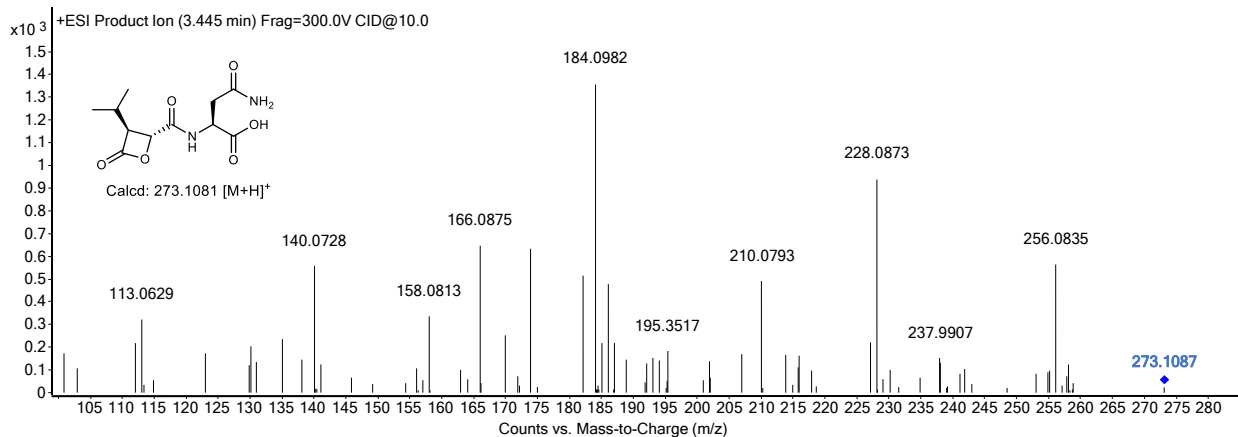
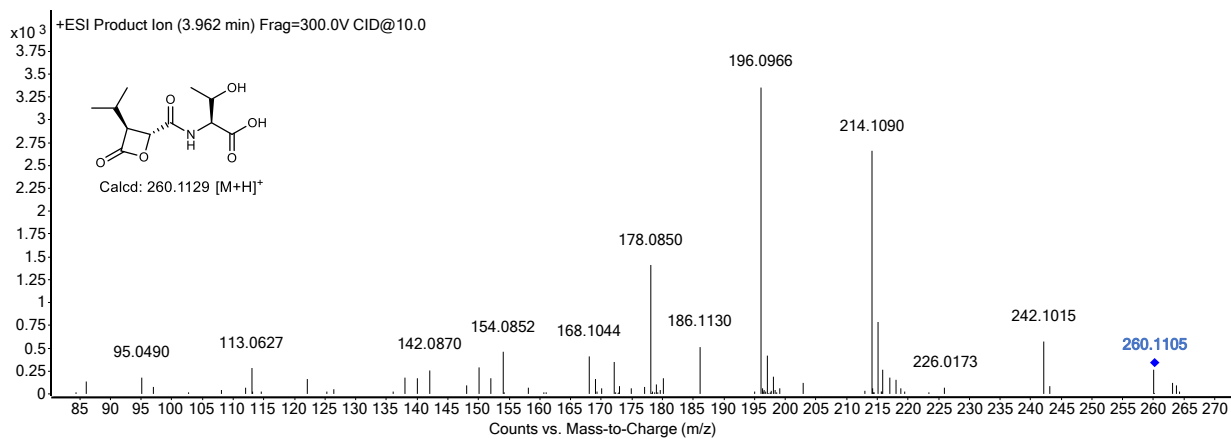
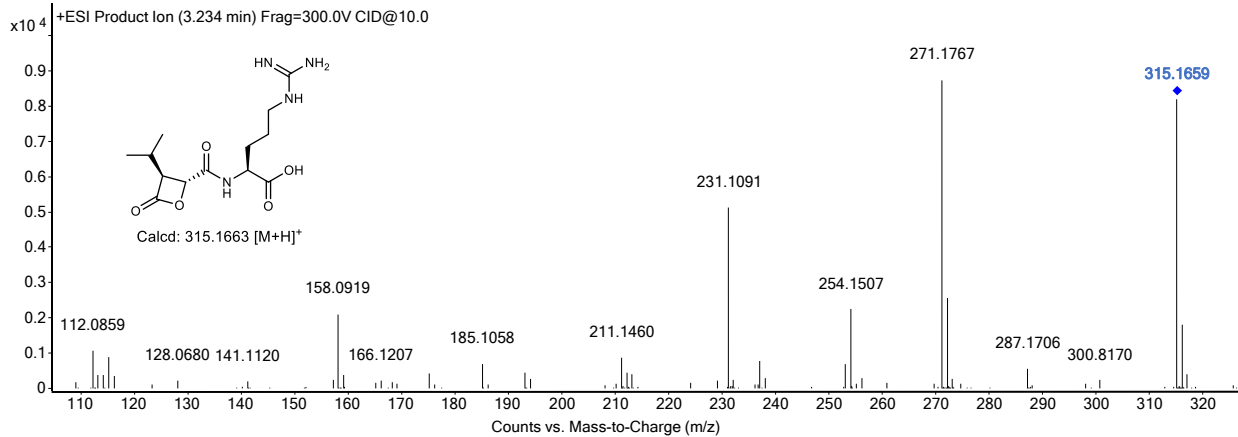


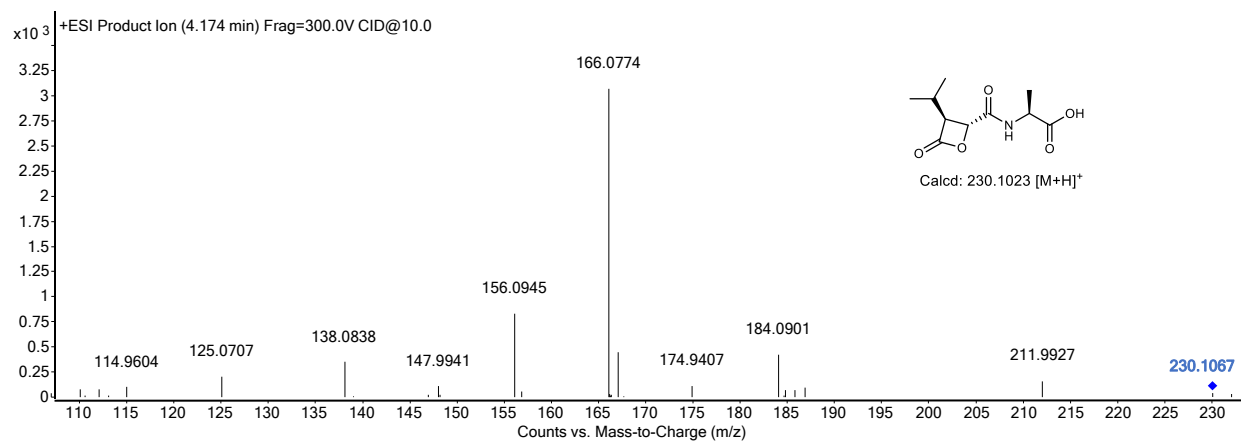
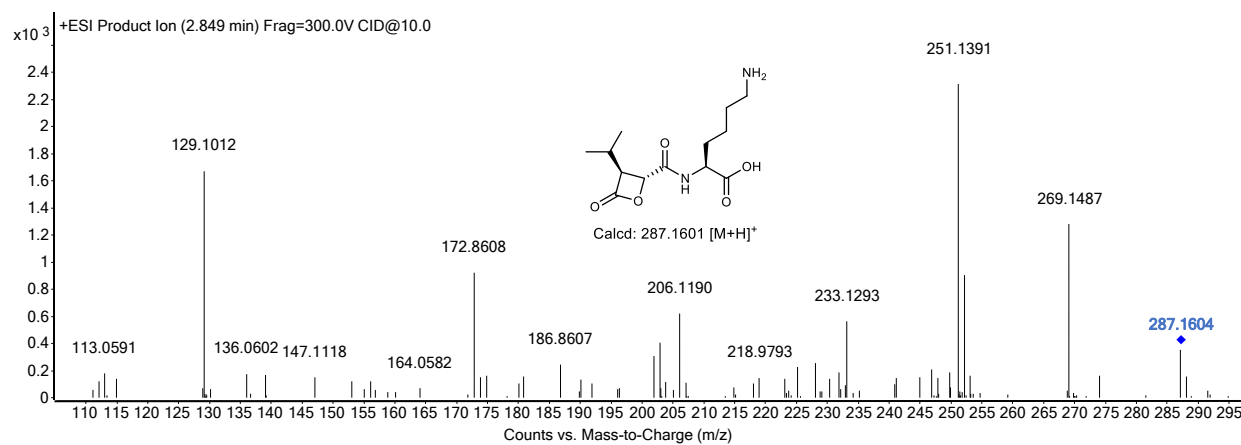
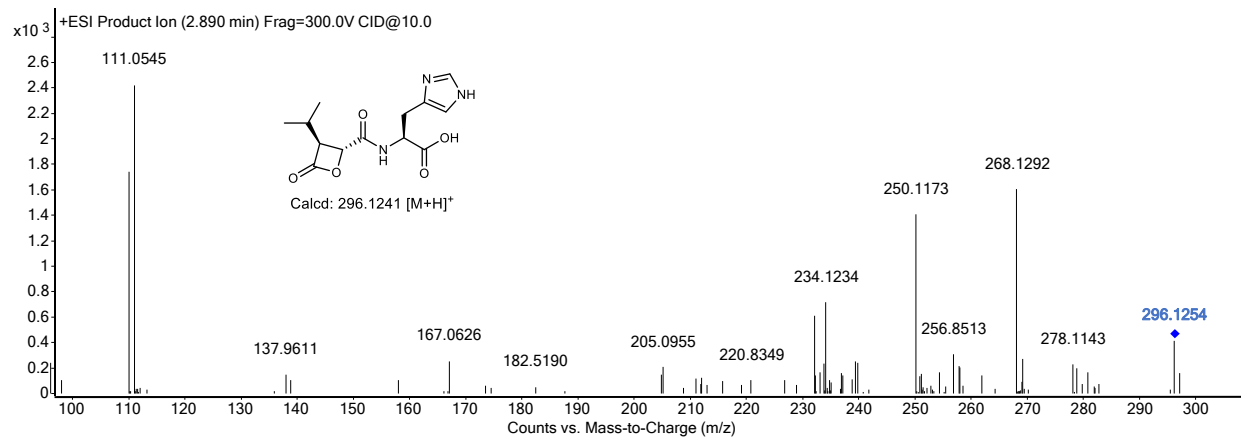


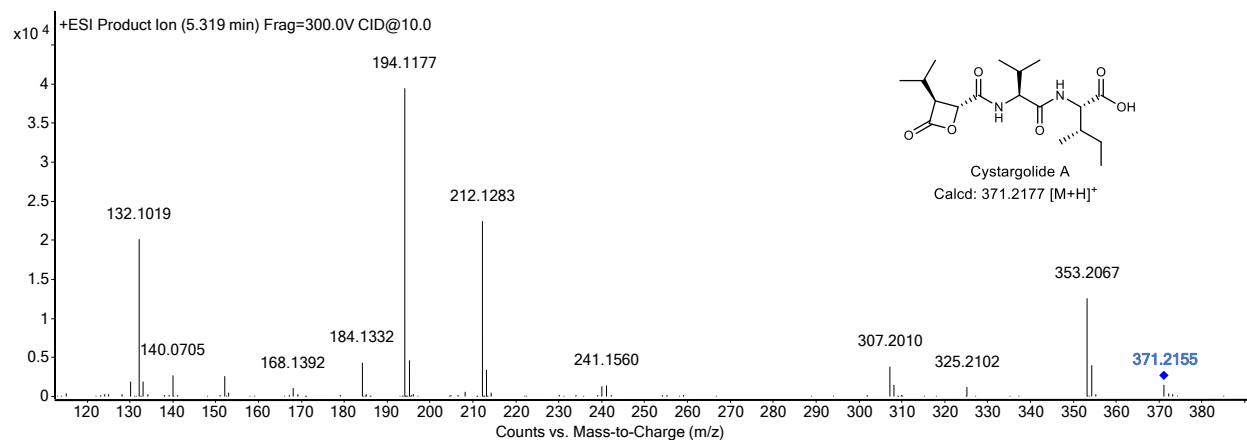
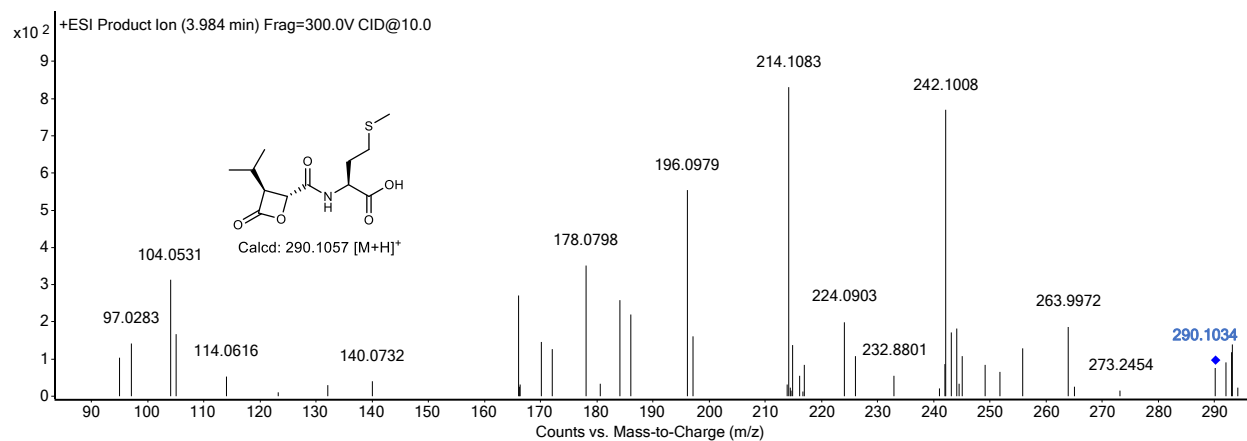
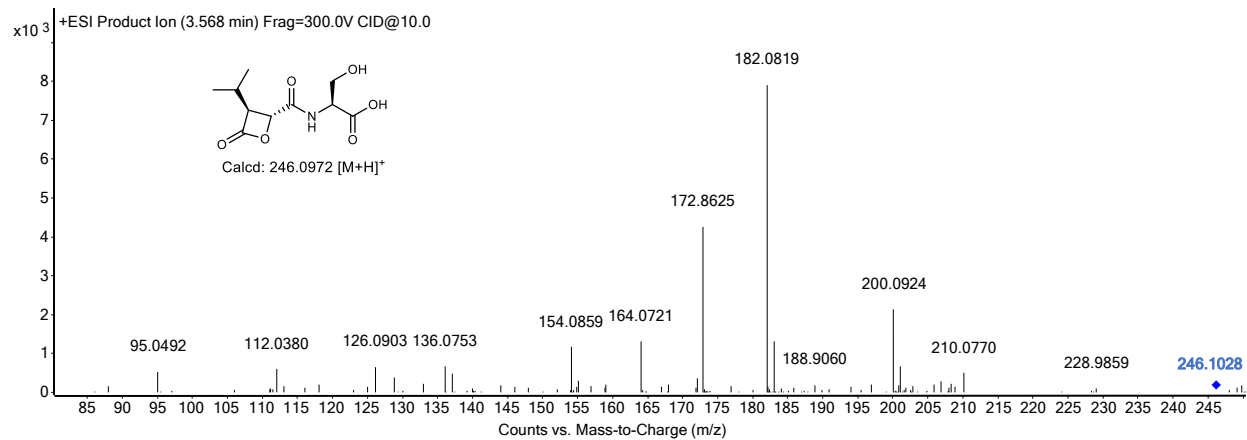
9. LC-MS/MS data for assays described in supplementary figure 18-20.

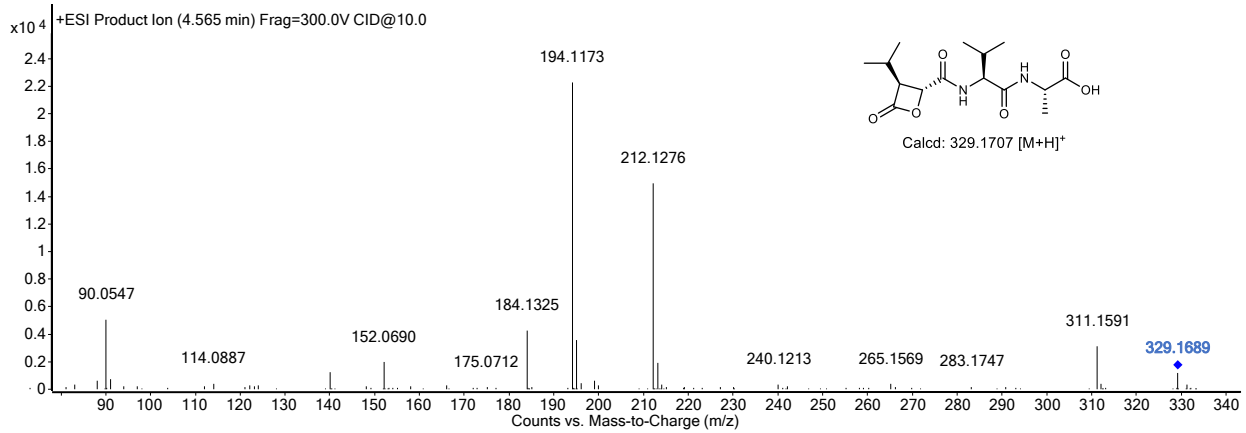
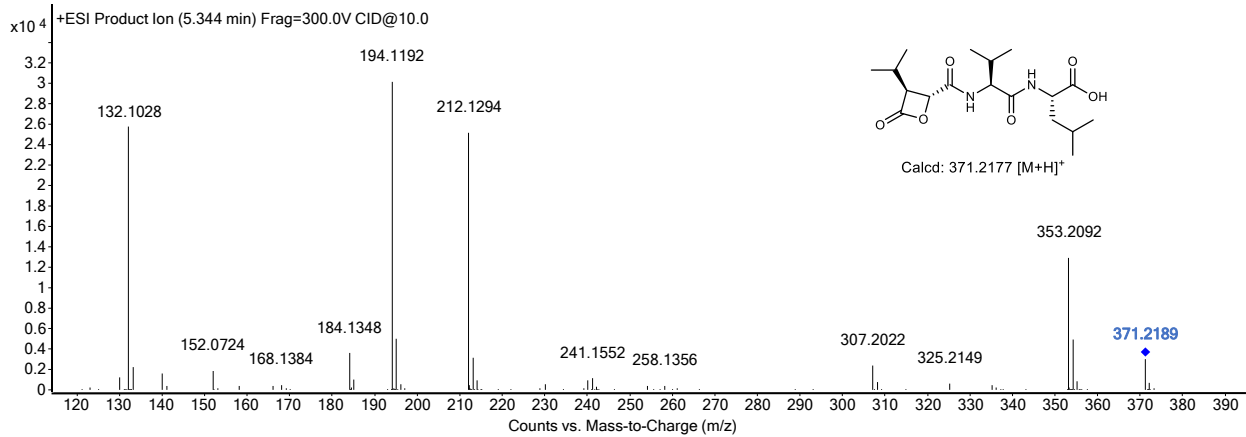
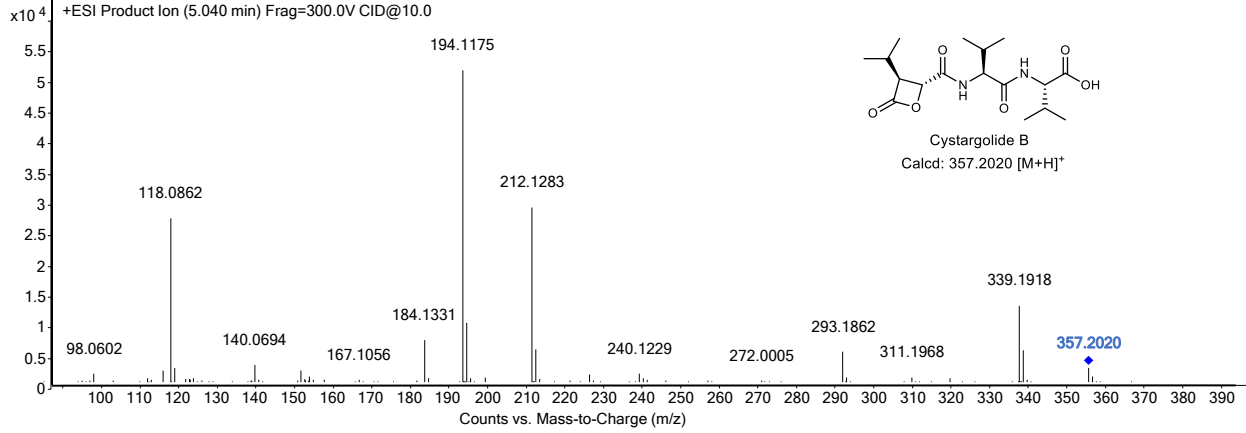
Observed mass (m/z) of precursor ion $[M+H]^+$ is indicated in blue.

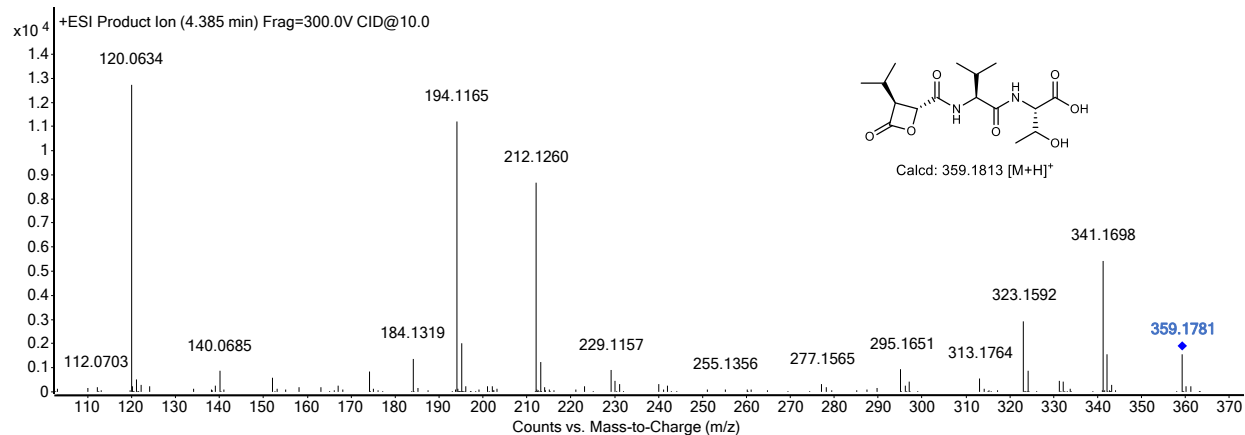
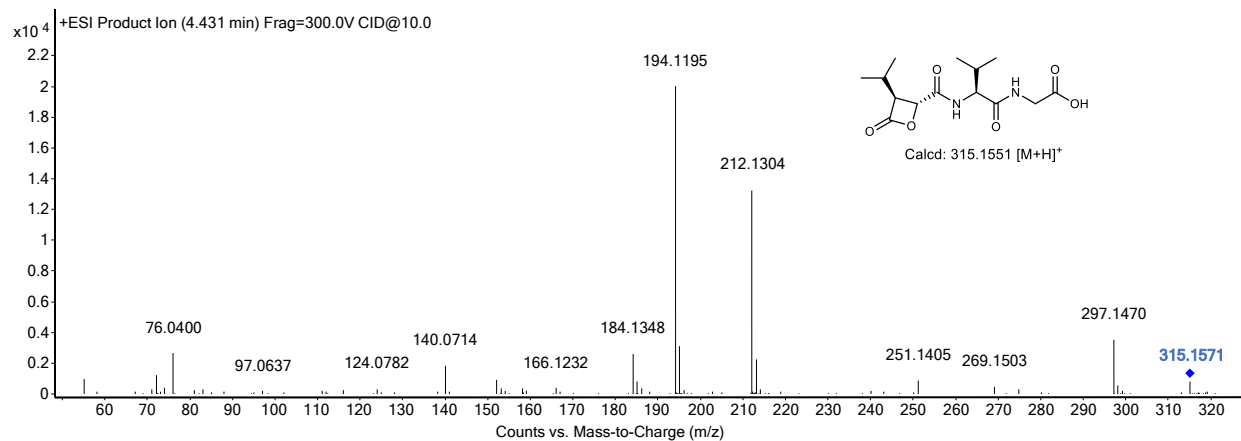
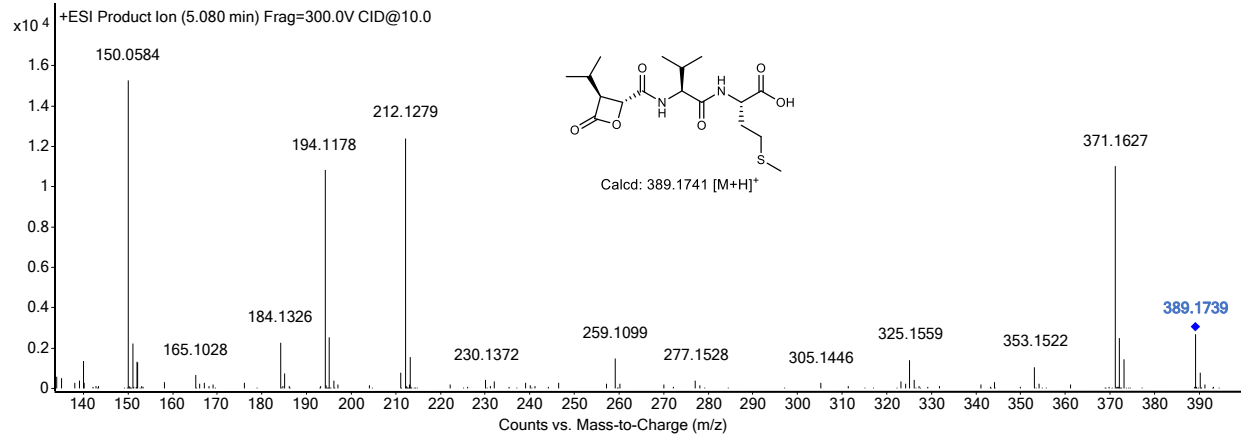


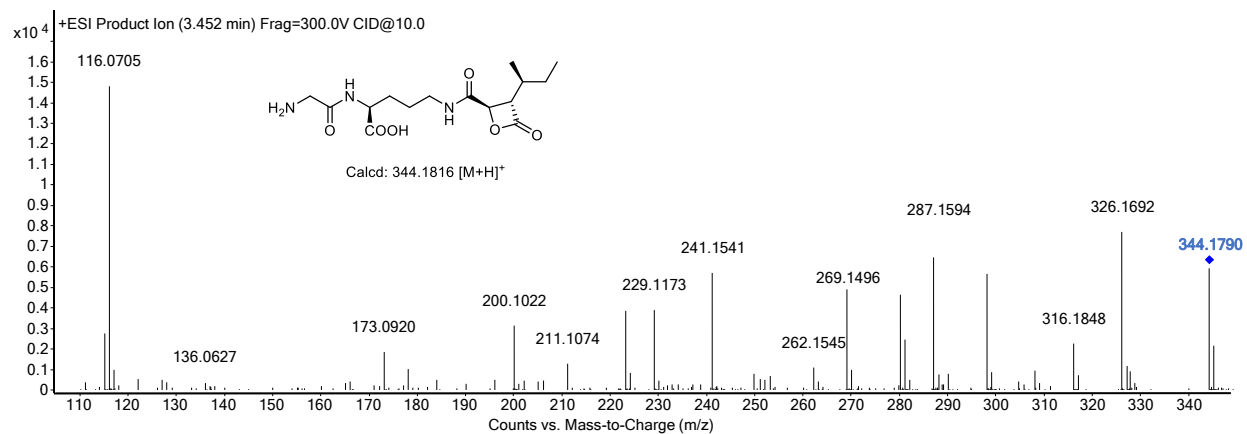
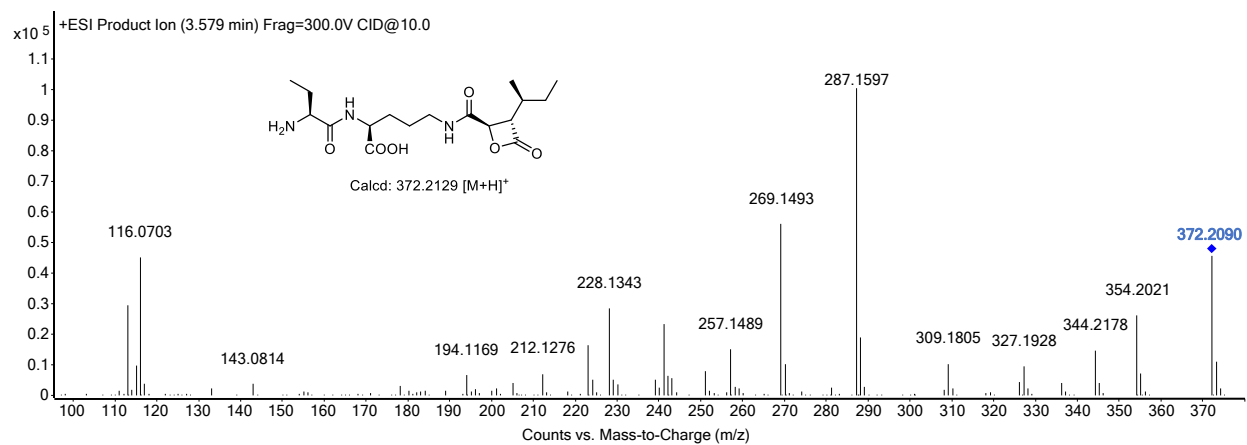
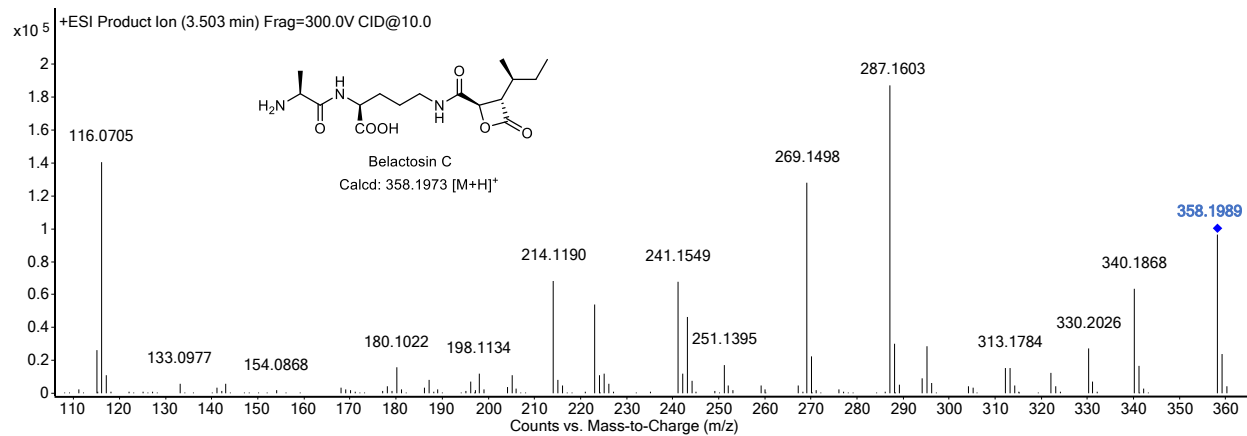


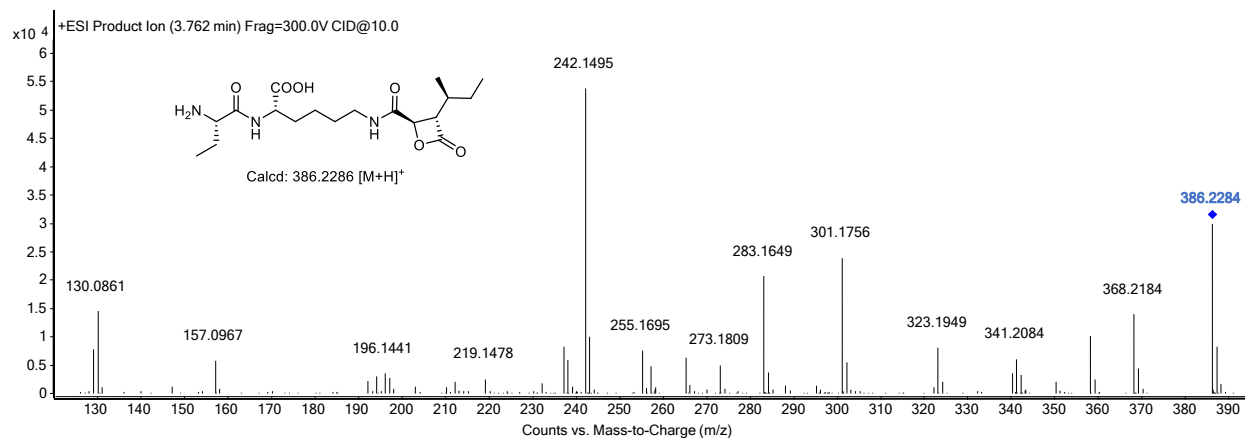
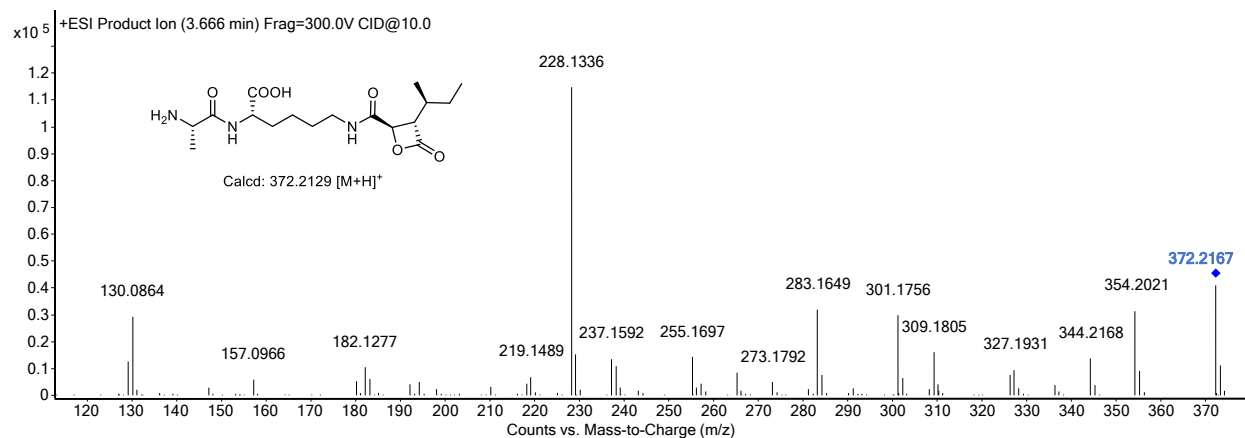
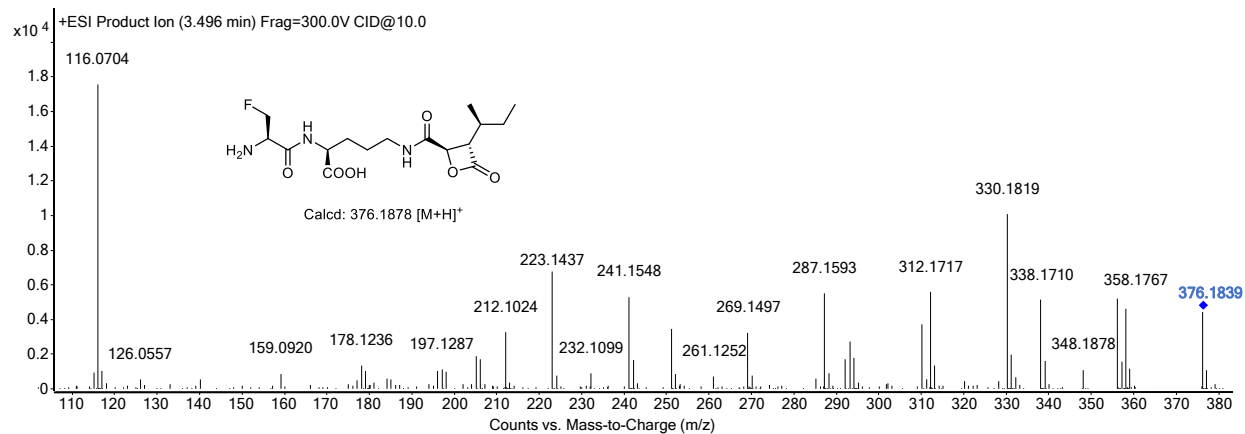


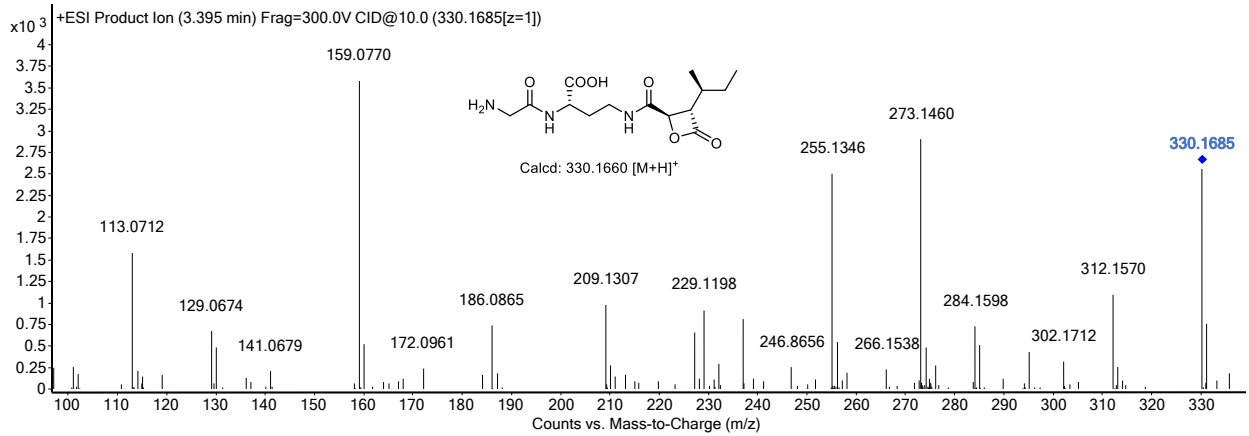
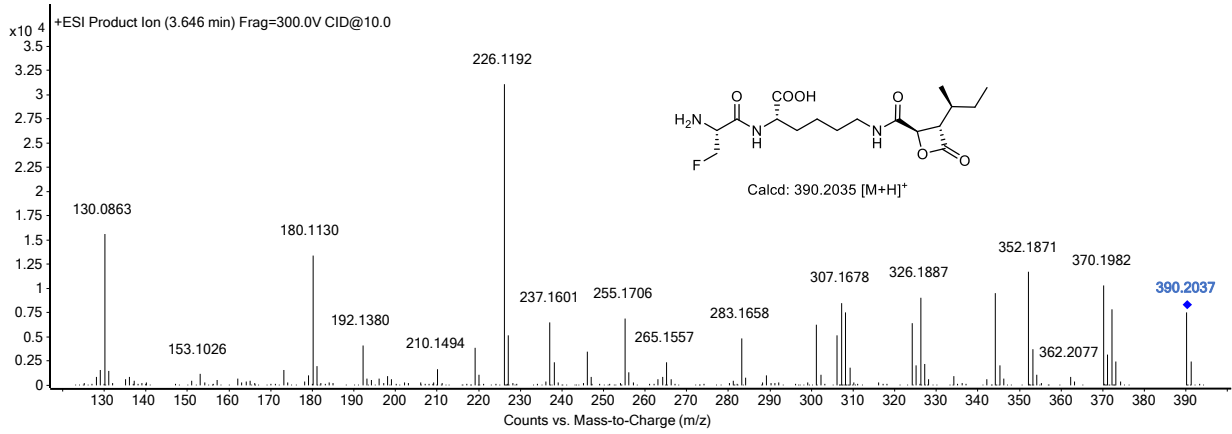
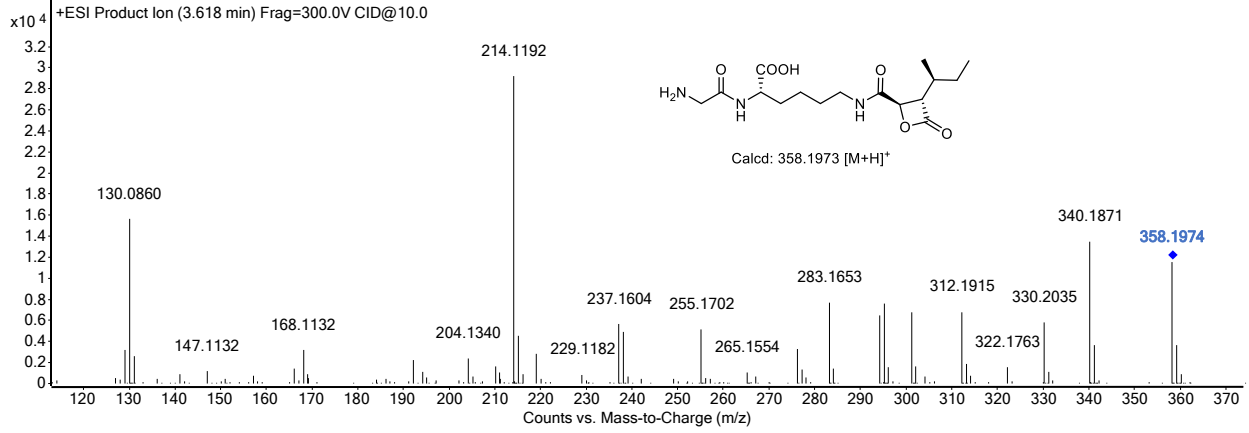


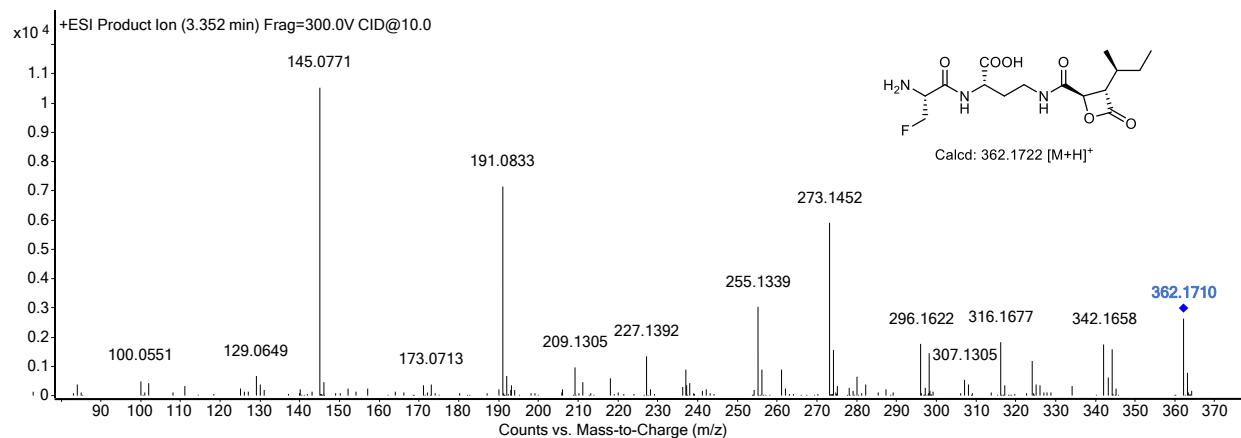
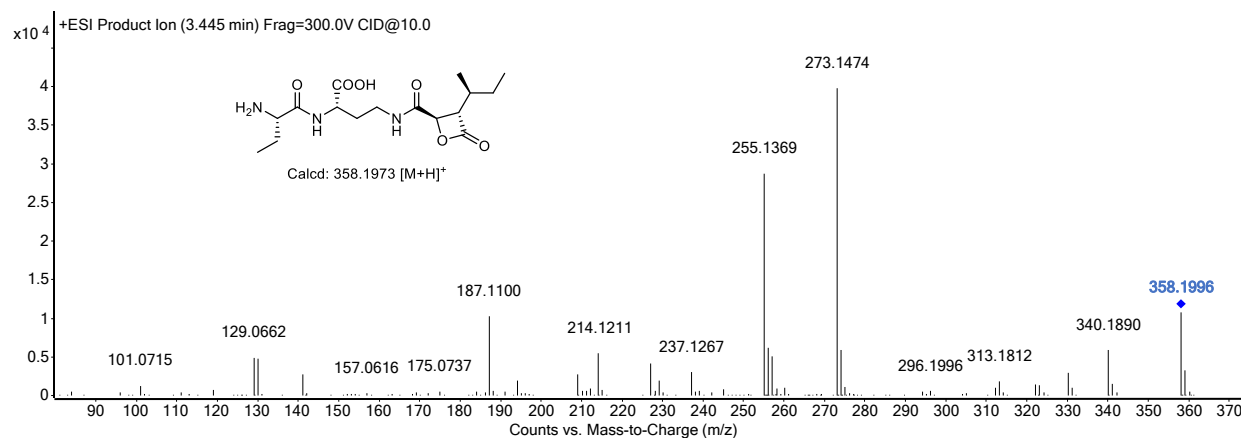
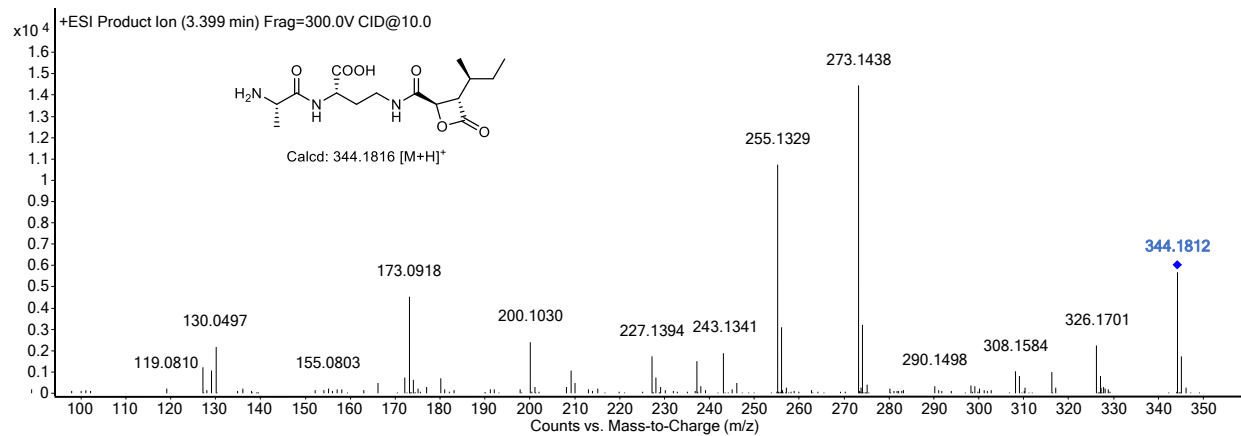


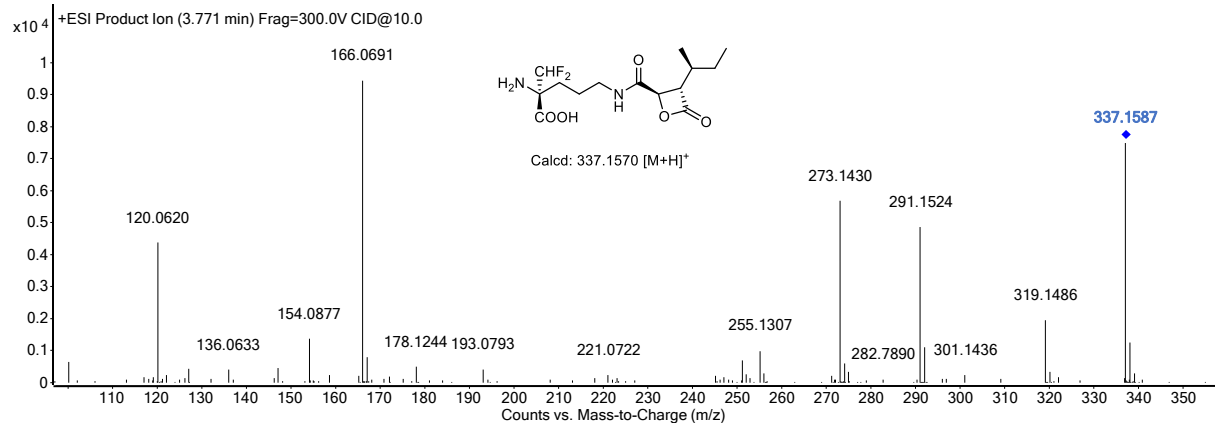
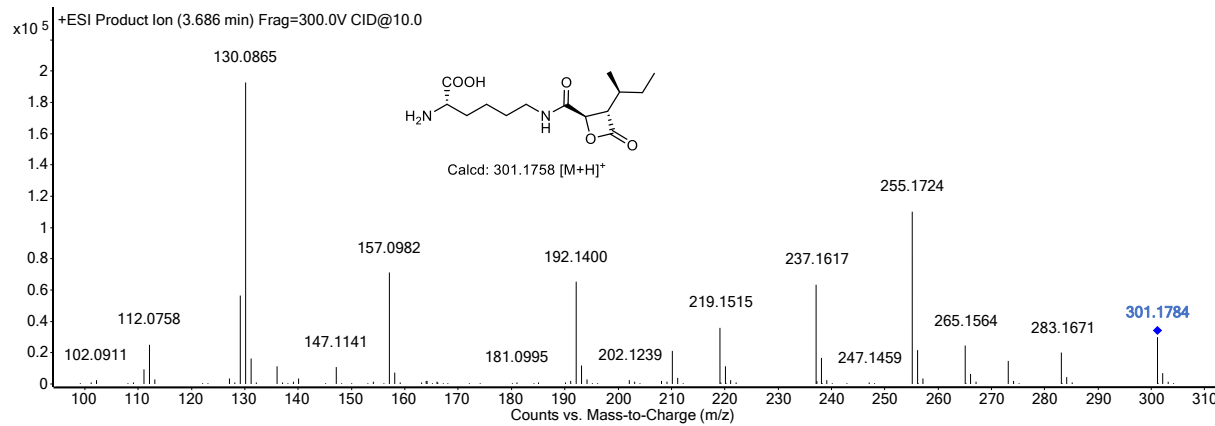
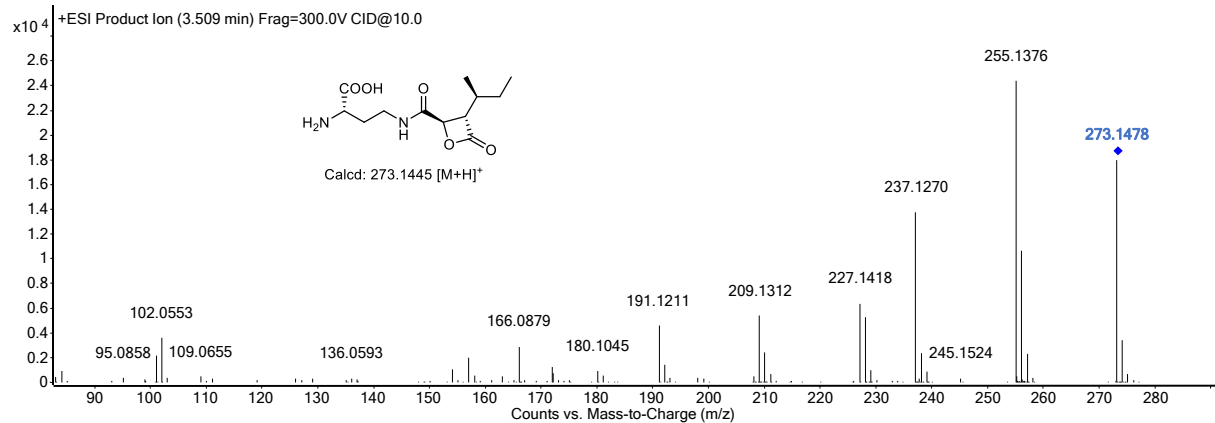
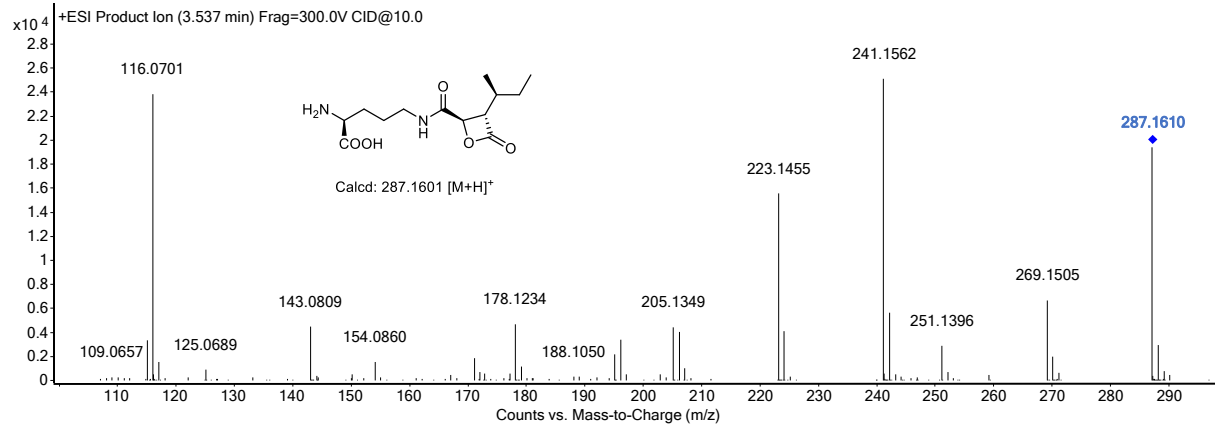












10. Supplementary references

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