

Synthesis of 5,5 di-Substituted γ -Lactams through a Base Mediated Molecular Rearrangement

A Thesis

Submitted to

**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the BS-MS Dual Degree
Programme**

by

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Under the guidance of
Prof. Hosahudya N. Gopi



Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune

Certificate

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled “***Synthesis of 5,5 di-substituted γ -lactams through a base mediated molecular rearrangement***” towards the partial fulfillment of the BS-MS dual degree programme at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune represents work carried out by **Devanandan K** at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune under the supervision of Prof. Hosahudya N. Gopi, Department of Chemistry, during the academic year 2021-2022.



10/4/2022

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the matter embodied in the report entitled “**Synthesis of 5,5 di-substituted γ -lactams through a base mediated molecular rearrangement**” are the results of the investigations carried out by me at the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune under the supervision of Prof. Hosahudya N. Gopi, Department of Chemistry and the same has not been submitted elsewhere for any other degree.

10/04/22
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BS-MS 5th year

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1. Abbreviations

aq. = Aqueous

Ala= Alanine

Bn = Benzyl

Boc = *tert*-Butoxy carbonyl

(Boc)₂O = Di-*tert*-butyl-dicarbonate (Boc anhydride)

DCC = N,N'-Dicyclo hexyl carbodiimide

DCM = Dichloromethane

DIPEA = Diisopropylethyl amine

DMF = N,N'-Dimethyl formamide

dg-γ = dehydro gamma

Et = Ethyl

EtOAc = Ethyl Acetate

EtOH = Ethanol

g = gram

Gly = glycine

h = hours

HCl = Hydrochloric acid

HOBT = 1-Hydroxybenzotriazole

HBTU=(2-(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate

Ileu = isoleucine

IBX = 2-iodoxybenzoic acid

IR = Infrared spectroscopy

Leu = Leucine

MeOH = Methanol

Me = Methyl

mg = Milligram

min = Minutes

mmol = millimoles

N = Normal

NHS = N-hydroxy succinimide

NMR = Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Phe = Phenyl alanine

Pro = Proline

RT= Room temperature

THF= Tetrahydrofuran

TFA = Trifluoro acetic acid

^tBu = tertiary Butyl

Trp = Tryptophan

Val = Valine

1. Abstract

Proteins are huge macromolecules that play an vital role in all living beings. Proteins adopt a variety of shapes as a result of the folding process, which makes them unique in their functions. Foldamer chemistry research has recently revealed that the folding phenomenon can also occur in smaller peptides. These research also opened up a lot of possibilities for finding important structures in peptides carrying unnatural amino acids. The presence γ -amino acids in physiologically active peptide natural products underscores their significance. In our lab, we've done a lot of research on non-natural amino acids and how they might be used to design various secondary structures. Various studies on unnatural amino acids and its usage in creating diverse secondary structures and peptidomimetics are performed in our group. A recent investigation on the structural characteristics and reactivity of α,β -unsaturated amino acids (dehydro-amino acid) revealed that when a peptide was treated with a base, the double bond on the dehydro-amino acid shifted. Using this migration reaction, a strategy of direct transformation of non-helical α , γ -hybrid peptides composed of alternating α - and *E*-vinyllogous amino acids into 12-helical structures has been noticed.¹ Also, *N*-protected α,β -unsaturated γ -amino amides have also been converted to γ -lactams using this base-mediated chemical rearrangement.² A strong base like KO^tBu was used to carry out this rearrangement reaction. γ -lactams are known to show excellent anti-microbial activities and research have been conducted to use γ -lactams as inhibitors of various proteins.

Through this research, I am exploring the synthesis and studying the activity of 5,5 di-substituted γ -lactams as a potential anticancer drug targeted towards inhibition of cytochrome p53-MDM2 interaction. Cytochrome p53 is a tumor suppressor protein that induces cell death by apoptosis. MDM2, a negative regulator of p53, is overexpressed in many cancers, inhibiting p53 and encouraging uncontrolled cell division. I am examining the feasibility of using 5,5 di-substituted γ -lactams as a potential competitive inhibitor for MDM2.

3. Introduction

Biomolecules are organic molecules and especially a macromolecule, present in living organisms. They are the primary building block of a living organism and are heavily involved in the maintenance and metabolic processes. Nucleic acids, carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins are the four major types of biomolecules. Of all these biomolecules, proteins are the most abundant ones in a living system.

Proteins can be considered a linear polymer chain of amino acids linked through a peptide bond. There are 20 naturally occurring alpha-amino acids, and these add up linearly to form a linear peptide chain, which further folds into different three-dimensional structures. Generally, proteins fold and organise themselves into four different levels : Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary structure. **Figure 1** shows the schematic representation.

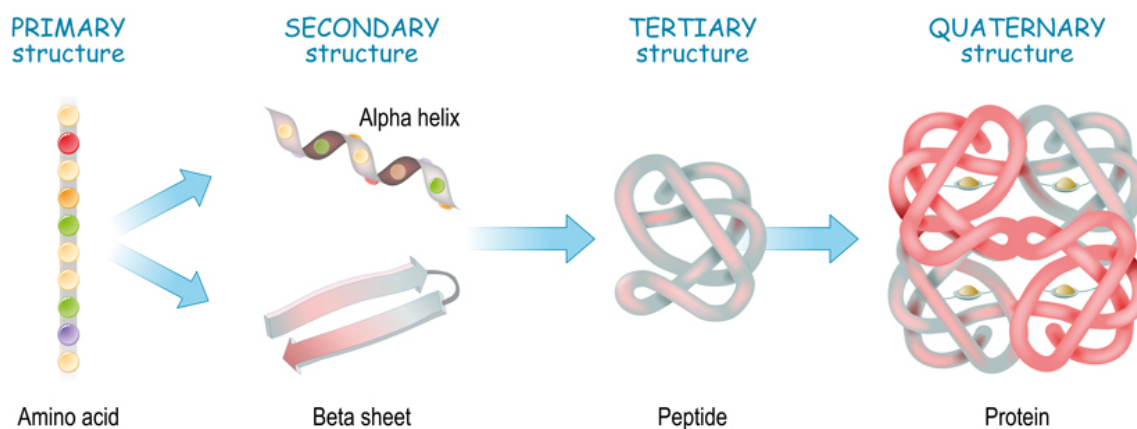


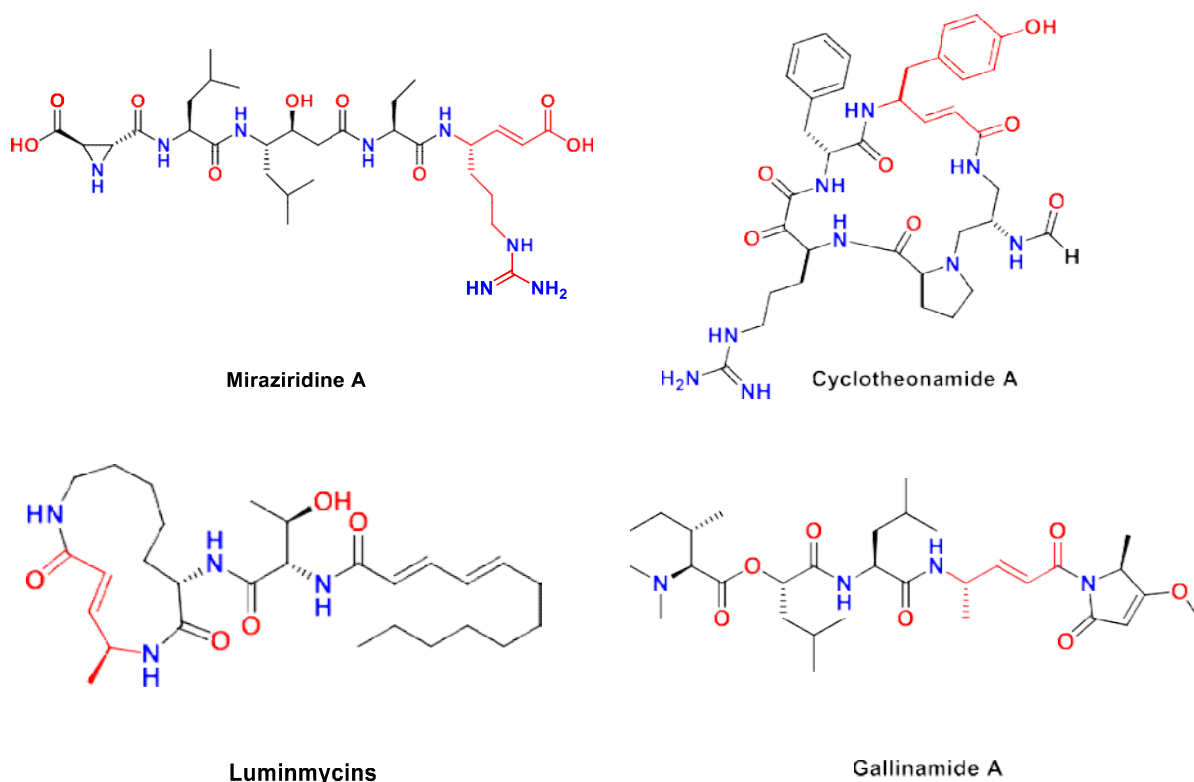
Figure 1 Levels of organization in protein.

The primary structure is the simplest level of protein structure which gives the amino acid sequence in a polypeptide chain. Due to interactions between atoms in the backbone, this primary structure folds locally to generate the secondary structure.

1. Helices 2. β -sheets 3. reverse turns are the three main secondary conformations of the protein.³ The unique hydrogen bonding pattern between various functional groups(CO,NH) of the peptide chain distinguishes these secondary structures. The protein's tertiary structure is formed when the secondary structures fold into a three-dimensional structure with the least amount of energy. Bonding interactions between the side-chain groups stabilize this protein structure. Several tertiary structures or subunits come together due to electrostatic interaction to form the quaternary structure of the protein. The protein's three-dimensional structure is inevitable to its natural functioning. Being a polymer of 20 different amino acids, Peptide facilitates a diverse range of cellular processes like cell signaling, enzyme catalysis, transport of molecules, etc. Hence studying protein structure and function is still of high interest.

It is well known that using non-natural building blocks to replicate the structure of the protein will give a better understanding of its structure and function. The ability to construct functional macromolecules and surpass nature by producing molecules with more significant biological activity is enabled by mimicking protein secondary structure with abiotic oligomers. These abiotic oligomers can provide novel structures with higher affinity as biological ligands in suppressing protein-protein interactions. A number of organic molecules including non-natural amino acids have been investigated as building blocks for protein secondary structures in this context. Derivatives of γ - and β - amino acids are among the notable ones used as templates.⁴

α,β -unsaturated γ -amino acids are amino acids that aren't synthesized by ribosome and are used as organic templates to mimic naturally occurring peptides.⁵ Several natural peptide products like Luminmycins (active proteasome inhibitors), Cyclotheonamides (potent inhibitors for serine protease and bovine β -trypsin),⁶ Miraziridine A (inhibitors for a variety of proteases like trypsin-like proteases, Gallinamide A (anti-malarial agents),⁷ and pepsin-like aspartyl protease⁸ contain α,β -unsaturated γ -amino acids. **Scheme 1** shows structure of these natural peptide products.⁹

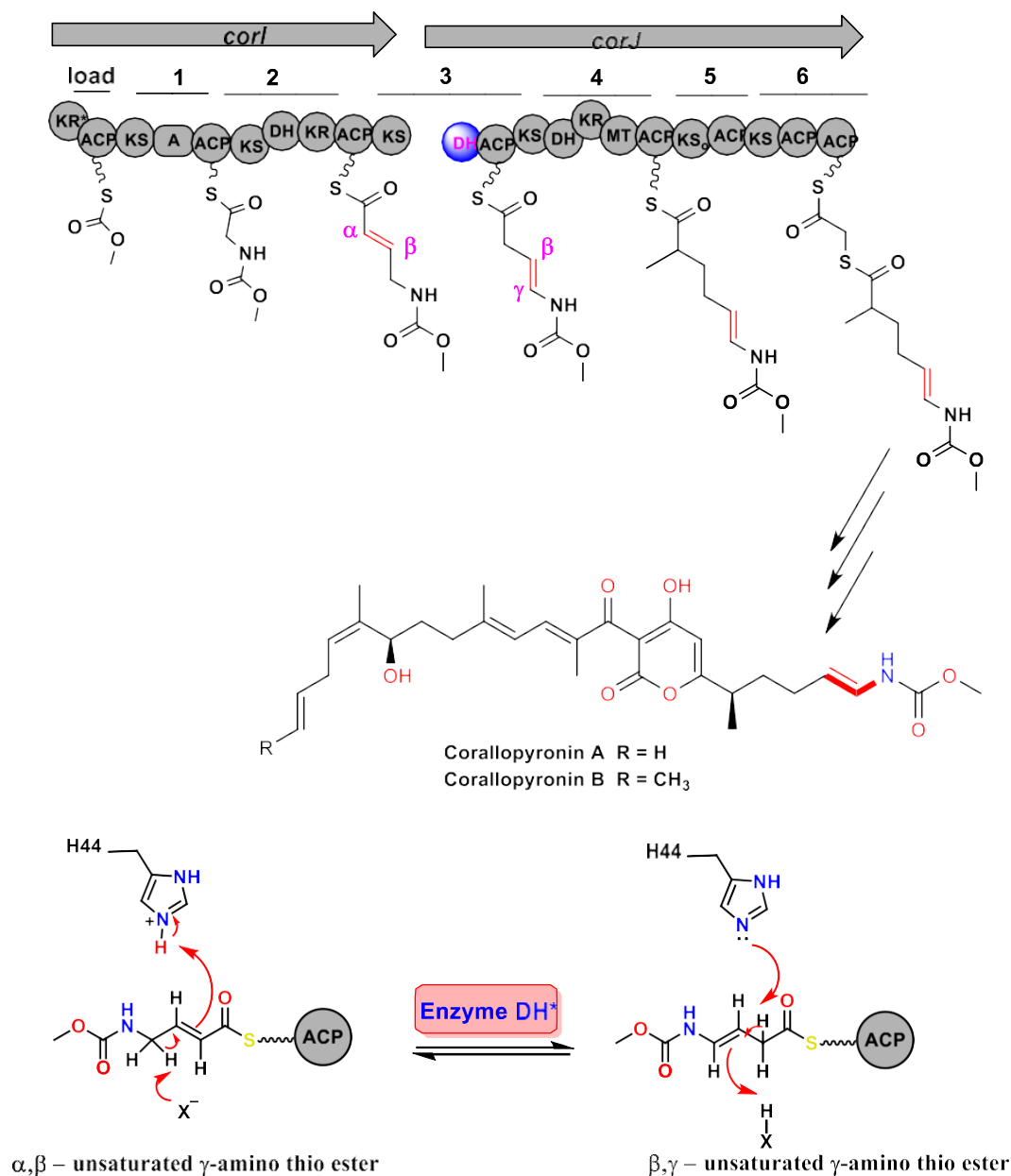


Scheme 1 Structure of natural peptide products containing dehydro γ -amino acids.

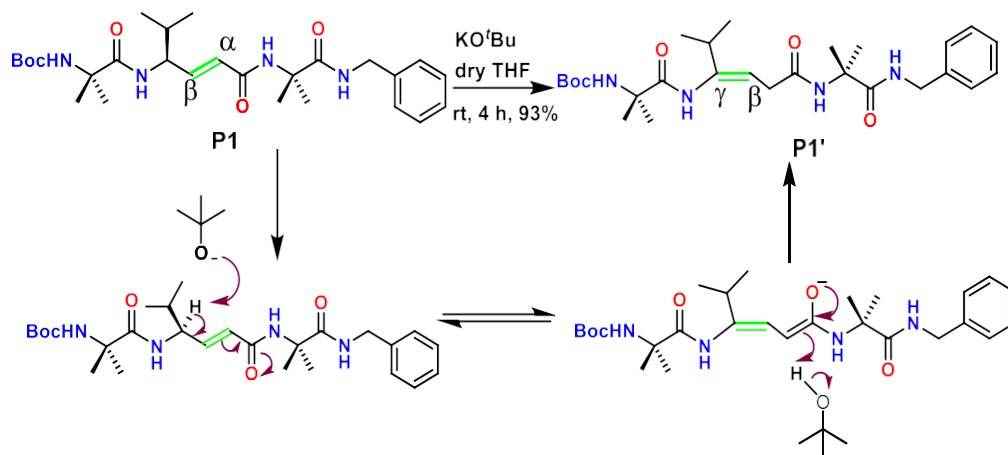
Dehydro-amino acids have been explored in our lab for their conformational features and chemical reactivity, as well as their use in the design of novel peptide foldamers, small molecule peptidomimetics, and double helices. In addition, our group has also observed a double bond migration from the $\alpha, \beta \rightarrow \beta, \gamma$ position in α, β -unsaturated γ -amino amides in the presence of a base. Similar migration of double bonds have already been observed in several natural products containing *E*-vinylogous amino acids. One such example can be found in an intermediate step in the biosynthesis of Coralopyronin. Here, $\alpha, \beta \rightarrow \beta, \gamma$ double bond migration was accomplished with the dehydratase enzyme.¹⁰ A schematic representation is shown in the **Scheme 2**.

Inspired from these works, similar migration reactions were performed in our group. Through the various migration reactions conducted in different conditions, we were able to observe that the stronger the base, the easier it is to migrate the double bond. Hence, a stronger base like potassium tert-butoxide gave a better yield for these reactions. These base-mediated $\alpha, \beta \rightarrow \beta, \gamma$ double-bond migrations were

seen to directly change non-helical, hybrid peptides consisting of alternating *E*- and α - vinylogous amino acids into 12-helical structures.¹ **Scheme 3** shows a schematic illustration of a probable process. When the same reaction was performed in smaller molecules as *N* protected unsaturated amino amides, the rearrangement lead to the formation of γ -lactams.²

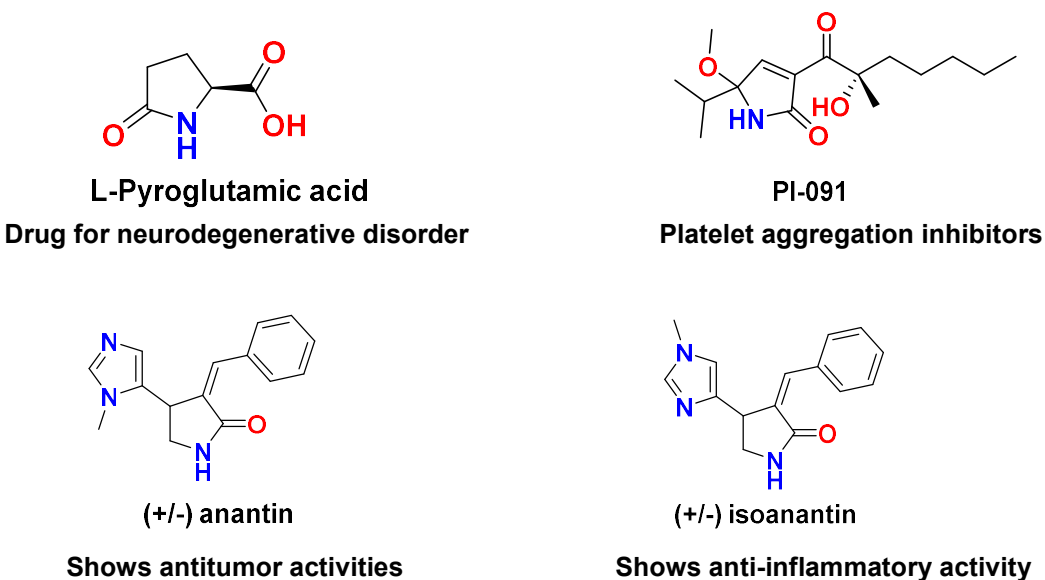


Scheme 2 Biosynthesis of corallospyronin along with $\alpha,\beta \rightarrow \beta,\gamma$ double bond migration step done by the dehydratase enzyme.



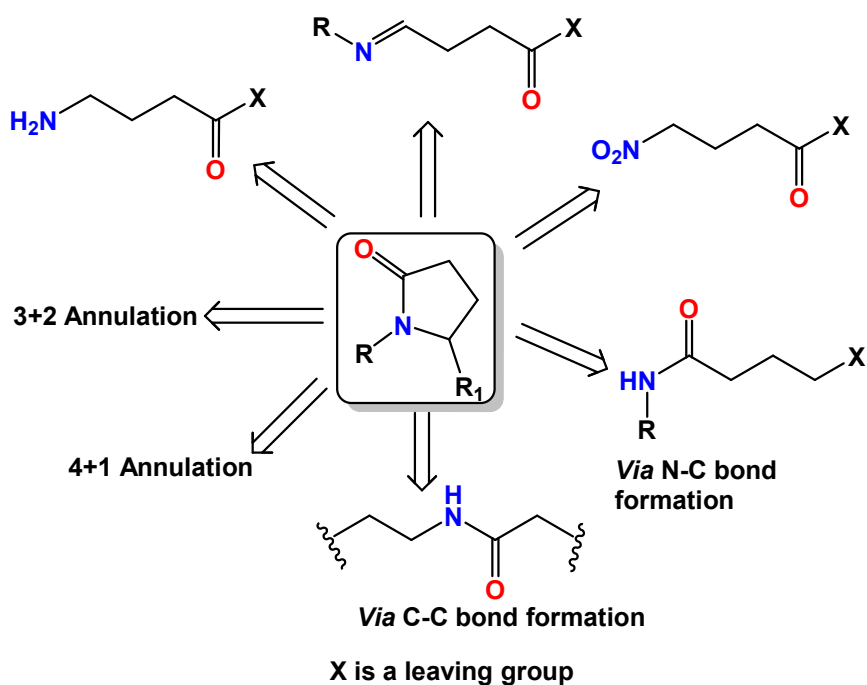
Scheme 3 Possible mechanism for α,β to β,γ double bond migration.

A lactam is a five-membered cyclic amide, primarily derived from an amino alkanolic acids.¹¹ A huge number of physiologically active natural and non-natural chemicals include the γ -lactam moiety.¹² These chemicals are capable of a wide range of biological functions in the treatment of cancer,¹³ epilepsy,¹⁴ Alzheimer's disease¹⁵ human immune deficiency virus infection,¹⁶ and bacterial and fungal infections¹⁷. Furthermore, γ -lactam derivatives have been demonstrated to be effective inhibitors of a variety of enzymes¹⁸ and protein-protein interactions¹⁹. Compounds containing γ -lactam have been utilized for producing constrained peptidomimetics in addition to their biological activity.²⁰ Few Medicinally active natural products containing γ -lactam are shown in **Scheme 4**.



Scheme 4 Structures of γ -lactam containing natural products.

Owing to the tremendous biological significance of γ -lactam moieties, extensive work has been conducted to synthesize these compounds.¹² Intramolecular condensation of carboxylic acid and amine functional groups of γ -amino acids is the most commonly used synthetic pathway.²¹ Other than that, a series of transition metal-catalyzed C-N bond formation reactions such as Pd-catalyzed oxidative intramolecular allylic alkylations²² and gold(I) catalyzed intramolecular cyclization of homopropargyl amides,²³ Ir (III) catalyzed C-H amidation.²⁴ C-C bond formation reactions such as Pd-catalyzed intramolecular reactions of N-allylpropiolamides,²⁵ Fe(X₂) catalyzed cyclization of enynamides,²⁶ and gold(I) catalyzed cyclization of N-alkenyl β -ketoamides²⁷ and ring-closing metathesis²⁸ have been reported. Besides these cyclization strategies, (3+2) and (4+1) annulation reactions^{29, 30} were also used in the construct biologically active γ -lactam products. These used strategies are schematically represented in **Scheme 5**.

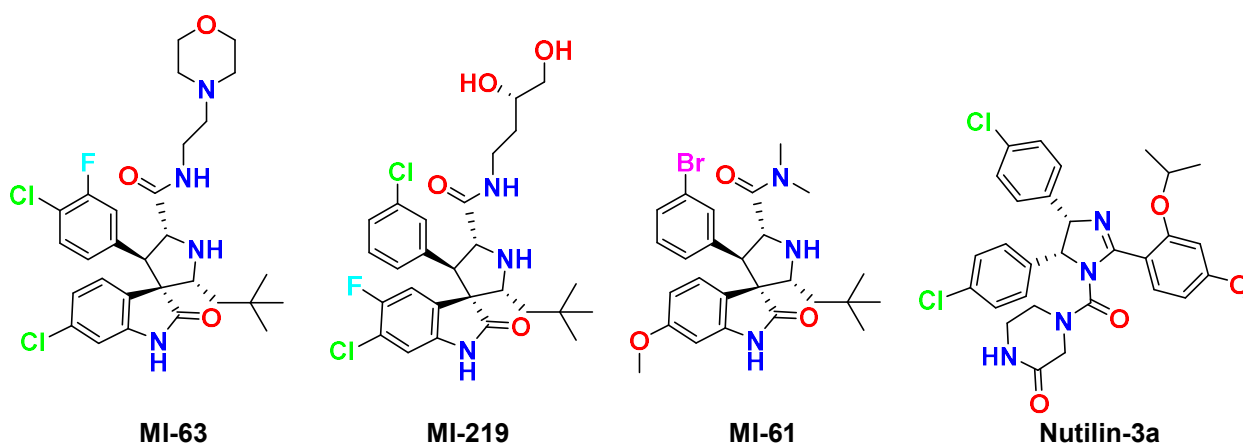


Scheme 5 Strategies used to synthesize the γ -lactams.

Studies have been conducted to check the viability of using γ -lactam moieties as potential inhibitors of p53–MDM2 interaction.³¹ p53 or tumor protein p53 is a protein

found inside the nucleus and features a crucial role in regulating cell division and cell death. In response to different stress circumstances, such as DNA damage or oncogene activation, the tumour suppressor p53 initiates cell death via apoptosis. Loss of p53 tumor-suppressor action, whether caused by deletion or mutation of the TP53 gene or suppression of the p53 protein, promotes cancer growth.³² The MDM2 protein acts as a p53 inhibitor. It reduces p53's transcriptional activity, promotes nuclear export, and promotes its destruction after binding to it.³³ Inhibiting the p53–MDM2 binding is an appealing method to activate p53-mediated apoptosis in tumours with upregulated MDM2 levels.³¹ Researchers have discovered a number of small-molecular-weight chemicals and peptides that obstruct the p53–MDM2 interaction.³⁴ In tumour cells overexpressing MDM2, the peptidic inhibitors have an antiproliferative effect.

The use of a small chemical to inhibit the MDM2–p53 interaction is one appealing pharmacological strategy to p53 reactivation.³⁵ The Nutlins discovery provided essential proof of concept for this strategy.³⁶ Based on the crystal structure studies of the MDM2–p53 complex, a library of molecules containing γ -lactam in their backbone has been synthesized and studied as potential inhibitors. Structures of few molecules are shown in **Scheme 6**.



Scheme 6 Peptides that can act as potential P53-MDM2 interaction inhibitors.

In this study, the molecule MI-219 was identified as an ideal MDM2 inhibitor³⁷. In

cells with wild-type p53, MI-219 breaks the MDM2–p53 interaction and turns on the p53 pathway, causing cell cycle arrest in all cells and selective apoptosis in tumor cells³⁷.

So, it was known that γ -lactam can serve as small molecules peptidomimetics by acting as an inhibitor for p53-MDM2 interaction²⁰. Here in this study, I aim to create a library of 5,5 di-substituted γ -lactams via a base facilitated molecular rearrangement and to check the viability of these molecules as potential p53-MDM2 inhibitors.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1 General experimental details

The amino acids and reagents used in each process, such as HBTU, EDC.HCl, TFA, DMF, and others, were bought from commercial sources. All of these reagents were utilized without being purified further. Prior to usage, solvents such as ethyl acetate, hexane, dichloromethane and methanol were distilled. Neutral silica (100-200 mesh) was used for column chromatography, which was also purchased from a commercial supplier. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) spectra were determined using a Bruker Avance 400 MHz or a JEOL 400 MHz spectrometer. The mass of materials was determined using high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS).

4.2 Synthesis of Fmoc/Boc-amino NHS ester

Fmoc/Boc protected amino acid (25 mmol) was solvated in 50ml Tetrahydrofuran and to this solution N-hydroxysuccinimide (50 mmol) was added. After that, the reaction mixture was kept in ice cold condition and DCC (30mmol) was added. Product formation was confirmed using TLC. Once the reaction was completed after 12 hr, DCU formed in reaction was filtered out using a sintered funnel; the filtrate was collected and used for further reaction.

4.3 Synthesis of Boc/Fmoc Amino Alcohol

N-Boc-Amino NHS ester (20 mmol) is added into 50 ml THF allowed to dissolve. Temperature of the reaction mixture was brought down to 0°C. NaBH₄ (25 mmol) was progressively added to this solution over a 10-minute period. For another 20 minutes, the reaction mixture was stirred. Product formation was confirmed using TLC. 10% HCl (10 percent by volume in water) was used to quench the reaction in an ice-cold environment (pH 2), on the reaction completion. Solvent was evaporated from the reaction mixture and the product was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (190 mL). The combined organic layer was washed in 40 mL of brine solution and dried on anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The organic layer was concentrated in vacuum to produce an oily product, which was then employed without purification in the next phase.

4.4 Synthesis of Boc/Fmoc Amino Aldehyde

IBX was added to a solution containing N-protected amino alcohol (10 mmol) in ethyl acetate (40 mL). The reaction was allowed to run for 8 hours at 70°C under reflux conditions. After the completion of reaction, reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then filtered using sintered funnel. Residue was washed with EtOAc (25 mL), the filtrate was collected and evaporated under reduced pressure. This gave an oily product, which was then employed without purification in the next phase.

4.5 Synthesis of Boc-N- α , β -unsaturated γ -amino esters

Wittig ylide (11 mmol) was added to a solution containing N-Boc-Amino aldehyde (10 mmol) solvated in 50 mL of dry THF, at room temperature. The reaction mixture was agitated for roughly 8 hours at room temperature. TLC was used to track the reaction. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated, and the crude product was refined using pet ether/ethyl acetate column chromatography, yielding a (89%) pure product.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Ala-OEt (ethyl (*S*, *E*)-4-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)pent-2-enoate).

Colorless crystalline solid, Yield= 2.85 g (93%) ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.83 (dd, J = 15.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (dd, J = 15.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.27 – 1.21 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.49, 155.02, 149.48, 120.20, 60.52, 28.42, 20.38, 14.28. HRMS m/z calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$ is 244.1471, observed 244.1552.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Leu-OEt (ethyl (*S*, *E*)-4-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-6-methylhept-2-enoate).

Colorless crystalline solid, Yield= 2.73 g (89%) ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.81 (dd, J = 15.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dd, J = 15.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 – 4.42 (m, 1H), 4.39 – 4.26 (m, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (dt, J = 13.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.57, 155.22, 149.04, 120.55, 60.55, 43.97, 28.48, 24.84, 22.83, 22.29, 14.35. HRMS m/z calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$ is 286.194, found 286.0604.

4.6 Synthesis of Boc-*N*- α,β -Unsaturated γ -Amino Amides

Hydrolysis of Boc-*N*- α,β -unsaturated γ -amino esters by NaOH

5 mmol N-protected, α,β -unsaturated γ -amino ester is dissolved in 20 mL distilled Methanol. 8 mL 1N NaOH is carefully added to the reaction mixture at room temperature. The reaction, which lasted 2 hours, was monitored using TLC. Once the reaction was completed, methanol was evaporated, and the reaction mixture was neutralised using 10% HCl solution (10 percent by volume in water). The neutralized product was then extracted in EtOAc three times (150 mL) and then the combined organic layer was washed with brine solution (3x30 mL). The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under low pressure.

Solution phase Coupling of Boc-*N*- α,β -unsaturated γ -amino acids with benzylamine

N-protected α,β -unsaturated γ -amino acid (3 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml of DMF. Diisopropylethylamine (3 mmol) and benzylamine (3 mmol) were mixed into the reaction mixture and allowed to agitate for 10 minutes at ice-cold condition. The reaction was allowed to run for 12 hrs overnight. Meanwhile, TLC was done to keep track of the reaction progress. Following the reaction completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with Ethyl acetate three times (150 mL), and then the combined organic layer was washed with 10% HCl (3x50 mL), 10% Na₂CO₃ (1x50 mL), and brine solution (1x80 mL). The organic layer obtained was then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. To obtain pure amides, the crude product was refined using column chromatography using a solvent system of petroleum ether/EtOAc

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Ala-Bn (*tert*-butyl (*S,E*)-(5-(benzylamino)-5-oxopent-3-en-2-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 0.813 g (89%) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 5.86 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.46, 155.07, 138.18, 128.82, 128.01, 127.66, 77.33, 43.80, 28.47, 28.43, 20.71. MALDI *m/z* calculated [M+Na] is 327.1787 found 327.1796.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Leu-Bn (*tert*-butyl (*S, E*)-(1-(benzylamino)-6-methyl 1- oxohept-2-en-4-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 0.935 g (90%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.39 – 7.13 (m, 5H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.4 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (dt, *J* = 13.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 0.90 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 1.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.50, 155.26, 144.91, 138.22, 128.79, 128.01, 127.62, 122.98, 79.66, 50.01, 44.08, 43.78, 28.47, 24.73, 22.71, 22.37. MALDI *m/z* calculated [M+Na] is 369.2256 found 369.2259.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Val-Bn ((*S,E*)-tert-Butyl (6-(Benzylamino)-2 methyl-oxohex-4-en-3-yl)-carbamate).

White solid, yield = 0.876 g (89%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.37 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.89 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.87 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.38, 143.47, 138.19, 128.85, 128.05, 127.70, 124.02, 57.04, 43.86, 32.45, 28.50, 18.99, 18.24. MALDI *m/z* calculated [M+Na] is 355.2100 found 355.1997.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Phe-Bn (tert-butyl (*S, E*)-(5-(benzylamino)-5 oxo-1 phenylpent-3-en-2-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 1.083 g (95%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.34 – 7.16 (m, 12H), 6.87 – 6.73 (m, 1H), 5.79 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (dd, *J* = 23.1, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.16, 155.13, 138.11, 136.68, 129.57, 128.82, 128.62, 127.96, 127.68, 126.87, 77.32, 43.80, 28.40. HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 381.2100, observed 381.2178.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Trp-Bn (tert-butyl (*S,E*)-(5-(benzylamino)-1-(1H-indol 3-yl)-5-oxopent-3-en-2-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 1.15 g (92%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.86 – 10.82 (m, 1H), 8.51 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.00 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.67, 155.02, 143.30, 139.45, 136.15, 128.26, 127.28, 126.75, 123.40, 123.26, 120.84, 118.33, 118.23, 111.35, 110.58, 77.74, 51.91, 42.09, 30.35, 28.24. HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 420.2209, observed 420.2178.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Gly-Bn (*tert*-butyl (*E*)-(4-(benzylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en-1-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 1.00 g (87%) , ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 6.65 (t, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 4.66 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H).

HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 291.163, observed 291.0876.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Ileu-Bn (*tert*-butyl (*E*)-(4-(benzylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en-1-yl)carbamate).

White solid, yield = 0.923 g (89%) , ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 4.25 – 4.11 (m, 1H), 1.59 (q, *J* = 8.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.12 (ddd, *J* = 20.6, 15.0, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.90 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 7.1 Hz, 7H).

HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 347.2256, observed 347.2197.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Pro-Bn (*tert*-butyl (*E*)-2-(3-(benzylamino)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate).

Pale yellow viscous liquid = 1.07 g (87%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 5.90 – 5.70 (m, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.44 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.04 (s, 1H), 1.87 – 1.70 (m, 4H), 1.41 (s, 9H).

HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+Na] is 353.1943, observed 353.1840.

Solution phase Coupling of Boc-*N*-α,β-unsaturated γ-amino acids with tryptamine

N-protected α,β-unsaturated γ-amino acid (3 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml of DMF. Diisopropylethylamine (3 mmol) and tryptamine (3 mmol) were mixed into the reaction mixture and allowed to agitate for 10 minutes at ice-cold condition. The reaction was allowed to run for 12 hrs overnight. Meanwhile, TLC was done to keep track of the reaction progress. Following the reaction completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with Ethyl acetate three times (150 mL), and then the combined organic

layer was washed with 10% HCl (3x50 mL), 10% Na₂CO₃ (1x50 mL), and brine solution (1x80 mL). The organic layer obtained was then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. To obtain pure amides, the crude product was refined using column chromatography using a solvent system of petroleum ether/EtOAc

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Phe-Trp (*tert*-butyl (*S*, *E*)-(4-(benzylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en 1-yl)carbamate).

Pale yellow solid, yield = 1.543 g (89%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 16.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 5.59 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.87 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 1.36 (s, 9H). HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 433.2365, observed 434.2267.

Characterization of Boc-*N*-dg-Trp-Trp (*tert*-butyl (*S*,*E*)-(4-(benzylamino)-4-oxobut-2-en 1-yl)carbamate).

Pale yellow solid, yield = 1.712 g (87%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.15 (s, 2H), 7.62 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.05 (m, 4H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.03 – 2.95 (m, 4H), 2.66 (d, *J* = 39.7 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H). HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 473.2474, observed 473.2552.

4.7 Synthesis of γ-lactams

Under N₂ atmosphere, KO^{*t*}Bu (9 mmol, 3 eq) was mixed to a solution containing *N*-protected, α,β-unsaturated γ-amino amide (3 mmol, 1 eq) in dry THF (15 mL) and agitated for about 8 hours at room temperature. TLC was used to track the reaction's progress. Following the reaction completion, solvent was evaporated and water (30 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The aqueous layer of this mixture was extracted with EtOAc (30 mLx3), followed by a brine (30 mLx2) wash, drying over

anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Solvent in crude product was evaporated using vacuum evaporator and later purified using column chromatography using a solvent system of pet ether/ethyl acetate(75:25) to give pure compounds in 85% to 95% yields.

Characterization of Ala Lactam ((*tert*-Butyl (1-Benzyl-2-methyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-2-yl)carbamate).

Colorless solid, yield = 0.565 g (93%), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.28 – 7.20(m, 5H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.62 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 4.25 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 1H), 2.53 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.59, 128.62, 127.89, 127.19, 74.79, 42.43, 32.58, 29.82, 28.34. HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 305.1787, observed 305.1365.

Characterization of Leu Lactam ((*tert*-Butyl (1-Benzyl-2-isobutyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-2-yl)carbamate).

Pale yellow viscous liquid, yield = 0.623 (90%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.33 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.49 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 2.80 (d, *J* = 20.4 Hz, 1H), 2.51 – 2.35 (m, 2H), 2.23 (ddd, *J* = 13.9, 10.7, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.69 – 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.51 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 175.72, 138.50, 128.55, 128.14, 128.14, 127.12, 48.39, 48.39, 42.86, 29.93, 29.75, 28.33, 24.45, 24.25, 23.96. HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+Na] is 369.2256, observed 369.2153.

Characterization of Phe Lactam ((*tert*-Butyl (1-Benzyl-2-methyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-2-yl)carbamate).

Colorless solid, yield = 0.699 (92%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 1.64 (s, 2H), 1.42 (s, 8H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H). HRMS *m/z* calculated [M+H] is 380.2100, observed 381.2178.

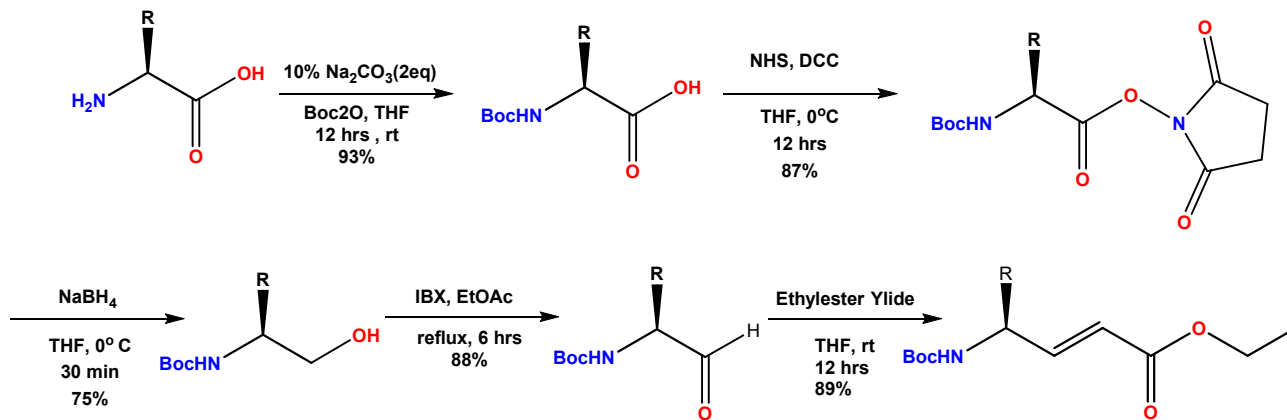
Characterization of Trp Lactam ((*tert*-butyl (2-((1H-indol-3-yl)methyl)-1-benzyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-2-yl)carbamate).

Brown solid, yield = 0.732 g (95%), ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.93 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 7.34 (s, 3H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (t, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 174.40, 153.75, 138.83, 135.59, 128.25, 128.01, 126.56, 124.23, 120.94, 118.69, 117.99, 111.43, 107.25, 77.72, 42.40, 30.72, 29.40, 28.11. HRMS m/z calculated $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]$ is 442.2209, observed 442.2187.

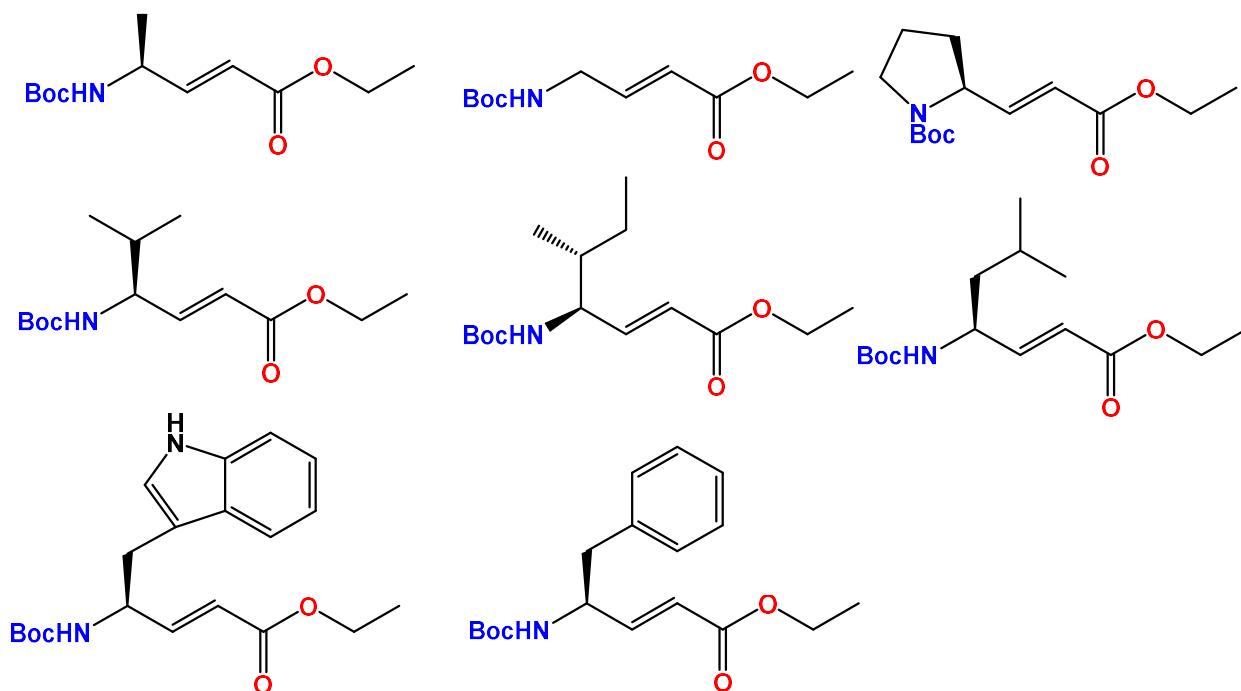
5. Results and Discussion

5.1 Reactivity and synthesis of α - β Unsaturated γ -amino esters

An array of α - β unsaturated γ -amino esters were synthesized using previously reported method. The production of dehydro γ -amino esters starting from α -amino acids is depicted schematically in **Scheme 7**. α - β unsaturated γ -amino ethyl esters of Leucine, Alanine, Valine, Phenyl alanine, Isoleucine, Tryptophan, Glycine and Proline were produced from N-Boc-amino aldehyde via the Wittig process, as reported earlier^{11,12}.



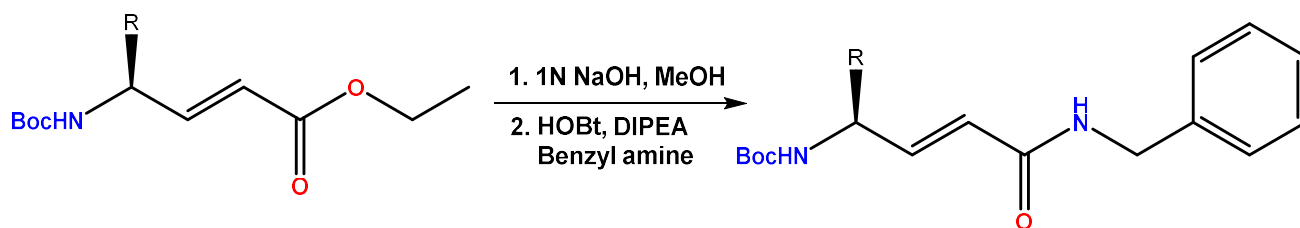
Scheme 7 Synthesis of α - β unsaturated γ -amino ethyl ester.



Scheme 8 Structures of α - β unsaturated γ -amino ethyl ester synthesized.

5.2 Synthesis and reactivity of α - β Unsaturated γ -amino amides

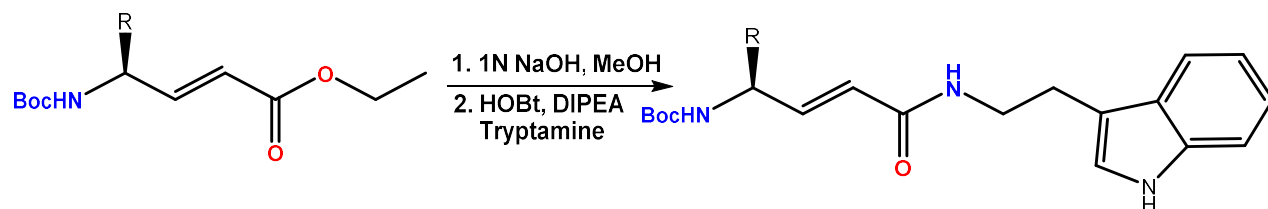
The saponification reaction was performed on the α - β unsaturated γ -amino esters. The resulting α - β unsaturated γ -amino acids were coupled with different amines through solution phase coupling to create the necessary peptides for the investigation. This procedure is depicted schematically in **Scheme 9**.



Scheme 9 Base hydrolysis followed by Coupling with benzyl amine.

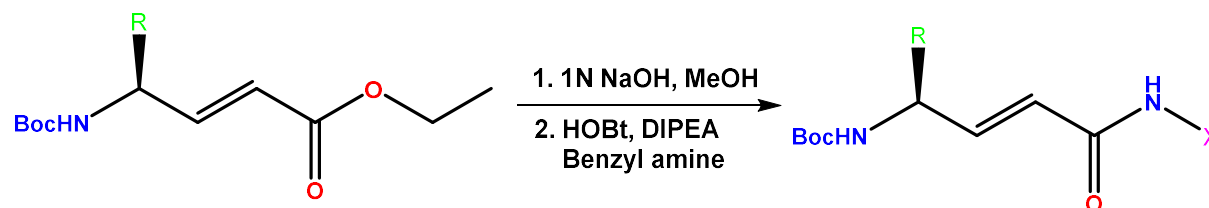
Several *N*-Boc α - β unsaturated γ -amino benzyl amine amides were successfully synthesized using this procedure.

N-Boc α - β unsaturated γ -amino tryptamine amides were also produced using the same method, which is shown in **Scheme 10**.



Scheme 10 Base hydrolysis followed by Coupling with Tryptamine.

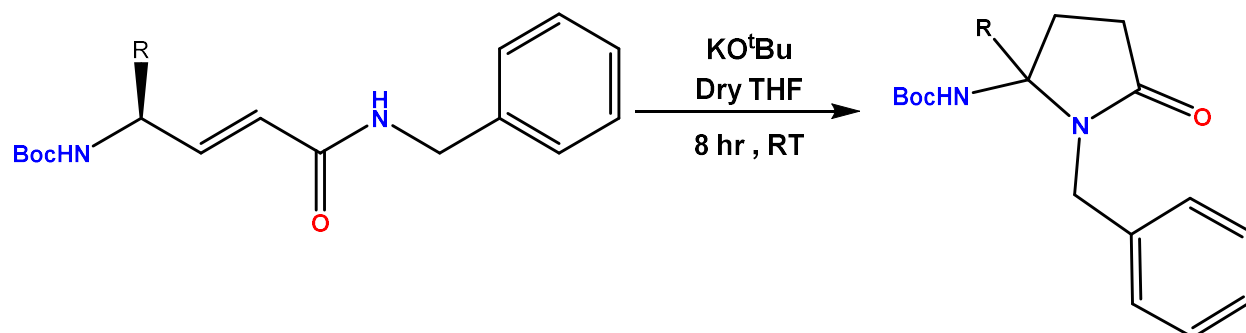
General scheme for solution phase coupling is as follows:



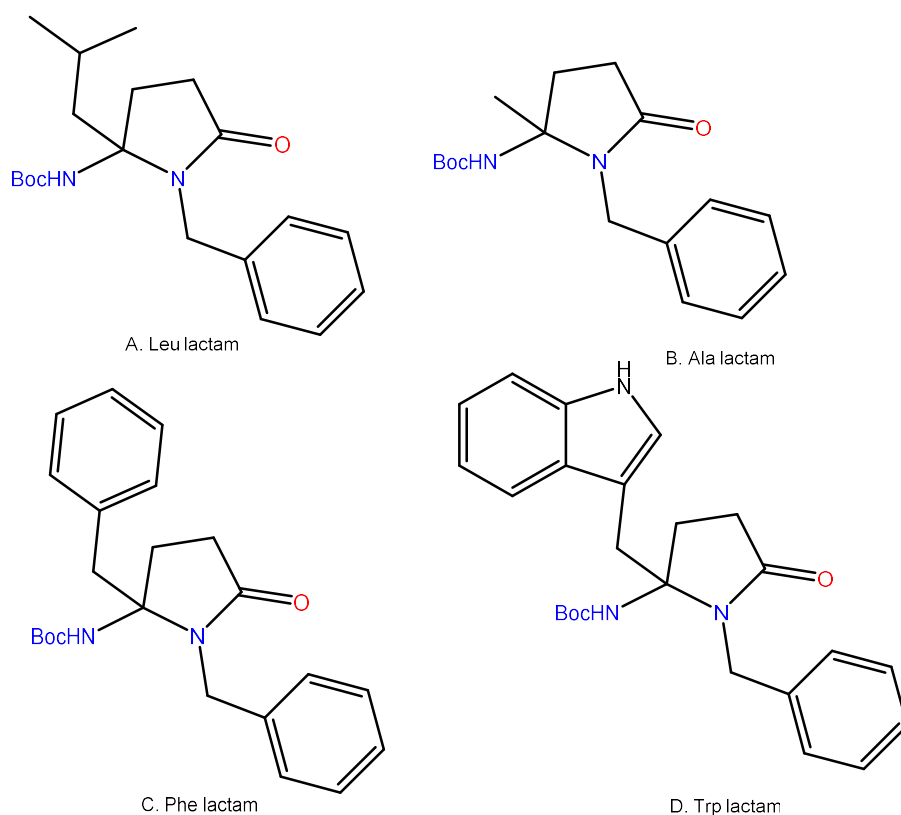
S. No.	R	X	Yield
1	$\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	90
2	$\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	89
3	CH_3	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	89
4	H	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	87
5	$\text{CH}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)$	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	89
6	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	95
7	CH_2 -Indole	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	92
8	Pyrrolidine	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	87
9	$\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$	89
10	CH_2 -Indole	$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$	87

5.3 Synthesis and reactivity of 5,5-Disubstituted γ -Lactams

N-Boc α - β unsaturated γ -amino amides were then subjected to base mediated molecular rearrangement using potassium tert-butoxide. Lactams of Leucine, Alanine, Phenyl alanine and Tryptophan were synthesized successfully via this rearrangement reaction, as expected.



Scheme 11 Rearrangement of *N*-Boc- α , β Unsaturated γ -Amino Amide into *N*-Alkyl 5,5-Disubstituted γ -Lactams Mediated by KO^tBu.



Scheme 12 Structures of *N*-Alkyl 5,5-Disubstituted γ -Lactams synthesized.

The formation of 5,5 disubstituted γ -lactam was confirmed by analyzing ^1H NMR. The ^1H NMR of Boc-*N*- α - β unsaturated γ -amino amides had a characteristic *dd* (doublet of doublet) and *d* (doublet) peaks of the two alkene hydrogen atoms. These characteristic peaks are absent in the 5,5 disubstituted γ -lactam as the alkene is reduced during the rearrangement reaction. Also, HRMS spectra of both the product and reactant shows same *m/z* values confirming the rearrangement reaction.

Compound 12D-Trp lactam single crystals were obtained. The X-ray diffracted structure is shown in **Figure 2**.

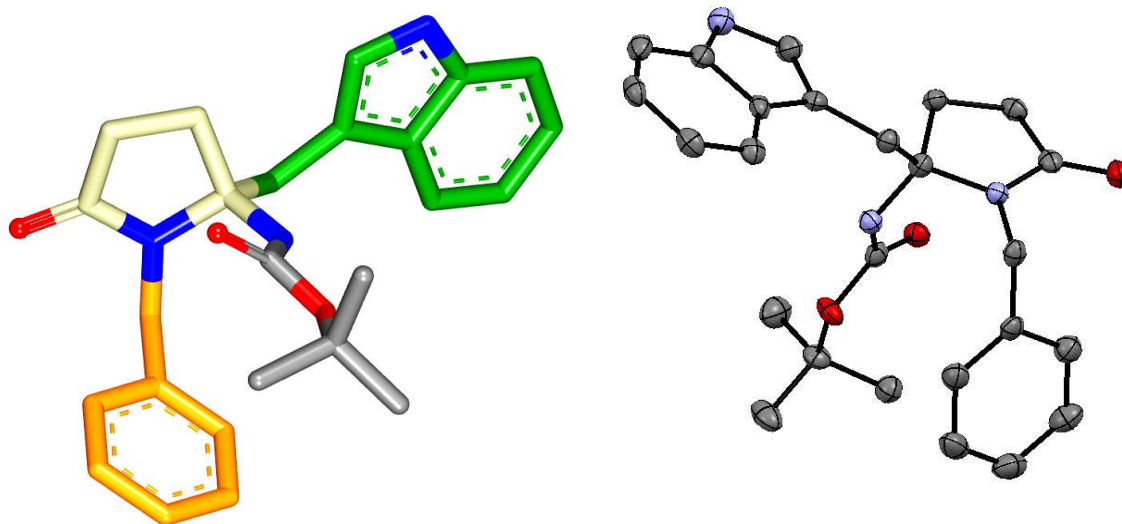
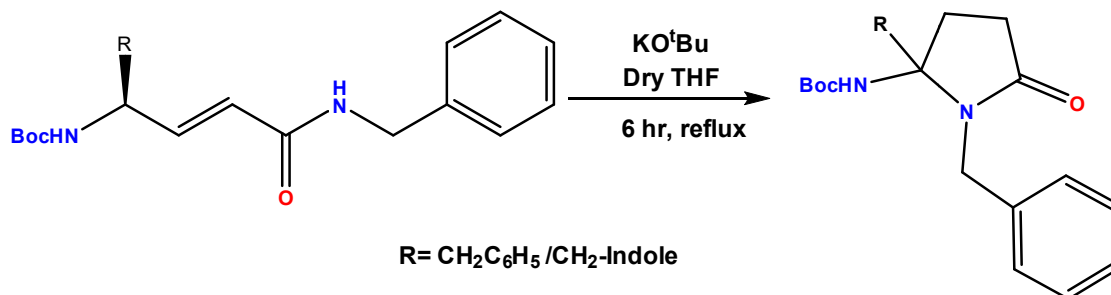


Figure 2. Crystal structure of Trp lactams (12D).

It was noted that Boc-*N*- α - β unsaturated γ -amino amides of Tryptophan and Phenyl alanine required reflux conditions at 40°C for the completion of this potassium tertiary butoxide mediated rearrangement.



6. Conclusions

A library of Boc-*N*- α - β unsaturated γ -amino amides were successfully synthesized in excellent yields. These were then reacted with potassium tert-butoxide and formation of 5,5-disubstituted γ -lactams were observed, instead of double bond migration within the amino amides. Four different 5,5-disubstituted γ -lactams were successfully synthesized and characterized .

It is known from literature that γ -lactams can be used as drugs and inhibitors for several proteins. So, I am planning to do study the biological activity of 5,5-disubstituted γ -lactams in the near future. I believe that these 5,5-disubstituted γ -lactams can act as potential inhibitors of p53- MDM2 interaction and thereby serve as potential anticancer drug.

7. References

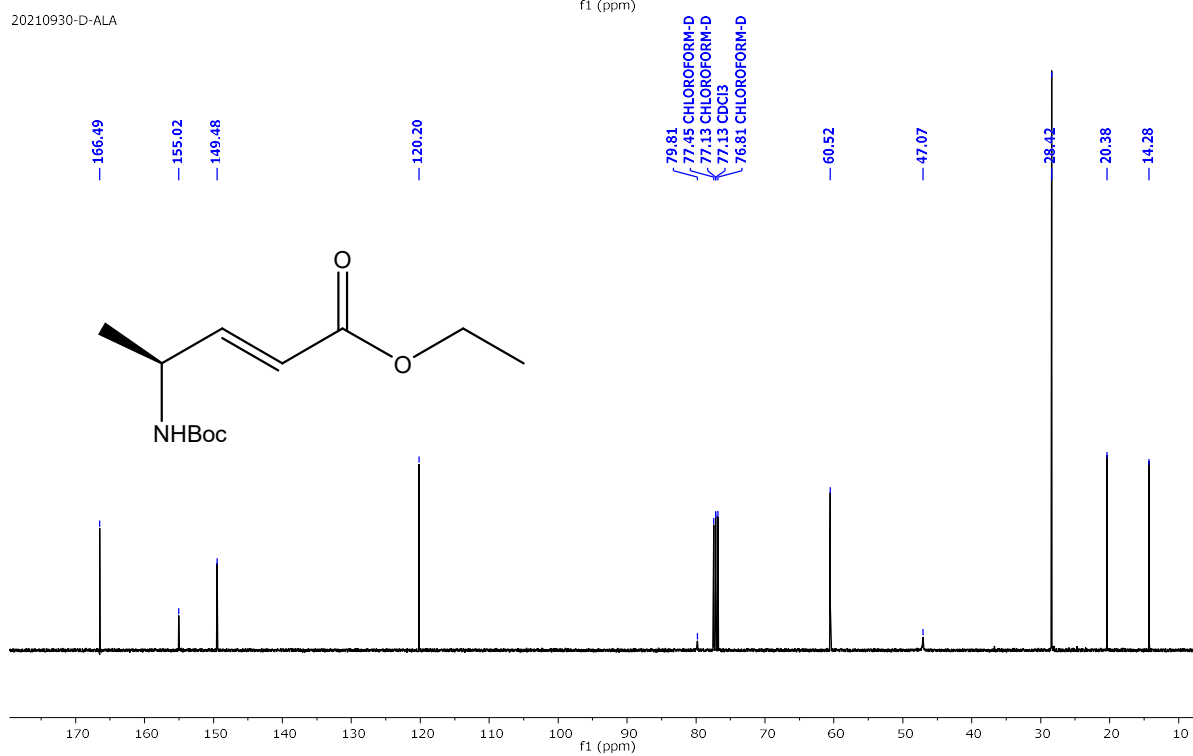
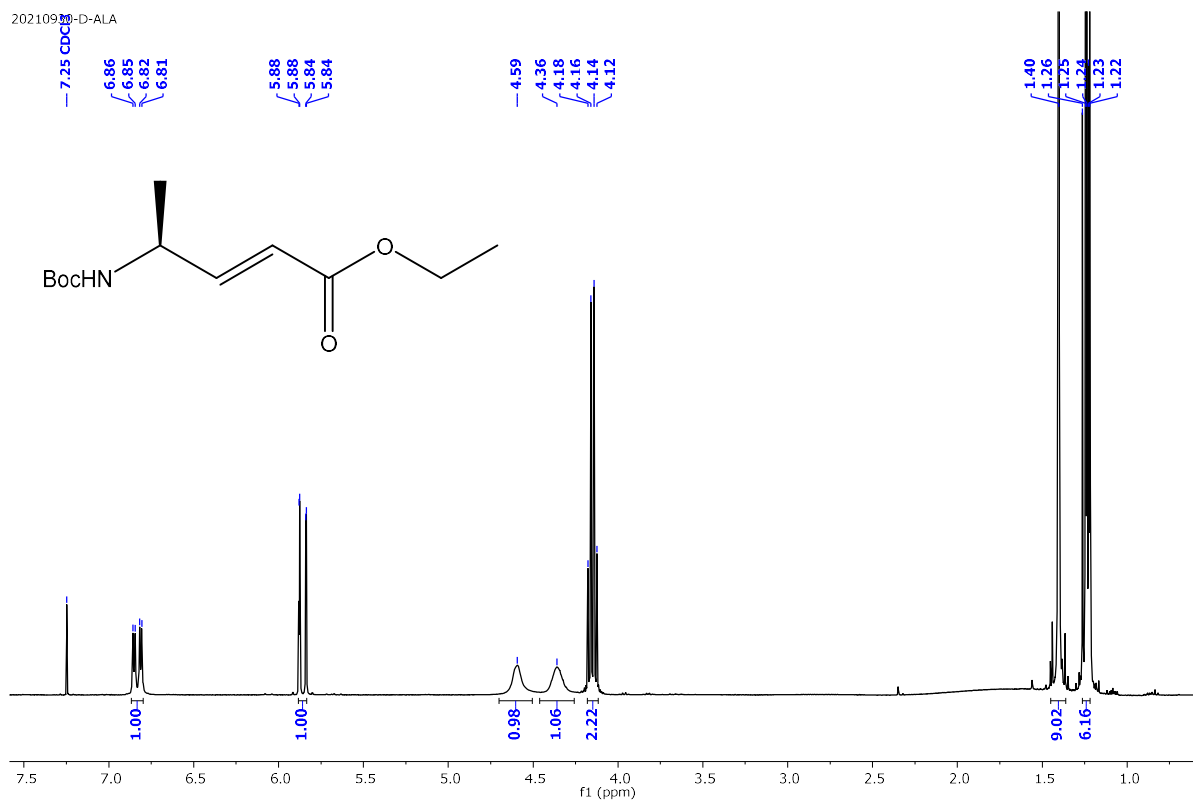
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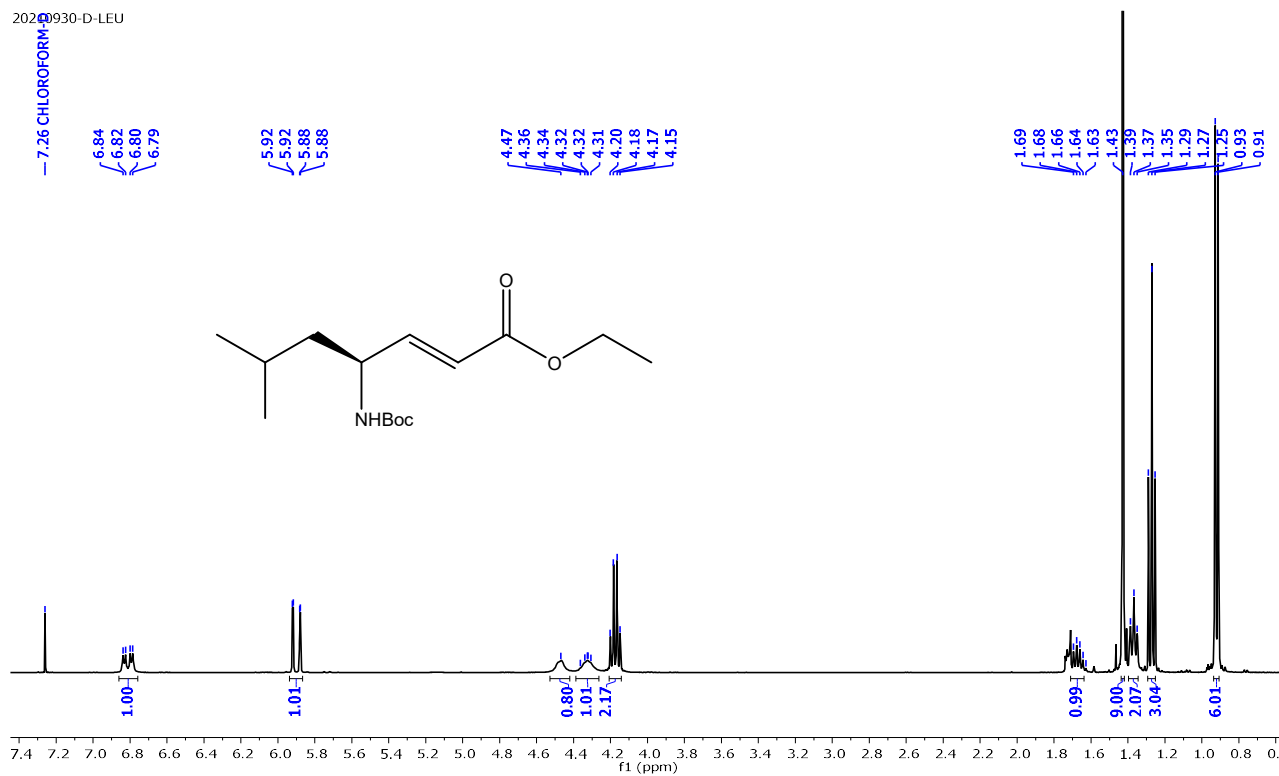
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Appendix

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds

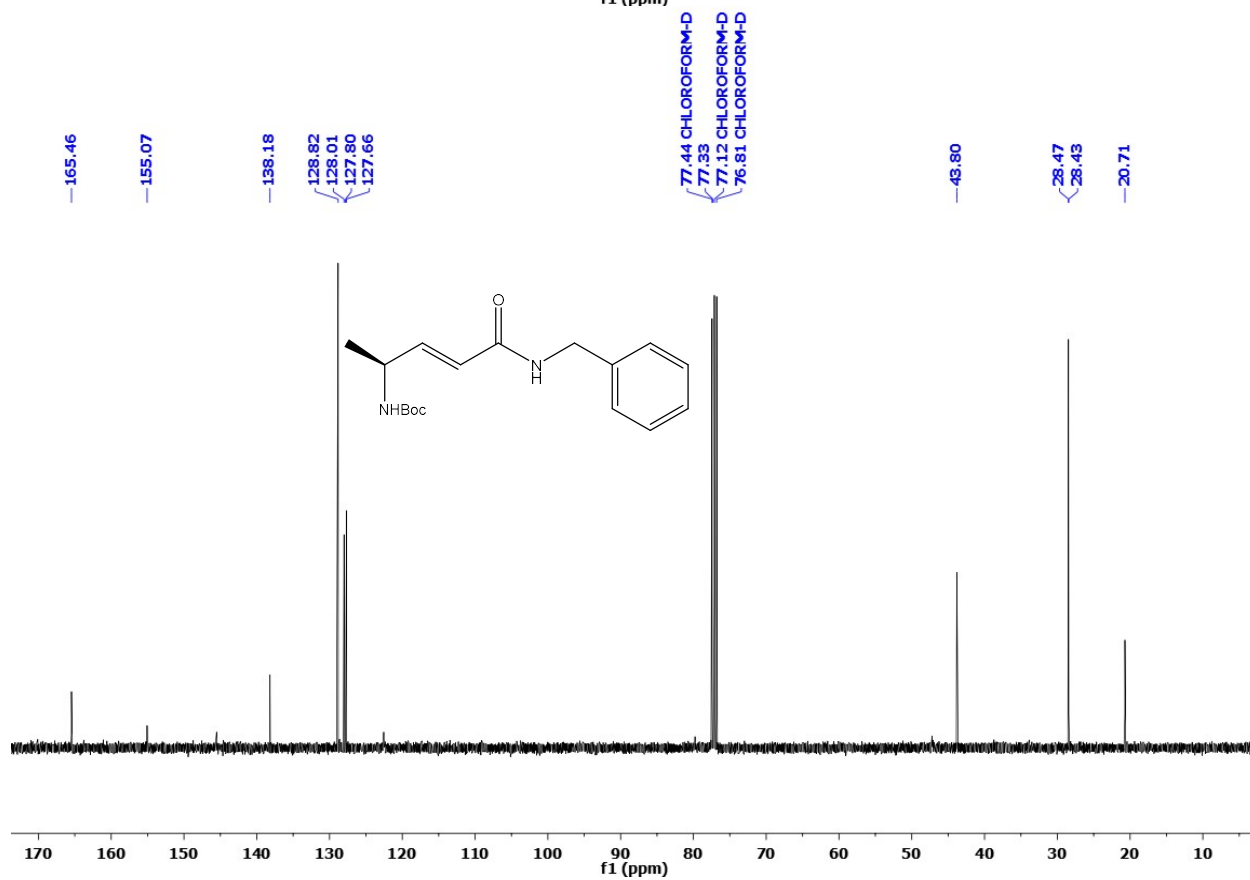
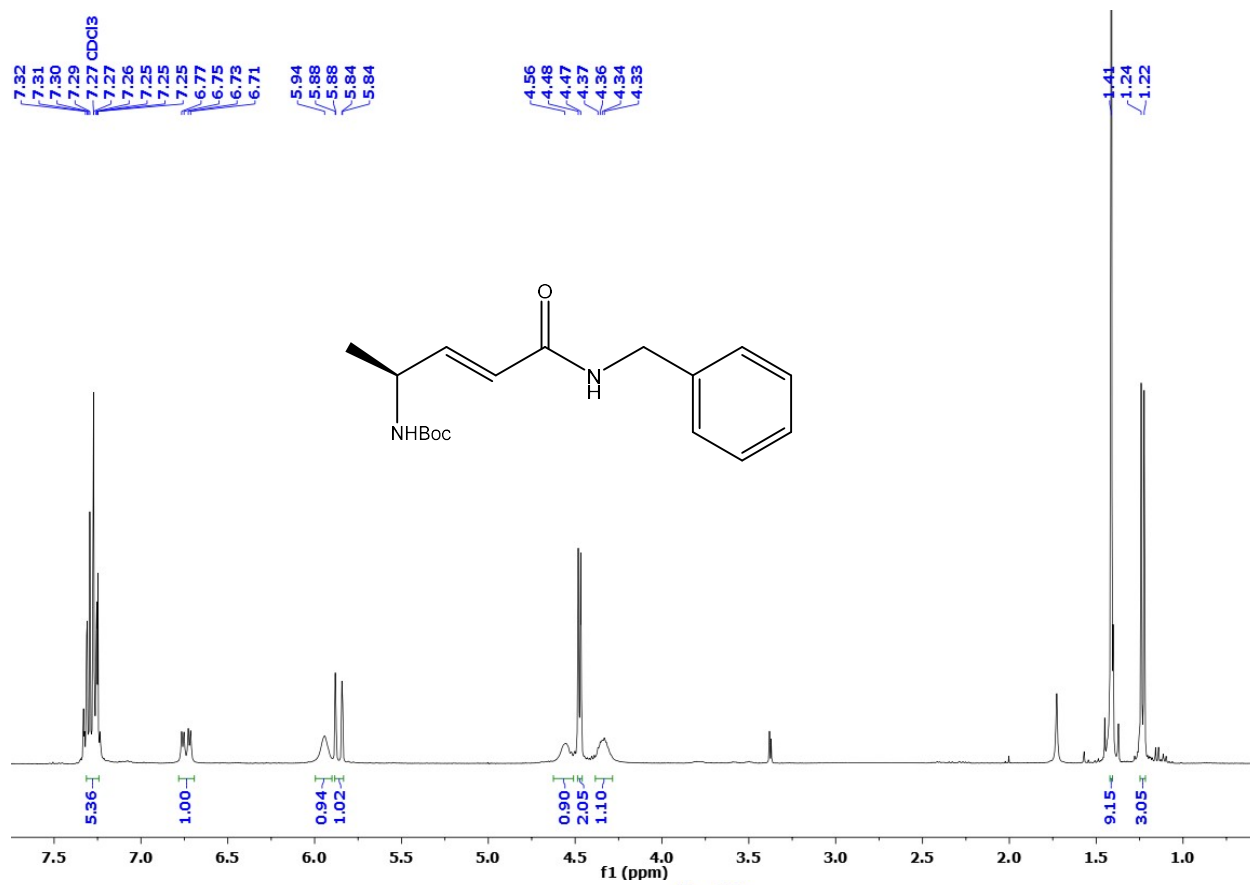


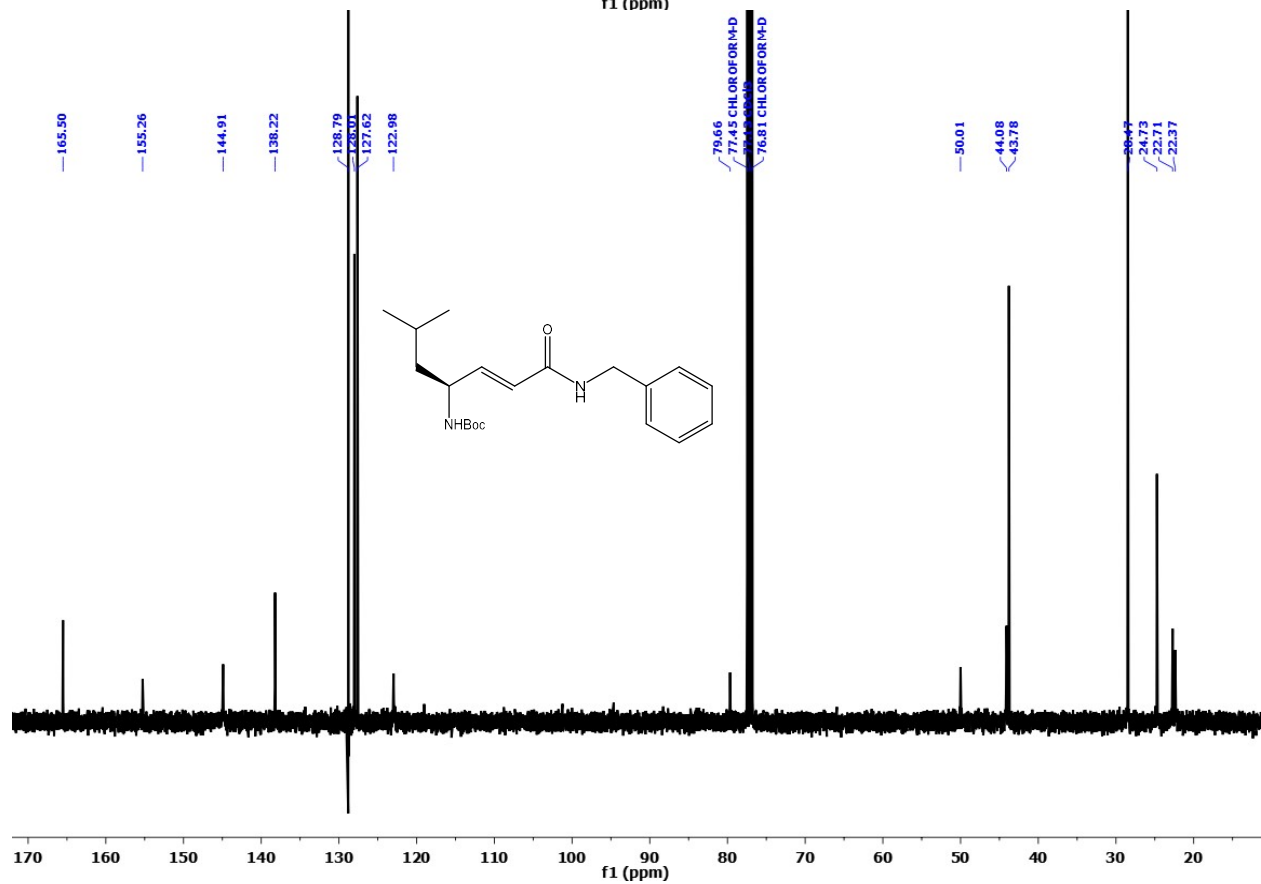
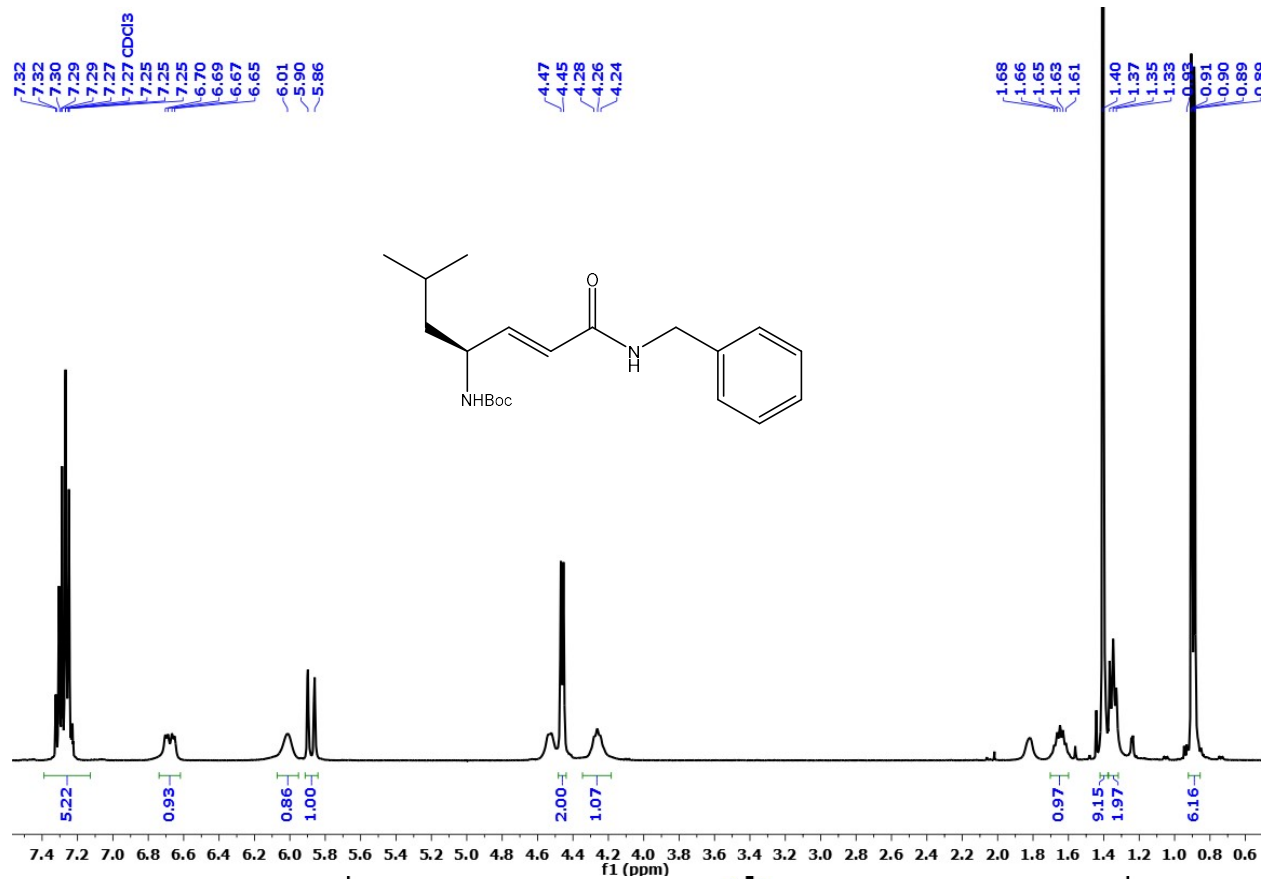
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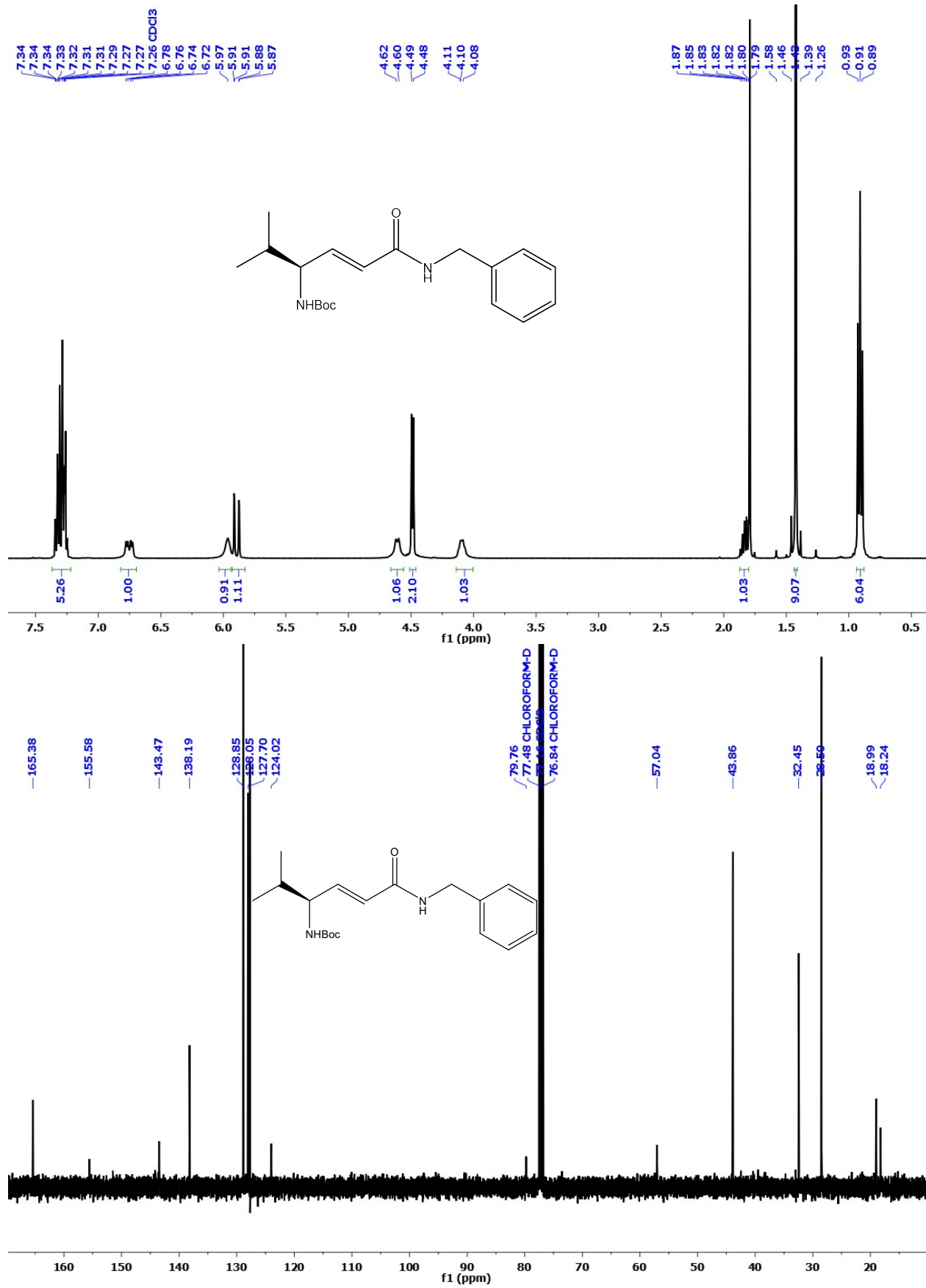


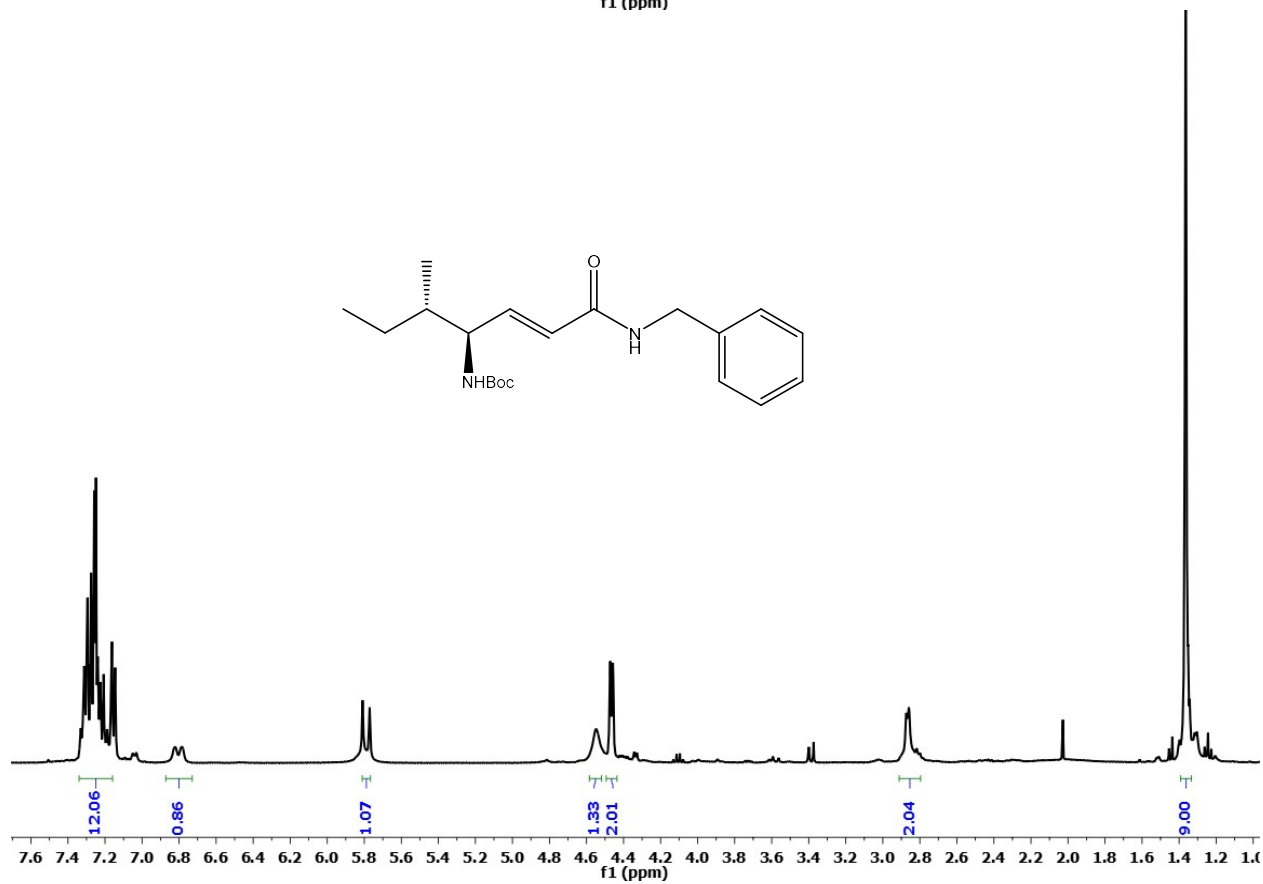
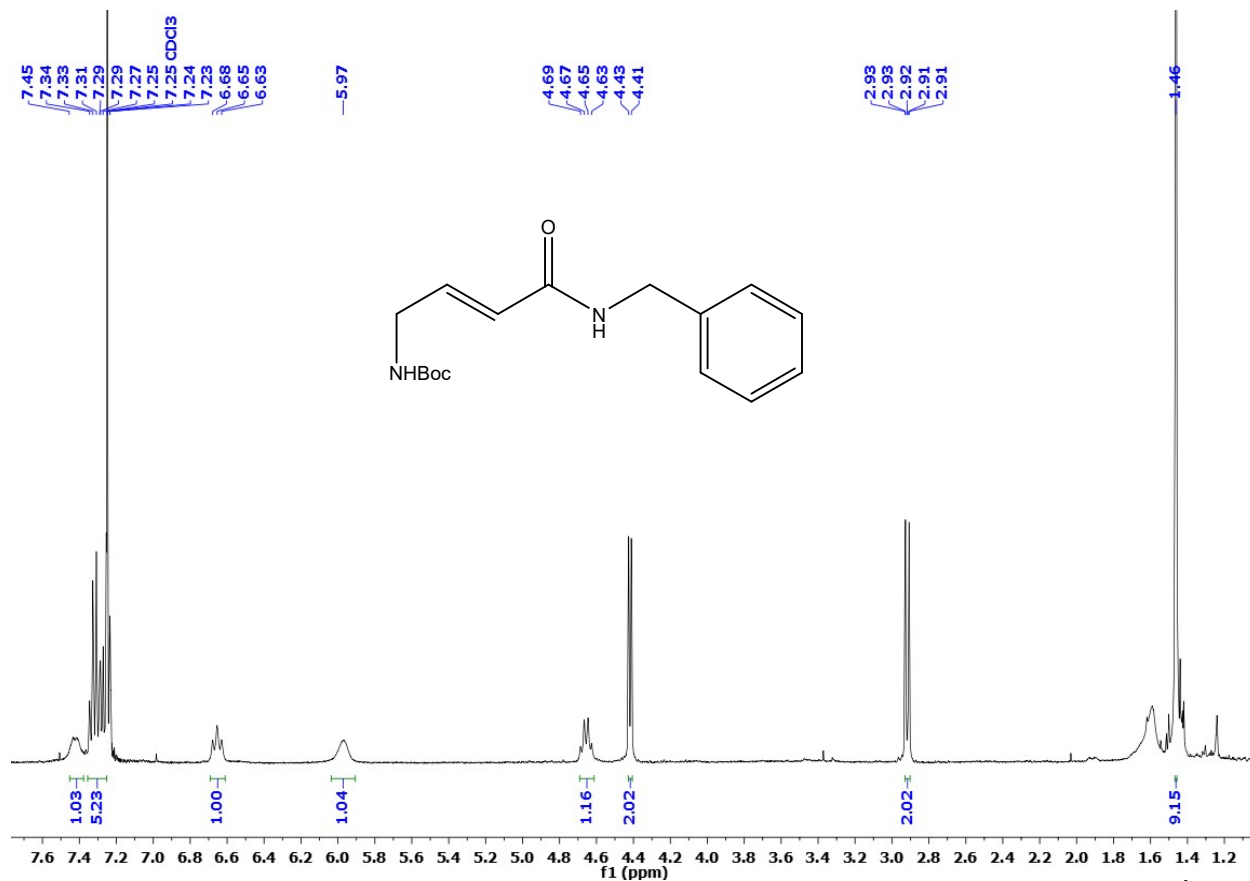
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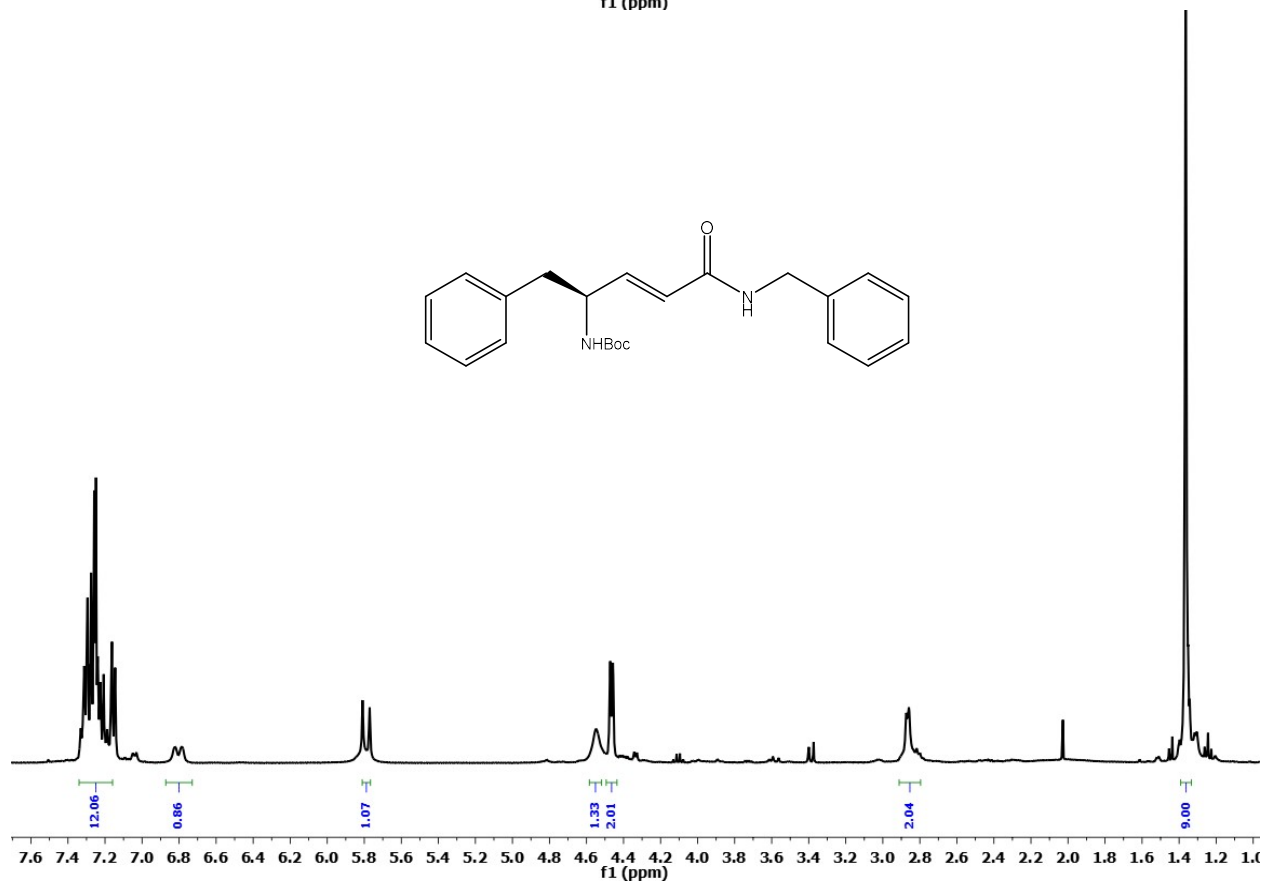
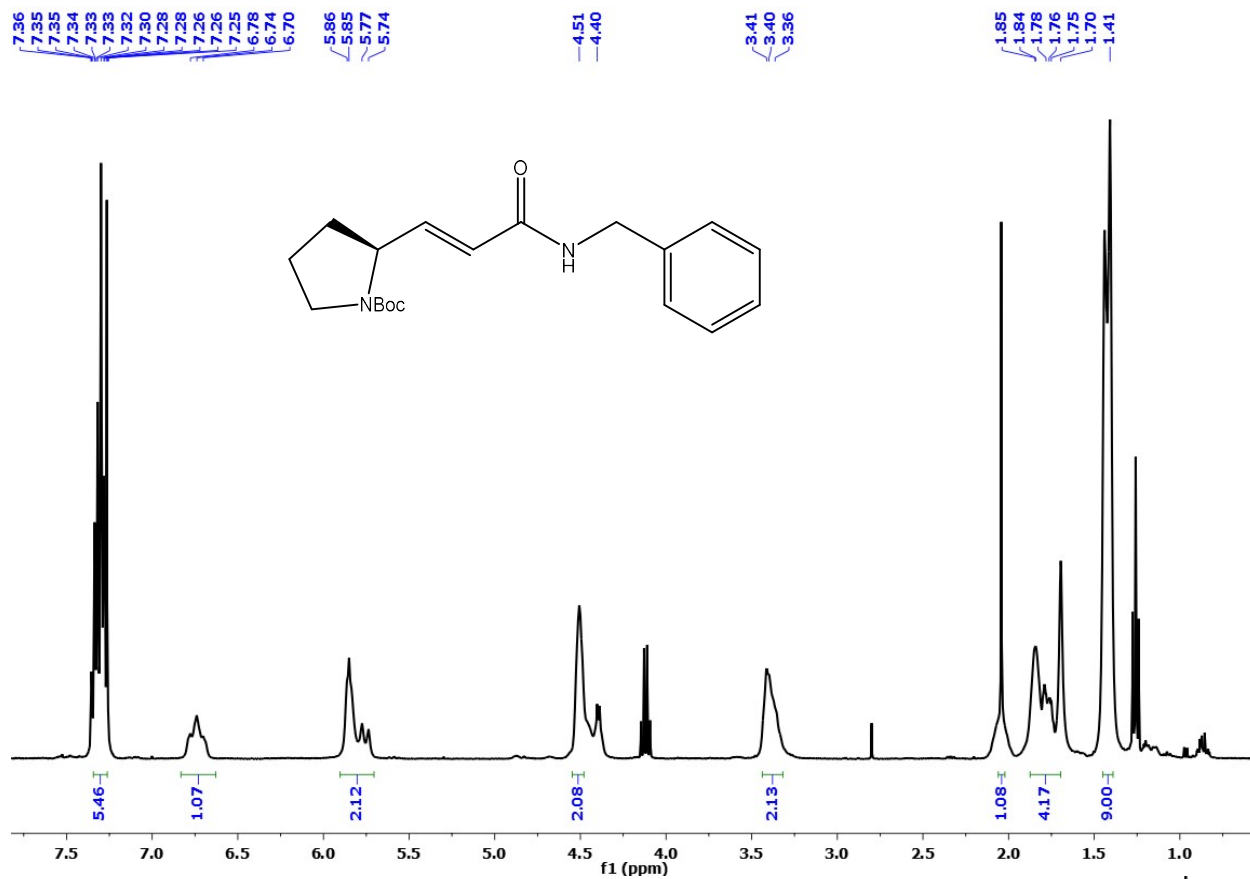


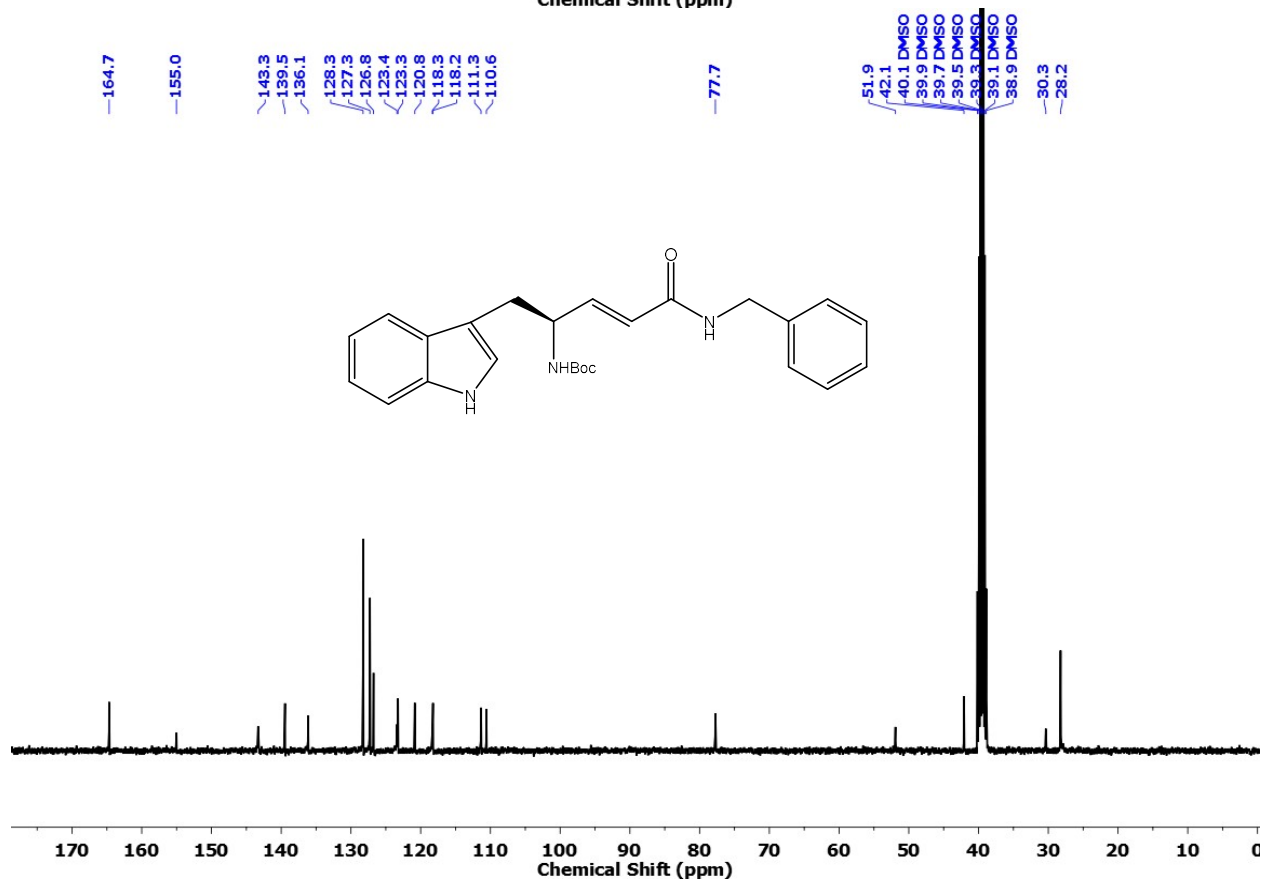
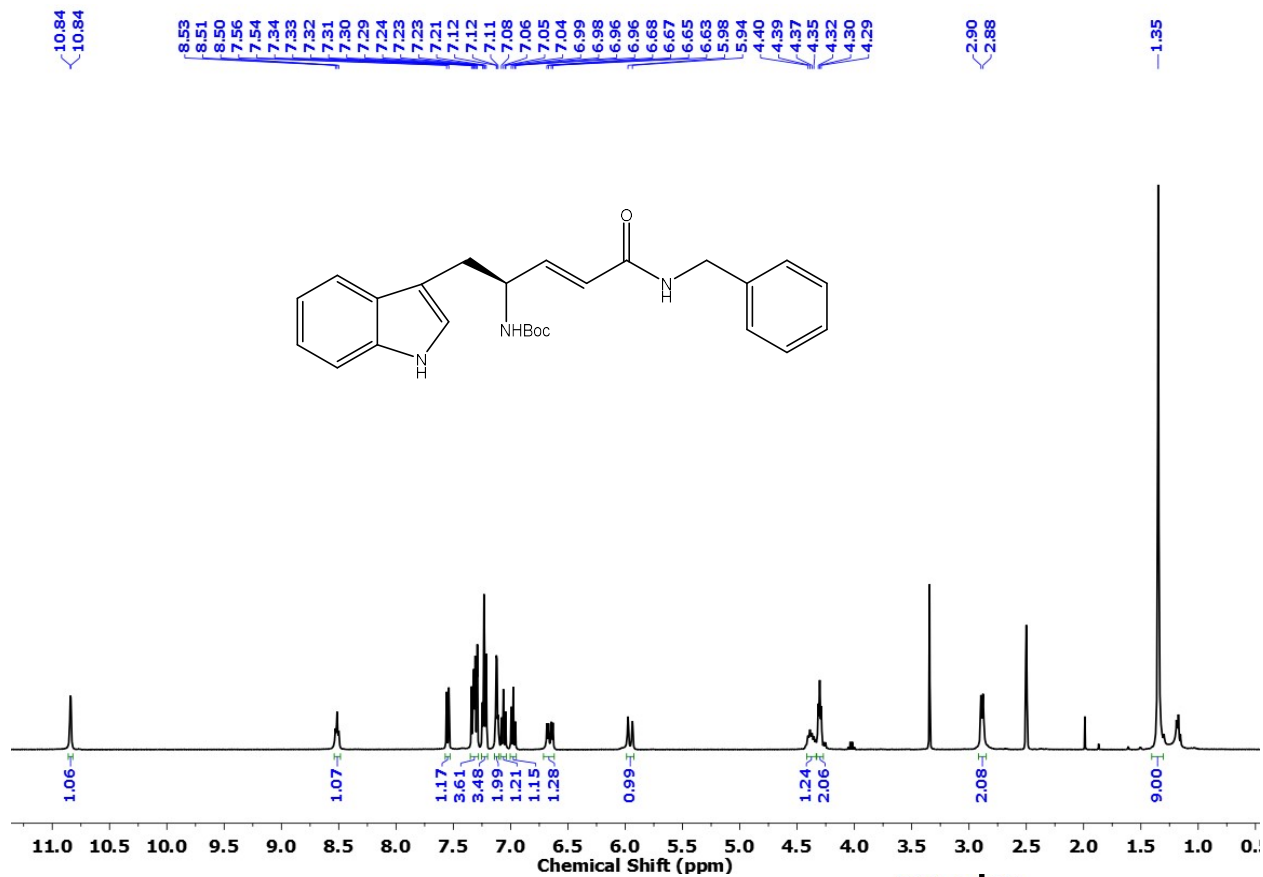


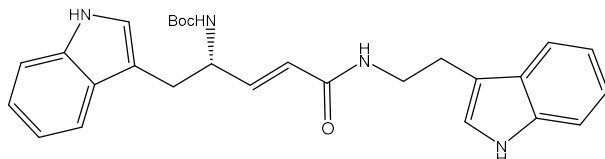
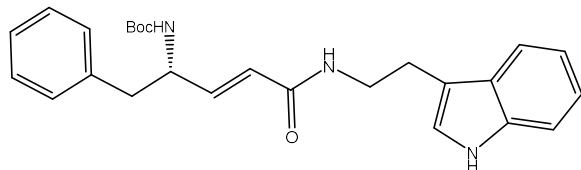


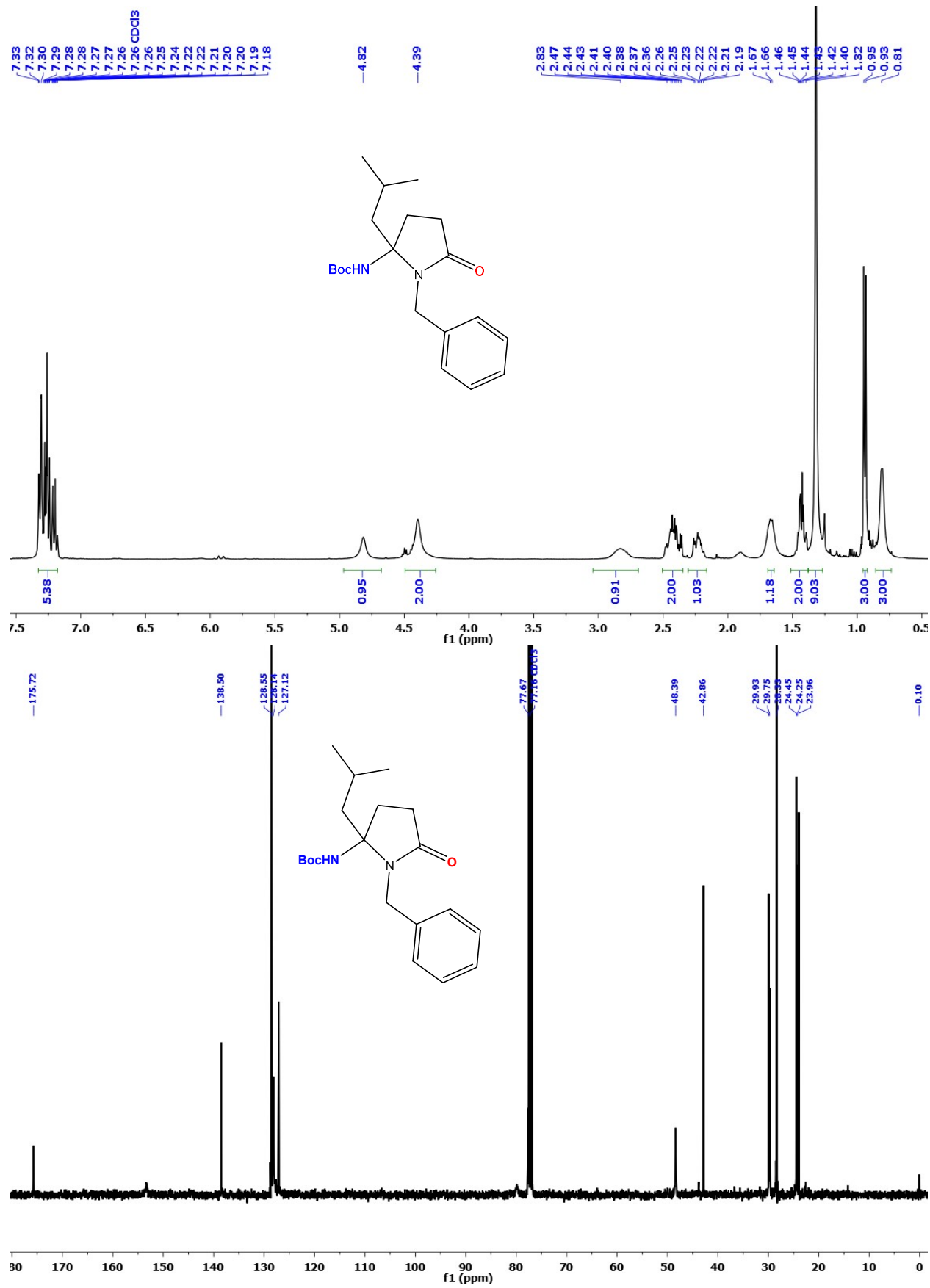


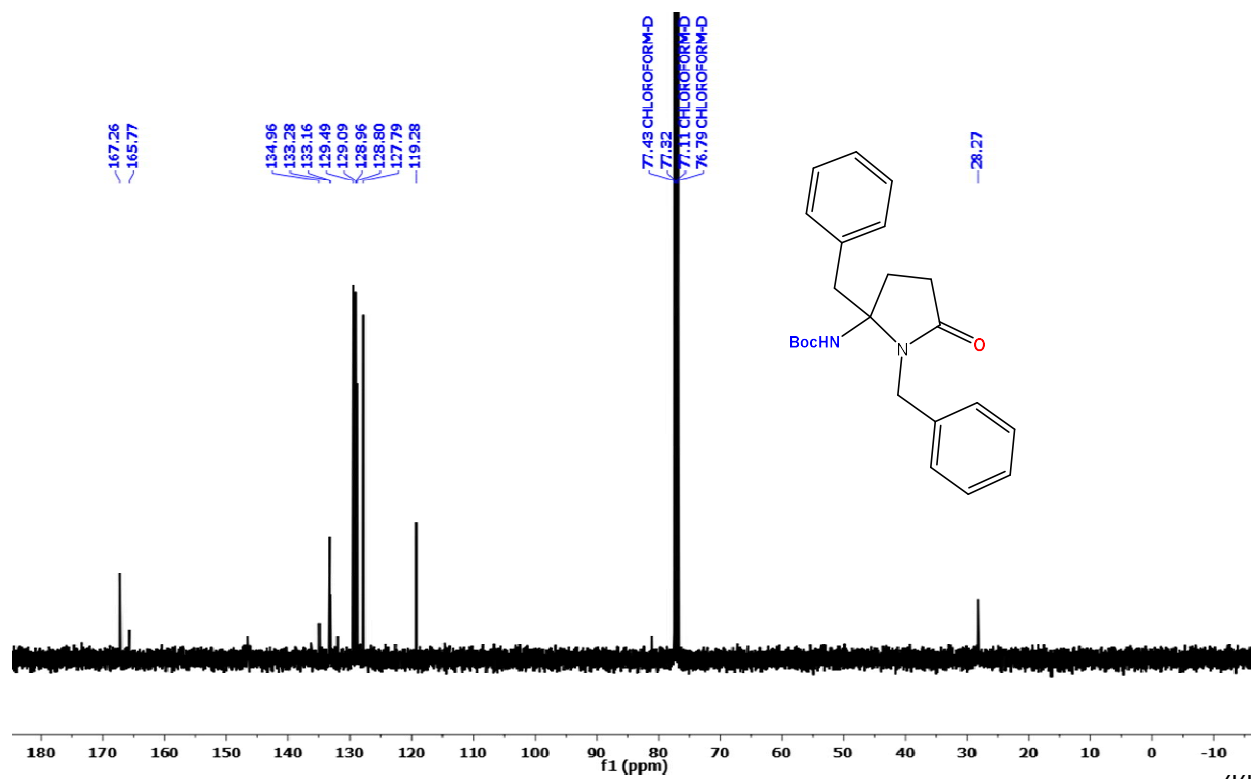
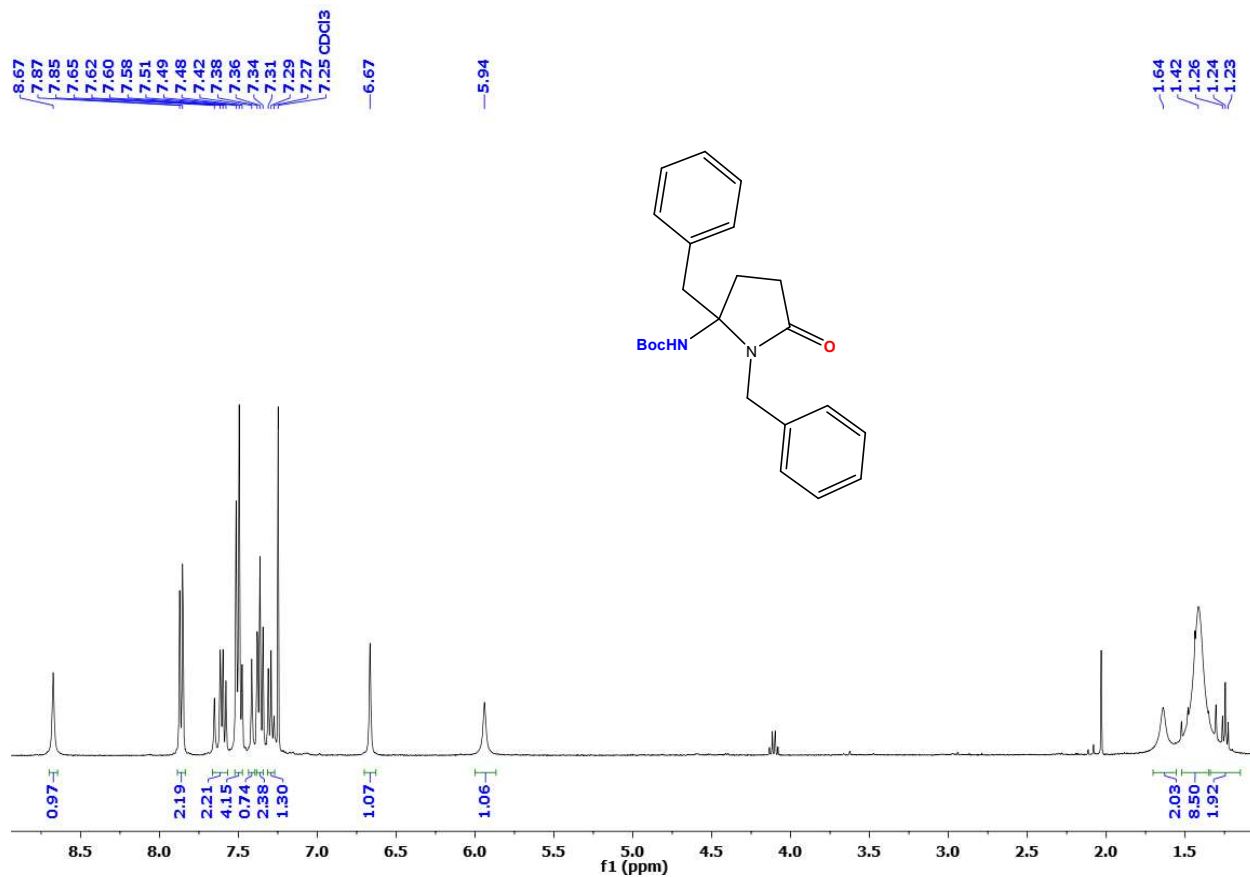


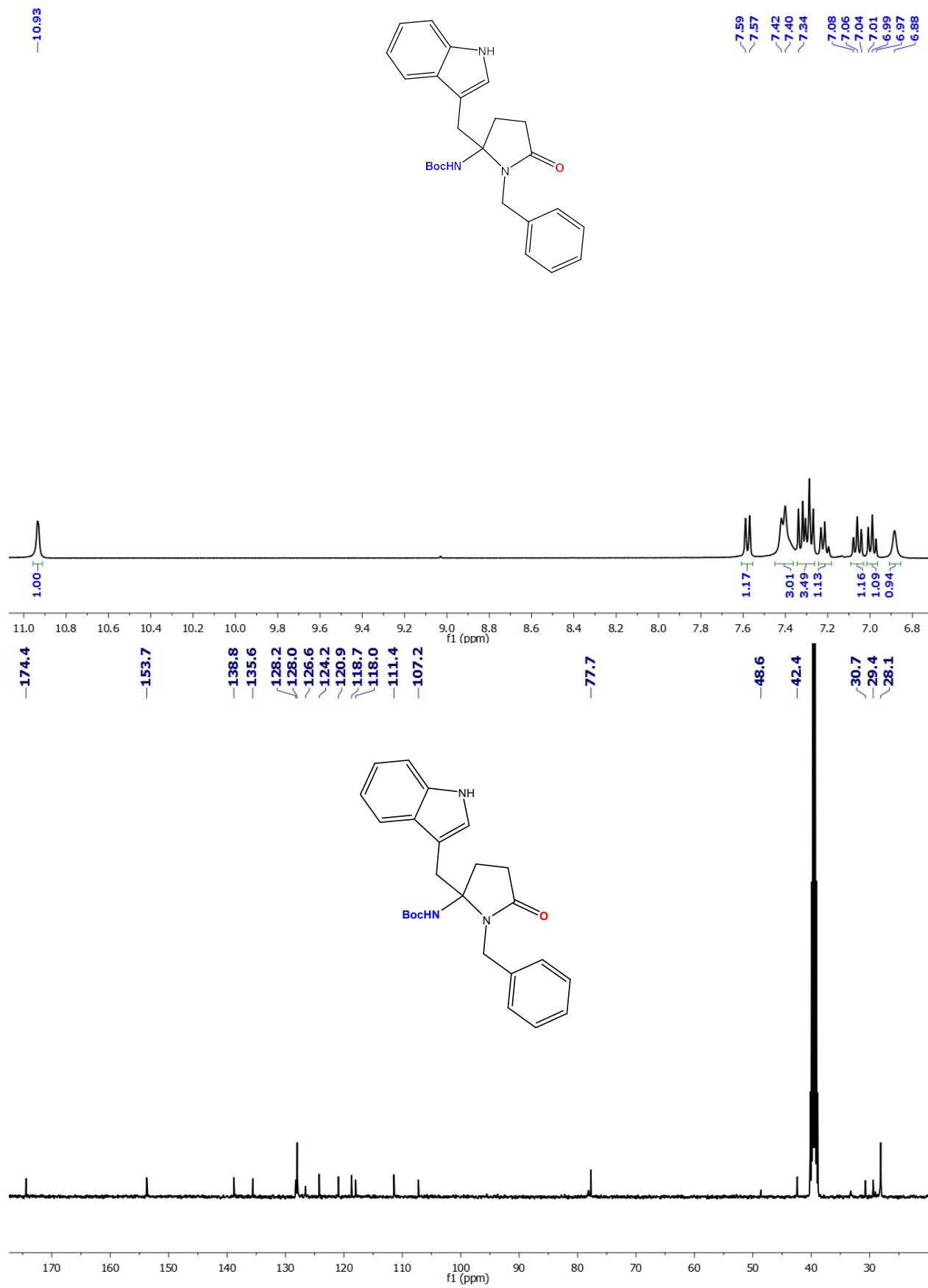




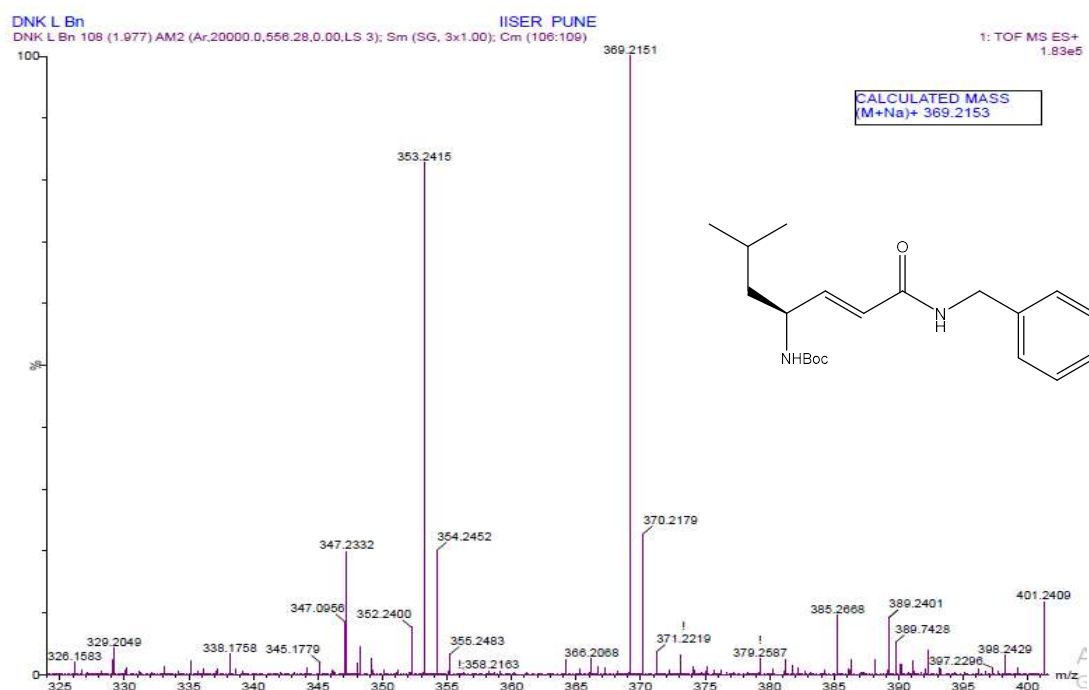
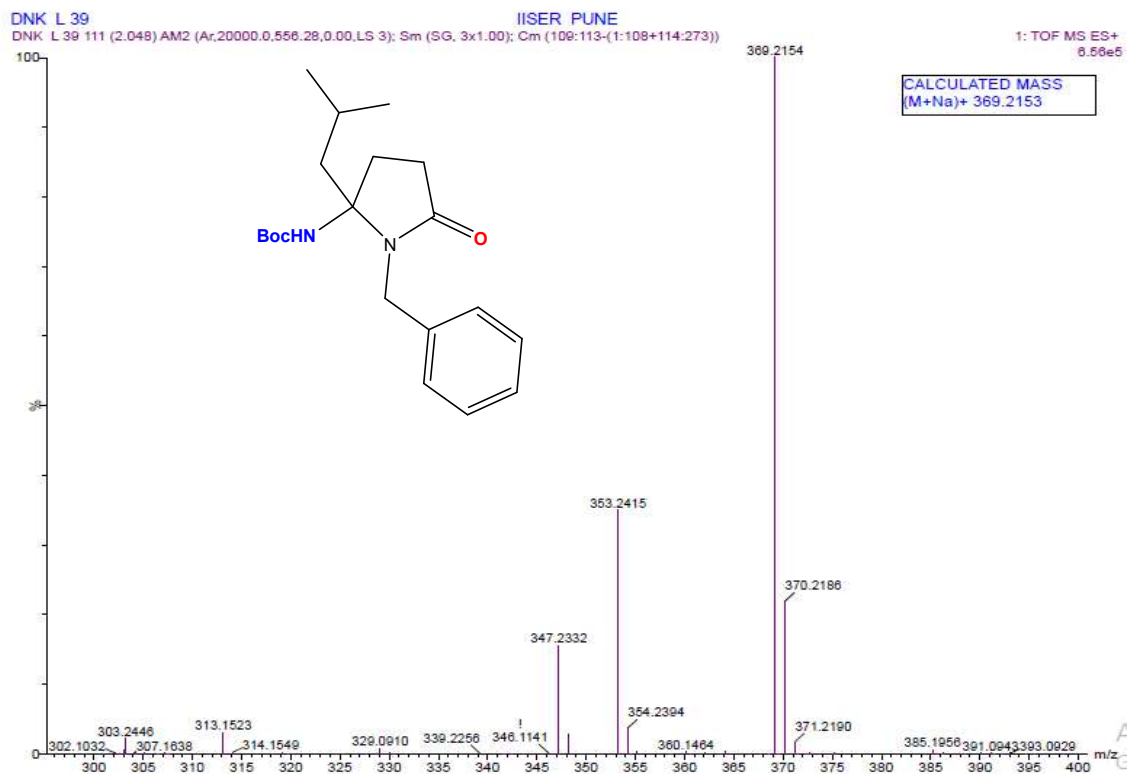








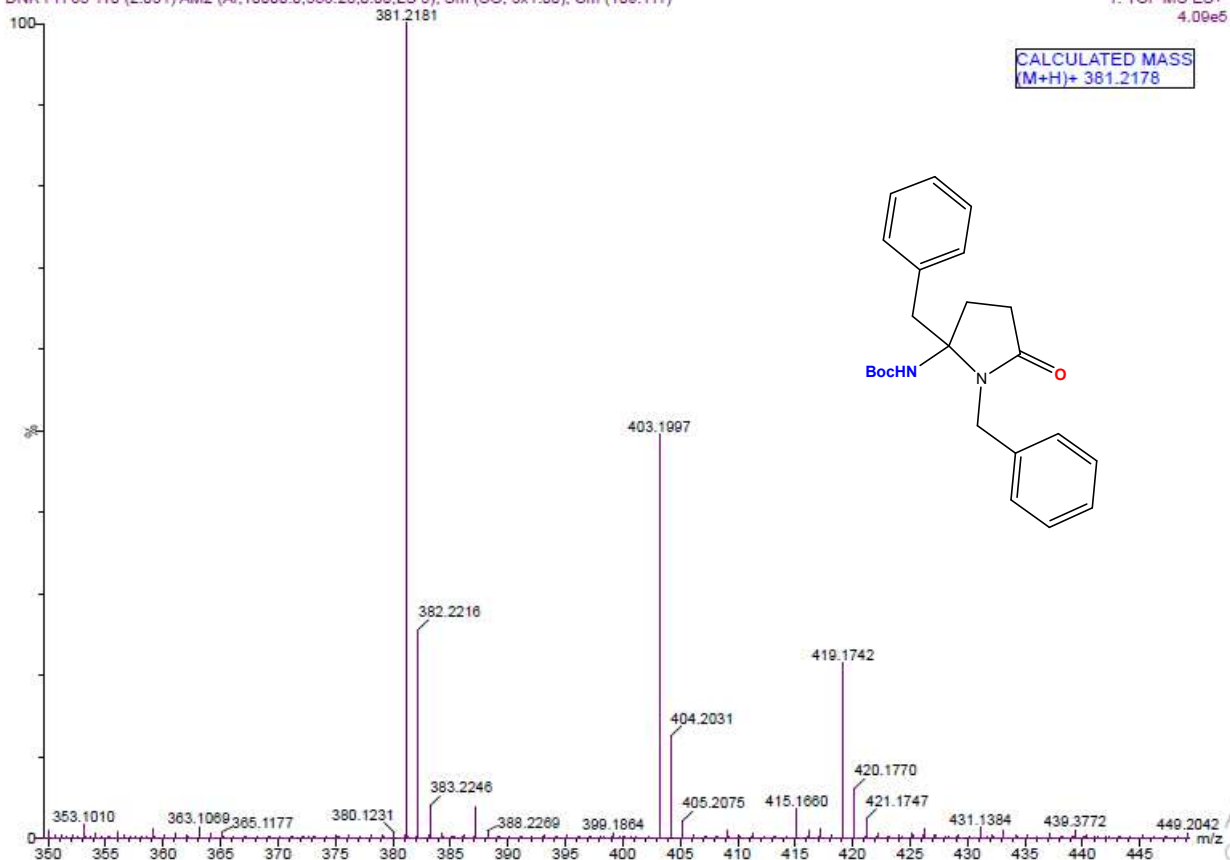
HRMS Spectra of compounds



DNK PH 65

IISER PUNE

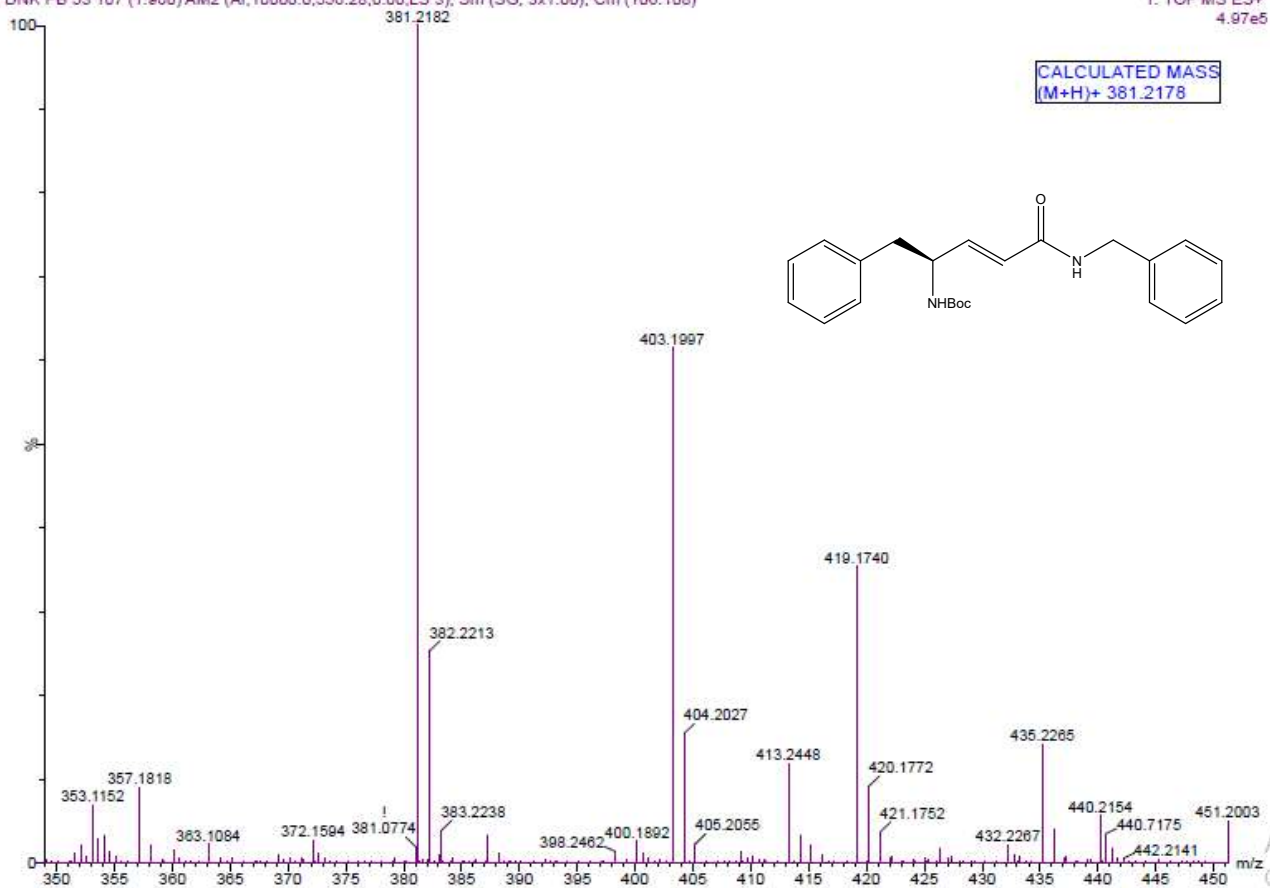
DNK PH 65 110 (2.031) AM2 (Ar,10000.0,556.28,0.00,LS 3); Sm (SG, 3x1.00); Cm (109:111)

1: TOF MS ES+
4.09e5

DNK PB 53

IISER PUNE

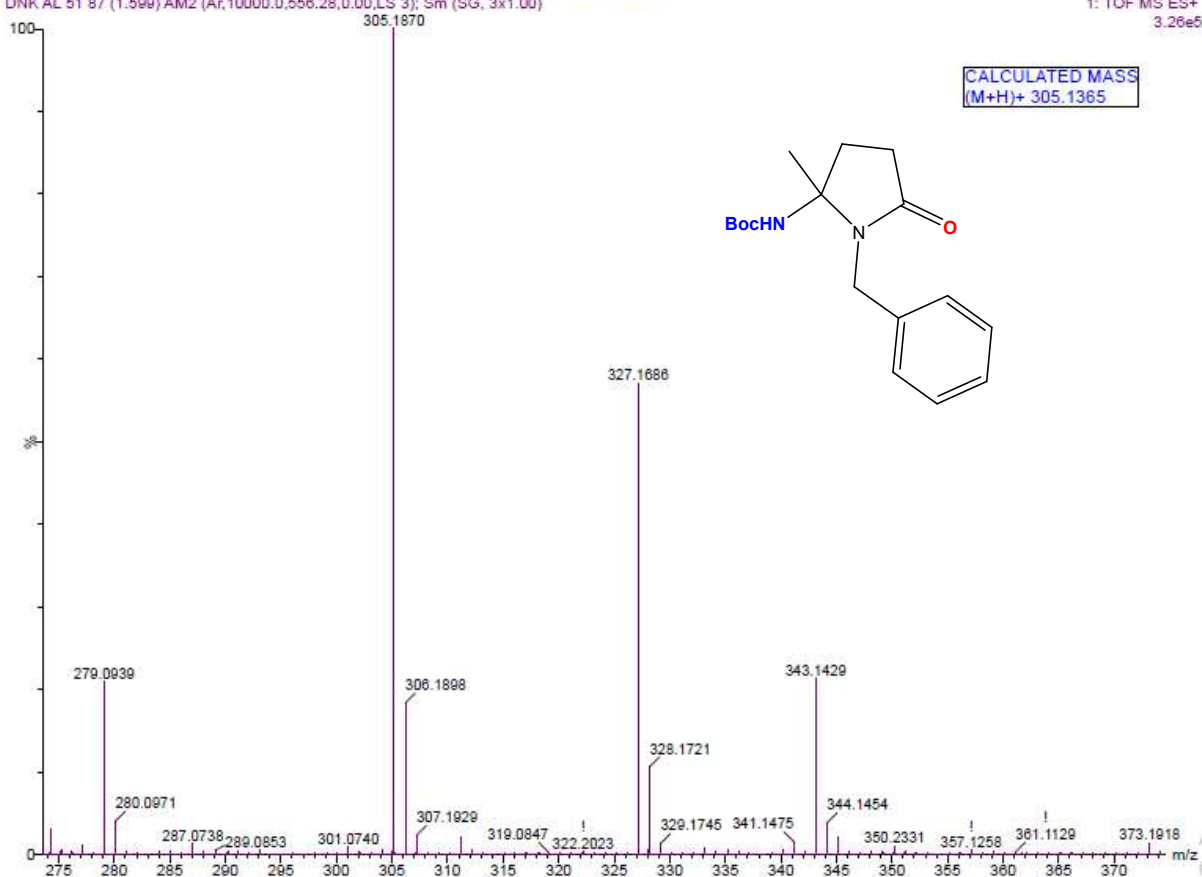
DNK PB 53 107 (1.980) AM2 (Ar,10000.0,556.28,0.00,LS 3); Sm (SG, 3x1.00); Cm (106:108)

1: TOF MS ES+
4.97e5

DNK AL 51

IISER PUNE

DNK AL 51 87 (1.599) AM2 (Ar, 10000.0, 556.28, 0.00, LS 3); Sm (SG, 3x1.00)

1: TOF MS ES+
3.26e5

DNK V 61

IISER PUNE

DNK V 61 97 (1.789) AM2 (Ar, 20000.0, 556.28, 0.00, LS 3); ABS: Sm (SG, 3x1.00); Cm (96:101)

1: TOF MS ES+
1.94e4