

**Synthesis and cytotoxic activity of new hexaazadibenzotetracenes
derived from *trans*-1,2-diaminocyclohexane**

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Ilgiz V. Galyautdinov and Yulia V. Vakhitova**

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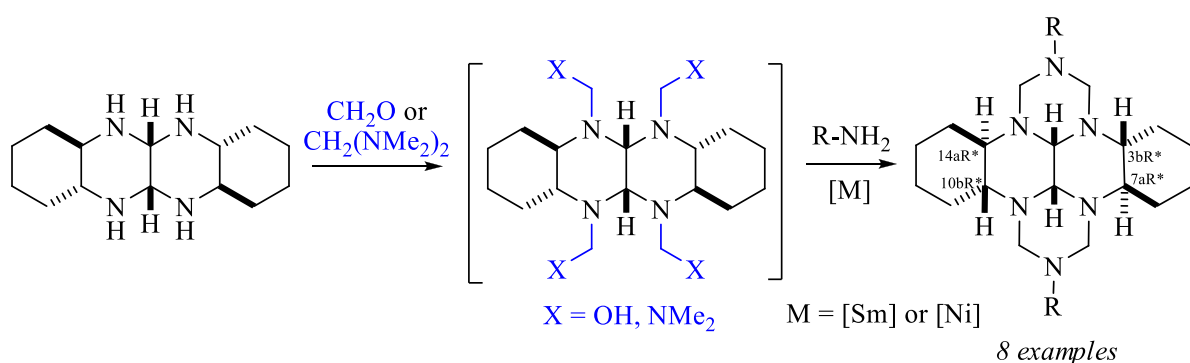
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General information

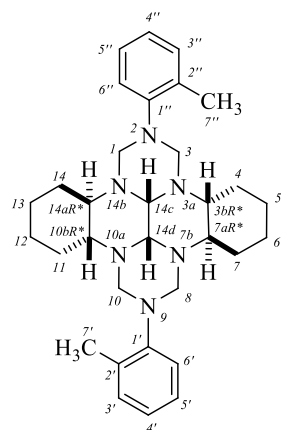
The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra, including two dimensional homo- (COSY) and heteronuclear (HSQC, HMBC) spectra, were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 spectrometer (500.17 MHz for ^1H and 125.78 MHz for ^{13}C) or a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer (400.13 MHz for ^1H and 100.62 MHz for ^{13}C) according to standard Bruker protocols using CDCl_3 as solvent and TMS as internal standard. The high-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker MaXis Impact instrument (TOF mass analyzer, electrospray ionization). The melting points were measured on a PHMK 80/2617 melting point apparatus. Commercially available reagents used in this work were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich and Acros Organics.

Multicomponent condensation of perhydro-1,6,7,12-tetraazatetracene 1 with formaldehyde and substituted anilines (general procedure, method A). A round-bottom flask mounted on a magnetic stirrer was charged with a solution of ($\pm$)-*trans*-cyclohexane-1,2-diamine (0.23 g, 2.00 mmol) in methanol (5 ml), and a solution of 40% aqueous glyoxal (0.14 g, 1.00 mmol) in methanol (5 ml) was added. The mixture was stirred at 70°C for 3 h and cooled, and a solution of 37% aqueous formaldehyde (0.45 ml, 4.00 mmol) in methanol (5 ml) and $\text{Sm}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.022 g, 0.05 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature ($\sim 20^\circ\text{C}$) for 30 min, and a solution of the corresponding amine (2.00 mmol) in methanol (5 ml) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h and concentrated, and the solid product was filtered off and washed with methanol (2×10 ml). Pure compounds **2a–h** were thus isolated as powders.

Heterocyclization of 1,6,7,12-tetraazaperhydrotetracene 1 with *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylmethanediamine and substituted anilines (general procedure, method B). The reaction was conducted similarly to method A, using tetramethylmethanediamine (0.41 g, 4.00 mmol) and $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.012 g, 0.05 mmol).



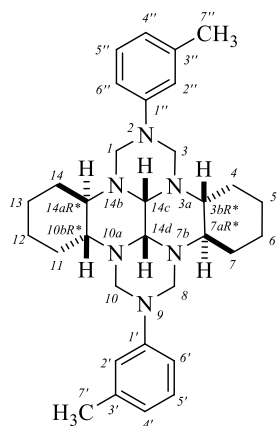
Analytical data for compounds 2a–h



(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,*cis*-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(2-methylphenyl)-octadecahydro-1*H*,8*H*-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[*fg,op*]tetracene

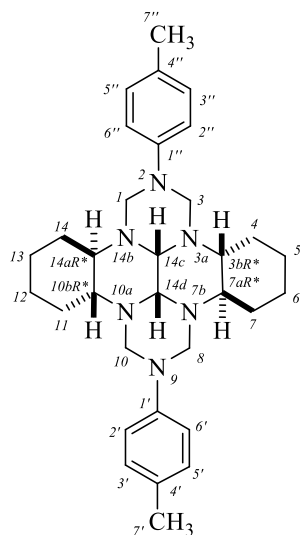
(2a). White powder, 0.24 g (47% yield, method A), 0.20 g (39% yield, method B), mp 220–222 °C, R_f 0.58 (MeOH). ^1H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 0.98 br. s (4H, CH_2 , H_a -4,7,11,14), 1.19–1.31 m (4H, CH_2 , H_a -5,6,12,13), 1.62 br. s (2H, CH_2 , H_b -4,11), 1.73 d (2H, CH_2 , H_b -5,12; $^2J_{ba}$ = 11.6 Hz), 1.85 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 2.01 br. s (2H, CH_2 , H_b -7,14), 2.12 d (2H, CH_2 , H_b -6,13; $^2J_{ba}$ = 9.6 Hz), 2.33 br. s (6H, CH_3 , H-7',7''), 3.23 d (2H, CH, H-3b,10b; 2H, CH_2 , H_a -1,8; $^2J_{ab}$ = 9.2 Hz), 3.52 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.89 d (2H, CH_2 , H_a -3,10;

$^2J_{ab} = 12.8$ Hz), 4.90 d (4H, CH₂, H_b-1,3,8,10; $^2J_{ba} = 11.2$ Hz), 6.71 d (2H, CH, H-5',5''; $J = 6.8$ Hz), 6.80–6.84 m (4H, CH, H-4',4'',6',6''), 7.14 t (2H, CH, H-3',3''; $J = 7.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 21.7$ (C-7',7''), 24.2 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.1 (C-6,13), 28.6 (C-7,14), 55.1 (C-3b,10b), 63.6 (C-7a,14a), 66.7 (C-3,10), 70.1 (C-1,8), 77.9 (C-14c,14d), 114.4 (C-6',6''), 118.1 (C-4',4''), 121.2 (C-5',5''), 128.9 (C-3',3''), 138.7 (C-2',2''), 149.5 (C-1',1''). HRMS, m/z : 511.3544 [$M - \text{H}$]⁺, 535.3516 [$M + \text{Na}$]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆. Calculated: $M - \text{H}$ 511.3549, $M + \text{Na}$ 535.3525.



(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,cis-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(3-methylphenyl)-octadecahydro-1H,8H-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[fg,op]tetracene

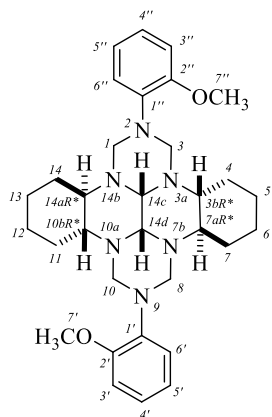
(2b). White powder, 0.28 g (55% yield, method A), 0.23 g (45% yield, method B), mp 224–225 °C, R_f 0.62 (MeOH). ^1H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.96$ –1.01 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-4,7,11,14), 1.19–1.29 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.62 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11), 1.74 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12; $^2J_{ba} = 12$ Hz), 1.82–1.87 m (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 2.02 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14), 2.13 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13; $^2J_{ba} = 12$ Hz), 2.33 br. s (6H, CH₃, H-7',7''), 3.23 d (2H, CH, H-3b,10b; 2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8; $^2J_{ab} = 10$ Hz), 3.52 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.89 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-3,10; $^2J_{ab} = 13.2$ Hz), 4.91 d (4H, CH₂, H_b-1,3,8,10; $^2J_{ba} = 11.6$ Hz), 6.71 d (2H, CH, H-4',4''; $J = 7.6$ Hz), 6.80 br. s (2H, CH, H-2',2''), 6.83 d (2H, CH, H-6',6''; $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.14 t (2H, CH, H-5',5''; $J = 7.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 21.7$ (C-7',7''), 24.2 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.1 (C-6,13), 28.6 (C-7,14), 55.1 (C-3b,10b), 63.7 (C-7a,14a), 66.7 (C-3,10), 70.1 (C-1,8), 77.9 (C-14c,14d), 114.5 (C-6',6''), 118.1 (C-2',2''), 121.2 (C-4',4''), 128.9 (C-5',5''), 138.7 (C-3',3''), 149.5 (C-1',1''). HRMS, m/z : 513.3464 [$M + \text{H}$]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆. Calculated: $M + \text{H}$ 513.3706.



(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,cis-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(4-methylphenyl)-octadecahydro-1H,8H-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[fg,op]tetracene

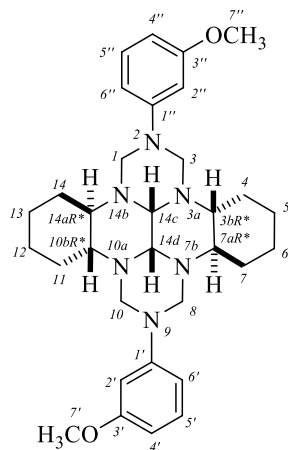
(2c). White powder, 0.42 g (82% yield, method A), 0.31 g (61% yield, method B), mp 226–228 °C, R_f 0.60 (MeOH). ^1H NMR (500.17 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.96$ br. s (4H, CH₂, H_a-4,7,11,14), 1.20–1.29 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.61 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11), 1.71 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12; $^2J_{ba} = 10$ Hz), 1.83 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 1.98 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14), 2.09 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13), 2.29 br. s (6H, CH₃, H-7',7''), 3.23 br. s (2H, CH, H-3b,10b; 2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8), 3.51 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.88 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-3,10; $^2J_{ab} = 12.5$ Hz), 4.85 d (4H,

CH₂, H_b-1,3,8,10; ²J_{ba} = 9.5 Hz), 6.94 d(4H, CH, H-2',2'',6',6''); J = 7 Hz), 7.06 d(4H, CH, H-3',3'',5',5''); J = 7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125.78 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 20.5 (C-7',7''), 24.2 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.1 (C-6,13), 28.5 (C-7,14), 55.2 (C-3b,10b), 63.6 (C-7a,14a), 67.0 (C-3,10), 70.4 (C-1,8), 77.9 (C-14c,14d), 117.7 (C-2',2'',6',6''), 129.5 (C-3',3'',5',5''), 129.8 (C-4',4''), 147.3 (C-1',1''). HRMS, *m/z*: 513.3718 [*M* + H]⁺, 535.3542 [*M* + Na]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆. Calculated: *M* + H 513.3706, *M* + Na 535.3525.



(3b*R,7a*R**,10b*R**,14a*R**,*cis*-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(2-methoxyphenyl)-octadeca-hydro-1*H*,8*H*-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[*fg,op*]tetracene**

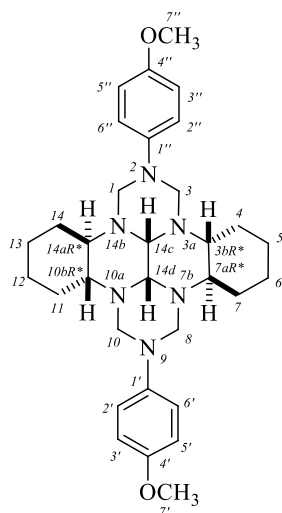
(2d). White powder, 0.33 g (61% yield, method A), 0.29 g (53% yield, method B), mp 230-232 °C, *R*_f 0.64 (MeOH). ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.80–0.90 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-4,7,11,14), 1.15–1.27 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.55 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11; ²J_{ba} = 12 Hz), 1.67 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12; ²J_{ba} = 12.4 Hz), 1.77 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 1.87 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14; ²J_{ba} = 10 Hz), 2.11 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13; ²J_{ba} = 11.6 Hz), 3.30–3.35 m (2H, CH, H-3b,10b), 3.42 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8; ²J_{ab} = 10.4 Hz), 3.56 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.87 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_a-3,10; 6H, CH₃, H-7',7''), 4.79 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-1,8; ²J_{ba} = 10 Hz), 5.99 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-3,10; ²J_{ba} = 13.6 Hz), 6.85 d (2H, CH, H-3',3''); J = 8 Hz), 6.91–6.97 m (4H, CH, H-4',4'',5',5''), 7.41 d (2H, CH, H-6',6''); J = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.4 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.3 (C-6,13), 28.1 (C-7,14), 55.5 (C-7',7''), 55.9 (C-3b,10b), 63.6 (C-7a,14a), 65.2 (C-3,10), 71.2 (C-1,8), 78.1 (C-14c,14d), 111.1 (C-3',3''), 119.7 (C-6',6''), 121.3 (C-5',5''), 122.6 (C-4',4''), 139.4 (C-1',1''), 151.7 (C-2',2''). HRMS, *m/z*: 545.3564 [*M* + H]⁺, 567.3380 [*M* + Na]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆O₂. Calculated: *M* + H 545.3604, *M* + Na 567.3423.



(3b*R,7a*R**,10b*R**,14a*R**,*cis*-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-octadeca-hydro-1*H*,8*H*-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[*fg,op*]tetracene**

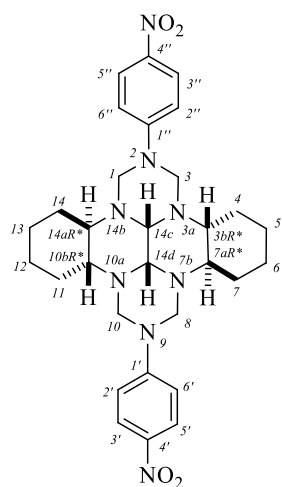
(2e). White powder, 0.27 g (50% yield, method A), 0.23 g (42% yield, method B), mp 231-233 °C, *R*_f 0.61 (MeOH). ¹H NMR (500.17 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.95 br. s (4H, CH₂, H_a-4,7,11,14), 1.20–1.29 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.62 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11), 1.71 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12; ²J_{ba} = 12 Hz), 1.82 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 1.99 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14), 2.11 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13; ²J_{ba} = 10.5 Hz), 3.18 br. s (2H, CH, H-3b,10b), 3.25 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8; ²J_{ab} = 10.5 Hz), 3.52 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.81 br. s (6H, CH₃, H-7',7''), 3.92 d (2H, CH₂,

H_a-3,10; ²J_{ab} = 13 Hz), 4.88–4.93 m (4H, CH₂, H_b-1,3,8,10), 6.44 d and 6.45 d (2H, CH, H-4',4''; J = 8 Hz), 6.57 br. s (2H, CH, H-2',2''), 6.63 d (2H, CH, H-6',6''; J = 8 Hz), 7.16 d (2H, CH, H-5',5''; J = 8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125.78 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.2 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.2 (C-6,13), 28.6 (C-7,14), 55.1 (C-3b,10b), 55.2 (C-7',7''), 63.6 (C-7a,14a), 66.5 (C-3,10), 69.8 (C-1,8), 77.9 (C-14c,14d), 103.8 (C-2',2''), 104.9 (C-4',4''), 110.2 (C-6',6''), 129.7 (C-5',5''), 151.0 (C-1',1''), 160.4 (C-3',3''). HRMS, *m/z*: 545.3608 [*M* + H]⁺, 567.3430 [*M* + Na]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆O₂. Calculated: *M* + H 545.3604, *M* + Na 567.3423.



(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,cis-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-octadecaahydro-1H,8H-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[fg,op]tetracene

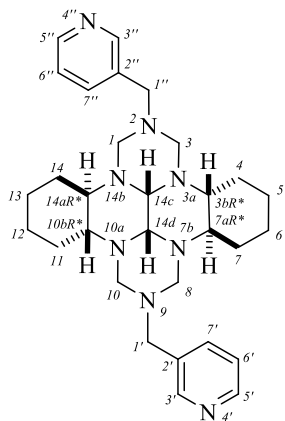
(2f). White powder, 0.46 g (85% yield, method A), 0.33 g (62% yield, method B), mp 228–229 °C, *R*_f 0.63 (MeOH). ¹H NMR (500.17 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.96 br. s (4H, CH₂, H_a-4,7,11,14), 1.19–1.28 m (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.60 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11), 1.71 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12; ²J_{ba} = 10.5 Hz), 1.81 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a), 1.95 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14), 2.09 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13; ²J_{ba} = 9 Hz), 3.23 br. s (2H, CH, H-3b,10b; 2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8), 3.50 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.78 br. s (6H, CH₃, H-7',7''), 3.86 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-3,10; ²J_{ab} = 12.5 Hz), 4.74–4.79 m (4H, CH₂, H_b-1,3,8,10), 6.82 d (4H, CH, H-2',2'',6',6''; J = 7 Hz), 7.01 d (4H, CH, H-3',3'',5',5''; J = 7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125.78 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.3 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 27.2 (C-6,13), 28.4 (C-7,14), 55.3 (C-3b,10b), 55.6 (C-7',7''), 63.6 (C-7a,14a), 67.6 (C-3,10), 71.0 (C-1,8), 77.8 (C-14c,14d), 114.3 (C-2',2'',6',6''), 119.6 (C-3',3'',5',5''), 143.7 (C-1',1''), 154.1 (C-4',4''). HRMS, *m/z*: 545.3572 [*M* + H]⁺, 567.3394 [*M* + Na]⁺. C₃₂H₄₄N₆O₂. Calculated: *M* + H 545.3604, *M* + Na 567.3423.



(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,cis-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(4-nitrophenyl)octadecaahydro-1H,8H-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[fg,op]tetracene (2g).

Orange powder, 0.51 g (89% yield, method A), 0.36 g (63% yield, method B), mp 202–203 °C, *R*_f 0.58 (MeOH). ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.81 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_a-4,11), 0.99 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-7,14; ²J_{ba} = 11.2 Hz), 1.23 br. s (4H, CH₂, H_a-5,6,12,13), 1.63 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-4,11), 1.74 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-5,12), 1.87 br. s (2H, CH, H-7a,14a; 2H, CH₂, H_b-7,14), 2.12 br. s (2H, CH₂, H_b-6,13), 2.89 br. s (2H, CH, H-3b,10b), 3.39 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-1,8; ²J_{ab} = 10 Hz), 3.58 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 4.10 d (2H, CH₂, H_a-3,10; ²J_{ab} = 12.8 Hz), 5.01 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-1,8; ²J_{ba} = 9.6 Hz), 5.10 d (2H, CH₂, H_b-3,10; ²J_{ba} = 12.8 Hz), 6.95 br. s (4H, CH,

H-2',2'',6',6''), 8.15 br. s (4H, CH, H-3',3'',5',5''). ^{13}C NMR (100.62 Hz, CDCl_3): δ = 24.1 (C-4,11), 24.3 (C-5,12), 27.1 (C-6,13), 28.6 (C-7,14), 54.9 (C-3b,10b), 63.3 (C-7a,14a), 65.1 (C-3,10), 67.9 (C-1,8), 77.9 (C-14c,14d), 114.5 (C-2',2'',6',6''), 125.8 (C-3',3'',5',5''), 139.5 (C-4',4''), 154.2 (C-1',1''). HRMS, m/z : 573.2984 $[M - \text{H}]^+$, 597.3815 $[M + \text{Na}]^+$. $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_8\text{O}_4$. Calculated: $M - \text{H}$ 573.2938, $M + \text{Na}$ 597.2914.



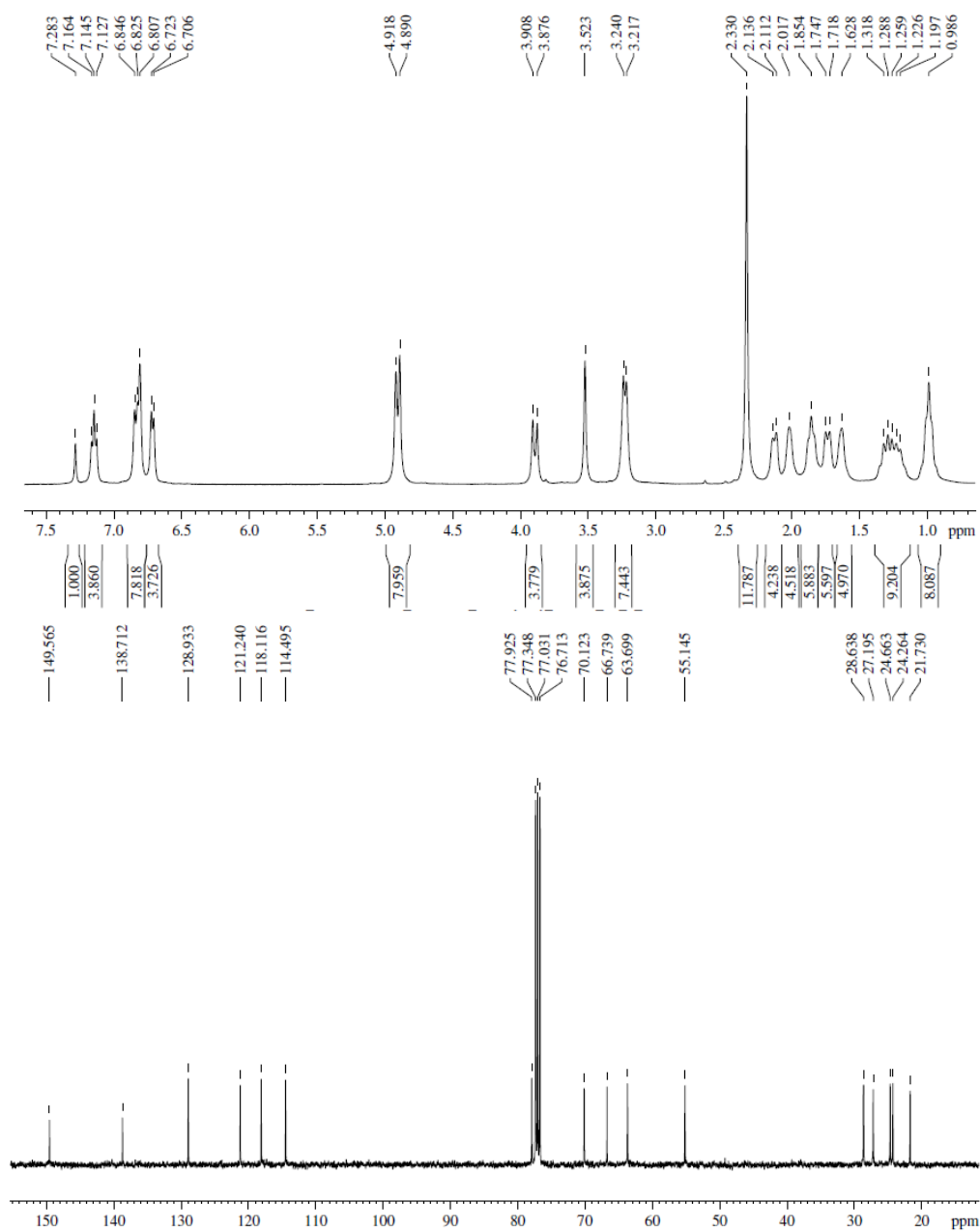
(3bR*,7aR*,10bR*,14aR*,cis-14c,14d)-2,9-Bis(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-

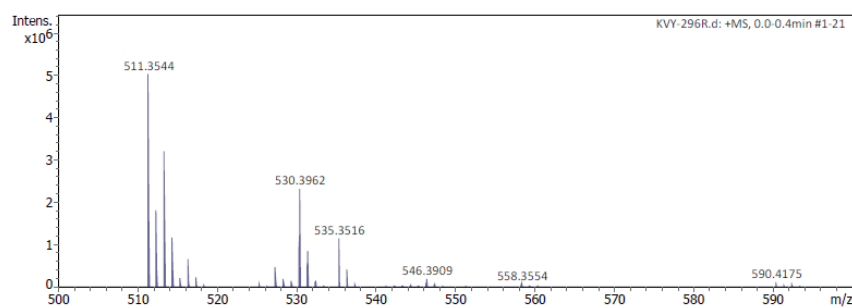
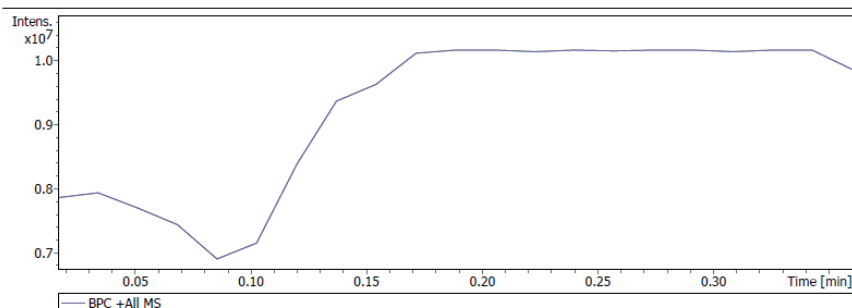
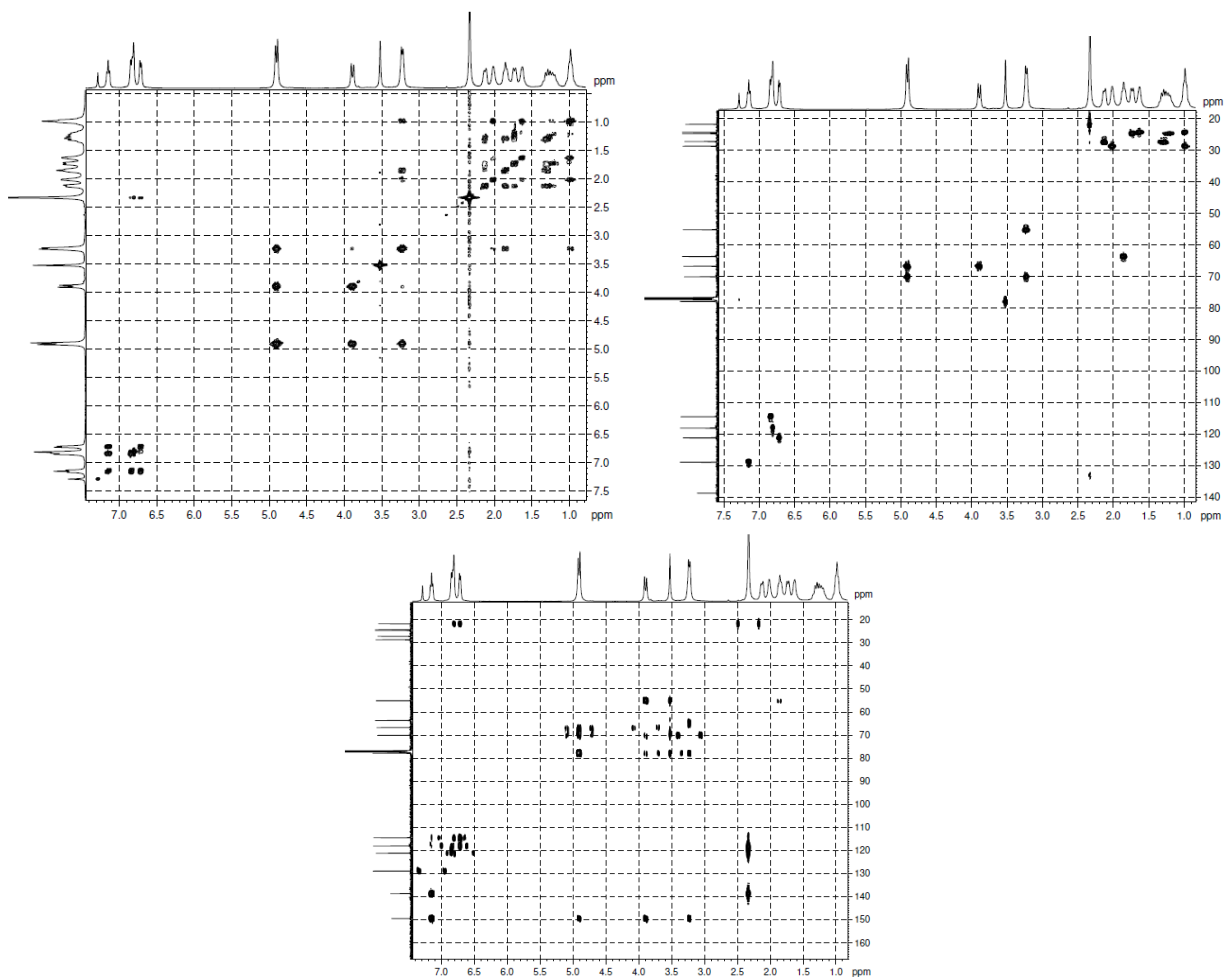
octadecahydro-1H,8H-2,3a,7b,9,10a,14b-hexaazadibenzo[fg,op]tetracene

(2h). White powder, 0.23 g (45% yield, method A), 0.19 g (37% yield, method B), mp 260-262 °C, R_f 0.65 (MeOH). ^1H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 0.77–0.86 m (2H, CH_2 , H_a -7,14), 1.15–1.18 m (2H, CH_2 , H_a -4,11), 1.22–1.29 m (4H, CH_2 , H_a -5,6,12,13), 1.63–1.77 m (2H, CH, H-7a,14a; 6H, CH_2 , H_b -4,5,7,11,12,14), 1.87 d (2H, CH_2 , H_b -6,13; $^2J_{ba}$ = 11.6 Hz), 2.48 d (2H, CH_2 , H_a -1,8; $^2J_{ab}$ = 8 Hz), 3.07 d (2H, CH_2 , H_a -3,10; $^2J_{ab}$ = 12 Hz), 3.34 br. s (2H, CH, H-14c,14d), 3.36–3.39 m (2H, CH, H-3b,10b), 3.49 d (4H, CH_2 , H-1',1''; 2J = 13.6 Hz), 4.01 d (2H, CH_2 , H_b -3,10; $^2J_{ba}$ = 11.6 Hz), 4.20 d (2H, CH_2 , H_b -1,8; $^2J_{ba}$ = 7.6 Hz), 7.24–7.28 m (2H, CH, H-6',6''), 7.73 d (2H, CH, H-7',7''; J = 7.6 Hz), 8.52 d (4H, CH, H-3',3'',5',5''); J = 8 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100.62 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 24.2 (C-4,11), 24.6 (C-5,12), 26.9 (C-6,13), 28.2 (C-7,14), 54.4 (C-1',1''), 55.4 (C-3b,10b), 63.9 (C-7a,14a), 68.6 (C-3,10), 74.4 (C-1,8), 77.4 (C-14c,14d), 123.3 (C-6',6''), 133.6 (C-2',2''), 136.3 (C-7',7''), 148.9 (C-5',5''), 150.0 (C-3',3'').

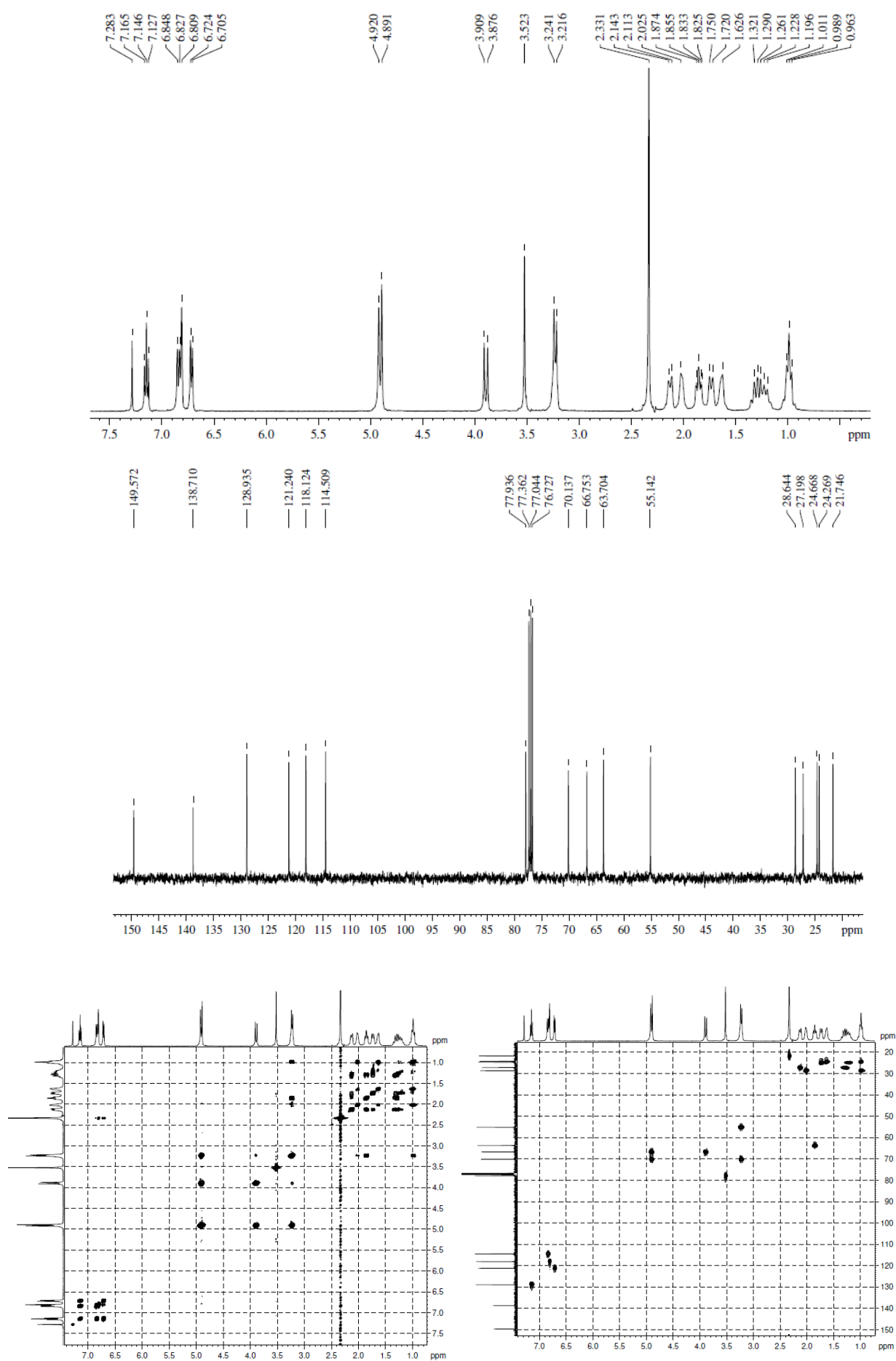
NMR and MS spectra of compounds 2a–h

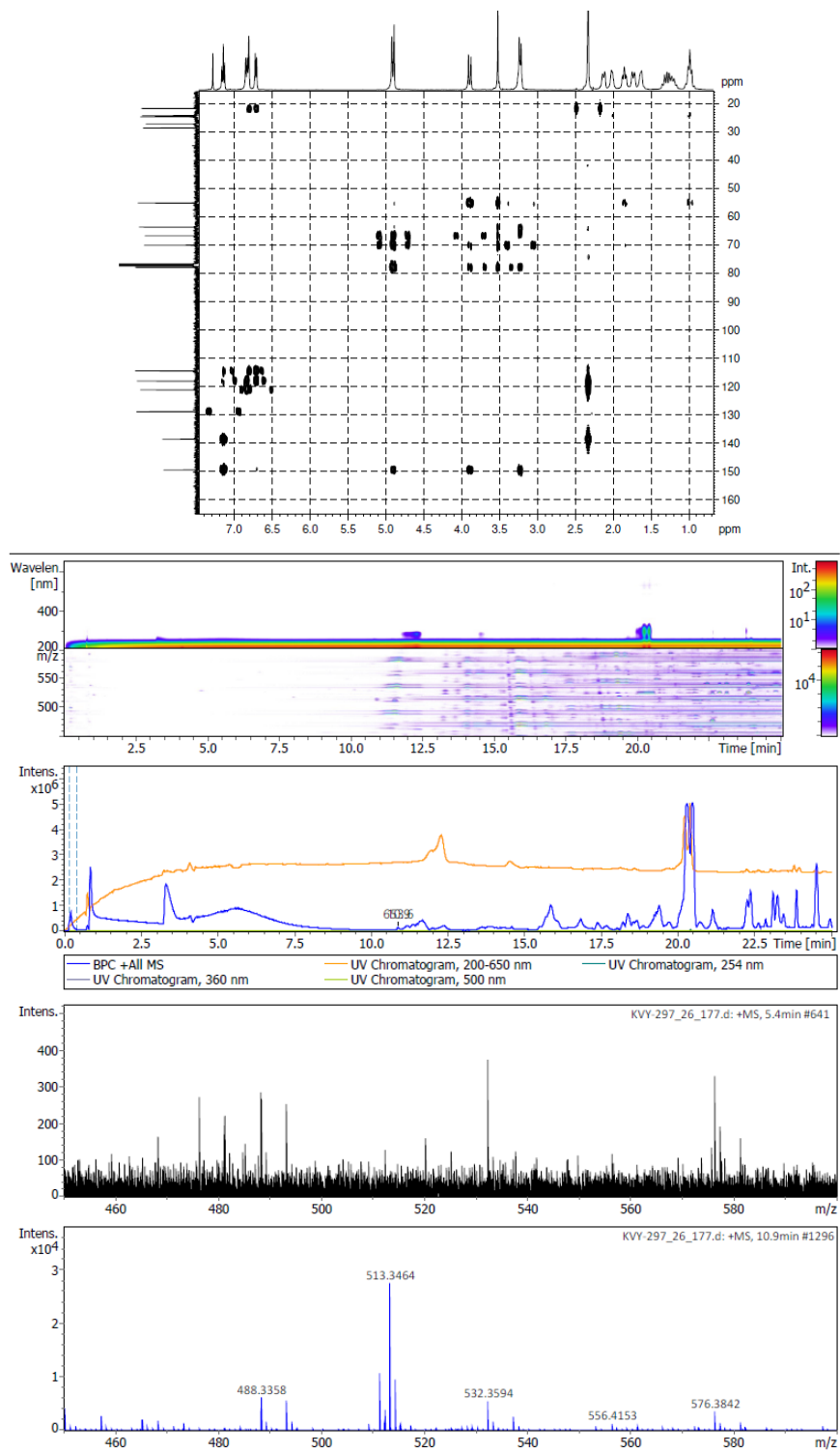
FigureS1. NMR and MS spectra of compound 2a



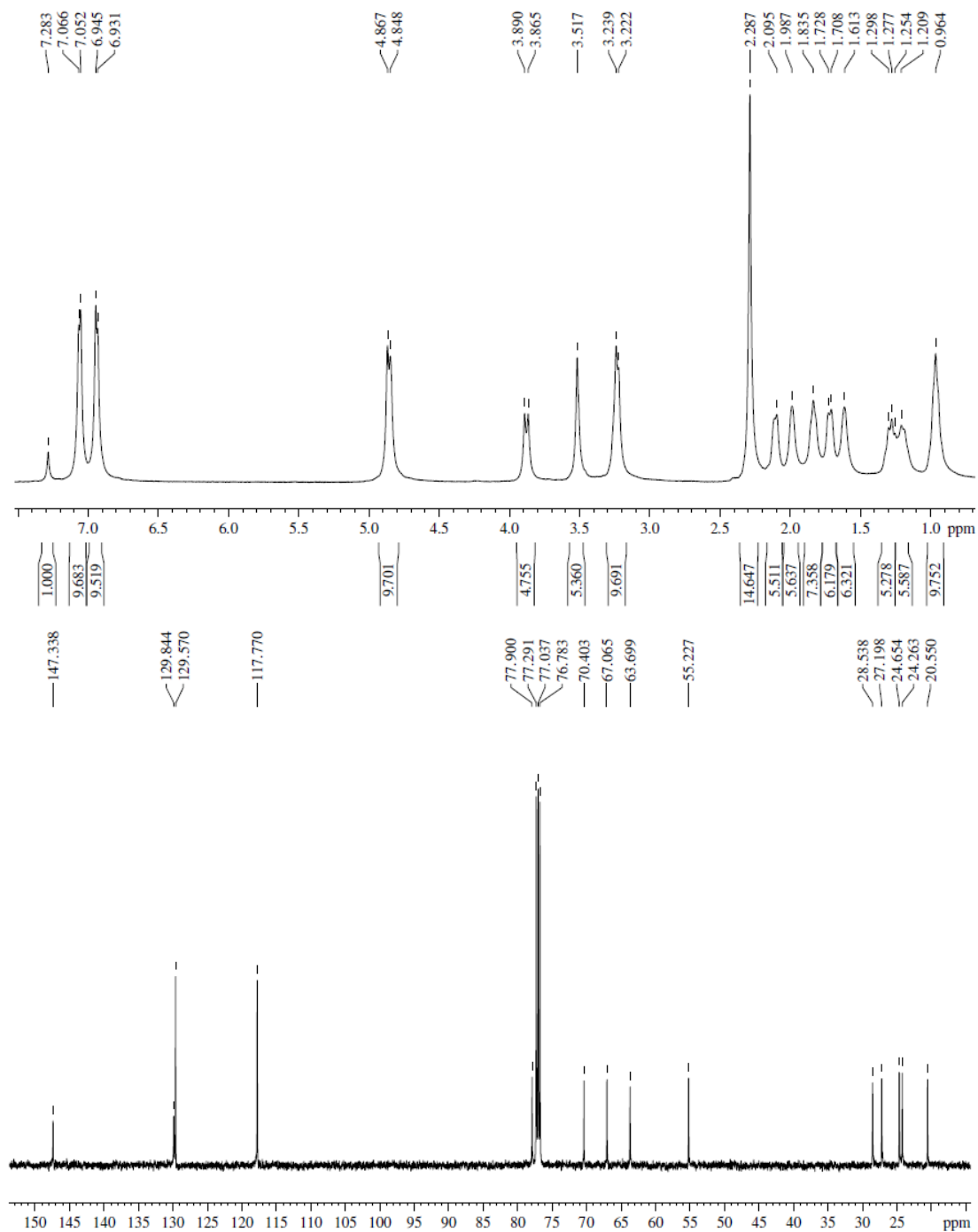


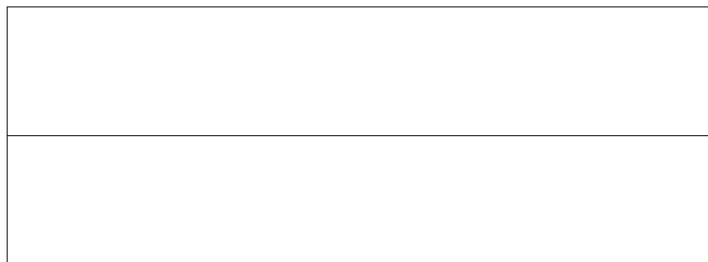
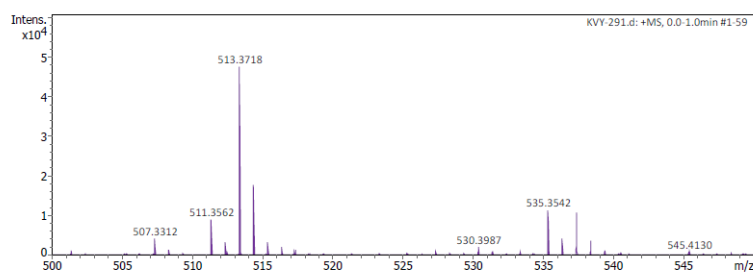
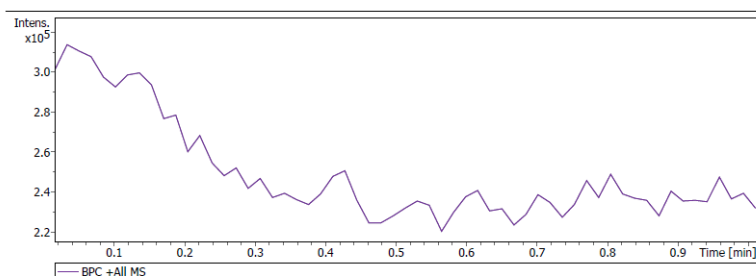
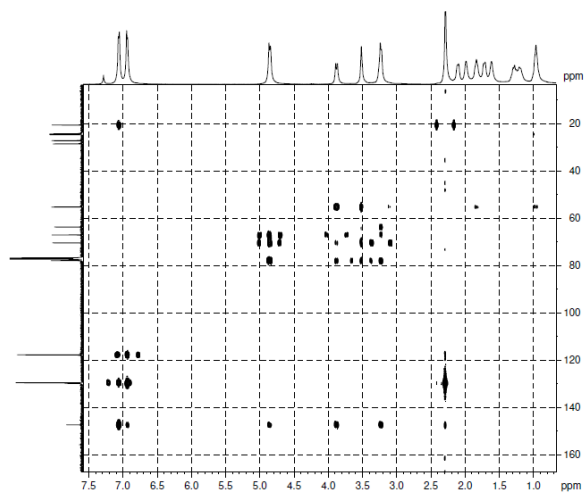
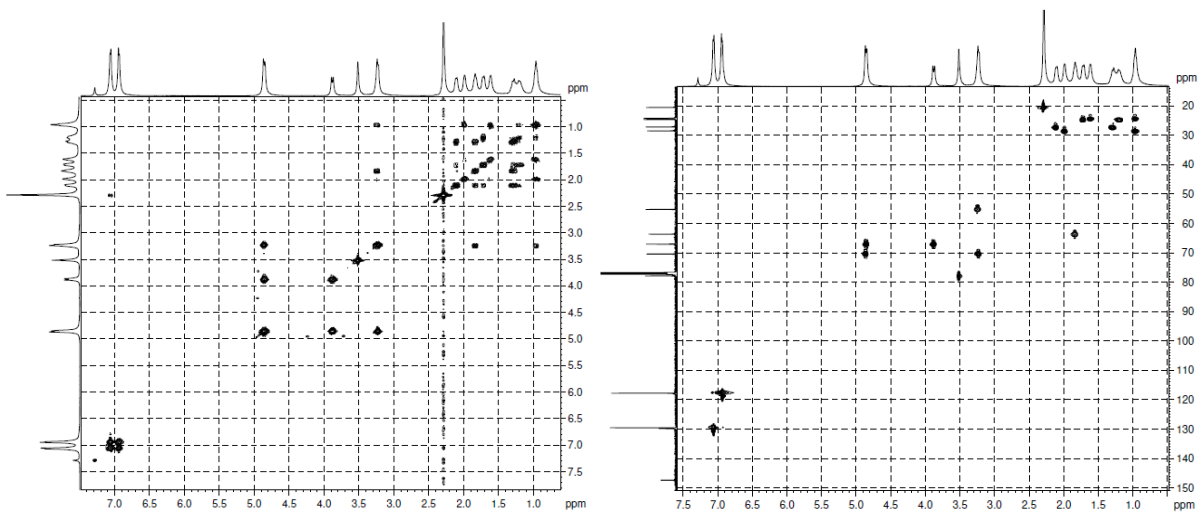
FigureS2. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2b**



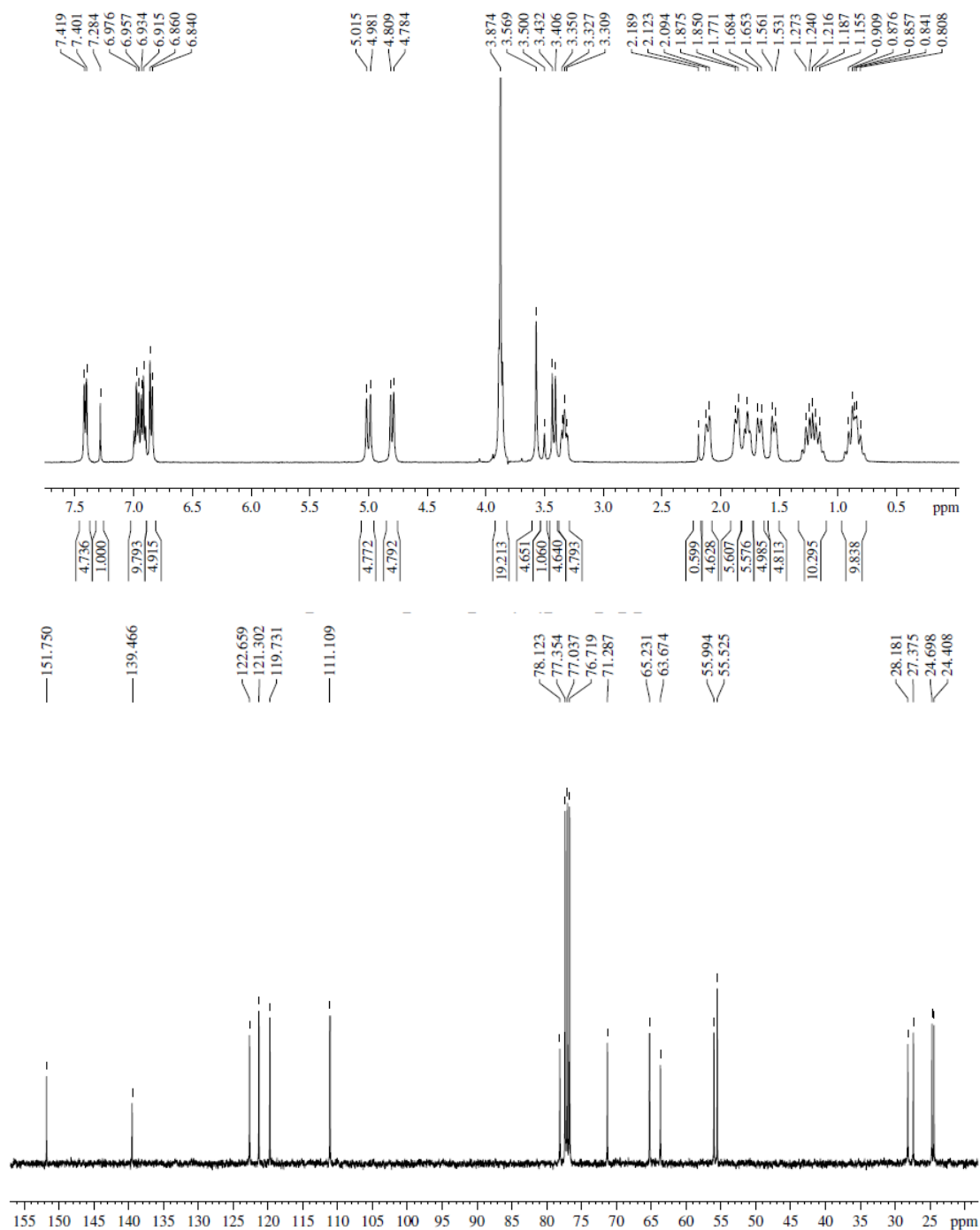


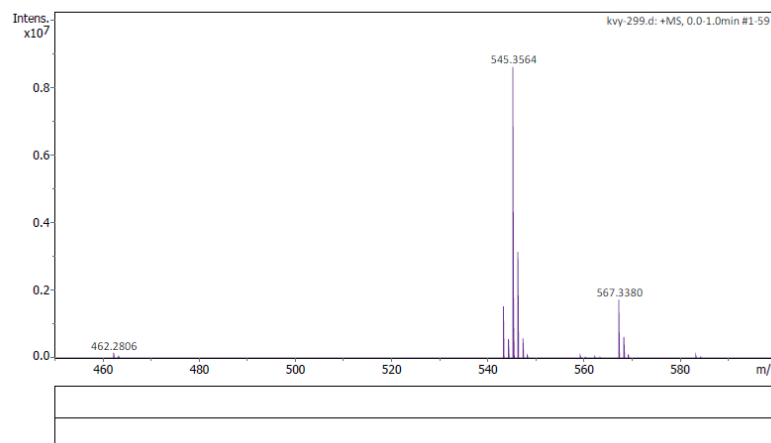
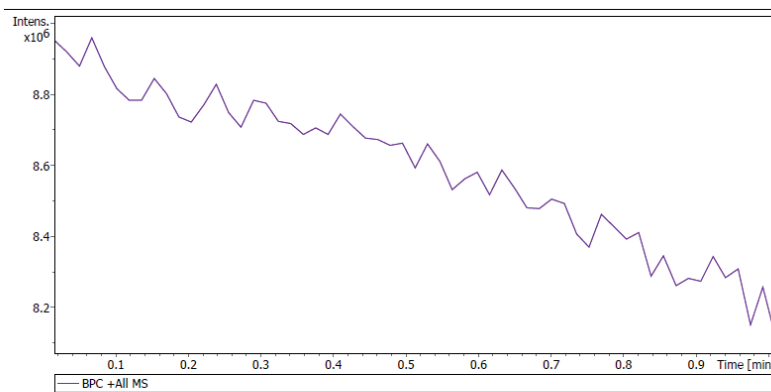
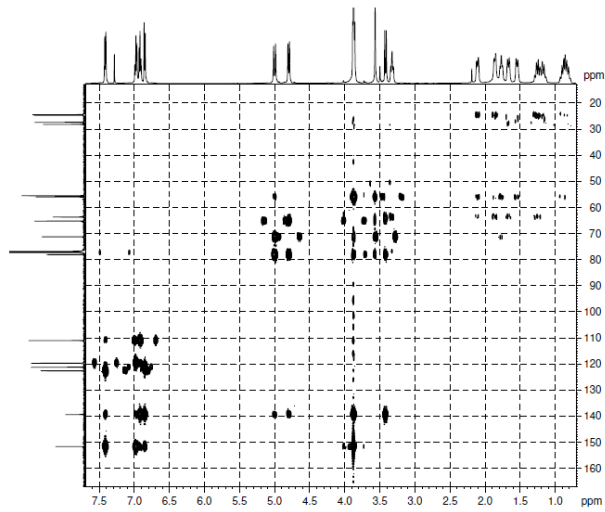
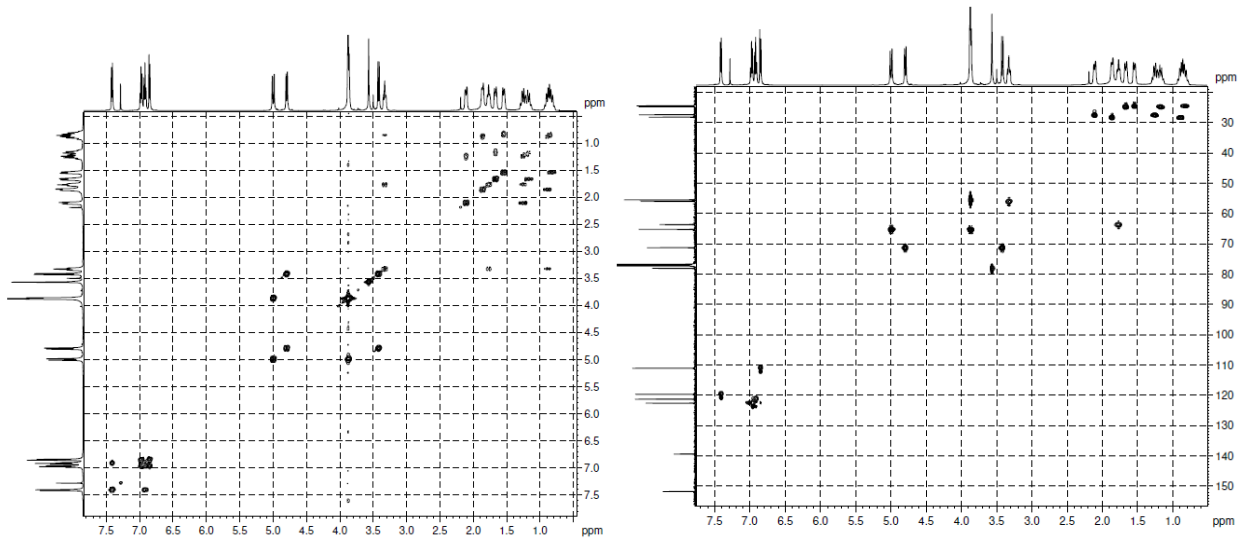
FigureS3. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2c**



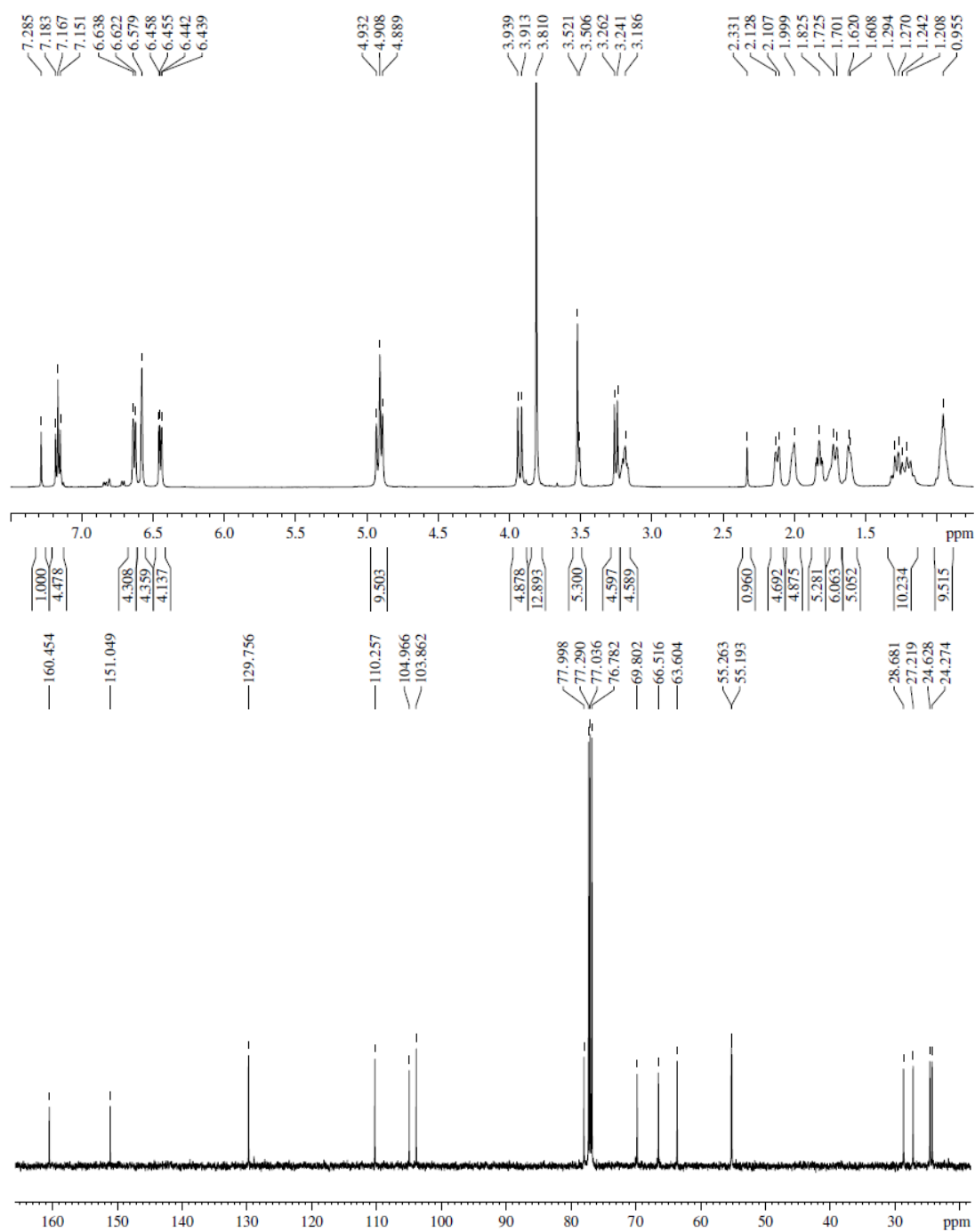


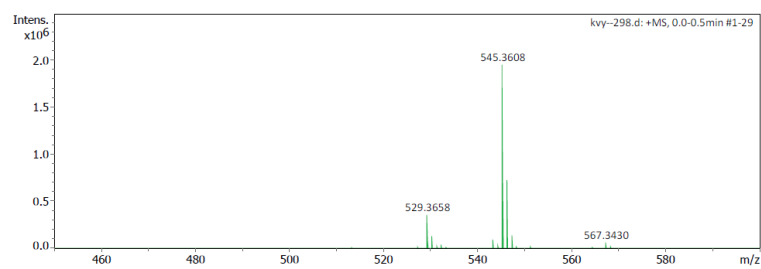
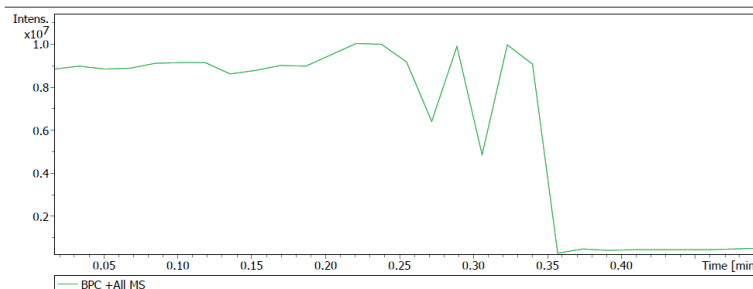
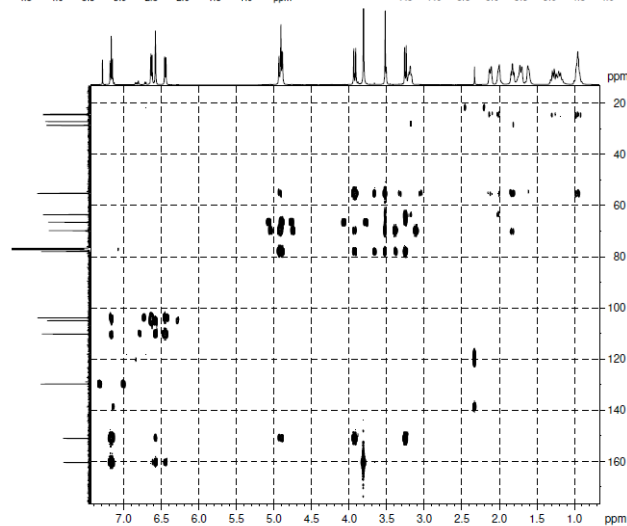
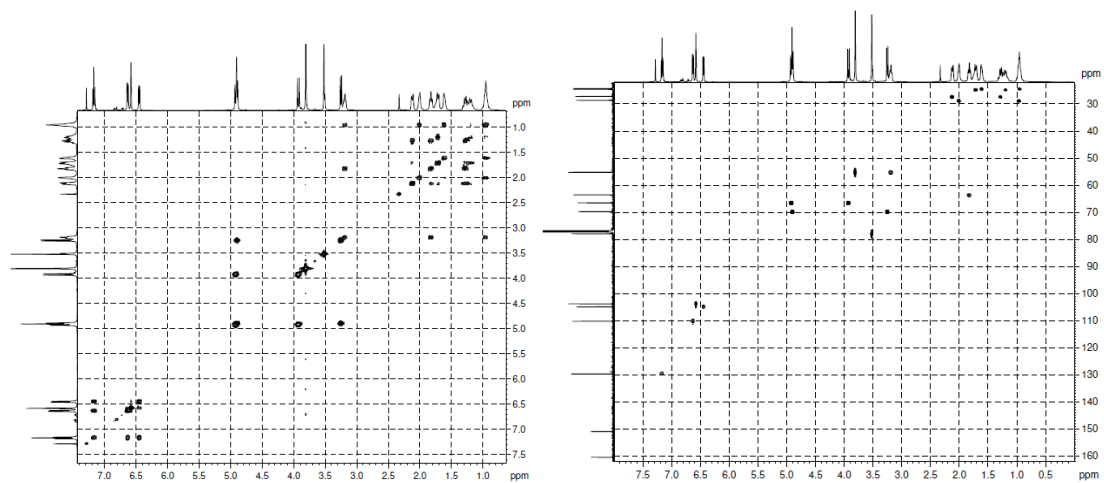
FigureS4. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2d**



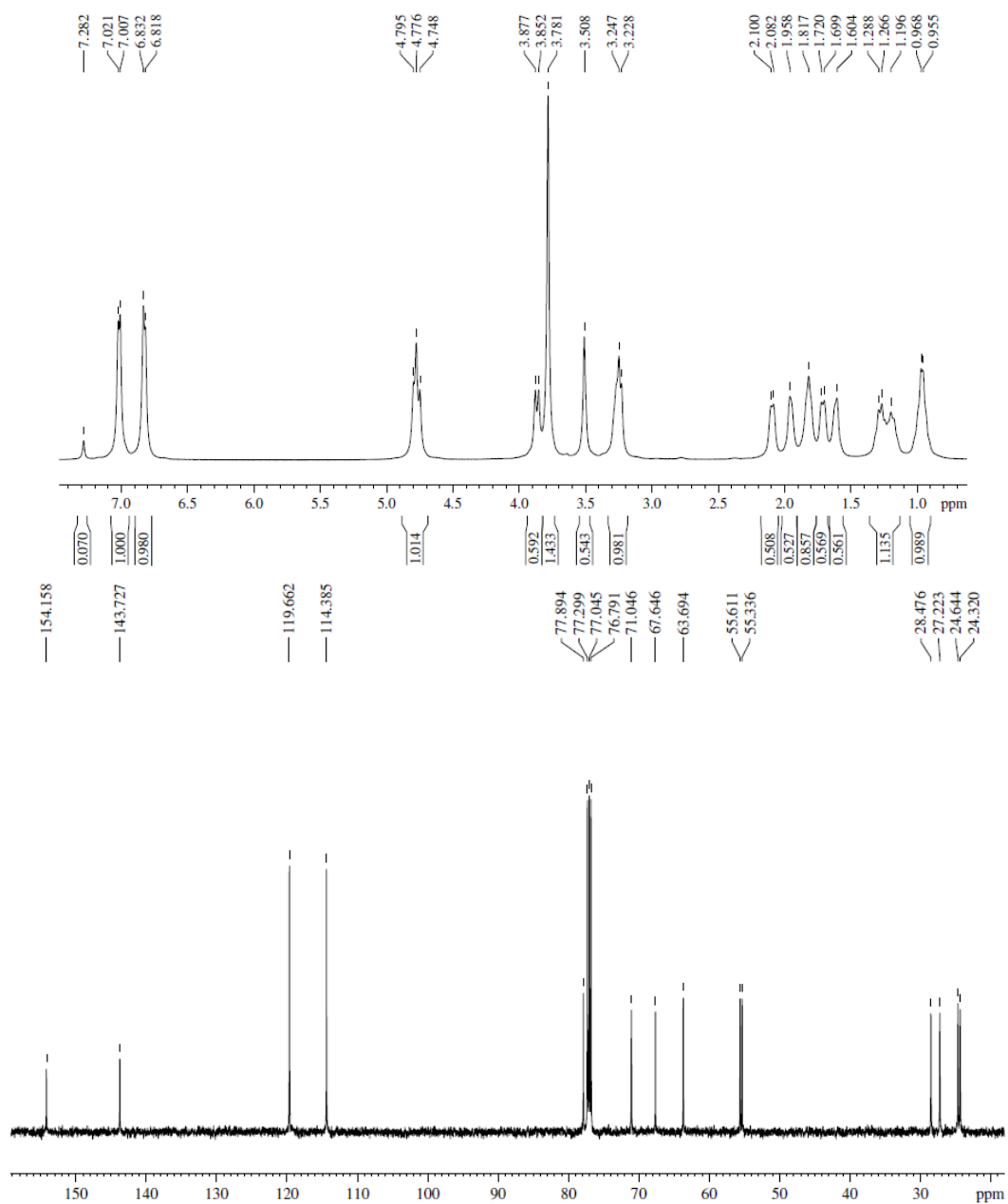


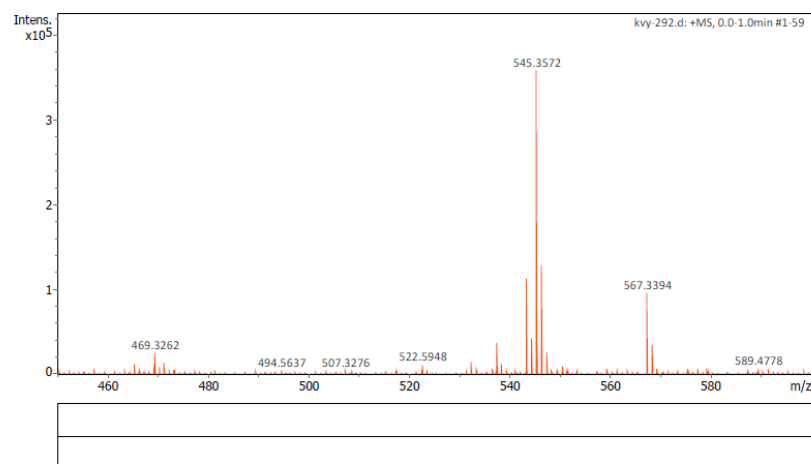
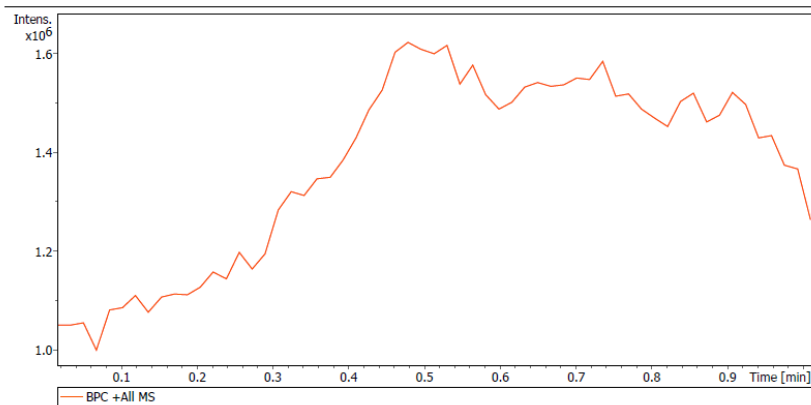
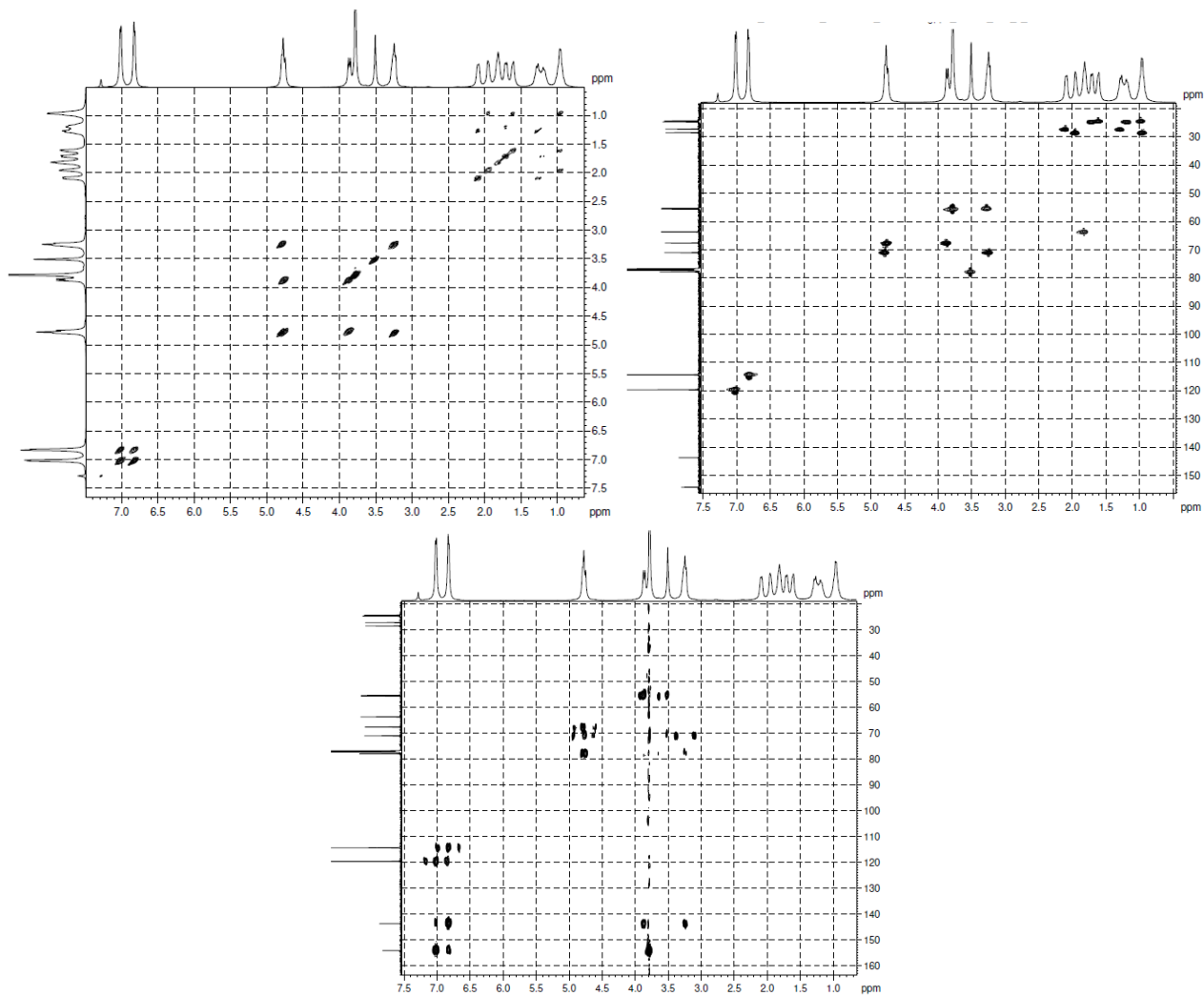
FigureS5. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2e**



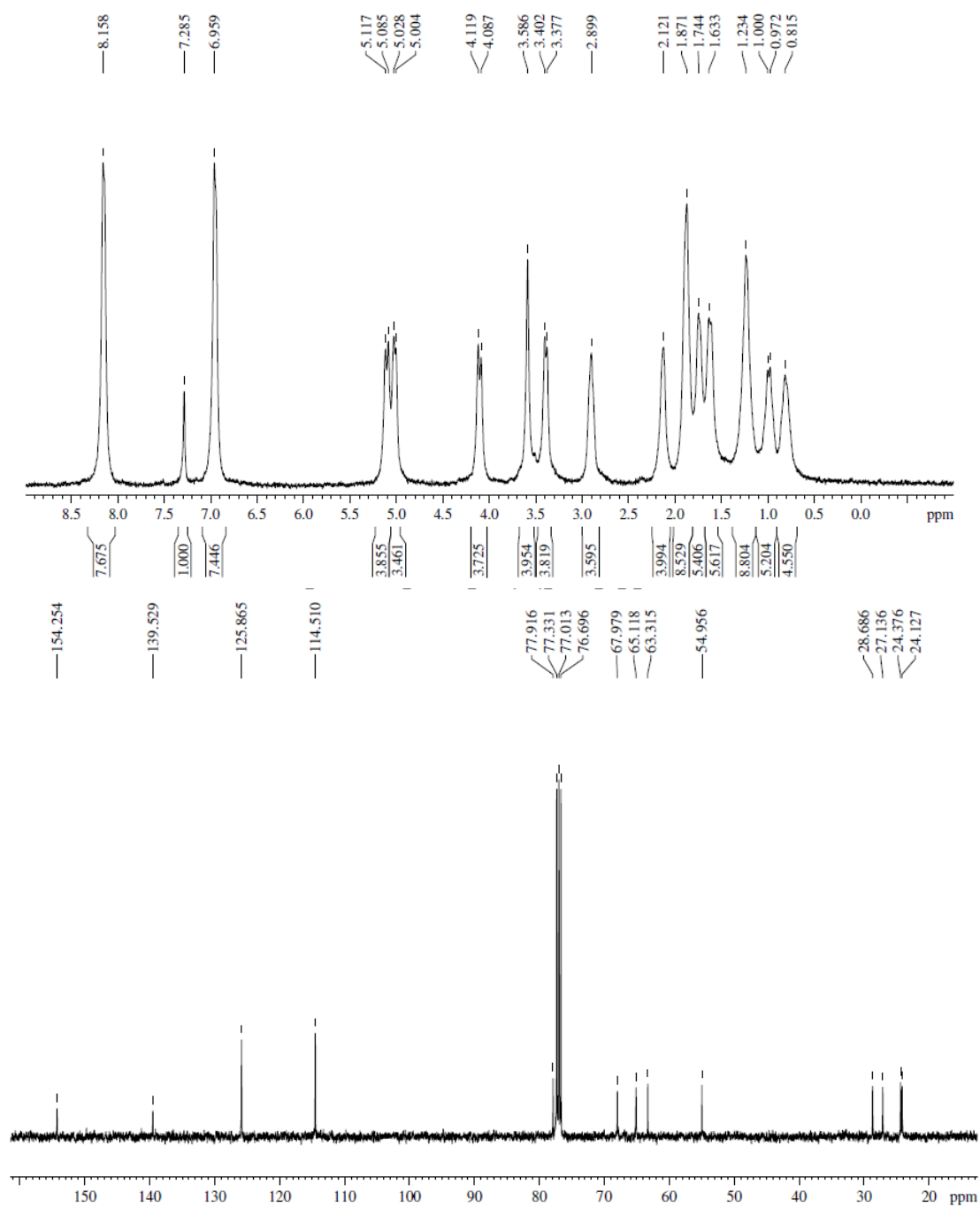


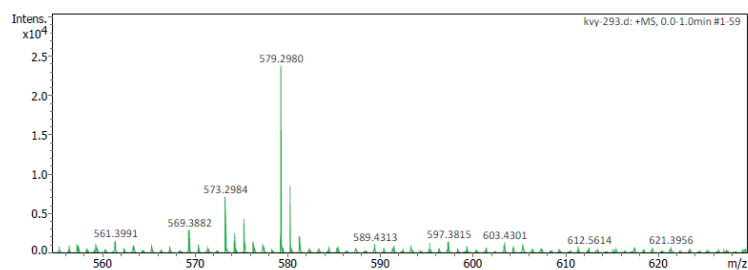
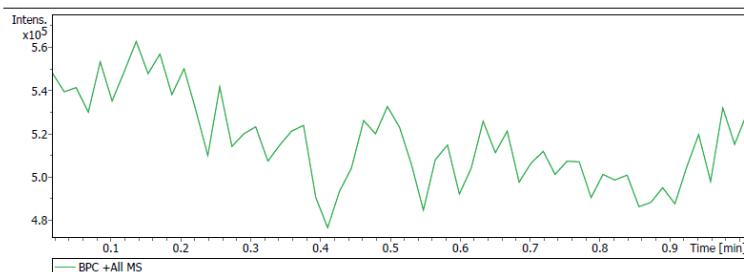
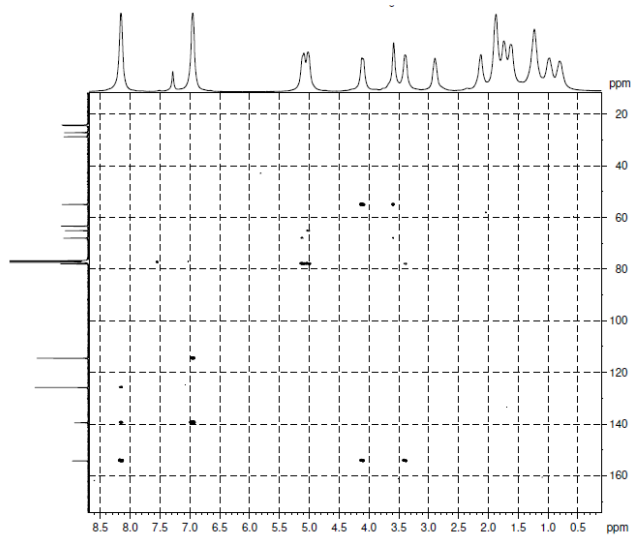
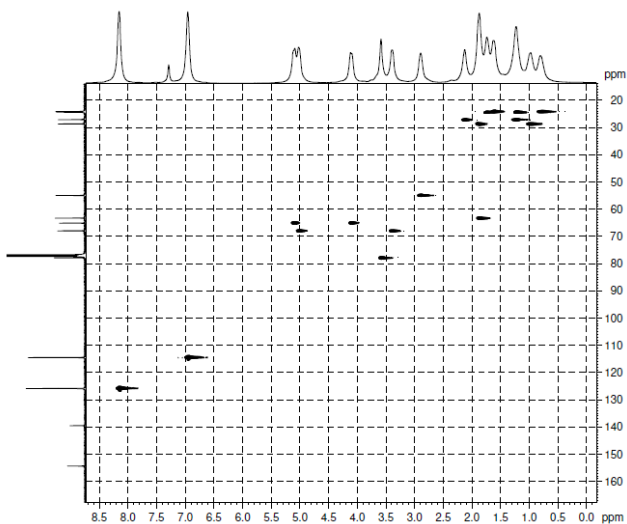
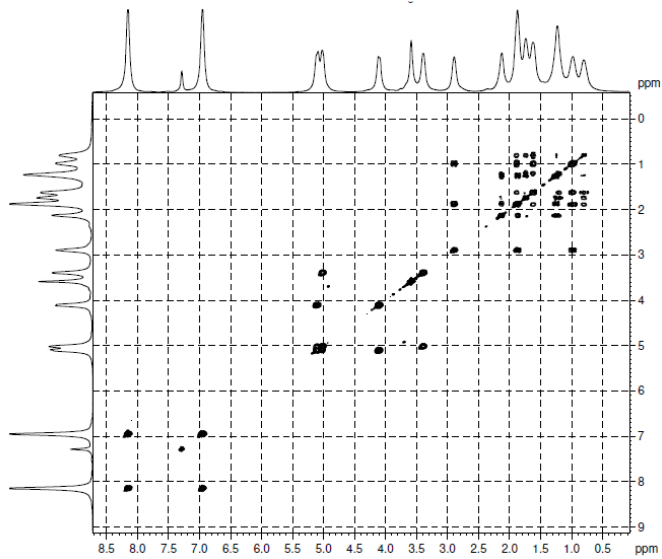
FigureS6. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2f**



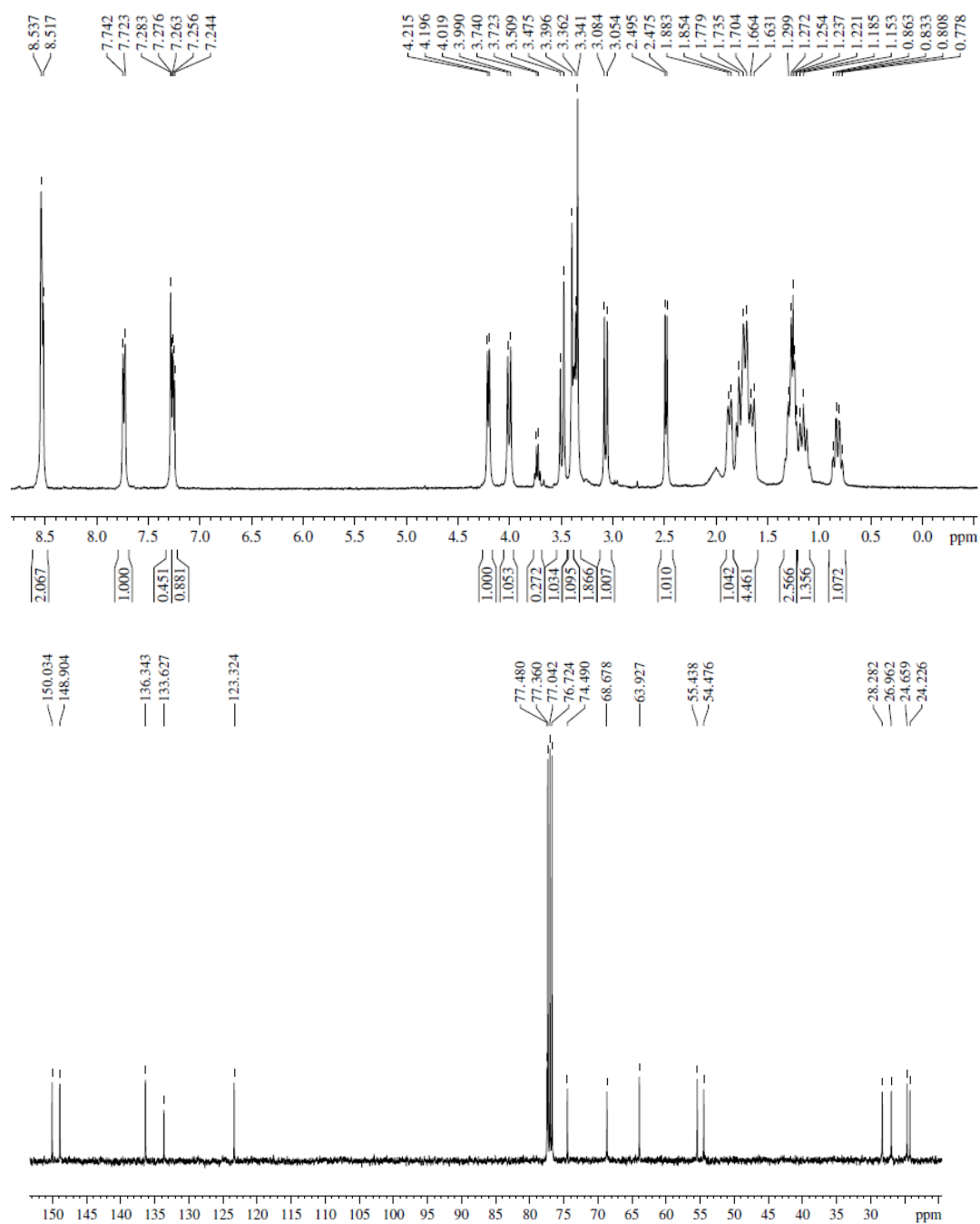


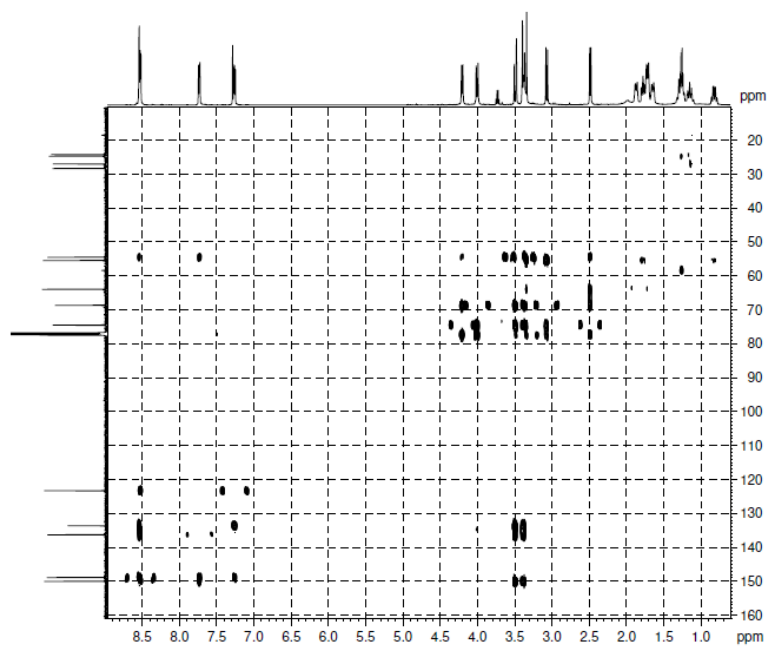
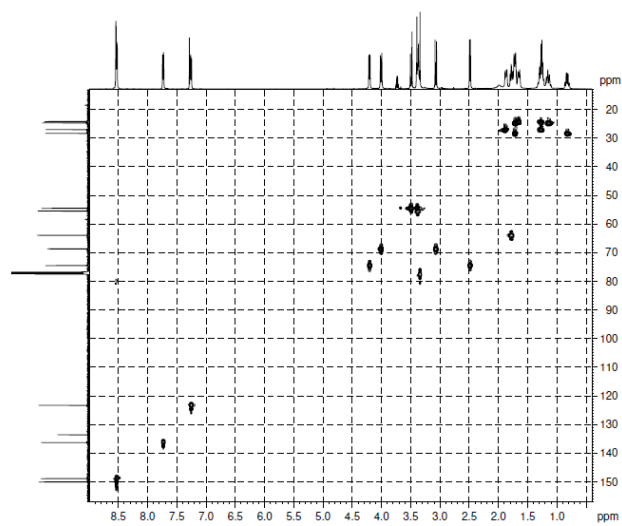
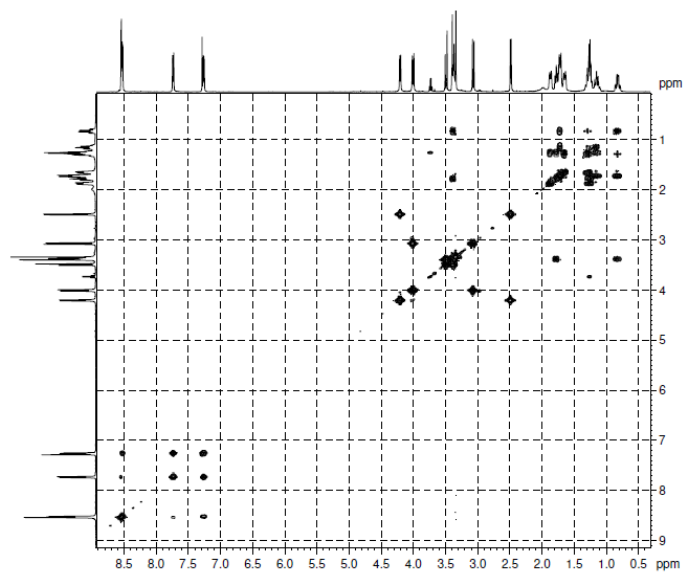
FigureS7. NMR and MS spectra of compound **2g**





FigureS8. NMR spectra of compound **1h**





Cytotoxicity assay

Culture conditions and treatments

HEK293 (human embryonic kidney 293 cells), A549 (human lung carcinoma), MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma), SH-SY5Y (human neuroblastoma), HepG2 (human hepatocellular carcinoma), HTC116 (human colon cancer), Jurkat (Human leukaemic T cell lymphoblast), THP-1 (human leukemia monocytic) cell lines were purchased from the Russian Cell Culture Collection (Institute of Cytology Russian Academy of Science, Saint Petersburg, Russia). HEK293, A-549, MCF-7, HepG2, HTC116 and SH-SY5Y cells were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Invitrogen, USA) supplemented with 2 mM *L*-glutamine (Sigma-Aldrich, UK), 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Invitrogen, USA), 50 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ gentamicin sulfate (Invitrogen, USA). Jurkat and THP-1 cells were grown in RPMI 1640 medium (Invitrogen, USA) supplemented with 10% FBS, 50 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ gentamicin sulfate and 2 mM *L*-glutamine. All cells were cultured and maintained at 37°C with 5% CO₂ and 95% wet condition. Compounds were dissolved in 100% DMSO (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) to 100 mM stock solutions and diluted in completed DMEM or RPMI immediately before addition to the assay plates. DMSO was maintained at a final concentration of 0.1%.

Cell viability assay

Cells were cultured at appropriate density in 96-well plates (3×10^4 cells/well for HEK293; 1.2×10^4 cells/well for A-549; 1.2×10^4 cells/well for MCF-7; 3×10^4 cells/well for SH-SY5Y; 1.5×10^4 cells/well for HepG2; 1×10^4 cells/well for HTC116; 5×10^4 cells/well for Jurkat; 2×10^4 cells/well for THP-1) and allowed to grow for 24 h in an appropriate culture media. Thereafter, cells were treated with compounds at a final concentrations of 1, 10, 100 μM for 48 hours and cell viability was measured by conventional MTT assay following manufacturer's instruction (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) using «2300 EnSpire® Multimode Plate Reader» (Perkin Elmer, USA) at 590 nm. The concentration of the compound that inhibited 50% cell viability (IC₅₀ value) was calculated using nonlinear regression analysis (GraphPad Prism v.5.02; GraphPad Software Inc., USA). The viability of control group (cells treated with 0.1% DMSO) was set at 100%, and viability of treated groups was determined through the comparison of its optical density with control. Data were expressed as mean $\pm$ S.E.M. calculated from two independent experiments, performed in triplicate. Under similar conditions, cells were treated with 5-fluorouracil as a positive control for the MTT assay.