

Supporting information

**A systematic exploration of the effects of flexibility and basicity on sigma (σ)
receptor binding in a series of substituted diamines**

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The synthesis of intermediates **1A-1F**, conditions for potentiometric titrations and selected spectra of final compounds are reported here.

Synthesis of 2-benzofuranylmethanol **1A**

2-Benzofuranylmethanol was synthesised *via* an adaptation of the method reported by Wan *et al.*¹ To a solution of 2-benzofurancarboxaldehyde (1 mL, 8.3 mmol, 1 eq.) in CH₃OH (10 mL), sodium NaBH₄ (374 mg, 9.9 mmol, 1.2 eq.) was added portion-wise at - 4 °C. The reaction was then warmed to rt and stirred (8 h) before being quenched with HCl (1M, 2 mL) and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and washed with H₂O (20 mL) and then brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, reduced to dryness *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc-Hexane, 15:85), yielding the titled compound as yellow oil (998 mg, 91%). **IR** (ZnSe cell): ν_{\max} 3316, 2927, 2870, 1604, 1452, 1253, 1174, 1006, 936 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.52-7.54 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.45-7.48 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 7.22-7.29 (2H, m), 6.59 (1H, s), 4.71-4.73 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 3.93-3.98 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.67 (C) ppm, 154.98 (C), 128.17 (C), 124.12 (CH), 122.64 (CH), 120.98 (CH), 111.08 (CH), 103.76 (CH), 57.61 (CH₂) ppm; **LRMS** (+ESI): *m/z* 149 [M+H]⁺. Spectroscopic data matched that reported in literature.²

Synthesis of 2-(chloromethyl)benzofuran **1B**

2-(Chloromethyl)benzofuran was synthesised according to the method reported by Ferorelli *et al.*³ To a solution of 2-benzofuranylmethanol **1A** (300 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1 *eq.*) in an anhydrous solution of DMF (0.5 mL) and THF (2 mL), SOCl₂ (200 μL, 2.7 mmol, 1.4 *eq.*) was added dropwise with stirring at rt. The reaction mixture was then heated at reflux for 2 h and then the THF was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was partitioned in H₂O (20 mL) and EtOAc (30 mL) with further extraction of the aqueous flayer with EtOAc (2×30 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with brine (60 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (100% hexane), yielding the titled compound as a colourless oil (247 mg, 73%). **IR** (ZnSe cell): ν_{\max} 3063, 1586, 1452, 1283, 1253, 1191, 1151, 1123, 1007, 955, 824 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.39-7.41 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.33-7.36 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.17 (1H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.09 (1H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 6.56 (1H, s), 4.53 (2H, s) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.41 (C), 152.60 (C), 127.98 (C), 125.13 (CH), 123.16 (CH), 121.41 (CH), 111.46 (CH), 106.26 (CH), 37.82 (CH₂) ppm; **LRMS** *m/z* (+APCI): 131 [M-Cl]⁺, 100, 167 [M+H]⁺. Spectroscopic data matched that reported in literature.⁴

Synthesis of benzofuran-2-carboxamide **1C**

2-benzofurancarboxylic acid (1.50 g, 9.25 mmol) was converted to the acid chloride and reacted with ammonia (28% aq., 6.94 mmol) according to the general procedure A, and the product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: 3:1 *v/v* EtOAc/hexane) to afford amide **1C** as a white solid (917 mg, 82%). **m.p.** 153-154 °C (lit. *m.p.* 158-159 °C);⁵ **IR** (ZnSe cell): ν_{\max} 3425, 3148, 1656, 1590, 1473, 1396, 1340, 1259, 1174, 1090, 938, 885, 840, 807 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56-7.58 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz,), 7.38-7.41 (2H, m), 7.29-7.34 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.16-7.21 (1H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 6.08 (2H, br s, NH₂) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.87 (C), 155.10 (C), 148.30 (C), 127.71 (C), 123.94 (CH), 122.99 (CH), 111.46 (CH), 110.66 (CH), ppm; **LRMS** (+ESI): *m/z* 162 [M+H]⁺.

Synthesis of *N*-methylbenzofuran-2-carboxamide **1D**

2-benzofurancarboxylic acid (1.50 g, 9.25 mmol) was converted to the acid chloride and reacted with methylamine (2.0 M solution in THF, 6.94 mmol) according to the general procedure A, and the product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: 3:1 *v/v* EtOAc/hexane) to afford amide **1D** as a pale yellow amorphous solid (1.07 g, 88%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65-7.62 (1H, d, *J* = 8.04 Hz); δ 7.46-7.43 (2H, m), 7.39-7.35 (1H, m); 7.28-7.24 (1H, m); 6.96 (1H, br s); 3.05-3.04 (3H, d, *J* = 5.06 Hz) ppm **¹³C NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7 (C), δ 154.7 (C), 148.8 (C), 127.6 (C), 126.8 (CH), 123.6 (CH) 122.7 (CH), 111.7 (CH), 110.1 (CH), 26.1 (CH₃) ppm; **LRMS** (+ESI): *m/z* 198 [M+Na]⁺

Synthesis of benzofuran-2-ylmethanamine **1E**

Amide **1C** (800 mg, 4.96 mmol) was reduced according the general procedure C and purified by flash chromatography (eluent: 7% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ + 1% Et₃N) to afford amine **1E** as a pale yellow oil (322 mg, 44%). **IR** (ZnSe cell): ν_{\max} 3369, 3301, 3067, 2915, 2845, 1585, 1453, 1251, 1171, 1007, 943 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55-7.57 (1H, d, , *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.47-7.50 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.22-7.31 (2H, m), 6.54 (1H, s), 3.98 (2H, s), 1.83 (2H, br s, NH₂) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.38 (C), 154.84 (C), 128.49 (C), 123.72 (CH), 122.62 (CH),

120.70 (CH), 110.95 (CH), 101.88 (CH), 39.72 (CH₂), ppm; **LRMS m/z** (+ESI): 148 [M+H]⁺. The spectroscopic data matched that reported in the literature.⁶

1-(benzofuran-2-yl)-N-methylmethanamine 1F

Amide **1D** (800 mg, 4.57 mmol) was reduced according the general procedure C and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: 5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ + 1% Et₂NH) to afford amine **1F** as a pale yellow oil (555 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52-7.50 (1H, d, *J* = 7.27 Hz), 7.44-7.42 (1H, d, *J* = 7.93 Hz), 7.26-7.18 (2H, m), 6.69 (1H, s), 5.34 (1H, br s), 4.00 (2H, s), 2.52 (3H, s) ppm, **LRMS m/z** (+ESI): 162 [M+H]⁺

Experimental pK_a calculations

Experimental pK_a values were determined through potentiometric titrations. Liberated amines were dissolved in 40% ethanol and titrated with HCl solution. Titrations were carried out in triplicate at 18-20 °C. The pK_a values were determined from a plot of the titrated volume vs. the pH. The pK_a was calculated as the half-equivalence point of the pH from the sigmoid curve.

Calculated pK_a values from version 15 of MarvinSketch

Compound	Predicted pK _a		N ¹	N ²	Predicted microspecies distribution (%)
	N ¹	N ²			
1	7.74	2.01	N	N	31.2
			NH ⁺	N	54.7
			N	NH ⁺	14.0
12a	7.79	--	N	N	29.1
			NH ⁺	N	70.9
12b	--	8.58	N	N	6.2
			N	NH ⁺	93.8
13a	7.80	--	N	N	28.7
			NH ⁺	N	71.3
13b	--	7.8	N	N	28.3
			N	NH ⁺	71.6
16a	7.82	--	N	N	27.5
			NH ⁺	N	72.5
16b	--	8.60	N	N	5.9
			N	NH ⁺	94.1
16c	7.84	--	N	N	26.8
			NH ⁺	N	73.2
16d	--	7.93	N	N	27.2
			N	NH ⁺	72.8

Compound	Predicted p <i>K</i> _a		N ¹	N ²	Predicted microspecies distribution (%)
	N ¹	N ²			
22a	13.02	7.86	N	N	25.5
			N	NH ⁺	74.5
22b	7.09	15.06	N	N	67.2
			NH ⁺	N	32.9
23a	--	7.90	N	N	24.1
			N	NH ⁺	75.9
23b	7.13	--	N	N	64.9
			NH ⁺	N	35.1
24a	13.07	6.89	N	N	76.3
			N	NH ⁺	23.7
24b	6.96	--	N	N	73.2
			NH ⁺	N	26.8
25a	--	5.93	N	N	74.6
			N	NH ⁺	25.4
25b	8.02	--	N	N	19.2
			NH ⁺	N	80.8

Compound	Predicted p <i>K</i> _a		N ¹	N ²	Predicted microspecies distribution (%)
	N ¹	N ²			
26a	5.43	8.69	N	N	5.6
			NH ⁺	N	12.9
			N	NH ⁺	80.4
			NH ⁺	NH ⁺	1.0
26b	8.40	4.34	N	N	9.2
			NH ⁺	N	57.9
			N	NH ⁺	32.9
			NH ⁺	NH ⁺	0.1
26c	5.86	9.02	N	N	2.3
			NH ⁺	N	8.1
			N	NH ⁺	86.9
			NH ⁺	NH ⁺	2.8
26d	8.79	4.80	N	N	4.3
			NH ⁺	N	48.4

N	NH ⁺	47.2
NH ⁺	NH ⁺	0.2

Figure 1. Average of three potentiometric titrations of benzylamine with HCl at 18-20 °C.

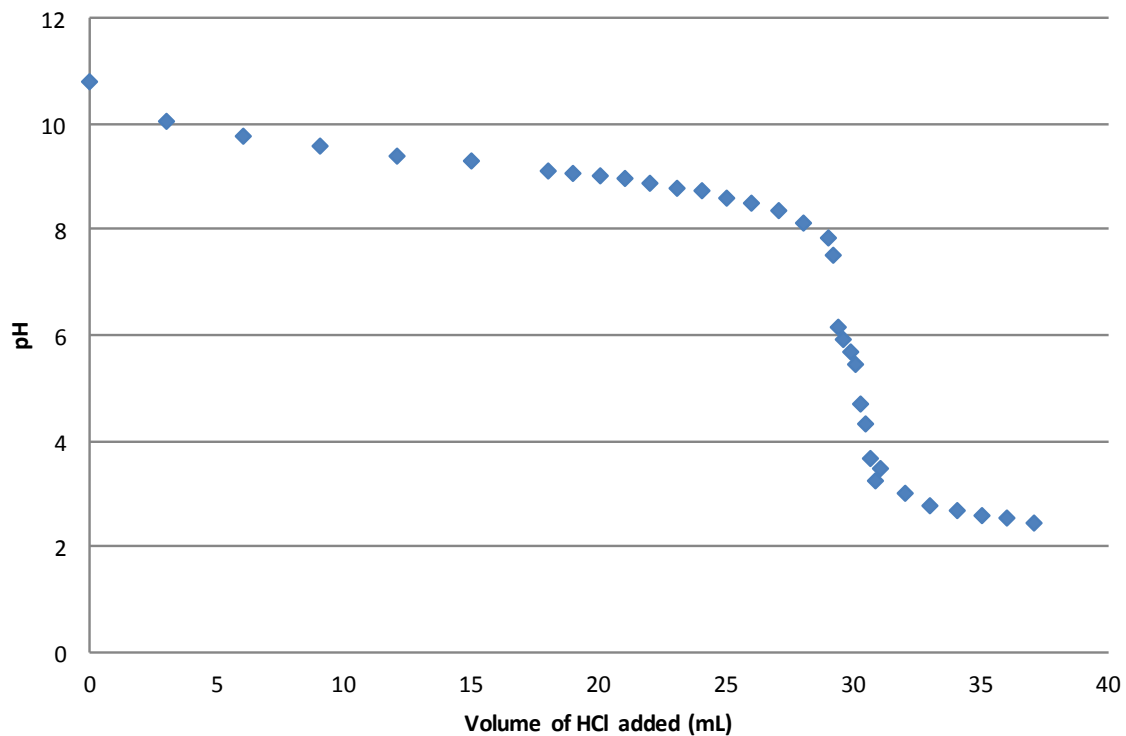


Figure 2. Average of three potentiometric titrations of **13b** with HCl at 18-20 °C.

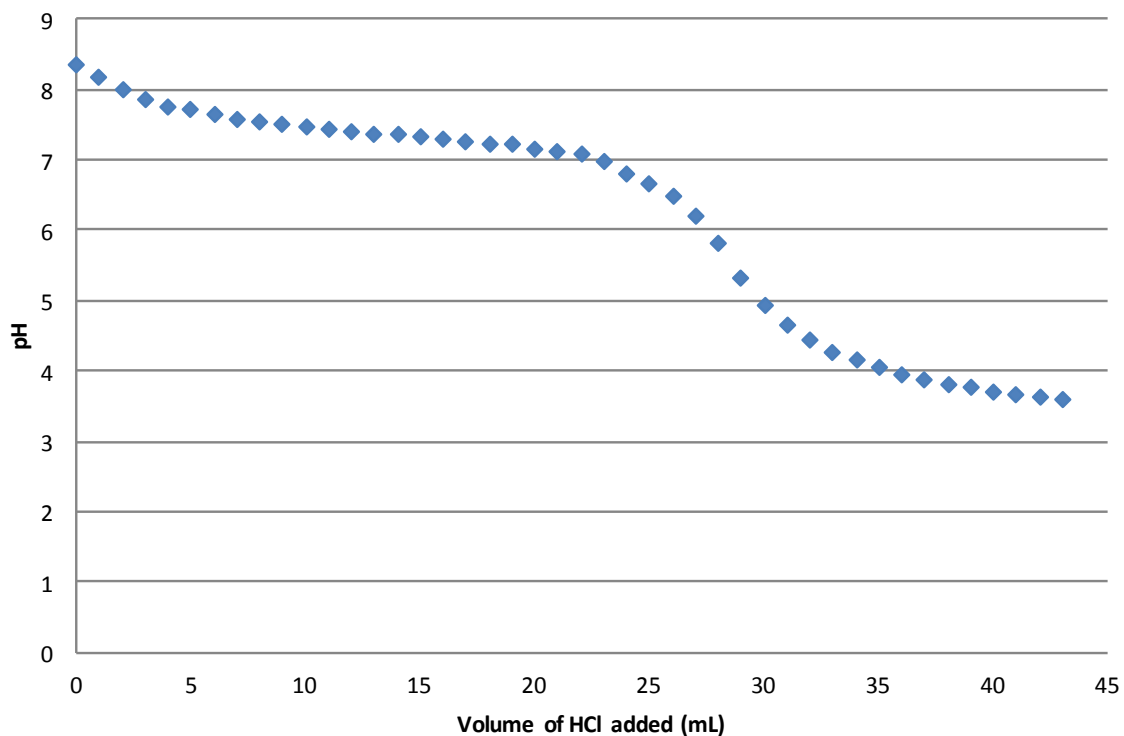
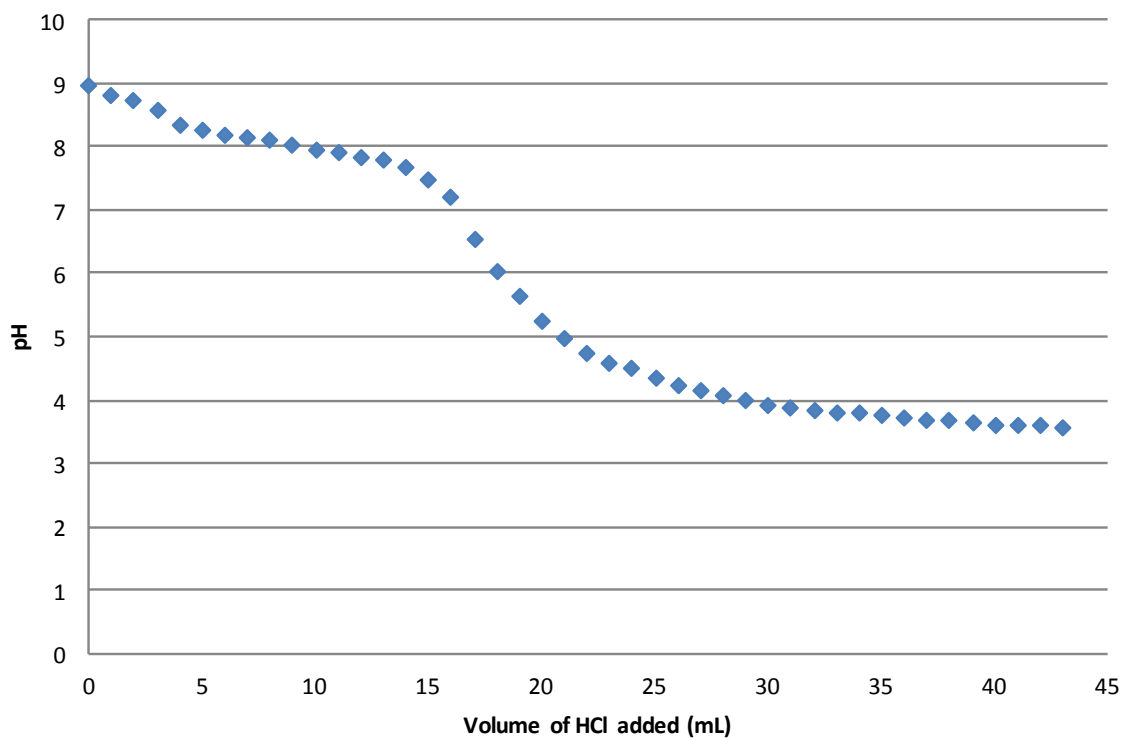
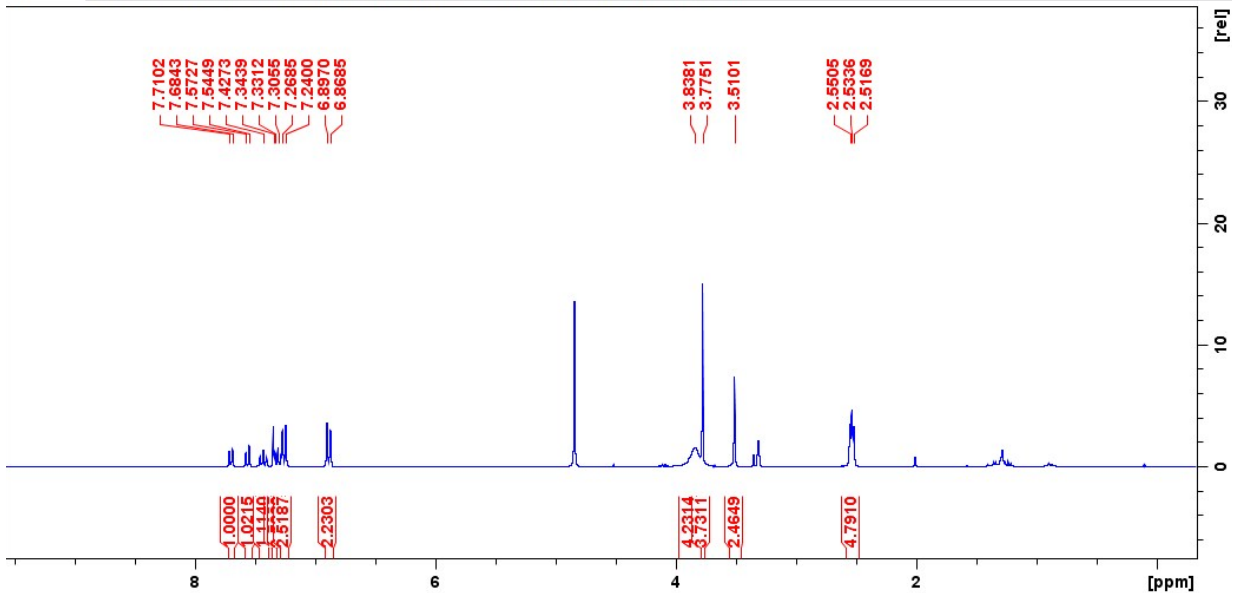
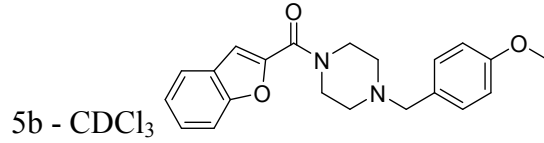
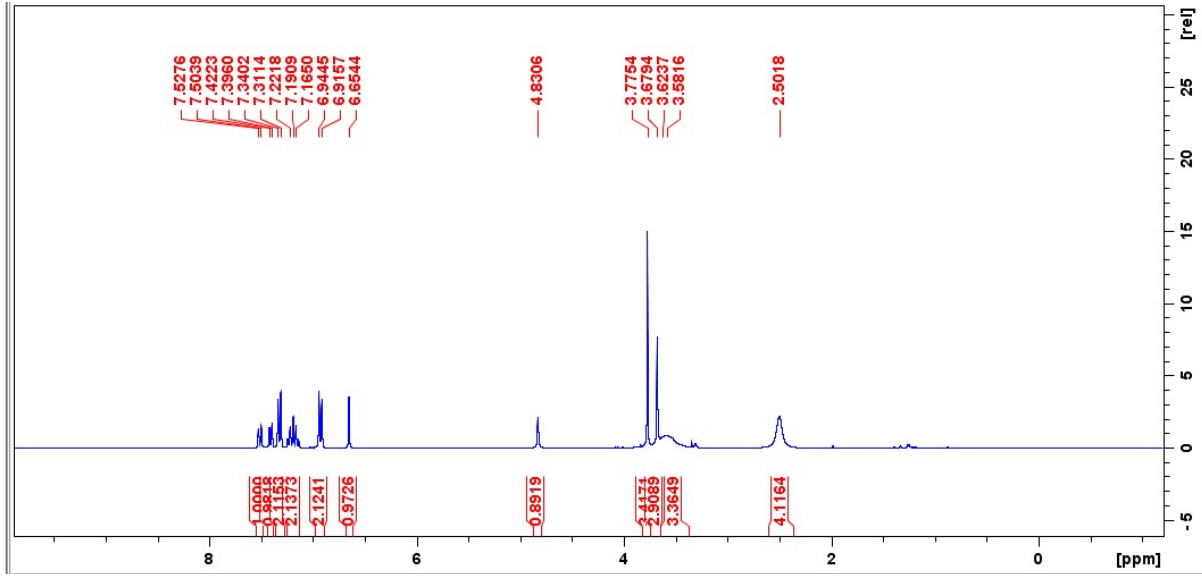
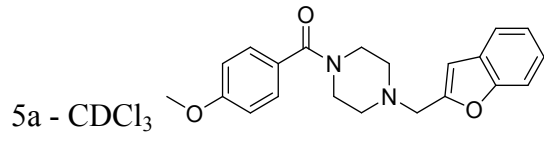


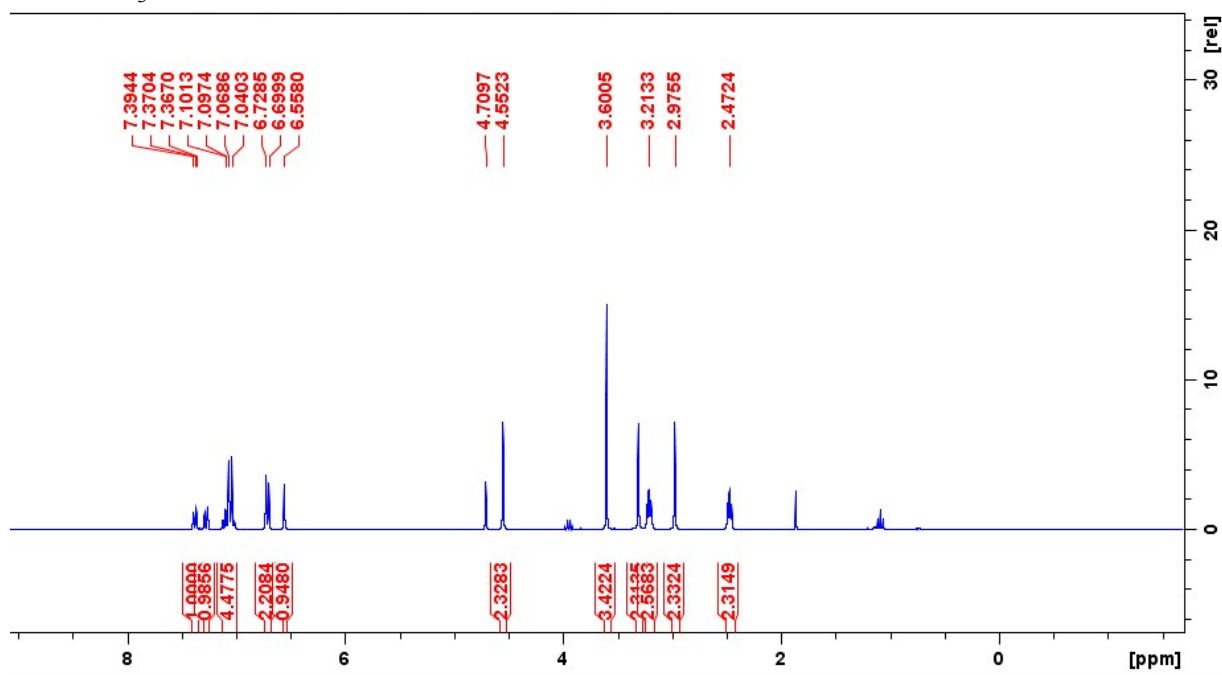
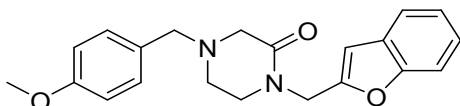
Figure 2. Average of three potentiometric titrations of **25b** with HCl at 18-20 °C.



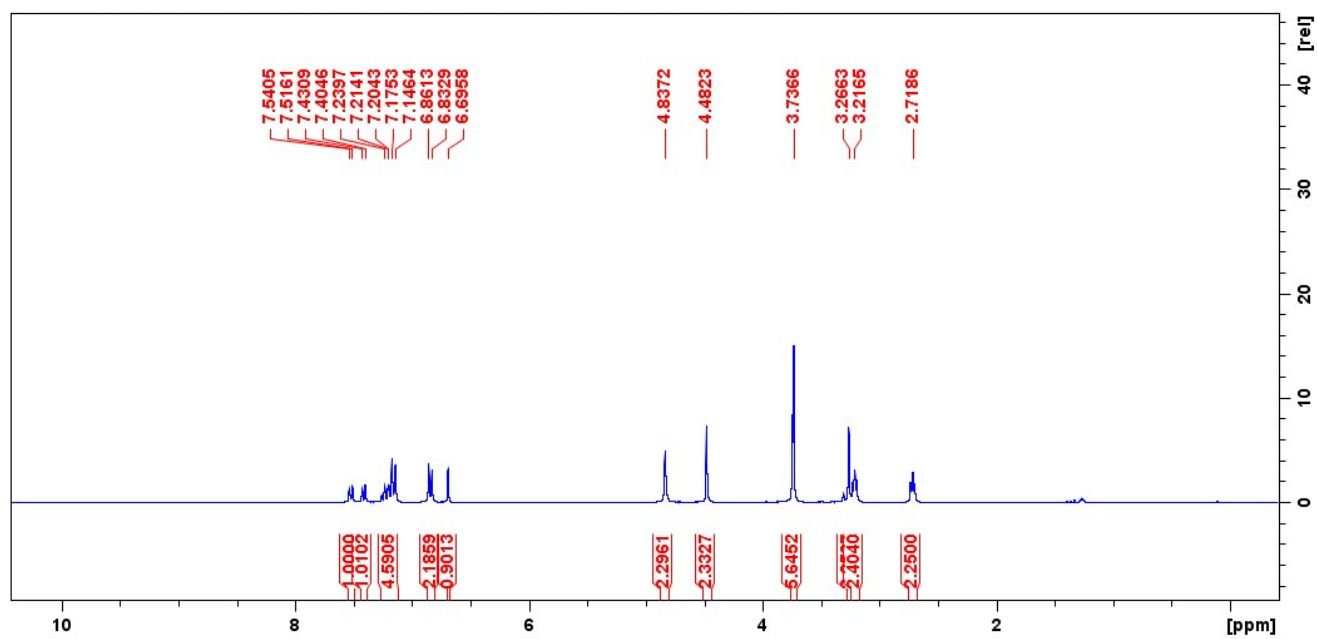
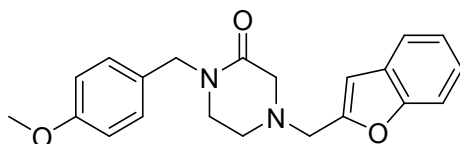
Spectra of compounds tested:

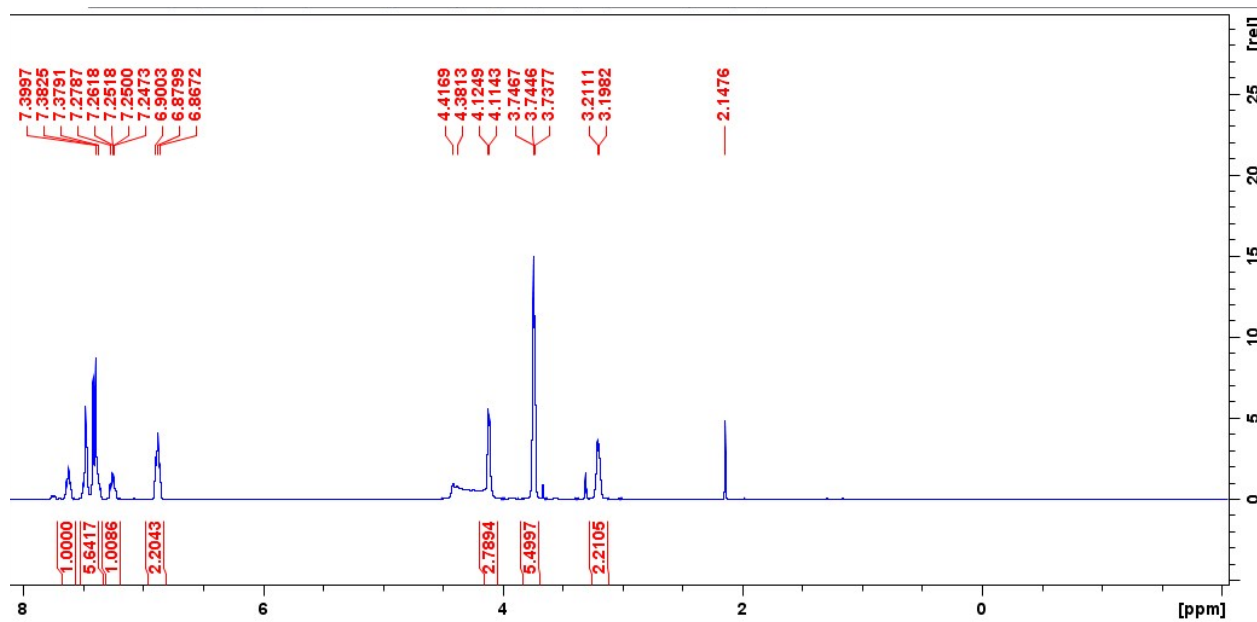
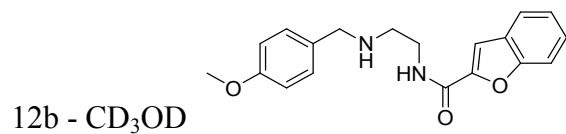
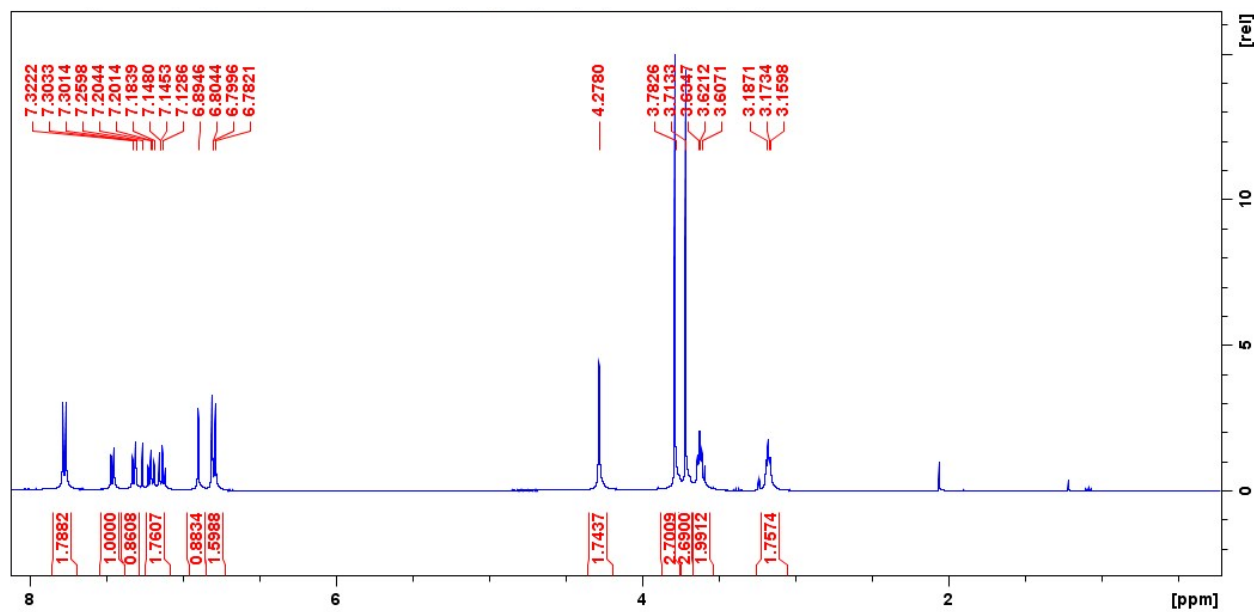
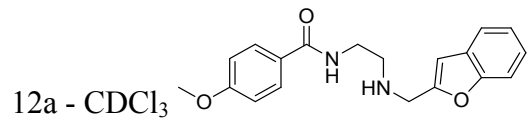


8a - CDCl₃

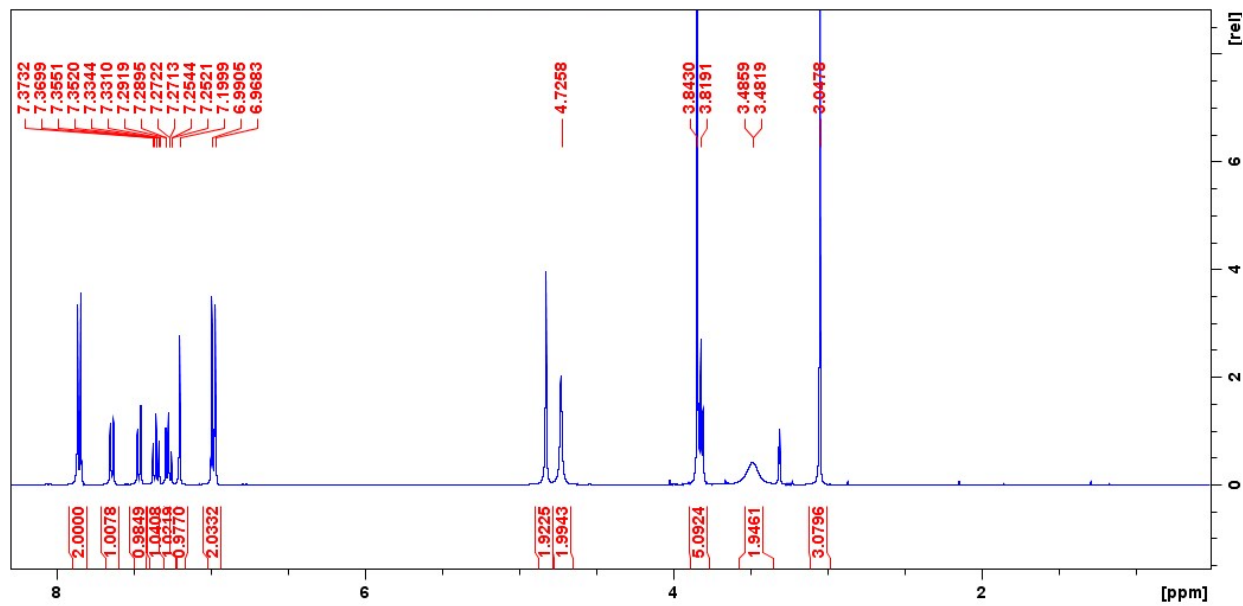
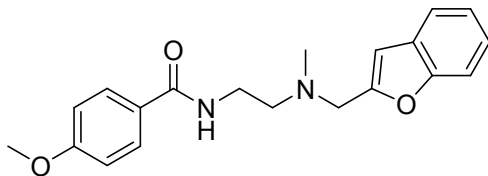


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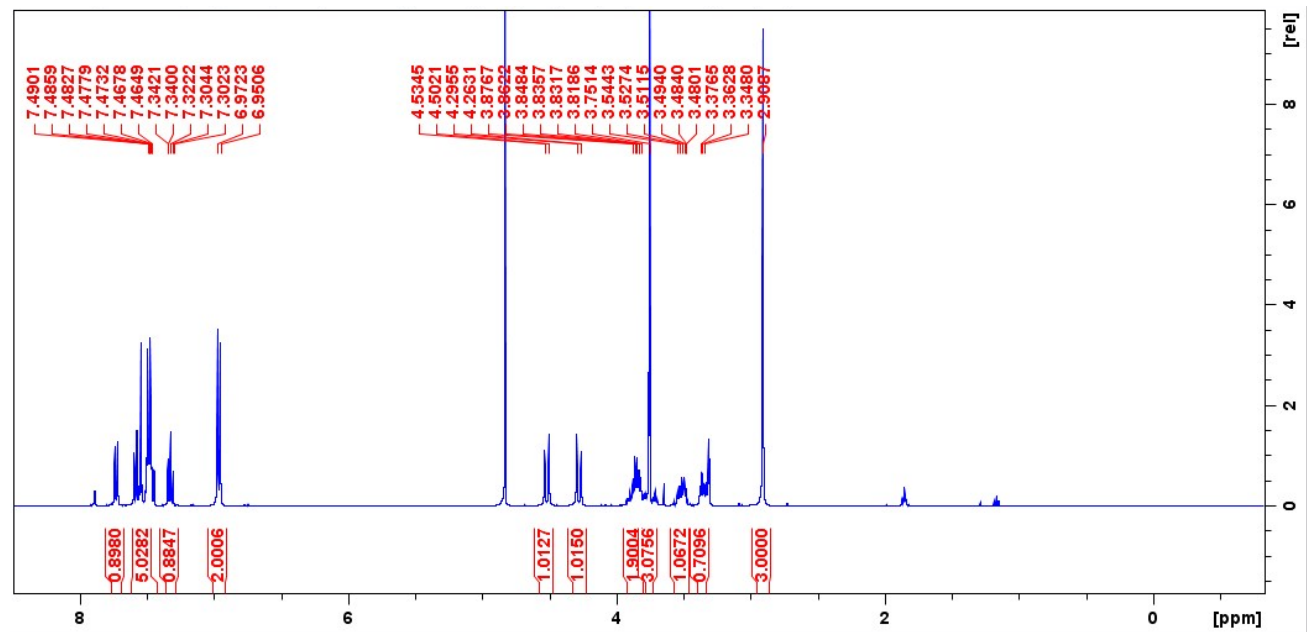
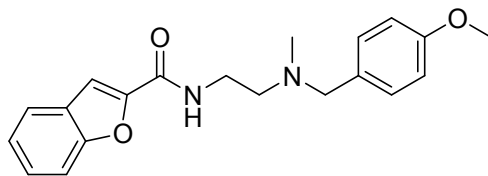




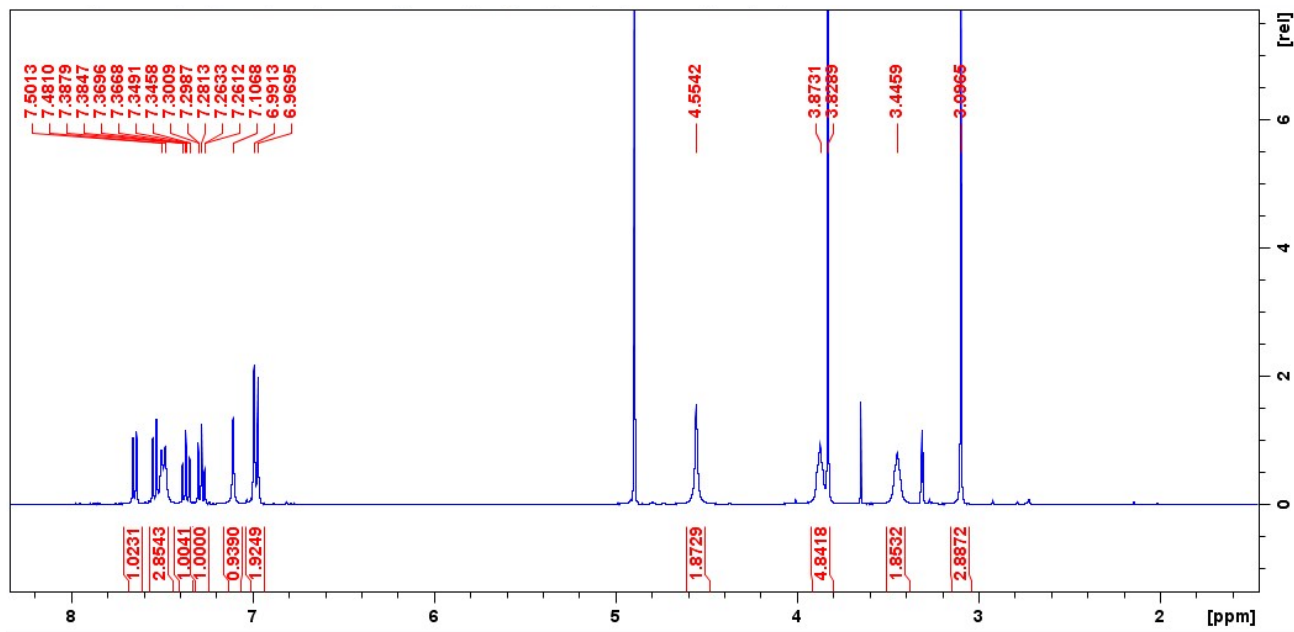
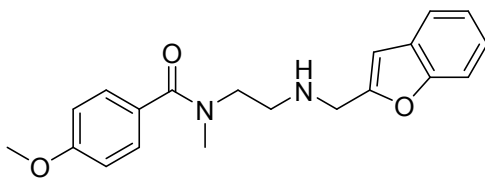
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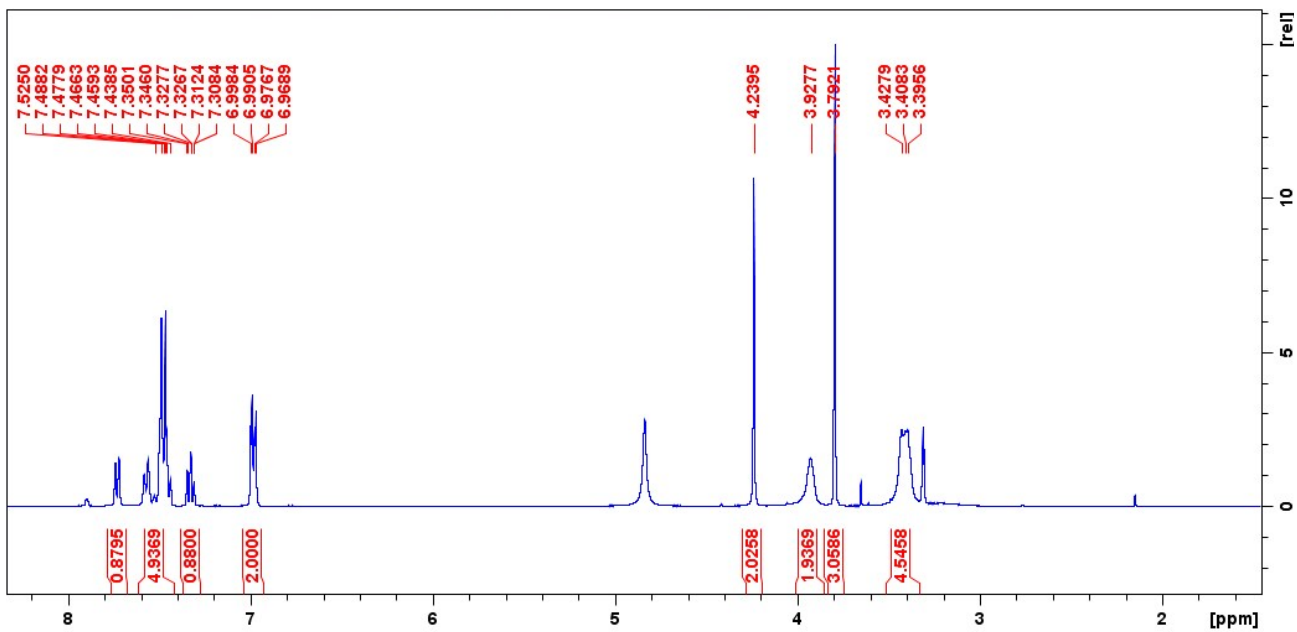
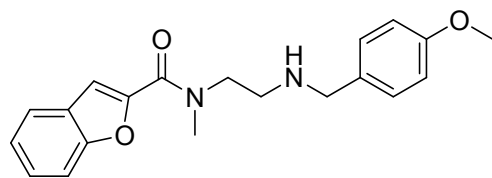
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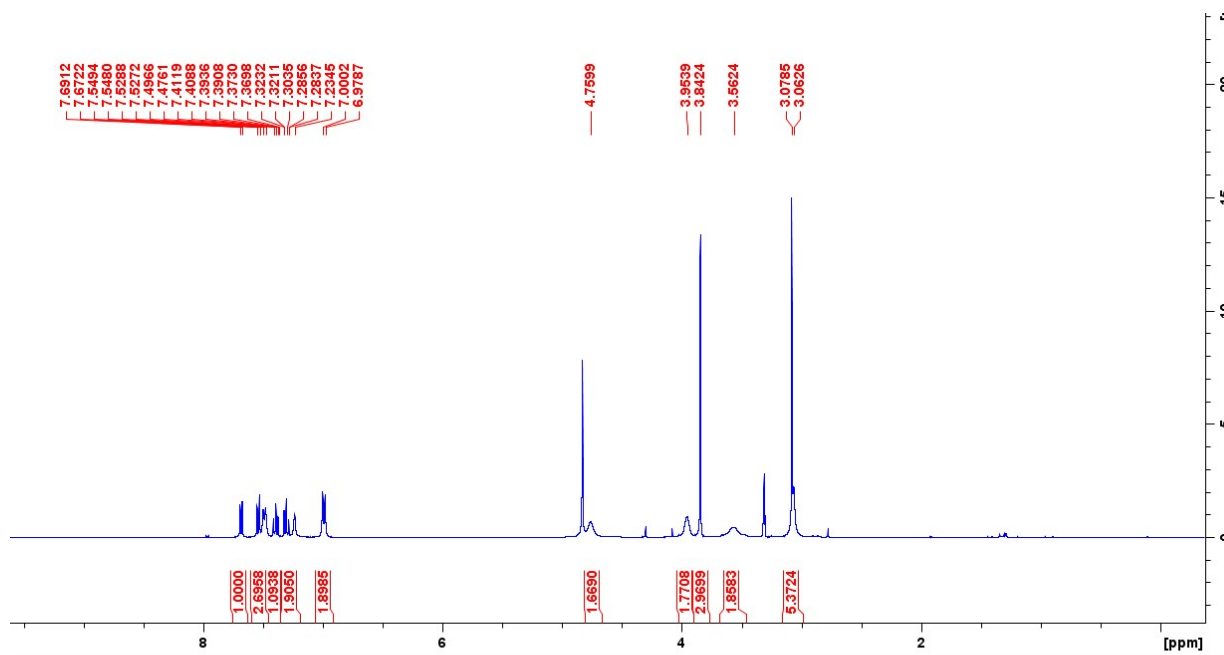
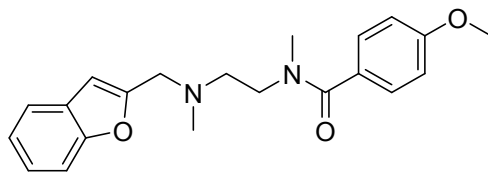
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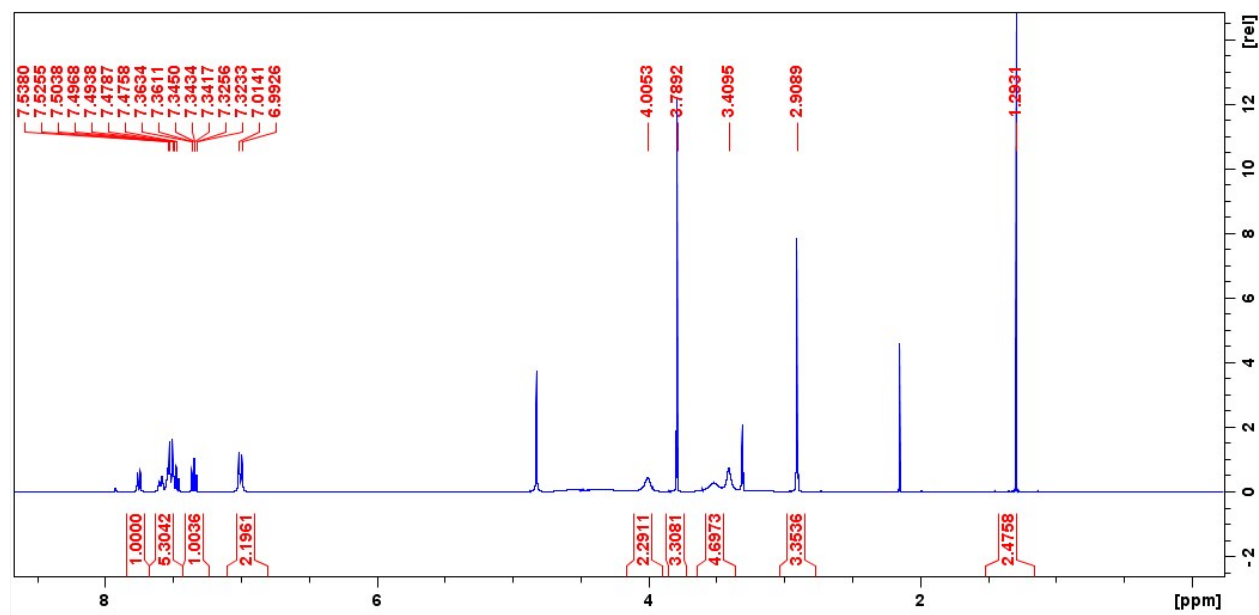
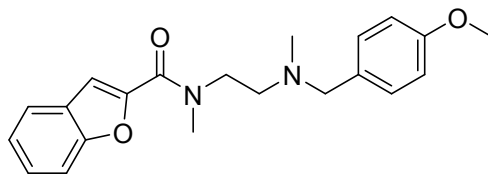
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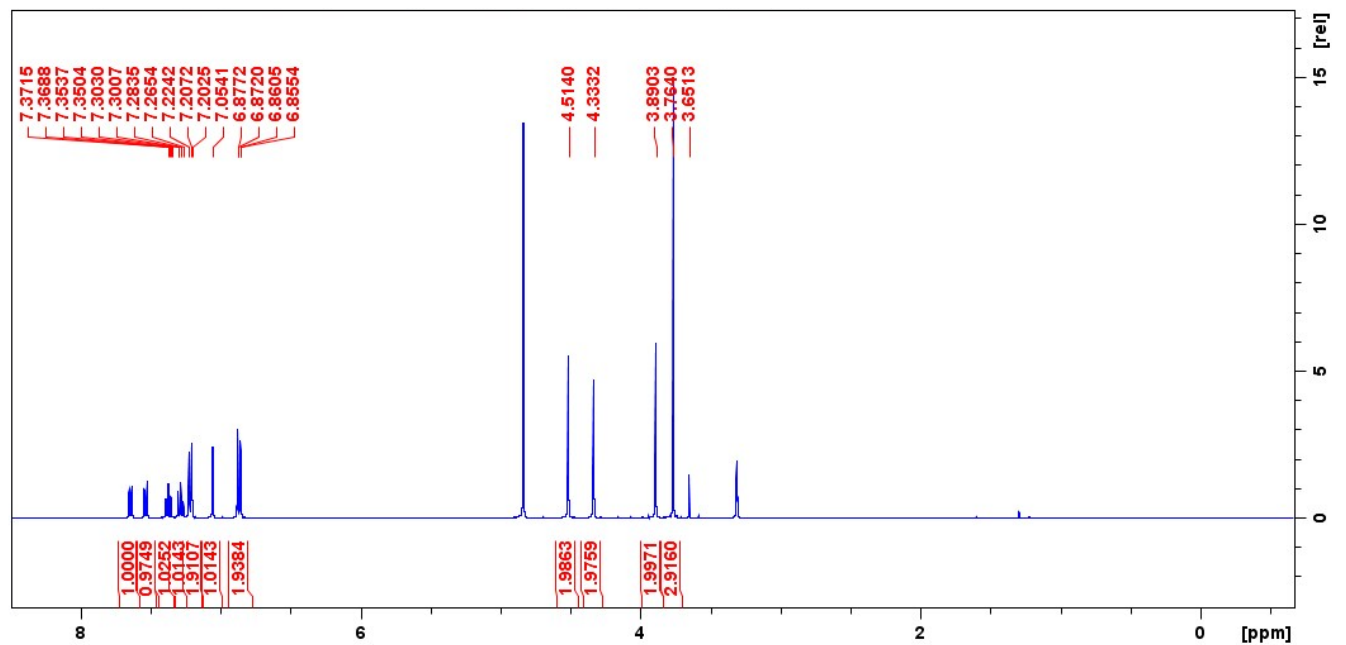
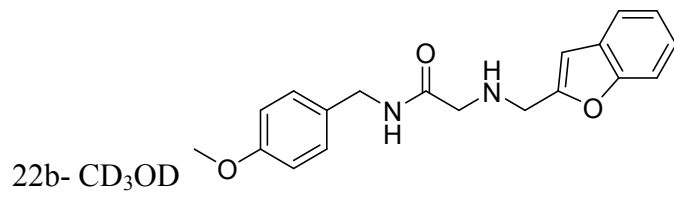
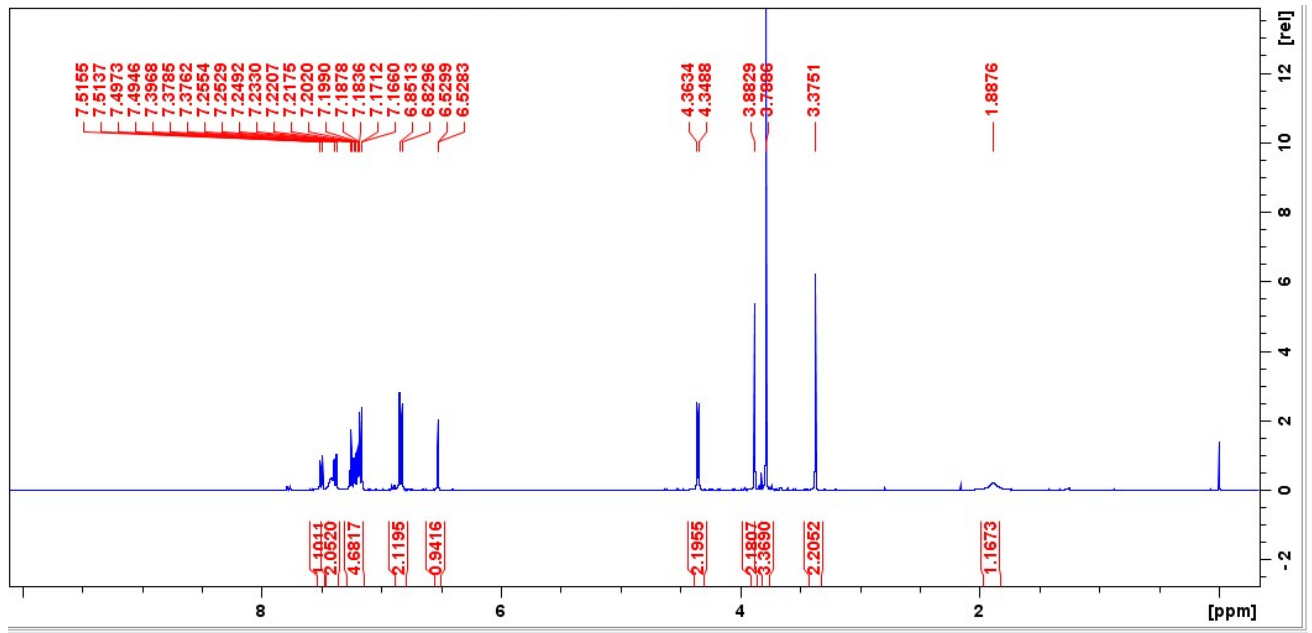
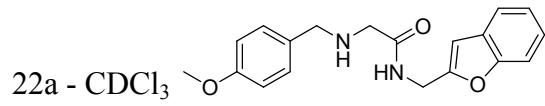


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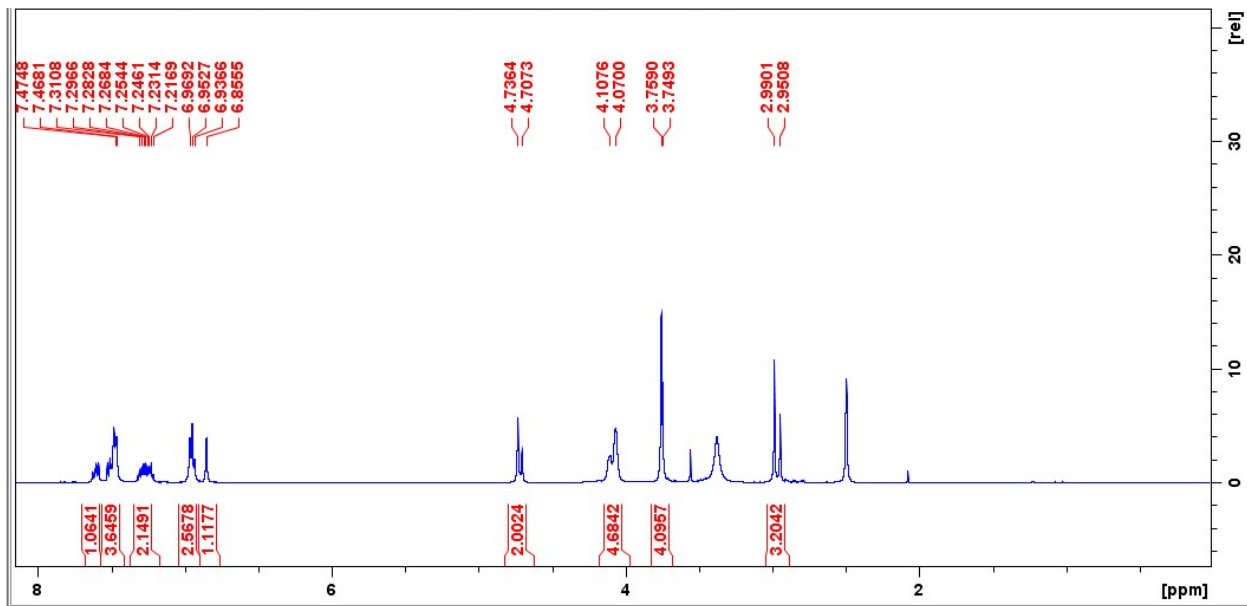
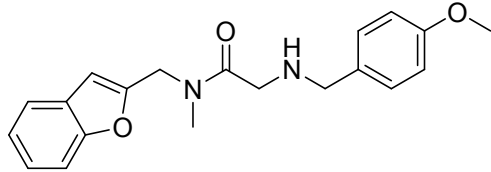


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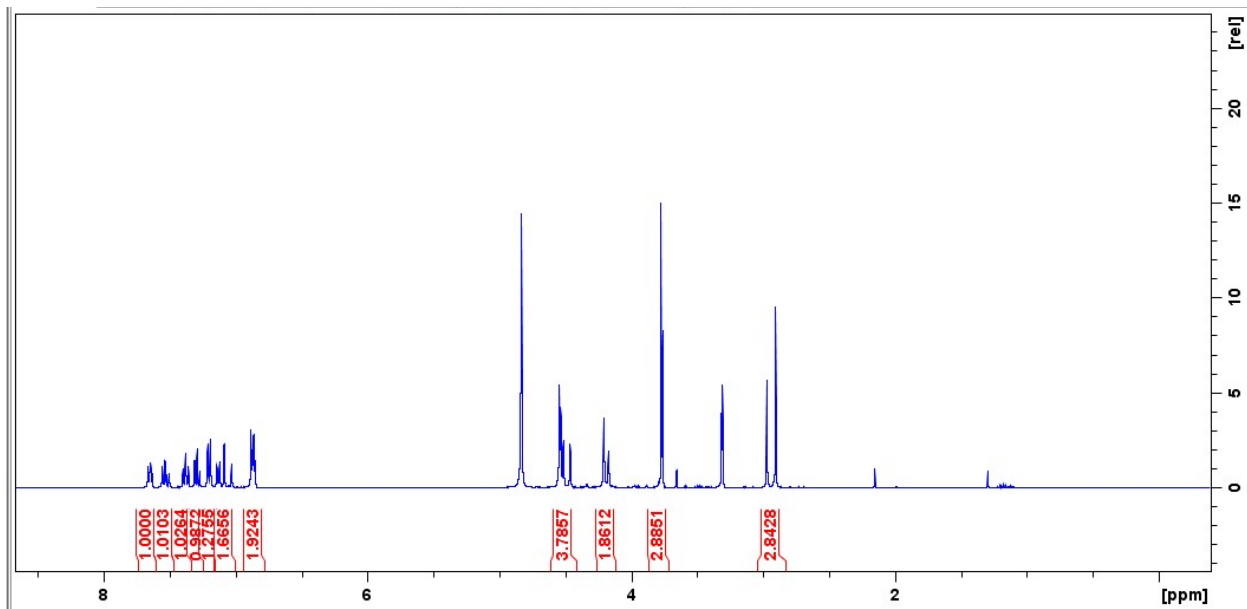
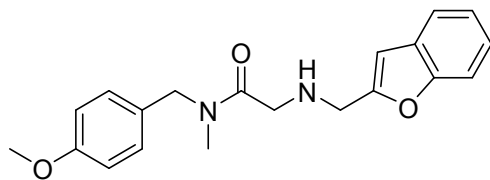




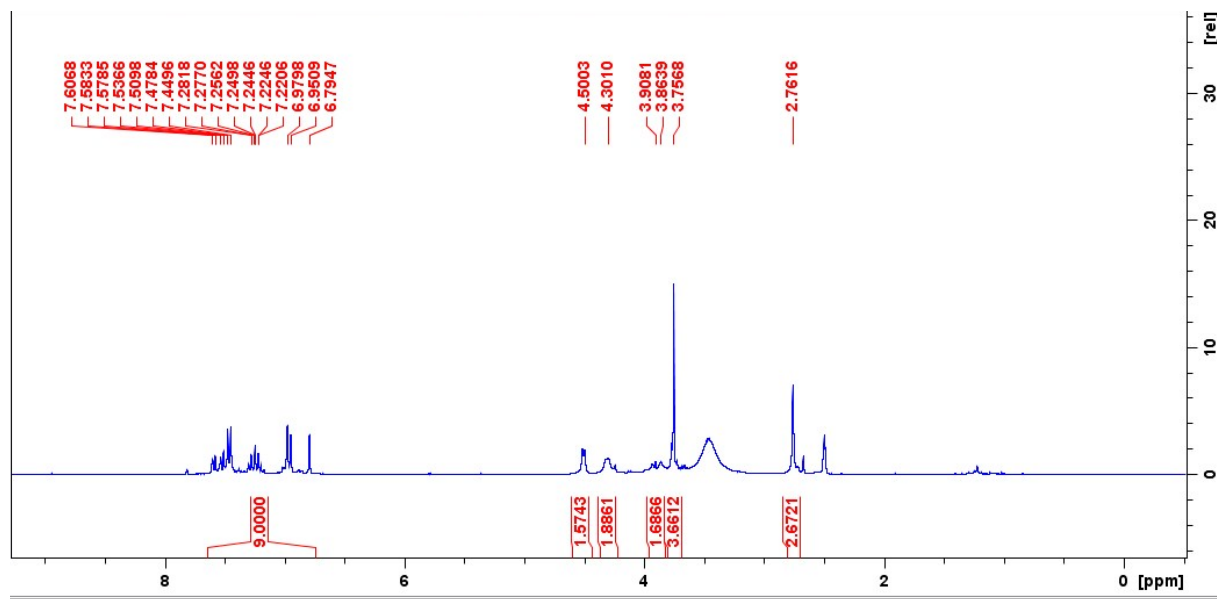
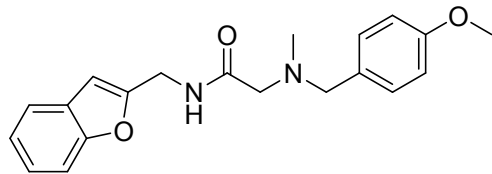
23a - d₆-DMSO



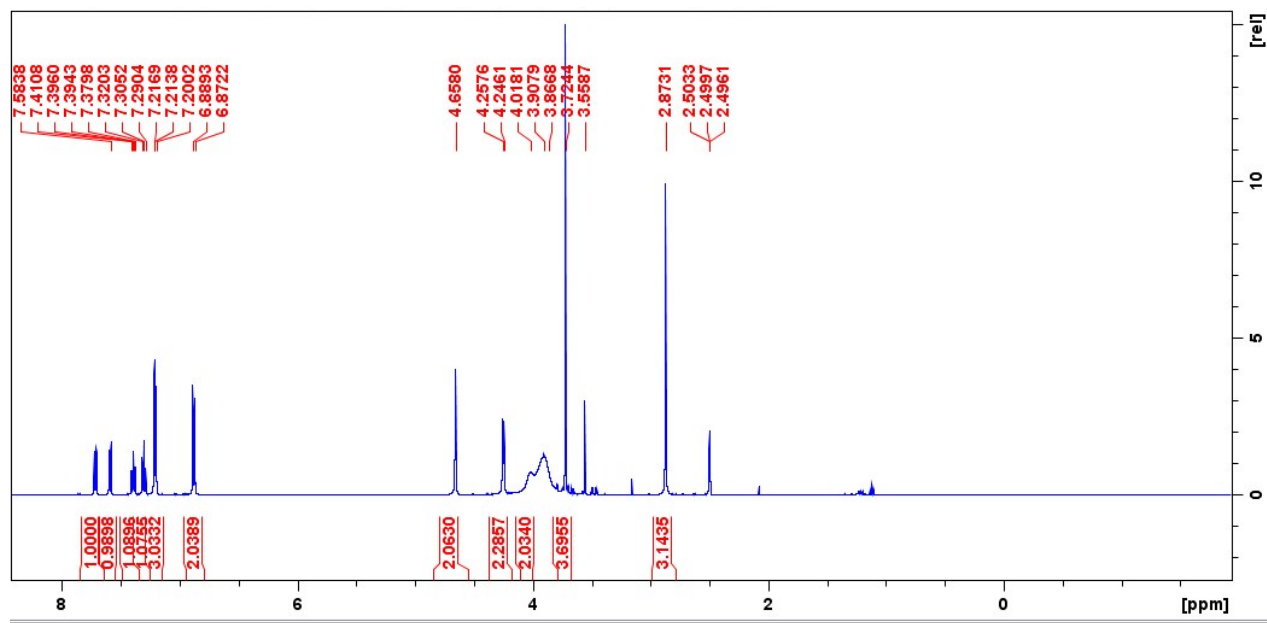
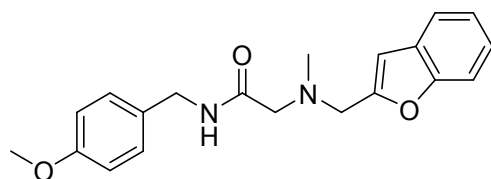
23b - CD₃OD



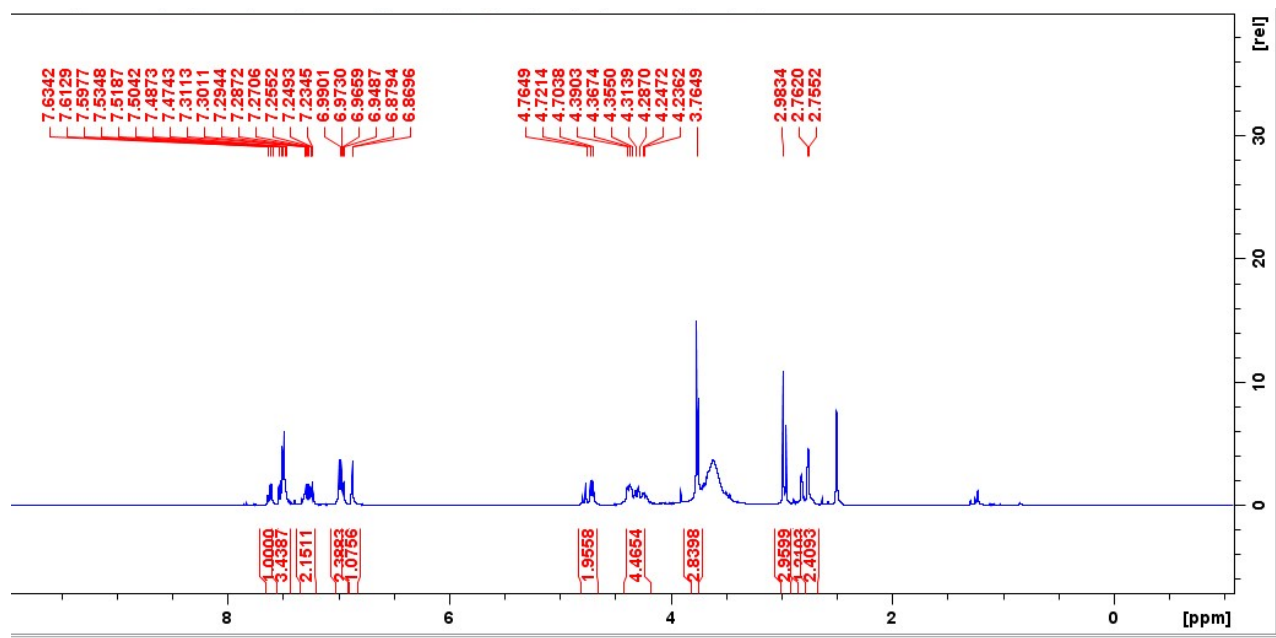
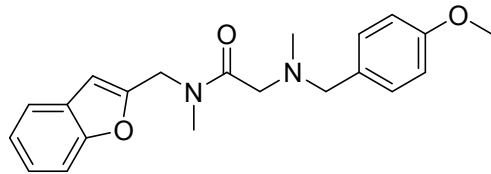
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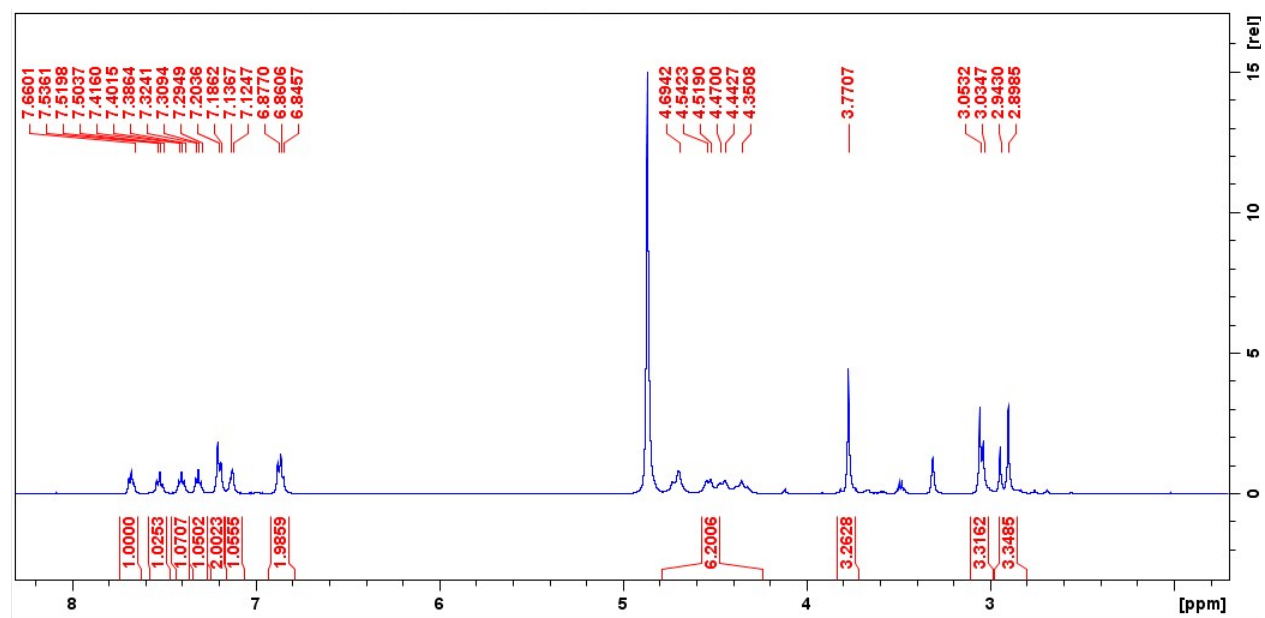
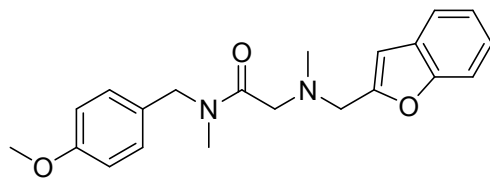
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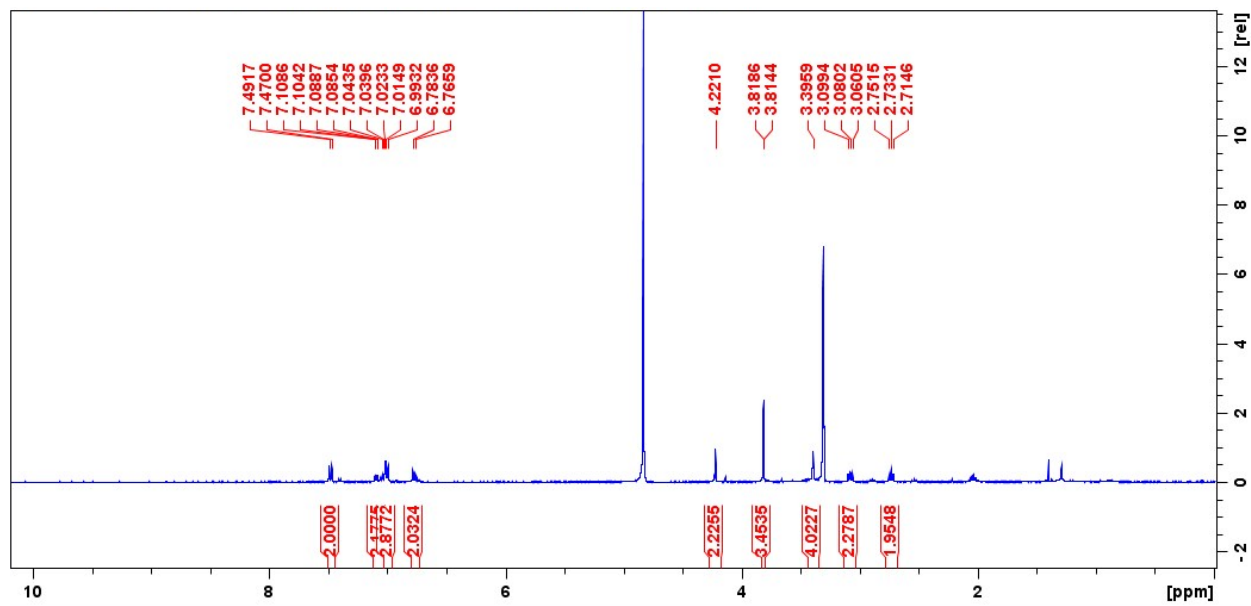
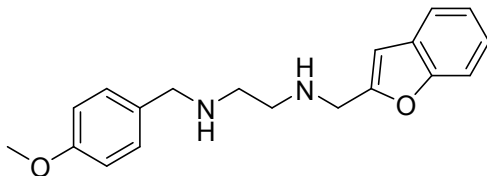
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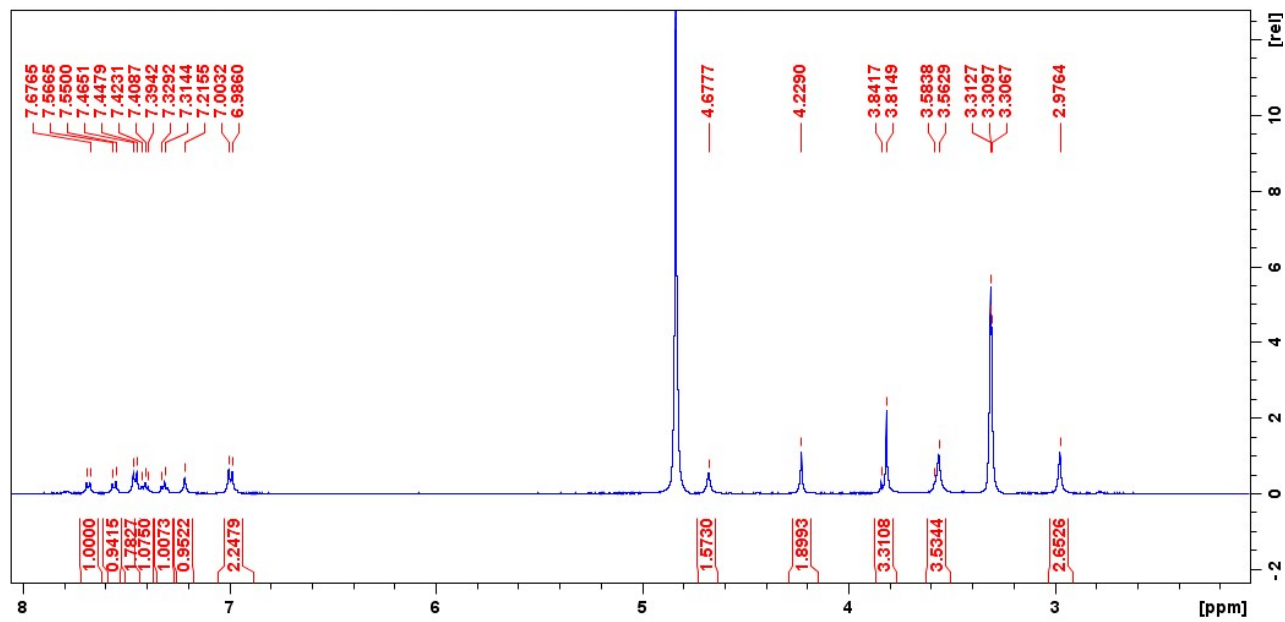
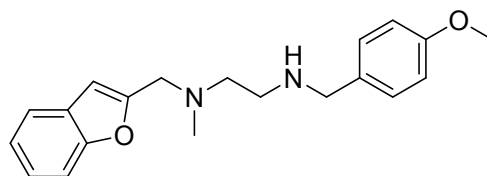
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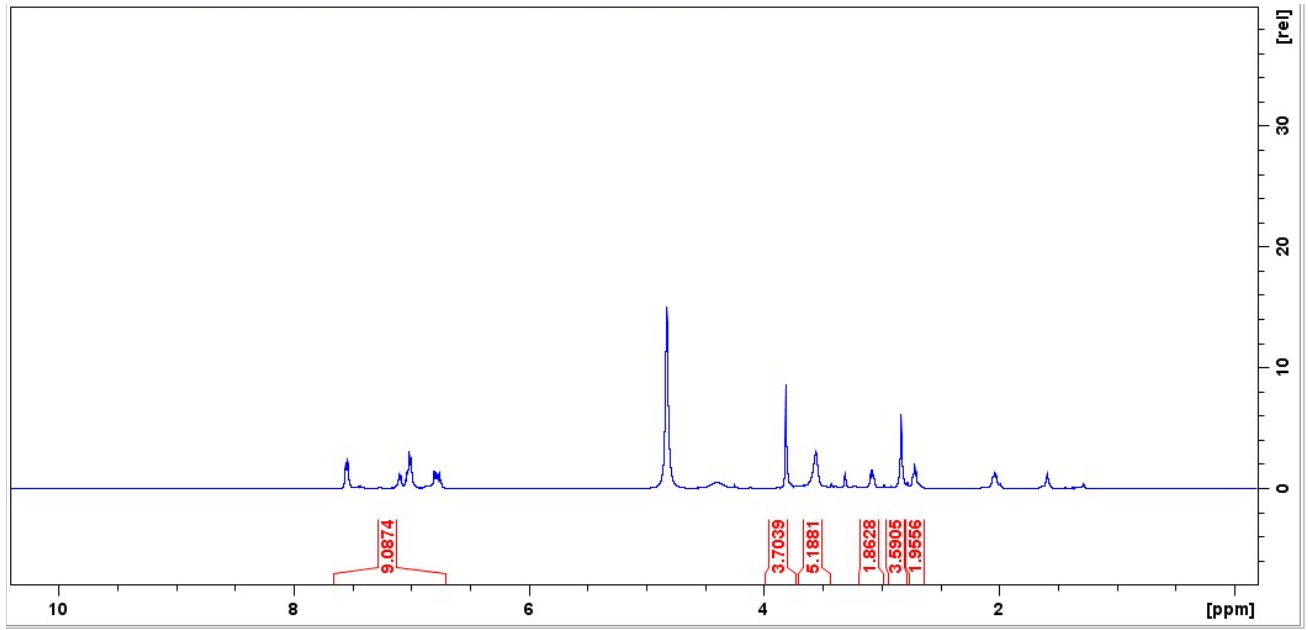
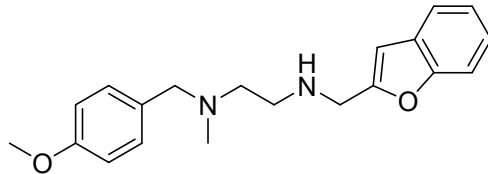
26a - CD₃OD



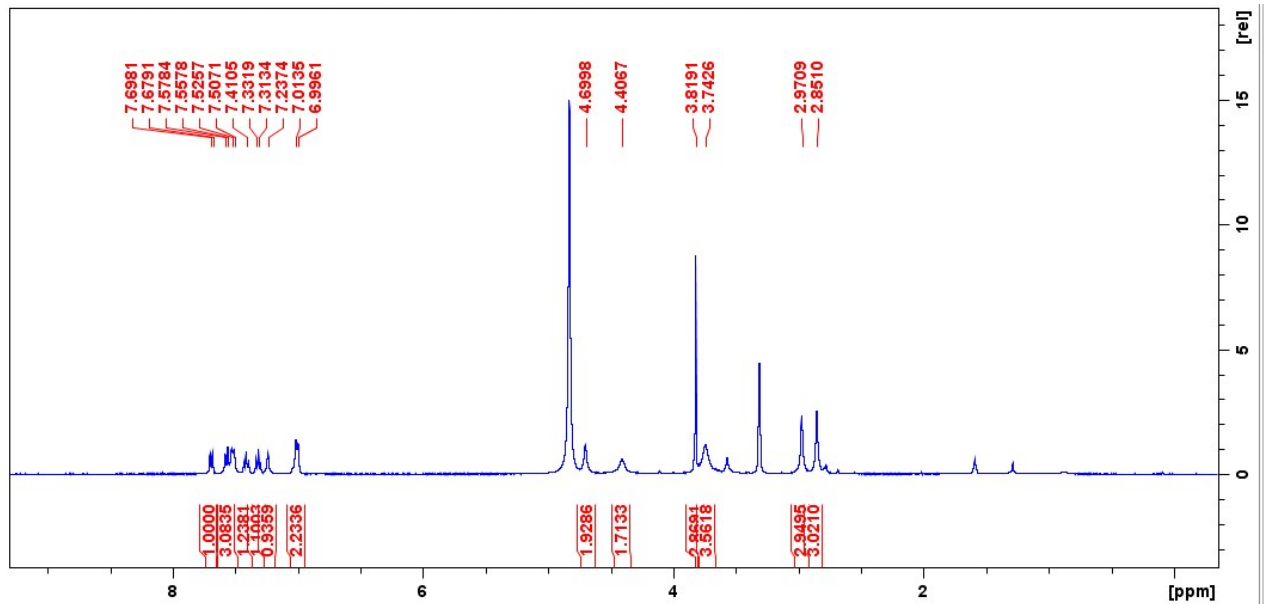
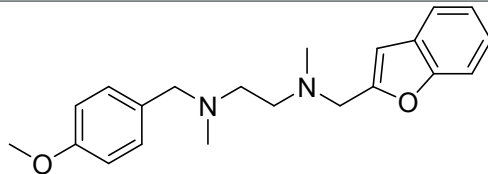
26b - CD₃OD



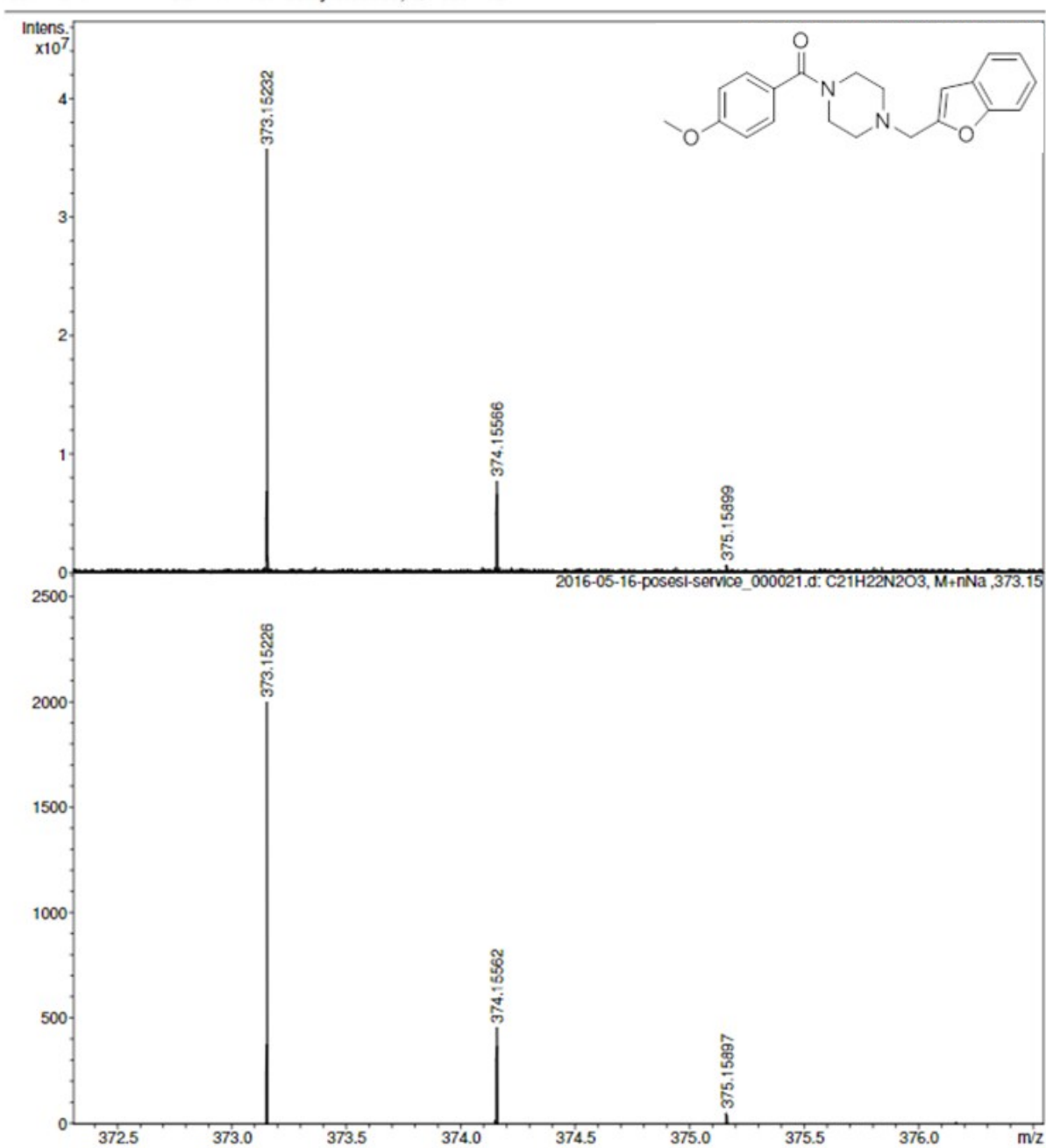
26c - CD₃OD



26d - CD₃OD

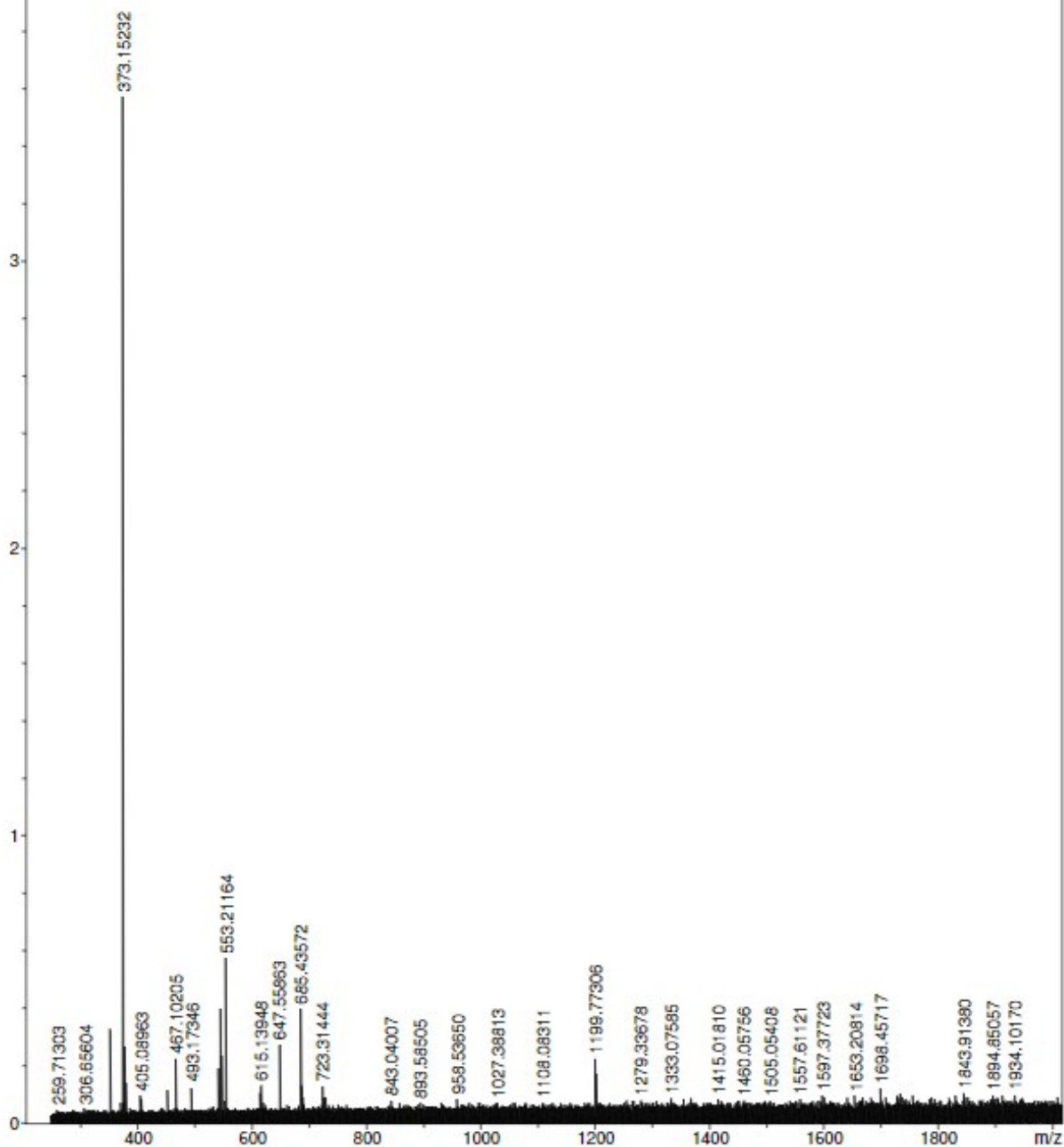


5a - HRMS



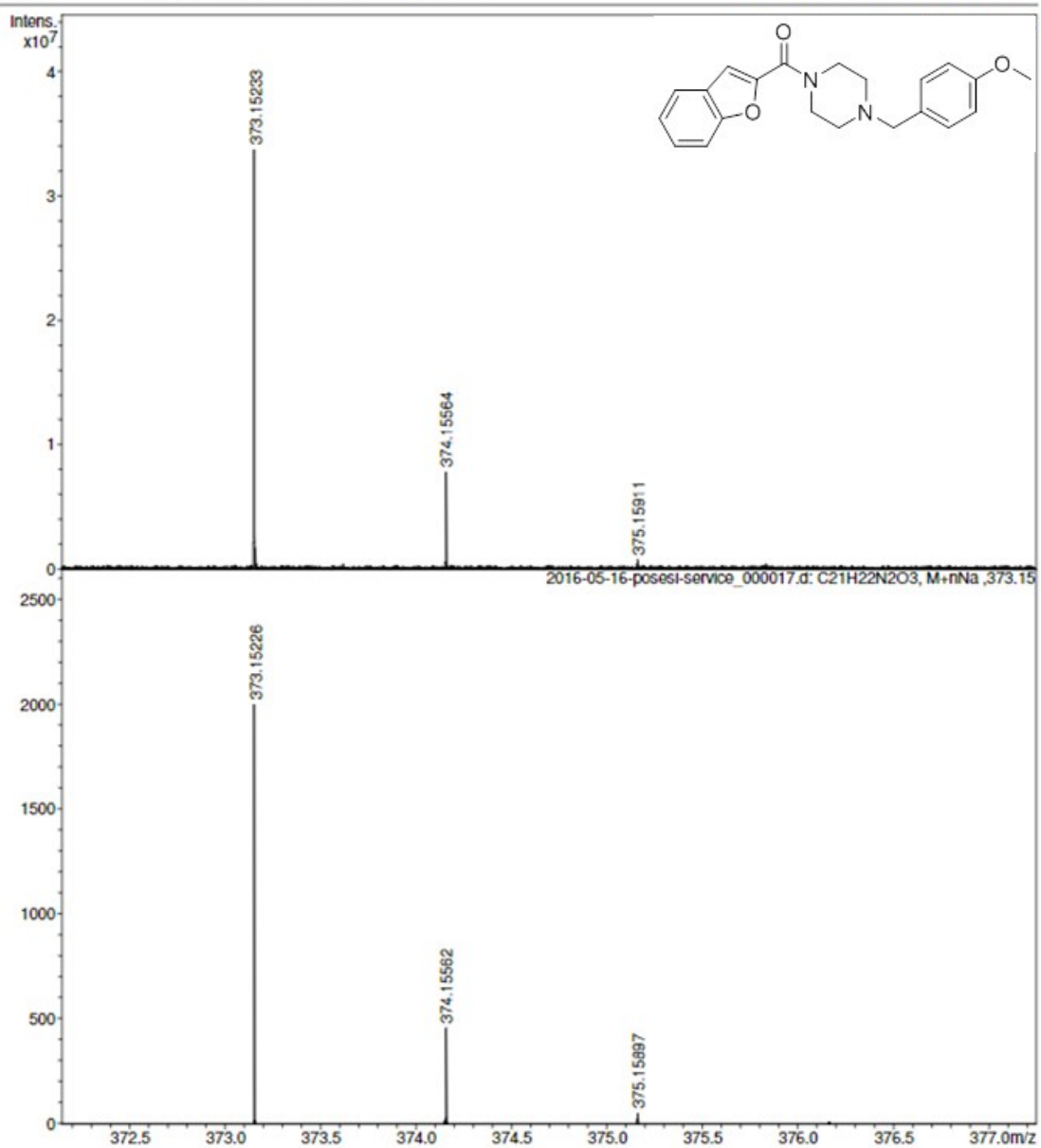
Intens.
x10⁷

2016-05-16-posesi-service_000021.d: +MS



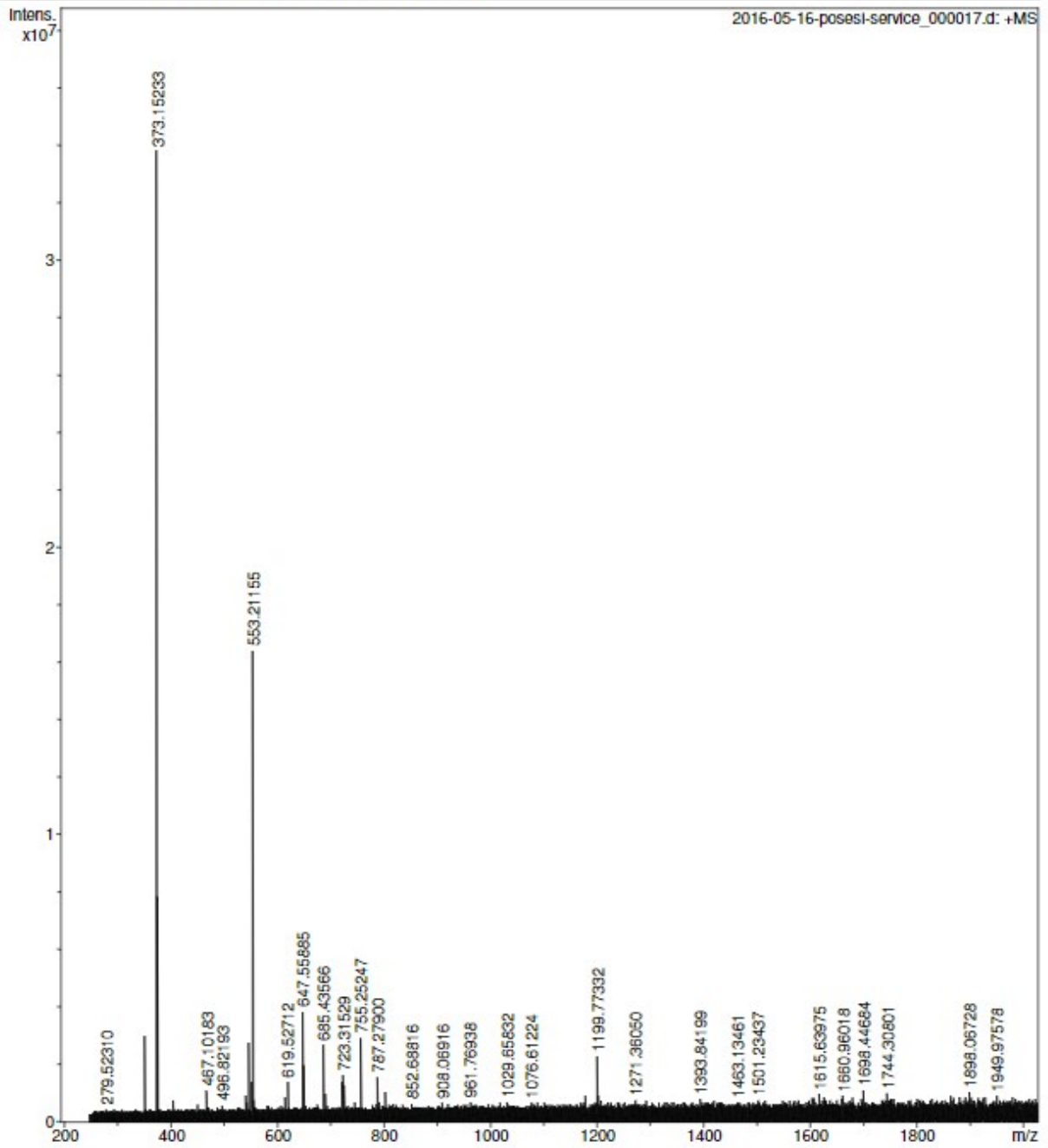
5b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



Comment

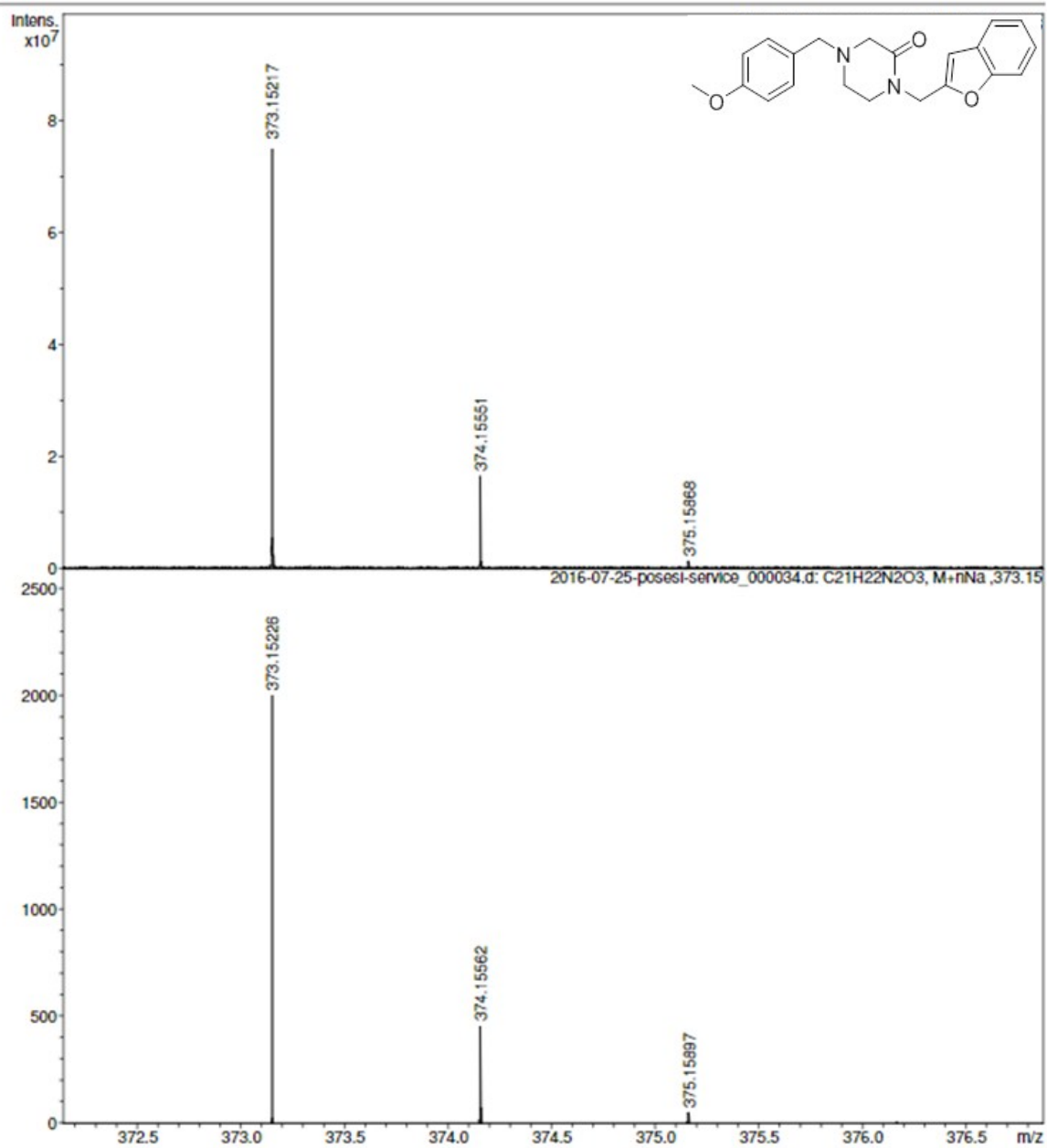
MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



2016-05-16-posesi-service_000017.d: +MS

8a - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

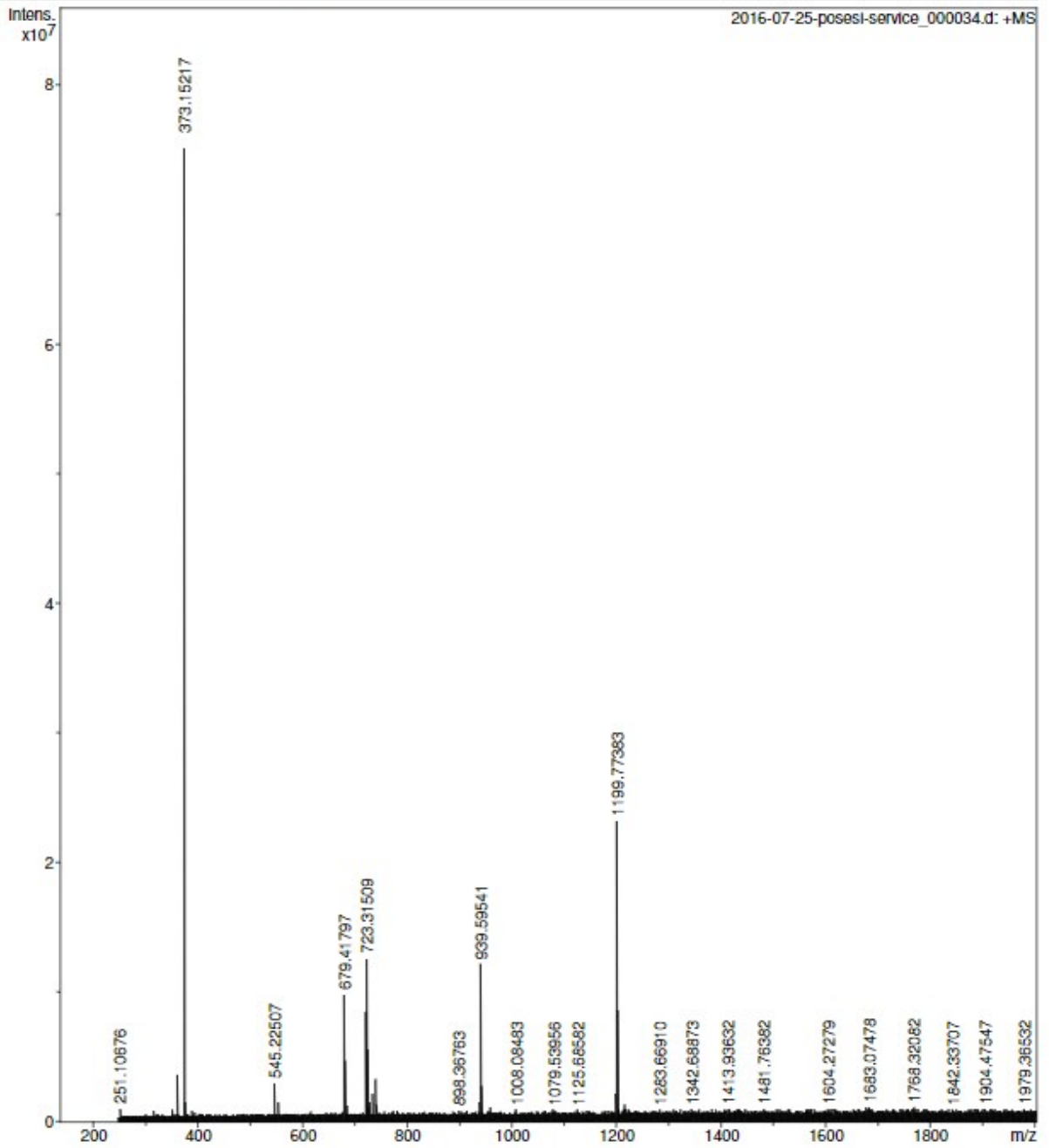


Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

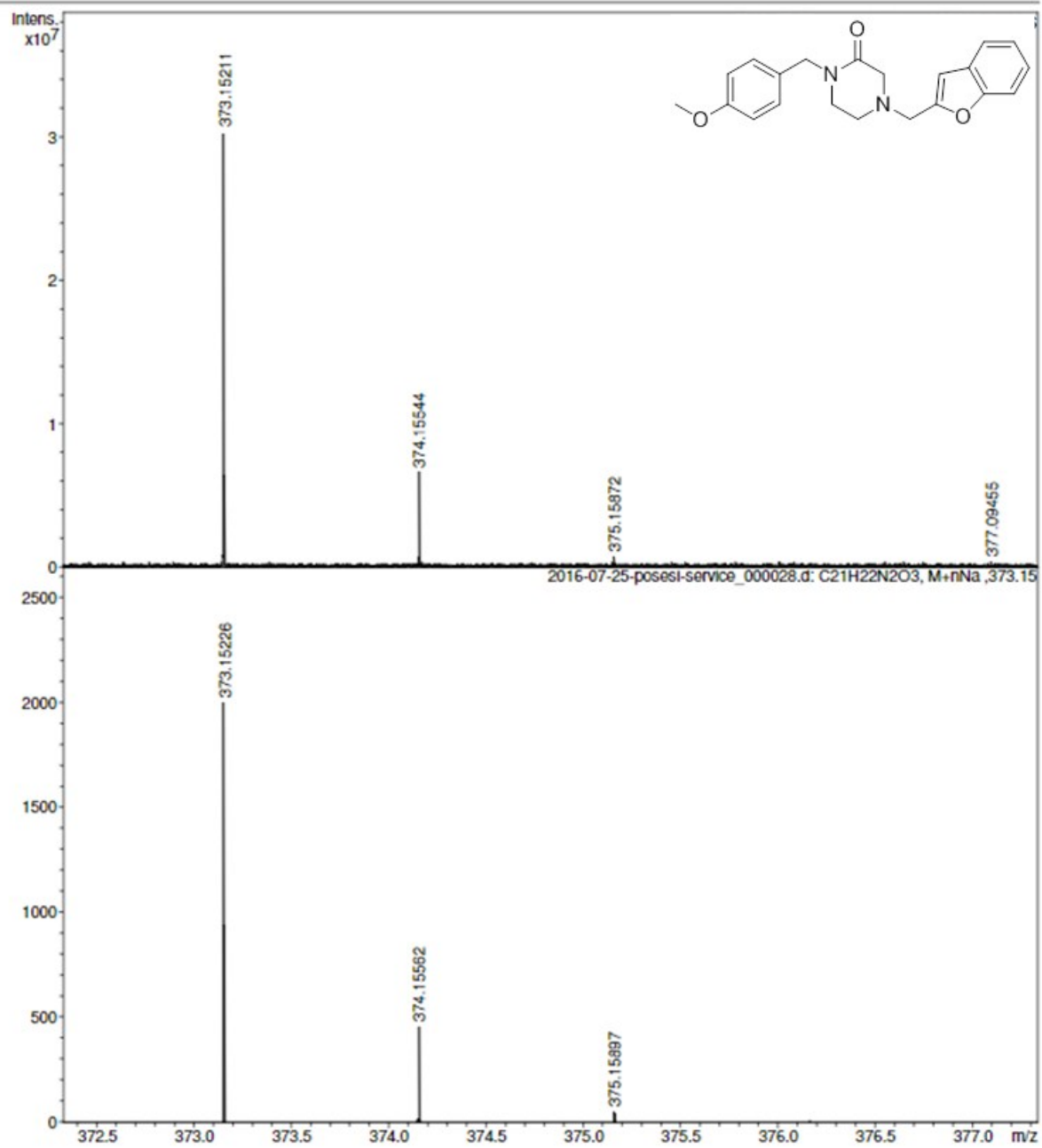
MS1: 2016-07-25 10:00:00

2016-07-25-posesi-service_000034.d: +MS



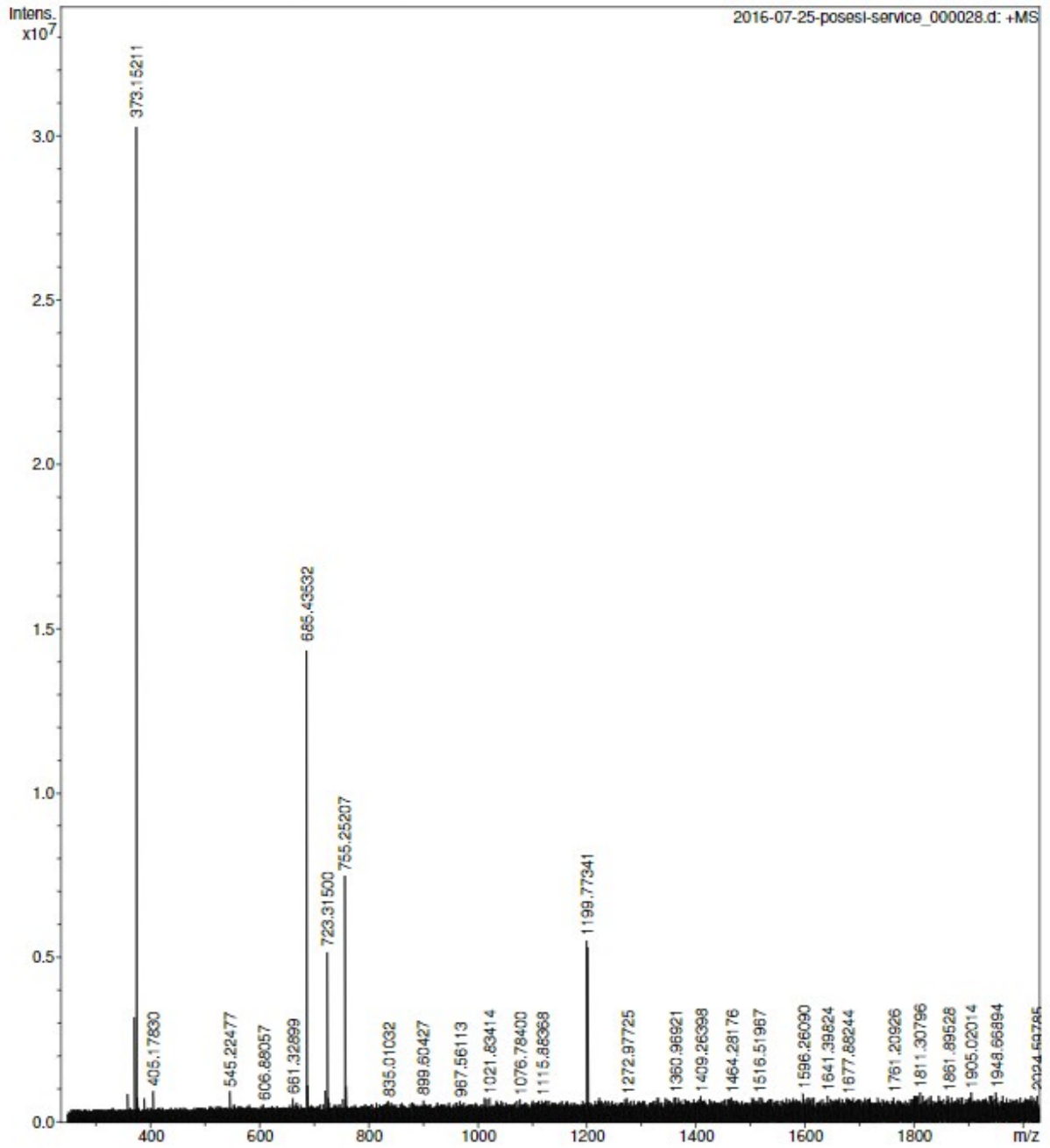
8b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



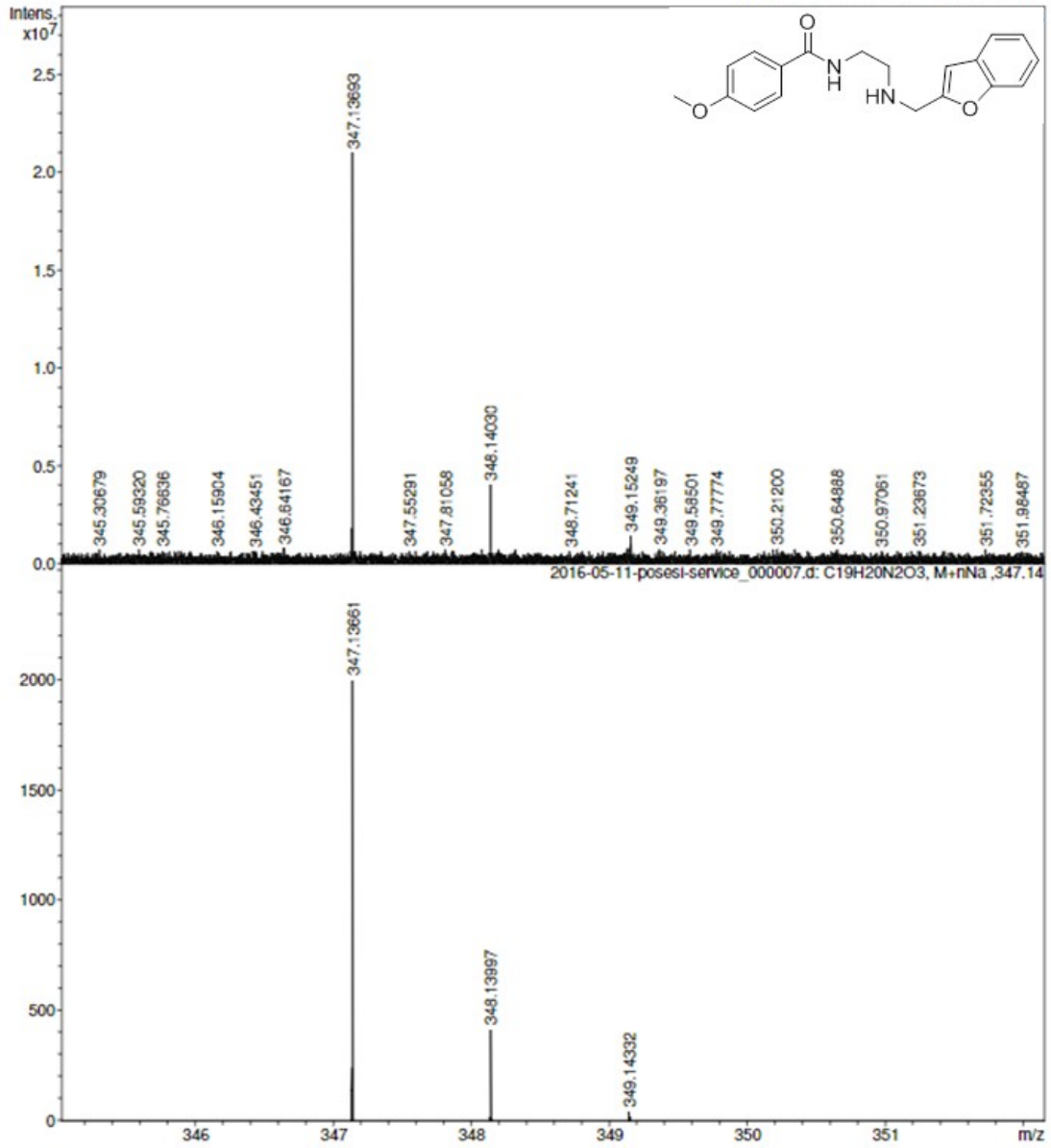
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

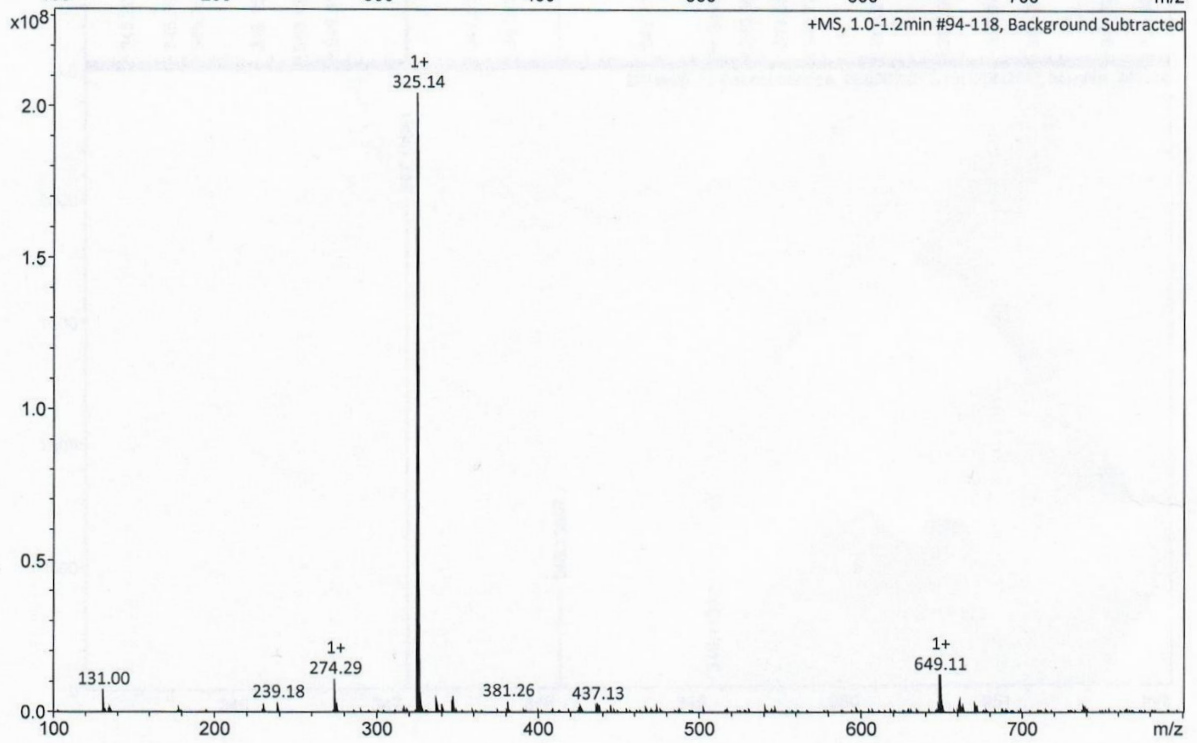
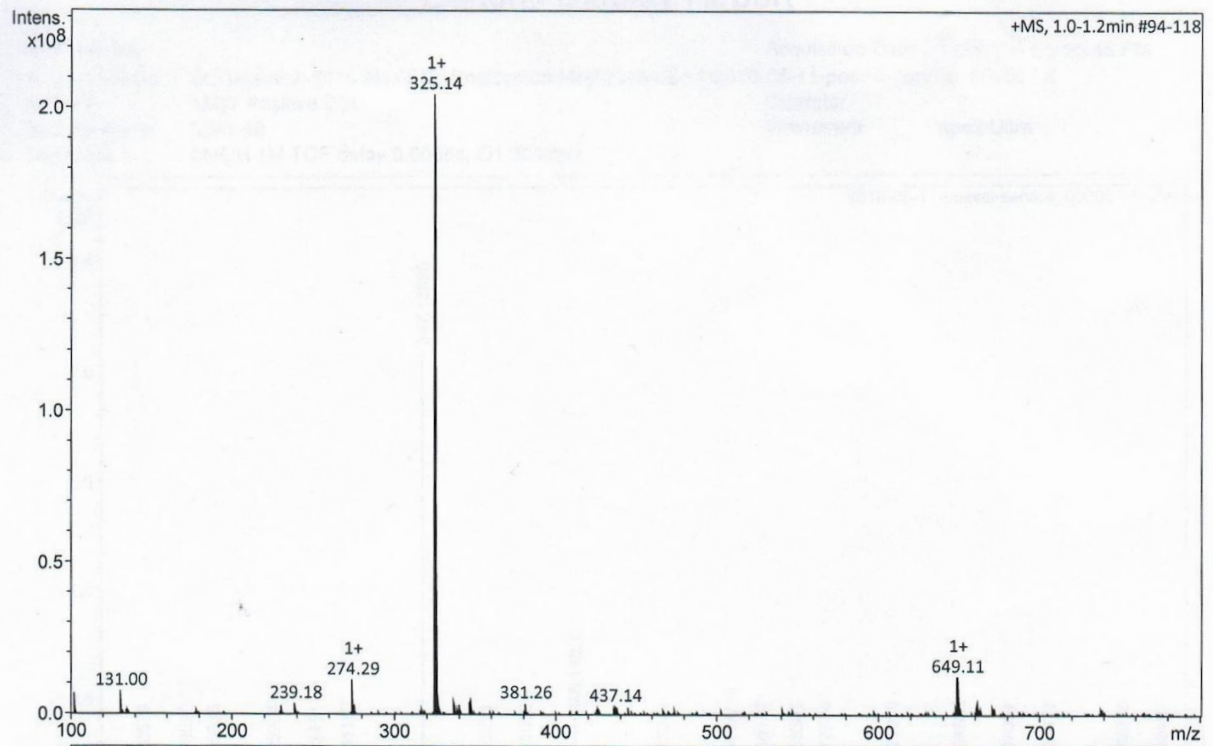


12a - HRMS

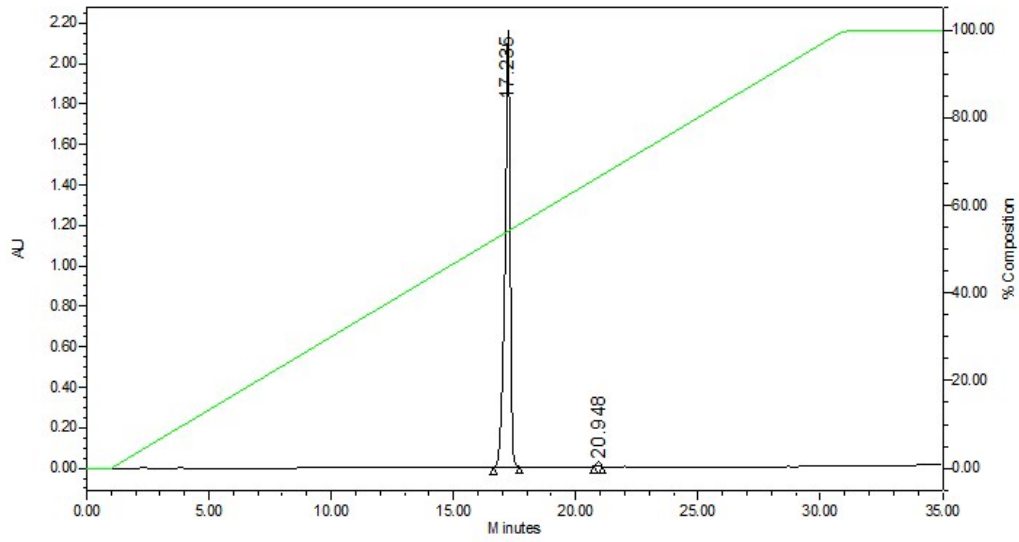
Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



12a - LRMS



12a - HPLC

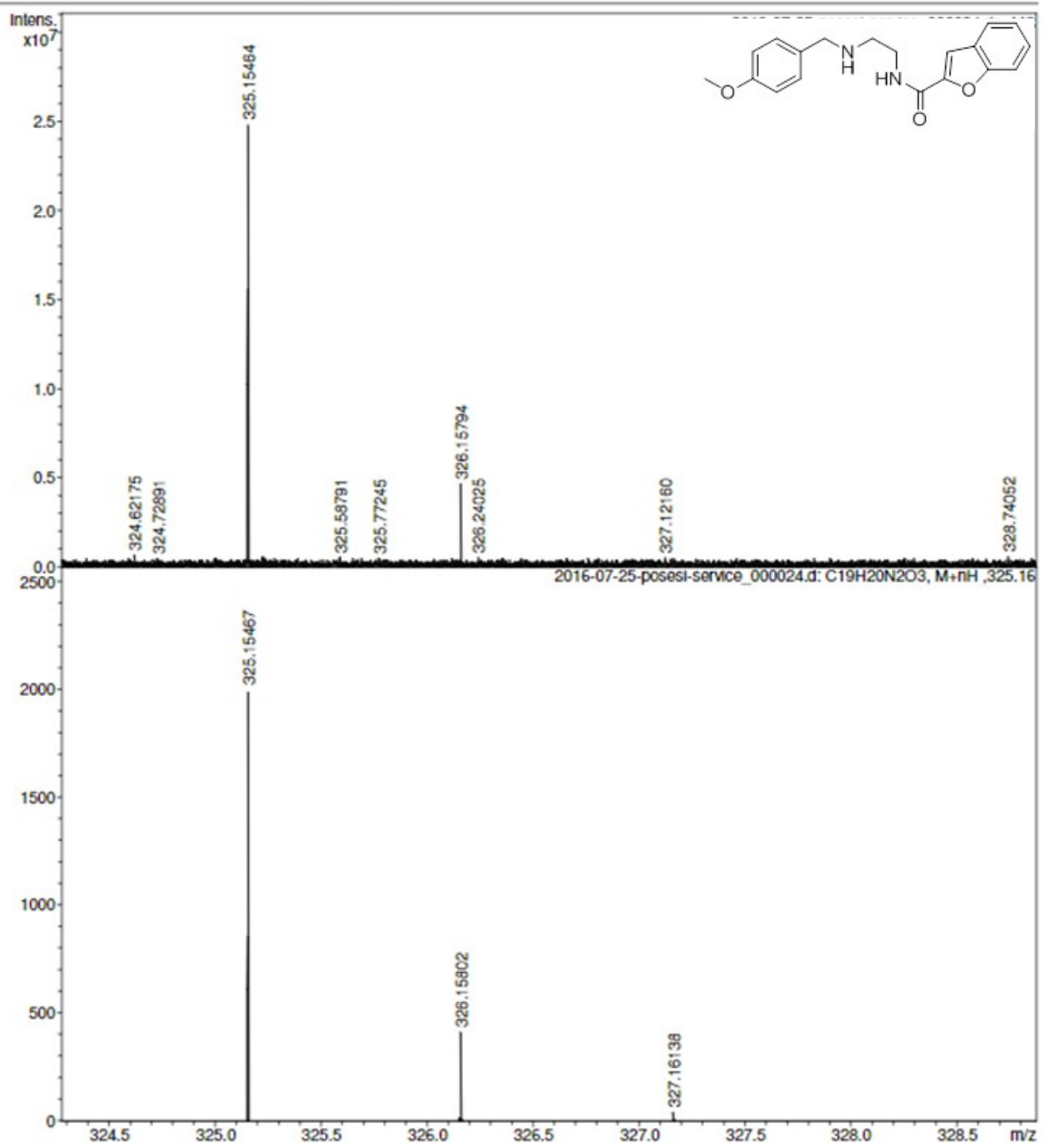


Peak information

	RT	Area	% Area
1	17.235	31917559	99.27
2	20.948	235600	0.73

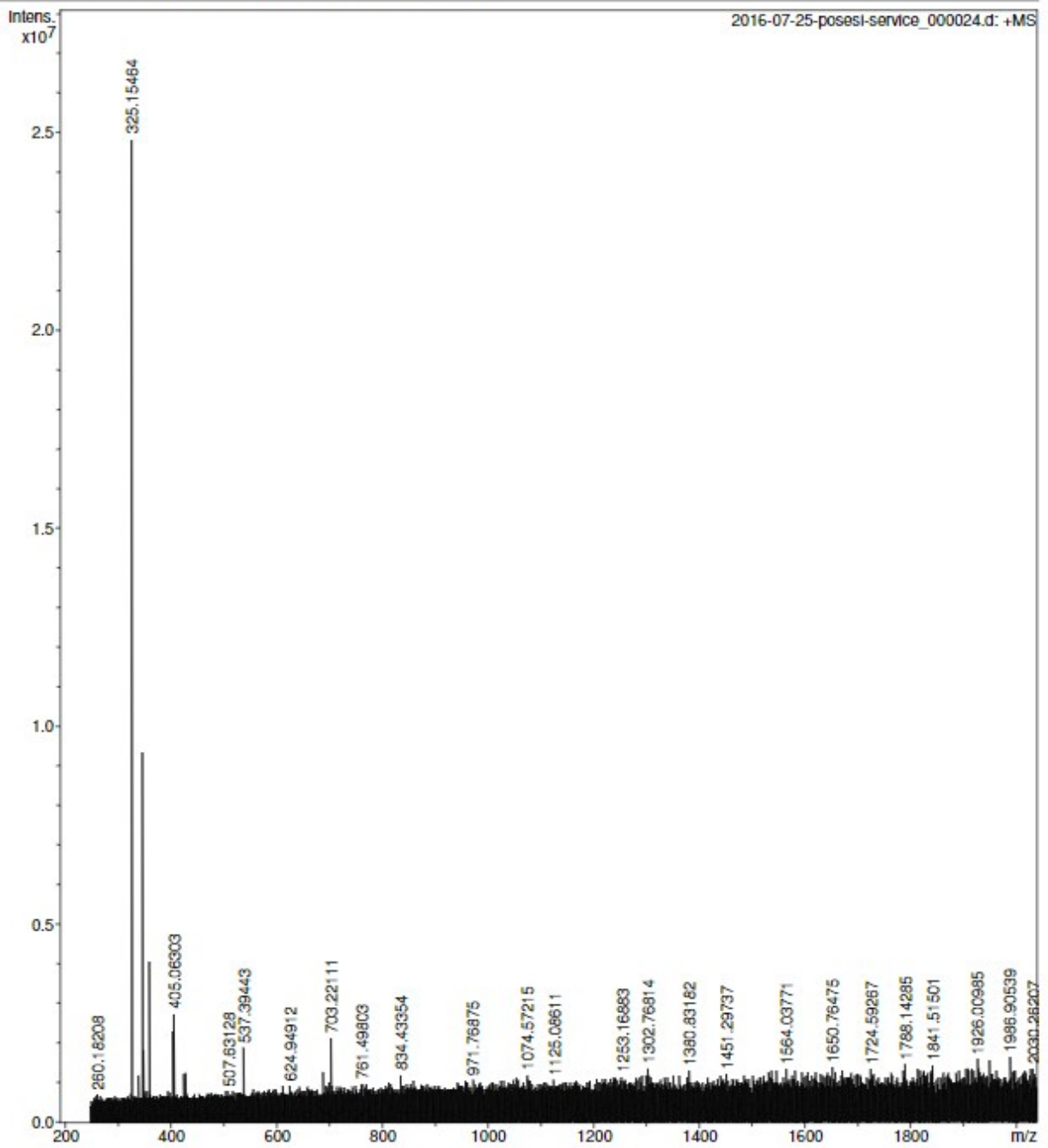
12b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



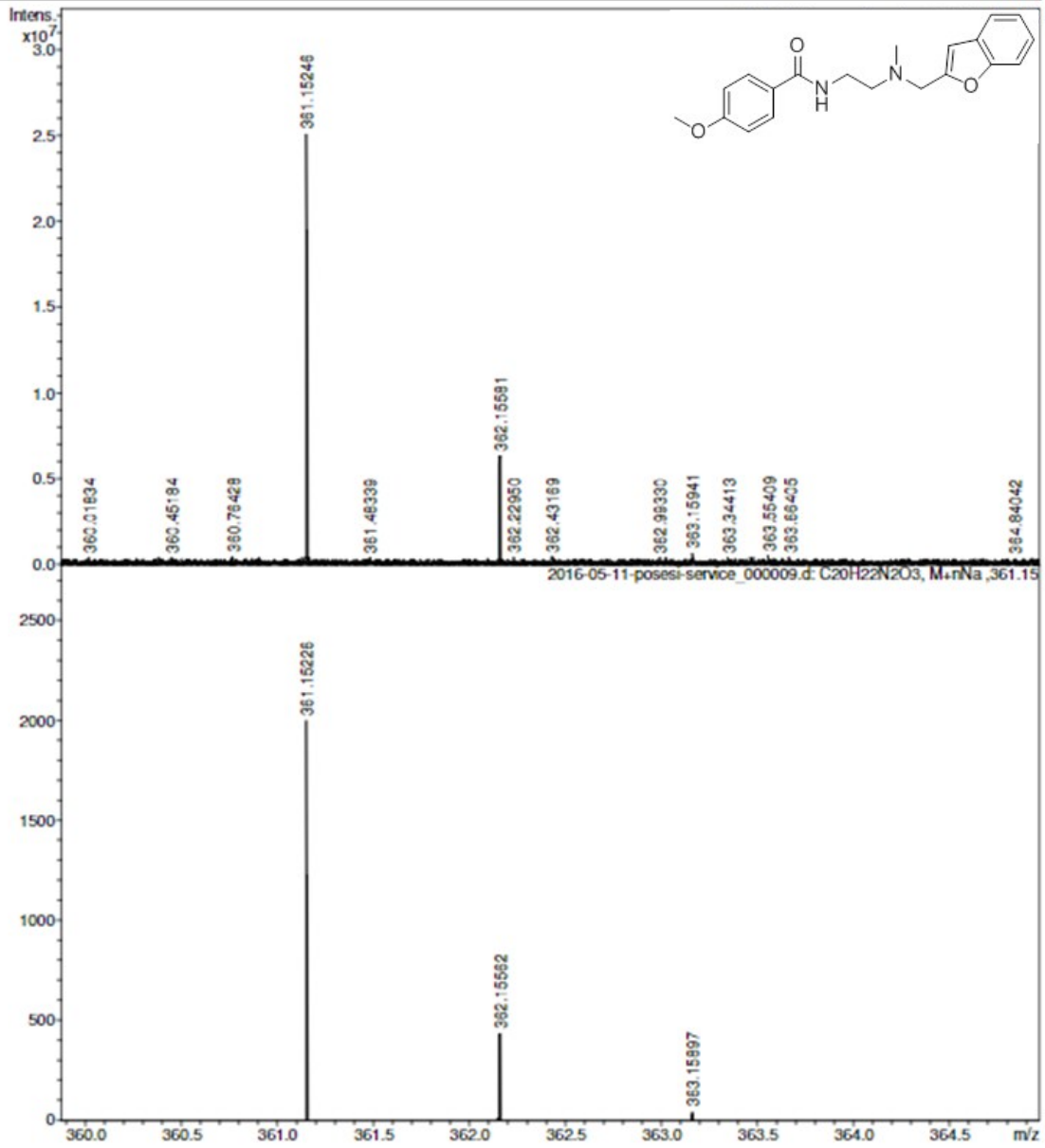
Comment

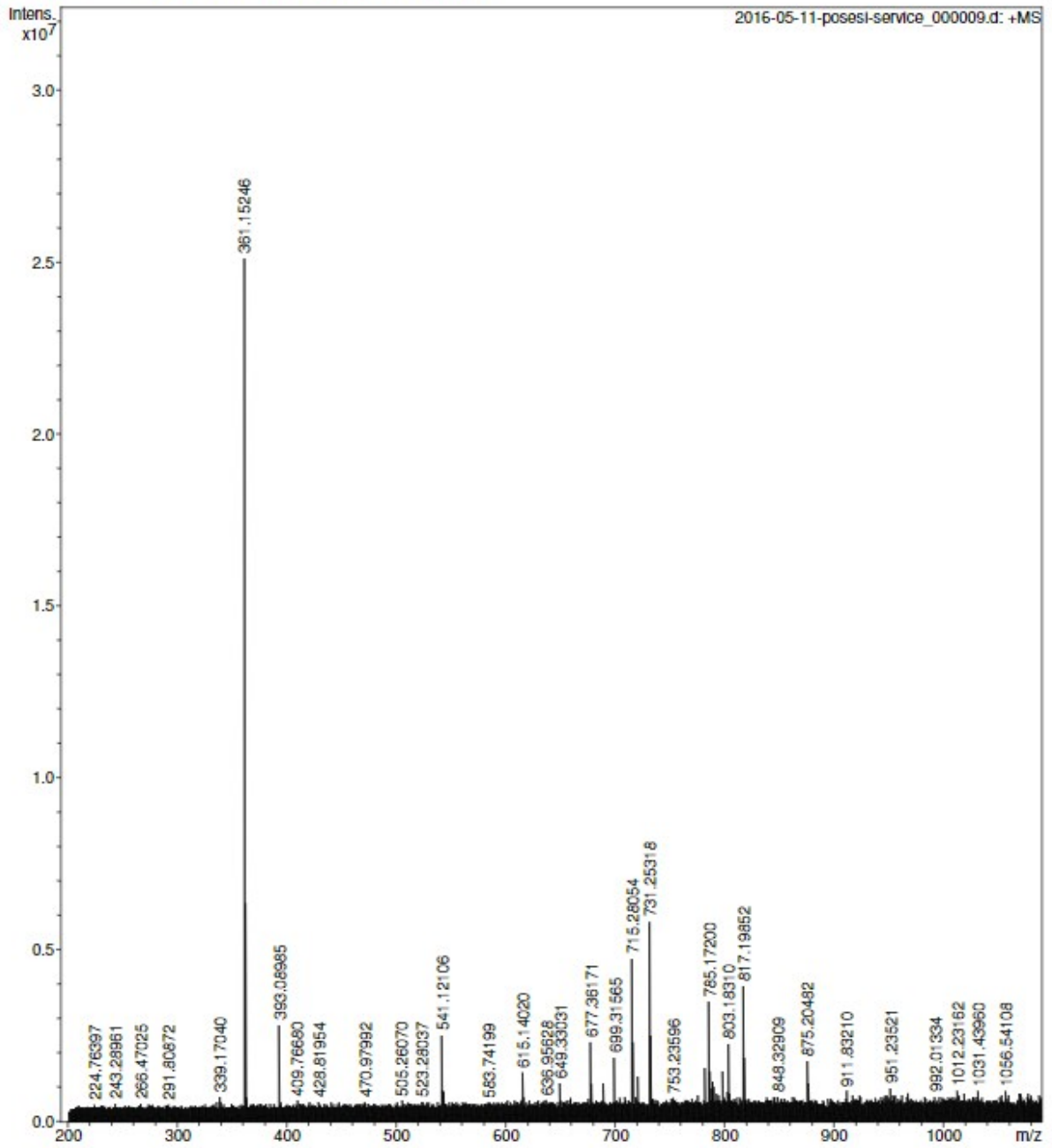
MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



13a - HRMS

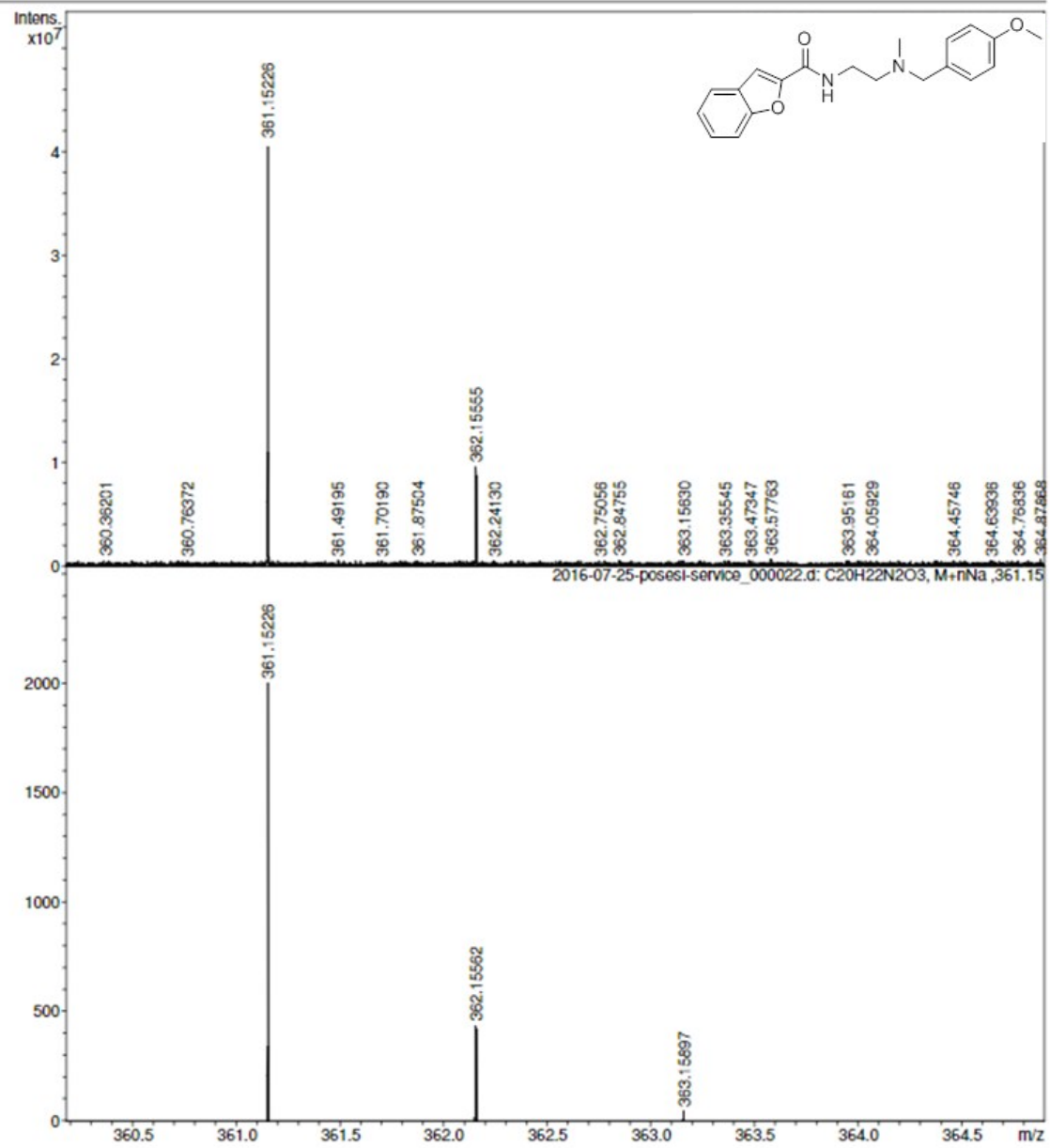
Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z





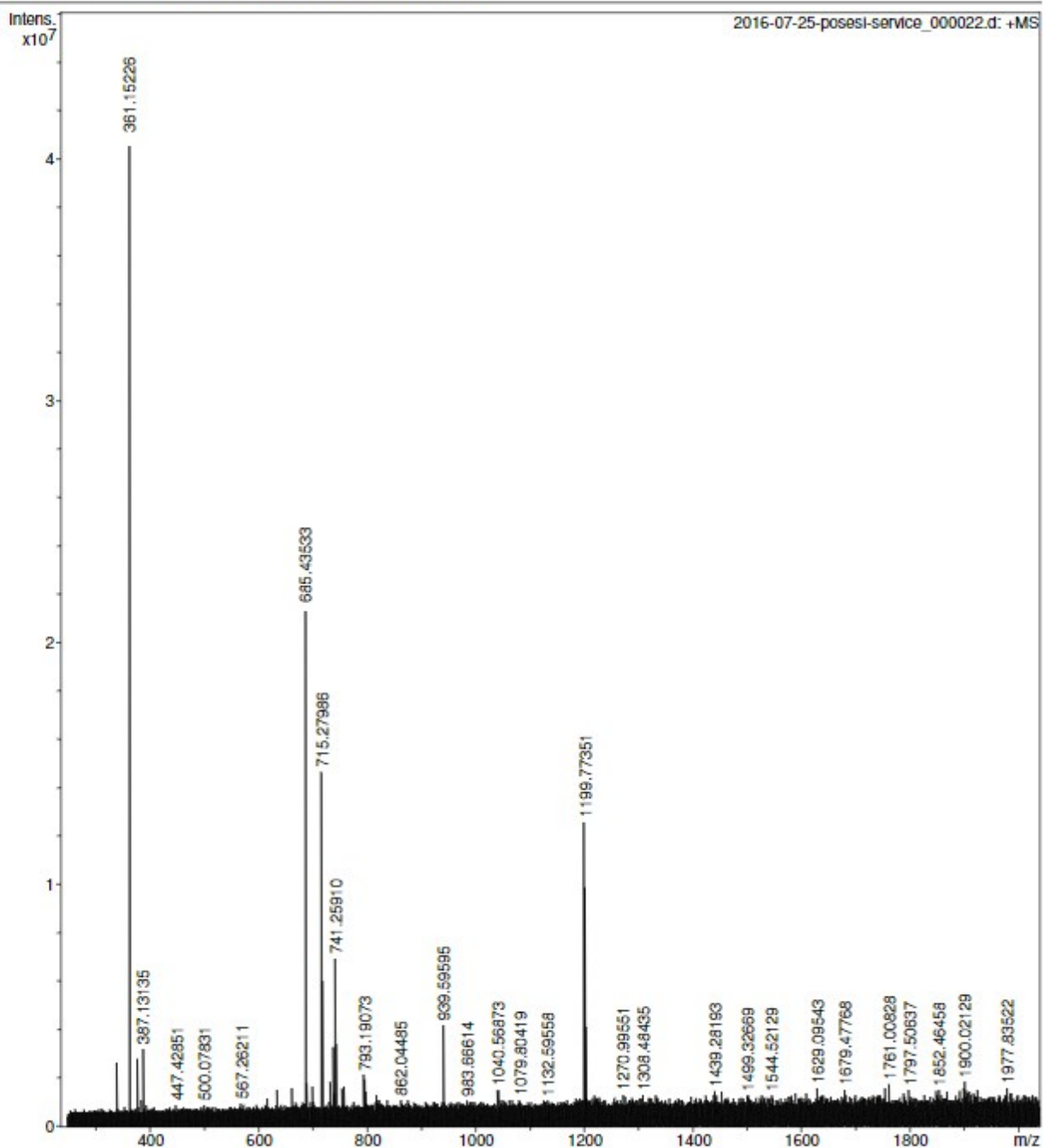
13b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



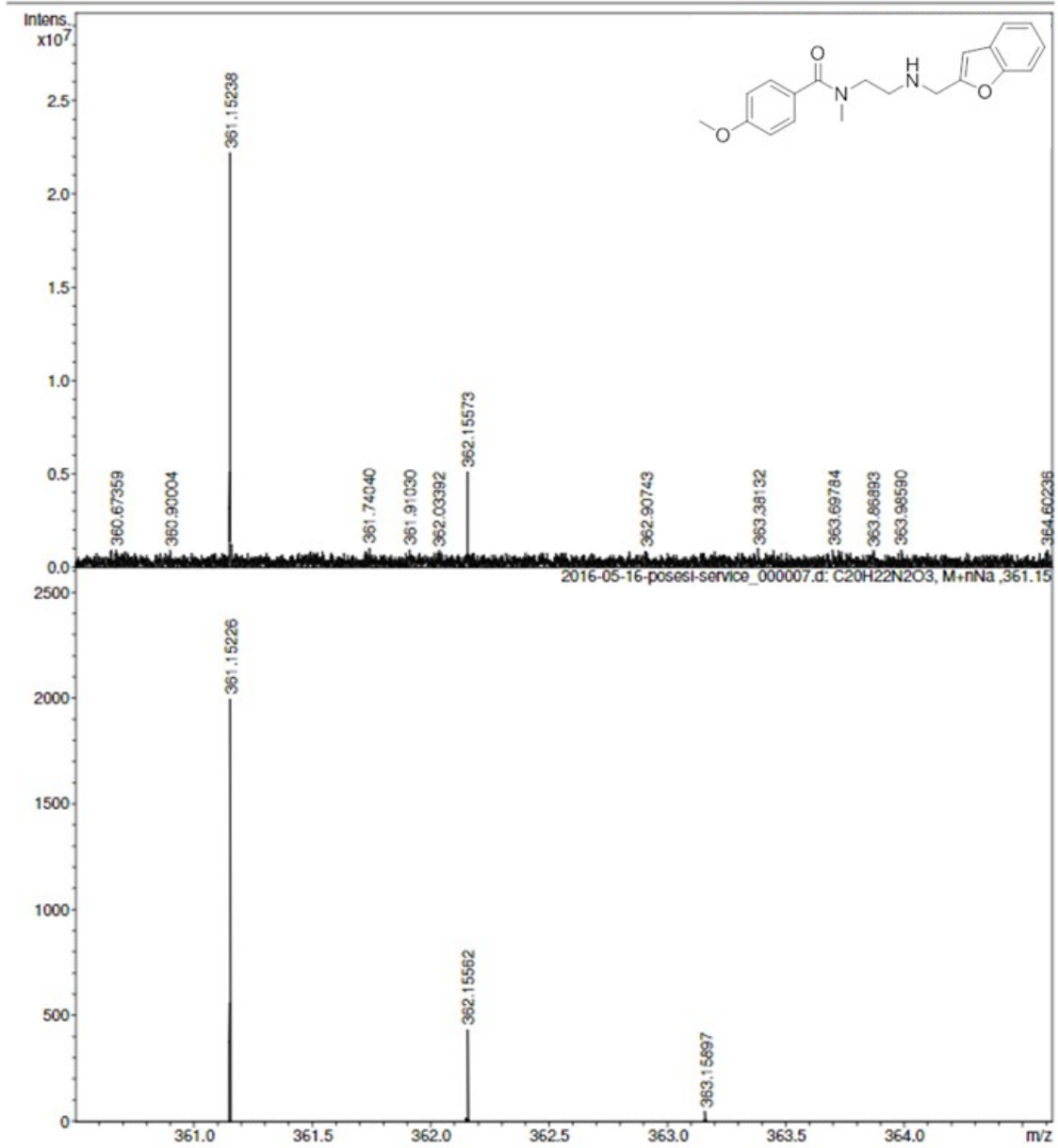
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



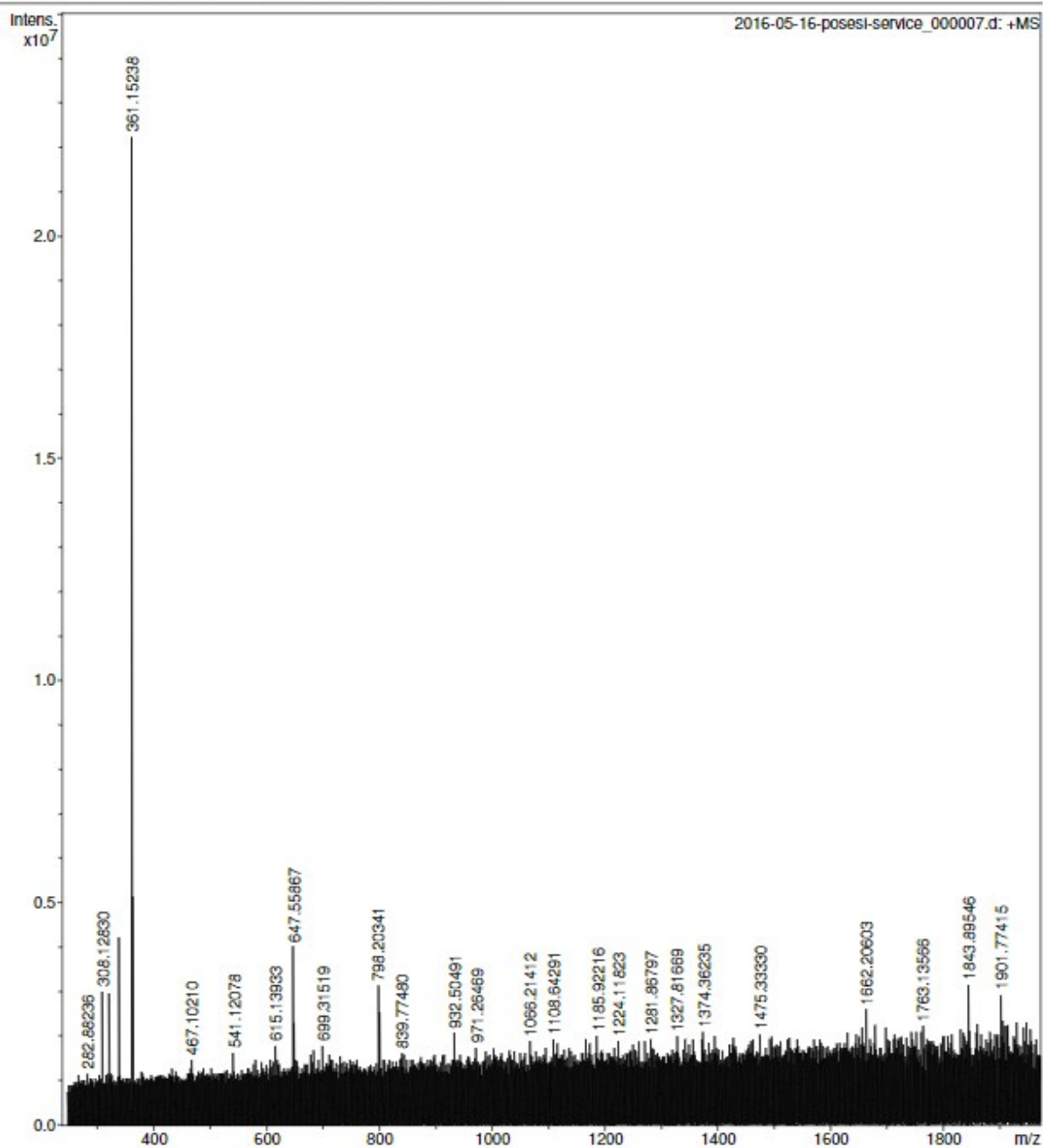
16a - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



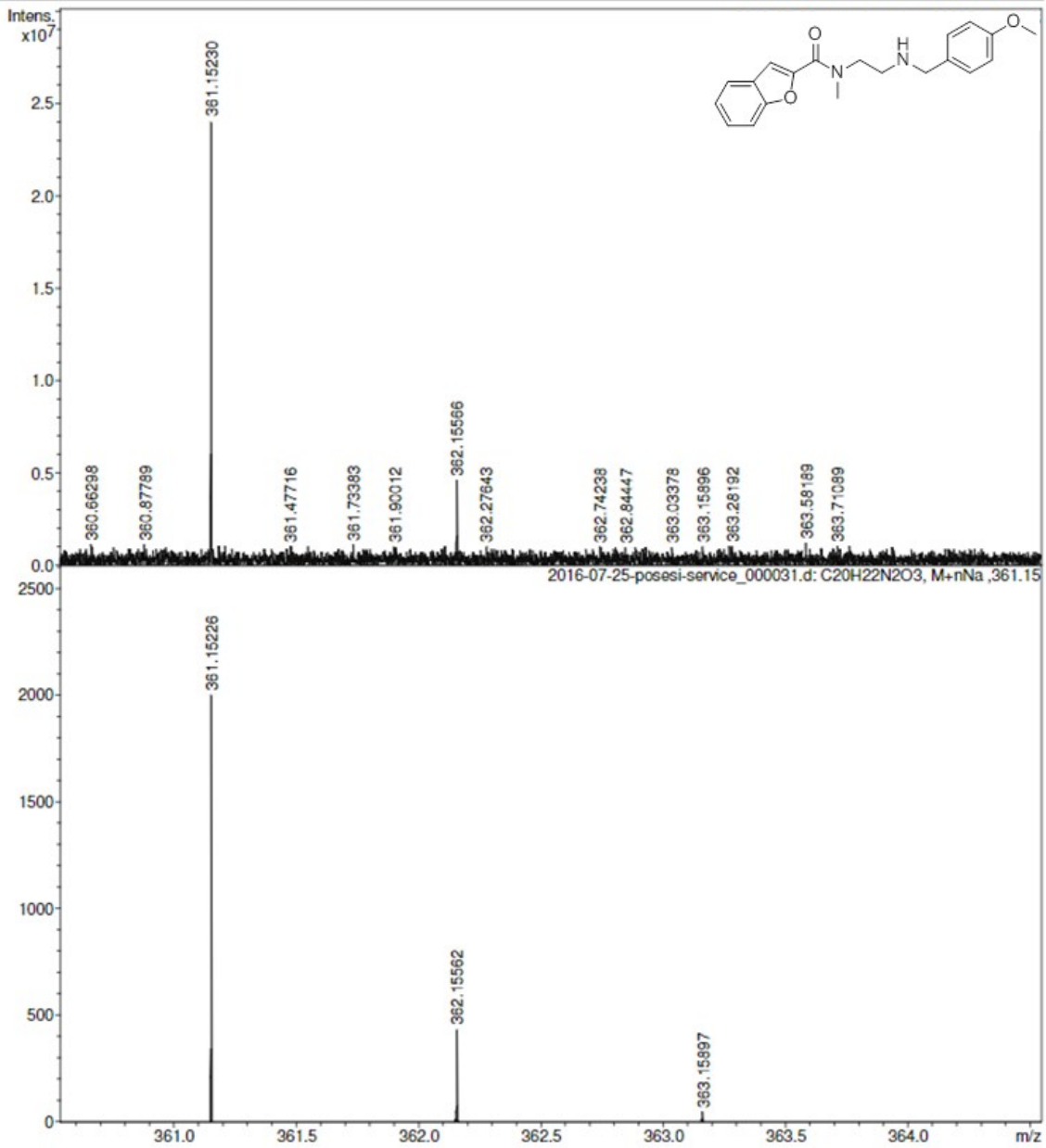
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z

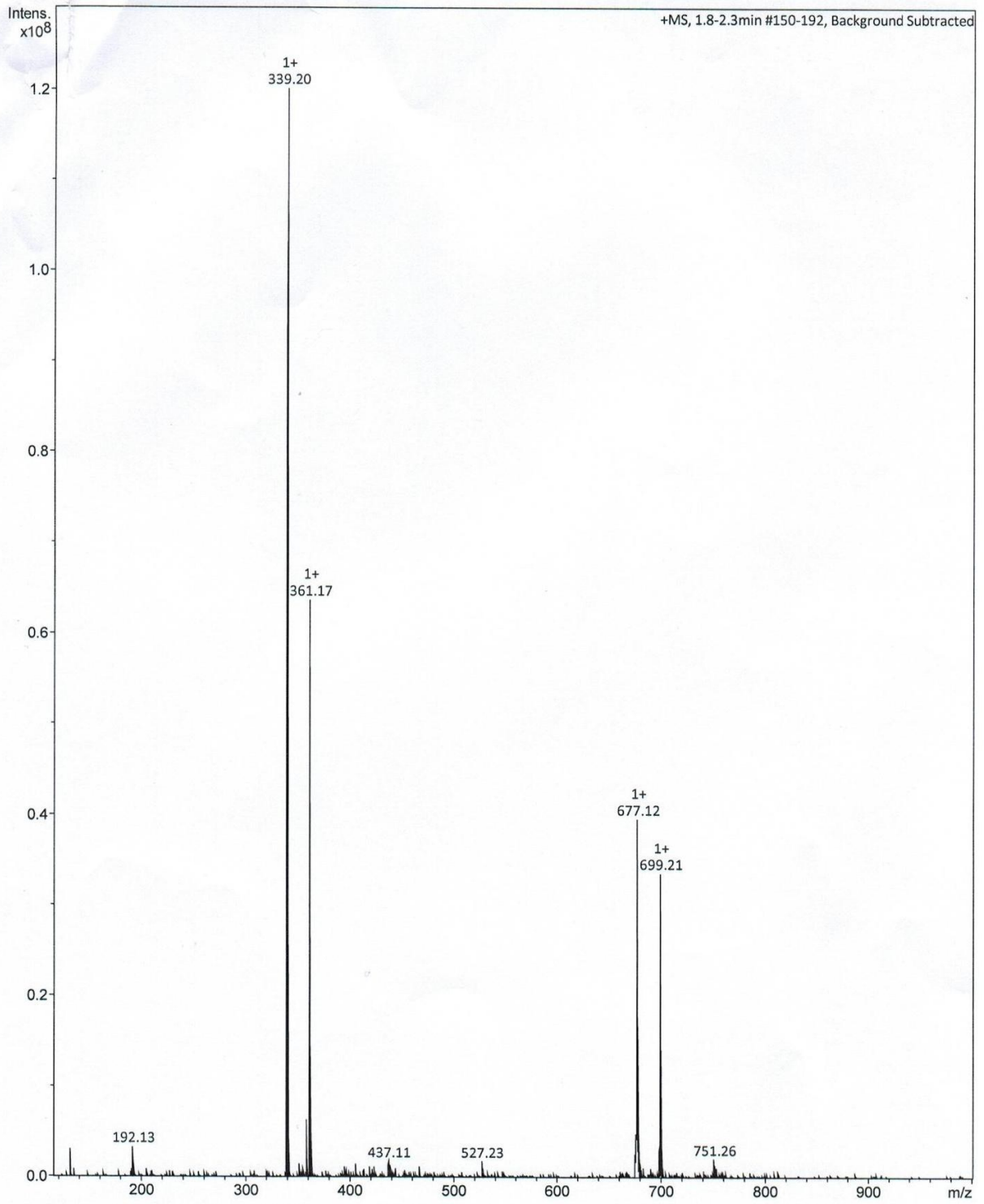


16b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

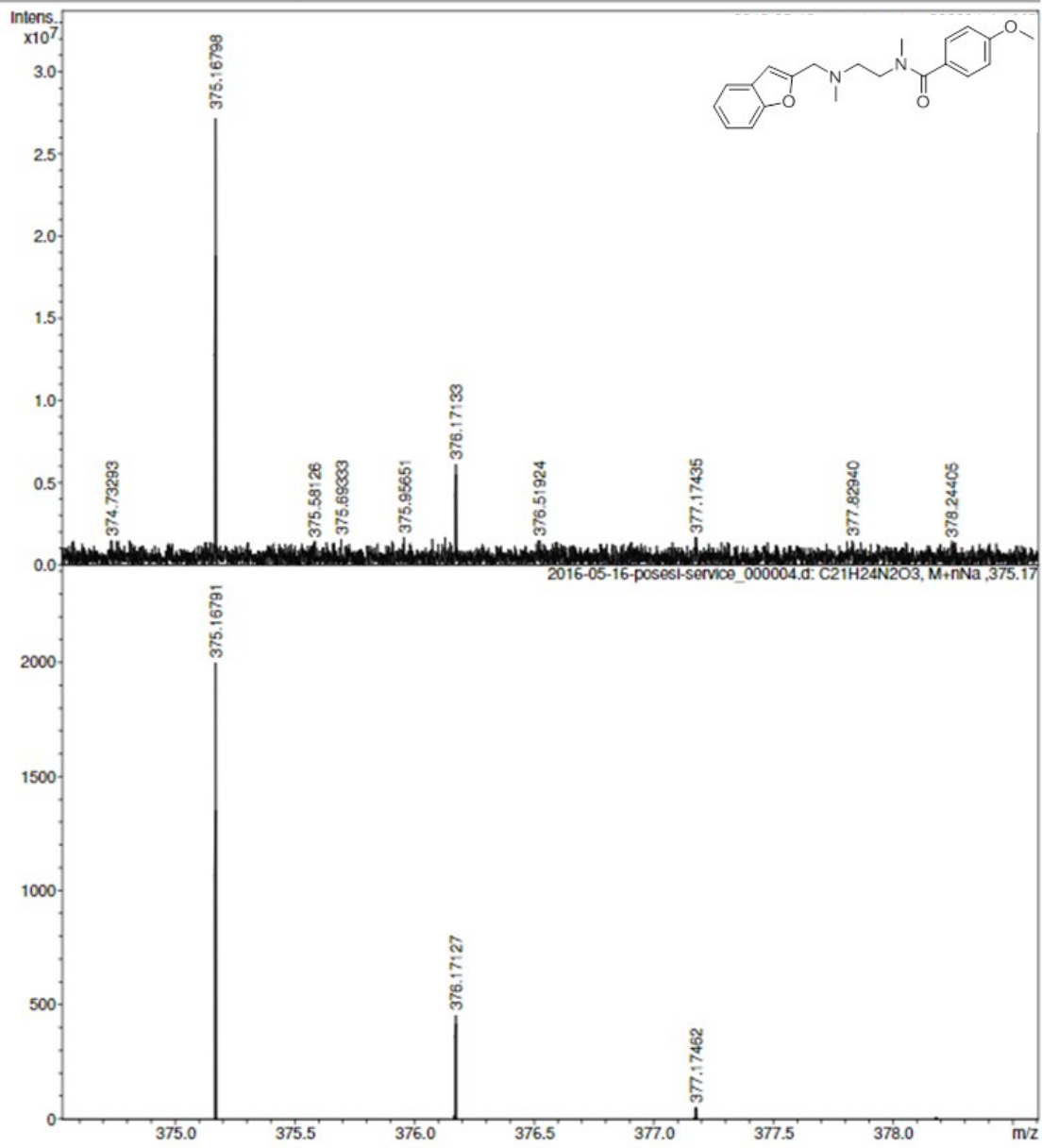


16b - LRMS



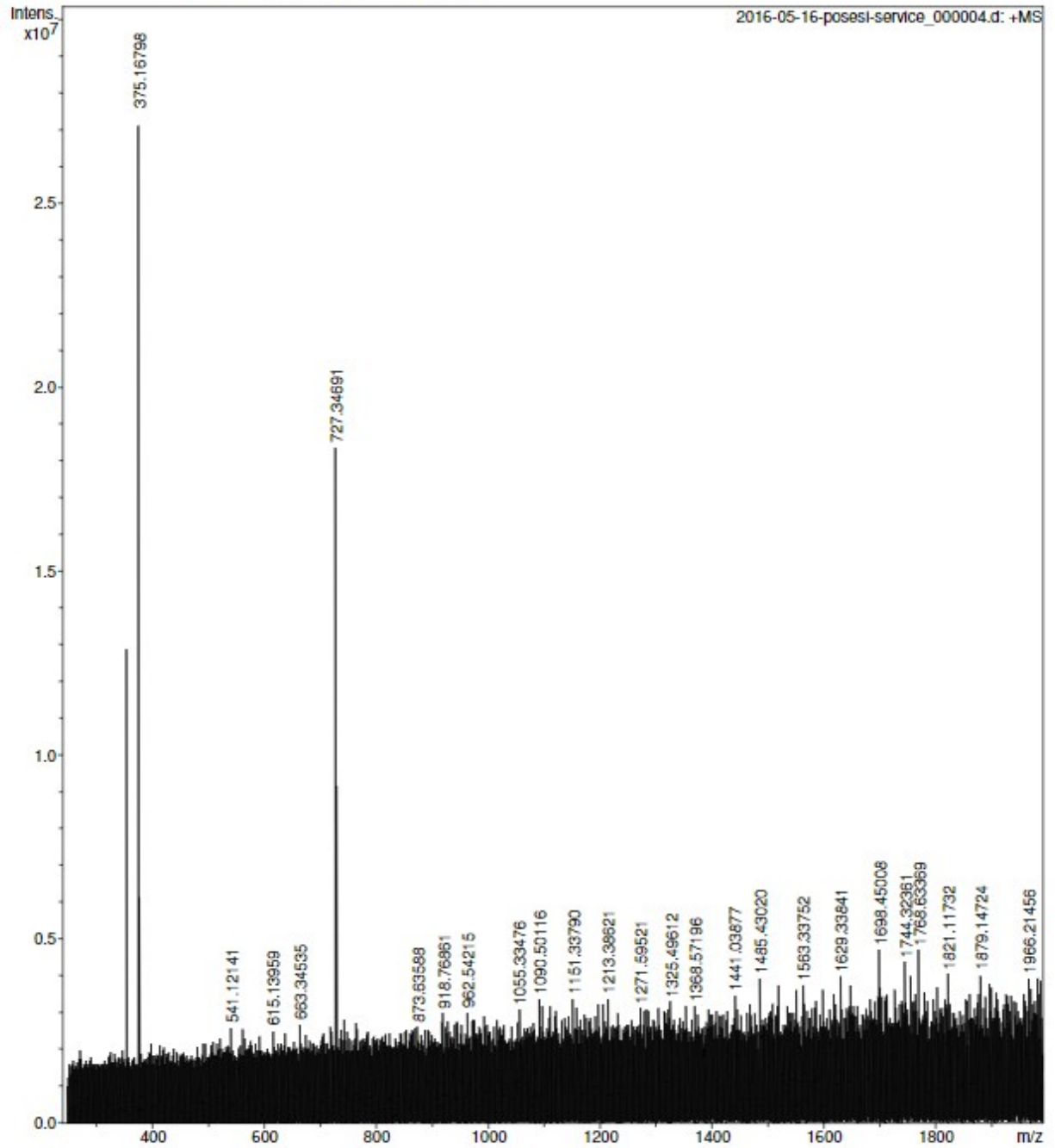
16c - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



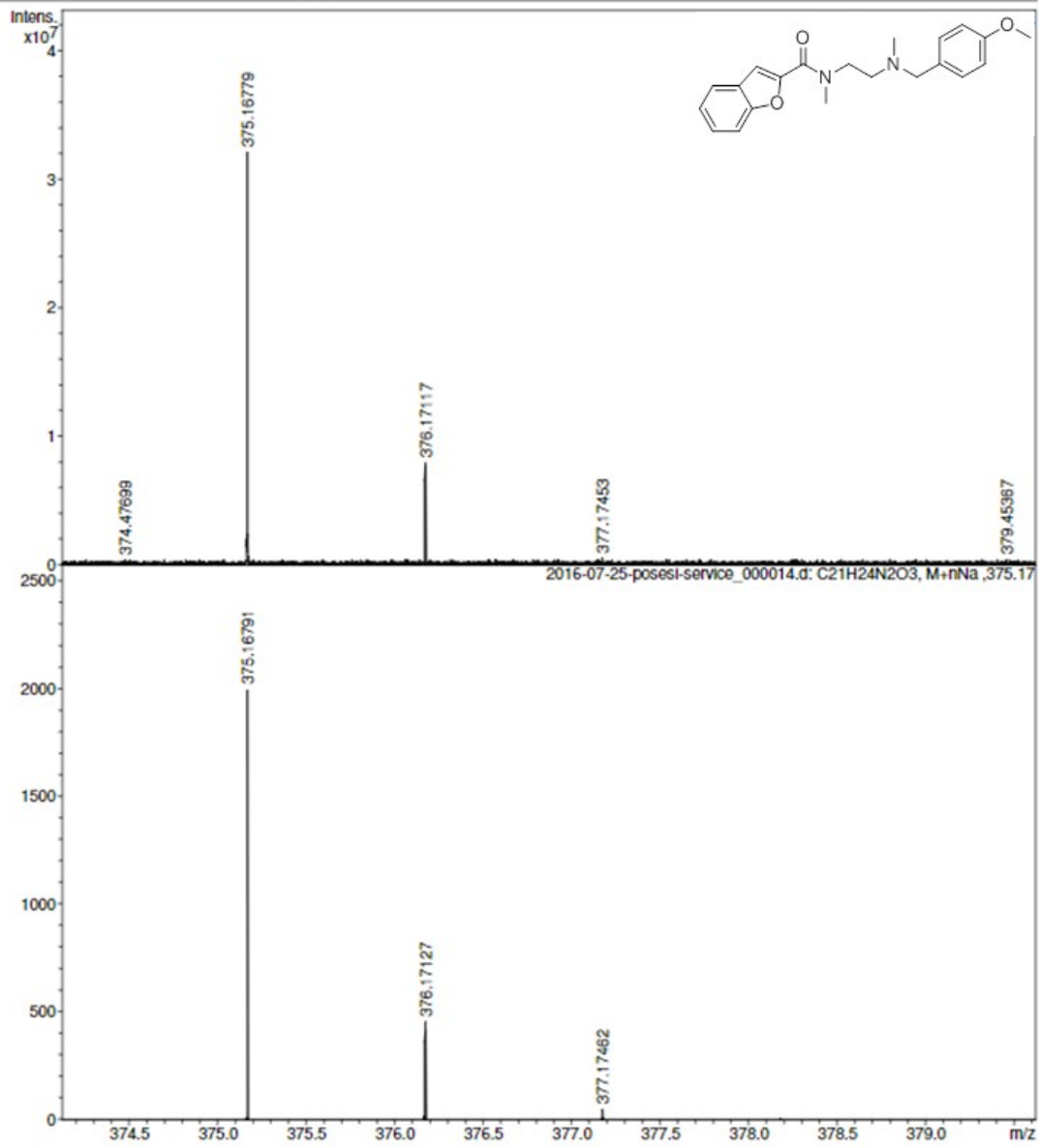
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



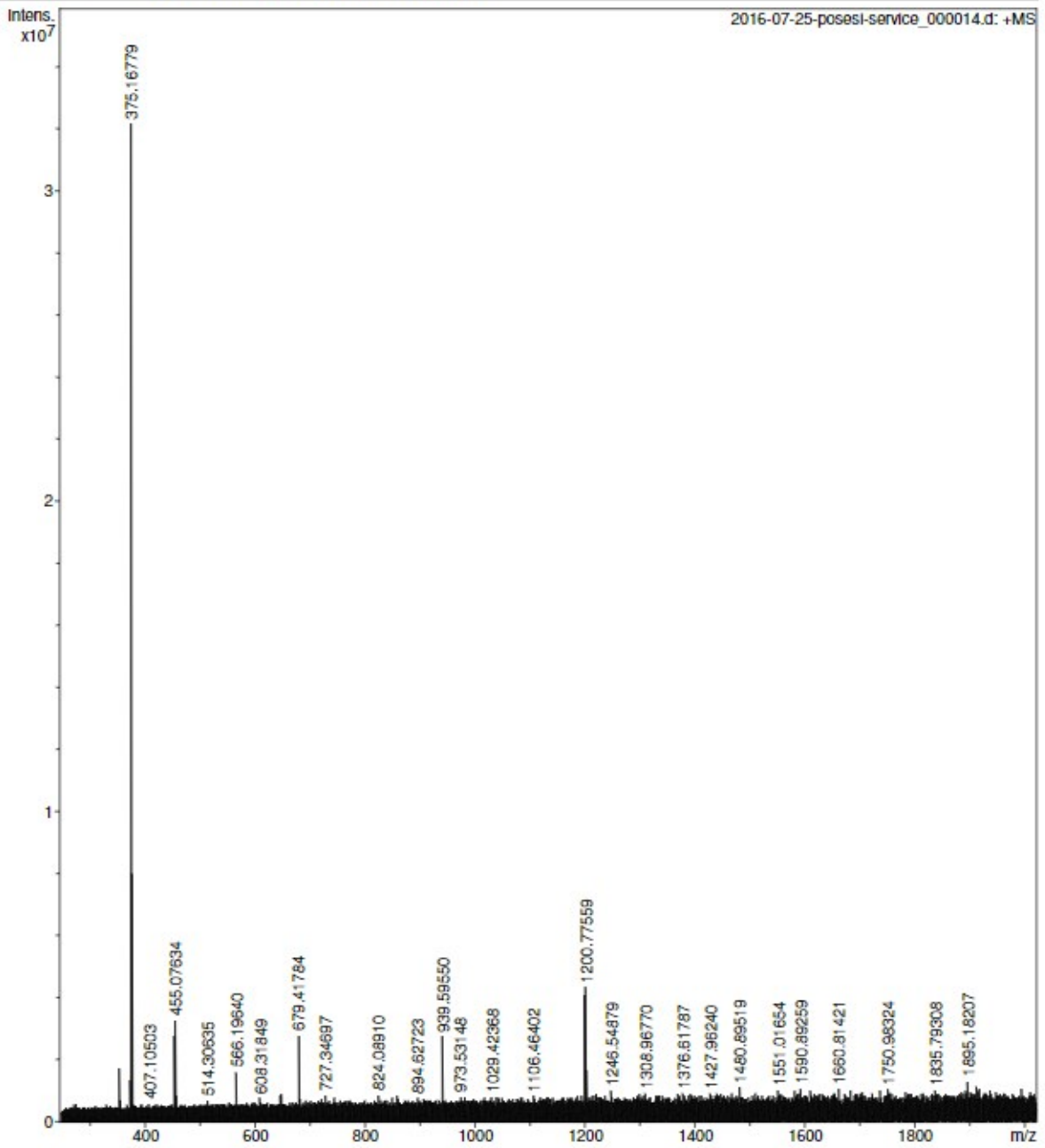
16d - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



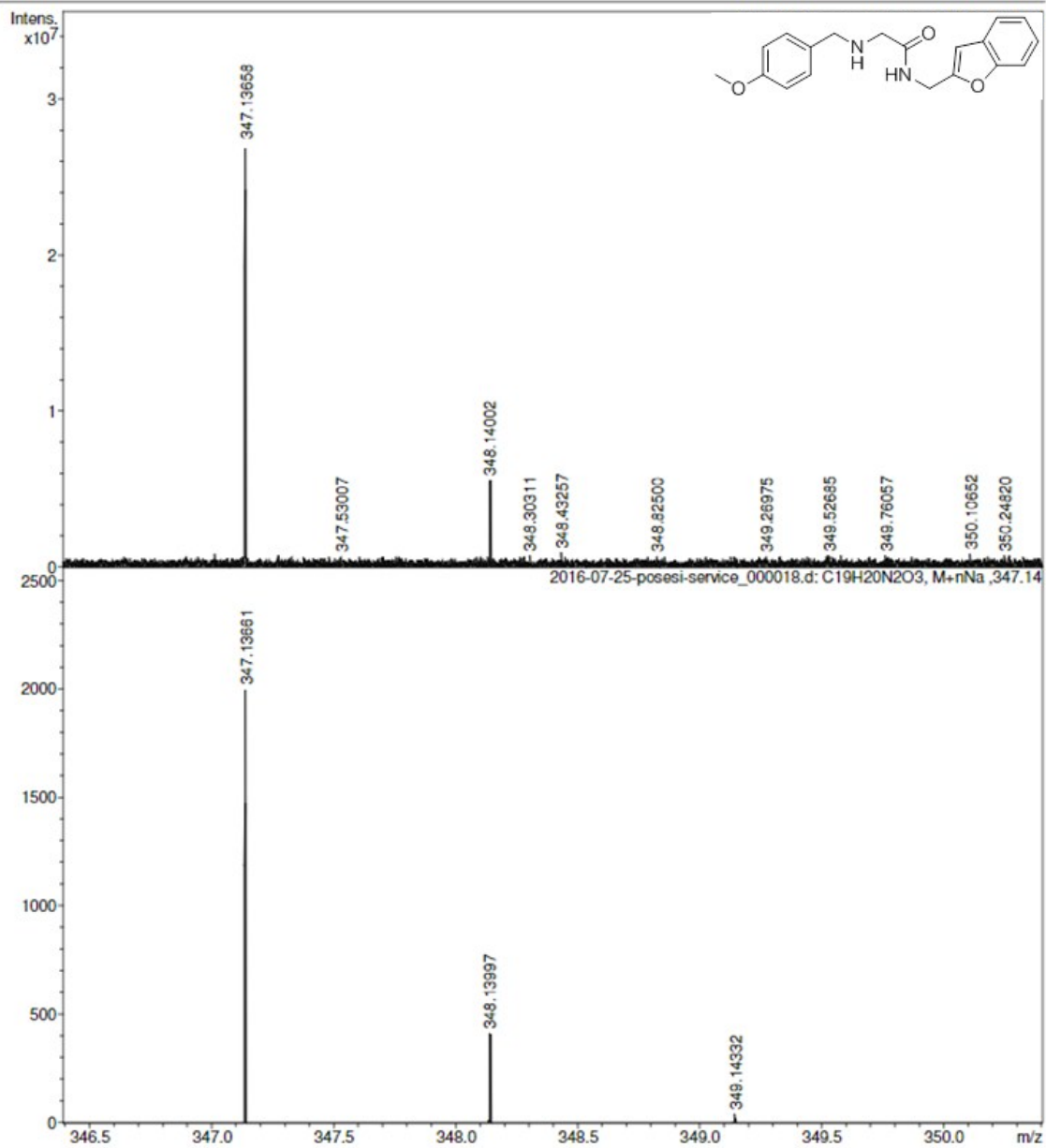
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

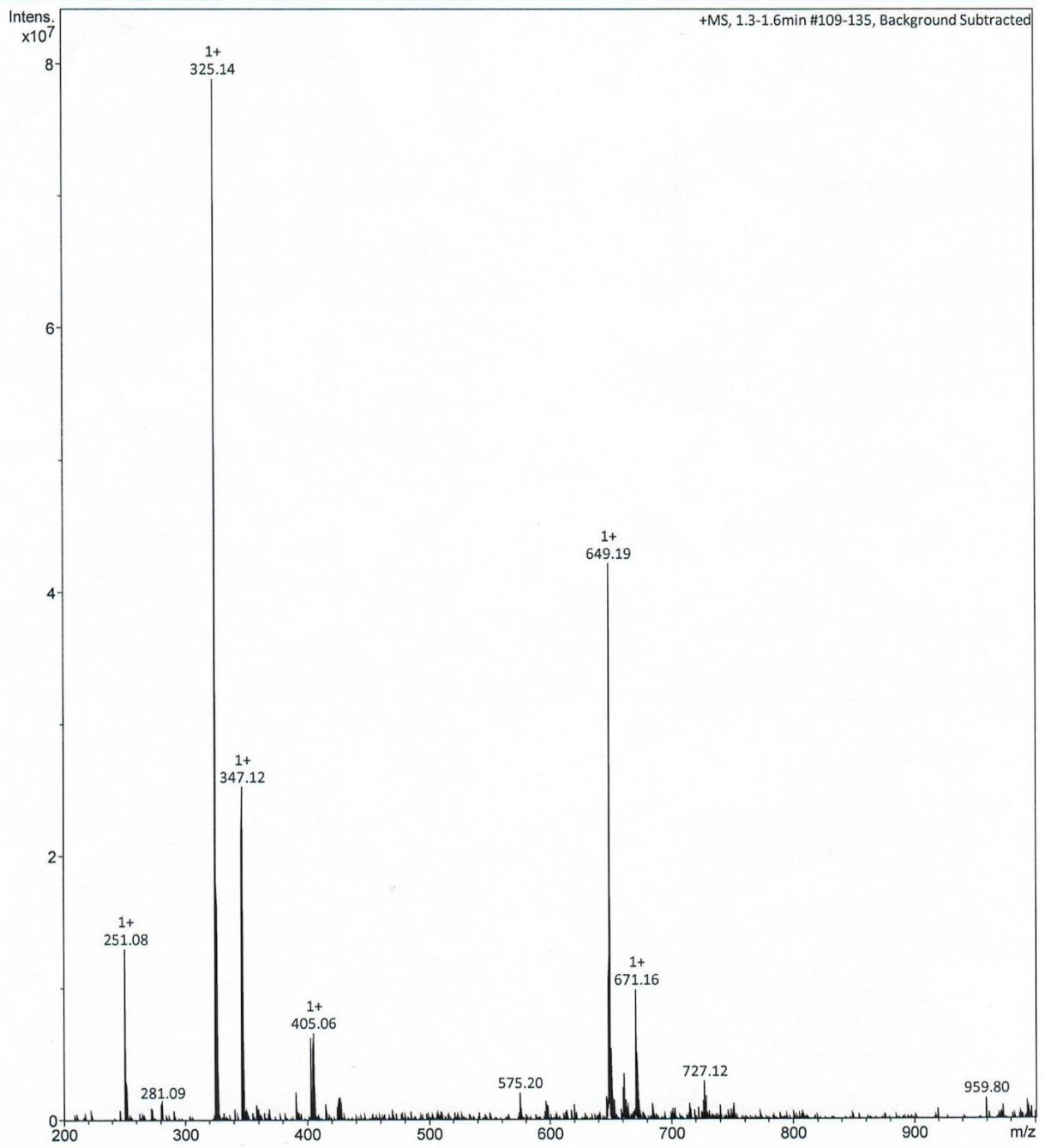


22a - HRMS

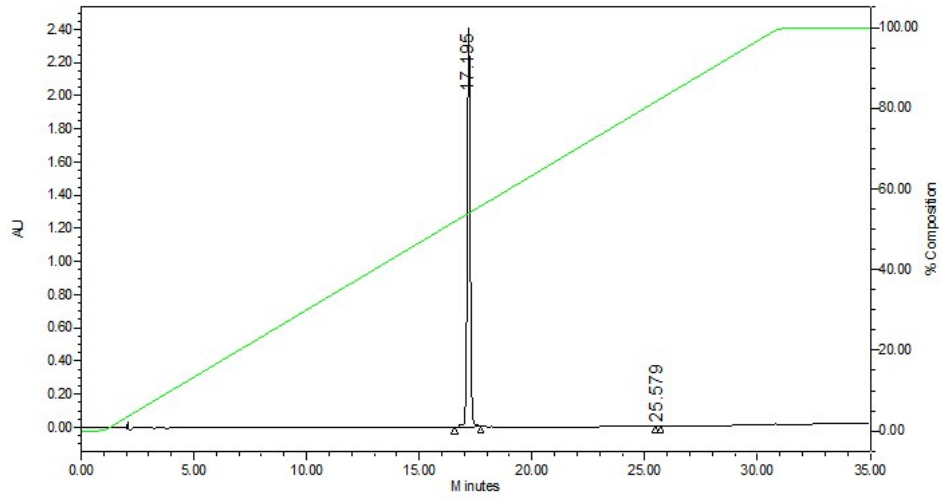
Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.000/s, Q1 300 m/z



22a - LRMS



22a - HPLC

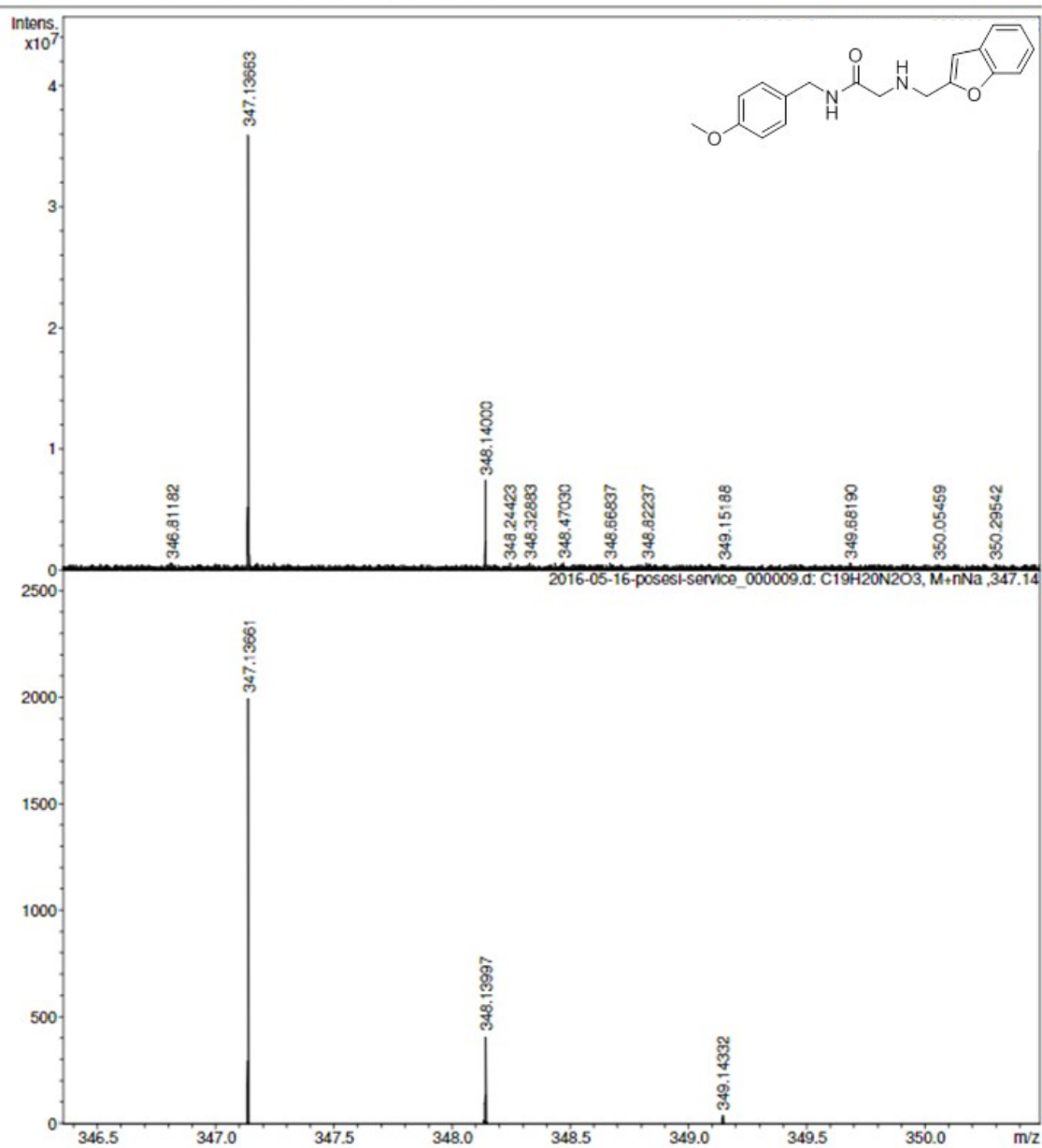


Peak information

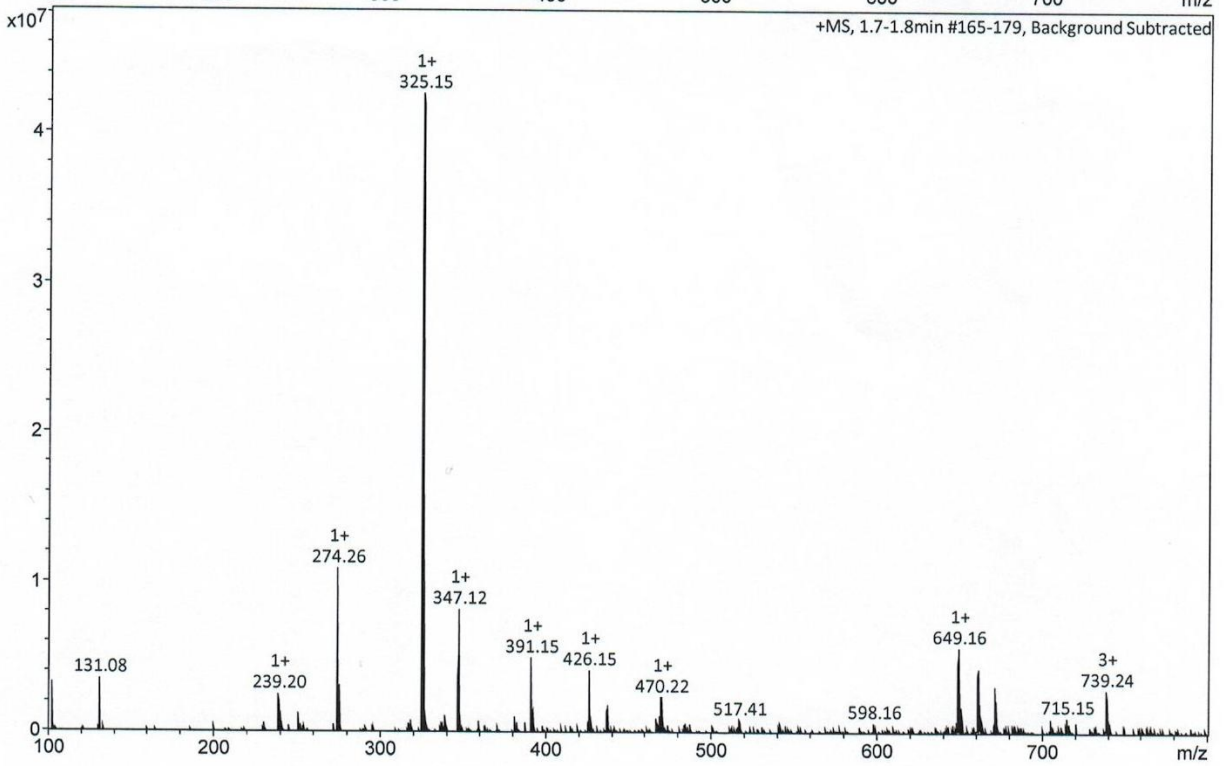
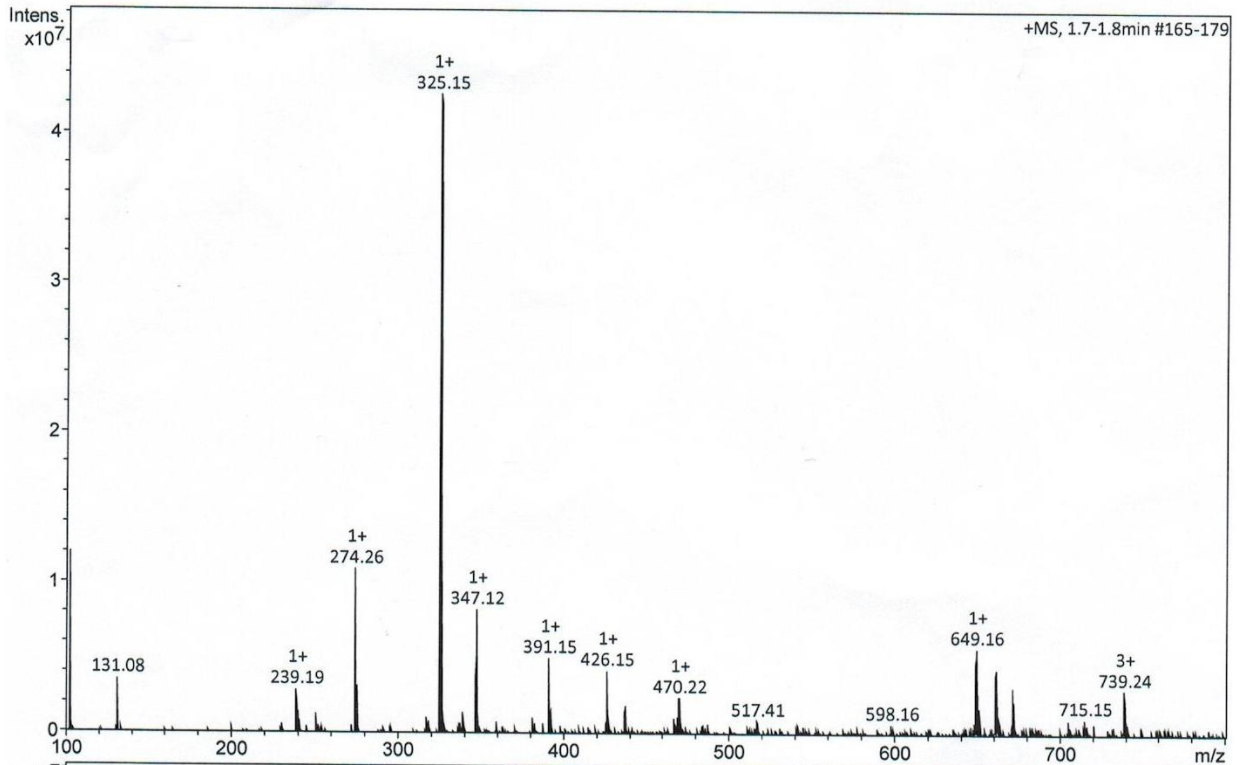
	RT	Area	% Area
1	17.195	21988933	99.89
2	25.579	23964	0.11

22b - HRMS

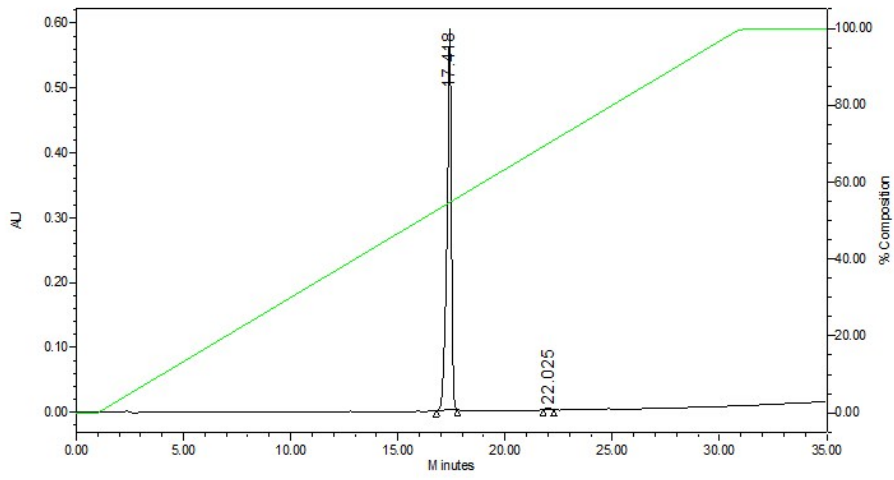
Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



22b - LRMS



22b - HPLC

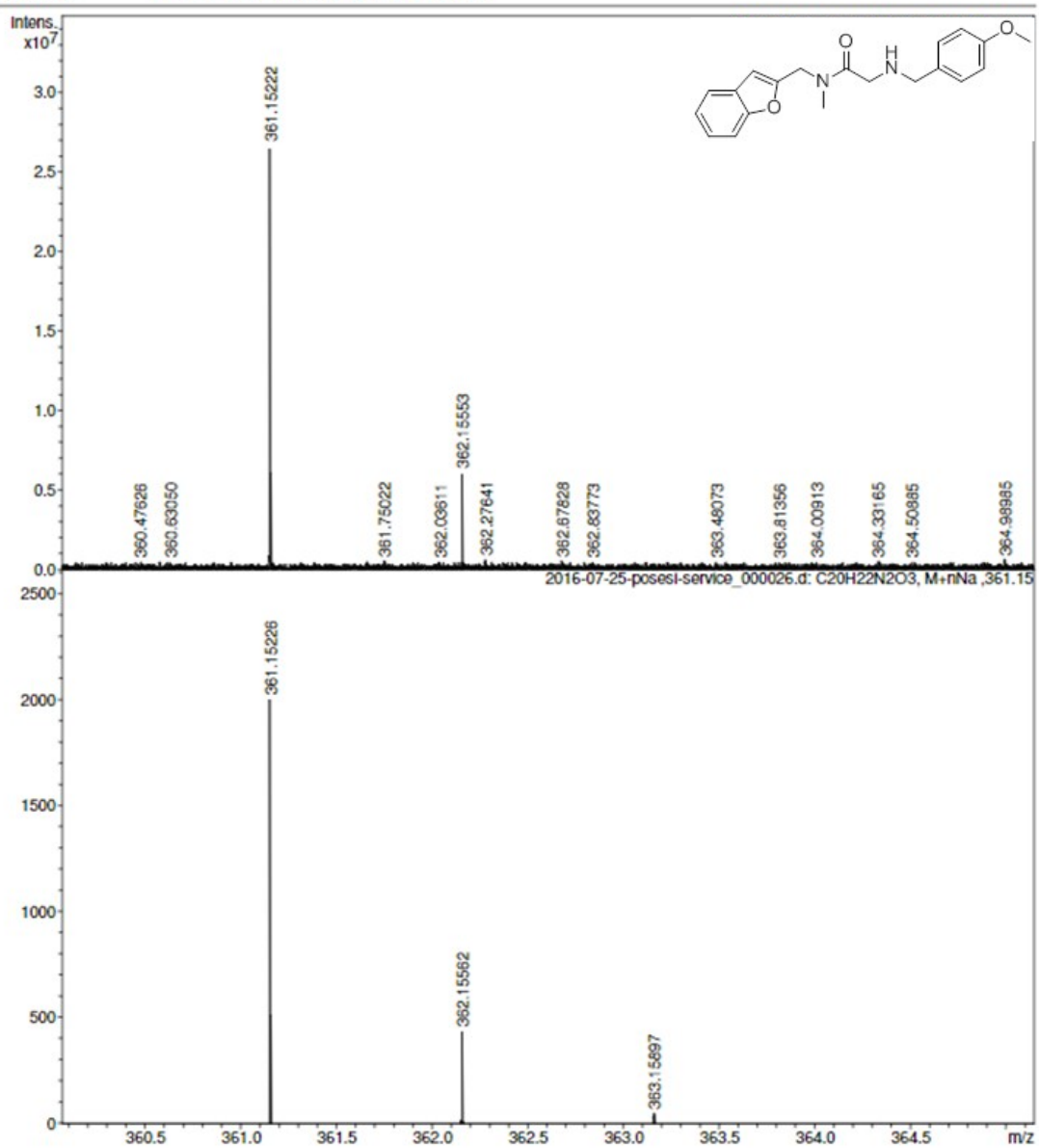


Peak information

	RT	Area	% Area
1	17.418	8361008	99.49
2	22.025	42512	0.51

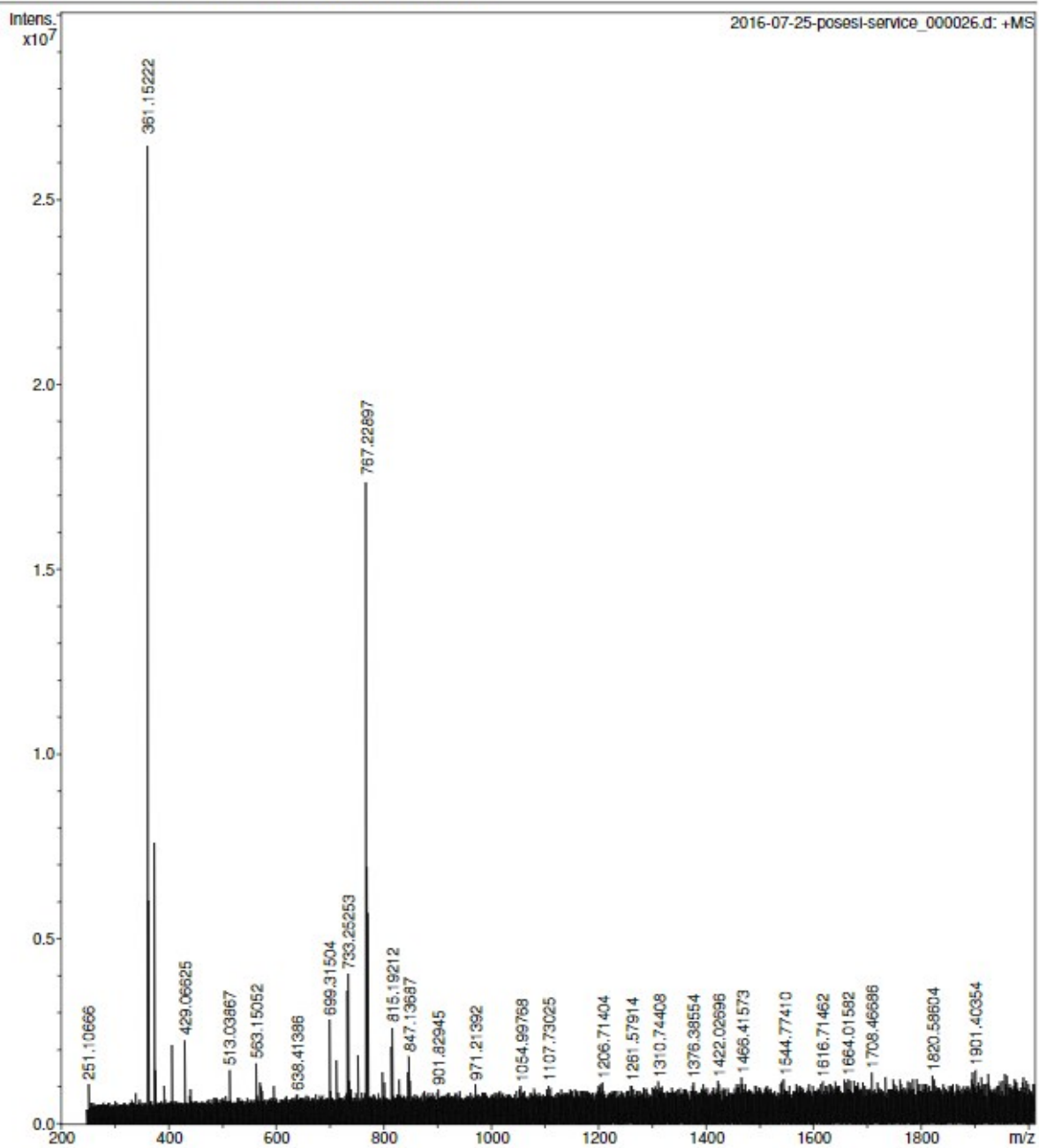
23a - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



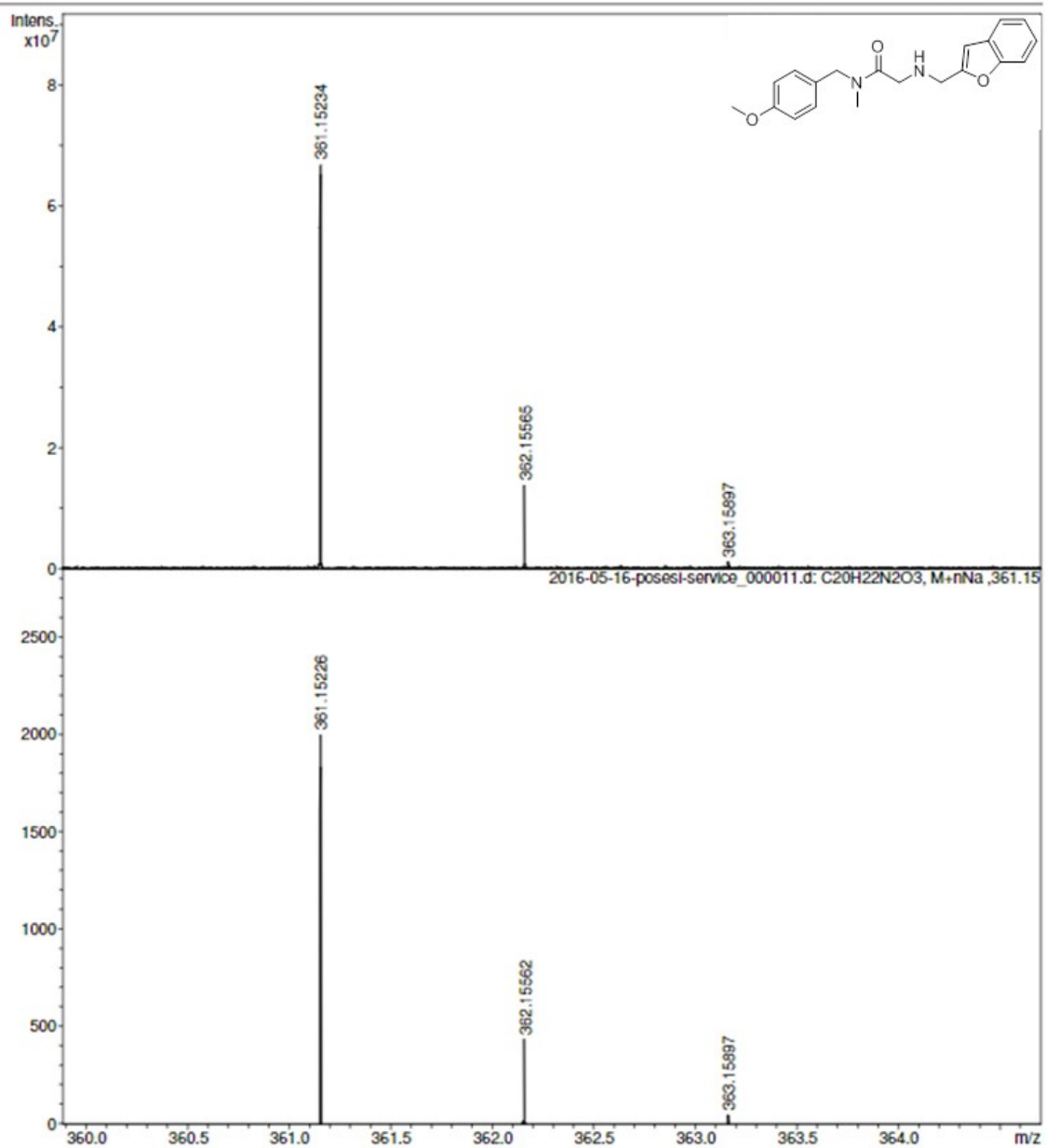
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z

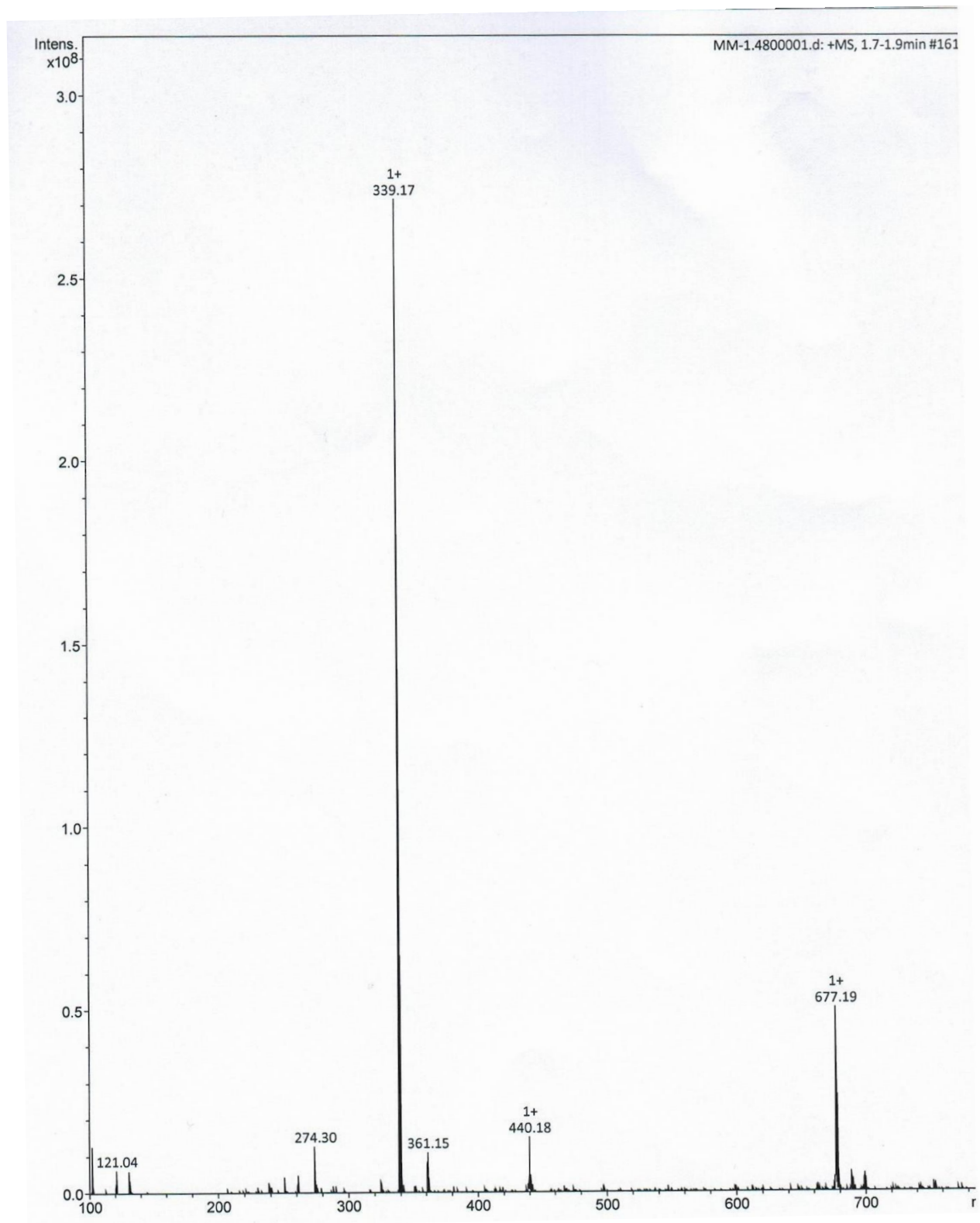


23b - HRMS

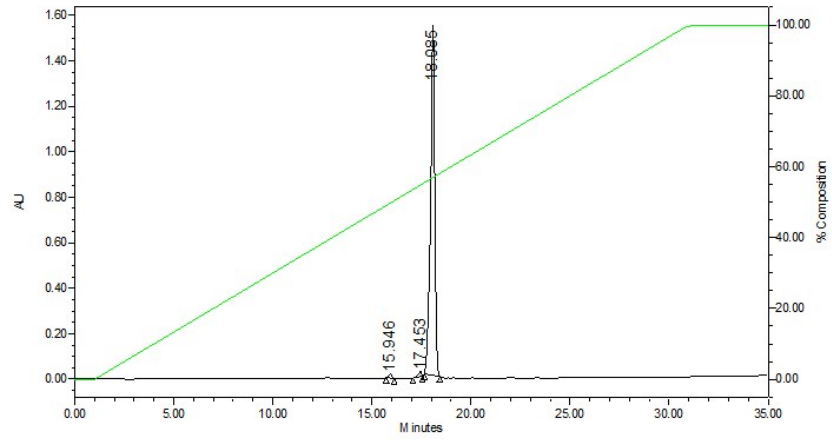
Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



23b - LRMS



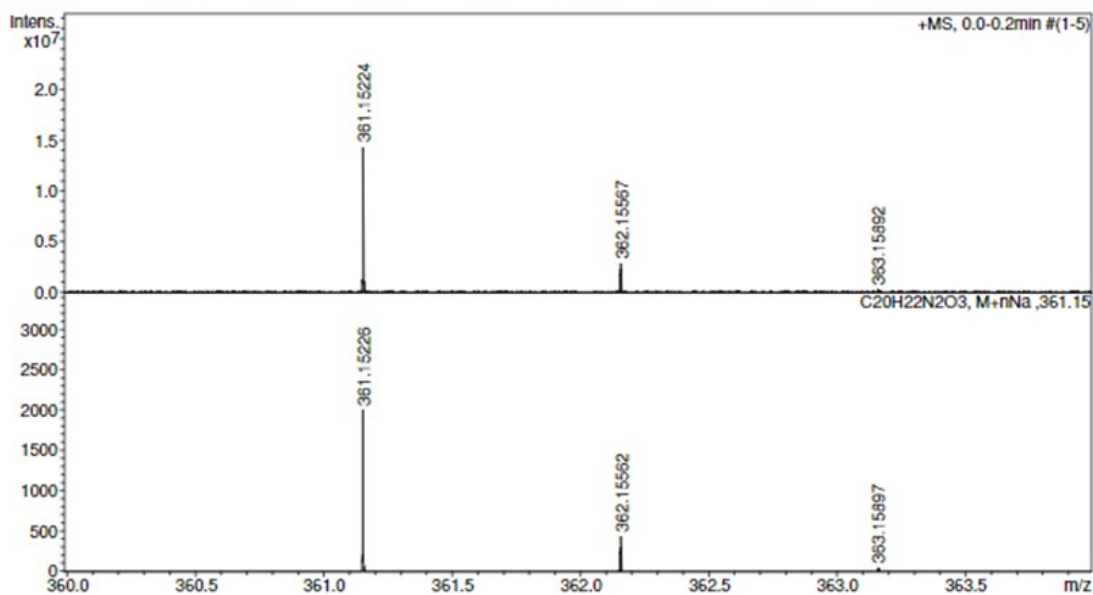
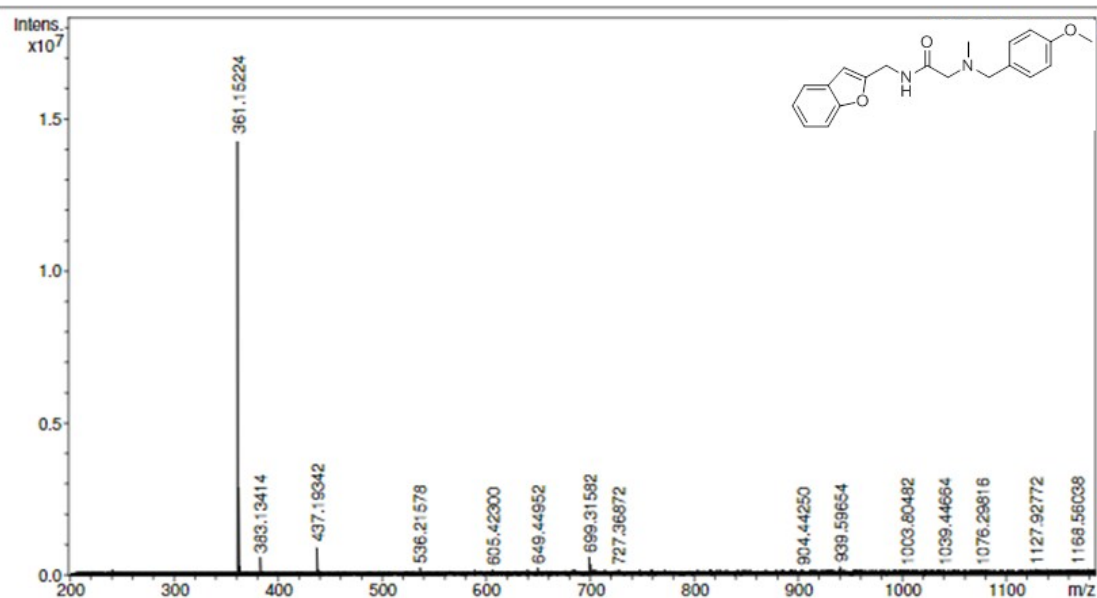
23b - HPLC



Peak information

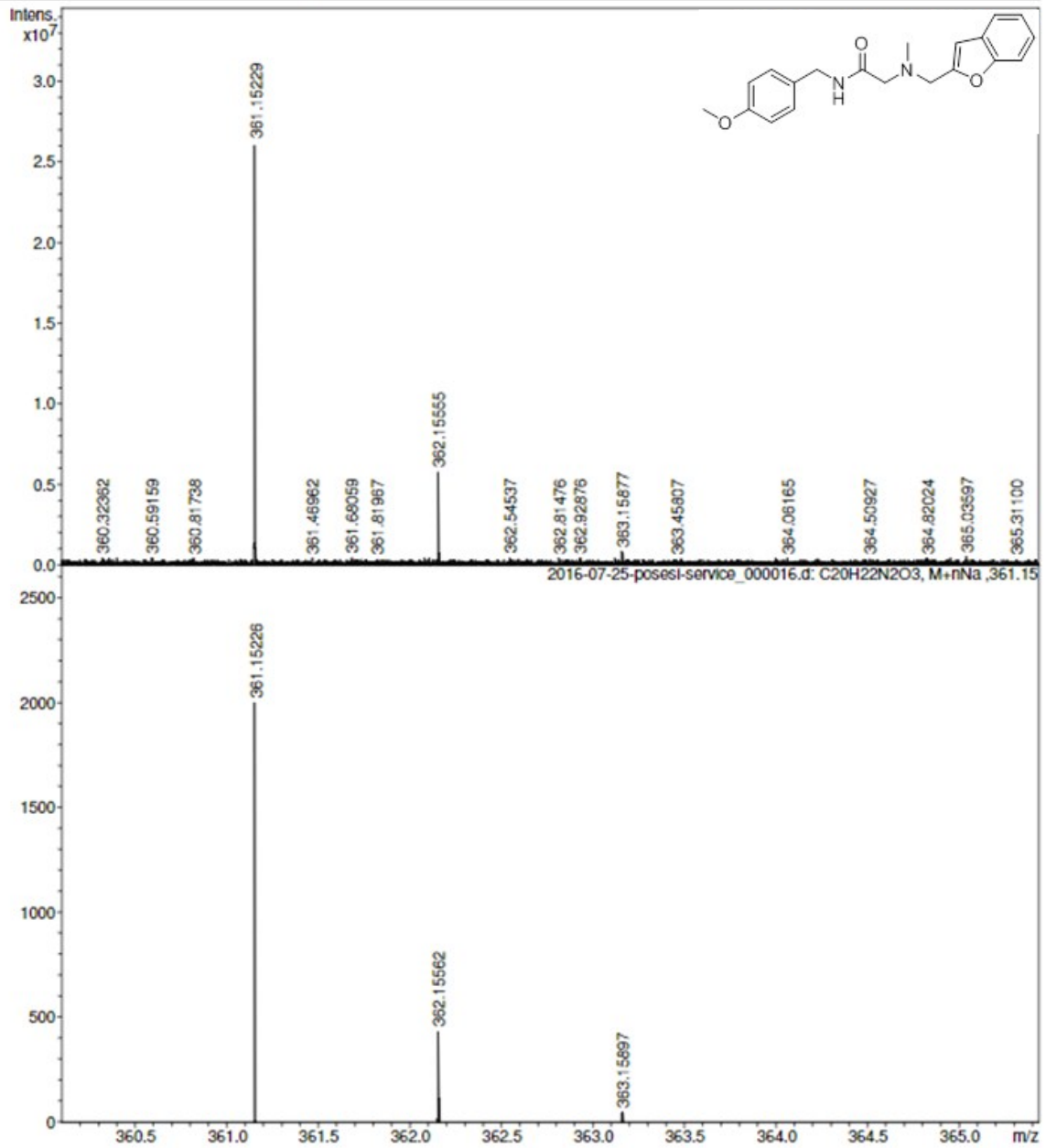
	RT	Area	% Area
1	15.946	200526	0.86
2	17.453	246565	1.05
3	18.085	22966760	98.09

24a - HRMS



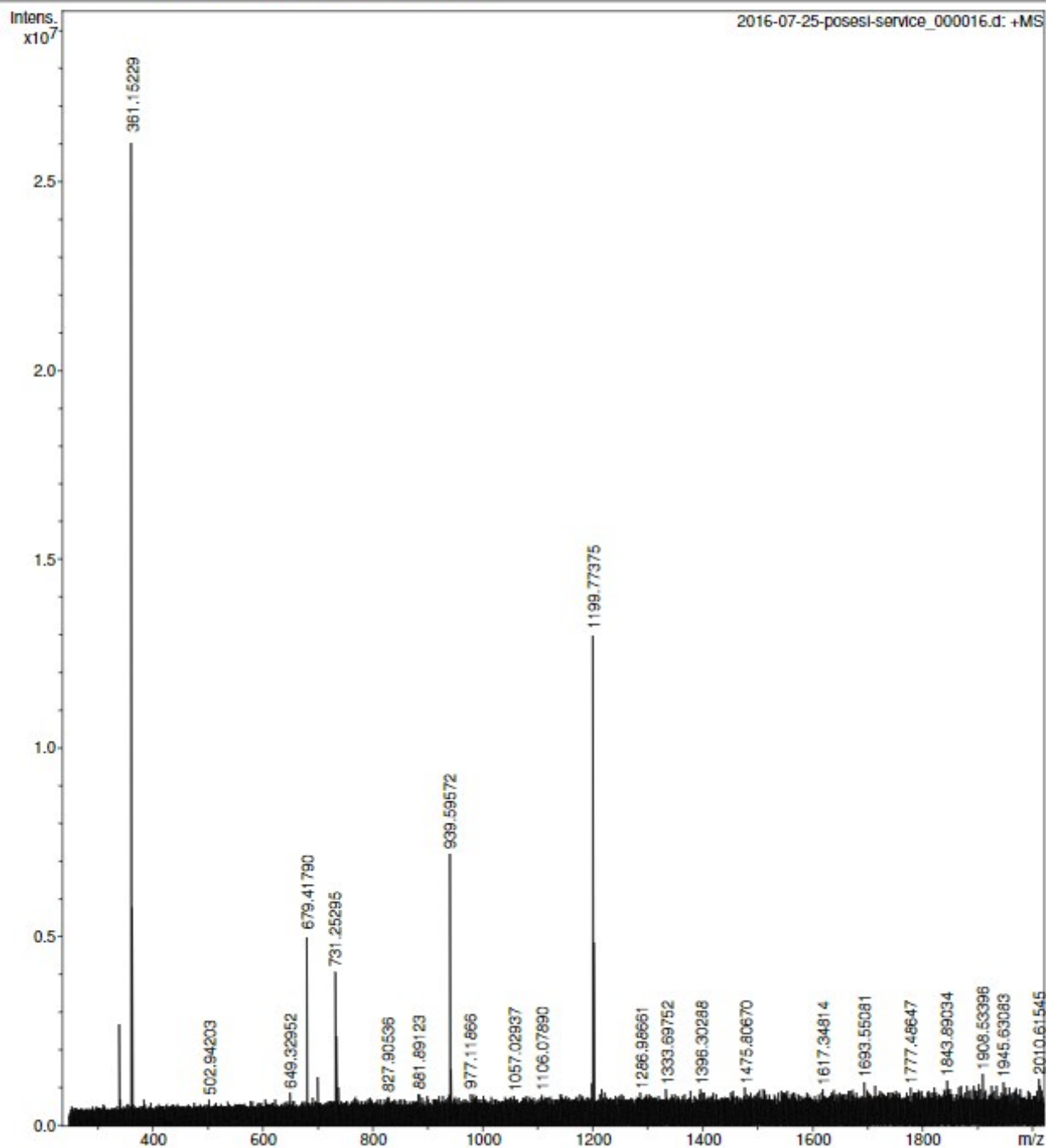
24b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



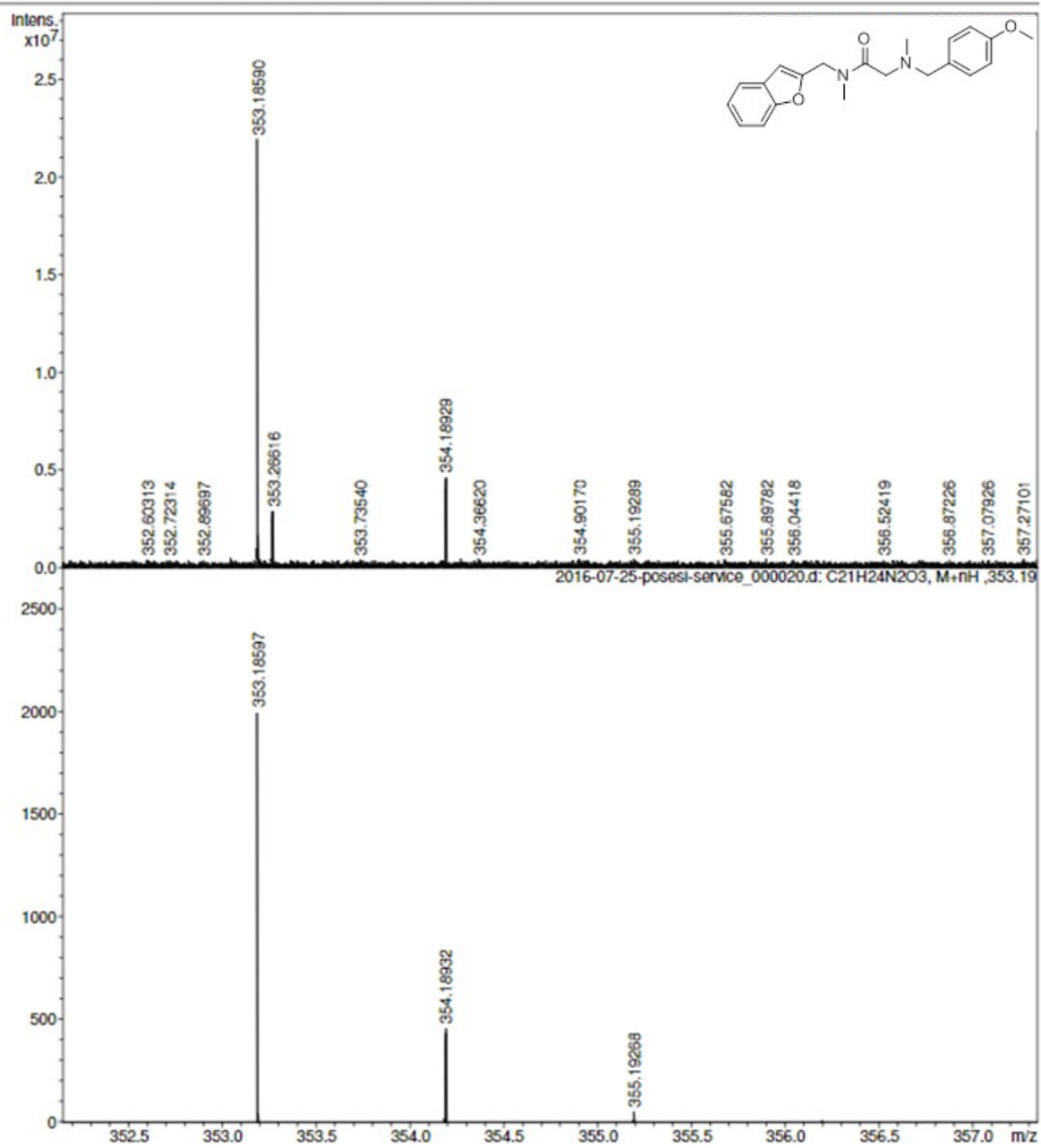
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



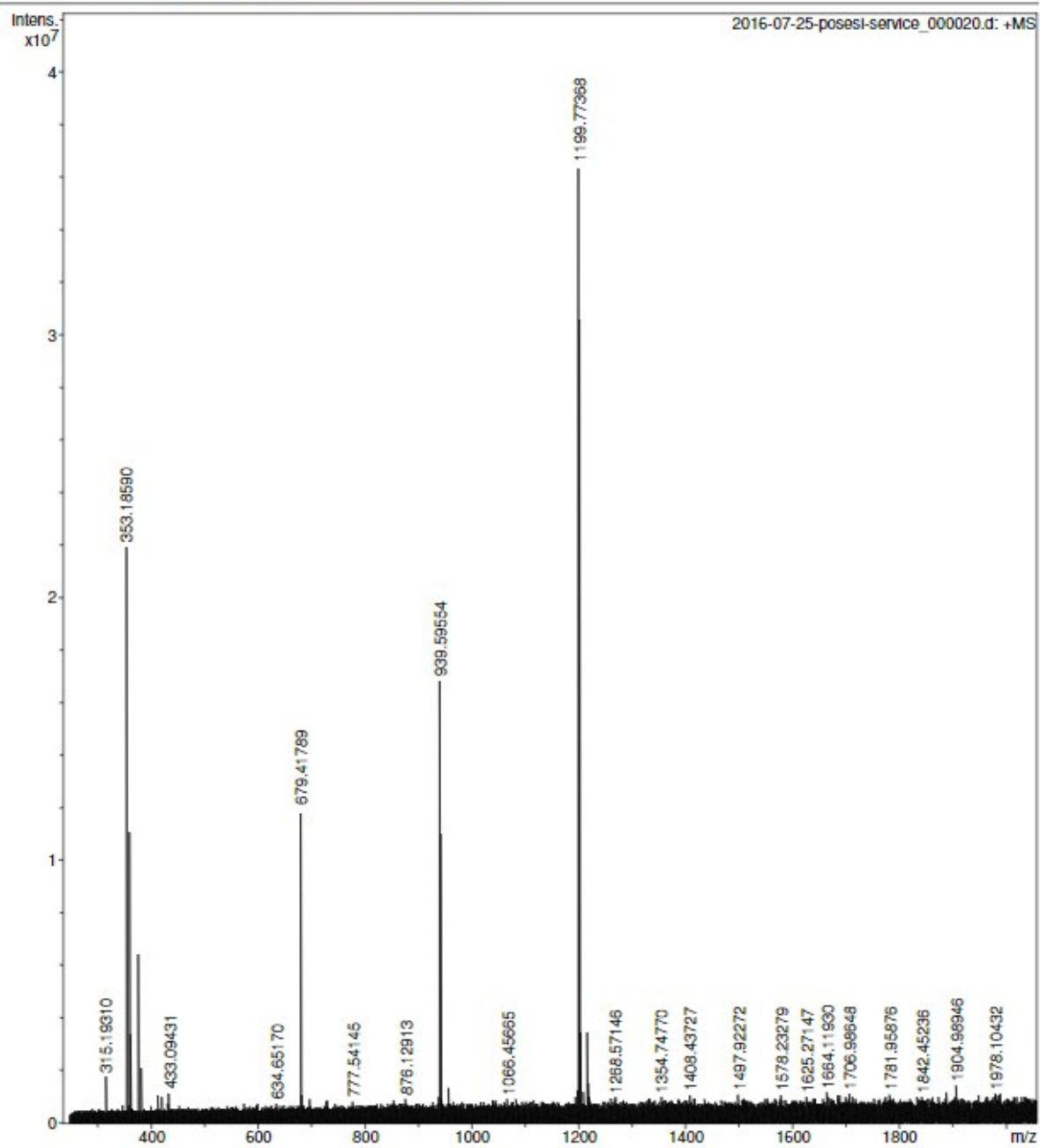
25a - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



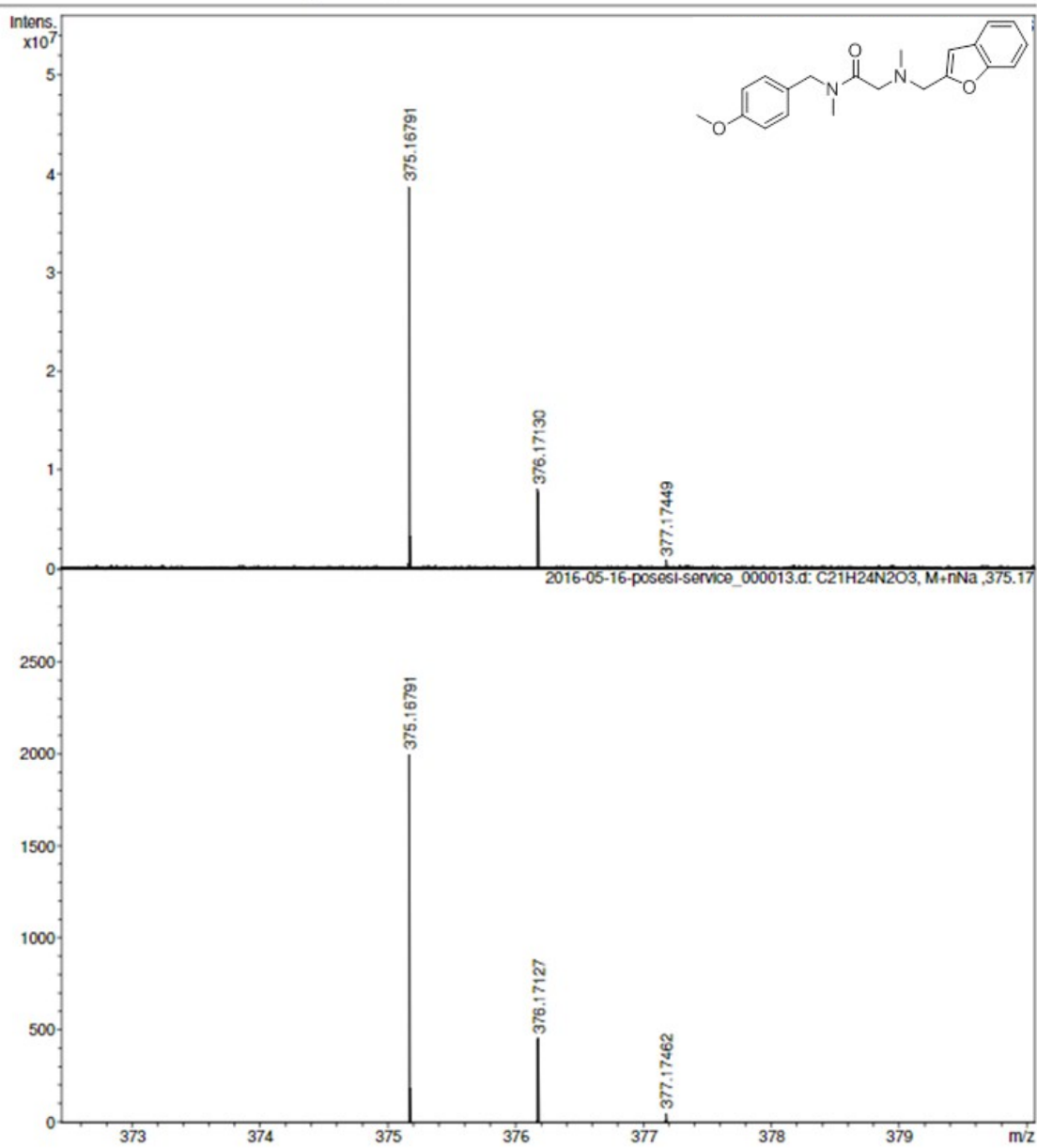
Comment

MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0007s, Q1 300 m/z



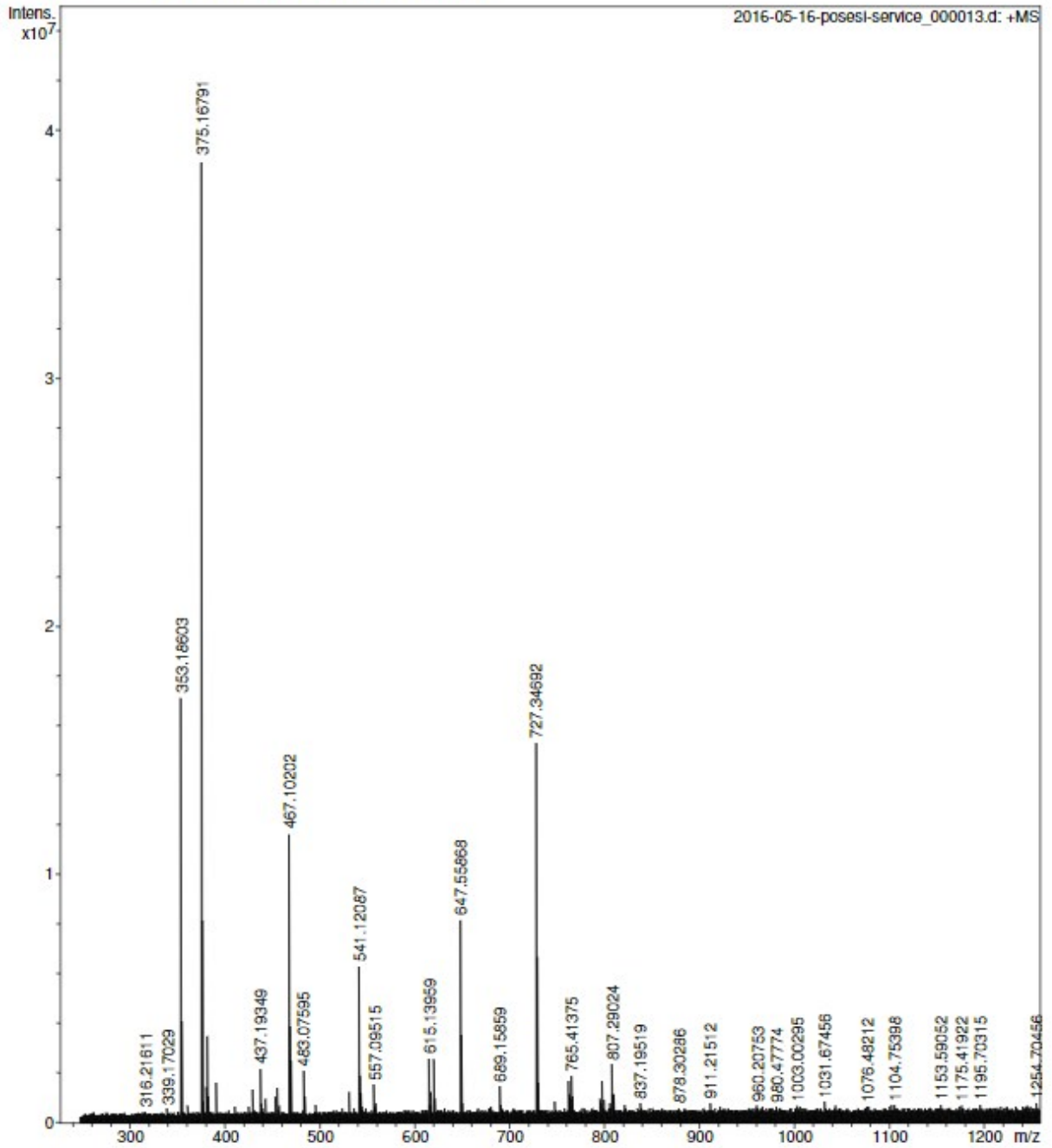
25b - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z

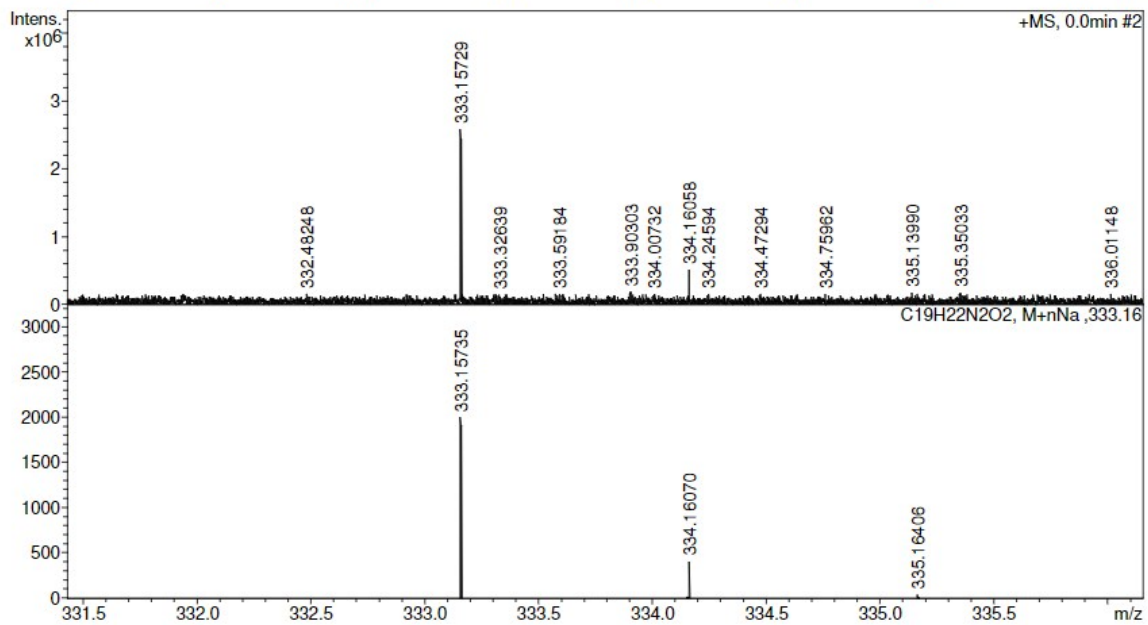


Comment

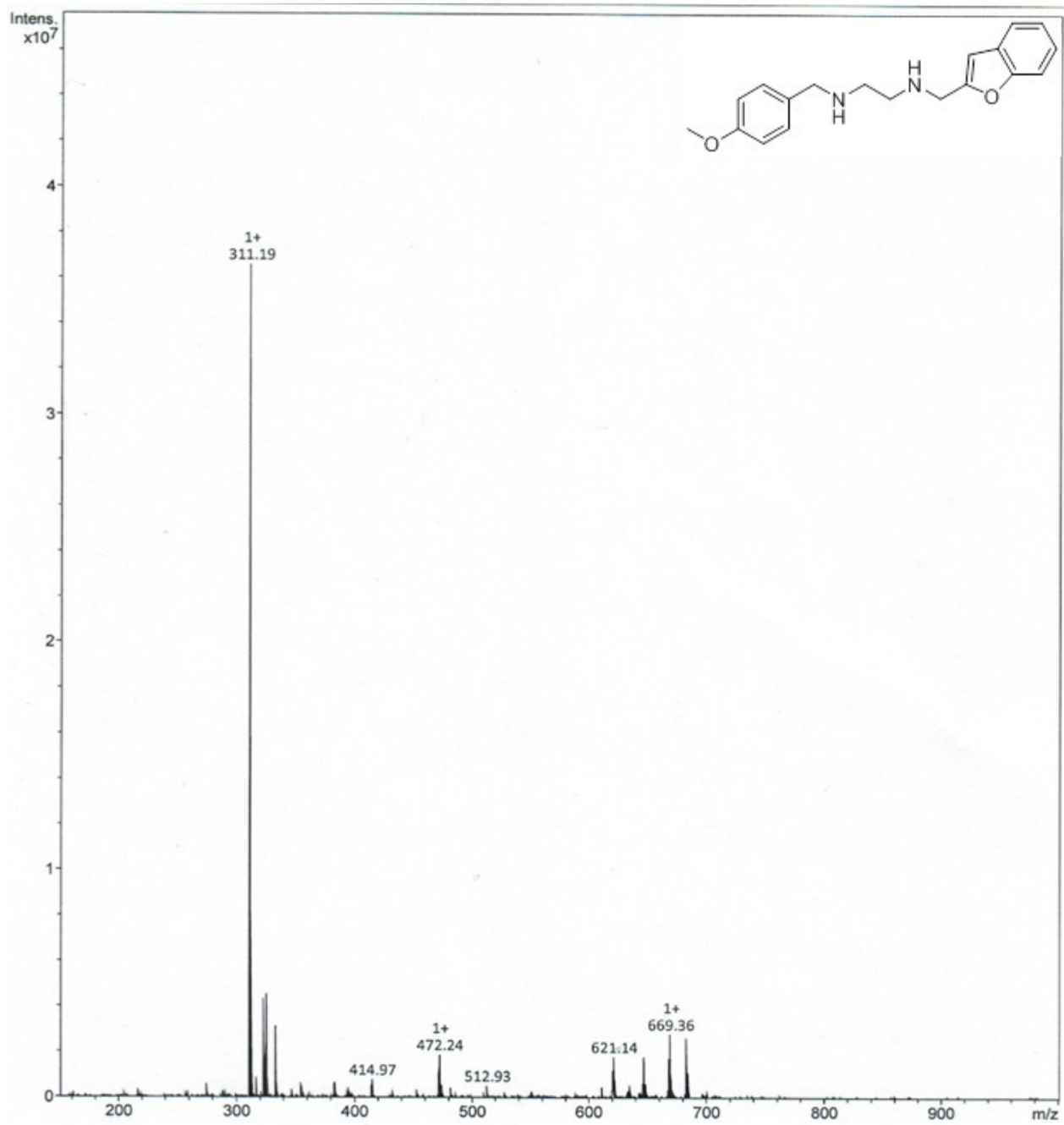
MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z



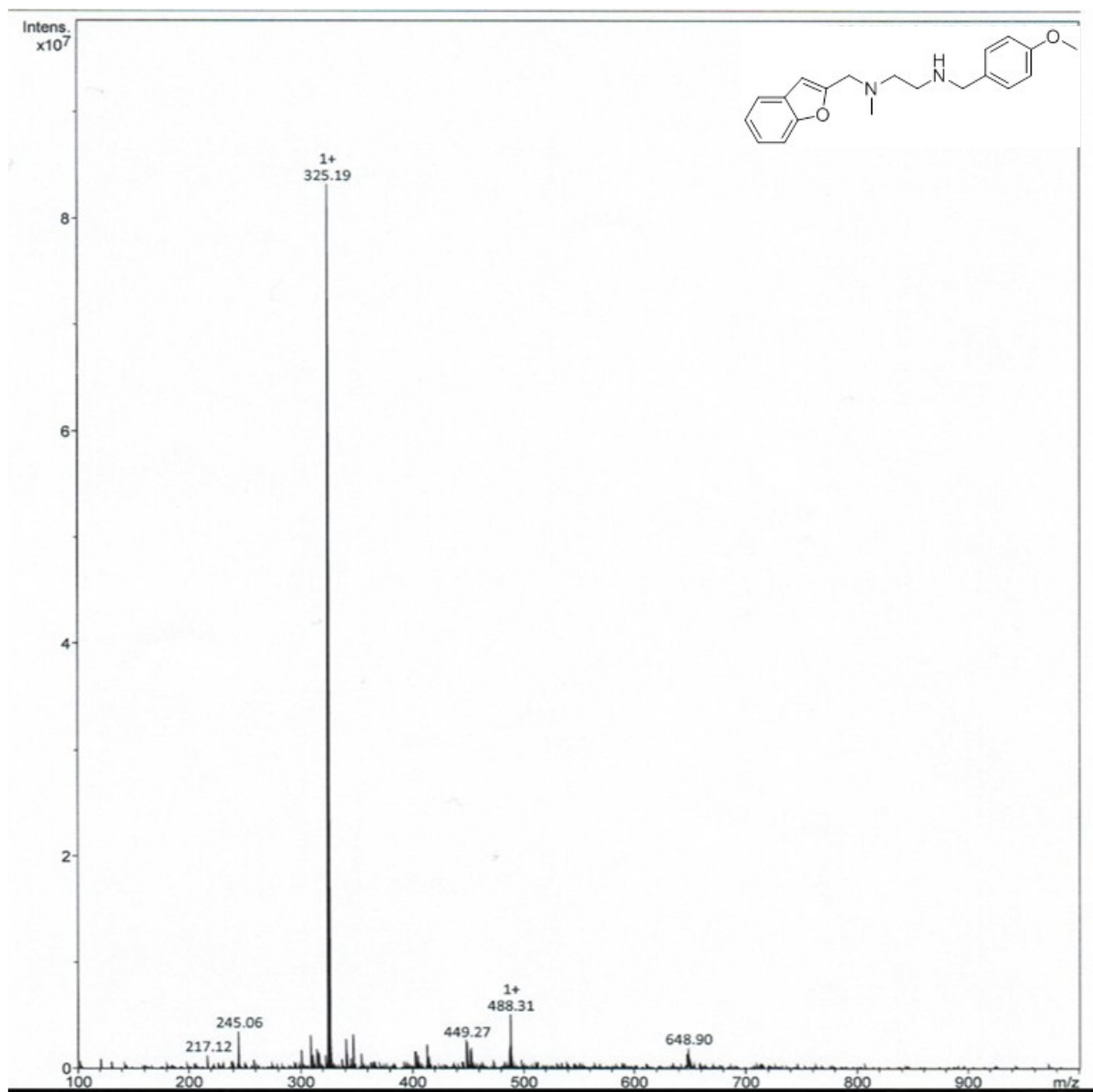
26a -HRMS



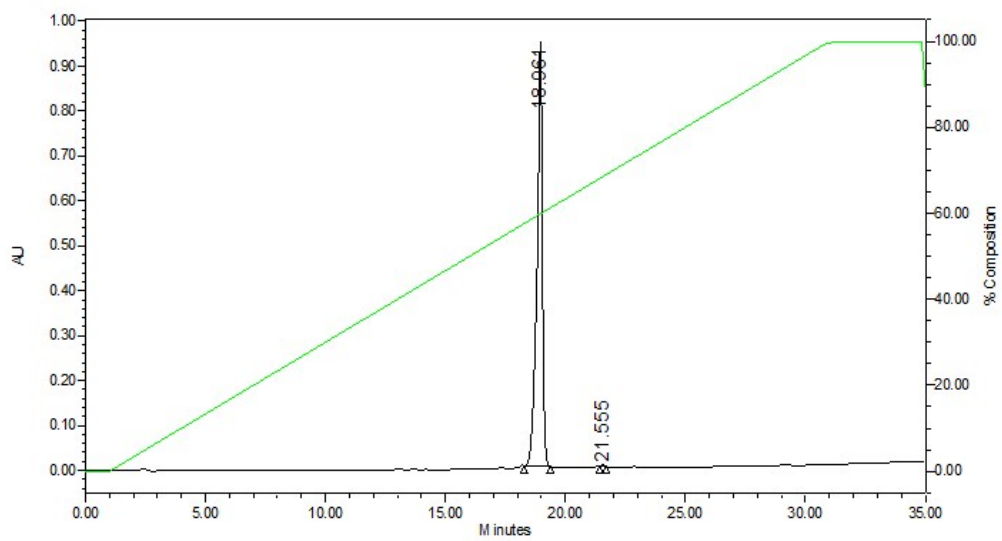
26a - LRMS



26b - LRMS



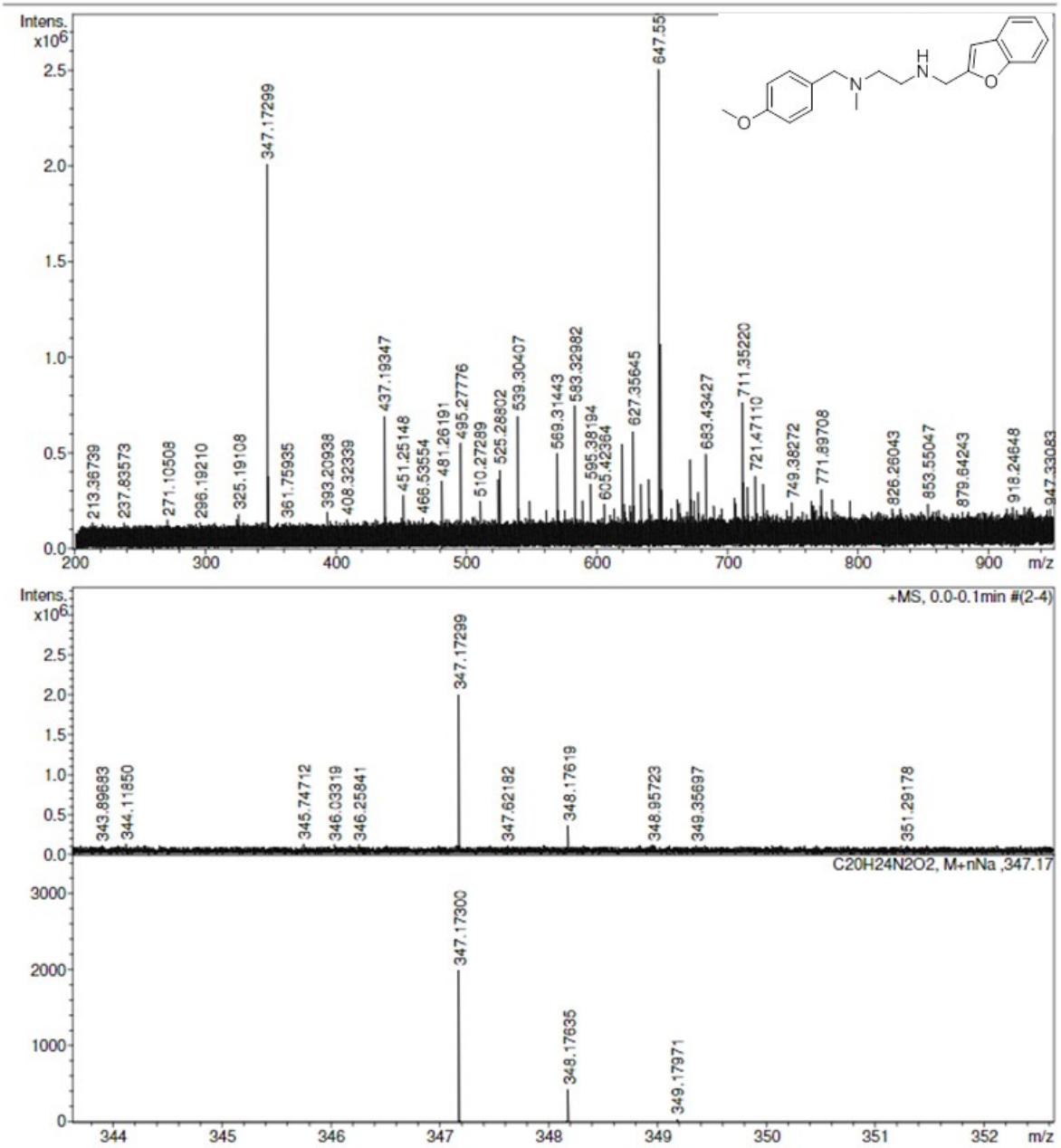
26b - HPLC



Peak information

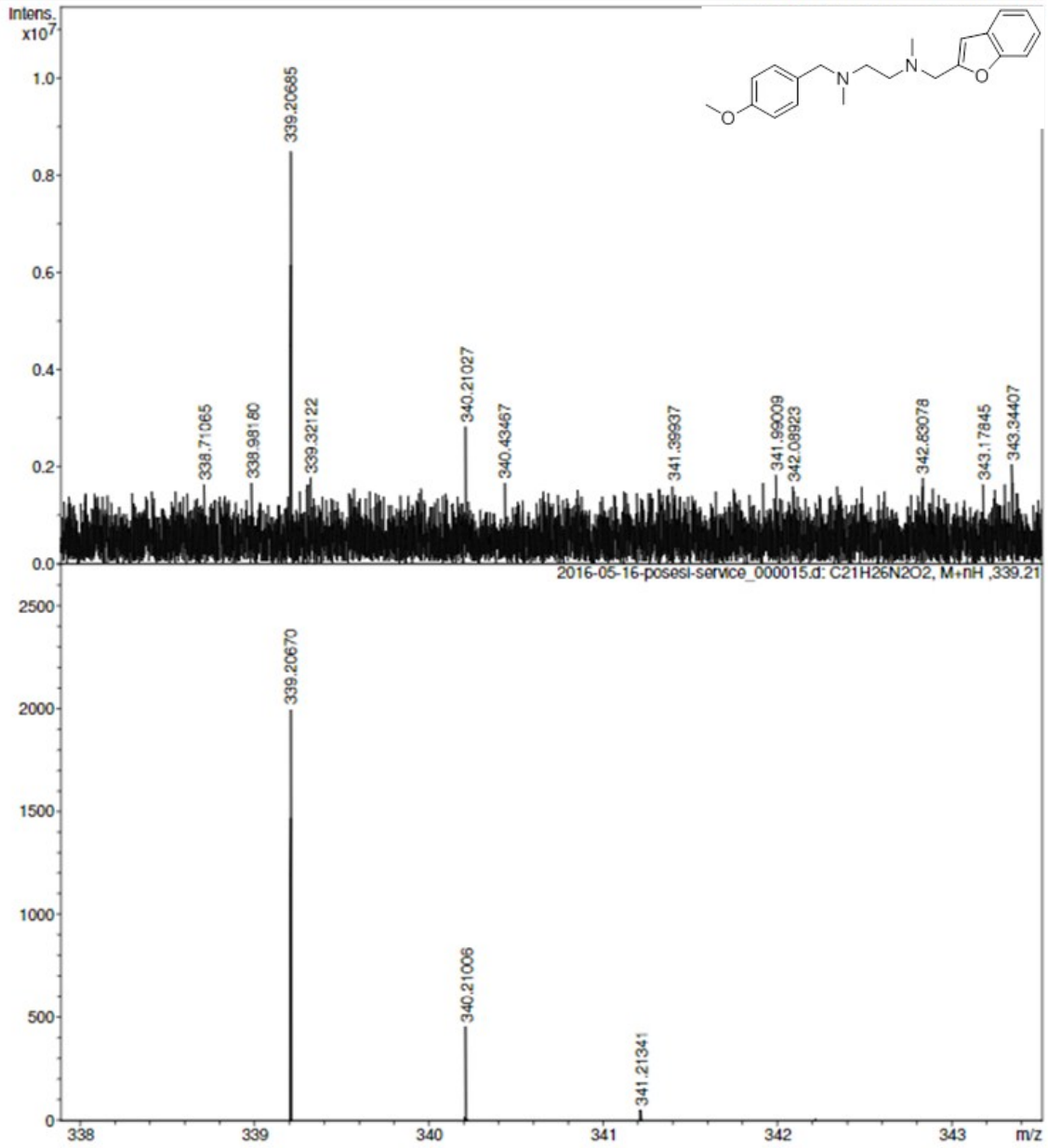
	RT	Area	% Area
1	18.961	14768109	99.83
2	21.555	25625	0.17

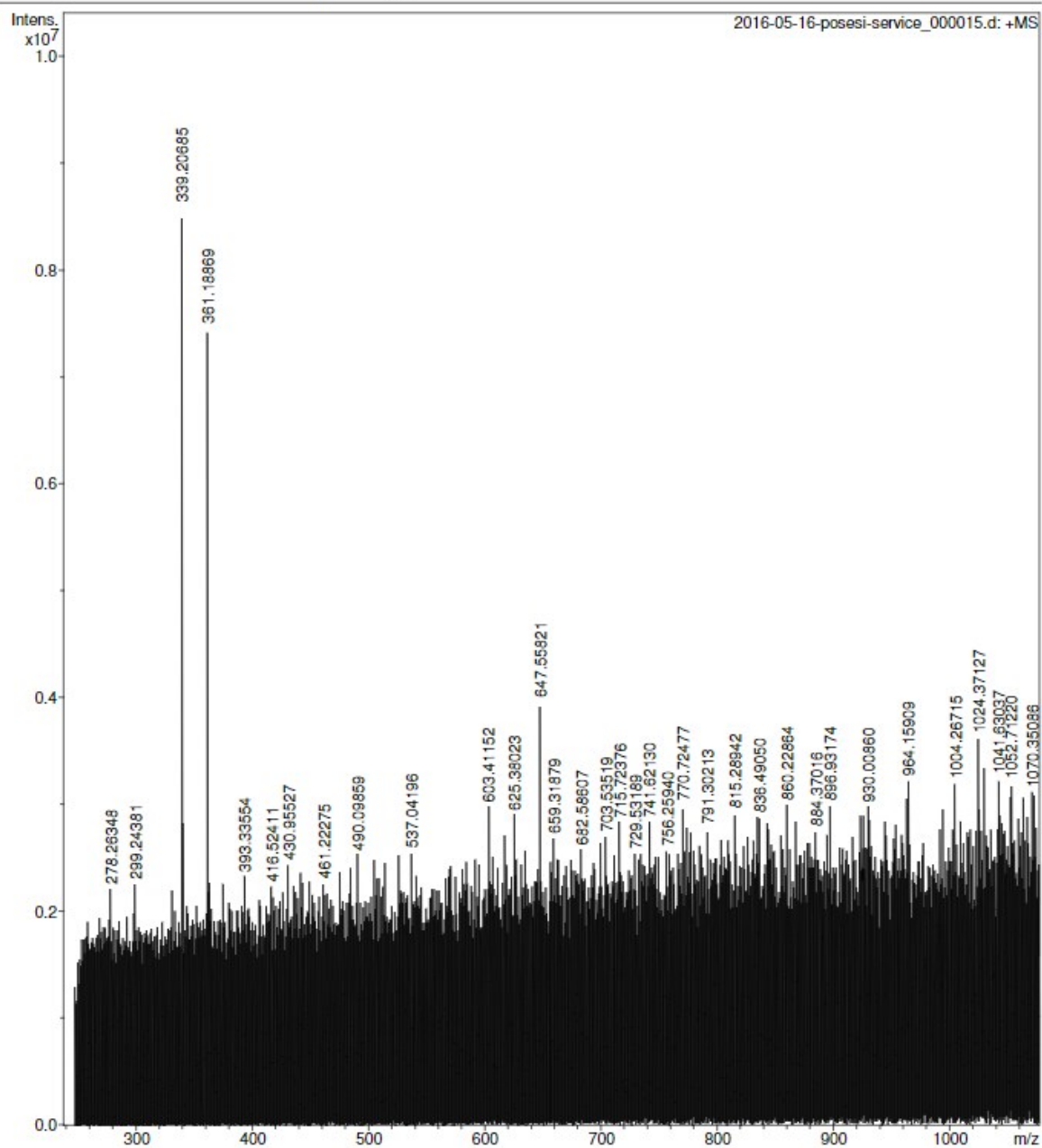
26c - HRMS



26d - HRMS

Comment MeOH 1M TOF delay 0.0006s, Q1 300 m/z





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- (3) Ferorelli, S.; Abate, C.; Pedone, M. P.; Colabufo, N. A.; Contino, M.; Perrone, R.; Berardi, F. *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry* **2011**, *19*, 7612.
- (4) Ferorelli, S.; Abate, C.; Pedone, M. P.; Colabufo, N. A.; Contino, M.; Perrone, R.; Berardi, F. *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry* **2011**, *19*, 7612.
- (5) Campiani, G.; Butini, S.; Trotta, F.; Fattorusso, C.; Catalanotti, B.; Aiello, F.; Gemma, S.; Nacci, V.; Novellino, E.; Stark, J. A.; Cagnotto, A.; Fumagalli, E.; Carnovali, F.; Cervo, L.; Mennini, T. *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* **2003**, *46*, 3822.
- (6) Russo, O.; Messaoudi, S.; Hamze, A.; Olivi, N.; Peyrat, J.-F.; Brion, J.-D.; Sicsic, S.; Berque-Bestel, I.; Alami, M. *Tetrahedron* **2007**, *63*, 10671.