

Synthesis and *in vitro* bone cell activity of analogues of the cyclohexapeptide Dianthin G

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Supporting information

General methods

Materials

All reagents were acquired as reagent grade and used without further purification. Solvents for RP-HPLC were purchased as HPLC grade and used without further purification. 6-Chloro-1-hydroxybenzotriazole (6-Cl-HOBt) was purchased from Aapptec (Louisville, Kentucky). *O*-(Benzotriazol-1-yl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HBTU), 2-(7-aza-1*H*-benzotriazole-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate (HATU), 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin, 4-(hydroxymethyl)phenoxyacetic acid (HMP linker), di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (Boc₂O), Fmoc-allylglycine-OH (Fmoc-Agl), Fmoc-Pro-OH, Fmoc-Leu-OH, Fmoc-Thr(*t*Bu)-OH, Fmoc-Phe-OH, and Fmoc-Gly-OH were purchased from GL Biochem (Shanghai, China). *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) (AR grade), and acetonitrile (CH₃CN) [high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) grade] were purchased from Scharlau (Barcelona, Spain). *N,N'*-Diisopropylethylamine (*i*Pr₂EtN), *N,N'*-diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC), 2-mercaptoethanol, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU), 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine (*sym*-collidine), Hoveyda-Grubbs' II catalyst, 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol (TFE), dimethylsulfate (DMS), 2-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride (*o*-NBS-Cl), formic acid, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), and piperidine were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich (Sydney, Australia). Dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) was purchased from ECP Limited (Auckland, New Zealand). Triisopropylsilane (*i*Pr₃SiH) was purchased from Alfa Aesar (Lankashire, U.K). Dimethyl sulfoxide-d₆ (DMSO-d₆) was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories (Massachusetts, USA). Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) was purchased from Halocarbon (New Jersey, USA). Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was purchased from Romil Ltd (Cambridge, UK). Fmoc-Gly-O-CH₂-Phi-OCH₂-CH₂-COOH (Fmoc-Gly-HMPP) was purchased from PolyPeptide Laboratories Group (Strasbourg, France). Aminomethyl polystyrene resin was purchased from Rapp Polymere (Tuebingen, Germany).

HPLC, MS and NMR

Analytical RP-HPLC spectra were performed on a Dionex (California, USA) Ultimate 3000 System equipped with a two-channel UV detector using an analytical column

(XTerra® MS C₁₈ column, 4.6 mm x 150 mm, 5 μm) and a linear gradient of 5% to 75%B over 35 mins (*ca.* 2%B per minute) at a flow rate of 1 mL min⁻¹. The solvent system used was A (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in H₂O) and B (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in CH₃CN). Peptide masses were confirmed by a Bruker micrOTOF-Q II mass spectrometer (Bremen, Germany) or a Hewlett Packard (HP) 1100 series mass spectrometer (California, USA) using direct flow injection at 0.3 mL min⁻¹ into an ESI source in the positive mode.

Peptides were purified using a Waters (Massachusetts, USA) S600E system using a semi-preparative column (Waters XTerra® C₁₈, 300 mm x 19 mm, 10 μm) at a flow rate of 10 mL min⁻¹ and eluted using a one-step slow gradient protocol with detection at 210 nm.¹ Fractions were collected, analysed by analytical RP-HPLC or ESI-MS, pooled and lyophilised three times from 10 mM aq HCl.²

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 600 spectrometer (Bremen, Germany) using DMSO-d₆ as a solvent. Assignments were made with the aid of HSQC, TOCSY, and NOESY experiments.

Peptide synthesis

Loading of the C-terminal amino acid to the resin

For peptides **1-5**:

A solution of Fmoc-Gly-O-CH₂-phi-OCH₂-CH₂-COOH (190.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and DIC (62 μL, 0.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂/DMF (*v/v*; 2:1, 3 mL) was added to pre-swollen (CH₂Cl₂, 3 mL, 20 min) aminomethyl polystyrene resin (220.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and the mixture gently agitated for 5 h, at room temperature, filtered and washed with DMF (4 x 3 mL). A negative Kaiser test³ confirmed the coupling.

For peptide **6**:

A solution of Fmoc-Gly-OH (119.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) and *i*Pr₂EtN (70 μL, 0.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂/DMF (*v/v*; 2:1, 3 mL) was added to pre-swollen (CH₂Cl₂, 3 mL, 20 min) 2-ClTrtCl resin (150.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and the mixture was shaken for 1 h at room temperature, filtered, and washed with DMF (4 x 3 mL).

For peptides **7, 8, 9, and 10**:

A solution of HMP linker (109.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) and DIC (93 μL, 0.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂/DMF (*v/v*; 2:1, 3 mL) was added to pre-swollen (CH₂Cl₂, 3 mL, 20 min)

aminomethyl polystyrene resin (220.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and the mixture was shaken for 5 h at room temperature, filtered, and washed with DMF (4 x 3 mL). A negative Kaiser test³ confirmed the coupling.

For peptides **7**, **8**, and **9**, a mixture of Fmoc-allylglycine (202.4 mg, 0.6 mmol), DIC (93 μ L, 0.6 mmol) and DMAP (2.44 mg, 0.02 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was then added to the resin and the reaction mixture was shaken for 1 h at room temperature. This procedure was repeated once with fresh reagents. For peptide **10**, a mixture of the Fmoc-Gly-OH (178.4 mg, 0.6 mmol), DIC (93 μ L, 0.6 mmol) and DMAP (2.44 mg, 0.02 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was then added to the resin and the reaction mixture was shaken for 1 h at room temperature (repeated once).

Elongation of the peptide sequence

Extension of the C-terminal amino acid on the resin was performed at room temperature using manual Fmoc-SPPS. Deprotection of the Fmoc group was accomplished using 20% v/v piperidine/DMF (3 mL) for 5 min twice with consecutive DMF washes after each addition. A solution of Fmoc-amino acid (0.8 mmol), HATU (281.4 mg, 0.74 mmol), *i*Pr₂EtN (278.7 μ L, 1.6 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was then added to peptidyl-resin and the mixture was shaken at room temperature for 45 min, then filtered and washed with DMF (4 x 3 mL).

Following on-resin elongation of the linear precursor of RCM peptides (peptidyl-resin **18**, **19**, and **22**), Boc₂O (436.5 mg, 2.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added to the peptidyl-resin and the mixture was shaken at room temperature for 2 h, filtered, and washed with DMF (4 X 3 mL), CH₂Cl₂ (4 x 3 mL), and dried under vacuum.

Peptide cleavage and isolation

The resulting peptides were released from the resin with concomitant removal of the threonine side chain protecting group by treatment with TFA/*i*Pr₃SiH/H₂O (v/v/v; 95:2.5:2.5, 5 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. The resin was removed by filtration, washed with TFA (2 x 3 mL) and the combined filtrates were concentrated, re-suspended with H₂O/CH₃CN (v/v; 1:1) and lyophilised.

Peptide cyclisation

Cyclisation was carried out in solution using the pseudo-high dilution conditions described by Brimble *et al.*⁴ Peptide **2** is used here as an example of the synthetic procedure followed for macrolactamisation. To a stirring solution of *i*Pr₂EtN (139.4 μL, 0.8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (150 mL) was added a mixture of the linear peptide (105.0 mg, 0.16 mmol, 0.8 mM), HBTU (182.0 mg, 0.48 mmol), and 6-Cl-HOBt (81.40 mg, 0.48 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂/DMF (v/v; 9:1, 50 mL) dropwise at a rate of 2.0 mL h⁻¹. After complete addition of the reagents, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, diluted with H₂O (15 mL) and lyophilised. The crude peptide was purified by RP-HPLC to yield peptide **2** as a white fluffy solid (49.0 mg, 38% overall yield, 98% purity).

A. Dianthin G (1)

Dianthin G (**1**) was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor as a white solid (110 mg, 85% yield). The crude linear precursor (110 mg, 0.17 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **1** as a white fluffy solid (65.4 mg, 52% overall yield, 99% purity); R_t 20.40 min; m/z (HR-MS) 629.3663 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{32}H_{49}N_6O_7$: 629.3584).

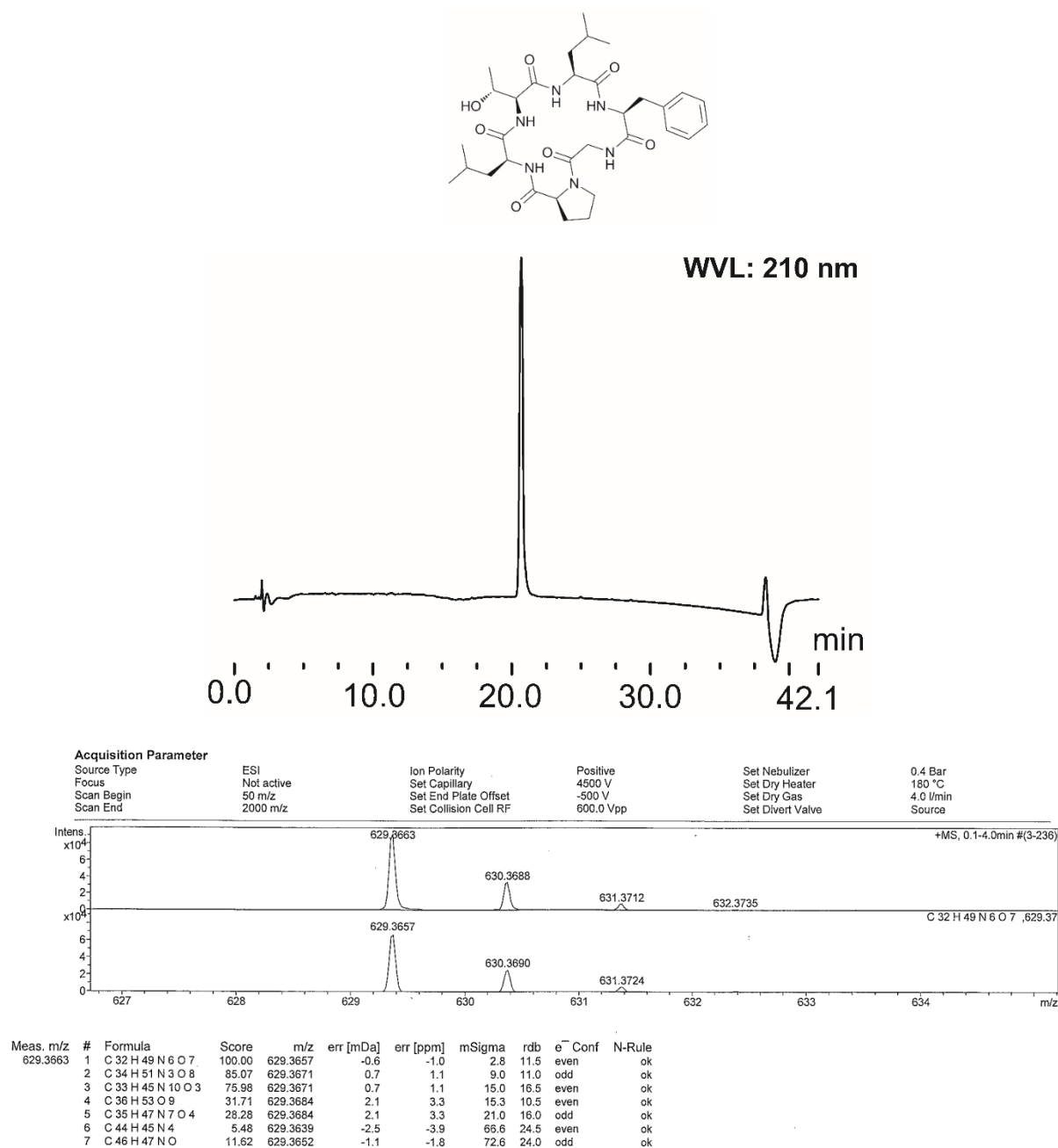


Figure S1. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of dianthin G (**1**).

B. Peptide 2

Peptide **2** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor (105 mg, 79% yield). The crude linear precursor (105 mg, 0.16 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **2** as a white fluffy solid (49.0 mg, 38% overall yield, 98% purity); R_t 21.56 min; m/z (HR-MS) 643.3815 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{33}H_{51}N_6O_7$: 643.3741).

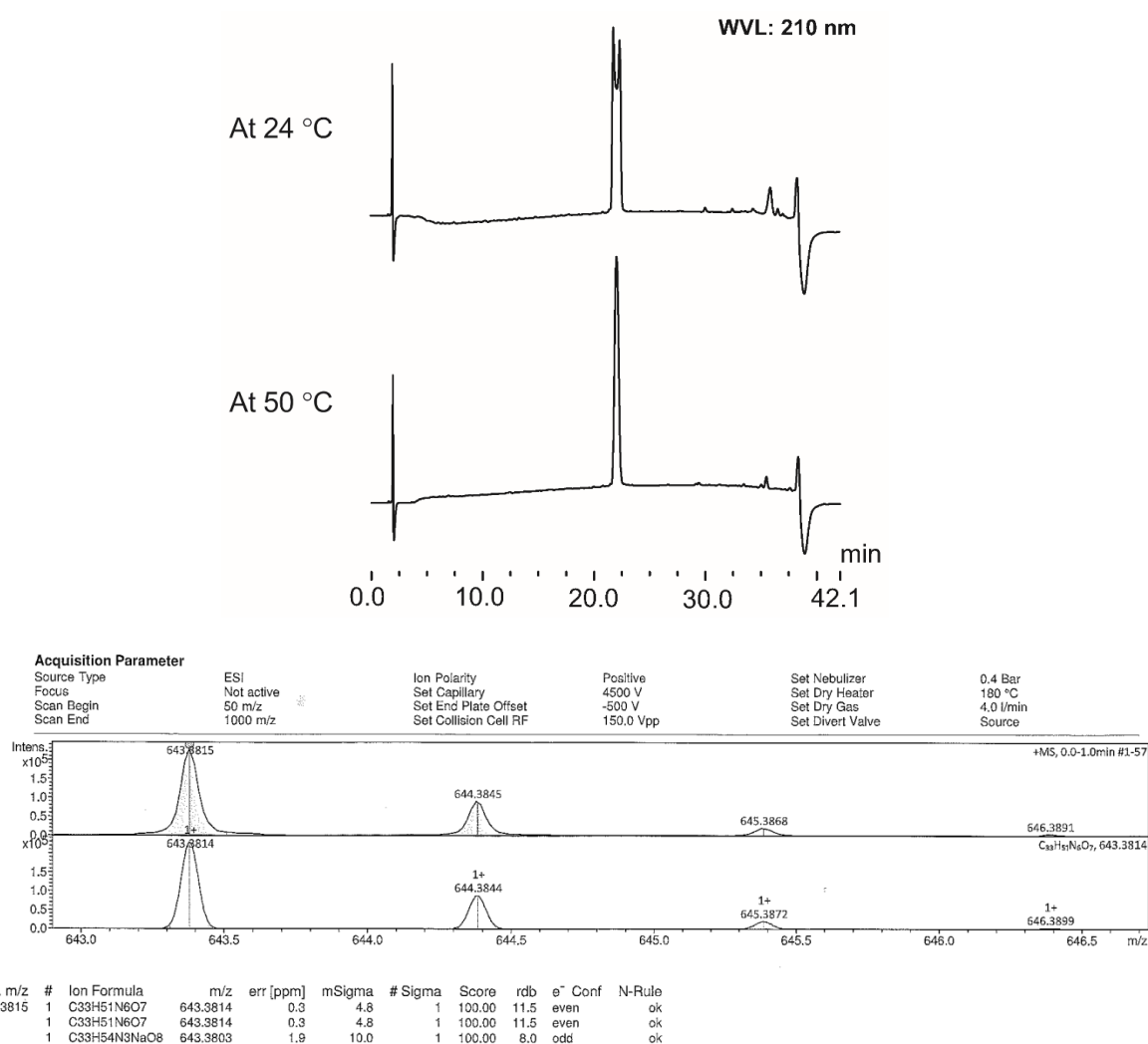
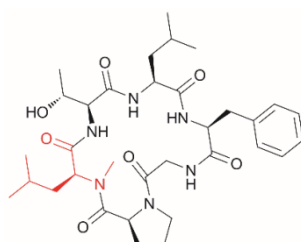


Figure S2. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **2**.

C. Peptide 3

Peptide **3** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor (67.4 mg, 51% yield). The crude linear precursor (67.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **3** as a white fluffy solid (28.3 mg, 22% overall yield, 97% purity); R_t 23.17 min; m/z (HR-MS) 643.3820 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{33}H_{51}N_6O_7$: 643.3741).

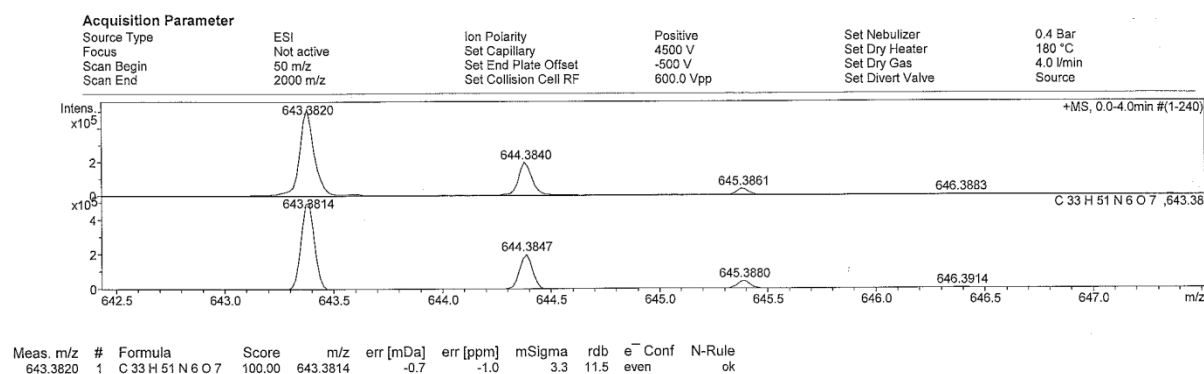
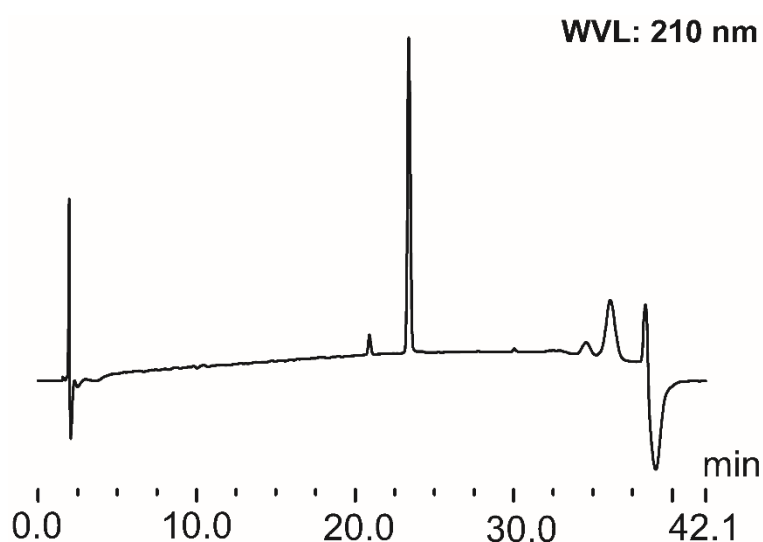
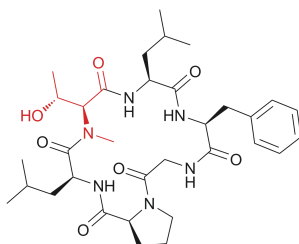


Figure S3. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **3**.

E. Peptide 5

Peptide **5** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor (84.6 mg, 64% yield). The crude linear precursor (84.6 mg, 0.13 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **5** as a white fluffy solid (55.3 mg, 43% overall yield, 98% purity); R_t 20.80 min; m/z (HR-MS) 643.3815 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{33}H_{51}N_6O_7$: 643.3741).

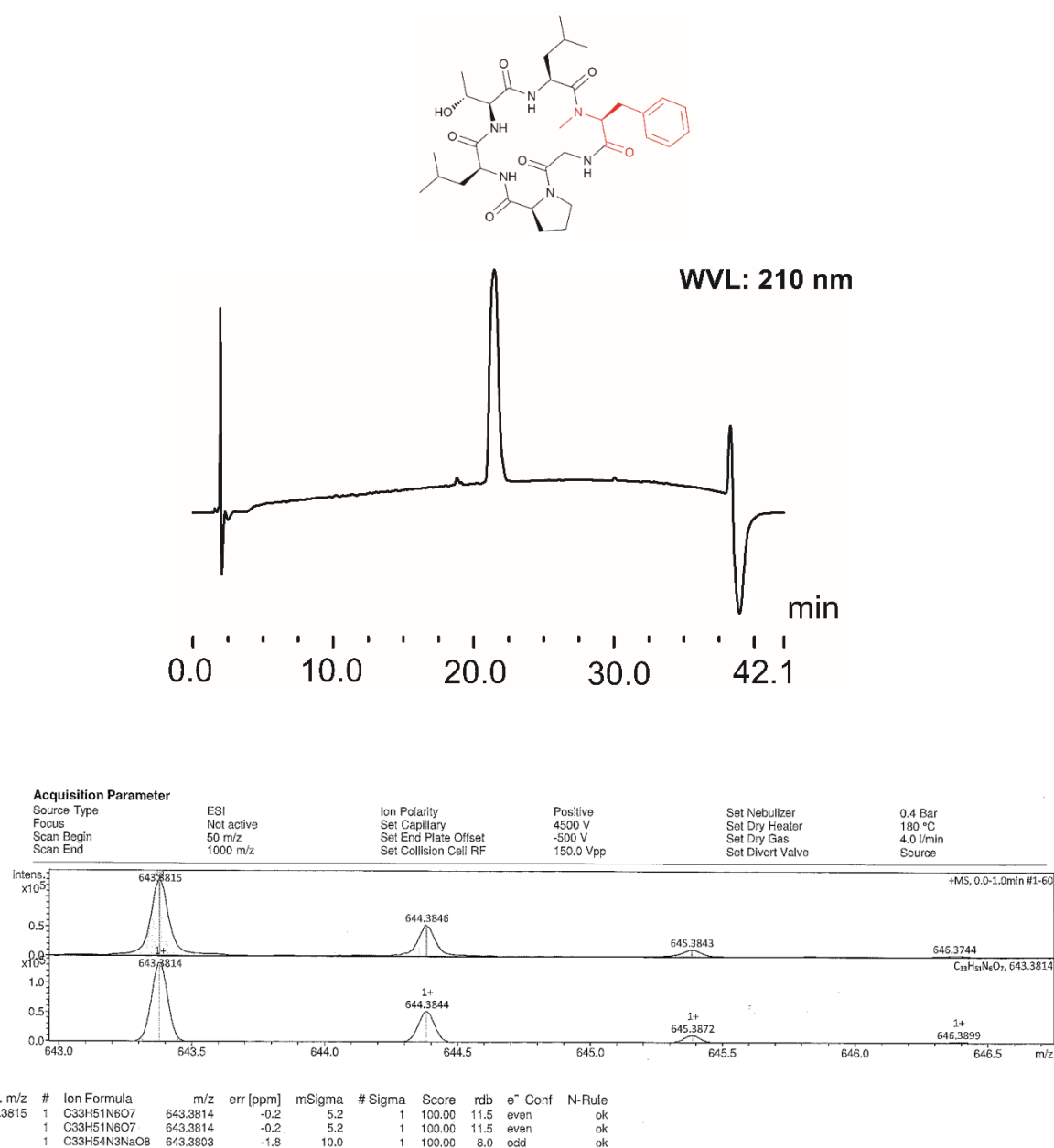


Figure S5. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **5**.

F. Peptide 6

Peptide **6** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on a 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor (80.6 mg, 61% yield). The crude linear precursor (80.6 mg, 0.12 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **6** as a white fluffy solid (50.1 mg, 39% overall yield, 98% purity); R_t 22.09 min; m/z (HR-MS) 643.3803 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{33}H_{51}N_6O_7$: 643.3741).

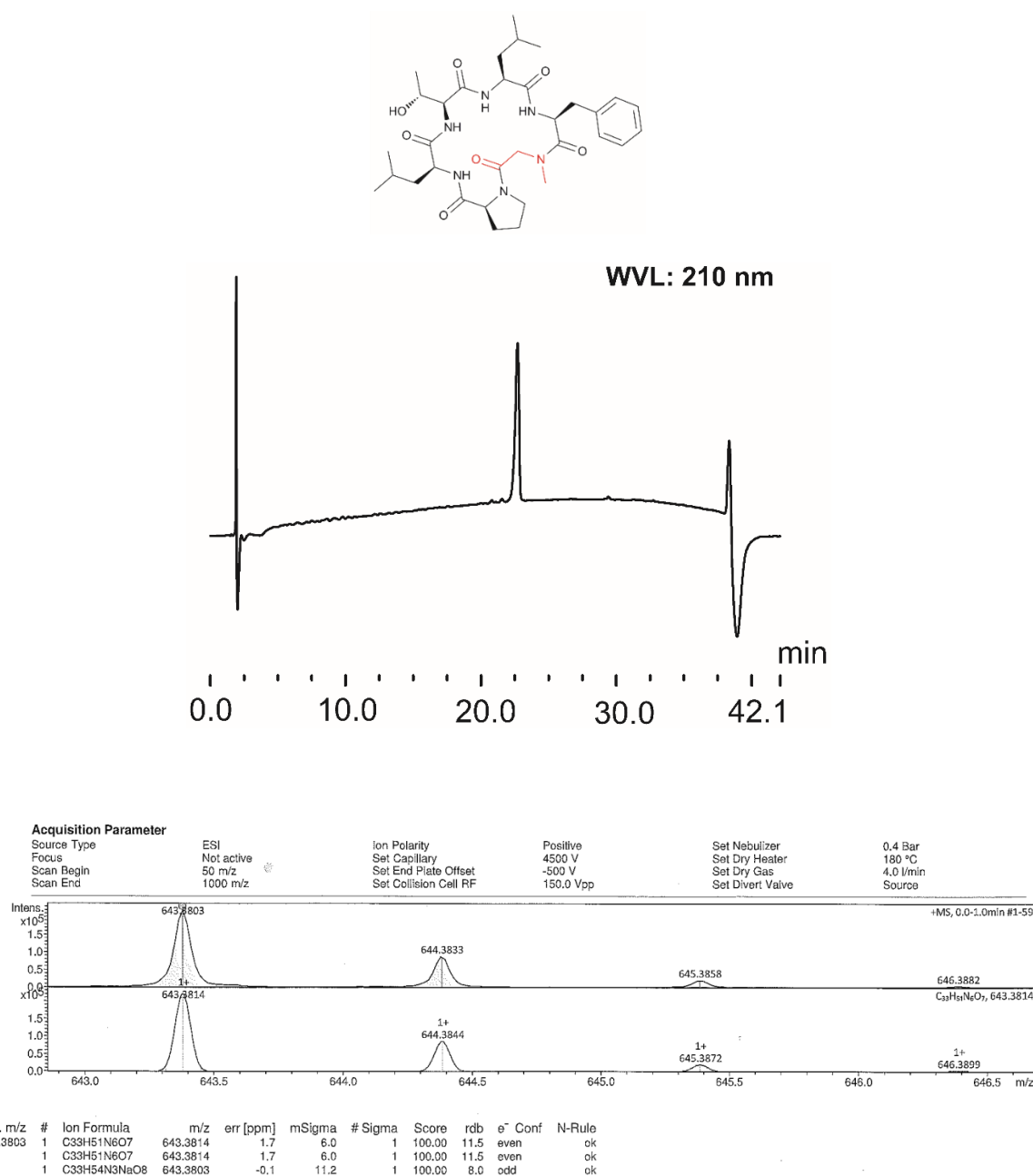


Figure S6. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **6**.

G. Peptide 7

The peptidyl-resin **18** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol) and the peptidyl-resin (67.2 mg, 32.5×10^{-3} mmol) was subjected to microwave-assisted ring closing metathesis as outlined in the general methods section. Following cleavage from the resin, RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **7** as a white fluffy solid (4.84 mg, 16% yield from resin-bound peptide **18**, 99% purity); R_t 18.75 min; m/z (HR-MS) 756.4262 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{38}H_{58}N_7O_9$: 756.4218).

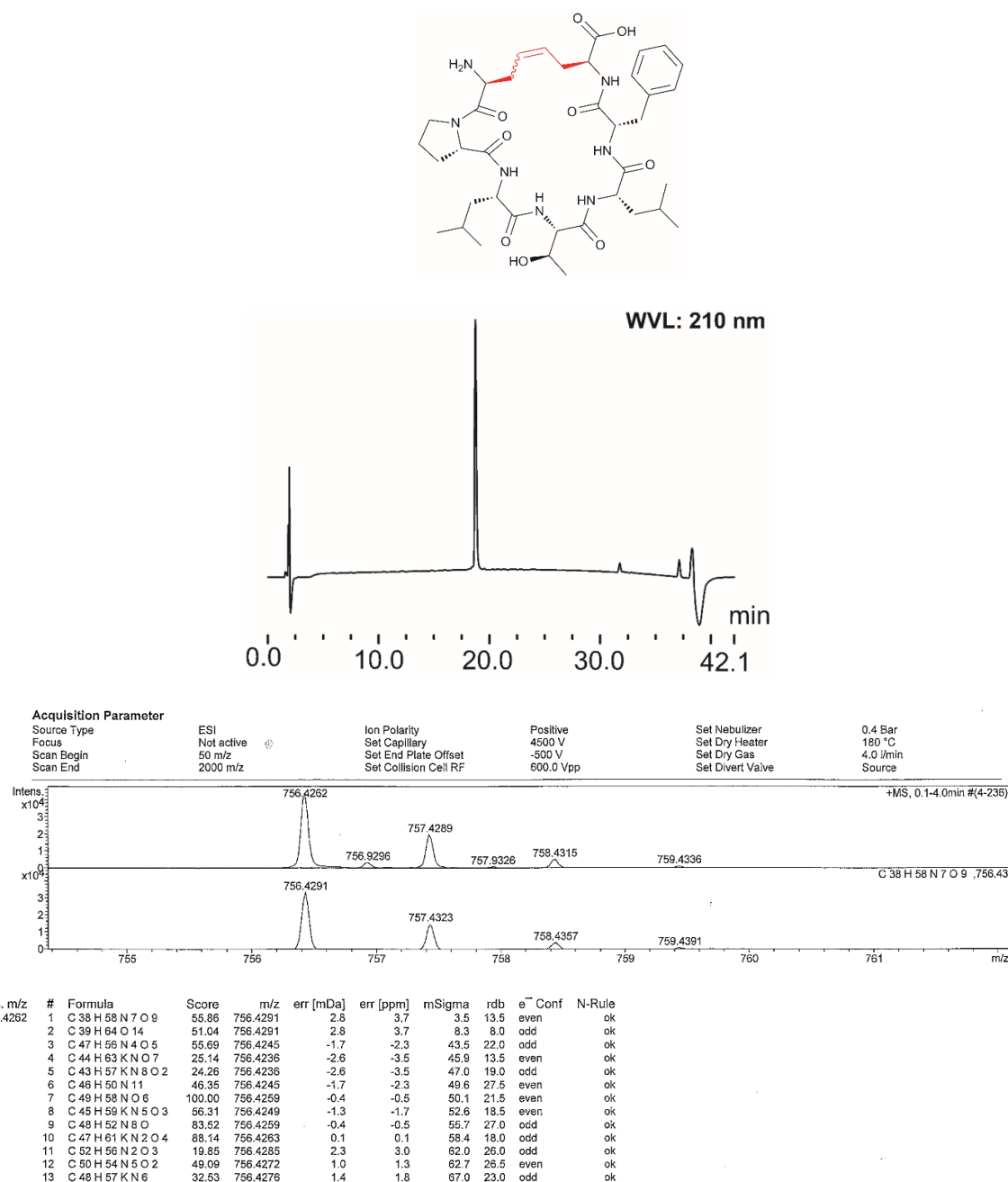


Figure S7. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide 7.

H. Peptide 8

The peptidyl-resin **19** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol) and the peptidyl-resin (66.5 mg, 32.5×10^{-3} mmol) was subjected to microwave-assisted ring closing metathesis as outlined in the general methods section. Following cleavage from the resin, RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **8** as a white fluffy solid (6.55 mg, 25% yield from resin-bound peptide **19**, 98% purity); R_t 17.6 min; m/z (HR-MS) 655.3810 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{34}H_{51}N_6O_7$: 655.4218).

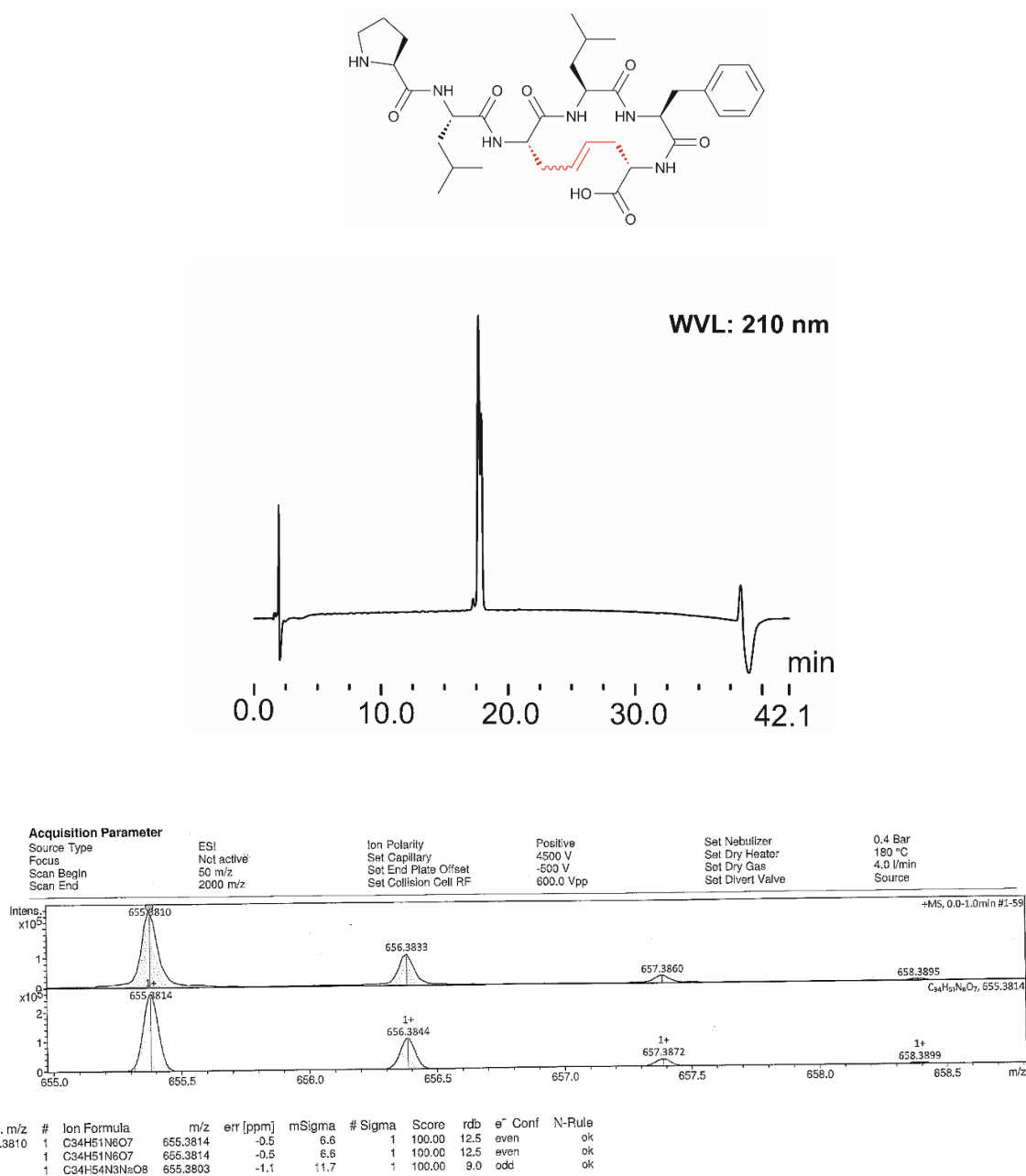
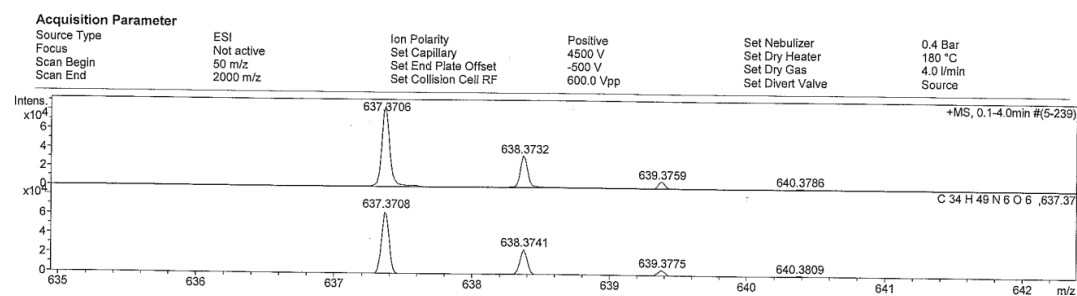
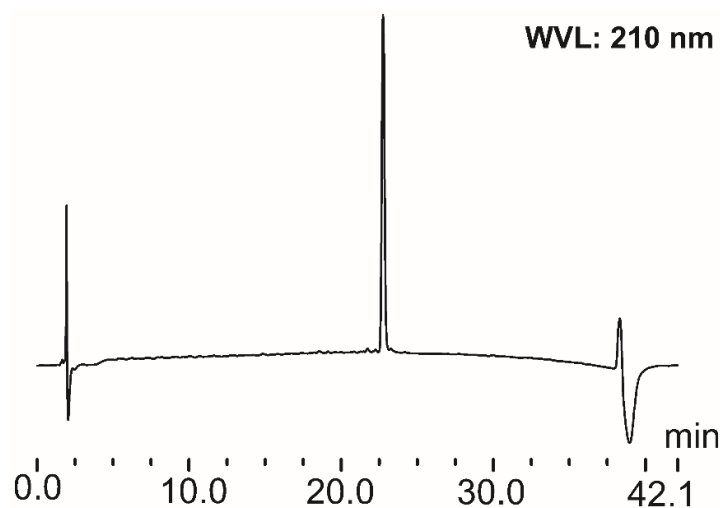
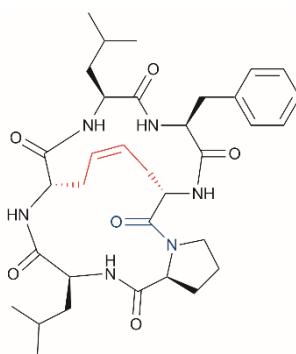


Figure S8. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **8**.

I. Peptide 9

Peptide **8** (6.0 mg, 9.2 μmol) was cyclised in solution, as outlined in the general methods, to yield the crude peptide **9**. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **9** as a white fluffy solid (4.07 mg, 68% yield from peptide **8** and 16% overall yield, 99% purity); R_t 21.80 min; m/z (HR-MS) 637.3706 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ requires for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{49}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$: 637.3605).



Meas. m/z	#	Formula	Score	m/z	err [mDa]	err [ppm]	mSigma	rdb	e ⁻ Conf	N-Rule
637.3706	1	C ₃₄ H ₄₉ N ₆ O ₆	100.00	637.3708	0.2	0.4	0.7	13.5	even	ok
	2	C ₃₂ H ₄₇ N ₉ O ₅	58.25	637.3695	-1.1	-1.7	5.9	14.0	odd	ok
	3	C ₃₆ H ₅₁ N ₃ O ₇	42.85	637.3722	1.6	2.5	6.8	13.0	odd	ok
	4	C ₃₃ H ₄₃ N ₁₃ O	86.99	637.3709	0.2	0.4	8.9	19.0	odd	ok
	5	C ₃₃ H ₅₃ N ₂ O ₁₀	54.21	637.3695	-1.1	-1.7	10.1	3.5	even	ok
	6	C ₃₅ H ₄₅ N ₁₀ O ₂	38.18	637.3721	1.6	2.5	13.2	18.5	even	ok
	7	C ₃₃ H ₄₈ N ₁₁	19.40	637.3726	2.0	3.1	30.1	15.0	odd	ok
	8	C ₃₂ H ₅₂ N ₇ O ₄	45.02	637.3712	0.7	1.0	30.3	10.0	odd	ok
	9	C ₃₄ H ₅₄ N ₄ O ₅	18.22	637.3726	2.0	3.1	32.5	9.5	even	ok
	10	C ₃₃ H ₅₈ K ₁ O ₉	40.20	637.3712	0.7	1.0	34.7	4.5	even	ok
	11	C ₄₃ H ₅₂ K ₁ N ₁ O	5.69	637.3680	-2.5	-4.0	57.7	18.0	odd	ok
	12	C ₄₈ H ₄₇ N	15.22	637.3703	-0.3	-0.4	71.3	26.0	odd	ok

Figure S9. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **9**.

J. Peptide 10

The peptidyl-resin **22** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol) and the peptidyl-resin (56.2 mg, 32.5×10^{-3} mmol) was subjected to microwave-assisted ring closing metathesis as outlined in the general methods section. Following cleavage from the resin, RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **10** as a white fluffy solid (4.52 mg, 20% yield from resin-bound peptide **22**, 99% purity); R_t 13.00 min; m/z (HR-MS) 565.3346 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{27}H_{45}N_6O_7$: 565.3271).

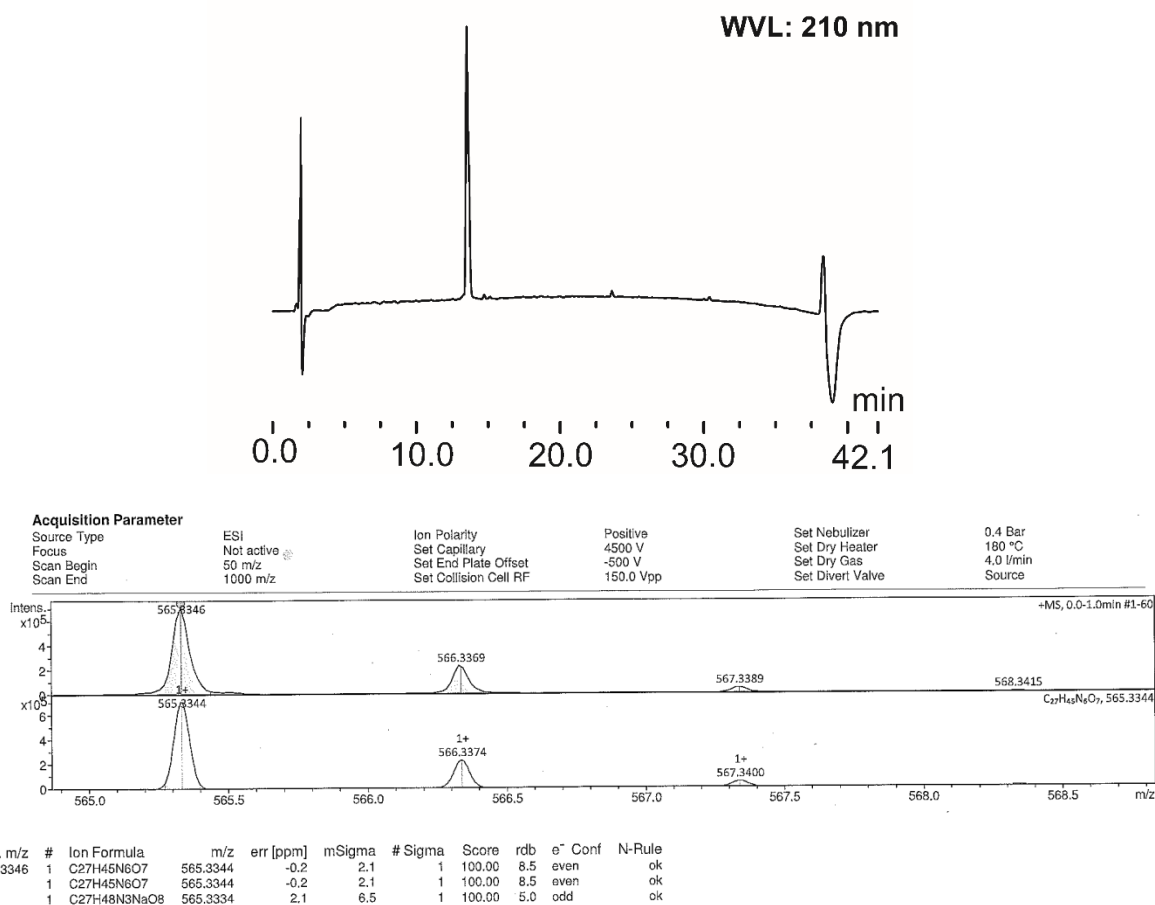
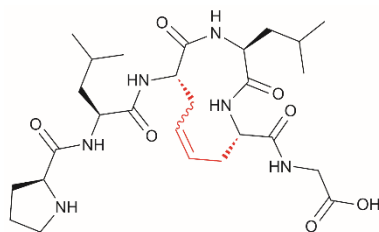


Figure S10. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **10**.

K. Peptide 23

Peptide **23** was synthesised using manual Fmoc-SPPS on an aminomethyl polystyrene resin (0.2 mmol), which following the cleavage conditions in the general procedure afforded the crude linear precursor as a white solid (77.0 mg, 65% yield). The crude linear precursor (77.0 mg, 0.13 mmol) was cyclised using solution-phase macrolactamisation as outlined in the general methods section. RP-HPLC purification afforded peptide **23** as a white fluffy solid (45.98 mg, 40% overall yield, 96% purity); R_t 21.20 min; m/z (HR-MS) 575.3547 ($[M+H]^+$ requires for $C_{29}H_{47}N_6O_6$: 575.3479).

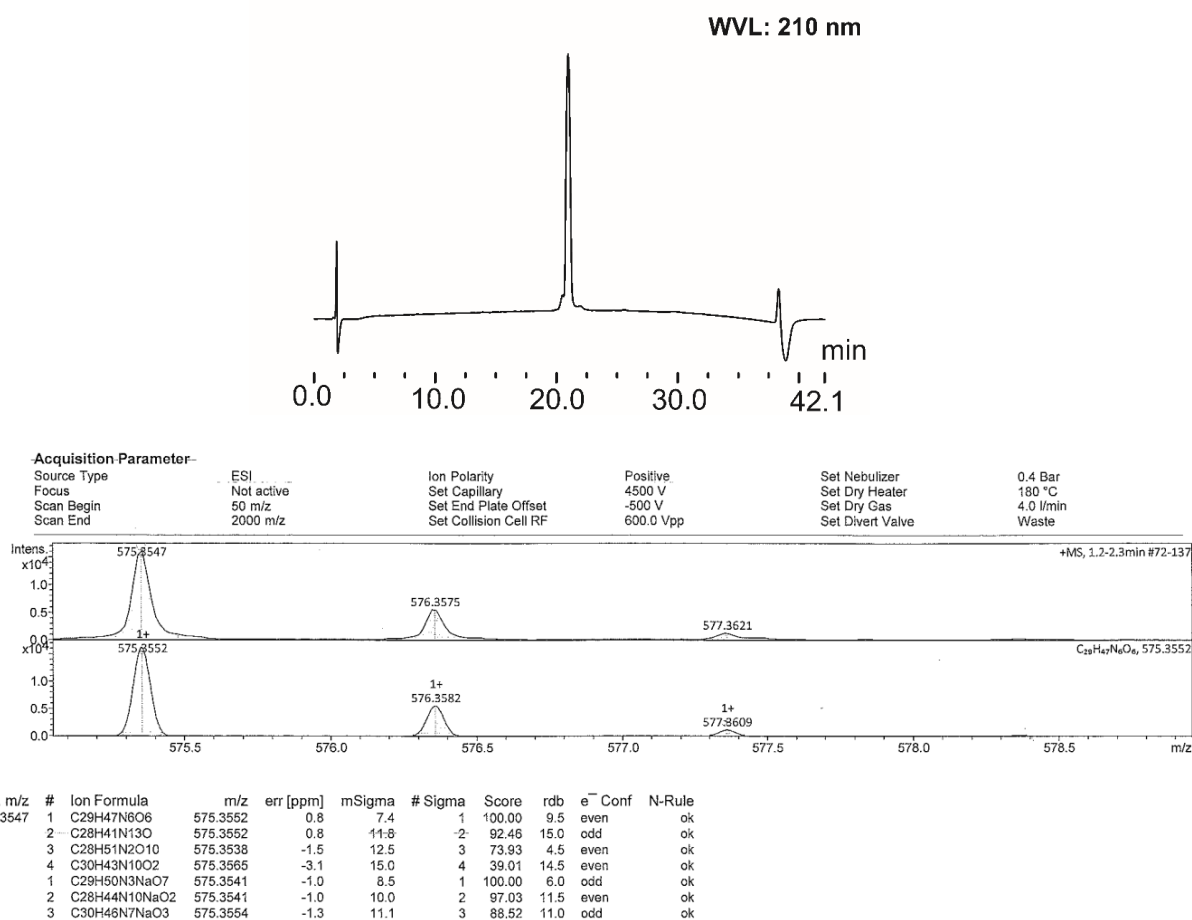
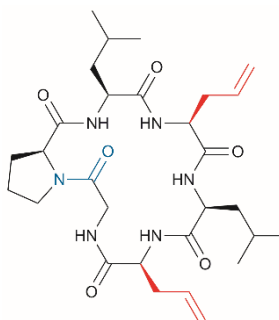


Figure S11. Analytical RP-HPLC and HR-MS data of peptide **23**.

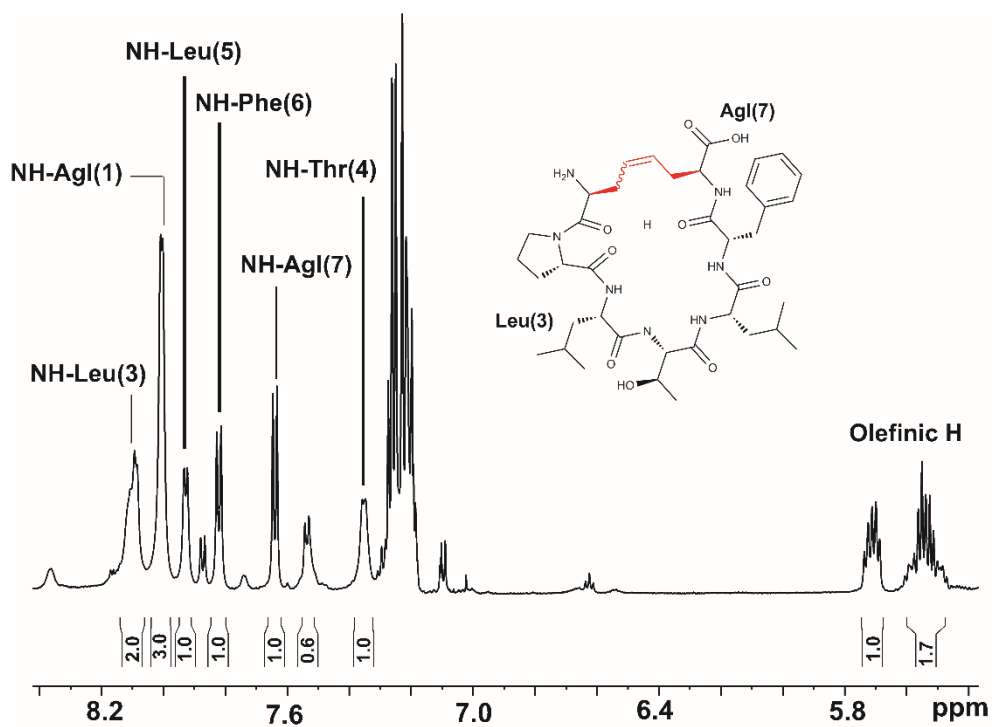


Figure S12. Partial ^1H NMR spectrum of **7** in DMSO-d_6 at 298K.

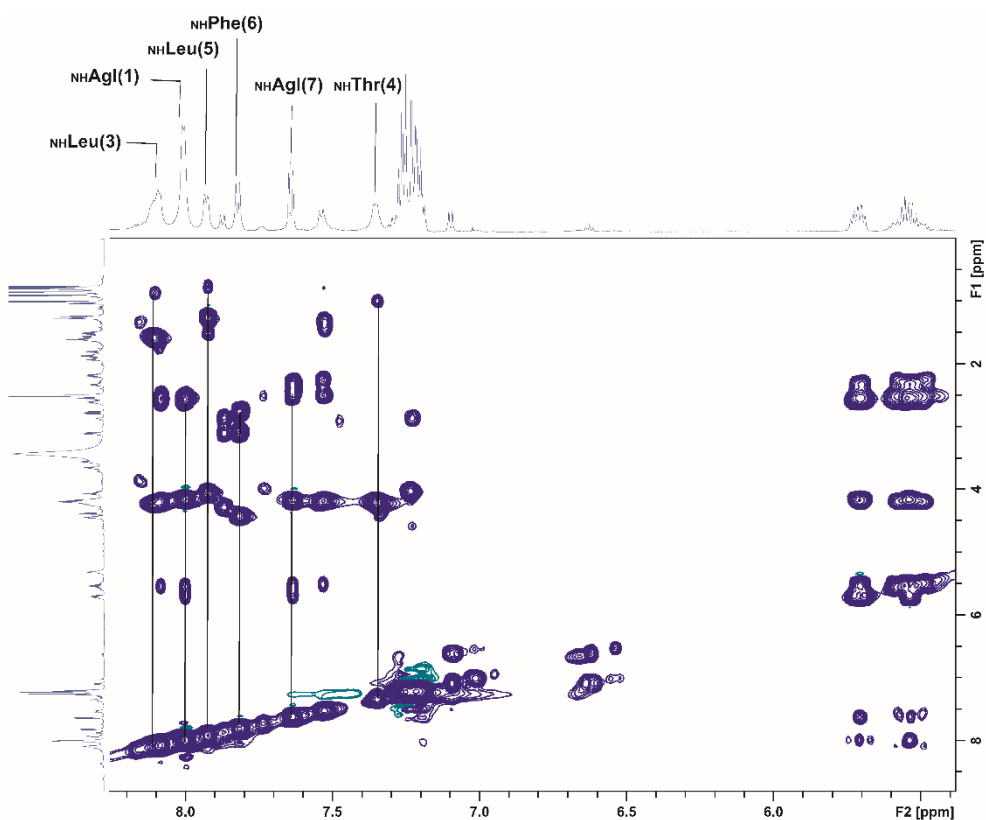


Figure S13. Partial 600 MHz TOCSY spectrum of **7** in DMSO-d_6 at 298K.

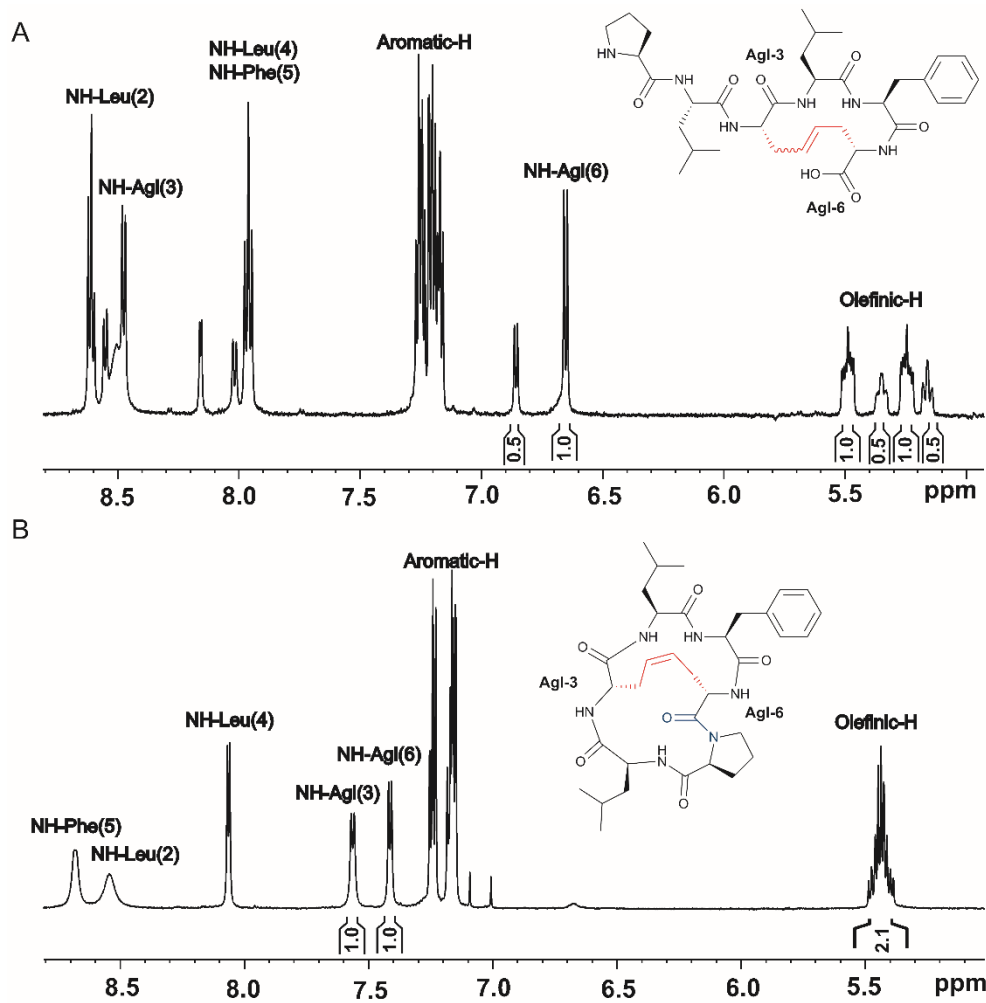


Figure S14. Amide and alkene regions of the ^1H NMR spectra of (A) dicarba analogue **8** at 298 K with a 2:1 ratio of major:minor signals for the olefinic hydrogens, (B) bicyclic analogue **9** at 298 K showing the presence of only one diastereomer.

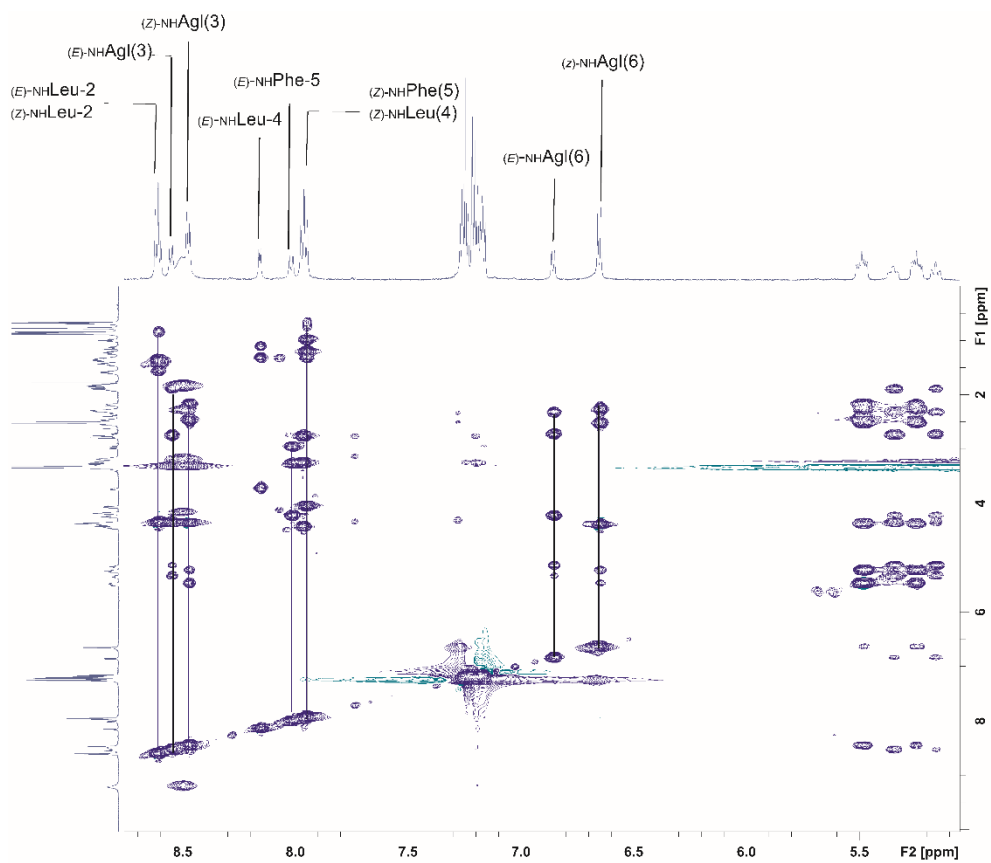


Figure S15. Partial 600 MHz TOCSY spectrum of **8** in DMSO-d₆ at 298K.

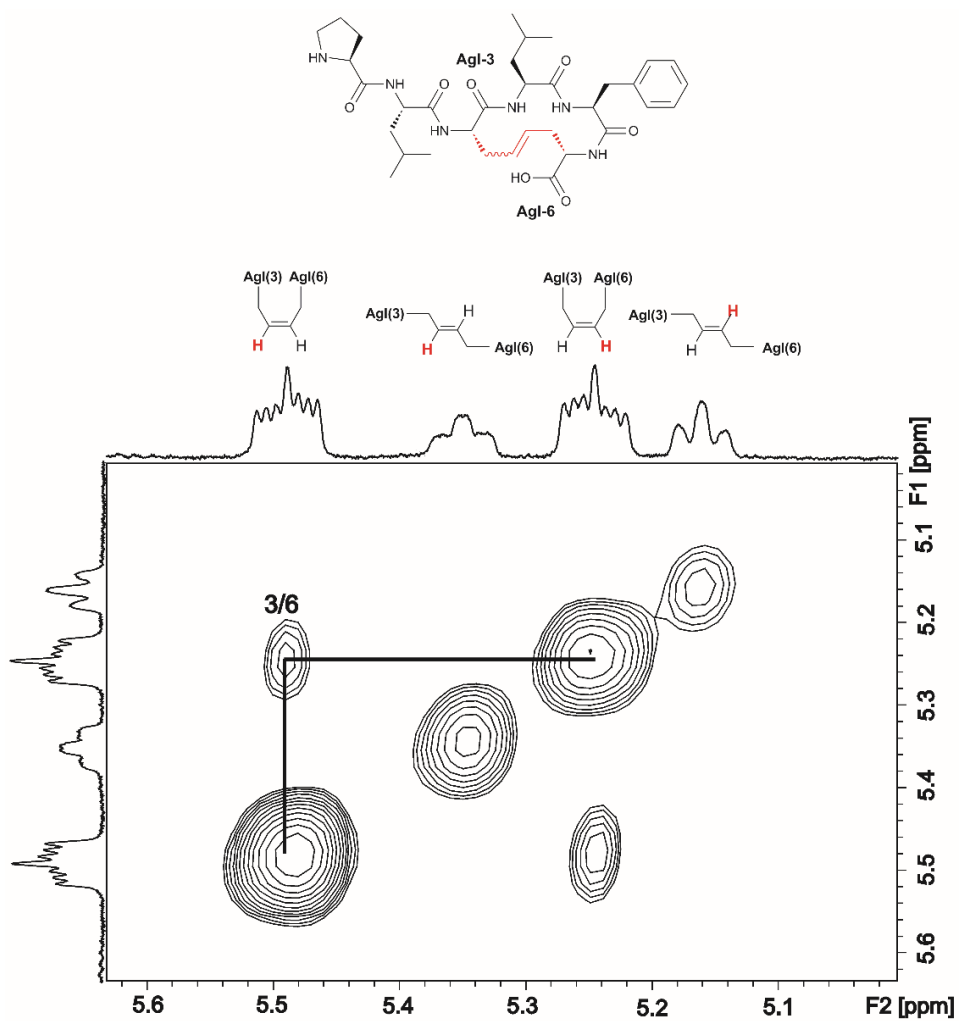


Figure S16. Selected 600 MHz NOESY spectra of the dicarba analogue **8** showing the olefinic-H connectivities with the *cis*-isomer exhibiting strong nOe.

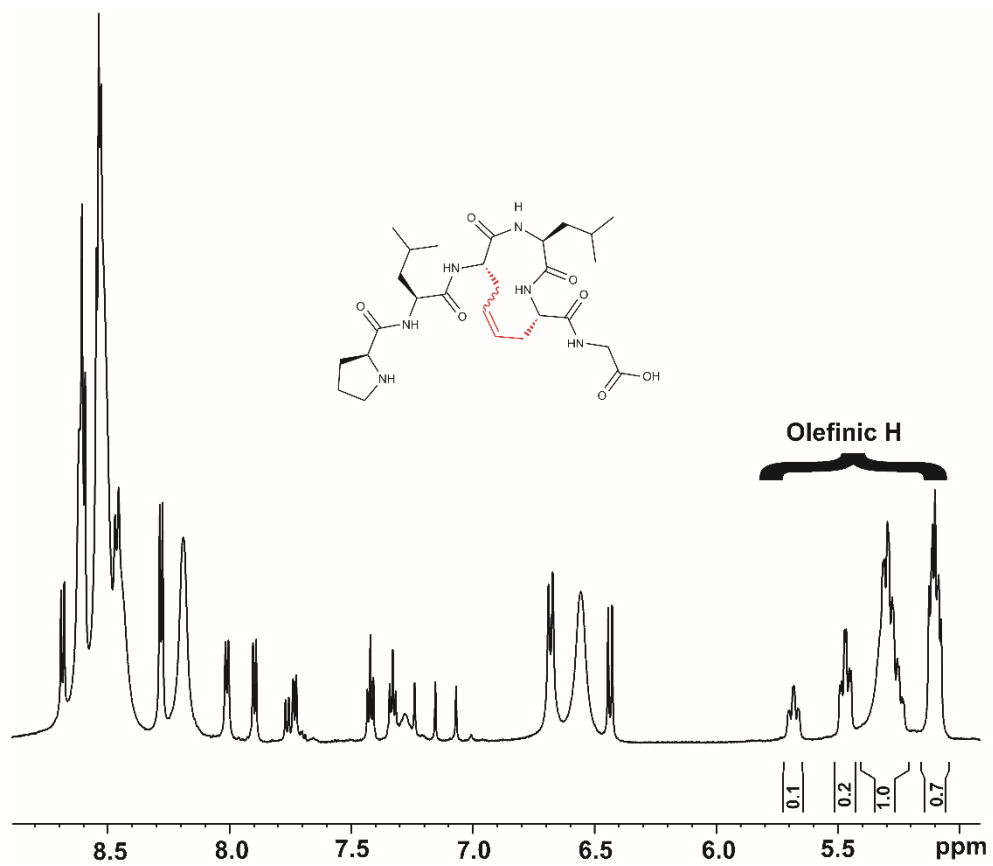


Figure S17. Partial ^1H NMR spectrum of **10** in DMSO-d_6 at 298K.

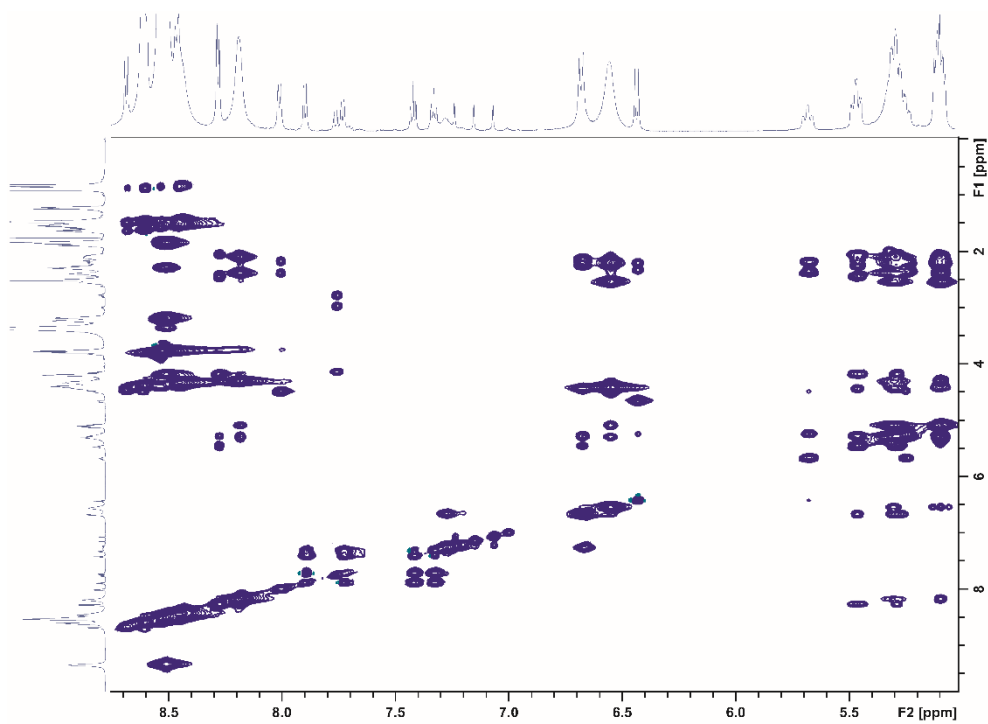


Figure S18. Partial 600 MHz TOCSY spectrum of **10** in DMSO-d_6 at 298K.

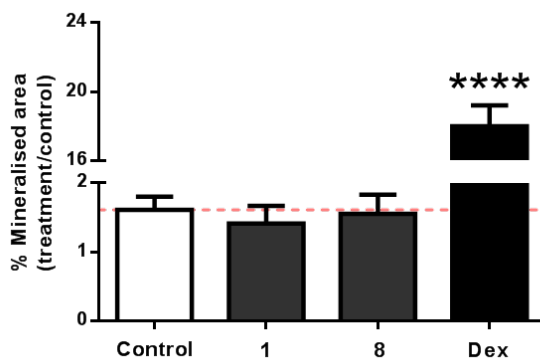


Figure S19. Effects of dianthin G (**1**) (10^{-8} M) and the dicarba analogue **8** (10^{-8} M) in primary human osteoblasts on cell differentiation, assessed by percentage of mineralisation. Data are expressed as a ratio of treatment to control, mean \pm SEM from a representative experiment. Dexamethasone [Dex] (10^{-8} M) is included as a positive control. ****significantly different from control ($P < 0.0001$).

Circular dichroism spectroscopy

All CD spectra were recorded using a Pi Star-180 (Applied Photophysics, Surrey, UK) spectrometer at 20 °C with a cell of 0.1 cm path length in the range from 190 nm to 300 nm at 0.5 nm intervals with a 5 s response time. Each CD spectrum measurement represents the average of four scans obtained with a 2 nm optical bandwidth. Baseline spectrum was collected with the solvent alone (30% TFE in water) and then subtracted from the raw peptide spectra. The measurements were performed at peptide concentrations of 86 μ M in 30% TFE in water, in 1 mm quartz cuvettes (Hellma Analytics, Mullheim, Germany). Data are expressed as mean residue ellipticities [θ] in ($\text{deg cm}^2 \text{ dmol}^{-1}$), calculated as follows:

$$\theta = S / (10 \times c \times L \times n)$$

Where S is the raw CD signal in millidegrees, c is the peptide concentration (M), L is the cuvette path length (cm), and n is the number of peptide bonds.

References

1. (a) P. W. R. Harris, D. J. Lee and M. A. Brimble, *J. Pept. Sci.*, 2012, **18**, 549-555; (b) Y. Chen, C. T. Mant and R. S. Hodges, *J. Chromatogr. A.*, 2007, **1140**, 112-120.
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