

A novel *C-C* radical-radical coupling reaction promoted by visible light: facile synthesis of 6-substituted *N*-methyl 5,6-dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloids

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General:

Column chromatography silica gel (200-300 mesh) and TCL plate were purchased from Qingdao Meijin Chemical Inc(Qingdao; China); HRMS data were obtained in the ESI mode on an Agilent 6530 Q-TOF/MS system; GC-MS data were obtained on an Agilent GCMS-QP2010 system. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer and chemical shifts were given in δ with TMS as an internal reference. Dihydrosanguinarine and dihydrochelerythrine were isolated from *Macleaya Cordata* in our lab.

Representative experimental procedure for visible light promoted synthesis of 6-substituted 5,6-dihydrobenzophenanthridine.

A solution of dihydrosanguinarine **5** (0.2 mmol), 3.0 eq of Na_2HPO_4 , $\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_3$ (2 mol%) and 3.0 equiv of $\text{BrCH}_2\text{COOEt}$ in DMF (2 mL) was firstly bubbled with nitrogen for 10 minutes and then irradiated with 25 W household compact fluorescent lamp under nitrogen atmosphere. After 24 h reaction, the resulting mixture was poured into water (50 mL) and then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 3). The combined organic solution was then washed with water (20 mL \times 3). The organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The solvent were removed via vacuo and theresidue was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO_2) with petroleum ether/AcOEt (8:1) to give target compound **14a**.

HPLC-Q-TOF analysis for the crude product from Table 1, entry 3 (Na_2CO_3 used as base)

Based on previous literature, if α -bromo carbonyl compounds were used as radical precursor, Na_2HPO_4 was the mostly used deacid reagent along with DMF as solvent (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2013, 52, 13289; *Org. Lett.*, 2013, 18, 4884; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2015, 54, 15545). Based on the reviewer's comments, we analyzed the crude product when Na_2CO_3 was used. After 24 h reaction, HPLC-HRMS analysis (Figure 1s) showed that a major byproduct with m/z value of 405.1435 was detected (peak 2, Figure 1s). Because a positive mode was applied in the MS analysis, peak 2 ($m/z = 405.1435$) should belong to a byproduct that possessed two nitrogen atoms. Thus we suggested that if Na_2CO_3 was used in the reaction, dihydrosanguinarine would react with solvent DMF. This byproduct was unstable during the silica gel column chromatography isolation process, and we only obtained the byproduct with low purity.

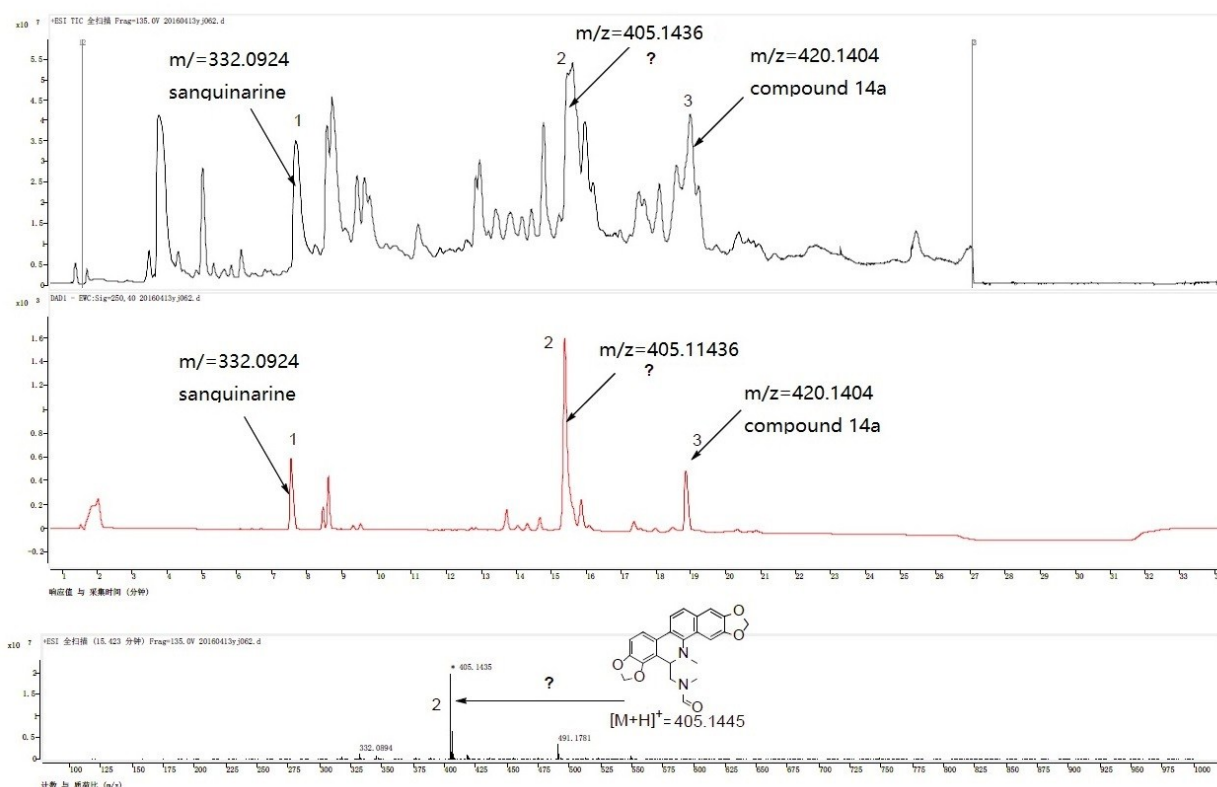


Figure 1s. HPLC-HRMS analysis of crude product using Na_2CO_3 as base

NMR spectra of byproduct from Table 1, entry 3

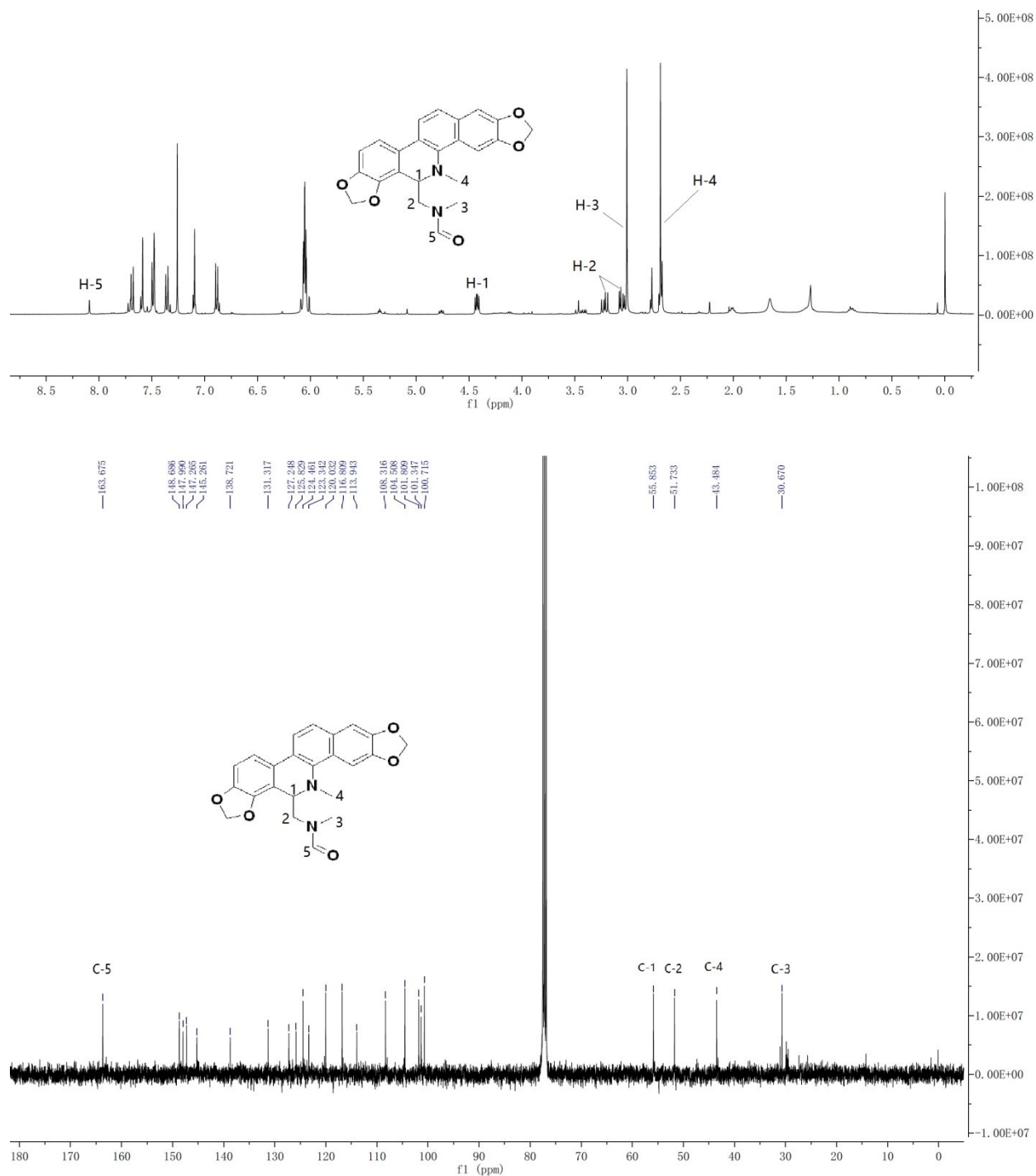


Figure 2s. NMR spectra of byproduct when Na₂CO₃ was used as base

HPLC-Q-TOF analysis for the crude product of compound **14c**

We analyzed the crude product of **14c** based on HPLC-HRMS technology (Figure 3s). Interestingly, target compound **14c** was detected in moderate HPLC yield. But we didn't isolate compound **14c** after column chromatography at 0.2 mmol scales which indicated that compound **14c** was not stable during purification process. To obtain pure compound **14c**, the coupling reaction was performed in 0.6 mmol scales again, but only isolated in 8% yield.

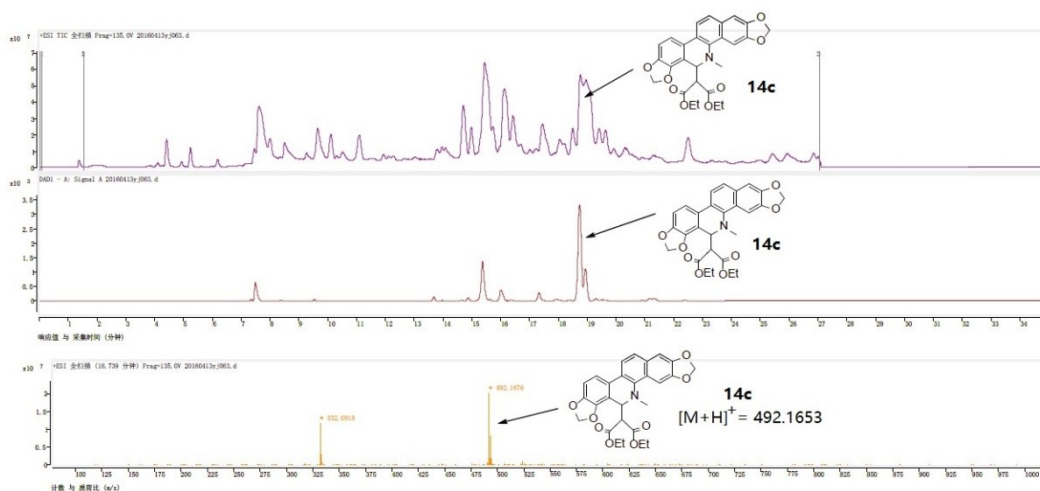


Figure 3s. HPLC-HRMS analysis of crude product **14c**

As shown in Figure 4s, we firstly isolated compound **14c** by column chromatography, but an impurity generated during the isolation process (Figure 4, **A**). Thus, we purified combined fractions of compound **14c** using preparation TLC again (Figure 4, **B**). But another impurity generated as shown in Figure 4, **B**. Finally, compound **14c** was obtained only in 8% isolated yield. As a result, we thought that it was the poor stability of compound **14c** but not the enolization of diethyl bromomalonate that led to the poor isolated yield.

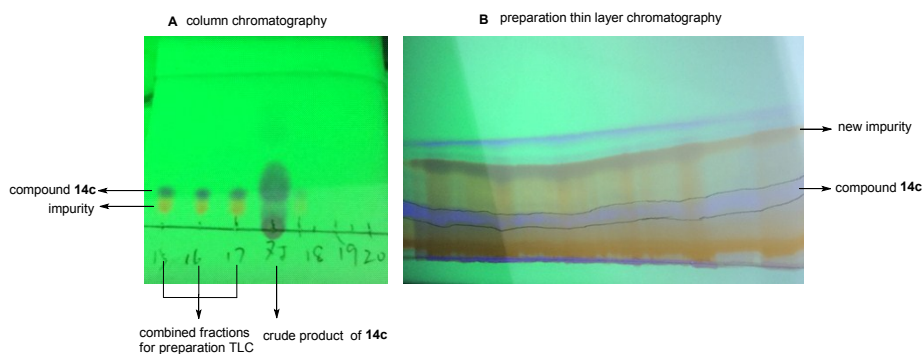


Figure 4s. Column chromatography (A) and preparation TLC (B) isolation of compound **14c**

HPLC-Q-TOF and GC-MS analysis for the radical trapping experiment

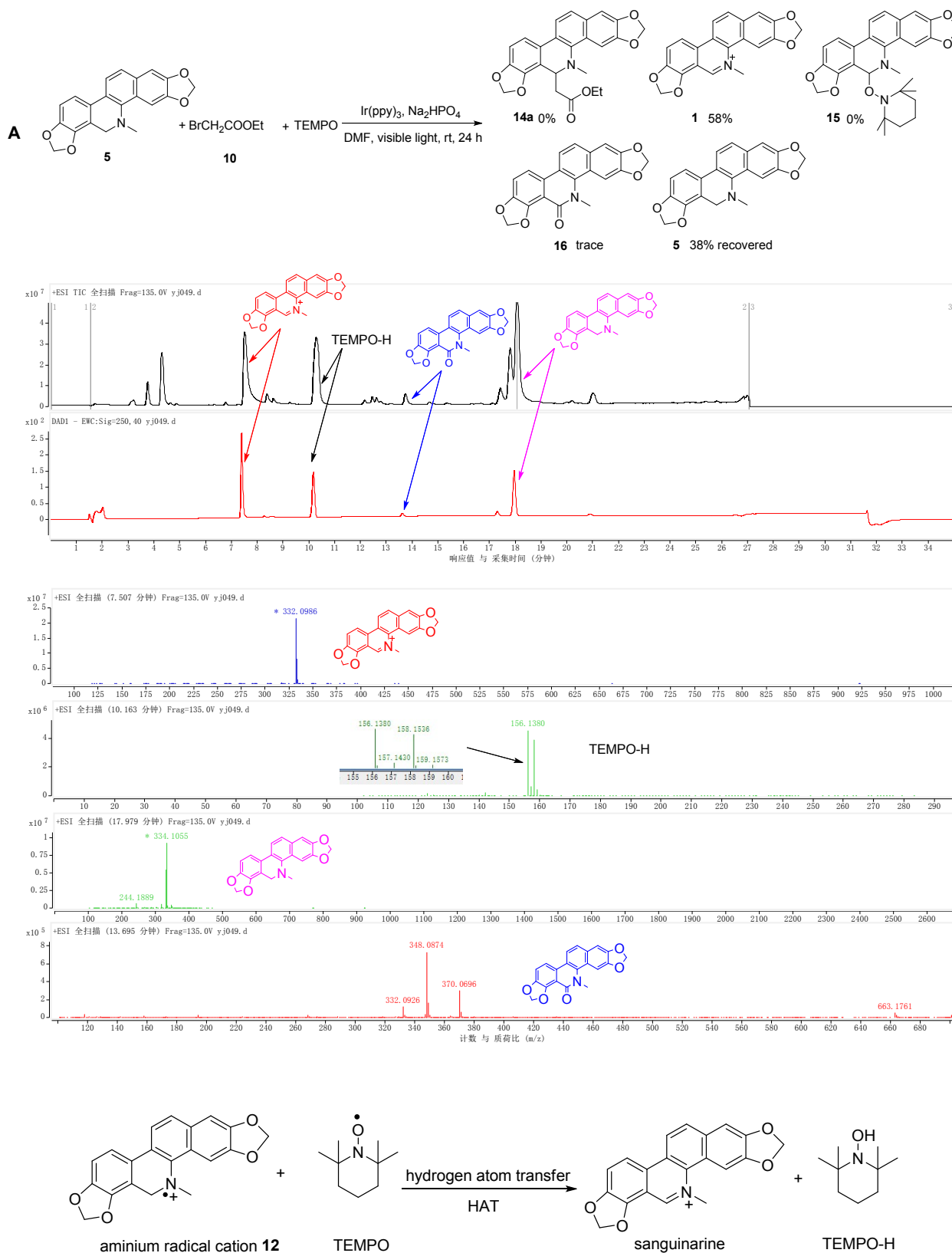


Figure 5s. HPLC-Q-TOF analysis for the radical trapping experiment

We proposed that hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) process existed between aminium radical cation **12** and

TEMPO. This HAT process promote the yield of sanguinarine in the radical trapping experiment

On the other hand, we analyzed the crude product from radical trapping experiment using GC-MS. The coupling product of TEMPO with radical **11** was detected as shown in Figure 6s:

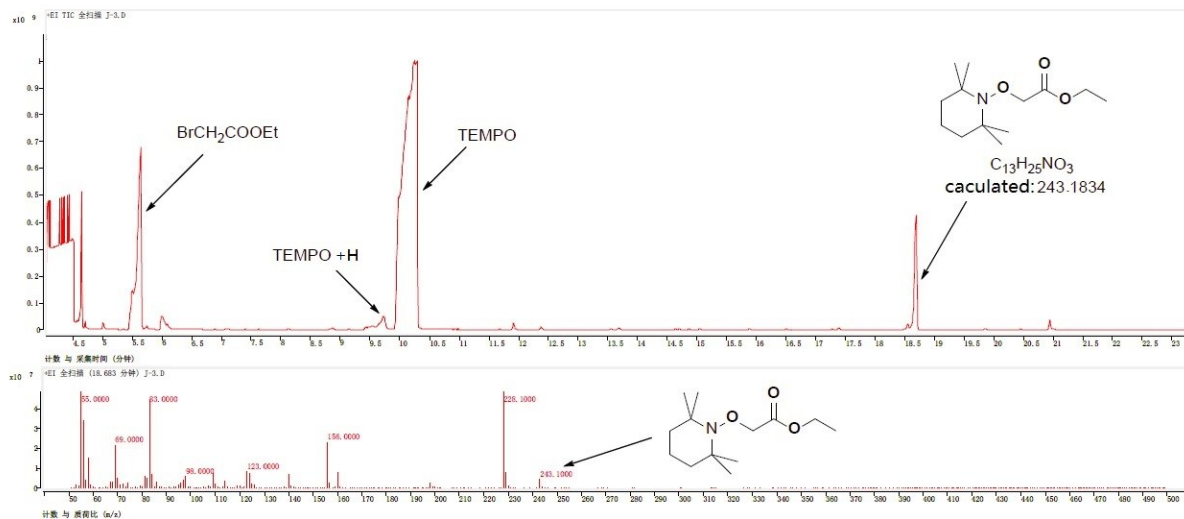
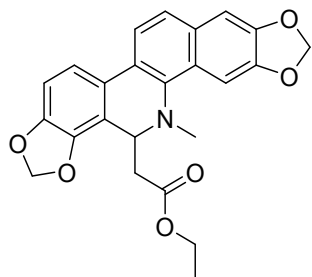


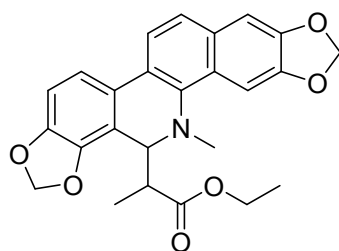
Figure 6s. GC-MS analysis of crude product from radical coupling experiment

Characterization data of compounds 14



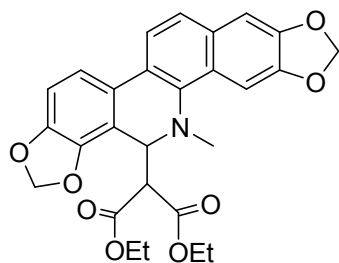
Ethyl 2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-yl)acetate (14a): Obtained as pale yellow amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.05-6.03 (m, 4H), 4.83 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.16

(m, 2H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 171.5, 148.2, 147.7, 147.2, 144.6, 139.4, 131.2, 127.8, 125.9, 124.1, 123.4, 120.1, 116.6, 115.8, 107.8, 104.4, 101.6, 101.1, 101.0, 60.5, 54.9, 43.2, 39.1, 14.4, HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd 420.1441 for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_6^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 420.1450.



Ethyl 2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-yl) propanoate (14b): Obtained as white amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.16-7.64, 7.48-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (two s, 1H), 6.90-6.85 (two d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 0.5H), 4.46 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 0.5H), 4.18-3.98

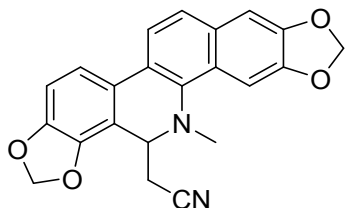
(m, 2H), 2.68, 2.62 (two s, 3H), 2.48-2.38 (m, 1H), 1.14-1.05 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 175.9, 174.7, 148.3, 148.0, 147.7, 147.6, 147.1, 147.0, 145.0, 139.9, 139.7, 131.2, 131.1, 127.6, 126.2, 124.0, 123.9, 123.5, 120.2, 120.0, 116.9, 116.8, 114.3, 107.9, 107.8, 104.6, 104.4, 101.4, 101.2, 100.8, 60.7, 60.4, 60.3, 60.0, 44.2, 43.7, 43.3, 42.9, 14.3, 14.2, 14.2, 14.1. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd 434.1598 for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_6^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 434.1597.



Ethyl 2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-yl) maonlate (14c): Obtained as white amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.03-6.00 (m, 4H), 5.10 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H),

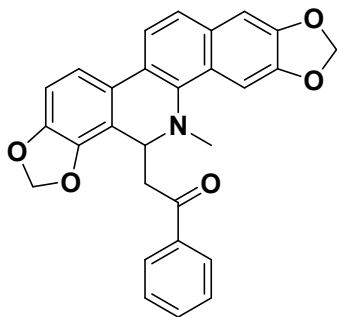
4.24-4.12 (m, 2H), 4.04-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.41 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.7, 166.9, 148.2, 147.7, 147.2, 145.5, 138.7, 131.2, 127.4, 126.2, 124.3, 123.6, 120.1, 117.0, 112.7, 108.3, 104.5, 101.6, 101.2, 100.8, 61.4, 61.4, 57.3, 55.5, 42.4, 14.1,

13.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd 492.1653 for C₂₇H₂₆NO₈⁺ [M+H]⁺; found, 492.1649.



6-Nitrilemethyl dihydrosanguinarine(14d): Obtained as pale yellow amorphous powder, ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.08-6.06 (m, 4H), 4.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (s,

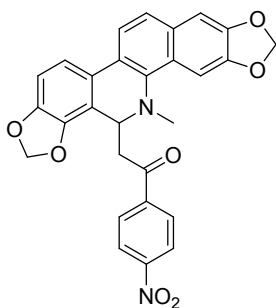
3H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.7, 148.1, 147.5, 145.0, 138.1, 131.4, 127.7, 125.4, 124.7, 122.9, 119.9, 117.8, 116.9, 113.8, 108.6, 104.4, 101.9, 101.3, 101.0, 54.6, 43.2, 22.6. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd 373.1183 for C₂₂H₁₇N₂O₄⁺ [M+H]⁺; found, 373.1191.



1'-phenyl-2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-yl)ethanone(14e):

Obtained as pale yellow amorphous powder, ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 9.6 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (dd, *J* = 1.2,

8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.8, 148.0, 147.7, 147.3, 144.5, 137.4, 132.7, 131.1, 128.5, 128.4 (×4), 127.7, 126.0, 124.1, 123.5, 120.1, 116.6, 116.5, 107.7, 104.2, 101.7, 101.1, 101.0, 55.2, 43.2, 42.1. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd 452.1492 for C₂₈H₂₂NO₅⁺ [M+H]⁺; found, 452.1493.

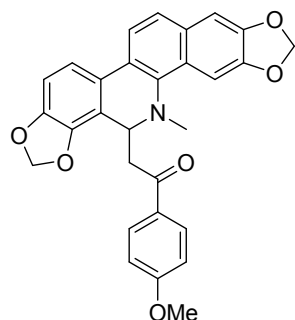


1'-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-yl)ethanone(1f):

Obtained as light red amorphous powder, ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 5.90 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 16 Hz, 2H), 4.97 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.35

(dd, *J* = 12.8, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.2, 150.0, 147.8, 147.6, 147.4, 144.5, 141.7, 138.8, 131.0, 129.2 (×2), 127.4, 125.8, 124.4, 123.6, 123.5 (×2), 120.1, 116.8, 115.7, 108.1, 104.3, 101.8, 101.3, 100.4, 56.6, 43.2, 41.7. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd 497.1343 for

$C_{28}H_{21}N_2O_7^+$ $[M+H]^+$; found, 497.1339.

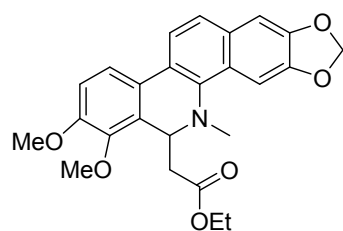


1'-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2'-(5,6-dihydrosanguinarine-6-

yl)ethanone(14g): Obtained as pale yellow amorphous powder, 1H NMR

(400MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.75(d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.06-5.95 (m, 4H), 5.03 (dd, J = 10.4, 4.8 Hz,

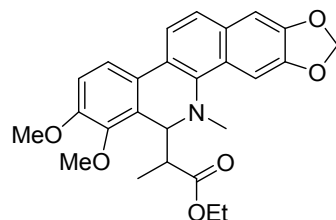
1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd, J = 14.4, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67(dd, J = 14.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.5, 163.3, 147.9, 147.5, 147.3, 144.5, 139.6, 131.0, 130.7, 130.6 ($\times 2$), 127.8, 126.0, 124.0, 123.6, 120.1, 116.7, 116.5, 113.4 ($\times 2$), 107.7, 104.0, 101.7, 101.2, 101.1, 55.7, 55.4, 43.1, 41.4. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd 482.1598 for $C_{29}H_{24}NO_6^+$ $[M+H]^+$; found, 482.1599.



Ethyl 2'-(5,6-dihydrocheletythrane-6-yl)acetate(14h): Obtained as

pale yellow amorphous powder, 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.70 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H),

7.10 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 5.00 (dd, J = 4.4, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.33 (m, 2H), 1.82 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 171.8, 152.2, 148.1, 147.6, 145.9, 139.5, 131.2, 128.1, 127.7, 125.1, 123.9, 123.2, 119.9, 118.9, 111.8, 104.4, 101.1, 101.1 (overlapped), 61.2, 60.4, 56.0, 55.2, 43.0, 39.3, 14.4. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd 436.1755 for $C_{25}H_{26}NO_6^+$ $[M+H]^+$; found, 436.1750.

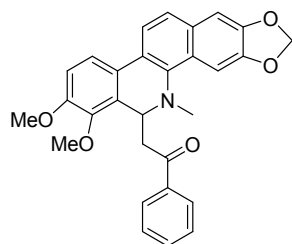


Ethyl 2'-(5,6-dihydrochelerythrane-6-yl) propanoate (14i): Obtained

as white amorphous powder, 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.71 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49

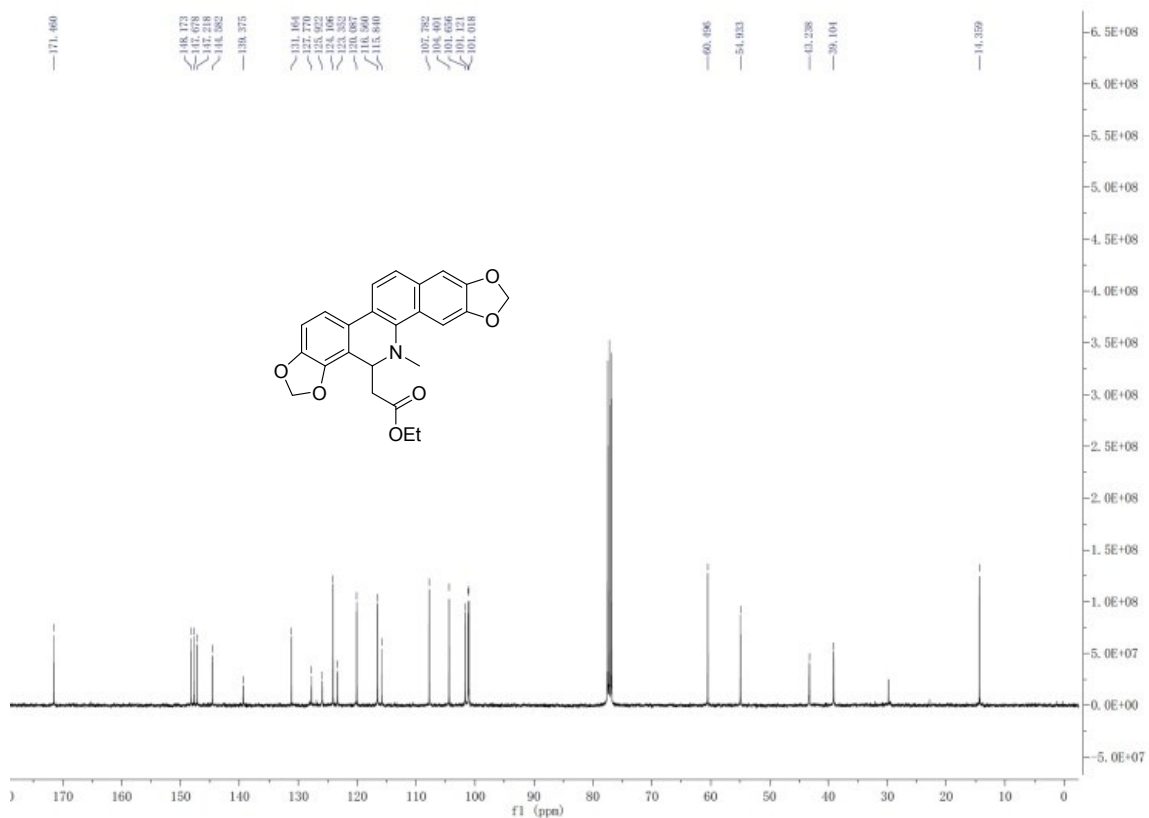
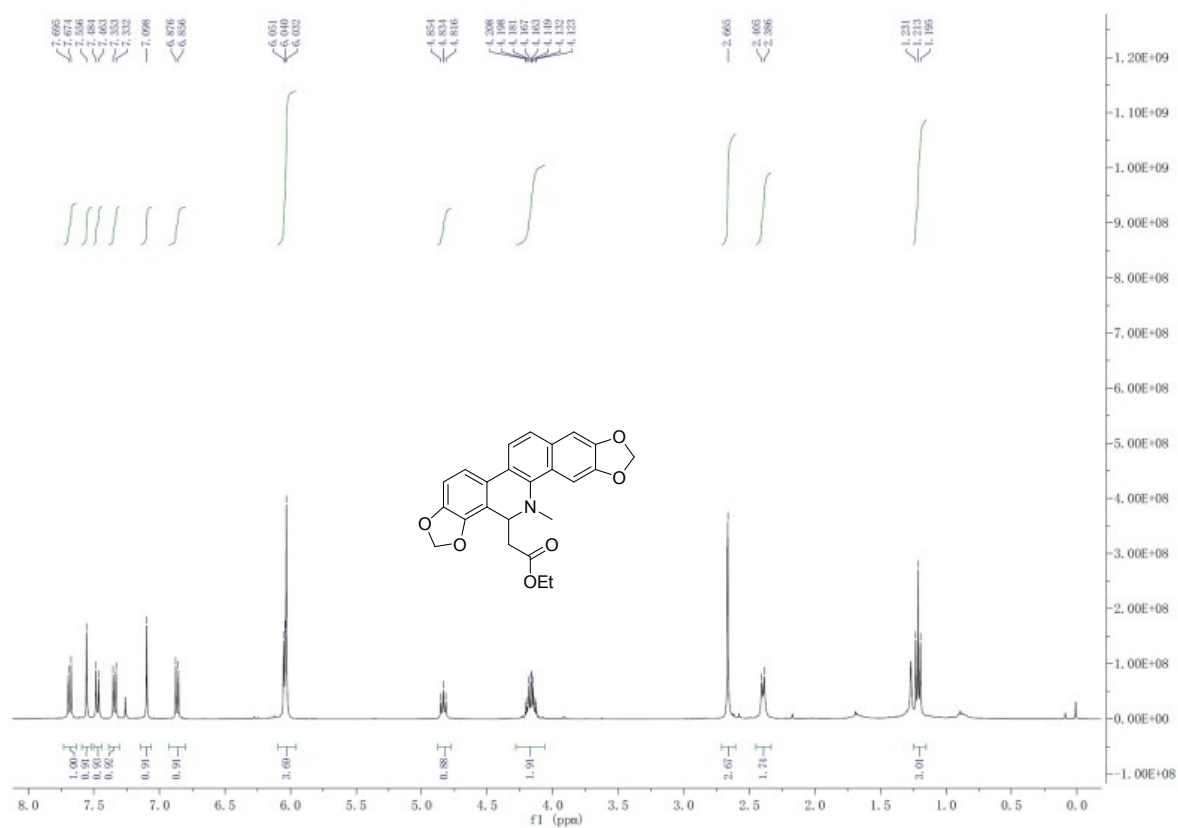
(s, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 6.02 (s, 2H), 4.71-4.68 (m, 2H), 4.15-4.03 (m, 4H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.53-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.36-2.32 (m, 1H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H),

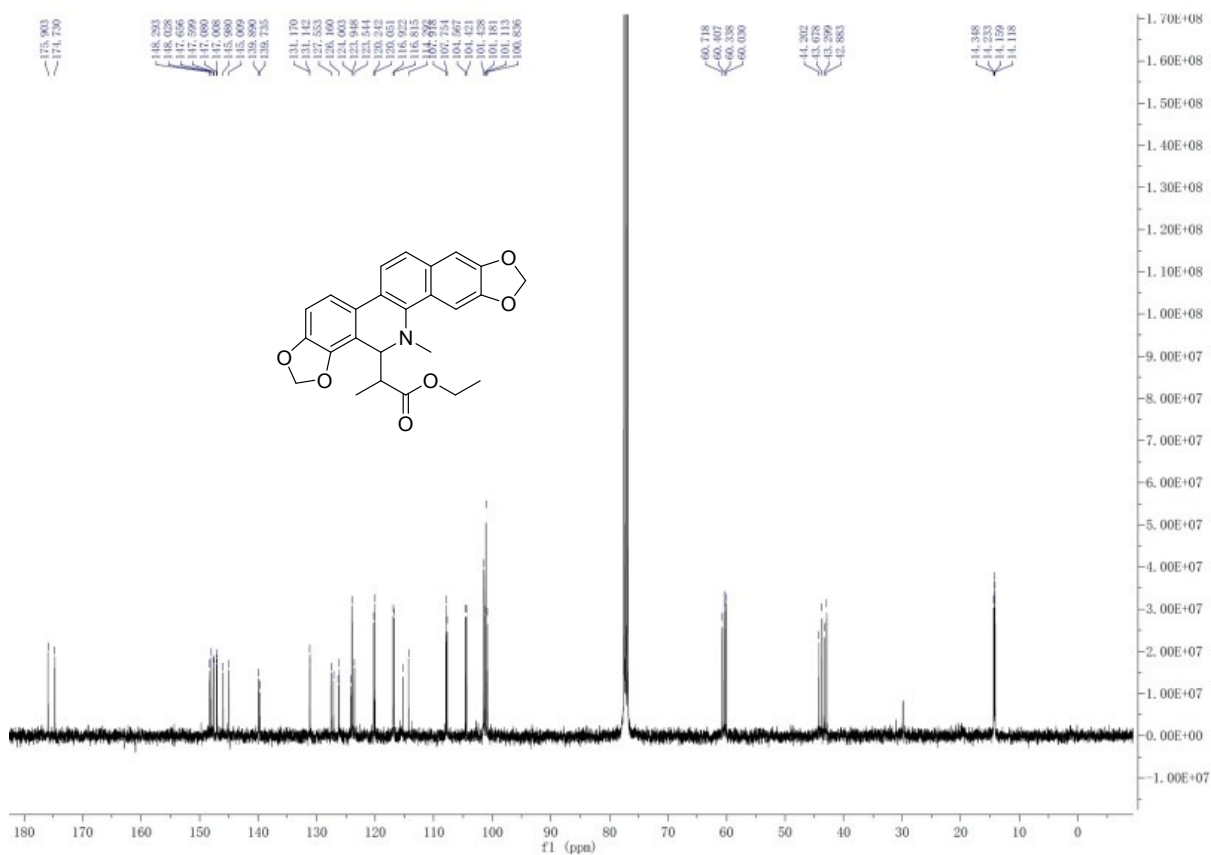
1.07 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.4, 174.7, 152.1, 152.1, 148.2, 147.9, 147.6, 147.5, 147.2, 146.5, 140.2, 140.0, 131.2, 131.1, 127.4, 127.1, 126.9, 125.9, 125.5, 125.2, 124.1, 123.8, 123.7, 123.4, 119.9, 119.8, 119.2, 118.8, 111.7, 111.7, 104.5, 104.4, 101.1, 101.0, 100.9, 61.0, 61.0, 60.4, 60.4, 60.2, 60.0, 55.9, 55.9, 44.8, 43.5, 43.5, 42.4, 14.4, 14.2, 14.2, 13.2. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd 450.1911 for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_6^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 450.1912.

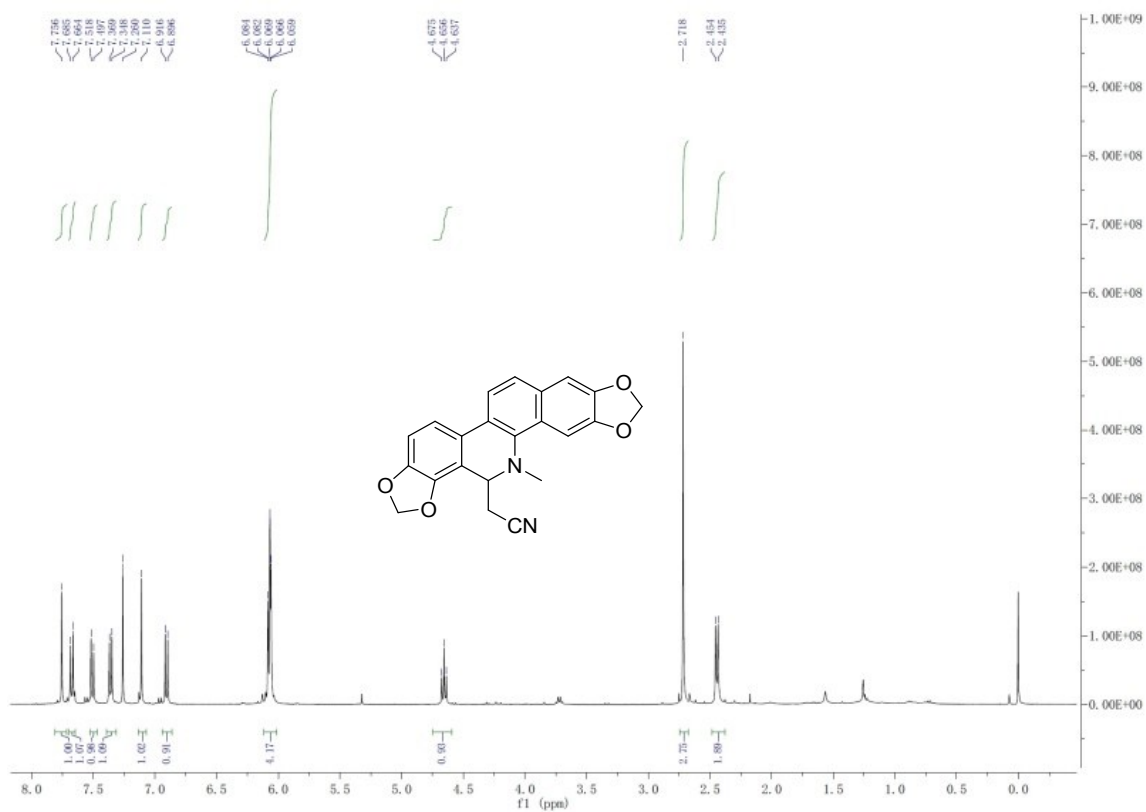
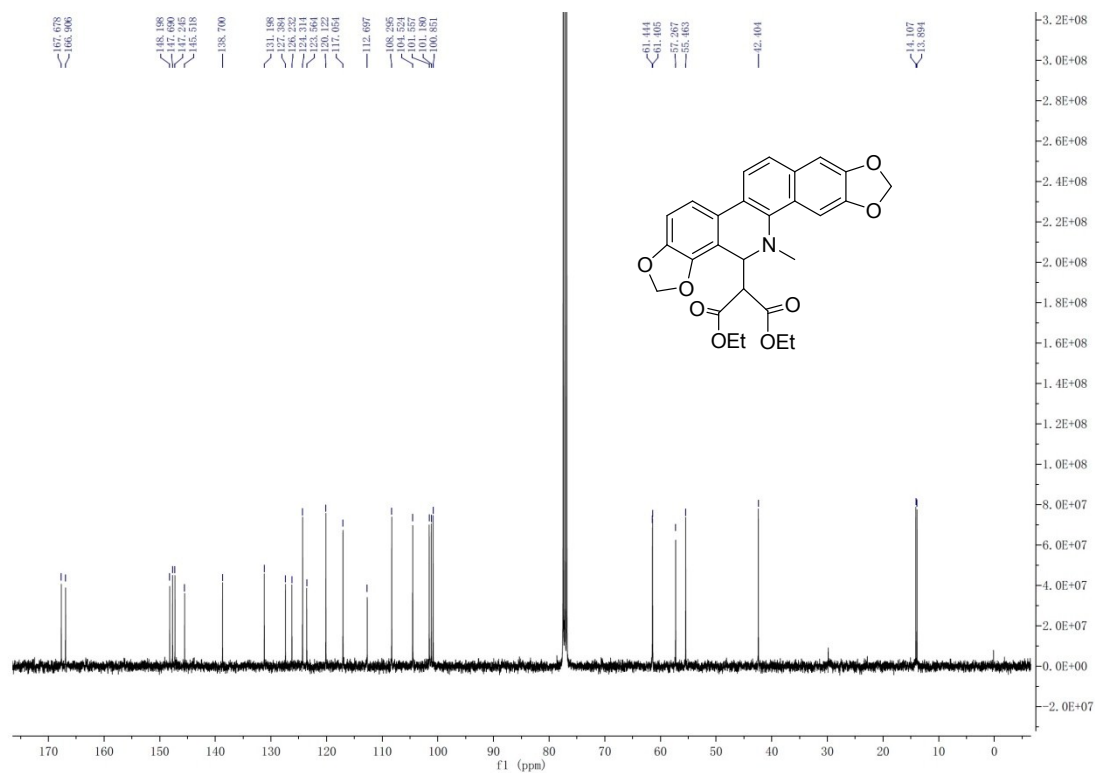


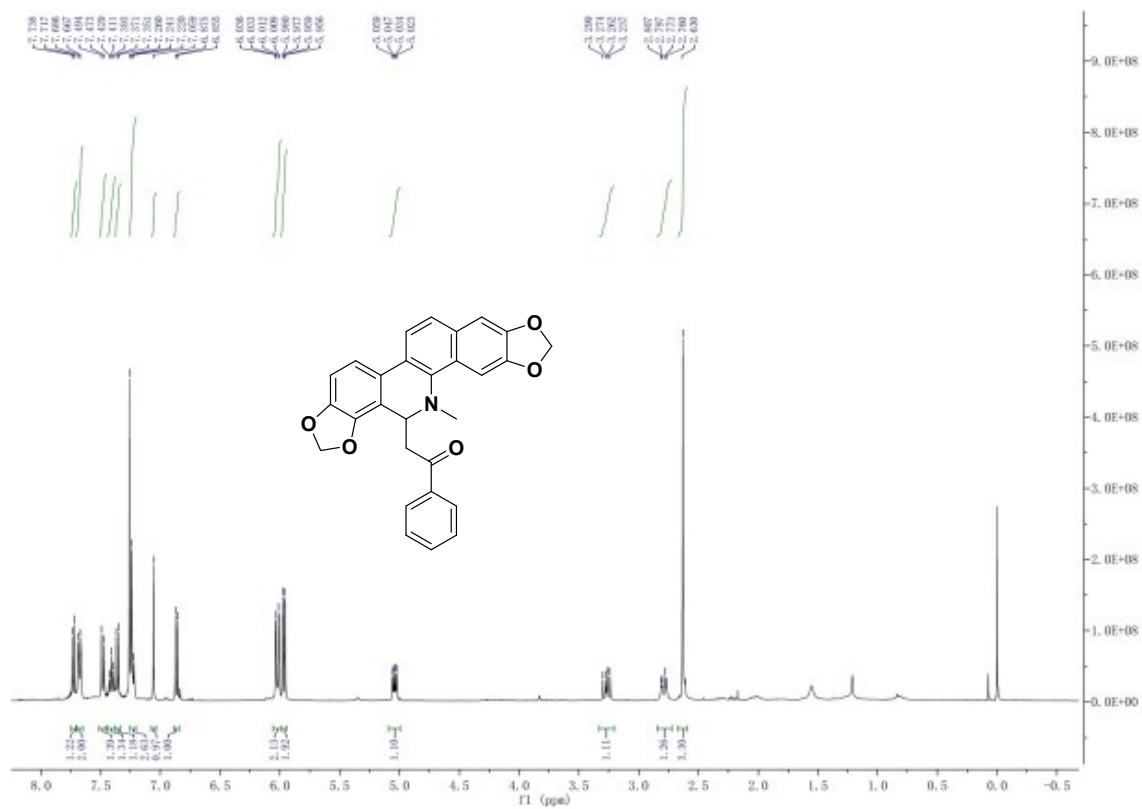
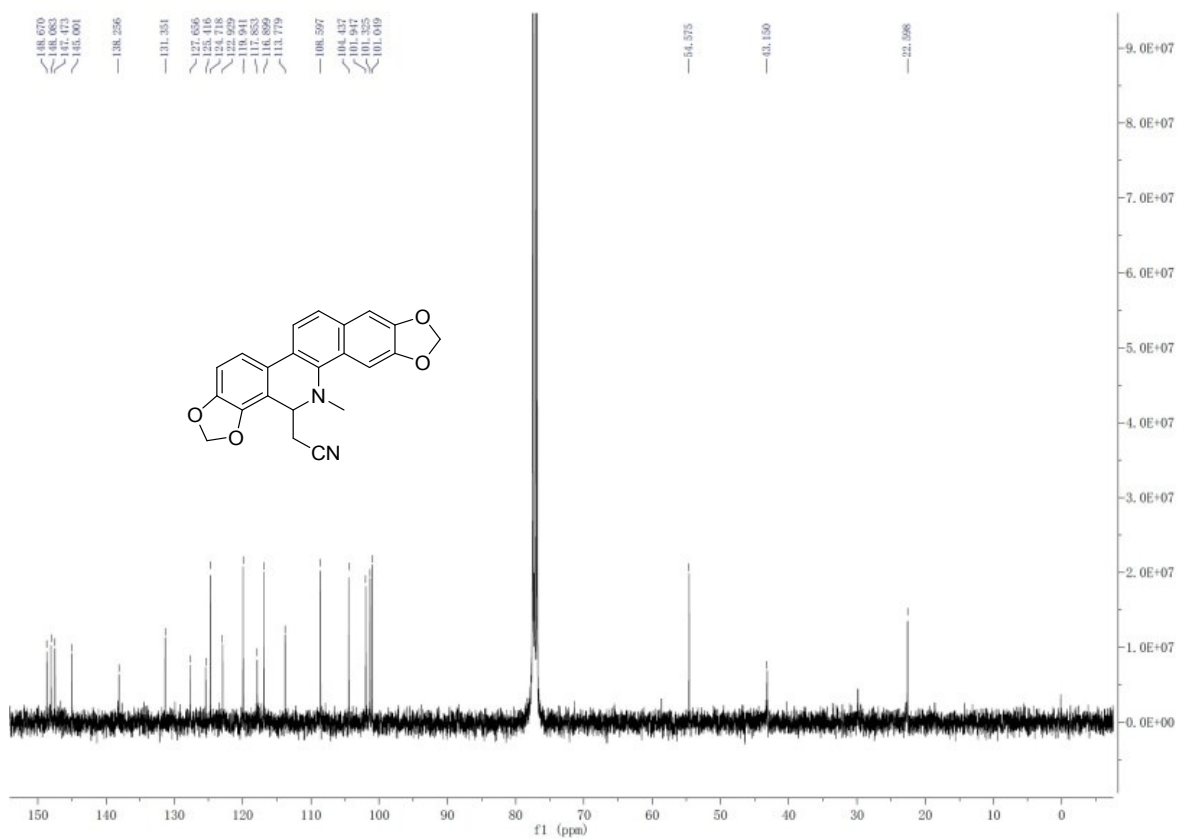
2-(chelerythrine-6-yl)-1-phenylethanone(14j): Obtained as pale yellow amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.57(d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.96 (dd, $J = 1.2$, 9.2 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (dd, $J = 3.6$, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 11.2$, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, $J = 3.6$, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.0, 152.3, 147.9, 147.6, 145.7, 139.6, 137.4, 132.6, 131.1, 128.7, 128.4($\times 2$), 128.3($\times 2$), 127.6, 125.2, 123.9, 123.3, 119.8, 118.9, 111.7, 104.2, 101.2, 101.0, 61.1, 56.0, 55.8, 43.0, 42.2. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd 468.1805 for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_5^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 468.1820.

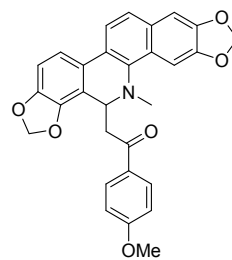
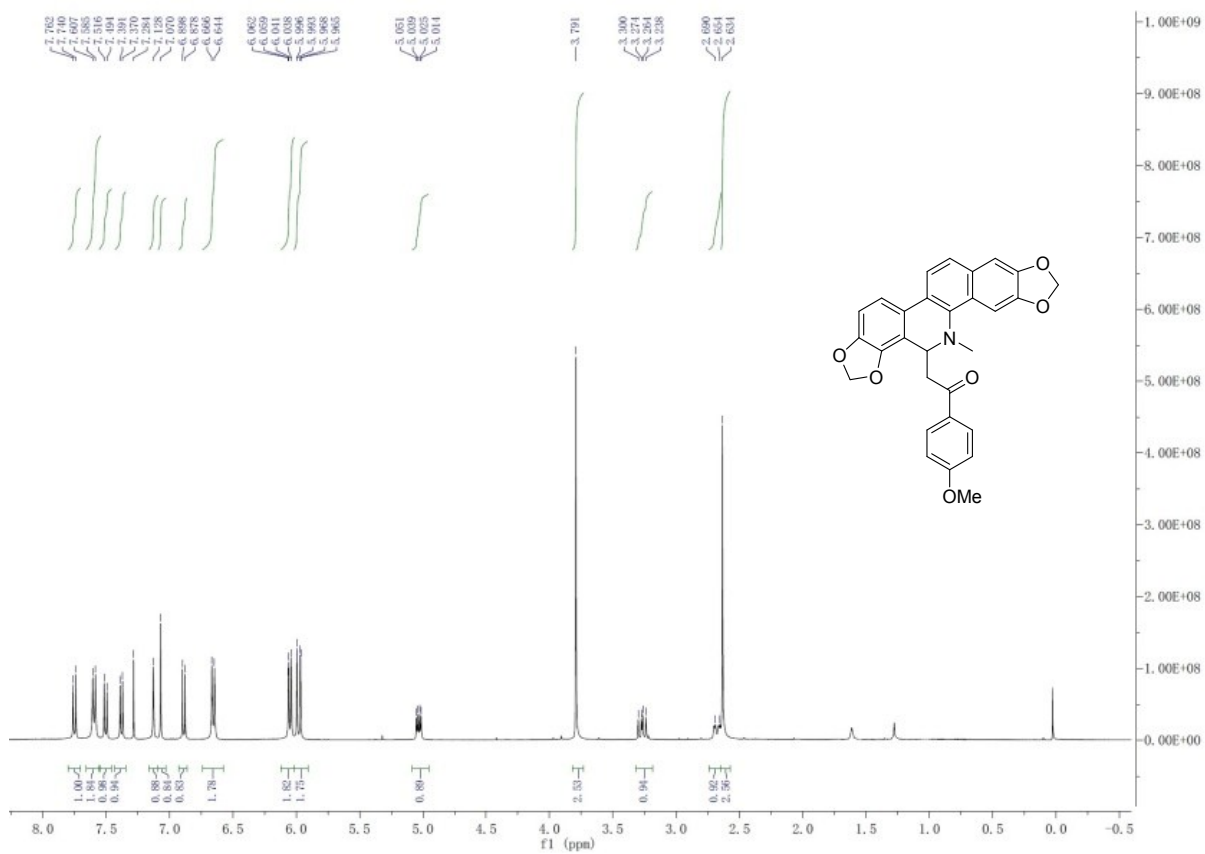
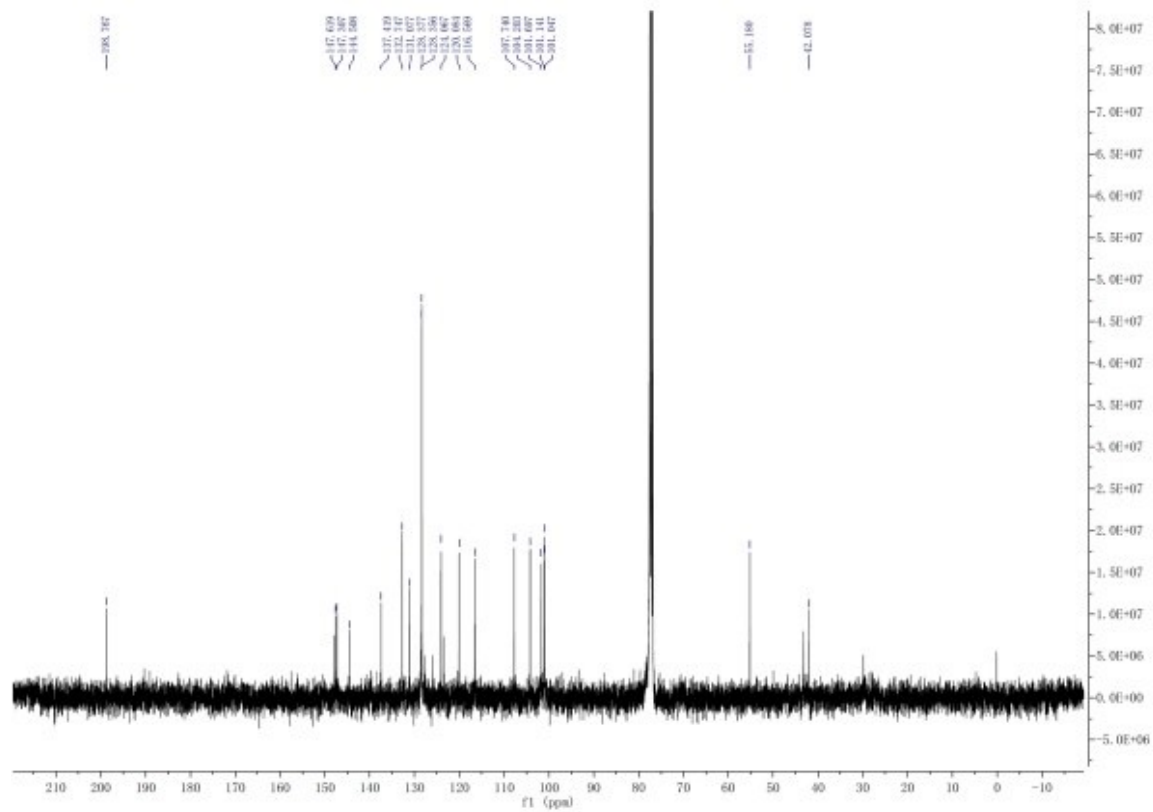
¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 14

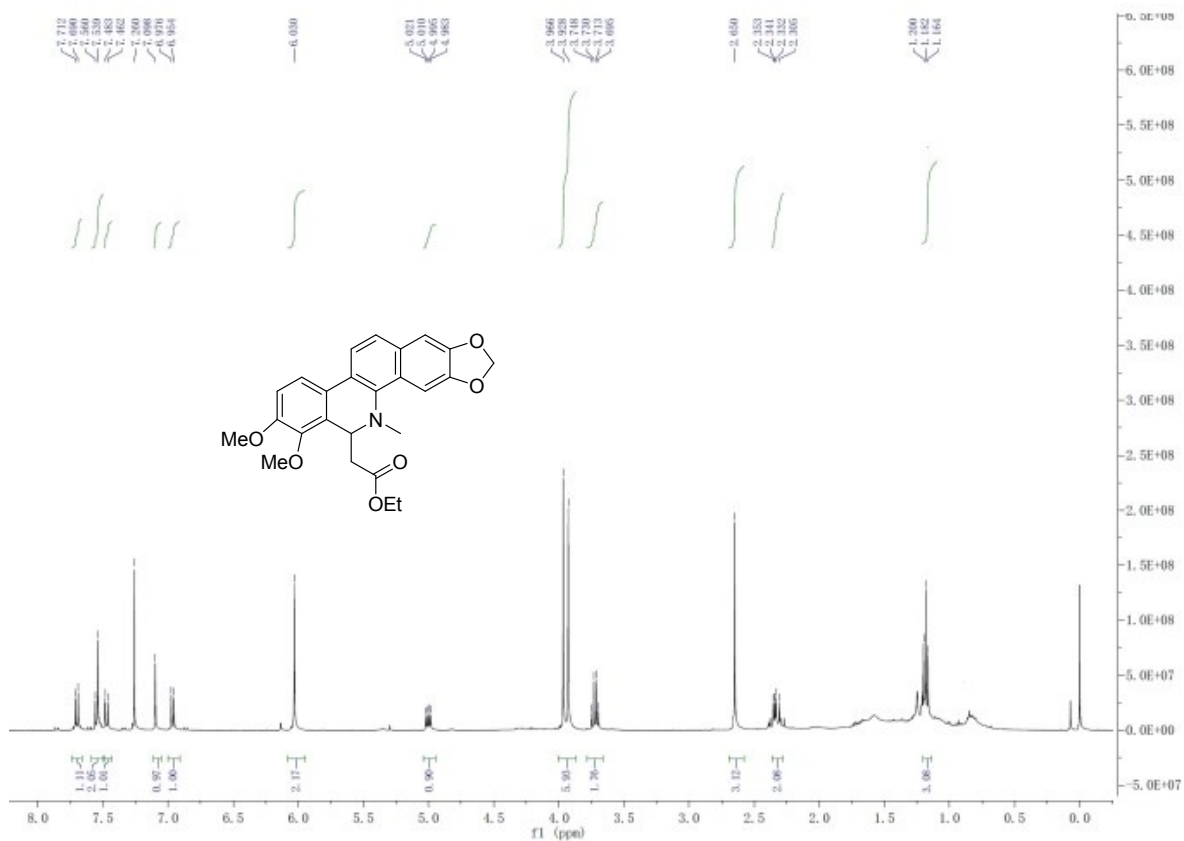
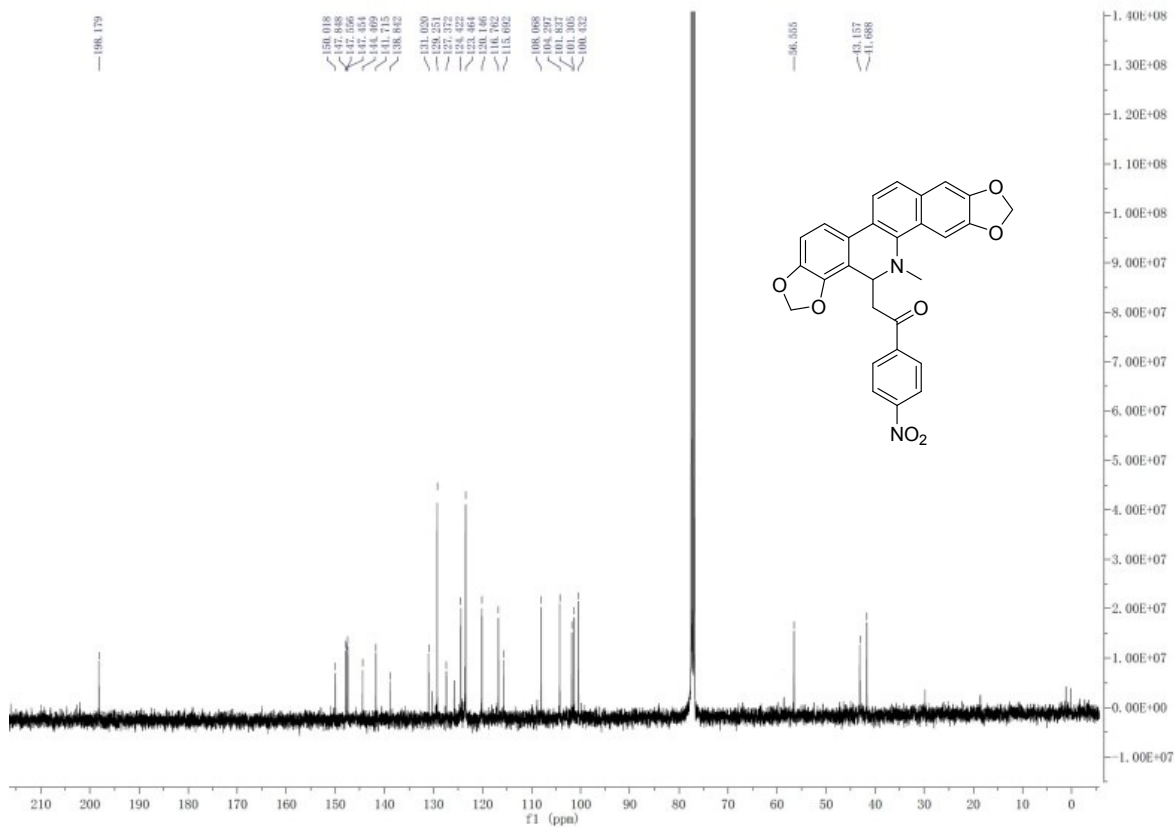


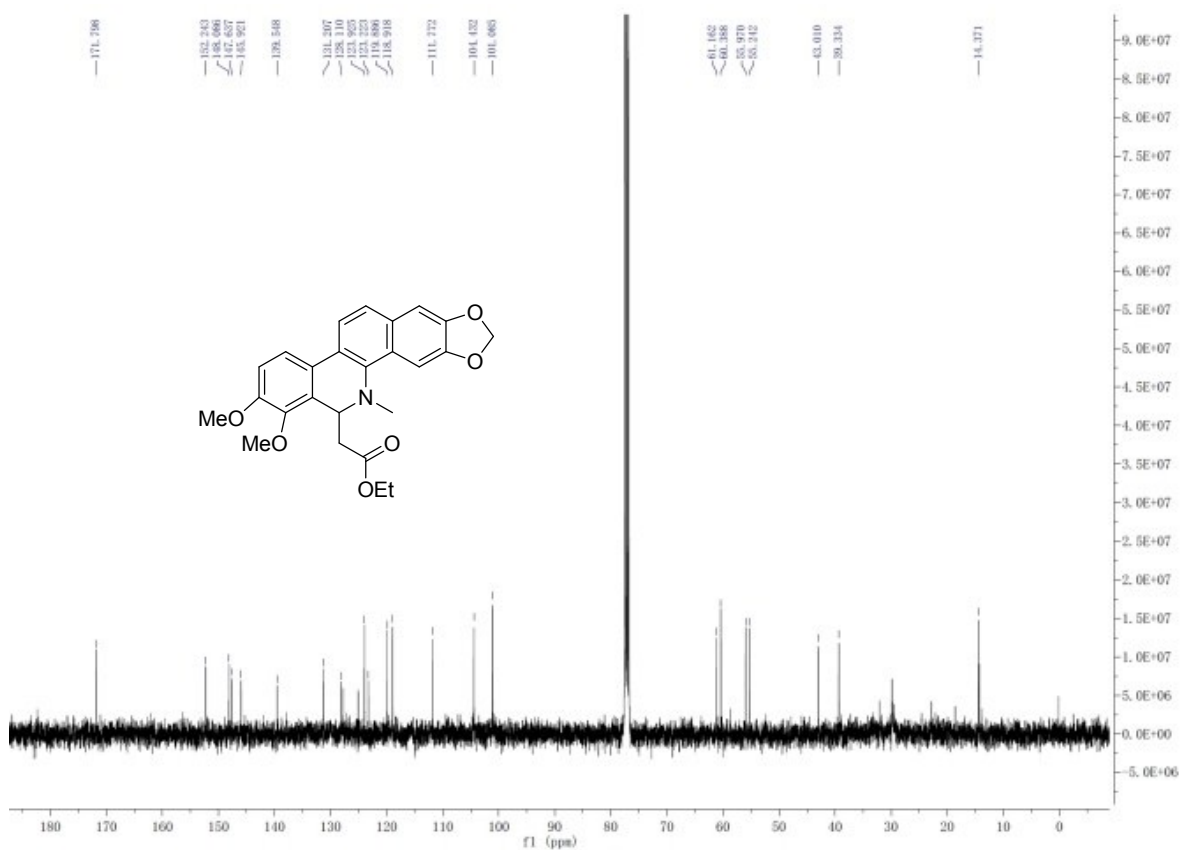


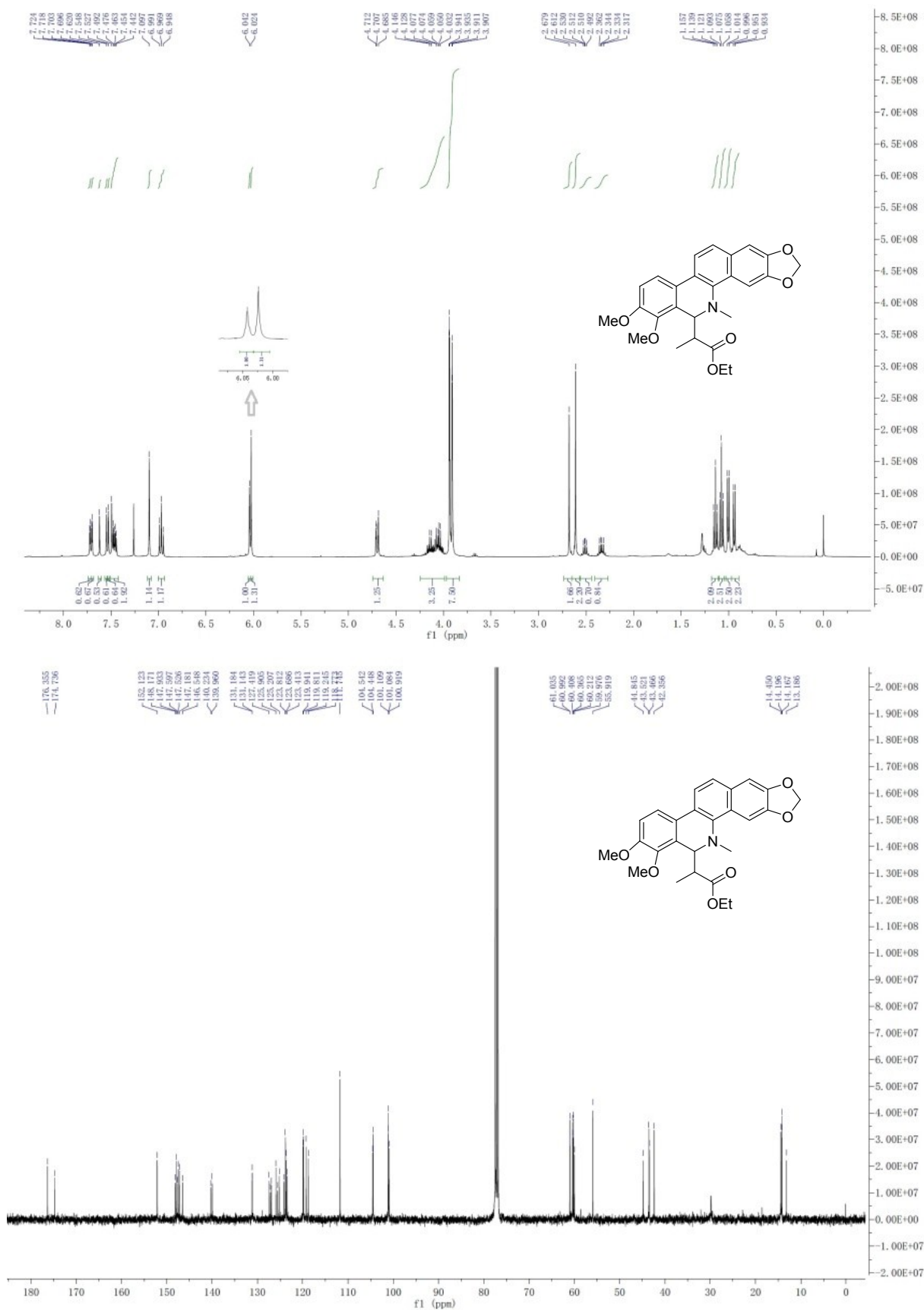


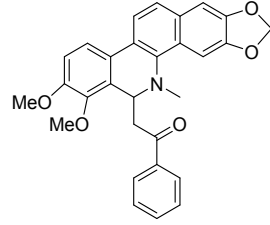
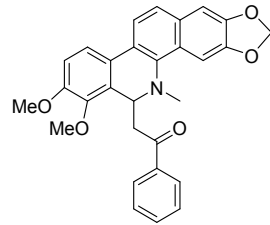




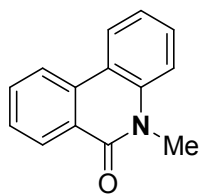








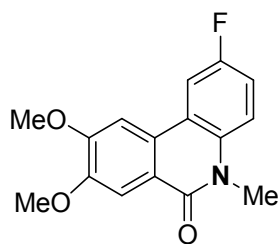
NMR data and spectra of compounds 19



5-methylphenanthridin-6(5H)-one (19a): Obtained as white amorphous powder,

^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (dd, $J = 0.8, 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (brt, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (brt, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (brtt, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, $J =$

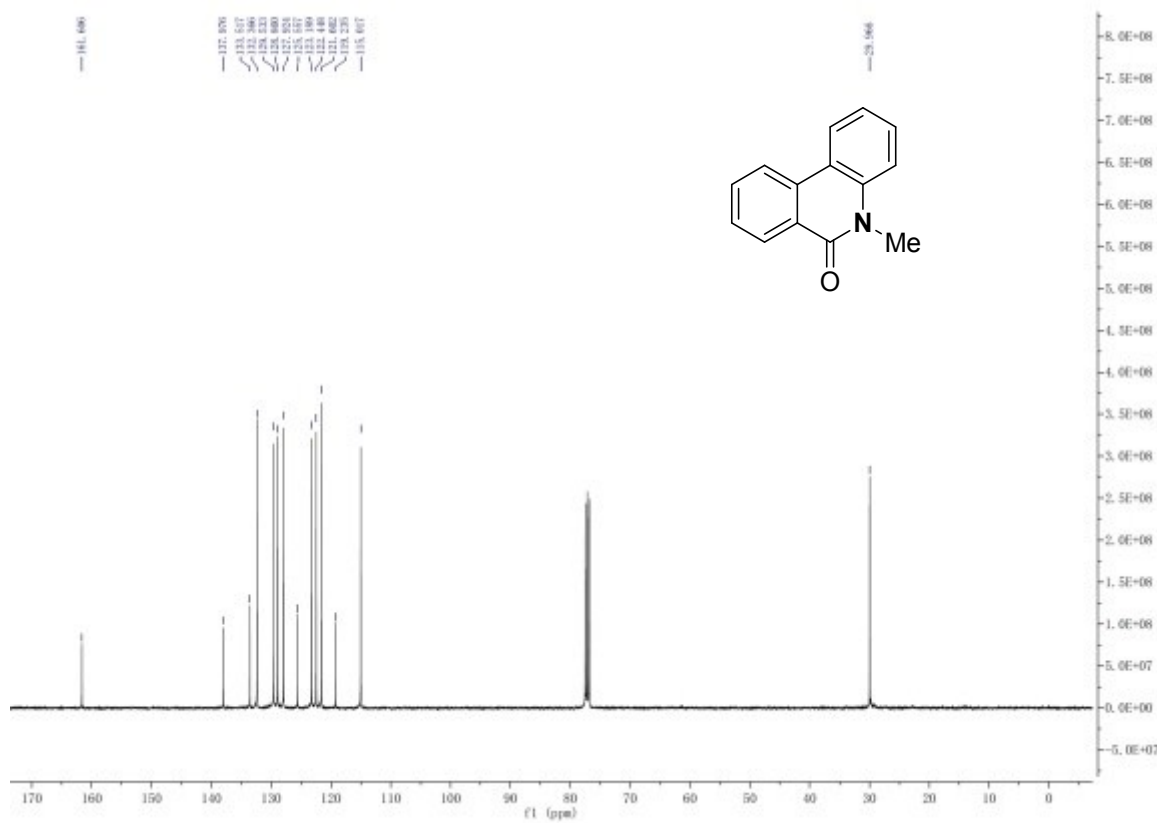
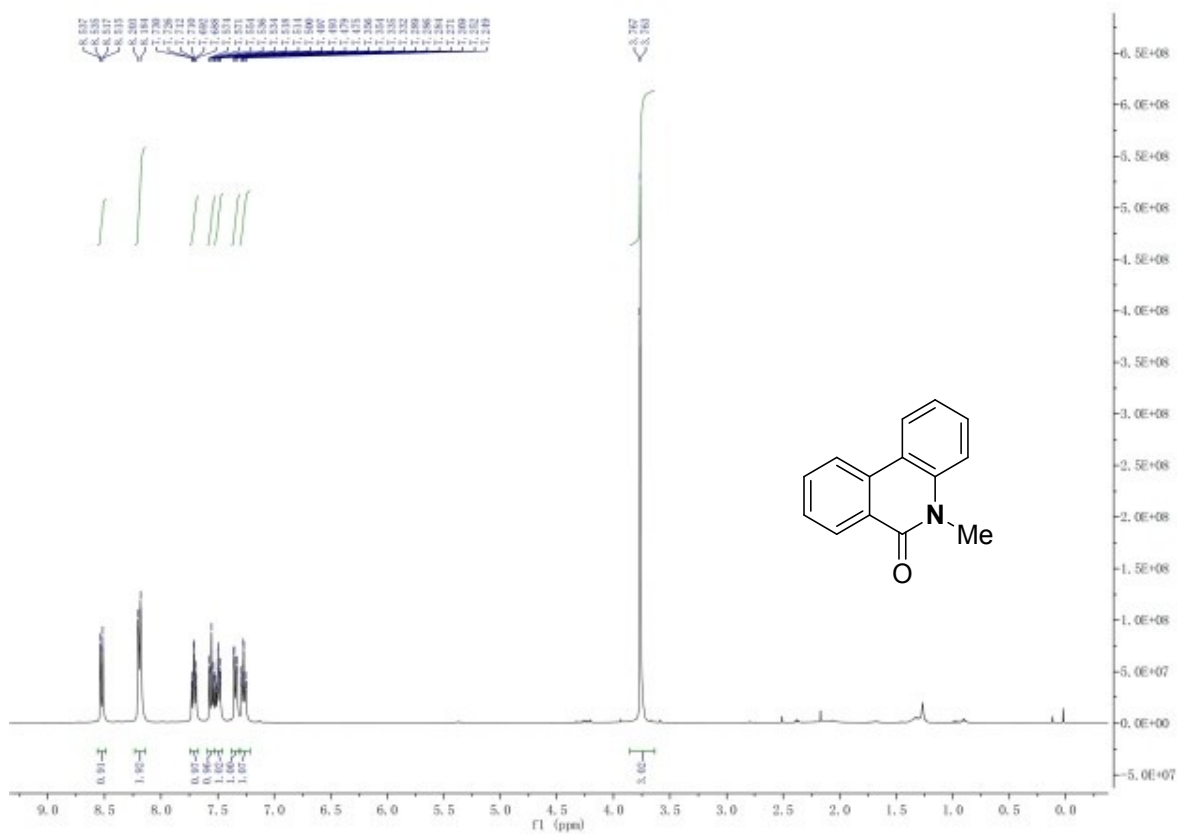
1.2, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (brt, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (brs, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.6, 138.0, 133.5, 132.4, 129.5, 128.7, 125.6, 123.2, 122.4, 121.6, 119.2, 115.0, 23.0. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd 210.0913 for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 210.0917.

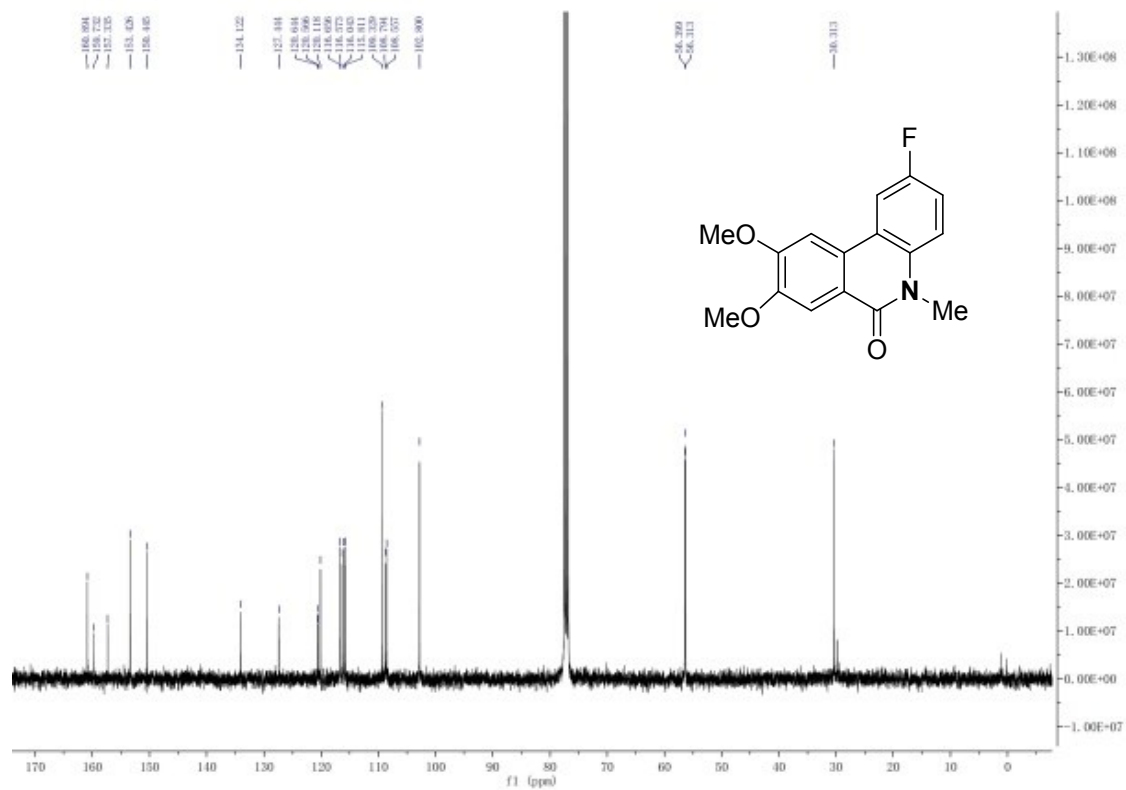
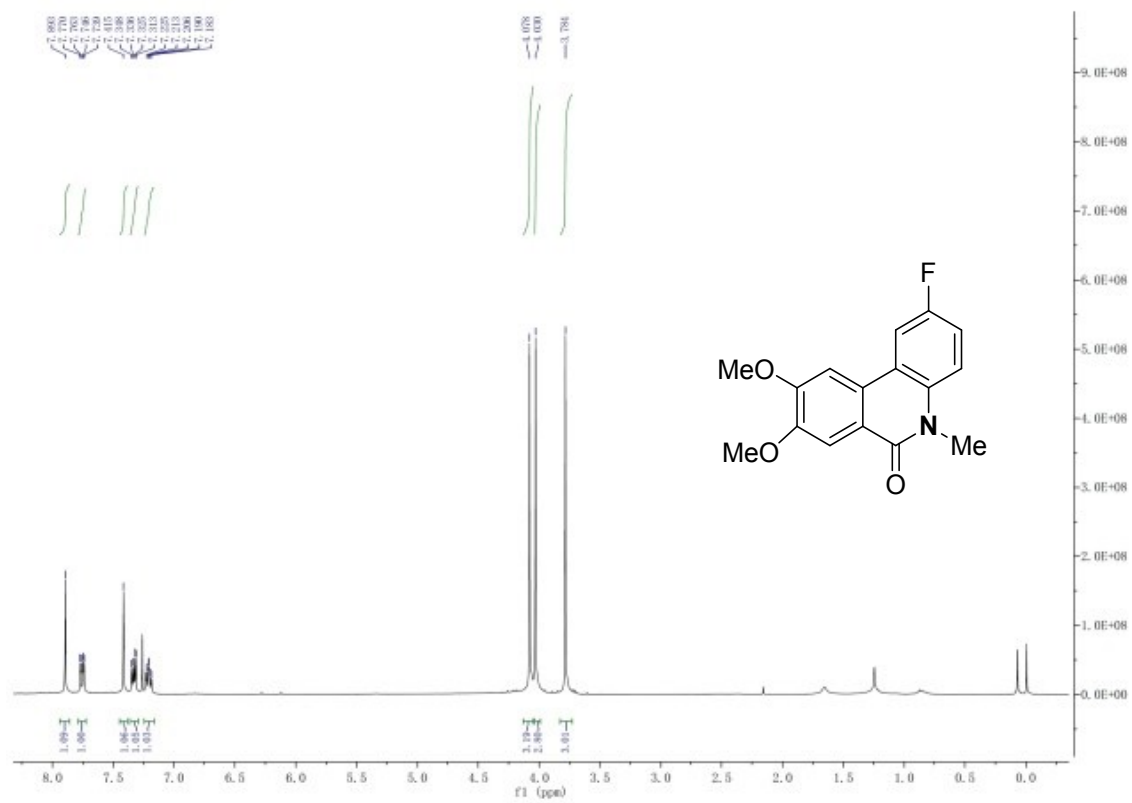


2-fluoro-8,9-dimethoxy-5-methylphenanthridin-6(5H)-one (19b): Obtained as

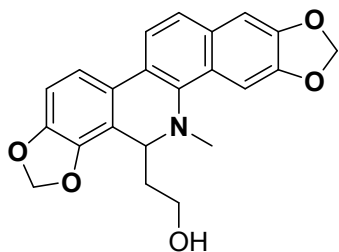
white amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 2.8, 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 4.8, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.9, 158.5 (d, $^1J_{\text{F-C}} = 249.9$ Hz), 153.4, 150.4, 134.1, 127.4, 120.5 (d, $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 2.8$ Hz), 120.1, 116.6 (d, $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.3$ Hz), 115.9 (d, $^2J_{\text{F-C}} = 23.2$ Hz), 109.3, 108.6 (d, $^2J_{\text{F-C}} = 23.7$ Hz), 102.8, 56.4, 56.3, 30.3. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd 288.1030 for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}_3^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 288.1023.





NMR data and spectra of synthetic compound 4



6-hydroxyl 5,6-dihydronanguinarine(4): Obtained as white amorphous powder, ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 4.51-4.47 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.77 (m, 2H),

2.70 (s, 3H), 1.80-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.55 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 148.6, 147.7, 147.2, 144.5, 139.1, 131.2, 127.3, 125.6, 124.5, 124.0, 120.2, 117.0, 116.8, 107.6, 104.7, 101.6, 101.3, 100.1, 61.6, 56.9, 43.2, 35.4. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd 378.1336 for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found, 378.1340.

