

## Electrochemical Synthesis of Phthalides via Anodic Activation of Aromatic Carboxylic Acids.

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## Supporting Information

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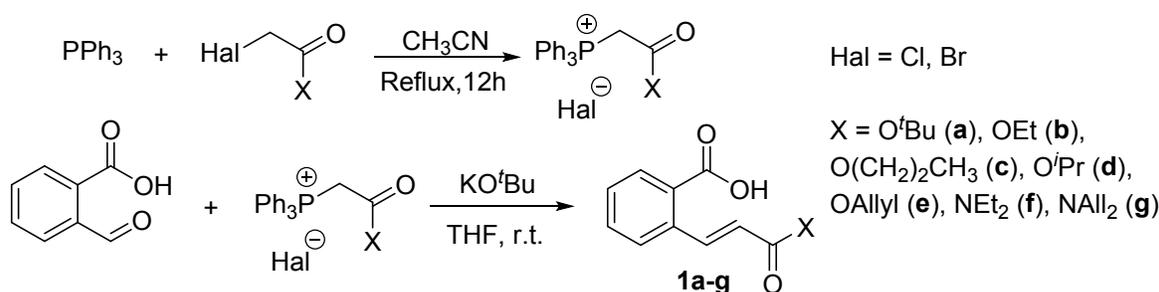
### 1. General information

- All reagents and solvents were purchased from Acros or Sigma-Aldrich and used directly as received without any further purification.
- Thin layer chromatography was performed on prepared thin layers precoated plates: Silicagel Merck 60 F<sub>254</sub>. The visualisation of spots on TLC plates was effected by exposure to UV or by using basic KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution. Column chromatography was performed over ROCC Silica gel 60 (40 – 63μ mesh) using relevant eluent.
- JEOL JNM-ECX400 and ECA500 spectrometers were used for NMR measurements. Chloroform ( $\delta = 7.24$ ) was used as an internal standard for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta = 77.0$ ) for <sup>13</sup>C NMR. Coupling constants are reported and expressed in Hz, splitting patterns are designated as br (broad), s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (double doublet), q (quartet), dt (double triplet), ddd (doublet of doublet of doublet), m (multiplet). Structures of known compounds were confirmed by comparison with data reported in literature.

- NMR Fourier transform, integration and pick picking were done with MestRenova software or ACD NMR software.
- Infrared spectra were recorded on Shimadzu FTIR-8400S spectrometer and the absorption bands are reported in reciprocal centimeters (cm<sup>-1</sup>).
- The mass spectra were recorded on a Finigan TSQ 7000 or Varian Matt 44S or Finnigan Exactive Orbitrap
- HPLC separations were performed with a reversed phase C18 LiChroCART® column (250 mm × 4 mm i.d.; particle size: 5 μm) (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), a HPLC Waters 2690 separation module (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) coupled to a UV spectrophotometric detector Kromaton (Angers, France); all controlled by Borwin software (Borwin, Rostock, Germany). The column was maintained at 30 °C.
- The electrochemical cells were purchased from the Institute of Creative Chemistry Japan. The 10ml cells were double jacketed and equipped with a stir bar and two 2.0 cm<sup>2</sup> platinum sheet electrodes separated apart by 5 mm.

## 2. Synthesis of starting materials

### General procedure for synthesis of 2-(2-carboxyvinyl)-benzoic acid derivatives 1



Scheme S1

**Phosphonium salts.** To a solution of triphenylphosphine (10.2g, 42mmol, 1.15 eq.) in acetonitrile (100mL) ester or amide of halogenacetic acid (38mmol, 1eq.) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 12h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, to the residue THF (100mL) was added and sonicated for 30 minutes. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with THF and dried in vacuo to afford pure phosphonium salt in 60-96% yield.

**2-(2-Carboxyvinyl)-benzoic acid derivatives 1.** The appropriate phosphonium salt (20mmol, 1eq.) was suspended in THF and KO<sup>t</sup>Bu (2.24g, 20mmol, 1eq.) was added portionwise and the mixture was stirred for 1 hour at ambient temperature. 2-Carboxybenzaldehyde (3.00g, 20mmol, 1eq.) was added and the mixture was stirred overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in DCM (100mL), extracted with 10% K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4x50mL), the combined aqueous phases were washed with DCM (4x50mL), and carefully acidified with 5% HCl

to pH 3. In case of precipitation the product was filtered off, washed with water and dried in vacuo. In case of oil formation the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3x50mL), the combined organic phases were washed with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, evaporated and dried in vacuo.

**(E)-2-(3-(tert-butoxy)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1a).** Yield 70%, white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.48 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 172.3, 166.2, 142.8, 137.4, 133.3, 131.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.2, 123.3, 80.9, 28.3 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1708, 1691, 1149, 762. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 271.09408, found: 271.09387

**(E)-2-(3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1b).** E/Z = 85:15. Yield 76%. Although such a mixture is sufficient for lactonisation reaction, pure E isomer can be obtained after recrystallisation from hexane/ethyl acetate. White powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.55 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.4Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 15.5Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.3Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 172.1, 166.8, 143.9, 137.4, 133.4, 131.8, 129.6, 128.7, 128.3, 121.5, 60.8, 14.4 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1694, 1214, 748, 668. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(M+H<sup>+</sup>) 221.08084, found: 221.08086

**(E)-2-(3-oxo-3-propoxyprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1c).** Yield 65%, white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.55 (d, *J* = 15.5Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.4Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 6.6Hz, 2H), 1.74 (sxt, *J* = 7.1Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 171.9, 166.9, 143.9, 137.4, 133.4, 131.8, 129.6, 128.6, 128.3, 121.5, 66.4, 22.2, 10.6 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1713, 1687, 1270, 1176, 762. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(M+H<sup>+</sup>) 235.09649, found: 235.09645

**(E)-2-(3-isopropoxy-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1d).** Yield 64%, white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.53 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 8.11-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 5.15 (spt, *J* = 6.3, 1H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.3Hz, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 171.9, 166.3, 143.6, 137.4, 133.3, 131.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.3, 122.0, 68.2, 22.0 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1694, 1214, 1106, 750, 668. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(M+H<sup>+</sup>) 235.09649, found: 235.09639

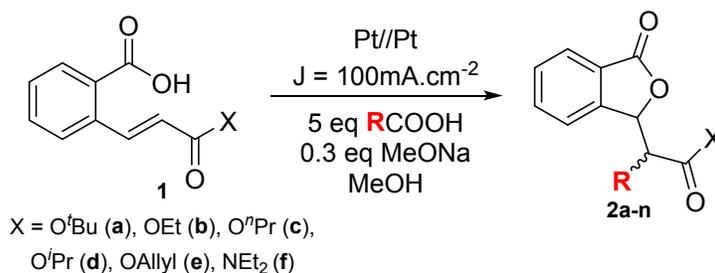
**(E)-2-(3-allyloxy)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1e).** Yield 55%, white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.59 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.4Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 16.0Hz, 1H), 6.00 (ddt, *J* = 16.8, 11.0, 5.6Hz, 1H), 5.42-4.38 (m, 1H), 5.29-5.27 (m, 1H), 4.74 (d, *J* = 5.7Hz, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 172.2, 166.4, 144.4, 137.3, 133.5, 132.3, 131.9, 129.7, 128.6, 128.3, 121.1, 118.4, 65.4 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1715, 1274, 1175, 764. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(M+H<sup>+</sup>) 233.08084, found: 233.08083

**(E)-2-(3-(diethylamino)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1f).** Yield 87%, white powder.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.63 (d,  $J$  = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d,  $J$  = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.54-3.51 (m, 4H), 1.28-1.23 (m, 6H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 169.3, 166.8, 143.1, 137.1, 131.9, 131.2, 131.2, 129.0, 127.6, 119.6, 42.8, 41.6, 15.0, 13.2 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2976, 2932, 1710, 1640, 1571, 1486, 1449, 1246, 1139, 1074, 966, 756. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{N}(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$  248.12812, found: 248.12812

**(E)-2-(3-(diallylamino)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (1g).** Yield 84%, after recrystallisation from ethyl acetate white needles.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.62 (d,  $J$  = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48 (td,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 1H), 6.65 (d,  $J$  = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 5.91-5.81 (m, 2H), 5.29-5.18 (m, 4H), 4.15 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.05-4.04 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 169.5, 167.6, 143.4, 137.0, 133.1, 132.9, 132.1, 131.3, 130.9, 129.1, 127.6, 119.8, 118.1, 117.3, 49.4, 49.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{N}(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$  272.128120, found: 272.12833

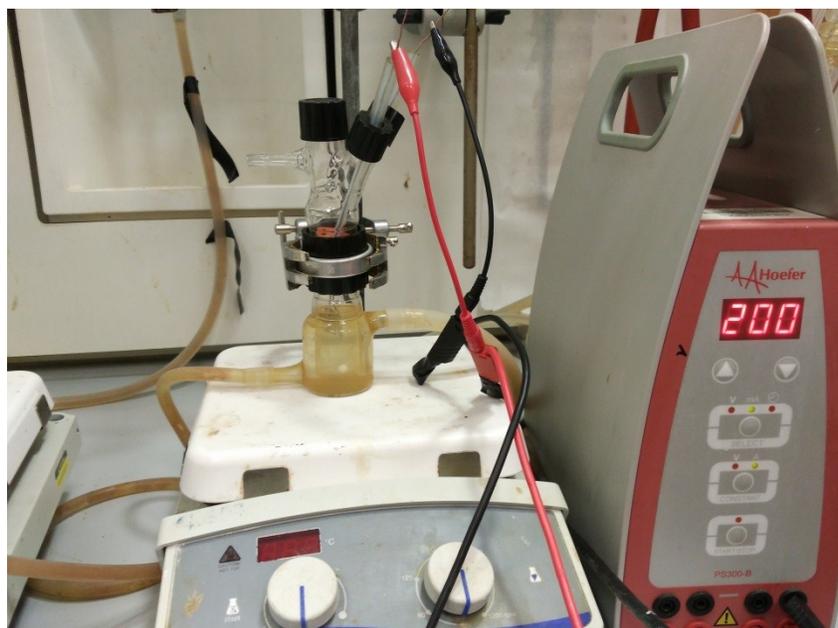
### 3. Electrochemical lactonisation reaction

#### General procedure for electrochemical lactonisation reaction



Scheme S2

Standard electrolysis procedure: A pre-cooled to  $10^\circ\text{C}$  10 mL undivided electrochemical cell, equipped with two platinum electrodes ( $2\text{ cm}^2$  – separated from each other by 5 mm) was charged with a solution of 2-(2-carboxyvinyl)-benzoic acid derivative **1** (0.4 mmol) in 10 mL of methanol and with an aliphatic carboxylic co-acid (2.0 mmol, 5 equivalents). Then, MeONa (0.12 mmol, 0.3 equivalent, 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of 3M solution in MeOH) was added and the solution was electrolyzed at a constant current of 200 mA. The mixture was vigorously stirred and electrolysed until full consumption of starting material **1** as shown by TLC. Typically, 30-40 minutes (9.3-12.3 F/mol) was required for complete transformation. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in DCM, washed with water, in the case of acetic acid, or with 10%  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  for higher aliphatic acids. The organic solution was then dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The diastereoisomeric ratio was determined directly from the crude mixture by  $^1\text{H NMR}$  analysis. The mixture was then purified over silica gel using column chromatography along with a petroleum ether/ethyl acetate mixture as the eluent in order to yield the pure lactones **2**.



**Picture S1. Electrochemical setup with 10mL undivided cell, Pt 2 cm<sup>2</sup> electrodes and power source**

**2a.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and acetic acid, yield 58%, dr = 1:1R<sub>f</sub> = 0.13 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 0.52H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.57H), 5.78-5.75 (m, 1H), 3.09 (qd, *J* = 7.1, 4.6 Hz, 0.49H), 2.83-2.78 (m, 0.56H), 1.44 (s, 4.73H), 1.37 (s, 4.27H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1.59H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1.41H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 171.8, 171.3, 170.3, 170.4, 148.3, 147.6, 134.3, 134.1, 129.5, 129.4, 127.0, 126.5, 125.8, 125.7, 122.9, 122.3, 81.8, 81.7, 81.5, 81.4, 44.8, 43.8, 28.1, 28.0, 12.0, 11.6 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1765, 1726, 1154, 138. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>) 263.12779, found: 263.12775

**Gram scale synthesis of 2a:** A pre-cooled to 10°C 50mL undivided electrochemical cell, equipped with two platinum electrodes (2 cm<sup>2</sup> – separated from each other by 5 mm) was charged with a solution of (*E*)-2-(3-(tert-butoxy)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzoic acid (**1a**) (8.0 mmol, 1.99g) and acetic acid (40 mmol, 2.4 g, 2.3 mL) in 46 mL of methanol. Then, MeONa (2.4 mmol, 0.3 equivalent, 0.8 mL of 3M solution in MeOH) was added and the mixture was vigorously stirred while being electrolyzed at a 200 mA constant current during 10 hours (9.3 F/mol of substrate). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in DCM. The solution was then washed with water, dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified over silica gel using column chromatography along with a petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 9:1 mixture as the eluent to afford 1.09g of pure **2a** as colorless oil with a yield of 52%.

**2b.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and propionic acid, yield 45%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.15, 0.20 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 2H), 5.63-5.61 (m, 1H), 2.78 (dt,  $J$  = 9.7, 4.9 Hz, 0.46H), 2.53-1.49 (m, 0.53H), 1.92-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 4.72H), 1.25 (s, 4.08H), 0.98 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz) and 0.98 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 171.6, 170.6, 170.3, 170.2, 148.6, 147.8, 134.2, 133.9, 129.5, 129.4, 126.9, 126.2, 125.8, 125.6, 122.9, 122.8, 81.9, 81.5, 80.8, 80.6, 52.7, 51.7, 28.1, 27.8, 22.5, 21.3, 12.0, 11.4 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1765, 1723, 1153, 1157. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 277.14344, found: 277.14341

**2c.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and isovaleric acid, yield 46%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.13, 0.18 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 20:1), white solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 2H), 5.60-5.58 (m, 1H), 2.98-2.94 (m, 0.48H), 2.70 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.9, 7.2, 3.7 Hz, 0.52H), 1.85 (ddd,  $J$  = 13.5, 10.6, 4.6 Hz, 0.55H), 1.75-1.59 (m, 2), 1.47-1.42 (m) and 1.42 (s) (5H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 4.28H), 0.91 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz) and 0.86 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz) (6H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 171.7, 170.8, 170.3, 170.2, 148.3, 147.7, 134.1, 133.9, 129.6, 129.5, 127.0, 126.4, 125.9, 125.7, 123.0, 122.7, 81.9, 81.6, 81.5, 81.0, 49.3, 48.2, 38.0, 36.8, 28.1, 27.8, 26.1, 23.6, 23.2, 21.9, 21.4 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1769, 1726, 1153. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ) 327.15668, found: 327.15656

**2d.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and 3,3-dimethylbutyric acid, yield 31%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.13 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 20:1), white solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.90 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz) and 7.88 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz) (1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 2H), 5.58 (d,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 0.52H), 5.56 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 0.47H), 3.00 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.0, 4.3, 1.7 Hz, 0.48H), 2.82 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.6, 5.6, 1.4 Hz, 0.51H), 1.96 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.7 Hz, 0.52H), 1.85 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 10.3 Hz, 0.49H), 1.39 (s, 4.53H), 1.26 (s, 4.52H), 0.89 (s, 4.45H), 0.85 (s, 4.59H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 171.9, 171.3, 170.2, 170.1, 147.8, 147.3, 133.9, 133.8, 129.6, 129.5, 127.1, 126.8, 125.8, 125.6, 123.1, 122.8, 82.4, 81.9, 81.8, 81.4, 47.2, 46.5, 40.7, 40.4, 30.7, 29.5, 29.4, 28.0, 27.7 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2955, 1766, 1727, 1467, 1367, 1286, 1146, 1061, 742. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 319.19039, found: 319.19057

**2m.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and mono-methyl-hydrogen succinate, yield 55%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.15, 0.22 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 4:1), colourless oil, after column chromatography dr = 2.0:1  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.46 (m, 2H), 5.70 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz) and 5.65 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz) (1H), 3.66 (s) and 3.64 (s) (3H), 3.02-2.99 (m, 0.35H), 2.77 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.0, 6.6, 4.0 Hz, 0.64H), 2.52-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.10-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 5.84H), 1.24 (s, 3.11H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 173.4, 173.2, 173.1, 170.8, 170.1, 170.0, 169.8, 148.0, 147.5, 134.3, 134.1, 129.7, 129.6, 126.8, 126.3, 125.9, 125.8, 122.8, 122.6, 82.4, 82.0, 81.0, 80.6, 51.9, 51.8, 49.5, 48.8, 31.6, 31.4, 28.1, 27.8, 23.2, 23.1 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.92-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.47 (m, 2H), 5.83 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 0.48H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 0.52H), 3.74-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.34-3.28 (m, 0.5H), 3.07-3.03 (m, 0.5H), 2.31-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.95 (m, 0.5H), 1.76-1.68 (m, 0.5H), 1.48 (s, 3.5H), 1.44 (s, 1.1H), 1.22 (s, 4.5H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 170.2, 169.7, 169.1, 168.1, 147.5, 147.3, 134.0, 129.7, 129.5, 126.6, 126.3, 125.8, 125.6, 122.6, 122.3, 82.5, 81.9, 80.8, 80.0, 47.0, 46.5, 42.6, 42.4, 30.6, 29.6, 28.0, 27.6 ppm. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>) 335.14891, found: 335.14898

**2n.** Following the general procedure from **1a** and 3-chloropropionic acid, yield 42%, dr = 1:1, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.12 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.92-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.47 (m, 2H), 5.83 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 0.48H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 0.52H), 3.74-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.34-3.28 (m, 0.5H), 3.07-3.03 (m, 0.5H), 2.31-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.95 (m, 0.5H), 1.76-1.68 (m, 0.5H), 1.48 (s, 3.5H), 1.44 (s, 1.1H), 1.22 (s, 4.5H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 170.2, 169.7, 169.1, 168.1, 147.5, 147.3, 134.0, 129.7, 129.5, 126.6, 126.3, 125.8, 125.6, 122.6, 122.3, 82.5, 81.9, 80.8, 80.0, 47.0, 46.5, 42.6, 42.4, 30.6, 29.6, 28.0, 27.6 ppm. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl (M+H<sup>+</sup>, deprotected COOH) 255.041863, found: 255.04175

**2e.** Following the general procedure from **1b** and acetic acid, yield 65%, dr = 1:1, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.13 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.91-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.69-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 1H), 5.86-5.84 (m, 1H), 4.25-4.17 (m, 2H), 3.21-3.16 (m, 0.5H), 3.92-3.87 (m, 0.5H), 1.28 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1.5H), 1.25-1.22 (m, 1.5H), 1.15-1.14 (m, 1.5H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.5H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 172.6, 172.4, 170.2, 148.1, 134.4, 134.1, 129.6, 129.6, 126.5, 126.0, 125.9, 123.0, 122.2, 81.2, 80.9, 61.4, 61.3, 44.1, 43.0, 14.3, 14.2, 11.6, 11.1 ppm. **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 1763, 1730, 1466, 1190, 1039, 743. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>) 235.09649, found: 235.09645

The analytical data matches those reported in the literature: S. W. Youn, H. S. Song and J. H. Park, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2014**, *12*, 2388–93.

**2f.** Following the general procedure from **1b** and propionic acid, yield 55%, dr = 1:1, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.16 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.87-7.86 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1.5H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 0.5H), 5.68-5.65 (m, 1H), 4.21 (qd, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.84 (m, 0.5H), 2.59 (ddd, *J* = 9.2, 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 0.5H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 0.5H), 1.83-1.75 (m, 0.5H), 1.73-1.59 (m, 1H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.6H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1.4H), 0.97-0.93 (m, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 172.3, 171.7, 170.1, 170.1, 148.3, 147.4, 134.3, 134.0, 129.6, 126.8, 126.1, 125.9, 125.8, 123.0, 122.5, 80.6, 80.4, 61.1, 61.0, 52.0, 50.8, 22.2, 20.9, 14.3, 14.1, 12.0, 11.5 ppm. **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 1765, 1728, 1215, 908, 752. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>) 249.11214, found: 249.11200

The analytical data matches those reported in the literature: S. W. Youn, H. S. Song and J. H. Park, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2014**, *12*, 2388–93.

**2g.** Following the general procedure from **1b** and butyric acid, yield 52%, dr = 1:1, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.19 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 1.5H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz) + 5.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz) (1H), 4.24-4.20 (m, 1H), 4.09 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dt, *J* = 9.9, 5.1 Hz, 0.5H),

2.68 (ddd,  $J=9.9, 7.9, 4.0\text{Hz}$ , 0.5H), 1.93-1.85 (m, 0.5H), 1.74-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.55-1.31 (m, 2.5H), 1.27 (t,  $J=7.2\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H) 1.15 (t,  $J=7.2\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 0.92-0.89 (m, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.5, 171.9, 170.1, 148.3, 147.4, 134.3, 134.0, 129.6, 129.6, 126.8, 126.2, 126.0, 125.8, 123.0, 122.5, 80.9, 80.6, 61.1, 61.0, 50.5, 49.1, 31.0, 29.5, 20.7, 20.4, 14.3, 14.2, 14.0, 13.9$  ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1765, 1730, 1215, 752. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 263.12779, found: 263.12773

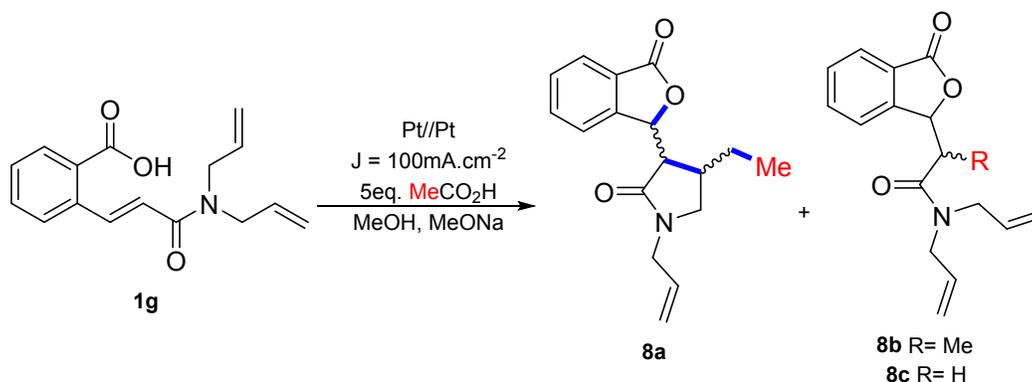
**2h.** Following the general procedure from **1c** and acetic acid, yield 42%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f = 0.10$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 7.90$  (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 1H), 5.86-5.84 (m, 1H), 4.13 (td,  $J = 6.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.10-4.08 (m, 1H), 3.20 (qd,  $J = 7.2, 4.9\text{Hz}$ , 0.5H), 2.93-2.87 (m, 0.5H), 1.71-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1.5H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1.5H), 0.93 (dt,  $J = 14.5, 7.4$  Hz, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.6, 172.4, 170.2, 148.0, 147.1, 134.4, 134.1, 129.6, 129.5, 126.9, 126.4, 125.9, 125.8, 123.0, 122.2, 81.2, 80.9, 67.0, 66.9, 44.1, 43.0, 22.0, 21.9, 11.6, 11.1, 10.5, 10.5$  ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2969, 1766, 1732, 1466, 1287, 1213, 1192, 1066, 1040, 744. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 249.11214, found: 249.11204

**2i.** Following the general procedure from **1d** and acetic acid, yield 54%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f = 0.12$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 7.88$  (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 1H), 5.81 (d,  $J = 5.2\text{Hz}$ , 0.5H), 5.79 (d,  $J = 4.6\text{Hz}$ , 0.5H), 5.10-5.04 (m, 0.5H), 5.03-4.97 (m, 0.5H), 3.13 (qd,  $J = 7.3, 4.6$  Hz, 0.5H), 2.85 (qd,  $J = 7.2, 5.4$  Hz, 0.5H), 1.25 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 1.5H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 6.3\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 1.18 (d,  $J = 5.7\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.3\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 1.13 (d,  $J = 6.9\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 7.4\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.1, 171.7, 170.3, 170.2, 148.1, 147.3, 134.3, 134.1, 129.6, 129.5, 126.9, 126.5, 125.9, 125.8, 123.0, 122.2, 81.3, 81.1, 68.9, 68.8, 44.1, 43.2, 21.8, 21.7, 11.7, 11.4$  ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2982, 1766, 1728, 1466, 1287, 1213, 1107, 744. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 249.11214, found: 249.11207

**2j.** Following the general procedure from **1e** and acetic acid, yield 43%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f = 0.11$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc 9:1), colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 7.90$  (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 1H), 5.95-5.83 (m, 2H), 5.36-5.23 (m, 2H), 4.67 (d,  $J = 5.7\text{Hz}$ , 1H), 4.63 (dt,  $J = 5.7, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.22 (qd,  $J = 7.2, 4.9$  Hz, 0.5H), 2.94 (qd,  $J = 7.1, 5.2\text{Hz}$ , 0.5H), 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.9\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 7.4\text{Hz}$ , 1.5H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.2, 172.0, 170.1, 147.9, 147.0, 134.4, 134.2, 131.7, 131.6, 129.7, 129.6, 126.9, 126.4, 126.0, 125.9, 123.1, 122.2, 119.1, 119.0, 81.1, 80.8, 66.0, 65.9, 44.0, 43.0$  ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1766, 1735, 1466, 1287, 1190, 1041, 744. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 247.09649, found: 247.09639

**2k.** Following the general procedure from **1f** and acetic acid, yield 33%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.18, 0.28 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 2:1), after column chromatography dr = 2.33:1, colourless oil.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  = 7.88 (d,  $J$  = 7.4Hz) and 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.0Hz) (1H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 7.4Hz, 0.3H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 0.3H), 4.58-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 0.7H), 5.73 (d,  $J$  = 6.3Hz, 0.3H), 5.68 (d,  $J$  = 9.7Hz, 0.7H), 3.51-3.43 (m, 1H), 3.41-3.28 (m, 1.8H), 3.20-3.12 (m, 0.7H), 3.08-3.01 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dq,  $J$  = 9.7, 6.7Hz, 0.7H), 1.51 (d,  $J$  = 6.9Hz, 2H), 1.19-1.10 (m, 5H), 0.83 (t,  $J$  = 7.2Hz, 2H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  = 172.3, 172.1, 170.5, 170.2, 149.0, 147.9, 134.1, 133.9, 129.5, 129.4, 126.9, 125.8, 125.7, 125.7, 124.6, 123.6, 83.3, 82.5, 42.8, 42.4, 42.1, 40.7, 40.6, 16.7, 14.9, 14.7, 13.2 ppm. **IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )** 1763, 1630, 1465, 1285, 1215, 1061, 993, 757, 689. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{N}(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$  262.14377, found: 262.14387

**2l.** Following the general procedure from **1f** and propionic acid, yield 40%, dr = 1:1,  $R_f$  = 0.22, 0.29 (petroleum ether/EtOAc 2:1), after column chromatography dr = 1.43:1, colourless oil.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  = 7.89 (d,  $J$  = 7.4Hz) and 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.0Hz) (1H), 7.72-7.71 (m, 0.6H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 0.6H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 1.6H), 7.40-7.39 (m, 0.4H), 5.66 (d,  $J$  = 9.2Hz, 0.4H), 5.62 (d,  $J$  = 6.9Hz, 0.6H), 3.66-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.40-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.26-3.18 (m, 1H), 3.02-2.91 (m, 1H), 2.63 (td,  $J$  = 9.2, 4.6Hz, 0.4H), 2.15-2.01 (m, 0.9H), 1.80-1.71 (m, 0.6H), 1.61-1.53 (m, 0.6H), 1.21-1.14 (m, 5H), 0.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.4Hz, 1.2H), 0.86 (t,  $J$  = 7.4Hz, 1.8H), 0.70 (t,  $J$  = 7.2Hz, 1.2H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  = 171.3, 171.0, 170.5, 170.1, 148.8, 147.9, 133.9, 133.8, 129.5, 129.4, 126.8, 125.8, 125.7, 124.4, 123.7, 82.6, 82.3, 48.9, 47.1, 42.5, 42.1, 41.1, 40.7, 24.9, 21.3, 14.9, 14.4, 13.2, 13.1, 11.5, 11.2 ppm. **IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )** 1765, 1632, 1465, 1288, 1068. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{N}(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$  276.15943, found: 276.15961



**Scheme S3**

**Double cyclization experiment.** Following the general procedure from **1g** (0.40 mmol, 108.5 mg) and acetic acid (5 eq.) after workup 113.0 mg of complex mixture of compounds was obtained. The mixture was analysed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (**Fig S-1**), TLC and HPLC (**Fig S-2**) and subsequently subjected to preparative HPLC. Three major fractions were isolated and analysed by NMR and HRMS.

The complexity of the crude mixture due to the presence of several diastereoisomers makes the identification and assignment of each NMR signal a complex task and that even in the enriched

fractions. Nevertheless, we are confident in the formation of the product **8a** (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) due to:

- 1) The presence of appropriate high resolution mass spectrum  $m/z$  ratios that correspond to **8a** as well as **8b**
- 2) The presence of multiplets at 0.79 and 1.17 ppm that can be assigned to Me group of **8b** (it matches very well the signals for a similar Me group in **2k**)
- 3) The presence of a characteristic highly shielded triplet at 0.63 ppm (3H) that corresponds to the aliphatic ethyl fragment of **8a** as well as a doublet at 6.10 ppm (1H) that could be assigned to the benzylic proton of **8a**.

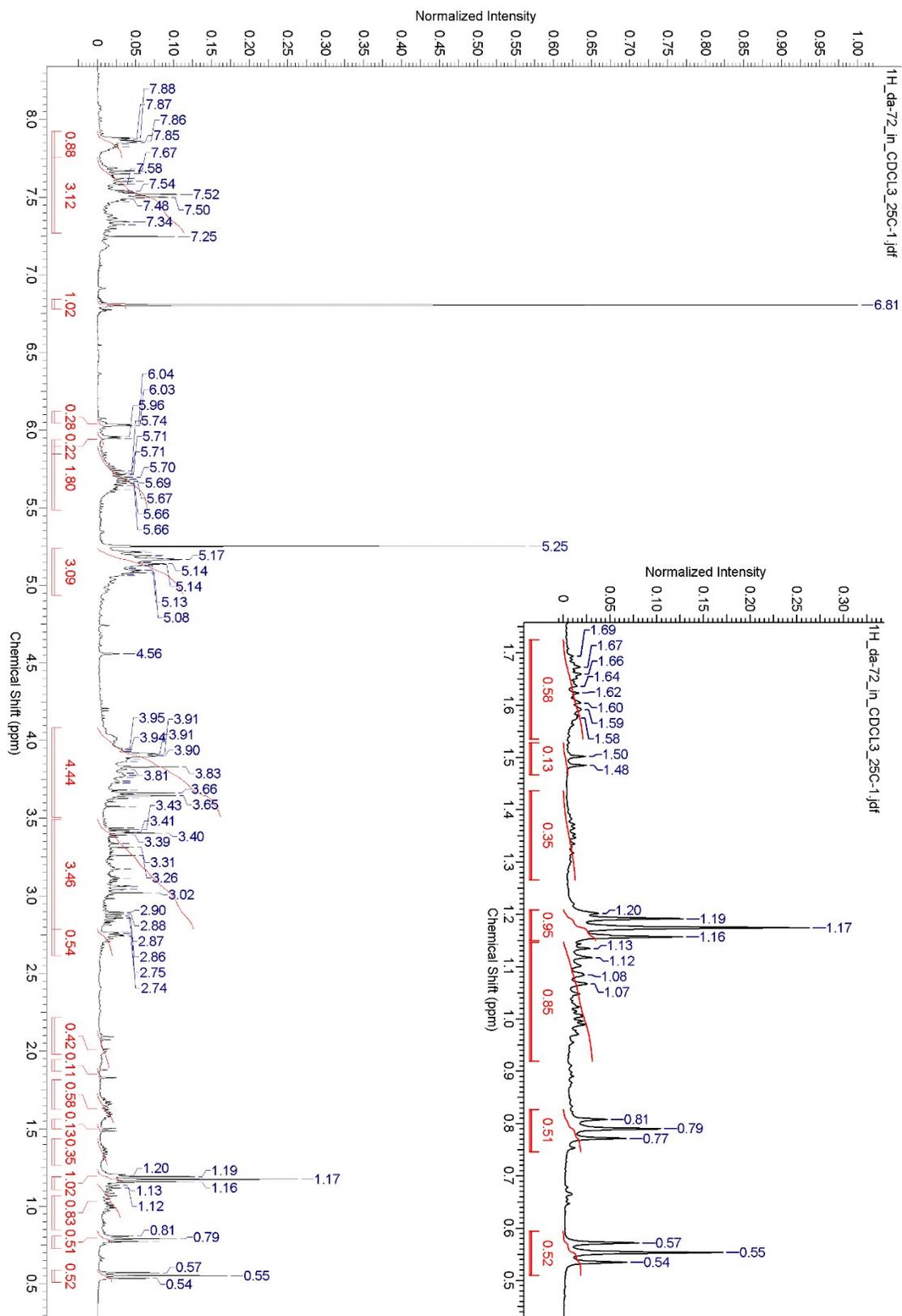


Fig S-1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the crude mixture from double cyclization experiment.

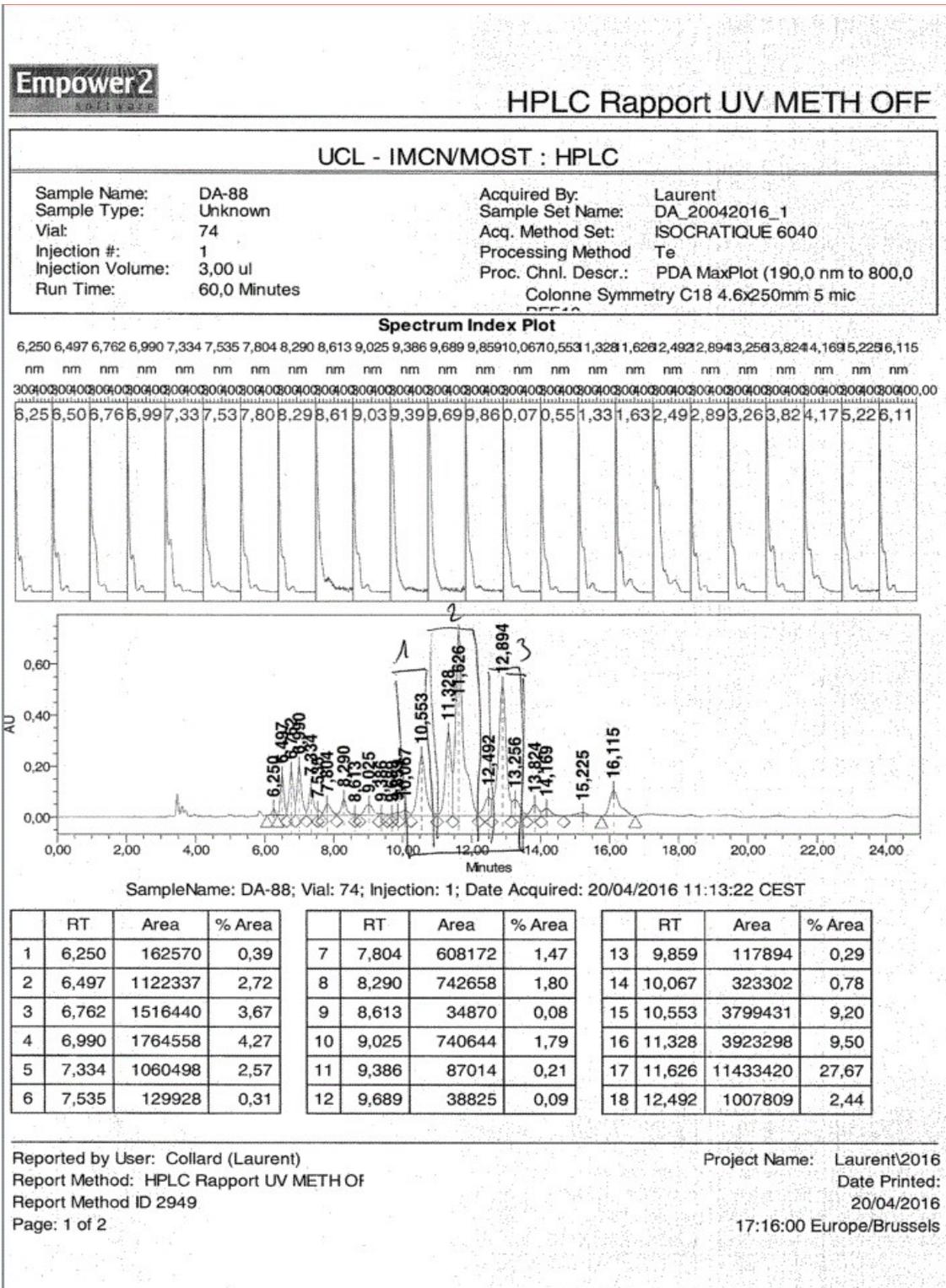
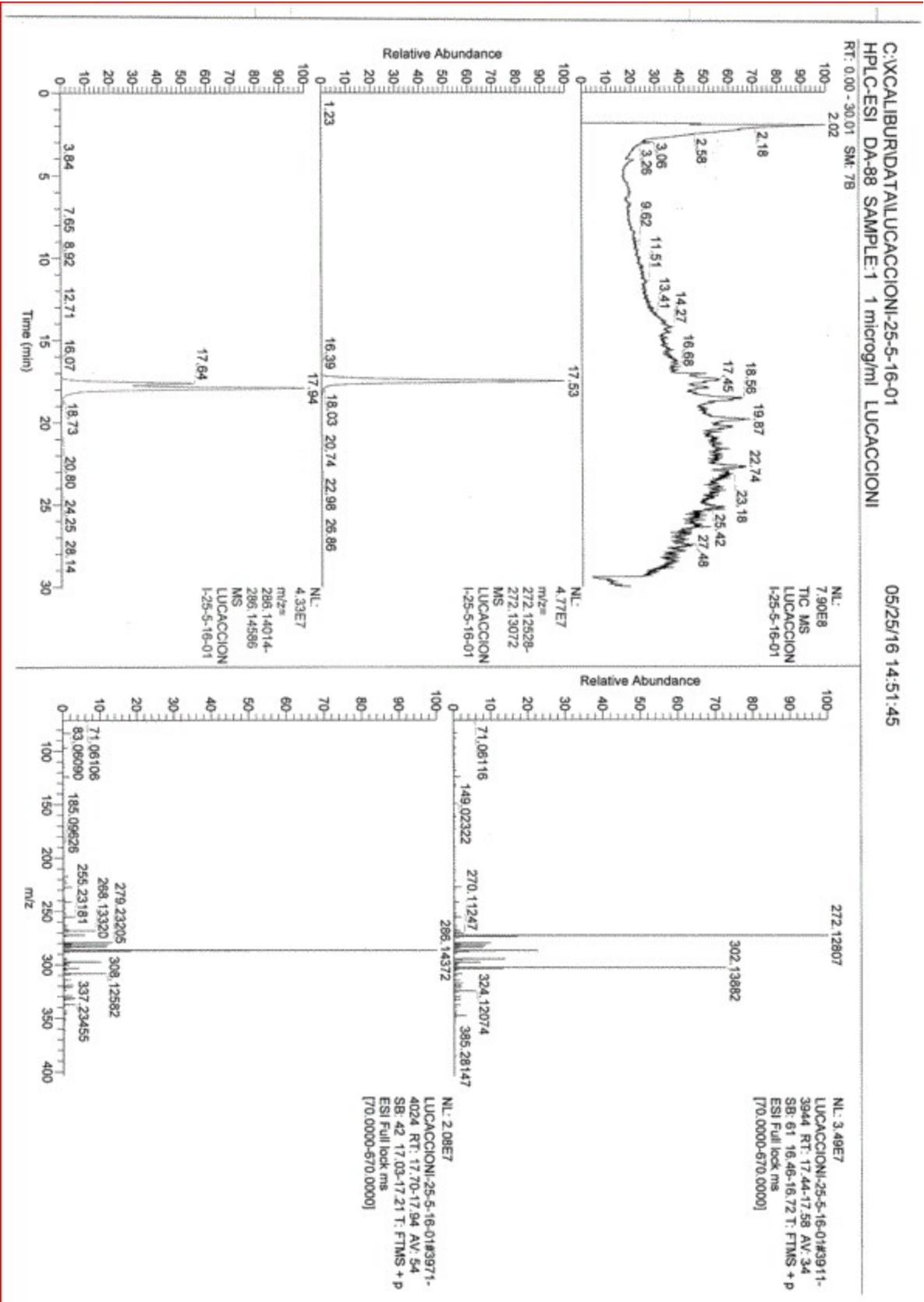
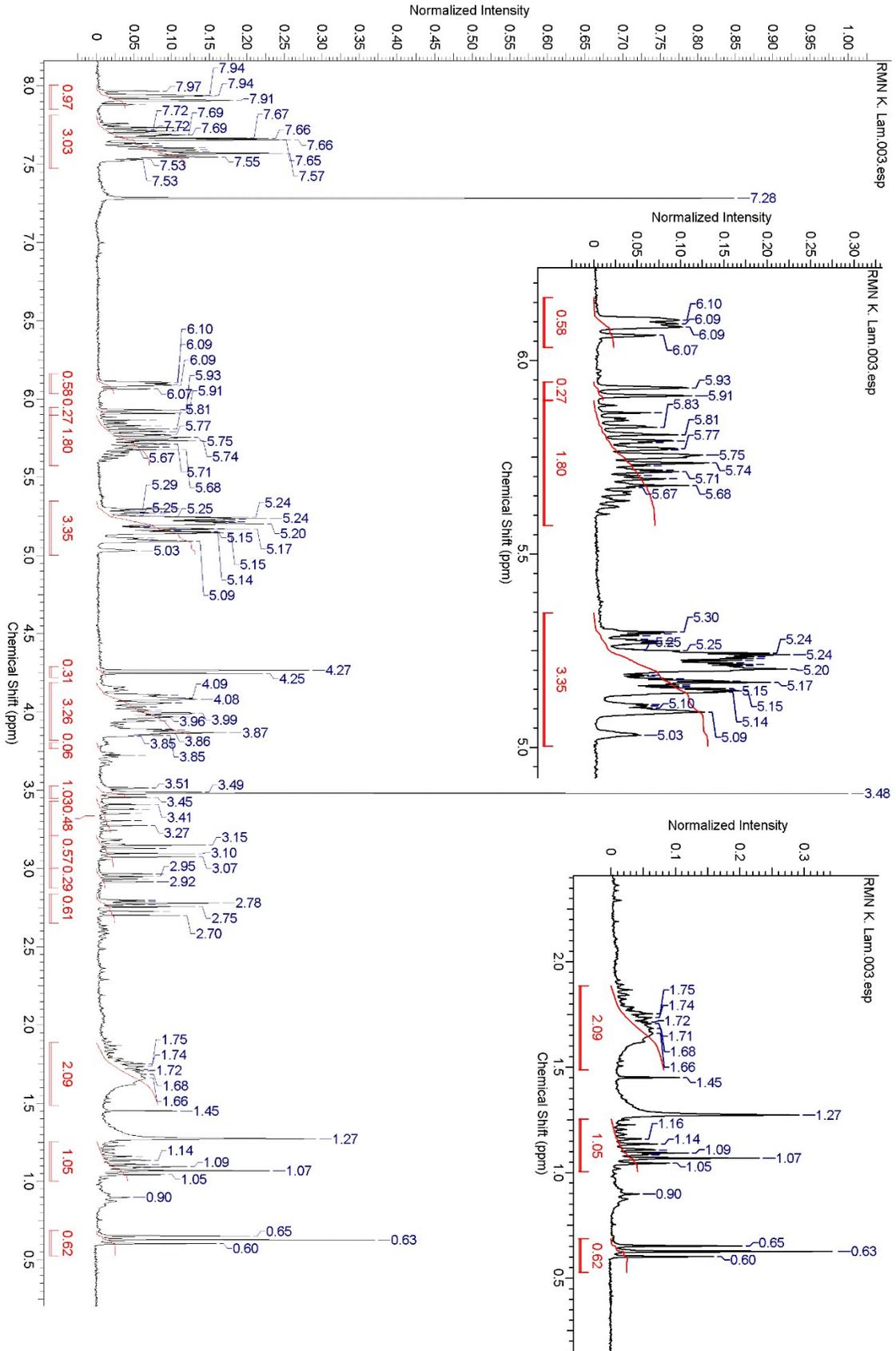


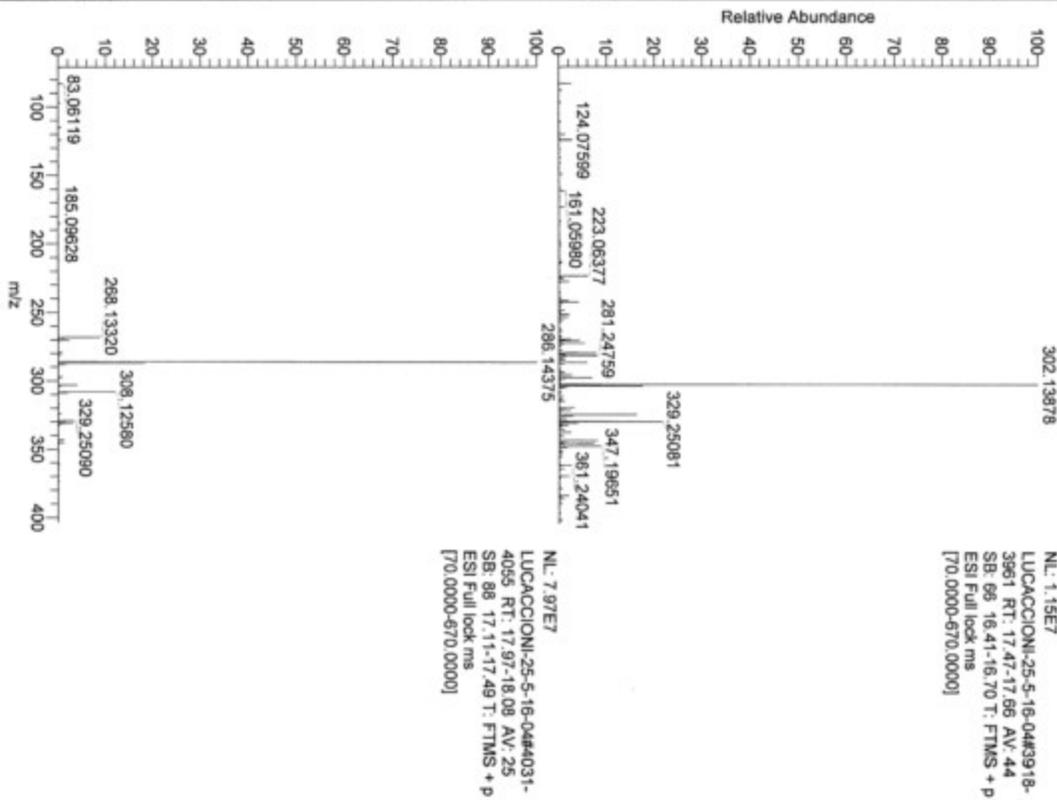
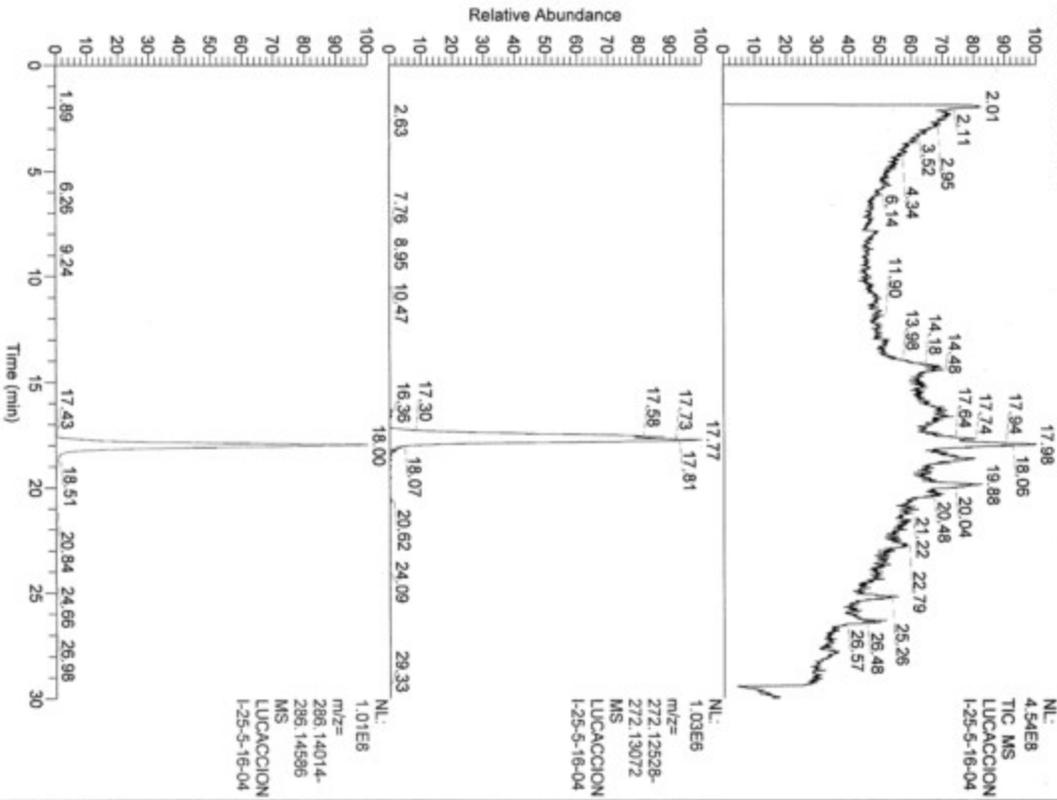
Fig S-2. HPLC analysis of the crude mixture from double cyclization experiment.

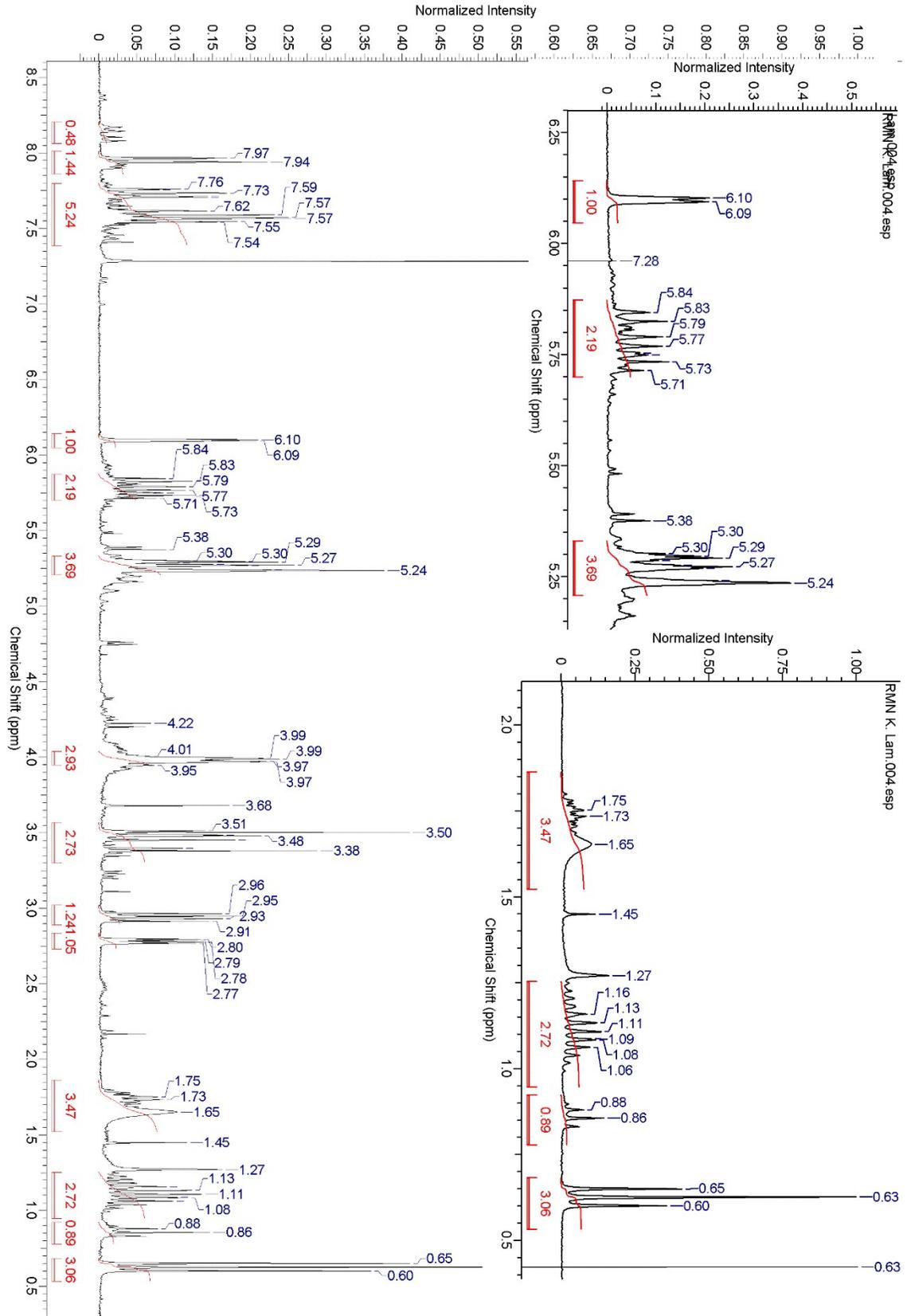


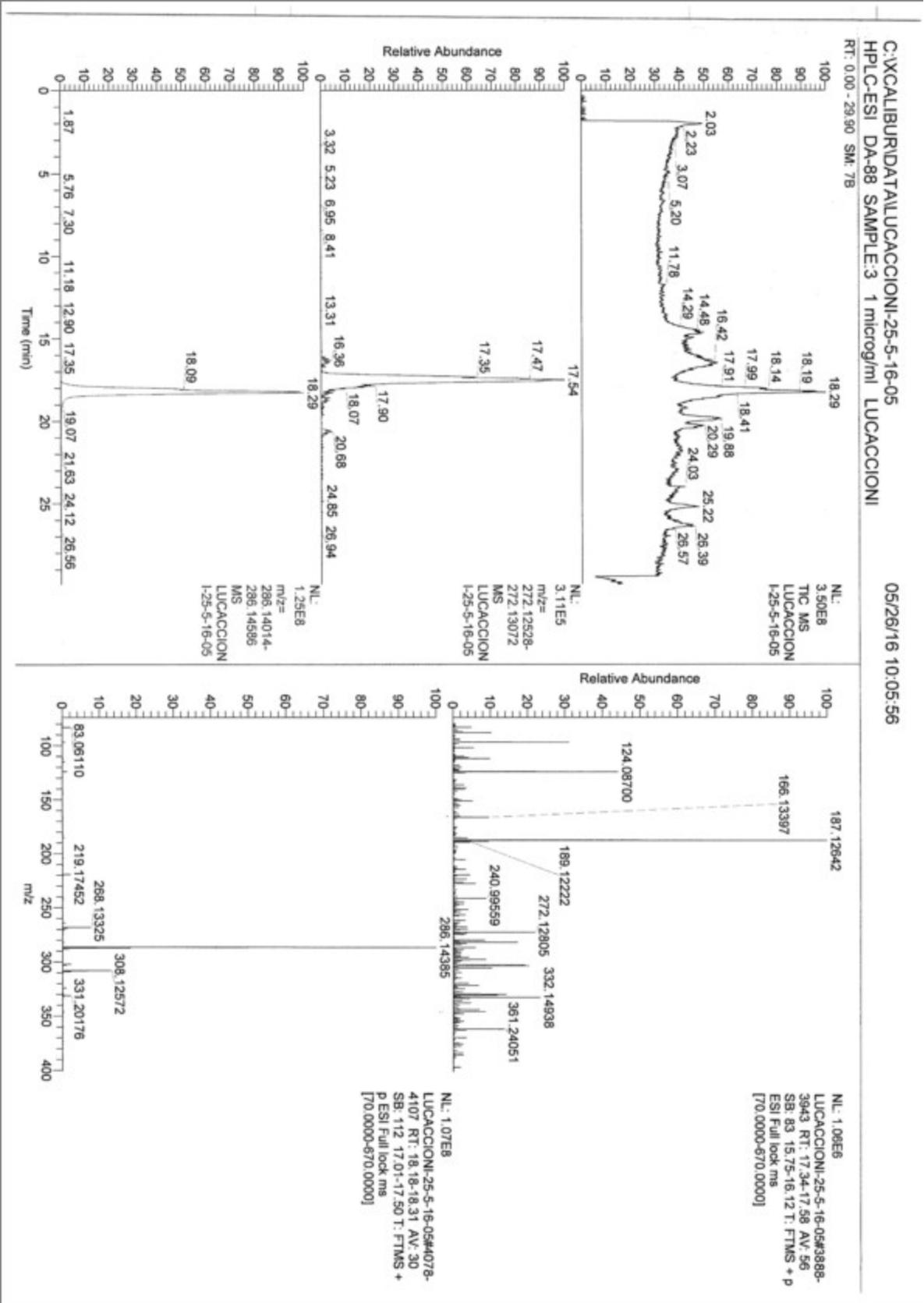


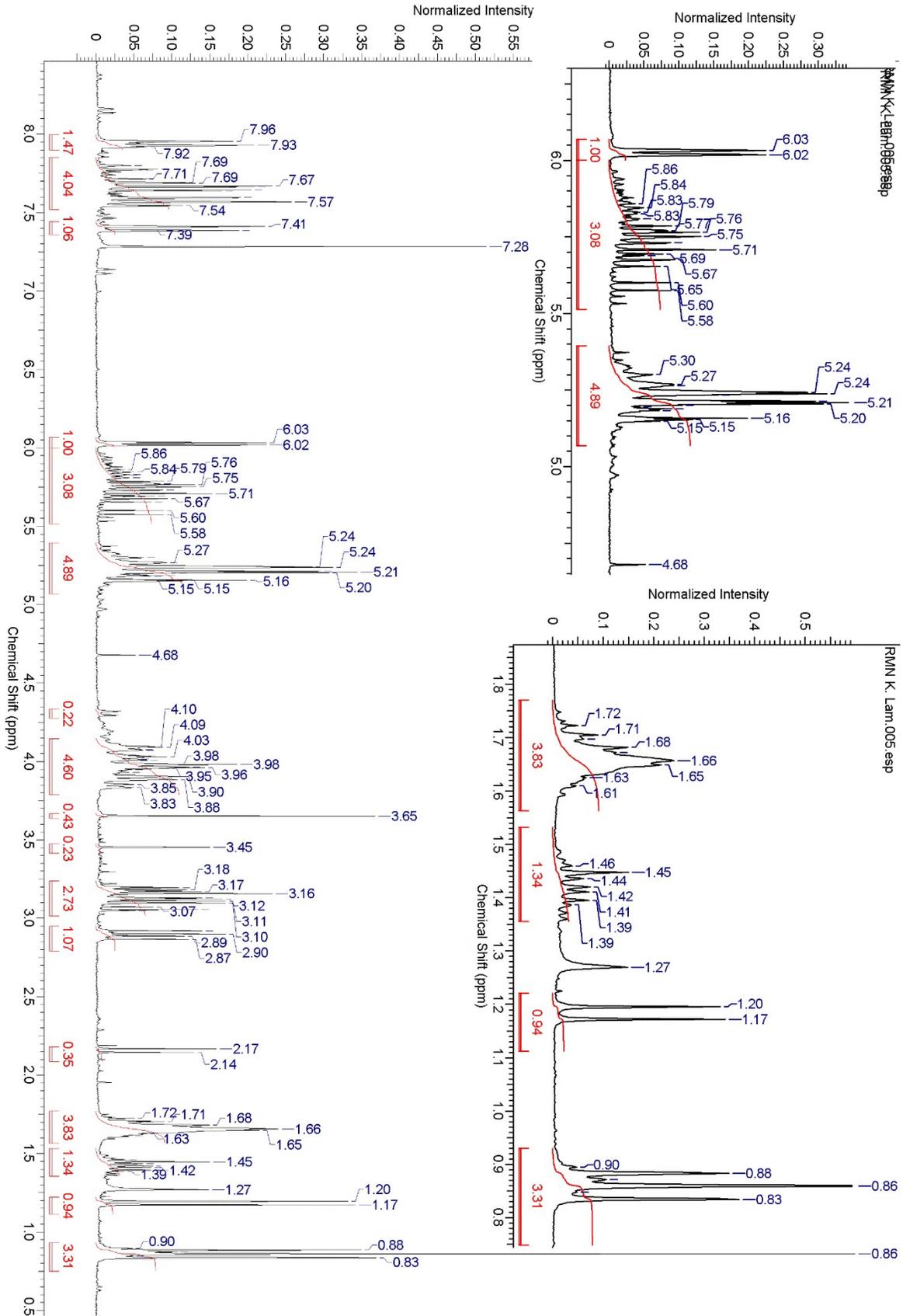
C:\XCALIBUR\DATA\LUCACCIONI-25-5-16-04  
 HPLC-ESI DA-88 SAMPLE:2 1 microg/ml LUCACCIONI  
 RT: 0.00 - 30.01 SM: 78

05/26/16 09:09:21

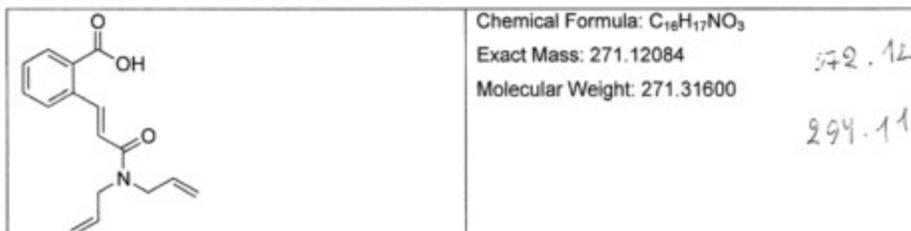






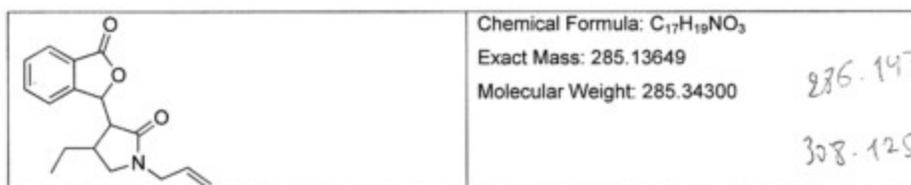


Produit de départ :



272.12812  
294.11006

Produit d'arrivée :



286.14377  
308.12571

Présents également toute une série d'intermédiaires de réaction...

3 fractions contenant chaque fois entre 2 et 4 composés : pré-séparation réalisée en HPLC semi-préparative.

