

Supporting Information for:

A Friedländer route to 5,7-Diazapentacenes

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Experimental details

1,5-dibromo-2,4-dinitrobenzene 11: 1,3-Dibromobenzene (**10**, 7.0 g, 29.7 mmol) was slowly added to a stirring mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid (6.5 mL) and fuming nitric acid (6.5 mL), while being cooled in an ice bath. 1,3-dibromobenzene was added slowly so as to maintain a temperature of 10-20 °C. After the addition was complete, the temperature was maintained at 35 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then poured onto crushed ice. The solid precipitate formed was collected by filtration, and washed several times with water. The solid was then dissolved in a mixture of absolute ethanol (90 mL) and acetone (20 mL), the solution filtered and cooled in the fridge overnight. The crystals collected were washed with cold ethanol to give **11** (6.73 g, 20.7 mmol) as a bright yellow solid with a yield of 70%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47 (1H, s), 8.24 (1H, s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 119.86, 122.88, 141.39, 149.47.

1,5-di(hept-1-yn-1-yl)-2,4-dinitrobenzene 12 In a sealed flask, **11** (0.200 g, 0.61 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.036 g, 0.03 mmol) and CuI (0.012 g, 0.06 mmol) were added and purged with N₂ for 5 min. After which, degassed 1-heptyne (0.17 mL), THF (8 mL) and Et₃N (0.43 mL) were added. The mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 7h. The reaction mixture was then filtered through Celite, redissolved in diethyl ether, washed two times with NH₄Cl (10% aqueous solution), then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification via column chromatography (Hexane: Et₂O = 9:1) gave **12** (0.172 g, 0.482 mmol) as a brown oil with a yield of 78%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (1H, s, CH), 7.76 (1H, s, CH), 2.53 (4H, t, J = 7.07 Hz, ≡-CH₂), 1.67 (4H, m), 1.50-1.35 (8H, m), 0.94 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.07 (C-NO₂), 141.03 (CH), 123.82 ((Ar)C≡), 121.52 (CH), 105.91 (≡C-), 74.94 ((≡C-), 31.02 (≡-CH₂), 27.72, 22.14, 20.06, 13.91 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₅N₂O₄ m/z 357.1814, found m/z 357.1813 (correct isotope distribution)

1,1'-(4,6-diamino-1,3-phenylene)bis(heptan-1-one) 8 A solution of **12** (3.75 g, 10.52 mmol) in 15 mL of EtOH was added to a solution of SnCl₂·2H₂O (25.2 g, 112 mmol) in EtOH (70 mL) and stirred at 70 °C for 4h under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was quenched with 5% aq Na₂CO₃ (400 mL), mixed with 500 mL of EtOAc, and 50g of Celite, and filtered. The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO₄, then concentrated. Purification via column chromatography (Hexane: EtOAc = 2:1) gave **8** as a yellow solid (2.1 g, 6.32 mmol, 60%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (1H, s, CH), 6.58 (4H, br. s, NH₂), 5.66 (1H, s, CH), 2.86 (4H, t, J = 7.58 Hz, C(O)-CH₂), 1.73 (4H, m), 1.41-1.26 (12H, m), 0.91 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) □ 200.85 (CO), 154.63 (C-NH₂), 138.69 (CH), 110.51 (C-C=O), 98.65 (CH), 38.69 (CH₂-C=O), 31.73 (CH₂), 29.26 (CH₂), 25.65 (CH₂), 22.55 (CH₂), 14.04 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₃₃N₂O₂ m/z 333.2537, found m/z 333.2535 (correct isotope distribution)

12,14-dihexyl-1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11-octahydroquinolino[3,2-b]acridine 7a. 8 (0.503 g, 1.51 mmol), EtOH (10 mL) and 37% wt HCl (0.30 mL, 3.62 mmol) were added into a sealed flask and purged with N₂ for 5 min. Cyclohexanone (**9**, 0.38 mL, 3.82 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at 75 °C for 20h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, then quenched with 5% aqueous NaOH solution. The organic layer was then extracted, washing several times with CH₂Cl₂, the organic fraction was dried over MgSO₄ then filtered. Purification via flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂: EtOAc: Et₃N = 1:1:0.1) gave **7a** (0.497 g, 0.92 mmol) as a yellow solid with a yield of 73%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (1H, s, CH), 8.55 (1H, s, CH), 3.16 (8H, m), 2.98 (4H, t, J = 5.81, CH₂), 1.96 (8H, m), 1.71-1.65 (4H, m), 1.65-1.54 (4H, m), 1.43-1.34 (8H, m), 0.93 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.01, 144.89, 144.73, 127.41, 124.69, 117.89, 35.07, 31.78, 30.19, 27.97, 23.24, 22.70, 14.05. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₂H₄₅N₂ m/z 457.3577, found m/z 457.3582 (correct isotope distribution)

7,9-dihexyl-5,6,10,11-tetrahydrobenzo[h]benzo[7,8]quinolino[3,2-b]acridine 7b. 8 (0.203 g, 0.61 mmol), EtOH (5 mL) and 37% wt HCl (0.18 mL, 2.00 mmol) were added into a sealed flask and purged with N₂ for 5 min. a-Tetralone (0.17ml, 1.28 mmol). was added and the reaction was stirred at 75 °C for 20h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, then quenched with 5% aqueous NaOH solution. The mixture was then extracted with dichloromethane (DCM), the organic fraction was dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and evaporated. Recrystallization from EtOH gave **7b** as a yellow solid (0.176 g, 0.32 mmol, 52%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.96 (1H, s, CH), 8.70 (2H, d, J = 7.58 Hz, CH), 8.61 (1H, s, CH), 7.47 (2H, m, CH), 7.41 (2H, m, CH), 7.30 (2H, d, J = 7.33 Hz, CH), 3.27 (2H, m, CH₂), 3.19 (2H, t, J = 5.81), 3.04 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.78 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.60 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.46 – 1.34 (4H, m, CH₂), 0.94 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz). ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 154.24, 145.87, 143.62, 139.59, 135.36, 129.75, 129.39, 127.63, 127.52, 127.29, 126.93, 125.57, 118.29, 31.84, 30.16, 30.01, 28.46, 28.29, 25.61, 22.74, 14.10. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₄₀H₄₅N₂ m/z 553.3577, found m/z 553.3579 (correct isotope distribution)

1,1'-(4,6-dihexyl-2,8-dimethylpyrido[3,2-g]quinoline-3,7-diyl)bis(ethan-1-one) 7c. Obtained by reaction of **8** with acetylacetone employing the same procedure as for **7b** in 51% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.73 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 8.65 (1H, s, CH), 3.02 (4H, m, CH₂), 2.70 (3H, s, CH₃-CO), 2.65 (3H, s, CH₃-Ar), 1.77 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.53 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.28 – 1.43 (8H, m, CH₂), 0.91 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 206.10 (CO), 155.27, 146.25, 143.10, 135.17, 128.24, 123.76, 120.10, 32.68, 31.59, 31.42, 30.21, 30.08, 24.19, 22.61, 13.99. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₀H₄₁N₂O₂ m/z 461.3163, found m/z 461.3166 (correct isotope distribution)

6-amino-7-hexanoyl-9-hexyl-3,4-dihydroacridin-1(2H)-one 7d. Obtained from reaction of **8** with 1,3-cyclohexedione employing the same procedure as for **7b** with 32% yield, recrystallized from hexane/EtOH. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.70 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 7.01 (1H, s, CH), 6.42 (2H, br. s., NH₂), 3.46 (2H, m, CH₂), 3.16 (2H, t, J = 6.06 Hz, CH₂), 3.09 (2H, t, J = 7.33 Hz, CH₂), 2.75 (2H, t, J = 6.32 Hz, CH₂), 2.15 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.56 – 1.85 (6H, m, CH₂), 1.32 – 1.48 (10H, m, CH₂), 0.88 – 0.96 (6H, m, 2CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 203.32, 199.27, 166.23, 156.13, 151.18, 151.10, 131.95, 121.89, 121.30, 118.51, 110.54, 41.09, 39.82, 35.34, 31.66, 31.63, 31.41, 30.07, 29.15, 28.94, 25.25, 22.66, 22.53, 21.09, 14.06, 13.99. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₃₇N₂O₂ m/z 409.2850, found m/z 409.2861 (correct isotope distribution)

13,15-dihexylbenzo[4,5]furo[3,2-b]benzofuro[2',3':5,6]pyrido[3,2-g]quinoline 7e. Obtained from reaction of 8 with benzofuranone employing the same procedure as for **7b** with 45% yield, purified using column chromatography (Hex:EtOAc = 2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.26 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 8.77 (1H, s, CH), 8.45 (2H, d, J = 7.58 Hz, CH), 7.65 (2H, t, J = 7.58 Hz, CH), 7.55 (2H, J = 8.08 Hz, CH), 7.47 (2H, m, CH), 3.48 (4H, t, J = 7.83 Hz, CH₂), 1.94 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.58 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.22 – 1.46 (8H, m, CH₂), 0.92 (6H, t, J = 6.82 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 160.05, 149.11, 145.77, 144.37, 131.52, 128.72, 126.34, 124.80, 123.43, 123.25, 122.90, 118.13, 112.06. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₆H₃₇N₂O₂ m/z 529.2850, found m/z 529.2862 (correct isotope distribution)

Attempted dehydrogenation of 7a and 7b:

7a 12,14-dihexyl-1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11-octahydroquinolino[3,2-b]acridine (**7a**, 0.2 g, 0.439 mmol) and Pd/C (0.047 g, 0.439 mmol) were added to a flask, connected to a reflux condenser and bubble counter and were purged in N₂ for 5min. Ph₂O (5 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at 200 °C for 24h. The reaction mixture was quenched with CHCl₃ (30 mL), 10 % HCl (20 mL) and aq NaOH was added till the mixture was alkaline. The organic layer was extracted, washed with water and DCM several times. TLC only showed spots of Ph₂O and no trace of the desired product.

7b: **7b** (0.167 g, 0.366 mmol) and Pd/C (0.040 g, 0.376 mmol) were added to a flask, connected to a bubble counter and were purged in N₂ for 5min. Ph₂O (4.2 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at 175 °C for 24h. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite, washed with DCM, and the filtrate evaporated. After which Hexane was added, and left in the freezer for

1h. Then, the mixture was filtered and the brown residue (0.030 g) was obtained. NMR showed a complex mixture of oligomers.

4,6-dihexyl-2,3,7,8-tetraphenylpyrido[3,2-g]quinoline (17a). The procedure is representative for synthesis of **17a-c**. A mixture of **8** (499mg, 1.5 mmol), **16a** (648mg, 3.3 mmol, 2.2eq) and TsOH·H₂O (628mg, 3.3 mmol, 2.2 mmol) was stirred at 105°C under nitrogen for 1h. Cooled down to room temperature, quenched with aqueous ammonia, extracted with DCM, dried over MgSO₄, and then evaporated. Recrystallization from ethanol afforded 294mg (0.45 mmol) of **17a** (30% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.13 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 8.88 (1H, s, CH), 7.39 – 7.44 (4H, m, Ph), 7.29 – 7.36 (4H, m, Ph), 7.19 – 7.25 (10H, m, Ph), 3.11 (4H, m, Ar-CH₂), 1.76 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.38 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.23 (8H, m, CH₂), 0.85 (6H, t, J = 6.82 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 160.93, 146.68, 146.18, 141.28, 138.99, 133.28, 130.59, 130.04, 129.84, 127.98, 127.68, 127.53, 127.07, 125.10, 120.45, 31.40, 31.10, 30.00, 29.92, 22.50, 13.97. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₄₈H₄₉N₂ m/z 653.3890, found m/z 653.3905 (correct isotope distribution)

2,8-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,6-dihexyl-3,7-diphenylpyrido[3,2-g]quinoline (17b).

Obtained by recrystallization from ethanol with 33% yield.

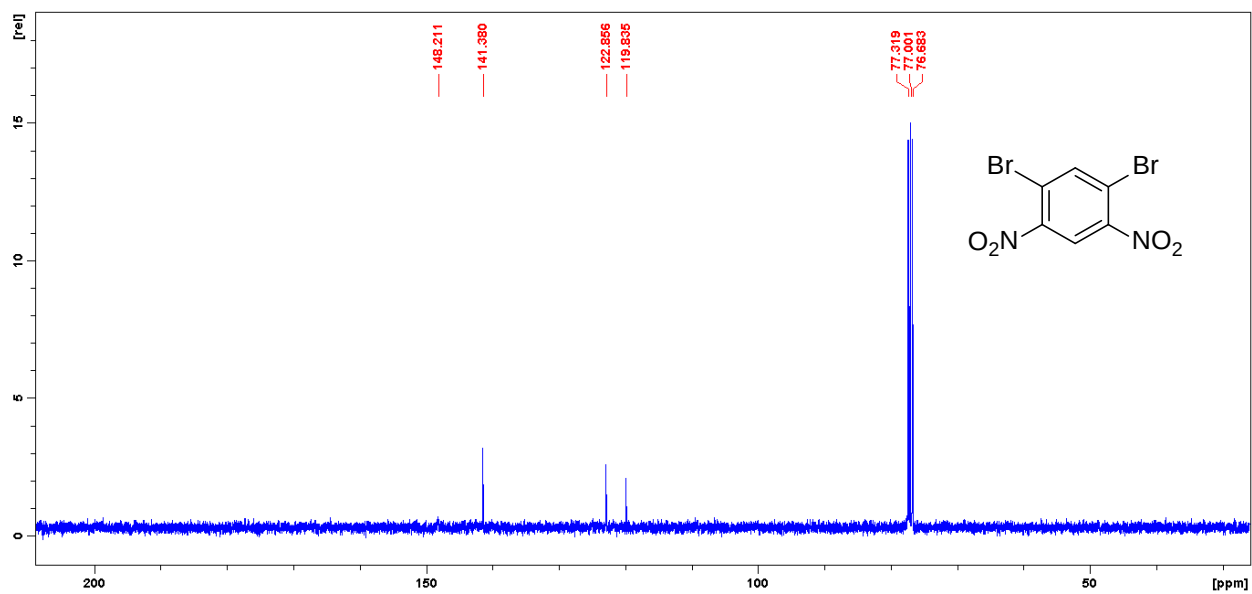
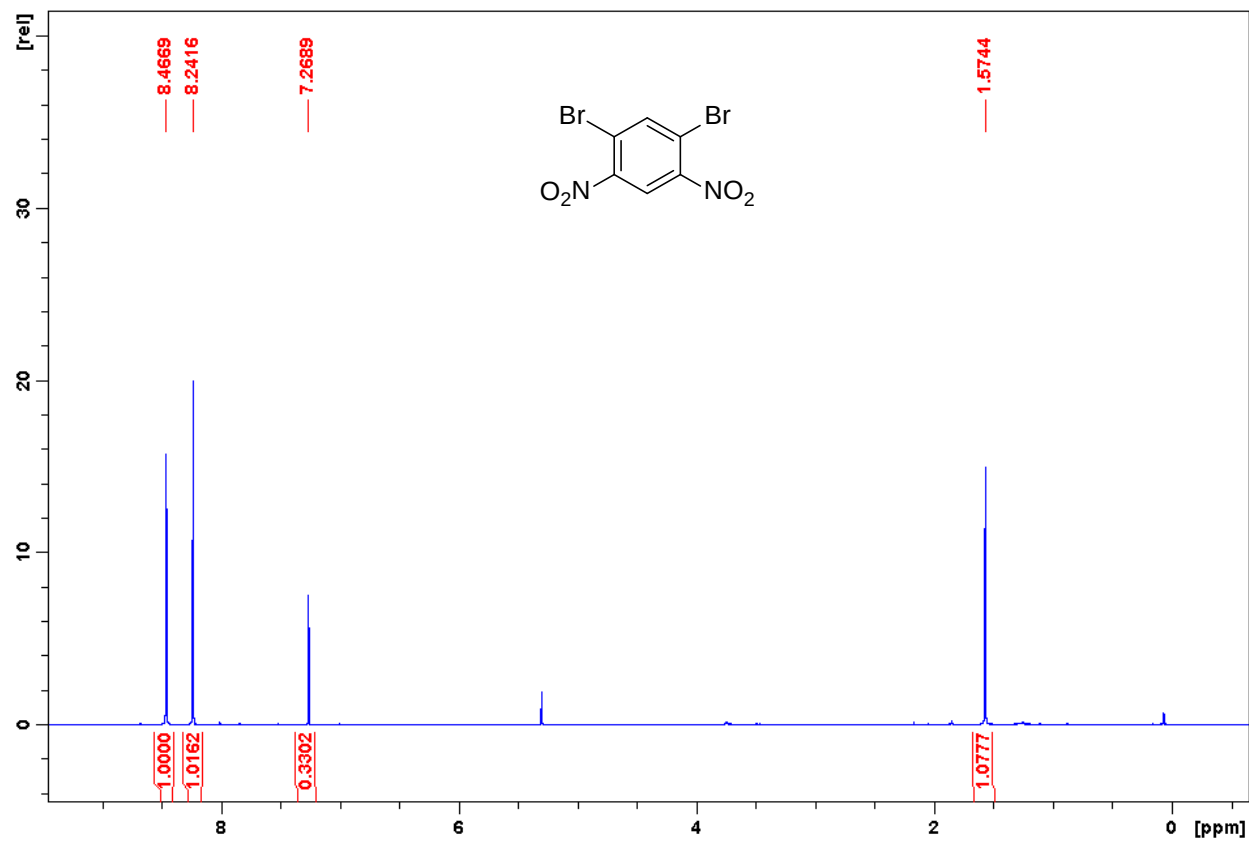
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.08 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 8.84 (1H, s, CH), 7.30 – 7.40 (6H, m, Ph), 7.22 – 7.26 (4H, m, Ph), 7.17 (2H, dd, J₁ = 8.34 Hz, J₂ = 2.02 Hz, 2H, CH), 6.85 (2H, d, J = 2.02 Hz), 6.80 (2H, d, J = 8.34 Hz, CH), 3.87 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.63 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.09 (4H, m, Ar-CH₂), 1.74 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.37 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.23 (8H, m, CH₂), 0.84 (6H, t, J = 6.82 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 159.96, 148.83, 147.73, 146.70, 146.26, 139.47, 133.82,

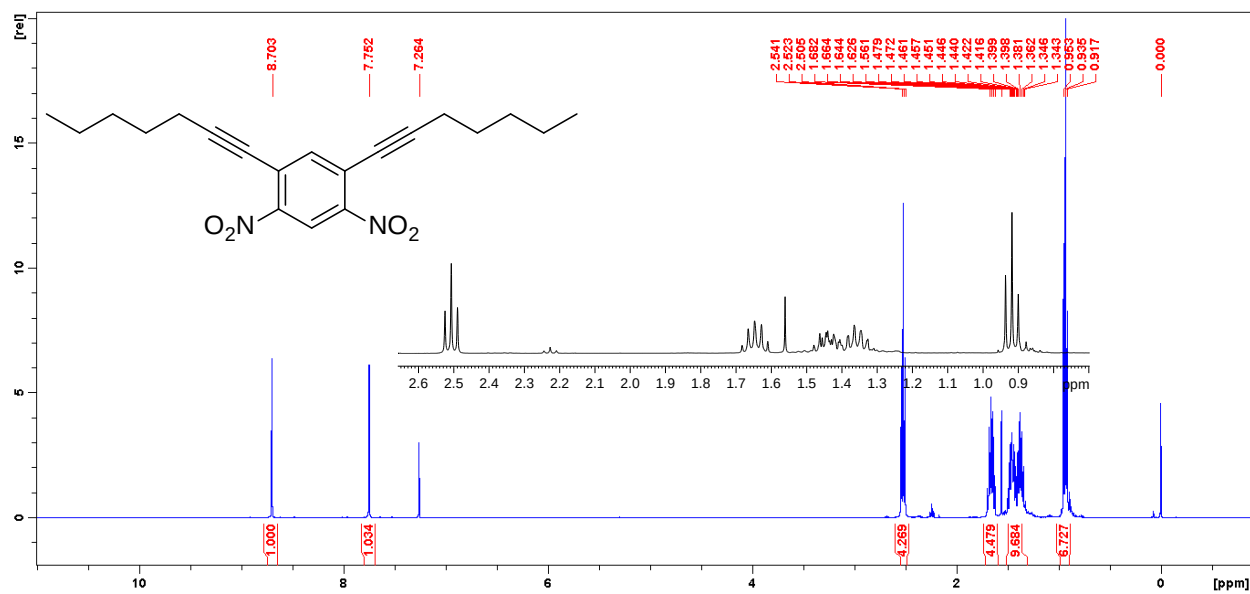
133.04, 130.58, 129.58, 128.20, 127.12, 124.92, 123.16, 120.38, 113.49, 110.48, 55.79, 55.60, 31.39, 31.08, 29.99, 29.90, 22.49, 13.96. HRMS (ESI): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{52}H_{57}N_2O_4$ m/z 773.4324, found m/z 773.4313 (correct isotope distribution)

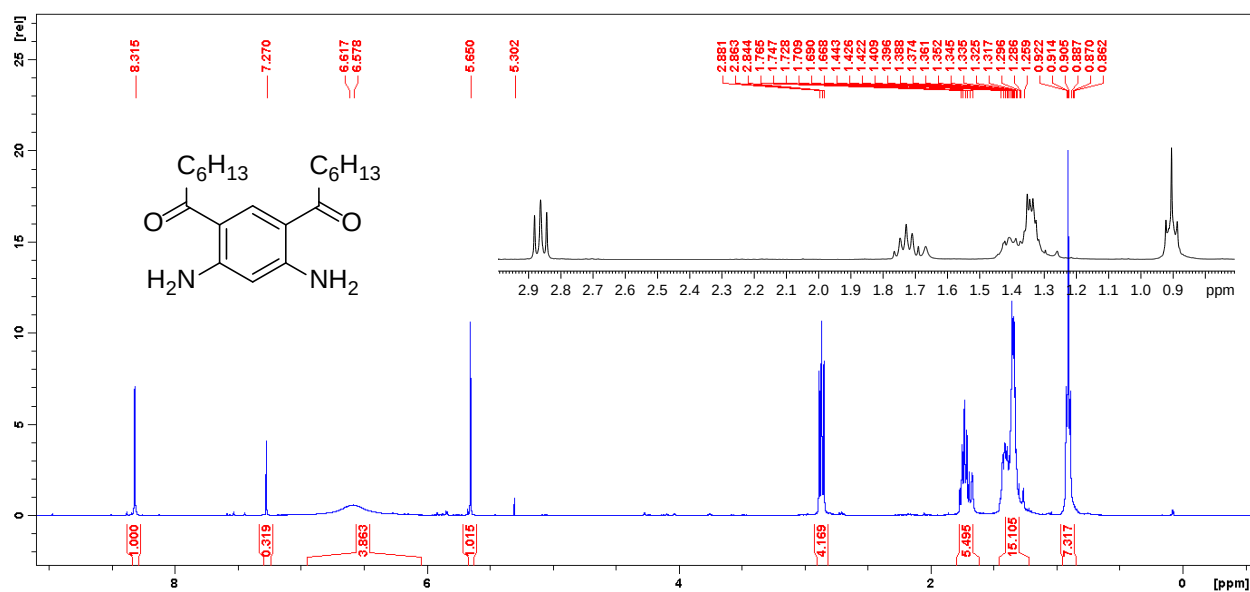
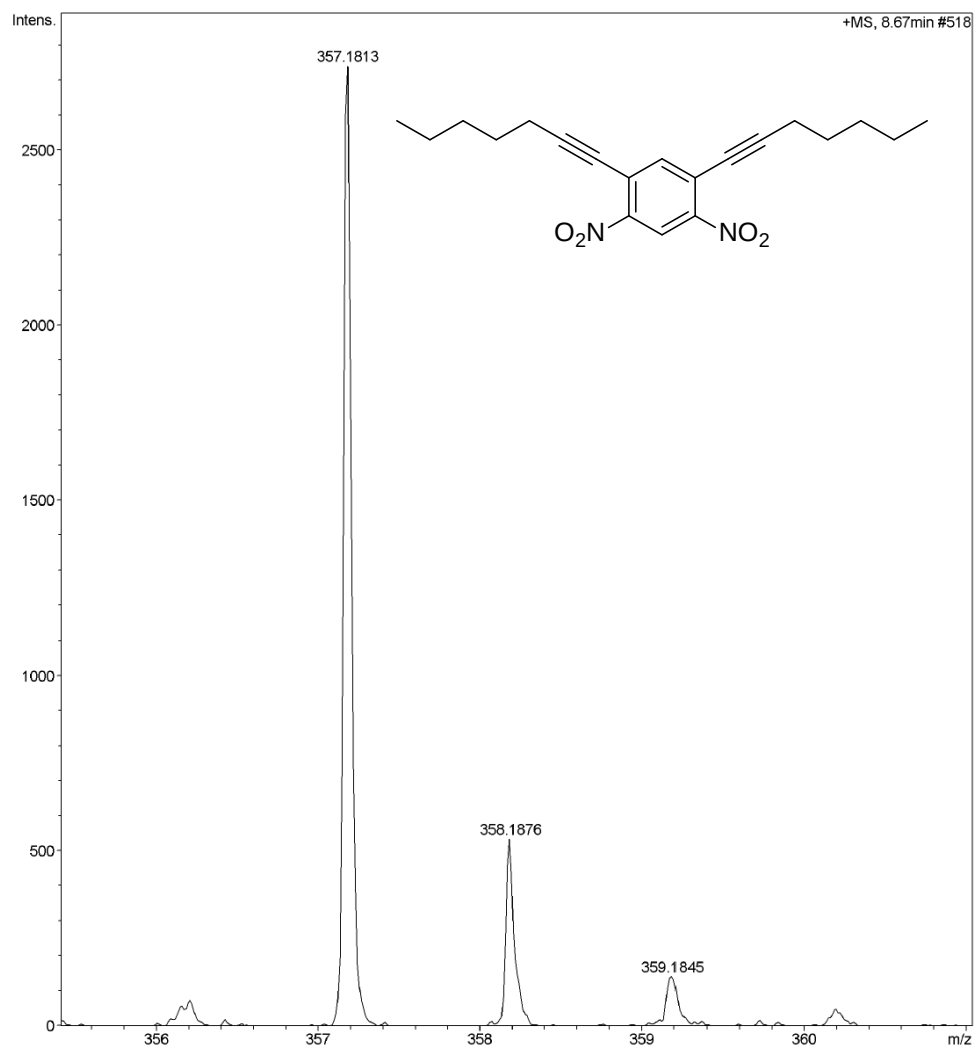
2,3,7,8-tetrakis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,6-dihexylpyrido[3,2-g]quinoline (17c). Purified using column chromatography (DCM : EtOAc 1:1). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 9.06 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 8.82 (1H, s, CH), 7.12 (2H, dd, J_1 = 8.34 Hz, J_2 = 2.02 Hz, CH), 6.97 (2H, d, J = 2.02 Hz, CH), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 8.34 Hz), 6.76 – 6.83 (4H, m, 2CH), 6.72 (2H, m, CH), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.87 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.75 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.70 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.13 (4H, m, Ar-CH₂), 1.78 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.42 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.26 (12H, m, CH₂), 0.86 (6H, t, J = 6.82 Hz, CH₃). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 160.93, 146.68, 146.18, 141.28, 138.99, 133.28, 130.59, 130.04, 129.84, 127.98, 127.53, 127.07, 125.10, 120.45, 31.40, 31.10, 30.00, 29.92, 22.50, 13.97. HRMS (ESI): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{56}H_{65}N_2O_8$ m/z 893.4735, found m/z 893.4752 (correct isotope distribution)

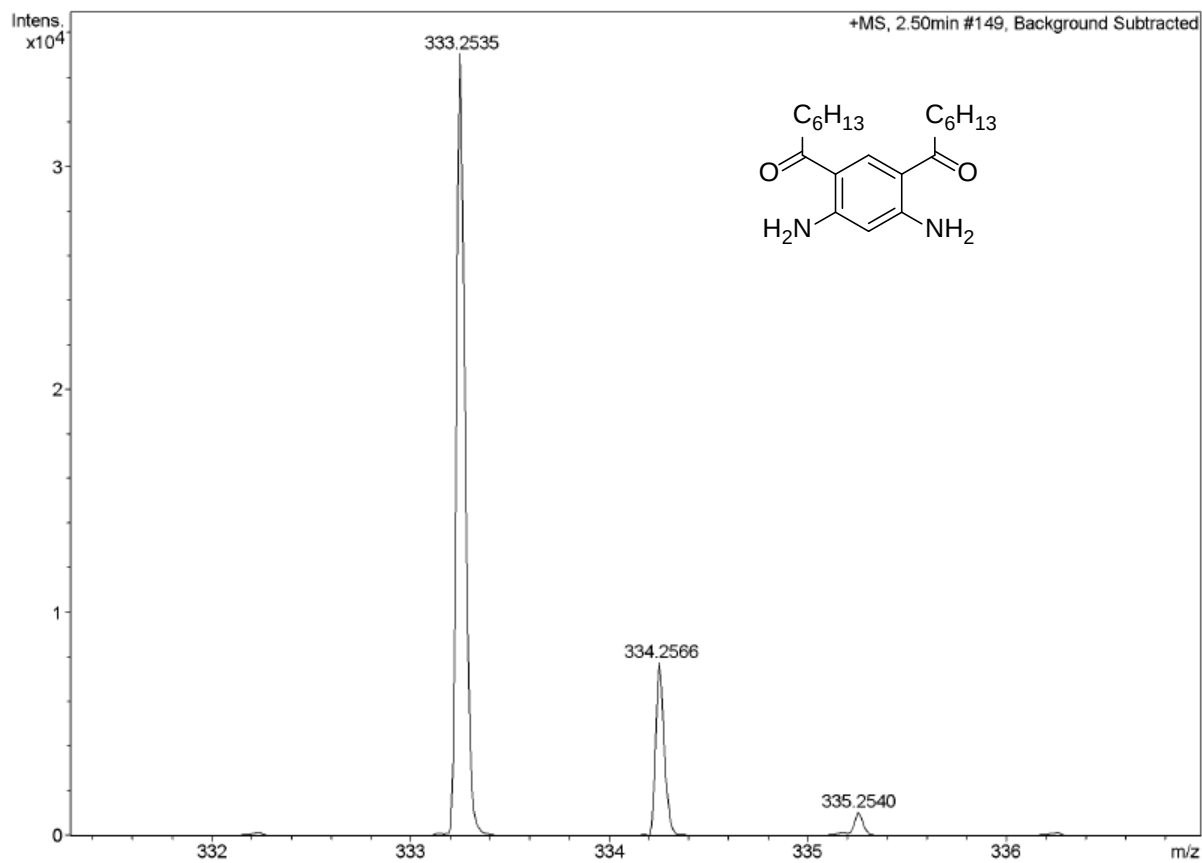
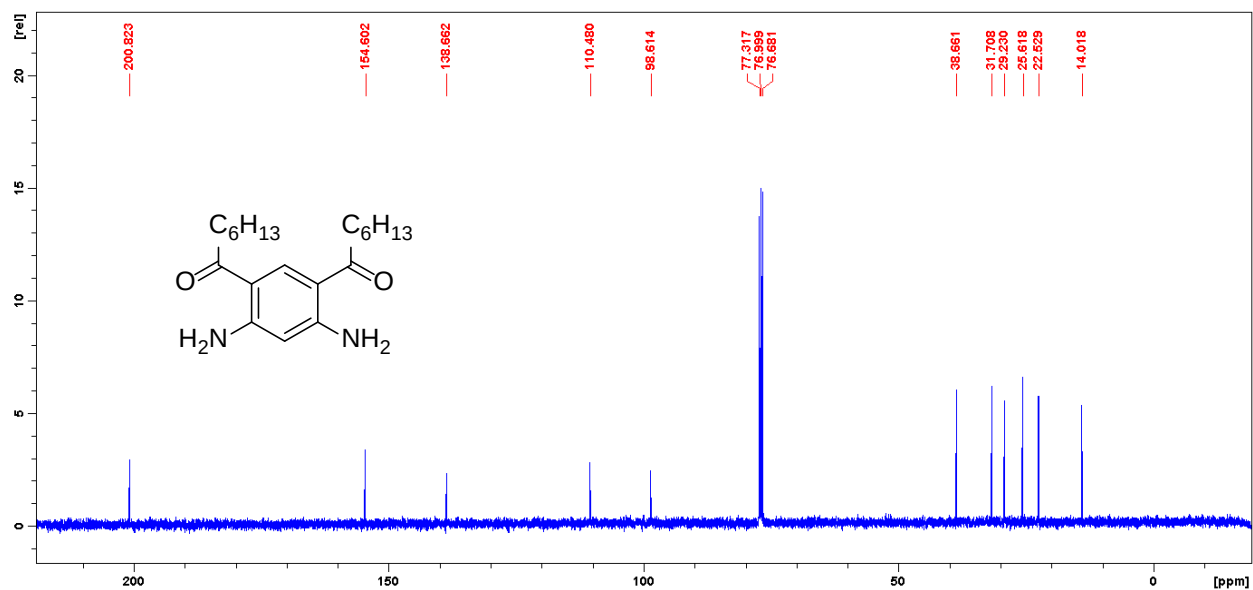
20,22-dihexyl-2,3,6,7,13,14,17,18-octamethoxydibenzo[a,c]dibenzo[5,6:7,8]quinolino[2,3-i]acridine (18b). $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ (1.21ml, 9.4mmol, 9.1 eq of BF_3) was added to a mixture of **17b** (772mg, 1.0 mmol), [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA, 1871mg, 4.4mmol, 4.4 eq) and 8ml of anhydrous DCM at +5°C under nitrogen. Then the mixture was stirred for 2h at +15°C. After quenching with saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 solution, the organic compounds were extracted with DCM. The organic fraction was dried with $MgSO_4$ and evaporated. Column chromatography (DCM : EtOAc : Et_3N = 9:1:0.2) afforded 214 mg of the product as a red solid (28% yield). 1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 + CF_3COOH) δ = 9.61 (1H, s, N-C=C(H)-C-N), 9.53 (1H, s, CH), 8.56

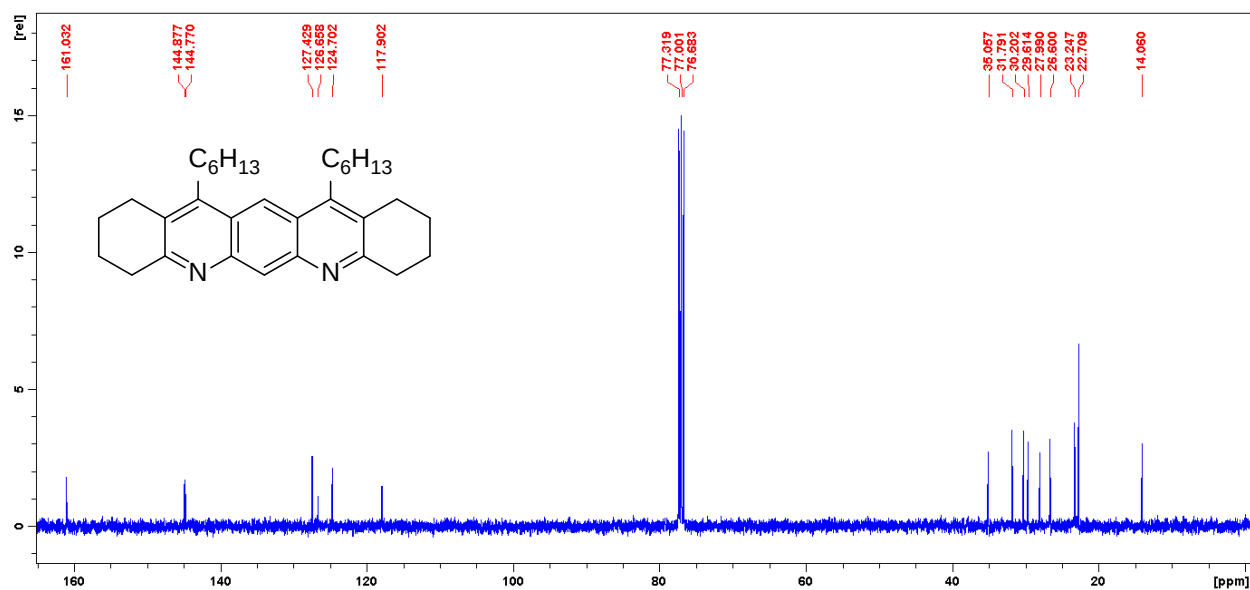
(2H, d, J = 7.58, CH), 8.41 (2H, d, J = 8.08), 8.34 (2H, s, CH), 8.00 (2H, s, CH), 7.94 (2H, m, CH), 7.83 (2H, m, CH), 4.25 (6H, s, OCH₃), 4.21 (4H, m, CH₂), 4.12 (6H, s, OCH₃), 2.17 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.68 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.34 – 1.48 (8H, m, CH₂), 0.92 (6H, t, J = 7.07 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂ + CF₃COOH) δ = 159.15, 158.57, 152.16, 147.39, 136.71, 134.49, 131.61, 131.01, 130.61, 128.77, 127.47, 126.67, 126.39, 125.14, 125.11, 117.12, 109.72, 107.43, 106.31, 57.42, 57.18, 34.65, 33.58, 31.97, 30.37, 23.17, 14.27. HRMS (ESI): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₅₂H₅₃N₂O₄ m/z 769.4005, found m/z 769.4014 (correct isotope distribution)

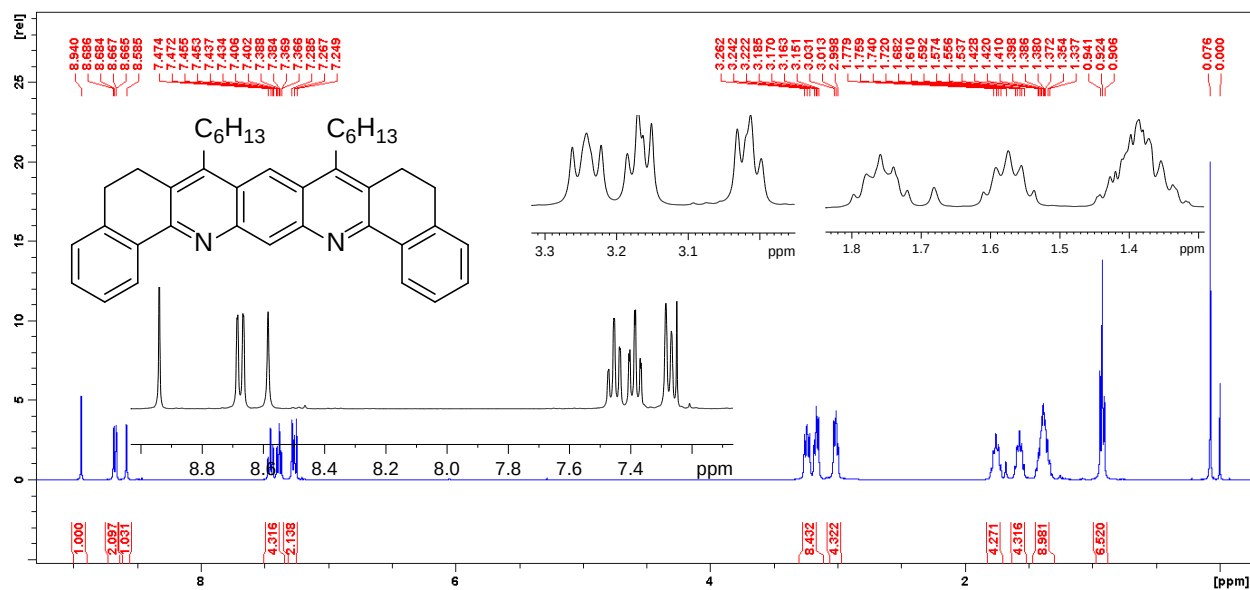
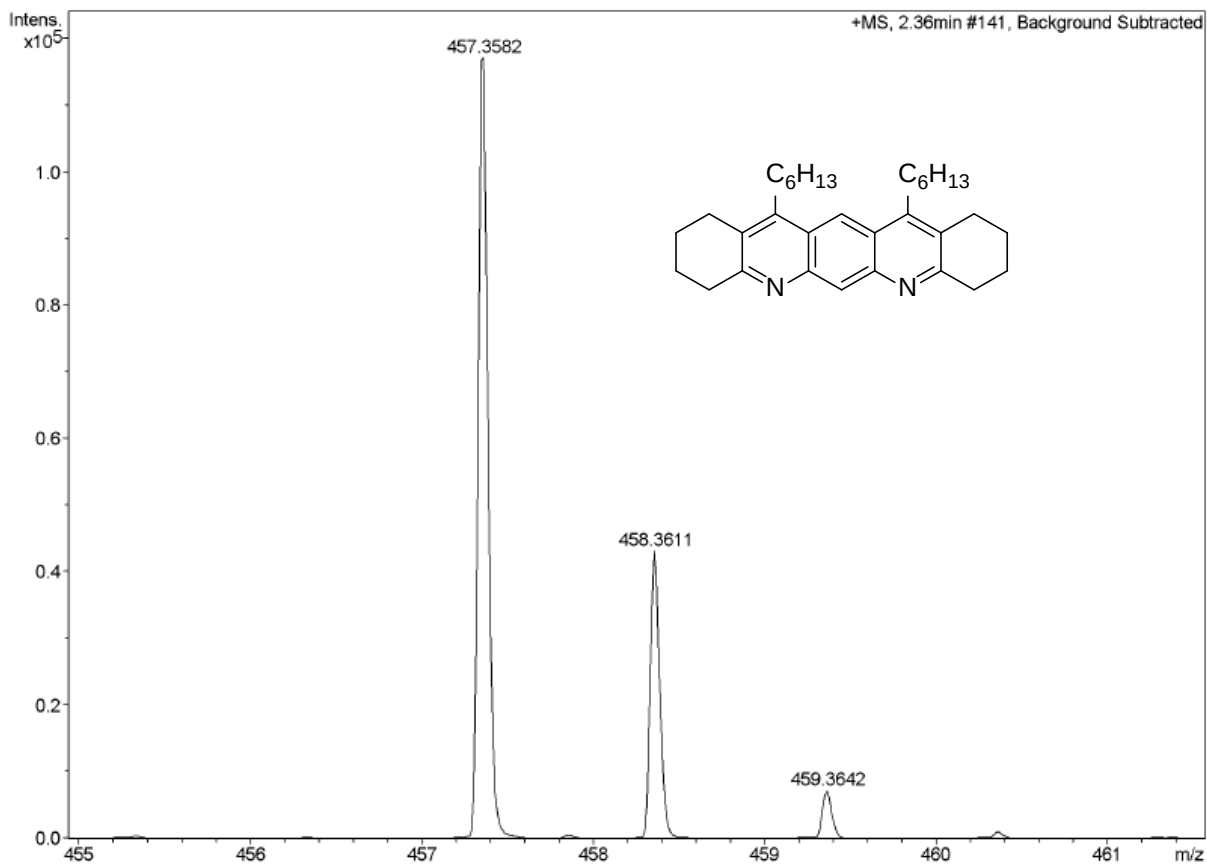


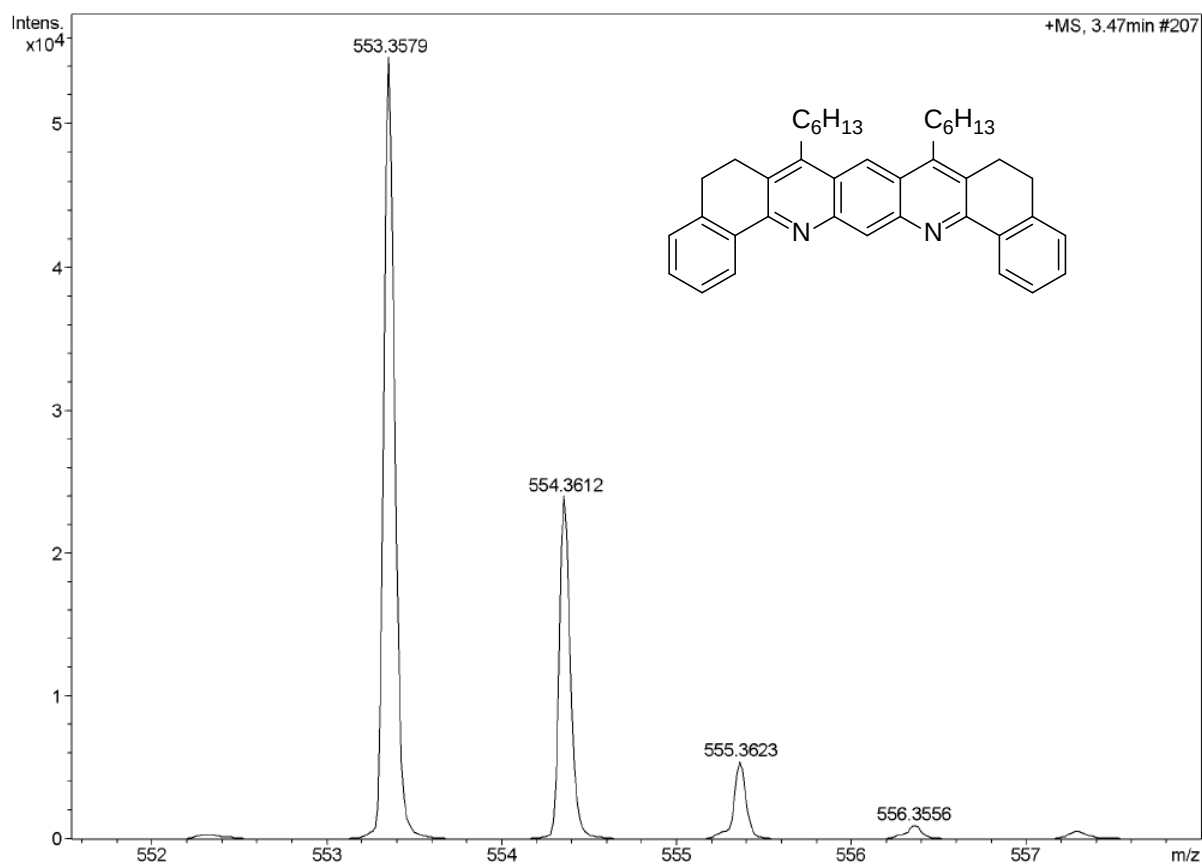
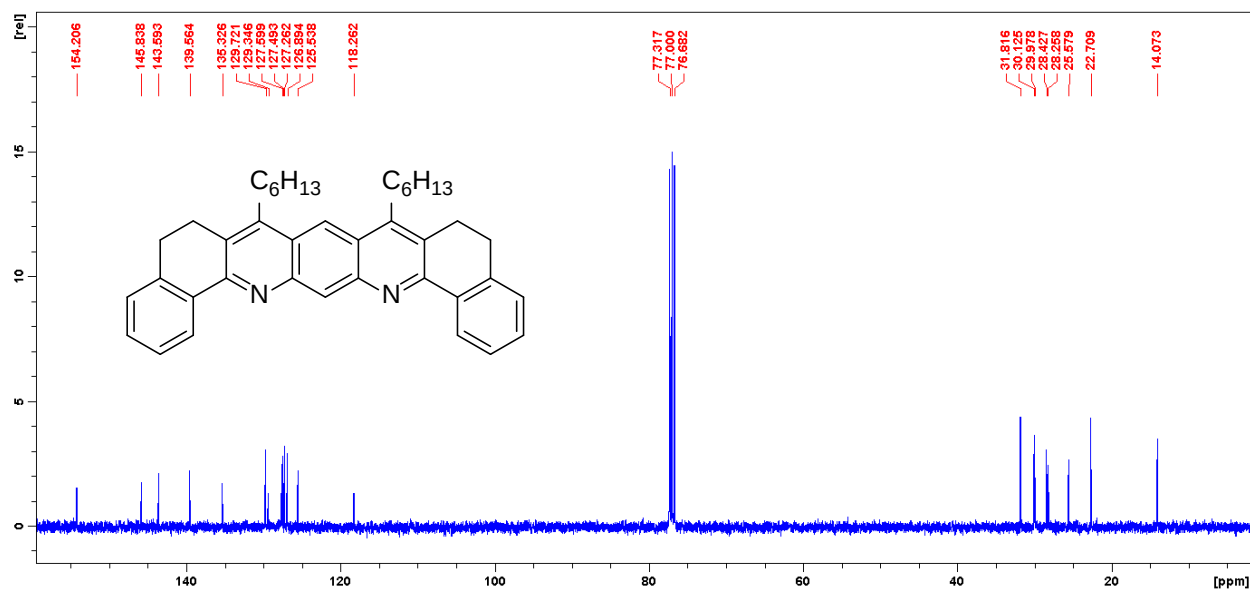


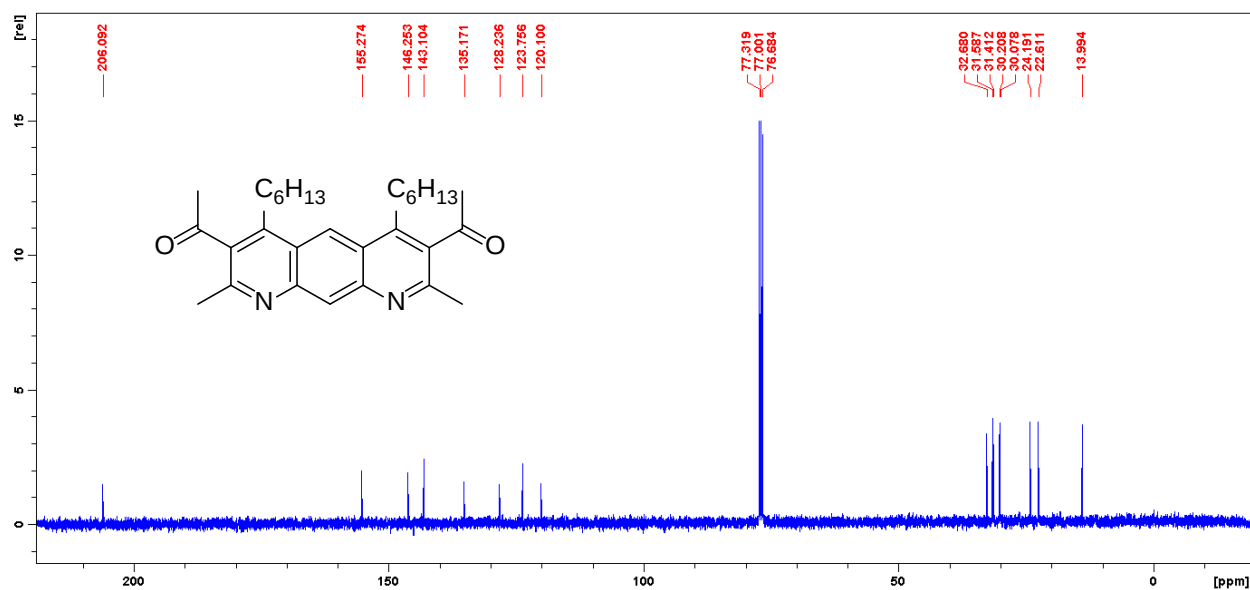
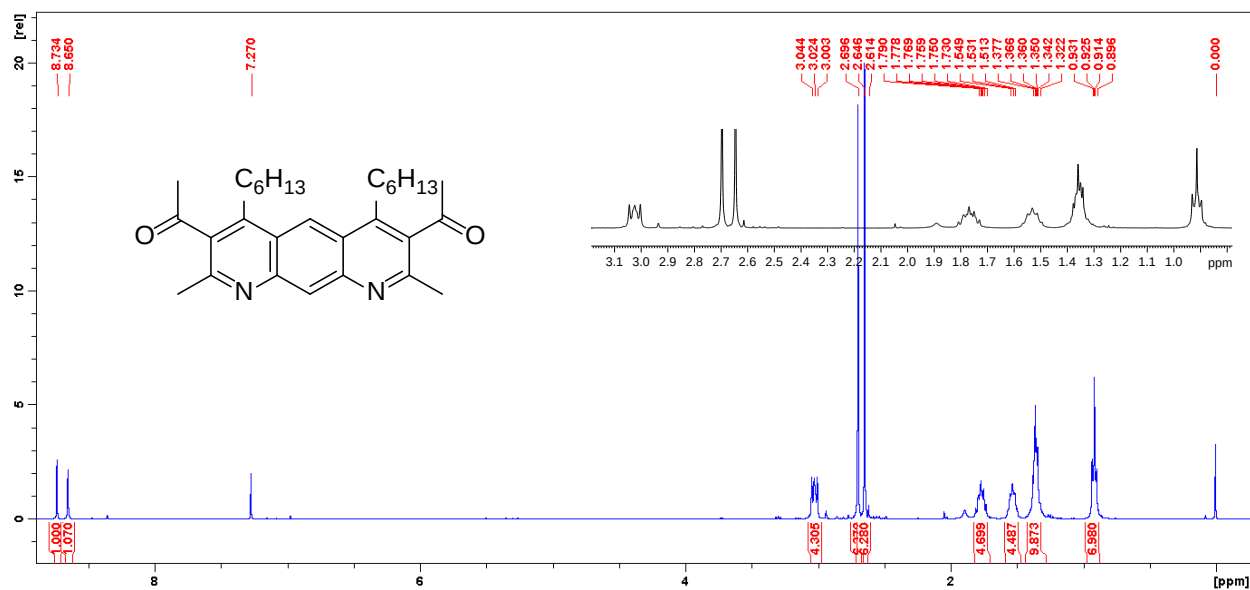


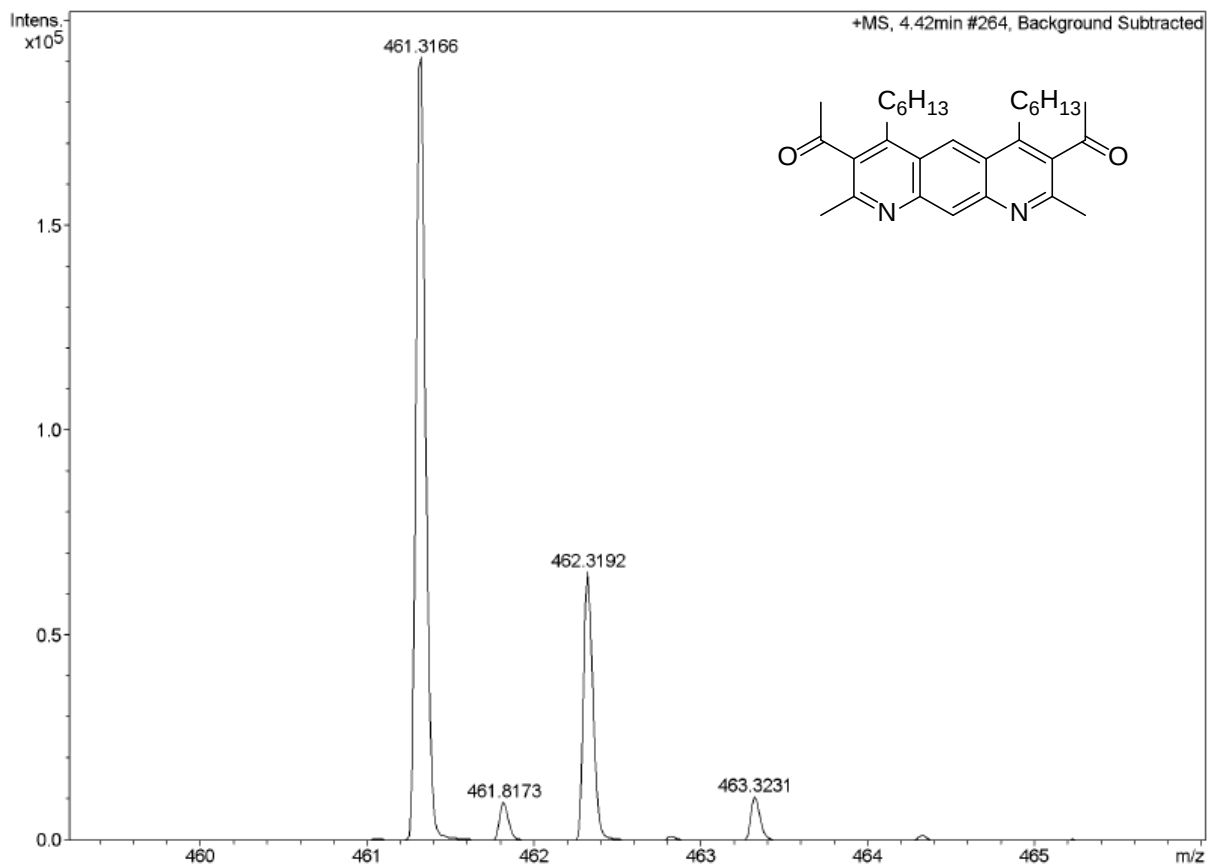


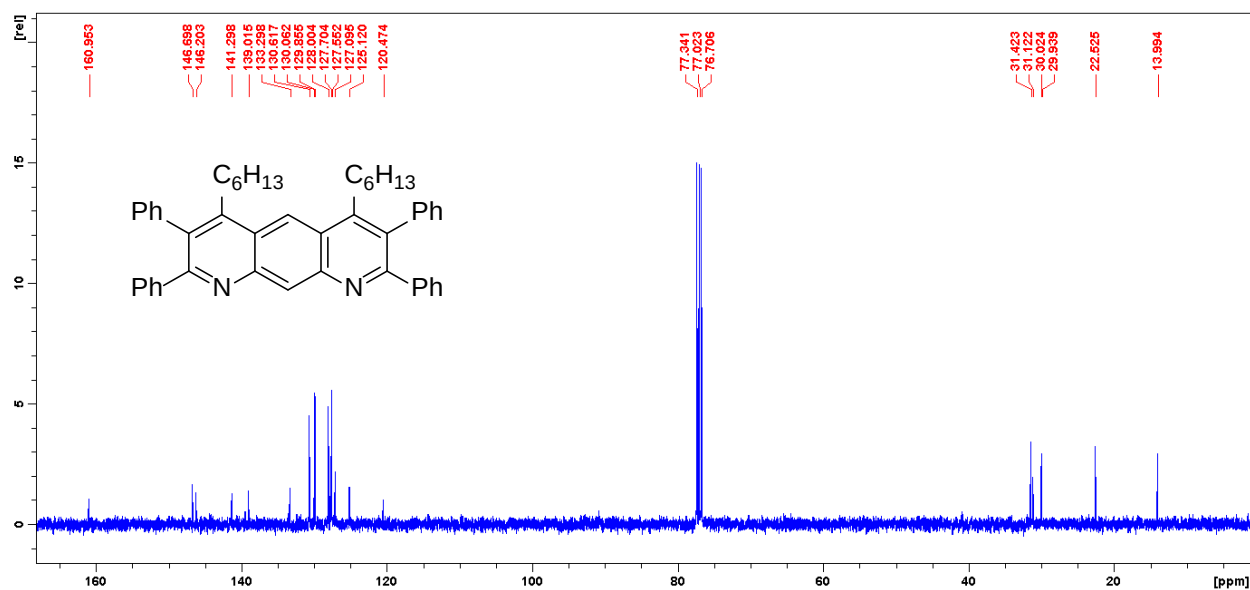
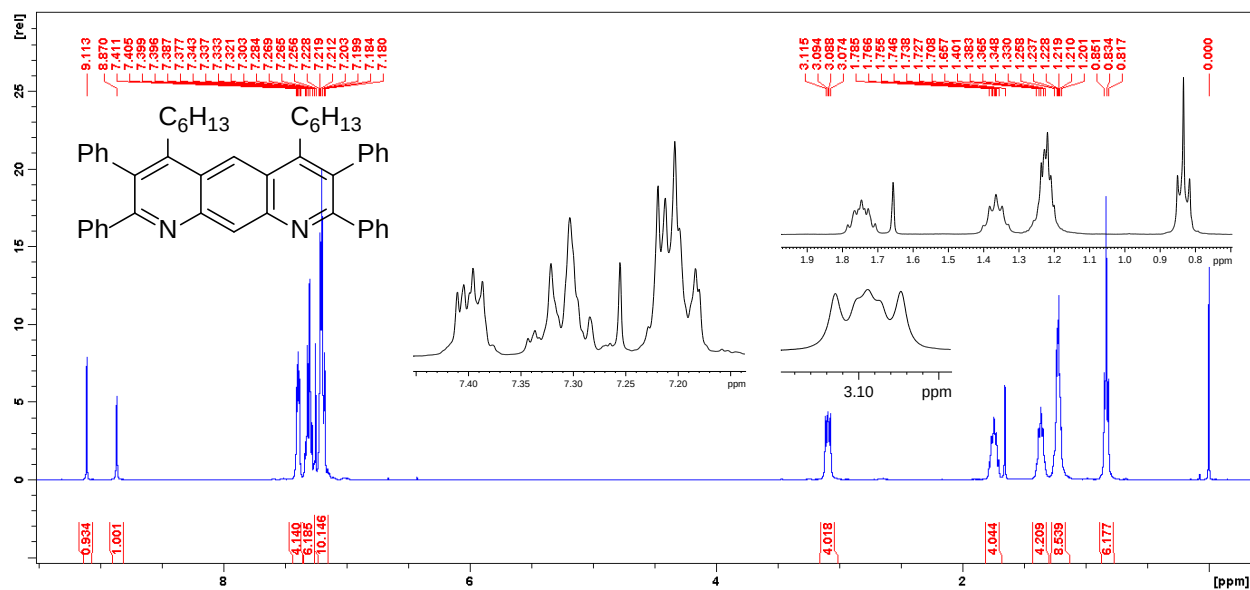


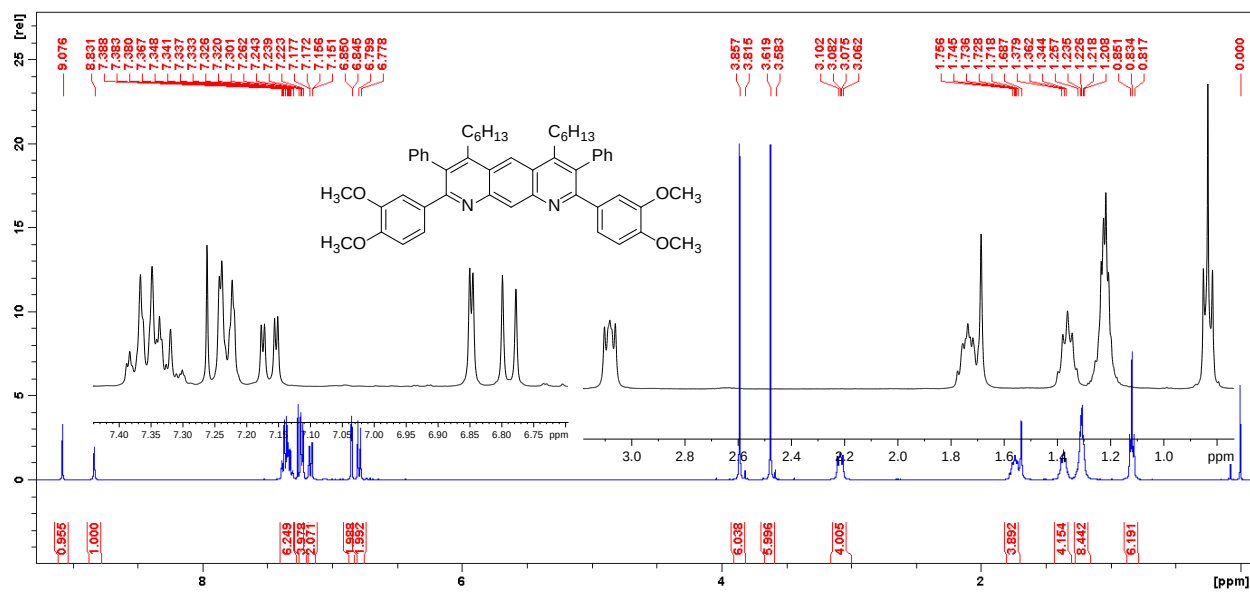
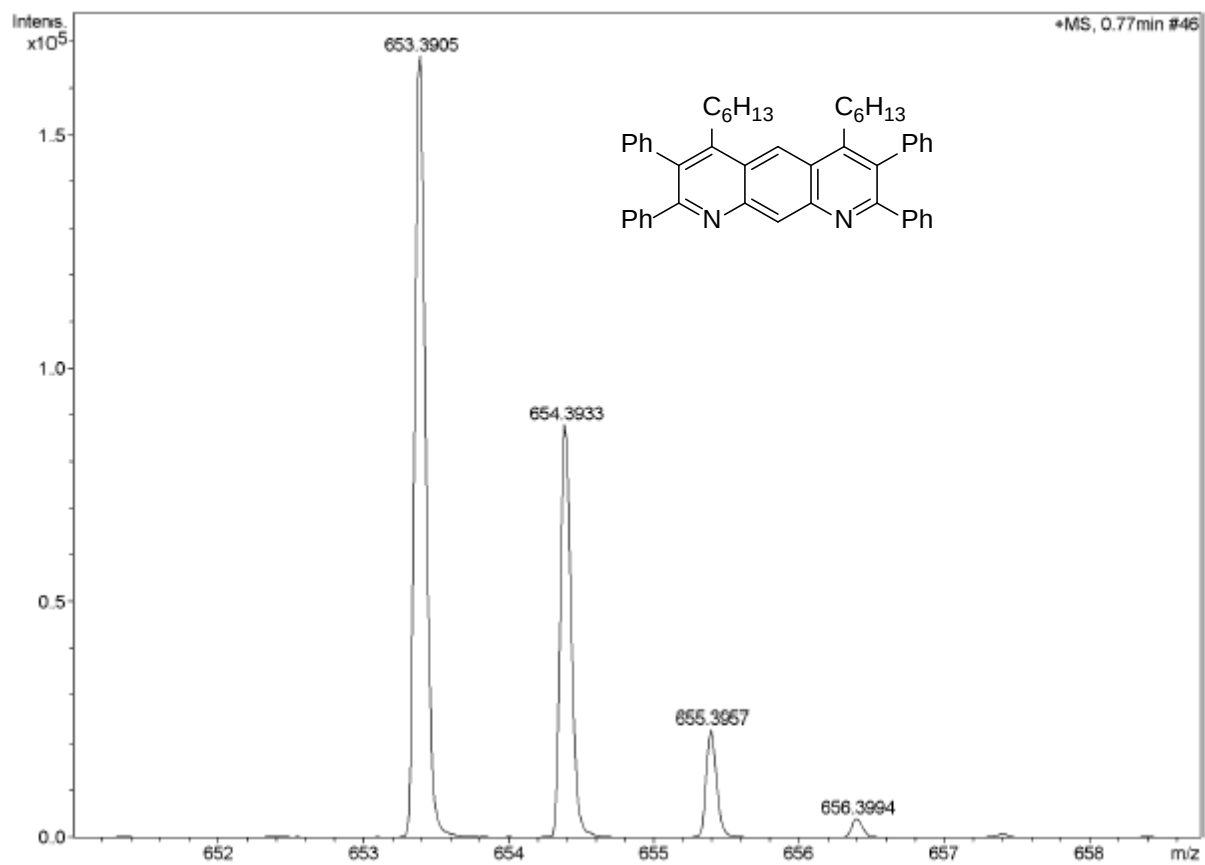


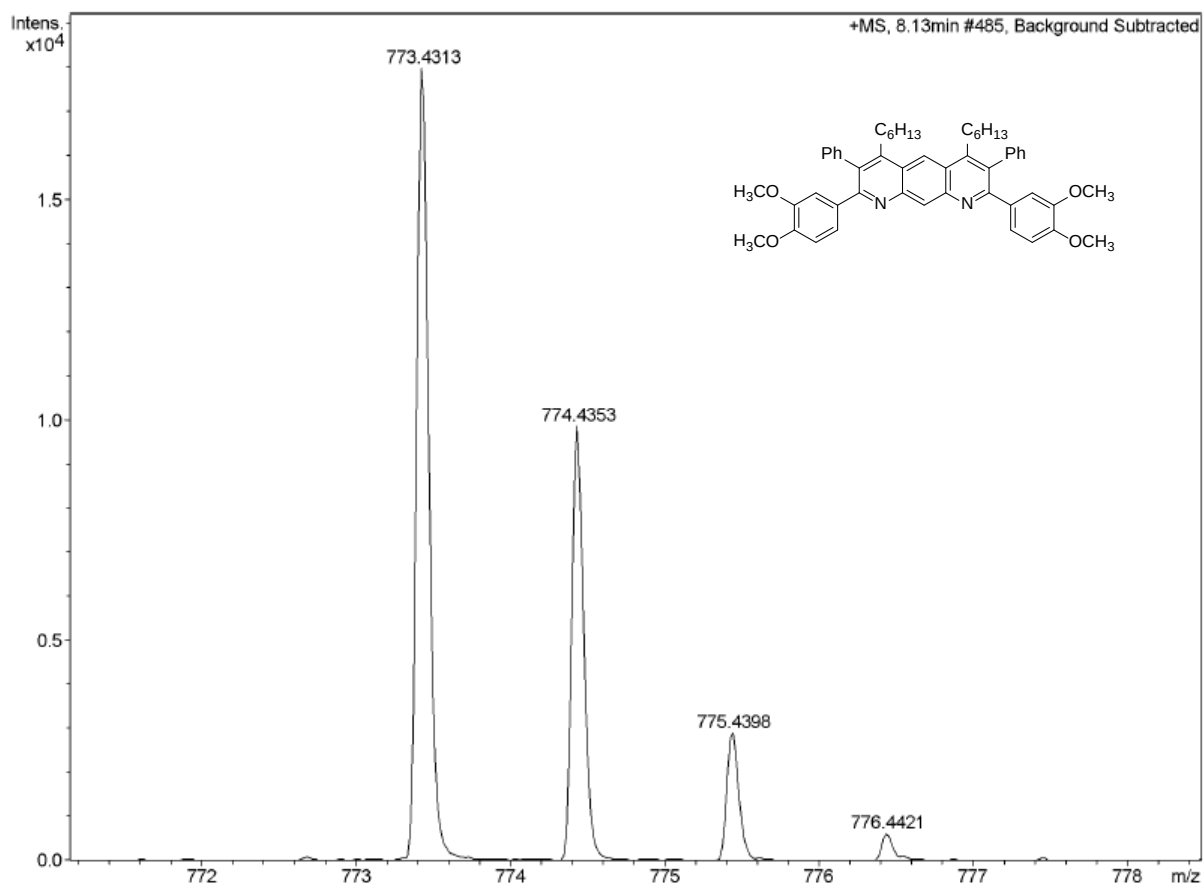
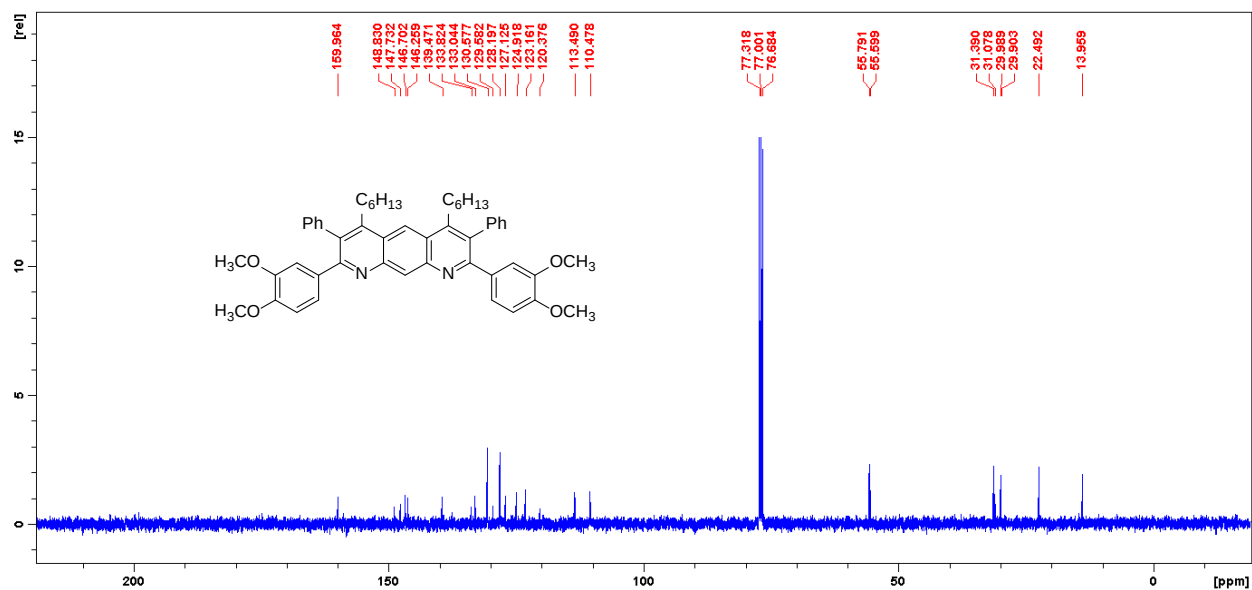


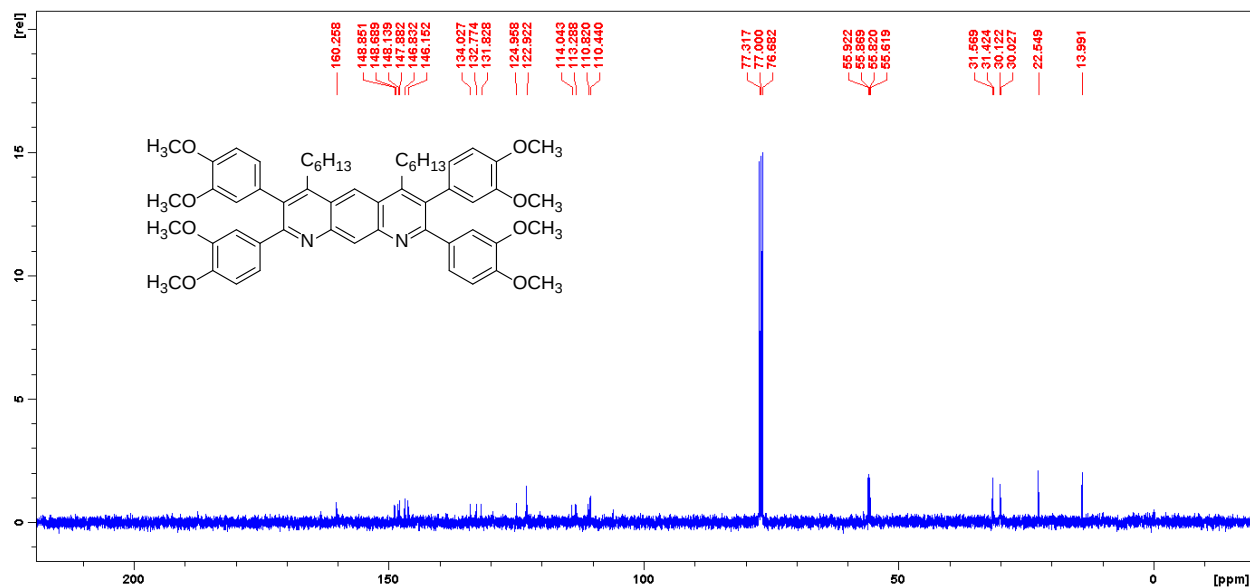
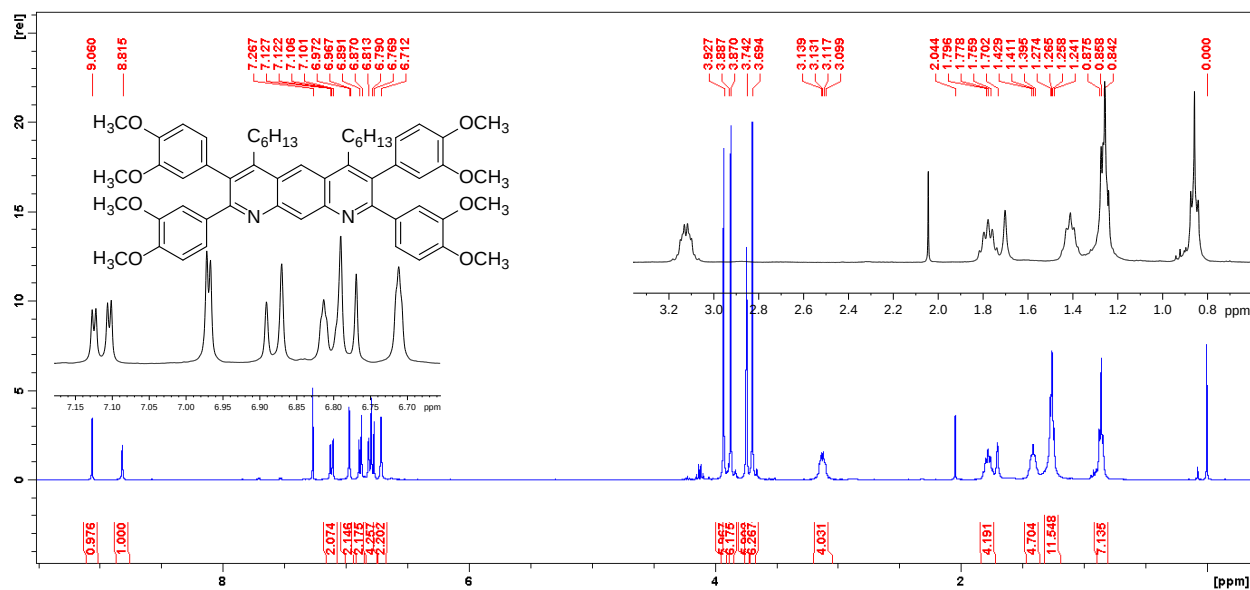


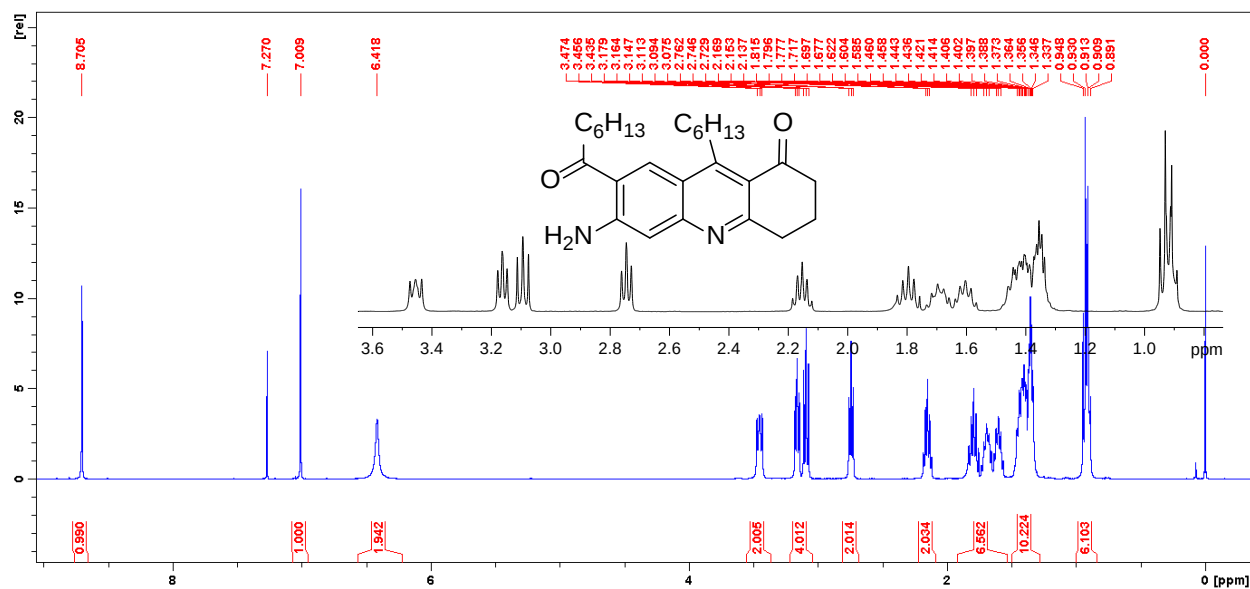
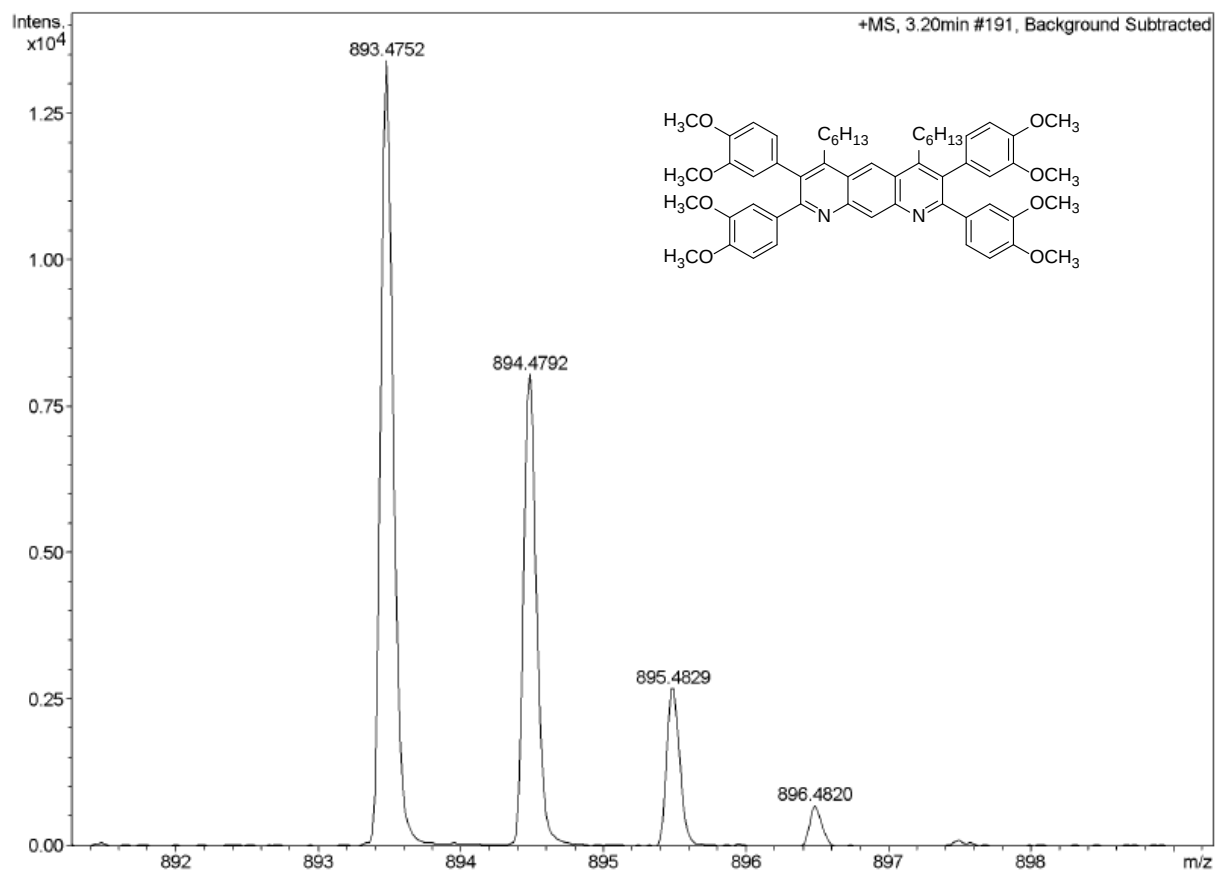


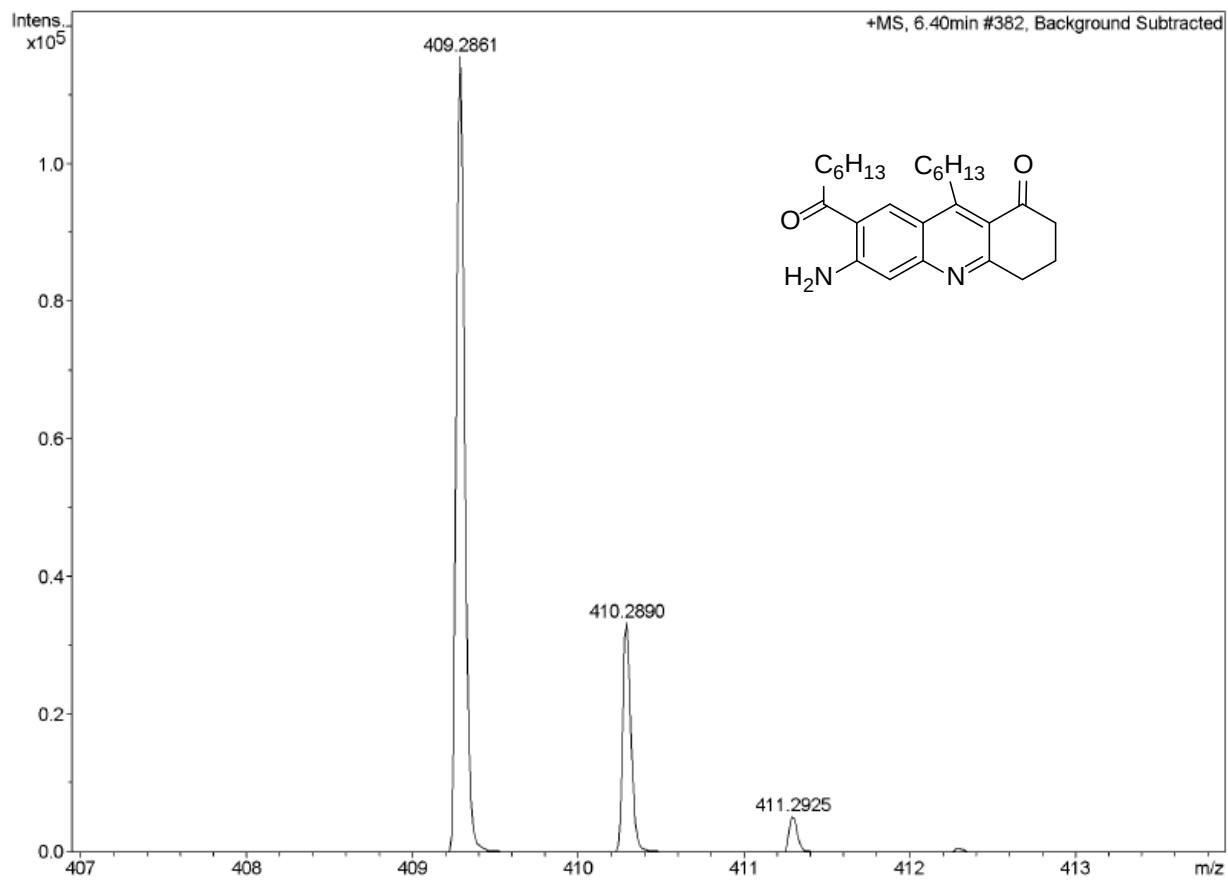
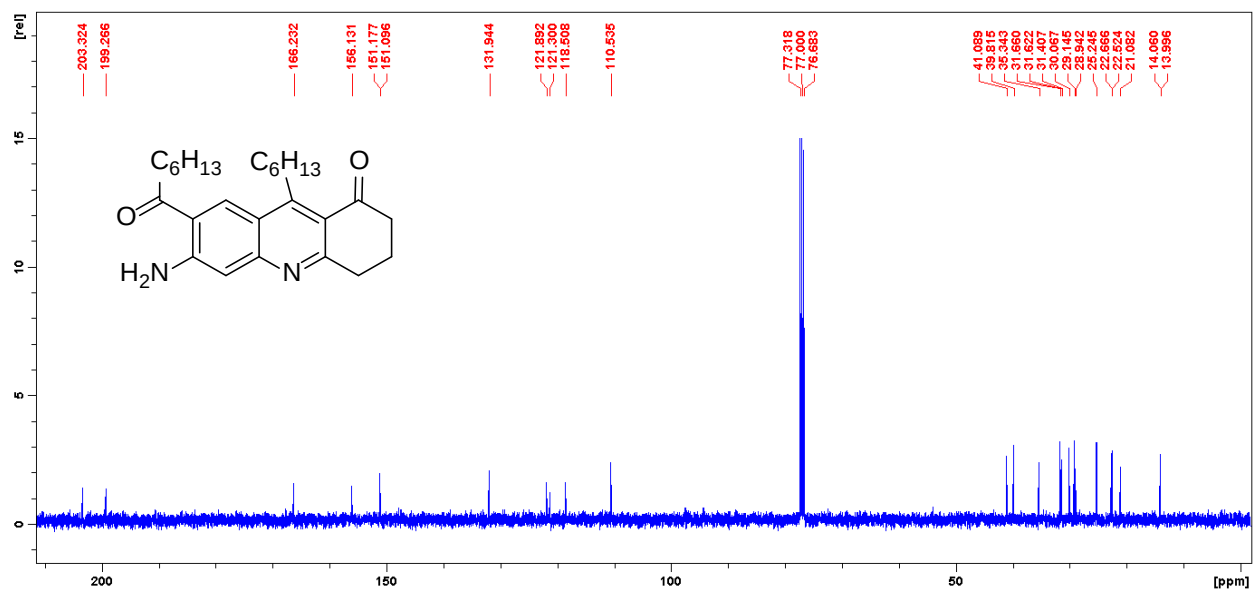


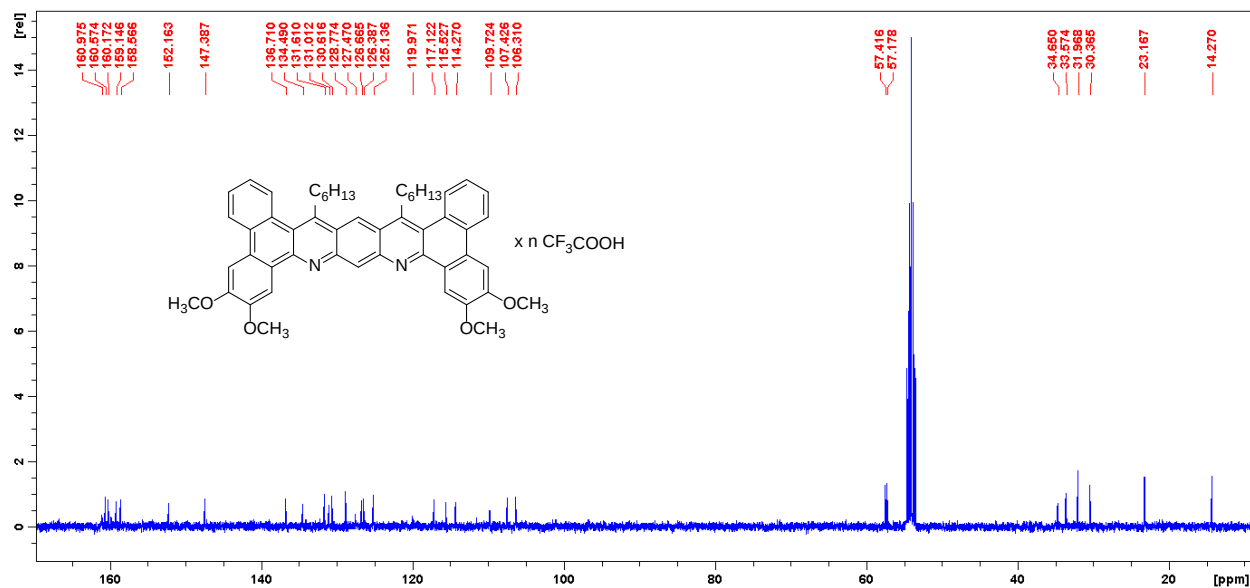
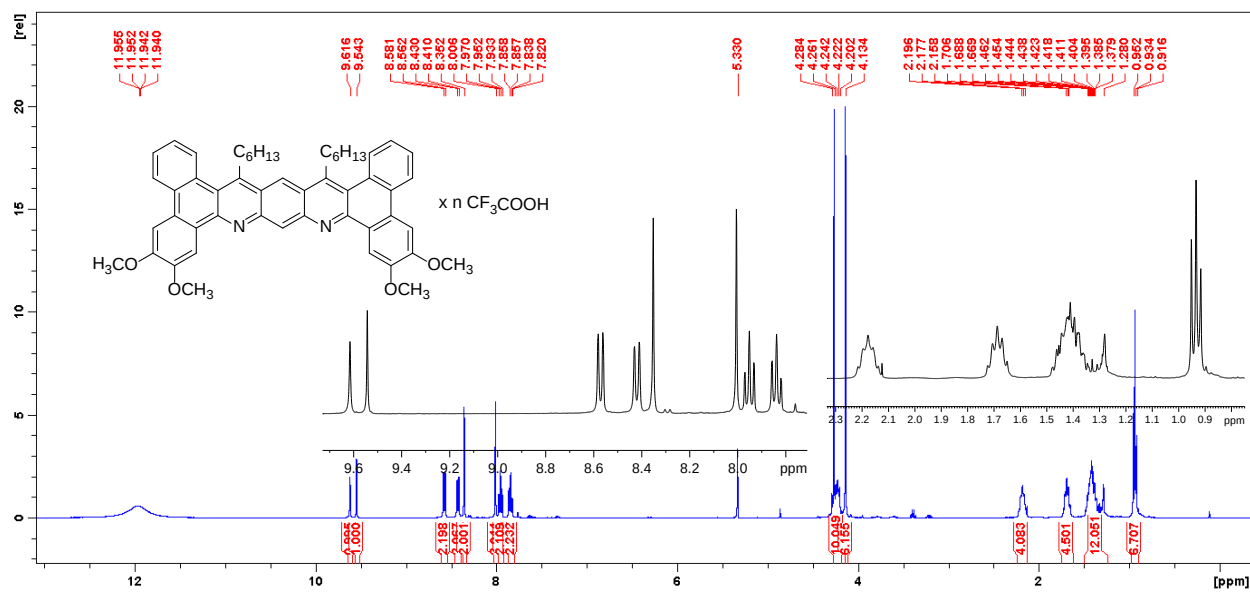


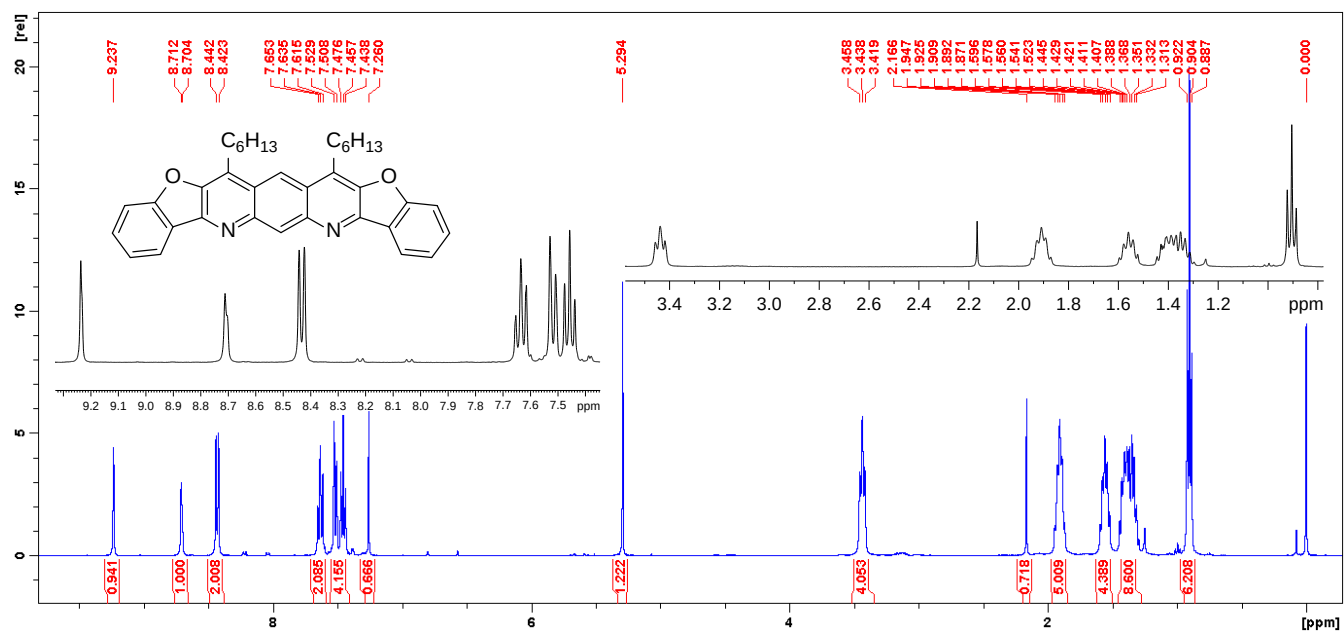
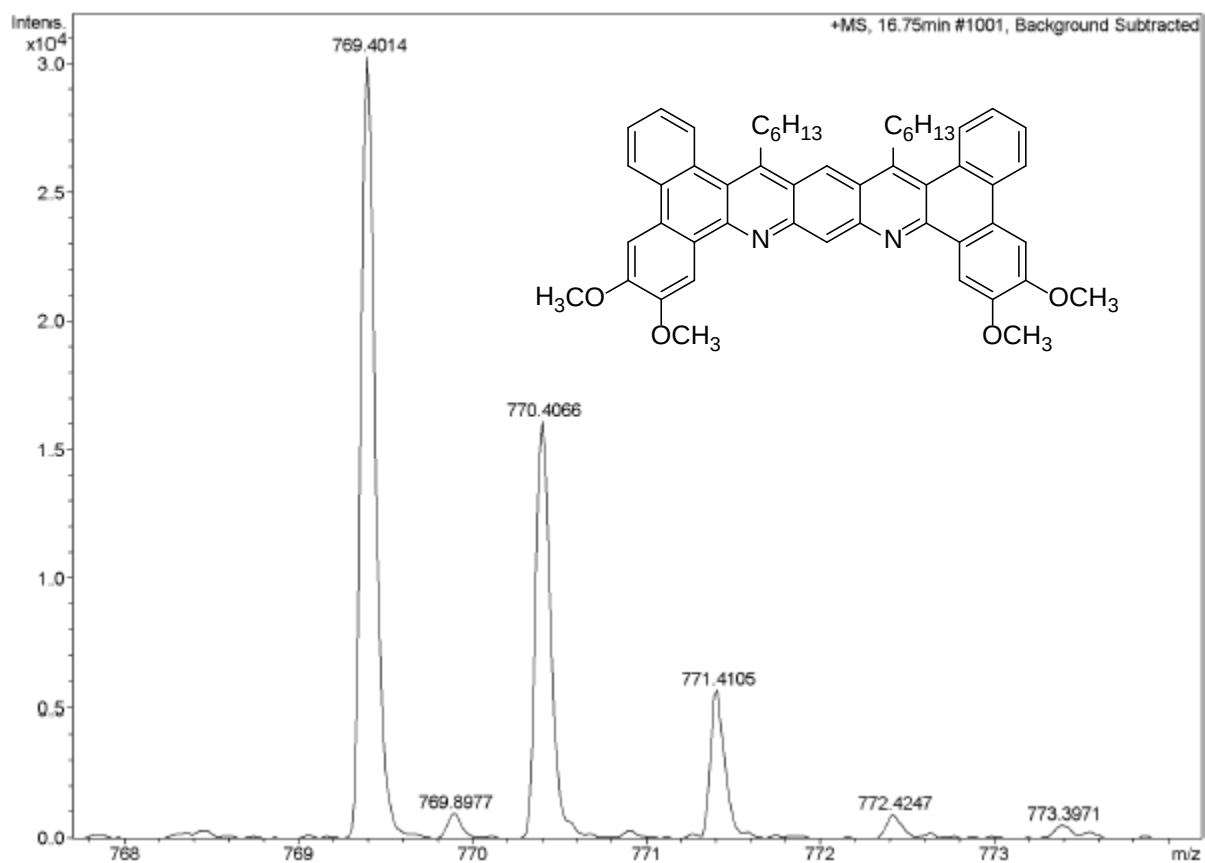


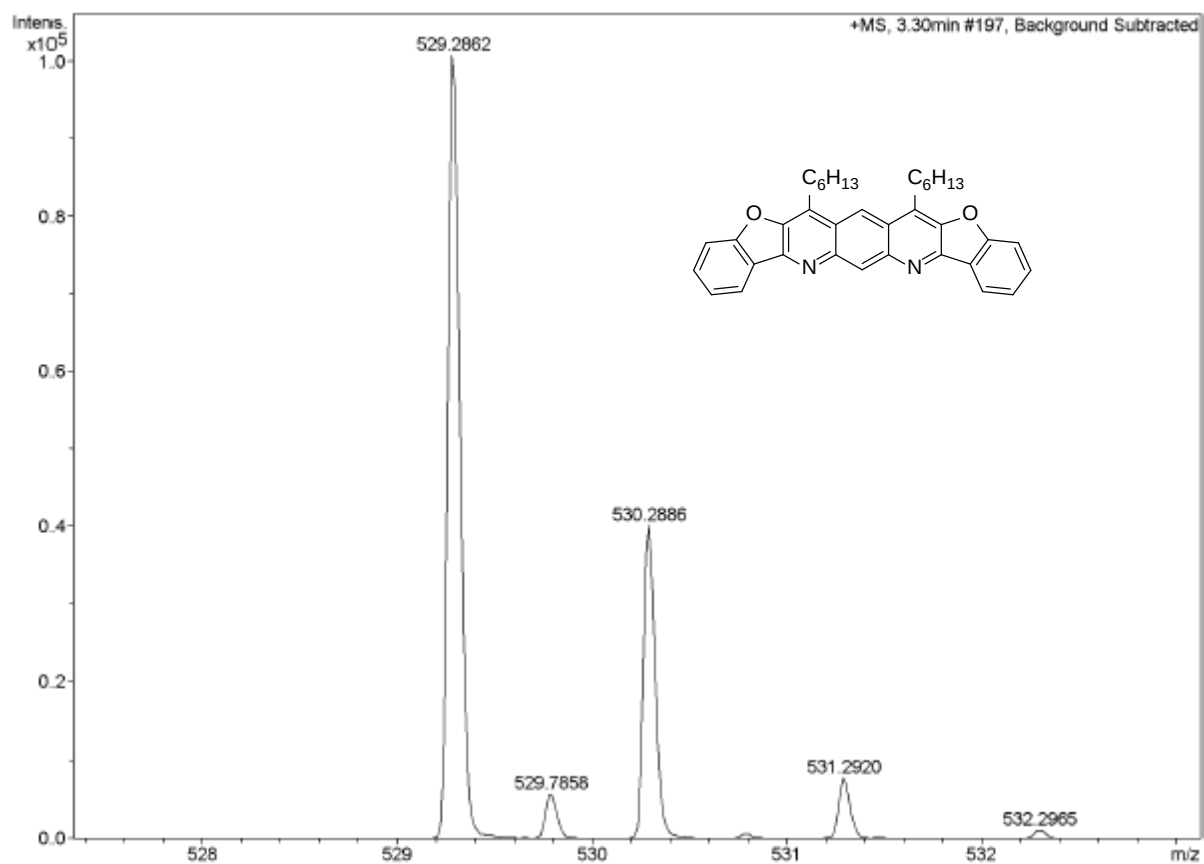
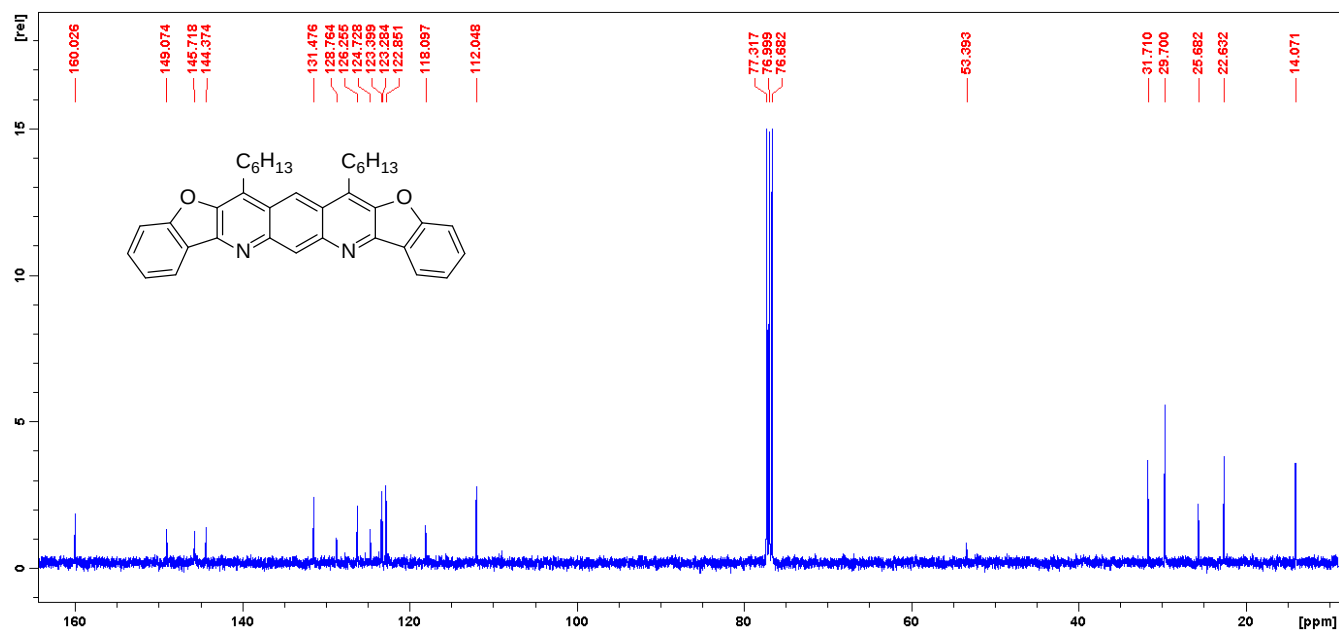


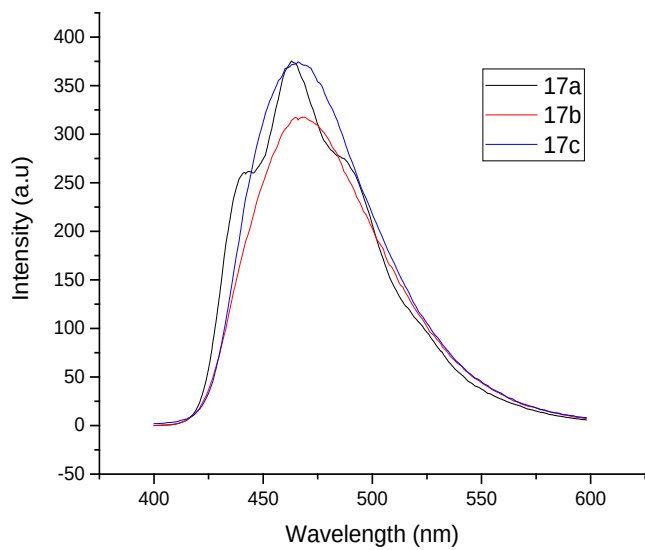
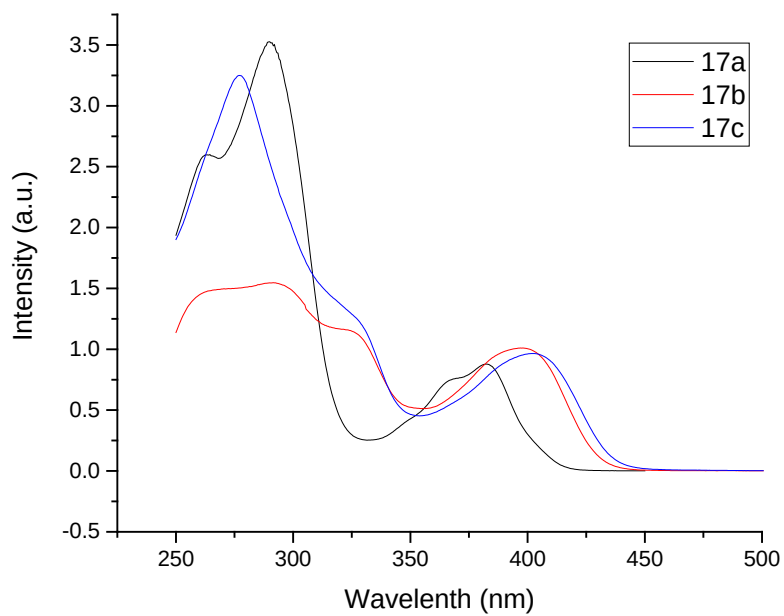












UV Vis (top) and photoluminescence (bottom) spectra of 17a-c (5×10^{-5} M in chloroform)