

**Biomimetic synthesis of 2-substituted *N*-heterocycle alkaloids  
by one-pot hydrolysis, transamination and decarboxylative Mannich reaction**

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**ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(ESI)**

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## Chemicals and enzymes

All commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification. Diamine dihydrochlorides and ketoesters were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar or Fluorochem.

Lipases used in the screening (listed in the following table) were obtained commercially from Sigma-Aldrich, Amano or Novozymes, and used as supplied.

<b>Lipase</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
PPL	porcine pancreas	Type II, 100-500 U/mg protein	Sigma-Aldrich
PSL	<i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>	>30,000 U/g	Amano
CALB	<i>Candida antarctica</i>	Novozym <sup>®</sup> 435, 10,000 PLU/g (immobilised on acrylic resin)	Novozymes
F-AP15	<i>Rhizopus oryzae</i>	≥150,000 U/g	Sigma-Aldrich
TLL	<i>Thermomyces lanuginosus</i>	≥100,000 U/g	Sigma-Aldrich

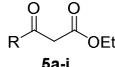
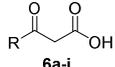
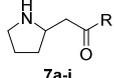
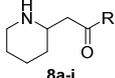
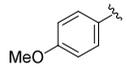
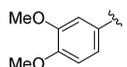
The diamine transaminase YgjG from *E. coli* K12 was produced in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) according to a previously published procedure (Slabu et al. *ChemCatChem* 2016, **8**, 1038-1042) as follows. A fresh colony of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) harbouring the plasmid pET28b-YgjG was used to inoculate LB medium (8 mL) containing kanamycin (50 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>). This starter culture was grown overnight at 37°C and 220 rpm, and used to inoculate LB medium (800 mL) containing kanamycin (50 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>). The culture was grown at 37°C and 220 rpm until OD600 reached 0.6-0.8, then the temperature was lowered to 18°C and expression was induced by addition of IPTG (0.2 mM final concentration). Expression was continued for 16 h at 18°C and 220 rpm. Cells were harvested by centrifugation (4°C, 3,250 g, 20 min) and stored at -20°C until needed. For the preparation of the crude lysate, cells were resuspended (1 g of wet cell paste in 10 mL) in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM PLP, pH 8.0) and lysed in an ice bath by ultrasonication in a Soniprep 150 (20 s on, 20 s off, 20 cycles). After centrifugation (4°C, 16,000 g, 20 min) the clarified lysate was used directly for the biotransformations.

## Analytical methods

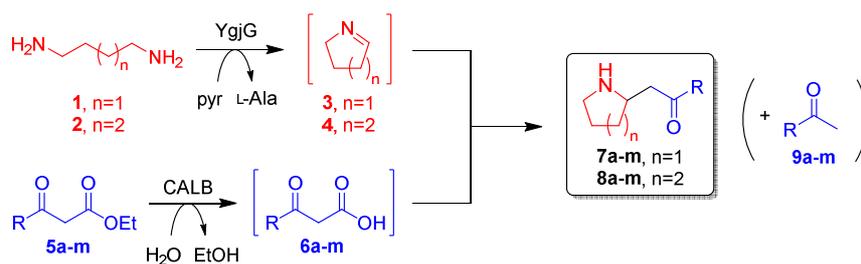
$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 instrument (400 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 100 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , using residual protic solvent as internal standard. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the residual protic solvent signal ( $\text{CHCl}_3$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^1\text{H}=7.26$ ;  $^{13}\text{C}=77.0$ ).

HRMS analyses were performed using an Agilent 1200 series LC system, coupled to an Agilent 6520 QTOF mass spectrometer, ESI positive mode. The sample (2  $\mu\text{L}$ ) was flow-injected into 0.3  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$   $\text{MeCN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  1:1 + formic acid 0.1% *v/v*. The data was analysed using Agilent MassHunter software.

Reverse-phase HPLC analyses were performed on an Agilent 1200 series LC system equipped with a non-chiral Zorbax Extend C18 column (50 mm  $\times$  4.6 mm  $\times$  3.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , Agilent), according to the following method: flow rate 1.0  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ ; temperature: 40°C; detection wavelength 250 nm; mobile phase aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  0.1 M pH 10.0 / MeOH; gradient elution 90:10 (0-1 min), 90:10-10:90 (1-18 min), 10:90 (18-21 min), 10:90-90:10 (21-23 min), 90:10 (23-30 min). Retention times are listed in the following table.

		Retention times [min]				
	R	 5a-i	 6a-i	 7a-i	 8a-i	 9a-i
<b>a</b>		12.4	3.0	11.4	13.2	9.8
<b>b</b>		12.5	4.6	11.8	13.4	10.7
<b>c</b>		11.3	4.7	10.2	11.9	9.4
<b>d</b>		14.0	5.7	13.9	15.2	12.2
<b>e</b>		15.1	8.4	14.9	16.1	12.8
<b>f</b>		15.1	7.5	14.9	16.0	12.9
<b>g</b>		15.6	9.0	15.4	16.5	13.4
<b>h</b>		15.5	9.3	15.4	16.5	13.5
<b>i</b>		12.5	4.4	11.9	13.6	9.9

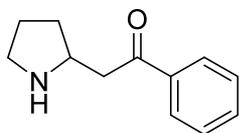
## General procedure for the synthesis of alkaloids 7-8 on preparative scale



The diamine dihydrochloride salt (30 mM), sodium pyruvate (40 mM) and PLP (1 mM) were dissolved in 30 mL Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM, pH 9.0). The suitable ketoester (25 mM) was dissolved in 5 mL MeOH (10% *v/v*) and added to the mixture and adjusted to pH 9.0. Lipase Novozyme 435 (5 mg/mL) and clarified cell lysate containing transaminase YgjG (15 mL, from 1.5 g of wet cell pellet) were added and the reaction was incubated at 37°C, 250 rpm for 18 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and the aminoketone products were isolated *via* acid-base work up. The solution was acidified to pH 2.0 with aqueous HCl (1 M), washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 10 mL), then re-adjusted to pH 10.0 with aqueous NaOH (1 M) and the basified mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 20 mL). The combined CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> phase was dried on MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford alkaloids as oils or solids.

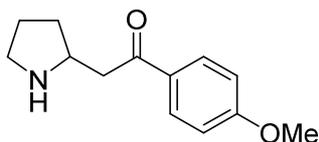
## Characterisation of compounds 7a-c, 8a-c, 7j-m, 8k-m and 11

### 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7a)



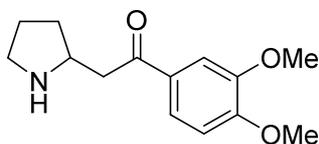
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7a** was obtained as a yellow oil, 149 mg, 64% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91 – 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.59 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.20 – 3.06 (m, 2H), 3.01 – 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.92 – 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.05 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.28 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.6, 136.1, 133.1, 128.6, 128.1, 54.5, 46.2, 45.2, 31.3, 24.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$  190.1232  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 190.1213.

### 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7b)



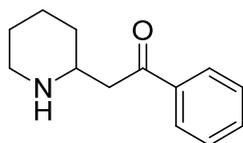
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7b** was obtained as a yellow solid, 220 mg, 81% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.63 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.18 – 3.08 (m, 2H), 3.09 – 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.93 (ddd,  $J = 10.0, 8.2, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.05 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.90 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.48 – 1.37 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.2, 163.5, 130.4, 130.2, 113.7, 55.5, 54.7, 46.2, 44.7, 31.3, 24.6. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2^+$  220.1338  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 220.1323.

### 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7c, ruspolinone)



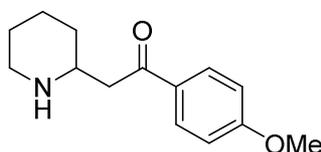
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7c** was obtained as a yellow solid, 221 mg, 71% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.65 – 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.16 (dd,  $J = 7.1, 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.12 – 3.03 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.40 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.8, 153.6, 149.0, 129.2, 123.2, 110.0, 110.0, 56.1, 56.0, 55.9, 44.9, 40.6, 30.7, 23.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3^+$  250.1443  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 250.1429.

### 1-phenyl-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8a, norsedaminone)



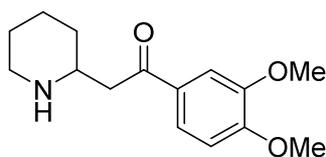
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **16** was obtained as a yellow solid, 154 mg, 60% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.02 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 3.21 – 3.10 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 3.03 (m, 3H), 2.74 (td,  $J = 11.7, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.92 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.55 – 1.25 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  200.0, 137.5, 133.6, 129.1, 128.5, 53.3, 47.4, 46.1, 33.2, 26.5, 25.2. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$  204.1388  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 204.1385

### 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8b)



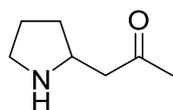
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **8b** was obtained as a yellow solid, 213 mg, 73% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.17 – 3.02 (m, 1H), 3.02 – 2.96 (m, 3H), 2.78 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.69 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.26 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.1, 163.5, 130.3, 130.2, 113.7, 55.5, 53.4, 46.9, 45.3, 32.8, 26.0, 24.8. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2^+$  234.1505  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 234.1505.

### 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8c)



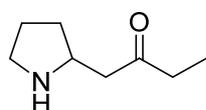
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **8c** was obtained as a yellow solid, 226 mg, 69% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.12 – 2.85 (m, 4H), 2.64 (td,  $J = 11.7, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.47 – 1.11 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.1, 153.4, 149.0, 130.3, 123.3, 122.9, 109.9, 56.1, 56.0, 46.9, 45.1, 32.7, 26.2, 26.0, 24.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3^+$  264.1600  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 264.1611.

### 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-2-one (7j, norhygrine)



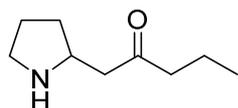
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7j** was obtained as a yellow oil, 65 mg, 50% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.46 – 3.35 (m, 1H), 2.99 (dd,  $J = 7.7$ , 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd,  $J = 8.2$ , 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.69 – 2.56 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.96 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.21 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  208.5, 54.1, 50.0, 46.2, 31.1, 30.5, 24.6. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}^+$  128.1075  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 128.1079.

### 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (7k)



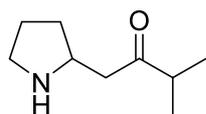
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7k** was obtained as pale a yellow oil, 89 mg, 50% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.36 (dq,  $J = 8.5$ , 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (ddd,  $J = 10.2$ , 7.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (ddd,  $J = 10.3$ , 8.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.38 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.92 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.14 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.8, 54.3, 48.2, 46.0, 36.4, 31.1, 24.6, 7.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$  142.1232  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 142.1223.

### 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)pentan-2-one (7l)



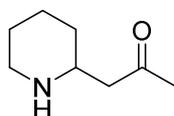
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7l** was obtained as a yellow oil, 153 mg, 78% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.37 – 3.27 (m, 1H), 2.96 – 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.86 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.54 (dd,  $J = 6.5$ , 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.91 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.53 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.26 – 1.17 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.6, 54.2, 48.9, 46.1, 45.2, 31.1, 24.6, 17.1, 13.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$  156.1388  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 156.1380.

### 3-methyl-1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (7m)



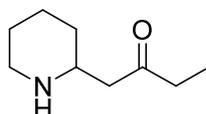
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **7m** was obtained as a yellow oil, 89 mg, 54% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.37 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 2.98 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.85 – 2.77 (m, 1H), 2.65 – 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.52 (sept.,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.90 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.29 – 1.16 (m, 1H), 1.03 (dd,  $J = 6.9, 1.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  213.0, 54.7, 45.2, 44.2, 40.9, 30.8, 24.1, 18.2, 18.0. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$  156.1388  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 156.1376.

### 1-(piperidin-2-yl)propan-2-one (8j, pelletierine)



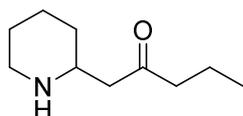
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, the formation of compound **8j** was confirmed by HPLC and HRMS, but it has not been possible to isolate it in sufficient purity for characterisation. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$  142.1232  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 142.1223.

### 1-(piperidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (8k)



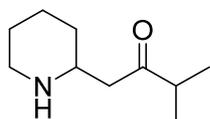
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **8k** was obtained as a pale yellow oil, 107 mg, 55% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.08 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.72 – 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.51 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.42 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.85 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.23 – 1.09 (m, 1H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.4, 51.9, 48.3, 46.0, 36.1, 31.6, 25.1, 23.9, 7.1. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$  156.1388  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 156.1380.

### 1-(piperidin-2-yl)pentan-2-one (**8l**)



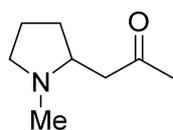
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **8l** was obtained as a yellow oil, 124 mg, 59% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.99 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.44 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 2.30 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.74 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.52 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H) 1.40 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.15 – 1.05 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.6, 52.4, 49.3, 46.6, 45.4, 32.1, 25.6, 24.5, 17.2, 13.7. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}^+$  170.1545  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 170.1543.

### 3-methyl-1-(piperidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (**8m**)



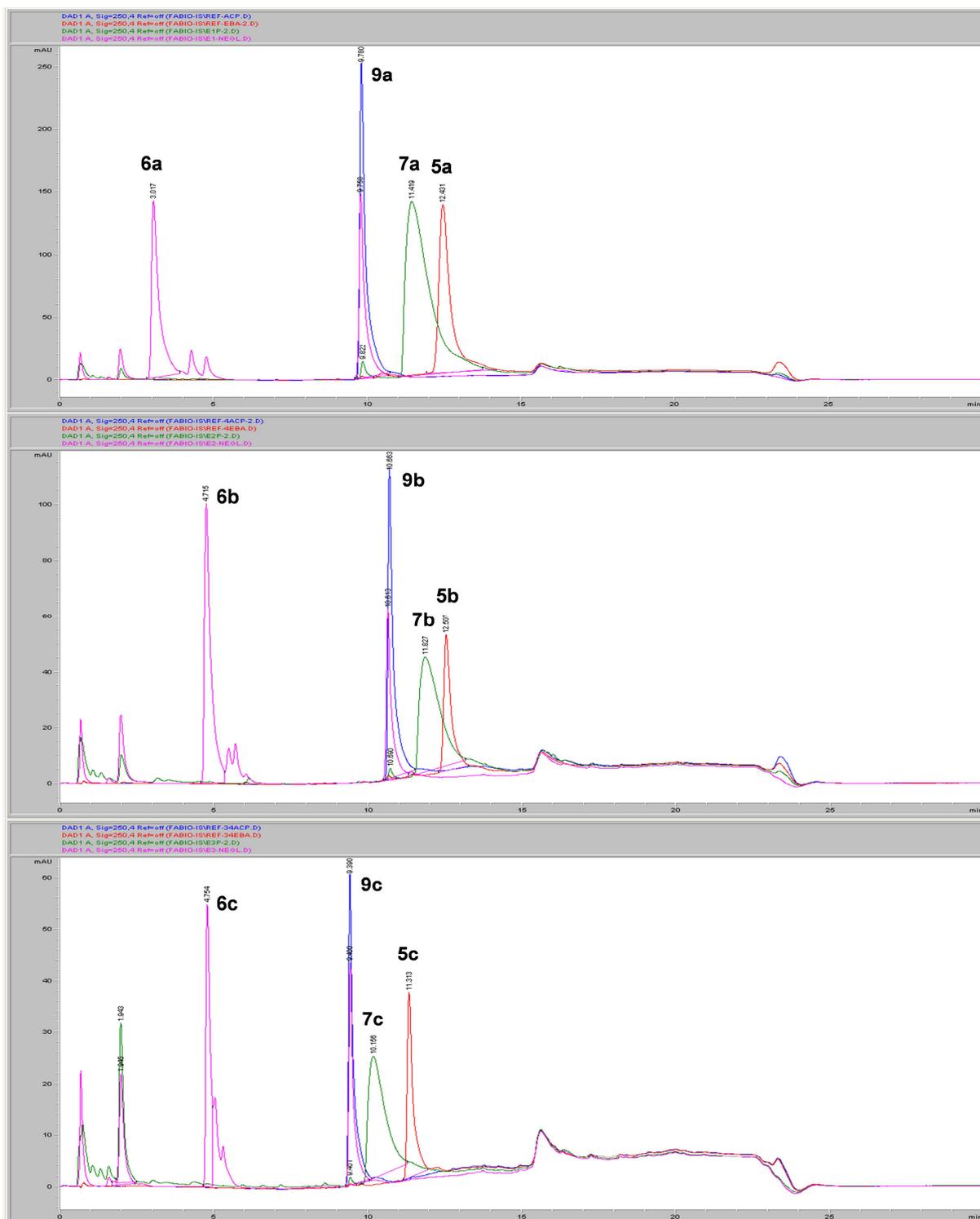
Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **8m** was obtained as a yellow oil, 142 mg, 67% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.01 – 2.87 (m, 2H), 2.69 – 2.58 (m, 1H), 2.53 (sept.,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.26 (m, 3H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  214.3, 52.4, 47.0, 46.6, 41.2, 32.2, 25.7, 24.5, 18.1, 18.1. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}^+$  170.1545  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 170.1539.

### 1-(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-2-one (**11**, hygrine)



Following the general procedure for the  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade, compound **11** was obtained as a pale yellow oil, 102 mg, 75% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.98 (ddd,  $J = 9.7, 7.5, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd,  $J = 16.1, 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.47 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 7.8, 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd,  $J = 16.1, 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.41 – 1.28 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  206.6, 62.8, 56.2, 46.1, 40.2, 30.9, 30.4, 21.8. **HRMS** calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}^+$  142.1232  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 142.1227.

## Representative HPLC traces



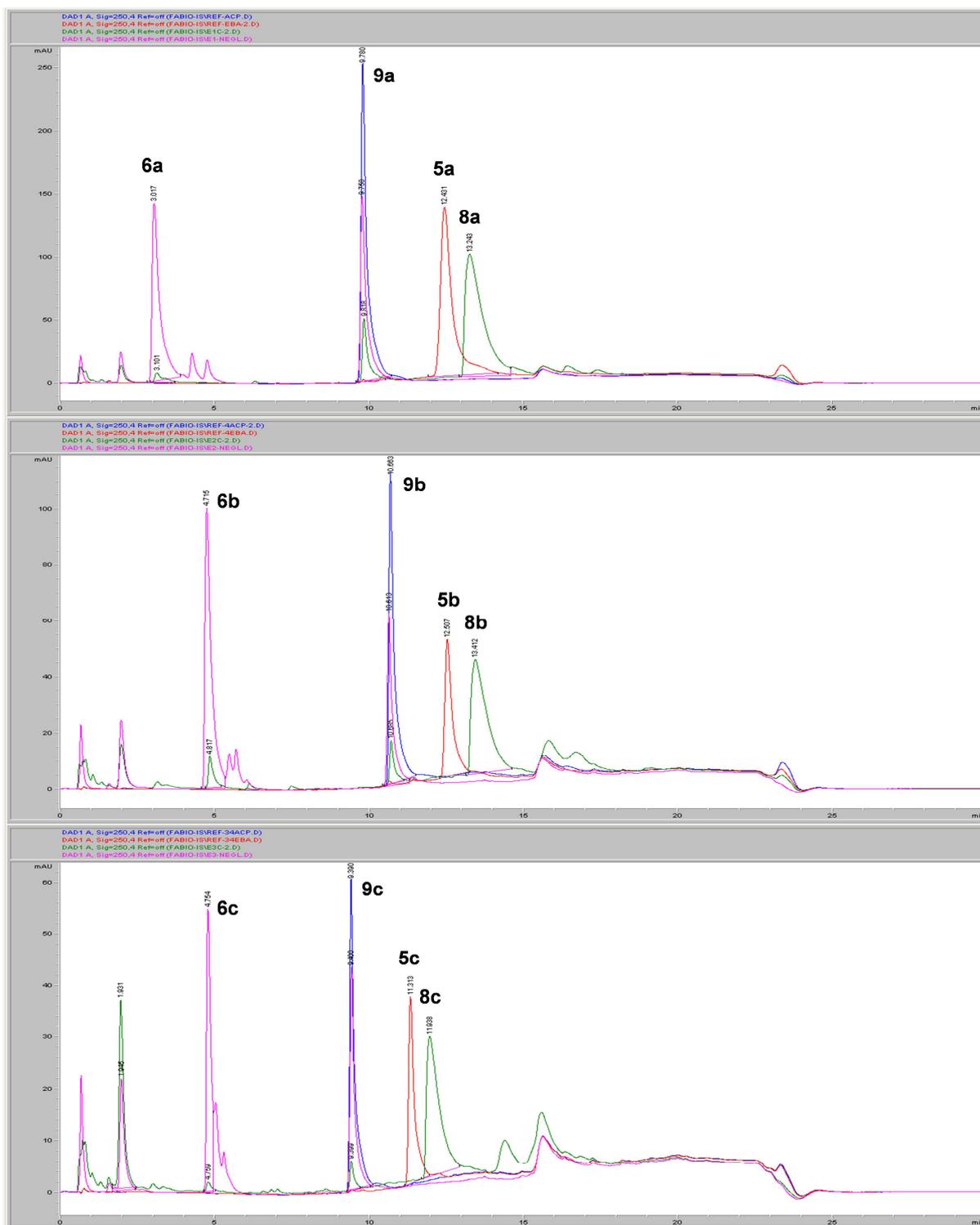
Representative traces for the one-pot  $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA/lipase cascade synthesis of **7a-c** from **1** and **5a-c**.

**Blue trace:** reference ketone **9a-c**.

**Red trace:** reference ketoester **5a-c**.

**Green trace:** representative biotransformation mixtures containing **7a-c**.

**Pink trace:** negative control without transaminase (showing hydrolysis and decarboxylation only).



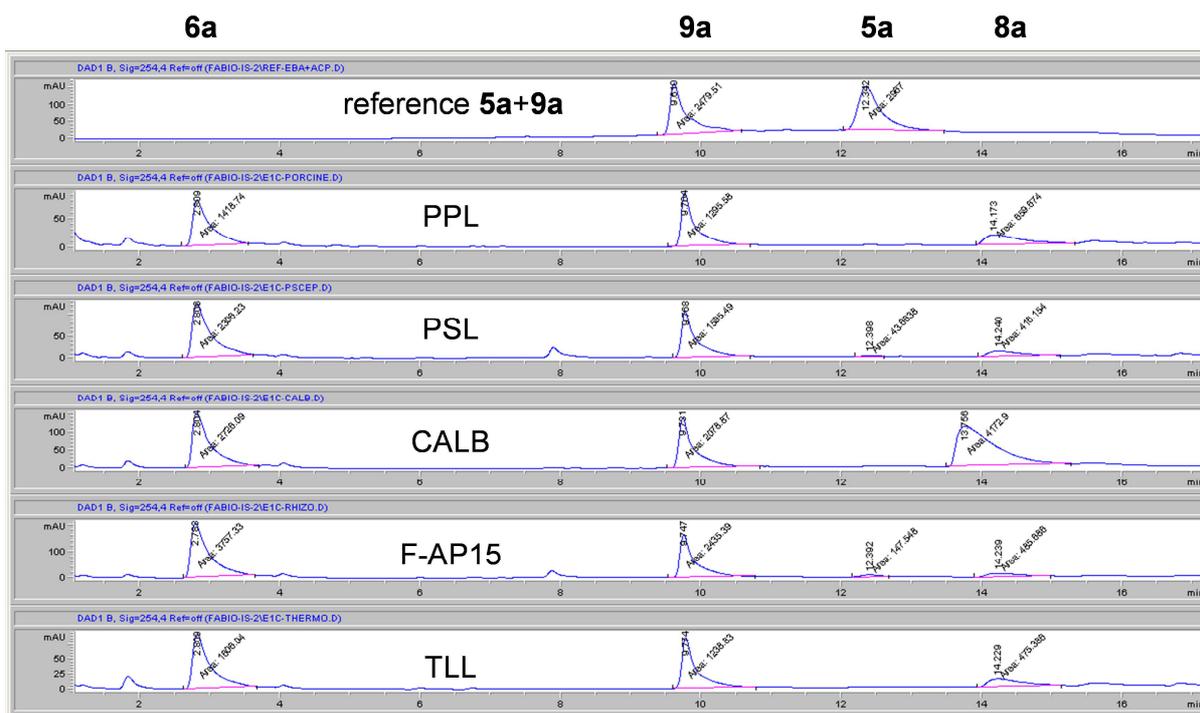
Representative traces for the one-pot lipase/ $\alpha,\omega$ -DTA cascade synthesis of **8a-c** from **2** and **5a-c**.

**Blue trace:** reference ketone **9a-c**.

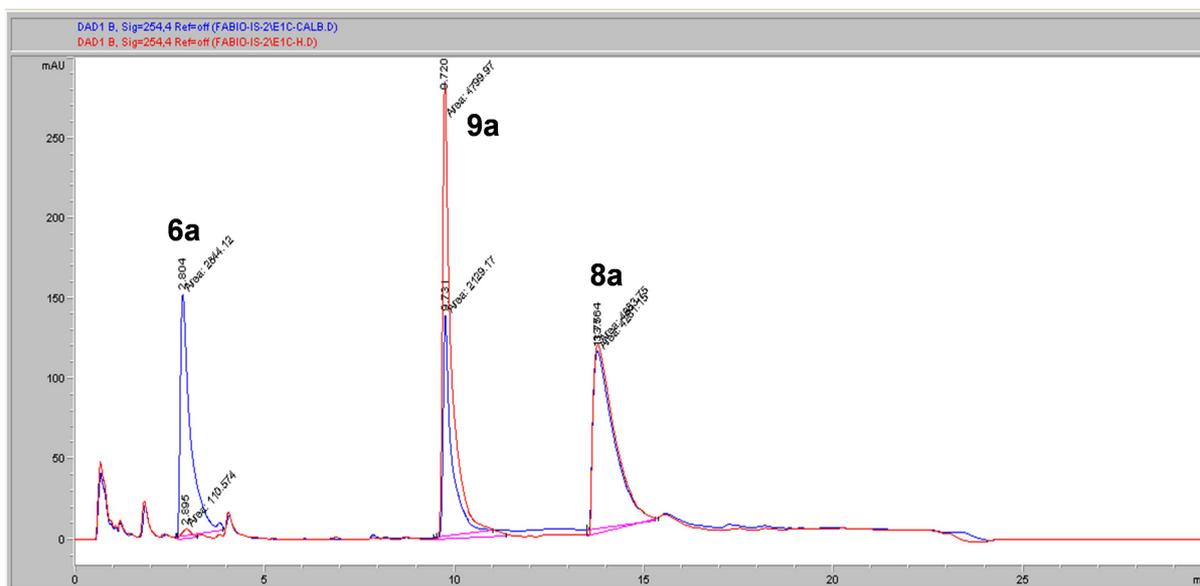
**Red trace:** reference ketoester **5a-c**.

**Green trace:** representative biotransformation mixtures containing **8a-c**.

**Pink trace:** negative control without transaminase (showing hydrolysis and decarboxylation only).



Screening of different lipases for the one-pot synthesis of **8a** from **2+5a**



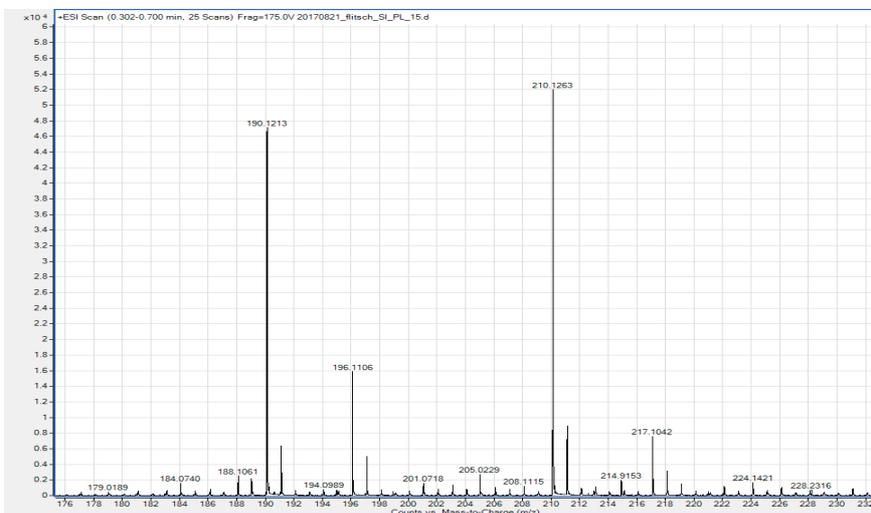
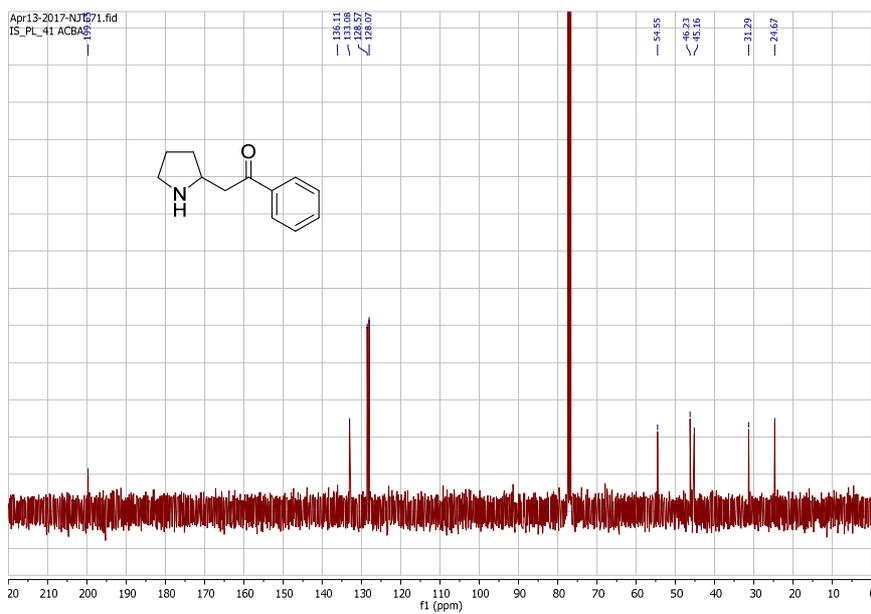
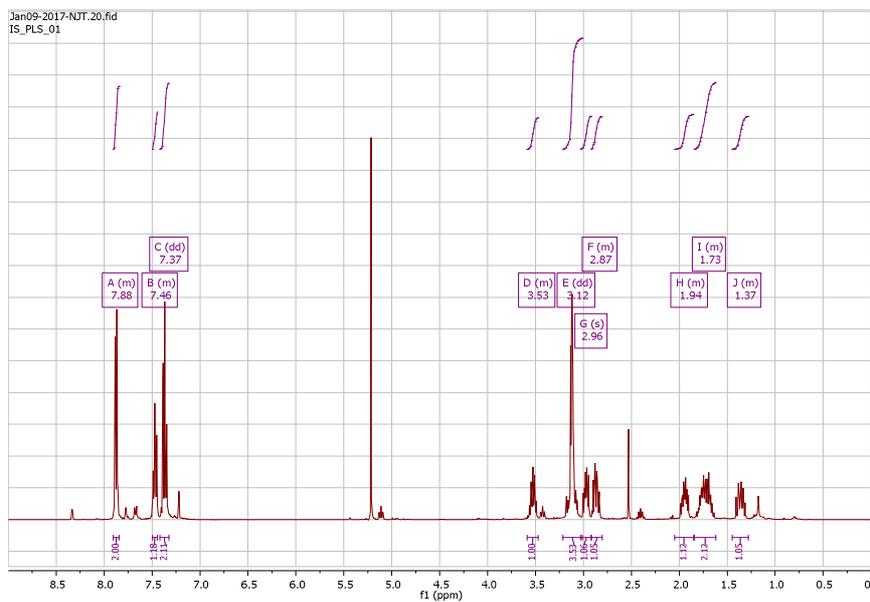
Representative trace showing the conversion of ketoacid **6a** to ketone **9a** upon heating, without appreciable decomposition of alkaloid **8a**.

**Red trace:** biotransformation mixture (from **2+5a**).

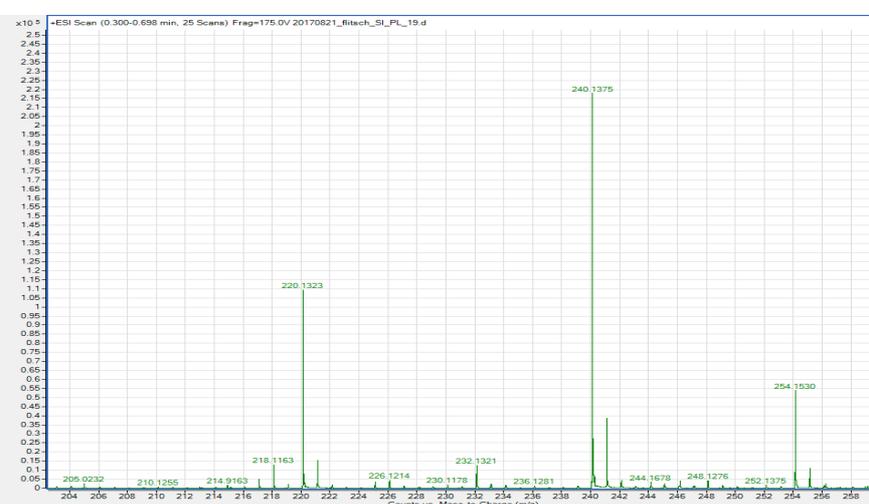
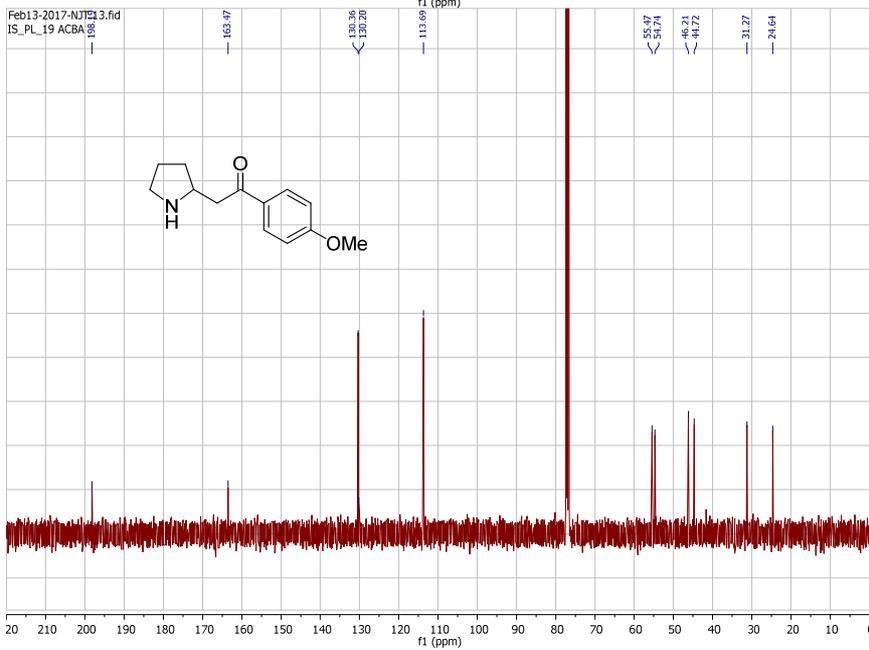
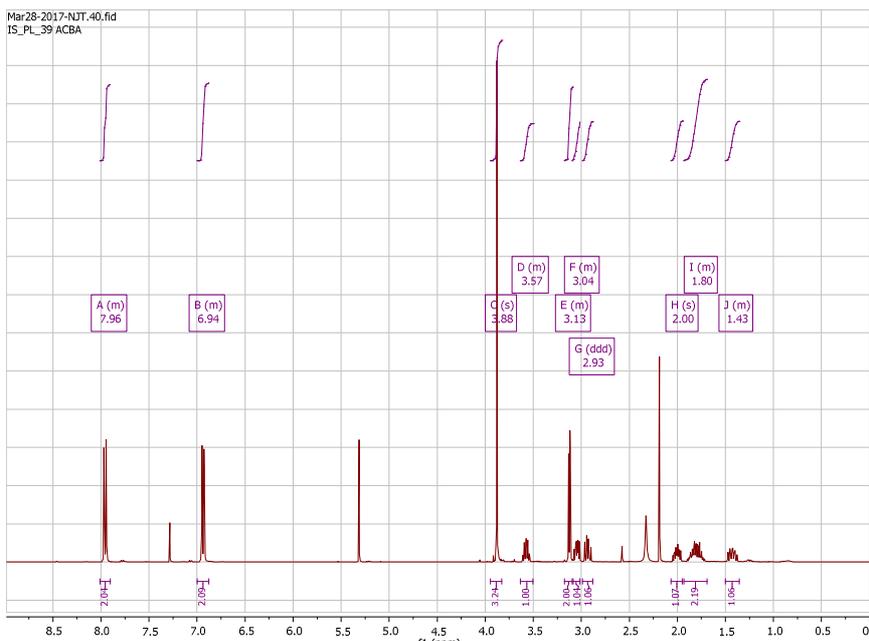
**Blue trace:** same mixture after heating for 1 h at 80°C, showing complete decarboxylation of **6a**.

## Copies of the NMR and HRMS spectra

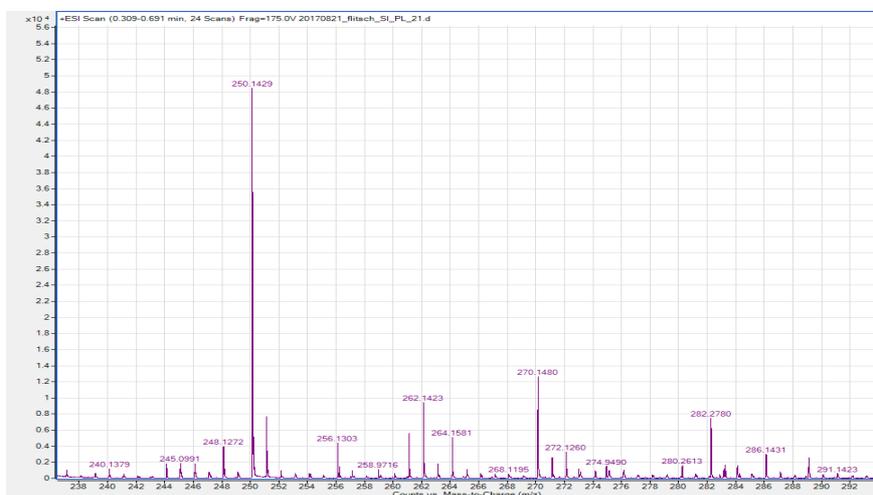
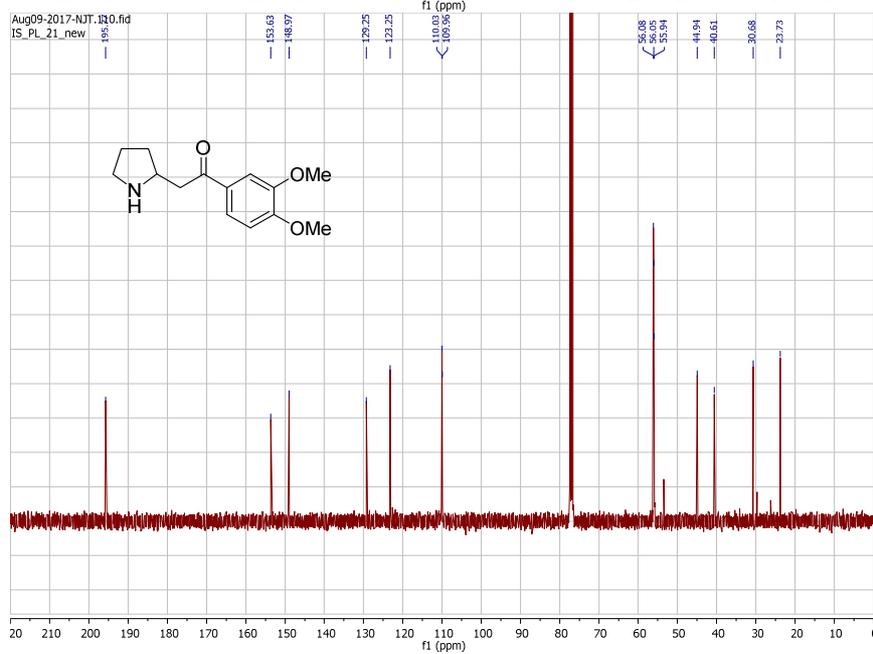
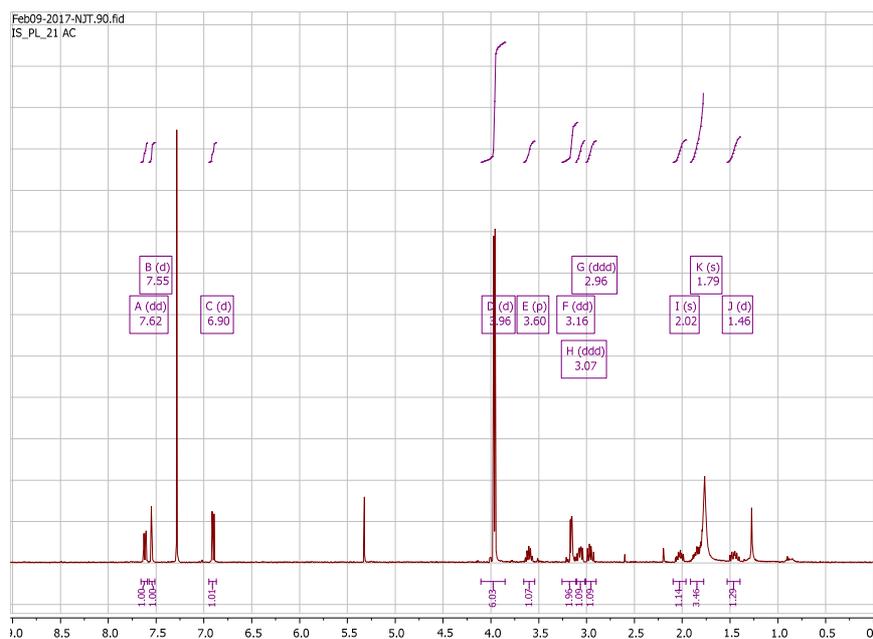
### 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7a)



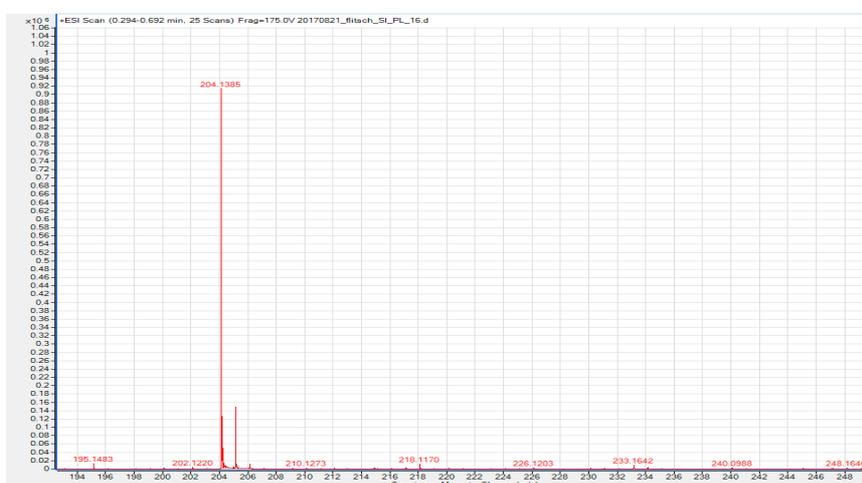
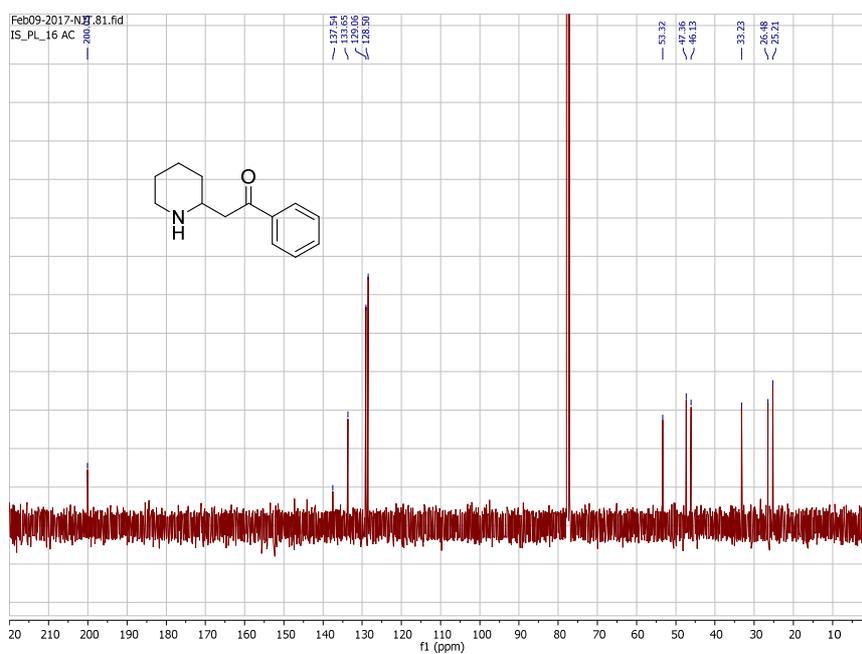
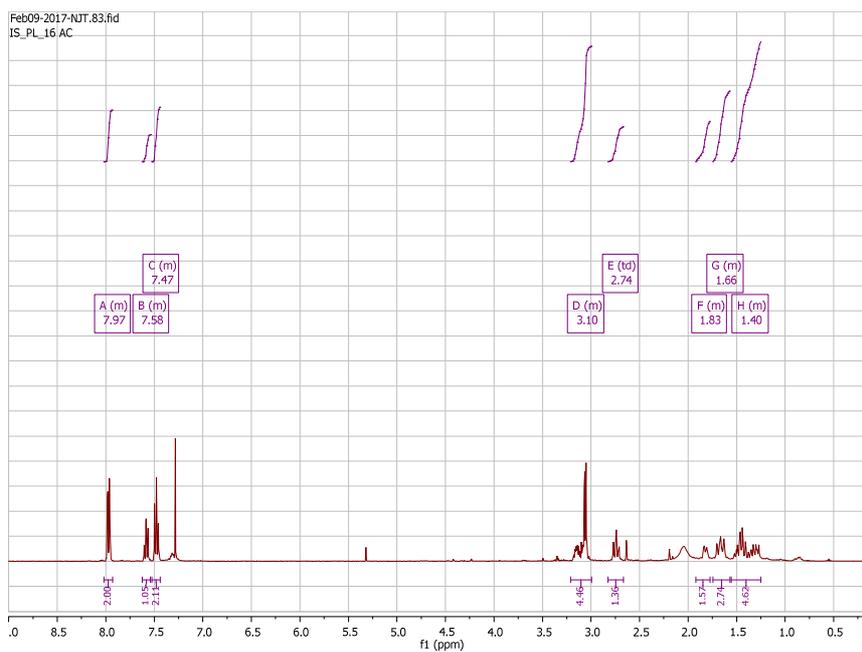
# 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7b)



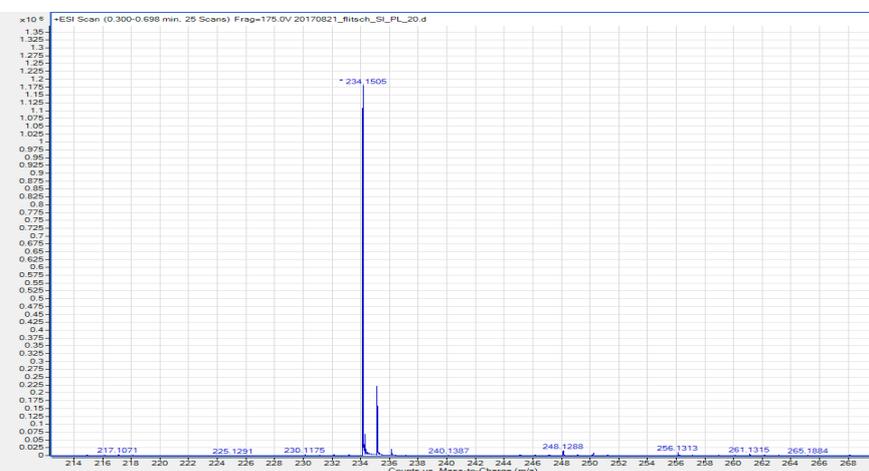
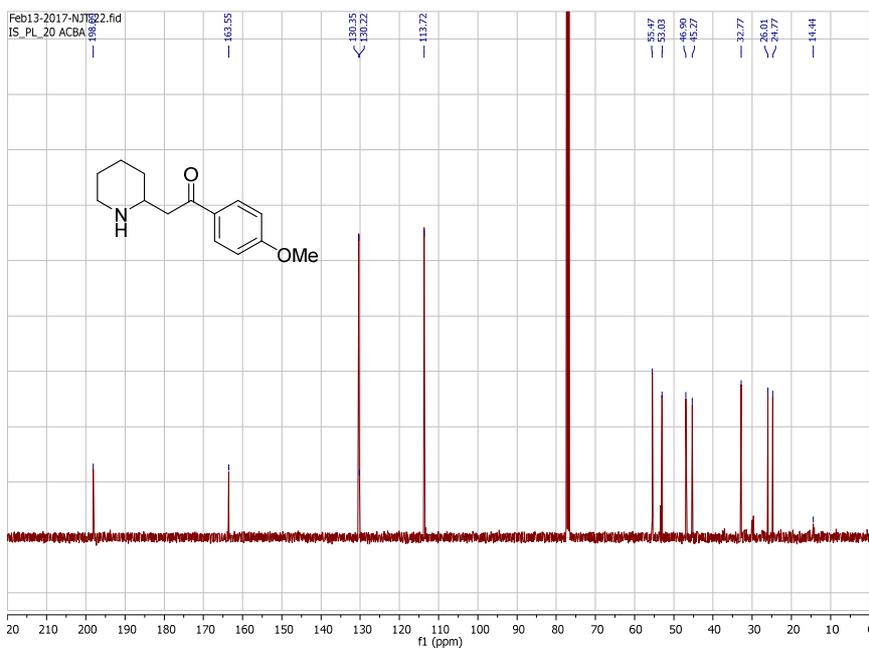
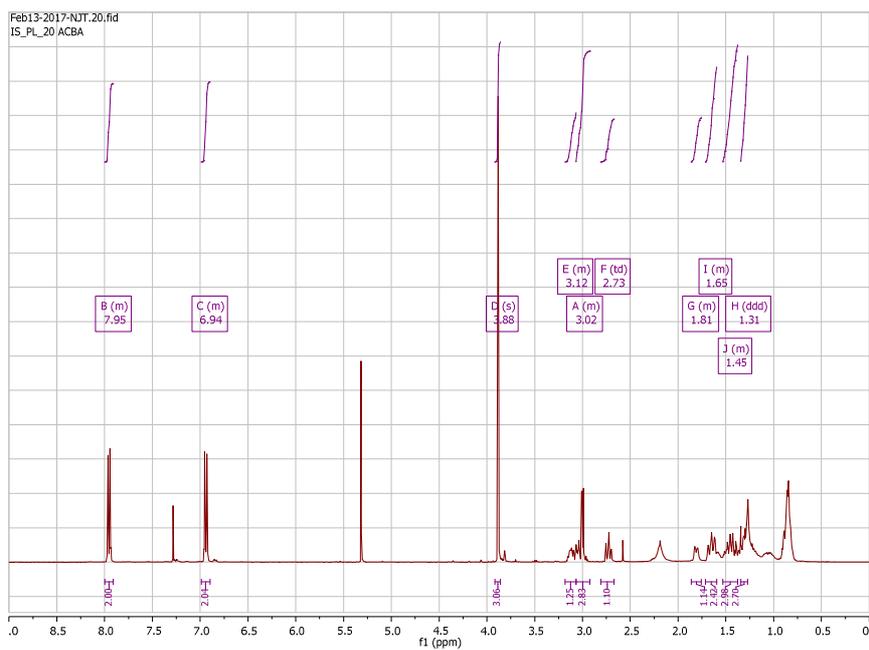
# 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (7c, ruspolinone)



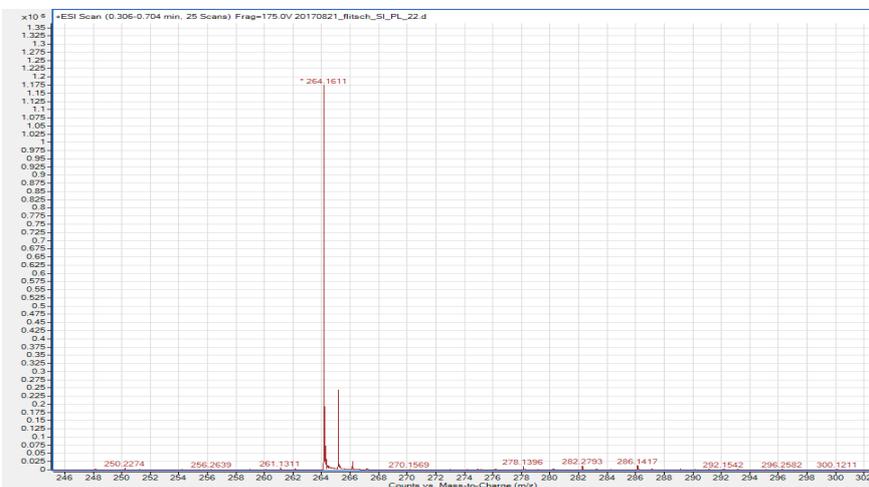
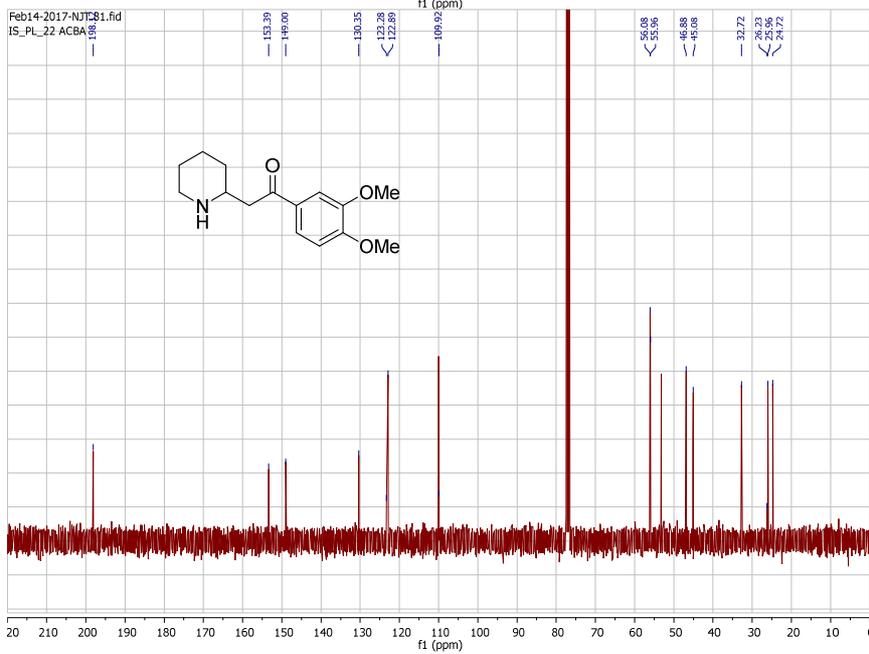
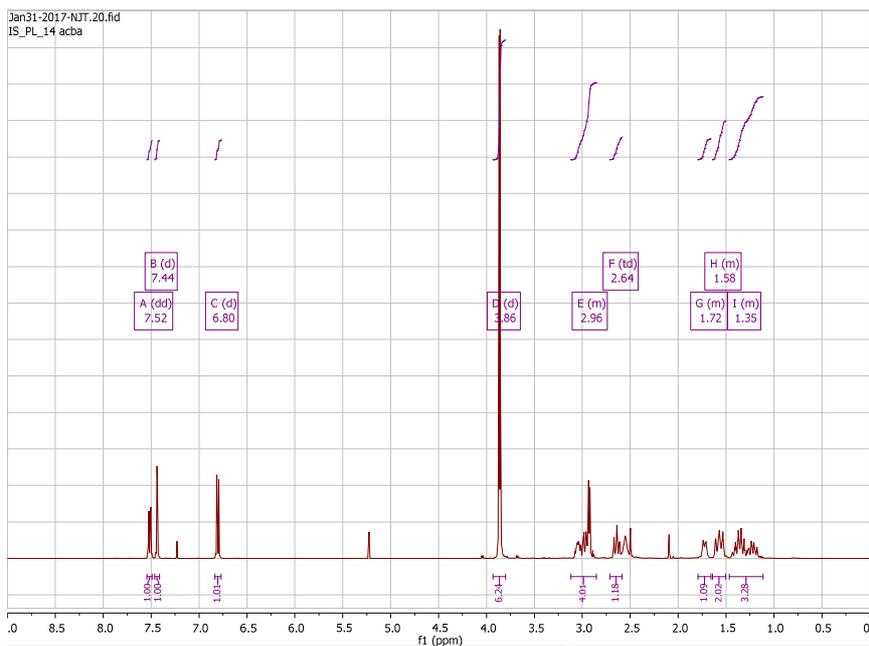
# 1-phenyl-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8a, norsedaminone)



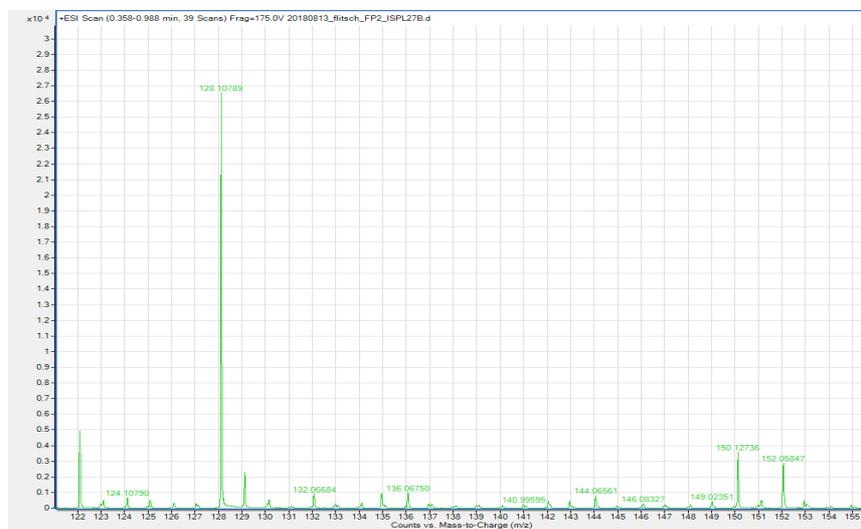
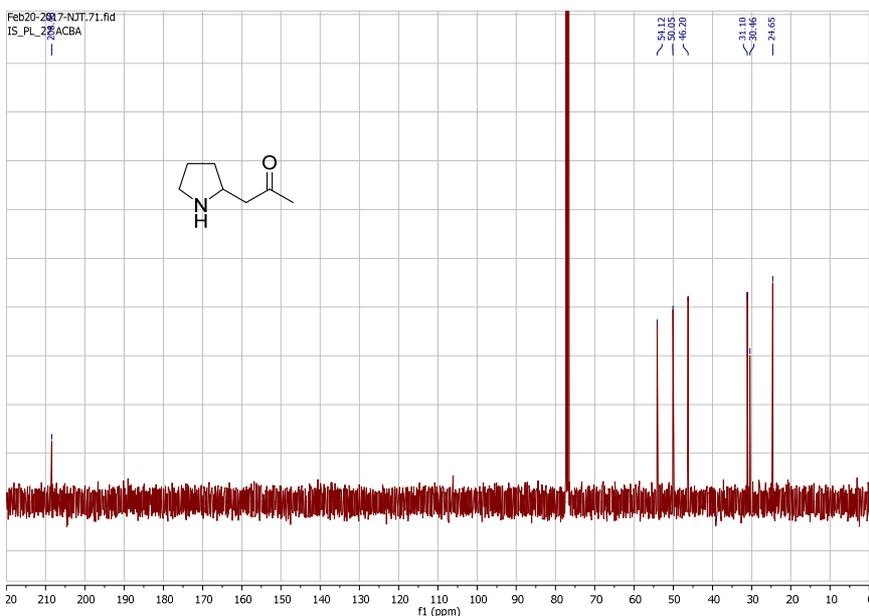
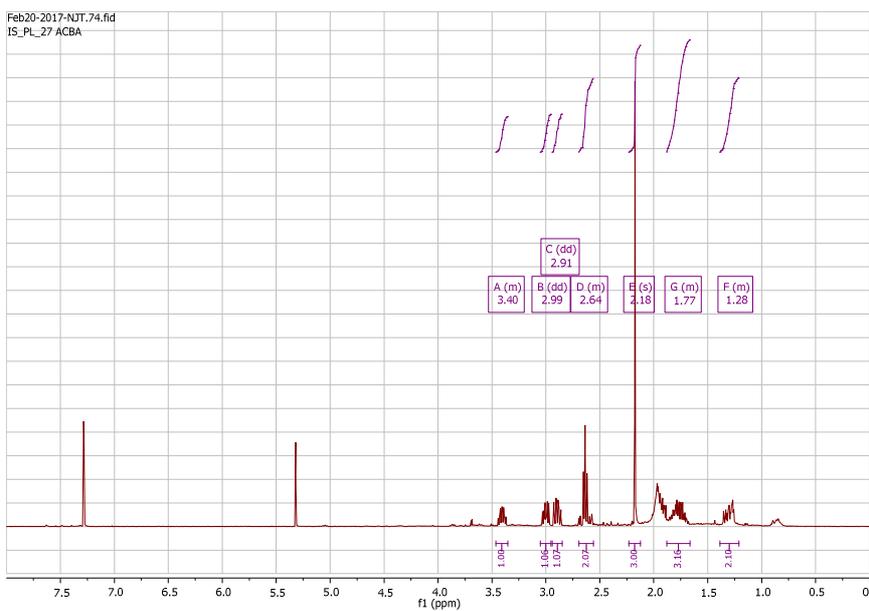
# 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8b)



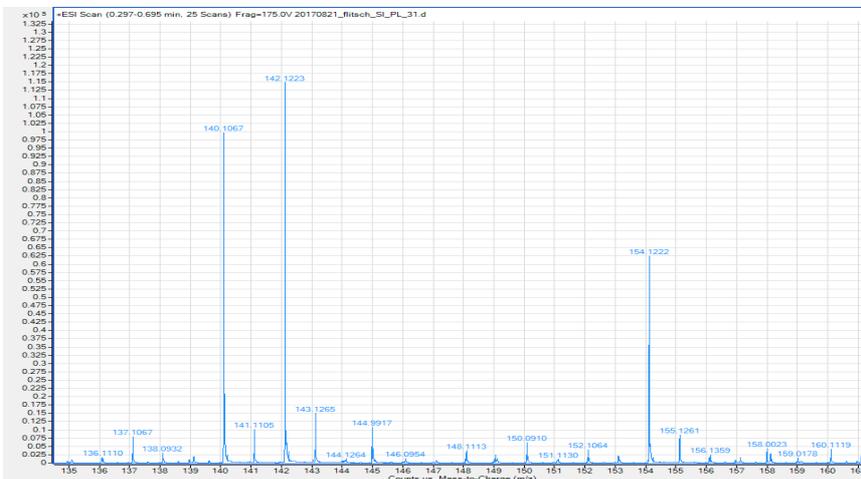
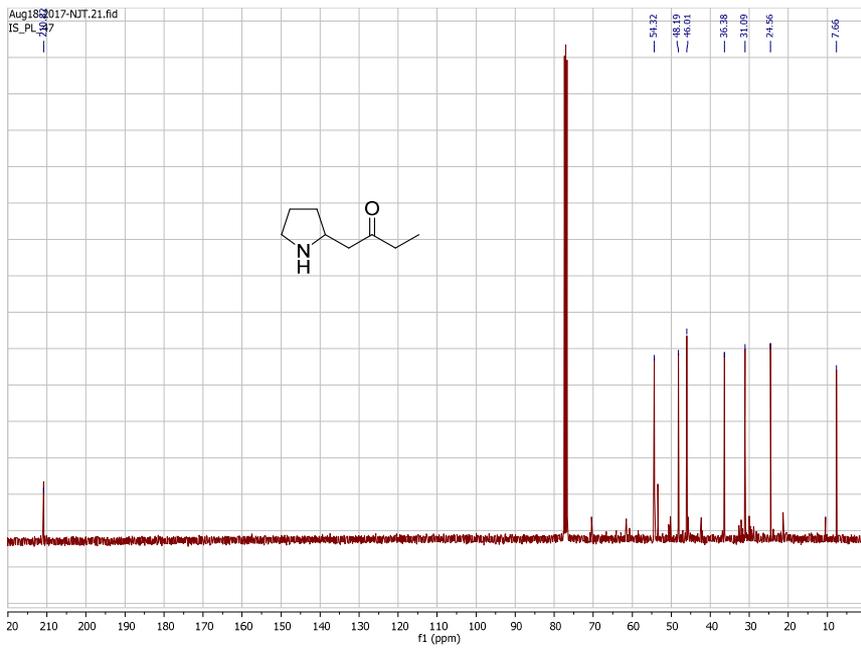
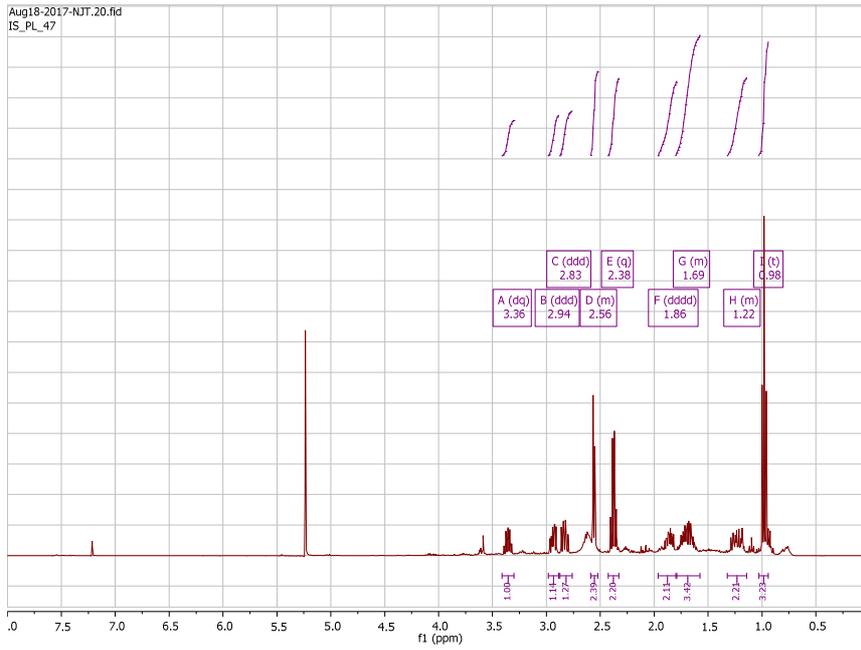
# 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethan-1-one (8c)



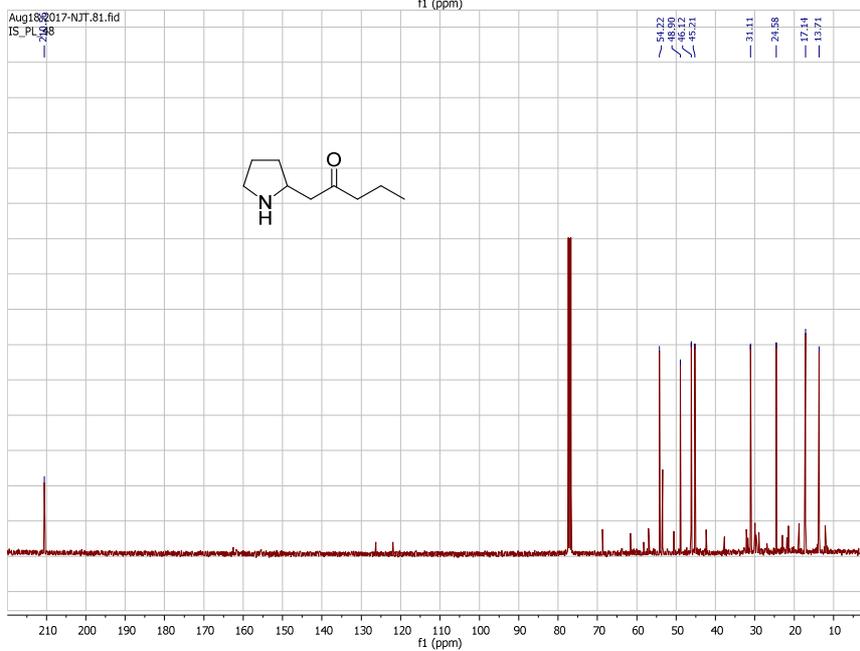
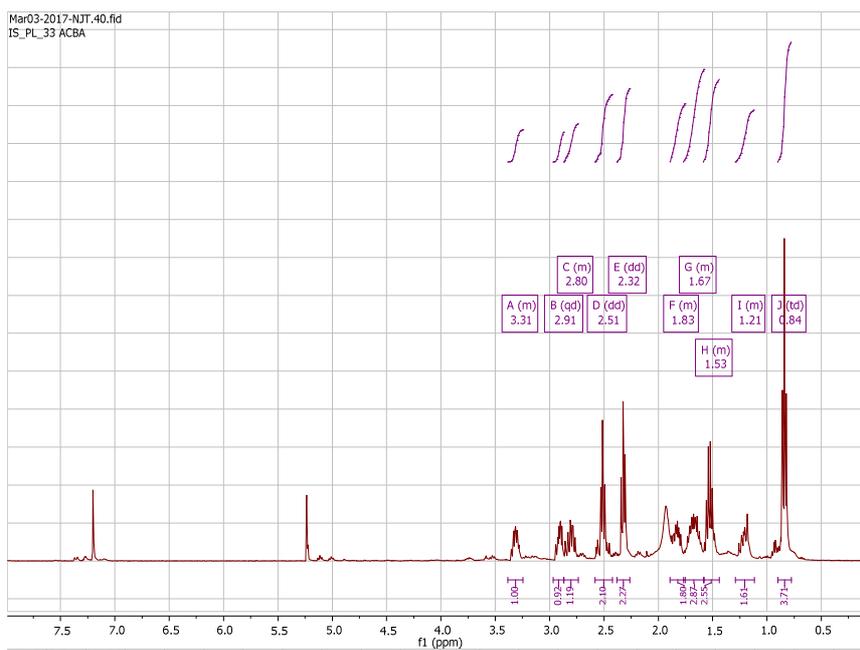
# 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-2-one (7j, norhygrine)



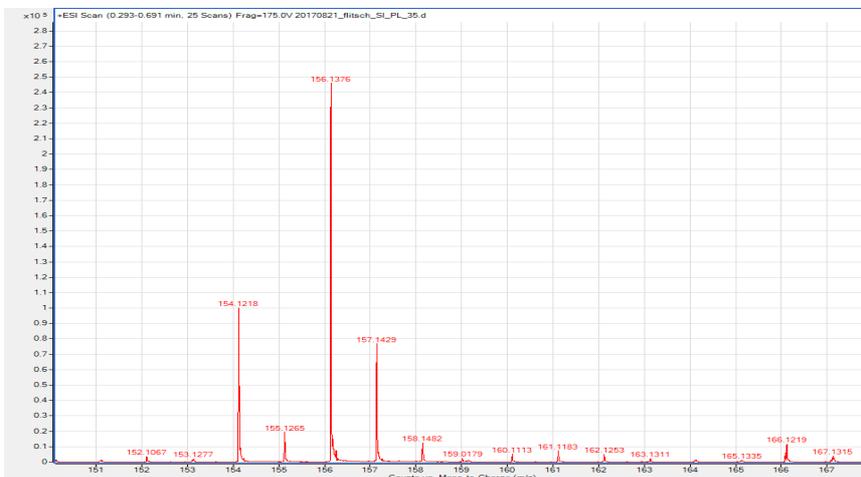
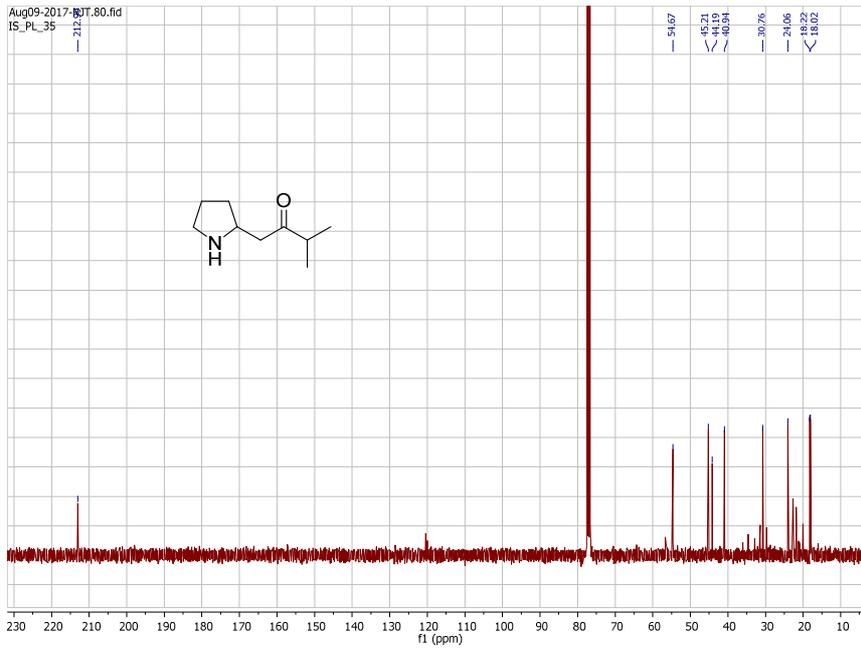
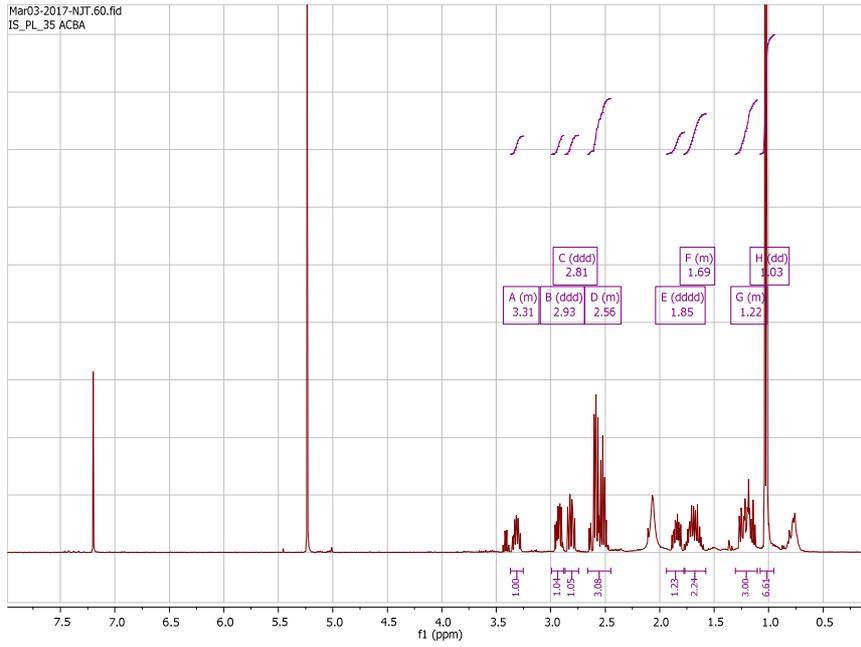
# 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (7k)



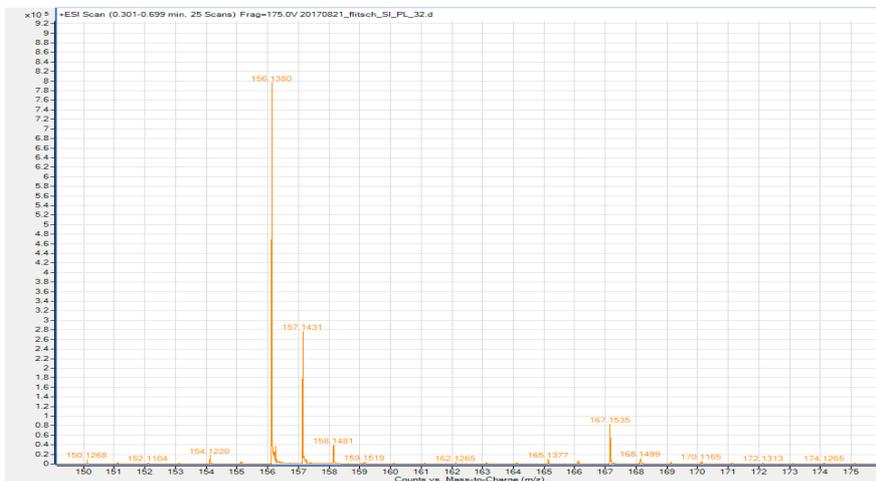
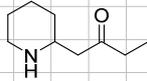
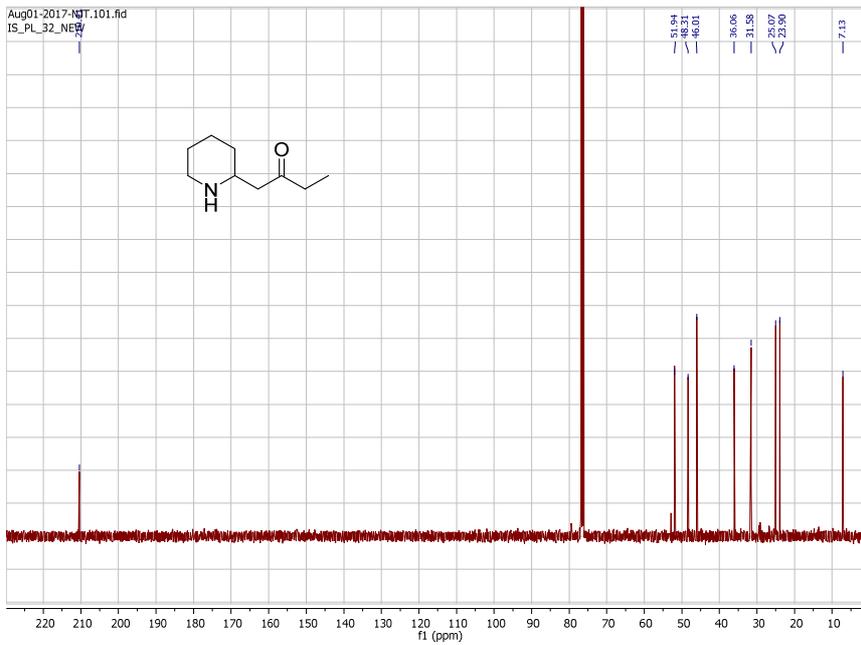
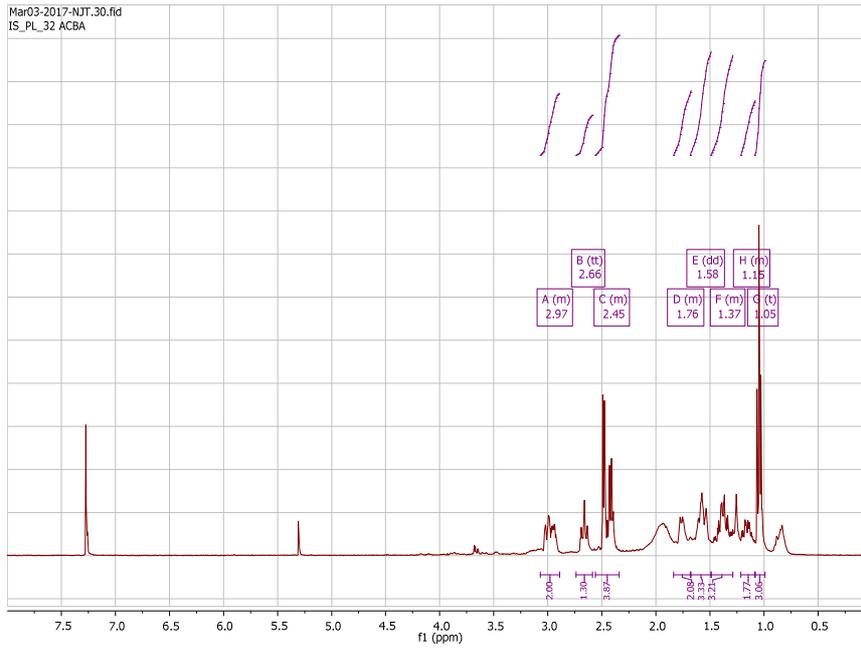
# 1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)pentan-2-one (7I)



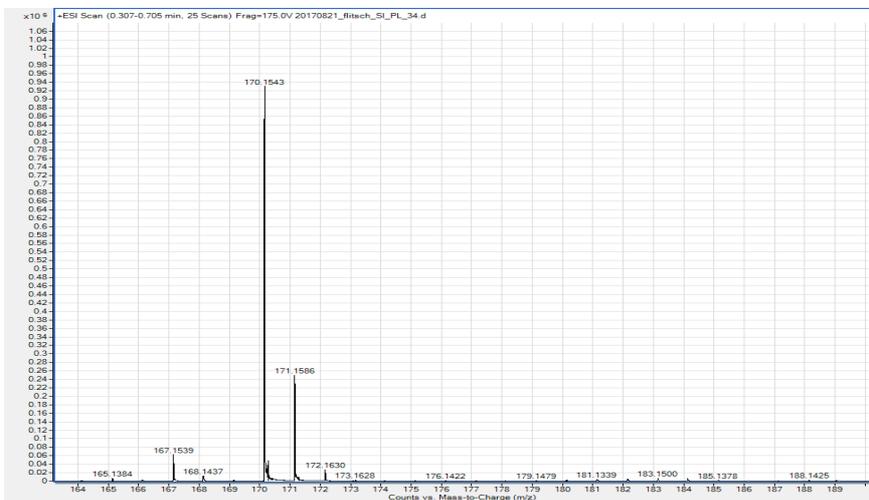
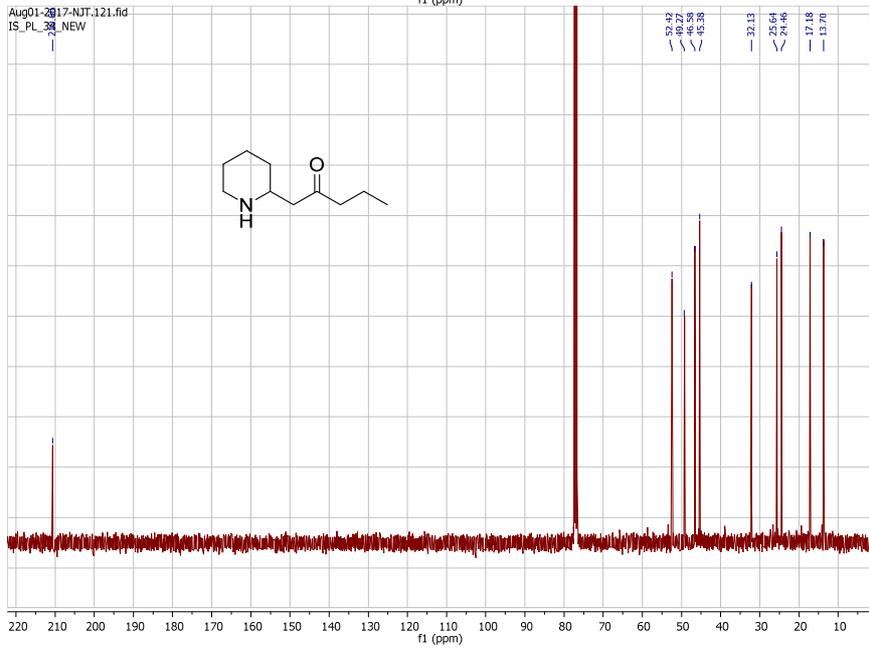
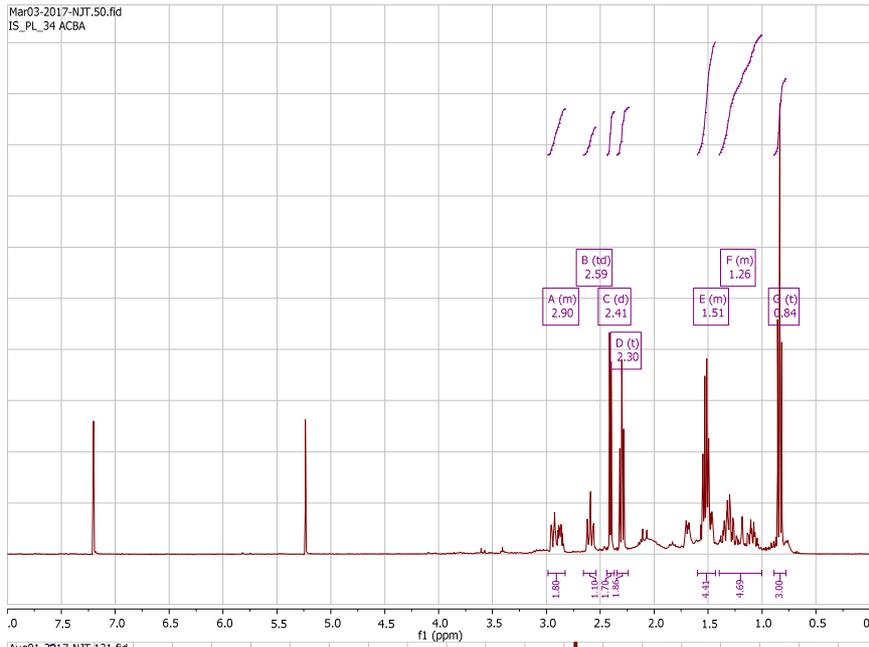
### 3-methyl-1-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (7m)



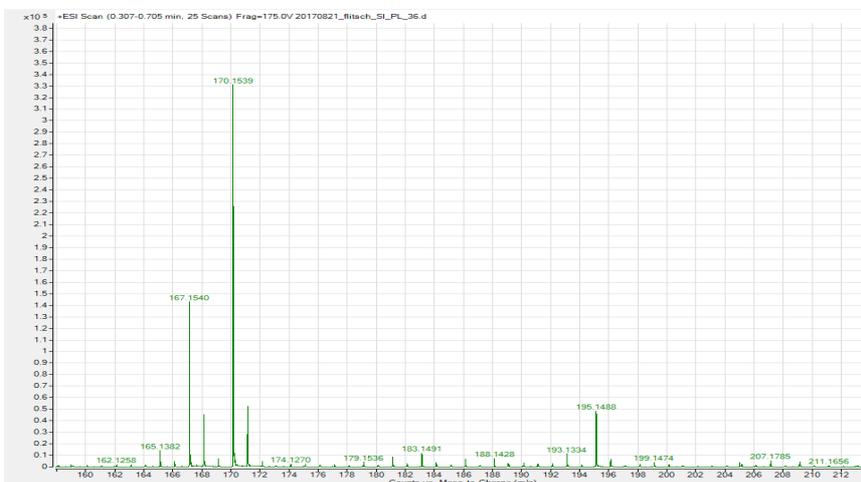
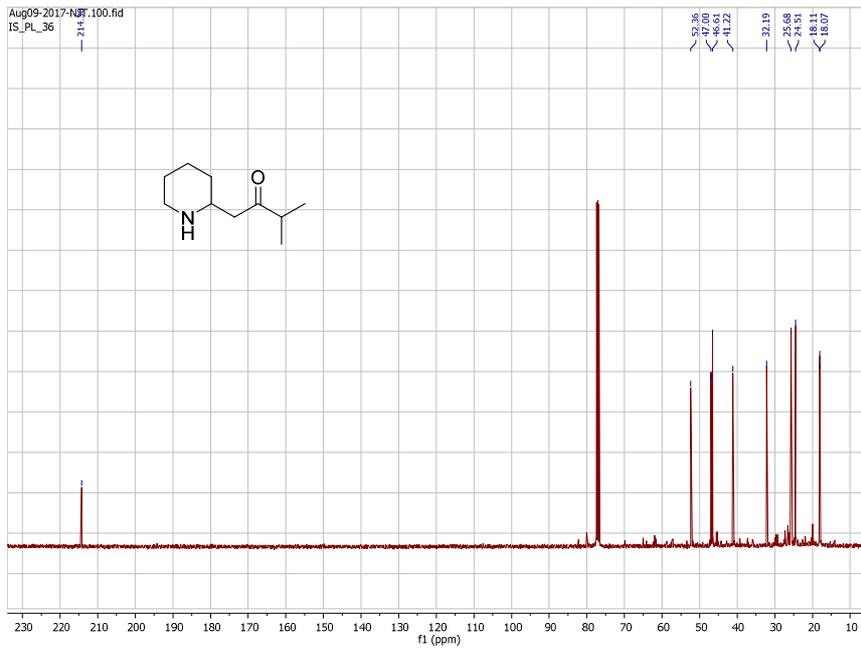
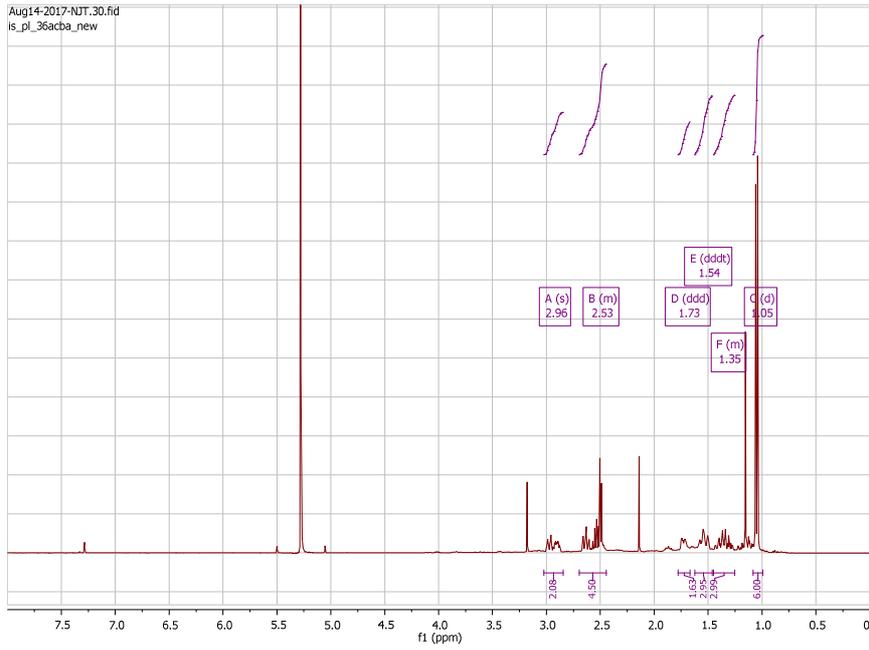
# 1-(piperidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (8k)



# 1-(piperidin-2-yl)pentan-2-one (8l)



### 3-methyl-1-(piperidin-2-yl)butan-2-one (8m)



# 1-(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-2-one (11, hygrine)

