

Supplementary Information

Novel Non-peptidic Small Molecule Inhibitors of Secreted Aspartic Protease 2 (SAP2) for the Treatment of Resistant Fungal Infections

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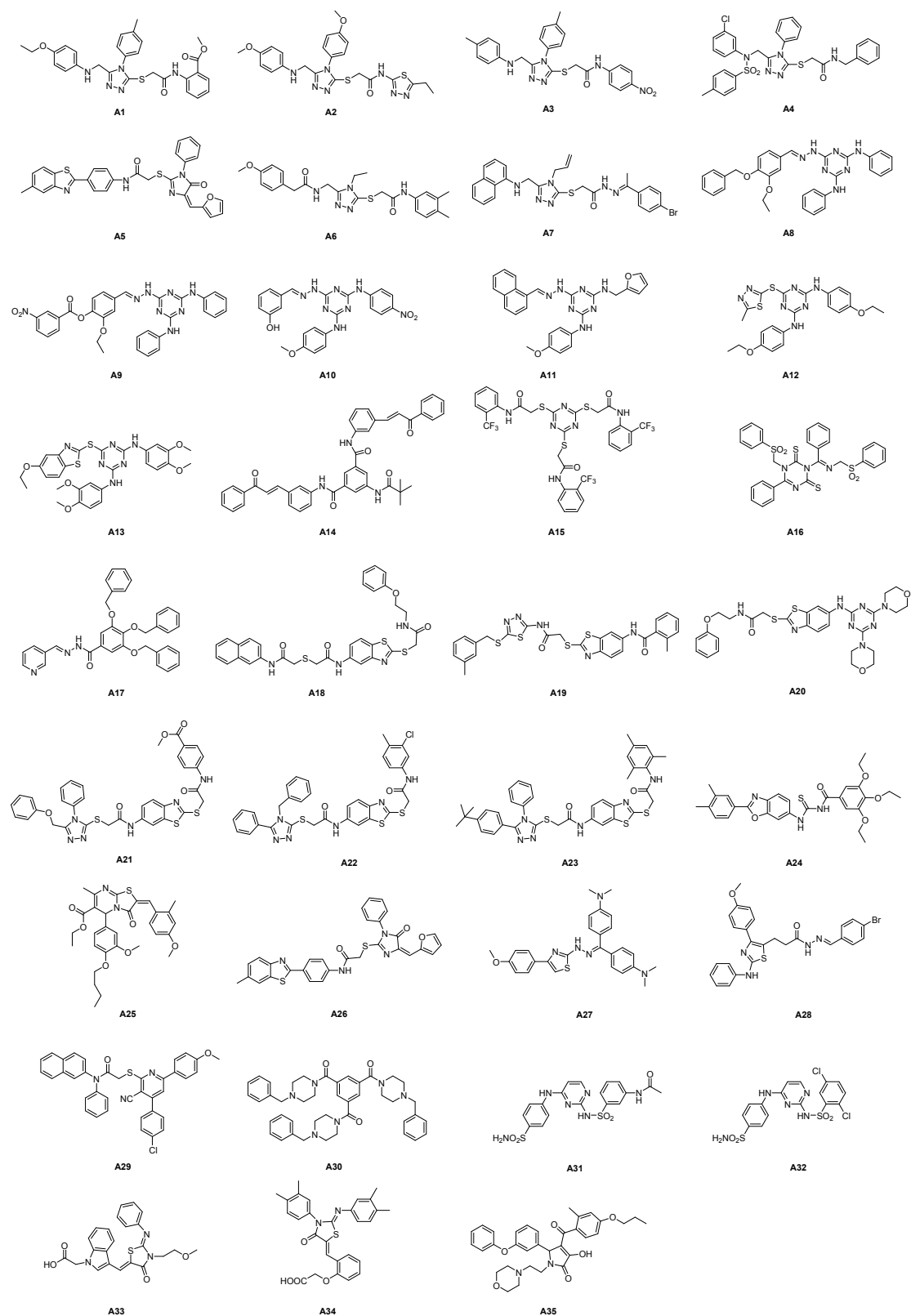


Figure S1. Chemical structures of compounds selected from virtual screening

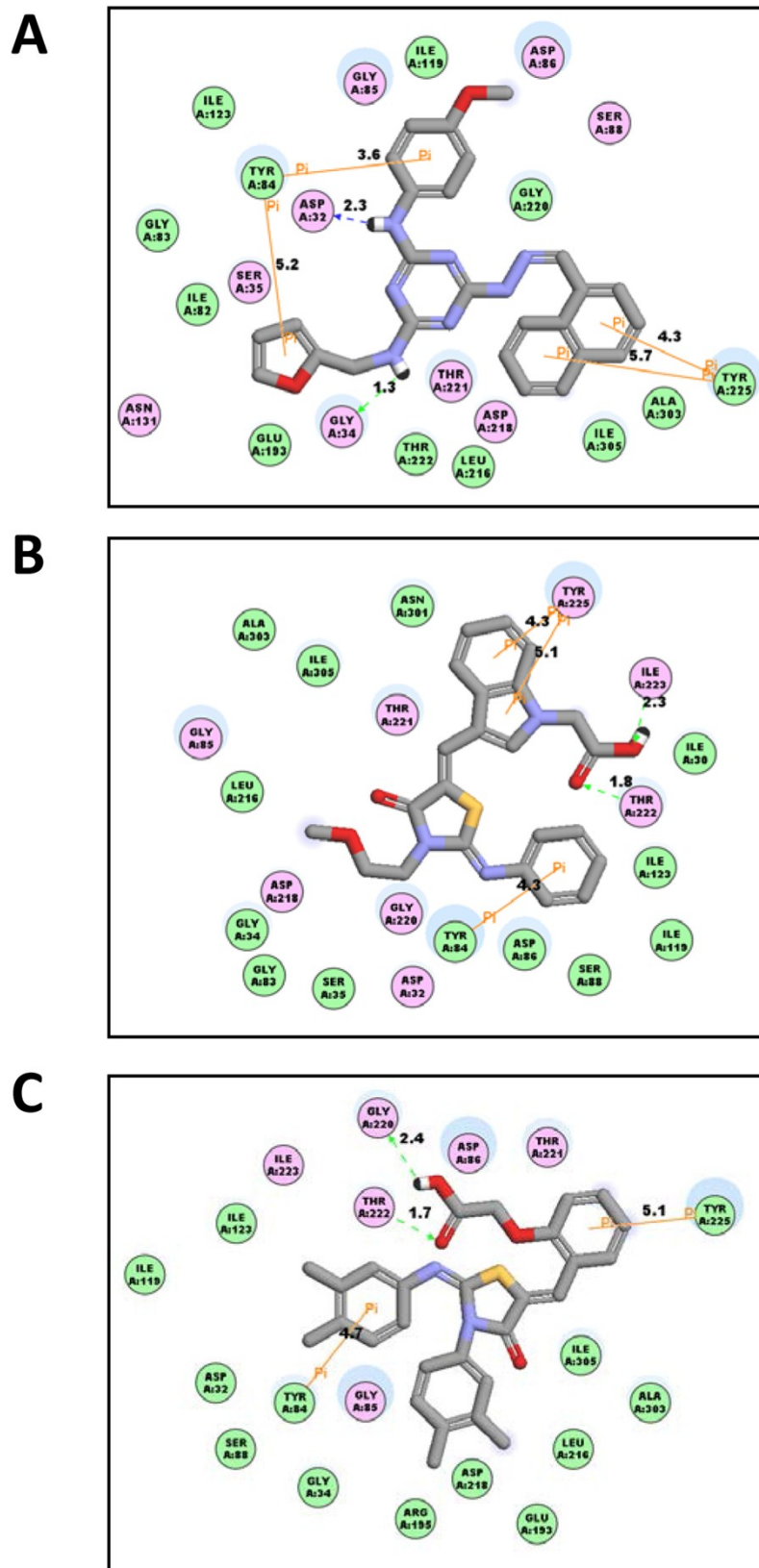


Figure S2. Schematic representation of the proposed interactions between inhibitors A12 (3) (A), A39 (4) (C) and A40 (5) (D) and the active site of *C. albicans* SAP2.

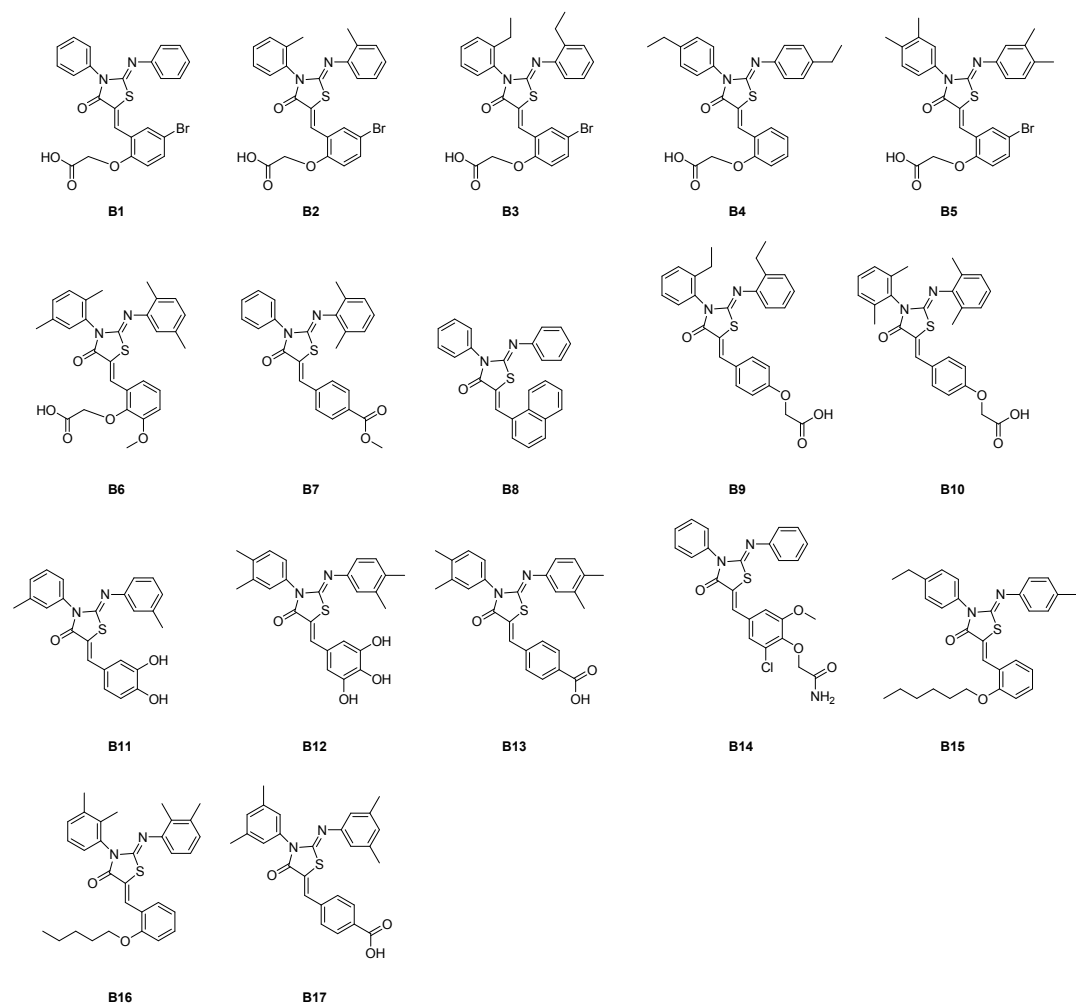


Figure S3. Chemical structures of hit 5 analogues by similarity search from the Specs database.

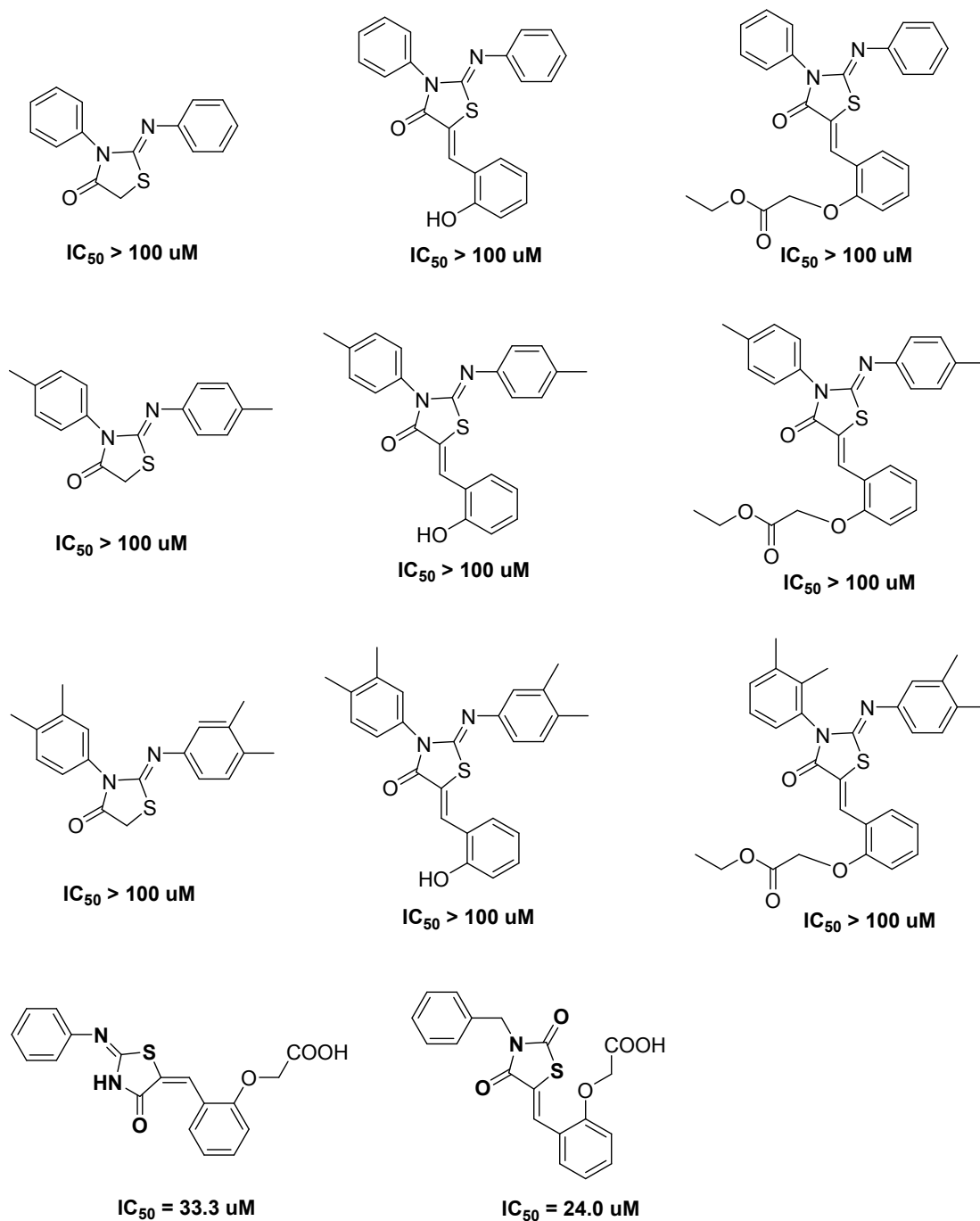


Figure S4. Chemical structures and SAP2 inhibitory activity of A, B, C-ring modified analogues.

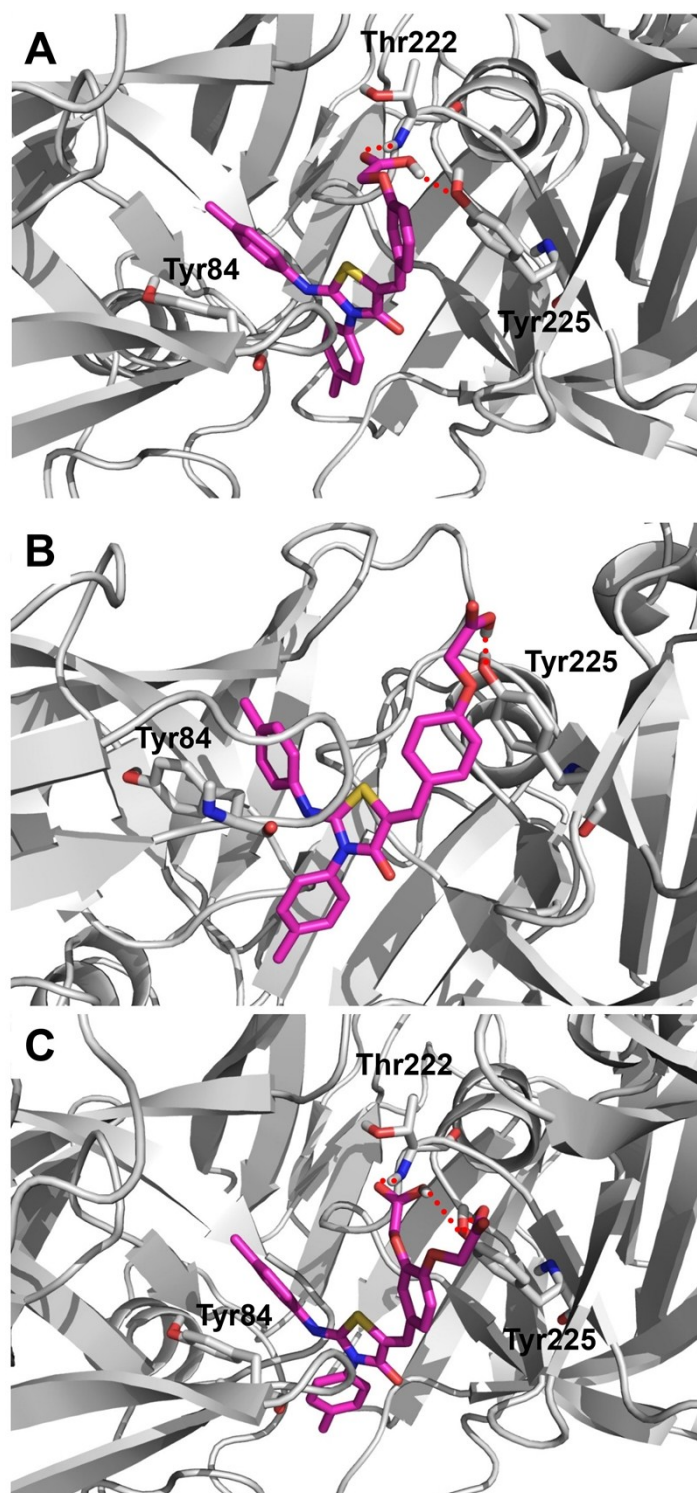


Figure S5. Proposed binding poses of inhibitor **23e** (A), **23f** (B) and **23g** (C) in the active site of *C. albicans* SAP2.

Table S1. Matrix of RMSD values obtained by the docking methods selection.

RMSD < 1.0	1.0 < RMSD < 2.0	2.0 < RMSD < 4.0	4.0 < RMSD
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Ligand	PDB code	AutoDock		MVD		GOLD	
		First Cluster	Most Pop Cluster	MolDock Score[grid]	MolDock Score	GoldSore	ChemPLP
A70450	1ZAP	0.91	0.92	1.85	1.80	0.28	6.24
A70450	1EAG	1.25	1.25	0.98	0.95	0.33	3.05

Table S2. Chemical structures, GOLD docking scores, compound rankings and SAP2 inhibitory activities of 45 compounds selected from virtual screening.

Compounds	M.W.	Goldscore	Rank	Inhibition rate (100 μ M)	IC ₅₀ (μ M)
A1	531.63	84.24	130	21%	nd ^a
A2	511.62	86.63	52	20%	nd
A3	488.56	82.3	245	35%	nd
A4	681.17	87.86	39	4%	nd
A5	550.65	81.64	294	35%	nd
A6	467.58	83.02	191	7%	nd
A7	549.49	81.89	273	12%	nd
A8	531.61	91.48	16	61%	52.96
A9	590.59	90.11	25	42%	nd
A10	472.43	90.26	24	17%	nd
A11	465.51	92.05	15	58%	77.18
A12	481.59	91.32	18	35%	nd
A13	592.69	95.75	5	45%	nd

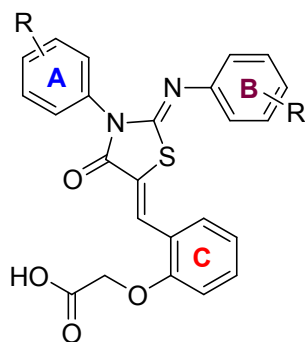
A14	675.77	80.06	481	37%	nd
A15	780.71	81.2	337	28%	nd
A16	632.8	86.08	66	- ^b	nd
A17	543.61	84.47	122	-	nd
A18	616.77	83.24	181	14%	nd
A19	577.76	85.7	71	-	nd
A20	608.73	80.12	475	48%	nd
A21	696.82	87.15	45	10%	nd
A22	671.25	84.48	120	39%	nd
A23	706.94	88.62	35	36%	nd
A24	533.64	80.63	405	27%	nd
A25	550.67	84.81	108	42%	nd
A26	550.65	81.62	295	45%	nd
A27	471.62	80.24	456	67%	83.55
A28	535.46	83.33	173	55%	96.26
A29	612.14	81.79	279	-	nd
A30	684.87	80.66	401	9%	nd
A31	462.5	80.05	482	30%	nd
A32	474.34	80.21	462	53%	93.55
A33	435.5	85.04	102	100%	36.37
A34	486.58	86.91	48	100%	13.78
A35	556.65	89.12	30	45%	nd
PepstatinA				100%	0.021

a. “nd” = “not determined”; b. “-” means compounds with high fluorescence and precise results cannot be determined.

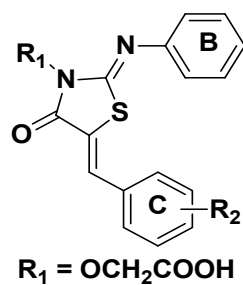
Table S3. SAP2 inhibitory activity of hit **5** analogues from SPECS database

Compound d	Inhibition rate^a	IC₅₀ (μM)	Compound d	Inhibition rate (100 μM)	IC₅₀ (μM)
B1	90%	36.47	B10	79%	39.14
B2 (6)	100%	10.18	B11	4%	nd
B3	100%	11.28	B12	9%	nd
B4	100%	12.32	B13	7%	nd
B5	80%	40.35	B14	12%	nd
B6	98%	21.45	B15	3%	nd
B7	11%	nd ^b	B16	5%	nd
B8	5%	nd	B17	13%	nd
B9	67%	49.50	PepA	100%	0.018

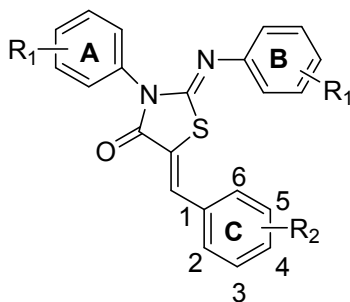
a. The inhibition rate was determined at the concentration of 100 μM. b. nd = not determined.

Table S4. SAP2 inhibitory activity of A, B-ring di-substituted analogues of hit **5**

Compounds	R	IC ₅₀ (μM)
12a	H	18.82
12b	4-Me	9.14
12c	3-Me	77.33
12d	2-Me	23.09
12e	2,4-diMe	20.55
12f	2,5-diMe	40.64
12g	4-F	68.79
12h	3-F	42.51
12i	2-F	27.45
12j	4-Cl	22.93
12k	3-Cl	31.19
12l	2-Cl	26.3
12m	4-Br	59.19
12n	3-Br	43.21
12o	2-Br	58.07
12p	4-OMe	19.49
12q	3-OMe	44.86
12r	4-OEt	25.12
12s	3-OEt	60.8
12t	2-OEt	30.62
1	-	0.016

Table S5. SAP2 inhibitory activity of A -ring modified analogues of hit **5**

Compounds	R ₁	R ₂	IC ₅₀ (μM)
18a	-CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	2-OCH ₂ COOH	46.90
18b	-CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	3-OCH ₂ COOH	53.19
18c	-CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	4-OCH ₂ COOH	59.06
18d	-CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	2-OCH ₂ COOH	54.09
18e	-CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	3-OCH ₂ COOH	56.58
18f	-CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	4-OCH ₂ COOH	77.30
1	-	-	0.016

Table S6. SAP2 inhibitory activity of the thiazolidinone inhibitors

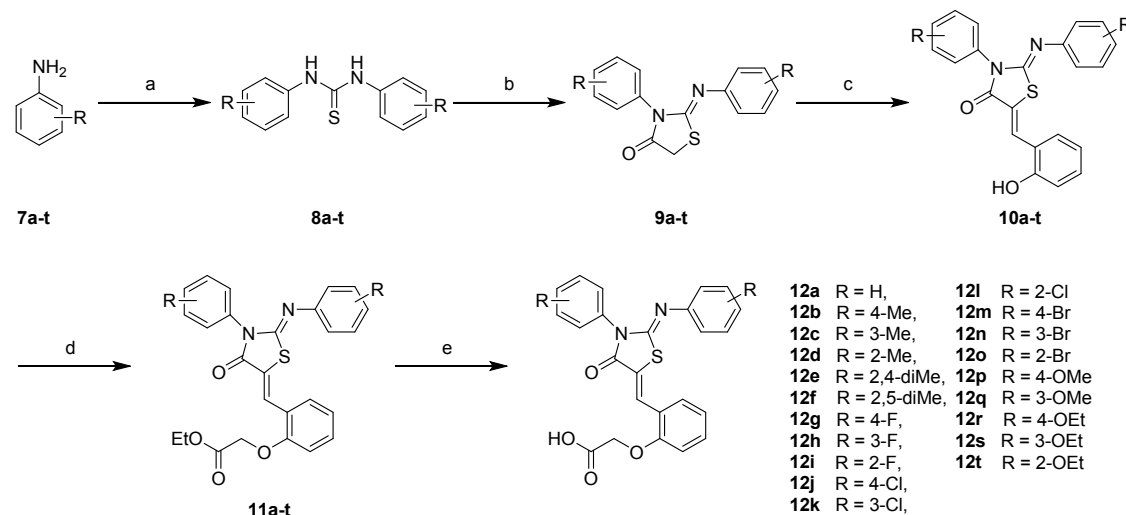
Compounds	R ₁	R ₂	IC ₅₀ (μM)
23a	H	3-OCH ₂ COOH	35.24
23b	H	4-OCH ₂ COOH	98.62
23c	H	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	23.27
23d	H	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	9.418
23e	4-Me	3-OCH ₂ COOH	11.62
23f	4-Me	4-OCH ₂ COOH	15.17

23g	4-Me	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	4.41
23h	4-Me	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	0.86
23i	4-OEt	3-OCH ₂ COOH	41.59
23j	4-OEt	4-OCH ₂ COOH	93.16
23k	4-OEt	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	5.82
23l	4-OEt	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	3.03
23m	3,4-di-Me	3,4-OCH ₂ COOH	17.36
23n	3,4-di-Me	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	2.76
23o	2,5-di-Me	3,4-diOCH ₂ COOH	8.16
23p	2,5-di-Me	2,4-diOCH ₂ COOH	5.8
23q	4-F	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	12.64
23r	4-F	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	13.8
23s	4-Cl	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	3.39
23t	4-Cl	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	7.16
23u	4-Br	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	5.67
23v	4-Br	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	2.25
23w	4-OMe	3,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	7.22
23x	4-OMe	2,4-di-OCH ₂ COOH	5.64
1	-	-	0.016

Experimental Protocols

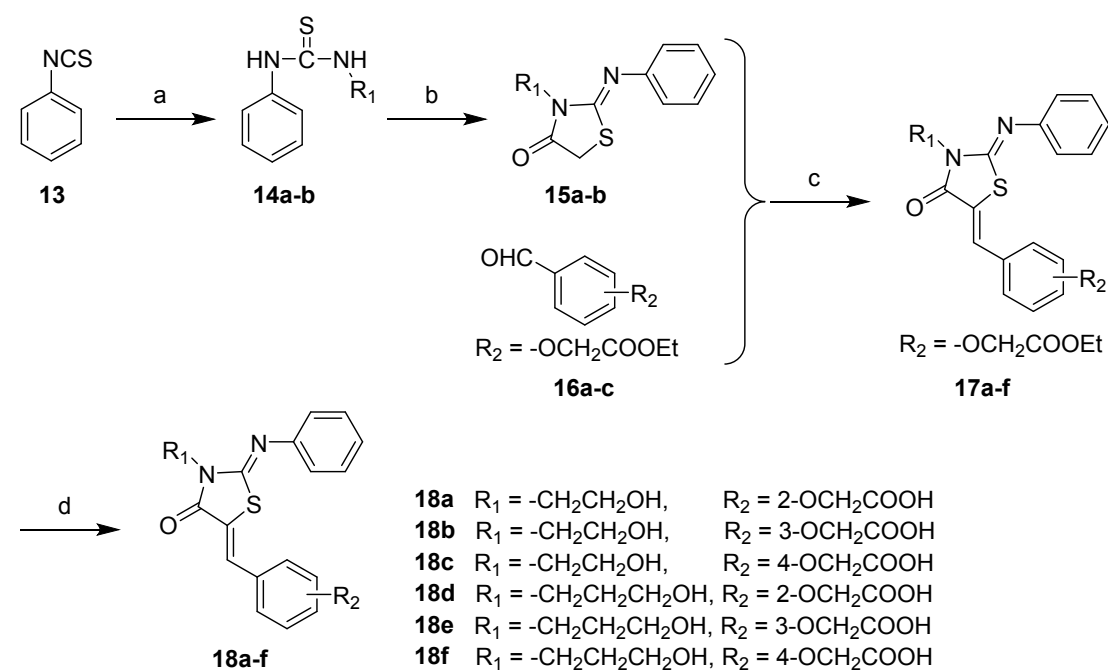
Synthetic methods and characterization data for target compounds.

Scheme 1. Synthesis of compounds 12a-t.



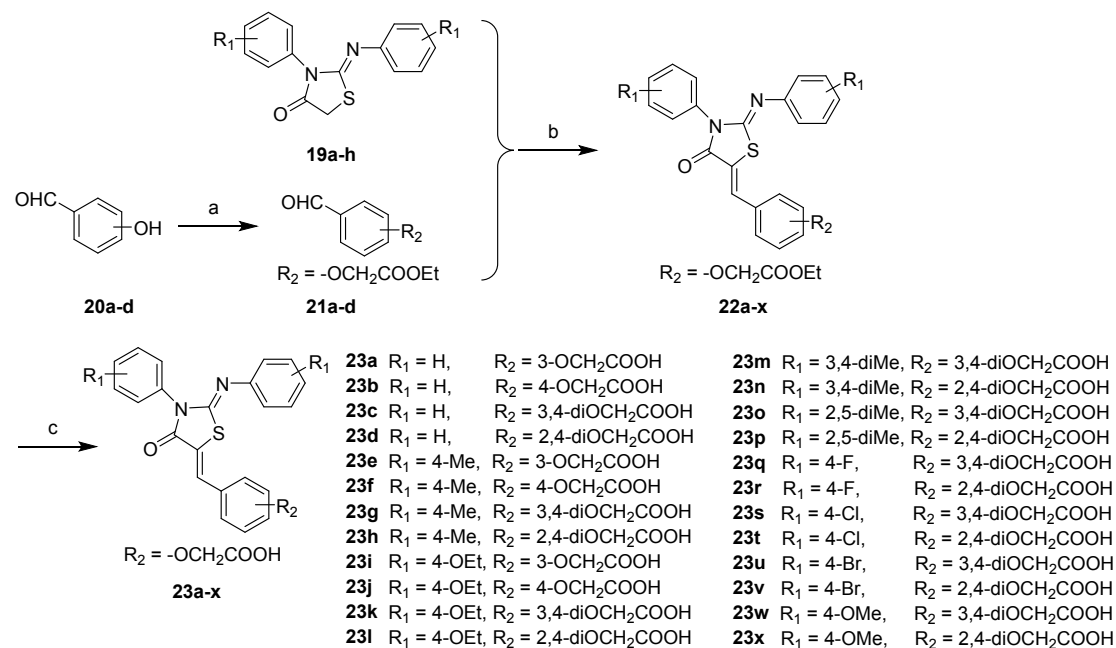
Reagents and conditions: (a) CS₂, sulfur, triethanolamine, water, reflux, 6 h, yield 35-81%; (b) ClCH₂COOEt, NaOAc, absolute alcohol, reflux, 10 h, yield 39-72%; (c) 2-hydroxybenz-aldehyde, piperidine, absolute alcohol, 60 °C, 6 h, yield 75-95%; (d) BrCH₂COOEt, acetone, reflux, 4 h, yield 73-92%; (e) LiOH·H₂O, THF: MeOH: H₂O = 3: 2: 1, rt, 0.5-6 h, yield 66-95%.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Compounds 18a-f.



Reagents and conditions: (a) Ethanolamine or 3-amino-1-propanol, THF, rt, 30 min, yield 53-67%; (b) $\text{ClCH}_2\text{COOEt}$, NaOAc, absolute alcohol, reflux, 10 h, yield 38-45%; (c) piperidine, absolute alcohol, 60 °C, 6 h, yield 35-80%; (d) $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$, THF: MeOH: H_2O = 3: 2: 1, rt, 30 min, yield 54-83%.

Scheme 3. Synthesis of Compounds 23a-x.



Reagents and conditions: (a) $\text{BrCH}_2\text{COOEt}$, acetone, K_2CO_3 , rt, 12 h, yield 72-90%; (b) piperidine, absolute alcohol, 60 °C, 6 h, yield 42-86%; (c) $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$, THF: MeOH: H_2O = 3: 2: 1, rt, 0.5-6 h, yield 60-93%.

General. Reagents were purchased from commercial sources and were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. Oxygen or water sensitive reactions were performed under the nitrogen atmosphere. ^{13}C -NMR and ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE600, or AVANCE300 spectrometer (Bruker Company, Germany), operating at the indicated frequencies and CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as solvents. Chemical shift was expressed in ppm (δ). The mass spectra were recorded on an Esquire 3000 LC-MS mass spectrometer. Melting points (m.p.) were determined by microscope melting-point apparatus with aromatic temperature control system (XT4A). Flash chromatography was performed on 200-300 mesh silica gel with the

indicated solvent systems (Qingdao Haiyang Chemical, China). Chemical purities were analyzed by HPLC using MeOH/H₂O as the mobile phase with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min on a C18 column. All final compounds exhibited the purity greater than 98%.

1,3-Diphenylthiourea (8a). A mixture of aniline (2.33 g, 25.0 mmol, 2 equiv), water (50 mL), carbon disulfide (1.24 g, 16.25 mmol, 1.3 equiv), triethanolamine (2.5 mL) and sulfur powder (100 mg) was stirred under reflux for 6 h. After being cooled to room temperature, precipitates were formed, which were separated by filtration and washed with cold water to give compound **8a** (1.46 g, yield 51%) as a white solid. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 9.78 (s, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.38-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 229.28 [M+H].

Intermediates **8b-t** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **8a**.

3-Phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-4-one (9a). To a stirred suspension of thiourea **8a** (1.14 g, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous sodium acetate (1.64 g, 20.0 mmol, 5 equiv) in absolute ethanol (20 mL) was added ethyl chloroacetate (0.85 mL, 0.98 g, 8.0 mmol, 2 equiv). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the precipitates were collected by filtration, and washed with ethanol to give the crude product, which was recrystallized from EtOAc to give compound **9a** (0.68 g, yield 64%) as an orange solid and used directly for subsequent reactions without further purification. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.59-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.81 (m, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 269.35 [M+H].

Intermediates **9b-u** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **9a**.

5-(2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-4-one (10a). A mixture of compound **9a** (0.3 g, 1.12 mmol, 1 equiv), salicylaldehyde (0.16 g, 1.35 mmol, 1.2 equiv), piperidine (0.095 g, 1.12 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in absolute ethanol (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h. The solvent was removed under the reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane: EtOAc = 5:1) to give compound **10a** as a light yellow solid (0.39 g, yield 95%). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 10.46 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.62-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.87 (m,

4H). ESI-MS (m/z): 373.39 [M+H].

Intermediates **10b-t** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **10a**.

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (11a). Intermediate **10a** (0.2 g, 0.54 mmol, 1 equiv), K_2CO_3 (0.033 g, 0.81 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and ethyl bromoacetate (0.099 g, 0.59 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in acetone (5 mL) were stirred at under reflux for 6 h. The solvent was removed under the reduced pressure. H_2O (30 mL) and EtOAc (50 mL) were added and the mixture was shaken. The aqueous phase was extracted with the EtOAc (50 mL $\times$ 2). The organic phase was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under the reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane : EtOAc = 10:1) to give compound **11a** as a light yellow solid (0.18 g, yield 73%). 1H -NMR (300 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ : 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.62-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.02 (m, 3H), 7.01-6.90 (m, 2H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 14.02, 7.06 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.31 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 459. 40 [M+H].

Intermediates **11b-t** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **11a**.

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12a). Compound **11a** (0.1 g, 0.22 mmol, 1 equiv) and $LiOH \cdot H_2O$ (0.014 g, 0.33 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in mixed solvent (THF: MeOH: H_2O = 3: 2: 1, 5 mL) were stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solvent was removed under the reduced pressure. H_2O (20 mL) was added and the mixture was adjusted to pH 2.0-3.0 by 1M HCl. the precipitates were collected by filtration, and washed with cold water. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 : MeOH = 100:5) to afford target compound **12a** as a light yellow solid (62 mg, yield 66%). m.p.: 249-251 $^{\circ}C$. 1H -NMR (500 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ : 13.25 (br s, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.36 (m, 9H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.42 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.62 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.42 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.22 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (75 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ : 172.22, 167.90, 158.84, 152.93, 150.23, 137.31, 134.03, 131.74 (2C), 131.35 (2C), 131.03, 130.85 (2C), 130.41, 127.46, 127.06, 124.50, 123.69, 123.11 (2C), 120.45, 114.97, 67.35. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{19}N_2O_4S$ (M + H) 431.1060, found

431.1060.

Compounds **12b-t** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **12a**.

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(*p*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12b). Light yellow solid (yield: 74%), m.p.: 245-247 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.18 (br s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.01 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.39 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.32 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.32 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 160.79, 165.60, 156.40, 152.59, 150.35, 145.40, 138.22, 137.20, 133.73, 132.41, 131.62, 130.44, 129.48, 129.10, 128.19, 128.08, 124.79, 122.24, 121.48, 121.42, 120.61, 118.18, 112.59, 64.84, 20.74, 20.45. HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₃N₂O₄S (M + H) 459.1373, found 459.1381.

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(*o*-tolyl)-2-(*o*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12d). Light yellow solid (yield: 76%), m.p.: 227-228 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.17 (br s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.36 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.71 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.36 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 169.78, 165.28, 156.43, 149.51, 146.51, 135.97, 134.26, 131.78, 130.72, 130.59, 129.37, 129.07, 128.91, 128.10, 127.00, 126.78, 125.19, 124.81, 122.06, 121.46, 121.36, 119.66, 112.61, 64.84, 17.27, 17.06. HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₃N₂O₄S (M + H) 459.1373, found 459.1381.

1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-phenylthiourea (14a). To a solution of compound **13** (6.75 g, 50 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (20 mL) was added ethanolamine (3.66 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) dropwisely. The mixture was stirred for 30 min under room temperature, and then the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (Hexane : EtOAc = 6:1) to afford compound **14a** as a white solid (5.2 g, yield 53%). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 9.67 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.20, 1.49 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 1H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.54-3.39 (m, 4H). HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₁₄N₂OS (M + H) 197.0743, found 197.0739.

Intermediates **14b** were prepared using a similar protocol described for **14a**.

The synthesis of **15a-b** was similar to that of **9a**.

(Z)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-4-one (15a). Light yellow solid (yield: 38%). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.28 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.81 (t, *J* = 6.58 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (t, *J* = 6.17 Hz, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 237.07 [M+H].

(Z)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-4-one (15b). Light yellow solid (yield: 45%). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.67 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.31 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 8.35, 1.23 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.79 (t, *J* = 7.26 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 6.19 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (m, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 251.34 [M+H].

Intermediates **17a-f** were synthesized using a similar protocol of **10a**.

Ethyl 2-(2-((Z)-((Z)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17a). Light yellow solid (yield: 86%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.38 Hz, 1H), 7.10-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 14.23, 7.11 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 6.25 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 12.42, 6.04 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.21 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 427.47 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(3-((Z)-((Z)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17b). Light yellow solid (yield: 49%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.71 Hz, 1H), 7.15-6.97 (m, 4H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 8.13, 1.10 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.11, 7.05 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 6.17 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 12.20, 6.06 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.21 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 427.43 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17c). Light yellow solid (yield: 63%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.46 Hz, 1H), 7.08-6.99 (m, 4H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.05, 7.03 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.22 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 11.62, 5.67 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.15 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 427.26 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((Z)-((Z)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-

ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17d). Light yellow solid (yield: 77%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 1H), 7.10-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 14.15, 7.14 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 7.19 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 11.36, 6.07 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.15 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 441.42 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(3-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17e). Light yellow solid (yield: 35%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.45 Hz, 1H), 7.14-6.97 (m, 5H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.22, 7.22 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 7.22 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 11.46, 6.10 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.06 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 441.42 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(4-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (17f). Light yellow solid (yield: 53%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.79 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.47 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.47 Hz, 1H), 7.08-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.06, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 7.03 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 11.52, 6.08 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.15 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 441.40 [M+H].

The synthesis of **18a-f** was similar to that of **12a**.

2-(2-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (18a). Light yellow solid (yield: 83%), m.p.: 206-207 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.46 Hz, 1H), 7.09-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 6.21 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 11.87, 5.94 Hz, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 169.77, 165.89, 156.36, 150.05, 147.86, 131.55, 129.43, 128.03, 124.73, 124.58, 122.22, 121.52, 121.39, 120.97, 112.57, 64.84, 57.06, 45.07. ESI-MS (*m/z*): 399.35 [M+H].

2-(4-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (18b). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 290-291 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.02 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.12-6.97 (m, 5H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.01-

3.97 (m, 2H), 3.73-3.32 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.39, 170.21, 166.12, 150.95, 149.50, 148.29, 147.79, 135.56, 130.93, 129.89, 129.50, 129.15, 129.03, 127.05, 125.22, 123.37, 121.32, 119.40, 117.08, 114.45, 65.64, 65.42. ESI-MS (m/z): 431.46 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (18c). Light yellow solid (yield: 61%), m.p.: 250-251 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.07 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.99 (m, 4H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.71 (s, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.21, 166.53, 159.50, 150.55, 148.44, 132.09, 130.35, 129.96, 126.78, 125.21, 121.49, 119.07, 115.80, 64.93, 57.54, 45.53. ESI-MS (m/z): 505.36 [M+H].

2-(2-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (18d). Light yellow solid (yield: 67%), m.p.: 146-147 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.42 Hz, 1H), 7.09-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.56 (t, *J* = 4.96 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 7.03 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 10.85, 5.92 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.30, 166.26, 156.86, 150.47, 148.40, 132.09, 129.93, 128.55, 125.25, 125.09, 122.66, 121.87, 121.48, 113.06, 65.32, 59.13, 30.72. ESI-MS (m/z): 413.33 [M+H].

2-(3-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (18e). Pale yellow solid (yield: 69%), m.p.: 149-151 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.03 (br s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 3H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 4.57 (t, *J* = 4.81 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.87-1.85 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.40, 166.17, 158.53, 150.20, 148.29, 135.15, 130.82, 130.33, 129.97, 125.34, 125.26, 121.47, 116.91, 116.25, 64.89, 59.12, 30.70. ESI-MS (m/z): 413.29 [M+H].

2-(4-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (18f). Light yellow solid (yield: 79%), m.p.: 190-191 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.11 (br s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.46-

7.38 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.20$ Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.99 (m, 4H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.94 (t, $J = 7.20$ Hz, 2H), 3.49 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.87-1.83 (m, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 170.21, 166.39, 159.51, 150.47, 148.47, 132.11, 130.42, 129.95, 126.75, 125.22, 121.49, 118.95, 115.79, 64.94, 59.13, 30.74. ESI-MS (m/z): 413.21 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(3-formylphenoxy)acetate (21a). 3-hydroxybenzaldehyde (12.2 g, 10 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl bromoacetate (18.4 g, 11 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and K_2CO_3 (15.2 g, 11 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in acetone (100 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Then, unorganic salts were discarded by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane : EtOAc = 5:1) to achieve compound **21a** (13.5 g, yield 75%) as a white solid. ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 4.26 (dd, $J = 14.17, 7.45$ Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.38$ Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 209.33 [M+H].

Intermediates **21b-d** were synthesized according to a similar protocol described for **21a**.

Ethyl 2-(4-formylphenoxy)acetate (21b). White solid (yield: 90%). ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 9.89 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, $J = 6.89, 1.92$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 6.94, 1.92$ Hz, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.28 (dd, $J = 14.36, 7.10$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.21$ Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 209.19 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-formyl-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (21c). White solid (yield: 66%). ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 9.84 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, $J = 8.26, 1.77$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 1.80$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.21$ Hz, 1H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 4.28 (dd, $J = 14.22, 7.10$ Hz, 4H), 1.48-1.22 (m, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 311.32 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-formyl-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (21d). White solid (yield: 79%). ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 10.39 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.84$ Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, $J = 8.70, 2.18$ Hz, 1H), 6.42 (d, $J = 2.21$ Hz, 1H), 4.71 (s, 2H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 4.28 (dd, $J = 14.22, 7.18$ Hz, 4H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.17$ Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 311.25 [M+H].

The synthesis of **22a-x** were similar to that of **10a**.

Ethyl 2-(3-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (22a). Light yellow solid (yield: 49%). ¹H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.04-6.95 (m, 3H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.10 (dd, *J* = 14.33, 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.36 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 459. 64 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(4-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (22b). Light yellow solid (yield: 65%). ¹H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.47 (m, 7H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 7.03, 2.12 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 8.20, 1.20 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 14.21, 7.03 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.04 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 459.49 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22d) Light yellow solid (yield: 63%). ¹H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.38 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 6.71-6.66 (m, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.03, 7.15 Hz, 4H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.15 Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 561.69 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(3-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-2-(p-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate(22e) Light yellow solid (yield: 49%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.11 (m, 4H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.11 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.10 (dd, *J* = 14.05, 7.03 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.06 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 487.61 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(4-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-2-(p-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (22f). Light yellow solid (yield: 65%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.86 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.44 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.23 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.02 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 7.02, 1.89 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.25 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 14.17, 7.08 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 487.37 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-2-(p-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22g). Light yellow solid (yield: 53%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.09 (m, 4H),

7.05 (d, $J = 8.70$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, $J = 6.42, 1.74$ Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, $J = 14.24, 7.30$ Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, $J = 14.18, 7.09$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.19$ Hz, 3H), 1.15 (t, $J = 7.00$ Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 589.51 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-4-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-2-(p-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22h). Light yellow solid (yield: 65%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.35$ Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.19$ Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, $J = 8.70$ Hz, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, $J = 14.12, 7.06$ Hz, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.19$ Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 589.68 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(3-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (22i). Light yellow solid (yield: 42%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.10-6.99 (m, 4H), 6.94-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.19$ Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 6H), 1.42-1.25 (m, 9H). ESI-MS (m/z): 547.45 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetate (22j). Light yellow solid (yield: 69%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.48$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.48$ Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.01 (m, 4H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.97$ Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, $J = 8.97$ Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.20-4.04 (m, 6H), 1.41-1.25 (m, 9H). ESI-MS (m/z): 547.62 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22k). Light yellow solid (yield: 81%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.40 (dd, $J = 6.82, 1.99$ Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.01 (m, 5H), 6.93 (dd, $J = 6.67, 2.38$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (dd, $J = 6.67, 2.38$ Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.23-3.94 (m, 8H), 1.45-1.08 (m, 12H). ESI-MS (m/z): 649.93 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22l). Light yellow solid (yield: 85%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J

= 6.71, 2.00 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.43 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 6.91, 2.02 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (dd, J = 6.57, 2.41 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 6.55, 2.46 Hz, 2H), 6.72-6.66 (m, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.27-3.95 (m, 8H), 1.43-1.15 (m, 12H). ESI-MS (m/z): 649.51 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-((3,4-dimethylphenyl)imino) - 4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22m). Light yellow solid (yield: 74%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.25 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.57 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 1.63 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, J = 2.17, 7.86 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 14.14, 6.90 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (dd, J = 14.17, 7.08 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 2.20 (s, 6H), 1.21 (t, J = 6.95 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.17 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 617.61 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-((3,4-dimethylphenyl)imino) - 4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22n). Light yellow solid (yield: 86%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 (dd, J = 7.95, 2.04 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 2.04 Hz, 1H), 6.71-6.64 (m, 3H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 14.20, 7.05 Hz, 4H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.20 (s, 6H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.18 Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 617.72 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,5-dimethylphenyl)imino) - 4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22o). Light yellow solid (yield: 63%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.76 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 9.77 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.08 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.62 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.47 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 13.80, 6.90 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (dd, J = 14.09, 7.19 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.19 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.19 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 617.57 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,5-dimethylphenyl)imino) - 4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22p). Light yellow solid (yield: 69%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.06 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.62 Hz, 1H), 6.71-6.62 (m, 3H), 4.97

(s, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.20-4.14 (m, 4H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.24-1.18 (m, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 617.35 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((4-fluorophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22q). Light yellow solid (yield: 46%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.37 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.08-6.95 (m, 3H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.04, 7.02 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, *J* = 14.29, 7.02 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.27 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.27 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 597.48 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((4-fluorophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22r). Light yellow solid (yield: 56%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.03-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.72-6.67 (m, 2H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.22, 7.11 Hz, 4H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.11 Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 597.46 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-chlorophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22s). Light yellow solid (yield: 64%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 6.63, 2.11 Hz, 2H), 7.23-6.97 (m, 5H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 14.27, 7.14 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, *J* = 14.27, 7.14 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.28 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.28 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 629.64 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-chlorophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22t). Light yellow solid (yield: 70%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.55, 2.03 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.58 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 6.61, 2.04 Hz, 2H), 6.72- 6.67 (m, 2H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 14.46, 7.23 Hz, 4H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.22 Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 631.35 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((Z)-((Z)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22u). Light yellow solid (yield: 77%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.22-6.90 (m, 5H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.17 (dd, *J*

= 14.28, 7.00 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, J = 14.28, 7.29 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.25 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.07 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 719.34 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22v). Light yellow solid (yield: 55%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd, J = 6.65, 1.96 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.80 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 6.61, 1.95 Hz, 2H), 6.73-6.66 (m, 2H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.20-4.12 (m, 4H), 1.24-1.18 (m, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 719.53 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22w). Light yellow solid (yield: 49%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd, J = 6.80, 2.17 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.02 (m, 5H), 6.97-6.88 (m, 4H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 14.54, 7.27 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, J = 14.23, 7.07 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.19 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (t, J = 6.88 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 621.42 [M+H].

Diethyl 2,2'-((4-((*Z*)-((*Z*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)imino)-4-oxothiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetate (22x). Light yellow solid (yield: 68%). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd, J = 6.88, 2.14 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.37 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 6.86, 2.18 Hz, 2H), 6.97- 6.87 (m, 4H), 6.72-6.65 (m, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 14.19, 7.16 Hz, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.08 Hz, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 621.67 [M+H].

Titled compounds **23a-x** was prepared in a similar manner to that described for **12a**

2-(3-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (23a). Light yellow solid (yield: 69%), m.p.: 252-253 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 13.02 (br s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.45-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.04-6.95 (m, 3H), 4.71 (s, 2H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 169.88, 165.46, 158.09, 150.31, 147.80, 134.96, 134.67, 130.40, 130.19, 129.44, 129.02, 128.72, 128.51, 124.80, 121.79, 120.75, 116.49, 115.84, 64.43. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$ (M + H)

431.1060, found 431.1058.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23d). Light yellow solid (yield: 80%), m.p.: 254-255 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.12 (br s, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.42-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.47 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 8.49, 1.22 Hz, 2H), 6.70-6.63 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 169.66, 169.58, 165.72, 160.78, 158.01, 150.74, 148.00, 135.07, 129.39, 128.98, 128.62, 128.53, 124.95, 124.64, 120.81, 118.40, 115.56, 107.21, 100.27, 65.06, 64.67. HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₂N₂O₇S (M + H) 505.1064, found 505.1077.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(*p*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23h). Light yellow solid (yield: 90%), m.p.: 230-231 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.07 (br s, 2H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.24 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.32 Hz, 2H), 6.70-6.62 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 165.88, 161.49, 158.79, 150.69, 145.56, 138.09, 133.58, 132.55, 129.83, 129.46, 129.02, 128.23, 125.38, 120.65, 117.25, 114.73, 106.98, 20.74, 20.45. HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₆N₂O₇S (M + H) 533.1377, found 533.1394.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23k). Light yellow solid (yield: 88%), m.p.: 213-214 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.02 (br s, 2H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.56 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 1.92 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.94-6.89 (m, 4H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 13.92, 7.14 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (dd, *J* = 13.92, 6.78 Hz, 2H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 169.92, 169.73, 165.79, 158.40, 155.70, 153.53, 150.15, 148.91, 147.30, 140.75, 132.88, 129.98, 129.58, 127.49, 126.67, 122.95, 121.96, 119.84, 119.08, 116.45, 115.02, 114.60, 114.50, 113.94, 65.14, 64.93, 63.34, 63.10, 14.68, 14.58. HRMS (ESI, positive) *m/z* calcd for C₃₀H₃₀N₂O₉S (M + H) 593.1588, found 593.1586.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23l). Light yellow solid (yield: 82%), m.p.: 204-205 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.10 (br s, 2H),

8.01 (s, 1H), 7.40 (dd, $J = 6.85, 2.04$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.78$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, $J = 6.91, 2.04$ Hz, 2H), 6.96-6.85 (m, 4H), 6.71-6.61 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 4.09 (dd, $J = 13.88, 6.68$ Hz, 2H), 4.01 (dd, $J = 14.04, 7.02$ Hz, 2H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 6H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 170.23, 166.38, 159.56, 158.90, 156.18, 150.90, 141.46, 132.16, 130.38, 130.09, 127.98, 126.85, 122.39, 119.11, 115.83, 115.53, 115.11, 65.04, 63.83, 63.60, 15.21, 15.10. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 593.1588, found 593.1596.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-((3,4-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23n). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 264-265 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 13.08 (br s, 2H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.84$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J = 2.10$ Hz, 1H), 6.70-6.62 (m, 3H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.20 (s, 6H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 169.67, 169.59, 165.82, 160.67, 157.95, 150.29, 145.81, 137.25, 137.05, 136.94, 132.70, 132.39, 130.22, 129.88, 129.40, 129.05, 125.69, 124.61, 121.88, 118.61, 117.79, 115.66, 107.12, 100.25, 65.03, 64.64, 19.37, 19.28, 19.05, 18.76. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 561.1690, found 561.1690.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,5-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23p). Light yellow solid (yield: 84%), m.p.: 251-252 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 13.11 (br s, 2H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, $J = 7.73$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 6.71, 1.05$ Hz, 1H), 6.70-6.60 (m, 3H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 169.66, 169.56, 165.49, 160.79, 158.01, 149.49, 146.54, 136.28, 135.90, 134.15, 132.71, 130.48, 130.44, 129.95, 129.46, 129.28, 125.46, 125.33, 125.00, 120.22, 118.44, 115.47, 107.21, 100.24, 65.03, 64.64, 20.54, 20.32, 16.85, 16.66. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 561.1690, found 561.1697.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-chlorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23s). Light yellow solid (yield: 60%), m.p.: 242-243 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 13.03 (br s, 2H),

7.76 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, $J = 1.25$ Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.68-6.64 (m, 3H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.25 (m, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.89, 169.70, 165.42, 151.20, 149.09, 147.30, 146.59, 138.52, 133.74, 133.33, 130.87, 130.41, 129.36, 129.05, 128.88, 128.58, 126.41, 125.47, 123.06, 122.75, 119.80, 118.48, 116.47, 113.95, 65.10, 64.89. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 573.0285, found 573.0298.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-chlorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23t). Light yellow solid (yield: 65%), m.p.: 249-251 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.15 (br s, 2H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.43 (dd, $J = 6.64, 2.15$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.59$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 6.58, 2.03$ Hz, 2H), 6.72-6.62 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.65, 169.59, 165.54, 160.92, 158.09, 151.52, 146.81, 133.74, 133.30, 130.40, 129.51, 129.35, 129.04, 128.82, 125.38, 122.75, 117.95, 115.41, 107.27, 100.27, 65.09, 64.69. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 573.0285, found 573.0285.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23u). Light yellow solid (yield: 74%), m.p.: 240-241 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.05 (br s, 2H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.24 (d, $J = 2.05$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, $J = 8.44, 2.05$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.70$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 6.65, 2.05$ Hz, 2H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.91, 169.71, 165.37, 151.08, 149.10, 147.30, 146.99, 138.97, 134.19, 132.27, 132.02, 131.47, 130.89, 130.74, 126.38, 123.17, 123.01, 121.88, 120.20, 118.47, 117.06, 116.53, 113.96, 113.32, 65.11, 64.90. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) 662.9254, found 662.9264.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23v). Light yellow solid (yield: 82%), m.p.: 260-261 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.10 (br s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.43 (dd, $J = 6.65, 2.12$ Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.77$ Hz,

1H), 6.95 (dd, $J = 6.64, 2.02$ Hz, 2H), 6.71-6.63 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.64, 169.57, 165.48, 160.91, 158.08, 151.39, 147.21, 134.19, 132.26, 132.00, 130.72, 129.51, 125.37, 123.16, 121.85, 117.96, 117.00, 115.41, 107.30, 100.27, 65.06, 64.66. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ ($M + H$) 662.9254, found 662.9260.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23w). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 126-127 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.43 (dd, $J = 6.80, 2.00$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 1.73$ Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.00 (m, 4H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 4H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.92, 169.74, 165.79, 159.13, 156.40, 150.22, 148.91, 147.28, 140.87, 130.00, 127.65, 126.65, 122.91, 119.06, 116.46, 114.56, 114.20, 113.91, 65.15, 64.95, 55.37, 55.14. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9\text{S}$ ($M + H$) 565.1275, found 565.1278.

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23x). Light yellow solid (yield: 91%), m.p.: 220-221 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.10 (br s, 2H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd, $J = 6.73, 2.02$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.75$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, $J = 6.90, 2.19$ Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.70-6.62 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 169.67, 169.59, 165.91, 160.66, 159.11, 157.96, 156.35, 150.62, 141.10, 129.60, 128.38, 127.66, 124.50, 121.91, 118.60, 115.66, 114.55, 114.19, 107.14, 100.26, 65.04, 64.65, 55.37, 55.15. HRMS (ESI, positive) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9\text{S}$ ($M + H$) 565.1275, found 565.1293.

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(*m*-tolyl)-2-(*m*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12c). Light yellow solid (yield: 78%), m.p.: 178-180 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.18 (br s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.24 (m, 7H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.59$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.22$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 7.58$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.48$ Hz, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6)

δ : 170.30, 166.07, 156.91, 150.82, 148.36, 139.32, 139.04, 135.42, 132.17, 129.86, 129.69, 129.32, 128.62, 126.06, 125.89, 125.48, 122.68, 121.95, 121.88, 118.09, 113.09, 65.36, 21.41, 21.30. ESI-MS (m/z): 459.56 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,4-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12e). Light yellow solid, yield: 85%, m.p.: 125-127 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.11 (br s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09-6.98 (m, 4H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.78 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.31, 165.88, 165.93, 149.95, 144.62, 139.33, 136.03, 134.18, 132.19, 131.73, 129.26, 129.14, 128.57, 128.04, 127.70, 125.42, 122.59, 121.91, 119.99, 113.08, 65.35, 21.17, 20.92, 17.72, 17.51. ESI-MS (m/z): 485.12 [M-H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,5-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12f). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 230-231 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 8.20 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.20 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.46 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 487.65 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((4-fluorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12g). Light yellow solid (yield: 83%), m.p.: 225-226 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.68-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.77 Hz, 2H), 7.12-6.96 (m, 4H), 4.85 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 467.14 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-((3-fluorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12h). Light yellow solid (yield: 88%), m.p.: 189-190 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.14 (br s, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.15-6.96 (m, 4H), 6.89-6.81 (m, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 465.19 [M-H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-((2-fluorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12i). Light yellow solid (yield: 76%), m.p.:

205-206 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.21 (br s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.32-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.01 (m, 3H), 4.84 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 467.14 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-chlorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12j). Light yellow solid (yield: 90 %), m.p.: 244-245 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.49 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.36 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 6.72, 1.85 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 499.33 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-((3-chlorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12k). Light yellow solid (yield: 74%), m.p.: 218-219 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.17 (br s, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.97, 1.33 Hz, 1H), 7.19-6.87 (m, 5H), 4.83 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 497.08 [M-H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-((2-chlorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12l). Light yellow solid (yield: 79%), m.p.: 223-224 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.15 (br s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.03 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.60 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.01 (m, 3H), 4.85 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 501.33 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12m). Light yellow solid (yield: 82%), m.p.: 214-215 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.14 (br s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.38 (m, 7H), 7.15-6.91 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.99 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.73 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.94 (m, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 586.99 [M-H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(3-bromophenyl)-2-((3-bromophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12n). Light yellow solid (yield: 70%), m.p.: 224-225 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.14 (br s, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.90-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26-6.97 (m, 5H), 4.86 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 589.21 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2-bromophenyl)-2-((2-bromophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12o). Light yellow solid (yield: 76%), m.p.:

202-203 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.12 (br s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.14-6.89 (m, 4H), 4.83 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (m/z): 587.06 [M-H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12p). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 211-212 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.24 (br s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.88 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.61 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.00 (m, 4H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.91 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.91 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 491.21[M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-((3-methoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12q). Light yellow solid (yield: 84%), m.p.: 197-198 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.18 (br s, 1H), 8.09(s, 1H), 7.50-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.18-6.98 (m, 5H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.30, 2.23 Hz, 1H), 6.57-6.49 (m, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 491.21 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12r). Light yellow solid (yield: 95%), m.p.: 195-196 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.18 (br s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 6.85, 2.03 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.71 Hz, 2H), 7.12-6.99 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 9.19 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 9.19 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 13.79, 6.82 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 13.94, 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.39-1.30 (m, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 519.60 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((3-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12s). Light yellow solid (yield: 78%), m.p.: 187-188 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.13 (br s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.18-6.99 (m, 5H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 8.23, 2.57 Hz, 1H), 6.55-6.48 (m, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 13.90, 6.89 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 14.04, 7.02 Hz, 2H), 1.37-1.29 (m, 6H). ESI-MS (m/z): 519.55 [M+H].

Ethyl 2-(2-((4-oxo-3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((2-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (12t). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 200-201 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 13.14 (br s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.47-

7.36 (m, 4H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.01 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, $J = 0.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.12 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.35-1.21 (m, 6H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 170.31, 165.74, 156.92, 154.73, 150.40, 149.98, 137.65, 132.17, 131.14, 130.66, 128.59, 126.18, 125.11, 124.36, 122.59, 121.93, 121.83, 121.48, 121.12, 114.56, 114.25, 113.11, 65.34, 64.50, 64.31, 15.09. ESI-MS (m/z): 517.15 [M-H].

2-(4-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-

ylidene)methyl)phenoxy)acetic acid (23b). Light yellow solid (yield: 89%), m.p.: 290-291 °C. ^1H -NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.08 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 7H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.37$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 6$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, $J = 6$ Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 170.20, 166.19, 159.62, 151.04, 148.47, 135.55, 132.20, 130.84, 129.91, 129.50, 129.14, 129.02, 126.78, 125.19, 121.28, 118.92, 115.86, 64.98. ESI-MS (m/z): 431.46 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-

phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23c). Light yellow solid (yield: 61%), m.p.: 250-251 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 12.99 (br s, 2H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.62-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.72$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 1.70$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, $J = 8.55, 1.71$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.55$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.40$ Hz, 2H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H). ^{13}C -NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 170.39, 170.21, 166.12, 150.95, 149.50, 148.30, 147.79, 135.56, 130.93, 129.89, 129.50, 129.15, 129.03, 127.05, 125.22, 123.37, 121.32, 119.40, 117.08, 114.45, 65.64, 65.42. ESI-MS (m/z): 505.36 [M+H].

2-(3-((4-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(*p*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-

ylidene)methyl)phenolxy)acetic acid (23e). Light yellow solid (yield: 85%), m.p.: 211-213 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.01 (br s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.10 (m, 4H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 8.34, 2.18$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.14$ Hz, 2H), 4.71 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 459.36 [M+H].

2-(4-((4-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(*p*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-

ylidene)methyl)phenolxy)acetic acid (23f). Light yellow solid (yield: 92%), m.p.: 289-290 °C. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.06 (br s, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d,

$J = 8.27$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.08$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.27$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.90$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.46$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 459.53 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)-2-(*p*-tolylimino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23g). Light yellow solid (yield: 87%), m.p.: 217-218 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 12.98-12.97 (m, 2H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.11$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.62$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 1.78$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.09$ Hz, 2H), 7.11-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.25$ Hz, 2H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 531.02 [M-H].

2-(3-((4-oxo-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenolxy)acetic acid (23i). Light yellow solid (yield: 75%), m.p.: 254-255 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.04 (br s, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.07 (dd, $J = 6.78, 2.31$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 8.10, 2.31$ Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.87 (m, 4H), 4.71 (s, 2H), 4.10 (dd, $J = 13.90, 6.83$ Hz, 2H), 4.02 (dd, $J = 13.90, 6.83$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 6.95$ Hz, 3H), 1.33 (t, $J = 7.05$ Hz, 3H). ESI-MS (m/z): 517.19 [M-H].

2-(4-((4-oxo-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2-((4-ethoxyphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)phenolxy)acetic acid (23j). Light yellow solid (yield: 93%), m.p.: 256-257 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.12 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.53 (dd, $J = 7.07, 1.85$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, $J = 6.71, 2.13$ Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.87-6.96 (m, 4H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.09 (dd, $J = 13.87, 6.87$ Hz, 2H), 4.02 (dd, $J = 14.00, 7.00$ Hz, 2H), 1.31-1.39 (m, 6H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 170.43, 166.14, 158.96, 158.61, 156.26, 150.58, 141.26, 135.27, 130.84, 130.28, 130.27, 127.88, 122.46, 122.39, 122.33, 116.91, 116.23, 115.54, 115.12, 65.00, 63.84, 63.60, 15.19, 15.09. ESI-MS (m/z): 517.06 [M-H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-((3,4-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23m). Light yellow solid (yield: 91%), m.p.: 159-160 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 13.07 (br s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.16-6.98 (m, 3H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 6.70-6.68 (m, 1H), 4.75-4.71 (m, 4H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.20 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ :

170.41, 170.23, 166.20, 150.45, 147.73, 146.08, 137.79, 137.57, 137.49, 133.21, 132.98, 130.75, 130.60, 130.40, 129.55, 127.14, 126.21, 123.30, 122.43, 119.61, 118.33, 117.09, 114.39, 65.72, 19.87, 19.79, 19.56, 19.30. ESI-MS (*m/z*): 561.31 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((2,5-dimethylphenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23o). Light yellow solid (yield: 78%), m.p.: 256-257 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.03 (br s, 2H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.72 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14-6.98 (m, 3H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.52 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 4.75 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 170.37, 170.19, 165.86, 149.69, 149.51, 147.78, 146.85, 136.80, 136.44, 134.64, 133.19, 131.09, 130.99, 130.95, 130.48, 129.77, 127.02, 126.08, 125.90, 123.26, 120.62, 119.46, 117.25, 114.47, 65.60, 65.40, 21.04, 20.83, 17.35, 17.13. ESI-MS (*m/z*): 561.34 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((4-fluorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,2-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23q). Light yellow solid (yield: 69%), m.p.: 175-176 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 12.95 (br s, 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.14-6.98 (m, 4H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 541.36 [M+H].

2,2'-((4-((4-oxo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-((4-fluorophenyl)imino)thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))diacetic acid (23r). Light yellow solid (yield: 77%), m.p.: 237-238 °C. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 13.10 (br s, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.94 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.69 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.69 Hz, 2H), 7.04-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.70-6.62 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.73 (s, 2H). ESI-MS (*m/z*): 541.42 [M+H].

Virtual Screening

The crystal structure of Sap2 in complex with A-70450 (PDB ID: 1EAG) was obtained from Protein Database Bank (<http://www.rcsb.org/>). All the water molecules were removed and the remaining protein structures were optimized using the Biopolymer module (SYBYL-X 2.0, Tripos, Inc.). Hydrogen atoms were added and

the combined complex structure was submitted for protein preparation and energy minimization calculation. The ligand was then removed and the binding site was defined as whole residues within a 12 Å radius subset encompassing the A-70450.

GOLD 5.0¹ was used to screen the SPECS database consisting of approximately 287000 compounds. Twenty genetic algorithm (GA) runs were performed for each molecule. For each GA run, 100000 operations were applied on a set of five islands with a population size of 100. The selection pressure, which is the ratio between the probability of the most fit member selected as a parent to the probability of an average member selected as a parent, was set at 1:1. The annealing parameters of van der Waals and hydrogen bonding were set at 4.0 and 2.5 Å to allow a few bad bumps and poor hydrogen bonds at the beginning of a GA run. The “early-termination” option was turned off to allow the continued docking even though the first three docking solutions were very similar, with the RMSD values less than 1.5 Å. The docked compounds were ranked by GoldScore implemented in GOLD.

Biological Assays

SAP2 Inhibitory Activity Assay. The fluorimetric SAP2 enzyme activity was measured by Bioteck Synergy2 spectrophotometer using a microplate reader ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340/30 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 485/20 \text{ nm}$) and 96-well microplates (Corning, 3650). The peptidic FRET pair-labeled substrate Dabcyl-Arg-Lys-Pro-Ala-Leu-Phe- --- -Phe-Arg-Leu-Glu (EDANS)-Arg-OH was purchased from GL Biochem (Shanghai) Ltd. SAP2 was expressed and purified by ZoonBio Biotechnology Ltd (Nanjing, China). A 50 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH = 4.5) containing 50 mM NaCl was used for dilution. Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO and were tested at a final concentration 100 μM $\sim$ 0.01 μM (10 μM $\sim$ 0.001 nM for pepstatin A). The reaction mixture contained 185 μL buffer, 5 μL enzyme solution (a linear fluorescence increase of 100 units/min), 5 μL substrate solution (18.75 μM in DMSO), and 5 μL test compounds solution (in DMSO) or DMSO alone as a negative control in a final volume of 200 μL . Reactions were carried out at 30 °C. IC₅₀ values were obtained by co-incubating enzyme and

inhibitors for 30 min prior to the addition of substrate. The curve fitting was performed by log (inhibitor) vs response-variable slop (GraphPad Prism software).

***In vitro* antifungal activity assay.** *In vitro* antifungal activity was measured by the serial dilution method in 96-well microtest plates. The determination of MIC values was performed according to the recommendations of National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) with RPMI 1640 (Sigma) buffered with 0.165M MOPS (Sigma) as the test medium. The MIC₈₀ value is defined as the lowest concentration of test compound that results in a culture with turbidity less than or equal to 80% inhibition relative to the growth of the control. Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO serially diluted in growth medium. *C. albicans* was incubated at 35°C and growth MIC₈₀ was determined at 24 h.

Nematode *C. elegans*-*Candida*-killing assay. *C. albicans* strain SC5314 was inoculated in 2 mL of YPD and grown at 30 °C for 24 h; 10-cm tissue culture plates (BDFalcon, <http://www.bdbiosciences.com>) were filled with 100 µL of the culture containing solid BHI media (Difco) with kanamycin (45 µg/mL), ampicillin (100 µg/mL), and streptomycin (100 µg/mL). The plates were incubated at 30 °C for another 24 h. Synchronized adult *C. elegans glp-4; sek-1* nematodes grown at 25 °C were collected and then washed with sterile M9 buffer. To the center of the *C. albicans* lawns, 400 to 500 washed worms were added. The plates were incubated at 25 °C for 4 h. Worms were washed four times with sterile M9 and then 15-mL conical tube was carefully added. Each well of a six-well tissue culture plate (Corning Inc.) containing 2 mL of liquid medium (80% M9, 20% BHI, 45 µg/mL kanamycin) were pipetted with thirty worms. Test compounds of various concentrations were added into the medium. Then the plates were incubated at 25 °C overnight and examined at 24-h intervals for survival. Worms were considered dead and removed when they did not respond to being touched by a platinum wire. FLC at 32 µg/mL and pure phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) were used for a comparison. Animals survival curves was examined by using the Kaplan-Meier method and differences were performed by

using the log-rank test (Graphpad prism 5.0). A p- value of < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

***In vivo* antifungal efficacy in *C. albicans* infected mice model.** *Candida albicans* SC5314 or fluconazole-resistant clinical isolate 103 was grown in YPD (yeast peptone dextrose) at 30 °C. Cells were harvested, washed and resuspended in sterile saline and adjusted to 5×10^6 CFU/mL at Logarithmic-phase. ICR female mice (18-22 g; Shanghai SLAC Laboratory Animals, Shanghai, China) were used to establish mouse model of the *Candida albicans* infection. All mice were inoculated by injection of the *C. albicans* suspension into the tail vein (1×10^6 CFU/mouse). Test compounds were administered by intraperitoneal injection at dose of 2 or 5 mg/kg, and FLC at 0.5 mg/kg and sterile saline for a comparison. Daily monitoring and examinations were carried out to record the death rate. The survival time was observed. Mice survival curves were examined by using the Kaplan-Meier method and differences were also performed by using the log-rank test (Graphpad prism 5.0). A p- value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Human aspartic proteases inhibitory activity assays.

The assays were conducted by Huawei pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., China. The test compounds were provided in 100% DMSO. A series of dilutions of the compounds were prepared with 10% DMSO in assay buffer. The final concentration of DMSO is 1% in all the reactions.

Cathepsin and Renin activity assays. The enzymatic reactions were conducted at room temperature for 30 minutes in a 50 μ L mixture containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, a test compound, substrate (Z-Arg-Arg-amino-4-methylcoumarin, 10 μ M for cathepsin B; Suc-Arg-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Leu-Val-Tyr-AMC, 7.5 μ M for renin) and enzyme (cathepsin B, 15 ng/well; renin, 8 ng/well). The assays were performed in triplicates at each concentration. Fluorescence intensity was

measured at an excitation of 350 nm and an emission of 460 nm using a Tecan Infinite M1000 microplate reader. The IC₅₀ values were calculated using nonlinear regression with normalized dose–response fit using Prism GraphPad software.

Pepsin activity assays. The enzymatic reactions were conducted in triplicates at 37 °C for 30 minutes. Human pepsin (0.063 nM) was pre-incubated with test compounds diluted in 1 × pepsin assay buffer (50 mM sodium acetate pH 2.0, 0.025% Brij-35) for 30 minutes at 37 °C. The enzyme substrate (Mca-Gly-Lys-Pro-Ile-Leu-Phe-Phe-Arg-Leu-Lys(Dnp)-D-Arg-NH₂, 2.5 μM) was added and the plate was incubated at 37 °C for 30 minutes in a final volume of 50 μL. Fluorescence intensity was measured at an excitation of 328 nm and an emission of 393 nm using a Tecan Infinite M1000 microplate reader. The IC₅₀ values were calculated using nonlinear regression with normalized dose–response fit using Prism GraphPad software.

Copies of NMR and HRMS spectra of representative compounds.

Chemical structure of the compound (Molecular Weight: 430.48) is shown above the spectrum:

O=C(O)COc1ccccc1/C=C2\SC(=O)N2c3ccccc3

¹H NMR spectrum (DMSO-d₆) showing peaks from 0.92 to 8.09 ppm. The spectrum is labeled with peak numbers (1-20) and corresponding chemical shifts (ppm) listed on the right side of the plot.

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PROCNO	1

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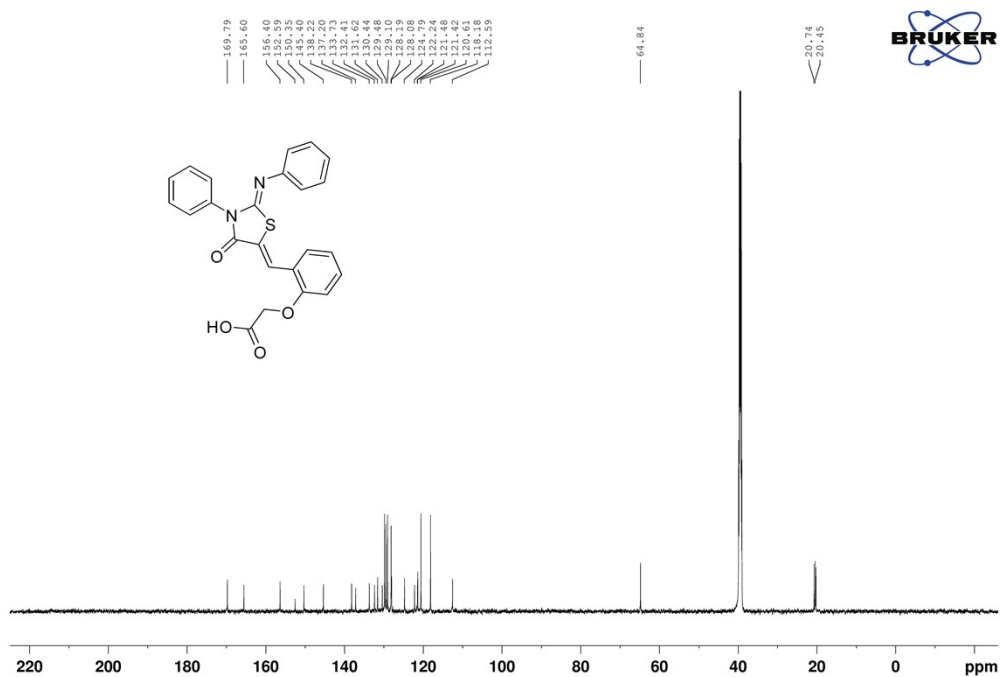
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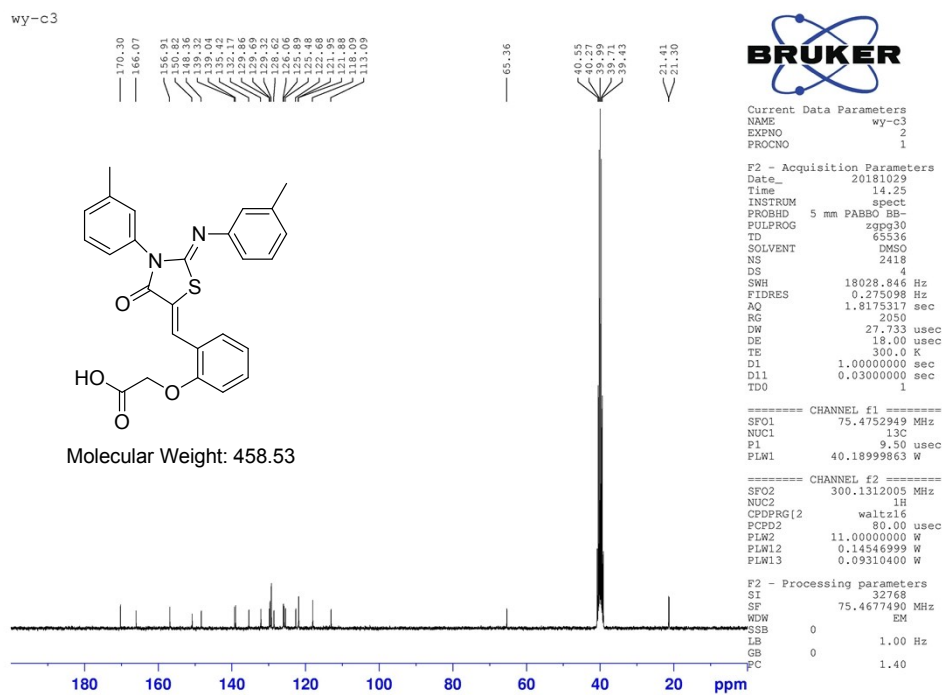
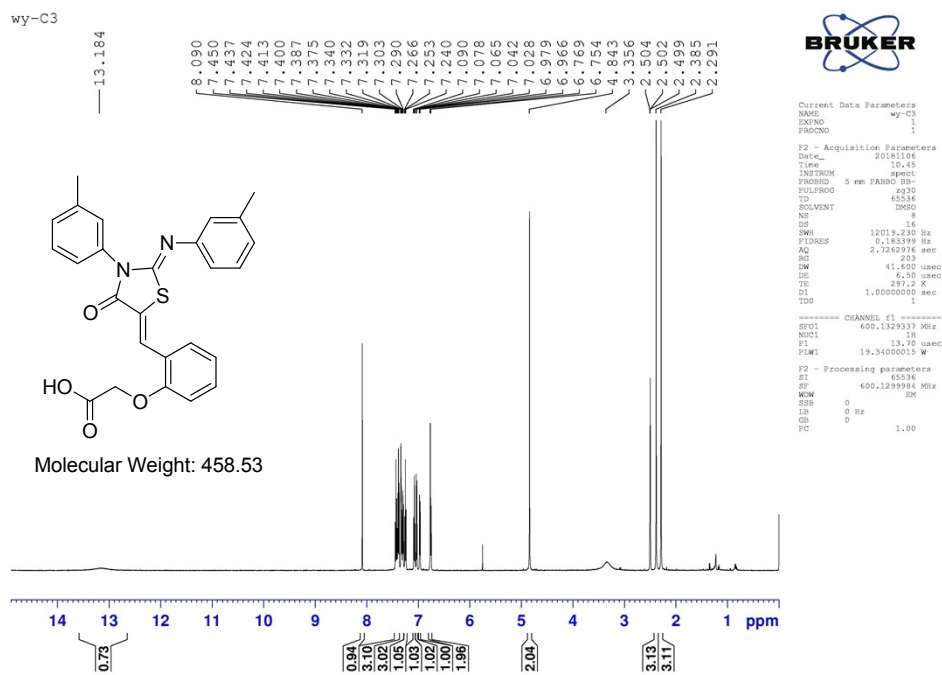
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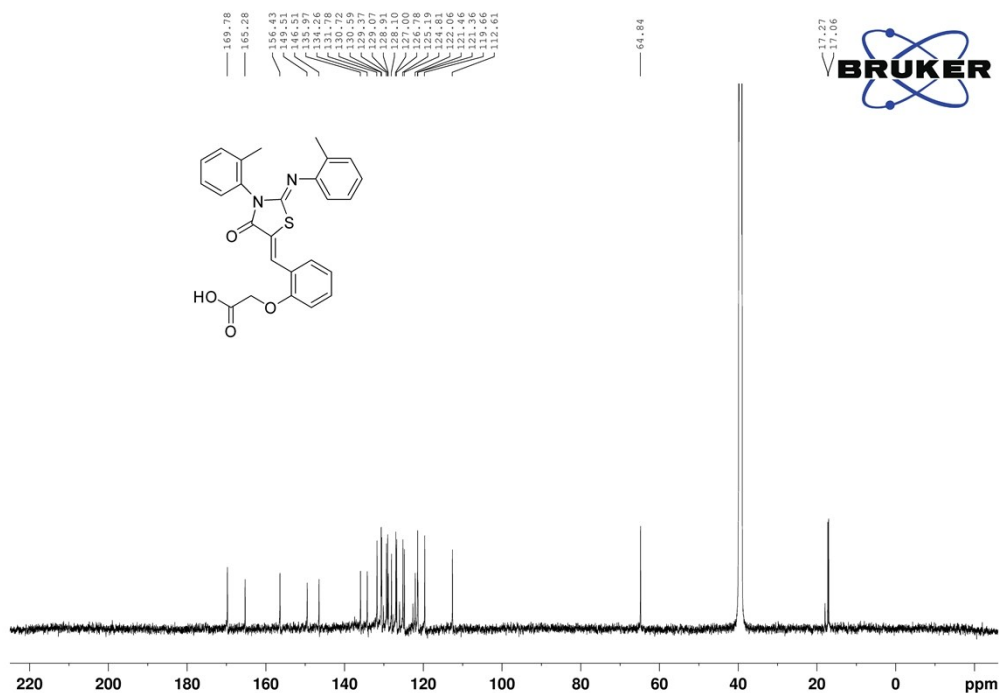
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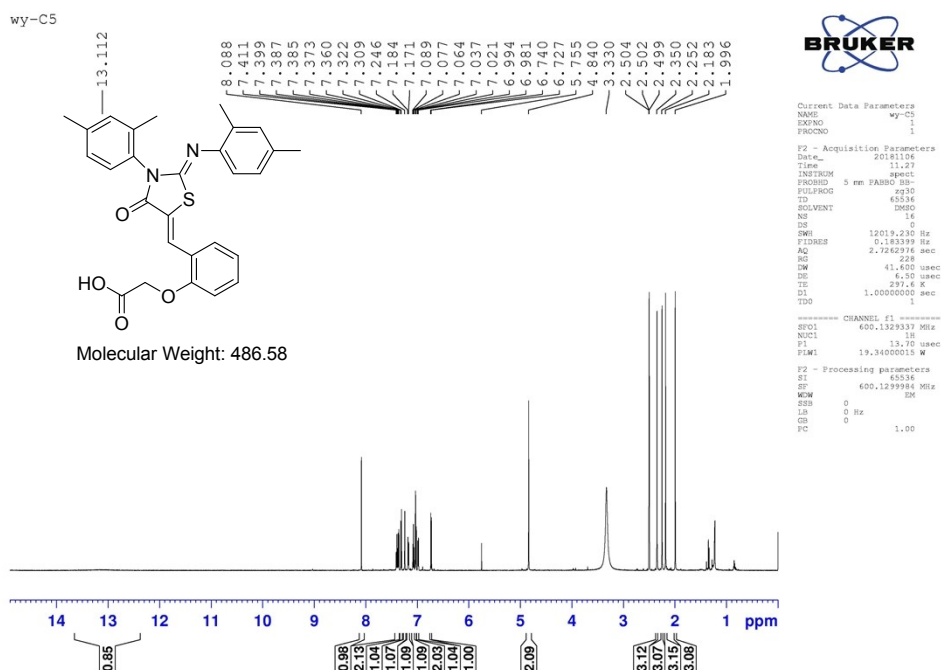
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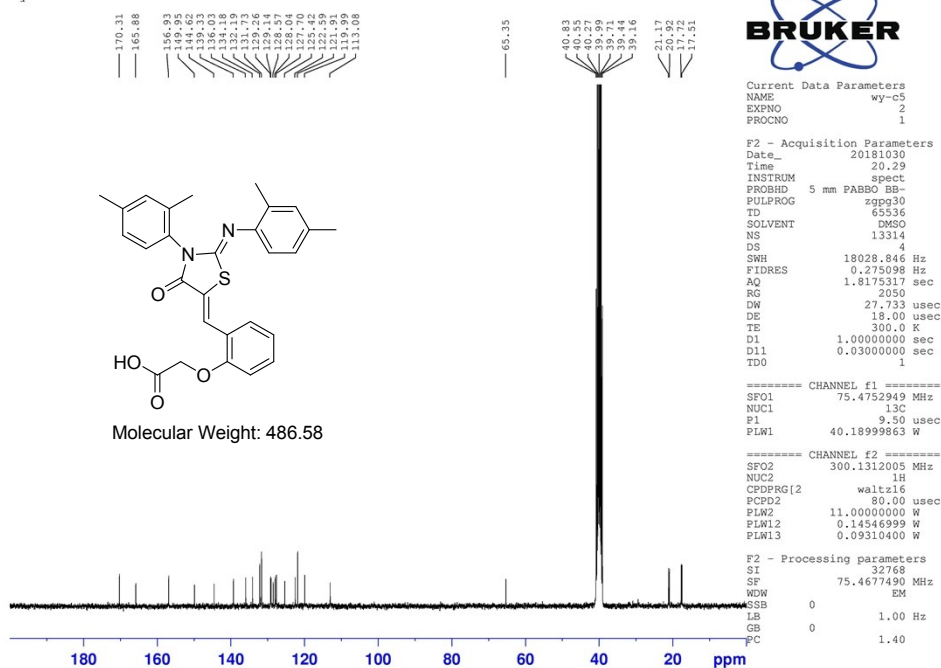
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12e

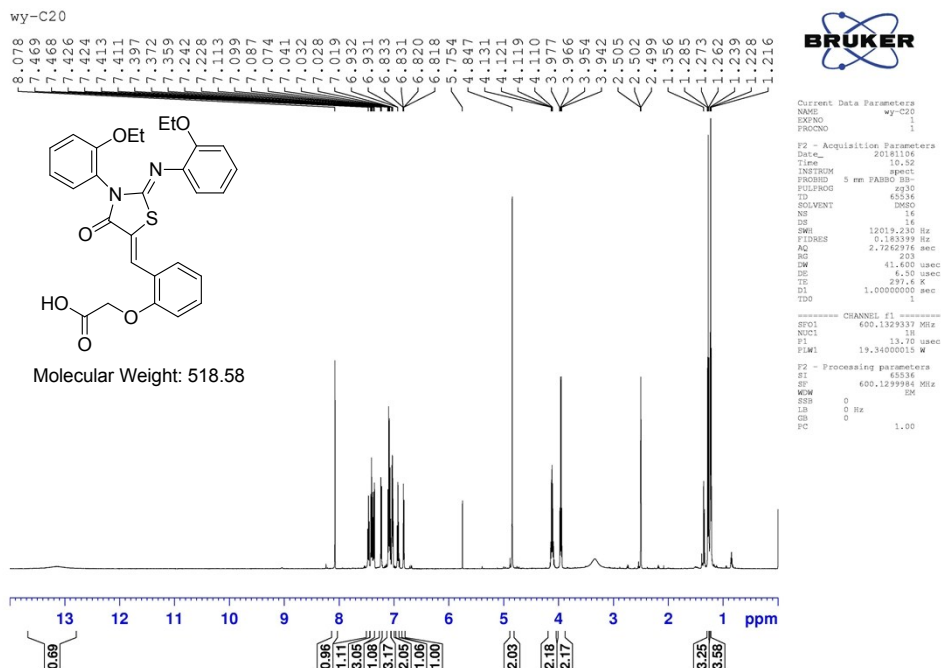


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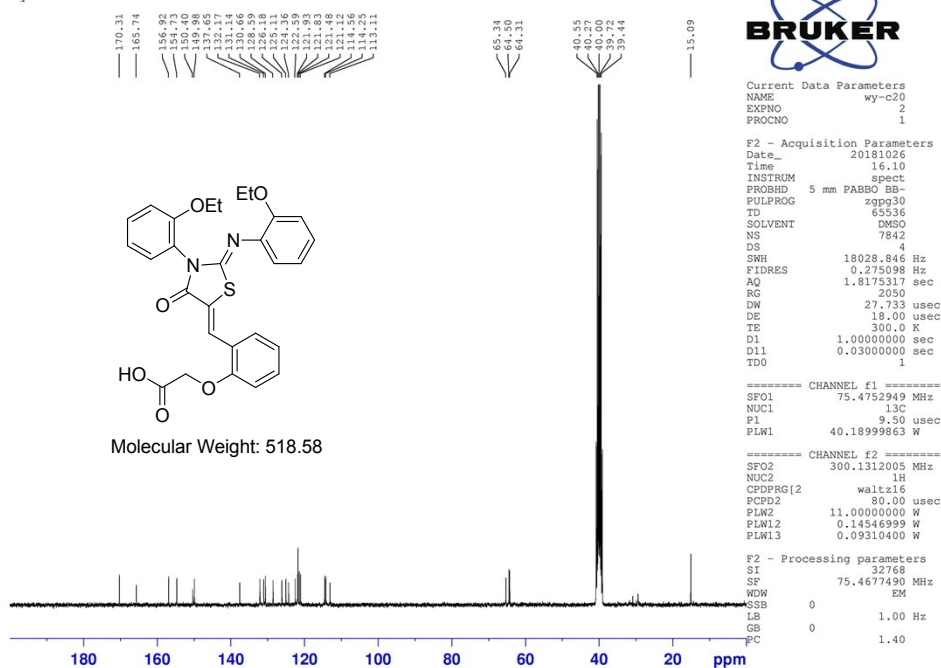


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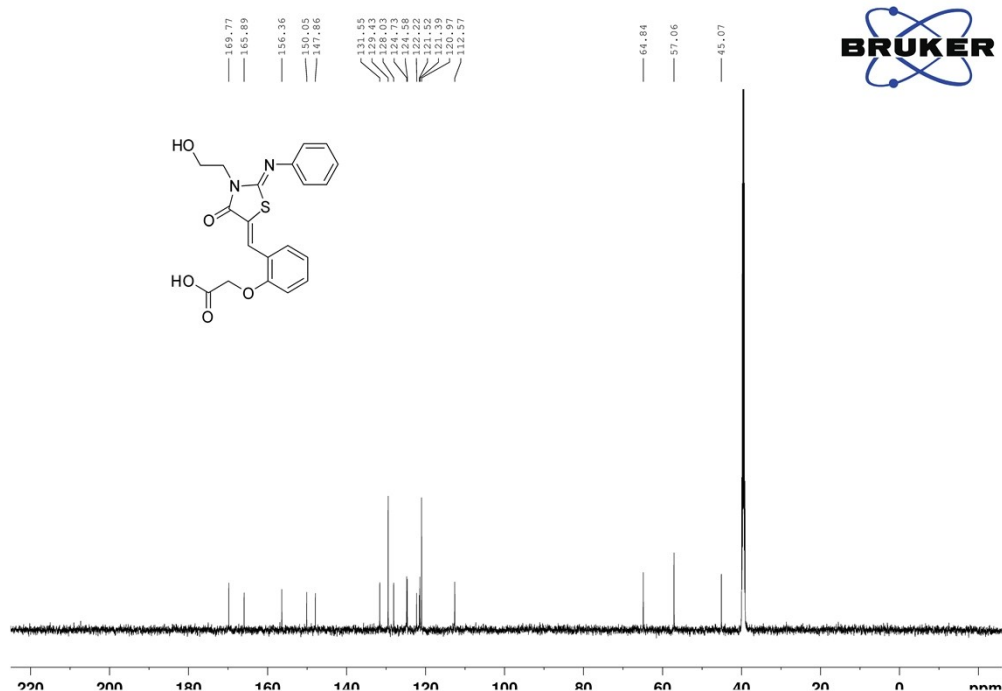
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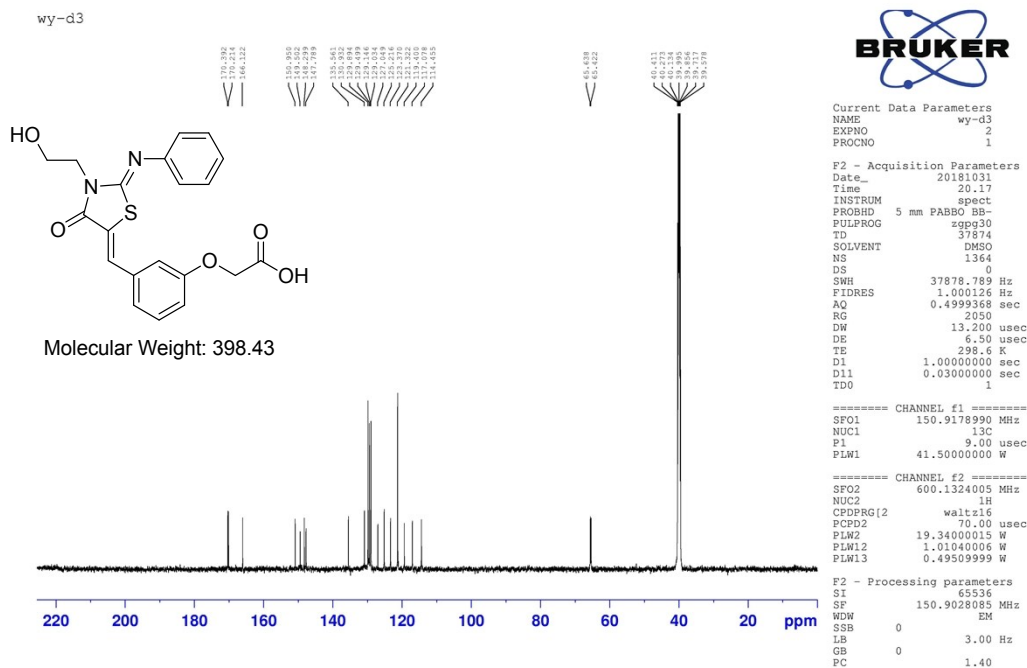
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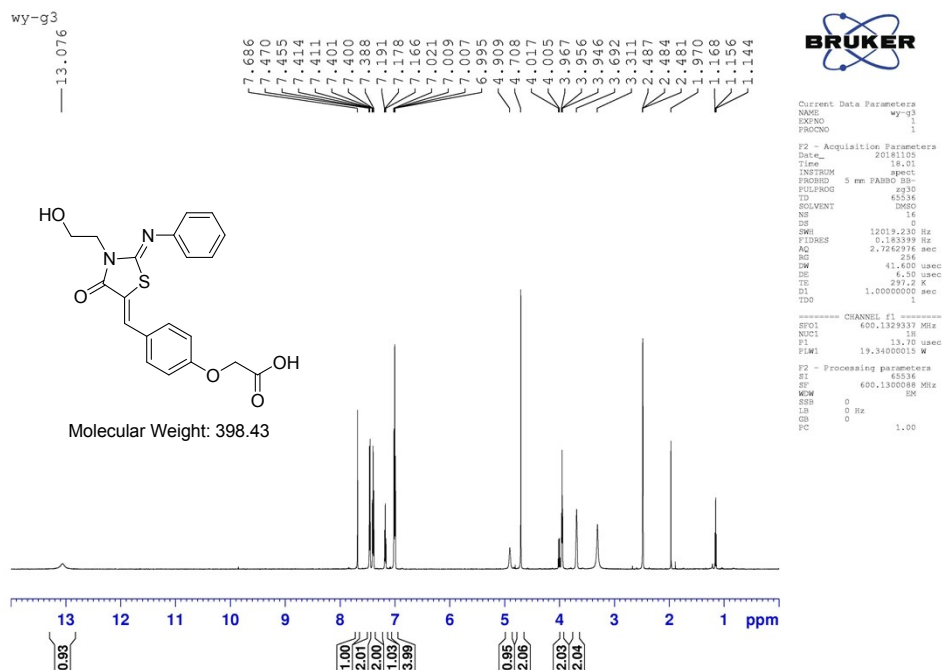
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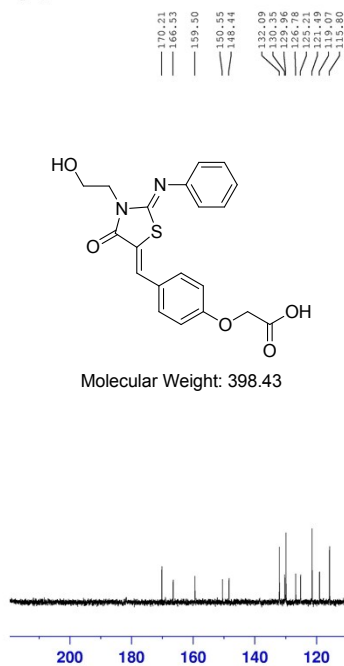
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18c



wy-g3



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PROCNO 1

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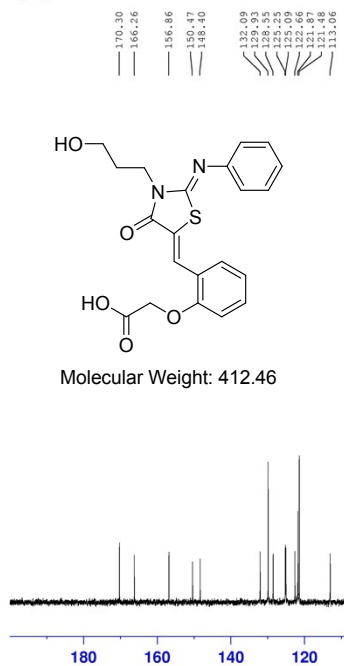
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18d

wy-g4



Current Data Parameters
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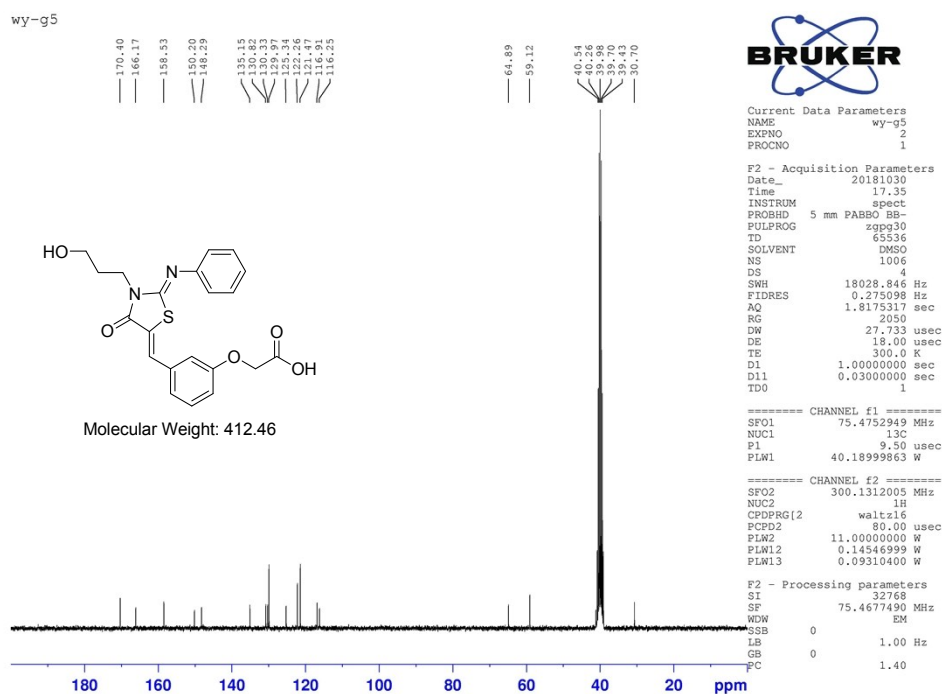
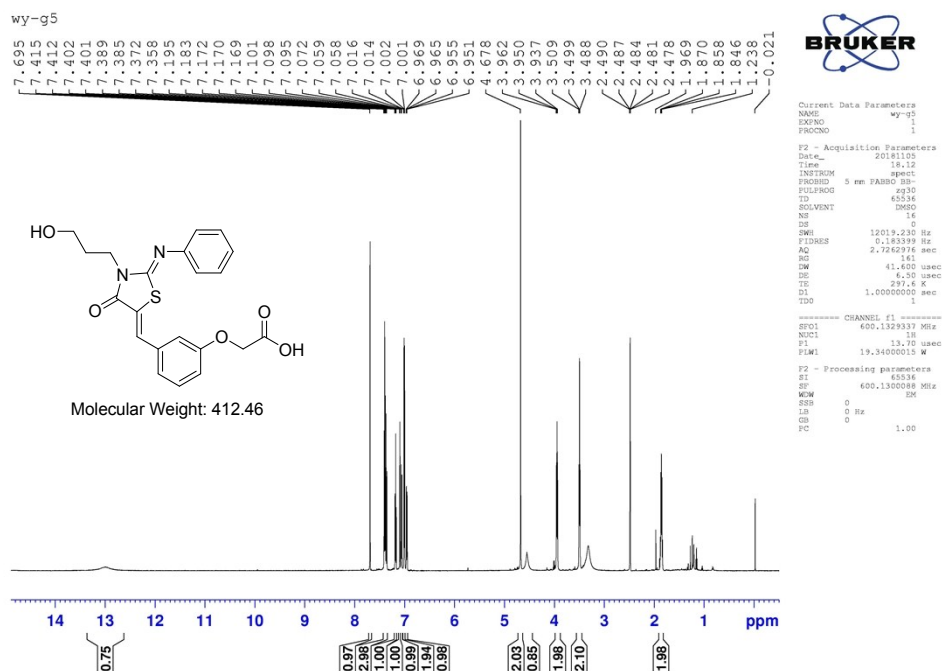
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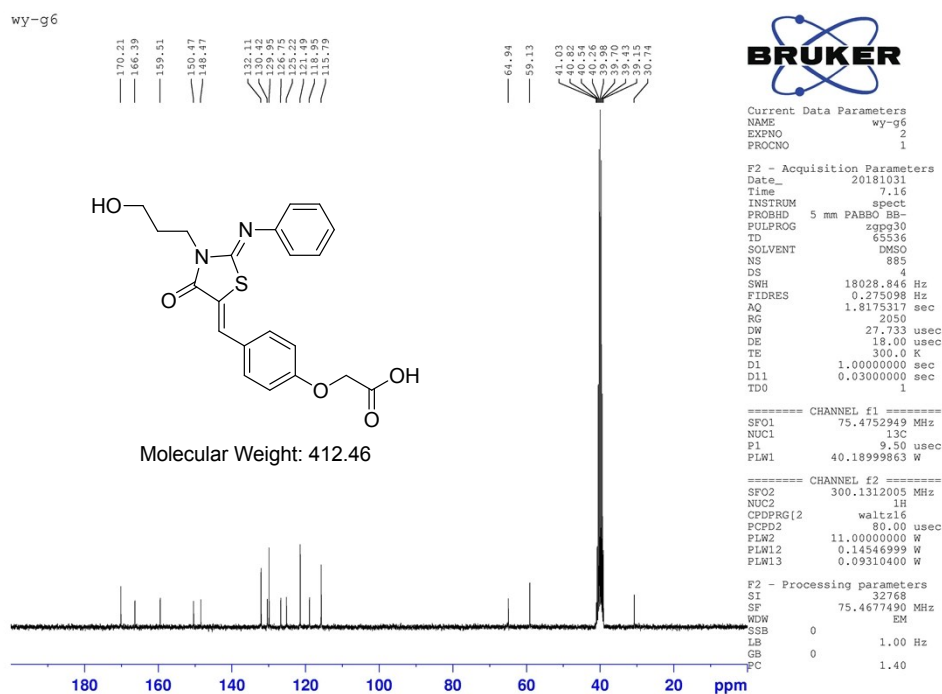
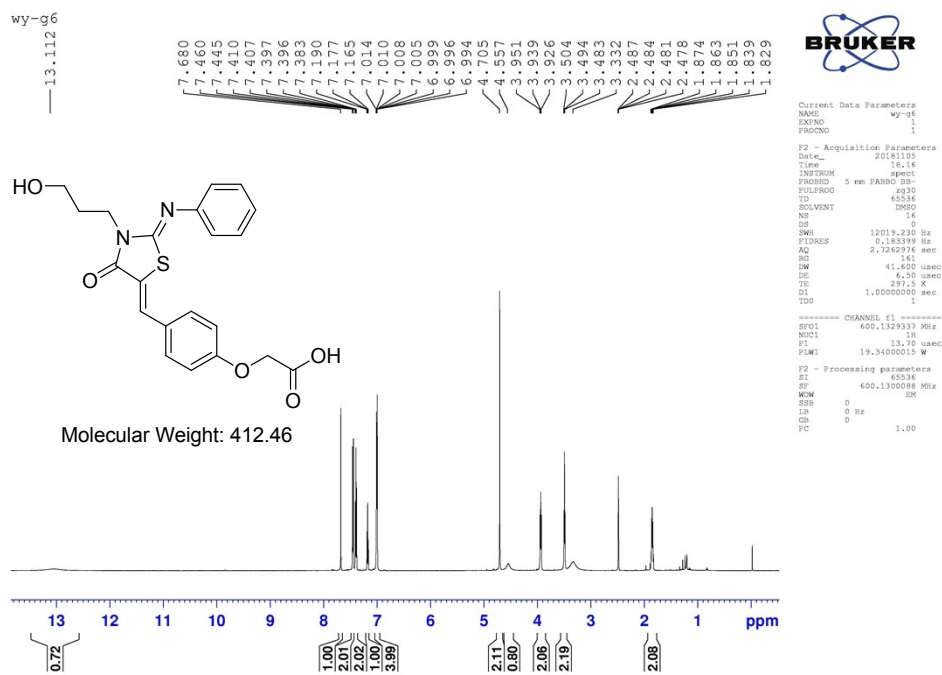
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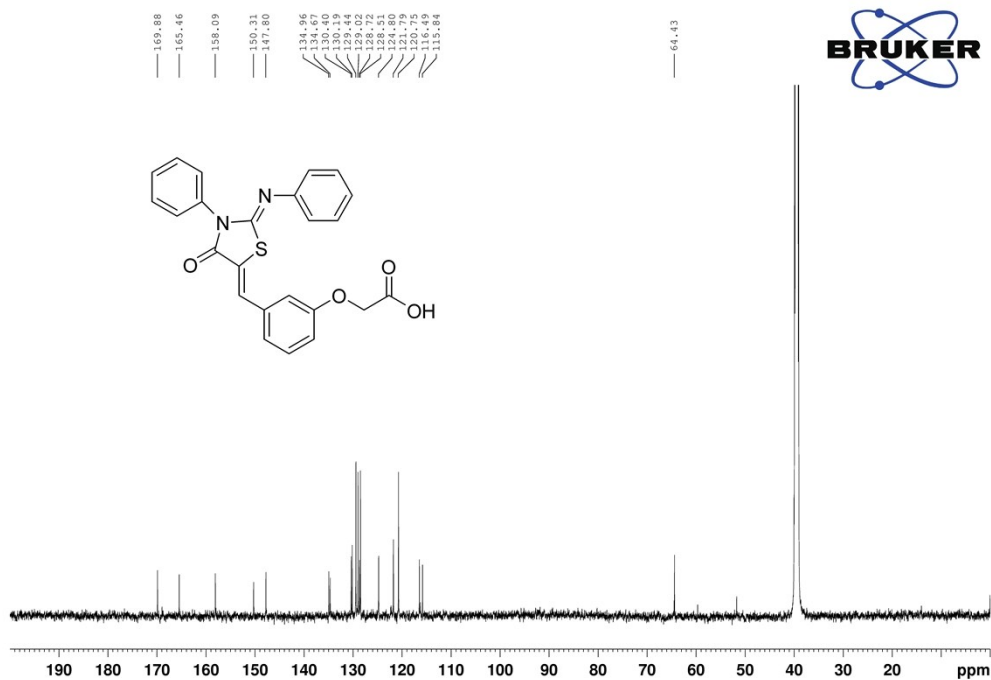
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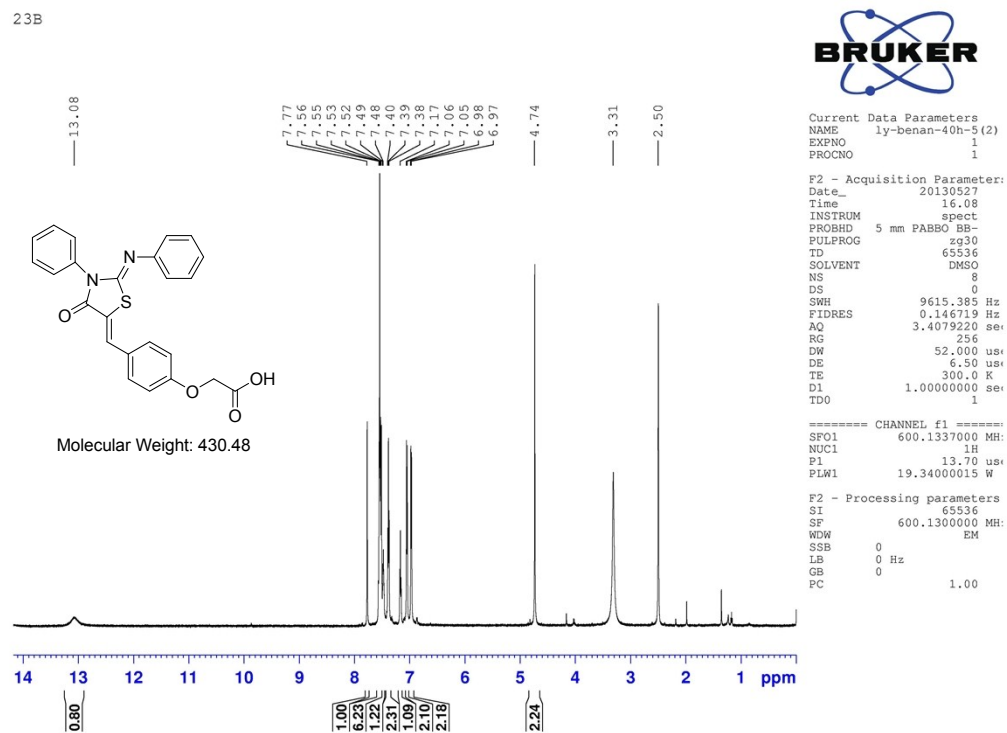
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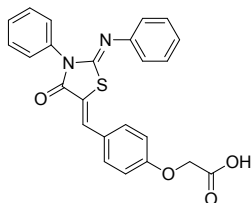
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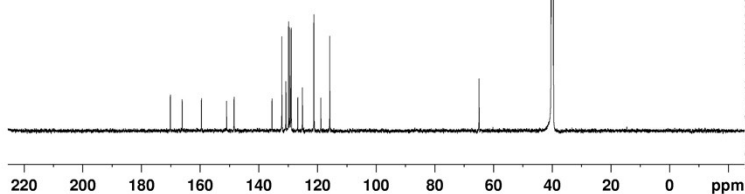
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wy-d2



Molecular Weight: 430.48



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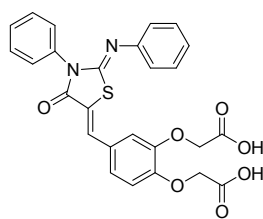
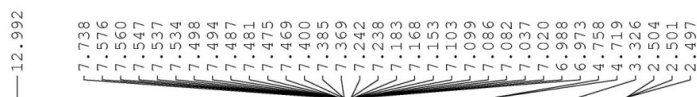
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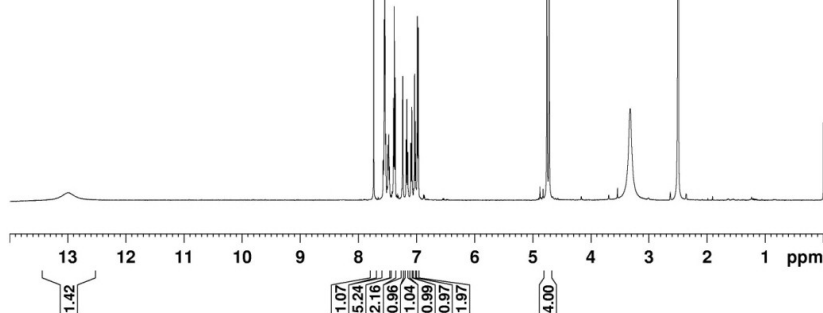
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23c



Molecular Weight: 504.51

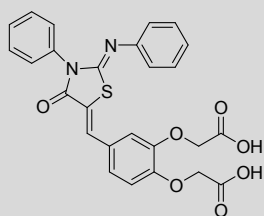


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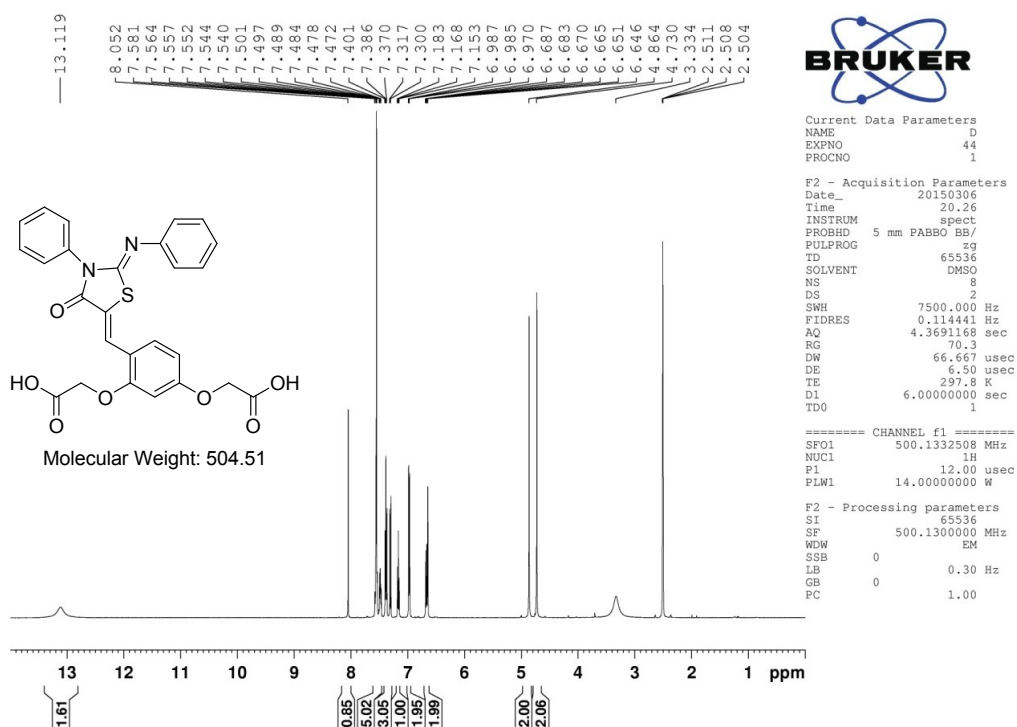
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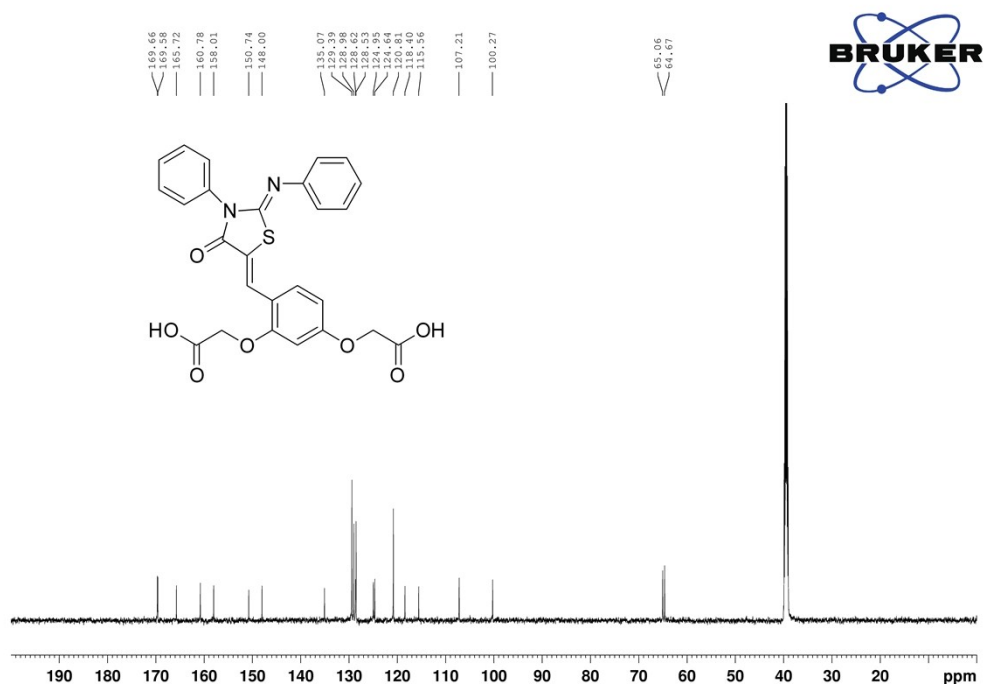
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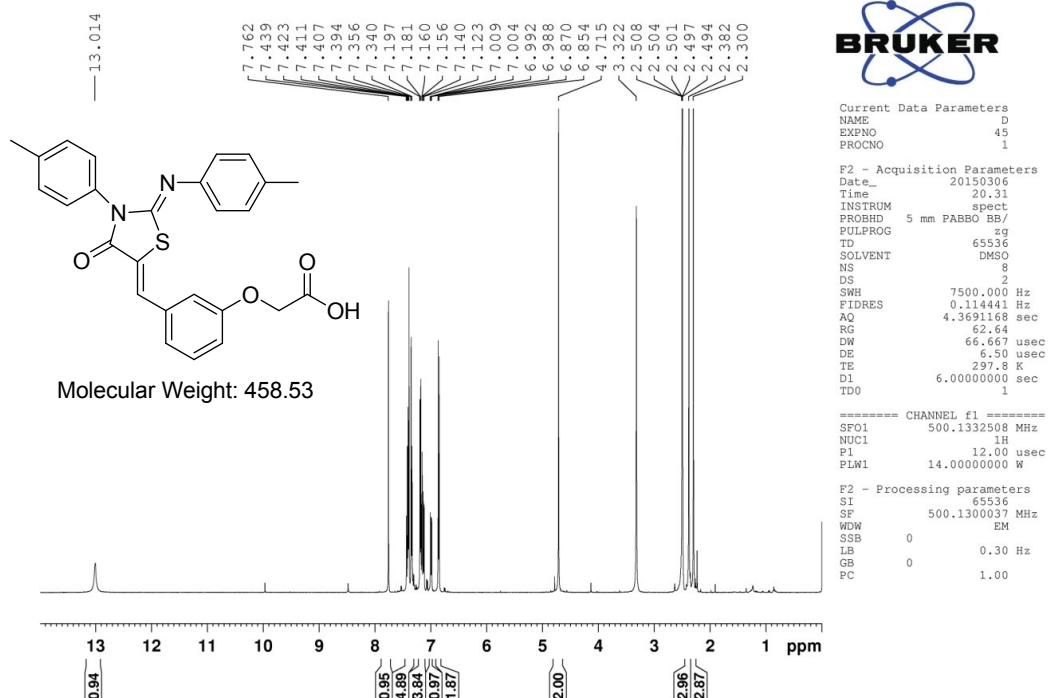
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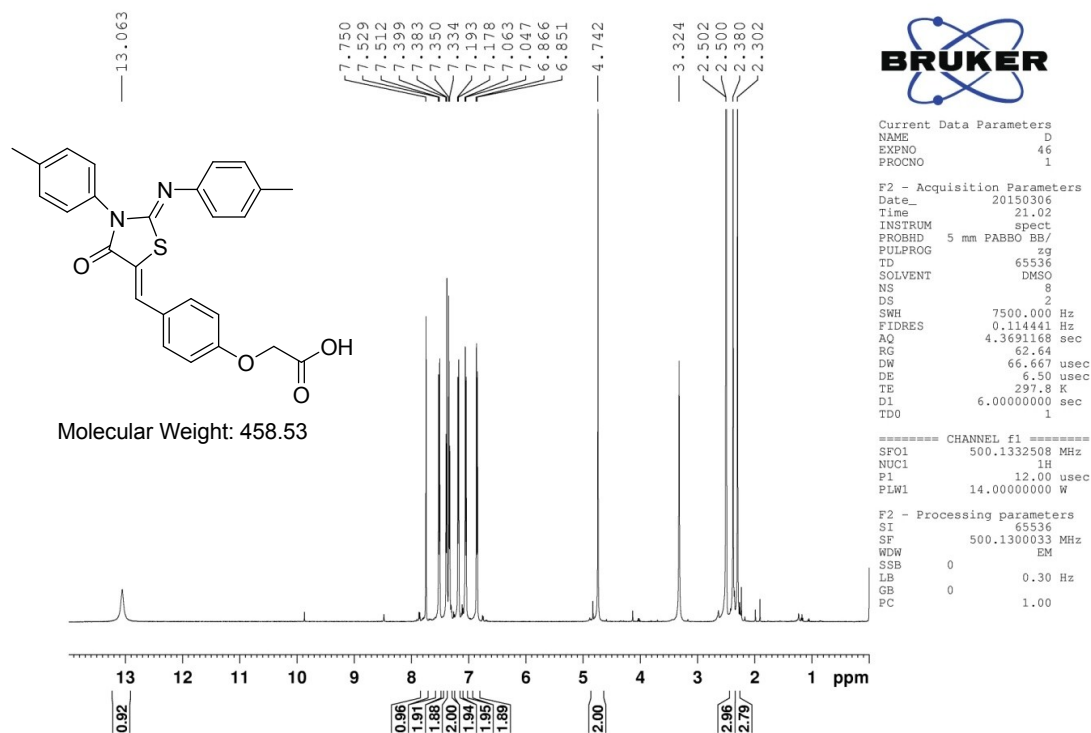




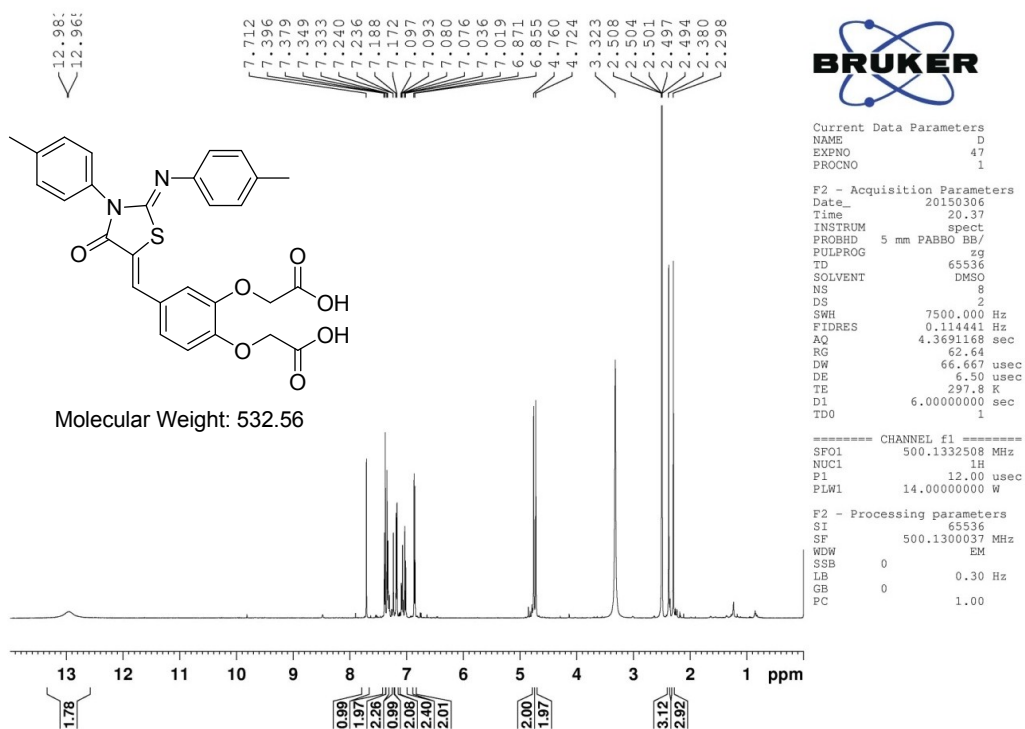
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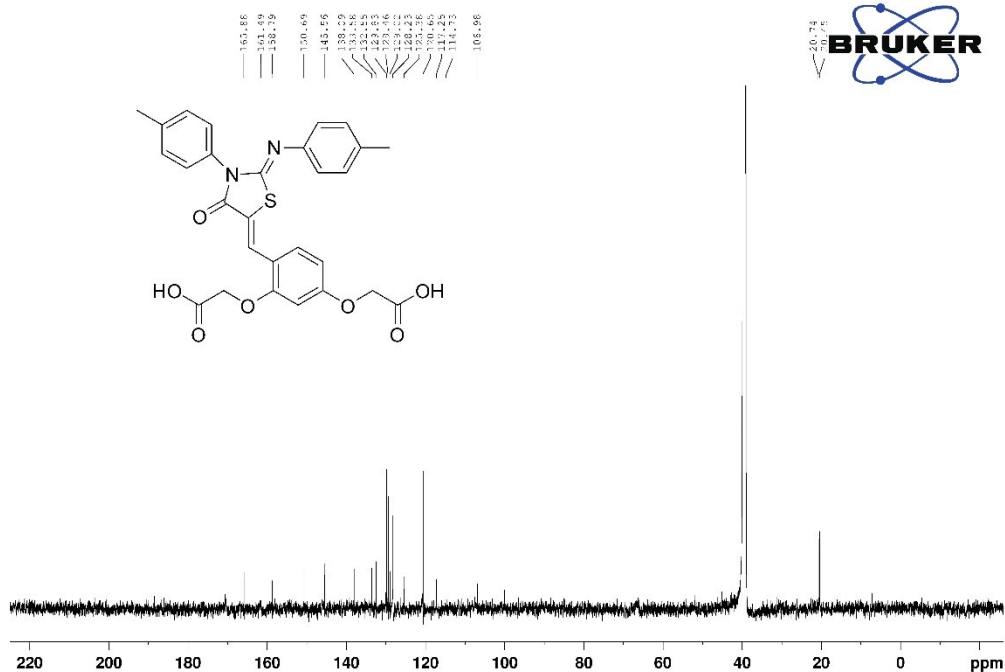
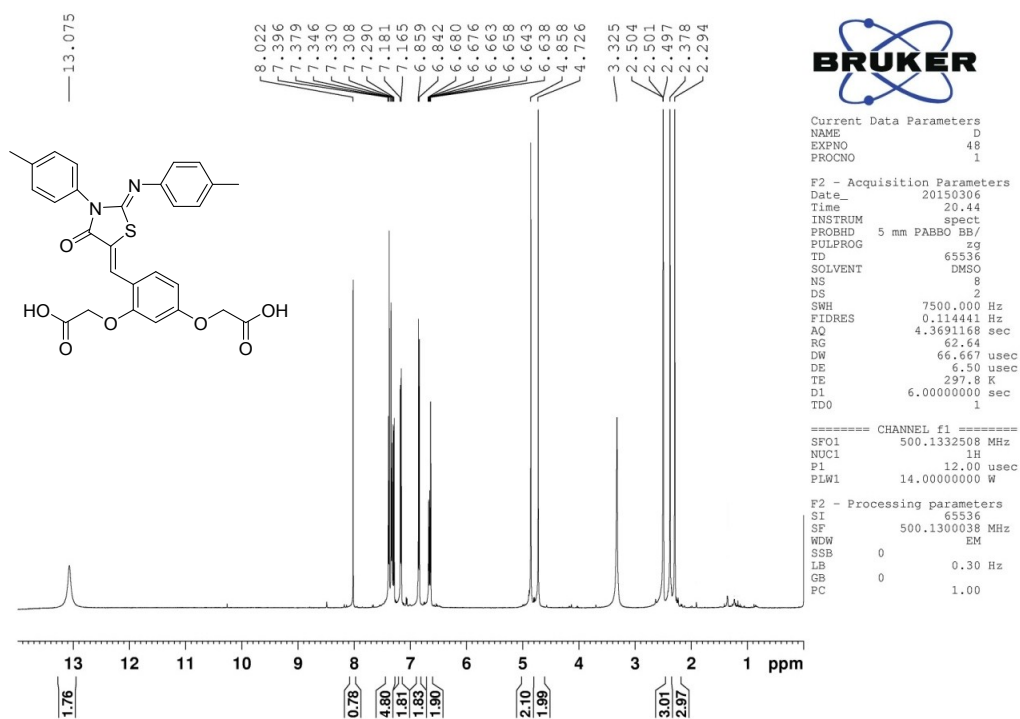
23f



23g



23h

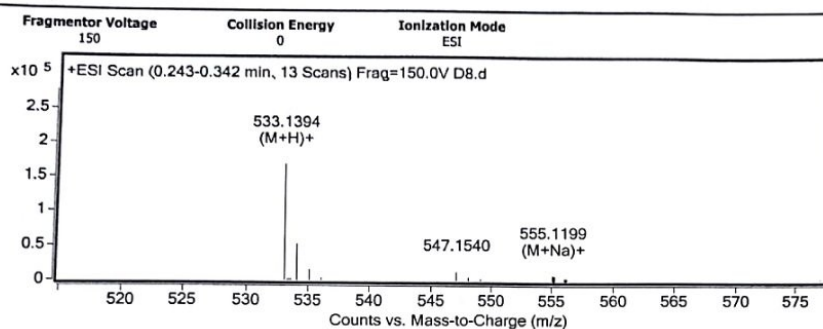


Qualitative Analysis Report

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Sample Type	Sample	Position
Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name
Acq Method	TEST-POS-WL.m	Acquired Time
IRM Calibration Status	Success	DA Method
Comment		E.m

Sample Group Info.

User Spectra



Peak List

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Formula Calculator Element Limits

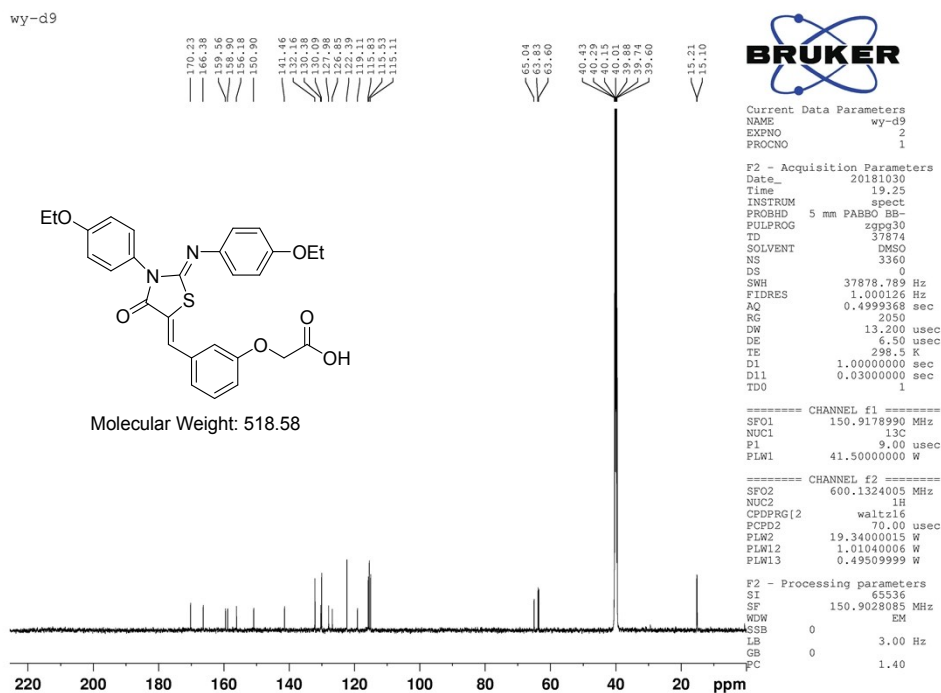
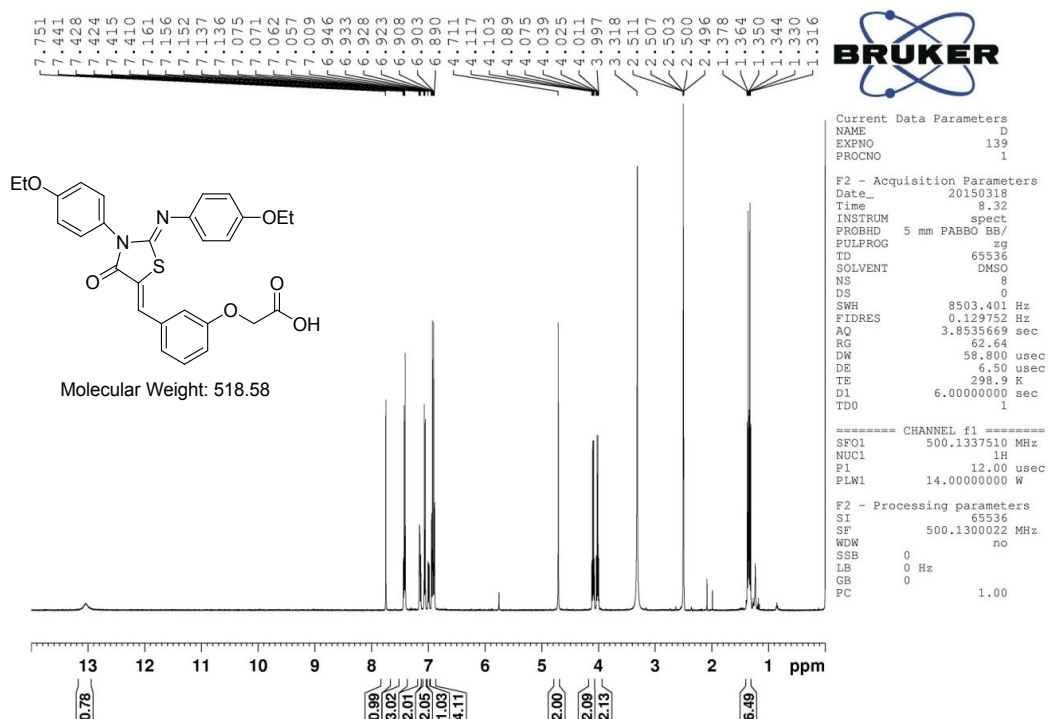
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H	0	100
O	7	7
N	2	2
S	1	1

Formula Calculator Results

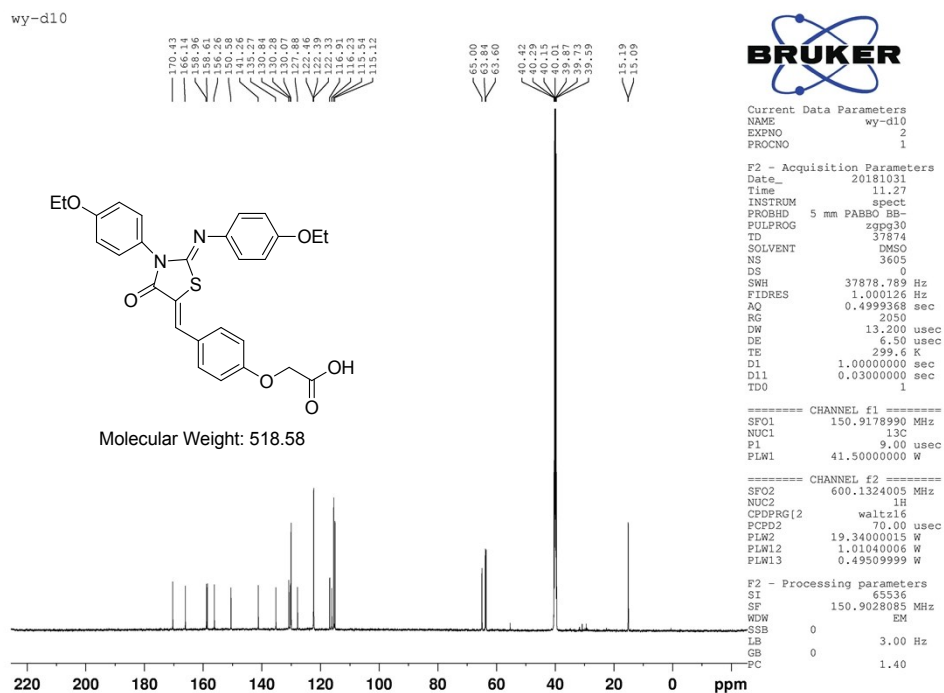
Formula	Best	Mass	Tgt Mass	Diff (ppm)	Ion Species	Score
C28 H24 N2 O7 S	TRUE	532.1321	532.1304	-3.18	C28 H25 N2 O7 S	93.82
C28 H24 N2 O7 S	TRUE	532.1307	532.1304	-0.53	C28 H24 N2 Na O7 S	98.31

--- End Of Report ---

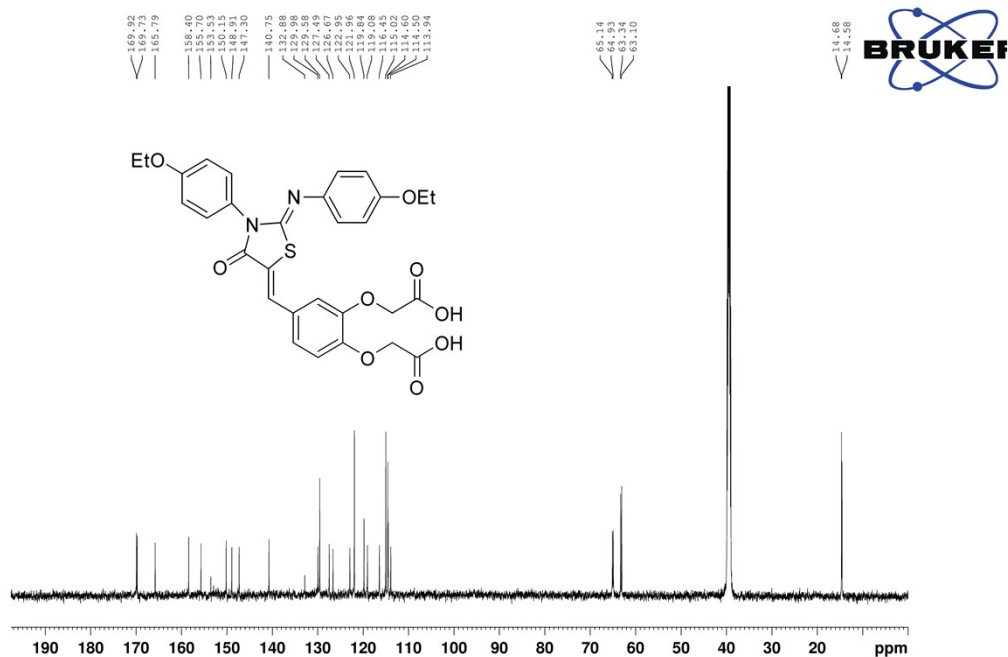
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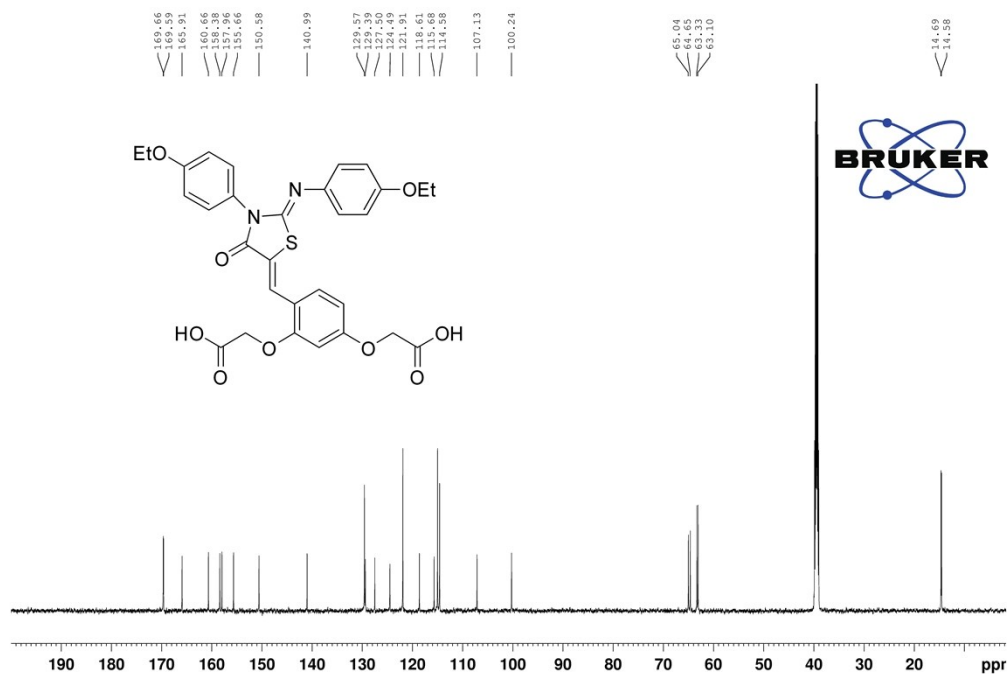
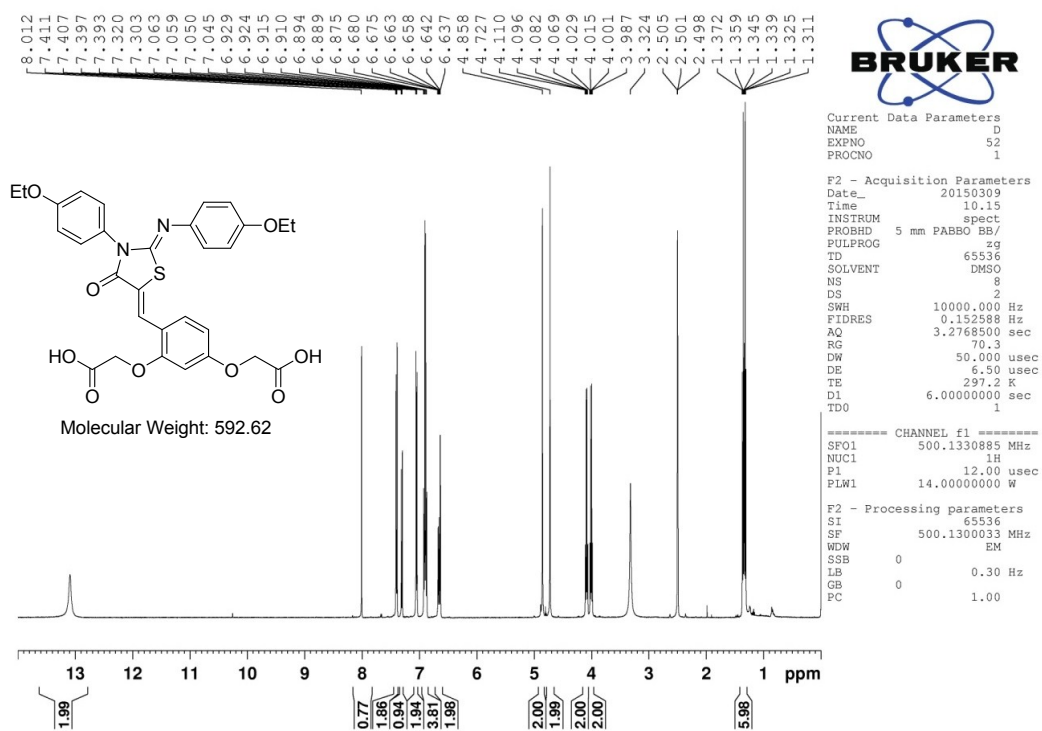


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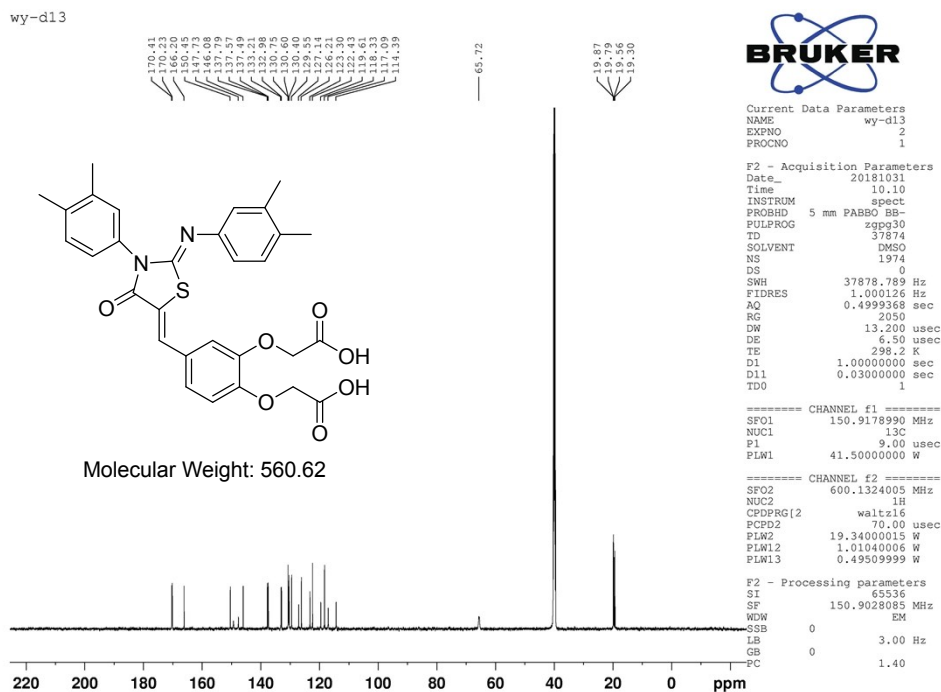
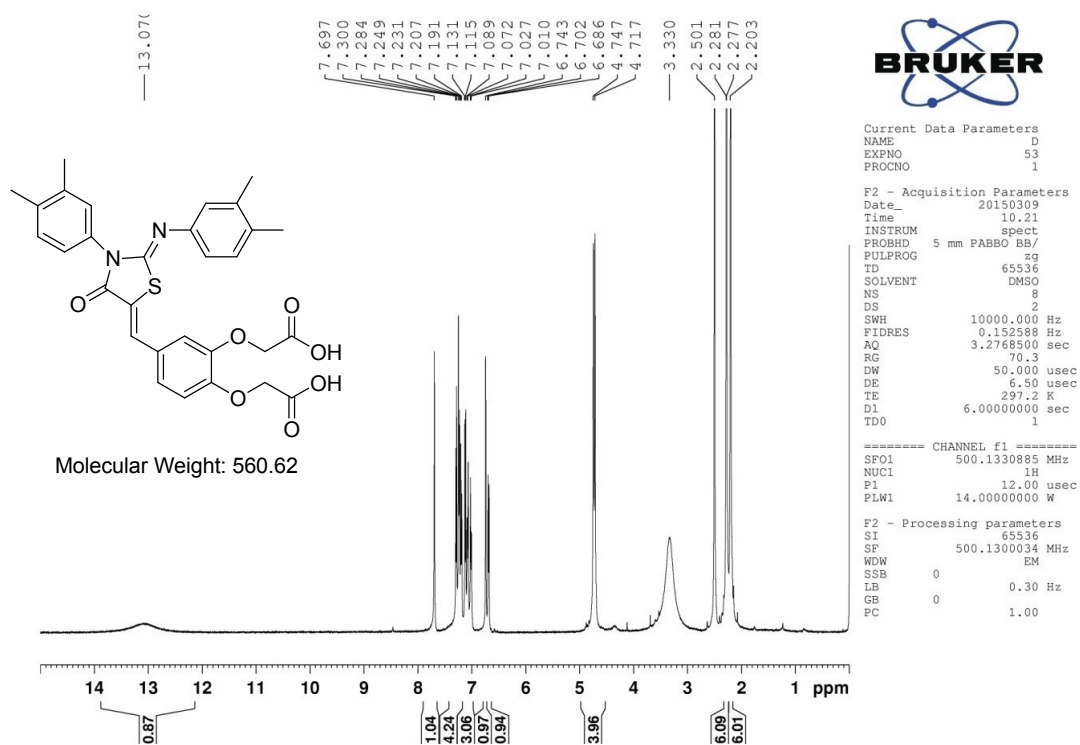


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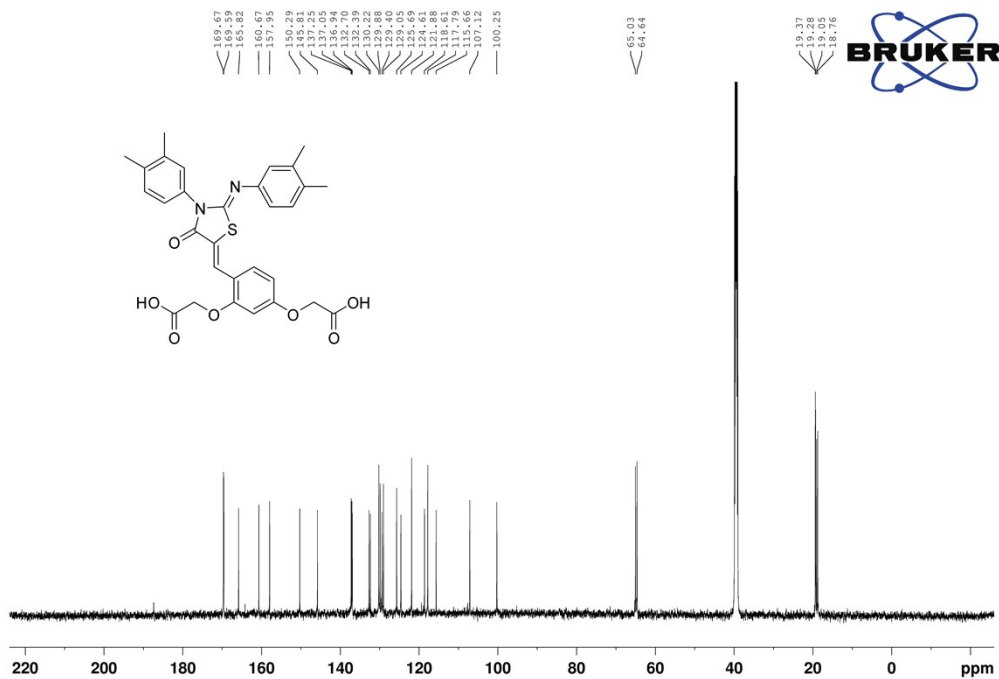
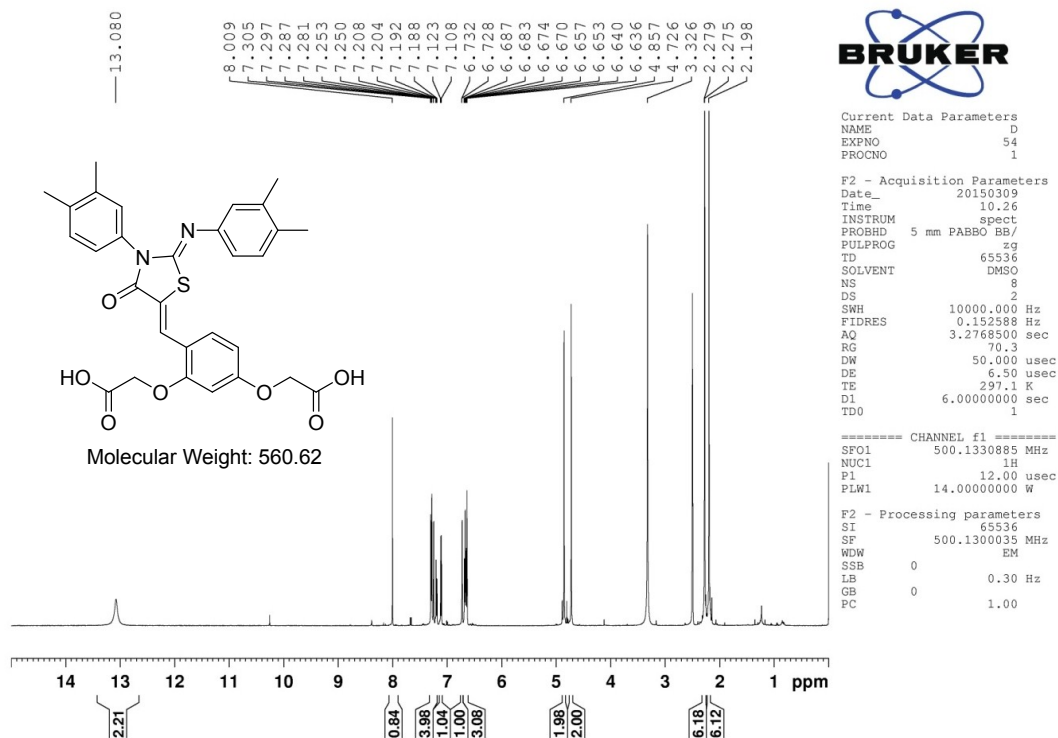




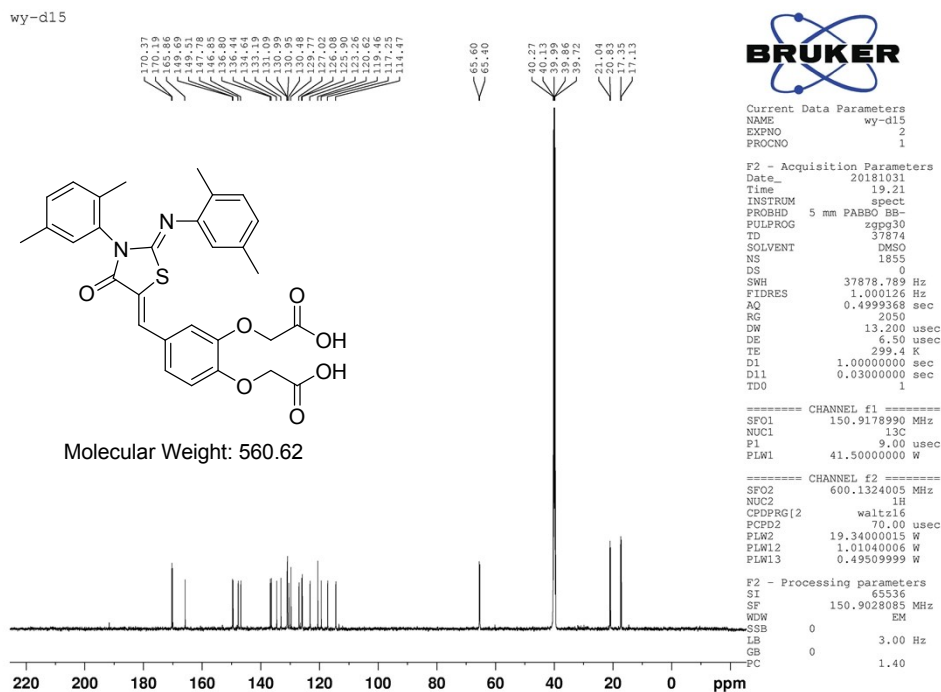
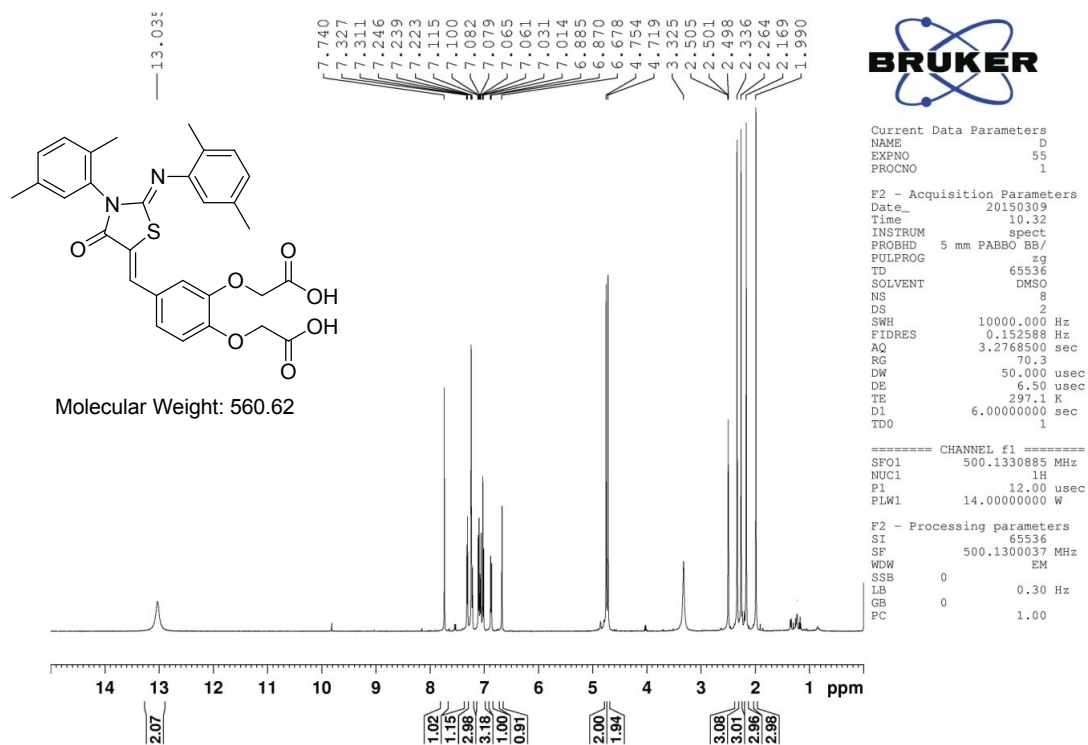
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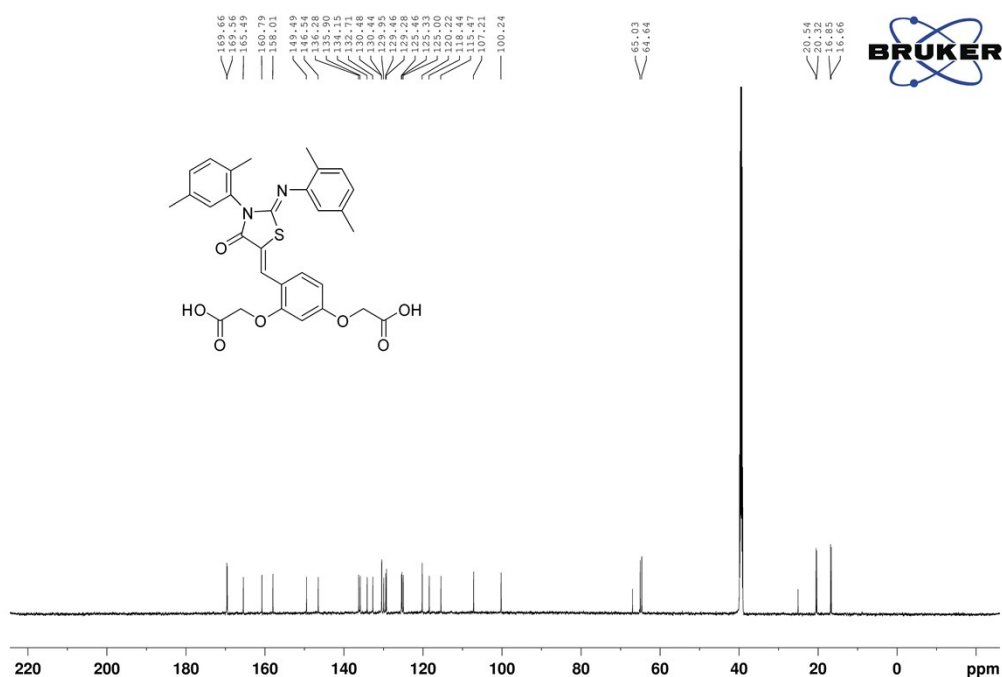
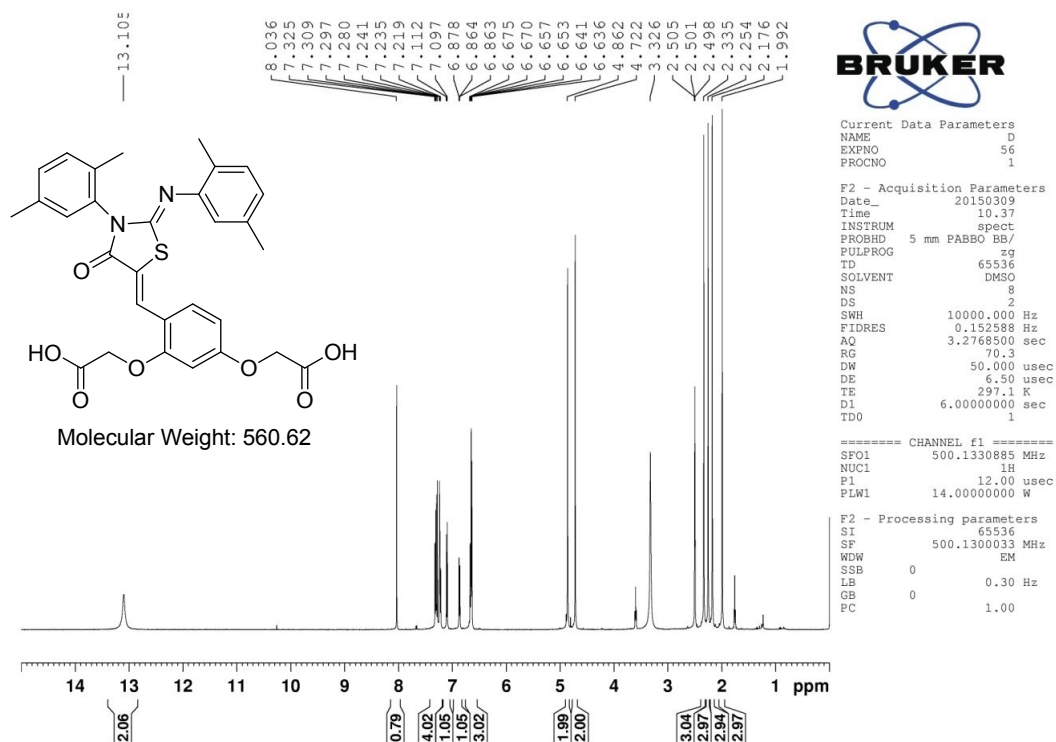
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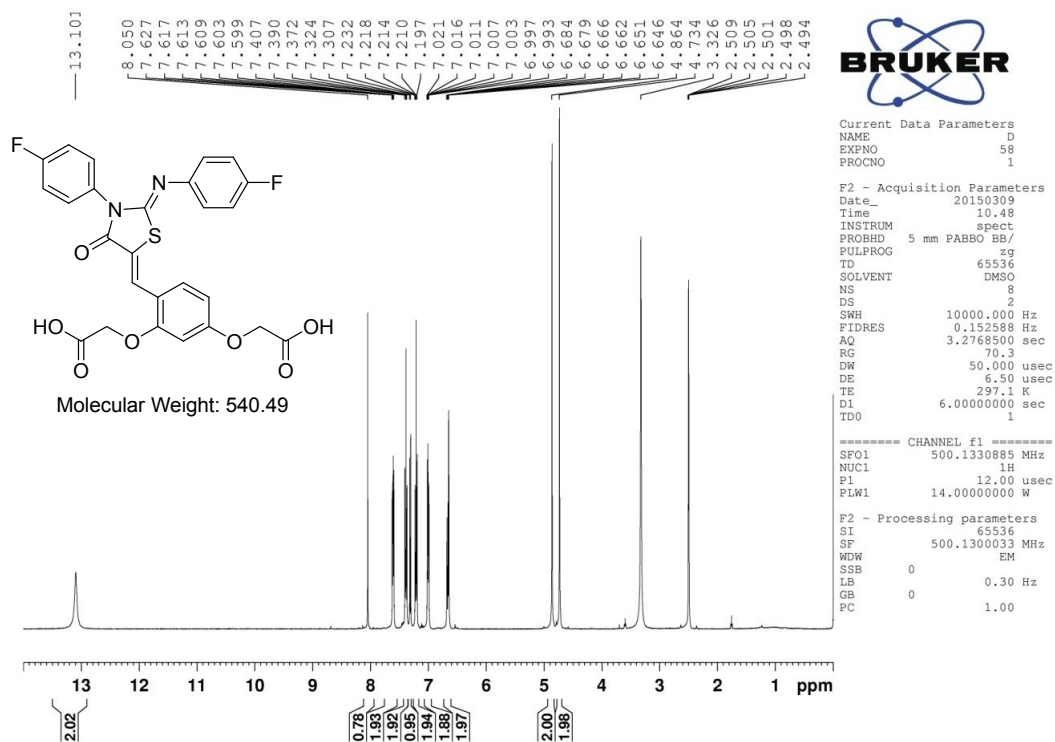
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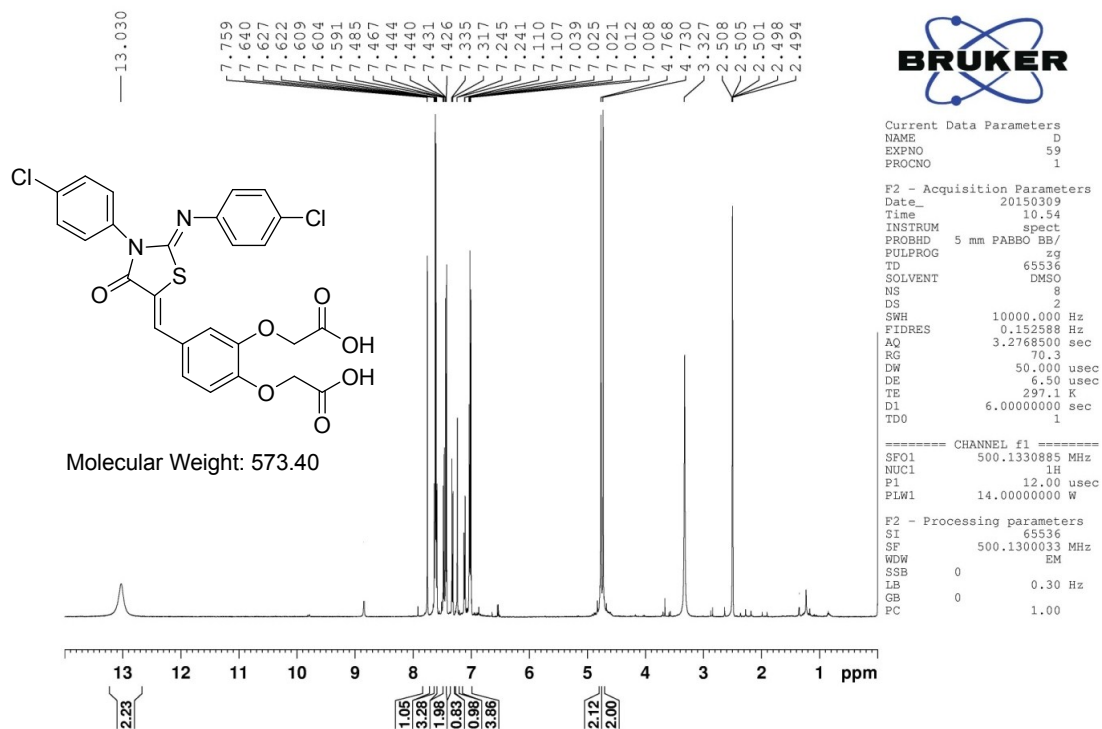
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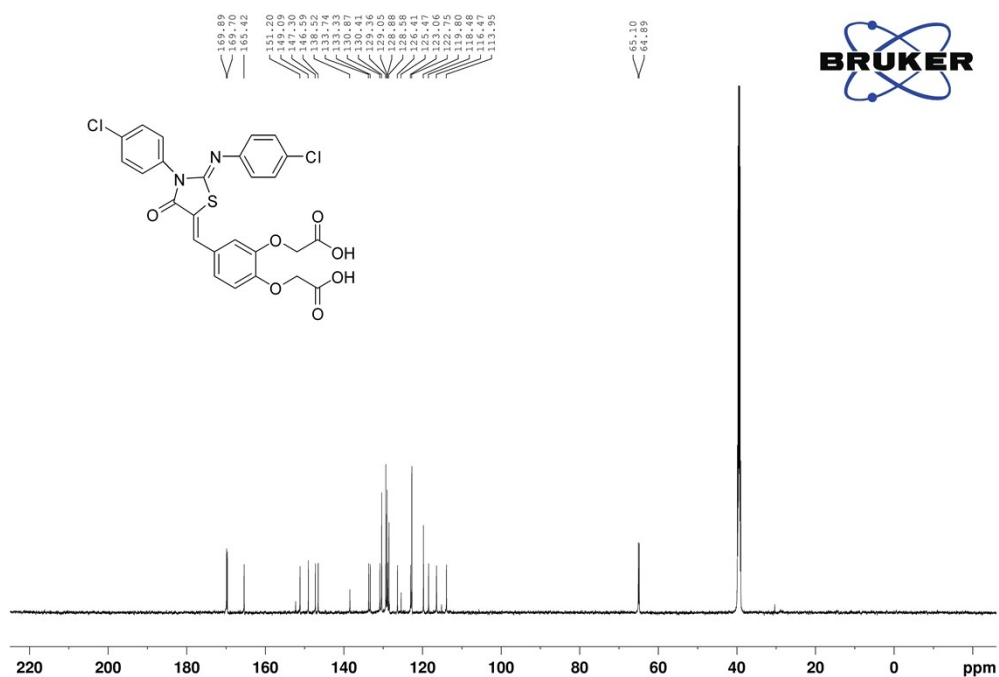


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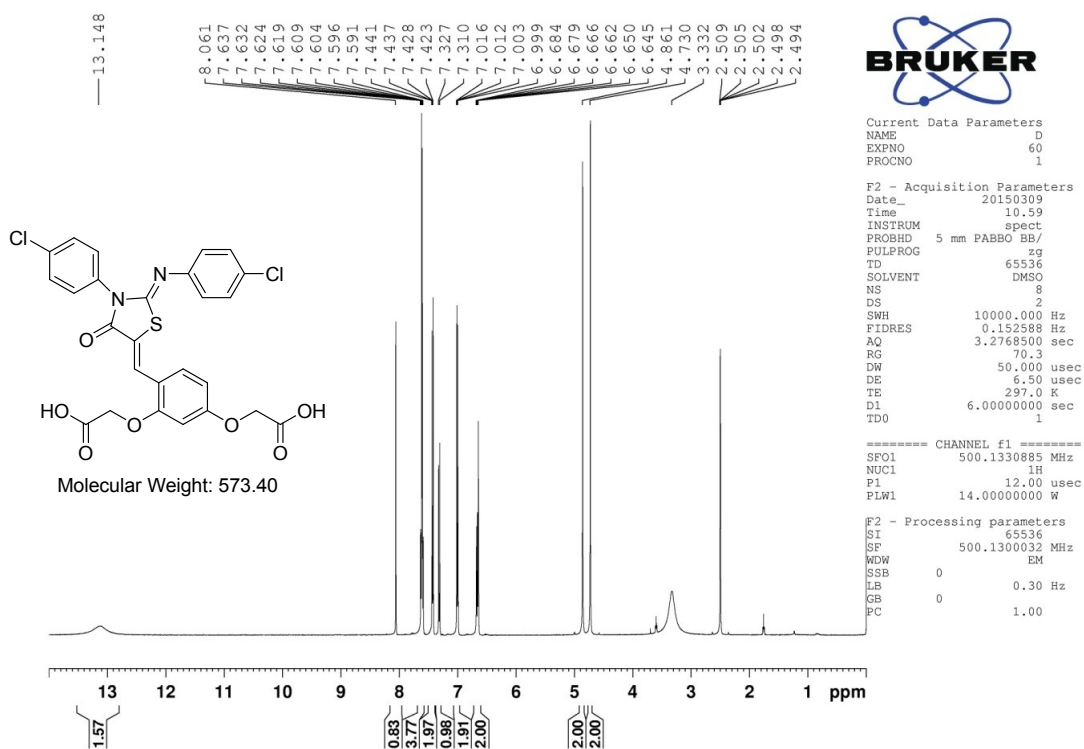


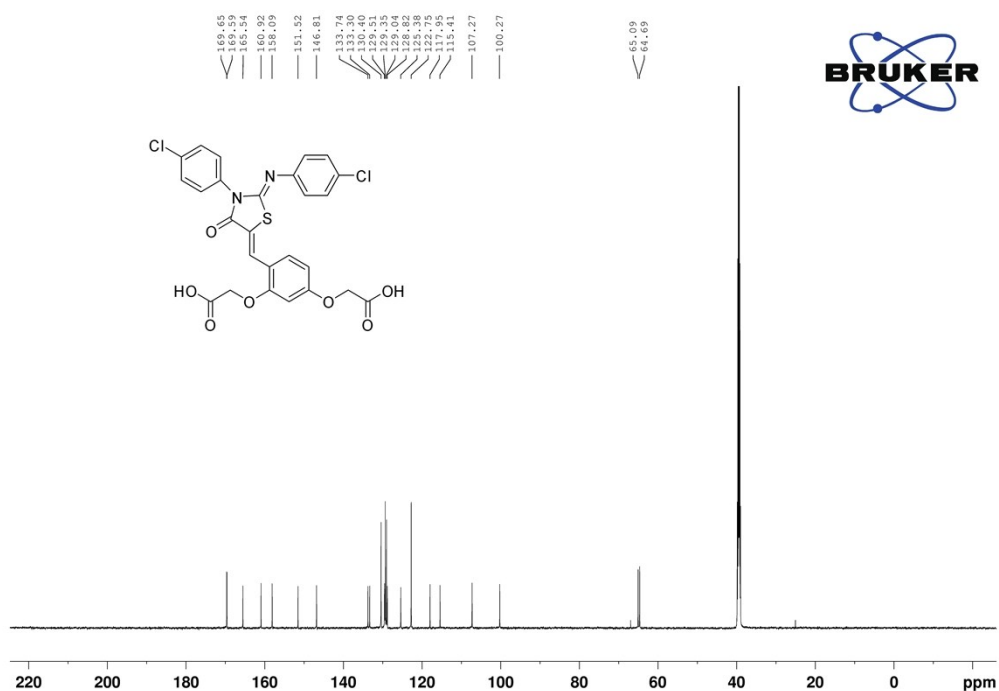
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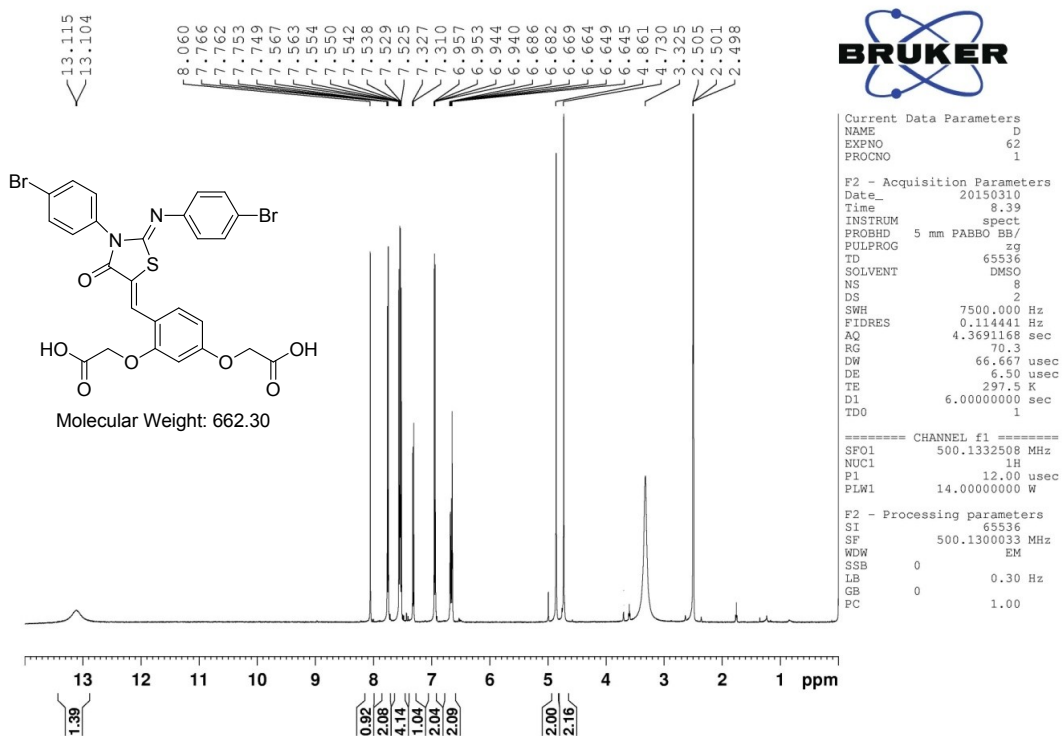


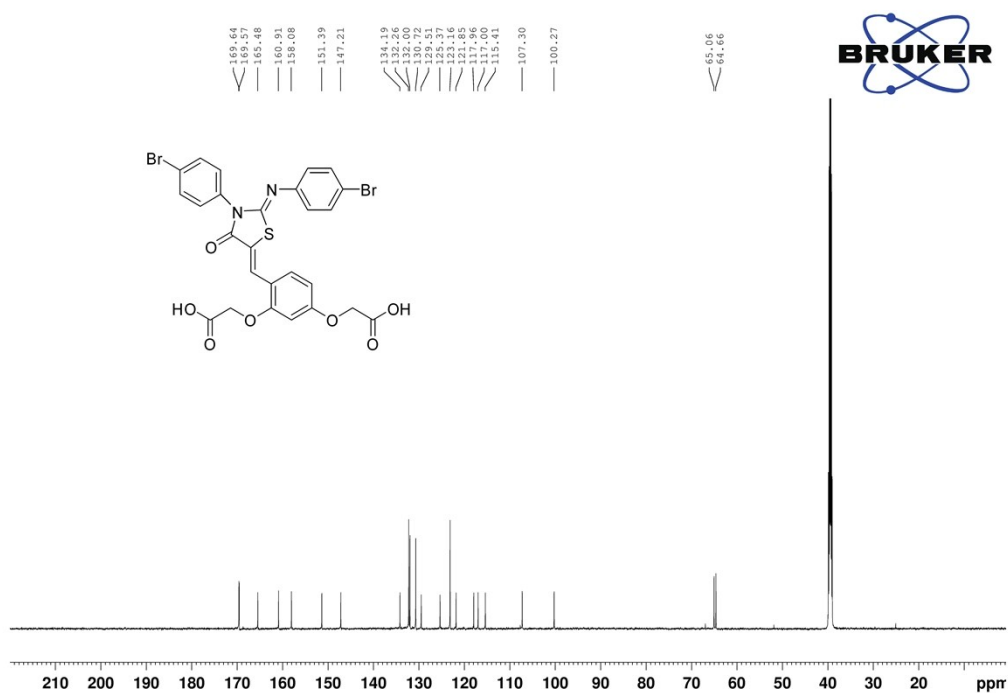
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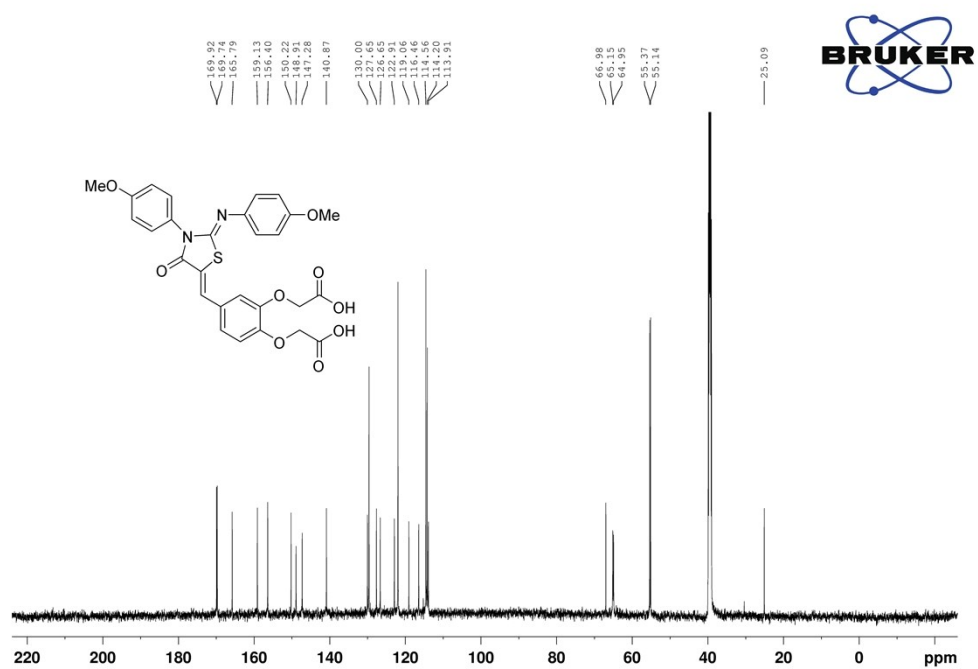


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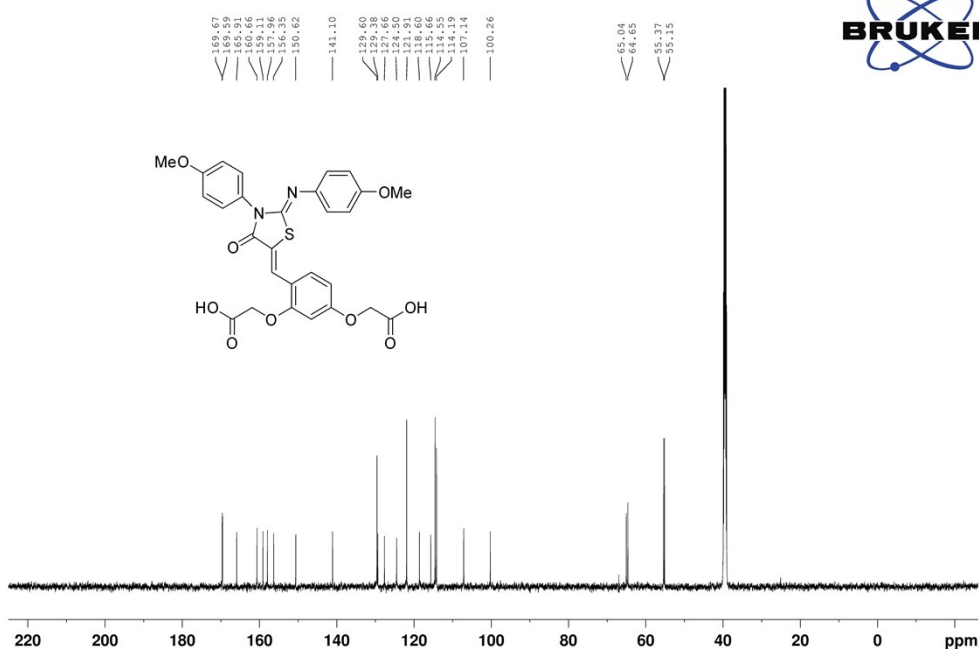
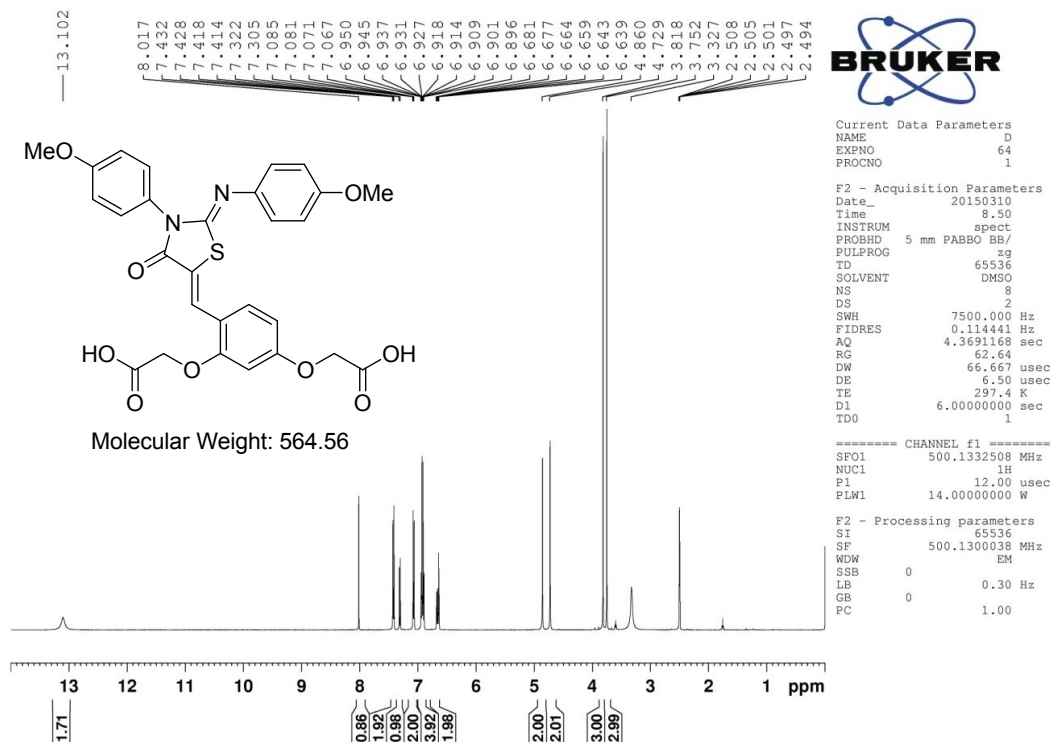




23w



23x



Reference

1. G. Jones, P. Willett, R. C. Glen, A. R. Leach and R. Taylor, *J. Mol. Biol.*, 1997, **267**, 727.