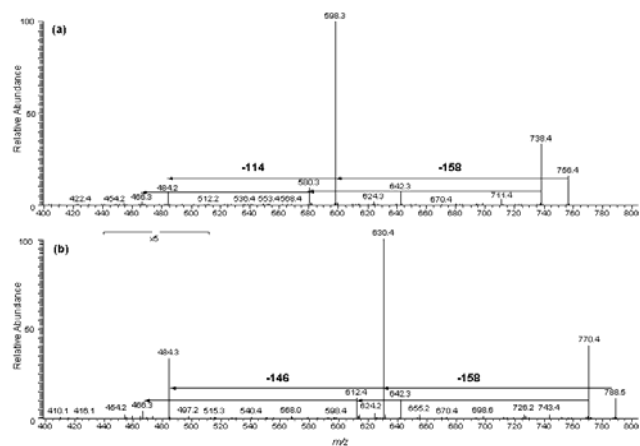


Comparison of the protonated ion MS/MS spectra of erythromycin A **1** and fluoro-erythromycin A **5**. (a) MS/MS spectrum of $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 734 of erythromycin A; (b) MS/MS spectrum of $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 766 of fluoro-erythromycin A.

The MS/MS spectrum of the $[MH]^+$ ion of fluoro-erythromycin A exhibits the same mass losses as observed in the MS/MS of the $[MH]^+$ ion of erythromycin A, except for the loss of starter acid: 58 Da for the loss of propionyl starter acid of erythromycin Aⁱ and 90 Da for the corresponding loss of the fluorobutyryl starter acid of fluoro-erythromycin A.



Comparison of the sodiated ion MS/MS spectra of erythromycin A **1** and fluoro-erythromycin A **5**. (a) MS/MS spectrum of $[M+Na]^+$ at m/z 756 of erythromycin A; (b) MS/MS spectrum of $[M+Na]^+$ at m/z 788 of fluoro-erythromycin A.

The MS/MS spectrum of the $[MNa]^+$ ion of fluoro-erythromycin A exhibits the same mass losses as observed in the MS/MS of the $[MNa]^+$ ion of erythromycin A, except for the loss of starter acid: 114 Da for the loss of propionyl starter acid of erythromycin Aⁱⁱ and 146 Da for the corresponding loss of the fluorobutyryl starter acid of fluoro-erythromycin A.

i P. J. Gates, G. C. Kearney, R. Jones, P. F. leadlay, J. Staunton, *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.*, 1999, **13**, 242-246.
 ii M. Roddis, P. J. Gates, Y. Roddis, J. Staunton, *J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.*, 2002, **13**, 862-874.