

Eltepu *et al.*

Immobilized and Reusable Cu(I) Catalyst for Metal Ion-Free Conjugation of Ligands to Fully Deprotected Oligonucleotides through Click Reaction

Laxman Eltepu,^a Muthusamy Jayaraman,^a Kallanthottathil G. Rajeev^a and Muthiah Manoharan^{a*}

Drug Discovery, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA 02142 USA

mmanoharan@alnylam.com

Received

Experimental Procedures:

Scheme 1

Synthesis of benzyl 15-azido 4,7,10,13-tetraoxapentadecanoate, Compound 2: To a solution of azido-PEG acid (**1**, 5.0 g, 17.18 mmol, 1.0 eq) and benzyl bromide (4.4 g, 25.77 mmol, 1.5 eq) in acetone was added K₂CO₃ (7.11 g, 51.54 mmol, 3.0 eq) as a solid, and the reaction was refluxed overnight. After completion of the reaction as judged by TLC, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was dissolved in the ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and washed with water. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated, and purified by flash silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc, 1:1) to obtain pure benzyl ester **2** as an oil (6.44 g, yield: 98 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 3.77 (t, *J* = 6.5, 2H), 3.71 – 3.53 (m, 14H), 3.37 (t, *J* = 5.1, 2H), 2.65 (t, *J* = 6.5, 2H); HRMS calc. for C₁₈H₂₇N₃O₆: 404.1798 (M+Na); found: 404.1798.

Synthesis of compound 4:

Method A: To a mixture of PEG-azide **2** (0.7 g, 1.83 mmol, 3.0 eq) and tris-propargylamine (0.08 g, 0.61 mmol, 1.0 eq) in *tert*-butanol/water (1:1) were added sodium ascorbate (0.036 g, 0.18 mmol, 0.3 eq) and CuSO₄·5H₂O (0.004 g, 0.018 mmol, 0.03 eq). The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight. TLC indicated complete consumption of the starting materials. The reaction mixture was diluted with excess dichloromethane (DCM), and the organic layer was removed and washed with water. Combined organic fractions were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (eluent: DCM/MeOH, 9:1) to obtain pure compound **4** as a pale green oil (0.69 g, 88%).

Eltepu *et al.*

Method B: To a solution of PEG-azide (**2**, 3.0 g, 7.87 mmol, 3.0 eq) and tris-propargylamine **3** (0.343 g, 2.62 mmol, 1.0 eq) in *tert*-butanol/water (1:1) were added sodium ascorbate (0.155 g, 0.786 mmol, 0.3 eq) and CuSO₄·5H₂O (0.0195 g, 0.0786 mmol, 0.03 eq). The reaction mixture was microwave irradiated in a CEM Explorer-48 microwave synthesizer at 80 °C for 1 h with a ramp time of 20 min. TLC and LC-MS showed complete consumption of the starting materials after 1 h of irradiation. Workup and purification were performed as described in Method A to obtain a pure compound **4** as pale green oil (3.01 g, 90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (s, 3H), 7.41 – 7.19 (m, 15H), 5.12 (s, 6H), 4.52 (t, *J* = 5.3, 6H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 5.3, 6H), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 5.2, 12H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 3.4, 36H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 6.5, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.59, 136.11, 128.75, 128.41, 128.36, 70.86, 70.79, 70.74, 70.66, 70.62, 69.59, 66.77, 66.49, 35.32. HRMS calc. for C₆₃H₉₀N₁₀O₁₈: 1275.6639; found: 1275.6620.

Synthesis of compound 5: To a solution of benzyl protected ligand (**4**, 0.6 g, 0.47 mmol) in methanol was added a catalytic amount of 10% Pd-C. The reaction was stirred under H₂ atmosphere at ambient temperature overnight. Completion of the reaction was confirmed by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered through a small bed of celite. After washing with methanol several times, the combined washings were concentrated and dried under vacuum to obtain pure compound **5** as an oil (0.57 g, 97%), which was used for the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (s, 3H), 4.57 (t, *J* = 5.1, 6H), 3.99 (s, 5H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 5.1, 6H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 6.1, 6H), 3.65 – 3.54 (m, 35H), 3.47 (s, 5H), 2.56 (t, *J* = 6.1, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 143.30, 124.47, 69.69, 69.60, 69.41, 68.83, 49.36, 46.93. HRMS calc. for C₄₂H₇₂N₁₀O₁₈: 1027.5050 (M+Na); found: 1027.5005.

Preparation of solid supported ligand 6: To a solution of compound **5** (0.88 g, 0.87 mmol), HBTU (0.16 g, 0.43 mmol), and DIPEA (0.24 mL, 1.13 mmol) in DMF was added aminomethyl polystyrene resin (230 μmmol/g, 1.52 g, 0.35 mmol), and the mixture was gently shaken on a wrist-action shaker at room temperature for 4 h. The resin was filtered and subsequently washed with DCM (1 vol.), DCM/methanol (9:1, 2 vol.), DCM (1 vol.), and ether (2 vol.) and dried under vacuum to obtain the solid support **6** (1.523 g).

Preparation of solid-supported ligand-Cu (I) complex 7: To a solution of tetrakis(acetonitrile)copper(I) hexafluorophosphate [Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆] (0.08 g, 0.23 mmol) in DMF was added ligand **5** (0.5 g, 0.11 mmol). The suspension was gently shaken on a wrist-

Eltepu *et al.*

action shaker at room temperature for 2 h. After filtration, the resin was washed with DCM (1 vol.), DCM/methanol (9:1, 2 vol.), DCM (1 vol.), and ether (2 vol.) and dried under vacuum to obtain the solid support **7** (0.507 g). Loading of the Cu(I) on the resin was analyzed by ICP/OES. Loading was 222 $\mu\text{mol/g}$, equivalent to ~97% of the total amine content on the resin.

Scheme 2

Preparation of Compound 11: Compound **11** (122 mg, 88%) was prepared under conditions similar to those used for synthesis of **12** using the alkyne **8** (0.07 g, 0.12 mmol, 1.0 eq), azide **9**¹ (0.066 g, 0.12 mmol, 1.0 eq), and Cu-complex **7** (0.05 g, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 eq) in DMF/DCM (2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.14 (m, 8H), 6.88 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 6.04 – 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.50 (d, *J* = 20.8 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (t, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 4.86 – 4.62 (m, 3H), 4.61 – 4.34 (m, 2H), 4.34 – 4.16 (m, 4H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 6H), 3.63 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.23 (m, 1H), 3.09 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 2.44 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 2.04 – 1.61 (m, 8H), 1.62 – 1.18 (m, 21H), 1.17 – 0.99 (m, 15H), 1.01 – 0.78 (m, 15H), 0.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.13, 159.21, 156.69, 151.28, 144.77, 144.51, 140.33, 136.06, 135.86, 135.76, 130.53, 128.55, 127.64, 123.12, 122.94, 113.83, 111.72, 89.53, 87.48, 82.15, 78.49, 77.85, 77.53, 77.21, 74.75, 74.50, 64.47, 63.53, 57.17, 56.62, 55.76, 50.78, 50.49, 46.33, 42.80, 41.08, 40.22, 40.00, 39.07, 37.48, 37.05, 36.67, 36.29, 32.39, 32.36, 30.57, 30.23, 28.72, 28.67, 28.50, 26.56, 26.50, 24.78, 24.32, 23.32, 23.06, 21.53, 19.82, 19.21, 12.35, 11.11. HRMS calc. for C₆₈H₉₂N₆O₁₀: 1161.6616 (M+Na); found: 1161.6630.

Preparation of Compound 12: To a mixture of alkyne **8** (0.024 g, 0.04 mmol, 1.0 eq) and 1-azido-docosane¹ (**10**, 0.014 g, 0.04 mmol, 1.0 eq) in DMF/DCM (2:1) was added Cu-complex **7** (0.02 g, 0.004 mmol, 0.1 eq), and the mixture was gently shaken on a wrist-action shaker overnight. Completion of the reaction was confirmed by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered and washed with DCM (2 vol.). The filtrate was poured onto ice, and the product was extracted into DCM. The organic layer was washed with excess water, and then dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The product was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (eluent: DCM/MeOH, 95:5) to obtain pure compound **12** (36 mg, 99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.08 (m, 10H), 6.91 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 3.3 Hz, 3H), 4.73 (dd, *J* = 29.2, 11.8 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (ddd, *J*

Eltepu *et al.*

= 31.2, 29.1, 17.3 Hz, 3H), 3.79 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 3H), 3.36 (ddd, $J = 37.4, 30.9, 14.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.26 – 2.10 (m, 3H), 1.98 (dd, $J = 38.0, 32.3$ Hz, 4H), 1.69 – 1.46 (m, 11H), 1.44 – 0.99 (m, 33H), 0.94 – 0.72 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.68, 158.95, 150.84, 144.47, 144.06, 135.84, 135.57, 135.46, 130.26, 128.27, 127.37, 122.62, 113.55, 111.48, 89.21, 87.25, 81.90, 78.29, 74.25, 64.16, 63.34, 55.48, 50.71, 32.14, 30.49, 29.92, 29.88, 29.83, 29.77, 29.61, 29.57, 29.22, 26.74, 22.90, 14.34, 12.03. HRMS calc. for $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{79}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8$: 972.5826 (M+Na); found: 972.5816.

Scheme 3

Oligonucleotide Conjugates: A suspension of alkyne-oligonucleotide **13** (35.6 μmol in solution, 1.0 eq), azides **14**,² **15**,¹ **16**,¹ or **17** (71.0 μmol , 2.0 eq), and Cu-complex **7** (9.8 μmol , 0.2 eq) in DMF was gently shaken on a wrist-action shaker overnight at room temperature to yield the conjugate.

Table S1. Calculated and observed masses of click conjugates **18-21**

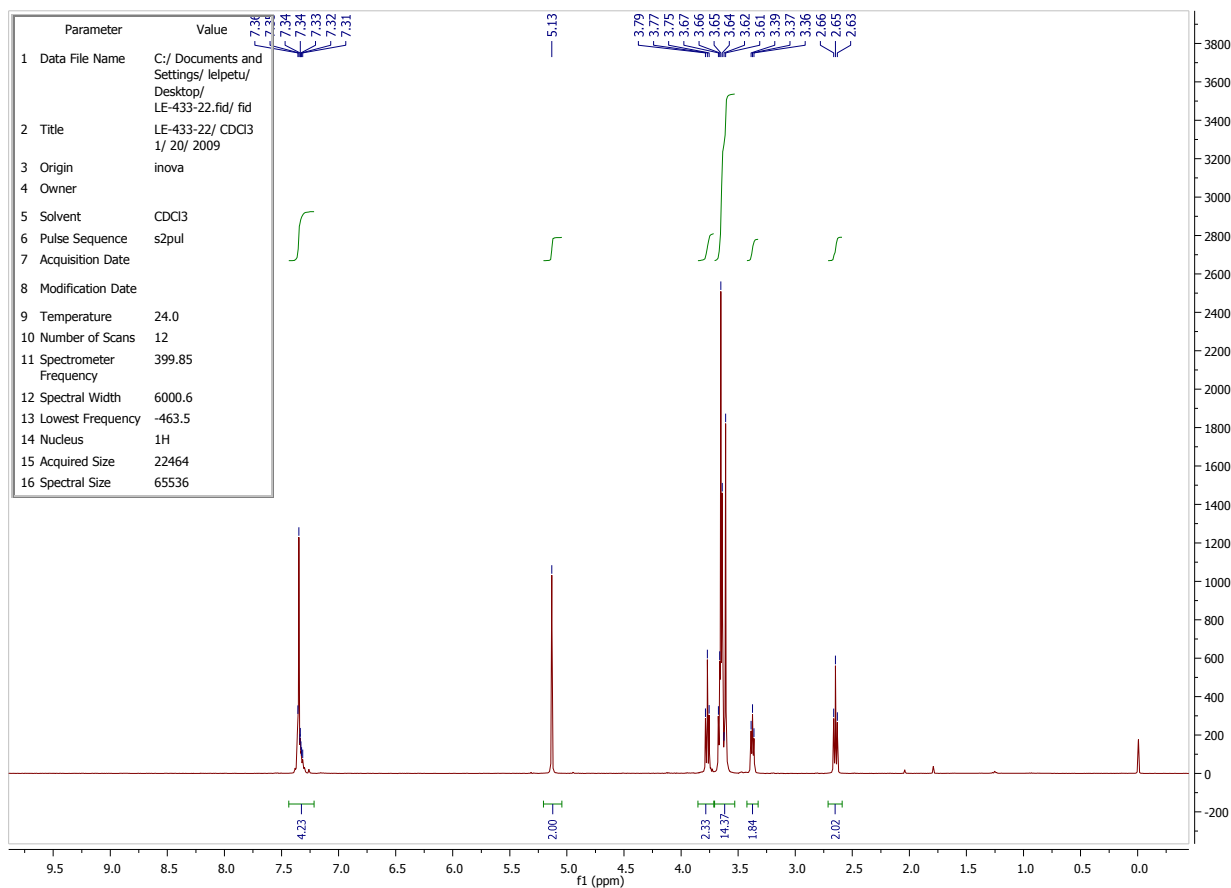
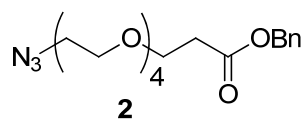
Alkyne	Mass	Azide	Mass	Product	Mass	
					Calc.	Found
13	7008.6	14	395.15	18	7403.75	7402.22
13	7008.6	15	334.15	19	7342.75	7342.10
13	7008.6	16	231.23	20	7239.83	7237.03
13	7008.6	17	2159.6	21	9168.20	9168.01

Preparation of Compound 17: The azido peptide **17** was synthesized on solid-phase using Fmoc peptide synthesis conditions. After the coupling of the last amino acid, 16-azidohexadecanoic acid³ was coupled to the solid-support-bound peptide. Standard peptide deprotection and HPLC purification afforded the azido peptide **17**. MS calc. for $\text{C}_{95}\text{H}_{169}\text{N}_{39}\text{O}_{19}$: 2160.35; found: 2159.60.

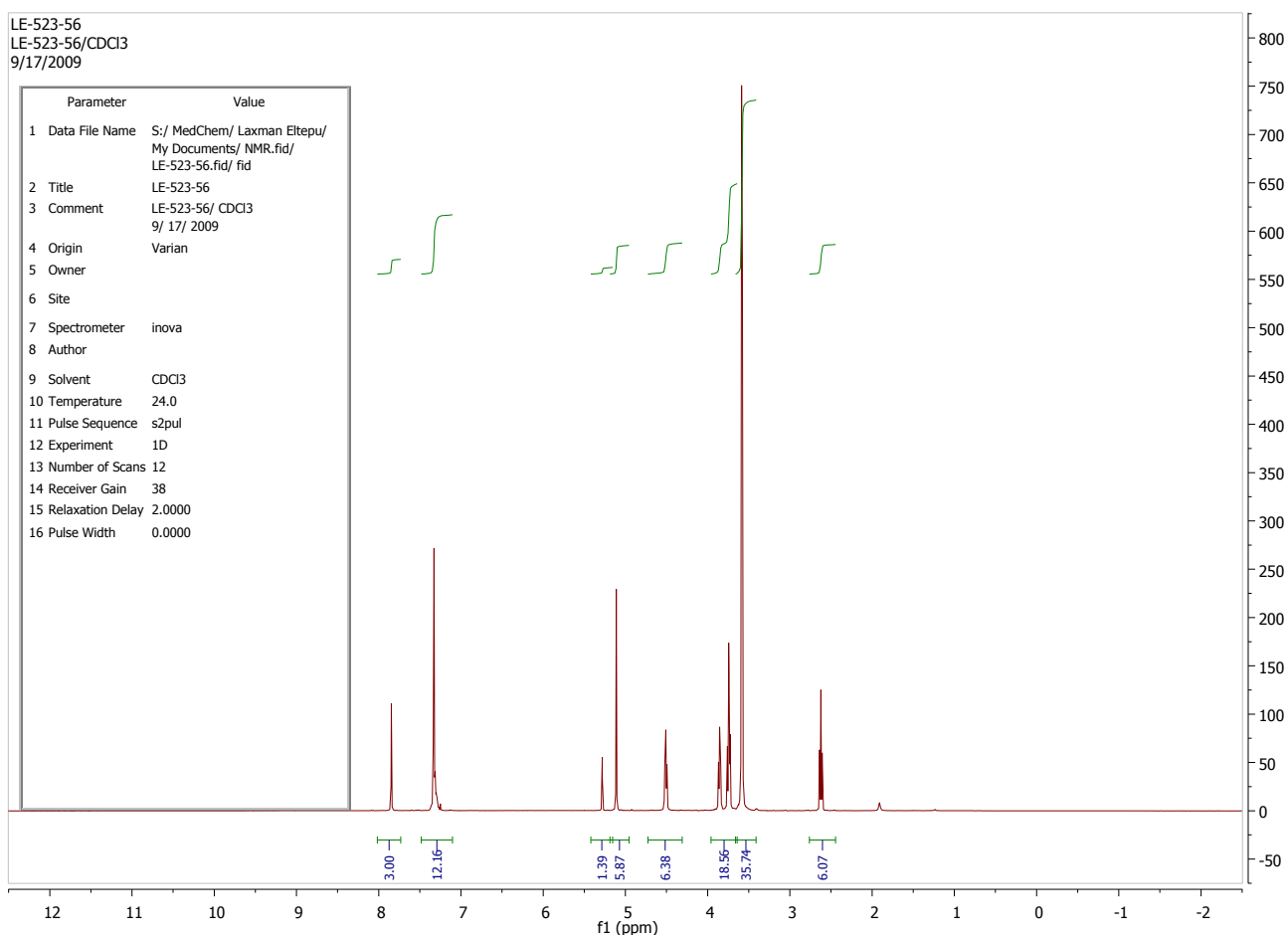
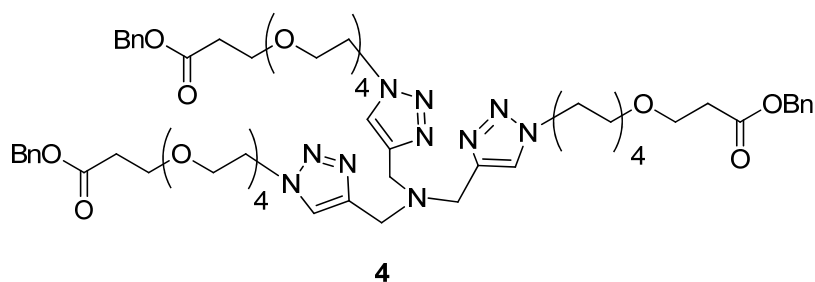
References

1. T. Yamada, C. G. Peng, S. Matsuda, H. Addepalli, K. N. Jayaprakash, M. R. Alam, K. Mills, M. A. Maier, K. Charisse, M. Sekine, M. Manoharan, K. G. Rajeev, *J. Org. Chem.* 2011, **76**, 1198.
2. (a) R. Guezguez, K. Bougrin, K. El Akri, R. Benhida, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2006, **47**, 4807; (b) A. Stimac, J. Kobe, *Carbohydrate Res.* 2000, **329**, 317.
3. H. C. Hang, E.-J. Geutjes, G. Grotenbreg, A. M. Pollington, M. J. Bijlmakers, H. L. Ploegh, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2007, **129**, 2744.

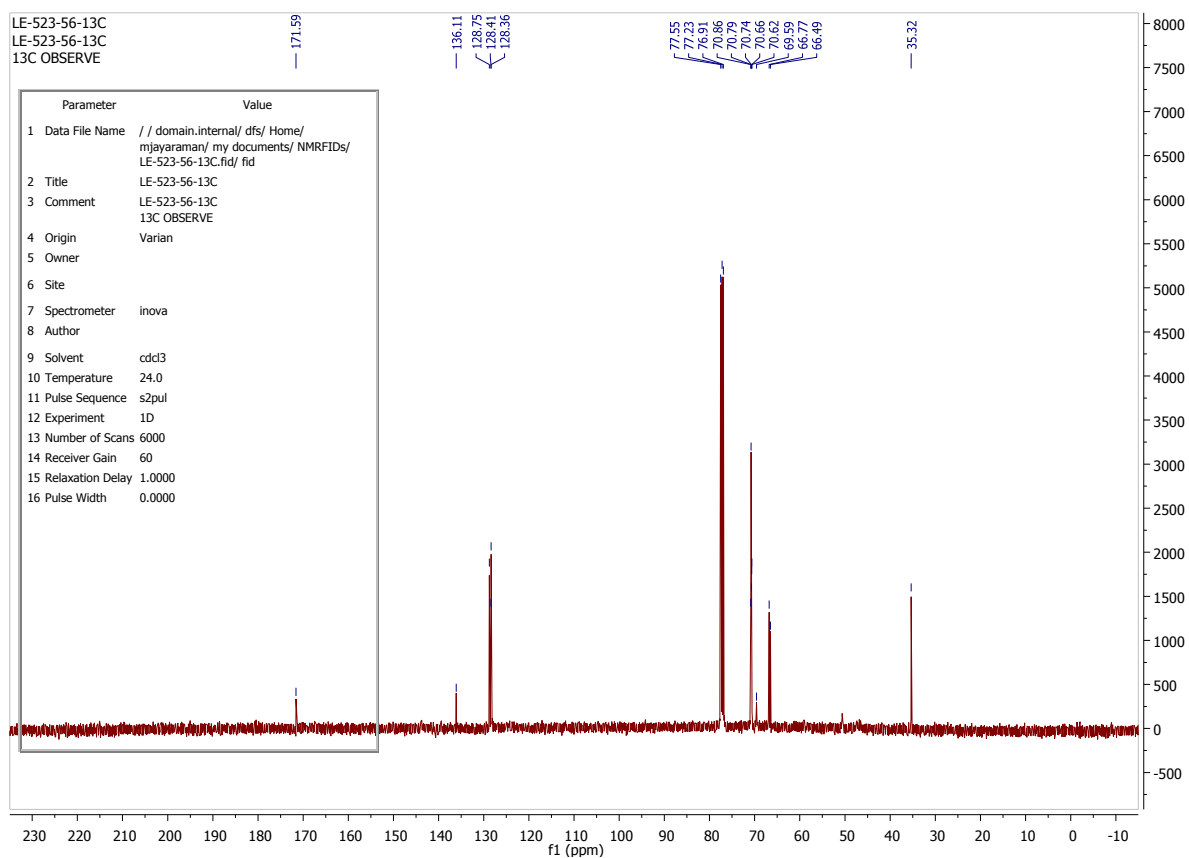
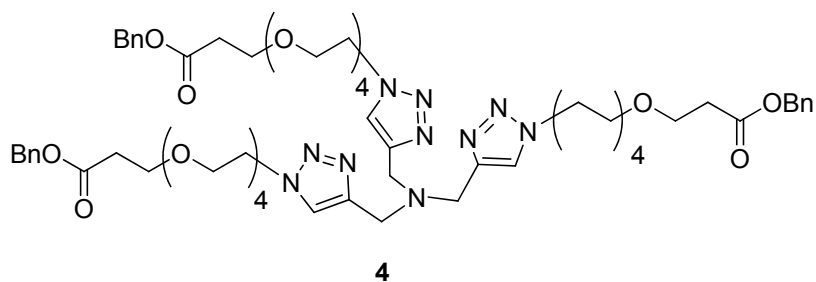
Eltepu *et al.*



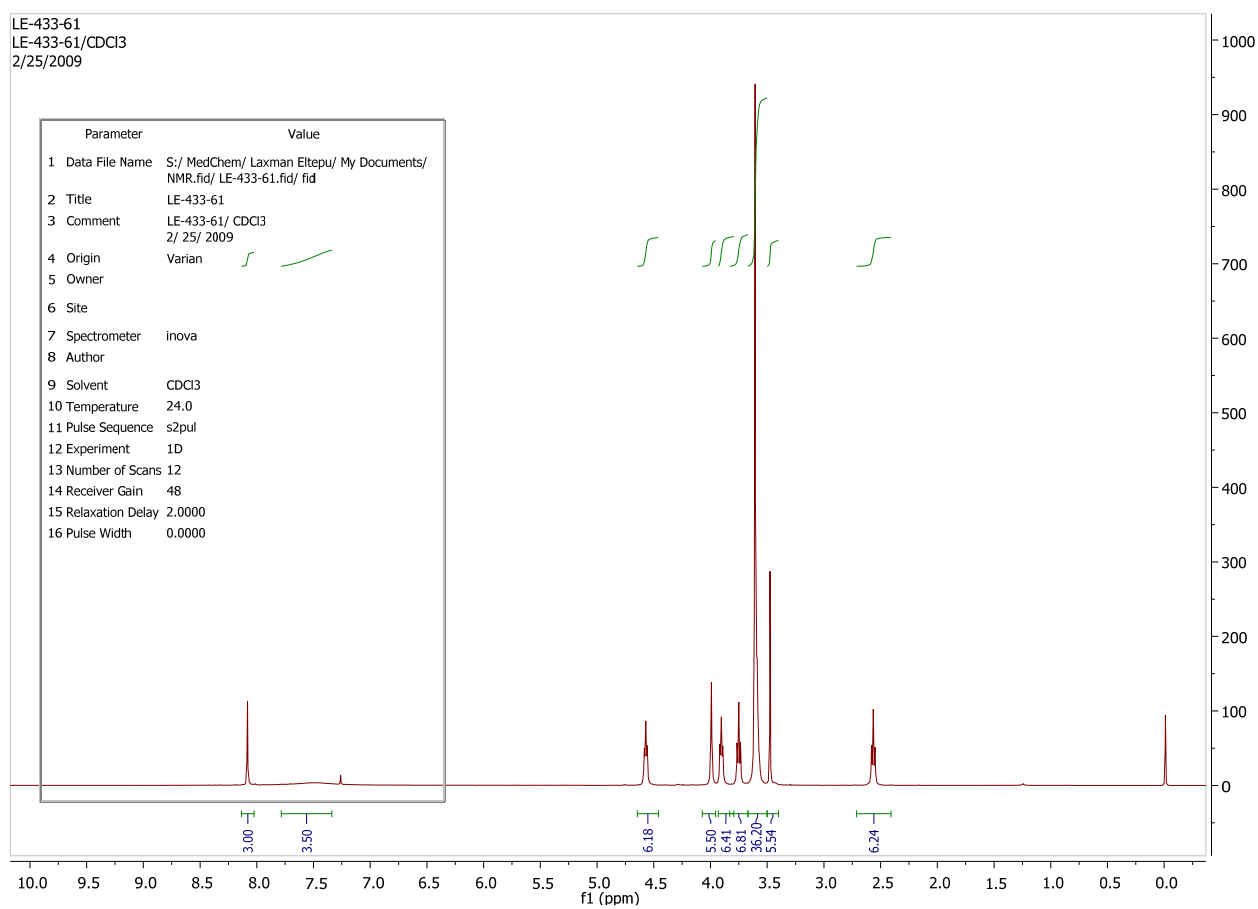
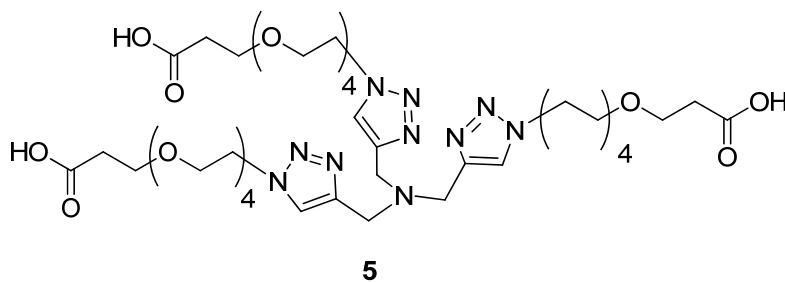
Eltepu *et al.*



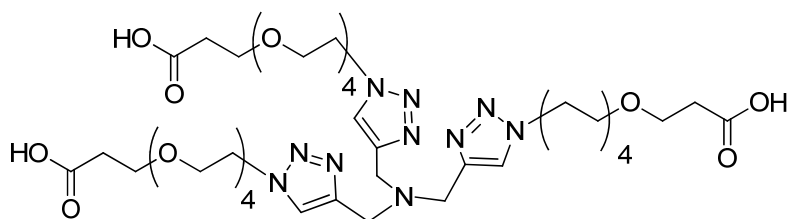
Eltepu *et al.*



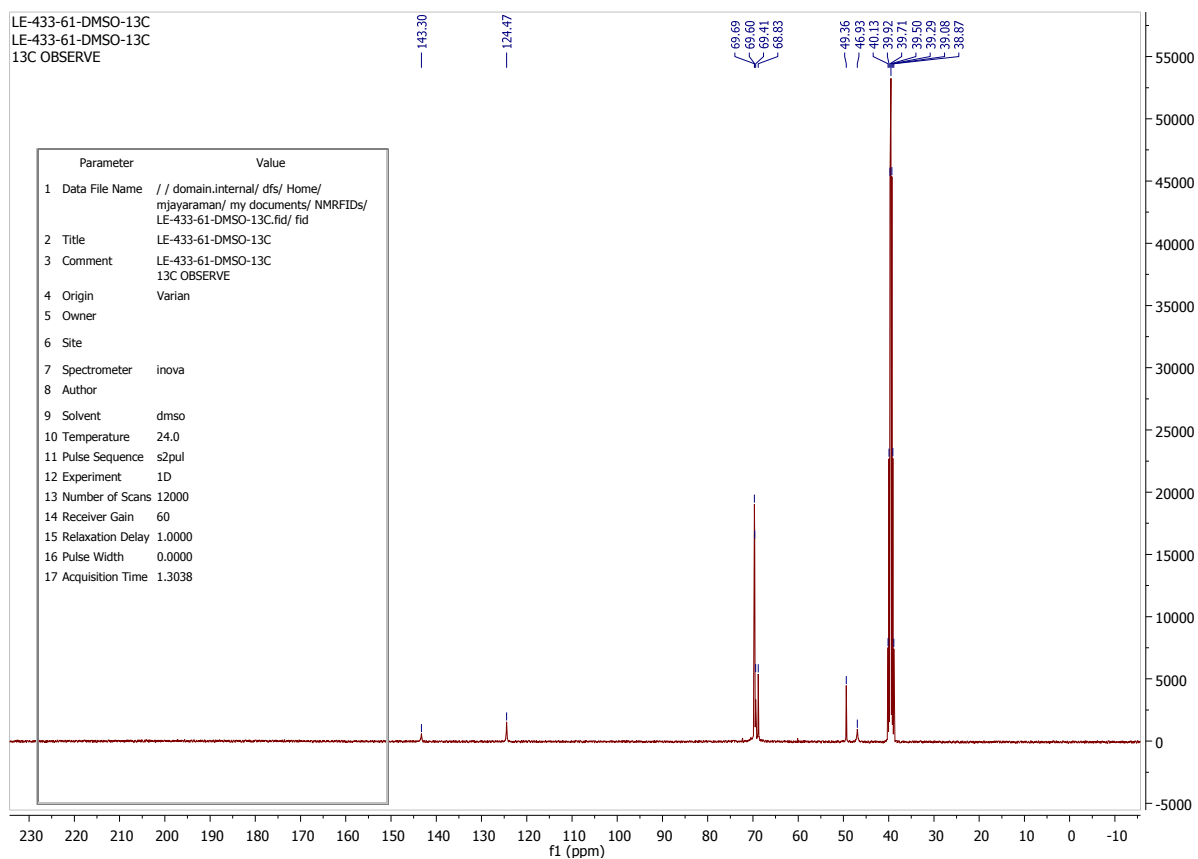
Eltepu *et al.*



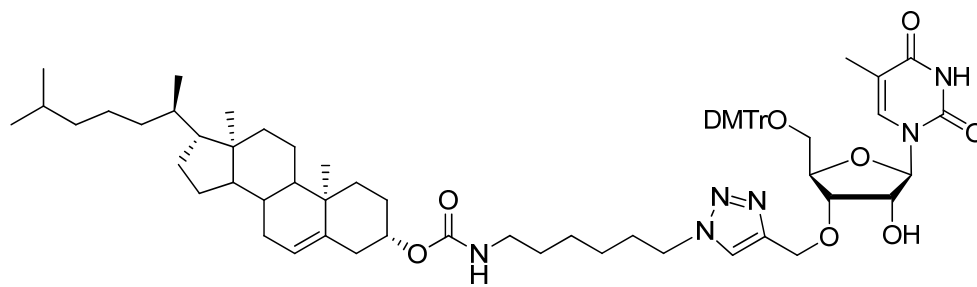
Eltepu *et al.*



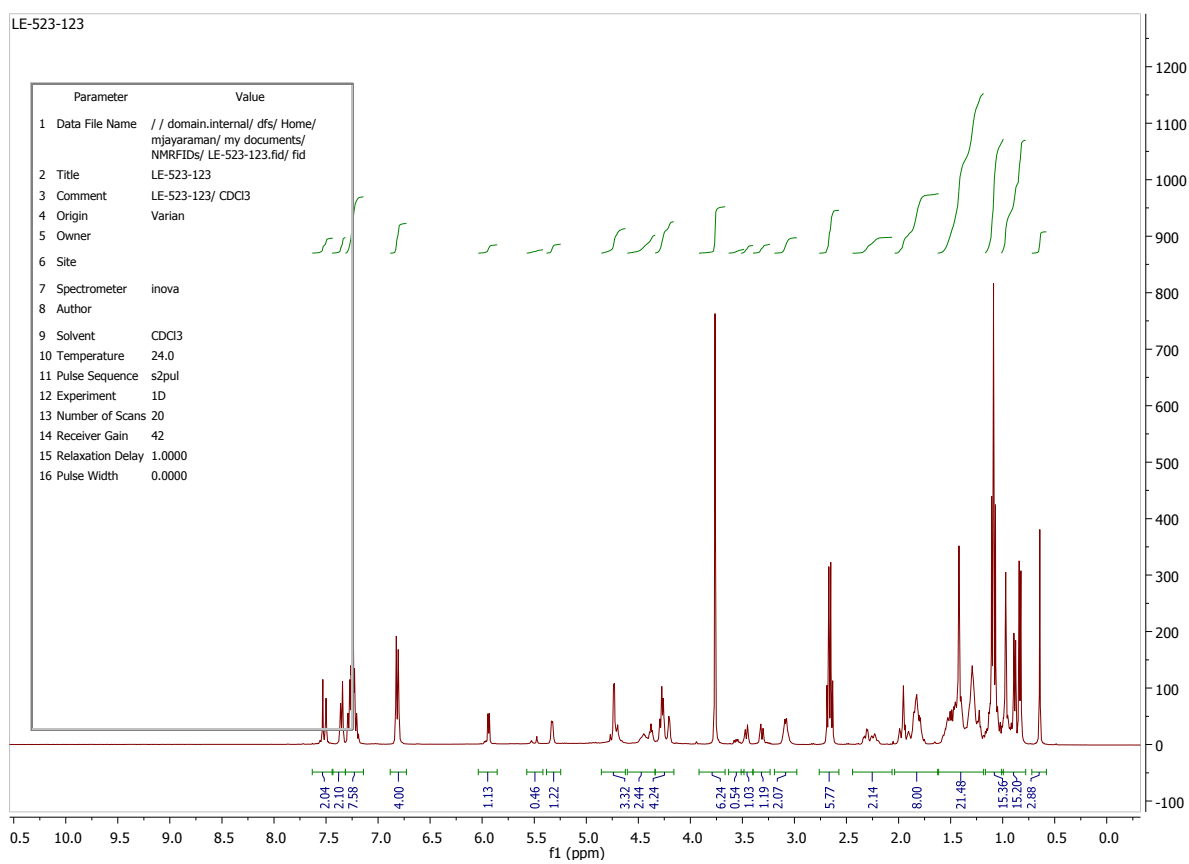
5



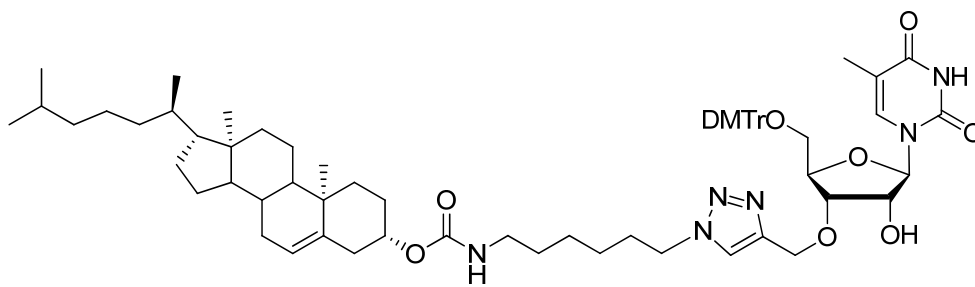
Eltepu *et al.*



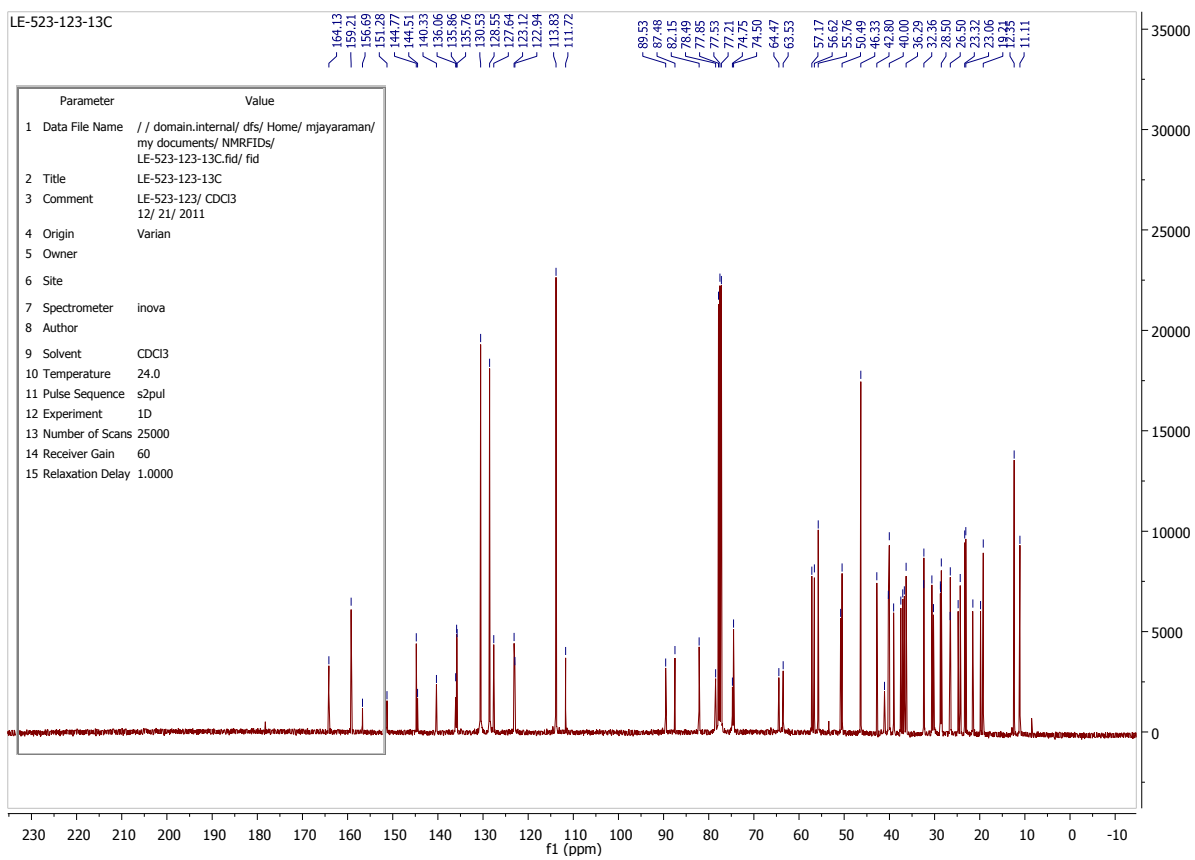
11



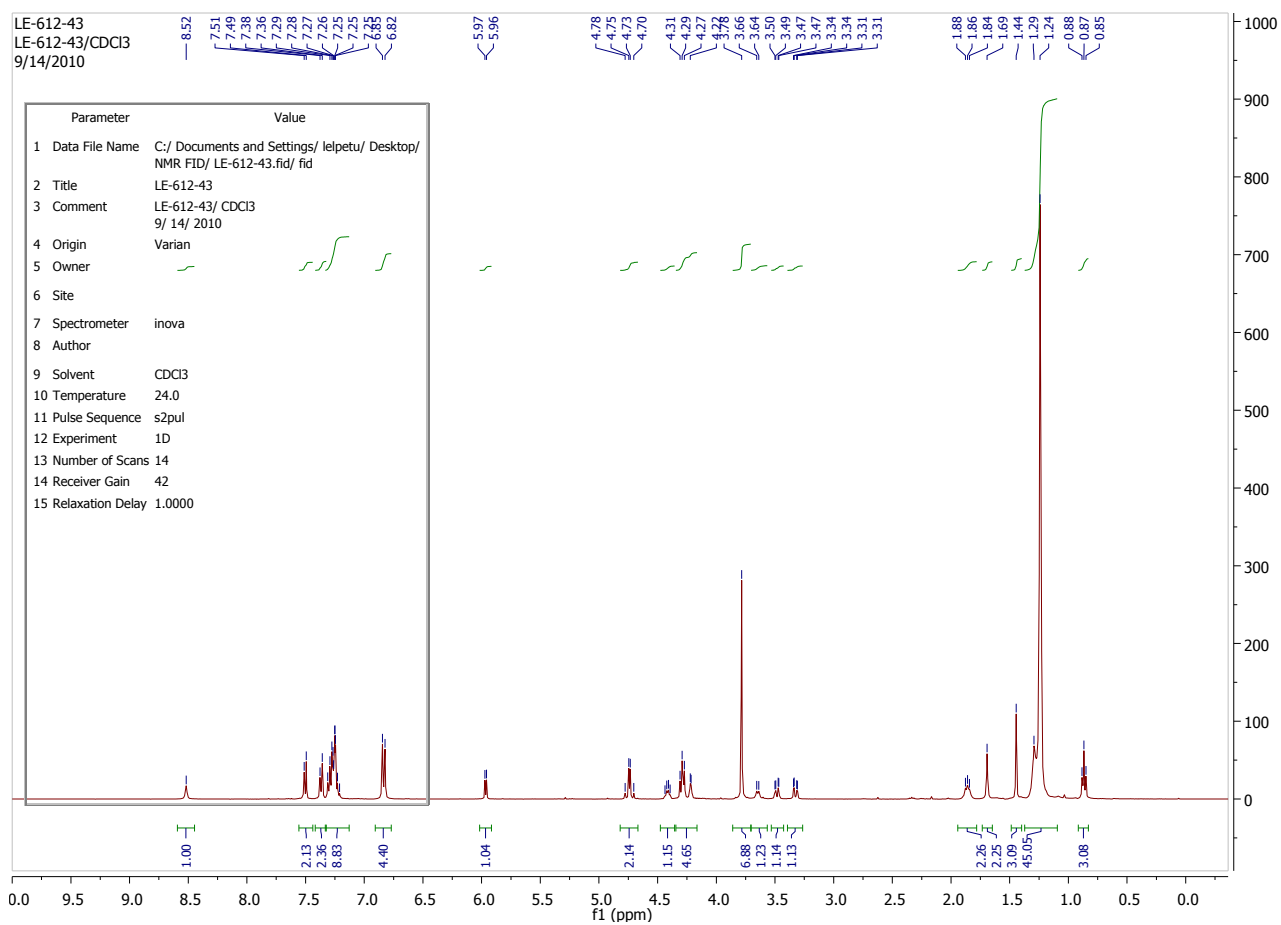
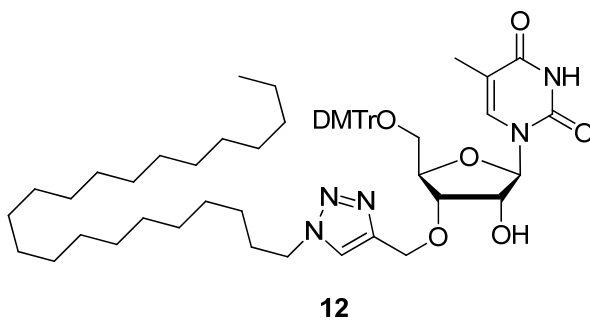
Eltepu *et al.*



11



Eltepu *et al.*



Eltepu *et al.*

