

## Support information

### Alternative reaction pathway triggered by oxygen vacancies for boosting selective hydrodeoxygenation reactions

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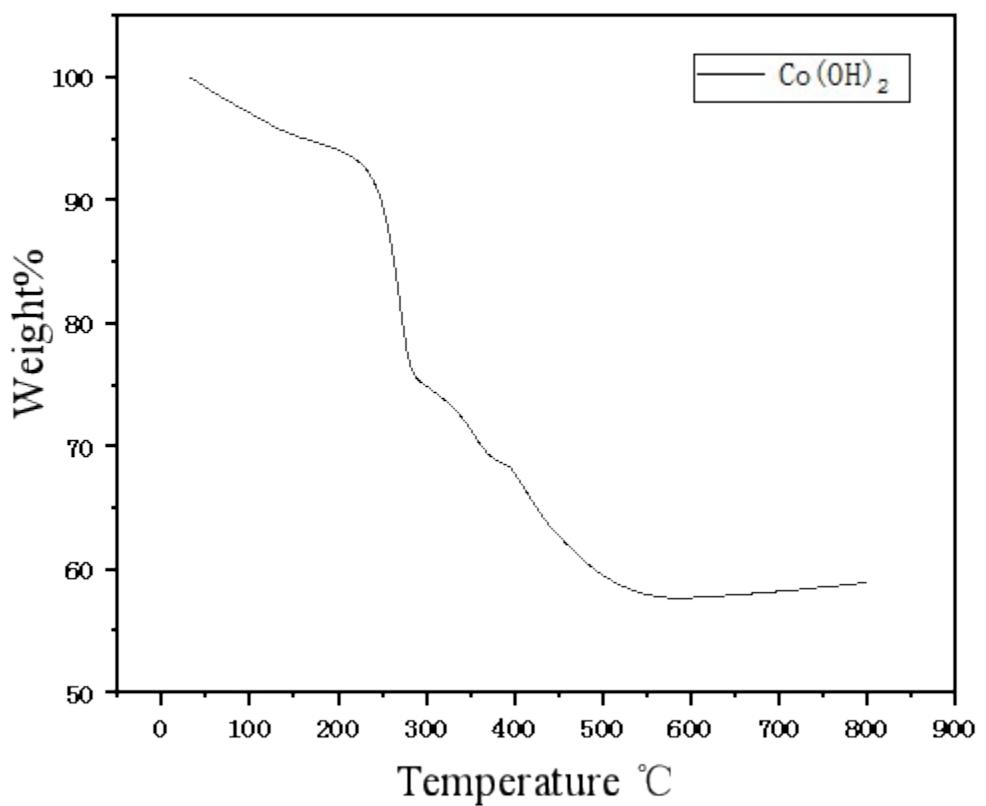
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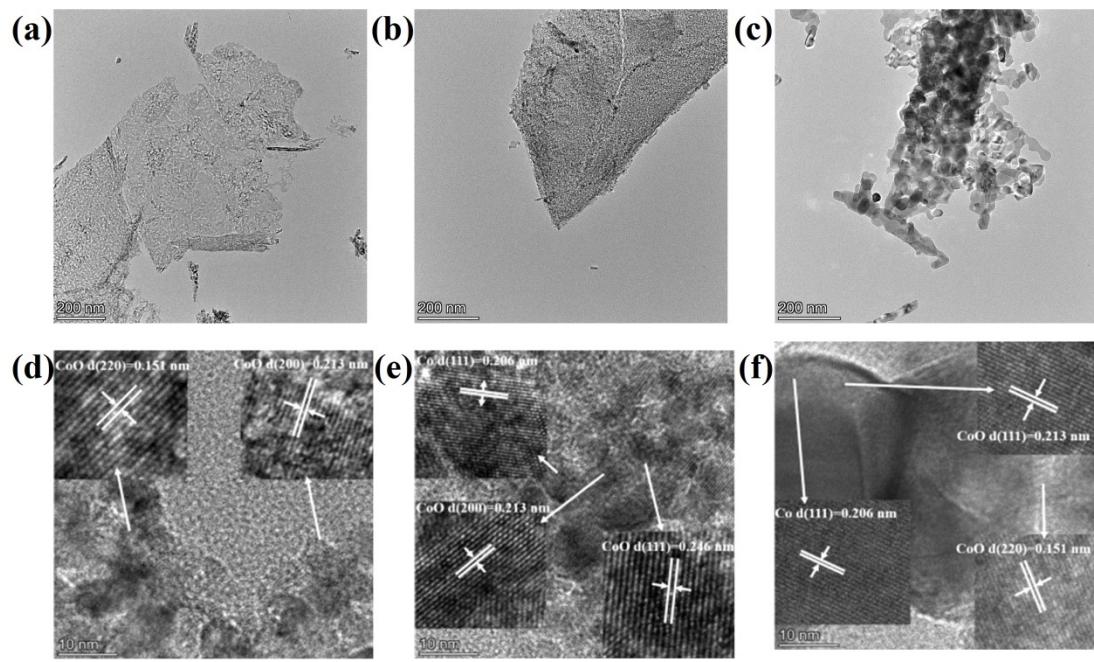
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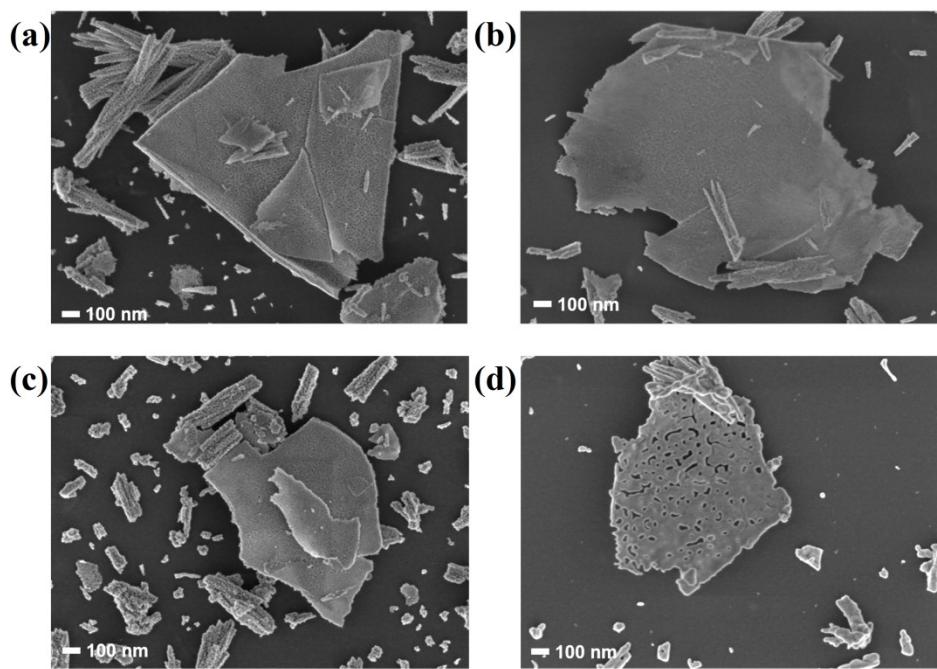
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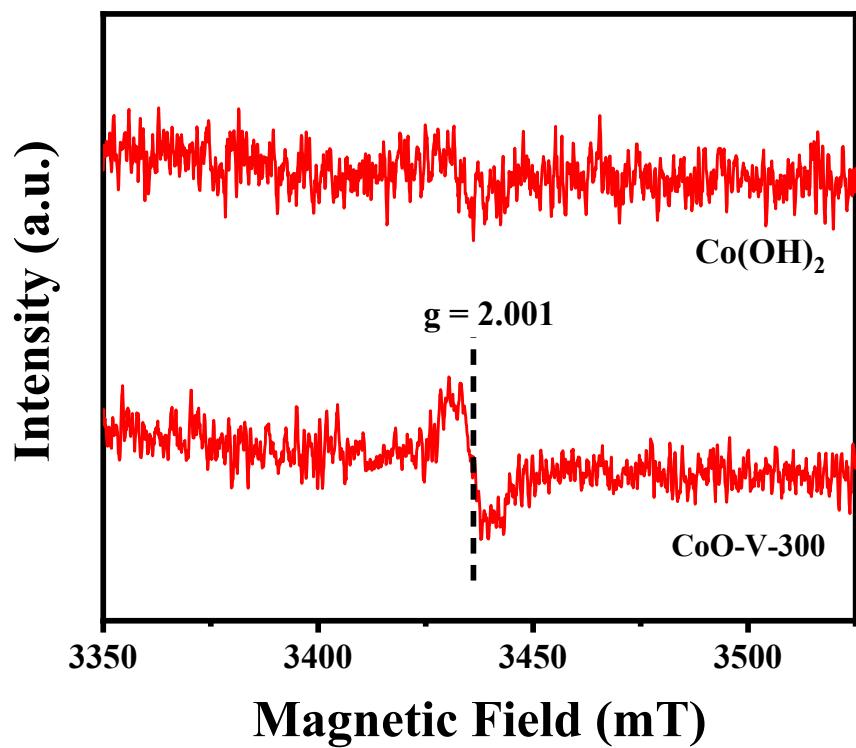
**Fig.S1.** TG curves of  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$  precursor in the flowing  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $5 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ .



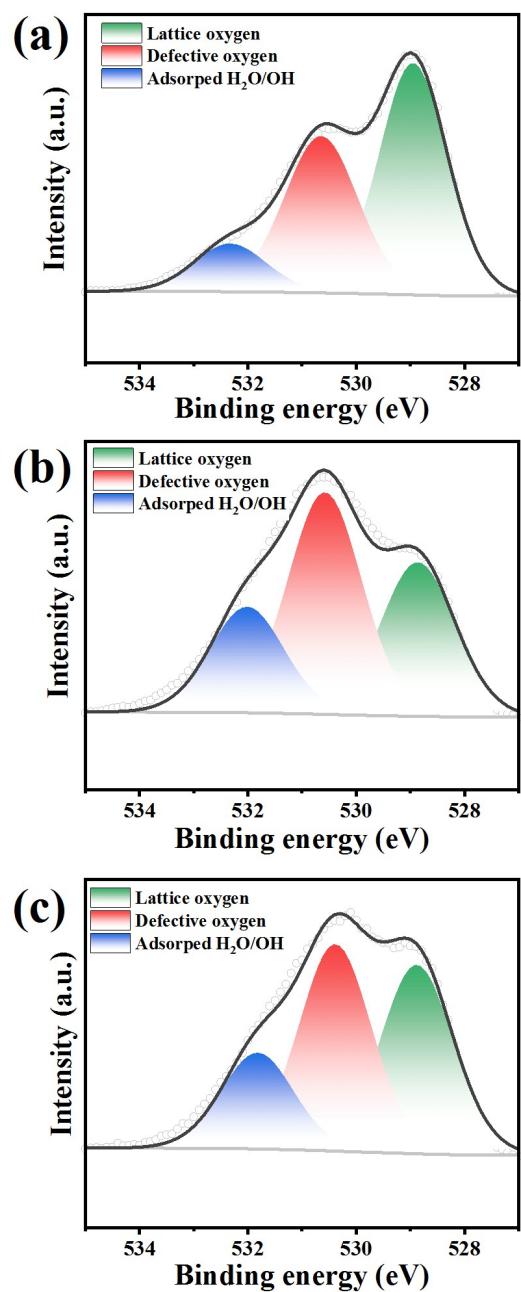
**Fig. S2.** Electron micrograph of *as-prepared* Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-T catalysts. (a-c) TEM images of CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-300, Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-400 and Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-500, respectively; (d-f) HR-TEM images of CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-300, Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-400 and Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-500, respectively.



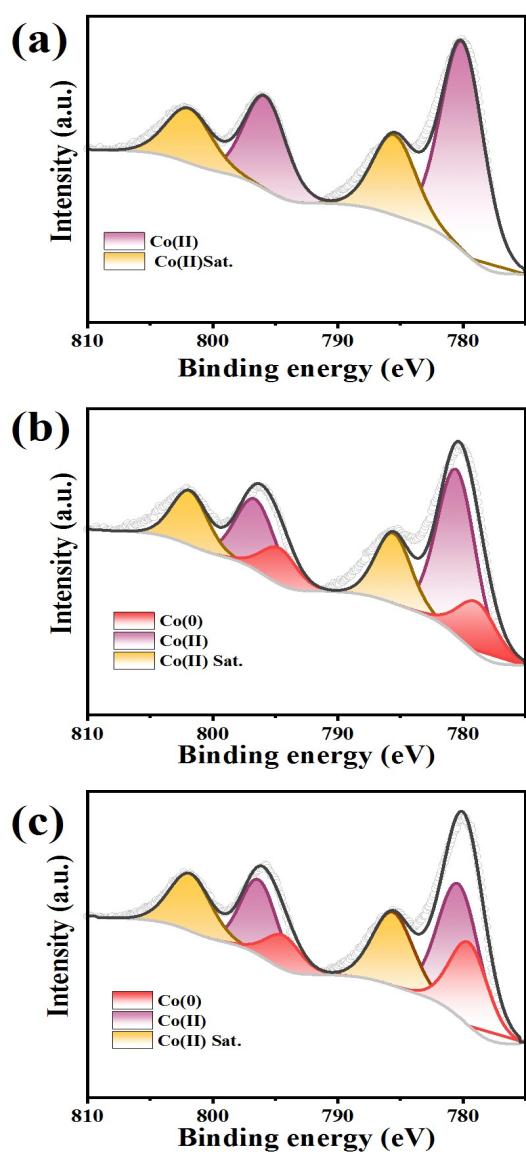
**Fig. S3.** SEM images of *as-prepared* Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-T catalysts. (a) CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-300; (b) Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-350; (c) Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-400; and (d) Co/CoO<sub>x</sub>-V-500.



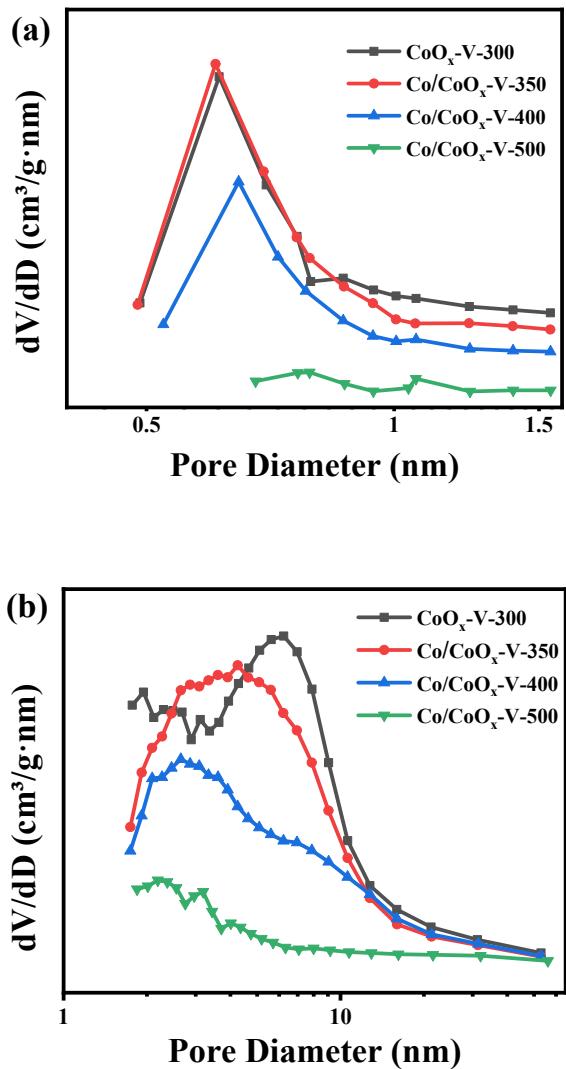
**Fig. S4.** EPR spectra of  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$  and  $\text{CoO}_x\text{-V-300}$ .



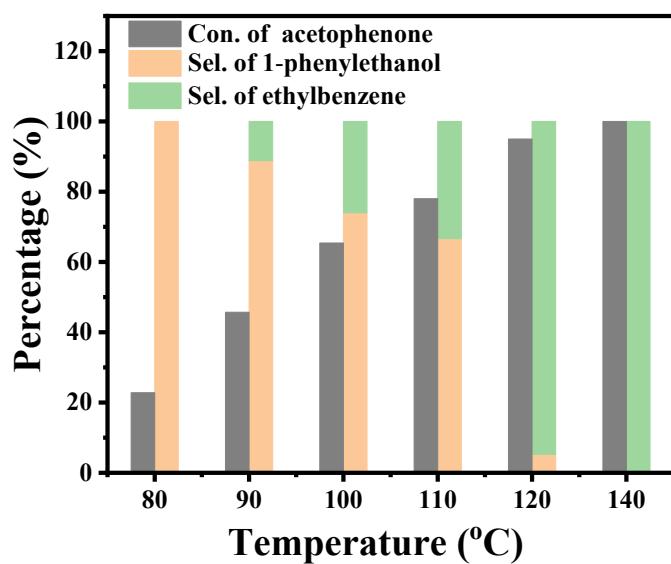
**Fig. S5.** O 1s XPS spectra of the *as*-prepared catalysts. (a)  $\text{CoO}_x\text{-V-300}$ ; (b)  $\text{Co/CoO}_x\text{-V-400}$ ; (c)  $\text{Co/CoO}_x\text{-V-500}$ .



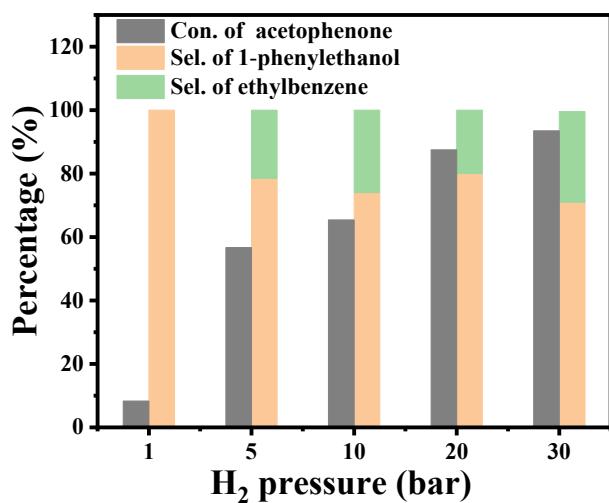
**Fig. S6.** Co 2p XPS spectra of the as-prepared samples. (a)  $\text{CoO}_x\text{-V-300}$ ; (b)  $\text{Co/CoO}_x\text{-V-400}$ ; (c)  $\text{Co/CoO}_x\text{-V-500}$ .



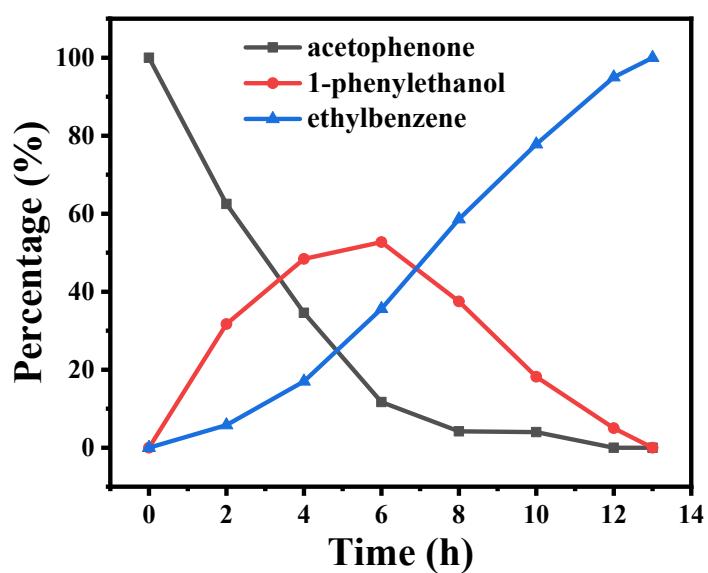
**Fig. S7.** (a) micropore and (b) mesoporous pore size distribution of the *as-prepared* catalysts.



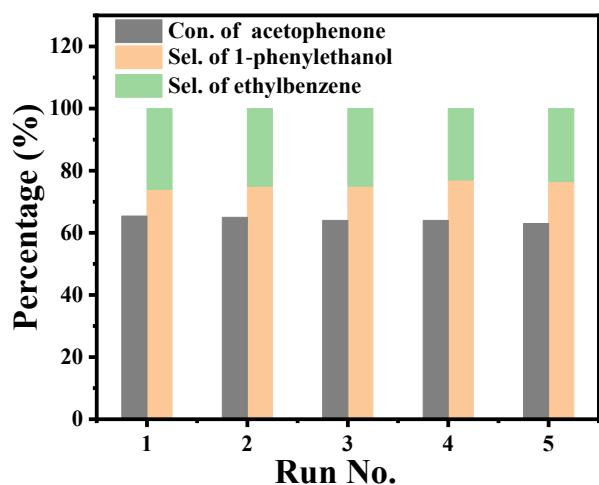
**Fig. S8.** The effect of reaction temperature on the hydrodeoxygenation of acetophenone. Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.5 mmol), toluene (5 mL), Co/CoO-V-350 (20 mg), H<sub>2</sub> (10 bar), 4 h.



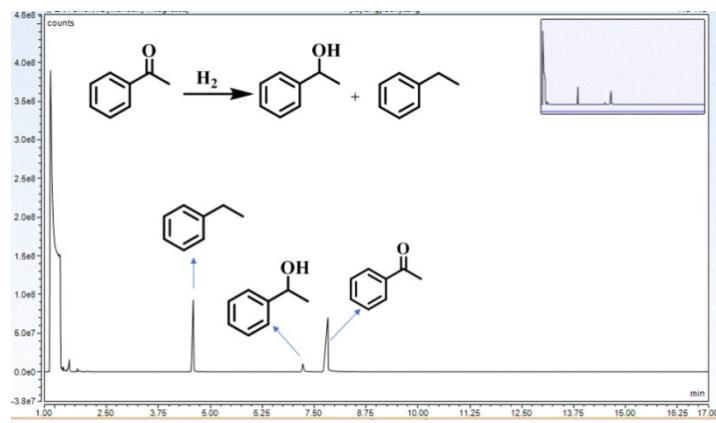
**Fig. S9.** The effect of H<sub>2</sub> pressure on the hydrodeoxygenation of acetophenone. Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.5 mmol), toluene (5 mL), Co/CoO-V-350 (20 mg), 100 °C and 4 h.



**Fig. S10.** Time distribution curve of the hydrodeoxygenation of acetophenone.  
Reaction conditions:acetophenone (0.5 mmol), 5 mL toluene, 20 mg catalyst, 10 bar  
H<sub>2</sub>, 100°C.

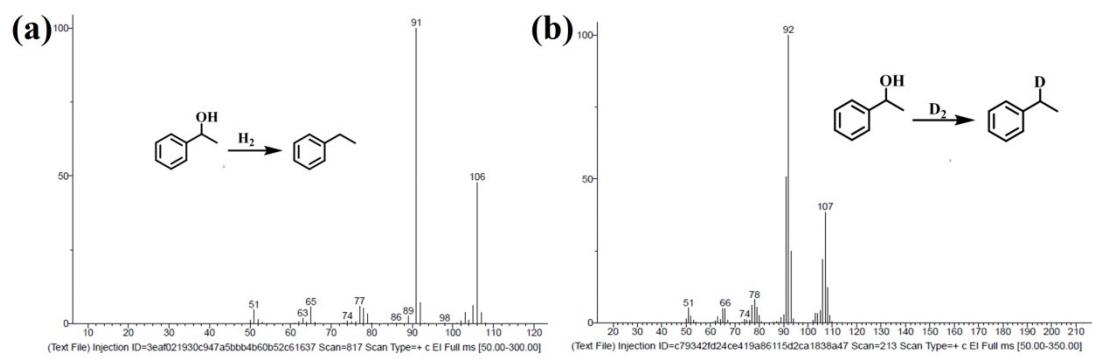


**Fig. S11.** Catalyst recycling experiments of the Co/CoO-V-350 catalyst. Reaction conditions:acetophenone (0.5 mmol), 5 mL toluene, 20 mg catalyst, 10 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 100°C and 4 h.



**Fig. S12.** GC-Mass spectra of the result of hydrodeoxygenation of acetophenone.

Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.5 mmol), 5 mL toluene, 20 mg catalyst, 10 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 100 °C and 4 h.



**Fig. S13.** Mass spectra of the product from isotope labeling experiments. Reaction conditions: 1-phenylethanol (0.5 mmol), 5 mL toluene, 20 mg catalyst, 120 °C and 12 h. (a) 10 bar H<sub>2</sub>; (b) 3 bar D<sub>2</sub>.

**Table S1.** The Co particles size calculated by Scherrer equation

Catalyst	Co particles size(nm)
Co/CoO-V-350	15.6
Co/CoO-V-400	22.0
Co/CoO-V-500	26.2
CoO-V-300-H <sub>2</sub>	28.9

**Table S2.** The binding energy and relative peak area percentage of different types of oxygen.

Catalyst	Lattice oxygen		Defective oxygen		Adsorbed H <sub>2</sub> O/OH	
	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)
CoO-V-300	529.8	46.4	531.4	30.7	532.4	22.9
Co/CoO-V-350	529.7	24.6	531.6	56.7	532.4	18.7
Co/CoO-V-400	529.7	17.5	531.6	44.4	532.4	38.1
Co/CoO-V-500	529.8	18.9	531.2	42.9	532.4	38.2

**Table S3.** The peak area ratio of metallic Co and Co<sup>2+</sup> in the catalysts

Catalyst	Co <sup>0</sup> (%)	Co <sup>2+</sup> (%)	Peak area ratio of Co <sup>0</sup> to Co <sup>2+</sup>
CoO-V-300	0	100	0
Co/CoO-V-350	6.7	93.3	0.07
Co/CoO-V-400	13.5	86.5	0.16
Co/CoO-V-500	15.5	84.5	0.18

**Table S4.** The textural parameters of the cobalt catalysts.

Catalyst	Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)			Pore Volume (mL/g)		
	Meso	Micro	Total surface area	Meso	Micro	Total pore volume
CoO-V-300	81.0	13.2	94.2	0.18	0.03	0.21
Co/CoO-V-350	72.1	6.2	78.3	0.15	0.001	0.15
Co/CoO-V-400	50.5	5.1	55.6	0.13	0.001	0.13
Co/CoO-V-500	13.7	4.6	18.3	0.04	0.003	0.04

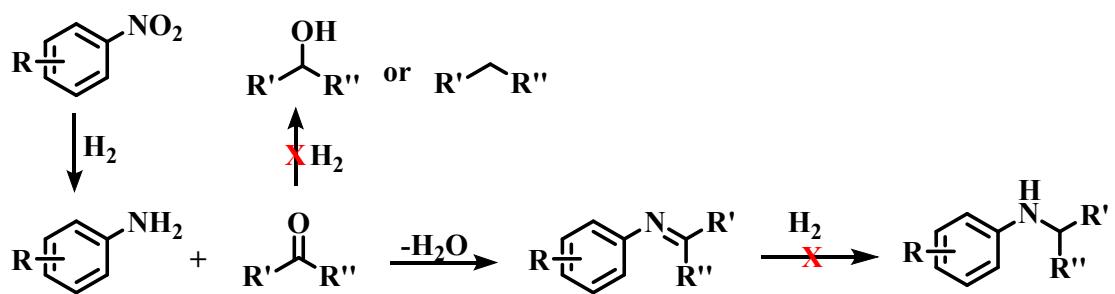
**Table S5.** The binding energy and relative peak area percentage of different types of oxygen in the treated catalysts.

Sample	Lattice oxygen		Defective oxygen		Adsorbed H <sub>2</sub> O/OH	
	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)	B.E. (eV)	Percentage (%)
Co/CoO-V-350	529.7	24.6	531.6	56.7	532.4	18.7
Treated by acetophenone	529.8	28.9	531.4	46.8	532.4	24.1
Treated by 1-phenylethanol	529.8	31.2	531.3	34.5	529.8	34.2

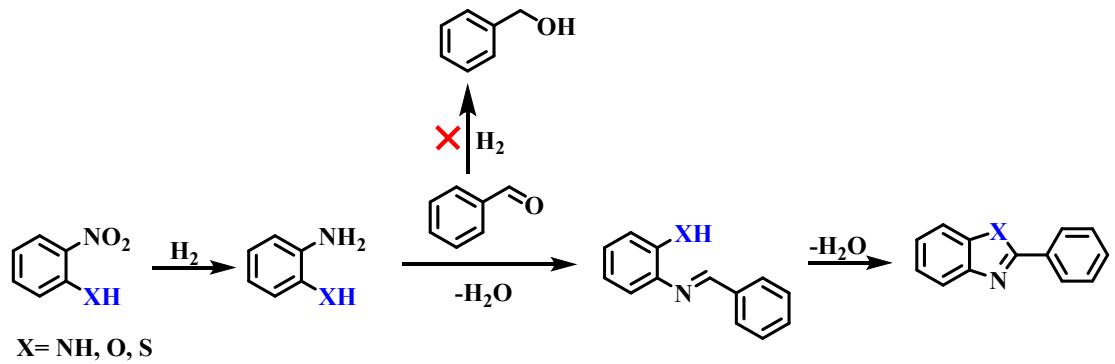
**Table S6.** The effect of the reaction solvents on the hydrodeoxygenation of acetophenone.

Solvents	Con. (%)	Sel. of 1 (%)	Sel. of 2 (%)
Toluene	95.0	5.3	94.7
<i>n</i> -Hexane	94.6	61.8	38.2
Acetonitrile	10.3	100	-
Tetrahydrofuran	45.2	93.4	6.6
MeOH	5.5	100	-
1,4-Dioxane	3.2	100	-
Ethyl acetate	2.3	100	-

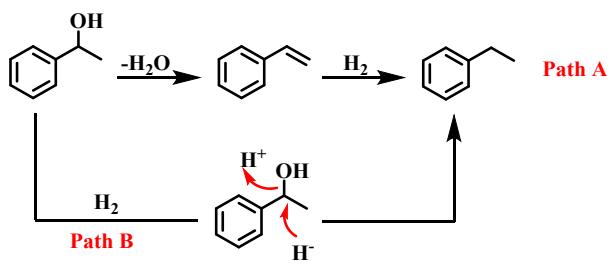
**Reaction conditions:** acetophenone (0.5 mmol), solvent (5 mL), Co/CoO-V-350 (20 mg), H<sub>2</sub> (10 bar), 4 h.



**Scheme S1.** Reaction pathways of the reductive coupling of nitro compounds with carbonyl compounds.



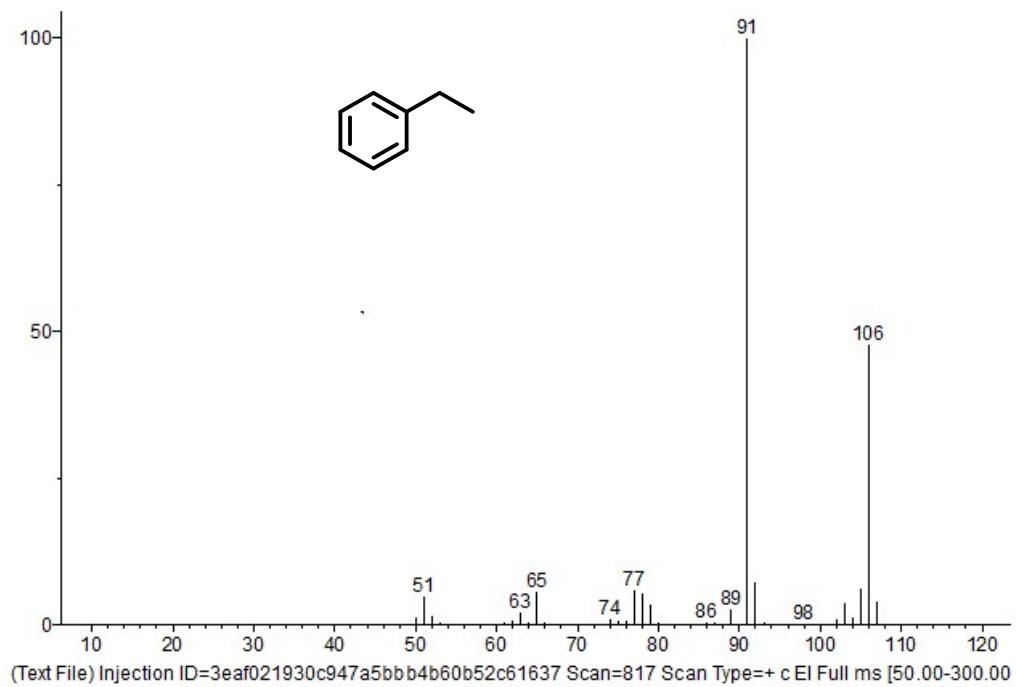
**Scheme S2.** Reaction pathways of the synthesis of benzazoles.



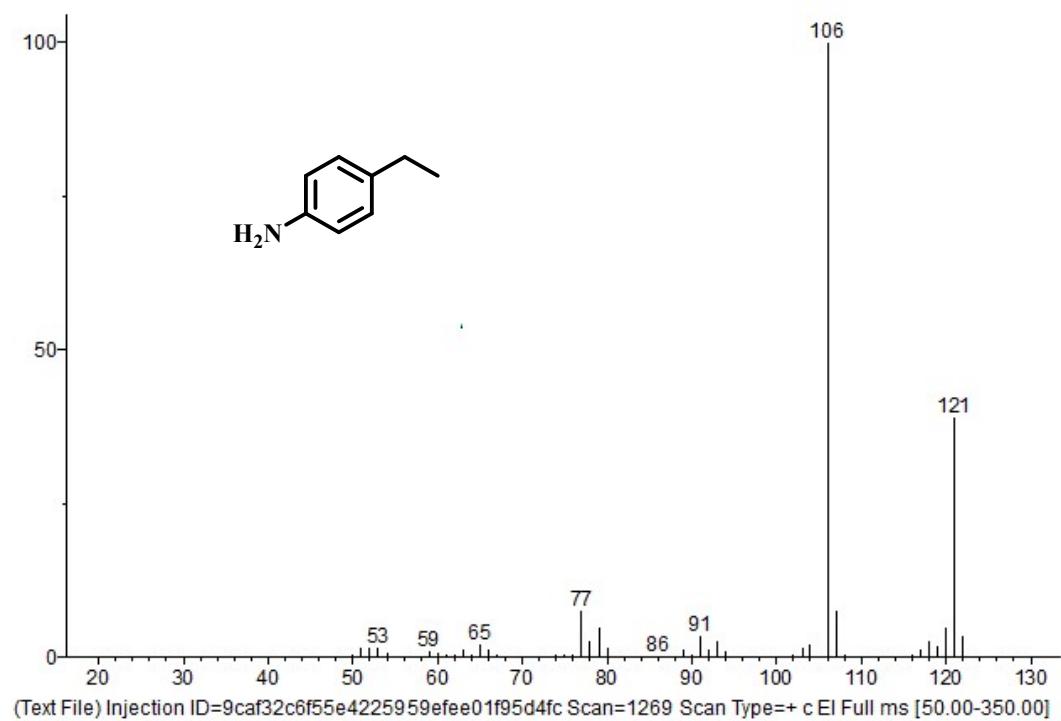
**Scheme S3.** The possible pathways the hydrodeoxygenation of 1-phenylethanol into ethylbenzene.

GC-MS date

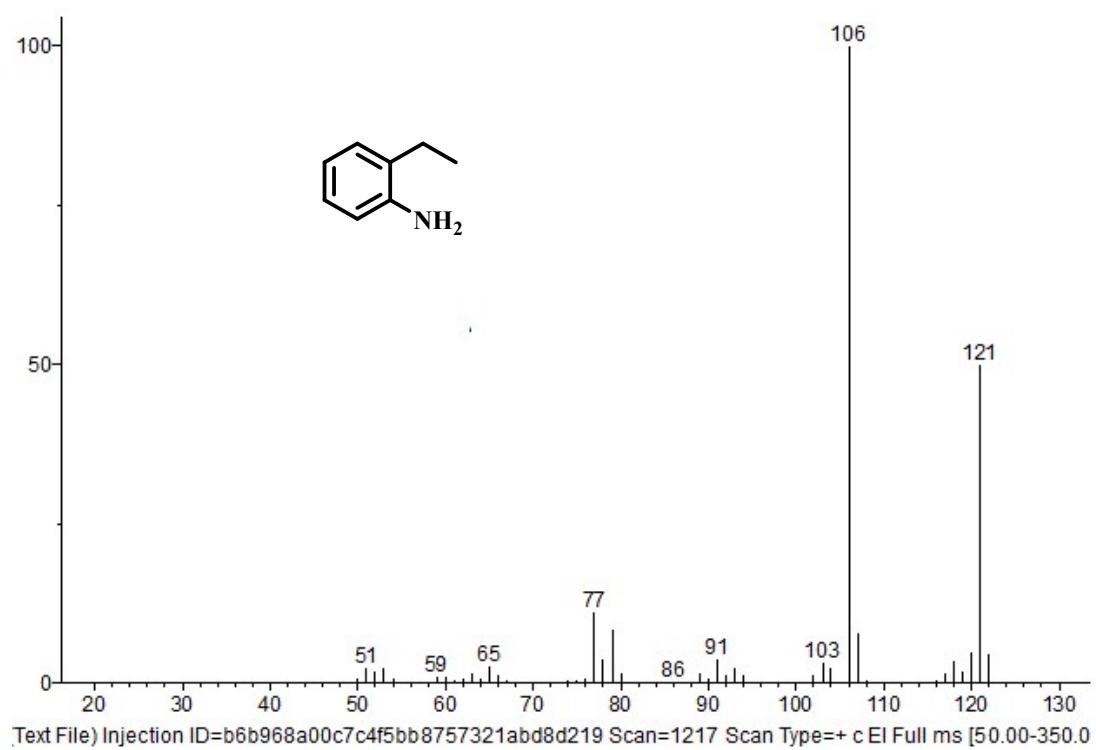
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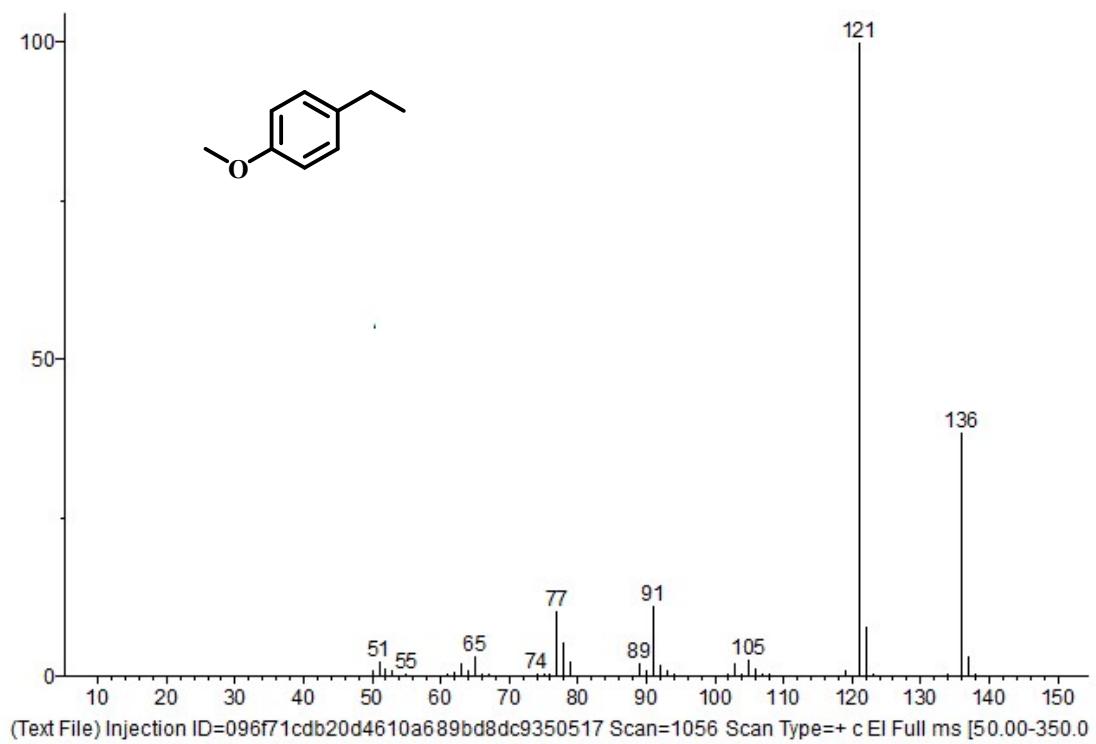
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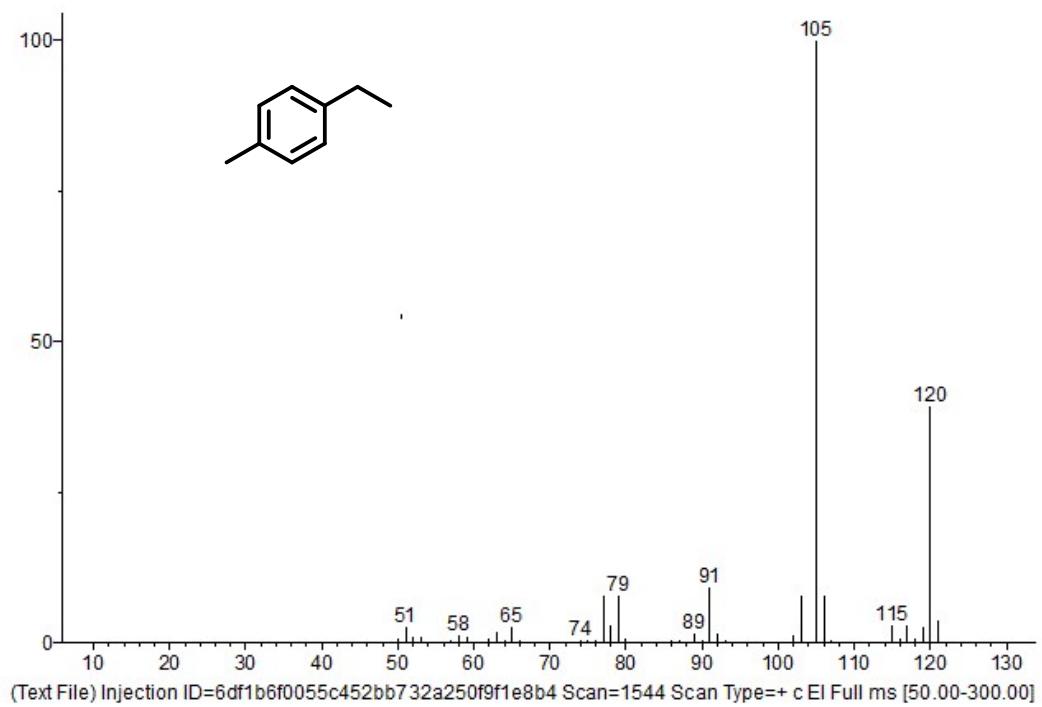
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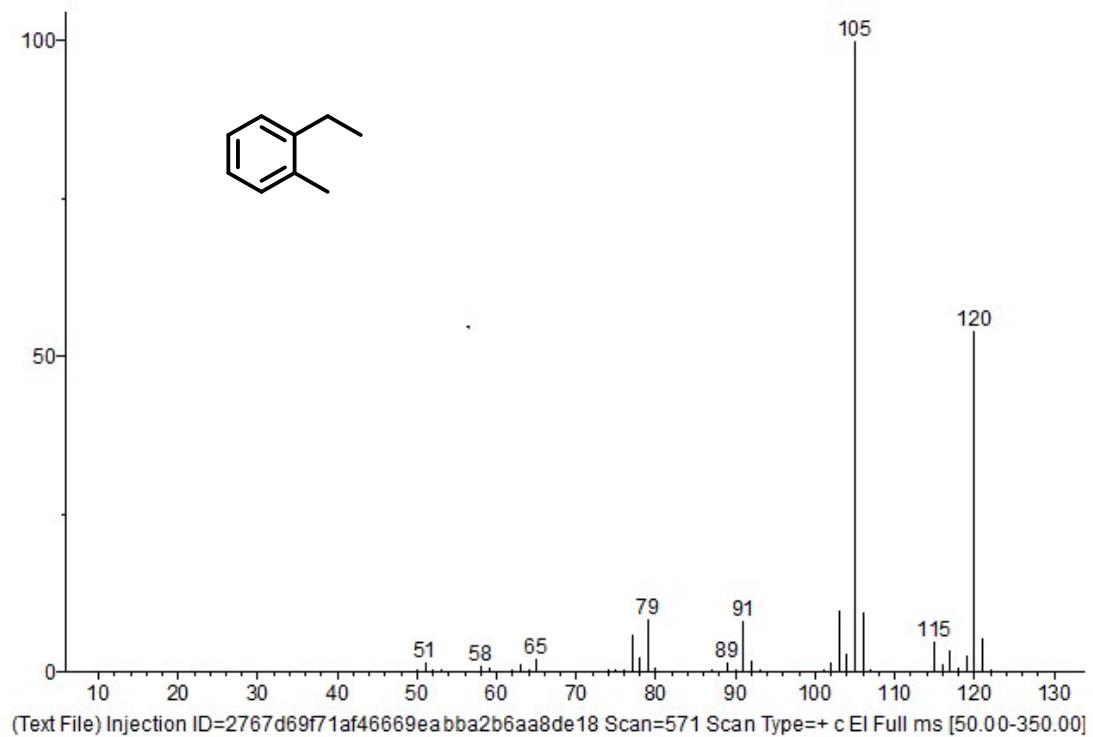
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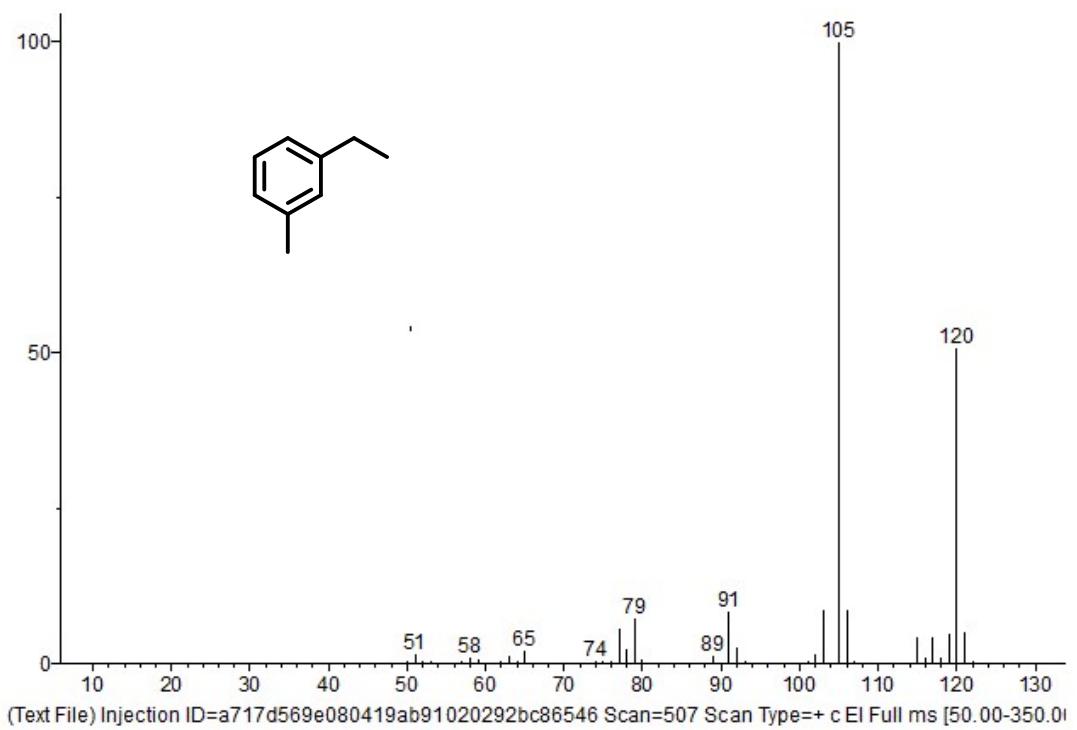
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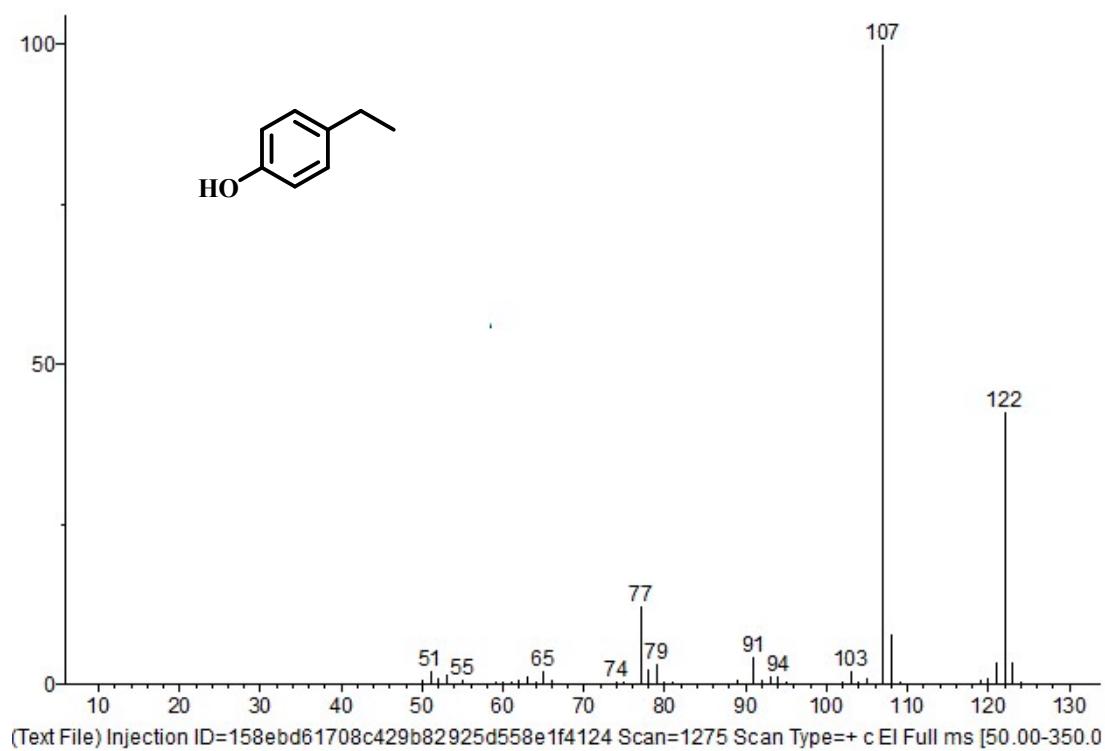
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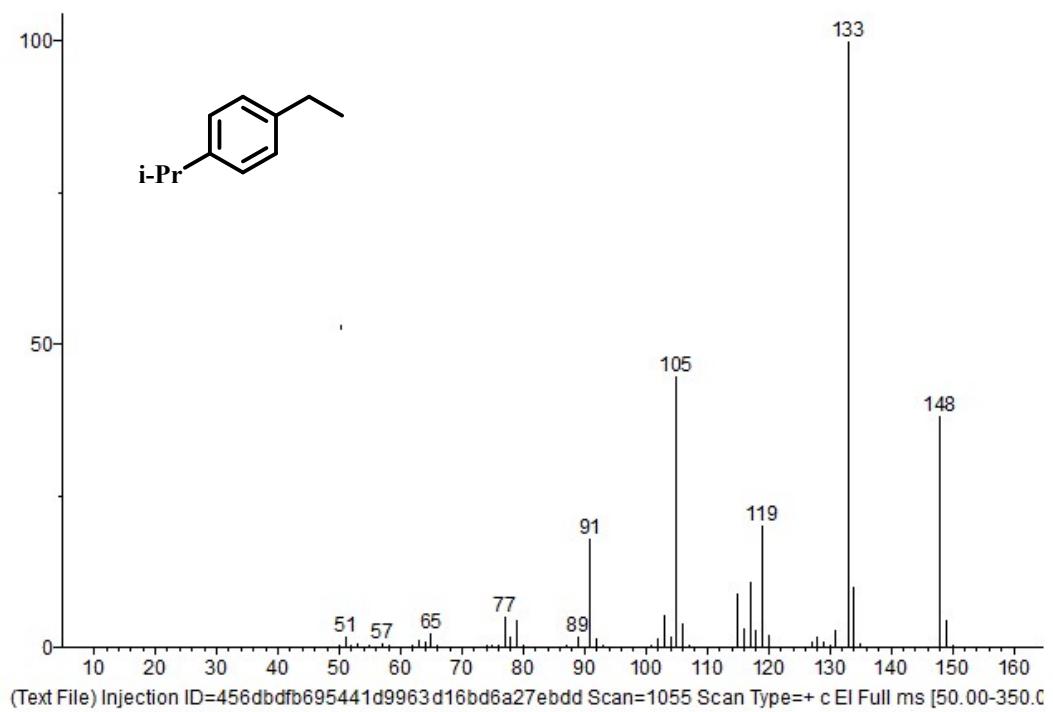
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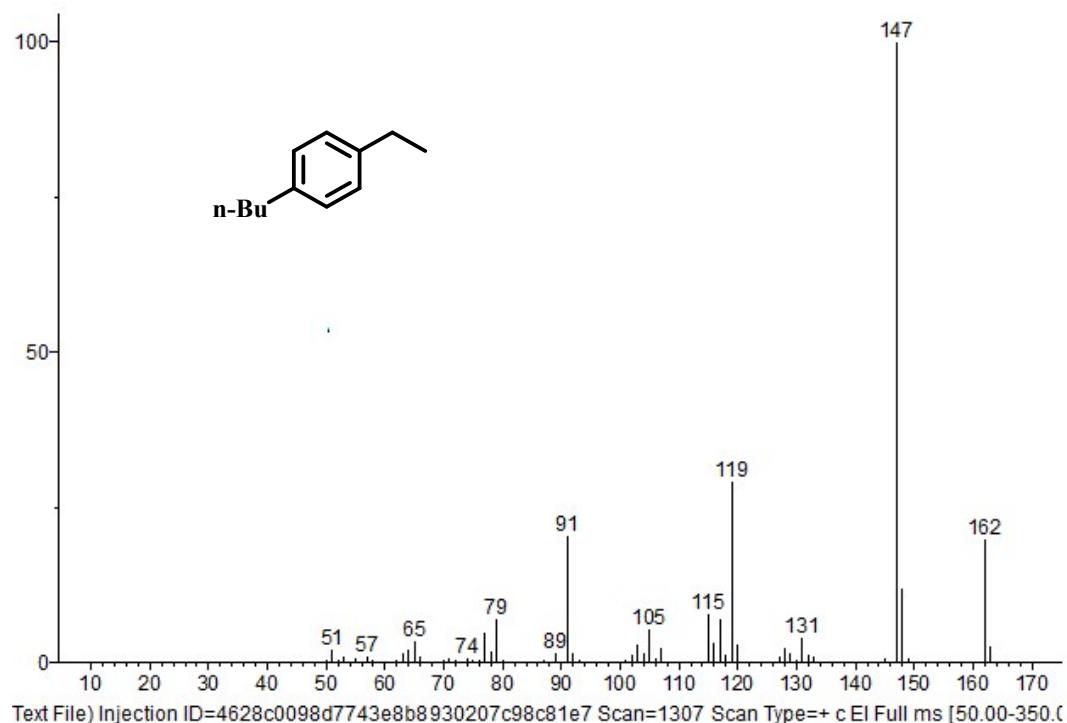
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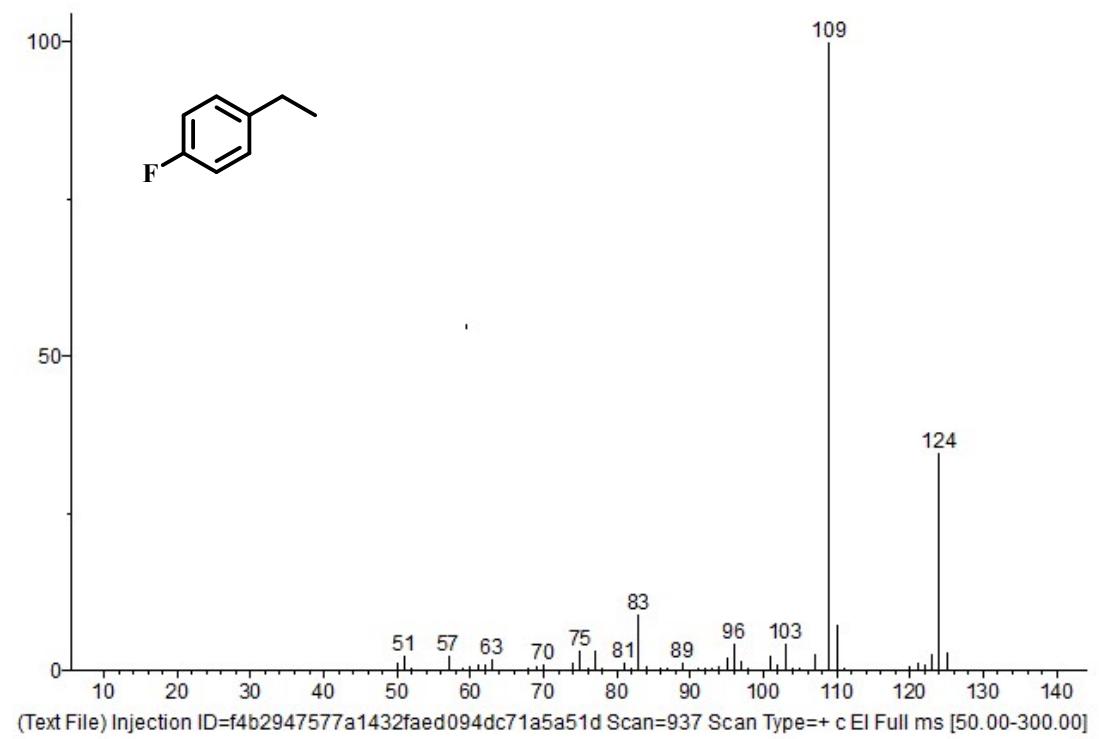
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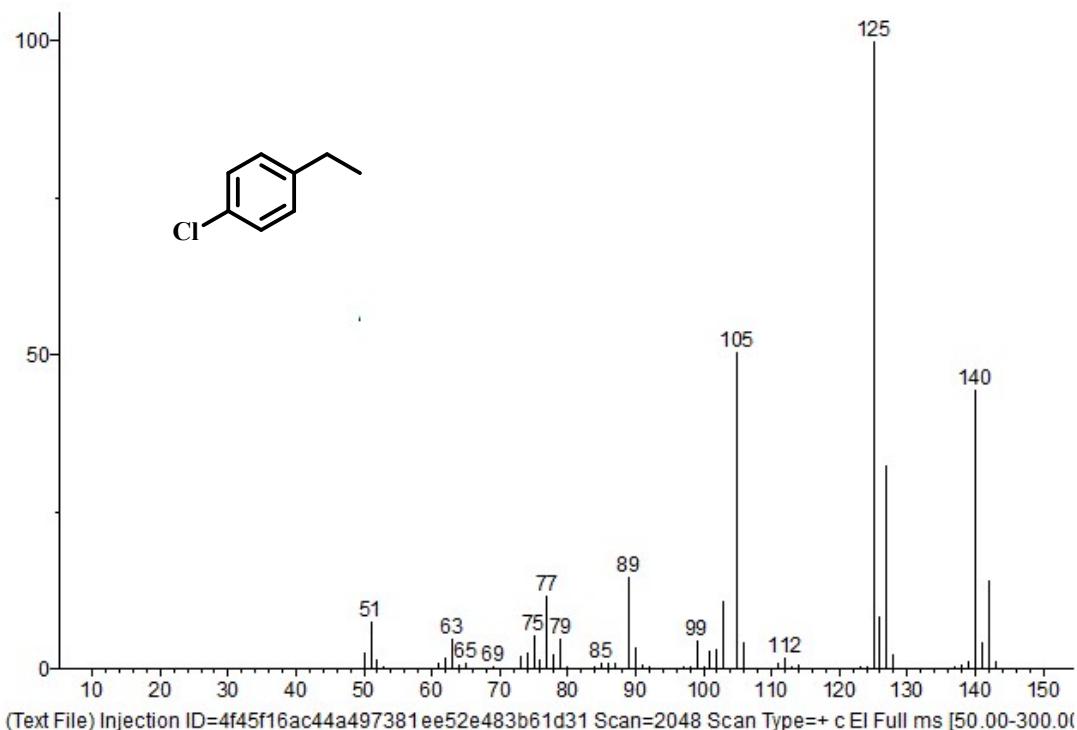
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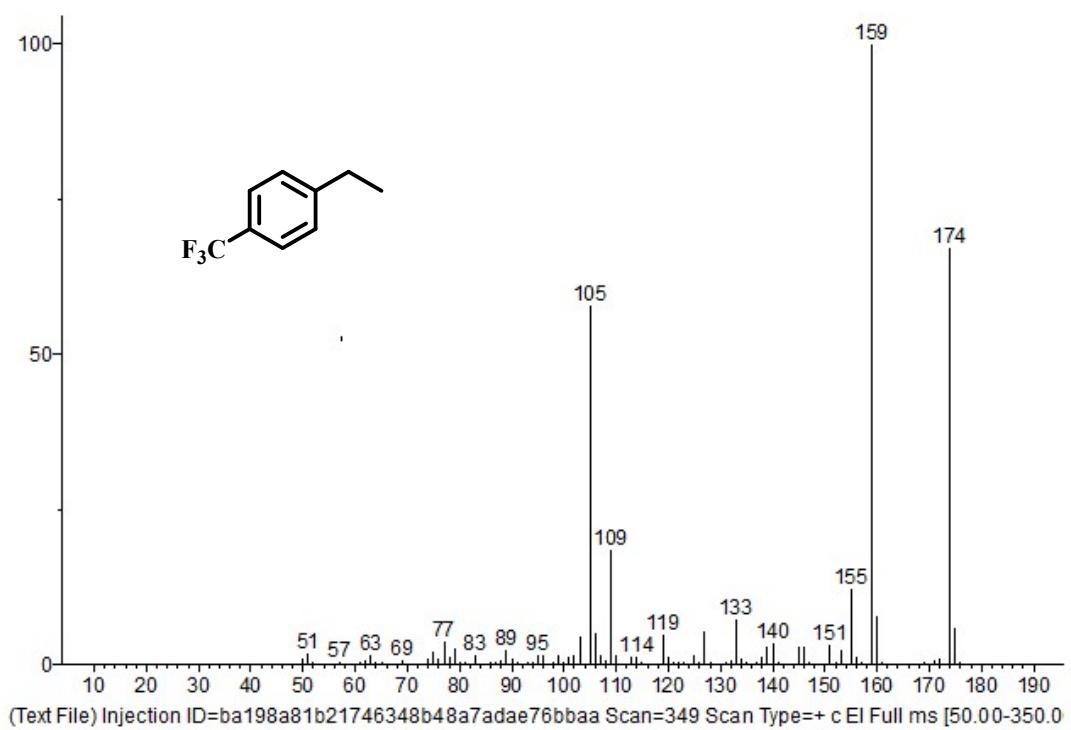
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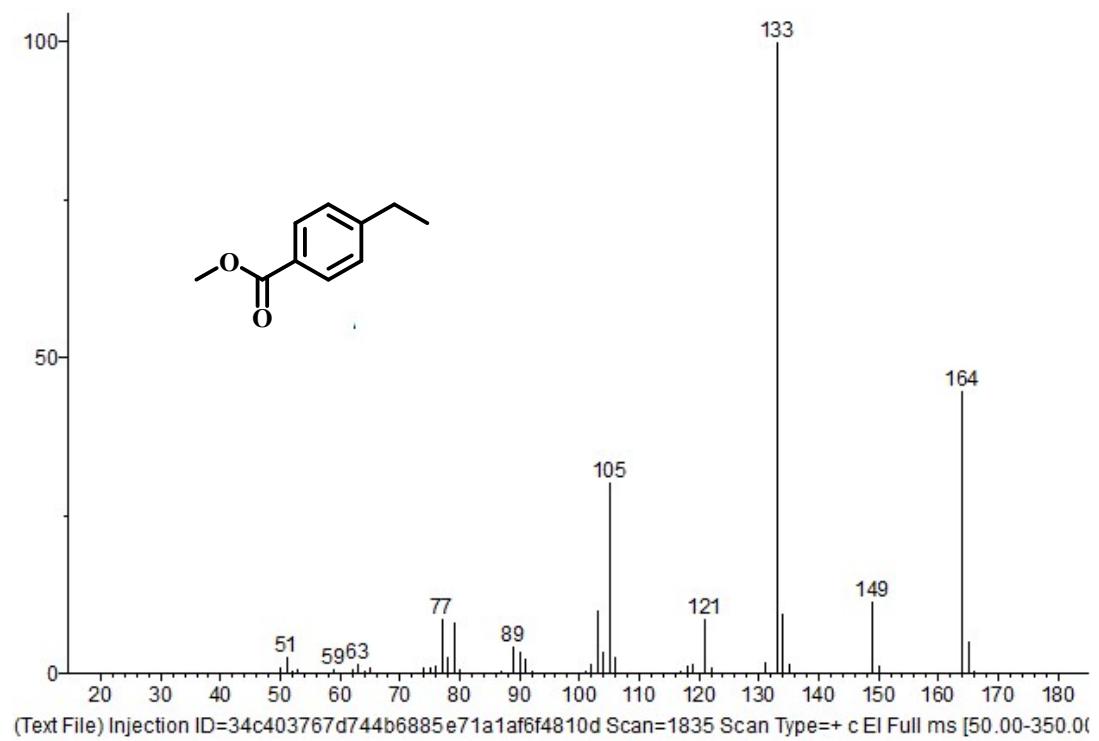
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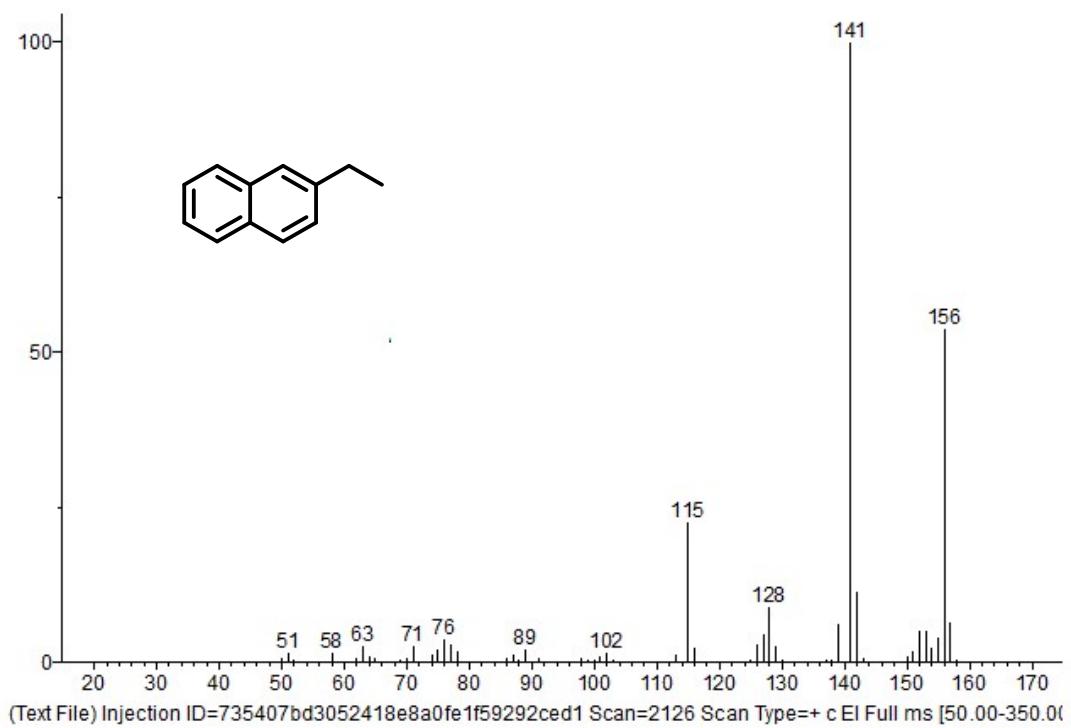
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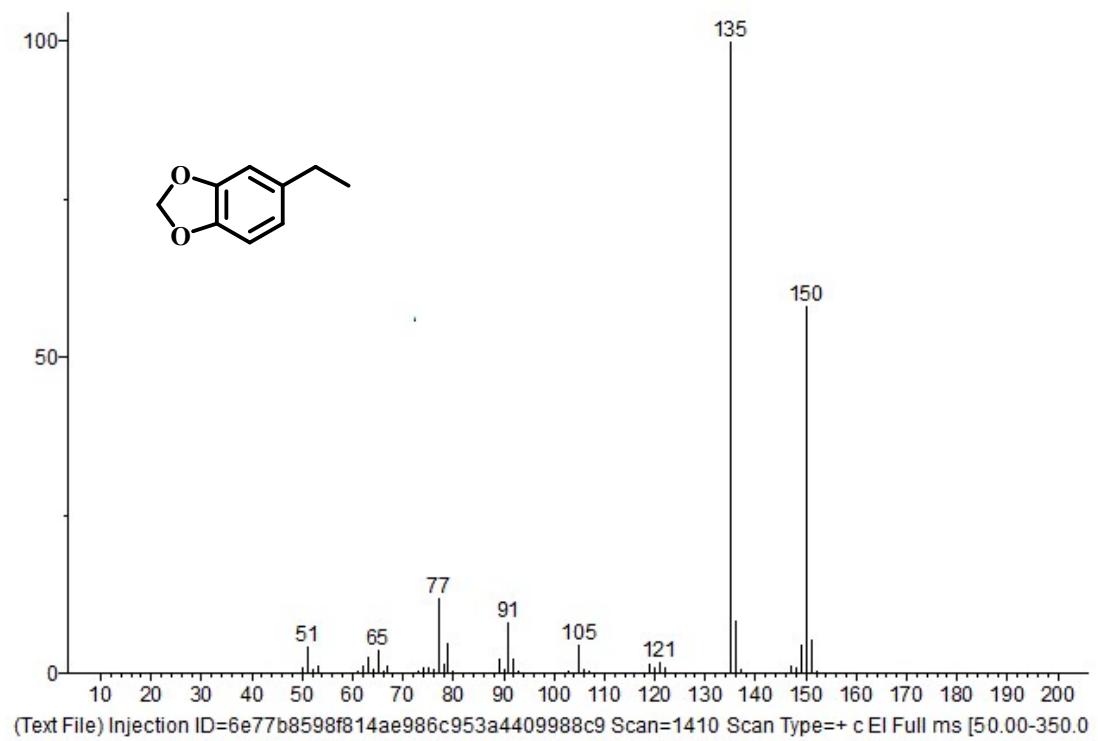
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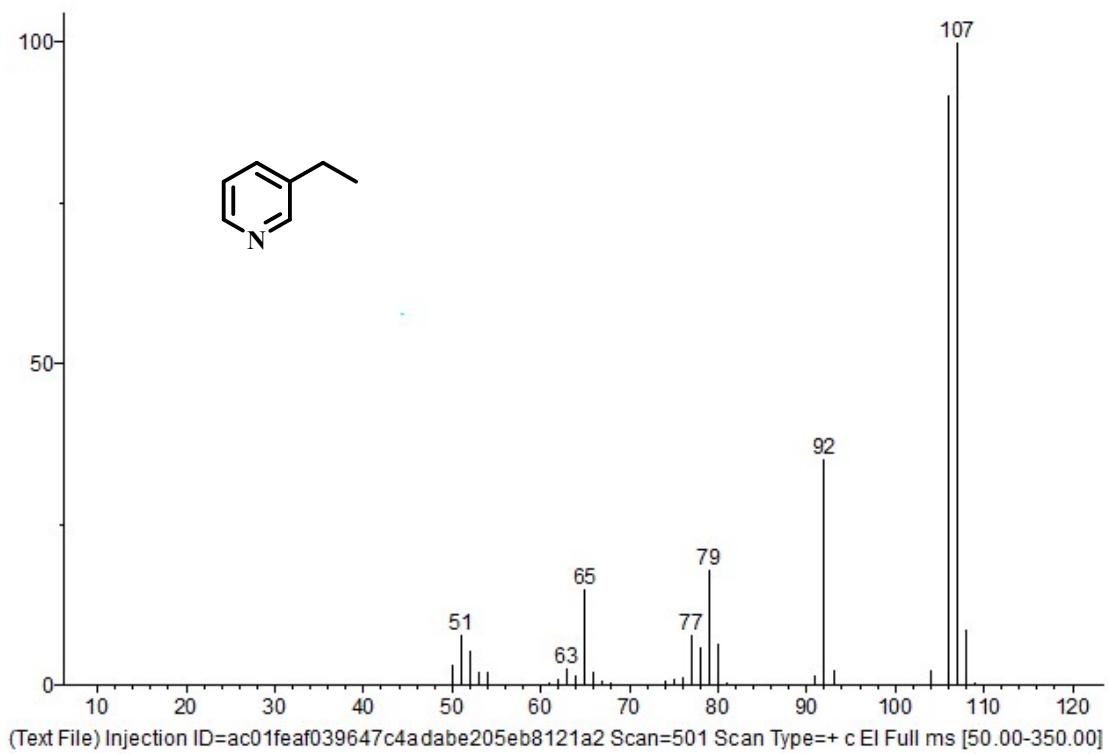
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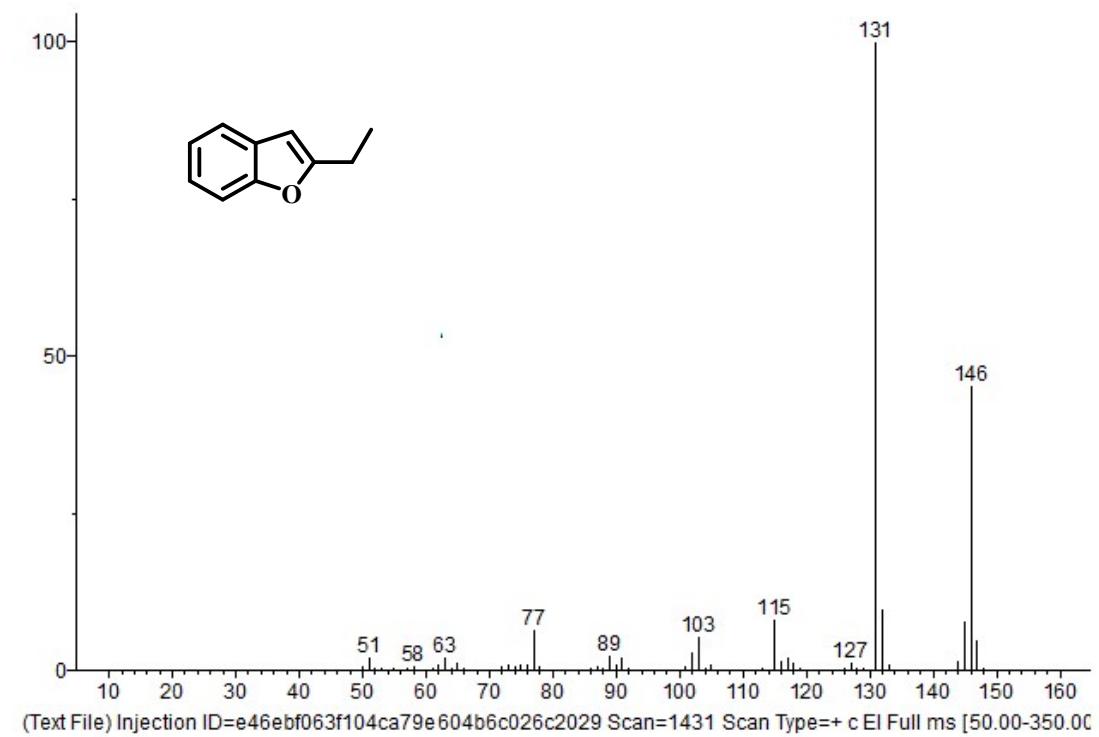
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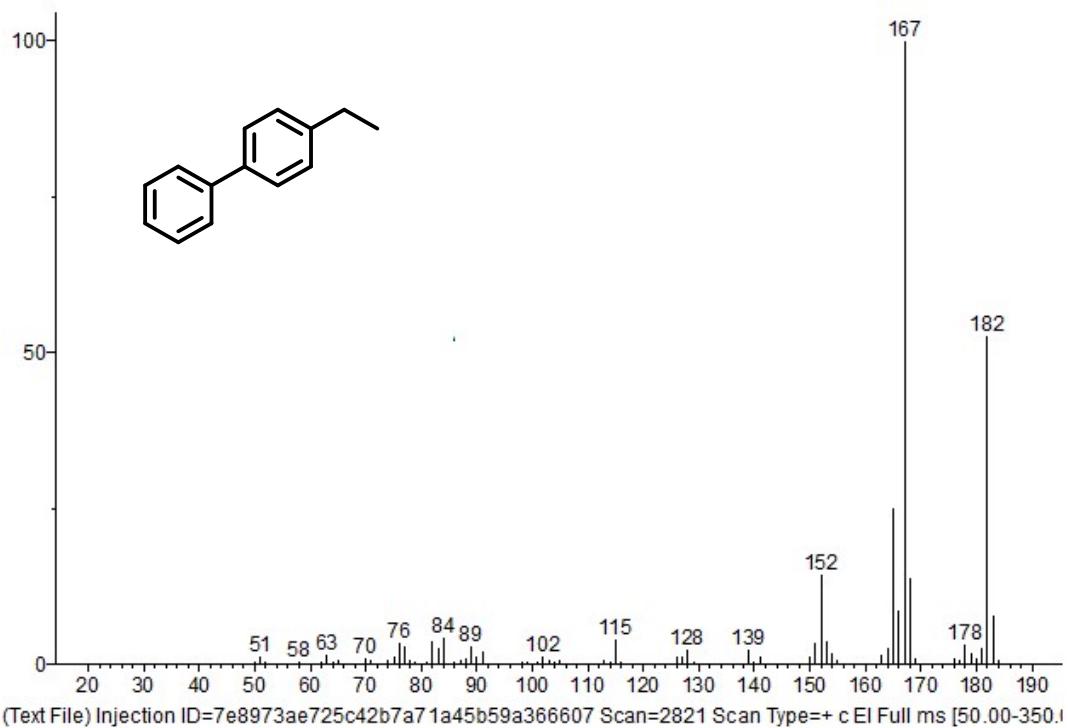
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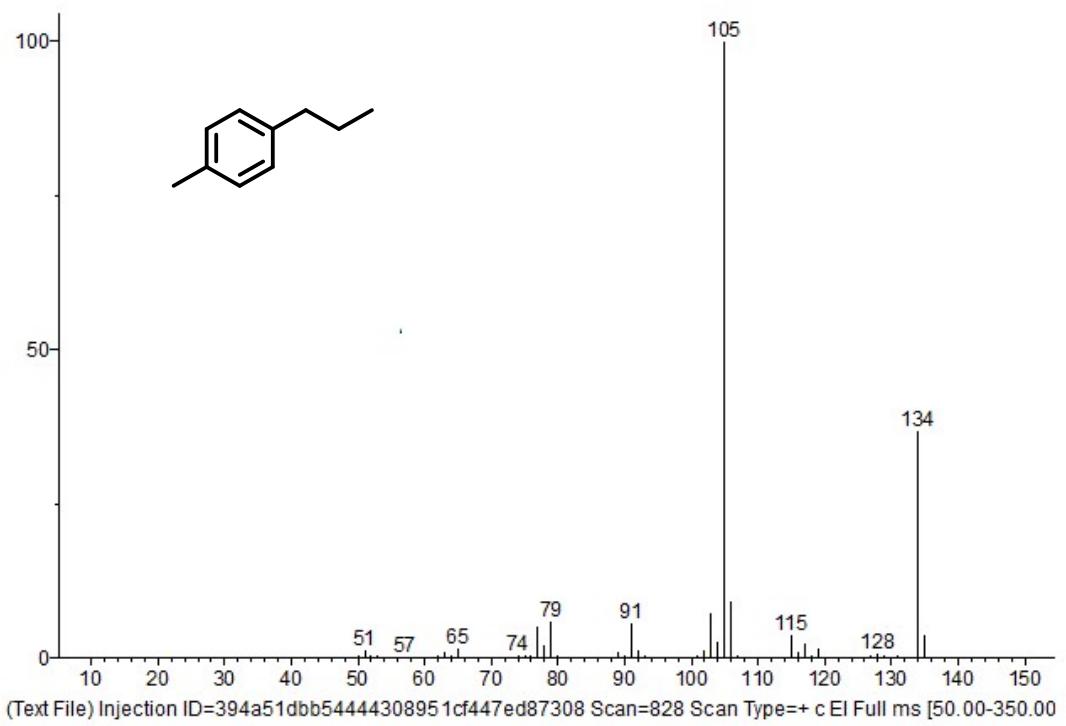
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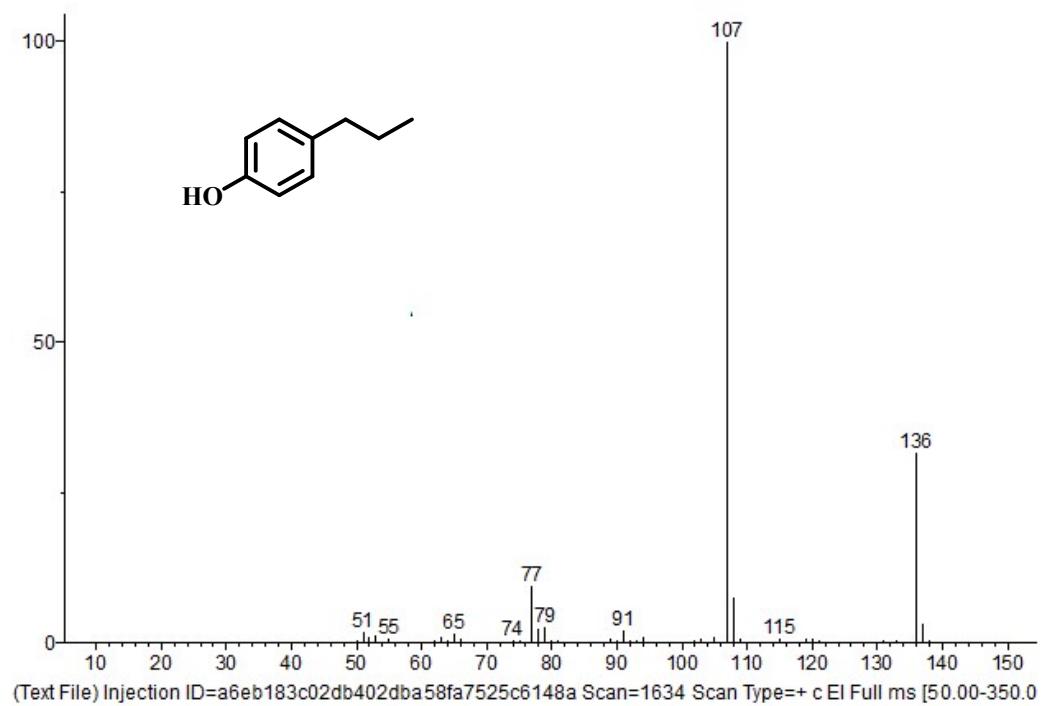
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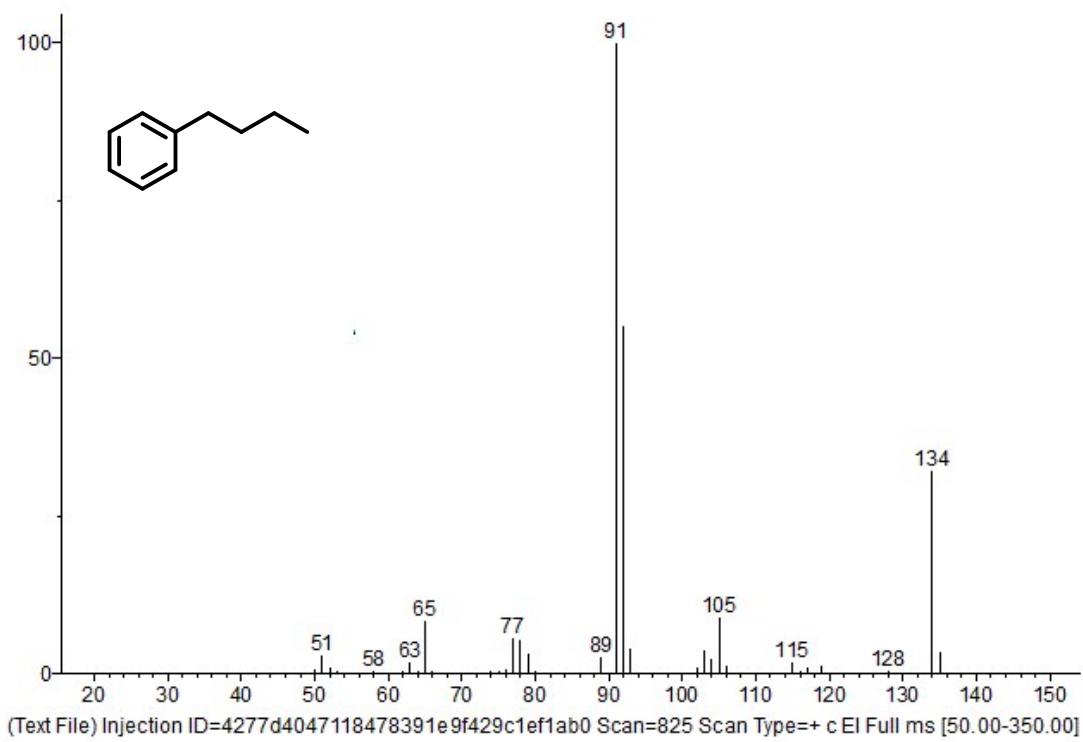
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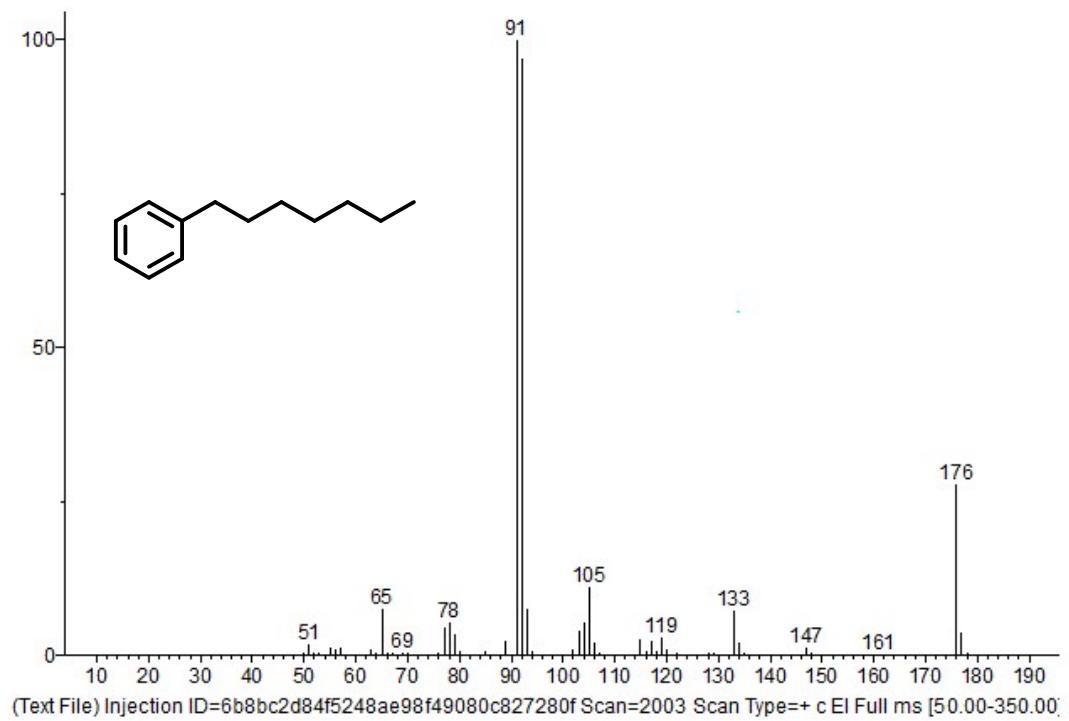
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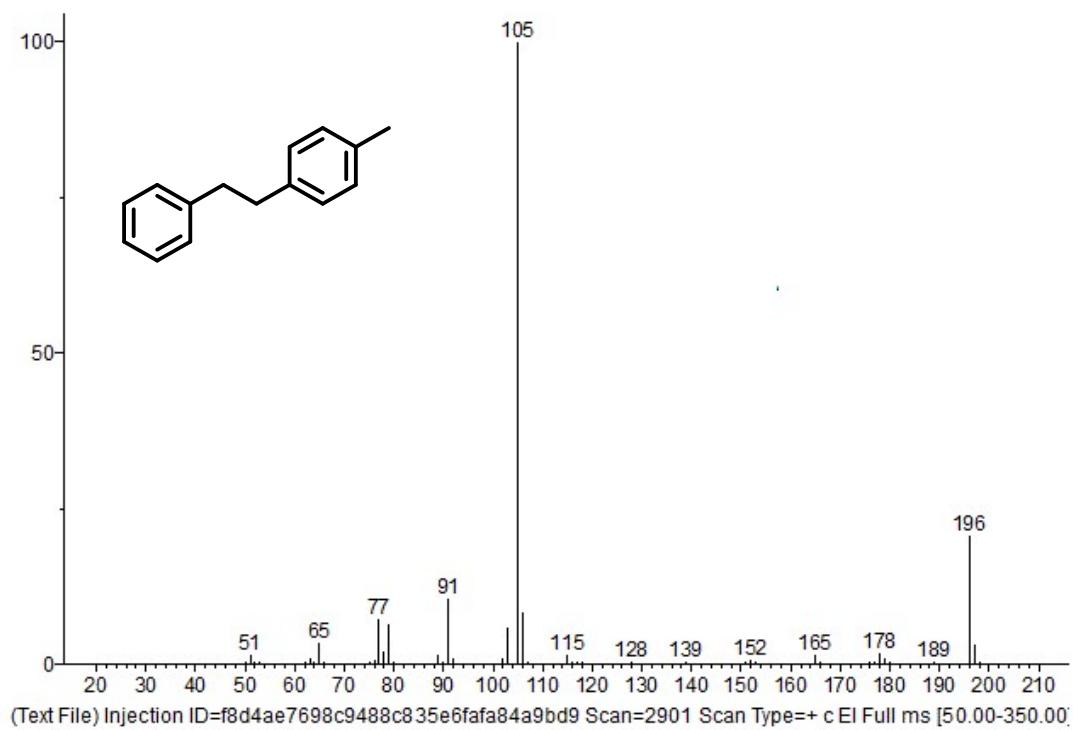
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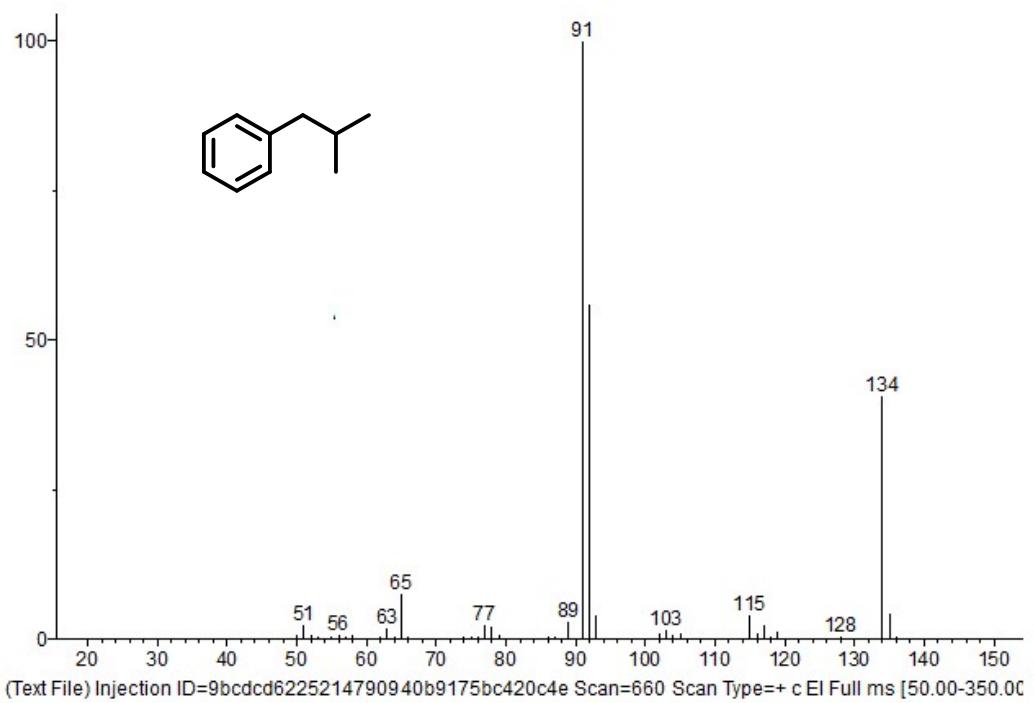
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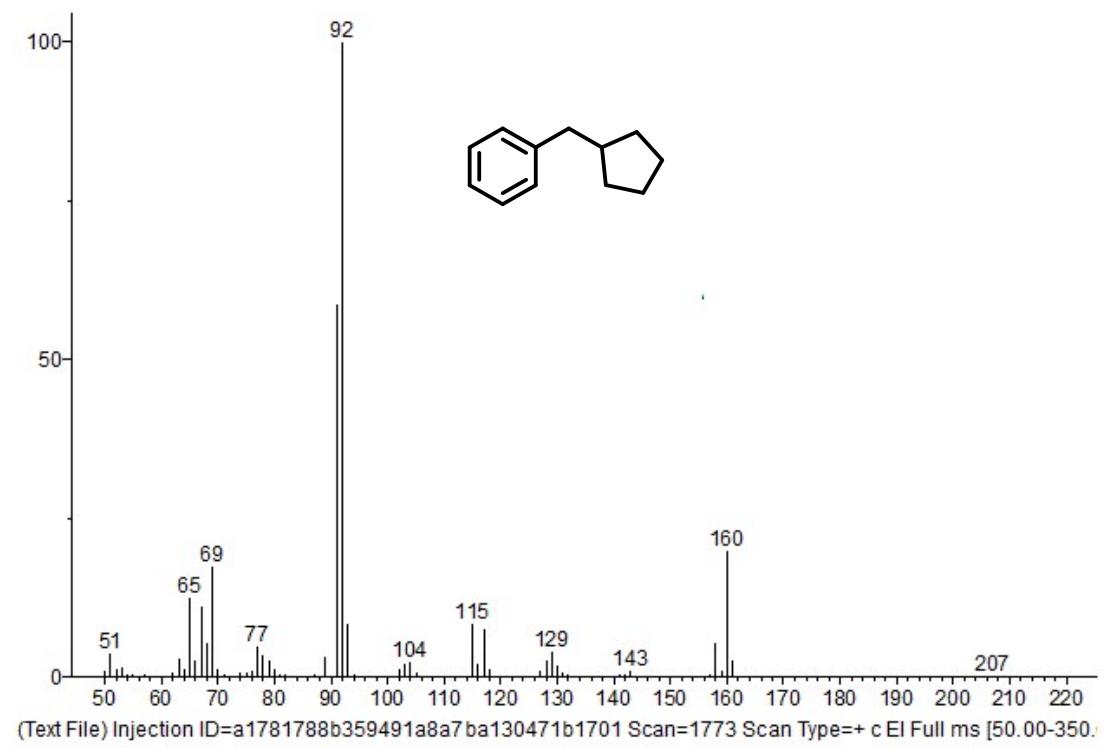
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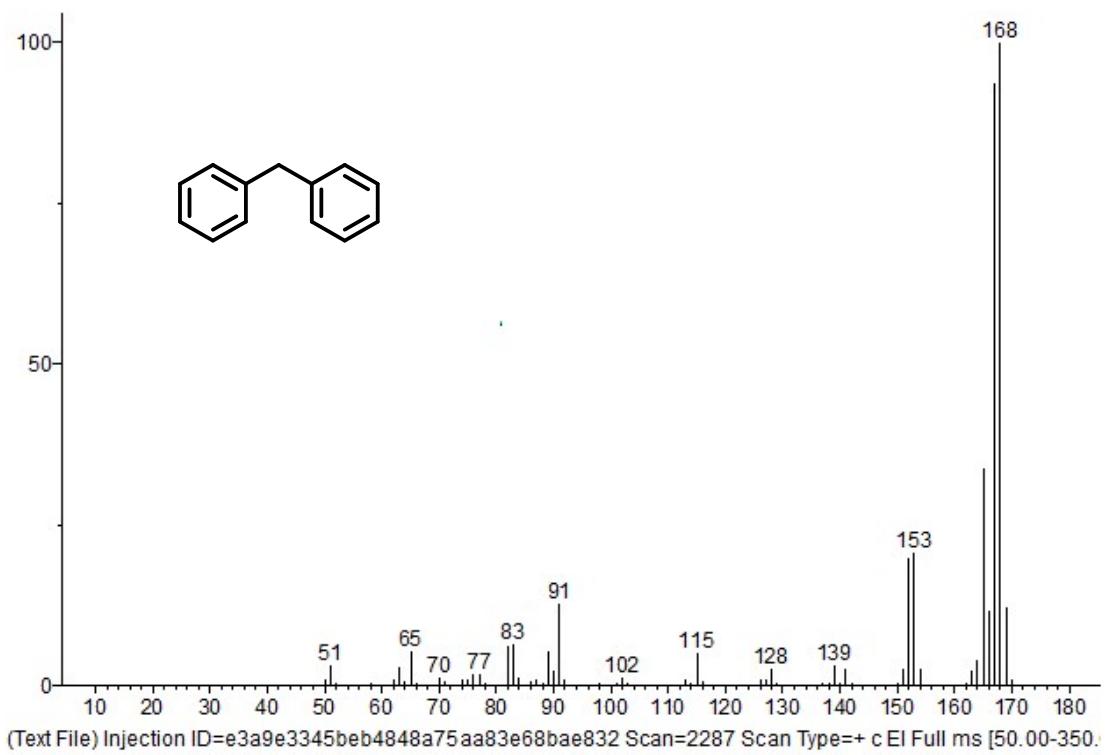
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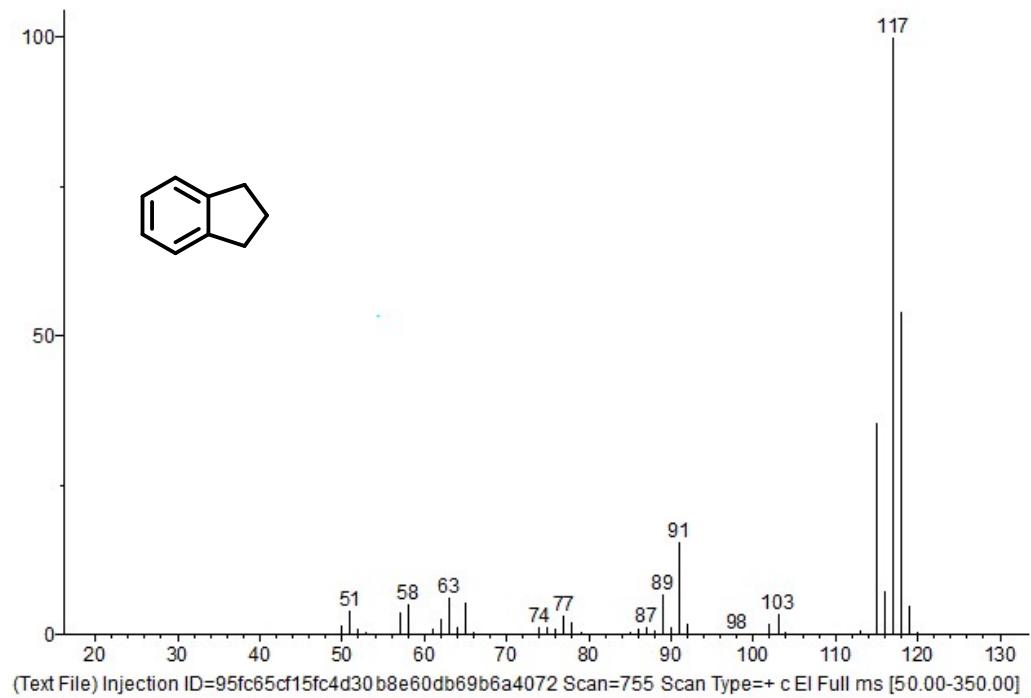
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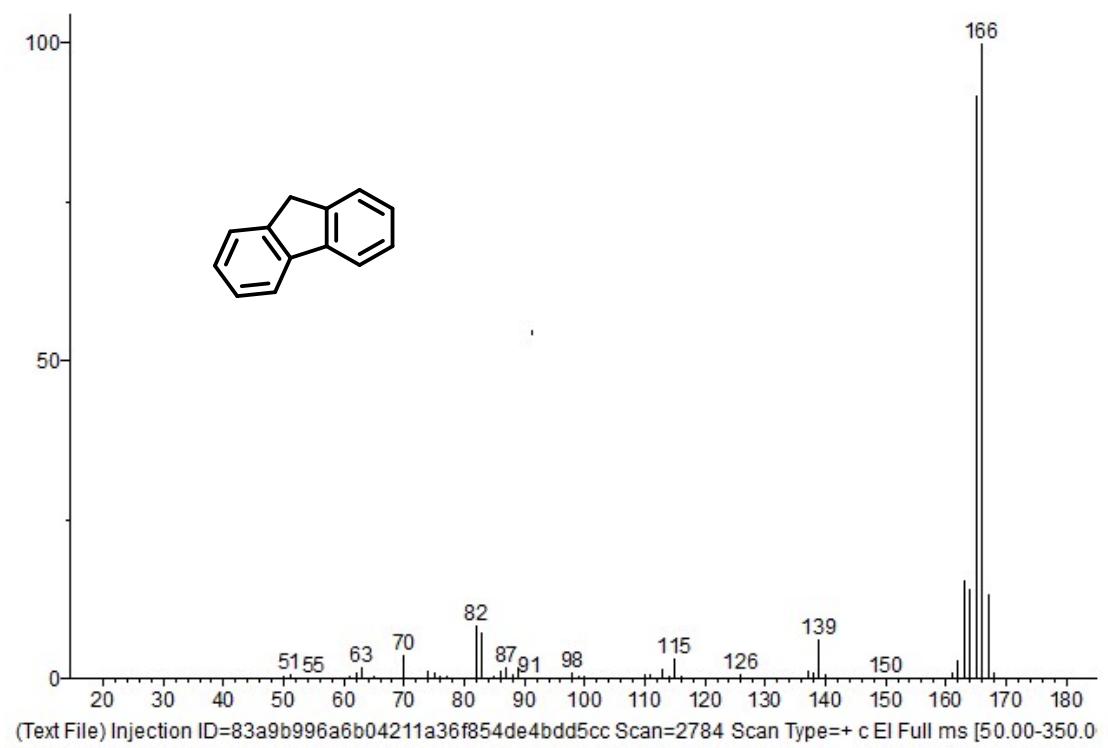
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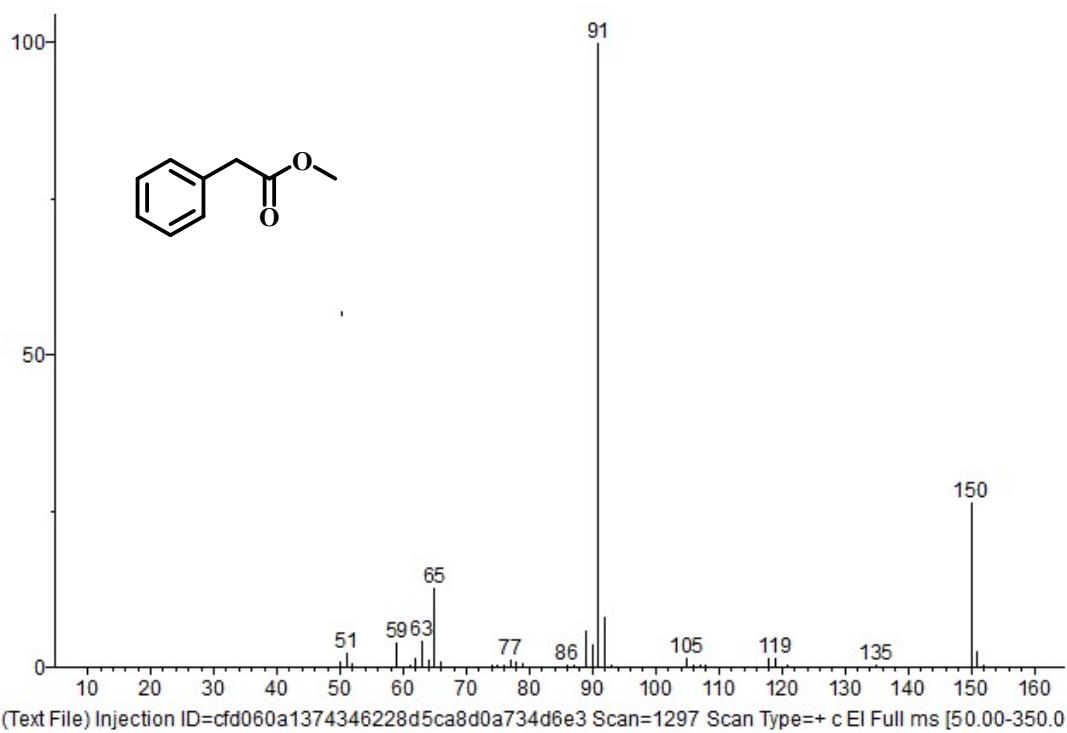
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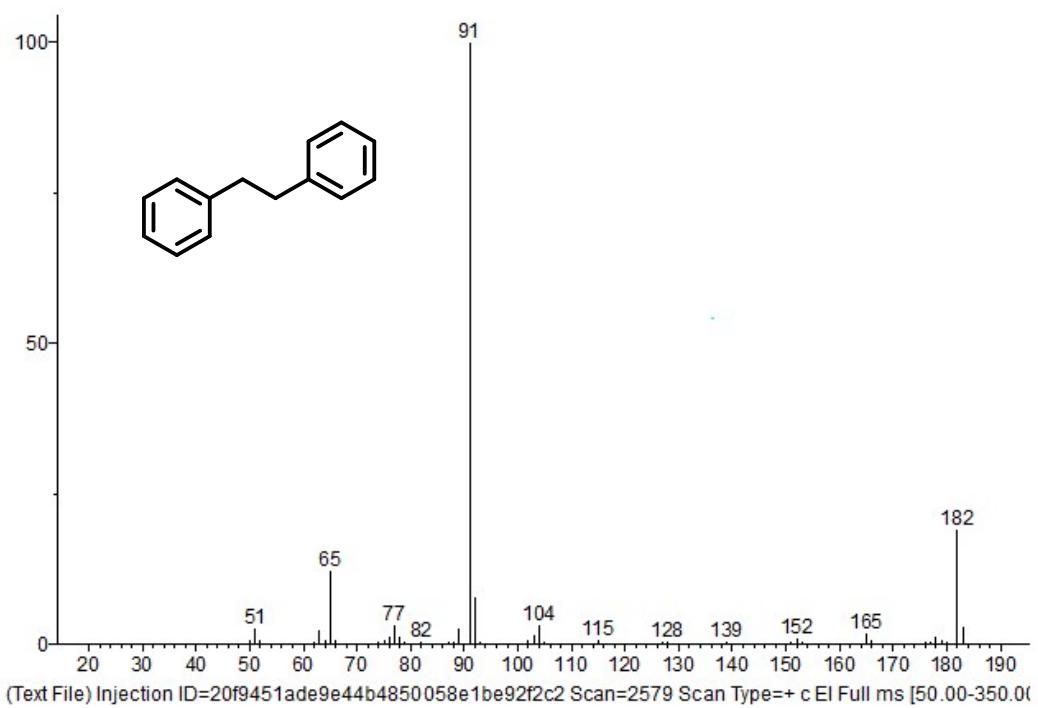
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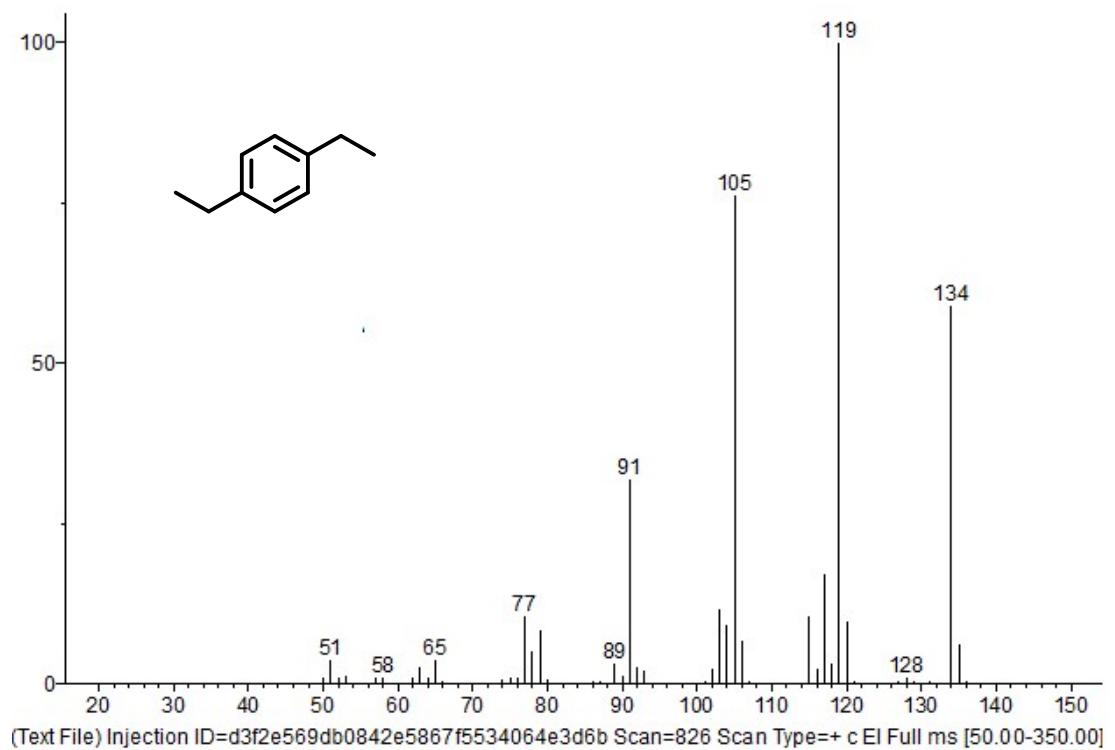
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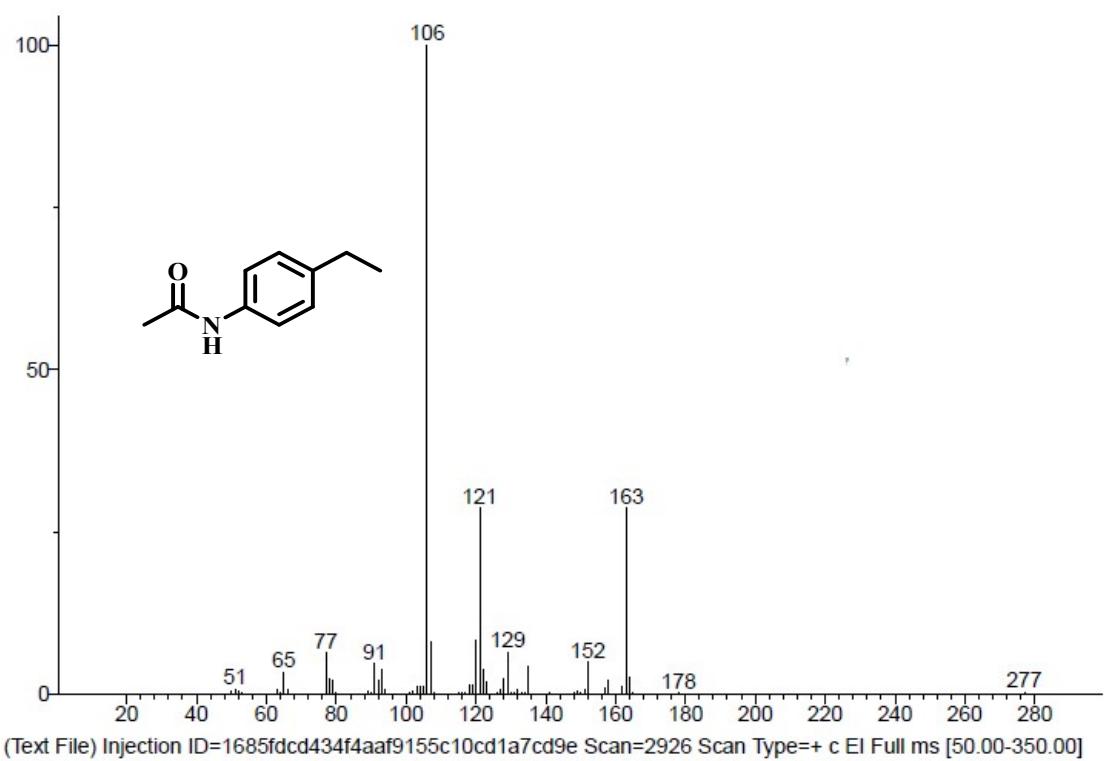
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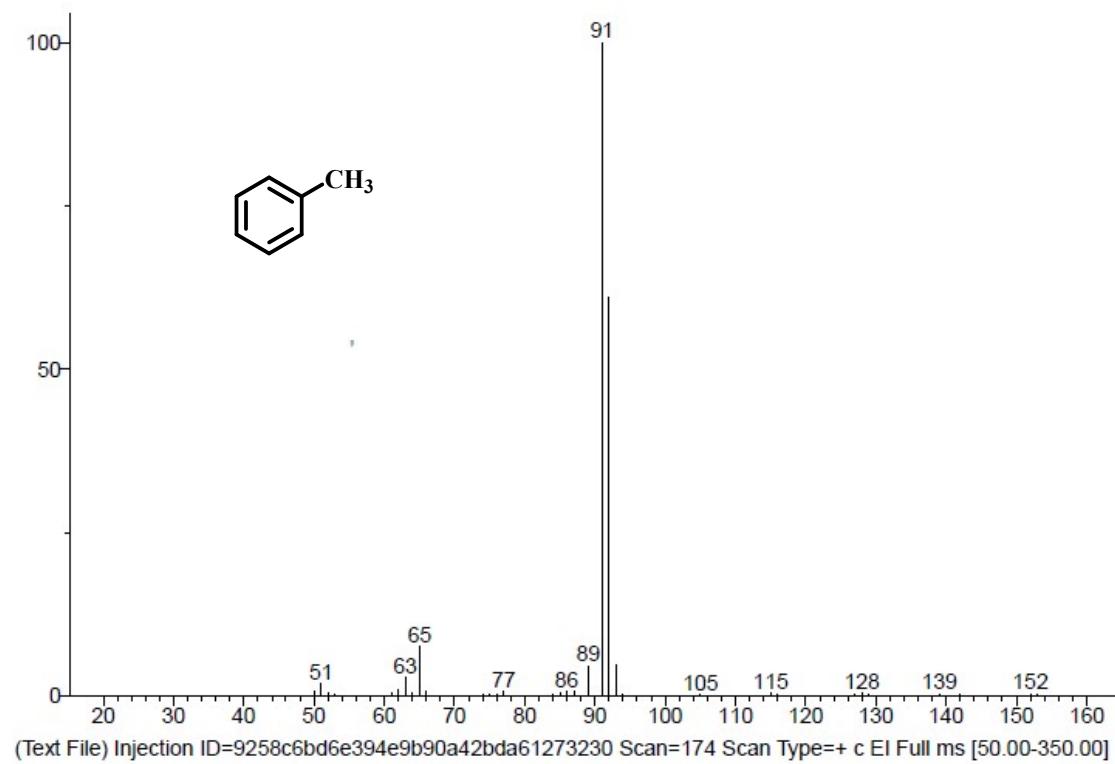
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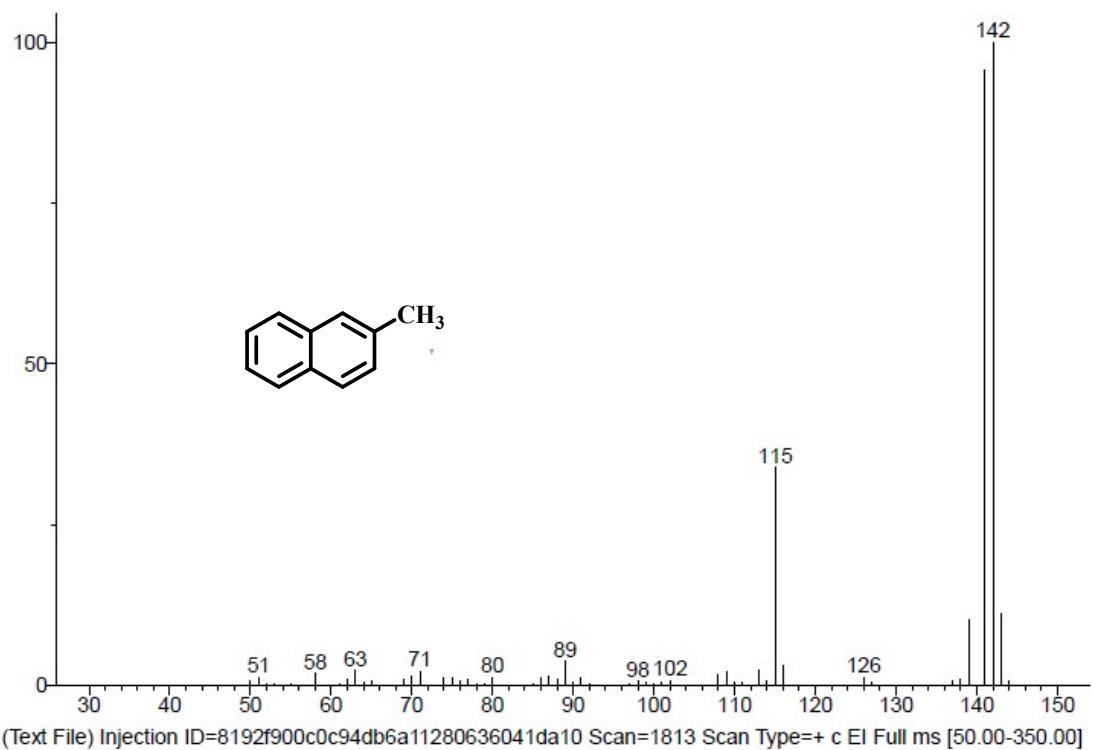
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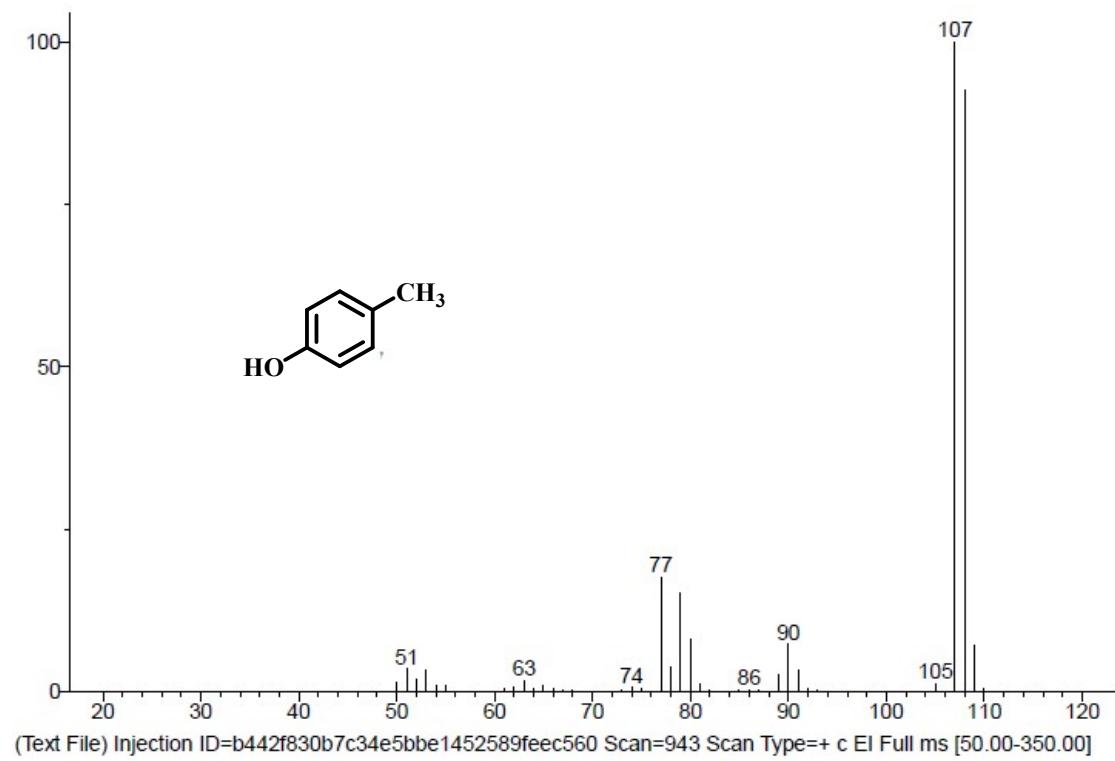
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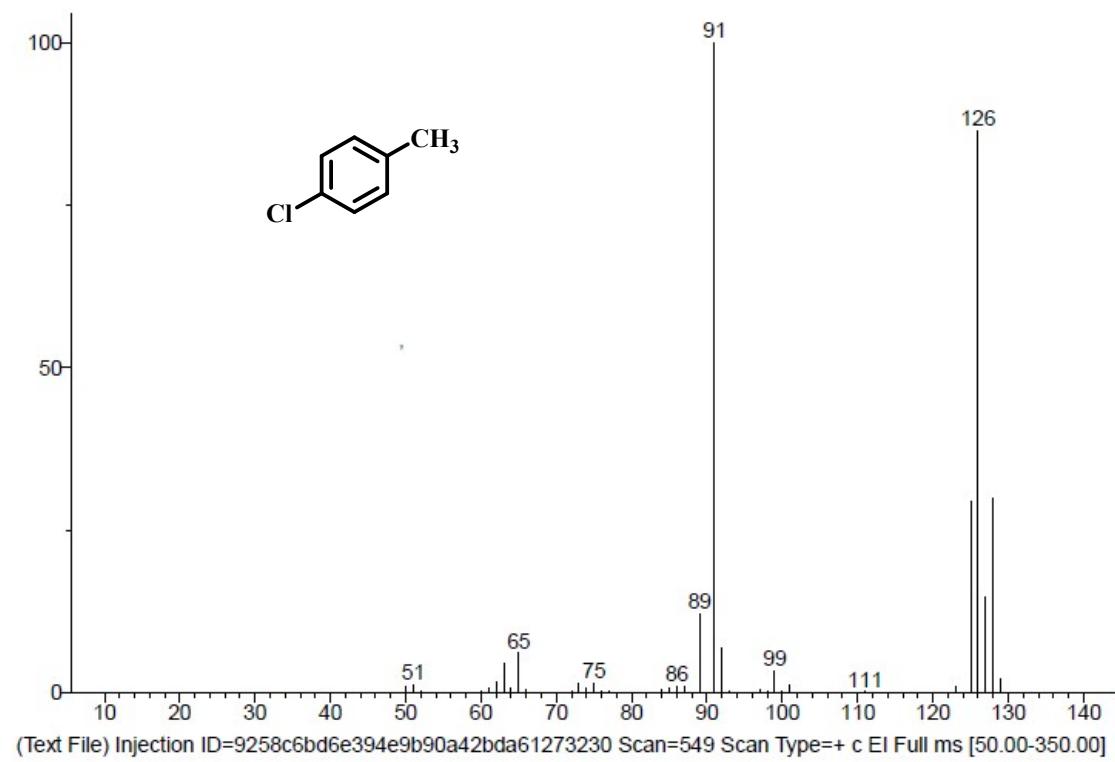
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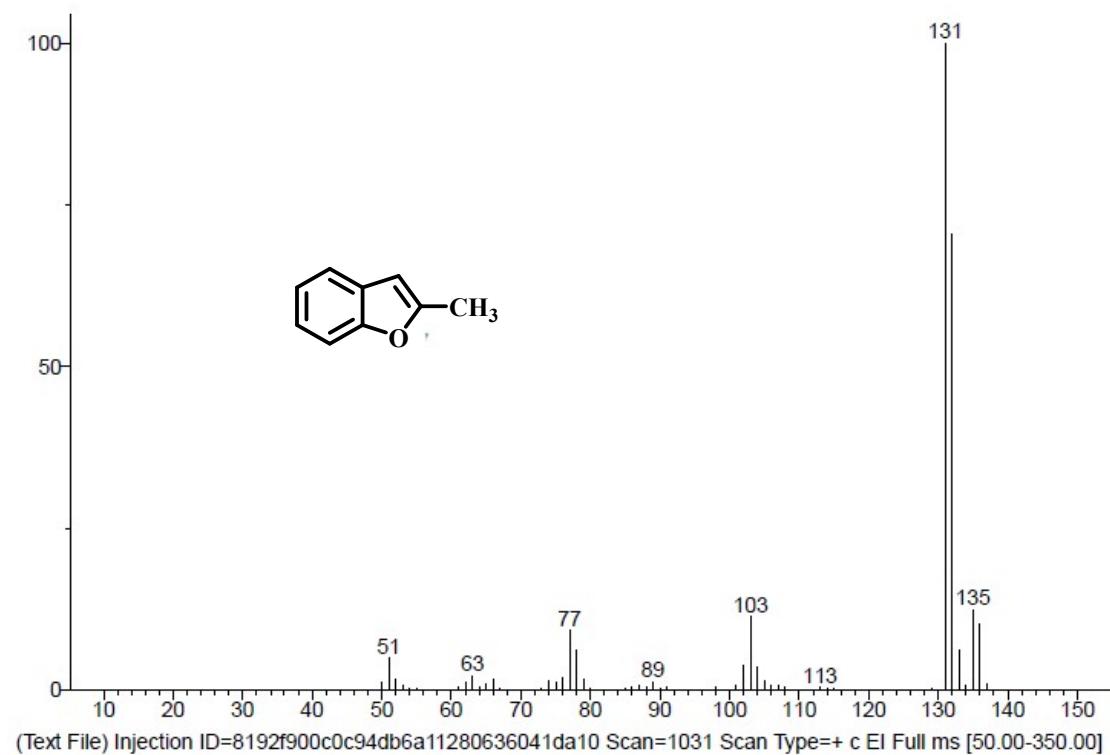
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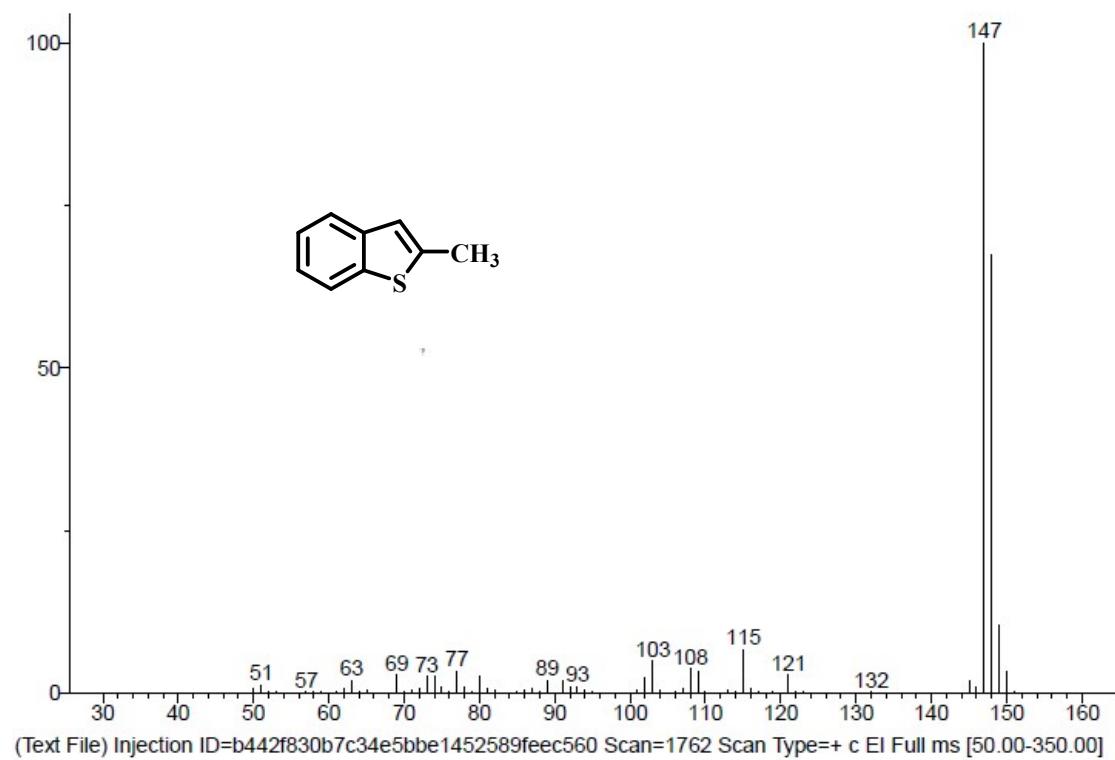
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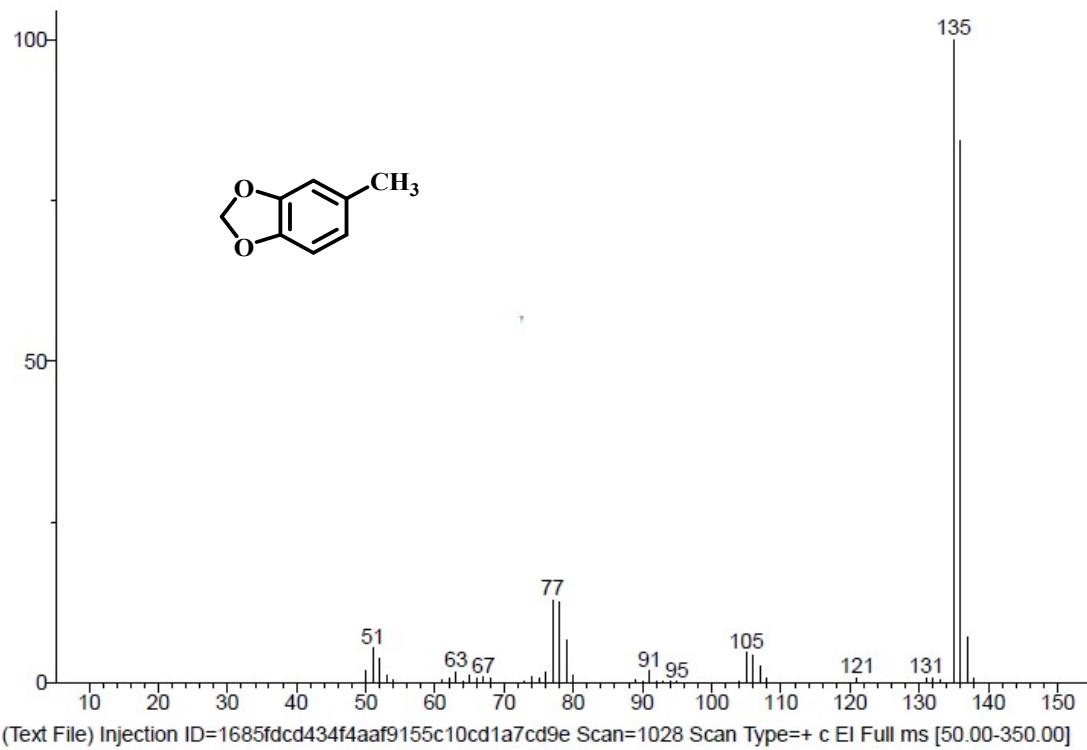
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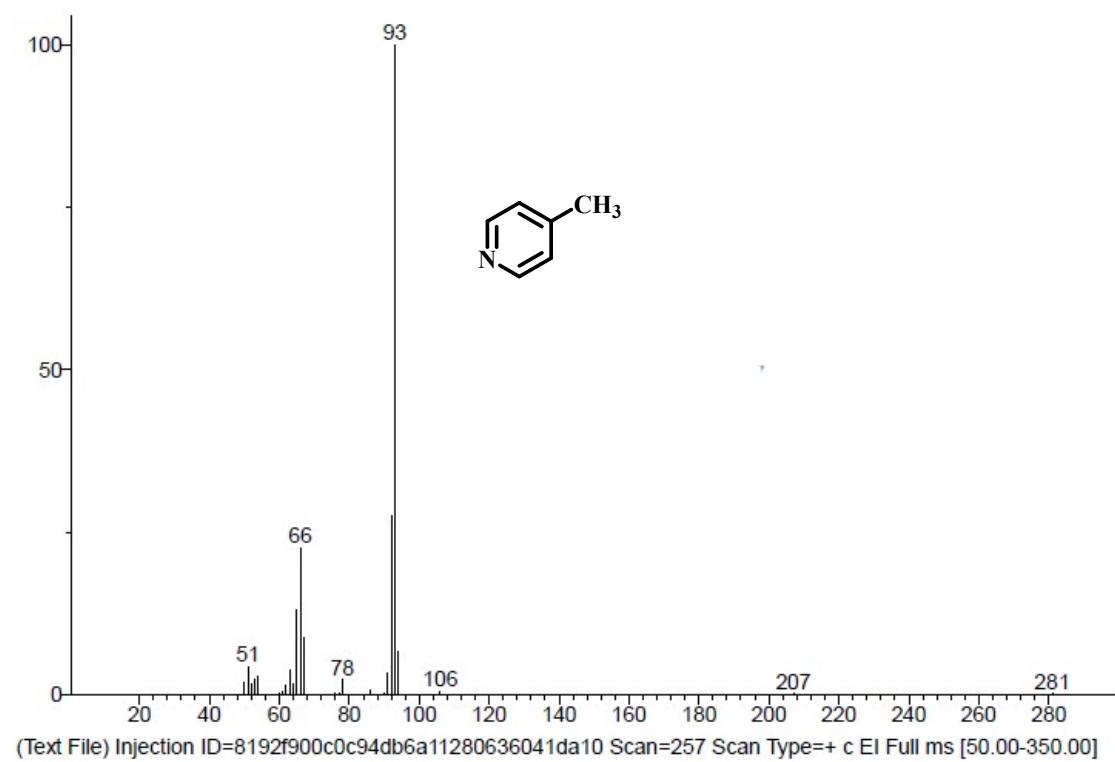
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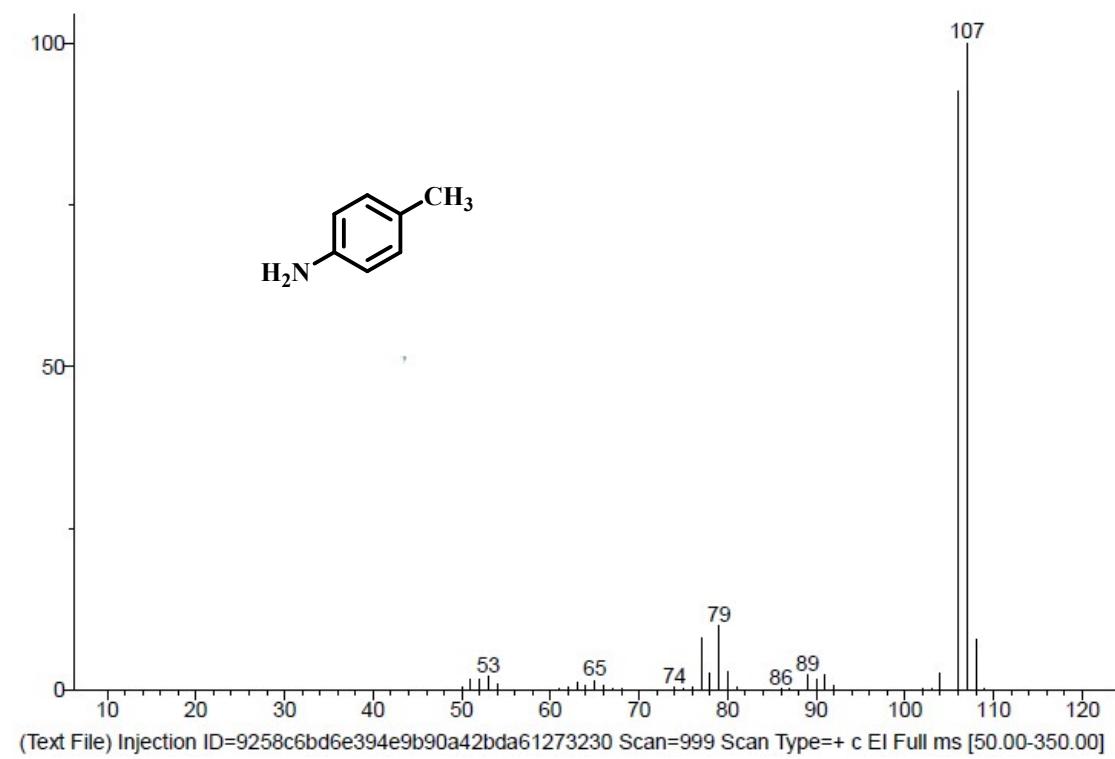
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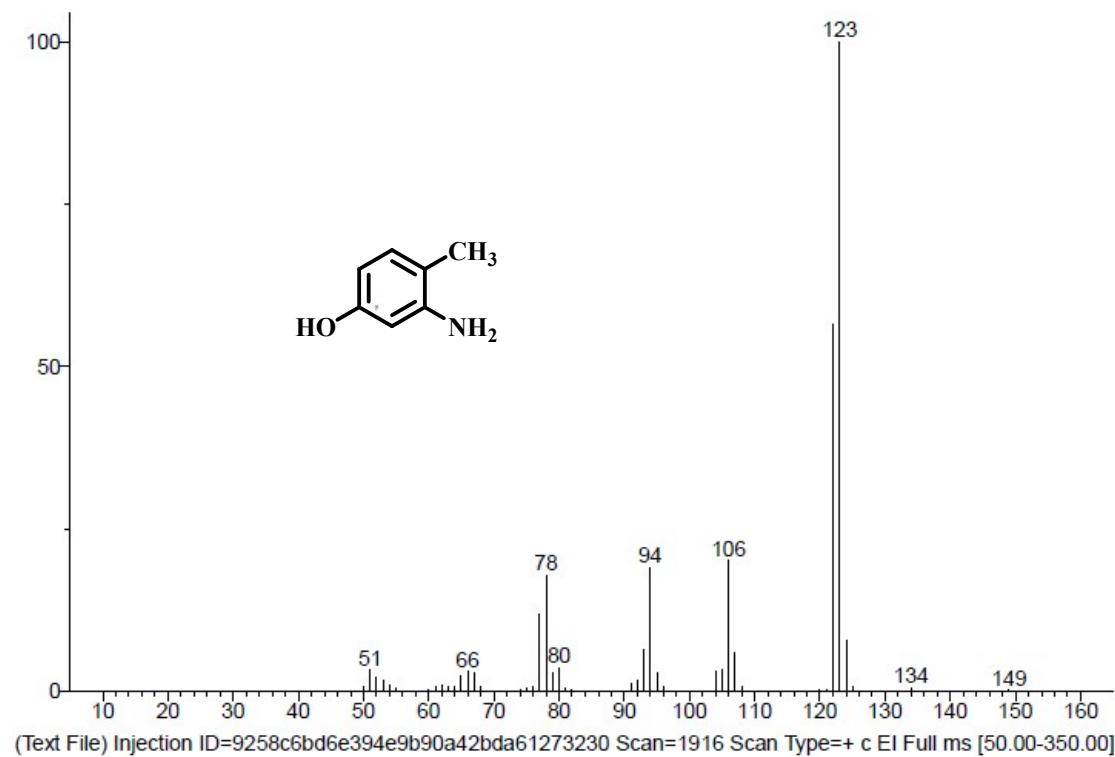
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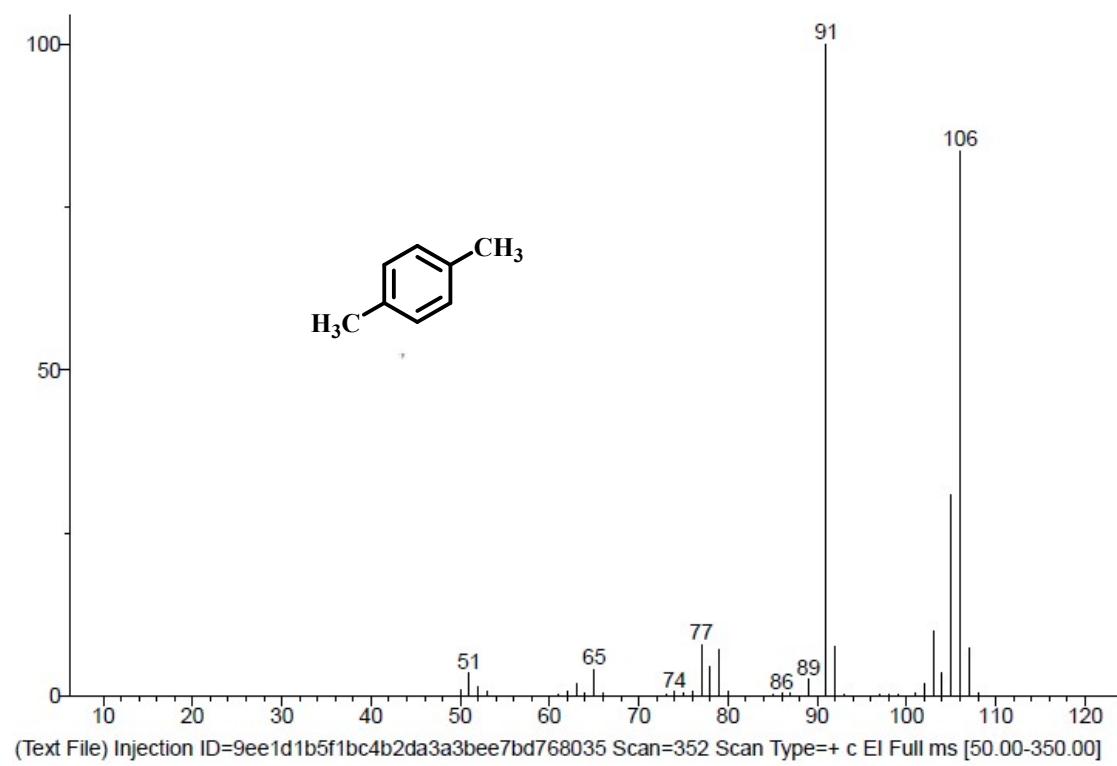
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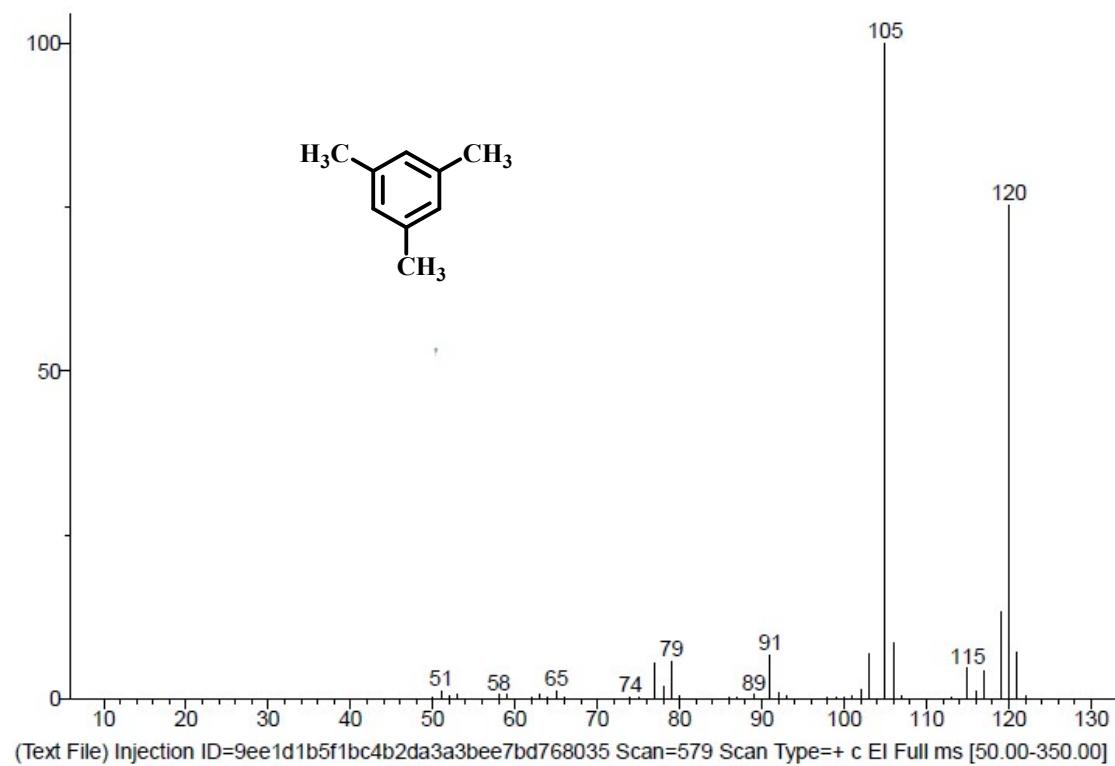
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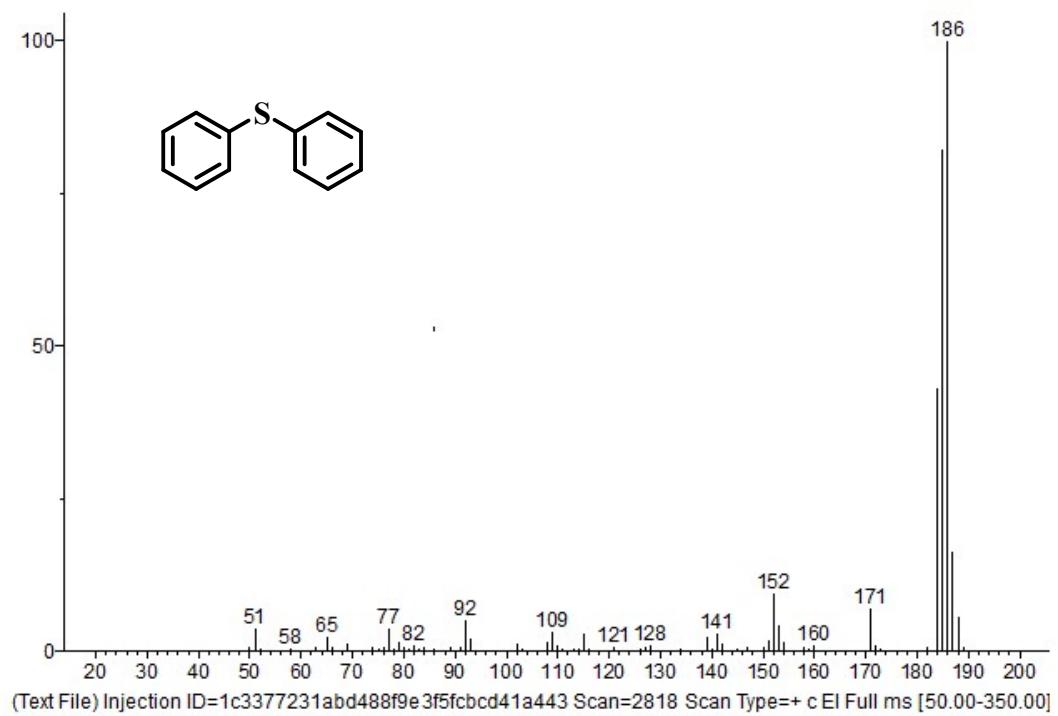
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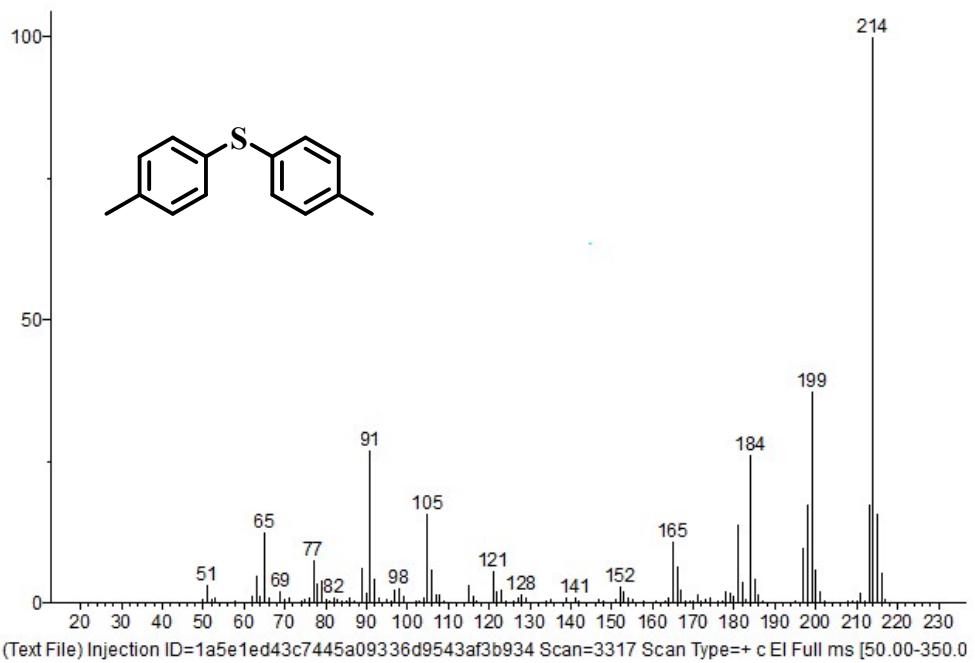
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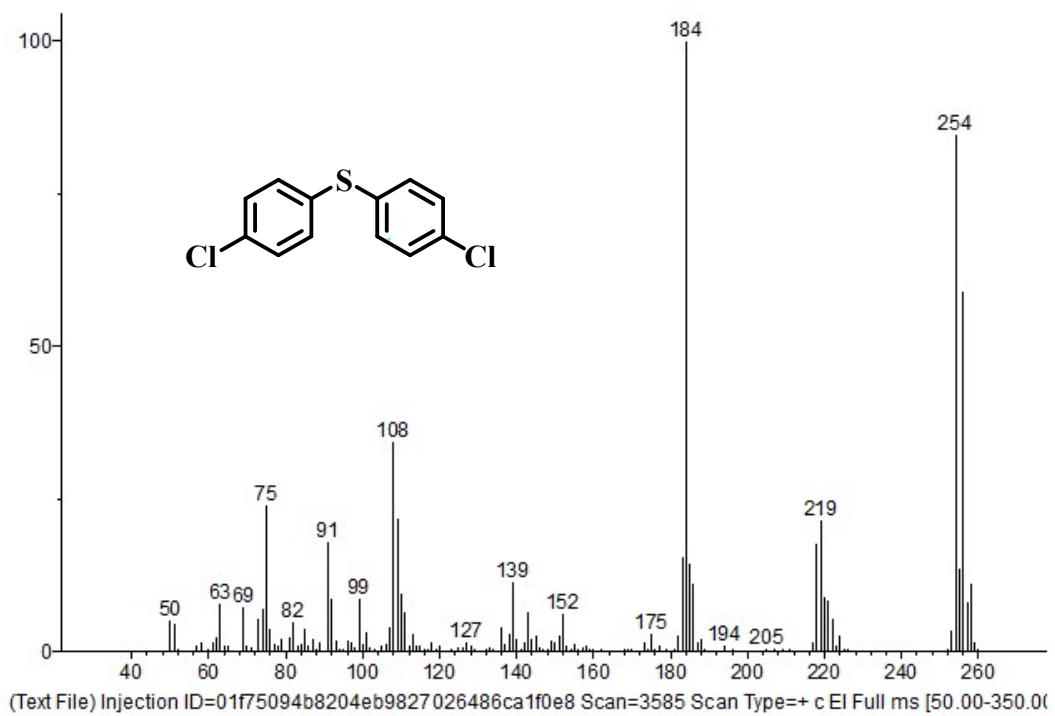
(b1)



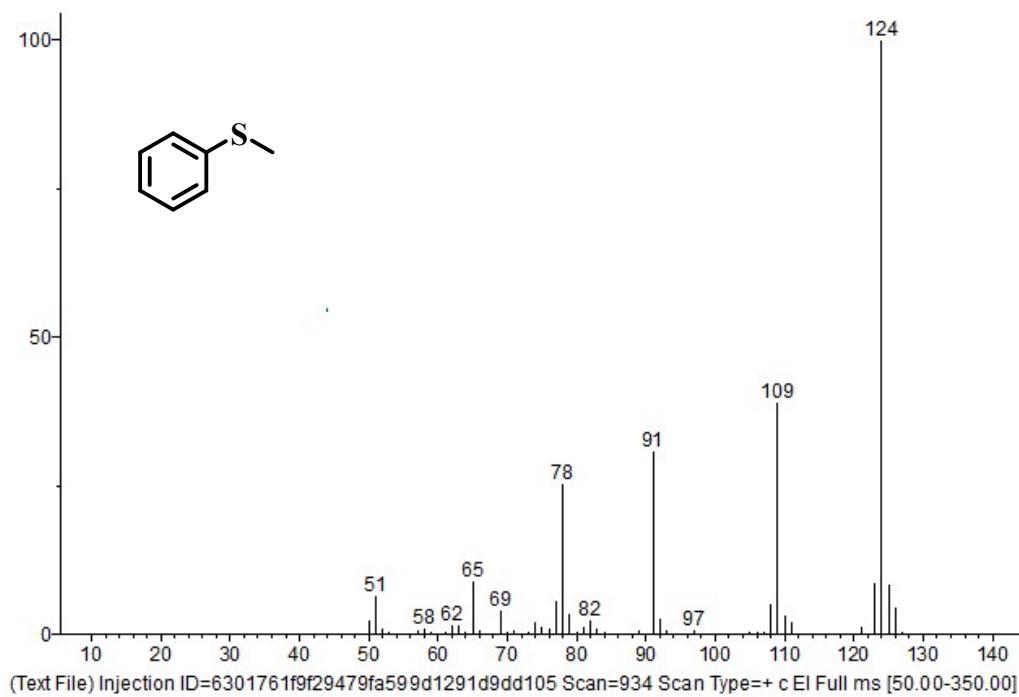
(b2)



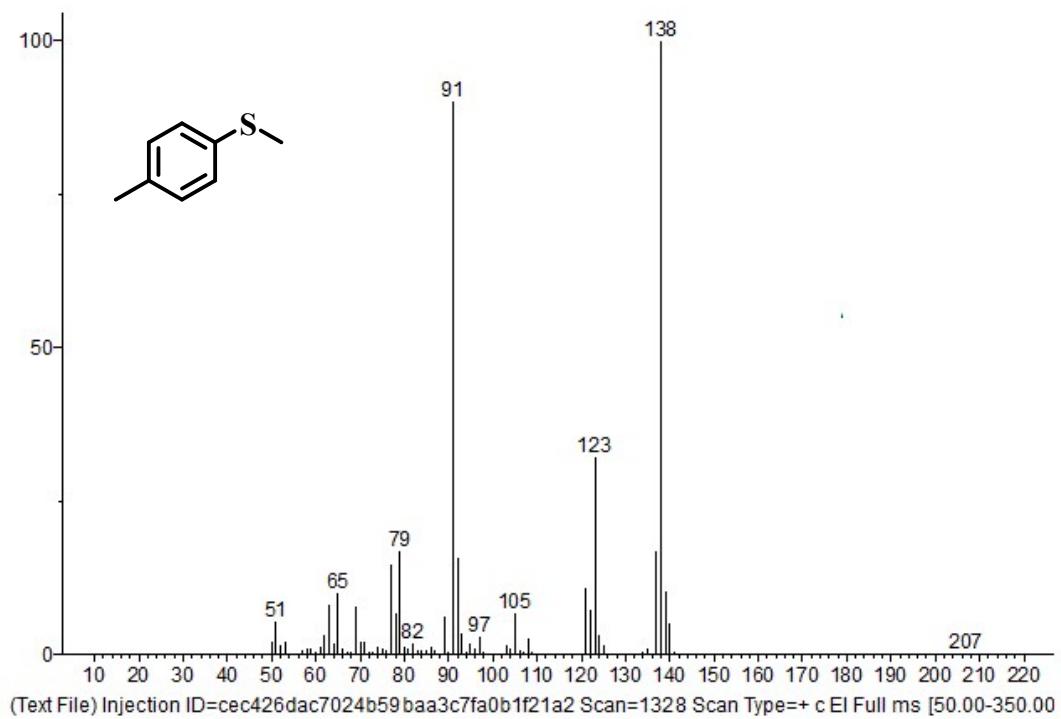
(b3)



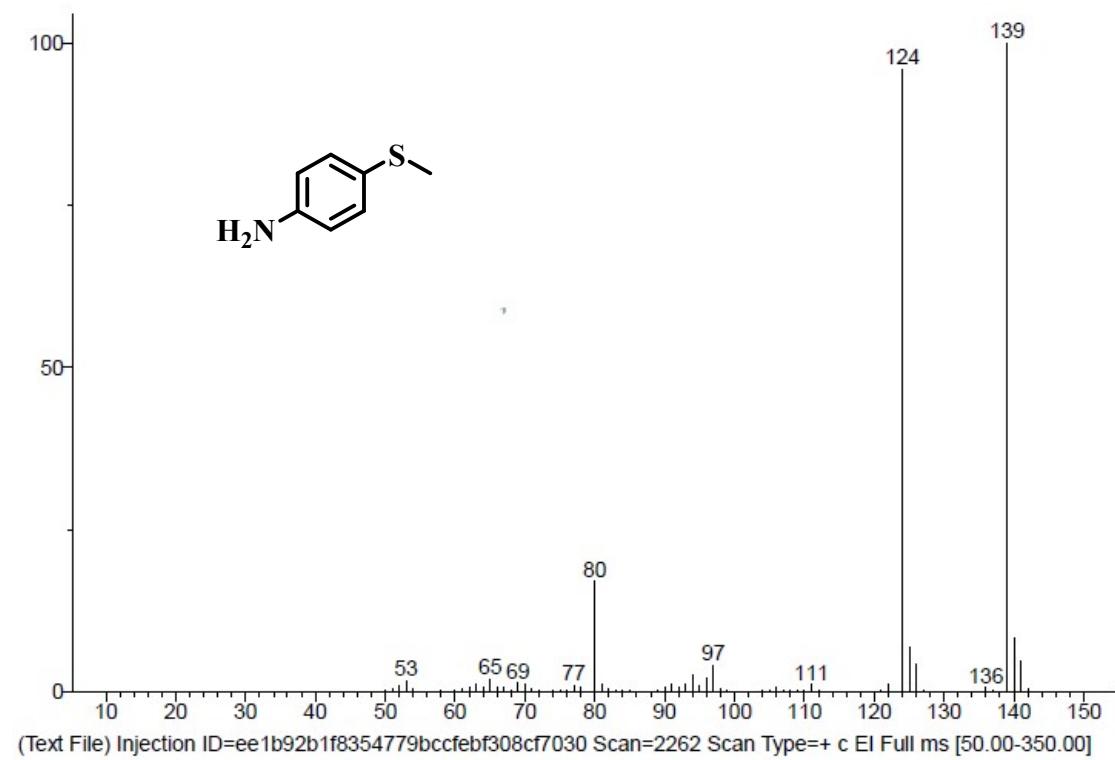
(b4)



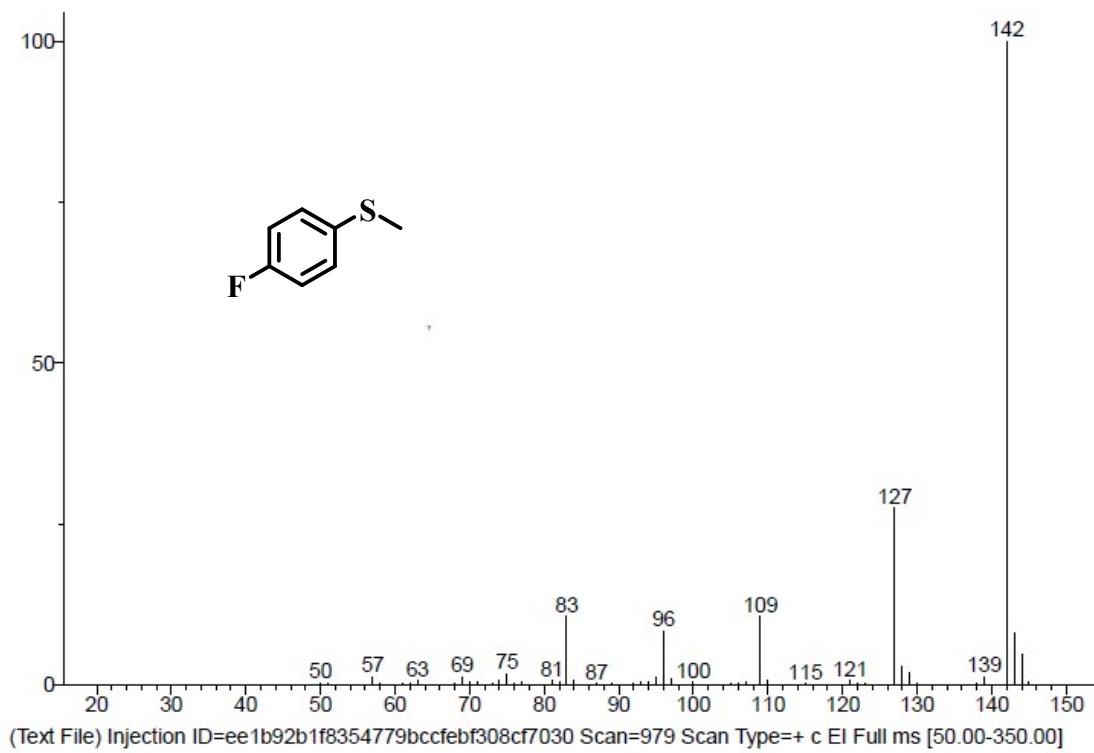
(b5)



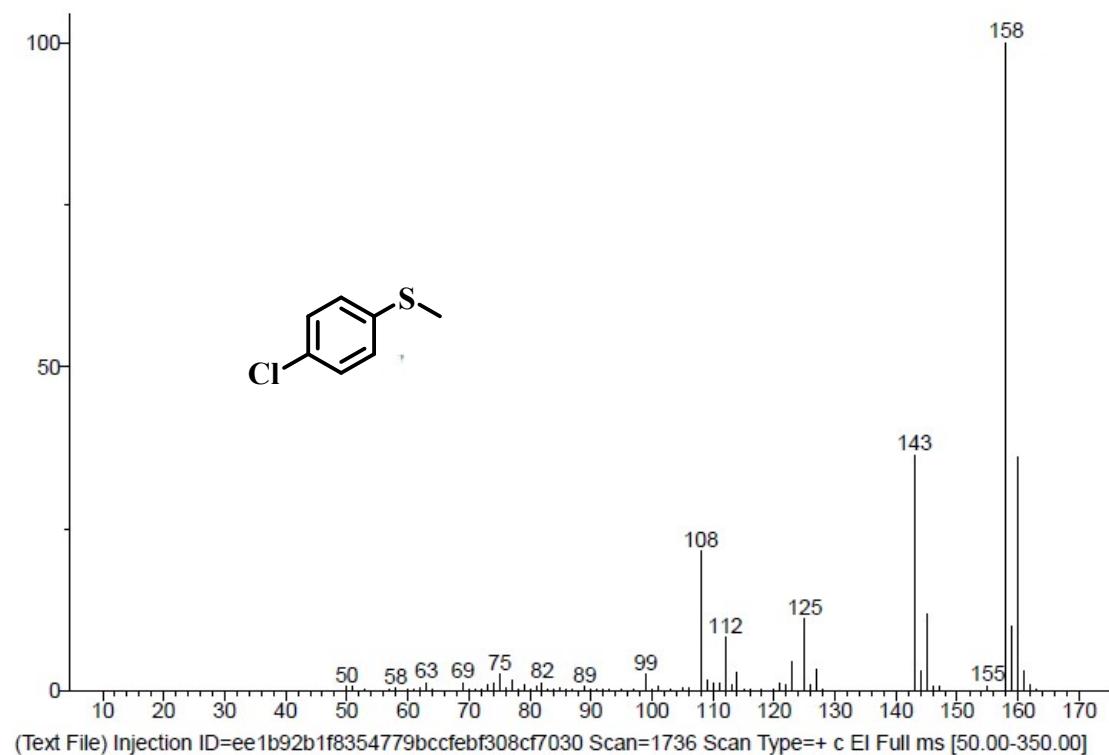
(b6)



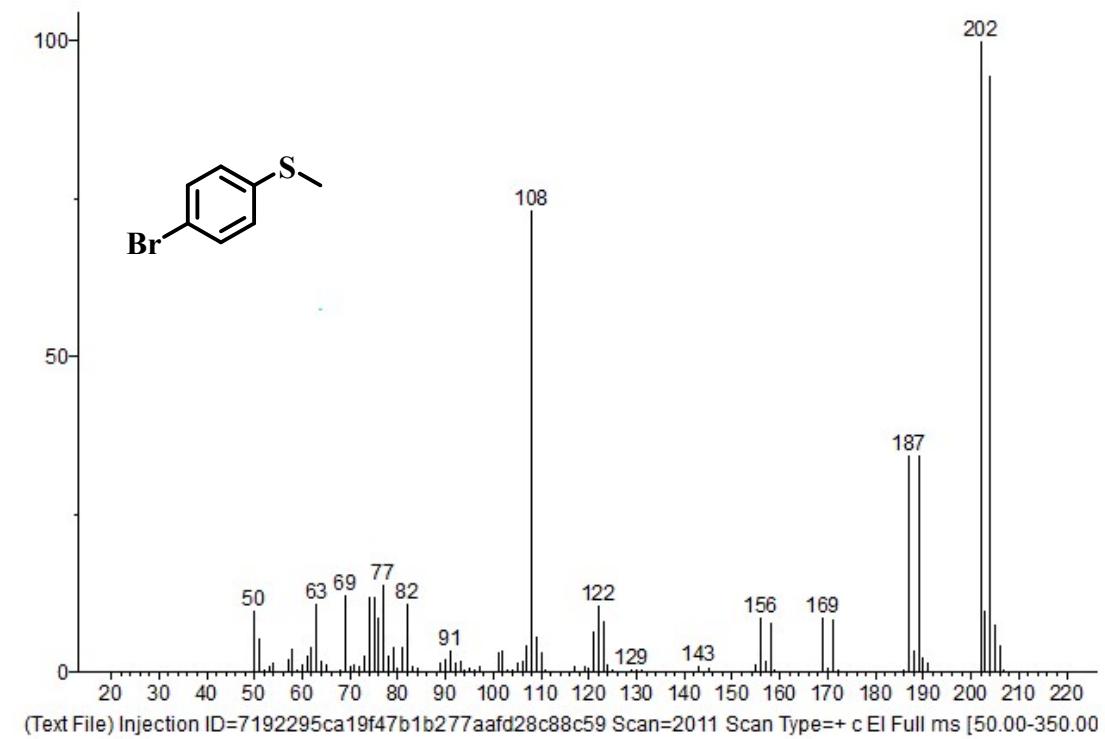
(b7)



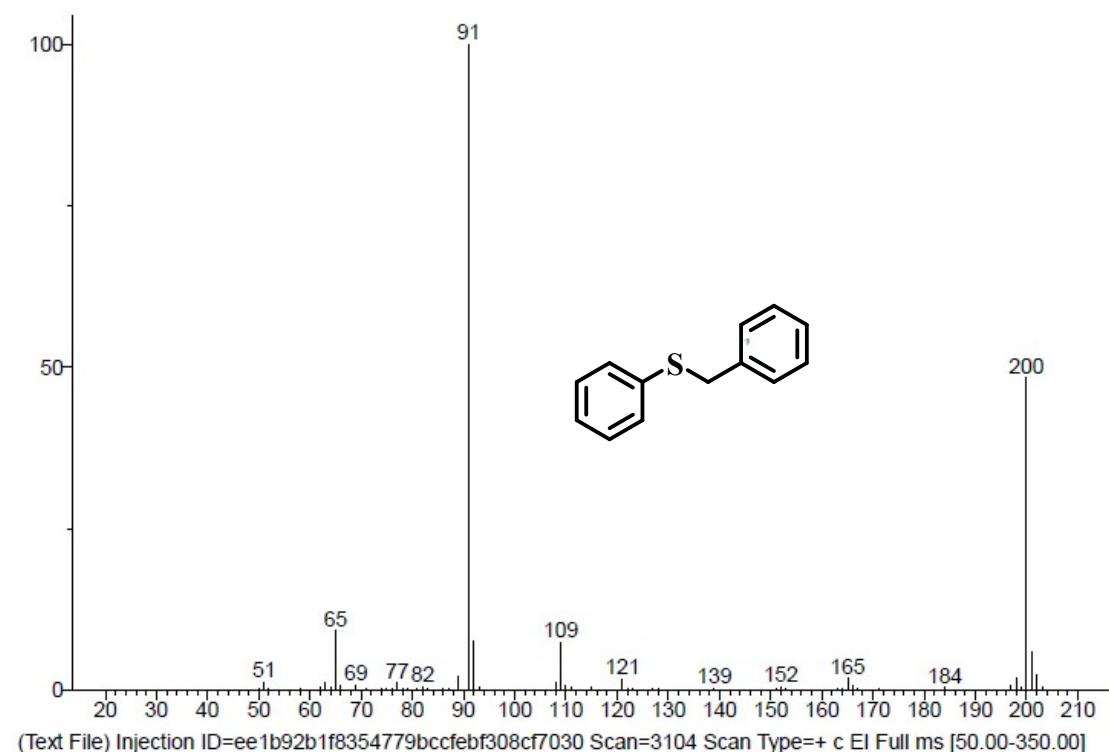
(b8)



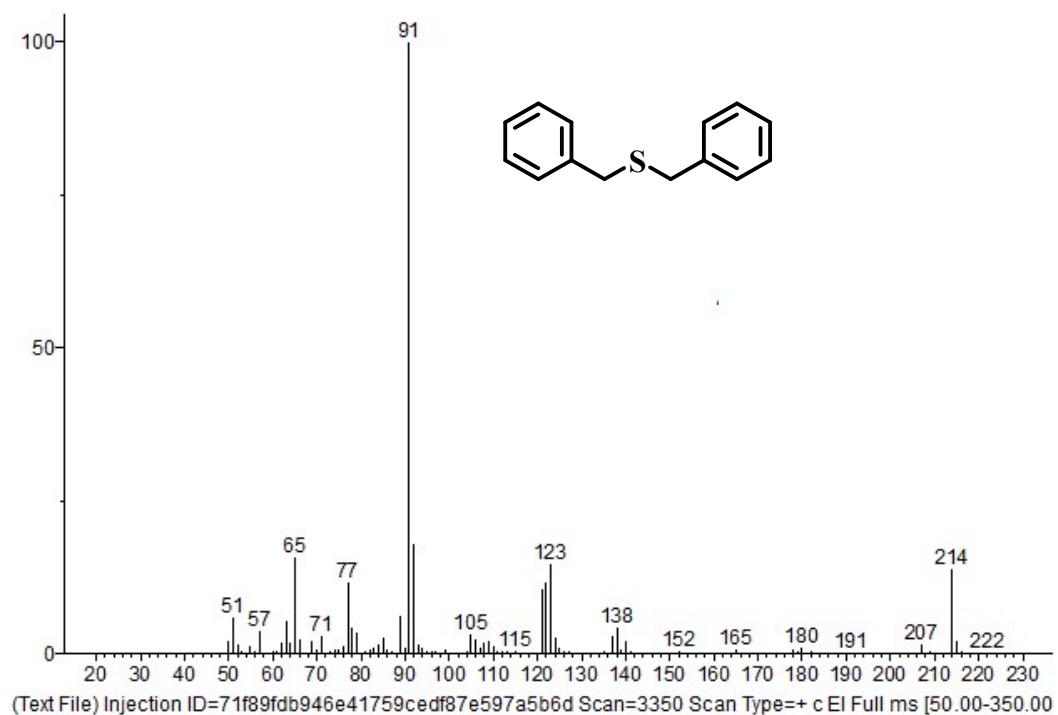
(b9)



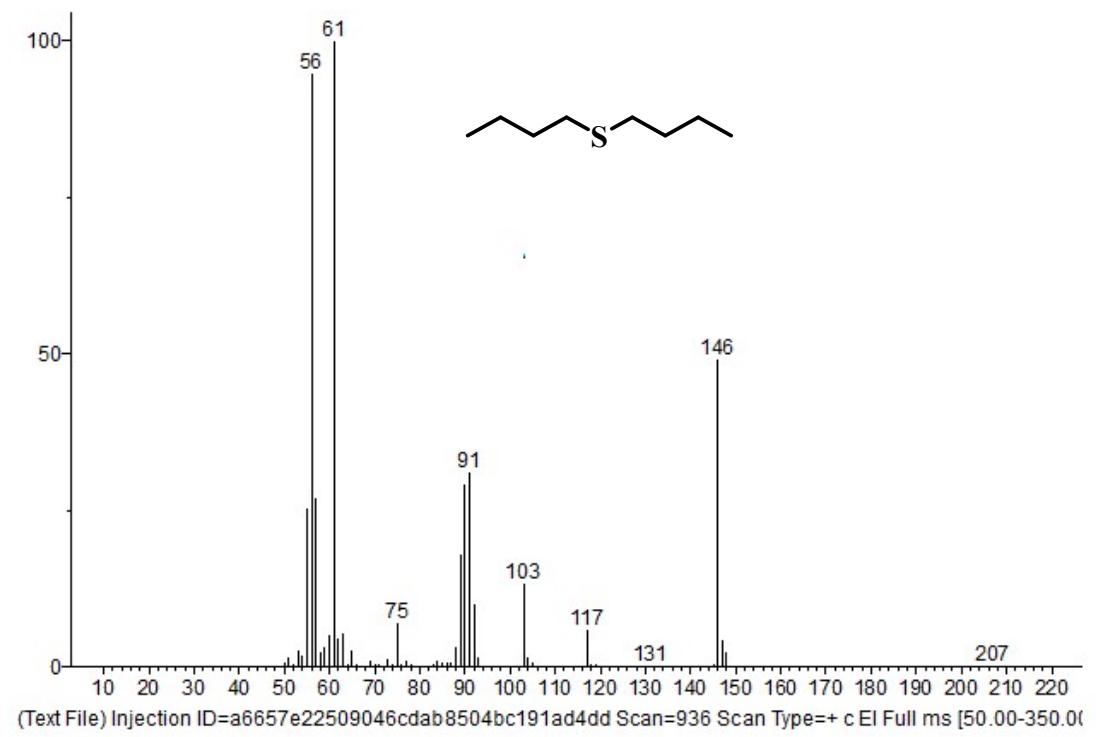
(b10)



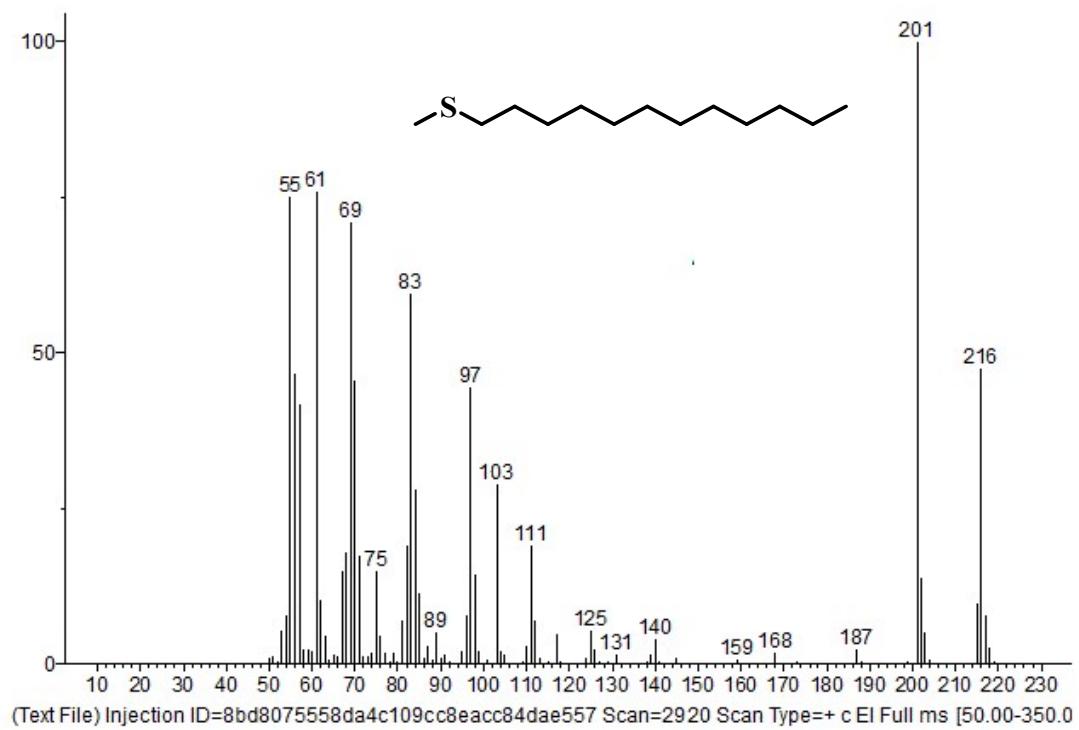
(b12)



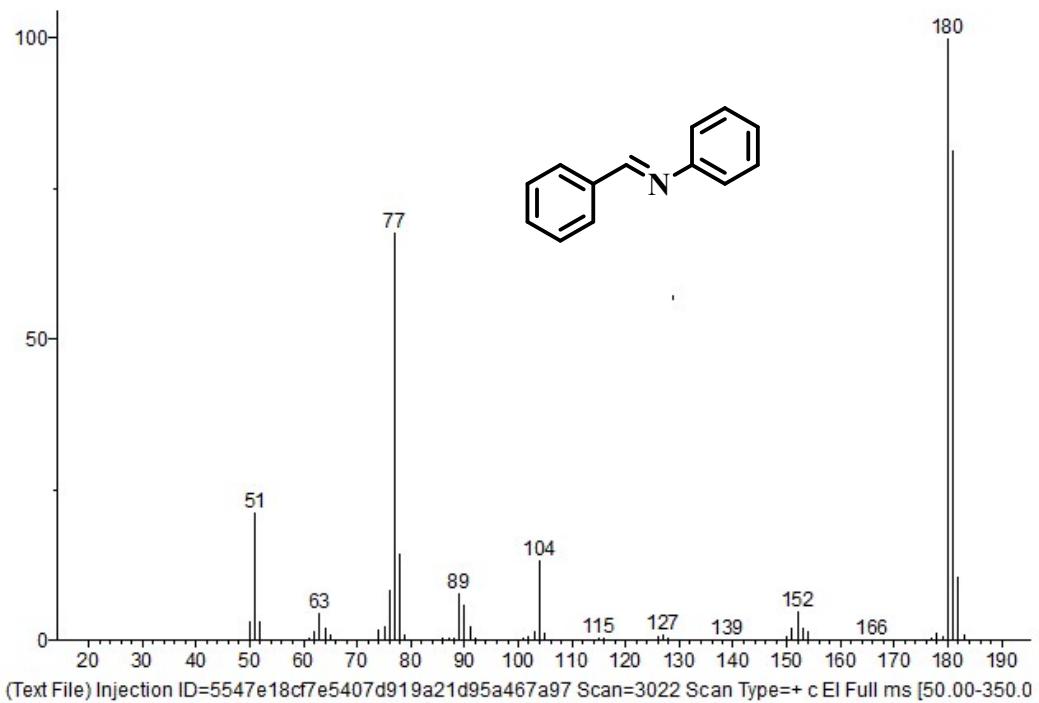
(b13)



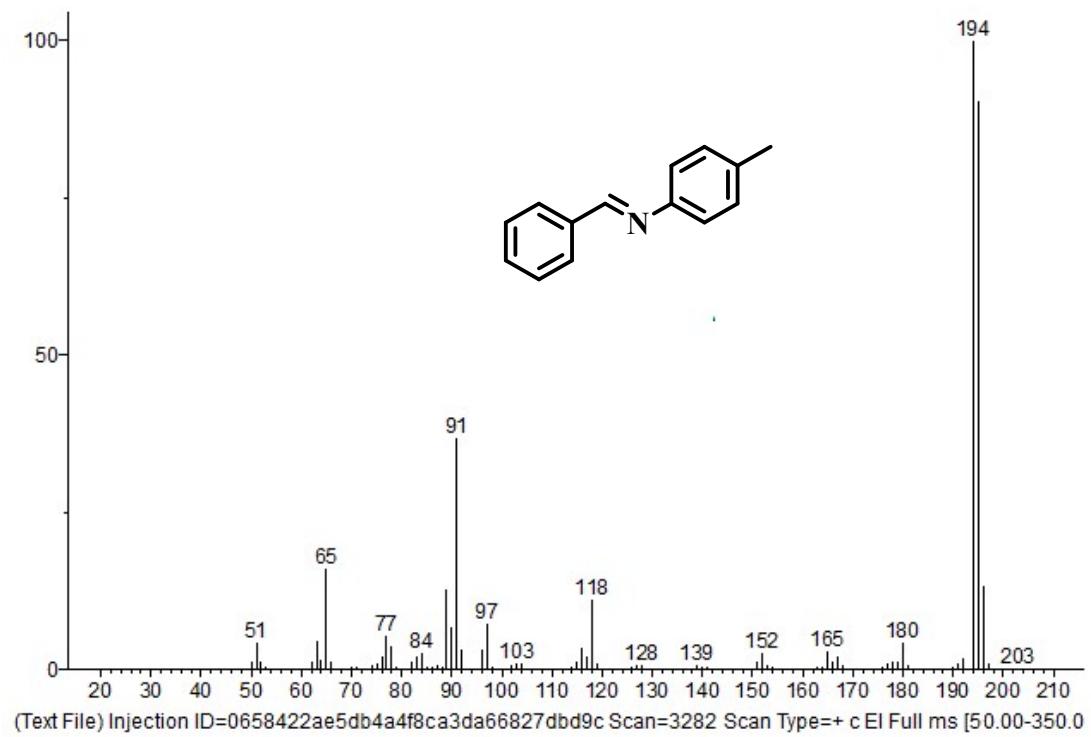
(b14)



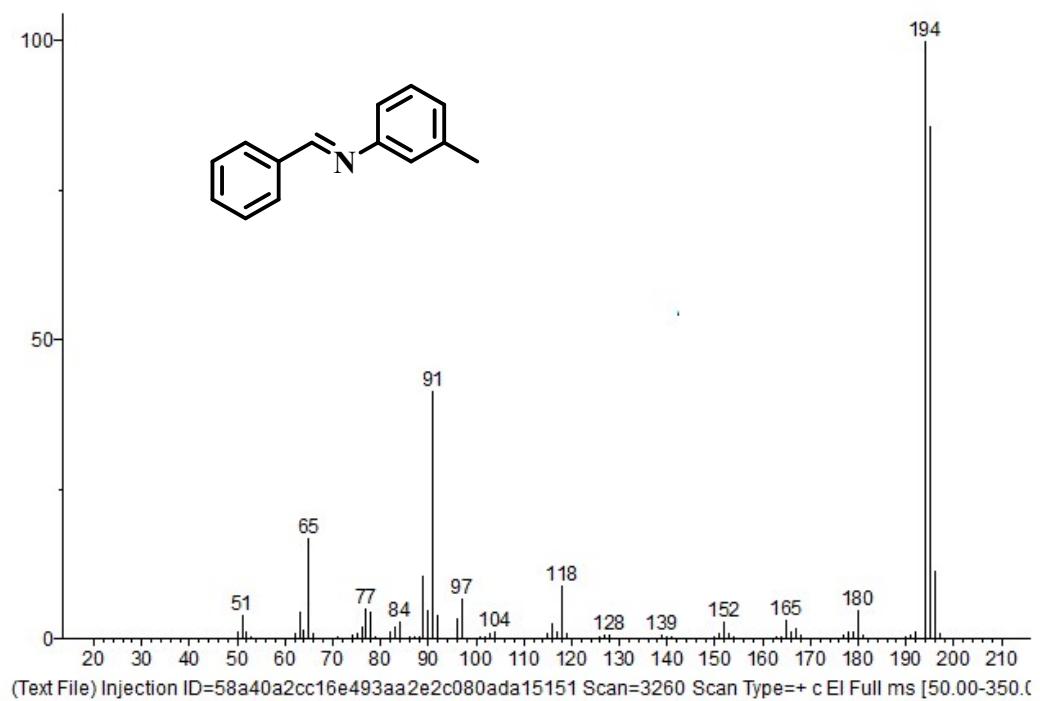
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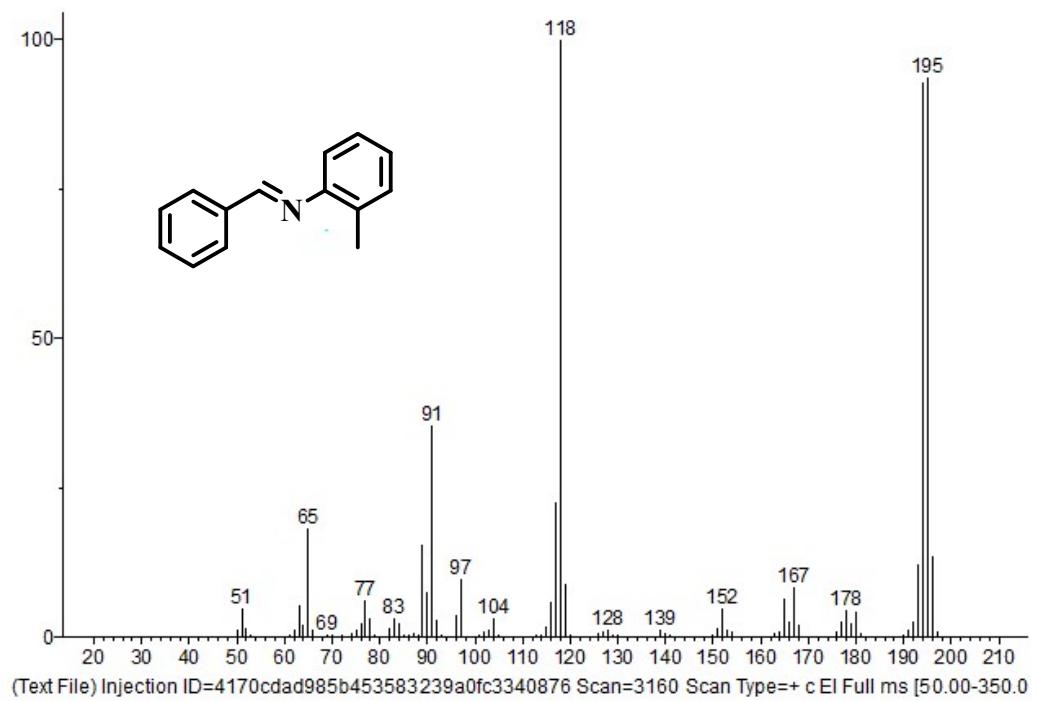
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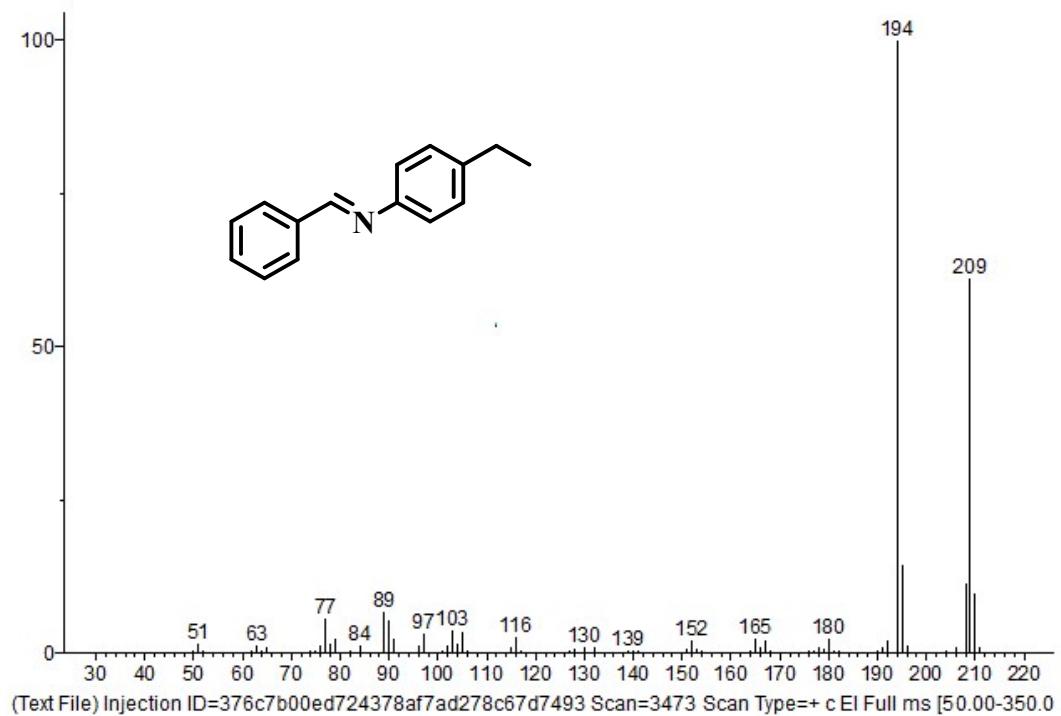
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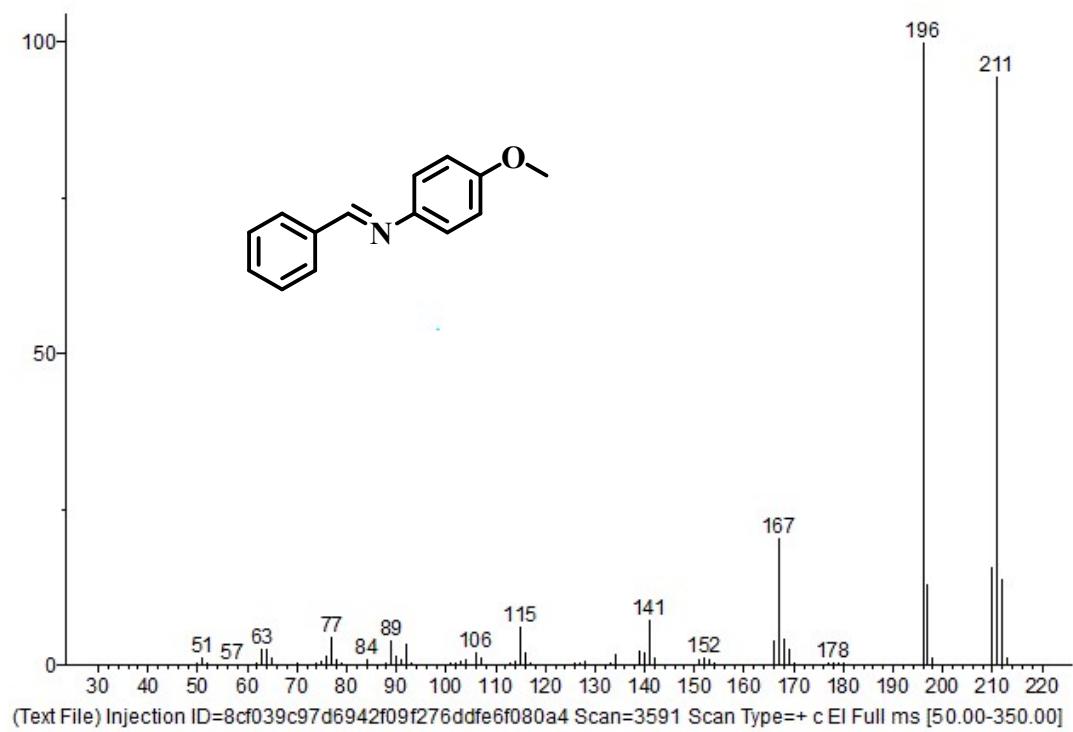
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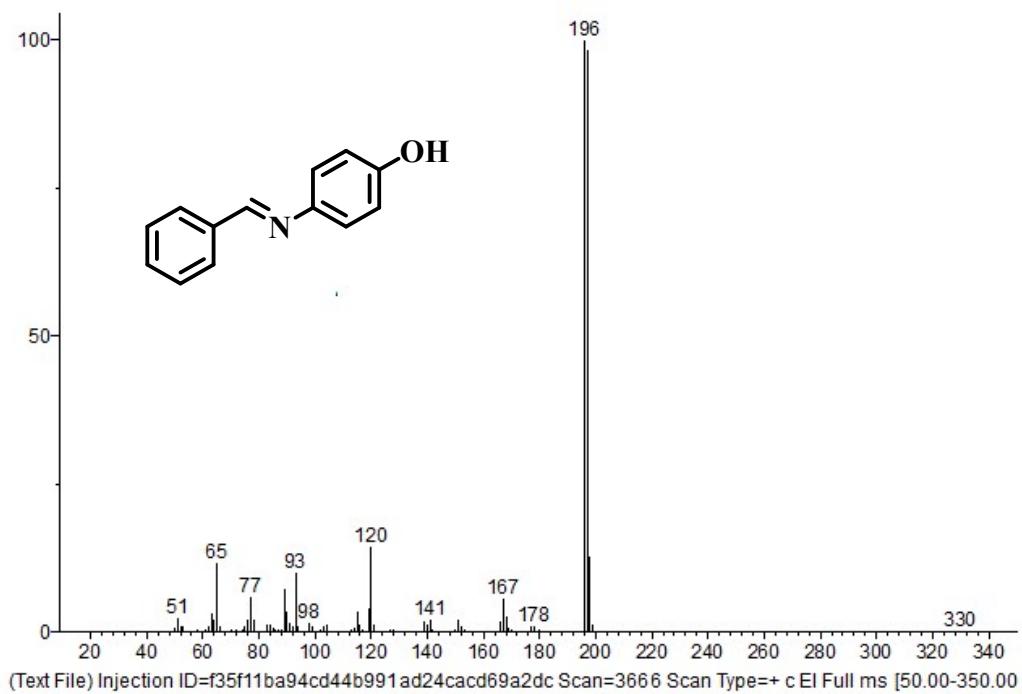
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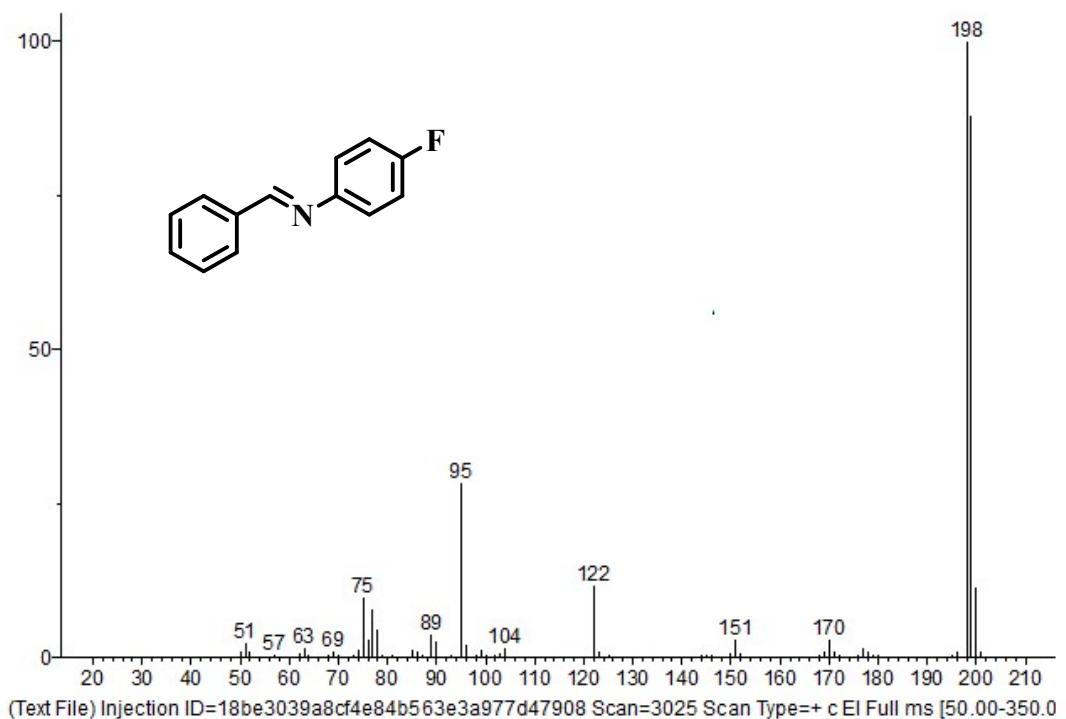
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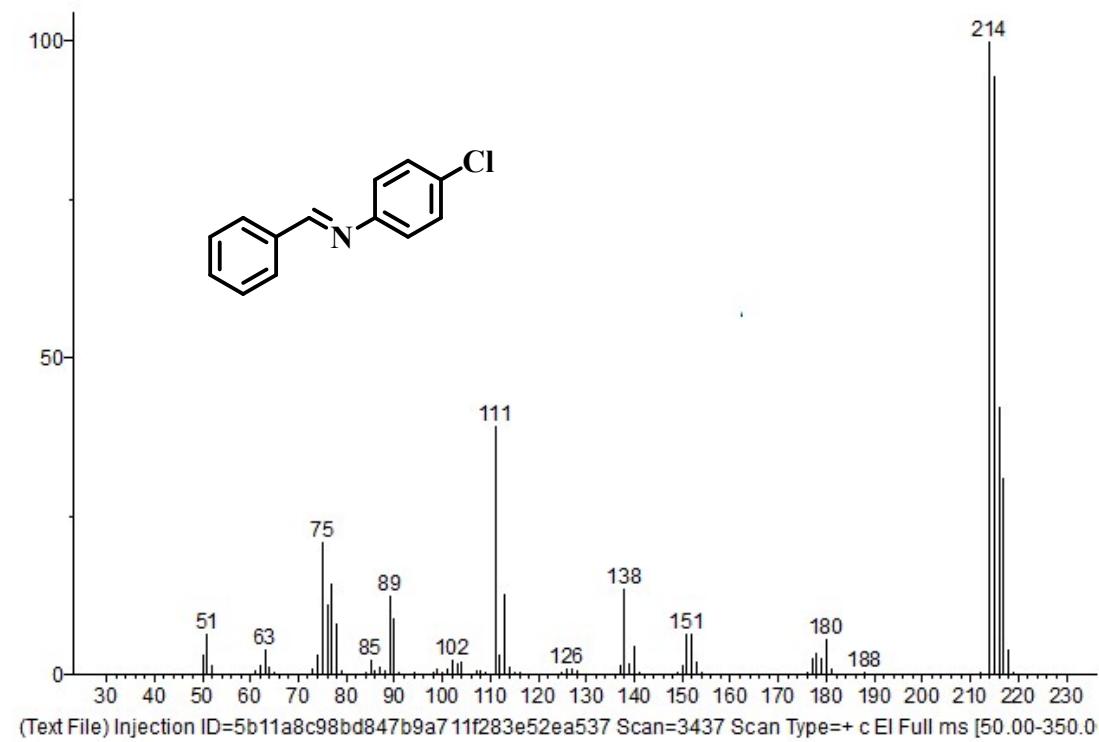
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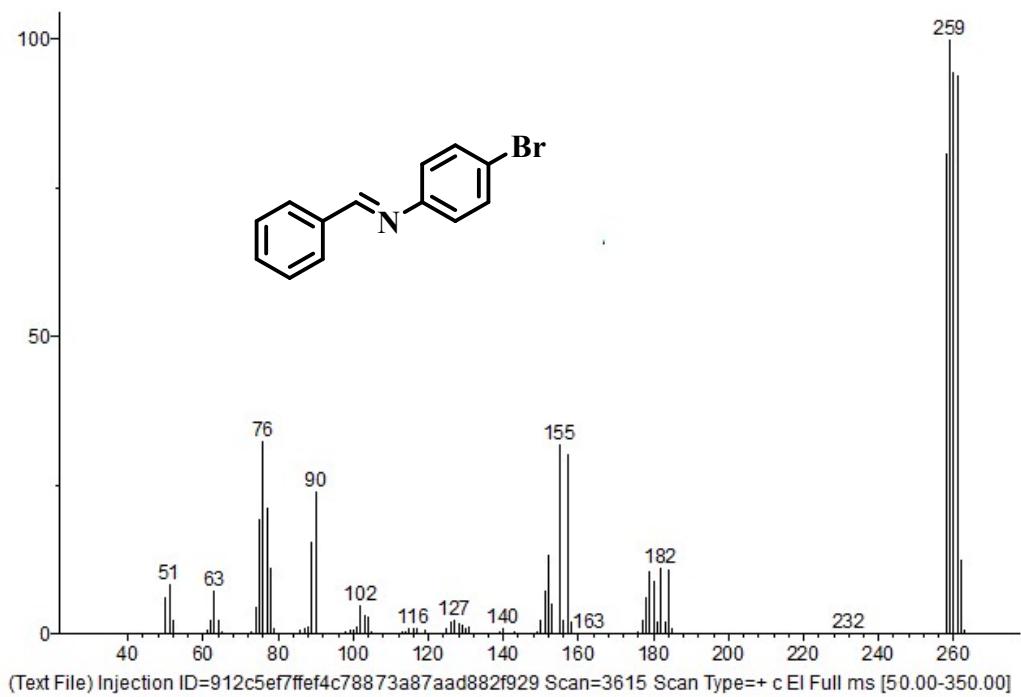
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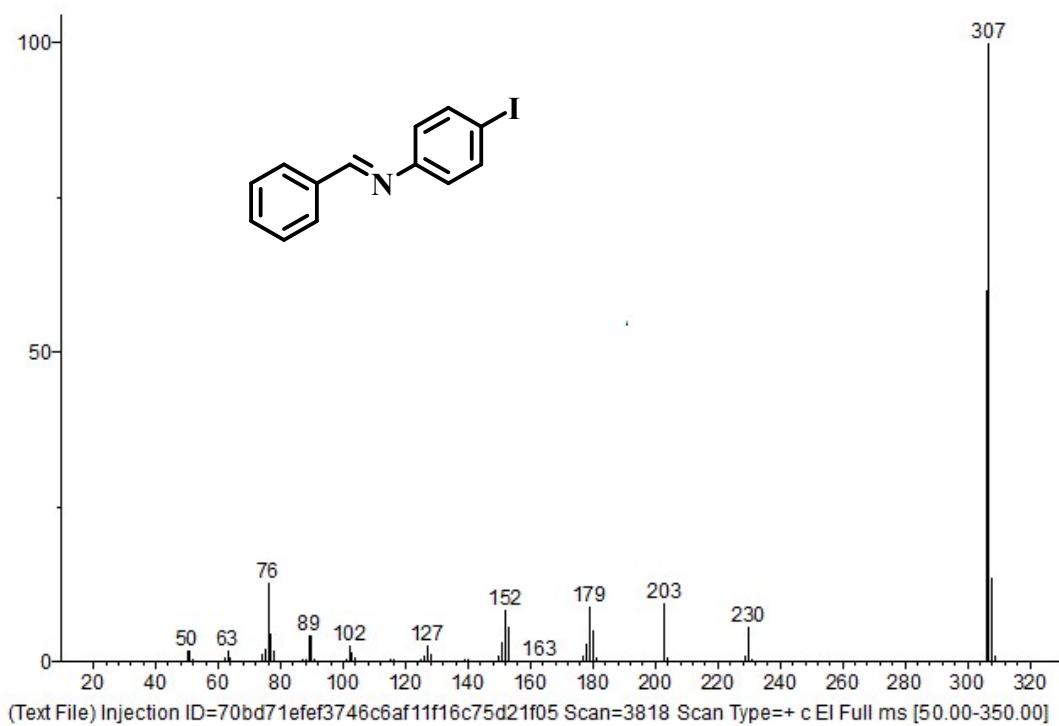
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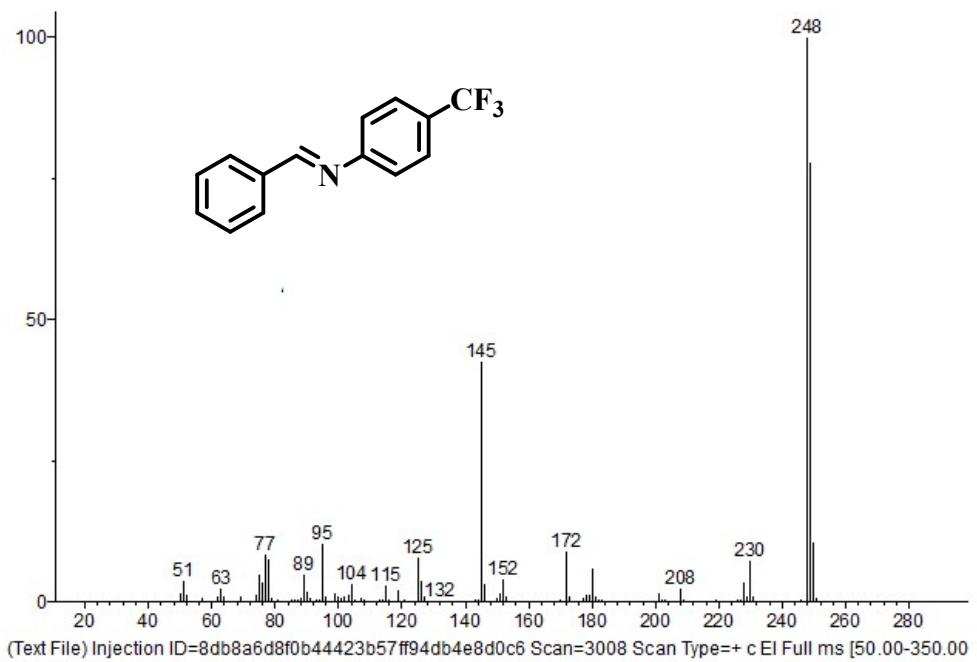
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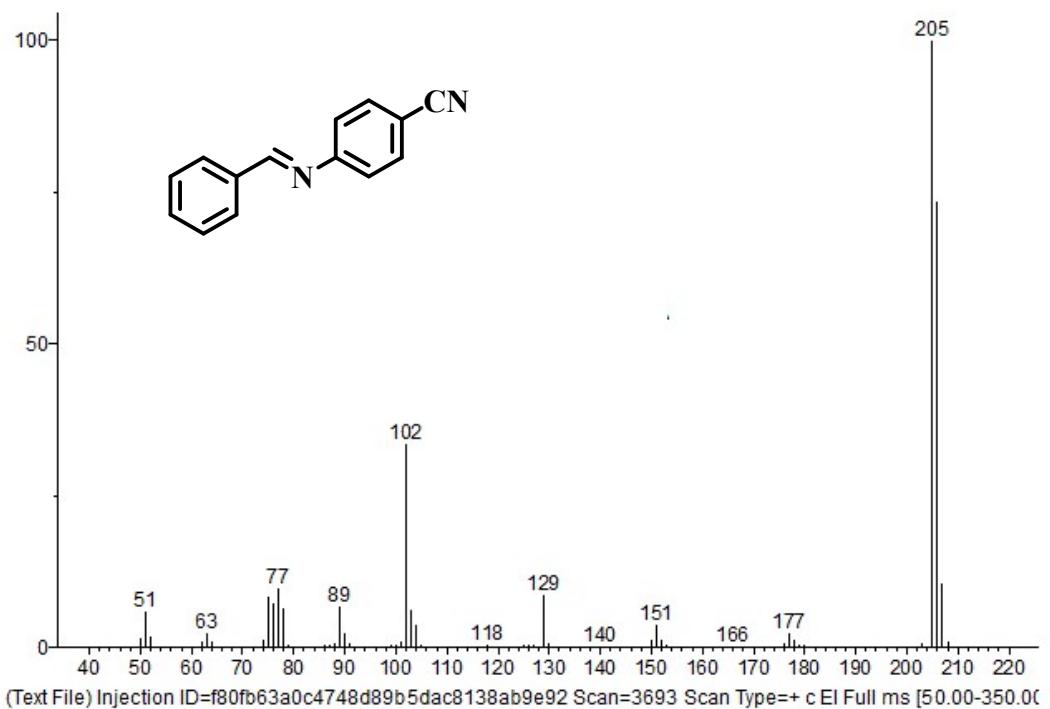
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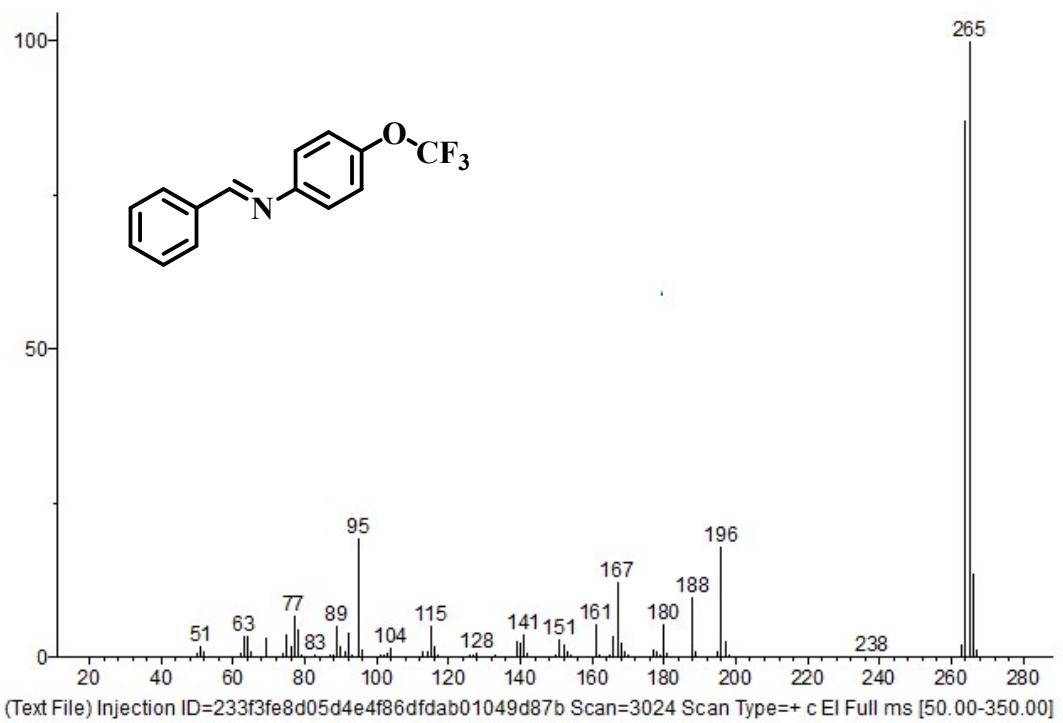
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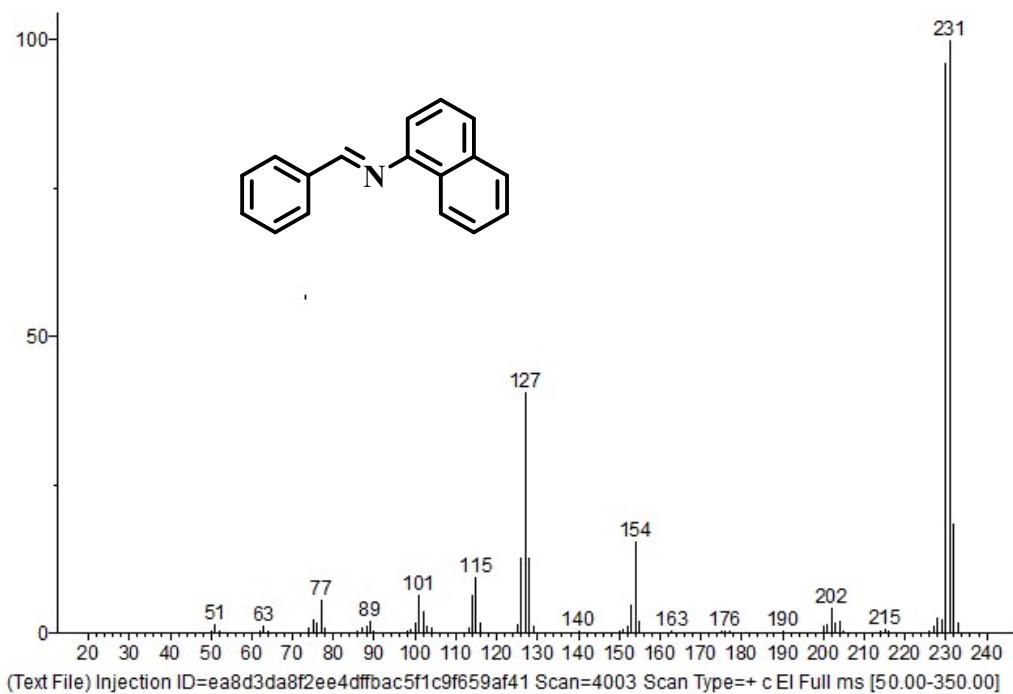
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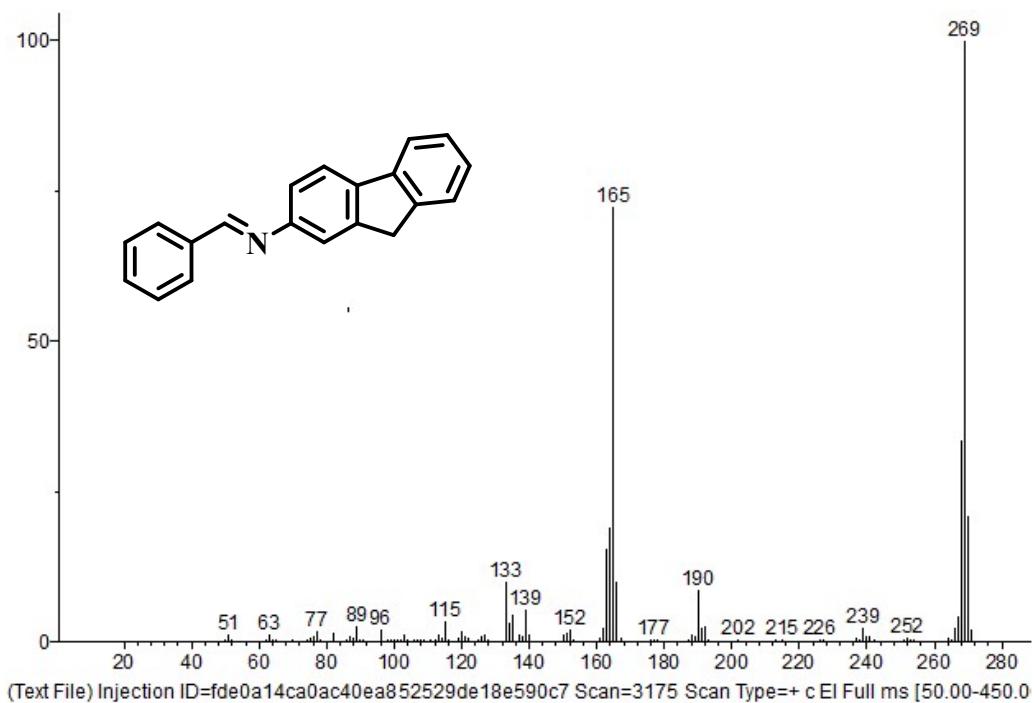
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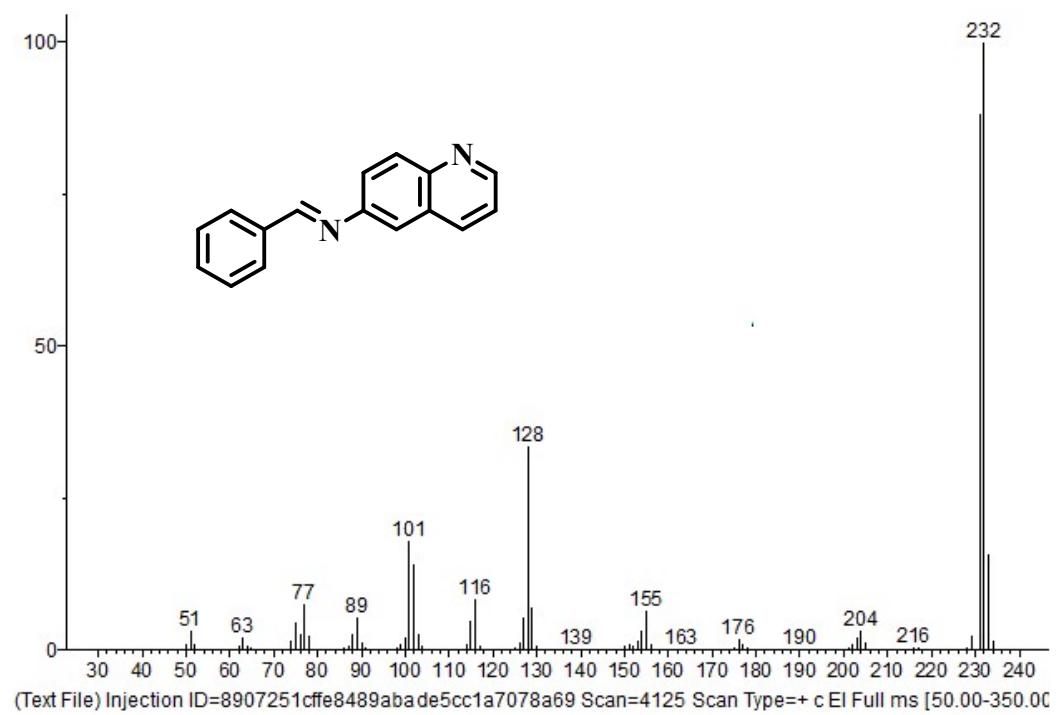
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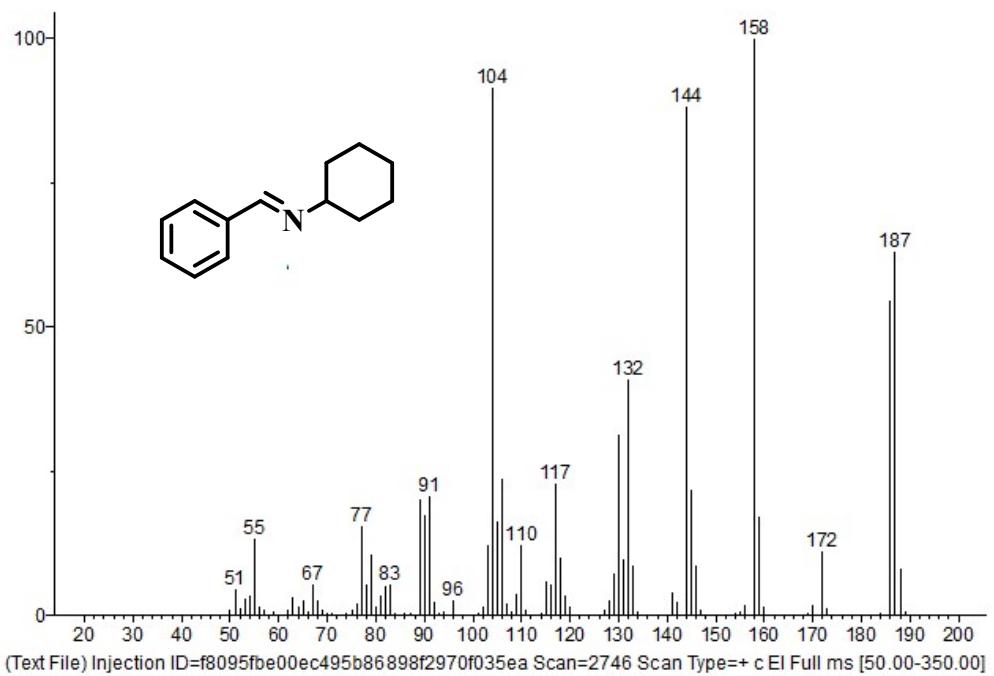
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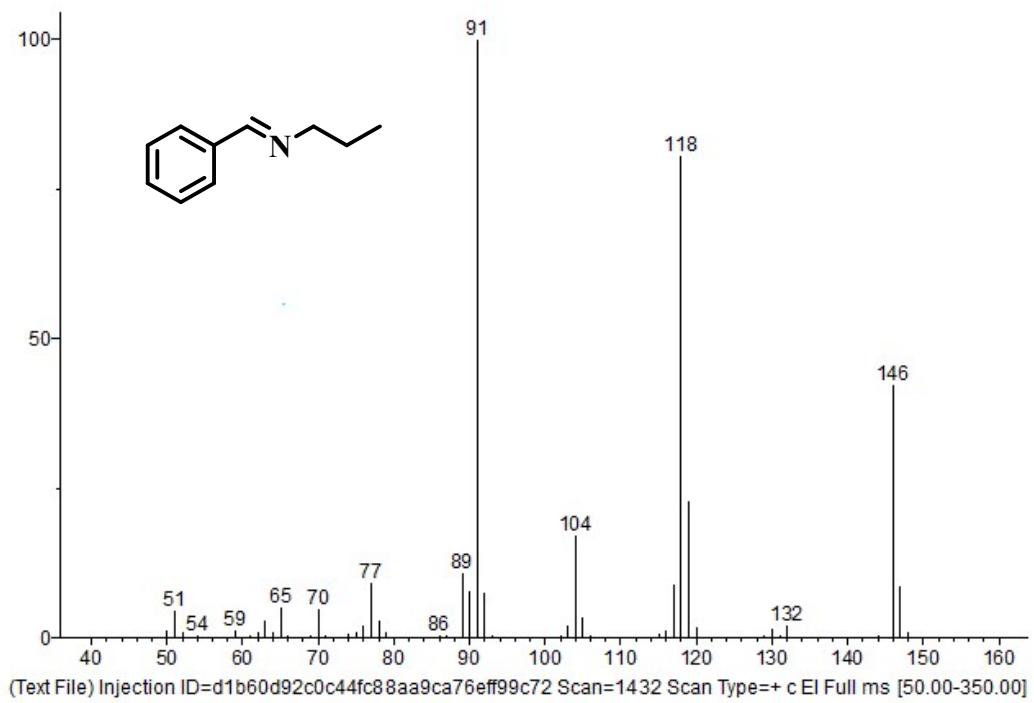
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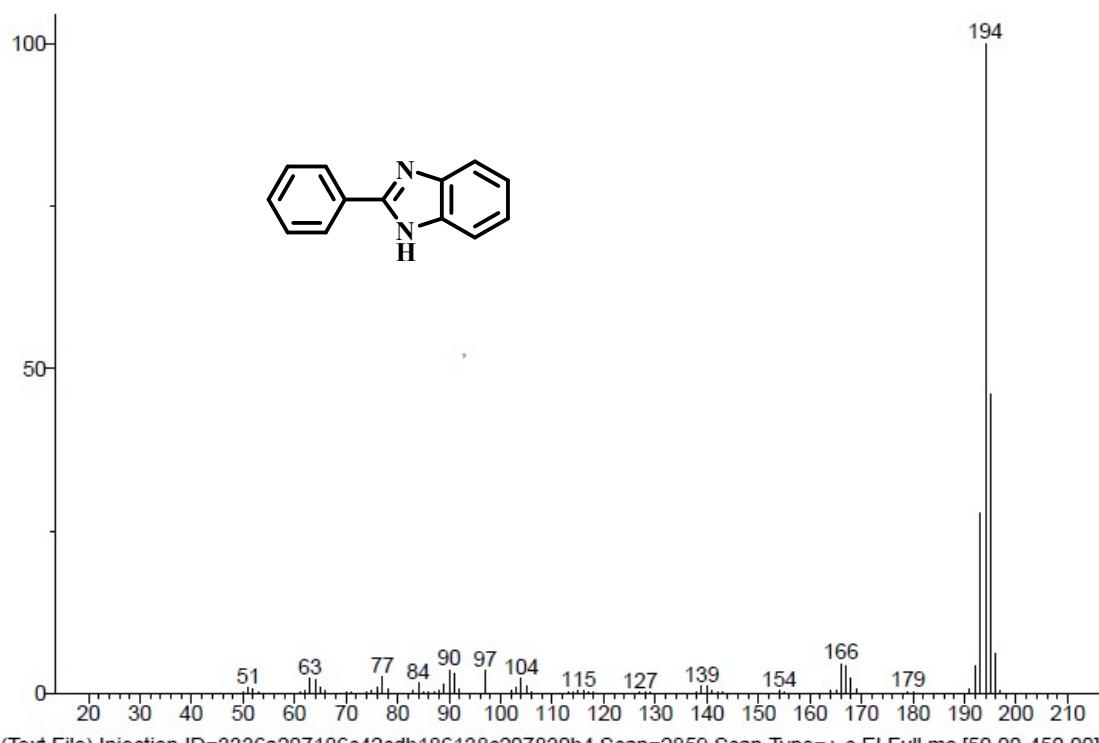
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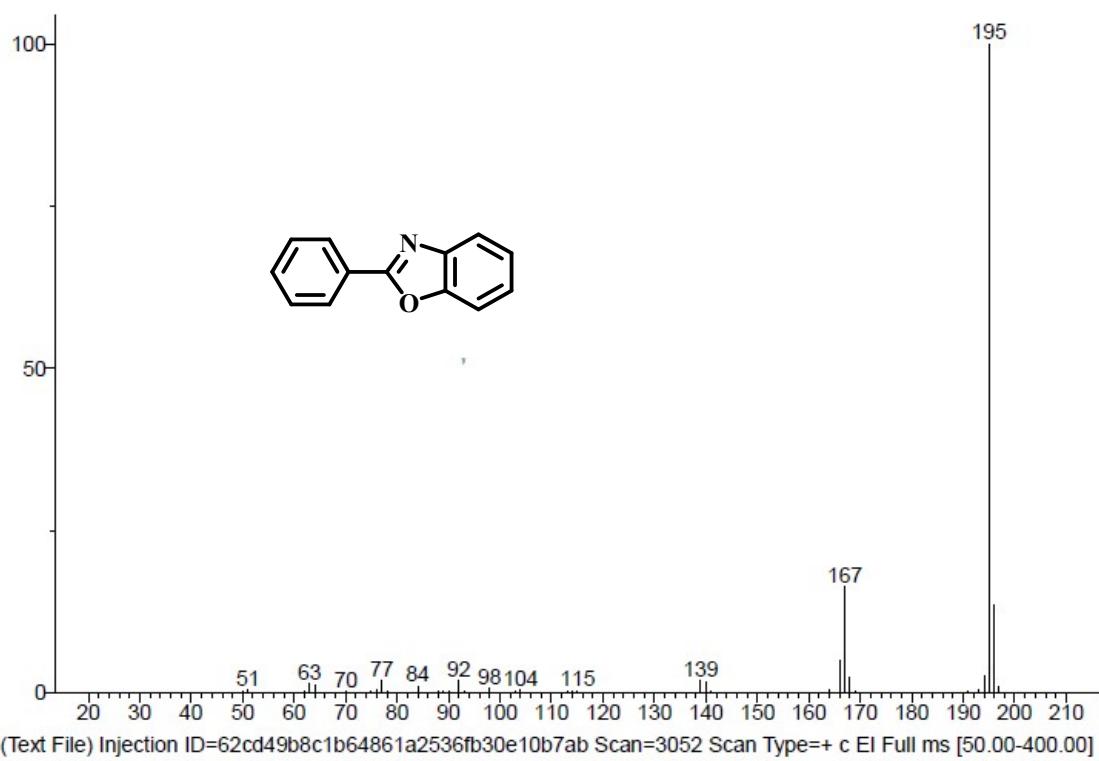
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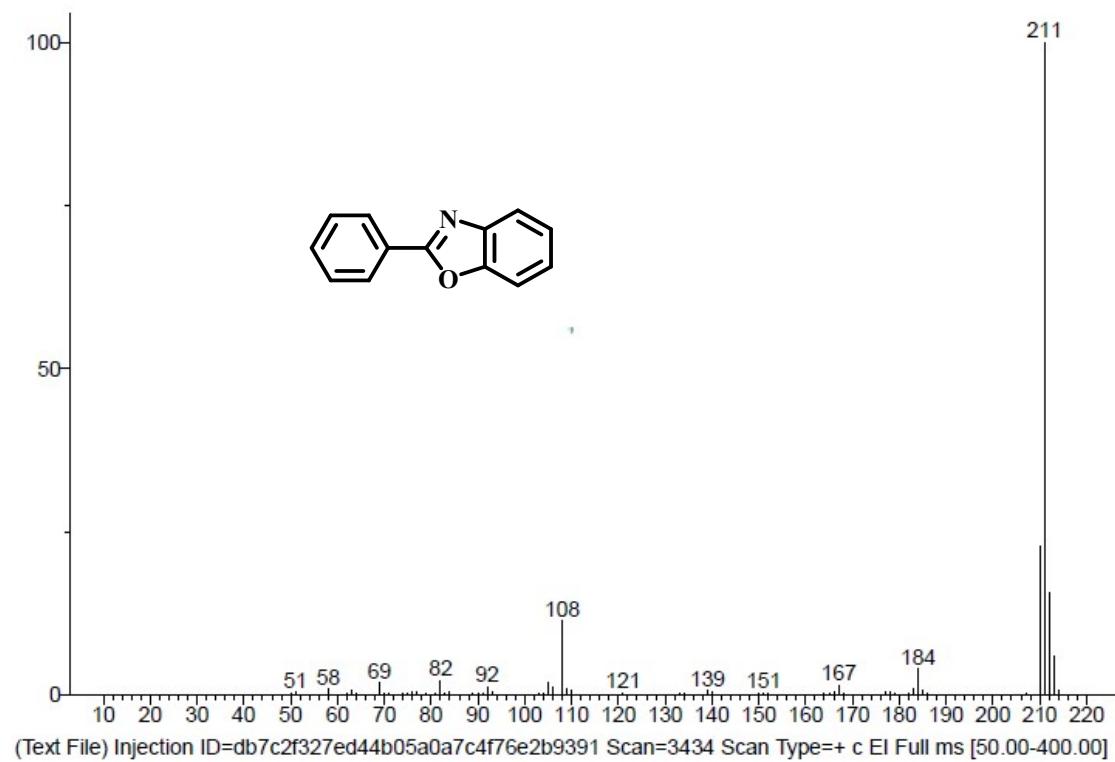
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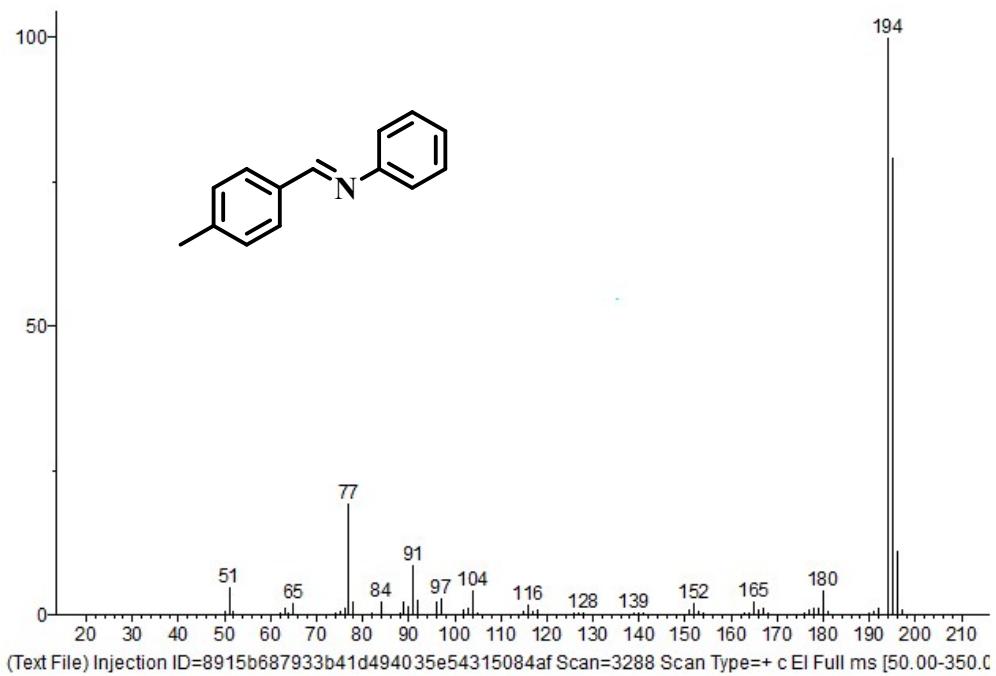
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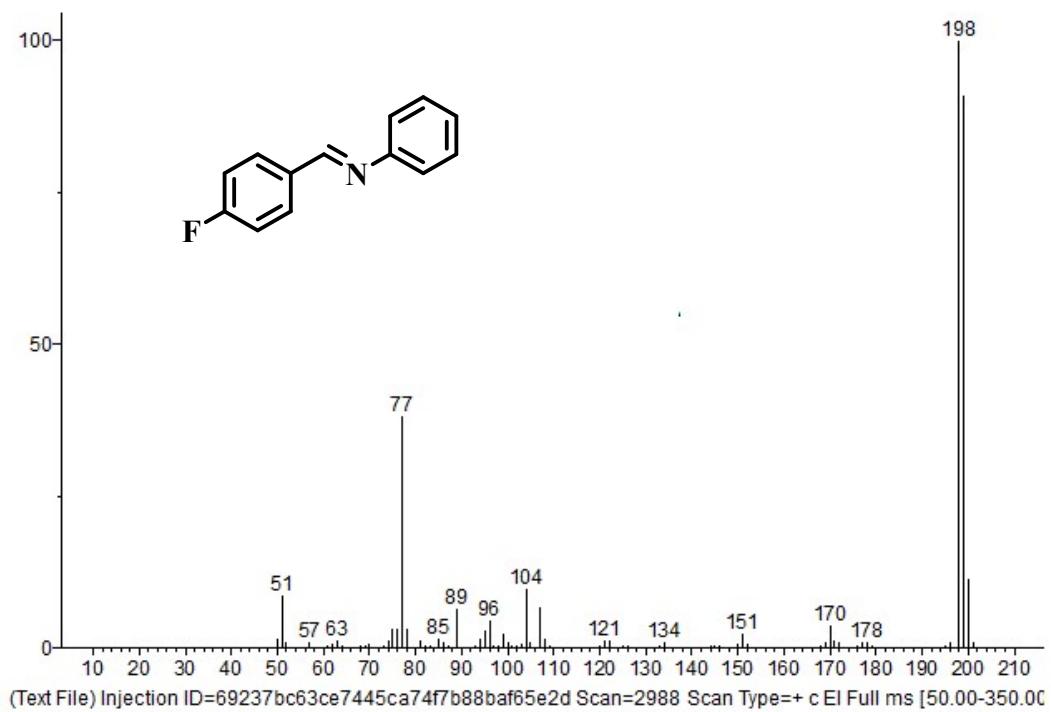
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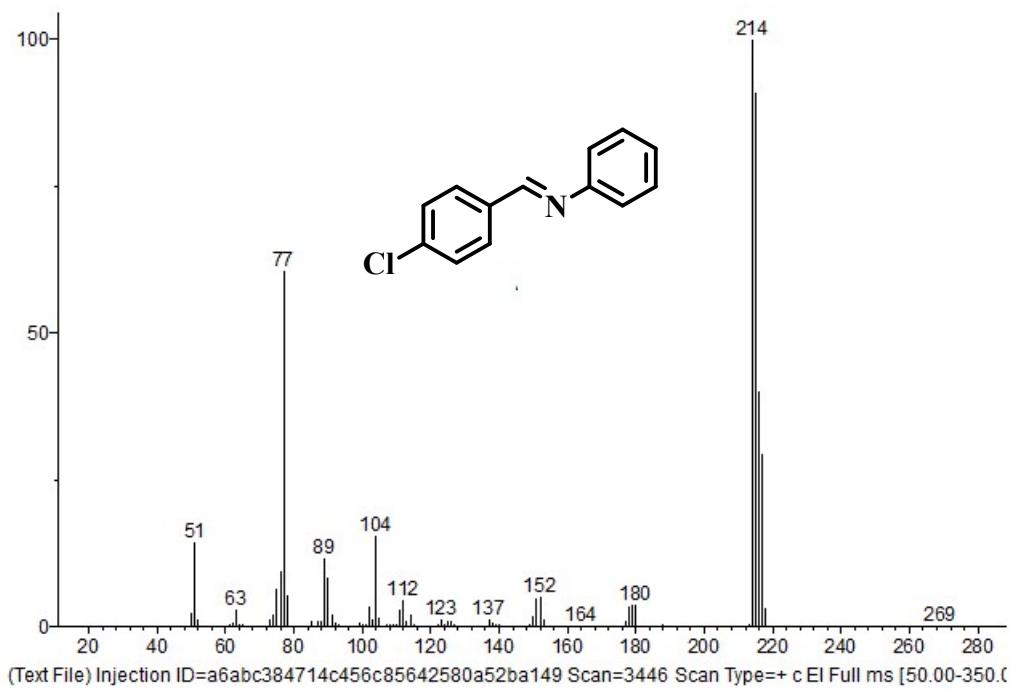
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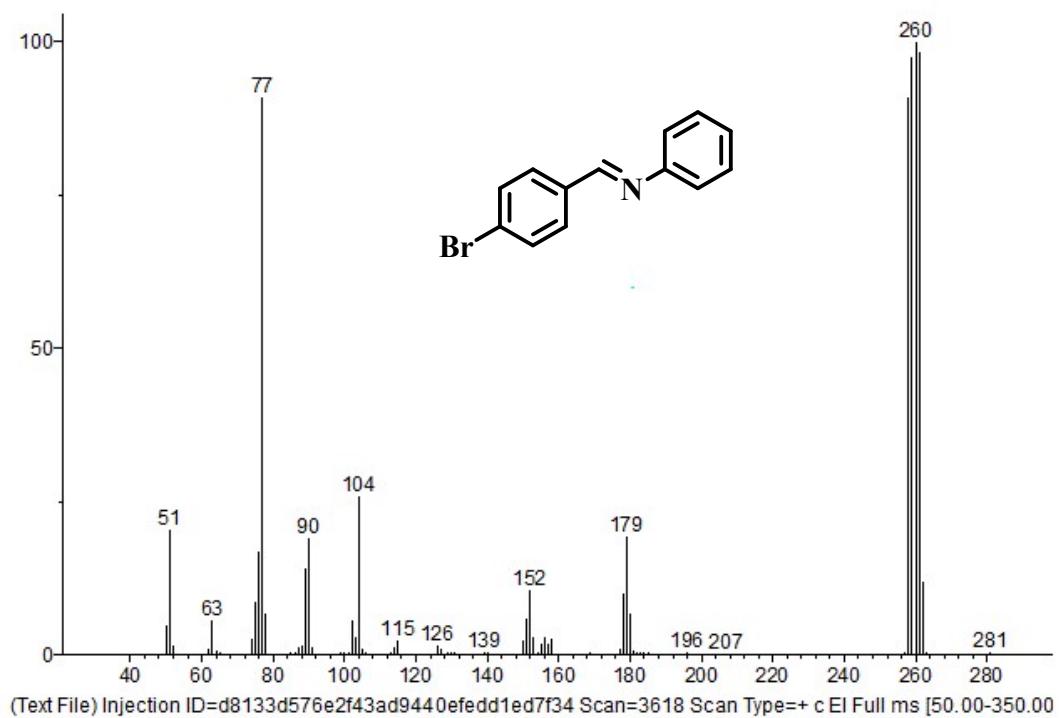
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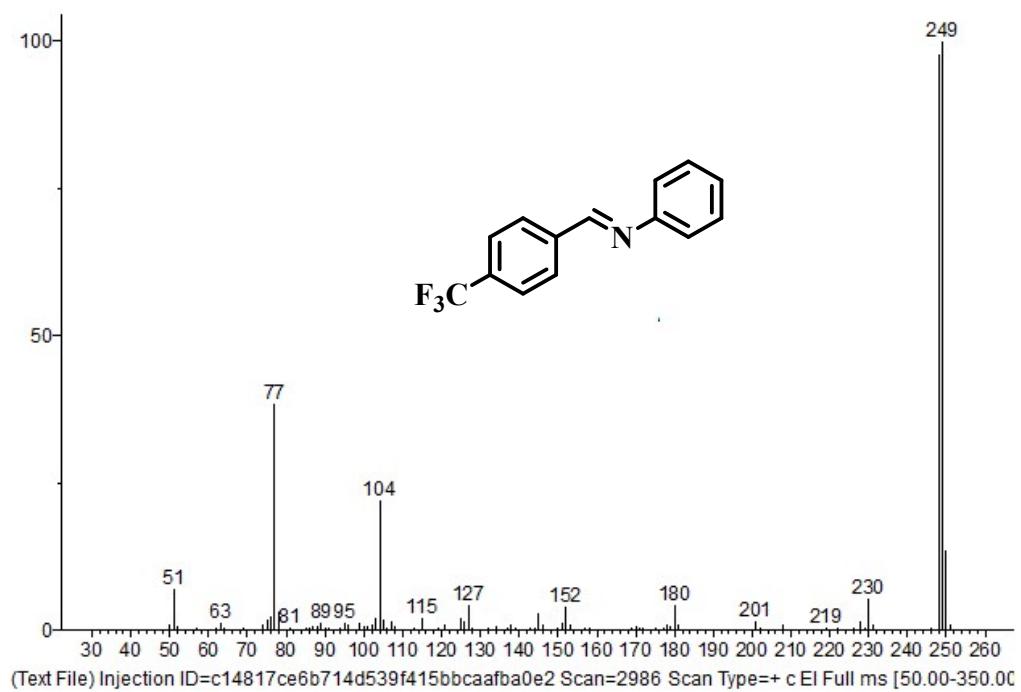
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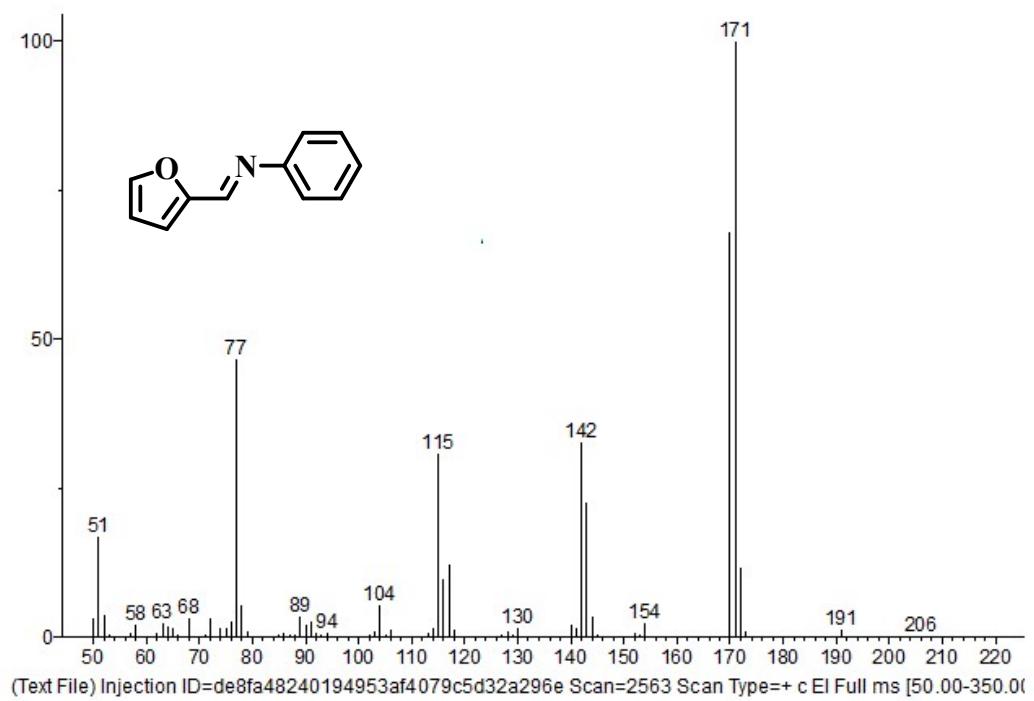
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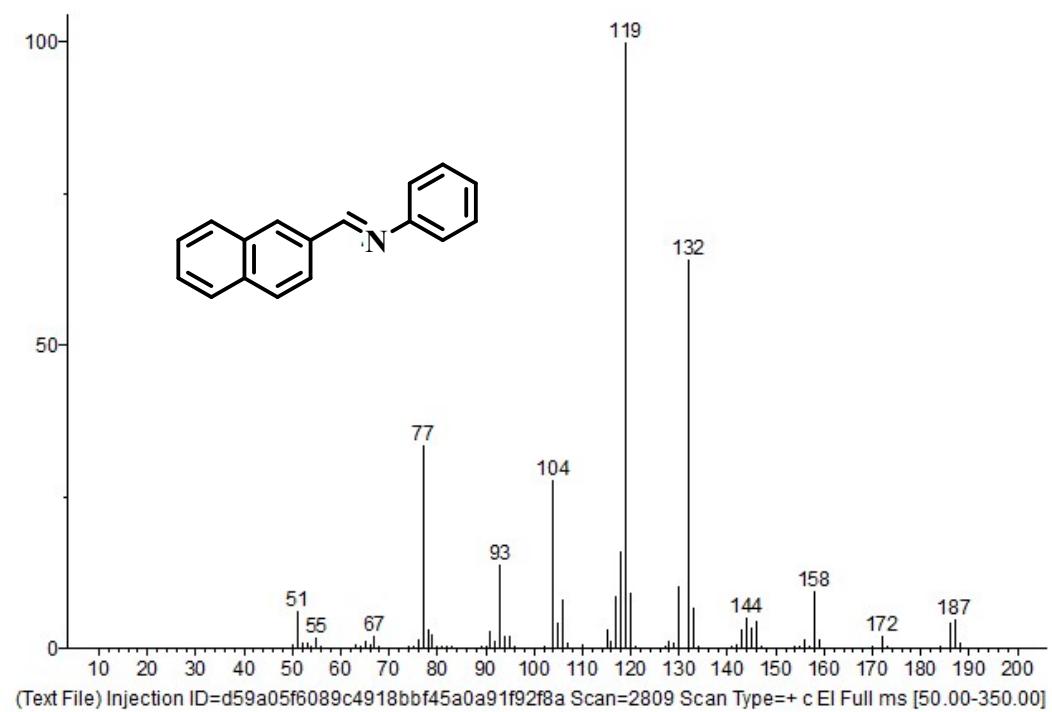
(c27)



(c28)



(c29)



(c30)

