

Supporting Information

**Two-Step Continuous Flow Aerobic Oxidation of Cannabidiol to
Cannabinquinone Derivatives**

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1. Materials and Methods

1.1. Solvents and reagents

All solvents and reagents were obtained from standard commercial vendors (Sigma-Aldrich/Merck or VWR) and were used without any further purification, unless otherwise noted. Cannabidiol (CBD, **1**) was obtained from Lonza Group AG.

1.2. Flow Equipment

In the flow setup, standard PFA tubing (0.8 mm or 1.6 mm i.d.), fittings, T-pieces manufactured from PTFE or PEEK were used as connectors. A modular microreactor system manufactured by Ehrfeld, containing a base plate, temperature and pressure sensors, two capillary reactors, a Lonza FlowPlate™, inlets and outlets was used. The back pressure regulator (BPR-10) was obtained from Zaiput Flow Technologies. Temperature was controlled by a Huber Minstat 240.

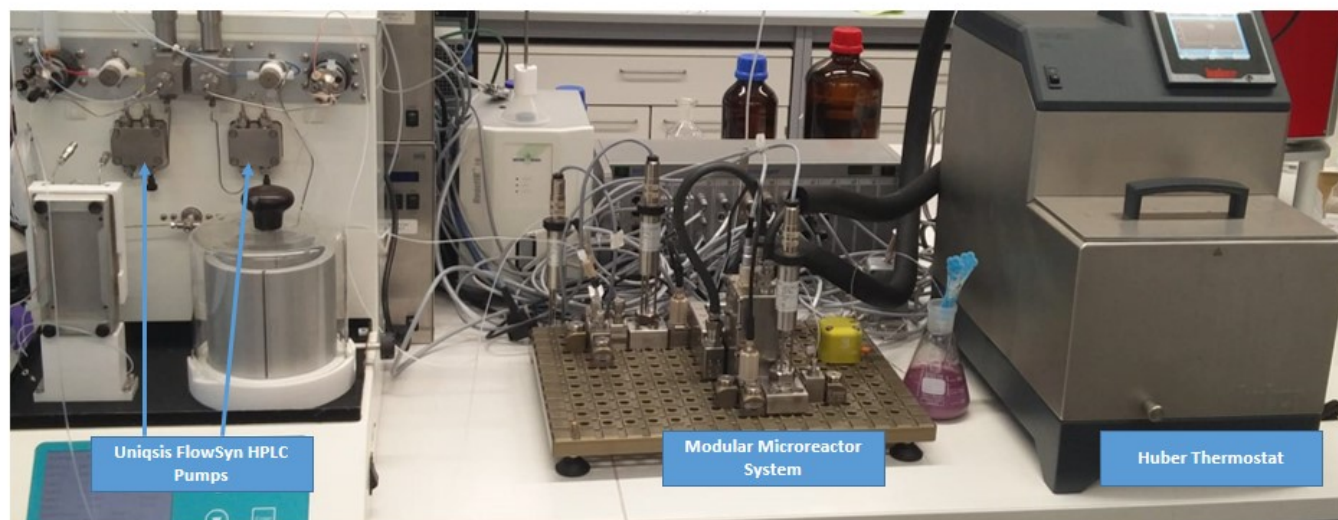


Figure S1. Continuous flow setup consisting of Uniqsis FlowSyn HPLC pumps, a modular microreactor system (Ehrfeld) and a Huber thermostat.

1.3. NMR spectra

^1H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 300 MHz instrument. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on the 300 MHz instrument at 75 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm downfield from TMS as internal standard. The letters s, d, dd, t, q, and m are used to indicate singlet, doublet, doublet of doublets, triplet, quadruplet, and multiplet.

1.4. HPLC Analysis

Analytical HPLC (Shimadzu LC20) analysis was carried out on a C18 reversed-phase (RP) analytical column (150 mm \times 4.6 mm, particle size 5 μm) at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ using mobile phases A ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{MeCN}$ (90:10 = v:v) + 0.1% TFA) and B (MeCN + 0.1% TFA) at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The following gradients were applied: A: linear increase from 30% B to 100% B within 10 min, for the separation of VCE-004 and

derivatives. B: linear increase from 30% B to 100% B within 10 min for all other separation problems.

2. Experimental Details

2.1. Optimized Synthesis of (6'R)-6-hydroxy-3'-methyl-4-pentyl-6'-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-[1,1'-bi(cyclohexane)]-2',3,6-triene-2,5-dione (2)

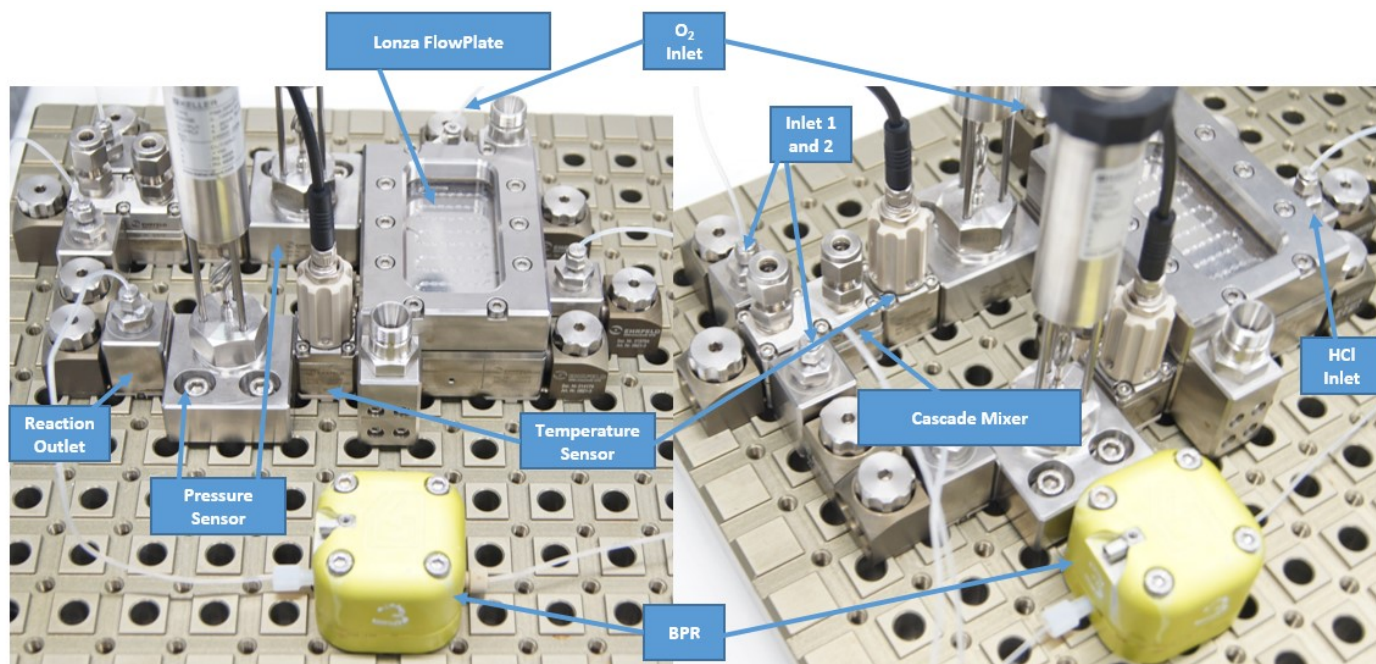
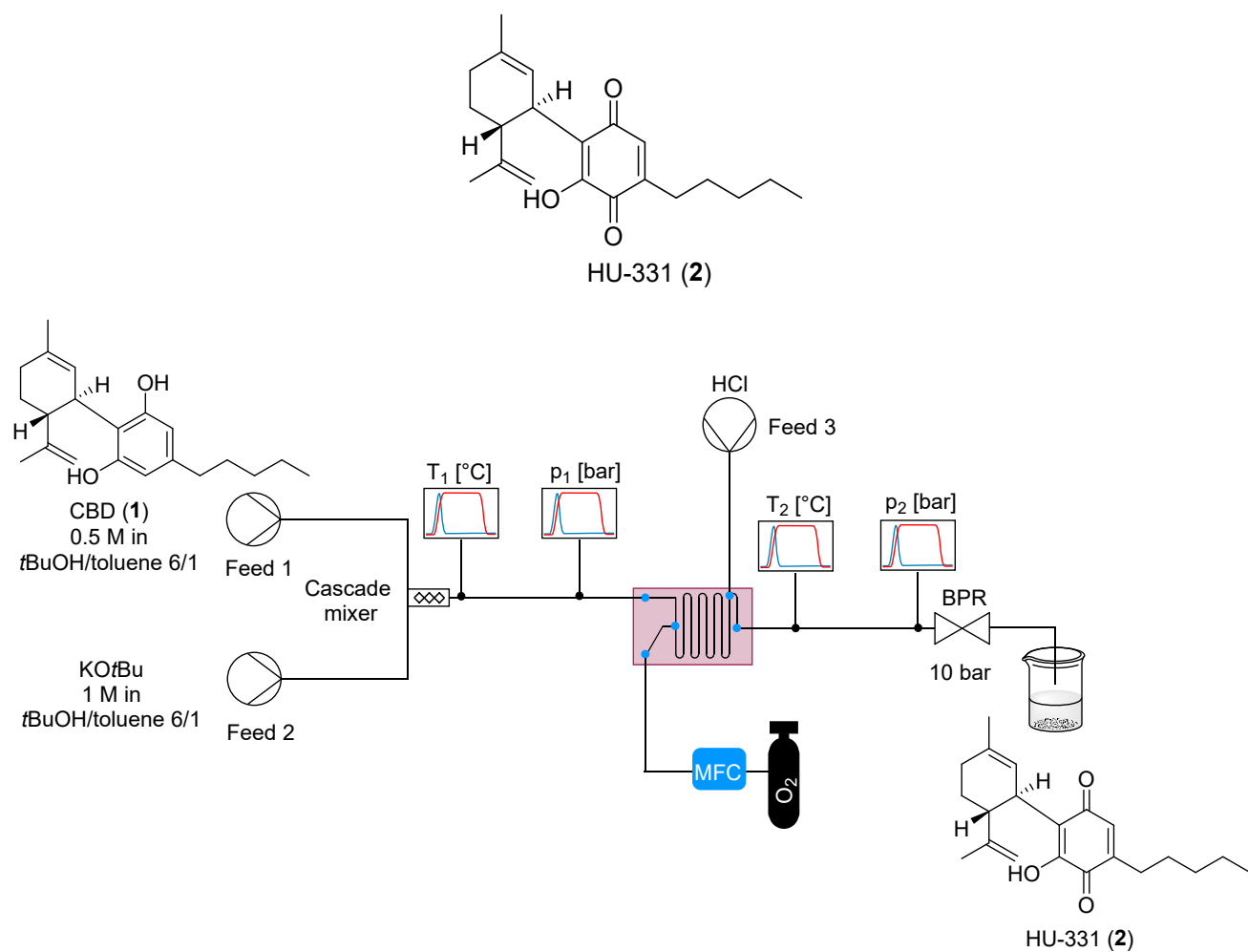


Figure S2. Modified flow configuration for inline temperature and pressure monitoring.

The flow setup consisted of two HPLC pumps (Uniqsis FlowSyn, Feed 1 and 2) and one continuous syringe pump (HighTec Zhang Syrdos, Feed 3).

Input solutions for feeds 1 and 2 were prepared with dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v), in oven-dried volumetric flasks as follows:

Feed 1: 0.5 M Cannabidiol (CBD, **1**) (31.4 g, 100 mmol) in dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) within a 200 mL volumetric flask.

Feed 2: 1.0 M KO^tBu (28.1 g, 250 mmol) in dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) within a 250 mL volumetric flask.

Feed 3 was made up from 0.5 M HCl in water.

Feeds 1, 2 and 3 were directly pumped through the pumps.

Before commencing the experiment, the reactor setup was flushed by pumping dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) with a flow rate of 1.05 mL/min; using the pump for feed 1; and 1.1 mL/min using the pump for feed 2. Oxygen was introduced into the reactor with a flow rate of 13.00 mL/min (1.1 equiv) using a calibrated mass flow controller (MFC, Bronkhorst, EL-FLOW). Subsequently, aqueous HCl (Feed 3) was introduced into the flow system with a flow rate of 2.7 mL/min (2.5 equiv).

To commence the experiment, the pumping of dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) at pumps 1 and 2 was switched to their respective input solution whilst maintaining their flow rate.

Feed 1 and 2 were combined within a split and recombine mixer (Ehrfeld Cascade Mixer 06 HC, volume V₁ = 103 µL) at room temperature. The mixture was passed through a temperature sensor T₁ (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume V₂ = 165 µL) and a pressure sensor p₁ (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume V₃ = 560 µL) before it was combined with oxygen within a microreactor (Ehrfeld FlowPlate Lab Microreactor HC, Process plate LL, channel width = 2 mm, mixer nominal width = 0.2 mm, volume V = 0.35 mL) for three mixing zones (V₄ = 166 µL). The Ehrfeld FlowPlate was heated to 30 °C by using a thermostat (Huber Ministat 240, 4000 rpm). Feed 3 was introduced within the flow plate after mixing zone 3 before leaving the reactor (V₅ = 179 µL). The reaction stream was passed through a temperature sensor T₂ (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume V₆ = 165 µL), a pressure sensor p₂ (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume V₇ = 560 µL) before flowing through an outlet (Ehrfeld MMRS, Fitok 1/16" HC, volume V₈ = 410 µL). After passing a back pressure regulator (Zaiput BPR-10); maintaining a back pressure of 9-10 bar; the process stream was collected.

The effluent was collected over 180 min (corresponding to 94.5 mmol of material) and extracted with EtOAc (3x100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford HU-331 (**2**) as orange crystals. (30.99 g, 94.4 mmol, 99% yield). Mp. = 55 °C. ¹H NMR (300.36 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.41 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.55 (q, J = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 3.80 – 3.65 (m, 1H), 2.77 (ddd, J = 11.9, 10.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 2.30 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.06 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.86 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.70 – 1.66 (m, 3H), 1.64 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.51 (ddd, J = 9.1, 5.3, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (td, J = 4.4, 2.2 Hz, 4H), 0.95 – 0.84 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 187.3, 184.2, 151.4, 148.5, 144.6, 134.8, 134.1, 122.9, 122.5, 110.8, 44.8, 35.8, 31.5, 31.3, 30.6, 28.9, 28.2, 27.2, 23.5, 22.5, 18.8, 14.0 ppm. The obtained data match those reported in the literature.^{1,2}

2.2. Thermal Profile for the Synthesis of HU-331 (**2**)

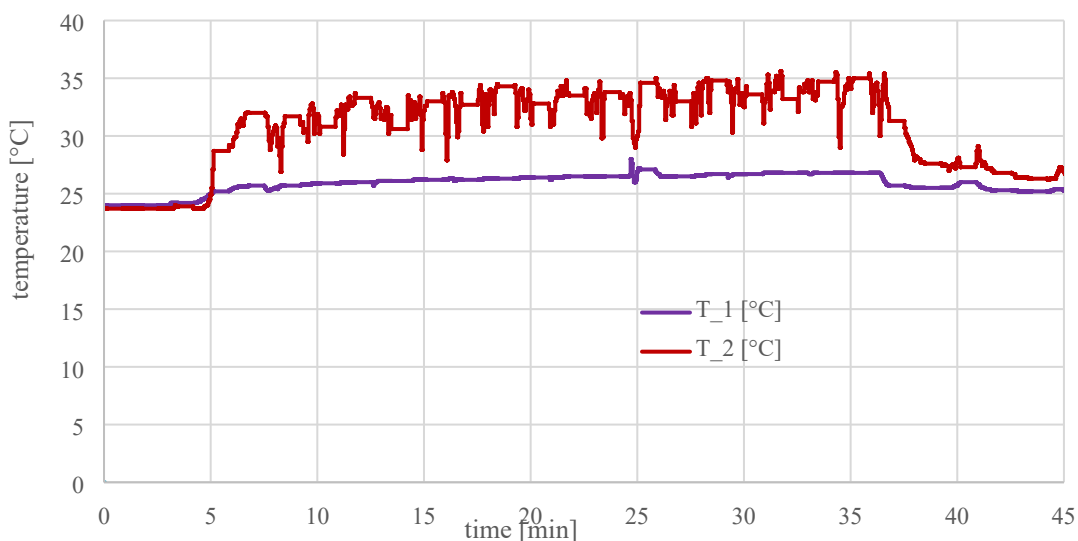


Figure S3. Thermal profile of the reaction stream for the synthesis of HU-331 (**2**) before and after addition of oxygen in the LL mixing plate when using 7 mixing structures.

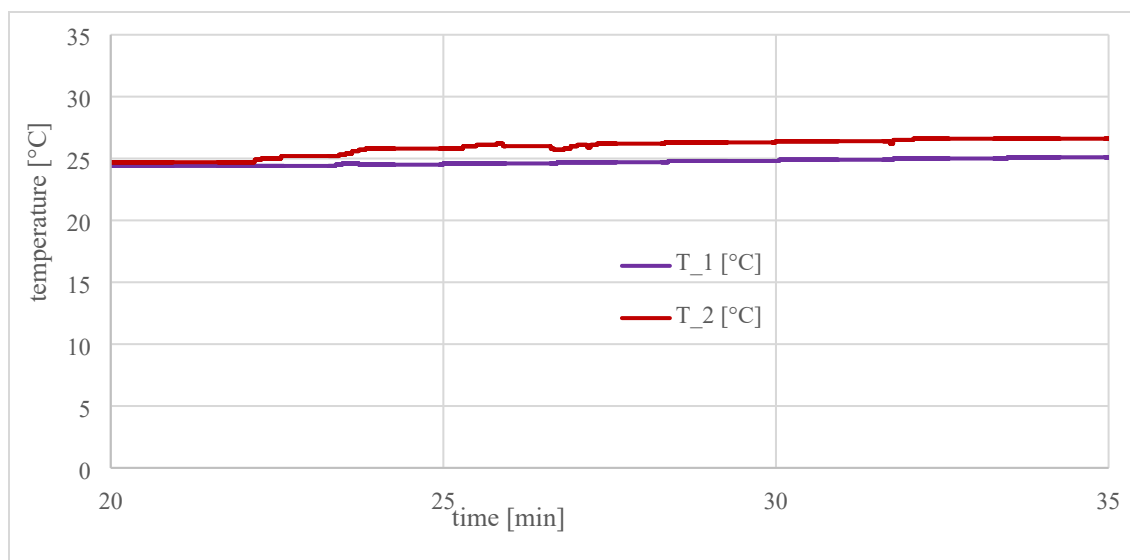


Figure S4. Thermal profile of the reaction stream for the synthesis of HU-331 (**2**) before and after addition of oxygen in the LL mixing plate when using all 70 mixing structures.

2.3. Optimized Synthesis of (1'R,6'R)-3-(benzylamino)-6-hydroxy-3'-methyl-4-pentyl-6'-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-[1,1'-bi(cyclohexane)]-2',3,6-triene-2,5-dione (3a)

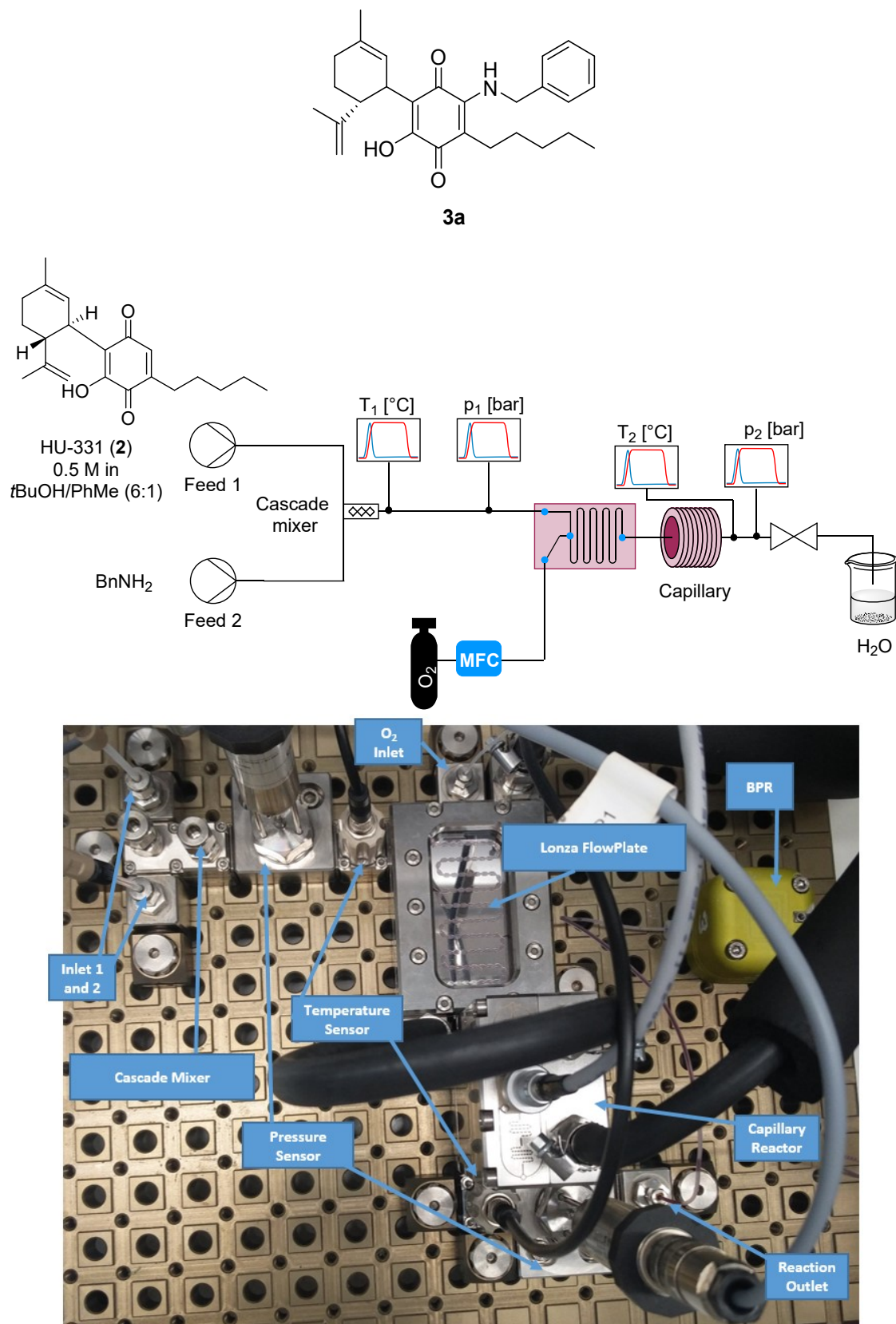


Figure S5. Continuous flow configuration for the oxidative amination of HU-331 (2) to 3a

The flow setup consisted of two HPLC pumps (Uniqsis FlowSyn, Feed 1 and 2).

The input solution for feed 1 was prepared with dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v), in an oven-dried volumetric flask as follows:

Feed 1: 0.5 M HU-331 (**2**) (16.4 g, 50 mmol) in dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) within a 100 mL volumetric flask.

Feed 2: Benzylamine (9.15 M) in a 250 mL glass flask.

Before commencing the experiment, the reactor setup was flushed by pumping dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) with a flow rate $F1 = 0.75$ mL/min; using the pump for feed 1; and neat benzylamine with $F2 = 0.41$ mL/min using the pump for feed 2. Oxygen was introduced into the reactor with a flow rate of 12.5 mL/min (1.5 equiv) using a calibrated Bronkhorst MFC.

To commence the experiment, the pumping of dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) at pump 1 was switched to the respective input solution whilst maintaining the flow rate.

Feed 1 and 2 were combined within a split and recombine mixer (Ehrfeld Cascade Mixer 06 HC, volume $V1 = 103$ μ L) at room temperature. The mixture was passed through a temperature sensor T_1 (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume $V2 = 165$ μ L), a pressure sensor p_1 (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume $V3 = 560$ μ L) before it was combined with oxygen within a microreactor (Ehrfeld FlowPlate Lab Microreactor HC, Process plate LL, channel width = 2 mm, mixer nominal width = 0.2 mm, volume $V4 = 0.35$ mL). After leaving the microreactor, the reaction stream passed through two capillary reactors (Ehrfeld F348 HC, total volume $V5 = 10.01$ mL), a temperature sensor T_2 (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume $V6 = 165$ μ L) and a pressure sensor p_2 (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume $V7 = 560$ μ L). After passing through a back pressure regulator (Zaiput BPR-10); maintaining a back pressure of 13-14 bar; the process stream was collected in a water bath. The Ehrfeld FlowPlate and the capillary reactors were heated to 30 °C by using a thermostat (Huber Ministat 240, 4000 rpm).

The mixture was collected over 120 min (corresponding to 45 mmol of material) in water. After adjusting the pH of the aqueous phase to 2 with HCl the product was extracted with EtOAc (3x100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained solid was grinded and dried under vacuo to afford Etrinabdione (**3a**) as purple amorphous solid. (19.4 g, 44.95 mmol, 99% yield). Mp. = 91-92 °C. ^1H NMR (300.36 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.07$ (s, 1H), 6.41 (t, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.55 (q, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 – 3.65 (m, 1H), 2.77 (ddd, $J = 11.9, 10.8,$

3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 2.30 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.06 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.86 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.70 – 1.66 (m, 3H), 1.64 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.51 (ddd, $J = 9.1, 5.3, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.33 (td, $J = 4.4, 2.2$ Hz, 4H), 0.95 – 0.84 (m, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 187.3, 184.2, 151.4, 148.5, 144.6, 134.8, 134.1, 122.9, 122.5, 110.8, 44.8, 35.8, 31.5, 31.3, 30.6, 28.9, 28.2, 27.2, 23.5, 22.5, 18.8, 14.0$ ppm. The obtained data match those reported in the literature.²

2.4. Thermal Profile of the Synthesis of Etrinabdione (3a)

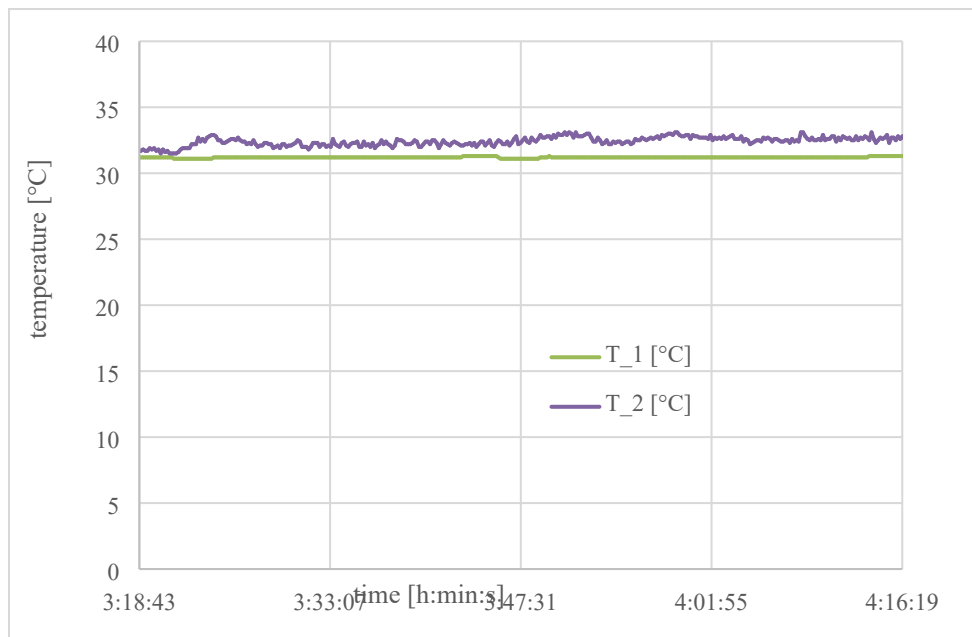
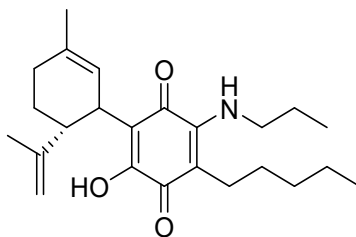
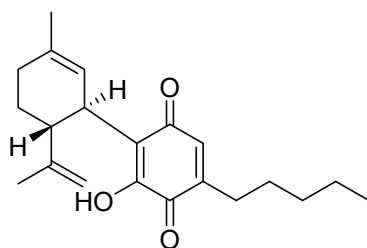


Figure S6. Thermal profile of the reaction stream for the synthesis of VCE-004.8 (**3a**) before and after addition of oxygen in a Lonza FlowPlate when using all 70 mixing structures.

2.5. (6'R)-6-hydroxy-3'-methyl-4-pentyl-6'-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-3-(propylamino)-[1,1'-bi(cyclohexane)]-2',3,6-triene-2,5-dione (3b)

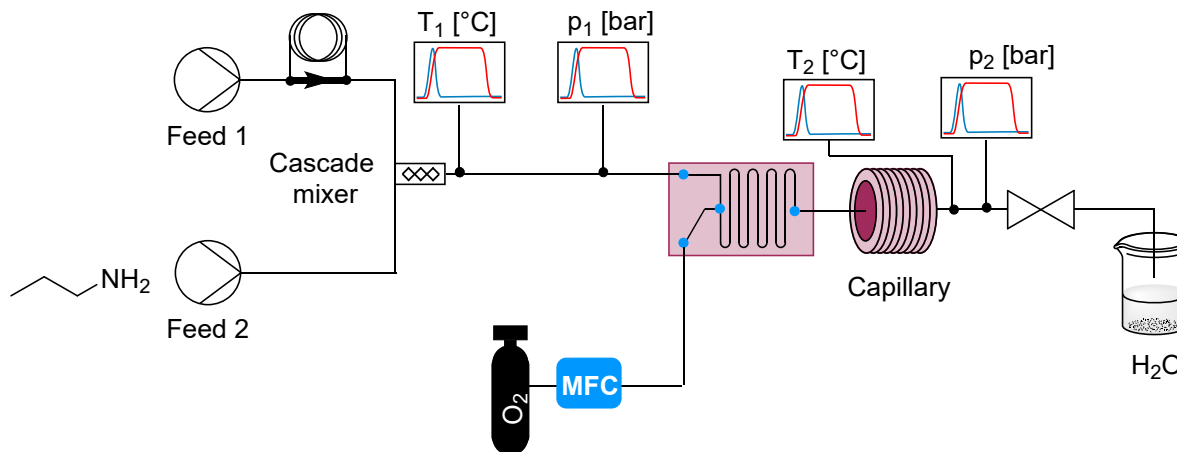


3b



HU-331 (2)

0.5 M in *t*BuOH/PhMe (6:1)



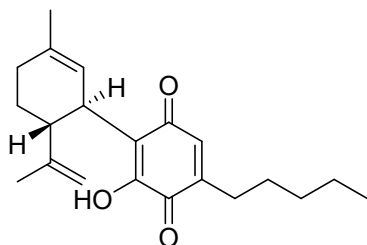
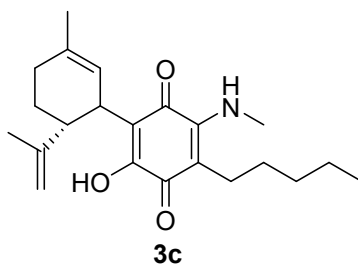
The flow setup consisted of two HPLC pumps (Uniqsis FlowSyn, Feed 1 and 2).

Before commencing the experiment, the reactor setup was flushed by pumping dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) with a flow rate $F1 = 0.75$ mL/min; using the pump for feed 1; and neat Propylamine (12.1 M) with $F2 = 0.41$ mL/min using the pump for feed 2. Oxygen was introduced into the reactor with a flow rate of 12.5 mL/min (1.5 equiv) using a calibrated Bronkhorst MFC. A sample loop (3 mL) was loaded with HU-331 (0.5 M in *t*BuOH:toluene = 6:1). To commence the experiment, the sample loop was injected into feed 1 whilst maintaining the flow rate of feed 1.

Feed 1 and 2 were combined within a split and recombine mixer (Ehrfeld Cascade Mixer 06 HC, volume $V1 = 103$ μ L) at room temperature. The mixture was passed through a temperature sensor T_1 (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume $V2 = 165$ μ L), a pressure sensor p_1 (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume $V3 = 560$ μ L) before it was combined with oxygen within a microreactor (Ehrfeld

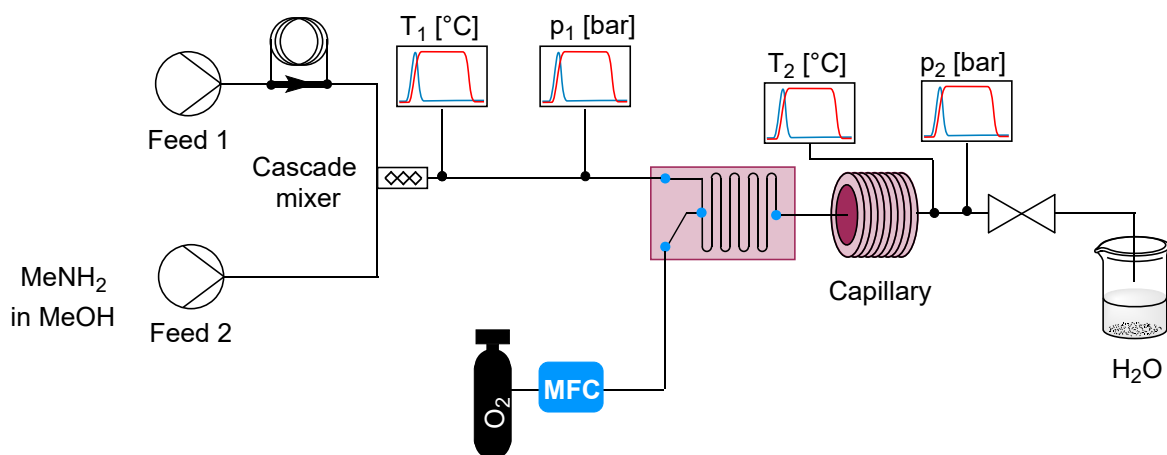
FlowPlate Lab Microreactor HC, Process plate LL, channel width = 2 mm, mixer nominal width = 0.2 mm, volume V4 = 0.35 mL). After leaving the microreactor, the reaction stream passed through two capillary reactors (Ehrfeld F348 HC, total volume V5 = 10.01 mL) a temperature sensor T₂ (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume V6 = 165 µL), and a pressure sensor p₂ (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume V7 = 560 µL). After passing through a back pressure regulator (Zaiput BPR-10); maintaining a back pressure of 13-14 bar; the process stream was collected in a water bath. The Ehrfeld FlowPlate and the capillary reactors were heated to 30 °C by using a thermostat (Huber Ministat 240, 4000 rpm). The reaction mixture was collected in water. After adjusting the pH of the aqueous phase to 2 with HCl the product was extracted with EtOAc (3x25 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained solid was grinded and dried under vacuo to afford **3b** as purple amorphous solid. (550 mg, 1.43 mmol, 95% yield). Mp. 97-98 °C; ¹H NMR (300.36 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99 (s, 1H), 6.45 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.69 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.69 (ddd, J = 12.0, 10.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51 – 2.37 (m, 2H), 2.25 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.64 (dd, J = 4.5, 2.7 Hz, 5H), 1.59 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 4H), 1.45 – 1.21 (m, 7H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.91 – 0.80 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 182.9, 179.5, 154.9, 148.5, 145.5, 133.4, 123.2, 116.1, 110.6, 106.4, 46.4, 44.5, 36.1, 31.8, 30.5, 29.0, 23.8, 23.7, 23.5, 22.5, 18.8, 14.1, 11.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd. for C₂₄H₃₅NO₃ :386.2689; found: 386.2687. The obtained data match those reported in the literature.²

2.6. (6'R)-6-hydroxy-3'-methyl-3-(methylamino)-4-pentyl-6'-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-[1,1'-bi(cyclohexane)]-2',3,6-triene-2,5-dione (3c)



HU-331 (**2**)

0.5 M in *t*BuOH/PhMe (6:1)



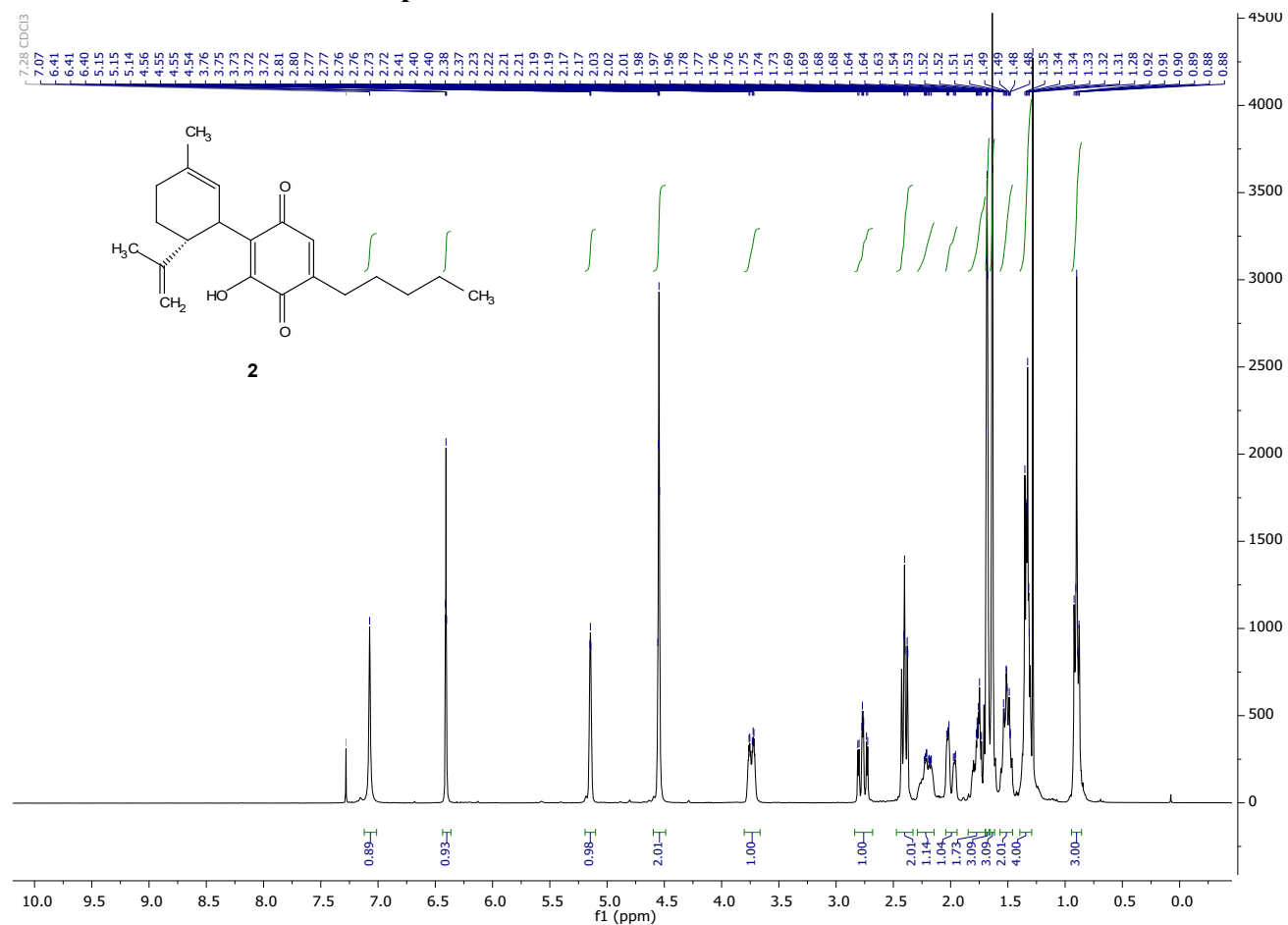
The flow setup consisted of two HPLC pumps (Uniqsis FlowSyn, Feed 1 a 2).

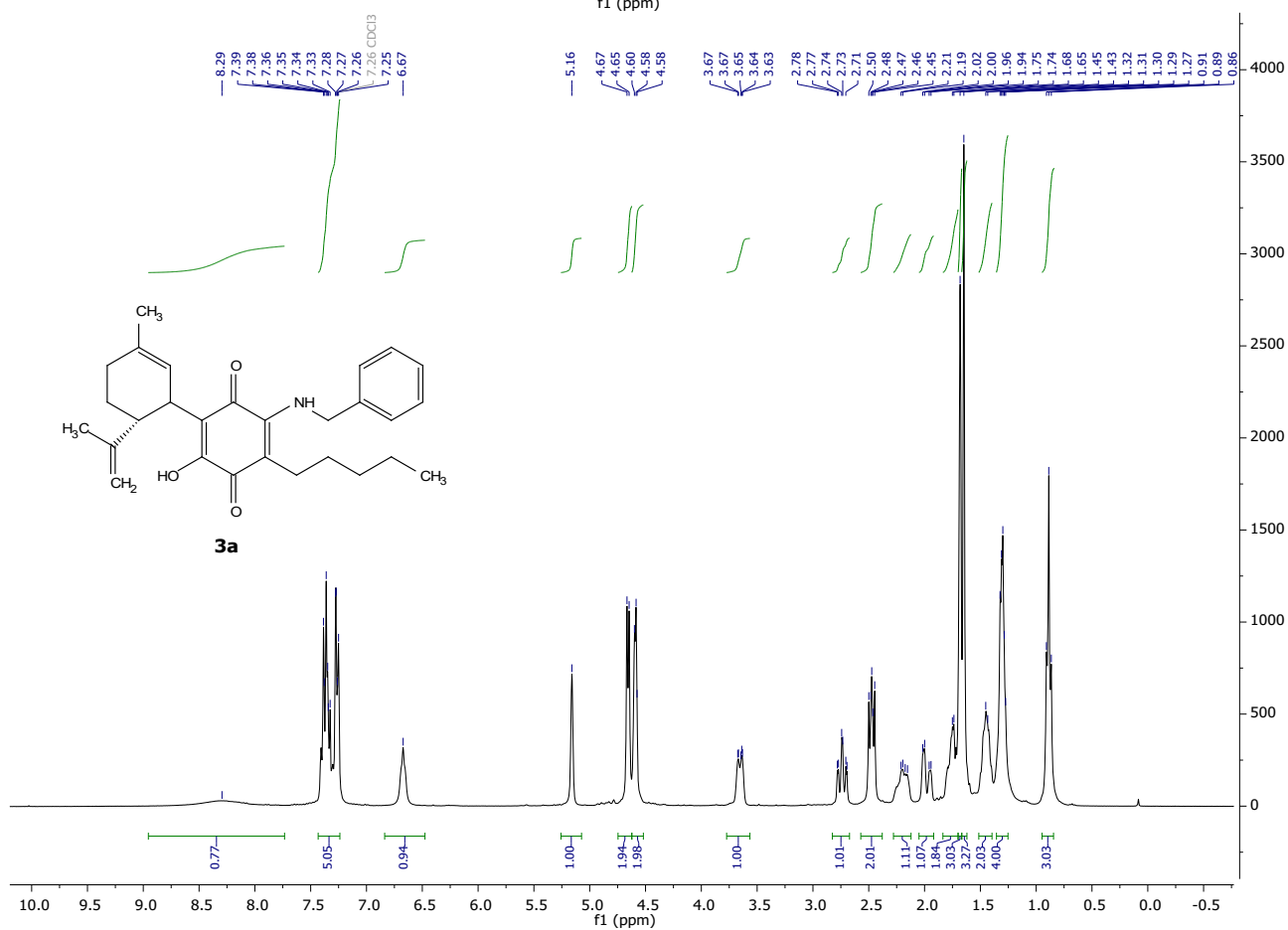
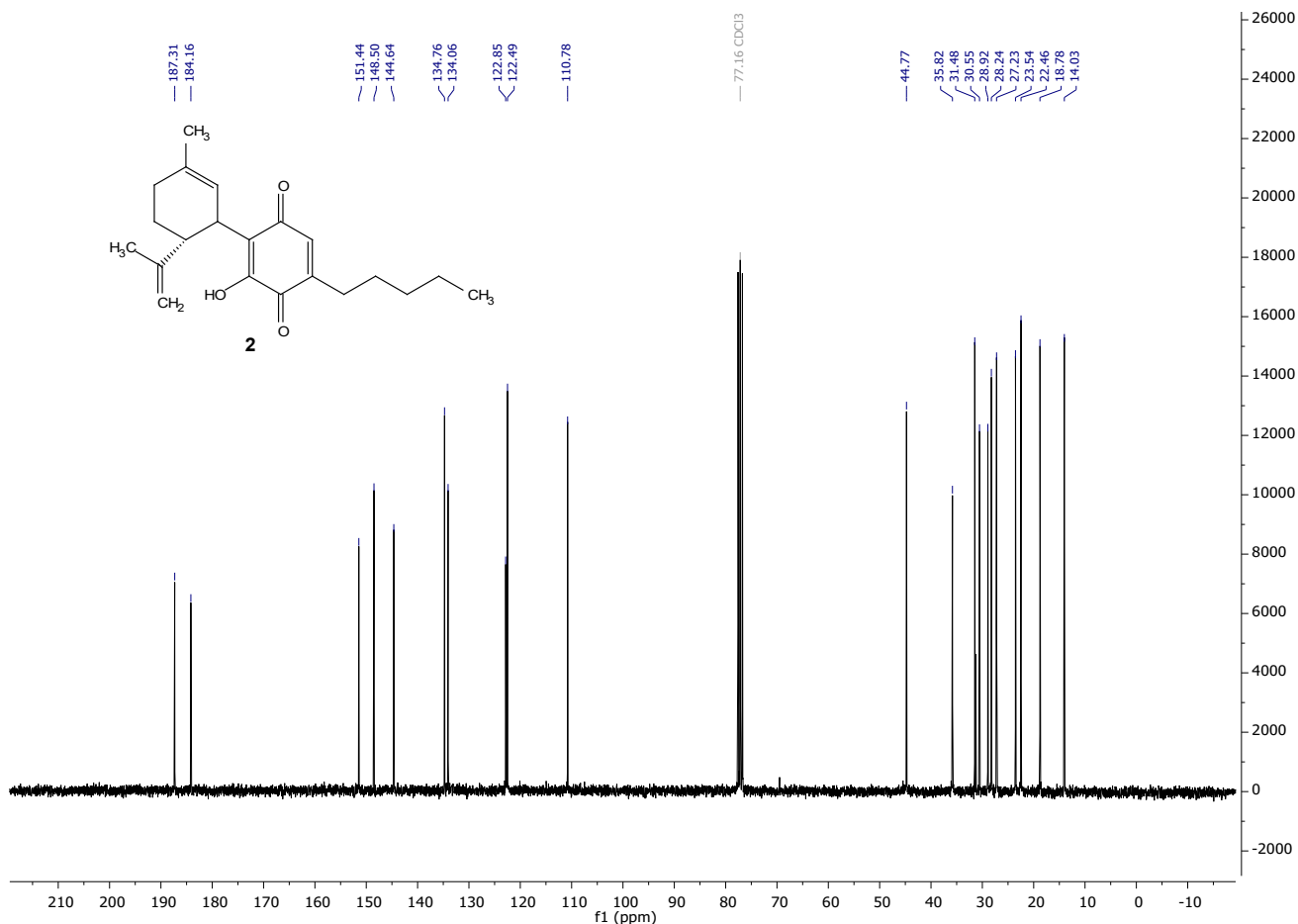
Before commencing the experiment, the reactor setup was flushed by pumping dry *tert*-Butanol/toluene (6:1 = v:v) with a flow rate $F1 = 0.75$ mL/min; using the pump for feed 1; and Methylamine (9.81 M in MeOH) with $F2 = 0.21$ mL/min using the pump for feed 2. Oxygen was introduced into the reactor with a flow rate of 12.5 mL/min (1.5 equiv) using a calibrated Bronkhorst MFC. A sample loop (3 mL) was loaded with HU-331 (0.5 M in *t*BuOH:toluene = 6:1). To commence the experiment, the sample loop was injected into feed 1 whilst maintaining the flow rate of feed 1.

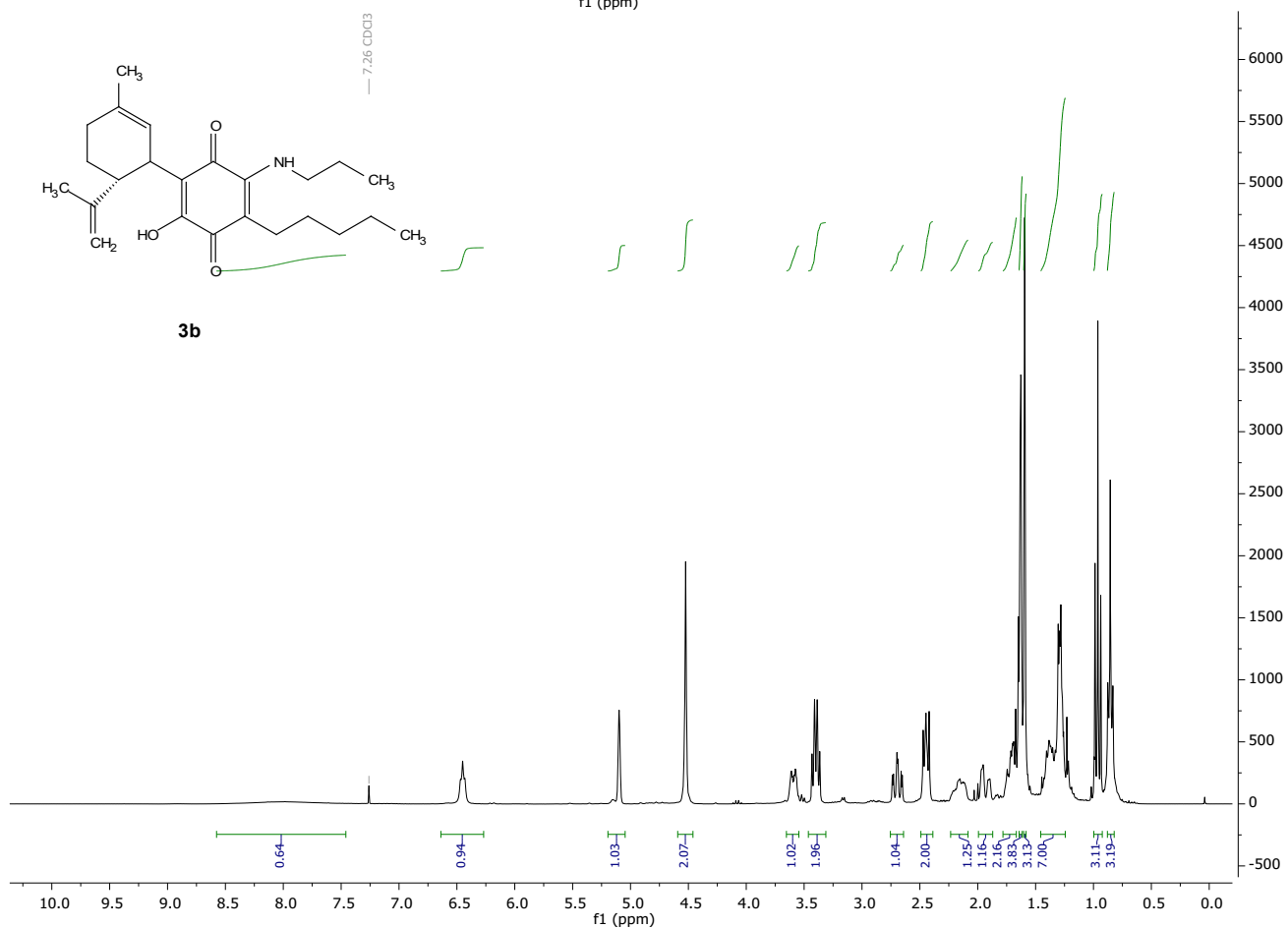
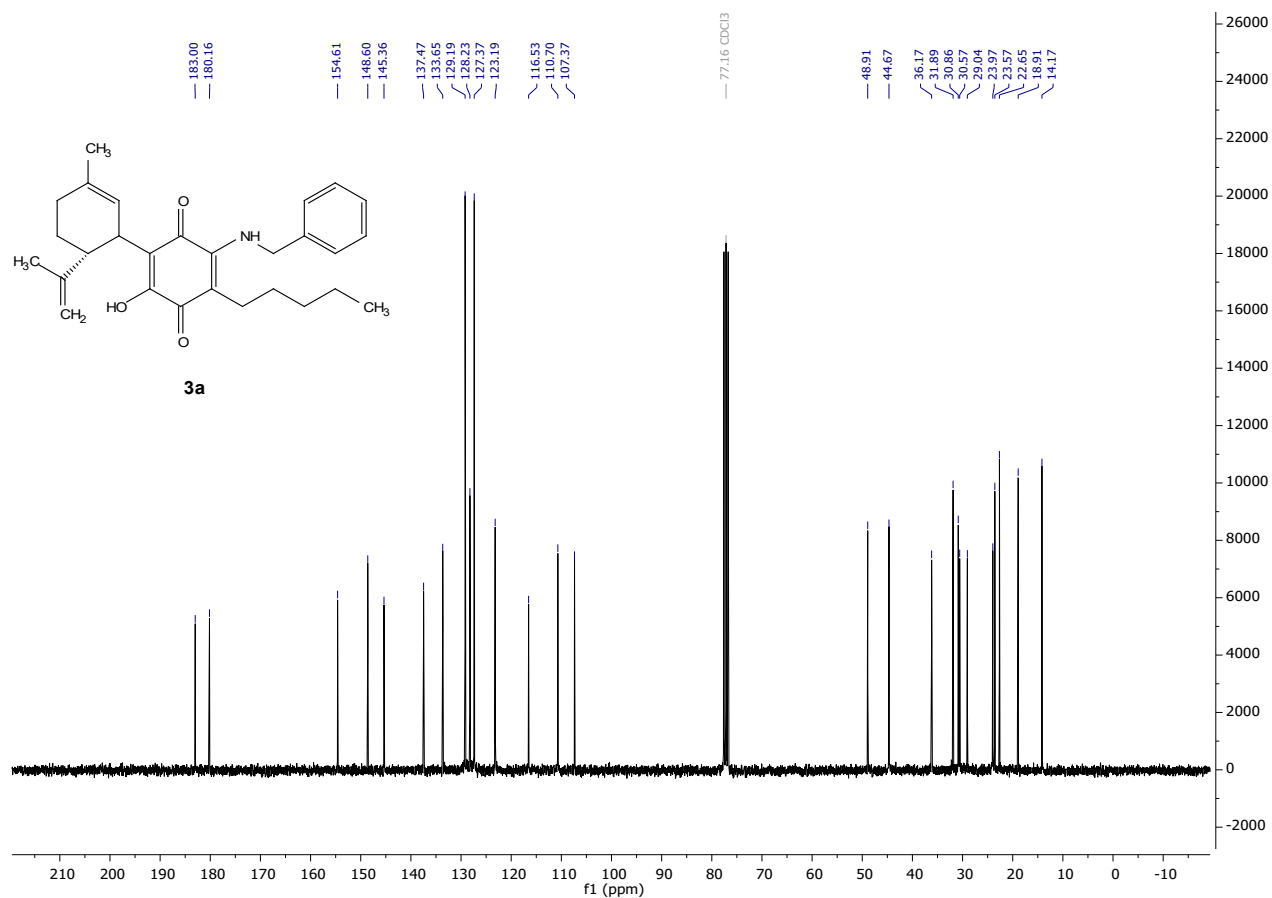
Feed 1 and 2 were combined within a split and recombine mixer (Ehrfeld Cascade Mixer 06 HC, volume $V1 = 103$ μ L) at room temperature. The mixture was passed through a temperature sensor T_1 (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume $V2 = 165$ μ L), a pressure sensor p_1 (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume $V3 = 560$ μ L) before it was combined with oxygen within a microreactor (Ehrfeld FlowPlate Lab Microreactor HC, Process plate LL, channel width = 2 mm, mixer nominal width =

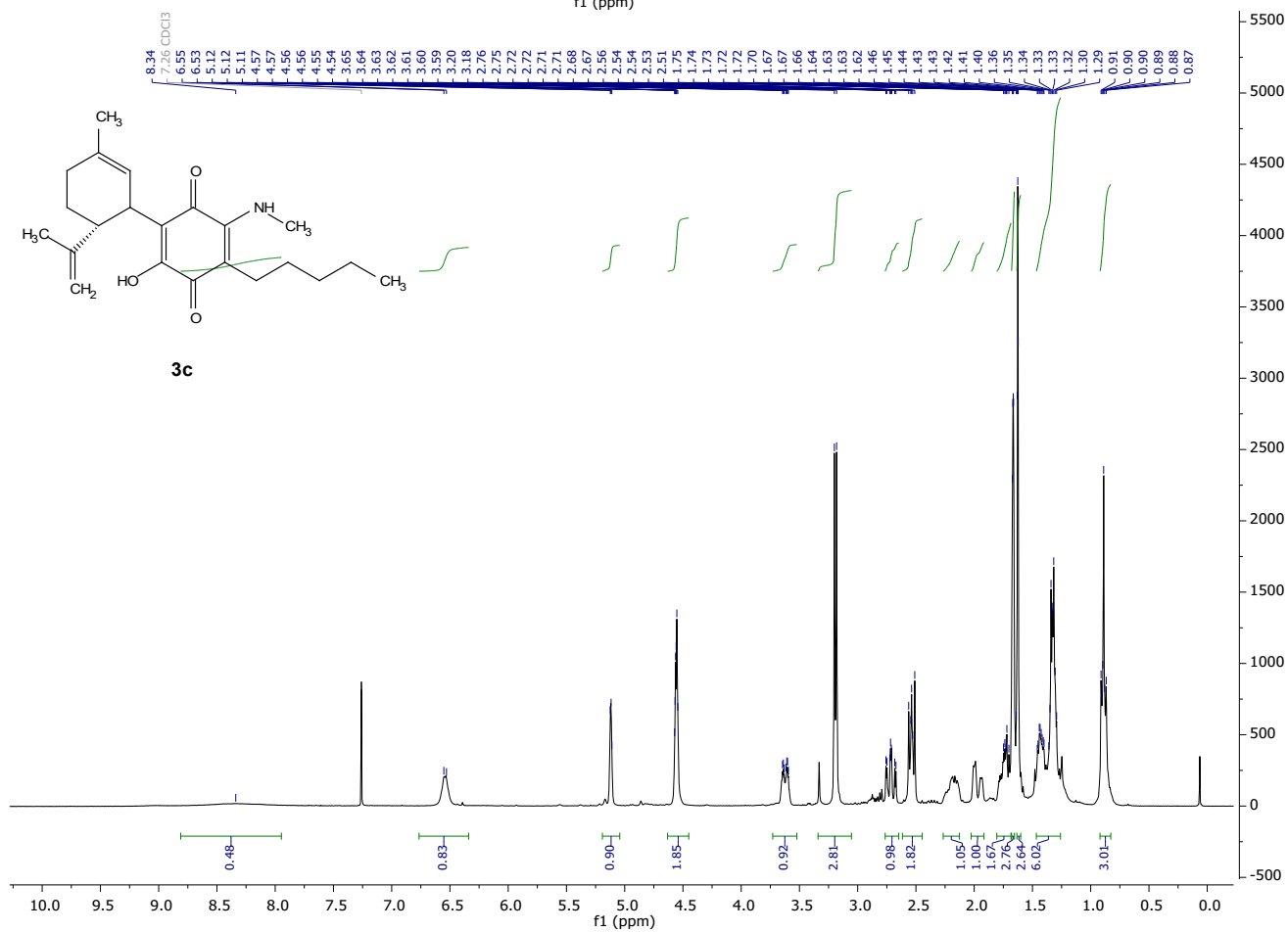
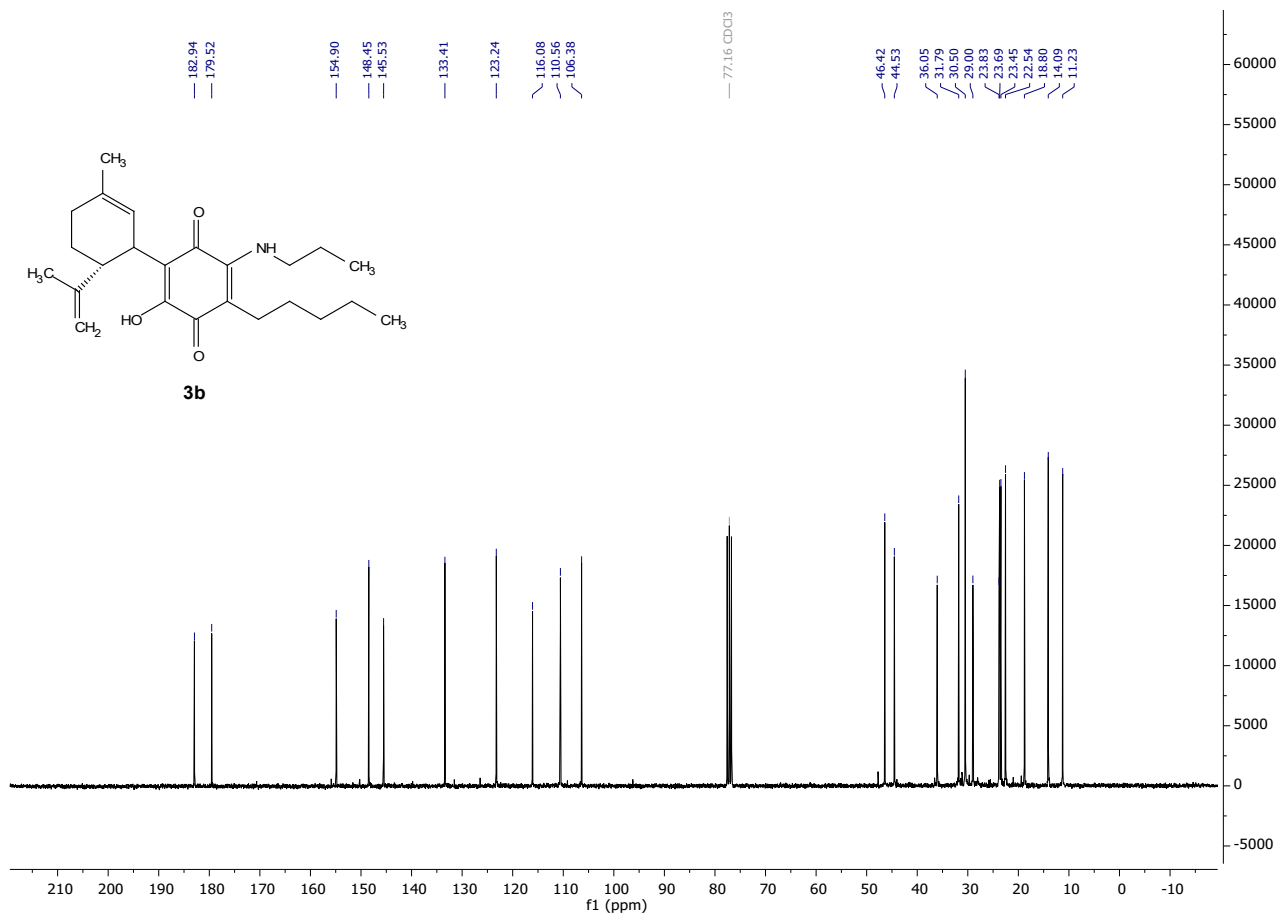
0.2 mm, volume V4 = 0.35 mL). After leaving the microreactor, the reaction stream passed through two capillary reactors (Ehrfeld F348 HC, total volume V5 = 10.01 mL), a temperature sensor T₂ (Ehrfeld Temperature Sensor Xyfluor 0501-1: volume V6 = 165 µL) and a pressure sensor p₂ (Ehrfeld p-Sensor Module HC: volume V7 = 560 µL). After passing through a back pressure regulator (Zaiput BPR-10); maintaining a back pressure of 13-14 bar; the process stream was collected in a water bath. The Ehrfeld FlowPlate and the capillary reactors were heated to 30 °C by using a thermostat (Huber Ministat 240, 4000 rpm). The reaction mixture was collected in water. After adjusting the pH of the aqueous phase to 2 with HCl the product was extracted with EtOAc (3x25 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained solid was grinded and dried under vacuo to give **3c** as purple amorphous solid. (511 mg, 1.43 mmol, 95% yield). Mp. 112-113 °C; ¹H NMR (300.36 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99 (s, 1H), 6.45 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.69 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.69 (ddd, J = 12.0, 10.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51 – 2.37 (m, 2H), 2.25 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.64 (dd, J = 4.5, 2.7 Hz, 5H), 1.59 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 4H), 1.45 – 1.21 (m, 7H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.91 – 0.80 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 182.9, 179.5, 154.9, 148.5, 145.5, 133.4, 123.2, 116.1, 110.6, 106.4, 46.4, 44.5, 36.1, 31.8, 30.5, 29.0, 23.8, 23.7, 23.5, 22.5, 18.8, 14.1, 11.2 ppm.

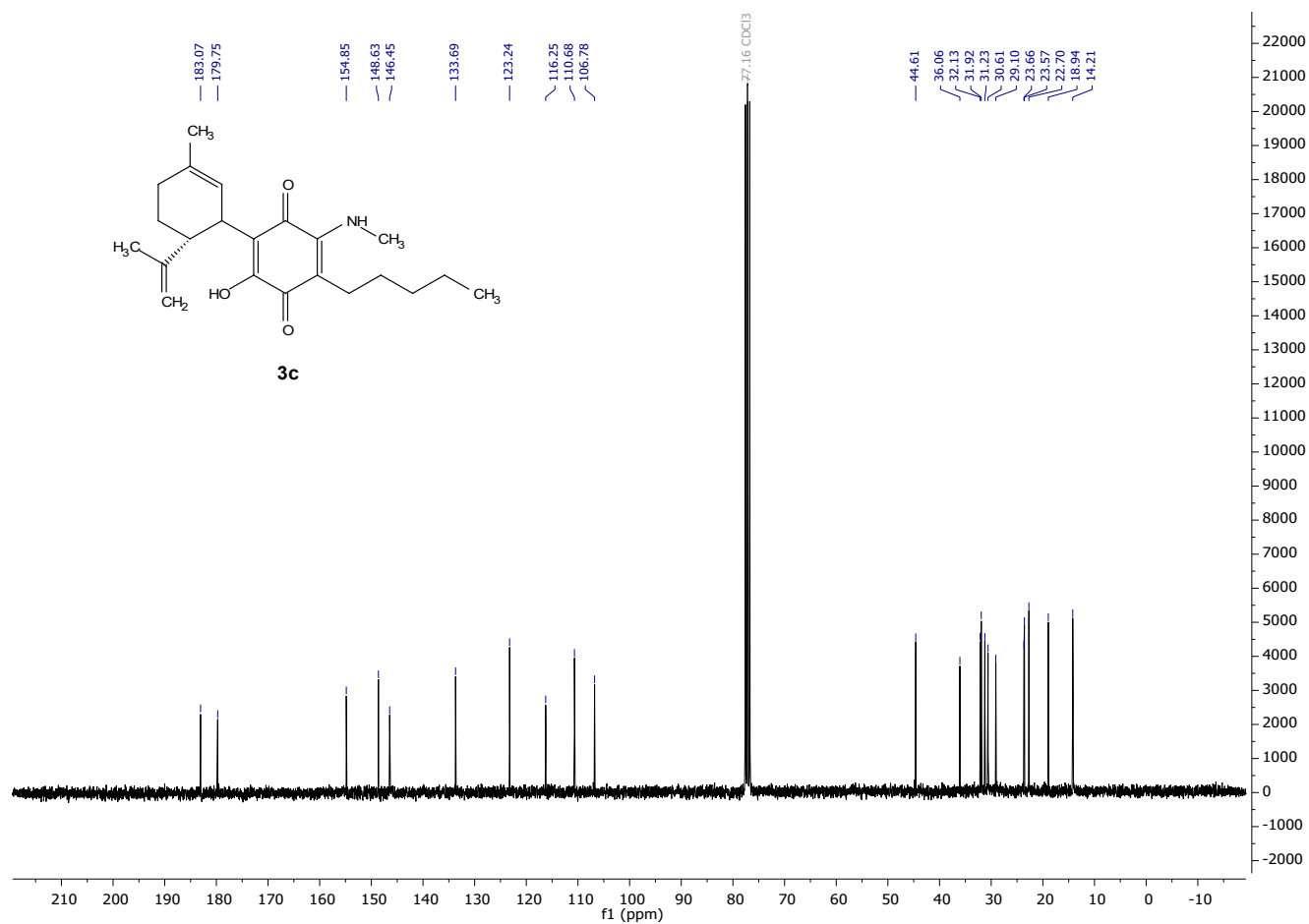
3. ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR Spectra











4. References

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- (2) G. Appendino, M. L. Bellido Cabello de Alba and E. Muñoz Blanco (Vivacell Biotechnology España), *Novel Cannabidiol Quinone Derivatives*, PCT/EP2014/057767, **2015**.