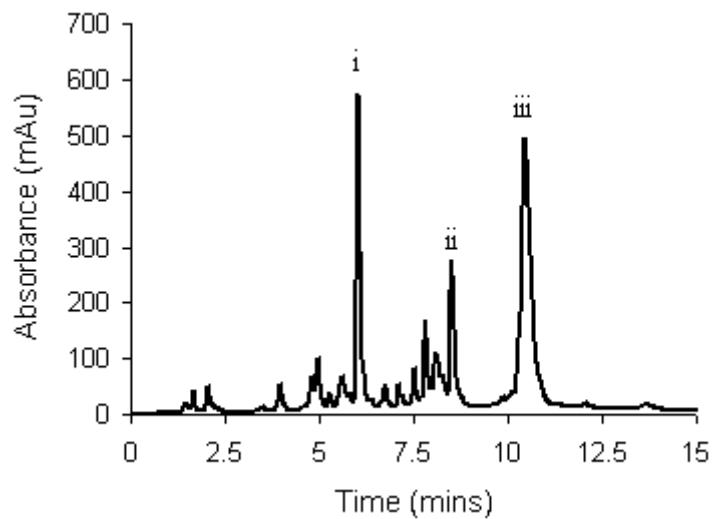


**Figure 1:** Ion-exchange HPLC trace of reaction between crude 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT, where X = furan, and fluorescein maleimide in the absence of  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ; (i) 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT, (ii) fluorescein 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT conjugate



**Figure 2:** Ion-exchange HPLC trace of reaction between crude 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT, where X = furan, and fluorescein maleimide in the presence of  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ; (i) excess fluorescein maleimide, (ii) 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT, (iii) fluorescein 5'-X CGC ATT CAG GAT conjugate