

The Synthesis of Head-to-Tail Sulfonyl-Cyclic γ -AApeptides

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1. General information

All Fmoc protected/unprotected α -amino acids were purchased from Chem-Impex International, Inc. 2-Chlorotriyl (CTC) resin (0.98 mmol/g, 200-400 mesh) was purchased from AAPPTec LLC. All the other solvents and reagents were purchased from either Sigma-Aldrich or Fisher Scientific. NMR data for γ -AApeptide building blocks were analyzed on a Varian UnityInova400 spectrometer. Masses of AApeptide building blocks and cyclic sulfono- γ -AApeptides were obtained on an Agilent 6540 liquid chromatography/quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer. The X-ray diffraction data for γ 5 was collected on a Bruker D8 Venture PHOTON 100 CMOS system equipped with a Cu K α INCOATEC Imus micro-focus source ($\lambda = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$). Solid phase synthesis was conducted in peptide synthesis vessels on a Burrell Wrist-Action shaker. Cyclic sulfono- γ -AApeptides were analyzed and purified on a Waters Breeze 2 HPLC system, and then lyophilized on a Labcono lyophilizer.

2. Experimental details

2.1 Synthesis of γ -AApeptide building blocks

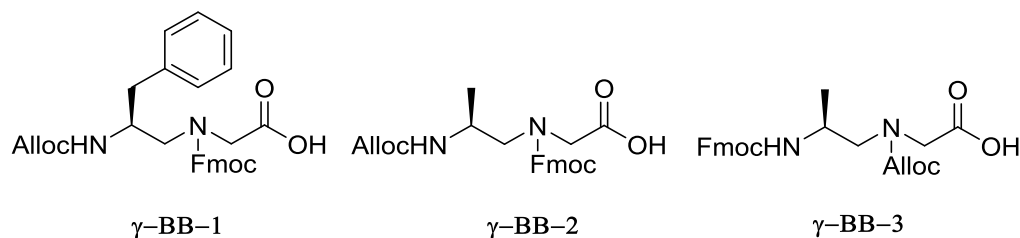


Figure S1. γ -AApeptide building blocks used in the study.

2.1.1 Synthesis of Fmoc-N-Alloc γ -AApeptide building block γ -BB-1

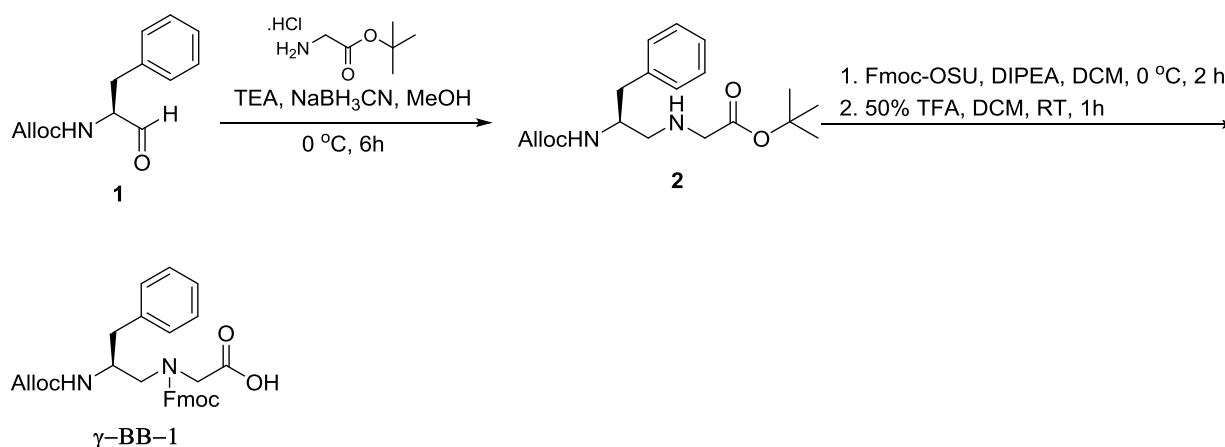


Figure S2. Synthetic scheme of Fmoc-N-Alloc γ -AApeptide building block γ -BB-1.

Synthesis of compound **2**

A solution of compound **1**¹ (4.38 g, 15 mmol) in 100 mL methanol was stirred in an ice bath. A solution of Glyc-OtBu.HCl (2.52 g, 15 mmol) and triethylamine (2.09 mL, 15mmol) in 20 mL methanol was added to the reaction flask. The reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for one hour, followed by the addition of

acetic acid (4 mL, 3% v/v) and sodium cyanoborohydride (1.88 g, 30 mmol). The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for two more hours. After completion, methanol was removed by vacuum. The resulting slurry was dissolved in saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (150 mL) and dichloromethane (150 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The bottom layer was collected and washed with water (150 mL), then brine solution (150 mL). The organic layer was collected, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo. The pure product **2** was obtained as white foam with a yield of 75% after flash column with hexane/ethyl acetate (2:1) as eluent. TLC analysis showed an R_f value of 0.1 in 1:1 hexane/ethyl acetate solution. Compound **2** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.26 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 5.84-5.75 (m, 1H), 5.20 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.50-4.38 (m, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.65 (m, 2H), 3.38-3.08 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.78 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 165.1, 156.6, 136.3, 132.5, 129.0, 128.7, 127.0, 117.5, 84.5, 65.9, 50.2, 49.7, 47.7, 38.8, 27.8 ppm. HR-ESI: [M+H]⁺ calc: 349.2122, found: 349.2120.

Synthesis of γ -**BB-1**

A solution of **2** (3.9 g, 11.2 mmol) and N, N-diisopropylethylamine (2.15 mL, 12.3 mmol) in 50 mL dichloromethane was stirred in an ice bath. A solution of Fmoc-OSU (4.15 g, 12.3 mmol) in 20 mL dichloromethane was added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for two hours. After completion, solvent was removed by vacuum. The slurry was used directly in the next reaction.

The slurry was treated with 20 mL 1:1 dichloromethane/trifluoroacetic acid mixture for 1 h at room temperature. After completion, solvent was removed by vacuum. Trifluoroacetic acid was removed completely by co-evaporation with dichloromethane (20 mL x 5). Pure γ -**BB-1** was obtained as white solid with a yield of 95% after flash column with hexane/ethyl acetate (1:1) as eluent. TLC analysis showed an R_f value of 0.1 in a hexane/ethyl acetate 1:1 solution. γ -**BB-1** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (two rotamers) 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.17 (m, 9H), 5.83-5.69 (m, 1H), 5.25-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.64-4.79 (m, 4H), 4.22-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.88-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.29-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.37 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (two rotamers) 173.4, 156.9, 156.5, 156.4, 156.0, 143.8, 143.7, 143.6, 141.4, 141.2, 137.3, 137.1, 132.6, 129.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 124.9, 124.6, 119.9, 117.6, 117.5, 117.4, 68.2, 67.2, 65.5, 51.6, 51.5, 51.1, 48.9, 47.1, 38.7, 38.5 ppm. HR-ESI: [M+H]⁺ calc: 515.2177, found: 515.2165.

2.1.2 Synthesis of N-Alloc γ -AApeptide building block γ -**BB-2**

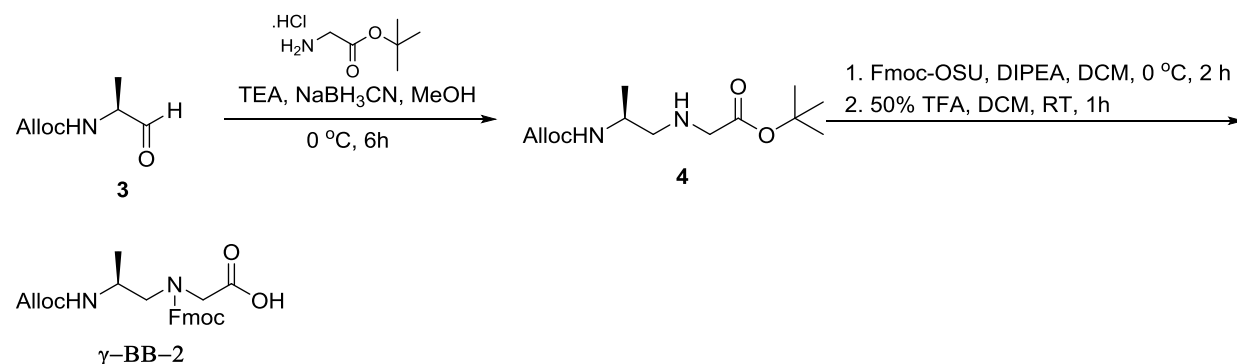


Figure S3. Synthetic scheme of N-Alloc γ -AApeptide building block γ -**BB-2**.

Compound **4** and γ -**BB-2** were prepared from **3²** following similar procedure as γ -**BB-1**.

Compound **4** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 6.01 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 5.92-5.82 (m, 1H), 5.29 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.60-4.44 (m, 2H), 4.16-4.11 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.32-3.14 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 165.2, 156.8, 132.5, 117.8, 84.7, 66.1, 52.4, 47.9, 44.4, 27.8, 18.5 ppm. HR-ESI: [M+H]⁺ calc: 273.1809, found: 273.1820.

γ -**BB-2** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (two rotamers) 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.24 (m, 4H), 5.88-5.80 (m, 1H), 5.38-5.09 (m, 2H), 4.66-4.40 (m, 4H), 4.22-4.15 (m, 1H), 4.03-3.89 (m, 2H), 3.56-2.89 (m, 2H), 1.14-0.80 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (two rotamers) 173.7, 156.7, 143.7, 143.5, 141.4, 141.3, 132.5, 124.6, 120.0, 119.9, 117.7, 68.3, 67.4, 65.8, 53.2, 52.5, 49.1, 48.9, 47.1, 46.3, 45.4, 18.4, 17.9 ppm. HR-ESI: [M+H]⁺ calc: 439.1864, found: 439.1867.

2.1.3 Synthesis of N-Alloc γ -AApeptide building block γ -**BB-3**

γ -**BB-3** was synthesized following previous reported procedure.³

2.2 Synthesis of cyclic sulfono- γ -AApeptides

2.2.1 Synthesis of γ 1

2-Chlorotrityl chloride (CTC) resin (102 mg, 100 μ mol) was swelled in 2 mL DCM for 15 min. The first attachment was conducted by adding building block γ -**BB-1** (77 mg, 150 μ mol) and DIPEA (26 μ L, 150 μ mol) to the beads in the reaction vessel, which was allowed to shake at room temperature for two hours. After that, the reaction solution was drained, followed by washing with DMF (2 mL x3) and DCM (2 mL x3). The unreacted residues were capped with 2 mL methanol for 30 min. Again, the beads were washed with DCM (2 mL x3) and DMF (2 mL x3). The Fmoc group was removed by treating beads with 20% piperidine/DMF (v/v) solution for 10 min (x2) at room temperature. The solution was drained, followed by washing with DMF (2 mL x3) and DCM (2 mL x3). N-modification was achieved by reacting beads with methanesulfonyl chloride (23 μ L, 300 μ mol) and DIPEA (52 μ L, 300 μ mol) for 30 min (x2) at room temperature. The solution was then drained. After washing with DMF (2 mL x3) and DCM (2 mL x3), the beads were treated with Pd(PPh₃)₄ (12 mg, 10 μ mol) and Me₂NH.BH₃ (35 mg, 600 μ mol) in 2 mL dichloromethane for 10 min (x2) to remove Alloc protecting group.⁴ After the reaction, the solution was drained. The beads were washed with DCM (2 mL x3), 0.2% TFA/DCM (2 mL 60s x3), DCM (2 mL x3), 5% DIPEA/DCM (2 mL 60s x3), and DCM (2 mL x3).

For the next coupling reaction, building block γ -**BB-3** (88 mg, 200 μ mol), DIC (63 μ L, 400 μ mol), and HOBt (61 mg, 400 μ mol) were pre-mixed in 2 mL DMF for 5 min before getting transferred to the reaction vessel. The reaction was shaken at room temperature for 2 hours, and the solution was drained. The beads were washed with DMF (2 mL x3) and DCM (2 mL x3) and the coupling reaction was repeated. The beads were washed with DMF (2 mL x3) and DCM (2 mL x3). The N-Alloc was removed following the same conditions discussed above: Pd(PPh₃)₄ (12 mg, 10 μ mol) and Me₂NH.BH₃ (35 mg, 600 μ mol) in 2 mL dichloromethane for 10 min (x2). After the reaction, the solution was drained. The beads were washed with DCM (2 mL x3), 0.2% TFA/DCM (2 mL 60s x3), DCM (2 mL x3), 5% DIPEA/DCM (2 mL 60s x3), and DCM (2 mL x3). After that, the beads were treated with phenylmethanesulfonyl chloride (57 mg, 300 μ mol) and DIPEA (52 μ L, 300 μ mol) for 30 min (x2) at room temperature for the second N ^{α} -modification. After washing with DCM (2 mL x3) and DMF (2 mL

x3), N-terminal Fmoc group was removed with 20% piperidine/DMF (v/v) solution for 10 min (x2) at room temperature.

The previous reaction cycle was repeated until the desired sequence was obtained. The linear sulfono- γ -AApeptide was cleaved from resin with 4 mL cleavage cocktail (acetic acid : TFE : DCM = 1:1:8). After cleavage for 2 h, the solution was collected. The remaining beads were washed with 2 mL cleavage cocktail solution for three times. All the solution was combined and concentrated by vacuum. Acetic acid was completely removed by co-evaporation with hexane.

In the cyclization reaction, crude linear sulfono- γ -AApeptide was dissolved in 200 mL DCM (~0.5 mM), followed by the addition of coupling reagents: TBTU (96 mg, 300 μ mol), HOBt (46 mg, 300 μ mol), and DMAP (61 mg, 500 μ mol). The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for overnight. After completion of reaction, the solution was washed with 0.1 M HCl (100 mL x3), water (100 mL), and brine (100 mL). The DCM layer was collected, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated by vacuum. Crude compound γ 1 was dissolved in 10 mL water/acetonitrile (1:1) solution and filtered through a Whatman filter unit (0.45 μ m) before HPLC analysis. Pure γ 1 was obtained as white powder after preparative HPLC and lyophilization.

2.2.2 Synthesis of γ 2-7.

Following similar method as γ 1, γ 2-7 (all white powder) were synthesized and characterized by HRMS (Table S1). γ 6 and γ 7 were treated with 2 mL DCM/TFA (1:1) for 1 h, before HPLC analysis and purification.

γ 1 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.23 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.13-8.07 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 15H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 5H), 4.54-4.37 (m, 6H), 4.03-3.95 (m, 3H), 3.94-3.75 (m, 8H), 3.20-2.99 (m, 8H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, J = 8 Hz, 9H) ppm.

γ 2 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.60 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 5H), 4.64-4.49 (m, 2H), 4.09-3.84 (m, 4H), 3.67-3.51 (m, 3H), 3.26-3.13 (m, 4H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 1.00 (d, J = 8 Hz, 3H) ppm.

γ 3 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.30 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (s, 10H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 5H), 4.55-4.42 (m, 4H), 3.96-3.89 (m, 3H), 3.86-3.69 (m, 6H), 3.30-3.06 (m, 6H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 1.05 (t, J = 8 Hz, 6H) ppm.

γ 4 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.23 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (q, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (s, 20H), 7.23-7.12 (m, 5H), 4.52-4.35 (m, 8H), 4.10-4.00 (m, 5H), 3.96-3.80 (m, 10H), 3.25-3.03 (m, 10H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, J = 8 Hz, 12H) ppm.

γ 5 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (d, J = 8 Hz, 3H), 7.83-7.79 (m, 6H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 6H), 3.90 (d, J = 16 Hz, 3H), 3.71-3.61 (m, 9H), 3.23-3.06 (m, 6H), 0.98 (d, J = 8 Hz, 9H) ppm.

γ 6 ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.68 (s, 6H), 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 10H), 4.65 (q, J = 16 Hz, 4H), 3.96 (d, J = 16 Hz, 2H), 3.73-3.68 (m, 4H), 3.18-3.12 (m, 4H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.24 (m, 8H) ppm.

$\gamma 7$ ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.53-8.07 (m, 3H), 7.68 (s, 9H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 15H), 4.61-4.41 (m, 4H), 4.20-4.08 (m, 3H), 3.94-3.72 (m, 6H), 3.19-3.11 (m, 6H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 6H), 1.49-1.27 (m, 18H) ppm.

Table S1. Cyclization of sulfono- γ -AApeptides with varying ring sizes.

compound	ring size	yield ^a (%)	mass ^b
$\gamma 1$	4	95	1073.3595
$\gamma 2$	2	90	537.1838
$\gamma 3$	3	85	805.2720
$\gamma 4$	5	85	1341.4466
$\gamma 5$	3	75	865.1080
$\gamma 6$	2	54	651.2999
$\gamma 7$	3	50	976.4464

^aYields were determined by analytical HPLC traces (Figure S5). ^b[M+1]⁺ determined by ESI.

2.3 Crystallization study.

5 mg of $\gamma 5$ was dissolved in 500 μL chloroform. The solution was filtered through a 4 MM PVDF syringe filter (0.45 μm) and stored in a 2 mL vial, which was then covered with aluminum foil and placed in a sealed 20 mL vial containing 1 mL pentane. A block shaped crystal (dimension 0.3 mm x 0.3 mm x 0.2 mm) was obtained by pentane diffusion into the chloroform solution after 5 days at room temperature.

The X-ray diffraction data was measured on a Bruker D8 Venture PHOTON 100 CMOS diffractometer equipped with a Cu K α INCOATEC Imus micro-focus source ($\lambda = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$). Indexing was performed using APEX2 (Difference Vectors method). Data integration and reduction were performed using SaintPlus 6.01. Absorption correction was performed by multi-scan method implemented in SADABS. Space groups were determined using XPREP implemented in APEX2. The structure was solved using SHELXS-97 (direct methods) and refined using SHELXL-2013 (full-matrix least-squares on F2) contained in APEX2, WinGX v1.70.01 and OLEX2. All non-hydrogen atoms of the product were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms of -CH, -NH, -CH₂ and -CH₃ groups were placed in geometrically calculated positions and included in the refinement process using riding model with isotropic thermal parameters: Uiso(H) = 1.2(1.5)Ueq(-CH,-NH, -CH₂(-CH₃)). Occupancies of disordered chloroform molecules have been refined as free variables or were fixed. Heavily disordered molecules of chloroform and trifluoroacetic acid (presence confirmed by F NMR studies) have been refined using restraints and isotropically in case of atoms with low occupancy. Crystal data and refinement conditions are shown in Table S2.

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for $\gamma 5$.

Identification code	$\gamma 5$
Empirical formula	$C_{70.15}H_{81.65}Cl_{15.44}F_{1.5}N_{12}O_{19}S_6$
Moiety formula	$2(C_{33}H_{39}Cl_3N_6O_9S_3), 3.15(CHCl_3), 0.5(C_2HO_2F_3)$
Formula weight	2165.20
Temperature/K	100(2)
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	$P2_12_12_1$
a/Å	17.1143(4)
b/Å	20.8803(6)
c/Å	26.8416(6)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/Å ³	9591.9(4)
Z	4
ρ_{calc}/cm^3	1.499
μ/mm^{-1}	5.886
F(000)	4442.0
Crystal size/mm ³	$0.09 \times 0.02 \times 0.02$
Radiation	CuK α ($\lambda = 1.54178$)
2 θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	7.446 to 136.394
Index ranges	$-20 \leq h \leq 20, -24 \leq k \leq 20, -32 \leq l \leq 32$
Reflections collected	50593
Independent reflections	17264 [$R_{int} = 0.0936, R_{sigma} = 0.1036$]
Data/restraints/parameters	17264/42/1169
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.016
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0677, wR_2 = 0.1595$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.1073, wR_2 = 0.1828$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.55/-0.40
Flack parameter	0.058(9)

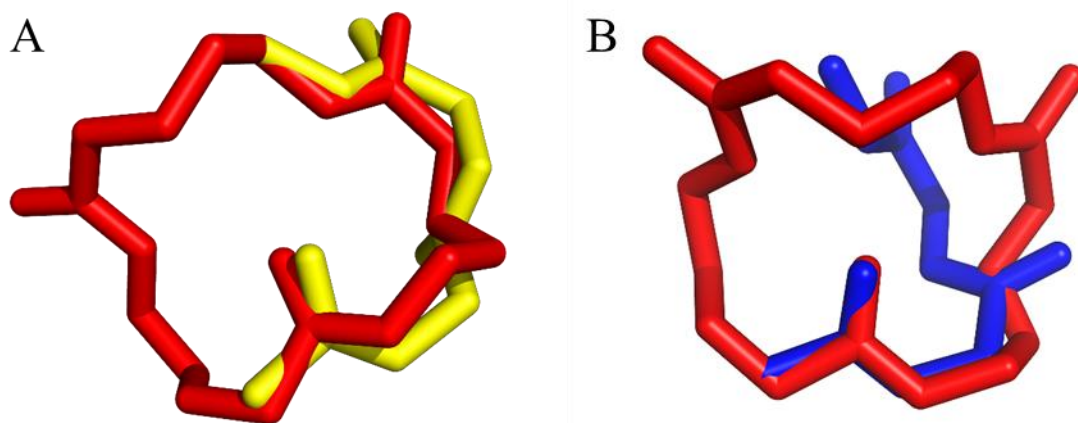
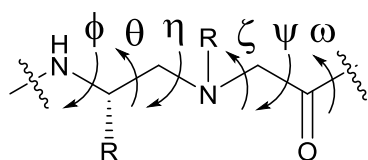


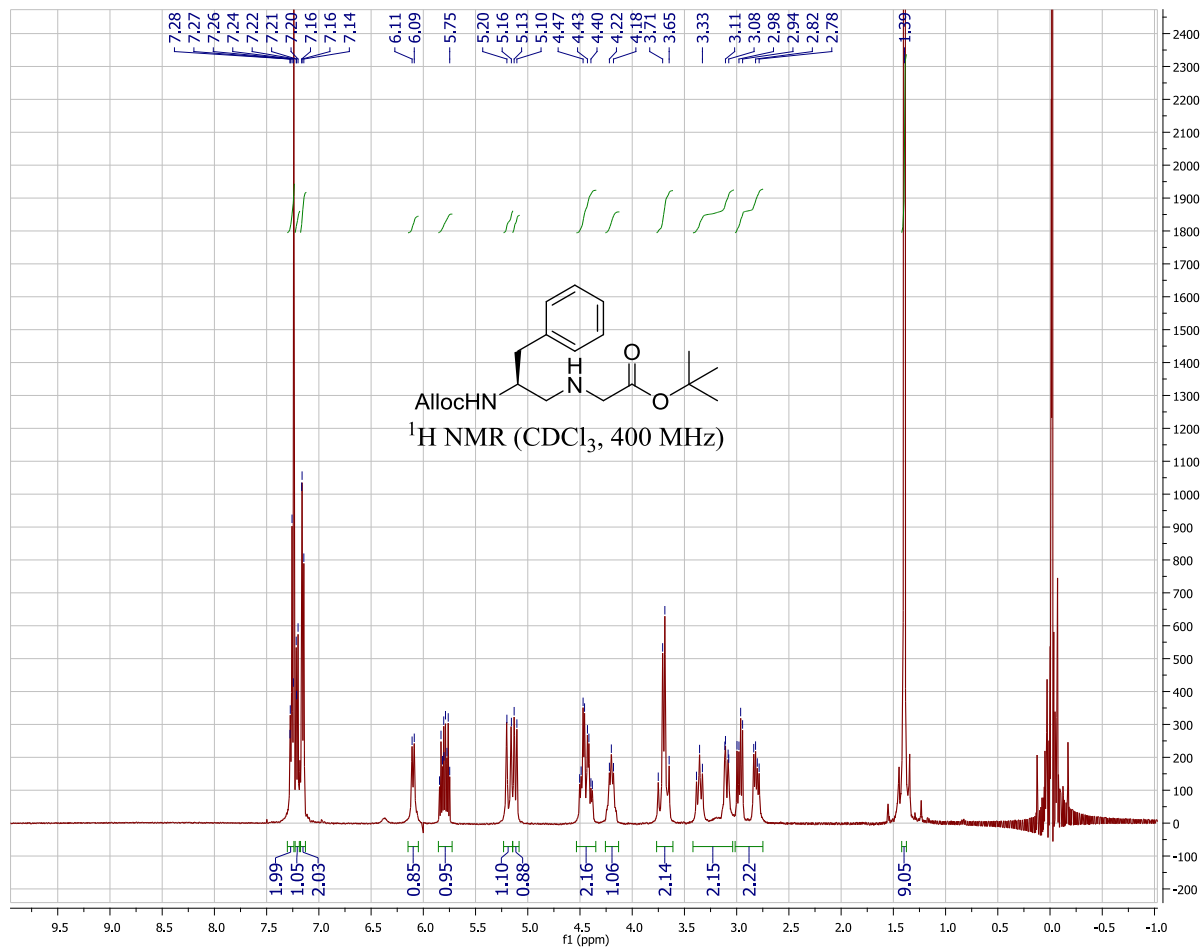
Figure S4. (A) Overlay of $\gamma 5$ (red) with a turn region of a type II β turn (yellow) and (B) a turn region of a type I β turn (blue).

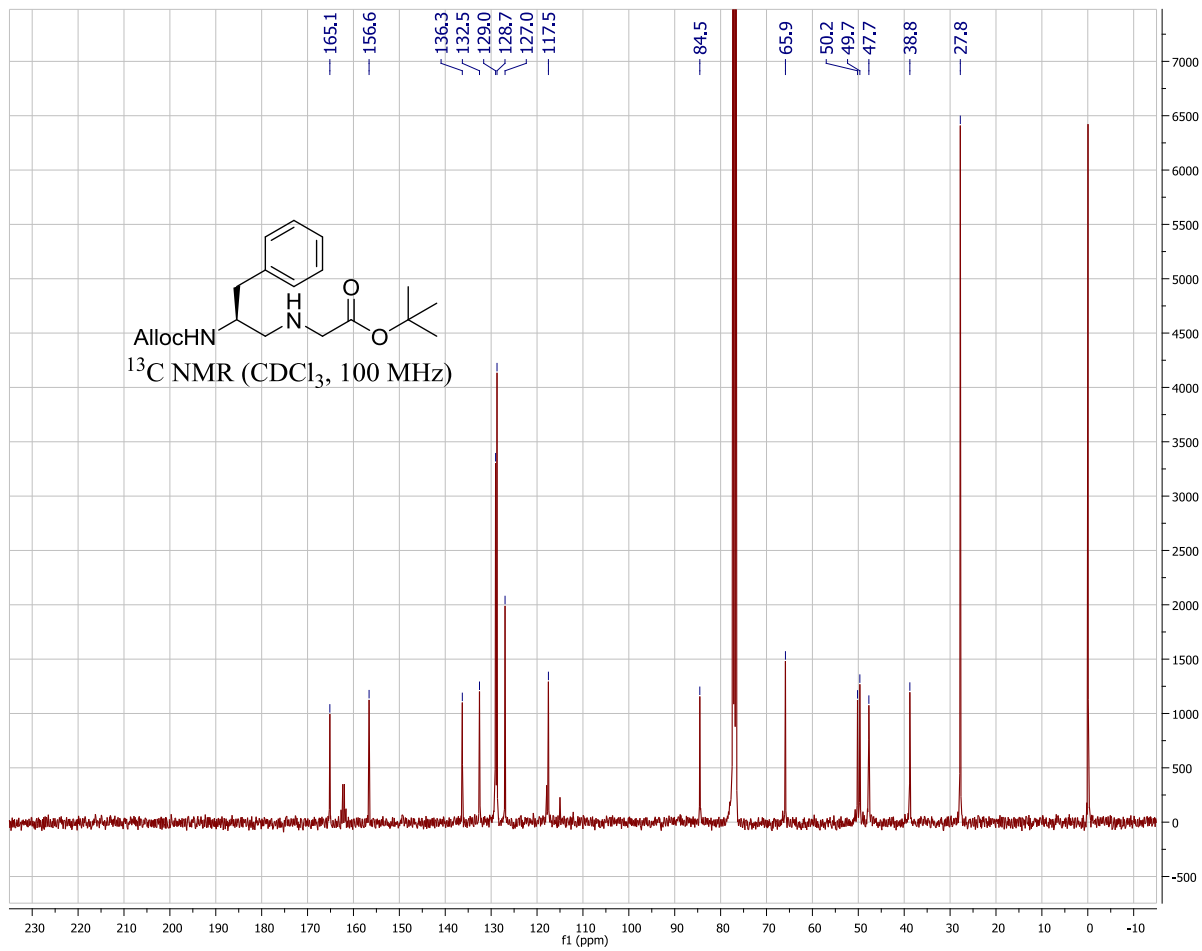
Table S3. Dihedral angle measurement for $\gamma 5$.

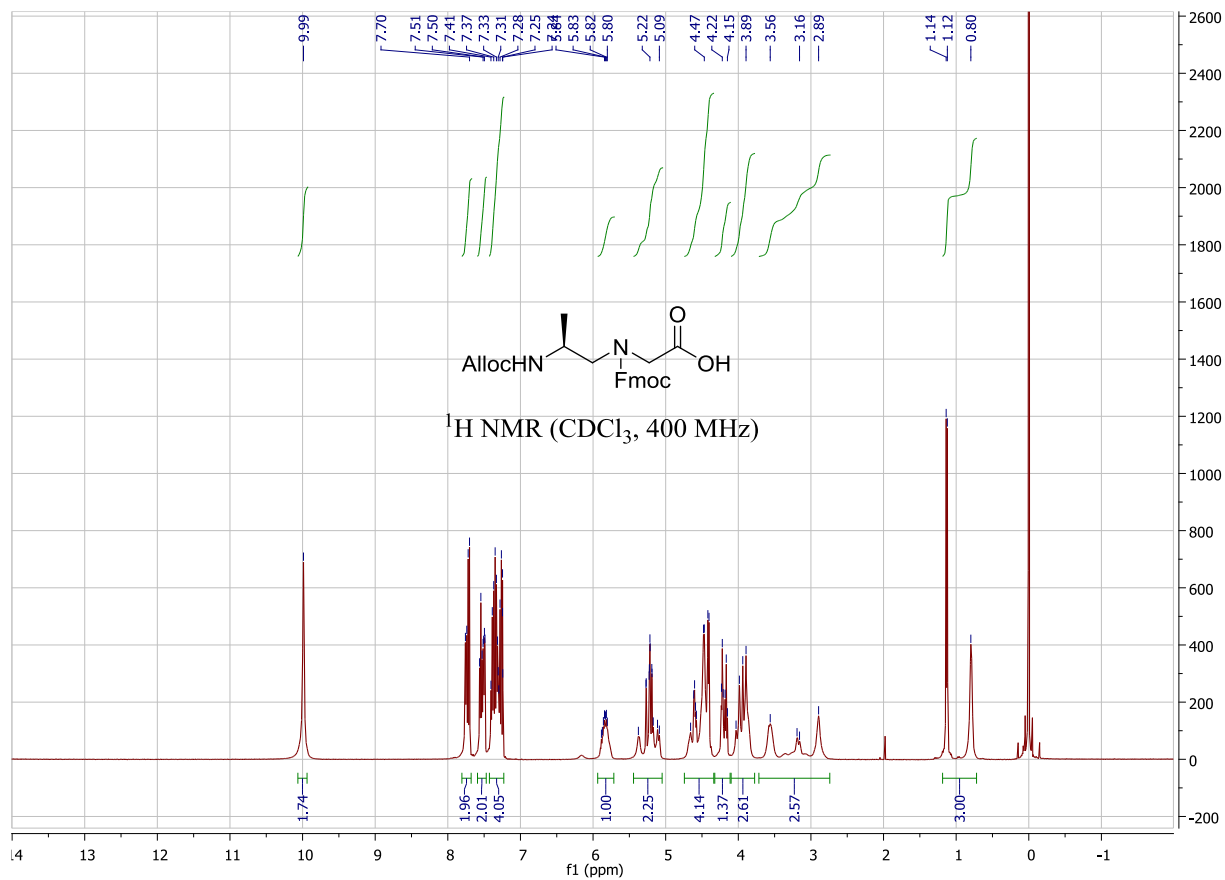


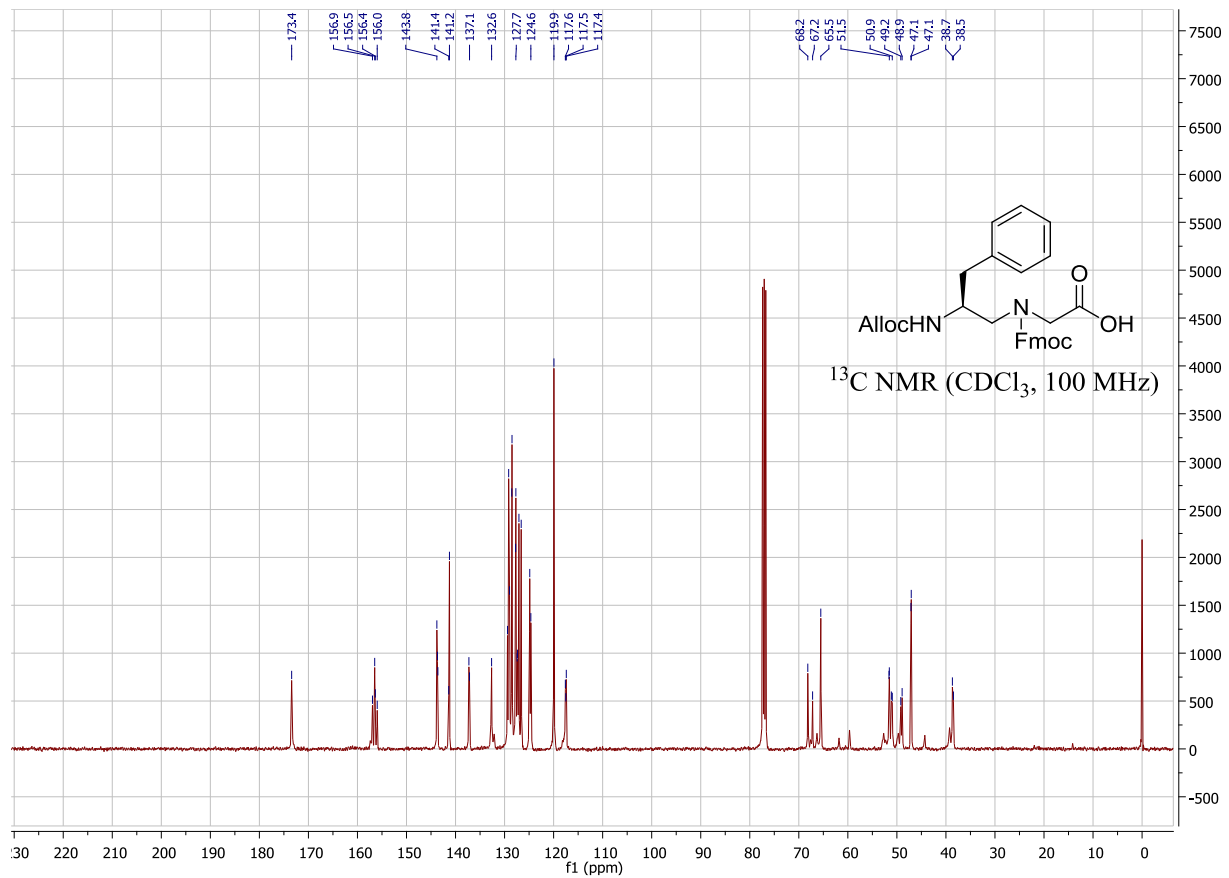
subunit	ϕ	θ	η	ζ	ψ	ω
1	-154.7°	48.0°	-134.7°	70.9°	174.9°	173.6°
2	-83.2°	74.9°	99.8°	-113.1°	6.0°	-171.4°
3	-142.3°	-68.1°	-86.8°	124.1°	3.5°	-179.8°

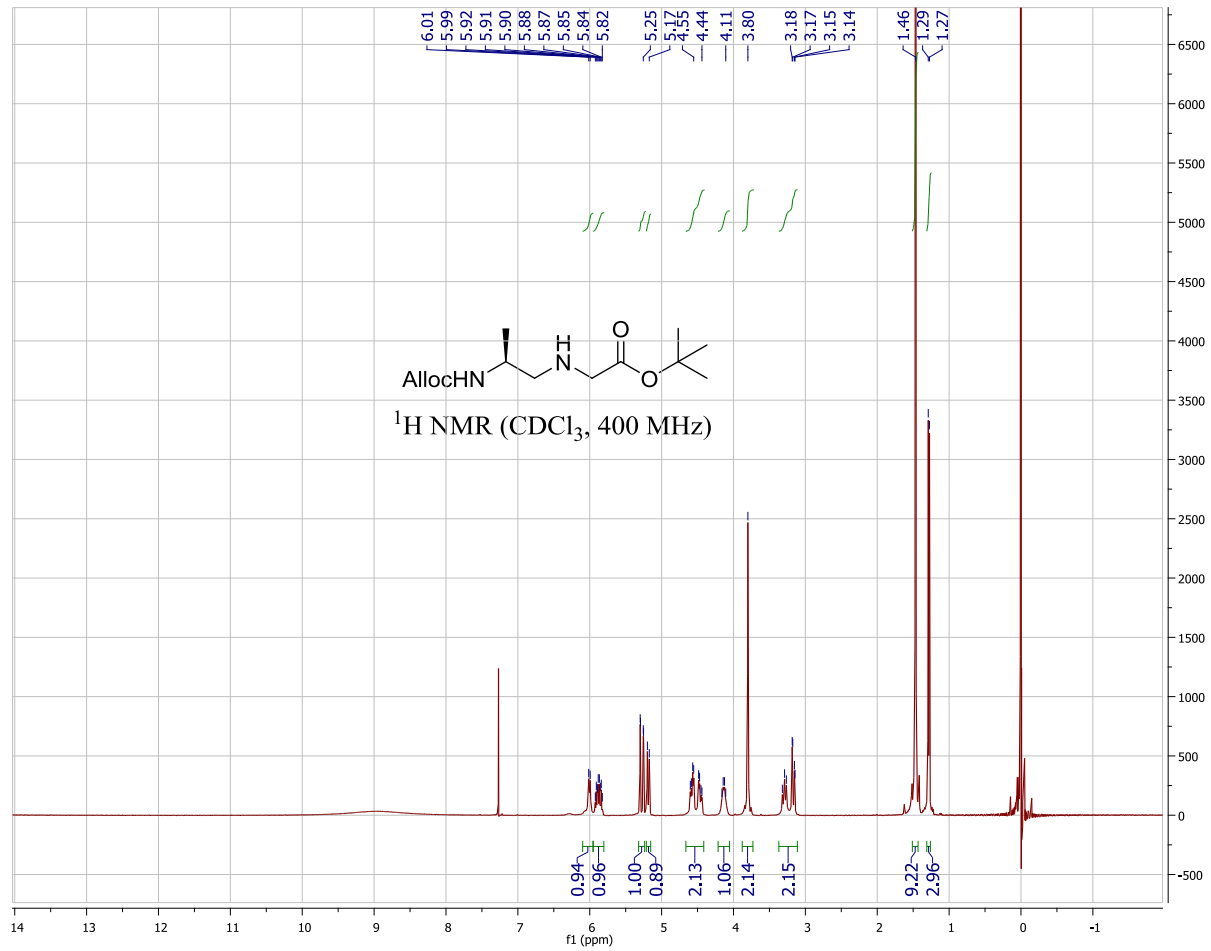
3. NMR spectra of γ -Aapeptide building blocks and cyclic γ -Aapeptides γ 1-7

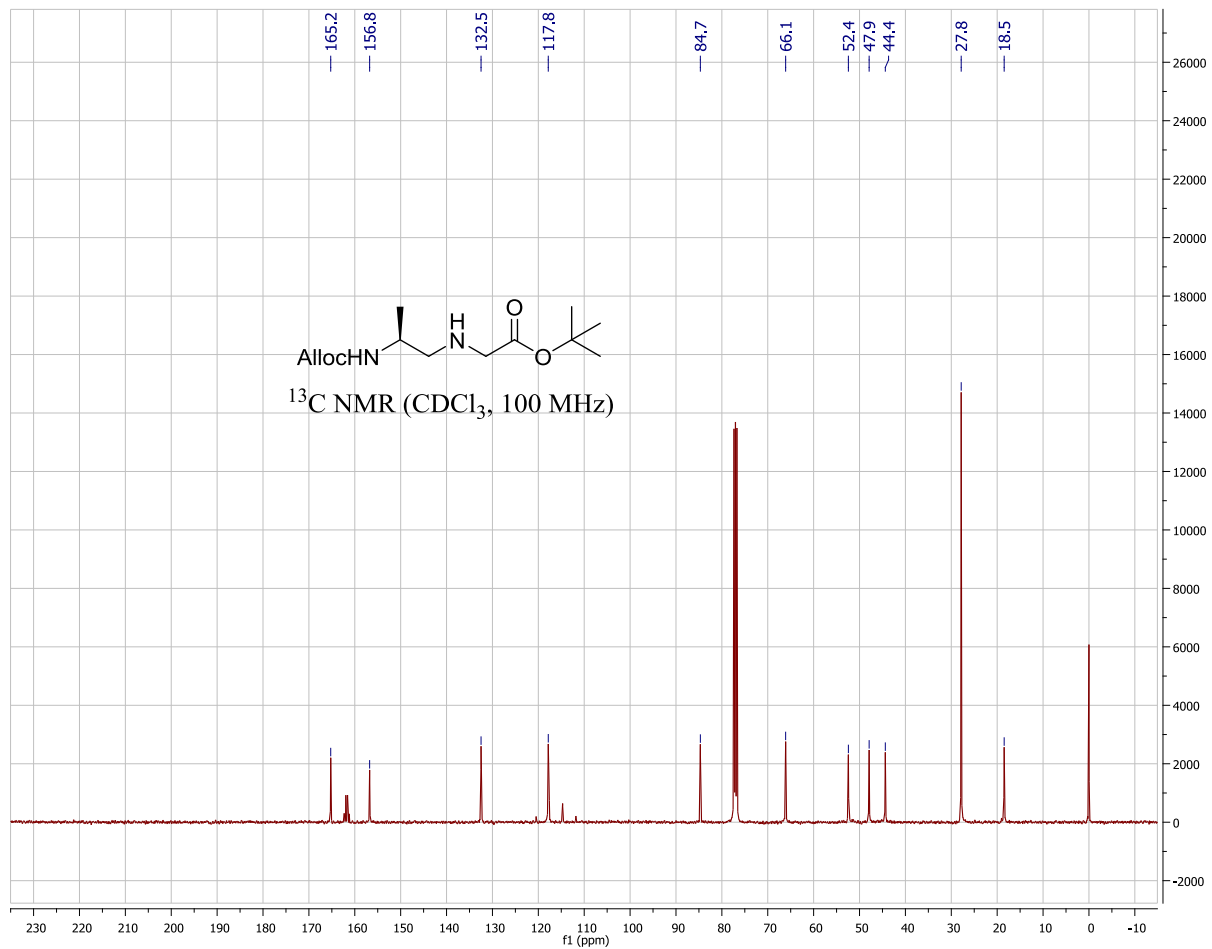


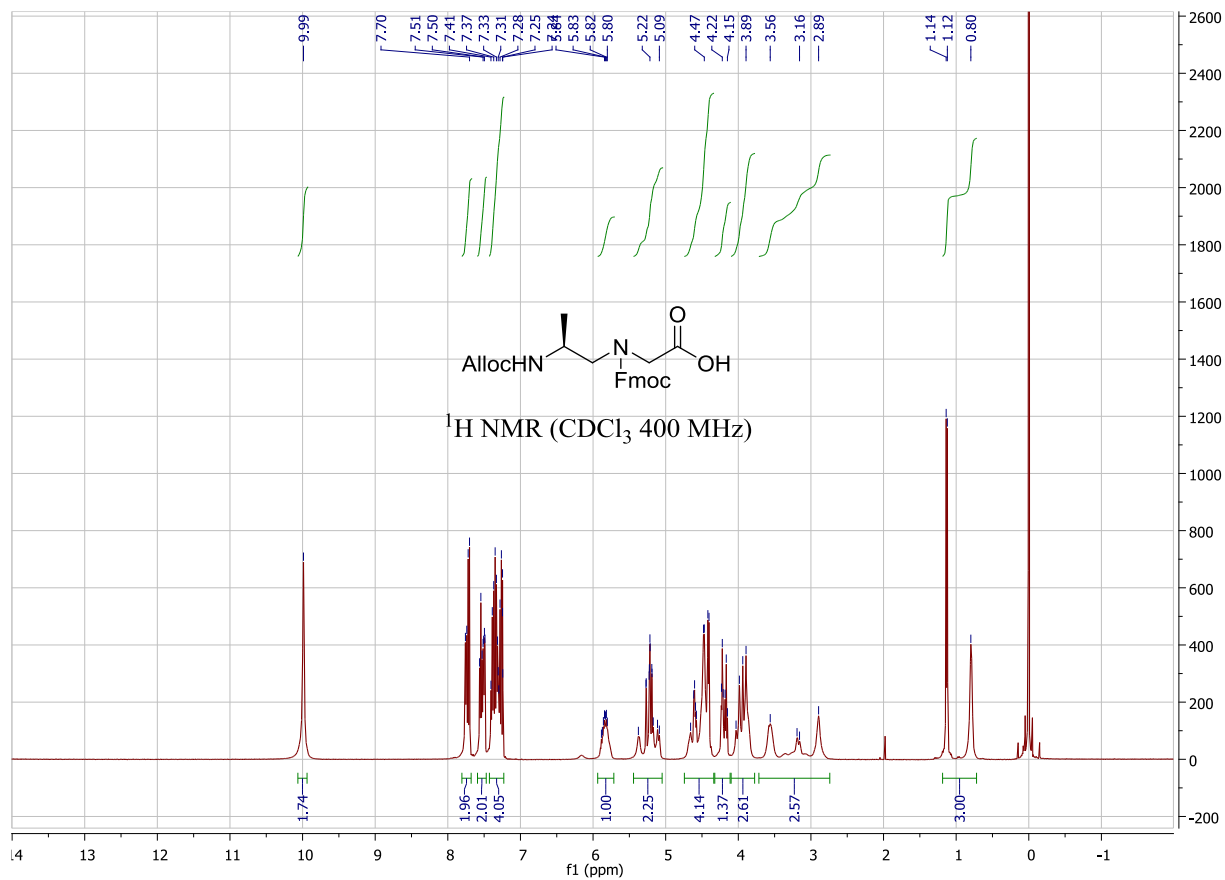


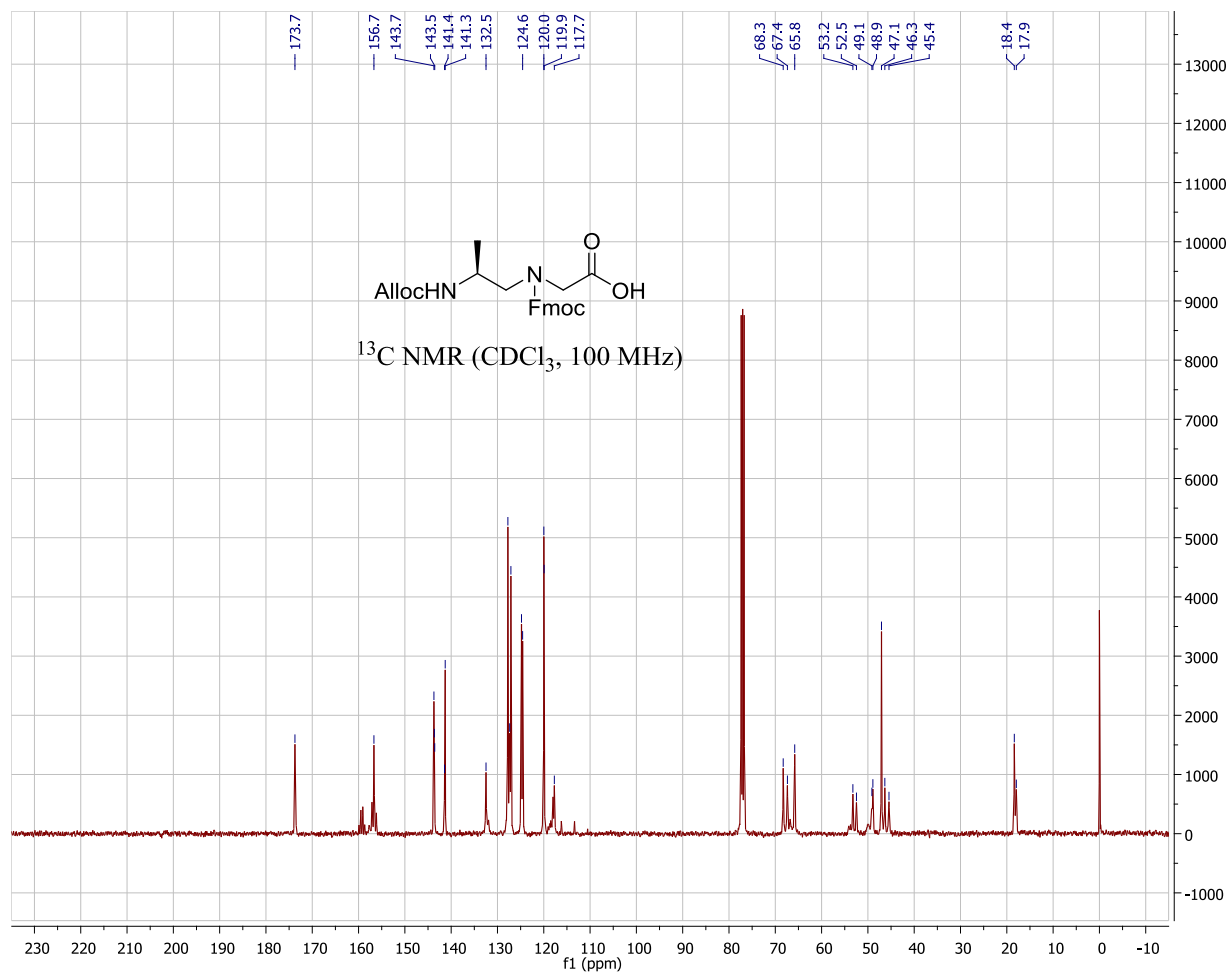


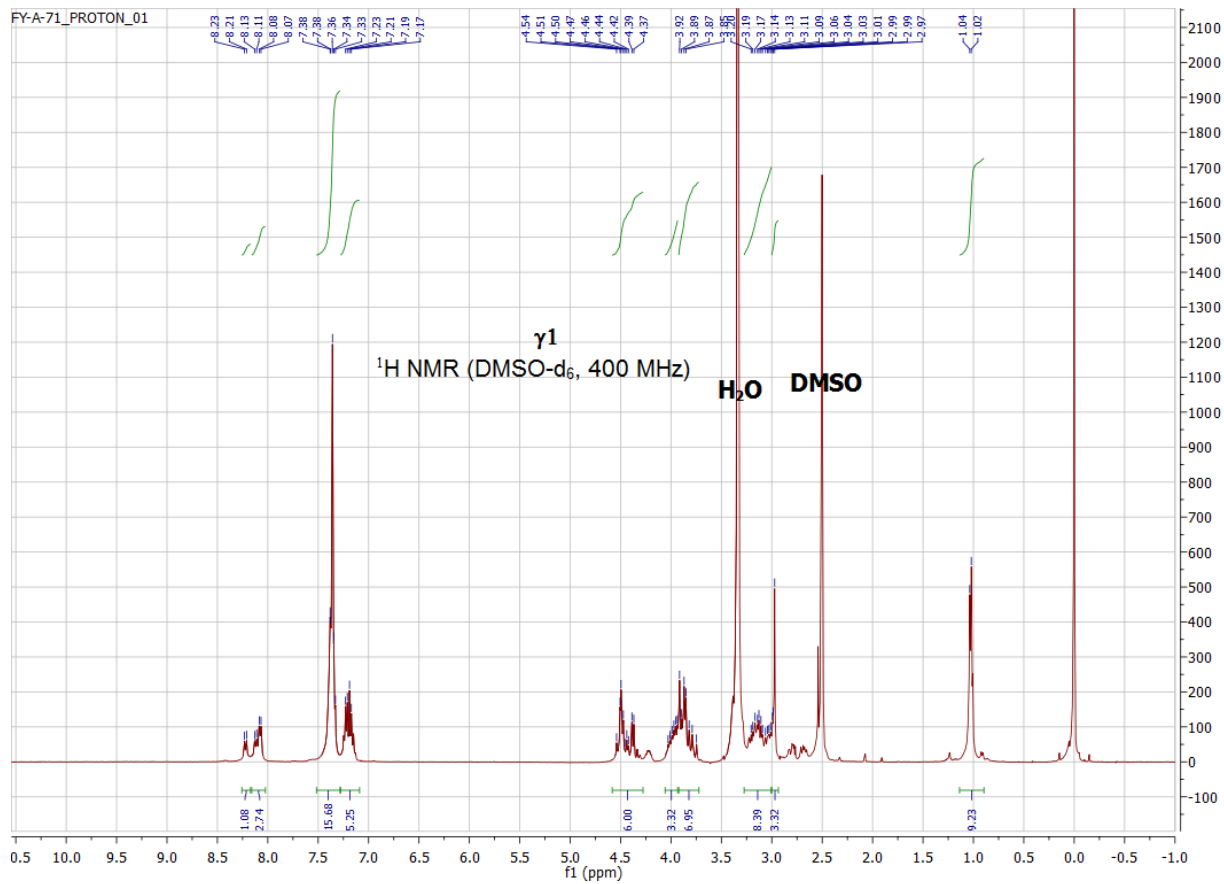


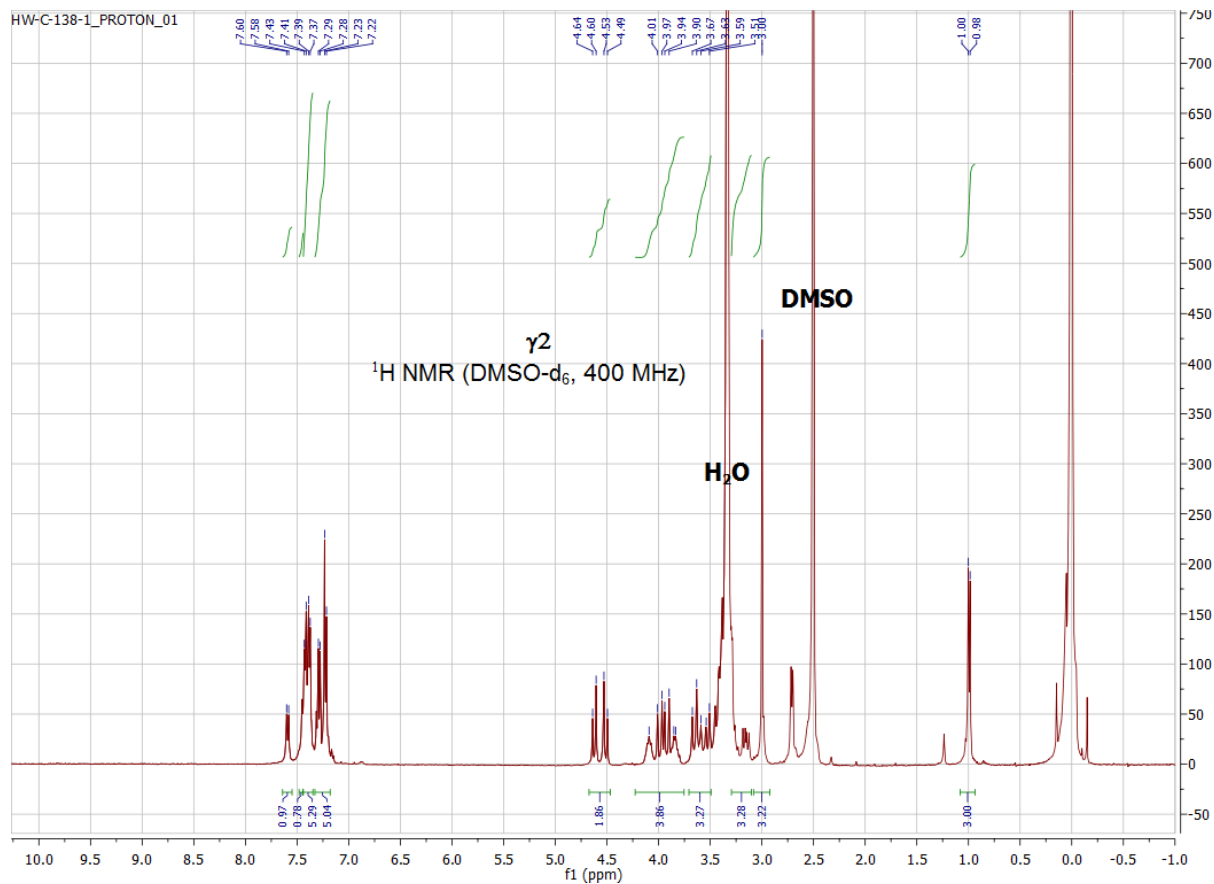


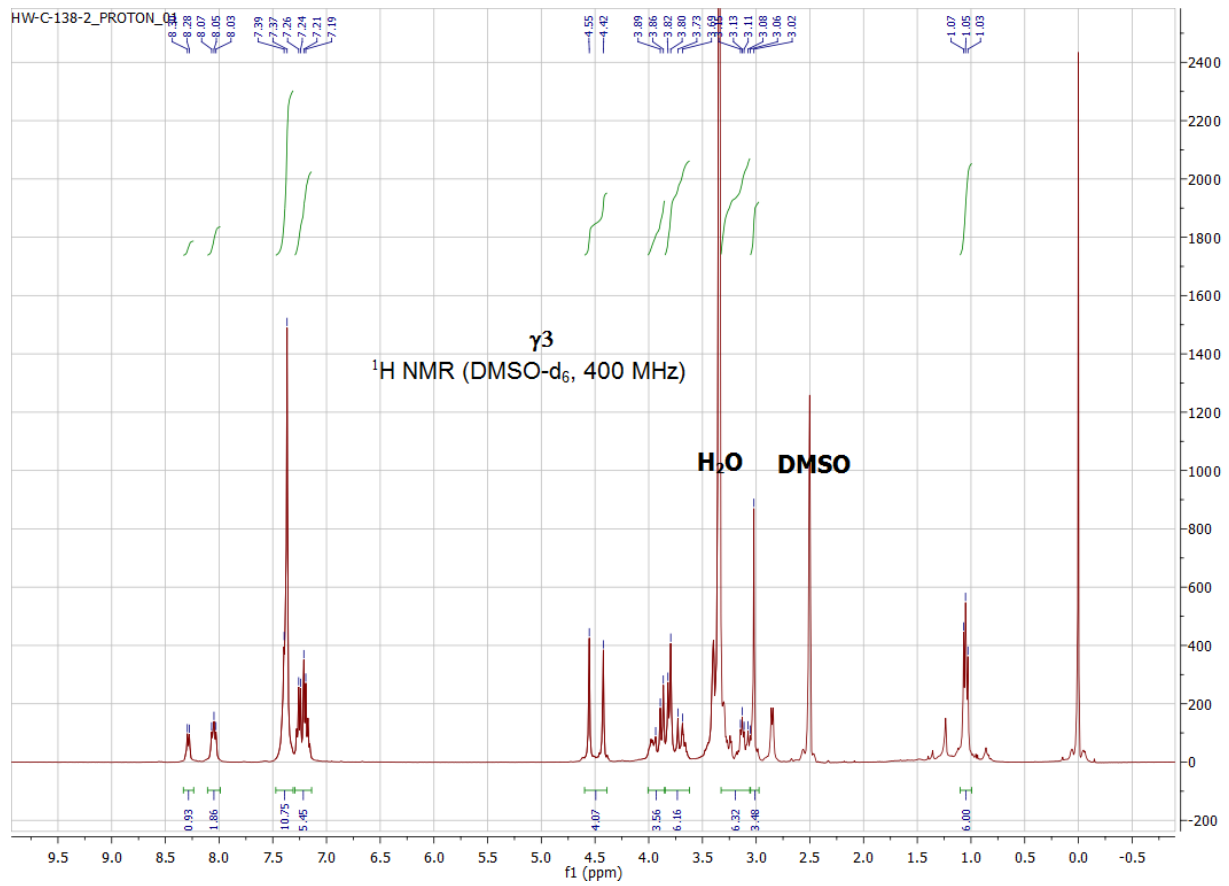


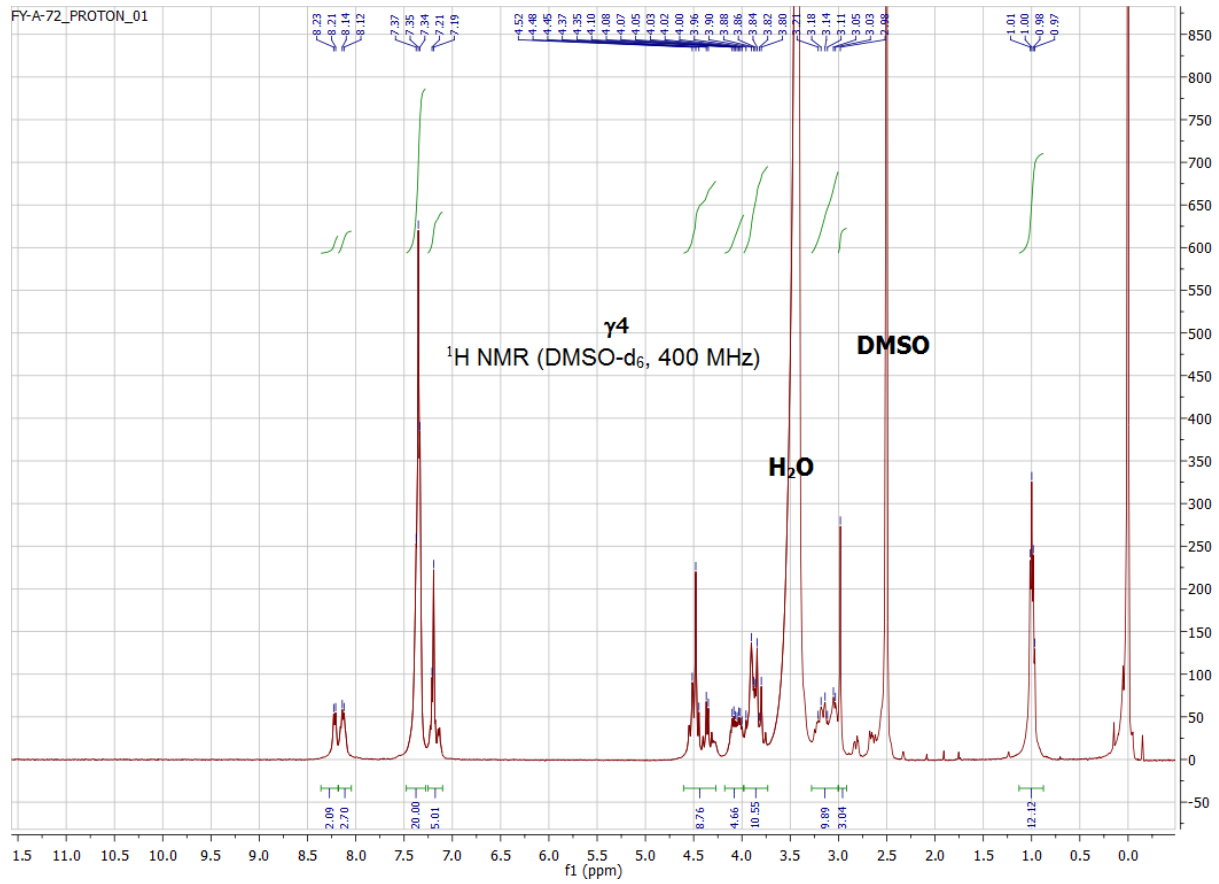


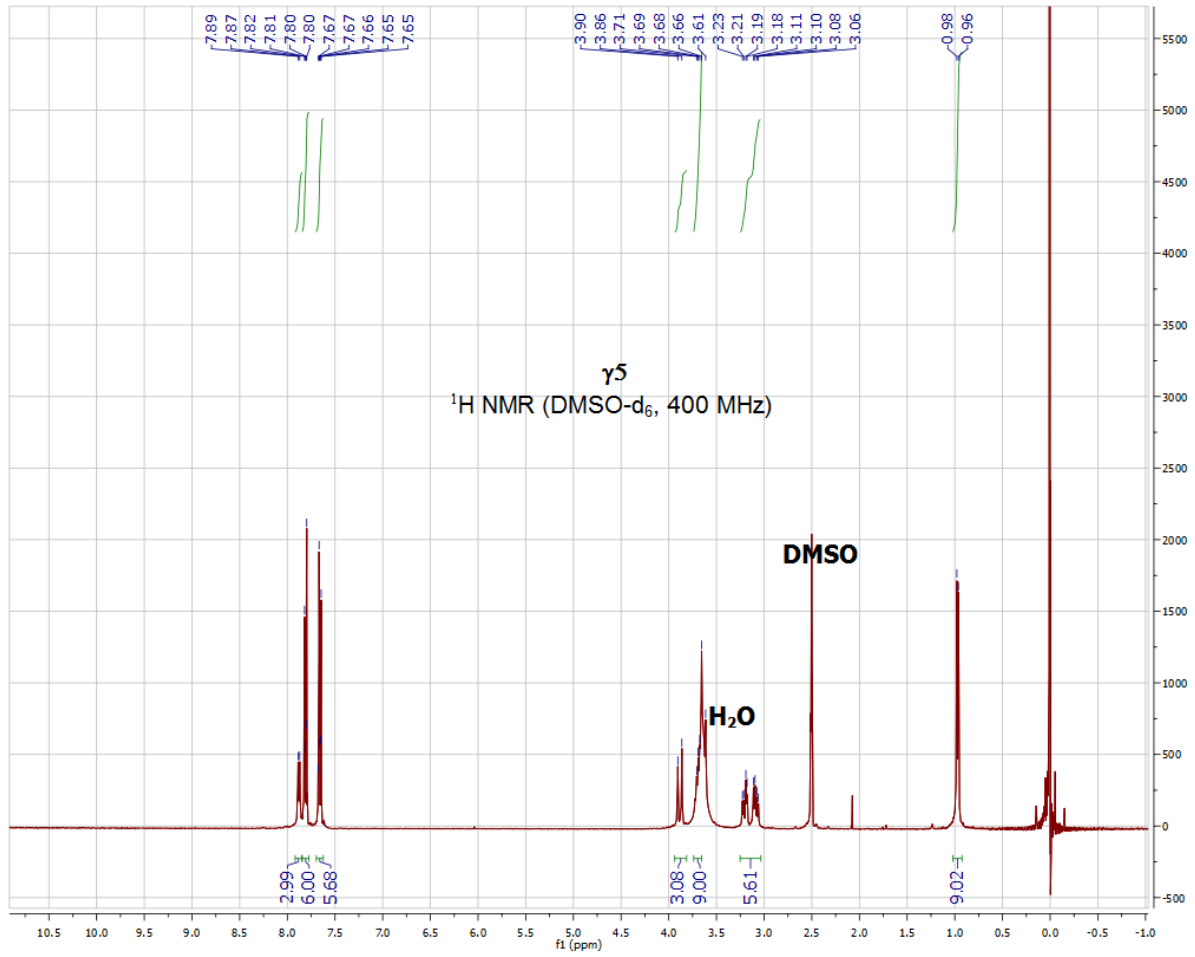


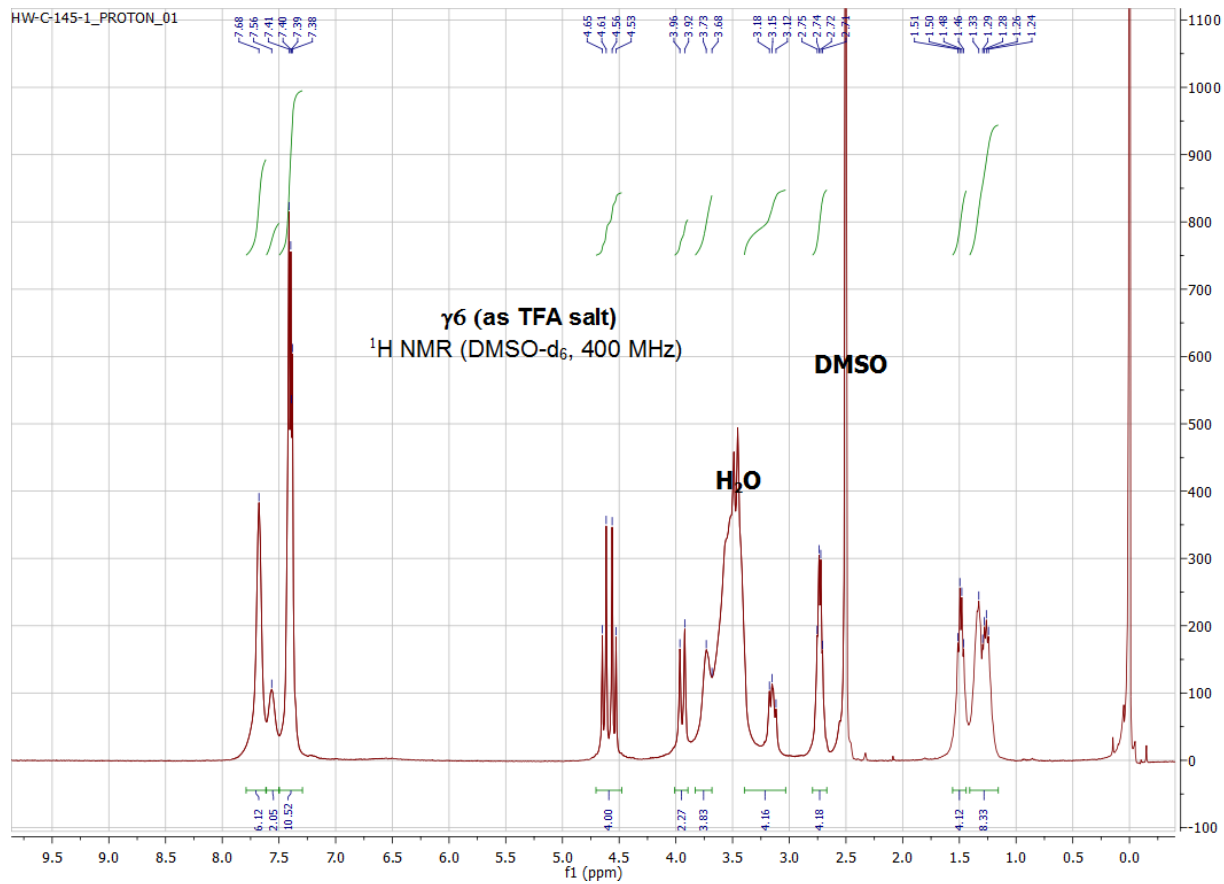


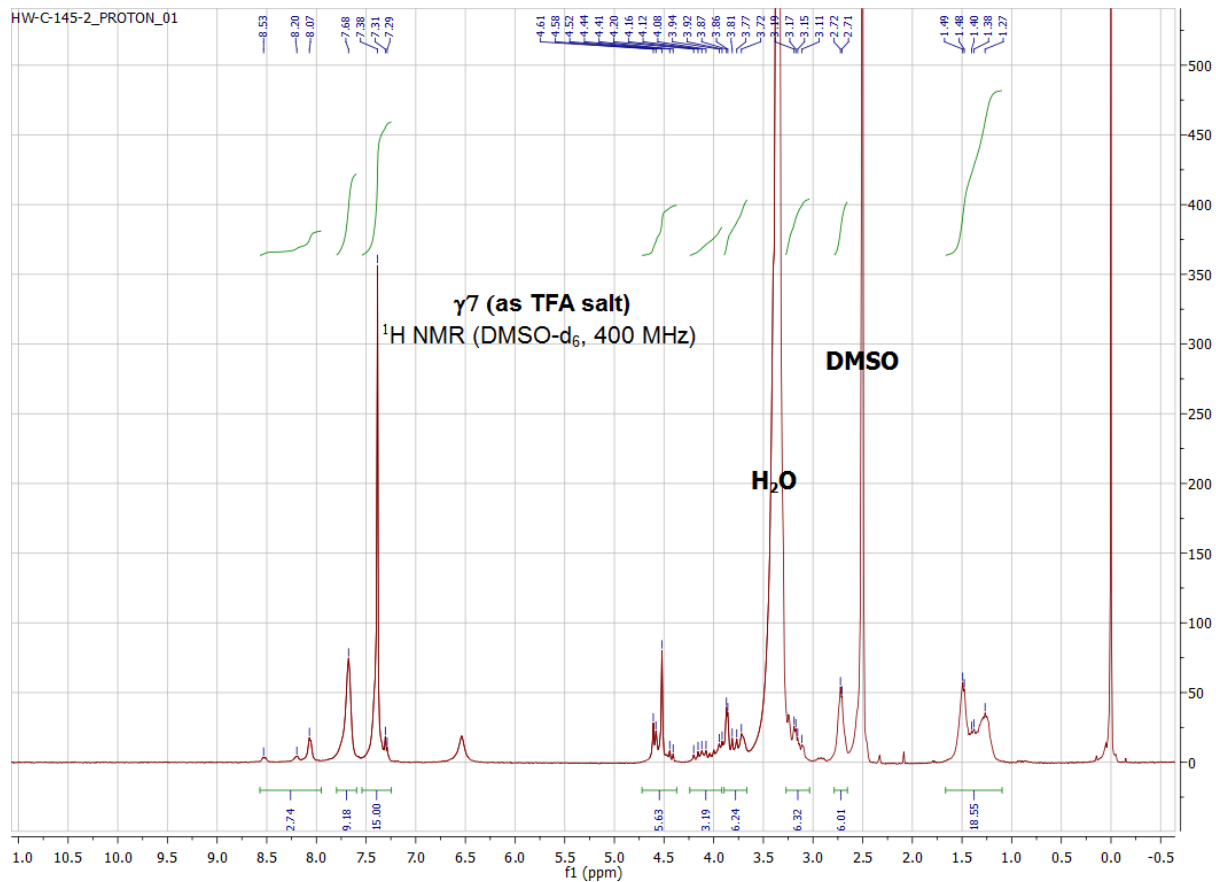




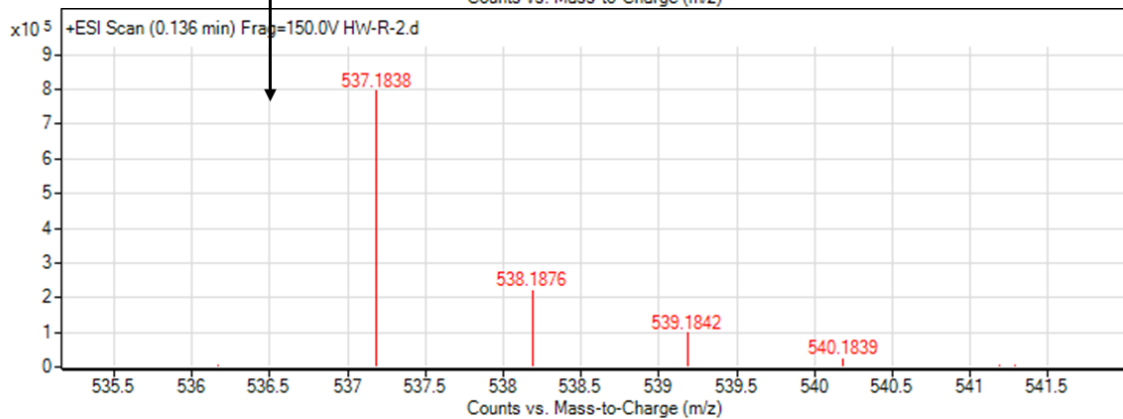
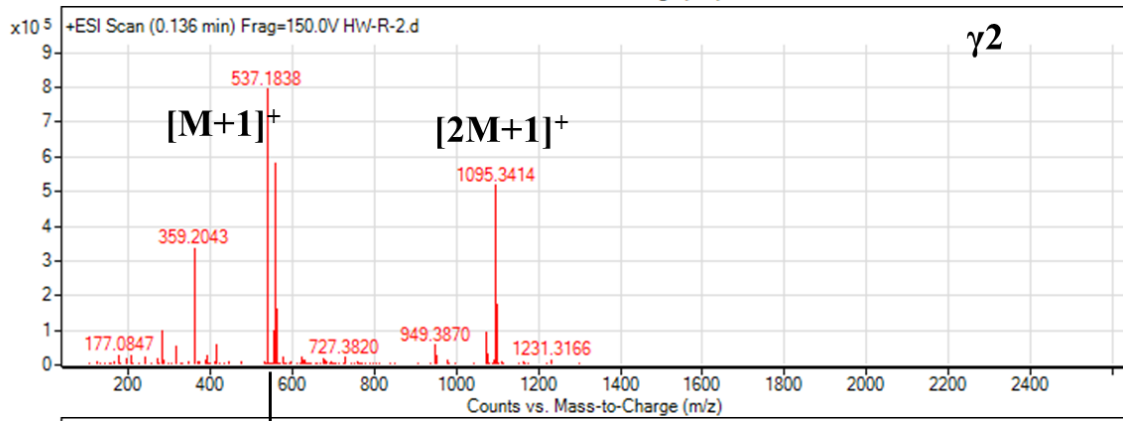
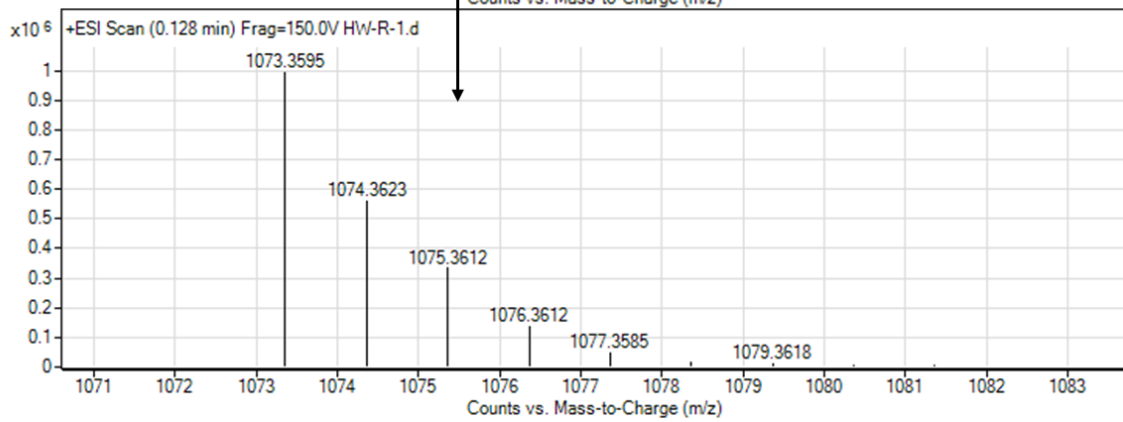
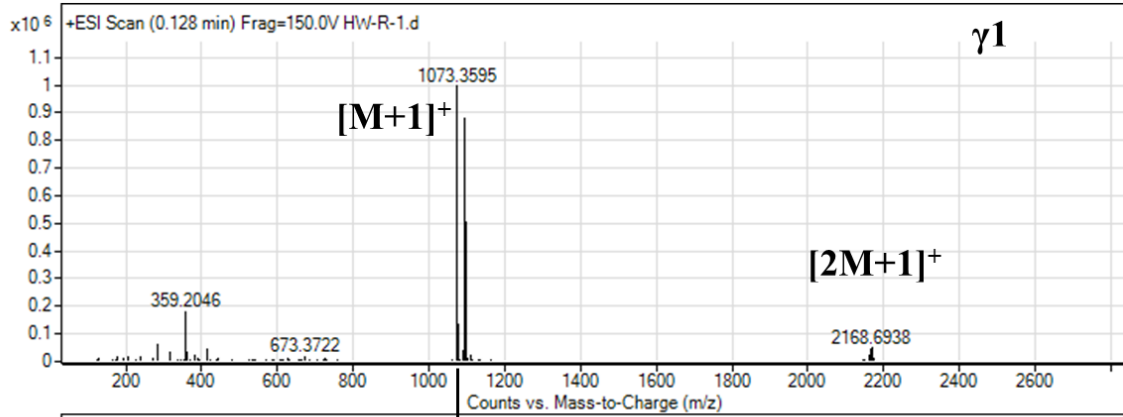


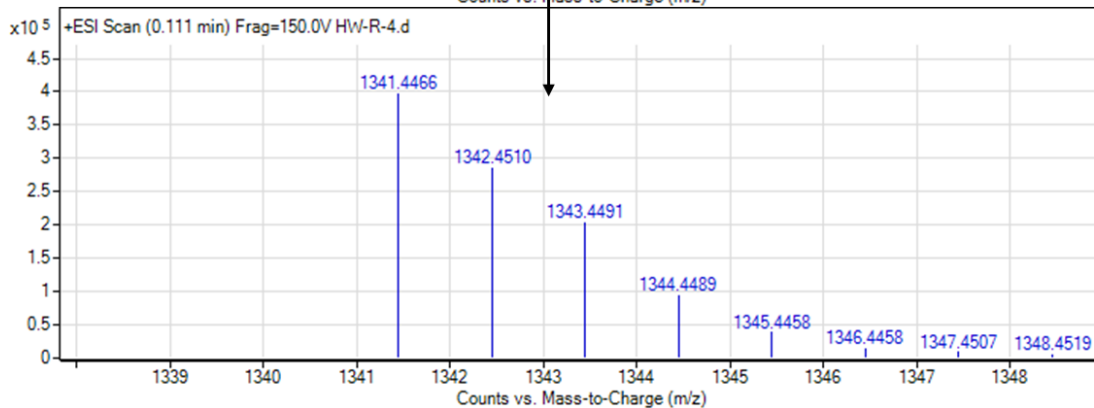
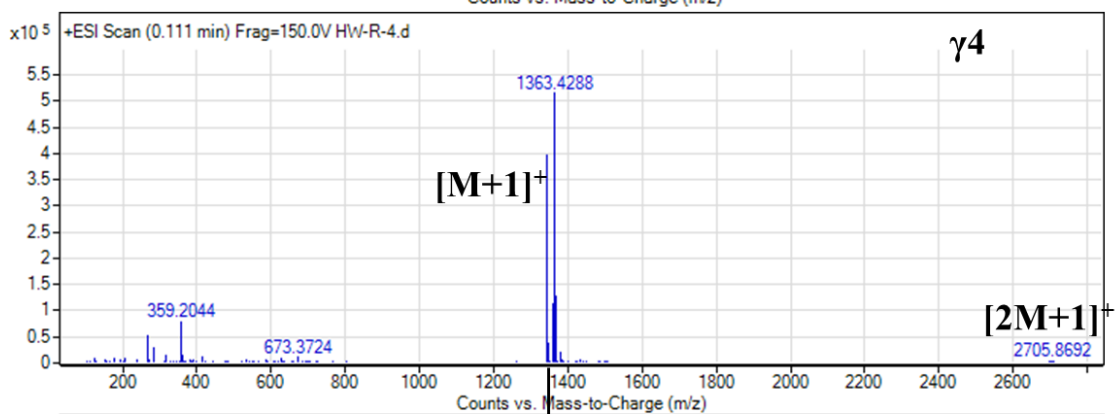
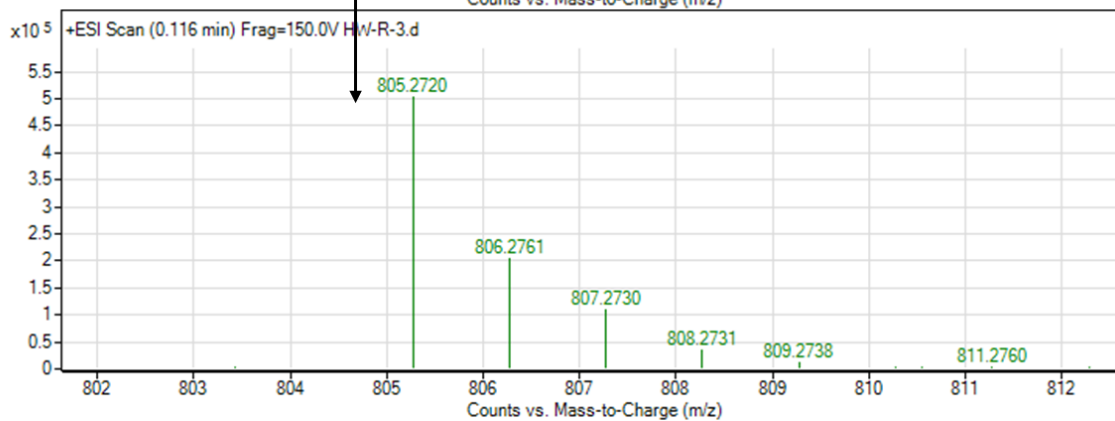
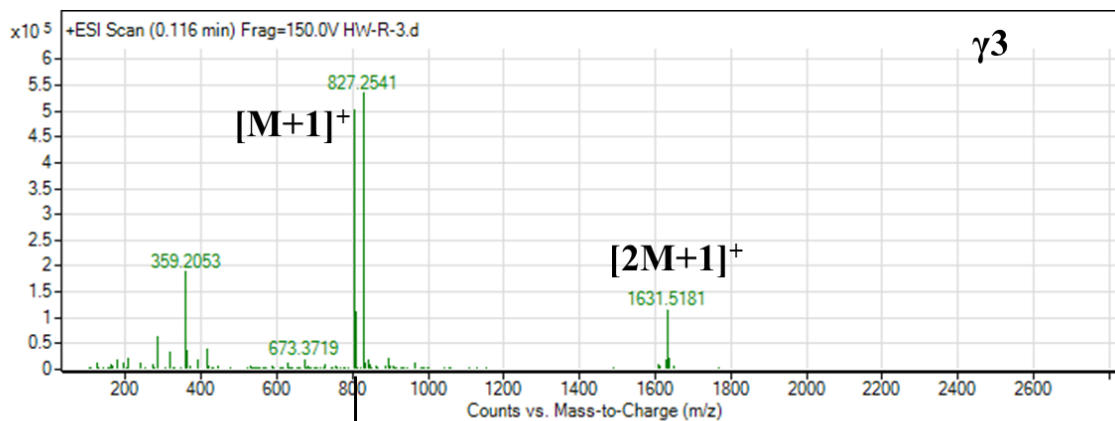


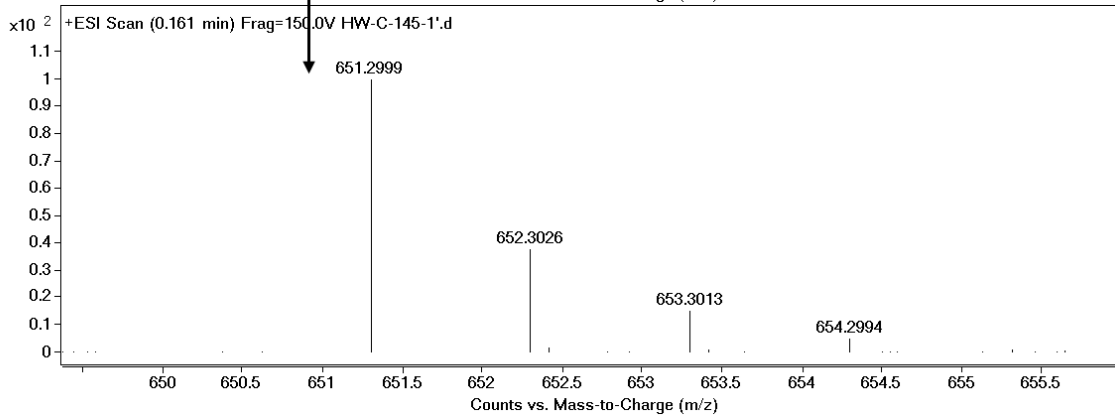
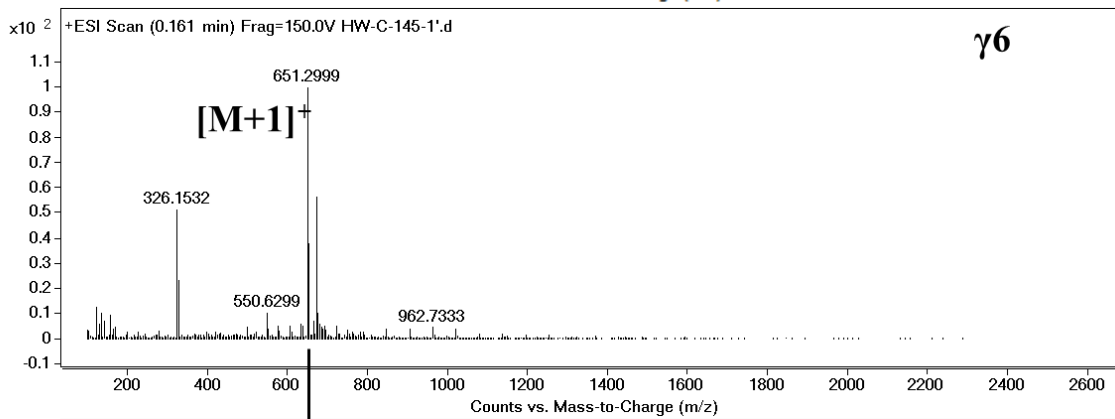
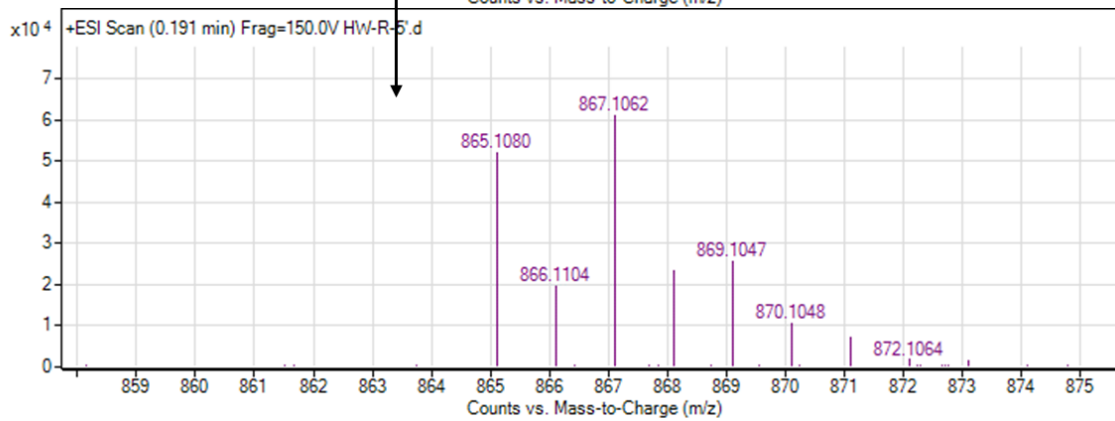
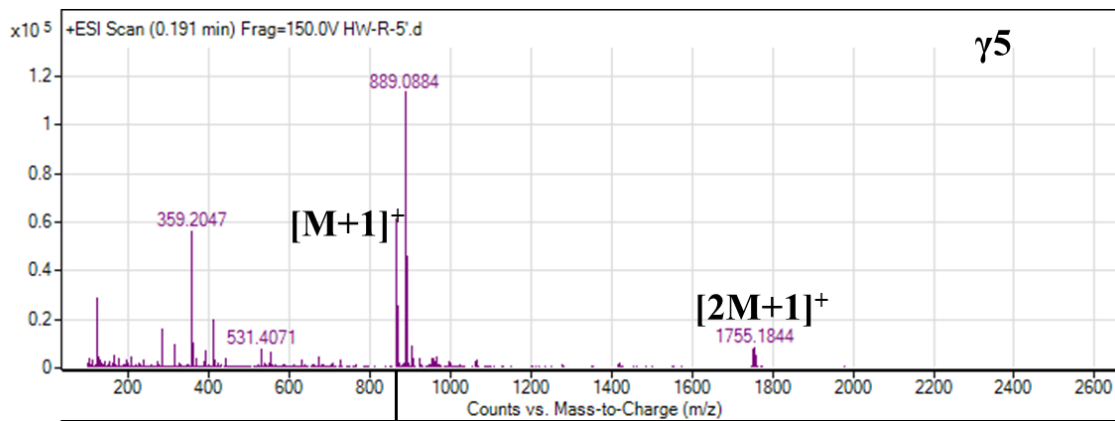


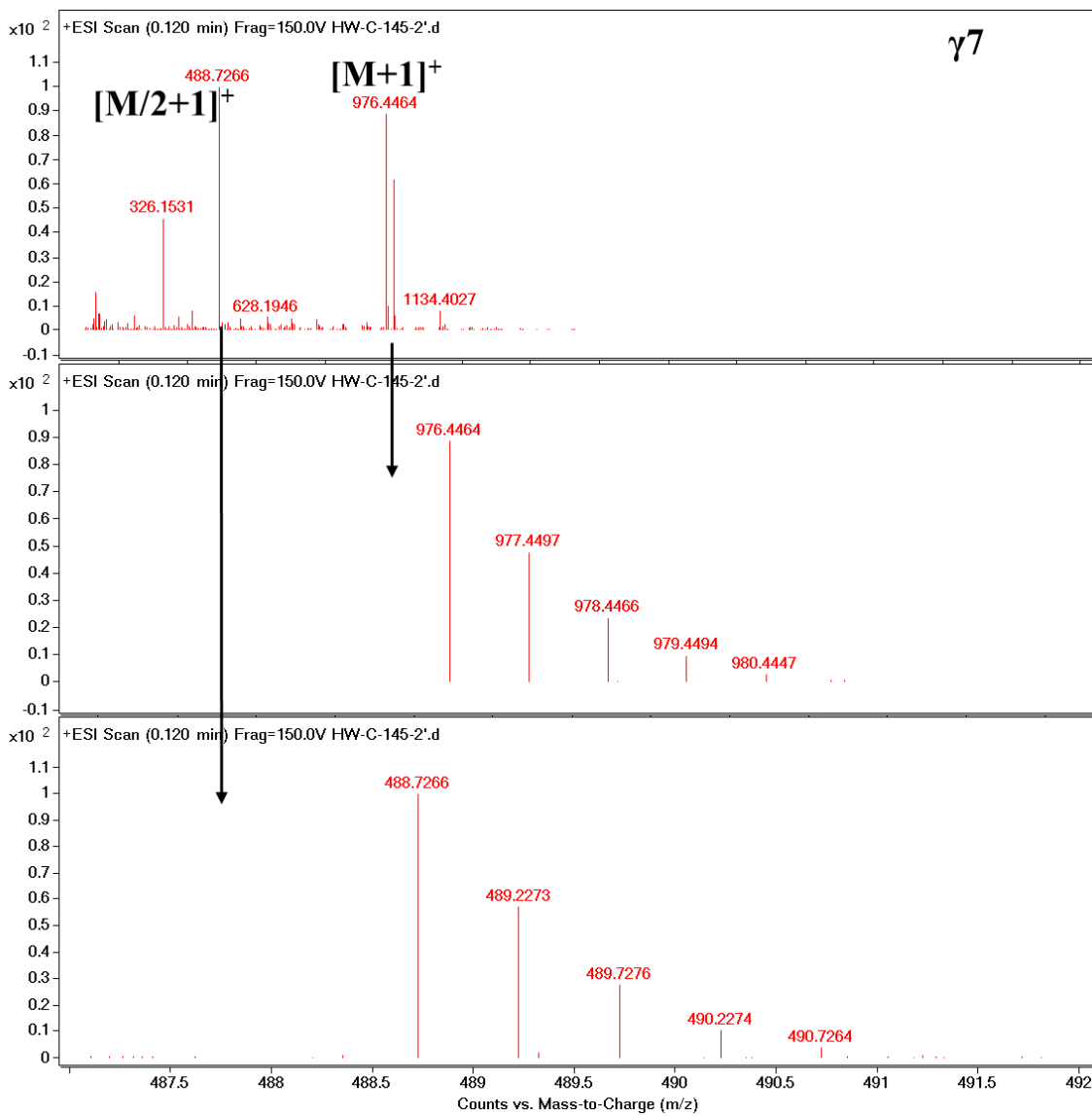


4. Mass spectra of cyclic γ -AApeptides γ 1-7



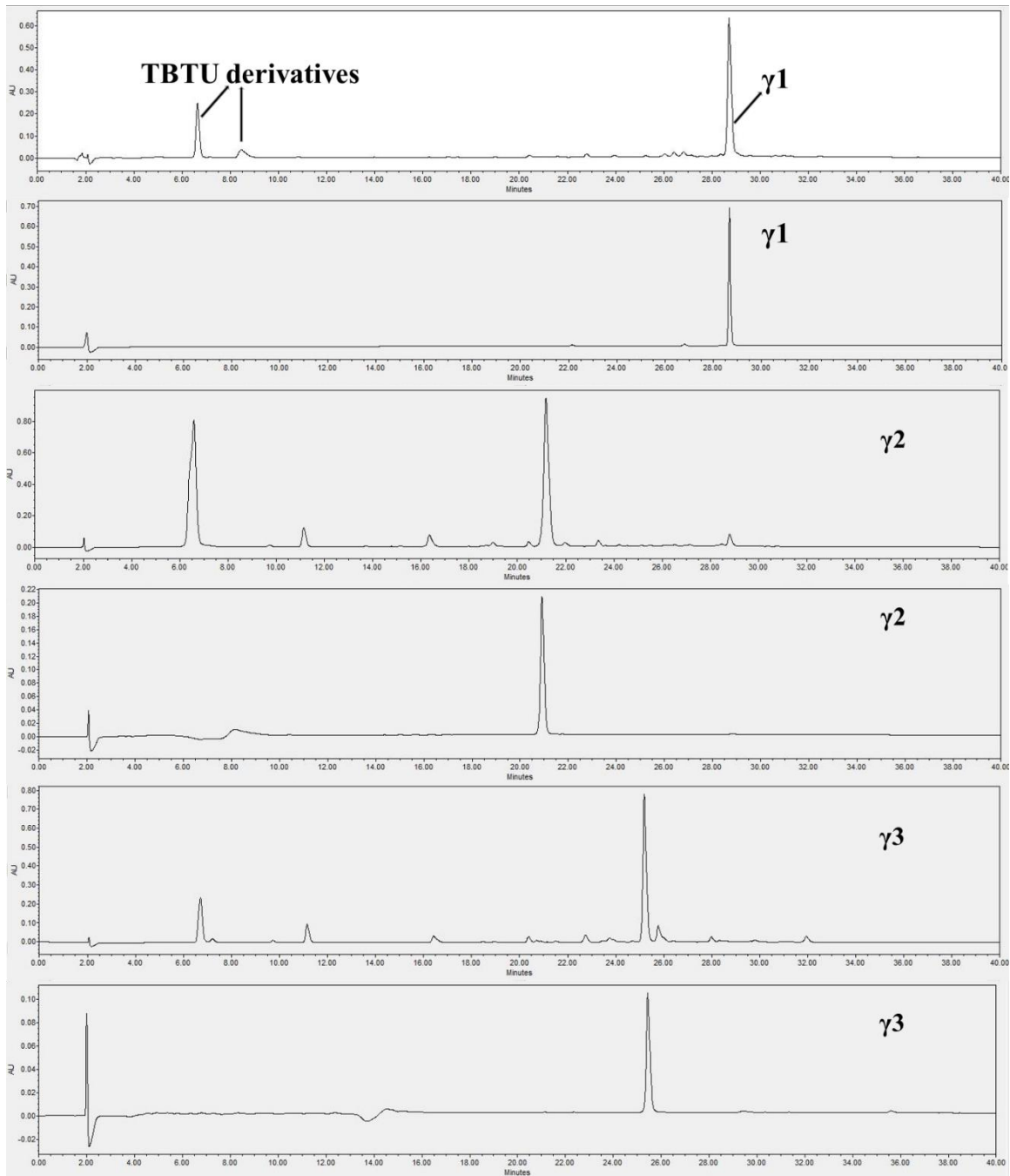


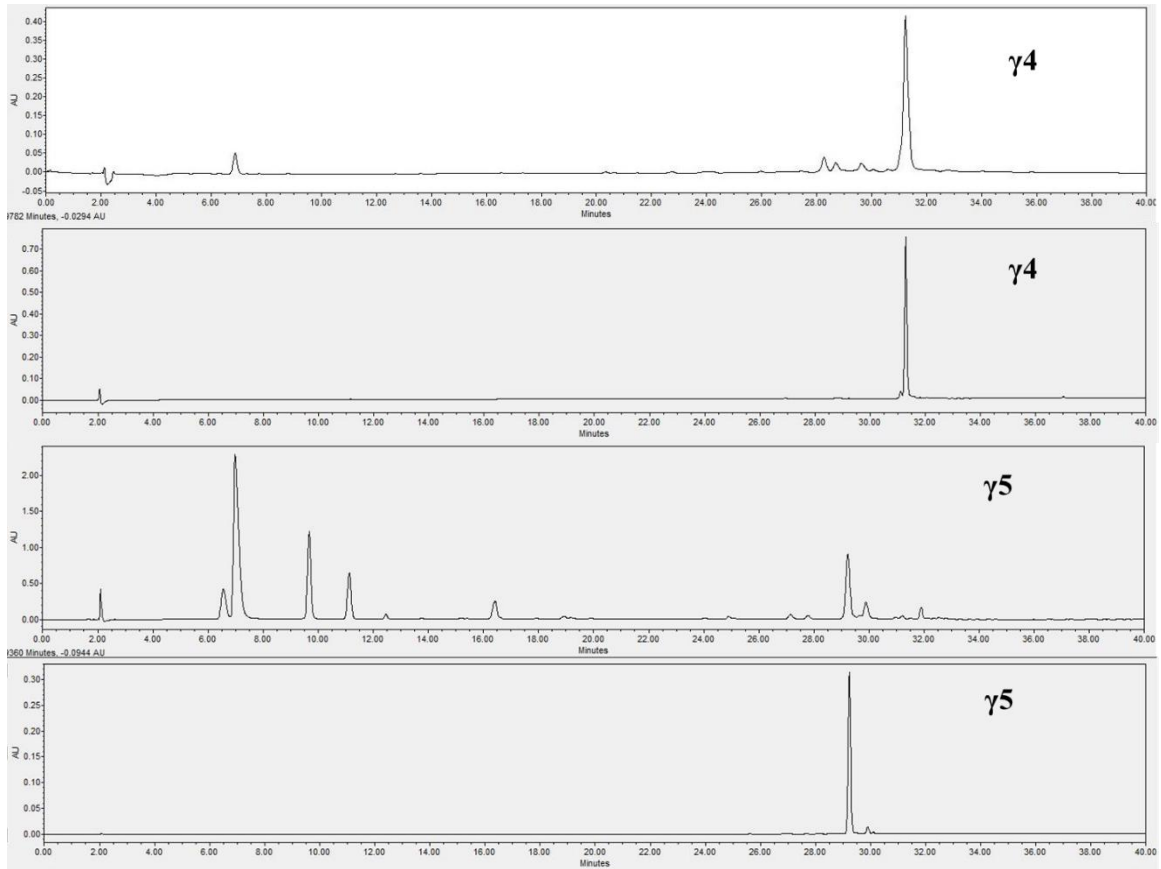




5. HPLC traces

The analytical HPLC gradient system employed a program of 5 % to 100 % linear gradient of solvent B (0.1 % TFA in acetonitrile) in A (0.1 % TFA in water) over the duration of 40 min.





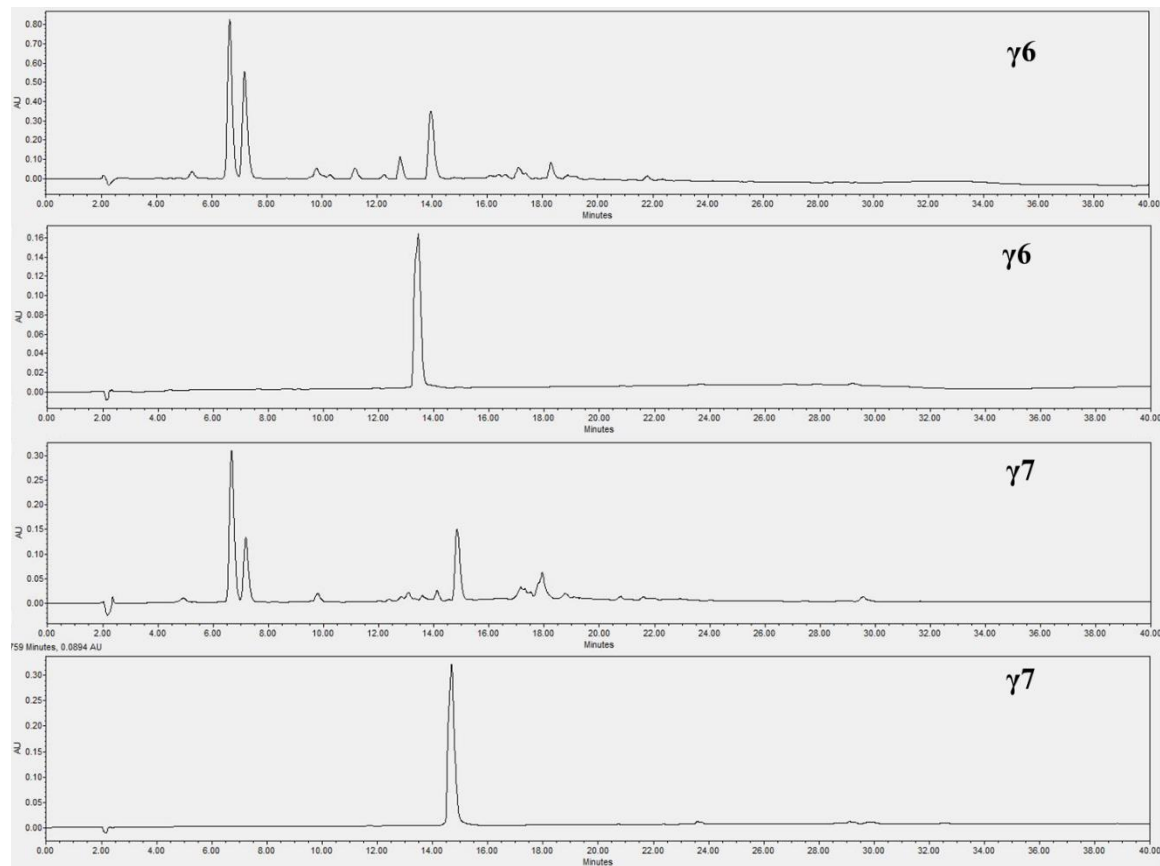


Figure S5. HPLC analysis of crude and pure cyclic sulfono- γ -AApeptides. (Peaks between 6-18 mins belong to coupling reagent derivatives, thus not counted when calculating purity)

References

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