

*Supporting Information for*

***N*-Alkylation of Indole *via* Ring-Closing Metathesis/Isomerization/Mannich Cascade under  
Ruthenium/Chiral Phosphoric Acid Sequential Catalysis**

Yan-Chao Shi <sup>a</sup>, Shou-Guo Wang <sup>a</sup>, Qin Yin <sup>a</sup>, and Shu-Li You\* <sup>a</sup>

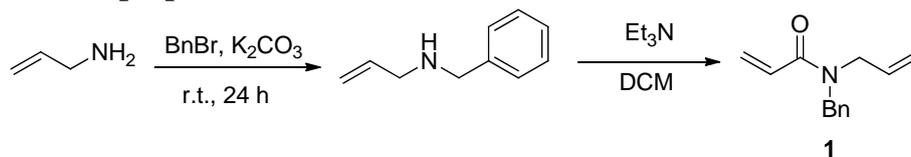
<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Lingling Lu, Shanghai 200032, China  
Fax (+86) 21-54925087; E-mail: [slyou@sioac.ac.cn](mailto:slyou@sioac.ac.cn)

**Table of Contents**

General methods	S2
Procedures for preparation of substrate <b>1</b>	S3
Complete optimization data	S3
General procedure for asymmetric cascade reaction	S4
References	S8
Copies of NMR spectra and HPLC	S10

**General Methods.** Unless stated otherwise, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under a dry argon atmosphere. All solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian instrument (300 MHz and 75 MHz, 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively) and internally referenced to tetramethylsilane signal or residual protio solvent signals. Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet or unresolved, br = broad singlet, coupling constant(s) in Hz, integration). Data for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm).

### Procedures for preparation of substrate **1**



*N*-allyl-benzyl-amine was synthesized from allylamine and benzyl bromide according to reported procedures.<sup>1</sup>

Synthesis of diene **1**: A solution of acryloylchloride (2.0 g, 22.4 mmol) in dichloromethane was added dropwise to a mixture of *N*-allyl-benzyl-amine (3.0 g, 20.4 mmol) and triethylamine (2.5 g, 24.5 mmol) in dried dichloromethane (50 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and then warmed to r.t. for 2 h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, the dichloromethane layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtrated. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate / petroleum = 1/10, v/v) to afford **1** (4.0 g, 98% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.90 (m, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (m, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 5.11-5.29 (m, 2H), 5.67-5.83 (m, 2H), 6.45 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 2.4 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 9.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.38 (m, 5H). Spectroscopic data were in agreement with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup>

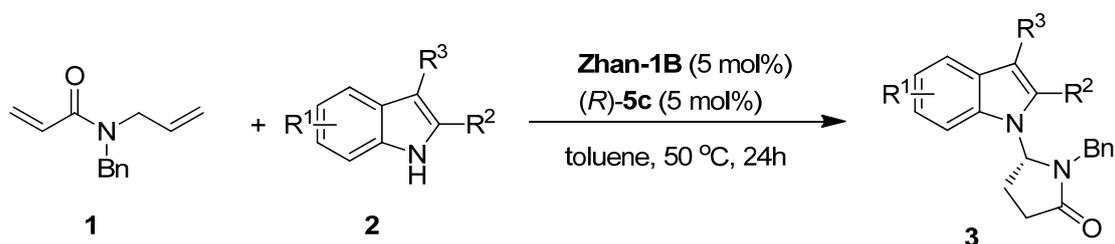
### Complete optimization data

**Table 1.** Conditions Optimization

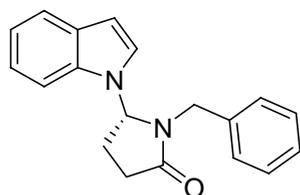
entry <sup>a</sup>	temp (°C)	time (day)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	rt	3	23	78
2	rt	7	52	78

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (1.2 equiv), **Zhan-1B** (5 mol%), **4** or **5** (5 mol%) in 1.5 mL toluene. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis.

### General procedure for asymmetric cascade reaction

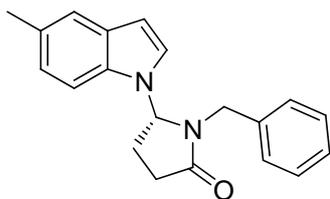


Under argon, a round bottom flask was charged with *N*-allyl-*N*-benzylacrylamide **1** (0.20 mmol), indole **2** (0.24 mmol), and chiral phosphoric acid (*R*)-**5c** (7.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), then dry toluene (1.5 mL) were added. The mixture was heated to 50 °C and then **Zhan-1B** (7.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred 50 °C for 24 h. After the reaction was complete (monitored by TLC), the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford the product **3**.



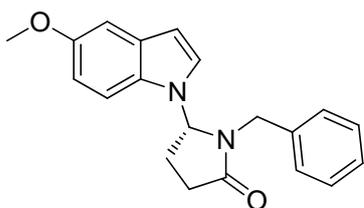
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (44.1 mg, 76% yield, 92% *ee*). Analytical data for **3a**: Mp = 41-43 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 105.4$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 92% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.18-2.26 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.71 (m, 2H), 2.77-2.89 (m, 1H), 3.31 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.07 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.77-5.80 (m, 1H), 6.60 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.64-7.67 (m, 1H); The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel AD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 0.6 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 13.41 min,  $t$  (minor) = 15.46 min.



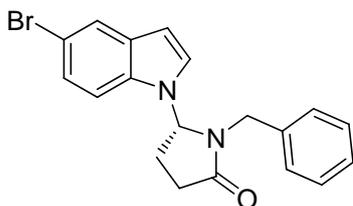
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(5-methyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (38.5 mg, 63% yield, 94% *ee*). Analytical data for **3b**: Mp = 34-36 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 118.8$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 94% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.18-2.26 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.53-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.76-2.89 (m, 1H), 3.30 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.73-5.76 (m, 1H), 6.53 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.98-7.01 (m, 3H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.49 (s, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel AD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 95 / 5, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 12.94 min,  $t$  (minor) = 14.23 min.



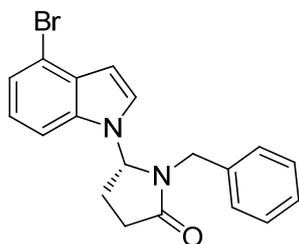
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (55.3 mg, 86% yield, 93% *ee*). Analytical data for **3c**: Mp = 94-96 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 102.0$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 93% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.09-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.67-2.79 (m, 1H), 3.22 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.98 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.61-5.64 (m, 1H), 6.43 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.98 (brs, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 7.20 (brs, 3H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel OD-H (25 cm) (25 cm), CH<sub>3</sub>CN / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 28.86 min,  $t$  (minor) = 48.99 min.



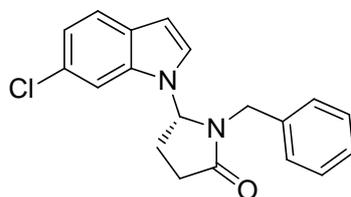
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(5-bromo-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (51.3 mg, 70% yield, 88% *ee*). Analytical data for **3d**: Mp = 40-42 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 67.8$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 88% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.17-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.78-2.90 (m, 1H), 3.31 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.74-5.76 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.05 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.80 (s, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel AD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 11.43 min,  $t$  (minor) = 13.49 min.



(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(4-bromo-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

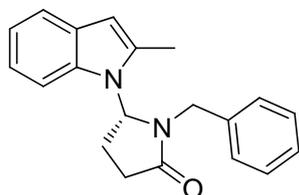
White solid (24 mg, 33% yield, 90% *ee*). Analytical data for **3e**: Mp = 108-110 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 83.8$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 90% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.17-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.71 (m, 2H), 2.77-2.89 (m, 1H), 3.30 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.06 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.71-5.75 (m, 1H), 6.66 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.04 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.08 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.34 (m, 4H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel IA (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 10.42 min,  $t$  (minor) = 11.33 min.



(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(6-chloro-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

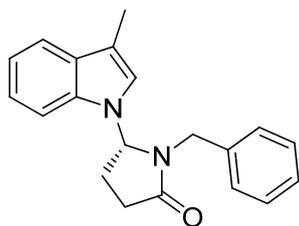
White solid (33.4 mg, 52% yield, 93% *ee*). Analytical data for **3f**: Mp = 97-99 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 155.7$  ( $c = 0.2$  CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 93% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.17-2.23 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.76-2.87 (m, 1H), 3.32 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.69-5.71 (m, 1H), 6.58 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.00-7.02 (m, 4H), 7.11 (d,

$J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel AD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 16.32 min,  $t$  (minor) = 18.70 min.



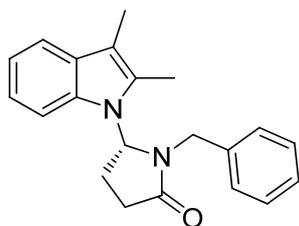
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(2-methyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (40.5 mg, 67% yield, 95% *ee*). Analytical data for **3g**: Mp = 39-41 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 126.9$  (c = 0.2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 95% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.91 (s, 3H), 2.38-2.55 (m, 2H), 2.61-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.93 (m, 1H), 3.17 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.16 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.65 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 6.88-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.56 (m, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel IC (25 cm), CH<sub>3</sub>CN / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 23.62 min,  $t$  (minor) = 18.69 min.



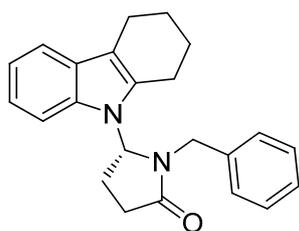
(*R*)-1-benzyl-5-(3-methyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (56.0 mg, 92% yield, 85% *ee*). Analytical data for **3h**: Mp = 75-77 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 90.2$  (c = 0.2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 85% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.19-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.82 (m, 1H), 3.35 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.73-5.77 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 7.02-7.06 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.57-7.60 (m, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 0.8 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm,  $t$  (major) = 24.01 min,  $t$  (minor) = 35.22 min.



*(R)*-1-benzyl-5-(2,3-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

White solid (54.2 mg, 85% yield, 89% *ee*). Analytical data for **3i**: Mp = 90-92 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 128.7$  (c = 0.2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 89% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.90 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.30-2.55 (m, 2H), 2.60-2.94 (m, 2H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel AD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, t (major) = 7.01 min, t (minor) = 7.77 min.



*(R)*-1-benzyl-5-(3,4-dihydro-1*H*-carbazol-9(2*H*)-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one<sup>3</sup>

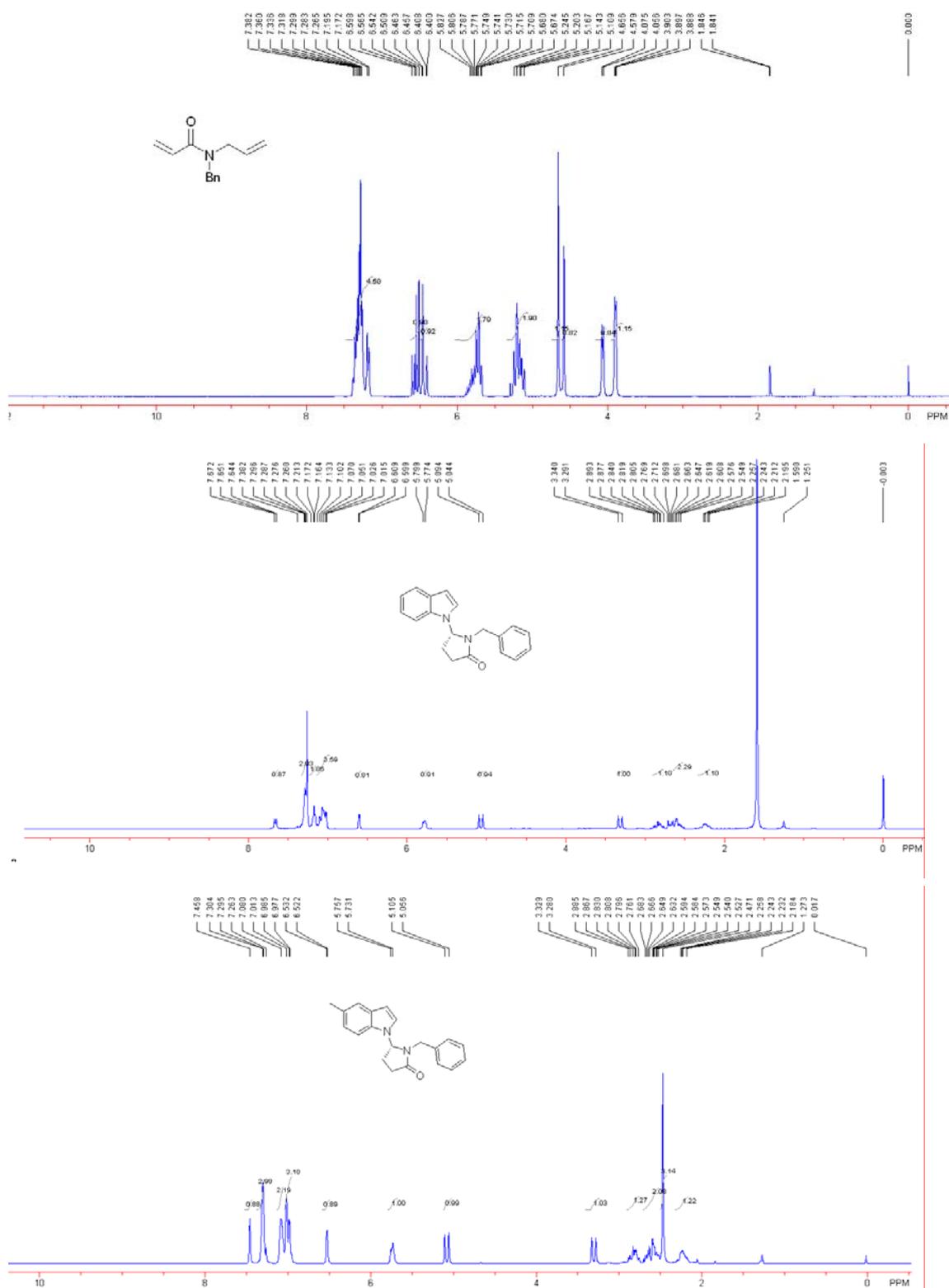
White solid (59.1 mg, 86% yield, 85% *ee*). Analytical data for **3j**: Mp = 88-90 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 113.5$  (c = 0.2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 85% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.61-1.85 (m, 5H), 2.10-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.70 (m, 4H), 2.74-2.85 (m, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84-6.96 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.43 (m, 1H). The enantiomeric excess was determined by Daicel Chiralcel OD-H (25 cm), Hexanes / IPA = 90 / 10, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, t (major) = 12.99 min, t (minor) = 11.32 min.

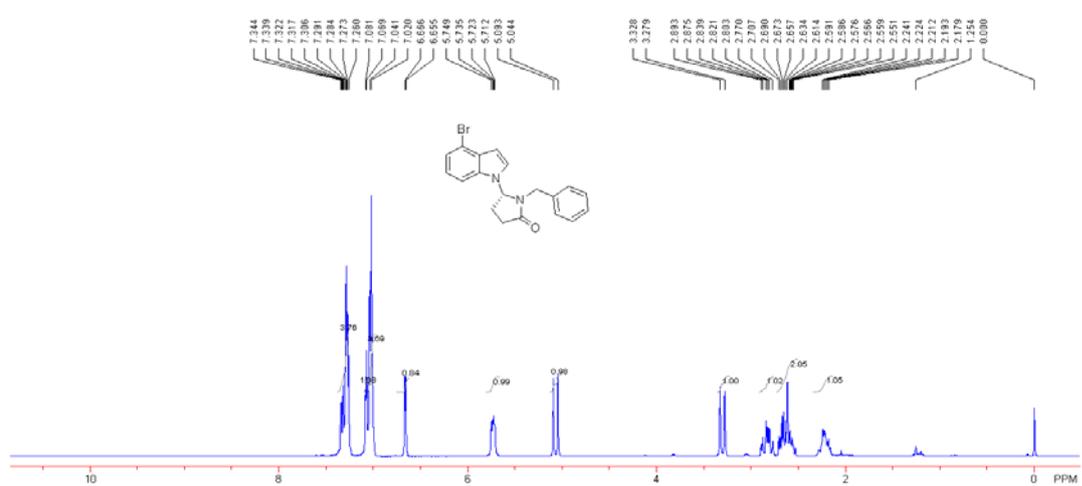
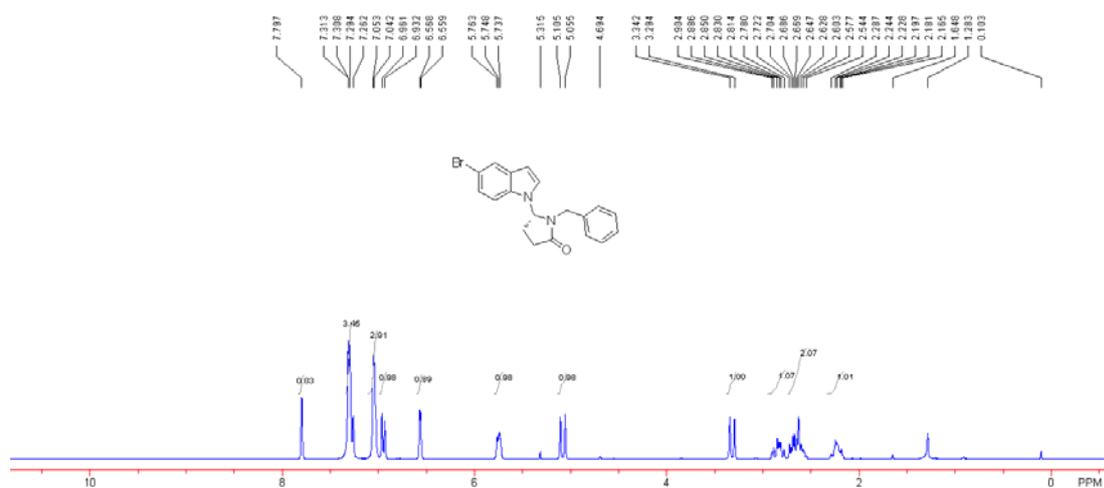
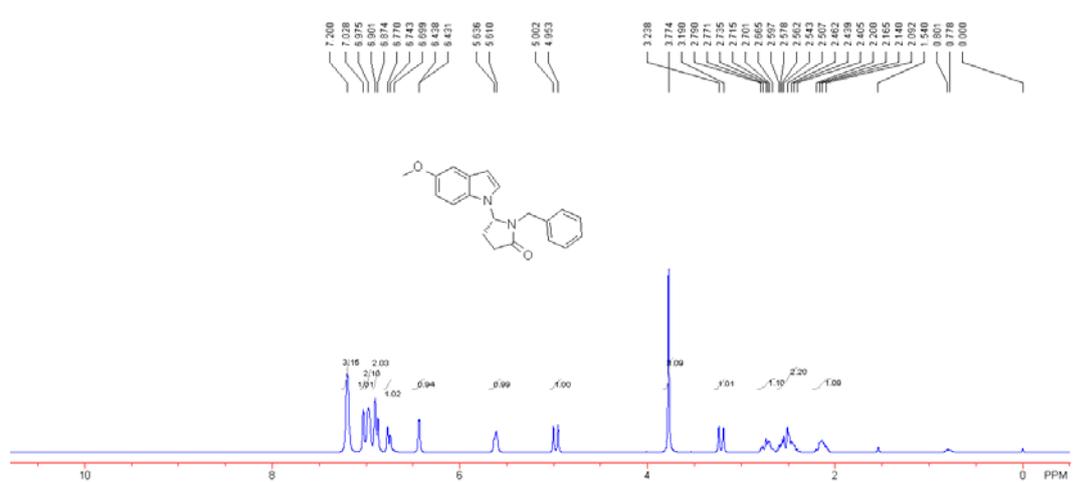
## References

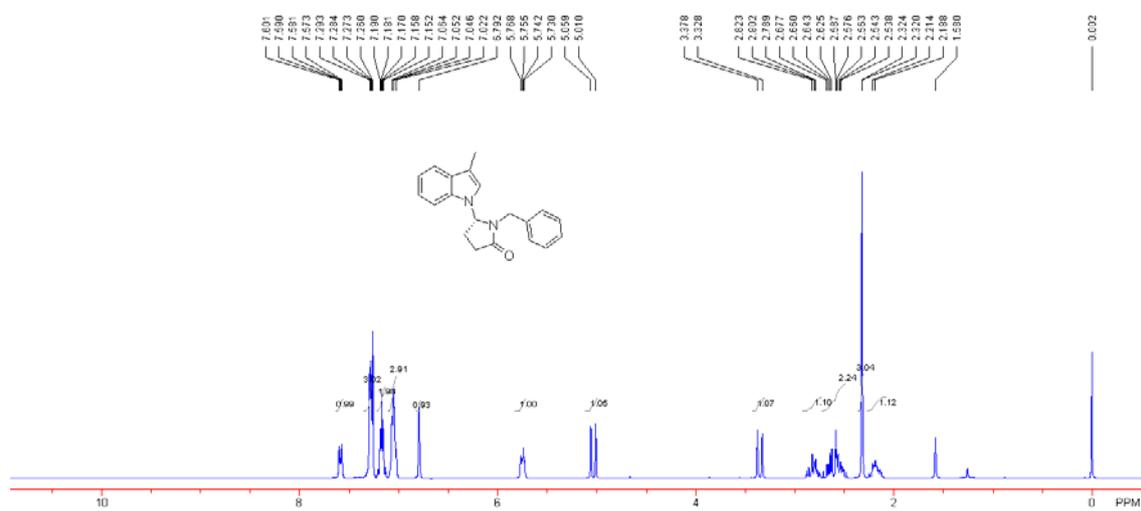
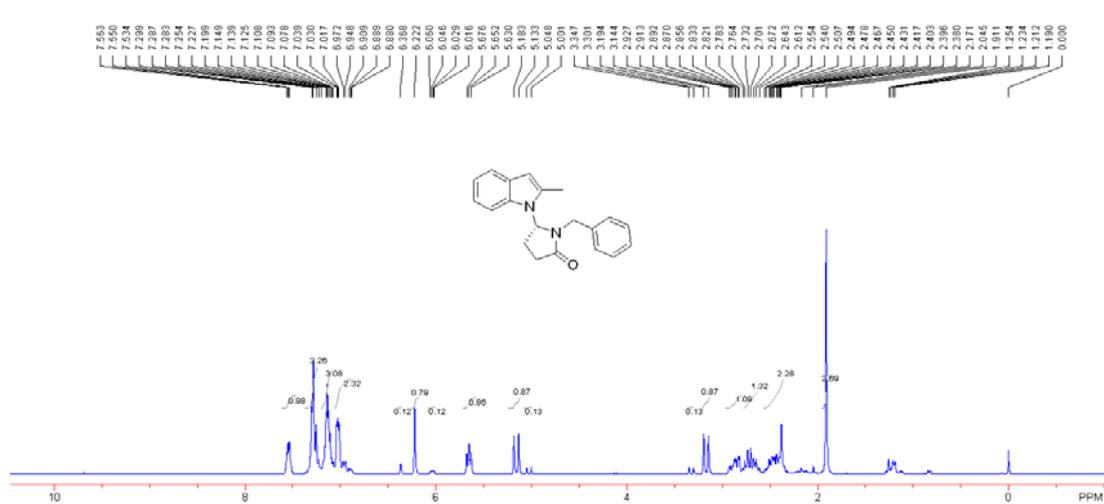
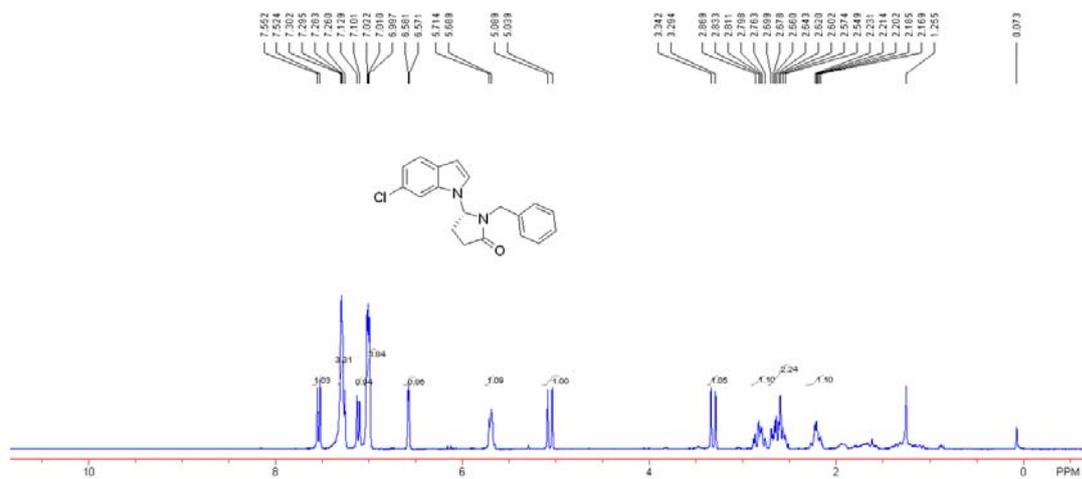
1. S. Mukherjee and B. List, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2007, **129**, 11336.
2. (a) I. D. Riggi, S. Gastaldi, J.-M. Surzur, M. P. Bertrand and A. Virgili, *J. Org. Chem.* 1992, **57**, 6118. (b) E. Benedetti, M. Lomazzi, F. Tibiletti, P. Giovanni, J.-P.

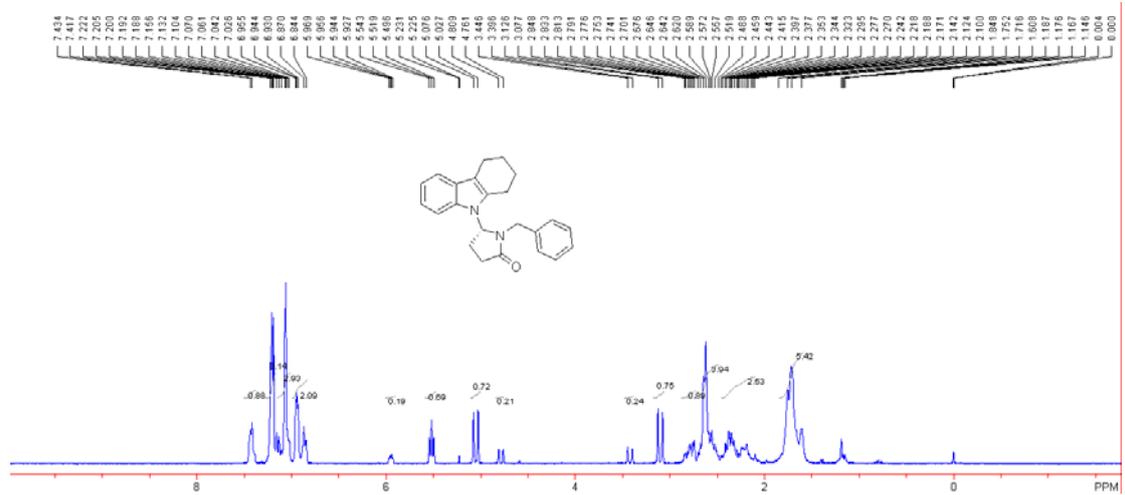
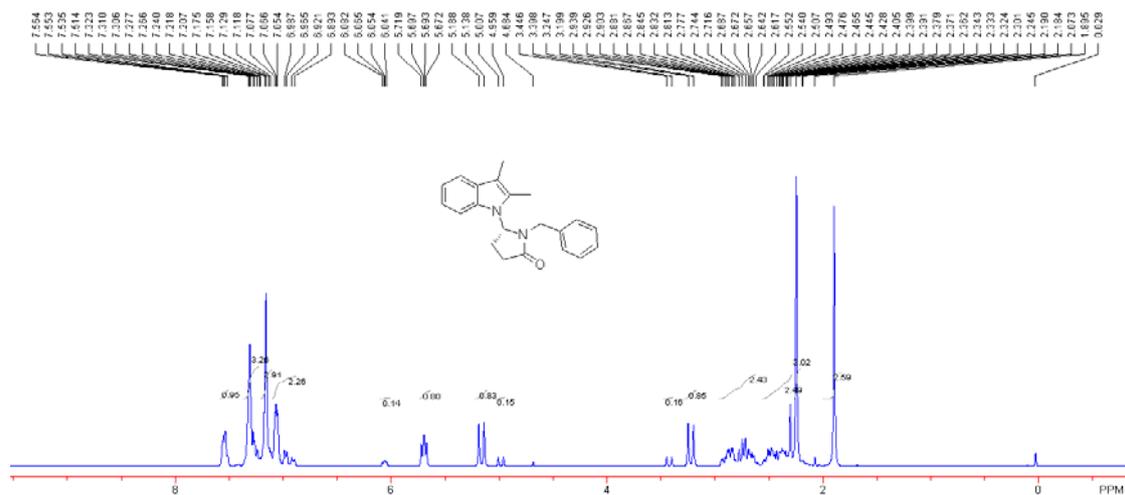
- Goddard, M. Fensterbank, G. Palmisano and A. Penoni, *Synthesis* 2012, **44**, 3523.
3. Y. Xie, Y. Zhao, B. Qian, L. Yang, C. Xia and H. Huang, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2011, **50**, 5682.

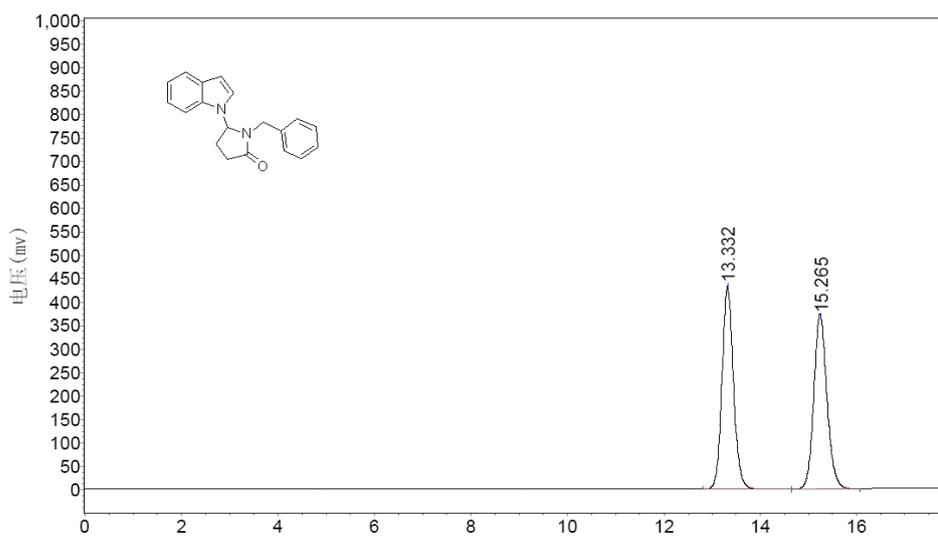
#### 4. Copies of NMR spectra and HPLC



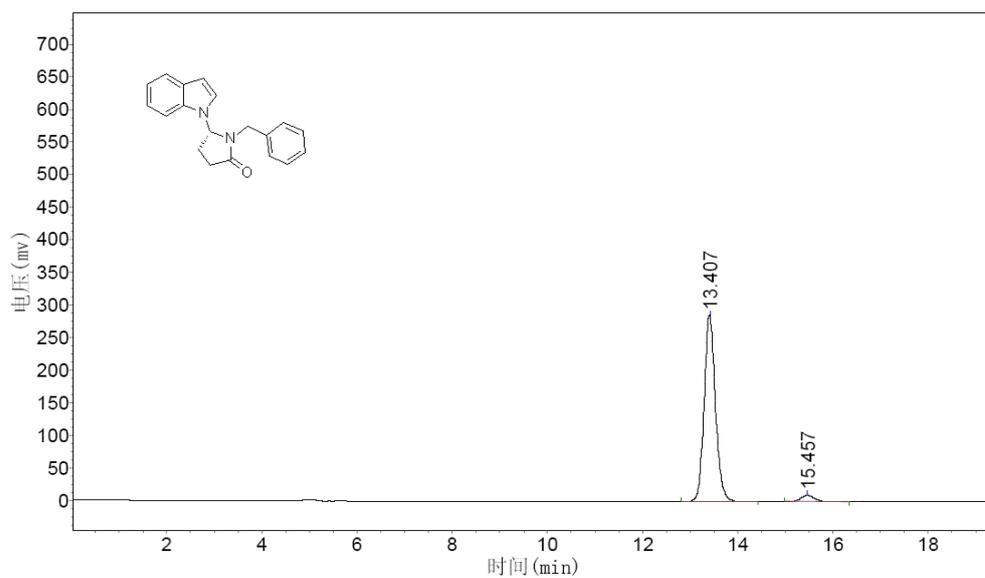




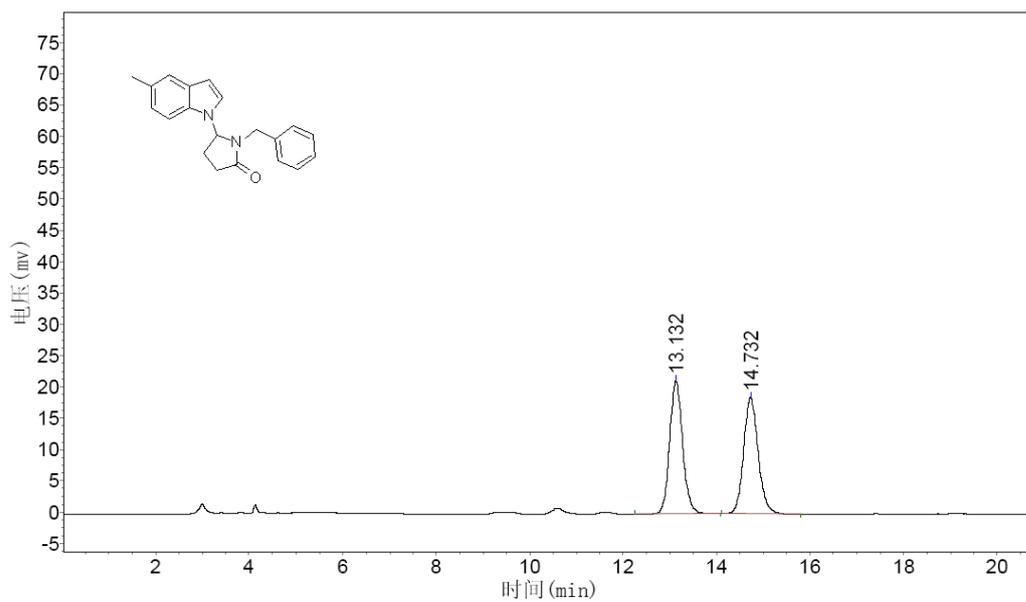




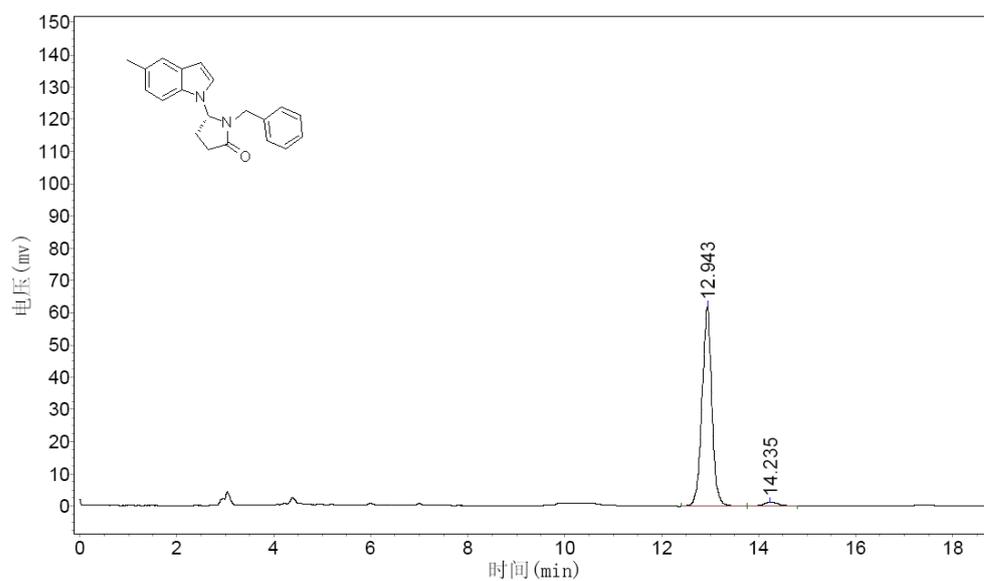
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	3. 332	430779. 781	7152551. 500	50. 3526
2	5. 265	369687. 031	7052382. 500	49. 6474
Total		800466. 813	14204934. 000	100. 0000



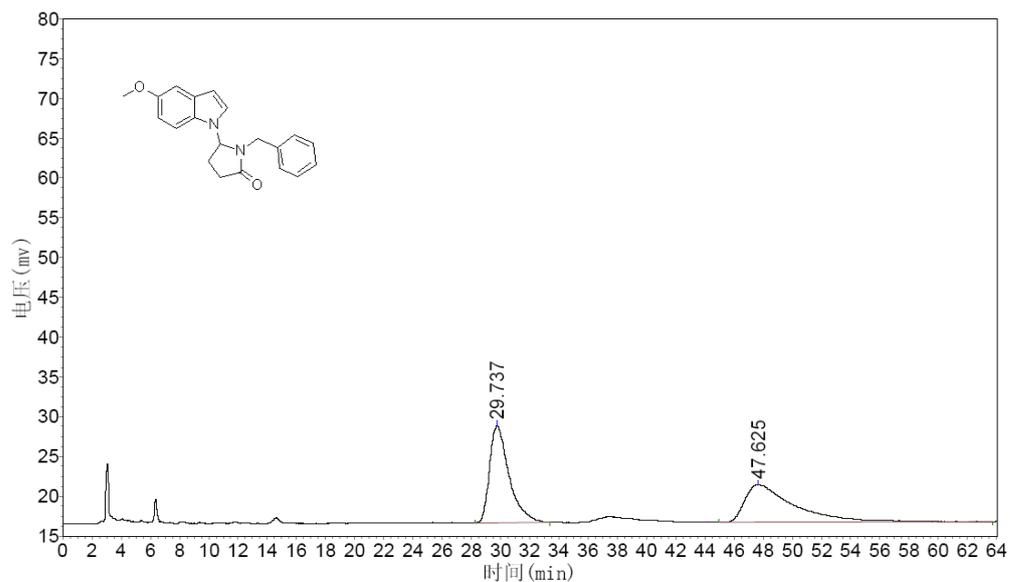
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	13. 407	285164. 000	4717633. 000	96. 1673
2	15. 457	9887. 956	188021. 453	3. 8327
Total		295051. 956	4905654. 453	100. 0000



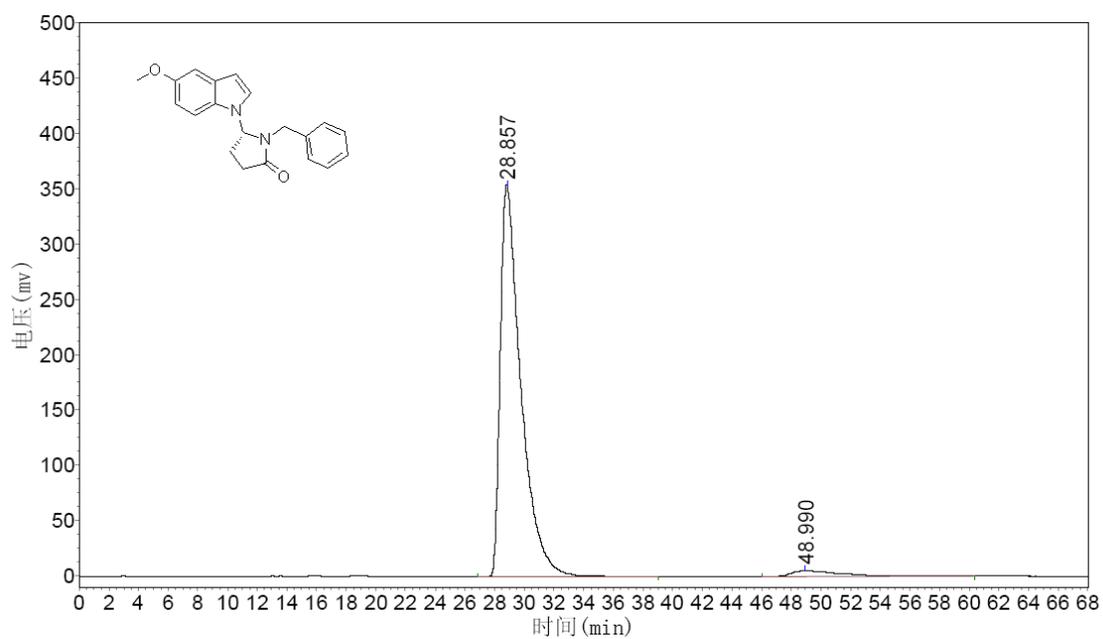
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	13.132	21240.428	408865.188	50.4177
2	14.732	18590.883	402090.406	49.5823
Total		39831.311	810955.594	100.0000



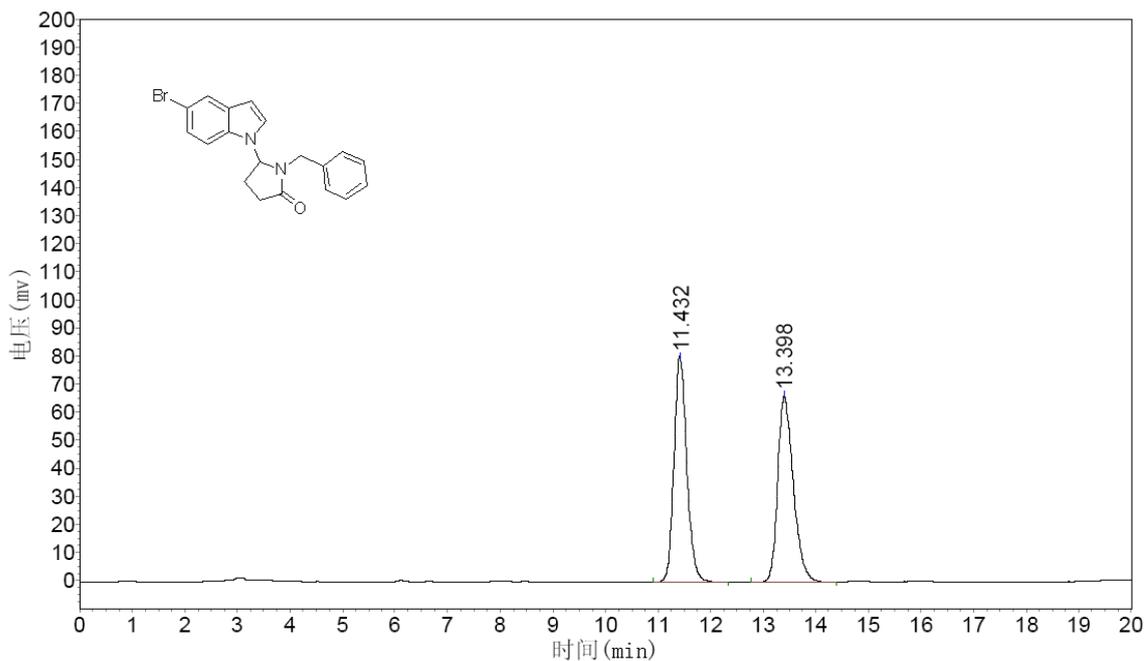
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	12.943	62078.340	869354.688	97.0860
2	14.235	1261.047	26093.732	2.9140
Total		63339.387	895448.420	100.0000



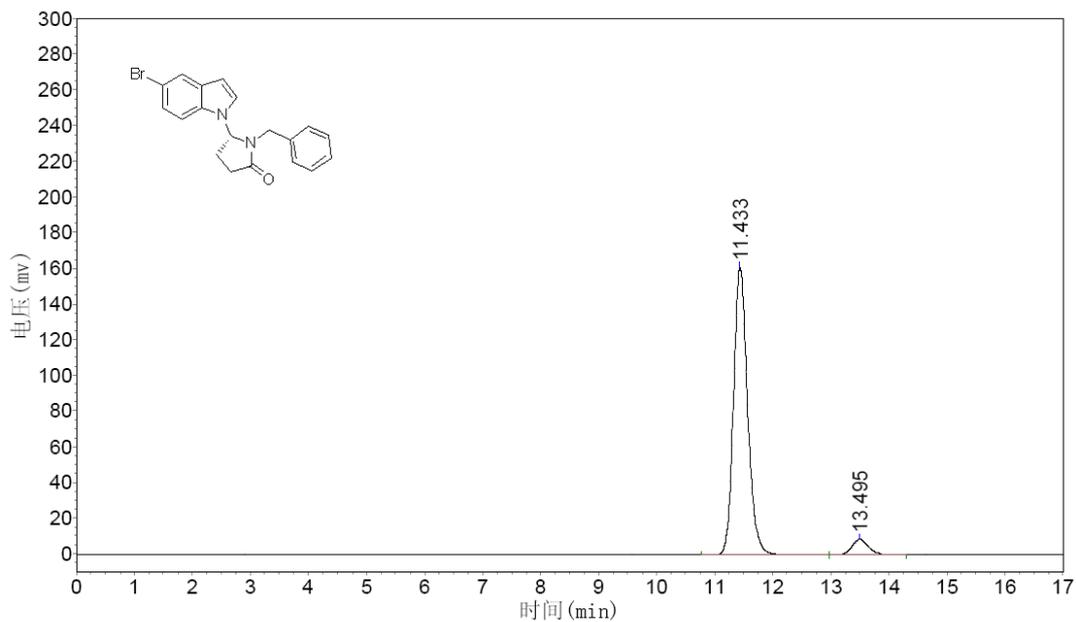
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	29.737	12173.564	1127747.625	50.7893
2	47.625	4703.648	1092695.375	49.2107
Total		16877.213	2220443.000	100.0000



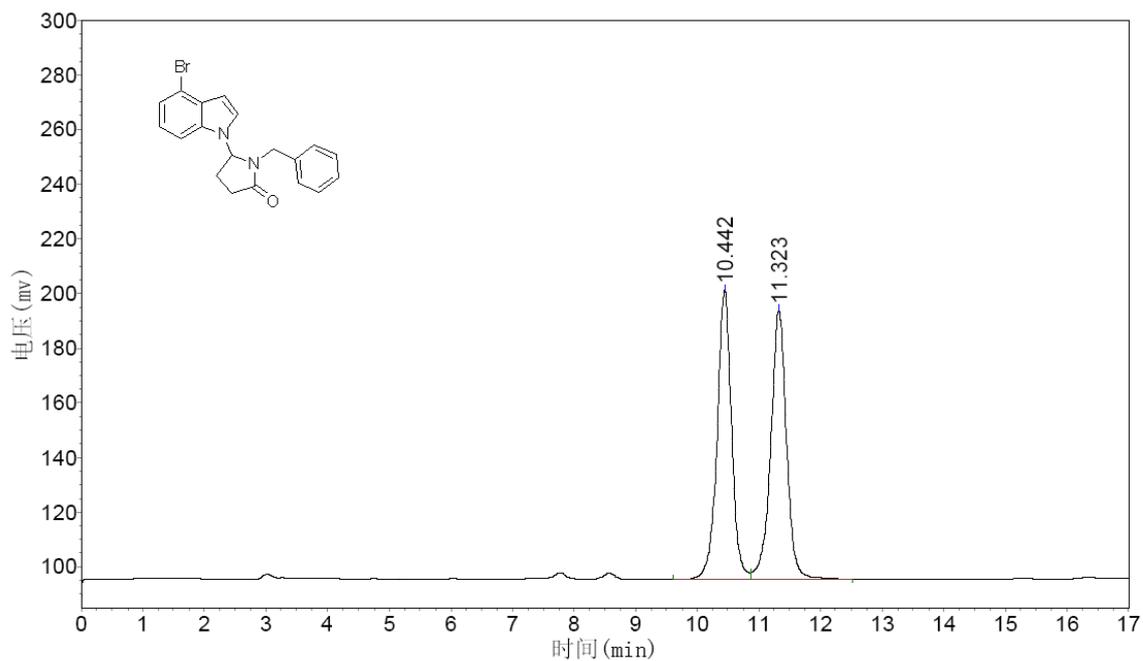
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	28.857	353637.375	34109952.000	96.4071
2	48.990	5304.093	1271205.500	3.5929
Total		358941.468	35381157.500	100.0000



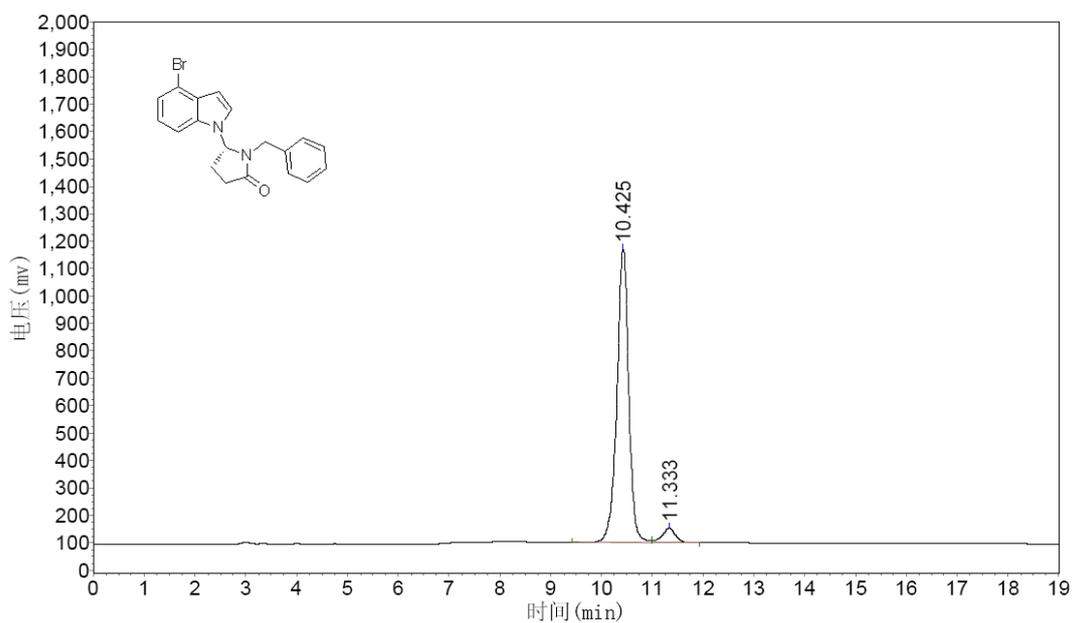
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	11.432	80170.469	1360811.000	50.0118
2	13.398	65333.020	1360166.875	49.9882
Total		145503.488	2720977.875	100.0000



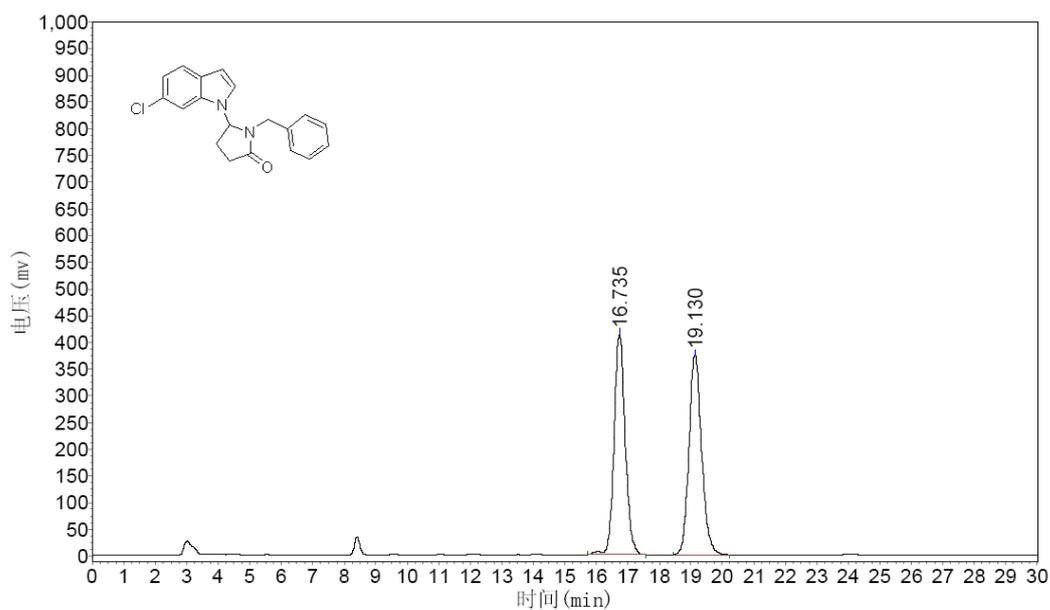
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	11.433	161255.719	2709575.750	94.0319
2	13.495	8639.966	171975.109	5.9681
Total		169895.685	2881550.859	100.0000



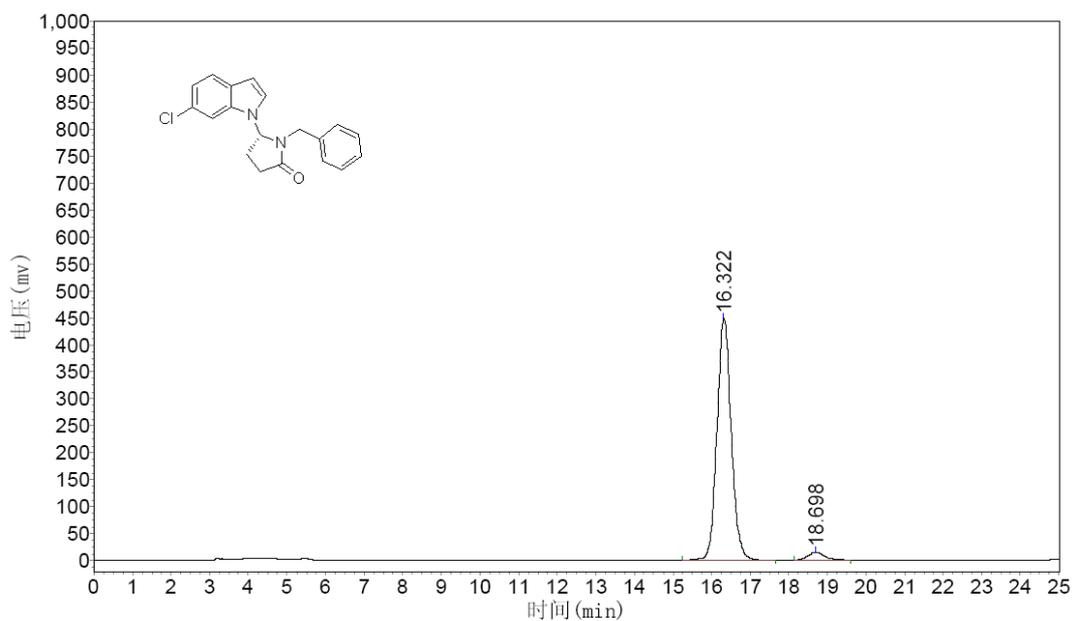
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	10.442	105789.547	1724715.750	49.7218
2	11.323	98232.039	1744014.125	50.2782
Total		204021.586	3468729.875	100.0000



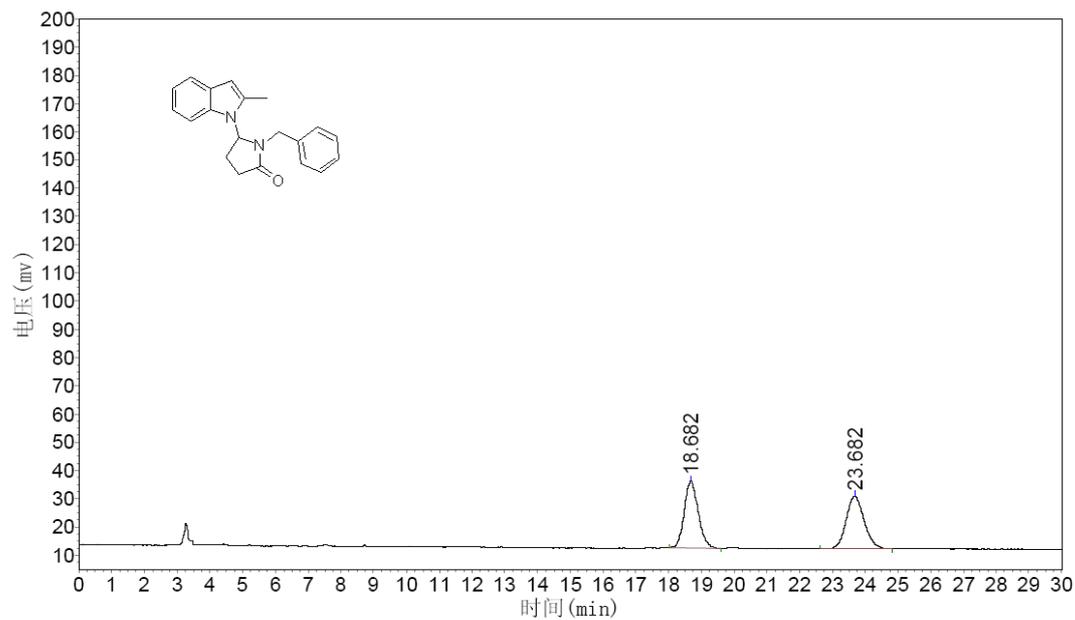
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	10.425	1068083.750	17293008.000	94.8127
2	11.333	52901.547	946110.250	5.1873
Total		1120985.297	18239118.250	100.0000



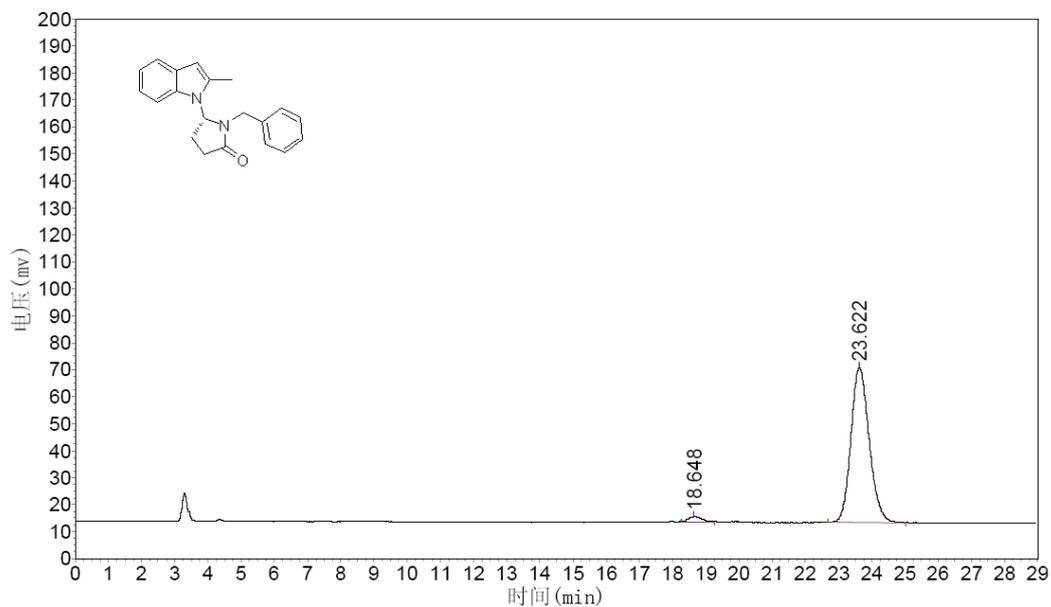
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	16.735	413272.656	10126263.000	49.2261
2	19.130	373819.750	10444643.000	50.7739
Total		787092.406	20570906.000	100.0000



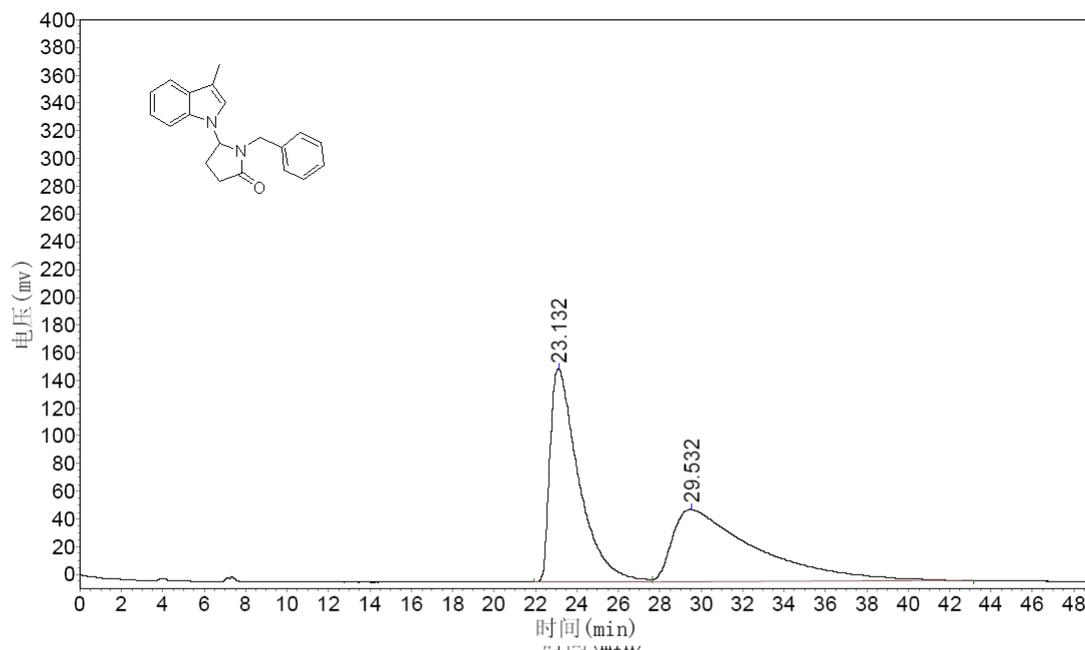
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	16.322	446545.344	11402348.000	96.5969
2	18.698	14294.431	401697.750	3.4031
Total		460839.774	11804045.750	100.0000



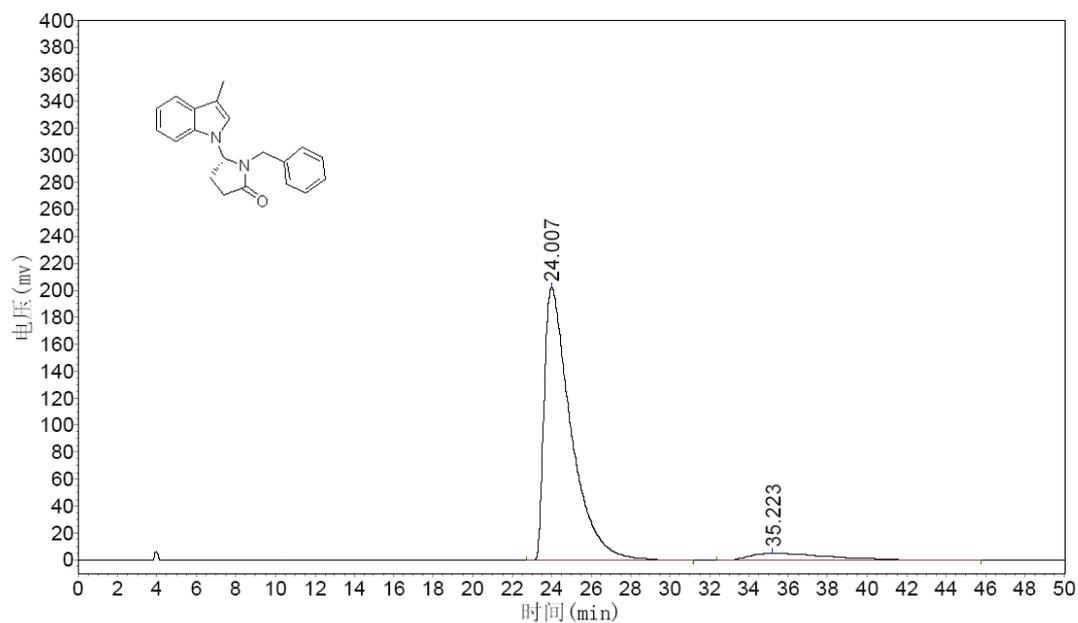
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	18.682	23587.672	707969.938	49.7014
2	23.682	18678.090	716476.625	50.2986
Total		42265.762	1424446.563	100.0000



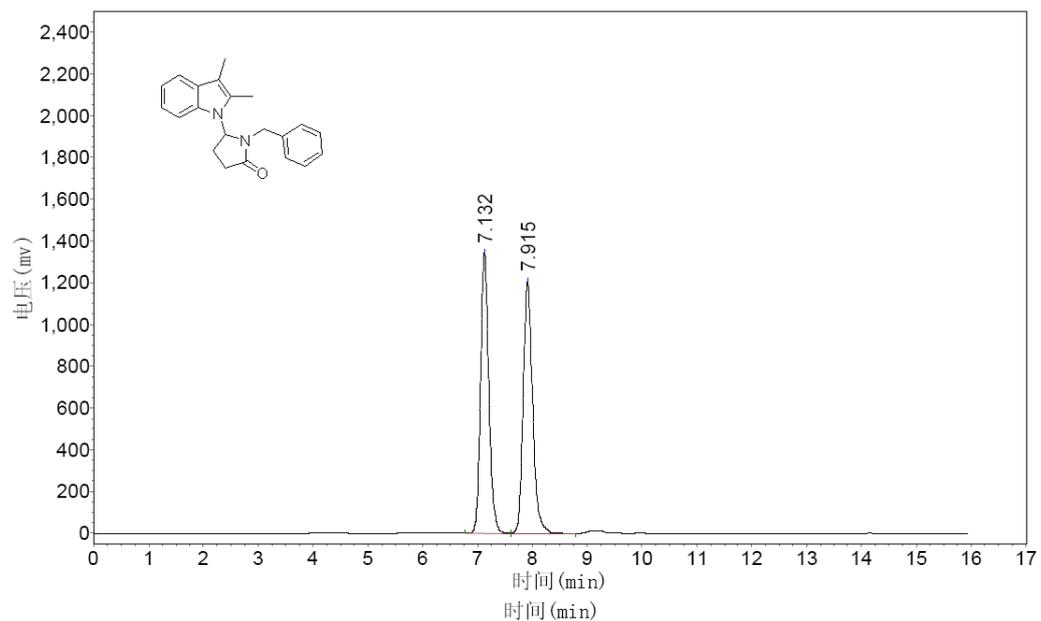
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	18.648	1928.792	53261.691	2.3793
2	23.622	57314.895	2185278.500	97.6207
Total		59243.687	2238540.191	100.0000



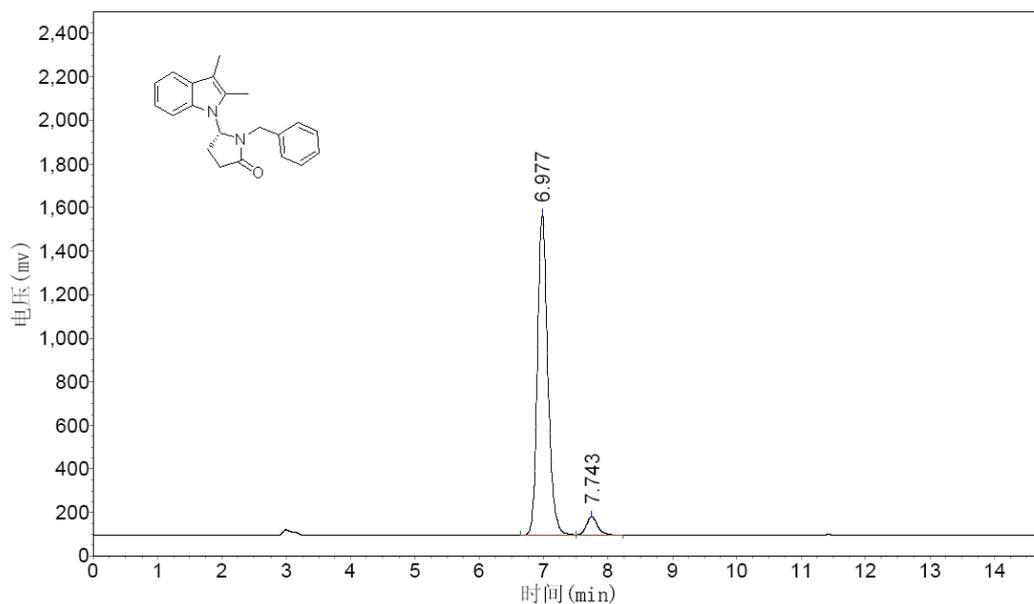
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	23.132	153642.109	14820001.000	49.9567
2	29.532	52119.984	14845718.000	50.0433
Total		205762.094	29665719.000	100.0000



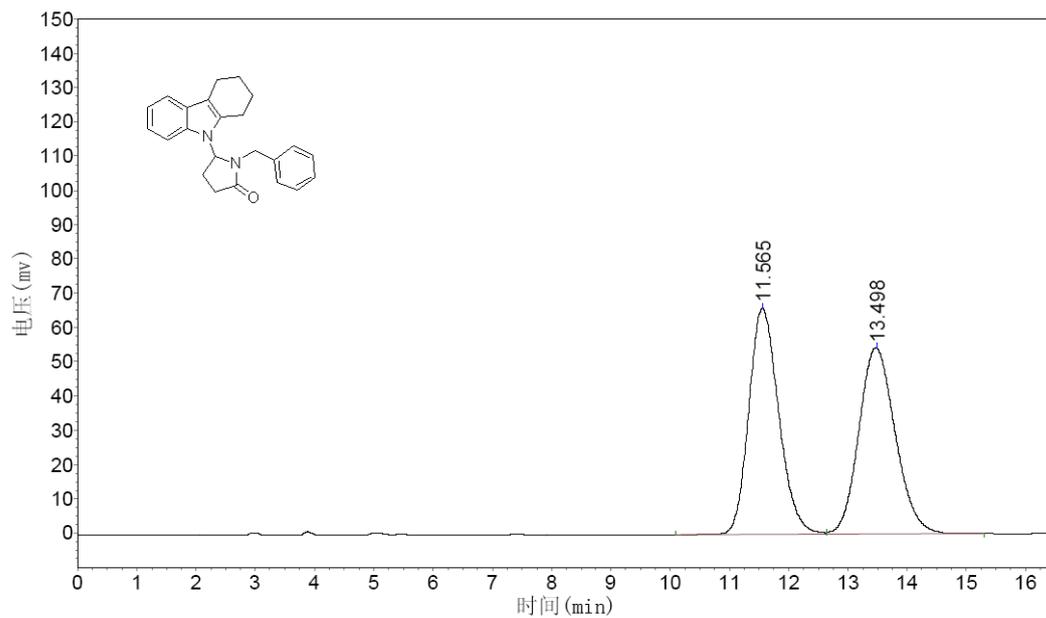
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	24.007	202406.531	19204228.000	92.2946
2	35.223	5498.350	1603293.500	7.7054
Total		207904.881	20807521.500	100.0000



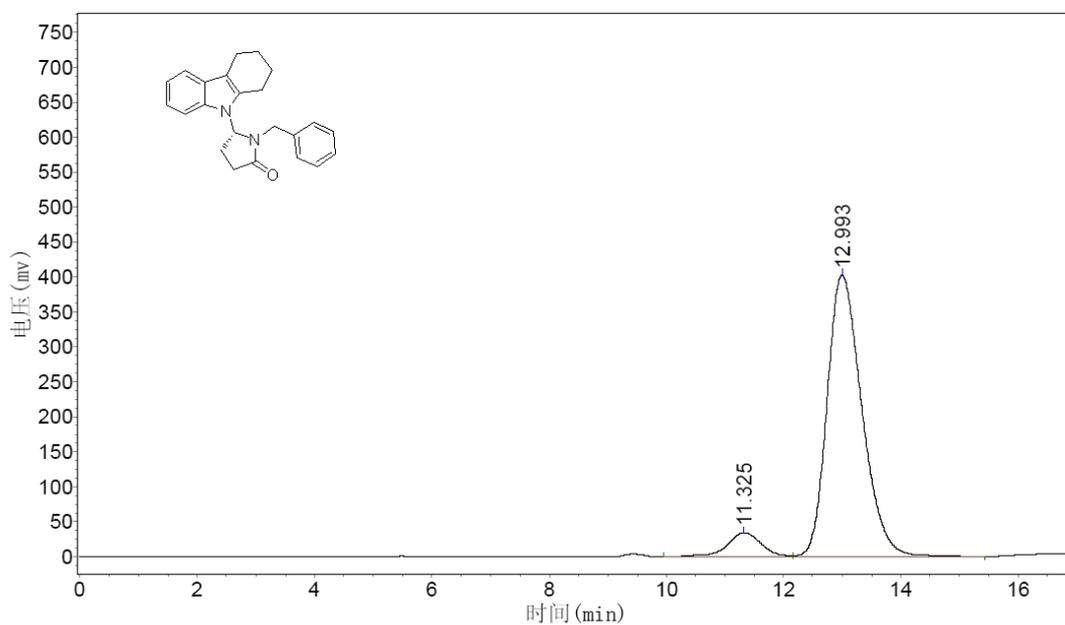
PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	7.132	1342126.500	14265561.000	49.4600
2	7.915	1203448.375	14577088.000	50.5400
Total		2545574.875	28842649.000	100.0000



PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	7.010	861599.375	8952446.000	94.2979
2	7.777	46750.176	541340.938	5.7021
Total		908349.551	9493786.938	100.0000



PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	11.565	65910.055	2328262.000	50.0113
2	13.498	54349.348	2327212.000	49.9887
Total		120259.402	4655474.000	100.0000



PeakNo	R. Time	PeakHeight	PeakArea	PerCent
1	11.325	34248.852	1344506.875	7.5331
2	12.993	402886.500	16503517.000	92.4669
Total		437135.352	17848023.875	100.0000