### **Supplementary Information**

# Catalyst-Free Water Mediated Reduction of Nitroarenes Using Glucose as Hydrogen Source

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#### **1. General Information**

High grade solvents were used for all reactions. Column chromatography was carried out with 60-120 mesh silica gel. Silica gel, TLC plates (silica gel 60 F254) were purchased from Merck India Ltd. Nitro compounds, NMR solvent were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Spectrochem. The GC-MS analysis was carried out using DB-5 MS capillary column, (30 m x 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25  $\mu$ m) on a Shimadzu (QP 2010) series Gas Chromatogram-Mass Spectrometer (Tokyo, Japan) coupled with AOC-20i auto-sampler. The initial temperature of column was 70 °C held for 4 min. and was programmed upto 230 °C at 4°C/min., then held for 15 min. at 230 °C; the sample injection volume was 2  $\mu$ L in GC grade dichloromethane. Helium was used as carrier gas at a flow rate of 1.1 mL min<sup>-1</sup> on split mode (1: 50).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR experiments were performed on Bruker Avance-300 and 600 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from an internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on QTOF-Micro of Waters Micromass.

#### 2. General procedure

#### (a) Representative experimental procedure for reduction of nitro compounds

D-glucose (2 mmol) was added to the mixture of nitroarene (1 mmol) and KOH (4 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O: DMSO (1: 1, 4 mL) and refluxed at 110 °C for 24 h. After completion of the reaction (as monitored by TLC and GC-MS), reaction vessel was kept at room temeperature and product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 5 mL). Combined organic layer was washed with brine and distilled water (3 x 5 mL), dried on anhydrous sodium sulphate and solvent was evaroated under vacuum. Crude product was analyzed directly using GC-MS. In case of large scale (10 mmol of substrate)

reaction, product was purified using column chromatography (silica gel 60-120 mesh, *n*-hexane/ ethylacetate) (Table 2, entries 5, 13, 15 and 22).

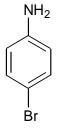
# (b) Experimental procedure for the study of alkaline degradation of

**glucose:** D-glucose (2 mmol) was added to the mixture of nitroarene (1 mmol) and KOH (4 mmol) in  $H_2O$ : DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> (1: 1, 4 mL) and refluxed at 110 °C for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, the reaction vessel was kept at room temperature and product was directly analyzed by NMR.

### 3. Characterization of nitro reduction products:

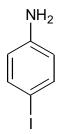
All compounds were identified by comparison of spectral data with literature.<sup>1</sup>

#### **4-Bromoaniline** (Table 2, entry 5)<sup>1</sup>



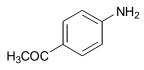
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 6.59 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 108.9, 116.7, 131.4, 146.7; HRMS calculated for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> is 171.9762 and found 171.9753.

### **4-Iodoaniline (Table 2, entry 6)**<sup>1</sup>



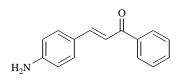
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  6.50 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  79.1, 118.6, 138.8, 148.6; HRMS calculated for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> is 219.9623 and found 219.9611.

4-Aminoacetophenone (Table 2, entry 13)<sup>1</sup>



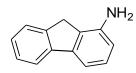
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  2.47 (s, 2.47, 3H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H),; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  26.6, 114.9, 127.6, 132.9, 156.1, 199.9. HRMS calculated for [M+H] <sup>+</sup> is 136.0762 and found 136.0755.

4-Aminochalcone (Table 2, entry 15):



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  6.70 (d, J =8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.61 (m, 6H), 7.74 (d, J = 15.4, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.5, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  115.7, 117.4, 124.9, 129.5, 129.9, 132.2, 133.8, 140.2, 148.4, 152.0, 193.1; HRMS calculated for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> is 224.1075 and found 224.1086.

**2-Aminofluorene (Table 2, entry 19)**<sup>1</sup>

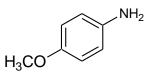


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 3.75 (s, 2H), 6.75 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.4, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.5, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 37.4, 113.0, 115.4, 119.1, 121.2, 125.5, 125.8, 127.5, 129.2, 133.7, 143.4, 146.0, 148.0; HRMS calculated for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> is 182.0970 and found 182.0958.

#### **4-Nitroaniline** (Table 2, entry 22)<sup>1</sup>

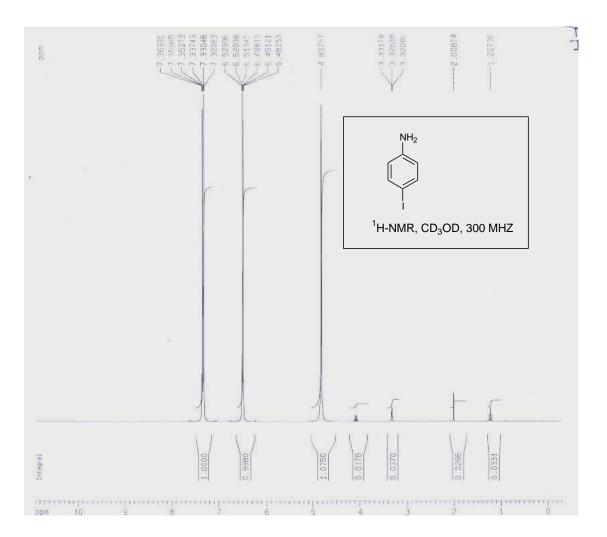
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 6.62 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 114.1, 127.7, 138.7, 157.2. HRMS calculated for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> is 139.0508 and found 139.0521.

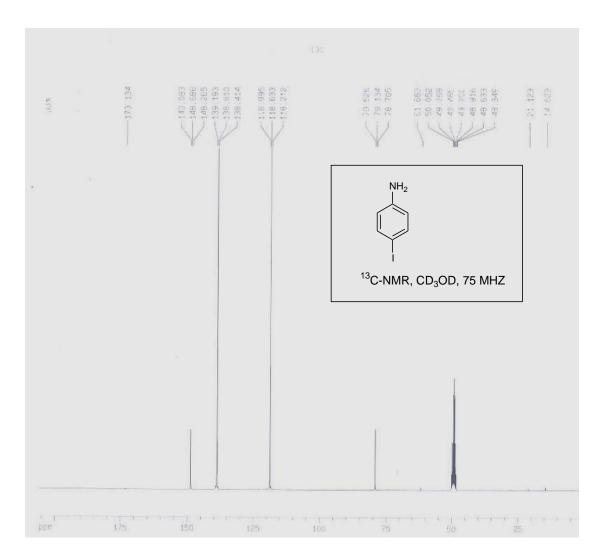
4-Methoxyaniline (Table 2, entry 7)<sup>1</sup>

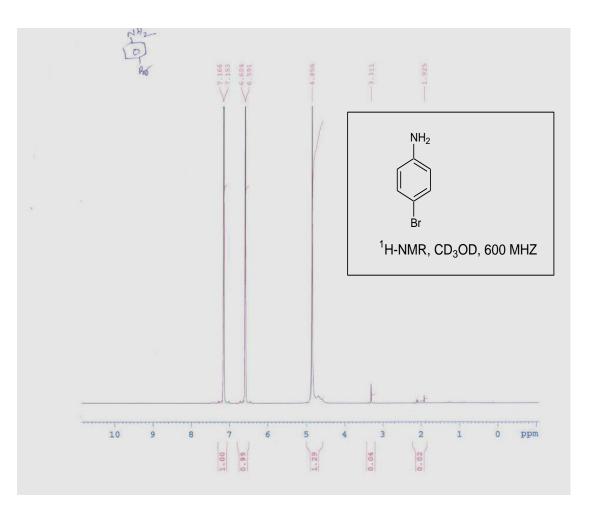


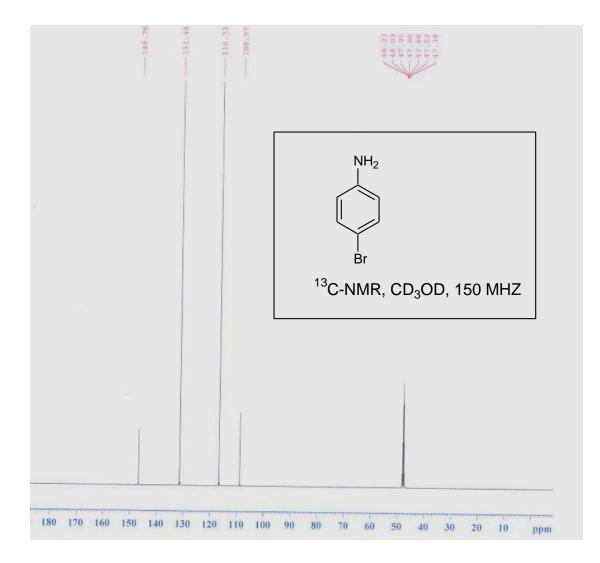
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  6.71 (s, 4H), 3.68 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  56.24, 115.81, 118.32, 141.64, 154.52; HRMS calculated for [M+H] <sup>+</sup> is 124.0762 and found 124.0751.

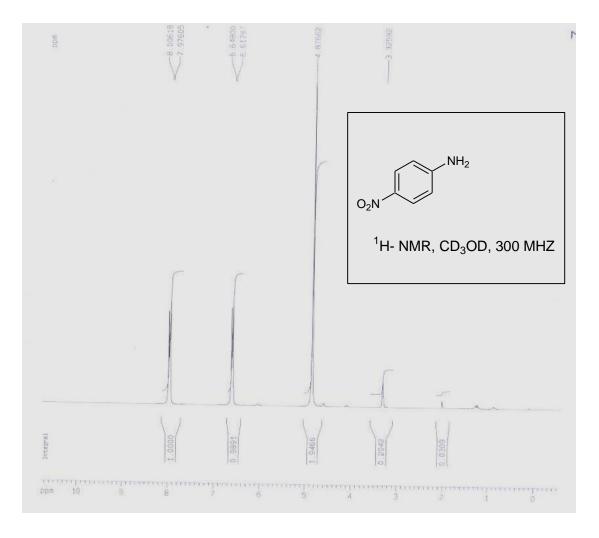
# 4. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of isolated compounds

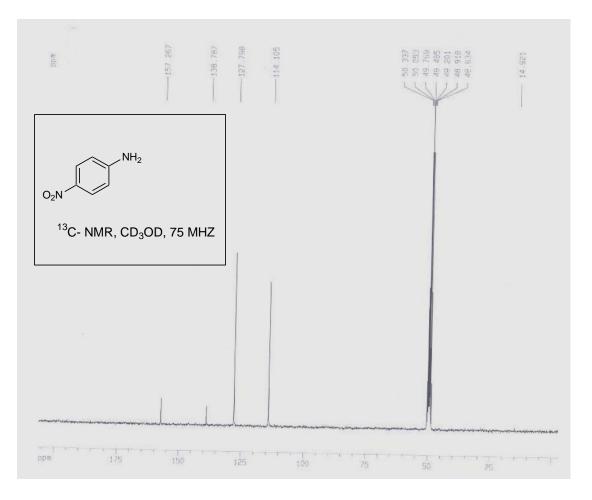


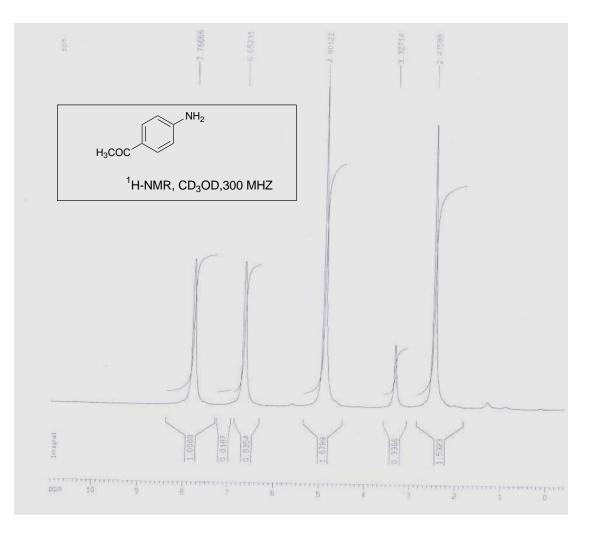




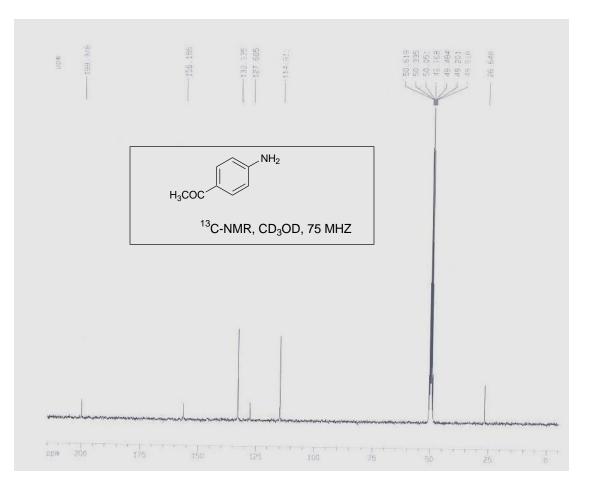


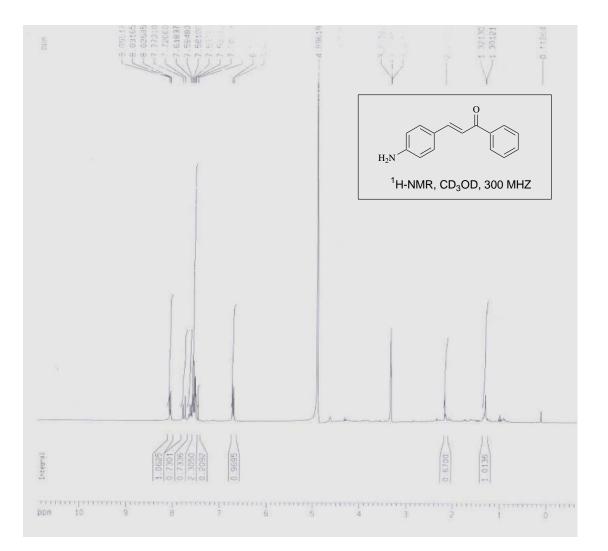


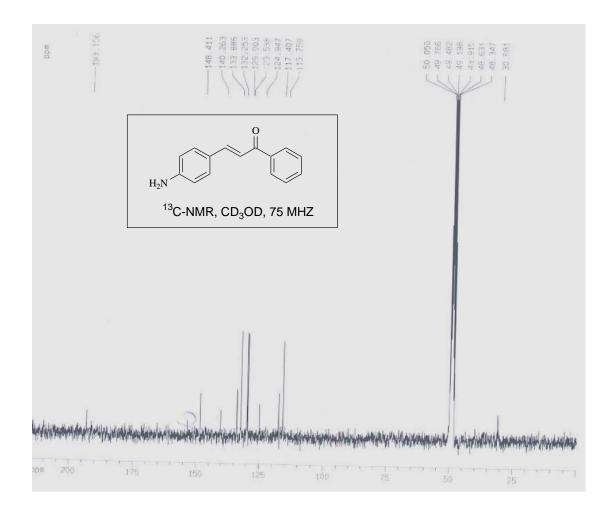


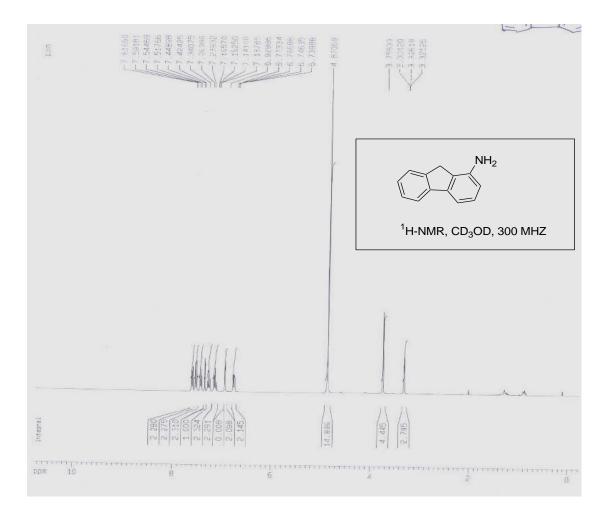


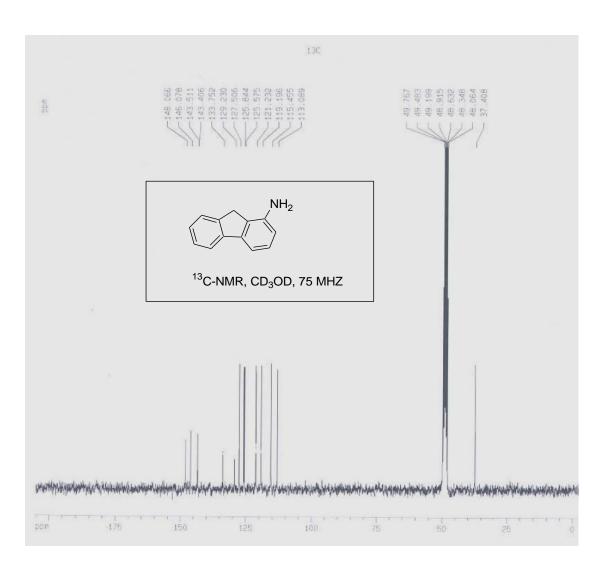
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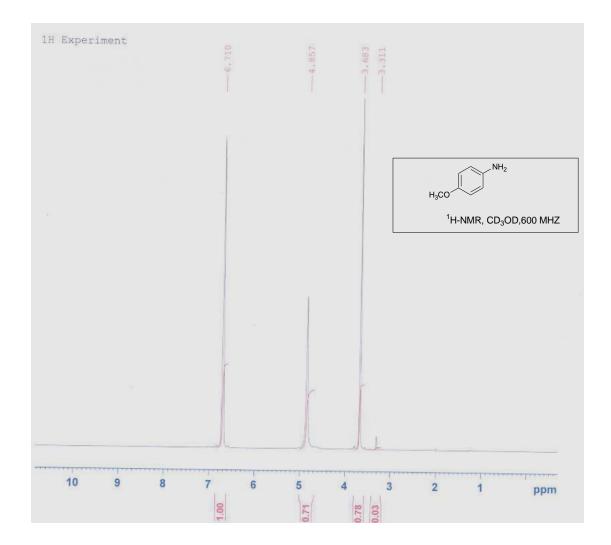


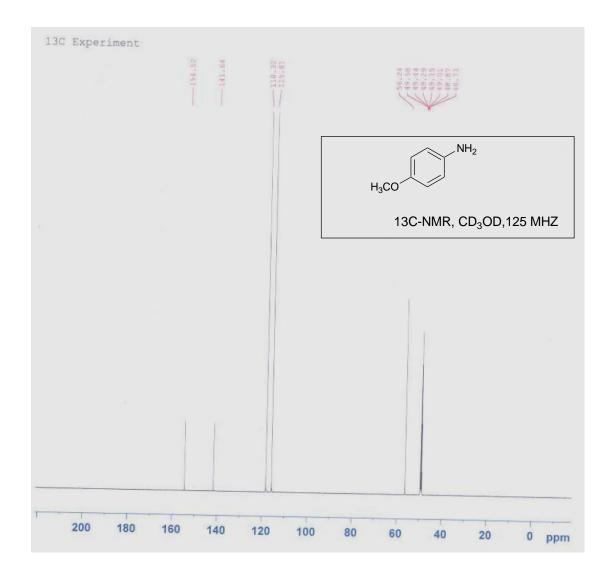






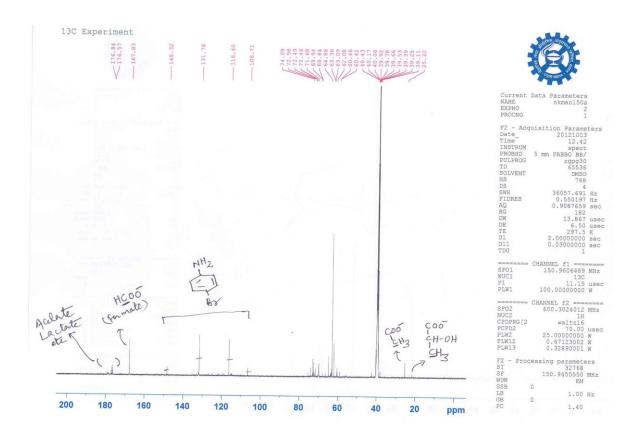


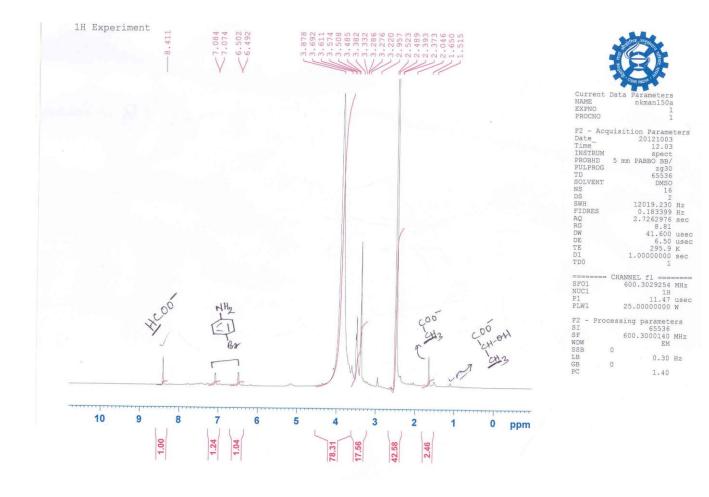




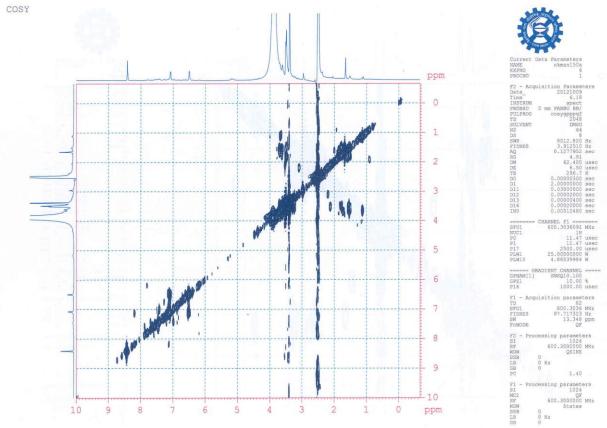
# **5. NMR spectra for alkaline degradation of glucose**

# $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR Spectra of Reaction mixture carried out in DMSO-d\_6 / H\_2O and KOH

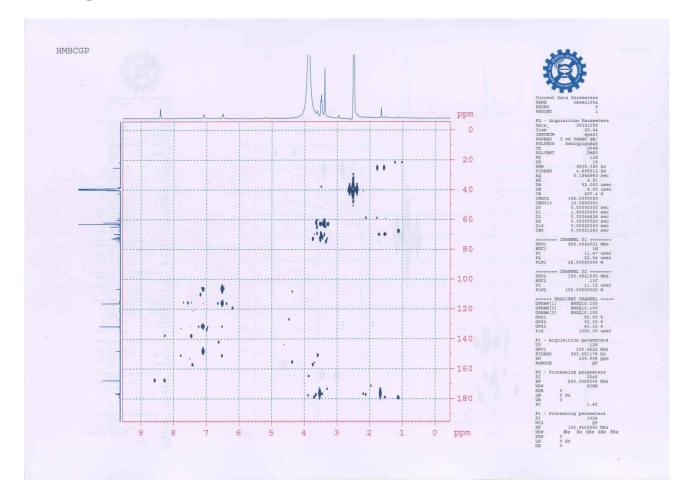




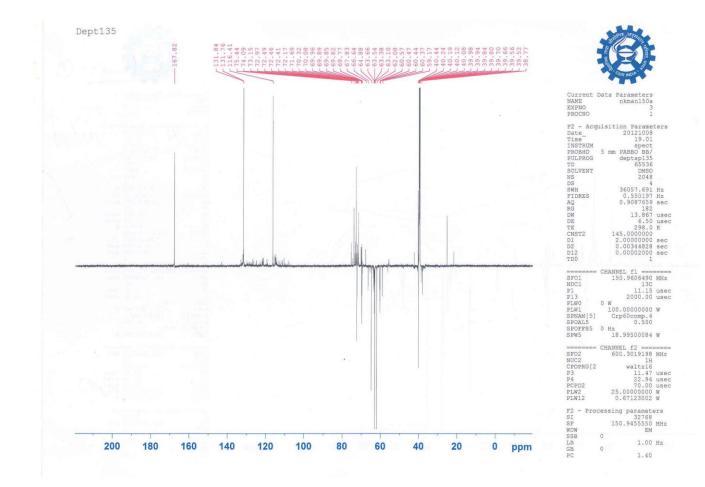
# $^1H$ NMR Spectra of reaction mixture carried out in DMSO-d\_6 / H\_2O and KOH



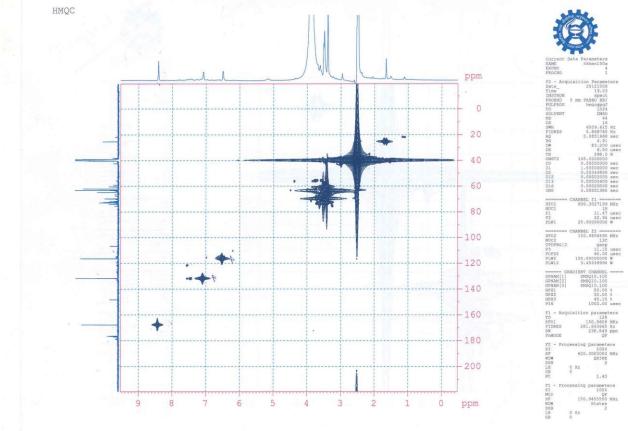
# COSY Spectra of reaction mixture carried out in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>O and KOH



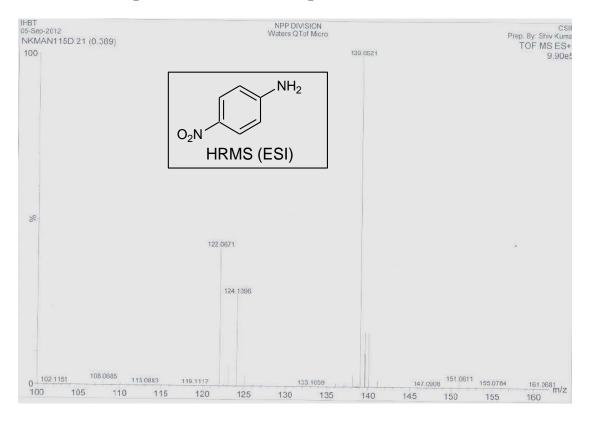
HMBC Spectra of reaction mixture carried out in  $\textsc{DMSO-d}_6\,/\,\textsc{H}_2\textsc{O}$  and KOH



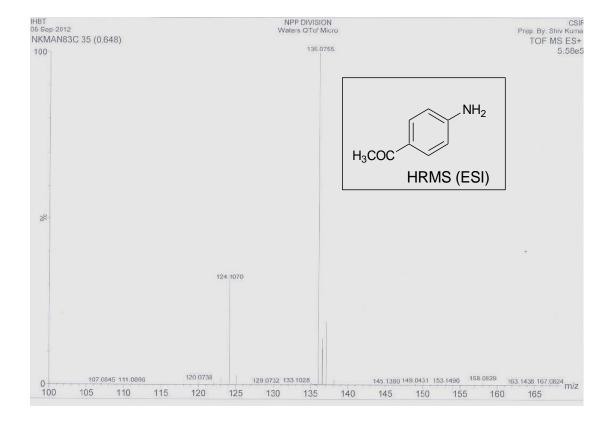
#### DEPT-135 spectra of reaction mixture carried out in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>O and KOH

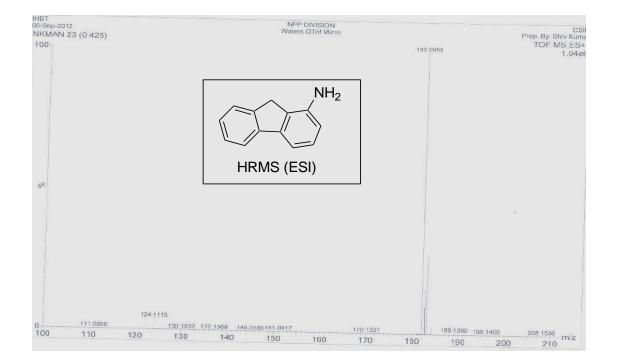


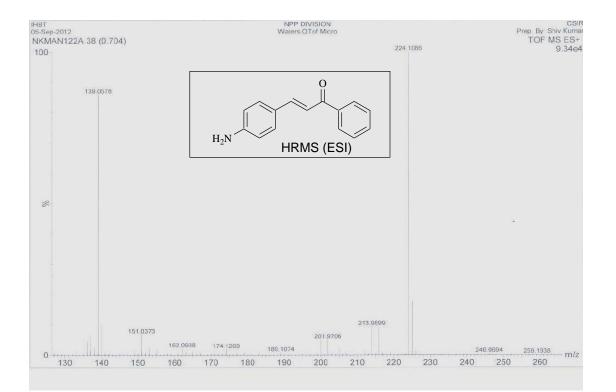
# HMQC Spectra of reaction mixture carried out in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>O and KOH

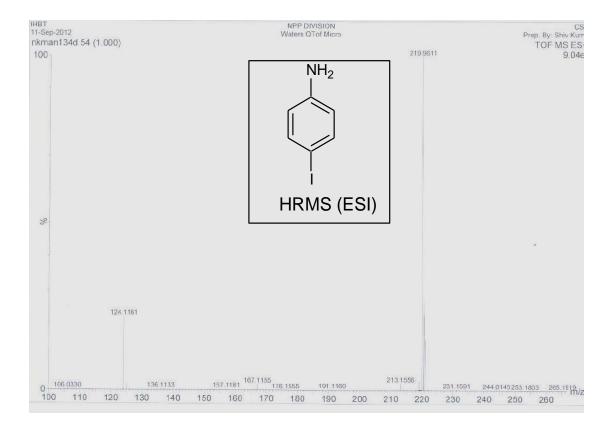


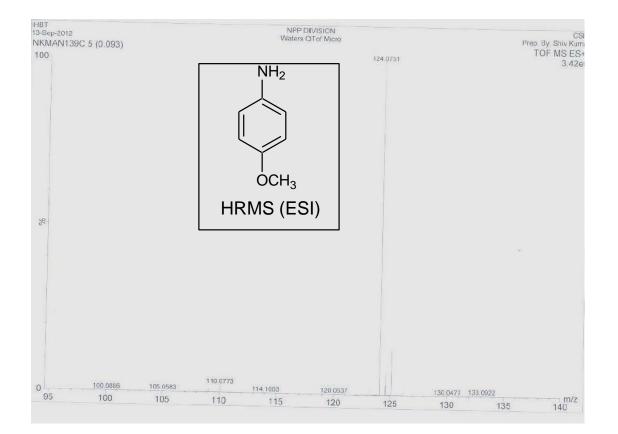
### HRMS (ESI) spectra of isolated compounds

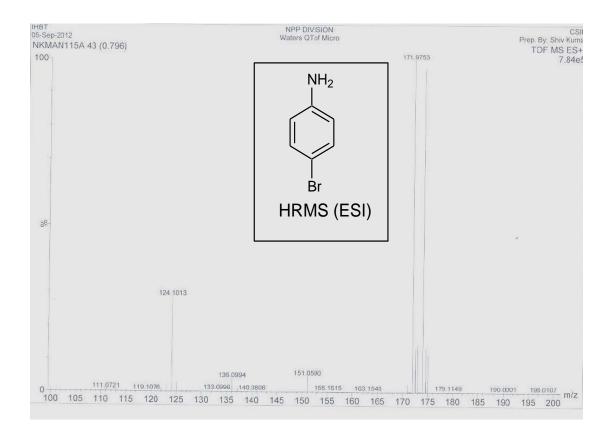












# 4. References

1. U. Sharma, P. K. Verma, N. Kumar, V. Kumar, M. Bala and B. Singh, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2011, **17**, 5903-4907.