

A pH Responsive Dendron-DNA-Protein Hybrid Supramolecular System

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1 General Information

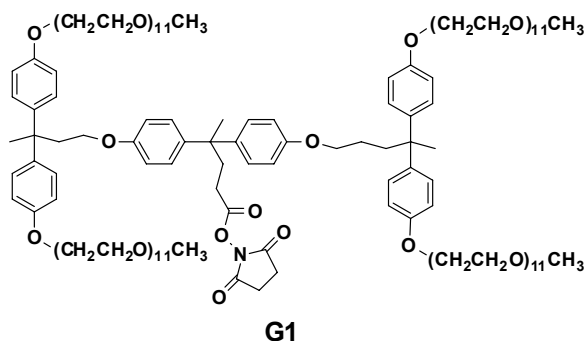
The oligonucleotides were purchased from TaKaRa Biotech (Dalian, China) and HPLC purified. Streptavidin (STV) was obtained from AMRESCO. All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All buffers were prepared with ultra-pure MilliQ water (resistance $> 18 \text{ M}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Unless otherwise noted, all synthetic experiments were carried out under an inert atmosphere of dry nitrogen by using standard Schlenk-type techniques. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX 300 Spectrometer (^1H : 300 MHz; ^{13}C : 75 MHz) or Bruker AMX-600 spectrometers (^1H : 600 MHz; ^{13}C : 150 MHz) at 298 K using partially deuterated solvents as internal standards. Coupling constants (J) were denoted in Hz and chemical shifts (δ) in ppm. Multiplicities were denoted as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Matrix-assisted laser desorption-ionization (time of flight) (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry was performed on a Bruker Biflex III MOLDI-TOF spectrometer with α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid (CCA) as the matrix. FAB spectra were carried out on a Bruker APEX 47E FTMS spectrometer. CD spectra were recorded on a JASCO-810 spectrometer. All the pH values mentioned were calibrated by a micro pH meter (FE 20 from METTLER TOLEDO company). UV/Vis spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 100 spectrophotometer equipped with a programmable temperature-control unit.

Denaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) (10% wt, Acr:Bis = 19:1, 3M Urea) was run at 20 V/cm in $1 \times$ TBE buffer for 3 h. After the electrophoresis, the gel was stained with Stains-all dye (Sigma) or Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 (Fisher Biotech).

In a control experiment, the dendron G1 was synthesized, and reacted with 5'-NH₂-TTCCCTAACCCCTAACCCCTT-biotin-3' to obtain DNA-G1 conjugate. Four DNA-G1 conjugates were assembled with streptavidin through noncovalent interaction to give G1-DNA-STV supramolecular system.

2 Preparation of the dendron (G1 and G2)-DNA conjugates.



The dendron (G1 or G2) was dissolved in 75 mM pH 8.0 phosphate buffer solution and followed by adding 100 μM 5'-amino group of the biotinylated DNA with a stoichiometric molar ratio of dendron/DNA about 600:1. After incubating at room temperature for 6 h, the reaction mixture was analyzed and separated by denaturing PAGE. The resulting dendron-DNA conjugate cut off from the PAGE was dipped in water overnight, then the supernatant was desalted by ultrafiltration device (3k Da) or C18 reverse-phase column chromatograph. The final resulting product was freeze-dried to give the desired DNA-dendron conjugate. The concentration of re-dissolved conjugate was determined by measuring DNA absorbance at 260 nm using UV-Vis spectrophotometer.

3 Preparation of the dendron (G1 and G2)-DNA-STV conjugates

Conjugation of biotinylated DNA-dendron to streptavidin was carried out with a stoichiometric molar ratio of biotinylated DNA-dendrons/STV about 5:1 in pH 7.0 phosphate buffer at room temperature. After overnight incubation room temperature, the excess biotinylated DNA-dendrons and unreacted streptavidin were removed by denaturing PAGE. After desalting with a 10k Da MWCO ultrafiltration tube, the ultimate dendron-DNA-streptavidin conjugate could be obtained.

4 HABA test on the biotinylated DNA-dendron conjugates to STV

STV (AMRESCO) was dissolved in a mixture of 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 5.0 and pH 6.2) and 150 mM NaCl at a concentration of 10 μM ; and

Compound 1¹: To a three-necked flask, NaH (15.0 g, 70% in oil, 400 mmol) and THF (700 mL) were placed, and then, tetraethylene glycol (77.6 g, 400 mmol) was added slowly under ice bath. The mixture was heated to reflux, and THF solution (80 mL) of benzyl chloride (12.7 g, 100 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hrs at 100 °C, and then, it was allowed to cool at room temperature. Methanol was added to the reaction mixture to quench excess NaH, and 5 wt% aq. HCl (50 mL) was added. After evaporation of THF, the product was extracted using 5 wt% aq. HCl and CH₂Cl₂. The crude product (brownish liquid, 90% yield) obtained by solvent evaporation and drying under vacuum condition was used for the subsequent reaction without purification. The formation of bisbenzyl ether in ca. 10% molar ratio was observed in ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 3.47~3.59 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 16H), 4.57 (s, ArCH₂O, 2H), 7.2~7.4 (m, ArH, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz): δ = 138.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.4, 72.9, 72.5, 70.4, 70.3, 70.1, 69.3, 61.3; ESI-MS calcd for C₁₅H₂₄O₅ 284.35, found 283.4(M-H⁺)

Compound 2¹: Compound **1** (90% in purity, 25.0 g, 87 mmol), NaOH (14.00 g, 350 mmol), THF (80 mL), and H₂O (70 mL) were put to a three-necked flask, and the mixture was cooled at 0 °C. A THF solution (100 mL) of *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (19.2 g, 100 mmol) was added to the mixture dropwise, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hrs at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm at room temperature, and stirred for additional 20 hrs. The reaction mixture was poured to 5wt% aq. HCl cooled at 0 °C, and the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was rinsed with water, and dried with Na₂SO₄. The crude product obtained by solvent evaporation was purified by column chromatography (5% to 10% THF/ CH₂Cl₂) afforded **2** (35.0 g, 80 mmol, 92%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 2.38 (s, CH₃Ar, 3H), 3.51~3.66 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 14H), 4.09~4.12 (t, *J* = 9.45 Hz, ArOCH₂, 2H), 4.52 (s, ArCH₂O, 2H), 7.22~7.32 (m, ArH, 7H), 7.74~7.77 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, ArH, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 144.7, 138.3, 133.0, 129.8, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 73.1, 70.6, 70.5, 70.4, 69.5, 69.4, 68.6, 21.5; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for C₂₂H₃₀NaO₇S 461.52 (M+Na⁺), found 460.8, C₂₂H₃₀O₇KS

477.63 (M+K⁺), found 476.7.

Compound 3¹: Following the procedure for **1**. NaH (11.3 g, 70% in oil, 300 mmol), tetraethylene glycol (58.2 g, 300 mmol), **2** (32.8 g, 75 mmol), and THF (500 mL) yielded **3** as yellow oil (29.0 g, 63 mmol, 84%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 3.54~3.69 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 32H), 4.54 (s, ArCH₂O, 2H), 7.23~7.34 (m, ArH, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz): δ = 138.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.4, 72.9, 72.5, 70.4, 70.3, 70.1, 69.3, 61.3; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for C₂₃H₄₀NaO₉ 483.55 (M+Na⁺), found 482.9, C₂₃H₄₀KO₉ 499.66 (M+K⁺), found 498.9

Compound 4¹: Following the procedure for **2**, **3** (27.6 g, 60 mmol), NaOH (8.40 g, 210 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (14.3 g, 75 mmol), and THF (50 mL), H₂O (50 mL) yielded **4** as yellow oil (33.2 g, 54.0 mmol, 90%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 2.41 (s, CH₃Ar, 3H), 3.53~3.67 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 30H), 4.10~4.13 (t, *J* = 9.32 Hz, ArOCH₂, 2H), 4.53 (s, ArCH₂O, 2H), 7.22~7.32 (m, ArH, 7H), 7.75~7.78 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, ArH, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 144.7, 138.3, 132.9, 129.8, 128.2, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 73.0, 70.5, 70.4, 70.4, 70.4, 69.4, 69.3, 68.5, 21.5; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for C₃₀H₄₆NaO₁₁S 637.73 (M+Na⁺), found 637.0, C₃₀H₄₆O₁₁ KS 653.84 (M+K⁺), found 653.0

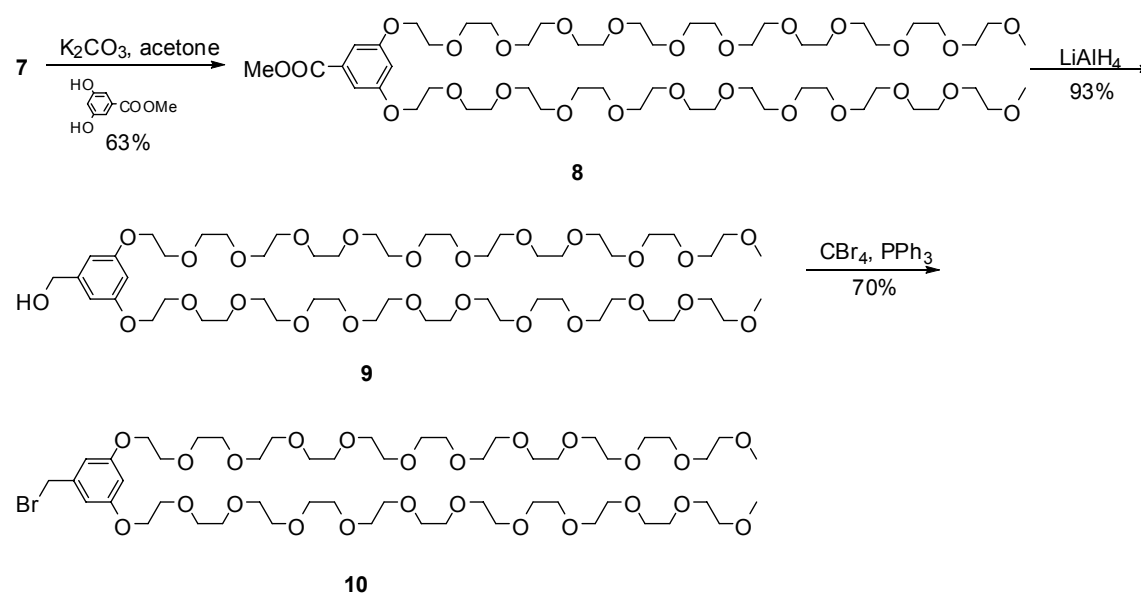
Compound 5: Following the procedure for **1** NaH (1.7 g, 50 mmol, 70% in oil), triethylene glycol monomethyl ether (8.2 g, 50 mmol), **4** (30.7 g, 50 mmol), and THF (300 mL) yielded **5** as yellow oil (26.4 g, 43.5 mmol, 87%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 3.36 (s, CH₃OCH₂, 3H), 3.50~3.63 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 44H), 4.54 (s, ArCH₂O, 2H), 7.29~7.33 (m, ArH, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 138.3, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 73.1, 71.8, 70.5, 70.4, 69.4, 58.8; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for C₃₀H₅₄NaO₁₂ 629.73 (M+Na⁺), found 629.5, C₂₃H₄₀KO₉ (M+K⁺) 645.84, found 645.5

Compound 6: To an autoclave, **5** (3.10 g, 5 mmol), palladium carbon (5wt%, 200 mg), and THF (5 mL) were put, and the autoclave was sealed. H₂ gas (50 atm) was

introduced to the autoclave, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hrs at 80 °C. The autoclave was allowed to cool at room temperature and depressurized to open. The product was obtained by filtration off palladium carbon and solvent evaporation in 98% yield as colorless solid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): $\delta = 3.37$ (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 3H), 3.38~3.73 (m, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, 44H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): $\delta = 72.5$, 71.8, 70.5, 70.4, 70.3, 61.6, 58.9; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{48}\text{NaO}_{12}$ 539.61 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), found 539.4, $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{48}\text{KO}_{12}$ ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$) 555.72, found 555.4

Compound 7: Following the procedure for **2. 6** (20.6 g, 40 mmol), NaOH (5.60 g, 140 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (9.6 g, 50 mmol), and THF (50 mL), H_2O (50 mL) yielded **7** as yellow oil (22.8 g, 34 mmol, 85%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): $\delta = 2.44$ (s, CH_3Ar , 3H), 3.36 (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 3H), 3.36~3.68 (m, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, 42H), 4.12~4.15 (t, $J = 9.28$ Hz, ArOCH_2 , 2H), 7.33~7.36 (d, $J = 8.13$ Hz, ArH , 2H), 7.77~7.79 (d, $J = 8.28$ Hz, ArH , 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): $\delta = 144.7$, 138.3, 133.0, 129.8, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 73.1, 70.6, 70.5, 70.4, 69.5, 69.4, 68.6, 21.5; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_{14}\text{NaS}$ 693.8 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), found 693.5, $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_{14}\text{KS}$ 709.9 ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$), found 709.5

2) Synthesis of peripheral OEG-modified Dendrons:



Scheme S2. Synthetic route to OEG Dendron

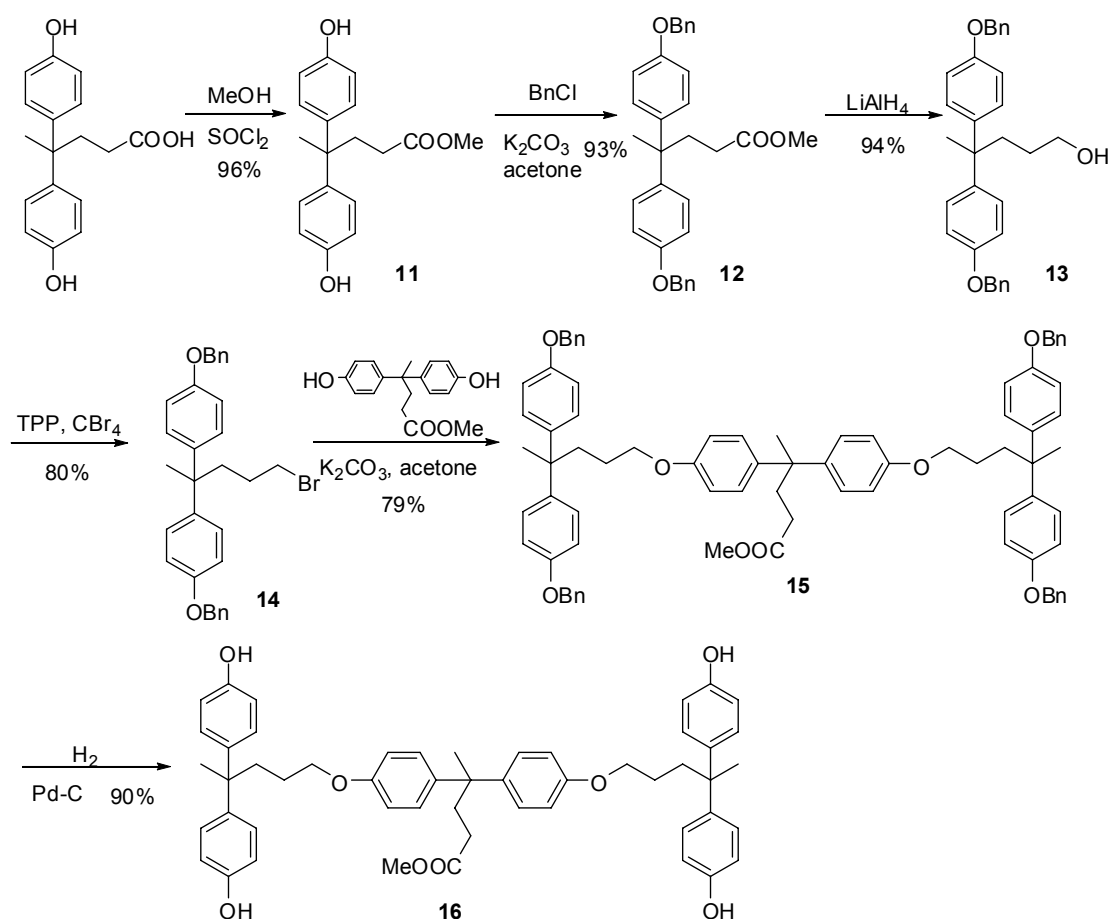
Compound 8: A mixture of 3, 5-dihydrobenzoate (2.35 g, 14 mmol), **7** (20.1 g, 30 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (13.8 g, 100 mmol) in acetone was stirred at reflux for 16 h. The product was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 , filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (150 ml), washed with water (100 ml) and then dried over Na_2SO_4 . The crude product obtained by solvent evaporation was purification by column chromatography (2% to 8% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2) afforded Compound **8** as a yellow oil (10.2 g, 8.7 mmol, 63%). 1H NMR($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ = 3.36 (s, CH_2OCH_3 , 6H), 3.51~3.71 (m, OCH_2CH_2O and $COOCH_3$, 83H), 3.84-3.87 (m, $ArOCH_2CH_2O$, 4H), 4.12~4.14 (m, $ArOCH_2CH_2O$, 4H), 6.69 (s, ArH , 1H), 7.21~7.22 (d, J = 1.88 Hz, ArH , 2H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ = 168.2, 159.6, 131.8, 108.2, 106.9, 71.8, 70.7, 70.5, 70.4, 70.3, 69.5, 67.6, 58.9; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $C_{54}H_{100}NaO_{26}$ ($M+Na^+$) 1188.35, found 1187.8, $C_{54}H_{100}O_{26}K$ ($M+K^+$)1204.45, found 1203.8

Compound 9: $LiAlH_4$ (0.42 g, 11 mmol) was added to a solution of Compound **8** (10.0 g, 8.6 mmol) in dry THF (100 mL) at 0 °C, the mixture was stirred for 10 min, warmed to room temp, and then reflux for another 45 min. The reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of saturated NH_4Cl solution. The resulting precipitate was filtered, and THF was evaporated. The residue was purification by column chromatography with (10% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2) afforded **9** (9.09 g, 8.0 mmol, 93%) as a colorless oil. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ = 3.30 (s, $ArCH_2OH$, 1H), 3.36 (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 6H), 3.53~3.70 (m, OCH_2CH_2O , 80H), 3.80~3.83 (m, OCH_2CH_2O , 4H), 4.07~4.19 (m, $ArOCH_2$, 4H), 4.56 (s, $ArCH_2OH$, 2H), 6.37 (s, ArH , 1H), 6.51~6.52 (d, J = 1.67 Hz, ArH , 2H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75MHz): δ = 159.9, 144.0, 105.3, 100.6, 71.8, 70.7, 70.4, 70.3, 69.6, 67.4, 64.4, 58.8; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $C_{53}H_{100}NaO_{25}$ 1160.34 ($M+Na^+$), found 1159.8, $C_{53}H_{100}O_{25}K$ 1176.44 ($M+K^+$), found 1175.8

Compound 10: To an ice-cooled solution of Compound **9** (8.9 g, 7.8 mmol) and CBr_4 (4.16 g, 12.5 mmol) in dry THF (15 ml) was added a solution of PPh_3 (2.88 g, 11 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) dropwise over 10 minutes. The resulting mixture was stirred

in ice for 10 minutes and at room temperature for 10 minutes. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the product was purified by column chromatography (15% to 50% THF/CH₂Cl₂) afford **10** (6.55 g, 5.46 mmol, 70%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ = 3.37 (s, CH₃OCH₂, 6H), 3.53~3.70 (m, OCH₂CH₂O, 80H), 3.80~3.83 (t, *J* = 9.46 Hz, OCH₂CH₂O, 4H), 4.07~4.10 (t, *J* = 9.51 Hz, ArOCH₂, 4H), 4.39 (s, ArCH₂Br, 2H), 6.41 (s, ArH, 1H), 6.54~6.55 (d, *J* = 1.15 Hz, ArH, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 159.9, 139.5, 107.7, 101.6, 71.8, 70.7, 70.5, 70.4, 70.3, 69.5, 67.4, 58.9, 33.5; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for C₅₃H₉₉BrNaO₂₅ 1223.23 (M+Na⁺), found 1223.7, C₅₃H₁₀₀O₂₅BrK 1239.34 (M+K⁺), found 1239.7

3) Synthesis of hydrophobic core:



Scheme S3. Synthetic route to Hydrophobic Core

Compound 11: SOCl₂ (11.9 g, 100 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution of 4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) valeric acid (14.3 g, 50 mmol) in MeOH (120 ml) at

ambient temperature, the mixture was stirred for another 30 minutes. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was recrystallized from CH_2Cl_2 , white solid was obtained (14.4 g, 48 mmol, 96%). ^1H NMR (^6d -Acetone, 300 MHz): δ = 1.54 (s, CH_3 , 3H), 2.05~2.12 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.34~2.39 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 3.56 (s, COOCH_3 , 3H), 6.75~6.78 (d, J = 8.71 Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.02~7.05 (d, J = 8.74 Hz, ArH, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (^6d -Acetone, 75 MHz): δ = 207.5, 174.8, 156.1, 156.0, 140.9, 129.0, 115.6, 115.5, 51.7, 45.0, 37.6, 30.7, 28.1; ESI-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$: 300.35, found 299.17(M-H⁺)

Compound 12: Following the procedure for **8**, **11** (13.5 g, 45 mmol), BnCl (12.7 g, 100 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (27.6 g, 200 mmol) in acetone yielded **12** as a colorless solid (20.16 g, 42 mmol, 93%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ = 1.56 (s, CH_3 , 3H), 2.07~2.13 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.37~2.43 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 3.59 (s, COOCH_3 , 3H), 5.00 (s, ArOCH_2 , 4H), 6.85~6.88 (d, J = 8.82 Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.08~7.11 (d, J = 8.78 Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.27~7.42 (m, ArH, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ = 174.4, 156.9, 141.3, 137.2, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 114.3, 70.0, 51.6, 44.6, 36.7, 30.2, 27.8; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{32}\text{NaO}_4$ 503.58 (M+Na⁺), found, 502.8; $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{32}\text{K O}_4$ 519.69 (M+K⁺), found 518.8

Compound 13²: Following the procedure for **9**. LiAlH_4 (1.9 g, 50 mmol) in THF (15 mL) and **13** (19.2 g, 40 mmol) in THF (100 mL) yielded **12** (17.0 g, 37.6 mmol, 94%) as viscous liquid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ = 1.52~1.57 (t, J = 14.4 Hz, CH_2 , 2H), 1.80 (s, CH_3 , 3H), 2.26~2.32 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.63 (s, CH_2OH , 1H), 3.67~3.71 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 5.16 (s, ArOCH_2 , 4H), 7.08~7.10 (d, J = 8.75 Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.32~7.35 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.47~7.62 (m, ArH, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ = 156.9, 142.4, 137.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 127.8, 114.5, 77.7, 70.1, 63.3, 44.9, 38.3, 28.4, 28.2; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{32}\text{NaO}_3$ (M+Na⁺) 475.57, found, 474.8

Compound 14²: Following the procedure for **10**. **13** (16.0 g, 35.4 mmol), PPh_3 (16.0 g, 35.4 mmol), CBr_4 (14.1 g, 42.5 mmol), and dry THF (30 mL) yielded **14** as yellow oil (14.6 g, 28.3 mmol, 80%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ = 1.81~1.87 (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 5H), 2.37~2.42 (m, CH_2 , 2H),

3.49~3.53 (t, $J = 12.6$, CH_2 , 2H), 5.20(s, $ArOCH_2$, 4H), 7.10~7.13 (d, $J = 8.49$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.32~7.35 (d, $J = 8.50$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.48~7.64 (m, ArH , 10H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): $\delta = 157.0, 141.9, 137.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8, 114.5, 77.7, 70.2, 44.9, 40.9, 34.9, 28.7, 28.4$; ESI-MS calcd for $C_{31}H_{31}BrO_2$ 515.48, found, 517.3

Compound 15: Following the procedure for **8. 14** (10.3 g, 20 mmol), **11** (2.7 g, 9 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (6.9 g, 50 mmol) in acetone yielded **15** as a colorless solid (8.30 g, 7.1 mmol, 79%) after purification by flash column chromatography. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): $\delta = 1.53\sim 1.61$ (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 13H), 2.04~2.08 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.11~2.21 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 2.35~2.41 (t, $J = 16.4$, CH_2 , 2H), 3.60 (s, $COOCH_3$, 3H), 3.82~3.86 (t, $J = 11.26$ Hz, CH_2O , 4H), 5.02 (s, $ArOCH_2$, 8H), 6.72~6.75 (d, $J = 8.76$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 6.85~6.88 (d, $J = 8.80$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.04~7.07 (d, $J = 8.77$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.10~7.13 (d, $J = 8.78$ Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.30~7.43 (m, ArH , 20H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75M Hz): $\delta = 174.38, 157.1, 156.7, 142.0, 140.9, 137.2, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.5, 126.7, 114.2, 113.9, 70.0, 68.3, 51.5, 44.8, 44.5, 38.4, 36.7, 30.1, 27.9, 27.7, 25.0$; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $C_{31}H_{32}NaO_3$ 1192.48 ($M+Na^+$), found, 1191.5

Compound 16: Following the procedure for **6. 15** (8.0 g, 6.84 mmol), palladium carbon (5wt%, 500 mg) in THF yielded **16** as a colorless solid (5.0 g, 6.18 mmol, 90%) after purification by flash column chromatography. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): $\delta = 1.54\sim 1.57$ (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 13H), 2.04~2.08 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.16~2.21 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 2.33~2.39 (t, $J = 16.6$ Hz, CH_2 , 2H), 3.55 (s, $COOCH_3$, 3H), 3.68 (s, $ArOH$, 4H), 3.86~3.90 (t, $J = 12.2$ Hz, CH_2O , 4H), 5.02 (s, $ArOCH_2$, 8H), 6.72~6.75 (d, $J = 8.76$ Hz, 4H), 7.04~7.09 (m, ArH , 12H), 6.75~6.79 (m, ArH , 12H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): $\delta = 207.5, 174.8, 158.1, 155.9, 155.8, 141.8, 141.6, 129.1, 129.0, 115.6, 115.5, 114.9, 69.1, 51.8, 45.3, 45.2, 39.1, 37.5, 28.5, 28.1, 25.9$; MALDI-TOF MS calcd for $C_{52}H_{56}NaO_8$ 831.99 ($M+Na^+$), found, 831.6

44.5, 38.4, 36.7, 30.2, 28.0, 27.9, 25.0; MALDI-TOF calcd for $C_{144}H_{240}NaO_{52}$ 2826.4 ($M+Na^+$), found 2825.7, $C_{144}H_{240}KO_{52}$ 2842.5 ($M+K^+$), found 2841.7

Compound 18: Following the procedure for **8**, **10** (2.2 g, 1.83 mmol), **16** (0.24 g, 0.3 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (1.38 g, 10 mmol) in acetone yielded **21** as a colorless oil (1.41 g, 0.27 mmol, 89%) after purification by flash column chromatography. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 600 MHz): δ = 1.53~1.60 (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 13H), 2.05~2.08 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.16~2.17 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 2.37~2.38 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 3.36 (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 24H), 3.52~3.71 (m, $OCH_2CH_2O+COOCH_3$, 323H), 3.81~3.83 (m, CH_2OAr , 20H), 4.08~4.09 (m, OCH_2CH_2O , 16H), 4.92 (s, $ArCH_2OAr$, 8H), 6.42 (s, ArH , 4H), 6.57~6.58 (d, J = 1.62 Hz, ArH , 8H), 6.73~6.75 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, ArH , 4H), 6.84~6.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, ArH , 8H), 7.05~7.06 (d, J = 8.64 Hz, ArH , 4H), 7.09~7.11 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, ArH , 8H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 150 MHz): δ = 174.3, 160.1, 157.0, 156.6, 142.0, 140.8, 139.6, 128.3, 128.2, 114.2, 113.9, 106.0, 101.0, 71.9, 71.5, 70.8, 70.6, 70.5, 69.9, 69.7, 68.3, 67.5, 59.0, 53.7, 51.5, 44.8, 44.5, 38.4, 36.7, 30.1, 28.0, 27.9, 25.0; MALDI-TOF calcd for $C_{264}H_{448}NaO_{104}$ 5309.31 ($M+Na^+$), found 5312.6, $C_{264}H_{448}KO_{104}$ 5325.42 ($M+K^+$), found 5328.6

Compound 19: 1.62 g (0.58 mmol) **20** and 200 mg NaOH (5 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml H_2O , the solution was stirred at reflux for 24h, 1 ml HCl (6 mol/L) was added, the product was extract with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 , the crude product obtained by solvent evaporation was used without further purification. 1.0 g (0.36 mmol) acid and 76 mg HOSu (0.66 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (5 ml), 168 mg DCC (0.82 mmol) was added to the solution. The solution was stirred for 24 h. The crude product obtained by solvent evaporation was purified by column chromatography (3% to 5% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2) afforded **19** (0.66 g, 0.23 mmol, 64%) as a colorless oil. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 600 MHz): δ = 1.55~1.59 (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 13H), 2.16~2.19 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 2.31~2.33 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.35~2.36 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.88 (s, $O=C-CH_2CH_2-C=O$, 4H), 3.37 (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 12H), 3.53~3.71 (m, OCH_2CH_2O , 160H), 3.83~4.07 (m, OCH_2CH_2O , 12H), 4.06~4.08 (m, CH_2OAr , 8H), 6.74~6.76 (d, J = 8.52 Hz, ArH , 4H), 6.78~6.80 (d, J = 8.58 Hz, ArH , 8H), 7.04~7.06 (d, J = 8.46 Hz,

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter
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ArH, 4H), 7.08~7.09 (d, $J = 8.52$ Hz, ArH, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): $\delta =$ 69.4, 169.0, 157.2, 156.6, 141.9, 140.2, 128.2, 128.1, 114.1, 113.9, 71.9, 71.5, 70.8, 70.6, 70.6, 70.5, 70.4, 69.8, 68.3, 67.3, 61.6, 59.0, 53.7, 44.8, 44.5, 38.4, 36.3, 28.0, 27.8, 27.3, 25.6, 25.0; MALDI-TOF calcd for $\text{C}_{147}\text{H}_{241}\text{NNaO}_{54}$ 2909.45 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), found 2914.3, $\text{C}_{147}\text{H}_{241}\text{NKO}_{54}$ 2925.56 ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$), found 2930.5

Compound 20: Following the procedure for 19, 1.41 g (0.27 mmol) 18 was hydrolysed and reacted with 45 mg HOSu (0.39 mmol) and 100 mg DCC (0.48 mmol), colorless oil (0.7 g, 0.13 mmol, 60%) after purification by flash column chromatography. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): $\delta =$ 1.54~1.61 (m, CH_3+CH_2 , 13H), 2.18~2.19 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 2.34~2.36 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.59~2.61 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 2.82 (s, $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{C}=\text{O}$, 4H), 3.37 (s, CH_3OCH_2 , 24H), 3.53~3.71 (m, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, 320H), 3.82~3.84 (m, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, 20H), 4.09~4.10 (m, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, 16H), 4.93 (s, ArCH_2O , 8H), 6.43 (s, ArH, 4H), 6.58~6.59 (d, $J = 1.62$ Hz, ArH, 8H), 6.76~6.77 (d, $J = 8.52$ Hz, ArH, 4H), 6.84~6.86 (d, $J = 8.52$ Hz, ArH, 8H), 7.06~7.07 (d, $J = 8.58$ Hz, ArH, 4H), 7.11~7.12 (d, $J = 8.52$ Hz, ArH, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): $\delta =$ 171.9, 171.4, 169.4, 168.9, 161.0, 160.4, 160.0, 159.9, 157.1, 156.6, 141.9, 140.2, 139.5, 128.2, 128.0, 114.2, 114.0, 113.9, 105.9, 100.9, 71.9, 71.5, 71.2, 70.7, 70.6, 70.5, 70.4, 69.7, 69.6, 68.8, 68.4, 67.5, 62.9, 58.9, 53.8, 44.8, 44.5, 38.3, 27.9, 27.8, 25.5, 25.3, 24.9; MALDI-TOF calcd for $\text{C}_{267}\text{H}_{449}\text{KNO}_{106}$ 5408.46 ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$), found 5438.

6 MALDI-TOF of dendron(G1 and G2)-DNA conjugates

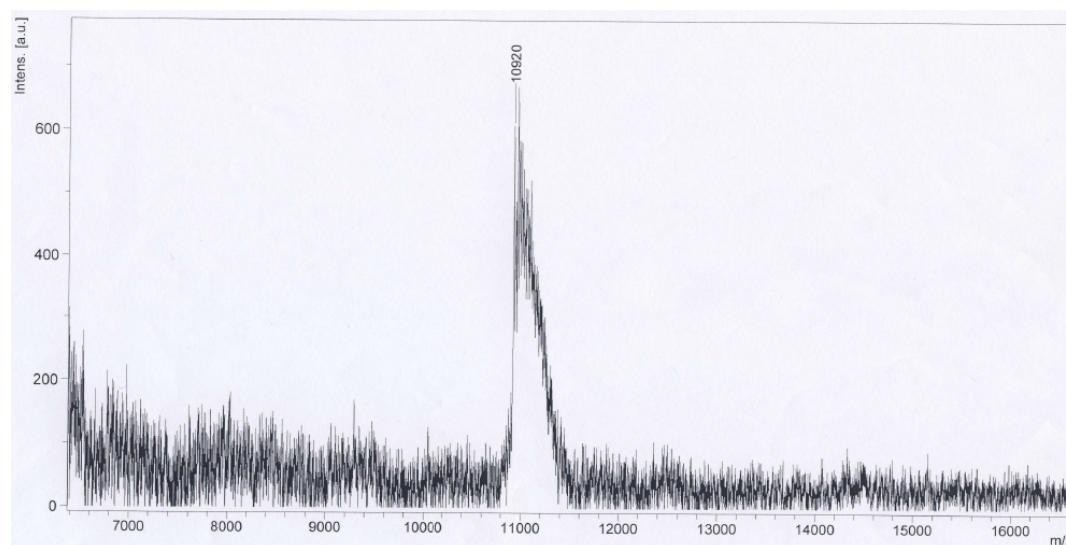


Fig.S1 MALDI-TOF corresponding to dendron G1-DNA conjugate (calculated m/z $[M+H]^+ = 10772$).

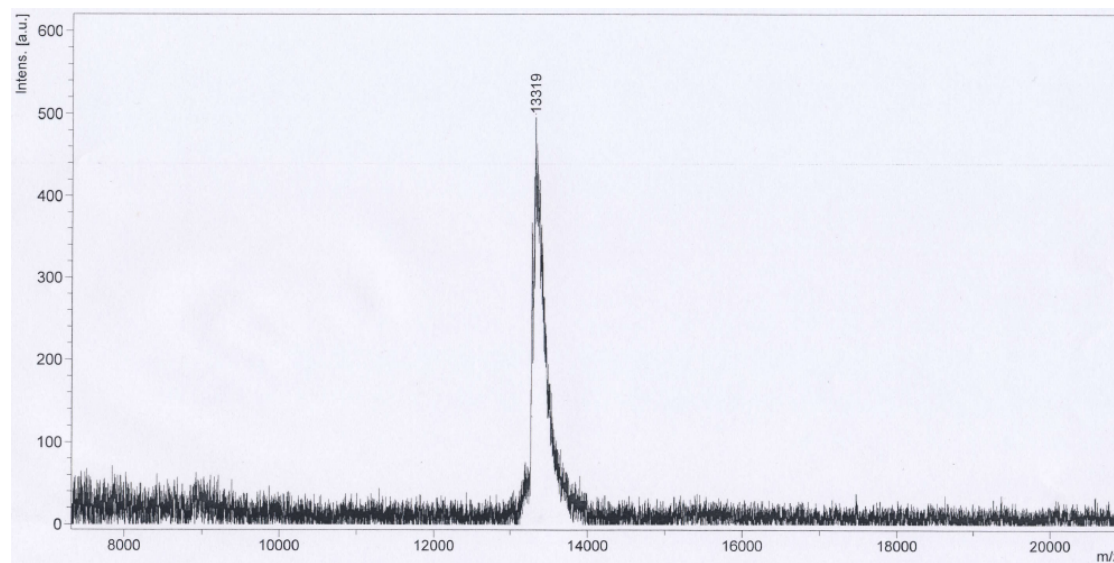


Fig.S2 MALDI-TOF corresponding to dendron G2-DNA conjugate (calculated m/z $[M+H]^+ = 13208$).

7 Characterization of G1-DNA-STV conjugate by PAGE

The prepared biotinylated DNA-G1 conjugate was assembled with STV in a pH 7.0 phosphate buffer at room temperature for 12 hours at different molar ratio (1:1 up to 10:1), and the results were analyzed by denature PAGE (10% wt, Acr : Bis = 19:1, 3M Urea). As shown in **Fig. S3**, when the ratios lower than 4:1 were employed, several bands were observed. Along with the increase of DNA-G1 ratio in the assembling system, the yield of assemblies containing more DNA-G1 increased. When the ratio reached 4:1, only one obvious band was observed in the assembly area. No new product band was observed when we increased the ratio to 10:1.

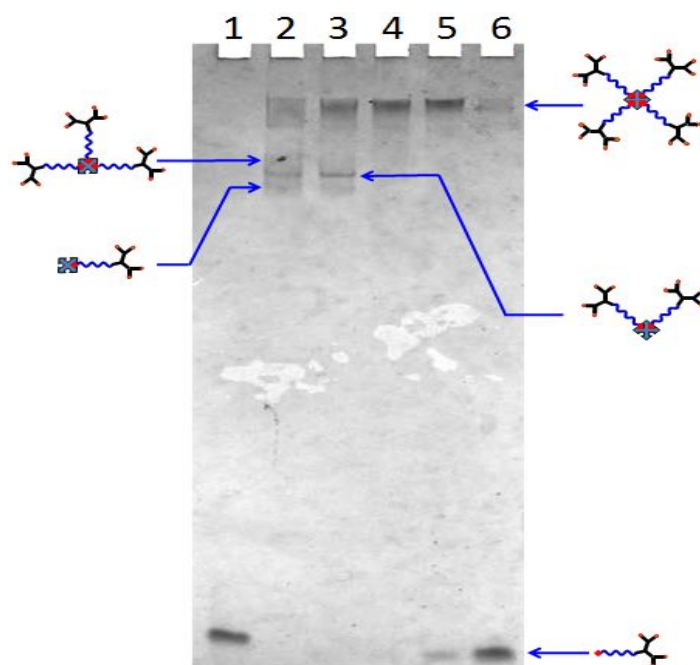


Fig.S3 Characterization of STV and G1-DNA conjugate assembly by PAGE.
Lane1, G1-DNA conjugate; Lane2, STV:G1-DNA=1:1; Lane3, STV:G1-DNA=1:3;
Lane4, STV:G1-DNA=1:3; Lane5, STV:G1-DNA=1:4; Lane6, STV:G1-DNA=1:10.

8 Identification of the STV-DNA-dendron conjugates after gel purification

The identification of the ultimate STV-DNA-dendron conjugates after gel purification was shown in the **Fig. S4**. It is well-known that Stains-All is used for staining of nucleic acids, and Coomssie Brilliant Dyes are a family of dyes commonly used to stain proteins. As shown in **Fig. S4**, lane 4, 5 and lane 8, 9, the purified (dendron-DNA)₄-STV conjugates which consist of nucleic acid and protein could be stained by both of the dyes to give one obvious band, respectively. While the DNA and dendron-DNA conjugates which only contain nucleic acids could be stained by Stains-All (**Fig. S4**, lane 1, 2, 3), but could not be stained by Coomssie Brilliant Blue (**Fig. S4**, lane 10, 11, 12). Similarly, the protein STV could only be stained by Coomssie Brilliant Blue (**Fig. S4**, lane 7), and no band could be found in the case of employing Stains-All (**Fig. S4**, lane 6). These results suggest that our hybrid supramolecular system are indeed comprised of both DNA and protein.

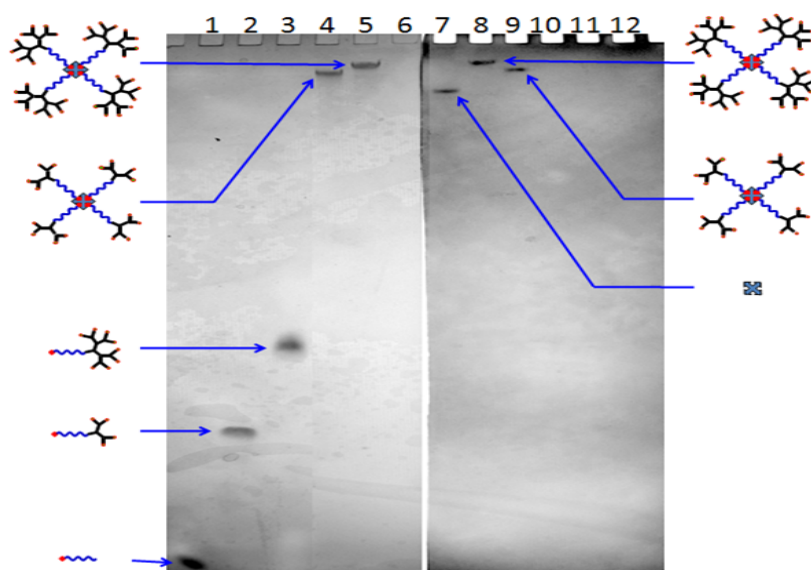


Fig. S4 Identification of the STV-DNA-dendrons conjugates after gel purification; Lane 1-6 panels of the gel are stained with Stained All for the oligonucleotide, and Lane 7-12 panels of the gel are stained with Coomssie Brilliant Blue for the STV; Lane 1, the DNA M; Lane 2, G1-DNA; Lane 3, G2-DNA; Lane 4, STV-(DNA-G1)₄; Lane 5, STV-(DNA-G2)₄; Lane 6, STV; Lane 7, STV; Lane 8, STV-(DNA-G2)₄; Lane 9, STV-(DNA-G1)₄; Lane 10, G2-DNA; Lane 11, G1-DNA; Lane 12, the DNA M.

9 UV-Vis absorption spectra of the dendrons (G1 and G2) and Gn-DNA conjugates

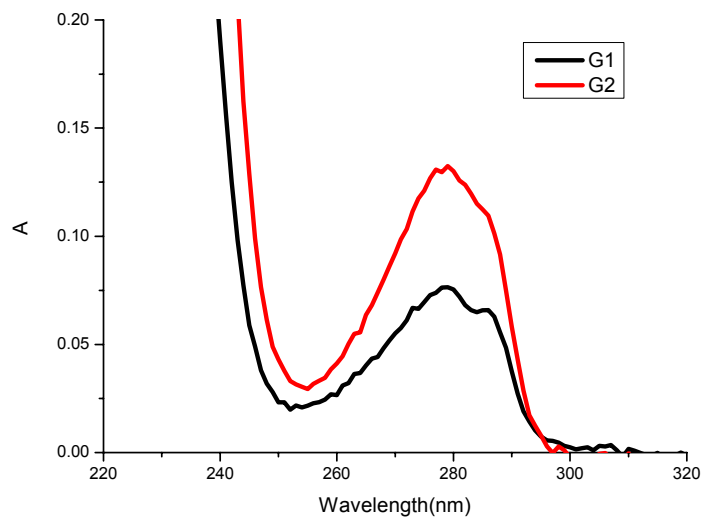


Fig. S5 UV-Vis absorption spectra of the dendron G1 (black) and G2 (red)

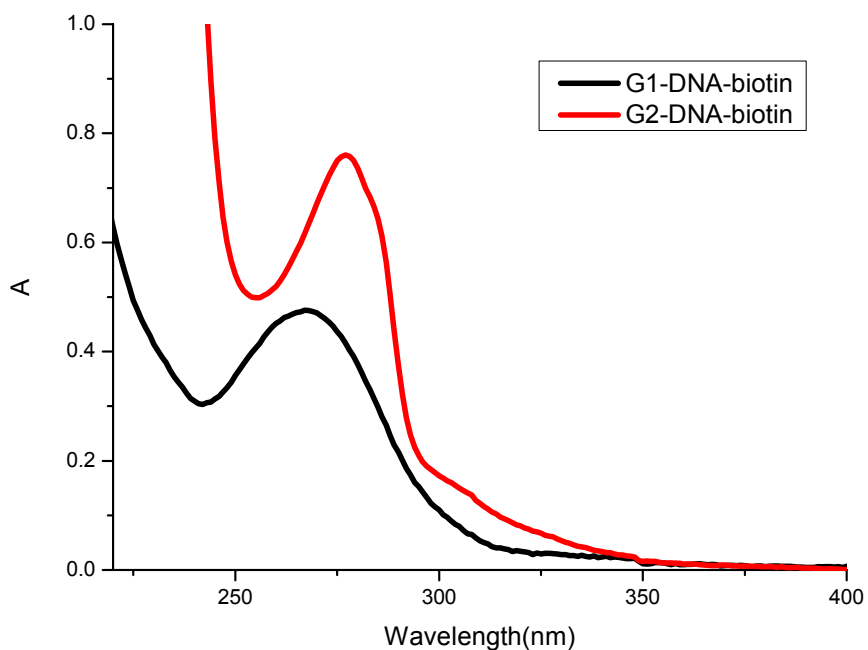


Fig. S6 UV-Vis absorption spectra of the conjugate dendron G1-DNA (black) and G2-DNA (red).

10 Spectral results from the titration of HABA-STV complex with biotinylated Gn-DNA

With the HABA-STV complex in hand, we titrated it with biotinylated DNA-G1 at pH 6.2. Upon the addition of DNA-G1, an immediate decrease in the absorption at 500 nm was detected, indicative of the displacement of HABA from STV, and an increase in the absorption at 350 nm was observed which was caused by the released HABA from the HABA-STV complex (**Fig. S7**). Since the dendron G2 and G2-DNA conjugate have a larger absorption at around 300 nm (**Fig. S5 and S6**), the peak value at 350 nm during the titration by biotinylated DNA-G2 was less clear (**Fig. 4** in the manuscript). The titration required exactly four molar equivalents of DNA-G1 to STV, after which no further decrease in HABA absorbance at 500 nm was detected. These results demonstrated that the biotin unit in DNA-G1 conjugate has greater affinity to STV than HABA with the stoichiometry of 4:1. In order to examine whether the formation of i-motif could inhibit binding of the biotinylated DNA-dendron conjugates to STV, we carried out the same experiments at pH 5.0. As can be seen in **Fig. S8** and **Fig. S9**, STV could still bind DNA-G1 and DNA-G2 conjugates tightly, indicating that the steric i-motif did not hamper the formation of biotin-STV complex.

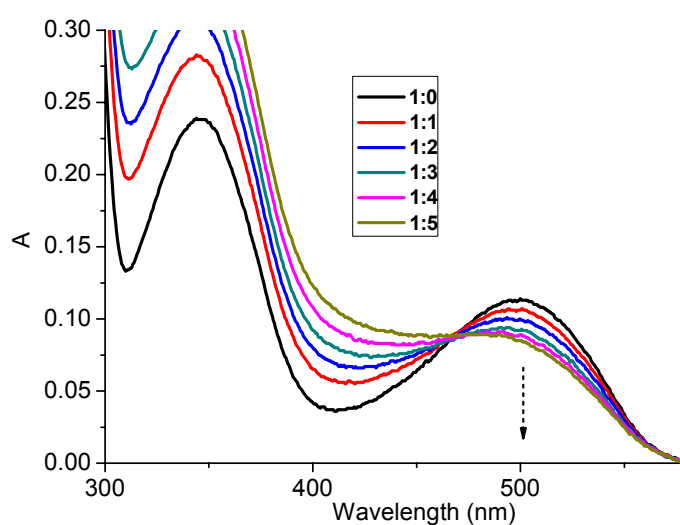


Fig. S7 Spectral results from the titration of HABA-STV complex with biotinylated DNA-G1 at pH 6.2 resulting in HABA release and a corresponding decrease in A_{500} .

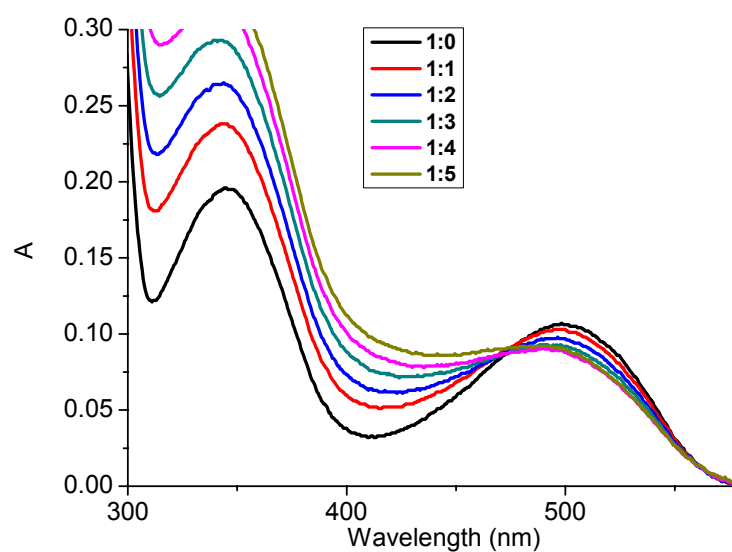


Fig. S8 Spectral results from the titration of HABA-STV complex with biotinylated DNA-G1 at pH 5.0 resulting in HABA release and a corresponding decrease in A_{500} .

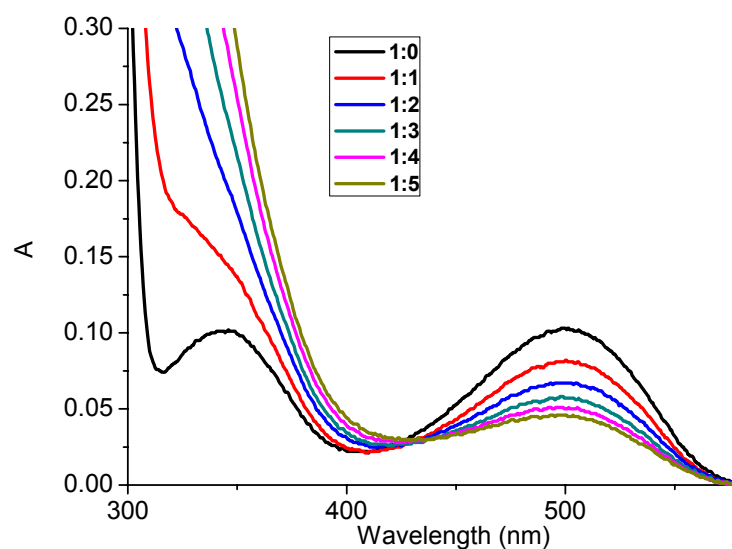


Fig. S9 Spectral results from the titration of HABA-STV complex with biotinylated DNA-G2 at pH 5.0 resulting in HABA release and a corresponding decrease in A_{500} .

11 Characterization of the STV-(DNA-G1)₄ conjugate by CD spectroscopy

The conformational change of the (G1-DNA)₄-STV conjugate associated with the folded and extended states was examined by circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy. The (G1-DNA)₄-STV conjugate (0.375 μ M) was premixed with strand Y (1.5 μ M) in pH 5.0 phosphate buffer. As shown in the **Fig. S10**, at pH 5.0 the CD spectrum showed the distinct characteristics of i-motif structure with a strong positive band near 285 nm, indicating that the system was in its folded state. While the pH value was increased to 8.0 by adding 1 M NaOH, the CD spectroscopy displayed the distinct characteristics of a B-form duplex DNA structure with a positive band near 275 nm, demonstrating the system was switched into its extended state. By adding HCl and NaOH alternatively and monitoring the amplitude of CD signal at 285 nm, the multiple cycling of the system could be achieved in a reliable manner (**Fig. S10**, inset).

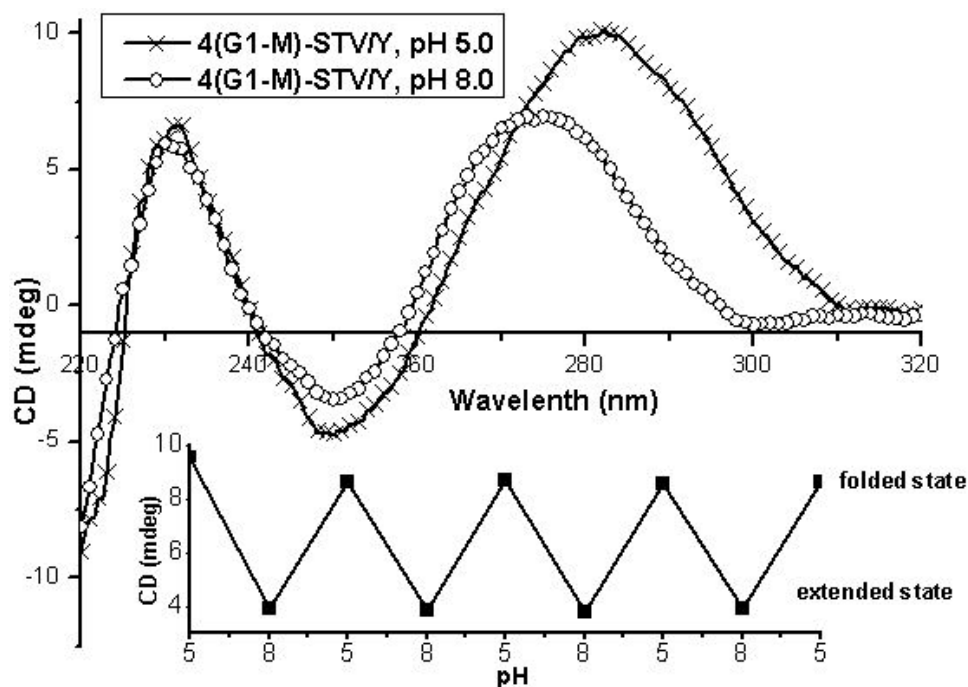
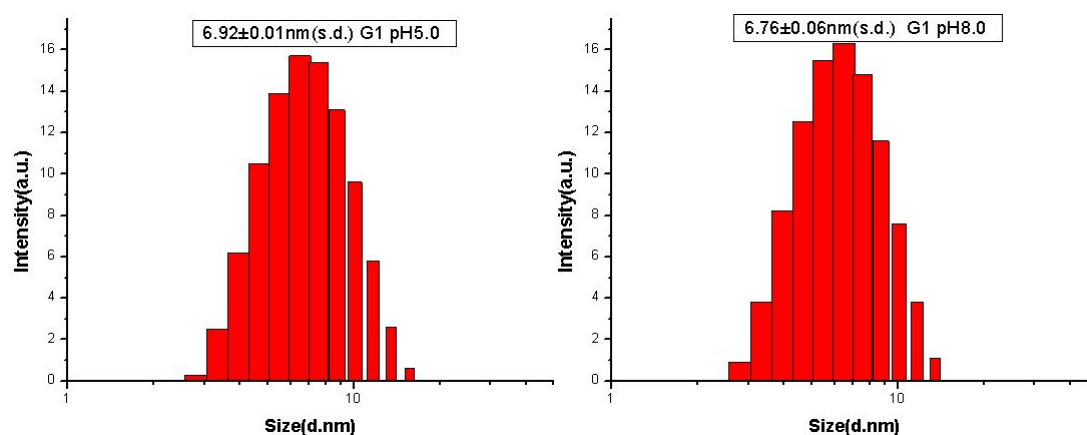


Fig.S10 Characterization of the STV-(DNA-G1)₄ conjugate by CD spectroscopy. Inset: cycling of the conformational switch of STV-(DNA-G1)₄ conjugate through measurement of the CD signal at 285 nm between pH 5.0 and pH 8.0 by adding NaOH or HCl alternatively.

12. Characterization of size change of STV-(DNA-G1)₄ conjugate by dynamic light scattering (DLS)

Effective hydrodynamic diameter of the supramolecular system was measured by dynamic light scattering at 20 °C using a dynamic light scattering photometer (Nano ZS ZEN3600, Malvern Instruments Ltd., United Kingdom) equipped with laser at a wavelength of 633 nm. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) provides a direct measurement of the physical sizes of the sample particles. The dendrons G1(1 mM), STV(10 μM) and Dendrons-DNA-STV complex(1 μM) were respectively dissolved in the solution of 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 5.0 and pH 8.0) and 100 mM NaCl. As shown in Fig.11, the apparent hydrodynamic diameters of dendrons and STV almost have no change at different pH. While it can be seen that in Fig. 12 the hydrodynamic volume of the G1-DNA-STV hybrid supramolecular system could be switched between the folded state and extended state, yielding effective hydrodynamic diameters of $\sim 14.52 \pm 1.20$ nm(s.d.) at pH 5.0 and $\sim 20.27 \pm 2.00$ nm(s.d.) at pH 8.0. The difference between the value (~ 6 nm) results from the two states controlled by conformation change of i-motif DNA.



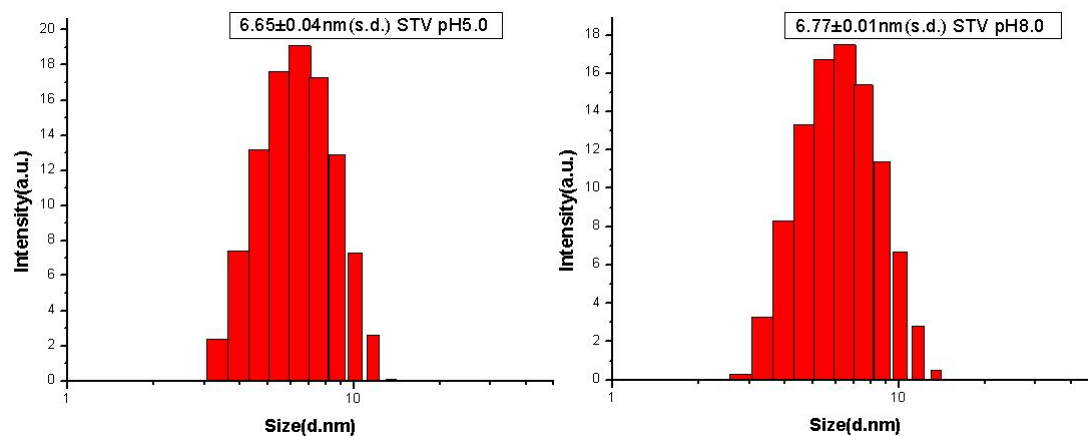


Fig.11 Size distribution by intensity graph as a histogram of the dendrons and STV measured by DLS.

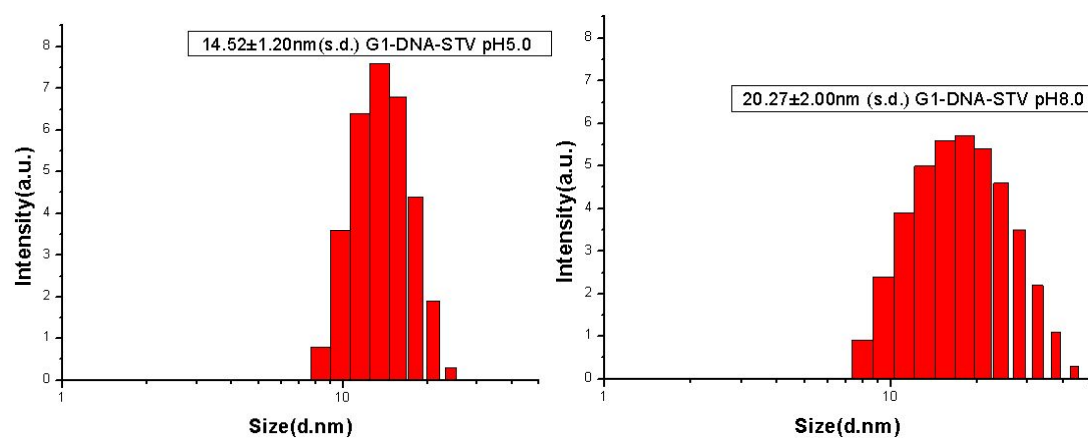
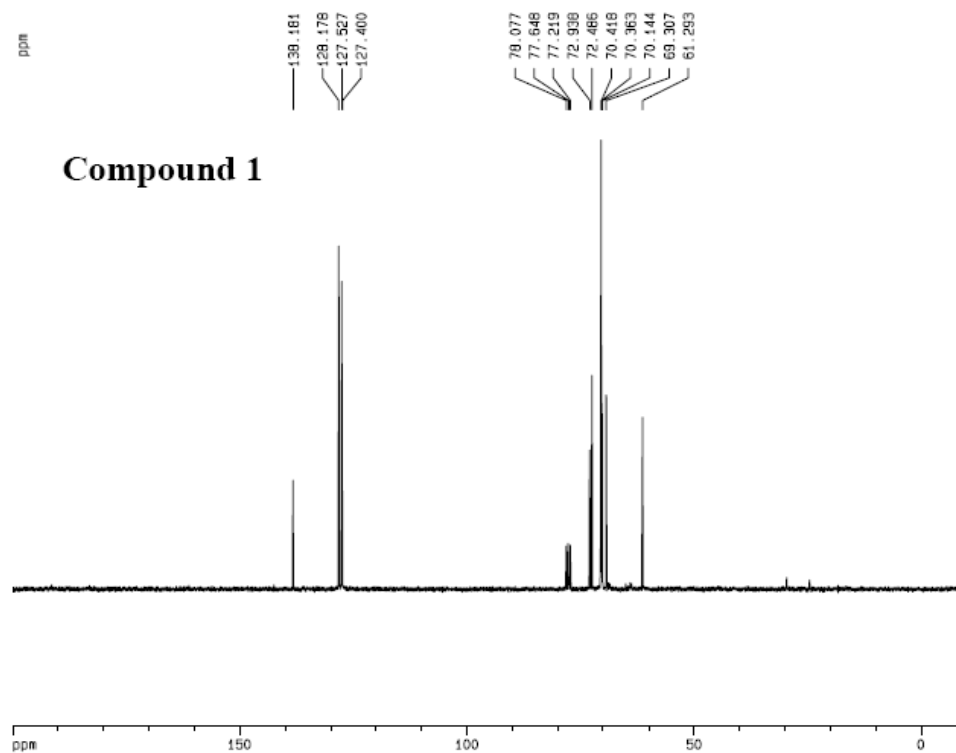
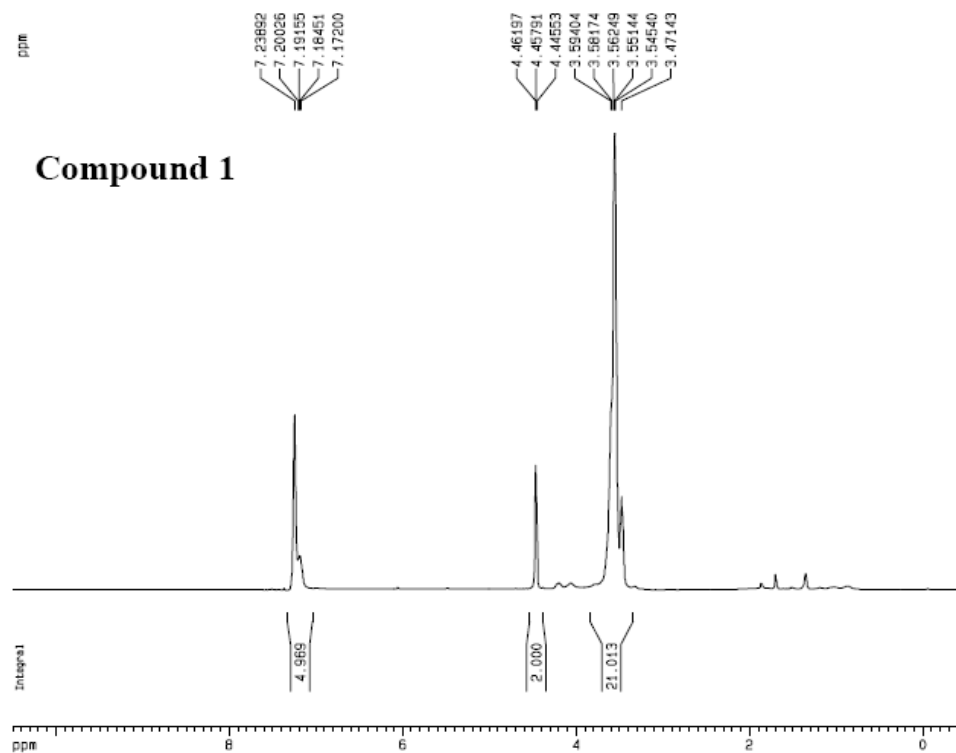
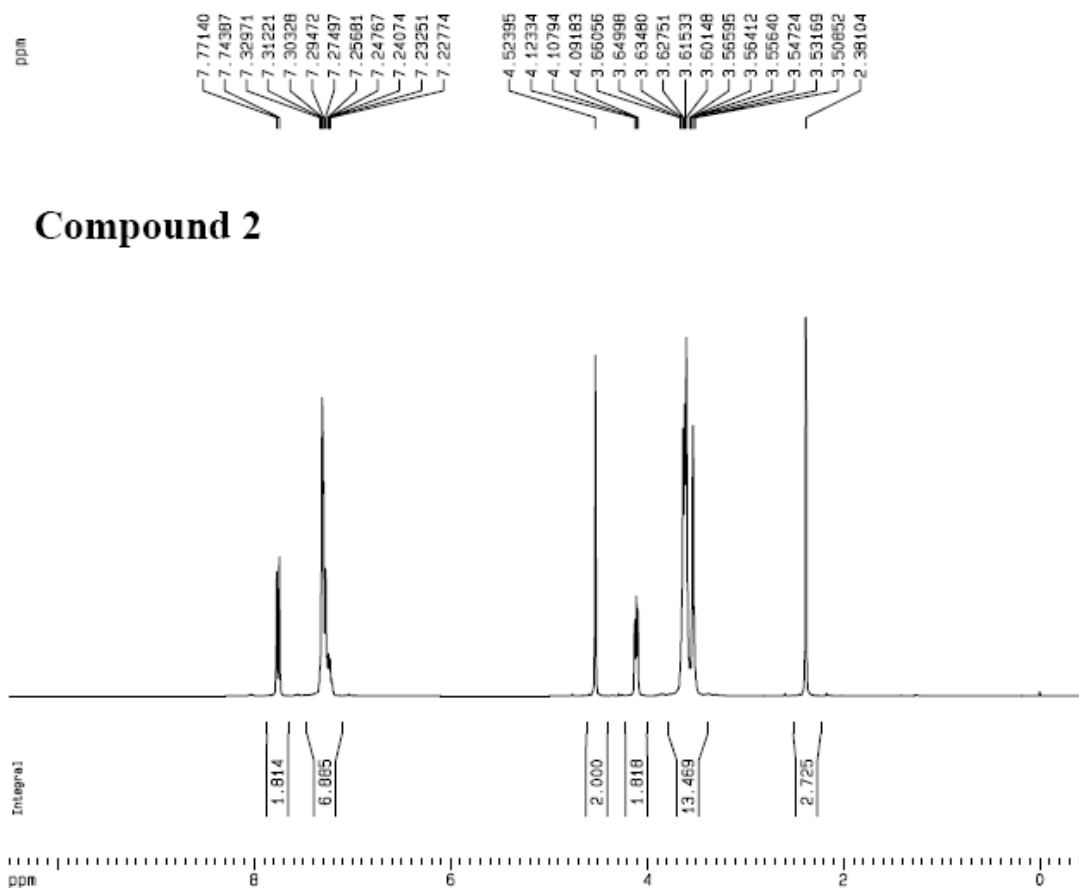
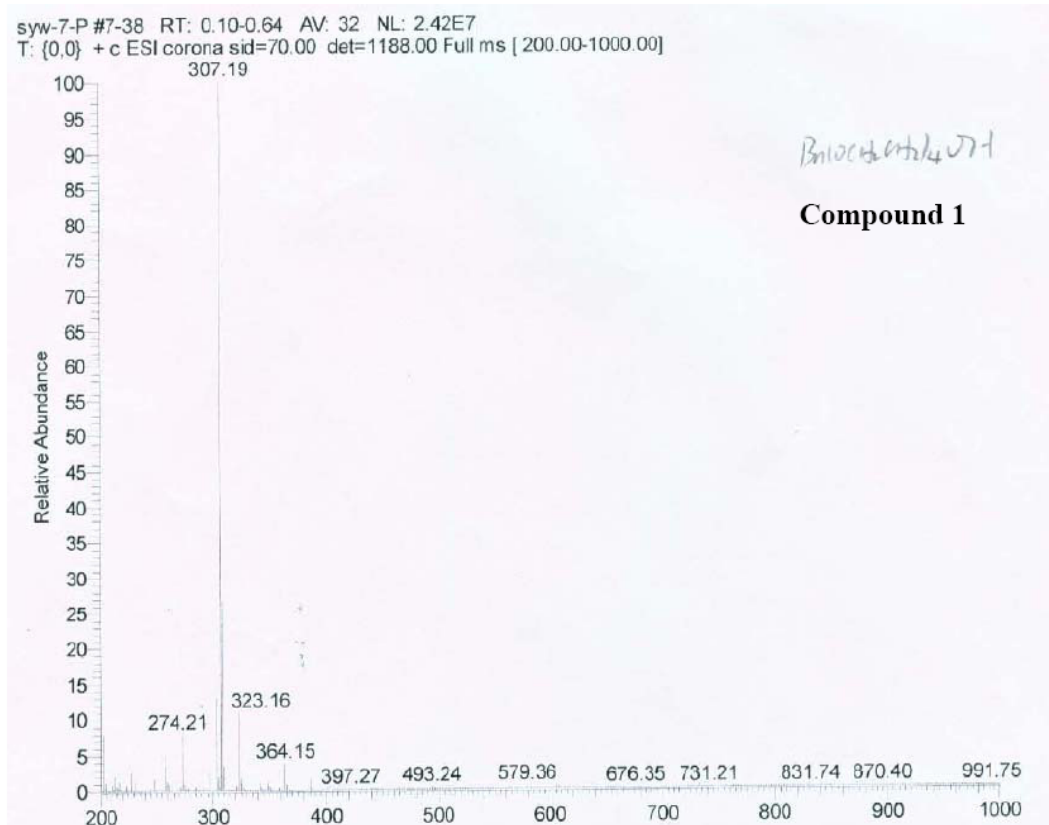
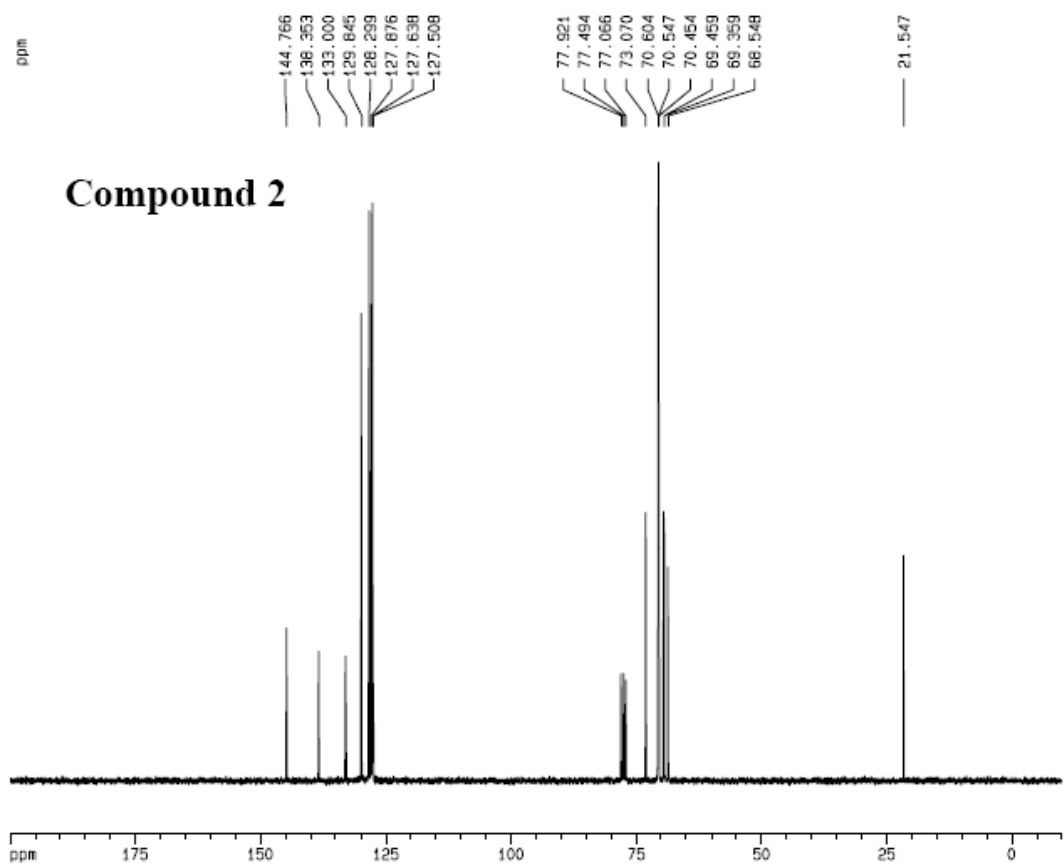


Fig.12 Size distribution by intensity graph as a histogram of the G1-DNA-STV complex measured by DLS.

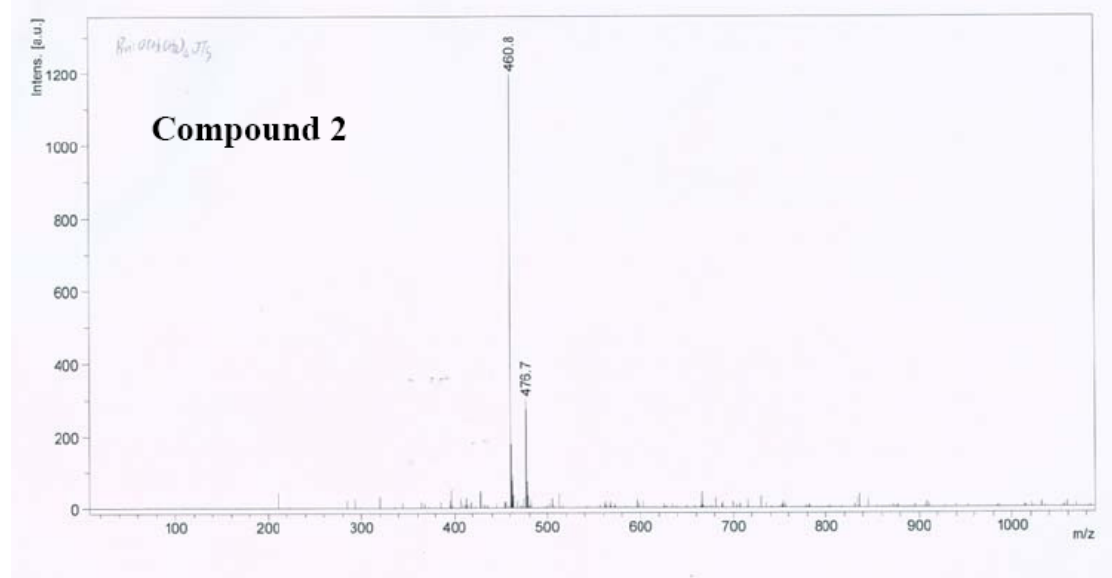
13 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of New Compounds

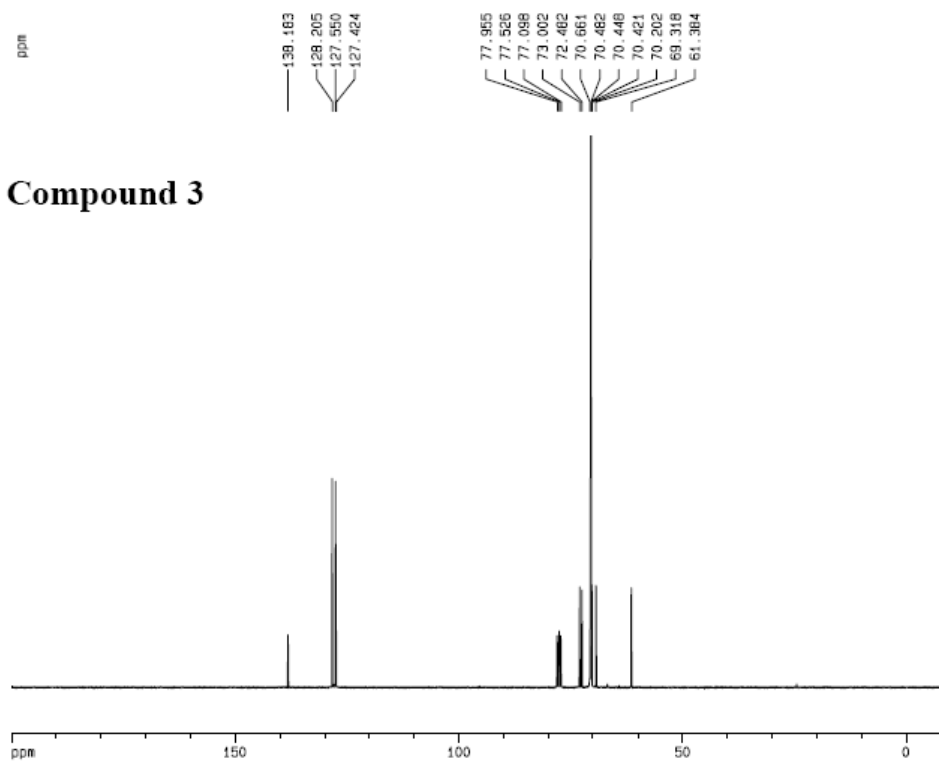
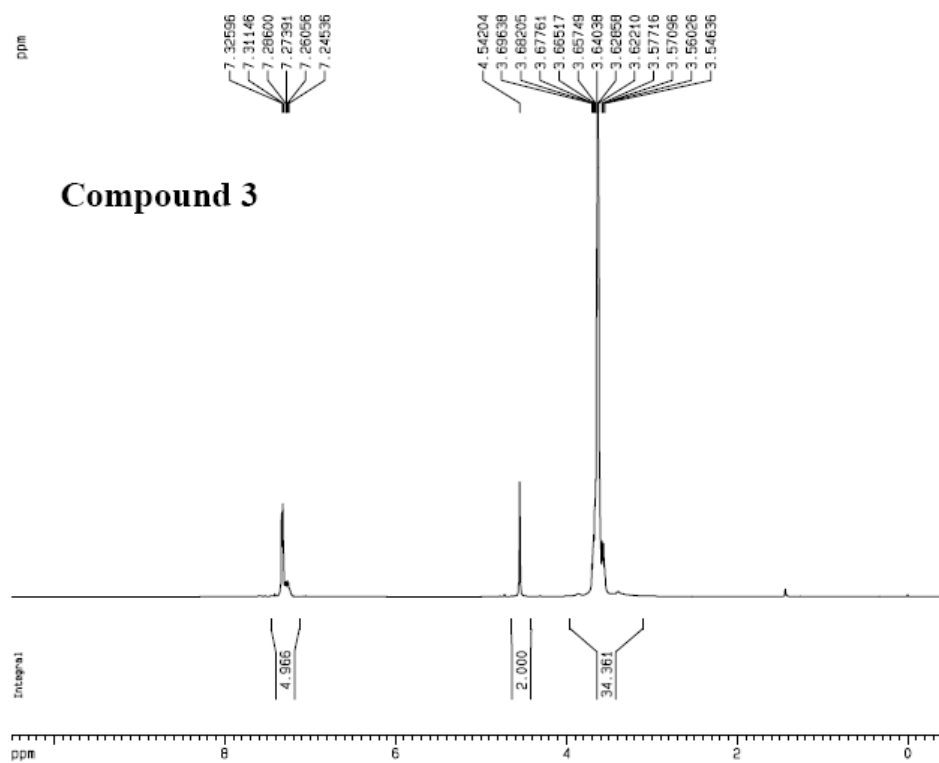


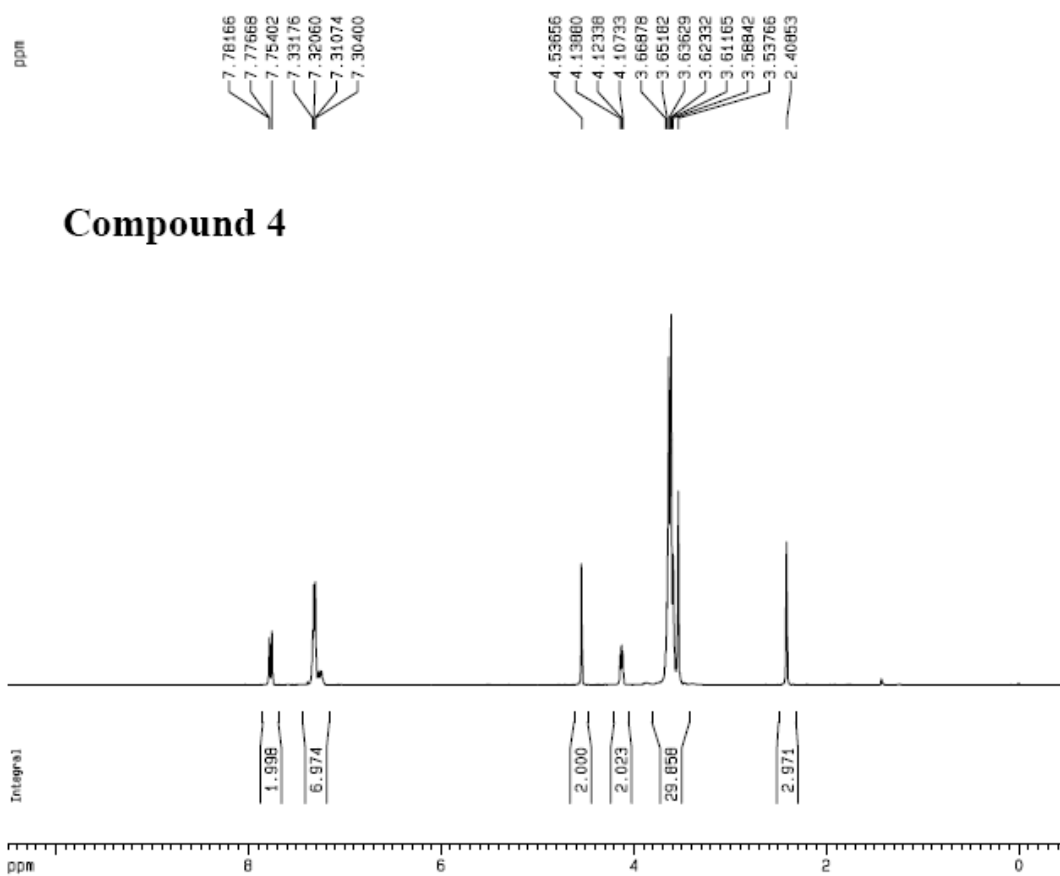
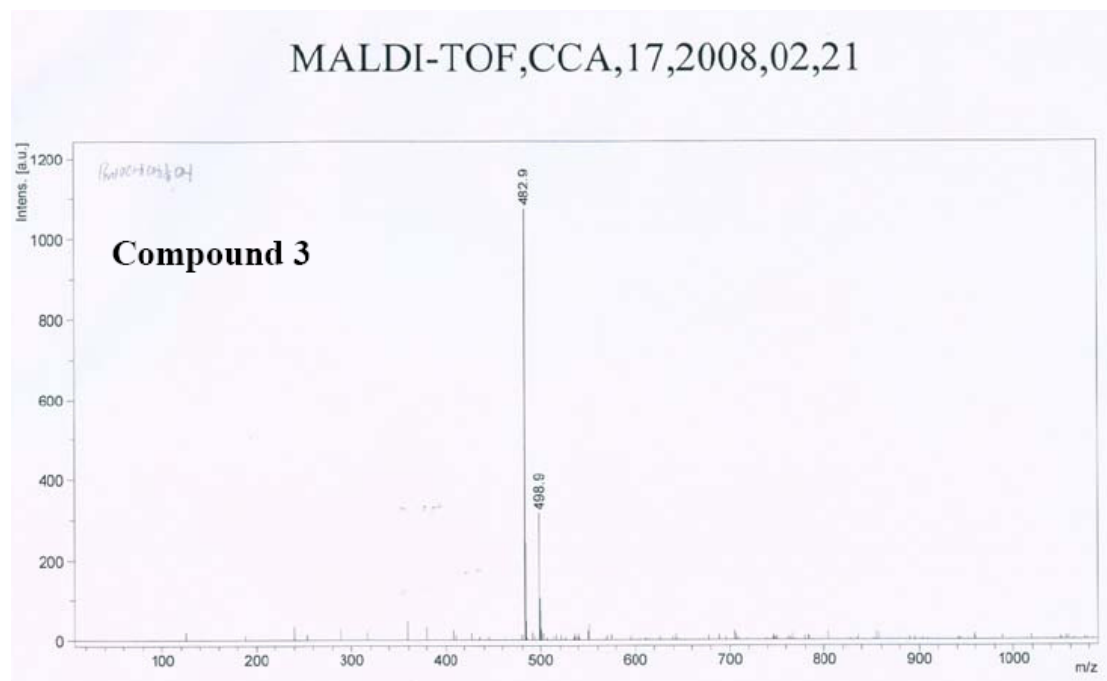


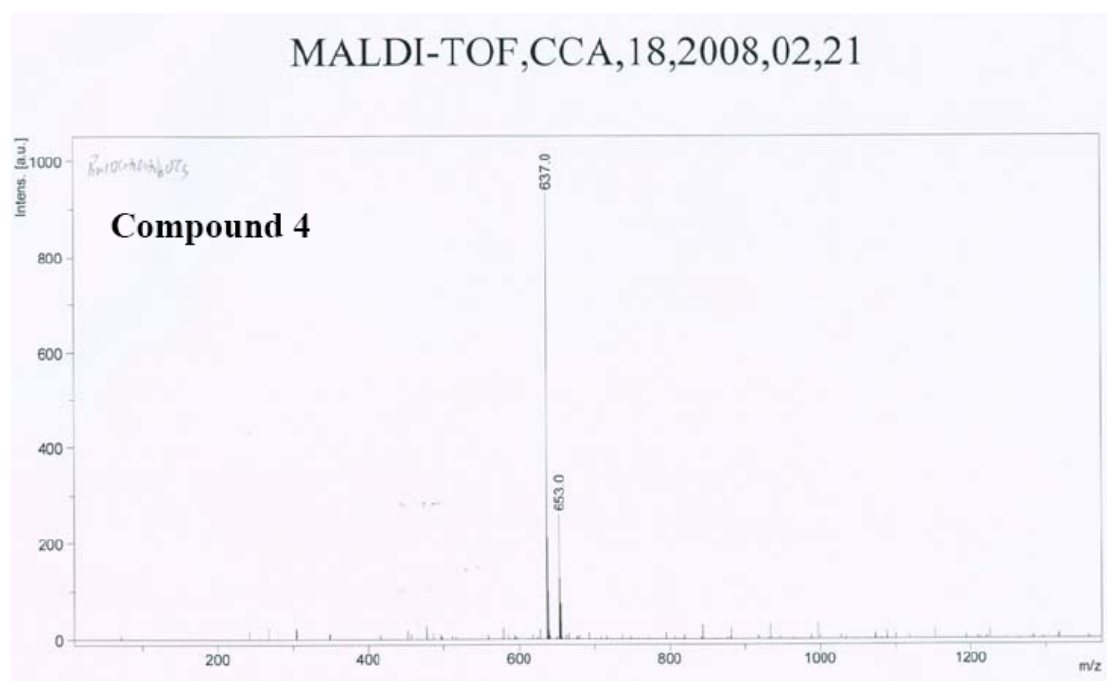
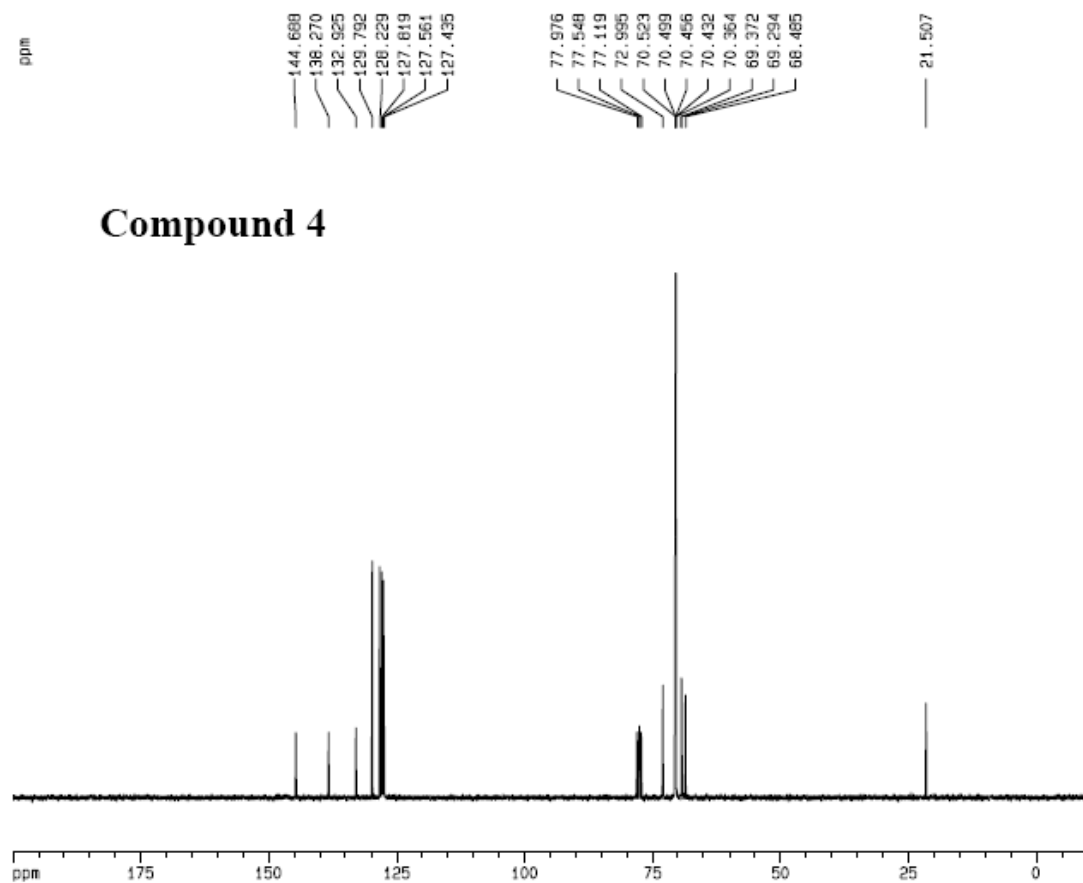


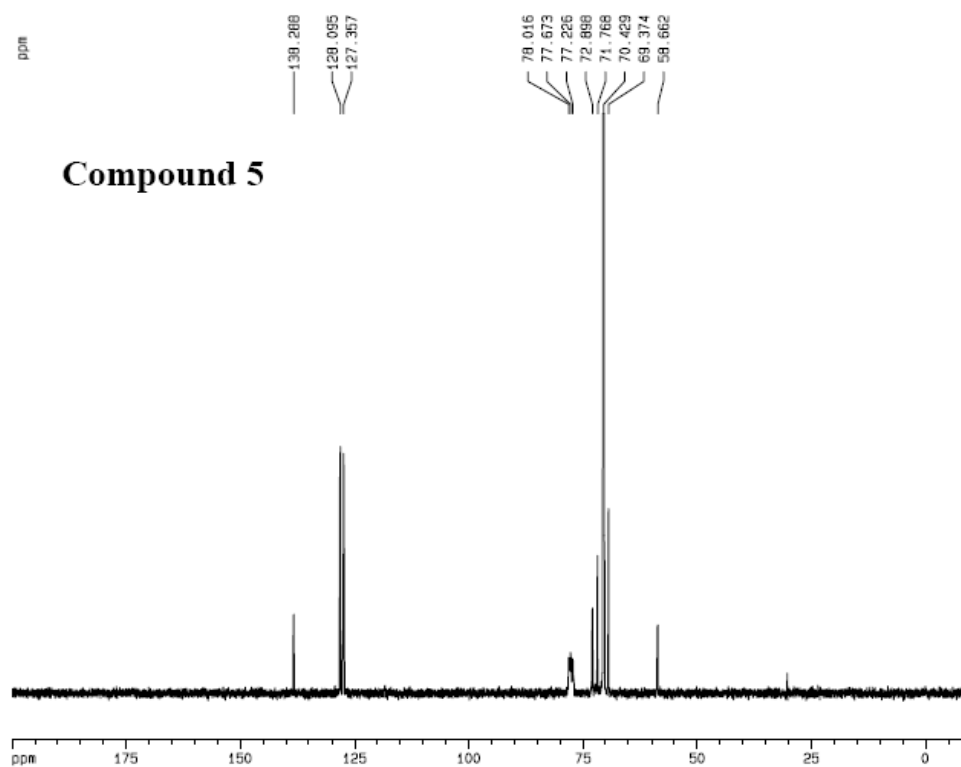
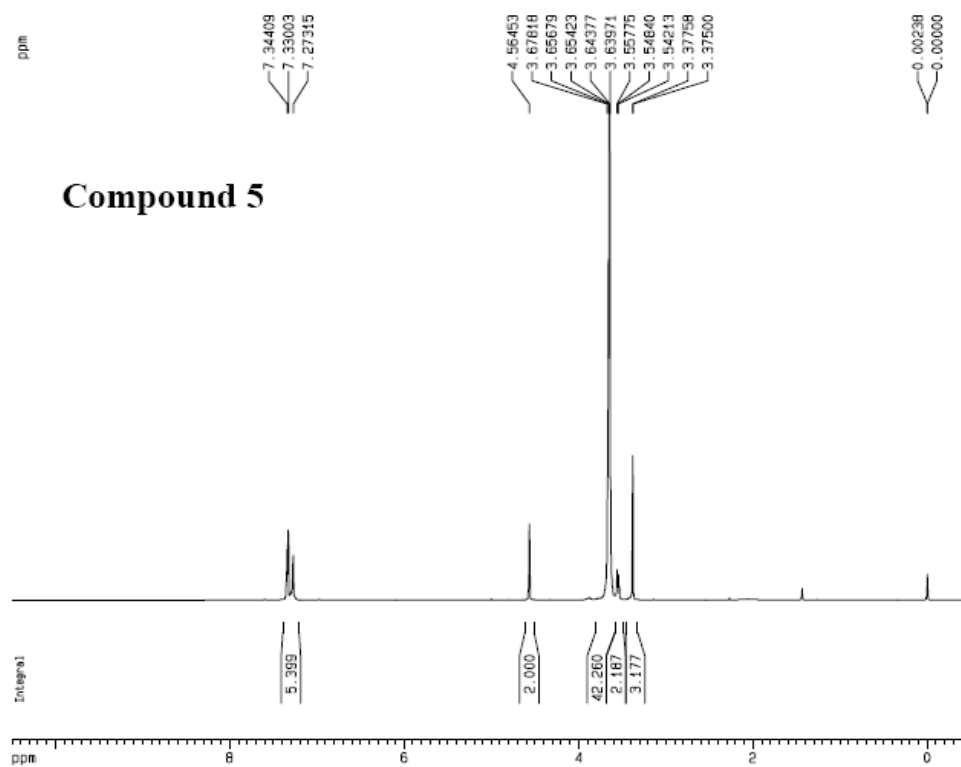
MALDI-TOF, CCA, 16, 2008, 02, 21

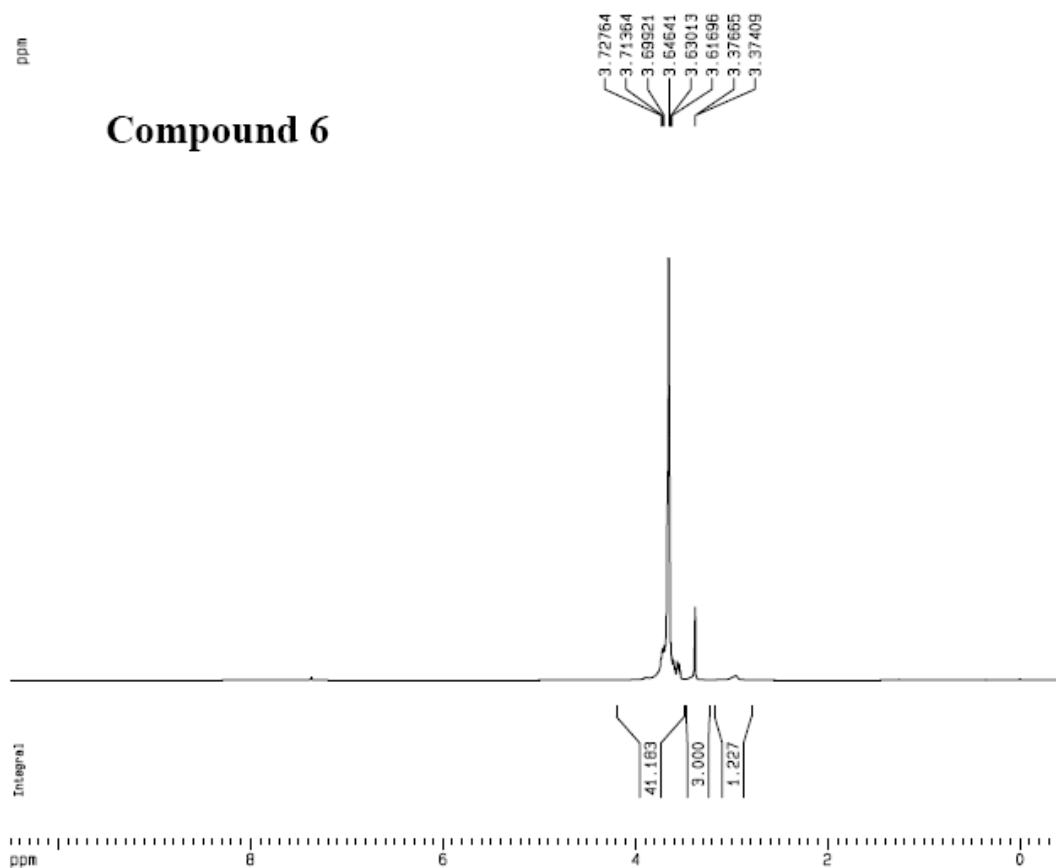
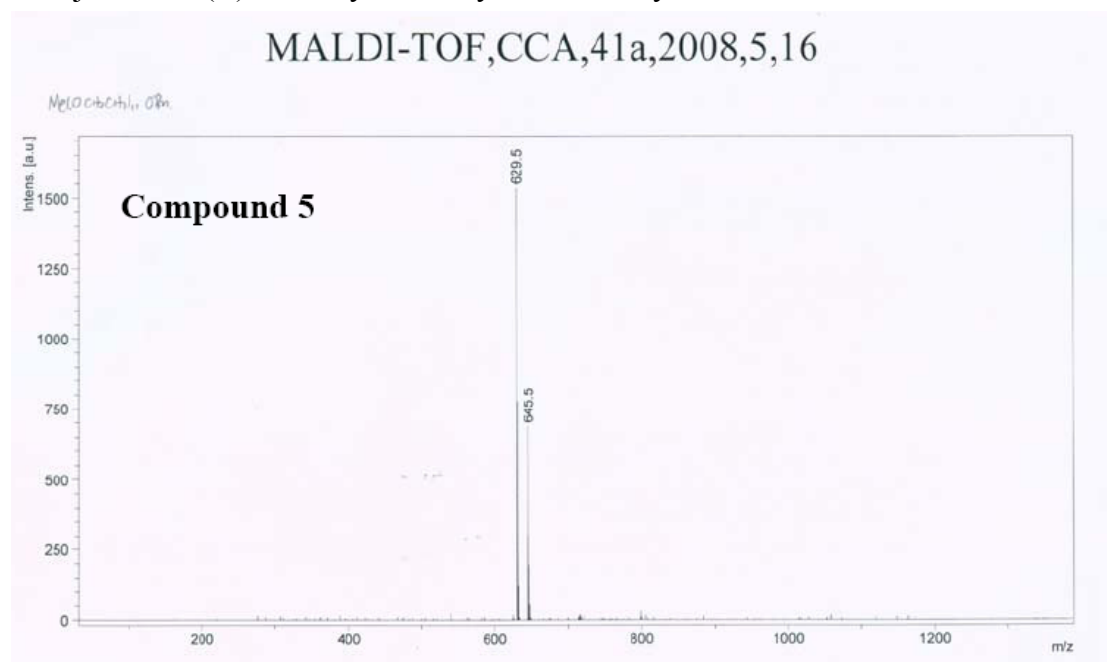


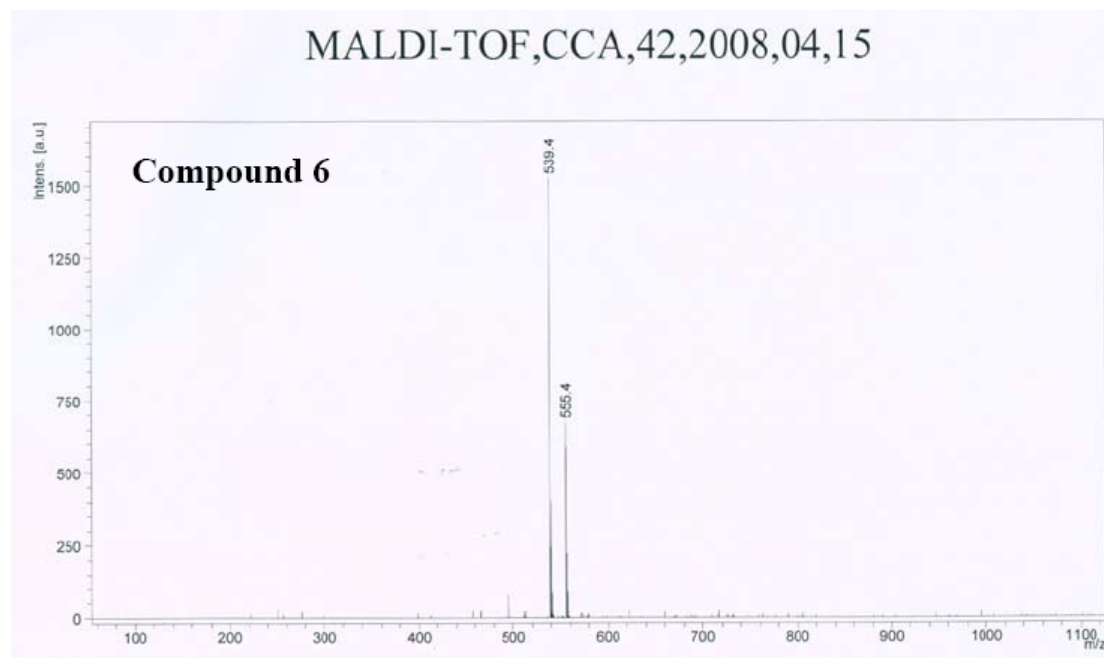
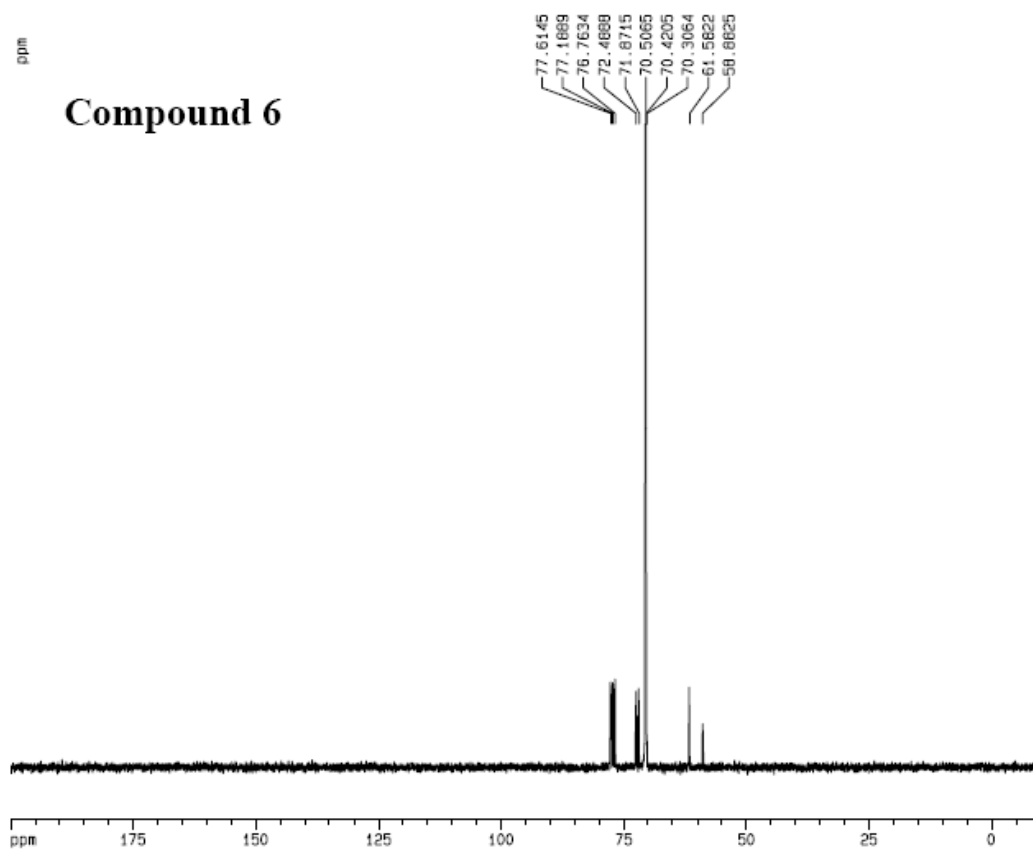


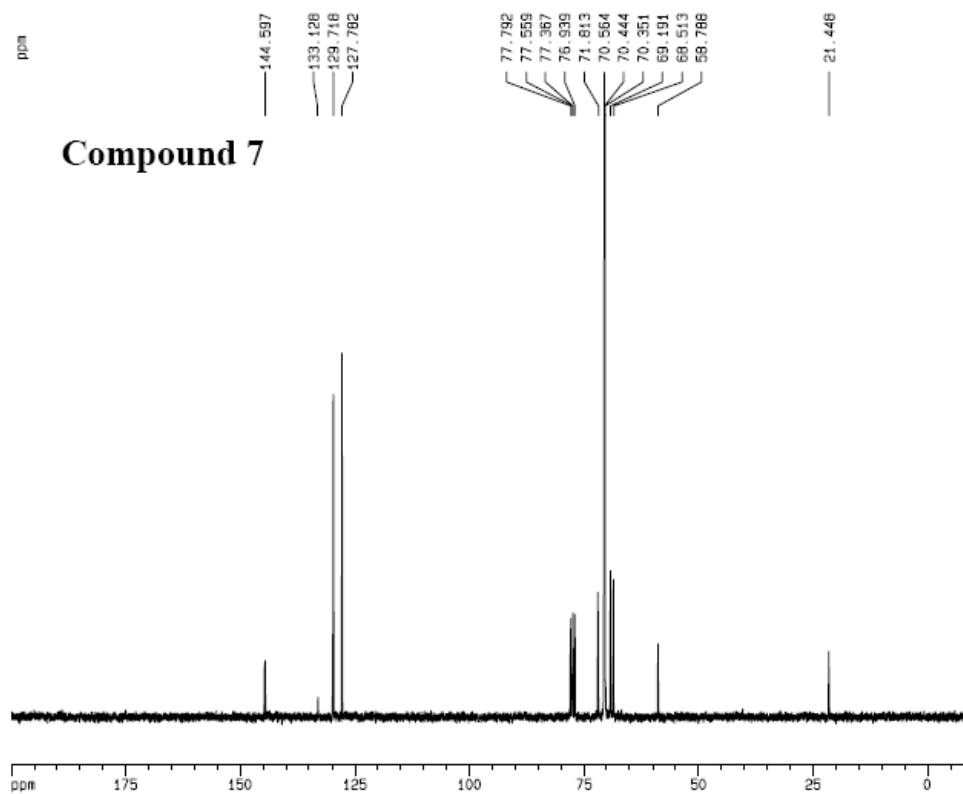
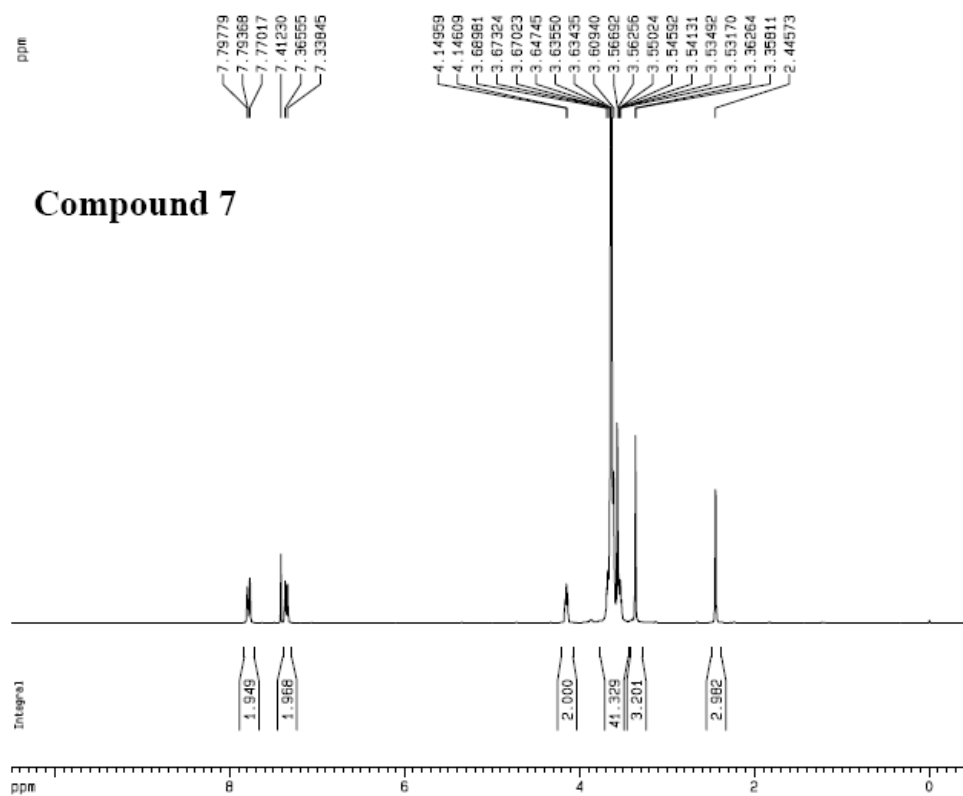


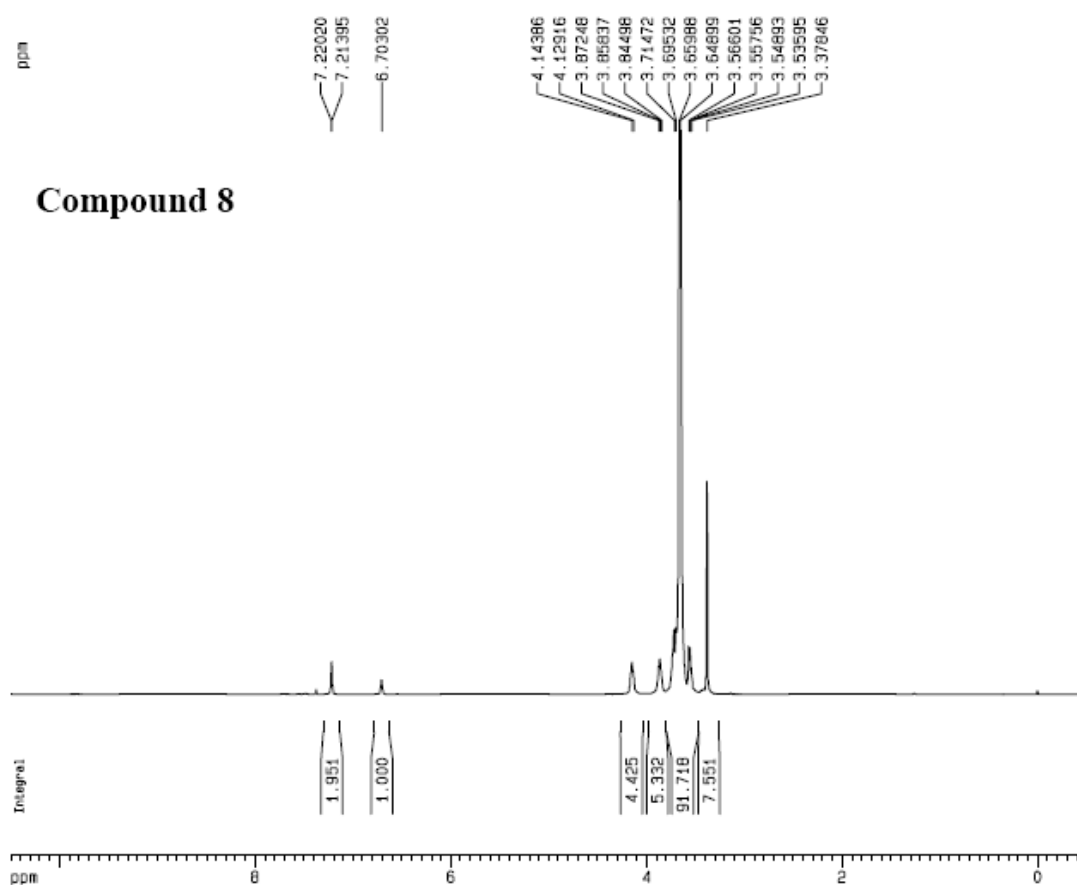
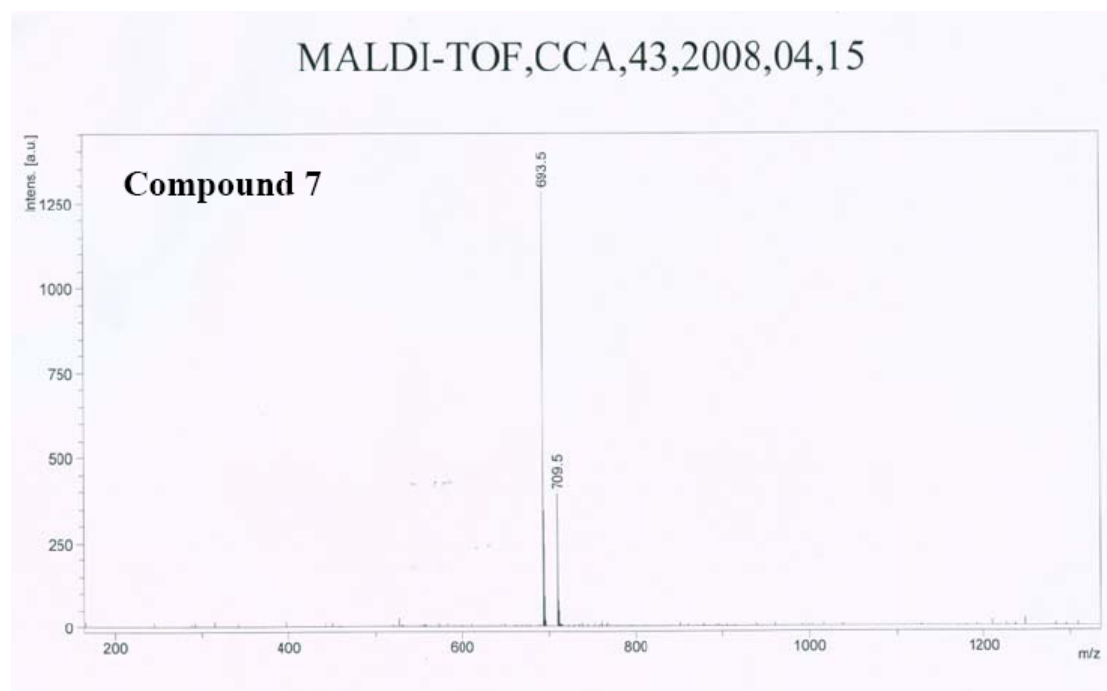


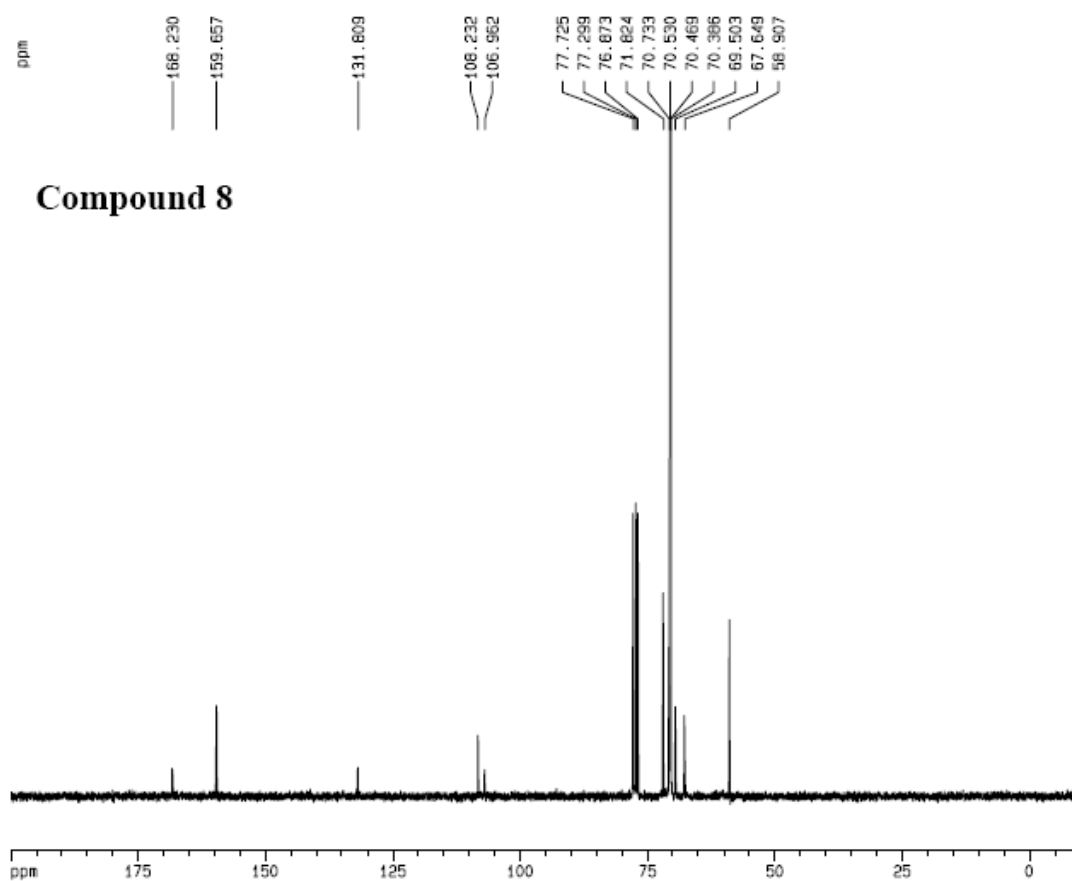




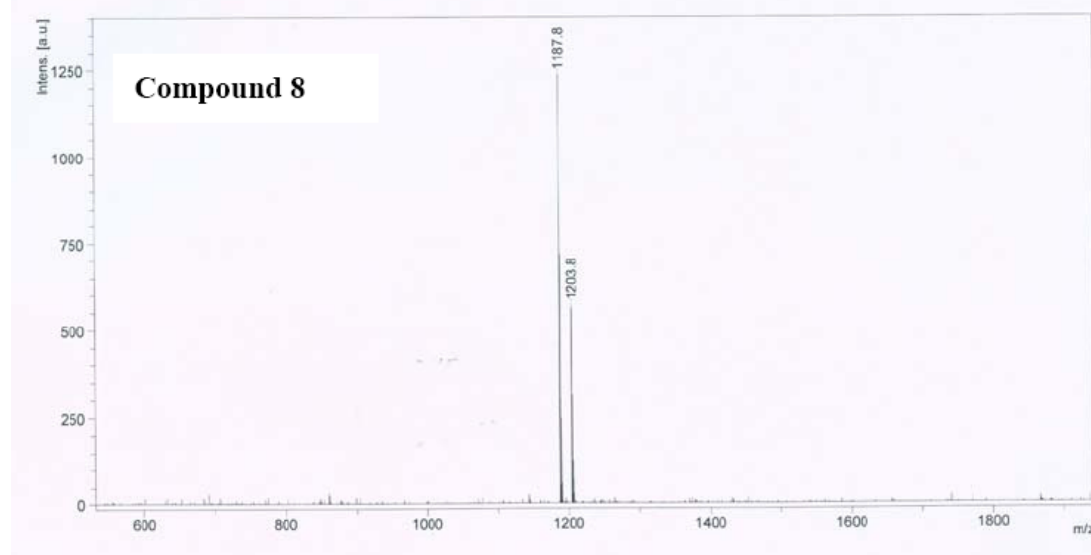


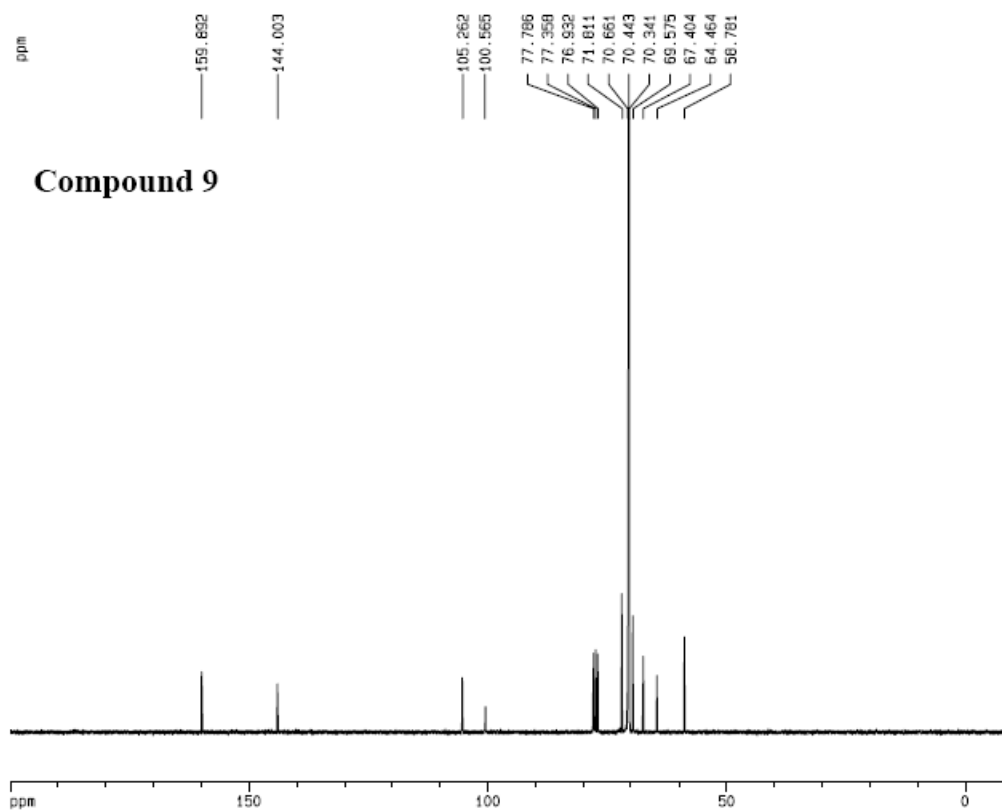
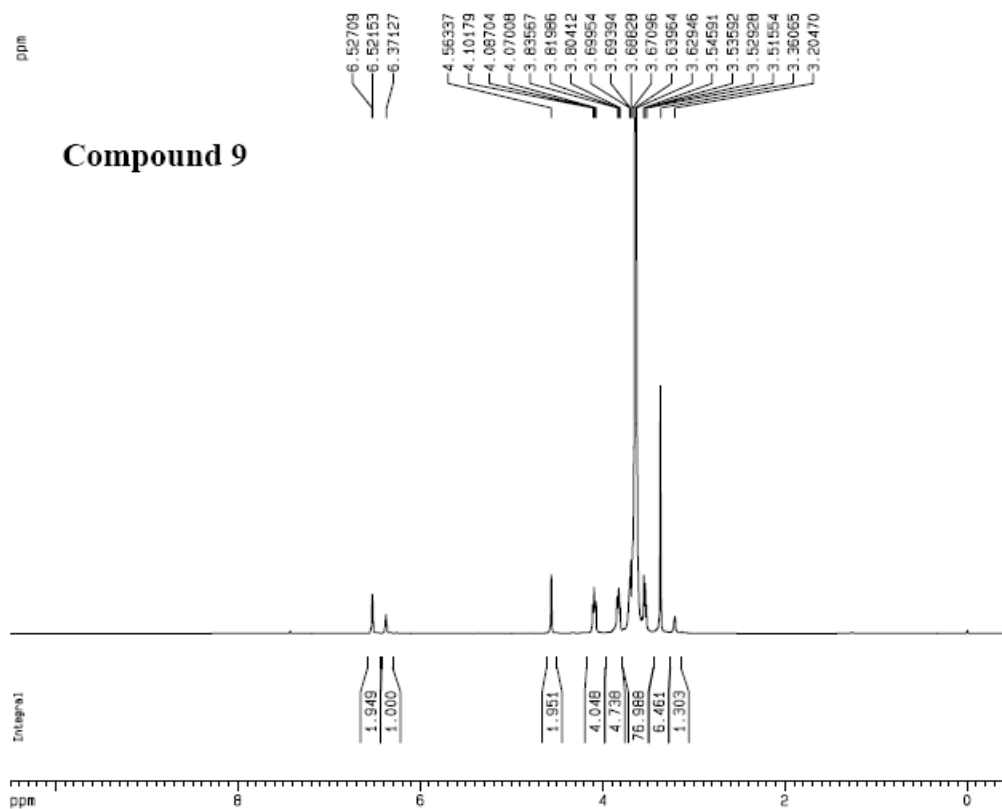


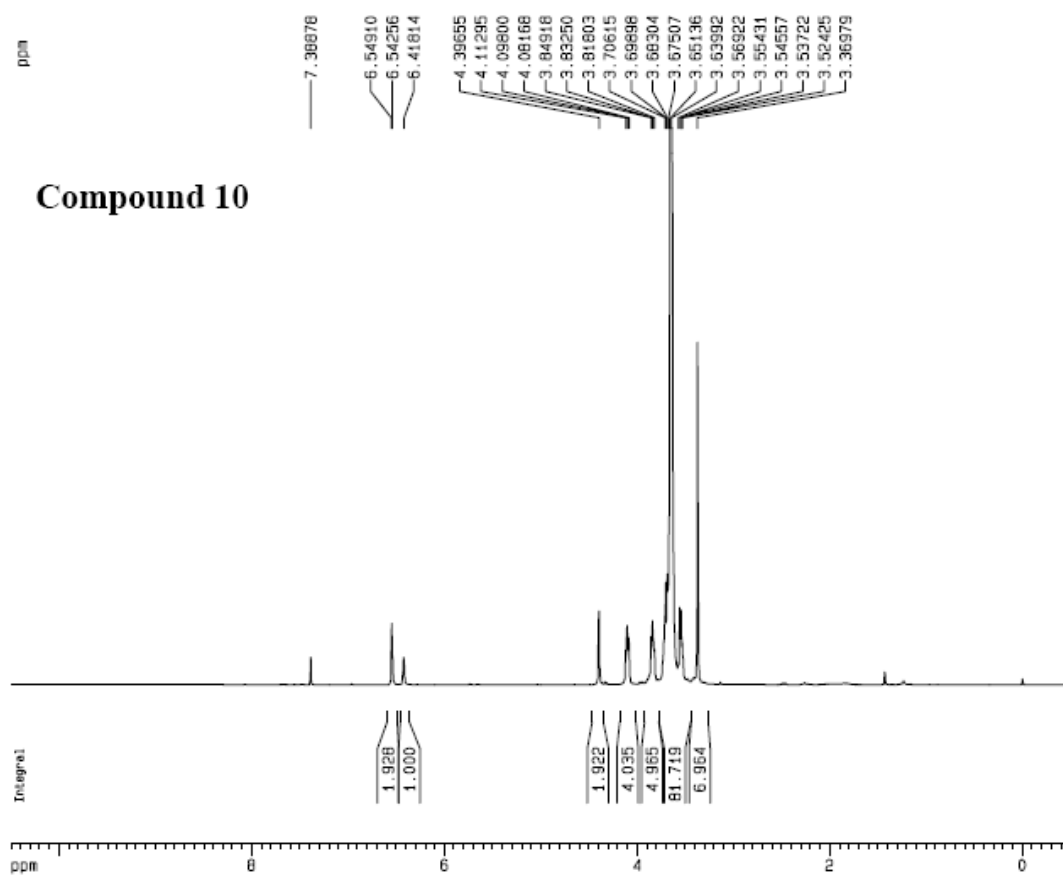
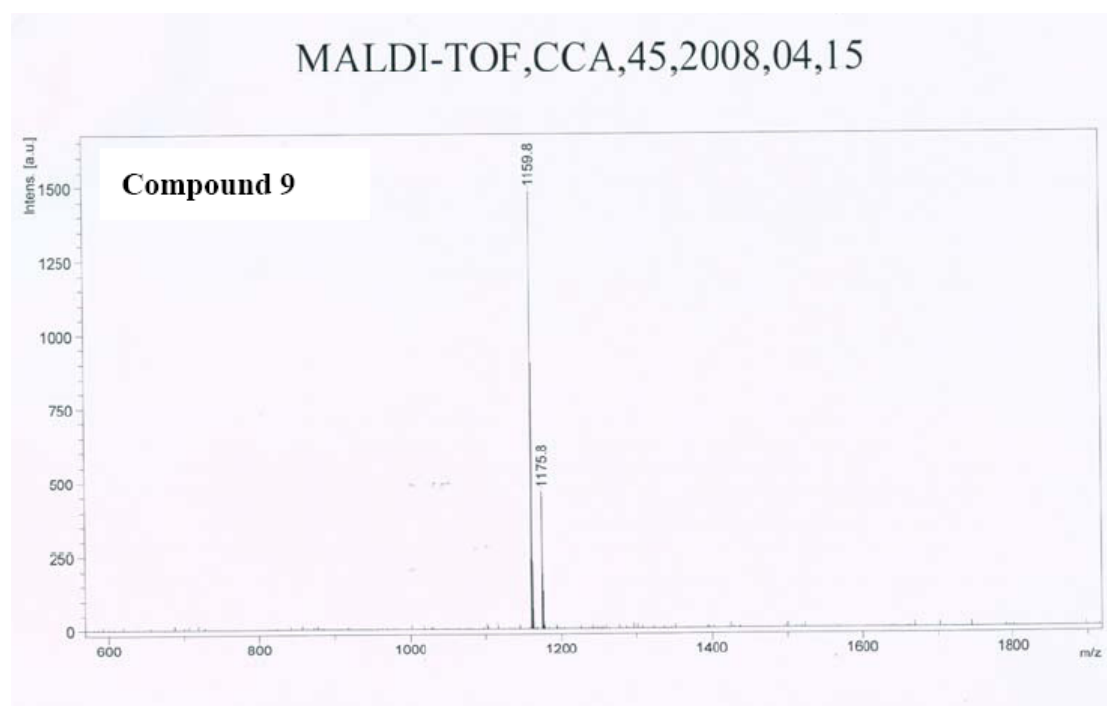


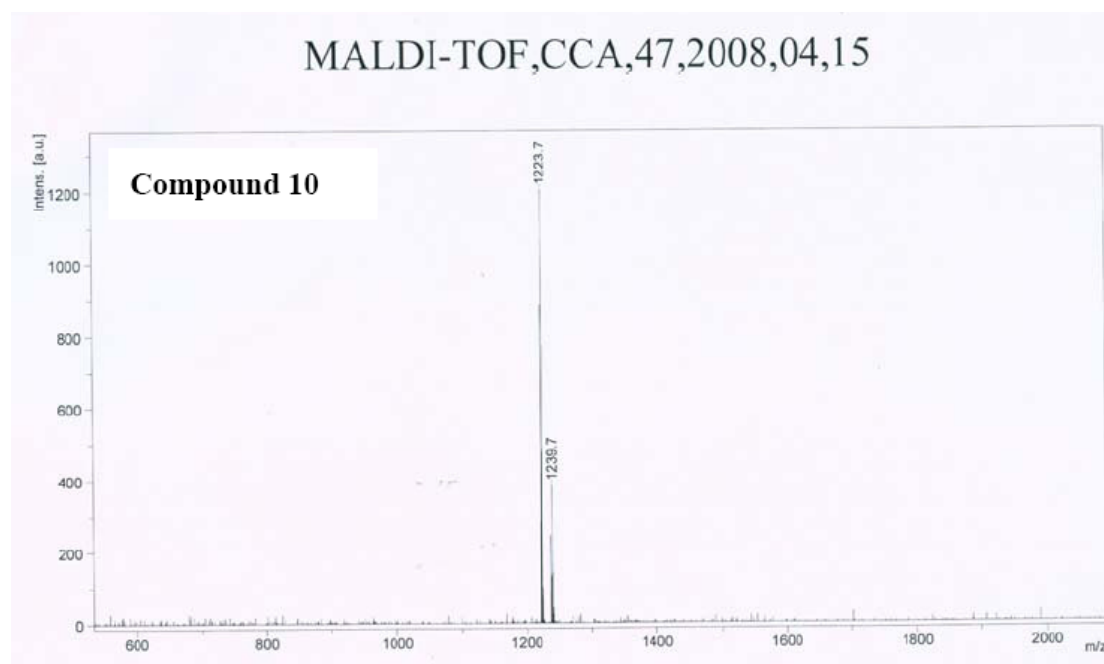
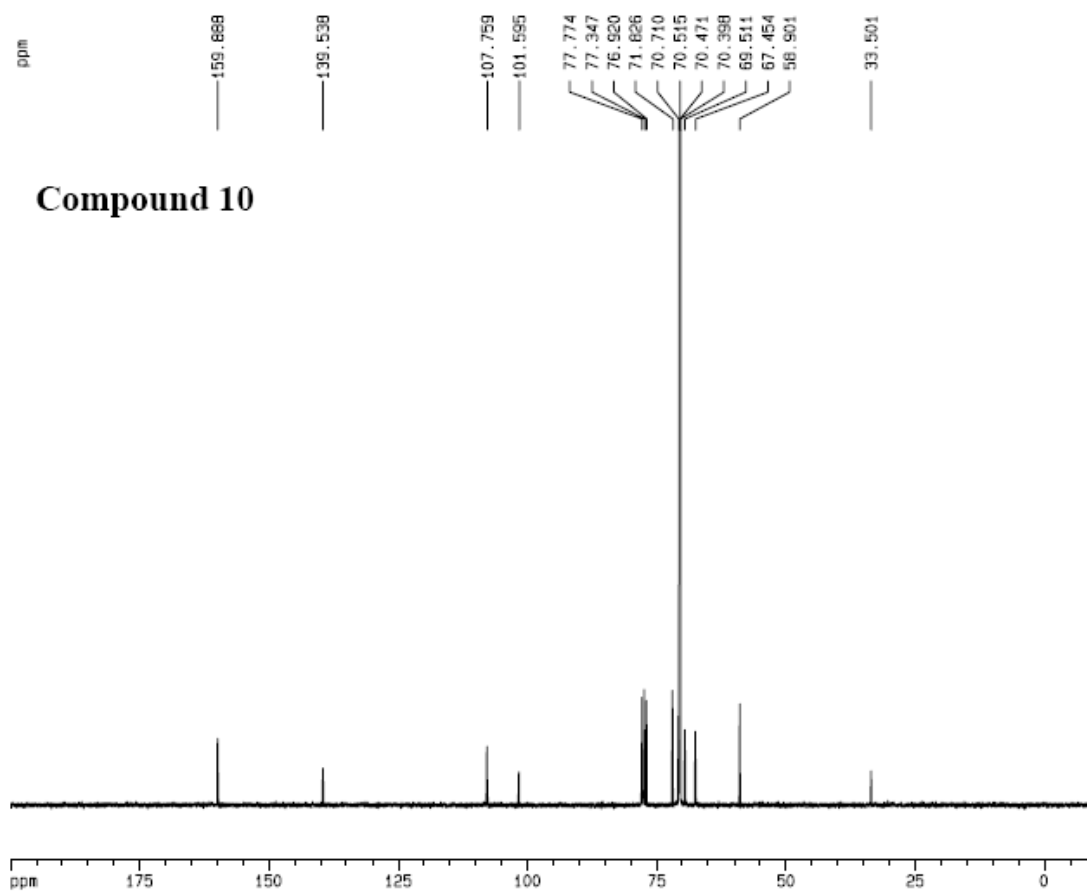


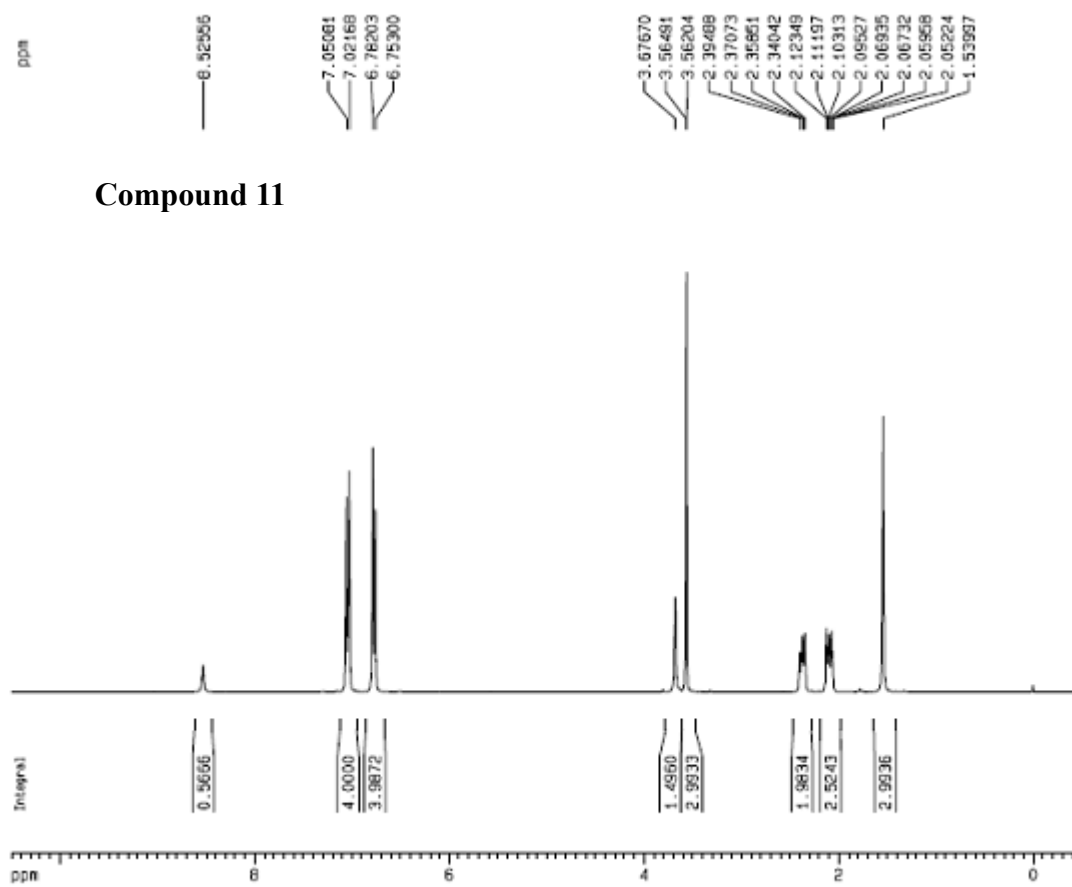
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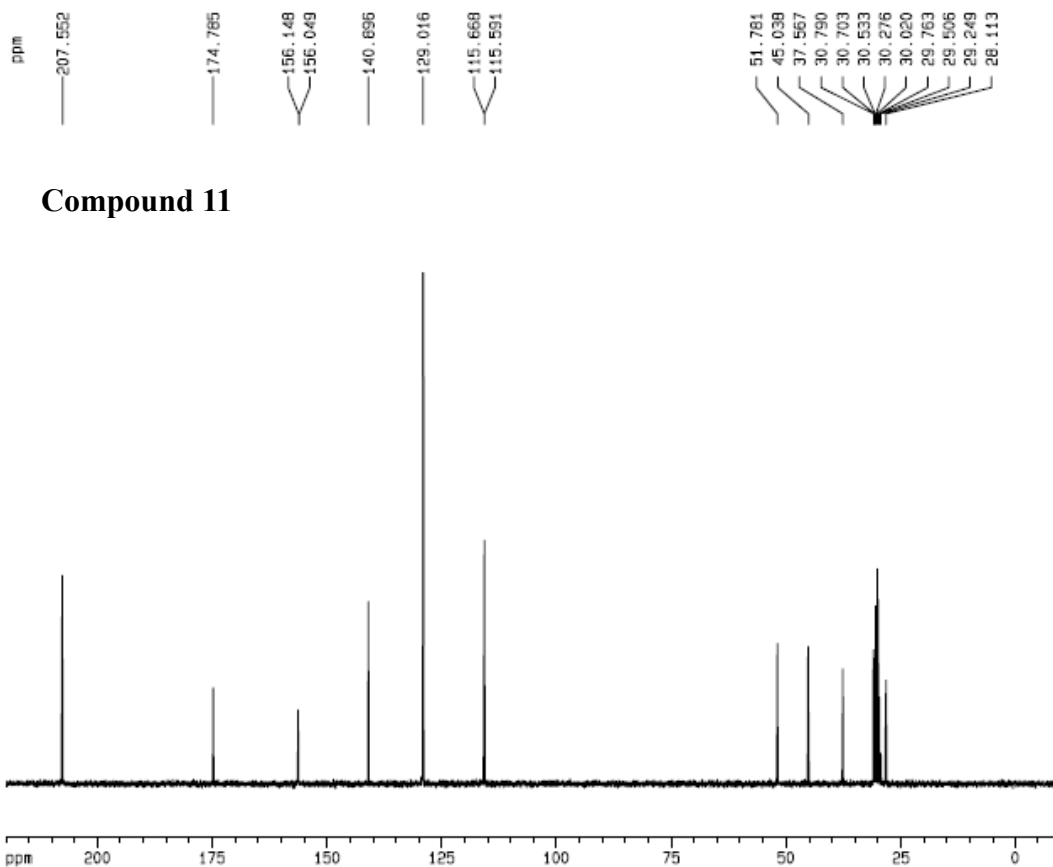




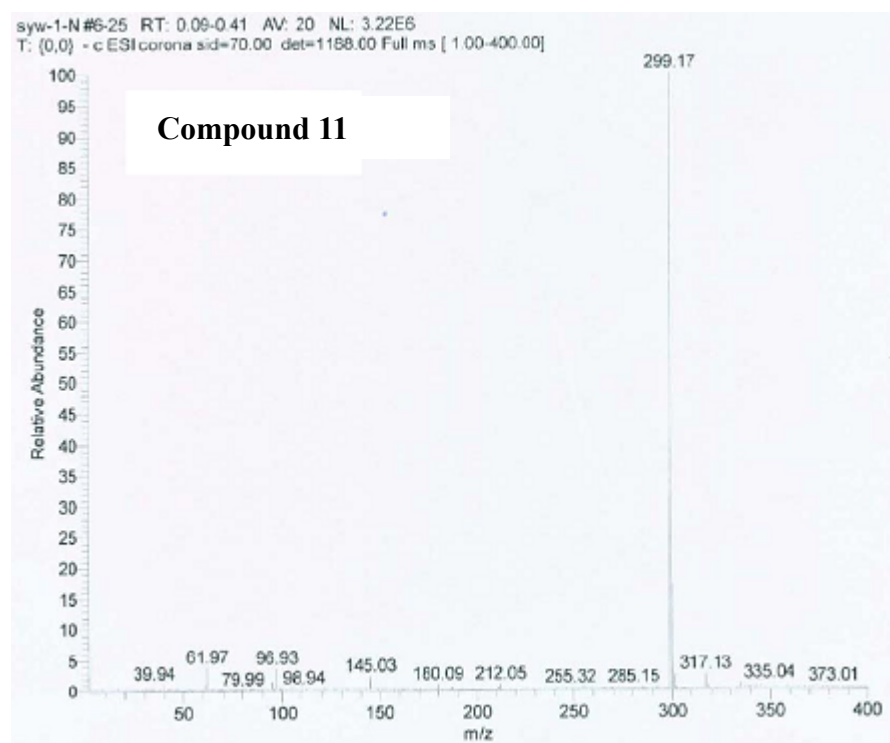




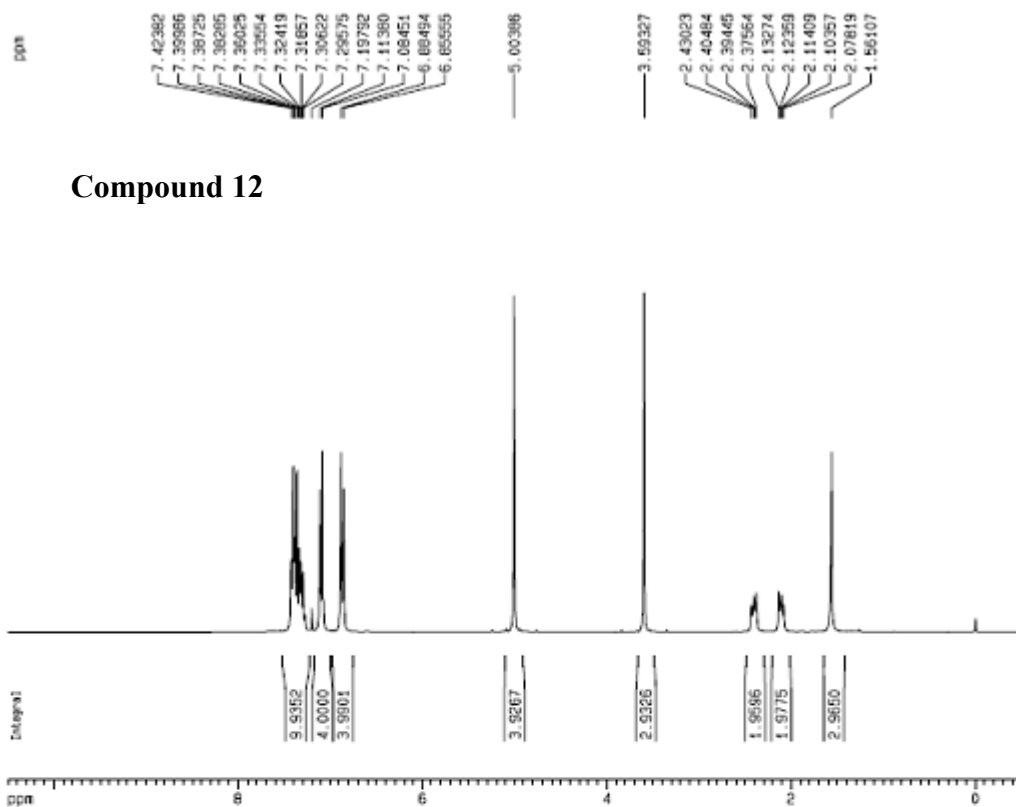




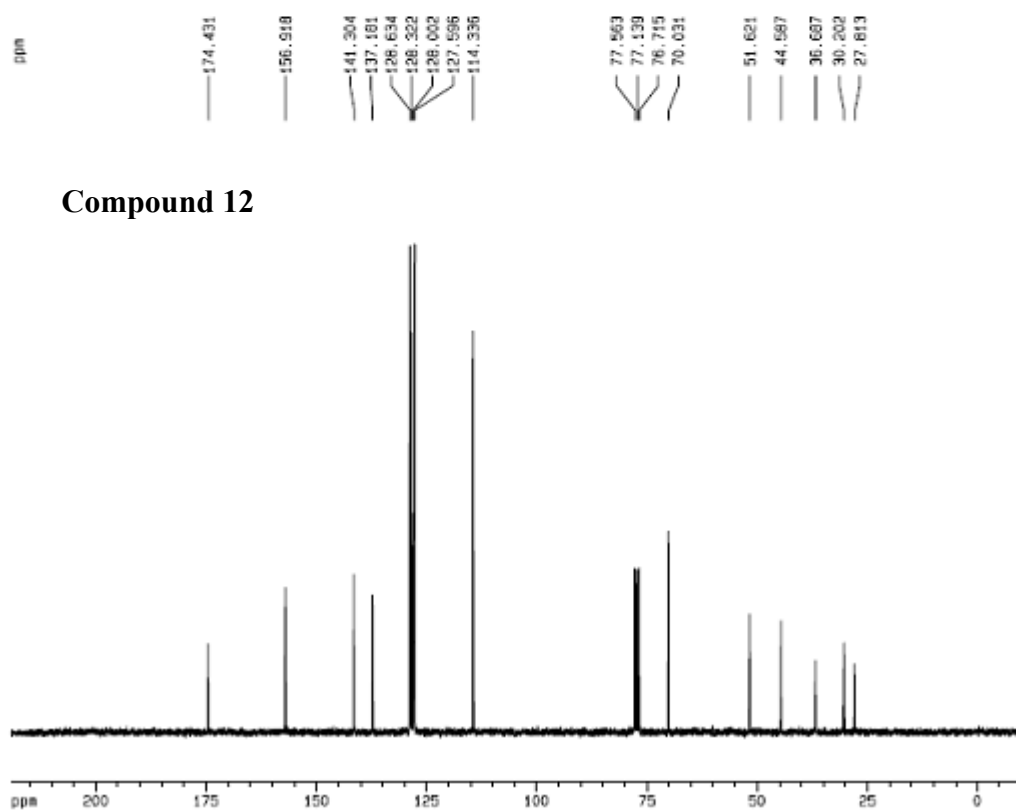
Compound 11



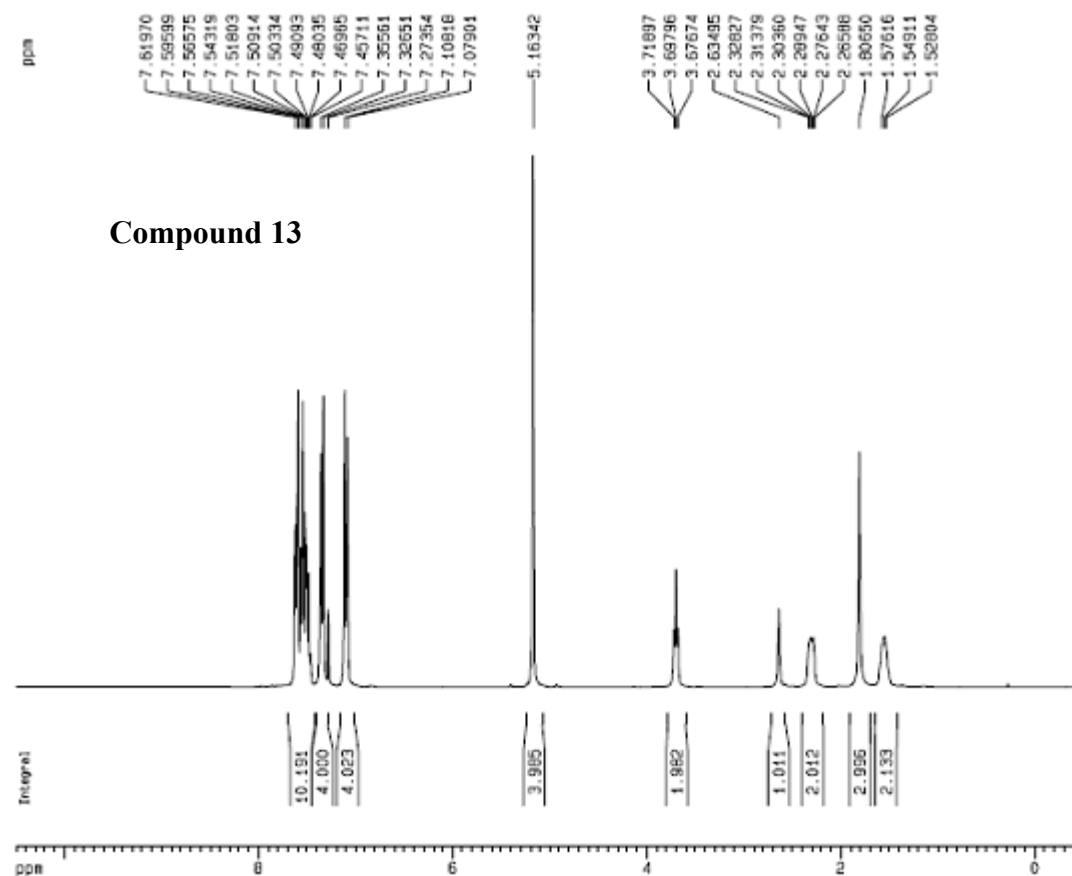
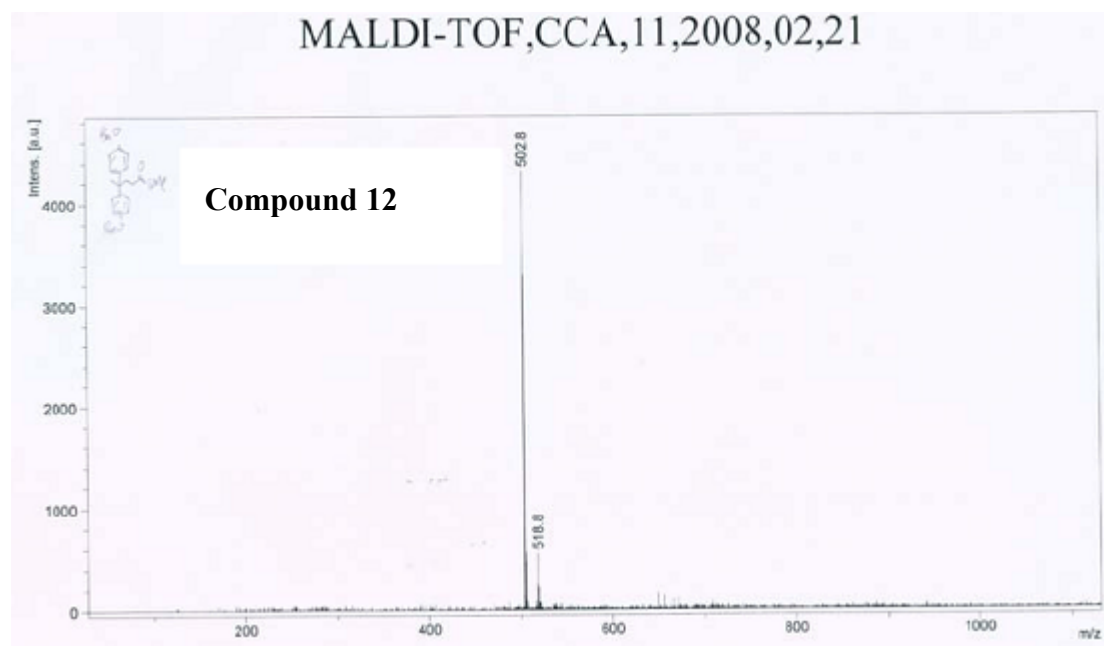
Compound 11

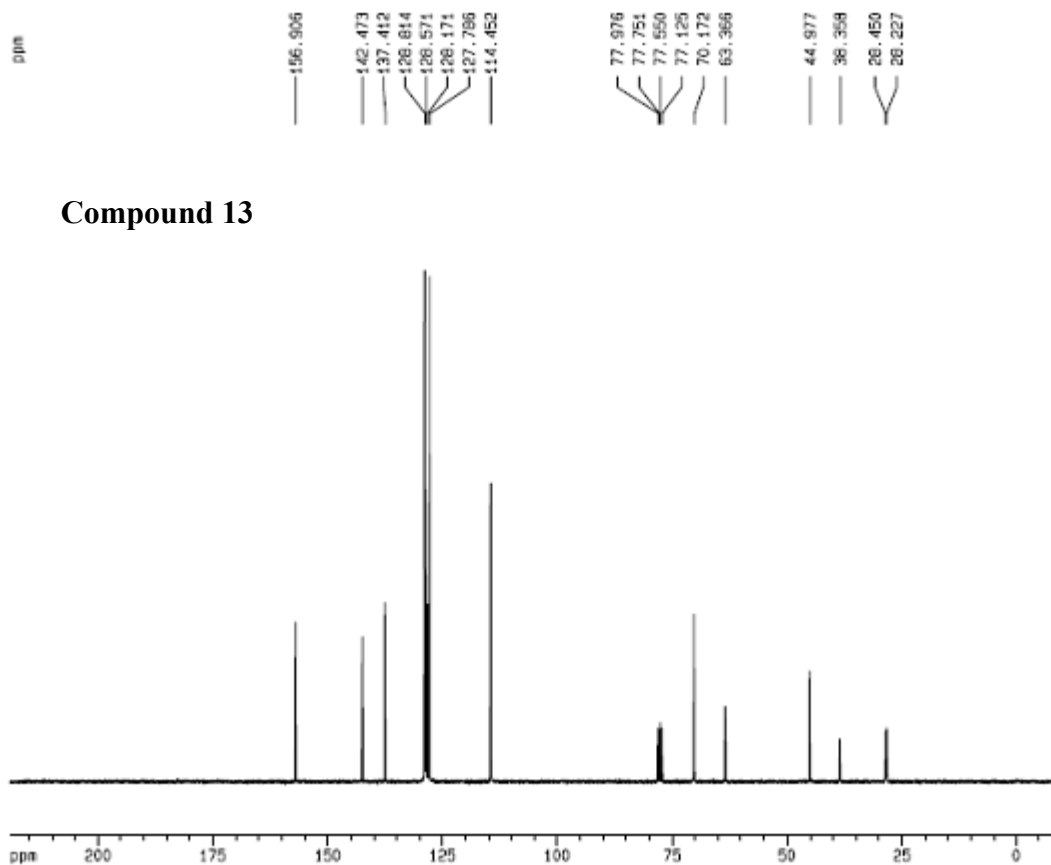


Compound 12

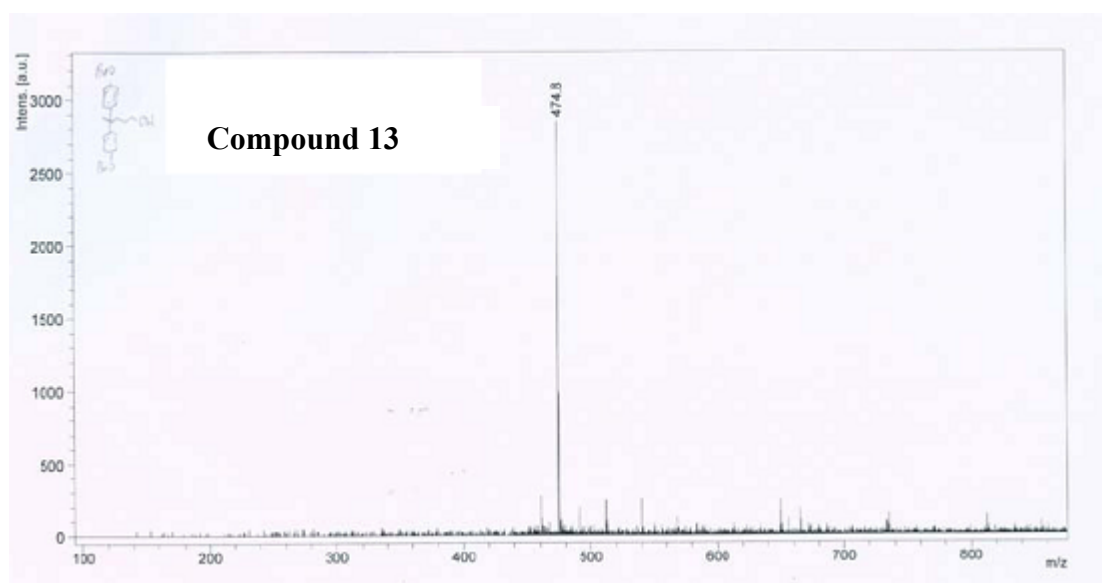


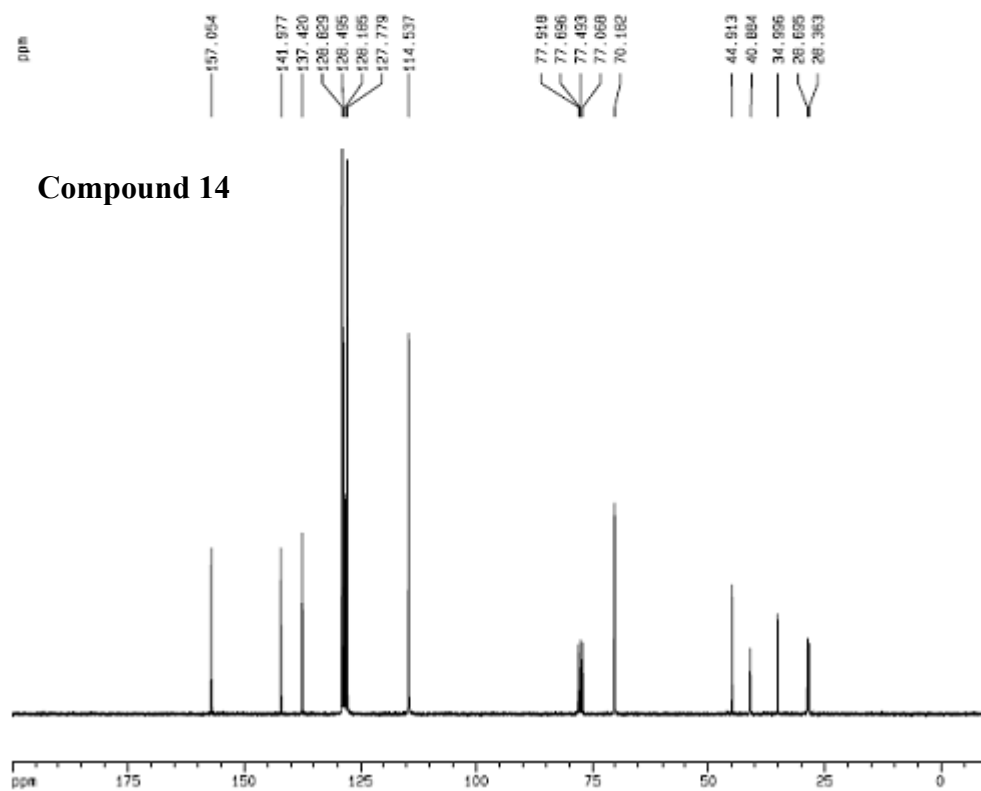
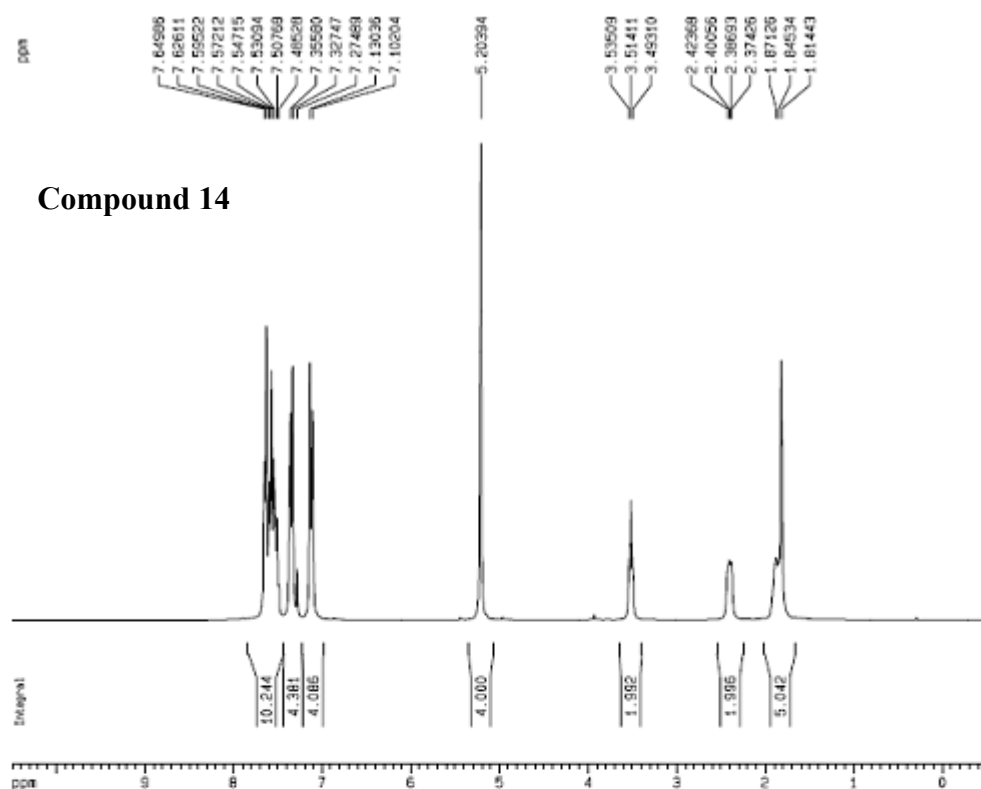
Compound 12

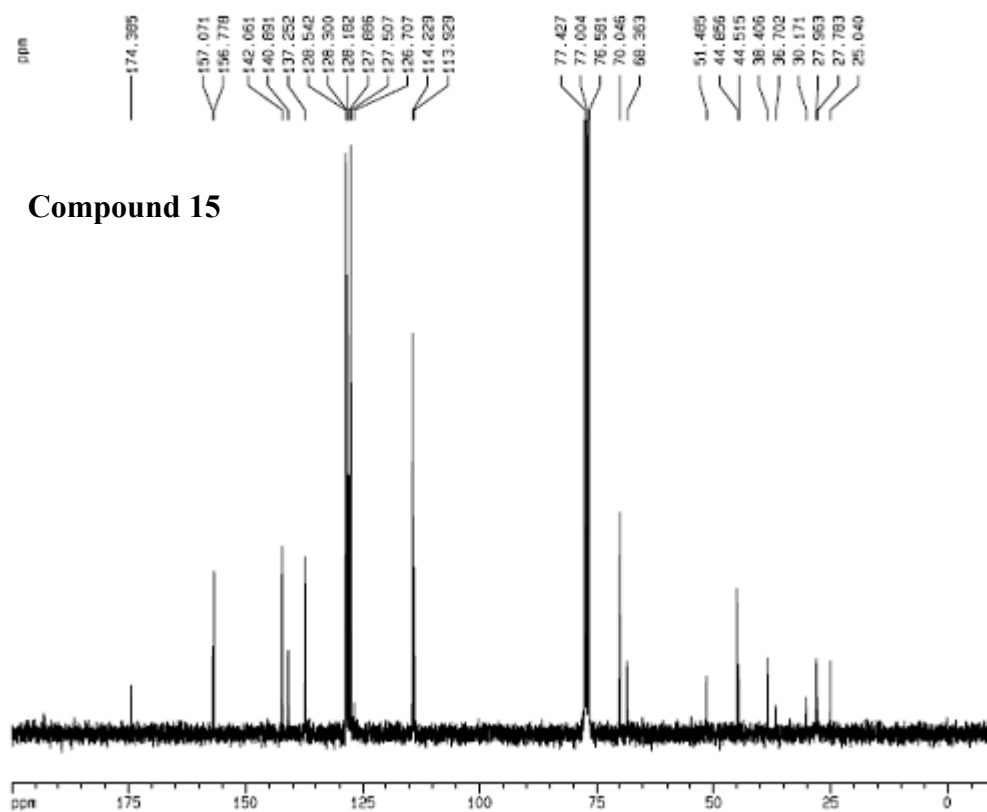
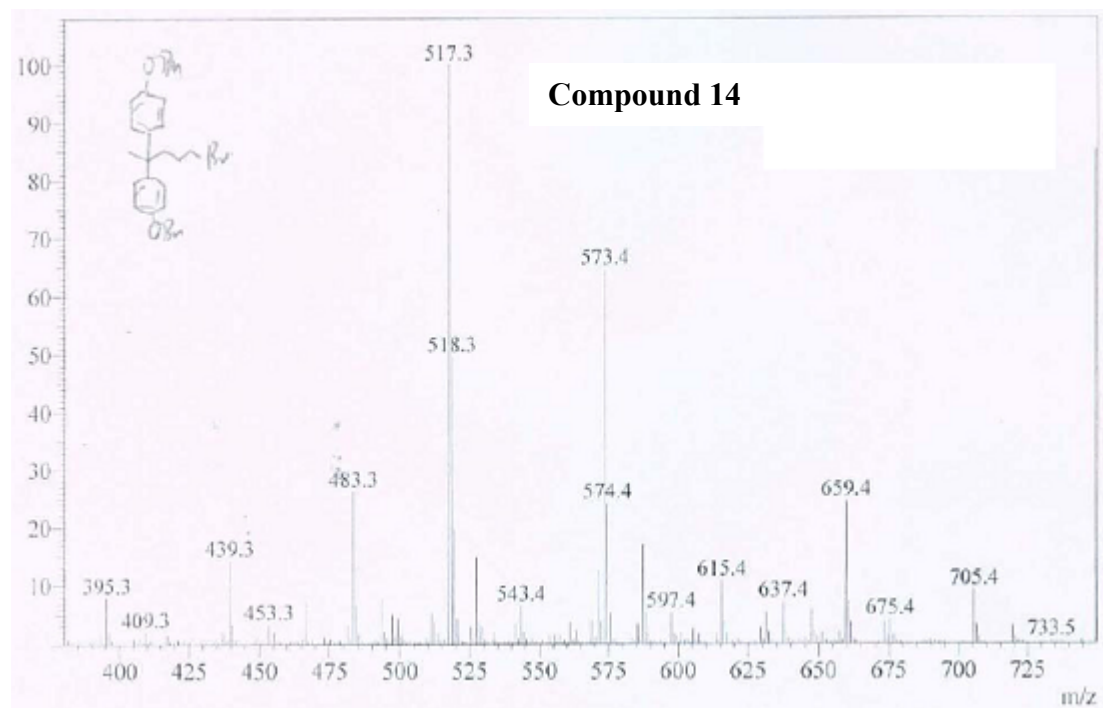


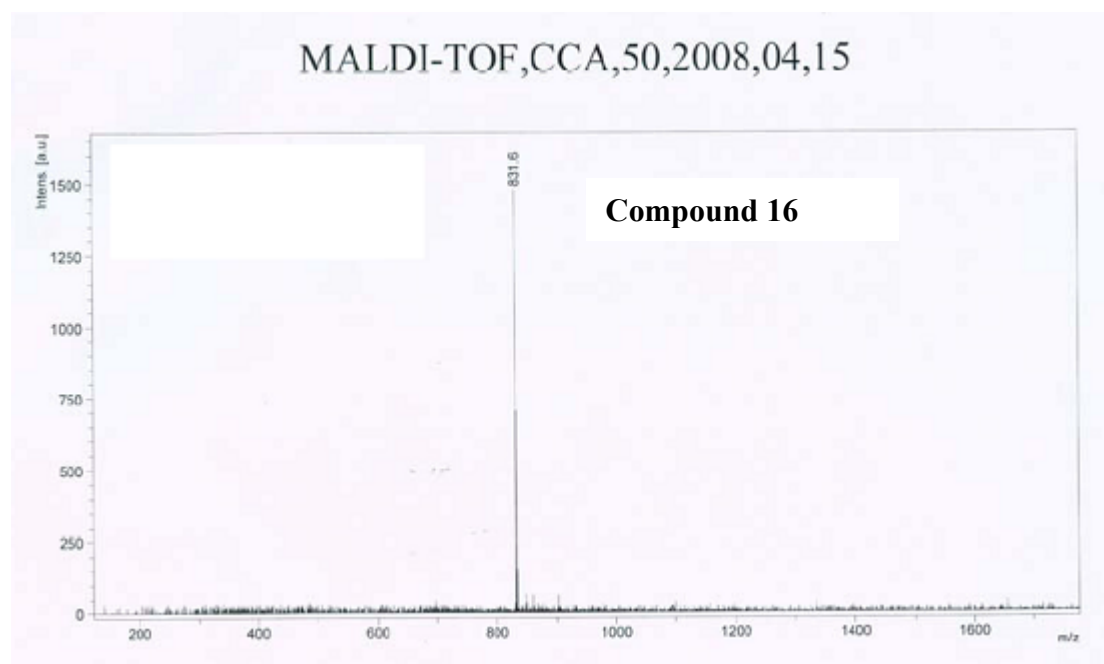
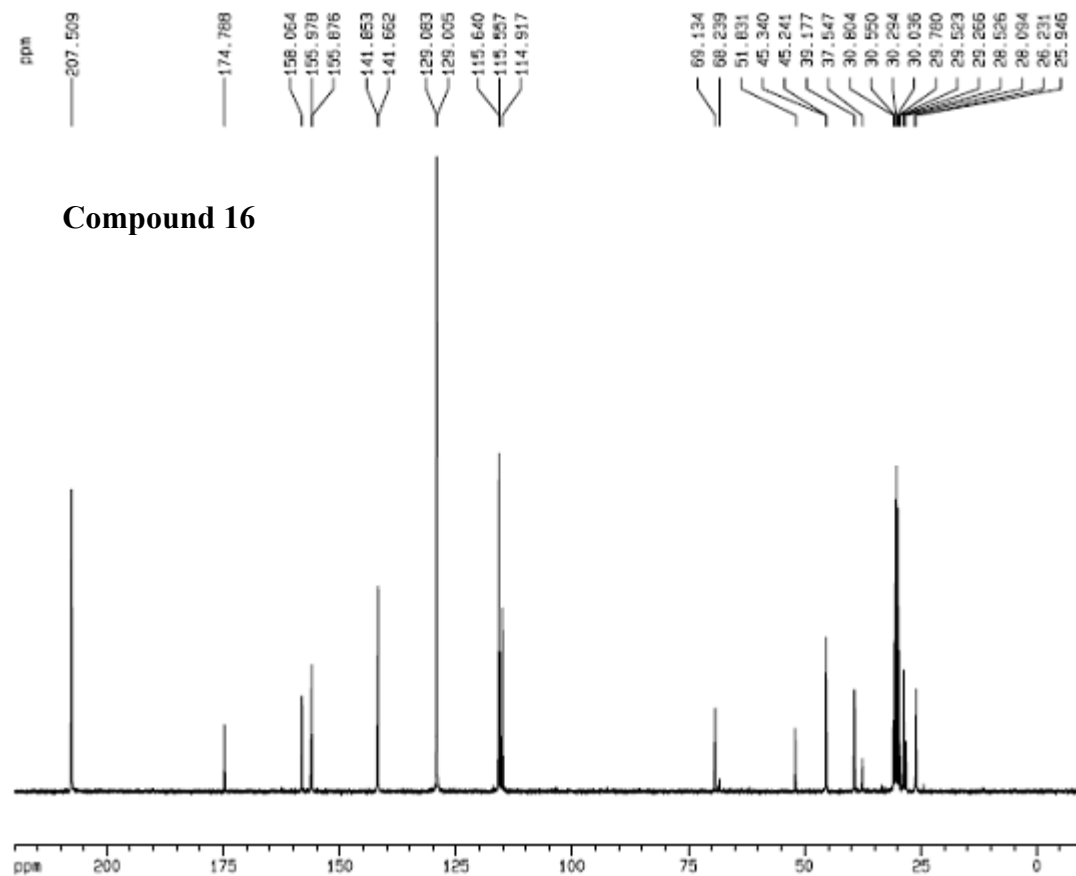


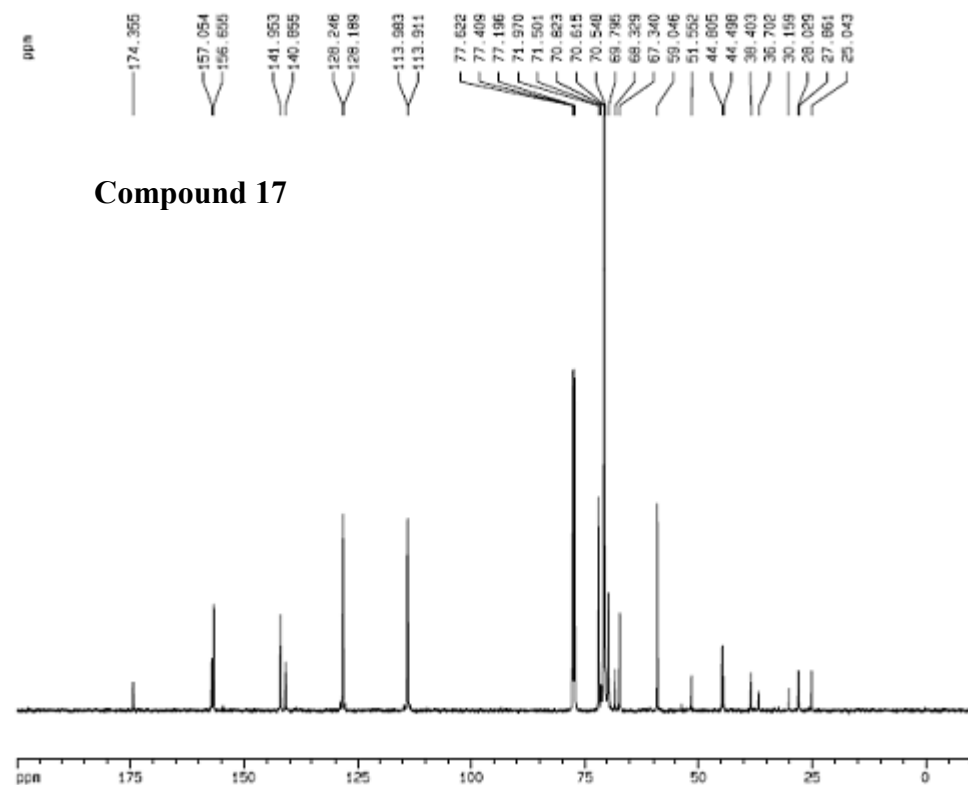
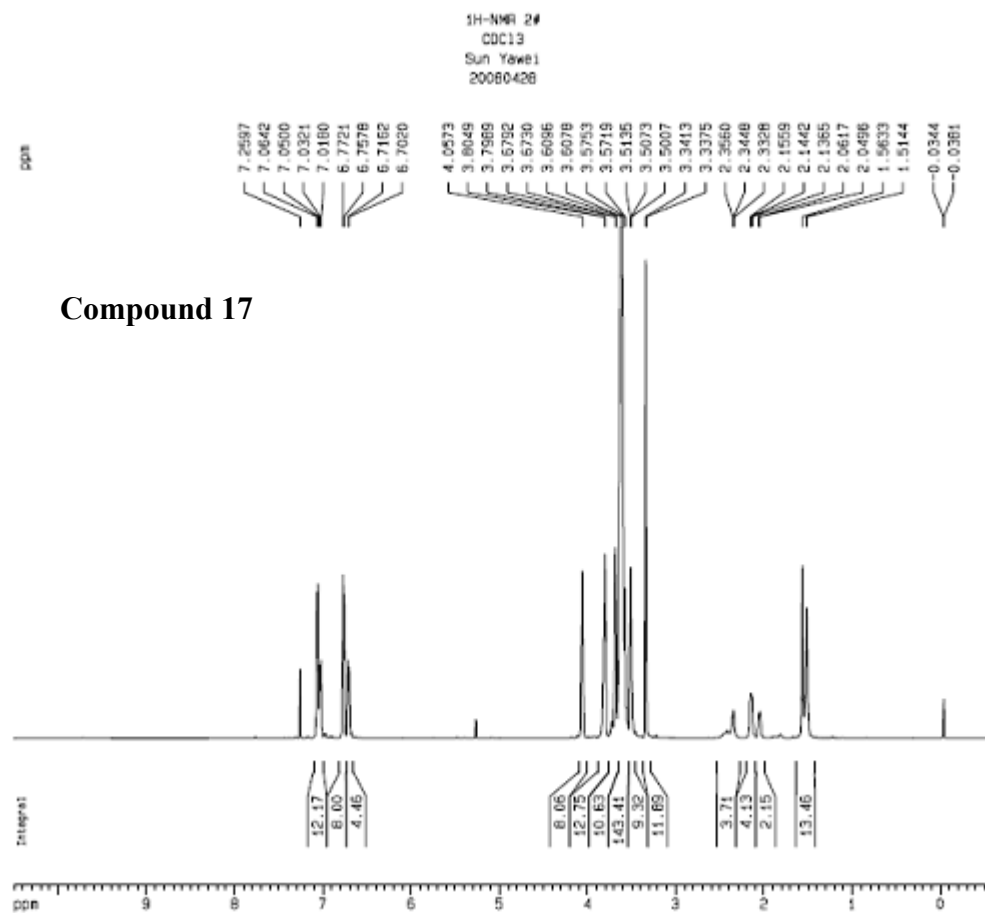
Compound 13



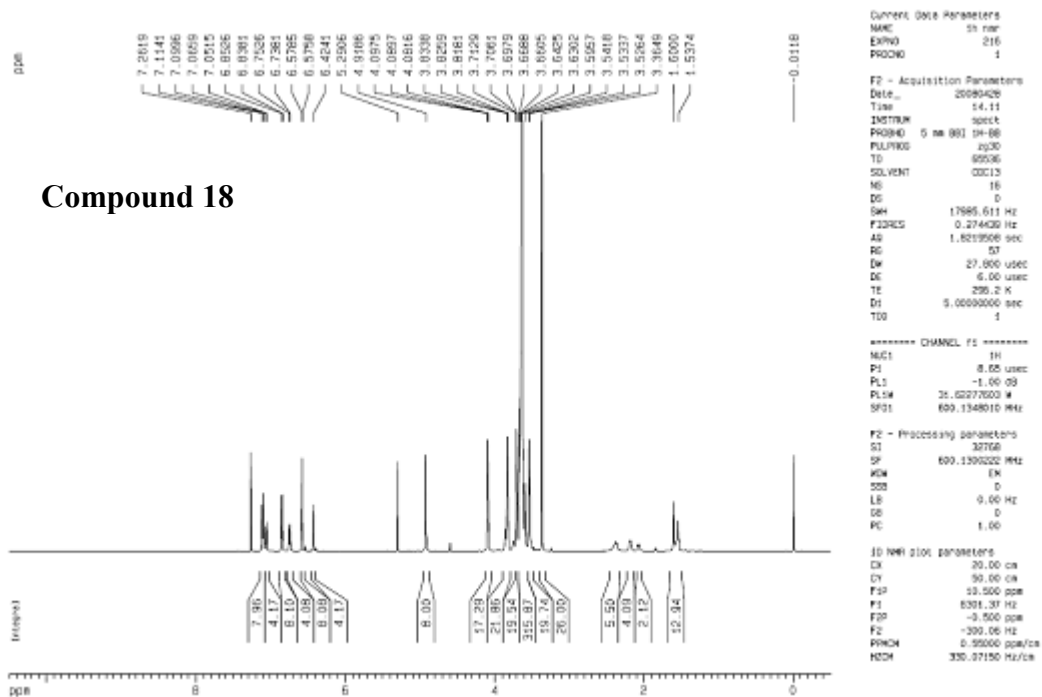
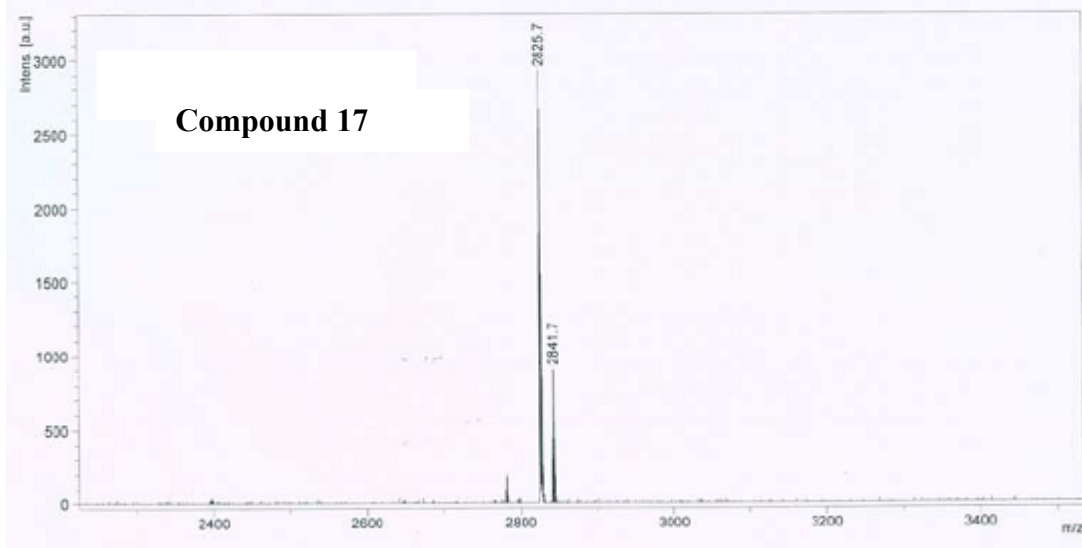


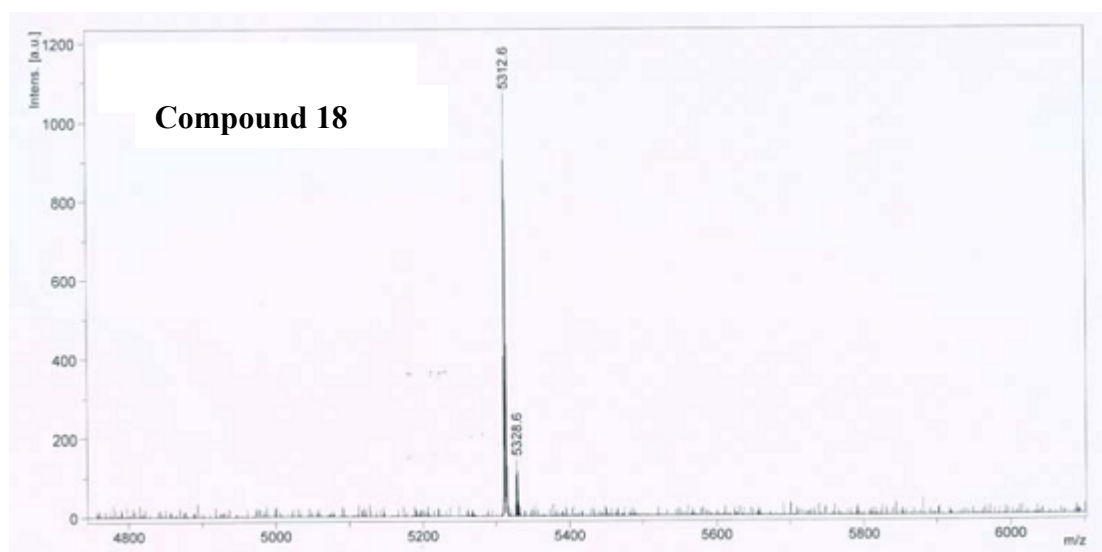
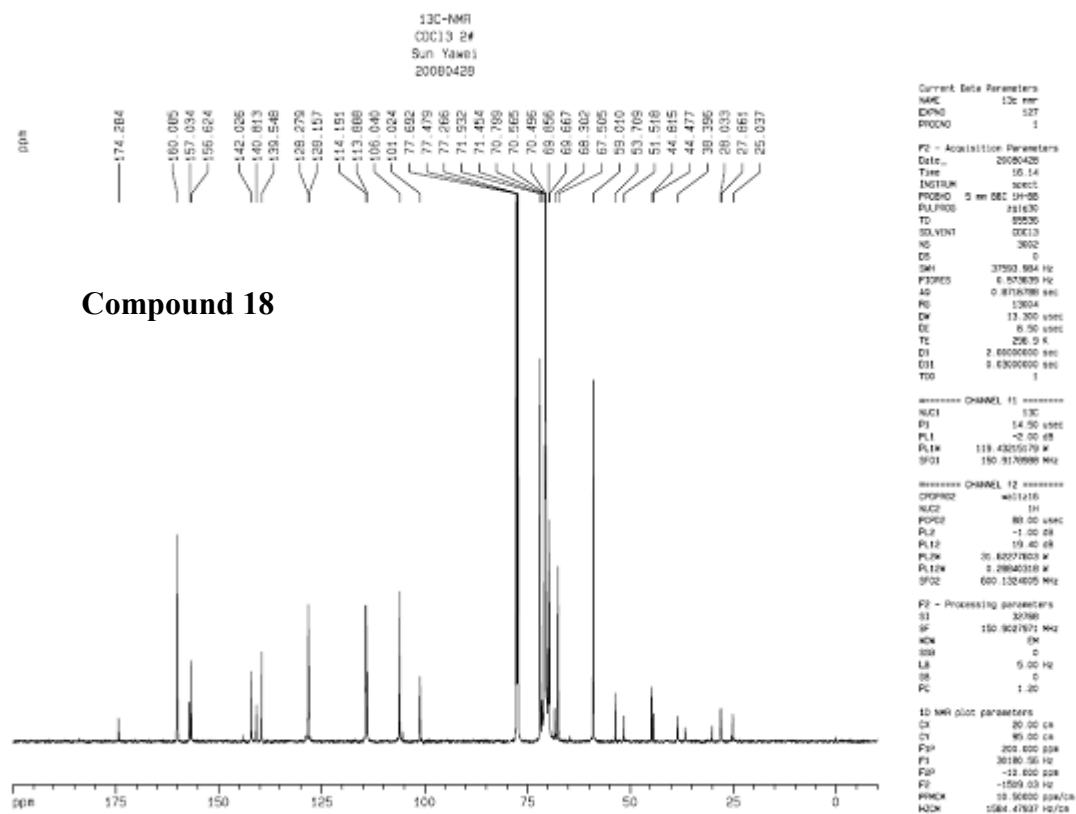


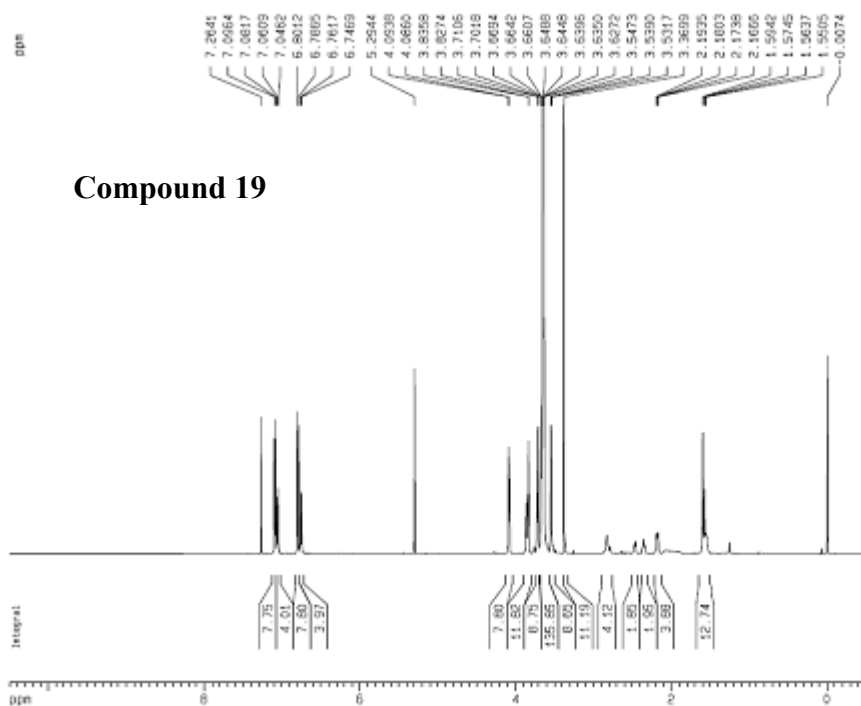




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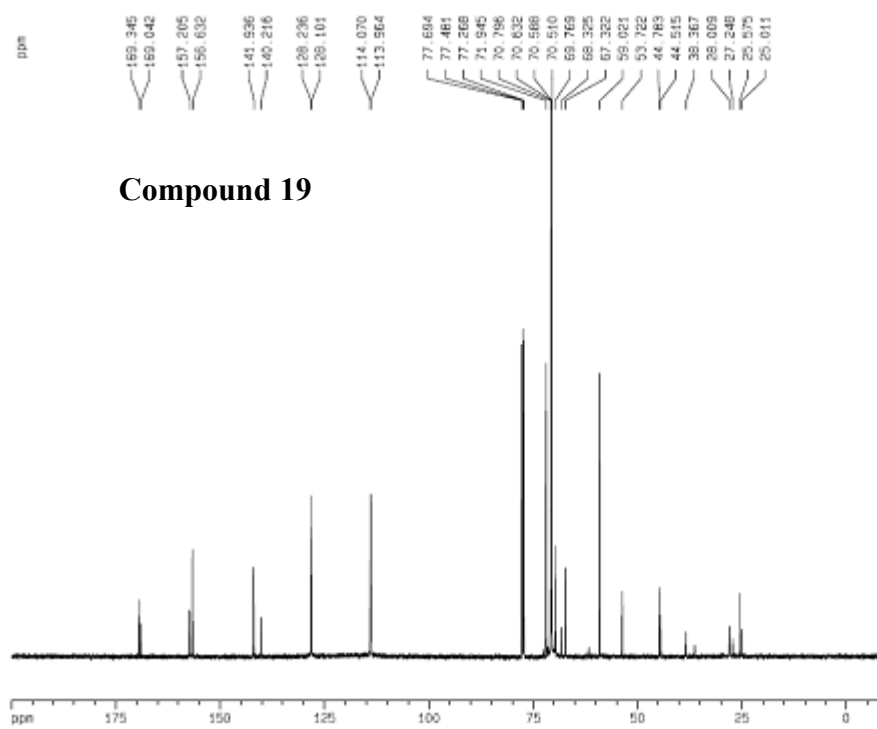
Current Data Parameters
 NAME In nar
 EXPNO 252
 PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
 Date_ 20080513
 Time 11.10
 INSTRUM spect
 PROBR0 5 mm BBI 1H-88
 PULPROG zg30
 TD 65536
 SOLVENT CECI3
 NS 18
 DS 0
 SWH 17985.611 Hz
 FIDRES 0.274439 Hz
 AQ 1.8215000 sec
 RG 27.800 usec
 DE 6.00 usec
 TE 295.3 K
 D1 5.0000000 sec
 T00 1

----- CHANNEL f1 -----
 NUC1 1H
 P1 8.60 usec
 PL1 -1.00 dB
 PL1W 35.52277603 W
 SFO1 600.1348010 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
 SI 32768
 SF 600.1300201 MHz
 WDW EM
 SSB 0
 LB 0.00 Hz
 GB 0
 PC 1.00

1D NMR plot parameters
 CX 20.00 cm
 CY 50.00 cm
 FIP 10.500 ppm
 FI 6301.317 Hz
 F2P -0.500 ppm
 F2 -300.06 Hz
 RMWD 0.95000 cm/cm
 HZCM 330.07150 Hz/cm



Current Data Parameters
 NAME 13c nar
 EXPNO 148
 PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
 Date_ 20080513
 Time 11.50
 INSTRUM spect
 PROBR0 5 mm BBI 1H-88
 PULPROG zgpg30
 TD 65536
 SOLVENT CECI3
 NS 407
 DS 0
 SWH 37593.984 Hz
 FIDRES 0.572639 Hz
 AQ 0.8716708 sec
 RG 3165.2
 DE 13.360 usec
 DI 8.50 usec
 TE 295.2 K
 D1 2.0000000 sec
 D11 0.0300000 sec
 T00 1

----- CHANNEL f1 -----
 NUC1 13C
 P1 14.50 usec
 PL1 -3.00 dB
 PL1W 110.62215179 W
 SFO1 100.6278988 MHz

----- CHANNEL f2 -----
 CHPROG waltz16
 NUC2 1H
 P2P22 68.00 usec
 PL2 -1.00 dB
 PL2W 19.40 dB
 PL2W 21.62275023 W
 PL2W 0.28848318 W
 SFO2 600.1304005 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
 SI 32768
 SF 100.6207931 MHz
 WDW EM
 SSB 0
 LB 1.00 Hz
 GB 0
 PC 1.20

1D NMR plot parameters
 CX 26.00 cm
 CY 56.00 cm
 FIP 200.000 ppm
 FI 36106.56 Hz
 F2P -10.000 ppm
 F2 -1009.03 Hz
 RMWD 16.58000 cm/cm
 HZCM 1304.47037 Hz/cm

