The Synthesis of 6,12-Guaianolide Analogs and Related Chemical Tools for Probing their Mechanism of NF-kB Inhibition

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Sarah M. Wells, PhD

University of Pittsburgh, 2016

Guaianolides, the largest class of sesquiterpene lactones, possess a wide range of biological activities, particularly in the areas of anti-inflammation and anticancer. The allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) is a rhodium (I) catalyzed [2 + 2 + 1] cyclocarbonylation reaction of allene-ynes and has been established as a viable methodology for accessing the guaianolide 5,7,5-tricyclic framework. However, allene-yne precursors with methyl substituted allenes and alkynes have been poorly tolerated. Optimization of high dilution APKR conditions is described for these methyl substituted allene-ynes, which give direct access to C4 and C10 methyl substituted bicycle[5.3.0]decadienones, consistent with the guaianolide framework.

This APKR approach was also applied to continuing the synthesis of highly oxygenated guaianolide analogs, capable of inhibiting NF- κ B. The α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone moiety is incorporated into allene-yne tether prior to the APKR. Given the potent NF- κ B inhibitory properties demonstrated by our analogs, derivatives were synthesized in effort to examine the biological mechanism of inhibition. Installation of alkyne ligation handles onto the base-sensitive guaianolide analogs, for use in biomechanistic studies, was achieved using the acid mediated Nicholas reaction. This method was also established for the general installation of alkyne ligation handles onto hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, and carboxyl groups. Synthesis and biological evaluation of an α -methyl- γ -butyrolactone guaianolide analog established the importance of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone moiety for potent NF- κ B inhibition.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

¹H NMR proton nuclear magnetic resonance ¹³C NMR carbon nuclear magnetic resonance ABPP activity based protein profiling

ABPs activity based probes

Ac acetyl AcOH acetic acid

AIBN azobisisobutyronitrile

APKR allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction

atm atmosphere

B3LYP Becke, 3-parameter, Lee-Yang-Parr

Boc *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl

Bz benzoyl

CAN cerium ammonium nitrate

Cbz carboxybenzyl

CDCl₃ deuterated chloroform

ClCH₂BPin pinacol chloromethylboronate

CO carbon monoxide

COMU (1-cyano-2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidenaminooxy)dimethylamino-

morpholino-carbenium hexafluorophosphate

COSY correlation spectroscopy CSA camphorsulfonic acid

DBU 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene

DCE 1,2-dichloroethane DCM dichloromethane

DIAD diisopropyl azodicarboxylate DIBAL-H diisobutylaluminium hydride DIC diisopropylcarbodiimide *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine DIPEA, DIEA *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide **DMF DMP** 2,2-dimethoxypropane **DMSO** dimethylsulfoxide **DNA** deoxyribonucleic acid

EDC 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide

EDs euclidean distances

EMSA electrophoretic mobility shift assay

ESI electrospray ionization

Et2Odiethyl etherEtOAcethyl acetateEtOHethanol

EuPA eupalmerin acetate

Fmoc fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl

FTMS fourier transform mass spectrometer

HMPA hexamethylphosphoramide

HPLC high performance liquid chromatography

HOBT hydroxybenzotriazole

HRMS high-resolution mass spectroscopy
HSQC heteronuclear single quantum coherence

IPNBSH *N*-isopropylidene-*N*'-2-nitrobenzenesulfonyl hydrazine

IR infrared spectroscopy

LA Lewis acid

LAH lithium aluminum hydride *m*-CPBA *meta*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid

MelB melampomagnolide B MMFF merck molecular force field

MP melting point
MS mass spectrometry
NF-KB nuclear factor kappa B

NMO *N*-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide

NPs natural products

p-TSAp-toluenesulfonic AcidPh3PtriphenylphosphinePh3POtriphenylphosphine oxidePKRPauson-Khand reaction

PPTS pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate

PTL parthenolide pyr pyridine

QSAR quantitative structure activity relationship

RCM ring closing metathesis rt room temperature SLs sesquiterpene lactones

TBAF tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride

TBDPS tert-butyldiphenylsilyl
TFA trifluoroacetic acid
THF tetrahydrofuran

TLC thin layer chromatography $TNF - \alpha$ tumor necrosis factor

TOF time-of-flight UV ultraviolet

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1.0 AN ALLENIC PAUSON-KHAND APPROACH TOWARDS 6,12-GUAIANOLIDES

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

For decades, natural products (NPs) have been a rich source of inspiration for the development of new drugs, as their structural frameworks are considered to be privileged for biological activity.¹ One class of NPs, sesquiterpene lactones (SLs), are a large group of metabolites with 15-carbon frameworks, consisting of 3 isoprene units (5 carbons), and a lactone ring. SLs exemplify high structural diversity and a wide range of biological properties, with potent anti-inflammatory and anticancer effects being of particular interest.² Currently a few SLs are undergoing clinical trials for cancer therapies (Figure 1). Thapsigargin (1.1) is a potent sarco/edoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase (SERCA) inhibitor which leads to apoptosis. A prodrug derivative of 1.1, under the name of Mipsagargin, has been developed to target the blood vessels of cancer cells and is undergoing phase II clinical trials.³ Artemisinin (1.2) is an

antimalarial compound, originally extracted for this use in the 1970's by Youyou Tu, who was awarded a share of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for this effort.⁴ Artemisinin has also shown anticancer activity, and is undergoing clinical trials for breast and colorectal cancers.² Finally, a dimethylamino analog of parthenolide (1.3) is being tested for targeting human leukemia stem cells.⁵

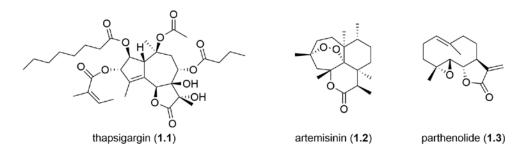


Figure 1. Medicinally relevant sesquiterpene lactones.

Even with these successful examples and prevalent biological activities of other SLs, realization and development for the class of molecules as potential pharmaceuticals has been slow overall. One major contribution to this slow progression is the presence of reactive α -methylene- γ -butyrolactones (1.4) in a vast majority of the SLs, and as seen in parthenolide (1.3). This moiety is present in 3% of all NPs.⁶ Despite this evolutionary prevalidation, the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone (1.4) has been classified as a covalent modifier, due to its ability to undergo hetero-Michael addition reactions with biological nucleophiles (Scheme 1). While thiol alkylating events are often responsible for the biological activities of α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone containing SLs, these events are also contribute to the toxicity of the compounds.⁷

Scheme 1. Mechanism for a Michael-type addition of a sulfhydryl group to an α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone (1.4).

Conventional non-covalent drugs inhibit their target protein through reversible, noncovalent binding interactions. Covalent inhibitors undergo these non-covalent interactions, but also undergo a bond-forming reaction with the protein to form a stable linkage that is irreversible within the protein's half-life.⁸ This mode of inhibition has traditionally been avoided due to the safety concern that poor selectivity of the electrophilic groups inherently leads to toxicity. However, many successful drugs operate by a covalent mechanism, including aspirin and penicillin. In fact, at this time, there are at least 42 approved drugs that operate by a covalent mechanism. 8c The mechanisms of action for many of these drugs were discovered after their clinical abilities had been established. Covalent inhibitors are only recently becoming the focus of drug development programs due to their potential for increased biochemical efficiency compared to non-covalent drugs; covalent binding may lower the development of drug resistance, allow for lower dosages, overcome competing endogenous non-covalent interactions, and could address targets with shallow binding sites. 8c To overcome the inherent toxicity risks, development teams are focusing on selectivity for specific binding sites and tuning the reactivity of the covalent modifiers for specific covalent binding events.^{8b} For all potential covalent inhibitors, the mechanism of action and possible non-specific, or off-target activity must be thoroughly examined.

One event that lead to increased interest in SLs as potential drug targets, despite their covalent modifier classification, was the discovery that helenalin (1.7) (Figure 2), along with other SLs, inhibits the central transcription factor NF-kB, which plays a major role in immune response, cell proliferation, cell death, and inflammation. Inhibition of NF-kB has emerged as a potential strategy for cancer therapy, as overstimulation of NF-kB has been shown to affect all 6 hallmarks of cancer; self-sufficiency in proliferative growth signals, insensitivity to growth

inhibition, evasion of apoptosis, limitless replicative potential, induction of angiogenesis and finally, induction of invasion and metastasis.¹⁰ Parthenolide (**1.3**) was also shown to inhibit NF-κB and activate p53, a DNA-binding transcription factor that leads to tumor suppression, simultaneously, thereby increasing its therapeutic potential.¹¹ The NF-κB inhibition potential of SLs lead to a series of studies to determine their mechanism of inhibition (See Section 4.1).

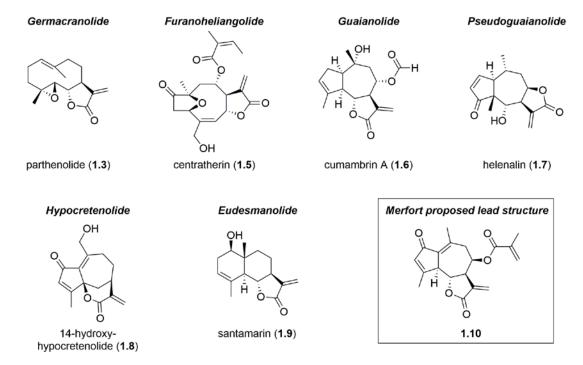


Figure 2. Selected SLs representing families that inhibit NF-κB, and the 6,12-guaianolide analog **1.10** proposed as a lead inhibitor by Merfort.

SL subclasses are divided by carbocyclic frameworks. Compounds in the germacranolide, furanoheliangolide, guaianolide, pseudoguaianolide, hypocretenolide, and eudesmanolide families have all been shown to inhibit NF-κB (Figure 2). A quantitative structure activity relationship (QSAR) study performed by Irmgard Merfort evaluated the structural and chemical features of 103 SLs in these families and their ability to inhibit NF-κB. For all the SL families, inhibition ability greatly correlated with the presence of alkylating centers such as the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone. While the QSAR study resulted in limited correlations for many of

the SL families, guaianolides were identified as having good correlation coefficients for other structural coding parameters, such as lipophilicity. Merfort later proposed a potential lead SL analog **1.10** for potent NF-kB inhibition consistent with the guaianolide framework.⁷

Guaianolides represent the largest natural product class of SLs. This family is made up of a 5,7,5-fused ring system with methyl or methylene groups at the C4, C10, and C11 positions. Guaianolides can be categorized further into 6,12- and 8,12-guaianolides, based upon the position of the lactone ring (Figure 3). The only difference between guaianolides and psuedoguaianolides is the placement of one of the methyl substituents, which is found on C5 for pseudoguaianolides rather than C4. The 6,12-guaianolides have become the focus of our synthetic efforts, consistent with the proposed lead structure **1.10**.

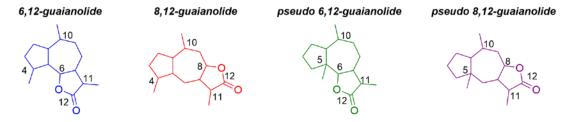


Figure 3. Frameworks of the guaianolide and pseudoguaianolide SL families.

Our focus on the 6,12-guaianolide framework was also validated by a chemical space analysis performed by Oprea and coworkers that identified a 6,12-guaianolide as a lead NP in underrepresented chemical space with medicinal potential.¹³ The biologically relevant chemical space was analyzed by comparing the physiochemical properties (size, shape, polarizability, lipophilicity, polarity, flexibility, rigidity, and hydrogen bonding capacity) of NPs, with bioactive medicinal compounds from the database WOMBAT. This allowed for identification of regions occupied by NPs, with favorable physiological properties, but were lacking occupancy by medicinally relevant molecules. A 6,12-guaianolide was identified as a lead in one of these underrepresented regions. In addition, Euclidean distances (EDs) were calculated between NPs

and approved drugs (GVKBIO drug database) based upon the physiological properties. Lead compounds were identified by short EDs and by using the literature to identify compounds with either similar biological activities or modes of action. Two 6,12-guaianolides, 11βH,10-epi-8-deoxycumambrin B (1.11) and 10-epi-8-deoxycumambrin B (1.13), were shown to have short EDs of 1.04 and 1.11, respectively, from formestane (1.12), which is an approved aromatase inhibitor (Figure 4). Guaianolides 1.11 and 1.13 have also been shown to effectively inhibit aromatase enzyme activity in human placental microsomes.¹⁴ Therefore, compounds of this nature were recommended for analog generation.

Figure 4. Euclidean distances between the drug formestane (1.12) and NPs 1.11 and 1.13 in chemical space.

1.1.1 Previous approaches toward the 6,12-guaianolide framework

Another challenge in the development of SLs, including 6,12-guaianolides, as therapeutics is limited bioavailability from their plant sources.² Therefore, synthetically useful methods are required. Described in this section are common ways that researchers have approached construction of the characteristic 5,7,5-fused, tricyclic ring system.

6,12-Guaianolides have been accessed via semisynthetic methods, where the guaianolide framework is obtained from an alternative sesquiterpene that is more readily available, either by synthesis or isolation. Two main semisynthetic approaches have been employed, with the

guaianolide framework being achieved from either the germacranolide or eudesmanolide SL frameworks (Figure 5).

Parthenolide (1.3), a germacranolide with potent biological activity, can be extracted from the root bark of *Magnolia delavayi* in bulk quantities (3.1-8.0%), and is also commercially available, making it a common starting material for biomimetic semisynthesis.¹⁵ Parthenolide (1.3) was utilized as the starting material in a 3-step synthesis of arglabin (1.15), which has a low bioavailability from its natural source of *Artemisia glabella* (0.27% yield).^{15b} The transformation from the germacranolide framework of 1.3 to the 6,12-guaianolide framework of micheliolide (1.14) is achieved under the acidic medium of p-TSA in DCM. Epoxidation of 1.14, followed by dehydration afforded arglabin (1.15) in an overall 45% yield (Scheme 2).

Figure 5. Semisynthetic approaches to the 6,12-guaianolide framework.

Scheme 2. Three step synthesis of arglabin (1.15) from parthenolide (1.3).

(-)- α -Santonin (1.16), is an abundant and commercially available eudesmanolide and represents the most widely used method for accessing guaianolides. Photochemical rearrangement of 1.16 in the presence of a protic solvent, such as acetic acid, affords guaianolide analog 1.17 (Scheme 3). This transformation has been applied to numerous guaianolide natural

product syntheses, including achillin (1.18), (-)-estafiatin (1.19), and dimerized guaianolide (+)-absinthin (1.20).¹⁷ Structural variations of santonin (1.16) have also undergone photochemical rearrangements. For example, in efforts towards the synthesis of thapsigargin analogs, photoirradiation of 1.21 in the presence of acetic acid gave 1.22 in 93% yield. Hydroazulene 1.22 was taken on to give 7,11-dihydroxyguaianolide analog 1.23 (Scheme 4).¹⁸ This strategy of constructing 5,7-hydroazulene core, followed by installation of the lactone ring near the end of the synthesis is a common approach toward 6,12-guaianolides.

Scheme 3. Access to the guaianolide framework from (-)- α -santonin (1.16) and representative natural products synthesized via this method.

Scheme 4. Photochemical rearrangement of 1.21 toward 7,11-dihydroxyguaianolide analog 1.23.

In addition to semisynthesis, development of total synthetic methods for the construction of guaianolides from commercially available building blocks is an important area of research. Multiple routes to building the 5,7,5-fused ring system have been employed. The Favorskii

rearrangement is a common strategy for the stereoselective synthesis of functionalized 5-membered rings, and has been applied in the early stages of multiple guaianolide total syntheses. In the synthesis of (+)-cladanthiolide (1.29),¹⁹ functionalization of *R*-carvone (1.24) affords 1.25, which under basic conditions rearranges to afford 5-membered ring (-)-1.26 in 80% yield.²⁰ This synthesis also features a unique construction of the 7-membered ring of 1.28, which is obtained from 1.27 in 99% yield via a radical cascade.

Scheme 5. Access to highly functionalized 5-membered ring (-)-**1.26** via the Favorskii rearrangement and a radical cascade approach toward (+)-cladanthiolide (**1.29**).

The 2007 total synthesis of thapsigargin (1.1), accomplished by Ley and coworkers, also begins with the Favorskii rearrangement; (+)-1.26 was prepared from *S*-carvone. However, the 7-membered ring was constructed using a ring closing metathesis (RCM). RCM precursor 1.30 was reacted with Grubb's second generation catalyst in DCM for 21 h to afford the 5,7-fused ring system 1.31, which was taken on to complete the synthesis of thapsigargin (1.1) in 42 steps overall (Scheme 6).²¹

RCM has become a popular method for 7-membered ring construction within guaianolides and is not unique to the described thapsigargin synthesis. The total synthesis of

arglabin (1.15) also showcases this approach; RCM precursor 1.32 containing both 5-membered rings undergoes RCM to form the 7-membered ring of 1.33 (Scheme 7).²²

Scheme 6. RCM approach for 7-membered ring formation in the total synthesis of thapsigargin (1.1).

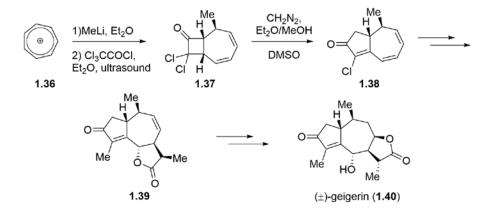
Scheme 7. RCM approach to arglabin (1.15).

The 5,7-hydroazulene core of guaianolides has also been accessed by ring expansion of a 5,4,5-fused ring system. α -Diol oxidative cleavage of **1.34** using Pb(OAc)₄ affords **1.35**, which was used to access (-)-estafiatin (**1.19**) (Scheme 8).²³

Scheme 8. Synthesis of (\pm) -estafiatin (1.19) via an oxidative ring expansion.

Another strategy to synthesize guaianolides involves forming the 5,7-hydroazulene core from a commercially available 7-membered ring, followed by installation of the lactone ring. One example of this method is the transformation of tropylium cation 1.36 to hydroazulene 1.38 via a [2 + 2] cycloaddition, ring expansion, and elimination sequence. 1.38 was taken on towards geigerin (1.40). Interestingly, this synthesis also features a 6,12-guaianolide framework 1.39 as an intermediate in route to the 8,12-guaianolide 1.40 (Scheme 9).

More recently, perhaps due to a resurgence in the interest in the guaianolides for pharmaceutical applications, researchers have been developing diversity oriented approaches towards the guaianolide framework, rather than attempting to synthesize specific targets.²⁵ This has especially been observed for synthetic efforts towards the 5,7-hydroazulene core of the guaianolide framework, as the lactone is typically the most accessible ring.



Scheme 9. Total synthesis of (\pm) -geigerin **1.40** from tropylium ion **1.36**.

Novel approaches for the synthesis of 7-membered rings are being applied to cyclopentane containing systems in order to demonstrate their feasibility for synthetic efforts toward the hydroazulene portion of guaianolides. For example, addition of stabilized alkenyl nucleophiles, such as Grignard reagents, to (1-methoxycarbonylpentadienyl)iron(1+) cation, followed by oxidative decomplexation, affords divinylcyclopropanes, which then undergo a Cope rearrangement to give functionally dense 7-membered rings.²⁶ This methodology was

applied to the formation of 5,7-fused ring system **1.43** by employing cyclopentenyl nucleophile **1.41** (Scheme 10).²⁷ Alternatively, the Michael-aldol-retro-Dieckmann (MARDi) cascade multicomponent reaction is an anionic 2-carbon ring expansion of the Dieckmann ester **1.45**, for the synthesis of stereodefined cycloheptanols.²⁸ Reaction of ester **1.45** and cyclopentene carbaldehyde **1.46** with DBU, followed by selective reduction of one ester moiety affords **1.47**, taken on to give the guaianolide framework **1.48** (Scheme 10).²⁹ Both of these methodologies were described as showing feasibility for synthesis of more biologically relevant guaianolide analogs.

Organoiron and Cope rearrangment approach TBDPSO 1. LAH, Et₂O TBDPSO. 2. 200 °C, C₆H₃Me₃ MeO₂C H 1.42 1.41 TBDPSO. Н НО 1.43 1.44 MARDi multicomponent reaction approach MeO₂C MeO₂C 1. DBU, MeOH ΗÕ HÓ 1.47 1.48 1.45 1.46

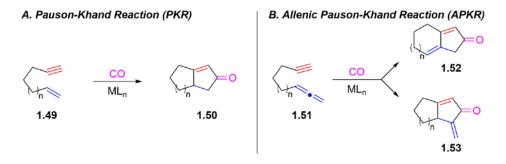
Scheme 10. Application of novel 7-membered ring syntheses to guaianolide analogs.

34% 2 steps

1.1.2 Development and applications of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction

The Pauson-Khand reaction (PKR) is a formal [2 + 2 + 1] cyclocarbonylation reaction between an alkyne, an alkene, and a carbon monoxide molecule (Scheme 11, A). The first example, reported in the early 1970's, was an intermolecular cyclocarbonylation between a dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed alkyne and norbornene to generate a fused cyclopentenone.³⁰ The discovery of an intramolecular version of the reaction significantly increased the synthetic utility by rendering the reaction regioselective and expanding the scope beyond strained alkenes. Many researches have embraced the challenge of increasing the efficiency and scope of the PKR, which is now one of the most popular methods for cyclopentenone formation. These advances include development of catalytic conditions, alternative metal mediators (including but not limited to Rh, Mo, Ru, Ti, Fe, Ir, and Zr), asymmetric conditions, effective intermolecular reactions, and solid supported protocols.³¹

A variation of the PKR where the alkene is replaced with an allene emerged in the late 1990's. The allenyl moiety contains two pi bonds, both of which could undergo the cyclocarbonylation reaction. Reaction with the distal double bond leads to the formation of 4-alkylidene cyclopentenone **1.52**, where reaction with the proximal double bond results in α -alkylidene cyclopentenone **1.53** (Scheme 11, B).



Scheme 11. General intramolecular Pauson-Khand reaction and allenic Pauson-Khand reaction.

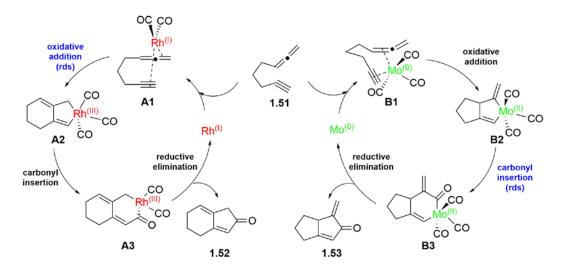
At first, regioselectivity between the distal and proximal double bond of the allene was substrate dependent. A cobalt carbonyl mediated allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) of allene-ynes, promoted by NMO, gave mixtures of the corresponding 4-alkylidene and α -alkylidene cyclopentenones, except for trisubstituted allenes, which gave the α -alkylidene system. When mono-, 1,3-di-, and 1,1,3-trisubstituted allenyl alkynes were reacted with stoichiometric amounts of molybdenum carbonyl, selective reaction with the proximal double bond afforded α -alkylidene cyclopentenones, while 1,1-disubstituted allenyl alkynes reacted selectively with the distal double bond to afford 4-alkylidene cyclopentenones.

However, in an effort to identify reaction conditions that would allow for double bond selectivity independent of the substrate, it was discovered that catalytic rhodium biscarbonyl chloride dimer ([Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂) reacted selectivity with the distal double bond whereas molybdenum carbonyl reacted selectively with the proximal double bond.³⁴ For example, when diester allene-yne **1.54** is reacted with [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (5 mol%), dienone **1.55** is formed selectively, and when **1.54** is reacted with Mo(CO)₆ (125 mol%), exocyclic methylene **1.56** is afforded (Scheme 12).^{34b}

Scheme 12. Diverging reactivity of 1.54 when using [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ and Mo(CO)₆.

This observation was later explained through density functional theory computational modeling of potential energy pathways with both metal mediators. For both metals, the generally accepted mechanism of 1) coordination of the metal to the alkene and alkyne, 2) oxidative addition, 3) carbonyl insertion, and 4) reductive elimination was used (Scheme 13). For the

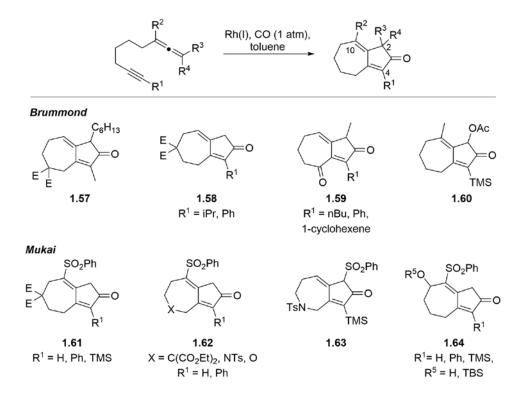
rhodium catalyzed pathway, it was determined that oxidative addition of the allene-yne to the Rh(I) to give Rh(III) complex **A2** had the highest energy barrier of the entire pathway (16.8 kcal/mol), and was therefore the rate determining step. As a result, the product is determined at an early stage in the reaction where the rhodium has a square planar geometry as seen in **A1**. Coordination to the distal double bond is favored by 5.5 kcal/mol over the proximal double bond, eventually leading to formation of the 4-alkylidene **1.52**. In contrast, calculations for the molybdenum pathway showed that CO insertion from **B2** to **B3** is the rate determining step. For oxidative addition, molybdenum has a trigonal bipyrimidal geometry (**B1**), and therefore, reaction with the proximal double bond of the allene is energetically preferred by 4.8 kcal/mol over the distal double bond. Even the highest energy in this pathway, for the CO insertion step, is 2.5 kcal/mol more favorable that the oxidative addition with the distal double bond. This leads to the experimentally observed selective formation of α-alkylidine cyclopentenones (**1.53**).³⁵



Scheme 13. Diverging mechanisms of the APKR with rhodium and molybdenum lead to regioselectivity.

The observed regioselectivity displayed for rhodium catalyzed Pauson-Khand reactions of allene-ynes motivated the application to fused 5,7-bicyclic ring systems from an extended carbon tether. Synthesis of these bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones had only been previously achieved

as a mixture of products or with a narrow substrate scope. Brummond^{34b, 36} and Mukai³⁷ independently exploited the selectivity of Rh(I) catalysts for the distal double bond to demonstrate the generality of this method for the synthesis of 5,7-fused systems (see Scheme 14for selected examples). A variety of allene and alkyne substitutions were tolerated including mono-, di-, and tri-substituted allenes, as well as both terminal and substituted alkynes. Mukai focused on allenes substituted with phenylsulfonyl groups due to their ease of preparation (1.61-1.64). Various functionalities in the tethers were also well-tolerated, including diesters (1.57, 1.58, 1.61), carbonyls (1.59), heteroatoms (1.62), and oxygen substituents (1.64).



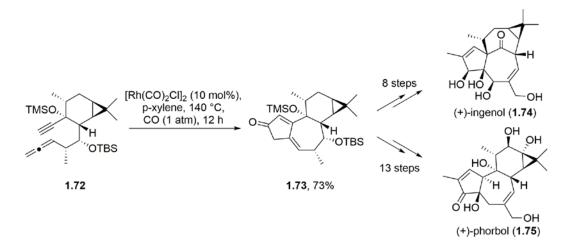
Scheme 14. Synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones via a Rh(I)-catalyzed allenic Pauson-Khand reaction.

By incorporating cyclohexane rings into the allene-yne tethers, Brummond also demonstrated the capability of the APKR to access linearly and angularly fused 6,7,5-tricylic frameworks (Scheme 15).^{36a, 38} Some of these examples are among the highest yielding APKR results, as seen for the synthesis of **1.66** and **1.68**, formed in 85% and 91% yield respectively.³⁸

The potential of the APKR for application to biologically relevant carbocyclic frameworks was demonstrated by the cyclocarbonylation of allene-yne **1.69** to afford **1.70**; this example was performed in an effort towards the synthesis of NP guanacastepene A (**1.71**).³⁹

The dienone moiety generated by the APKR is also optimally positioned for further functionalization of the 5,7-ring system towards biologically relevant systems. This has been demonstrated by functionalization of the dienone C1-C10 π -bond via hydrogenation, dihydroxylation, and epoxidations, as well as by addition to the carbonyl. In addition, the potential of the APKR and functionalization of dienone moiety towards natural products was demonstrated in the total syntheses of (+)-ingenol (1.74) and (+)-phorbol (1.75), performed by Baran and coworkers (Scheme 16). APKR precursor 1.72 was constructed from (+)-carene in 5 steps. The APKR reaction was successfully performed on gram scale using [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (10 mol%) with CO(g) in xylenes to afford dienone 1.73 in 73% yield. This cycloadduct was functionalized to efficiently afford (+)-ingenol (1.74) in 8 steps (14 steps overall), as well as (+)-phorbol (1.75) in 13 steps (19 steps overall).

Scheme 15. Selected examples of the APKR towards linearly and angularly fused 6,7,5-tricyclic frameworks.



Scheme 16. An APKR approach toward the total synthesis of (+)-ingenol (1.74) and (+)-phorbol (1.75).

1.1.3 An allenic Pauson-Khand approach toward guaianolides.

As mentioned, the synthesis of tricyclic fused ring systems are among the highest yielding APKR examples. In turn, the Brummond group proposed that the 5,7,5-fused ring system of 6,12-guaianolides, represented by **1.76**, could be accessed in a similar fashion from a lactone containing allene-yne tether **1.77** (Scheme 17). Some hesitation with respect to the reactivity of α -methylene- γ -butyrolactones, and their stability in the APKR was acknowledged during the design of this approach.⁴² Motivation toward this approach was also encouraged by the influential work of Dennis Hall, who developed an allylboration/lactonization sequence for the synthesis of substituted α -methylene- γ -butyrolactones.

Scheme 17. Retrosynthetic analysis of 6,12-guaianolide framework **1.76**.

To establish the feasibility of the proposed route to the 6,12-guaianolide framework, allene-yne **1.80** was made (Scheme 18). The lactone ring was formed via an allylboration/lactonization reaction between allylboronate **1.78** and phenylpropynal as a mixture of the *trans*-and *cis*-lactone rings (4:1 ratio). The TBDPS group was removed by treatment with TBAF to afford alcohol **1.79**. The allene moiety of **1.80** was installed in 3 steps from **1.79**. The *trans*- and *cis*- lactones can either be separated as **1.79** or as the allene-yne **1.80**. The isomers of **1.80** were subjected separately to the APKR to afford *trans*-**1.81a** and *cis*-**1.81b**, both in 90% yield. The α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone was unaffected throughout the sequence of reactions from **1.79** to **1.81**, including the high yielding APKR.

Scheme 18. An APKR approach to the 5,7,5-fused ring system **1.81**.

The APKR approach was also successfully applied to guaianolide analogs **1.83** and **1.84**,⁴³ with increased oxygen functionality and therefore, molecular complexity (Scheme 19).⁴⁴ This redox economical synthesis expands the scope of both the allylboration/lactonization as well as the APKR chemistries. For more information on this synthesis, see Section 2.1.

It should be noted that Mukai and coworkers have also utilized the APKR in the synthesis of an 8,12-guaianolide natural product, (+)-achalensolide (1.87) (Scheme 20).⁴⁰ However, the APKR was performed on allene 1.85 using a phosphine ligated Rh(I) catalyst,

[Rh(CO)(dppp)₂]Cl to form the hydroazulene core **1.86**. The lactone was installed at a later stage in the synthesis, typical of previous approaches toward guaianolides (Section 1.1.1).

Scheme 19. Synthesis of highly-functionalized guaianolide analogs 1.83 and 1.84 via the APKR.

Scheme 20. An APKR approach to 8,12 guaianolide (+)-achalensolide (1.87).

1.1.4 Low yielding APKR examples with methyl substituted allene-ynes

As mentioned, the conversion of α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone containing allene-yne tether **1.80a**, with a phenyl substituted alkyne, to the guaianolide analog **1.81a** is among the highest yielding APKR examples to date. The success of this example, as well as the synthesis of highly functionalized guaianolide analogs **1.83** and **1.84**, establishes the feasibility of this approach toward the guaianolide framework. To show the generality of the approach, the scope of the APKR precursor **1.80** was expanded to include alternative alkynyl and allenyl substitutions (Scheme 21). Pentyl and trimethylsilyl substituted alkynes (**1.80c** and **1.80d**) also gave excellent yields; **1.81c** and **1.81d** were formed in 81% and 92% yields respectively. However, the efficiency of the APKR for a terminal alkyne and a methyl substituted alkyne was

significantly decreased; **1.81e** was afforded in a moderate 67% yield while **1.81f** was produced in 51% yield. The intolerance of methyl substitutions was further magnified when allene-yne tether **1.80g** encompassing a methyl substituted alkyne as well as a methyl substitution on the proximal allene carbon gave the corresponding dienone product **1.81g** in only 42% yield.⁴²

The low efficiency of methyl substituted and terminal alkynes has also been observed in previously reported APKR examples. For the synthesis of 5,7,6-linearly fused ring systems, trimethylsilyl groups on the alkyne afforded the cycloadducts **1.89a** and **1.89b** in excellent yields (87% and 91%), however terminal and methyl substituted alkynes gave significantly lower yields of 27% and 29% for **1.89c** and **1.89d** respectively (Scheme 22).³⁸

Scheme 21. Scope expansion for guaianolide analogs 1.81 reveals sensitivity to methyl substitutions.

Scheme 22. Synthesis of 5,7,6-ring systems 1.89a-d.

The 6,12-guaianolide framework includes methyl substitutions at the C4 and C10 positions. For our allenic Pauson-Khand approach to this framework, the C4 and C10 methyl substitutions of **1.76** correlate directly to the substituents on the proximal carbon of the allene and the terminus of the alkyne of the allene-yne precursor **1.77** (Scheme 17). Therefore, for this

approach to be optimized for the synthesis of guaianolide analogs, an efficient reaction for methyl substituted substrates is required. Reported herein are our investigations for optimizing the APKR for these methyl substituted allenes and alkynes, as well as terminal alkynes.

1.2 OPTIMIZATION OF THE APKR FOR METHYL SUBSTITUTED ALLENE-YNE TETHERS

1.2.1 Model system substrate design

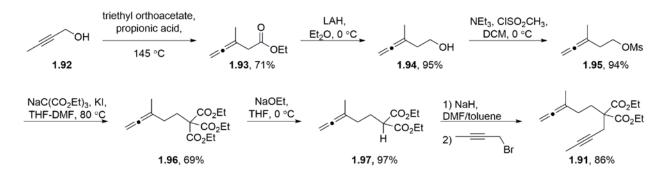
To optimize the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction for allene-ynes with methyl substitutions on the proximal carbon of the allene and on the alkyne terminus, we designed a simple dienone system **1.90** as a model for this transformation. Due to the nature of the guaianolide framework, we desired an all-carbon 5,7-ring system, with methyl substituents at the C4 and C10 positions. We envisioned that dienone **1.90** would be accessed from allene-yne **1.91** via the APKR (Scheme 23). The design of the diester tether found in allene-yne **1.91** was inspired by previous work in our group using diester containing allene-yne tethers, ^{34b, 36c} and from the work of Rapoport for malonic ester synthesis using tricarboxylates. The allene-yne **1.91** could be accessed from the three building blocks of 2-butyn-1-ol (**1.92**), which is a precursor for the allene moiety, sodium methanetricarboxylate **1.93**, and propargyl bromide **1.94**.

$$CO_2Et$$
 CO_2Et
 C

Scheme 23. Retrosynthetic analysis of dienone **1.90**.

1.2.2 Synthesis of allene-yne 1.91

Conversion of 2-butyn-1-ol **1.92** to allene-yne **1.91** was executed in 6 steps in an overall 36% yield (Scheme 24). A Johnson-Claisen rearrangement of **1.92** in the presence of triethyl orthoacetate and propionic acid provided allenyl ester **1.93** in 71% yield. Reduction of ester **1.93** with lithium aluminum hydride in diethyl ether at 0 °C gave alcohol **1.94** in 95% yield which was then converted to mesylate **1.95** in 94% yield using triethyl amine and methanesulfonyl chloride. Next, the mesylate group was replaced by the methane tricarboxylate anion to afford **1.96** in 69% yield. Conversion of tricarboxylate **1.96** to the malonate species **1.97** was accomplished in 97% yield using sodium ethoxide in THF. Finally, deprotonation of **1.97** with sodium hydride, followed by the addition of propargyl bromide produced the allene-yne tether **1.91** in 86% yield.



Scheme 24. Synthesis of allene-yne tether 1.91.

1.2.3 Optimization of APKR with 1.91

With allene-yne **1.91** in hand, the APKR was optimized for this substrate. These efforts are described within and organized by the various reaction parameters examined (Table 1).

Result of previously developed APKR conditions. Initially, the APKR reaction conditions previously developed in our group were employed. Allene-yne **1.91** was heated at 90 °C in 0.1 M toluene with 15 mol% [Rh(CO)₂(Cl)]₂, under a CO atmosphere for 1.5 h, which afforded dienone **1.90** in 27% yield (Entry 1). A significant byproduct was also produced and isolated from the reaction mixture (R_f = 0.38, 20% EtOAc in hexanes). Analysis of the byproduct by ¹H NMR spectroscopy did not allow for structure determination but did reveal signals similar to those present in the ¹H NMR spectrum for dienone **1.90**. Large signals were observed at 4.21 and 1.23 ppm corresponding to the –OCH₂CH₃ groups of the ethyl esters. It was clear that the allene moiety had reacted due to the disappearance of the signal representing the allene hydrogens seen at 4.63 ppm for **1.91**. However, small signals were observed in the aromatic region ranging from 8.22-7.07 ppm. These observations led to a hypothesis that an intermolecular reaction was occurring.

Table 1. Optimization of the APKR for methyl substituted allene-yne 1.91.

Entry	Rh(I)	Rh(I) mol%	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Conc. (M)	Time	Yield (%)
1	[Rh(CO) ₂ Cl] ₂	15	90	Toluene	0.1	1.5 h	27
2	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	15	90	Toluene	0.1	1.5h	32^{a}
3	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	15	90	Toluene	0.01	1.5 h	53
4	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	15	110	Toluene	0.01	25 min	57
5	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	15	75	DCE	0.01	30 min	40
6	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	10	110	Toluene	0.01	b	81
7	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	5	110	Toluene	0.01	b	80
8	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	2	110	Toluene	0.01	b	62
9	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	1	110	Toluene	0.01	b	63
10	$[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$	0.1	110	Toluene	0.01	b	23
11	[Rh(CO)(dppp) ₂]Cl	10	110	Toluene	0.1	21 h	27
12	$[Rh(CO)(dppp)_2]Cl$	10	110	Toluene	0.01	21 h	46
13	$[Rh(CO)Cl(dppp)]_2$	10	110	Toluene	0.01	6 h	29

^aTriphenylphosphine polymer bound was used as a Rh(I) scavenger prior to evaporation of reaction solvent. ^b**1.91** was added dropwise over 1.5 h and reaction was complete 15 min after addition period.

Wender has reported that terminal allenes, such as those found in allene-yne **1.91**, were ineffective in Rh(I) catalyzed [5+2] intermolecular cycloadditions between allenes and vinyl cyclopropanes (VCPs).⁴⁷ Computational analysis lead to the proposal that this limitation was a result of two terminal allenes undergoing an intermolecular dimerization, with Rh(I), to form rhodacycle **1.100** (Scheme 25). This process was shown to be irreversible and therefore poisons the Rh catalyst.⁴⁸ Allenes with terminal methyl substitutions, however, readily underwent the desired [5 + 2] cycloaddition for the formation of 7-membered ring **1.99**. This is reasoned that the steric nature of the methyl substitution increases the energy barrier for the competing allene dimerization. This report, as well as other synthetic reports of intermolecular reactions between allenes and alkynes provide precedent for the proposed intermolecular competing pathway, resulting in disappearance of the allene functional group.⁴⁹

Scheme 25. Allene dimerization as a competing process for the [5+2] cycloaddition of terminal allenes with VCPs.

Analysis of the byproduct by ESI mass spectroscopy revealed a base peak with an exact mass of 581.3099 ([M+H]) when run in the positive ion mode. The same mass spectroscopy analysis of allene-yne **1.91** and dienone **1.90** revealed [M+H] molecular ion peaks with exact masses of 293.1751 and 321.1687 respectively. Homodimerization of allene-yne **1.91** would result in a substrate with an exact mass of 584.3350 (C₃₄H₄₈O₈), while the mass of a rhodacycle consistent with **1.100** proposed by Wender and Houk would have a theoretical exact mass of 778.1992 (C₃₆H₄₈O₁₀ClRh). The mass data obtained for the byproduct does not assist with

determining a structure, but it supports the speculation a competing intermolecular process, evidenced by the near doubling of the mass compared to allene-yne **1.91** and cycloadduct **1.90**.

Scavenger for Rh(I) catalyst. Upon completion of the reaction, the traditional protocol for reaction work up involves filtration of the toluene reaction solution through a celite plug, rinsing with diethyl ether, followed by solvent evaporation. The celite filtration is not sufficient for removal of the rhodium catalyst, evidenced by the presence of baseline impurities, consistent with the coloration and TLC observations of the [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂. We hypothesized that concentration of the cyclocarbonylation adduct in the presence of rhodium could lead to problematic substrate/catalyst interactions, thereby lowering the overall yield of dienone 1.90. To efficiently remove the rhodium prior to concentration, polymer bound triphenylphosphine was tested as a rhodium catalyst scavenger. After completion of the cyclocarbonylation reaction, the reaction solvent was cooled to rt, followed by addition of polymer bound triphenylphosphine. Stirring at room temperature for 14 h completely scavenged the rhodium, as evidenced by disappearance of the baseline TLC spot. The polymer was removed via vacuum filtration prior to evaporation of the reaction solvent. While this procedure only marginally increased the yield of 1.90 to 32% yield (Entry 2), polymer bound triphenylphosphine was utilized as a scavenger in the work up of subsequent experiments.

Concentration, Solvent, and Carbon Monoxide. Next, a screening of reaction concentrations were performed on small scale reactions (5 mg of **1.91**, 0.017 mmol). We predicted that lower concentrations would reduce formation of the byproduct based upon our hypothesis that it is a result of an intermolecular process. Reaction monitoring was performed by TLC analysis; relative amounts of **1.90** and the undesired byproduct were compared. First, toluene was employed at various concentrations including the standard 0.1 M, 0.02 M, and 0.01

M. TLC observations revealed that as the reaction concentration was diluted, the amount of dienone **1.90** formed increased, while the formation of the unknown byproduct decreased. These qualitative observations were confirmed quantitatively when the APKR reaction of allene-yne **1.91** was performed at 0.01 M in toluene on a larger scale (45 mg of **1.91**, 0.15 mmol) at 90 °C with 15 mol% [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ and a CO atmosphere. The yield of dienone **1.90** increased to 53% (Entry 3). Increasing the temperature to 110 °C shortened the reaction time from 1.5 h to 25 min, and slightly increased the yield of **1.90** to 57% (Entry 4).

TLC screening was also performed for different solvents including toluene, THF, and DCE while maintaining a 0.01 M concentration. Use of THF resulted in increased formation of the byproduct, and decreased formation of **1.90**. DCE was comparable to toluene based upon TLC observations, however, when utilized for a larger scale, this solvent resulted in a lower, 40% yield, of **1.90** (Entry 5). Toluene was determined to be the optimal solvent.

A comparison between the use of 100% CO gas and 10% CO in argon gas was made. TLC observations revealed that the partial carbon monoxide atmosphere decreased formation of **1.90**. Therefore, use of 100% CO gas was maintained for subsequent experiments.

Due to the increased yield observed lowering the reaction concentration, the reaction was further diluted by employing a drop-wise, syringe-pump addition procedure. This strategy minimizes the concentration of allene-yne **1.91**, while avoiding the use of uneconomical amounts of solvent.⁵⁰ To this end, allene-yne **1.91**, dissolved in toluene, was added dropwise over 1.5 h, using a syringe pump, to a refluxing solution of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (10 mol%) in toluene (0.01 M overall with respect to **1.91**), under a CO atmosphere. The reaction was complete 15 min after the addition period; **1.90** was obtained in 81% yield with no byproduct observed (Entry 6).

Catalyst Loading. Next, the catalyst loading was examined while using the dropwise addition of allene-yne **1.91** to the Rh(I) catalyst in toluene. Lowering the loading to 5 mol% maintained a high, 80% yield of **1.90** (Entry 7). However, lower catalyst loadings resulted in decreased yields; catalyst loadings of 2 mol %, 1 mol %, and 0.1 mol % gave **1.90** in 62%, 63%, and 23% respectively (Entries 8-10). Therefore, 5 mol% was determined to be the optimal amount of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ needed for this type of transformation.

Alternative Rh(I) catalysts. Mukai and coworkers have reported the use of alternative Rh(I) catalysts [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂ and [Rh(CO)dppp)₂]Cl for overcoming low-yielding APKR results.⁵¹ In particular, their synthesis of (+)-achalensolide (1.87) utilizes the APKR for conversion of methyl substituted allene-yne 1.85 to dienone 1.86 (Scheme 26). Use of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ afforded 1.86 in only 14% yield. Alternatively, use of [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂ increased the yield of 1.86 to 61%, while [Rh(CO)dppp)₂]Cl gave the best yield of 96%.⁴⁰

Scheme 26. Comparison of various Rh(I) catalysts for the formation of dienone **1.86**.

Comparisons were made between [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ and these alternative Rh(I) catalysts for the APKR of methyl substituted allene-yne **1.91**. Allene-yne **1.91** was reacted with [Rh(CO)(dppp)₂]Cl, a rhodium monomer catalyst generated from 10 mol% rhodium (1,5-cyclooctadiene) chloride dimer ([Rh(cod)Cl]₂) and 50 mol% 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (dppp), under a CO atmosphere in toluene (0.1 M);⁵² these conditions afforded dienone **1.90** in 27% yield after stirring for 21 h (Entry 11). Lowering the concentration of the reaction to 0.01 M, using the same catalyst, afforded **1.90** in 46% yield (Entry 12). Both of these results are

comparable to the yields of **1.90** obtained while using [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ at the same concentrations (Entries 2 and 3). However, the longer reaction times and the more tedious procedure required when using [Rh(CO)(dppp)₂]Cl favor use of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂. Rhodium dimer catalyst [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, generated from 10 mol% [Rh(cod)Cl]₂ and 20 mol% dppp,⁵² was also employed; at 0.01 M concentration, **1.90** was afforded in only 29% yield (Entry 13).

1.2.4 Application of high dilution conditions to synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones

Next, we examined the generality of the syringe-pump, "high dilution" conditions on a series of allene-ynes with methyl substituents on the proximal allene carbon and either methyl substituted or terminal alkynes. This allene-yne series was prepared with a variety of functionalities present in the allene-yne tethers. Diester-containing allene-yne **1.101**, with a terminal alkyne, was prepared in a manner analogous to allene-yne **1.91**; malonate **1.97** was reacted with sodium hydride, followed by propargyl bromide to afford **1.101** in 87% yield (Scheme 27).

Scheme 27. Synthesis of diester allene-yne tether 1.101 with a terminal alkyne.

The diester tethers **1.91** and **1.101** were manipulated to afford additional allene-yne substrates (Scheme 28). The esters were reduced using lithium aluminum hydride to afford diols **1.102a** and **b** in 65% and 98% respectively. The diols were protected using camphor sulfonic acid and dimethoxypropane in acetone to afford acetonide containing tethers **1.103a** and **b** in 76% and 85% yields respectively.

Scheme 28. Transformation of diester allene-ynes 1.91 and 1.101 to acetonide containing allene-ynes 1.103a,b.

Heteroatom-containing tethers were prepared from allenyl-alcohol **1.94** (Scheme 29).^{36c} To prepare oxygen containing tethers, the Williamson ether synthesis was employed. Deprotonation of alcohol **1.94** with sodium hydride followed by reaction with 1-bromo-2-butyne resulted in formation of allene-yne **1.104a** in 52% yield. Alternatively the corresponding alkoxide of **1.94** was reacted with propargyl bromide to afford terminal alkyne-containing tether **1.104b** in 77% yield. Nitrogen containing tethers **1.105a** and **b** were prepared in 68% and 64% respectively, using Mitsunobu reaction conditions with alcohol **1.94**, DIAD, triphenylphosphine, and the corresponding tosylated propargyl amine.

Scheme 29. Synthesis of heteroatom containing allene-yne tethers 1.104 and 1.105.

The prepared allene-yne tethers were subjected to the optimized high dilution APKR conditions (Scheme 30). When diester tether **1.101**, with a terminal alkynyl group, was added dropwise over 1.5 h to a solution of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (5 mol%) in toluene (0.01 M), under a CO atmosphere at 110 °C (Conditions A), dienone **1.106** was afforded in 92% yield. For comparison, a 0.01 M solution of **1.101** in toluene was heated with 5 mol% [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂, under a CO atmosphere, without the dropwise addition (Conditions B) which afforded **1.106** in only 50% yield. Therefore, the dropwise addition of the allene-yne to the reaction medium resulted in 42%

yield increase for **1.106**. A comparison of Conditions A and B were also made for the reaction of acetonide tether **1.103a**, with a methyl substituted alkynyl group. The dropwise Conditions A afforded dienone **1.107a** in 87% yield, a 60% increase compared to the 27% yield of **1.107a** obtained when adding the allene-yne all at once (Conditions B). Acetonide **1.103b** with a terminal alkynyl group also successfully afforded dienone **1.107b** in 78% yield using the dropwise conditions.

When diol **1.102a** was reacted under the optimized conditions dienone **1.108a** was afforded in a moderate 59% yield. Unfortunately, when diol **1.102b** with a terminal alkyne was reacted, the corresponding dienone **1.108b** was not obtained. Other examples involving the presence of hydroxyl groups in Pauson-Khand precursors have resulted in significantly reduced yield. We presume that the hydroxyl groups may be reacting with the rhodium catalyst, rending it useless for the cyclocarbonylation pathway.

Scheme 30. Result of high dilution conditions on a variety of allene-ynes. **Conditions A** high dilutions conditions where the allene-yne was added by a syringe pump over 1.5 h. **Conditions B** added the allene-yne all at once.

Tethers containing either a nitrogen or oxygen atom were examined next. Tosyl amine tethers **1.105a,b** were well tolerated in the APKR reaction and afforded dienones **1.109a** and **b** in 92% and 73% respectively. However, allene-yne ethers **1.104a,b** only afforded the corresponding dienones **1.110a** and **b** in moderate yields (49% and 44% respectively). Other reports have also observed diminished yield for the synthesis of oxabicyclic compounds using the APKR reaction compared to the corresponding azabicyclic compounds. ^{36c, 53}

Finally, 1,3-disubstituted allene containing tether **1.111**, previously prepared in our group, was reacted under the high dilution conditions (Scheme 31).^{36c} While 1,3-disubstituted allenes have been tolerated previously in the APKR, we wanted to determine if the yield of dienone **1.112** could be improved using the dropwise conditions. Allene-yne **1.111** was added dropwise over 1.5 h to a solution of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (5 mol%) in toluene (0.01 M) at 110 °C. After the addition period, an additional 3 h of stirring was required to afford dienone **1.112** in 70% yield (Scheme 31). Dienone **1.112** was previously reported to be prepared in 71% yield from **1.111** under more concentrated conditions (10 mol% [Rh(CO)₂Cl], 0.1 M toluene, 90 °C). Therefore, the dilute, dropwise conditions did not alter the effectiveness of the reaction. The longer required reaction time may have minimized the positive dilution effects of the dropwise conditions.

Scheme 31. Reaction of 1,3-diubstituted allene 1.111 in the APKR with dilute, dropwise conditions.

1.2.5 Efforts towards a large-scale allene-yne synthesis and APKR reaction for *Organic Syntheses*.

Based upon the success of this drop-wise addition modification and the APKR in general for the synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones, we sought to perform the synthesis of dienone **1.90** on a large scale, suitable for publication in *Organic Syntheses*. Two separate procedures, seen in Scheme 32, were invited for submission to the journal. The first procedure was to synthesize 10g of allenyl-mesylate **1.95** (59 mmol) from 2-butyn-1-ol (**1.92**) via the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement, reduction, and mesylation reactions, showcasing the allene functional group as a robust building block for subsequent transformations. The second procedure involved the synthesis of allene-yne **1.91** and subsequent APKR for the formation of 5 g of dienone **1.90**.

Scheme 32. Original *Organic Syntheses* procedures for the APKR synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones.

For procedure 1, scale-up of the Johnson-Claisen reaction toward allenyl ester **1.93** was required. This reaction was performed successfully at 28.5 and 45.0 mmol scales, affording **1.93** in 61% and 71% respectively (Table 2, Entries 1 and 2). However, issues arose when the reaction

was attempted at a larger, 117 mmol scale, required to meet the synthesis goal. This procedure only gave allenyl ester **1.93** in 33% yield (Entry 3).

Table 2. Result from large scale conversion of 2-butyn-1-ol (1.92) to allenyl ester 1.93.

Entry	mmol of 2-butyn-1-ol (1.92)	Time	Yield 1.93 (g)	Yield 1.93 (%)
1	28.5	5 h	2.44 g	61%
2	45.0	6.5 h	4.52 g	71%
3	117.0	6.5 h	5.41 g	33%

The poor yield at the larger scale for the formation of **1.93**, as well as the volatility of the corresponding allenyl alcohol, formed after reduction of **1.93**, ultimately led us to redesign the *Organic Syntheses* proposal using a more robust substrate. Our group has shown that the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement of propargyl alcohol **1.116** (Scheme 33) affords the corresponding allenyl ester in high yields.⁴³ Due to this fact, and the high yielding APKR examples observed for tosylamide containing allene-yne tethers **1.105a,b**, we planned to synthesize azabicyclic dienone **1.113**, according to the retrosynthetic analysis seen in Scheme 33. The remainder of this effort was successfully carried out by Joe Burchick, another member of the Brummond group.

Scheme 33. Retrosynthetic analysis for dienone 1.113.

1.2.6 Synthesis of Bicyclo[6.3.0]dienones

The optimized "high dilution" conditions were also applied to the synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]dienones by extending the allene-yne tether of the APKR precursor by one carbon. Synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]dienones via the APKR has been limited. A report published by Mukai in 2005 is limited to phenylsulfonyl-substituted allene-yne tethers 1.117 to afford the fused 5,8-bicyclic systems 1.118 (Scheme 34).54 The phenylsulfonyl-substituted allenes are popular for the APKR because they are readily available. For all systems, optimized conditions were determined and used either [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ or [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, in refluxing solvent (xylenes or toluene). An unsubstituted, all-carbon, tether afforded 1.118a in 23% yield. Efficiency of the reaction was improved by incorporating a diester into the allene-yne tether, which afforded 1.118b in 43% yield. The presence of a phenyl ring in the tether further improved the efficiency of the reaction; **1.118c** and **1.118d** were afforded in 90% and 83% respectively. However, the location of the phenyl group within the tether was an important factor. Bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienones have more readily been synthesized by a Rh(I) catalyzed cyclocarbonylation reaction of a bis(sulfonylallene). For example, dienone 1.120 was prepared from bis(allene) **1.119** in 70% yield along with **1.121** as a byproduct (Scheme 35).⁵⁵

^a20 mol % [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂, xylenes; ^b20 mol % [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂, xylenes; ^c5 mol % [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, toluene; ^d10 mol % [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, xylenes; ^e10 mol % [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, toluene.

Scheme 34. Previous syntheses of bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienones via the APKR.

Scheme 35. Synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]dienone 1.120 from bis(sulfonylallene) 1.119.

Our group has also attempted the synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienones via the APKR, but has had little success. For example, allenyl acetate **1.122b**, with a five-carbon tether between the allene and the alkyne, was subjected to APKR conditions and afforded the cyclocarbonylation product **1.123b** in only trace amounts, as determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 36). For comparison, the corresponding bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone **1.123a** was afforded in 62% yield under the same conditions.

Scheme 36. Attempted synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienone 1.123b.

To test the high dilution conditions for the synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienones, we synthesized allene-yne **1.125**, where the allene and alkyne were connected by a five-carbon, diester-containing tether. Initial attempts to react allenyl malonate **1.97** with sodium hydride followed by 1-bromobut-3-yne (**1.124**) were unsuccessful, resulting in recovery of malonate **1.97** (Scheme 37). Potassium iodide was also employed in attempt to increase the reactivity between **1.97** and the alkyl halide, but this effort was also unsuccessful. Alternatively, 1-bromobut-3-yne **1.124** was reacted with sodium methantricarboxylate and potassium iodide in a mixture of DMF and toluene to afford tricarboxylate **1.126** in 54% yield. In turn, decarboxylation of **1.126** with sodium ethoxide gave malonate **1.127** in 73% yield. Finally, deprotonation of malonate followed by reaction with allenyl mesylate **1.95** afforded allene-yne **1.125** in 61% yield.

With allene-yne **1.125** in hand, we began exploring the APKR for the formation of 5,8-fused bicyclic dienones. First, the optimal conditions determined for the synthesis of the 5,7-bicyclic dienones were employed. Allene-yne **1.125** was added drop-wise (over 1.5 h) to a solution of [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ in toluene (110°C, 1 atm CO). After the addition period, an additional 6 h of stirring was required to consume **1.125**. Dienone **1.128** was isolated in 14% yield. By decreasing the temperature to 90 °C, yield of **1.128** was improved to 22% but a significantly longer reaction time (16 h) was required (Scheme 38). The column was flushed with 100% ethyl acetate to collect baseline material. Analysis of this baseline material by ¹H NMR spectroscopy revealed decomposition, however, broad signals were observed at 4.19 and 1.24 ppm, consistent with the ethyl ester functional groups. Changing the solvent to THF resulted in complete decomposition while changing the CO atmosphere to 10% CO in argon resulted in a decreased yield of **1.128** (determined by TLC). While the yield of **1.128** was low in these reactions, this

represents the first synthesis of a bicyclo[6.3.0]dienone without a phenylsulfonyl substitution via the APKR.

Scheme 37. Synthesis of extended allene-yne diester tether 1.125.

Scheme 38. Synthesis of bicyclo[6.3.0]undecadienone 1.128 via the APKR.

1.3 CONCLUSION

In summary, optimized conditions were developed for the synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones with methyl substitutions at the C4 and C10 positions via the APKR reaction. A model allene-yne, **1.91**, with methyl substitutions on the proximal carbon of the allene, a methyl substituted alkyne, and an all carbon tether was synthesized and used for this

optimization process. Traditional APKR conditions developed previously in the group resulted in low yields of dienone **1.90** and the formation of an unidentified byproduct, hypothesized to be a result of a competing intermolecular process. High yields of **1.90** were obtained after implementing a syringe-pump, "high dilution" protocol. These conditions also eliminated the formation of the byproduct, supporting the hypothesis of a competing intermolecular reaction.

The optimized APKR conditions were applied to a series of allene-ynes. Improved yields for allene-ynes containing a terminal alkyne were also observed using the dilute conditions compared to more concentrated reactions. Diester, acetonide, and tosyl amide containing tethers resulted in high yields of the corresponding dienones. Oxygen and diol containing tethers gave moderate yields, with the exception of diol tether 1.102b, which did not successfully afford the conditions corresponding dienone. These for the high vielding synthesis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones with methyl substitutions at C4 and C10 via an APKR further establishes this approach as a viable synthetic method for generation of guaianolide analogs.

1.4 EXPERIMENTALS

1.4.1 General Methods

All commercially available compounds were used as received unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether (Et₂O), and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were purified by passing through alumina using the Solv-Tek ST-002 solvent purification system. Toluene was freshly distilled from calcium hydride prior to use. *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) was distilled prior to use and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) was stored

over 4 Å molecular sieves. Carbon monoxide (CO) was purchased from Matheson Tri Gas and the purity level was Matheson Purity (99.99%). Triphenylphosphine polymer bound was purchased from Aldrich as a copolymer of styrene and divinyl benzene. Purification of the compounds by flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 µm particle size, 60 Å pore size) purchased from Sorbent Technologies. TLC analyses were performed on Silicycle SiliaPlate G silica gel glass plates (250 µm thickness). ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 MHz, 400 MHz, or 500 MHz. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm, ¹H, 77.16 ppm, ¹³C). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm, multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in hertz (Hz). All NMR spectra were obtained at rt. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 FT-IR. ES mass spectroscopy was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited or a Thermo Scientific Q Exactive high resolution mass spectrometer.

1.4.2 Experimental procedures detailed in published papers

Characterization data, including ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, and details of the preparation for the compounds shown in Figure 6 were previously published and can be found in the Supporting Information of Wells, S. M.; Brummond, K. M. Conditions for a Rh(I)-catalyzed [2+2+1] cycloaddition reaction with methyl substituted allenes and alkynes. *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2015**, *56*, 3546-3549.

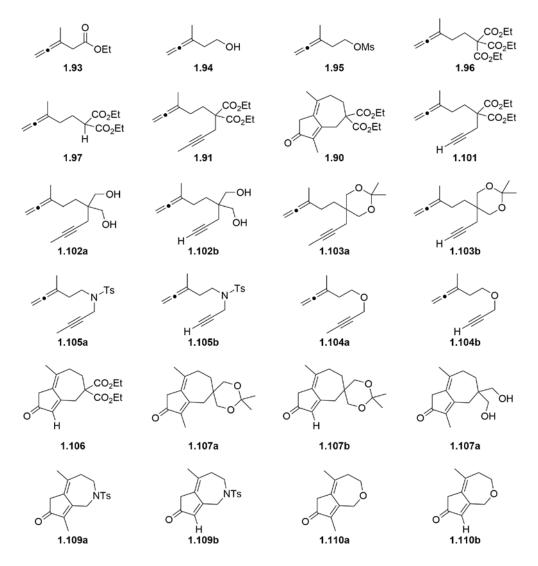


Figure 6. Previously published compounds for which synthetic procedures and characterization data can be found in *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2015**, *56*, 3546-3549.

1.4.3 General Procedures

General Procedure 1A: A High Dilution Allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction (APKR). A flame-dried, 2-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar, a condenser topped with a septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle, and a septum in the side arm was charged with [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (0.05 equiv) and toluene (0.0013 M with respect to the Rh(I) catalyst). The

apparatus was evacuated through a needle connected to the vacuum gas manifold and then filled with CO with a balloon (3 x). The flask was placed in a pre-heated oil bath (110 °C). In a separate flask, allene-yne (1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (0.04 M with respect to the allene-yne). The allene-yne solution was drawn into a syringe and added to the Rh(I) solution dropwise over 1.5 h using a syringe pump. After the addition was complete, heating and stirring were maintained until the reaction was complete, as evidenced by TLC. The oil bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to cool to rt. Triphenylphosphine polymer bound (~3.0 mmol/g, 1 equiv) was added and the reaction was stirred for 14 h. The polymer was removed by vacuum filtration and rinsed with diethyl ether (10 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation, and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to yield the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone.

General Procedure 1B: APKR Conditions B (Scheme 30). A flame-dried, 2-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar, a condenser topped with a septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle, and a septum in the side arm was charged with the allene-yne (1 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.01 M). The apparatus was evacuated through a needle connected to the vacuum gas manifold and then filled with CO gas with a balloon (3 x). [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (0.05 equiv) was added by temporarily removing the septum in the side arm. The apparatus was again evacuated and filled with CO gas (3 x). The flask was placed in a pre-heated oil bath (110 °C) and stirred until the reaction was complete, as evidenced by TLC. The oil bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to cool to rt. Triphenylphosphine polymer bound (~3.0 mmol/g, 1 equiv) was added and the reaction was stirred for 14 h. The polymer was removed by vacuum filtration and rinsed with diethyl ether. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure

rotary evaporation, and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to yield the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone.

1.4.4 Experimental procedures with compound characterization data

Diethyl 1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,4,6,7-tetrahydroazulene-5,5(1H)-CO₂Et dicarboxylate (1.112). Follows general procedure 1A: Toluene (6.0 mL), [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (2 mg, 0.0043 mmol, 0.05 equiv), allene-yne 1.111 (25 mg, 0.086 mmol, 1 equiv) in toluene (2.5 mL). Reaction stirred for 3 h after addition period. Polymer bound triphenyl phosphine (25 mg) was added and stirred overnight. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (18% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (19 mg, 70%) as a clear oil. Characterization matches that previously reported for 1.112. 36c

Data for **1.112**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

5.81 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.23-4.15 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 2H), 2.77-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.46 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.32 (m, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.28-1.22 (m, 6H), 1.26 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm;

 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{R}_{\text{f}}} = 0.31 \text{ (20\% EtOAc in hexanes)}$ $\text{Silica gel, UV visible, KMnO}_{4}$

Triethyl pent-4-yne-1,1,1-tricarboxylate (1.126). A flame-dried, 2-necked, CO₂Et round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar, a condenser topped with a nitrogen inlet adaptor, and a septum in the side arm was charged 1:1 mixture of DMF and toluene (6 mL) and sodium methanetricarboxylate (380 mg, 1.49 mmol, 1 equiv). 1-Bromobut-3-yne (0.14 mL, 1.49 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of DMF and toluene (1 mL) was

added to the reaction flask all at once via syringe, followed by the addition of potassium iodide (272 mg, 1.64 mmol, 1.1 equiv) The reaction flask was lowered into a pre-heated oil bath (80 °C) and stirred for 14 h. The oil bath was removed and the reaction contents were cooled to rt. Saturated NH₄Cl (8 mL) was added and the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic later was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 8 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes) to yield the title compound as a clear oil (229 mg, 54%). Characterization data matched that previously reported for **1.126.**⁵⁶

Data for **1.126**.

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 2.51-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.37 (m, 2H), 1.97 (t, J = 2.4

Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 9H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.26$ (20% Et₂O in hexanes)

Silica gel, KMnO₄

Diethyl 2-(but-3-yn-1-yl)malonate (1.127). To a single-necked, round-co₂Et bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet adapter was added ethanol (5 mL). Freshly cut sodium (77.3 mg, 3.38 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added piecewise to the ethanol. The solution was stirred until all sodium had dissolved. The stir bar and septum were removed and the excess ethanol was removed using reduced pressure rotary evaporation followed by drying on a high vacuum for 1 h. The stir bar and septum with nitrogen inlet needle were replaced and the flask was charged with THF (14 mL) and cooled to 0 °C on an ice/water bath. Tricarboxylate 1.126 (800 mg, 2.81 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in THF (2.5 mL),

was added to the reaction dropwise over 5 min. The reaction stirred for 2.5 h and was quenched by the addition of 1 M HCl (15 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 x 12 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (8% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to yield the title compound as a clear oil (437 mg, 73%). Characterization data matched that previously reported for **1.127**.⁵⁷

Data for **1.127**.

 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

4.27-4.12 (m, 4H), 3.57 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (td, J = 7.2, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (q,

J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (t, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.34$ (10% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, KMnO₄

Diethyl 2-(but-3-yn-1-yl)-2-(3-methylpenta-3,4-dien-1-yl)malonate
$$CO_2Et$$
 (1.125). To a flame-dried, 2-necked, 100 mL, round-bottomed flask with a stir bar, condenser topped with N_2 inlet adaptor, and a septum in the side arm,

was added THF (22 mL), DMF (22 mL), and sodium hydride (98 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 2.45 mmol, 1.3 equiv). The suspension was cooled to 0 °C on an ice/water bath. Malonate **1.127** (400 mg, 1.88 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in DMF (1 mL), added dropwise to the suspension, and stirred for 1 h. The ice bath was removed. Allenyl mesylate **1.195** (398 mg, 2.26 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added followed by potassium iodide (375 mg, 2.26 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction flask was lowered into a pre-heated oil bath (80 °C) and stirred overnight. The reaction was cooled to rt and quenched by the addition of saturated NH₄Cl (30 mL). The mixture

was diluted with 15 mL of diethyl ether and transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (5% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (333 mg, 61%) as a clear oil.

Data for **1.125**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

4.63 (sextet, J = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 4.22-4.16 (m, 4H), 2.19-2.15 (m, 4H), 2.04-2.00 (m,

2H), 1.97-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.68 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J =

7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

206.0, 171.2, 97.8, 83.5, 75.2, 68.8, 61.5, 56.9, 31.8, 30.6, 28.1, 19.0, 14.2, 14.1

ppm;

 $\underline{\mathsf{HRMS}}$ (TOF MS AP+)

 $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{25}O_4$, 293.1753; found, 293.1783;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3292, 2979, 1959, 1728, 1447, 1255, 1187, 1095, 1027 cm⁻¹;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.42 (20% Et₂O in hexanes)

Silica gel, KMnO₄

Diethyl (Z)-9-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,4,5,7,8-hexahydro-6H-CO₂Et cyclopenta[8]annulene-6,6-dicarboxylate (1.128). Follows general procedure 1A: Toluene (15.0 mL), [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (8 mg, 0.0021 mmol, 0.1 equiv), allene-yne 1.125 (20 mg, 0.021 mmol, 1 equiv) in toluene (5.0 mL). The solution heated at 90 °C and stirred for 13 h after addition period. Polymer bound triphenylphosphine (75 mg) was added and stirred for 8 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 20-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (14 mg, 22%) as a sticky residue.

Data for **1.128**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

5.97 (s, 1 H), 4.18-4.10 (m, 4 H), 2.95-2.88 (m, 4 H), 2.59-2.53 (m, 2 H), 2.39-

2.33 (m, 2 H), 2.31-2.26 (m, 2 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6 H) ppm;

Impurities visible at 4.20, 1.29, 0.87 ppm.

13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃)

204.9, 173.5, 171.7, 138.0, 133.0, 132.0, 61.7, 57.2, 41.7, 31.5, 31.4, 29.7, 28.1,

24.6, 14.2 ppm;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI)

 $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{25}O_5$, 321.1697; found, 321.1702;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2980, 2930, 1729, 1687, 1566, 1446, 1247, 1188, 1082, 1031cm⁻¹;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.13 (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible, KMnO₄

2.0 GUAIANOLIDE ANALOG SYNTHESIS VIA AN ALLYLBORATION/LACTONIZATION SEQUENCE AND THE APKR REACTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Brummond group has successfully applied the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) to the synthesis of oxygenated 6,12-guaianolide analogs *trans*-1.83 and *cis*-1.84.⁴³ Access to the guaianolide framework was achieved via an allylboration/lactonization sequence to afford lactones 1.82a and b, inspired by the work of Dennis Hall,⁵⁸ followed by an APKR to access the 5,7,5-fused ring system (Scheme 39). Overall, this synthesis extended the scope of the APKR to the preparation of highly oxygenated substrates. Typically for the synthesis of guaianolides, the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone is installed at the end of the synthesis due to its potential reactivity, however this moiety was well tolerated in the APKR and the subsequent silyl deprotection toward 1.83 and 1.84. This synthesis afforded racemic mixtures of the *trans*-lactone 1.83 as a mixture of diastereomers with respect to the methoxy group at C8, and the *cis*-lactone 1.84, as a single diastereomer. Through collaboration with the Harki lab at the University of Minnesota, these guaianolide analogs (*trans*-1.83 and *cis*-1.84) were tested for relative nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) inhibition and antiproliferative activity to cancerous cell lines.

Scheme 39. Previous synthesis of oxygenated guaianolide analogs 1.83 and 1.84.

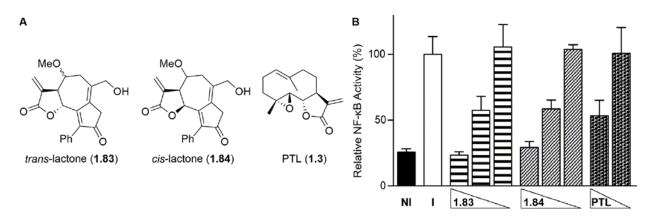


Figure 7. NF-κB inhibition of 1.83 and 1.84 benchmarked with parthenolide (PTL, 1.3). A) Compounds tested. B) NF-κB luciferase reporter assay in A549 cells induced with TNF- α (15 ng/mL) 30 min after molecular treatment. 1.83 and 1.84 were dosed at 20, 10, and 1 μM. PTL (1.3) was dosed at 10, 1 μM. NI = noninduced, I = Induced.

NF-κB is a transcription factor that regulates the gene expression of many physiological processes including acute phase inflammatory response.⁵⁹ For more information on the NF-κB activity pathway, see Section 4.1. To evaluate the *trans*-1.83 and *cis*-1.84 for inhibition of induced NF-κB activity, the compounds were dosed at varying concentrations on A549 cells that had been activated by TNF-α (Figure 7). Activation of NF-κB signaling results in an increase of reporter luminescence; the presence of an NF-κB inhibitor will then diminish the reporter luminescence. *Trans*-1.83 and *cis*-1.84 were benchmarked against a known SL NF-κB inhibitor, parthenolide (PTL, 1.3). *Trans*-1.83 and *cis*-1.84 were shown to be equal inhibitors in the assay,

as both diminished induced NF- κ B activity to non-induced levels at 20 μ M treatment. The NF- κ B levels were also significantly diminished when **1.83** and **1.84** were dosed to cells at a concentration of 10 μ M; with residual activity at 57 and 59%, respectively. PTL (**1.3**) was slightly more active at this concentration, inhibiting NF- κ B to a 53% residual activity level.

Inhibition of NF-κB pathway has also been described as a viable strategy for treating cancer, as upregulated NF-κB signaling has been shown to result in transcriptional activation of genes associated with all 6 hallmarks of cancer. ¹⁰ In addition, other sesquiterpene lactones have been shown to display antiproliferative properties; these factors motivated the antiproliferative evaluation of these guaianolide analogs. Trans-1.83 and cis-1.84 were evaluated for growth inhibitory activity for an array of cancerous cell lines as well as one non-cancerous cell line (Vero). PTL was again used as a benchmark (Table 3). Against DU-145 (human prostate cancer) cells, trans-1.83 and cis-1.84 showed similar antiproliferative activity compared to each other, but were less potent than PTL. However, against HeLa (cervical cancer) and HL-60 (leukemia) cell lines, trans-1.83 was almost two times more active than cis-1.84 and PTL. Against U-87 MG (glioblastoma), trans-1.83 was less potent compared to both cis-1.84 and PTL. Cis-1.84 was shown to be the most potent of these three compounds toward NCI/ADR-RES cell lines, which model ovarian cancer as a result of over-expression of p-glycoprotein (p-gp) efflux pump. Toxicity towards healthy cells (Vero) of trans-1.83 and cis-1.84 was slightly lower than PTL, with all three compounds causing moderate levels of cell death.

Table 3. Antiproliferative data of guaianolide analogs, *trans-***1.83** and *cis-***1.84**, compared to parthenolide (PTL).

_							
_	Compound	DU-145	HeLa	HL-60	U-87 MG	NCI/EDR-RES	Vero
	trans-1.83	29.1 ± 4.7	20.3 ± 6.0	5.5 ± 0.4	27.1 ± 4.8	80.9 ± 24.0	32.2 ± 7.0
	cis- 1.84	21.6 ± 1.9	39.7 ± 16.4	7.8 ± 2.3	9.8 ± 1.4	24.4 ± 1.0	30.1 ± 5.5
	PTL	8.9 ± 4.6	45.1 ± 3.7	9.3 ± 3.8	8.8 ± 2.1	57.6 ± 8.9	22.4 ± 1.5

^aCompounds were dosed to cells and incubated for 48 h. Cell viability was measured by Alamar Blue staining. Mean IC₅₀ values \pm SD (μ M) are shown.

Given the potent NF-κB inhibition and antiproliferative properties of **1.83** and **1.84**, we were motivated to investigate the NF-κB mechanism of inhibition further. Having a greater understanding of how these molecules behave *in vivo* to inhibit NF-κB would help guide future synthetic endeavors toward additional guaianolide analogs with high therapeutic potential. However, in order to continue these biochemical investigations, the synthesis of **1.83** had to be repeated. Reproducibility for the formation of allylboronate **2.2a** and the subsequent allylboration/ lactonization step has been challenging. Herein, I report my efforts to reproduce and optimize the synthesis of *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83**. We also set out to separate and characterize the two diastereomers of *trans*-**1.83** in order to evaluate their corresponding biochemical properties.

2.2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.2.1 Synthesis of allenyl-ynoate 2.1a

The first phase of the synthesis involves preparation of ynoate **2.1a** in 7 synthetic steps from commercially available butyn-1,4-diol **2.3** (Scheme 40). Mono-protection of diol **2.3** with *tert*-butyldiphenylsilane has been previously achieved by reacting excess butyn-1,4-diol with imidazole and *tert*-butyl(chloro)diphenylsilane (TBDPSCl) in DCM (0.5 M with respect to TBDPSCl).⁶⁰ When this procedure was attempted, the diol was not fully soluble in DCM, causing formation of the corresponding disilylated alkyne as the major product rather than **1.116**. To overcome this issue, DMF was used as a co-solvent to completely solubilize diol **2.3** prior to addition of imidazole and TBDPSCl, which afforded **1.116** in 73% yield (Scheme 40).

Scheme 40. Synthesis of allenyl-ynoate 2.1a from 2-butyne-1,4-diol (2.3) in 7 steps.

The allenyl ester **2.4** was furnished from **1.116** via a Johnson-Claisen rearrangement reaction. The apparatus for this step included a 2-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a Dean-Stark trap, condenser, nitrogen inlet adapter and a septa in the side arm. The size of the Dean-Stark trap made a significant difference in the progression of the reaction. When a smaller trap was used (14/20 fittings, 2.0 mL collection volume) **2.4** was afforded in 76% yield, however when a larger trap was used (19/22 fittings, 10.0 mL collection volume), **2.4** was afforded in 36% yield, and 63% of the starting material was recovered (97% yield based on recovered starting material). We presume that the larger Dean-Stark trap hindered efficient removal of ethanol, slowing the reaction progression.

Next, ester **2.4** was transformed to Weinreb amide **2.5**. Use of previously reported conditions (1.3 equiv *N,O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride and 2.5 equiv of *iso*-propyl magnesium chloride) resulted in significant recovery of **2.4**. Optimal yields were achieved when the ester **2.4** was reacted initially with 1.5 equiv *N,O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride and 2.5 equiv of *iso*-propyl magnesium chloride (2.0 M), with extra equivalents of these reagents

being added after 2 h (additional 0.7 equiv *N*,*O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride and 1.2 equiv *iso*-propyl magnesium chloride) which gave **2.5** in 67% yield.

Ethynylmagnesium bromide was added to amide **2.5** to form ketone **2.6**. The reaction temperature was important for the success of this reaction. While the reaction was previously reported to occur cleanly at 0 °C, repetition of these conditions afforded **2.6** in only 35% yield along with a significant byproduct. Structural assignment of the byproduct was not obtained but ¹H NMR resonances were observed in the alkene region (~ 5.2 ppm). Lowering the temperature to -10 °C improved the yield of **2.6** to 49% but the byproduct was still observed. By adding ethynylmagnesium bromide to a stirring solution of **2.5** at -78 °C and then allowing the reaction to warm slowly to rt and stirred for 2 h, **2.6** was afforded in 69% yield and the byproduct was not observed. It was later determined that **2.6** may be unstable to silica gel column chromatography, and the crude mixture should be taken on directly to the reduction step. Reduction of crude ketone **2.6** using lithium aluminum hydride (LAH) at -78 °C afforded alcohol **2.7** in 71% yield over two steps from Weinreb amide **2.5**. When the reduction was performed at a warmer temperature (0 °C), undesired desilylation of the protected alcohol was observed.

In turn, deprotonation of alcohol **2.7** with sodium hydride followed by reaction with iodomethane at 0 °C readily gave **2.8** in 77% yield. Finally, formation of ynoate **2.1a** was accomplished in 69% yield by reacting the lithium acetylide of **2.8** with methyl chloroformate.

2.2.2 Optimization of allylboronate formation

The conversion of ynoate **2.1a** to allylboronate **2.2a** is accomplished by an aluminum hydride 1,4-conjugate addition to the ynoate using DIBAL-H and HMPA, followed by trapping

of the aluminium intermediate with pinacol chloromethylboronate (ClCH₂BPin). This process can be done either with or without the use of catalytic copper iodide and methyl lithium.

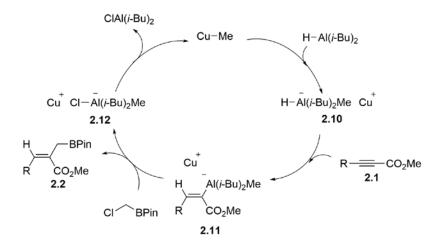
Mechanistically, when the CuI/MeLi catalyst is not used, the reaction of an ynoate **2.1** with DIBAL-H and HMPA, affords an aluminum intermediate **2.9**, which can undergo isomerization via an allenyl intermediate. HMPA acts as a ligand on the aluminate species to assist with the selective 1,4-addition.⁶² Trapping of the aluminum intermediates **2.9**, with ClCH₂BPin affords the *E/Z* mixture of the allylboronate **2.2** (Scheme 41).

R —
$$CO_2Me$$
 DIBAL-H, HMPA R CO_2Me R CO_2Me R $OAl(L)_2$ R $Al(L)_2$ E -2.9 R $Al(L)_2$ E -2.9 R $Al(L)_2$ E -2.9

Scheme 41. Conjugate reduction of ynoate **2.1** to afford the Z and E isomers of **2.2**.

While the mechanism for transformation of alkynoates to allylboronates catalyzed by CuI/MeLi has not been reported explicitly, the literature lends itself to suggest the following proposed mechanism for the transformation (Scheme 42). Equimolar amounts of CuI and MeLi combine to form the catalyst, methyl copper (CuMe), in solution.⁶³ In contrast, when 2 equiv of MeLi are reacted with CuI, lithium dimethyl cuprate is generated, which is a source of a methyl anion. Formation of this cuprate should be avoided for the formation of the desired allylboronates.⁶⁴ Reaction of CuMe with the DIBAL-H affords the aluminate species 2.10 which can undergo *cis*-1,4-addition to ynoate 2.1 to generate alkene aluminate 2.11 (which can also undergo isomerization as shown in Scheme 41). This reactive species is trapped by CICH₂BPin, to afford allylboronate 2.2 as well as a chlorine substituted aluminate species 2.12. Formation of chlorobis(*iso*-butyl) aluminum as a byproduct regenerates the CuMe catalyst. The CuMe catalyst

accelerates the overall process of this transformation due to the increased nucleophilicity of aluminate species **2.11** compared to the corresponding aluminum species **2.9**, generated in the reaction without CuMe.



Scheme 42. Proposed reaction pathway for the formation of allylboronate 2.2 using catalytic CuMe.

The need for CuMe catalyst and the resulting alkene *E/Z* geometry ratios both seem to be substrate dependent for this transformation. In 1993, Villieras reported the preparation of (2-methoxycarbonyl)allylboronate **2.14a** from ynoate **2.13a** using DIBAL-H and HMPA (Scheme 43).⁶⁵ Later in 2007, the same group extended this transformation to ethyl ester **2.14b**, for which they got a 95% yield. However, for the methyl propynoate **2.13c**, with a methyl substituted alkyne, the CuI/MeLi catalyst was required to afford **2.14c** (the reaction is slower without the catalyst), in a *Z:E* ratio of 1.9:1 (Scheme 43).⁶⁶

During the synthesis of 6,12-guaianolide, chinensiolide, Hall and coworkers used DIBAL-H and HMPA to form allylboronate **2.16** in 68% yield as 3.5:1 mixture of *Z:E* isomers (Scheme 43).^{58b} Our group also synthesized **2.16** in our first report of the APKR to the 6,12-guaianolide framework, however, the CuI/MeLi catalyst was required and a lower *Z:E* selectivity of 1.5:1 was observed (no yield was reported).⁴²

Scheme 43. Previous syntheses of trisubstituted pinacol allylboronates from alkynoates.

Previous members of the Brummond group tested the allylboronate synthesis on a series of model substrates with substitutions at the propargyl position because of instability of the protecting group (P) in the lactonization reaction. Alkynoates **2.17a-d** formed the corresponding allylboronates **2.18a-d** in high yields (95-90% yield) using DIBAL-H and HMPA; however, long reaction times were required. The ratio of Z/E alkene isomers varied based upon the substrate, but the Z isomer was always favored (Scheme 43).⁴³

The Hall group has also published reports on the synthesis of tetrasubstituted allylboronates from ynoates using organocopper reagents, optimized for selective *cis*-addition across the alkyne. For example, when 2-heptynoic acid methyl ester **2.19** was reacted with 2 equiv of methyl lithium and copper bromide (to form Me₂CuLi *in situ*), followed by HMPA (9 equiv) and pinacol iodomethylboronate, **2.20** was afforded in 99% yield, with high selectivity for the *Z* isomer (Scheme 44). This degree of selectivity for the *cis*-addition has not yet been

observed for this formation of the trisubstituted allylboronates seen in Scheme 43.⁶⁷ These tetrasubstituted allylboronates have been reacted with aldehydes for the synthesis of methylene lactones with a quaternary center.

Scheme 44. Synthesis of tetrasubstituted allylboronate **2.20**, with high selectivity for the *Z* isomer.

Within our report for the synthesis of guaianolide analog **1.83**, allene-containing allylboronate **2.2a** was obtained using two protocols, either with or without the CuI/MeLi catalyst system (Table 4).⁶⁸ When a pre-stirred mixture of HMPA (3 equiv) and DIBAL-H (1.6 equiv) was reacted with ynoate **2.1a** overnight, followed by stirring with pinacol chloromethylboronate for 48 h, **2.2a** was obtained in 80% yield as a 2.2:1 mixture of *Z* and *E* isomers. However, this alkene byproduct **2.21a** was also obtained in 20% yield, resulting from protonation of the aluminum intermediate (Entry 1). Employing the CuI/MeLi catalyst system significantly improved the reaction rate and lowered alkene byproduct formation. However, the stereoselectivity of the reaction was lower (*Z:E*, 1.2:1, Entry 2).

Table 4. Previously reported results for conversion of ynoate **2.1a** to allylboronate **2.2a**.⁴³

Entry	Conditions (Step 1)	Time (Step 2)	Yield 2.2a , (Z:E)	Yield 2.21a (<i>Z:E</i>)
1	A: DIBAL-H (1.6 equiv), HMPA (3 equiv),	48 h	80%, (2.2:1)	20%, (3:1)
	0 °C, toluene, overnight			
•	D G 7 (0.4		000(0 (4 0 4)	4404 (2.4)
2	B: CuI (0.1 equiv), MeLi (0.1 equiv,	Overnight	89% ^a (1.2:1)	11%, (2:1)
	DIBAL-H (1.5 equiv), HMPA (2 equiv),			
	-30 °C, toluene/THF, 5 h			

^aYield reported is the crude yield determined by NMR. **2.2a** was purified and isolated in 78%.

Difficulties reproducing the preparation of allylboronate 2.2a have included recovery of 2.1a, or large amounts of the unwanted alkene byproduct 2.21a. To determine which reaction component may be hindering the formation of 2.2a, we attempted simplified transformations (Table 5). First, conjugate reduction of allene-containing alkynoate 2.1a was achieved using excess HMPA and DIBAL-H without CuI and MeLi and without the addition of ClCH₂BPin. Stirring of allenyl-ynoate 2.1a with HMPA (6 equiv) and DIBAL-H (3 equiv) for 5 h at 0 °C, successfully gave unsaturated ester 2.21a with a small amount of starting material remaining (10 : 1 ratio of alkene 2.21a : ynoate 2.1a) (Entry 1). Next, ClCH₂BPin was re-incorporated in attempts to form allylboronate 2.2a. Reacting ynoate 2.1a with HMPA (4 equiv) and DIBAL-H (2 equiv) for 3 h completely consumed allenyl-ynoate 2.1a; ClCH₂BPin (1.5 equiv) was then added to trap the aluminum intermediate. After stirring overnight (16 h), allylboronate 2.2a and alkene 2.21a were afforded in a 1:7.8 ratio (Entry 2). Increasing the amount of ClCH₂BPin to 2.6 equiv showed an improved 1: 1.7 ratio of allylboronate **2.2a** to alkene **2.21a** after stirring for 10 h. This reaction was allowed to continue stirring to see if the reaction was still progressing. However, after 41 hours, the ratio of allylboronate 2.2a: alkene 2.21a had lowered to 1: 2.6, suggesting allylboronate 2.2a was not stable to the reaction conditions over time (Entry 3). It was evident that the aluminum intermediate was not nucleophilic enough to react with ClCH₂BPin efficiently.

Due to the sensitive nature of the reaction, attempts to incorporate the CuI/MeLi catalyst were performed on propargyl-substituted model system **2.1b**. Unfortunately, using the previously reported procedure and reagent equivalents resulted in complete recovery of alkynoate **2.1b** (Entry 4). The reaction was again simplified by eliminating the addition of ClCH₂BPin to isolate the conjugate reduction product **2.21b**. Model ynoate **2.1b** was reacted with CuI and MeLi (0.1

equiv each), distilled HMPA (2 equiv), and DIBAL-H (1.5 equiv), but no alkene **2.21b** was obtained (Entry 5).

Table 5. Reaction optimization for conversion of alkynoates 2.1 to allylboronates 2.2.

$$R = CO_{2}Me \qquad \begin{array}{c} 1. \text{ CuMe, DIBAL-H,} \\ \underline{\text{HMPA, toluene -30 °C}} \\ 2. \text{ CICH}_{2}BPin \\ -30 °C \text{ to rt} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} H^{a} \\ R \\ CO_{2}Me \\ 2.2 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} H \\ R \\ CO_{2}Me \\ 2.21 \end{array}$$

Entry	Alkynoate (2.1)	CuMe	HMPA	DIBAL	Time	ClCH ₂ BPin	Time	Product ratio
		(Equiv)	(Equiv)	(Equiv)	A	(equiv)	В	(2.2:2.21:2.1)
1	// MeO	0	6	3^{a}	5 h	0		N/A:10:1
	CO ₂ Me							
	TBDPSO-/							
	2.1a							
2	2.1a	0	4	2 ^a	3 h	1.5	16 h	1:7.8:0
3	2.1a	0	4	2 ^a	2 h	2.6	10 h	1:1.7:0
							41 h	1:2.6:0
4	TBDPSQ							
	>— — CO₂Me	0.1	2	1.5 ^a	5 h	1.2	16 h	0:0:1
	$H_3C(H_2C)_5$							
	2.1 b							
5	2.1b	0.1	2	1.5 ^a	5 h	0		N/A:0:1
6	C ₆ H ₁₃ ———CO ₂ Me	0.1	2	1.5 ^b	5 h	0		N/A:1:4
	2.1c							
7	∖∖ MeO							
	CO ₂ Me	0.1	2	1.5 ^b	5 h	0		Messy
	TBDPSO—							
	2.1a							
8	C ₅ H ₁₁ ———CO ₂ Me	0.1°	3	2 ^b	5 h	2	16 h	1:1:0
	2.1d							
9	2.1d	0.1	3	2 ^b	4 h	2°	16 h	1:0:0

Reactions w/o CuI, MeLi were performed on a 0.034-0.041 mmol scale. Reactions w/ CuI and MeLi performed on a 0.23-0.32 mmol scale. **Time A**: time after addition of ynoate, prior to addition of ClCH₂BPin. **Time B**: time after addition of ClCH₂BPin. Product ratios were determined by crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^aDIBAL-H in hexanes. ^bDIBAL-H in toluene, ^cNew bottle of halogen free MeLi. ^dFreshly distilled ClCH₂BPin.

Next, an alkynoate lacking substitution at the propargyl position, methyl 2-nonynoate (2.1c), was subjected to these conditions. Also, DIBAL-H as a solution in toluene, rather than hexanes, was employed. As a result, the corresponding α,β-unsaturated ester 2.21c was obtained in small amounts; (1:4 ratio of alkene 2.21c : ynoate 2.1c) (Entry 6). Reaction of allene-containing ynoate 2.1a under these conditions resulted in a complicated mixture, evidenced by TLC analysis (Entry 7).

Next, in an effort to avoid inaccurate measuring of reagents for small-scale reactions, excess equivalents of CuI and MeLi were pre-stirred in THF and then the appropriate 0.1 equiv was transferred to the reaction flask. Also, the equivalents of HMPA (3 equiv) and DIBAL-H (2 equiv) were increased. Using this method, methyl 2-octynoate (2.1d) was reacted with CuI/MeLi, HMPA, and DIBAL-H, followed by ClCH₂BPin to afford allylboronate 2.2d (*Z:E*, 3.6:1) and alkene 2.21d in a 1 : 1 mixture (Entry 8). The improved result of this experiment may also be attributed to the use of a new bottle of MeLi (1.0 M in THF). Next, employing freshly distilled ClCH₂BPin in the reaction significantly improved reactivity, giving the allylboronate 2.2d as the only product (Entry 9).

Identification of the Z and E isomers of **2.2d** were determined by comparing the chemical shift of the corresponding alkene signals (H_a). The signal representing H_a is seen at 5.93 ppm and 6.74 ppm for the Z and E isomers respectively (Figure 8). H_a for the E isomer is further downfield because of closer proximity to the ester group.

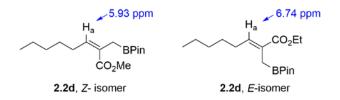


Figure 8. The *Z*-and *E*-isomers of allylboronate **2.2d**.

With the successful formation of model allylboronate **2.2d**, we applied the optimized reaction conditions to the formation of **2.2a** (Scheme 45). Careful observation of the appearance of the reaction was recorded for each step. CuI and MeLi (0.1 equiv each) were stirred at -30 °C, and the solution changed from pale white to dark yellow to brown over 30 min. HMPA (3 equiv) and DIBAL-H (2 equiv) were added resulting in a dark black solution. Ynoate **2.1a** was added and stirred at -20 °C for 5 h, and the black color was maintained. After overnight stirring with freshly distilled pinacol chloromethylboronate (2 equiv) at rt, the solution had turned to a pale,

translucent green. Analysis of the crude residue by ¹H NMR revealed allylboronate **2.2a** as the only product. Purification of the crude material through a short silica plug afforded allylboronate **2.2a** in 78% yield as a 1.7:1 ratio of the Z and E isomers. Allylboronate **2.2a** may be unstable towards silica gel because when purified by standard silica gel flash column chromatography, **2.2a** was obtained in only 22% yield.

Scheme 45. Repeated synthesis of allylboronate 2.2a.

In summary, many factors were critical to the successful formation of allylboronate 2.2a. The quality of reagents is of utmost importance; use of impure reagents can render the entire reaction unsuccessful. Therefore, for best practice, relatively new DIBAL-H and MeLi solutions should be employed. No-D NMR titration techniques can be used to ascertain the quality and accurate concentrations of these reagents prior to use.⁶⁹ The HMPA should be distilled and stored over molecular sieves. The toluene solvent as well as the CICH₂BPin need to be freshly distilled. For a small scale reaction, a solution of CuI/MeLi can be prepared on a larger scale than required for the reaction, with the appropriate amount being transferred as a solution to the reaction flask.

If a reaction does not go as expected, trouble shooting can be performed by methodically simplifying the reaction. Conjugate reduction of the ynoate, by quenching an aliquot of the reaction prior to addition of ClCH₂BPin, confirms formation of aluminum intermediates. Also, performing the reaction both with and without the CuI/MeLi catalyst can help determine what reagent may be leading to poor results.

2.2.3 Completing the synthesis of guaianolide analog 1.83.

The final synthetic steps to complete the synthesis of *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83** include the allylboration/lactonization, cyclocarbonylation, and deprotection of the silyl group. For the allylboration/lactonization step, Hall and coworkers have employed various acids to assist the allylic addition to aldehydes including boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, scandium triflate, and triflic acid.^{58a} In previous efforts toward the synthesis of guaianolide **1.83**, use of acidic reagents to accelerate the allylboration of phenylpropynal (**2.22**) resulted in decomposition of allylboronate **2.2a**. Thermal heating in toluene at 50 °C was not sufficient for the reaction to proceed and increasing the temperature to 90 °C resulted in decomposition of **2.2a**.⁶⁵ Interestingly, heating of allylboronate **2.2a** and aldehyde **2.22** in chloroform for 7 days at 50 °C followed by stirring with PTSA overnight at rt gave *trans*-lactone **1.82a** in 40% yield as a mixture of two diastereomers. The *cis*-hydroxy ester **2.23** was also obtained and required stirring with sodium hydride to afford the *cis*-lactone **1.82b** in 14% yield as a single diastereomer (Scheme 46).⁴³

Scheme 46. Previously reported synthesis of *trans*- and *cis*-lactone **1.82a,b** via allylboration followed by lactonization.

Our efforts to repeat this synthetic step gave similar results. The Z and E isomers of allylboronate **2.2a** were inseparable and taken on to the lactonization step as a mixture. Stirring **2.2a** with phenylpropynal **2.22** in chloroform for 7 days followed by the addition of PTSA, which stirred for 14 h at room temperature, resulted in 3 major product spots as observed by TLC. The *trans*-lactone **1.82a** ($R_f = 0.33$, 10% EtOAc in hexanes) was obtained as a 1.7:1 mixture of diastereomers (pertaining to the methoxy group stereochemistry). The other two product spots pertained to the two *cis*-lactone **1.82b** diastereomers, which were separable by TLC and column chromatography (Diastereomer 1: $R_f = 0.25$, Diastereomer 2: $R_f = 0.19$, 10% EtOAc in hexanes). However, Diastereomer 1 of *cis*-**1.82b** was contaminated with unreacted allylboronate **2.2a** (E isomer). No evidence of the hydroxyl ester intermediate **2.23** was observed. *Trans*-**1.82a** and *cis*-**1.82b** were obtained in an overall 50% yield (*trans:cis*, 1.6:1) (Scheme 47).

Scheme 47. Formation of trans- and cis-lactones 1.82a and 1.82a from allylboronate 2.2a.

Formation of the *trans*-1.82a and *cis*-1.82b and the corresponding product ratio can be understood using Zimmerman-Traxler transition states for the reaction between the allylboronate 2.2a and phenylpropynal 2.22. Reaction of the Z isomer of 2.2a with 2.22 results in a *trans*-hydroxyl ester via TS1, which is then cyclized to afford *trans*-lactone 1.82a. In a similar fashion, the E isomer of 2.2a eventually affords the *cis*-lactone 1.82b via TS2 (Scheme 48). This also explains why *trans*-1.82a is the major product; the Z isomer is the major allylboronate isomer. In addition, when the reaction between 2.2a and 2.22 is monitored by ^{1}H NMR

spectroscopy, the Z isomer reacts faster that the E isomer, which is often recovered in small amounts.

Scheme 48. Zimmerman-Traxler transition states for the reaction between allylboronate 2.2a and aldehyde 2.22.

Next, *trans*-allene-yne **1.82a** was successfully subjected to the APKR, using the optimized high dilution conditions described in Section 1.2.3, to afford *trans*-guaianolide analog **2.24**. Due to previous reports that **2.24** was unstable towards silica, the crude material was carried on without purification; subsequent deprotection using trimethylamine trihydrofluoride afforded guaianolide **1.83** in 64% yield over the two steps (Scheme 49). Because our previous report also obtained *trans*-**1.83** in 64% over two steps, we can conclude that the high dilution conditions did not make a significant impact on the yield.

Scheme 49. Completing the synthesis of *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83**.

It was later determined that the silyl-protected guaianolide analog 2.24 could in fact be purified by chromatography without any evidence of decomposition. By employing the high

dilution APKR conditions, guaianolide analog **2.24** was obtained in 79% yield. It should be noted that if *trans*-lactone **1.82a** is obtained from the previous lactonization reaction as a mixture with unreacted allylboronate **2.2a**, the mixture can be taken on to the APKR to afford **2.24a**, which is more easily separable from impurities. One diastereomer of the *cis*-**1.82b** was also subjected to the high dilution conditions, which afforded *cis*-**2.25** in 58% yield (Scheme 50).

Scheme 50. Isolation of cyclocarbonylation adducts *trans***-2.24** and *cis***-2.25**.

2.2.4 Distinguishing stereochemistry of *trans*-and *cis*-α-methylene lactones

1.83 were confirmed using the coupling constant of H_a and comparing this to the X-ray crystal structure of 2.26a (Figure 9). *Trans*-guaianolide analog 2.26a was part of a series of guaianolide analogs synthesized in our group. All of the *trans*-analogs 2.26 had coupling constants for H_a ranging from 9.0 to 10.0 Hz. The *cis*-analogs 2.27 had coupling constants of 7.0-7.5 Hz. Similarly, the highly oxygenated *trans*-guaianolide analogs 2.24 and 1.83 (2 diastereomers of each) have H_a coupling constants from 9.2-10.5 Hz, while *cis*-2.25 has a coupling constant of 7.5 Hz (Figure 9).

Interestingly, for the allene-yne APKR precursors trans-1.82a and cis-1.82b, the coupling constant of H_a with H_b , is larger for the cis isomer than the trans isomer, which is opposite of the trend seen for the guaianolide analogs in Figure 9. The major and minor diastereomers of trans-

1.82a had J_{ab} values of 4.4 Hz and 3.2 Hz respectively, while the major and minor diastereomers of cis-**1.82b** had J_{ab} values of 8.0 Hz and 7.0 Hz (Figure 10). This trend was also previously reported for α -methylene lactones trans- and cis-**2.28**, a synthetic precursor to the corresponding guaianolide analog **2.26**. trans-**2.28a** has a Ha coupling constant of 6.0 Hz, while the trans-tr

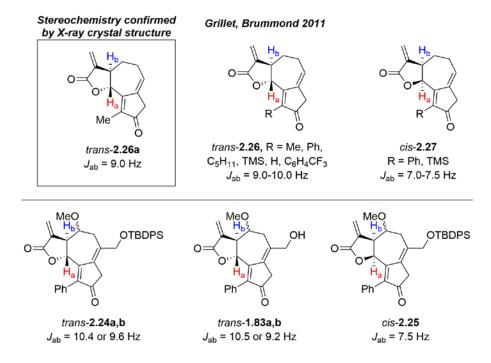


Figure 9. Comparison of coupling constants for 2.24, 1.83, and 2.25 with previously reported guaianolide analogs.

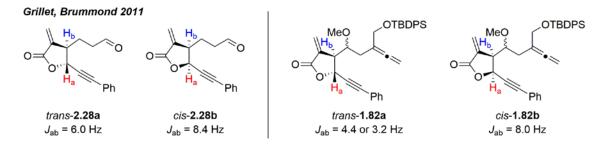


Figure 10. Coupling constants for mono-cyclic *trans*- and *cis*-methylene lactones.

The change in the coupling constant between H_a and H_b when comparing the mono-cyclic trans- α -methylene lactones (Figure 10) and the trans- α -methylene lactone of the fused 5,7,5-tricyclic frameworks (Figure 9) can be understood by comparing the orientations of H_a and H_b

(Figure 11). Trans-1.82a and trans-1.83 were drawn in Chem3D 15.0 and MM2 minimization calculations were performed to show a low energy conformer of the structures. For these conformers, the H_a , H_b dihedral angle was observed. Mono-cyclic lactone 1.82a had a dihedral angle of 114.8 ° for H_a and H_b . However, the fused ring system 1.83 requires the alkyl substituents of the lactone ring to be in a more planar configuration, resulting in a larger dihedral angle for H_a and H_b , estimated to be 147.7°. This larger dihedral angle is responsible the larger coupling constant observed for the fused trans-methylene lactones. trans-2.28a also had a dihedral angle for trans-11 rather than allene-yne 1.82a for ease of visualization.

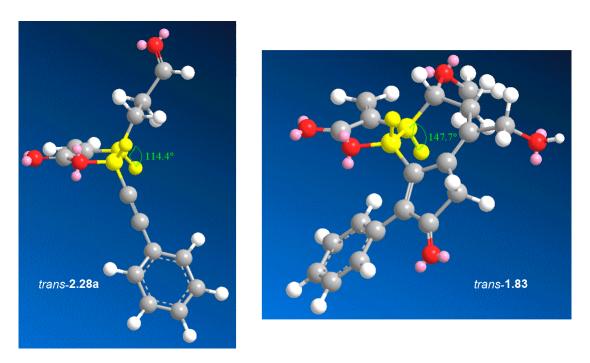


Figure 11. 3D-representations of trans-2.28a and trans-1.83 (Chem3D) with highlighted Ha, Hb dihedral angle.

2.2.5 Assignment of 1.83 diastereomers using NMR calculations

The described synthesis provides *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83** as a mixture of diastereomers with respect to the methoxy group at C8 of the guaianolide framework. Biological evaluations previously described for *trans*-**1.83** (NF- κ B inhibition and antiproliferative activity) are representative of this diastereomeric mixture. However, we were interested to know if the diastereomers had equal or differing biological properties. Slight separation of the **1.83** diastereomers is observed by TLC. We assigned the faster moving (R_f = 0.41, 100% EtOAc), major spot as Diastereomer A, and the slower moving (R_f = 0.34, 100% EtOAc), minor spot as Diastereomer B. Column chromatography was insufficient for complete separation. However, HPLC purification afforded the separated isomers. The following method was used: 100% EtOAc for 20 min followed by a gradient increase to 5% EtOH in EtOAc over 5 min, which was then maintained until completion. Diastereomer A eluted at 14.004 min while Diastereomer B eluted at 17.009 min. The major diastereomer (Diastereomer A) was determined to be 8 β H-**1.83a** isomer while the minor diastereomer (Diastereomer B) was the 8 α H-**1.83b** isomer by comparing computational and experimental ¹H NMR data for the two isomers (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Structure of 8β H-1.83a and 8α H-1.83b.

The two diastereomers have distinct ${}^{1}H$ NMR spectra, particularly for the α -methylene protons H_{13} and H_{13} , and the proton α to the oxygen of the lactone ring (H_{6}). These signals all appear between 6.5 and 5.0 ppm (Figure 13). Computational methods have been utilized to

assign closely related chemical structures by comparing predicted chemical shifts with experiment.⁷⁰

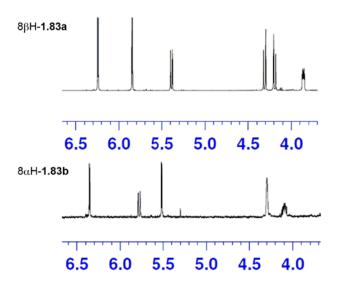


Figure 13. ¹H NMR spectra for 1.83a,b from 6.7-3.7 ppm.

The two possible isomers were drawn in Spartan. 8βH-**1.83a** has a *trans* relationship for H₆ and H₇ of the lactone ring, as well as a *trans* relationship between H₇ and H₈. 8αH-**1.83b** also has a *trans*-lactone, but H₇ and H₈ have a *cis*-relationship. The lowest energy conformations of each were determined using molecular mechanics (MMFF) calculations. Then, ¹H NMR chemical shifts were predicted using EDF2/6-31 methods. Spartan assigned the predicted chemical shifts to the corresponding hydrogen atoms.

Next, COSY and HSQC NMR spectra were obtained for each diastereomer, which assisted the assignment of the ¹H NMR signals to the corresponding protons for each structure. For complete signal assignments, see Figure 12 and Table 6. Due to complicated splitting patterns of each diastereomer, the COSY and HSQC spectra were key in determining the identity of a few protons. The signals of protons H₂ and H₂ were confirmed because the only COSY correlations were with each other, and the HSQC confirmed that these two signals were on the

same carbon. This was also the case for protons H_{14} and H_{14} , however, these protons were shifted further down field (~4.2 ppm) indicating their proximity to the hydroxyl group. COSY correlations were particularly useful for the assignment of H_7 , H_9 , and H_9 . Even though H_9 and H_9 have significantly different chemical shifts (~3.2 and 2.5 ppm for both diastereomers), COSY correlations with only H_8 and each other lead to their assignment. HSQC also confirmed that H_9 and H_9 were on the same carbon. H_7 has a similar chemical shift to H_9 (~3.1 ppm), however H_7 has COSY correlations with H_8 , H_6 , H_{13} , and H_{13} for both diastereomers.

Table 6. Experimental ¹H NMR spectral data of 8βH-**1.83a** and 8αH-**1.83b** compared to calculated chemical shifts (corrected).

(correc	nea).							
Diastereomer A (8βH-1.83a)				Diastereomer B (8aH-1.83b)				
Н	Exp δ (ppm)	Calc δ (ppm)	Н	Exp δ (ppm)	Calc δ (ppm)			
Ph	7.40-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2 H)	7.73, 7.69, 7.26, 7.26, 7.25	Ph	7.45-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2 H)	7.66, 7.32, 7.28, 7.28, 7.26			
13	6.25 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1 H)	6.23	13	6.36 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H)	6.35			
13'	5.85 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H)	5.78	13'	5.52 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)	5.36			
6	5.39 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1 H)	5.37	6	5.78 (d, <i>J</i> = 9.2 Hz, 1 H)	5.83			
14, 14'	4.31 (d, <i>J</i> = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, <i>J</i> = 12.5 Hz, 1 H)	4.28, 4.12	14, 14'	4.34-4.26 (m, 2 H)	4.39, 4.31			
8	3.86 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 8.0, 4.0, 2.5 Hz, 1 H)	3.59	8	4.14-4.07 (m, 1 H)	4.09			
OMe	3.54 (s, 3 H)	3.54	OMe	3.45 (s, 3 H)	3.39			
2, 2'	3.29 (d, $J = 21.0 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}$), 3.17 (d, $J = 21.0 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}$)	2.92, 2.54	2, 2'	3.28-3.15 (m, 2 H)	2.89, 2.51			
7	3.18-3.13 (m, 1 H)	3.04	7	3.37-3.31 (m, 1H)	3.22			
9,9'	3.16-3.12 (m, 1 H) 2.56 (dd, <i>J</i> = 15.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H)	3.12, 2.28	9, 9'	3.27 (dd, <i>J</i> = 15.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H) 2.53 (dd, <i>J</i> = 15.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H)	3.28, 2.24			
ОН	1.73 (bs, 1 H)	0.27	ОН	1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H)	0.27			

Using proton assignments determined by analyzing the ¹H, COSY, HSQC NMR spectra, experimental chemical shifts were compared to the chemical shifts that Spartan had generated for

each corresponding hydrogen (Table 6, entries are listed in order of decreasing experimental chemical shift for both diastereomers). Comparison of the experimental and calculated chemical shifts of protons H_{13} , H_{13} , and H_6 were instrumental in making this conclusion. In $8\alpha H$ -1.83b, H_6 is shifted further down field that H_{13} at 5.83 ppm; whereas H_6 appears at 5.37 ppm for $8\beta H$ -1.83a. The predicted chemical shifts were also quite accurate, with errors of less than 0.1 ppm for protons H_{13} , H_{13} , and H_6 .

2.3 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the synthesis of racemic *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83** was successfully reproduced. The synthesis was performed in three phases; 1) synthesis of ynoate **2.1a** from 2-butyn-1,4-diol in 7 steps, 2) generation of the allylboronate **2.2a**, and 3) allylboronation/lactonization followed by the APKR to generate the 5,7,5-fused ring system.

The synthesis of ynoate **2.1a** was achieved with minimal modifications to the previously published protocols. Some minor changes were required related to reaction temperatures, especially for conversion of the Weinreb aide **2.5** to ketone **2.6**. This segment of the guaianolide synthesis showcases the robust nature of the allene functional group. In synthetic endeavors, allenes are generally made directly prior to being utilized for unique functionalization. However, in this sequence, the allene was formed during an early synthetic step, and carried through many reaction steps, showing compatibility with a variety of reagents.

Conversion of ynoate **2.1a** to allylboronate **2.2a** was the most difficult step to reproduce. The experimental conditions used to successfully achieve formation of allylboronate **2.2a** were similar to that previously reported. The equivalents of DIBAL-H and HMPA were increased to 2

and 3 equiv respectively (previously 1.5 and 2 equiv). Also, for small scale reactions, the CuI/MeLi catalyst was made in excess as a solution, and then the required amount was transferred to the reaction flask. However, we found that the quality and nature of many reagents affected the success of the reaction. Use of model systems, quenching of aluminate intermediates, and performing a non-CuMe catalyzed variant of the reaction all contributed to the trouble shooting, and eventual success of the reaction.

Finally, the ring-forming lactonization and APKR reactions were readily reproduced. The allylboration/lactonization reaction between allylboronate **2.2a** and phenylpropynal **2.22** successfully afforded both *trans*-allene-yne **1.82a** and *cis*-allene-yne **1.82b**. While the yield of *trans*-**1.82a** was comparable to the previous report, improvements were observed for the formation of *cis*-**1.82b**. The hydroxyester intermediate **2.23** was not observed, and lactonization of both *cis*-diastereomers were achieved directly from the reaction. Both *cis*- and *trans*- lactones are found in guaianolide natural products, so having a synthesis that can afford both, with ease of separation, is advantageous. Use of the dropwise addition conditions for the APKR did not significantly improve the yield of *trans*-guaianolide **1.83**. Silyl protected guaianolides *trans*-**2.24** and *cis*-**2.25** were found to be stable to column chromatography despite previous reports of instability.

One major improvement made to this synthesis was the separation and relative stereochemical assignments of the two *trans*-**1.83** diastereomers, 8βH-**1.83a** and 8αH-**1.83b**. Separation was achieved by HPLC. NMR methods were used alongside computational predictions, obtained using Spartan software, to assign the corresponding structures. We plan to evaluate the separated diastereomers for relative NF-κB inhibition and compare to the previous data obtained using a mixture of the compounds (See Section 4.2).

2.4 EXPERIMENTALS

2.4.1 General Methods

All commercially available compounds were used as received unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether (Et₂O), and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were purified by passing through alumina using a solvent purification system. Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) was stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Toluene was freshly distilled from CaH₂. Acetonitrile was distilled and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. HMPA was distilled from CaH2 under vacuum pressure. Pinacol chloromethylboronate (ClCH₂BPin) was distilled at 14 mmHg. Carbon monoxide gas was purchased from Matheson gas (Grade: Matheson 99.99%). Purification of the compounds via manual flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 µm particle size, 60 Å pore size) purchased from Sorbent Technologies. TLC analyses were performed on Silicycle SiliaPlate G silica gel glass plates (250 µm thickness) and visualized by UV irradiation (at 254 nm) and KMnO₄ stain. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 MHz, 400 MHz, 500 MHz, or 600 MHz. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm, ¹H; 77.16 ppm, ¹³C). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm, multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants, J, are reported in hertz (Hz). All NMR spectra were obtained at room temperature. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 (NaCl plate) FT-IR. ESI mass spectrometry was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited. Separation of 8βH-1.83a and 8αH-1.83b was performed on a Varian Prostar HPLC chomatograph using a Varian Dynamax Microsorb 100-5 Si column.

2.4.2 Synthesis of ynoate 2.1a.

TBDPSO OH 4-((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)but-2-yn-1-ol (1.116). A 15 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar, septum, and nitrogen inlet needle was charged with DCM (5 mL), 2-butyn-1,4-diol 2.3 (0.132 g, 1.54 mmol, 2 equiv), and DMF (1 mL). Imidazole (0.063 g, 0.920 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added followed by *tert*-butyl(chloro)diphenylsilane (0.211 g, 0.770 mmol, 1 equiv) and the reaction stirred for 3 h at rt. The reaction was diluted with water (3 mL) and DCM (3 mL). The contents were transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 x 6 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated via reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 250 mg of 1.116 in 73% yield as an oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁶⁰

• Performing the reaction on 40.6 mmol scale afforded 8.76 g of **1.116** (66% yield).

Data for **1.116**.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.73-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.37 (m, 6H), 4.37 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (dt, J = 6.3,

1.8 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (s, 9H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.38$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

Ethyl 3-(((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)penta-3,4-dienoate (2.4). A 100 mL, 2-necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar, a Dean-Stark trap topped with a condenser and nitrogen inlet adapter, and a septum in the side arm was charged with 1.116 (7.31 g, 22.5 mmol, 1 equiv) and triethyl orthoacetate (12.7 mL, 69.1 mmol,

3 equiv). The flask was placed in a pre-heated oil bath (130 °C) and propionic acid (0.3 mL, 4.0 mmol, 0.18 equiv) was added. Additional propionic acid was added after 1.5 h and after 3.5 h (0.2 mL each time, 2.7 mmol, 0.12 equiv). After 5 h, an additional 0.1 mL of propionic acid (1.3 mmol, 0.06 equiv) was added. The reaction stirred for a total of 6 h. The oil bath was removed and the reaction cooled to rt. The reaction was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL). 1M HCl (40 mL) was added and contents were transferred to a separatory funnel. The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 15 mL). The combined organics were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (40 mL) and brine (40 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford **2.4** 6.74g, 76%) as a pale yellow oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for 2.4.

1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.69-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 6H), 4.75 (quintet, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.47 (10\% \text{ EtOAc in hexanes})$

Silica gel, UV visible, KMnO₄ stain

3-(((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylpenta3,4-dienamide (2.5). A 200 mL, single-necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar, septum, and nitrogen inlet needle was charged with THF (68 mL), ester

2.4 (3.12 g, 7.91 mmol, 1 equiv), and *N*,*O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.16 g, 11.9 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The resulting slurry was cooled to -20 °C on a cryo-cool and ethanol bath.

Isopropylmagnesium chloride (9.89 mL of a 2.0 M solution in THF, 19.8 mmol, 2.5 equiv) was added over 5 min via syringe. The reaction stirred for 1 h at -20 °C and 2 h at -10 °C. A significant amount of **2.4** remained, as evidenced by TLC, so additional *N,O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (600 mg, 6.15 mmol) and isopropylmagnesium chloride (5.0 mL, 10.0 mmol) were added. The reaction stirred for 2.5 h at -10 °C, until the reaction was complete. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution (75 mL) and the contents were transferred to a separatory funnel. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 50 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 2.17 g of **2.5** in 67% yield as a pale yellow oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

<u>Data for **2.5**.</u>

1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 6H), 4.75 (quintet, J = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (t, J =

2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.26 (b s, 2H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.32 (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

5-(((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)hepta-5,6-dien-1-yn-3-one 2.6. A flame-dried, 250 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum was charged with amide 2.5 (3.17 g, 7.7 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in THF (77 mL). The flask was cooled to -78 °C in a dry ice and acetone bath. Ethynylmagnesium bromide (46.4 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 23.2 mmol, 3 equiv) was added over 5 min via syringe. The reaction stirred for 30 min. The dry ice bath was removed and the solution was allowed to warm slowly to

rt. After 1 h of stirring, the reaction was complete as evidenced by TLC. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl (100 mL), and the flask contents were transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 60 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated to afford 2.92 g of crude **2.6** (quantitative). The NMR showed contamination with THF, but the crude material was taken onto the next step without further purification. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for **2.6**.

 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.32 (m, 6H), 4.79 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 2.4 Hz,

2H), 3.35 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (s, 1H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.34$ (10% Et₂O in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

5-(((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)hepta-5,6-dien-1-yn-3-ol 2.7. A flame-dried, 250 mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar and septum, pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle was charged with Et₂O (31 mL) and LAH (8.47 mL of a 1.0 M solution in Et₂O, 8.47 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The flask was cooled to -78 °C on a dry ice and acetone bath. Ketone 2.6 was dissolved in Et₂O (20 mL) and was added over 5 minutes via syringe. The reaction stirred for 25 min until complete, as evidenced by TLC. The dry ice bath was removed and the reaction was quenched slowly with water as the solution warmed to rt. The solution was diluted with Et₂O (60 mL) and water (60 mL). The flask contents were transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 40 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated.

The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 20-30% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford 2.04 g of **2.7** in 71% yield (over 2 steps from **2.5**). The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for **2.7**.

TBDPSO.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.73-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.36 (m, 6H), 4.74 (quintet, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 4.60-4.53 (m, 1H), 4.25-4.14 (m, 2H), 3.14 (d, J = 5.7 Hz. 1H), 2.62-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.44 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (s, 9H) ppm;

Impurities observed at 1.55, 1.27, 0.96, 0.88 ppm.

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.38 (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

tert-Butyl((4-methoxy-2-vinylidenehex-5-yn-1-yl)oxy)diphenylsilane 2.8.

A flame-dried, 25 mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar, septum, and nitrogen inlet needle was charged with THF (9 mL) and sodium hydride (53.5 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 1.34 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The suspension was cooled to 0 °C on an ice bath. Alcohol **2.7** (375 mg, 0.996 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in THF (2 mL) and added to the reaction. The solution stirred for 15 min prior to addition of iodomethane (0.14 mL, 2.23 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 3.5 h until complete, as evidenced by TLC. The solution was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl (20 mL) and transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 2-10%

EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 300 mg of **2.8** in 77% yield. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for 2.8.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.71-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 6H), 4.78-4.69 (m, 2H), 4.21 (app s, 2 H), 4.08 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.41 (m, 2H), 2.41 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}} \qquad \qquad \text{R}_{\text{f}} = 0.46 \ (10\% \ \text{Et}_{2}\text{O in hexanes})$

Silica gel, UV visible

6-(((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-4-methoxyocta-Methyl TBDPSO. ОМе **6,7-dien-2-ynoate 2.1a**. A flame-dried, 25 mL, round-bottomed flask CO₂Me equipped with a stir bar, septum, and nitrogen inlet needle was charged with alkyne 2.8 (315 mg, 0.806 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in THF (4 mL). The reaction was cooled to -78 °C on a dry ice and acetone bath. n-Butyl lithium (0.61 mL of a 1.6 M soln in hexanes, 0.967 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise via syringe. The reaction stirred for 1 h while the ice bath was warmed slowly to -35 °C by the addition of acetone to the dry ice bath. Methyl chloroformate (0.12 mL, 1.61 mmol, 2 equiv), dissolved in THF (2 mL), was added and solution stirred for 15 min. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and diluted with Et₂O. The flask contents were transferred to a separatory funnel and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 244 mg of 2.1a in 69% yield as a pale yellow oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for 2.1a.

 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.71-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 6H), 4.78 (quintet, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.56-2.49 (m, 2H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm;

 $\frac{TLC}{R_f} = 0.27 (10\% \text{ Et}_2\text{O in hexanes})$ (Silica gel, UV visible)

2.4.3 Optimization of Allylboronate formation (Experiments for Table 5)

Reaction of 2.1a with HMPA and DIBAL-H (Entry 1)

A flame-dried, 5 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle was charged with toluene (0.3 mL) and cooled to 0 °C on an ice and water bath. HMPA (36 μL, 0.21 mmol, 6 equiv) and DIBAL-H (0.10 mL of a 1.0 M solution in toluene, 0.10 mmol, 3 equiv) were added sequentially and stirred for 30 min. Alkynoate **2.1a** (15 mg, 0.034 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.2 mL), was added to the reaction in one portion via syringe and stirred for 5 h. A small aliquot was removed from the reaction, diluted with diethyl ether (2 mL) and washed with 1 M HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine (2 mL each), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. Crude ¹H NMR revealed a 10:1 mixture of alkene **2.21a** and ynoate **2.1a**. Alkene **2.21a**, although previously reported, was not previously

characterized.⁴³ Characterization was obtained from a sample obtained by a previous group member; the sample had a 6.1: 1, *Z:E* isomeric ratio.

<u>Data for **2.21a**.</u>

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.71-7.65 (m, 4 H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 6 H), 6.82 (dd, J = 15.6, 6.4 Hz, 1 H)*, 6.08 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.98 (dd, J = 15.6, 1.2 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.90 (dd, J = 11.6, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.99-4.92 (m, 1 H), 4.73-4.69 (m, 2 H), 4.20 (t, J = 2.8, 2 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H)*, 3.69 (s, 3 H), 3.27 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (ddt, J = 14.8, 7.2, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.27 (ddt, J = 14.8, 5.2, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.05 (s, 9H)*, 1.04 (s, 9 H) ppm;

*discernable signal for *E*-**2.21a**

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

206.7, 166.3, 150.4, 135.8, 129.7, 127.8, 127.7, 121.6, 99.7, 75.4, 64.9, 57.1, 51.5, 34.4, 27.0, 19.5 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2931, 2858, 1961, 1725, 1429, 1196, 1109, 824, 703 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{27}H_{35}O_4Si$, 451.2299; found, 451.2280;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.65 (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

Reaction of 2.1a with HMPA, DIBAL-H, ClCH₂BPin (Entries 2, 3).

Entry 2: A flame-dried, 10 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle was charged with toluene (0.4 mL) and cooled to 0 °C on an ice and water bath. HMPA (29 μL, 0.17 mmol, 4 equiv) and DIBAL-H (0.14 mL of a 0.6 M solution in toluene, 0.082 mmol, 2 equiv) were added sequentially and stirred for 1 h. Alkynoate **2.1a** (18 mg, 0.041 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.3 mL), was added to the reaction in one portion via syringe and stirred for 3 h. ClCH₂BPin (11 mg, 0.062 mmol, 1.5 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.2 mL), was added and stirred overnight at rt. The reaction was quenched with addition of 1 M HCl (3 mL) and diluted with Et₂O. The organics were washed with 1 M HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine (3 mL each), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 6 mg of alkene **2.21a** (33% yield) and 1 mg allylboronate **2.2a** (4% yield) (a 7.8:1 molar ratio).

• When 2.6 equiv of ClCH₂BPin were used, a crude ¹H NMR taken 10 h after the boronate addition revealed a 1.7:1 ratio of alkene **2.21a**: boronate **2.2a**. Stirring was continued; at 41 h, crude ¹H NMR showed a 2.6:1 ratio of alkene **2.21a**: boronate **2.2a** (Entry 3).

Data for **2.2a**, see below.

Attempted reaction of ynoate 2.1b (Table 5, Entries 4, 5).

TBDPSO 1.Cul, MeLi, HMPA, DIBAL-H, toluene, -30 °C recovered **2.1b**

$$H_3C(H_2C)_5$$
2. CICH₂BPin

Entry 4: A flame-dried, 15 mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar and septum was charged with THF (0.7 mL), and copper iodide (4 mg, 0.023 mmol, 0.1 equiv). The flask was cooled to -30 $^{\circ}$ C (dry ice and acetonitrile bath). Methyl lithium (14 μ L of a 1.6 M solution in diethyl ether, 0.023 mmol, 0.1 equiv) was added and the solution stirred for 30 min. Toluene (1.6

mL) was added followed by sequential addition of HMPA (80 μL, 0.46 mmol, 2 equiv) and DIBAL-H (0.34 mL of a 1.0 M solution in hexanes, 0.34 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. Alkynoate **2.1b** (100 mg, 0.23 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (1.1 mL) and added to the reaction in a single portion via syringe. The reaction stirred for 5 h. ClCH₂BPin (48 mg, 0.27 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added and the reaction stirred overnight at rt. No change in the reaction was observed by TLC. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O (5 mL), quenched with 1 M HCl (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and washed with 1 M HCl (2 x 5 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (5 mL), and brine (5 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude ¹H NMR showed ynoate **2.1b** with signals consistent with literature values.⁶⁸

Entry 5: Follows same procedure as described for entry 4 with THF (0.35 mL), copper iodide (2 mg, 0.012 mmol, 0.1 equiv), methyl lithium (8 μL of a 1.6 M solution in diethyl ether, 0.012 mmol, 0.1 equiv), toluene (0.8 mL), distilled HMPA (40 μL, 0.23 mmol, 2 equiv), DIBAL-H (0.17 mL of a 1.0 M solution in toluene, 0.17 mmol, 1.5 equiv), ynoate **2.1b** (50 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in toluene (0.5 mL). After addition of ynoate **2.1b**, no reaction had occurred after 5 h of stirring. ClCH₂BPin was not added to this experiment. ¹H NMR of the crude residue showed ynoate **2.1b**⁶⁸ and no alkene **2.21b**.

Attempted 1,4-reduction of ynoate 2.1c (Table 5, Entry 6).

A flame-dried, 15 mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar and septum was charged with THF (0.9 mL), and copper iodide (6 mg, 0.030 mmol, 0.1 equiv). The flask was cooled to -30 °C (cryocool and ethanol bath). Methyl lithium (19 μL of a 1.6 M solution in Et₂O, 0.030 mmol, 0.1 equiv) was added and the solution stirred for 30 min. Toluene (2.0 mL) was

added followed by sequential addition of HMPA (0.10 mL, 0.59 mmol, 2 equiv) and DIBAL-H (0.34 mL of a 1.0 M solution in hexanes, 0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. Alkynoate **2.1c** (50 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (1.4 mL) and added to the reaction in a single portion via syringe. The reaction stirred at -20 °C for 5 h. An aliquot was taken from the reaction and concentrated. Crude NMR of this residue showed a 4:1 mixture of ynoate **2.1c**: alkene **2.21c**. Presence of alkene **2.21c** was determined by ¹H NMR signals at 6.3 and 5.8 ppm, which is consistent with literature values of this compound.⁷¹

• Allenyl-ynoate **2.1a** was subjected to the same procedure which resulted in a complicated mixture as determined by TLC analysis (Entry 7).

Reaction of methyl 2-octynoate 2.1d (Table 5, Entries 8, 9).

A flame-dried, 10 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum was charged with THF (3.6 mL), and copper iodide (24 mg, 0.13 mmol, 0.4 equiv). The flask was cooled to -30 °C (cryocool and ethanol bath). Methyl lithium (80 μL of a 1.6 M solution in diethyl ether, 0.013 mmol, 0.4 equiv) was added and the solution stirred for 30 min. In a separate, 10 mL flask, toluene (1.3 mL) was cooled to -30 °C. 0.9 mL of the stirring CuMe solution (0.032 mmol, 0.1 equiv) was added followed by sequential addition of HMPA (0.17 mL, 0.97 mmol, 3 equiv) and DIBAL-H (1.28 mL of a 0.6 M solution in toluene, 0.64 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 h. Alkynoate **2.1d** (50 mg, 0.32 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (0.4 mL) an added to the reaction in a single portion via syringe. The reaction stirred at -20 °C for 5 h until the ynoate was consumed, as evidenced by crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ClCH₂BPin (113 mg, 0.64 mmol, 2 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.2 mL), was

added and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by 1 M HCl and diluted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 1 M HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. Analysis by crude ¹H NMR revealed a 1 : 1 mixture of alkene **2.21d** (signals observed matched literature values)⁷² and allylboronate **2.2d** (3.6:1, *Z:E* isomeric ratio). The crude mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% diethyl ether in hexanes) to afford 7 mg of the *Z*-**2.2d** and 9 mg of the *Z*- and *E*-isomers of allylboronate **2.2d** (1.4: 1 isomeric ratio) (35% yield overall).

• With freshly distilled ClCH₂BPin, the crude ¹H NMR showed **2.2d** as the only product; no alkene **2.21d** was observed.

Data for **2.2d**.

¹H NMR Z-isomer only: (600 MHz, CDCl₃) 5.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.48 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.83 (s, 2H), 1.44-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.24 (m, 4H), 1.23 (s, 12H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; Z- and E-isomer: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 6.74 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H)*, 5.93 (t, J = 7.4

Hz, 1H)**, 3.71 (s, 3H)*, 3.70 (s, 3H)**, 2.48 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H)**, 2.14 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H)*, 1.85 (s, 2H)*, 1.83 (s, 2H)**, 1.44-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.25 (m, 4H), 1.232 (s, 12H)**, 1.228 (s, 12H)*, 0.88 (m, 3 H) ppm;

E* isomer, *Z* isomer

Impurities observed at 7.03, 3.65, 1.58 ppm.

13C NMR Z-isomer (150 MHz, CDCl₃)
168.5, 143.9, 127.8, 83.4, 51.2, 31.7, 29.8, 29.3, 27.4, 24.9, 22.7, 14.2 ppm;

<u>HRMS</u> (FTMS + p ESI Full ms) $[M + H]^{+} \text{ calcd for } C_{16}H_{30}O_{4}B, 297.2232; \text{ found, } 297.2235;$

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2927, 2858, 1723, 1435, 1354, 1324, 1201, 1147 cm⁻¹;

TLC $R_f = 0.45$ (20% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible, KMnO₄

TBDPSO. Allylboronate 2.2a. To a flame-dried, single-necked, round-bottomed OMe CO₂Me flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle, was added THF (1.2 mL) and copper iodide (8 mg, 0.040 mmol, 0.1 equiv) to form an off-white slurry. The flask was cooled to -30 °C using a cryocool/ethanol bath. Methyl lithium (0.025 mL of a 1.6 M solution in Et₂O, 0.040 mmol, 0.1 equiv) was added and the solution turned dark brown. The solution was stirred for 40 min. Toluene (1.7 mL) was added followed successively by HMPA (0.21 mL, 1.19 mmol, 3 equiv) and DIBAL-H (0.80 mL of a 1.0 M solution in toluene) and the black solution stirred for 2 h. Alkynoate **2.1a** (174 mg, 0.40 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (0.5 mL) and added to the reaction all at once via syringe. The temperature was warmed to -20 °C stirred for 3 h until all of the ynoate 2.1a had been consumed, determined by crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy (shows formation of alkene 2.21a). Freshly distilled ClCH₂BPin (141 mg, 0.80 mmol, 2 equiv), dissolved in toluene (0.4 mL), was added and stirred overnight at rt. Over this time, the reaction solution went from black to translucent pale green. The reaction was quenched by the addition of 1 M HCl (10 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with Et₂O (10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with 1 M HCl (12 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (12 mL), and brine (12 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude material was purified by elution through a small silica column using 20% diethyl ether in hexanes to afford the title

compound **2.2** (183 mg, 78%) as a 1.6:1, Z:E isomeric ratio and as a colorless oil. The isomers were inseparable and taken on to the next step as a mixture. The characterization for the mixture is reported and the data matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for **2.2a**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.71-7.66 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 6H), 6.53 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H)*, 5.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H)**, 4.74-4.69 (m, 2H), 4.72-4.63 (m, 1H)**, 4.23-4.17 (m, 2H), 4.16-4.05 (m, 1H)*, 3.73 (s, 3H)*, 3.66 (s, 3H)**, 3.25 (s, 3H)**, 3.23 (s, 3H)*, 2.40-2.20 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.21 (s, 12H)**, 1.20 (s, 12H)*, 1.04 (s, 9H) ppm; *E isomer, **Z isomer

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.48 \ (20\% \ EtOAc \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, UV visible

2.4.4 Completing the synthesis of trans-guaianolide 1.83.

5 mL Biotage microwave irradiation vial, equipped with a stir bar, was charged with

Trans-lactone 1.82a and cis-lactone 1.82b. A 2-

chloroform (3.7 mL), allylboronate $\mathbf{2.2a}$ (222 mg

of a 1.7:1 mixture of Z:E isomers, 0.376 mmol, 1 equiv), and phenylpropynal (108 mg, 0.827 mmol, 2.2 equiv). The vial was sealed with a septum, pierced with a N₂ inlet needle, and flushed with N₂. The vial was lowered into an oil bath (50 °C) and stirred for 7 d. Disappearance of allylboronate **2.2a** was monitored my ^{1}H NMR spectroscopy. p-Toluene sulfonic acid monohydrate (7 mg, 0.038 mmol, 0.1 equiv) was added and the reaction stirred for 16 h at rt. The

reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated NaHCO₃ (8 mL) and diluted with DCM (6 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 x 10 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10% Et₂O in hexanes) to provide 61 mg of *trans*-lactone **1.82a** as a 1.5:1 ratio of diastereomers, 13 mg of *cis*-lactone **1.82b** (Diastereomer 1) contaminated with recovered allylboronate **2.2a** (*E* isomer), and 35 mg *cis*-lactone **1.82b** (Diastereomer 2) in an overall 50% yield. The characterization data obtained for *trans*-**1.82a** and *cis*-**1.82b** (Diastereomer 2) matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for trans-1.82a

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.69-7.62 (m, 5H), 7.46-7.28 (m, 10H), 6.38 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H)*, 6.35 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H)**, 5.73 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H)*, 5.66 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H)**, 5.38 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H)**, 5.20 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H)*, 4.79-4.75 (m, 2H), 4.23-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.46 (m, 1H)*, 3.42-3.38 (m, 1H)**, 3.36 (s, 3H)*, 3.33 (s, 3H)**, 2.51-2.43 (m, 1H)**, 2.42-2.32 (m, 1H)*, 2.31-2.21 (m, 1H), 1.06 (s, 9H)*, 1.05 (s, 9H)** ppm;

* Major diastereomer, ** minor diastereomer.

Impurities observed at 1.54, 1.43, 1.25, and 1.20 ppm.

 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{Rf}} = 0.33 \text{ (10\% EtOAc in hexanes)}$ Silica gel, UV visible

Data for *cis-***1.82b**, Diastereomer 1

 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.62 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.30 (m, 10H), 6.34 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79-4.72 (m, 2H), 4.22-4.16 (m, 2H), 4.01 (dt, J = 9.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.26-3.22 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.31 (m, 1H), 1.04 (s, 9H) ppm;

Signals for *E-2.2a* observed at 6.53, 4.62, 3.73, 3.23 ppm.

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

206.8, 186.7, 141.6, 135.7, 134.8, 133.4, 131.9, 129.9, 129.3, 128.6, 127.9, 127.8, 124.2, 99.5, 83.6, 83.1, 79.3, 70.5, 64.9, 57.0, 45.9, 28.1, 27.0, 19.4 ppm;

IR (thin film)

3070, 2932, 2858, 1962, 1774, 1721, 1428, 1360, 1265, 1110, 703 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M + H]^+$ calculated for $C_{36}H_{39}O_4Si$, 563.2612; found, 563.2589;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.25 (10% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

Data for *cis*-1.82b, Diastereomer 2

1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.68-7.61 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.28 (m, 10H), 6.37 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.77-4.72 (m, 1H), 4.69-4.63 (m, 1H), 4.22-4.11 (m, 2H), 3.93-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.54-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.61-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.08 (m, 1 H), 1.02 (s, 9 H) ppm;

13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃)

206.1, 169.4, 135.8, 135.7, 133.7, 132.1, 129.82, 129.77, 129.30, 128.5, 127.8, 125.2, 121.7, 100.8, 90.1, 82.4, 80.0, 77.7, 69.5, 65.0, 57.3, 44.4, 30.5, 26.9, 19.4 ppm;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.19 (10% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

Trans-guaianolide analog 2.24. Followed general procedure 1A (Section 1.4.3), using [Rh(CO)₂Cl]₂ (2 mg, 0.0057 mmol, 0.05 equiv) in toluene (8.5 mL), trans-lactone allene-yne 1.82a (64 mg, 0.114 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in toluene (2.9 mL), and triphenylphosphine polymer bound (65 mg). The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 30-40% EtOAc in hexanes) to yield the title compound (53 mg, 79%) as a colorless oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for **2.24**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.73-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.32 (m, 9H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.35 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H)**, 6.23 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H)*, 5.85 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H)*, 5.71 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H)**, 5.48 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H)**, 5.32 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H)*, 4.33 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H)*, 4.31 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H)**, 4.27 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H)**, 4.23 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H)*, 4.01-3.94 (m, 1H)**, 3.86-3.82 (m, 1H)*, 3.424 (s, 3H)*, 3.418 (s, 3H)**, 3.39-3.31 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.07 (m, 1H), 2.86 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1H)*, 2.83 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1H)**, 2.76 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1H)**, 2.73 (d, J = 21.2 Hz, 1H)*, 2.45-2.37 (m, 1H), 1.11 (s, 9H)**, 1.10 (s, 9H)* ppm;

*Major diastereomer, ** Minor diastereomer

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.18 \ (20\% \ EtOAc \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, UV visible.

dissolved in toluene (4.5 mL). Cooled reaction solution was filtered through a celite plug, rinsed with Et_2O and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 20-40 % EtOAc in hexanes) to yield the title compound (56 mg, 58%) as a colorless oil. The characterization data obtained matches previously reported data.⁴³

Data for **2.25**.

1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.63 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 9H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 6.51 (bs, 1H), 5.93 (bs, 1H), 5.58 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.59 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 2.96 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1H), 2.41-2.29 (m, 1H), 1.07 (s, 9H) ppm;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.39 \ (30\% \ EtOAc \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, UV visible.

Trans-guaianolide analog 1.83. A flame-dried, 10 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle, was charged with acetonitrile (1.0 mL) and crude silyl

protected *trans*-guaianolide **2.24** (0.076 mmol of 2.3:1 mixture of diastereomers, 1 equiv). Triethylamine trihydrofluoride was added and the flask was lowered into a pre-heated oil bath (60 °C) and stirred overnight. The oil bath was removed and the solution cooled to rt. The solution was diluted with Et₂O and water (5 mL each). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 x 6 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (100% EtOAc) to afford 17 mg of the title compounds as 2.3:1 mixture of diastereomers (64% over two steps). The ¹H NMR spectra obtained of the diastereomer mixture was consistent with that previously reported. The diastereomers were separated for by HPLC utilizing the following eluent method with a flow rate of 4 mL/min: 100% EtOAc for 20 min, gradient increase from 100% EtOAc to 5% methanol in EtOAc for 5 min, followed by constant 5% methanol in EtOAc for 5 min. 8βH-1.83a had a retention time of 14.0 min and 8αH-1.83b had a retention time of 17.0 min. Each diastereomer was analyzed by ¹H, ¹³C, COSY, and HSQC NMR spectroscopy.

Data for Diastereomer A: 8βH-1.83a

HPLC 14.004 min retention time

 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.40-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.25 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (ddd, J = 8.0, 4.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.29 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1H), 3.18-3.13 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.12 (m, 1H), 2.56 (dd, J = 15.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (bs, 1H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.4, 167.8, 161.6, 143.3, 137.2, 133.9, 133.0, 130.7, 130.0, 128.8, 127.8, 122.1, 81.7, 75.8, 65.3, 56.9, 50.0, 39.5, 30.6 ppm;

 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{Silica gel, UV visible.}}$

Data for Diastereomer B: 8αH-**1.83b**.

HPLC 17.006 min retention time

7.45-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.36 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.34-4.26 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.31 (m, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 15.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28-3.15 (m, 2H), 2.53 (dd, J = 15.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H) ppm;

13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃)
201.3, 168.4. 162.2, 144.1, 134.2, 133.7, 132.2, 130.8, 130.0, 128.9, 127.9, 123.0, 74.9, 74.0, 65.6, 57.5, 49.8, 39.9, 33.9 ppm;

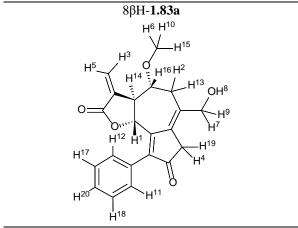
 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{Silica gel, UV visible.}}$

2.4.5 Computational Methods

Predicted ¹H NMR chemical shift calculations were performed using Spartan 10 software for windows.^{70c} The structure was drawn in the drawing window, and lowest energy conformers were determined by performing conformer distribution calculations using molecular mechanics and MMFF. For 8βH-**1.83a**, this generated 37 possible conformers and the lowest energy conformer was ~79 kcal/mol. For 8αH-**1.83b**, 43 possible conformers were generated and the

lowest energy conformer was ~81 kcal/mol. Using the lowest energy conformers, ¹H NMR chemical shift calculations were performed using EDF2/6-31G* (subset of equilibrium geometry and density functional theory) functionals in a vacuum. Corrected chemical shifts were displaced as atom labels (shown by clicking Model>Configure>Chem Shift), these values were recorded.

Table 7. Calculated chemical shifts for $8\beta H-1.83a$ and $8\alpha H-1.83b$.



8αH- 1.83b
H ⁶ H ¹⁰
√_H ¹⁵
H ⁵ H ¹⁴ H ¹⁶ H ² H ¹³ OU8
O — H ⁹
0111 H7 H19 H19
H ¹⁷ H ⁴
H ²⁰ H ¹¹
H ¹⁸

Calculated ppm	Spartan Assignment
7.728	20
7.69	11
7.263	17
7.263	18
7.249	12
6.226	5
5.784	3
5.369	1
4.275	7
4.117	9
3.588	16
3.544	6, 10, 15
3.119	2
3.038	14
2.915	4
2.543	19
2.278	13
0.272	8

H'°	
Calculated ppm	Spartan Assignment
7.662	11
7.315	12
7.279	17
7.276	20
7.259	18
6.354	5
5.831	1
5.355	3
4.389	7
4.312	9
4.089	16
3.393	6, 10, 15
3.284	2
3.220	14
2.890	4
2.505	19
2.237	13
0.272	8

3.0 INSTALLATION OF ALKYNE LIGATION HANDLES VIA THE NICHOLAS REACTION

This chapter is based upon results described in "Alkyne Ligation Handles: Propargylation of Hydroxyl, Sulfhydryl, Amino, and Carboxyl Groups via the Nicholas Reaction," by Sarah M. Wells, John C. Widen, Daniel A. Harki, and Kay M. Brummond, submitted for publication 7/16/2016.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

One factor contributing to the slow realization of guaianolides as therapeutics is the presence of covalent modifiers and limited understanding of their biological mechanism of action. Despite prevalent bioactivity, covalent modifiers have been criticized for their irreversible interactions with protein targets and poor selectivity. For progress to be made for this class of molecules, their protein targets and mechanism of action must be understood. Towards this end, we sought to synthesize activity based protein profiling (ABPP) probes for the guaianolide NF-kB inhibitors synthesized in our group to determine their protein targets.

3.1.1 Activity Based Protein Profiling for Protein Target Identification

Natural products (NPs) are distinguished classes of organic molecules and provide inspiration for a large portion of pharmaceuticals.¹ For NPs and derivatives there-of to be approved for therapeutic use, a complete understanding of their molecular targets and mechanism of action should be understood.⁷³ This is particularly true for covalent modifiers, often criticized for irreversibly and indiscriminately modifying proteins.

ABPP has been established as a fundamental technique for characterizing specific protein activity within a complex proteome, popular for its ability to examine proteins *in vivo* without disturbing natural function.⁷⁴ The method depends on the development of activity based probes (ABPs) capable of selective covalent interaction with active enzymes and analytical detection *ex post facto*. These probes contain three essential parts; 1) a binding group that enables protein selectivity presumably through non-covalent binding interactions, 2) the reactive group (or warhead) that covalently binds to active proteins, and 3) a reporter group, or detectable agent that is used for analytical characterization. While ABPP has been a powerful tool for understanding the functional characteristics of individual proteins in native proteomes, the method has also been applied to identifying specific protein targets and mechanism of action for NPs and other drug candidates.^{73b, 75}

ABPs for target identification studies are derivatives of the active small molecules, which are modified to contain an analytical tag, or reporter group. ABPP exploits the reactive groups of the covalent modifiers, which serve as the war head and form covalent linkages with nucleophilic amino acids near the protein binding pocket. Once the interaction between the bioactive molecule and the proteome have been established, analytical methods, such as gel

electrophoresis, fluorescence detection, and mass spectrometry are employed to characterize the interactions (Figure 14).

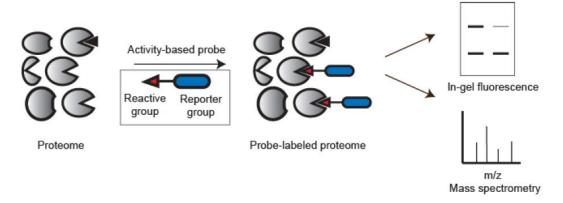


Figure 14. Overview of activity-based protein profiling (ABPP). Reprinted from MDPI Open Access: Martell, J.; Weerapana, E. *Molecules*, **2014**, *19*, 1378-1393. 76

3.1.2 Probe design for target identification of bioactive small molecules.

Probe design for target identification experiments involves the installation of the reporter group onto the bioactive molecule. Two main considerations for tag installation are the size and position of the tag; minimizing perturbation of the parent molecule's natural biological activity is a major concern. Some of the most common tags include biotin 3.1, which is commonly detected by western blot analysis and avidin enrichment prior to mass spectroscopy, and rhodamine 3.2, a fluorophore detectable by in-gel fluorescence (Figure 15). These analytical tags allow for direct evaluation of the protein target(s), but their size has led to major disadvantages such as perturbation of protein-probe interactions, decreased cell permeability, and destruction of native biological conditions (Figure 16A).

Figure 15. Popular reporter groups for ABPP.

The advances and popularity of biorthogonal chemistry, or "Click chemistry," have allowed for an alternative, two-step probe, where bioactives are modified to contain smaller, less obstructive ligation handles, or "pre-tags". After forming their respective covalent linkages with active proteins in the cell, these ligation handles can be elaborated with a fluorophore or enrichment tag containing the complementary bioorthoganal functionality (Figure 16B). The "pre-tag" probe also allows for the utilization of numerous reporter groups and characterization methods while employing a single synthetic probe. 74b

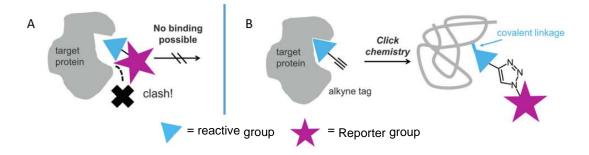
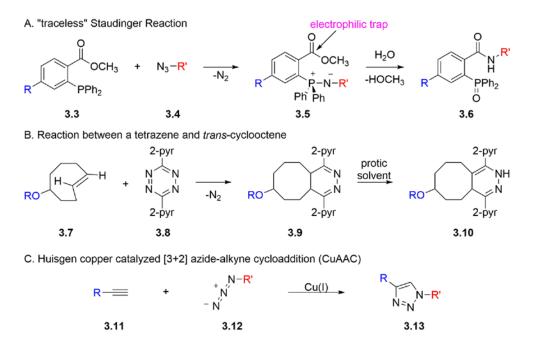


Figure 16. Advantages of a two-step ABP with an alkyne ligation handle. A) Bulky reporter groups interfere with warhead-protein binding. B) Alkyne ligation handle can be modified for analytical interpretation after covalent binding of reactive group with target protein. Reprinted by permission from John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Lehmann, J.; Wright, M. H.; Sieber, S. A. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2016**, *22*, 4666-4678. © 2016 WILEY-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, Weinheim.

3.1.3 Bioorthogonal reactions and the value of alkyne ligation handles

An ideal bioorthogonal reaction involves rapid coupling of two precursors without the formation of byproducts, and can be done under physiological conditions.⁷⁸ The coupling

precursors must also be biologically inert. The development of new bioorthogonal reactions has become a prevalent research area; some of the most popular reactions used for ABPP are shown in Scheme 51. First, Bertozzi and coworkers developed a "traceless" Staudinger reaction. The classical Staudinger reaction occurs between a trialkyl phosphine and an azide to form an azaylide, which in the presence of water, readily undergoes hydrolysis affording the corresponding amine and phosphine oxide. Bertozzi's modified reaction utilizes an electrophilic trap, incorporated into the phosphine component (3.3), which allows rearrangement of the aza-ylide 3.5 to form a stable amide linkage 3.6. (Scheme 51A). Many methodologies utilize Diels-Alder chemistry for the coupling of two substrates; one example is the reaction between a tetrazene (3.8) and either a *trans*-cyclooctene (3.7) or cyclopropene (Scheme 51B). The Huisgen copper catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition of an alkyne (3.11) and azide (3.12) to form 1,2,3-triazoles (3.13), also called the click reaction, was revisited by Sharpless in 2002 (Scheme 51C).



Scheme 51. Selected bioorthogonal reactions.

The copper-catalyzed [3+2] click reaction has arguably become the most prominently used bioorthogonal reaction with over 5848 papers including 927 reviews citing the 2002 report by Sharpless. 82 Many advancements have allowed the Huisgen cycloaddition, often criticized for corresponding cell toxicity of the copper/ascorbate catalyst, to be applied to numerous biological applications. Water-soluble, accelerating tris(triazolylmethyl)amine ligands have been shown to intercept harmful oxygenative species generated by the catalyst system. This protocol allows an accelerated reaction which minimizes both the concentration of the catalyst and time required to perform the click-based labeling, resulting in increased cell viability.⁸³ Also, a variation that exploits the reactivity of strained cyclooctynes does not require a copper catalyst.⁸⁴ Utility of the click reaction for biochemical applications also stems from the nature of the click reaction precursors, the azide and alkyne. These functional groups are rarely found in biological systems, minimizing potential side reactions, and they are small in size, which minimizes their effect on the activity or physical characteristics of the parent molecule. For ABPP specifically, it has become most common to incorporate the alkyne moiety on the small molecule probe, while the azide is installed on the analytical tag. 77,85 As a result, synthetic methodology for incorporation of an alkynyl group in small molecules is valuable.

3.1.4 Traditional methods for installation of alkyne handles

Typically, late-stage incorporation of an alkyne handle has been achieved by either alkylation or acylation of an existing amino, hydroxyl, or carboxyl group where the installed alkyl or acyl group contained an alkyne. Alkylation is most commonly achieved by propargylation of an alcohol via the base-mediated Williamson ether synthesis with propargyl bromide. For example, the synthesis of Src-directed probe **3.16** included the propargylation of

3.14 using sodium hydroxide and propargyl bromide (Scheme 52).⁸⁶ A series of hydroxyl and amino protecting groups were required to avoid over-propargylation. Alternatively, a hydroxyl group can be converted to a propargyl amine by conversion to a mesylate followed by reaction with propargyl amine; this method was used for the synthesis of Fmk probe **3.18** (Scheme 53).

Scheme 52. Synthesis of Src-directed alkyne probe 3.16 via base mediated propargylation.

Scheme 53. Propargylation of Fmk 3.17.

Acylation is commonly performed by incorporating a hexynoic carbonyl onto an amino or hydroxyl group. This transformation can also be accomplished under basic conditions, where a hydroxyl group reacts with hexynoyl chloride.⁸⁷ Carbodiimide coupling reactions offer neutral alternatives for acylation; an activated carbodiimide facilitates coupling between hexynoic acid and either an alcohol or amine (Scheme 54). Showdomycin **3.19** was modified using diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) with hexynoic acid to selectively acylate the primary alcohol, affording showdomycin probe **3.20**.⁸⁸ Mitsunobu reaction conditions are typically employed for the acylation of secondary alcohols.⁷⁷

Modification of the secondary amino group of **3.21** gave the duocarmycin probe **3.22** under 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC) coupling conditions.⁸⁹ Alternatively, propargyl amine can be coupled with an available carboxylic acid for the formation of amide linkages. This strategy is used in the synthesis of **3.24**, which was made as part of a series of acivicin probes.⁹⁰

Scheme 54. Synthesis of alkyne probes 3.20, 3.22, and 3.24 using amide coupling reactions.

In 2013, the Romo and Cravatt groups applied C-H amination of allylic and benzylic hydrogens, previously developed by DuBois,⁹¹ to the incorporation of alkyne ligation handles onto natural products for biochemical studies.⁹² Amination using sulfonamide derivatives is achieved using Rh₂(esp)₂ and oxidant (PhI(O₂C^tBu)₂) reagent system. One example described therein was the amination of Eupalmerin acetate (EuPA, 3.25) to afford 3.26 in 28% yield (Scheme 55). An advantage of this method is that it functionalizes the natural product at a previously "unfunctionalized" position to avoid rendering the probe inactive. However, low

yields, arising from poor site selectivity, and the complex nature of the installed alkynyl group are potential concerns.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Me} \\ \text{OAc} \\ \text{Me} \\ \text{OAc} \\ \text{OAc} \\ \text{NH}_2\text{R} \text{ (2 equiv)} \\ \text{Me} \\ \text{EuAP 3.25} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{RHN} \\ \text{Me} \\ \text{OAc} \\ \text{NH}_2\text{R} \\ \text{OAc} \\ \text{NH}_2\text{R} \\ \text{EuPAyne 3.26, 28\%} \end{array}$$

Scheme 55. Synthesis of EuPAyne 3.26 via Rh(I) catalyzed C-H amination.

Alternatively, examples of early-stage incorporation of an alkyne functionality have been reported. The synthesis of Orlistat probes, such as **3.28**, simply replaced a –CH₂CH₃ group at the end of a long alkane chain of Orlistat (**3.27**), with a –CCH group (Figure 17).⁶⁸ This modification minimizes change in both physical and biological properties of Orlistat but requires a second total synthesis, where the alkyne group is incorporated in the starting material.

Figure 17. Orlistat 3.27 and Orlistat probe 3.28, synthesized using early-alkyne incorporation.

Despite these available methods for alkyne incorporation, synthesis of alkyne probes for functionally dense bioactive molecules is still challenging. For example, we envisioned that an alkyne probe derivative of *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83** could be readily obtained by propargylation of the allylic alcohol using the Williamson ether synthesis. However, the base-sensitive nature of **1.83** was revealed upon stirring with sodium hydride; complete decomposition was observed by TLC within 1 h. Also, attempts to deprotect the hydroxyl group at the C8 position, for subsequent functionalization of the corresponding secondary alcohol, were unsuccessful. Our collaborator, Dan Harki, also expressed setbacks for the synthesis of an alkyne

probe for NP melampomagnolide B (MelB, **3.29**, Figure 18). MelB is base-sensitive and could not be propargylated under classical conditions. Also, attempted oxidations of the allylic alcohol were unsuccessful. A biotinylated derivative of MelB has been achieved via an ester linkage, however the stability of esters *in vivo* is still a concern. Consequently, non-basic conditions for propargylation of these functionally dense molecules were needed.

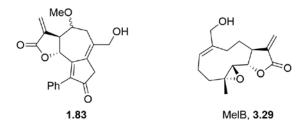


Figure 18. Base-sensitive sesquiterpene-lactone analogs.

3.1.5 The Nicholas reaction: an acid mediated propargylation reaction

The Nicholas reaction provides propargyl synthons via an acid mediated reaction. Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed propargyl alcohol **3.30a** (Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol) derivatives react in the presence of either a Lewis or protic acid to yield a cobalt stabilized propargylic carbocation **3.31**. Trapping of this intermediate with a nucleophile affords the corresponding cobalt-complexed alkyne **3.32** species (Scheme 56).⁹³ Even primary propargyl alcohols, which result in *pseudo*-primary carbocations, can be employed in the Nicholas reaction due to the stabilization that the adjacent cobalt provides.⁹⁴ Oxidative decomplexation of the cobalt complex **3.32** affords the corresponding alkyne **3.33**. To our knowledge, the Nicholas reaction has not been applied to the synthesis of biochemical probes.^{93c}

The click reaction works most efficiently when the alkynyl group has no substituents other than the connecting methylene unit (R-CH₂-CCH). Therefore, the Nicholas reaction offers

advantages over other acid mediated methods for preparing propargyl ethers. For example, metal triflates, such as Al(OTf)₃, are effective Lewis acid catalysts for preparing propargyl ethers from 2° and 3° propargyl alcohols. However, primary alcohols are not tolerated due to cationic instability.⁹⁵

Scheme 56. Synthesis of propargyl derivatives via Nicholas reaction followed by oxidative decomplexation.

A variety of nucleophiles have been used in the Nicholas reaction. Nucleophiles for the formation of a carbon-carbon bond include enol derivatives, allyl metals, electron-rich alkenes, aryl groups. 93b Nucleophilic heteroatoms have also been employed; predominantly hydroxyl groups, used for the formation of both cyclic and acyclic propargyl ethers.

Typically, the standard protocol for preparing ethers via an intermolecular Nicholas reaction requires use of the nucleophilic hydroxyl group in excess compared to the Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne. For example, unsymmetrical ether **3.36**, a precursor for a ring-closing metathesis reaction, was made in 76% yield by reacting 1 equiv of cobalt complex **3.34** with 5 equiv of alcohol **3.35** and BF₃•OEt₂ (Scheme 57);⁹⁶ a molar equivalencies ratio that limits a competing homodimerization of the Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol. ⁹⁷

Scheme 57. Synthesis of unsymmetrical ether **3.36** via the Nicholas reaction.

We expected that the Nicholas reaction could be applied to the synthesis of biologically relevant alkyne probes. However, employing the nucleophilic bioactive molecule in excess

would be uneconomical. Therefore, we set out to determine reaction conditions where the high-value, nucleophilic species (bioactive compound) could be employed as the limiting reagent.

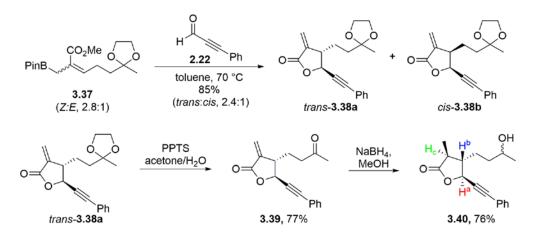
3.2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.2.1 Preparation of alcohol 3.40 as a model system.

In order optimize Nicholas reaction conditions for use of high-value, nucleophilic species as the limiting reagent, molecularly complex alcohol model **3.40** was prepared in 3 steps from allylboronate **3.37**, previously synthesized in our group (Scheme 58). Addition of allylboronate **3.37** (2.8:1 mixture of Z:E alkene isomers) to phenylpropynal **2.22** followed by lactonization gave a 2.4:1 ratio of the *trans*- and *cis*-lactone **3.38** in 85% yield. The stereochemical identification of the *trans*- and *cis*-**1.38** isomers was confirmed using the coupling of proton H_a with comparison to an X-ray crystal structure of α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone **2.26a**, as discussed in Section 2.2.4. Trans-**3.38a** has a J_{ab} of 5.2 Hz, while *cis*-**3.38b** has a coupling constant of 8.0 Hz. These J_{ab} values compare favorably to the *trans*- and *cis*- isomers of **2.28** published previously, which have coupling constants for H_a of 6.0 Hz and 8.4 Hz respectively (Figure 19). Equation 19.42

Trans-3.38a was taken on; the acetal protecting group was removed to afford ketone 3.39 in 77% yield. Reaction of 3.39 with sodium borohydride reduced both the ketone and methylene group, producing 3.40 in 76% yield (Scheme 58). Alcohol 3.40 was obtained as a 1: 1 ratio of two diastereomers; the methylene group was reduced diastereoselectively while reduction of the ketone resulted in two stereoisomers.⁹⁹ The relative geometry of the lactone ring

was determined by examining the ¹H NMR spectra; H_c appears at 2.34 ppm as a doublet of quartets with the corresponding coupling constants of 10.8 and 6.6 Hz. The 10.8 Hz coupling constant between H_c and H_b, as well as the 9.0 Hz coupling between H_b and H_a indicates a *trans,trans*-relationship for the tri-substituted butyrolactone ring, which prefers an envelope conformation with the alkyl groups in the equatorial positions and hydrogens in the axial positions.¹⁰⁰



Scheme 58. Synthesis of molecularly complex model system 3.40.

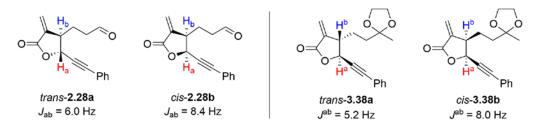


Figure 19. Comparison of coupling constants of 3.38 with previously synthesized 2.28.

3.2.2 Optimization of the Nicholas reaction conditions

The Nicholas reaction requires a dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed alkyne with an adjacent oxygen leaving group. Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** was prepared by stirring propargyl alcohol with Co₂(CO)₈ in DCM until bubbles (presumed to be evolution of CO gas)

were no longer observed. This procedure afforded complex **3.30a** in quantitative yield. **3.30a** is stable to air and moisture and was purified by silica gel chromatography (Scheme 59).

Scheme 59. Cobalt complexation of propargyl alcohol to afford 3.30a.

With alcohol **3.40** and complex **3.30a** in hand, optimization for propargylation of molecularly complex compounds via the Nicholas reaction began. Alcohol **3.40** was used as the limiting reagent in all experiments. Initially, we examined the effects of various equivalencies of complex **3.30a** and the Lewis acid, BF₃•OEt₂, while the order of reagent addition remained constant. Due to the multiple Lewis base coordination sites of alcohol **3.40** that could potentially compete for the Lewis acid, we predicted that the addition of the Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** to a stirring solution of BF₃•OEt₂, prior to the addition of **3.40**, would allow efficient formation of the propargylic cation. In turn, complex **3.30a** (2 equiv) and alcohol **3.40** (1 equiv) were added sequentially to a stirring solution of BF₃•OEt₂ (2.5 equiv) at 0 °C in DCM which afforded Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl ether **3.42** in 47% yield (Table 8, Entry 1). Increasing the equivalents of the BF₃•OEt₂ and complex **3.30a** decreased the yield of **3.42** to 36% (Entry 2). Adding alcohol **3.40** dropwise also resulted in decreased yields of **3.42** (28%, Entry 3).

These low yields led to examination of the reagent addition order. Inverting the addition of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** and alcohol **3.40** to the BF₃•OEt₂ solution did not have a significant effect on the yield of **3.42** (44%, Entry 4 compared to 47%, Entry 1). Next, alcohol **3.40** and BF₃•OEt₂ were added sequentially to a solution of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** in DCM, an addition order more commonly seen in previous Nicholas reaction reports. Reacting **3.40**, **3.30a** and BF₃•OEt₂ in molar equivalencies of 1:2:2.5 afforded Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl ether **3.42** in 55% yield (Entry 5). Again, increasing equivalencies of alcohol **3.40** and the Lewis acid

decreased yield of **3.42** (22%, Entry 6). Despite the stability of **3.30a** to air and moisture, it was reasoned that generation of the cobalt complex *in situ* from propargyl alcohol and dicobalt octacarbonyl may be advantageous. Stirring of propargyl alcohol (2 equiv) and Co₂(CO)₈ (2 equiv) in DCM, followed by addition of alcohol **3.40** and BF₃•OEt₂ gave the highest yield of **3.42** (60%, Entry 7). This protocol was used in subsequent experiments.

Table 8. Optimization of the Nicholas reaction with alcohol **3.40**.

Entry	Equiv	Order of	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield
	(3.40:3.30a:BF ₃ •OEt ₂)	Addition			
1	1:2:2.5	LA, 3.30 , 3.40	0	4.5	47%
2	1:3:5	LA, 3.30 , 3.40	0	4	36%
3	1:2:2.5	LA, 3.30, 3.40 ^a	0	4	28%
4	1:2:2.5	LA, 3.40 , 3.30	0	4.5	44%
5	1:2:2.5	3.30 , 3.40 , LA	0	4	55%
6	1:3:5	3.30 , 3.40 , LA	0	5	22%
7	1:2:2.5	3.30 , 3.40 , LA ^b	0	3.5	60%
8	1:2:2.5	3.30 , 3.40 , LA	-40	3.5	23%
9	1:2:2.5	3.30 , 3.40 , LA	-10	3.5	38%

LA: Lewis Acid, ^aAlcohol **3.40** was added dropwise over 5 min. ^b**3.30a** was generated in situ from propargyl alcohol and dicobalt octacarbonyl.

Efforts were made to increase mass balance and decrease material on the baseline of the TLC by lowering the reaction temperature. The reaction was performed at -40 °C and -10 °C, which afforded **3.42** in 23% and 38% yield, respectively (Entries 8, 9). Both of these experiments were quenched after 3.5 h because degradation of the product was observed over time by TLC. Further experiments showed that extended reaction times resulted in lower yields suggesting that **3.42** may not be stable in the reaction media.

All experiments also afforded byproduct **3.43** resulting from homodimerization of excess **3.30a** (Figure 20).¹⁰¹ Formation of this byproduct is the reason the nucleophilic species has

traditionally been used in high excess compared to the cobalt complex. However, byproduct **3.43** is non-polar and easily separable from **3.42** using column chromatography.

Figure 20. Homodimerization of 3.30a results in byproduct 3.43.

Decomplexation of Co₂(CO)₆-alkynes can be accomplished using an oxidant such as CAN. Stirring **3.42** with CAN for 10 minutes afforded **3.44** in 97% yield without the need for purification (Scheme 60). NMO was also employed as an oxidant but resulted in decomposition of **3.42**. ¹⁰² Evidence of cobalt decomplexation can be easily observed by comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for the cobalt complex and resulting alkyne. For the cobalt-complexed alkyne **3.42**, the hydrogen on the terminus of the alkyne is observed at 6.01 ppm. The corresponding proton of **3.44** is shifted up-field to 2.39 ppm when the alkyne is decomplexed. Also, the carbonyl ligands bound to cobalt can be observed at 199.8 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectrum for the complexed alkyne **3.42**; this signal disappears upon decomplexation.

Scheme 60. Decomplexation of 3.42 to afford propargyl ether 3.44.

3.2.3 Testing the scope and limitations of the Nicholas reaction conditions on amino acid derived nucleophiles

Next, we sought to establish the generality of these efficient Nicholas reaction conditions for the propargylation of a range of heteroatomic nucleophiles. Amino acids residues were chosen for these experiments due to the wide variety of functionality available in a single compound class. In addition, alkyne-containing amino acid residues have been used in many click-chemistry applications. Alkynyl groups are most commonly installed onto amino acid residues by alkylating a heteroatom containing side chain using basic conditions, or by transforming the C-terminus carboxylic acid into an alkyne via Corey-Fuchs or Seyferth-Gilbert protocols. Therefore, the Nicholas reaction would provide a viable alternative for the synthesis of these unnatural alkynylated residues.

N,O-protected amino acid derivatives were employed to examine reactions with the heteroatomic side chains. Continuing our investigation of aliphatic alcohols, *N*-Boc and *N*-Fmoc serine methyl esters **3.45a,b** were subjected to the Nicholas reaction by our collaborator, John Widen (Table 9). Stirring of *N*-Boc-L-serine methyl ester (**3.45a**) with Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol (generated *in situ*) and BF₃•OEt₂ resulted in only a 20% yield of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl ether **3.46a** (Entry 1). Further analysis revealed that the majority of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol had been consumed, presumably due to the competing homodimerization, and 76% of serine **3.45a** was recovered. Subjecting *N*-Fmoc-L-serine ethyl ester (**3.45b**) gave a similar result, where Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl ether **3.46b** was obtained in 29% yield and 63% of **3.46b** was recovered (Entry 4). It was clear that the cobalt complexed propargylium ion was reacting faster with excess Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** than with the hydroxyl group of serine.

Through our weekly collaboration discussions, we decided to try alternative sources of the propargylium ion that would not undergo homodimerization. Many substituted oxygens have been employed in the Nicholas reaction as leaving groups, including but not limited to esters (Ac, Bz, Piv, MS, and Tf) as well as cyclic and non-cyclic ethers (Me, Bn, and TBS). We chose to test the dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexes of propargyl acetate (3.30b) and methyl

propargyl ether (3.30c) in the reactions with the serine derivatives 3.45a,b. Both reactions of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl acetate 3.30b with 3.45a and 3.45b in the presence of BF₃•OEt₂ successfully afforded the Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl ethers 3.46a and 3.46b in 29% and 23% yield respectively, similar to the results obtained when Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol 3.30a was employed (Entries 2 and 5). However, using Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether 3.30c as the precursor for the propargylium cation resulted in significant improvements; 3.46a was afforded in 97% yield, a 5-fold increase compared to the use of propargyl alcohol (Entry 3), while 3.46b was afforded in 54% yield, representing a 2-fold increase in yield (Entry 6). By eliminating the possible homodimerization reaction of the propargylium ion, the hydroxyl group of the serine derivatives became the prominent nucleophilic species. Oxidative decomplexation of 3.46a,b with CAN readily gave propargyl ethers 3.47a and 3.47b, both in 90% yield (Scheme 61).

Table 9. Propargylation of *N*-protected serine methyl esters **3.45a,b.**

MeO
$$\stackrel{\text{(OC)}_6\text{Co}_2}{\stackrel{\text{N}}{\text{R}}}$$
 $\stackrel{\text{(OC)}_6\text{Co}_2}{\stackrel{\text{OR'}}{\text{BF}_3 \bullet \text{OEt}_2 \text{ DCM, 0 °C,}}}$ $\stackrel{\text{MeO}}{\stackrel{\text{N}}{\text{N}}}$ $\stackrel{\text{MeO}}{\stackrel{\text{N}}{\text{R}}}$ $\stackrel{\text{MeO}}{\stackrel{\text{N}}{\text{N}}}$ $\stackrel{\text{R}}{\text{R}}$

Entry	R	R'	Yield 3.46 (%)
1	Boc (3.45a)	H (3.30a)	20
2	Boc	Ac (3.30b)	29
3	Boc	Me (3.30c)	97
4	Fmoc (3.45b)	H	29
5	Fmoc	Ac	23
6	Fmoc	Me	54

Scheme 61. Oxidative decomplexation to afford alkynyl serine derivatives 3.47a,b.

Next, the Nicholas reaction conditions were applied to the propargylation of cysteine residues. While thiols have been used previously in the Nicholas reaction, examples have been limited, with most reports pertaining to the synthesis of sulfur containing macrocycles. 104 Cysteine residues have never been employed in the Nicholas reaction. Towards this end, *N*-protected cysteine ethyl esters **3.49a,b** were prepared (Scheme 62). *N*-Acetyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester **3.49a** was obtained in 33% yield, from L-cysteine ethyl ester hydrochloride **3.48** using *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (DIEA) and acetyl chloride. This procedure has been previously used for the synthesis of *N*-acetyl-L-cysteine methyl ester. 105 *N*-Fmoc-L-cysteine ethyl ester **3.49b** was also prepared from **3.48** in 66% yield using DIEA and Fmoc-OSu.

Scheme 62. Synthesis of *N*-protected cysteine ethyl esters 3.49a,b.

These cysteine derivatives were first subjected to the Nicholas reaction with Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a**. In the presence of **3.30a** (generated *in situ*) and BF₃•OEt₂, *N*-acetyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester **3.49a** readily afforded Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl thioether **3.50a** in 86% yield (Table 10, Entry 1). *N*-Fmoc-L-cysteine ethyl ester **3.49b** afforded cysteine derivative **3.50b** in 71% yield (Entry 2). A comparison was made between the use of propargyl alcohol complex **3.30a** and methyl propargyl ether complex **3.30c** for the synthesis of the Fmoc-cysteine example **3.50b**. Reacting **3.49b** with complex **3.30c**, formed *in situ*, gave a moderate yield of 58% for formation of **3.50b** (Entry 3). Alternatively, when Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether complex **3.30c** was prepared prior to the reaction, **3.50b** was afforded in 67% yield (Entry 4). Overall, we concluded that for the cysteine examples, methyl propargyl ether complex **3.30c** gives comparable results to the use of propargyl alcohol complex **3.30a**. The increased nucleophilicity

of the sulfhydryl group compared to the hydroxyl groups likely minimizes the competing homodimerization of **3.30a**.

Table 10. Propargylation of cysteine derivatives **3.49**.

Entry	R	R'	Time	Yield 3.50 (%)
1	Ac (3.49a)	Н	2 h	86
2	Fmoc (3.49b)	Н	45 min	71
3	Fmoc	Me	2 h	58
4	Fmoc	Me^a	2 h	67

^aCo₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether was prepared prior to the reaction.

Both Co₂(CO)₆-alkynes **3.50a** and **3.50b** underwent oxidative decomplexation with CAN which gave propargyl thioethers **3.51a** and **3.51b** in 83% and 92% respectively (Scheme 63). The reactions were clean, with no evidence of byproducts. We were concerned that the sulfur atoms may undergo oxidation in the presence of CAN to afford sulfoxides, however, this was not observed. The chemical shift for the α-hydrogens to the sulfur atom (H_a) were at about 3.1 ppm for all four compounds **3.50a,b** and **3.51a,b**. We would have expected the chemical shift of H_a to move downfield if the sulfur had been oxidized. Mass spec data obtained for **3.51a** and **3.51b** also confirmed the structures.

Scheme 63. Oxidative decomplexation for the formation of alkynyl cysteine derivatives 3.51a,b.

Phenolic nucleophiles were then examined by employing tyrosine amino acid derivatives.

Only one example exists where a phenol was used as a nucleophile in a Nicholas reaction; during

the synthesis of unsymmetrical ethers, Co₂(CO)₆-hex-5-en-2-yn-1-ol (**3.52**) was reacted with BF₃•OEt₂ in the presence of phenol (**3.53**), followed by a cobalt decomplexation with CAN to afford the ether **3.54** in 60% yield.⁹⁷

Scheme 64. Previous example of a phenolic nucleophile in the Nicholas reaction.

To evaluate the phenolic side chains of tyrosine in the Nicholas reaction, *N*-Boc- and *N*-Fmoc-L-tyrosine methyl esters **3.55a,b** were employed. When our collaborator, John Widen, subjected *N*-Boc-L-tyrosine methyl ester **3.55a** to the Nicholas reaction conditions using Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a**, the desired product **3.56a** was obtained consistently in 45% yield (Table 11, Entry 1). **3.55a** was recovered in 22% while complex **3.30a** was fully consumed, due to homodimerization. A byproduct was also been observed during the reaction, but was not isolated. When I repeated this reaction, I also observed two major products by TLC. The desired product **3.56a** was obtained in 32% yield but the byproduct appeared to be unstable and was only obtained in trace amounts. After careful NMR analysis, we determined this byproduct to be **3.57** (Figure 21), presumably resulting from an electrophilic aromatic substitution process.

A key ¹H NMR signal that led to the structure assignment was a new aromatic singlet at 6.95 ppm (H_a). Also, the integration of the aromatic protons totaled three. In addition, the signals at 6.07 and 4.10 ppm correspond to the presence of the Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne (H_d, H_h). The remaining proton assignments were made by comparison to literature values for **3.55a**. ¹⁰⁶ Based on these assignments, the signal at 4.75 ppm represents phenolic proton (H_f); the presence of this signal also supports the proposed structure of **3.57**. The regiochemistry of the propargyl substitution on the aryl ring was confirmed by comparing the aromatic region in the ¹H NMR

spectrum of **3.57** to the ¹H NMR spectra of 3,4-xylenol and 2,4-xylenol. For these trisubstituted aromatic rings, aromatic protons ortho to the hydroxyl group are observed at about 6.6 ppm while meta protons are observed at about 6.9 ppm. Both byproduct **3.57** and 2,4-xylenol had two aromatic signals at ~6.9 ppm and one aromatic signal at ~6.6 ppm. Also, substitution of **3.55a** at the ortho position in relation to the hydroxyl group is expected when considering electrophilic aromatic substitution cationic intermediates.

Table 11. Propargylation of *N*-protected tyrosine methyl esters **3.55a,b**

Entry	R	R'	Yield 3.56 (%)	Time	Observations
1	Boc (3.55a)	Н	45	1 h	3.55a recovered in 22% Unstable byproduct 3.57 observed by TLC (Figure 21)
2	Boc	Me	23	3 h	Partial decomposition
3	Fmoc (3.55b)	Н	6	1 h	3.55b recovered in 89%
4	Fmoc	Me	73	1 h	

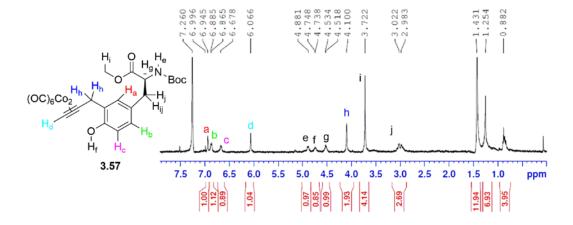


Figure 21. ¹H NMR analysis of electrophilic aromatic substitution byproduct 3.57.

To avoid homodimerization of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a**, Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether **3.30c** was employed. However, this did not result in an improved yield for the formation of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl *N*-Boc-tyrosine **3.56a**, which was isolated in 23% yield (Table 11, Entry 2). We believe that the Boc protecting group was unstable under the extended reaction time required; a significant amount of baseline material was observed after the reaction. BF₃•OEt₂ has been reported as a viable deprotecting agent for Boc groups.¹⁰⁷

However, for the conversion of *N*-Fmoc-L-tyrosine methyl ester **3.55b** to the corresponding Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl phenyl ether **3.56b**, the precursor for the propargylium ion made a significant difference. When propargyl alcohol complex **3.30a** was used, **3.56b** was isolated in 6% yield and 89% of **3.55b** was recovered (Entry 3). Alternatively, the reaction with methyl propargyl ether complex **3.30c** afforded **3.56b** in 73% yield (Entry 4). Evidence of a byproduct, presumably formed via electrophilic aromatic substitution, was also observed by TLC during these reactions with **3.55b**, but was not isolated. The decomplexed propargyl phenyl ether derivative of tyrosine **3.58a** and **3.58b** were successfully obtained from the corresponding cobalt complexes in 75% and 81% respectively (Scheme 65).

Scheme 65. Oxidative decomplexation of tyrosine derivatives 3.56a,b.

In addition to the side chain hydroxyl and sulfhydryl groups, we examined the reactivity unprotected carboxyl and amino functionality of amino acids with the cobalt complexed propargylium ions. *N*-benzoyl-p-phenylalanine (3.59) was used to establish the reactivity of the carboxyl group as a nucleophile in the Nicholas reaction. To date, only two reports of using a

carboxylic acid in a Nicholas reaction have been reported. In the process of studying the use of chiral auxiliaries in the Nicholas reaction, Martin and coworkers transformed propargyl alcohols to propargyl acetates by employing acetic acid as the nucleophilic species. ¹⁰⁸ The Shea group has exploited this reactivity of carboxylic acids for the synthesis of macrocyclic diolides. ¹⁰⁹ Amino acids have never been used in the Nicholas reaction for the synthesis of propargylic esters. *N*-benzoyl-p-phenylalanine **3.59** was reacted with complex **3.30a** (generated *in situ*) and BF₃•OEt₂ to afford the Co₂(CO)₆-propargylic ester **3.60** in 60% yield. Decomplexation of **3.60** with ceric ammonium nitrate generated propargyl ester **3.61** in 90% yield (Scheme 66).

Scheme 66. Use of a carboxylic acid in the Nicholas reaction for formation of propargylic ester 3.61.

Next, a serine derivative, *N*-benzyloxycarbonyl-L-serine (3.62), containing an unprotected carboxylic acid was examined to determine if the cobalt-complexed propargylic cation reacted more readily with the aliphatic alcohol or the carboxylic acid. Bis-propargylated serine 3.63 was obtained as the major product in 42% yield, resulting from alkylation of both the hydroxyl and the carboxyl groups. Co₂(CO)₆-complexed propargyl ester 3.64 was also isolated in 9% yield, suggesting that the carboxylic acid is more reactive than the aliphatic alcohol. When Co₂(CO)₆-diyne 3.63 was reacted with excess CAN, diyne 3.66 was obtained in 94% yield (Scheme 67).

HO
$$\frac{Co_2(CO)_6}{3.30a}$$
 $\frac{(OC)_6Co_2}{BF_3 \bullet OEt_2, DCM}$ $\frac{1}{N} Cbz$ $\frac{1}{N} C$

Scheme 67. Result of employing N-Cbz-L-serine **3.62** in the Nicholas Reaction.

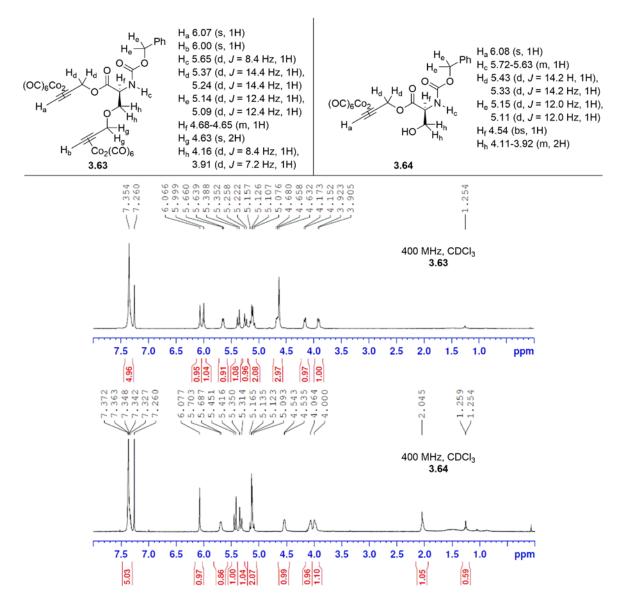


Figure 22. ¹H NMR analysis of Nicholas reaction products 3.63 and 3.64.

Structural assignment of byproduct **3.64** was determined by comparison of its ¹H NMR spectrum with that of Co₂(CO)₆-diyne **3.63** (Figure 22). For both **3.63** and **3.64**, the AB doublets at ~5.1 ppm were assigned to belong to H_e of the Cbz group by comparison to the *N*-Cbz-L-serine **3.62**. For diyne **3.63**, the singlet at 6.07 (H_a) and doublets at 5.37 and 5.24 ppm (H_d) represent the propargyl ester group, shifted downfield compared to the propargyl ether signals H_b and H_g (singlet at 6.00 ppm and signal at 4.63 ppm respectively). Analysis of the byproduct **3.64** spectrum revealed propargyl signals represented by a singlet at 6.08 ppm (H_a) and doublets at 5.43 and 5.33 ppm (H_d) consistent with the propargyl ester signals of **3.63**.

Next, amino groups were subjected to the Nicholas reaction conditions. When L-proline methyl ester (3.67) was reacted with Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol 3.30a and BF₃•OEt₂, Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl amine 3.68 was not obtained. TLC analysis showed that upon addition of the Lewis acid, L-proline methyl ester 3.67 was no longer present, but no product were observed (Table 12, Entry 1). We concluded that BF₃•OEt₂ immediately coordinates with the amine, preventing formation of 3.68. Next, Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether 3.30c was employed and stirred with BF₃•OEt₂ for 30 minutes, prior to addition of proline derivative 3.67, however this experiment also resulted in no formation of 3.68 (Entry 2).

For some previous Nicholas reaction reports where an amino group was used as the nucleophile in the Nicholas reaction, formation and isolation of the propargylium ion as a salt was achieved prior to the reaction by reacting the corresponding propargyl alcohol derivative with a protic acid, such as tetrafluoroboric acid (HBF₄). We predicted that if Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether **3.30c** was reacted with HBF₄, tetrafluoroborate salt **3.30d** could be formed *in situ* without homodimerization, thereby allowing an efficient reaction with proline **3.67** to afford the desired product **3.68** (Scheme 68, desired result). To test this hypothesis, **3.30c** was stirred

with HBF₄ until consumed (30 min) followed by addition of proline **3.67** (Table 12, Entry 3). As a result, the **3.68** was not observed and **3.30c** was regenerated (Scheme 68, observed result).

Table 12. Propargylation of L-proline methyl ester 3.67.

Entry	3.30 (equiv)	Acid (equiv)	Comment	Yield
1	3.30a , $R = CH_2OH$ (2 equiv)	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (2.5 equiv)		0%
2	3.30c , $R = CH_2OMe (1.5 \text{ equiv})$	BF ₃ · OEt ₂ (1.5 equiv)	3.30c and BF ₃ · OEt ₂ stirred for 30 min before addition of 3.67	0%
3	3.30c , $R = CH_2OMe (1.5 \text{ equiv})$	HBF ₄ /OEt ₂ (1.5 equiv)	3.30b and HBF ₄ stirred for 30 min before addition of 3.67	0%
4	3.30d , $R = CH_2^+(^{-}BF_4)$ (1.5 equiv)		3.30d used 14 h after isolation	31%
5	3.30d , $R = CH_2^+(^{-}BF_4)$ (1.3 equiv)		3.30d used 14 h after isolation	46%
6	3.30d , $R = CH_2^+(^{-}BF_4)$ (1.3 equiv)		3.30d had been stored in glove box for 2 weeks	19%

Table 12, Entry 3: Desired Result
$$(OC)_6CO_2$$
 OMe HBF_4 H

Scheme 68. Desired result compared to actual result for Entry 3 of Table 12.

In turn, we decided to isolate the tetrafluoroborate propargylium salt **3.30d**. An *Organic Syntheses* procedure for this transformation reacts Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** with HBF₄ in propionic anhydride.¹¹¹ However, in our hands, use of propionic anhydride as the solvent did

not afford salt **3.30d**; precipitation was never observed. As a result we decided to use diethyl ether as the solvent for this transformation because **3.30a** is soluble in ether, while the salt **3.30d** is not. Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** was reacted with HBF₄ in diethyl ether at -10 °C. Precipitation of **3.30d** was observed and removal from the ethereal solution was obtained using a Schlenk filtration apparatus. **3.30d** is sensitive to air and water and therefore was both isolated (57% yield) and stored in a nitrogen filled glove box (Scheme 69).

$$(OC)_6Co_2$$
 OH HBF_4 , Et_2O $OC)_6Co_2$ + BF_4

Scheme 69. Synthesis of propargylium cation tetrafluoroborate salt 3.30d.

L-Proline methyl ester **3.67** was reacted with 1.5 equiv of **3.30d** in DCM at 0°C to successfully afford Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl amine **3.68** in 31% yield after 1.5 h (Table 12, Entry 4). Reducing the amount of **3.30d** to 1.3 equiv increased the yield of **3.68** to 46% (Entry 5). For both of these reactions, salt **3.30d** was used within 14 h of isolation. Over time, the salt changes from a deep red color to a darker maroon/brown color. When salt **3.30d** was reacted with proline **3.67** after being stored in the glove box for 2 weeks, the yield of **3.68** suffered (19%, Entry 6). This revealed that **3.30d** is unstable, even when stored under nitrogen.

With **3.68** in hand, decomplexation to obtain the proline derived propargyl amine **3.69** was attempted. Unfortunately, **3.69** was determined to be unstable (Scheme 70). When **3.38** was reacted with 4 equiv of CAN, **3.68** and **3.69** were obtained as a mixture. Increasing the amount of CAN to 5 equivalents resulted in complete decomposition. By reacting **3.68** with 4 equiv of CAN for 1 h, and then an additional 0.5 equiv of CAN for 20 min, **3.69** was obtained in 68% yield and was characterized by NMR spectroscopy, HRMS, and TLC analysis before undergoing non-specific decomposition. Attempts to repeat this result were unsuccessful. Additional

oxidizing agents were examined. Stirring of **3.68** in the presence of trimethylamine oxide¹¹² resulted in decomposition while iron(III) nitrate nonahydrate was unreactive, resulting in recovery of **3.68**.¹¹³

$$CO_2Me$$
 CAN , acetone N CO_2Me N N CO_2Me N

Scheme 70. Decomplexation of proline derivative **3.68**.

Next, L-phenylalanine methyl ester (3.70) was subjected to the Nicholas reaction, allowing us to ascertain the reactivity of primary amino groups as nucleophiles. Reaction of 3.70 with tetrafluoroborate salt 3.30d in DCM at 0 °C fo 1.5 h afforded 3.71 in 59% yield, resulting from dipropargylation of the primary amino group. Decomplexation in the presence of CAN (8 equiv) gave the dipropargyl amine 3.72 in 56% yield (Scheme 71).

Scheme 71. Reaction of L-phenylalanine methyl ester (3.70) with 3.30d followed by decomplexation.

To effect mono-propargylation of primary amines, we increased the steric bulk of the tetrafluoroborate propargylium cation. The Co₂(CO)₆-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol was prepared in 92% yield from **3.73**. In turn, Co₂(CO)₆-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol was stirred with HBF₄ in diethyl ether to afford tetrafluoroborate salt **3.74** in 36% yield (Scheme 72). Addition of L-phenylalanine methyl ester **3.70** to **3.74** afforded the corresponding Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne in 23% yield. No evidence of the dipropragylation product was observed. Decomplexation afforded alkyne **3.75** in 64% yield. Next, one of the most effective nucleophiles tested, *N*-Fmoc-L-cysteine ethyl ester

3.49b was reacted with **3.74** to determine its relative reactivity compared to the use of complex **3.30a** and BF₃•OEt₂. Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne **3.76** was obtained in 55% yield; a moderate yield compared to the 71% yield of **3.50b** without the gem-dimethyl groups obtained when using Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a** and BF₃•OEt₂ (Table 10, Entry 2). Cobalt decomplexation afforded **3.77** in 46% yield.

Scheme 72. Synthesis of 3.74 and its application to the formation of 3.75 and 3.77.

3.2.4 The synthesis of sesquiterpene lactone alkyne probes

Finally, we used the optimized Nicholas reaction conditions for propargylation of high-value substrates to synthesize alkyne probes of sesquiterpene analogs. *trans*-Guaianolide analog **1.83**, which is unstable to basic conditions, was reacted with Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol **3.30a**, formed *in situ*, and BF₃·OEt₂, to afford Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne derivative **3.78** in 46% yield (Scheme 73). Employing complex **3.30a** isolated prior to the reaction gave a lower yield of 30% for **3.78**. Due to the limited quantities of **1.83** available, attempts to synthesize **3.78** using Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether **3.30c** were not carried out, however, this protocol may improve yields. **3.78** was decomplexed using CAN to afford the guaianolide analog alkyne probe **3.79** in quantitative yield.

Scheme 73. Synthesis of guaianolide analog alkyne probe **3.79**.

Next, the synthesis of MelB alkyne probe derivative **3.81** was pursued (Table 13). First, MelB **3.29** was reacted Co₂(CO)₆-proparyl alcohol **3.30a**, formed *in situ*, and BF₃•OEt₂. **3.80** formed immediately, as determined by TLC. However, Mel B **3.29** was not fully consumed so the reaction stirred for 45 min. Over this time, decomposition of Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne **3.80** was observed and isolated in only 20 % yield (Entry 1). Due to the observed product degradation, the reaction was repeated but only allowed to stir for 10 min, which doubled the isolated yield of **3.80** to 41% (Entry 2). Methyl propargyl ether complex **3.30c** was next employed in place of propargyl alcohol complex **3.30a**. When this reaction was allowed to stir for 1.5 h, **3.80** was obtained in 21% yield (Entry 3). Significant degradation had been observed (by TLC) after 40 minutes during this reaction; therefore, the reaction was repeated but stirred for only 40 min which afforded **3.80** in 39% yield. For this example, use of propargyl alcohol and methyl propargyl ether gave comparable results.

Table 13. Synthesis of MelB cobalt complexed alkyne probe **3.80**.

Entry	R (3.30)	Time	Yield (%)
1	H (3.30a)	45 min	20
2	Н	10 min	41
3	Me (3.30c)	1.5 h	21
4	Me	40 min	39

Oxidative decomplexation of Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne **3.80** was the final step towards synthesis of a MelB alkyne probe. Reaction of **3.80** with ceric ammonium nitrate in acetone cleanly afforded **3.81** in 94% yield (Scheme 74).

Scheme 74. Oxidative decomplexation of 3.80 to afford propargylated Mel B 3.81.

3.3 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the Nicholas reaction offers an acid-mediated propargylation strategy for the preparation of biologically relevant alkyne probes. Conditions were optimized to allow high-value small molecules to be employed as the limiting reagent compared to the cobalt complexed propargyl synthons and Lewis acid. A variety of heteroatom nucleophiles can be propargylated using this method, including hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amino, and carboxyl groups. The corresponding alkynyl derivatives were obtained after oxidative decomplexation using ceric ammonium nitrate.

Multiple cobalt complexed propargylium ion precursors were compared for various nucleophilic species. Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed propargyl alcohol is the preferred precursor for highly reactive nucleophilic species due to its low cost and volatility compared to methyl propargyl ether. However, for less nucleophilic heteroatoms, use of dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed methyl propargyl ether avoids the competing homodimerization of the propargyl synthon, allowing the desired nucleophilic species to react selectively. Finally,

propargylium tetrafluoroborate salts allow proparylation of amino groups. Primary amino groups can be selectively mono- or di-propargylated depending on the steric nature of the propargylium salt.

This alternative, non-basic, propargylation protocol was compatible with a wide range of functionality. Both ethyl and methyl carboxyl protecting groups were tolerated but not directly compared. Carboxybenzyl, fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, acetyl, and benzoxy amino protecting groups were well tolerated with some variability in yields observed when various protecting groups were used on the same parent amino acid. *tert*-Buyloxycarbonyl protecting group was tolerated when employed on a serine derivative, however, when used on a tyrosine derivative, evidence of protecting group instability was observed, resulting in low yields of the Nicholas reaction product. The Lewis acid being used, borontrifluoride diethyl etherate has been shown to be an effective deprotecting agent for Boc groups. 107 Functionally dense natural product analogs containing reactive covalent modifiers such as α -methylene- γ -butyrolactones and epoxides were also tolerated, allowing the synthesis of potential biological probes.

3.4 EXPERIMENTALS

3.4.1 General Methods

All commercially available compounds were used as received unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether (Et₂O), and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were purified by passing through alumina using a solvent purification system. Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) was stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF₃•OEt₂) was or

redistilled under a nitrogen atmosphere. Dicobalt octacarbonyl (Co₂(CO)₈) was used as purchased and was stored at -20 °C and opened only in a nitrogen filled glove box. Purification of compounds by manual flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 µm particle size, 60 Å pore size) purchased from Sorbent Technologies. TLC analyses were performed on Silicycle SiliaPlate G silica gel glass plates (250 µm thickness) and visualized by UV irradiation (at 254 nm) and KMnO₄ stain. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 MHz, 400 MHz, 500 MHz, or 600 MHz. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform with or without 0.05% v/v TMS (7.26 ppm, ¹H; 77.16 ppm, ¹³C). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm, multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in hertz (Hz). All NMR spectra were obtained at room temperature. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 (NaCl plate) FT-IR. ESI mass spectrometry was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited.

The synthesis of the following compounds were completed by John Widen, from the Harki group at the University of Minnesota (Figure 23). Characterization for these compounds are included in the manuscript "Alkyne Ligation Handles: Propargylation of Hydroxyl, Sulfhydryl, Amino, and Carboxyl Groups via the Nicholas Reaction," by Sarah M. Wells, John C. Widen, Daniel A. Harki, and Kay M. Brummond, submitted for publication 7/16/2016.

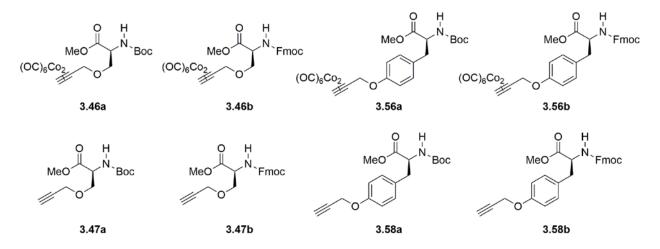


Figure 23. Compounds synthesized and characterized by collaborator John Widen.

3.4.2 General Procedures

$$\begin{array}{c|c} R & \xrightarrow{Co_2(CO)_8} & R & \xrightarrow{Co_2(CO)_6} \end{array}$$

General Procedure 3A: Coordination of alkyne to cobalt carbonyl complex. A single-necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and a septum, was charged with $Co_2(CO)_8$ (1 equiv) in a N_2 filled glove box. The flask was transferred out of the glove box and the septum was pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle. The flask was charged with DCM, followed by the alkyne (1 equiv), dissolved in DCM. The reaction stirred for 2 h, until evolution of CO gas, visible by small bubbles, was no longer observed. The contents were loaded directly onto a silica gel column for purification by flash column chromatography to afford the dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed alkyne ($Co_2(CO)_6$ -alkyne).

$$(OC)_6CO_2$$
 OH $OCCO_2$ $OCCO_3$ $OCCO_4$ $OCCO_6$ $OCCO_2$ $OCCO_4$ $OCCO_5$ $OCCO_4$ $OCCO_5$ OCC

General Procedure 3B: Formation of tetra fluoroborate salts. A flame-dried 100 mL Schlenck flask equipped with a stir bar and septum was charged with either Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol 3.30a or Co₂(CO)₆-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (3.S1), dissolved in Et₂O. The flask was cooled to -10 °C on an ice/acetone bath. Tetrafluoroboric acid (54% by weight soln in Et₂O, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise and the solution stirred for 2 h. Formation of a dark red precipitate was observed. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O. The septum was replaced with a Schlenk filtration apparatus. The apparatus was inverted and partial vacuum was applied to separate the solid from the Et₂O solution within the apparatus. The ether filtrate was removed via syringe and the crystals were dried under vacuum. The apparatus was transferred to the nitrogen filled glove box, where the crystals were isolated and stored.

General Procedure 3C: Nicholas Reaction Procedures

General Procedure 3C.1: Use of pre-made Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne. A single-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar and a septum pierced with a needle was charged with DCM (0.05 M), Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol 3.30a or Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether 3.30c (2 equiv), and the nucleophilic species (1 equiv). The solution was cooled in an ice bath to 0 °C. BF₃•OEt₂ (2.5 equiv) was added dropwise and the reaction stirred until the nucleophile was fully consumed, or the reaction was no longer progressing, as determined by TLC. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated NaHCO₃. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure.

The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the $Co_2(CO)_6$ -alkyne.

R-OH
$$\frac{\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8}{\text{BF}_3 \bullet \text{OEt}_2, \text{ DCM}} R' = \text{H, Me}$$

General Procedure 3C.2: In situ formation of dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed alkyne. A single necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and a septum was charged with Co₂(CO)₈ (2 equiv) in a N₂ filled glove box. The flask was transferred out of the glovebox and the septum was pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle. Either propargyl alcohol or methyl propargyl ether (2 equiv), dissolved in DCM, was added and the reaction stirred for 1.5 h until evolution of CO gas was no longer observed. The solution was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. The nucleophilic species (1 equiv) was dissolved in DCM (0.05 M overall) and added to the flask via syringe, followed by the dropwise addition of BF₃•OEt₂ (2.5 equiv). The reaction stirred until the nucleophilic species was fully consumed, or the reaction was no longer progressing, as determined by TLC. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NaHCO₃. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne.

$$\begin{bmatrix} R \\ R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Co_2(CO)_6 \\ R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R \\ R \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R = H, Me$$

General Procedure 3C.3: Reaction of Tetrafluoroborate salts with nucleophiles. A single-necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and a septum was charged with the propargylium tetrafluoroborate salt (1.3 equiv) in a N₂ filled glove box. The flask was transferred

out of the glove box and the septa was pierced with a N₂ inlet needle. The flask was cooled to 0 °C in an ice and water bath. DCM was added followed by the amino nucleophile (1 equiv) dissolved in DCM (0.05 M overall). The reaction stirred for 2 h or until complete as determined by TLC. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated NaHCO₃. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel; the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne.

General Procedure 3D: Oxidative Decomplexation of Co₂(CO)₆-alkynes. A single-necked, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and a septum pierced with a N₂ inlet needle was charged with the Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne (1 equiv), dissolved in acetone (0.01 M). The solution was cooled in an ice bath to 0° C. Ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN, 5 equiv) was added to the flask in a single portion. The reaction stirred until complete as evidenced by TLC. The reaction was diluted with distilled water and Et₂O. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3x). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. If necessary, the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the alkyne.

3.4.3 Experimental procedures with compound characterization data

cap pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle was charged with a solution of *Z/E* (2.8: 1) allylboronate 3.37 (43 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1 equiv) in toluene (0.7 mL) followed by a solution of 3-phenylpropioaldehyde (33 mg, 0.25 mmol, 2 equiv) in toluene (0.3 mL). The vial was lowered into a preheated oil bath (70 °C) and stirred for 6 d. The solution was cooled to RT and quenched by a 9:1 by volume solution of saturated ammonium chloride and ammonium hydroxide (7 mL). The contents were transferred to a separatory funnel and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 8 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, gravity filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford 18 mg of *trans*-lactone 3.38a, 9 mg of a mixture of *trans*- and *cis*-lactones 3.38a,b (1 : 1.3), and 6 mg of a mixture of *trans*- and *cis*-lactones 3.38a,b (1 : 3.0) in an overall 85% yield, as clear oils. *Cis*- and *trans*-configurations were determined by comparison to previous literature, where an X-ray was obtained for a *trans*-lactone compound.⁴²

Data for 3.38a,b

Trans-3.38a (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.45-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 3H), 6.35 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.91 (m, 4H), 3.20-3.19 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.34 (s, 3H) ppm; Cis-3.38b (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 3H), 6.33 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.90 (m, 4H), 3.24-3.17 (m, 1H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H) ppm;

Impurities seen at 1.55, 1.25, 0.88 ppm.

13C NMR Trans-3.38a (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.4, 137.7, 132.0 (2C), 129.3, 128.5 (2C),

123.3, 121.7, 109.5, 88.0, 85.2, 72.5, 65.0, 64.9, 47.0, 35.8, 27.5, 24.1 ppm;

Cis-3.38b (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.7, 137.7, 132.0 (2C), 129.3, 128.5 (2C), 122.5,

121.7, 109.7, 89.9, 82.3, 71.6, 64.9, 64.8, 43.3, 36.1, 24.5, 23.9 ppm;

Impurities seen at 104.5, 22.8, 14.3 ppm.

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2981, 2930, 2884, 2233, 1771, 1491, 1444, 1264, 1132, 1064, 759, 692 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}O_4$, 313.1434; found, 313.1433;

TLC Trans-3.38a: $R_f = 0.25$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Cis-3.38b: $R_f = 0.18$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV

Trans-3-methylene-4-(3-oxobutyl)-5-(phenylethynyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-

one (3.39). A 2 mL vial equipped with stir bar and cap pierced with a nitrogen

inlet needle was charged with pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate (7 mg, 0.029

mmol, 0.5 equiv), followed by dioxolane trans-S2a (18 mg, 0.058 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in

acetone (1 mL). The vial was lowered into a preheated oil bath (60 °C) and stirred for 15 h.

When the reaction was complete, as evidenced by TLC, the oil bath was removed and the vial

cooled to RT. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc (4 mL). The contents were transferred to a

separatory funnel, and washed with water (2 x 6 mL) followed by brine (6 mL). The organics

were dried over MgSO₄, gravity filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 12 mg of **3.39** in 77% yield as a colorless oil.

Data for **3.39**

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 3H), 6.36 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, J = 2.4

Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.24-3.19 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.64 (m, 2H), 2.17 (s,

3H), 2.16-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.84 (m, 1H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

207.0, 169.1, 137.4, 132.0 (2C), 129.4, 128.6 (2C), 123.3, 121.5, 88.3, 85.0, 72.4,

46.2, 39.7, 30.3, 26.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2921, 2852, 2233, 1769, 1714, 1491, 1444, 1408, 1364, 1268, 1130, 985, 759, 691

cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{17}O_3$, 269.1172; found, 296.1168;

TLC $R_f = 0.22$ (30% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV

4-(3-Hydroxybutyl)-3-methyl-5-(phenylethynyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one

(3.40). A 10 mL, single-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar

and a septum pierced with a needle was charged with ketone 3.39 (52 mg, 0.19

mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in methanol (2.5 mL). The solution was cooled in an ice bath to 0 °C.

Sodium borohydride (11 mg, 0.29 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added in a single portion and the

reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h, until complete as evidenced by TLC. The ice bath was removed and the reaction was quenched by adding 5% AcOH in water solution (6 mL). The reaction contents were transferred to a separatory funnel; the aqueous layer was separated and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 8 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, gravity filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 30-40% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 41 mg of alcohol 3.40 (76% yield) as a colorless oil. The product was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers that were inseparable by column chromatography.

Data for **3.40**

<u>1H NMR</u> (600 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 3H), 4.82 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90-3.83 (m, 1H), 2.34 (dq, J = 10.8, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.33-2.24 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.85 (m, 0.5H)*, 1.81-1.58 (m, 3.5 H), 1.35 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1.5H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1.5H)*, 1.24 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1.5H), 1.23 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1.5H)* ppm

Trace impurities are observed at 6.4, 5.7, 5.0, 4.7, 3.0, 2.1 ppm.

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

177.8, 131.9 (2C), 129.2, 128.6 (2C), 121.8, 88.0, 85.00, 84.97*, 73.02, 73.01*, 68.1, 67.8*, 51.0, 50.8*, 41.3, 36.6, 36.4*, 28.3, 28.1*, 24.0, 23.9*, 14.6, 14.5* ppm;

* Discernable signal for 1 of 2 diastereomers

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3430, 3059, 2969, 2934, 2360, 2232, 1780, 1491, 1456, 1331, 1166, 992, 759, 692 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{21}O_3$, 273.1485; found, 273.1468;

TLC $R_f = 0.24$ (40% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

OC)₆Co₂ OH Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed propargyl alcohol 3.30a.⁹⁴ Followed general procedure 3A: Co₂(CO)₈ (793 mg, 2.3 mmol, 1.3 equiv), DCM (1.5 mL), propargyl alcohol (0.10 mL, 1.8 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in DCM (2.5 mL). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. The silica gel flash column chromatography was run with a gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes to afford 615 mg of Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol 3.30a in quantitative yield, as a dark red solid.

Data for 3.30a

<u>MP</u> 48-52 °C

1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.08 (s, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H) ppm;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.28 (10% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible (red)

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (3.S1). Followed general procedure 3A: Co₂(CO)₈ (1.37 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DCM (15 mL), 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (344 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in DCM (5 mL). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. The silica gel flash column chromatography was run with a gradient of 10-30% EtOAc in hexanes to afford 1.36 g of Co₂(CO)₆-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol **3.S1** in 92% yield, as a red solid.

Data for 3.S1

<u>MP</u> 37.9-40.1 °C

1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.03 (s, 1H), 1.71 (s, 1H), 1.59 (s, 6H) ppm;

Impurities observed at 1.54, 1.27, 0.88 ppm

TLC $R_f = 0.26$ (20% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible (red)

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed methyl propargyl ether 3.30c. Followed general procedure 3A: Co₂(CO)₈ (195 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1 equiv), DCM (1.5 mL), methyl propargyl (40 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in DCM (3.0 mL). The reaction was stirred for 1.5 h. The silica gel flash column chromatography was run with a gradient of 0-2.5% Et₂O in hexanes to afford 94 mg of 3.30c in 45% yield, as a dark red oil. Drying under high vacuum was not performed due to volatility.

<u>Data for **3.30c**</u>

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.06 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 3.49 (s, 3H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.59$ (10% Et₂O in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible (red)

[OC)₆CO₂ + BF₄ α-(Ethynyl)dicobalt hexacarbonyl carbonium tetrafluoroborate salt 3.30d.⁹⁴ Follows General procedure 3B: Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol (500 mg, 1.46 mmol, 1 equiv), Et₂O (5 mL), HBF₄ (356 mg of a 54% by weight soln in Et₂O, 2.19 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The reaction was diluted with Et₂O (20 mL) prior to filtration and drying

which afforded 601 mg of salt 3.30d in 60% yield as a red solid. Due to sensitivity to water and air, the salt was stored in the glove box and used within 24 h of isolation for

 $\begin{bmatrix} (OC)_6Co_2 & \downarrow \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & \\ & &$

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed 3-methyl-5-(phenylethynyl)-4-(3-

salt 3.74.94 Follows General procedure 3B: Co₂(CO)₆-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol 3.S1 (774 mg, 2.09 mmol, 1 equiv), Et₂O (10 mL), HBF₄ (509 mg of a 54% by weight in Et₂O, 3.14 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The reaction was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) prior to filtration and drying which afforded 558 mg of salt 3.74 in 61% yield as a red solid. Due to sensitivity to water and air, the salt was stored in the glove box and used within 24 h of isolation for best results.

(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)butyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3.42). Method A: Follows general procedure 3C.1: Co₂(CO)₆-propargyl alcohol complex **3.30a** (25 mg, 0.073 mmol, 2 equiv), alcohol **3.40** (10 mg, 0.037 mmol, 1 equiv), DCM (0.75 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (11.6 μL, 0.93 mmol, 2.5 equiv) The reaction stirred for 4 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 12 mg of 3.42 in 55% yield as a dark red/brown oil. Method B: Follows general procedure 3C.2: propargyl alcohol (3.7 µL, 0.064 mmol, 2.2 equiv), DCM (0.36 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (20 mg, 0.058 mmol, 2 equiv), alcohol **3.40** (8 mg, 0.029 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in DCM (0.25 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (9.1 µL, 0.073 mmol, 2.5 equiv). The reaction stirred for 3.5 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 10 mg of 3.42 in 60% yield as a dark red/brown oil. The product

Data for **3.42**

was a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers that were inseparable by column chromotography.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 3H), 6.01 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 9.0Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 13.0, 4.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.51 (d, J = 13.0, 1H), 3.71-3.64 (m, 1H), 2.34-2.19 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 0.5H)*, 1.80-1.61 (m, 3.5H), 1.33 (d, J =6.8 Hz, 1.5H), 1.32 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.5H)*, 1.24 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1.5H), 1.23 (d, J =6.3 Hz, 1.5H)* ppm;

* Discernable signal for one of two diastereomers

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.8 (6C), 177.9, 131.9 (2C), 129.2, 128.5 (2C), 121.9, 92.7, 87.9, 85.1, 75.2, 75.0*, 73.1, 71.3, 68.6, 51.2, 51.0*, 41.3, 34.5, 34.3*, 27.8, 27.5*, 19.3, 14.6, 14.4* ppm;

IR (thin film)

> 2971, 2934, 2094, 2052, 2022, 1784, 1491, 1456, 1377, 1327, 1164, 1086, 992, 758, 691 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₂O₉Co₂Na, 618.9820; found, 618.9807;

 $R_f = 0.47$ (20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) TLC

Silica gel, visible, UV

3-Methyl-5-(phenylethynyl)-4-(3-(prop-2-yn-1-

yloxy)butyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3.44). **Follows** general procedure 3D: cobalt complex 3.42 (15 mg, 0.025 mmol, 1 equiv), acetone (3.0 mL), and CAN (69 mg, 0.13 mmol, 5 equiv) The reaction stirred for 30 min. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (15% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 8 mg of alkyne **9** in 97% yield as a clear oil. The product was a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers that were inseparable by column chromatography.

Data for 9

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 3H), 4.83 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.21 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 0.5 H)*, 4.122 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 0.5H), 4.115 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 0.5H)*, 3.74-3.66 (m, 1H), 2.394 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 0.5H), 2.387 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 0.5H)*, 2.33-2.31 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 0.5H)*, 1.77-1.67 (m 3.5H), 1.35 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.5H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.5H)*, 1.19 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1.5H), 1.17 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1.5H)* ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

177.9, 131.93 (2C), 131.91 (2C)*, 129.2, 128.6 (2C), 121.8, 87.9, 85.0, 80.4, 74.1, 73.7, 73.1, 55.8, 55.7*, 51.0, 50.6*, 41.3, 34.2, 19.2, 14.7, 14.5* ppm;

* Discernable signal for one of two diastereomers

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3291, 2924, 2853, 2232, 1780, 1491, 1457, 1166, 1076, 992, 759, 692 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}O_3$, 311.1642; found, 311.1631;

<u>TLC</u> $R_f = 0.50$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV active

N-acetyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.49a). Prepared in an analogous manner to that reported for synthesis of N-acetyl-L-cysteine methyl ester. To a flame-dried, single-necked, 50 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and septum pierced with a

N₂ inlet needle was added acetonitrile (25 mL) and L-cysteine ethyl ester hydrochloride (**3.48**, 500 mg, 2.70 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The flask was cooled to 0 °C on an ice/water bath. DIEA (0.43 mL, 2.45 mmol, 1 equiv) was added, followed by acetyl chloride (0.17 mL, 2.45 mmol, 1 equiv) and the reaction was stirred for 30 min. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl (20 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and the aqueous was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined organics were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (15 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude NMR showed a small amount of disulfide byproduct. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (60% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (153 mg, 33%). Characterization data matches that previously reported.¹¹⁴

Data for **3.49a**.

6.35 (bs, 1H), 4.87 (ddd, J = 7.6, 4.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.32-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.03, (dd, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.09-2.04 (m, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;

Dicobalt octacarbonyl complexed *N*-acetyl-*S*-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)cysteine ethyl ester (3.50a). Followed general procedure 3C.2: Co₂(CO)₈ (107 mg, 0.31 mmol), propargyl alcohol (18 mg, 0.314 mmol) dissolved in DCM (1.5 mL), *N*-acetyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.49a)^{105, 114} (30 mg, 0.16 mmol) in DCM (1.5 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (49 μL, 0.39 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to yield 70 mg of 13c in 86% yield, as a red oil.

<u>Data for **3.50a**</u>

 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.31 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 4.87-4.85 (m, 1H), 4.25-4.23 (m, 2H), 4.02-4.02

3.91 (m, 2H), 3.19 (dd, J = 13.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 13.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H),

2.03 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.5 (6 C), 170.8, 170.0, 92.0, 73.4, 62.2, 52.2, 36.8, 34.7, 23.3, 14.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3295, 2984, 2093, 2052, 2020, 1742, 1655, 1543, 1374, 1208, 1032 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₅O₉NCo₂NaS, 537.9024; found, 537.9035;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.55 \ (50\% \ ethyl \ acetate \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, visible, UV

N-acetyl-S-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)cysteine ethyl ester (3.51a). Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne 3.50a (23 mg, 0.045 mmol), acetone (4.0 mL), and CAN (99 mg, 0.18 mmol). The reaction was complete after 10 min of stirring. The work-up afforded 9 mg of alkyne 3.51a in 83% yield as a colorless oil. Further purification was not performed.

<u>Data for **3.51a**</u>

 $\frac{1}{1}$ H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.42 (bs, 1H), 4.86 (dt, J = 7.5, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (dd, J

= 17.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, 3.25-3.21 (m, 2H), 3.14 (dd, J = 14.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (t, J

= 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

170.9, 170.3, 79.4, 72.1, 62.2, 51.9, 33.9, 23.3, 20.0, 14.3 ppm;

Impurity present at 29.8 ppm

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3287, 2919, 2850, 2361, 1739, 1660, 1539, 1374, 1213, 1028 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{10}H_{16}O_3NS$, 230.0845; found, 230.0846;

TLC $R_f = 0.23$ (50% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, potassium permanganate

N-Fluorenylmoethyloxycarbonyl-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.49b). A flame-eloy with the combined organics were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (15 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄, gravity filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude material was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 120 mg of 3.49b in 66% yield as a white solid.

Data for **3.49b**

MP 119-121 °C

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (app tt, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.69 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.63 (m, 1H), 4.47-4.40 (m, 2H), 4.30-4.23 (m, 3H), 3.03-3.00 (m, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

170.1, 155.8, 144.0, 143.8, 141.49, 141.46, 127.9 (2 C), 127.2 (2 C), 125.24, 125.19, 120.18, 120.16, 67.2, 62.2, 55.3, 47.3, 27.3, 14.4 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3337, 3065, 2981, 1723, 1513, 1450, 1339, 1204, 1035, 759, 741 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{22}O_4NS$, 372.1264; found, 372.1267;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.28 \; (20\% \; \text{ethyl acetate in hexanes})$

Silica gel, UV

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed N-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)-S-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.50b). Method A: Followed general procedure 3C.2: (55 mg, 0.16 mmol), propargyl alcohol (9 mg, 0.16 mmol), DCM (1.1 mL), N-Fmoc-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.49b) (30.0 mg, 0.081 mmol) dissolved in DCM (0.6 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (25 Co₂(CO)₈ μL, 0.20 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 45 min. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 40 mg of 3.50b in 71% yield, as a red oil. Method B: Followed general procedure 3C.1: Co₂(CO)₆-methyl propargyl ether 3.30c (45 mg, 0.13 mmol), DCM (0.6 mL), N-Fmoc-L-cysteine ethyl ester (3.49b) (24 mg, 0.063 mmol)

dissolved in dichloromethane (0.6 mL), and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (20 μ L, 0.156 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 2 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% diethyl ether in hexanes) to afford 29 mg of **3.50b** in 67% yield.

<u>Data for **3.50b**</u>

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.66 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (dt, J = 7.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44-4.35 (m, 2H), 4.28-4.22 (m, 3H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 3.19 (dd, J = 14.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 14.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.5 (6 C), 170.7, 155.9, 143.93, 143.86, 141.5 (2 C), 127.9 (2 C), 127.2 (2 C), 125.2 (2 C), 120.2 (2 C), 92.1, 73.4, 67.5, 62.3, 53.9, 47.3, 36.9, 35.1, 14.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3345, 3070, 2923, 2094, 2053, 2023, 1726, 1507, 1450, 1339, 1204, 1052, 759, 741 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{29}H_{24}O_{10}NCo_2S$, 695.9779; found, 695.9745;

 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{Silica gel, visibile, UV}}$

Cysteinate (3.51b). Followed general procedure D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne 3.50b (22 mg, 0.032 mmol), acetone (3.5 mL), and CAN (69 mg, 0.13 mmol). The reaction was

complete after 10 min of stirring. The work-up afforded 12 mg of alkyne **3.51b** in 92% yield as an off white oil. Further purification was not performed.

<u>Data for **3.51b**</u>

 $\frac{1}{1} \text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.77 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (app tt, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 5.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dt, J = 8.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.46-4.38 (m, 2H), 4.28-4.23 (m, 3H), 3.32-3.22 (m, 2H), 3.22 (dd, J = 14.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, J = 14.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (t, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J =

Impurities observed at 1.2, 0.9 ppm.

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;

170.8, 155.9, 144.0, 143.9, 141.5 (2 C), 127.9 (2 C), 127.2 (2 C), 125.2 (2 C), 120.2 (2 C), 79.4, 72.1, 67.3, 62.2, 53.7, 47.3, 34.0, 20.1, 14.3 ppm;

Impurity observed at 29.8 ppm.

 \underline{IR} (thin film)

3291, 2924, 1723, 1517, 1450, 1339, 1210, 1051, 760, 741 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+ \ calcd \ for \ C_{23}H_{24}O_4NS, \ 410.1421; \ found, \ 410.1424;$

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.26 \ (20\% \ ethyl \ acetate \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, UV

Co₂(CO)₆-N-[(1,1-dimethylethoxy)carbonyl]-O-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-L-tyrosine methyl ester (3.56a). Method A: Follows general procedure 3C.2: propargyl alcohol (11 mg, 0.20 mmol), DCM (1.1

mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (69 mg, 0.20 mmol), *N*-Boc-L-tyrosine methyl ester **3.55a** (30 mg, 0.10 mmol)¹⁰⁶ and BF₃•OEt₂ (32 μL, 0.26 mmol). The reaction stirred for 2 h. Both **3.56a** and **3.57** were observed by TLC. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 20 mg of **3.56a** in 32% yield as a dark red/brown oil. Byproduct **3.57** was only isolated in trace amounts. The ¹H NMR of this sample of **S6** is included in the spectra section. Further characterization was not obtained due to small amounts.

This experiment was also performed by John Widen who consistently obtained **3.56a** in 45% yield.

Method B: Follows general procedure 3C.2: methyl propargyl ether (19 mg, 0.27 mmol), dichloromethane (2.0 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (93 mg, 0.27 mmol), *N*-Boc-L-tyrosine methyl ester **3.55a** (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) and BF₃•OEt₂ (42 μL, 0.34 mmol). The reaction stirred for 3 h. Both **3.56a** and **3.57** were observed by TLC. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 15-30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford 19 mg of **3.56a** in 23% yield as a dark red/brown oil. Large amounts of baseline material was observed.

Data for 3.56a (obtained by John Widen)

<u>1H NMR</u> (500 MHz, CDCl₃):

7.05 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 4.95

(bs, 1H), 4.55 (bs, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.03 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H) ppm

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):

199.3 (6 C), 172.4, 157.3, 155.1, 130.4 (2C), 128.6, 114.7 (2C), 89.5, 79.9, 71.7,

68.2, 54.5, 52.2, 37.5, 28.3 (3 C) ppm

Impurities seen at 129.7, 124.2, 28.8, 26.7

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3445, 3368, 2979, 2956, 2929, 2097, 2056, 1746, 1716, 1612, 1585, 1510, 1445, 1392, 1367, 1244, 1216, 1172, 1111, 1059, 1018, 839, 779, 519, 497 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+Na]⁺ calc'd for C₂₄H₂₃Co₂NO₁₀Na 625.9878 m/z; found 625.9877 m/z;

 $\frac{TLC}{R_f} = 0.44 \ (20\% \ ethyl \ acetate \ in \ hexanes)$ Silica gel, visible, UV

Data for 3.57 (obtained by Sarah Wells)

6.95 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.70-6.62 (m, 1H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 4.91-4.87 (m, 1 H), 4.79-4.71 (m, 1H), 4.58-4.49 (m, 1H), 4.10 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.08-2.92 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H) ppm;

TLC $R_f = 0.26$ (20% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible, UV

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl prop-2-yn-1-yl benzoylphenylalaninate complex (3.60). Follows general procedure 3C.2: propargyl alcohol (11 mg, 0.20 mmol), DCM (1.1 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (69 mg, 0.20 mmol), *N*-benzoyl-p-phenylalanine (3.59) (27 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in DCM (1.0 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (32 μL, 0.26 mmol). The reaction stirred for 2 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 35 mg of 3.60 in 60% yield as a dark red oil.

<u>Data for **3.60**</u>

 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.55 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 2H), 5.44 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (dt, J = 7.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, J = 14.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.1 (6C), 171.5, 166.9, 135.9, 134.0, 131.9, 129.5 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 127.5, 127.2 (2C), 87.2, 72.4, 66.8, 53.8, 38.0 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3031, 2925, 2097, 2056, 2025, 1746, 1647, 1531, 1487, 1178, 700 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{17}O_9NCo_2$, 615.9460; found, 615.9453;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.34 \ (20\% \ \text{ethyl acetate in hexanes})$

Silica gel, visible, UV

Prop-2-yn-1-yl benzoylphenylalaninate (3.61). Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne 3.60 (20 mg, 0.034 mmol), acetone (2.5 mL), and CAN (75 mg, 0.138 mmol). The reaction was complete after 10 min of stirring. Reaction work up afforded 10 mg of pure alkyne 3.61 as a white sticky solid in 90% yield. Purification by silica gel column was not performed.

<u>Data for **3.61**</u>

 $\underline{^{1}\text{H NMR}}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.72-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dt, J = 7.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.82

(dd, J = 15.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J = 13.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 13.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; Impurities seen at 1.43, 1.25, 0.88 ppm.

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

171.0, 167.0, 135.7, 134.0, 132.0, 129.6 (2C), 128.83 (2C), 128.80 (2C), 127.5, 127.2 (2C), 77.1, 75.8, 53.5, 53.0, 37.9 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3396, 3277, 3070, 2920, 2851, 2131, 1762, 1647, 1521, 1488, 1205, 1171 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{17}O_3N$, 308.1281; found, 308.1282;

 $\frac{TLC}{}$ R_f = 0.21 (20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) Silica gel, UV

$$(OC)_6Co_2$$

$$Co_2(CO)_6$$

$$OCD_6Co_2$$

$$OC$$

Dicobalt hexacarbonyl complexed prop-2yn-1-yl N-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)-O-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-L-serinate (3.63) and Dicobalt

hexacarbonyl complexed prop-2-yn-1-yl ((benzyloxy)carbonyl)-L-serinate (3.64). Follows general procedure C2: propargyl alcohol (23 mg, 0.42 mmol), DCM (3.5 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (143 mg, 0.42 mmol), *N*-benzyloxycarbonyl-L-serine 3.62 (50 mg, 0.21 mmol), additional DCM (0.7 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (65 μL, 0.52 mmol). The reaction stirred for 1.5 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 78 mg of 3.63 in 42% yield as a dark red oil and11 mg of 3.64 (9% yield) as a dark red oil.

Data for **3.63**

 $\underline{^{1}\text{H NMR}}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.35 (s, 5H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.68-4.65 (m, 1H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 4.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.5 (6C), 199.1 (6C), 169.8, 156.1, 136.4, 128.7 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 128.1, 90.2, 87.5, 72.3, 72.1, 71.4, 70.8, 67.2, 67.0, 54.6 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3452, 3093, 2934, 2097, 2055, 1024, 1729, 1507, 1332, 1195, 1112, 1065 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₉H₁₇O₁₇NCo₄Na, 909.7717; found, 909.7753;

 \underline{TLC} R_f = 0.27 (10% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible, UV

<u>Data for **3.64**</u>

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.37-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.70 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (d, J = 14.2 H, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (br s, 1H), 4.11-3.92 (m, 2H), 2.05 (br s, 1H) ppm;

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.1 (6C), 170.3, 156.3, 136.2, 128.7 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 128.3, 87.4, 72.4, 67.4, 66.9, 63.4, 56.2 ppm;

IR (thin film)

3439, 3091, 2933, 2360, 2098, 2057, 2026, 1725, 1521, 1456, 1333, 1191, 1063, 971, 698 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₅O₁₁NCo₂Na, 585.9201; found, 585.9205;

TLC $R_f = 0.30 (30\% \text{ ethyl acetate in hexanes})$

Silica gel, visible, UV

Prop-2-yn-1-yl N-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)-O-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-L-serinate (3.66). A single-necked, 10 mL, round-bottomed flask, equipped with a stir bar and a septum pierced with a needle was charged with the Co₂(CO)₆-dialkyne 3.63 (35 mg, 0.04 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in acetone (4 mL). The solution was cooled to 0° C in an ice bath. CAN (87 mg, 0.16 mmol, 4 equiv) was added to the flask in a single portion. After stirring for 10 min, the reaction was not complete as determined by TLC, and additional CAN (87 mg, 0.16 mmol, 4 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred for 15 min. Upon completion, the reaction was diluted with distilled water (4 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 6 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure rotary evaporation to afford 12 mg of 3.66 in 94% yield as a colorless oil. Purification of the crude material was not performed.

<u>Data for **3.66**</u>

 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.37-7.31 (m, 5H), 5.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.17-5.10 (m, 2H), 4.81-4.72 (m, 2H), 4.58 (dt, J = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.15-4.10 (m, 2H), 4.01 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz,

1H), 3.81 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.50, (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H) ppm;

Impurities present at 1.43, 1.25, 0.88 ppm

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

169.6, 156.1, 136.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 78.8, 77.2, 75.6, 75.4, 69.5, 67.3, 58.8, 54.3, 53.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3288, 2915, 2850, 2129, 1750, 1715, 1515, 1456, 1342, 1260, 1027 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}O_5N$, 316.1180; found, 316.1181;

TLC $R_f = 0.27$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

Co₂(CO)₆-N-propargyl-L-proline methyl ester (3.68). Follows general procedure 3C.3: Tetrafluoroborate salt 3.30d (140 mg, 0.340 mmol), DCM (5 mL), L-proline methyl ester 3.67 (57 mg, 0.44 mmol) dissolved in DCM (1.8 mL). The reaction stirred for 1.5 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-10% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford 75 mg of cobalt complexed alkyne 3.68 in 46% yield as a red oil.

<u>Data for **3.68**</u>

 $\frac{1}{1}$ H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.05 (s, 1H), 4.23 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.53 (dd, J = 8.1, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.23-3.14 (m, 1H), 2.71 (q, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.13, 1.78 (m, 4H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.9 (6C), 174.3, 91.8, 73.4, 64.2, 56.1, 52.8, 51.9, 29.4, 23.5 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2955, 2798, 2093, 2020, 1736, 1551, 1437, 1356, 1278, 1199, 1173 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O₈NCo₂, 453.9378; found, 453.9361;

TLC $R_f = 0.37$ (20% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

N-propargyl-L-proline methyl ester (3.69). Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne 3.68 (20 mg, 0.044 mmol), acetone (5.0 mL), and CAN (97 mg, 0.18 mmol). After 1 h of stirring, 3.69 remained, as evidenced by proton NMR. An additional amount of ceric ammonium nitrate (10 mg, 0.018 mmol) was added and stirred for 20 min. The work-up afforded 5 mg of alkyne 3.69 in 68% yield as a colorless oil. Further purification was not performed. Characterization via ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and HRMS was obtained, however, 3.69 appears to be unstable leading to decomposition and poor reproducibility of these data.

<u>Data for **3.69**</u>

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

3.74 (s, 3H), 3.61 (app t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.45 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.09-3.04

(m, 1H), 2.73 (td, J = 8.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.19-2.11 (m,

1H), 2.03-1.76 (m, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

174.3, 78.5, 73.3, 62.7, 52.3, 52.2, 41.3, 29.8, 23.4 ppm;

Impurity present at 30.5 ppm

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₉H₁₄O₂N, 168.1019; found, 168.1013;

Bis(dicobalthexacarbonyl) complexed N,N-di(prop-2-ynyl)-Lphenylalanine methyl ester (3.71). Follows general procedure 3C.3:
Tetrafluoroborate salt 3.30d (46 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1 equiv), DCM (2 mL),

L-phenyl alanine methyl ester **3.70** (20 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in DCM (0.3 mL). The reaction stirred for 1.5 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 2-20% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford 46 mg of cobalt complexed dialkyne **3.71** in 59% yield as a red oil.

Data for **3.71**

<u>1H NMR</u> (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.31-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (s, 2H), 4.41 (d, J = 15.9 Hz,

2H), 4.04-3.99 (m, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.24-3.17 (m, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 13.0, 4.2

Hz, 1H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.7 (12C), 172.0, 137.3, 129.3 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 126.9, 91.1 (2C), 73.8 (2C),

64.4, 55.1 (2C), 51.3, 36.5 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2093, 3052, 2017, 1735, 1425, 1200, 1165 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₁₈O₁₄NCo₄, 827.8050; found, 827.8084;

TLC $R_f = 0.48$ (10% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, visible

N,N-di(prop-2-ynyl)-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (3.72). Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-dialkyne **3.71** (21 mg, 0.025 mmol, 1 equiv), acetone (4.0 mL), and CAN (111 mg, 0.203 mmol, 8 equiv). The reaction was complete after 20 min of stirring. The crude residue was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 15-30% Et₂O in hexanes), which afforded 4 mg of alkyne 3.72 in 56% yield as an oil.

Data for **3.72**

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

> 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.7.18 (m, 3H), 3.75 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (d, J = 2.4Hz, 4H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

> 172.1, 137.5, 129.3 (2 C), 128.6 (2 C), 126.8, 79.3 (2 C), 73.1 (2 C), 65.9, 51.5, 40.1 (2 C), 36.5 ppm;

IR (thin film)

> 3250, 2991, 2914, 2813, 2344, 1714, 1478, 1421, 1347, 1199, 1153, 1112, 740, 692, 623 cm⁻¹;

(FTMS + p ESI Full ms)HRMS

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{18}O_2N$, 256.1332; found, 256.1335;

<u>TLC</u> $R_f = 0.37$ (20% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

Co₂(CO)₆-N-(1,1-dimethyl-3-propynyl)-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (3.S2). Follows general procedure 3C.3: Tetrafluoroborate salt 3.74 (77 mg, 0.18 mmol. 1.3 equiv), DCM (2.5 mL), L-phenylalanine methyl ester **3.70** (24 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in DCM (0.5 mL). The reaction stirred for 40 min. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 5-20% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford 16 mg of cobalt complexed alkyne **3.82** in 23% yield as a red oil.

Data for 3.S2

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.29-7.17 (m, 5H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 3.72 (dt, J = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.92-

2.81 (m, 2H), 1.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

200.1 (6C), 176.6, 137.6, 129.6 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 126.8, 107.3, 72.2, 58.0, 56.7,

52.0, 41.9, 32.1, 30.9 ppm;

IR (thin film)

2973, 2927, 2092, 2050, 2019, 1739, 1455, 1194, 1172, 700 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₈NCo₂, 531.9847; found, 531.9848;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.35 (10% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, Visible, UV

N-(1,1-dimethyl-3-propynyl)-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (3.75).

Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne 3.S2 (12 mg, 0.023 mmol), acetone (4.0 mL), and CAN (50 mg, 0.090 mmol). The reaction was complete after 20 min of stirring as indicated by consumption of 3.S2, as evidenced by TLC. However, 3.75 was not visible by TLC until after the reaction work up. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10% Et₂O in hexanes) which afforded 4 mg of alkyne 3.75 in 64% yield as an colorless oil.

Data for **3.75**

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 3H), 3.73 (dd, J = 7.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H),

2.93 (dd, J = 13.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H), 1.92

(bs, 1H), 1.31(s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

176.3, 137.5, 129.6 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 126.8, 88.5, 70.1, 58.9, 51.7, 49.6, 41.4,

30.3, 29.6 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3286, 3027, 2977, 2929, 2368, 1736, 1458, 1438, 1196, 1171, 700 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{15}H_{20}O_2N$, 246.1489; found, 246.1478;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.33 (20% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

Co₂(CO)₆-Ethyl N-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)-S-(1,1-dimethyl-3-propynyl)-L-cysteinate (3.76). Follows general procedure 3C.3: Tetrafluoroborate salt 3.74 (62 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1.25 equiv), DCM (1.5 mL), N-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester 3.49b (42 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in DCM (0.8 mL). The reaction stirred for 2 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 15-30% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford 42 mg of 3.76 in 55% yield as a red oil.

Data for **3.76**

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (app t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (app t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 5.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.71-4.66 (m, 1H), 4.39 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.27-4.21 (m, 3H), 3.19-3.10 (m, 2H), 1.621 (s, 3H), 1.616 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.8 (6C), 170.5, 155.8, 144.0, 143.9, 141.5 (2C), 127.9 (2C), 127.2 (2C), 125.3 (2C), 120.2 (2C), 105.0, 73.1, 67.4, 62.2, 53.6, 48.9, 47.3, 32.7 (2C), 32.4, 14.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3338, 3070, 2979, 2092, 2053, 2022, 1725, 1510, 1451, 1200, 1052, 759, 740 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+NH_4]^+$ calcd for $C_{31}H_{31}O_{10}N_2SCo_2$, 741.0358; found, 741.0379;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.18 \ (20\% \ diethyl \ ether \ in \ hexanes)$

Silica gel, visible, UV

N-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)-S-(1,1-dimethyl-3-propynyl)-Lcysteine ethyl ester (3.77). Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆-alkyne
3.76 (47 mg, 0.069 mmol), acetone (6.9 mL), and CAN (152 mg, 0.28 mmol).

The reaction was complete after 15 min of stirring. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (20% Et₂O in hexanes) which afforded 14 mg of alkyne **3.77** in 46% yield as a colorless oil.

<u>Data for 3.77</u>

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dt, J = 8.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.44-4.37 (m, 2H), 4.27-4.21 (m, 3H), 3.28-3.19 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 1H), 1.57 (s, 6H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

170.7, 155.9, 144.0, 143.9, 141.5, 141.4, 127.9 (2C), 127.2 (2C), 125.3 (2C), 120.1 (2C), 87.8, 70.9, 67.3, 62.1, 53.6, 47.3, 38.7, 33.2, 30.79, 30.75, 14.3 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3292, 2976, 2925, 2365, 1719, 1509, 1449, 1339, 1208, 1051, 759, 740 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{28}O_4NS$, 438.1734; found, 438.1725;

TLC $R_f = 0.23$ (30% diethyl ether in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

alcohol **1.83** (16 mg, 0.045 mmol), dissolved in DCM (0.40 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (15 μL, 0.11 mmol). The reaction was monitored by TLC and stirred for 2 h. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 14 mg of **3.78** as a mixture of two diastereomers (2.1:1), determined by the integrations for H₆ at 5.78 and 5.38 ppm, in 46% yield as a dark red/brown oil.

Data for **3.78**

 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.40-7.35 (m, 3 H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2 H), 6.34 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H)**, 6.24 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*, 6.09 (s, 1 H), 5.86 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.78 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H)**, 5.47 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)**, 5.38 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1 H)*, 4.71-4.61 (m, 2H), 4.33 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H)*, 4.25 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H)*, 4.26 (app s, 2 H)**, 4.10-4.05 (m, 1 H)**, 3.88-3.86 (m, 1 H)*, 3.51 (s, 3 H)*, 3.39 (s, 3H)**, 3.32-3.14 (m, 4 H), 2.52-2.41 (m, 1 H) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.4*, 201.1**, 199.6 (6C), 168.3**, 167.9*, 162.2**, 161.5*, 144.0**, 143.0*, 137.2*, 135.0**, 134.4*, 133.6**, 131.6*, 130.72**, 130.65*, 130.3**, 130.0*, 129.9**, 128.84**, 128.77*, 127.8**, 127.7*, 122.8**, 122.2*, 90.7**, 90.6*, 81.8*, 75.7*, 74.7**, 73.6**, 73.4*, 73.3**, 71.9*, 71.6**, 71.4**, 71.1*, 57.2**, 56.5*, 49.8, 40.0**, 39.7*, 33.8**, 29.5* ppm;

 $\underline{IR} \hspace{1cm} (thin \ film)$

2927, 2829, 2372, 2093, 2051, 2022, 1773, 1702, 12.68, 1096, 1018, 697 cm⁻¹.

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{30}H_{23}O_{11}Co_2$, 676.9899; found, 676.9903;

 $\underline{TLC} \qquad \qquad R_f = 0.26^*, \, 0.22^{**} \, (30\% \, \, ethyl \, \, acetate/hexanes)$

Silica gel, Visible, UV

*Major diastereomer, **minor diastereomer

Guaianolide analog alkyne probe (3.79). Follows general procedure 3D: cobalt complex 3.78 (14 mg, 0.021 mmol, 1 equiv), acetone (1.5 mL), and CAN (68 mg, 0.12 mmol, 6 equiv). The reaction stirred for 15

determined by the integrations for H_6 at 5.78 and 5.38 ppm, in quantitative yield as a colorless oil. The crude material was not purified further.

<u>Data for **3.79**</u>

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.38-7.35 (m, 3 H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2 H), 6.36 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)**, 6.24 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.88 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.78 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H)**, 5.52 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)**, 5.38 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1 H)*, 4.23-4.16 (m, 4 H), 4.09-4.06 (m, 1 H)**, 3.87-3.84 (m, 1 H)*, 3.51 (s, 3 H)*, 3.43 (s, 3 H)**, 3.38-3.12 (m, 4 H), 2.52-2.46 (m, 2 H) ppm;

Impurities observed at 2.27, 1.43, 1.25, 0.87 ppm.

13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.5*, 201.3**, 168.3**, 167.9*, 161.9**, 161.4*, 144.2**, 143.2*, 137.2*, 135.8**, 135.4*, 133.6**, 130.9*, 130.73**, 130.65*, 129.93 (2C)*, 129.89 (2C)**, 129.7**, 128.9**, 128.8*, 127.80 (2C)**, 127.75 (2C)*, 122.9**, 122.2*, 81.8*, 79.5*, 79.3**, 75.7*, 75.6**, 75.4*, 74.8**, 73.8**, 71.9**, 71.5*, 57.8**, 57.4**, 57.2*, 56.5*, 49.8*, 49.7**, 40.0**, 39.7*, 34.2*, 30.0* ppm; Impurities observed at 67.6, 34.2, 29.9, 24.0, 22.9, 14.3 ppm

*Major diastereomer, **minor diastereomer

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3279, 2933, 2852, 2115, 1769, 1703, 1492, 1445, 1269, 1134, 1095, 699 cm⁻¹.

\underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{24}H_{23}O_5$, 391.1540; found, 391.1525;

 \underline{TLC} R_f = 0.18 (40% ethyl acetate/hexanes)

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

Co₂(CO)₆

Co₂(CO)₆-*O*-(prop-2-ynyl)-MelB (3.80). Method A: Follows general procedure 3C.2: Propargyl alcohol (4 mg, 0.076 mmol), DCM (0.5 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (26 mg, 0.076 mmol), MelB (3.29)¹¹⁵ (10 mg, 0.038 mmol),

dissolved in DCM (0.3 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (12 μL, 0.095 mmol). The reaction was quenched after 10 min of stirring despite a small amount of Mel B remaining in the reaction. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 9 mg of 3.80 in 41% yield as a dark red oil. Method B: Follows general procedure 3C.2: Methyl propargyl ether (8.0 mg, 0.11 mmol), DCM (0.8 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (39 mg, 0.11 mmol), Mel B (3.29) (15 mg, 0.057 mmol), dissolved in DCM (0.4 mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (18 μL, 0.14 mmol). The reaction was quenched after 40 min of stirring despite a small amount of Mel B remaining in the reaction. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 10-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 13 mg of 3.80 in 39% yield.

<u>Data for **3.80**</u>

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

6.25 (s, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 5.67 (bs, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 4.62 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H),

4.53 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H),

3.86 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.85 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.31 (m, 4H), 2.22-2.15 (m, 2H),

1.67-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.12-1.06 (m, 1H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

199.6 (6C), 169.6, 139.1, 136.8, 129.4, 120.2, 91.1, 81.2, 73.8, 71.8, 70.3, 63.6,

60.2, 43.2, 36.9, 25.7, 24.3, 23.8, 18.1 ppm;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2931, 2360, 2095, 2053, 2023, 1770, 1262, 1138, 1075, 995 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₃O₁₀Co₂, 588.9950; found, 588.9946;

<u>TLC</u> $R_f = 0.19$ (20% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Silica gel, visible, UV

O-(prop-2-ynyl)-Mel B 3.81. Followed general procedure 3D: Co₂(CO)₆alkyne 3.80 (9 mg, 0.015 mmol), acetone (1.5 mL), and CAN (34 mg, 0.061 mmol). The reaction was complete after 10 min of stirring. Reaction work up afforded 4 mg of alkyne 3.81 as a colorless oil in 94% yield. Further purification was not

Data for **3.81**

performed.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

> 6.24 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.70-5.66 (m, 1H), 5.55 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dd, J =16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, J = 16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.96-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.86 (d, J = 9.6)Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.44 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40-2.27 (m, 3H), 2.22-2.14 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.14-1.07 (m, 1H) ppm; Impurity observed at 29.8 ppm.

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

> 169.6, 139.2, 136.6, 130.4, 120.1, 81.3, 79.7, 74.8, 72.9, 63.6, 60.1, 57.4, 43.1, 36.9, 25.9, 24.6, 23.9, 18.2 ppm;

IR (thin film)

3274, 2921, 2850, 2112, 1764, 1261, 1138, 1073, 993, 815 cm⁻¹;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{23}O_4$, 303.1591; found, 303.1595;

 $\underline{TLC} \hspace{1cm} R_f = 0.20 \; (30\% \; ethyl \; acetate \; in \; hexanes)$

Silica gel, UV, potassium permanganate

4.0 STUDIES ON THE GUAIANOLIDE NF-κB MECHANISM OF INHIBITION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Drug candidates containing electrophiles that undergo covalent bond-forming reactions with proteins *in vivo* have traditionally been avoided by pharmaceutical researchers. ^{8c} However, a resurgence of these covalent drugs can partially be attributed to increased efforts toward understanding their molecular mechanisms of biological activity. Sesquiterpene lactones (SLs) are known to affect their anti-inflammatory and antiproliferative properties through inhibition of the inflammation central transcription factor, nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB). However, understanding the structural features that are responsible for the potent inhibitory properties as well as uncovering the exact mode of inhibition these compounds undergo within the NF-κB pathway has been more difficult.

Defined quantitative structure-activity relationships (QSAR) between SL skeletal and topological structures with inhibition of NF-κB are limited. The most comprehensive QSAR study to date evaluated 103 SLs from 6 different skeletal families; among these compounds, 22 guaianolides and 9 pseudoguaianolides were tested. The NF-κB inhibition ability of all the sesquiterpene families had a strong correlation to the presence of alkylating centers in the form of unsaturated carbonyls. However, guaianolides had more specific correlations also related to structure coding parameters, attributed to the rigid nature of the guaianolide skeleton. The QSAR

analysis revealed that an increased number of hydroxyl groups in guaianolides can lead to diminished NF-kB inhibition. His study provides a good starting point for QSAR data, the conclusions are somewhat limited. Continuing to evaluate the NF-kB inhibition of guaianolide-related compounds will add to the knowledge about the structure-activity relationship. This process is necessary to understanding the mechanism of inhibition for the development of potent analogs.

As mentioned, the biological activity, as well as cytotoxicity of SLs is linked to the presence of unsaturated carbonyls, seen in the form of α -methylene- γ -butyrolactones, α,β unsaturated cyclopentenones, and other, acyclic α,β -unsaturated esters, ketones, and aldehydes. These electrophilic groups have been shown to react with biological nucleophiles, particularly cysteine sulfhydryl groups, through a hetero-Michael-type addition reaction. For example, when helenalin (1.7), which has two possible alkylating centers, is reacted with 1 equiv of cysteine in D₂O, hetero-Michael addition occurs selectively with the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone moiety (adduct 4.1, Figure 24A). Interestingly, when 1 equiv of glutathione, the most abundant nonprotein thiol in eukaryotic cells, is reacted with helenalin (1.7), it selectively adds to the α,β unsaturated cyclopentenone (adduct 4.2). Both of these additions also occurred stereoselectively, resulting in the isomers shown in Figure 24A. When excess amounts of either cysteine or glutathione are employed, the thiols add to both alkylating centers of helenalin (1.7).9, 118 Cysteamine (4.4) has also been utilized as a model for biological thiols that can be used to quickly ascertain thiol reactivity of unsaturated carbonyls; 119 stirring of costunolide (4.3) and cysteamine in DMSO formed the corresponding adduct 4.5, determined by the disappearance of the alkenyl protons, H_a and H_b, in the crude NMR (Figure 24B). These studies lend themselves to predict reactivity of SLs that contain unsaturated carbonyl alkylating centers in

vivo. However, this does not replace the value that comes from understanding the exact NF-κB protein targets responsible for biological activity, as well as non-specific targets that could lead to cytotoxicity.

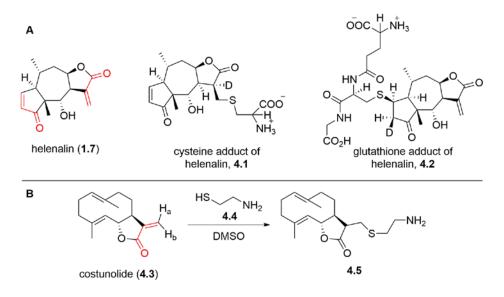


Figure 24. Examples of SL reactivity with biological thiols; A) Helenalin (1.7) adducts with cysteine and glutathione, B) Costunolide (4.3) adduct with cysteamine (4.4).

In cells, NF-κB is comprised, most frequently, of the p50 and p65 (RelA) subunits, and is retained in the cytoplasm through binding with its inhibitor protein, IκB. In response to stimuli (over 200 stimuli options), the IKK complex, made up of IKKα, IKKβ, IKKγ, activates IκB, with IKKβ being the primary kinase. This activation results in phosphorylation of two serine residues of IκB (Ser-177, Ser-181), leading to ubiquitination and degradation of the inhibitor protein. In turn, the NF-κB dimer is now activated and freely translocates to the nucleus, where it binds with DNA and initiates transcription (Figure 25). ^{10-11, 59} This cascading pathway has many potential sites of inhibition, usually falling into one of three categories: 1) blockage of incoming stimuli that activates the IKK complex, or early stage inhibition, 2) interference with one of the cytoplasmic events (phosphorylation of IκB), 3) blockage of NF-κB nuclear activity (either by

preventing its translocation from the cytoplasm to the nucleus, or by inhibiting NF-κB/DNA binding.

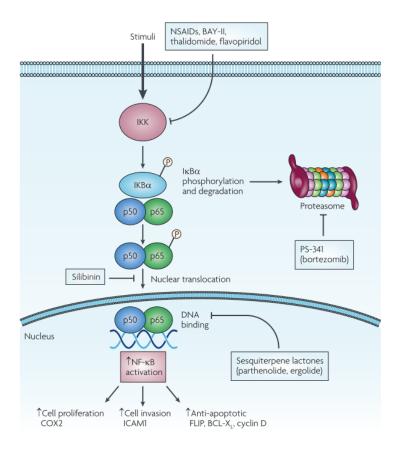


Figure 25. The NF-κB pathway leading to gene transcription. ¹¹ Reprinted by permission from Macmillan Publishers

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Thiol reactive compounds, including SLs, have been characterized to inhibit NF-κB signaling by either blocking IκB-degradation or by interfering with the NF-κB/DNA binding event. A case has been made that parthenolide (PTL, **1.3**) inhibits the IκB degradation event by binding a cysteine (Cys-179) in the IKKβ activation loop. Cel shift assays performed by the Hehner group did not show that PTL blocked NF-κB/oligonucleotide interactions. Kwok and coworkers also studied the mechanism of inhibition for parthenolide; coming to a similar conclusion that it prevents IκB degradation. Reduced PTL **4.6** was not effective for inhibition of NF-κB signaling, supporting the importance of the α-methylene lactone moiety (Figure 26). A

biotinylated PTL derivative (4.7) confirmed IKK- β as a molecular target of PTL using protein profiling experiments. Finally, a mutant protein of IKK- β where Cys-179 was replaced with a serine was no longer sensitive to the inhibitory properties of PTL. This cysteine residue is positioned between the two serine residues (Ser-177,181) that undergo phosphorylation leading to IKK β degradation. ^{120c}

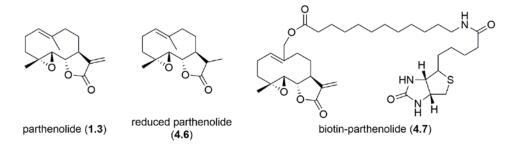


Figure 26. Structures of parthenolide derivatives used by Kwok to investigate the SL mechanism of inhibition.

On the other hand, a series of reports by the Merfort group have shown that PTL, as well as helenalin (1.7) and a few other SLs, inhibit NF- κ B by preventing the DNA/NF- κ B binding event. The Merfort group claims that their results, detailed within, contradict reports that parthenolide inhibits NF- κ B activation solely by preventing I κ B degradation. First, confocal laser scanning microscopy was used to examine cells that were activated using tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) followed by treatment with helenalin (1.7). The results confirmed the presence of NF- κ B in the nucleus of the cells, showing that I κ B degradation was not inhibited, nor was the translocation of NF- κ B from the cytoplasm to the nucleus.

Molecular docking studies were utilized to propose that helenalin covalently binds to NF-κB with a cysteine residue (Cys-38) of the p65 unit. Experimental evidence for this proposal was achieved by the construction of NF-κB/p65 mutants, where the proposed reactive cysteine residues were interchanged for serine residues. The inhibition of the NF-κB mutants was evaluated by various SLs, including helenalin, PTL, and two other SLs (Figure 27); gel shift

assays (EMSA) were used to visualize the presence of the p65-oligonucleotide complex. For all SLs tested (at varying concentrations), the binding of the wild type NF-κB to oligonucleotides was completely inhibited (contrary to reports by Hehner)^{120a, 120b}, however, when Cys-38 was replaced with a serine residue, no inhibition was observed, supporting evidence for a covalent binding event that occurs between Cys-38 and the SL inhibitor, and that this interaction is essential to the prevention of NF-κB/DNA binding. ¹²² Slight inhibition of IκB degradation was also observed for all SLs tested, however, this mechanism of action was secondary to the prevention of NF-κB/DNA binding; the amount of un-degraded IκB was not sufficient to account for complete inhibition of NF-κB/DNA binding. Finally, surface plasmon resonance confirmed interactions between helenalin and NF-κB/p65 unit, but not between helenalin and the IKK complex. ¹²³

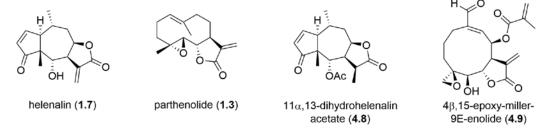


Figure 27. Sesquiterpene lactones evaluated in NF-κB mutant (Cys→ Ser) experiments.

Merfort concludes that SLs inhibit NF-κB primarily through the prevention of NF-κB/DNA binding by alkylating Cys-38 in the binding domain of NF-κB through a Michael-type addition; this mechanism of action can also be assumed as a general mechanism of action for all SLs containing α,β-unsaturated carbonyls.⁷ Merfort also hypothesized that the contradictory results for SLs acting by two different mechanisms of action could be contributed to the fact inhibition of IκB degradation is observed when higher concentrations of the SL are used. This might hide the effect the SL has on p65, which is more visible at lower concentrations.⁷

In light of these studies, it is clear that understanding molecular mechanism of inhibition is of crucial importance when in the process of developing potential NF- κ B inhibitors. While these studies have focused on SLs and lend themselves to make conclusions about a wide range of α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone containing NPs, mechanism of NF- κ B inhibition studies pertaining specifically to 6,12-guaianolides are limited. Due to the potent NF- κ B inhibition that was demonstrated by *trans*-guaianolide analog **1.83** (Section 2.1), synthesized in our lab, we sought to further examine the structure-activity relationship of **1.83** analogs and the mechanism of action. Our goals included the following; 1) determine if the relative stereochemistry of the C8 methoxy group had an impact on the NF- κ B inhibition ability, 2) show whether or not the α -methylene lactone moiety was necessary for activity and if the group was thiol reactive, 3) identify protein targets of **1.83** through ABPP experiments.

4.2 EFFECT OF C8 STEREOCHEMISTRY ON NF-κB INHIBITION

Trans-guaianolide **1.83** was previously established as a potent NF-κB inhibitor, with comparable activity to parthenolide. However, *trans-***1.83** was evaluated as a mixture of diastereomers in relation to the C8 methoxy group. To evaluate if the two diastereomers had differing or consistent NF-κB inhibitory properties, they were separated via HPLC and characterized using NMR and computational techniques (Section 2.2.5). The major diastereomer was assigned as the 8βH-isomer **1.83a**, while the minor diastereomer was assigned as the 8αH-isomer **1.83b** (Figure 28). These compounds are still racemic mixtures of the designated relative stereochemistry.

Our collaborators in the Harki group at the University of Minnesota evaluated the separated diastereomers of **1.83** for inhibition of induced NF-κB activity using a luciferase luminescence assay. A549 cells are treated with the potential inhibitors at varying concentrations, and then induced using TNF-α. This activation increases the luminescence which is then diminished in the presence of an NF-κB inhibitor. Non-induced cells and cells induced without the presence of a potential inhibitor were used as control standards for the determination of relative NF-κB activity of cells treated with 8βH-**1.83a** and 8αH-**1.83b**. 119b

Figure 28. Structures of the two *trans*-1.83 diastereomers.

The cells were treated with 1, 5, 10, and 20 μM of both diastereomers (Table 14). At 20 μM, 8βH-1.83a lowered the induced NF-κB levels to 31% while 8αH-1.83b lowered NF-κB levels to 41.5%. Inhibition was also observed at 10 μM, with reduced NF-κB levels at 66% and 75% for 8βH-1.83a and 8αH-1.83b respectively. While it was evident that the 8βH-1.83a may be slightly more potent than 8αH-1.83b, these two compounds were considered to be effectively equal inhibitors of NF-κB. Interestingly, the values reported for the separated diastereomers of *trans*-1.83 are slightly less potent that the previously reported data obtained from analysis of the mixture; which lowered induced NF-κB activity to 57% when dosed at 10 μM. The data from Table 14 is represented pictorially in Figure 29, with comparisons to the induced and non-induced controls.

Table 14. Relative NF-κB activity of cells treated with 8βH-1.83a and 8αH-1.83b.

8βH- 1.83a	1 μM	5 μΜ	10 μM	20 μΜ	8α H-1.83b	1 μM	5 μΜ	10 μΜ	20 μΜ
Trial 1	102.8	84.4	60.5	29.1	Trial 1	75.4	80.3	75.7	30.8
Trial 2	106.9	92.9	70.3	28.9	Trial 2	88.1	88.9	71.0	47.9
Trial 3	101.6	86.2	67.3	34.7	Trial 3	99.1	90.1	79.3	45.8
Average	103.8	87.8	66.0	30.9	Average	87.5	86.4	75.3	41.5

Values shown are the relative NF-kB activity (%) of A549 cells induced with TNF- α 30 min after treatment with **1.83a** and **1.83b** compared to induced A549 cells induced with no inhibitor treatment.

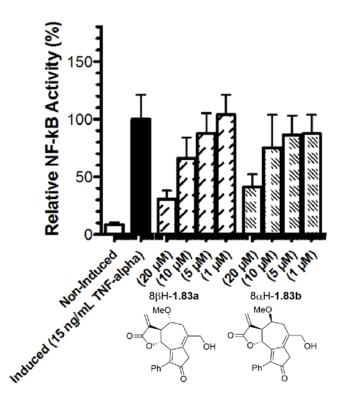


Figure 29. Pictorial representation of relative NF-κB activity for cells treated with 8βH-1.83a and 8αH-1.83b.

4.3 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE α -METHYLENE- γ -BUTYROLACTONE FOR NF- κB INHIBITION

To confirm that the biological activity of guaianolide analog *trans*-1.83 is dependent on the presence of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone moiety, we set out to synthesize the reduced α -methyl- γ -butyrolactone analog 4.10. If obtained, 1.83 and 4.10 could be directly compared for

NF-κB inhibition. We envisioned that **4.10** could be obtained in a single step from **1.83** via conjugate reduction (Scheme 75).

Scheme 75. Retrosynthetic analysis of 4.10.

Conjugate reductions of α-methylene-γ-butyrolactones have most commonly been achieved using a reducing agent, such as sodium borohydride, or via a metal catalyzed hydrogenation, such as H₂/Pd/C or H₂/Wilkinson's catalyst. ^{99, 124} However, we had concerns that these methods would not be compatible with our functionally dense system, which contains multiple carbonyls and unsaturated C-C bonds. Metal hydride reagents, such as Stryker's reagent ([CuH(PPh₃)]₆) have also been employed as a reducing agent, and have been shown selectivity for α-methylene-γ-butyrolactones within highly complex molecules. For example, eremantholide **4.13** was synthesized in one bio-mimetic synthetic step from furanoheliangolide **1.11** using Stryker's reagent; selective reaction with the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone affords an enolate intermediate 4.12, which then undergoes cyclization with the available unsaturated ester to give **4.12** (Scheme 76). 125 The conjugate hydride addition was determined to be the fast step while the enolate cyclization was the slow step. Premature quenching of 4.12 afforded 4.14, therefore, without an available electrophilic group to react with the enolate intermediate, Stryker's reagent is also a viable reagent for the chemoselective reduction of α -methylene lactones to α -methyl lactones.

Scheme 76. Synthesis of α -methyl lactone 4.14 and eremantholide 4.13 from furanoheliangolide 4.11.

4.3.1 Synthesis of reduced methylene guaianolide analog 4.10

In light of the reported selectivity of Stryker's reagent for α-methylene-γ-butryolactones, this methodology was applied to *trans*-1.83. Synthetic investigations began by determining the appropriate solvent system (Table 15). Toluene is a traditional solvent for conjugate reductions using Stryker's reagent, however, THF has been reported to increase reaction rates presumably by coordination with the copper reagent. Reacting *trans*-1.83 with the 1 equiv of Stryker's reagent in 100% THF resulted in decomposition of 1.83 (Entry 1). Changing the solvent to a 5:1 mixture of toluene and THF gave a 31% yield of 4.10 while use of 100% toluene afforded 4.10 in 55% yield (Entries 2 and 3). Unfortunately, for both entries, the products were contaminated with triphenylphosphine (Ph₃P) and triphenylphosphine oxide (Ph₃PO), even after multiple attempts to purify via flash column chromatography. The conversion of *trans*-1.83 to 4.10 occurred diastereoselectively; this was evidenced by the presence of only 2 diastereomers, as

seen in the starting material, pertaining to the stereochemistry of the C8 methoxy group (See Section 4.3.2 for further discussion).

Additional purification methods other than silica gel flash column chromatography were tried in an effort to remove the Ph₃P and Ph₃PO impurities. HPLC purification was effective for removing Ph₃P, but **4.10** was still contaminated with Ph₃PO, as both compounds are quite polar. Crystallization of the Ph₃P and Ph₃PO was attempted by dissolving **4.10** in a minimal amount of cold diethyl ether, and filtering off the observed crystals. This method was not effective for removing impurities in their entirety.

Table 15. Initial attempts to reduce methylene of *trans*-1.83: Solvent effects.

Entry	Solvent (0.0095 M)	Approx. yield 4.10
1	THF	0% (decomposition)
2	Toluene/THF (5:1)	31% ^a
3	Toluene	55% ^a

^a4.10 contaminated with Ph₃P and Ph₃PO.

Next, we applied the hydride conjugate addition reaction to silyl-protected *trans*-guaianolide **2.24** (Scheme 77). **2.24** is significantly less polar ($R_f = 0.18, 20\%$ EtOAc in hexanes) than the silyl-deprotected **1.83** ($R_f = 0.41, 100\%$ EtOAc), so we predicted it would be more easily separated from Ph₃PO via chromatography methods. The methylene group was successfully reduced diastereoselectively in the presence of Stryker's reagent to afford **4.15**. The crude NMR spectra of these experiments again showed significant impurities related to the Ph₃P. For one experiment, column chromatography afforded both C8 diastereomers of **4.15**, with some separation, in quantitative yield with only trace impurities. However, this result was not

reproducible; while using the same reaction conditions, other experiments required more extensive purifications, resulting in diminished yield of **4.15** (Scheme 77). It was clear that removal of Ph₃P and Ph₃PO still required tedious chromatography strategies despite the lesspolar nature of **4.15** compared to **4.10**.

Scheme 77. Reduction of 2.24 with [CuH(PPh₃)]₆ gave impure 4.15.

Stryker's reagent is a copper hydride hexamer complex, so by using 1 equivalent of the reagent, 6 equiv of copper hydride are actually employed. Therefore, in attempts to limit the presence of impurities, the amount of Stryker's reagent required to fully consume the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone starting material was optimized. Due to limited availability of our guaianolide analogs, we optimized the required amount of Stryker's reagent using *cis*-lactone **4.16** (Table 16).⁴³ To begin, **4.16** was stirred with 1 equiv of Stryker's reagent in toluene at 0 °C; 100% conversion to **4.17** was observed via crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy after 1 h (Entry 1). Both 0.8 and 0.4 equivalents also gave 100% conversion, but required 2 h of stirring (Entries 2 and 3). However, by employing 0.25 equiv of Stryker's reagent and stirring for 14 h, **4.16** was converted to **4.17** in only 70% (Entry 4). We concluded that at least 0.4 equiv Stryker's reagent should be employed to efficiently reduce α-methylene-γ-butryrolactones.

Table 16. Optimization of Stryker's reagent equiv using model system 4.16.

Entry	Equiv Stryker's reagent	Time	% conversion ^a
1	1 equiv	1 h	100
2	0.8 equiv	2 h	100
3	0.4 equiv	2 h	100
4	0.25 equiv	14 h	70

^aPercent conversion determined by crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

A solid supported scavenger was also tested for the removal of Ph₃P and Ph₃PO. In 2001, Lipshutz described a simple, expedient procedure for scavenging both Ph₃P (**4.18**) and Ph₃PO (**4.21**) using commercially available Merrifield's resin (**4.19**) along with sodium iodide. Merrifield's resin is a polystyrene based resin made as a copolymer with styrene and chloromethylstyrene. When the benzylchloride groups are modified with sodium iodide, they can efficiently undergo substitution reactions with the Ph₃P derivatives, displacing the iodide (Scheme 78).

Scheme 78. Reactions of Merrifield's resin/ NaI scavenging system with Ph₃P 4.18 and Ph₃PO 4.21.

Scheme 79. Reduction of 4.16 to afford 4.17 after triphenylphosphine scavenging.

The iodine-modified Merrifield's resin purification method was first tested on model system *cis*-α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone **4.16**. The resulting crude mixture of **4.17** and the Ph₃P related impurities obtained from reacting **4.16** and Stryker's reagent was taken up in acetone, followed by the addition of Merrifield's resin and sodium iodide. A self-stirring incubator was used to swirl the mixture; a magnetic stir bar was not used because this would break down the resin, resulting in a more difficult separation. The process was monitored by TLC and after 16 h, Ph₃P and Ph₃PO were no longer observed. After filtration and washing of the resin, **4.17** was purified via column chromatography and afforded in 70% yield over the two steps (Scheme 79).

Next, iodine-modified Merrifields' resin was applied to the purification of reduced methylene guaianolide analog *trans-4.15* (Scheme 80). *Trans*-methylene lactone **2.24** was reduced using 0.5 equiv of the copper hydride hexamer to give **4.15** with 100% conversion. The crude residue was swirled with Merrifield's resin and sodium iodide to remove the Ph₃P impurities and *trans-4.15* was afforded in 43% yield over the two steps. In turn, *trans-4.15* was desilylated using trimethylamine trihydrofluoride to afford the reduced methylene guaianolide analog **4.10** in 71% yield. *Cis-2.25* (single diastereomer) was also tested during the process of optimizing this reaction sequence; *cis-4.22* was afforded in 34% yield (as a 9.6:1 mixture of diastereomers) after the two step process of 1,4-reduction and purification (Scheme 80).

Scheme 80. Synthesis and purification of trans-4.15, 4.10 and cis-4.22.

We originally proposed that reduced analog **4.10** could be obtained from a single synthetic step from *trans*-**1.83** with the unprotected allylic alcohol. While we showed previously that Stryker's reagent was efficient for converting *trans*-**1.83** to **4.10**, but the impurities had rendered the process ineffective. With the ability to remove the Ph₃P and Ph₃PO impurities using a scavenger system, we revisited the direct conversion of *trans*-**1.83** to reduced analog **4.10**. Guaianolide **1.83** was efficiently reduced using 0.5 equiv of Stryker's reagent (100% conversion by crude ¹H NMR), however, purification via with iodine-modified Merrifield's resin did not afford **4.10**, which was presumably unstable to the purification conditions (Scheme 81). Another possibility is that **4.10** was scavenged by the resin, however, iodine-modified Merrifield's resin has been shown to not scavenge free amines which are more nucleophilic than alcohols. ¹²⁶ In the future, IR or MS analysis of the resin could confirm this hypothesis.

Scheme 81. Guaianolide analog 4.10 is not compatible with iodine-modified Merrifield's resin.

4.3.2 Assignment of relative C11 stereochemistry for α -methyl lactones 4.15 and 4.10.

As mentioned, the transformation of the *trans*- α -methylene lactones to the α -methyl lactones occurred diastereoselectively for our substrates. For example, the reduction of the two C8 diastereomers of *trans*-lactone **2.24** (8 β H-**2.24a** and 8 α H-**2.24b**) resulted in two diastereomers *trans*-lactone **4.15** (11 β H,8 β H-**4.15a** and 11 β H,8 α H-**4.15b**) where C11 was reduced diastereoselectively to have a *trans*-relationship with C7 for both diastereomers. The relative stereochemistry of the methyl group at C11 was determined by comparing calculated and experimental ¹H NMR spectral data.

The two diastereomers of the reduced, silyl protected guaianolide analog **4.15a** and **4.15b** were isolated via chromatography. The major isomer of the silyl deprotected analog **4.10a** was also isolated (Figure 30). ¹H NMR data was obtained for these single isomers which allowed for resolution of additional coupling constants that could not be observed for the corresponding mixtures.

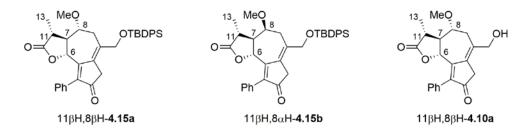


Figure 30. Isolated diastereomers of 4.15 and 4.10 for which experimental ¹H NMR spectra were obtained.

Calculations were performed for the possible isomers for the reduction of *trans*- α -methylene lactone **4.10** without the silyl protecting group; 8β H-**4.10a** could possibly result in 11β H, 8β H-**4.10a** or 11α H, 8β H-**4.10c** while 8α H-**4.10b** could result in 11β H, 8α H-**4.10b** or 11α H, 8α H-**4.10d** (Figure 31). The structures were drawn in Spartan and the lowest energy conformers of each were determined using MMFF calculations. Then, 1 H NMR data was

calculated for the lowest energy conformer using B3LYP/6-31G* functionals. The chemical shifts shown in Table 17 and Table 18 are corrected chemical shifts.

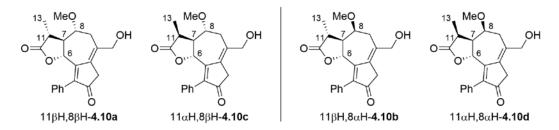


Figure 31. Diastereomers of 4.10 evaluated computationally.

Comparison of the calculated and experimental ¹H NMR data led to the stereochemical assignments of 11 β H,8 β H-4.15a, 11 β H,8 α H-4.15b and 11 β H,8 β H-4.10a. For all examples the methylene was reduced to afford a 7,11-*trans* relative stereochemistry. Experimentally, 4.15a (with the silyl protecting group) and 4.10a both had $J_{7,11}$ values of 11.6 Hz. This matched the computationally calculated coupling constant for 4.10a ($J_{7,11}$ = 11.6 Hz), whereas isomer 4.10c with a 7,11-*cis* relationship, has a smaller calculated $J_{7,11}$ of 9.2 Hz (Table 17). Similarly, 4.15b (with silyl protecting group) has an experimentally observed $J_{7,11}$ of 12.0 Hz, which corresponds favorably to the calculated $J_{7,11}$ of 11.5 Hz for 4.10b. 4.10d had a smaller $J_{7,11}$ value of 8.0 Hz (Table 18). In addition, the chemical shift for the H₆ proton of 4.15b (5.61 ppm) was much closer to the calculated chemical shift for 4.10b (5.67 ppm) than for isomer 4.10d (6.14 ppm). Complete NMR assignments for experimental spectra of guaianolide analogs 4.15 and 4.10 can be found in Appendix A.

Table 17. ¹H NMR calculations compared to experimental data for 4.15a and 4.10a.

Position	11βH,8βH- 4.10a Calc	11αH,8βH- 4.10c Calc	11βH,8βH- 4.15a Exp	11βH,8βH- 4.10a Exp
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
6	5.28	5.39	5.29	5.36
	(J = 10.3 Hz)	(J = 10.2 Hz)	(d, J = 11.6 Hz)	(d, J = 11.2 Hz)
7	2.10	2.48	2.21	2.27
	(J = 8.4, 10.3, 11.6 Hz)	(J = 8.8, 9.2, 10.2 Hz)	(ddd, J = 7.2, 11.6,	(ddd, J = 7.4, 11.6,
			11.6 Hz)	11.6 Hz)
8	3.35	3.56	3.73-3.68 (m)	3.73-3.69 (m)
	(J = 2.6, 3.5, 8.4 Hz)	(J = 2.7, 3.5, 8.8 Hz)	` '	, ,
11	2.21	2.47	$2.50 \text{ (qd, } J = 6.8, \frac{11.6}{}$	2.59-2.48 (m)
	(J = 6.6, 11.6 Hz)	(J = 6.7, 9.2 Hz)	Hz)	

Table 18. ¹H NMR calculations compared to experimental data for **4.15b**.

Position	11βH,8αH- 4.10b Calc	11αH,8αH- 4.10d Calc	11βH,8αH- 4.15b Exp ppm
-	ppm	ppm	(consistent with 4.10b)
6	5.67 (J = 10.1 Hz)	6.14 (J = 11.1 Hz)	5.61 (d, J = 10.8 Hz)
7	2.28 (J = 4.6, 10.1, 11.5 Hz)	2.42 (J = 0.6, 8.0, 11.1 Hz)	~2.3 (m)
8	3.74 (J = 4.6, 5.8, 9.8 Hz)	3.69 (J = 0.6, 3.0, 3.4 Hz)	3.69 (td, J = 6.0, 9.2 Hz)
11	2.95 (J = 6.6, 11.5 Hz)	2.24 (J = 6.7, 8.0 Hz)	$3.00 \text{ (qd, } J = 6.8, \frac{12.0 \text{ Hz}}{})$

4.3.3 NF-κB inhibition of α-methyl-γ-butyrolactone analog 4.10a

The reduced methylene analog 11βH,8βH-4.10a was evaluated using the same luminescence reporter assays used to evaluate the diastereomers of *trans*-1.83 for inhibition of induced NF-κB activity. A549 cells were treated with 11βH,8βH-4.10a (racemic) at 1, 5, 10, and 20 μM concentrations and induced with TNF-α. For all concentrations, no reduction of the induced activity was observed. Triplicate data is shown in Table 19, while pictorial representations with a comparison to the controls (induced and non-induced cells) are shown in Figure 32. It was concluded that α-methyl lactone analog 11βH,8βH-4.10a is unable to inhibit induced NF-κB activity. Given that 8βH-1.83a showed potent NF-κB inhibition at similar concentrations, and the only structural difference between 8βH-1.83a and 11βH,8βH-4.10a is the

presence of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone moiety, it is clear this functional group is required and essential to the mechanism of inhibition.

Table 19. Relative NF-κB activity of cells treated with 11βH,8βH-**4.10a**.

11βΗ,8βΗ-4.10α	1 μΜ	5 μΜ	10 μΜ	20 μΜ
Trial 1	101.2	90.9	79.8	94.7
Trial 2	147.9	116.4	123.0	122.5
Trial 3	103.2	95.7	109.2	101.4
Average	117.4	101.0	104.0	106.2

Values shown are the relative NF-kB activity (%) of A549 cells induced with TNF-a 30 min after treatment with **4.10a** (at varying concentrations) compared to induced A549 cells induced with no inhibitor treatment.

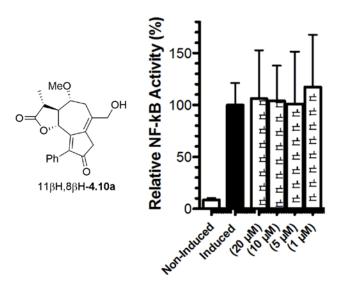


Figure 32. Pictorial representation of relative NF-κB activity for cells treated with **4.10a**. Induced cells were treated with TNF- α (15 ng/mL).

4.4 REACTIVITY OF GUAIANOLIDE ANALOG 1.83 WITH CYSTEINE

Merfort proposed that SLs inhibit NF-κB by selectively alkylating a cysteine residue (Cys-38) in the DNA binding domain of NF-κB.⁷ To show this is a possible mechanism of inhibition for our the guaianolide analogs, *trans-***1.83** was reacted with L-cysteine in an aqueous phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). A small amount of acetone was also used to solubilize **1.83**. The

reaction was monitored by both TLC and ¹H NMR spectroscopy. Complete consumption of *trans*-**1.83** was observed after 2 h. In the NMR, this was confirmed by the complete disappearance of the signals corresponding to the methylene protons at 6.25 and 5.85 ppm. Purification of the crude material afforded adduct **4.23** in 75% yield (Scheme 82). The reaction occurred diastereoselectivity, as was seen for the previously reported reaction of helenalin with cysteine. Also, analysis of the adduct **4.23** by NMR spectroscopy confirmed that the cysteine selectively reacted with the α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone; the dienone moiety was still intact.

Scheme 82. Reaction of *trans-***1.83** with L-cysteine to afford adduct **4.23**.

4.5 ABPP TARGET IDENTIFICATION STUDIES

Our goal of determining the molecular targets of *trans*-guaianolide **1.83** required the synthesis of an activity based probe (ABP). An ABP must contain either an analytical reporter group or ligation handle, such as an alkyne, that can later be modified through a bioorthogonal reaction. Alkynes have become the preferred modification group due to their small size, compatibility with biological systems, and success in bioorthogonal reactions (for more information on ABPs, see Section 3.1). To this end, we envisioned that an alkynyl group could be installed onto *trans*-guaianolide **1.83** through propargylation of the allylic alcohol, to afford

alkyne probe **3.79** (Figure 33). To account for non-specific binding interactions in the protein pull-down experiments, we also set out to synthesize the analogous inactive probe **4.24**, which has an α -methyl lactone rather than an α -methylene lactone. By performing the same protein pull-down experiments with both **3.79** and **4.24**, a comparison can be made between the two probes to understand what proteins interact specifically with the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone of the active probe **3.79**.

Figure 33. Proposed structures for an active and inactive activity based probe related to guaianolide analog 1.83.

4.5.1 Synthesis of active and non-active guaianolide alkyne probes

Propargylation of hydroxyl groups is commonly achieved using the Williamson ether synthesis, where a hydroxyl group is deprotonated to form the corresponding alkoxide and then reacted with propargyl bromide to afford the corresponding propargyl ether. When **1.83** was stirred with sodium hydride for 1 h, decomposition was observed. As a result, we turned to the Nicholas reaction as an acid-mediated alternative for propargylation of hydroxyl groups. As previously discussed in Section 3.2.4, alkyne probe **3.79** was available from **1.83** in 46% yield over the 2 step process (Scheme 83). The Nicholas reaction was also utilized to synthesize the inactive probe via propargylation of the allylic alcohol of **4.10**. α-Methyl lactone **4.10** was reacted with Co₂(CO)₈, propargyl alcohol, and BF₃•OEt₂ at 0 °C to afford **4.25** in 38% yield. In turn, **4.24** was achieved in 70% yield after decomplexation of **4.25**.

Scheme 83. Synthesis of active alkyne probe 3.79 and inactive probe 4.24.

4.5.2 NF-κB inhibition of guaianolide alkyne probe 3.79.

One concern when designing ABPs for protein target identification is that the biological activity of the probe should be similar to that of the original parent bioactive molecule for which the probe was made.⁷⁷ The reporter group or ligation handle that is installed should not interfere with the covalent binding events *in vivo*, which could result in diminished bioactivity. For this reason, alkyne probe **3.79** was evaluated for inhibition of induced NF-kB activity and compared to *trans*-**1.83**, the parent biomolecule of interest.

Table 20. Relative NF-kB activity averages for cells treated with alkyne probe 3.79.

Alkyne probe				
3.79	1 μM	5 μΜ	10 μM	20 μΜ
Trial 1	101.9	71.3	41.1	5.9
Trial 2	102.1	66.9	48.7	8.7
Trial 3	97.8	72.9	47.3	10.6
Average	100.6	70.4	45.7	8.4

Values shown are the relative NF- κ B activity (%) of A549 cells induced with TNF- α 30 min after treatment with **3.79** compared to induced A549 cells induced with no inhibitor treatment.

Interestingly, alkyne probe **3.79**, evaluated as a 2.2:1 mixture of diastereomers, showed increased inhibition ability compared to the alcohol containing *trans*-**1.83** (Table 20, Figure 34). At 20 μM, **3.79** lowered NF-κB activity to 8%, comparative to non-induced levels. The relative NF-κB inhibition of 8βH-**1.83a** and 8αH-**1.83b** reduced NF-κB to 31% and 42% respectively at this concentration, also shown in Figure 34 for comparison. When cells were treated with **3.79** at 10 μM, the relative NF-κB activity was reduced to 46% compared to non-treated cells. Given the potency of alkyne probe **3.79**, it is clear the alkyne ligation handle does not prevent the activity of the compound, and therefore can be used as a chemical tool for understanding the molecular targets of guaianolide analogs with an α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone.

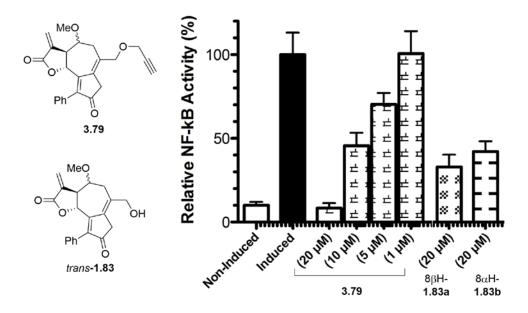


Figure 34. Pictorial representation of relative NF-κB activity for cells treated with alkyne probe **3.79**. Data obtained for cells treated with both diastereomers of *trans*-**1.83** are also included for comparison. Cells were induced with TNF- α (15ng/mL).

4.6 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, progress has been made towards understanding the means by which *trans*-guaianolide **1.83** asserts its inhibitory properties toward NF-κB. The separated diastereomers 8βH-**1.83a** and 8αH-**1.83b** were evaluated using relative NF-κB inhibition assays which revealed that the two diastereomers had similar biological properties. Due to this assessment, other analogs could continue to be evaluated as mixture of diastereomers, with relation to the C8 methoxy group.

Previous reports have discussed the importance of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone for the inhibitory properties of sesquiterpene lactones. In efforts to show this was also the case for guaianolide analog **1.83**, a reduced methylene derivative **4.10** was prepared. This was achieved by reacting **2.24** with Stryker's reagent, a copper hydride complex that selectively reduced the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone diastereoselectively to afford 11 β H,8 β H-**4.15a** and 11 β H,8 α H-**4.15b**. Due to triphenylphosphine and triphenylphosphine oxide impurities that resulted from using Stryker's reagent, a solid supported scavenger, iodine-modified Merrifield's resin, was used in the purification process of **4.15**, which was then desilylated to afford **4.10**. The reduced analog **4.10a** has no ability to inhibit induced NF- κ B activity, thereby revealing the necessity of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone for this bioactivity. Selective covalent modification of the α -methylene- γ -butyrolactone upon stirring of *trans*-**1.83** and L-cysteine also supports this conclusion.

Determining the molecular targets of *trans-***1.83** *in vivo* would add to the knowledge about this compounds mechanism of inhibition. Toward this end, an alkyne probe derivatives **3.79** and **4.24** were designed for use in ABPP experiments. Due to the base-sensitive nature of *trans-***1.83**, the Nicholas reaction was employed to successfully synthesize these probes.

Effective ABP probes must have similar biological properties compared to their parent biomolecule to indicate that the installed alkynyl group does not interfere with the binding events responsible for the NF-κB inhibition. Alkyne probe **3.79** actually displayed increased potency toward NF-κB compared to its parent molecule **1.83**. Therefore, the alkynyl group does not interfere with the potency of these guaianolide analogs for NF-κB inhibition. In fact, an ether group at this position may be superior to the allylic alcohol present in **1.83**. Both alkyne probes will be used for ABPP to determine their molecular targets in the NF-κB pathway.

4.7 EXPERIMENTALS

4.7.1 General Methods

All commercially available compounds were used as received unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether (Et₂O), and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were purified by passing through alumina using a solvent purification system. Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) was stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Stryker's reagent ([HCu(PPh₃)]₆) was purchased from Acros organics and was stored and handled in a nitrogen filled glove box. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF₃•OEt₂) was redistilled under a nitrogen atmosphere. Dicobalt octacarbonyl (Co₂(CO)₈) was used as purchased and was stored at -20 °C and opened only in a nitrogen filled glove box. Purification of the compounds via manual flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 μm particle size, 60 Å pore size) purchased from Sorbent Technologies. TLC analyses were performed on Silicycle SiliaPlate G silica gel glass plates (250 μm thickness) and visualized by UV irradiation (at 254 nm), KMnO₄ stain, and/or Ninhydrin

stain. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 MHz, 400 MHz, 500 MHz, or 600 MHz. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm, ¹H; 77.16 ppm, ¹³C). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm, multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in hertz (Hz). All NMR spectra were obtained at room temperature. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 (NaCl plate) FT-IR. ESI mass spectrometry was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited.

4.7.2 General Procedures

General procedure 4A: Reduction of α-methylene lactone with Stryker's reagent followed by scavenging of triphenylphosphine and triphenylphosphine oxide with Merrifield's resin. A flame-dried, single-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with Stryker's reagent ([CuH(PPh₃)]₆, 0.5 equiv) in a N₂ filled glove box. The flask was fitted with a rubber septum, transferred to a fume hood, and the septum was pierced with a N₂ inlet needle. The flask was charged with toluene and cooled to 0 °C on an ice/water bath. The α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone (1 equiv) was dissolved in toluene (0.01 M overall) and added to the reaction flask via syringe. The reaction stirred until the methylene lactone was consumed, as evidenced by TLC or crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3x). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude material was taken up in acetone (0.02 M) and transferred to a microwave vial. Sodium iodide (6 equiv) was added followed by Merrifield's resin (4.4 mmol/g loaded resin, 6.6 equiv). The vial was

sealed and swirled (no stir bar) in an incubator at rt for 18 h. The slurry was filtered through a fritted filter and the resin was rinsed successively with THF, water, acetone, and methanol (2x each solvent). The filtrate was reduced to half volume using reduced pressure rotary evaporation and then extracted with Et₂O (3x). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the α -methyl lactone.

4.7.3 General Calculations Procedure for 4.10 isomers.

The calculations performed for the compounds in Section 4.3.2 were performed using MacSpartan '14 Mechanics Program. The lowest energy conformation was defined using MMFF calculations. The lowest energy conformers were then used to calculate ¹H NMR spectral data using B3LYP/631G* functionals with NMR options. These calculations generated chemical shifts (both corrected and uncorrected) for all atoms, as well as coupling constants for proton-proton coupling.

4.7.4 Experimental procedures with compound characterization data

4-(1-(methoxymethoxy)heptyl)-3-methyl-5(phenylethynyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 4.17. Follows general procedure 4A: Stryker's reagent (110 mg of a 1.3:1 ratio of diastereomers, 0.056 mmol, 1.0 equiv), toluene (2.0 mL), *cis*-guaianolide 4.16 (20 mg, 0.056 mmol) dissolved in toluene (3.6 mL). The reactions stirred for 1 h before the first work up. The crude ¹H NMR spectrum revealed formation of 4.17 with contamination of Ph₃P and Ph₃PO. The

second step was performed in acetone (2.0 mL), with sodium iodide (101 mg, 0.672 mmol, 12 equiv), and Merrifield's resin (168 mg, 0.224 mmol, 13.2 equiv). The crude residue from the second work up was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography (15% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (14 mg, 70%) as a colorless oil and as a 1.3:1 ratio of diastereomers.

Data for **4.17**.

1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.46-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 3H), 5.46 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H)*, 4.82-4.04 (m, 2H), 4.12-4.04 (m, 1H)*, 4.03-3.97 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H)*, 2.99-2.89 (m, 1H)*, 2.61-2.56 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.22 (m, 11H), 0.92-0.83 (m, 3H) ppm;

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

179.2, 178.8*, 131.8, 131.7*, 129.3*, 129.2*, 128.64*, 128.59, 121.8, 97.1, 97.0*, 89.5*, 89.3, 84.6*, 83.3, 78.7, 76.4*, 71.6*, 70.6, 56.2, 50.2, 46.0, 36.7*, 35.9, 32.3, 32.2*, 31.9, 29.8*, 29.6, 24.2, 23.8*, 22.7, 15.2, 14.2, 12.4 ppm; *Discernable signal for the minor diastereomer

\underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

 $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{22}H_{31}O_4$, 359.2217; found, 359.2203;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

2929, 2854, 2238, 1784, 1491, 1463, 1156, 1037, 987, 758, 692 cm⁻¹;

TLC $R_f = 0.43$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

O OTBDPS

α-Methyl cis-lactone 4.22. Follows general procedure 4A: Stryker's reagent (33 mg, 0.017 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), cis-guaianolide analog
2.25 (20 mg of a single diastereomer, 0.034 mmol) dissolved in toluene

(1.4 mL). The reaction stirred for 20 min before the first work up. The crude NMR revealed formation of **4.22** with contamination of Ph₃P and Ph₃PO. The second step was performed in acetone (1.5 mL), with sodium iodide (36 mg, 0.204 mmol), Merrifield's resin (51 mg, 0.224 mmol). The crude residue from the second work up was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 15-20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (7 mg, 34%) as a colorless oil and as a 9.6:1 ratio of diastereomers, determined by the integrations for H₆ at 5.63 and 5.44 ppm.

Data for **4.22**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.37 (m, 9H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 5.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H)*, 5.44 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H)*, 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.27-3.18 (m, 1H), 3.03-2.88 (m, 3H), 2.78 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.48 (m, 1H), 1.44 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (d, J = 7.2 Hz 3H)*, 1.07 (s, 9H) ppm;

* Discernable signal for minor diastereomer

 $\frac{13}{\text{C NMR}}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.7, 178.6, 158.0, 135.8, 135.7, 133.2, 132.9, 130.4, 130.2, 130.1, 129.70, 129.65, 129.3, 128.83, 128.77, 128.1, 128.0, 74.4, 65.7, 57.1, 45.1, 40.5, 38.5, 31.7, 30.5, 27.0, 19.4, 11.9 ppm;

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₃₇H₄₁O₅Si, 593.2718; found, 593.2719;

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3035, 2898, 2824, 1756, 1686, 1454, 1412, 1150, 1093, 983, 726, 693 cm⁻¹;

 $\underline{\text{TLC}}$ R_f = 0.15 (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

α-Methyl trans-lactone 4.15. Follows general procedure 4A: Stryker's reagent (50 mg, 0.025 mmol, 0.5 equiv), toluene (3.8 mL), trans-guaianolide analog 2.24 (30 mg of a 1.6:1 mixture of diastereomers, 0.051 mmol) dissolved in toluene (1.2 mL). The reaction stirred for 1 h before the first work up. The crude NMR revealed formation of 4.15 with contamination of Ph₃P and Ph₃PO. The second step was performed in acetone (1.8 mL), with sodium iodide (46 mg, 0.31 mmol), Merrifield's resin (76 mg of a 4.4 mmol/g loaded resin, 0.33 mmol). The crude residue from the second work up was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 15-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the title compound (13 mg, 43%) as a 1.4:1 mixture of diastereomers.

• When the iodine-modified Merrifield's resin was not used, extensive purification via silica gel column chromatography was required. This allowed slight separation of the two diastereomers 11βH,8βH-**4.15a** and 11βH,8αH-**4.15b**, which were used for NMR characterization.

Data for 11βH,8βH-**4.15a**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.72-7.64 (m, 4 H), 7.50-7.33 (m, 9 H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2 H), 5.29 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.33 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.21 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.73-3.68 (m, 1 H), 3.36 (s, 3 H), 3.31 (dd, J = 16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.88 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (d,

J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.50 (dq, J = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.41-2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.21 (ddd, J = 11.6, 11.6, 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.29 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 1.09 (s, 9 H) ppm; Impurity seen at 1.25 ppm.

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.8, 176.5, 162.2, 142.6, 135.7, 133.6, 133.1, 132.3, 131.3, 130.3, 130.2, 129.8, 128.5, 128.03, 127.97, 127.7, 82.9, 75.9, 66.5, 56.6, 53.4, 41.9, 39.4, 29.6, 27.0, 19.5, 14.6 ppm;

 $\frac{\text{TLC}}{\text{EtOAc in hexanes}}$ Silica gel, UV visible

Data for 11β H, 8α H-**4.15b**.

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.70-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.32 (m, 9H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 2H), 5.61 (d, J=10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (app s, 2H), 3.69 (dt, J=9.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd, J=14.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dq, J=12.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (d, J=20.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (d, J=20.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39-2.26 (m, 2H), 1.18 (d, J=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H) ppm;

Impurities seen at 4.12, 2.05, and 1.26 ppm due to the presence of EtOAc.

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.4, 177.2, 162.6, 143.7, 135.69, 135.65, 133.13, 133.09, 133.0, 132.0, 131.3, 130.3, 129.7, 128.6, 128.09, 128.06, 127.8, 74.8, 72.8, 66.0, 57.5, 53.1, 39.5, 35.0, 32.9, 27.0, 19.5, 13.5 ppm;

Impurities seen at 60.6, 29.9, 21.2, 14.4 ppm

TLC $R_f = 0.16$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica gel, UV visible

HRMS, IR data obtained using from the 1.4:1 mixture of diastereomers:

 \underline{HRMS} (FTMS + p ESI Full ms)

[M+H]⁺ calcd for C₃₇H₄₁O₅Si, 593.2718; found, 593.2721;

IR (thin film)

2930, 2856, 1783, 1703, 1460, 1428, 1164, 1105, 701 cm⁻¹;

11aH-trans-guaianolide analog 4.10. A flame-dried, 5 mL, single-necked flask with a stir bar and septum was charged with silyl ether 4.15 (16 mg of a 1.4:1 mixture of diastereomers, 0.027 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in acetonitrile (0.9 mL). NEt₃•3HF was added dropwise (11 mg, 0.068 mmol, 2.5 equiv). The reaction flask was lowered into a pre-heated oil bath (50 °C) and stirred for 17 h. The reaction was cooled to rt and diluted with water (2 mL) and Et₂O (2 mL). The reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and the flask was rinsed with additional water and Et₂O. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 5 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using reduced pressure rotary evaporation. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (50 mL of 50% EtOAc in hexanes followed by 100 mL 100% EtOAc) to afford the title compound (6.5 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil and as a 1.2:1 mixture of diastereomers.

• When 11βH,8βH-**4.15a** (15 mg, 0.0253 mmol, 1 equiv) as a single diastereomer was stirred with NEt₃·3HF using the same procedure, 6 mg of 11βH,8βH-**4.10a** was afforded in 63% yield.

Data for **4.10** as a 1.2:1 mixture of diastereomers (**4.10a**: **4.10b**).

 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.41-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 5.66 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H)*, 5.36 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (app s, 2H)*, 4.18 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H)*, 3.32-3.13 (m, 2H), 3.08 (dd, J = 15.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.98 (m, 1H)*, 2.58-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.47-2.36 (m, 2H)*, 2.27 (ddd, J = 11.5, 11.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H)* ppm;

Impurities seen at 9.20, 6.25, 5.30, 5.11, 2.13, 2.04, 1.43, 1.26, 0.88 ppm.

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.5, 201.3*, 177.1*, 176.3, 162.6*, 162.0, 144.4*, 143.7, 134.2*, 133.9, 132.8, 131.7*, 131.2*, 131.1, 129.8, 129.7*, 128.73*, 128.69, 127.84*, 127.78, 82.9, 75.8, 74.7*, 72.8*, 65.3*, 65.2, 57.6*, 57.1, 53.6, 53.1*, 41.9, 39.8*, 39.6, 35.1*, 33.5*, 31.2, 14.6, 13.4* ppm;

Impurities seen at 171.3, 60.5, 14.4 ppm.

* Minor **4.10b** diastereomer

<u>HRMS</u> (FTMS + p ESI Full ms) $[M+H]^{+} \text{ calcd for } C_{21}H_{23}O_{5}, 355.15400; \text{ found, } 355.15417;$

<u>IR</u> (thin film)

3433, 2923, 2853, 1778, 1696, 1457, 1392, 1227, 1166, 1095, 1032 cm⁻¹;

TLC $R_f = 0.21 (100\% \text{ EtOAc})$ Silica gel, UV visible

Data for **4.10a** as a single diastereomer

 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.40-7.33 (m, 3 H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2 H), 5.36 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.30 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.18 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.73-3.69 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (s, 3 H), 3.29 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.16 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.08 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.59-2.48 (m, 2 H), 2.27 (ddd, J = 11.6, 11.6, 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.31 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H) ppm;

Impurities seen at 7.69, 7.52, 7.49, 4.14, 2.04, 1.25, 0.88 ppm;

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.4, 176.3, 162.0, 143.6, 133.9, 132.8, 131.1, 129.8, 128.7, 127.8, 82.9, 75.8, 65.2, 57.1, 53.5, 41.9, 39.5, 31.2, 14.6 ppm;

Cysteine adduct 4.23. In a vial, 1.83 (12 mg of a 4:1 ratio of 8βH-1.83a: 8αH-1.83b, 0.034 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 1 mL DCM. This solution was transferred to a 5 mL flask, the DCM was evaporated off using reduced pressure rotary evaporation, and the 1.83 was dried under high vacuum. The flask was equipped with a stir bar and charged with acetone (0.069 mL) followed by aqueous phosphate buffer with a pH of 7.2 (1 mL). L-Cysteine (4 mg, 0.034 mmol, 1 equiv) was added and stirred for 2 h while the reaction was monitored by TLC (solvent system was the bottom layer of CHCl₃/methanol/water, 7:3:1, product visible using ninhydrin stain). Upon completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure giving a yellow orange crude material (22 mg). The crude material was purified using silica gel flash chromatography (bottom layer of CHCl₃, methanol, water solution; 7:3:1) to give 12 mg of adduct 4.23 in 75% yield. ¹H NMR of the crude material had shown the presence of both diastereomers, however only the 8βH-adduct was obtained after purification. The purified material of 4.23 became contaminated with DMF through unknown means.

Data for **4.23**

¹H NMR (600MHz, D₂O)

7.43-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 2 H), 5.74 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.29 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.15 (dd, J = 13.2, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.06-4.02 (m, 1 H), 3.89-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.46 (s, 3 H), 3.40 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.39-3.30 (m, 1 H), 3.32 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.19-2.91 (m, 5 H) 2.67-2.60 (m, 2 H) ppm;

Impurities seen at 7.91, 2.99, and 2.83 ppm due to the presence of DMF.

13C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O)

208.2, 178.8, 173.3, 165.9, 142.04, 136.2, 133.8, 132.3, 130.3, 129.1, 128.7, 82.5, 78.0, 65.1, 56.8, 54.6, 49.6, 47.6, 39.7, 35.0, 31.0, 30.5 ppm;

Impurities seen at 165.7, 129.3, 37.7, and 32.2 ppm.

TLC $R_f = 0.14$ (bottom layer of a chloroform, methanol, and water solution; 7:3:1) Silica gel, UV, Ninhydrin stain.

(OC)₆Co₂
MeO

Co₂(CO)₆-reduced methylene alkyne probe 4.25. Follows general procedure 3C.2 (Section 3.4.2): Propargyl alcohol (2 mg, 0.037 mmol), DCM (0.3 mL), Co₂(CO)₈ (13 mg, 0.037 mmol), guaianolide analog 4.10 (7 mg of a 1.2:1 mixture of diastereomers, 0.018 mmol), dissolved in DCM (0.2

mL), and BF₃•OEt₂ (7 mg, 0.046 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 45 min. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 20-50% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford 5 mg of **4.25** in 38% yield as a dark red oil and as a ~1 :1 mixture of diastereomers. ¹H NMR showed that **4.25** was 85% pure, due to contamination with an unknown, but structurally related by-product.

• When 11βH,8βH-**4.10a** (4 mg of a single diastereomer, 0.013 mmol) was subjected to the same procedure, 1 mg of the corresponding 11βH,8βH-**4.25a** was afforded in 16% yield.

Data for **4.25** as mixture of diastereomers.

$\frac{1}{1}$ H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.49-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2 H), 6.08 (s, 1 H), 5.66 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.35 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.72-4.62 (m, 2 H), 4.35-4.21 (m, 2 H), 3.80-3.65 (m, 1 H), 3.45 (s, 3 H), 3.42 (s, 3 H)*, 3.31-2.96 (m, 3 H), 2.58-2.48 (m, 1 H), 2.46-2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.33-2.23 (m, 1 H), 1.30 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.15 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H)* ppm;

Impurities seen at 10.0, 5.78, 5.59, 5.26, 4.12, 3.50, 3.43, 2.80-2.68, 2.04, 1.43, 1.26, 0.88 ppm.

*Discernable signal for the 11β H,8 α H-4.25b diastereomer.

13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

201.7, 201.2*, 199.8, 177.2, 176.4*, 162.7, 162.1*, 144.5*, 143.4, 135.2, 134.3*, 133.1, 131.4*, 131.2, 131.1*, 129.8*, 129.7, 128.8*, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8*, 91.7, 91.4*, 83.0, 75.9, 74.6*, 73.3*, 73.2, 72.4*, 71.5, 71.1*, 57.4, 56.7*, 53.5*, 53.1, 42.0, 40.0, 39.8*, 35.0*, 33.7*, 29.9, 14.6*, 13.3 ppm;

Impurities seen at 130.1, 128.0, 60.5, 21.2 14.4 ppm;

*Discernable signal for one of the diastereomers.

 $\frac{TLC}{R_f} = 0.38 \text{ (40\% EtOAc in hexanes)}$ Silica gel, UV visible

Data for $11\beta H$, $8\beta H$ -4.25a as a single diaster eomer.

<u>1H NMR</u> (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.40-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2 H), 6.08 (s, 1 H), 5.35 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.68 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.63 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.33 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.22 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.76-3.69 (m, 1 H), 3.45 (s, 3 H), 3.25 (app s, 2 H) 3.23-3.16 (m, 1 H), 2.58-2.47 (m, 1 H), 2.44-2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.27 (ddd, J = 11.6, 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.30 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H) ppm;

O Ph

Reduced methylene alkyne probe 4.24. Follows general procedure 3D (Section 3.4.2): cobalt complex **4.25** (5 mg of a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers, 0.0066 mmol, 1 equiv), acetone (0.5 mL), and ceric ammonium nitrate (15 mg, 0.027 mmol, 4 equiv). The reaction stirred for 15 min. The crude residue

was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient of 30-50% Et₂O in hexanes to afford 2 mg of propargyl ether **4.24** as a mixture of two diastereomers (1.2:1) in 70% yield as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR revealed the material was 78% pure with an inseparable, unidentified impurity. The mixture was sent to collaborators Dan Harki and John Widen for further purification, characterization, and biological evaluation.

Data for **4.24**.

1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

7.49 -7.31 (m, 3 H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2 H), 5.66 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)*, 5.34 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.28-4.15 (m, 4 H), 3.84-3.62 (m, 1 H), 3.46 (s, 3 H)*, 3.45 (s, 3 H), 3.36-2.97 (m, 3 H), 2.59-2.44 (m, 3 H), 2.43-2.09 (m, 1 H), 1.30 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3 H). 1.19 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3 H)* ppm;

* Discernable signal for one of the diastereomers.

Impurities seen at 10.0, 5.77, 5.46, 4.12, 3.49, 3.43, 2.70, 2.04, 1.54, 1.38, 1.25, 0.87 ppm.

 $\frac{TLC}{R_f} = 0.34 \ (50\% \ Et_2O \ in \ hexanes)$ Silica gel, UV visible

APPENDIX A

TABLES OF NMR DATA FOR GUAIANOLIDE ANALOGS

Table 21. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for 1.83a and 1.83b.

Compound 8βH-1.83a $8\alpha H-1.83b$ Position ¹H signal(s) ppm ¹³C signal(s) ¹³C signal(s) ¹H signal(s) ppm ppm ppm 133.9 133.7 1 2 39.5 3.29 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H),3.28-3.15 (m, 2 H) 39.9 3.17 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H)3 201.4 201.3 4 ---143.3 144.1 5 161.6 162.2 6 5.39 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1 H)5.78 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H)74.9 75.8 7 3.18-3.13 (m, 1 H) 50.0 3.37-3.31 (m, 1H) 49.8 8 3.86 (ddd, J = 8.0, 4.0, 2.5 Hz,81.7 4.14-4.07 (m, 1 H) 74.0 1 H) 9 3.16-3.12 (m, 1 H) 30.6 3.27 (dd, J = 15.2, 6.8 Hz, 1 H)33.9 2.56 (dd, J = 15.8, 2.5 Hz, 1 H)2.53 (dd, J = 15.2, 8.4 Hz, 1 H)10 133.0 132.2 137.2 ---11 134.2 12 167.8 168.4 13 6.25 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1 H)122.1 6.36 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H)123.0 5.85 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H)5.52 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)14 4.31 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 65.3 4.34-4.26 (m, 2 H) 65.6 4.19 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1 H)-OMe 3.54 (s, 3 H) 56.9 3.45 (s, 3 H) 57.5 Phenyl ring 7.40-7.32 (m, 3 H) 130.7, 130.0, 7.45-7.32 (m, 3 H), 130.8, 130.0, 7.27-7.24 (m, 2 H) 7.30-7.26 (m, 2 H) 128.9, 127.9 128.8, 127.8,

Table 22. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for **3.78** and **3.79**.

Compound	3.78		3.79	
Position	¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s) ppm	¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s) ppm
1		134.0, 133.6*		135.4, 133.6*
2	3.32-3.14 (m, 2 H)	40.0*, 39.7	3.39-3.24 (m, 2 H)	40.0*, 39.7
3		201.4, 201.0*		201.5, 201.3*
4		144.0*, 143.0		144.2*, 143.2
5		162.2*, 161.5		161.9*, 161.4
6	5.78 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H)	75.7, 74.7*	5.78 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H)*	75.7, 74.8*
	5.38 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1 H)		5.38 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1 H)	
7	3.32-3.14 (m, 1 H)	49.8	3.22-3.11 (m, 1 H)	49.8, 49.7*
8	4.10-4.05 (m, 1 H)*	81.8, 73.6*	4.09-4.06 (m, 1 H)*	81.8, 73.8*
	3.88-3.86 (m, 1 H)		3.87-3.84 (m, 1 H)	
9	3.32-3.14 (m, 1 H)	33.8*, 29.5	3.22-3.11 (m, 1 H)	34.2*, 30.0
	2.52-2.41 (m, 1 H)		2.52-2.46 (m, 1 H)	
10		131.6, 130.3*		130.9, 129.7*
11		137.2, 135.0*		137.2, 135.8*
12		168.3*, 167.9		168.3*, 167.9
13	6.34 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H)*	122.8*, 122.2	6.36 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*	122.9*, 122.2
	6.24 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)		6.24 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)	
	5.86 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)		5.88 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H)	
	5.47 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*		5.52 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1 H)*	
14	4.33 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H),	73.4, 73.3*	4.23-4.16 (m, 2 H)	75.6, 75.4*
	4.25 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H)			
	4.26 (app s, 2 H)*			
15	4.71-4.61 (m, 2 H)	71.4*, 71.1	4.23-4.16 (m, 2 H)	71.9*, 71.5
16		90.7*, 90.6		79.5, 79.3*
17	6.09 (s, 1 H)	71.9, 71.6*	2.52-2.46 (m, 1 H)	57.8*, 57.2
$Co_2(CO)_6$		199.6		
-OMe	3.51 (s, 3 H)	57.2*, 56.5	3.51 (s, 3 H)	57.4*, 56.5
	3.39 (s, 3 H)*		3.43 (s, 3 H)*	
Phenyl ring	7.40-7.35 (m, 3 H)	130.72*, 130.65,	7.38-7.35 (m, 3 H)	130.73*, 130.65,
	7.31-7.26 (m, 2 H)	130.0, 129.9*,	7.30-7.24 (m, 2 H)	129.93, 129.89*,
		128.84*, 128.77,		128.9*, 128.8,
		127.8*, 127.7		127.80*, 127.75

^{*}Discernable signal for minor diastereomer.

^{*}Discernable signal for minor diastereomer.

Table 23. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for 4.15a and 4.15b.

Compound **4.15a 4.15b**

4.13a		4.130	
¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s)	¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s)
	ppm		ppm
	133.6		b
2.88 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H),	39.4	2.81 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H)	39.5
2.72 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H)		2.74 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1 H)	
	201.8		201.4
	142.6		143.7
	162.2		162.6
5.29 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1 H)	75.9	5.61 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1 H)	74.8
2.21 (ddd, J = 11.6, 11.6, 7.2	53.4	2.39-2.26 (m, 1 H)	53.1
Hz, 1 H)			
3.73-3.68 (m, 1 H)	82.9	3.69 (dt, J = 9.2, 6.0 Hz, 1 H)	72.8
3.31 (dd, J = 16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1 H)	29.6	3.27 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.4 Hz, 1	32.9
2.41-2.34 (m, 1 H)		H)	
		2.39-2.26 (m, 1 H)	
	a		b
2.50 (dq, J = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1 H)	41.9	3.00 (dq, J = 12.0, 6.8 Hz, 1	35.0
		H)	
	176.5		177.2
1.29 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H),	14.6	1.18 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H)	13.5
4.33 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1 H),	66.5	4.27 (app s, 2 H)	66.0
4.21 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1 H)			
3.36 (s, 3 H)	56.6	3.45 (s, 3 H)	57.1
7.72-7.64 (m, 4 H)	a, 129.8, 128.5,	7.70-7.65 (m, 4 H)	b, 129.7, 128.6,
7.50-7.33 (m, 9 H)	127.7	7.51-7.32 (m, 9 H)	127.8
7.24-7.20 (m, 2 H)		7.26-7.24 (m, 2 H)	
	135.7, 133.1,		135.69, 135.65,
	130.3, 130.2		133.13, 133.09,
	128.03, 127.97		130.03, 130.00,
			128.09, 128.06
1.09 (s, 9 H)	27.0, 19.5	1.10 (s, 9 H)	27.0, 19.5
	¹ H signal(s) ppm 2.88 (d, <i>J</i> = 20.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (d, <i>J</i> = 20.8 Hz, 1 H) 5.29 (d, <i>J</i> = 11.6 Hz, 1 H) 2.21 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 11.6, 11.6, 7.2 Hz, 1 H) 3.73-3.68 (m, 1 H) 3.31 (dd, <i>J</i> = 16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1 H) 2.41-2.34 (m, 1 H) 2.50 (dq, <i>J</i> = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1 H) 1.29 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 4.33 (d, <i>J</i> = 13.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.21 (d, <i>J</i> = 13.0 Hz, 1 H) 3.36 (s, 3 H) 7.72-7.64 (m, 4 H) 7.50-7.33 (m, 9 H) 7.24-7.20 (m, 2 H)	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

 $^{\mathrm{a}}\mathrm{C10},$ and the substituted aromatic carbon are the signals at 132.3, and 131.3, but could not be assigned.

^bC1, C10, and the substituted aromatic carbon are the signals at 133.0. 132.0, and 131.3 but could not be assigned.

Table 24. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for 4.10a and 4.10b.

Compound	$4.10a$ $4.10b^b$			
Position	¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s)	¹ H signal(s) ppm	¹³ C signal(s)
		ppm		ppm
1		133.9		134.2
2	3.29 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1 H),	39.5	(3.31-3.14 m, 2H)	39.8
	3.16 (d, J = 20.4 Hz, 1 H)			
3		201.4		201.3
4		143.6		144.4
5		162.0		162.6
6	5.36 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1 H)	75.8	5.66 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1 H)	74.7
7	2.27 (ddd, J = 11.6, 11.6, 7.4	53.5	2.47-2.36 (m, 1 H)	53.1
	Hz, 1 H)			
8	3.73-3.69 (m, 1 H)	82.9	3.78-3.70 (m 1 H)	72.8
9	3.08 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 1 H)	31.2	c	33.5
	2.59-2.48 (m, 1 H)		2.47-2.36 (m, 1 H)	
10		a		d
11	2.59-2.48 (m, 1 H)	41.9	3.05-2.98 (m, 1 H)	35.1
12		177.1		177.1
13	1.31 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H)	14.6	1.18 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H)	13.4
14	4.30 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H),	65.2	4.28 (app s, 2 H)	65.3
	4.18 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1 H)			
-OMe	3.48 (s, 3 H)	57.1	3.46 (s, 3 H)	57.6
Phenyl ring	7.40-7.33 (m, 3 H),	a, 129.8,	7.40-7.33 (m, 3 H), 7.27-7.22 (m,	129.7, 128.7,
	7.27-7.22 (m, 2 H)	128.7, 127.8	2 H)	127.8, d

^aC10, and the substituted aromatic carbon are the signals at 132.8 and 131.1, but could not be assigned.

b4.10b was not isolated. Assignments based upon spectrum obtained for a mixture of 4.10a and b ^c1 H of position 9 buried in multiplet from 3.31-3.12 ppm

^dC10, and the substituted aromatic carbon are the signals at 131.7, and 131.2 but could not be assigned.

Table 25. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for cysteine adduct 4.23.

$$H_2N$$
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 MeO
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 14

Position	¹ H Signal(s) ¹³ C signal(s)		
1		136.2	
2	3.40 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H) 39.7		
	3.32 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1 H)		
3		208.2	
4		142.0	
5		165.9	
6	5.74 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)	78.0	
7	2.67-2.60 (m, 1 H)	49.6	
8	4.06-4.02 (m, 1 H)	82.5	
9	3.39-3.30 (m, 1 H)	35.0	
	2.67-2.60 (m, 1 H)		
10		133.8	
11	3.19-2.91 (m, 1 H)	47.6	
12		178.8	
13	3.19-2.91 (m, 2 H)	a	
14	4.29 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H),	(d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 65.1	
	4.15 (dd, J = 13.2, 2.4 Hz, 1 H)		
15	3.19-2.91 (m, 2 H)	a	
16	3.89-3.86 (m, 1H)	54.6	
17		173.3	
OMe	3.46 (s, 3 H)	56.8	
Phenyl	7.43-7.41 (m, 2 H),	132.3, 130.3, 129.1, 128.7	
	7.24-7.22 (m, 3 H)		

^aC13 and C15 are represented by the signals at 31.0 and 30.5 ppm

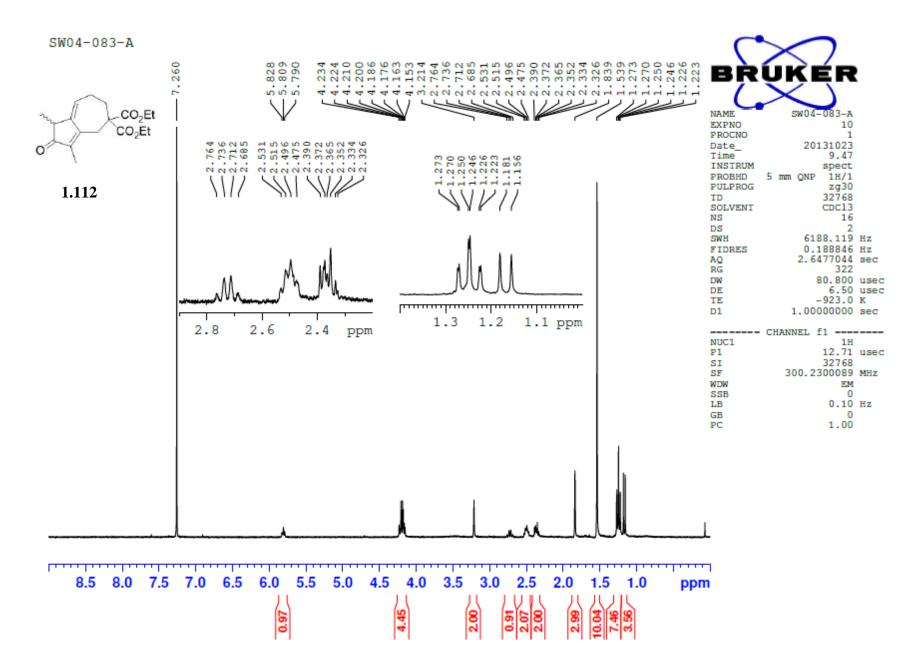
Table 26. ¹H NMR data for 4.25 and 4.24.

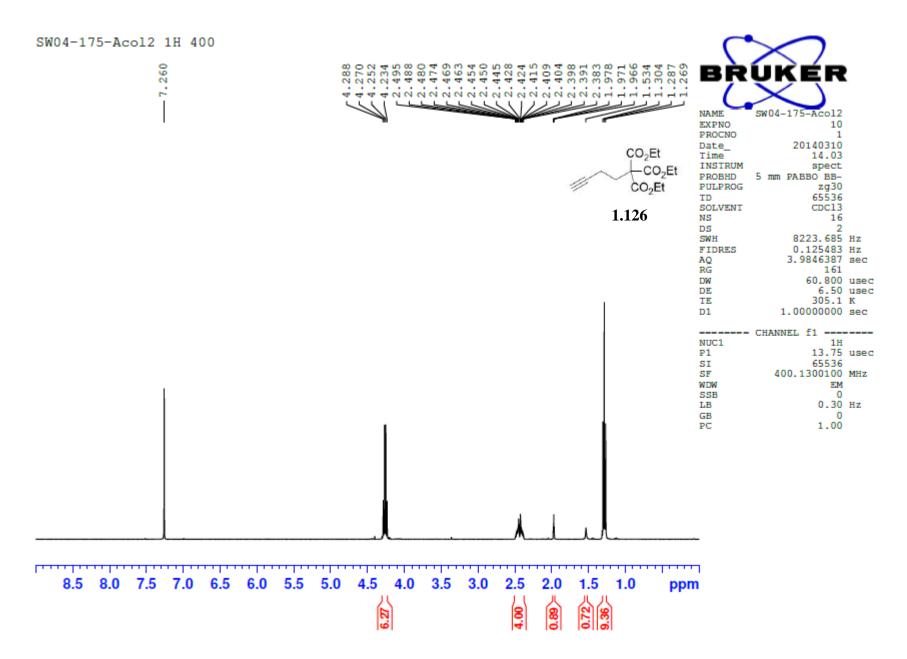
Compound	11βН,8βН-4.25а	4.25 ^a		4.24a
Position	¹ H signal(s)	¹ H signal(s)	¹³ C signal(s)	¹ H signal(s)
1			135.2, 134.3*	
2	3.25 (app s, 2 H)	3.31-2.96 (m, 2H)	40.0, 39.8*	3.36-2.97 (m, 2H)
3			201.7, 201.2*	
4			144.5, 143.4*	
5			162.7, 162.1*	
6	5.35 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1 H)	5.66, (d, <i>J</i> = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)*	75.9, 74.6*	5.66, (d, <i>J</i> = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)*
		5.35 (d, <i>J</i> = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)		5.34 (d, <i>J</i> = 11.0 Hz, 1 H)
7	2.27 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 11.6, 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H)	2.33-2.23 (m, 1H)	53.5*, 53.1	b
8	3.76-3.69 (m, 1H)	3.80-3.65 (m, 1H)	83.0, 73.3*	3.84-3.62 (m, 1H)
9	3.23-3.16 (m, 1 H) 2.44-2.38 (m, 1 H)	3.31-2.96 (m, 2H) 2.46-2.34 (m, 1H)	33.7*, 29.9	b
10			133.1, 131.4*	
11	2.58-2.47 (m, 1H)	2.58-2.48 (m, 1H)	42.0, 35.0*	b
12			177.2, 176.4*	
13	1.30 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H)	1.30 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz, 3H) 1.15 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz, 3H)*	14.6*, 13.3	1.30 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.3 Hz, 3H) 1.19 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.3 Hz, 3H)*
14	4.33 (d, <i>J</i> = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, <i>J</i> = 12.8 Hz, 1 H)	4.35-4.21 (m, 2H)	73.2, 72.4*	4.28-4.15 (m, 2H)
15	4.68 (d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz, 1 H) 4.63 (d, <i>J</i> = 13.6 Hz, 1 H)	4.72-4.62 (m, 2H)	71.5, 71.1*	4.28-4.15 (m, 2H)
16			91.7, 91.4*	
17	6.08 (s, 1H)	6.08 (s, 1H)	71.9, 71.6*	2.59-2.44 (m, 1H)
$Co_2(CO)_6$			199.8	
-OMe	3.45 (s, 3H)	3.45 (s, 3H) 3.42 (s, 3H)*	57.4, 56.7*	3.46 (s, 3H) 3.45 (s, 3H)*
Phenyl ring	7.40-7.32 (m, 3 H)	7.49-7.32 (m, 3H)	131.2, 131.1*,	7.49-7.31 (m, 3H)
	7.28-7.24 (m, 2 H)	7.30-7.25 (m, 2H)	129.8*, 129.7, 128.8*, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8*	7.29-7.25 (m, 2H)

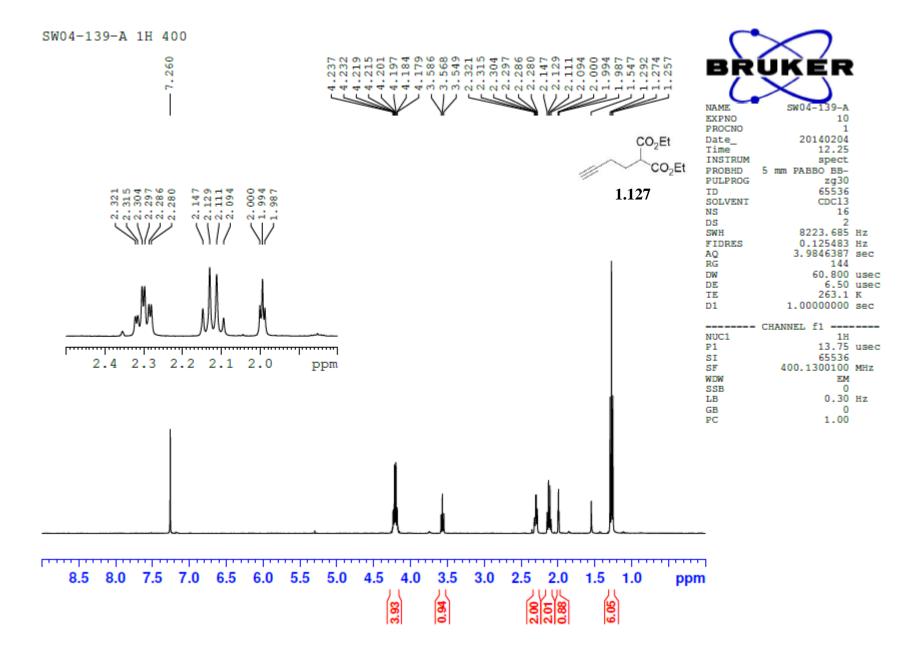
*Discernable signal for one diastereomer. *Spectrum obtained of an impure mixture of diastereomers. bH₇, H₉, H₁₁ are represented by 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.44 (m, 2H), and 2.43-2.09 (m, 1H) but could not be assigned due to the impure nature of the spectrum and possible overlap of signals for the 2 diastereomers.

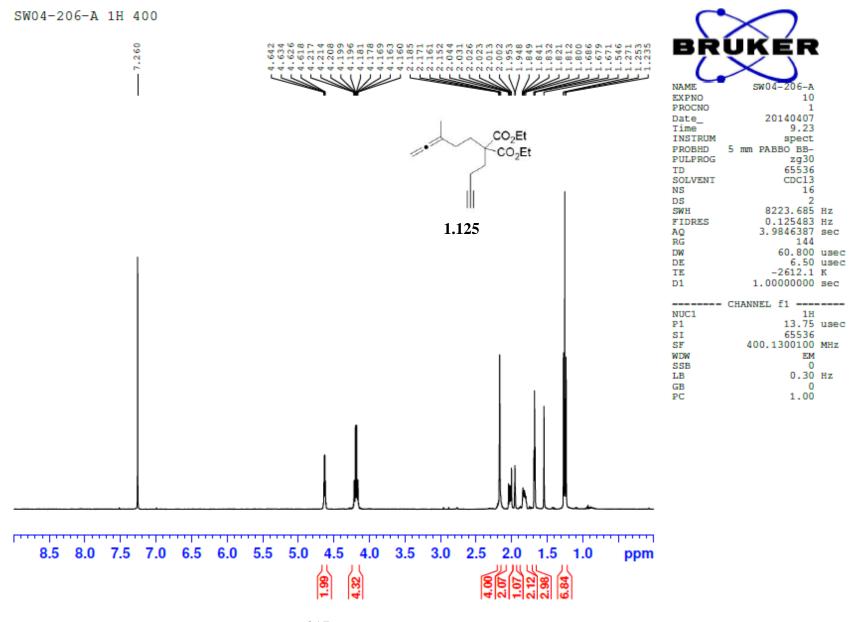
APPENDIX B

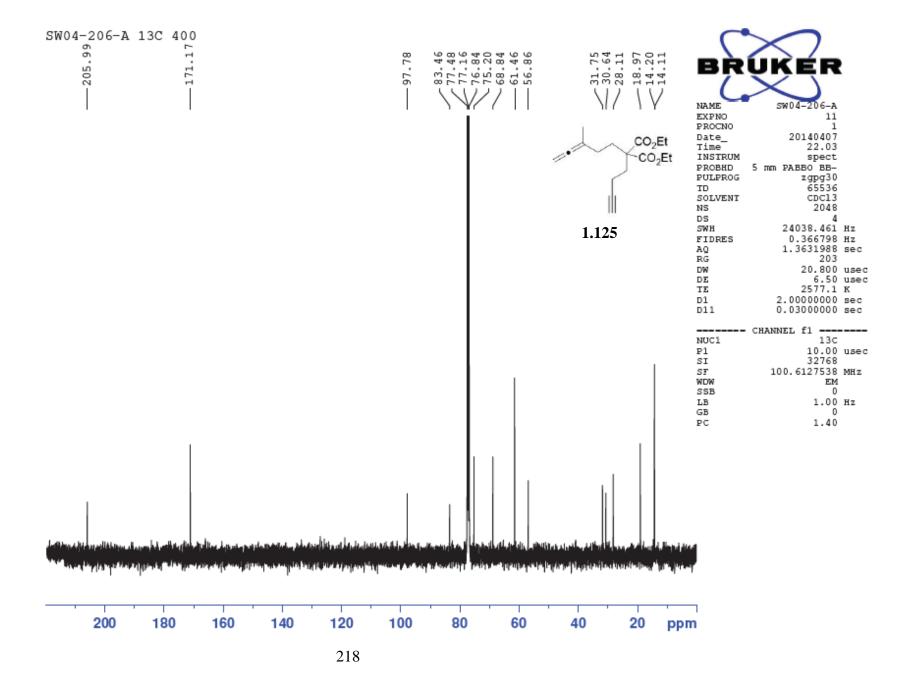
¹H AND ¹³C NMR SPECTRA

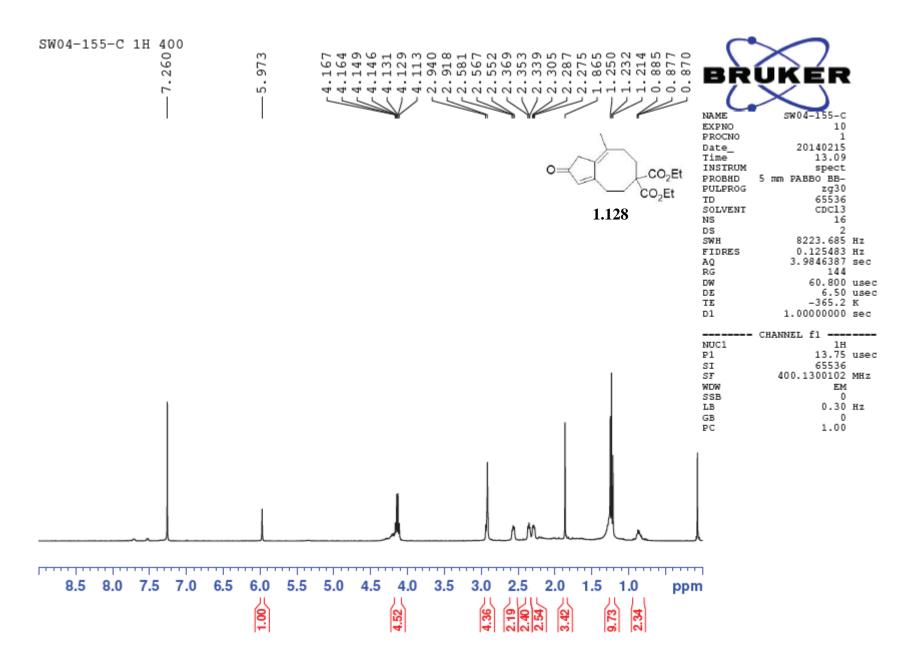


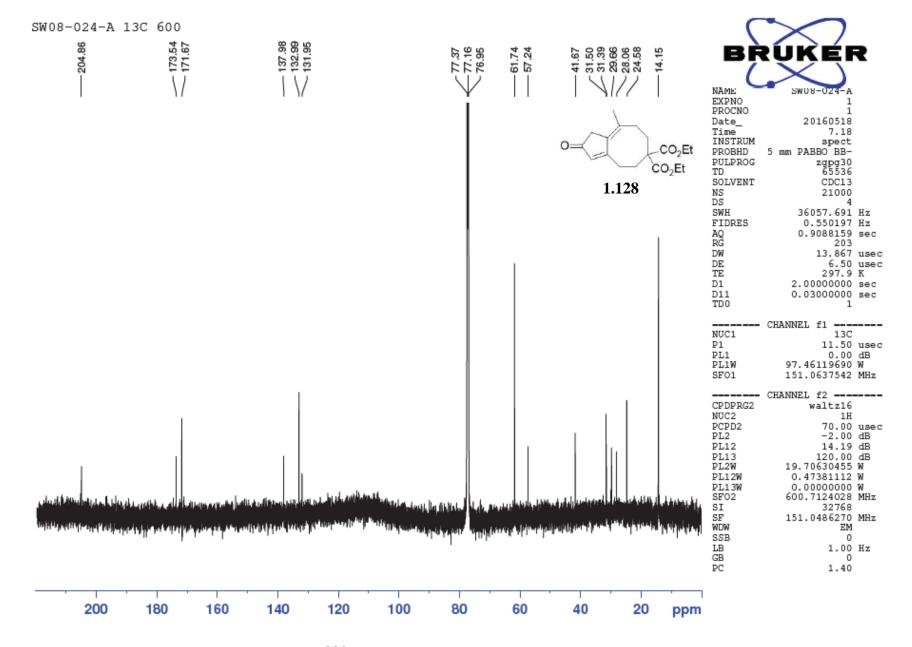


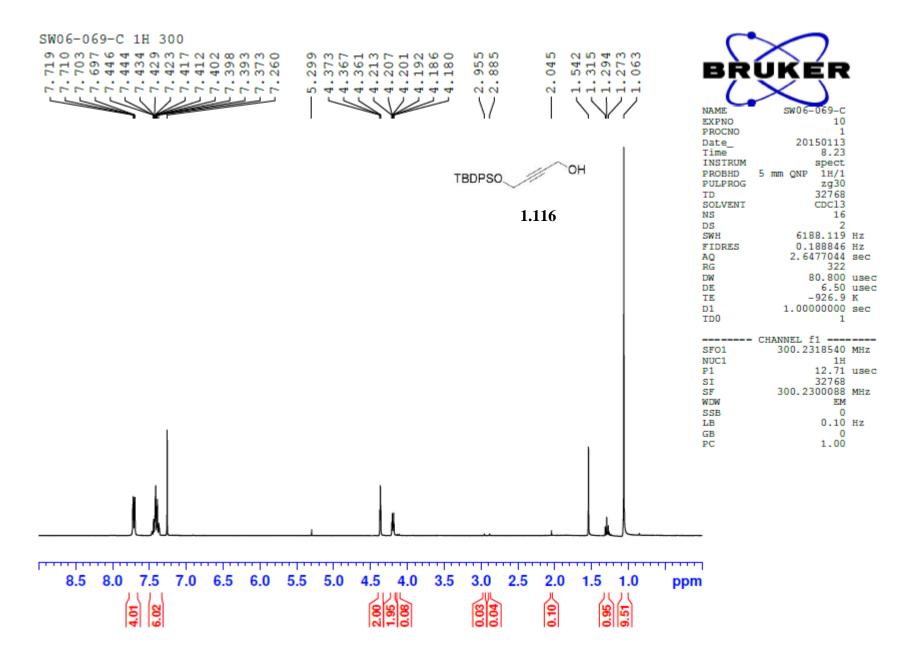


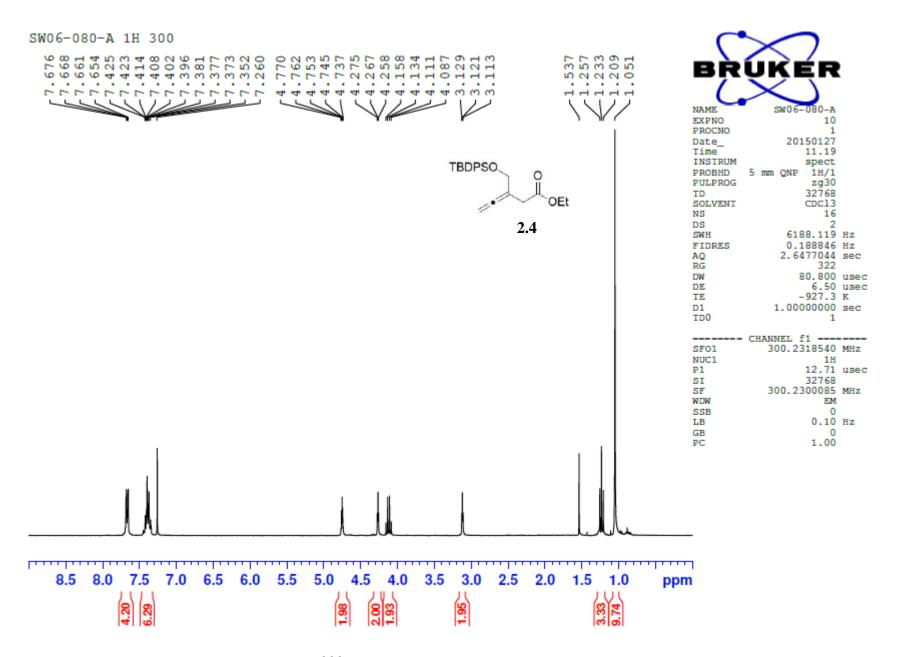


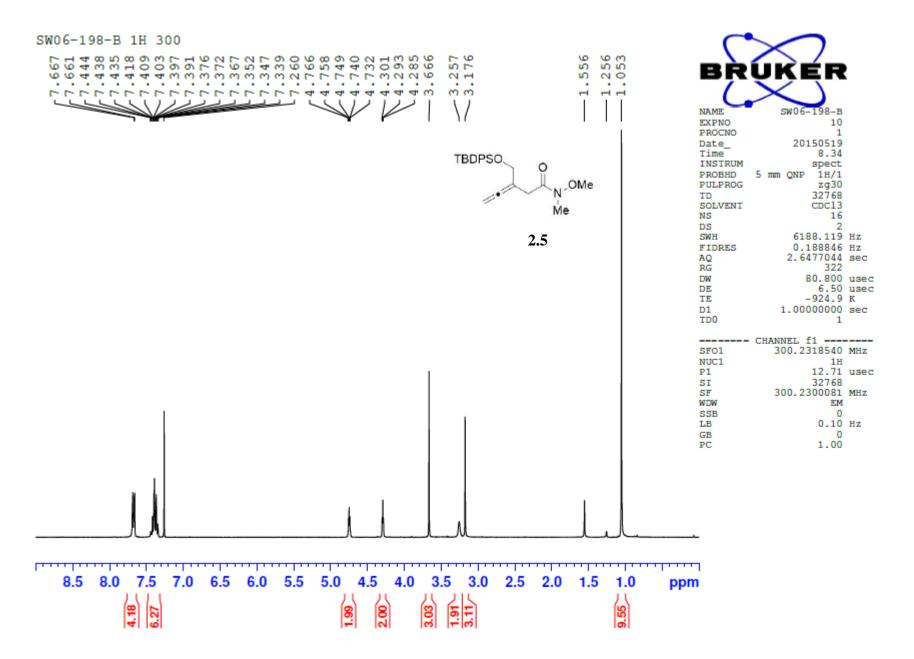


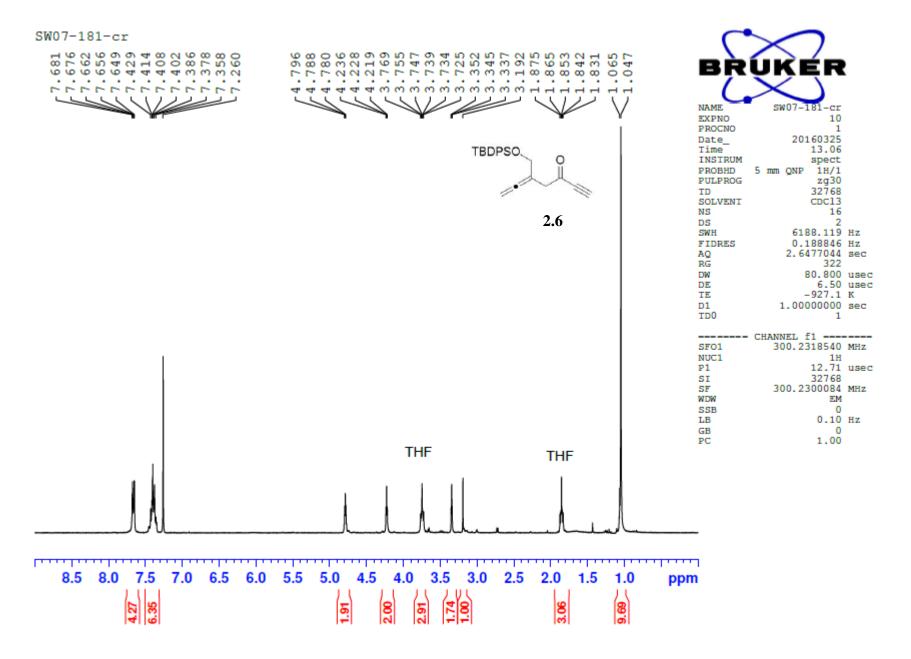


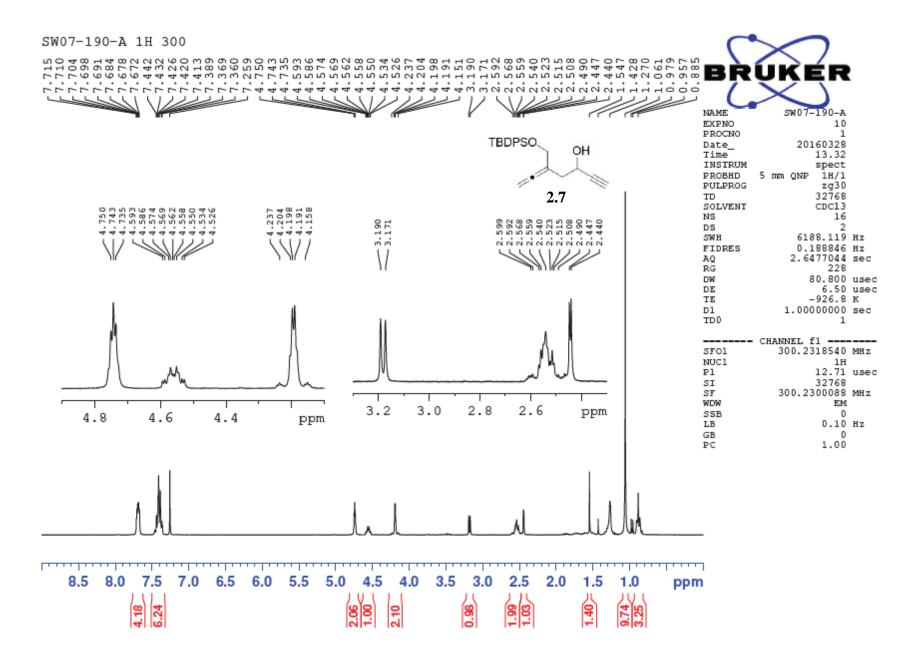


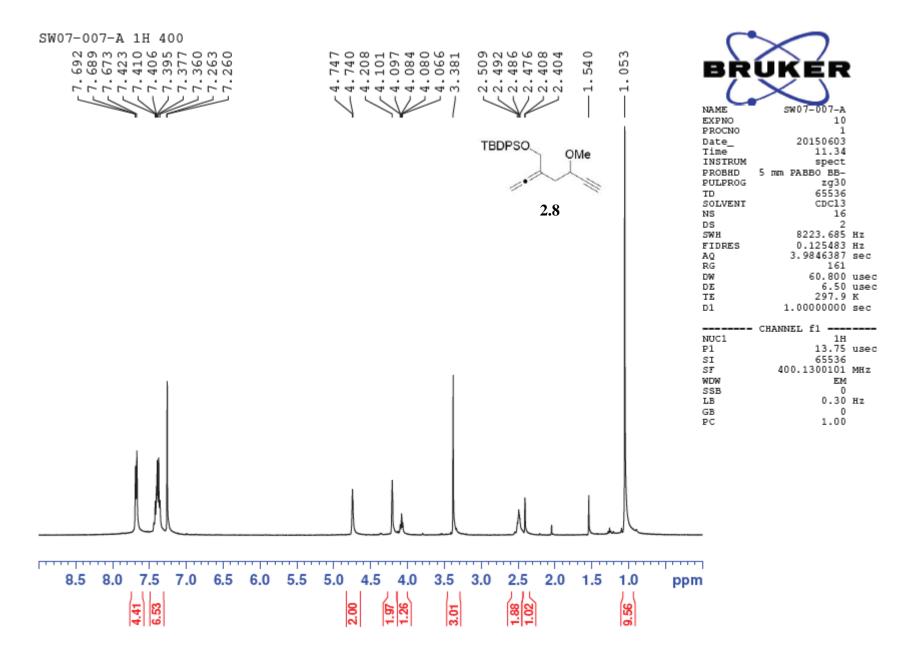


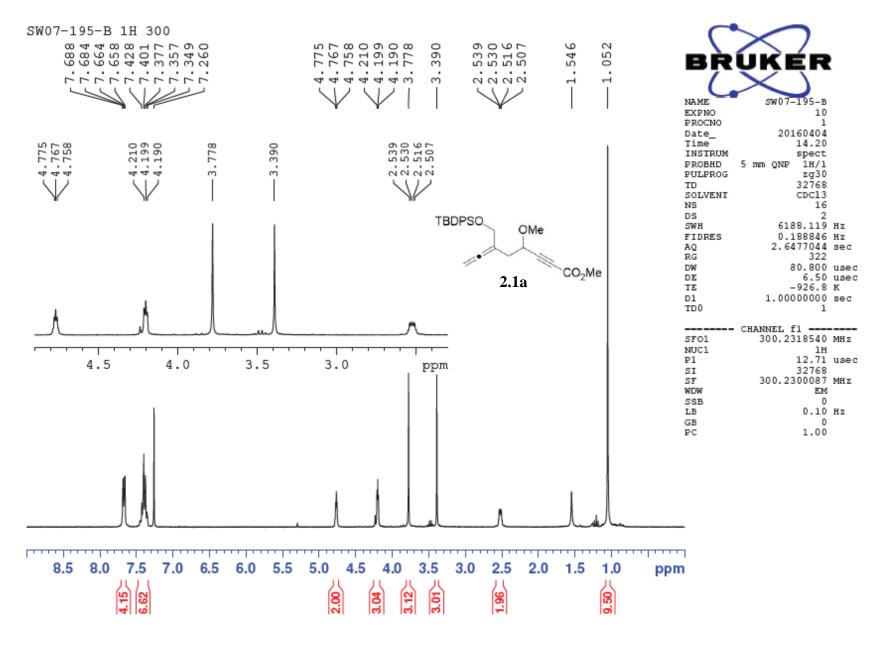


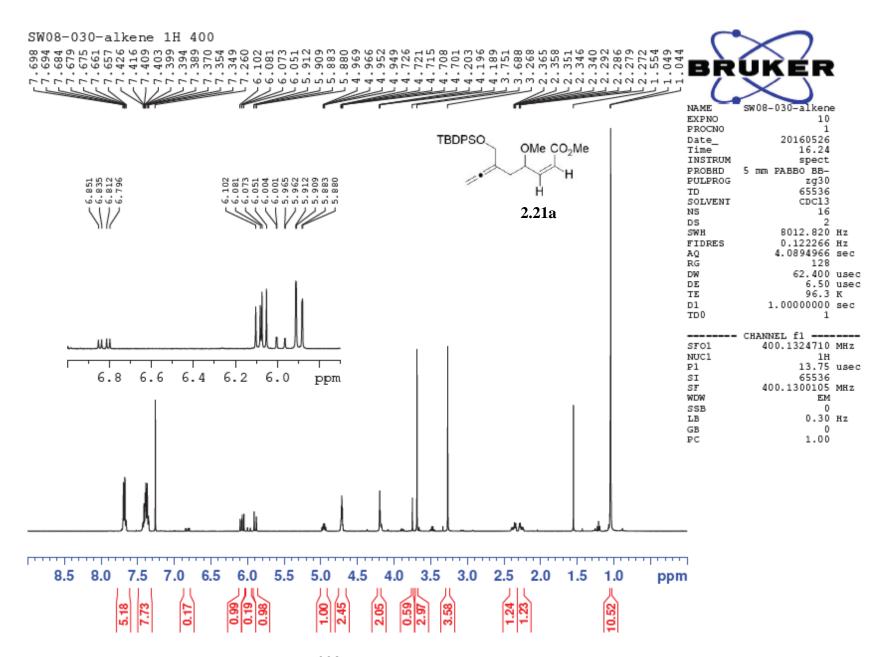


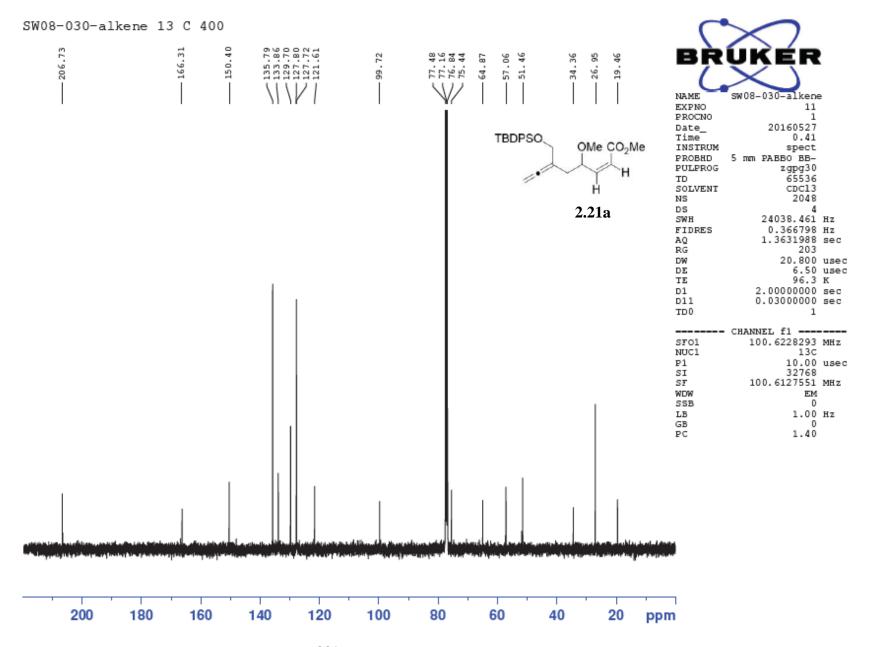


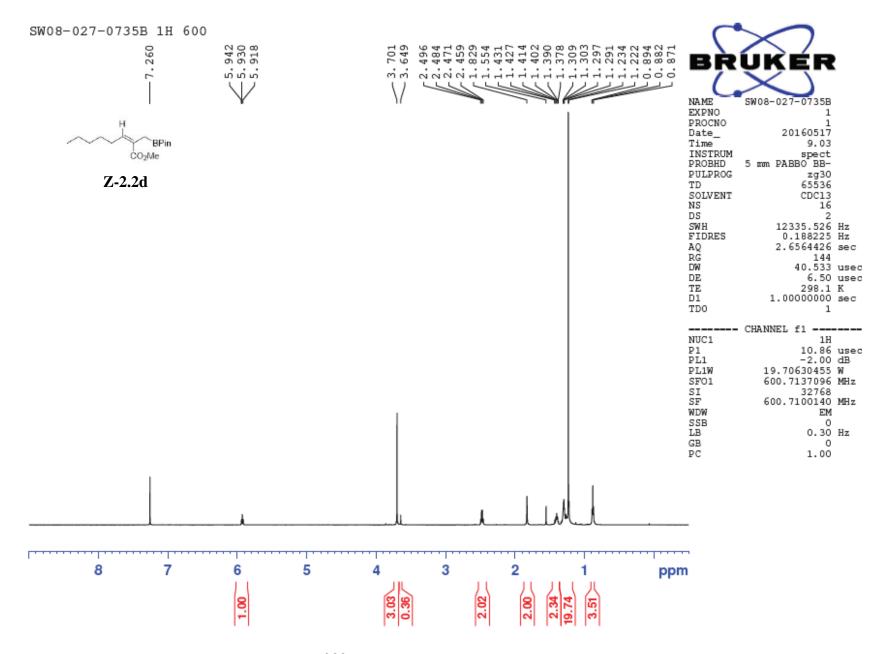


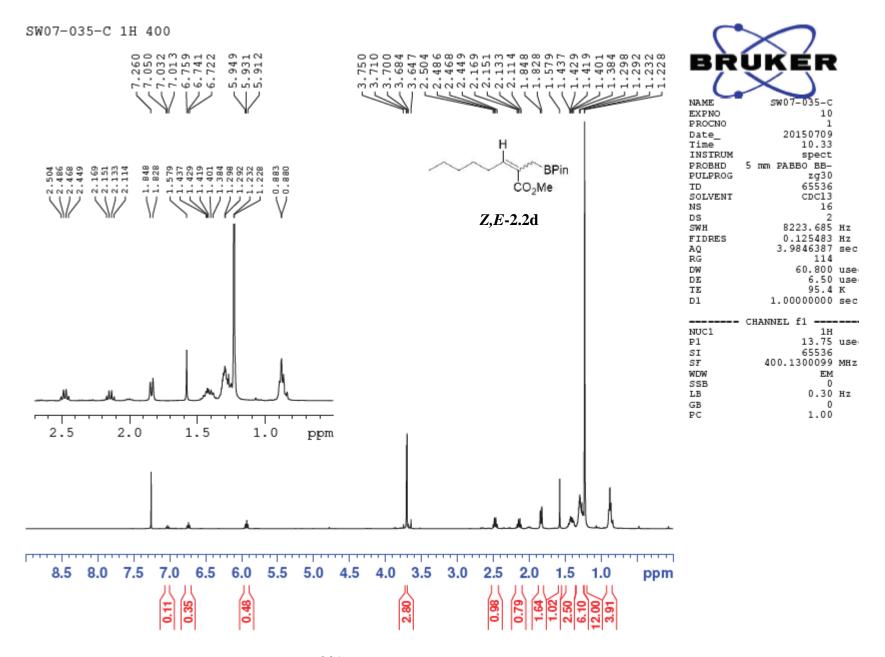


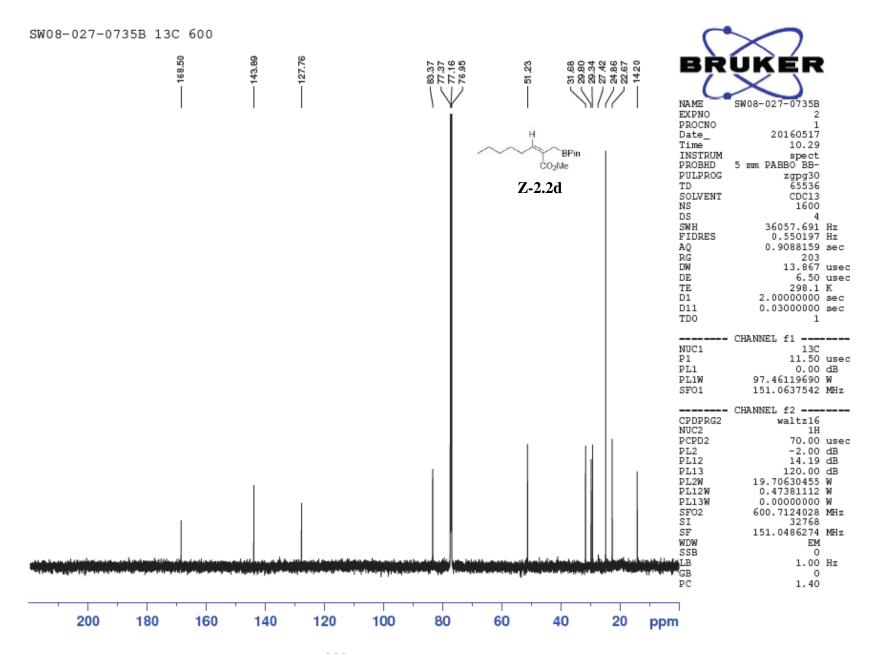


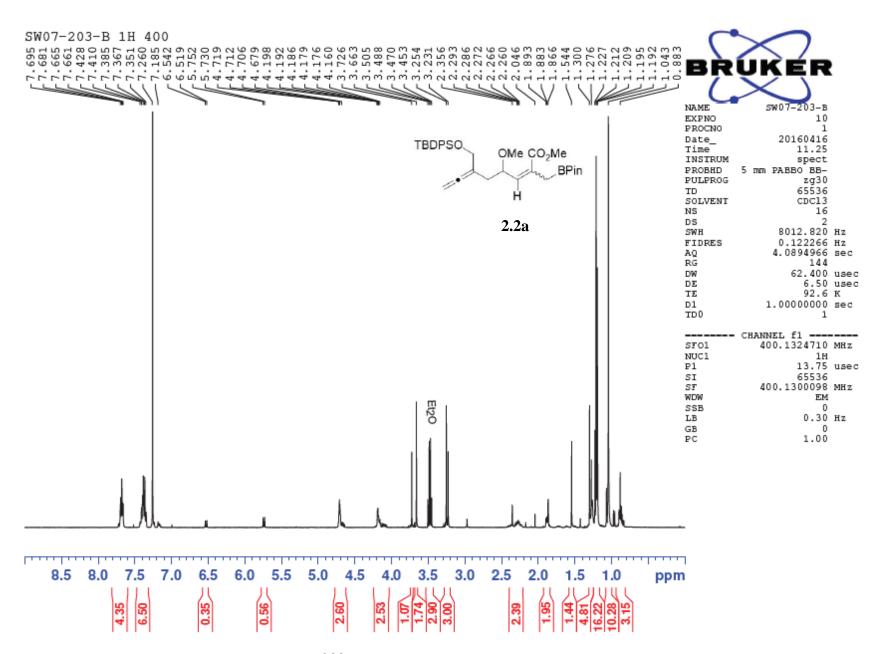


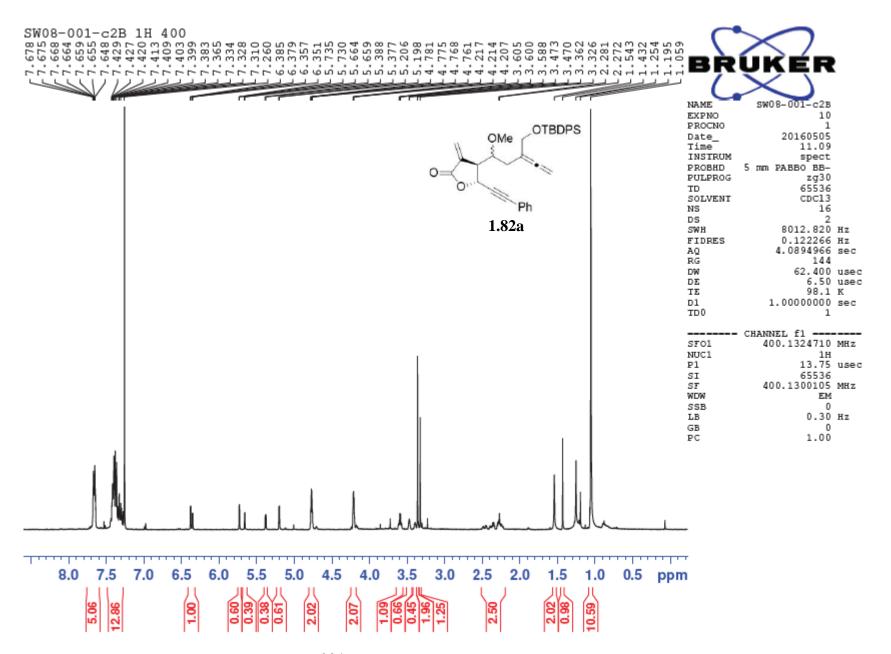


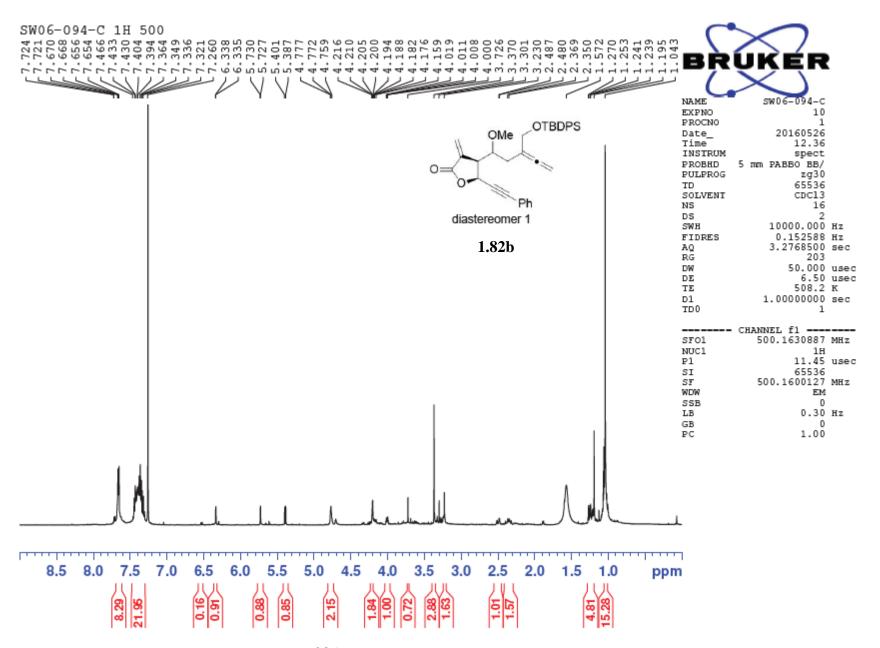


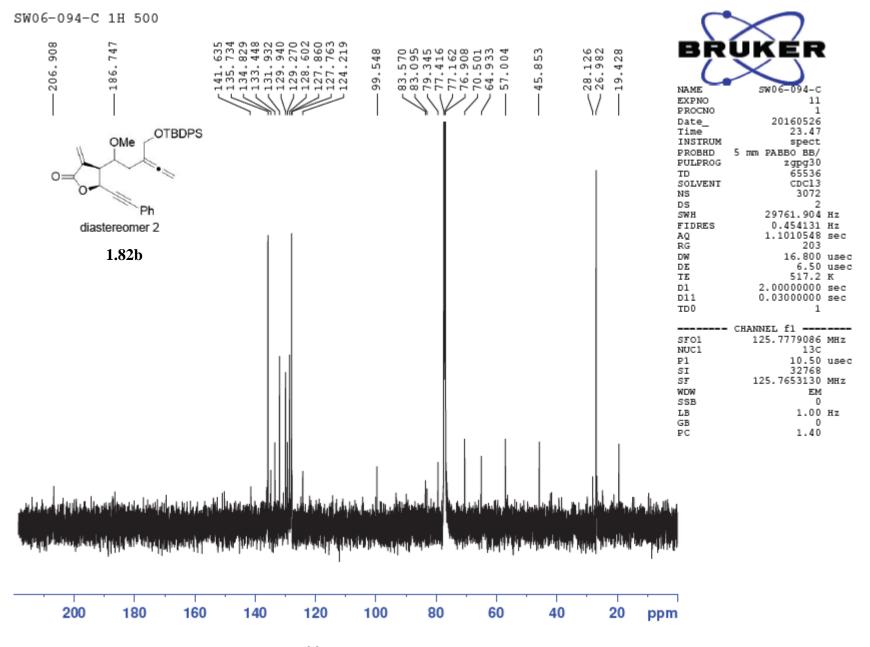


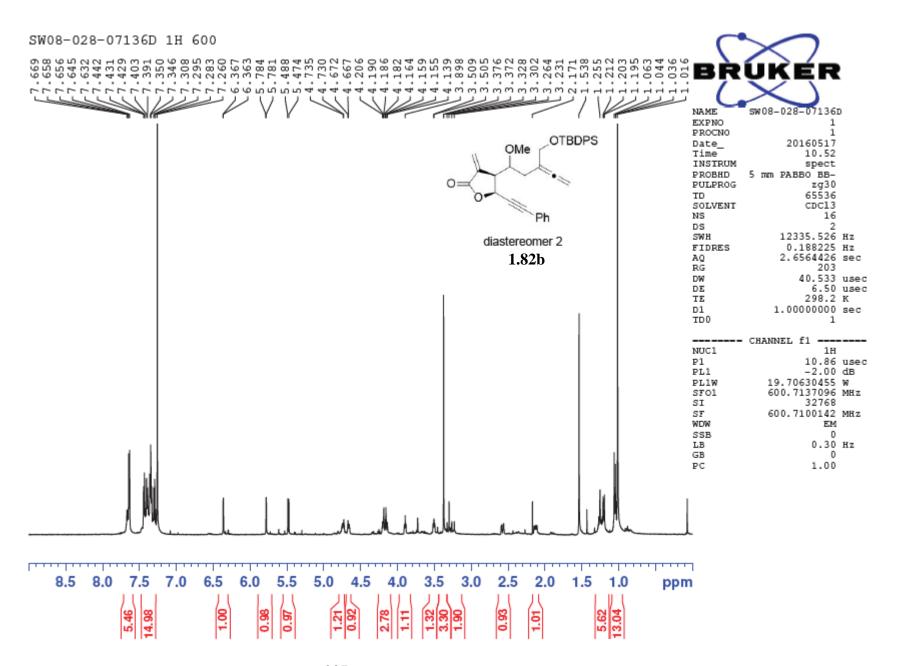


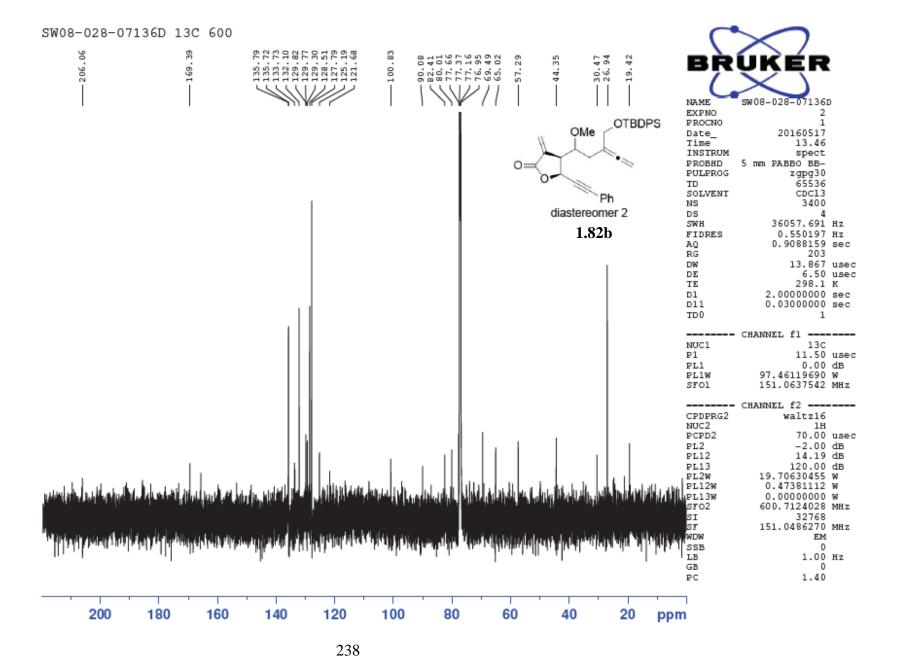


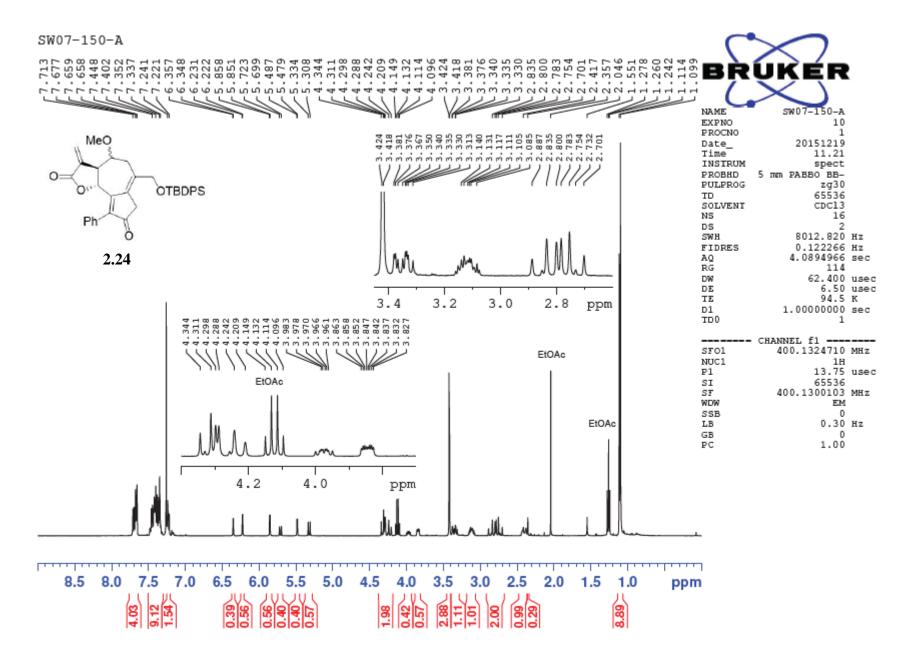


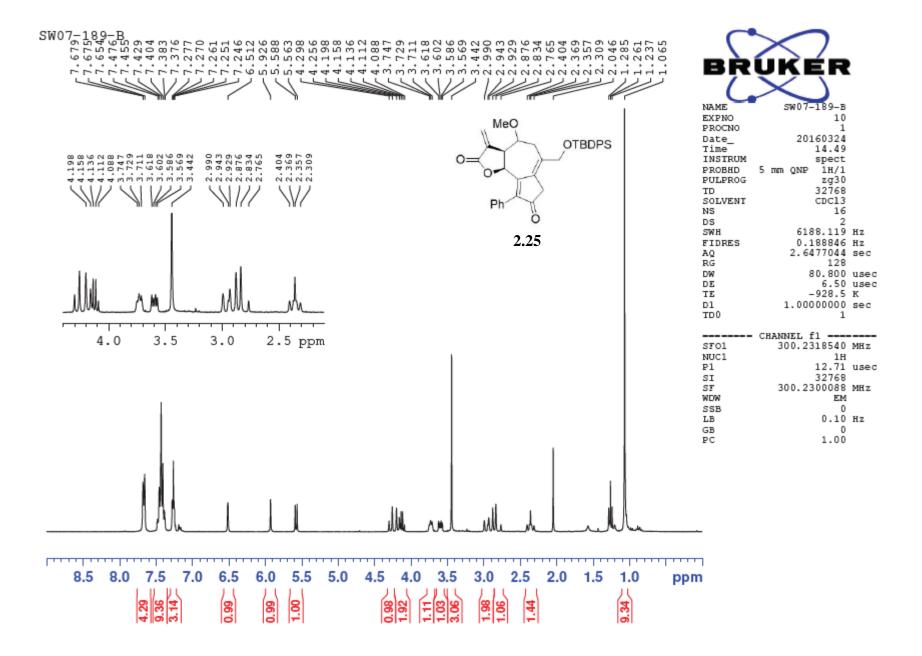


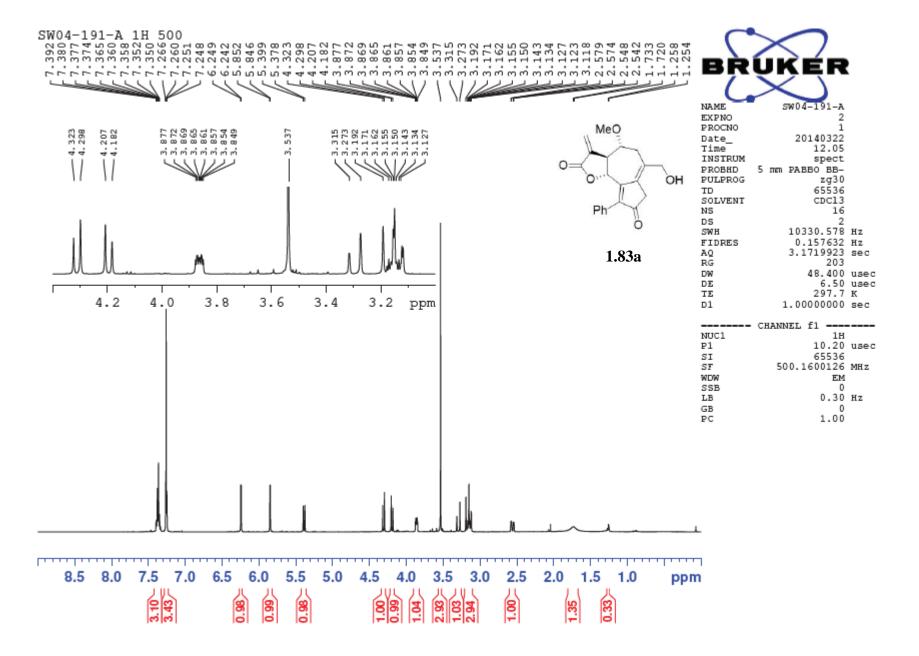


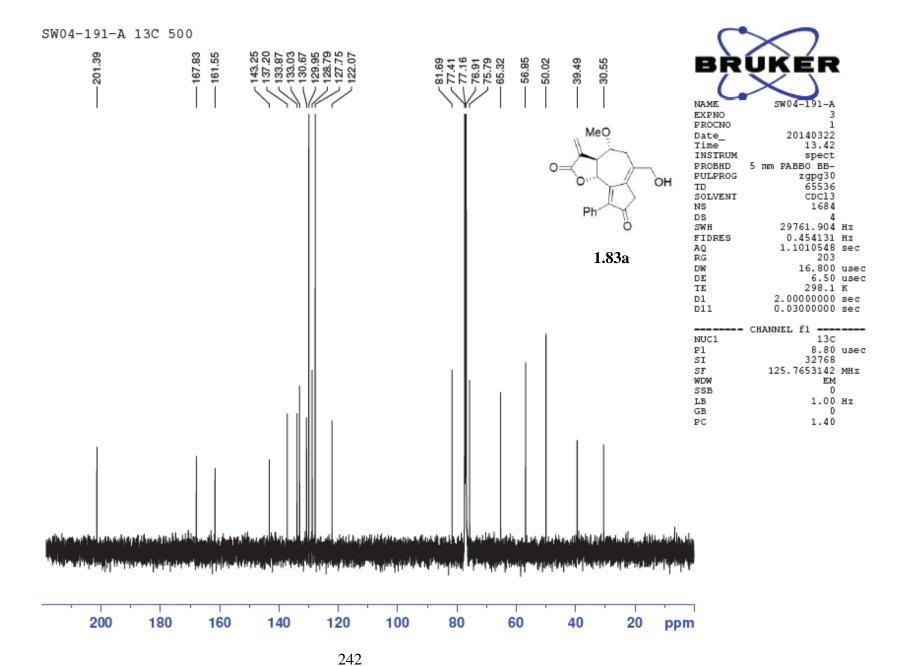


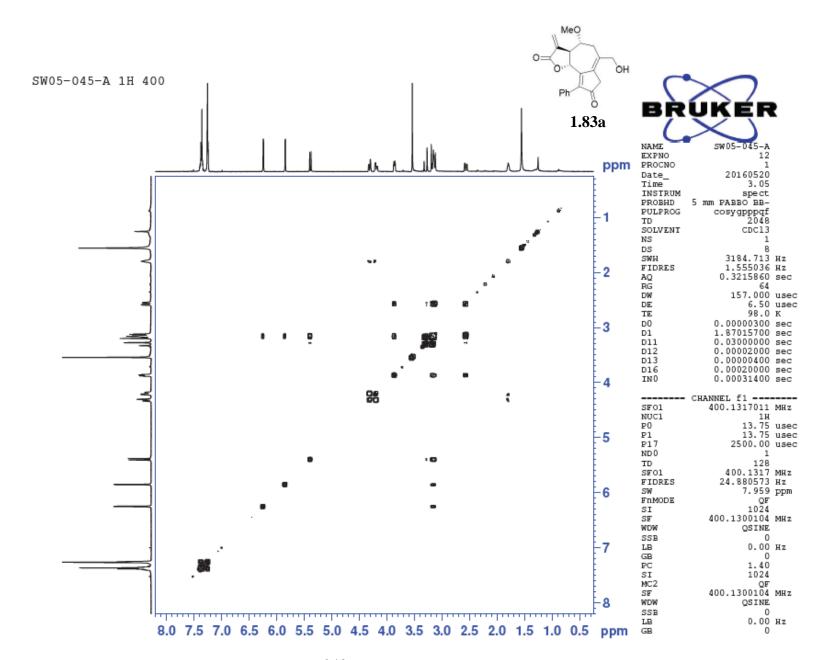


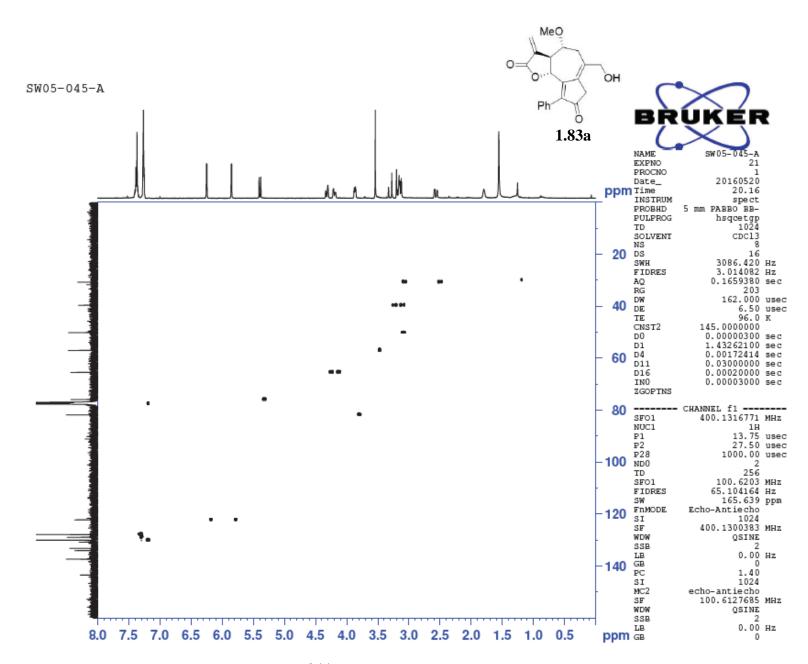




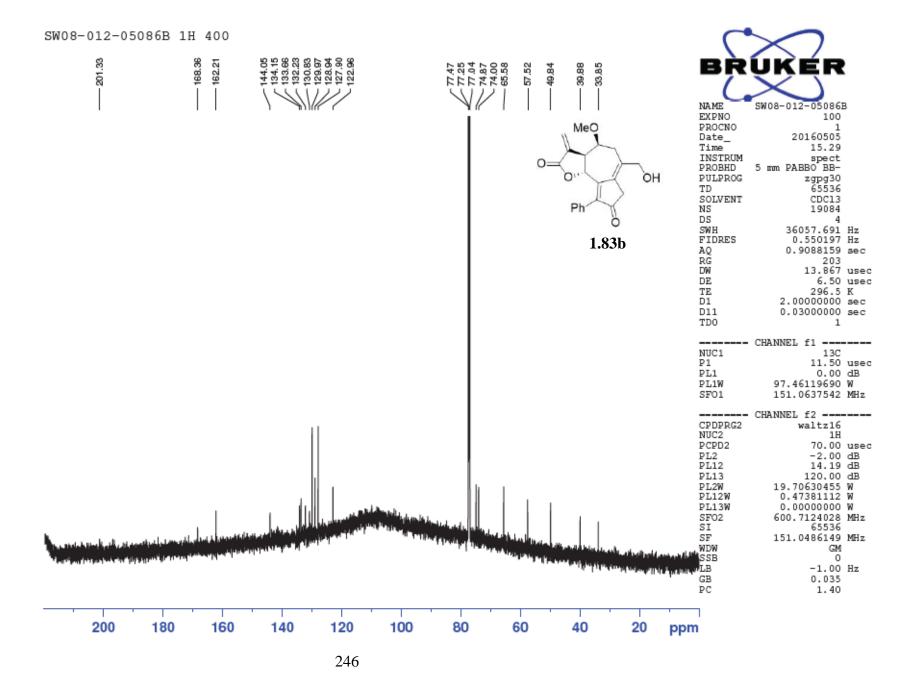


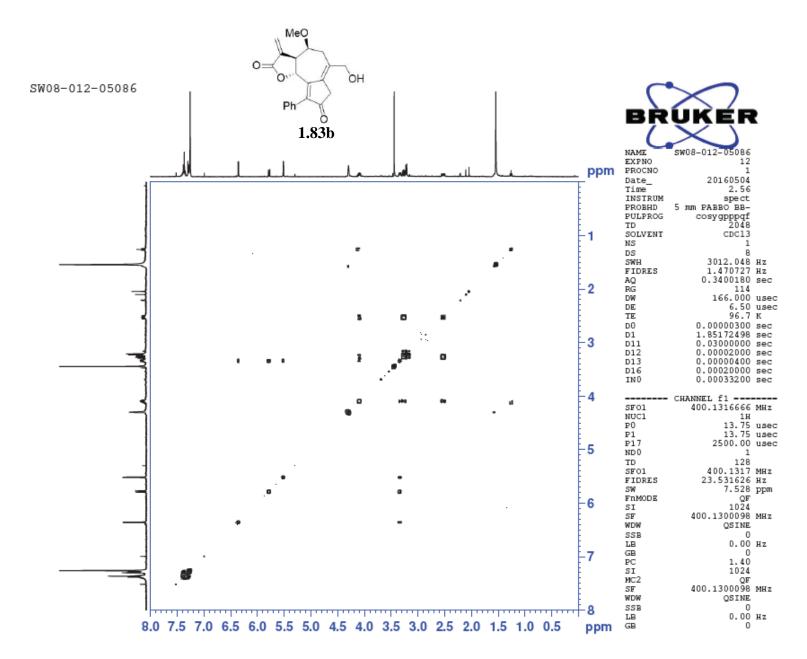


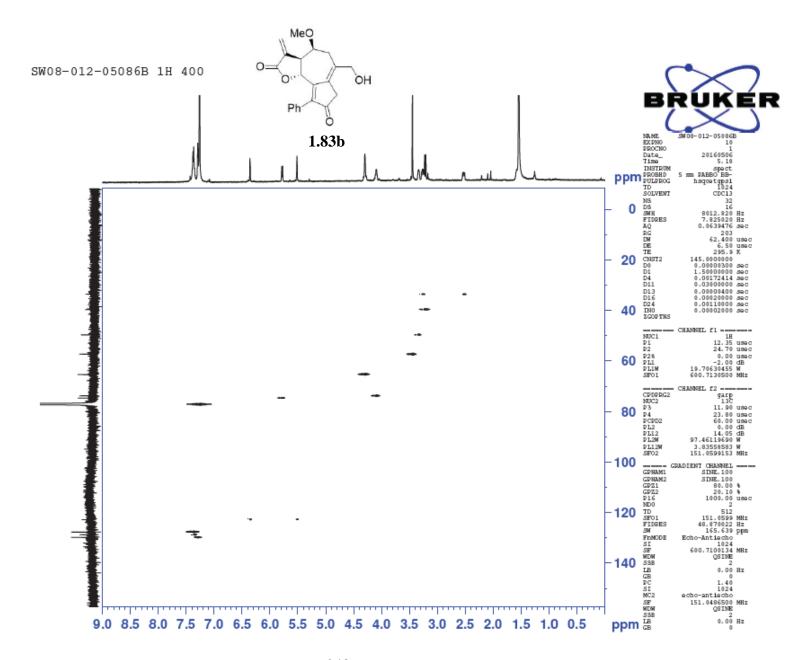


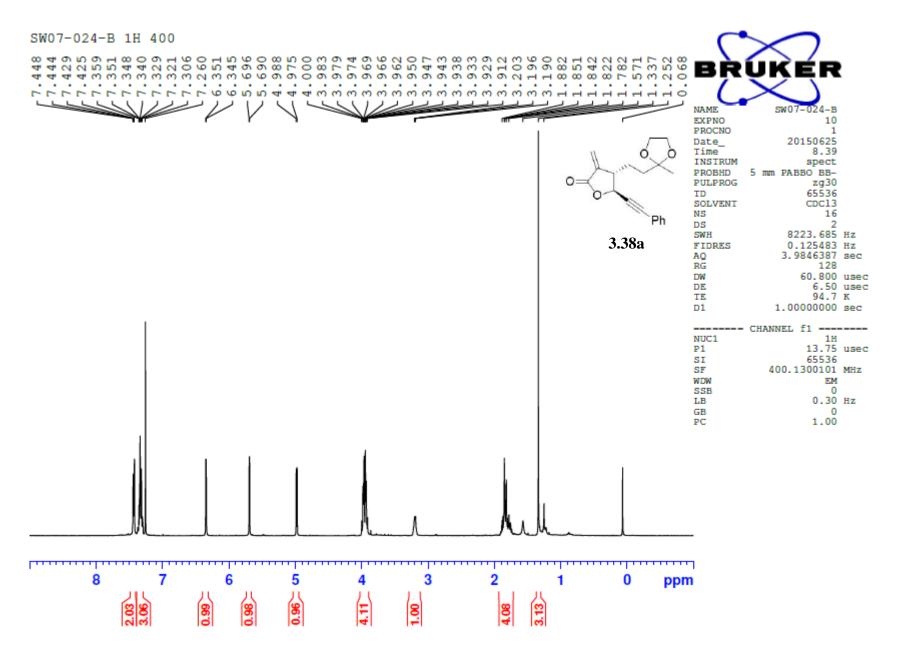


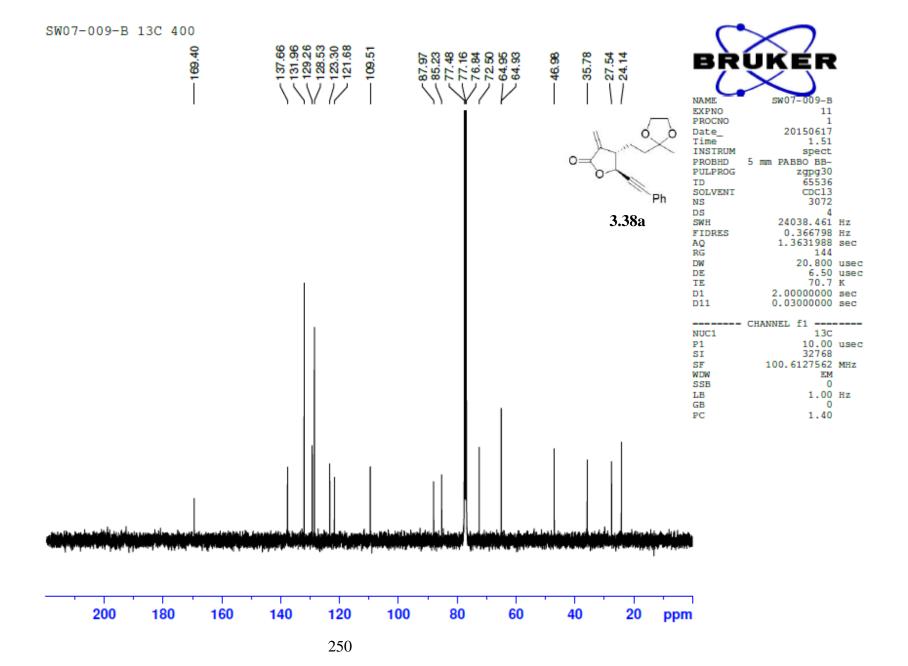
SW08-012-05086 7.386 7.7386 7.7378 7.378 7.378 7.738 7.72 MeO 159 0= mmmmmmmmmm m O HO NAME SW08-012-05086 EXPNO 10 Phi PROCNO Date_ 20160503 Time 16.50 1.83b INSTRUM spect PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BBzg30 PULPROG 65536 TD CDC13 SOLVENT NS 16 DS 2 SWH 8012.820 Hz FIDRES 0.122266 Hz ΑQ 4.0894966 sec RG 181 3.4 3.3 3.2 ppm DW 62.400 usec DΕ 6.50 usec 95.9 K ΤE 1.00000000 sec D1 TD0 1 ---- CHANNEL f1 -----400.1324710 MHz SF01 NUC1 1H 13.75 usec Р1 65536 SI 400.1300098 MHz SF WDW EM SSB 0 LB 0.30 Hz GB 0 1.00 PC 5.5 4.5 3.5 2.0 1.5 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.0 4.0 3.0 2.5 ppm 13

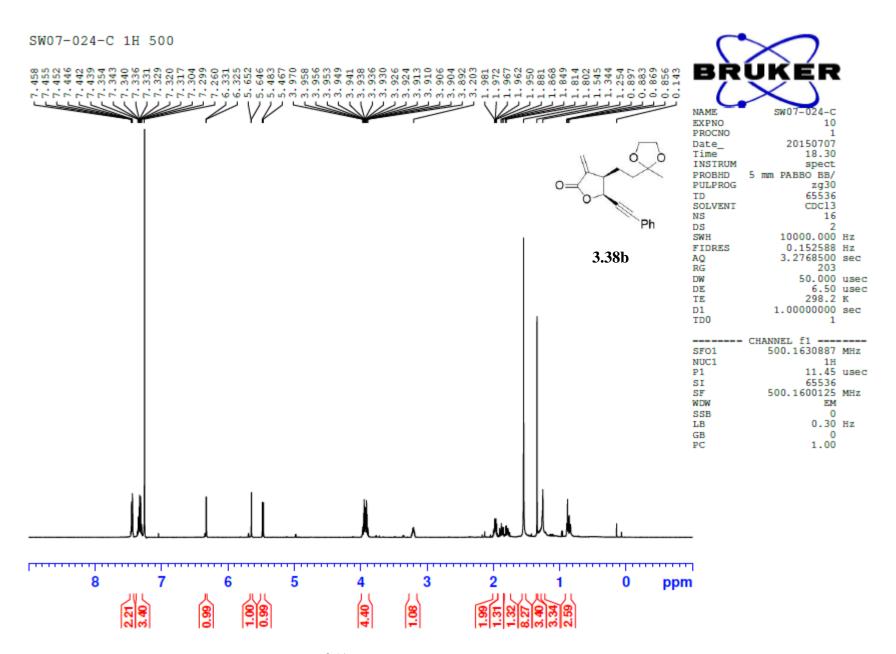


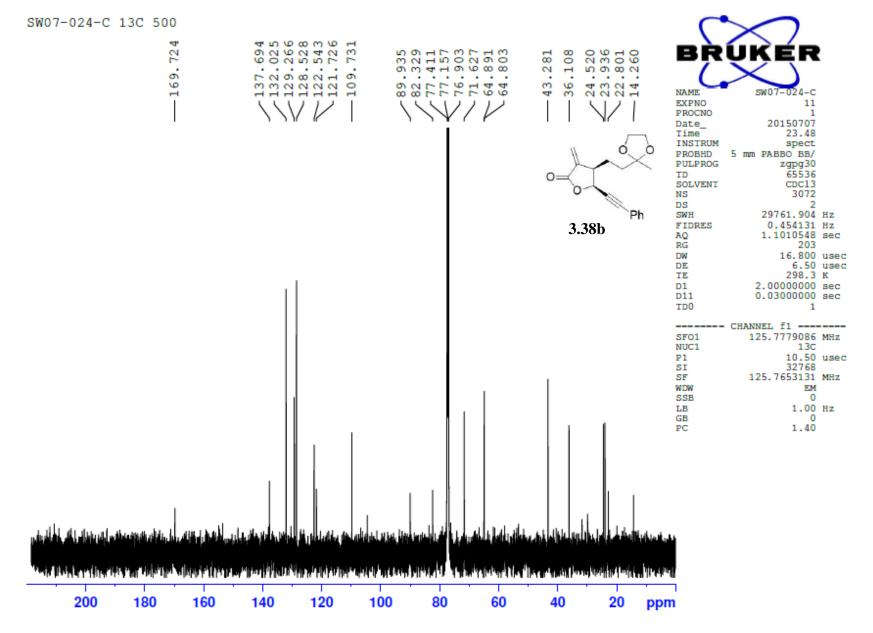


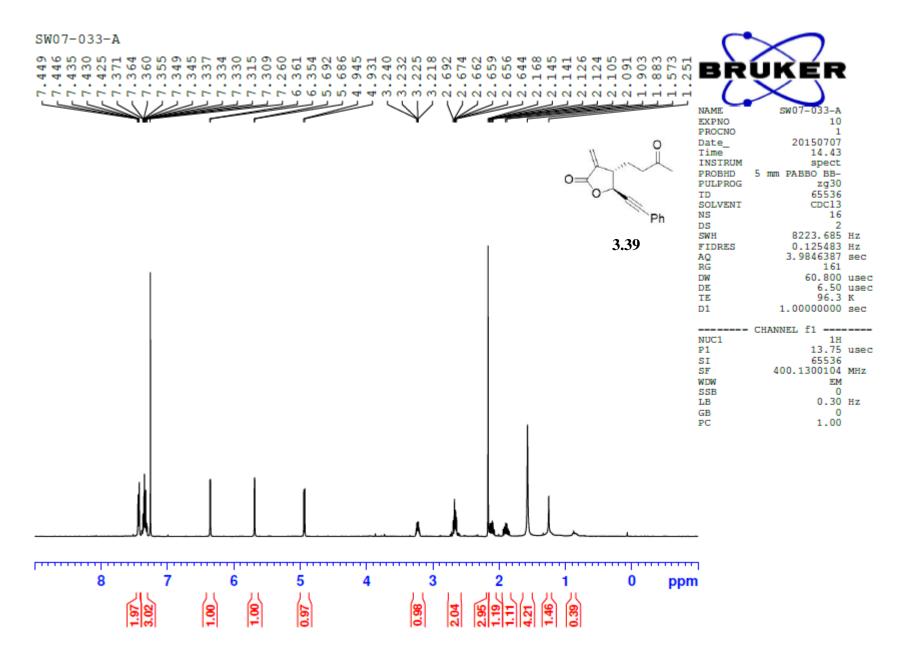


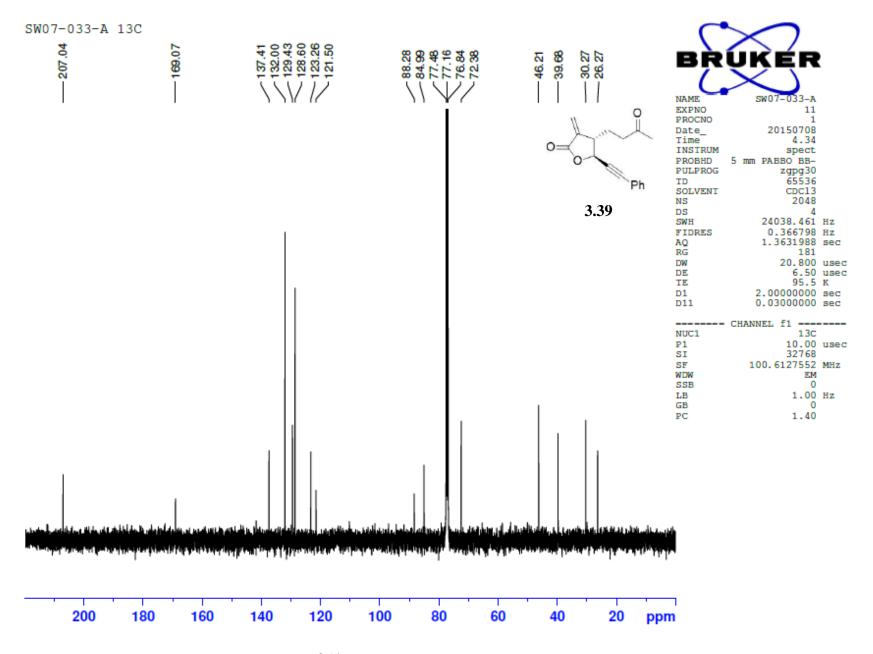




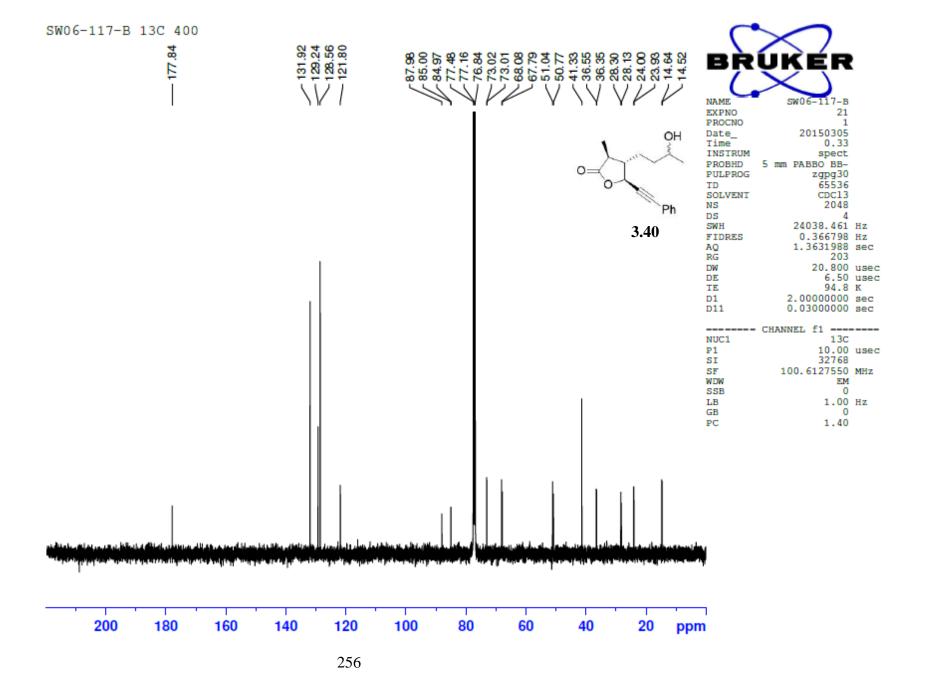


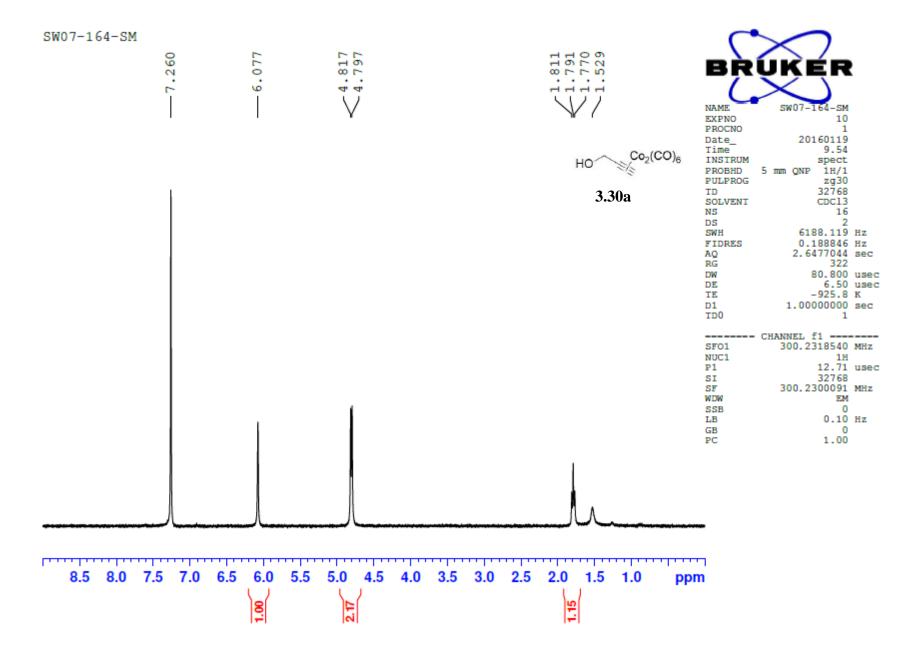


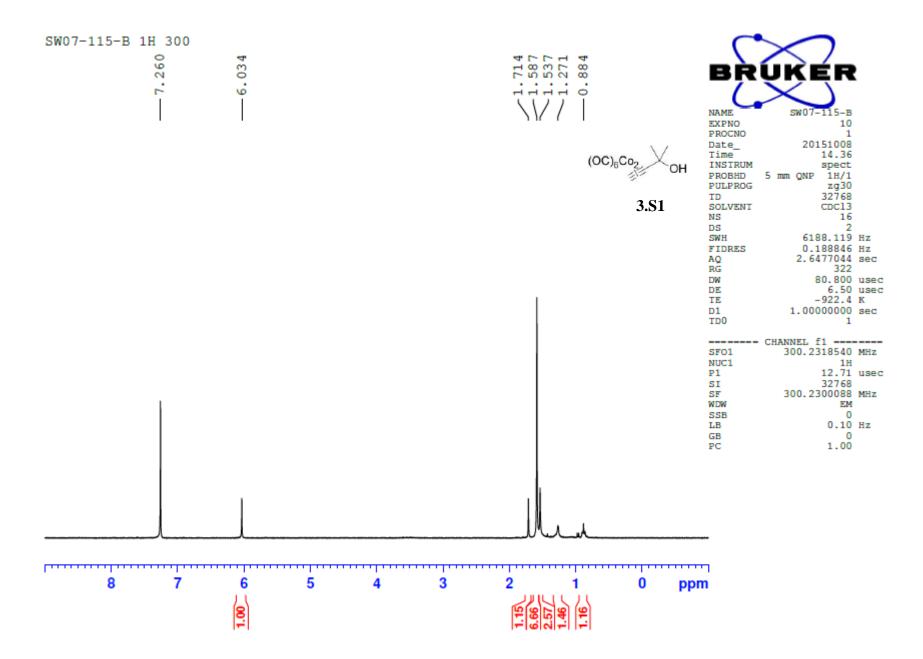


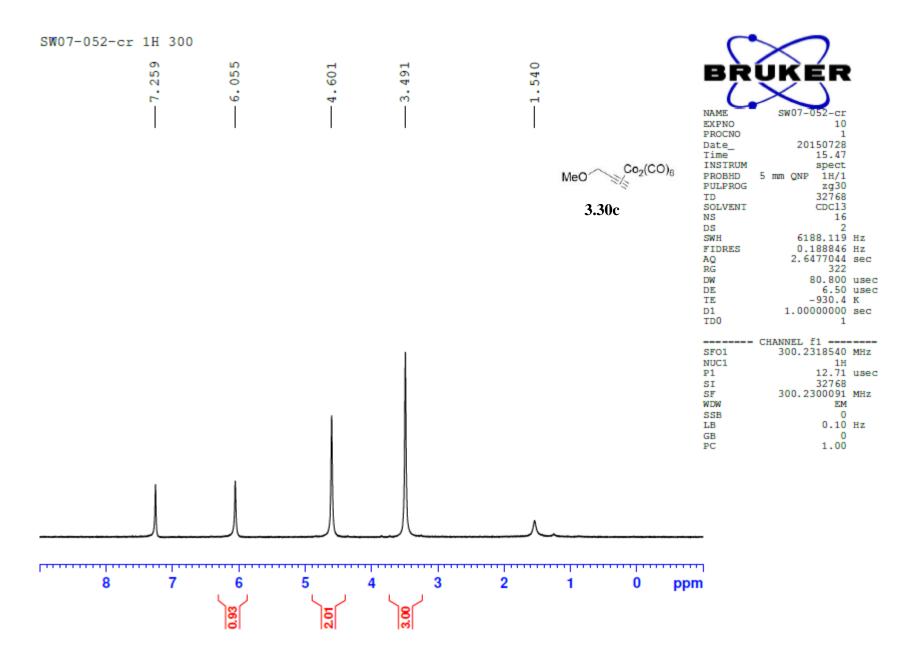


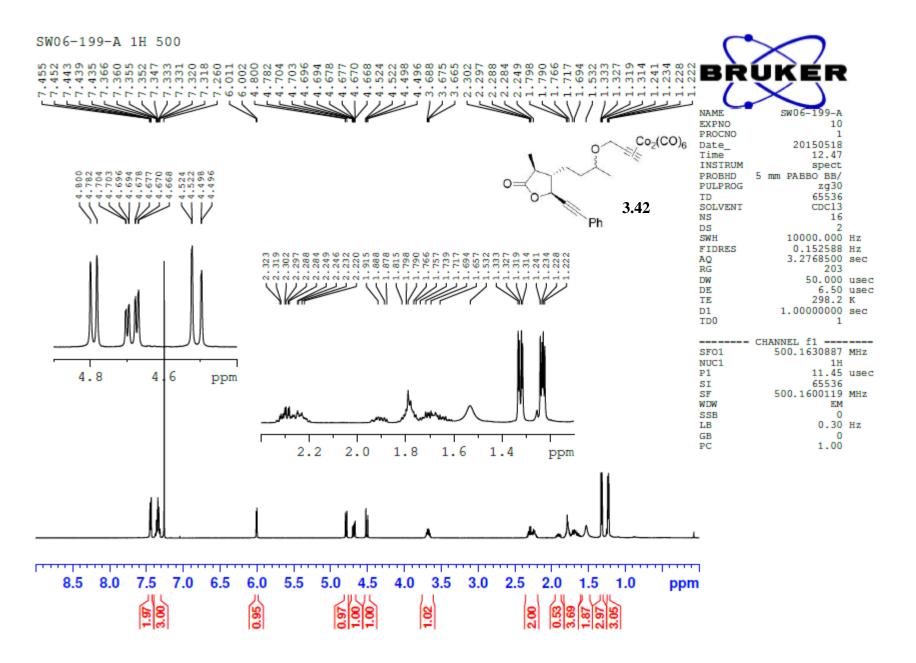
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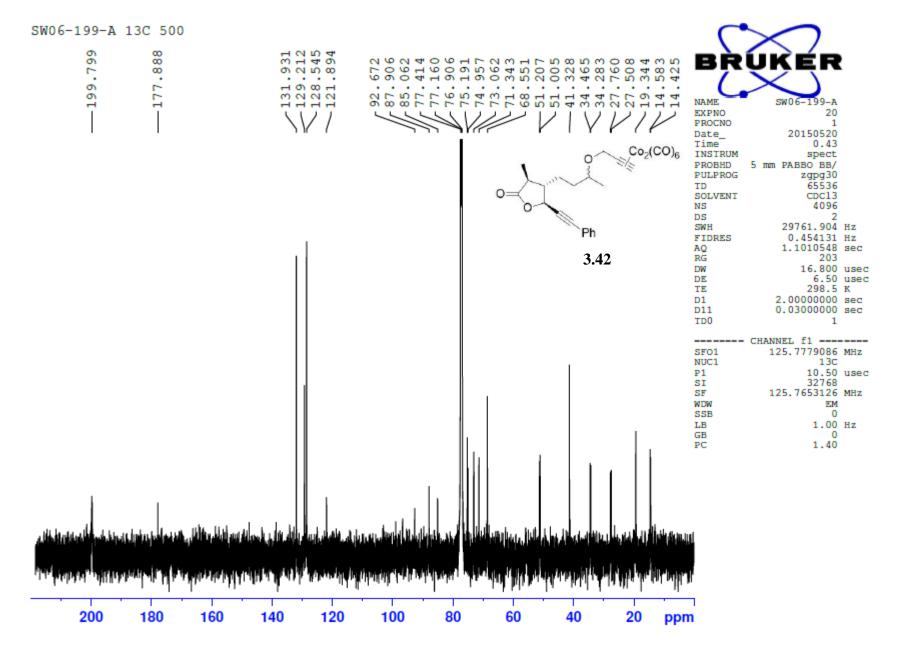


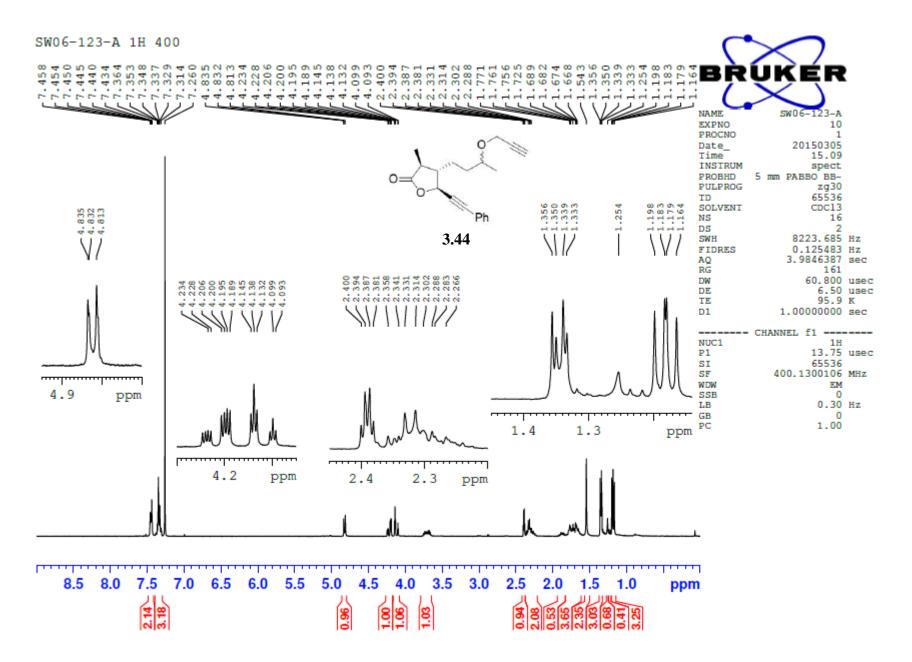


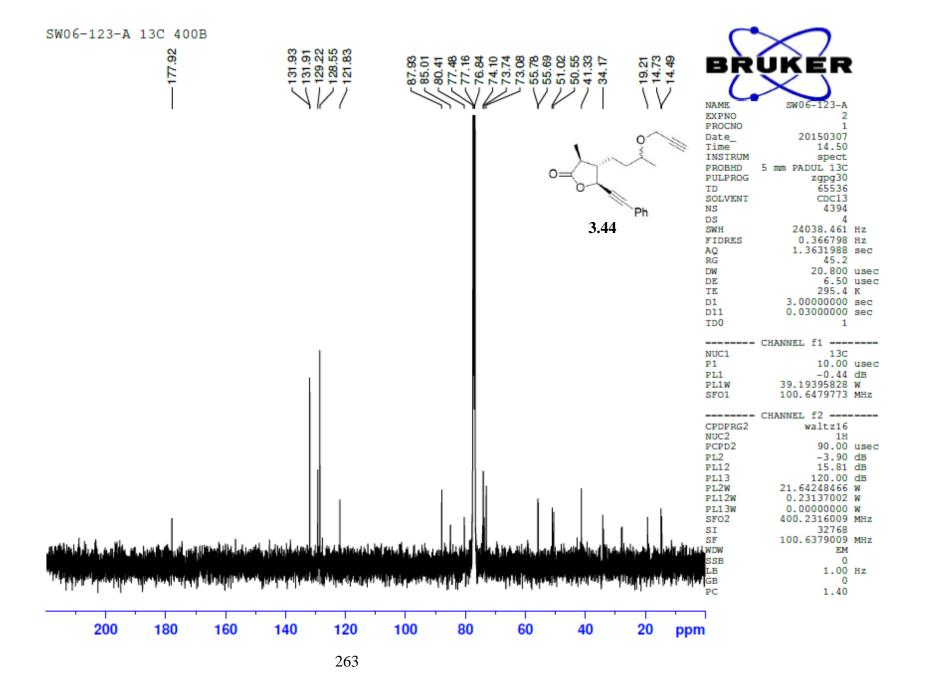


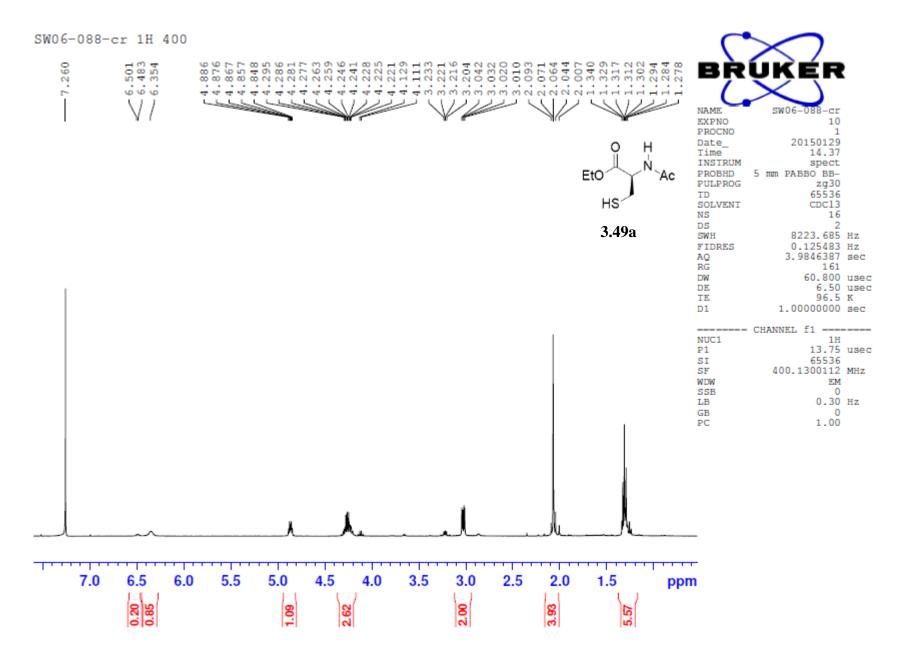


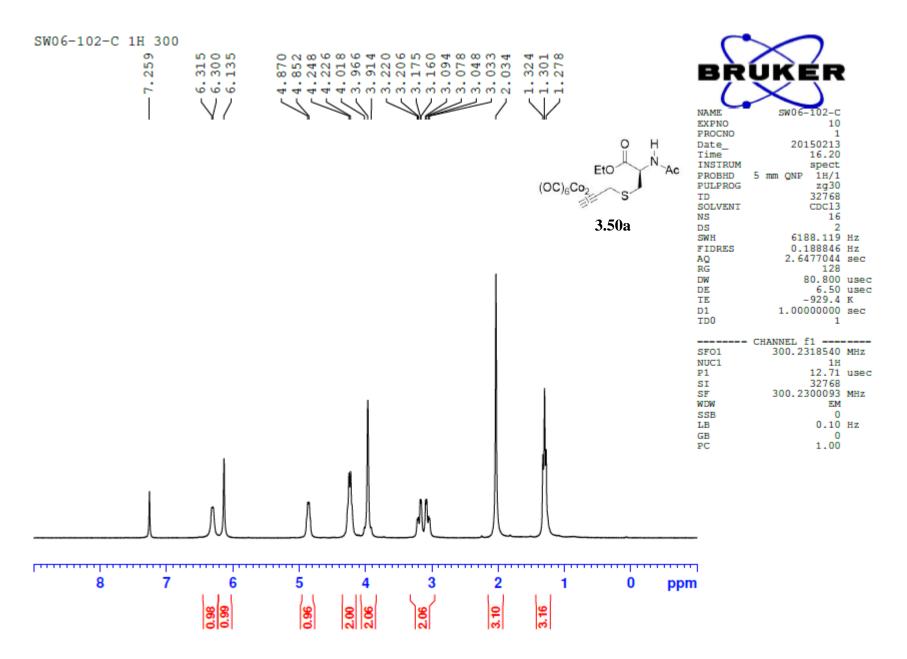


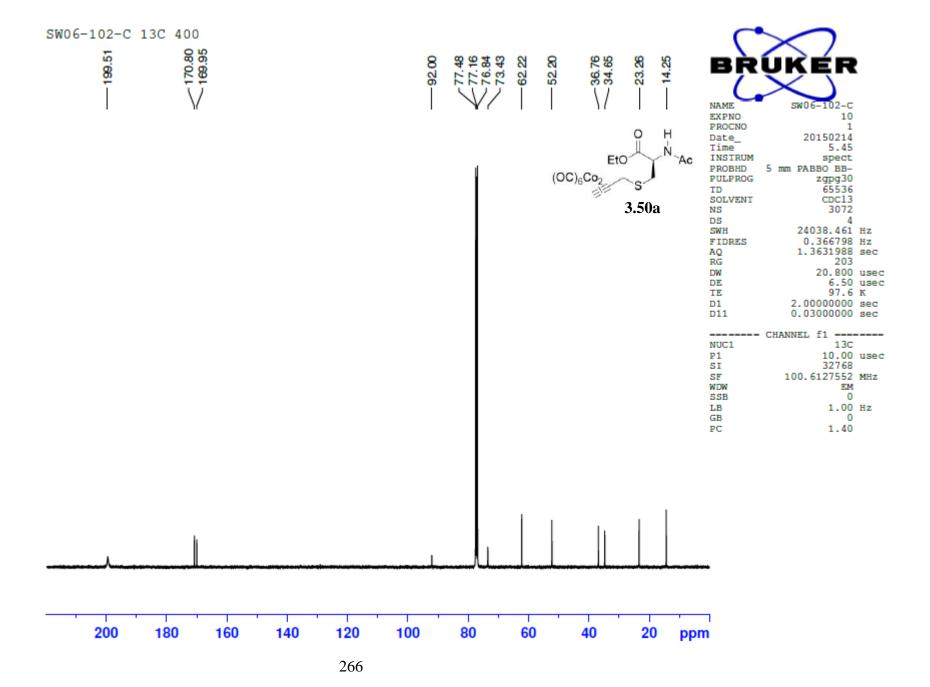


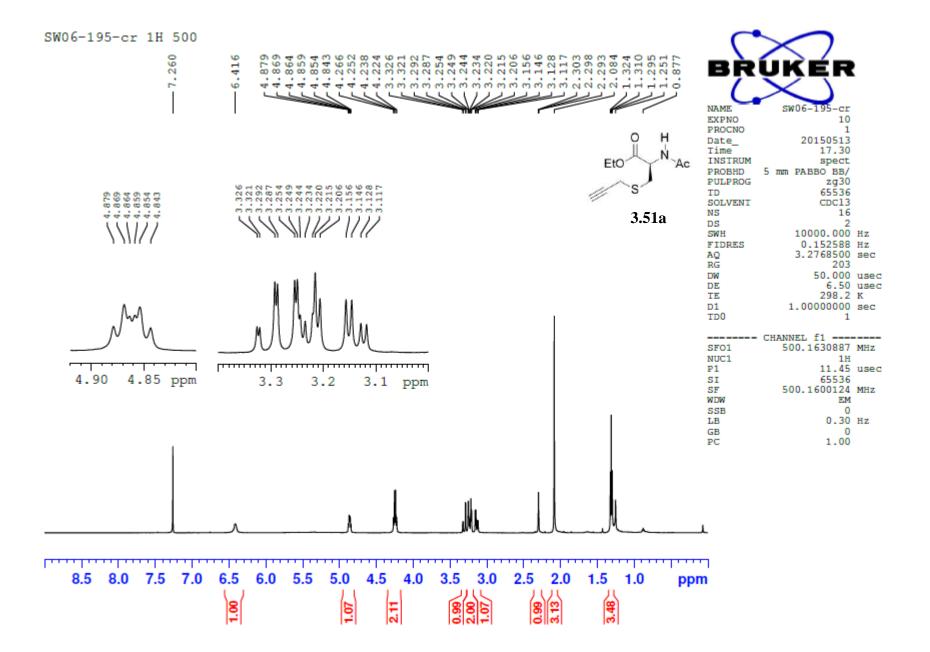


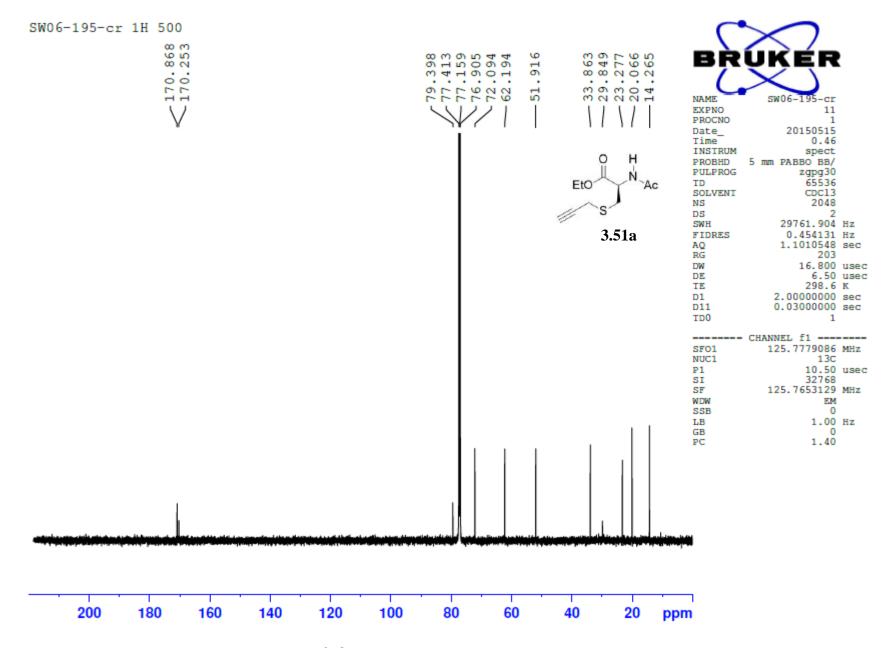


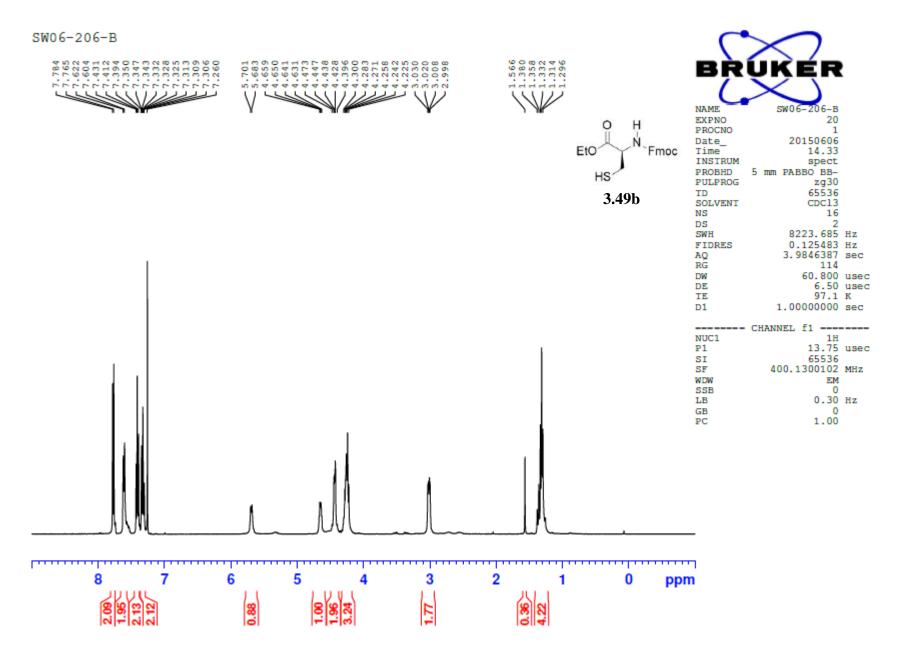


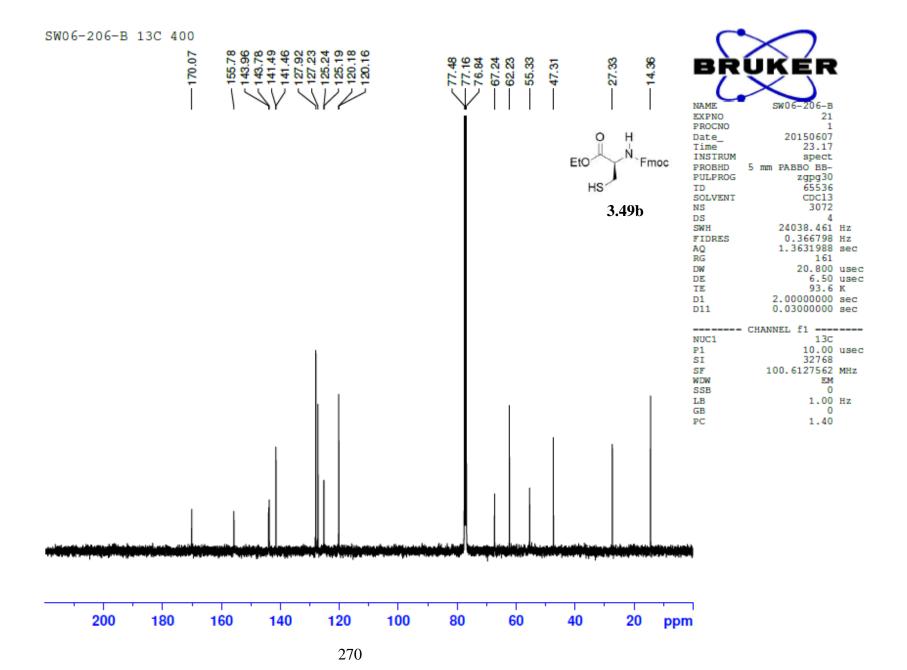


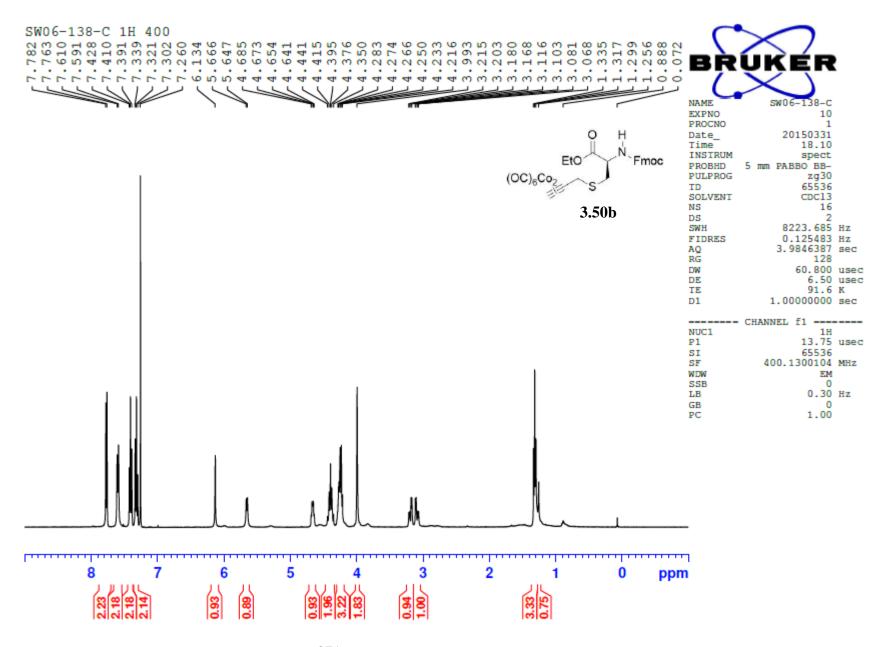


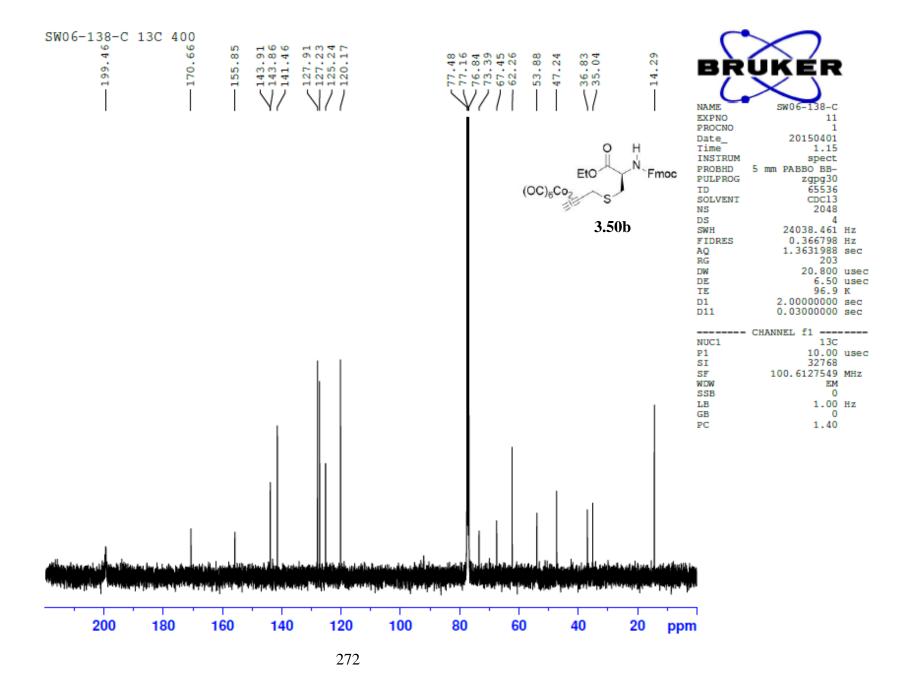


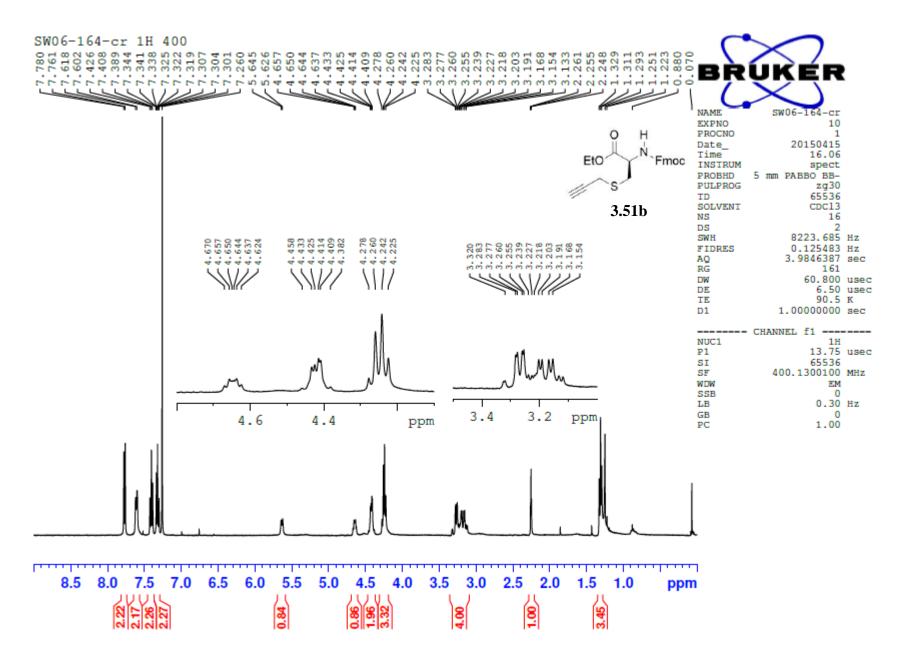


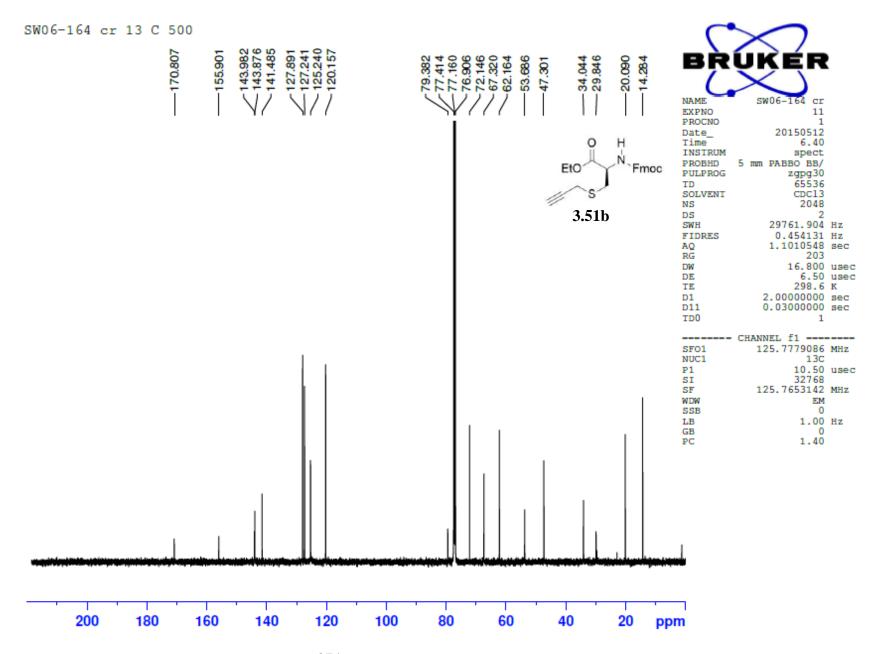


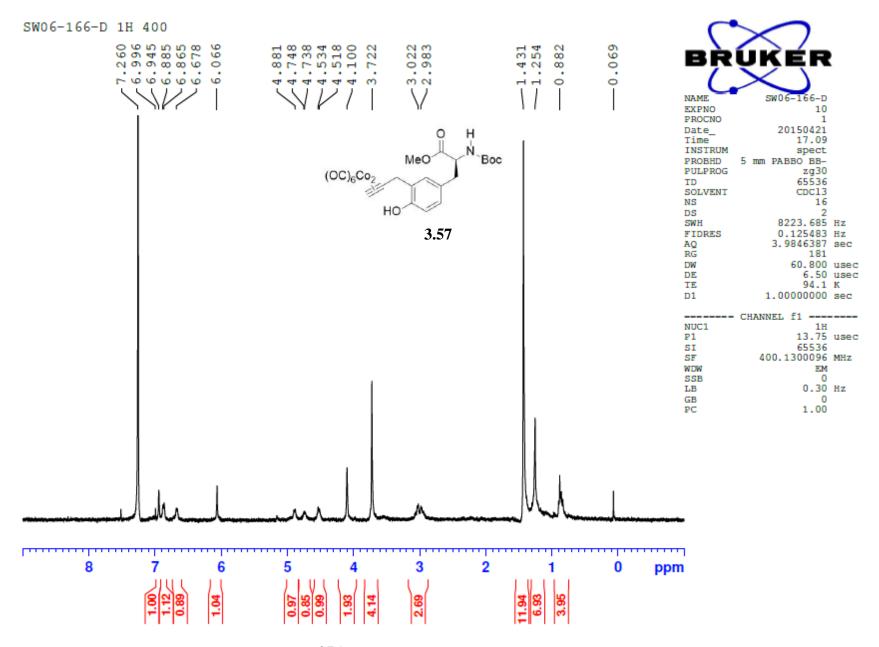


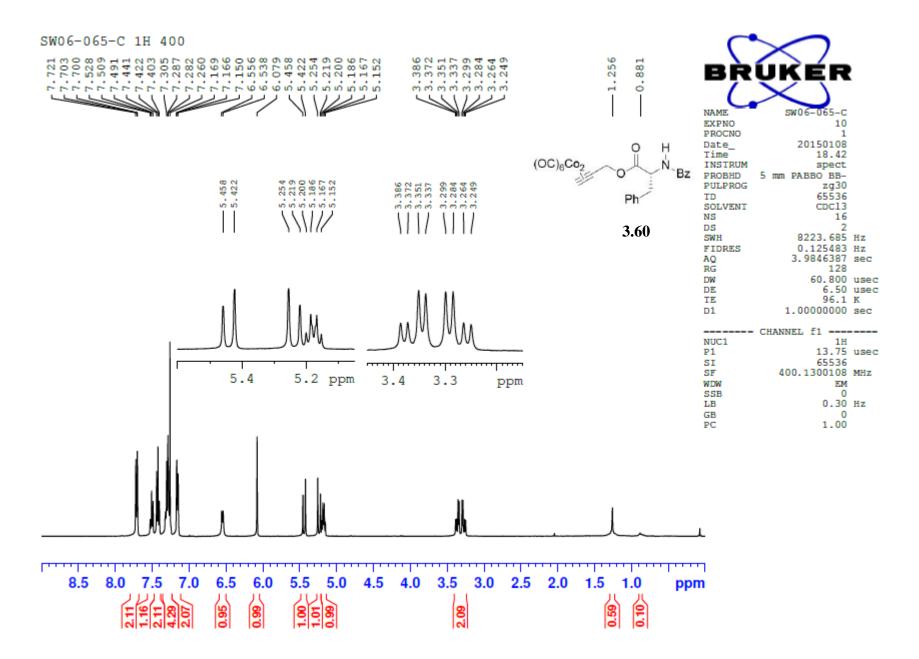


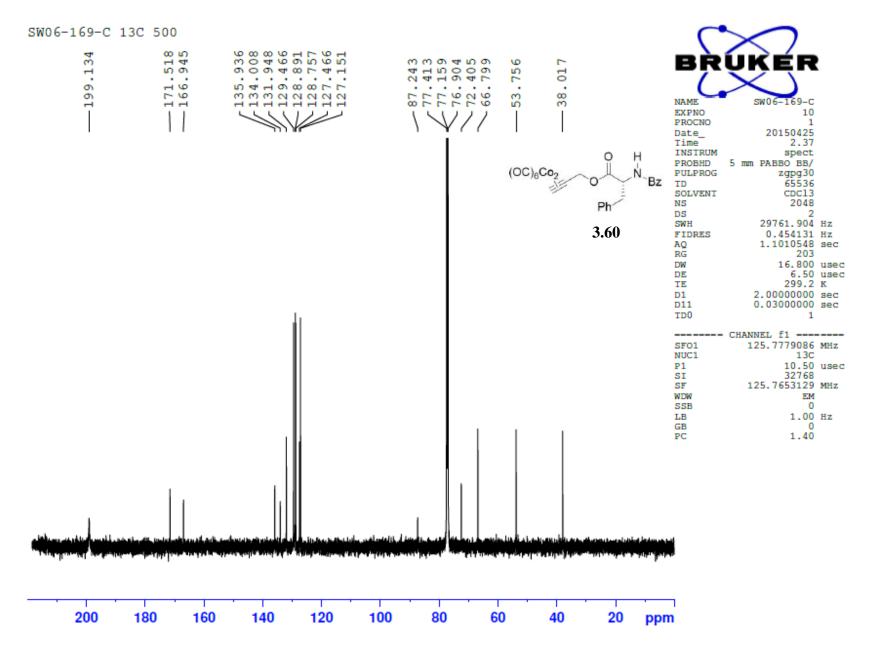


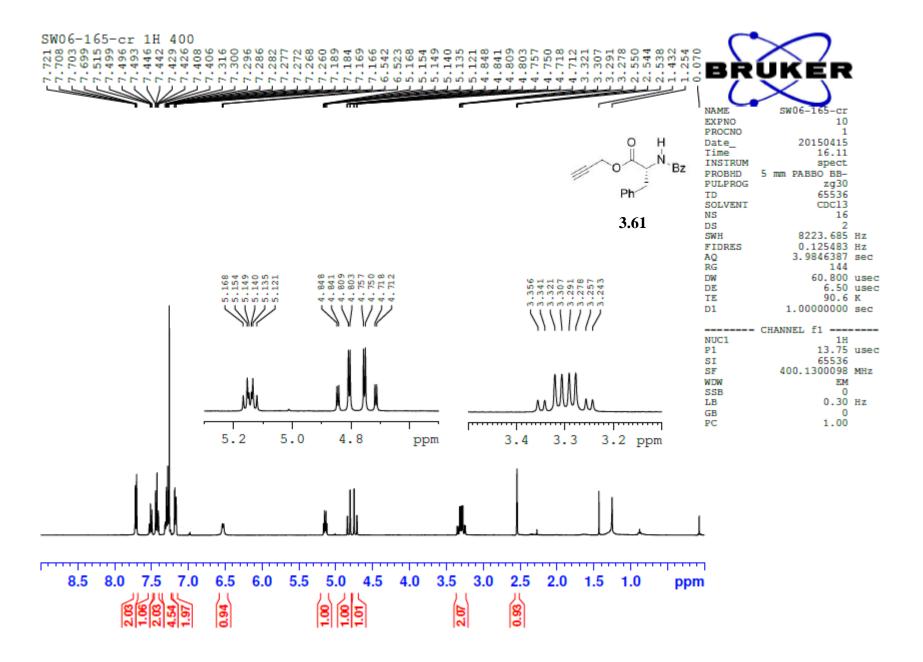


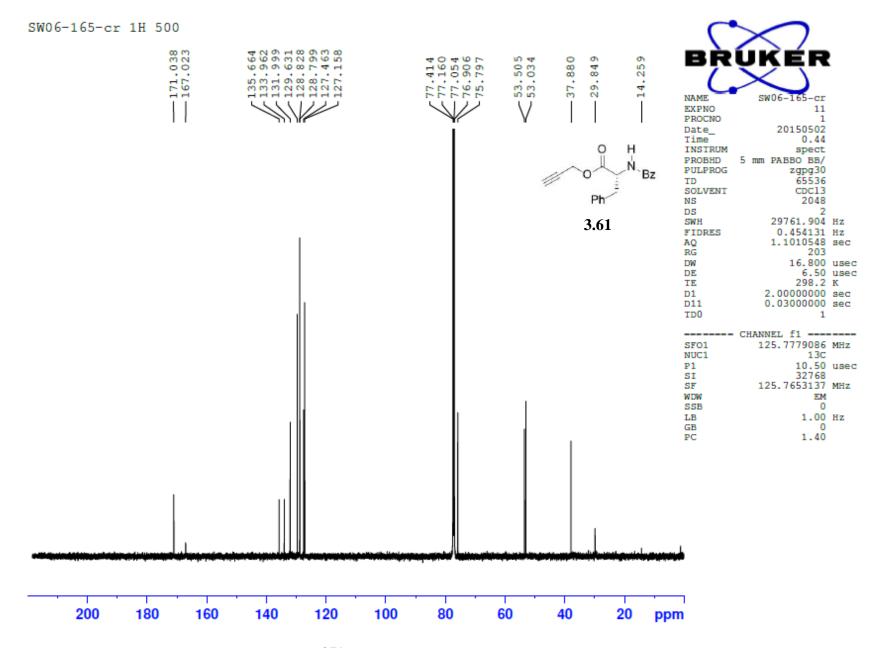


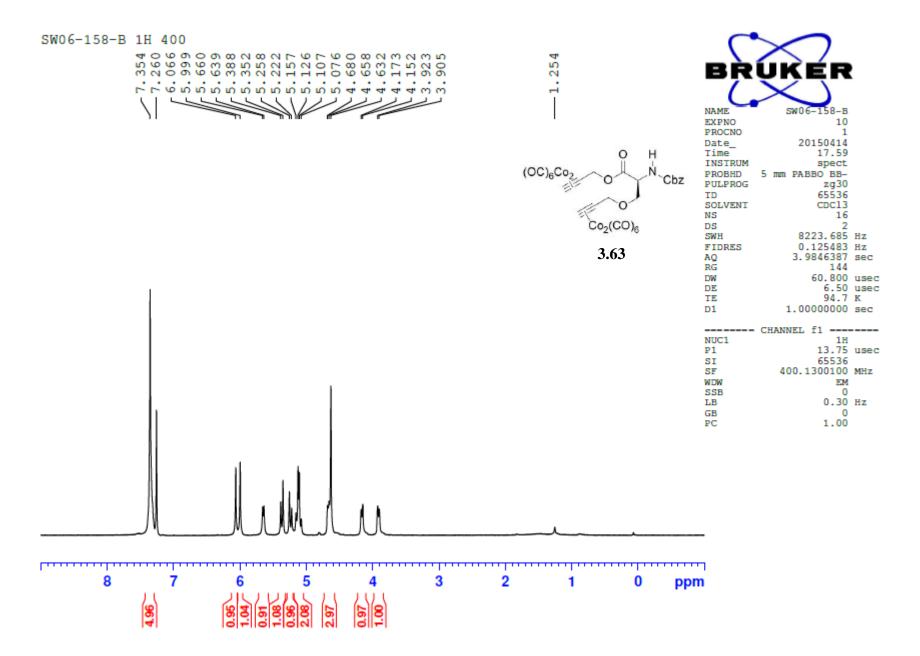


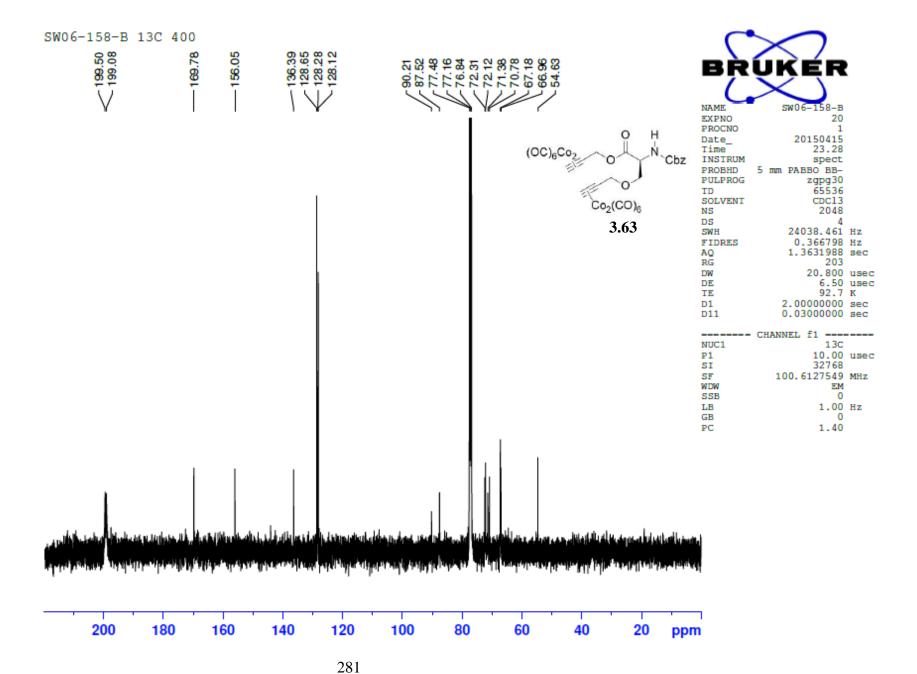


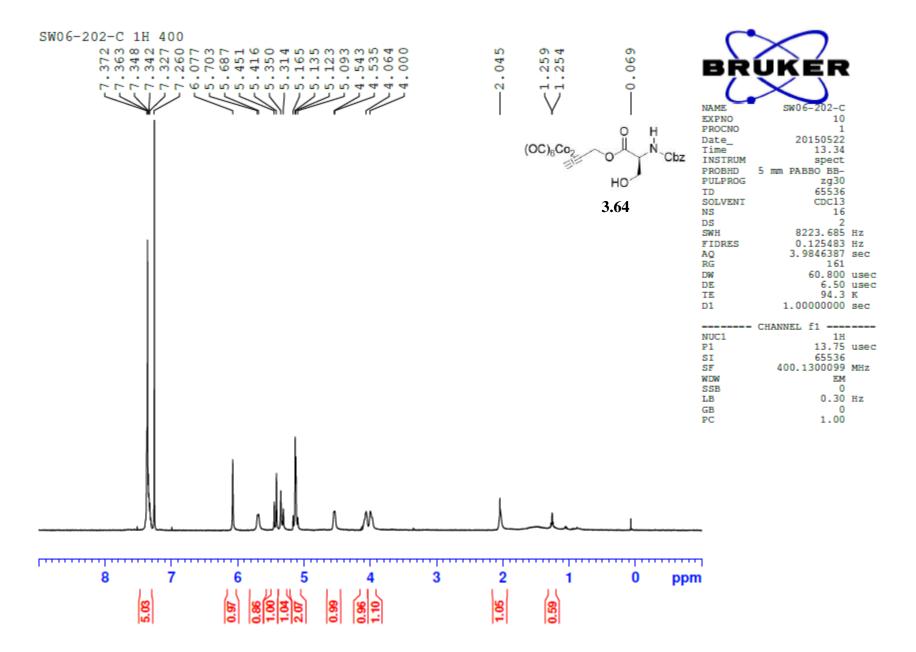


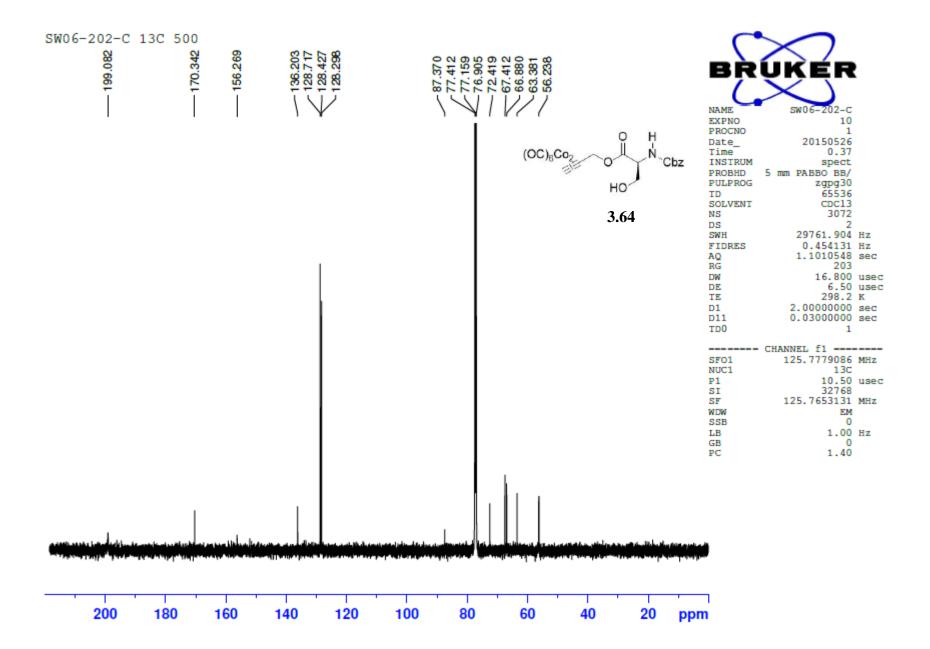


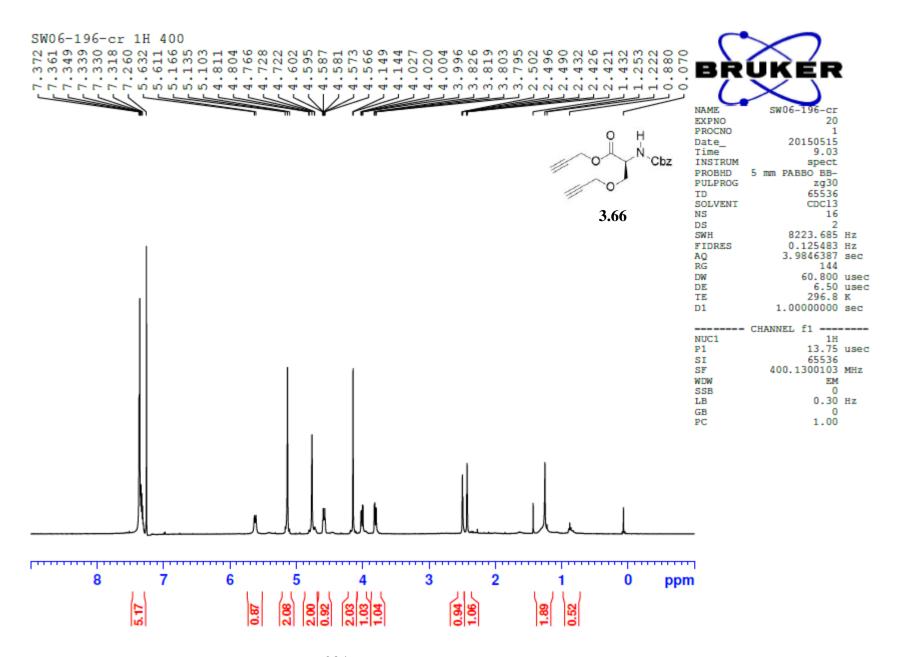


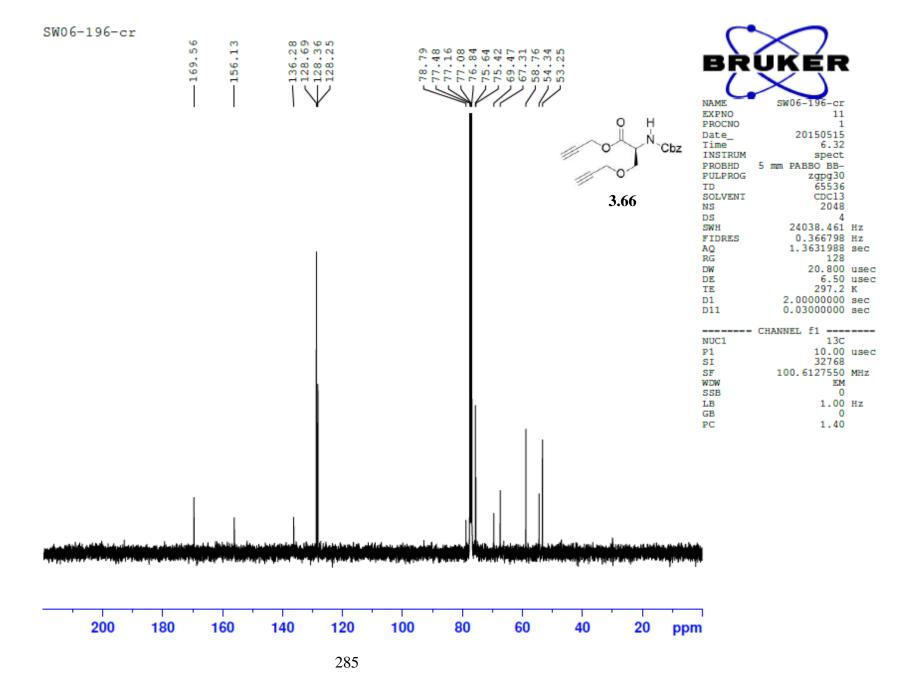


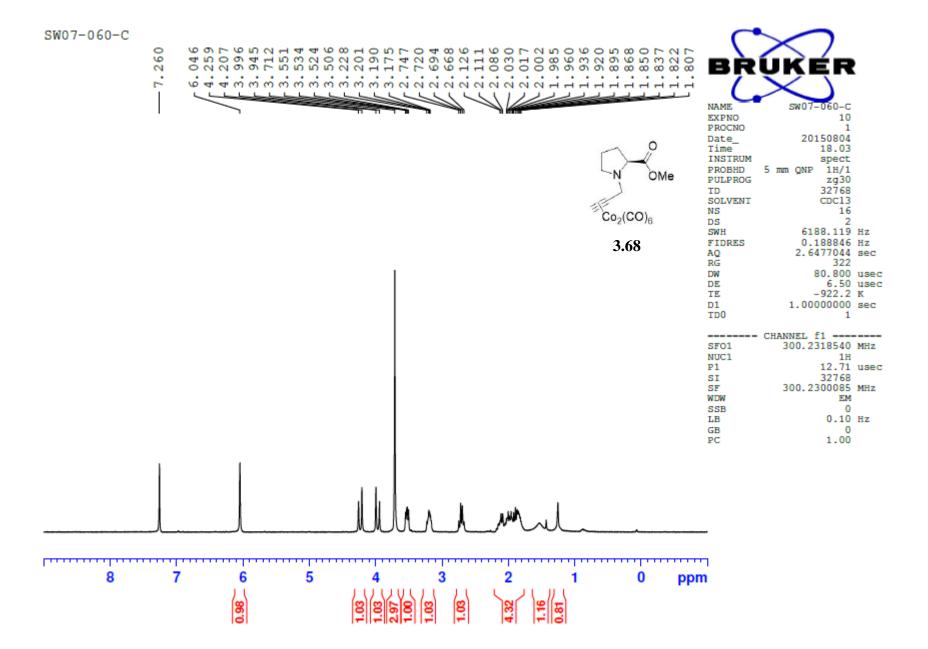


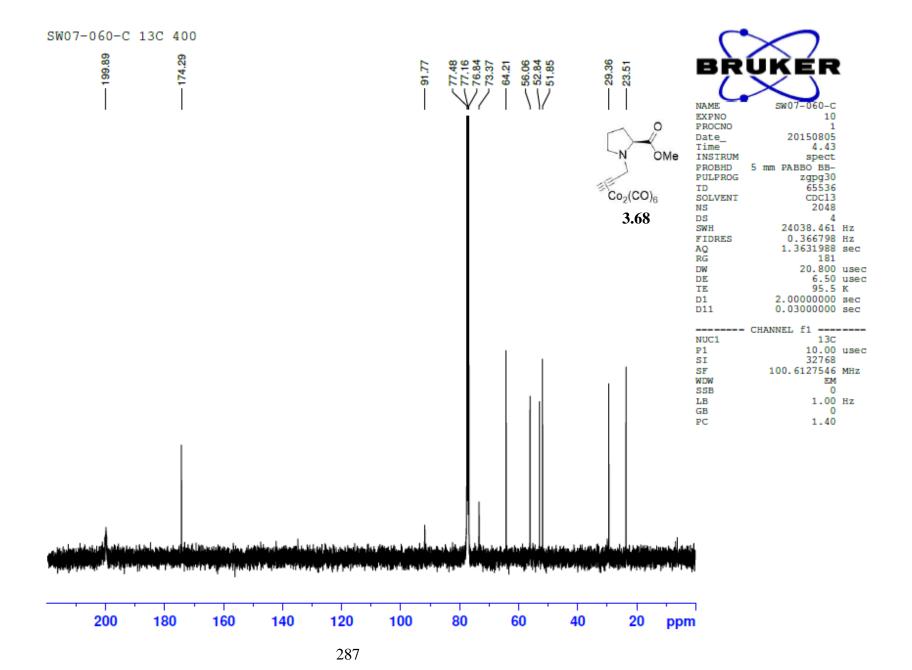


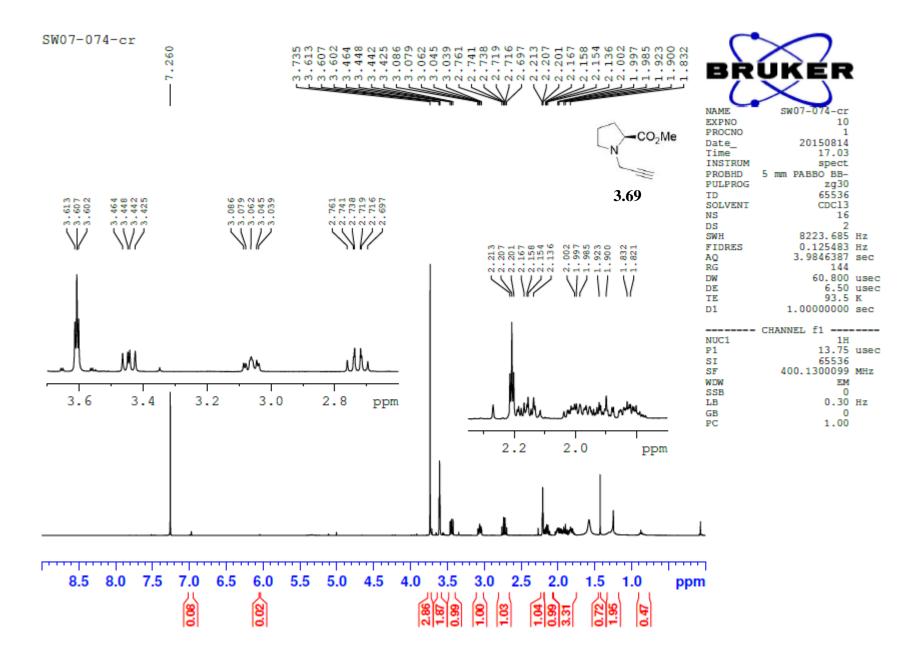


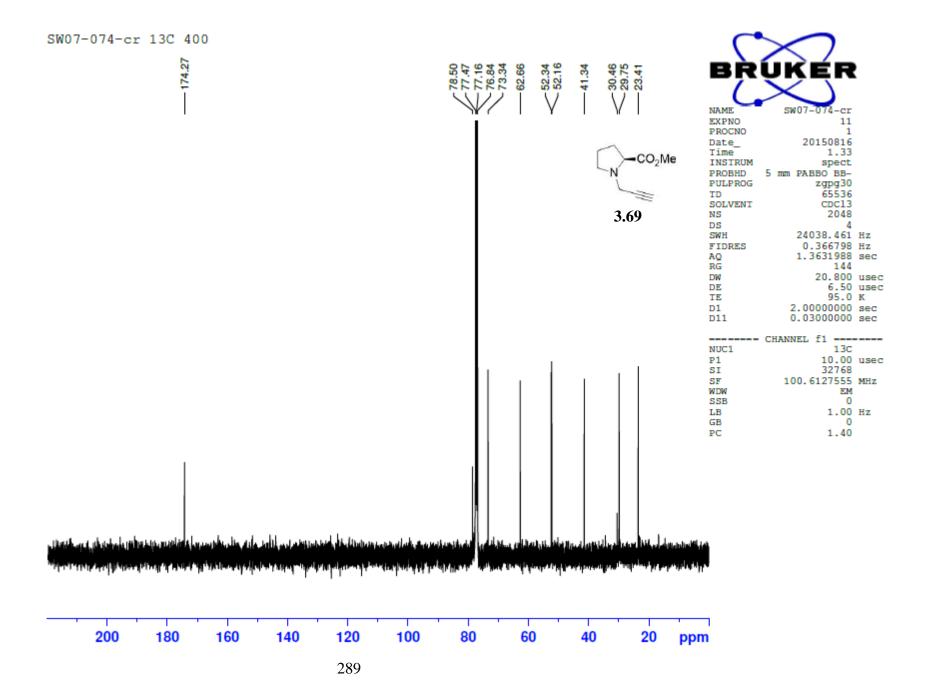


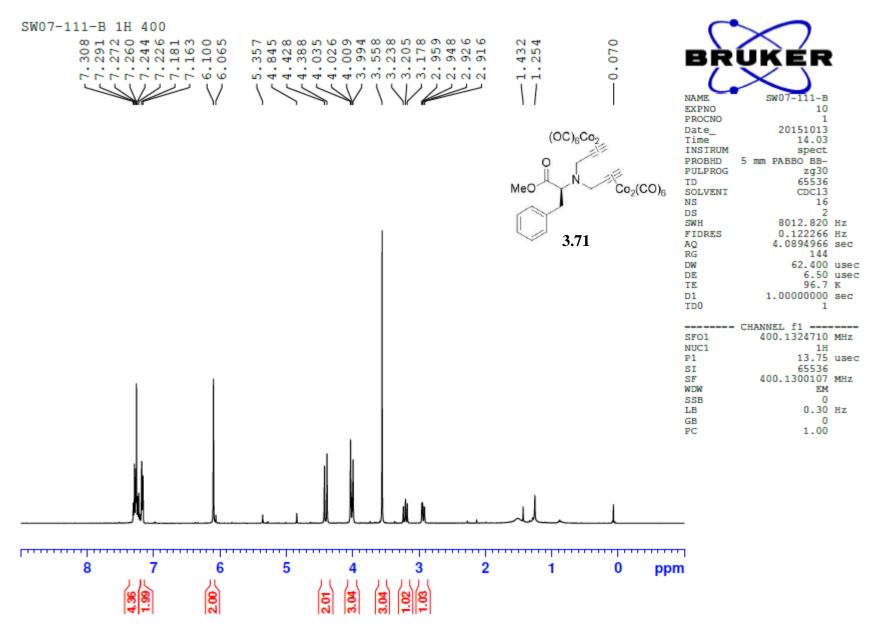


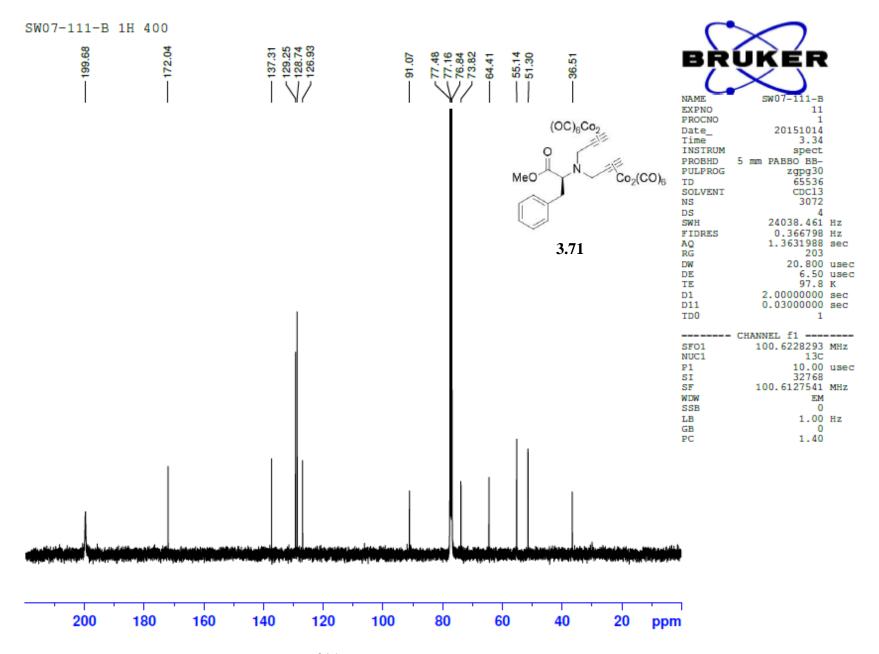


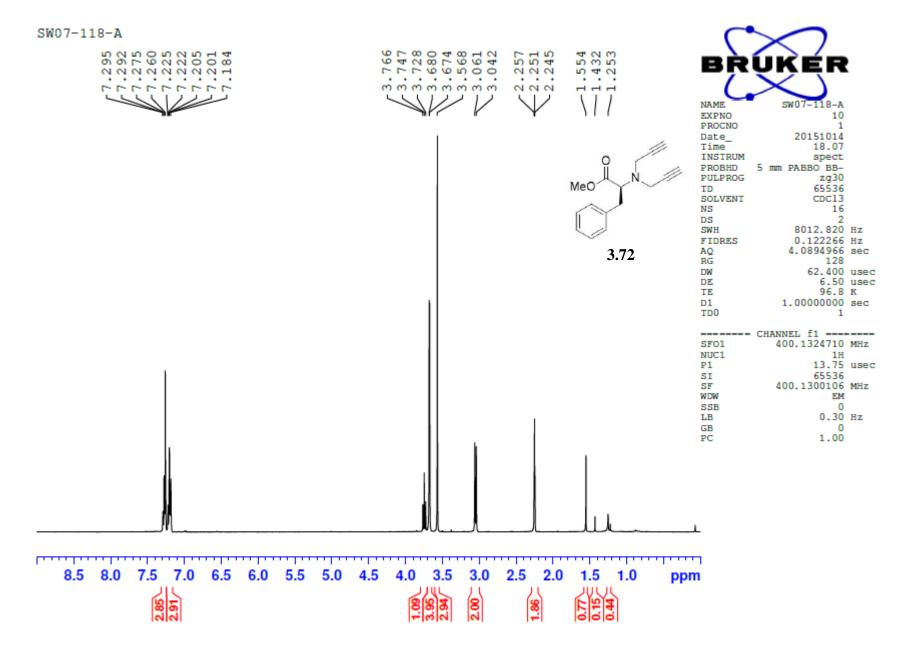


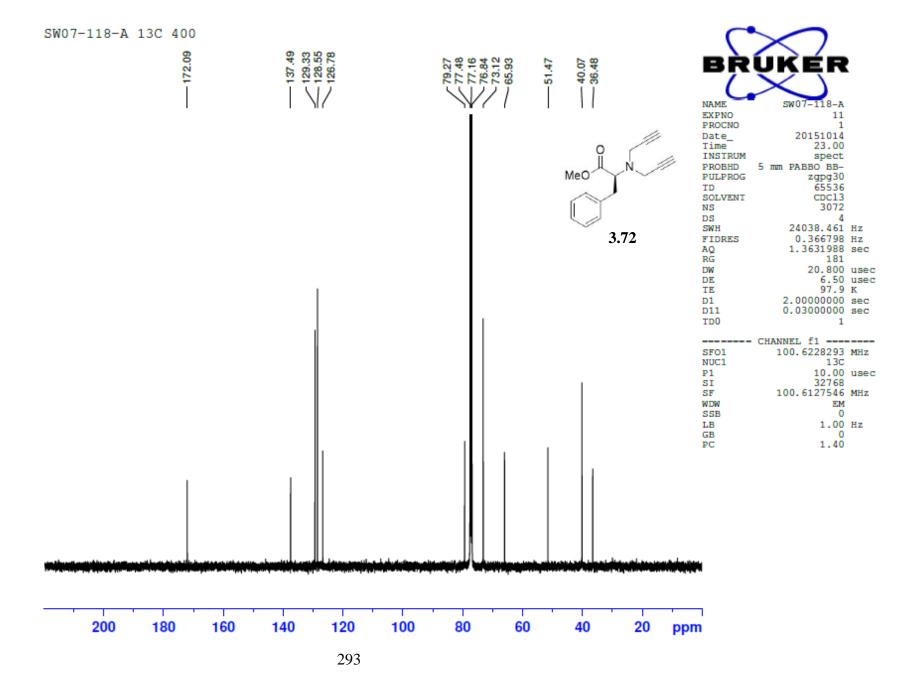


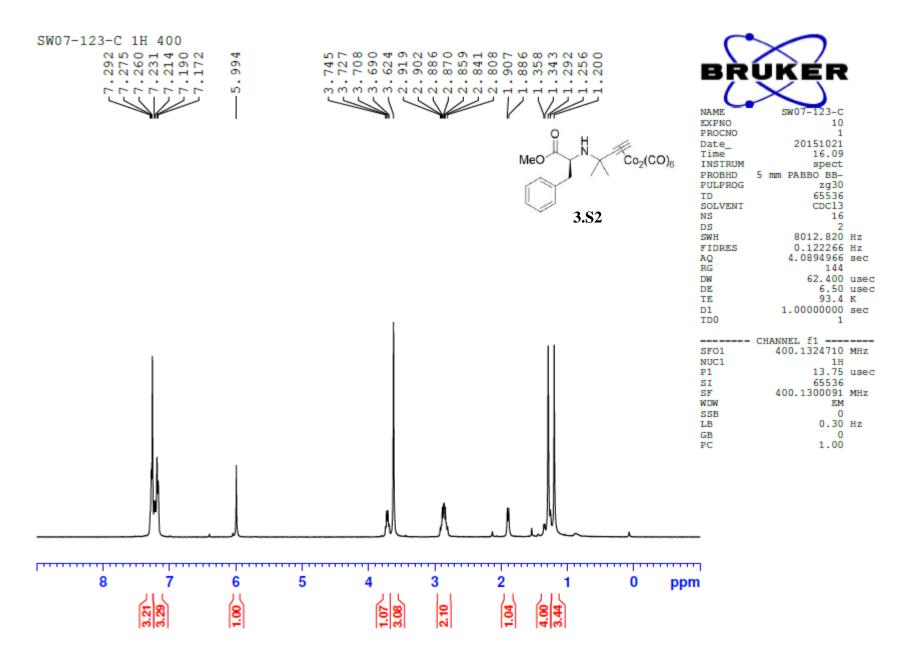


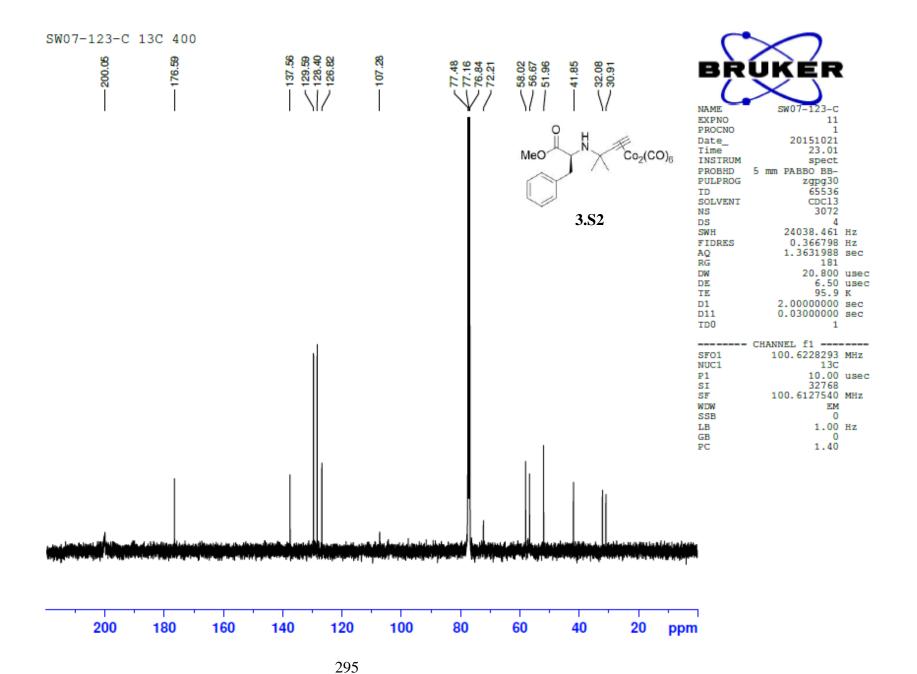


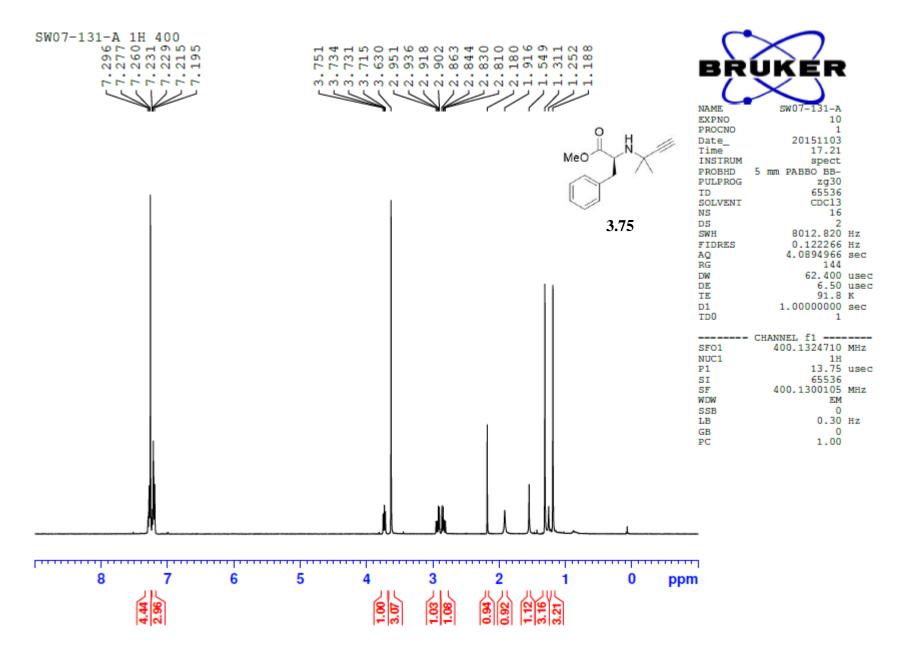


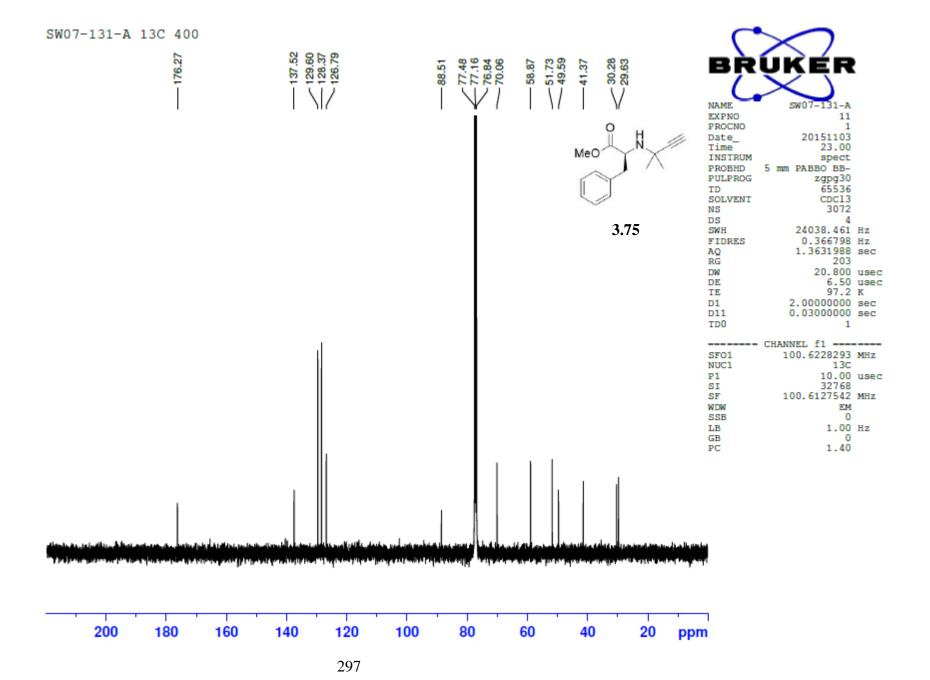


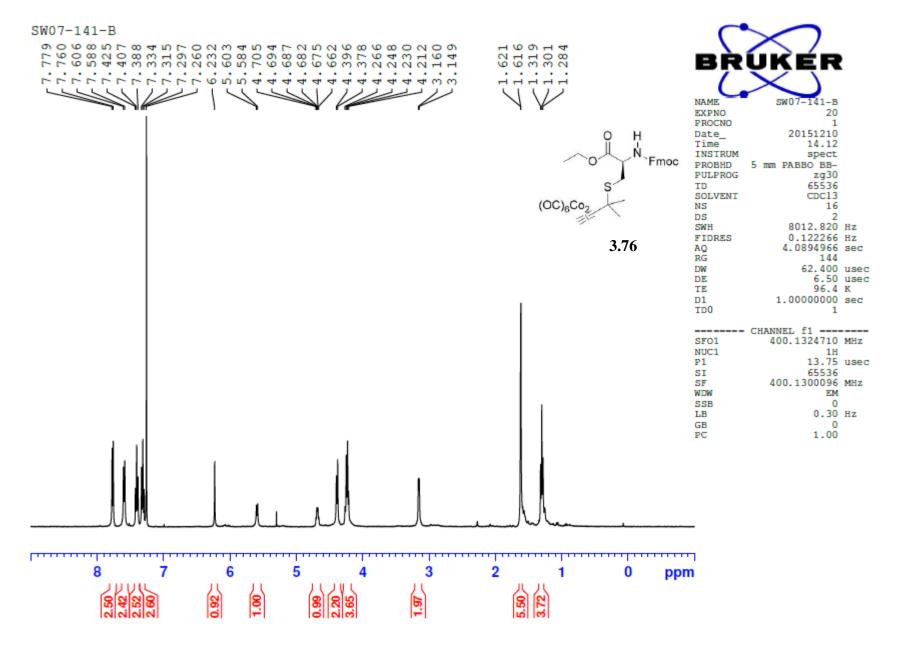


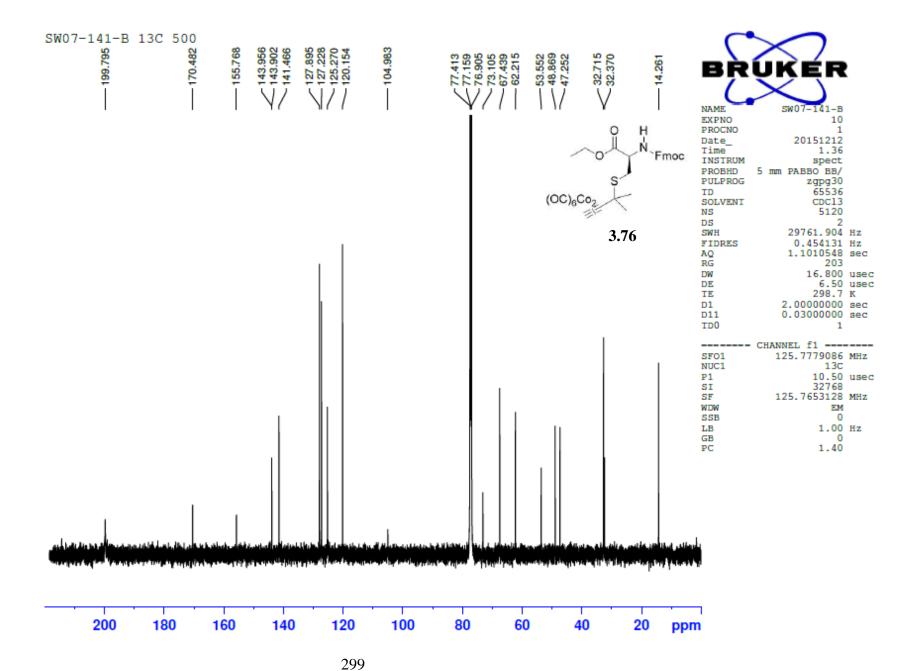


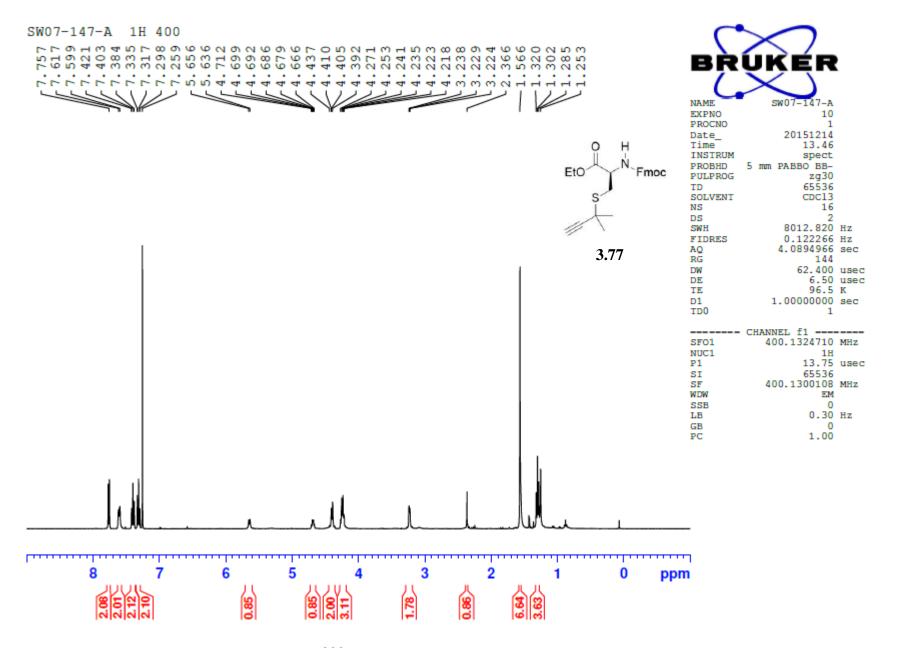


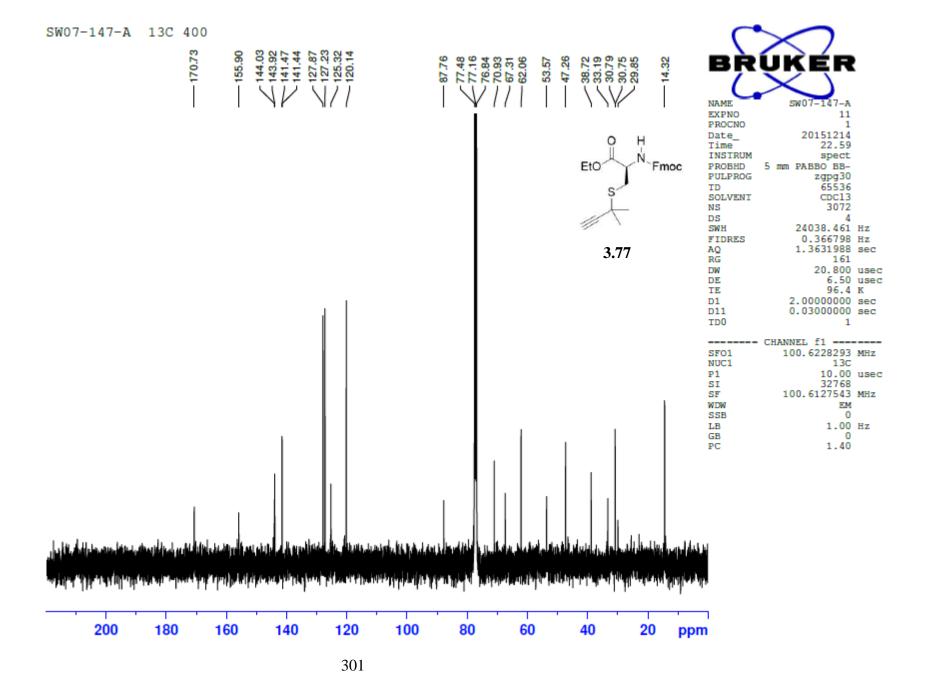


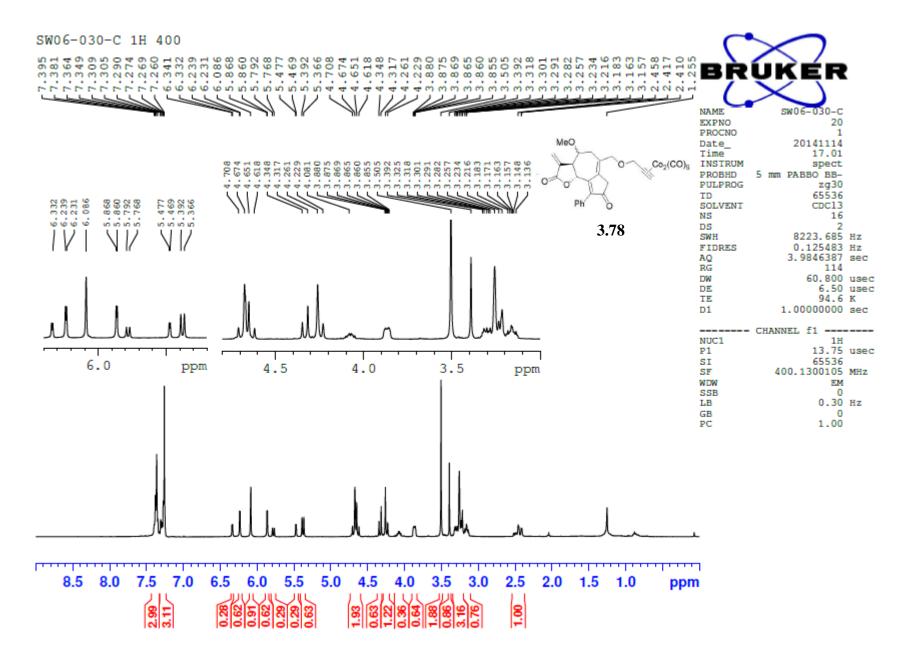


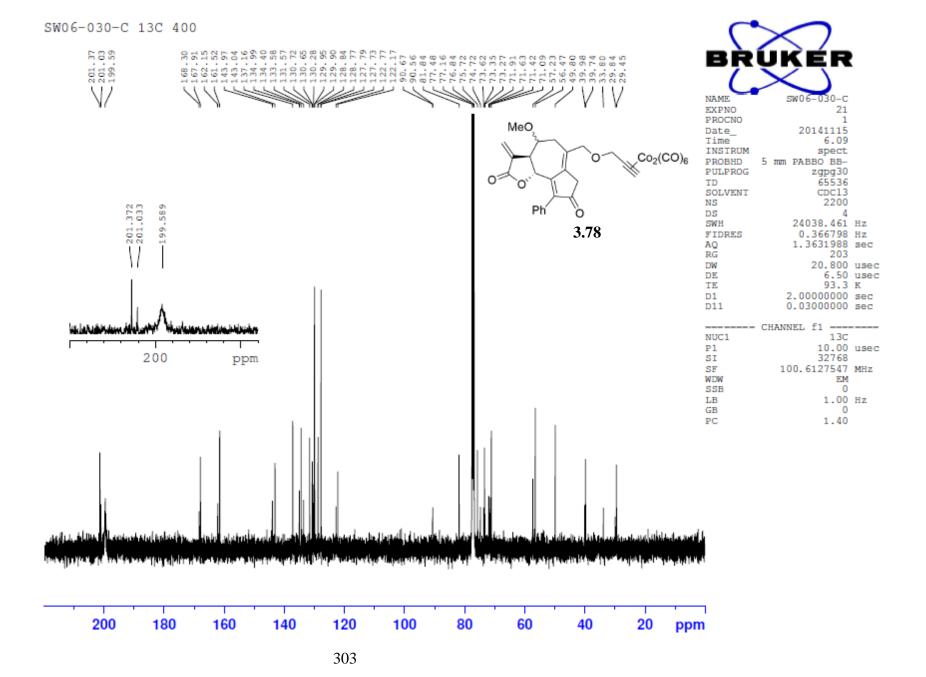


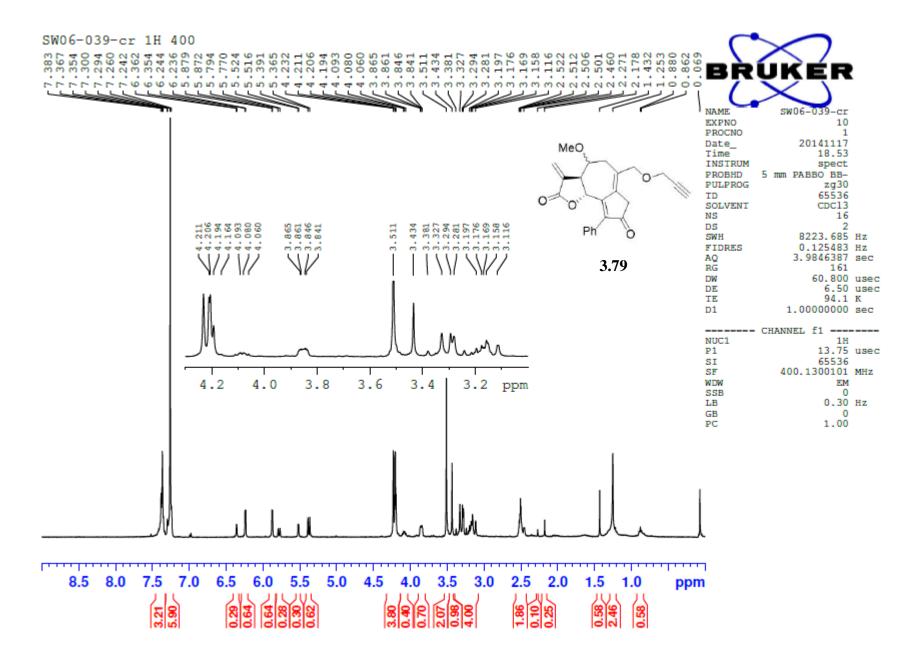


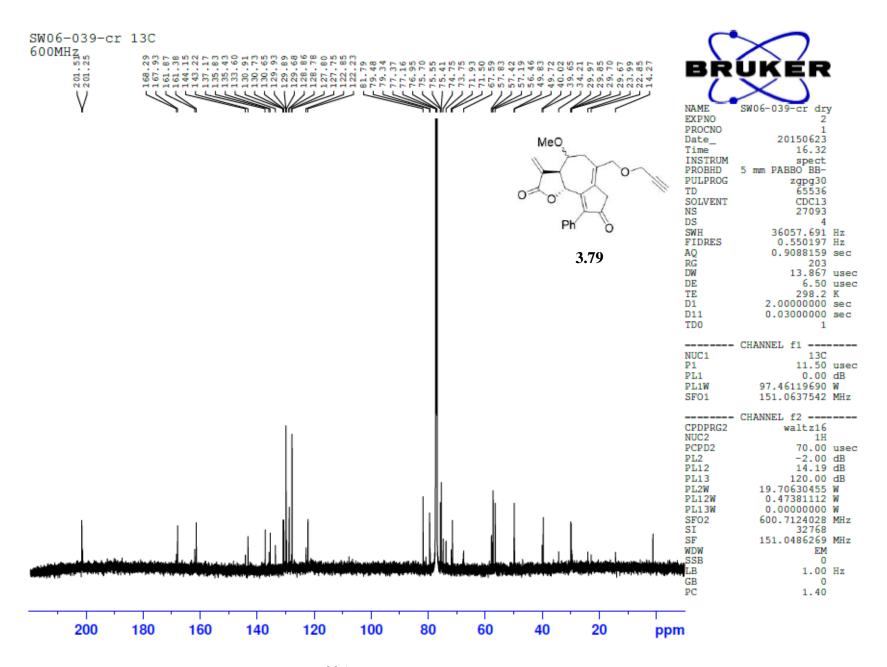


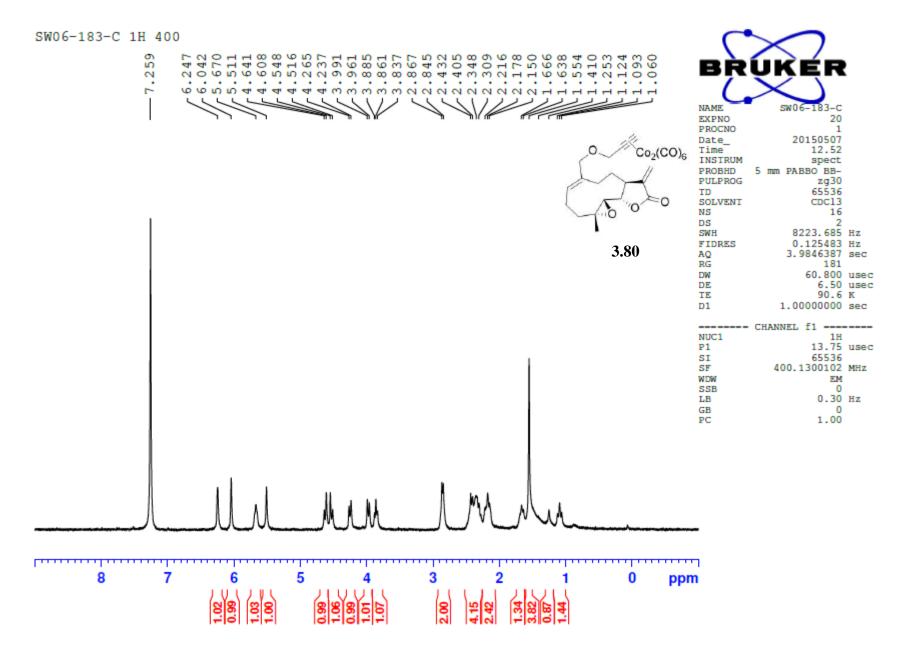


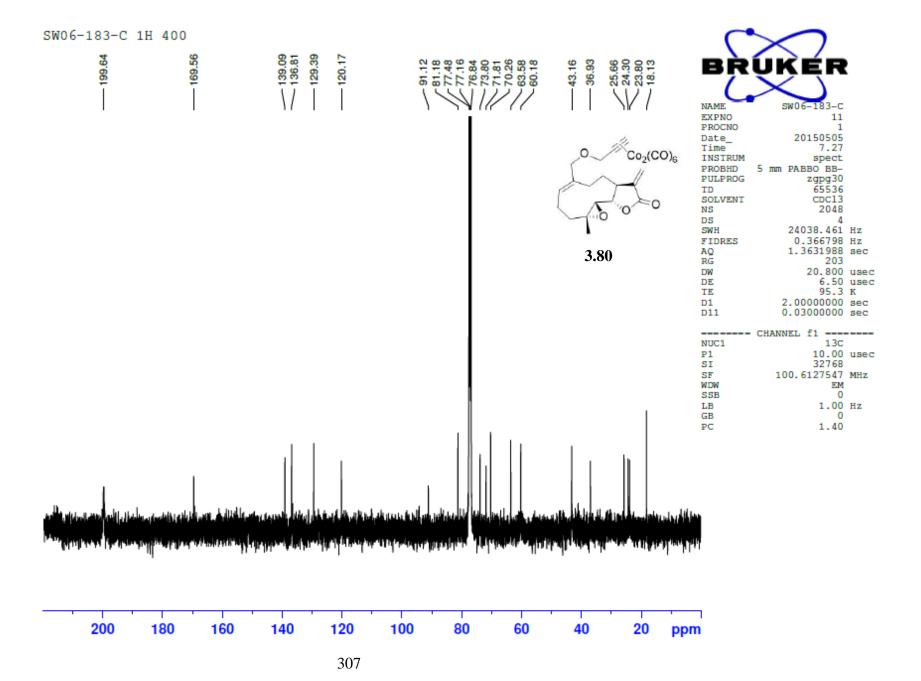


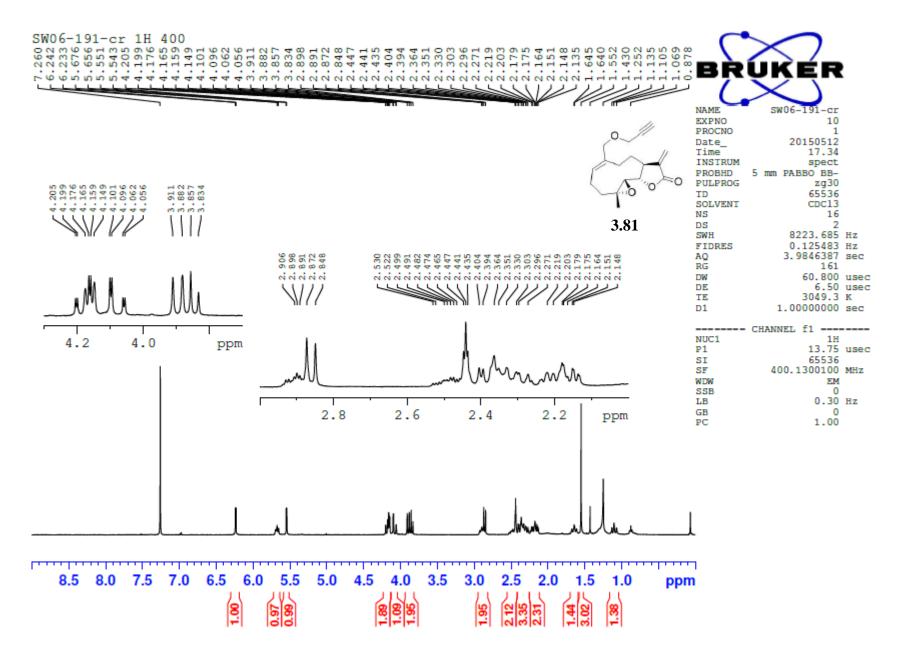


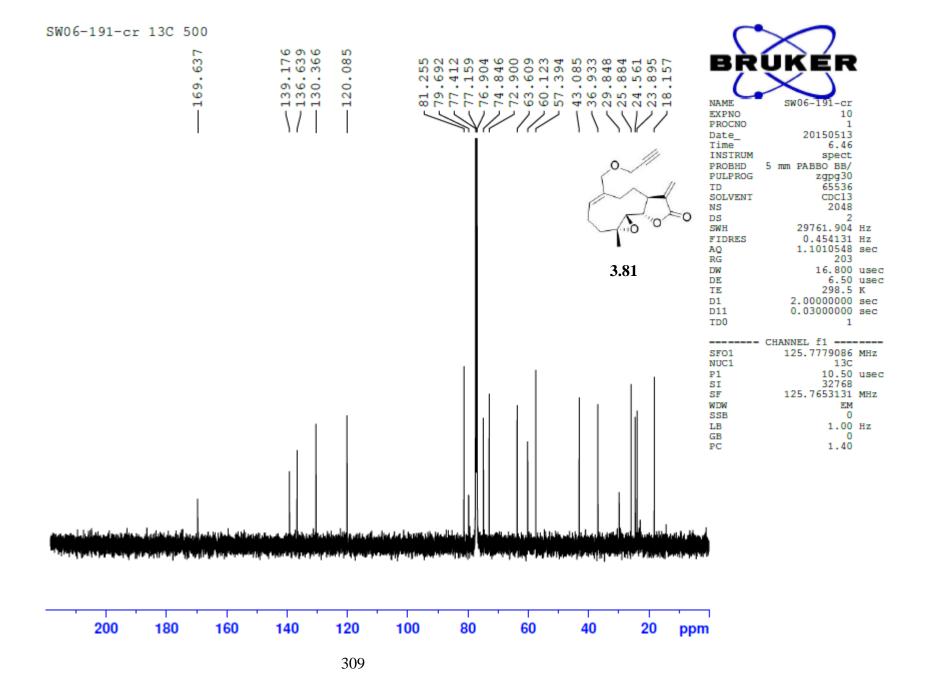


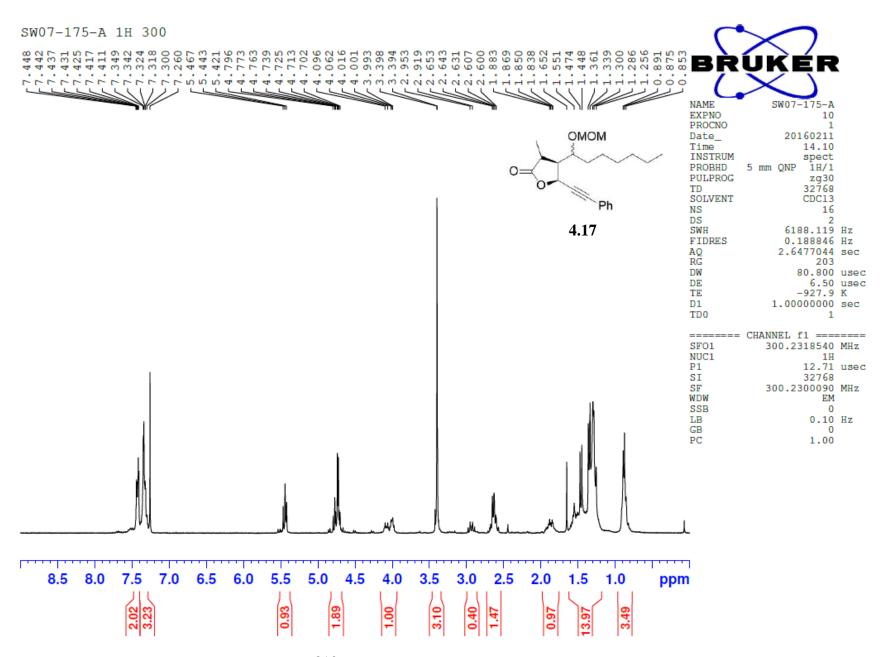


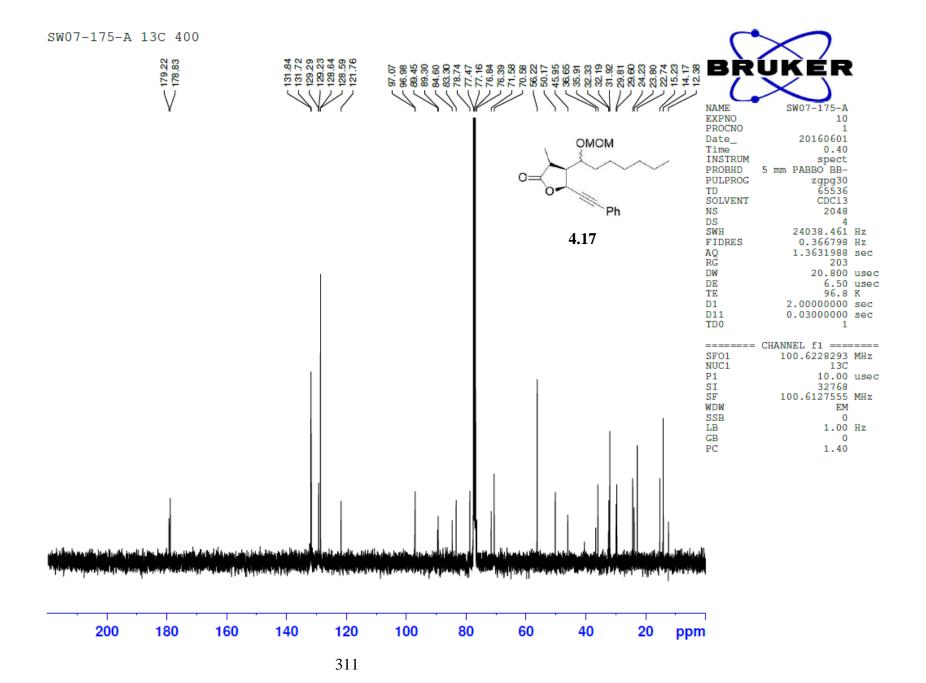


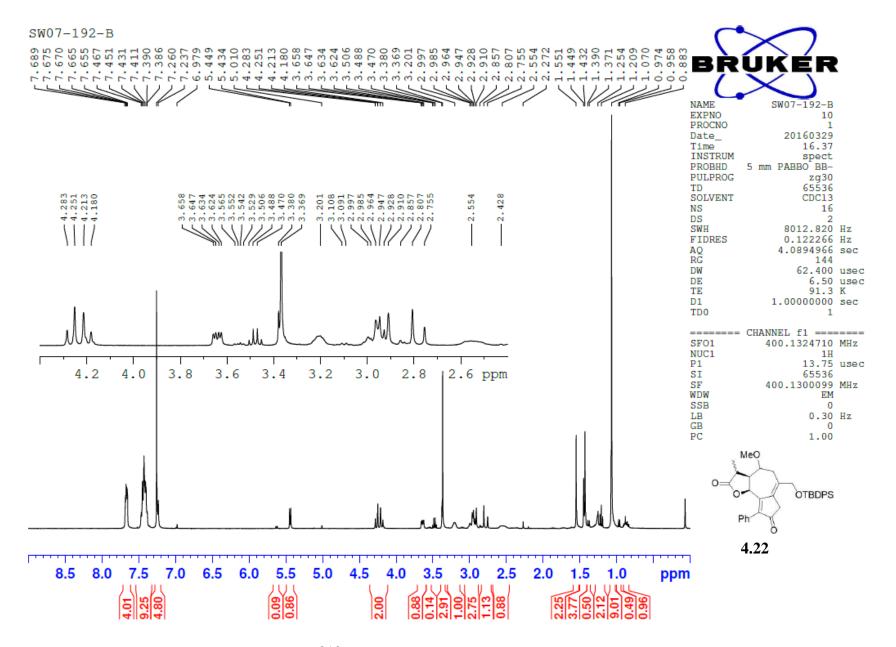


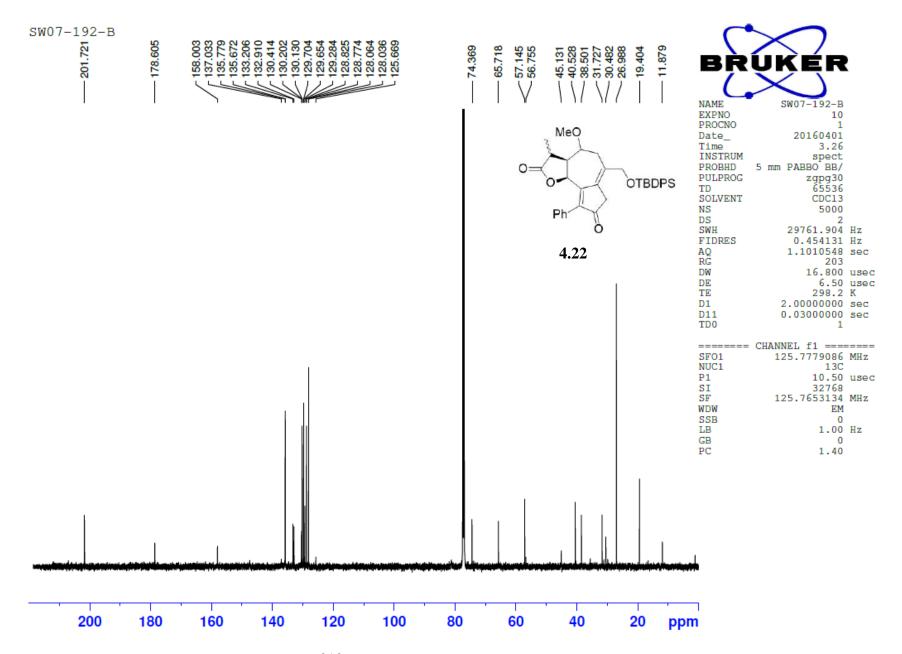


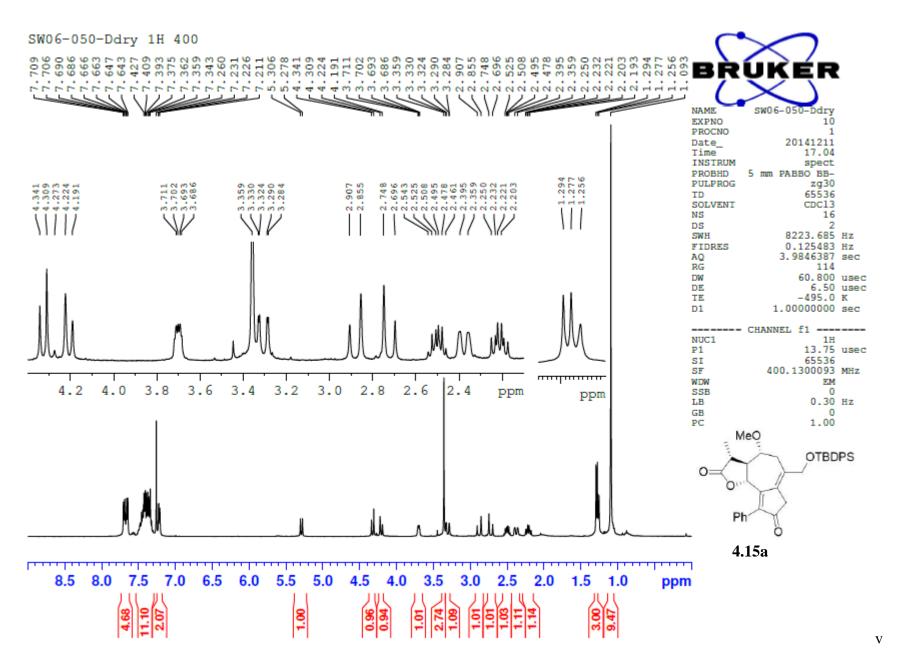


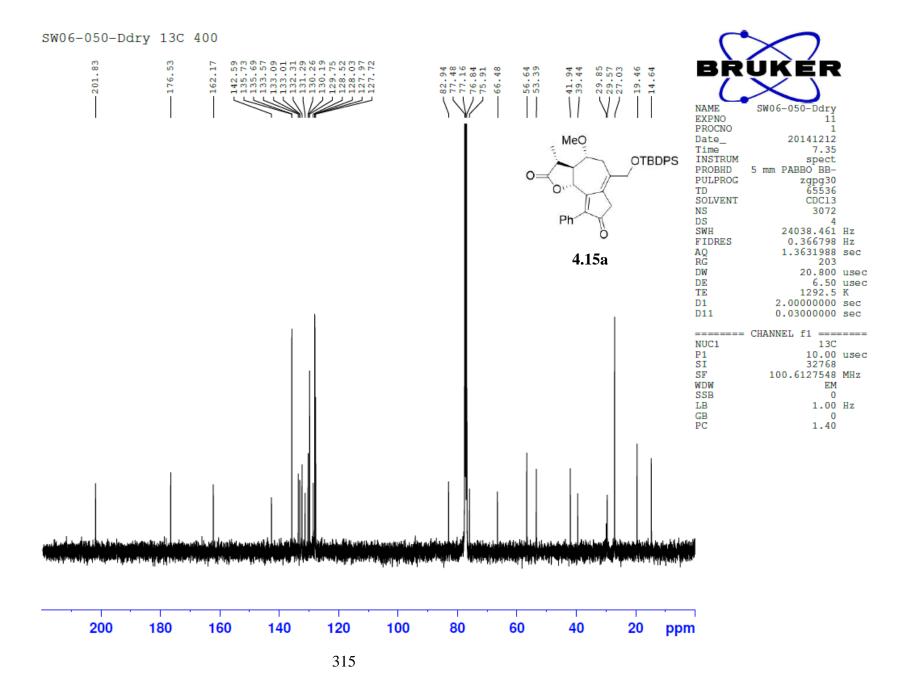


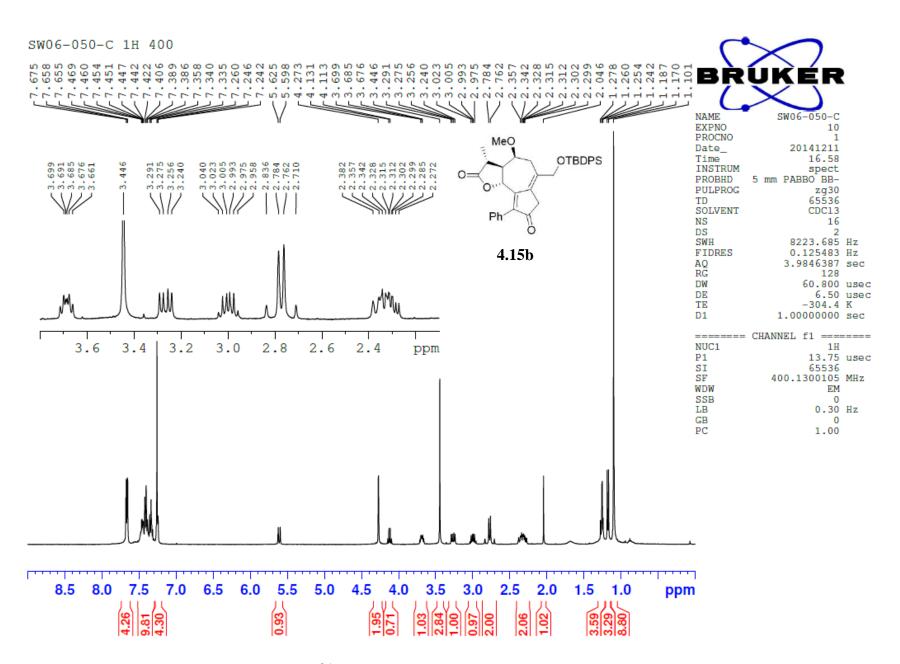


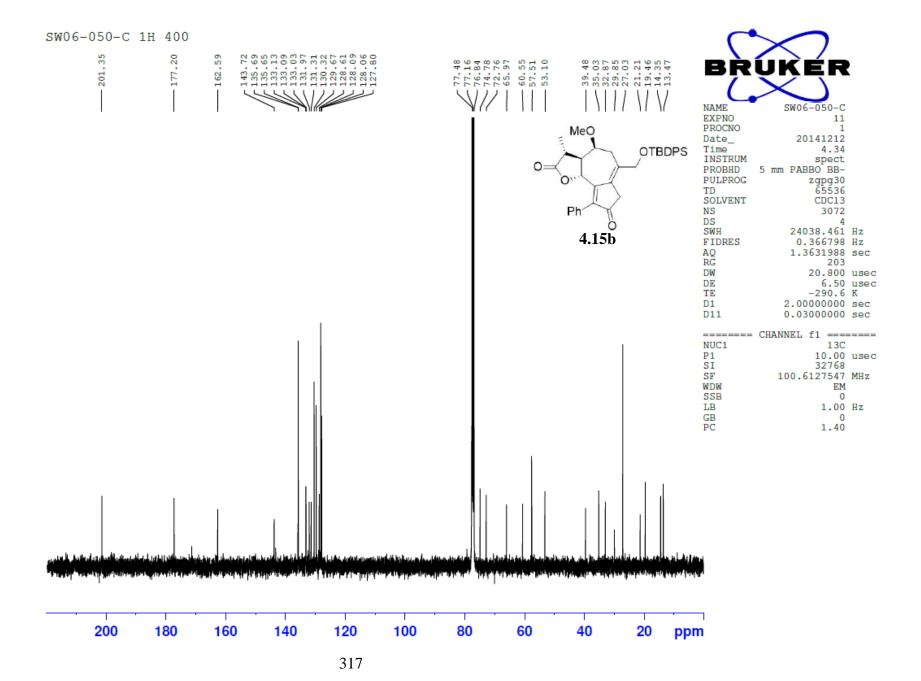


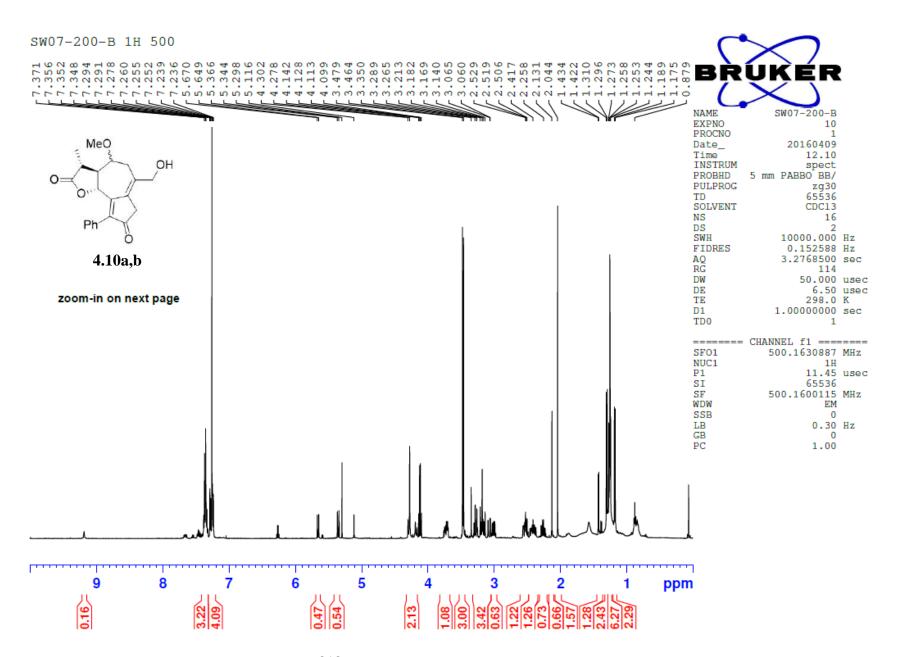


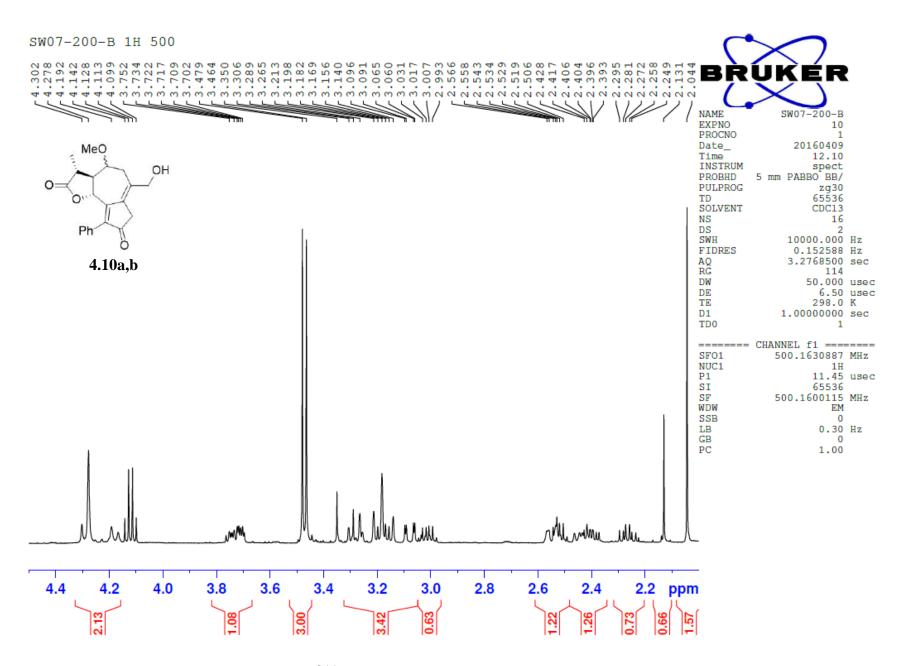


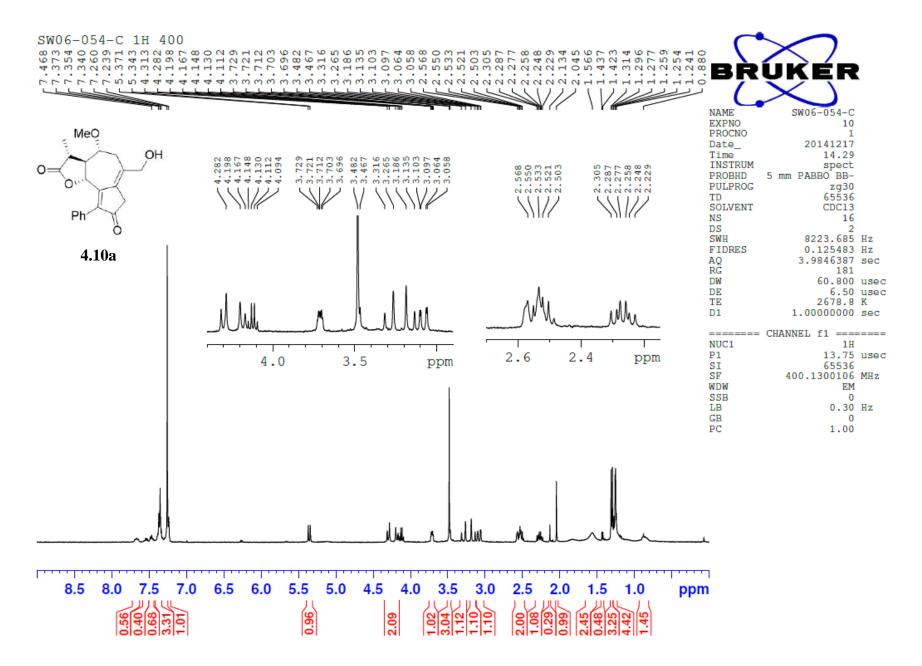


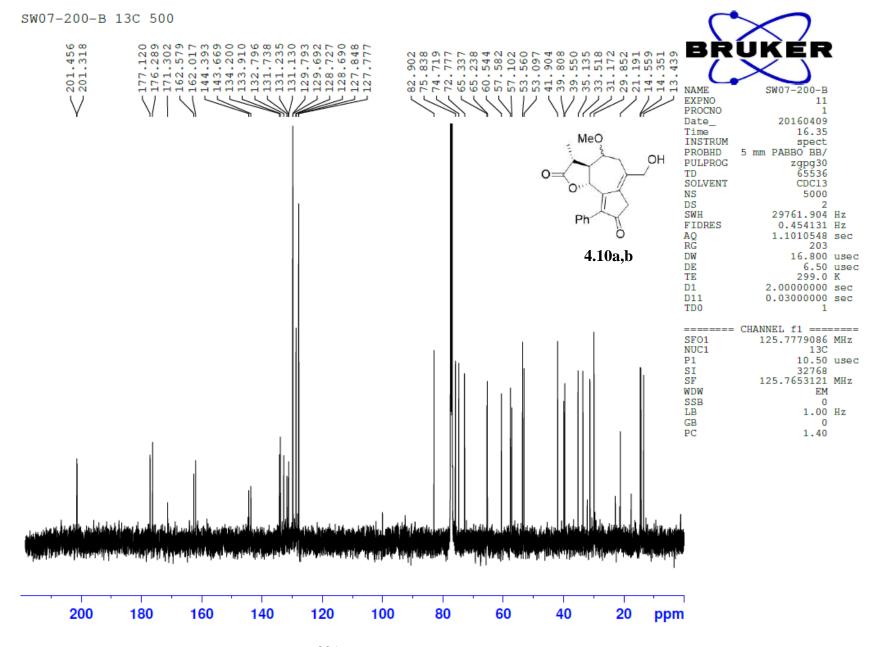


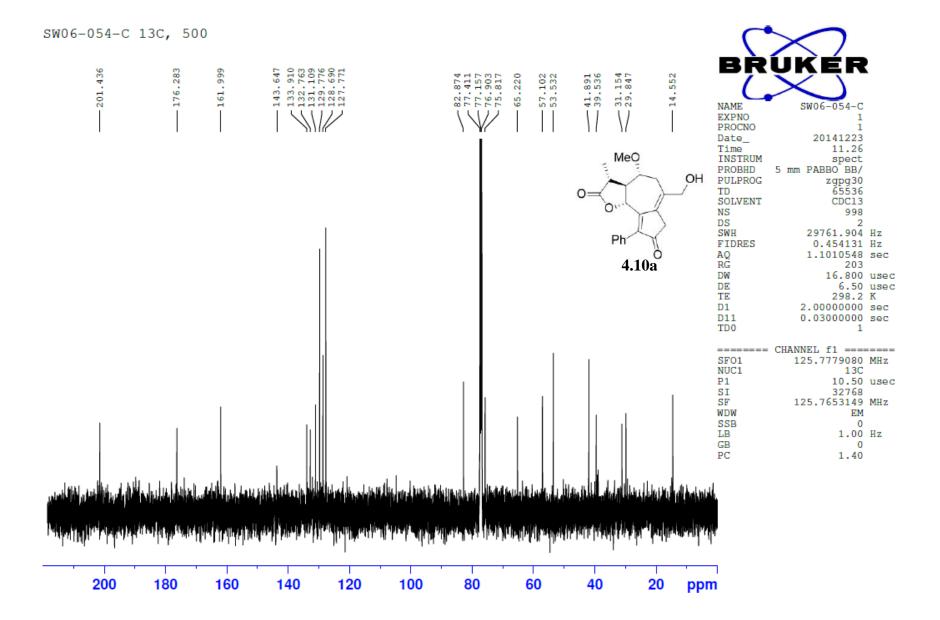


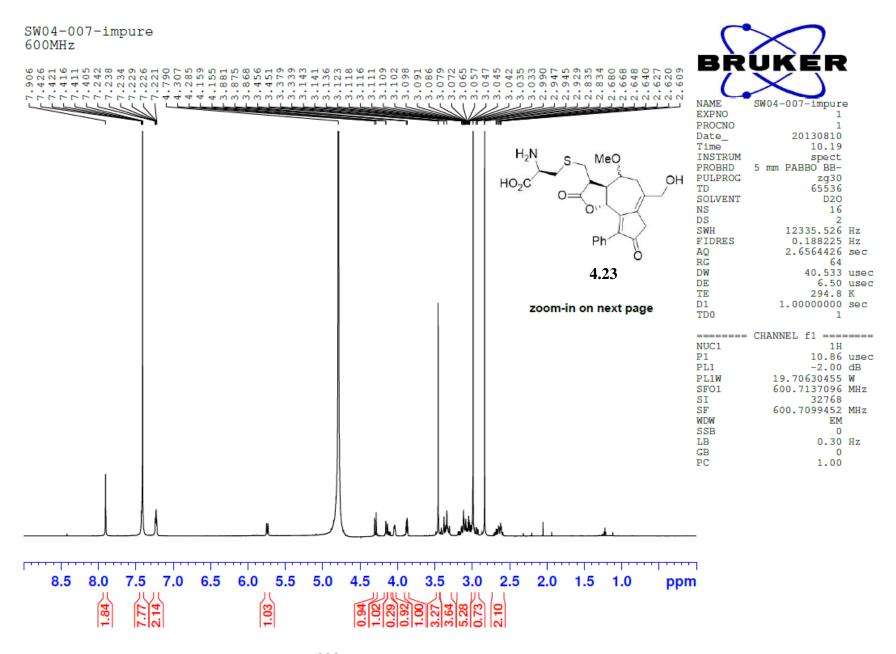


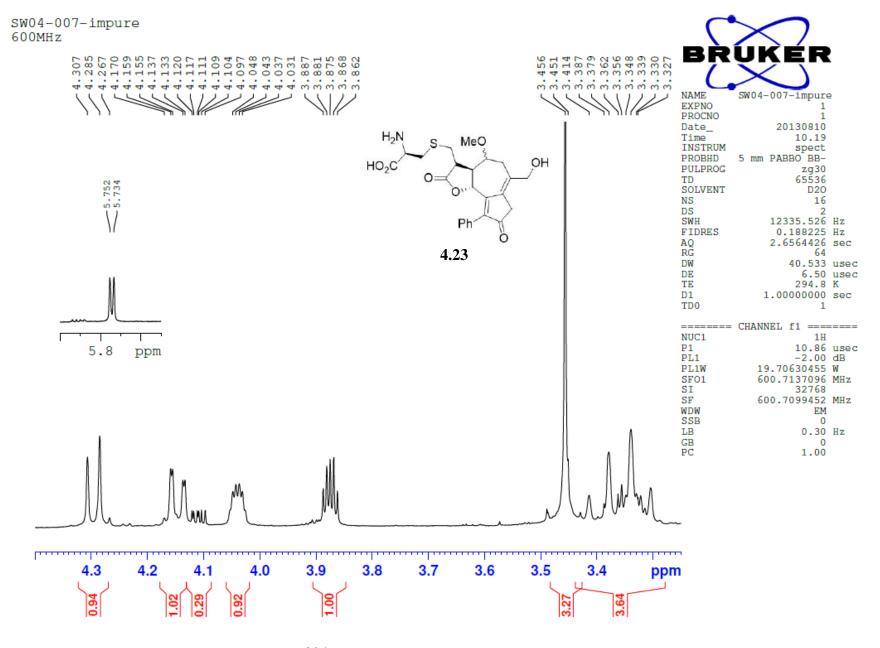


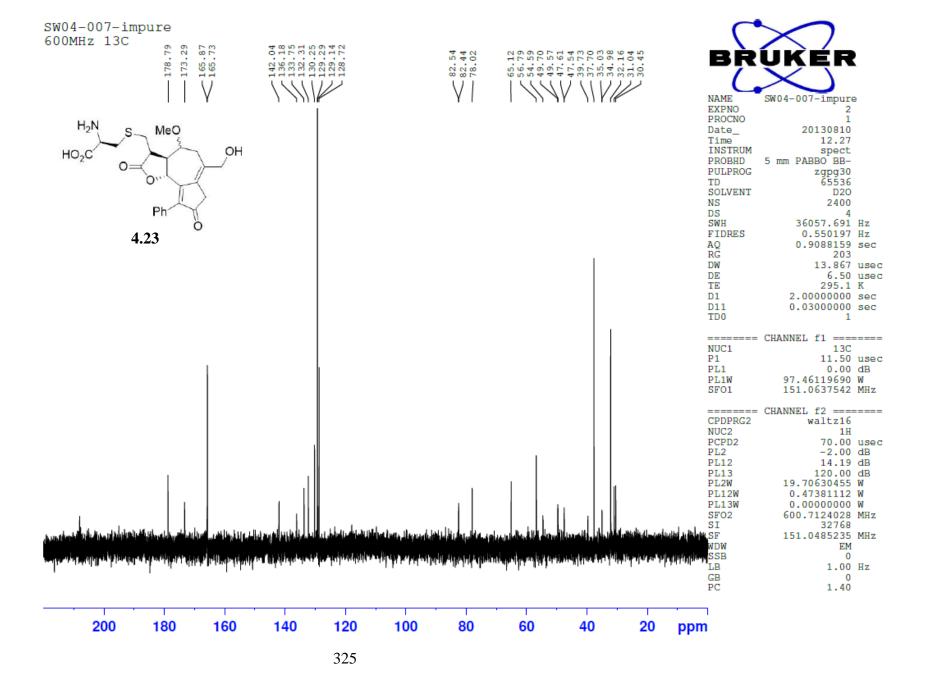


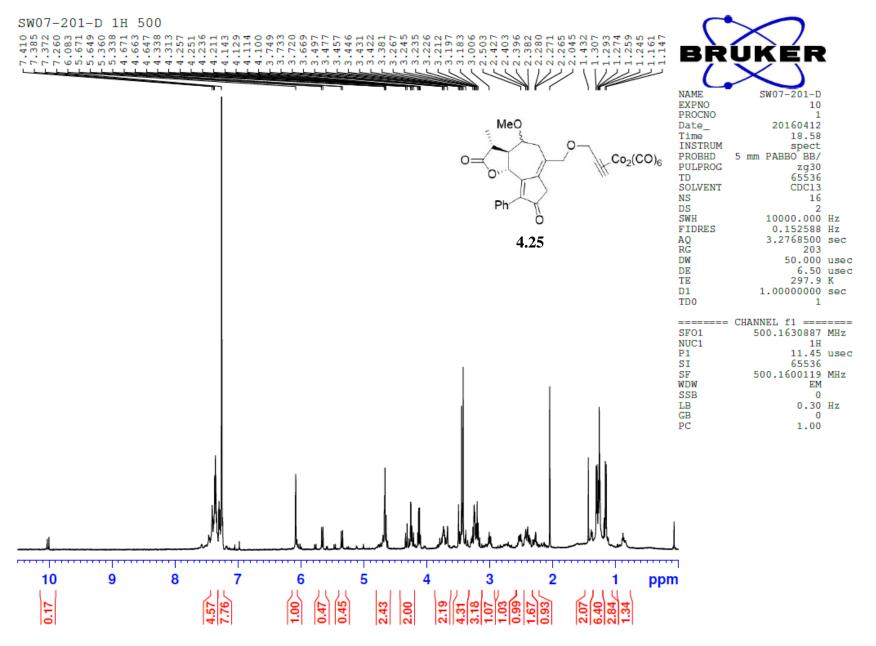


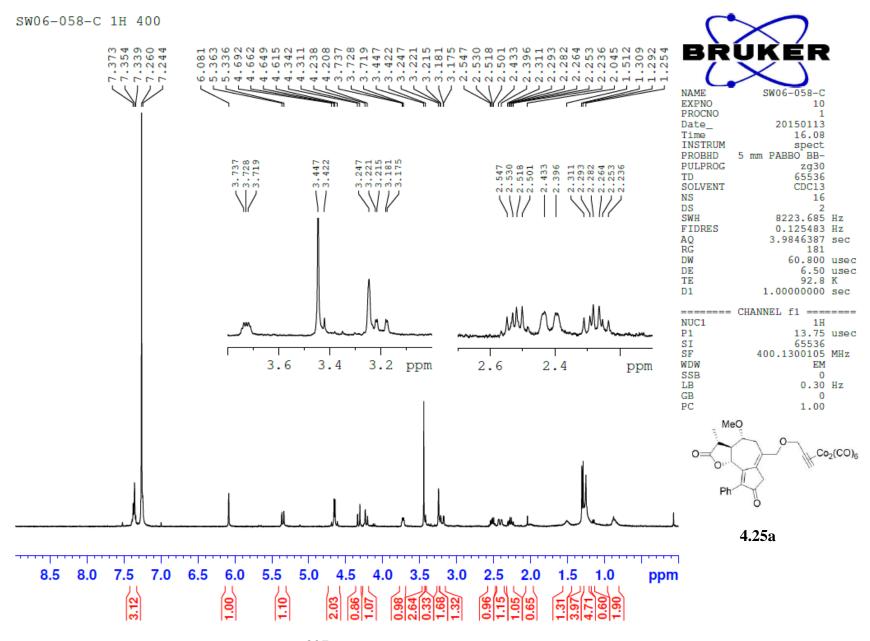


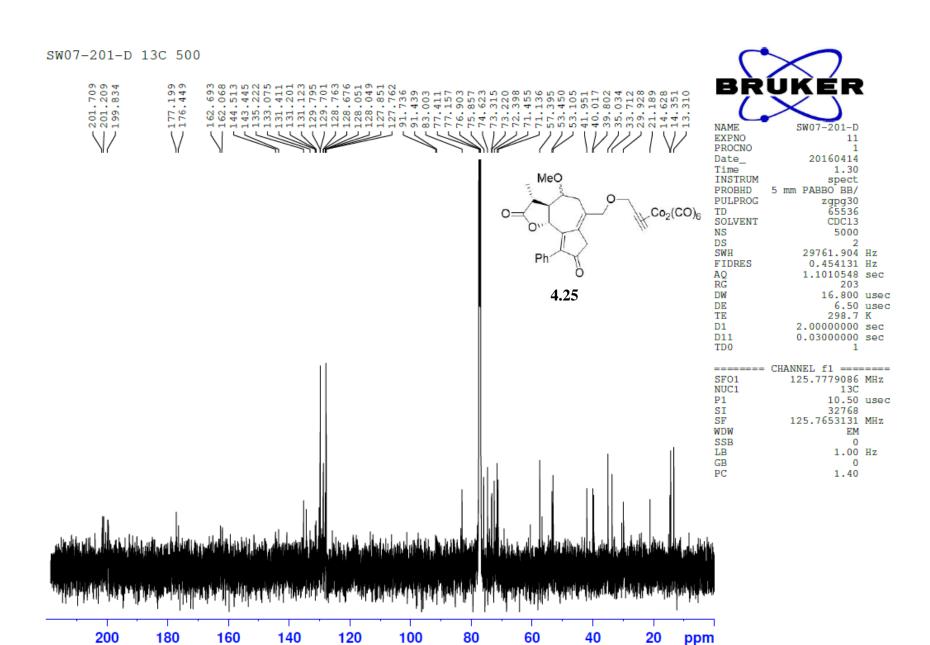


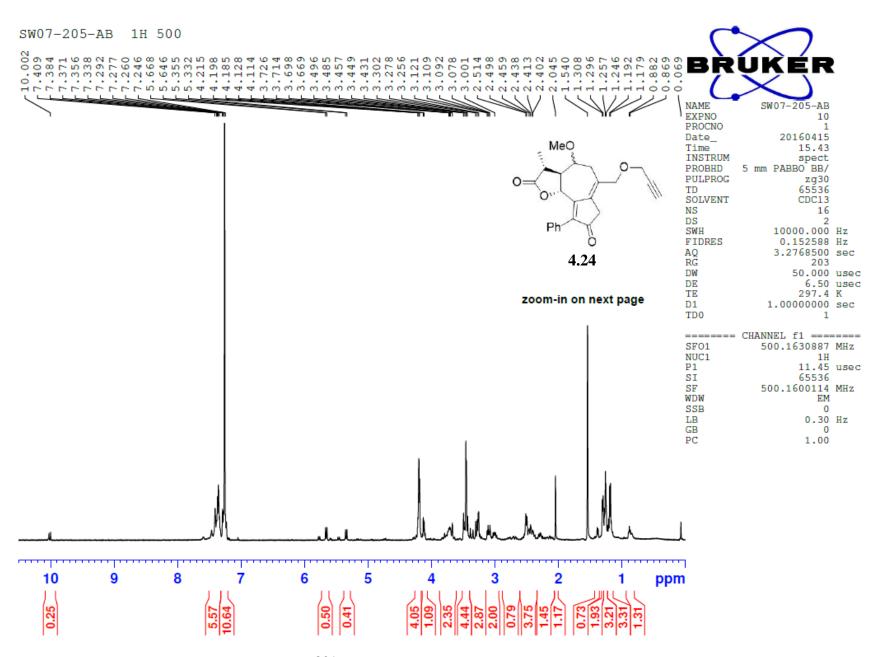


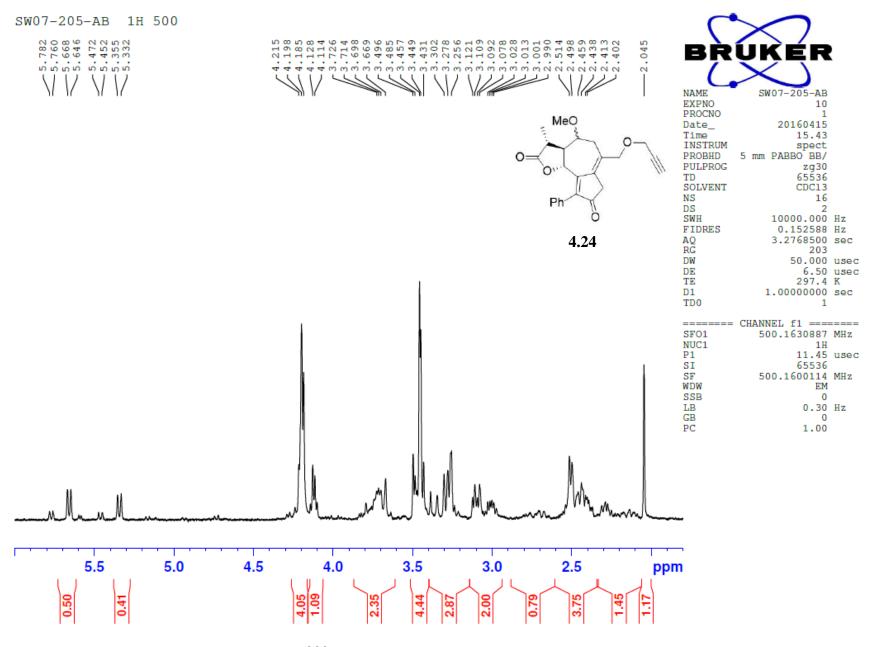












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