Supporting Information

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Analytical Methods

On-DNA reactions were analyzed by LCMS. Samples (ca. 100 pmol) were injected onto a reverse-phase chromatography column (Targa C18, 5μ , 2.1×40 mm) and eluted (15-70% solvent B over 7 minutes, 0.36 mL/min flow rate, 10-60% solvent B over 3 minutes, 0.55 mL/min flow rate, or 10-90% solvent B over 1 minutes, 1 mL/min flow rate; Solvent A: 0.75% hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) / 0.38% triethylammonium acetate / 10μ M EDTA in deionized water; Solvent B: 0.75% HFIP/0.38% TEAA/ 10μ M EDTA in 90/10 methanol/water) with monitoring at 260 nm. Effluent was analyzed on a ThermoFinnigan Advantage electrospray mass spectrometer in negative ion mode. When necessary, mass deconvolution was achieved using ProMass software (Novatia). Chromatographic purification was likewise achieved using reverse-phase liquid chromatography (Gemini C18 5μ , 30×100 mm; Solvent A: pH 7.5 50 mM triethylammonium acetate; Solvent B: 1% water in acetonitrile).

Yields were calculated by examination of the UV and TIC traces of the LCMS chromatograms.

Materials. All the reagents were purchased through vendors. They were dissolved in an appropriate solvent before use. DNA headpiece (**HP**) (5'-/5Phos/GAGTCA/iSp9/iUniAmM/iSp9/TGACTCCC-3') was obtained from Biosearch Technologies, Novato, CA.

"Headpiece (HP)." Sequence: 5'-/5Phos/GAGTCA/iSp9/iUniAmM/iSp9/TGACTCCC-3'

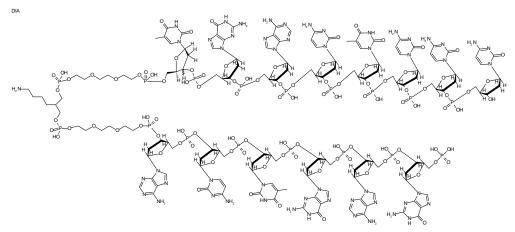


Figure 1. Sequence and structure of the "headpiece." MW = 4937 D

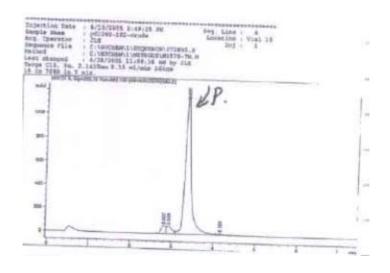
Preparation of **HP-1**

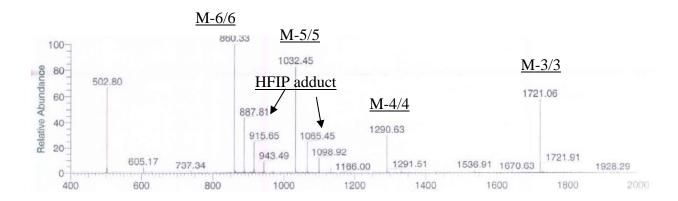
A solution of HP in pH9.4 borate buffer (250 mM) (1 μ mol, 350 μ L) was added at cold 40 equivalents of 4-iodo benzoic acid (9.92 mg in 70 μ L of DMF), followed by 40 equivalents of DMT-MM (10.9 mg in 70 μ L of water). After being kept at cold for 10 minutes, the reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature overnight. The reaction was precipitated by adding 10% 5N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH. The pellet was redissolved in water (400 μ L), followed by adding piperidine (60 μ L). The reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature for a couple hours. The headpiece was precipitated by treating with EtOH, which will be used directly for the next step without further purification.

HP-1: expected mass 5167.20 (M-3/3=1721.40), observed 5166.18 (M-3/3=1721.06).

In the MS traces, especially in the -5 and -6 charge states, hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) adducts (expected mass of HFIP 168, observed +167) were observed. HFIP was a component of the solvents used in the LCMS.

The HFIP adducts were also observed in other samples' LCMS chromatograms.





General procedure for the coupling of **HP-1** with boronic acids in Table 1.

A 1 mM solution of **HP-1** in water (20 nmol, 20 μ L) was added 20 equivalents of boronate (1 μ L, 400 mM in CH₃CN/H₂O 1/1) and 40 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 μ L, 1.6 M in water), followed by 1 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (1 μ L, 20 mM in CH₂Cl₂/Toluene/CH₃CN 1/2/2). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C.

Table 1: Suzuki coupling of **HP-1** with boronic acids

	1 5						
Entry	Boronic acid	Expected	M-3/3	M-4/4	M-5/5	M-6/6	

		mass				
1	—————————————————————————————————————	5117.4	1704.8	1278.35	1022.48	851.9
2	F ₃ C————————————————————————————————————	5185.4	1727.47	1295.35	1036.08	863.23
3	O B(OH) ₂	5161.41	1719.47	1289.35	1031.28	859.24
4	F——B(OH) ₂	5135.39	1710.80	1282.85	1026.08	854.90
5	COCH ₃	5159.44	1718.81	1288.86	1030.89	858.91
	—B(OH)₂					
6	⊘ B(OH) ₂	5147.42	1714.81	1285.86	1028.48	856.90
	H₃CÓ					
7	NC—B(OH) ₂	5142.41	1713.14	1284.60	1027.48	856.07



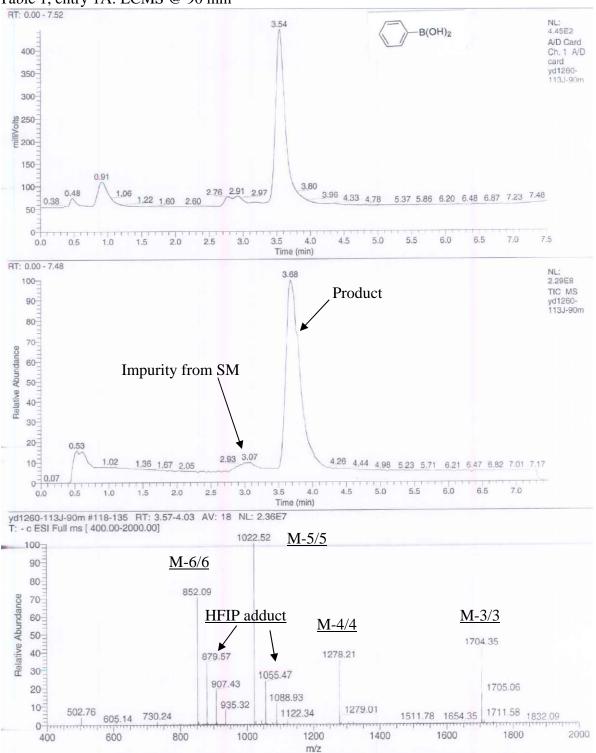


Table 1, entry 1A: LCMS @ 17 h

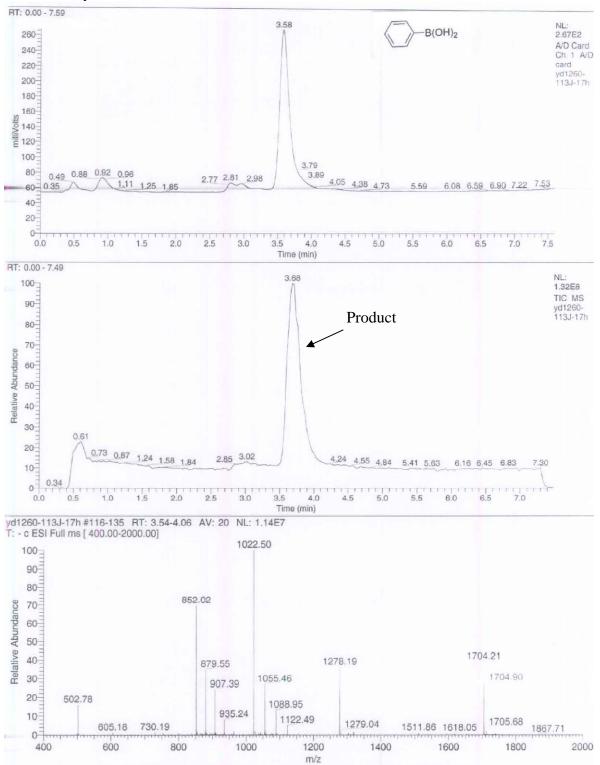


Table 1, entry 2A: LCMS @ 90 min

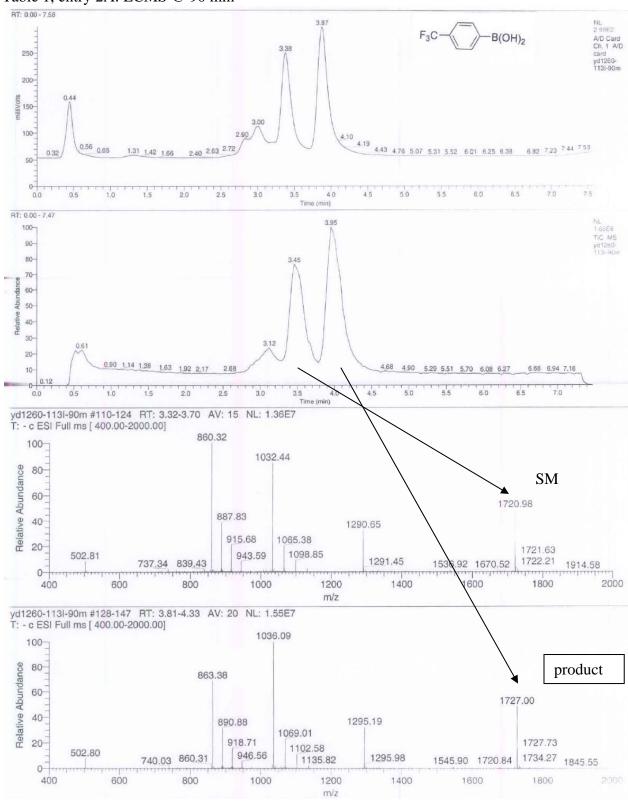


Table 1, entry 2A: LCMS @ 17 h

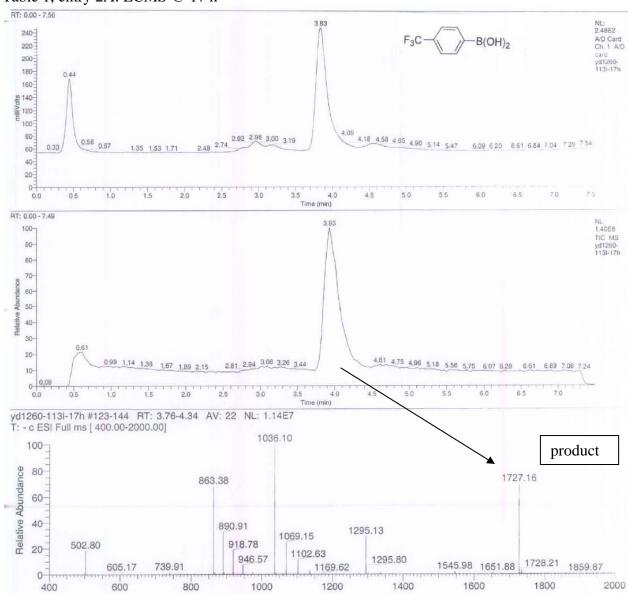


Table 1, entry 3A: LCMS @ 90 min

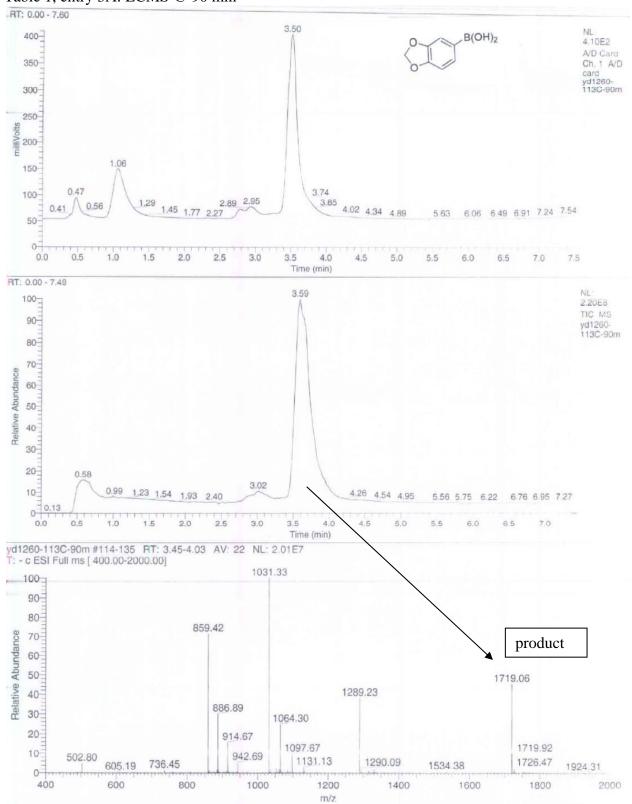


Table 1, entry 3A: LCMS @ 17 h

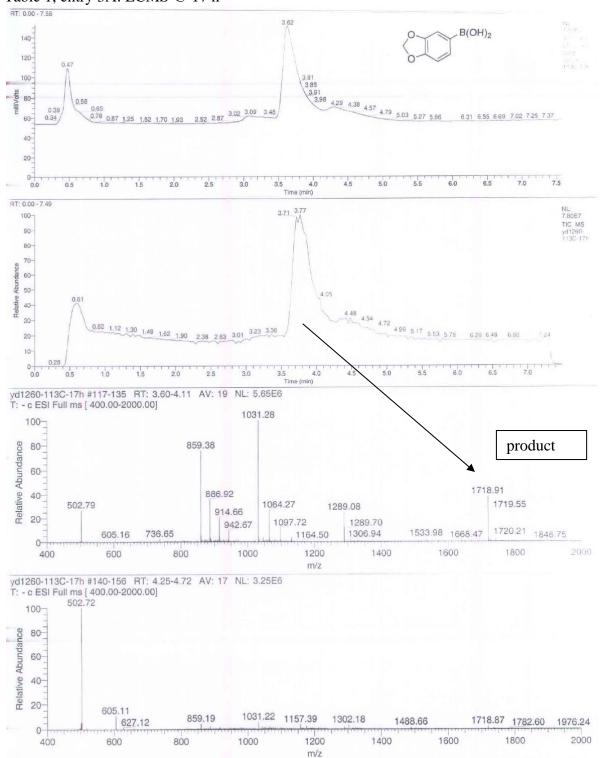


Table 1, entry 4A: LCMS @ 90 min

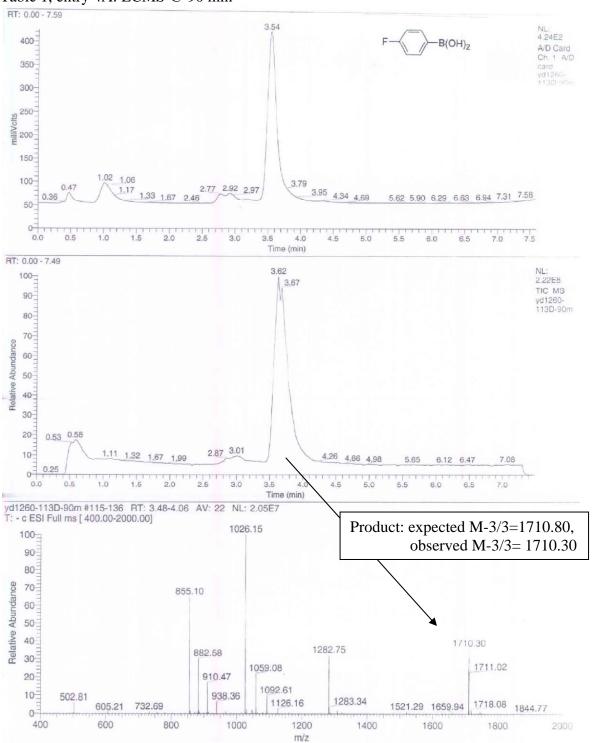
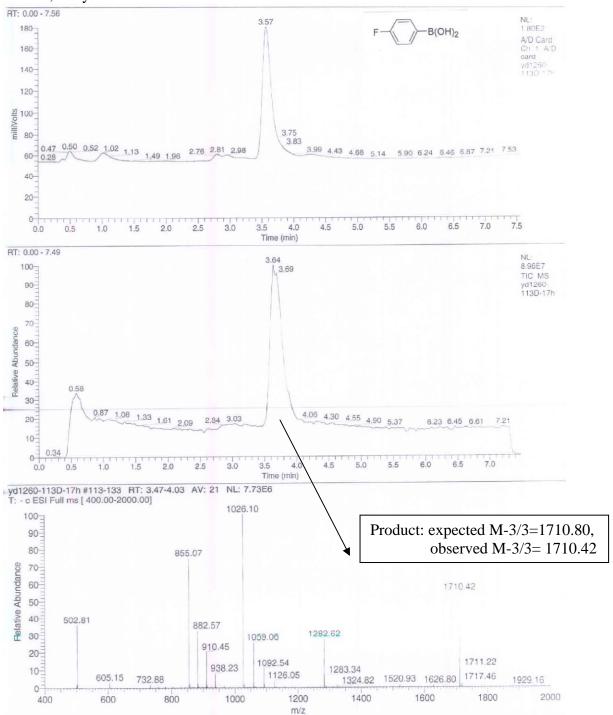
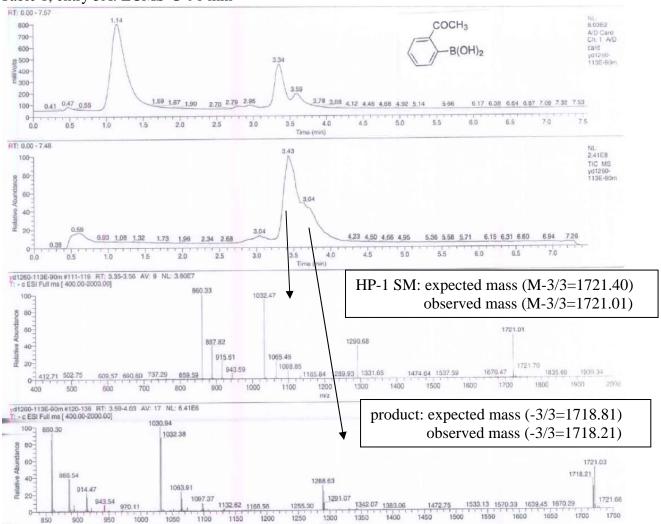


Table 1, entry 4A: LCMS @ 17 h









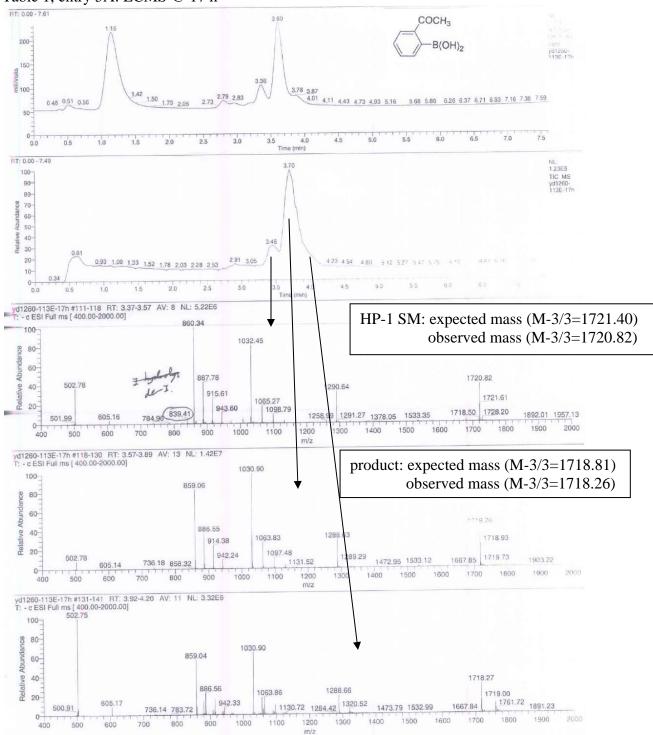
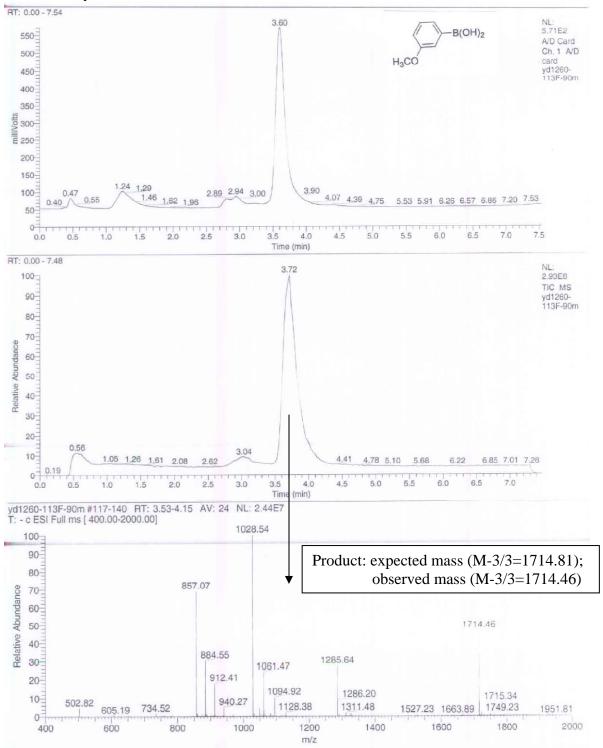


Table 1, entry 6A: LCMS @ 90 min



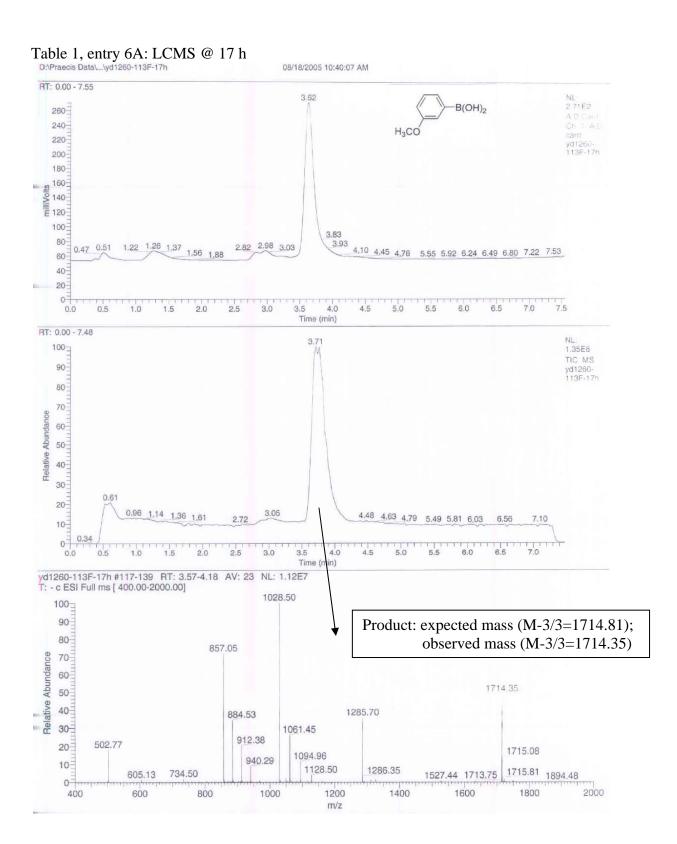
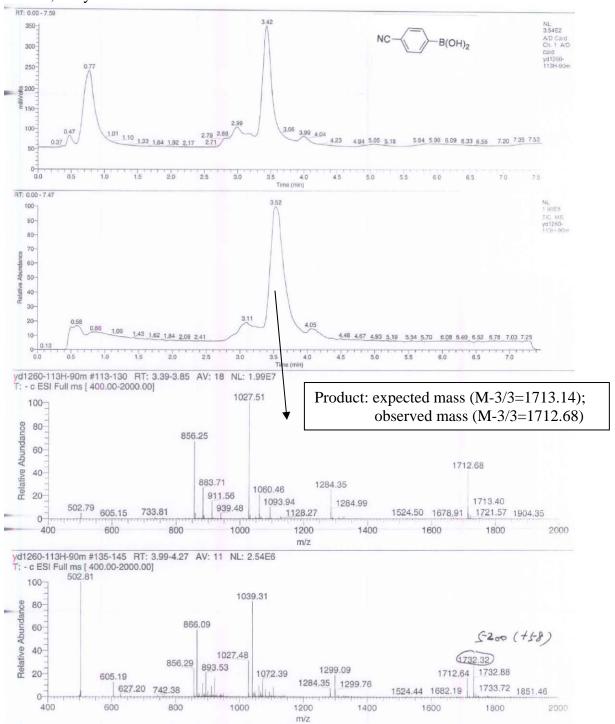
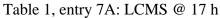
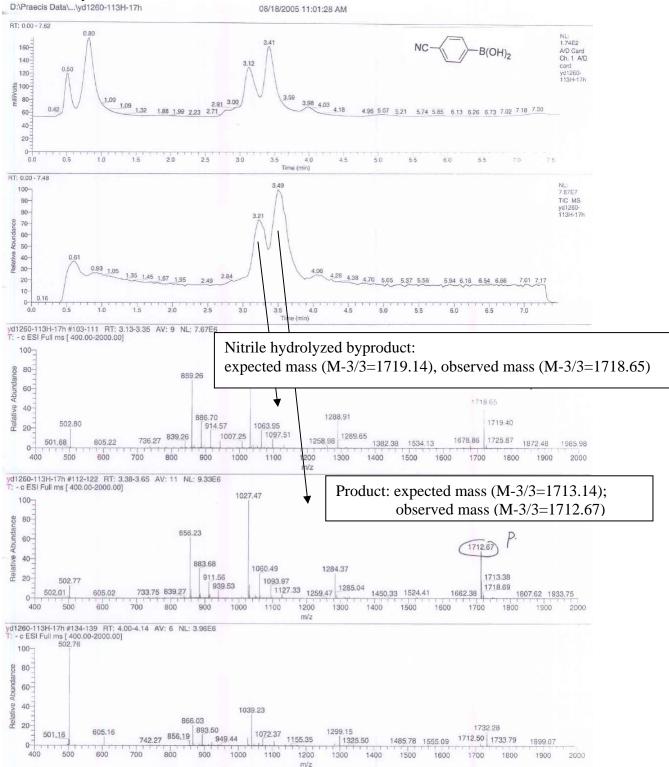


Table 1, entry 7A: LCMS @ 90 min



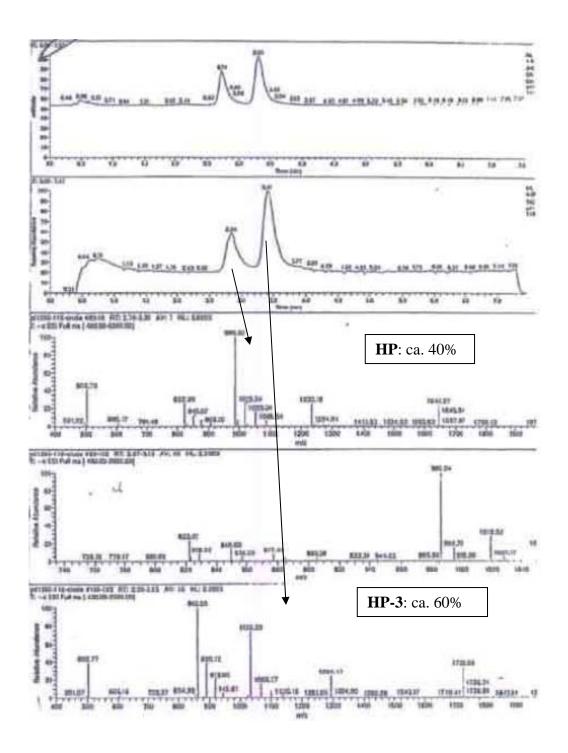




Preparation of HP-3

A solution of HP in pH9.4 borate buffer (250 mM) (1 μ mol, 300 μ L) was added at cold 40 equivalents of 4-iodophenylacetic acid (10.5 mg in 70 μ L of DMF), followed by 40 equivalents of DMT-MM (10.9 mg in 70 μ L of water). After being kept at cold for 30 minutes, the reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature for 5 hours. The reaction was further treated with piperidine (44 μ L) for 5 minutes, followed with precipitation by 10% 5N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH. The pellet was redissolved in water and would be used directly for the next step without further purification. It contained about 40% of HP and 60% of HP-3.

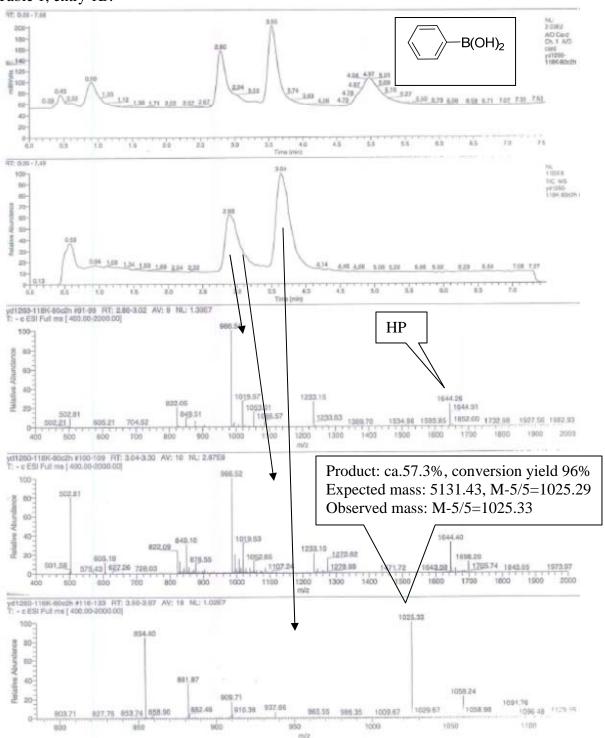
HP-3: expected mass 5181.23 (M-3/3=1726.08), observed 5180 (M-3/3=1725.66)

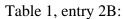


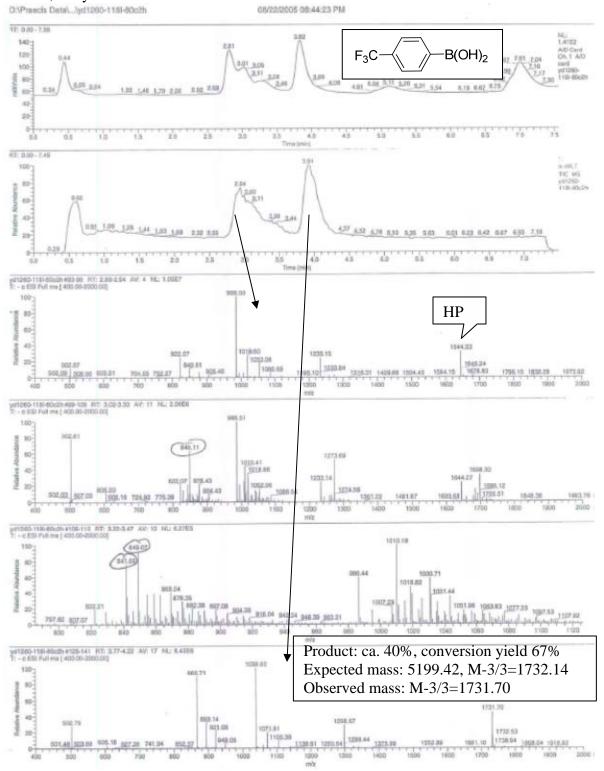
General procedure for the coupling of **HP-3** with boronic acids in Table 1.

A solution of **HP-3** in water (20 nmol in 14 μ L) was added 20 equivalents of boronate (1 μ L, 400 mM in CH₃CN/H₂O 1/1) and 40 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 μ L, 1.6 M in water), followed by 1 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (1 μ L, 20 mM in CH₂Cl₂/Toluene/CH₃CN 1/2/2). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C for 2 h.

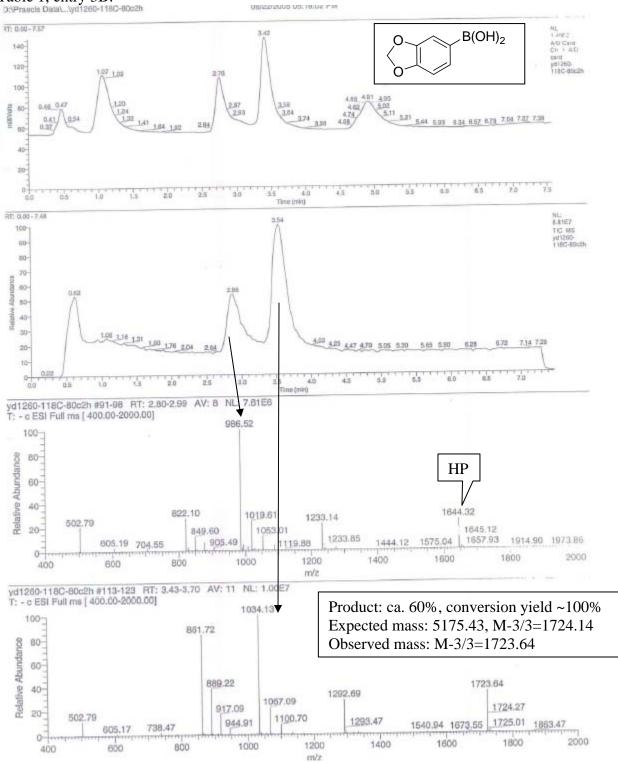
Table 1, entry 1B:

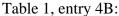


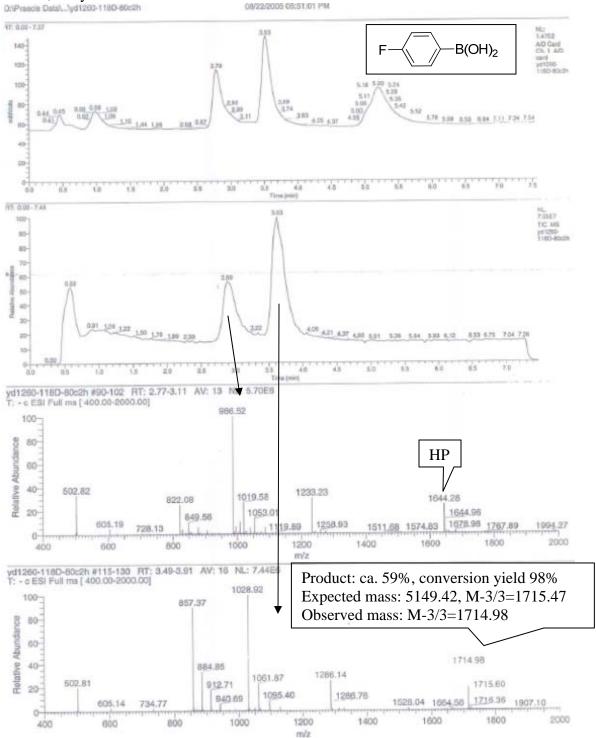


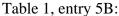


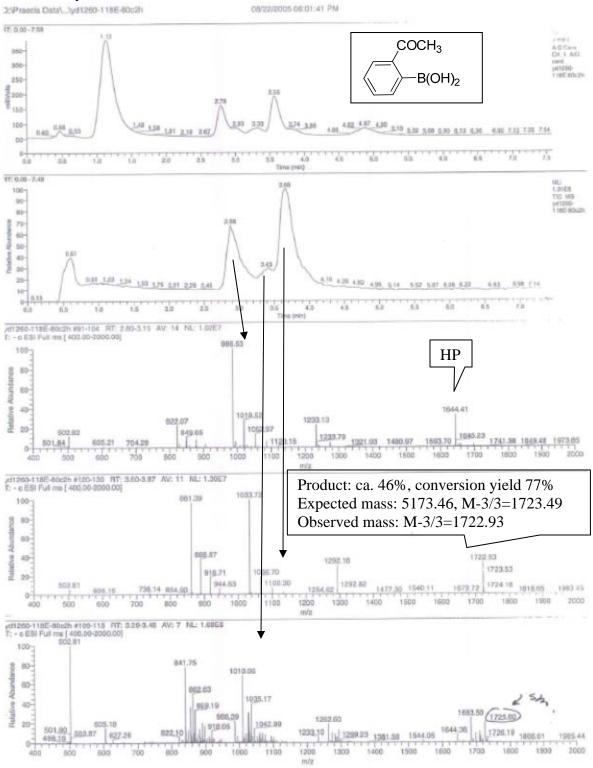


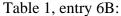


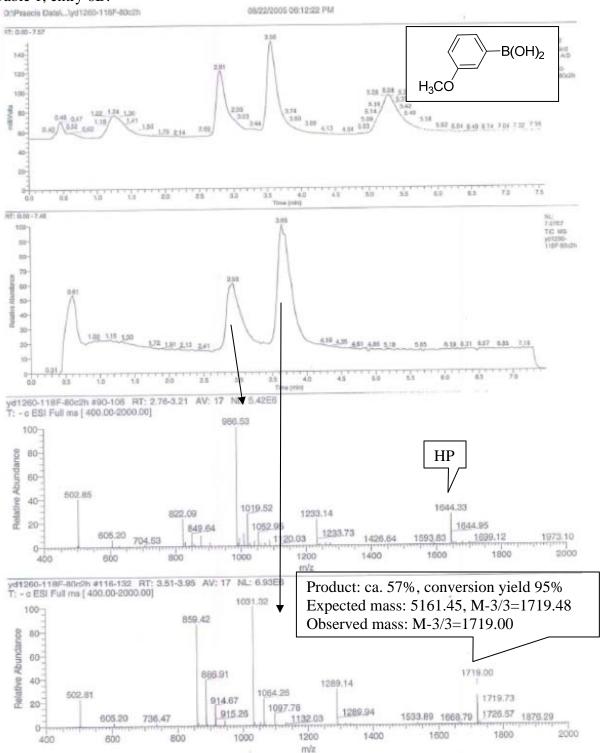


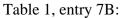


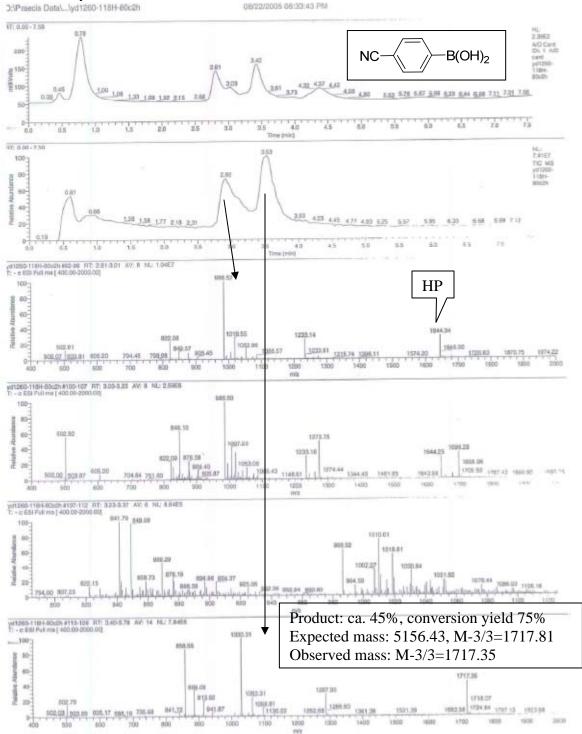






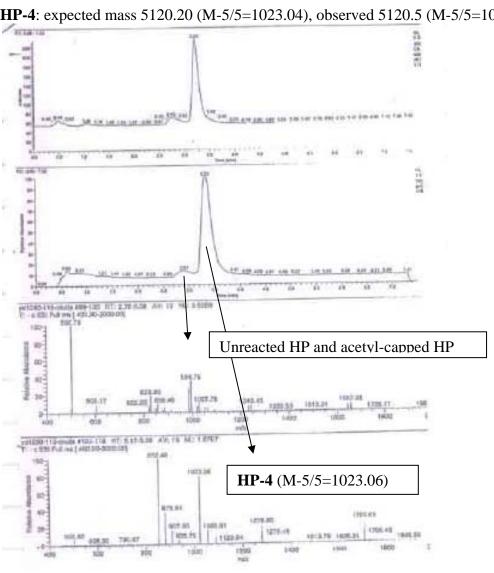






Preparation of **HP-4**

A solution of **HP** in pH9.4 borate buffer (250 mM) (1 µmol, 300 µL) was added 40 equivalents of 4-bromobenzoic acid (8.1 mg in 70 µL of DMF), followed by 40 equivalents of DMT-MM (10.9 mg in 70 µL of water). The reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature for 5 hours. To the reaction mixture was added piperidine (88 µL, 20% in volume). The reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature for 5 mins, followed by adding 10% 5 N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH to precipitate the DNA. The pellet was redissolved in water and it will be used directly for the next step.



HP-4: expected mass 5120.20 (M-5/5=1023.04), observed 5120.5 (M-5/5=1023.06)

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & Ar-B(OH)_2 \\ \hline & & & (20eq) \\ \hline & & & Pd(PPh_3)_4 \ (0.5eq) \\ \hline & & & Na_2CO_3 \ (40eq) \\ & & & & H_2O, \ 80^{\circ}C \\ \hline \end{array}$$

General procedure for the coupling of **HP-4** with boronates in Table 1.

A 1 mM solution of **HP-4** in water (20 nmol, 20 μ L) was added 20 equivalents of boronate (0.5 μ L, 800 mM in DMA) and 40 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 μ L, 1.6 M in water), followed by 0.5 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (2 μ L, 5 mM in CH₃CN). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C for 4 hours.

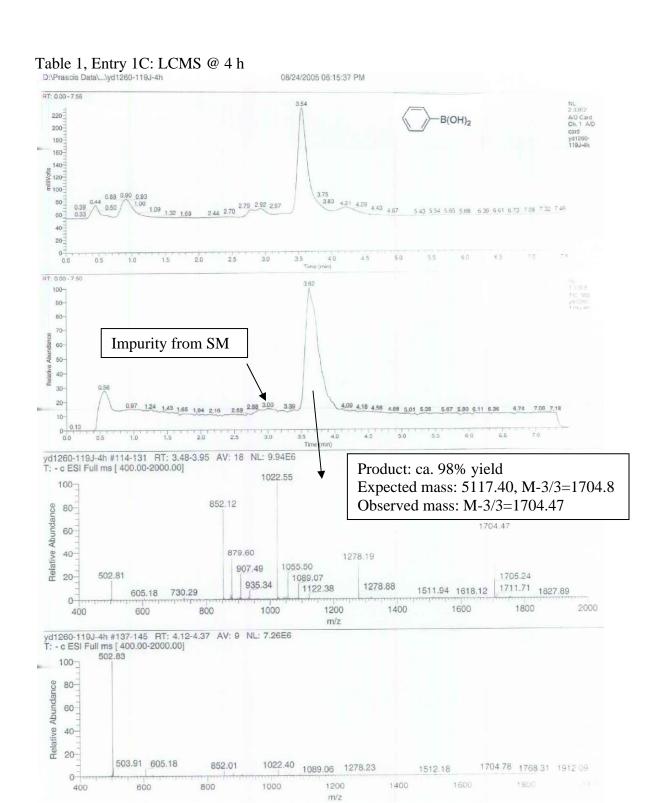
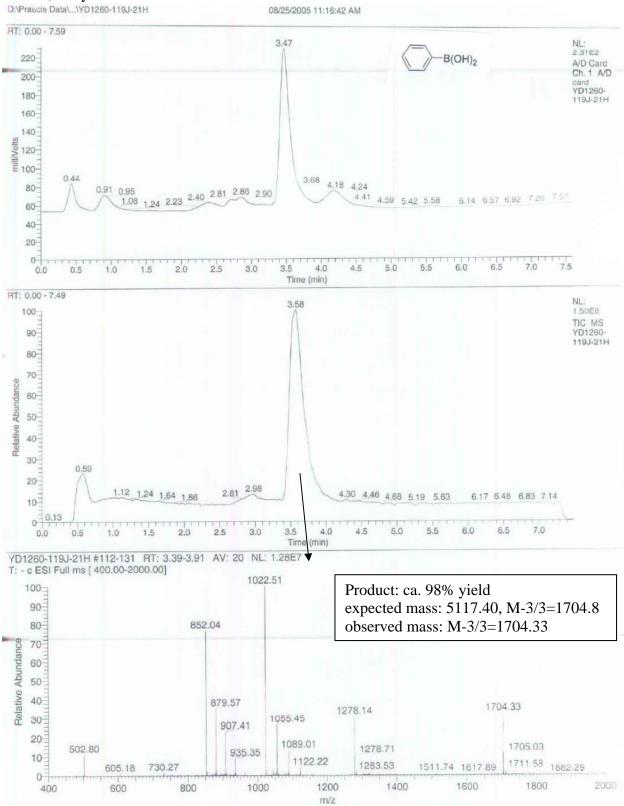


Table 1, entry 1C: LCMS @ 21 h



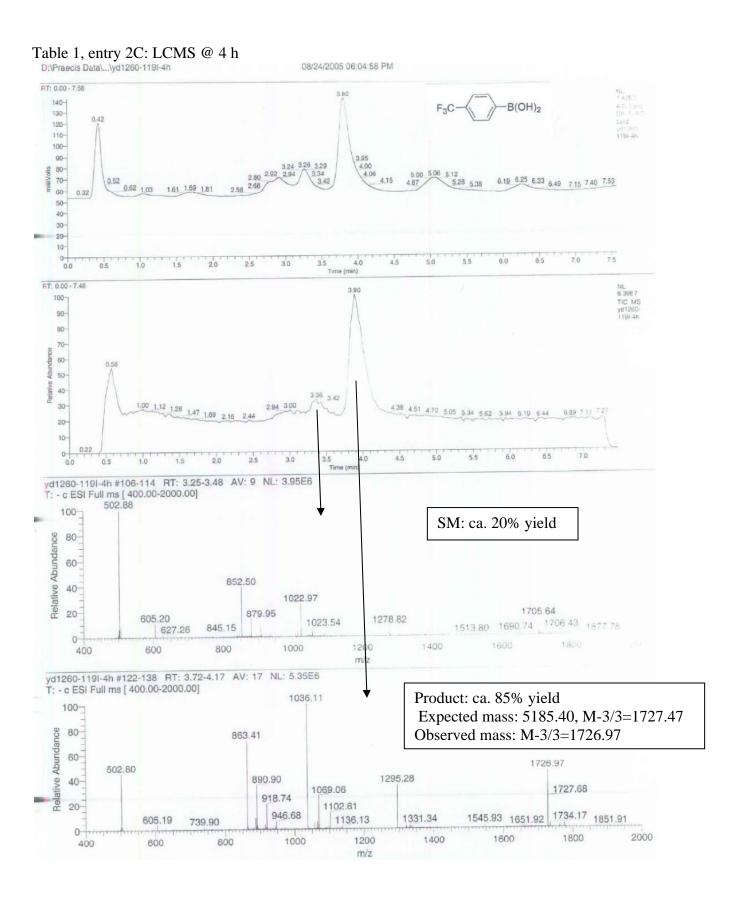
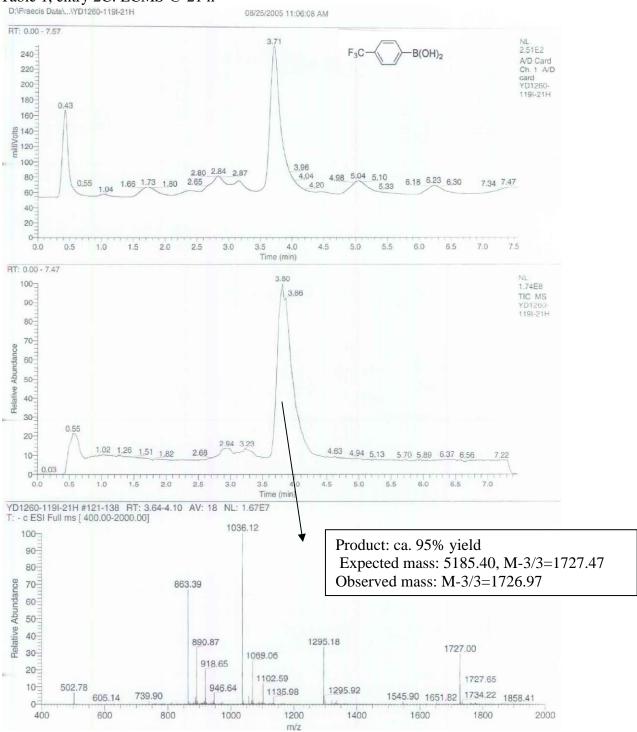
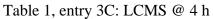
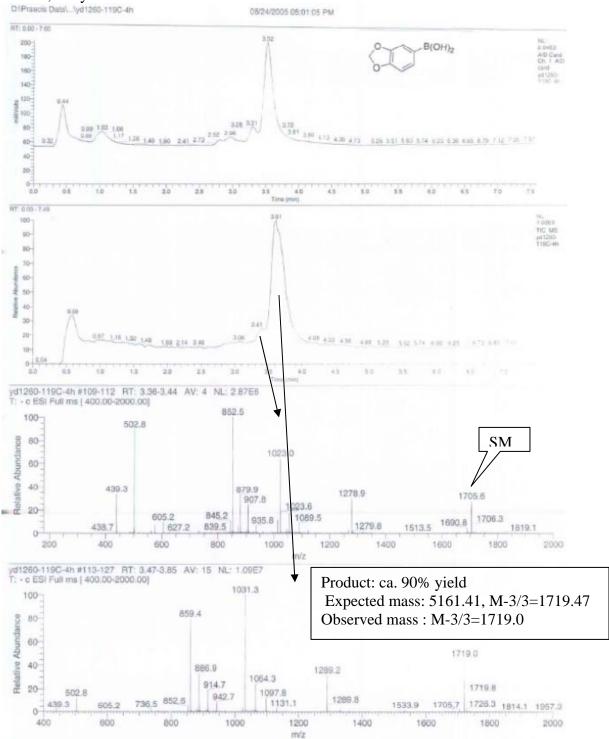
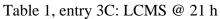


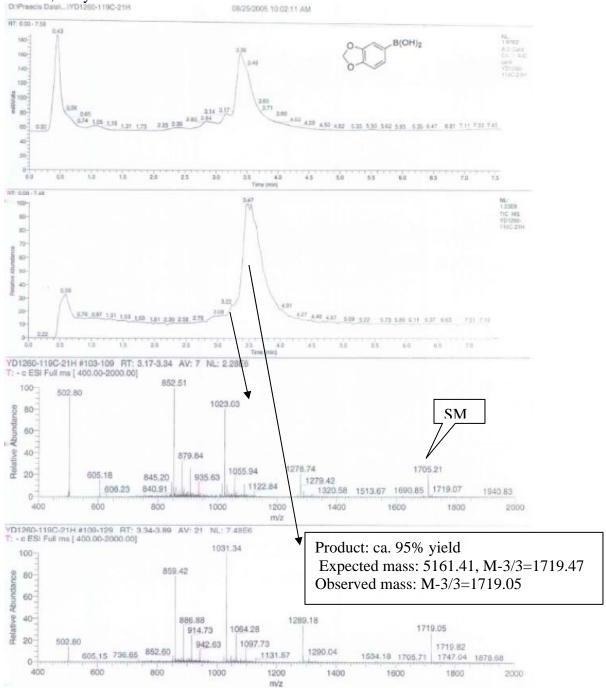
Table 1, entry 2C: LCMS @ 21 h

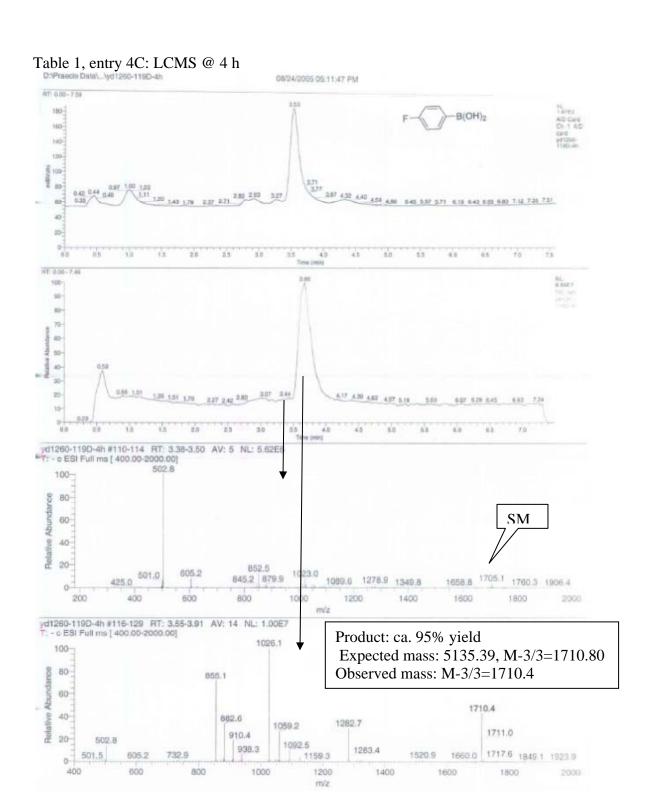


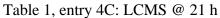


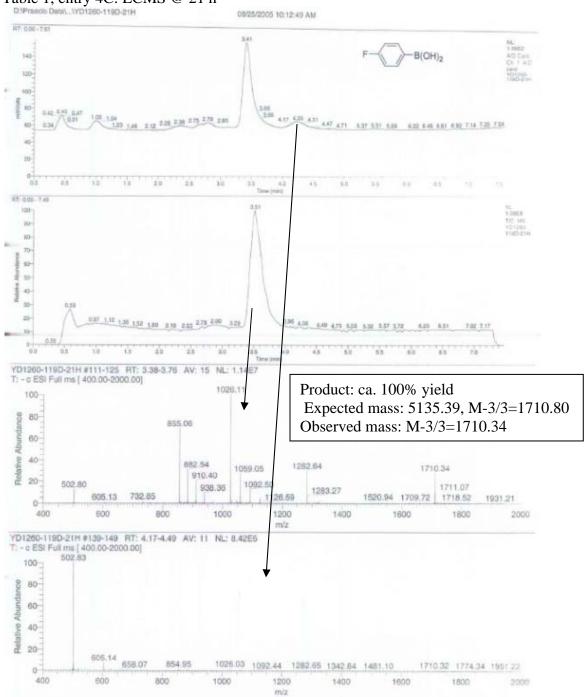


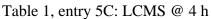


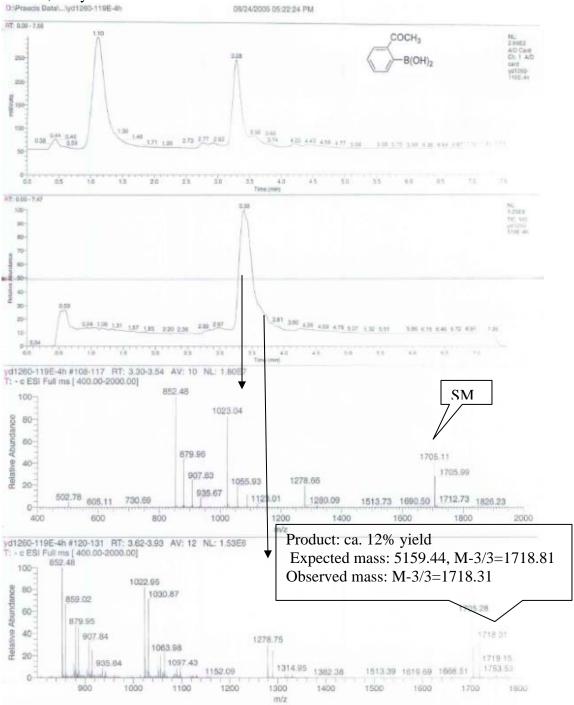




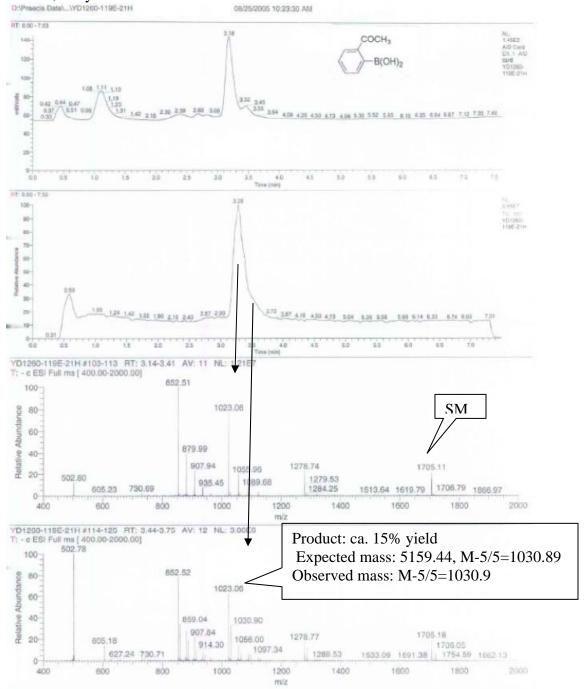












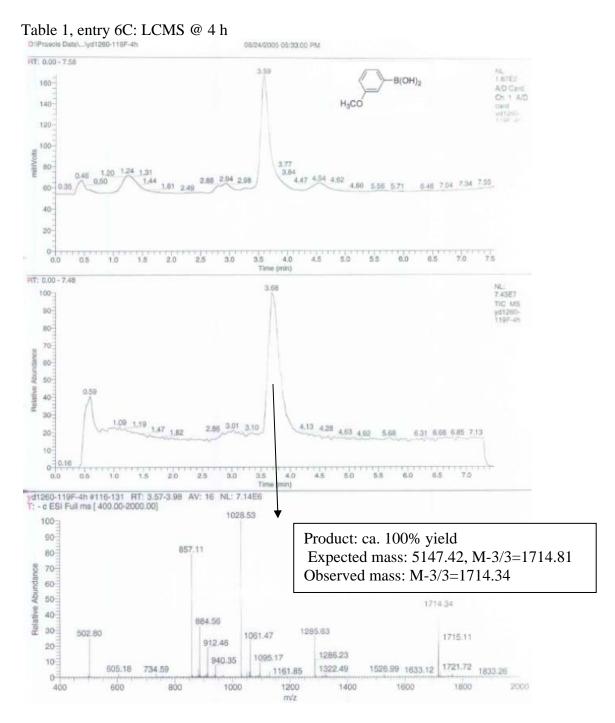


Table 3, entry 6: LCMS @ 21 h was very similar to LCMS @ 4 h

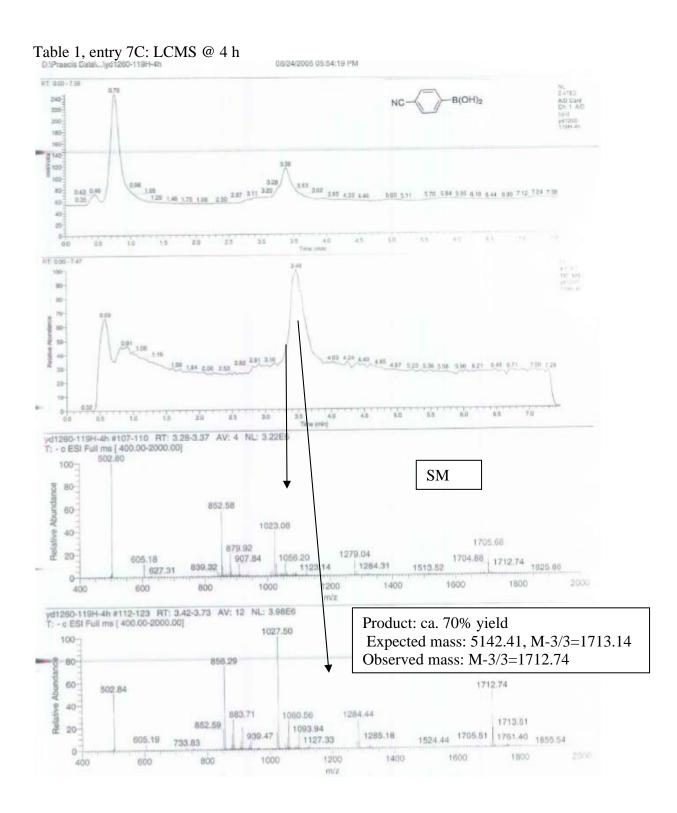
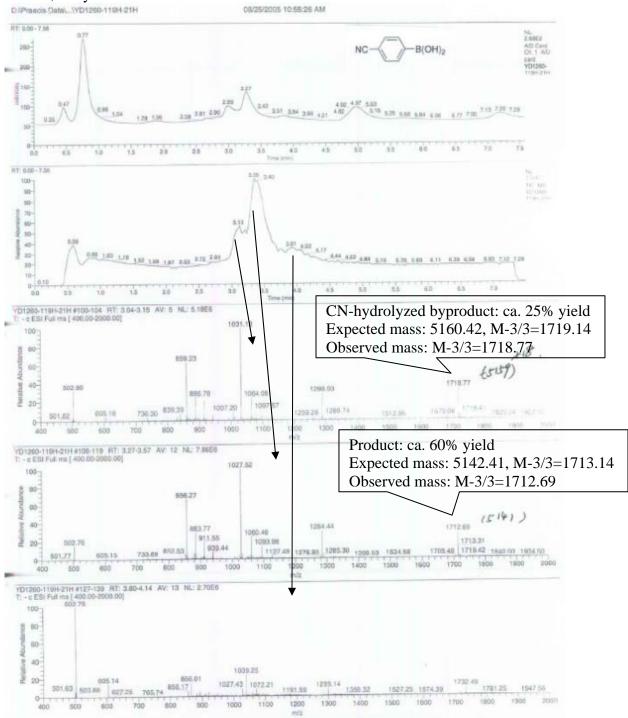
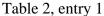


Table 1, entry 7C: LCMS @ 21 h



General procedure for the coupling of **HP-1** with boronic esters in Table 2.

A 1 mM solution of **HP-1** in water (20 nmol, 20 μ L) was added 20 equivalents of boronate (0.5 μ L, 800 mM in DMA) and 40 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 μ L, 1.6 M in water), followed by 0.5 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (3 μ L, 3.5 mM in CH₃CN). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C for 3 hours 20 mins.



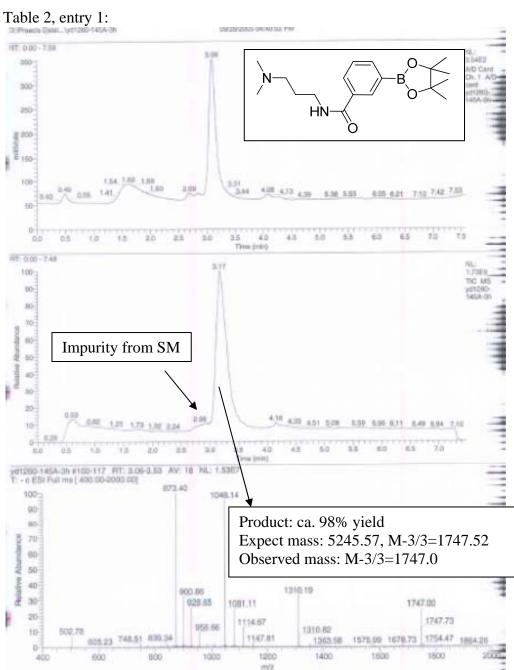
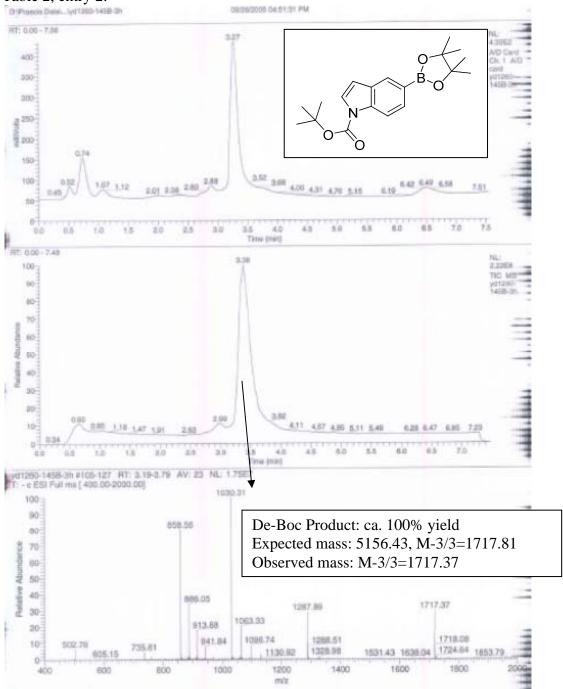
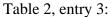
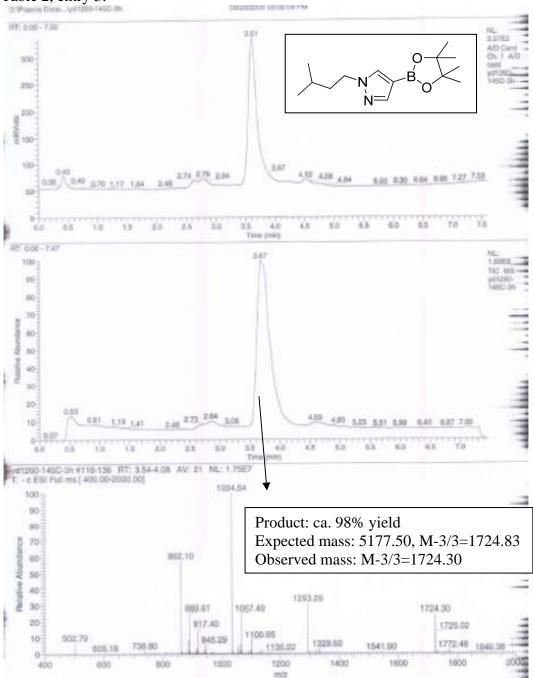
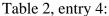


Table 2, entry 2:









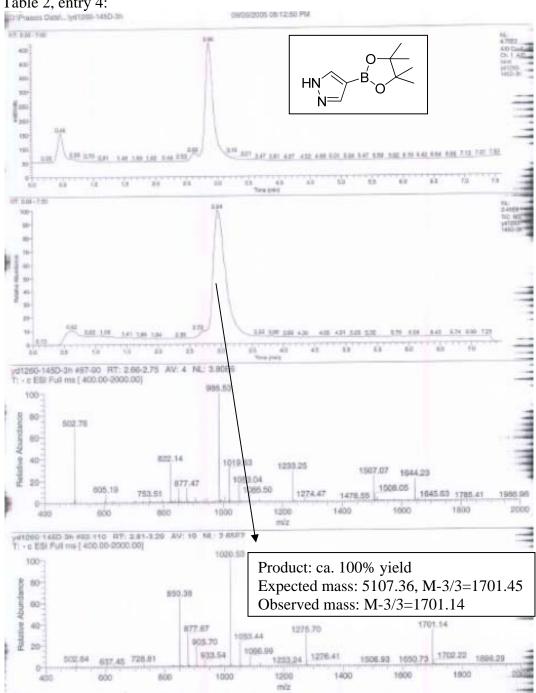
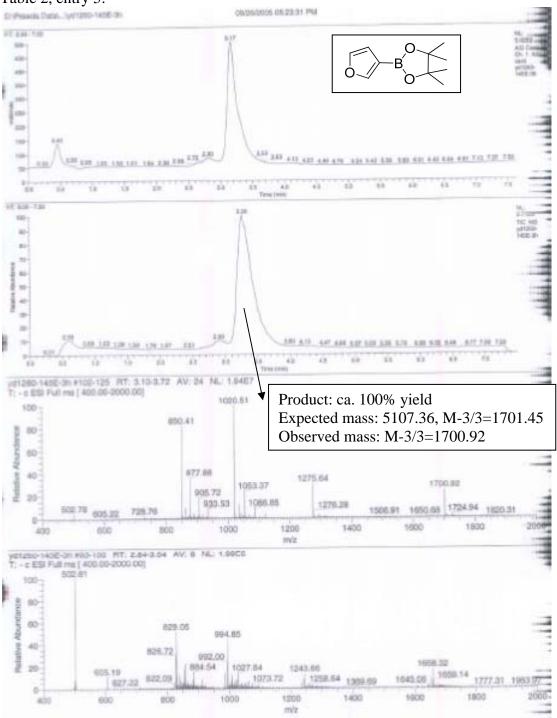
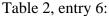
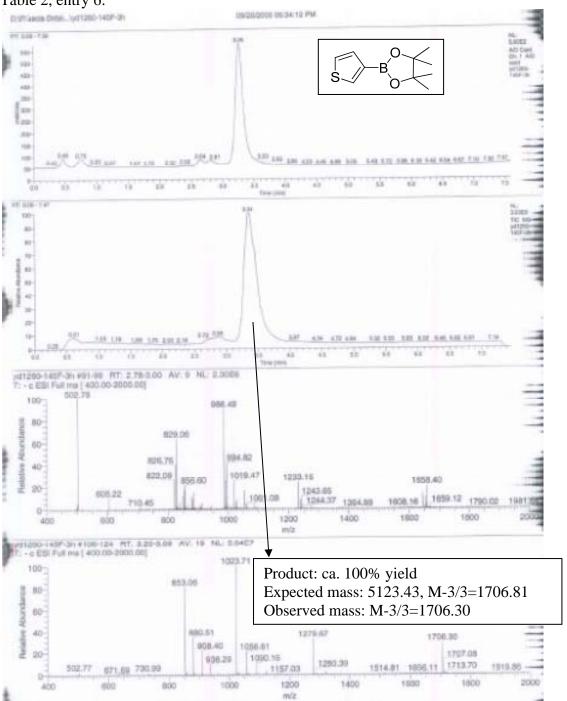


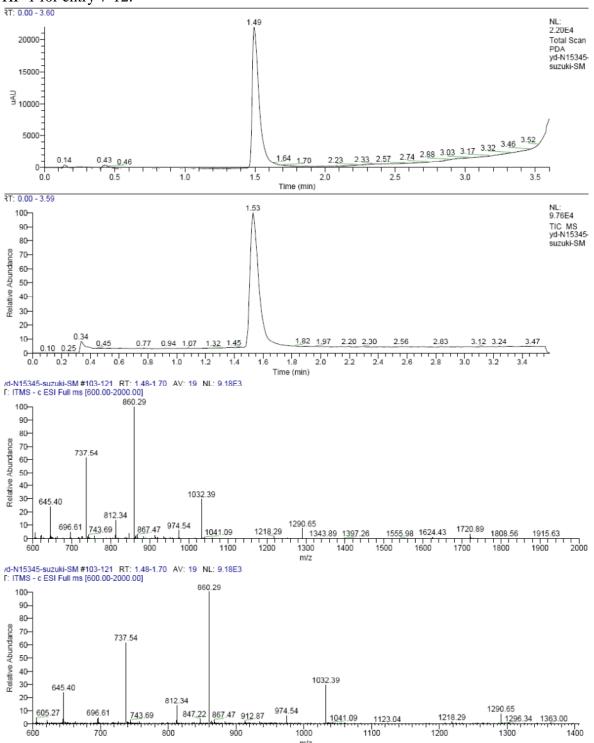
Table 2, entry 5:

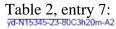






HP-1 for entry 7-12:





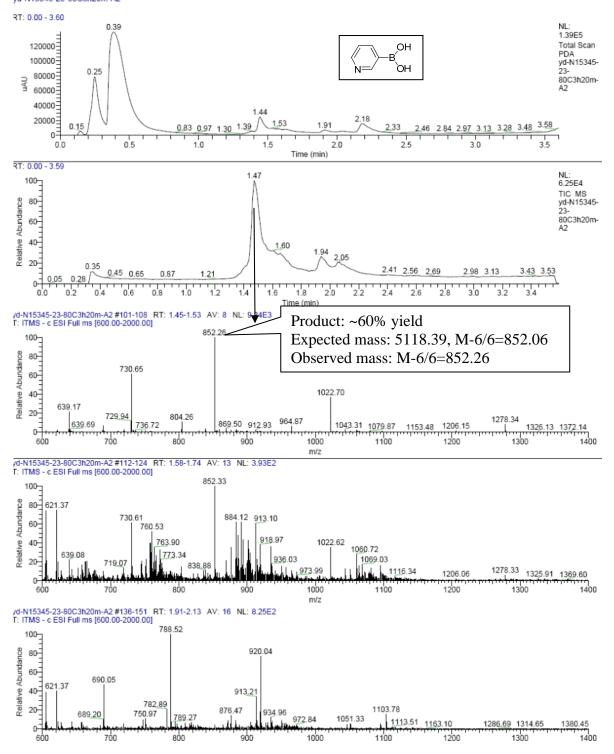


Table 2, entry 7, LCMS @ 16 hrs:

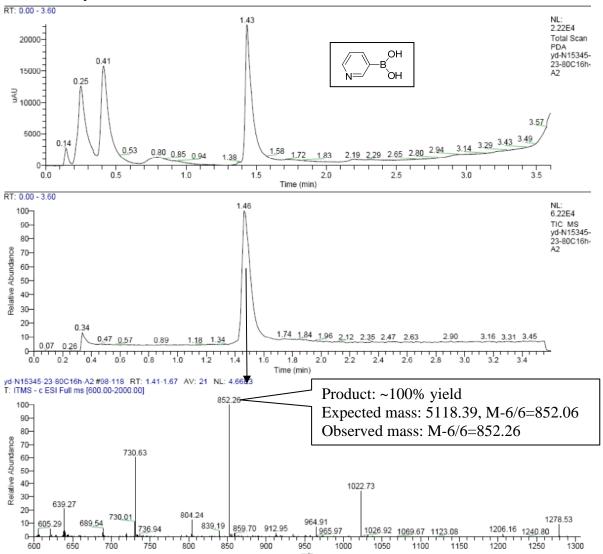


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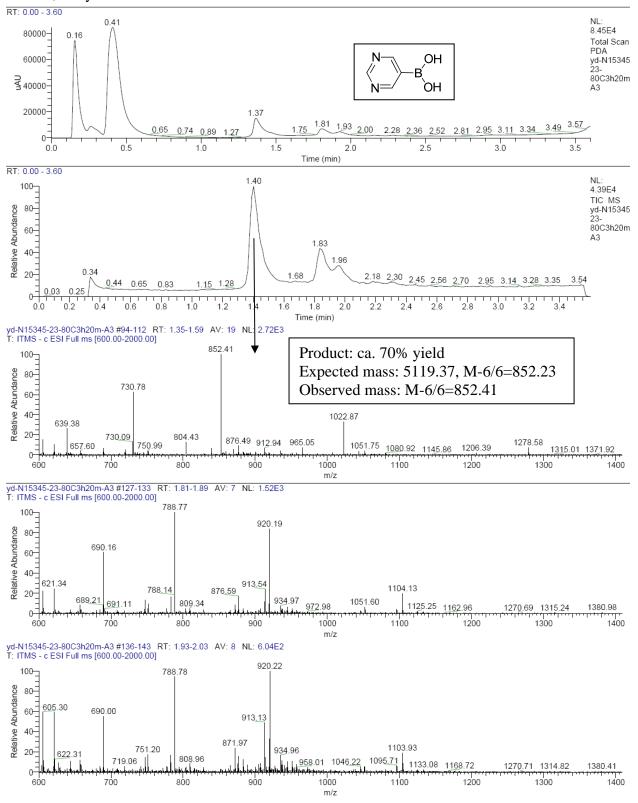


Table 2, entry 8, LCM @ 16 hrs:

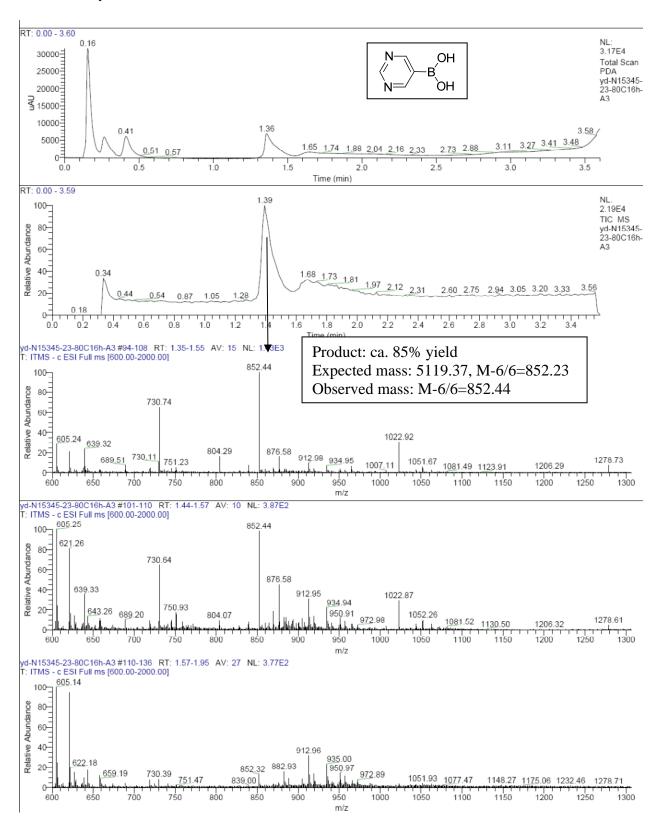
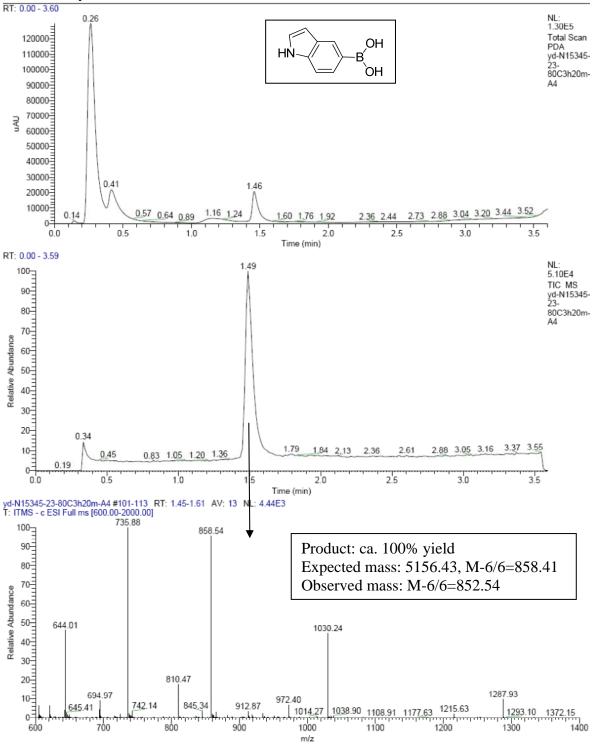
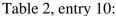


Table 2, entry 9:





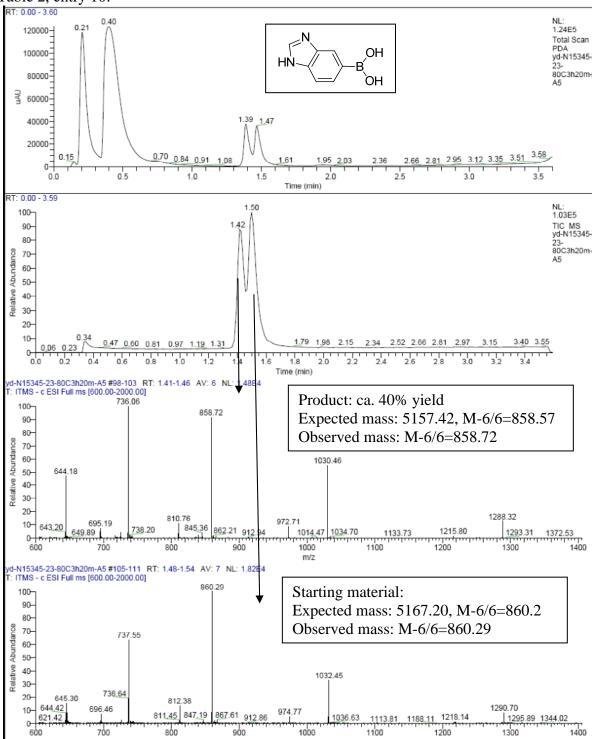


Table 2, entry 10, LCMS @ 16 hrs:

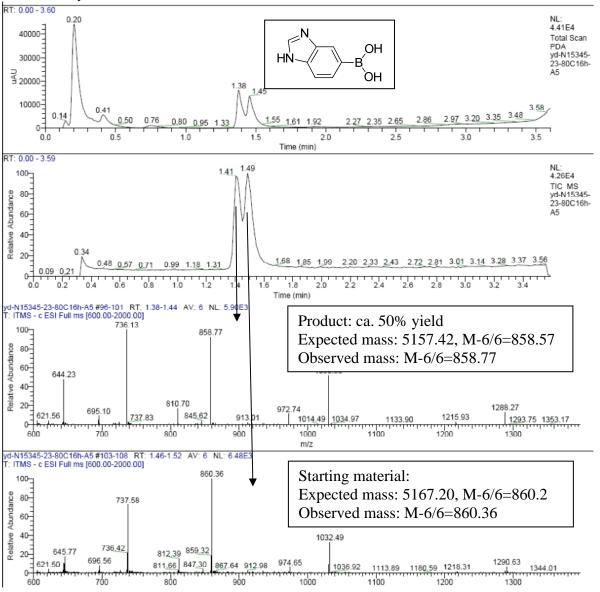


Table 2, entry 11:

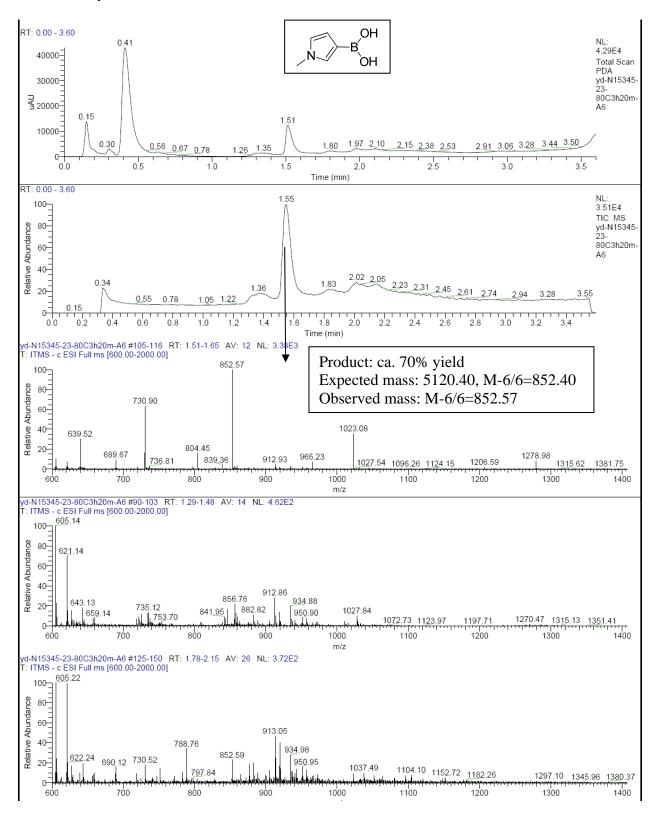
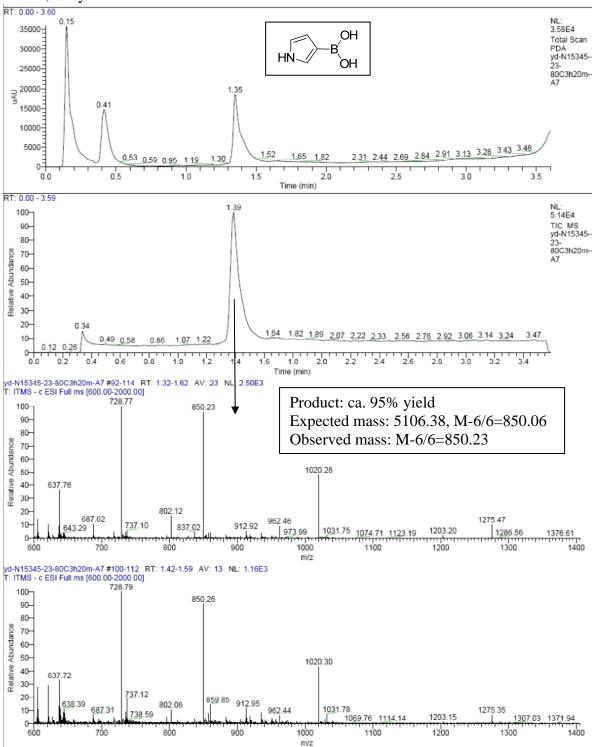


Table 2, entry 12:

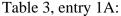


Preparation of HP-5, 6 & 7

A solution of HP in pH9.4 borate buffer (250 mM) (1 μ mol, 300 μ L) was added at cold 40 equivalents of bromo-nicotinic acid (8.1 mg in 70 μ L of DMF), followed by 40 equivalents of DMT-MM (10.9 mg in 70 μ L of water). The pH of the reaction solution was adjusted to around 9 with NaOH. The reaction was allowed to proceed at cold overnight. 10% piperidine (44 μ L) was added to the reaction. After 15 minutes, the reaction was precipitated by adding 10% 5 N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH. The pellet was redissolved in water (400 μ L), and purified with reverse-phase HPLC (10-40% solvent B).

General procedure for the coupling of **HP-5**, **6** & **7** with boronic acids in Table 3.

A 1 mM solution of **HP-5**, **-6**, or **-7** in water (20 nmol, 20 μ L) was added 20 equivalents of boronate (0.5 μ L, 800 mM in DMA) and 40 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 μ L, 1.6 M in water), followed by 0.33 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (2 μ L, 3.3 mM in CH₃CN). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C for 5 h.



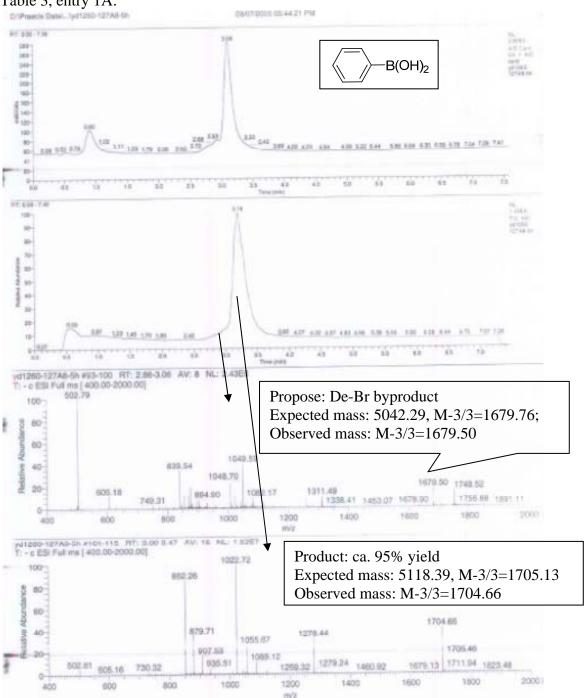
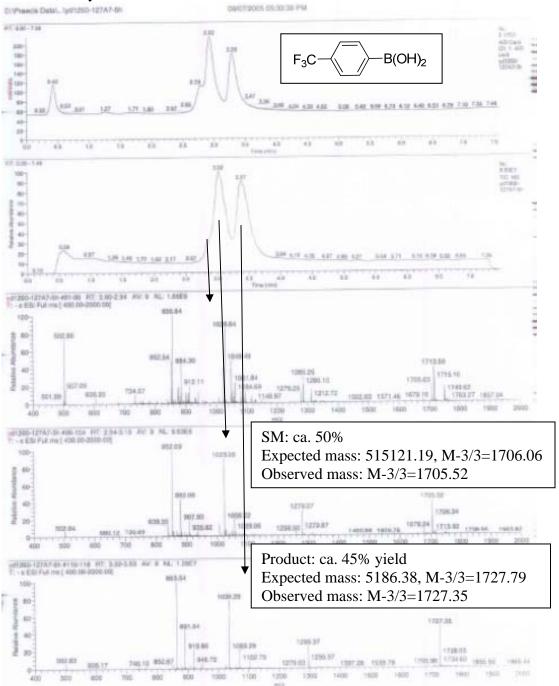
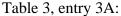
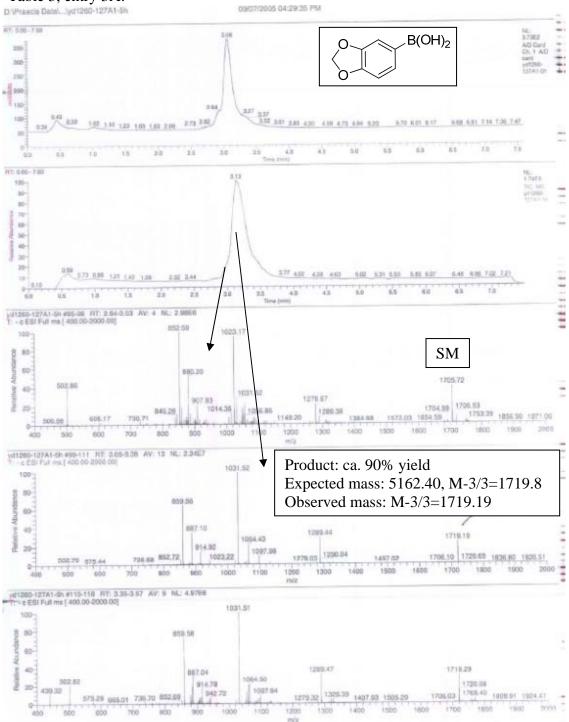
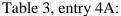


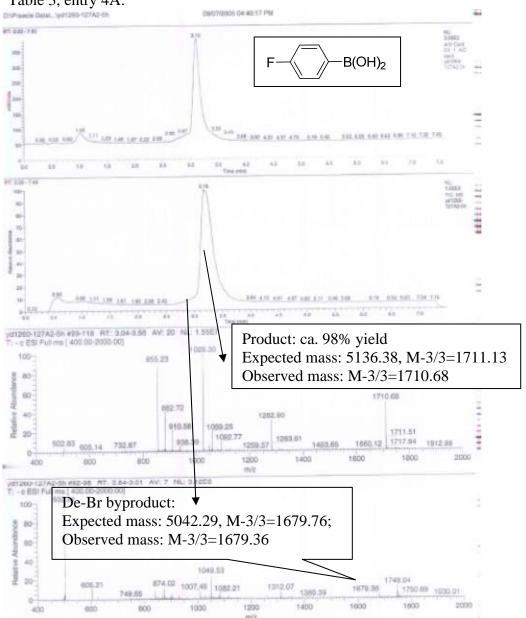
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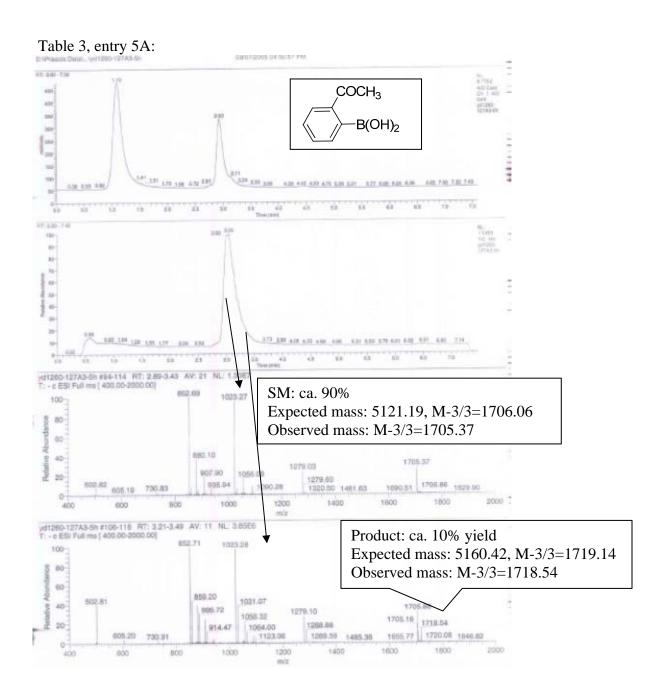


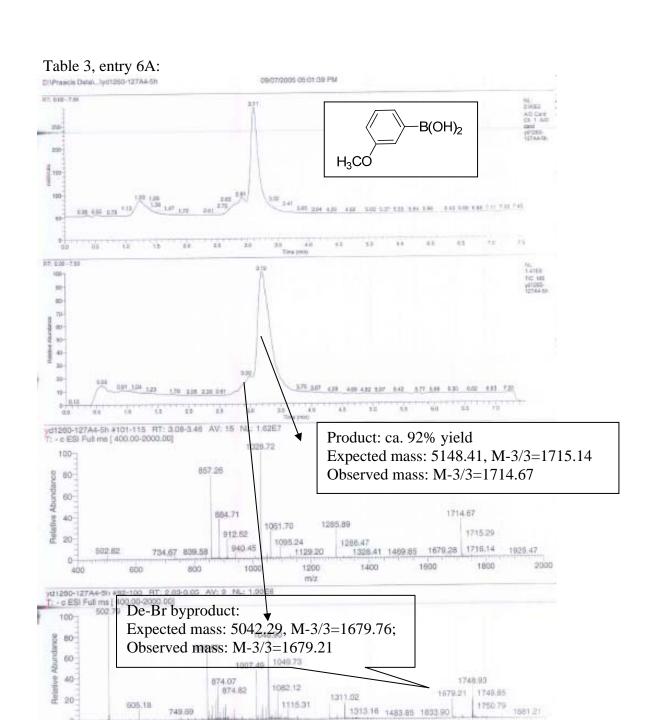




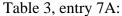








m/z



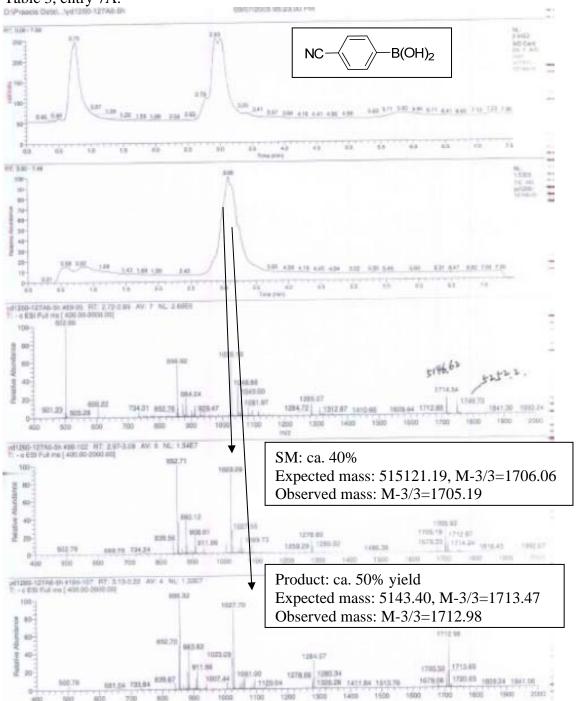
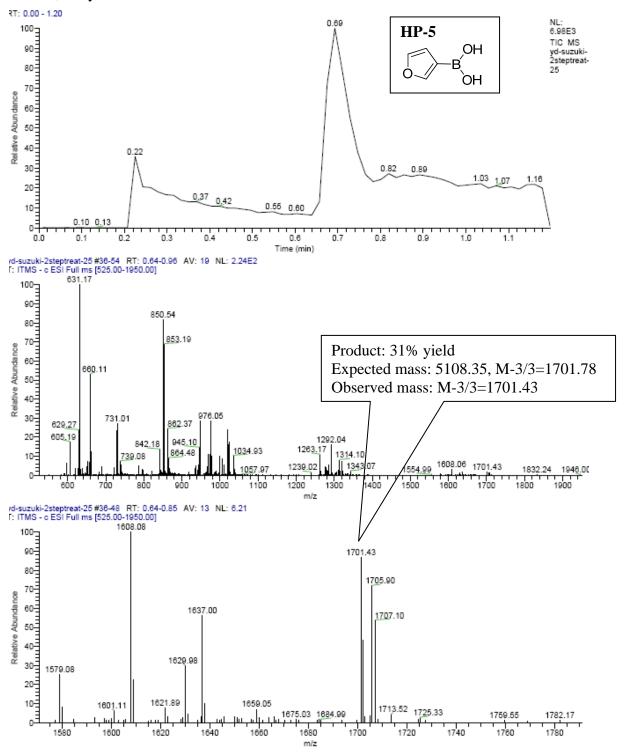
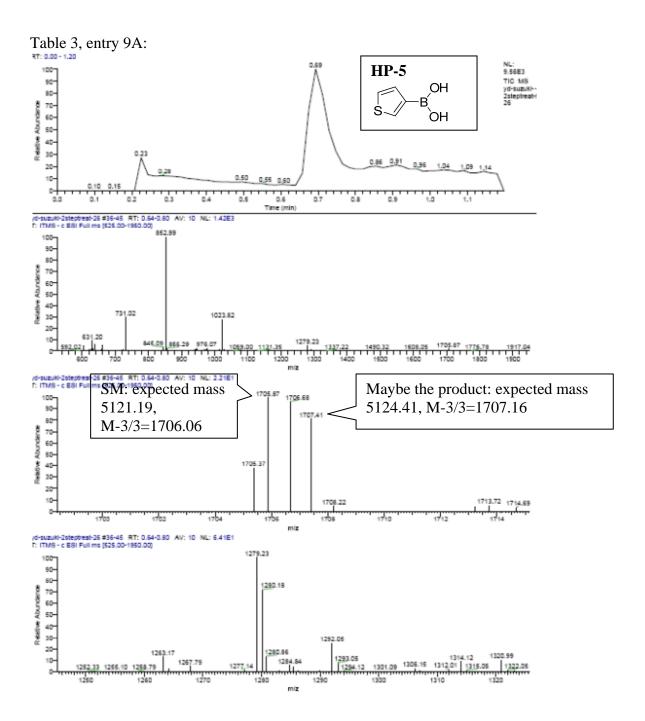
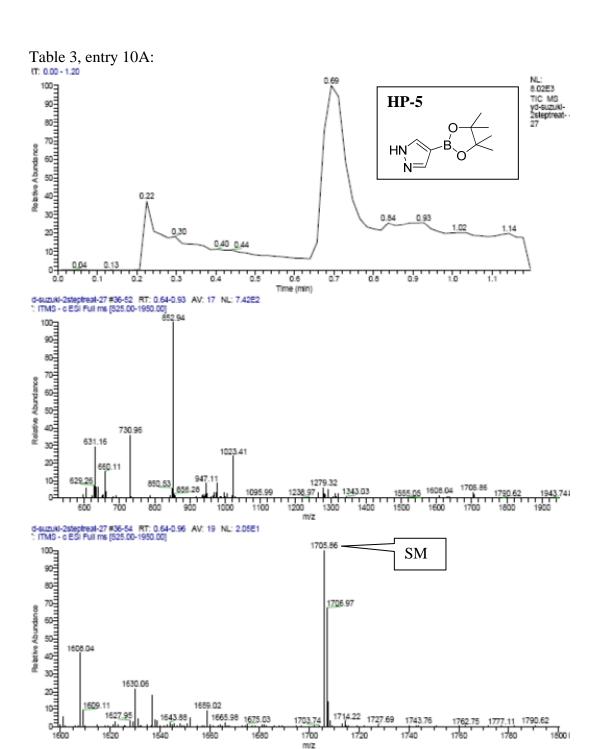


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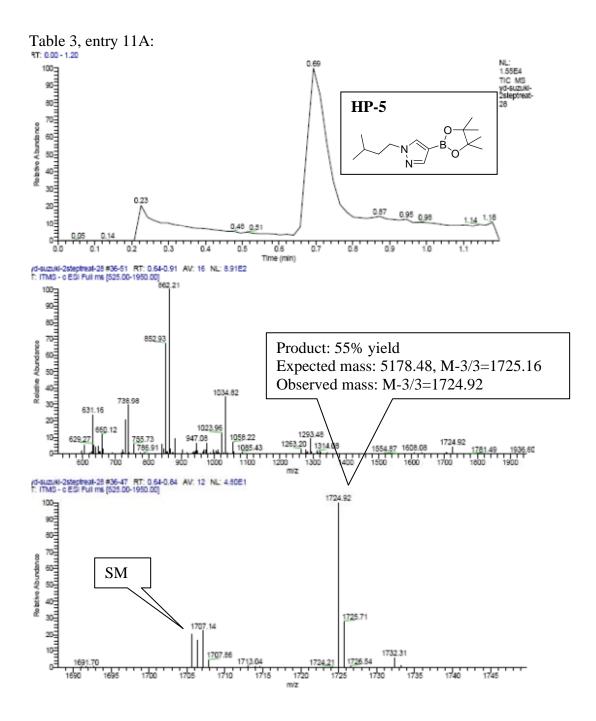
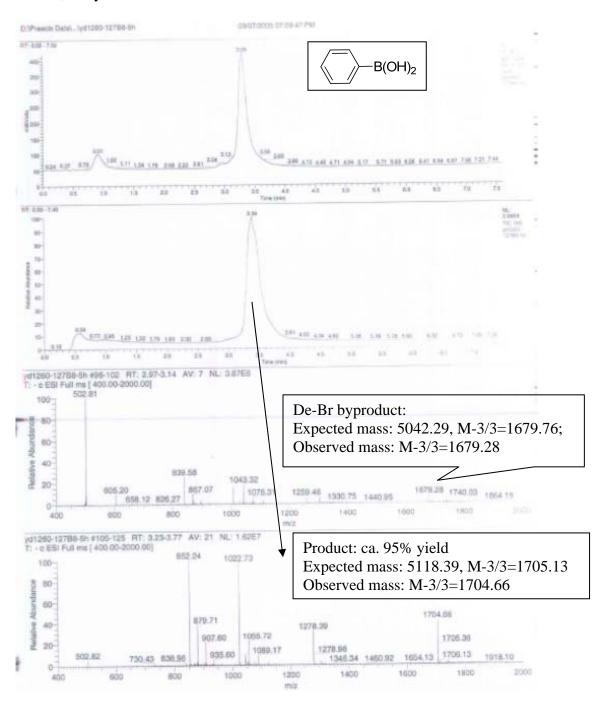
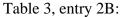
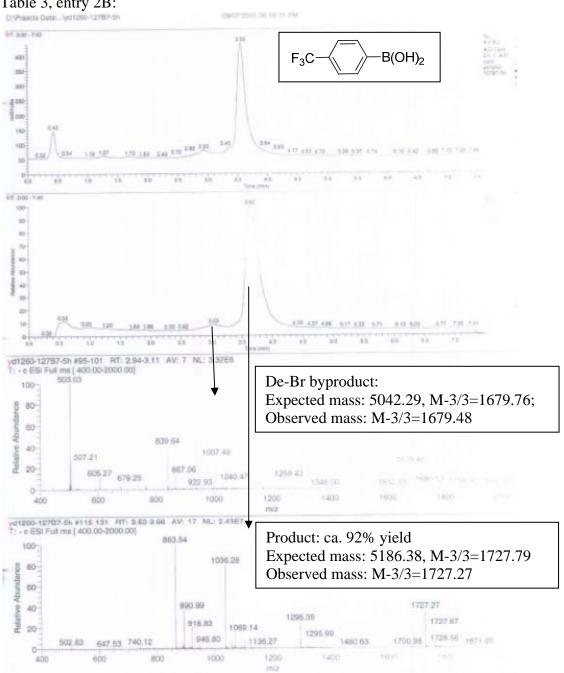
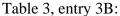


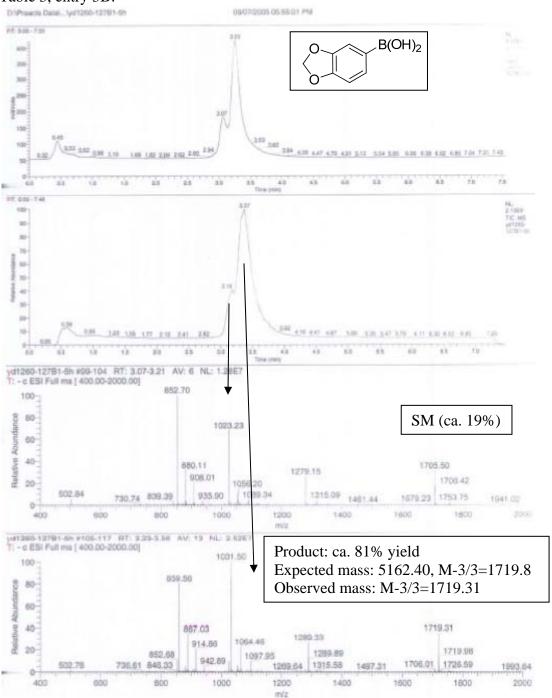
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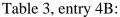


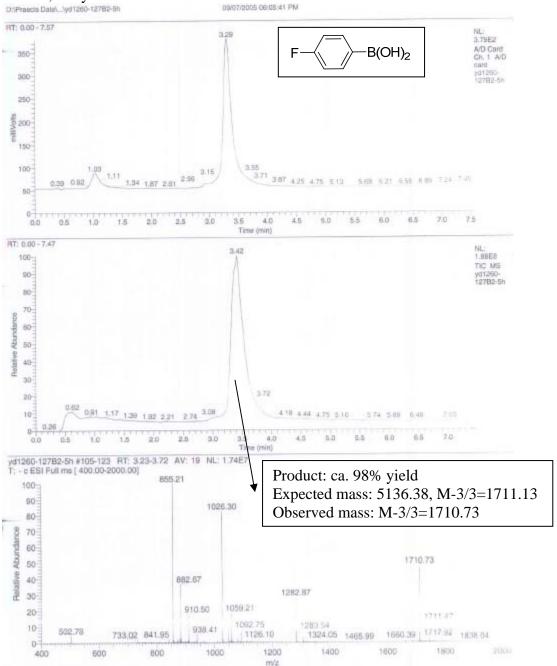


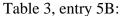


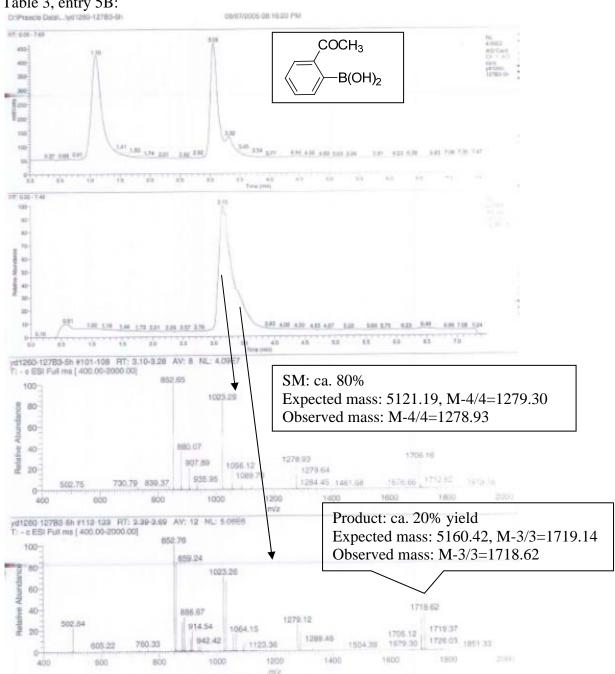


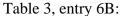


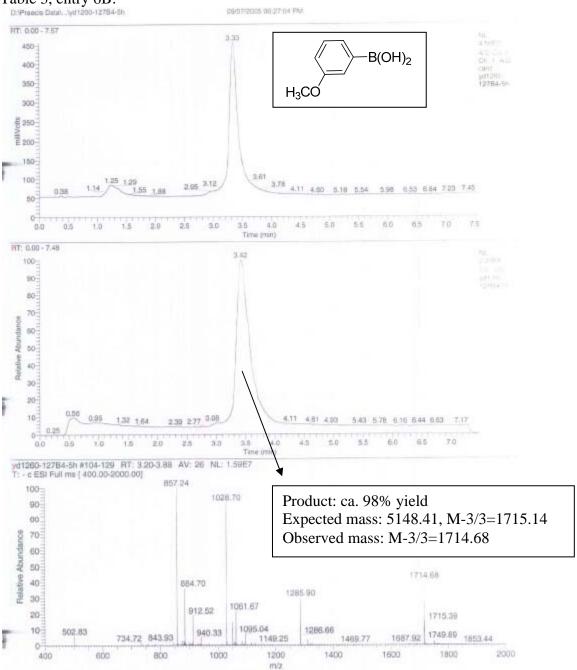


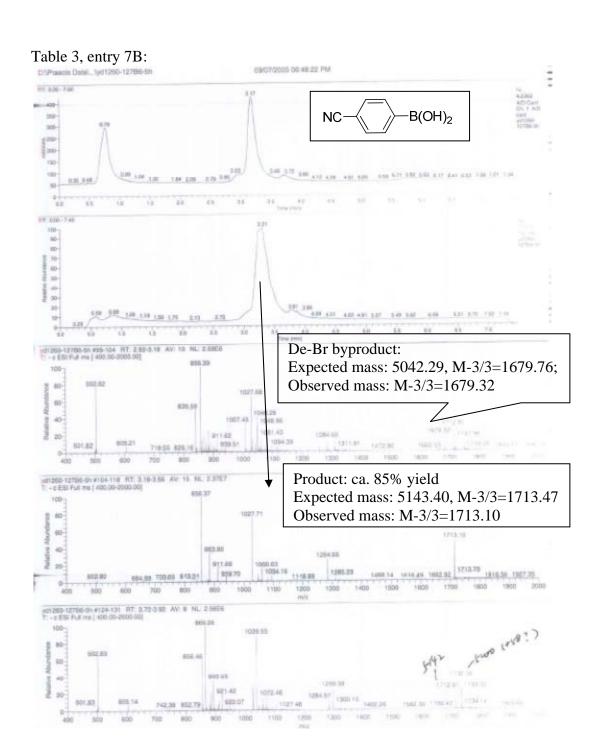


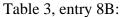


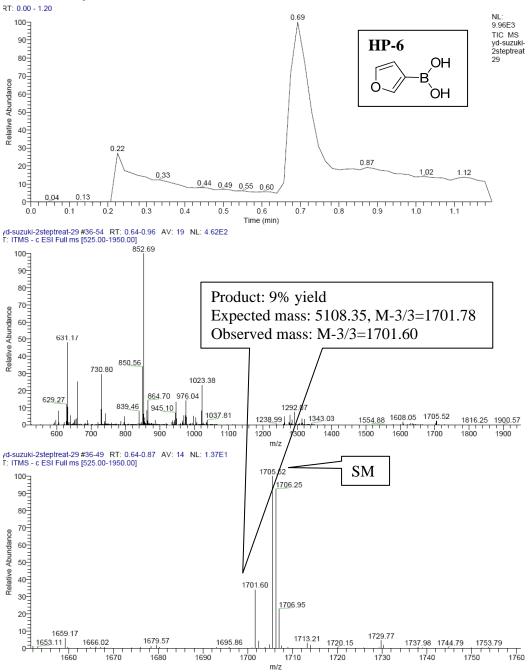


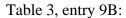


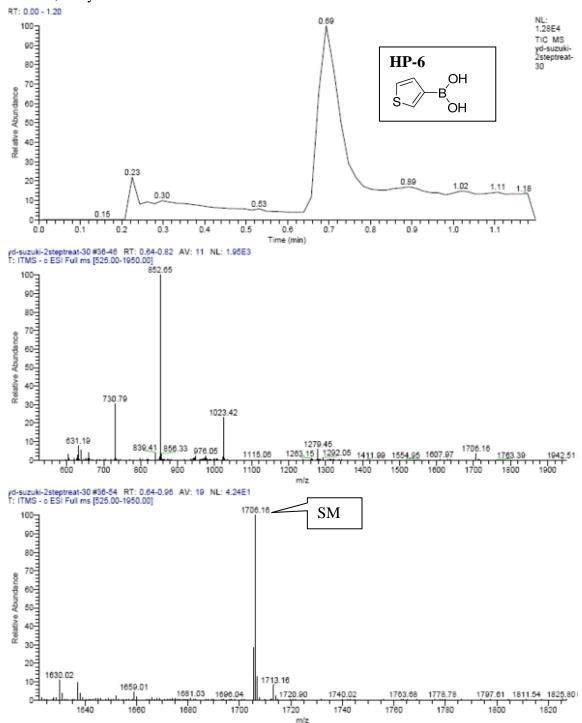


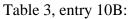


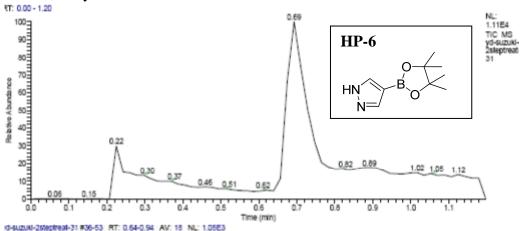




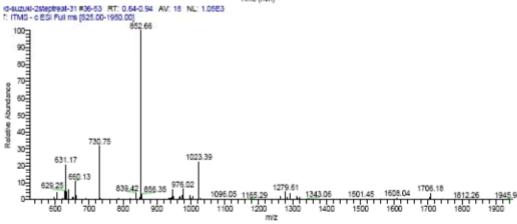




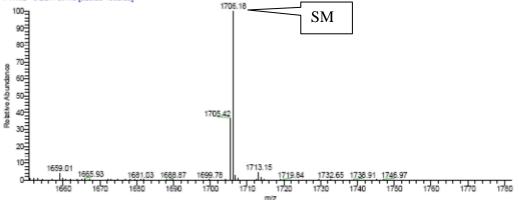


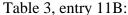


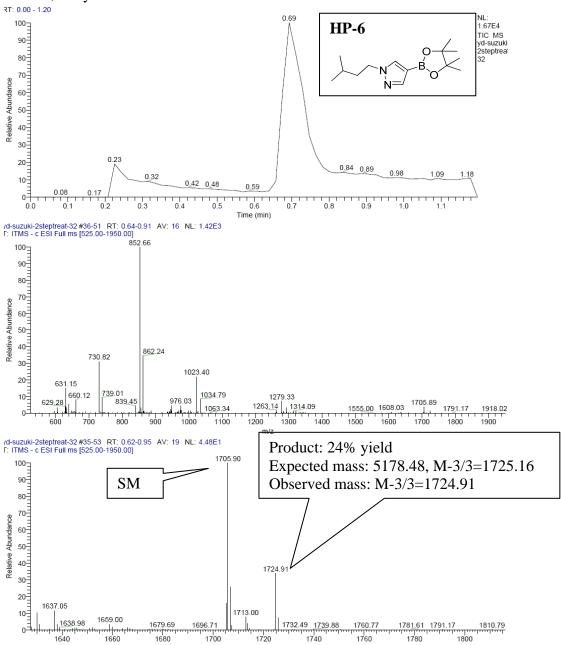


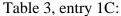


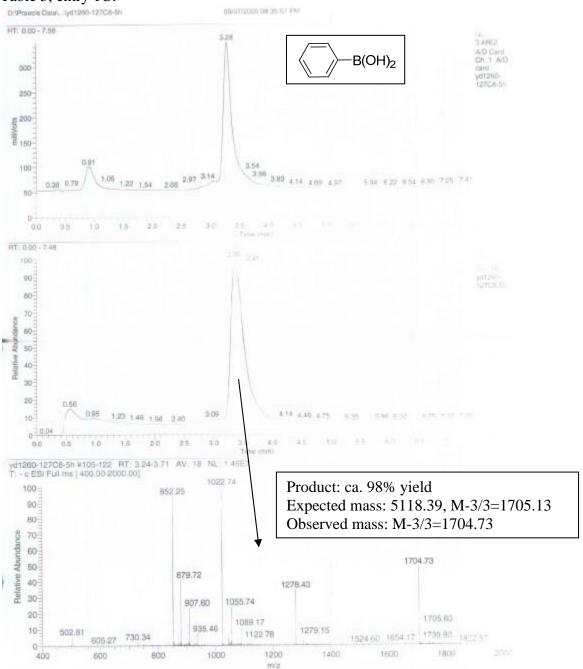
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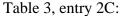












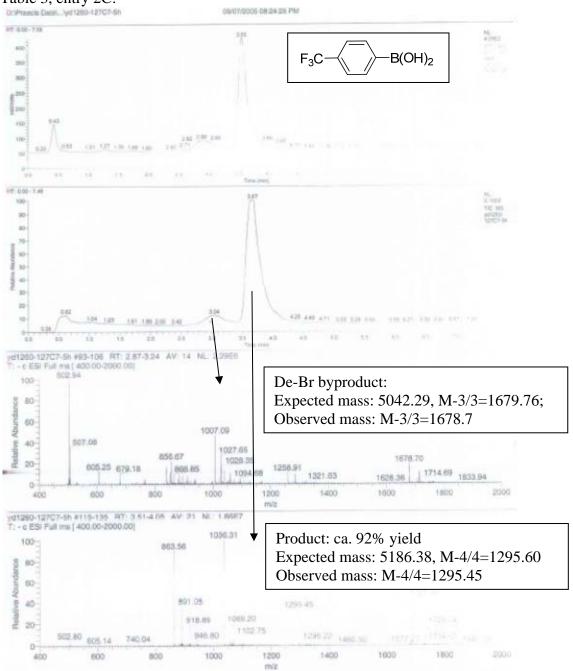
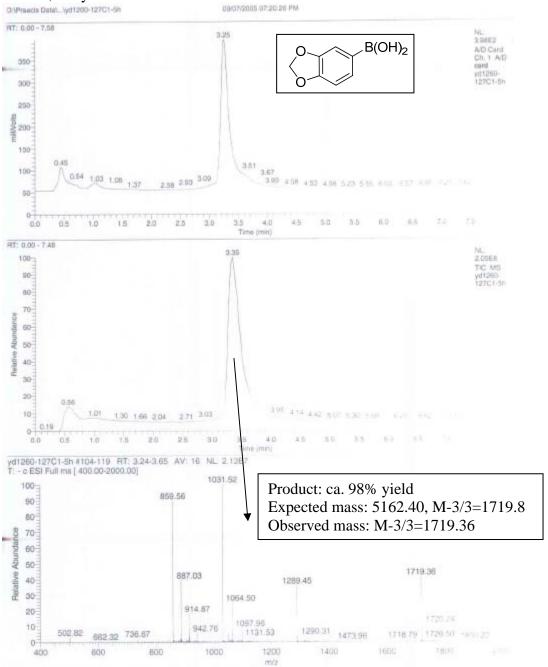
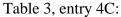
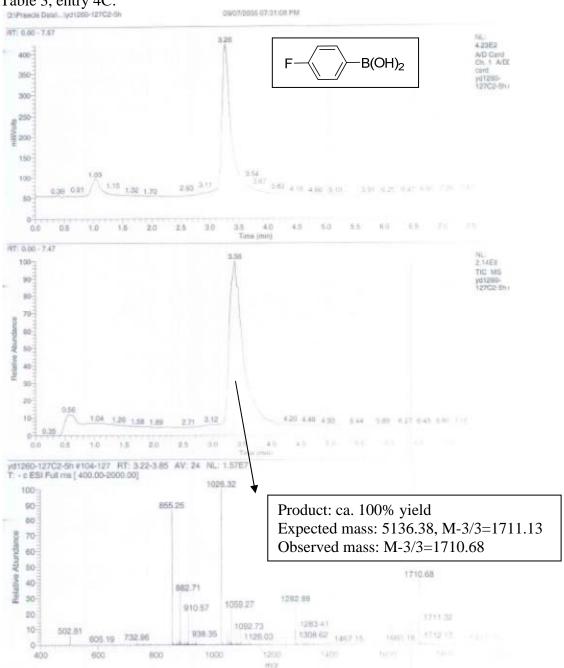
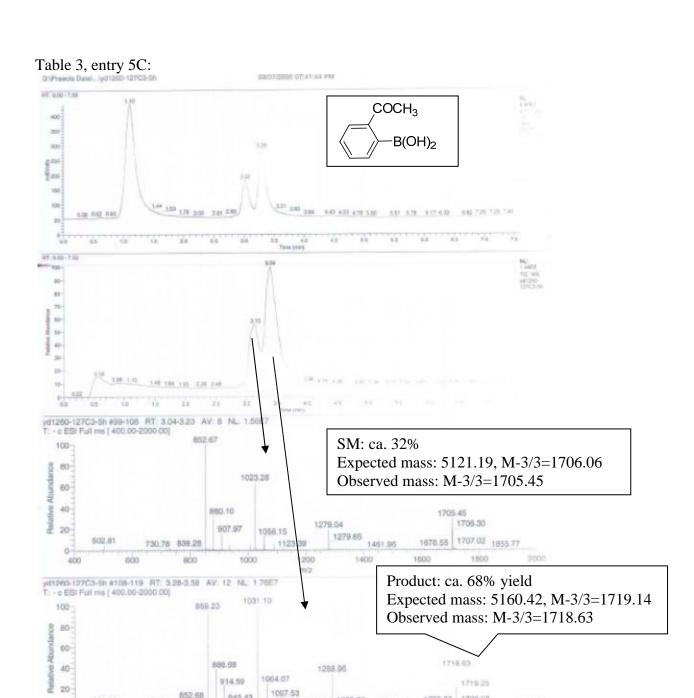


Table 3, entry 3C:









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m/z

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1979.21

2000

942.43

1000

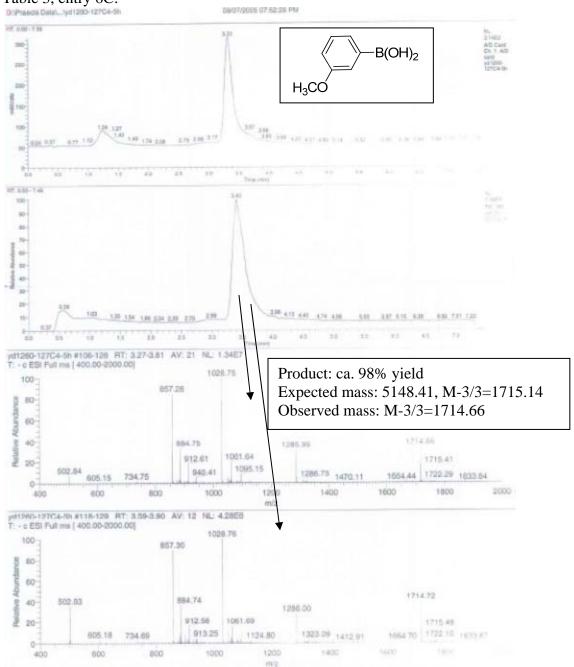
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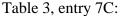
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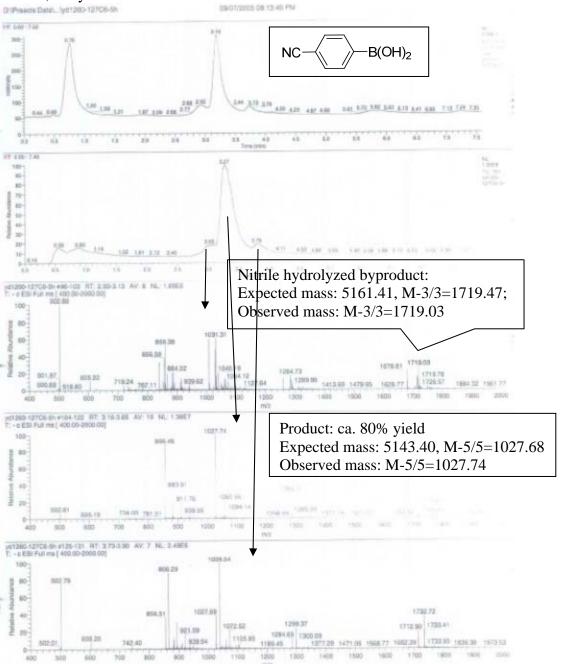
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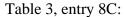
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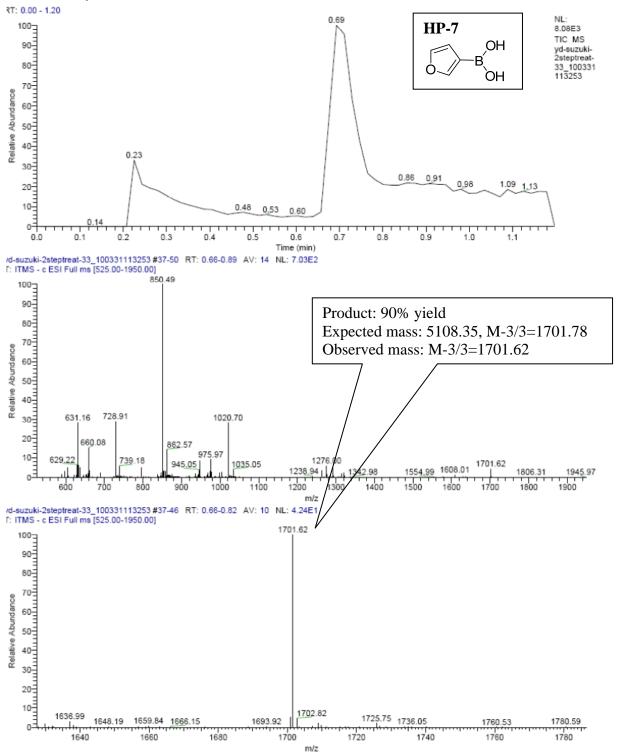
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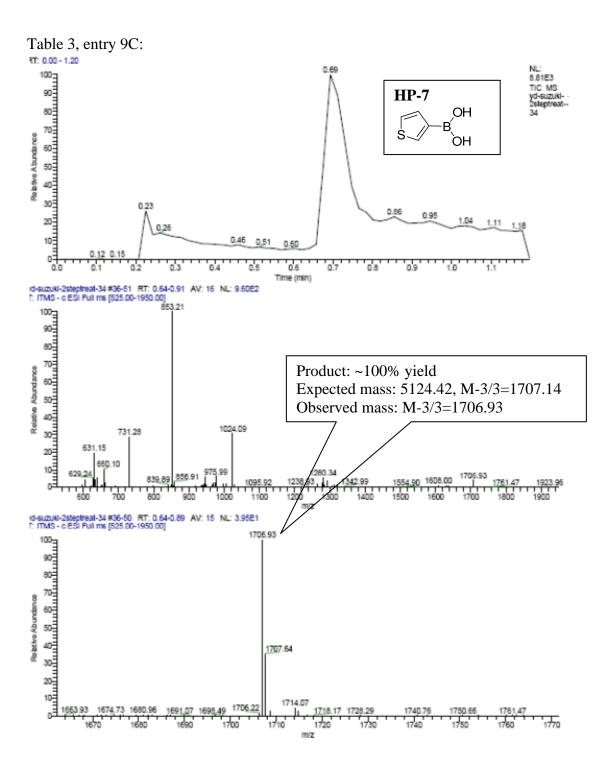












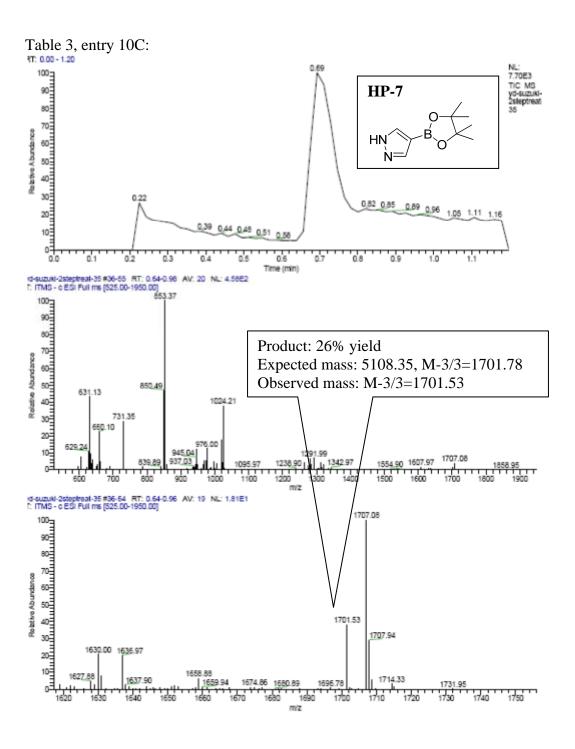
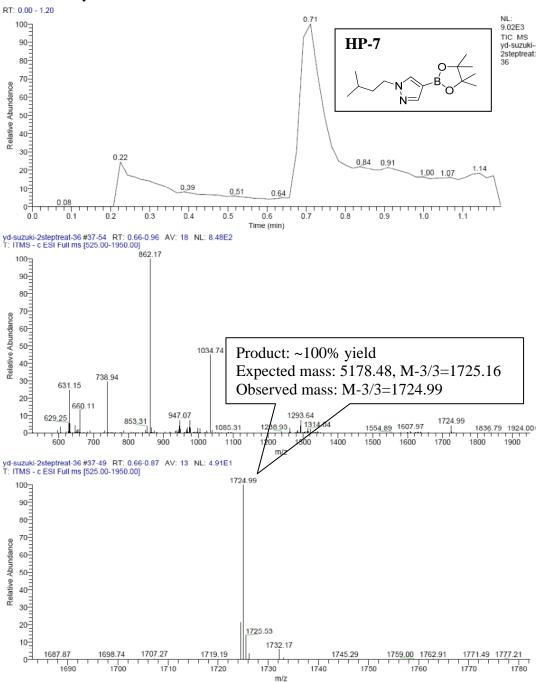


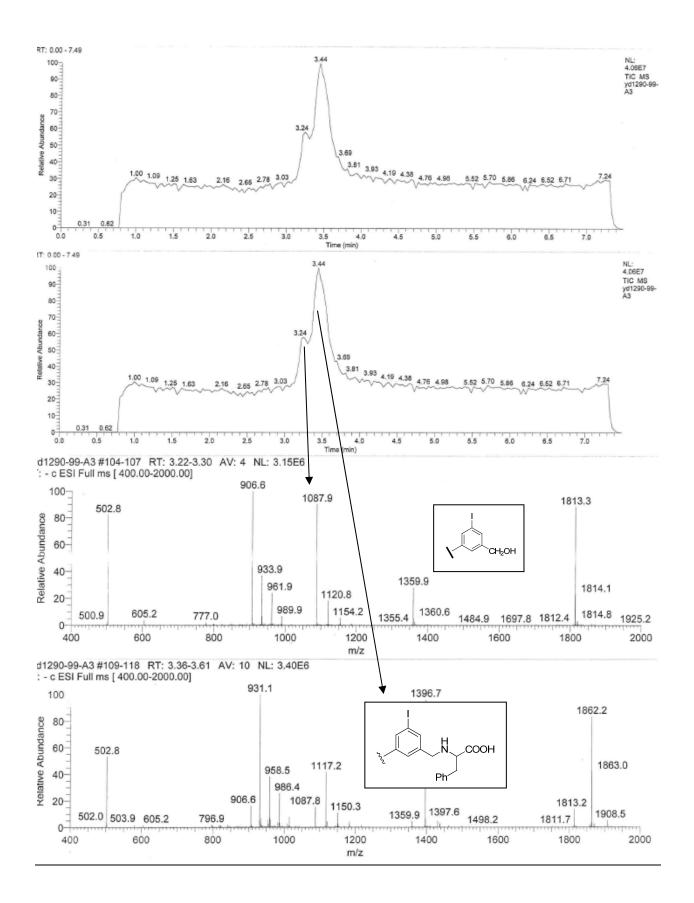
Table 3, entry 11C:



Preparation of **HP-8**

A solution of AOP-HP¹ in pH9.4 borate buffer (250 mM) (0.5 μ mol, 500 μ L) was added at cold 40 equivalents of 5-formyl 3-iodobenzoic acid (1 M in DMF), followed by 40 equivalents of DMT-MM (400 mM in water). The reaction was kept in cold overnight. The reaction was further treated with piperidine (44 μ L) for 5 minutes, followed with precipitation by 10% 5N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH. The pellet was redissolved in pH5.5 phosphate buffer (250mM) to make 1mM concentration. To the above solution was added 50 equivalents of phenylalanine (400 mM in H₂O/DMA 5/1), followed by adding 50 equivalents of NaCNBH₃ (400 mM in DMA). The reaction was heated at 50 °C for 3 hours, followed with precipitation by 10% 5N NaCl water solution and 2.5 times volume of absolute EtOH. The pellet of **HP-8** which contained about 25% of reduced starting material was redissolved in water (100 μ L), followed by EtOH precipitation once more. The pellet was dissolved in water to make 1 mM concentration of solution, which would be used directly for the next step without further purification.

HP-8: expected mass 5591.69 (M-3/3=1862.90), observed 5590 (M-3/3=1862.2)



General procedure for the coupling of **HP-8** with boronic acids/esters in Scheme 3.

A 1 mM solution of **HP-8** in water (10 nmol, 10 μ L) was added 40 equivalents of boronate (0.67 μ L, 600 mM in DMA) and 80 equivalents of Na₂CO₃ (0.67 μ L, 1.2 M in water), followed by 1 equivalent of degassed Pd(PPh₃)₄ (3.3 μ L, 3 mM in CH₃CN). The reaction was allowed to proceed at 80 °C for 4 hrs.

