Suporting Information for

Dragmacidin E Synthesis Studies. Preparation of a Model Cycloheptannelated Indole Fragment.

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9	S4	¹ H NMR SM3	S32
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SM4	S10	¹ H NMR SM5	S38
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13	S12	¹ H NMR 13	S40
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General Experimental. Unless stated otherwise, moisture and oxygen sensitive reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere using anhydrous, deoxygenated solvents. Tetrahydrofuran was dried by passage through an activated alumina column under a nitrogen atmosphere or distillation from sodium benzophenone ketyl under an argon atmosphere. Dichloromethane and acetonitrile were dried by passage through an activated alumina column under a nitrogen atmosphere or distillation from calcium hydride under an argon atmosphere. HPLC grade acetonitrile was also used as received for large scale photochemical reactions and it did not significantly lower the yield of the product. Methanol was dried by distillation from calcium hydride under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere. Absolute ethanol was used as received. All other commercially obtained reagents were used as received. Microwave reactions were performed in the CEM Focused MicrowaveTM Synthesis System, Model Discover. Flash chromatography was performed on 32-63 µm silica gel. characterization data were obtained on the solid material that resulted from evaporation of the chromatography solvents used for purification. Melting points were taken with a Melt-Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. Chemical shifts of ¹H NMR spectra are reported relative to Me₄Si (δ 0.00) or DMSO (δ 2.49) if the former was absent. ¹³C NMR spectra are reported relative to Me₄Si (δ 0.0), or CDCl₃ (δ 77.0) or DMSO (δ 39.5) if the former was absent.

Methyl 2-(2,2-Dichloropropionylamino)-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl) Propionate (8). To a solution of 2,2-dichloropropionic acid (90%, 6.7 mL, 59 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was added 2 drops of DMF followed by oxalyl chloride (10.0 mL, 119 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2.5 h until bubbling stopped. The resulting yellow acid chloride solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and then redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL). The acid chloride solution was cannulated to an ice-cooled solution of Ltryptophan methyl ester hydrochloride (10.01 g, 39 mmol) and dimethylaminopyridine (10.05 g, 82 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL). The resulting red solution was stirred in an ice bath for 3 h and then at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was poured into ice water (50 mL) and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford the dichloroamide 8 as a light brown solid (13.13 g, 97%). mp 143-144 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ +51° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3368, 3315, 1728, 1678 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (br s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (br s, 1H), 7.19 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.3)Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, J = 7.8, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (ddd, J = 7.7, 5.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.42 (dd, J = 18.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, J = 18.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 165.9, 136.1, 127.3, 123.0, 122.3, 119.7, 118.5, 111.3, 109.2, 82.1, 53.8, 52.6, 33.9, 27.2; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 365.0 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{15}H_{16}N_2O_3Cl_2Na]^+$: 365.0436, found 365.0426.

Methyl 7-Methylene-6-oxo-1,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-azocino[4,5,6-cd]indole-4

Carboxylate (9). A solution of dichloroamide 8 (150 mg, 0.44 mmol) in CH₃CN (87.5 mL) in a quartz vessel was purged with dry argon for 30 min. This solution was irradiated at 254 nm in a Rayonet photochemical reactor for 3 h. The resulting light brown solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:3 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford the bridged indole 9 as a yellow solid (63 mg, 53%). mp 194-195 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}$ D -347° (c 0.60, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3305, 1741, 1653 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (br s, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, J = 8.2, 4.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.07 (dd, J = 1.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (ddd, J = 11.8, 9.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.56 (ddd, J = 16.3, 3.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (ddd, J = 16.3, 11.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 171.7, 147.8, 136.6, 129.8, 124.2, 122.9, 122.0, 121.7, 116.6, 112.2, 110.4, 55.7, 52.9, 33.1; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 293.1 (97%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{15}H_{14}N_2O_3Na]^+$: 293.0896, found 293.0902. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂O₃: C, 66.66; H, 5.22; N, 10.36. Found: C, 66.75; H, 5.32; N, 10.20.

1,5-Di-tert-butyl 4-Methyl 7-Methylene-6-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydro-azocino[4,5, **6-cd**|indole 1,4,5-Tricarboxylate (SM1). A solution of di-tert-butyldicarbonate (1.13 g. 5.18 mmol) in CH₃CN (6 mL) was cannulated into a suspension of indole 9 (335 mg. 1.24 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (34 mg, 0.28 mmol) in CH₃CN (6 mL). After the addition was complete, the indole 9 slowly became soluble and it all went into solution in less than 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting dark brown solution was poured into ice water (20 mL) and extracted with ether (3 x 20 mL). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine solution (20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (3:2 hexanes/ether) to afford the desired protected product as a white solid (446 mg, 77%). mp 118-120 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ +61° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 1734, 1693 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 2H) 6.47 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, J = 12.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.30 (dd, J = 15.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (ddd, J = 15.2, 12.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 9H), 1.08 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (300) MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 170.7, 151.4, 149.0, 144.6, 136.6, 129.5, 129.4, 127.2, 125.7, 124.3, 124.0, 116.1, 115.7, 83.9, 82.9, 57.4, 52.6, 28.1, 27.4, 26.7; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 493.2 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{25}H_{30}N_2O_7Na]^+$:

493.1951, found 493.1944. Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₃₀N₂O₇: C, 63.82; H, 6.43; N, 5.95. Found: C, 63.83; H, 6.47; N, 5.83.

1,5-Di-tert-butyl 4-Methyl 7-Methyl-6-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydro-azocino[4,5,6cdlindole 1,4,5-Tricarboxylate (SM2). To a solution of indole SM1 (483 mg, 1.03 mmol) in MeOH (15 mL) was added 10% w/w Pd/C (22 mg, 0.02 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred under a H₂ atmosphere (1atm) for 2 days. The resulting black suspension was filtered through a Celite pad and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:1 hexanes/ether) to afford both the trans-methyl imide SM2 as a white solid (309 mg, 62%) and the cis-methyl imide SM2 as a white solid (49 mg, 10%). Major product: mp 167-168 °C; [α]²⁰_D -296° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 1734 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (t, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.57 (d, J = 9.5Hz, 2H), 1.67 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.00 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.9, 172.0, 153.3, 149.3, 135.6, 130.9, 129.0, 125.0, 124.5, 119.6, 114.9, 114.4, 83.8, 82.3, 56.0, 52.9, 43.9, 29.6, 28.1, 27.2, 12.2; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 495.1 (30%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [C₂₅H₃₂N₂O₇Na]⁺: 495.2107, found 495.2111. Minor product: mp 96-98 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +216° (c 0.33, CHCl₃); IR (film) 1737, 1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (br d, $J \sim 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (br q, $J \sim 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.32 (dd, J = 15.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 14.7, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 9H), 1.50 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.5, 170.9, 151.5, 149.1, 137.5, 135.4, 126.8, 125.7, 125.6, 124.3, 115.4, 114.3, 83.8, 83.2, 56.8, 52.6, 49.5, 28.2, 27.9, 27.6, 21.4; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 495.1 (72%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [C₂₅H₃₂N₂O₇Na]⁺: 495.2107, found 495.2101.

Oxo-amide 11 and oxo-imide SM3. To an ice-cooled solution of *trans*-SM2 (339 mg, 0.72 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly a 1 M lithium hexamethyldisilazide (LHMDS) solution in THF (800 μ L, 0.80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The resulting yellow solution was poured into a 1 M aq. H₃PO₄ solution (10 mL) and extracted with ether (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (3:2 hexanes/ether and 1:4 hexanes/EtOAc, respectively) to afford the bridging amide 11 as a white solid (169 mg, 69%) and its *N*-protected analogue SM3 as a light yellow solid (46 mg, 15%) . Oxo-amide 11. mp 206-208 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ +24° (c 0.52, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3241, 1774, 1733, 1704 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.46 (br s, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (ddd, J = 4.1, 3.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (ddd, J = 17.0, 4.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (ddd, J = 17.0,

2.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.8, 175.1, 149.0, 135.8, 128.8, 126.5, 124.9, 124.7, 118.9, 115.3, 113.8, 84.1, 60.9, 56.2, 29.3, 28.1, 12.8; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 363.1 (68%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [$C_{19}H_{20}N_2O_4Na$]⁺: 363.1321, found 363.1317. **Oxo-imide SM3.** mp 122-124 °C; [α]²⁰_D +10° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 1799, 1764, 1742 cm⁻¹; 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (dd, J = 4.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (ddd, J = 17.1, 4.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (ddd, J = 17.1, 2.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.52 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.6, 170.6, 149.3, 149.0, 135.8, 127.6, 126.3, 124.9, 124.7, 118.8, 115.5, 113.2, 84.4, 84.2, 64.8, 59.1, 28.1, 27.9, 26.9, 13.4; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 463.2 (65%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [$C_{24}H_{28}N_2O_6Na$]⁺: 463.1845, found 463.1841.

Oxo-amide 11. A solution of indole SM1 (604 mg, 1.28 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and a 1 M solution *N*-selectride in THF (1.42 mL, 1.42 mmol) was added slowly. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and then at room temperature for 4 h. The resulting red solution was poured into ice water (15 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was

purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:3 hexanes/EtOAc and 100% EtOAc, respectively) to afford the bridging amide **11** as a light yellow solid (333 mg, 76%).

Oxo-imide SM3. A solution of di-*tert*-butyldicarbonate (1.92 g, 8.80 mmol) in CH₃CN (20 mL) was cannulated into a suspension of amide 11 (1.49 g, 4.38 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (54 mg, 0.44 mmol) in CH₃CN (20 mL). After the addition was complete, the indole 11 slowly became soluble and it all went into solution in less than 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The resulting slightly yellow solution was poured into ice water (30 mL) and extracted with ether (3 x 30 mL). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine solution (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (3:2 hexanes/ether) to afford the desired protected product as a white solid (2.09 g, quantitative).

BOCN
$$\frac{N}{N}$$
 $\frac{NH_3/MeOH, Ti(O^iPr)_4}{TMSCN, 69\%}$ BOCN $\frac{N}{N}$ BOCN $\frac{N}{N}$ $\frac{N}{N}$

Cyanoamine 12. To a suspension of amide **SM3** (1.00 g, 2.28 mmol) in MeOH (23 mL) was added saturated NH₃/MeOH (3.4 mL) followed by titanium isopropoxide (810 μL, 2.74 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then trimethylsilylcyanide (1.20 mL, 9.00 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 4 h. The resulting yellow solution was poured into ice water (25 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried

over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:2 hexanes/ether) to afford the cyanoamine **12** as a white solid (736 mg, 69%). mp 154-156 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ +56° (c 0.80, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3381, 3320, 2254, 1785, 1736 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (dd, J = 6.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 2H), 4.96 (dd, J = 3.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (ddd, J = 17.8, 3.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (ddd, J = 17.8, 2.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 2H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 149.4, 149.0, 135.6, 127.6, 127.1, 125.0, 124.8, 122.3, 121.6, 116.2, 113.9, 84.4, 84.2, 62.9, 60.5, 56.7, 28.2, 27.9, 25.1, 18.9; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 489.1 (88%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{25}H_{30}N_4O_5Na]^+$: 489.2114, found 489.2110.

N-Moc Cyanoamine SM4. To a mixture of cyanoamine 12 (602 mg, 1.29 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (357 mg, 2.58 mmol) was added THF (13 mL) followed by methylchloroformate (220 μL, 2.61 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 20 h. The resulting yellow solution was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into ice water (15 mL), and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:2 hexanes/ether) to afford the desired protected amine as a white solid (527 mg, 78%). mp 164-166 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 43^\circ$ (*c* 0.76, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3301, 2256, 1790, 1732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (app.t, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 2H), 5.38 (br s, 1H), 5.19 (br s, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.98 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.49 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 155.1, 148.8, 148.7, 135.5, 127.4, 125.5, 124.8, 124.6, 122.5, 118.0, 116.6, 113.8, 84.3, 84.1, 61.9, 60.4, 55.4, 52.8, 27.8, 27.6, 24.9, 19.1; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 547.2 (60%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [C₂₇H₃₂N₄O₇Na]⁺: 547.2169, found 547.2165.

N-Moc Diamine SM5. To a solution of cyanoamine SM4 (669 mg, 1.28 mmol) in a 1:1 mixture of MeOH and EtOH (40 mL) was added PtO₂ (145 mg, 0.64 mmol) followed by a 10% solution of HCl in MeOH (1.05 mL, 1.27 mmol). The reaction mixture was placed in a sealable metal container equipped with a gas inlet and pressure gauge and pressurized with H₂ at 1500 psi for 17 h. The resulting clear and colorless solution with settled black particles was filtered through a Celite pad and the filtrate was poured into ice water (20 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude residue as a white solid (674 mg). The crude residue was carried on to the next step without purification. IR (film) 3401, 1782, 1731 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 4.83 (br s, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, J = 18.1, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.32 (br s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.6, 155.9, 149.7, 149.0, 135.6,

129.4, 128.2, 124.3, 124.1, 121.9, 115.7, 115.6, 83.7, 83.2, 62.7, 61.2, 56.9, 51.9, 46.2, 27.9, 27.8, 25.8, 16.2; LRMS(ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 529.2 (72%, M+H⁺); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for [C₂₇H₃₇N₄O₇]⁺: 529.2662, found 529.2656.

Cyclic Urea 13. To a solution of amine SM5 (674 mg, 1.28 mmol) in THF (25 mL) was added a deoxygenated 1 M aq. LiOH solution (5.1 mL, 5.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 17 h. The resulting slightly yellow solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and then poured into ice water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a yellow solid (600 mg). Cold ether (10 mL) was added to the resulting yellow solid to dissolve impurities and the desired cyclic urea was collected by filtration (394 mg, 62% over 2 steps). mp 248 °C (dec.); $[\alpha]^{20}$ _D +88° (c 1.00, DMSO); IR (film) 3344, 1782, 1730, 1687 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd, J = 12.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (dd, J = 16.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.21 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (t, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H),1.60 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 175.6, 153.7, 150.9, 148.7, 135.4, 132.5, 127.4, 124.4, 124.2, 123.8, 114.3, 113.6, 83.8 81.7, 65.9, 55.1, 53.7, 48.6, 27.8, 27.7, 26.4, 19.4; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 519.2 (52%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{26}H_{32}N_4O_6Na]^+$: 519.2220, found 519.2227.

tert-Butyl 8-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-6-methyl-7-oxo-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2aza benzo[cd]azulene-2 Carboxylate (15). To an ice-cooled solution of amide SM3 (1.029 g, 2.34 mmol) in THF (47 mL) was added a deoxygenated 1 M aq. LiOH solution (4.7 mL, 4.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred in an ice bath for 1 h and then at room temperature for 14 h. The resulting slightly yellow solution was poured into ice water (30 mL) and extracted with ether (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (3:2 hexanes/ether) to afford a ~ 2:1 diastereomeric mixture of ketones 15 as a white solid (951 mg, 98%). Major product (*cis*-**15**): mp 163-164 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ +29° (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3416, 1729 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (br s, 1 H), 4.74 (br dd, $J \sim 9.2$, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (q, $J \sim 9.2$ = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, J = 15.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 15.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, t)9H), 1.65 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.1, 155.5, 149.2, 135.1, 130.7, 128.3, 125.0, 123.0, 118.7, 116.1, 114.1, 83.5, 79.5, 61.4, 45.7, 28.2, 28.0, 27.6, 14.4; LRMS(ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 437.2 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{23}H_{30}N_2O_5N_3]^+$: 437.2052, found 457.2042. Anal. Calcd for $C_{23}H_{30}N_2O_5$: C, 66.65; H, 7.30; N, 6.76. Found: C, 66.59; H, 7.32; N, 6.76. Minor product (trans-15):

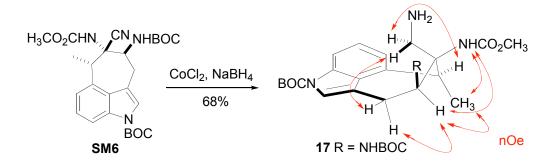
mp 170-171 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ +90° (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3385, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (br s, 1 H), 4.50 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (br dd, J ~ 11.9, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 14.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (ddd, J = 15.2, 10.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 9H), 1.64 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.8, 155.4, 149.4, 135.6, 130.7, 128.0, 124.9, 123.1, 120.4, 116.1, 113.9, 83.7, 80.0, 58.9, 49.0, 29.3, 28.3, 28.1, 16.4; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 437.2 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{23}H_{30}N_2O_5Na]^+$: 437.2052, found 437.2060.

(±)-tert-Butyl 7-Amino-8-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-7-cyano-6-methyl-6,7,8,9- tetrahydro-2-aza-benzo[cd]azulene-2 Carboxylate (16). A solution of the diastereomeric mixture of ketones 15 (645 mg, 1.56 mmol) and NH₄Cl (166 mg, 3.10 mmol) in saturated NH₃/MeOH (15 mL) in a sealed tube was heated to 85 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and trimethylsilylcyanide (830 μL, 6.22 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred in a sealed tube at room temperature for 14 h. The resulting yellow suspension was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and then poured into ice water (20 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc and

100% EtOAc, respectively) to afford the cyanoamine **16** as a light yellow solid (494 mg, 72%). mp 152-154 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ -0.8° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3326, 2252, 1727 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (br d, J = 9.9, 1H), 4.0 (td, J = 9.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 15.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (br s, 2H), 1.66 (s, 9H), 1.62 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.7, 149.5, 135.4, 132.0, 129.1, 124.9, 122.7, 122.3, 121.8, 116.7, 114.5, 83.7, 80.7, 65.2, 57.6, 43.6, 30.4, 28.3, 28.2, 15.6; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 441.2 (35%, M+H⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{24}H_{33}N_4O_4]^+$: 441.2502, found 441.2497.

(±)-tert-Butyl 8-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-7-cyano-7-methoxycarbonylamino -6-methyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2-aza-benzo[cd]azulene-2 Carboxylate (SM6). To a mixture of cyanoamine 16 (84 mg, 0.19 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (53 mg, 0.38 mmol) was added THF (4 mL) followed by methylchloroformate (100 μL, 1.19 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux and held there for 20 h. The resulting yellow solution was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into ice water (10 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (1:2 ether/hexanes) to afford the desired product SM6 as a

white solid (77 mg, 81%). mp 138-140 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ +0.2° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3328, 2254, 1731, 1689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (br s, 1H), 5.40 (br d, J = 9.1, 1H), 4.43 (td, J = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.42 (dd, J = 16.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, J = 17.1, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.44 (d, J = 7.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 155.1, 149.3, 135.6, 133.1, 127.9, 124.9, 123.2, 123.1, 117..4, 114.4, 114.1, 83.7, 81.4, 65.0, 53.0, 52.4, 43.7, 30.4, 28.08, 28.06, 17.5; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 521.2 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [C₂₆H₃₄N₄O₆Na]⁺: 521.2376, found 521.2361. Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₄N₄O₆: C, 62.63; H, 6.87; N, 11.24. Found: C, 62.37; H, 6.97; N, 10.99.



(±)-tert-Butyl 7-Aminomethyl-8-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-7-methoxycarbonylamino-6-methyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2-aza-benzo[cd]azulene-2 Carboxylate (17). To a solution of cyanoamine SM6 (358 mg, 0.72 mmol) in MeOH (30 mL) was added cobalt (II) chloride (2.33 g, 17.9 mmol). The resulting dark blue solution was cooled in an ice bath and sodium borohydride (679 mg, 17.9 mmol) was added in portions. The resulting black suspension was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. It was then recooled in an ice bath and additional sodium borohydride (679 mg, 17.9 mmol) was added in portions. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 38 h. The resulting black suspension was diluted with MeOH (30 mL) and acidified with 1 M H₃PO₄ solution

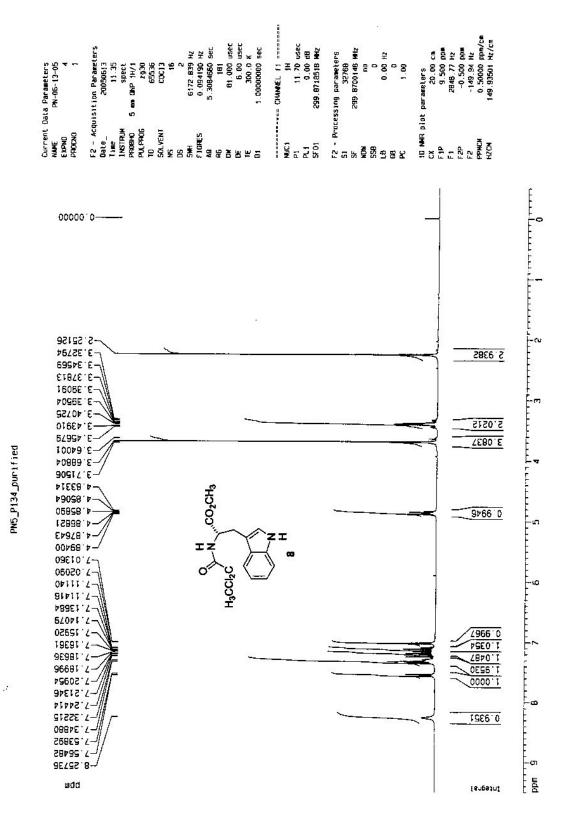
(30 mL). The acidic solution was stirred vigorously for 1 h until it turned pink and clear. The pink solution was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and made alkaline by the addition of saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL). The resulting purple precipitate was filtered off and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL). The organic layer of the filtrate was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (3:2 hexanes/ether and 100% EtOAC, respectively) to afford the desired amine 17 as a white solid (246 mg, 68%). mp 124-126 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ -0.2° (c 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3325, 1729 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 8.33 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 4.73 (td, J = 10.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.29 (dd, J = 16.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (ddd, J = 16.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9, 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9, 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9), 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9, 4.8 (ddd, J = 16.9), 4.8 (ddd, J == 16.6, 12.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.24 (d, J= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.59 (br s, 2H); 13 C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.4, 155.1, 149.5, 136.4, 135.8, 127.1, 124.5, 123.7, 123.0, 115.6, 113.1, 83.5, 79.8, 62.8, 51.7, 51.3, 43.8, 43.2, 30.2, 28.5, 28.2, 20.5; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 503.2 (100%, M+H⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{26}H_{39}N_4O_6]^+$: 503.2870, found 503.2874.

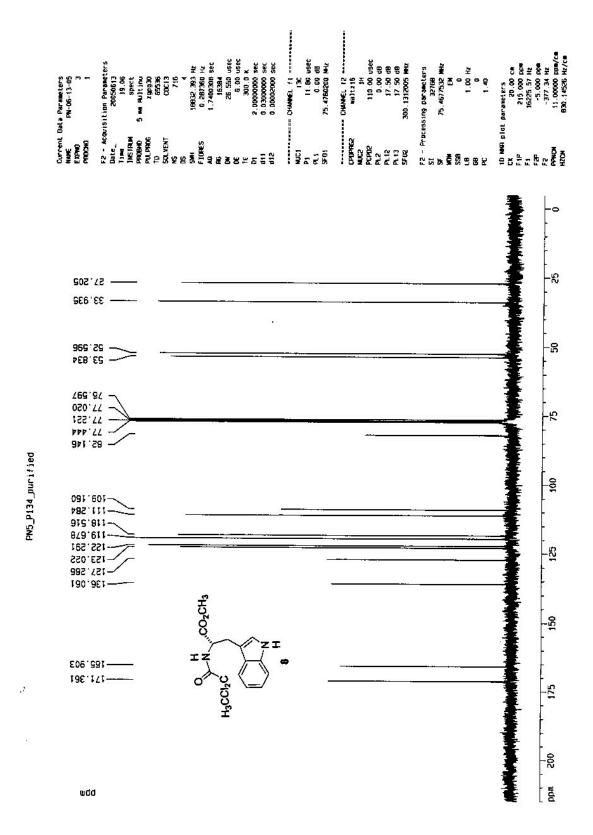
(±)-Cyclic Urea SM7. To a mixture of amine 17 (30 mg, 0.060 mmol) and cesium hydroxide monohydrate (301 mg, 1.79 mmol) was added H₂O (0.5 mL) followed

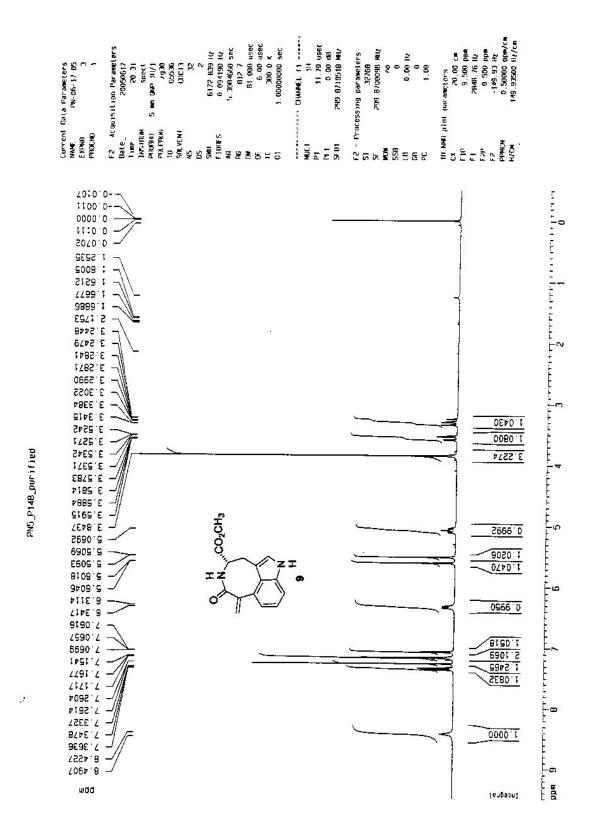
by THF (2 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 150 °C at 300 W in a microwave reactor for 1 h. The resulting slightly yellow suspension was poured into ice water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a light yellow solid (20 mg, 91% crude). The crude residue was carried on to the next step without purification. IR (film) 3416, 1687 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (br s, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (br s, 1 H), 4.98 (br d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (m, 1H), 4.43 (br s, 1H), 3.69 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.49-3.21 (m, 2H), 3.19 (d, J = 9.7, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 15.4, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 161.6, 155.9, 136.4, 135.2, 123.3, 122.5, 121.1, 119.1, 109.3, 109.2, 77.9, 65.6, 49.3, 49.1, 44.6, 28.4, 28.2, 19.4; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 371.2 (100%, M+H⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for [C₂₀H₂₆N₄O₃Na]⁺: 393.1903, found 393.1898.

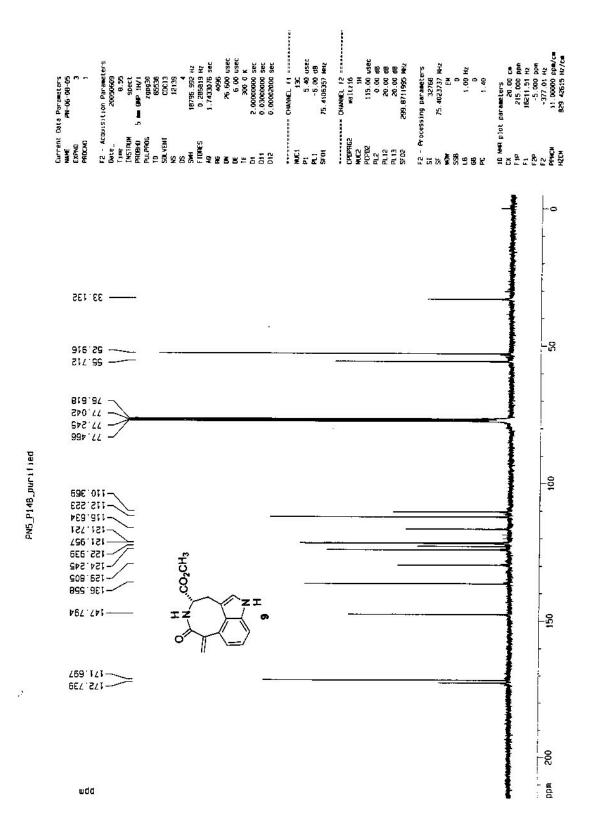
(±)-Cyclic Urea 18. To an ice-cooled solution of cyclic urea SM7 (103 mg, 0.28 mmol) in a 10:1 mixture of THF and H₂O (5.5 mL) was added 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) (127 mg, 0.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred in an ice bath for 1 h and then at room temperature for 14 h. The resulting dark yellow solution was concentrated to dryness. CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added to the dark red solid residue followed by a 0.1 M aq. NaOH solution (10 mL). The precipitate was filtered off

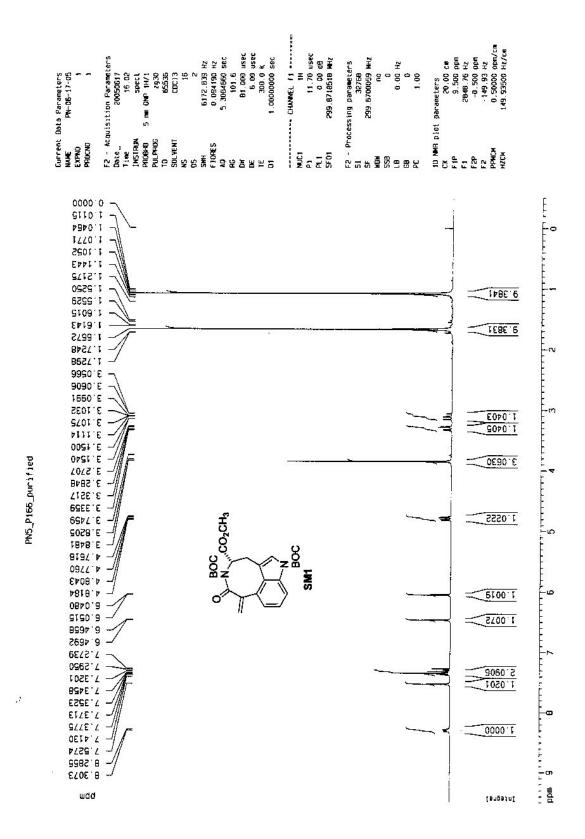
and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). The organic layer of the filtrate was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (100% EtOAc) to afford the desired product **18** as a yellow solid (55 mg, 47% over steps). mp 276 °C (dec.); IR (film) 3408, 1691, 1634 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 12.32 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 7.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.40 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 188.7, 161.5, 156.9, 136.7, 134.7, 133.2, 123.1, 122.6, 121.2, 114.2, 110.7, 78.4, 62.4, 61.4, 49.3, 46.8, 28.4, 19.9; LRMS(ESI) m/z (relative intensity) 407.2 (100%, M+Na⁺); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $[C_{20}H_{24}N_4O_4Na]^{+}$: 407.1696, found 407.1699.

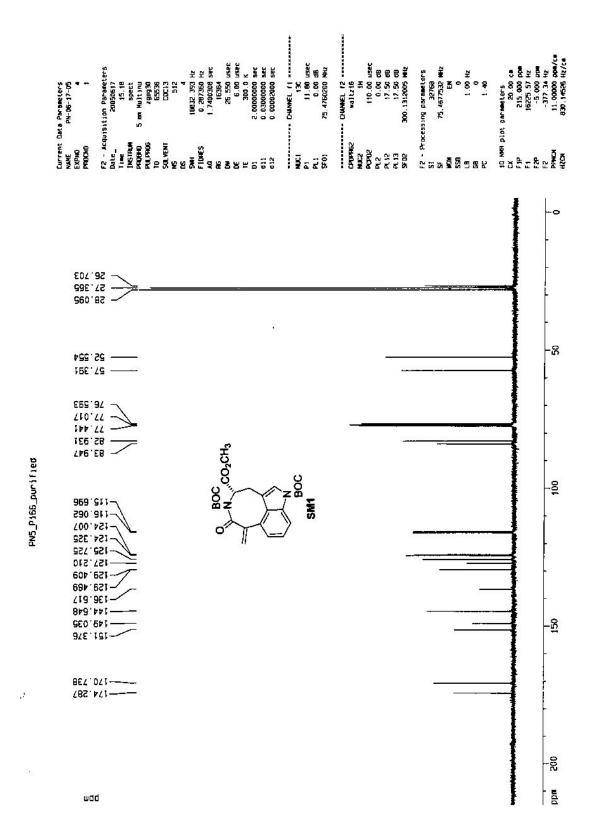


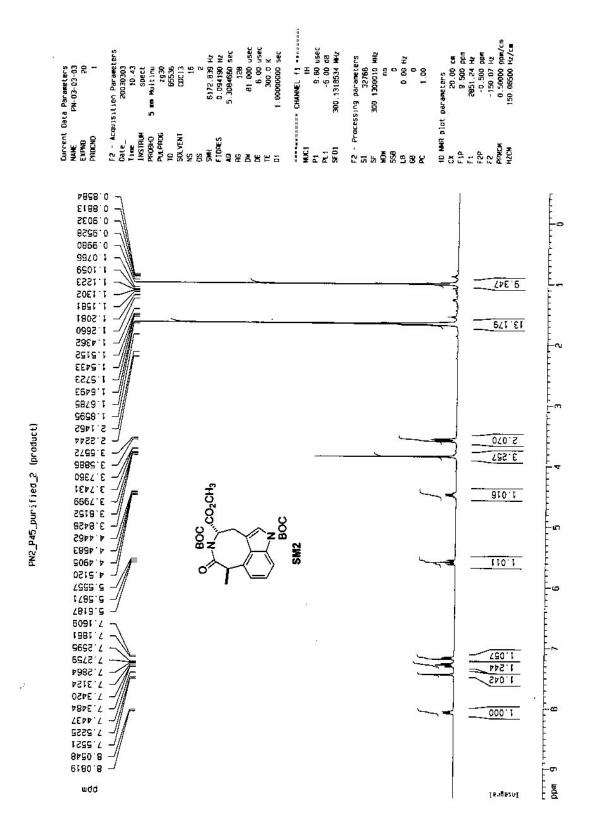


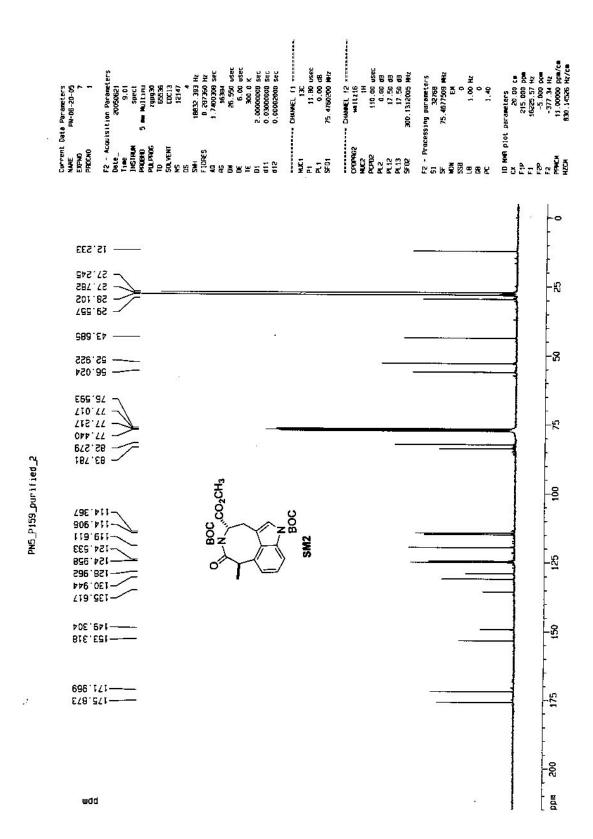


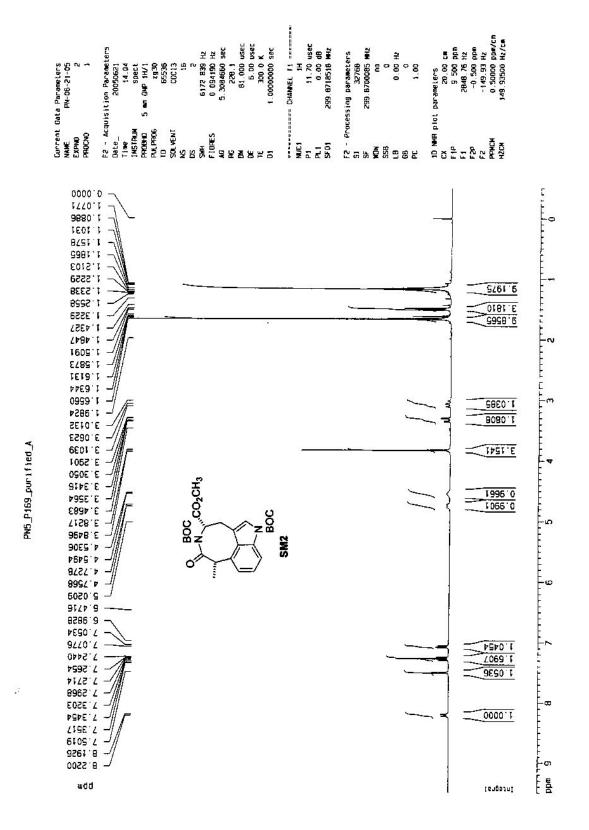


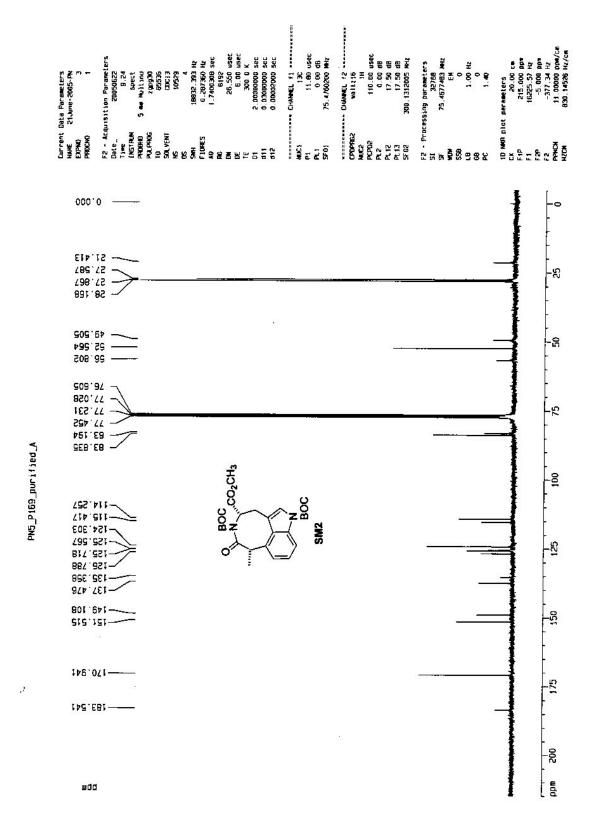


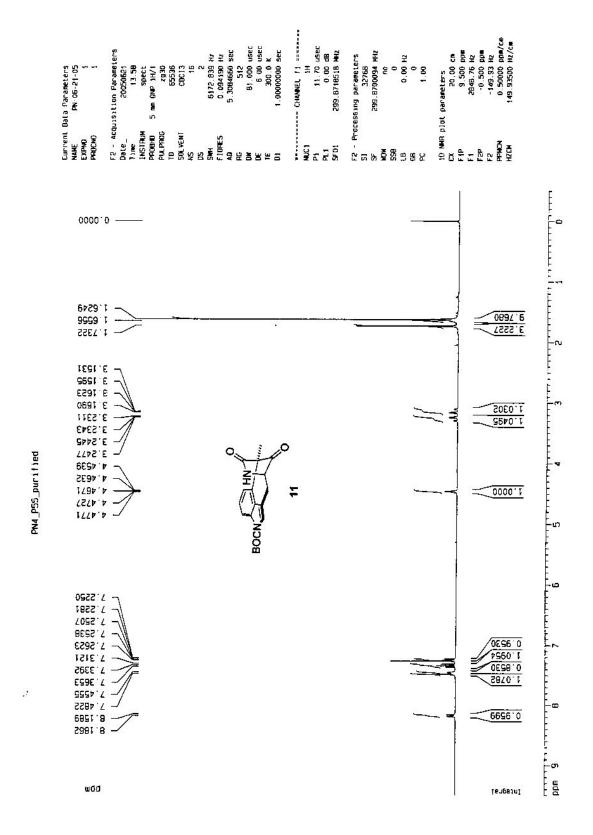


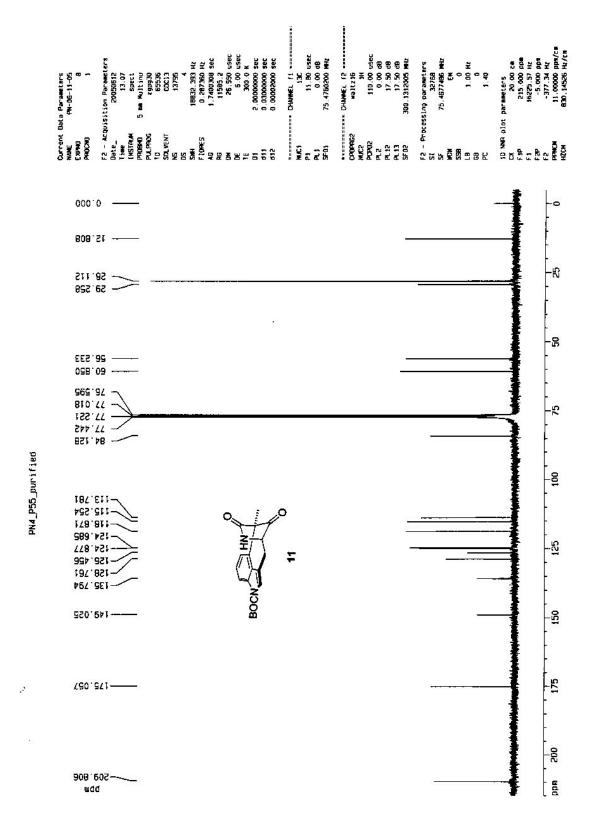


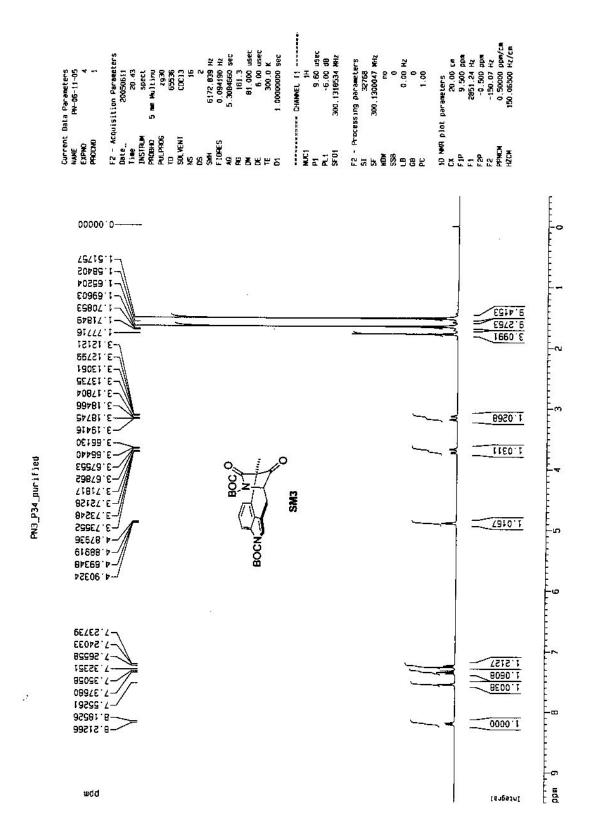


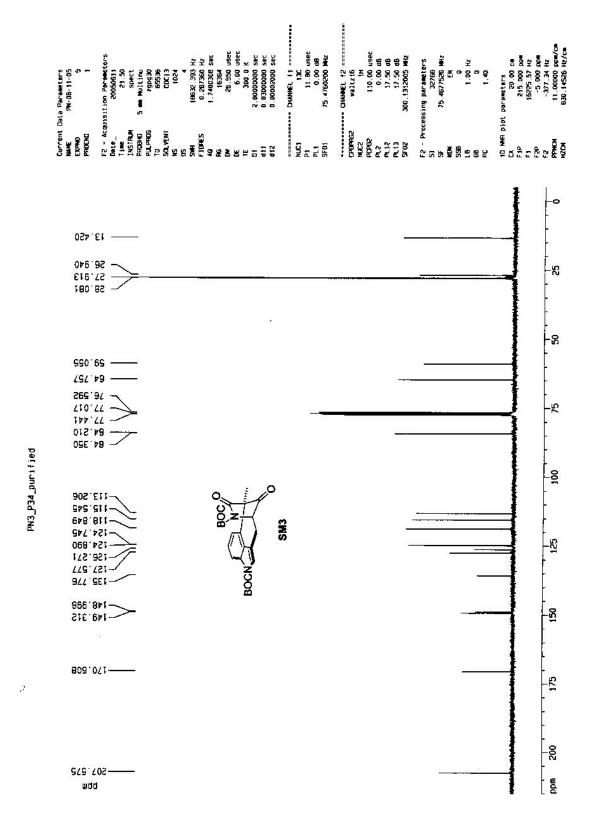


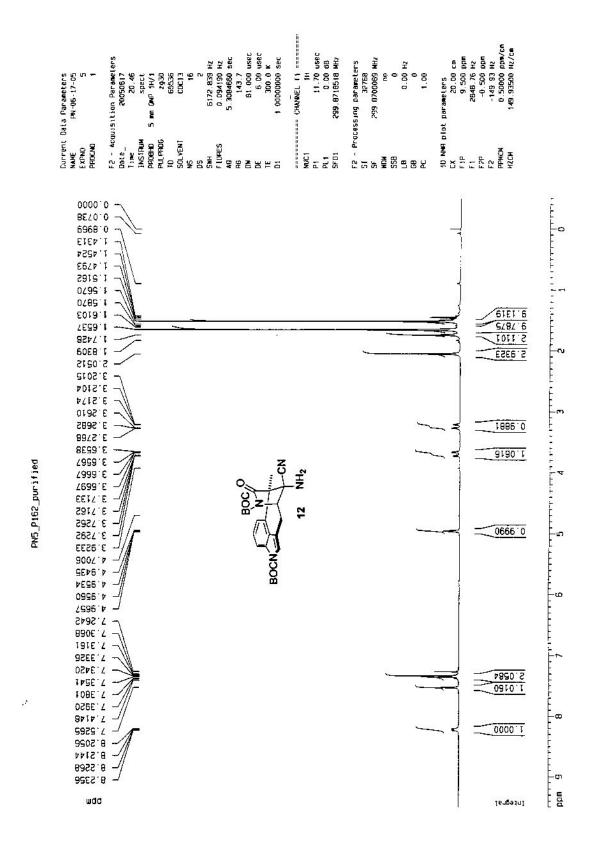


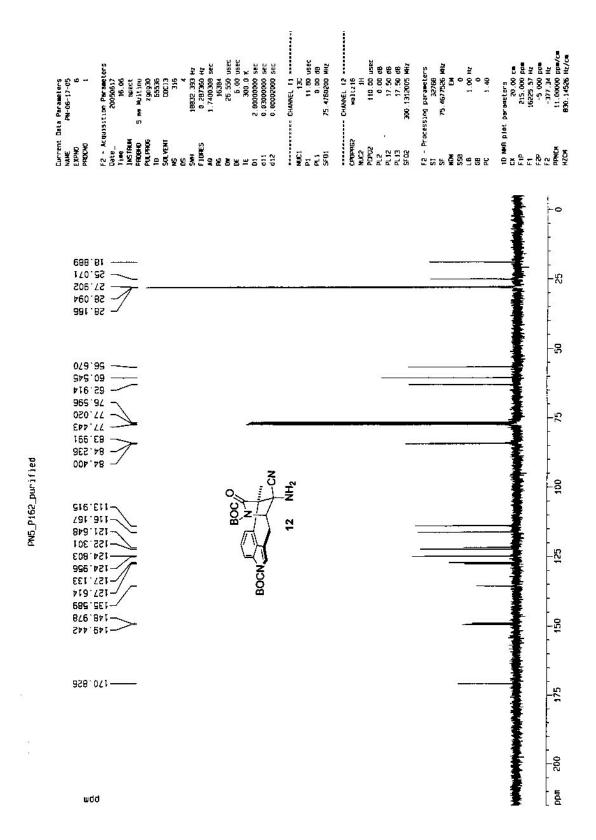


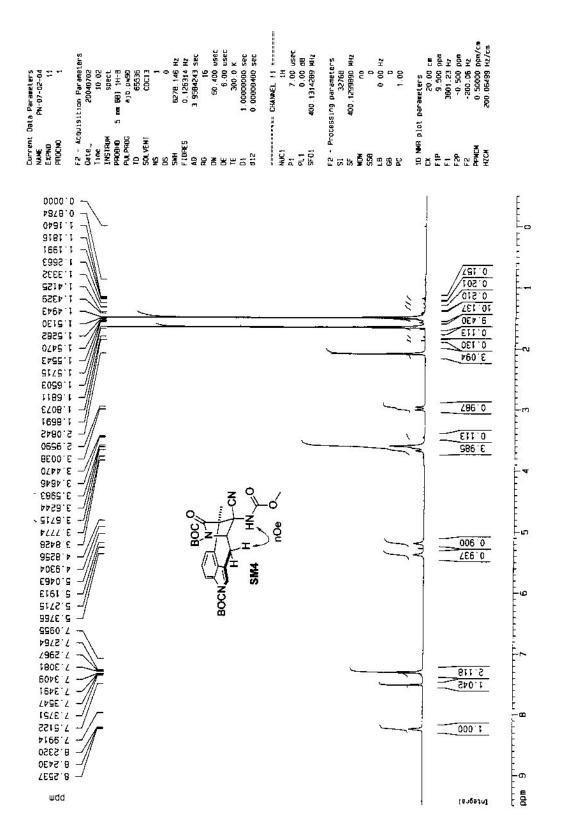


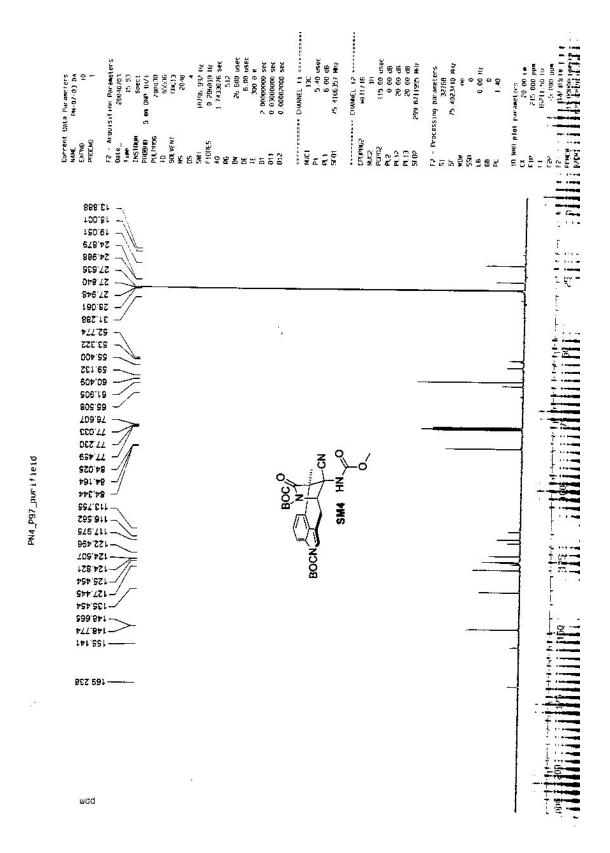


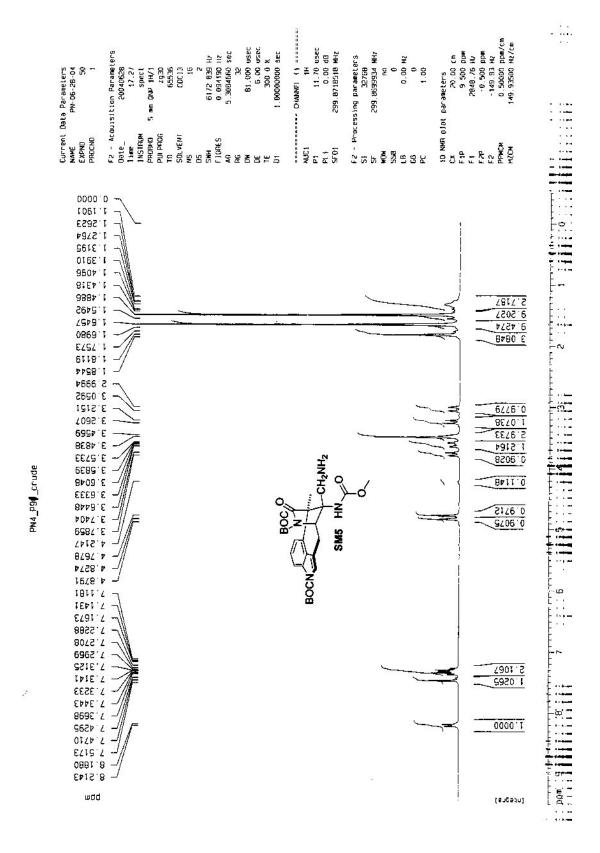


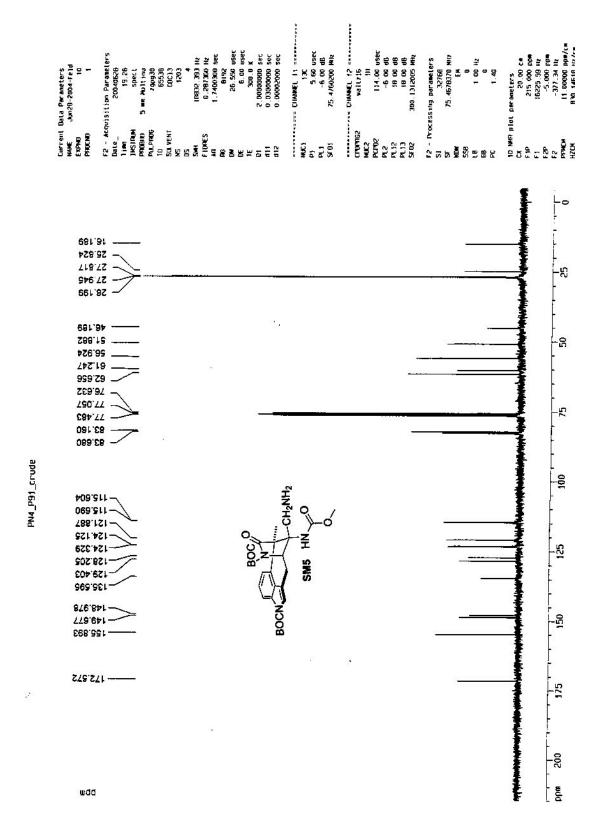


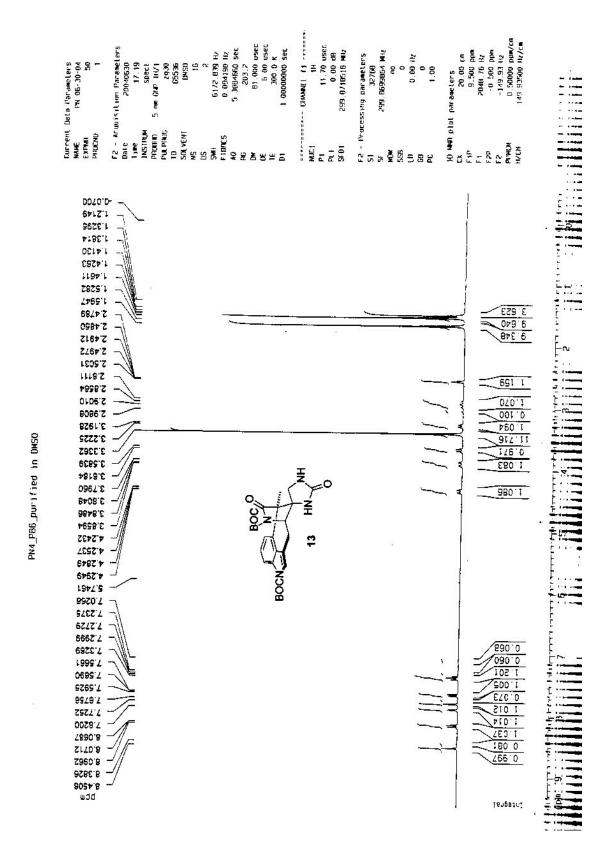


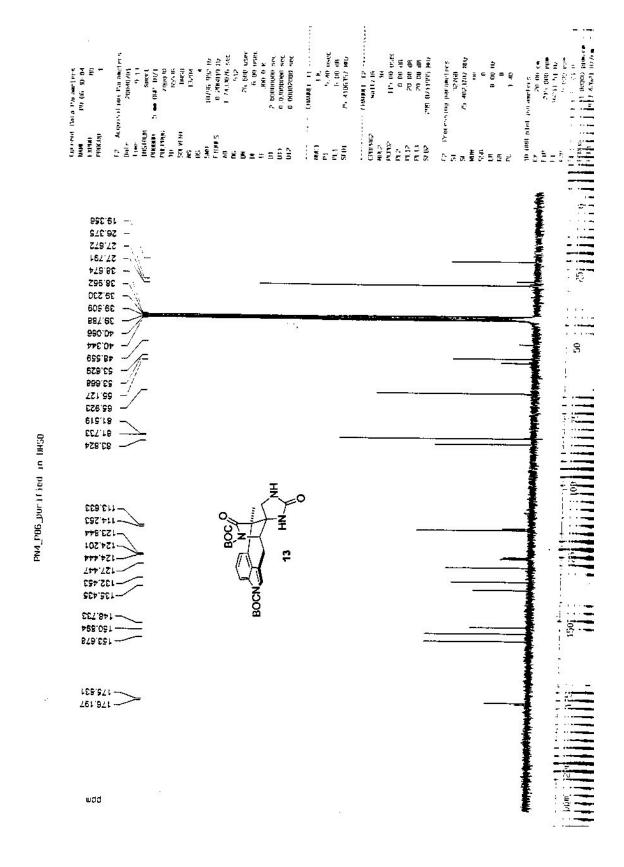


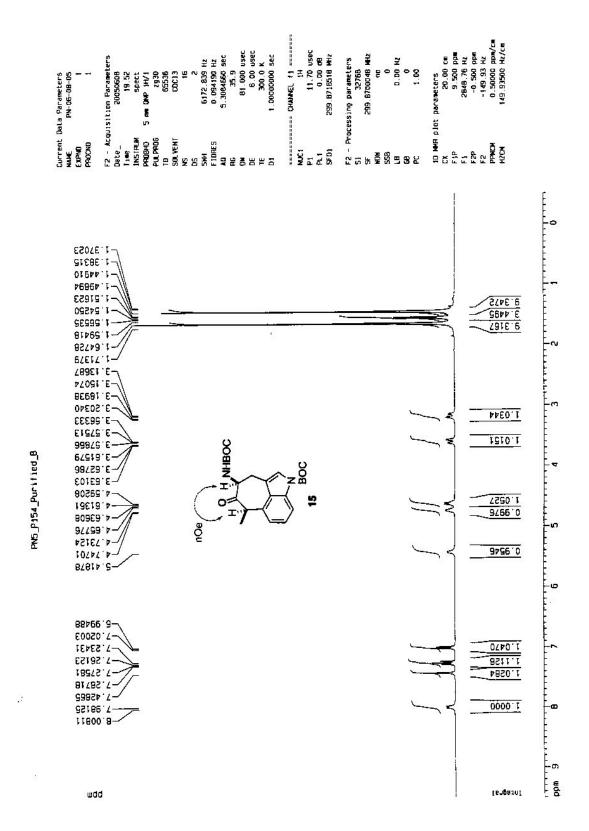


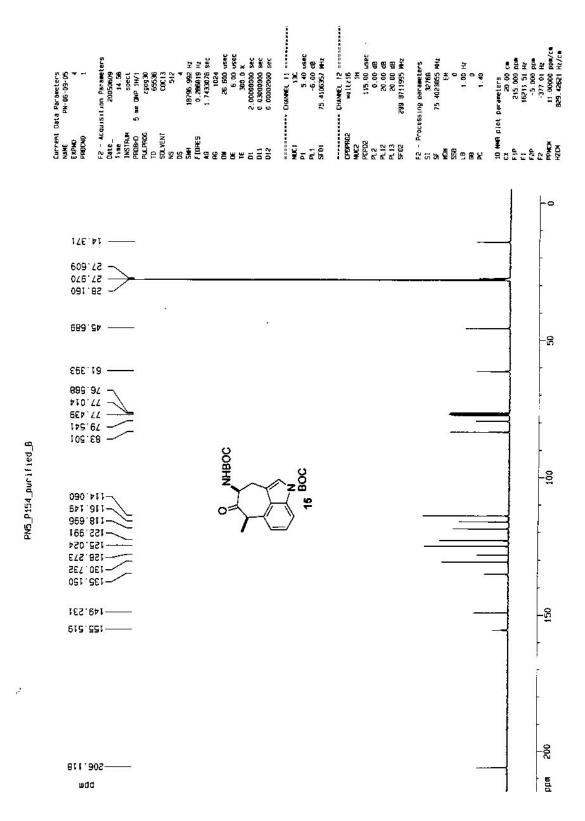


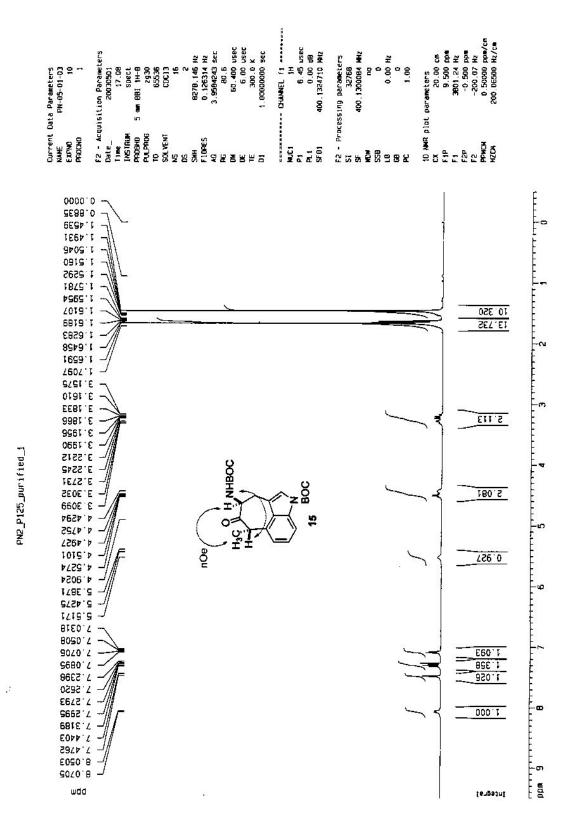


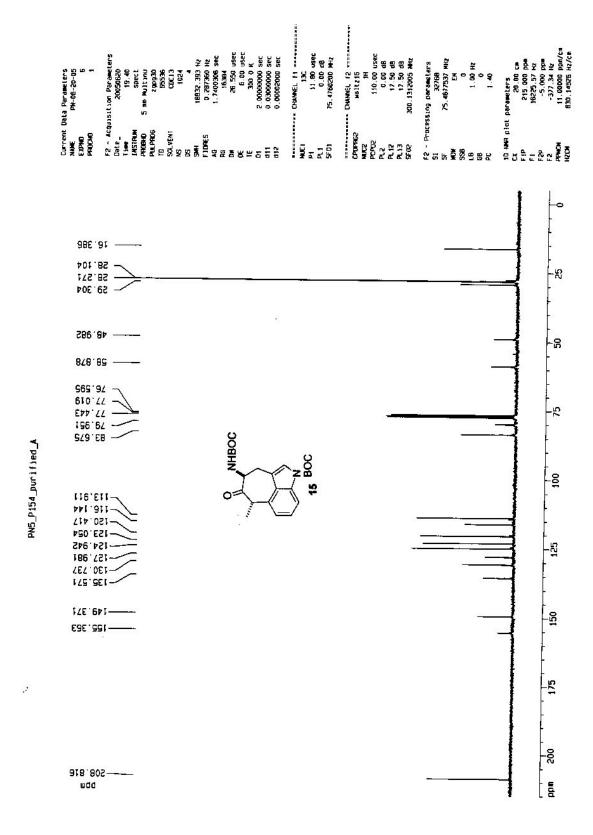


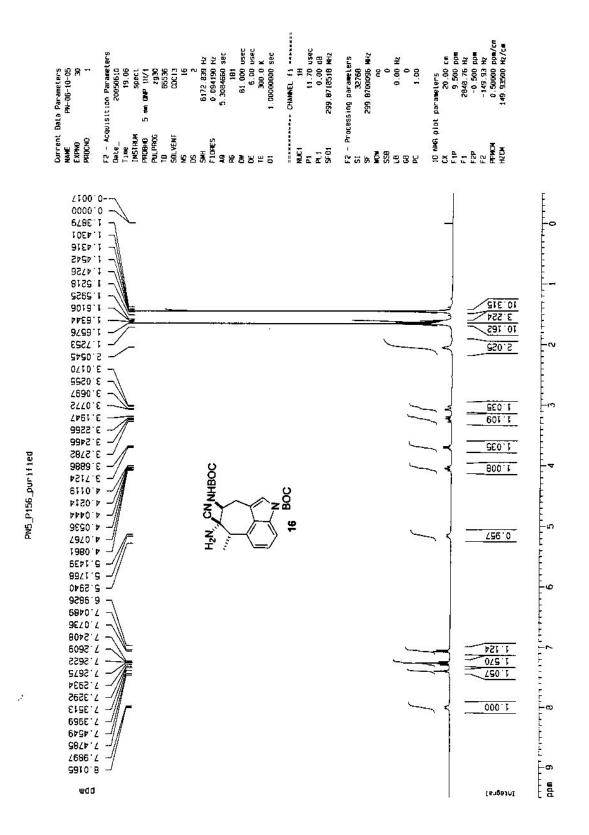


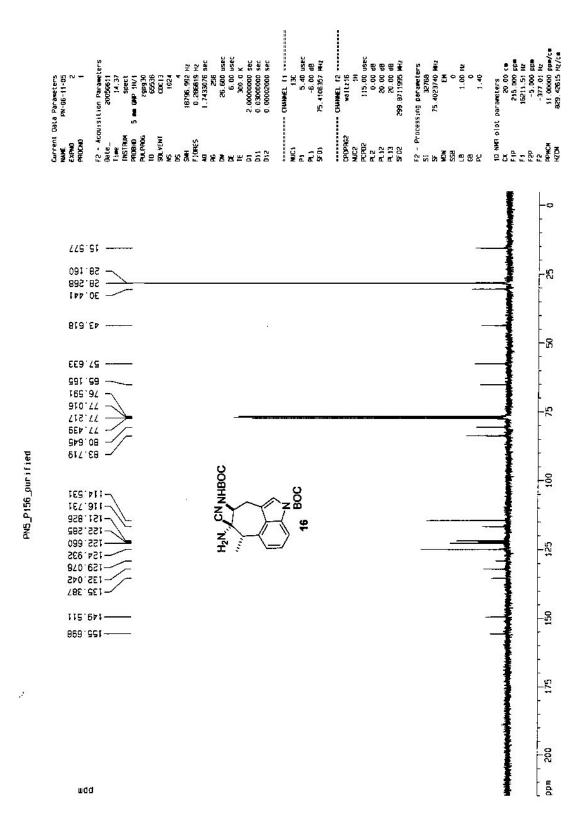


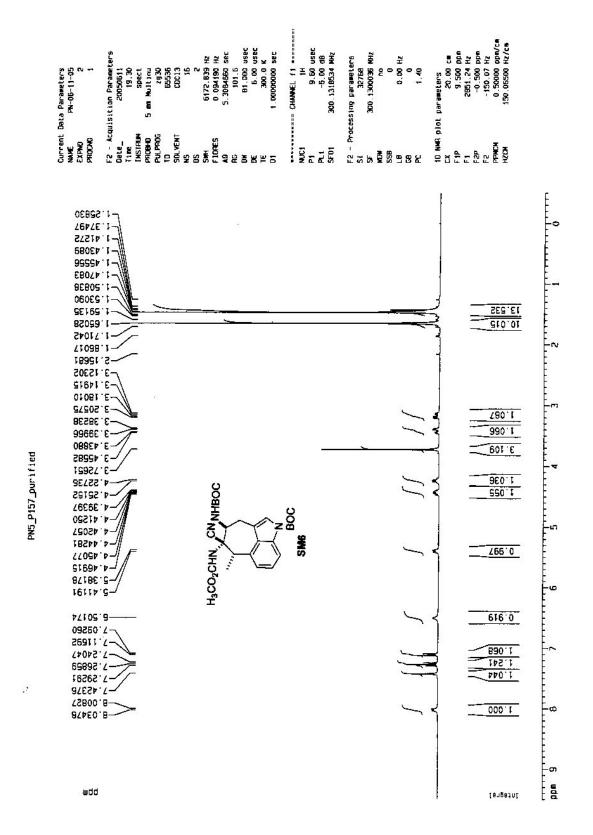


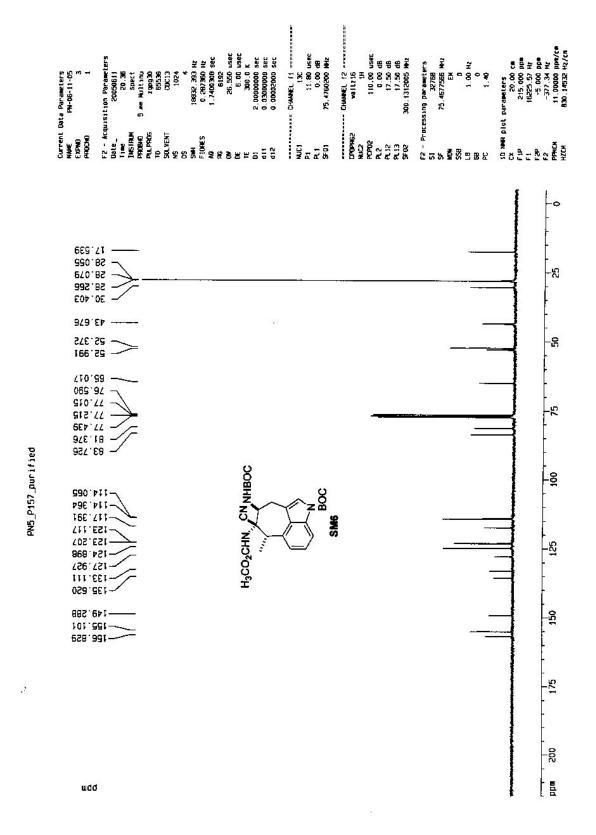


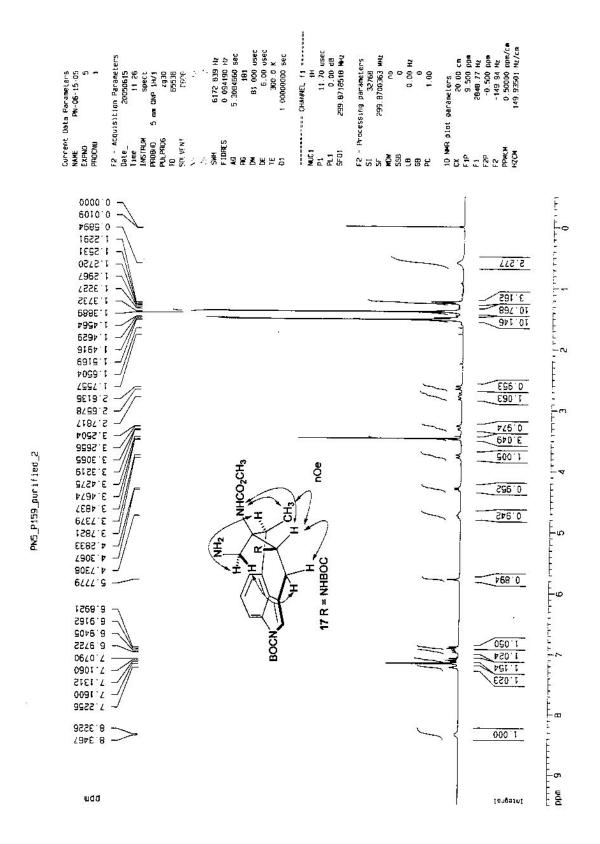


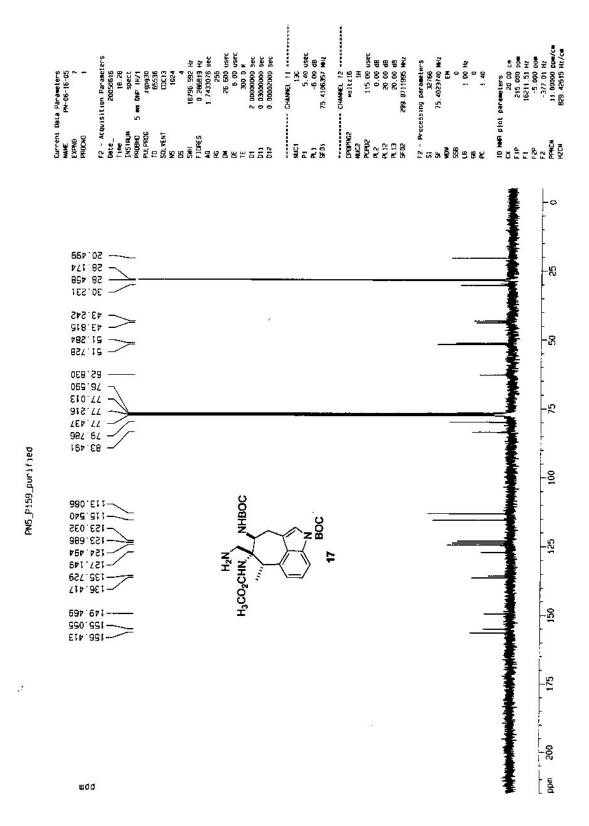


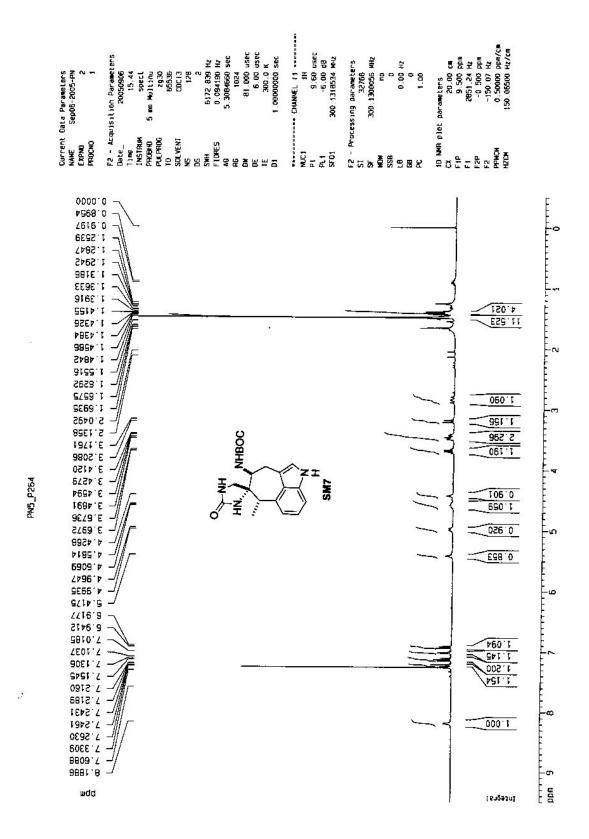


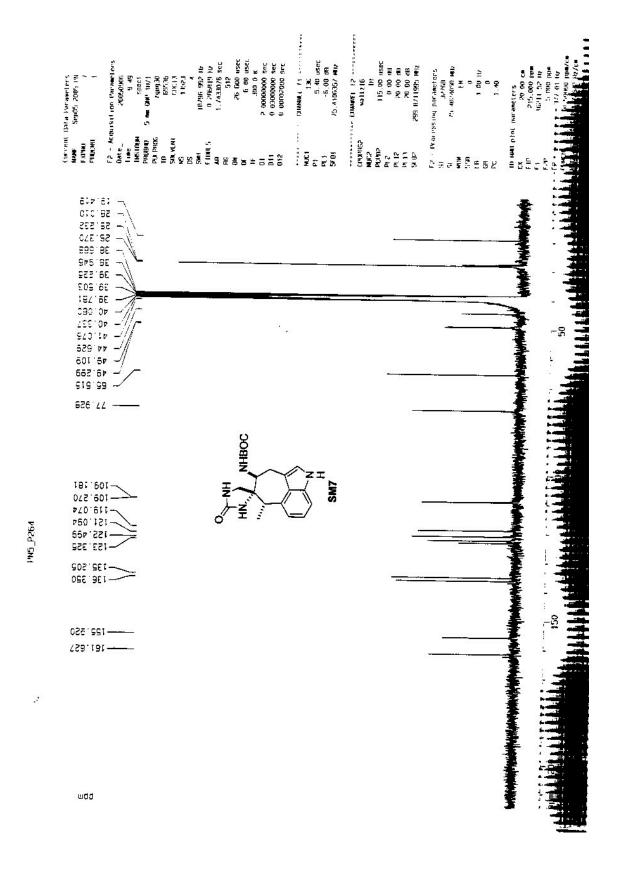


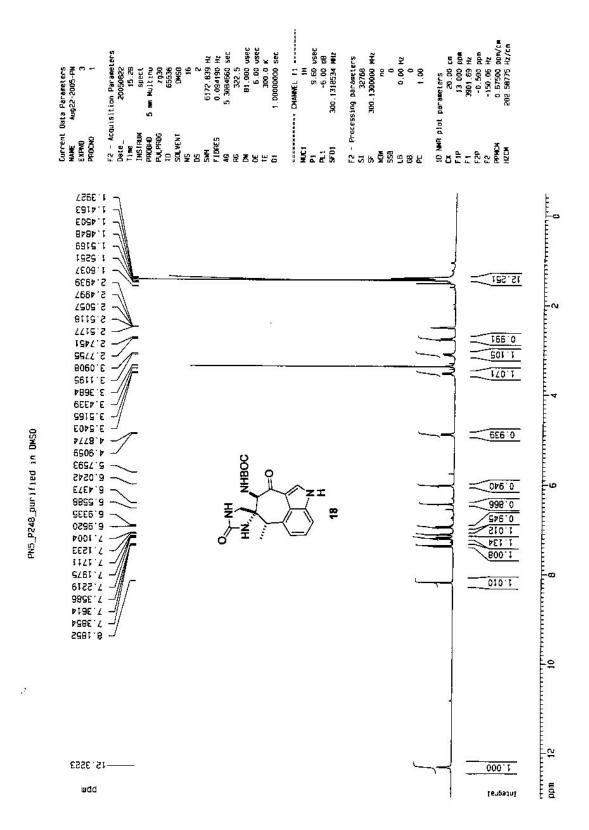


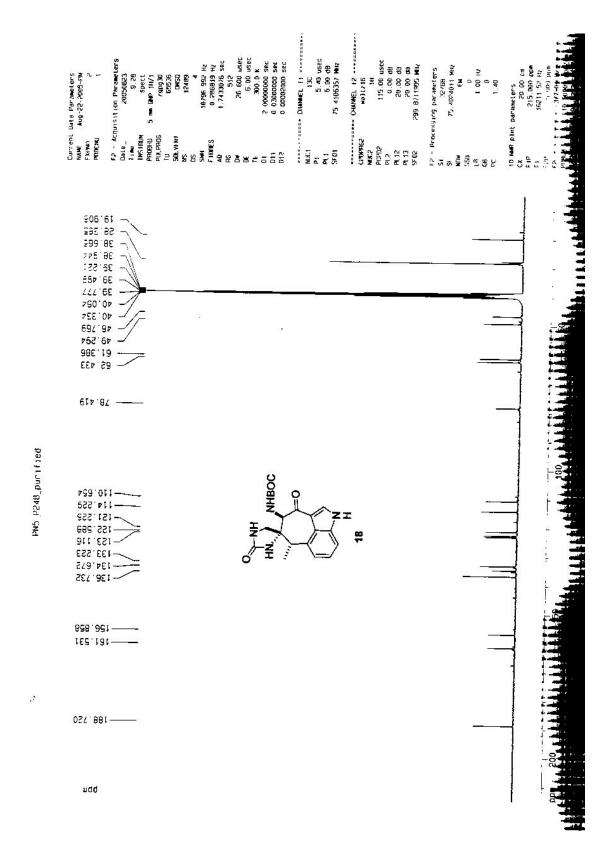












10000-step directed Monte Carlo search about all rotatable bonds. Each minima shown was found over 450 times.

