

Supporting Information

**^{18}F -Labelling of Nitrogen-containing Aryl Boronates – Anti-cancer Drug
Melflufen as a Case Study**

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1. General Information

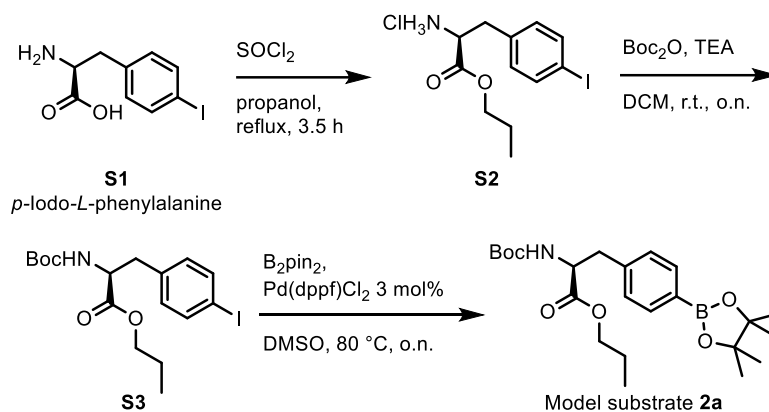
Reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification, unless otherwise stated. Solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and dried through a Vacuum Atmospheres Solvent Purifier system. Radiofluorinations were carried out in dry conical glass vials. For all radiofluorinations solvents, such as dry DMF and dry MeCN were purchased from commercial suppliers and stored in an N₂-filled glovebox. For column chromatography silica gel (40-63 μm) from VWR Chemicals was used. TLC was performed with a suitable solvent system on aluminium sheets 60 F254 pre-coated with silica gel from Merck KGaA. UV active components were visualized by UV fluorescence using a UV-lamp (254 nm).

¹H-, ¹³C- and ¹⁹F-NMR spectra were recorded by a spectrometer of the type DPX-400 (400 MHz) by Bruker. The spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ (internal standard: 7.26 ppm, ¹H; 77.16 ppm, ¹³C), DMSO-*d*₆ (internal standard: 2.50 ppm, ¹H; 39.52 ppm, ¹³C) or CD₃OD (internal standard: 3.31 ppm, ¹H; 49.00 ppm, ¹³C). ¹H-NMR spectra are represented as follows: chemical shift δ in ppm (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qi = quintet, sext = sextet, m = multiplet), coupling constant *J* in Hz and integrals. ¹³C-NMR spectra are represented as follows: chemical shift δ in ppm. High resolution mass data (HRMS) were obtained by using a MicrOTOF® by Bruker with Electron Spray Ionisation (ESI) technique. Specific optical rotation α was measured with an Autopol IV® polarimeter by Rudolph Research Analytical (*l* = 1 dm). The unit of α is °·ml·(g·dm)⁻¹ and the unit of the concentration (*c*) is g/100 ml. The general information of the radiochemical studies can be found in [section 5.1](#).

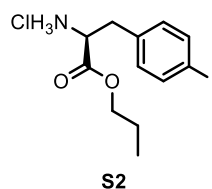
2. Synthesis and Characterisation of Pinacol Boronates

2.1. Synthesis of Model Substrate 2a

The model substrate for the benchmark reaction was synthesised from **S1** according to the scheme below.



Propyl-(*S*)-2-amino-3-(4-iodophenyl)propanoate hydrochloride **S2**



Thionyl chloride (300 μl , 4.1 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added dropwise to a stirred, ice-cold suspension of (*S*)-Iodo-phenylalanine (**S1**) (800.0 mg, 2.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in absolute ⁿpropanol (12 ml). Afterwards the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 3.5 h. After evaporation of the solvent the propylester **S2** could be obtained as a white solid (1.02 g, 2.8 mmol, quant.) without further purification.

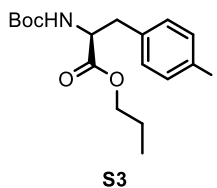
¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20-4.10 (m, 2H), 3.22-3.11 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.59 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CD_3OD): δ = 170.0, 139.4, 135.2, 132.5, 94.1, 69.2, 54.9, 37.1, 22.8, 10.5.

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{INO}_2\text{Na}^+$: 356.0118, found: 356.0114.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{26}$: +57.20 (c = 0.25, CHCl_3).

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-iodophenyl)propanoate **S3**



Boc-anhydride (367 μ l, 1.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and triethylamine (560 μ l, 4.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to a solution of hydrochloride salt **S2** (500.0 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (2.7 ml, 0.5 M) at r.t. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at r.t. and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified by silica-gel chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 9:1) yielding Boc-protected amine **S3** as a viscous oil (570.0 mg, 1.3 mmol, 97%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57-4.52 (m, 1H), 4.10-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.09-2.96 (m, 2H), 1.62 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

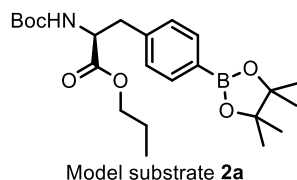
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.8, 155.1, 137.7, 136.0, 131.5, 92.6, 80.1, 67.2, 54.4, 38.1, 28.4, 22.0, 10.5.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₁₇H₂₄INO₄Na⁺: 456.0642, found: 456.0642.

[α]_D²⁸: +33.2 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 99.0-99.6 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate - Model Substrate **2a**



Synthesis of **2a** from **S3** is based on the procedure by Weil and co-workers.¹ A round bottom flask was charged with iodoarene **S3** (300.0 mg, 0.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (15.2 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), B₂pin₂ (229.0 mg, 0.9 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and KOAc (204.0 mg, 2.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and degassed (N₂, 3x). After addition of dry degassed DMSO (7 ml) the solution was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h under N₂. Then, DCM and water were added to the black reaction mixture. After phase separation the water phase was extracted with DCM (x3). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 9:1) yielded the desired pinacol boronate **2a** as a colourless viscous oil (218.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, 73 %).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59-4.55 (m, 1H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.16-3.06 (m, 2H), 1.62 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.34 (s, 12H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

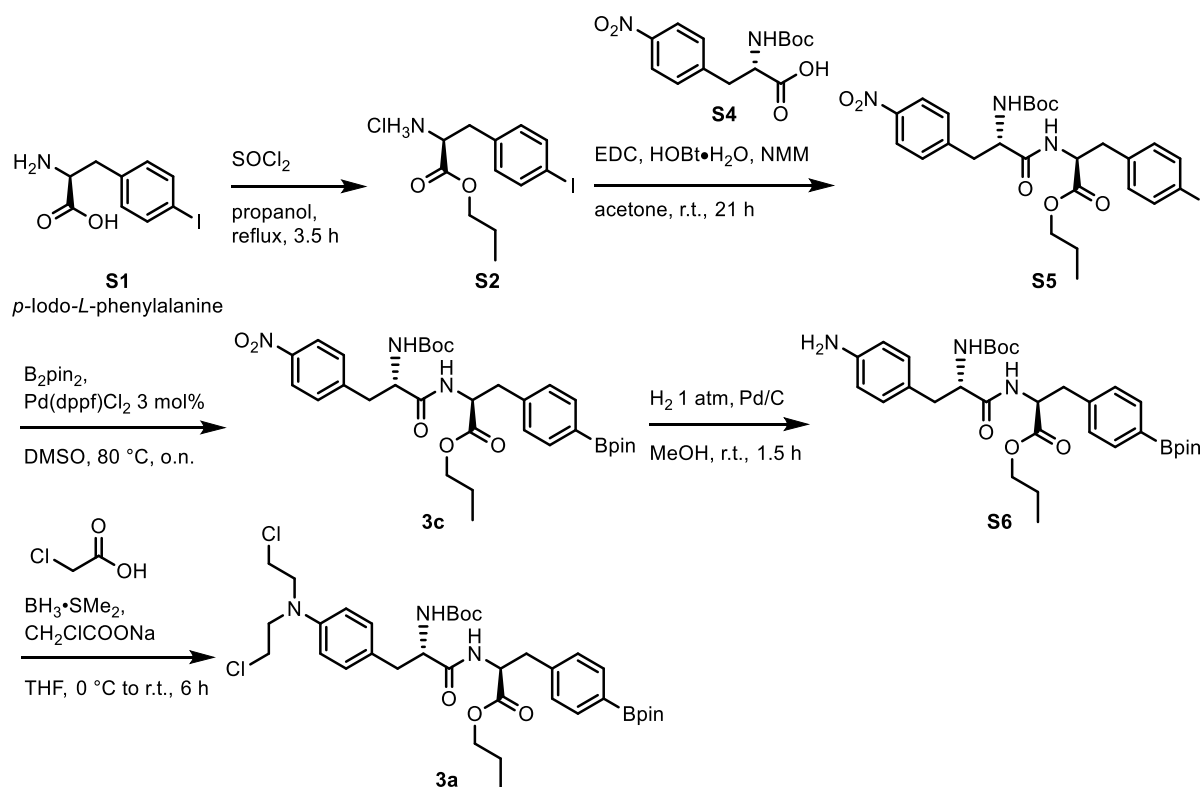
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 172.0, 155.2, 139.5, 135.1, 128.9, 83.9, 80.0, 67.1, 54.5, 38.6, 28.5, 25.0, 22.0, 10.5.

HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$, calcd for $C_{23}H_{36}BNO_6Na^+$: 456.2532, found: 456.2550.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{28}$: +25.2 ($c = 0.25$, $CHCl_3$).

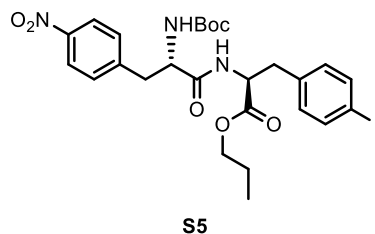
2.2. Synthesis of Propyl Melflufen Boronate Analogues 3

The melflufen pinacol boronate analogues **3** were synthesised according to the scheme shown down below. The synthesis of **S2** from **S1** is described in [section 2.1](#).



2.2.1. Synthesis of Propyl Melflufen Boronate Analogue 3a and 3c

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-iodophenyl)propanoate **S5**



Synthesis of **S5** from **S2** is based on the procedure published by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask charged with acetone (7 ml) was added *L*-Boc-4-nitrophenylalanine **S4** (600.0 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), *N*-methylmorpholine (920 μ l, 6.8 mmol, 3.5 equiv.), hydrochloride salt **S2** (730.4 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.02 equiv.), HOBT·H₂O (29.0 mg, 0.7 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), and EDC·HCl (370 μ l, 2.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). The resulting suspension

was stirred at r.t. for 21 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and replaced by EtOAc and water. Phases were allowed to separate after stirring for 5 min. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NaHCO₃ solution (sat.), NH₄Cl solution (sat.), and brine. Purification by silica gel chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the dipeptide **S5** as a white solid (1050.0 mg, 1.7 mmol, 87%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.51-4.46 (m, 1H), 4.28-4.22 (m, 1H), 3.99-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.03-2.79 (m, 4H), 1.50 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (s, 9H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

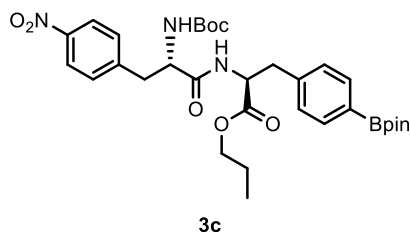
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 171.3, 171.1, 155.1, 146.5, 146.2, 137.0, 136.8, 131.6, 130.5, 123.1, 92.5, 78.1, 66.1, 55.0, 53.3, 37.3, 36.1, 28.0, 21.4, 10.1.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₆H₃₂IN₃O₇Na⁺: 648.1177, found: 648.1162.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +14.8 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 169.0-171.0 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **3c**



Synthesis of **3c** from **S5** is based on the procedure published by Weil and co-workers.¹ A round bottom flask was stocked with Iodoarene **S5** (1050.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (36.9 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), B₂pin₂ (554.2 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and KOAc (494.3 mg, 5.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and degassed (N₂, 3x). After addition of dry degassed DMSO (17 ml) the solution was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h under one atmosphere of N₂. Then, DCM and water were added to the black reaction mixture. After phase separation the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were dried through Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 4:1) yielded the desired pinacol boronate **3c** as a white solid (862.0 mg, 1.4 mmol, 82%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.81-4.76 (m, 1H), 4.36 (m_c, 1H), 4.09-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.23-3.05 (m, 4H), 1.62 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.33 (s, 12H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

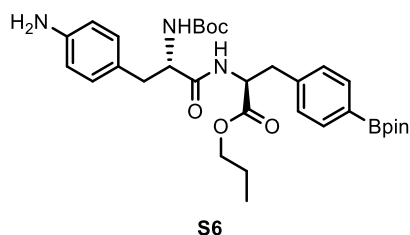
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.0, 170.1, 155.3, 147.2, 144.5, 138.8, 135.2, 131.0, 130.4, 128.8, 123.9, 84.0, 80.8, 67.5, 55.3, 53.3, 38.3, 38.2, 28.4, 25.0, 22.0, 10.4.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₂H₄₄BN₃O₉Na⁺: 648.3068, found: 648.3095.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +13.2 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 154.5-157.8 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-3-(4-aminophenyl)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **S6**



Synthesis of **S6** from **3c** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² A round bottom flask containing a solution of nitro compound **3c** (850.0 mg, 1.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and Pd/C (10% Pd loaded on C, 55% moist; 165.5 mg, 0.07 mmol, 5 mol%) in MeOH (27 ml) was equipped with a H₂ balloon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at r.t. while H₂ passed through it. Then, the suspension was filtered through a plug of Celite®. Removal of the solvent yielded the amine **S6** without further purification as a white solid (805.0 mg, 1.4 mmol, quant.).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.20 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.51-4.46 (m, 1H), 4.06-4.02 (m, 1H), 3.99-3.91 (m, 2H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.50 (m, 1H), 1.50 (sext, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.27 (s, 12H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

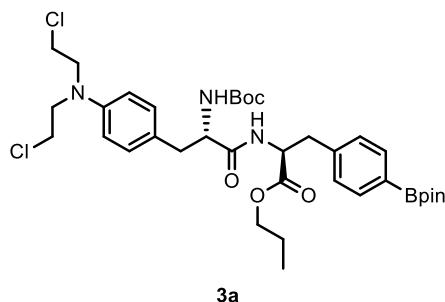
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 172.0, 171.2, 155.0, 146.8, 140.5, 134.4, 129.5, 128.7, 124.8, 113.6, 83.5, 77.9, 66.0, 55.9, 53.3, 36.9, 36.6, 28.1, 24.6, 21.4, 10.2.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₂H₄₆BN₃O₇Na⁺: 618.3327, found: 618.3341.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +28.4 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 66.5-70.5 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-3-(4-(bis(2-chloroethyl)amino)phenyl)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **3a**



Synthesis of **3a** from **S6** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (4.2 ml) was added amine **S6** (500.0 mg, 0.84 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C monochloroacetic acid (2.06 g, 21.8 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium monochloroacetate (978 mg, 8.4 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added portion wise after each other. Borane dimethylsulfide (1.1 ml, 10.9 mmol, 13.0 equiv.) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at r.t. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was cooled to

0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the alkylator **3a** as a white solid (471.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 78%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.81-4.76 (m, 1H), 4.30 (s, 1H), 4.06-3.94 (m, 2H), 3.71-3.67 (m, 4H), 3.61-3.58 (m, 4H), 3.12-3.03 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.90 (m, 2H), 1.60 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.33 (s, 12H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.0, 171.0, 155.4, 145.2, 139.1, 135.1, 130.9, 128.8, 125.4, 112.4, 83.9, 80.4, 67.2, 55.8, 53.6, 53.3, 40.5, 38.2, 37.2, 28.4, 25.0, 21.9, 10.5.

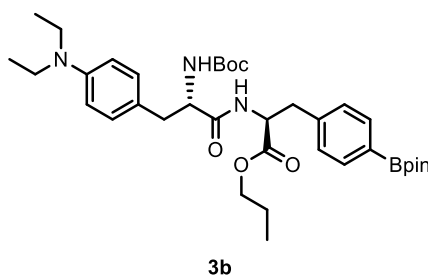
HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₆H₅₂BCl₂N₃O₇Na⁺: 742.3174, found: 742.3168.

[α]_D²⁸₅₈₉: +30.8 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 92.5-93.5 °C.

2.2.2. Synthesis of Propyl Meflufen Boronate Analogue **3b**

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-(diethylamino)phenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **3b**



Synthesis of **3b** from **S6** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (840 μl) was added amine **S6** (100.0 mg, 0.17 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C acetic acid (262.2 g, 4.4 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium acetate (137.8 mg, 1.7 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added portion wise after each other. Borane dimethylsulfide (220 μl, 2.2 mmol, 13.0 equiv.) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at r.t. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent purification by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the tertiary amine **3b** as a white solid (80.0 mg, 0.12 mmol, 73%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.79-4.75 (m, 1H), 4.27 (s, 1H), 4.05-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.32 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.10-2.87 (m, 4H), 1.58 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.33 (s, 12H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 171.2, 171.0, 155.4, 147.0, 139.2, 135.1, 130.4, 128.8, 122.7, 112.2, 83.8, 80.2, 67.1, 55.9, 53.4, 44.4, 38.3, 37.3, 28.4, 25.0, 21.9, 12.7, 10.4$.

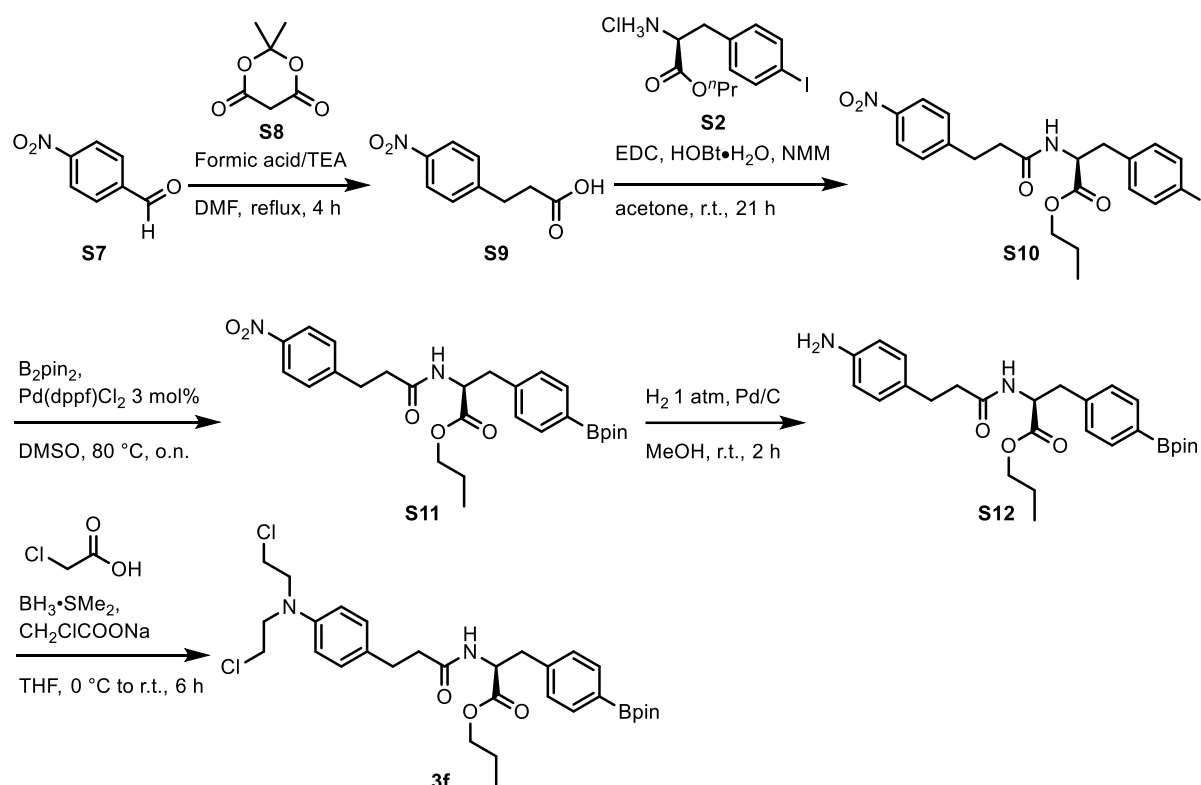
HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{54}\text{BN}_3\text{O}_7\text{H}^+$: 652.4134, found: 652.4125.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{27}$: +26.80 ($c = 0.25, \text{CHCl}_3$).

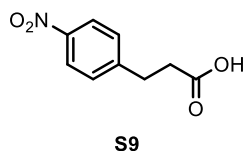
Melting point: 63.5-65.5 °C.

2.2.3. Synthesis of Propyl Melflufen Boronate Analogue **3f**

The melflufen pinacol boronate analogue **3f** was synthesised from **S7** according to the scheme shown down below.



3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoic acid **S9**



Synthesis of **S9** from **S7** is based on the procedure by Mykhailiuk and co-workers.³ TEA (515 μl , 3.7 mmol, 1.4 equiv.) was added dropwise to stirred formic acid (396 μl , 9.3 mmol, 3.5 equiv.) at 0 °C. To the resulting reaction mixture DMF (1 ml), Meldrum's acid **S8** (381.5 mg, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and *p*-nitro benzaldehyde **S7** (400.0 mg, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were added. This reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 4 h. The residue resulted after removal of the solvent was dissolved in water. The solution was acidified with HCl (conc.) to pH = 2.

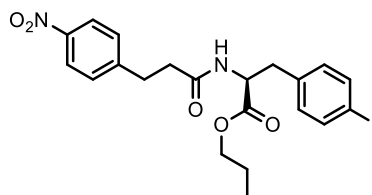
The resulted precipitate was filtered off, washed with ice-cold EtOAc and dried under vacuum. The carboxylic acid **S9** was obtained as a brownish solid (283.0g, 1.5 mmol, 55%) and used without further purification.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ = 8.16 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD): δ = 176.0, 150.4, 148.0, 130.6, 124.5, 35.8, 31.7.

The analytical data is in accordance to the literature.³

Propyl-(S)-3-(4-iodophenyl)-2-(3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)propanoate **S10**



S10

Synthesis of **S10** from **S9** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask charged with acetone (4 ml) was added carboxylic acid **S9** (200.0 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), N-methylmorpholine (390 μ l, 3.6 mmol, 3.5 equiv.), hydrochloride salt **S2** (387.1 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.02 equiv.), HOBT·H₂O (15.3 mg, 0.1 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), and EDC-HCl (200 μ l, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). The resulting suspension was stirred at r.t. for 21 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and replaced by EtOAc and water. The phases were allowed to separate after stirring for 5 min. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NaHCO₃ solution (sat.), NH₄Cl solution (sat.), and brine. Purification by silical gel column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the dipeptide **S10** as a white solid (180.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 46%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.46-4.41 (m, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.97-2.79 (m, 4H), 2.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.49 (sext, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

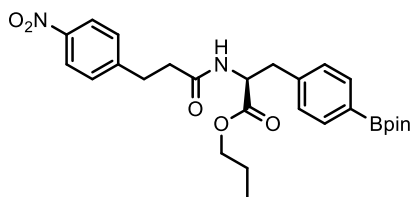
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 171.4, 171.0, 149.6, 145.9, 137.0, 136.9, 131.5, 129.5, 123.3, 92.4, 66.0, 53.3, 36.2, 35.5, 30.5, 21.4, 10.1.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₁H₂₃IN₂O₇Na⁺: 533.0544, found: 533.0555.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +52.8 (c = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 150.2-150.9 °C.

Propyl-(S)-2-(3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **S11**



S11

Synthesis of **S11** from **S10** is based on the procedure by Weil and co-workers.¹ A round bottom flask was charged with iodoarene **S10** (250.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (10.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), B₂pin₂ (161.7 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and KOAc (144.2 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and degassed (N₂, 3x). After addition of dry degassed DMSO (4.9 ml) the solution was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h under one atmosphere of N₂. After completion DCM and water were added to the black reaction mixture. After phase separation the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were dried through Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (n-pentane:EtOAc = 4:1) yielded the desired pinacol boronate **S11** as a colourless oil (210.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 84%).

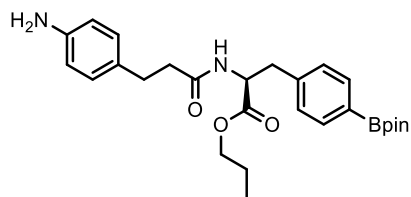
¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.13 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (dt, J = 7.8, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.11-4.01 (m, 2H), 3.16-3.07 (m, 2H), 3.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.56-2.44 (m, 2H), 1.64 (sext, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 12H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.6, 170.7, 148.6, 146.8, 139.0, 135.2, 129.4, 128.8, 123.9, 84.8, 67.4, 53.1, 38.1, 37.2, 31.1, 25.0, 22.0, 10.5.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₇H₃₅BN₂O₇Na⁺: 533.2434, found: 533.2437.

[α]_D²⁸: +26.0 (c = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Propyl-(S)-2-(3-(4-aminophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **S12**



S12

Synthesis of **S12** from **S11** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² A round bottom flask containing a solution of nitro compound **S11** (180.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and Pd/C (10% Pd loaded on C, 55% moist; 47.3 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%) in MeOH (7 ml) was equipped with a H₂ balloon. The reaction was stirred for 1.5 h at r.t. while H₂ passed through the reaction mixture. Then, the suspension was filtered through a plug of Celite®. Removal of the solvent yielded the amine **S12** without further purification as a white solid (169 mg, 0.4 mmol, quant.).

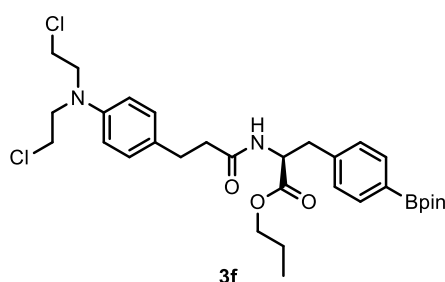
¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 4.48-4.42 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.23 (m, 2H), 1.50 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (s, 12H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 171.8, 171.6, 146.5, 140.8, 134.4, 134.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 113.9, 83.6, 65.9, 53.5, 37.3, 37.0, 30.3, 24.7, 21.4, 10.2.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₇H₃₇BN₂O₅Na⁺: 503.2692, found: 503.2697.

[α]₅₈₉²⁷: +8.80 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Propyl-(*S*)-2-(3-(4-(bis(2-chloroethyl)amino)phenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate **3f**



Synthesis of **3f** from **S12** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (1.2 ml) was added amine **S12** (120.0 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C monochloroacetic acid (613.7 mg, 6.5 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium monochloroacetate (291.0 mg, 2.5 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added portion wise after each other. Borane dimethylsulfide (325 μ l, 10.9 mmol, 13.0 equiv.) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at r.t. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent purification by silica gel column chromatography (ⁿpentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the alkylator **3f** as a white solid (115.0 mg, 0.19 mmol, 76%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.88 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.68 (m, 4H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 4H), 3.09 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.92-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.35 (m, 2H), 1.63 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 12H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.7, 171.6, 144.7, 139.2, 135.1, 129.8, 128.9, 112.3, 83.9, 67.3, 53.7, 53.1, 40.6, 38.7, 38.1, 30.5, 25.0, 22.0, 10.5.

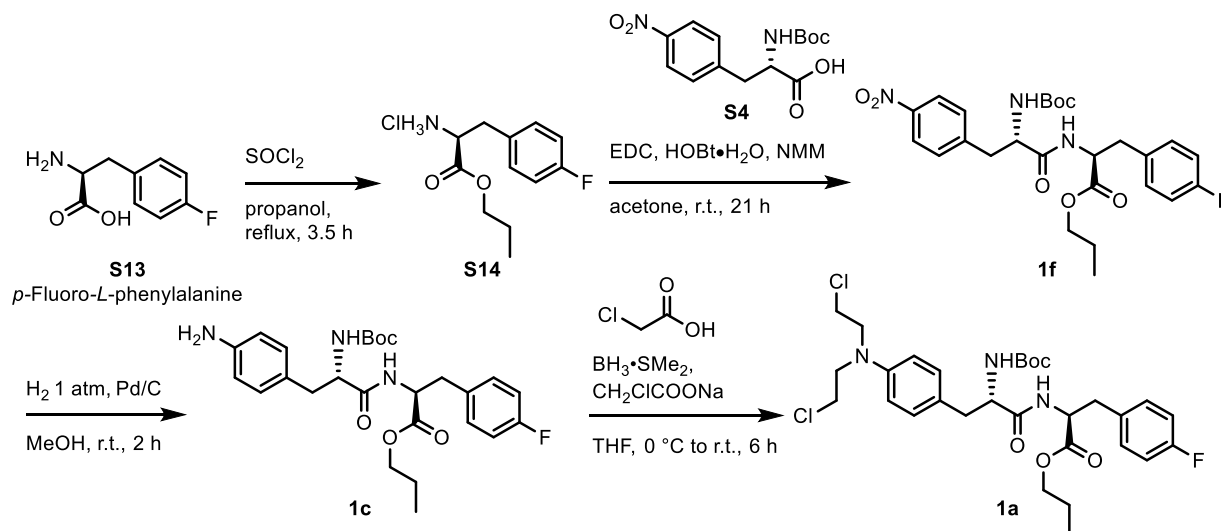
HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₁H₄₃BCl₂N₂O₅Na⁺: 627.2540, found: 627.2557.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +56.00 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 98.0-99.0 °C.

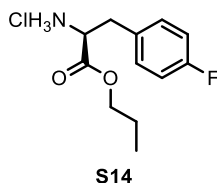
3. Synthesis and Characterisation of Propyl Meflufen Analogues 1

The meflufen pinacol boronate analogues were synthesised according to the scheme shown down below.



3.1. Synthesis of Propyl Meflufen Analogues 1a, 1c and 1f

Propyl-(*S*)-2-amino-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate hydrochloride **S14**



Thionyl chloride (600 μ l, 8.2 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added dropwise to a stirred, ice-cold suspension of (*S*)-Fluoro-phenylalanine **S13** (1.0 g, 5.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in absolute *n*-propanol (24 ml). Afterwards the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 3.5 h. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure and no further purification the propyl ester **S14** could be obtained as a white solid (1.4 g, 5.5 mmol, quant.).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.52 (s, 3H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 4.28 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.55-1.46 (m, 2H), 0.79 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

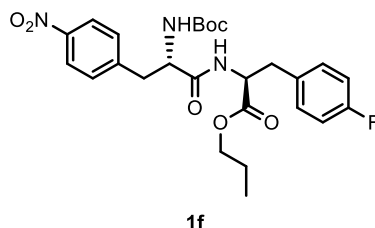
¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 169.0, 161.5 (d, *J* = 242.8 Hz), 131.4 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 130.8 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 115.35 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz), 67.1, 53.1, 35.2, 21.2, 10.1.

¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = -115.60.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₁₂H₁₆FNO₂Na⁺: 248.1057, found: 248.1062.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +55.60 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **1f**



Synthesis of **1f** from **54** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask charged with acetone (7 ml) was added carboxylic acid **54** (600.0 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), N-methylmorpholine (745 μ l, 6.8 mmol, 3.5 equiv.), hydrochloride salt **514** (517.2 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.02 equiv.), HOBt·H₂O (28.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), and EDC·HCl (200 μ l, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). The resulting suspension was stirred at r.t. for 21 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and replaced by EtOAc and water. Phases were allowed to separate after stirring for 5 min. The water phase was extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NaHCO₃ solution (sat.), NH₄Cl solution (sat.), and brine. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the dipeptide **1f** as a white solid (807.5 mg, 1.6 mmol, 81%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.05-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.38-4.33 (m, 1H), 4.09-3.97 (m, 2H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.11-2.99 (m, 3H), 1.60 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.0, 170.1, 162.2 (d, *J* = 245.7 Hz), 155.3, 147.2, 144.4, 131.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 130.9 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 130.4, 123.9, 115.6 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 80.8, 67.5, 55.5, 53.4, 38.3, 37.4, 28.4, 22.0, 10.4.

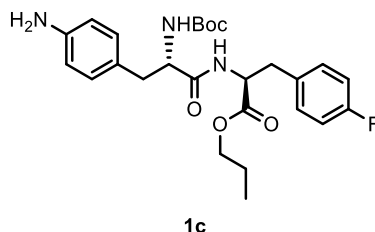
¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -116.57.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₆H₃₂FN₃O₇Na⁺: 540.2116, found: 540.2112.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +17.60 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 157.5-158.5 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-3-(4-aminophenyl)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **1c**



Synthesis of **1c** from **1f** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² A round bottom flask containing a solution of nitro compound **1f** (300.0 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and Pd/C (10% Pd loaded on C, 55% moist; 68.6 mg, 0.03 mmol, 5 mol%) in MeOH (12 ml) was charged with a H₂ balloon. The reaction was stirred for

1.5 h at r.t. while H₂ passed through the reaction mixture. Then, the suspension was filtered through a plug of Celite®. Removal of the solvent yielded the amine **1c** without further purification as a white solid (281.0 mg, 0.6 mmol, quant.).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.46 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.07-4.01 (m, 1H), 3.99-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.05-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.46 (m, 1H, under solvent signal), 1.51 (sext, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 172.1, 171.3, 161.1 (d, *J* = 242.0 Hz), 155.1, 146.9, 133.2 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 129.5, 124.8, 114.9 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 113.6, 77.9, 66.0, 55.9, 53.5, 36.7, 35.9, 28.1, 21.4, 10.2.

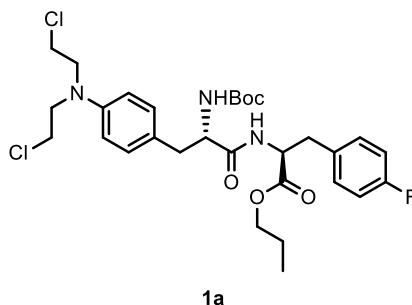
¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = -116.65.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₆H₃₄FN₃O₅Na⁺: 510.2375, found: 510.2392.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +40.40 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 96.7-98.0 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-3-(4-(bis(2-chloroethyl)amino)phenyl)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **1a**



Synthesis of **1a** from **1c** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (5.1 ml) was added amine **1c** (500.0 mg, 1.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C monochloroacetic acid (2.52 g, 26.7 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium monochloroacetate (1.2 g, 10.3 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added portion wise after each other. Borane dimethylsulfide (1.3 ml, 13.3 mmol, 13.0 equiv.) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at r.t. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent silica gel column chromatography (n-pentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the alkylator **1a** as a white solid (475.3 mg, 0.78 mmol, 76%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.00-6.90 (m, 4H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.97-4.88 (m, 1H), 4.78-4.74 (m, 1H), 4.31-4.22 (m, 1H), 4.08-3.95 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.68 (m, 4H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 4H), 3.09-2.99 (m, 2H), 2.96-2.91 (m, 2H), 1.60 (sext, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.1, 171.1, 162.1 (d, J = 245.3 Hz), 155.4, 145.2, 131.7 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 131.0 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 130.8, 125.4, 115.5 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 112.4, 80.4, 67.3, 56.0, 53.6, 53.4, 40.6, 37.4, 37.3, 28.4, 22.0, 10.4.

¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.69.

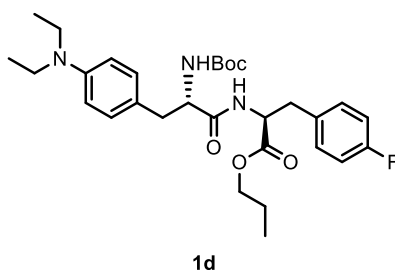
HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₀H₄₀Cl₂FN₃O₅Na⁺: 634.2221, found: 634.2243.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +27.60 (c = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 138.0-138.5 °C.

3.2. Synthesis of Propyl Melflufen Analogue **1d**

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-(diethylamino)phenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **1d**



Synthesis of **1d** from **1c** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (3 ml) was added amine **1c** (100.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C acetic acid (320.2 g, 5.3 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium acetate (168.3 mg, 2.1 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added portion wise after each other. Borane dimethylsulfide (267 μ l, 2.7 mmol, 13.0 equiv.) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at r.t. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent silica gel column chromatography (ⁿpentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the tertiary amine **1d** as a white solid (93.1 mg, 0.17 mmol, 84%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.02 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.96-6.87 (m, 4H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (bs, 1H), 4.78-4.74 (m, 1H), 4.27 (s, 1H), 4.06-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.31 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 3.07-2.97 (m, 3H), 2.87 (dd, J = 14.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (sext, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.3, 171.0, 162.0 (d, J = 245.1 Hz), 155.5, 147.0, 131.7 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 130.9 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 130.4, 122.6, 115.4 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 112.1, 80.2, 67.1, 56.0, 53.5, 44.4, 37.4, 37.2, 28.4, 21.9, 12.7, 10.4.

¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.89.

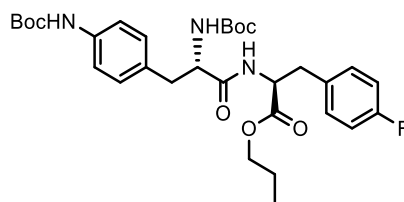
HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₃₀H₄₂FN₃O₅Na⁺: 566.3001, found: 566.2996.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{27}$: +46.20 ($c = 0.25$, CHCl_3).

Melting point: 117.0-117.3 °C.

3.3. Synthesis of Additive Propyl Meflufen Analogue 1e

Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)phenyl) propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **1e**



1e

To a solution of amine **1c** (70.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (287 μl) were added Boc-anhydride (37 μl , 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and TEA (60 μl , 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) at r.t. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at r.t. After completion the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (n pentane:EtOAc = 9:1, dry loaded) yielded the Boc-protected amine **1e** as a white solid (83.5 mg, 0.14 mmol, 99%).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.27$ (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.35 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.94 (bs, 1H), 4.73 (dd, $J = 13.3, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (bs, 1H), 4.06-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.06-2.92 (m, 4H), 1.58 (sext, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 171.0, 170.9, 162.1$ (d, $J = 245.3$ Hz), 155.4, 152.8, 137.5, 131.6 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 131.0, 130.9 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 130.0, 118.8, 115.5 (d, $J = 21.3$ Hz), 80.7, 80.4, 67.3, 55.9, 53.5, 37.6, 37.4, 28.4, 28.4, 21.9, 10.4.

$^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -115.73$.

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{42}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_7\text{Na}^+$: 610.2899, found: 610.2897.

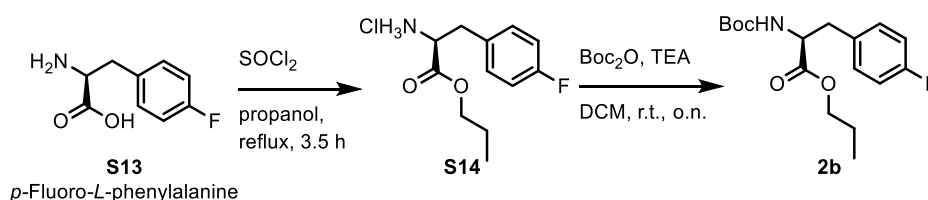
$[\alpha]_{589}^{26}$: +25.20 ($c = 0.25$, CHCl_3).

Melting point: 148.5-151.5 °C.

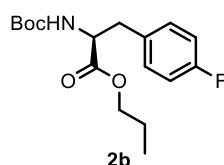
4. Synthesis and Characterisation of Fluorine-19 References

4.1. Synthesis of Fluorine-19 Reference **2b** for [¹⁸F]**2b**

The reference **2b** for ¹⁸F-**2b** reaction was synthesised from **S13** according to the scheme shown down below. The synthesis of **S14** is described in [section 3.1](#).



Propyl-(*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **2b**



Boc-anhydride (207 μ l, 0.9 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and triethylamine (320 μ l, 2.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to a solution of hydrochloride salt **S14** (200.0 mg, 0.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (1.5 ml, 0.5 M) at r.t. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at r.t. and concentrated under reduced pressure. Column chromatography (*n*-pentane:EtOAc = 9:1) yielded the Boc-protected amine **2b** as a viscous oil (210.0 mg, 0.6 mmol, 85%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.98 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.10-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.12-2.99 (m, 2H), 1.62 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 172.0, 162.1 (d, *J* = 245.1 Hz), 155.2, 132.0 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz), 80.1, 67.2, 54.6, 37.9, 28.4, 22.0, 10.5.

¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -116.00.

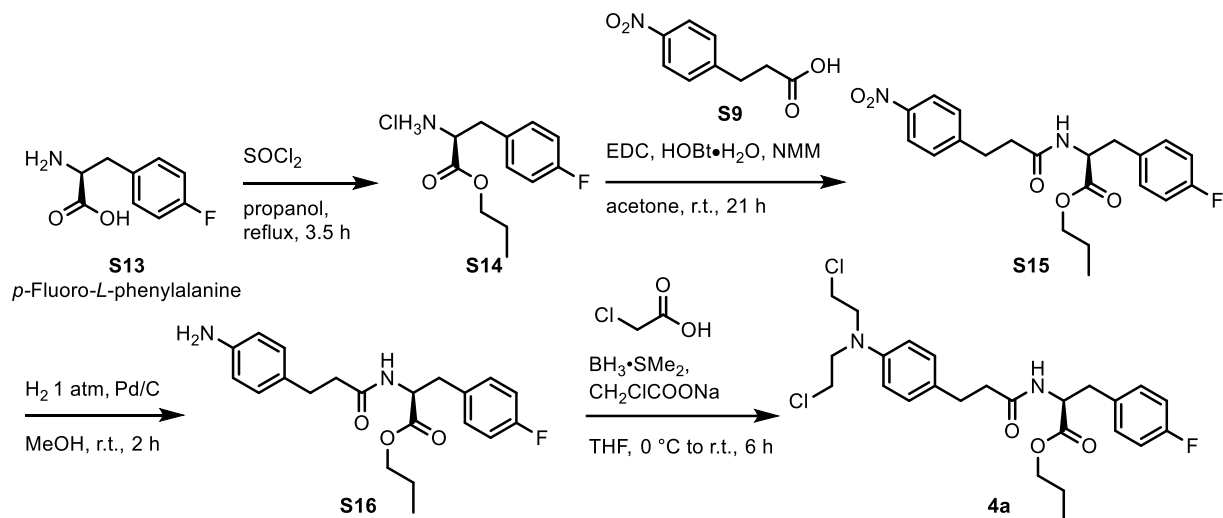
HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₁₇H₂₄FNO₄Na⁺: 348.1582, found: 348.1570.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +34.00 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

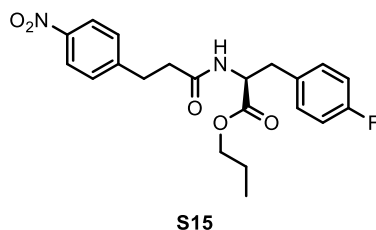
Melting point: 51.4-52.0 °C.

4.2. Synthesis of Fluorine-19 Reference 4a for [¹⁸F]4a

The fluorine-19 reference **4a** for radiotracer [¹⁸F]**4a** was synthesised from **S13** according to the scheme shown down below. The synthesis of **S14** and **S9** are described in [section 3.1](#) and [section 2.2.3](#), respectively.



Propyl-(S)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanamido)propanoate **S15**



Synthesis of **S9** from **S15** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask charged with acetone (5.7 ml) was added carboxylic acid **S9** (300.0 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), N-methylmorpholine (590 μl , 5.4 mmol, 3.5 equiv.), hydrochloride salt **S14** (411.1 mg, 1.6 mmol, 1.02 equiv.), HOBt·H₂O (23.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), and EDC·HCl (300 μl , 1.7 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). The resulting suspension was stirred at r.t. for 21 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and replaced by EtOAc and water. The phases were allowed to separate after stirring for 5 min. The water phase was extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NaHCO₃ solution (sat.), NH₄Cl solution (sat.), and brine. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (ⁿpentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the dipeptide **S15** as a white solid (455.7 mg, 1.1 mmol, 74%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.14 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 4H), 5.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (dt, J = 7.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.11-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.10-3.00 (m, 4H), 2.59-2.45 (m, 2H), 1.63 (sext, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.6, 170.6, 162.15 (d, J = 245.8 Hz), 148.6, 146.8, 131.6 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 130.8 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 123.9 115.5 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 67.5, 53.3, 37.4, 37.2, 31.1, 22.0, 10.4.

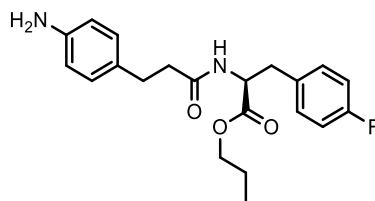
¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -116.58.

HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$, calcd for $C_{21}H_{23}FN_2O_5Na^+$: 425.1483, found: 425.1482.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{28}$: +60.80 ($c = 0.25$, $CHCl_3$).

Melting point: 87.0-87.7 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-(3-(4-aminophenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **S16**



S16

Synthesis of **S16** from **S15** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² A round bottom flask containing a solution of nitro compound **S15** (450.0 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and Pd/C (10% Pd loaded on C, 55% moist; 108.5 mg, 0.06 mmol, 5 mol%) in MeOH (22 ml) was equipped with a H₂ balloon. The reaction was stirred for 2.0 h at r.t. while H₂ passed through the reaction mixture. Then, the suspension was filtered through a plug of Celite®. Removal of the solvent yielded the amine **S16** without further purification as a white solid (405.0 mg, 1.1 mmol, 97%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): $\delta = 8.26$ (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 8.6, 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.44-4.39 (m, 1H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.00-2.84 (m, 2H), 2.57-2.53 (m, 2H), 2.27 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.51 (sext, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): $\delta = 171.7, 171.6, 161.1$ (d, $J = 242.0$ Hz), 146.6, 133.4 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 130.9 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 128.5, 128.0, 114.9 (d, $J = 21.1$ Hz), 113.9, 65.9, 53.6, 37.2, 35.9, 30.2, 21.4, 10.1.

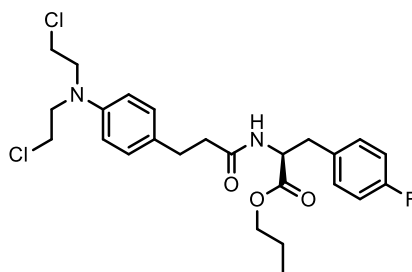
¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = -116.62$.

HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$, calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}FN_2O_3Na^+$: 395.1741, found: 395.1726.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{28}$: +62.00 ($c = 0.25$, $CHCl_3$).

Melting point: 101.0-101.6 °C.

Propyl-(*S*)-2-(3-(4-(bis(2-chloroethyl)amino)phenyl)propanamido)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate **4a**



4a

Synthesis of **4a** from **S16** is based on the procedure by Wennerberg and co-workers.² To a round bottom flask containing THF (3.5 ml) was added amine **S16** (405.0 mg, 1.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After decreasing the temperature to 0 °C monochloroacetic acid (2.67 g, 28.3 mmol, 26.0 equiv.) and sodium monochloroacetate (1.27 g, 10.9 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) were added in portions. Borane dimethylsulfide (1.4 ml, 14.1 mmol, 13.0 equiv.)

was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. After stirring for further 1 h at 0 °C the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at r.t. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, quenched by slow addition of NaHCO₃ solution (sat.) and EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C the phases were separated and the water phase was extracted with DCM (3x). The combined organic phases were washed with NH₄Cl solution (sat.) and brine. After removal of the solvent purification by silica gel column chromatography (ⁿpentane:EtOAc = 2:1, dry loaded) yielded the alkylator **4a** as a white solid (383.2 mg, 0.77 mmol, 71%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.11-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.68 (m, 4H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 4H), 3.09-3.01 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.37 (m, 2H), 1.63 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.8, 171.7, 162.1 (d, *J* = 245.2 Hz), 144.7, 131.7 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.9 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 129.9, 129.8, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 112.4, 67.3, 53.7, 53.2, 40.6, 38.6, 37.4, 30.5, 22.0, 10.5.

¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.69.

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺, calcd for C₂₅H₃₁Cl₂FN₂O₃Na⁺: 519.1588, found: 519.1596.

[α]₅₈₉²⁸: +54.80 (*c* = 0.25, CHCl₃).

Melting point: 72.0-72.9 °C.

5. Radiochemical Studies

5.1. General Information

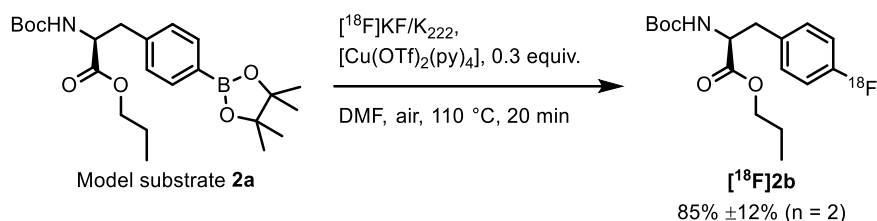
[¹⁸F]Fluoride was produced through bombardment of [¹⁸O]Oxygen-enriched water with protons by the ¹⁸O(p,n)¹⁸F nuclear reaction in a cyclotron (Scanditronix MC-17). [¹⁸F]Fluoride was trapped on an anion exchange cartridge (quaternary methyl ammonium, Sep-Pak[®] Accell Plus QMA Light by Waters) after preconditioning with a K₂CO₃ solution (10 ml, 0.5 M, aq.) and deionized water (10 ml). The radiofluorinated compounds were characterised by comparing the radio-HPLC signal with the UV-HPLC signal of an authentic ¹⁹F-reference, which was synthesised as described in sections [3](#) and [4](#). Radiochemical conversions (RCC) were determined from a small aliquot of the reaction mixture by analytical radio HPLC (rHPLC). The analytical radio HPLC was performed with an Agilent 1260 Infinity II with a UV-detector (λ = 254 nm) in series with a Flow-Count PMT radioactivity detector system by Eckert & Ziegler using a small aliquot (~10 μl) diluted in a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~500 μl). The analysis was performed using a C-18 reversed phase column (Phenomenex, Kinetex 2.6μ, 100 Å, 100x4.6 mm) and an eluent gradient system of ammonium formate (50 mM aq.)/MeCN (1.5 ml/min flow; linear increase 30% to 90% MeCN 0-10 min; isocratic 10-12 min; linear decrease 90% to 30% MeCN 12-13 min).

5.2. Preparation of [¹⁸F]KF/K₂₂₂

[¹⁸F]Fluoride was separated from [¹⁸O]oxygen-enriched water by trapping on a cartridge (quaternary methyl ammonium, Sep-Pak[®] Accell Plus QMA Light by Waters) and subsequently released as [¹⁸F]KF/K₂₂₂ using a 4:1 solution of MeCN:H₂O (3 mg K₂CO₃ and 15 mg K₂₂₂ per 1 mL of solution). 550 μL of the prepared solution was

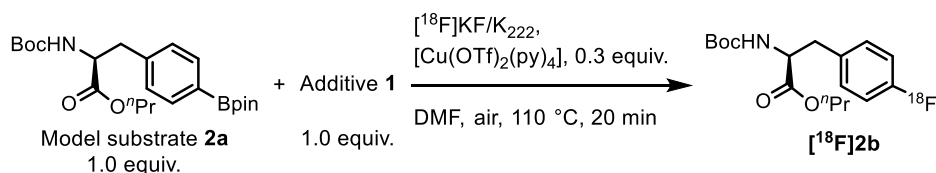
directly eluted through the cartridge into a 5 ml V-shaped vial. Azeotropic drying was performed in five cycles using 200 μL of MeCN in two-minute intervals at 120 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ under a flow of N_2 . After the last drying interval, the cylinder was allowed to warm up to r.t. for 5 min under a flow of N_2 . The obtained $[^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ was redissolved in dry MeCN (300 – 1000 μl).

5.3. Fluorine-18 Labelling of Phenylalanine derivative **2a** (Table 1)



Unless otherwise stated, a dry 1 ml V-shaped vial containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with substrate **2a** (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.), the Cu mediator $[\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2(\text{py})_4]$ (9 μmol , 0.3 equiv.). The vial was sealed and purged with N_2 (~ 10 s) before addition of dry DMF (150 μl). It was stirred vigorously until all components were dissolved (~ 30 s). A solution of $[^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ in dry MeCN (~ 300 MBq in ~ 30 μl) was added through the septum to the reaction mixture before it was heated and stirred at 110 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 20 min. An aliquot (~ 10 μl) was removed and added to a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~ 500 μl) for radio HPLC analysis.

5.4. Functional Group Tolerance Test (Figure 3)



A dry 1 ml V-shaped vial containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **2a** (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.), Cu mediator $[\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2(\text{py})_4]$ (9 μmol , 0.3 equiv.), additive **1** (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.) and with dry DMF (150 μl). The vial was sealed under air and stirred vigorously until all components were dissolved (~ 30 s). A solution of $[^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ in dry MeCN (~ 300 MBq in ~ 30 μl) was added through the septum to the reaction mixture before it was heated and stirred at 110 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 20 min. An aliquot (~ 10 μl) was removed and added to a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~ 500 μl) for radio HPLC analysis.

5.5. Fluorine-18 Labelling of Meflufen Analogues 3 (Scheme 1)

General Procedure for Fluorine-18 Labelling of Meflufen Analogues 3 (Scheme 1)

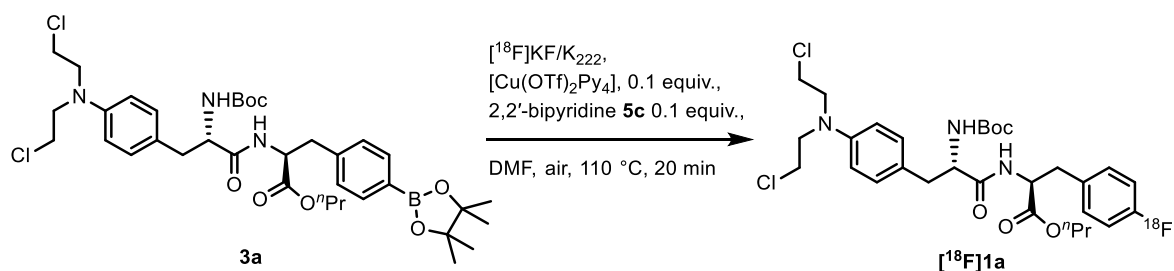
Unless otherwise stated, a dry 1 ml V-shaped vial containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with the pinacol boronate precursor (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.), the Cu mediator $[\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2(\text{py})_4]$ (3 μmol , 0.1 equiv.) and subsequently with dry DMF (150 μl). The vial was sealed under an atmosphere of ambient air and stirred vigorously until all components were dissolved (~ 30 s). A solution of $^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ in dry MeCN (~ 300 MBq in ~ 30 μl) was added through the septum to the reaction mixture before it was heated and stirred at 110 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 20 min. An aliquot (~ 10 μl) was removed and added to a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~ 500 μl) for radio HPLC analysis.

5.6. Examination of the Role of Additive in the Synthesis of Meflufen Propyl Ester Radiotracer $^{18}\text{F}]\mathbf{1a}$ and $^{18}\text{F}]\mathbf{4a}$ (Figure 4)

General Procedure for Synthesis of Meflufen Propyl Ester Radiotracer $^{18}\text{F}]\mathbf{1a}$ and $^{18}\text{F}]\mathbf{4a}$ in the presence of Additives (Figure 4)

A dry 1 ml V-shaped vial containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with meflufen pinacol boronate analogue **3a/3f** (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.), Cu mediator $[\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2(\text{py})_4]$ (3 μmol , 0.1 equiv.), additive **5** (0.05-1.0 equiv.) and with dry DMF (150 μl). The vial was sealed under air and stirred vigorously until all components were dissolved (~ 30 s). A solution of $^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ in dry MeCN (~ 300 MBq in ~ 30 μl) was added through the septum to the reaction mixture before it was heated and stirred at 110 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 20 min. An aliquot (~ 10 μl) was removed and added to a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~ 500 μl) for radio HPLC analysis.

5.7. Radiosynthesis and Isolation of Meflufen Propyl Ester Analogue Radiotracer $^{18}\text{F}]\mathbf{1a}$



A dry 1 ml V-shaped vial containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with the meflufen pinacol boronate analogue **3a** (30 μmol , 1.0 equiv.), the Cu mediator $[\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2(\text{py})_4]$ (3 μmol , 0.1 equiv.), the 2,2'-bipyridine (**5c**) (3 μmol , 0.1 equiv.) and subsequently with dry DMF (150 μl). The vial was sealed under air and stirred vigorously until all components were dissolved (~ 30 s). A solution of $^{18}\text{F}]\text{KF}/\text{K}_{222}$ (3.4 GBq) in dry MeCN (~ 30 μl) was added through the septum to the reaction mixture, then it was heated and stirred at 110 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 20 min. An aliquot

(~10 μl) was removed and added to a solution of MeCN:H₂O = 1:1 (~500 μl) for analytical radio HPLC analysis (38% RCC).

The crude reaction mixture was purified by semi-preparative HPLC using a C-18 reversed phase column (ACE, ACE 5 SuperC18, 150x10 mm) and an eluent gradient system of ammonium formate (50 mM aq.)/MeCN (5.0 ml/min flow; linear increase 10% to 50% MeCN 0-15 min; isocratic 15-20 min; linear increase 50% to 90% MeCN 20-35 min; isocratic 35-40 min). Radiotracer [¹⁸F]**1a** was collected in a fraction over 23 s with a retention time of $t_R = 34.5$ min.

Radiotracer [¹⁸F]**1a** was obtained with an activity of 50 MBq, an activity yield AY = 1.5 %, a molar activity $A_m = 2940$ GBq/ μmol and a radiochemical purity RCP = 100%.

Radiotracer [¹⁸F]**1a** was characterised by comparing the radio-HPLC signal with the UV-HPLC signal of an authentic ¹⁹F-reference (Figure S1).

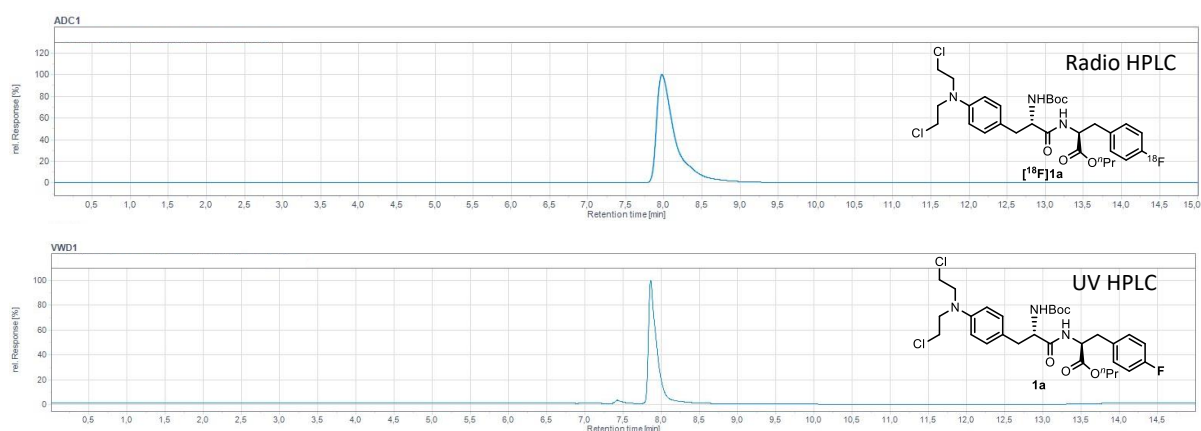


Figure S1. Radio-HPLC of [¹⁸F]**1a** and UV-HPLC of authentic ¹⁹-fluorine reference **1a**.

Calibration Curve Melflufen Propyl Ester Analogue **1a**

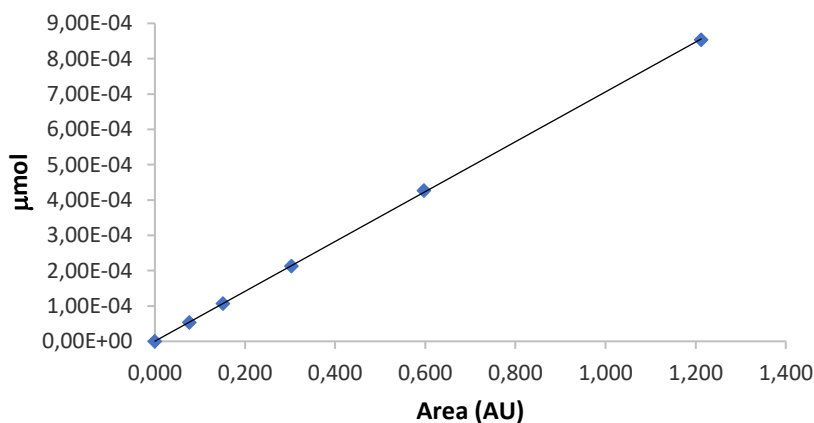


Figure S2. Calibration curve of **1a** for the determination of molar activity.

Table S 1. Data of calibration curve of **1a** (Figure S2).

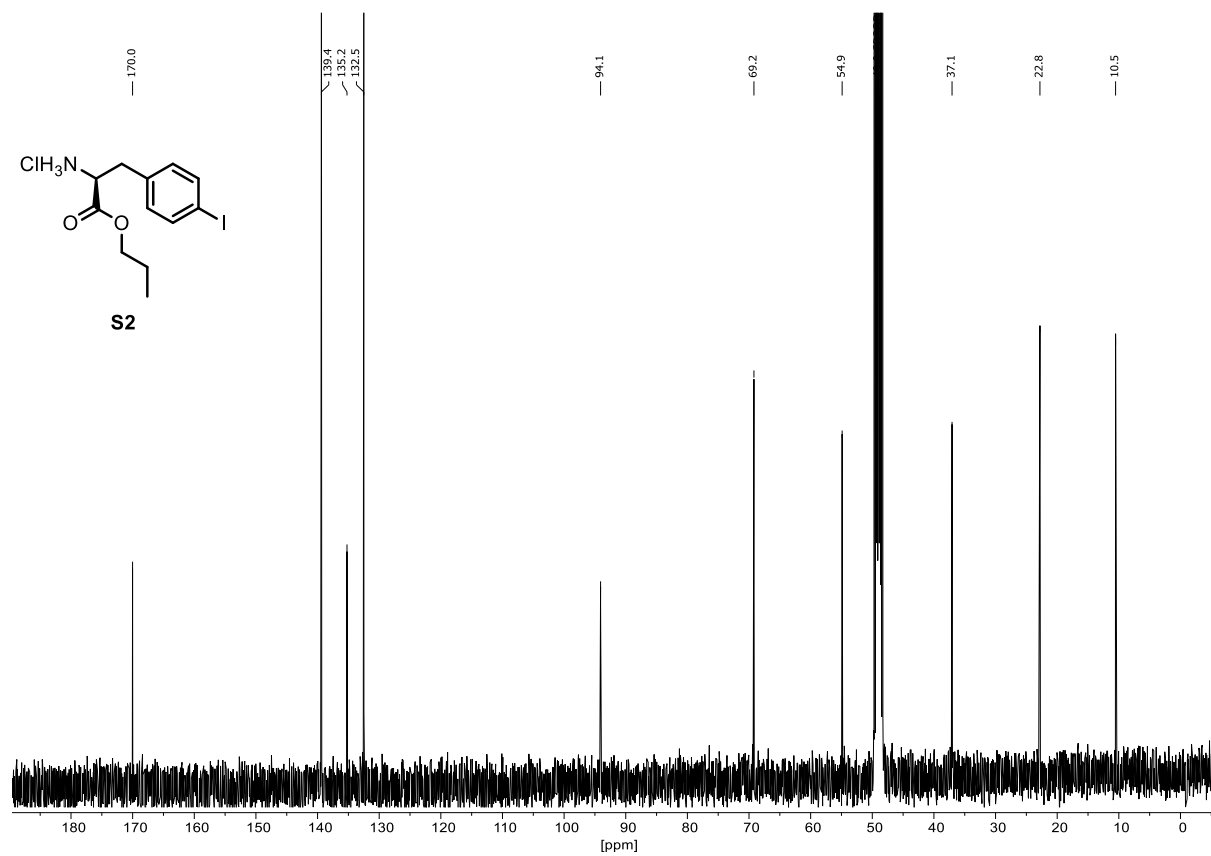
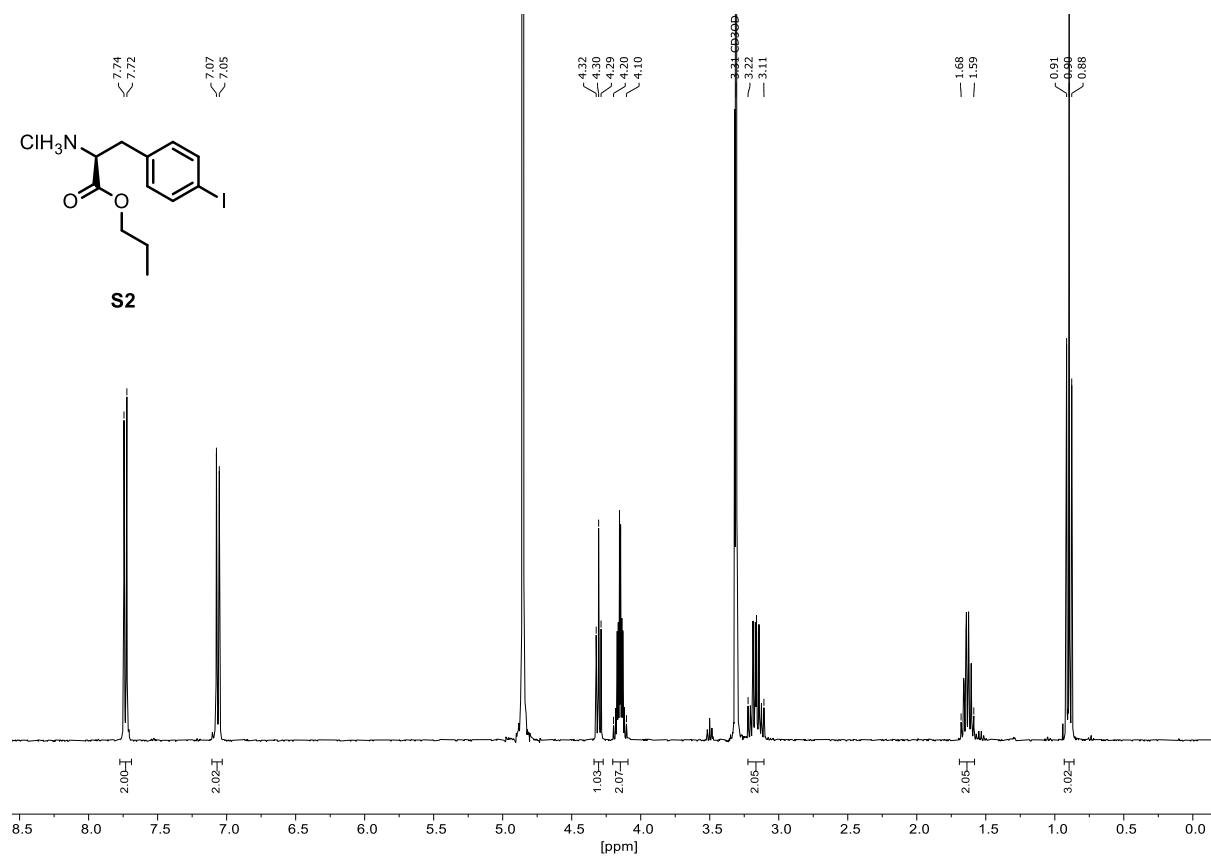
Injection	Concentration [$\mu\text{mol}/\mu\text{l}$]	Area [AU]	Injected amount [mmol]
1	$9,48 \cdot 10^{-6}$	1,212324	$8,54 \cdot 10^{-4}$
2	$4,74 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0,597181	$4,27 \cdot 10^{-4}$
3	$2,37 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0,303031	$2,13 \cdot 10^{-4}$
4	$1,19 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0,151382	$1,07 \cdot 10^{-4}$
5	$5,93 \cdot 10^{-7}$	0,076885	$5,33 \cdot 10^{-4}$

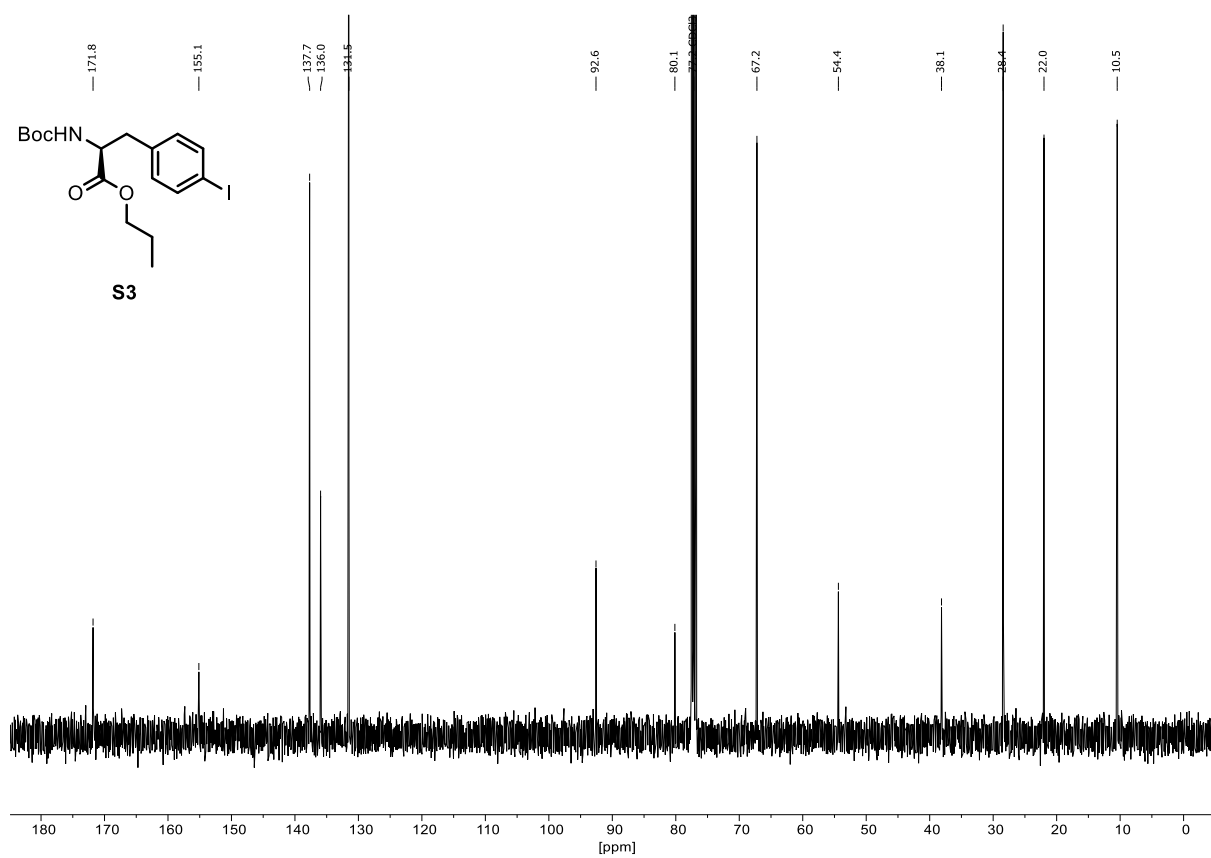
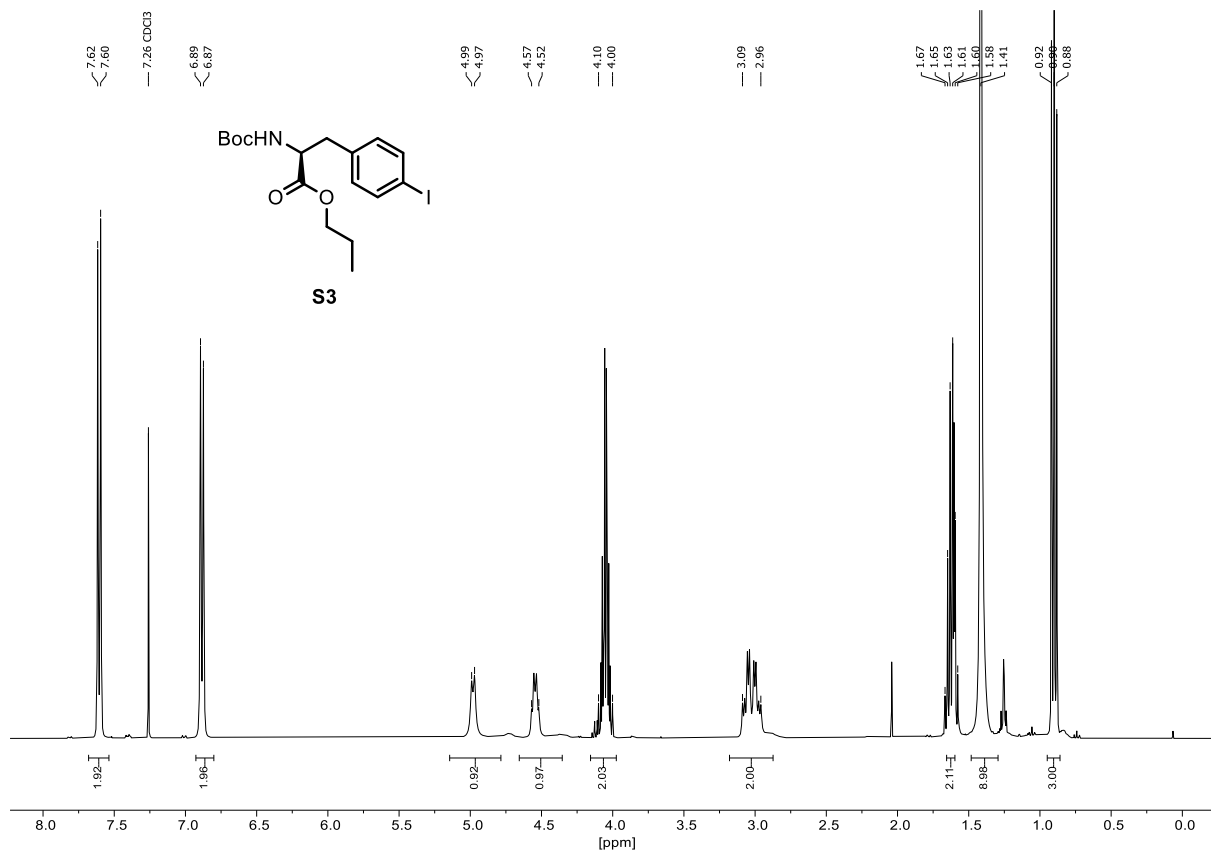
6. References

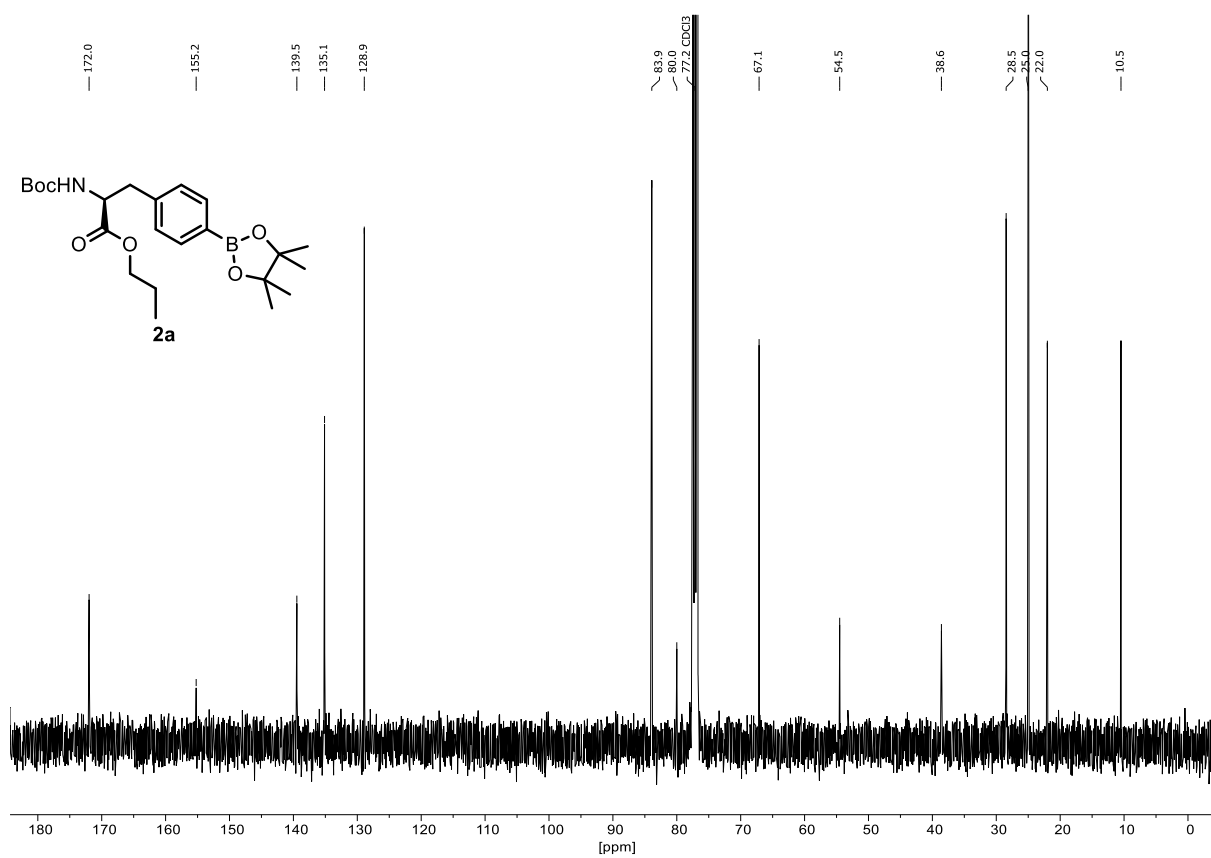
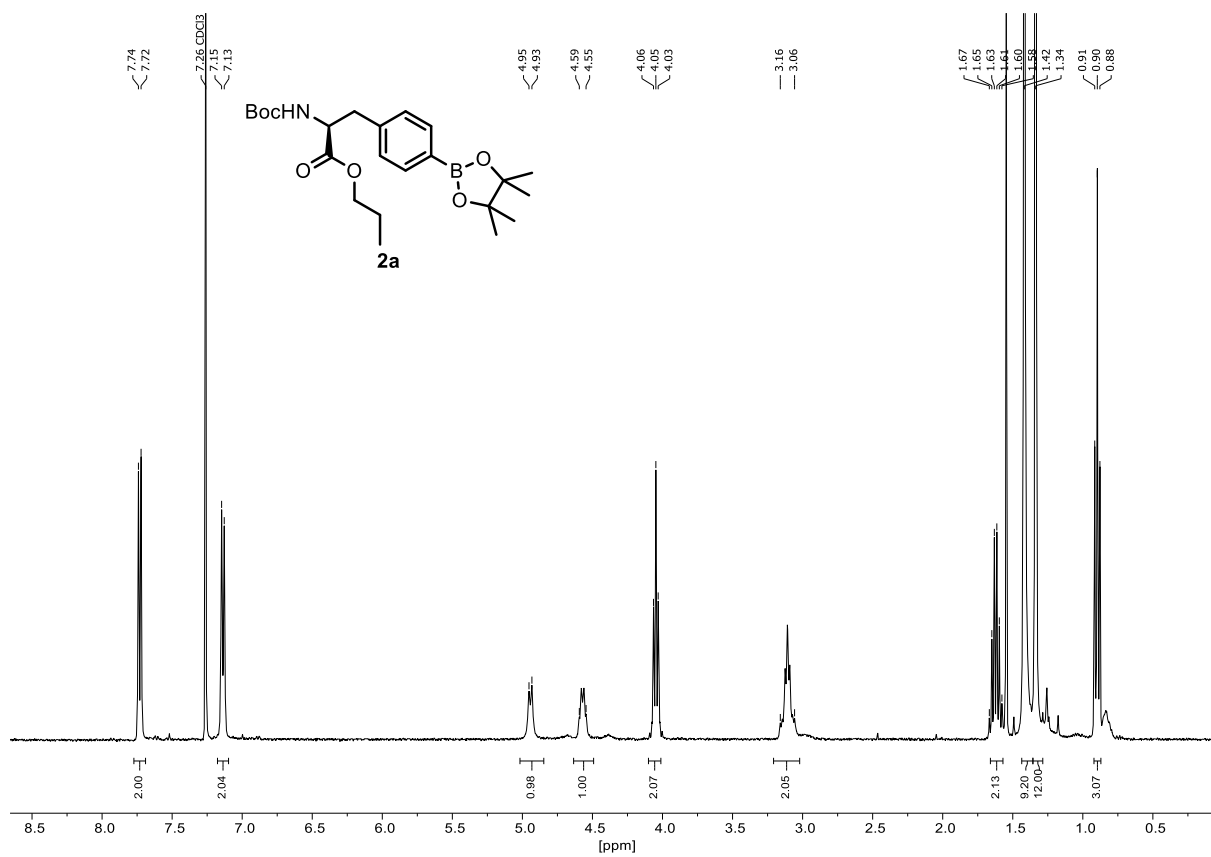
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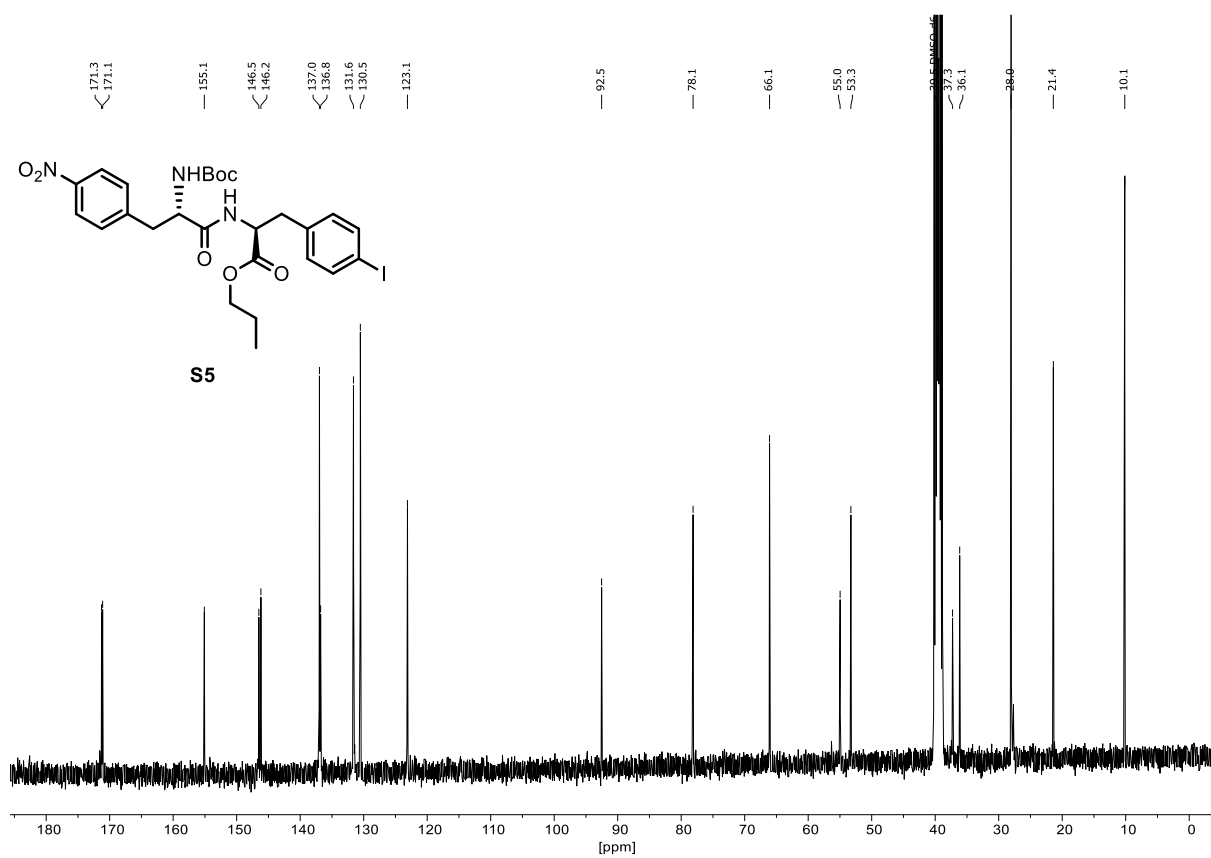
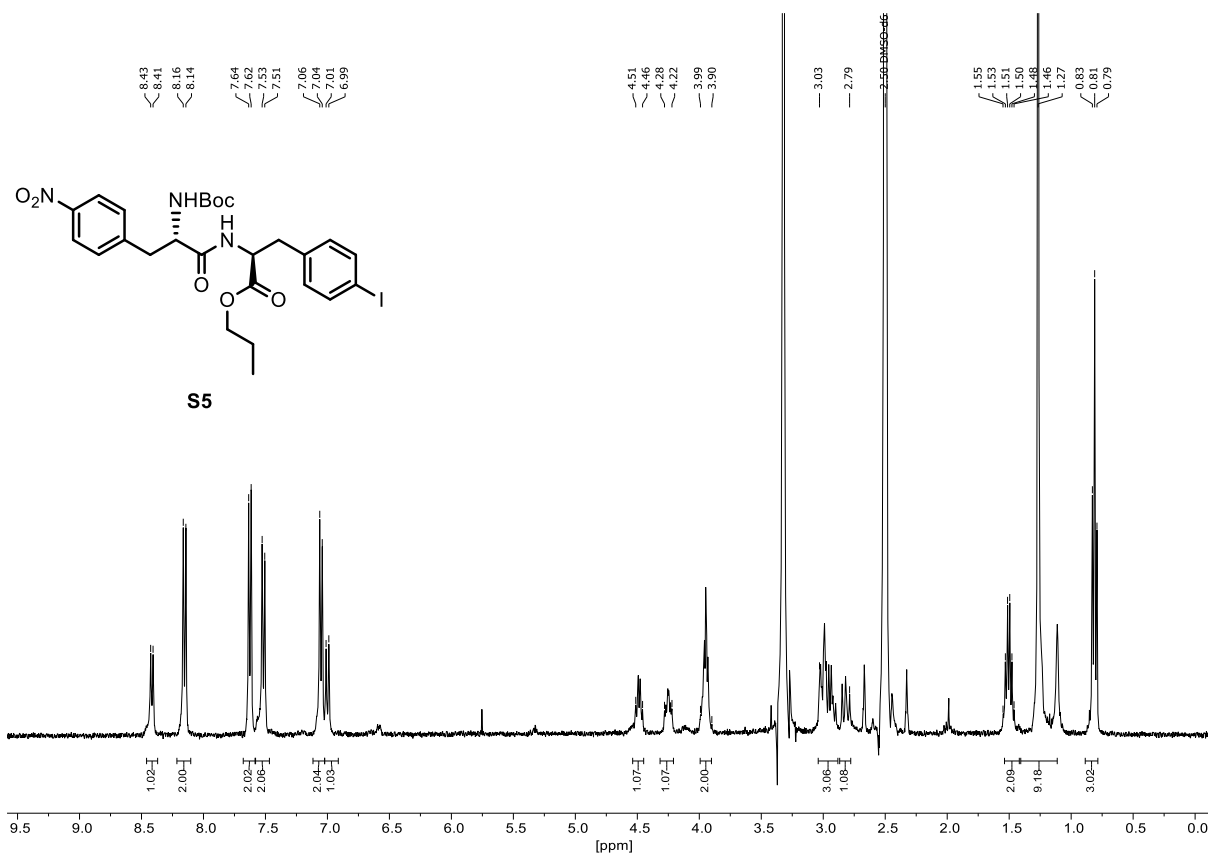
7. Appendix

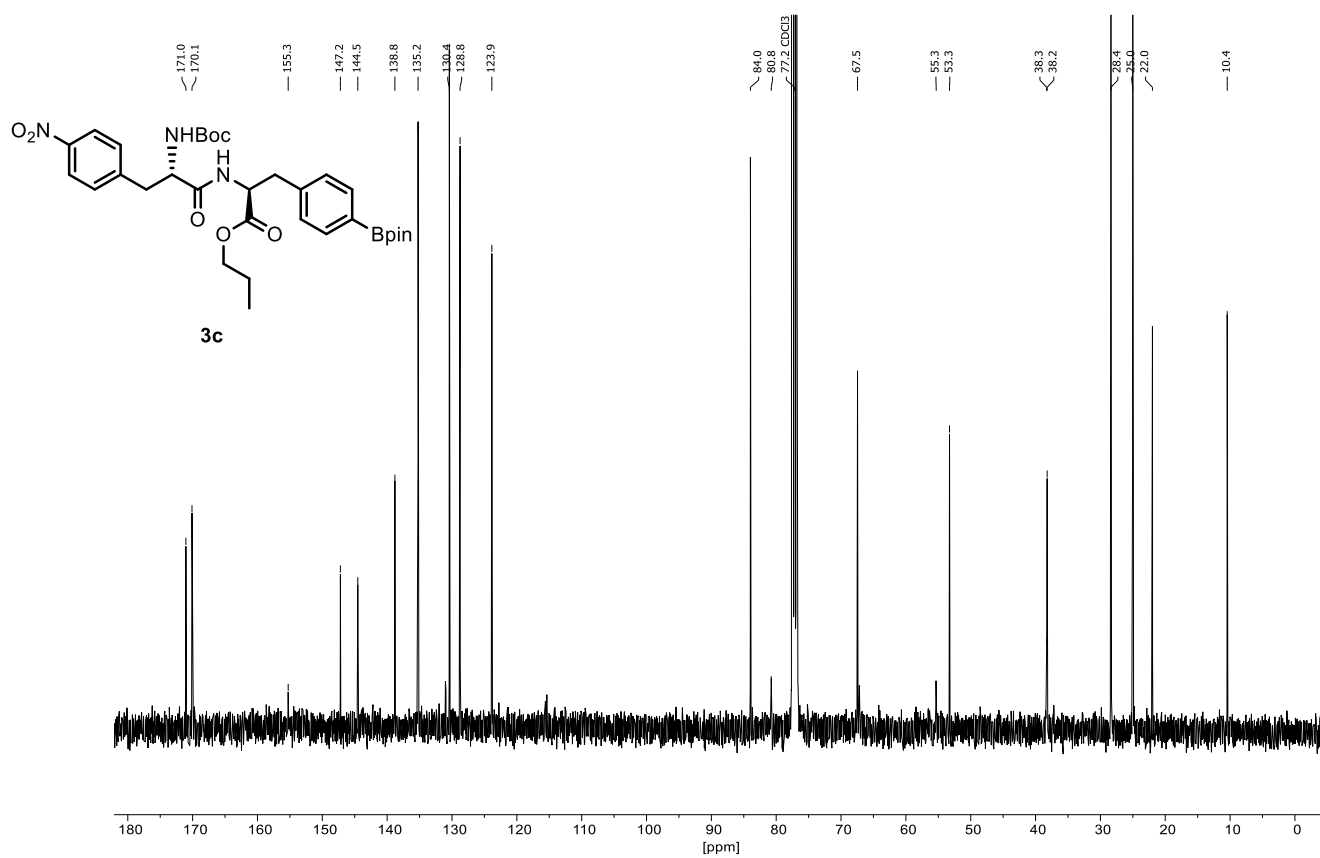
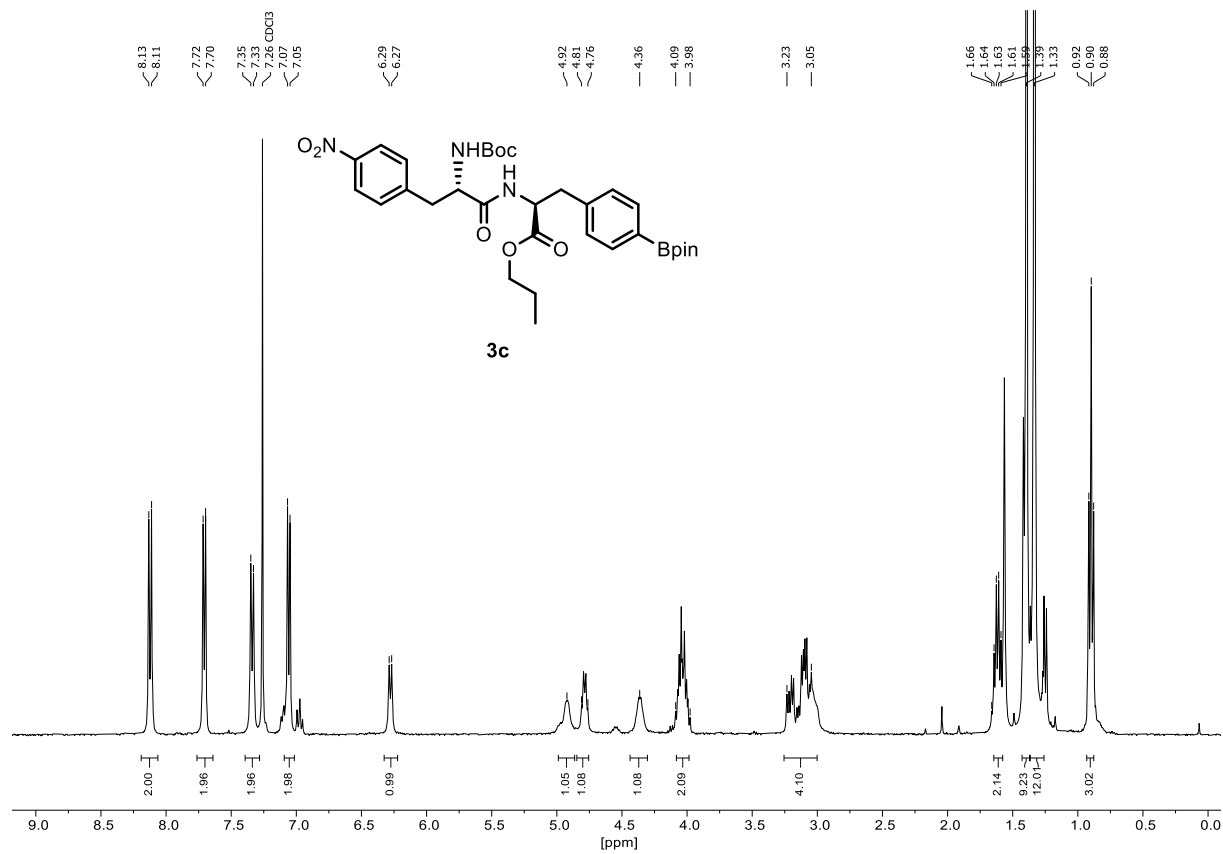
7.1. NMR Spectra

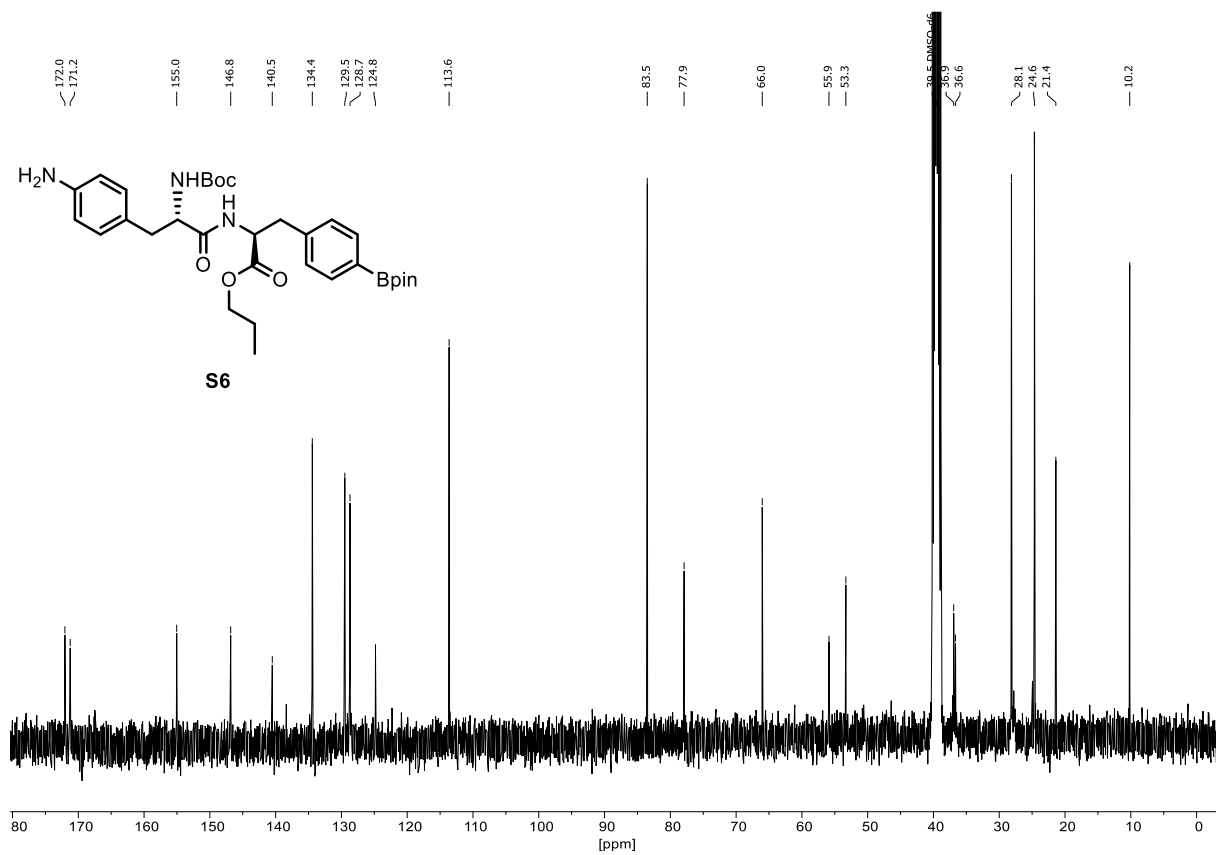
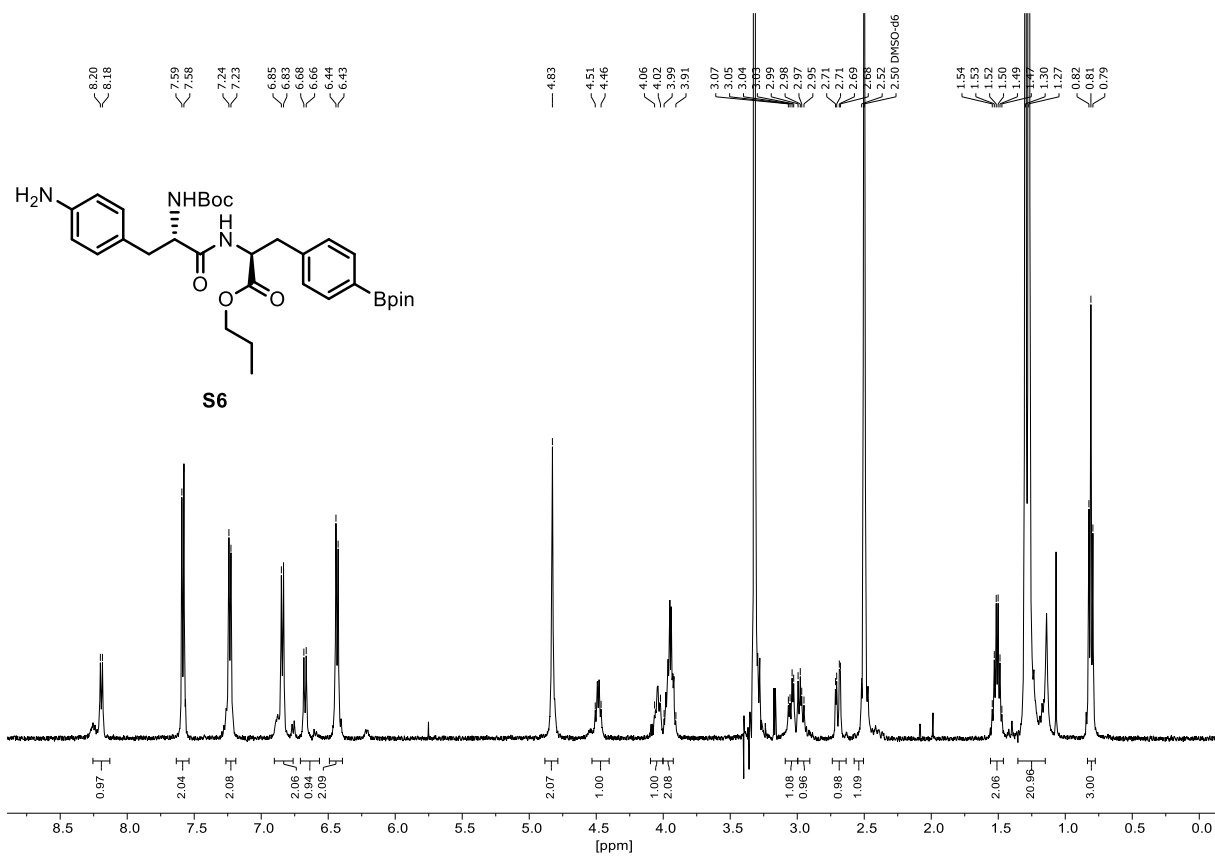


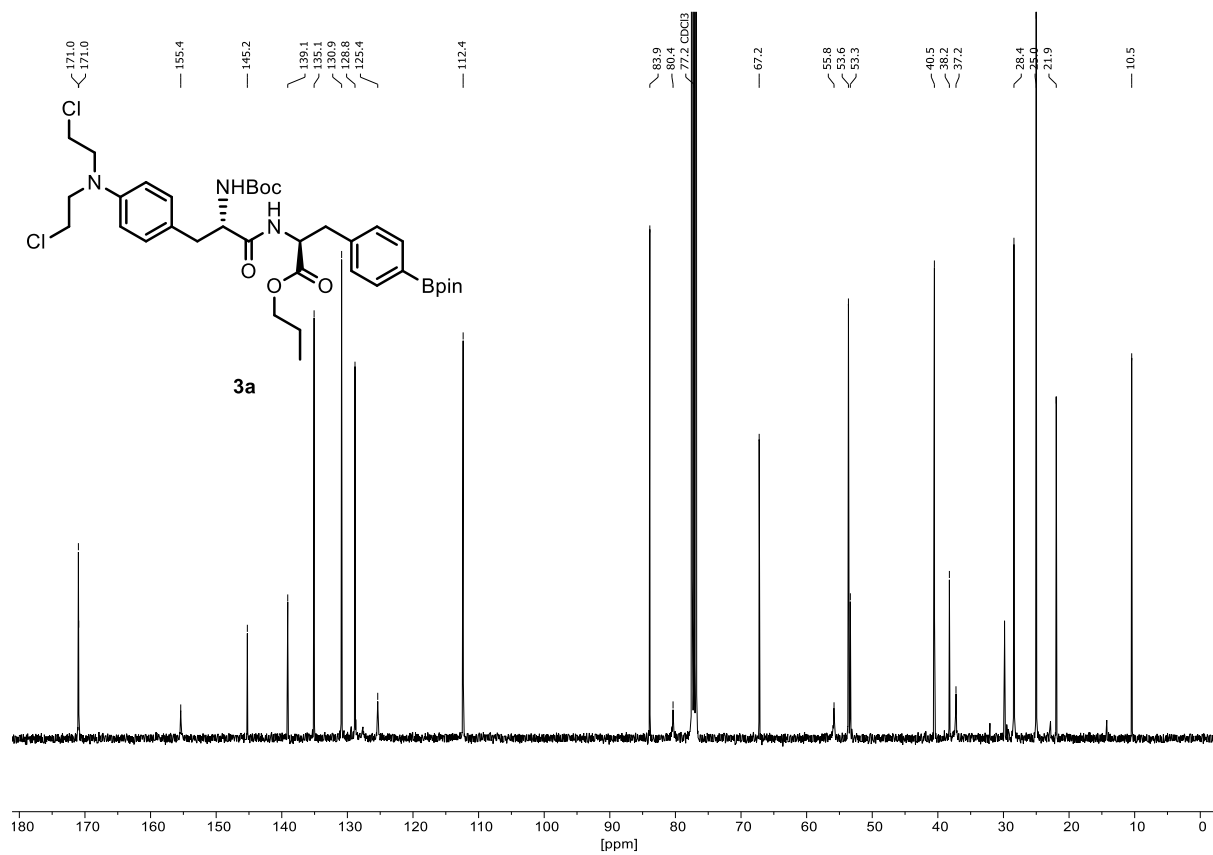
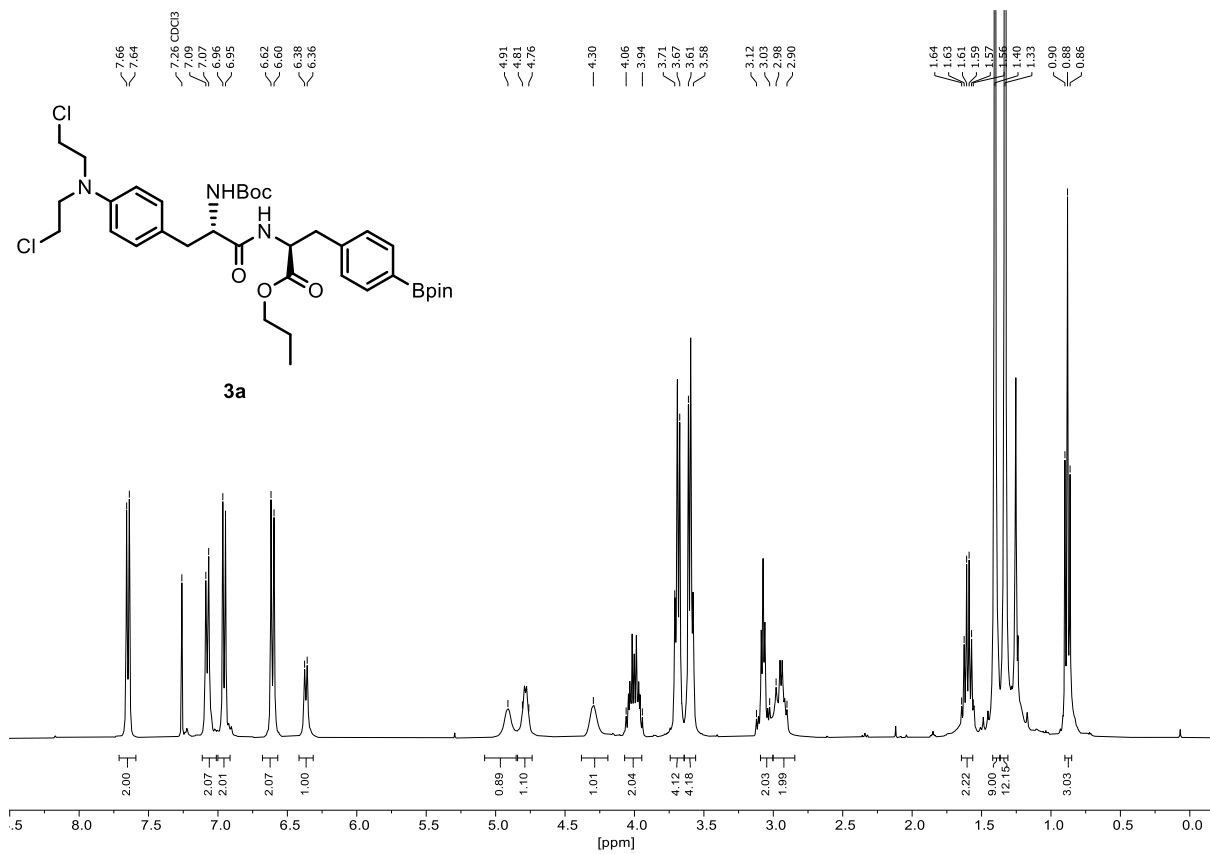


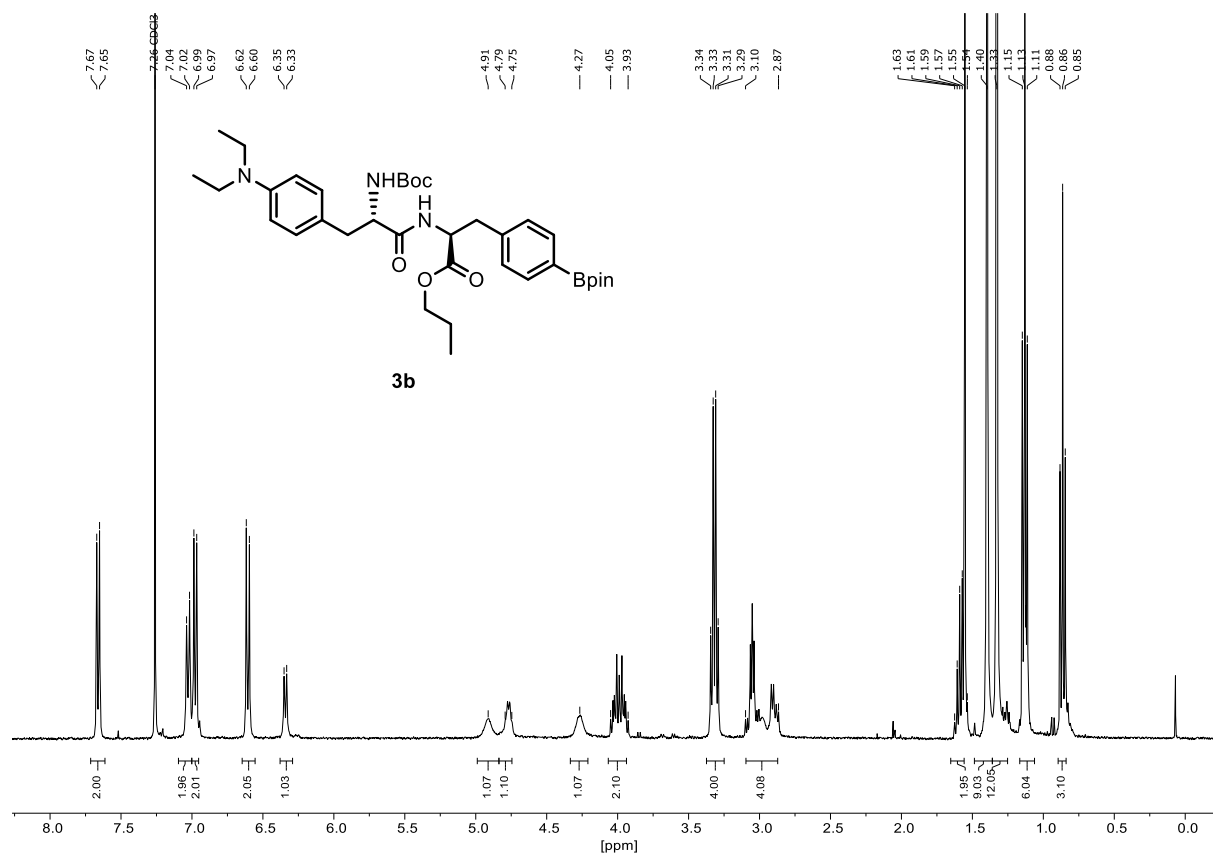


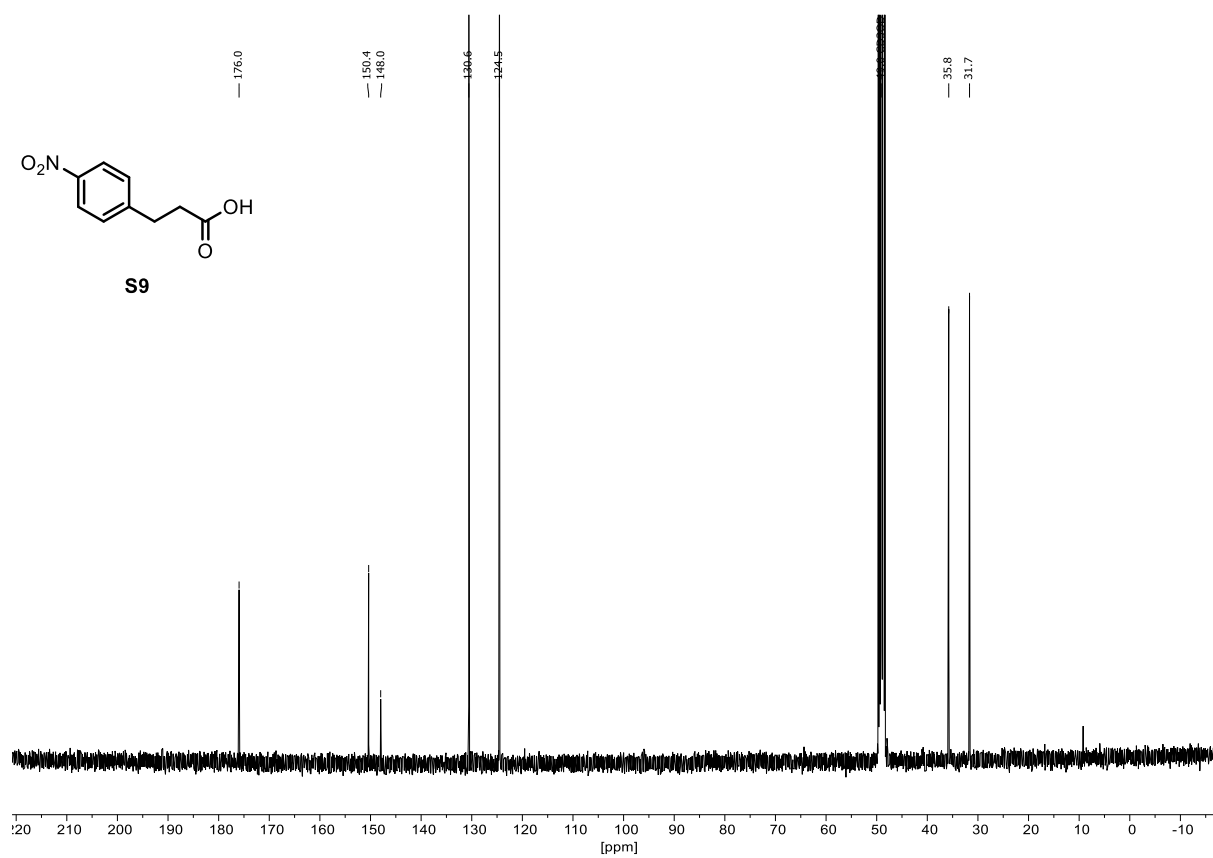
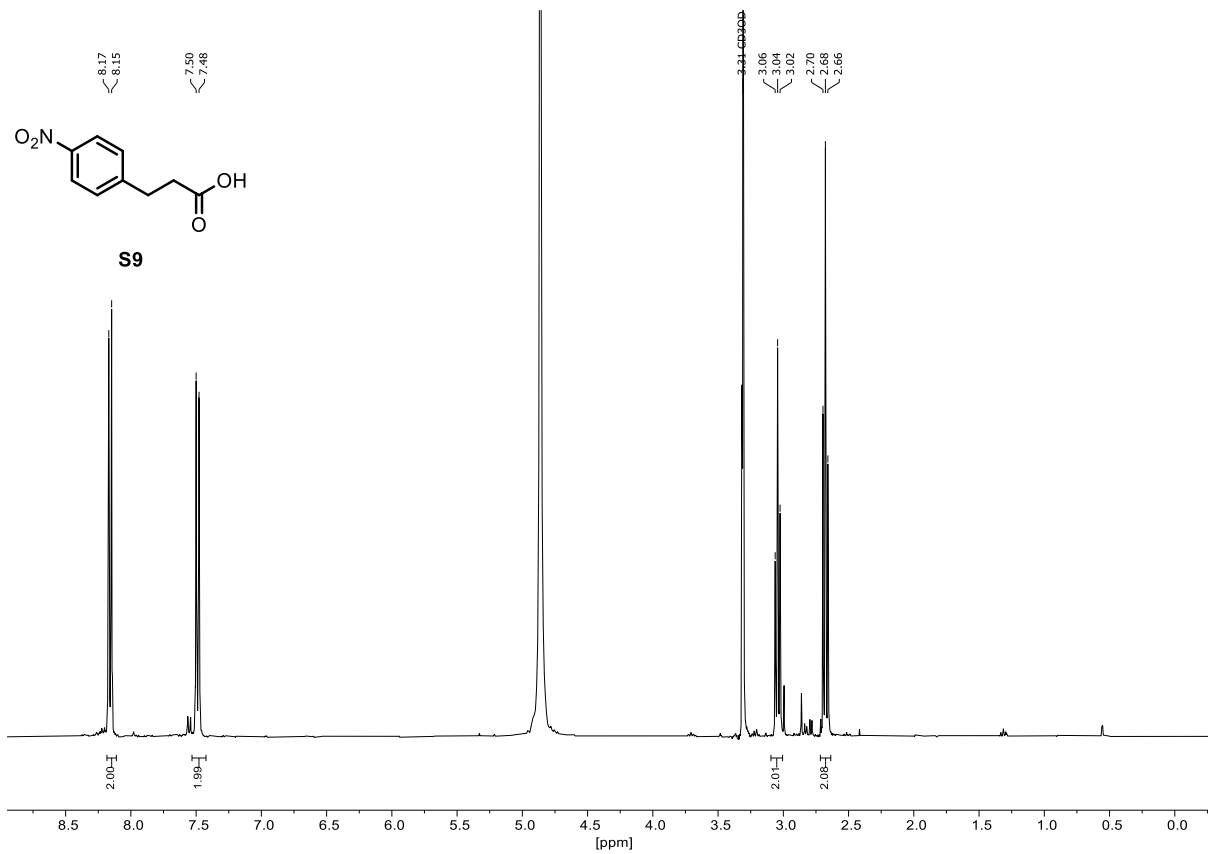


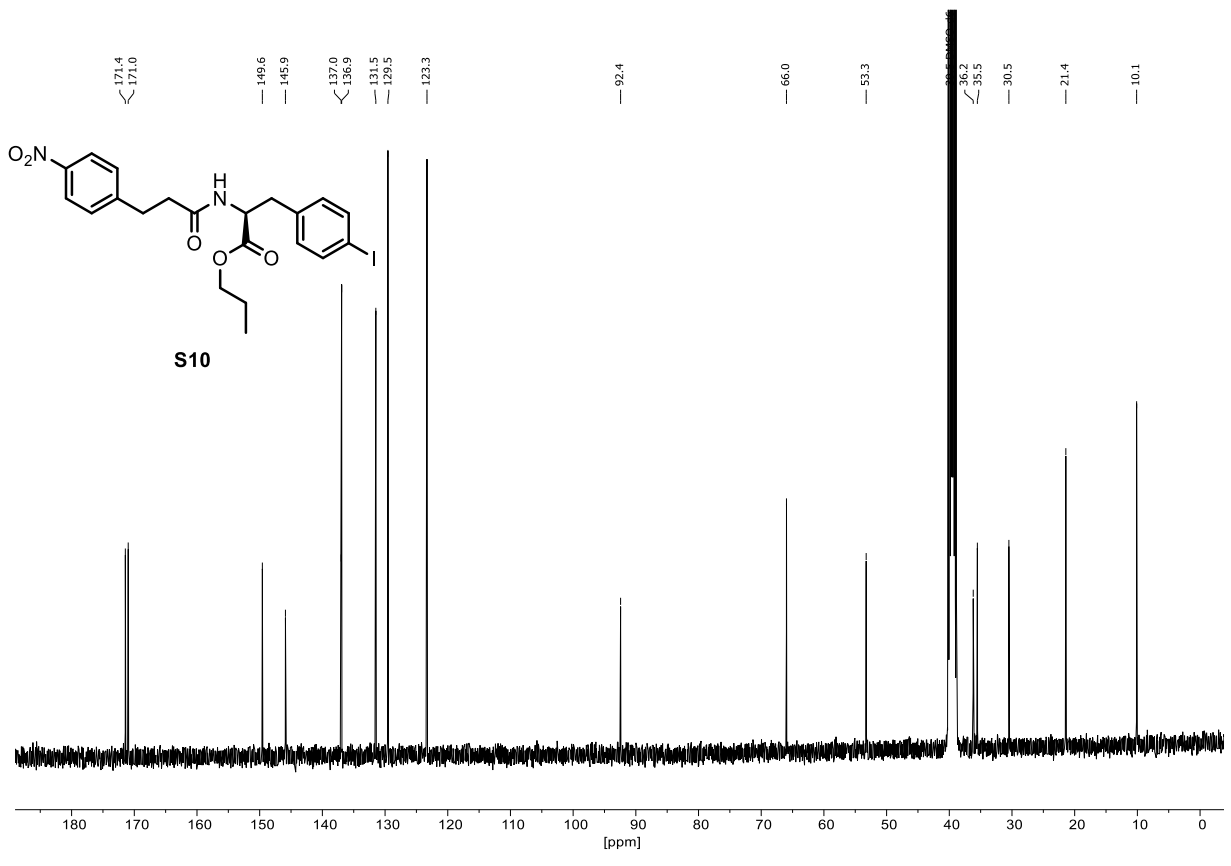
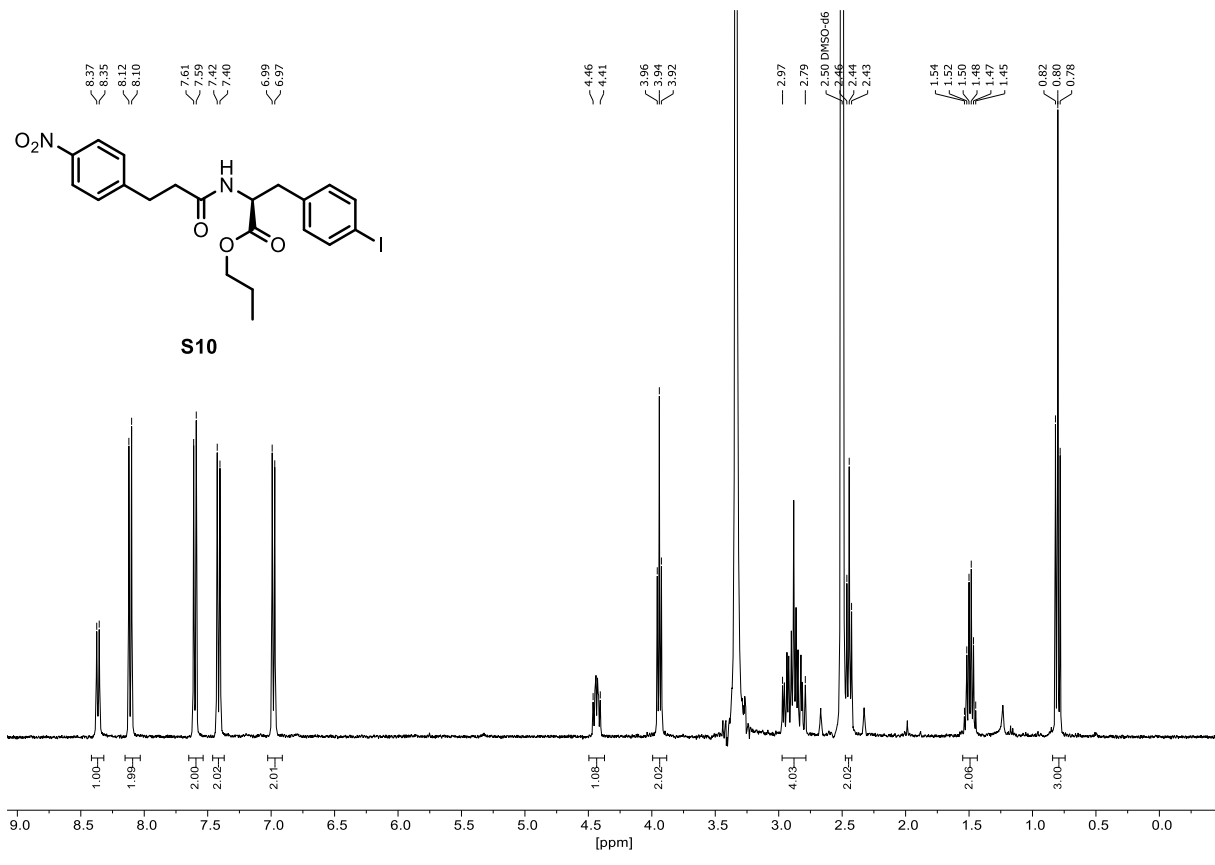


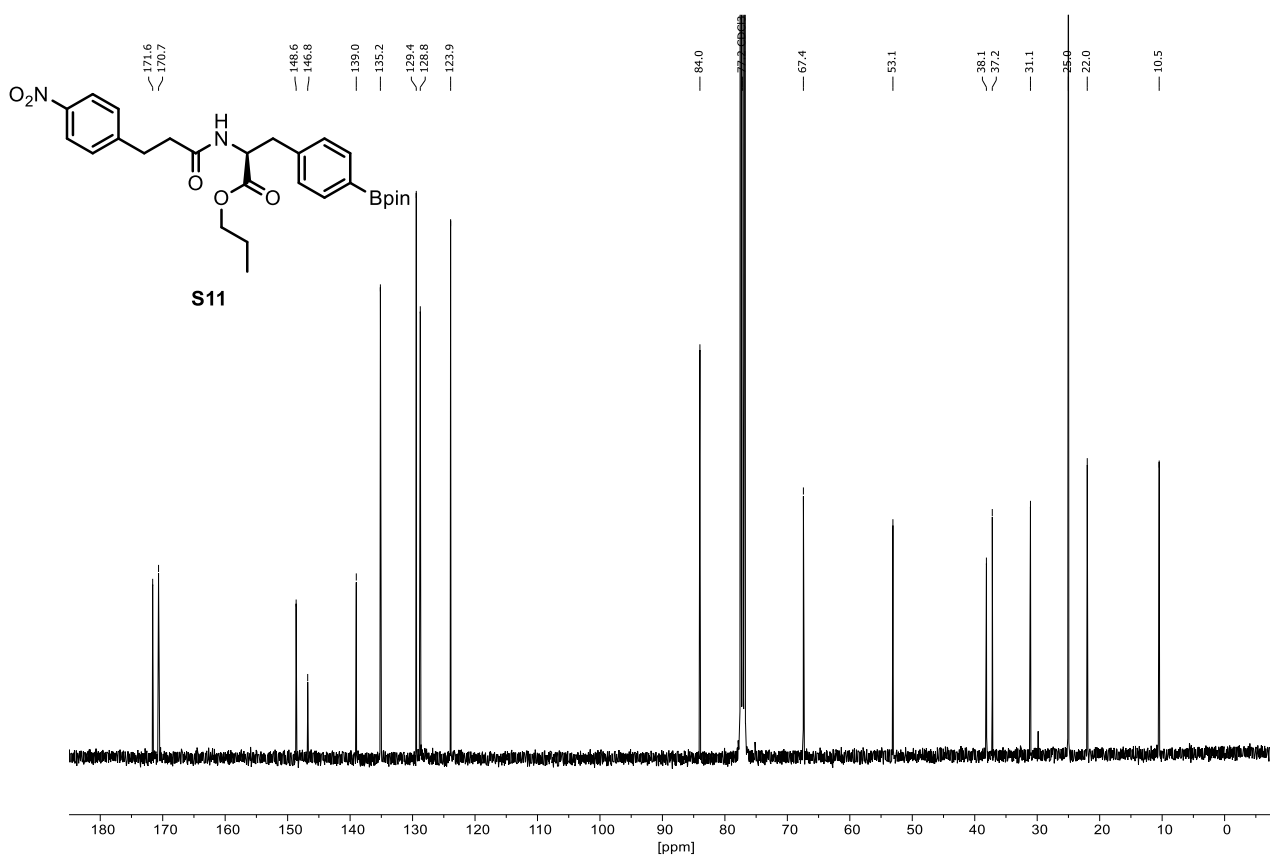
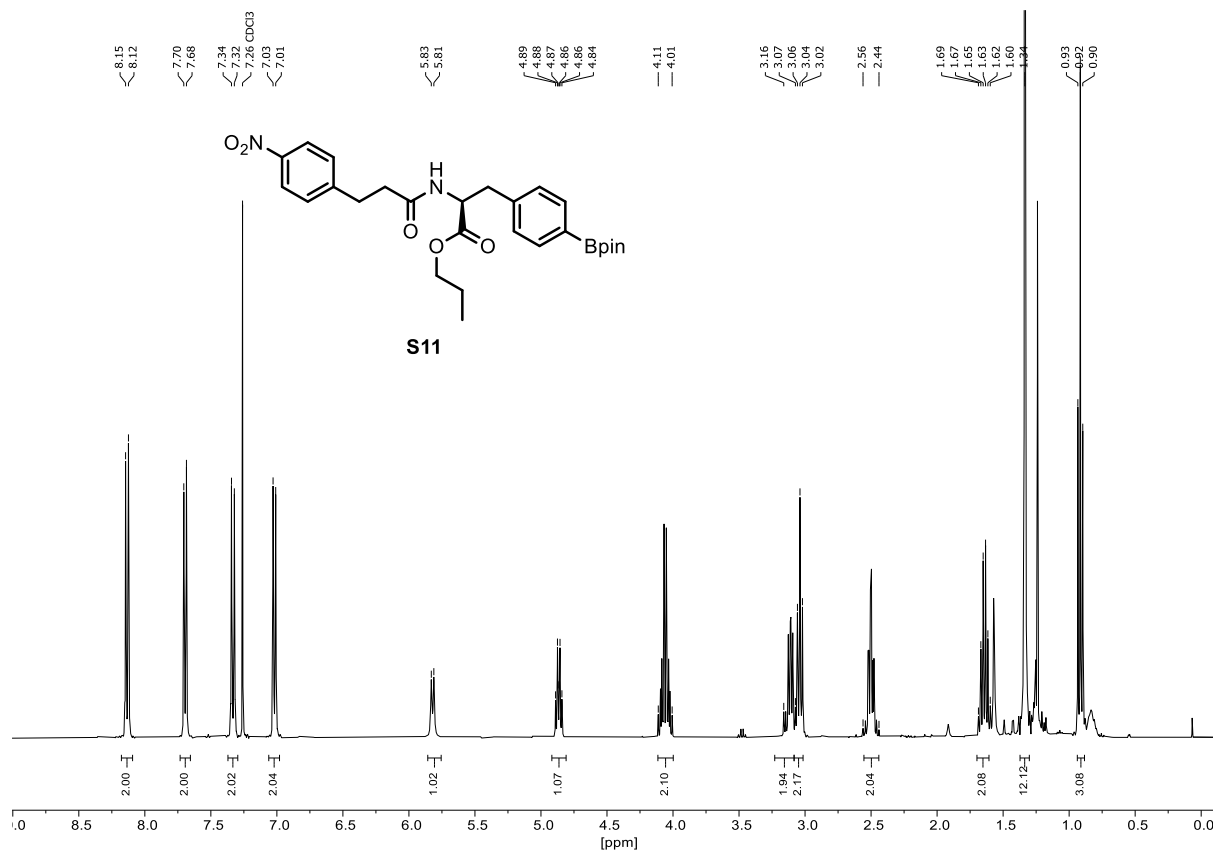


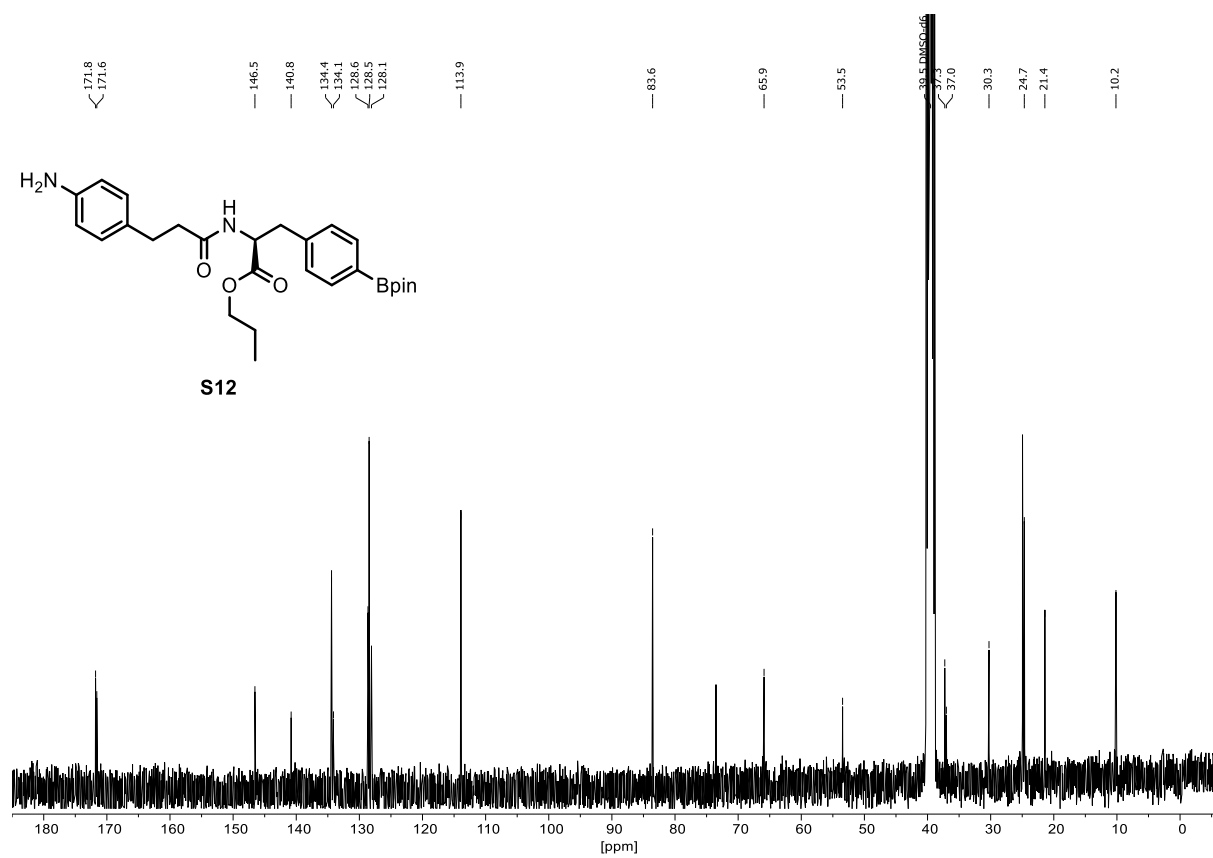
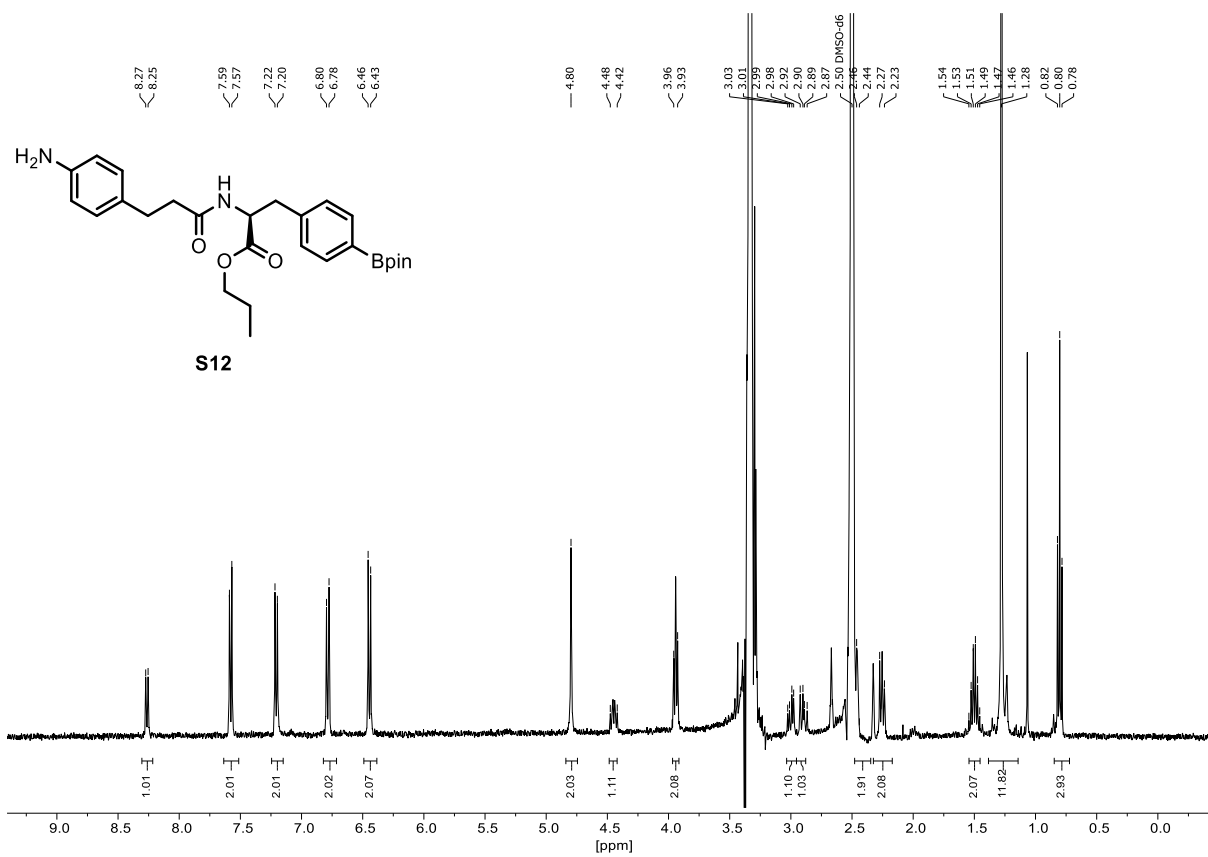


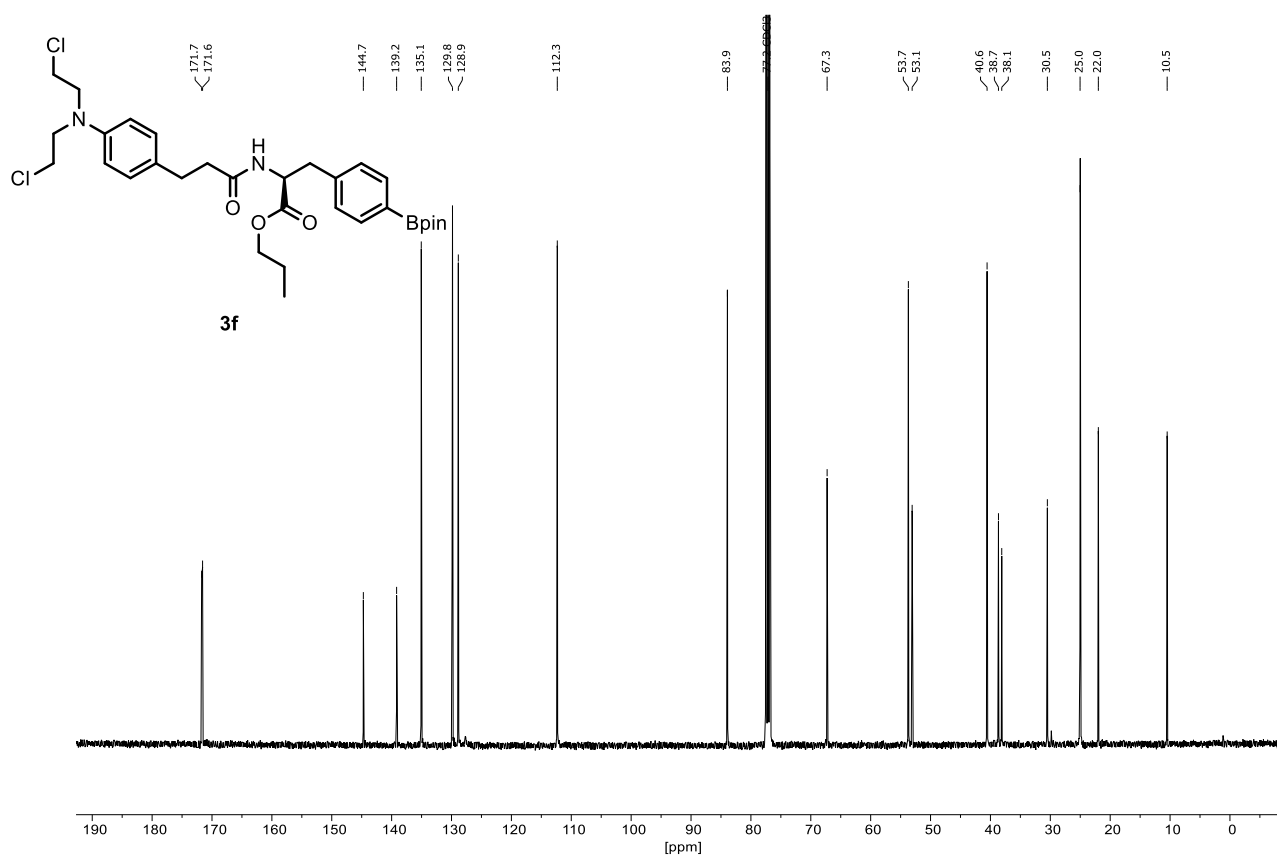
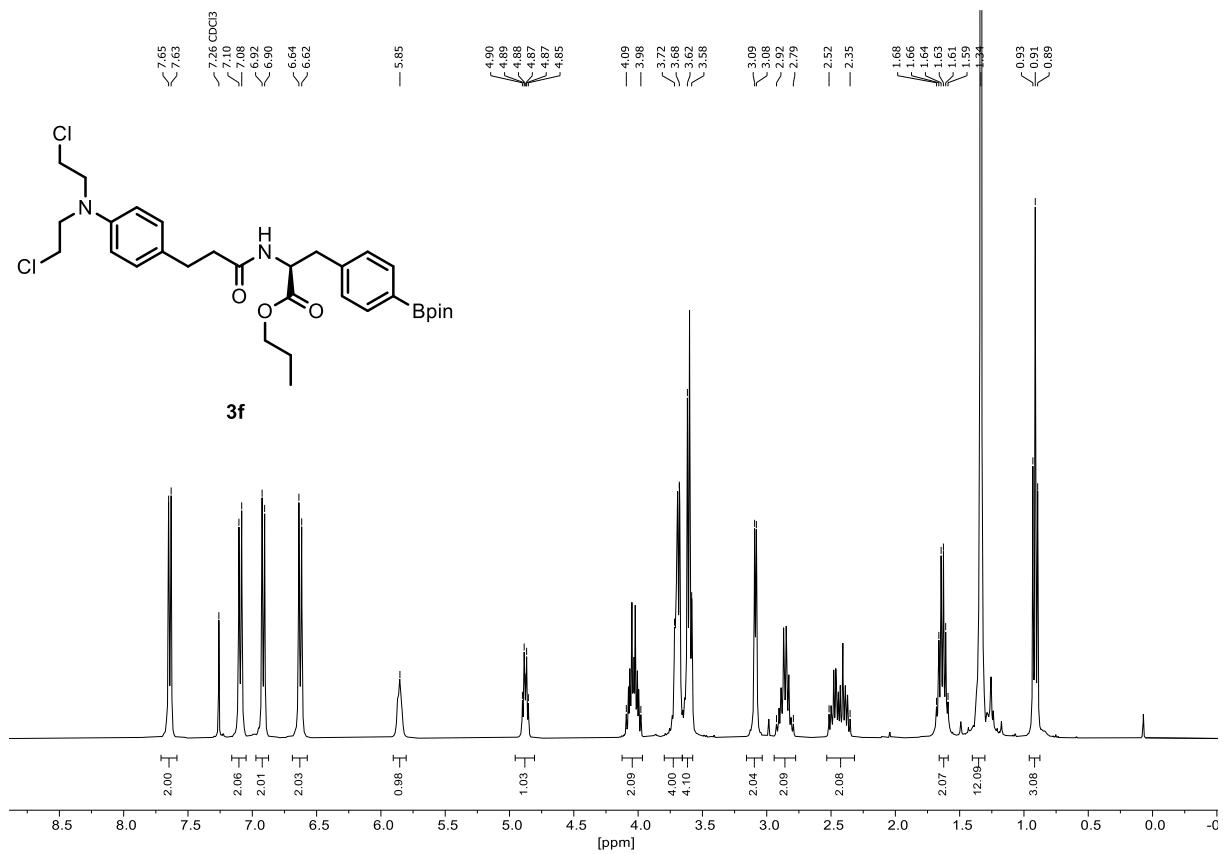


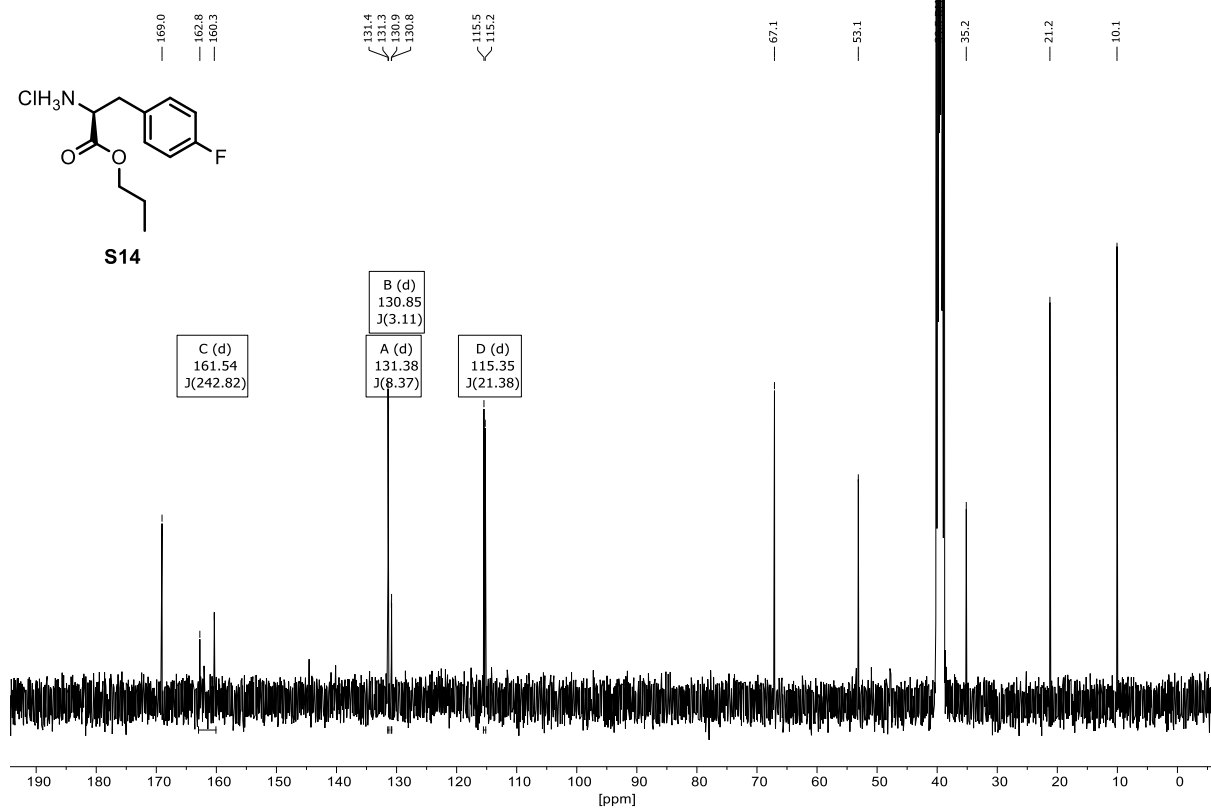
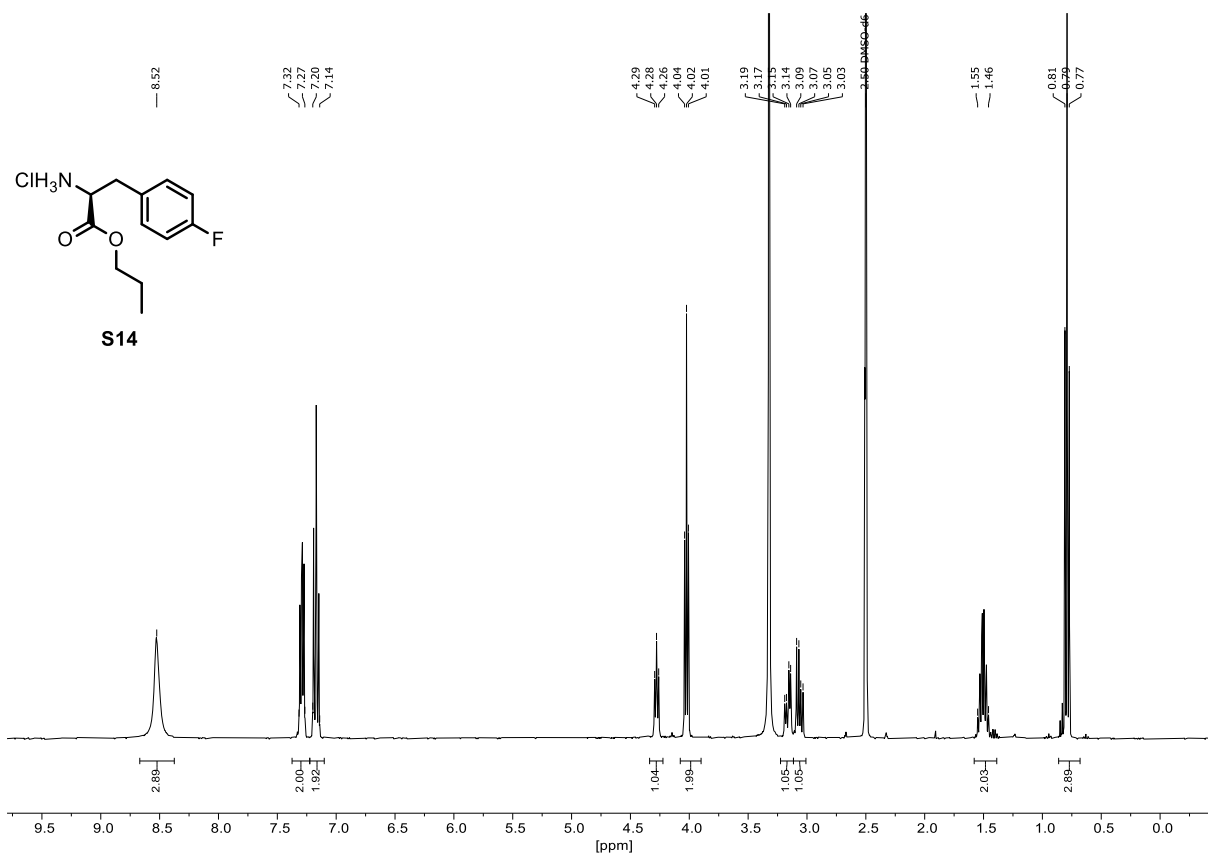


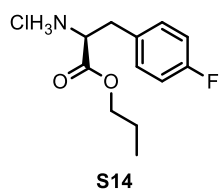




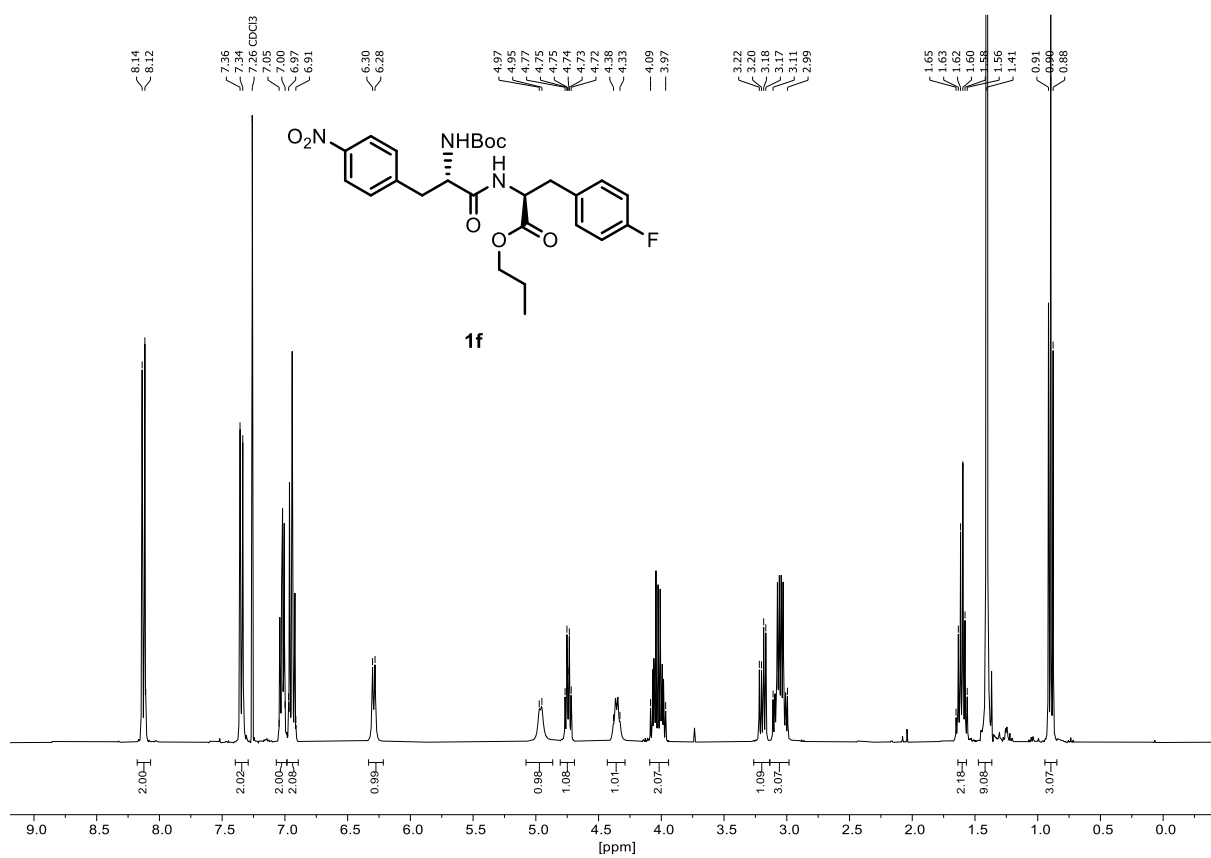
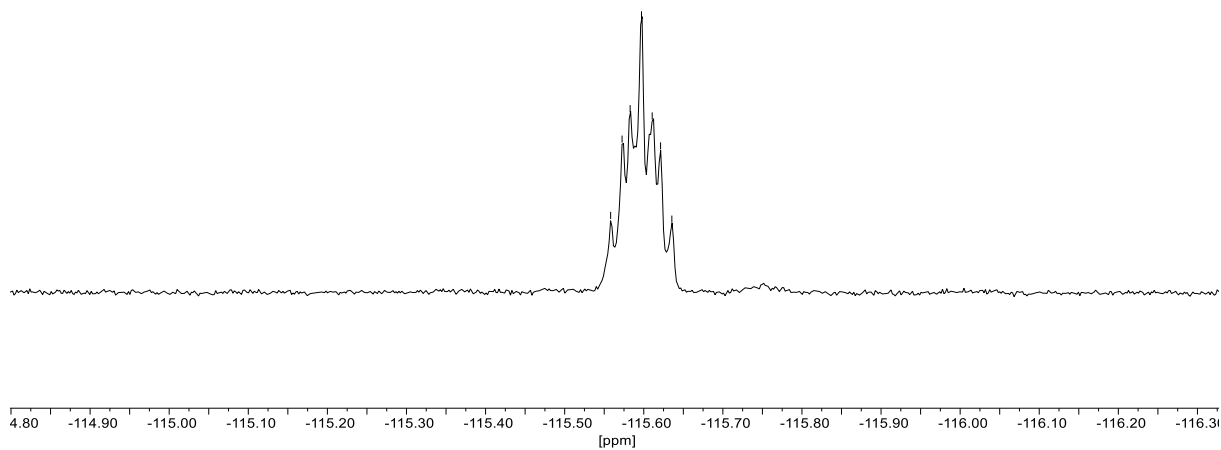


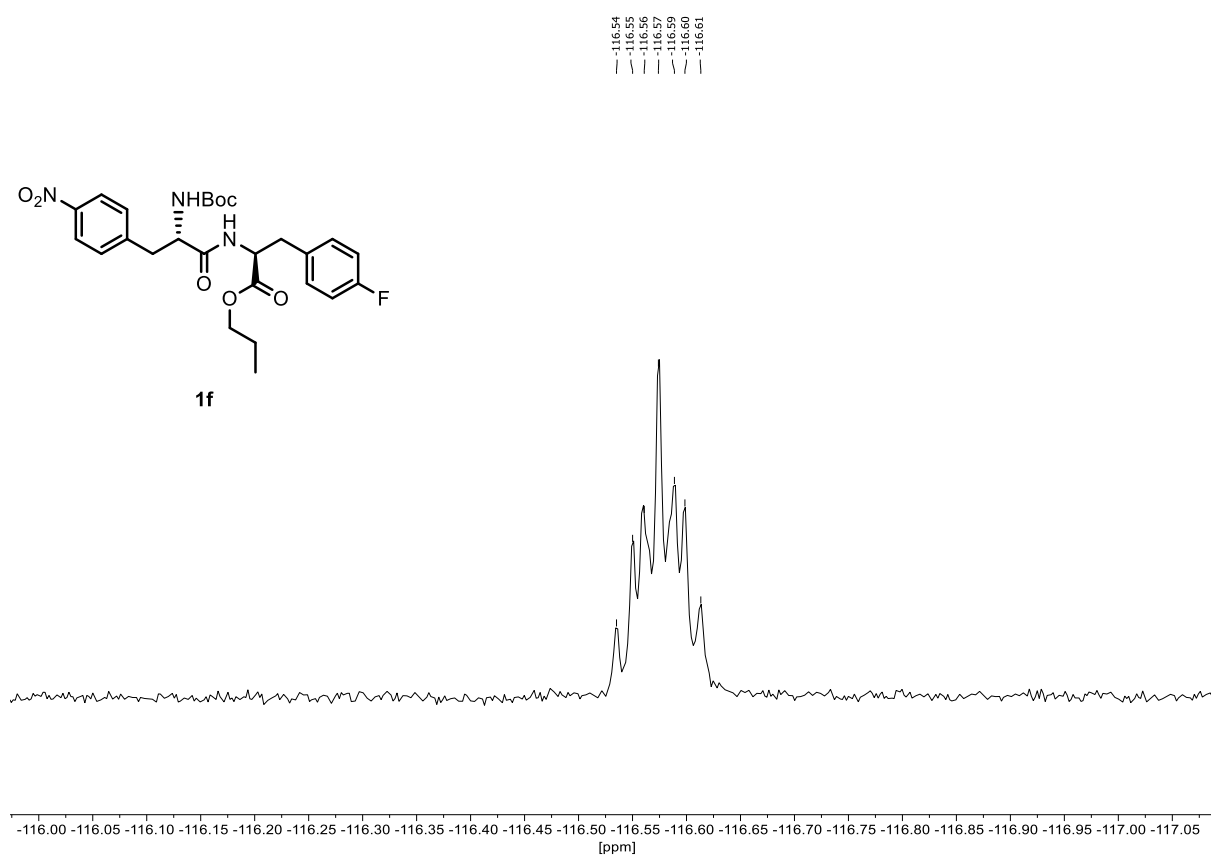
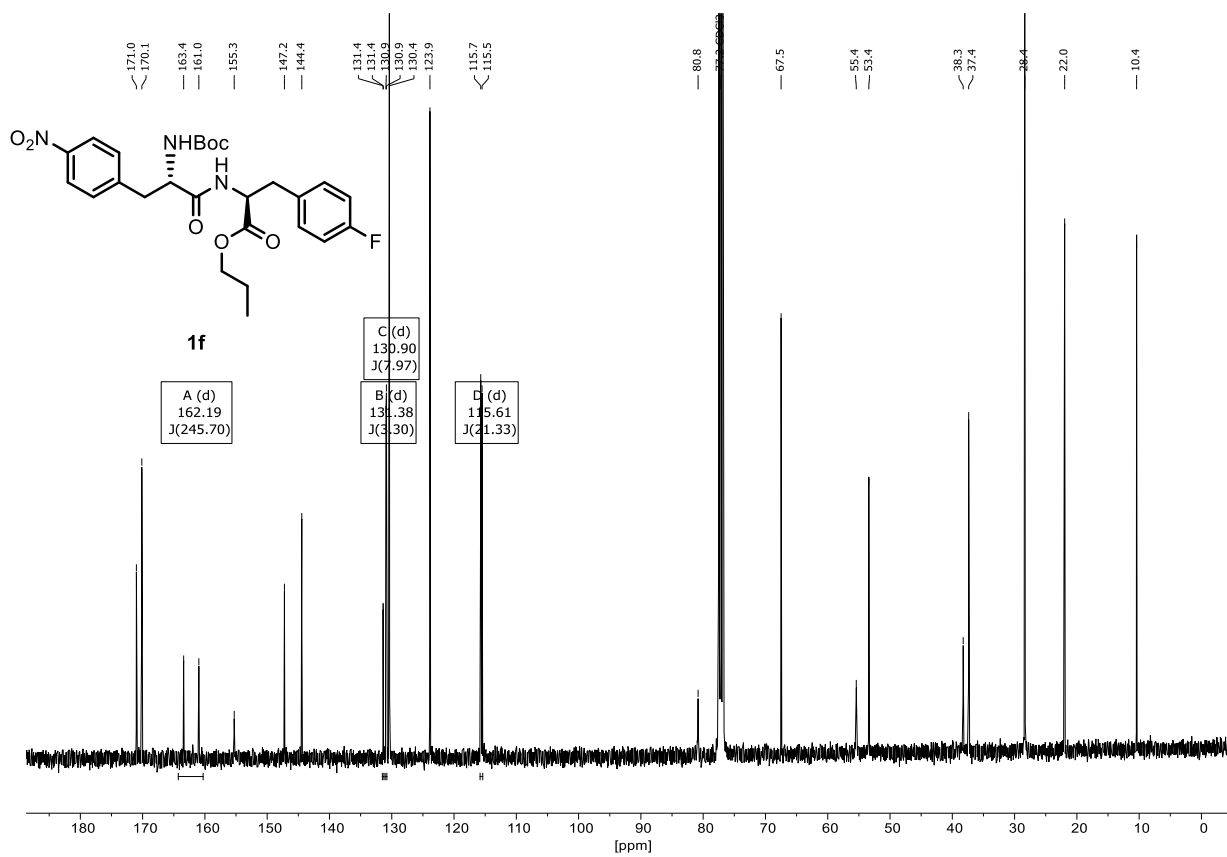


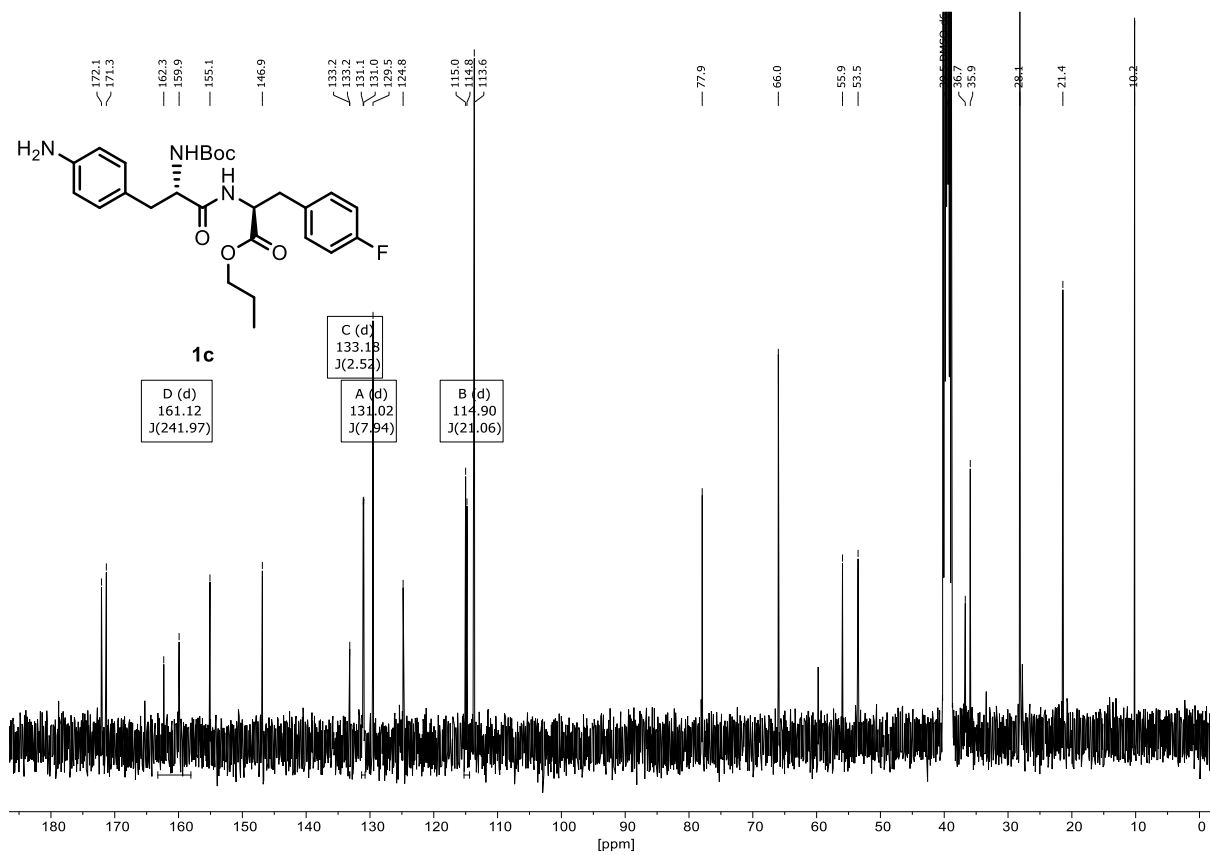
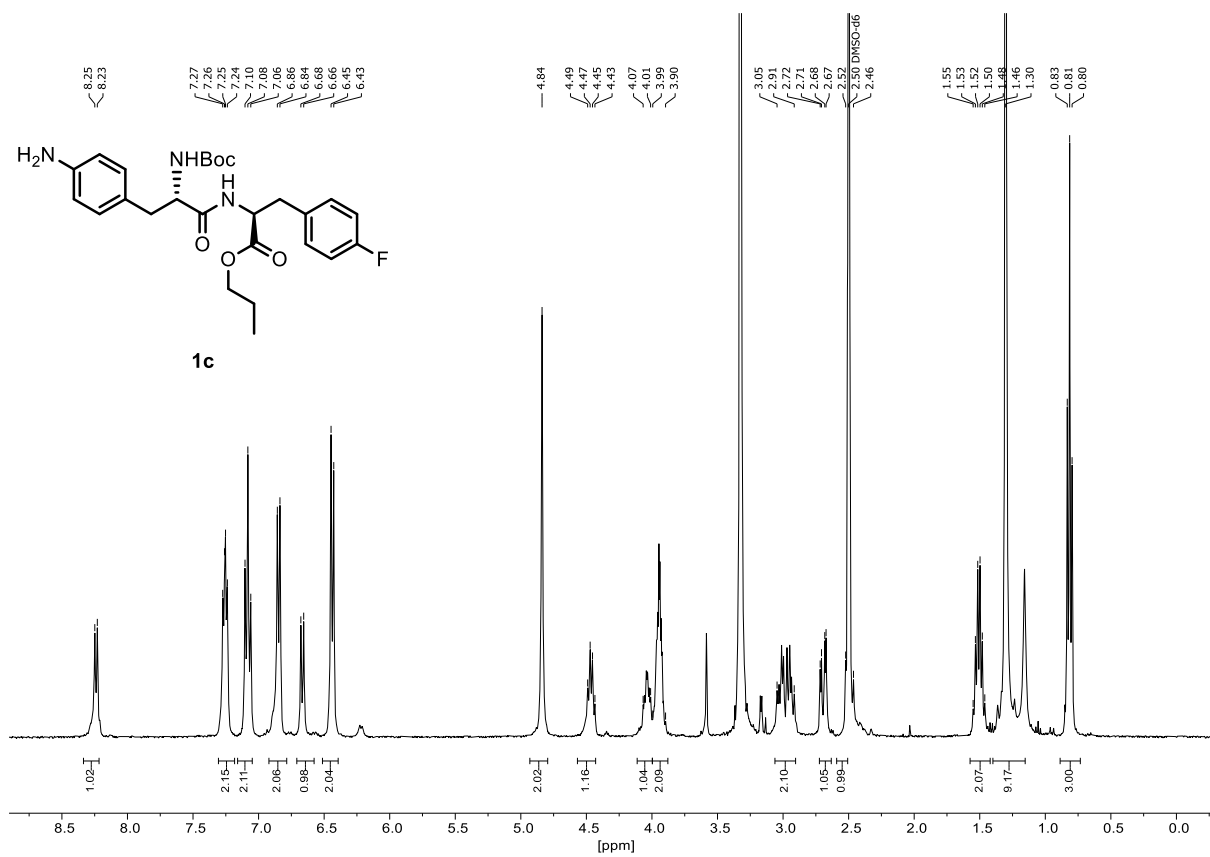


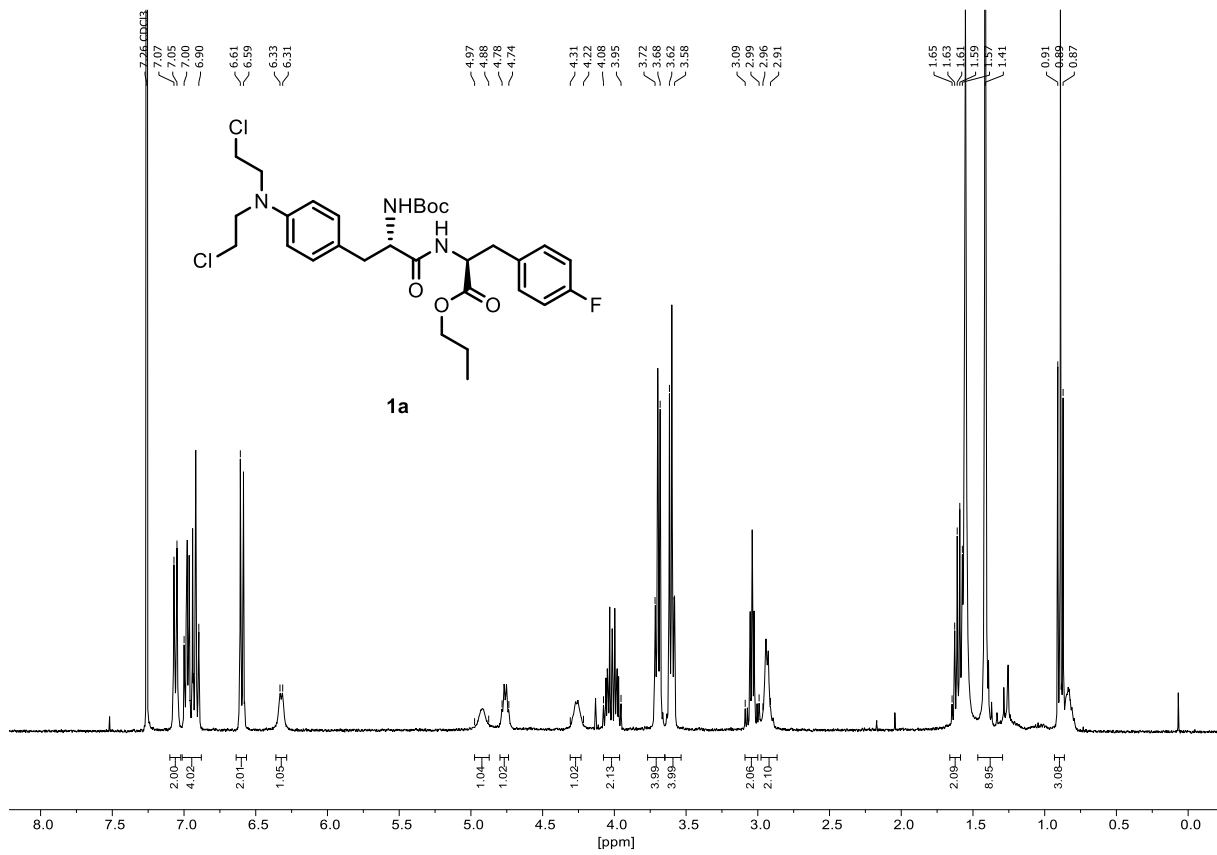
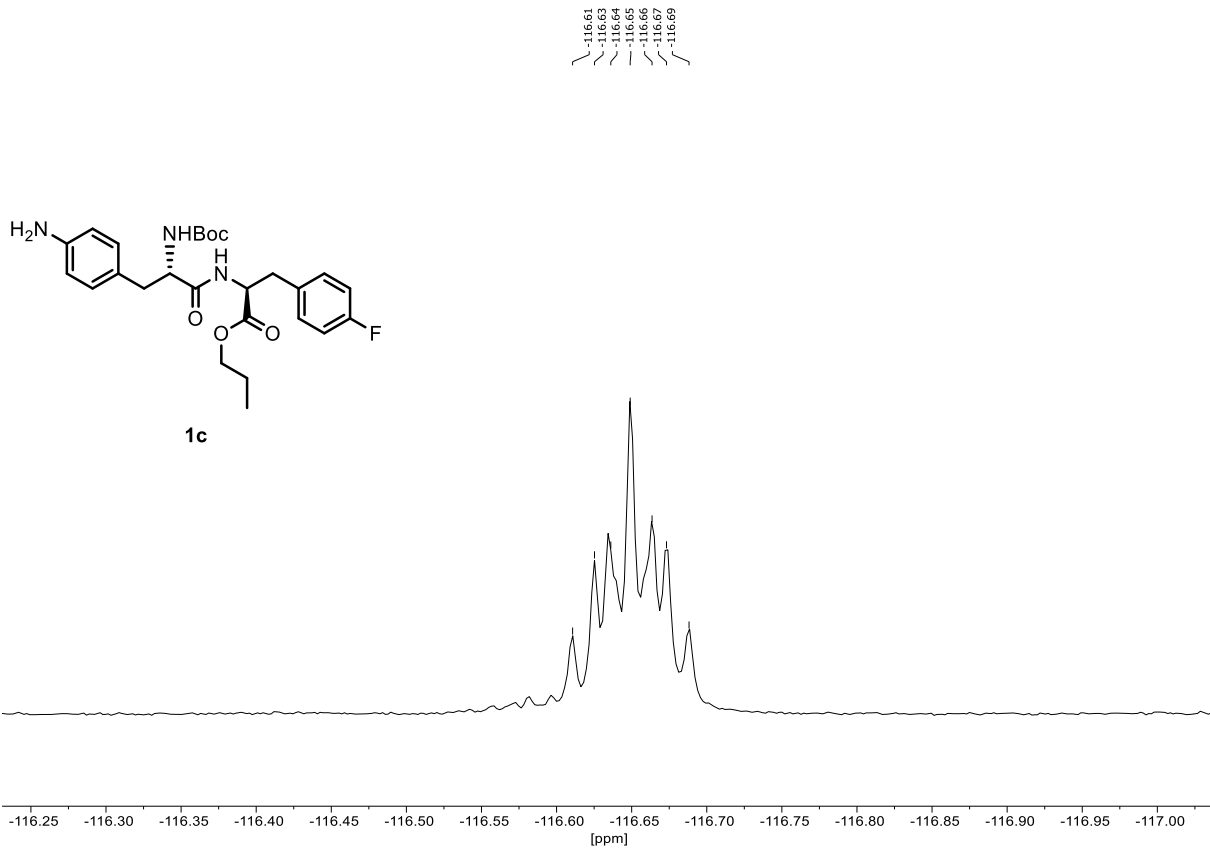


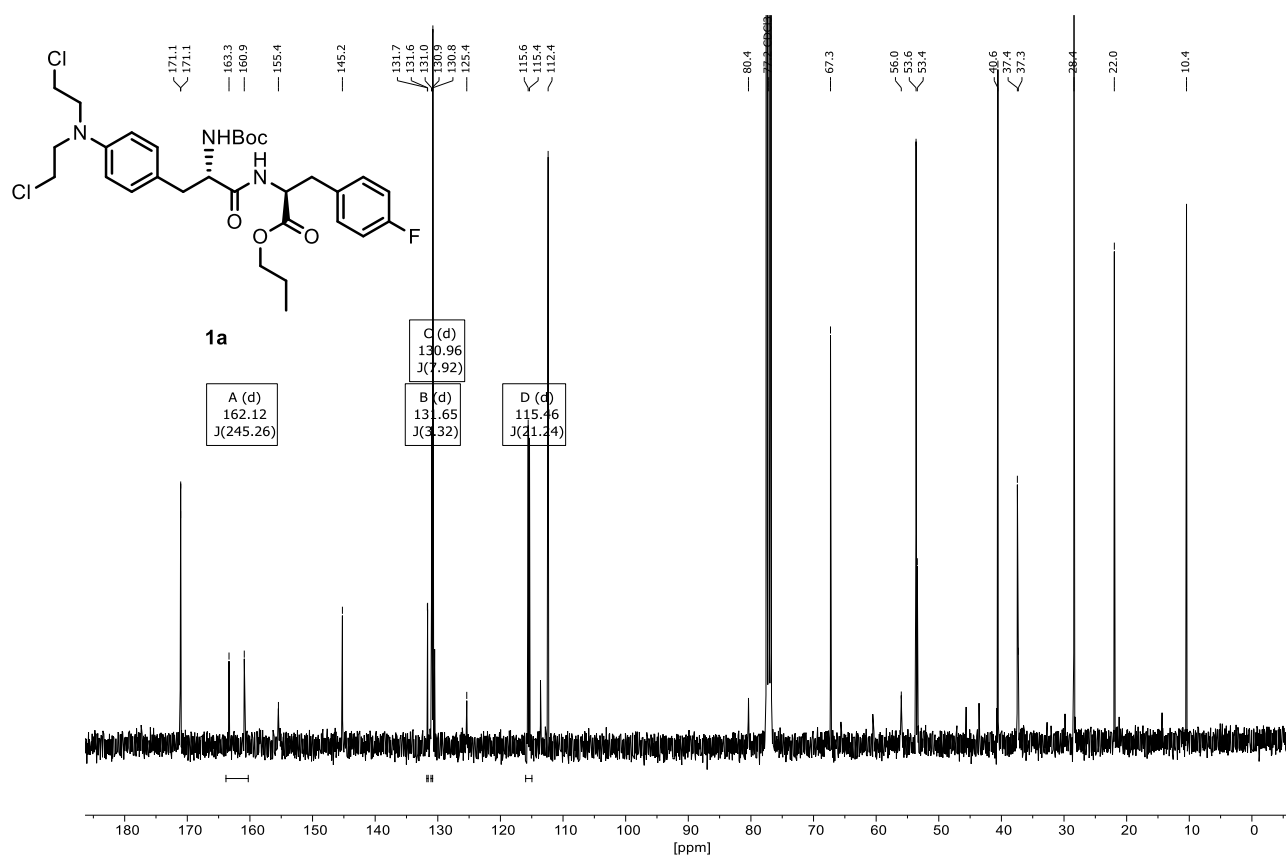
-115.56
 -115.57
 -115.58
 -115.60
 -115.61
 -115.62
 -115.64



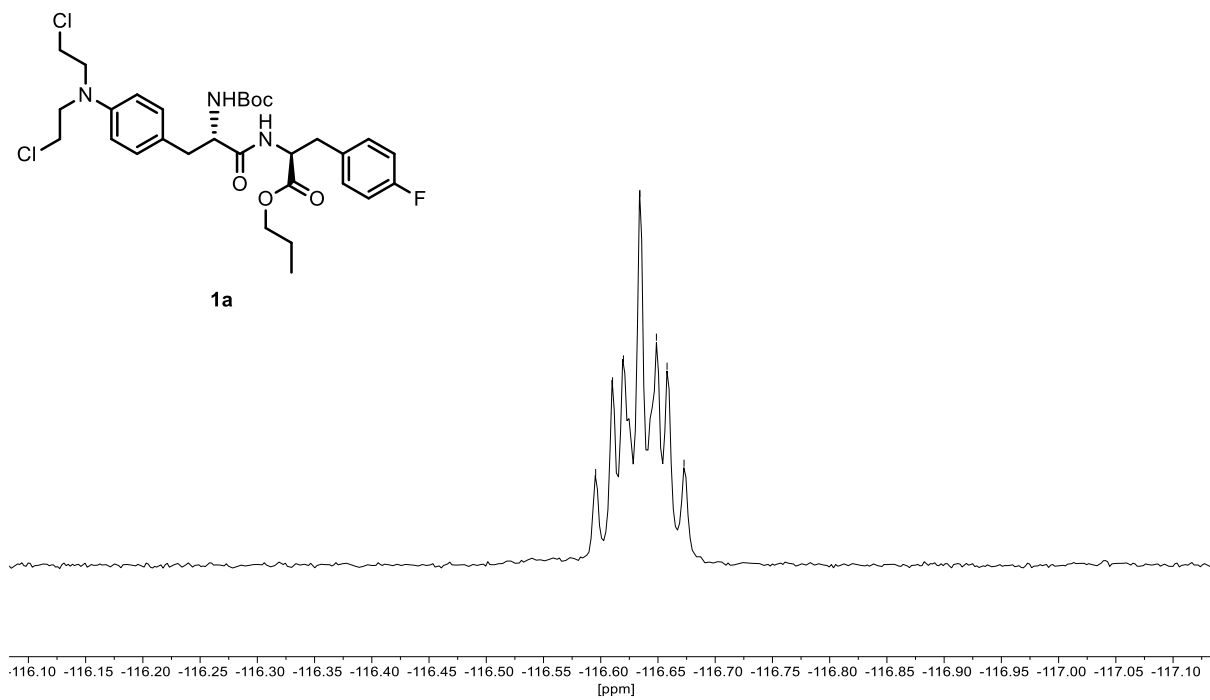


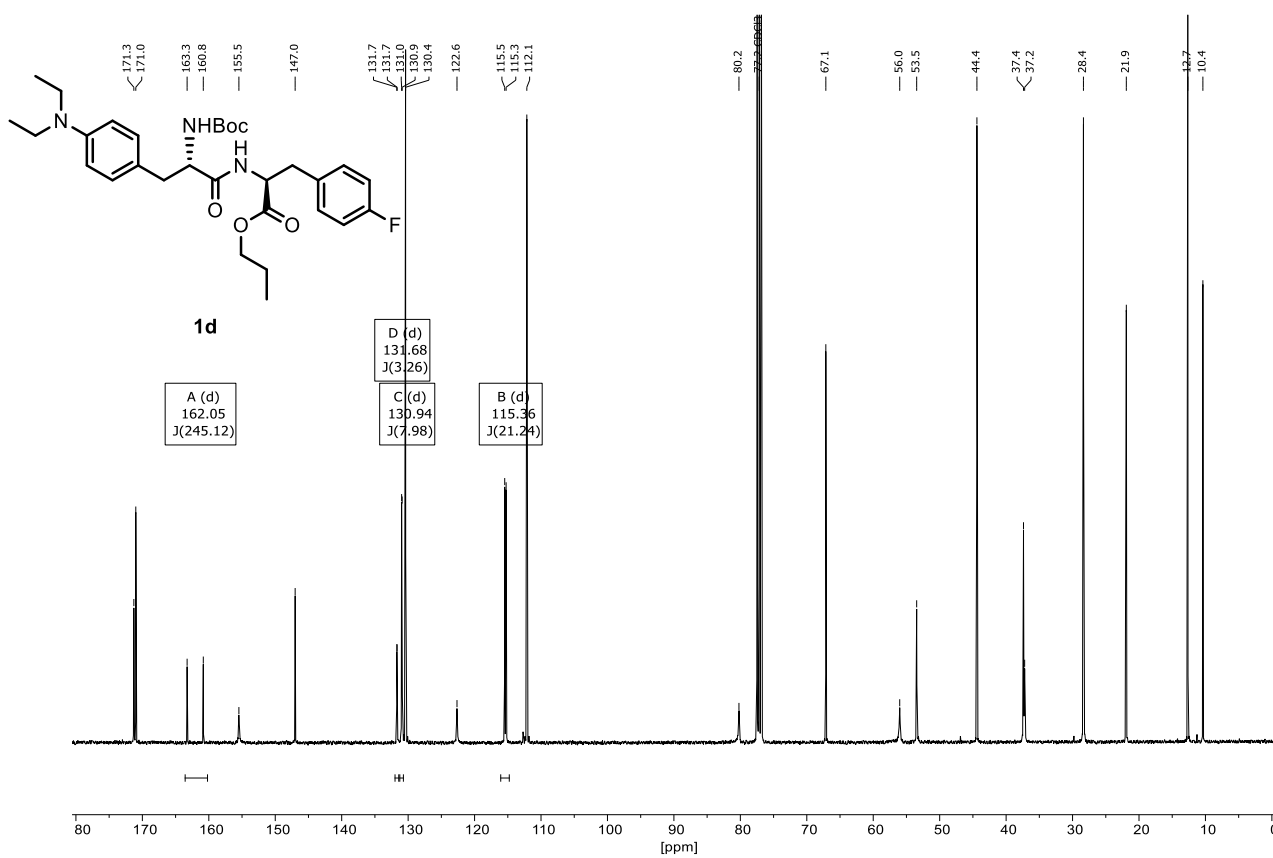
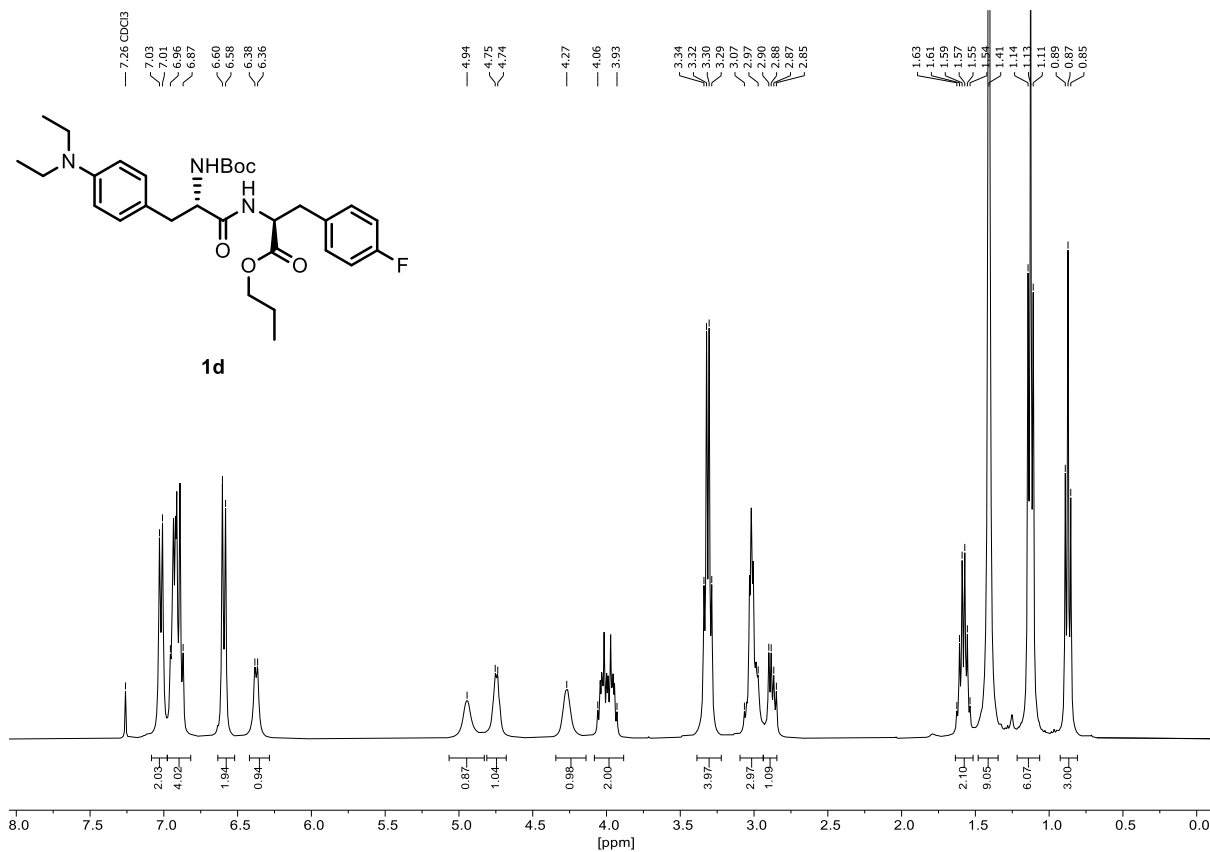


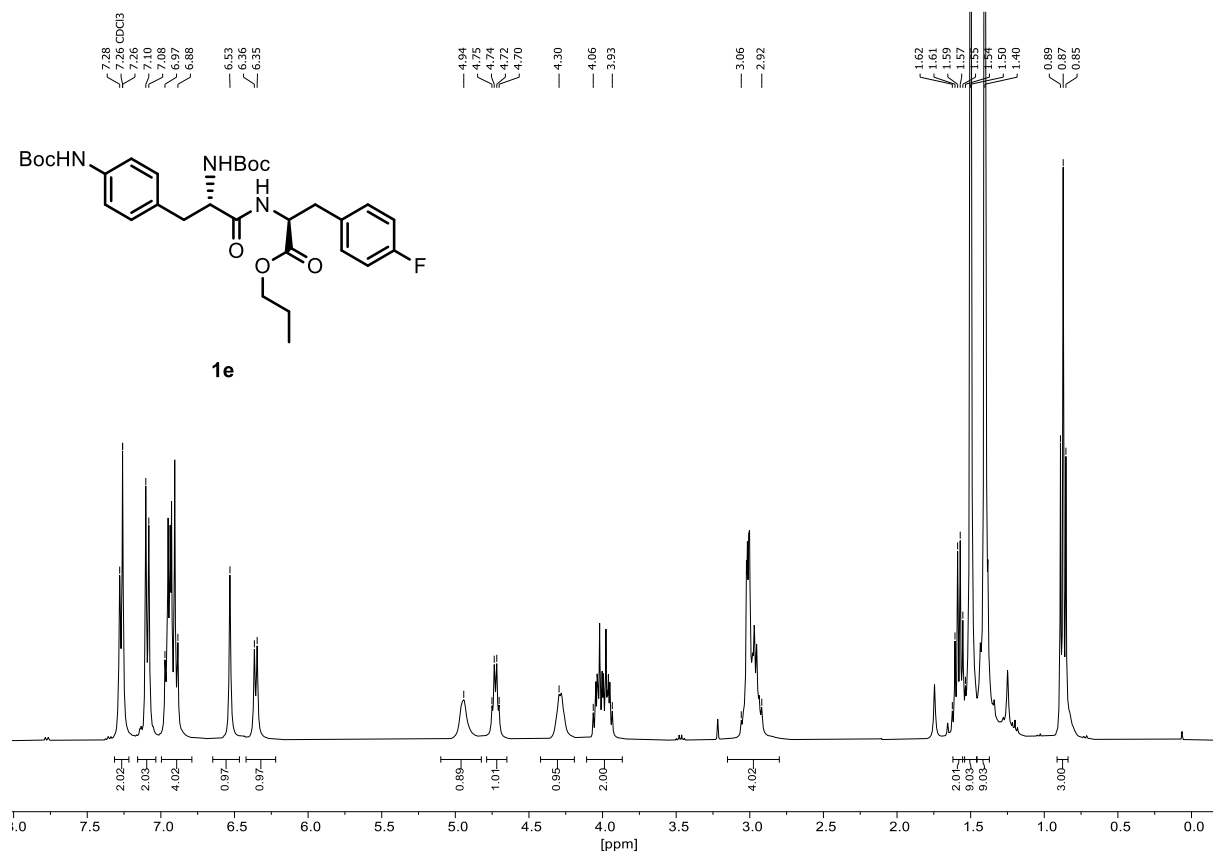
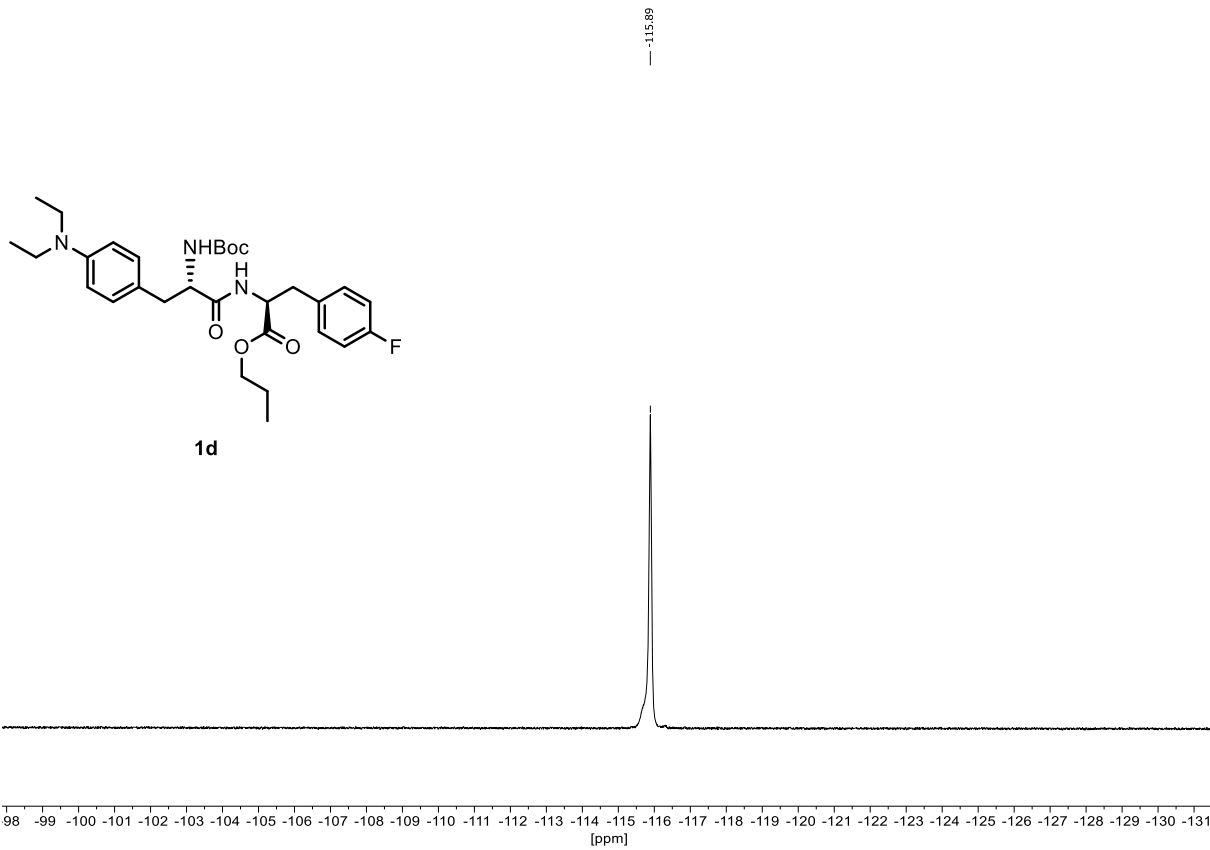


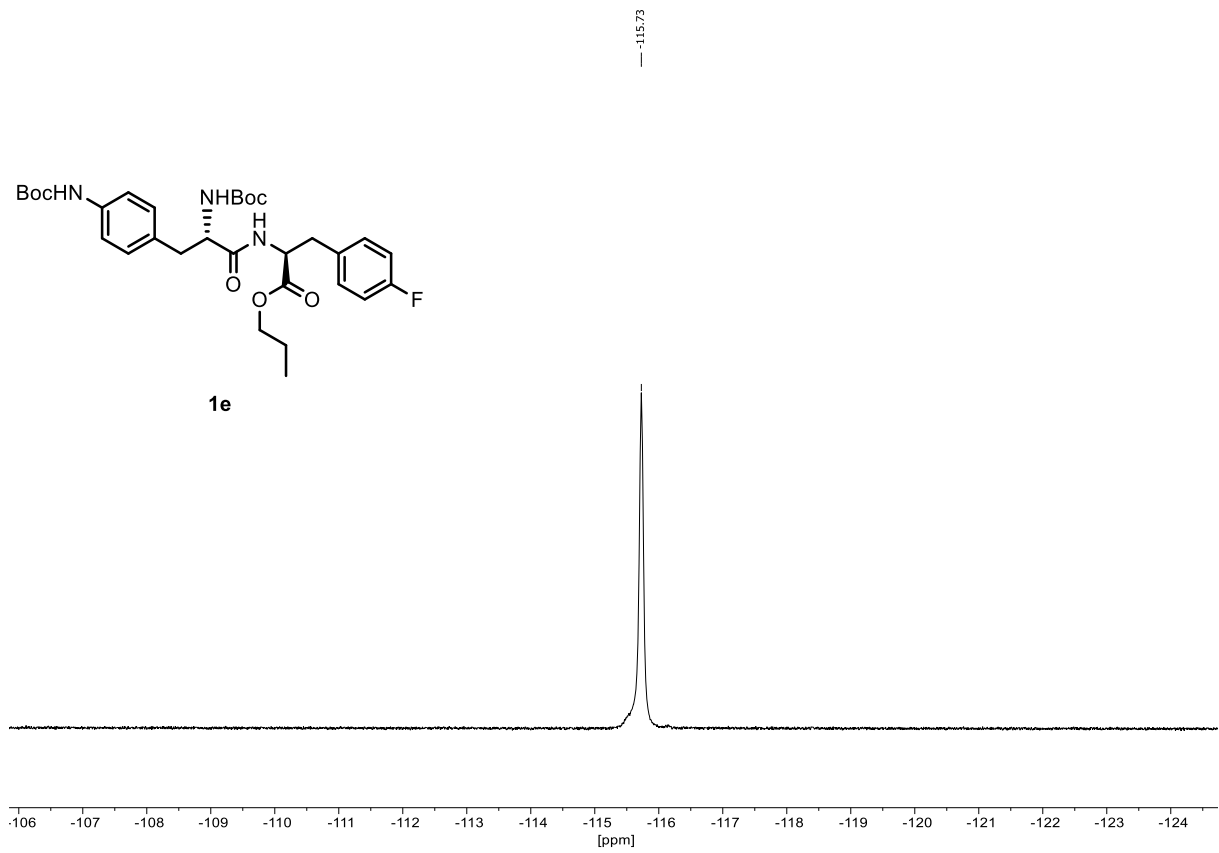
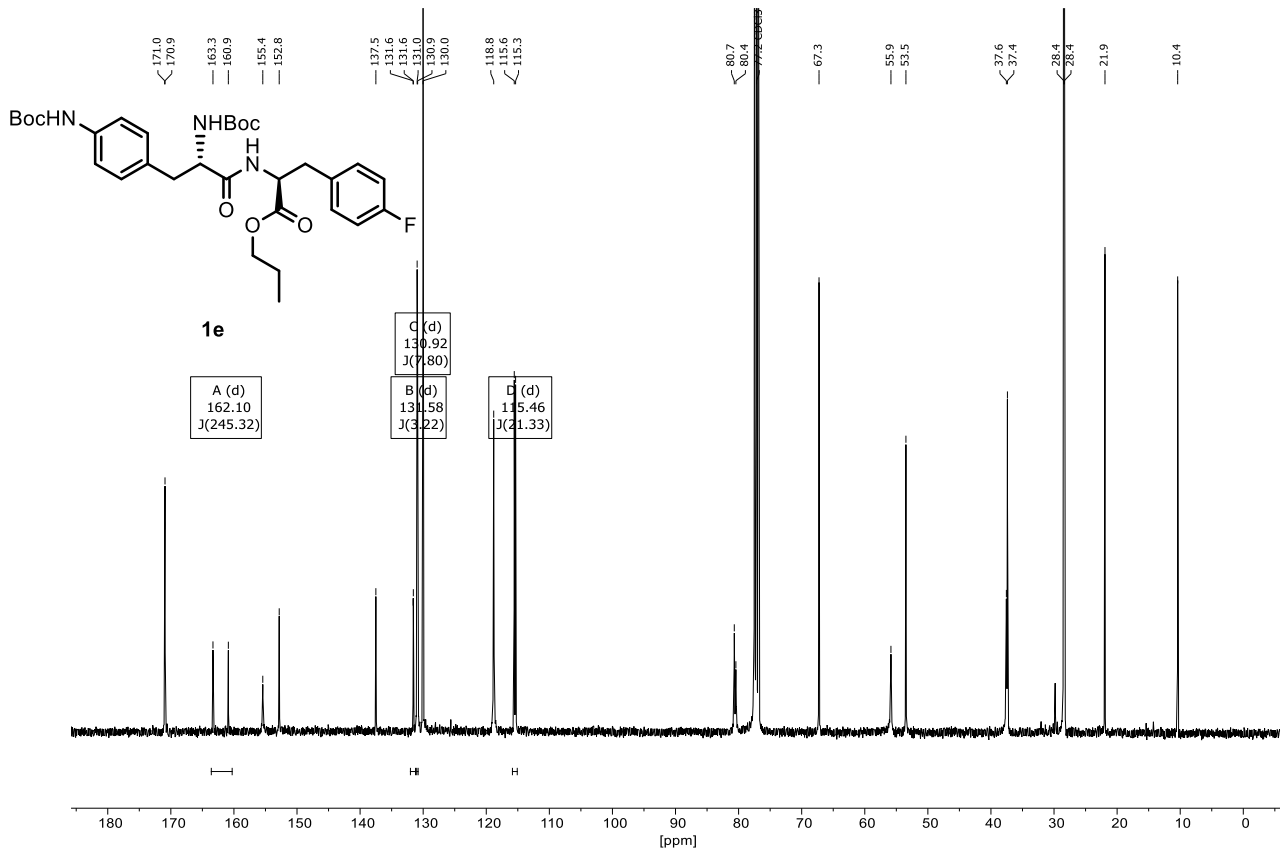


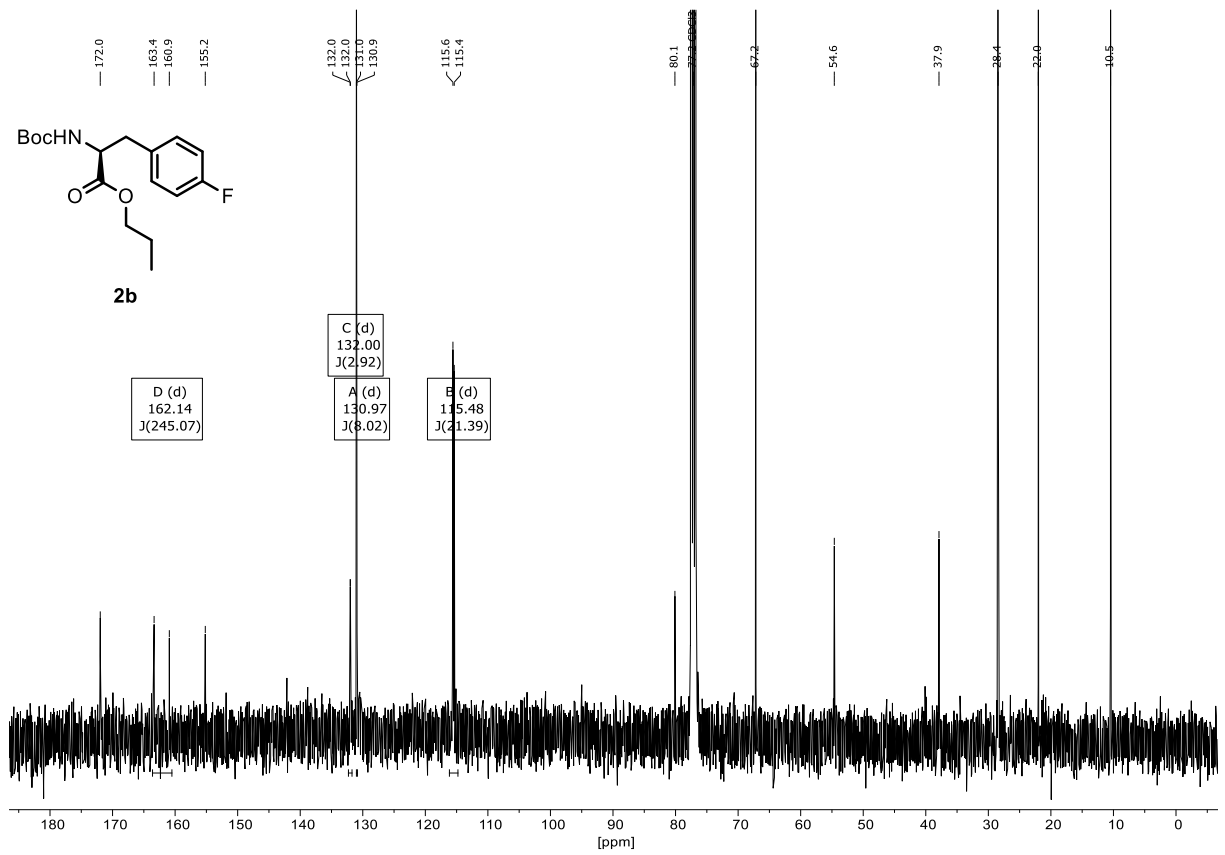
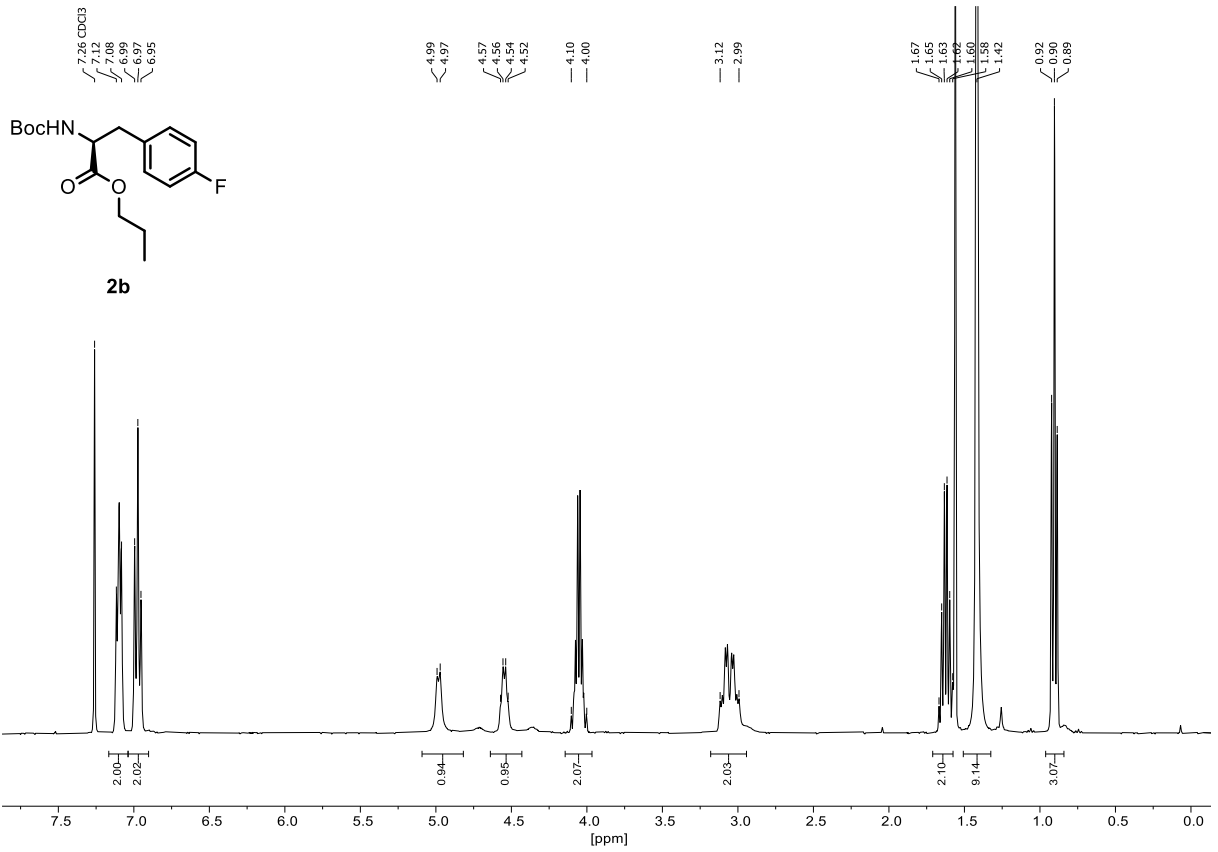
116.60
116.61
116.62
116.63
116.65
116.66
116.67

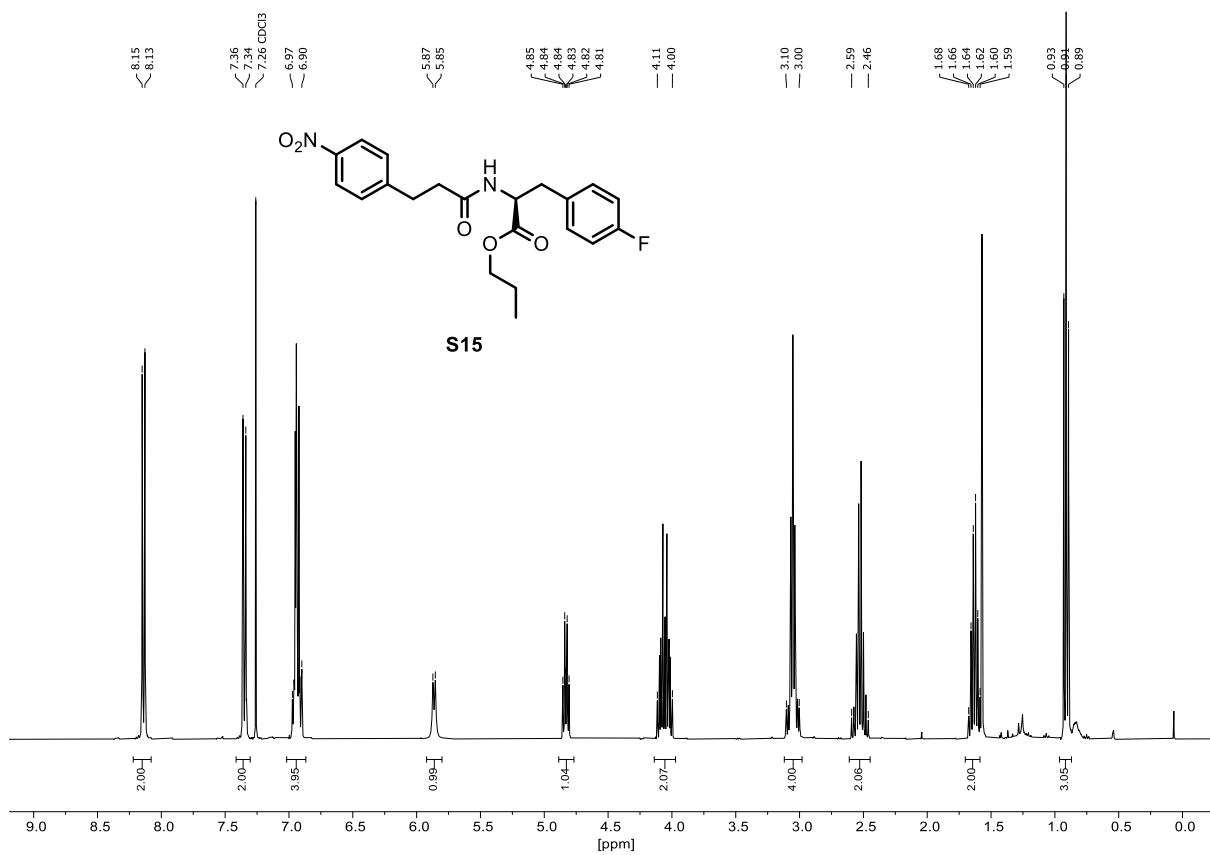
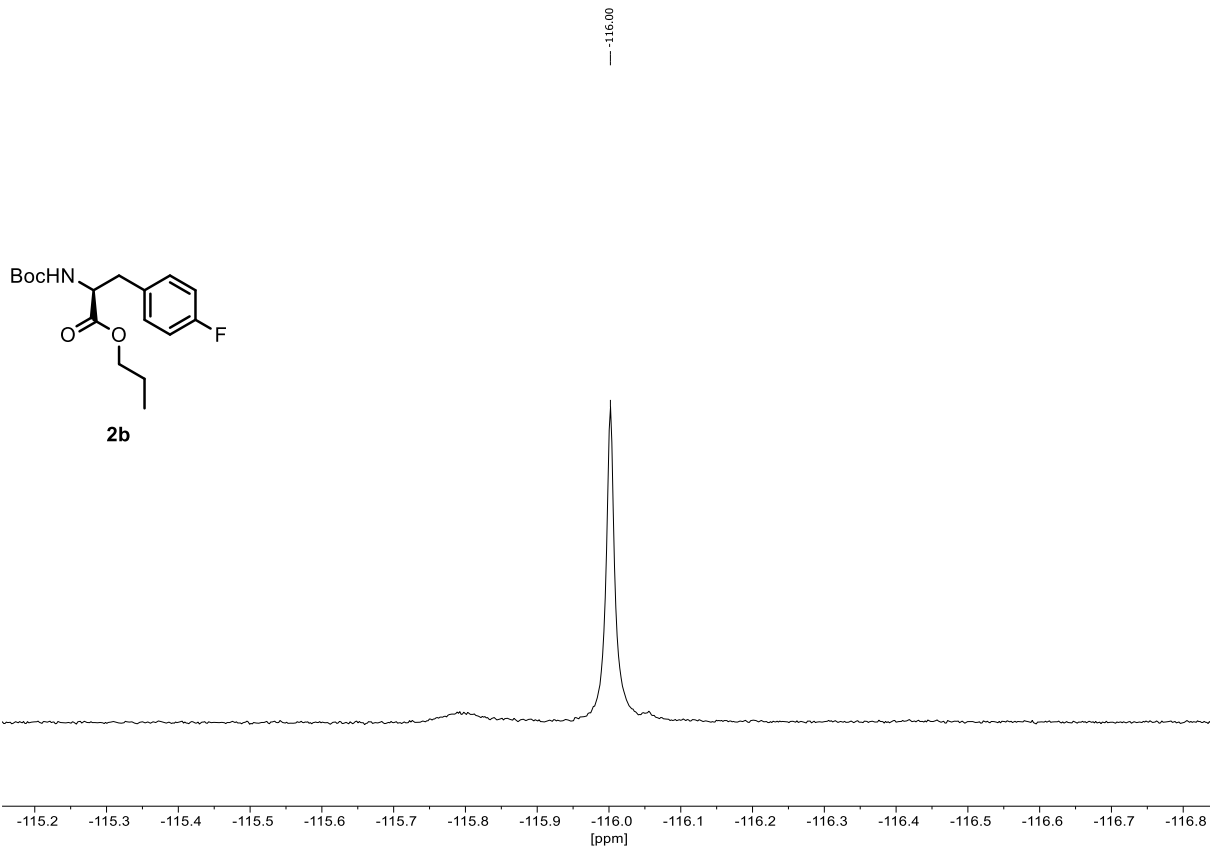


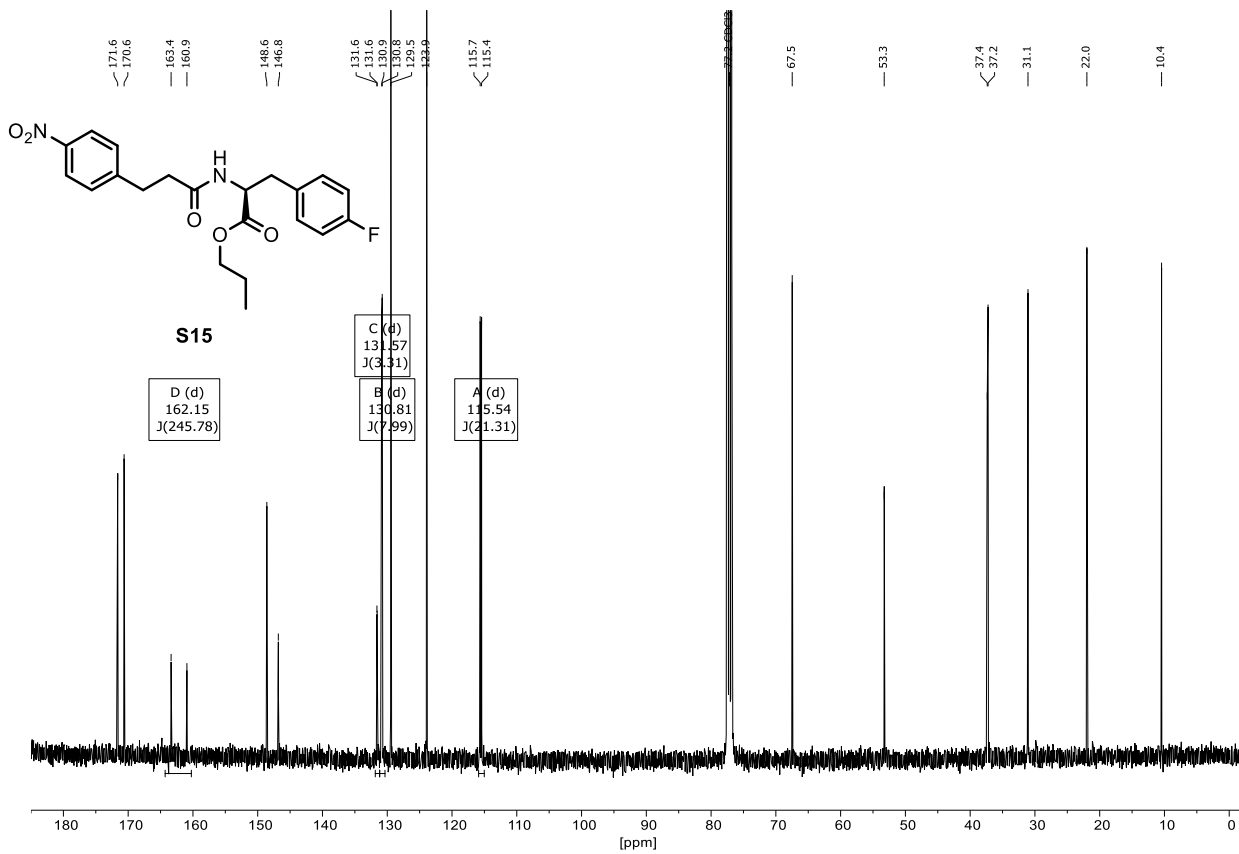




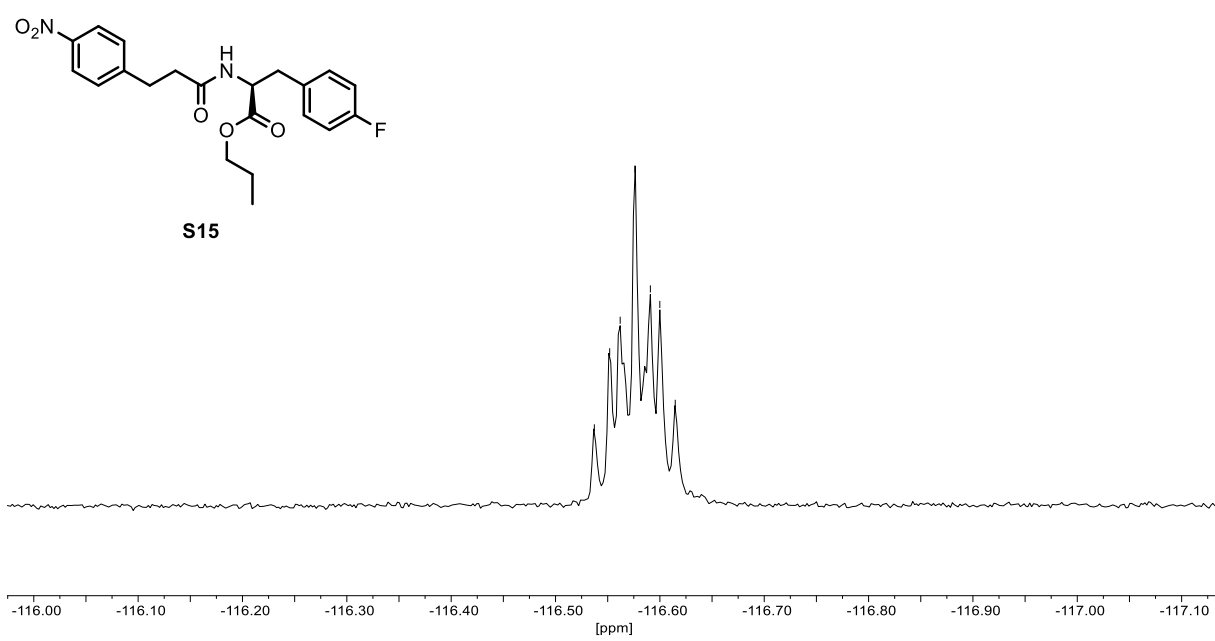


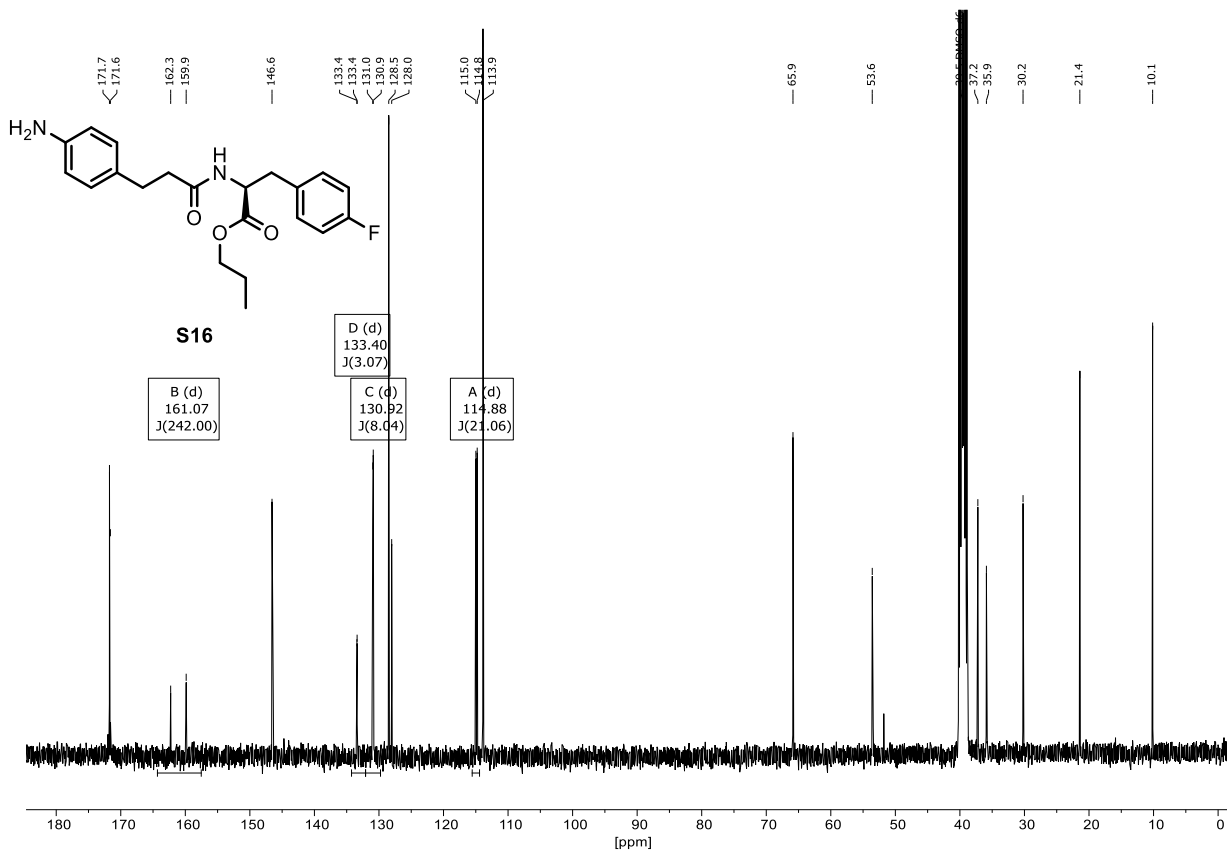
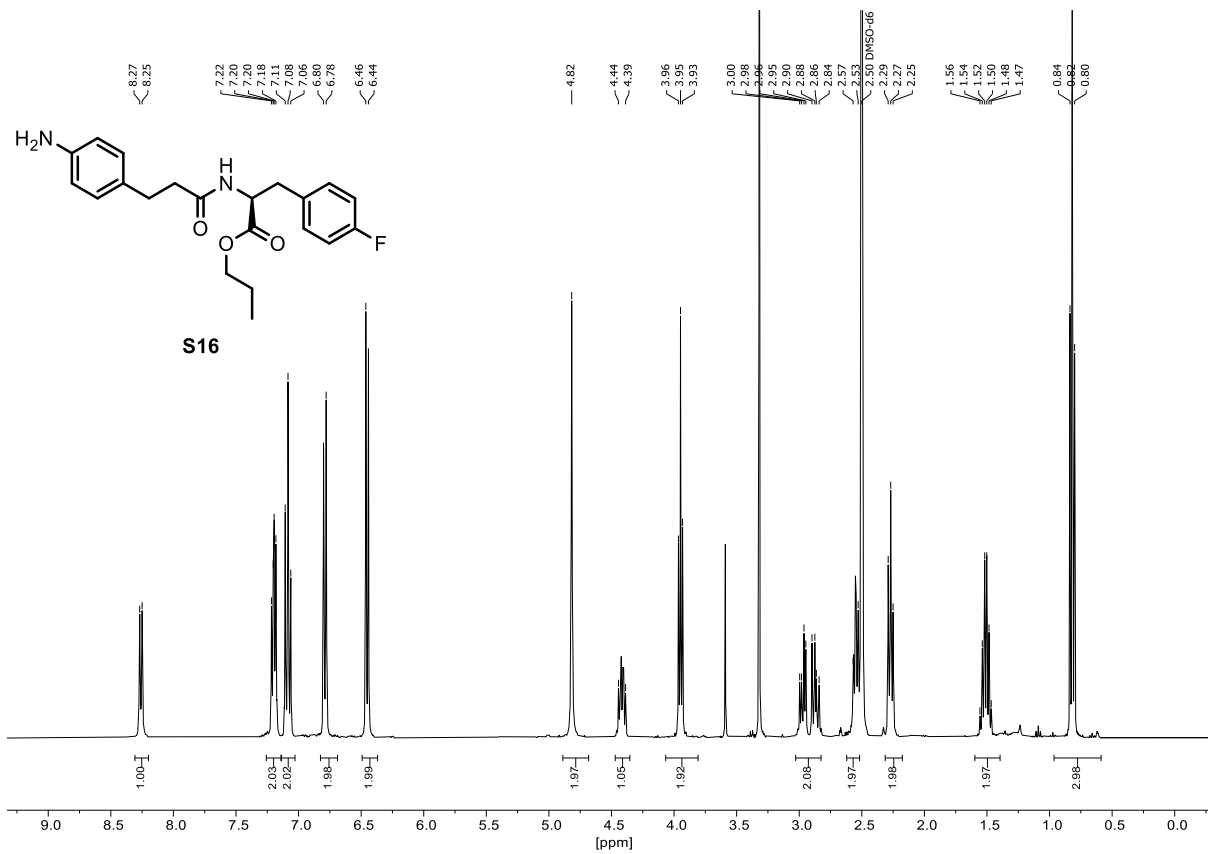


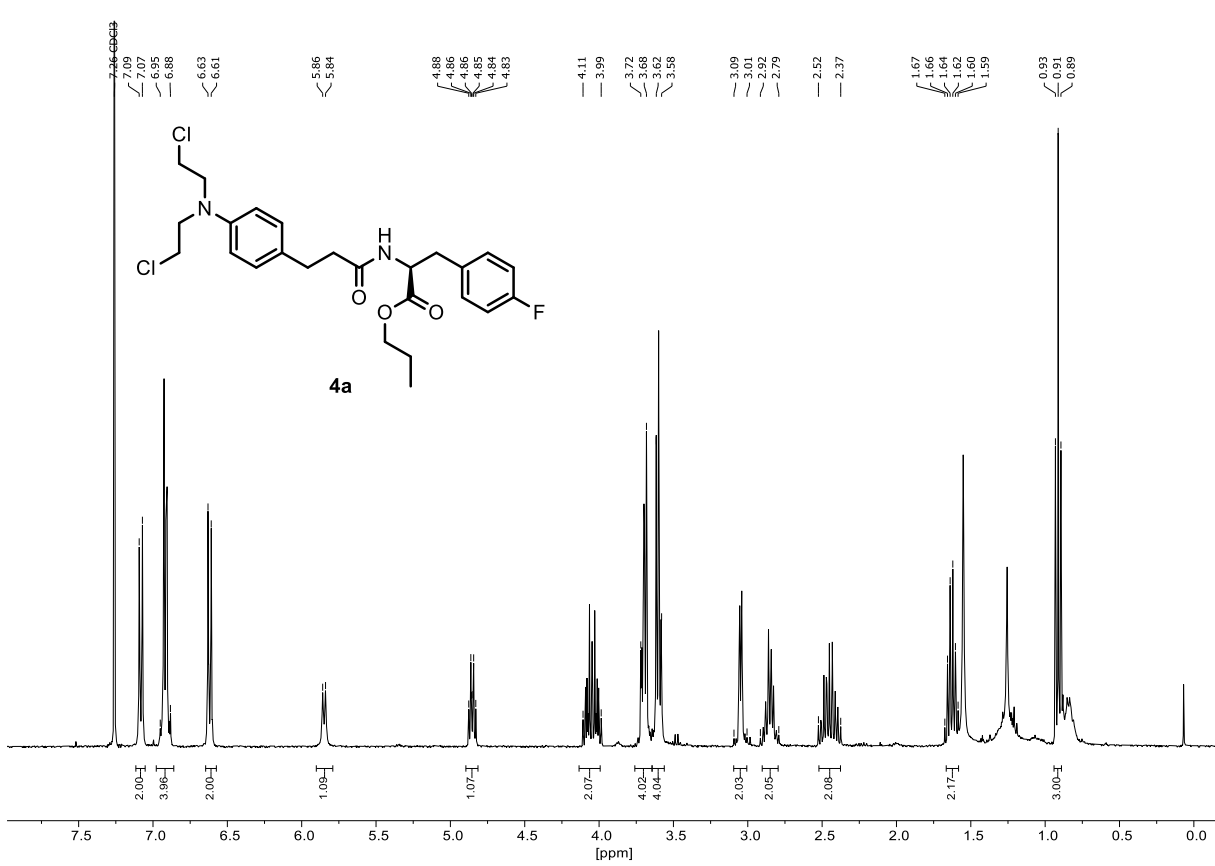
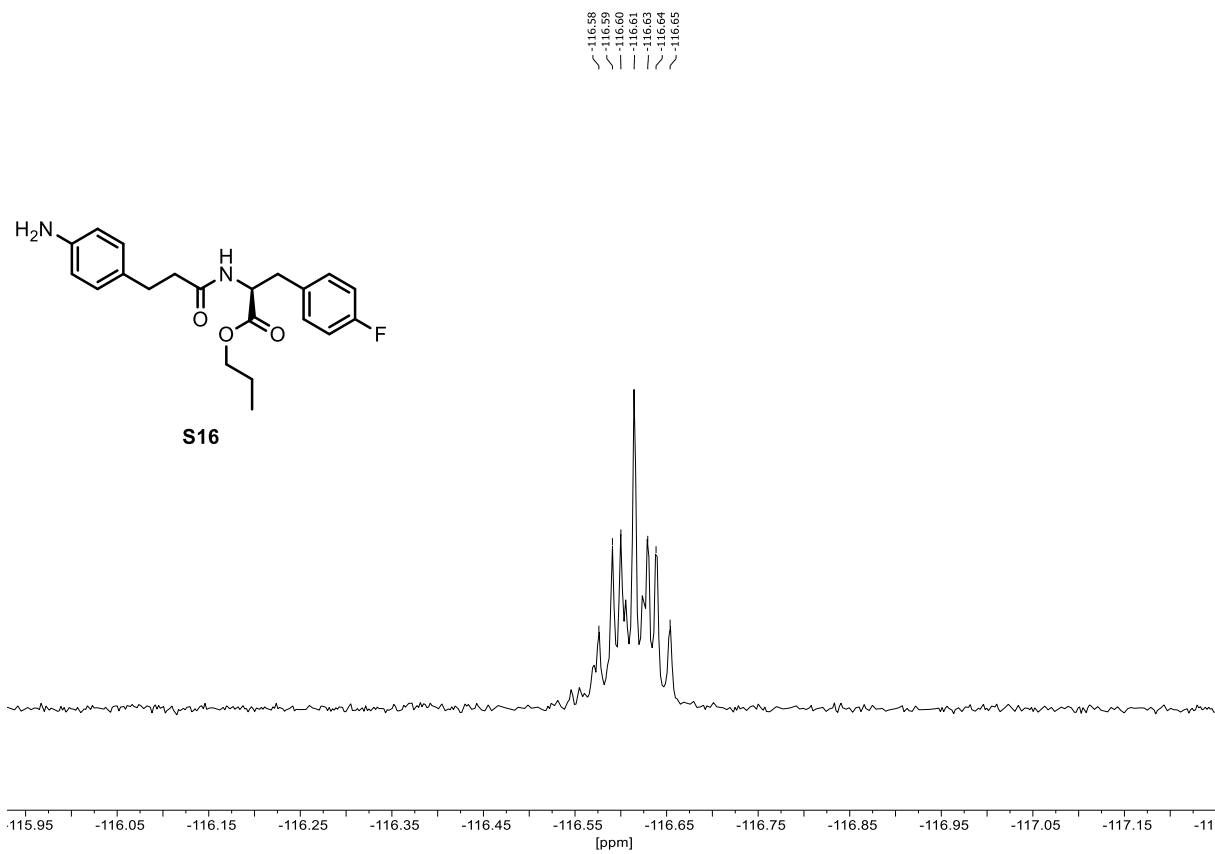


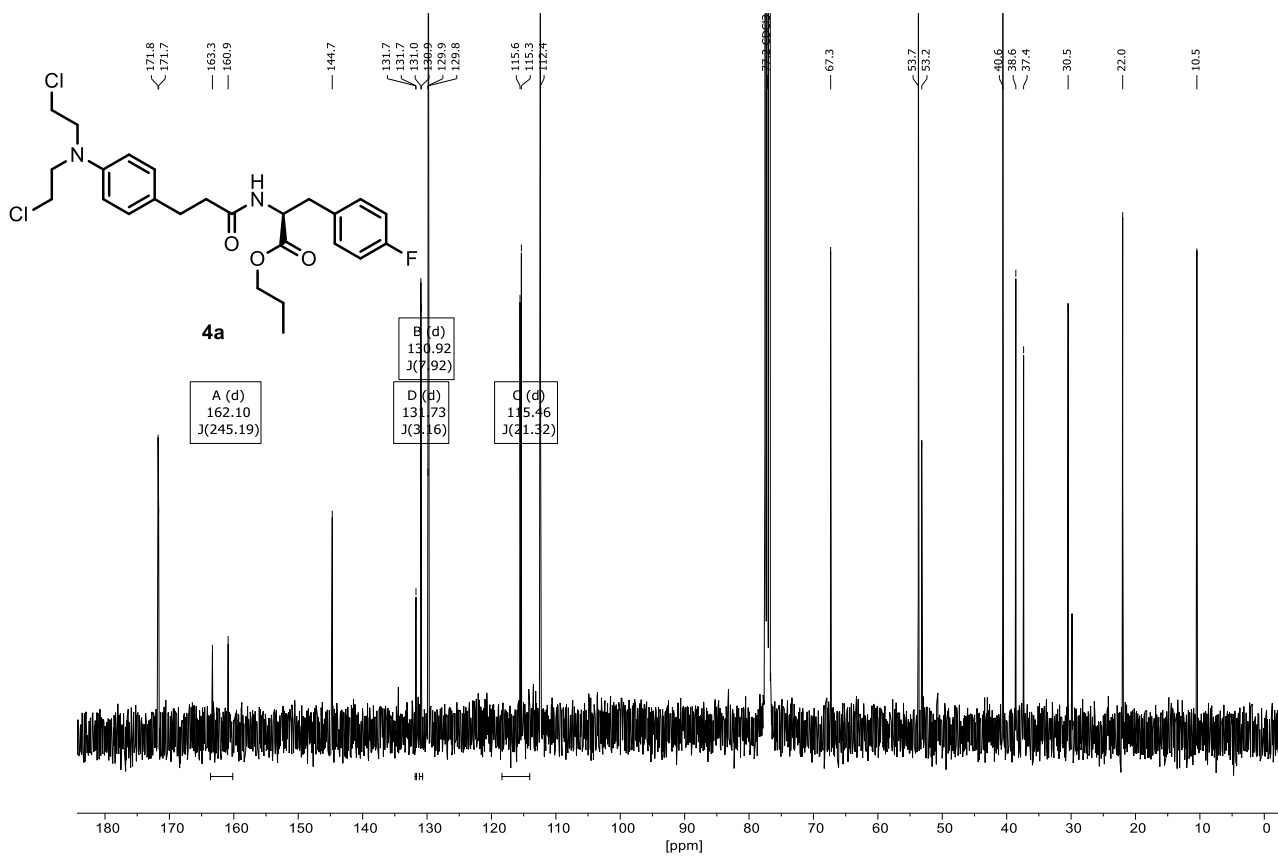


Chemical shifts (ppm): -116.54, -116.55, -116.56, -116.58, -116.59, -116.60, -116.61.

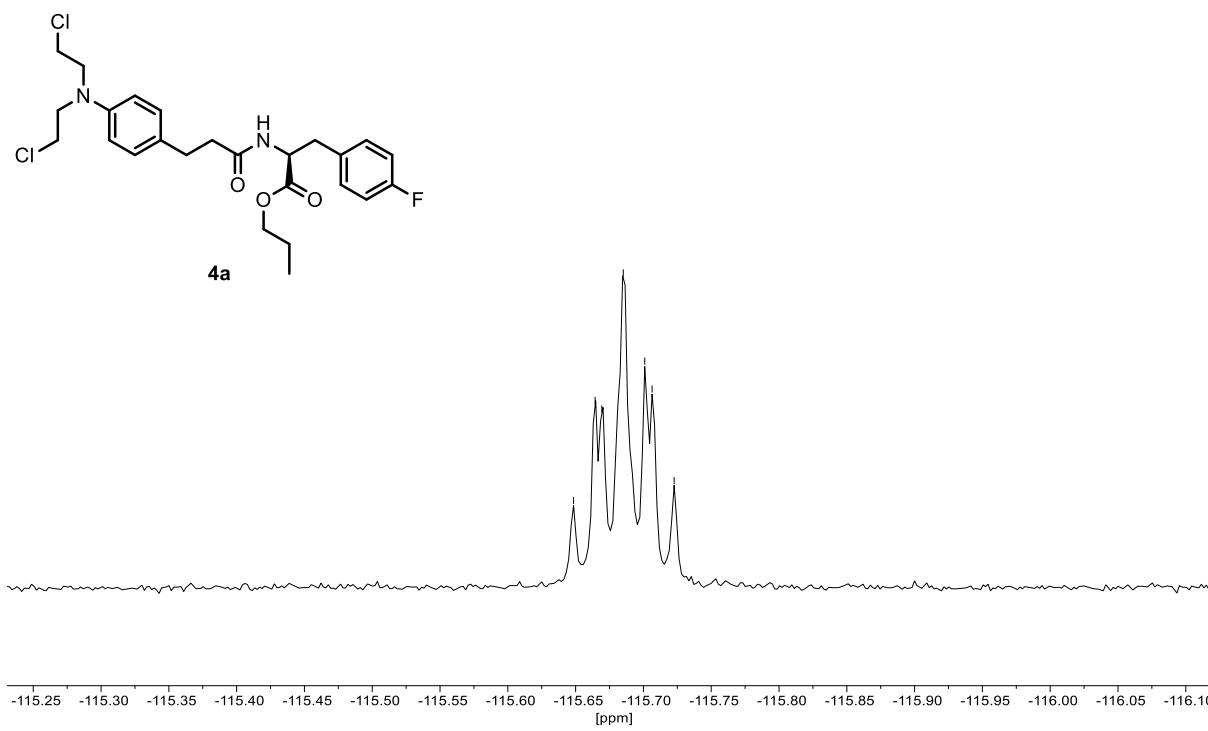








115.65
115.66
115.67
115.69
115.70
115.71
115.72



7.2. Radio/UV Analytical HPLC Chromatograms

