

Novel forms of a potent Cannabinoid receptor modulator

1 Introduction

Obesity is widely recognized as the largest and fastest growing public health problem in the developed and developing world [1]. Since the last decade, obesity has received major attention globally. It is no more considered as a cosmetic concern, rather a serious global epidemic, because of its wide impact on public health. The International Obesity Task Force estimates that more than 300 million individuals worldwide are obese and an additional 800 million are over-weight [2]. According to an estimate by WHO, at least 2.8 million people die each year as a result of being overweight or obese, and an estimated 35.8 million (2.3%) of Disability Adjusted Life Years are lost by overweight or obesity globally. The worldwide prevalence of obesity has nearly doubled between 1980 and 2008. In 2008, 10% of men and 14% of women in the world were obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²), compared with 5% for men and 8% for women in 1980 [3].

Sedentary life style and uncontrolled dietary habits is a common tendency in most of the developed and many developing societies which contribute to the obesity epidemic. The problem is compounded with the advent of junk foods, ready to eat and processed food; modern lifestyles with their various stresses as well as increasing disposable income also play a part in this problem. Although food is necessary for survival, increased exposure to processed food is overwhelming people [4], and effective strategies to reduce body-mass index (BMI) in populations are scarce. Obesity is associated with substantial increases in morbidity, premature mortality, impaired quality of life and large healthcare costs [5]. The problem with obesity are compounded due to the major comorbidities associated with it that include type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, hypertension, dyslipidemia, myocardial infarction, stroke, certain cancers, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis [6]. Surprisingly, however, treatment options remain quite limited. Lifestyle changes in the form of dieting and/or exercise per se do not generally

produce marked or sustainable weight loss [7], whereas psychological therapies are difficult to deliver on a mass scale [8] and long-term results are disappointing. Bariatric surgery though more effective are limited by possible complications in surgery and requirement of reoperation. Hence, prevalence of obesity pharmacotherapy has become a popular choice, especially among the younger generations [9].

Till date, obesity pharmacotherapy, though pursued for over half a century has yielded very little success. Earlier attempts to treat obesity using various agents such as centrally acting sympathomimetic desoxyephedrine, phentermine, or, combination of phentermine and fenfluramine, or the dual monoamine (noradrenaline and serotonin)-reuptake inhibitor sibutramine etc. have all been plagued with serious adverse effects, most important being cardiovascular risks. Such adverse effects have led to the withdrawal of most of them from the market.

Cannabinoids are present in Indian hemp *Cannabis sativa* and have been well known for their medicinal properties for ages. Use of Cannabinoids as a therapeutic agent is however a recent phenomenon [10]. Over the last decade, research in this area has provided very important information on the cannabinoid receptors and their agonists and antagonists. Development of various central cannabinoid (CB) receptor ligands [11] has been attempted. Further cloning and isolation of two different subtypes of cannabinoid receptors - CB₁ (central subtype) and CB₂ (peripheral subtype) and the identification of the first endogenous ligand, N-arachidonyl ethanolamine amide (AEA) (anadamide) [12, 13] have stimulated research in this field. CB₁ is a member of the G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) family. The CB₂ receptor has 44% amino acid identity with CB₁, and a distinct yet similar binding profile, and thus represents a receptor subtype [14].

1.1 Mechanisms of Cannabinoid Receptor Regulation

Despite the growing list of diseases that show cannabinoid receptor expression changes, relatively little is known about the mechanisms underlying these changes. In primary hepatocytes, RAR- γ (Retinoic acid

receptor γ] binds the -500 to +50 region of the CB₁R promoter and increases its expression which results in Retinoic acid being released from hepatic stellate cells induces CB₁R expression in hepatocytes, which in turn induces lipogenesis. Further, CNS-specific knockout of SF-1 (steroidogenic factor-1) leads to loss of CB₁R expression in the ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH) and CNS-specific SF-1 knockouts therefore do not show the appetite-stimulating effects of CB₁R agonists. SF-1 regulation of CB₁R expression in the VMH is thus required for cannabinoid effects on food intake [15].

1.2 CB₁ and CB₂-Selective Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) found in cannabis is an agonist for both CB₁ and CB₂. Compounds that are significantly more potent at activating CB₁ than CB₂ receptors include three synthetic analogs of anandamide (Fig. 1): R-(+)-methanandamide, arachidonyl-2'-chloroethylamide (ACEA), and arachidonyl cyclopropylamide [16]. Each of these compounds possesses significant potency and relative intrinsic activity as a CB₁ receptor agonist. Noladin ether (2-arachidonyl glyceryl ether) [17] is also a CB₁-selective agonist. It has been reported to possess CB₁ receptor relative intrinsic activity but has been found to be less potent as a CB₁ receptor agonist [18]. As far as CB₂-selective agonists are concerned, the most frequently used pharmacological tools are (6a*R*,10a*R*)-3-(1,1-dimethylbutyl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]pyran (JWH-133; a classical cannabinoid), {4-[4-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2,6-dimethoxy-phenyl]-6,6-dimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]hept-2-en-2-yl}-methanol (HU-308; a non-classical cannabinoid), and (2-methyl-1-propyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalenylmethanone (JWH-015) and *R*-3-(2-iodo-5-nitrobenzoyl)-1-methyl-2-piperidinylmethyl)-1*H*-indole (aminoalkylindoles)(AM1241) [19].

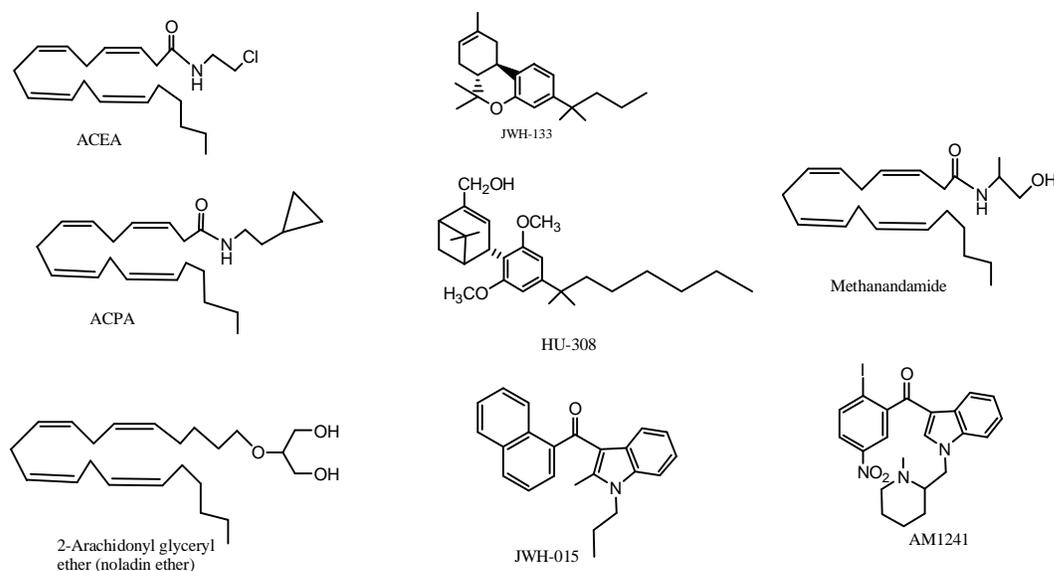


Figure 1: The structures of ACEA, arachidonyl cyclopropylamide (ACPA), methanandamide, and noladin ether JWH-133, HU-308, JWH-015, and AM1241 [19].

1.2.1 CB₁-Selective Competitive Antagonists:

Rimonabant [5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide, SR141716A], *N*-(piperidin-1-yl)-5-(4-iodophenyl)-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (AM251), 1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-(4-iodophenyl)-4-methyl-*N*-4-morpholinyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (AM281), 4-[[6-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-benzofuranyl]carbonyl]benzotrile (LY320135) and Taranabant [N-[(2*S*,3*S*)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-butanyl]-2-methyl-2-[[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]oxy]propanamide](Fig. 2) can all block agonist-induced activation of cannabinoid CB₁ receptors in a competitive manner and bind with significantly greater affinity to CB₁ than CB₂ receptors.

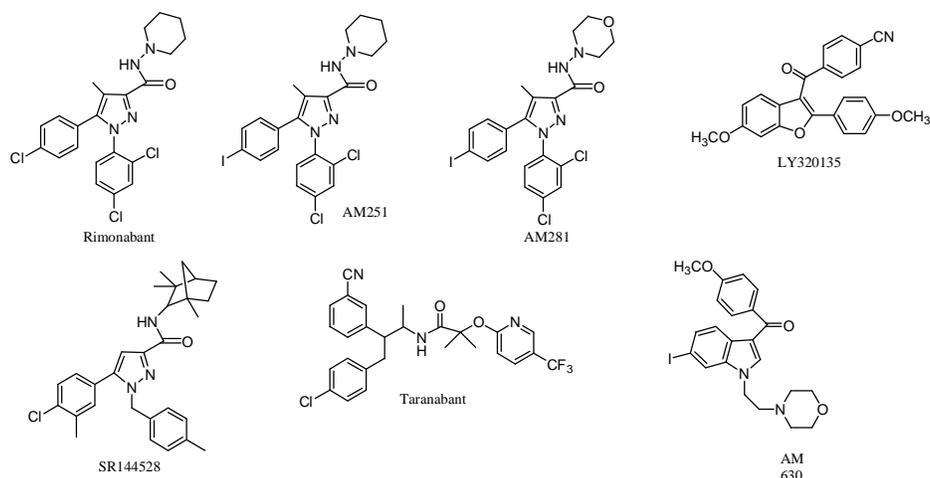


Figure 2: The structures of the CB₁-selective antagonists/inverse agonists, rimonabant, AM251, AM281, LY320135, and taranabant and of the CB₂-selective antagonists/inverse agonists SR144528 and AM630 [19].

Some CB₁ receptor competitive antagonists have also been developed that lack any detectable ability to induce signs of inverse agonism at the CB₁ receptor when administered alone. One example of such a “neutral” antagonist is *N*-piperidinyl-[8-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,4,5, 6-tetrahydrobenzo[6,7]cyclohepta[1,2-*c*]pyrazole-3-carboxamide] (NESS O327) (Fig. 3), which is a structural analog of Rimonabant and displays markedly higher affinity for CB₁ than for CB₂ receptors. This compound behaves as CB₁ receptor antagonist both *in vitro* and *in vivo* and yet, by itself, does not affect [³⁵S]GTPγS binding to rat cerebellar membranes [20]. Several other compounds have been reported to behave as neutral cannabinoid CB₁ receptor antagonists. These include (6*aR*,10*aR*)-3-(1-methanesulfonylamino-4-hexyn-6-yl)-6*a*,7,10,10*a*-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]pyran (O-2050) (Fig. 3)

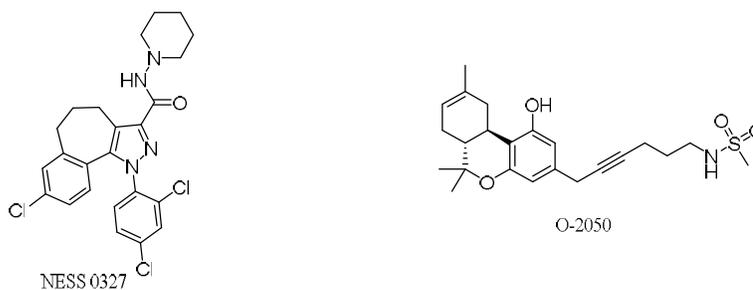


Figure 3: The structures of NESS 0327 and O-2050.

Rimonabant hydrochloride (Figure 4 below) is the first therapeutically relevant, potent and selective CB₁ receptor inverse agonist, recently approved in Europe as anti-obesity drug, which belongs to diaryl pyrazole family [21]. It was marketed as Acomplia™ by Sanofi-Aventis.

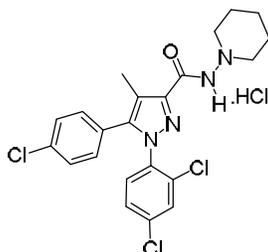


Figure 4: Rimonabant hydrochloride

Rimonabant resulted in a significantly greater benefit than placebo for all primary weight loss outcomes. At 1 year, Rimonabant showed a statistically significant beneficial effect on systolic blood pressure, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, triglycerides and fasting plasma glucose in diabetics and non-diabetics, and glycosylated hemoglobin in diabetics. Improvements were maintained over 2 years with Rimonabant; withdrawal of Rimonabant treatment at 1 year resulted in a reduction in weight loss until there was no difference from placebo at 2 years. However, psychiatric adverse events were experienced by 26% and 14% of Rimonabant and placebo patients respectively [22].

On 23 October 2008, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) issued a press release stating its Committee for Medical Products for Human Use (CHMP) had concluded the benefits of Rimonabant no longer outweighed its risks, and subsequently recommended the product be suspended from the market. Sanofi-Aventis later released a press statement stating the drug had been suspended. Approval of the drug was officially withdrawn by the EMA on 16 January 2009.

This decision in turn rapidly led to the termination of several CB₁-receptor-antagonist-based anti-obesity drug development programmes [including those for Taranabant, Otenabant, Surinabant and Ibipinabant] [23].

Despite the withdrawal of Rimonabant and the demise of several CB₁ receptor antagonist development programmes, many researchers believe

that one has not yet reached the end of the line for anti-obesity treatments targeting the CB₁ receptor [24, 25]. It is now believed that neutral antagonists might retain the weight loss advantages of, but will be devoid of reported adverse effects for e.g. of Rimonabant [26]. Another promising approach is to develop agents which do not cross the blood-brain barrier [27].

Srivastava et. al. [28] discloses certain novel compounds of the class tricyclic pyrazole derivatives useful as modulators of cannabinoid receptors having the following general formula (A) (Figure 5):

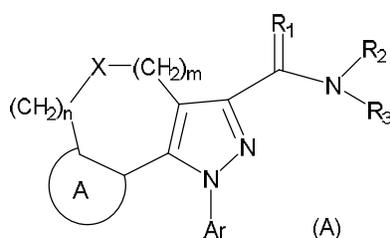


Figure 5: General structure of CB₁ antagonist disclosed in WO 2006/025069

wherein 'Ar' represents single or fused groups selected from aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl & heteroaryl(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl group, each of them independently may optionally be substituted; 'A' represents optionally substituted heteroaromatic or aromatic groups; 'X' is selected from -CH₂-, O, S, SO, SO₂, or NR'; where R' represents H, optionally substituted groups selected from linear or branched alkyl and cycloalkyl groups and, m & n represents integers such that 1 ≤ m+n ≤ 3; R₁ represents

O, S; R₂ is either H or (C₁-C₆) alkyl; R₃ is $\text{---NR}_a\text{R}_b\text{R}_c^{\oplus}$ or -NR_bR_c where R_a is (C₁-C₆)alkyl or R_a forms a bridge containing 1-2 atoms, with one of the atoms of the heterocyclic radical formed by -NR_bR_c; R_b & R_c represents optionally substituted groups selected from alkyl, aralkyl or alkenyl or R_b & R_c together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic or heteroaromatic radical which may be optionally substituted and may be fused.

One of the compound disclosed therein is 1H-[1] benzoxepino[5,4-c]pyrazole-3-carboxamide, 8-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4,5-dihydro-N-1-piperidinyl, Compound (1) (Figure 6).

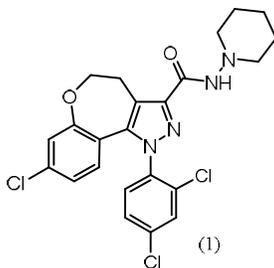


Figure 6: Compound of formula (1)

2 Studies on 1H-[1]Benzoxepino[5,4-c]pyrazole-3-carboxamide, 8-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4,5-dihydro-N-1-piperidinyl, Compound (1)

2.1 Rationale & Development strategy

The compound (1) exhibited an EC_{50} 14.5 μ M in human CB_1 receptor forskolin-induced cAMP assay, compared to an EC_{50} of 17.3 nM for Rimonabant. *In-vivo* the compound reversed CB_1 agonist-induced hypothermia in Swiss albino mice, indicating the efficacy of the compound. Interestingly, this compound did not change the forskolin-stimulated cAMP accumulation in CB_1 -transfected HEK cells up to 10 μ M concentration in absence of an agonist indicating that this compound may be a neutral antagonist. Therefore, the compound (1) though a weak agonist of CB_1 , its neutral antagonism made it a potential candidate for further development. This compound was always obtained in crystalline form. The crystalline form suffered from poor oral bioavailability and pharmacokinetic profile, like many other promising molecules in the CB_1 class. Further, no commercially viable process for the preparation of this compound was developed earlier. Therefore, the compound, though showing promise as a possible neutral agonist was not selected for further development.

This compound (1) has therefore been selected for:

- a) Developing a new scalable process for preparation of the compound;
- b) Improve the oral bioavailability of the compound through preparation of salts and alternate polymorphic forms.

2.2 Chemistry

A scalable process for preparation of the compound (**1**) was developed. The process is described in Scheme 1 below. In order to improve the pharmaceutical properties of the compound, initial attempts were directed at changing the polymorphic form of the compound (**1**) in order to alter the bioavailability. These attempts were limited by the insolubility of the compound in most organic solvents. The compound was found to be soluble upon heating in DMF, DMSO, dichloromethane and acetone. When these solutions were cooled and kept for 48 hours, crystals were obtained from DMF only, while a pasty material was obtained from the DMSO solution. No crystalline material was obtained when acetone or dichloromethane were used as solvents. Upon characterization, the crystal was found to be solvate of DMF. Since, acute exposure to dimethyl formamide has been observed to damage the liver in animals and in humans [29], the crystalline DMF solvate was not tested any further.

Subsequently, attempts were made to prepare various inorganic and organic salts of compound (**1**). The hydrochloride, bisulfate, oxalate and methyl iodide salts were prepared. Interestingly, the hydrochloride salt upon storage is hydrolyzed wherein the piperidine ring gets cleaved to form the corresponding methyl ester (**10**) (Figure 7). The structure was confirmed through single crystal analysis.

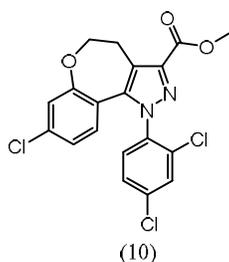


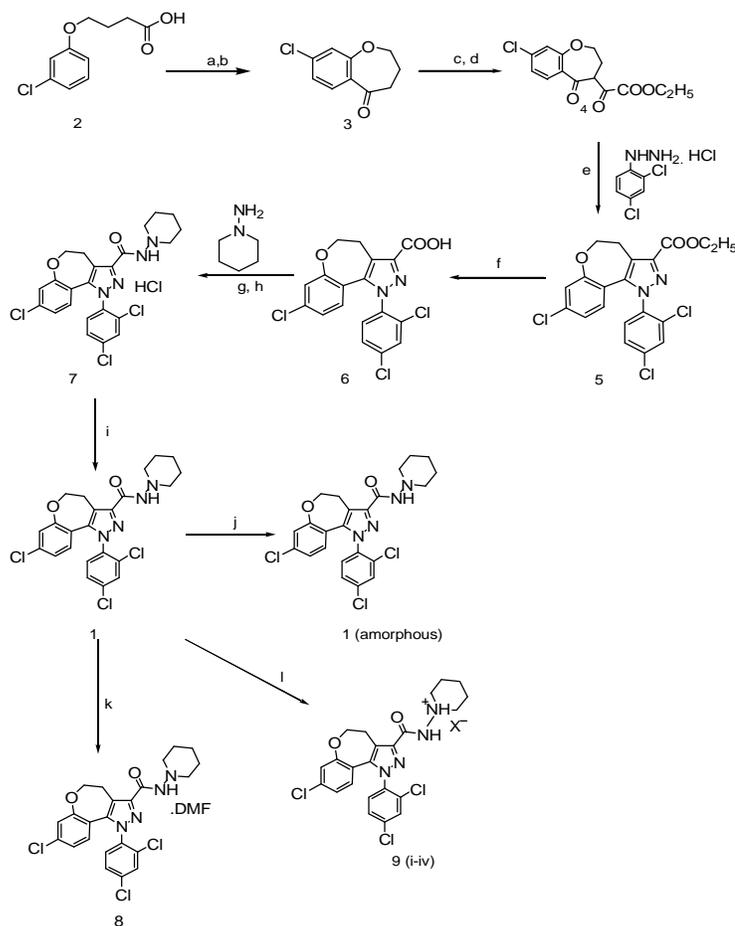
Figure 7: Compound of formula (10)

The other salts remained stable. Salt formation did not improve the bioavailability of compound (1) and therefore was not developed further.

In a third strategy, the amorphous form was prepared and its efficacy and bioavailability was compared with the crystalline form. *In vitro* CB₁ antagonism was measured using a binding assay in CHO cells expressing hCB₁ receptors. The CB₁ antagonism was also confirmed by reversal of CB₁ agonist-induced hypothermia in Swiss albino mice. Anti-obesity effects of crystalline and amorphous forms of compound (1) were evaluated using sucrose (5% w/v) consumption models in Zucker fatty rats.

The compound (1) was synthesized as described in Scheme 1.

Synthetic scheme for preparing compound 1



Scheme 1: Reagents and conditions: (a) $(\text{COCl})_2$, dry DCM, stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and 26-28 °C for 1.5 h; (b) anhydrous AlCl_3 , DCM, stirred at 0-5 °C for 20-25 min. and at 26-27 °C for 30 min; (c) diethyl oxalate, Na metal, ethanol; (d) 2N HCl, CHCl_3 ; (e) ethanol, IPA/HCl, refluxed at 75-77 °C for 2 h; (f) KOH/MeOH; (g) SOCl_2 , toluene, refluxed at 107-108 °C for 30 min; (h) dry methanol, ethereal HCl, 0-5 °C; (i) NaOH; (j) DCM, reflux under reduced pressure at 50 °C; (k) DMF, heat at 40-50 °C for 2 hours, cooled and kept for 48 hours; (l) acetone, heat at 40 °C till clear solution, added acids corresponding to $\text{X} = \text{Cl}^-$, HSO_4^- , $(\text{COO})_2^{2-}$ & $-\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ in acetone, and the mixture was cooled when necessary and filtered.

Initially the cyclization of 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-butanoic acid 2 was attempted by using polyphosphoric acid. However, the yields were not satisfactory (~25-30%). Subsequently, the process was changed wherein the compound 2 was reacted with oxalyl chloride in dichloromethane at room temperature and subsequently with anhydrous AlCl_3 in DCM, and the mixture was

stirred at 0-5 °C for 20-25 minutes and then at 26-27 °C for 30 minutes to provide 8-Chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b]oxepin-5-one **3**. The compound **3** was reacted with sodium metal in ethanol to generate a carbanion and then reacted with diethyl oxalate in ethanol to yield 8-Chloro-5-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-benzo[b]oxepin-4-yl)-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester **4**. Use of other polar solvents such as t-butanol, DMF did not yield good results. Reaction of **4** with 2,4-dichlorophenyl hydrazine hydrochloride in ethanol at 5-7 °C provided 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester **5**. Hydrolysis of **5** using KOH in methanol, yielded 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid **6**. Reduction of **6** with SOCl₂/toluene and subsequent reaction with 1-amino piperidine in dichloromethane yielded 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide as an oil which was treated with ethereal HCl when the HCl salt was obtained as a brown solid **7**. Reduction of **6** using PCl₅ did not yield any compound. Titration with ethyl acetate and subsequent drying yielded the pure compound **7** as a white solid. Basification of **7** using NaOH provided the compound **1** in crystalline form. Crystalline compound **1** was dissolved in DMF by heating at 40 °C and the solution was cooled and kept for 48 hours when needle shaped crystals of the DMF solvate **8** were formed. The salts were prepared by dissolving **1** in acetone by heating at 40 -50 °C and adding the corresponding acid in acetone and separating the salt formed. The following salts were attempted (Table 2):

Table 1: Salts of compound 1:

Sl. No.	Salt prepared	Melting point °C (by DSC)	Nature
1.	Hydrochloride	Onset = 187.4; Peak = 189.0	Crystalline
2.	Hydrobromide	No salt formation	

3.	Bisulfate	Onset = 232.7; Peak = 244.4	Crystalline
4.	Phosphate	A gummy mass was obtained	
5.	Oxalate	Onset = 219.3, Peak = 220.6 (first peak); Onset = 239.7; Peak = 242.1 (second peak)	Crystalline
6.	Citrate	A hazy solution was formed which could not be separated	
7.	Acetate	No solid isolated	
8.	Mesylate	No solid isolated	
9.	Gentisate	No solid isolated	
10.	Benzenesulfonate	Onset = 149.6; Peak = 169.2	Crystalline
11.	p-toluene sulfonate	A sticky mass was obtained	
12.	Methyl iodide	Onset = 232.7; Peak = 234.5	Crystalline

The amorphous form of **1** was prepared by dissolving **1** in dichloromethane at room temperature, stirring and removing the solvent under reduced pressure.

3 Results and discussions:

The process of Scheme 1 was found to be scalable and gave the compound (**1**) in high yield (76%). The binding affinity of compound (**1**) was tested in an *in vitro* cAMP assay. The compound (**1**) had an EC₅₀ 14.5 μM in human CB₁ receptor forskolin-induced cAMP assay. The CB₁ antagonism of compound (**1**) was also confirmed by reversal of CB₁ agonist-induced hypothermia in Swiss albino mice. Further, as discussed earlier, this compound appeared to

be a neutral antagonist. The anti-obesity effects as well as mean pharmacokinetic effect of both the crystalline and amorphous forms of compound (1) were evaluated using sucrose (5% w/v) consumption models in Zucker fa/fa rats. The results are provided in Tables 2 & 3:

Table 2 : Mean pharmacokinetic parameters of the crystalline and amorphous form of compound (1) in fasted female Zucker fa/fa rats p.o. at 10 mg/kg.*

Compound	Route	Dose (mg/kg)	T _{max} (h)	C _{max} (ng/mL)	T _{1/2} (h)	AUC (0--∞) (h.ng/mL)
Crystalline	Oral	10	4.5±0.7	223±13	23.9±6.8	3241±125
Amorphous	Oral	10	4.2±1.2	575±32	22.3±2.9	6338±234

* Values indicate mean ± SD for n = 6

Table 3 : *In vivo* efficacy of the crystalline and amorphous form of the compound (1) in 5 % sucrose solution intake model in female Zucker fa/fa rats at single oral dose of 10 mg/kg.*

<i>In-vivo</i> (in 5% sucrose solution intake)			
Compound	Total consumption in 4hrs	% Change vs Control (Sucrose intake)	5% Change vs Control (per 100 g body wt.)
Control	48.00 ± 2.20		
Rimonabant	18.4 ± 3.3	-66.4 ± 11.0	-62.0 ± 15.3
Crystalline Form of 1	32.2 ± 6.4	-38.7 ± 12.2	-30.2 ± 16.4
Amorphous Form of 1	31.9 ± 5.2	-34.7 ± 11.5	-34.2 ± 15.3

* Values indicate Mean ± SEM for n=6 in 4 h

The crystalline form of the compound (1) showed significant appetite suppression in rodent model (Table 3), however its pharmacokinetic profile was poor (Table 2).

The salts of the drug did not alter the pharmacokinetics significantly and therefore, were not studied in details.

Owing to the possibility of amorphous form of the compounds to improve pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics properties, the amorphous form of the compound (1) was synthesized.

The amorphous form exhibited improved pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic parameters (Table 2 & Table 3).

4 Conclusion

Amorphous form of compound (1) is a CB₁ antagonist that shows anti-obesity and anti-dyslipidemic effects in rodent models. The compound (1) exhibited acceptable safety profile upto a dose 30 times of the efficacy dose. No changes in bodyweight and weights of the organs (kidney, heart and liver) were observed upto 300 mg/kg dose in a 14 day repeat dose study. The compound also did not bind to hERG upto 3 micromolar concentrations. Also, initial data indicates that the compound is a neutral antagonist and it may be possible that the feeding suppression induced by compound (1) will not be accompanied by behavioral signs of nausea. Based on the improved pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics profile, the amorphous form of compound (1) can be taken up for further pre-clinical and clinical studies.

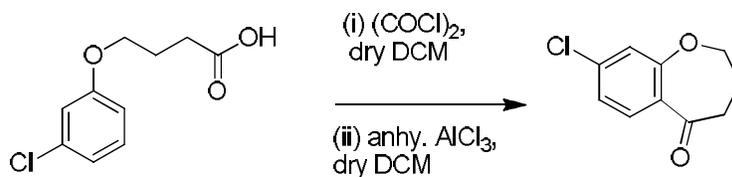
5 Experimental Section:

5.1 Materials and Methods:

Reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Flash chromatography was performed using commercial silica gel (230-400 mesh). Melting points were determined on a capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FT IR 8300 spectrophotometer (Vmax in cm⁻¹, using KBr pellets or Nujol). The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-300 & 400 spectrometer (300 & 400 MHz). The chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS, either in CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ solution. Signal multiplicities are represented by s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), bs (broad singlet), and m (multiplet). ¹³CNMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance-400 at 100 MHz either in CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ solution. Mass spectra (ESI-MS) were obtained on Shimadzu LC-MS 2010-A spectrometer. HPLC analysis were

carried out at λ_{max} 220 nm using column ODS C-18, 150nm * 4.6 nm * 4 μ on AGILENT 1100 series.

5.1.1 8-Chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b]oxepin-5-one (3)



Reagents	$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}$ O_3	$\text{C}_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}_2$	AlCl_3	CH_2Cl_2	Yield (%)
Amount	128.0 g	74.06 mL	95.6 g	2200 mL	118.0 g (100%)

4-(3-chlorophenyl)-butanoic acid (128.0 g, 596.74 mmol) was taken in a round bottom flask and dry DCM (1lit) was added to it. The solution was stirred and cooled to -20 °C. To this solution oxalyl chloride (74.06 mL, 835.43 mmol, 1.4 eq.) was added drop wise at -20 °C over a period of 15-20 min. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and $26-28$ °C for 1.5 h. The progress of the reaction was checked using TLC until all starting material was consumed. The reaction was quenched with ethanol using mobile phase 5 % methanol in chloroform. The solvents were evaporated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to afford brown oil. Separately, in a 4-necked flask, anhydrous AlCl_3 (95.6 g, 716.08 mmol, 1.2 eq) was taken and to it was added dry DCM (1 lit). The suspension was stirred and cooled to $0-5$ °C. To this cooled suspension, solution of acid chloride obtained above in dry DCM (200 mL) was added dropwise at $0-5$ °C over a period of 20-25 min. The resulting solution was stirred at $26-27$ °C for 30 min. TLC was until all starting material was consumed, the mixture was diluted with DM water, extracted with DCM, DCM layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 using mobile phase 5 % methanol in chloroform. The reaction mixture was poured into mixture of DM water and crushed ice (3 lit) in 5 lit round bottom flask followed by DCM (1 lit). The mixture was

stirred at 26-27 °C for 16 h. The organic layer was separated, washed with DM water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The organic layer was treated with activated charcoal (3-tea spoon) at 38-39 °C for 15-20 min and filtered hot through hyflow. The organic layer was concentrated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to yield a brown oil (118 g, 100 %).

IR (KBr cm⁻¹): 2970, 2887, 1685, 1595, 1087, 821, 767;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm), 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.88 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.60 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.72 and 0.77 Hz, 1H).

ESI-MS *m/z* (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 256.8 (M+K)⁺

5.1.2 (8-Chloro-5-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-benzo[b]oxepin-4-yl)-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester (4)

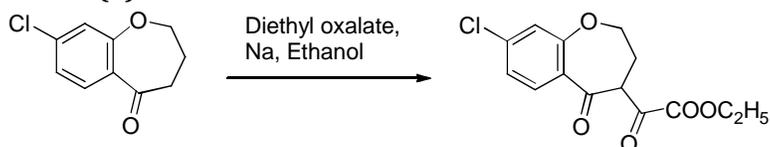


Table 4: Preparation of compound 4

Reagents	C ₁₀ H ₉ ClO ₂	C ₆ O ₁₀ O ₄	Na	C ₂ H ₆ O	Yield (%)
Amount	150.0 g	103.67 mL	35.10 g	3500 mL	110.0 g (48.60 %)

Dry ethanol (1500 mL) was taken in a round bottom flask and to it small pieces of Na metal (31.10 g, 1526.71 mmol, and 2.0 eq) was added with stirring. The solution was stirred till all Na metal was dissolved. The solution was cooled to 25-27 °C. To this diethyl oxalate (103.67 mL, 763.335 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added drop wise at 25-27 °C over a period of 15-20 min and stirred for 25-30 min. at the same temperature. To this solution was added 8-Chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[b]oxepin-5-one (150.0 g, 763.335 mmol) in ethanol (2000 mL) drop wise at 25-27 °C over a period of 15-20 min. The resulting yellow solution was stirred at 25-26 °C for 3-4 h. TLC was checked for complete consumption of the starting material, the reaction mixture was diluted with DM water and acidified with dil. HCl, extracted with CHCl₃ and using mobile phase 10 % ethyl acetate in petroleum ether. The reaction

mixture was diluted with DM water (2500 mL), acidified with 2 N HCl to pH 4 and extracted with CHCl₃. The chloroform layer was separated, washed with DM water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to get yellow oil, which solidifies upon standing. The solid was slurried in diethyl ether (1 L) and filtered to get yellow solid (110 g, 48.6 %).

IR (KBr cm⁻¹) 3417, 3109, 1830, 1714, 1614, 1595, 1544, 1207, 1089, 661, 617, 565, 447;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.11 Hz, 3H), 4.50-4.31 (q, *J* = 8.22 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (m, 2H), 4.37 (m, 2H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H).

5.1.3 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazobenzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (5)

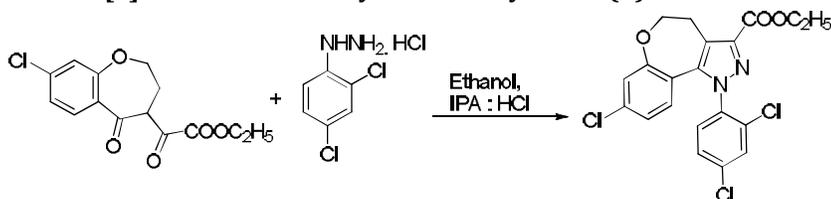


Table 5: Preparation of compound 5

Reagents	C ₁₄ H ₁₃ Cl O ₅	C ₆ H ₇ Cl ₃ N ₂	IPA HCl	: C ₂ H ₆ O	Yield (%)
Amount	22.0 g	17.90 g	2.2 mL	225 mL	38.10 g (100 %)

(8-Chloro-5-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-benzo[b]oxepin-4-yl)-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester (22.0 g, 74.199 mmol) **4** was taken in a round bottom flask and to it was added dry ethanol (225 mL). The suspension was stirred and cooled to 5- 7 °C. To this suspension 2,4-Dichlorophenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (17.90 g, 83.845 mmol, 1.13 eq) was added portion wise at 5-7 °C. The resulting suspension was stirred at 5-7 °C for 15-20 min and brought to 25-26 °C. IPA: HCl (2.2 mL) was added to this mixture and reaction mixture was refluxed at 75-77 °C for 2.0 h. Upon completion of the reaction

(monitored by TLC) the mixture was diluted with DCM using mobile phase 20 % ethyl acetate in petroleum ether. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25-27 °C and the solid separated out was filtered on a buchner funnel under suction and dried to afford orange solid (38.0 g, 100 %).

IR (KBr cm⁻¹) 3425, 1724, 1679, 1564, 1535, 1454, 1083, 906, 813;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.11 Hz, 3H), 3.46 (m, 2H), 4.50-4.31 (m, 4H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.58 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 8.58 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 2.25 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, 1H).

ESI-MS *m/z* (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 458.5 (M+H)⁺

5.1.4 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazabenz[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid (6)

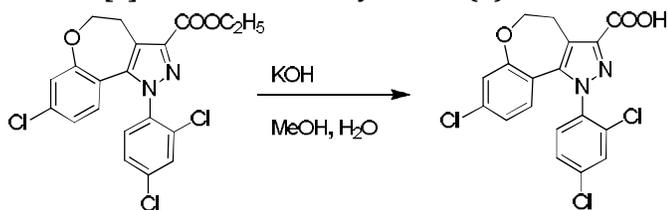


Table 6: Preparation of compound 6

Reagents	C ₂₀ H ₁₅ Cl ₃ N ₂ O ₃	KOH	CH ₃ OH	H ₂ O	Yield (%)
Amount	38.0 g	9.73 g	400 mL	100 mL	20.2 g (56.80 %)

8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazabenz[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (38.0 g, 86.857 mmol) (5) was taken in a round bottom flask and to it was added methanol (300 mL). To this a solution of KOH (9.73 g, 173.174mmol, 2.0 eq) in methanol: water mixture (1:1) (200 mL) was added and reaction mixture was refluxed at 65-68 °C for 2.0 h. TLC was checked for completion, and then the mixture was diluted with DM water, acidified to pH 4 using 10 % HCl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate and using mobile phase 10 % methanol in chloroform. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25-26 °C, poured into ice cold water and acidified to pH 4 using 10 % HCl solution. The solid separated out was

filtered on a buchner funnel under suction. The off white solid was washed with water, dried under suction. The solid was further taken in IPA, stirred for 10-15 min and filtered to afford an off white solid (20.2 g, 56.8 %)

IR (KBr cm^{-1}) 3450, 3082, 1687, 1596, 1568, 1431, 1386, 1035, 985, 567, 549, 455;

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ (ppm): 4.04 (m, 4H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.58$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 2.19$ Hz, $J = 8.58$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 2.13$ Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, $J = 2.04$ Hz, 1H), 13.08 (bs, 1H).

ESI-MS m/z (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 410.5 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺

5.1.5 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide (1), crystalline

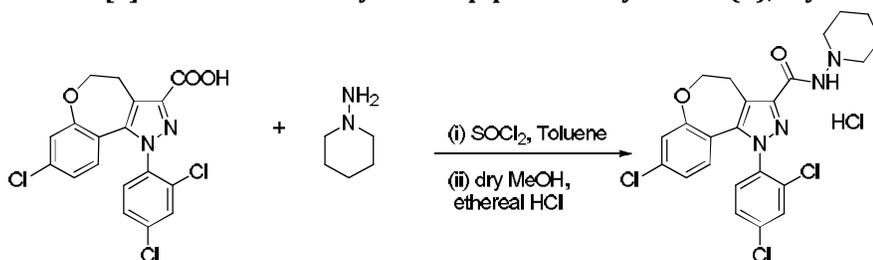


Table 7: Preparation of compound 1

Reagents	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_3\text{N}_2$ O_3	$\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2$	SOCl_2	C_7H_8	Yield (%)
Amount	5.0 g	1.83 g	2.91 g	30 mL	5.0 g (HCl salt) (99.5 % by HPLC)

8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid (5.0 g, 12.25 mmol) was taken in a round bottom flask and toluene (30 mL) was added to it. To this mixture thionyl chloride (2.91 g, 24.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was refluxed at 107-108 °C for 30 min. The reaction was quenched with amino piperidine using mobile phase 50 % EtOAc in hexane. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was cooled to 30-35 °C and transferred into single neck round

bottom flask. The solvents were evaporated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to afford oil. The oil was further diluted in dry DCM (20 mL), cooled to 0-5 °C in an ice bath and treated with 1-Amino piperidine (1.83 g, 18.38 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 25- 26 °C for 15- 20 min. The mixture was diluted with DM water and extracted with ethyl acetate using mobile phase 50 % EtOAc in hexane. The reaction mixture was again diluted with DM water (200 mL) and extracted with toluene. The organic layer was separated, washed with DM water (100 mL), brine solution, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and solvents were evaporated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to afford oil. The oil was diluted with dry methanol (25 mL), cooled to 0-5 °C in an ice bath and treated with ethereal HCl (5-6 mL). The solvents were evaporated on a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure to afford brown solid. The crude solid was triturated in ethyl acetate, filtered on a Buchner funnel under suction and dried to afford an off white solid (5.0 g, 77.6 %)

¹HNMR: (DMSO-D₆, 300 MHz): δ 1.31(m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 4H), 2.7 (m, 4H), 3.23 (bs, 2H), 4.25 (bs, 1H), 4.45 (bs, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J*= 8.61 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J*= 10.56, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J*= 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J*= 10.47, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J*= 8.49 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*= 2.01 Hz, 1H), 9.1(s, 1H).

Basification with NaOH gave the compound of formula 4 in crystalline form

¹HNMR: (DMSO-D₆, 300 MHz): δ 1.31(m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 4H), 2.7 (m, 4H), 3.23 (bs, 2H), 4.25 (bs, 1H), 4.45 (bs, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J*= 8.61 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J*= 10.56, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J*= 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J*= 10.47, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J*= 8.49 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*= 2.01 Hz, 1H), 9.1(s, 1H)

Melting point (by DSC): Onset = 195.3 °C, peak = 196.6 °C.

XPRD: 6.97, 16.42, 17.53, 18.19, 18.35, 19.8, 20.93, 21.4, 23.69, 27.62° ± 0.2 degrees 2θ.

5.1.6 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazabenz[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide (1), dimethyl formamide solvate (8)

IR (KBr cm^{-1}) 3412, 2941, 1678, 1595, 1564, 1492, 1290, 1265, 1209, 1153, 1026, 983, 956, 869, 817, 810;

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 1.45-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.72 (m, 4H), 2.85(s, 3H), 2.95-2.85 (m, 4H), 2.95 (s, DMF), 3.49 (bs, 2H), 4.38 (bs, 2H), 6.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.8$ Hz, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 9.2$ Hz, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 8.6$ Hz, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 8.01 (s, DMF).

ESI-MS m/z (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 493.0 (M+H)⁺ (100%)

5.1.7 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide (1), dimethyl sulfoxide solvate (8a)

IR (KBr cm^{-1}) 3412, 2941, 1678, 1595, 1564, 1492, 1290, 1265, 1209, 1153, 1026, 983, 956, 869, 817, 810;

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 1.45-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.72 (m, 4H), 2.85(s, 3H), 2.95-2.85 (m, 4H), 2.61 (s, DMSO), 3.49 (bs, 2H), 4.38 (bs, 2H), 6.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.8$ Hz, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 9.2$ Hz, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 8.6$ Hz, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H).

ESI-MS m/z (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 493.0 (M+H)⁺ (100%)

5.1.8 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide oxalate {9 (i)}

Placed 0.50 g (1.017 mmol) of compound **1** into round bottom flask, followed by 10 ml acetone. The suspension was warmed upto 45-50°C using hot water to get clear solution. To this solution of 0.075 g (1.017 mmol) oxalic acid into 3 ml acetone was added slowly. The resulting clear solution was cooled to 0-5°C and stirred for 35-40 mins. The solid started separating out from the reaction mixture. The solid was filtered, washed with acetone and dried under vacuum.

Weight of white solid substance = 0.267 g

% yield = 45.9%

IR (KBr cm^{-1}) 3412, 2951, 1899, 1691, 1597, 1564, 1492, 1236, 817, 704;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm) 1.4-1.3 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 4H), 2.82-2.80 (m, 4H), 3.28 (bs, 2H), 3.40 (bs, 2H), 4.26 (bs, 1H), 4.49 (bs, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 9.19 (s, 1H).

ESI-MS *m/z* (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 493.05 (M+H)⁺ (80%)

5.1.9 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazabenz[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide benzene sulfonate salt {9 (ii)}

Placed 0.50 g (1.017 mmol) of **1** into a round bottom flask and to it was added 10 ml acetone. The suspension was warmed upto 45-50 °C using hot water to get clear solution. To this solution of 0.160 g (1.017 mmol) benzene sulfonic acid in 3 ml acetone was added slowly. The resulting clear solution was cooled to 0-5 °C and stirred for 35-40 mins. The solid started separating out from the reaction mixture. The solid was filtered, washed with acetone and dried under vacuum.

Weight of White solid substance = 0.350 g

% yield = 53.0%

IR (KBr cm⁻¹) 3383, 3153, 2945, 1896, 1701, 1697, 1606, 1552, 1219, 1151, 981, 956, 896, 731;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm) 1.5-1.4 (m, 2H), 1.83-1.80 (m, 4H), 3.33-3.32 (m, 5H), 3.46-3.43 (m, 1H), 4.30-4.29 (m, 1H), 4.55-4.52 (m, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 11.05 (bs, 1H).

ESI-MS *m/z* (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 493.0 (M+H)⁺ (100%)

5.1.10 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazabenz[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide bisulfate {9 (iii)}

Placed 1.0 g (2.034 mmol) of **1** into round bottom flask and to it was added 15 ml acetone. The suspension was warmed upto 45-50 °C using hot water to get clear solution. To this solution of 0.108 ml (2.034 mmol) conc. H₂SO₄

was added dropwise. The resulting clear solution was cooled to 0-5 °C and stirred for 15-20 mins. The solid started separating out from the reaction mixture. The solid was filtered, washed with acetone and dried under vacuum.

Weight of White solid substance = 1.03 g

% yield = 85.87%

IR (KBr cm⁻¹) 3404, 3153, 2951, 1708, 1599, 1550, 1369, 1215, 1049, 987, 958, 868, 812;

¹HNMR: (DMSO-D₆, 300 MHz): δ 1.31(m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 4H), 2.7 (m, 4H), 3.23 (bs, 2H), 4.25 (bs, 1H), 4.45 (bs, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J*= 8.61 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J*= 10.56, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J*= 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J*= 10.47, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J*= 8.49 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*= 2.01 Hz, 1H), 9.1(s, 1H).

ESI-MS *m/z* (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 493.0 (M+H)⁺ (99%)

5.1.11 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diazobenzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide methyl iodide {9 (iv)}

Placed 5.0 g (10.17 mmol) of **1** in a round bottom flask and to it was added 15 ml acetone. The suspension was warmed to 45-50 °C using hot water to get clear solution. To this solution 14.435 (6.322 mmol) methyl iodide was added. The resulting clear solution was refluxed overnight at 42 °C. The solid was dissolved in distilled acetone and resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure at 45 °C to get yellowish solid. The solid was filtered, washed with acetone and dried under vacuum.

Weight of solid substance = 5.3 g

% yield = 82.81%

IR (KBr cm⁻¹) 3419, 2958, 1593, 1564, 1496, 1309, 1294, 1209, 1030, 954, 920, 869, 812;

¹HNMR: (DMSO-D₆, 300 MHz): δ 1.31(m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 4H), 2.2 (s, 3H, methyl iodide), 2.7 (m, 4H), 3.23 (bs, 2H), 4.25 (bs, 1H), 4.45 (bs, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J*= 8.61 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J*= 10.56, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J*= 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J*= 10.47, 1.95 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J*= 8.49 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*= 2.01 Hz, 1H), 11.2 (s, 1H)

ESI-MS m/z (Relative intensities) (+ve mode) 507.0 (M+H)⁺ (100%)

5.1.12 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid-piperidin-1-ylamide (1), amorphous

The crystalline 8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-diaza-benzo[c]azulene-3-carboxylic acid-piperidin-1-ylamide (5.0 g, 10.17 mmol) was placed in a round bottom flask and added 100 mL of dichloromethane. The resulting solution was stirred at 27-29 °C for 10 min. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure at 50 °C to afford white solid whose XRD pattern established it to be in amorphous form.

The DSC thermogram showed two peaks one at 182.9 °C and the other at 196.3 °C.

5.2 Biological studies:

5.2.1 *In vitro* cAMP assay:

Fatty acid-free BSA, IBMX (isobutyl methyl xanthine), RO20-1724 {4-[(3-butoxy-4-methoxyphenyl) methyl]-2-imidazololidinone}, forskolin and DMSO (hybrimax) were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. cAMP detection ELISA kit was from Assay Designs, USA. Tissue culture reagents were purchased from Sigma and Hi-media. Other reagents used were all of analytical grade. The cAMP assay was carried out in Chinese Hamster Ovarian (CHO) cells (CHOK1) stably expressing human CB₁ receptor following the method of Rinaldi-Carmona et. al [30]. Cells grown to 80% confluence were maintained in HAM'S F12 medium containing 10% heat inactivated dialyzed fetal bovine serum and 0.8 mg/mL G-418. Cells were seeded at a density of 50,000 cells/well in 24-well plate, grown for 16–18 h, washed once with PBS and incubated for 30 min at 37 °C in plain HAM'SF12 containing 0.25% free fatty acid BSA, IBMX (0.1 mM) and RO20-1724 (0.1 mM). IBMX, the pan phosphodiesterase inhibitor and RO20-1724, the specific phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor were added to restore cAMP up to the detection limit. After 5 min incubation with the drugs, forskolin was added at a final concentration of 10 mM and incubation was carried out for

another 20 min at 37 °C. The reaction was terminated by washing once with PBS and adding 200 Lysis buffer comprising 0.1 N HCl and 0.1% Triton X-100. The lysates were centrifuged and aliquotes from supernatants were used for detection of cAMP by ELISA as per the manufacturer's protocol.

5.2.2 5% Sucrose Solution Intake in Zuckerfa/fa rats:

All the animals used in the study were procured from the Animal Breeding Facility of Zydu Research Center. Institutional Animal Ethical Committee approved all the study protocols. Female Zucker fa/fa rats (age of 10–12 weeks and 300–350 g of weight) were used for *in vivo* experiments. Compounds were suspended with 0.5% carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt in distilled water. The test compounds were administered at the dose of 10 mg/kg and by oral route in a volume of 2 mL/kg body weight. The obese Zucker fa/fa rats were housed individually and subjected to training for consuming 5% sucrose solution over a period of 4 h, by allowing access to the 5% sucrose solution in the bottles. Food and water were withdrawn during this time. This training was given for six consecutive days, at the same time of the day. On seventh day, the animals were randomized into groups of six animals each and treated with the test compounds. After one hour of treatment, the animals were exposed to the 5% sucrose solution for 4 h as that of the training schedule. The amount of sucrose solution consumed by each animal was calculated. Difference between the control and treatment groups were analyzed by performing one way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test on sucrose solution consumption using Graphpad Prism software.

5.2.3 Pharmacokinetics experiment:

Pharmacokinetics of the test compound was studied via per-oral route of administration in wistar rats of 8 to 10 weeks of age. Animals were fasted for 18 hours and food was supplied after 4 hours of administration of the test compound. There was free access to water throughout the study. A homogenous suspension of the test substance was prepared in 0.5 % w/v CMC in normal saline and a per-oral dose of 30 mg/kg was administered.

After the administration of the test compounds, blood samples were withdrawn at various time intervals through retro-orbital plexus and collected into heparinized micro centrifuge tubes. Plasma was separated by centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 5 min at ambient temperature and analyzed immediately. Remaining samples were stored at -20 °C until analyzed.

Analysis was carried out by taking an aliquots of 180 μ L plasma and 20 μ L of internal standard (Atorvastatin) and was extracted with 2.5 mL of extracting solvent (ethyl acetate: acetonitrile 80:20, v/v) in glass test-tube by vortexing with spinix vortex mixture for a minute. This was then centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 2.0 min. The supernatant was transferred to another glass test-tube and the solvent was evaporated under nitrogen using Zymark evaporator at 40 °C. Finally, the tubes were reconstituted with 0.1 mL diluent (acetonitrile: methanol: water 40: 40: 20, v/v/v). The reconstituted samples were analyzed on Agilent 1100 Series HPLC system with a mobile phase of 0.05 % v/v trifluoroacetic acid in water: acetonitrile (32:68, v/v); flowing at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min through a Kromasil 250 mm x 4.6 mm x 5 μ column maintained at 30 °C. Chromatographic separation was achieved within 15 min. Agilent software version Chemstation Rev.A.09.01. (1206) was used to acquire and process all chromatographic data. Quantification was based on a series of calibrators ranging from 0.031 to 32 μ g/mL, prepared by adding test compound to drug free rat plasma. Quality control samples were analyzed in parallel to verify that the system performs in control. Pharmacokinetic parameters namely - maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}), time point of maximum plasma concentration (t_{max}), area under the plasma concentration - time curve from 0 hour to infinity ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) and half-life of drug elimination during the terminal phase ($t_{1/2}$) were calculated from plasma concentration versus time data, by standard non-compartmental methods, using the WinNonLin software version 4.0.1 procured from Pharsight Corporation, USA.

6 References

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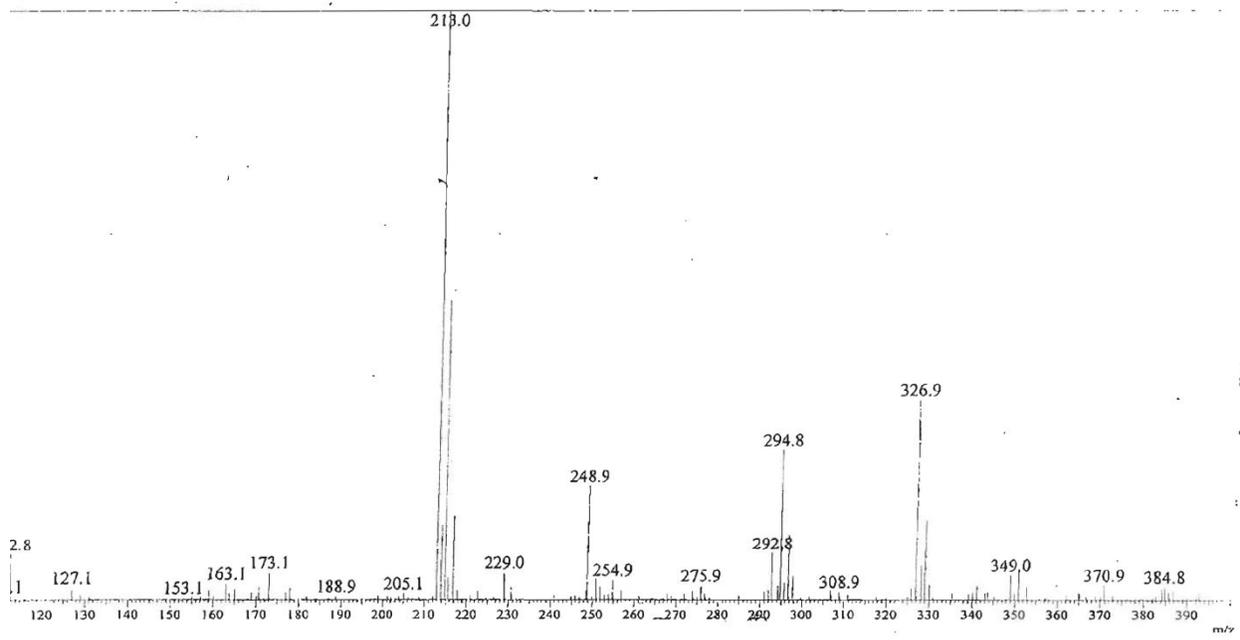
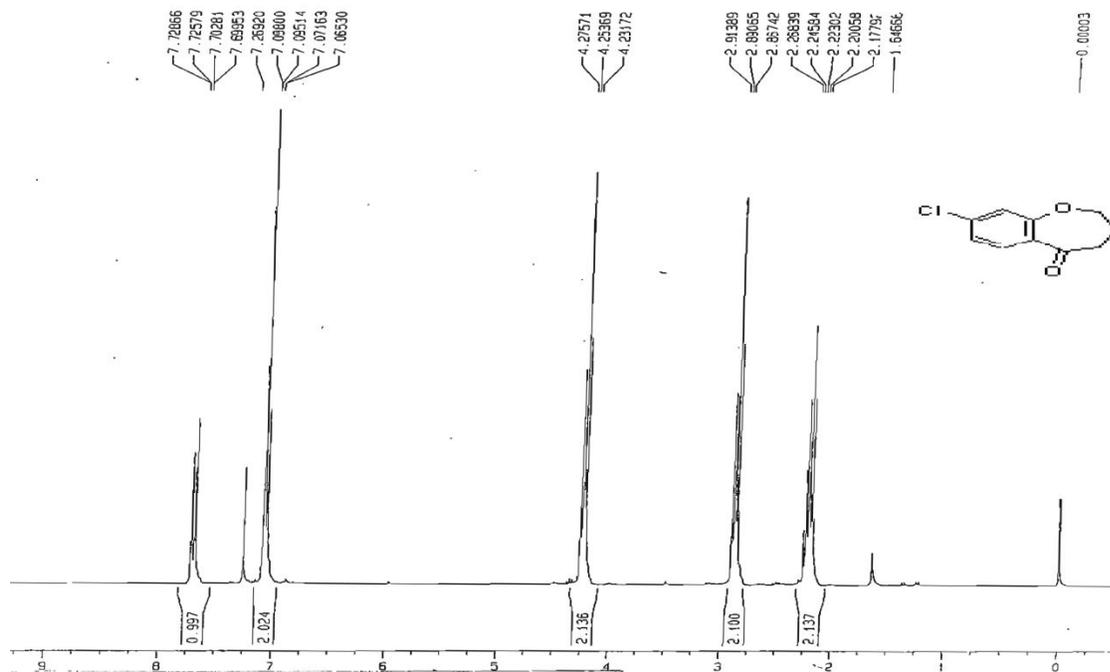
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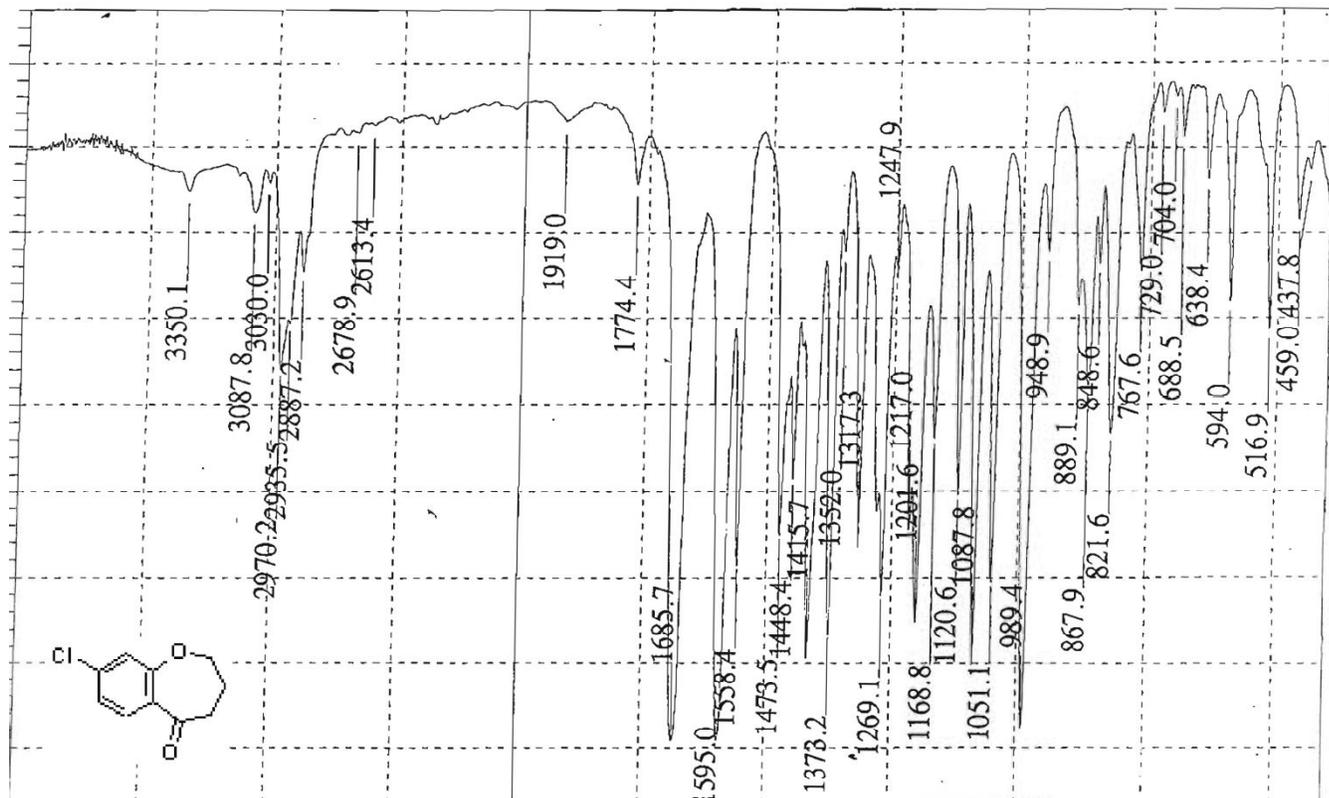
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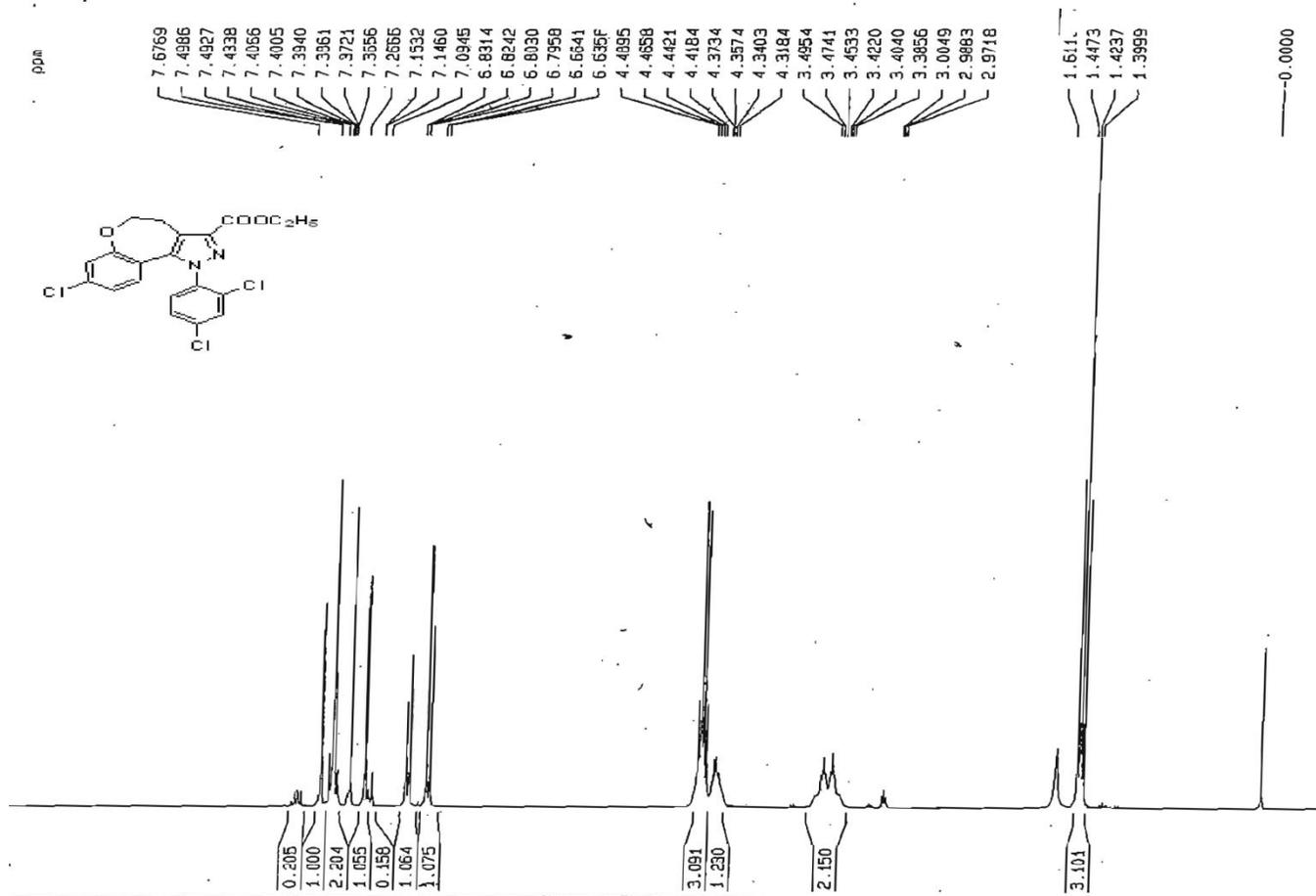
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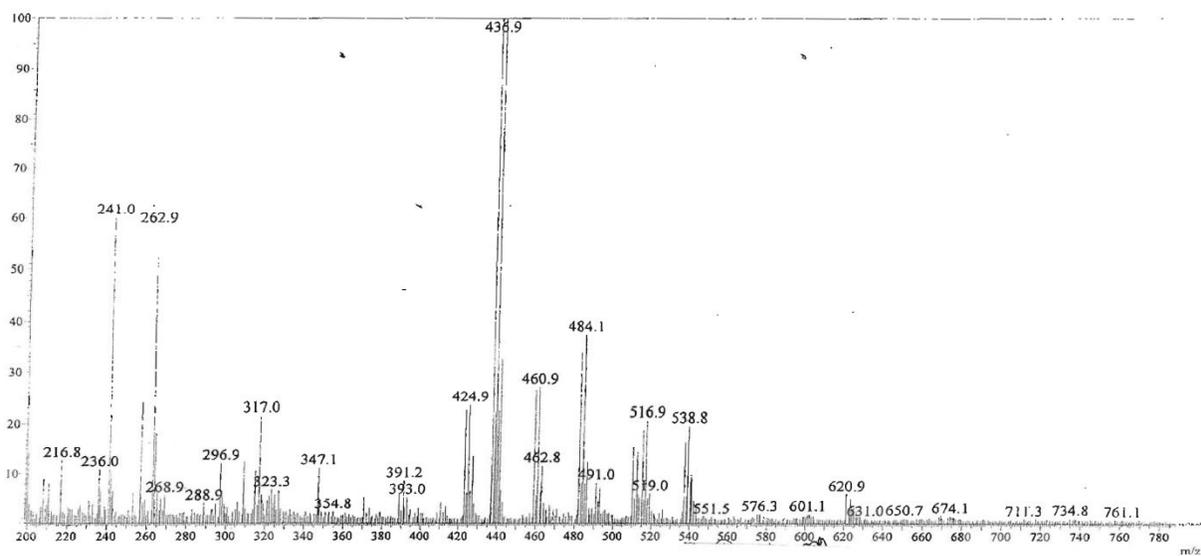


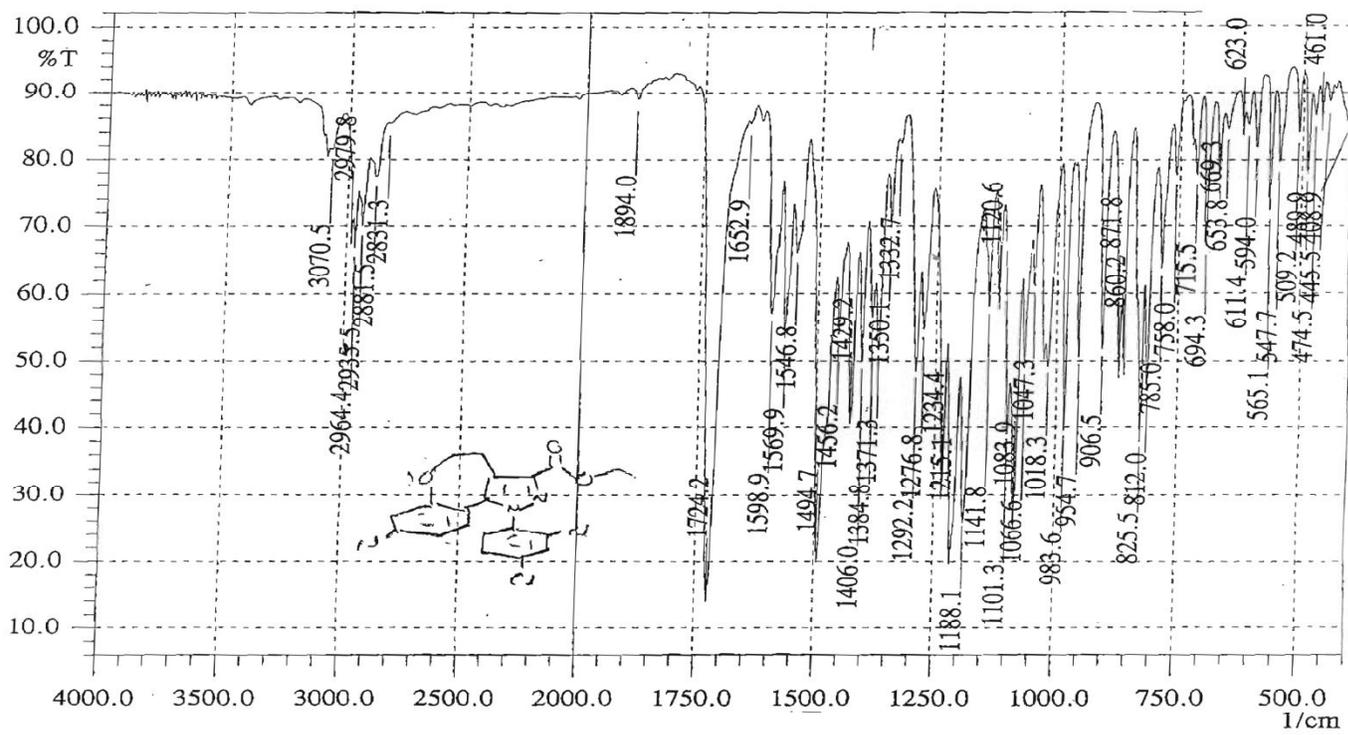


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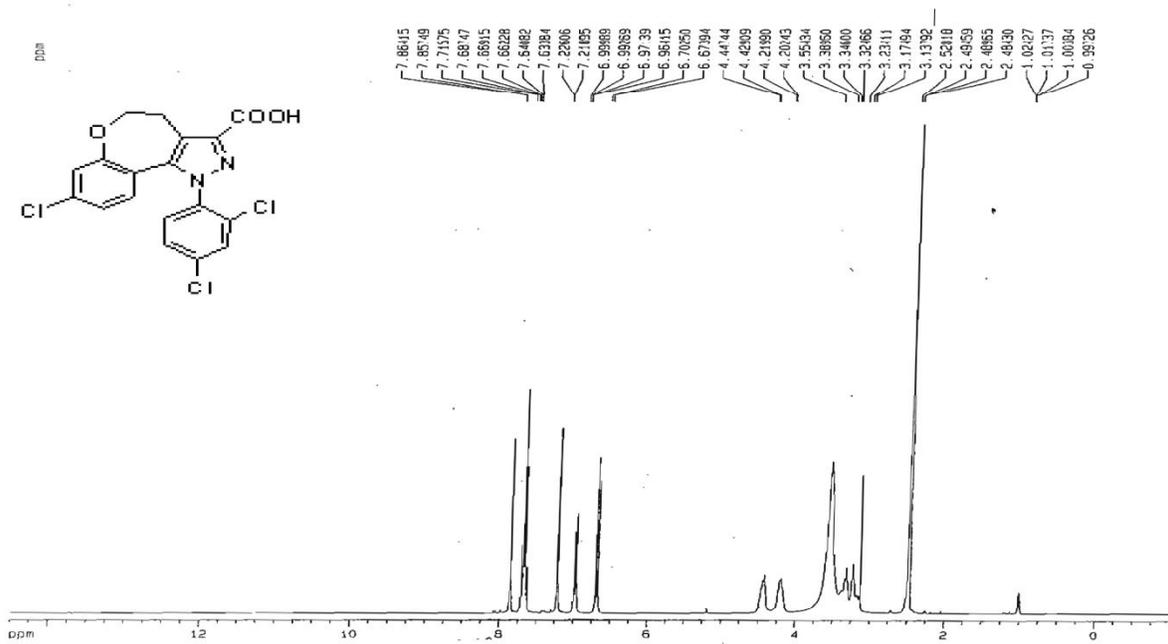
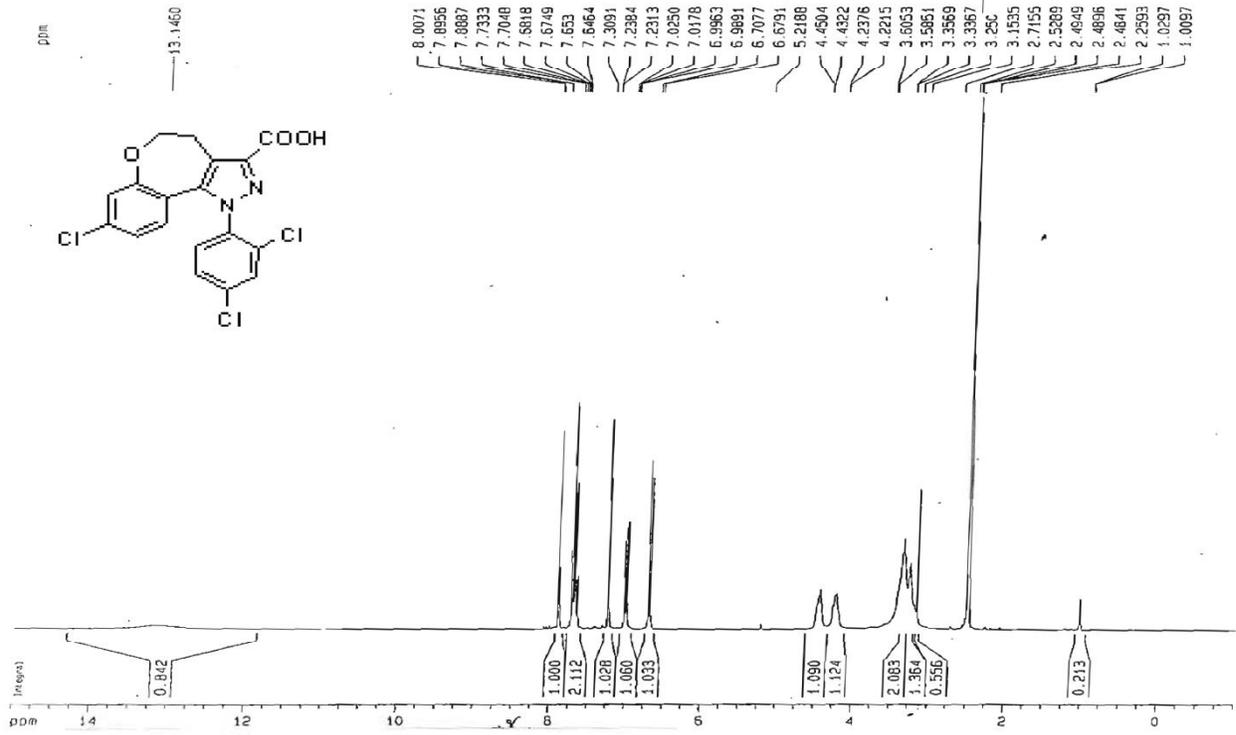


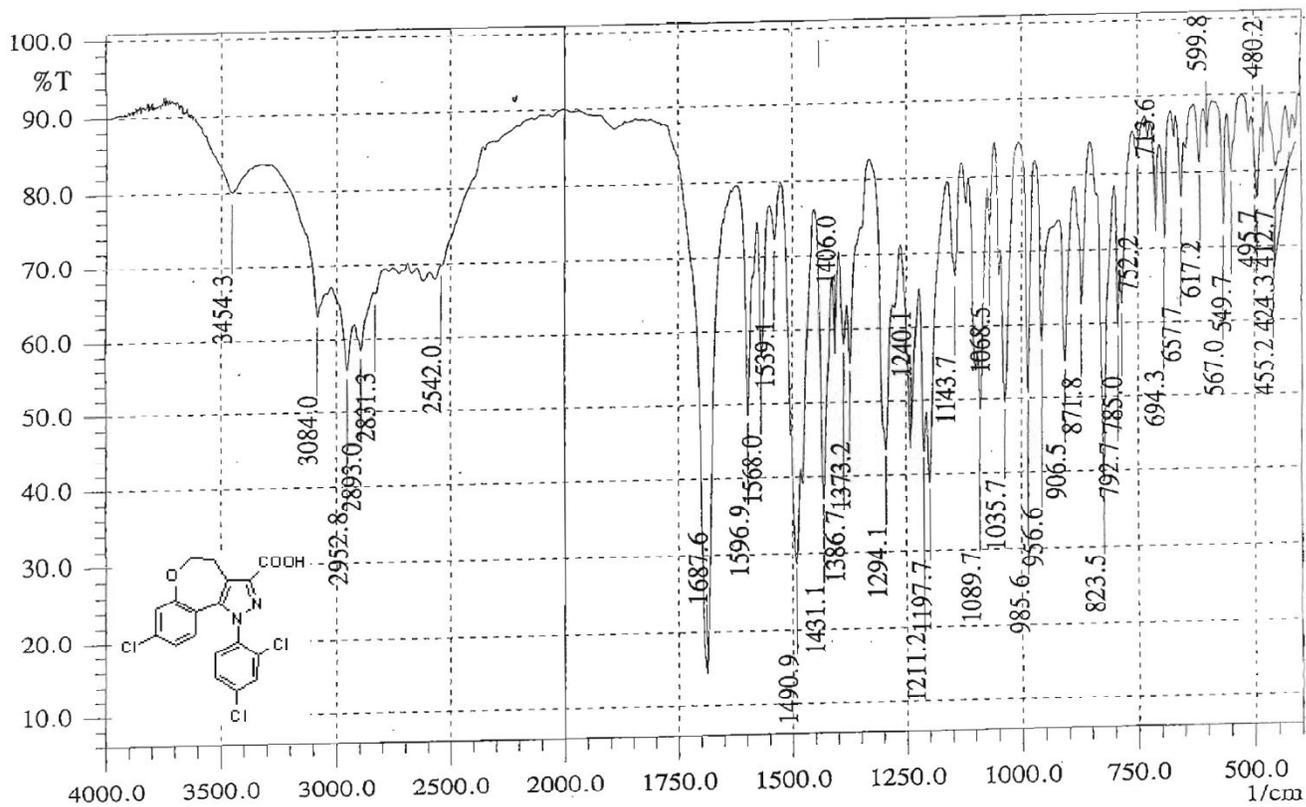
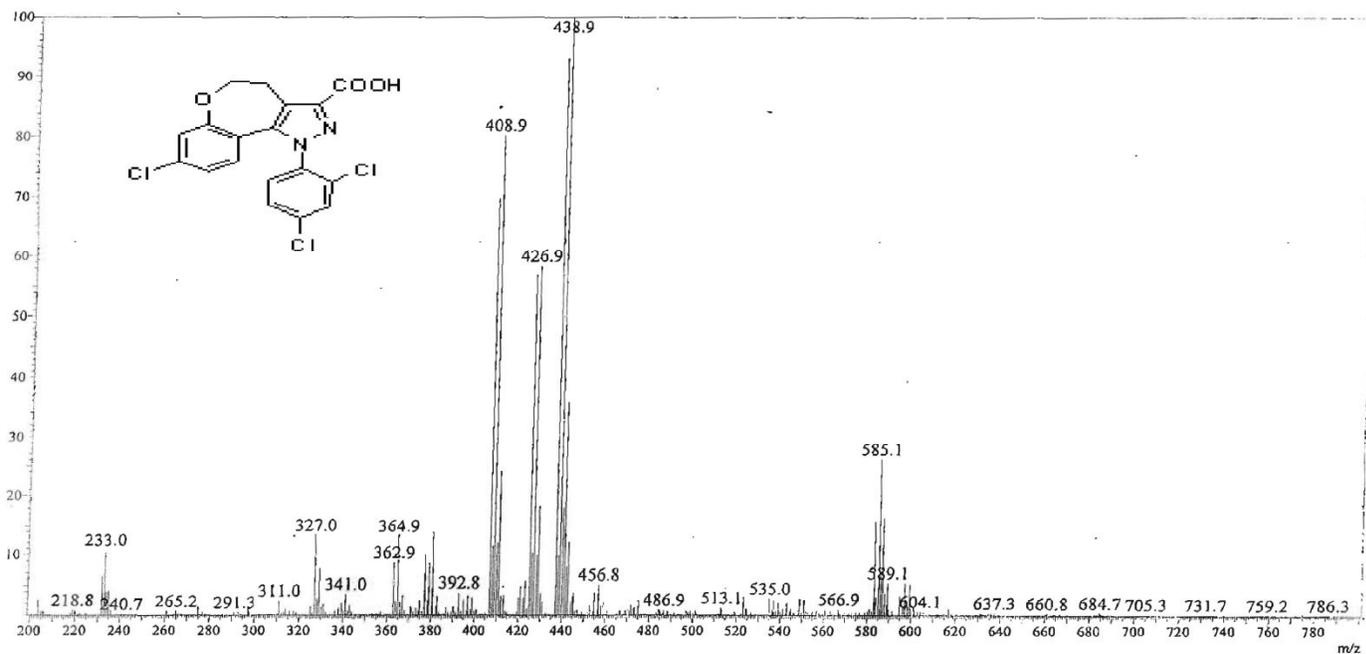
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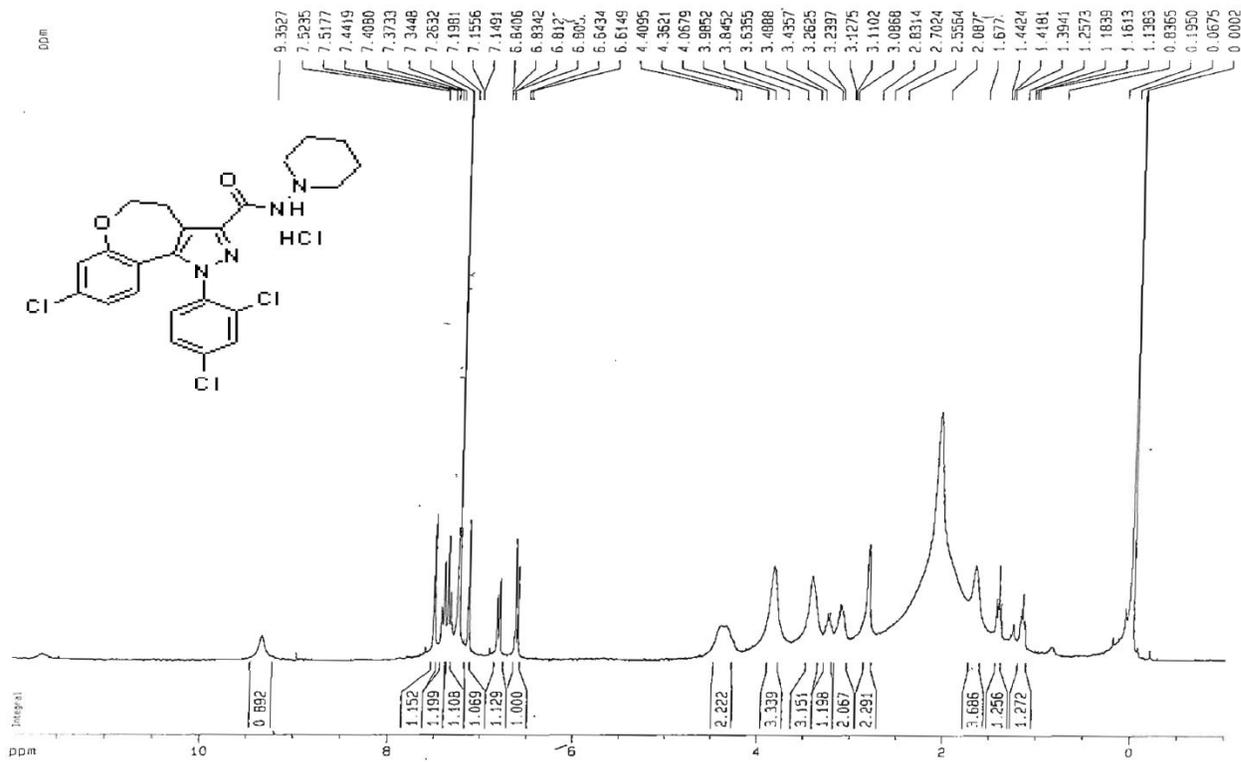


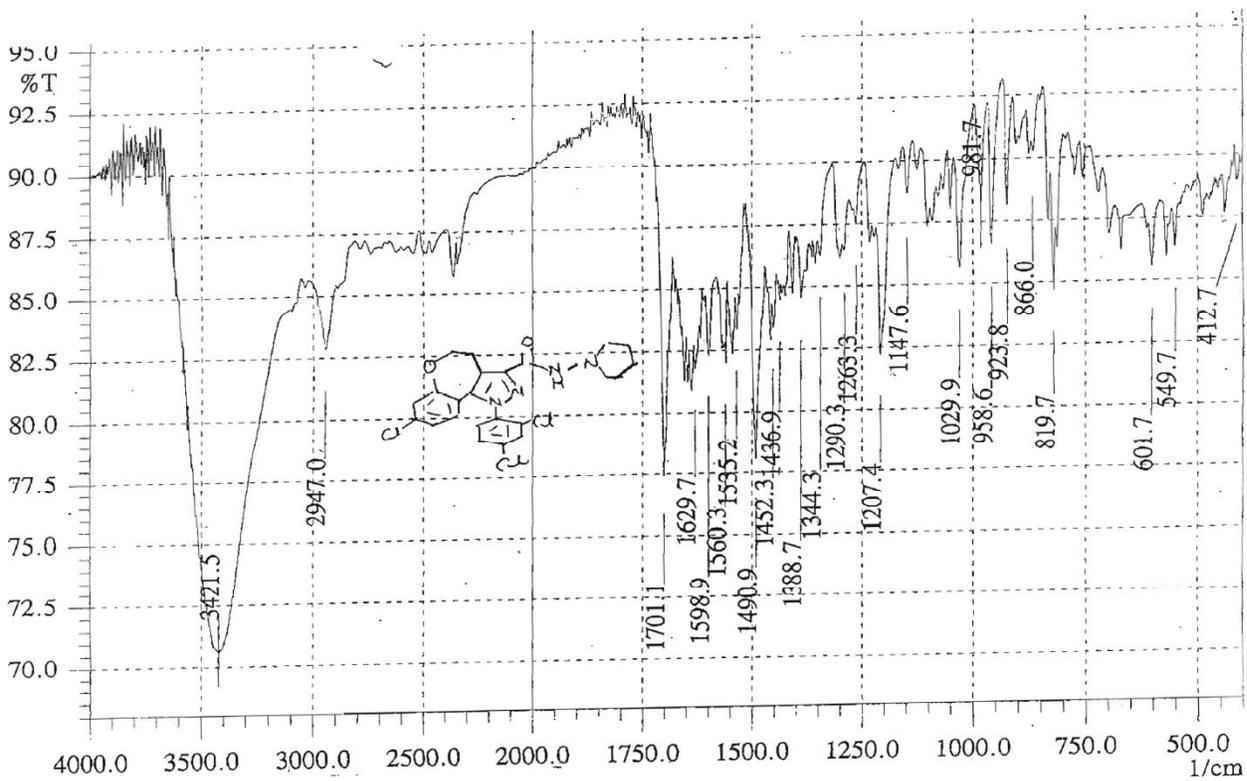
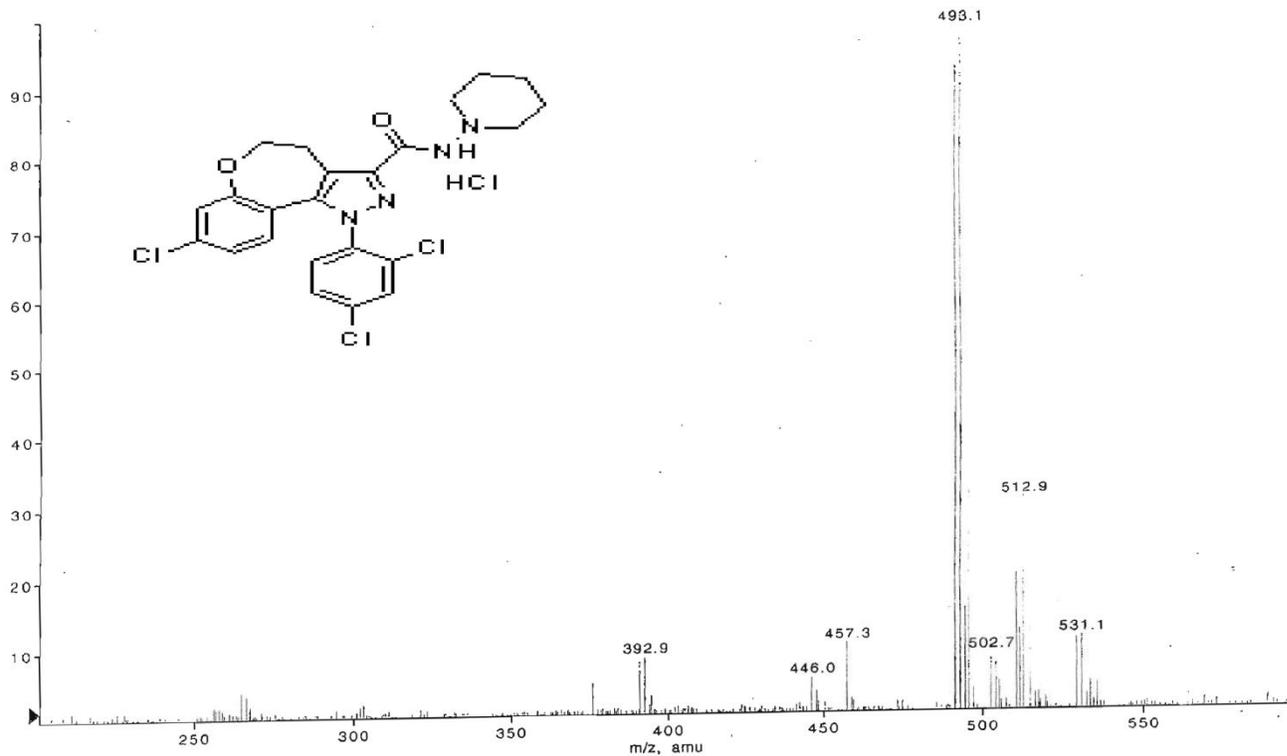
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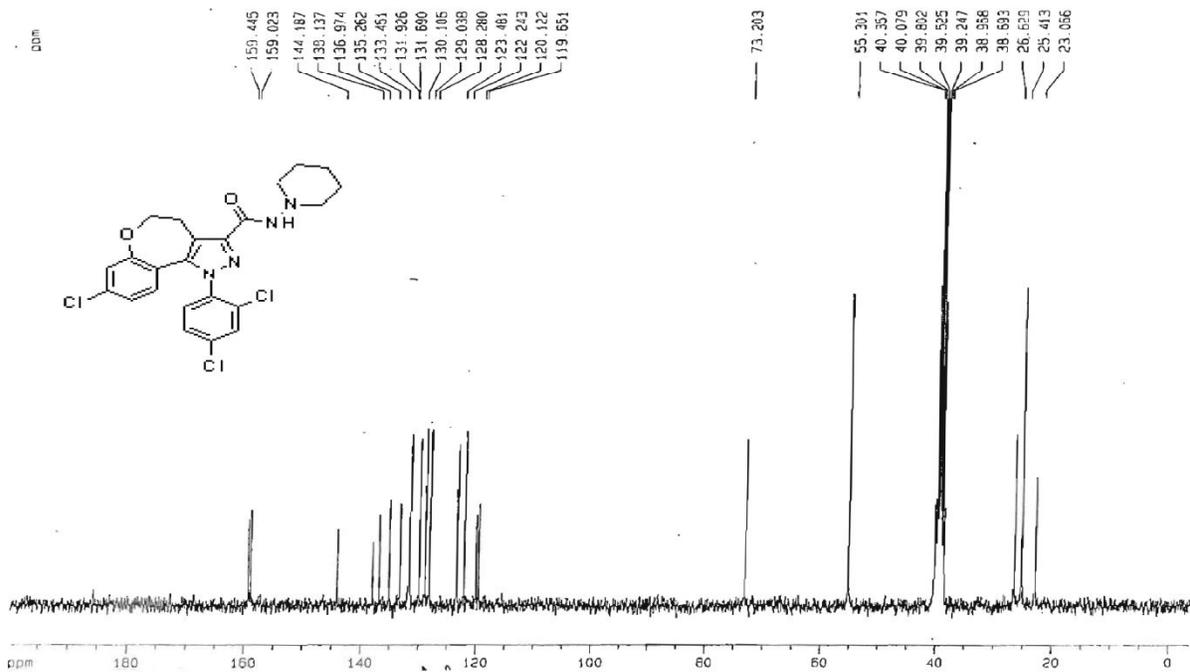
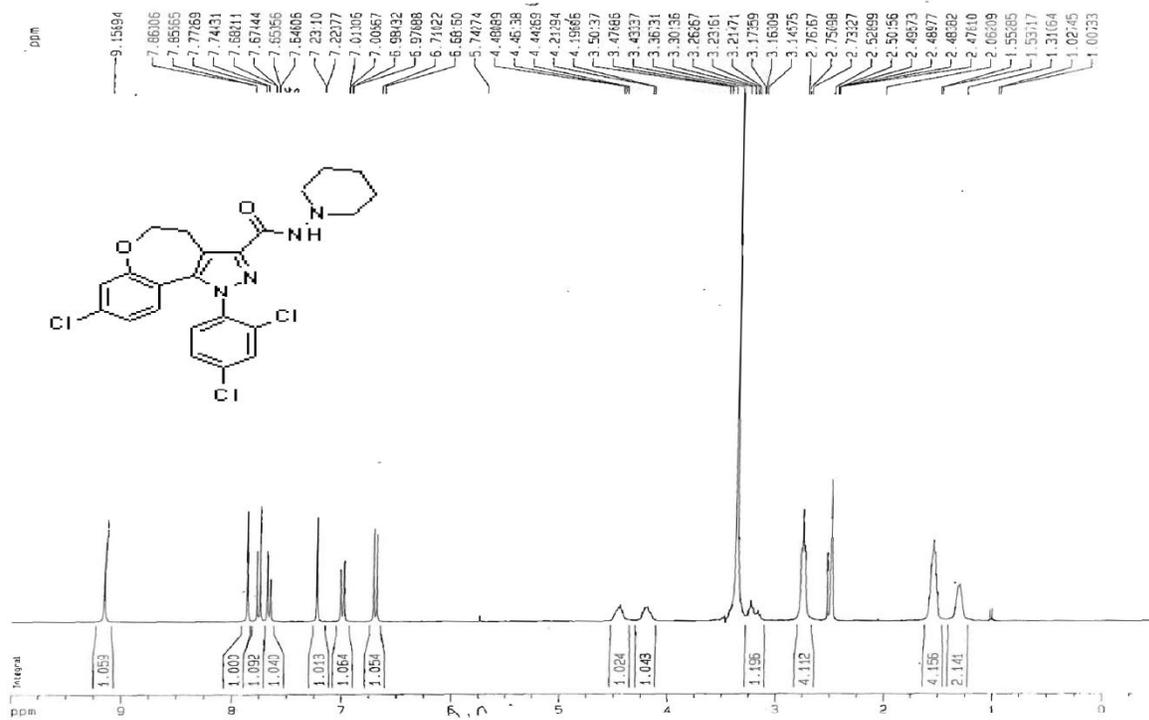


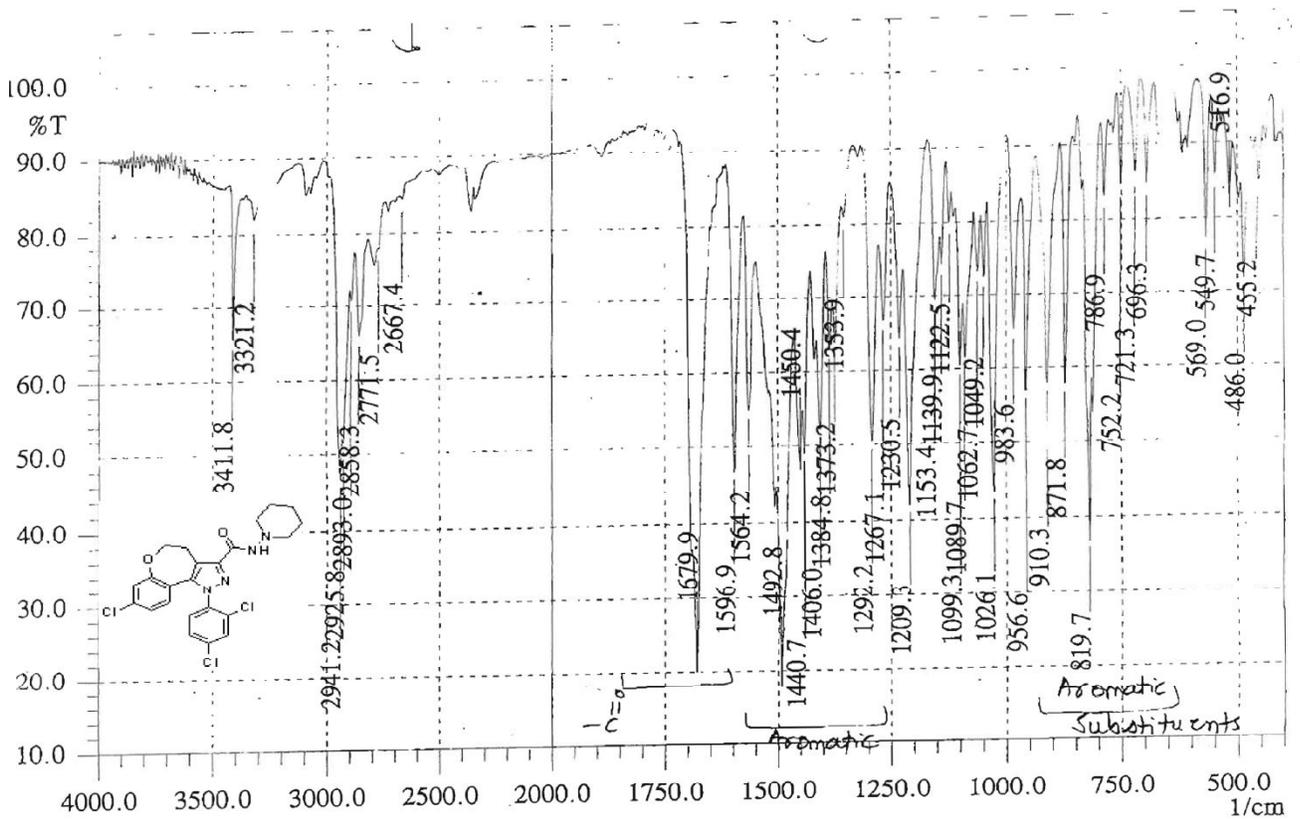
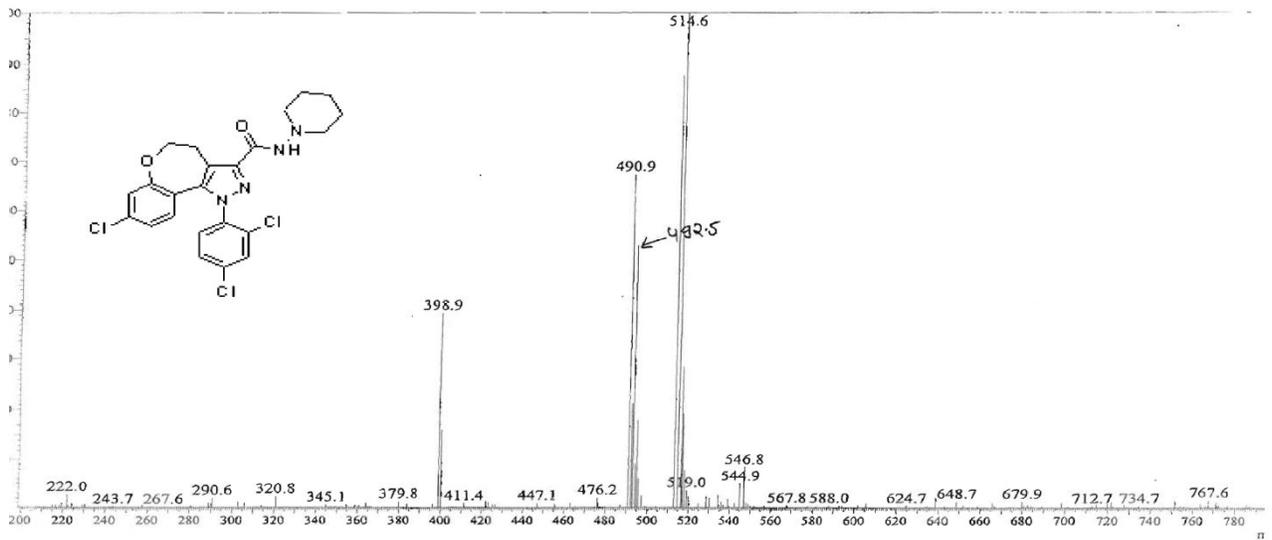
**8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-
1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-
1-ylamide.HCl**

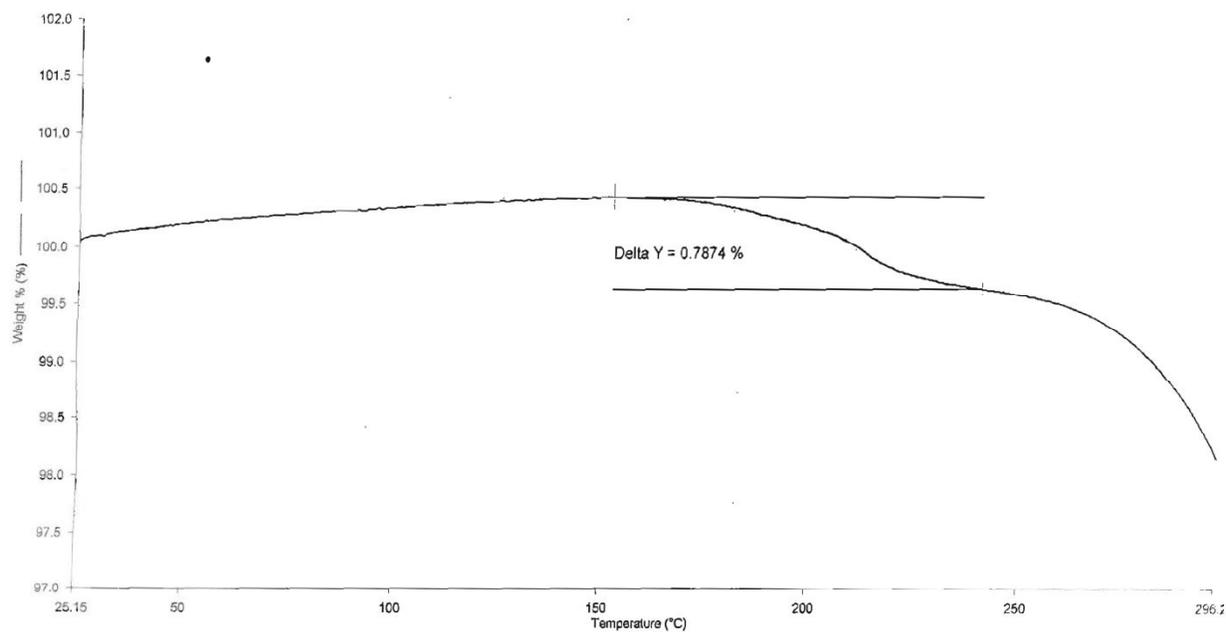
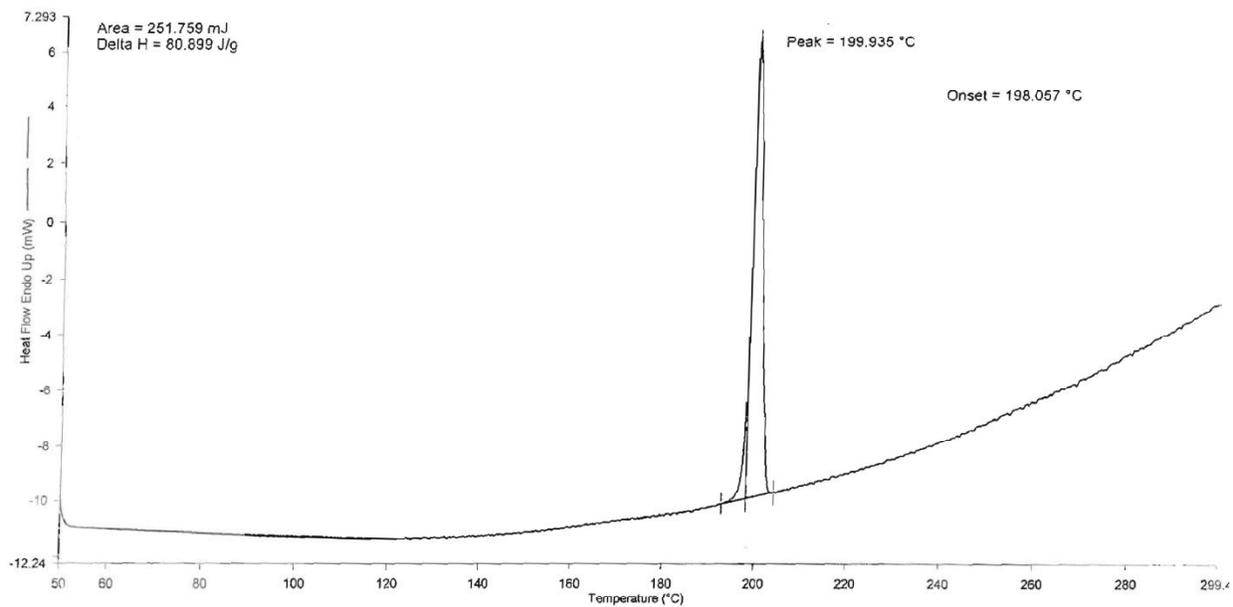


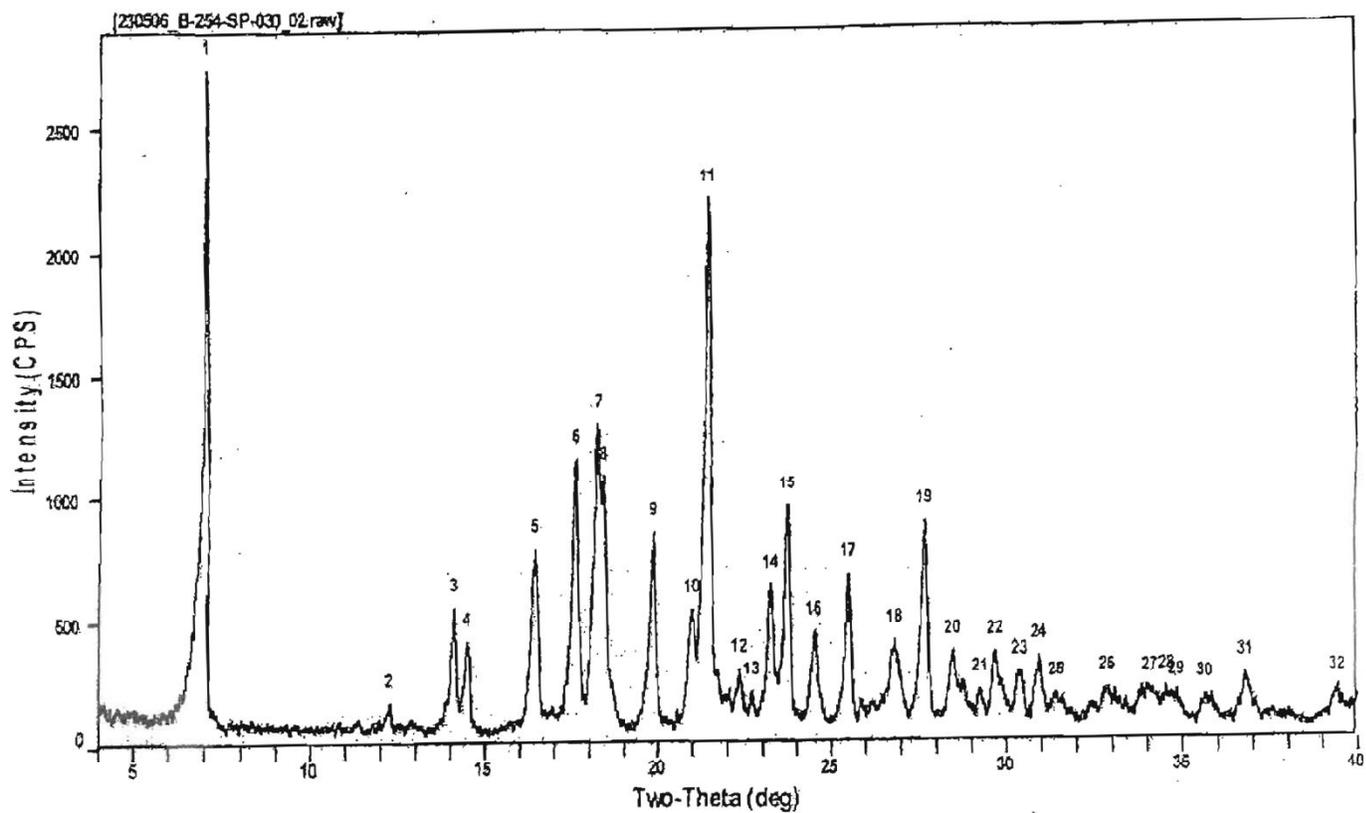


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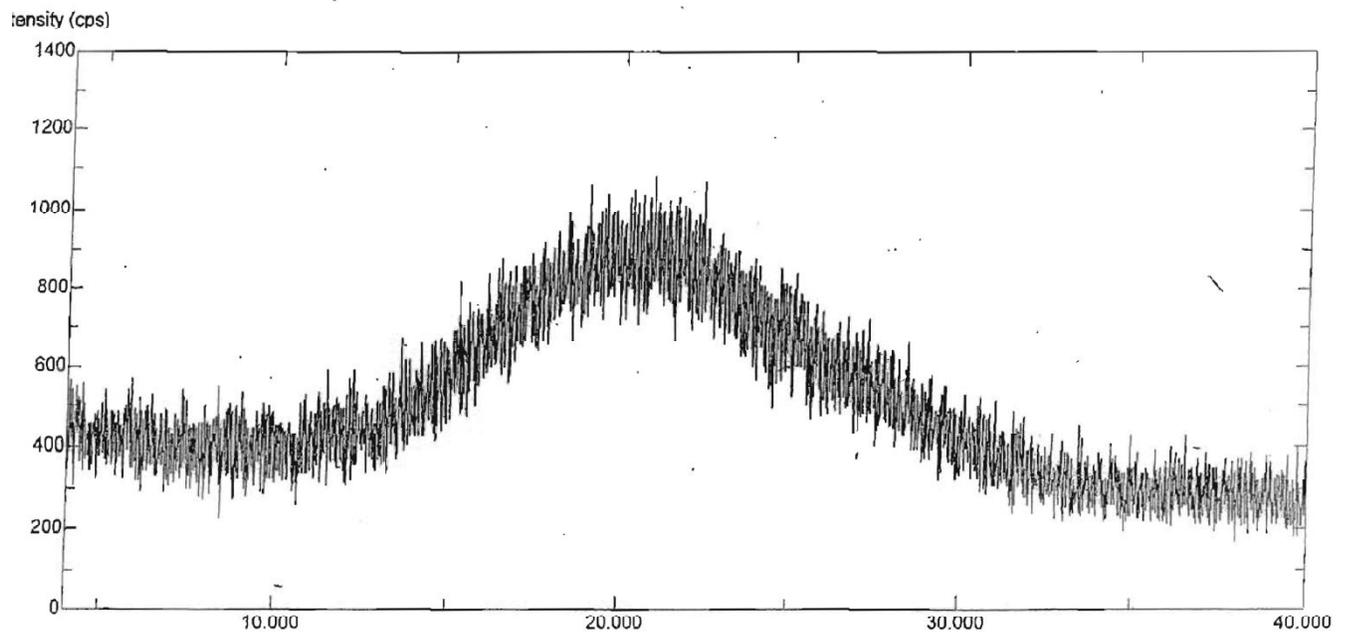




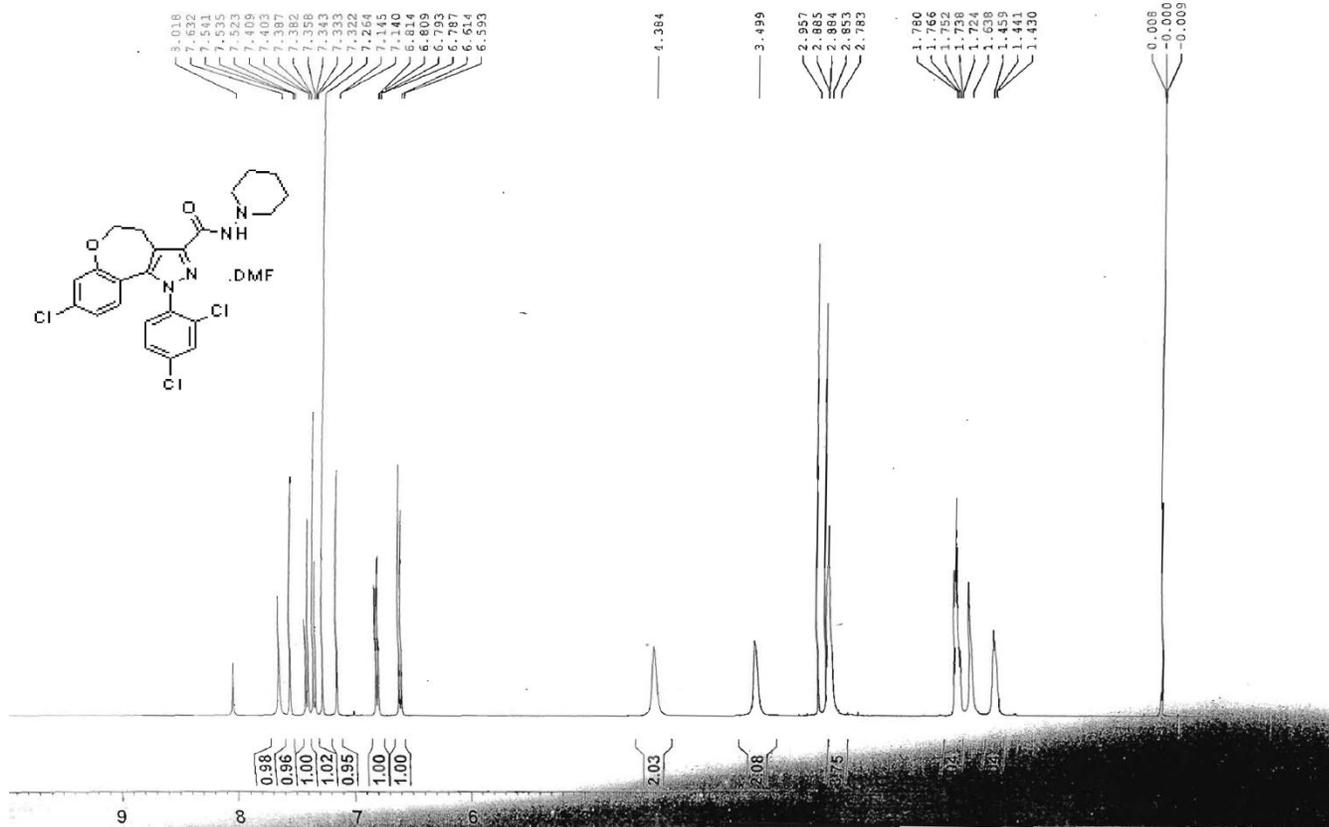
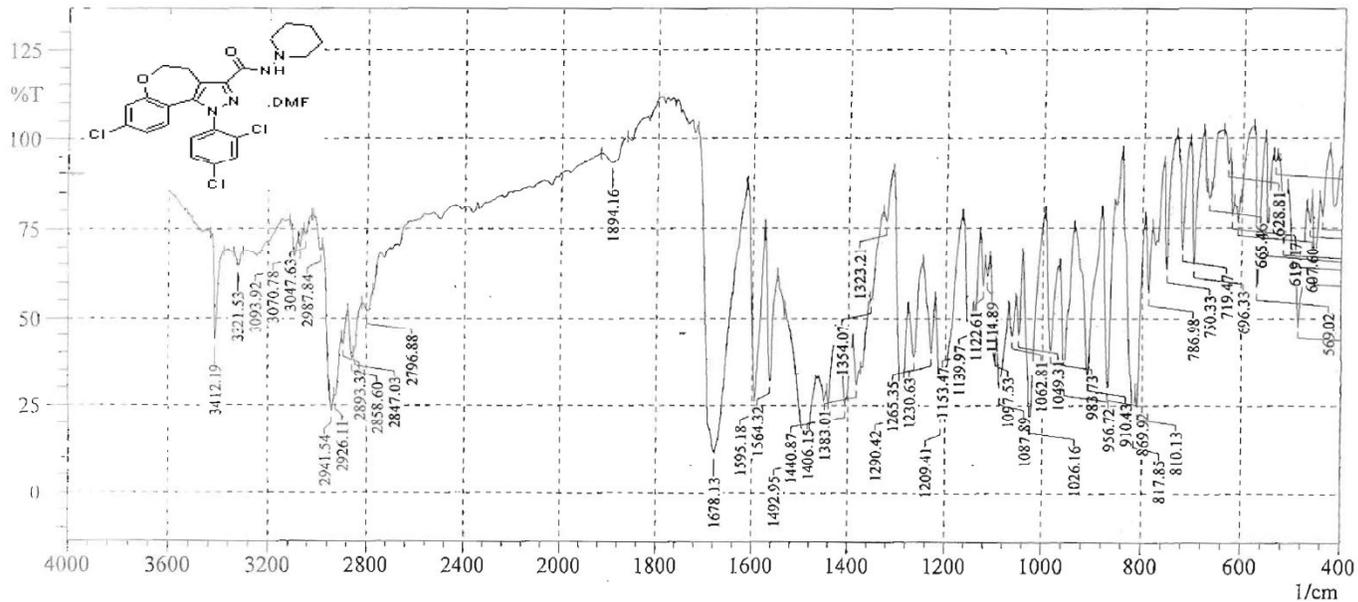


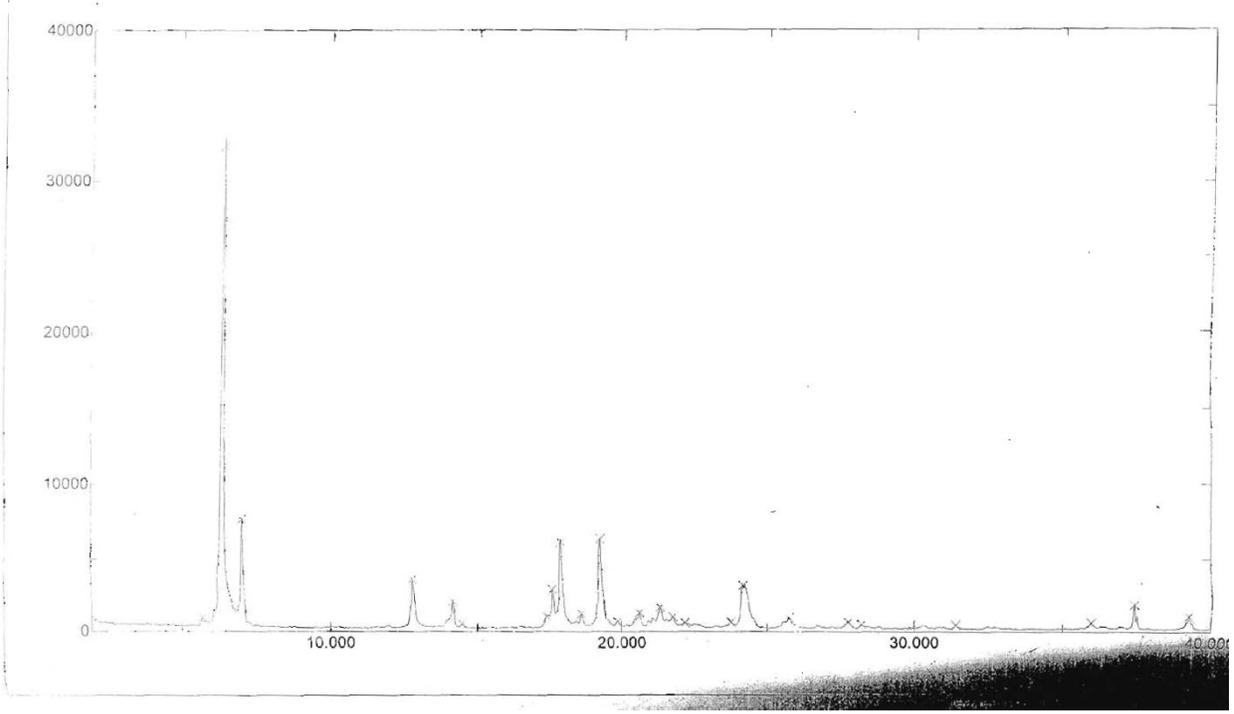
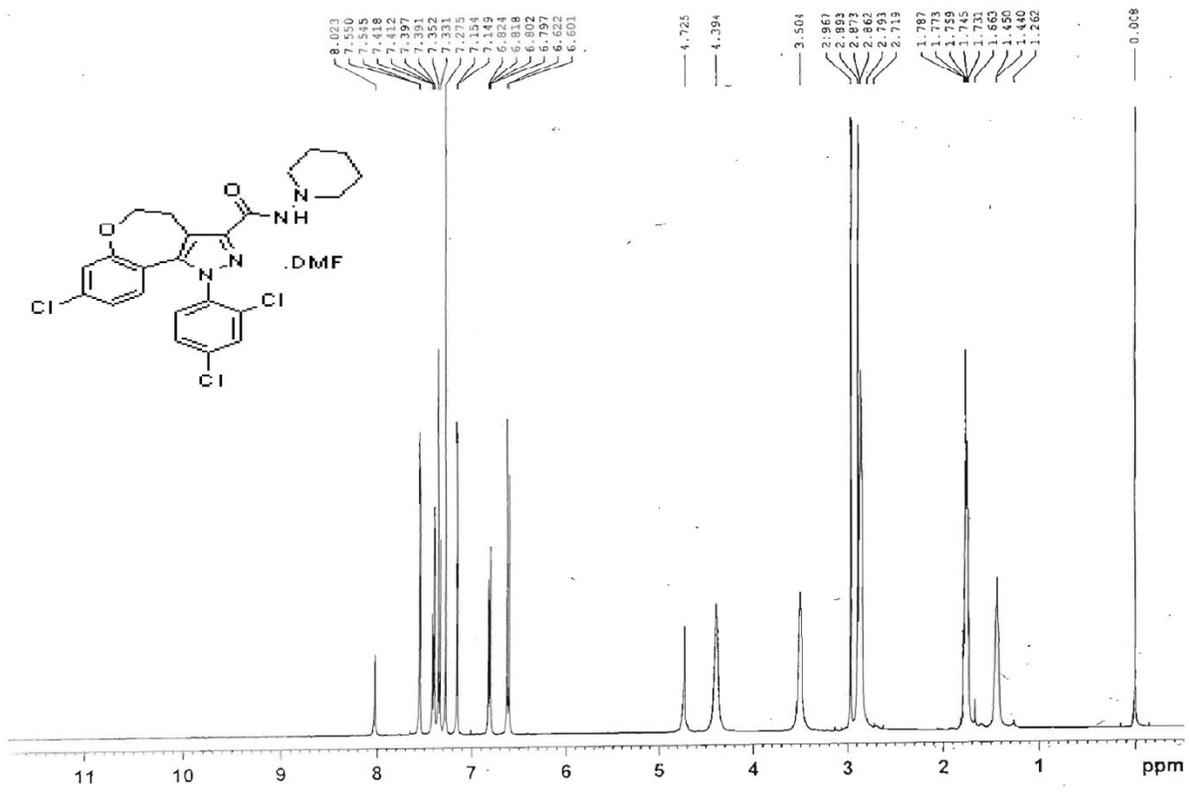


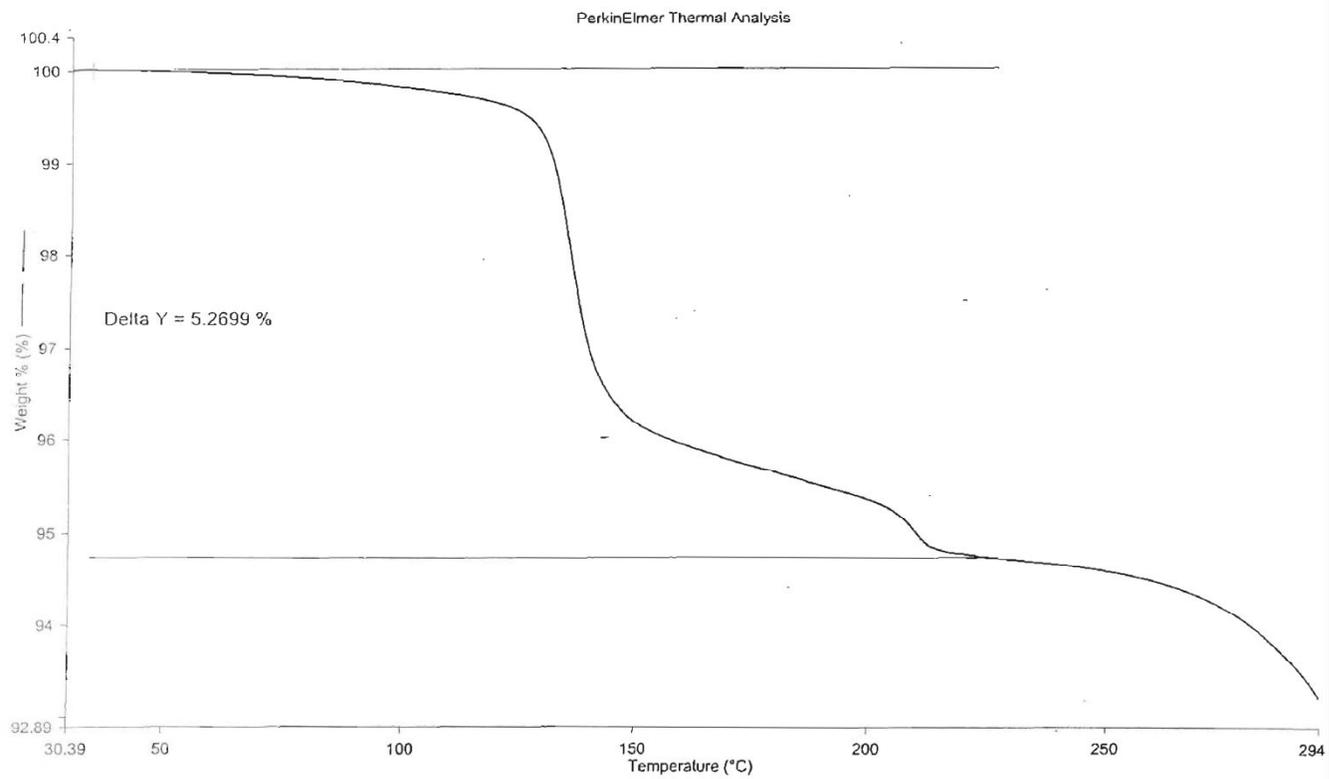
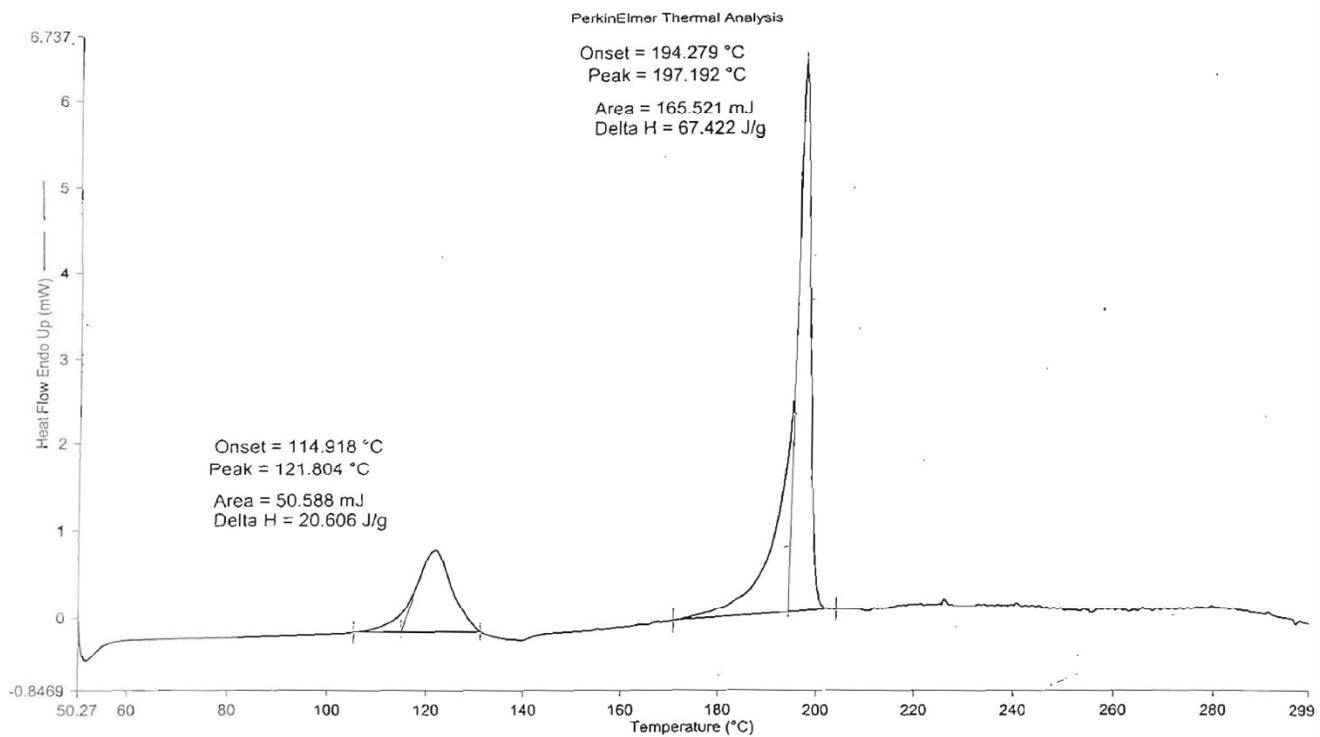
**8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide
(1), amorphous**



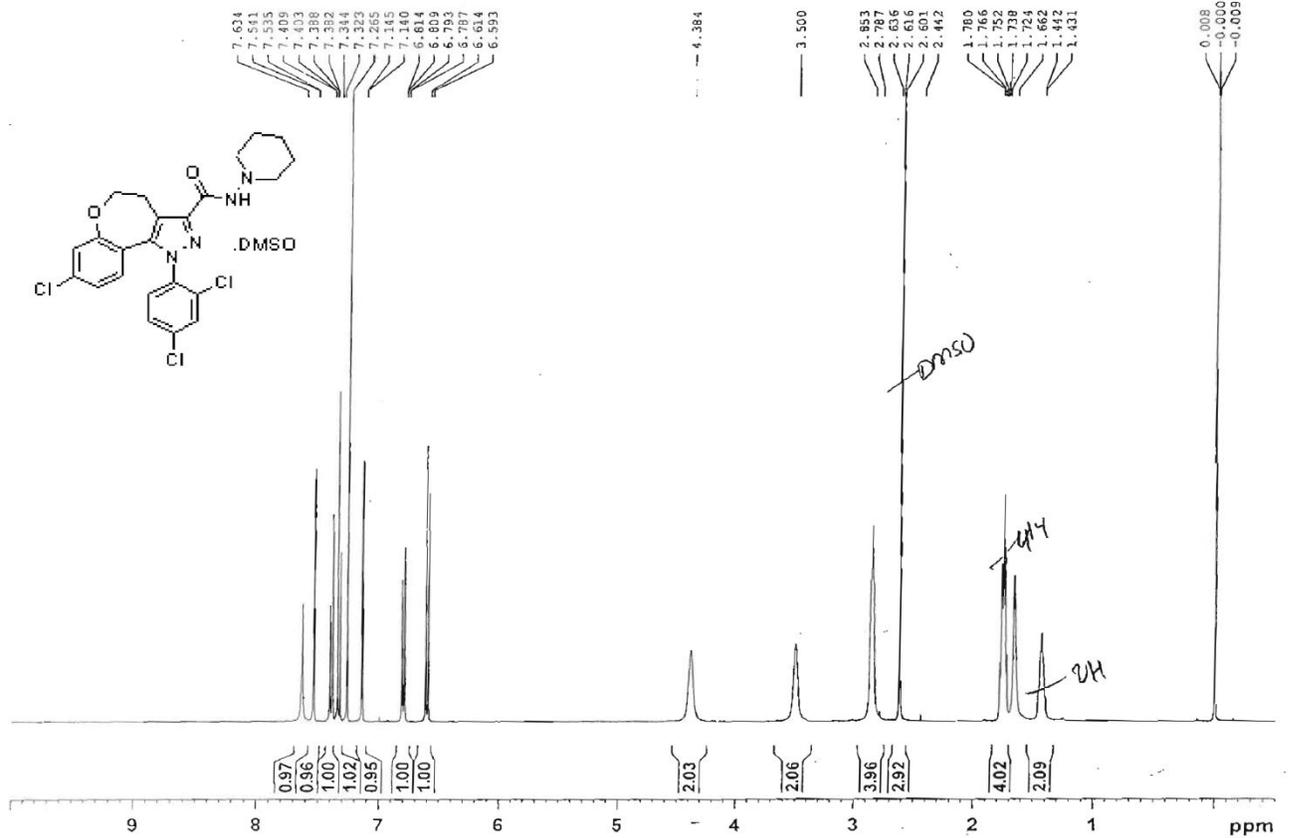
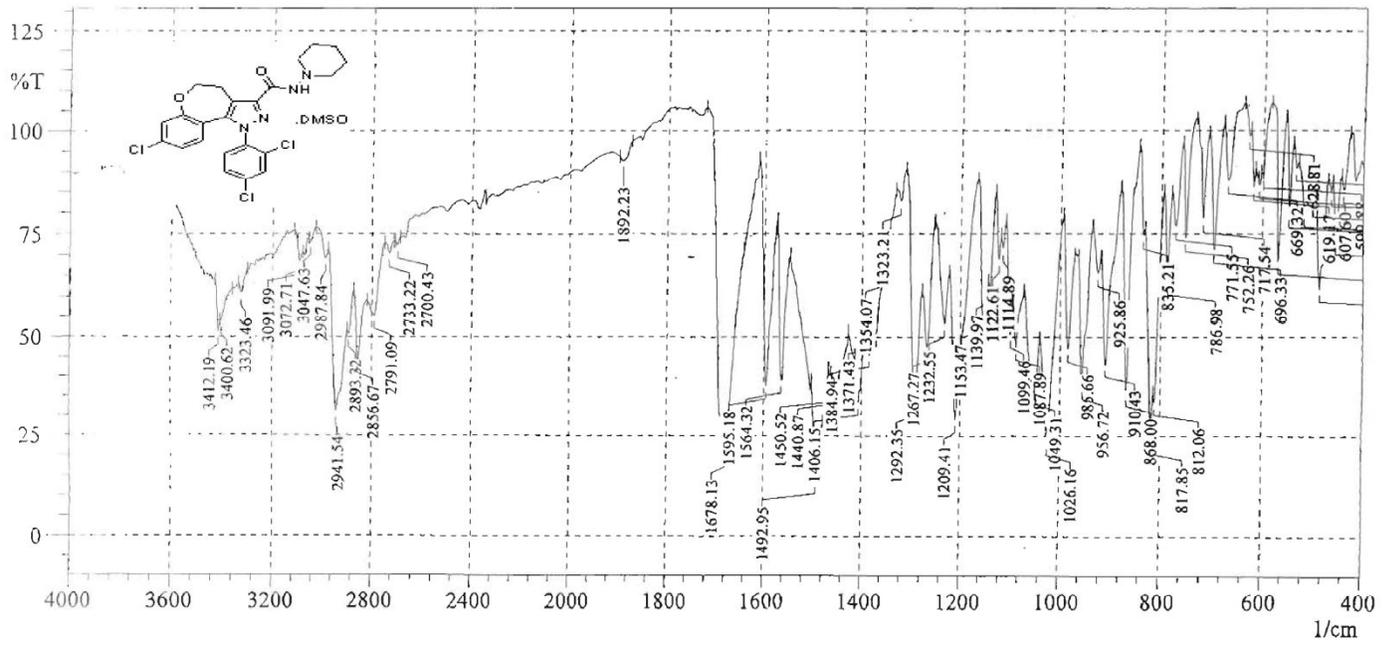
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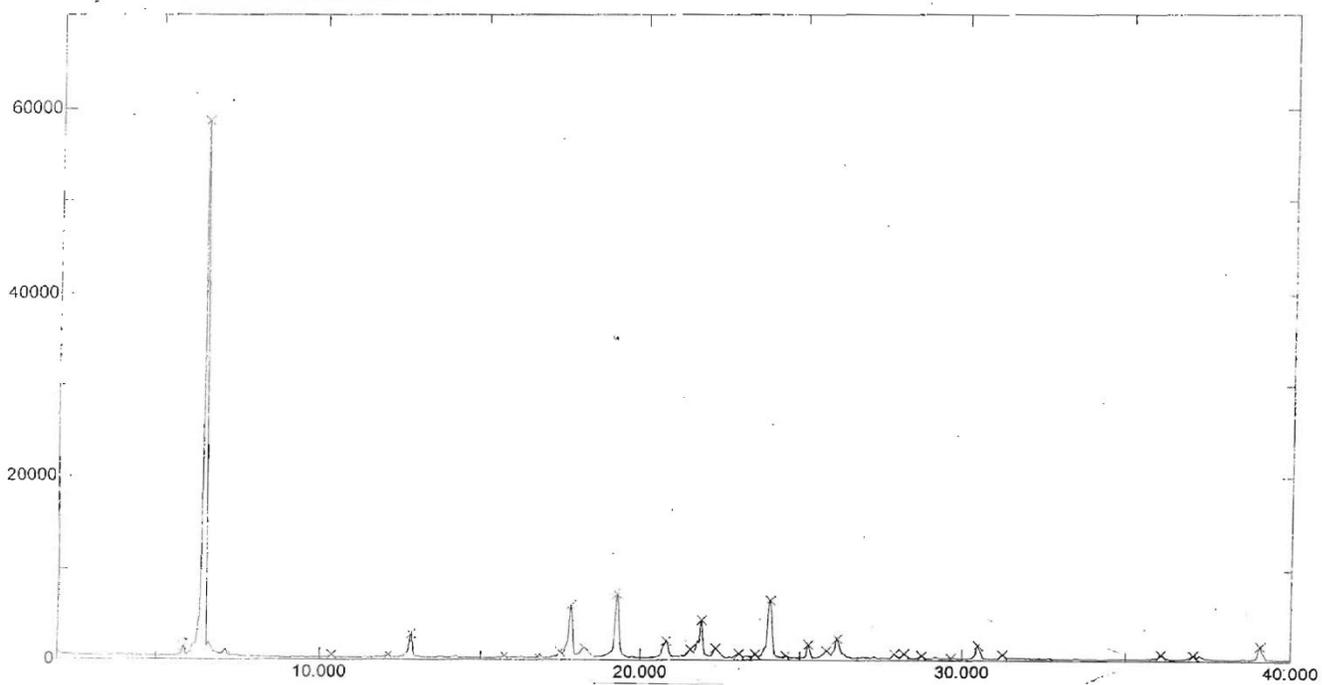
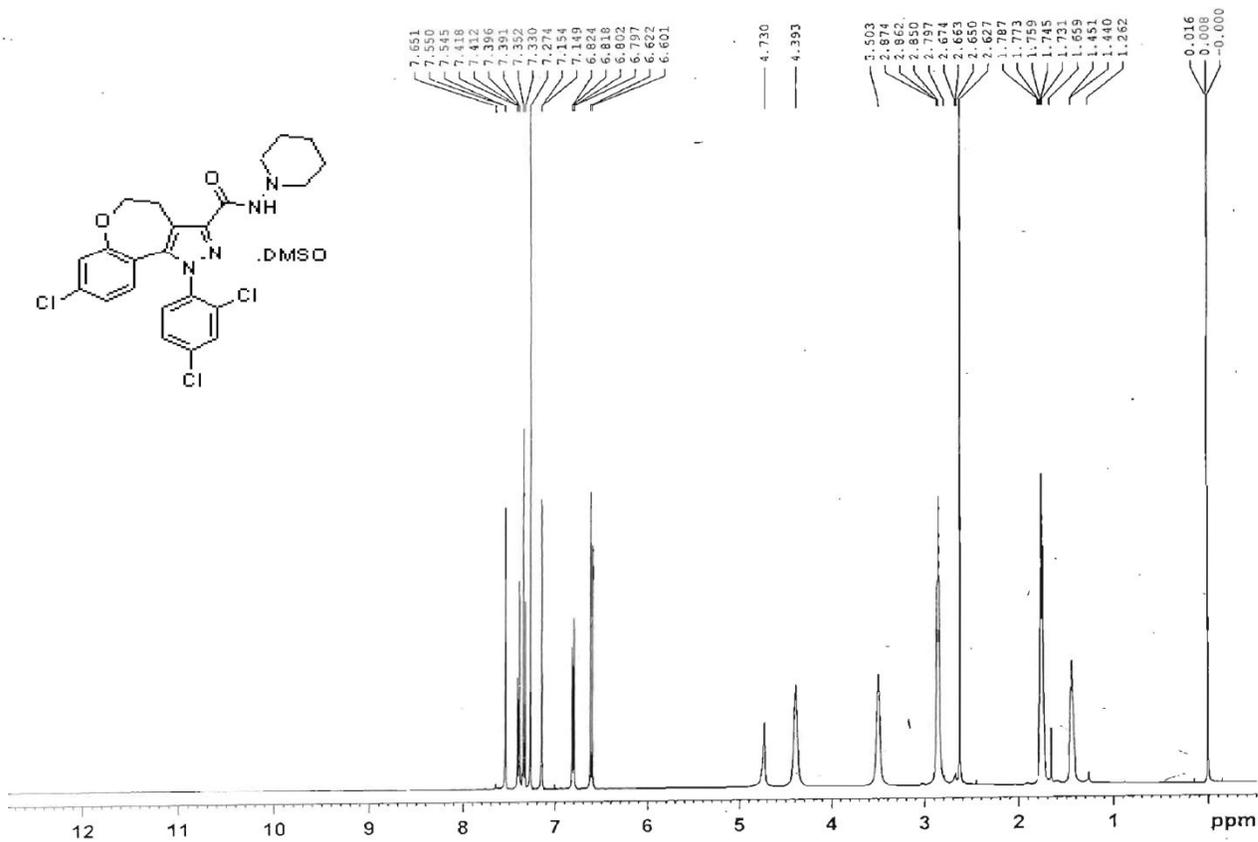


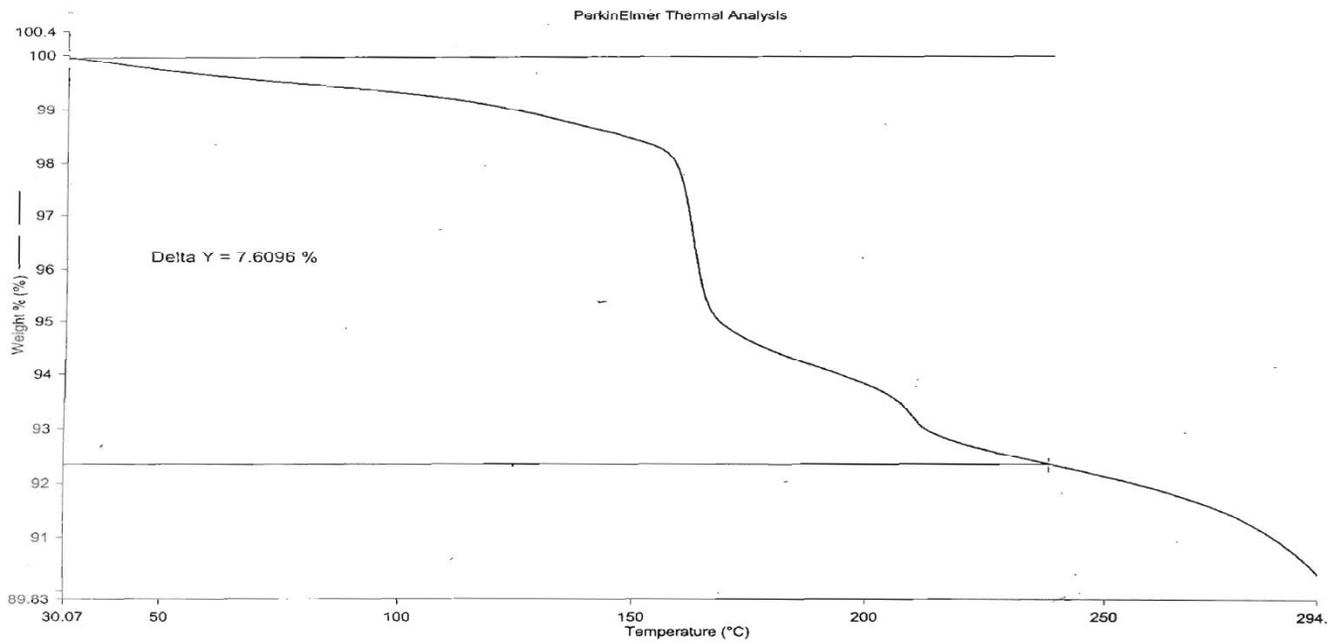
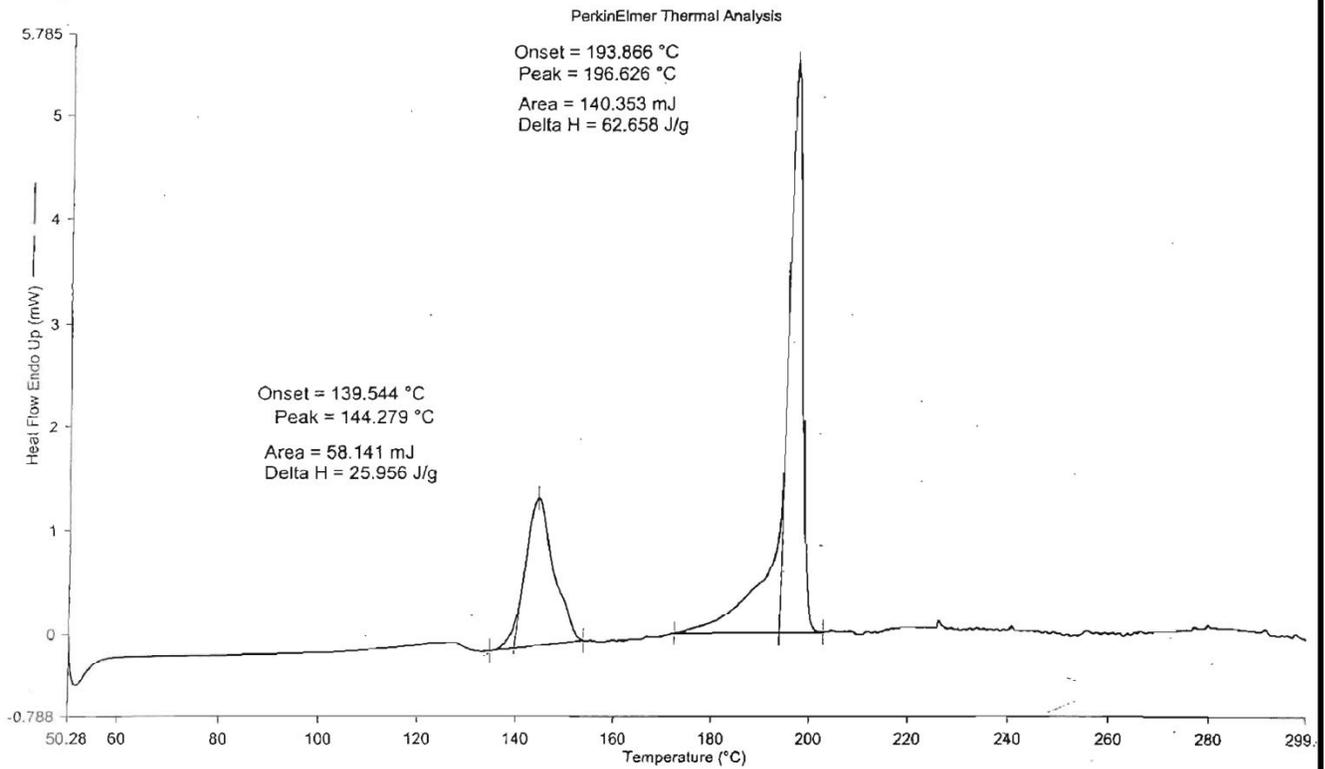




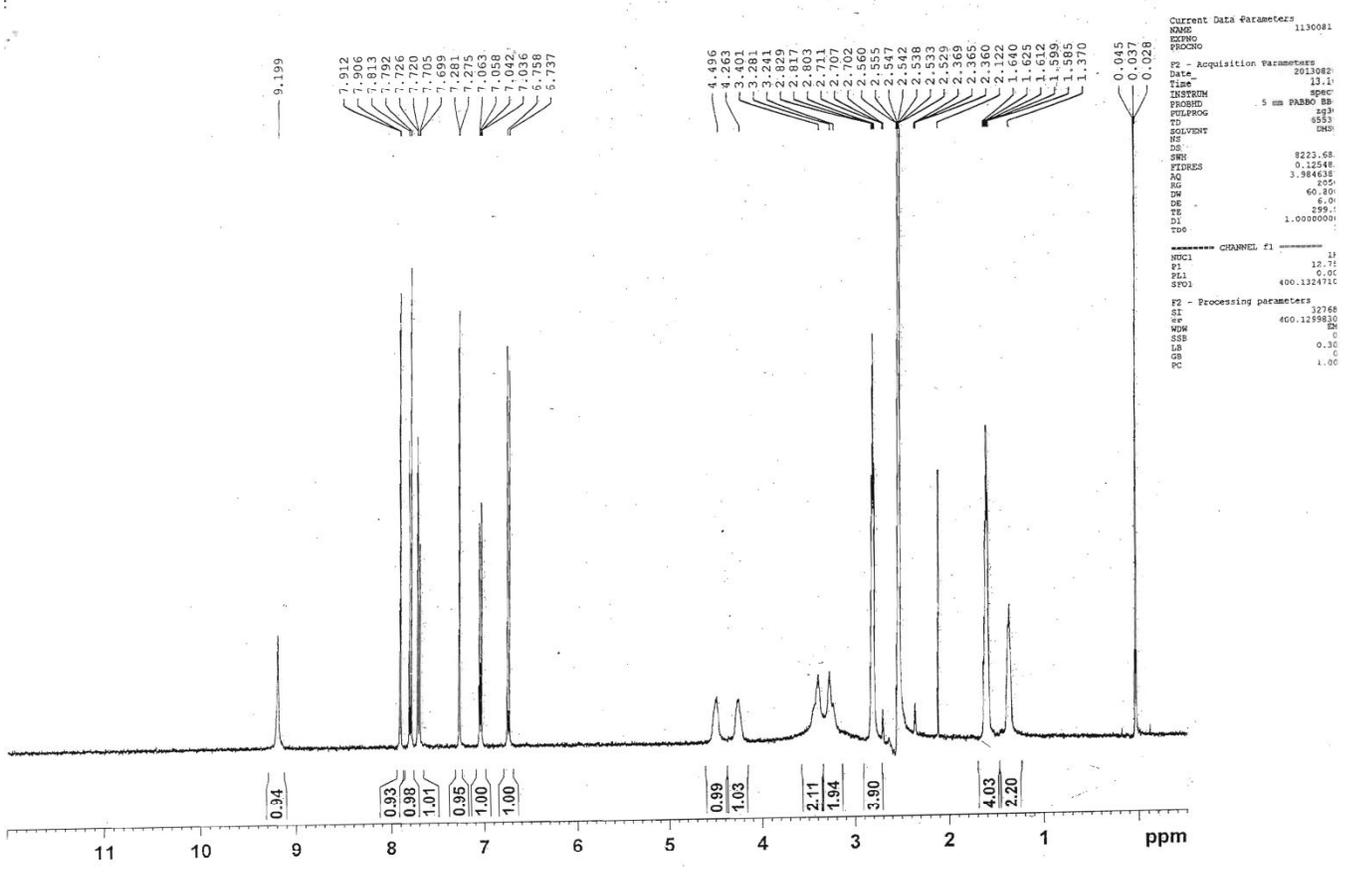
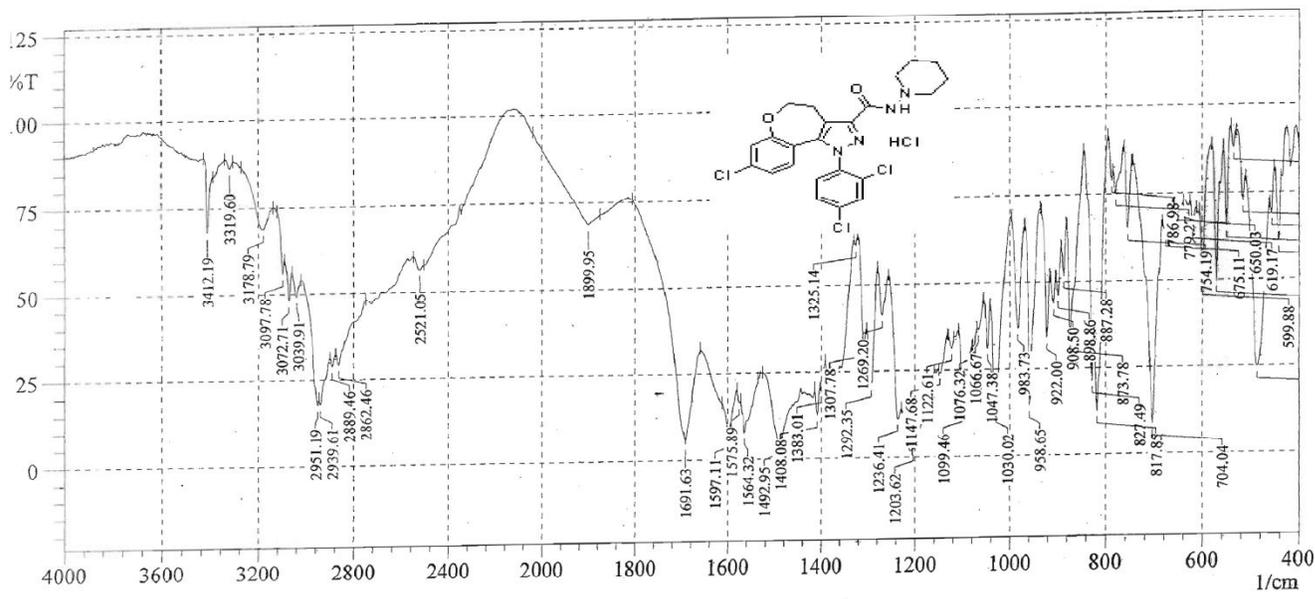
8-Chloro-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-6-oxa-1,2-diaza-benzo[e]azulene-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide. (DMSO solvate)

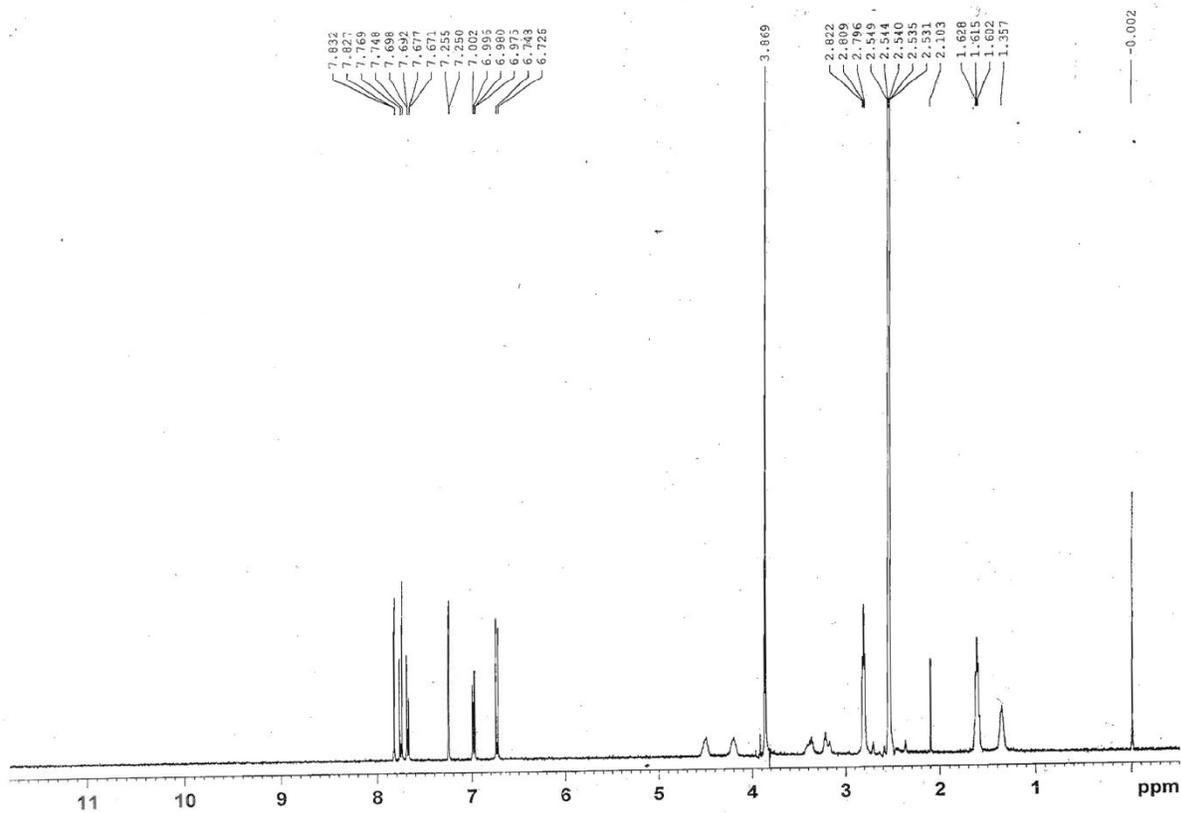






HCl salt of Compound 1

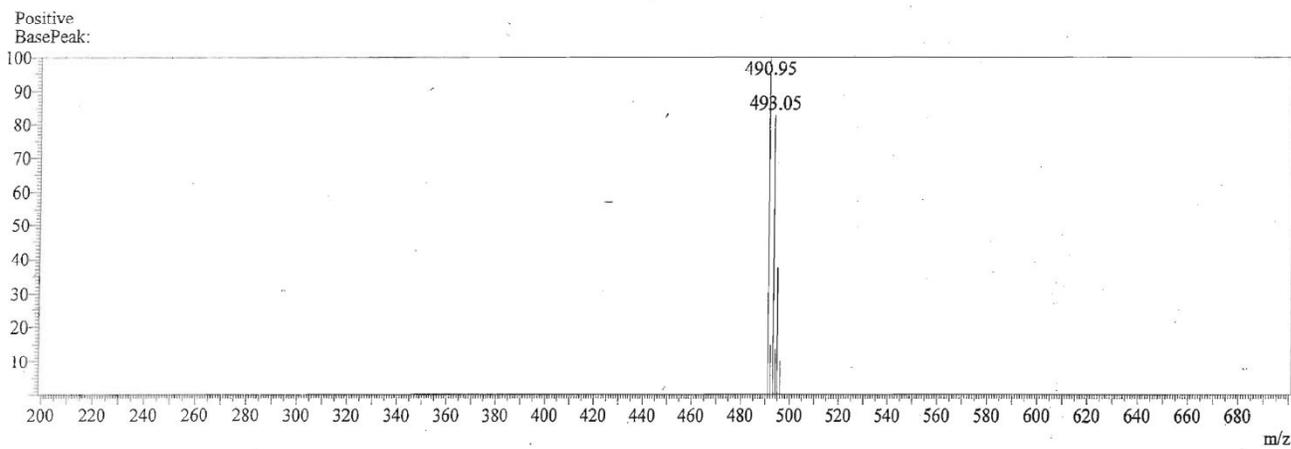


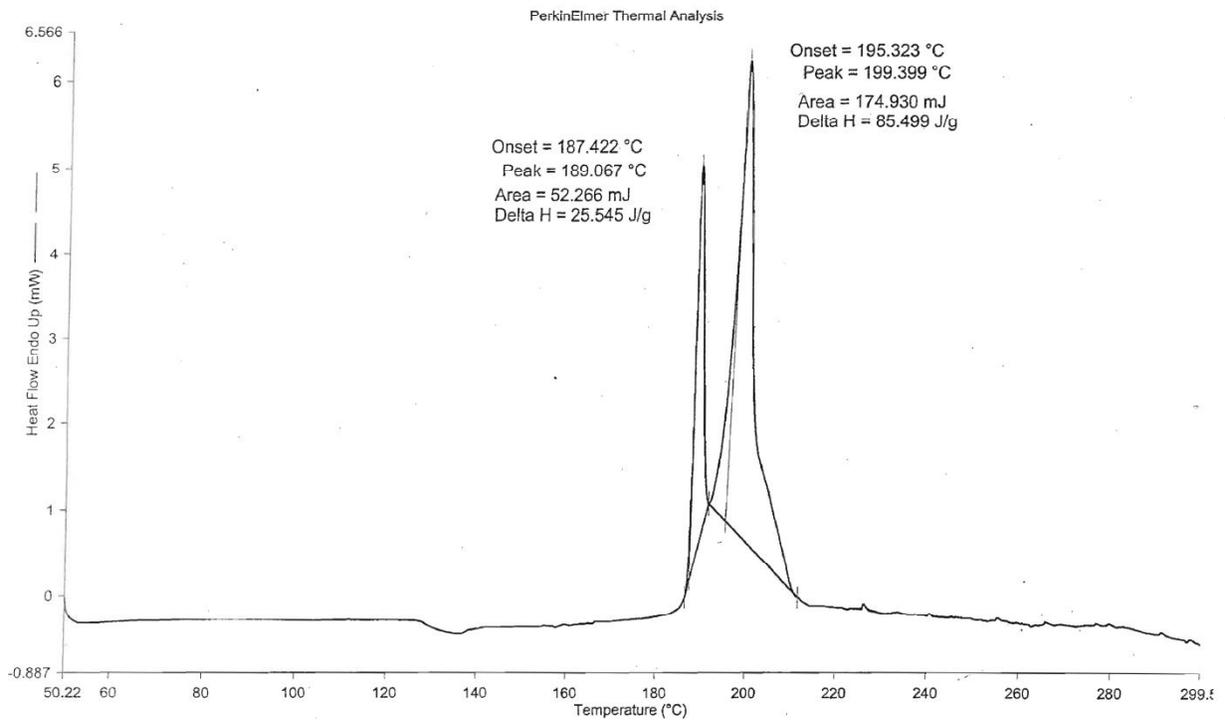
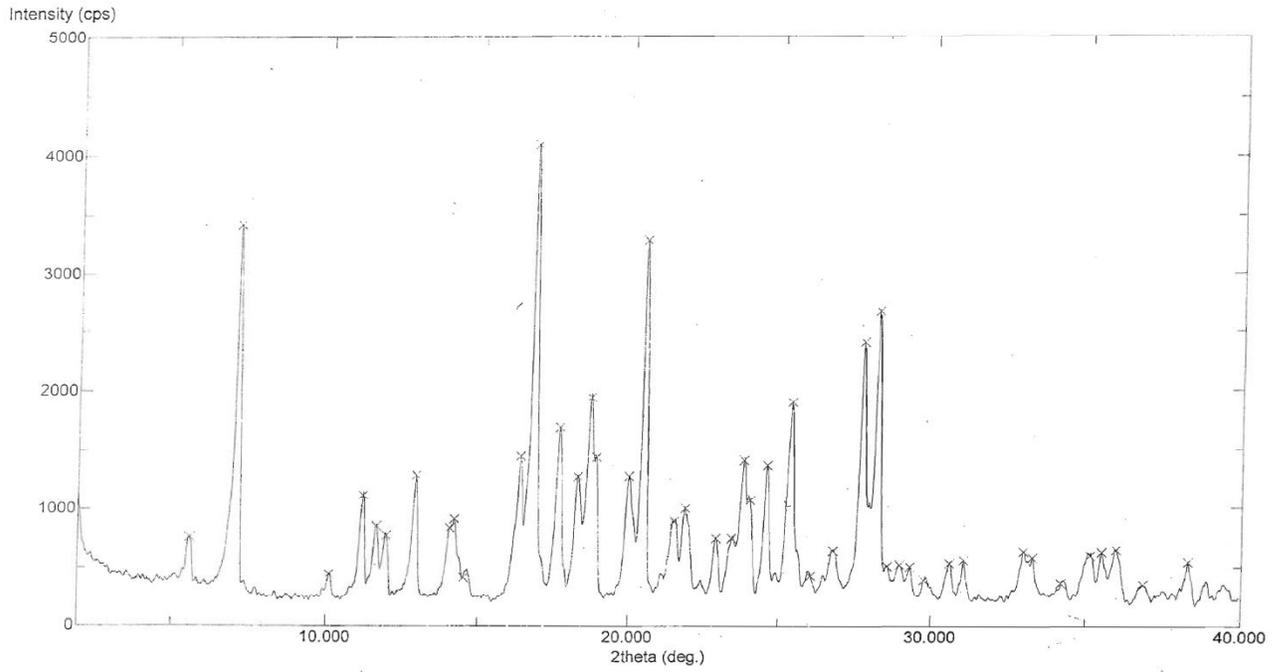


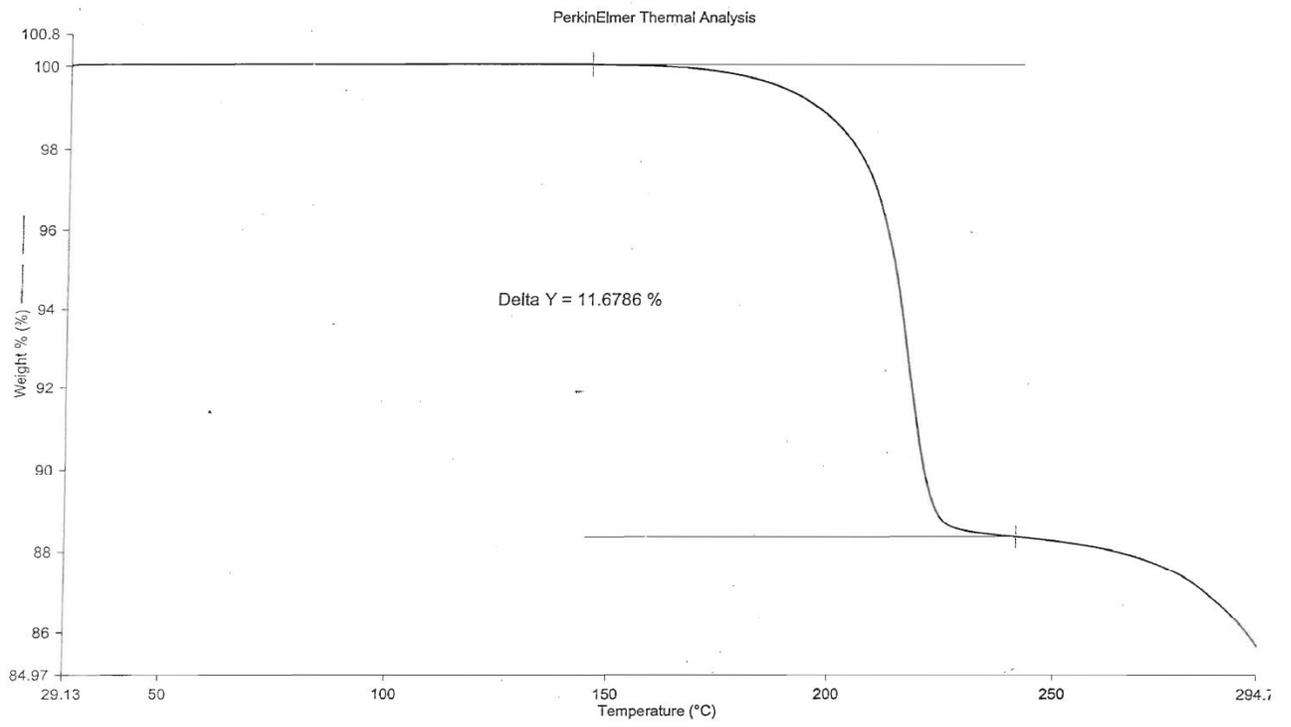
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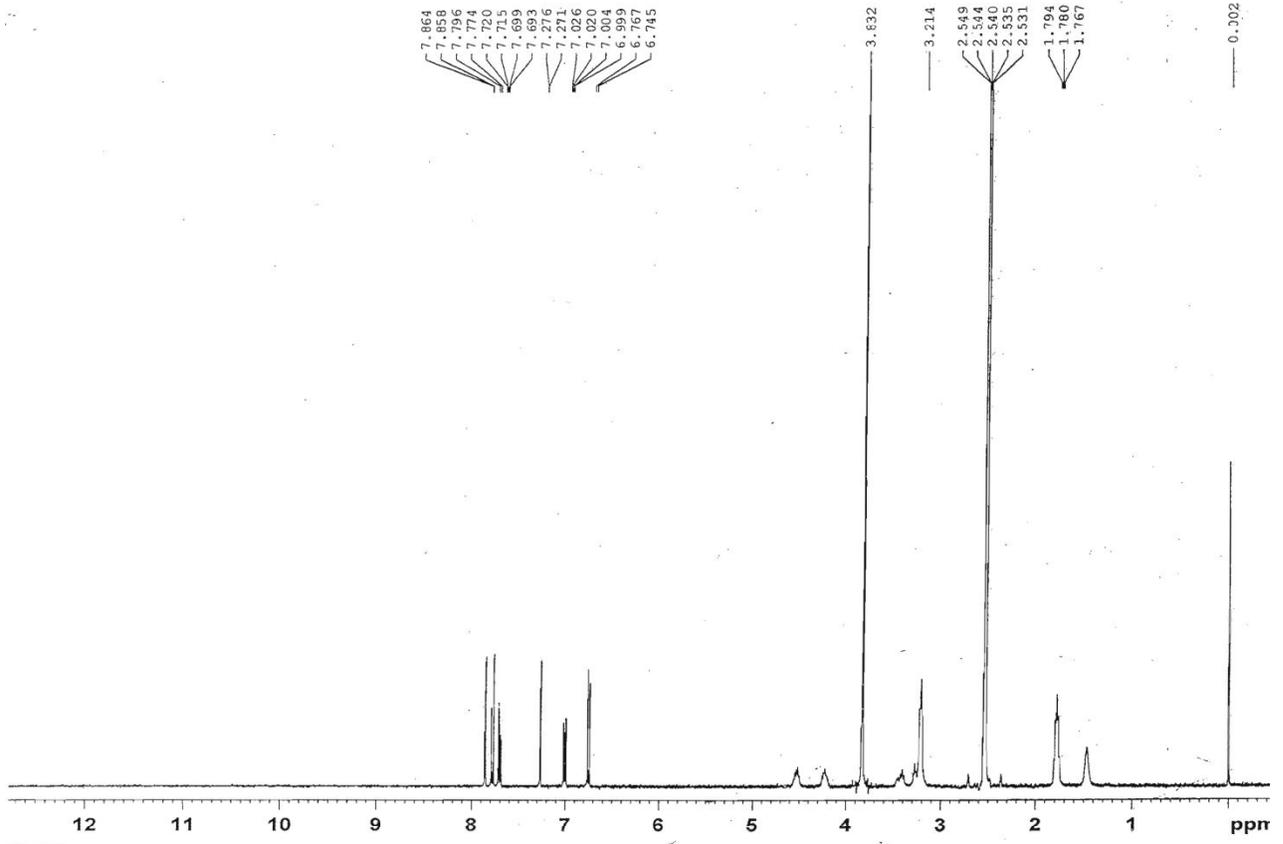
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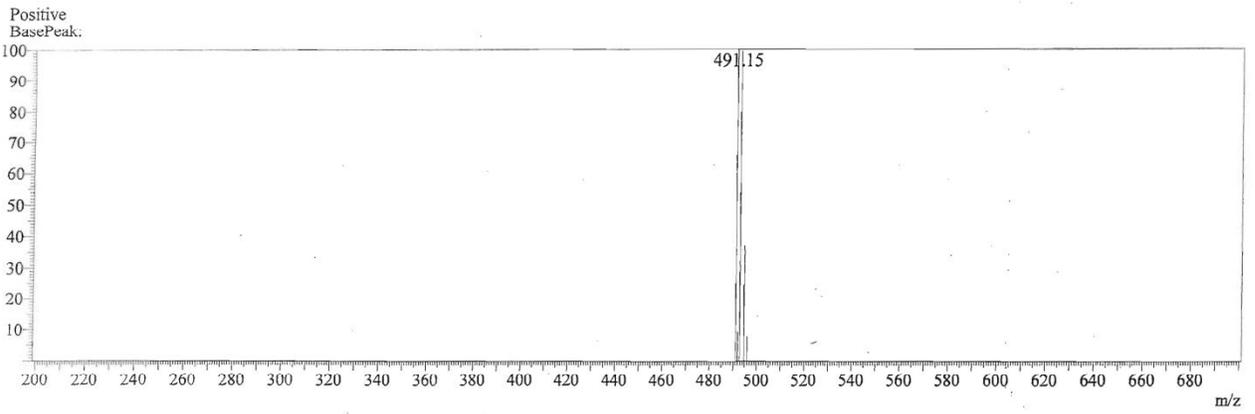


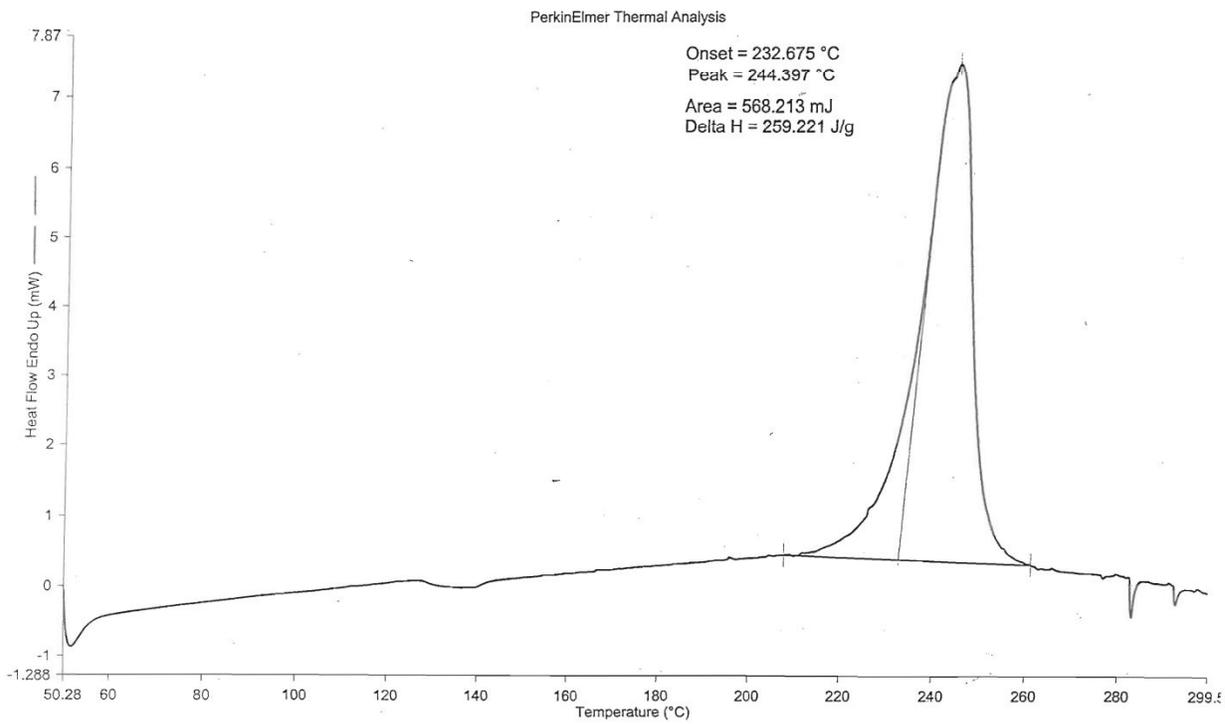
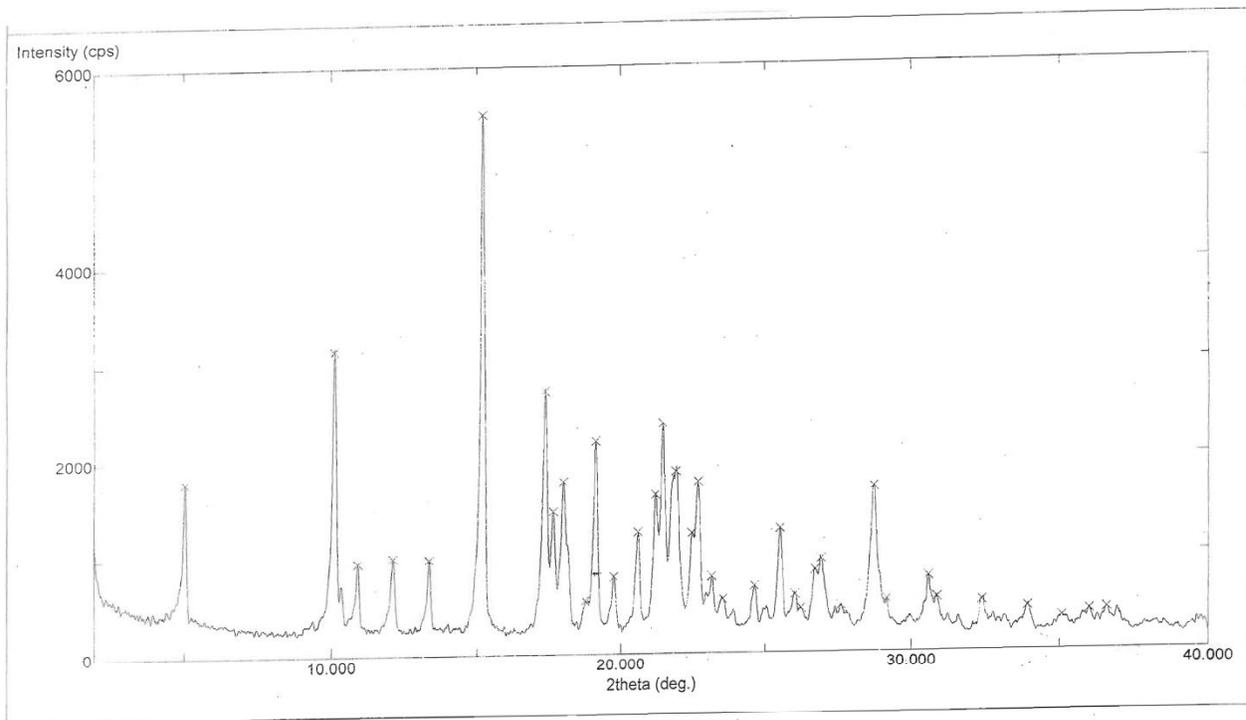


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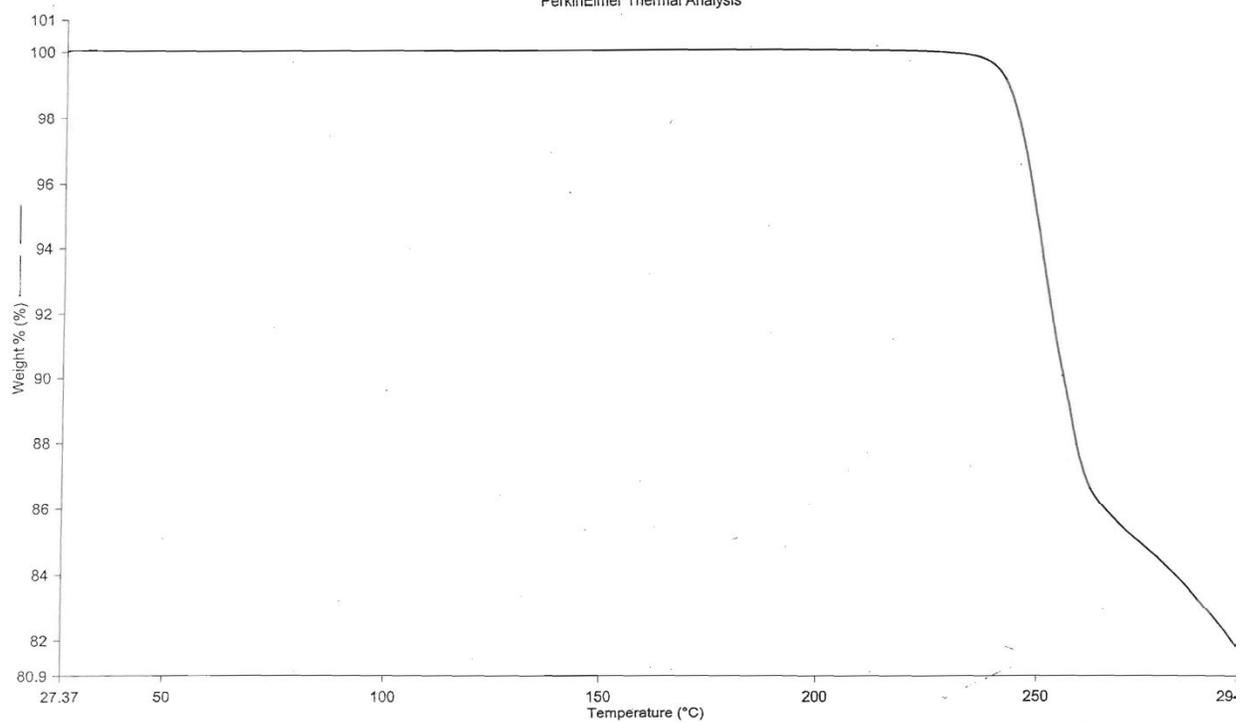


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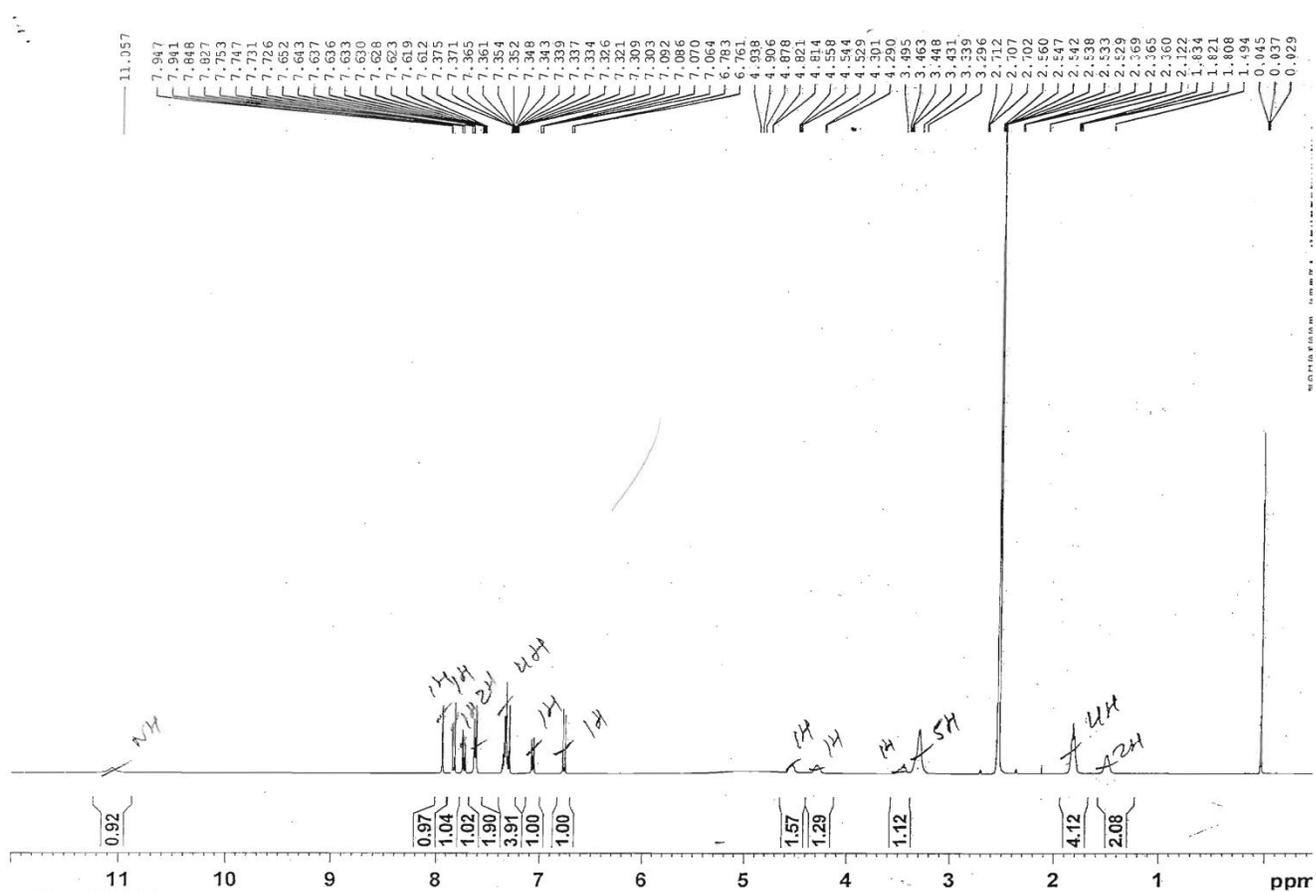
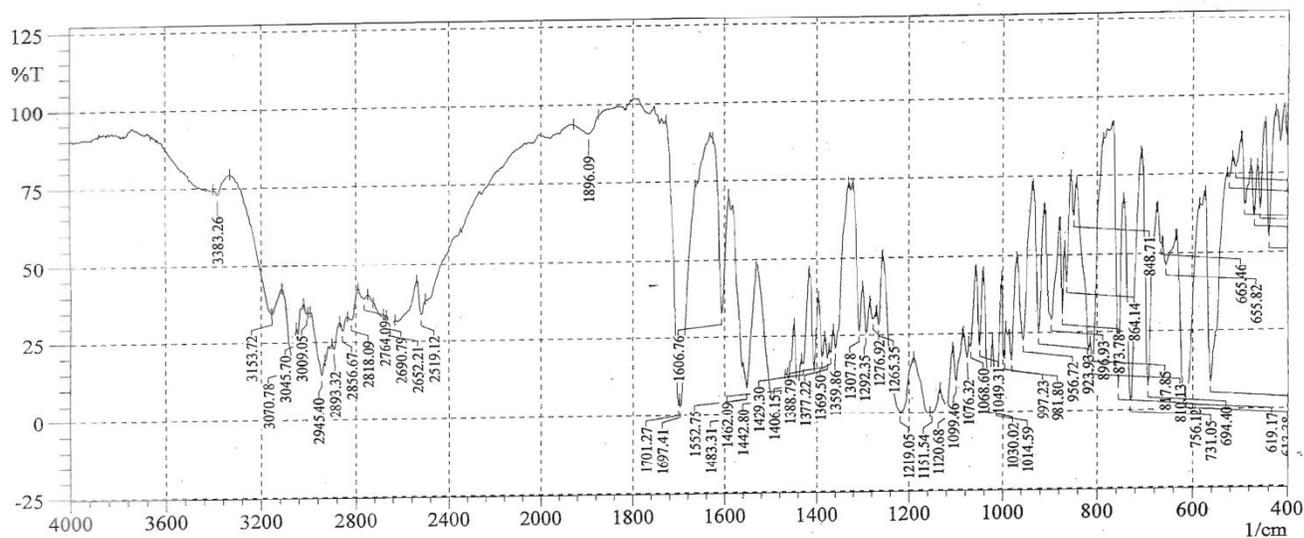


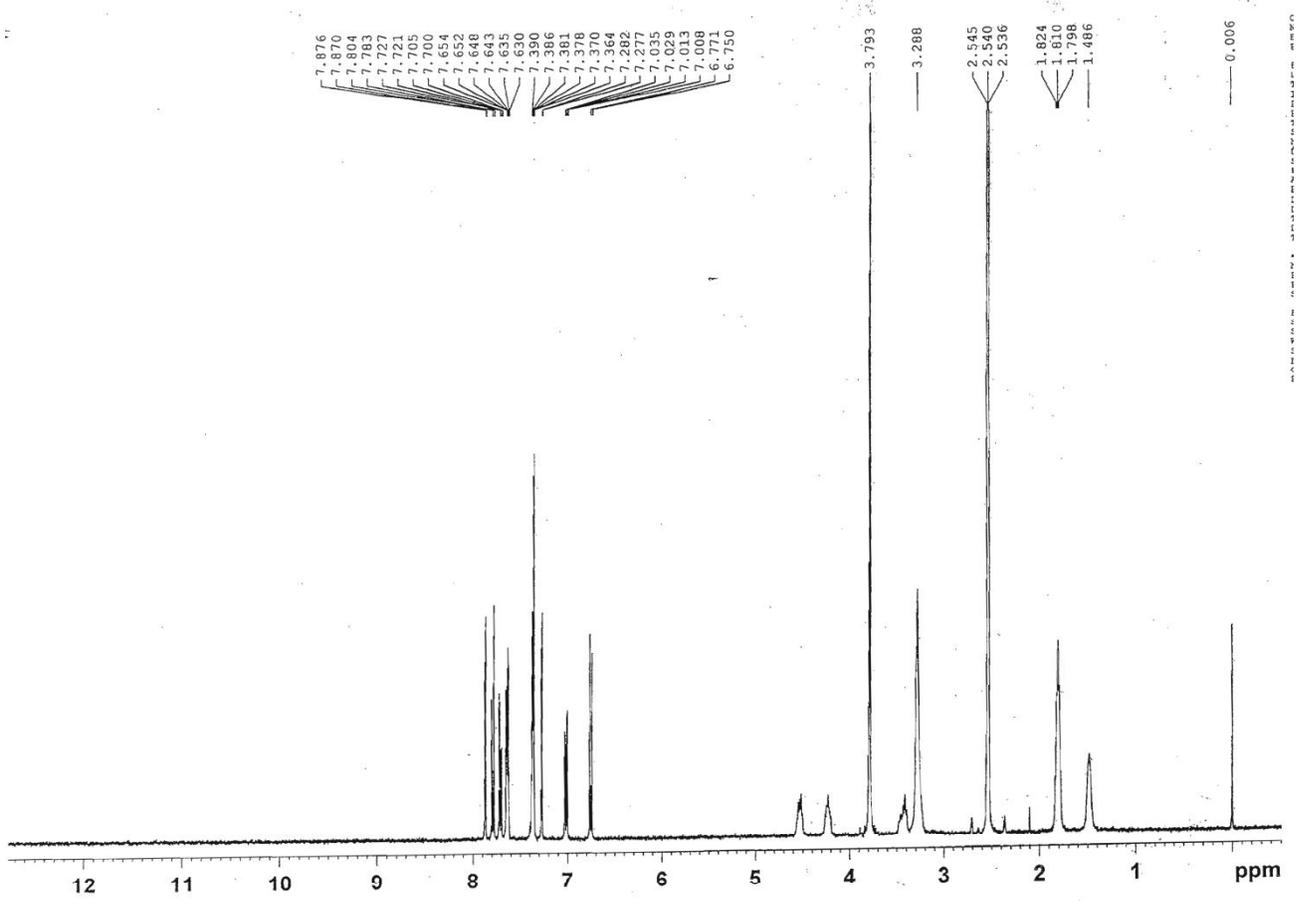


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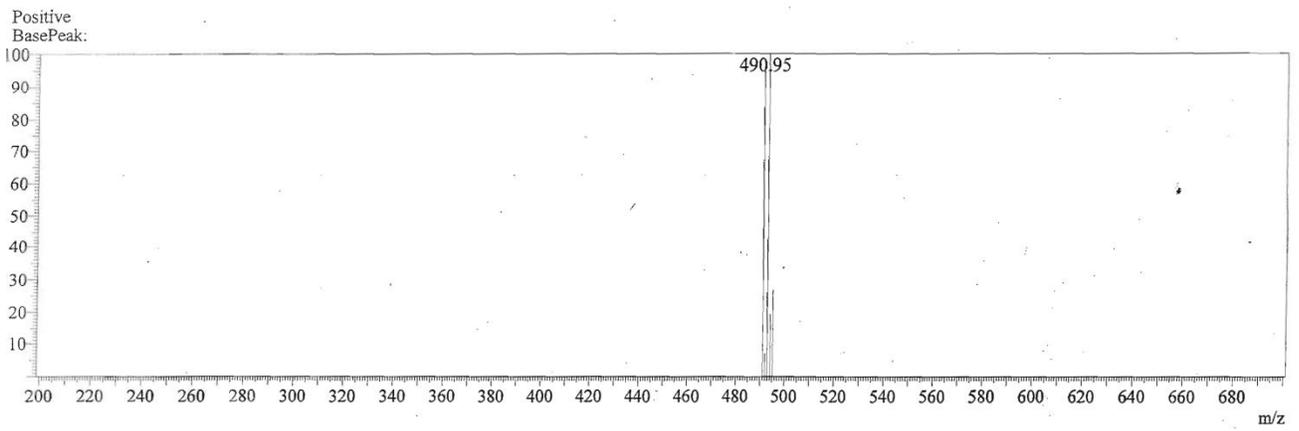


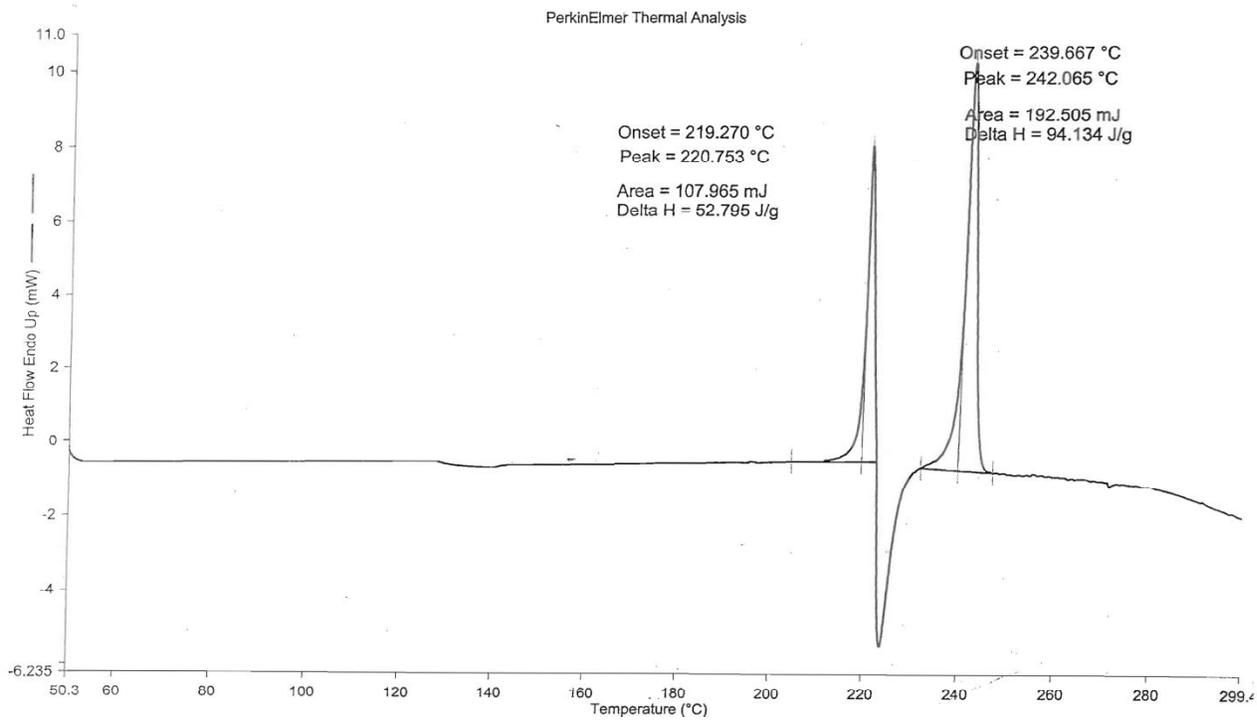
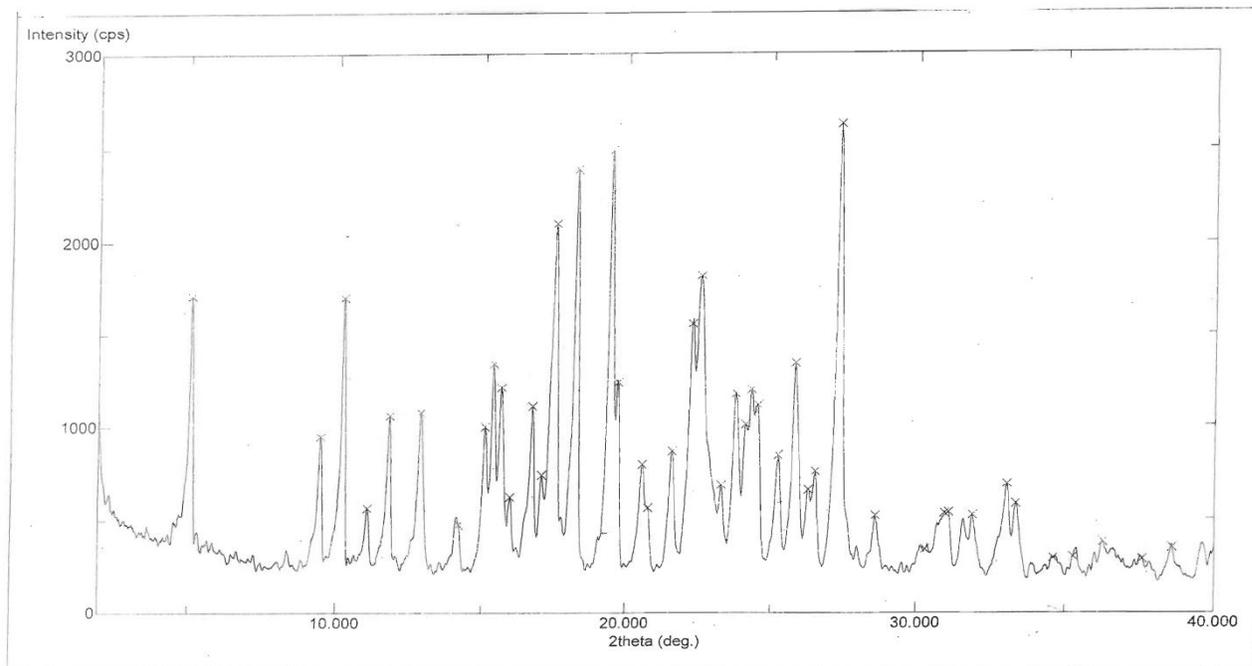
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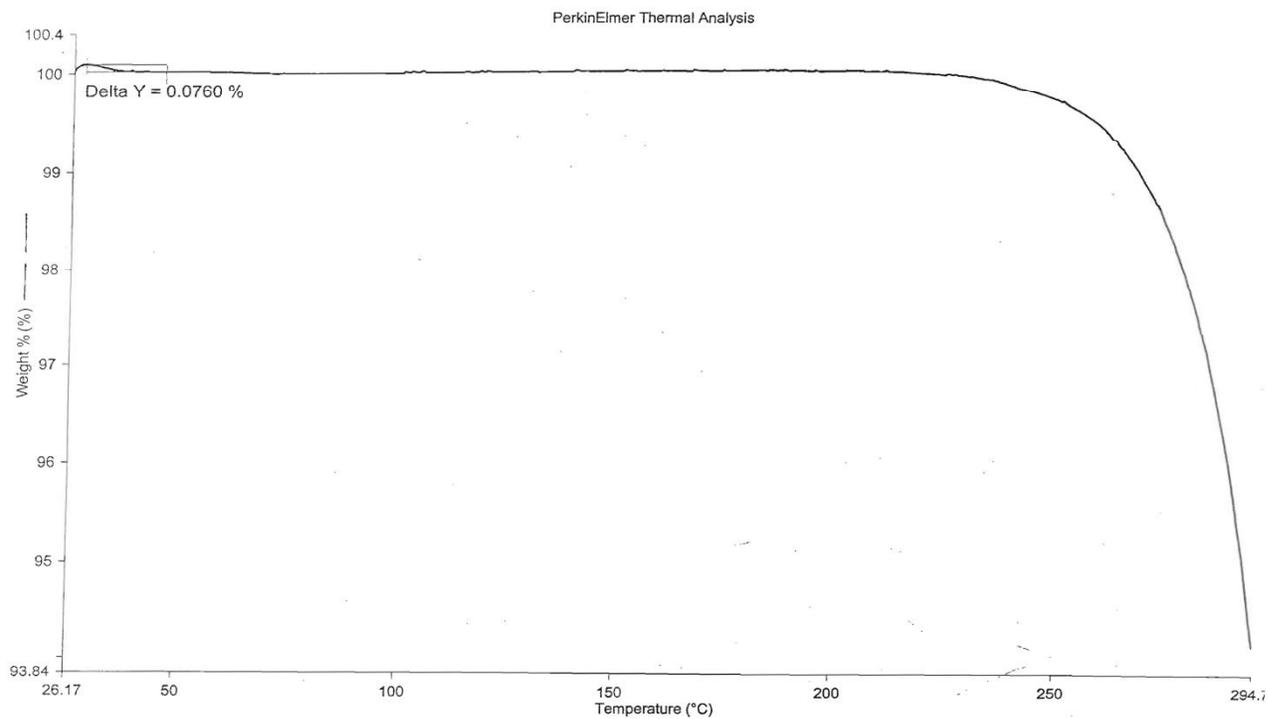




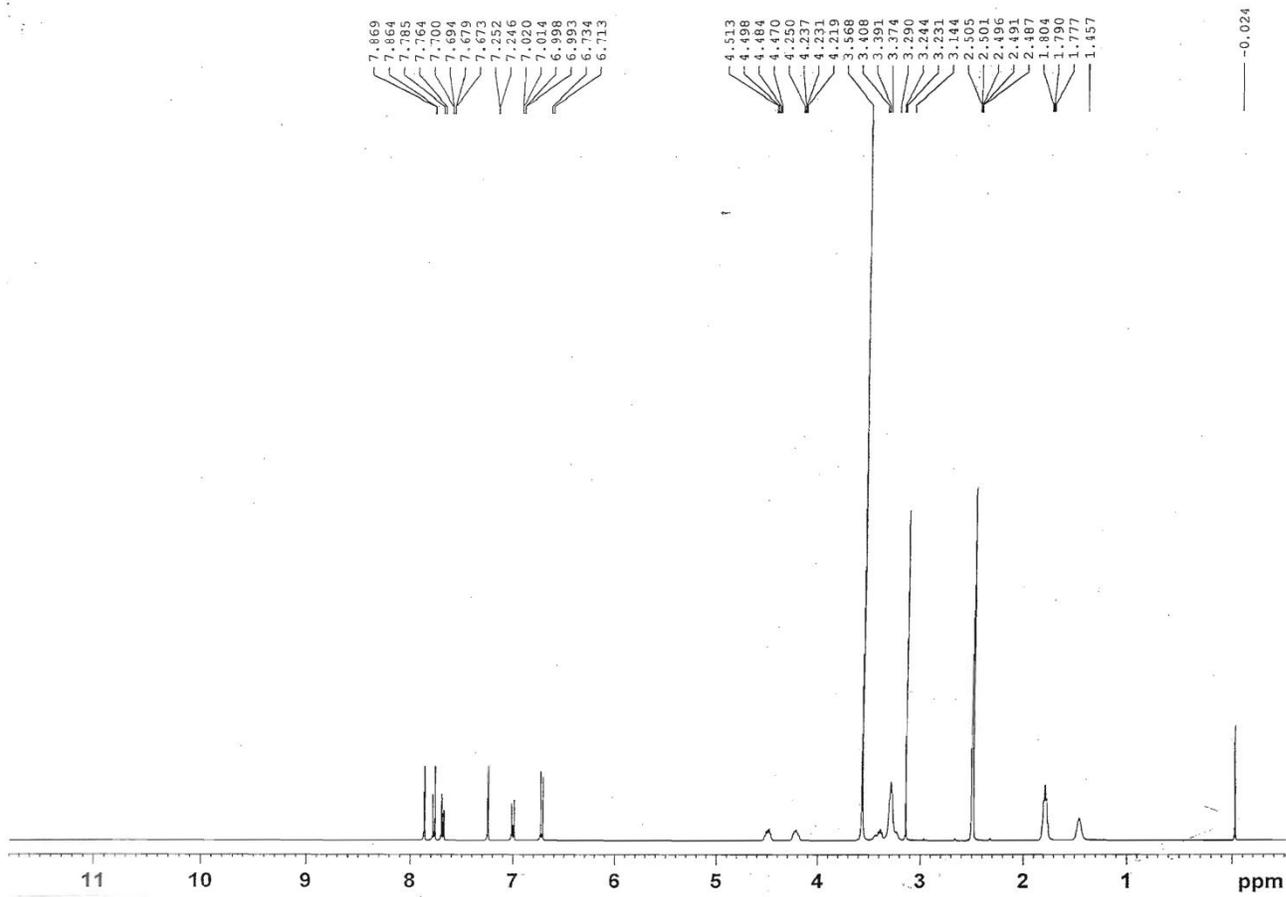
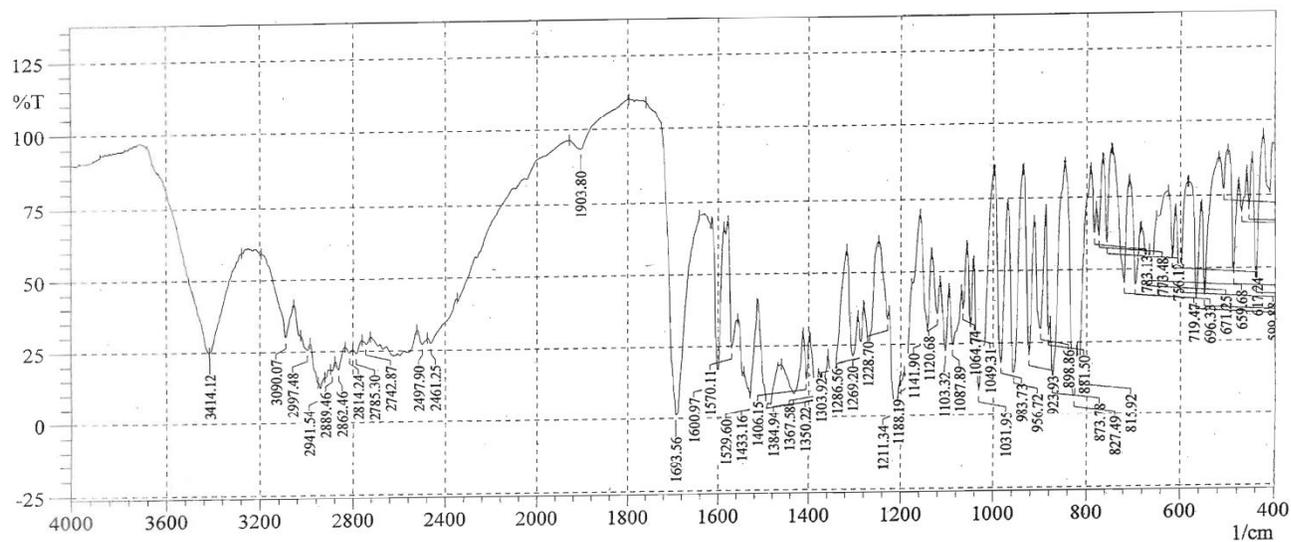
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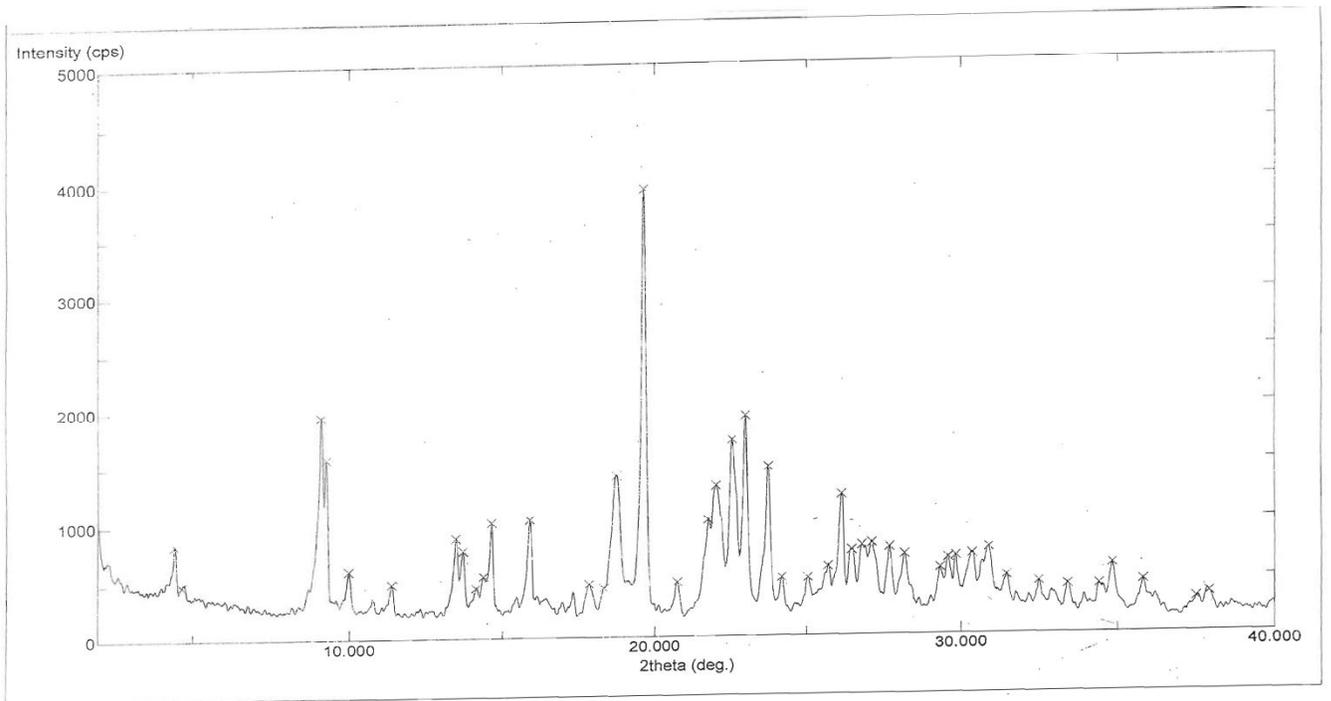
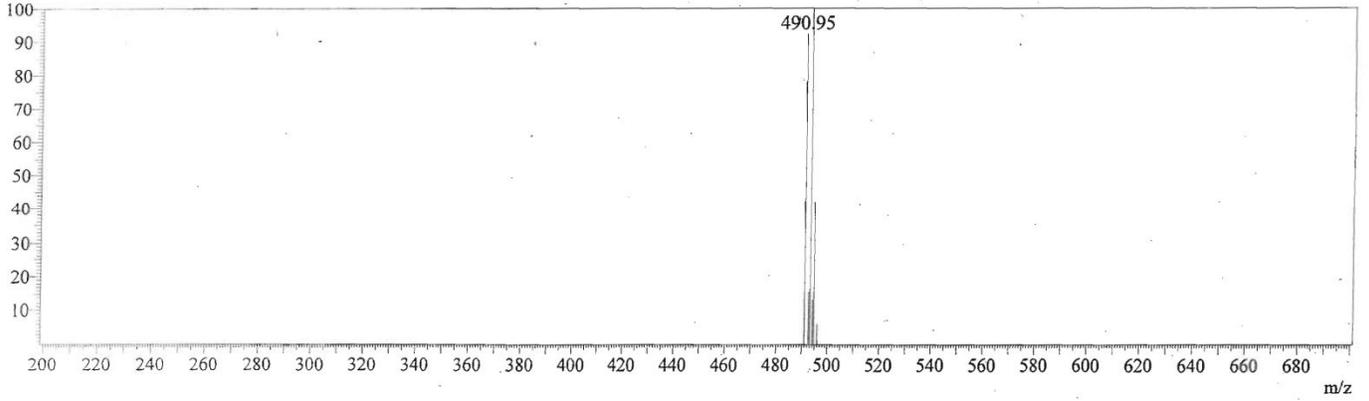


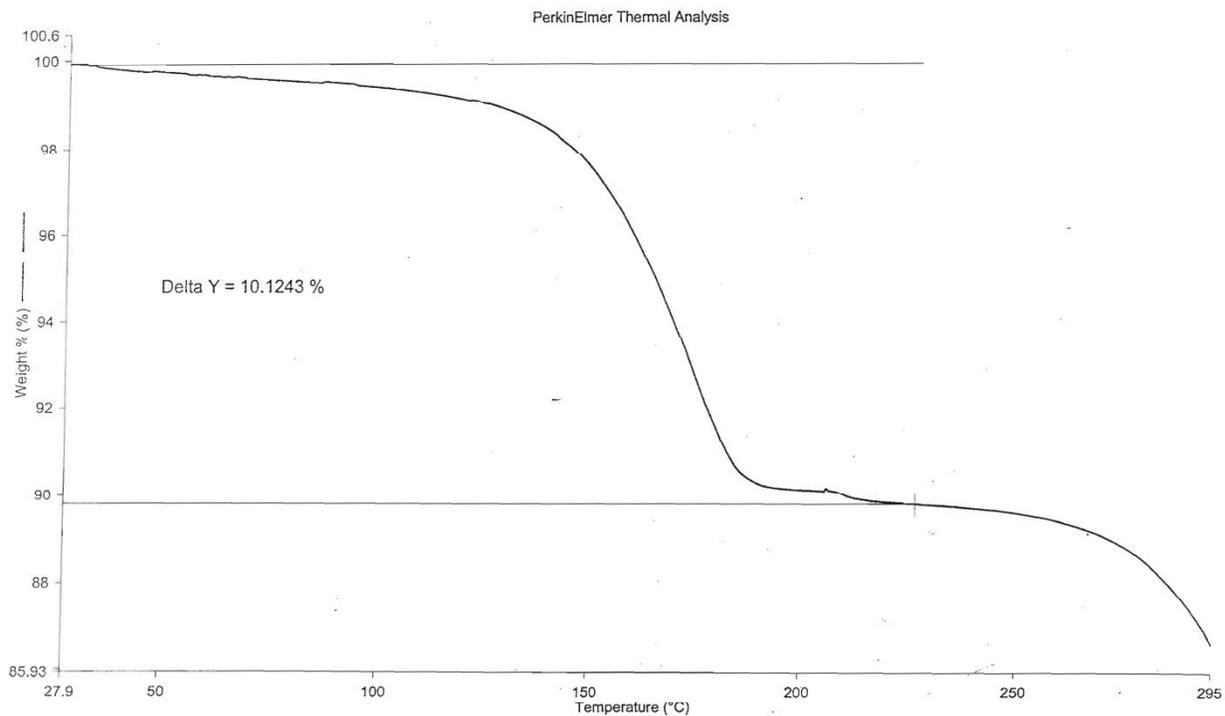
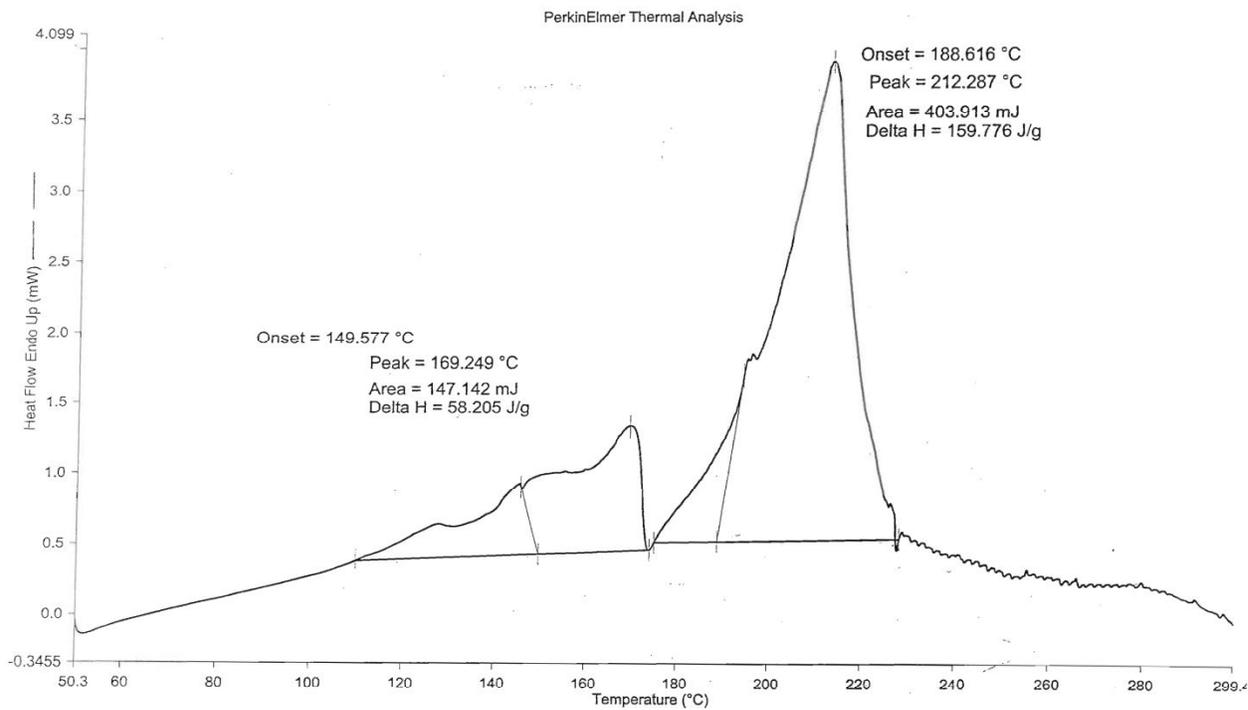
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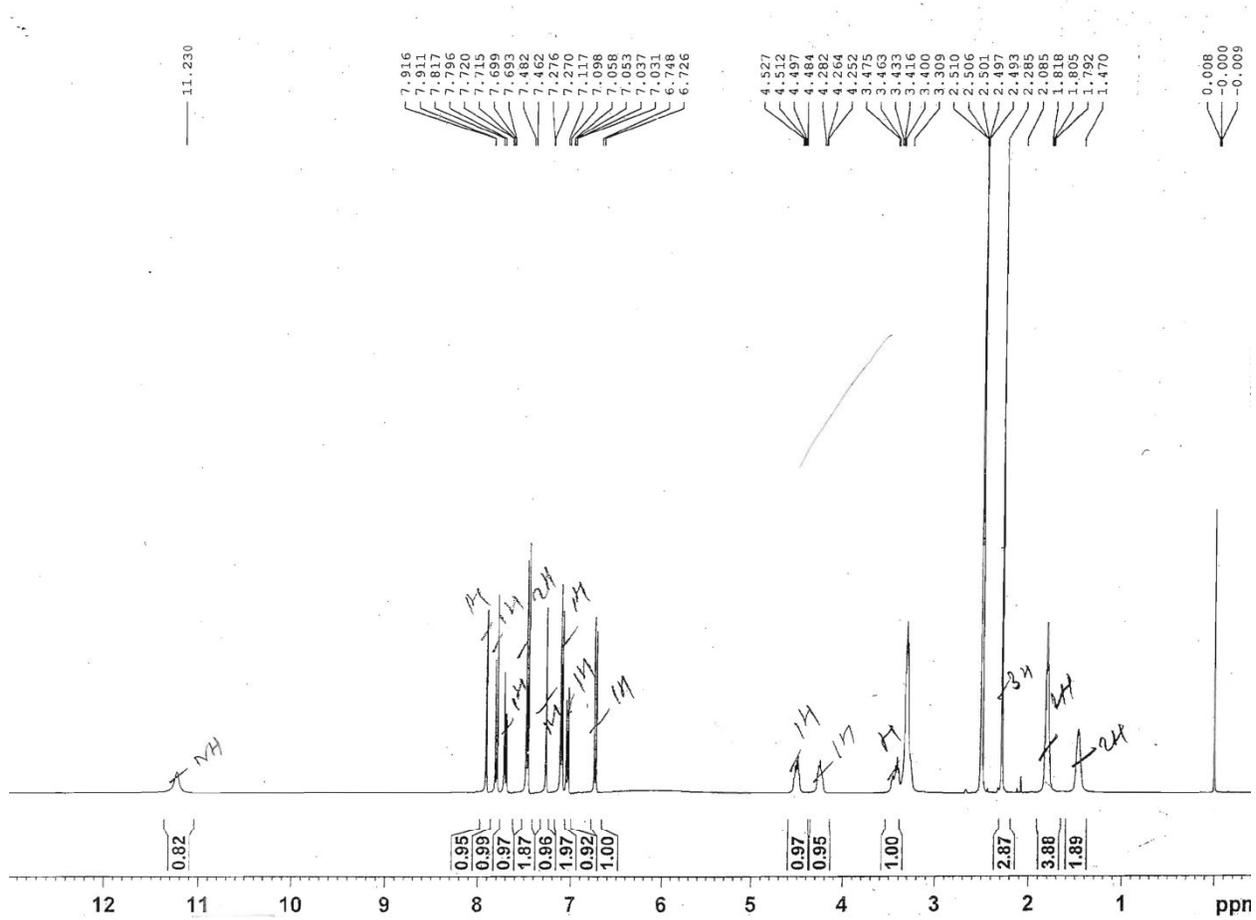
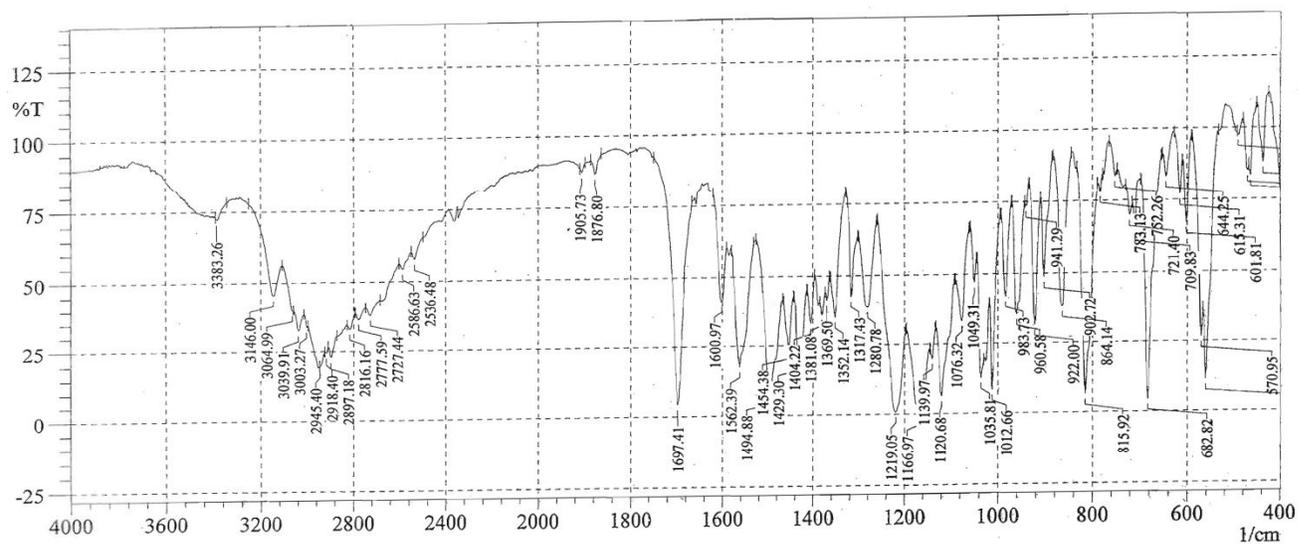
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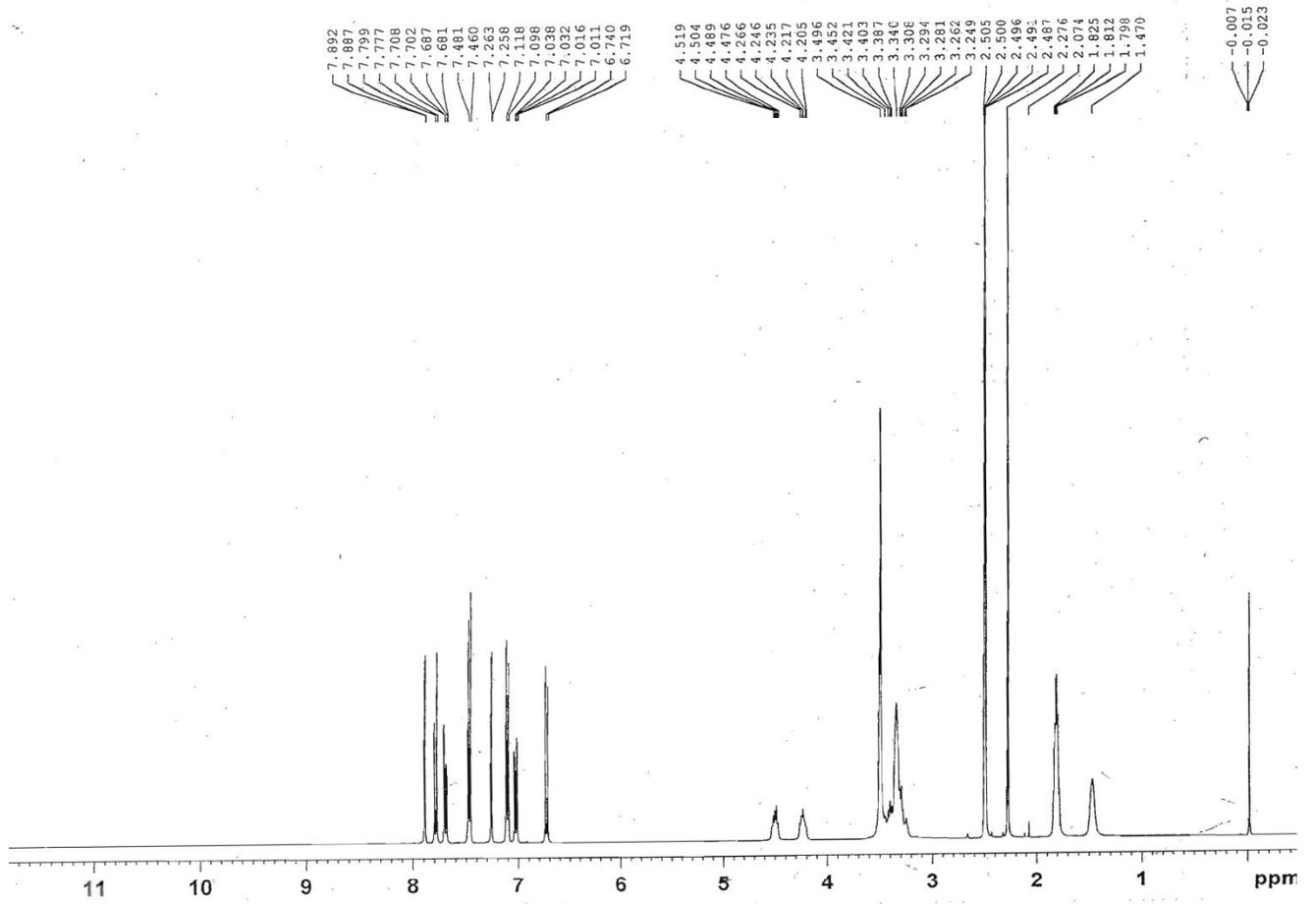
Positive
BasePeak:





Methyl iodide salt of Compound 1





Mass Spectrum

