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I - Discovery and Optimization of 2,5,6- Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Leads for Tuberculosis Chemotherapy

II - Resynthesis of Hit 2,5,7- Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Final Compounds

A Thesis Presented

By

Lucy Li

To

The Graduate School

in Partial Fulfillment of the

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For the Degree of

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In

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The Graduate School

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Abstract of the Thesis

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Tuberculosis affects one-third of the world's population and is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb). Due to the rise of multi-drug resistant strains of the bacteria, a new antibiotic needs to be developed. FtsZ, a tubulin homologue, plays an essential role in bacterial cell division therefore making it a novel anti-microbial target in drug resistant strains of *Mtb*. Previous works from our laboratory have shown that a number of 2,5,6- and 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles possess significant activity against *Mtb* by interfering with filamental temperature sensitive protein Z (FtsZ) polymerization. Libraries of novel trisubstituted benzimidazoles were created through rational design. Based upon previous work, it was noted that two 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles containing a pyrrolidine moiety at the 5 position exhibited excellent activity against both drug sensitive and drug resistant strains of *Mtb*. Therefore, a library of 240 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles retaining the pyrrolidine moiety

was synthesized, with functionalization of the 2 position with a furoyl, thiophene, tetrahydropyran, or benzyl moiety.

In addition, several 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles from a previously synthesized library containing a ethyl carbamate moiety at the 5 position also exhibited good activity against Mtb. In order to obtain more accurate MIC₉₉ values, intermediates of these compounds were also synthesized in preparation for the resynthesis of the hit compounds.

Synthesis of the trisubstituted benzimidazoles starts with nucleophilic aromatic substitution of different dinitroaromatic starting materials in the presence of an amine. Subsequent introduction of the desired moieties at the 2 or 5 position via acylation or Curtius rearrangement followed by reduction and cyclocondensation affords the desired final intermediates.

Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles

Table of Contents

List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Schemes	viii
Introduction	1
Results and Discussion	7
I. Synthesis of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Libraries	9
II. Resynthesis of 2,5,7-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Final Intermediates	15
Conclusion	19
Experimental	19
References	24
Appendix – Spectra	25

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Overview of bacterial cell division. Z ring formation at site of cytokinesis with the
recruitme	nt of other cell division proteins, resulting in septum formation
Figure 2.	FtsZ polymerization inhibitors
Figure 3.	Hit 2,5,6- and 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles with corresponding MIC ₉₉ values 5
Figure 4.	Effect of benzimidazoles on FtsZ polymerization
Figure 6.	Preliminary SAR study of initial 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole hit compounds 6
Figure 5.	Enhancement of GTPase activity by lead benzimidazoles
Figure 7.	Reagents used for Plate 1
Figure 8.	Reagents used for Plate 2
Figure 9.	Reagents used for Plate 3

List of Tables

	Table 1.	Conditions of ac	ylation reaction wi	th phenylacet	tyl chloride	10
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List of Schemes

Scheme 1.	Synthesis of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles	. 7
Scheme 2.	Synthesis of 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimdiazoles	. 8
Scheme 3.	Synthesis of <i>N</i> -acylanilines. ^a Yield is a 2-step yield calculated from 1.2.3a	. 9
Scheme 4.	Synthesis of acid chloride 1.2.3b	11
Scheme 5.	Reduction and cyclization for 2,5,6-trisubstitued benzimidazoles	12
Scheme 6.	Synthesis of the azide	15
Scheme 7.	Functionalization of the 2 and 5 positions	16
Scheme 8.	Synthesis of bisulfite salts of the corresponding aldehyde	17

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Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a highly infectious disease estimated to affect one-third of the world's population and is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*). It primarily attacks the lungs, but is known to spread to other parts of the body.¹ Most infections are asymptomatic and are classified as latent TB (LTBI), and only about 10% of those infected will develop the disease, although this risk increases dramatically in people who are also infected with HIV. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated 9.4 million new cases of TB in 2009, of which 1.1 million were also co-infected with HIV.¹ Within the same year, 1.7 million deaths were caused by TB. With the emergence of HIV in the last few decades, TB has also become the most opportunistic infection for AIDS patients, where 380,000 of the 1.7 million deaths were also infected with HIV, about 22%.²

Tuberculosis is extremely difficult to treat as current TB treatment involves a cocktail of antibiotics administered over the course of six months to two years, depending on the strain of *Mtb*. The lengthy treatment time is due to the slow growth of the bacteria, where *Mtb* divides once every 12 to 15 hours.³ Due to the extensive treatment time as well as inadequate resources, most patients do not finish their treatment and as a result, drug resistant forms of the bacteria have emerged and have been classified into two categories: multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB).² Current antibiotics work by disrupting essential cellular activities during replication such as cell wall synthesis, DNA/RNA synthesis, or protein synthesis. The primary drugs used are isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide, which have to be taken for about six months. If there is resistance to at least the first two drugs, then the disease is classified as MDR-TB and second line drugs such as

thioamides, cyclopeptides, para-aminosalicylic acid, or fluoroquinolones are used and treatment will last about a year. If *Mtb* is also resistant to any fluoroquinolone as well as any injectable second-line drug, such as kanamycin, then it is classified as XDR-TB and treatment lasts about two years. These strains may also be resistant to additional drugs, further complicating treatment.^{1,2} Thus, there are requirements for the development of new antituberculosis drugs that can treat both drug sensitive and drug resistant forms of *Mtb*.

To that end, our lab has been focusing on a prokaryotic homologue of tubulin called filamental temperature sensitive protein Z (FtsZ). Previous research has shown that FtsZ plays an essential role in bacterial cell division, making it a novel anti-microbial target in drug resistant strains of *Mtb*.⁴ Due to the conservation of amino acids located in the GTP binding pocket, FtsZ polymerization is similar to that of microtubules as both polymerize in the presence of GTP and depolymerize when GTP is hydrolyzed to GDP.^{5,6} When the bacterium is ready to divide, FtsZ monomers assemble at the mid-point of the cell and polymerize in the presence of GTP, extending bilaterally to form the Z-ring structure. Recruitment of other cell division proteins leads to Z-ring contraction, resulting in septum formation. Like tubulin, formation of the Z-ring and subsequent septum is finely controlled by the constant and careful polymerization and depolymerization of FtsZ molecules (Figure 1).⁶

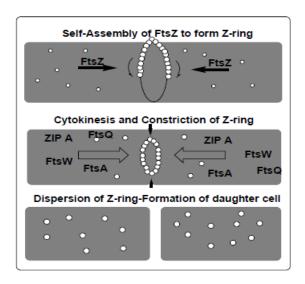


Figure 1. Overview of bacterial cell division.

Z ring formation at site of cytokinesis with the recruitment of other cell division proteins, resulting in septum formation.⁶

Although FtsZ and tubulin are homologous in structure and function, they only share about 10% sequence similarity thus affording the opportunity to discover FtsZ specific compounds that have limited cytotoxicity to eukaryotic cells.

Because FtsZ and tubulin have similar protein folds and GTPase activity, inhibitors of tubulin polymerization may also inhibit FtsZ. Therefore, taxanes, a class of compounds known to destabilize tubulin and used as anti-cancer drugs, were also tested for inhibitory activity against *Mtb* using real time polymerization chain reaction (RT-PCR). These taxanes are efficiently cytotoxic due to its distinct mode of action. It over-stabilizes tubulin and acts as a multidrug-resistance reversal agent (TRA) that inhibits the efflux pumps of ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters such as P-glycoprotein. These efflux pumps play an important role in the survival of cancer cells as they actively export cytotoxic compounds out of the cell. An initial 120 taxanes were screened against H37Rv and a few showed promise, with the C-seco derivative

of one particular compound SB-RA-2001 exhibiting low cytotoxicity with MIC₉₉ values of 1.25 μM against drug sensitive *Mtb* H37Rv and 2.5 μM against drug resistant strain IMCJ946K2.

Sarcina and Mullineaux showed that albendazole and thiabendazole, known tubulin inhibitors, caused cell elongation of *E. coli* and cyanobacteria and later on Slayden *et al* determined the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC₉₉) of the two compounds against the drug sensitive *Mtb* cell line, H37Rv (Figure 2).^{4,7}

Figure 2. FtsZ polymerization inhibitors.

Based on these results, a library of 272 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles were synthesized in our lab by Dr. Seung-Yub Lee and tested against *Mtb* and seven showed promising antibacterial activity against the H37RV strain (Figure 3).⁸ In addition, out of 77 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles synthesized, one compound in particular, SB-P5C1, showed high inhibitory activity against the *Mtb* strain H37RV (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Hit 2,5,6- and 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles with corresponding MIC₉₉ values.

To further the hypothesis that the anti-microbial activity of benzimidazoles is due to its interaction with FtsZ polymerization, light scattering assays were performed in our lab in which FtsZ incubated in a polymerization buffer was treated with inhibitors SB-P3G5 and SB-P1G2 at various concentrations.¹² A measurement of light scattering as a function of benzimidazole concentration showed inhibition of polymerization in a dose dependent manner (Figure 4).

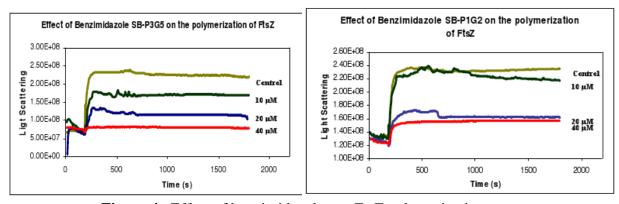


Figure 4. Effect of benzimidazoles on FtsZ polymerization.

In addition, GTPase activity was monitored using Malachite Green assay and shown to be enhanced by SB-P3G2 (blue) and SB-P3G5 (red) in a dose dependent manner (Figure 5). Taken together, these results strongly imply that inhibition of FtsZ polymerization is due to the increased GTPase activity.

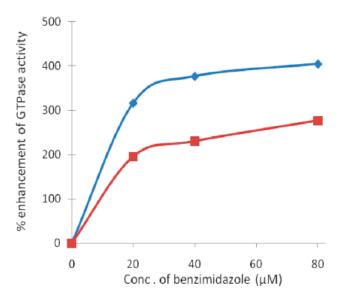


Figure 5. Enhancement of GTPase activity by lead benzimidazoles.

Due to the common benzimidazole backbone, a preliminary structure-activity relationship (SAR) study was done for 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles which showed that a diethylamino group at the 6 position and a cyclohexyl group at the 2 position appear to be contributing factors for the compound's good anti-TB activity (Figure 6).

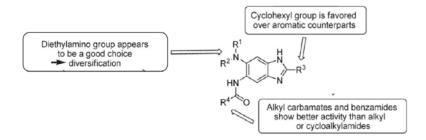


Figure 6. Preliminary SAR study of initial 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole hit compounds.

Accordingly, another library of 238 compounds was synthesized using different aminoalkyl groups while retaining the cyclohexyl group. From this library, two compounds containing a pyrrolidine at the 6 position showed excellent activity, with MIC₉₉ values in the range of 0.39 – 1.56 μg/mL against both drug sensitive and drug resistant strains of *Mtb*.¹² Therefore, 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles libraries containing the pyrrolidine moiety were synthesized to continue the effort of developing the next generation of antimicrobials that can eliminate both drug sensitive and drug resistant strains.

Morever, from a library of 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles synthesized, several hit compounds were discovered that had MIC₉₉ values around 1 µg/mL. Resynthesis of these final compounds is required to determine more accurate MIC₉₉ values and further biological testing.

Results and Discussion

The synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles begins with modifications made on a benzene core. These modifications start with the nucleophilic aromatic substitution of 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline in the presence of pyrrolidine. The aniline amine is then converted into an amide with treatment of an acid chloride, followed by reduction and cyclization using tin (II) chloride under harsh acidic conditions (Scheme 1).

F NH₂ pyrrolidine (1.1 eq)
$$O_2N$$
 NH₂ O_2N NH₂ O_2N NH₂ O_2N NO₂ O_2N NO₂

Scheme 1. Synthesis of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles

The resynthesis of 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazole also begins with nucleophilic aromatic substitution. 4-Chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid undergoes nucleophilic aromatic substitution in aqueous ammonia. The carboxylic acid is then converted to the acyl azide via acid chloride intermediate, which then undergoes Curtius rearrangement. The isocyanate is reacted with an alcohol to functionalize the 5 position and consequently reduced to afford an aromatic triamine that reacts with a bisulfite salt of the desired 2 position moiety to produce the final intermediates (Scheme 2).¹³

Scheme 2. Synthesis of 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimdiazoles

I. Synthesis of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Libraries

Aromatic nucleophilic substitution of the commercially available 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline with pyrrolidine proceeds cleanly to afford 5-diethylaminodinitroaniline **1.1** in quantitative yield. Depending on the functionality desired, acylation was done under various conditions and the *N*-acylanilines were obtained in moderately good yields.

Scheme 3. Synthesis of *N*-acylanilines. ^aYield is a 2-step yield calculated from 1.2.3a.

The acylation reaction using 2-furoylcarbonyl chloride or 2-thiophenecarbonyl chloride was done in the microwave at 100 °C for 1 h using pyridine as both a solvent and base. A slight excess of acid chloride was used to ensure all starting material was consumed. Upon completion of the reaction, the pyridine was evaporated as much as possible. It was observed that the product was not soluble in methanol, therefore excess methanol was added and the product collected by vacuum filtration and washed with cold methanol to remove any remaining pyridine and other impurities to obtain intermediates **1.2.1** and **1.2.2** in 73-85% yield as a yellow-green solid and yellow solid respectively. Ethanol was later discovered to remove pyridine efficiently under rotary evapration.

Acylation with phenylacetyl chloride, however, was not clean as 3 spots were seen on thin layer chromatography (TLC) corresponding to the starting material, desired product, and the diacylated product. This was surprising as the aniline is already highly deactivated due to the two nitro groups ortho and para to the amine. Purification proved to be difficult as both products

had similar solubility properties. They were both insoluble in methanol and ethanol but very soluble in methylene chloride and slightly soluble in ethyl acetate. Attempts at recrystallization using these solvents proved to be futile and a column was attempted using silica. Although the R_f difference between the desired ($R_f = 0.66$, 1:1/EA:Hex) and undesired product ($R_f = 0.79$, 1:1/EA:Hex) is large, isolation of the product was not obtained. This was due to the undesired compound sticking to the silica, thus contaminating all fractions containing the desired **1.2.4**. The difficulty of purification led to a desire to optimize this reaction. Model reactions were monitored by TLC (Table 1).

Table 1. Conditions of acylation reaction with phenylacetyl chloride.

Solvent	Base	Temperature	Time	Results
Pyridine	Pyridine	Reflux @ 125 °C	24 h	1 spot corresponding to starting material
Pyridine	Pyridine	MW @ 60 °C	1 h	3 spots
Pyridine	Pyridine	MW @ 30 °C	1 h	3 spots
THF	Pyridine (1 eq)	MW @ 100 °C	1 h	1 spot

Reflux conditions were tested since a large amount of energy is not being put into the reaction at once, it was thought that the reactivity of the aniline will allow for selectivity. However, after refluxing overnight, very little product was observed so the reaction was quenched and the starting material recovered. The acylation was then attempted using microwave conditions at 60 °C and 30 °C and results were the same. Although the pKa of an amide is around 20 and that of pyridine is around 5, the ortho and para substitution pattern of the nitro groups would decrease the pKa due to their electron withdrawing effects. It was suspected that excess pyridine was deprotonating the amide and due to the methylene next to the carbonyl,

a second acylation can occur because steric hindrance of the phenyl group can be avoided due to the rotatable methylenes of the two amides. Therefore, dilute conditions were opted for using dry THF as the solvent. Intermediate 1.1, phenylacetyl chloride, and pyridine were added in equivalence, sequentially, and placed in the microwave using the original microwave conditions of 100 °C for 1 h. This greatly reduced the amount of byproduct and starting material and intermediate 1.2.4 was obtained in 72% yield. It was observed that if ethanol was added to the yellow slurry that results after most of the solvent was evaporated, the solid that is obtained is much cleaner.

For the synthesis of intermediate **1.2.3**, the acid chloride had to be synthesized from methyl tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-carboxylate, starting with the hydrolysis of the methyl ester and treating the resulting acid with oxalyl chloride (Scheme 4).

Scheme 4. Synthesis of acid chloride 1.2.3b

The hydrolysis gives the desired acid **1.2.3a** in moderately good yields. The acid is isolated via acid-base extraction. This extraction process resulted in the loss of some product primarily due to human error and solubility issues of **1.2.3a** in organic solutions. The conversion to the acid chloride was done in the presence of oxalyl chloride and dimethylformamide. DMF was added as a catalyst and the evolution of gas was observed due to the release of CO and CO₂ as the catalyst reacts with oxalyl chloride to form the iminium intermediate. This particular acylation was achieved under reflux conditions using THF as the solvent and the amide species **1.2.3** was obtained in poor to moderately good yields.

Once the 2 and 4 positions of the benzene core have been set, reduction of the nitro moieties followed by cyclization was achieved in a 2 step 1 pot reaction using tin(II) chloride dihydrate under harsh acidic conditions (Scheme 5).

Scheme 5. Reduction and cyclization for 2,5,6-trisubstitued benzimidazoles

The reaction proceeds smoothly, however purification over silica gel resulted in decomposition of the desired product. To prevent this decomposition, basification should be done in an ice-water bath as the heat generated was decomposing the product and purification for the 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole series should be done using a column packed with neutral alumina. Using these modifications, the final intermediates 1.3.1, 1.3.2, and 1.3.3 were obtained in good to excellent yield. In addition, the reactions were very clean and it was found that purification using a plug made of alumina to remove any remaining tin(II) chloride or tin byproducts. For the synthesis of 1.3.4, monitoring the reaction by TLC proved to be quite unreliable. An aliquot of the reaction was worked up and the TLC showed one major spot. However, upon work up of the entire reaction, impurities were seen that possibly could have been the partially reduced or uncyclized intermediates, accounting for the low yield obtained. After purification, the product was obtained as a yellow solid in 20% yield.

Once all final intermediates were obtained, the synthesis of benzimidazole libraries began using acid chlorides, chloroformates, isocyanates, and anhydrides as the acylating agents (Figures 7-9). All intermediates were dissolved in dry methylene chloride and transferred to 96-

well plates. 72 acylating agents were added to **1.3.1-4** and reacted overnight at room temperature on a shaker. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin was added the next day to scavenge excess or unreacted acylating agents. After gentle shaking overnight, the resin was filtered to afford 240 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles **1.1**. Plates with 5 µl aliquots of each well were set aside for LC-MS for analysis at a future date.

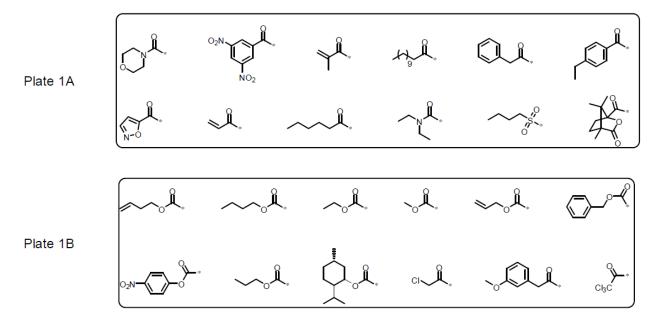


Figure 7. Reagents used for Plate 1

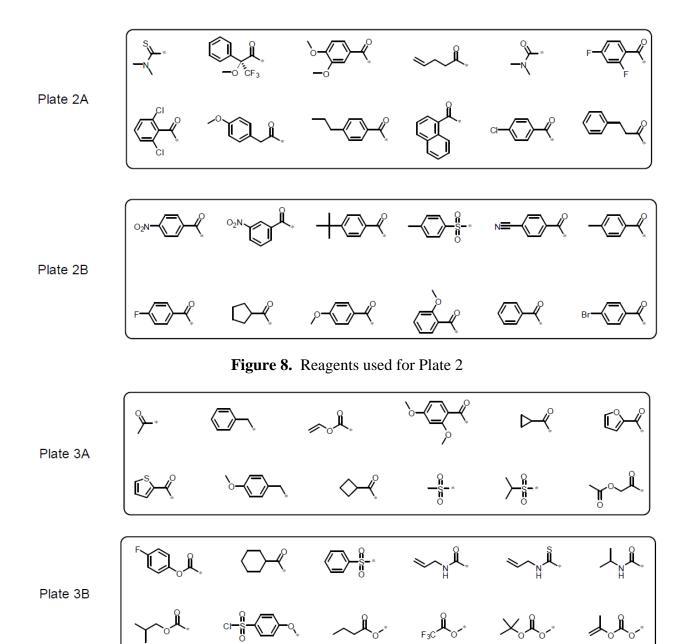


Figure 9. Reagents used for Plate 3

II. Resynthesis of 2,5,7-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Final Intermediates

The commercially available starting material 4-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid undergoes nucleophilic aromatic substitution in aqueous ammonia. The carboxylic acid is then converted to the acyl azide via formation of the acid chloride (Scheme 6).

HOOC
$$NO_2$$
 NO_2 NO

Scheme 6. Synthesis of the azide

It was observed that when a solution of NH₃ in methanol was used, the reaction did not go to completion. This is most likely due to the decreased solubility of NH₃ in methanol.¹⁴ However, the reaction proceeds cleanly in NH₄OH and the amine substituted dinitrobenzoic acid **2.1** was obtained in quantitative yield. Conversion of the benzoic acid species to the corresponding acid chloride was done under reflux using neat thionyl chloride to ensure full conversion and prevent the reverse reaction. Once the reaction was complete, thionyl chloride was removed as much as possible by distillation. The crude acid chloride was immediately converted to the acyl azide. Purification consisted of vacuum filtration and the product washed with copious amounts of acetone to remove any excess sodium azide to obtain the product in good to excellent yields. Due to the hazards associated with thionyl chloride, the reaction was also tried in methylene chloride using stoichiometric amounts of thionyl chloride but starting

material was observed mixed in with the acyl azide. This is probably because the acetone used contained moisture and the amount of thionyl chloride left over after distillation was enough to remove the water through the generation of HCl and SO₂. Once the acyl azide was obtained, functionality of the 5 position was introduced via Curtius rearrangement (Scheme 7).

Scheme 7. Functionalization of the 2 and 5 positions

The azide intermediate **2.3** was refluxed in toluene to obtain the isocyanate. Methanol or ethanol was added in excess to form the desired carbamate species. The solvent was evaporated and the resulting solid filtered then washed with the alcohol used. The dinitro compound was then reduced using 10% Pd/C and ammonium formate and monitored by mass spectrometry. Upon completion, the palladium was filtered and washed with copious amounts of ethanol. Nucleophilic attack of the amine to the bisulfite salt, synthesized earlier from the corresponding aldehyde (Scheme 8), followed by intramolecular cyclization produces the desired final benzimidazole intermediate. Except in the synthesis of **2.5.1**, purification was achieved via flash

or gradient chromatography to obtain the benzimidazole final intermediate in poor to moderate yields. Due to solubility issues, the crude product was loaded as a solid deposit.

NaHSO₃ (1.0 eq)
EtOH -
$$H_2O$$

 R^2 | OH
 R^2 | SO₃-Na⁺

$$R^2 = m$$
-fluorophenyl quant.

$$R^2 = p$$
-bromophenyl 86-95%

$$R^2 = 3$$
,5-dimethylphenyl 92%

$$R^2 = furoyl$$

$$R^2 = p$$
-methylbenzoate 86%

Scheme 8. Synthesis of bisulfite salts of the corresponding aldehyde

Initially, reduction was set up under N_2 using 10 mol% of 10% Pd/C and took 6-24 h to complete. Increasing the amount of Pd/C to 15% decreased reaction time to 4-6 h. This was still too long as aromatic amines, especially triaminobenzenes, are known to oxidize easily. It was suspected that much of the H_2 generated *in situ* was escaping before oxidation addition could occur with the metal, so the set up was switched to a closed system filled with H_2 , reducing hydrogenation time to 1-2 h. Completion of cyclocondensation after addition of the bisulfite salt depended upon the functionality introduced.

Purification of the cyclized benzimidazole over silica gel was difficult due to the polarity of the compounds, such as **2.5.1**, which had an R_f of 0.55 in 75% EtOAc. Decomposition over silica gel was also suspected to contribute to the poor yields, such as for those of intermediates **2.5.1** and **2.5.1d**, due to the appearance of a shadowy spot observed above or underneath the product collected in later fractions as well as the appearance of colored bands not seen on crude TLC. Therefore, purification had to be done quickly and columns packed to be as short as possible. This also posed a problem as some intermediates such as **2.5.2a** contained impurities with a R_f difference of 0.05 and a solvent gradient had to be used, thus increasing the amount of time that the product is in contact with silica gel. During the purification of **2.5.2b**, it was

observed that product could be recrystallized from impure fractions using hot organic solvents. However, recrystallization does not occur in fractions that also contained the baseline impurity, observed on the crude TLC of the related reduction cyclization reactions. Due to this observation, purification was attempted by extracting with ether and filtered through a plug to remove baseline impurities. This method was tried with intermediates 2.5.2c and 2.5.1 and attempts to recrystallize the product resulted in either full decomposition or slight improvement in yield. During workup of the crude reaction mixture of 2.5.2c, significant decomposition was observed when the organic layer was concentrated down on the rotovapor. Due to this observation, purification of this particular intermediate was therefore achieved by immediate formation of the solid deposit upon reaction completion, followed by flash chromatography using 85% EtOAc and a moderate improvement in yield was observed.

Conclusion

Four novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole and five known 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazole final intermediates were obtained. The final intermediates for the 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles were fully characterized and for the 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles, ¹H NMR and FIA were taken to verify the correct compound was obtained. In addition, analysis for the two obtained batches of intermediate **2.5.2a** determined the purities to be at 95% and 99%. A library of 240 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles was synthesized and awaiting analysis. One acylation reaction was optimized. Resynthesis of known 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazole final compounds was not done due to time constraints, although a sufficient quantity of the desired final intermediate was obtained.

Experimental

Methods. ¹H NMR spectra were measured on a Varian 300 NMR spectrometer and ¹³C NMR measured on a Varian 400 NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 or neutral alumina. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained from Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana; Champaign, Urbana, IL.

Materials. Solvents and chemicals were purchased from Fisher Scientific Co. (Pittsburgh, PA) and Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., and Sigma. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL (200-400 mesh) 2% DVB was purchased from Novagen-biochem.

2,4-Dinitro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)aniline (1.1):

2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline (2.26 g, 11.25 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (40 ml) and stirred under N_2 . Pyrrolidine (1.02 ml, 1.1 eq.) and DIPEA (2.16 ml, 1.1 eq) were added sequentially and the reaction allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The solvent was then removed by rotovapor and the solid dissolved in methylene chloride and washed three times with water then once with brine. The organic layer was then dried over Na_2SO_4 and removed *in vacuo* to obtain the product **1.1** as a yellow solid in quantitative yield: mp 170-171 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.05-2.12 (m, 4 H), δ 3.35 (t, 4 H, J = 6.6 Hz), δ 5.98 (s, 1 H), δ 6.37 (s, 2 H), δ 8.81 (s, 1 H); ESI MS m/z 253.1 [M+H]⁺.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1.2.1 and 1.2.2:

Compound **1.1** (1.0 eq.) dissolved in pyridine (1.5 ml/mmol) was placed in a microwave tube with a stir bar and the acyl chloride (1.2 eq) added. The reaction was heated in the microwave at 100 °C for 1 h. The solution was then transferred to a flask and the pyridine removed under pressure. Methanol or ethanol was added and the resultant precipitate filtered and washed with cold methanol and allowed to dry overnight.

N-[2,4-Dinitro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl]furan-2-carboxamide (1.2.1):

Green-yellow solid, 81% yield : mp > 200 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.05 (m, 4 H), δ 3.41 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), δ 6.62 (m, 1 H), δ 7.32 (m, 1 H), δ 7.64 (dd, 1 H, J=1.5 Hz), δ 8.59 (s, 1 H), δ 8.84 (s, 1 H), δ 11.94 (s, 1 H); ESI MS m/z 347.1 [M+H]⁺.

N-[2,4-Dinitro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl]thiophene-2-carboxamide (1.2.2):

Yellow solid, 85% yield: mp > 200 °C; 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.05 (m, 4 H), δ 3.41 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), δ 7.18 (dd, 1 H), δ 7.75 (d, 1 H, J=6 Hz), δ 7.79 (d, 1 H, J=4.8 Hz), δ 8.59 (s, 1 H), δ 8.84 (s, 1 H), δ 11.94 (s, 1 H); ESI MS m/z 363.1 [M+H]⁺.

Tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-carboxylic acid (1.2.3a):

Methyl tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-carboxylate (1.08 g, 7.55 mmol) dissolved in methanol (30 ml) was added to a stirring solution of LiOH (5 eq.) in water (15 ml) and methanol (30 ml) and allowed to stir overnight. After the solvent was reduced under pressure, excess water was added and extracted with methylene chloride to remove any unreacted carboxylate. The aqueous layer was then acidified with 37% HCl until the pH was 2, then extracted again with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layers were combined, washed with brine then dried over sodium sulfate and reduced under pressure to afford the carboxylic acid **1.2.3a** as an off white solid (775 mg, 79%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (m, 4 H), δ 2.66 (m, 1 H), δ 3.50 (m, 2 H), δ 4.06 (m, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 131.1 [M+H]⁺.

N-[2,4-Dinitro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl]tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-carboxamide (1.2.3):

Compound **1.2.3a** (330 mg, 2.56 mmol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (5 ml) and stirred under N₂. 2 M Oxalyl chloride (1.92 ml, 1.5 eq) was added along with 2 drops of DMF (cat.). The reaction was stirred for 3 h then placed on the rotovapor to remove solvent and afford the acid chloride **1.2.3b** as a clear yellow liquid that was then immediately diluted in THF (10 ml). **1.1** (645 mg, 1.0 eq.) and pyridine (3 ml) were added sequentially and the reaction refluxed overnight. Methanol was added after the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the product filtered as a bright yellow solid (635 mg, 68% over 2 steps): 1 H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.95 (m, 8 H), δ 3.02 (m, 5 H), δ 3.50 (m, 3 H), δ 4.05 (m, 2 H), δ 6.91 (s, 1 H), δ 7.18 (s, 1 H); ESI MS m/z 365.1 [M+H] $^{+}$.

N-[2,4-dinitro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl]-2-phenylacetamide (1.2.4):

Compound **1.1** (1.19 g, 4.72 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 ml) and stirred in a microwave tube with pyridine (0.38 ml, 1.0 eq.). Phenylacetyl chloride (0.625 ml, 1.0 eq.) was added and the tube placed in the microwave at 100 °C for 1 h. Using ethanol, work up is the same as in the previous procedure and the product was filtered as a bright yellow solid (1.16 g, 72%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.02 (p, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), δ 3.35 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), δ 3.83 (s, 2 H), δ 7.40 (m, 5 H), δ 8.46 (s, 1 H), δ 8.74 (s, 1 H), δ 10.87 (s, 1 H)); ESI MS m/z 371.1 [M+H]⁺.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1.3.1-4:

The acylated intermediate (1.0 eq) and $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (7.0 eq) was stirred in ethanol (9 ml/mmol). 12 N HCl was added to obtain a final concentration of 4 N. The reaction was refluxed for 2-4 h and monitored by FIA or TLC. Once completed, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, placed in an ice water bath and quenched with 30% NaOH until the pH was 12-14. The aqueous layer was then extracted with Methylene chloride and purified by either flash chromatography $(1\% \text{ MeOH in } \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)$ or plug using neutral Alumina.

2-(furan-2-yl)-6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (1.3.1):

Tan solid, 71-75% yield: mp 143-145 °C; 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.91 (m, 4 H), δ 3.01 (m, 4 H), δ 6.49 (q, 1 H, J=3.45 Hz), δ 6.84 (s, 1 H), δ 7.04 (d, 1 H, J=3.6 Hz), δ 7.27 (s, 1 H), δ 7.38 (d, 1 H, J=1.5 Hz); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.95, 51.74, 98.72, 106.10, 109.41, 112.17, 133.23, 134.10, 139.29, 142.28, 143.01, 143.05, 145.72. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_{17}N_4O$ 269.1402 [M+H]⁺. Found 269.1404.

6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (1.3.2):

Yellow solid, 69% to quant. yield: mp 173-175 °C; ^{1}H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.85 (m, 4 H), δ 2.93 (m, 4 H), δ 6.81 (s, 1 H), δ 7.04 (q, 1 H, J=4.95), δ 7.10 (s, 1 H), δ 7.40 (q, 1 H, J=4.95), δ 7.50 (q, 1 H, J=3.75 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.99, 51.81, 98.58, 106.32, 125.50, 125.54, 126.91, 127.85, 133.90, 134.58, 135.96, 139.18, 145.75. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_{17}N_4S$ 285.1174 [M+H]⁺. Found 285.1172.

6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (1.3.3):

White solid, 66-98% yield: mp > 200 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.90 (m, 8 H), δ 3.01 (m, 5 H), δ 3.55 (m, 2 H), δ 4.00 (m, 2 H), δ 6.91 (s, 1 H), δ 7.18 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD) δ 25.12, 32.65, 36.94, 53.21, 68.75, 100.77, 106.33, 134.04, 135.53, 136.94, 140.04, 157.35. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₂₃N₄O 287.1872 [M+H]⁺. Found 287.1872.

2-benzyl-6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (1.3.4):

Yellow solid, 20% yield: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (t, 4 H, J=4.65 Hz), δ 2.96 (s, 4 H), δ 4.12 (s, 2 H), δ 6.71 (s, 1 H), δ 7.26 (m, 7 H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 24.01, 35.73, 51.87, 98.80, 106.05, 126.93, 128.79, 128.91, 133.20, 134.28, 135.09, 136.94, 138.54, 151.45; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{21}N_{4}$ 293.1766 [M+H] $^{+}$. Found 293.1768.

Procedure and Calculations for the Synthesis of Libraries on 96-well Plates:

Intermediates 1.3.1 to 1.3.3 was plated twice in each 8x12 plate and 1.3.4 plated once on two plates. The amount of final intermediates needed for three plates was calculated such that each well contains 0.01 mmol of compound that would react with 12 different acylating agents. The general formula to calculate the amount in milligrams $(m_{(th)})$ needed for each row is

$$m(th) = MW(inter.) \times 0.01 \, mmol \times (n+1), \tag{1}$$

where n is the number of wells, and adding 1 to adjust for pipetting errors. After the intermediates are weighed out, the amount of solvent needed in milliliters to dissolve each intermediate is calculated using the formula

 $\frac{m(th)\times 0.1 \, ml\times (n+1)}{m(weighed)},\tag{2}$

so that each well contained $0.1~\text{ml}~(100~\mu\text{l})$ of solution. The same equations were used for calculations of the acylating reagents, except in the case of chloroformates, where 0.009~mmol was calculated instead.

After all acylating agents were weighed out, intermediates and reagents were dissolved in the calculated amount of solvent and aliquoted. Methylene chloride was used and in some cases of insolubility, a few drops of DMF had to be added. An extra 100 μ l of solvent was added so that each well contained a total of 300 μ l. The plates were then covered and sealed with parafilm and placed on the shaker at low speed overnight. The following day, to each well was added 150 μ l of solvent and 1 mg of resin. The aminomethylated polystyrene resin 302 EHL (200-400 mesh) 2% DVB was purchased from Novagen-303biochem. The plates were again covered, sealed with parafilm, and shaken overnight. The plates were filtered the next day using a special vacuum pump attachment to remove the resin. Each well was washed with solvent three times and filtered onto a new plate. 5 μ l of solution from each well was then transferred to another plate to await LC-MS. The solvent was allowed to evaporate and the plates covered, sealed in parafilm, and placed in the refrigerator at -20 °C.

4-amino-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (2.1):

4-chloro-3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid (20.0 g, 8.13 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (50 ml). 10% aq NH₃ (250 ml) was added and the solution changed from clear yellow to orange. After stirring at room temperature for 2 h, the reaction was refluxed overnight. The solution was then allowed to cool to room temperature and the solvent removed by rotovapor. Additional water was added and the precipitated product was then vacuum filtered and allowed to air dry to afford **2.1** as a yellow solid (18.8 g, quant.): ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 8.94 (s, 2 H). ESI MS m/z 228.1 [M+H]⁺.

4-amino-3,5-dinitrobenzoyl azide (2.3):

Intermediate **2.1** (1.03 g, 4.54 mmol) was refluxed in neat SOCl₂ (4 ml) for 3 h. The SOCl₂ was then distilled then placed on the rotovapor to remove as much of the acid as possible. The resulting acid chloride **2.2** was then dissolved in acetone (12 ml) and stirred in an ice-water bath. NaN₃ (2.2 eq, 670 mg) dissolved in H₂O (3 ml) was added dropwise to the solution and the reaction allowed to stir for 30 min, upon which an additional 10 ml of water was added and the resulting azide extracted with methylene chloride (3x). The organic layer was then combined and washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent removed by rotovapor to afford the product **2.3** as a yellow solid (1.09 g, 95%): decomposition at 145-146 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.55 (s, 1 H), δ 8.89 (s, 2 H), δ 9.14 (s, 2 H).

Methyl (4-amino-3,5-dinitrophenyl)carbamate (2.4.1):

Intermediate **2.3** (1.29 g, 5.11 mmol) was refluxed in toluene (40 ml) for 2 h. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature and dry MeOH (5 ml) was added. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h then placed on the rotovapor to remove most of the solvent. The resulting precipitate was vacuum filtered to afford red crystals as intermediate **2.4.1** (1.31 g, quant.): 1 H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 3.63 (s, 4 H). δ 8.58 (s, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 255.0 [M+H]⁺.

Ethyl (4-amino-3,5-dinitrophenyl)carbamate (2.4.2):

The azide **2.3** (1.00 g, 3.97 mmol) was refluxed in toluene (25 ml) for 2.5 h. The reaction was allowed to cool down to room temperature and dry EtOH (10 ml) was added. The reaction was

allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. All solvent was then removed by rotovapor then vacuum pump to afford **2.4.2** as red crystals (1.13 g, quant.): mp 163-165 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.30 (t, 3 H, J = 7.2 MHz), 4.21 (q, 2 H, J = 7.2 MHz); ESI MS m/z 255.0 [M+H]⁺.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2.5.1-2d:

To a solution of the dinitrophenyl carbamate intermediate (1.0 eq) stirred in dry ethanol (54 ml/mmol) under N₂ was added Pd/C (0.15 eq) followed by ammonium formate (30 eq) and the atmosphere switched to H₂. The reaction was monitored by FIA and upon completion, Pd/C was filtered through celite and washed with an additional 100 ml of ethanol. The filtrate was stirred in an ice-water bath and the bisulfite salt of the aldehyde (Scheme 8) dissolved in the minimum amount of water was added dropwise. Upon completion of the reaction, the product was purified over silica gel.

Methyl [7-amino-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]carbamate (2.5.1):

Off white solid; 11-21% yield; mp 149-151 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 3.61 (s, 3 H), 7.11 (m, 2 H), 7.437-7.45 (m, 1 H), 7.71 (m, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 301.1 [M+H]⁺.

Ethyl [7-amino-2-(4-bromophenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]carbamate (2.5.2a):

Brown solid; 37-38% yield; mp > 200 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.31 (t, 3 H, J=6.9 Hz), 4.18 (q, 2 H, J=13.8 Hz), 6.10 (s, 1 H), 7.35 (dd, 4 H); ESI MS m/z 375.1 [M+H]⁺.

Ethyl [7-amino-2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]carbamate (2.5.2b):

Yellow solid; 39% yield; mp 176-178 °C; 1 H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.18 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), 2.27 (s, 6 H), 4.06 (q, 2 H, J=14.1 Hz), 6.38 (s, 1 H), 6.99 (s, 1 H), 7.44 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (s, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 325.1 [M+H] $^{+}$.

Ethyl [7-amino-2-(furan-2-yl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]carbamate (2.5.2c):

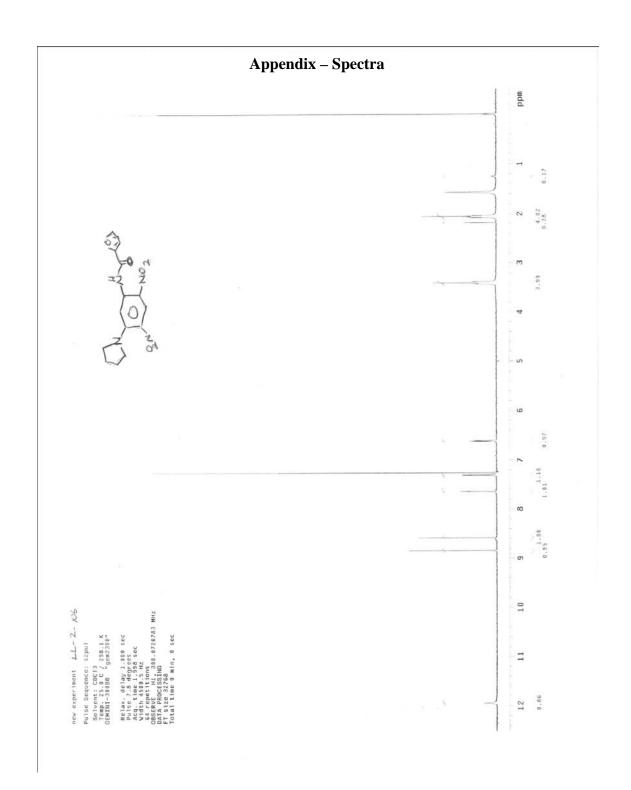
Off white solid; 58% yield; mp 143-145 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.18 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), 2.27 (s, 6 H), 4.06 (q, 2 H, J=14.1 Hz), 6.38 (s, 1 H), 6.99 (s, 1 H), 7.44 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (s, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 287.1 [M+H]⁺.

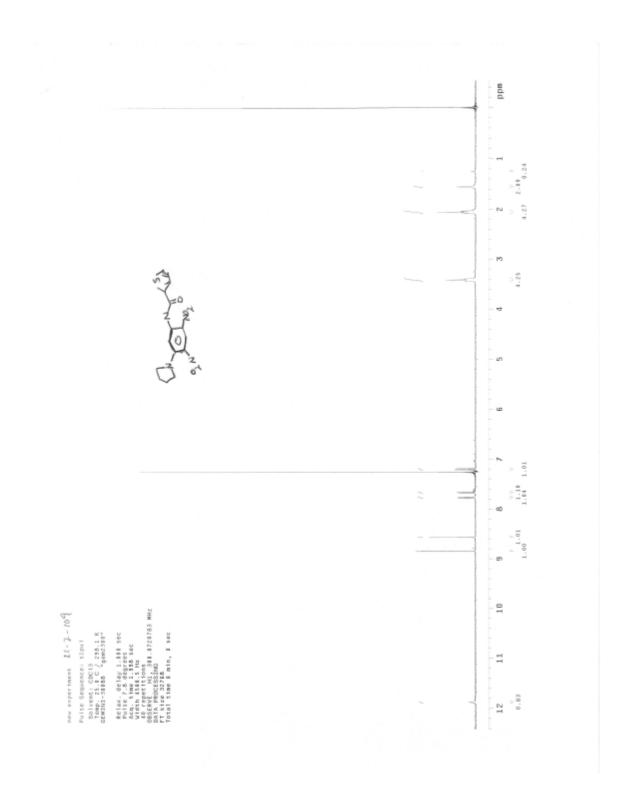
Methyl 4-{7-amino-5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-yl}benzoate (2.5.2d):

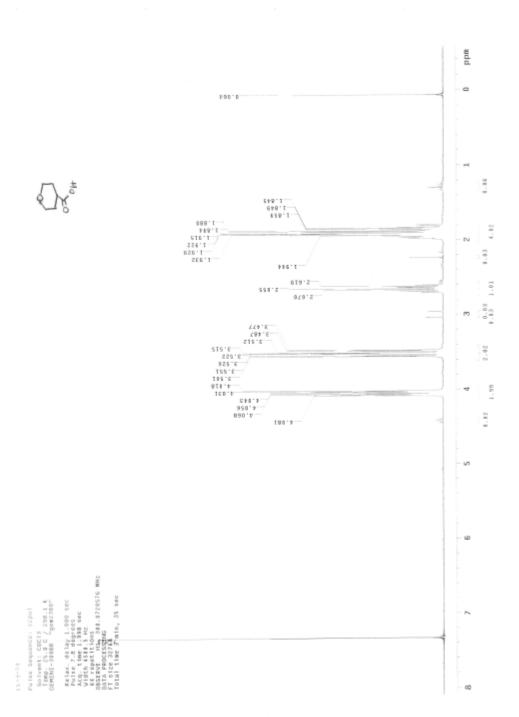
Yellow solid; 16% yield; mp > 200 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 1.18 (t, 4 H, J=6.6 Hz), 2.27 (s, 6 H), 4.06 (q, 2 H, J=14.1 Hz), 6.38 (s, 1 H), 6.99 (s, 1 H), 7.44 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (s, 2 H); ESI MS m/z 325.1 [M+H]⁺.

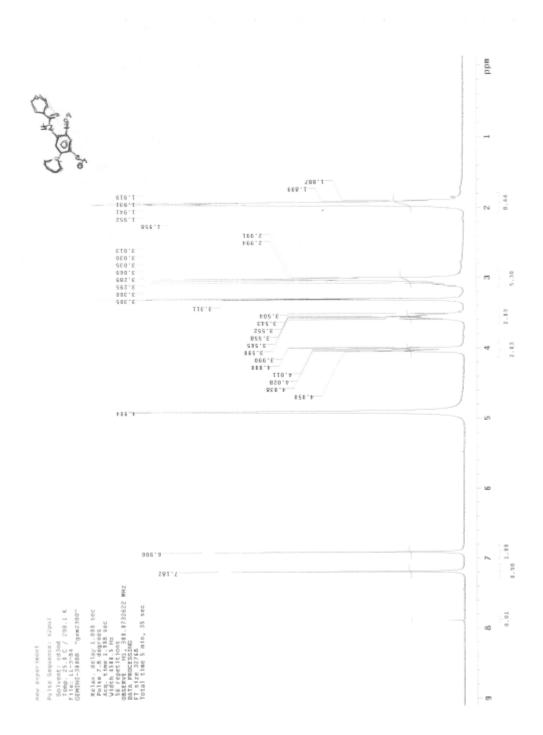
References

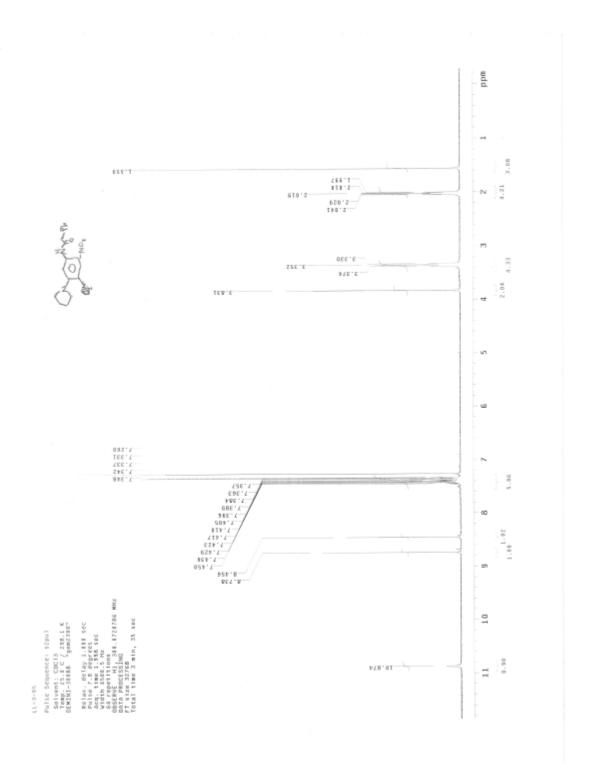
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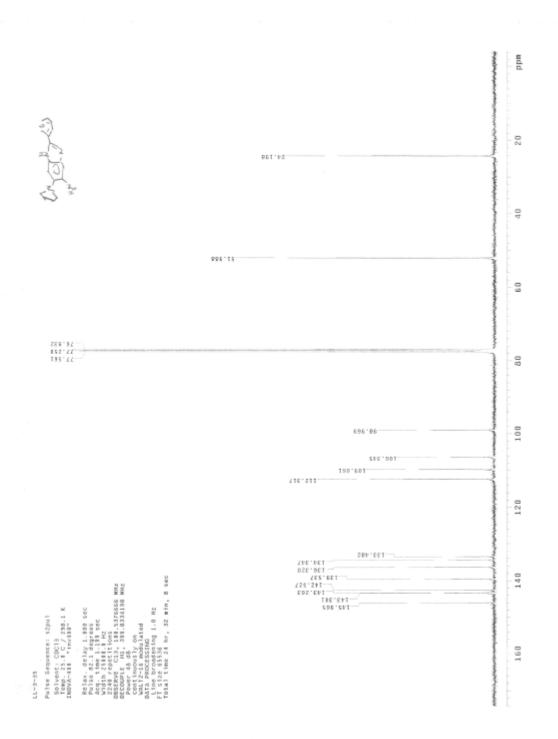


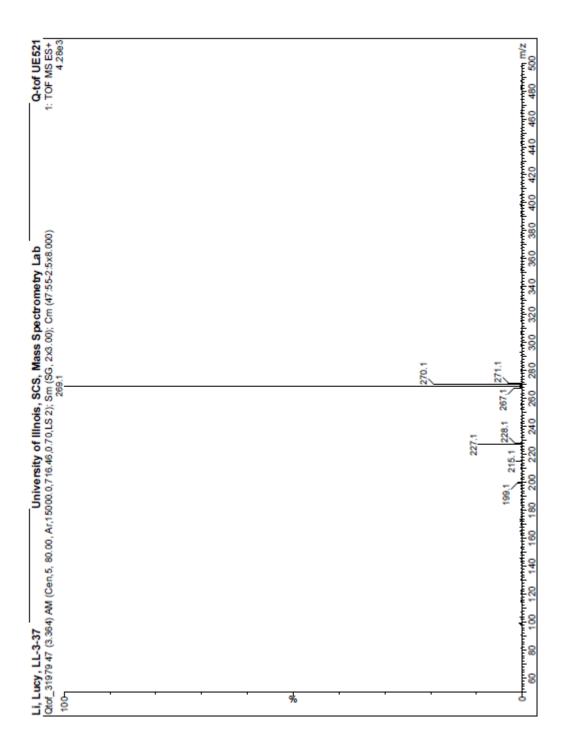












Page 1

Single Mass Analysis

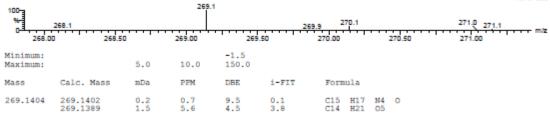
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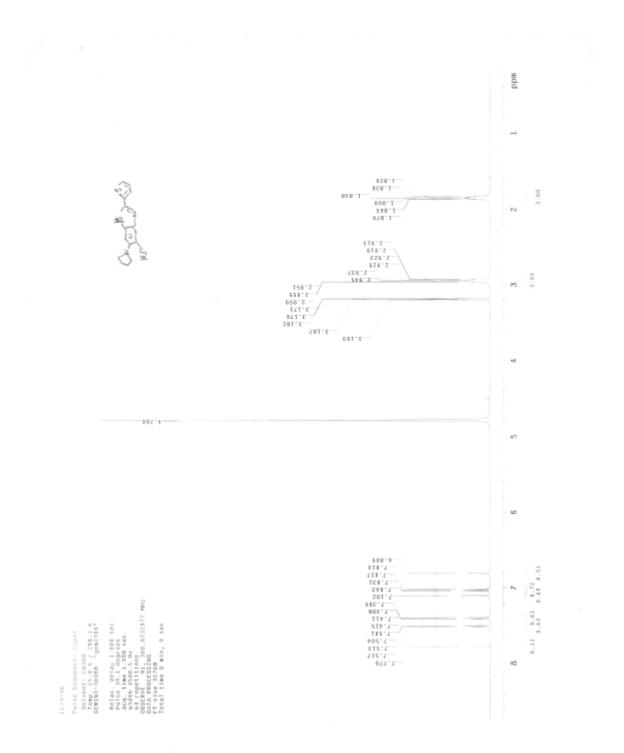
Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions

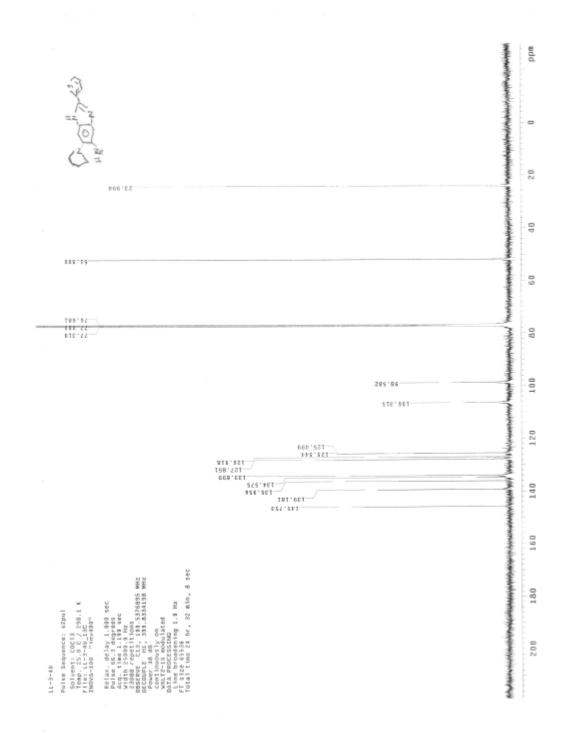
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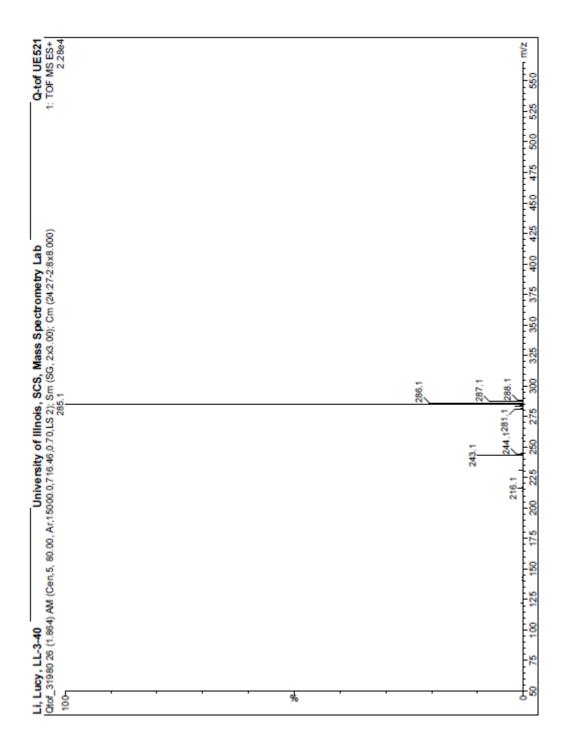
Teb Infinitial et evaluated with 2 febano within limits (an results (up to 1005) for each missor)
Elements Used:
C: 0-100 H: 0-150 N: 0-5 O: 0-6
U, Lucy, LL-3-37 University of Ilinois, 9C3, Mass Spectrometry Lab
Qtof_31979 55 (3.936) AM (Cen,5, 80.00, Ar,15000.0,716.46,0.70,L9 2); 8m (9G, 2x3.00); Cm (55:56)

Q-tof UE521 1: TOF M3 E8+ 1.64e+003









Page 1

Single Mass Analysis

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Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions

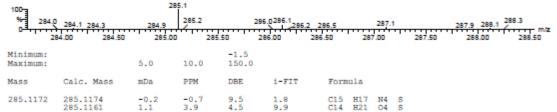
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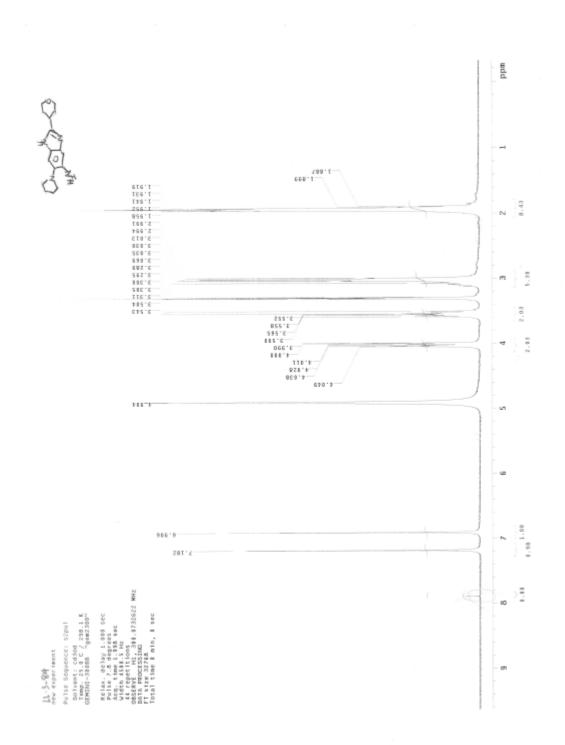
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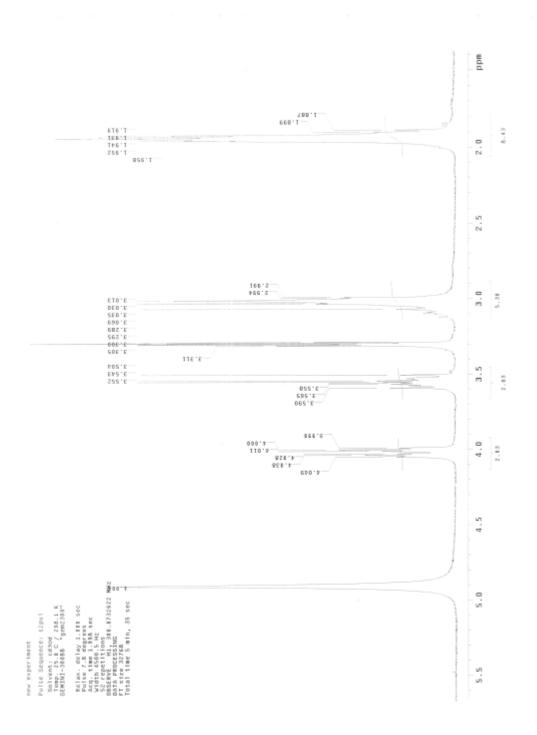
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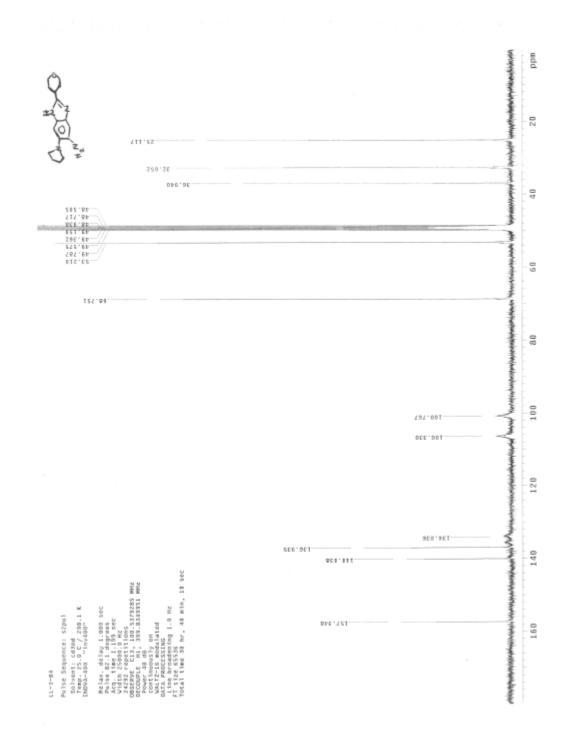
Li, Lucy, LL-3-40 University of Ilinois, SCS, Mass Spectrometry Lab
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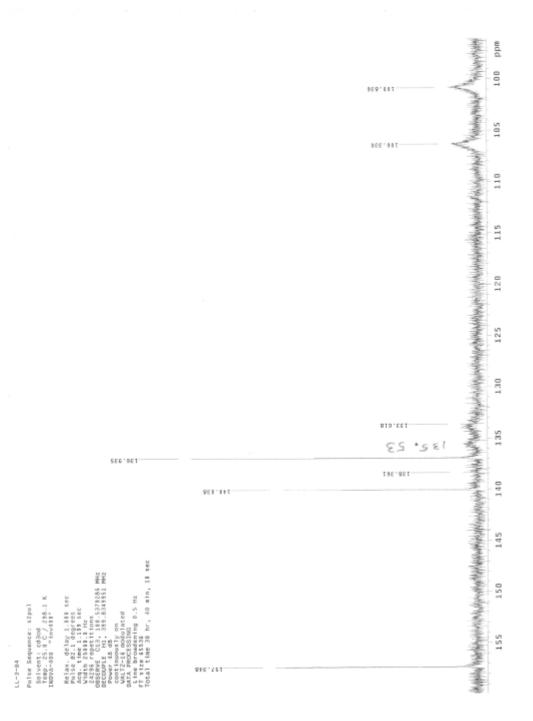
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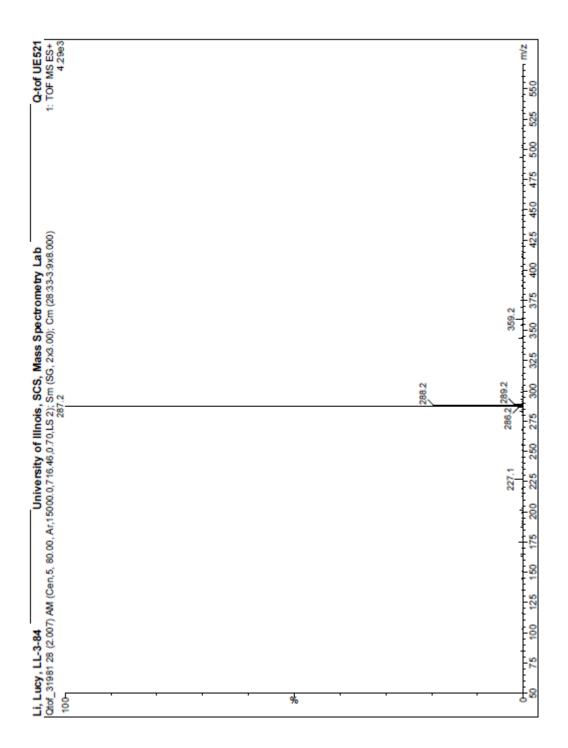












Page 1

Single Mass Analysis
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Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

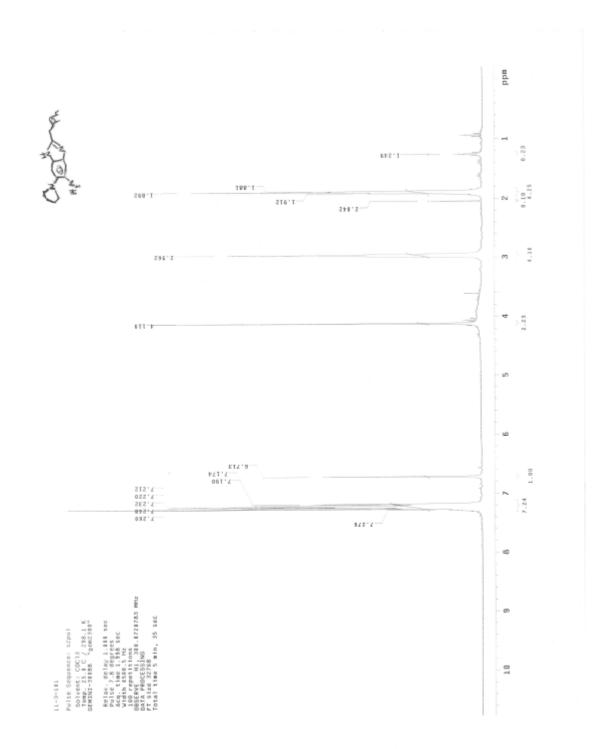
Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions

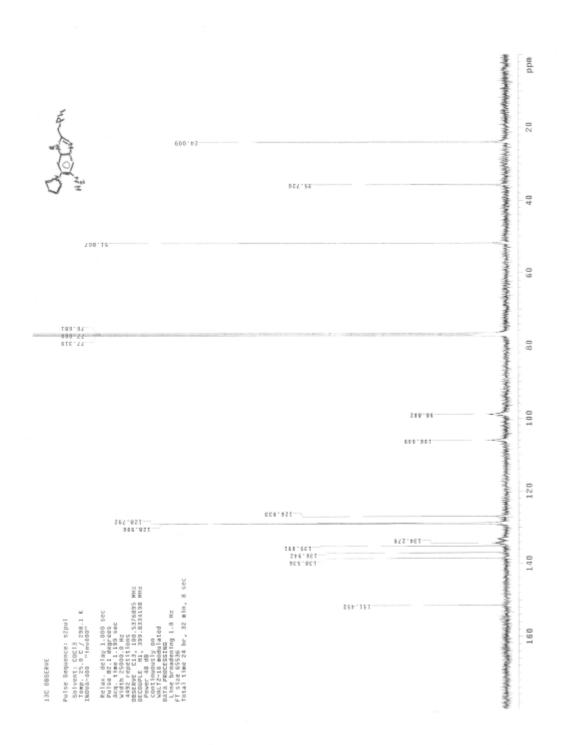
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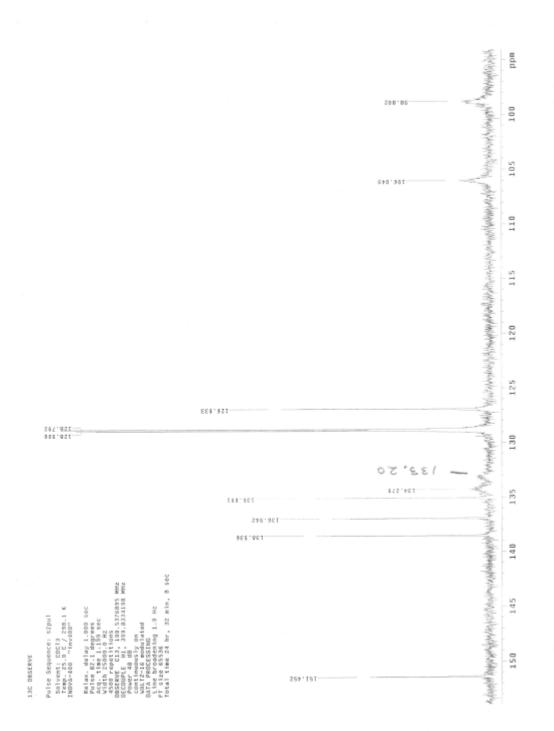
154 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results Within limits (all results top to 1555) for 555, for

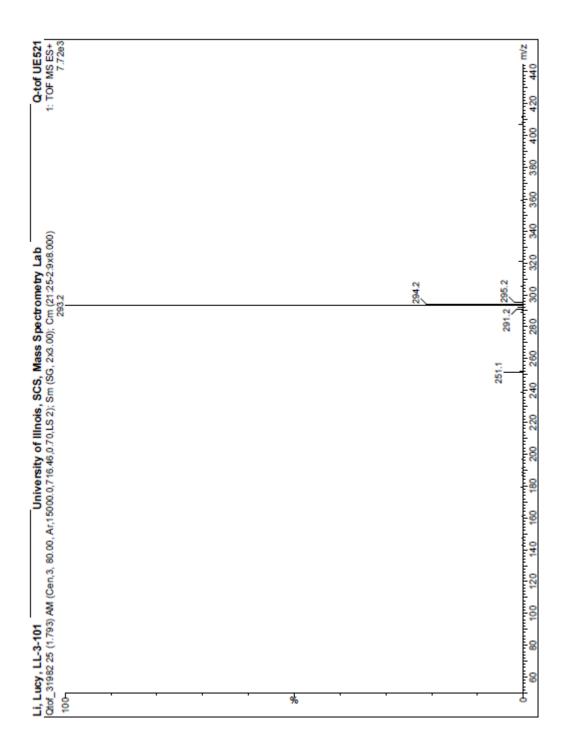
Q-tof UE521 1: TOF M8 E8+ 1.22e+003

100-3			287.2							
%	286.1286.1286.2		7.1		87.9 288.2		289.0 2	189.2	290.0	- m/r
	286.00 286.50	287		287.50	288.00	288.50	289.00	289.50	290.00	
Minimum: Maximum:		5.0	10.0	-1.5 150.0						
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula				
287.1873	287.1872	0.1	0.3	7.5	2.4	C16 H2	3 N4	0		









Page 1

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 10.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 150.0 Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions

157 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (all results (up to 1000) for each mass)

Tis / formulate | evaluated with 2 feeding within limits (an results (up to 1005) for each missely Elements Used:
C: 0-100 H: 0-150 N: 0-5 O: 0-6
LI, Lucy, LL-3-101 University of Ilinois, 9C8, Mass Spectrometry Lab Qtof_31982 33 (2.364) AM (Cen,3, 80.00, Ar,15000.0,716.46,0.70,L9 2); 8m (9G, 2x3.00); Cm (33:36)

Q-tof UE521 1: TOF M8 E8+ 2.27e+003

