# Isatin-benzoazine molecular hybrids as potential antiproliferative agents: synthesis and *in vitro* pharmacological profiling

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# **Pharmacological Evaluation**

## **Antiproliferative Activity**

A549, HT-29 and ZR-75 cells were harvested from 90-95% confluent 10 cm dishes, and diluted in growth media. Appropriate concentrations of cells were prepared by adding 1,250 cells in a volume of 25 µL per well in tissue culture treated Griener 384-well microplates, then incubated overnight at 37 °C. The investigational compounds 6a-f, 7a-e, 8a-f and 9a-f were diluted to a concentration of 30 µM in DMSO, except compounds **6b**, **6d**, **6e**, and **7d** which were diluted to 10 µM concentration due to poor solubility. Concentrated dosing solutions of twice the final concentration were prepared by dilution of the DMSO stocks 1:500 in growth media. Two-fold serial dilutions were then prepared in a medium containing 0.2% DMSO to maintain a constant concentration of vehicle throughout the concentration range of the compound. Each of these solutions was added, in equal volume (25  $\mu$ L), to four wells on each cell assay plate, along with vehicle control. Top concentration and serial dilution of the positive control compound, sunitinib, was prepared exactly as the experimental compounds. Cells were incubated with the compounds for a further 72 h. At the end of the treatment period, assay plates were allowed to cool to room temperature for 10 min prior to addition of 25 µL per well Promega CellTiterGlo reagent, followed by additional 10 min incubation at room temperature. The resulting luminescence was quantitated using a Molecular Devices Spectramax Paradigm (Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Percent growth inhibition was calculated as follows, where 100 represents the viability of vehicle treated control samples:

#### 100 - <u>(100 x (sample)</u> (vehicle control)

Thus, on average, growth inhibition of vehicle control samples equals zero. Potency of compounds was determined using the Non Linear Dose Response algorithm (4-parameter logistic fit) with Graph Pad Prism 5 software package (San Diego, CA, USA).

# Apoptosis and Caspase 3/7 Activity

A549 cells were harvested from a 90% confluent 10 cm dish, and diluted in growth media. Appropriate concentrations of cells were prepared by adding 1,250 cells in a volume of 25  $\mu$ L per well in tissue culture treated Corning 384-well microplates, then incubated overnight at 37 °C. A single cluster of 4-wells containing no cells was

included to serve as a background (no cell) control. Investigational compound **8c** was diluted in DMSO to concentrations 3000-fold above the IC<sub>50</sub> value. Concentrated dosing solutions of twice the final concentration were prepared by dilution of the DMSO stocks 1:500 in growth media. Three-fold dilutions of each dosing medium were then prepared in medium containing 0.2% DMSO to maintain a constant concentration of vehicle throughout the concentration range of the compound. Each of these solutions was added, in equal volume (25  $\mu$ L), to four wells on each cell assay plate, along with the vehicle control. Cells were incubated with the compounds for a further 48h. After 24h, a separate group of cells was treated identically for 24 h. Likewise, groups of cells were treated for durations of 16h, 8h, 4h and 2h. At the end of the treatment period, assay plates were allowed to cool to room temperature for 10 min prior to addition of 25  $\mu$ L per well Promega Caspase Glo 3/7 reagent, followed by an additional 10 min incubation at room temperature. The resulting luminescence was quantitated using a Molecular Devices Spectramax Paradigm (Sunnyvale, CA, USA).

Apoptosis activity as a function of caspase 3/7 was calculated as follows:

The average mean value of the background "cell free" control sample wells were subtracted from all vehicle and test compound wells. Fold-change in caspase activity was then calculated by dividing the mean sample value for each treatment time point by the mean vehicle value for the corresponding time.

Thus, on average, caspase 3/7 activity of the vehicle control samples equals one. Foldchange induced by the two tested concentrations for each compound was plotted with GraphPad Prism 5 software package (San Diego, CA, USA).

## **Cell Cycle Effects**

A549 cells were harvested from a 90% confluent 10 cm dish, and diluted in growth media. Appropriate concentrations of cells were prepared by adding 5,000 cells in a volume of 100  $\mu$ L per well in tissue culture treated Perkin Elmer ViewPlate<sup>TM</sup> microplates (Perkin Elmer, CT, USA), then incubated overnight at 37 °C. The following day, experimental compound **8c** and the control compound, sunitinib, were diluted in DMSO to concentrations 1000-fold above the maximum tested concentration. Concentrated dosing solutions of twice the final concentration were prepared by dilution of the DMSO stocks 1:500 in growth media. Three-fold

dilutions of each dosing medium were then prepared in medium containing 0.2% DMSO to maintain a constant concentration of vehicle throughout the concentration range of each compound. Each of these solutions was added in equal volume (100  $\mu$ L), to each well on the assay plate, along with vehicle control. One plate of cells was incubated with the compounds for a further 24h, and a separate plate was incubated with the compounds for 48 h. At the end of the respective treatment periods, 150 µL per well of neutral buffered formalin fixative (10% paraformaldehyde) was rapidly added to each plate and incubated at room temperature for 20 min. Fixative was removed by washing thrice with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Cell membranes were permeabilized and non-specific binding sites were blocked by incubation with 0.3% Triton X-100 and 5% FBS in PBS for 1 h. Phosphorylated Rb protein (P-Rb) was detected by 1 h incubation with anti-P-Rb rabbit monoclonal antibody (Cell Signaling no. 8516) diluted 1:1600 in antibody dilution buffer (1% bovine serum albumin and 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS). Unbound antibody was removed by washing thrice with PBS. Anti-P-Rb antibody was detected by 1 h incubation with goat anti-rabbit AlexaFluor 488 conjugate (InVitrogen) diluted 1:500 in antibody dilution buffer. The secondary antibody solution was supplemented with 1 µg/mL DAPI to quantitate double stranded DNA within each cell nucleus.

Unbound antibody was removed by washing thrice with PBS. Nine fields per well were immediately imaged in a Molecular Devices ImageXpress<sup>®</sup> MicroXL automated fluorescent microscope system (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) using a 10x magnification objective lens. DAPI and FITC filter cubes, respectively, were used to visualize nuclei and immunolabeled P-Rb residues. Identical autofocus and exposure parameters were used for every sample. Fluorescent micrographs were analyzed using Molecular Devices MetaXpress multi-wavelength cell scoring image analysis program to quantitate Rb phosphorylation. The mean nuclear average intensity of P-Rb staining (RFU) per cell was reported and has been graphed using GraphPad Prism statistical and graphing software. Where appropriate, an IC<sub>50</sub> value has been reported to reflect potency of the compound effect on P-Rb. DNA content in each cell was determined by total DAPI stain intensity and assigned to the appropriate category using the MetaXpress cell cycle analysis program. Results from each treatment were reported as average cell number in each of nine fields, as well as the percentage of cells within each phase of the cell cycle. Each of these parameters was

analyzed using GraphPad Prism, and, where appropriate,  $IC_{50}$  values have been reported.

#### Selectivity

A-549, IEC-6, MCF-10A and 3t3 cells were harvested from 90-95% confluent cultures in 10 cm dishes, and diluted in growth media recommended by the suppliers as follows: A-549 cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS). IEC-6 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modification of Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% FBS and 0.1 unit/mL recombinant insulin. Swiss 3t3 cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS. MCF-10A cells were cultured in a mixture DMEM and F12 media supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 20 ng/mL recombinant epidermal growth factor, 10  $\mu$ g/mL insulin, 0.5  $\mu$ g/mL hydrocortisone, and 100 ng/mL cholera toxin. Appropriate concentrations of cells were prepared by adding 1,250 cells in a volume of 25  $\mu$ L per well in tissue culture treated BD 384-well microplates, then incubated overnight at 37 °C.

Experimental compound 8c and control, sunitinib, were diluted to a concentration of 25 mM in DMSO. Concentrated dosing solutions of twice the final concentration were prepared by dilution of the DMSO stocks 1:500 in growth media. Two-fold serial dilutions were then prepared in medium containing 0.2% DMSO to maintain a constant concentration of vehicle throughout the concentration range of the test compound. Each of these solutions was added, in equal volume (25  $\mu$ L), to four wells on each cell assay plate, along with vehicle control. Top concentration and serial dilution of the positive control compound, sunitinib, was prepared exactly as the experimental compounds. Cells were incubated at 37 °C with the compounds for a further 72 h. At the end of the treatment period, assay plates were allowed to cool to room temperature for 10 min prior to addition of 25 µL per well Promega CellTiterGlo reagent, followed by an additional 10 min incubation at room temperature. The resulting luminescence was quantitated using a Molecular Devices Spectramax Paradigm.Percent growth inhibition was calculated as previously mentioned in the antiproliferative activity section. Potency of compounds was determined using the Non Linear Dose Response algorithm (4-parameter logistic fit) with GraphPad Prism 5 software.

#### Multidrug Resistant Lung Cancer Cell Line

A549 and H69AR cells were harvested from 90-95% confluent 10 cm dishes, and diluted in growth media. Appropriate concentrations of cells were prepared by adding 1,250 cells in a volume of 25 µL per well in tissue culture treated BD 384-well microplates, then incubated overnight at 37 °C. Experimental compound 8c and the positive control, sunitinib, were diluted to a concentration of 25 mM in DMSO. Concentrated dosing solutions of twice the final concentration were prepared by dilution of the DMSO stocks 1:500 in growth media. Two-fold serial dilutions were then prepared in medium containing 0.2% DMSO to maintain a constant concentration of vehicle throughout the concentration range of the compound. Each of these solutions was added, in equal volume (25 µL), to four wells on each cell assay plate, along with vehicle control. Top concentration and serial dilution of the positive control compound, sunitinib, was prepared exactly as the experimental compound 8c. Cells were incubated at 37 °C with the compound 8c for a further 72 h. At the end of the treatment period, assay plates were allowed to cool to room temperature for 10 min prior to addition of 25 µL per well Promega CellTiterGlo reagent, followed by an additional 10 min incubation at room temperature. The resulting luminescence was quantitated using a Molecular Devices Spectramax Paradigm. Percent growth inhibition was calculated as previously mentioned in the antiproliferative activity section. Potency of compounds was determined using the Non Linear Dose Response algorithm (4-parameter logistic fit) with GraphPad Prism 5 software.

## **Metabolic Investigations**

#### Preparation of Rat Liver Microsomes (RLM's)

The study protocol was approved by the Research Ethics Committee at the college of pharmacy, King Saud University. Animals were incapacitated by cervical dislocation and an incision was made in the peritoneal cavity and the liver was excised out. Livers were weighed and transferred into a beaker containing volume of KCl/sucrose buffer in a volume four-folds of the weighed livers. RLM's were prepared following a previously published microsomal preparation procedure.<sup>40, 41</sup> The content of microsomal protein was determined according to the method of Lowry *et al.*<sup>41</sup> using bovine serum albumin as a standard. CYP450 activity was verified *via* testing the ability of the prepared microsomes to transform phenytoin to *p*-hydroxyphenytoin according to Billings's (1983) method.<sup>42</sup>

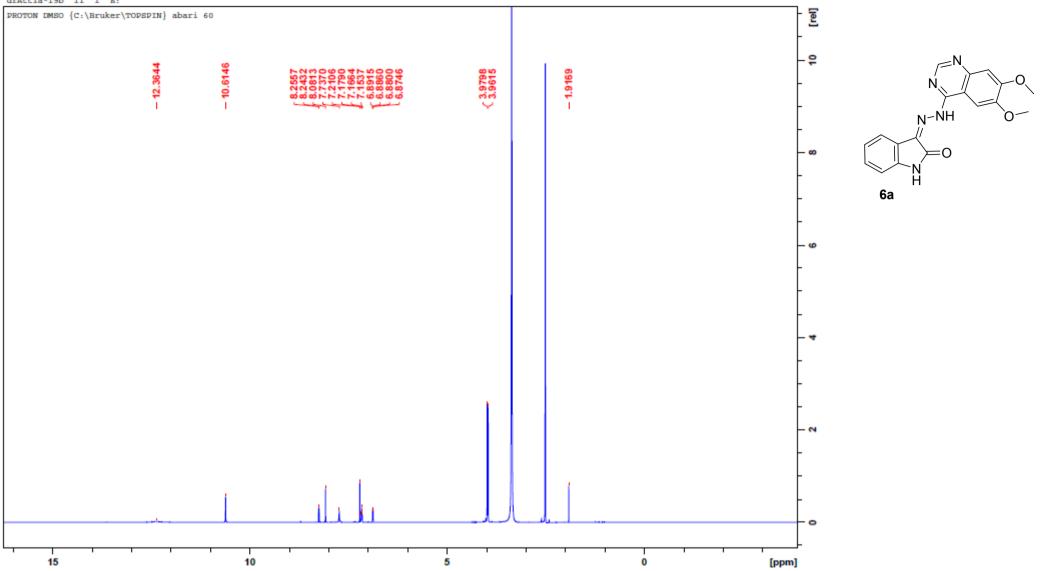
#### **Rat Liver Microsomal Incubations**

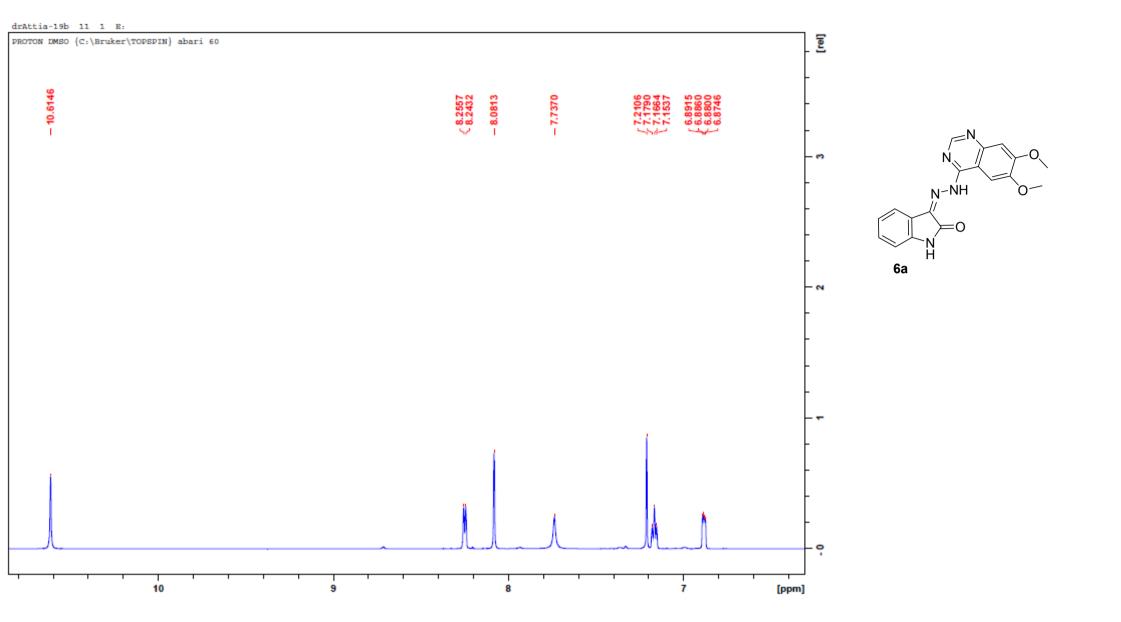
Metabolism of the test compound **8c** (1µL of 1mM stock solution) was determined with 40 µL (2 mg/mL) of microsomal protein in 0.08 M potassium phosphate buffer (0.08M KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.4), at 37 °C for 30 min, in a final incubation volume of 1 mL with freshly prepared ice cold MgCl<sub>2</sub> solution (20.33 mg/mL). Test tubes containing the incubation mixtures were transferred to a shaking water bath and allowed to stand at a temperature of 37 °C in the water bath for 5 min. The reactions were initiated by the addition of a NADPH generating system containing 0.8 mM NADPH into the reaction mixture (8.33 mg/mL). Table 1 summarizes the amounts used for the investigation of compound **8c**. Incubation was allowed for 60 min, the reaction was terminated by the addition of 2 mL of ice cold acetonitrile. The mixture was centrifuged for 10 min at 14,000 rpm and the supernatant was transferred to a fresh tube and the solvent were evaporated under a stream of nitrogen. The residues were reconstituted in 1 mL with the mobile phase and transferred to HPLC vials for analysis.

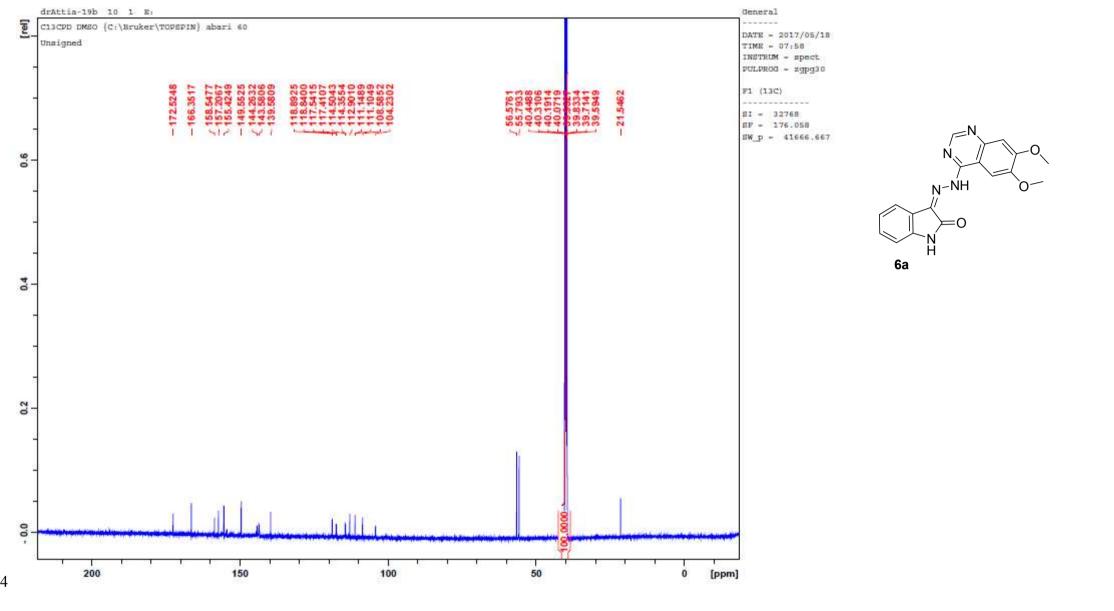
Buffer	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	NADPH	Compound	Microsomes	Incubation type
759µL	100µL	100µL	1µL	40µL	8c
760µL	100µL	100µL	$0 \mu L$	40µL	<b>Control 1</b>
859µL	100µL	$0\mu L$	1µL	40µL	Control 2
799µL	100µL	100µL	1µL	0µL	<b>Control 2</b>

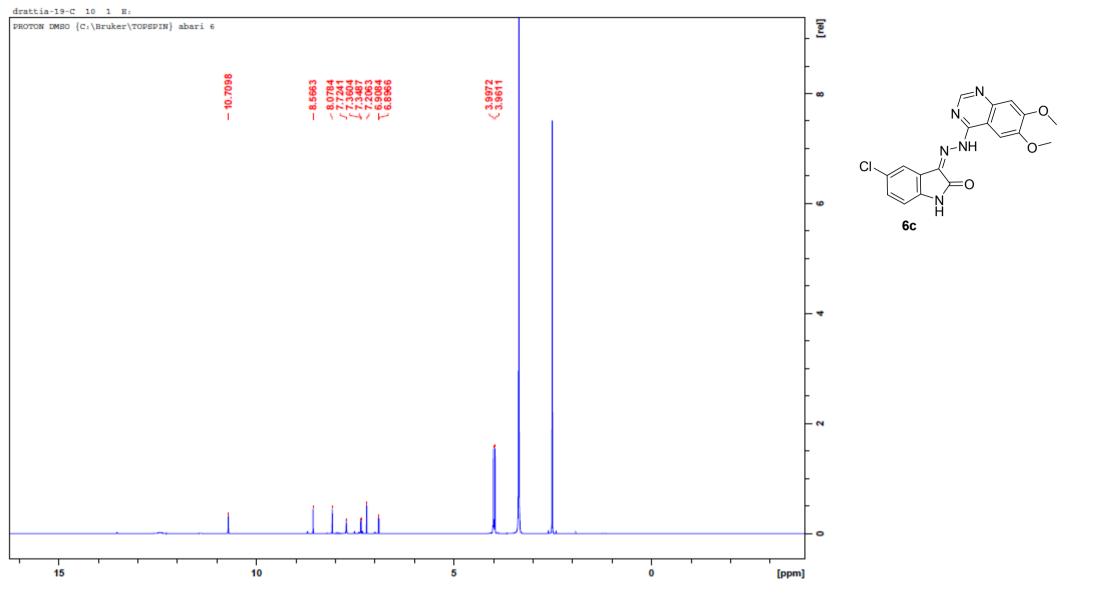
Table 1: Volumes of the used reagents in microsomal incubations of compound 8c.

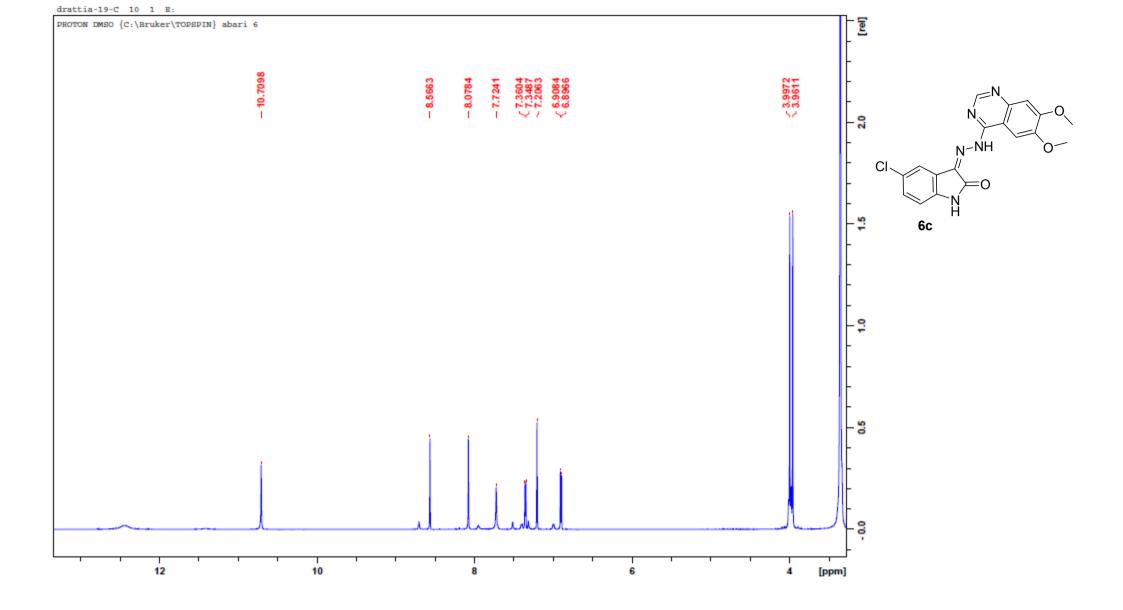
Representative examples of the NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C) spectra of the synthesized compounds.

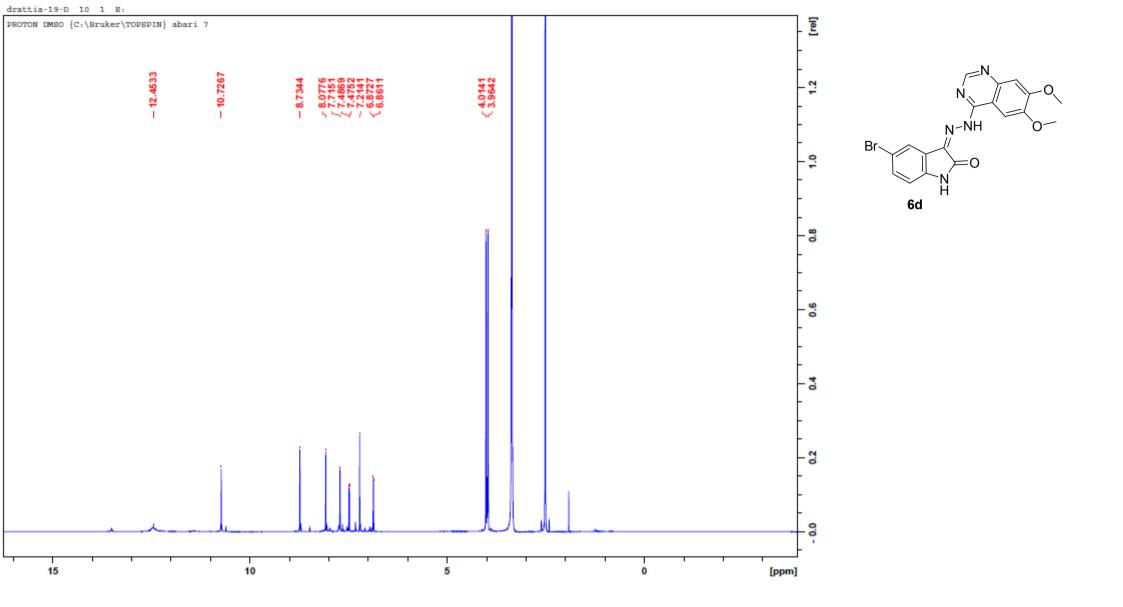


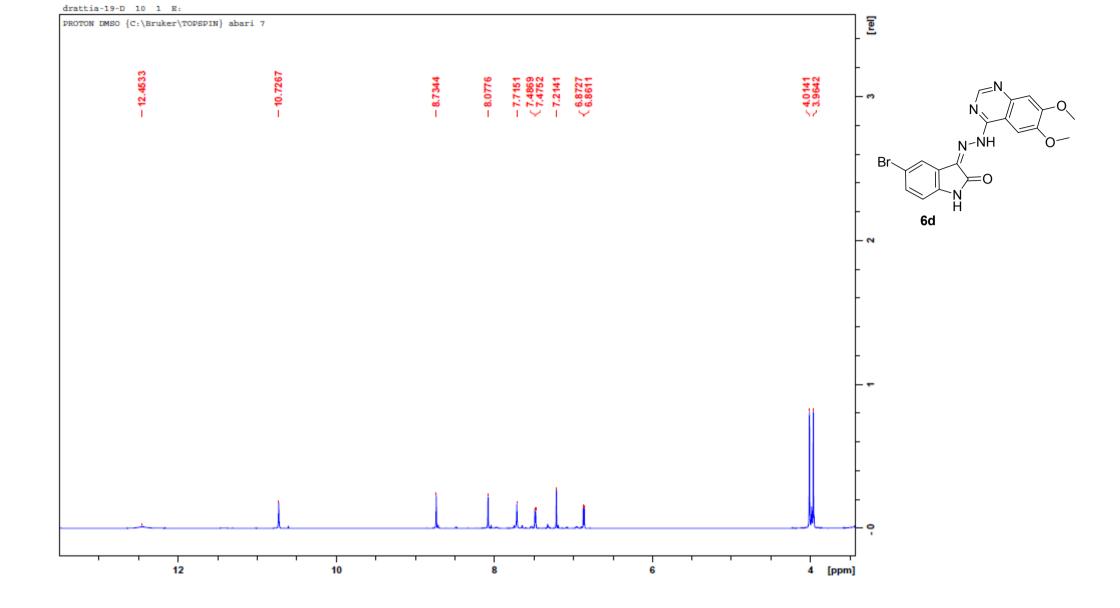


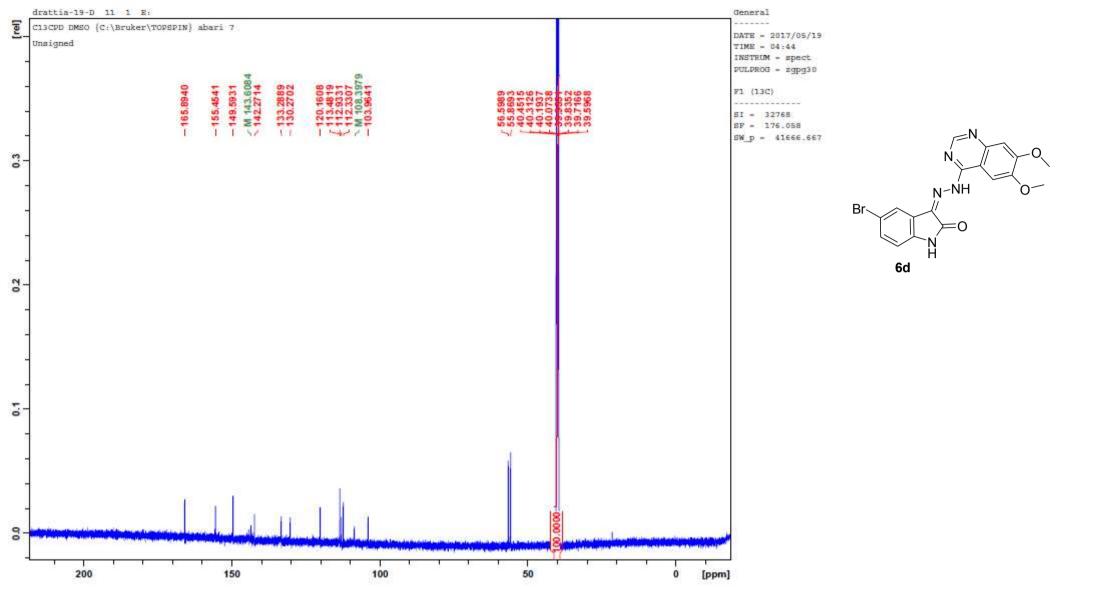


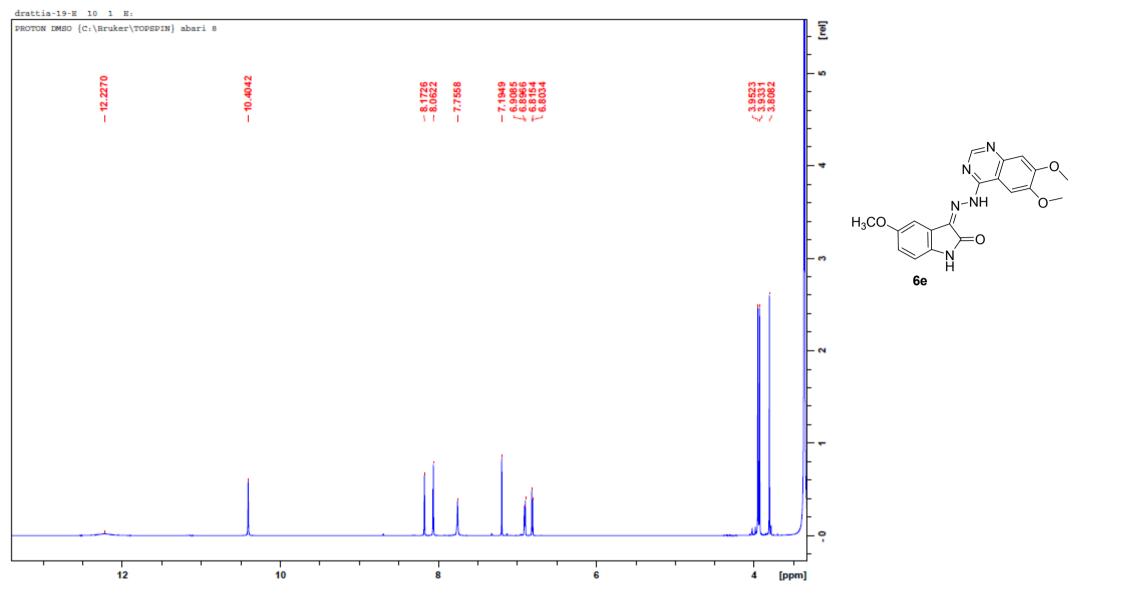


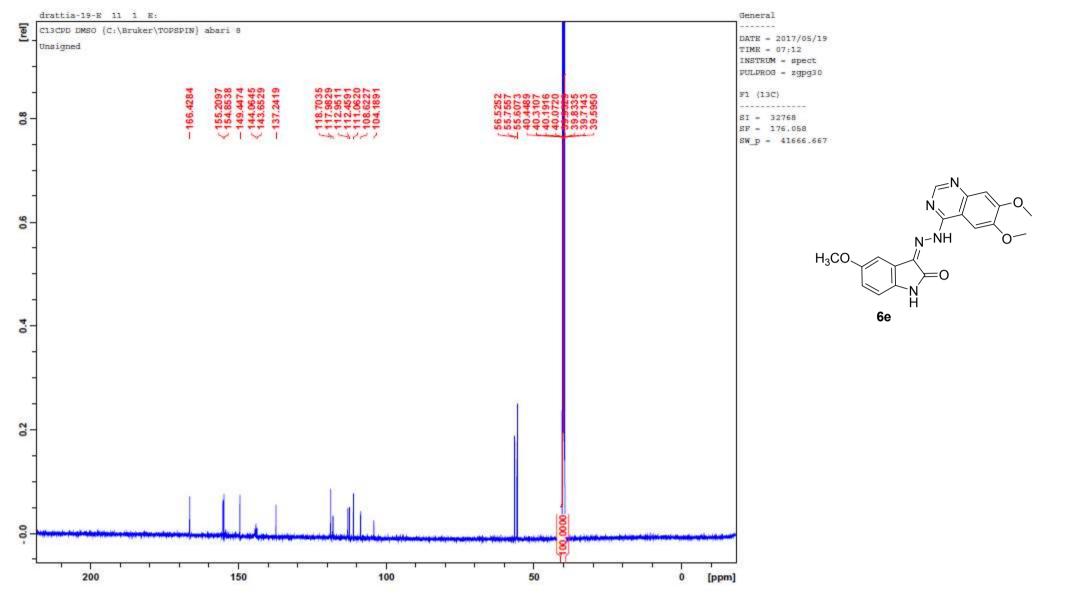


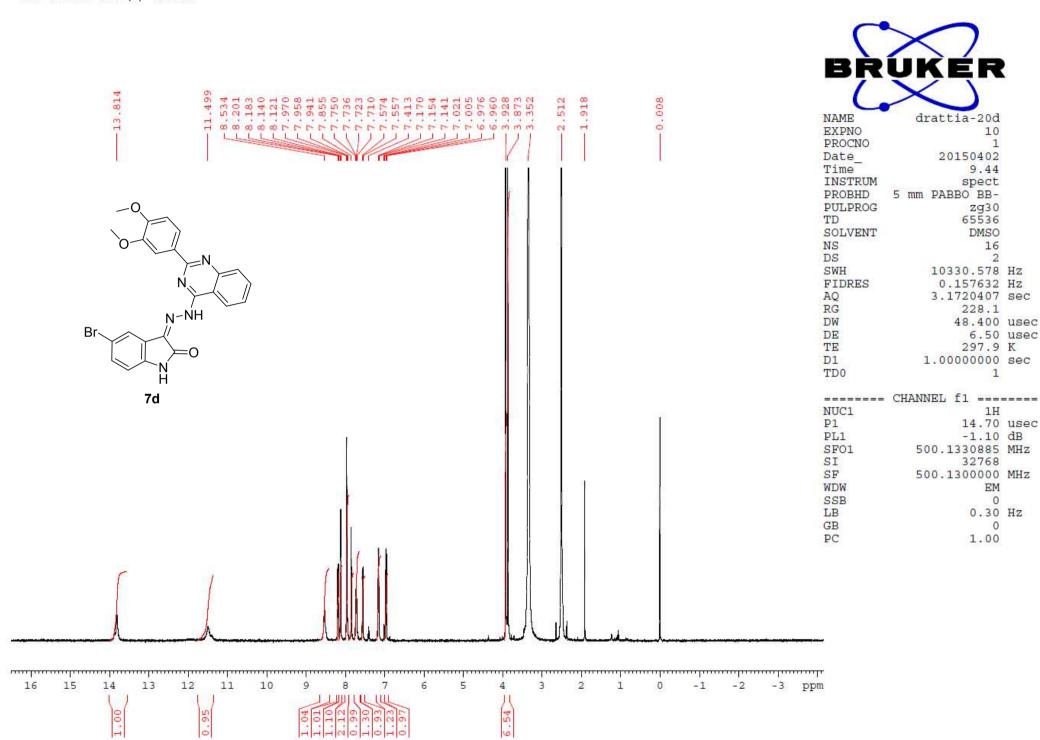




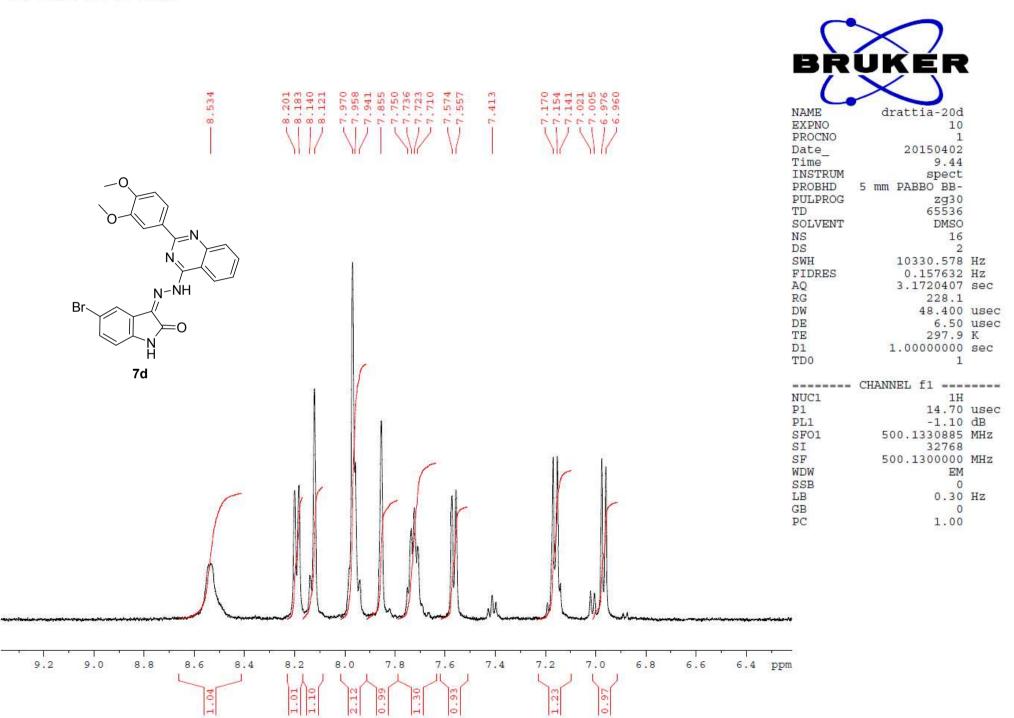


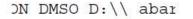


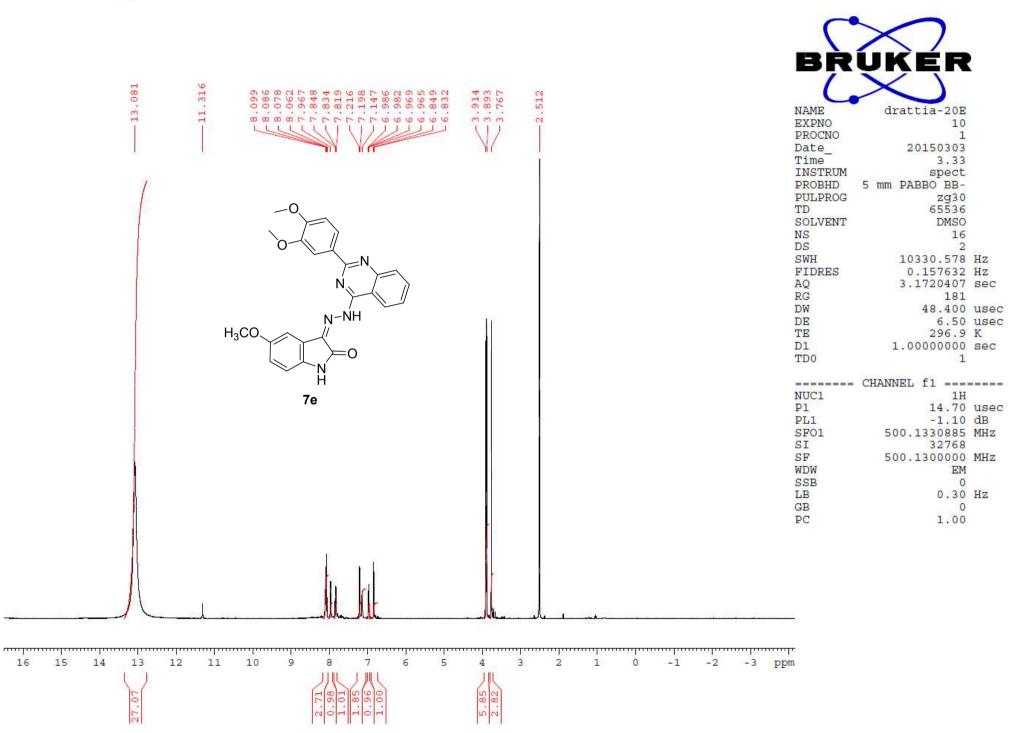


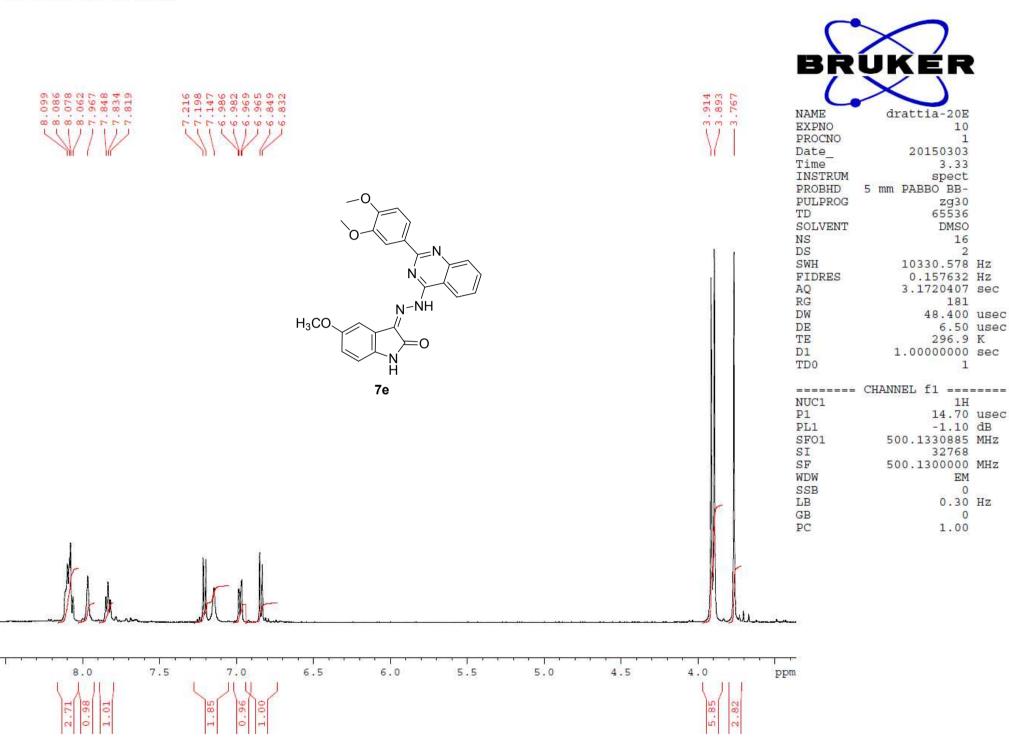


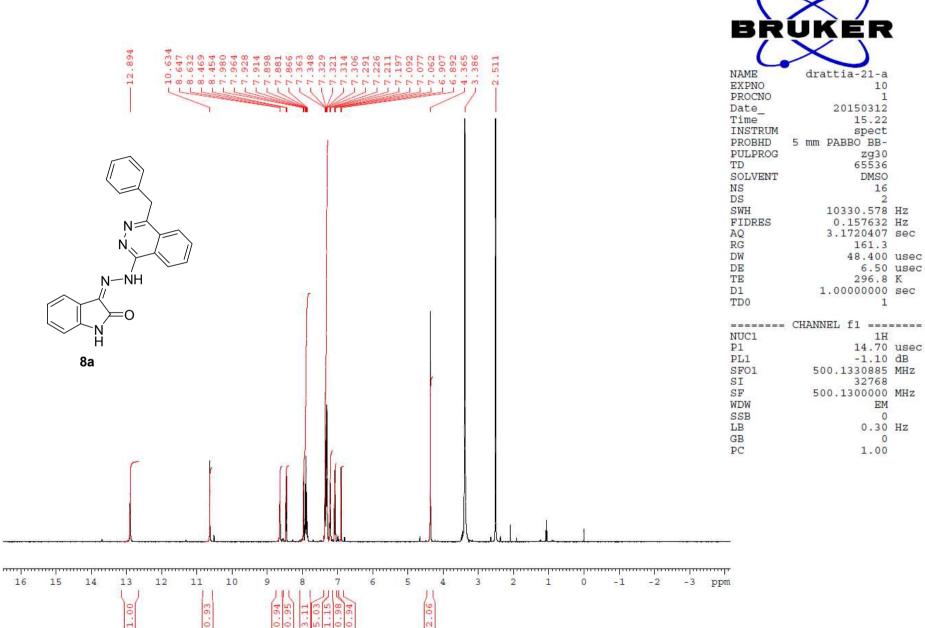
DN DMSO D:\\ abar



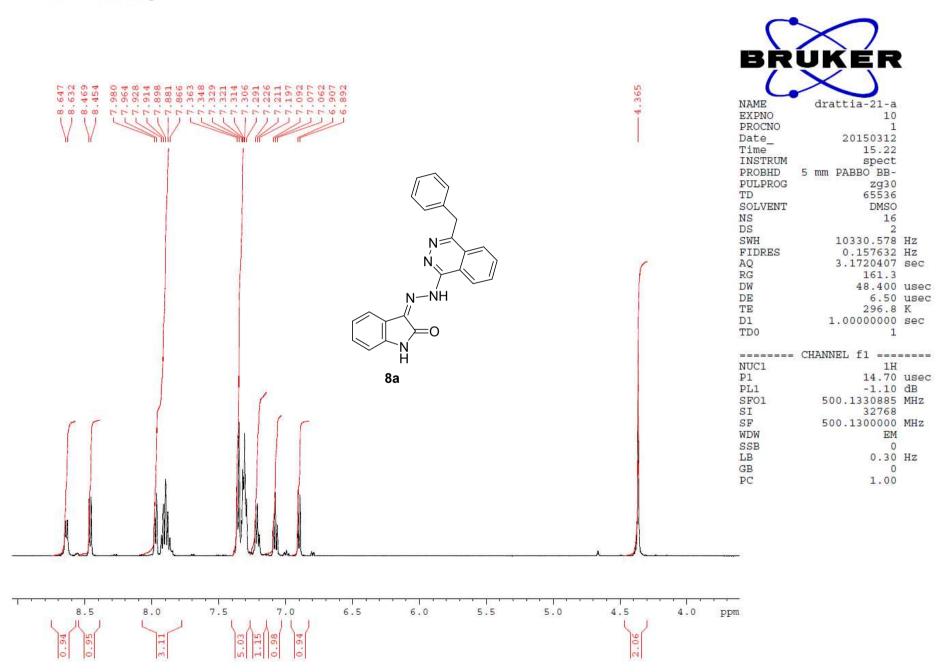


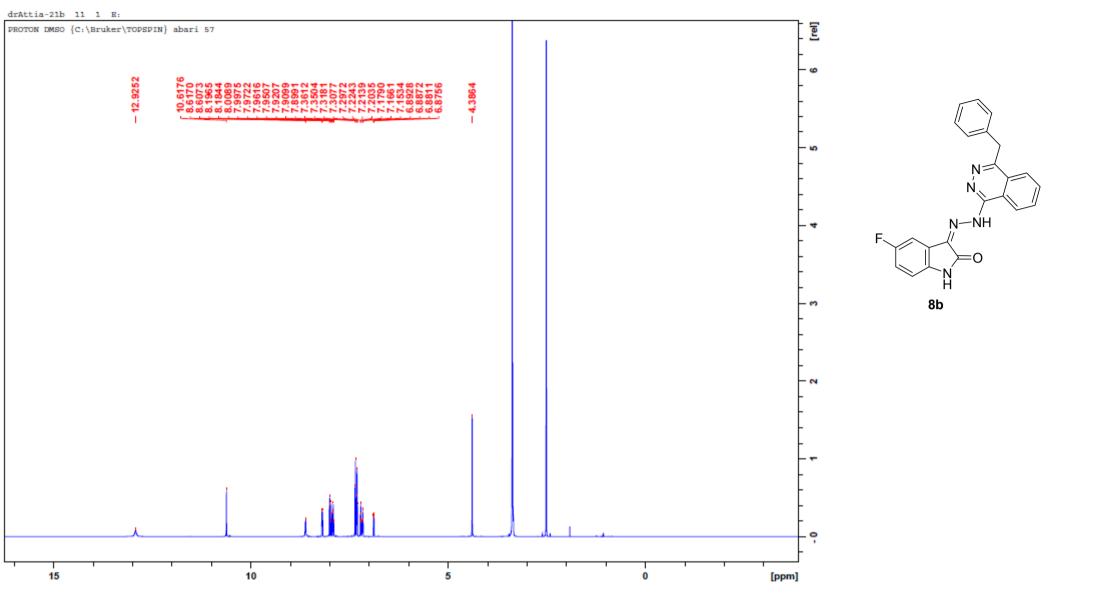


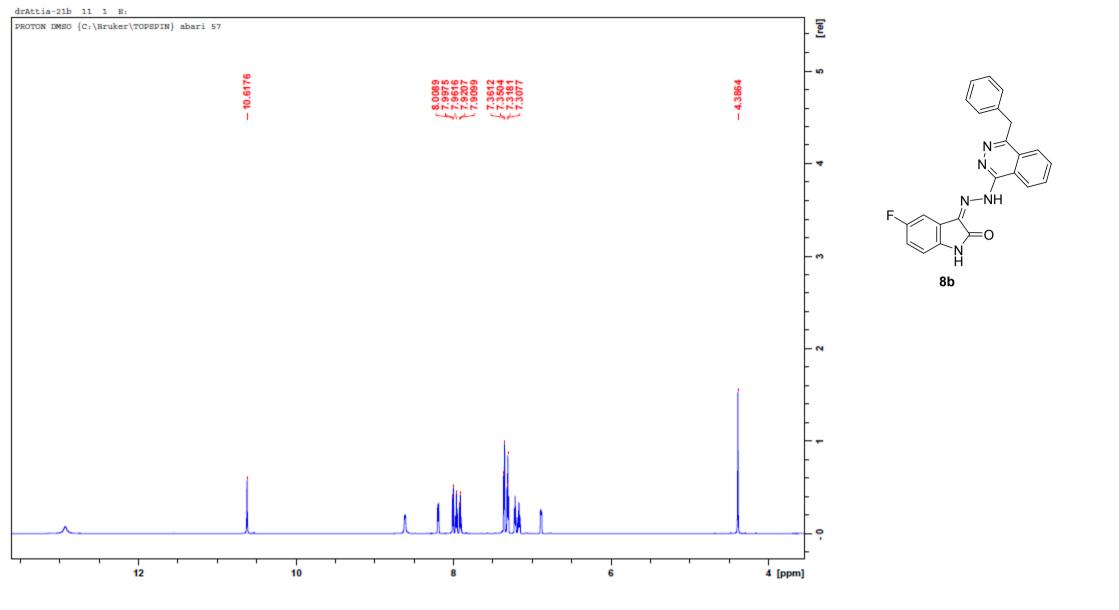


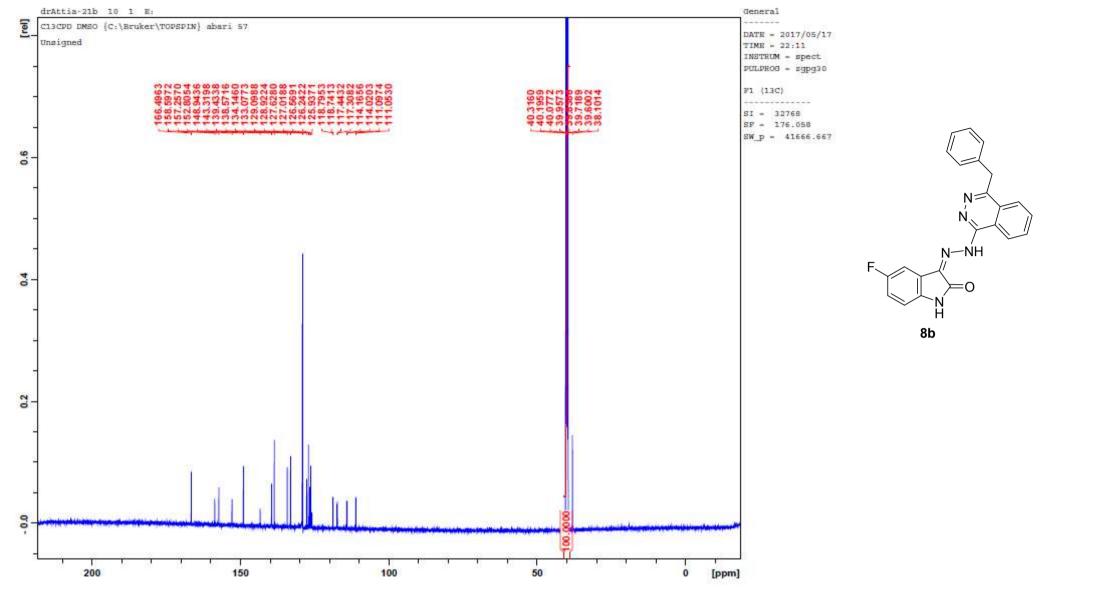


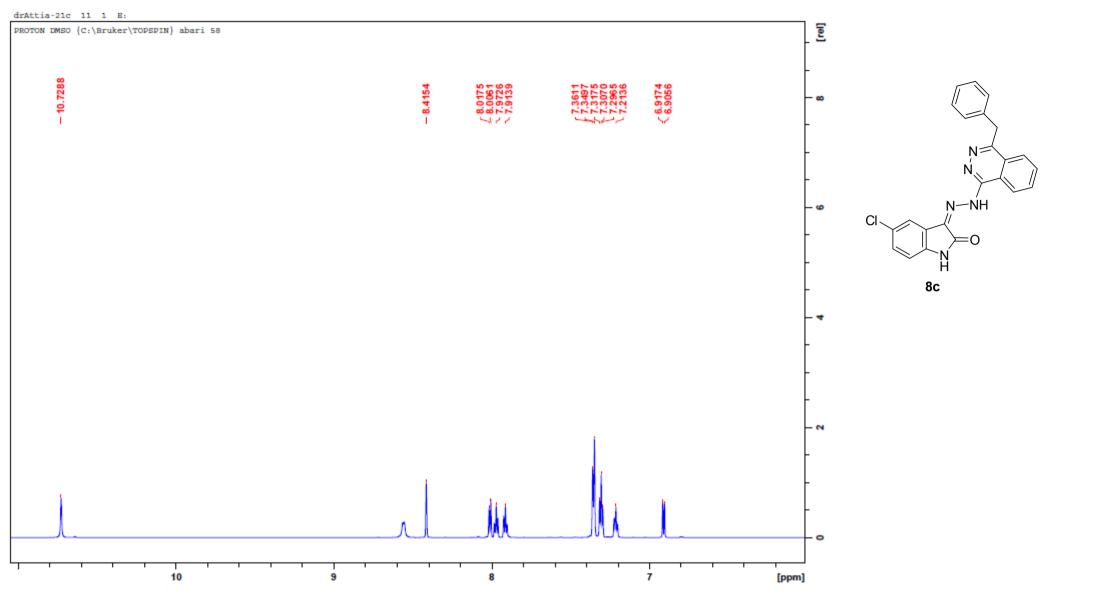
ALCO DE 21

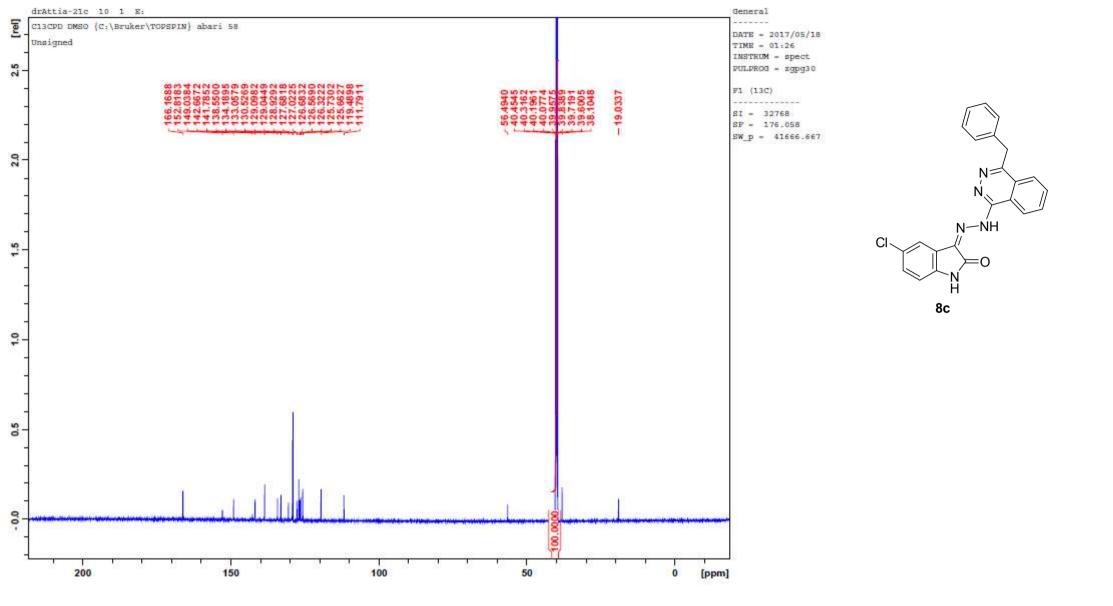


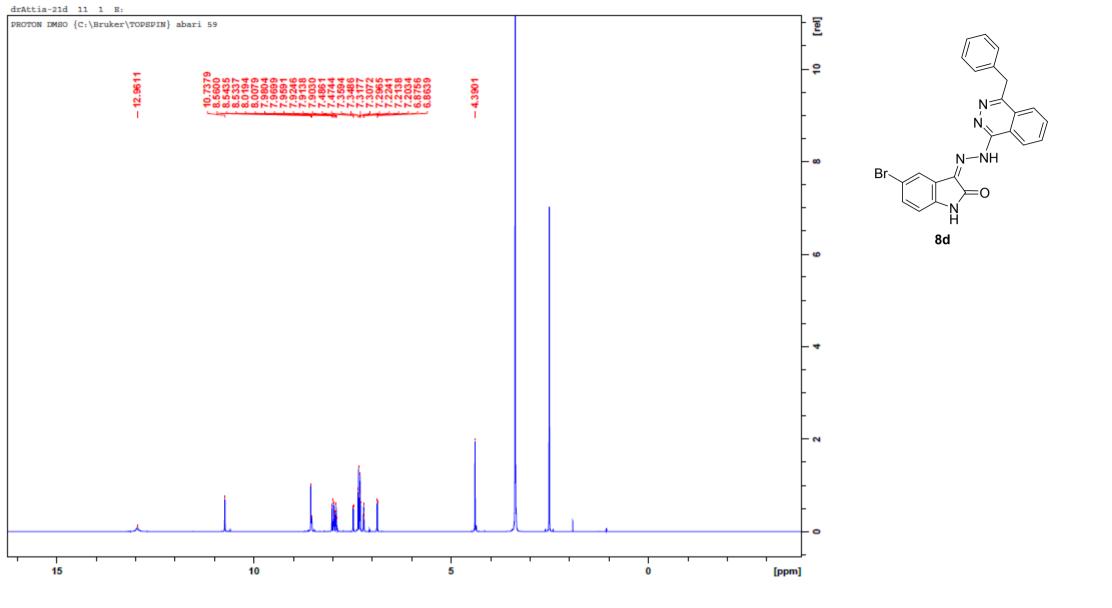


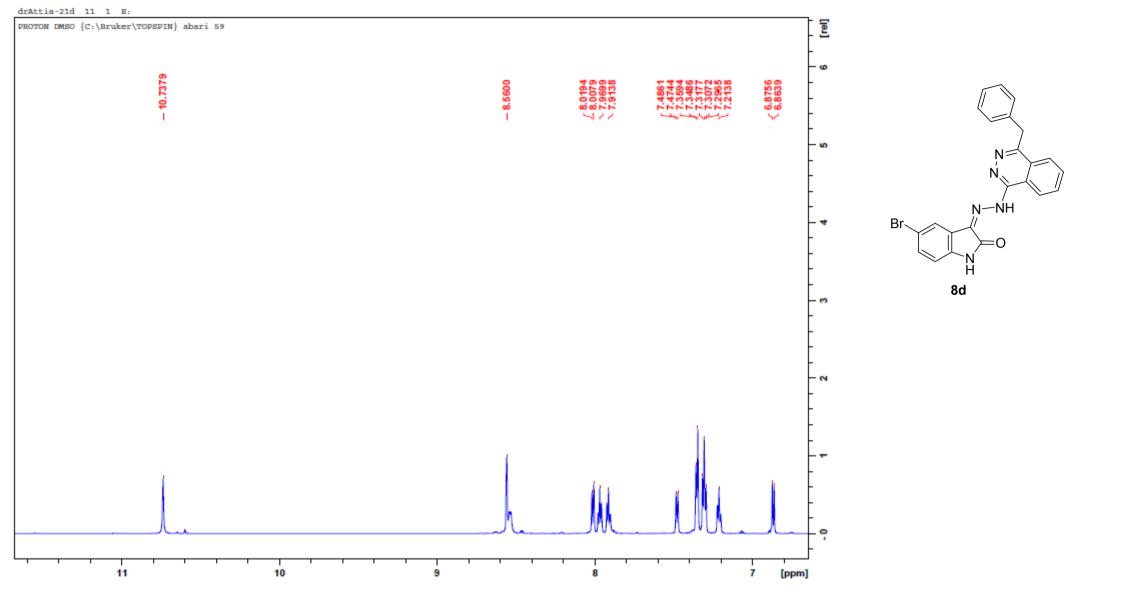


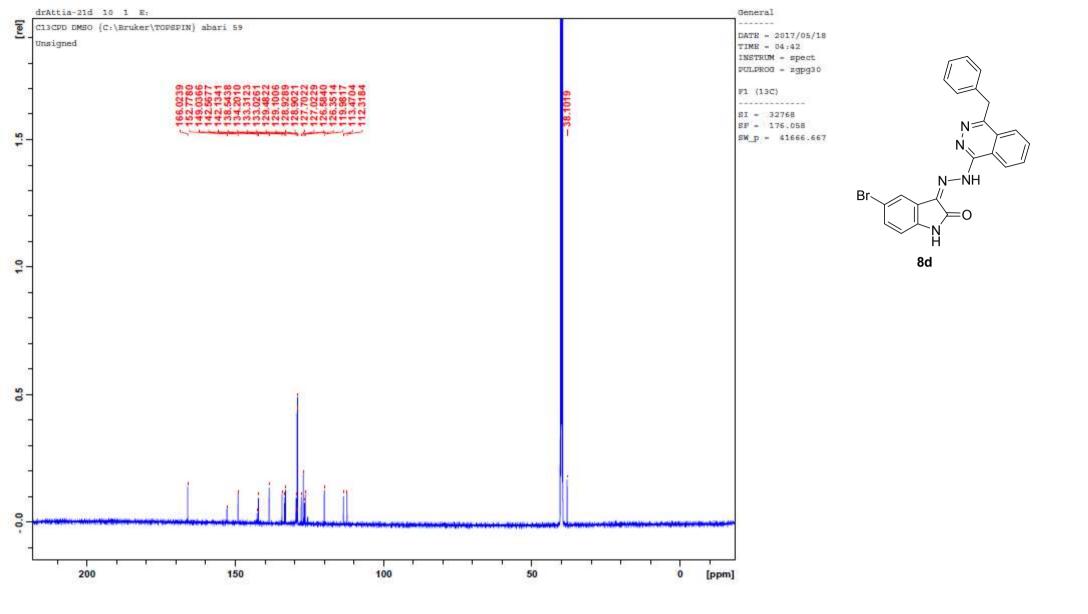


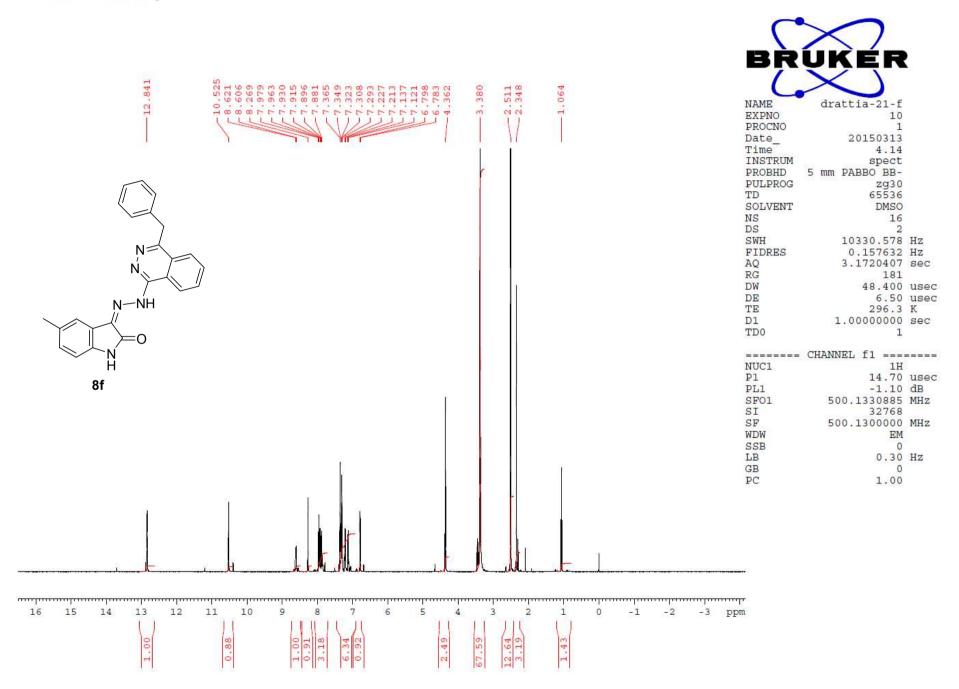


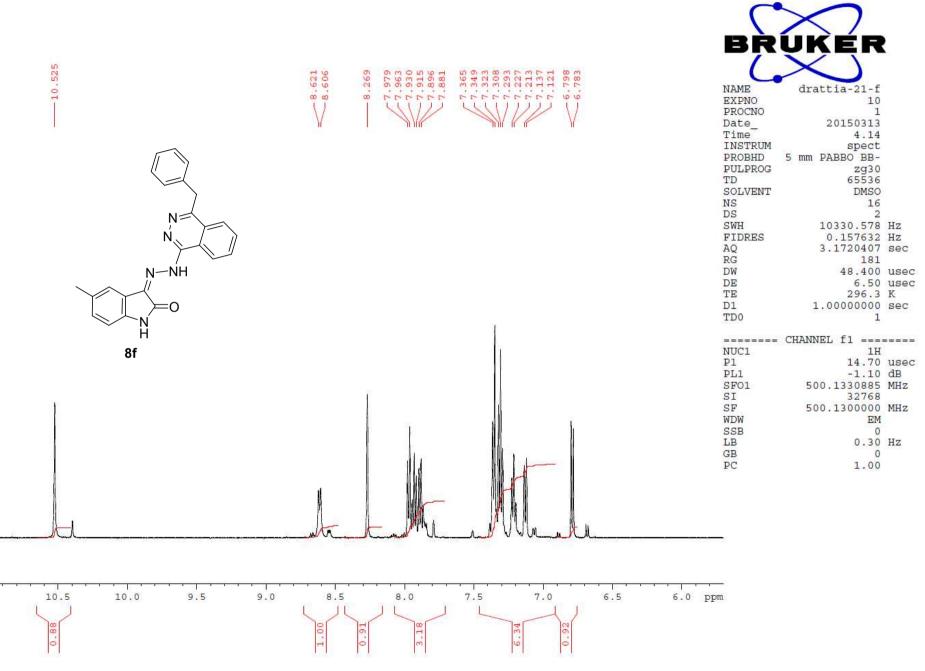




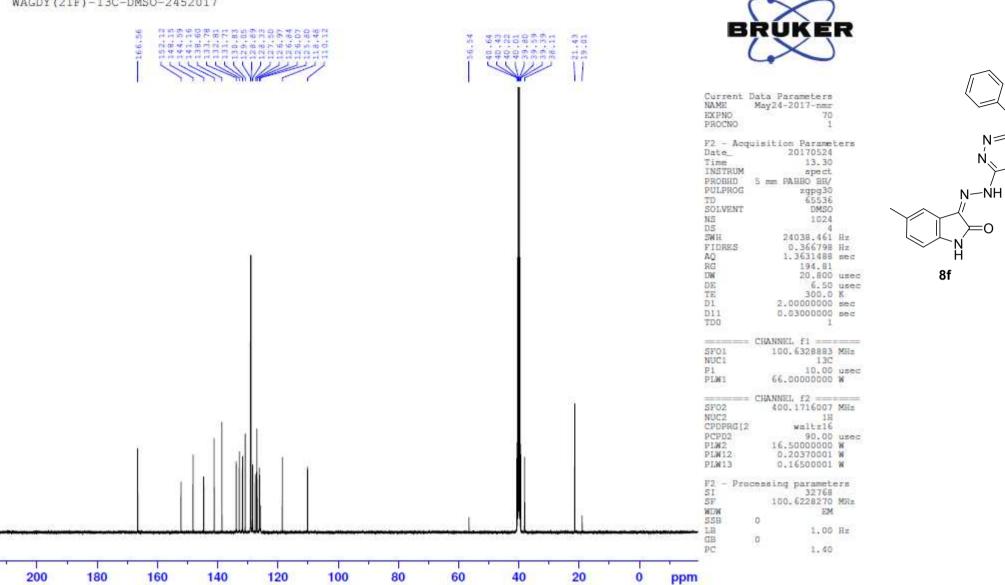




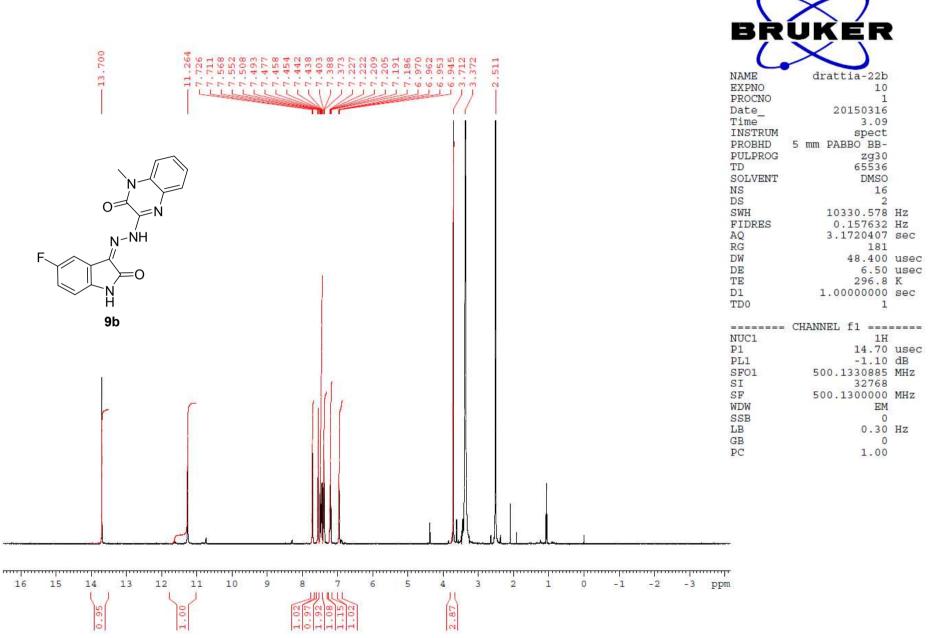




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8.5 8.4 8.3 8.2 8.1 8.0 7.9 7.8 7.7 7.6 7.5 7.4 7.3 7.2 7.1 7.0 6.9 6.8 6.7 ppm

