

**SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF PYRIMIDINE
BRIDGED BIPHENYLS AS PUTATIVE LIGANDS TO TARGET
PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

A thesis submitted to the Central University of Punjab

**For the Award of
Master of Pharmacy
In
Medicinal Chemistry**

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis entitled **“SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF PYRIMIDINE BRIGDED BIPHENYLS AS PUTATIVE LIGANDS TO TARGET PARKINSON’S DISEASE”** has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Natural Products, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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CERTIFICATE

I certify that Manu Bala has prepared her dissertation entitled “**SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF PYRIMIDINE BRIGDED BIPHENYLS AS PUTATIVE LIGANDS TO TARGET PARKINSON’S DISEASE**” for the award of M. Pharmacy (Medicinal Chemistry) degree from the Central University of Punjab, under my guidance. She has carried out this work at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Natural Products, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda.

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ABSTRACT

“SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF PYRIMIDINE BRIGDED BIPHENYLS AS PUTATIVE LIGANDS TO TARGET PARKINSON’S DISEASE”

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MAO inhibitors have been explored as therapeutic agents for the treatment or management of PD. A series of 2,4,6-trisubstituted pyrimidine derivatives incorporating a propargyl moiety were synthesized and screened for their MAO inhibition potential using Amplex® Red assay. All the compounds showed good inhibitory activity for MAO-B. The structure-activity relationship profile has been developed with number of electron releasing and electron withdrawing substituents attached to the pyrimidine nucleus. **MV7** was found to be the most potent MAO-B inhibitor with IC₅₀ value of 0.44 ± 0.02 µM. From molecular docking studies, it was found that compounds fit well in the active site of MAO-B isoform near FAD cofactor. Thus, the active compound **MV7** obtained in this series can act as promising lead for the development of effective and potent MAO-B inhibitor for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease.

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Dr. Vinod Kumar

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MANU BALA



**Dedicated to My Parents
And
my Sai Babaji**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

S. No.	Full Form	Abbreviation
1.	Monoamine oxidase	MAO
2.	Flavin Adenine Dinucleotide	FAD
3.	Parkinson's Disease	PD
4.	1,2,3,6-methyl-phenyl-tetrahydropyridine	MPTP
5.	Hydrogen peroxide	H ₂ O ₂
6.	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	ALS
7.	Tyrosine	TYR
8.	Acetylcholinesterase	AChE
9.	Butyrylcholinesterase	BuChE
10.	Blood Brain Barrier	BBB
11.	Protein Data Bank	PDB
12.	Root Mean Square Deviation	RMSD
13.	Molecular Operating Environment	MOE
14.	Reactive oxygen species	ROS
15.	Dopamine	DA
16.	Nerve Growth Factor	NGF
17.	Glial cell line derived neurotropic factor	GDNF
18.	Brain derived neurotropic factor	BDNF
19.	Glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	GADPH
20.	Superoxide dismutase	SOD
21.	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma	BCL
22.	5-Hydroxytryptamine	5-HT
23.	Structure activity relationship	SAR
24.	Dimethyl sulfoxide	DMSO
25.	High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy	HRMS
26.	Nuclear magnetic resonance	NMR
27.	Gas chromatography-Mass spectrometry	GC-MS
28.	Thin layer chromatography	TLC

29.	Acetonitrile	ACN
30.	Potassium iodide	KI
31.	Potassium carbonate	K ₂ CO ₃
32.	Dichloromethane	DCM
33.	Round bottom flask	RBF
35.	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium	DMEM
36.	Bovine serum albumin	BSA
38.	Doublet	d
39.	Singlet	s
40.	Multiplet	m
41.	Coupling constant	J

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

The first clinical features of Parkinson's disease was described by a British surgeon, James Parkinson, in a monograph "An Essay on the Shaking Palsy", the first observations of patients affected by a disease he called "paralysis agitans"(Parkinson, 2002). Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease. It is estimated that 1% of the individuals over the age of 65 are affected by Parkinson's disease. Worldwide incidence estimates of Parkinson disease range from 5 to >35 new cases per 100,000 individuals yearly.(Poewe et al., 2017)

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic, slowly progressive, age-related neurodegenerative disease. It is characterized by tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, akinesia and loss of postural reflexes. Some non-motor symptoms are also identified now which mainly occur at the very onset of disease.(Pandey, 2012). Although there are many motor symptoms that are taken as the main criteria for the diagnosis of PD , there are some non-motor symptoms such as impaired olfaction, sleep disorders ,constipation and some neuropsychiatric disorders like depression ,anxiety etc. which are prominent not only before but also during the onset of PD and its slowly progression(Chaudhuri & Schapira, 2009).

There are mainly two types of PD: sporadic (90-95%) and familial (5%).Familial PD is caused by rare highly age penetrant mutations inherited in an autosomal, recessive or dominant way. The biological effect of these mutations are enough for the development of this disease to occur. Sporadic PD is a complex disease in which various genetic variants all together with other genes play cumulative effect that causes the development of the disease(Sassi, 2011).

The pathological hallmark of Parkinson's disease is the loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta that lead to depletion of dopamine level in striatum and presence of Lewy bodies in other cells. (Hatano & Hattori, 2011).These intracytoplasmic inclusions are found in some other brain regions too such as the locus cerulus, cerebral cortex, and hypothalamus and nucleus basalis.

The major neuronal loss is still seen in SNpc which considerably lead to P.D(Feng, 2003). Within the substantia nigra, the ventrolateral neuronal cell groups are damaged the most, while dorsal and medial neuronal cells groups are resistant to the damage. The natural reason for specific damage of dopaminergic neurons may live in pacemaker-like properties of these cells, which leads to frequent intracellular calcium drifters. Calcium buffering is less in ventrolateral cells neurons than dorsal and medial cells neurons that leads to disruption of cellular homeostasis due to increased cellular stress. Cell death occurs due to interruption in normal virtue of nuclear membrane releasing some pro-aggregate nuclear factors (as histones) that triggers the α -synuclein aggregation. This aggregation further spreads to other cells by various means(Dickson, 2017).

The etiological factors in PD has changed surprisingly from one of a simply sporadic premise to the view that both environmental and genetics factors contribute to the onset of the illness to a point now where increasingly genetic predisposition is seen as a major contributor to the disease (Schapira & Jenner, 2011).

1.1 Environmental factors and PD

There are number of factors that causes development of PD such as exposure to various pesticides, herbicides, well water, industrial chemicals, living in rural environment, some exogenous toxins such as cyanide, trace metals, organic solvents, carbon monoxide and carbon sulphide. The most common environmental factor in P.D found to be 1,2,3,6-methyl-phenyl-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP). MPTP is a byproduct of synthetic narcotic meperidine analog(Olanow & Tatton, 1999). MPTP is highly lipophilic in nature and easily cross blood brain barrier, once it enters the brain MPTP gets converted to 1-methyl-4-phenyl-2, 3-dihydropyridinium (MPDP+) by enzyme MAO-B and then further into 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridium (MPP+) which is a toxic compound. MPP+ gets transported to dopamine neurons via DAT and exerts its toxic effect to dopaminergic neurons. MPP+ also inhibits mitochondrial transport chain component complex due to its accumulation in mitochondria (Przedborski & Vila, 2003).The inhibition of this complex leads to reduction of cellular

ATP which is the source of energy for the cells. Loss of cellular energy through various pathways lead to formation of superoxide radicals which likely causes the dopaminergic neuronal damage(Smeyne & Jackson-Lewis, 2005).

Another such factor is exposure to pesticides. Epidemiological studies have suggested that pesticides such as rotenone is a highly potent, lipophilic and high affinity specific inhibitor of complex 1. A continuous infusion of these toxic agents induced dopaminergic neuronal cell death and Lewy bodies in rodents which are similar to the P.D patients(Betarbet et al., 2000).

1.2 Genetic factors and PD

Numerous studies have focused on genetic factors associated with the P.D. Several genes have been identified that causes monogenic familial forms of P.D. The genetics of P.D are quite unpredictable with contribution of both Mendelian e.g. SNCA, LRRK2, PINK1 and non-mendelian factors e.g. single nucleotide polymorphisms. SNCA was the first identified gene in a familial form of PD that is located in the chromosome 4. Further, six point mutations were identified and described A53T, E46P, A30P, H50Q, G51D and A53E. These mutations intensify the natural tendency of alpha-synuclein to form fibrils which are toxic species. Parkin and PTEN-induced putative kinase 1 PINK1 is another such mutated gene in early autosomal recessive PD. DJ1 i.e. Daisuke-Junko-1 when gets mutated leads to alteration in mitochondria shape and increase in ROS level. Vacuolar protein sorting 35 (VPS35) accounts for nearly 1% of familial PD. The major mutation among this is D620N (Delamarre & Meissner, 2017). Leucine rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) is the gene that has 51 exons encoding LRRK2 or dardarin, a 2527 amino acid protein. Around 40 variants have been recognized in the gene and 16 among these are identified as pathogenic. Missense mutations among these genes have found to be the reason behind Mendelian PD so far. Studies among populations showed that LRRK2 mutations have been carried by 5-15% of autosomal dominant PD families. G2019S mutations is the most common mutation responsible for 7% familial

PD and also in 1-2% sporadic PD. Another mutation identified in LRRK2 is G2385R(Sassi, 2011).

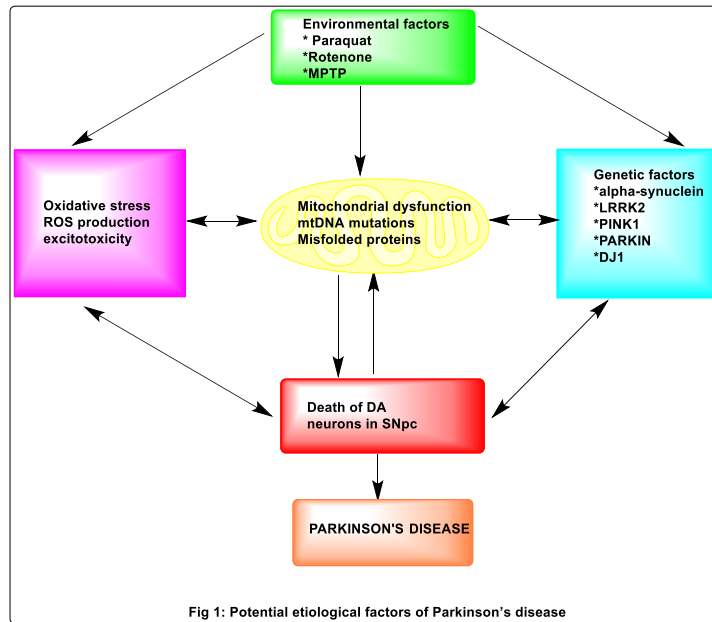


Fig: 1.1.0 Potential etiological factors of PD(Thal, 2015)

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Pathogenesis

2.1.1 Oxidative stress

Intracellular ROS is mainly generated by the mitochondrial electron transport chain and thus it became an important target for deleterious effects of ROS. Any damage to the mitochondrial respiratory chain effect the cell's ability to work as cellular metabolism depends upon the ATP supplied continuously through the mitochondrial respiratory chain. Mitochondria has its defense system that protects the cells by neutralizing the ROS and repairing the damage caused by ROS. ROS along with some proapoptotic proteins released from inter membrane space of mitochondria could prompt the activation of various cell death pathways (Gogvadze, Orrenius, & Zhivotovsky, 2006). There is increased generation of ROS due to redox cycling of catechol which causes oxidative stress in nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons which are affected in PD(Dauer & Przedborski, 2003). Glutathione level is decreased in SNpc (substantia nigra pars compacta) of pre symptomatic PD that shows that oxidative stress takes place before the neuronal loss (Dexter et al., 1994). Mitochondrial complex I dysfunction due to reduction in the glutathione level SNpc depicts an interplay between mitochondrial functional impairment and oxidative stress(Chinta & Andersen, 2006). Redox environment can also be induced by DA in some specific regions of brain 6-hydroxydopamine, a derivative of DA (Dopamine agonist) is used experimentally to injure dopaminergic neurons. (Dauer & Przedborski, 2003). Selective susceptibility of dopaminergic neurons in SNpc can be due to the ability of DA to undertake oxidative stress itself. As DA is very reactive, it can be certainly oxidized and react further with the cellular components to form highly toxic ROS species(Jenner, 2007). Furthermore, nitrosative stress have also been found in postmortem brain tissues of PD patients(Tsang & Chung, 2009). Although oxidative stress have been found as major mechanism in PD but till now no such antioxidant therapy has been found and proven to cure PD clinically.

Studies have found that antioxidant therapy in combination can be an effective treatment for PD(Singh & Dikshit, 2007).

2.1.2 Protein aggregation

Protein aggregation and misfolding have been found to be a significant mechanism in PD. Each proteins involved in this disorder is linked to a characteristic aggregate of misfolded protein which appear to have toxic properties(Yacoubian & Standaert, 2009).The pathological hallmark of PD involves aggregation of some proteins such as alpha-synuclein as Lewy bodies. Specific genes like leucine rich repeat kinase (LRRK2), PTEN-induced putative kinase 1 (PINK1), DJ-1, Parkin (PRKN), P-type ATPase gene-ATP13A2 are found to be mutated(Thomas & Beal, 2007).A recent study suggested that pathogenic misfolding of alpha-synuclein followed by its aggregation and accumulation are fundamental to the disease process(Jones et al., 2015).Parkin is a ubiquitin E3 ligase protein whose function is to protect the neurons against the mutated alpha-synuclein(Petrucci et al., 2002).Any mutations in PINK1 gene prompt neuronal death, mitochondrial dysfunction and different cellular functions(Kim et al., 2016). Mutations in DJ-1,PINK,parkin are associated with recessive parkinsonism(Thomas & Beal, 2007).LRRK2 associated PD is not clearly understood but it has been found that mutation in LRRK2 causes deposition of aggregated protein and degeneration of neurons. Protein accumulation is regulated by the two intracellular protein clearance pathways (ubiquitin-proteasome system /UPS) and autophagy. Some studies have reported that accumulation of proteins is due to overexpression of LRRK2 and its interaction with UPS(Lichtenberg, Mansilla, Zecchini, Fleming, & Rubinsztein, 2011)

2.1.3 Mitochondrial dysfunction

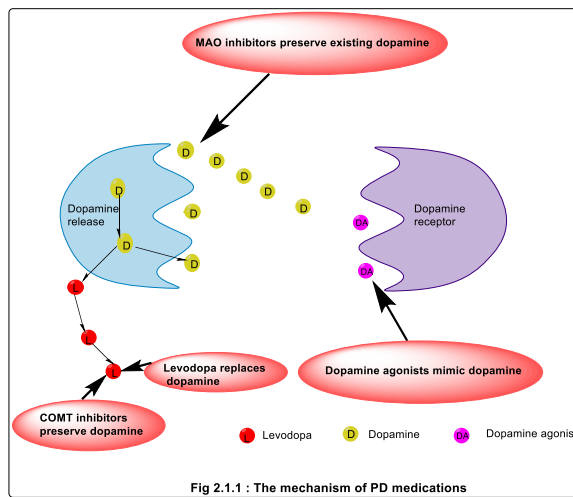
Mitochondria are extremely dynamic organelles which accomplish a many functions such as energy metabolism, various cellular process like regulation of calcium homeostasis, stress response and cell death pathways(Winklhofer & Haass, 2010).Energy loss is one of the hallmark of neurodegenerative disorders. Mitochondria also called as power house of cell is responsible for generation of ATP

which is essential for cell's chemical energy. Mitochondrial dysfunction leads to reduced level of ATP thus resulting in impaired cell functioning that leads to ROS generation. Any dysfunction of mitochondria effects neuronal normal functioning also as neurons are very active and are reliant on aerobic metabolism for energy. Mitochondria are also important for regulation of apoptosis(Norberg, Orrenius, & Zhivotovsky, 2010). Reduction in mitochondrial complex 1 activity in SNpc of a PD patient has been reported(Mann et al., 1994).Various environment factors like pesticides exposure, urban wastes, environmental toxins are involved in pathogenesis of PD.MPTP, a meperidine analogue is converted to MPP⁺ by MAO-B in glial cells where it further get transported via DAT and damage dopaminergic neurons (Dauer & Przedborski, 2003).Also high levels of mtDNA deletions were found in nigral neurons of a PD patients that leads to mitochondrial dysfunction(Kraytsberg et al., 2006). PINK1 and parkin, two autosomal recessive PD gene products, have significant roles in mitophagy, a cellular process to clear injured mitochondria. PINK1 triggers parkin to ubiquitinate external mitochondrial membrane proteins to prompt a selective degradation of injured mitochondria by autophagy(Hu & Wang, 2016).A study suggested that dopamine and related catechol amines can intermingle with α -synuclein and stabilize the protofibril phase of aggregation signifying the augmented vulnerability of dopaminergic neurons to destruction(Conway, Rochet, Bieganski, & Lansbury, 2001).Furthermore ,there were report on high level of iron and α -synuclein SNpc of a PD patient which lead to disease development(Zecca, Youdim, Riederer, Connor, & Crichton, 2004).Iron along with α -synuclein leads to increased generation of ROS that causes more toxic effects(Turnbull et al., 2001).Any mutation occurred in α -synuclein causes mitochondrial faults as well as proneness to oxidative stress(Martin et al., 2006).Two mitochondrial respiratory chain function enhancers coenzyme Q10 and creatine are undertaking clinical phase trials for the treatment of PD as these approaches can enhance mitochondrial function(Kones, 2010).

2.1.4 Calcium homeostasis

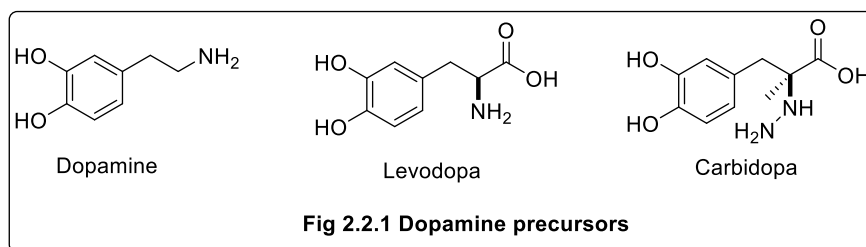
There are diverse channels and pumps that are located on the plasma membrane to pump the calcium outside and inside the cell. Cell physiology functions are maintained by these channels and pumps and any abnormality in this regulation lead to altered calcium homeostasis which promotes commencement of death signaling pathways. Calcium channel blocker could avoid aggregation of alpha-synuclein which might be calcium dependent such as trimethadione. Cells have widespread physiological functions so they need to tightly regulate Ca^{2+} homeostasis to elude extreme conditions leading to cell death. Reports suggested that neurotoxic effects of calcium have been extensively involved in brain diseases. Some other studies showed the significant role of calcium homeostasis in pathogenesis of PD (Goswami, Joshi, & Singh, 2017). Some authors have shown that Ca^{2+} dysregulation and oxidative stress supportively stimulate α -synuclein aggregation (Rcom-H'cheo-Gauthier, Goodwin, & Pountney, 2014). Unnecessary calcium leads to cell death by various pathways such as oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, dysregulated calcium signaling and ER stress (Marambaud, Dreses-Werringloer, & Vingtdoux, 2009). Toxic metabolites of dopamine, endoplasmic reticulum stress and apoptosis are found to be some other mechanism that are involved in PD pathogenesis (Goswami et al., 2017).

2.2 Current approaches in the treatment of Parkinson's disease



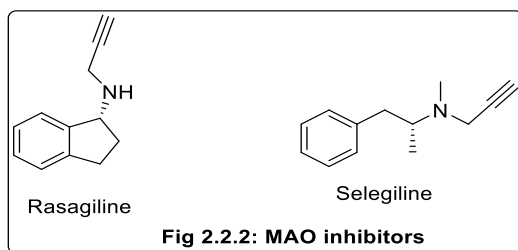
2.2.1 Dopamine precursor

Striatal dopamine insufficiency in Parkinson's disease (PD), first described in 1960, was a crucial event that led to the era of levodopa therapy. Since then it is an integral component of combination therapies. Levodopa (L-DOPA) that gets biosynthetically converted to dopamine by aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) is commonly given to enhance dopamine level in PD patients (Tolosa, Martí, Valdeoriola, & Molinuevo, 1998). Levodopa is likely to lose its efficacy over time with greater than 80% of patients on therapy for longer than 10 years suffering dyskinesia and 'on-off' episodes. Carbidopa is frequently given in combination to decrease systemic metabolism of L-DOPA that helps to use low doses of L-DOPA while preserving efficacy and decreasing side effects like nausea (Ellis & Fell, 2017).



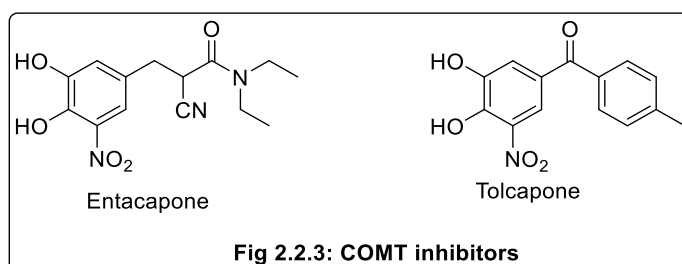
2.2.2 MAO inhibitors

The monoamine oxidase (MAO) enzyme consists of two isoforms, MAO-A and MAO-B which are present in utmost human tissues comprising brain, liver and heart. These enzymes have vital roles in the metabolism of neurotransmitter amines and thus these are an important drug target for disease conditions that occur due to deficiency of these particular neurotransmitters. While reduction in central serotonin which is a substrate of MAO-A is linked with depression, Parkinson's disease is associated with decrease in level of central dopamine, thus MAO-B inhibitors proved to be useful to inhibit dopamine metabolism, a strategy frequently combined with L-DOPA which is metabolic precursor of dopamine (Chirkova et al., 2016). Some approved MAO-B inhibitors include selegiline and rasagiline which are both irreversible inhibitors (Ellis & Fell, 2017).



2.2.3 COMT inhibitors

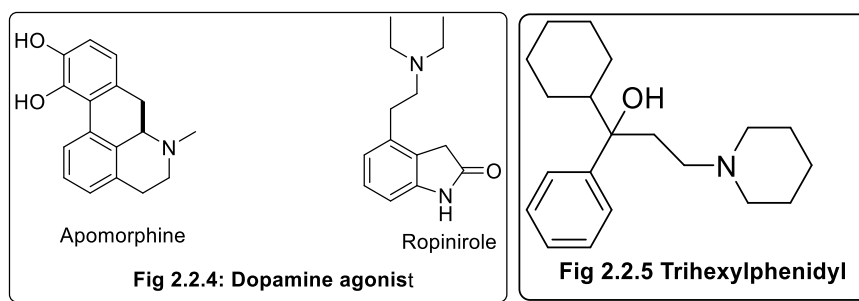
COMT is a broadly distributed enzyme in the brain, liver, kidney, gastrointestinal tract and erythrocytes. It is found in glial cells of brain but not in nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons. Its function is not precise to dopamine system and also it not involved in peripheral metabolism of othercatecholamines(Encarnacion & Hauser, 2010). It catalyzes a corresponding pathway converting dopamine into 3-methoxytyramine which further get oxidized by MAO-B to produce homovanillic acid. Inhibition of COMT leads to an increase in dopamine level in brain that causes less motor symptoms and thus these have been used for PD management over the previous two decades in combination therapy. Entacapone and tolcapone are two popular approved COMT inhibitors used(Ellis & Fell, 2017).



2.2.4 Dopamine agonists

Dopamine receptors belong to two classes of GPCR i.e. G-protein coupled receptors, D1 and D2 classes. The organization of DA receptors was mainly based on their effects on adenylyl cyclase (AC) activity and cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) accumulation in the cells. The D1 receptor subtypes stimulate while the D2 subtypes inhibit AC activity and cAMP production. Studies showed that D1 and D2 constitutes two different classes of receptors also molecular

cloning confirmed this. Receptor subtypes have been allocated to the D1 receptor class (D1A/D1 and D1B/D5) of mammals despite the fact that other types (D1C and D1D) exist in non-mammalian vertebrates and similarly three types (D2, D3 and D4) of the D2 class have been isolated. The D1 and D2 receptors constitute the foremost DA receptor subtypes and they are differentially expressed in several areas of the human brain(Radad, Gille, & Rausch, 2005). Dopamine agonists are the agents that act on dopamine receptors to intensify the effects of dopamine. Some approved potent agonists are Apo morphine, bromocriptine, ropinorole, pramipexole and rotigotine. Each of these drugs are potent agonist of D2- like receptors with a number of having some balance of D1-like agonism(Ellis & Fell, 2017).



2.2.5 Anticholinergics

Anticholinergics modify the activity of acetylcholine that is involved in regulation of movement, instead of acting directly on the dopaminergic system. This has beneficial impacts on tremor and dystonia in PD patients. Two approved drugs that decrease the activity of acetylcholine are benztropine and trihexyphenidyl (Fig 2.2.5)(Ellis & Fell, 2017). Some other approved therapies include Amantadine, which is a NMDA glutamate receptor antagonist which is recommended for mitigation of dyskinesia in PD but its efficacy was questioned(Crosby, Deane, & Clarke, 2003).

2.3 MAO inhibitor as a target in Parkinson's Disease

Monoamine oxidase (MAO, EC 1.4.3.4) is a Flavin adenine dinucleotide dependent enzyme. It is mainly responsible for the deamination of monoamine neurotransmitters xenobiotics and endogenous amines in the Central and peripheral

nervous systems(Legoabe, Petzer, & Petzer, 2012).The MAO enzyme exist in two isoforms i.e. MAO-A and MAO-B where in MAO-A isoform is mainly present in liver, gut, skin and placenta whereas MAO-B is the key isoform in the brain. Human MAO-A and MAO-B isoforms comprises of amino acid sequences that are 70% identical, though, they differ in tissue distribution, inhibitor selectivity and substrate specificity. MAO-A has substrate specificity for the massive endogenous amines like serotonin, epinephrine and norepinephrine however MAO-B has substrate specificity for the small exogenous amines such as benzylamine, β -phenyl ethylamine(Juárez-Jiménez et al., 2014). Dopamine and tyramine are mutual substrates for both the isoforms.

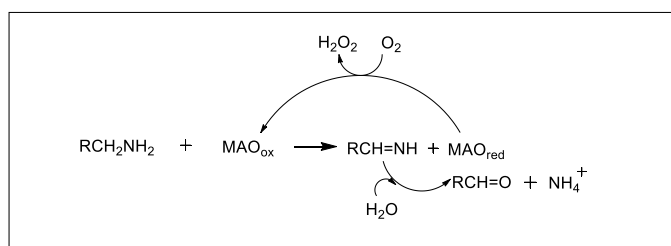


Fig 2.3.1 General mechanism of catalytic action of MAO enzyme.

MAO-B is the major isoform in the brain and with the aging its expression in the glial cell can rise up to four-fold. Parkinson's disease (PD) is linked with the affected basal ganglion are where MAO-B isoform appears to be expressively responsible for the metabolism of dopamine(Cerqueira, Netz, Diniz, do Canto, & Follmer, 2011). Thus, inhibitors of MAO-B isoform have been used in the management and treatment of PD.X-Ray co-crystal structure of two isoforms of MAO enzyme that areMAO-A and MAO-B are shown in Figure: Fig 2.3.2

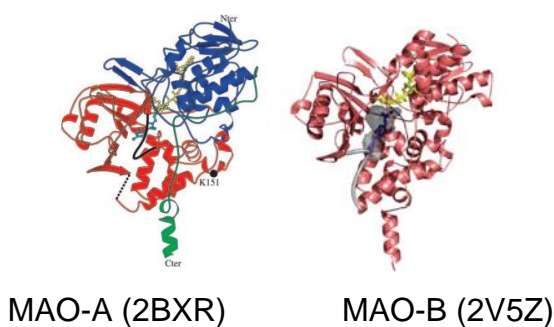


Fig 2.3.2: Crystal structures of both MAO-A and MAO-B

The MAO enzyme is bounded covalently to co-factor FAD at cysteine residue by an 8-alpha (s-cysteinyl) riboflavin linkage with highly well-maintained structure (Santana et al., 2006). The X-ray crystal structure studies showed that the human MAO-A exists as monomeric unit while MAO-B exist as dimeric unit (Sachs & Engelman, 2006). The MAO-A and MAO-B both isoforms have cavities with volumes of 400 Å and ~700 Å respectively. Further, MAO-B cavity is divided into two parts i.e. entrance cavity of volume 290 Å and substrate cavity of volume ~400 Å (Zaib et al., 2015). The two cavities of MAO-B isoform are separated by Ile199 and Tyr326 side chains. There is difference in the structure of active site of human MAO-A and MAO-B isoforms which is due to the alteration in 7 out of 20 amino acid residues that line the active site of the enzyme and a change in the cavity shaping loop 210-216 (Kumar, Prakash Gupta, & Kumar, 2017). Cavities of both the isoforms are hydrophobic in nature but MAO-B isoform comprises of a small highly preserved hydrophilic area in the entrance cavity (Kumar et al., 2017)

2.3.1 MAO-B inhibition and its role in neuroprotection

The MAO enzyme plays its major role in oxidative deamination of a extensive range of biogenic and xenobiotic amines, as well as DA, noradrenaline, adrenaline, tyramine, serotonin, β-phenyl ethyl-amine, N-methylhistamine, benzylamine, also methoxy metabolites of the parent amines, such as metanephrine and normetanephrine. MAO inhibitors were initially clinically used in the treatment of depressive disease. (Deshwal, Di Sante, Di Lisa, & Kaludercic, 2017). MAO-B inhibitor's role in neuroprotection has been postulated to be multidimensional based on in vitro studies, and may comprise of inhibition of ROS production, increase of neurotrophic factors in neurons and glia, or up regulation of anti-apoptotic factors. (Pienaar, Dexter, & Burkhard, 2010) Another possibility is that activity of MAO-B rises certainly with age due to which there is increased oxidative stress which is a possible cause of neuronal dysfunctioning. (Herrera, Muñoz, Steinbusch, & Segura-Aguilar, 2017). By inhibiting hyperactive MAO-B enzyme and reducing its concentration may help in the neuroprotection and is able to lessen the Parkinson's affects. (Liu et al., 2017)

2.4 Recent advances in the treatment of Parkinson's Disease

Some recent identified promising MAO inhibitors are as follows:

In a recent study Wang et al synthesized a series of 31 compounds (Fig 2.4.1) and showed that most of the representative benzyloxy substituted derivatives possessed selective and potent MAO-B inhibitory activities as well as neuroprotective properties in a 6-OHDA and rotenone treated PC12 cells. Furthermore, the selected compounds showed no major cytotoxicity instead when they were evaluated for ADMET in silico properties they showed good oral absorption and BBB permeability. The compound 2.4.1b (Fig 2.4.1) showed most promising results with low toxicity. Based on these results they proved that compound 13 with IC_{50} 12.34 ± 1.62 in Nano molar and other benzyloxy substituted MAO-B inhibitors could be a promising drug candidate for the treatment of PD (Wang et al., 2016)

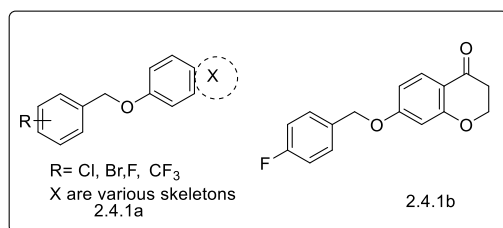
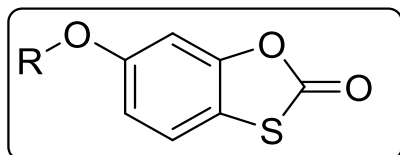


Fig: 2.4.1

Further, a recent study reported a series of 2H-1, 3-benzoxathiol-2-one analogues as potent MAO-B inhibitors with IC_{50} values ranging from 0.003 to 0.051 μ M. Dialysis studies showed that two of this series analogues showed relatively potent MAO-A inhibition activity. Also it was observed that a selected analogue is a reversible MAO-A inhibitor. Compounds (Fig: 2.4.2) with dual MAO-A/B inhibition properties can be predominantly appropriate where depression is a comorbidity of PD (Mostert, Petzer, & Petzer, 2016).



R		IC ₅₀ (μM)	
		MAO-A	MAO-B
1.	3-Cl ₆ CH ₄ CH ₂	0.424 ± 0.0092	0.004 ±0.0003
2.	4-Cl ₆ CH ₄ CH ₂	0.189 ± 0.012	0.003 ± 0.0001

Fig: 2.4.2

Van der's group reported and showed that for the first time a series of benzyloxynitrostyrene class of compounds that act as inhibitors of MAO-B and have good potencies when compared with reversible inhibitors as safinamide and the irreversible inhibitors selegiline and rasagiline. A series of novel 3-benzyloxy-β-nitrostyrenes were synthesized and were found to be highly potent MAO-B inhibitors with IC₅₀ values in low nanomolar range 39-565nM. Among these compounds an IC₅₀ = 0.039μM, the 4''-F substituted 3-benzyloxy-β-nitro styrene was identified as the most potent inhibitor (Fig: 2.4.3). These compounds exhibit similar binding modes to human MAO-B as safinamide due to their structural similarity with it. Further it was examined that substitution with bulky groups like Br, CF₃, and CH₃ led to lower MAO-B inhibition. Thus, they concluded this class can be a promising leads for development of reversible and selective MAO-B inhibitors for treatment of PD (Van der Walt, Terre'Blanche, Petzer, & Petzer, 2017).

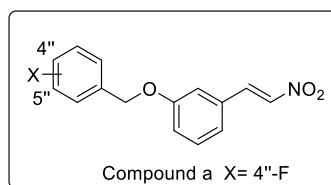
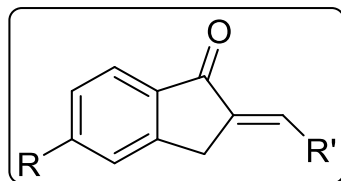


Fig: 2.4.3

Also, a study reported that chalcones which are well known for its MAO inhibition activity when incorporated with hetero aromatic substituents inhibit MAOs forming number of compounds that showed potent and specific MAO-B inhibition. The study investigated the MAO inhibitory properties of 2-heteroarylidene-1-indanone

derivatives and found that these were specific MAO-B inhibitors with two of the compounds showing potent activities. Further, these derivatives displayed reversible inhibition of MAOs (Fig: 2.4.4) Although the reversibility of the MAO inhibition was not tested but it was likely that 2-heteroarylidene-1-indanones are reversible MAO inhibitors since the related 2-benzylidene-1-indanones were already found to act reversibly(Nel, Petzer, Petzer, & Legoabe, 2016).



COMPOUND	R	R'	IC ₅₀ (μM)	
			MAO-A	MAO-B
1.	OCH ₃		4.73 ± 0.190	0.026 ± 0.005
2.	OCH ₃		0.183 ± 0.038	0.0044 ± 0.0006

Fig: 2.4.4

Costas-Lago group synthesized compounds of hybrid structure pyridazine-coumarin, which were found to be potent, selective and reversible inhibitors of MAO-B. The compounds were synthesized following a multistep approach which based on Knoevenagel reaction and using pyridazinone as key intermediate. Among all, two compounds both substituted with a bromine atom in the pyridazinyl fragment were found to be the most promising and active compounds of the series synthesized, with IC₅₀ values in the sub-micro molar range (Fig: 2.4.5a). Theoretical calculation of ADME properties of the compounds also proposed a good pharmacokinetic profile for both compounds(Costas-Lago et al., 2017).

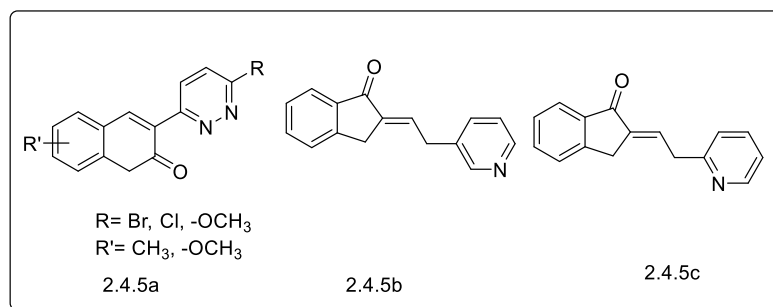
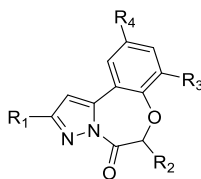


Fig: 2.4.5

Nel group synthesized a series of fifteen 2-heteroarylidene-1-indanone derivatives as monoamine oxidase (MAO) A and B inhibitors. Structurally these compounds are related to series of heterocyclic chalcone derivatives which have earlier been shown to act as MAO-B specific inhibitors. The 2-heteroarylidene-1-indanones are in vitro inhibitors of MAO-B, showing IC_{50} values of 0.0044–1.53 μM and mainly compounds 2.4.5b and 2.4.5c were reported as the MAO-A isoform inhibitors with IC_{50} values $0.061 \pm 0.006 \mu\text{M}$ and $0.853 \pm 0.051 \mu\text{M}$. (Nel et al., 2016)

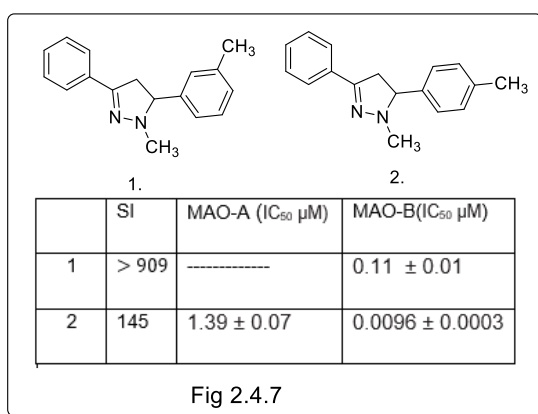
Chen et al synthesized a series of novel and selective hMAO-B inhibitors with novel scaffold of tricyclic pyrazolo [1, 5-d] [1, 4] benzoxazepin-5(6H)-one. Compound 2.4.6a ($IC_{50} = 221$ nM) exhibited the best inhibitory activity and isoform selectivity against hMAO-B which they found to be superior to selegiline ($IC_{50} = 321$ nM), which is a commercially used in PD (Fig: 2.4.6). Also, their data supported further studies to assess rational design of more efficiently selective h-MAO-B inhibitors (R. Chen et al., 2016).



Compound	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄	MAO-A (nM)	MAO-B (nM)
2.4.6a	4-F-Ph	CH ₃	H	H	Inactive	221 ± 28

Fig: 2.4.6

Fioravanti group synthesized a series of 1-methyl-3, 5-diphenyl-4, 5-dihydro-1H-pyrazoles and assessed their inhibitory efficacy towards the two hMAO isoforms i.e. A and B. Most of the derivatives were found to be potent and selective hMAO-B inhibitors. In particular, derivative A showed greater hMAO-B affinity than selective inhibitor selegiline coupled with high selectivity index (SI = 145) (Fig 2.4.7). The most selective hMAO-B inhibitor was the 3-methyl analogue B with an SI higher than 909.(Fioravanti et al., 2013)



2.4.2 Pyrimidines derivatives as MAO inhibitors

Pyrimidine is an important six membered heterocyclic structure, present in various bioactive compounds(Fumagalli, Lecca, Abbracchio, & Ceruti, 2017).This scaffold was found to be a remarkable synthon and a variety of novel heterocycles with excellent pharmaceutical profile can be designed from this.(Jain et al., 2016).Mathew et al. synthesized a series of novel (1H)-benzimidazole bearing pyrimidine-trione (Fig2.4.8, a) based MAO-A inhibitors and screened in vitro for antidepressant activity,(Mathew, Suresh, & Anbazhagan, 2016). Altomare et al. reported condensed pyrimidines (Fig. 2.4.8, b and c) derivatives for their MAO-B inhibitory activity and found potent MAO-B inhibitors with little or no affinity for MAO-A isoform(Altomare et al., 1998).The same research group also reported on the synthesis of new pyridazine-, pyrimidine- and 1,2,4-triazine-containing tricyclic derivatives (Fig. 2.4.8, d and e) as potential MAO-B inhibitors(Carotti et al.,

2007). Rasagiline [N-propargyl-1(R)-aminoindan], is a potent second generation irreversible MAO-B inhibitor and it has been found that the propargyl group present in the molecule plays a crucial role in the MAO-B inhibitory activity (J. J. Chen, Swope, & Dashtipour, 2007). In the structure-activity relationship studies, it has been established that the propargyl group promotes neuronal survival via neuroprotective/neurorescue pathways (Weinreb et al., 2009).

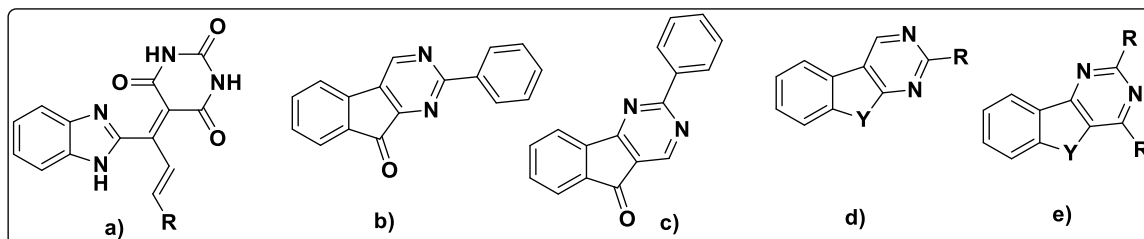


Fig. 2.4.8 Some earlier reported pyrimidine derivatives as MAO inhibitors

CHAPTER 3

RATIONALE

3. RATIONALE

MAO inhibitors can block the catalytic activities of the enzyme and terminate the catabolism process of monoamines. The concentration of the monoamine neurotransmitters such as dopamine, serotonin etc. which are stored in nerve terminals can be improved by inhibition of MAO enzyme. Thus MAO inhibitors can be developed as therapeutic agents in the disease state where MAO enzyme is overexpressed. MAO catalyzes the metabolism of monoamine neurotransmitters that generates hydrogen peroxide, toxic aldehydes and hydroxyl free radicals which causes neuronal damage and death. MAO inhibitors halt the production of these neurotoxic byproducts by halting monoamine oxidation process and thus stops the resulting damage to the neurons. So, MAO inhibitors are proposed as potential neuroprotecting agents.(Tripathi, Upadhyay, Paliwal, & Saraf, 2018). From study of the crystal structures of both MAO isoforms it has been established that pocket of MAO-A isoform interacts mainly with smaller and polar ligands while bulky and hydrophobic ligands show selectivity for MAO-B isoform. Recent literature studies showed that rasagiline is an effective drug that is in phase II clinical trial against MAO enzymes for the treatment of PD. The propargyl moiety of the drug binds with the receptor. Therefore, the aim of this project was to design and synthesize propargyl based compounds as potent MAO inhibitors acting against MAO enzyme. To achieve the goal of developing an effective drug candidate against PD we designed compounds by incorporating the propargyl moiety which serves as an essential group in MAO - inhibitors like selegiline and rasagiline, with the following considerations:

- a) Addition of a propargyl moiety for escalating potency.
- b) The aromatic ring for better interactions with the receptor improving affinity.
- c) A pyrimidine linker serving as connecting link between actophoric propargyl moiety and haptophoric aromatic ring.
- d) Substitutions of aromatic ring with various groups to generate the structure-activity relationship data of MAO inhibitors.

CHAPTER 4

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

4. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- Synthesis of pyrimidine bridged biphenyls to target MAO enzyme
- in silico studies of the synthesized molecules with MAO-A (2BXR) and MAO-B (2V5Z) enzymes.
- in vitro screening of synthesized compounds as MAO inhibitors.

CHAPTER 5

MATERIAL AND METHODS

5. MATERIALS AND METHODS

5.1 General: Synthesis

All the reagents and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Spectrochem Pvt. Ltd., Avra Synthesis (AR/GR quality) and were used without further purification. Sartorius analytical balance (BSA224S - CW) was used for the weighing purposes. JSGW heating mantle for reflux reactions and ILMVAC rotary evaporator, were used for evaporating the organic solvents. The progress of the reactions was monitored by TLC, using either petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as the mobile phase on pre-coated Merck TLC plates or glass TLC plates in JSGW UV/fluorescent analysis cabinet and/or iodine chamber. Melting points were recorded on Stuart melting point apparatus (SMP-30) with open glass capillary tube and were uncorrected. Compounds were purified using flash chromatography (Biotage) / column chromatography (Unless otherwise stated, chromatography was conducted using high-purity grade, pore size 60 – 120 mesh particle size, 35 - 75 μm particle size, Silica, to obtain the pure desired product). Mass (EI) spectra were recorded on Shimadzu at Central University of Punjab. NMR of compounds were recorded on 400 MHz and 100 MHz NMR spectrometer at SAIF, IIT Ropar (Punjab, India).

5.1.1 General procedure for synthesis of intermediates

To propargyl bromide (1.2 eq.) substituted acetophenone (2 g) was added in the presence of potassium carbonate as base (2.4 eq.) and potassium iodide as catalyst (0.5 eq.) and acetone (30 ml) as solvent. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 60° C. The progress of reaction was monitored via TLC. After completion of reaction excess of solvent was evaporated from mixture, concentrated under vacuum using rotary evaporator, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 3), and washed with $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ in water, brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and obtained organic layer was then concentrated under vacuum using rotary evaporator. General reaction procedures for the synthesis of alkylated intermediates have been described in Figure: 5.1.1

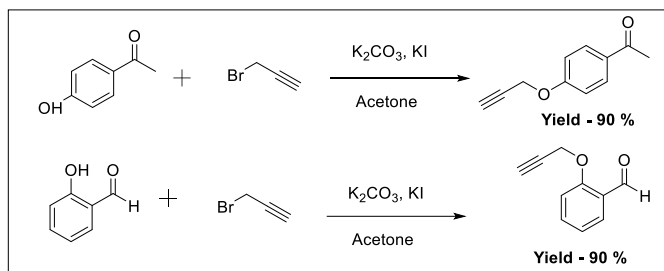


Fig 5.1.1 Synthesis of alkylated intermediates.

5.1.2 General procedure for the synthesis of chalcones

To substituted aldehyde (1 g) substituted ketone was added (1 g), along with the addition of sodium hydroxide (20 %) as base and methanol (10 mL) as solvent. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. The completion of reaction was monitored via TLC. After completion of reaction excess of solvent was evaporated from mixture, concentrated under vacuum using rotary evaporator. The chilled water was poured in reaction mixture and precipitates obtained were filtered and dried. The synthesized chalcones have been enlisted in Figure 5.1.2

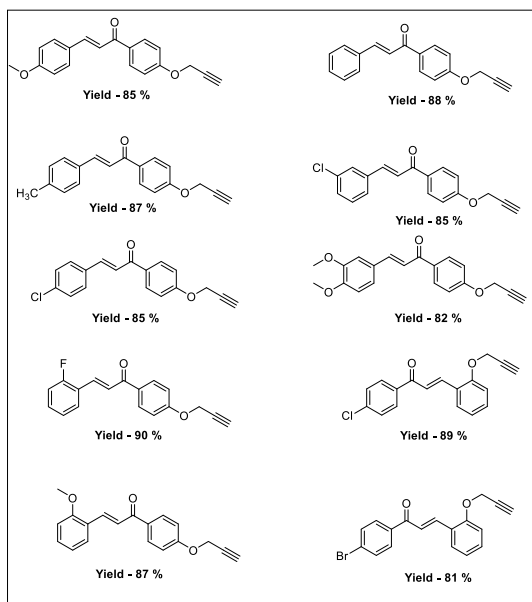


Fig 5.1.2: List of chalcones synthesized by Claisen-Schmidt condensation.

5.1.3 General procedure for the synthesis of proposed compounds

To chalcone (500 mg), benzamidine (1.2 eq.) was added along with the addition of anhydrous sodium carbonate (2.4 eq.) as base and acetonitrile (5 mL) as solvent. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h at 85° C (Figure 5.1.3). The progress of reaction was monitored via TLC. After completion of reaction excess of solvent was evaporated from mixture, concentrated under vacuum using rotary evaporator, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 3), washed with water, brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, obtained organic layer was then concentrated under vacuum using rotary evaporator and purified via column chromatography (EtOAc: Pet ether). The final compounds were further characterized by m.p., mass spectrometry and NMR spectroscopy.

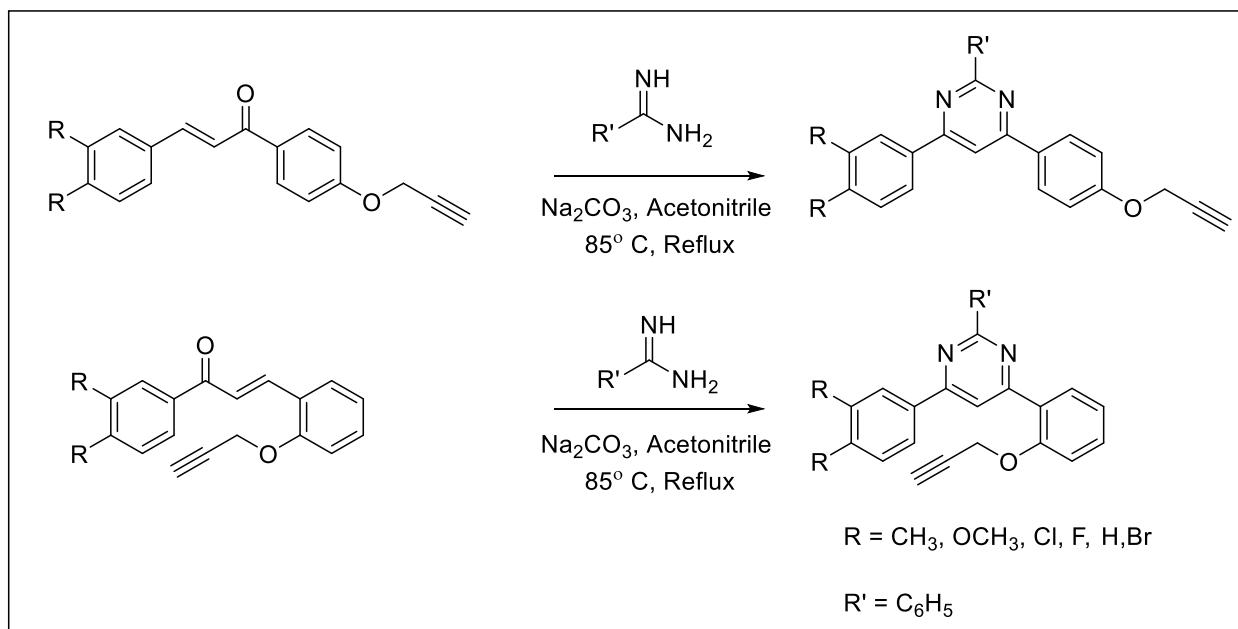
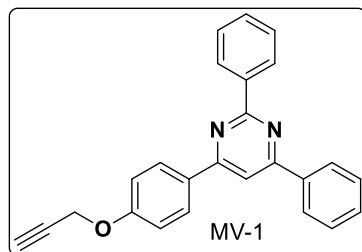


Fig 5.1.3: Synthesis of proposed compounds.

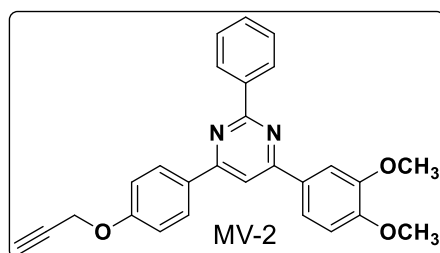
5.1.3.1) 2, 4-Diphenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV-1)



Yield: 70%, Yellow solid, m.p. 118-120 °C;

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.73 - 8.71 (2H, m), 8.29 - 8.27 (4H, m), 7.94 (1H, s), 7.56 - 7.52 (6H, m), 7.15 - 7.13 (2H, m), 4.78 (2H, s), 2.58 (1H, s) 2.42 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.57, 164.41, 164.09, 159.80, 138.30, 137.69, 130.70, 130.58, 128.80, 128.47, 128.44, 127.27, 115.21, 109.53, 78.20, 75.94, 55.93; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 363.1497; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 363.1476

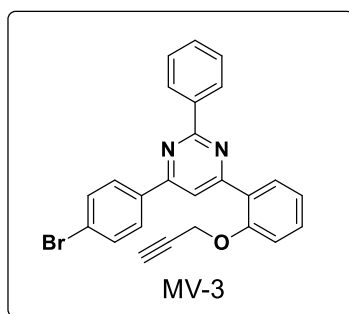
5.1.3.2) 4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 2)



Yield: 74%, Yellow solid, m.p. 140-142 °C;

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.70 - 8.68 (2H, m), 8.28 - 8.26 (2H, m), 7.92 (1H, d, $J = 4$ Hz), 7.87 (1H, s), 7.79 (1H, dd, $J = 8$ Hz: $J = 4$ Hz), 7.54 - 7.51 (3H, m) 7.15 - 7.13 (2H, m), 7.00 (1H, d, $J = 4$ Hz), 4.78 (2H, s), 4.06 (3H, s), 3.97 (3H, s) 2.57 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.26, 164.11, 163.86, 159.75, 151.48, 149.39, 138.39, 131.01, 130.63, 130.44, 128.84, 128.53, 120.36, 115.21, 111.05, 110.10, 108.91, 78.26, 76.05, 56.18, 56.13, 55.96; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 423.1709; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 423.1696

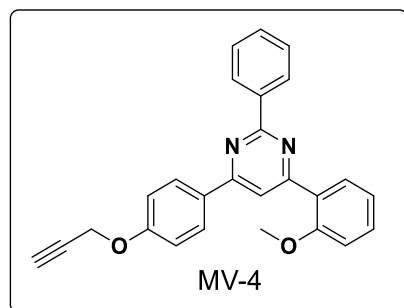
5.1.3.3). 4-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 3)



Yield: 69%, Yellow solid, m.p. 131-133 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.67 - 8.65 (2H, m), 8.33 (1H, s), 8.27 (1H, dd, $J = 8$ Hz; $J = 4$ Hz), 8.17 - 8.15 (2H, m), 7.67 - 7.65 (2H, m), 7.52 - 7.48 (4H, m), 7.24 - 7.19 (1H, m), 7.13 (1H, d, $J = 8$ Hz), 4.81 (2H, s), 2.57 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ : 164.41, 163.28, 162.69, 156.29, 138.28, 136.84, 132.08, 131.61, 130.61, 129.01, 128.50, 128.43, 127.59, 125.22, 122.38, 115.23, 113.40, 78.38, 76.05, 56.80; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 441.0603; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 441.0590

5.1.3.4) 4-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 4)

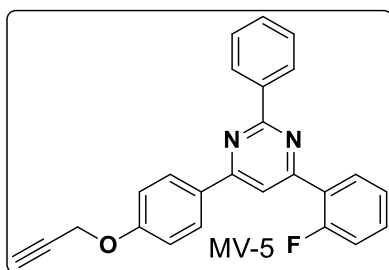


Yield: 64%, Cream solid, m.p. 96-98 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.68 - 8.66 (2H, m), 8.31 - 8.21 (4H, m), 7.51 - 7.46 (4H, m), 7.15 - 7.11 (3H, m), 7.05 (1H, d, $J = 8$ Hz), 4.77 (2H, s), 3.94 (3H, s), 2.54 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ : 164.17, 163.27,

163.05, 159.61, 158.12, 138.55, 131.54, 131.32, 130.43, 128.92, 128.47, 124.40, 127.15, 121.27, 115.16, 114.76, 111.67, 78.84, 75.99, 55.95, 55.88; **HRMS**: for $C_{26}H_{20}N_2O_2$, calculated $[M+H]^+$: 393.1603; observed $[M+H]^+$: 393.1583

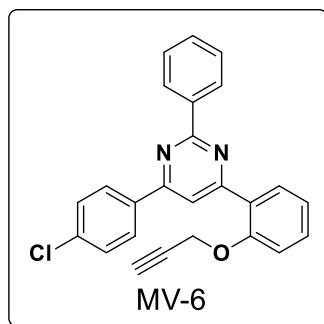
5.1.3.5. 4-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 5)



Yield: 62%, Yellow solid, m.p. 102-104 °C

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.69 - 8.66 (2H, m), 8.40 - 8.36 (1H, m), 8.27 - 8.25 (2H, m), 8.07 (1H, d, $J = 8$ Hz) 7.53 - 7.48 (4H, m), 7.36 - 7.32 (1H, m), 7.24 - 7.21 (1H, m), 7.14 - 7.11 (2H, m), 4.77 (2H, s), 2.56 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ : 164.42, 164.04, 162.85, 160.74, 160.34, 159.91, 138.25, 132.07, 131.17, 130.58, 128.97, 128.46, 124.76, 116.61, 116.38, 115.27, 113.81, 78.26, 75.99, 55.97; **HRMS**: for $C_{25}H_{17}FN_2O$, calculated $[M+H]^+$: 381.1403; observed $[M+H]^+$: 381.1391

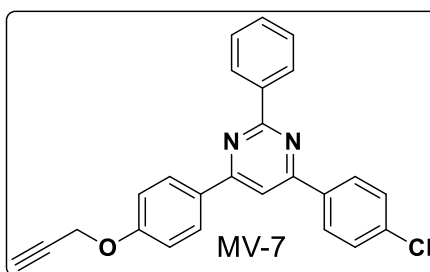
5.1.3.6)4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 6)



Yield: 74%, Cream solid, m.p. 124-126 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.67 - 8.65 (2H, m), 8.32 (1H, s), 8.28 - 8.19 (3H, m), 7.52 - 7.39 (6H, m), 7.24 - 7.20 (1H, m), 7.13 (1H, d, $J_{12} = 8$ Hz), 4.81 (2H, s), 2.57 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.35, 163.22, 162.59, 156.23, 138.25, 136.79, 136.33, 131.62, 130.65, 129.12, 128.77, 128.54, 127.42, 127.49, 122.37, 115.30, 113.30, 78.37, 76.10, 56.73; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1108; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1100

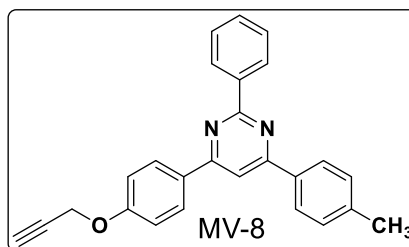
5.1.3.7) 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 7)



Yield: 72%, White solid, m.p. 136-138 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.68 - 8.65 (2H, m), 8.26 - 8.18 (4H, m), 7.87 (1H, s), 7.52 - 7.49 (5H, m), 7.13 - 7.11 (2H, m), 4.76 (2H, s), 2.56 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.49, 164.30, 163.34, 159.90, 138.10, 136.95, 136.09, 130.79, 129.19, 128.88, 128.60, 128.55, 115.24, 109.25, 78.19, 76.08, 55.95; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1108; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1095

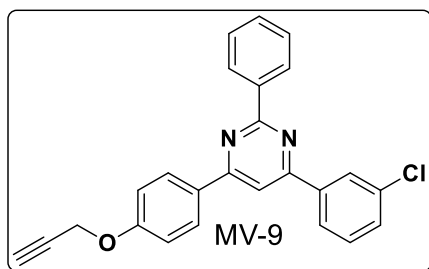
5.1.3.8) 2-Phenyl-4-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl)-6-(p-tolyl) pyrimidine (MV 8)



Yield: 64%, White solid, m.p. 130-132 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.71 - 8.69 (2H, m), 8.27 - 8.25 (2H, m), 8.18 - 8.16 (2H, m), 7.90 (1H, s), 7.53 - 7.50 (3H, m), 7.34 (2H, d, $J = 8$ Hz), 7.13 - 7.20 (2H, m) 4.76 (2H, s), 2.56 (1Hs); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.53, 164.35, 163.96, 159.75, 141.14, 138.40, 138.40, 134.87, 131.00, 130.60, 129.70, 128.84, 128.50, 127.23, 115.20, 109.24, 78.25, 76.03, 55.95; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 377.1654; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 377.1624

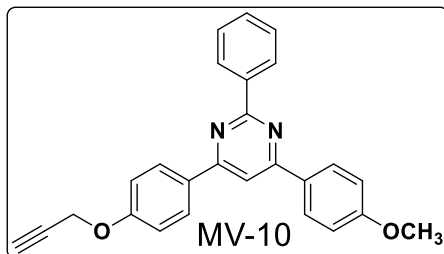
5.1.3.9) 4-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 9)



Yield: 78%, White solid, m.p. 116-118 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.69 - 8.66 (2H, m), 8.27 - 8.24 (3H, m), 8.12 - 8.09 (1H, m), 7.87 (1H, s), 7.53 - 7.46 (5H, m), 7.14 - 7.10 (2H, m), 4.77 (2H, s), 2.57 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ :164.53, 164.37, 163.14, 159.95, 139.47, 136.54, 136.12, 130.84, 130.72, 128.90, 128.57, 128.53, 127.45, 125.39, 115.25, 114.71, 109.54, 78.21, 76.09, 55.95; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1108; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 397.1100

5.1.3.10) 4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-6-(4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy) phenyl) pyrimidine (MV 10)



Yield: 82%, White solid, m.p. 119-121 °C

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, δ with TMS = 0): 8.70 - 8.68 (2H, m), 8.26 - 8.23 (4H, m), 7.85 (1H, s), 7.54 - 7.49 (3H, m), 7.13 - 7.10 (2H, m), 7.05 - 7.02 (2H, m), 4.76 (2H, s), 3.88 (3H, s), 2.56 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, δ with TMS = 0) δ : 164.06, 163.84, 161.92, 159.71, 138.44, 131.06, 130.56, 130.11, 128.82, 128.48, 115.18, 114.29, 108.71, 78.27, 76.03, 55.95, 55.53; **HRMS**: for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$, calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 393.1603; observed $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 393.1586

5.2 *In silico* studies of synthesized compounds

To study the potential interactions between protein structure of MAO-A (2BXR) and MAO-B (2V5Z) with synthesized compounds, molecular modeling studies were performed on Maestro 16 software. Clorgyline and Rasagiline were taken as standard inhibitors. All synthesized compounds were docked with respect to the standard molecules for studying their binding mode with protein. The binding scores of the synthesized compounds were then compared with standard molecules (Clorgyline and rasagiline). Docking study was done by applying following steps in Maestro 16 software:

- Protein preparation
- Ligand preparation
- Grid generation
- Glide docking

5.3 Biological activity

5.3.1 Bioassay

The Amplex Red monoamine oxidase assay is beneficial for measuring both end-point and continuous amine oxidase activity. Clorgyline and pargyline, specific inhibitors of MAO-A and MAO-B activity respectively were used as standard. The potential applications of this kit comprise the measurement of amine oxidase activity in normal and diseased tissues, blood samples and other biological fluids, the

screening of drugs as possible MAO inhibitors or substrates and the generation of kinetic constants for different amine oxidase substrates.

5.3.2 Method

Fluorimetric method was used to evaluate the activity of test compounds against MAO-A and MAO-B enzyme isoforms using Amplex® Red assay kit. (Chimenti et al., 2010)

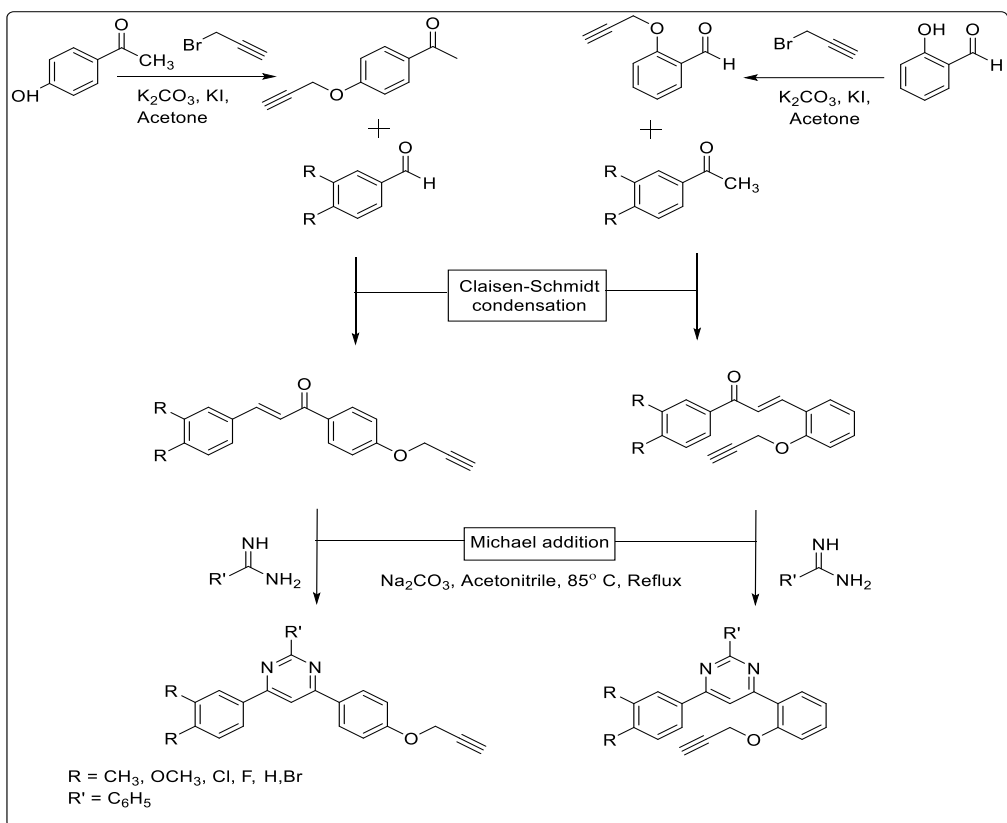
Briefly, 100 µL of sodium phosphate buffer (0.05 M, pH 7.4) containing the test drugs and reference inhibitors, in various concentrations along with adequate amounts of recombinant hMAO (hMAO-A: 1.1 µg protein; specific activity: 150 nmol of p-tyramine oxidized to p-hydroxyphenylacetaldehyde/min/mg protein; hMAO-B: 7.5 µg protein; specific activity: 22 nmol of p-tyramine transformed/min/mg protein) enzyme, were incubated for 15 min at 37 °C in a flat-black-bottom 96-well plate (Tarsons) in incubator. After this incubation period, the reaction was started by adding (final concentrations) 200 µM Amplex® Red reagent, 1 U/mL horseradish peroxidase and 1 mM p-tyramine. After 30 min incubation in dark, the production of H₂O₂ and was quantified at 37 °C in a multidetection microplate fluorescence reader (Synergy^{HI}, Bio-Tek® Instruments) based on the fluorescence generated at excitation wavelength 545 nm, and emission wavelength 590 nm. Control experiments were carried out simultaneously by replacing the test drugs with vehicle. No fluorescence could be observed in the absence of MAO enzyme thus eliminating the possibility of any false reading. The specific final fluorescence emission was calculated after subtraction of the background activity, determined from vials containing all components except the hMAO enzyme replaced by a sodium phosphate buffer solution.

CHAPTER 6
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

6.1.1 Synthesis

From exploration of crystal structures of both MAO isoforms it was recognized that pocket of MAO-A isoforms interacts mainly with smaller and polar ligands whereas bulkier and hydrophobic (lipophilic) ligands, display selectivity for MAO-B isoform. Recent literature studies indicated that rasagiline (targets MAO enzyme) is one of the effective drug approved by US FDA, for the treatment of PD. The propargyl moiety of the drug binds with the receptor. We followed scheme 6.1 to synthesize the compounds containing a propargyl moiety and proposed that propargyl based derivatives may target and inhibit MAO enzyme activity effectively and the resulting compounds would act as anti-PD agents.



Scheme 6.1: Proposed route for the synthesis of target compounds

6.1.2 Synthesis of intermediates

The synthesis of intermediates was carried out through S_N2 reaction mechanism. Mechanistically, S_N2 is a nucleophilic substitution reaction mechanism in which one bond is broken and one bond is formed synchronously. It is one step reaction. O-alkylated benzaldehyde and acetophenone intermediates were prepared by this reaction mechanism.

6.1.3 Synthesis of chalcones

The synthesis of chalcone derivatives was carried out through base-catalyzed Claisen-Schmidt condensation. Mechanistically, in base-catalyzed reaction, the base abstracts proton from the α -carbon which leads to the formation of enolate ion. In next step the attack of nucleophile (carbanion) on the carbonylic center of aldehyde occurs, followed by the dehydration of water or an alcohol molecule (Figure 6.1.1)

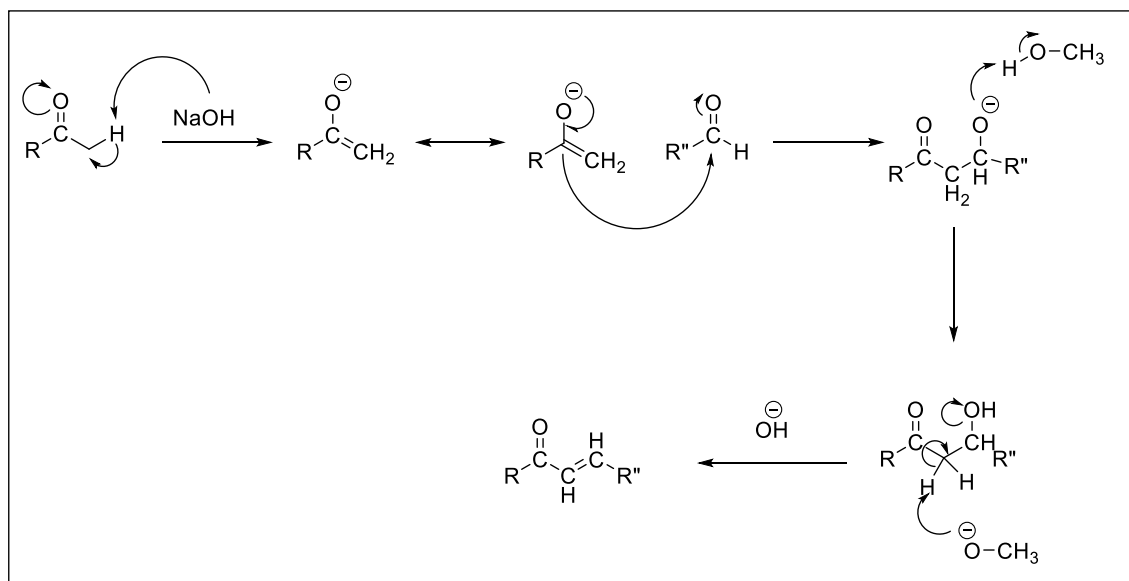


Fig: 6.1.1 General mechanism of Claisen-Schmidt condensation.

6.1.4 Synthesis of proposed molecules

The synthesis of proposed molecules was carried out through Michael addition reaction mechanism followed by ring cyclization for the formation of pyrimidine. Mechanistically, in Michael addition reaction,

protons are abstracted by suitable base for nucleophilic attack to perform 1,4-conjugation addition. The intermediates are unstable so, for attaining stability of molecule ring cyclization takes place in four steps as given in Figure 6.1.2.

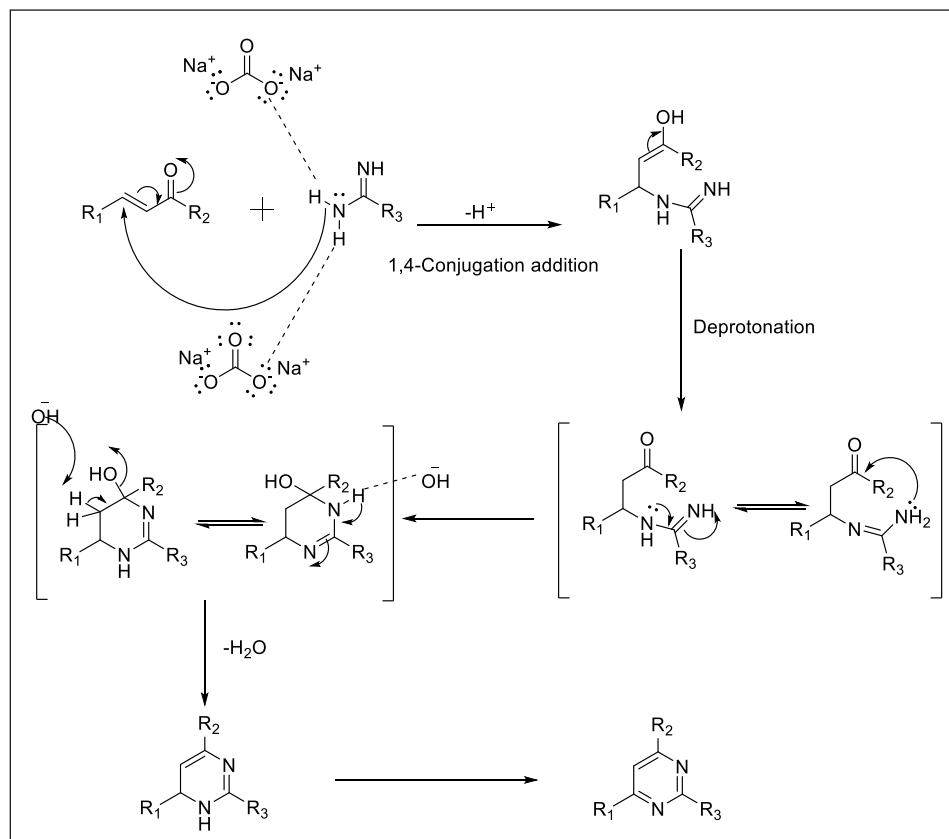


Fig:6.1.2 General mechanism of Michael addition followed by ring cyclization.

6.1.5 Proposed compounds

From the proposed scheme 6.1, ten propargyl pyrimidine derivatives were synthesized as shown in Figure 6.1.3.

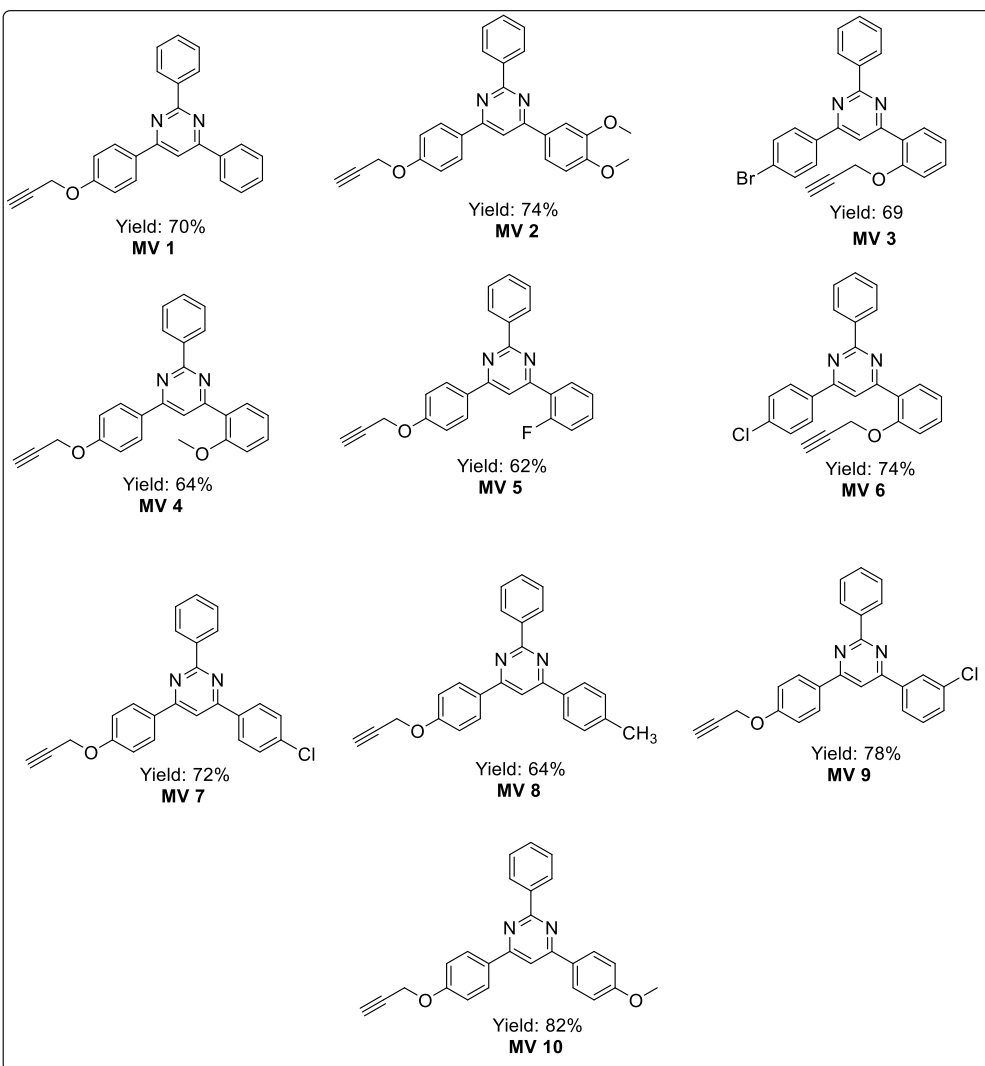


Fig 6.1.3: List of synthesized final compounds.

6.2 Docking results

The molecular docking studies of designed compounds were performed using Maestro 11.0. Clorgyline and rasagiline were taken as reference molecules for molecular docking studies of designed compounds on human MAO-A (2BXR) and MAO-B (2V5Z) proteins. The 2D interaction diagrams of clorgyline and rasagiline are shown below (Figure 6.2.1).

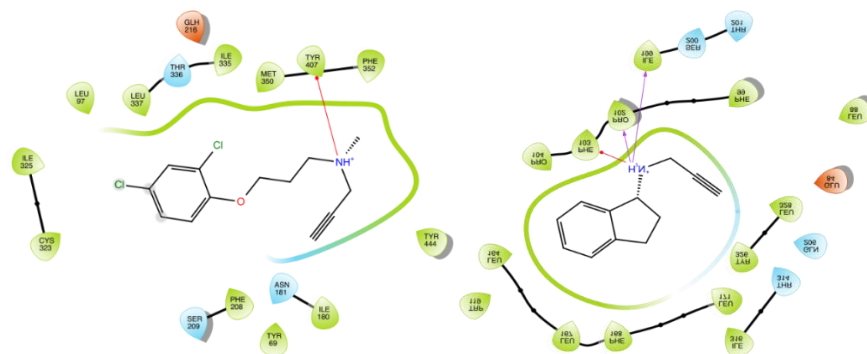
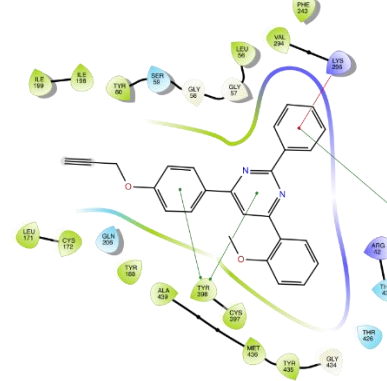
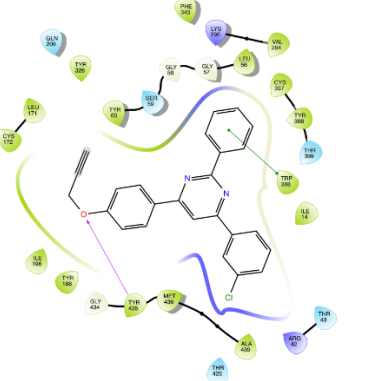


Fig 6.2.1: 2D interaction diagrams of clorgyline and rasagiline.

From 2D interaction diagrams it was found that standard inhibitor clorgyline binds to the target site and showed cation- π interactions with Tyr407. Rasagiline presented cation- π interactions with Phe103 and hydrogen bonding interactions with Pro102 and Ile199. Molecular docking studies of designed compounds demonstrated that the designed compounds have similar $\pi - \pi$ interactions, cation- π interactions and hydrogen bonding interactions with several protein bases as of standard compounds. Table 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 shows interaction pattern of synthesized compounds with their respective MAO enzymes.

4.	MV-4		-7.75
5.	MV-6		-5.66
6.	MV-5		

S. No.	Compound	Docking Pose	Dock Score
1.	MV-8		-10.86
2.	MV-3		-8.91
3.	MV-6		

6.	MV-4		-7.07
7.	MV-9		-6.5
8.	RASAGILINE		

synthesized compounds showed low micromolar inhibition activities for the MAO-B isoform and their IC₅₀ values against MAO-B isoform are given in the Table 6.3.1. From all the synthesized compound Compound MV-7, MV-6 and MV-4 shows very good inhibitory activity as compare to other synthesized derivative. From IC₅₀ values it is clear that molecule having electron withdrawing group at para position are more active towards MAO enzymes such as MV-7 and MV-6. From all the synthesized compounds, compounds having electron withdrawing group on R₂ positions shows very prominent MAO-B inhibitory activity such as MV-5, MV-6.

Table 6.3.1 Results of MAO inhibition studies of the synthesized compounds. All the compounds were evaluated against MAO-B isoforms

Entry name	R1	R2	Propargyl group position	IC ₅₀ (mean±SEM μM)
MV-1	-C ₆ H ₅	-H	C ₄	0.69± 0.16
MV-2	-C ₆ H ₅	3,4-DiOCH ₃	C ₄	0.60± 0.02
MV-3	-C ₆ H ₅	4-Br	C ₂	0.56± 0.06
MV-4	-C ₆ H ₅	2-OCH ₃	C ₄	0.55± 0.05
MV-5	-C ₆ H ₅	2-F	C ₄	0.87± 0.18
MV-6	-C ₆ H ₅	4-Cl	C ₂	0.48± 0.06
MV-7	-C ₆ H ₅	4-Cl	C ₄	0.44± 0.14
MV-8	-C ₆ H ₅	4-CH ₃	C ₄	0.66± 0.18
MV-9	-C ₆ H ₅	3-Cl	C ₄	0.56± 0.27
MV-10	-C ₆ H ₅	4-OCH ₃	C ₄	0.55± 0.08
11	Pargyline	-----	-----	0.15± 0.02

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

7. CONCLUSION

MAO-B inhibitors have been explored as therapeutic agents for the treatment or management of PD. A series of new propargyl containing 2,4,6-trisubstituted pyrimidine derivatives incorporating a propargyl moiety were synthesized, docked over MAO-A and MAO-B protein and screened for their MAO inhibition potential using Amplex® Red assay. From docking score, it is clear that all the compounds showed good binding affinity towards MAO-A as well as MAO-B, they properly fit in to the cavity of MAO enzymes. Inhibitory activities of synthesized compounds were assayed for MAO-B iso-form, and most of the compounds showed good inhibitory potential at sub-micro molar concentrations. The structure-activity relationship profile has been developed with number of electron releasing and electron withdrawing substituents attached to the pyrimidine nucleus. **MV7** was found to be the most potent MAO-B inhibitor with IC_{50} value of $0.44 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{M}$, while **MV6** with IC_{50} value of $0.48 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{M}$ and **MV4** with IC_{50} value of $0.55 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{M}$ have also showed comparable inhibitory activity. From molecular docking studies and biological activity, it was found that compounds such as **MV7** and **MV6** obtained in this series can act as promising leads for the development of pyrimidine based effective and potent MAO-B inhibitors for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

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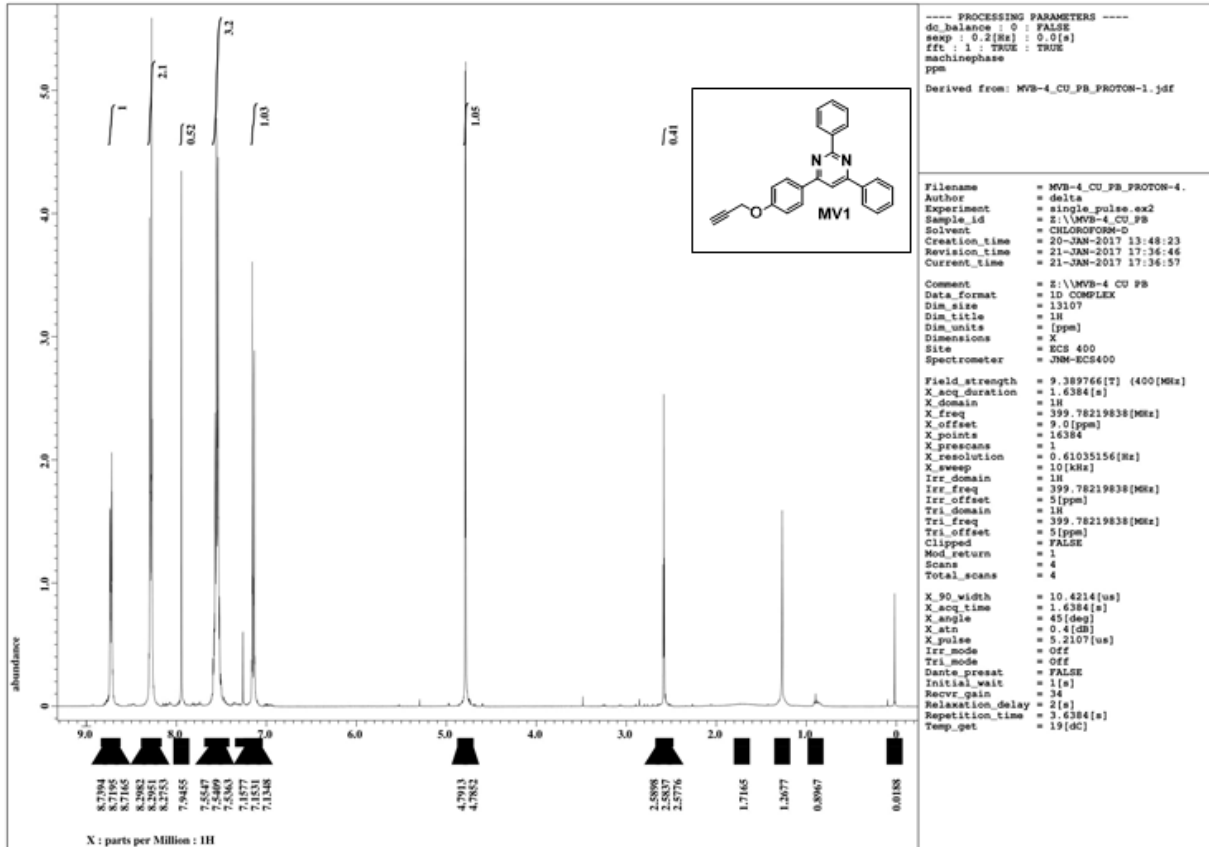
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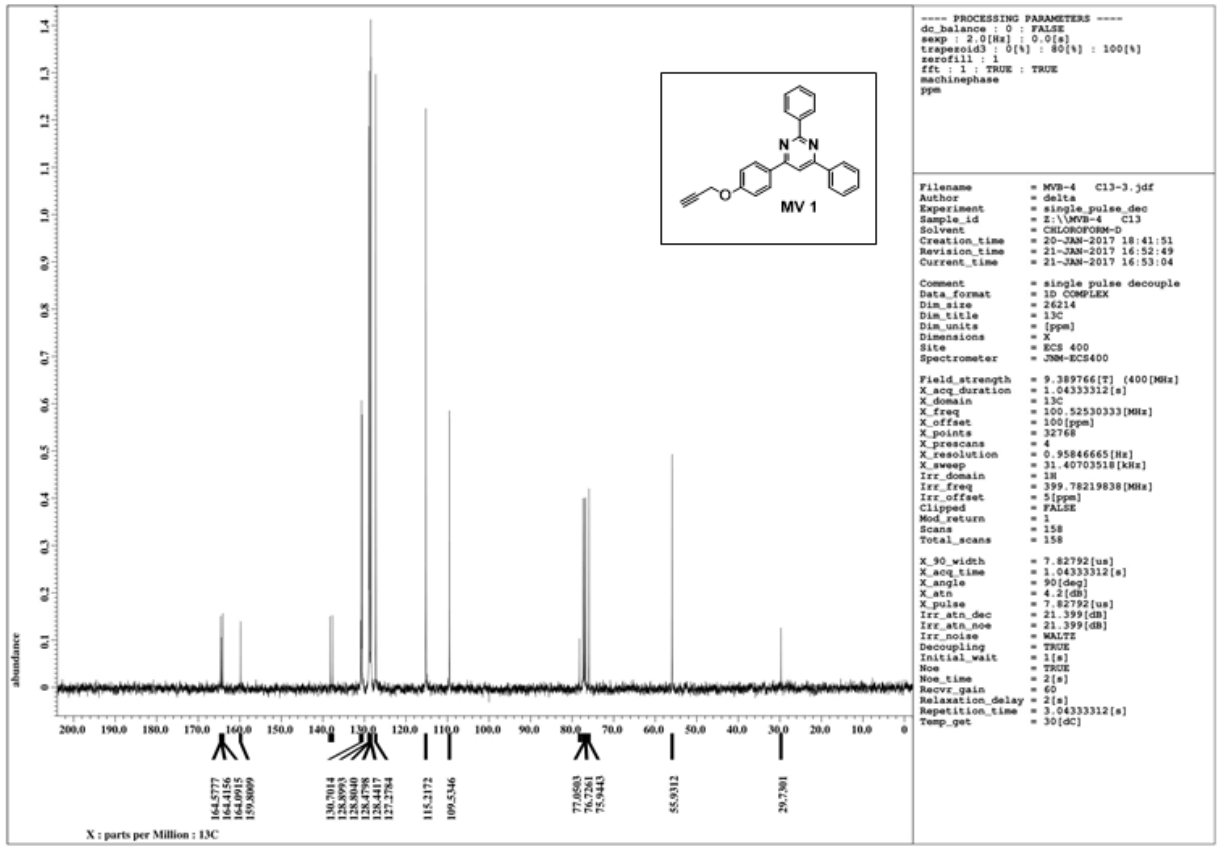
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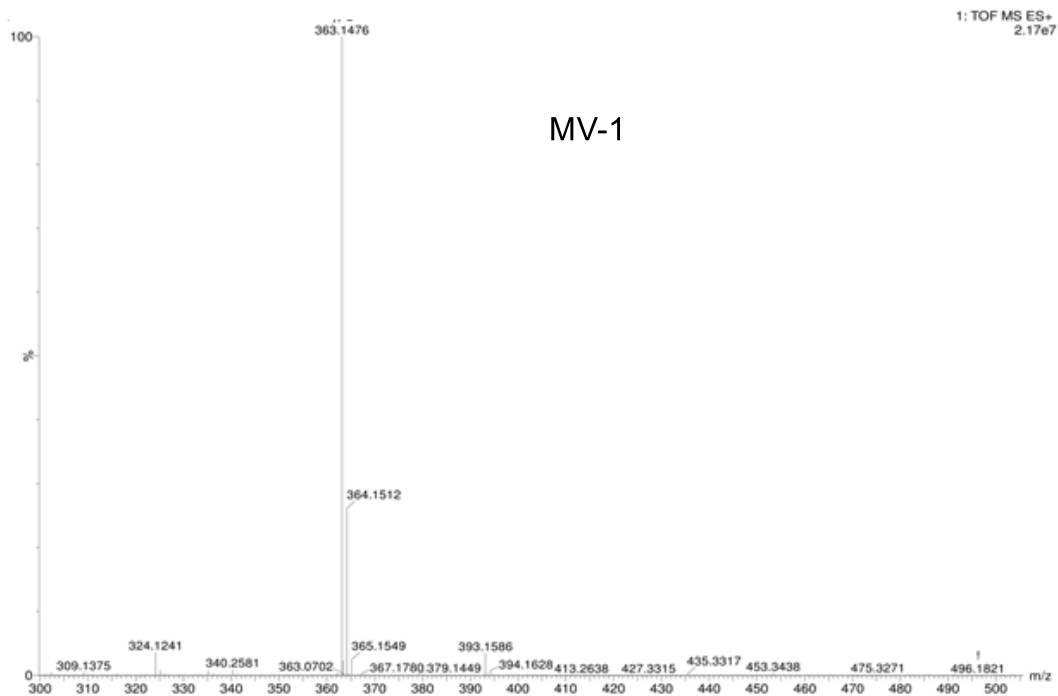
APPENDIX

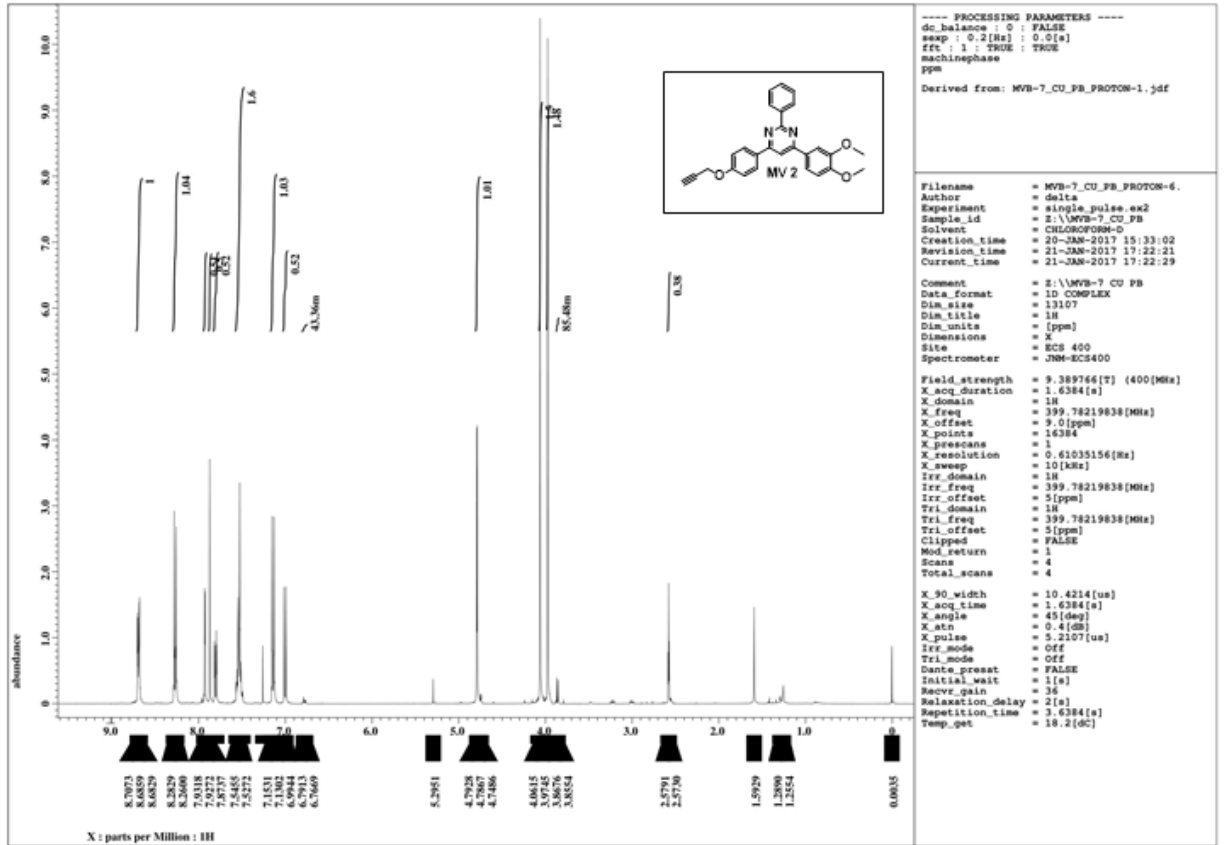
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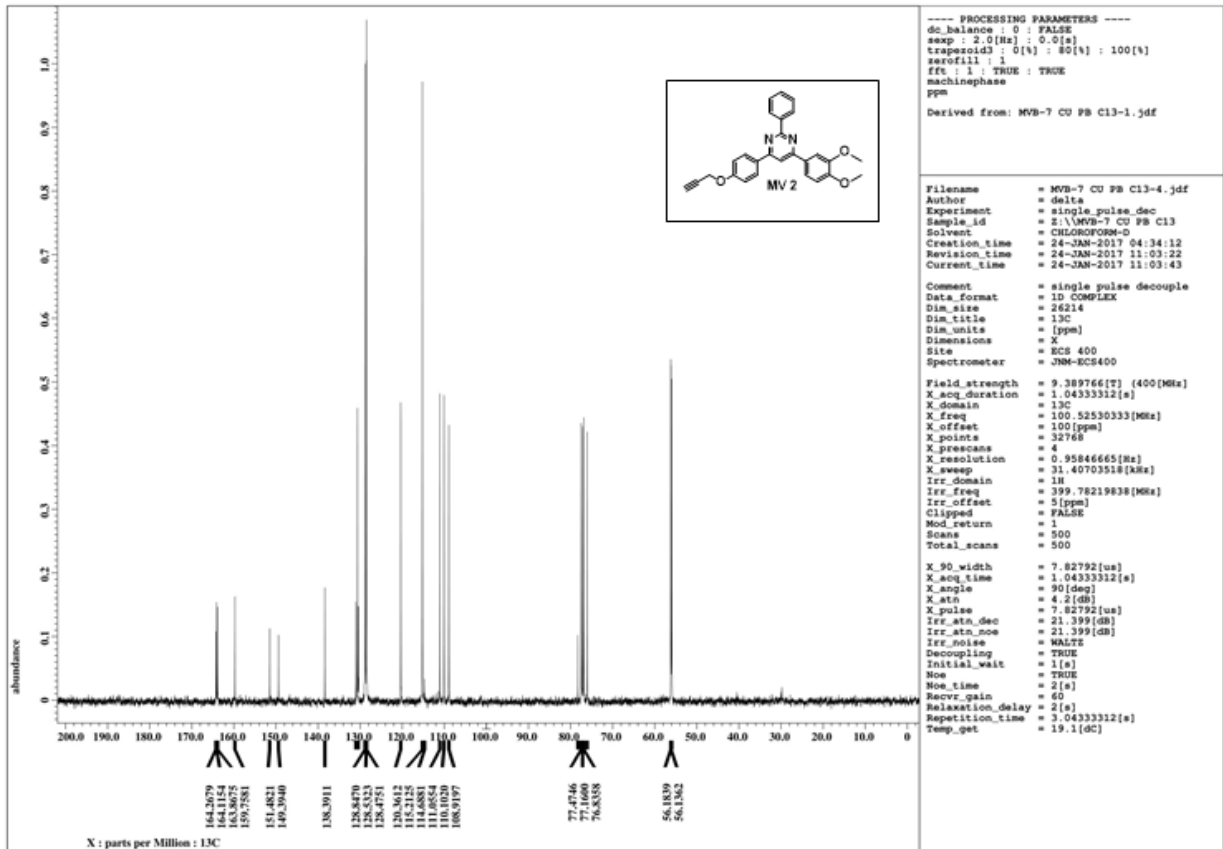
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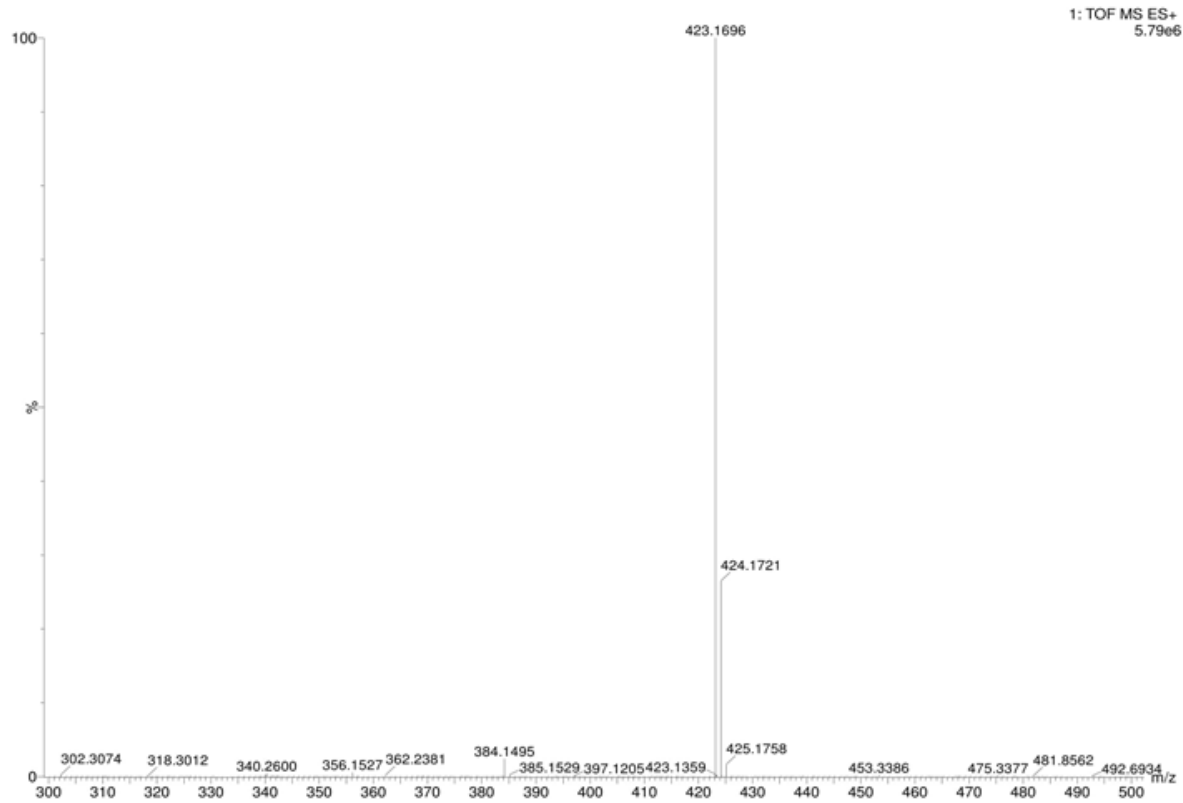


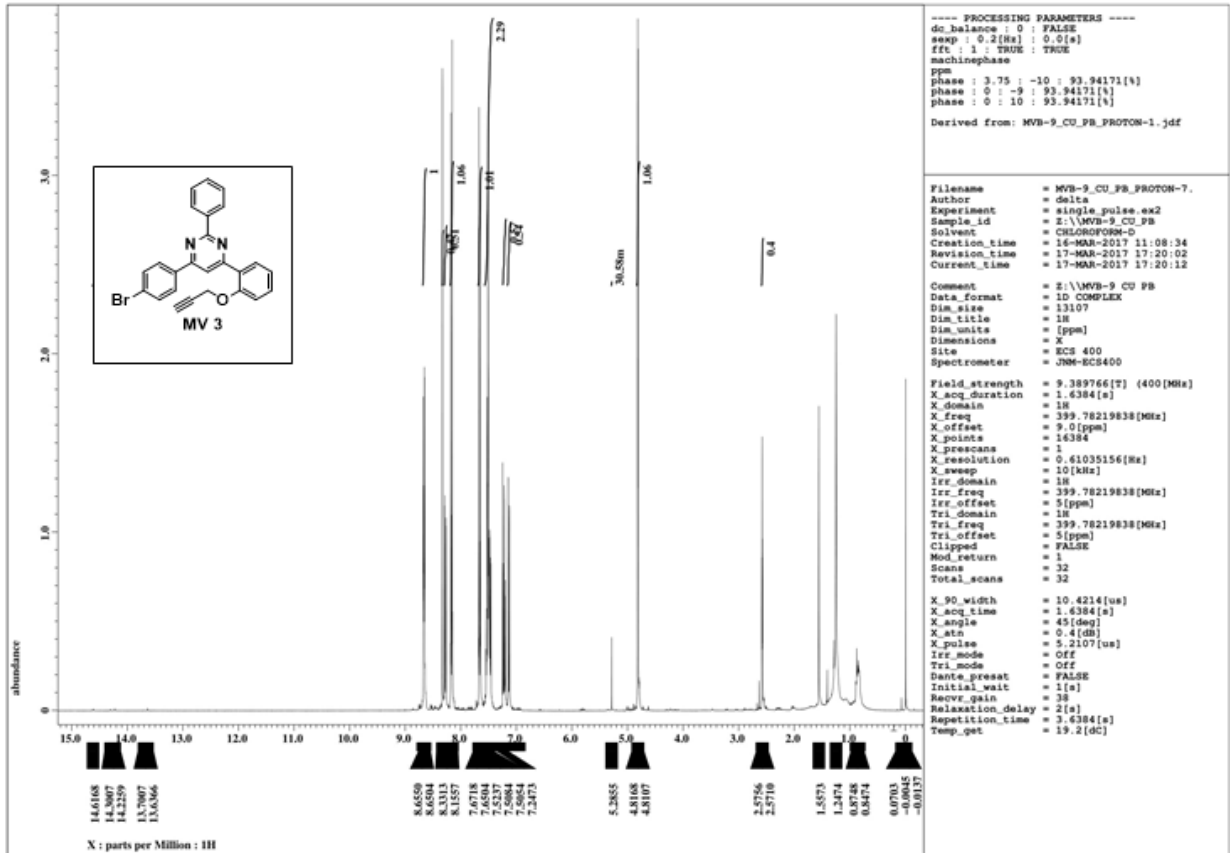


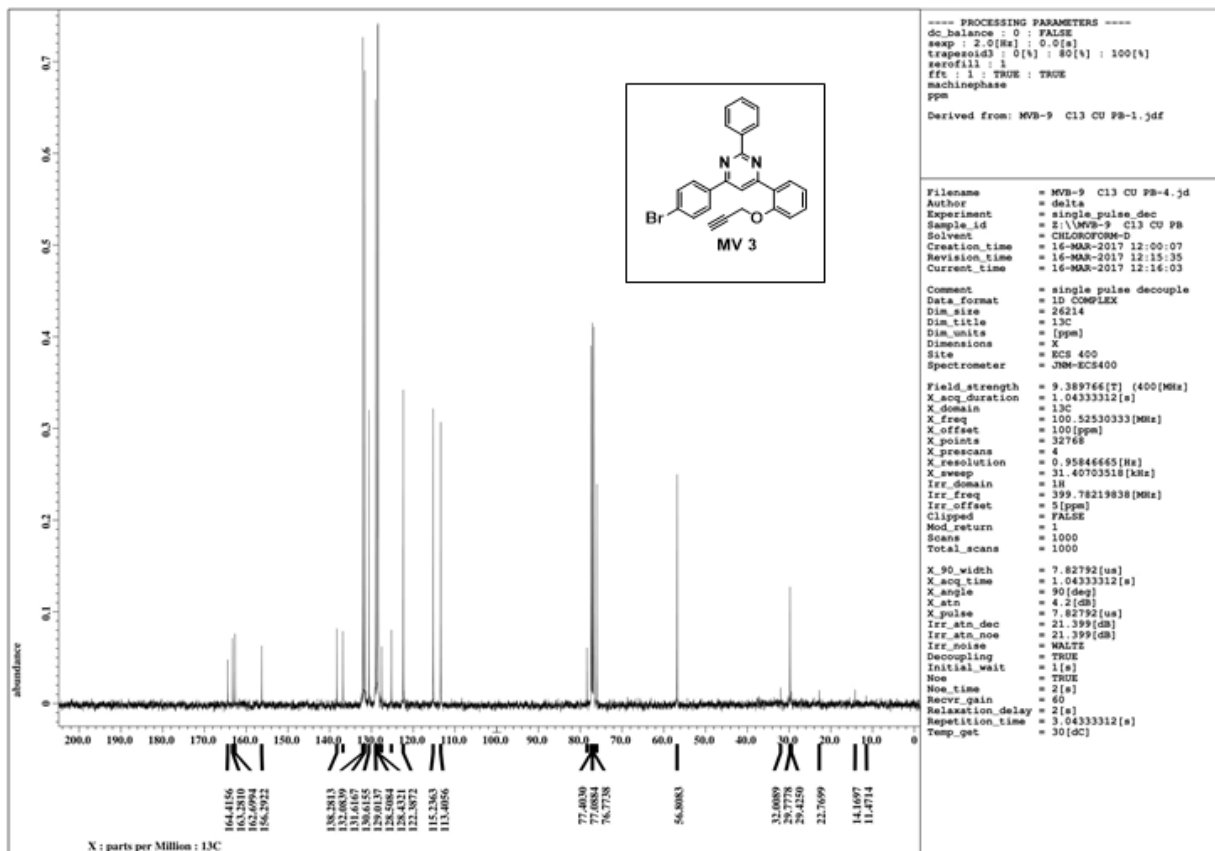


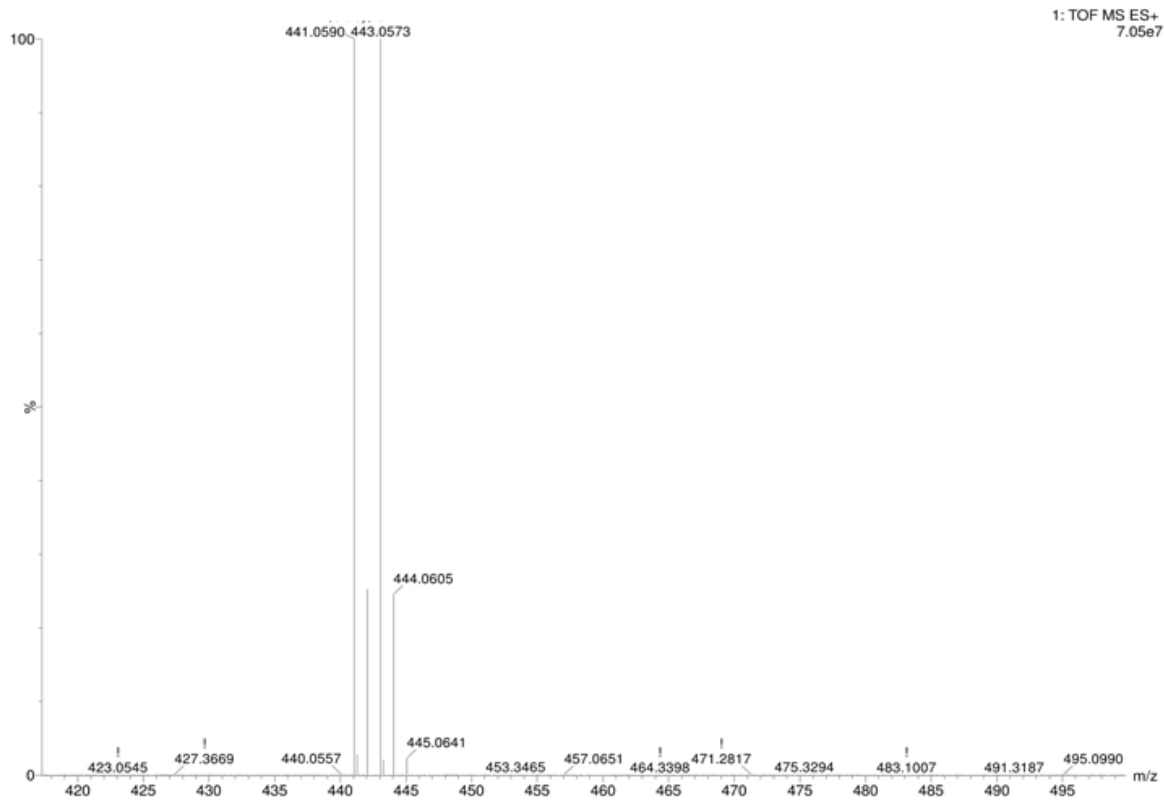


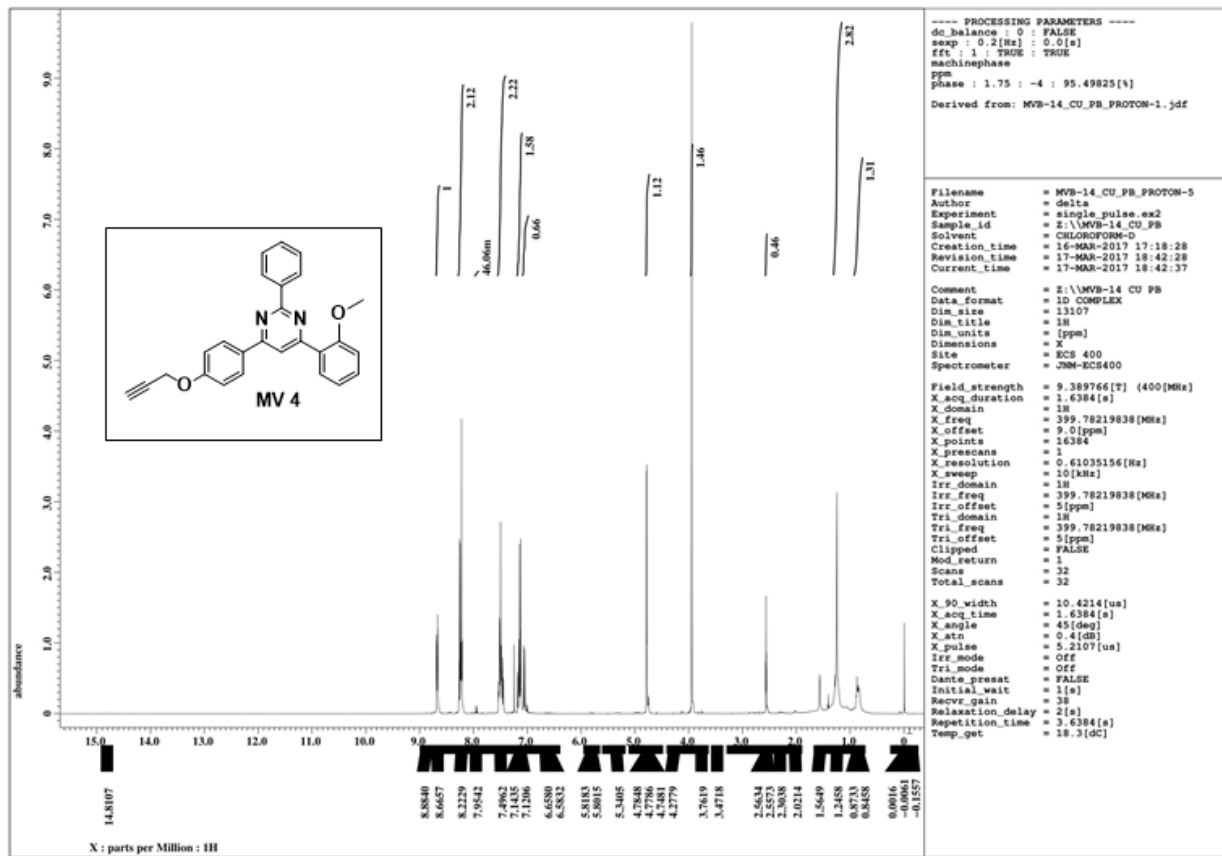


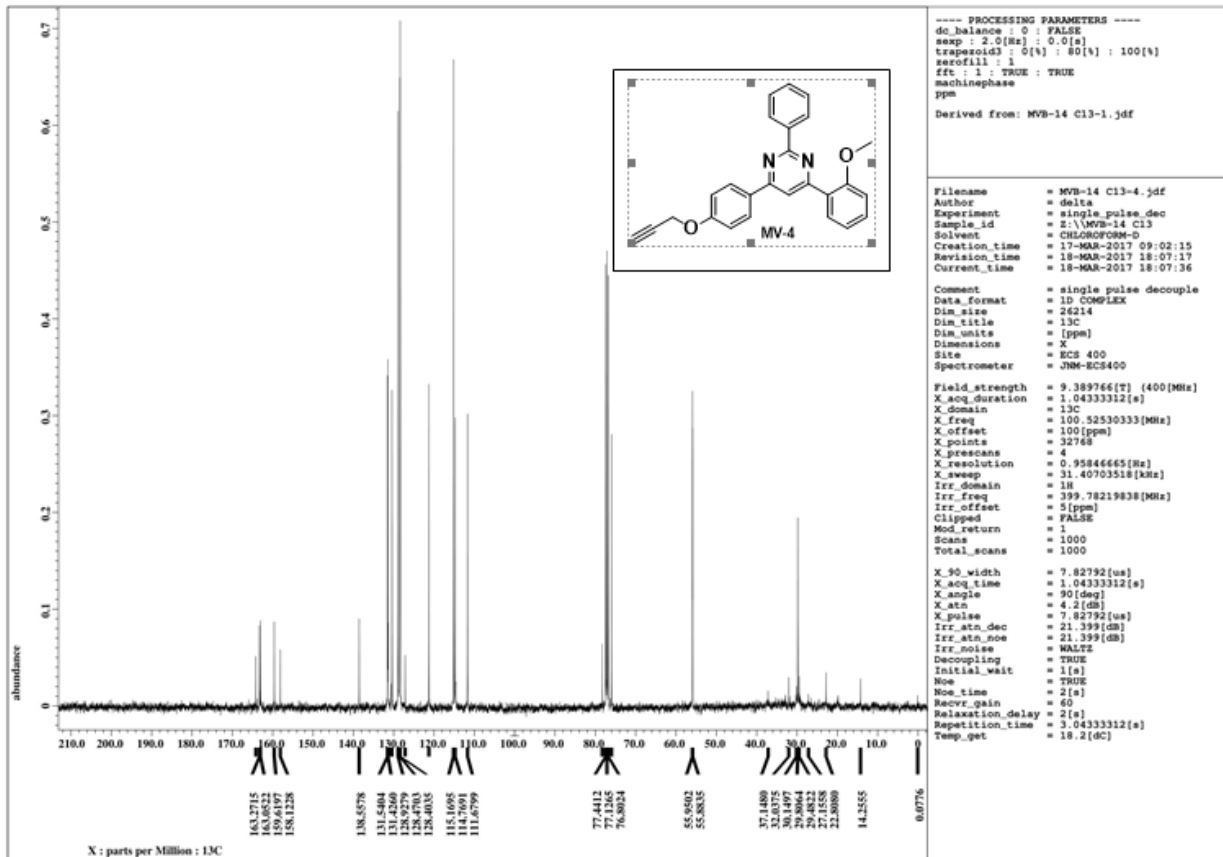


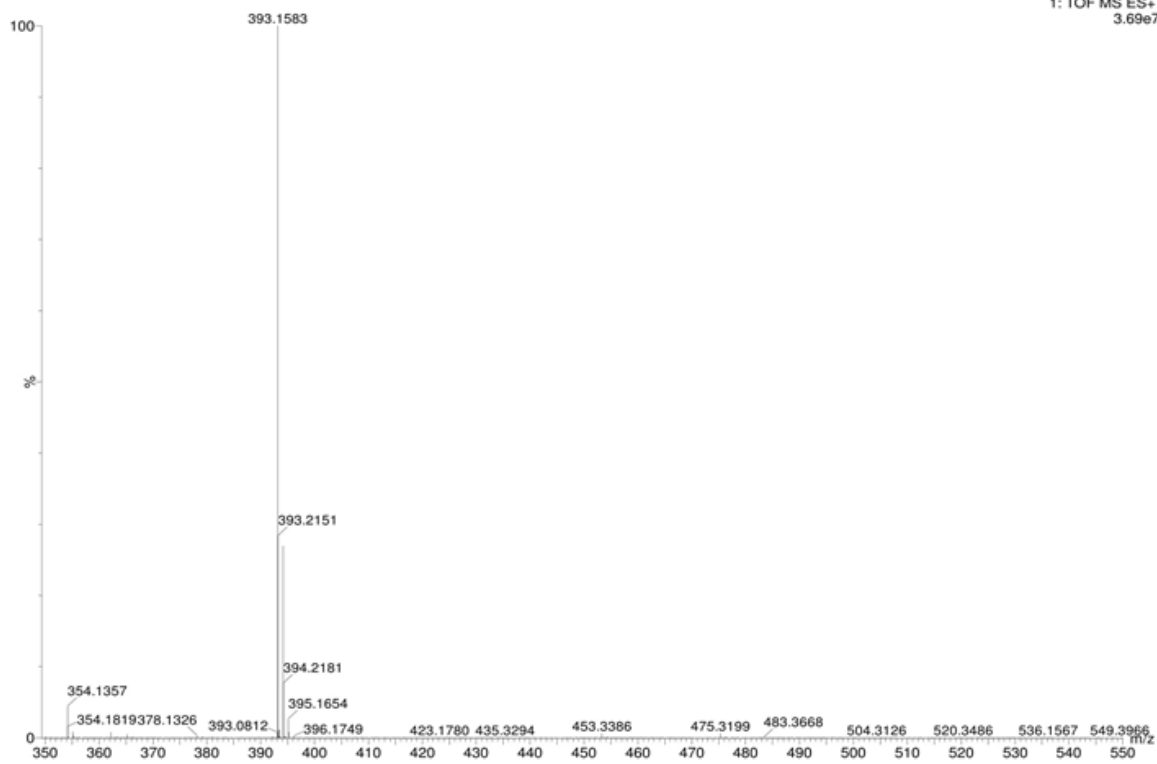


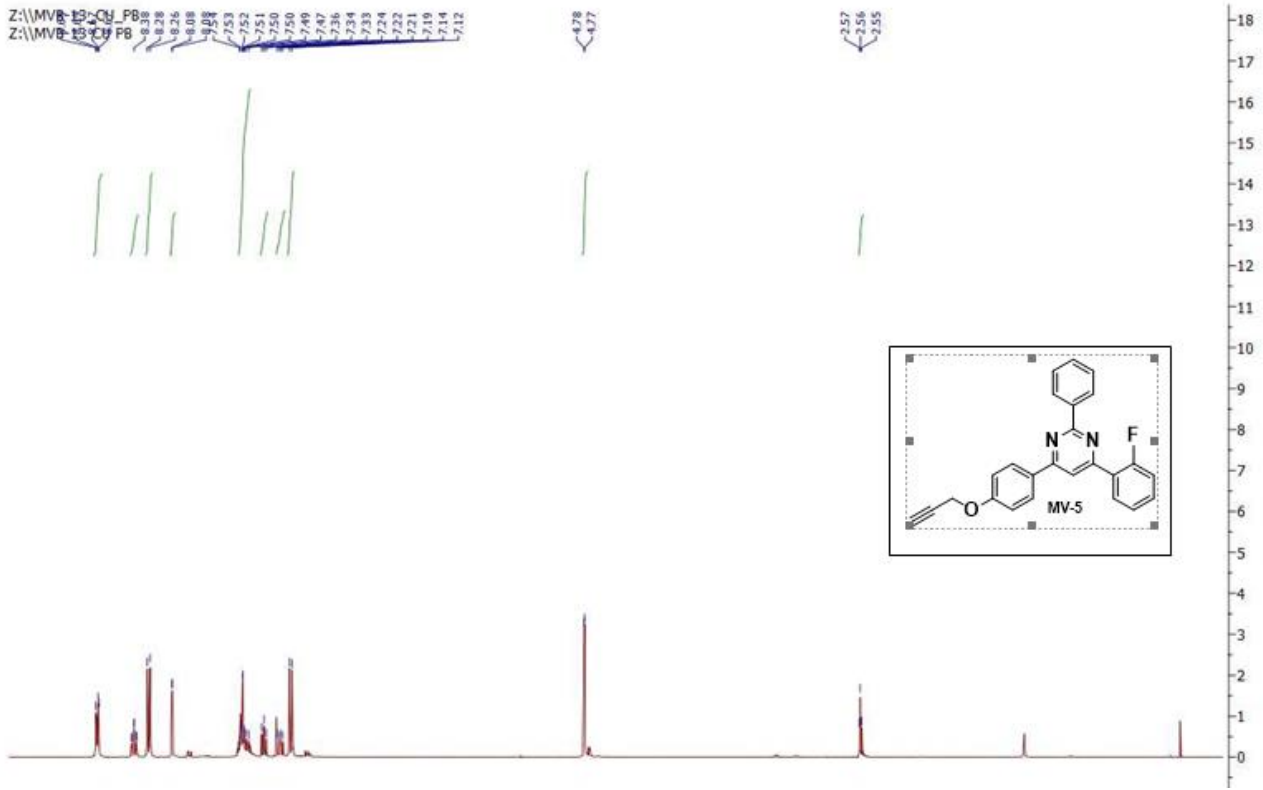


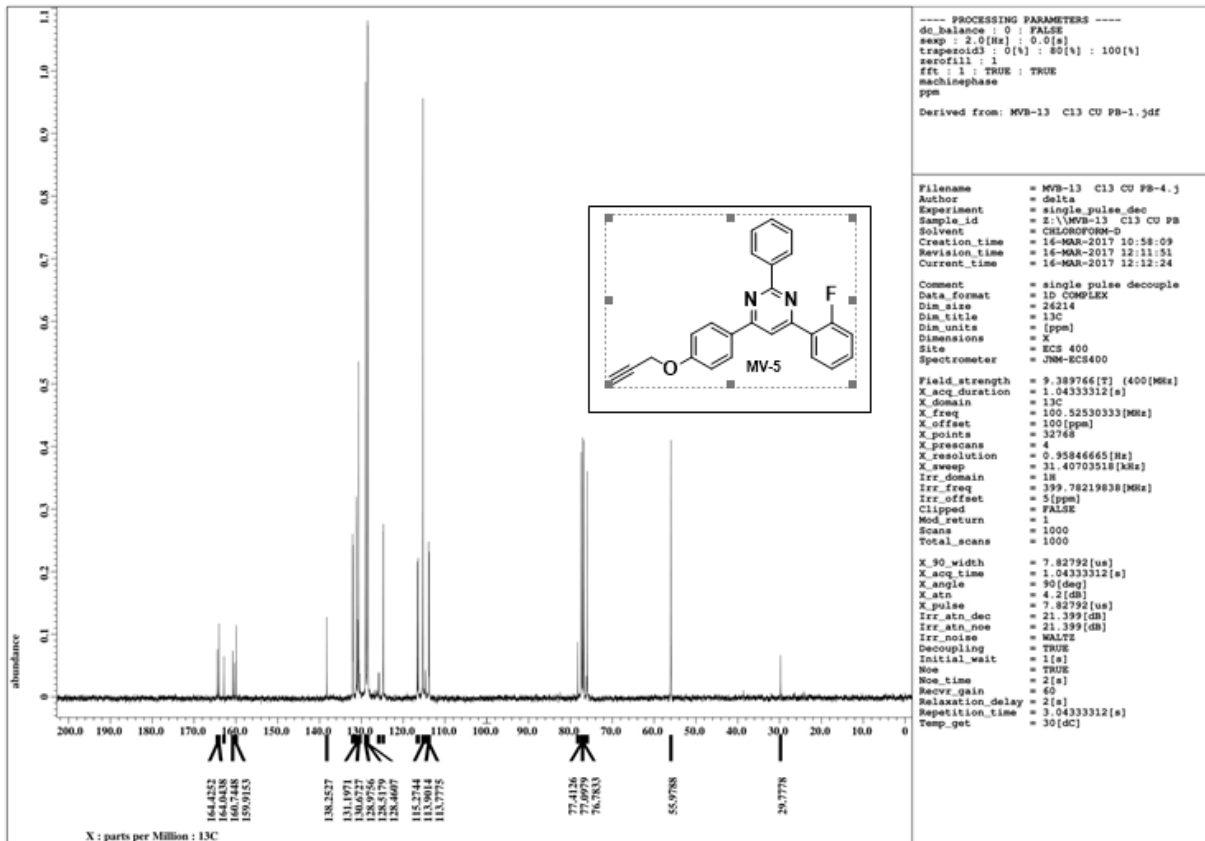


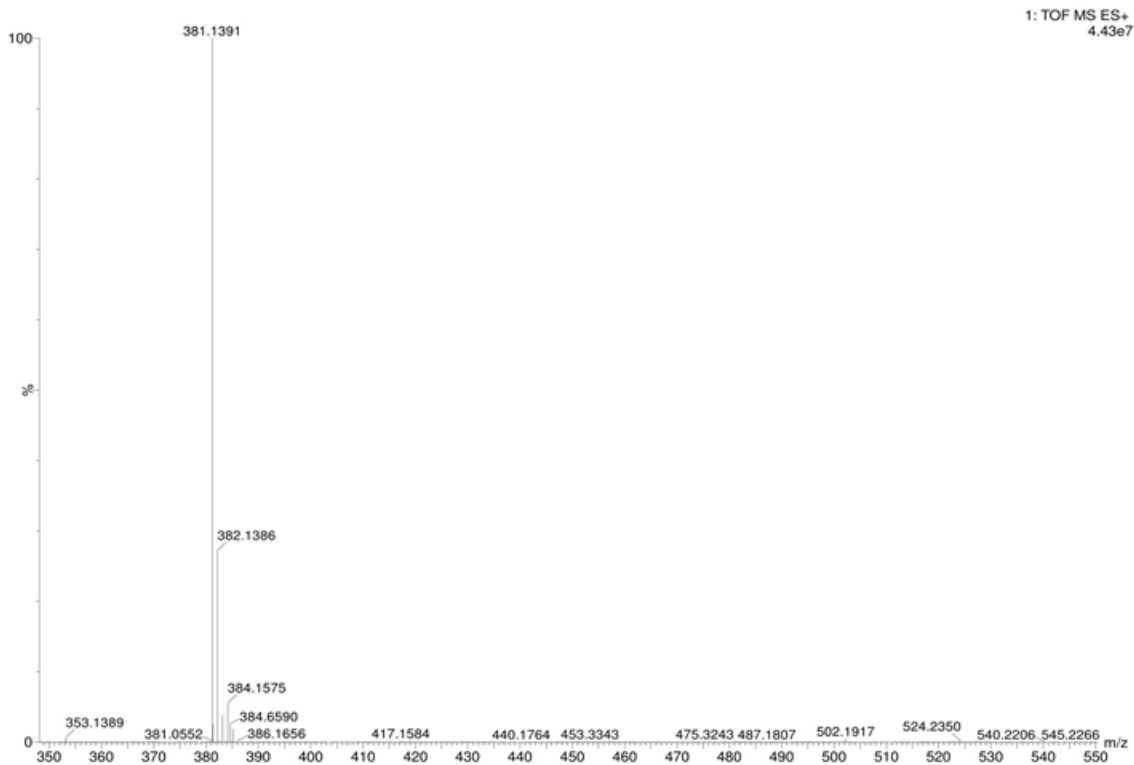


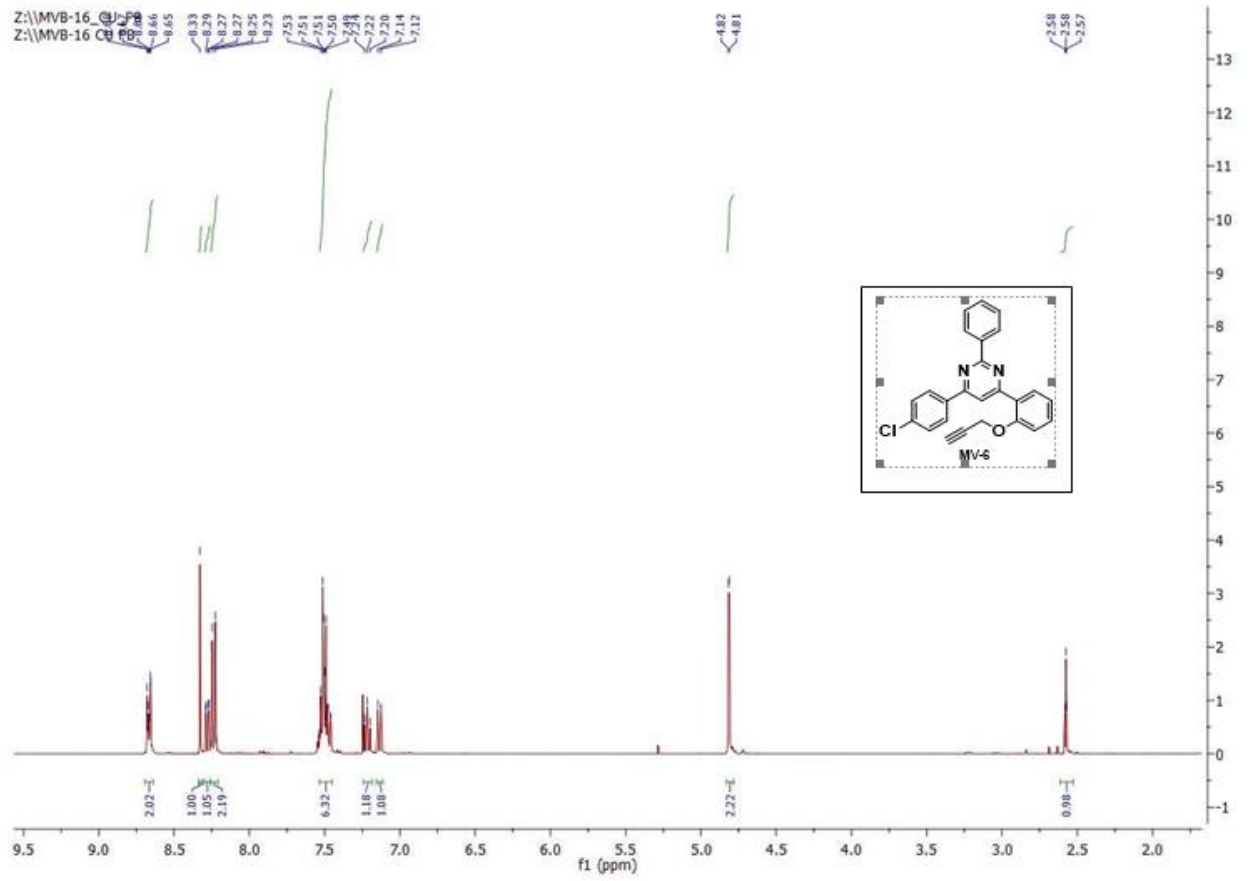


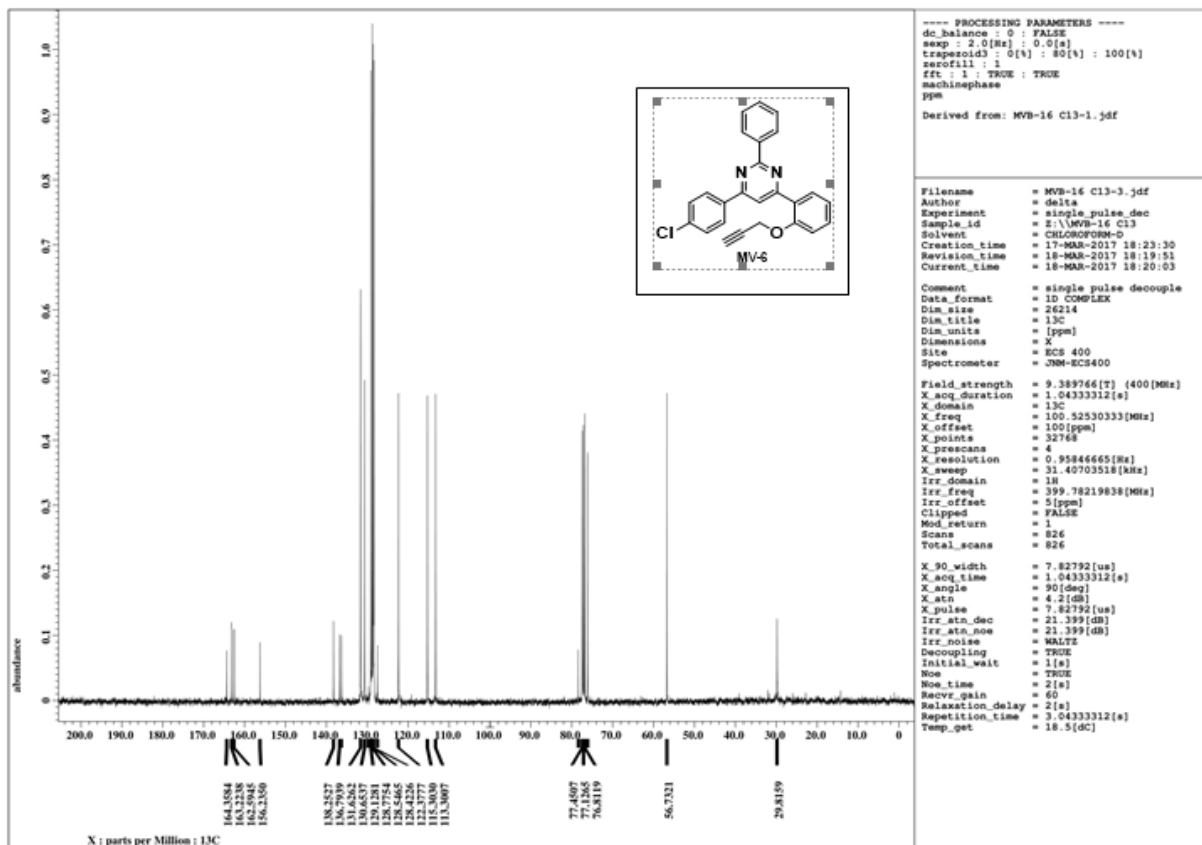


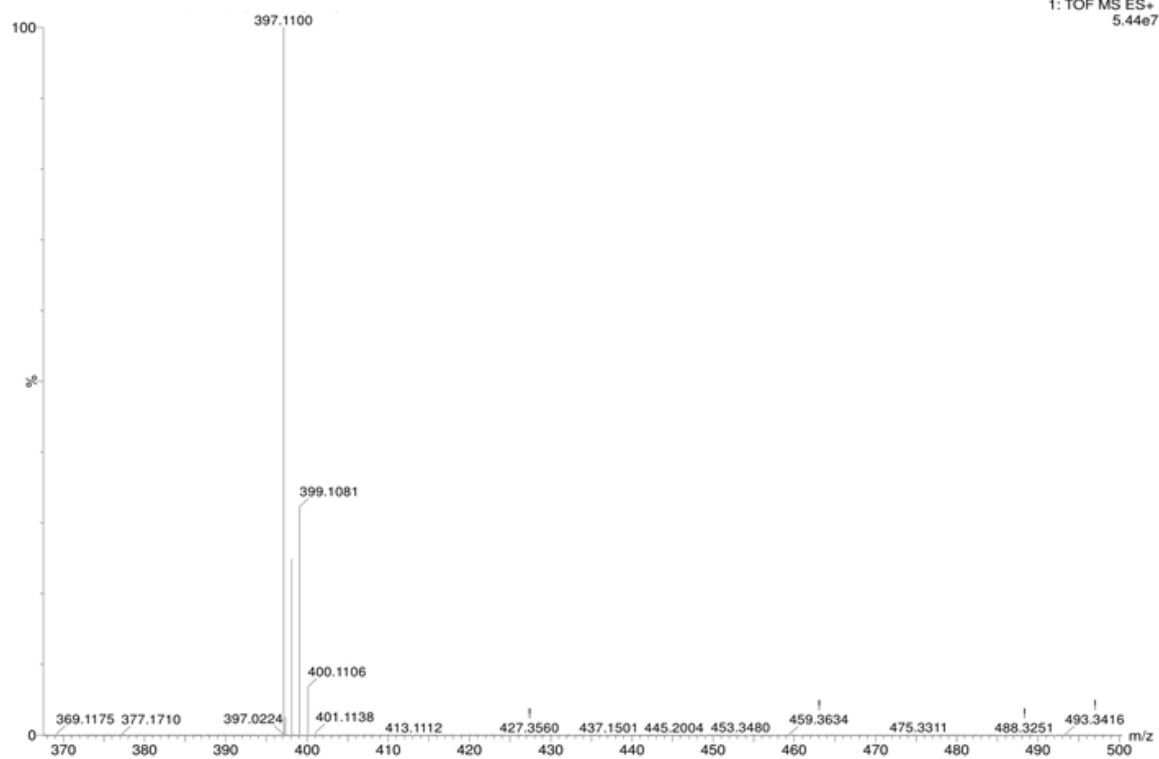


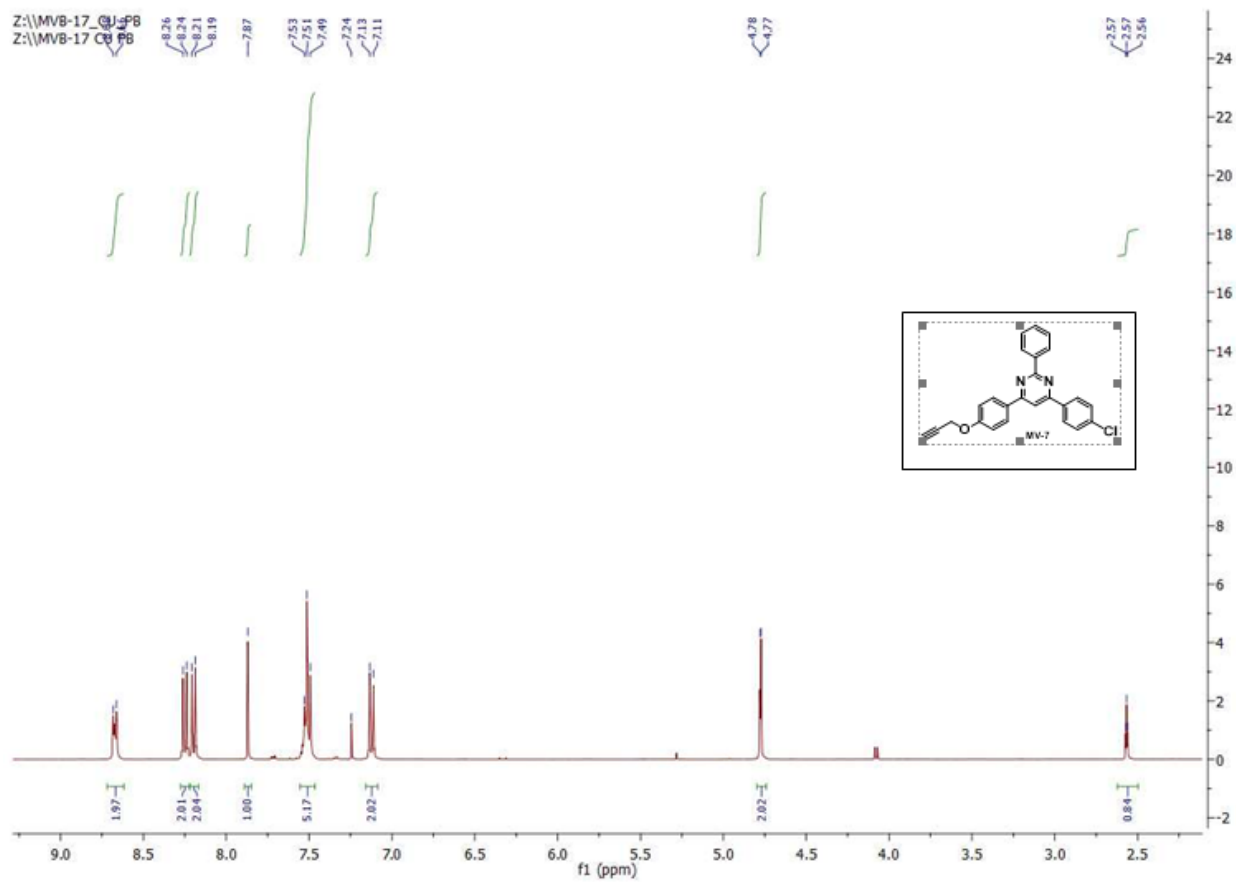


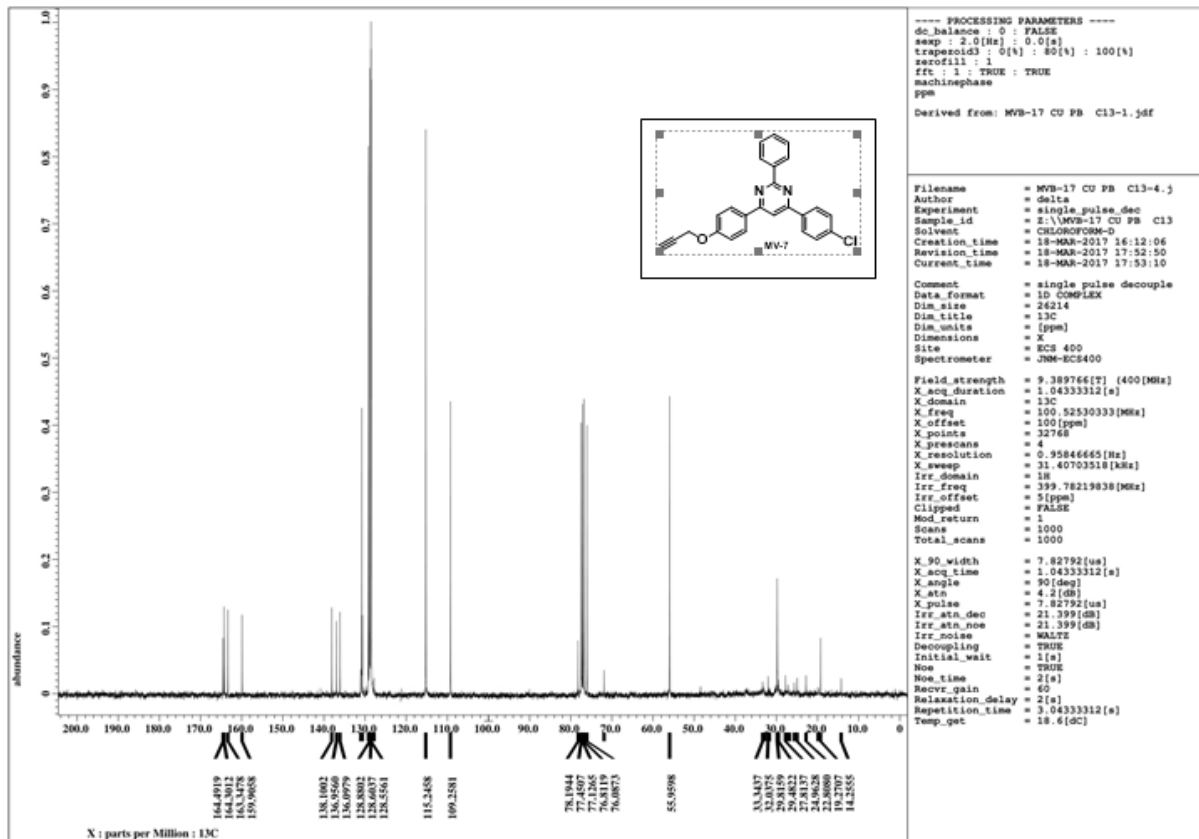


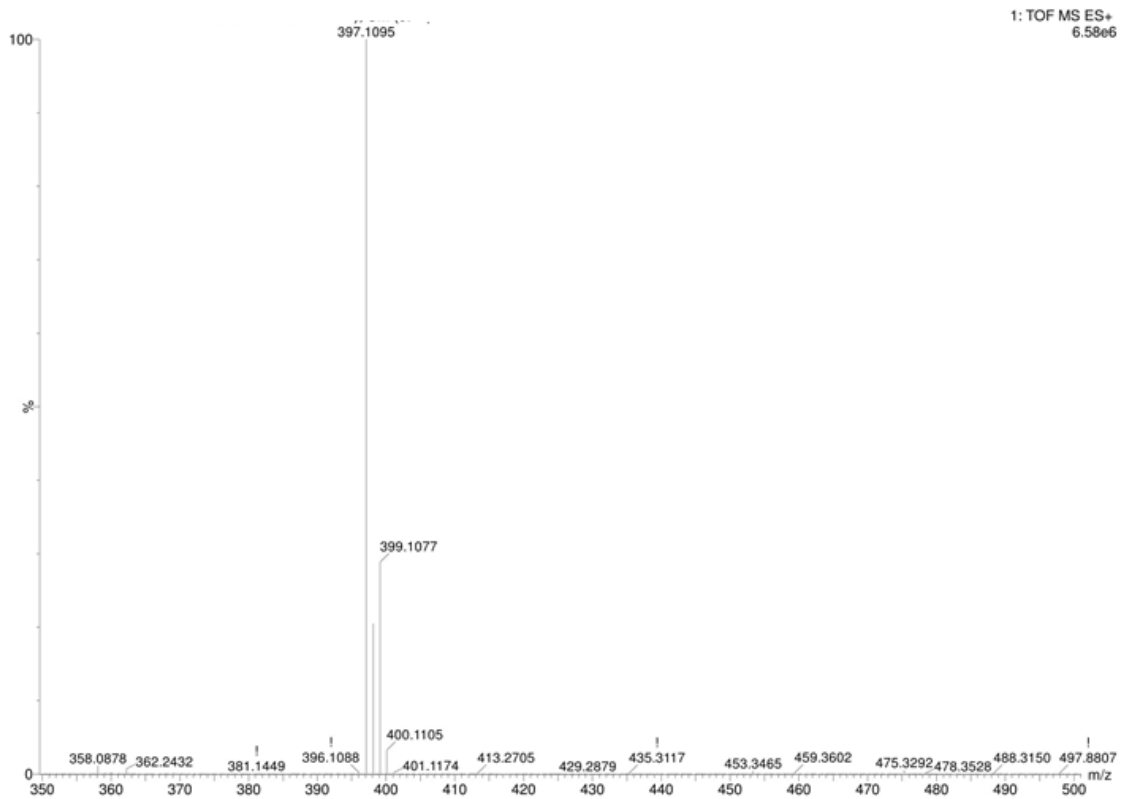


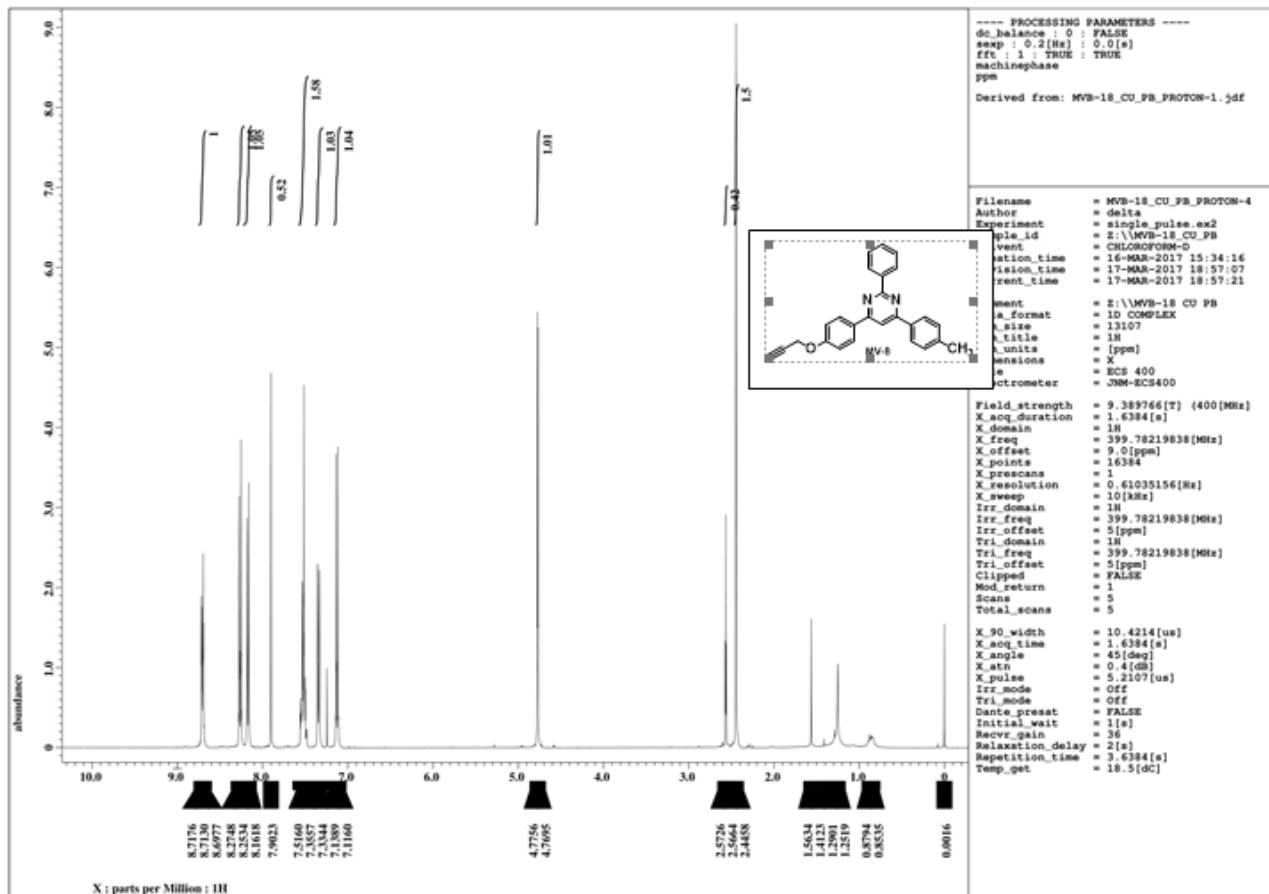


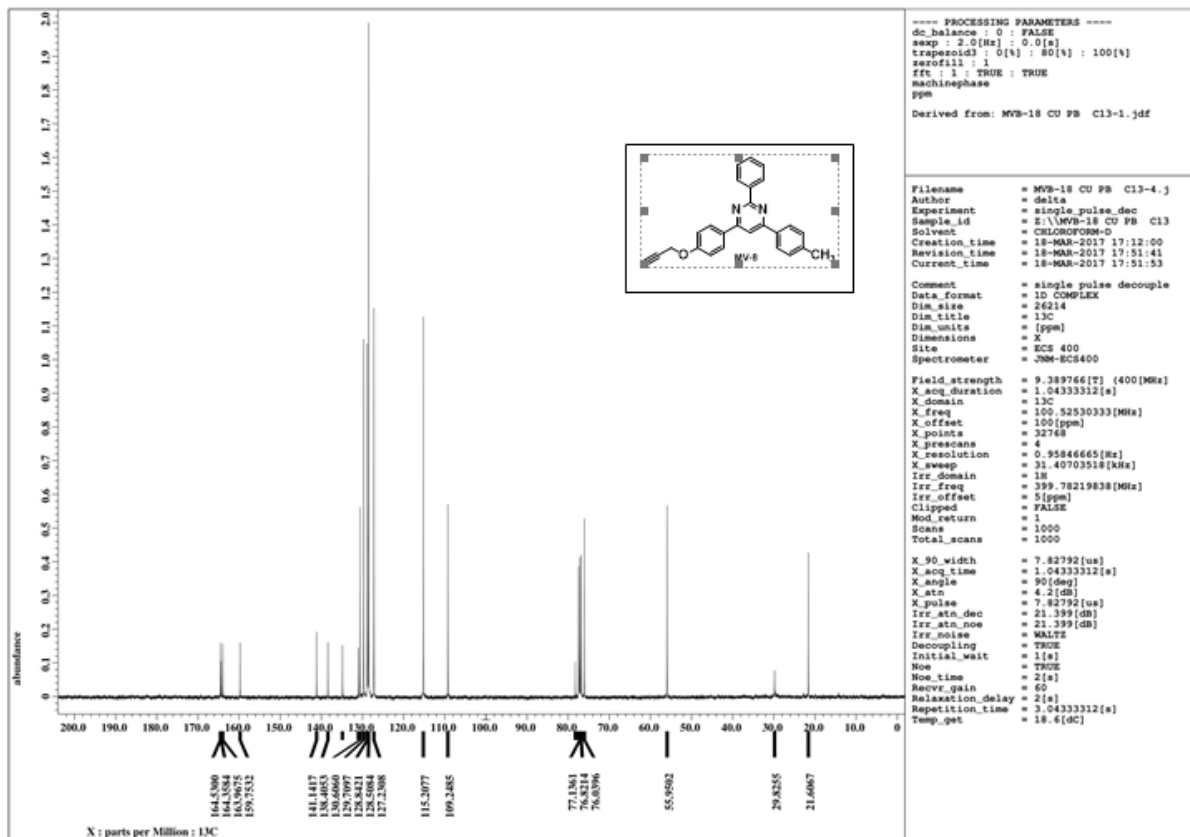


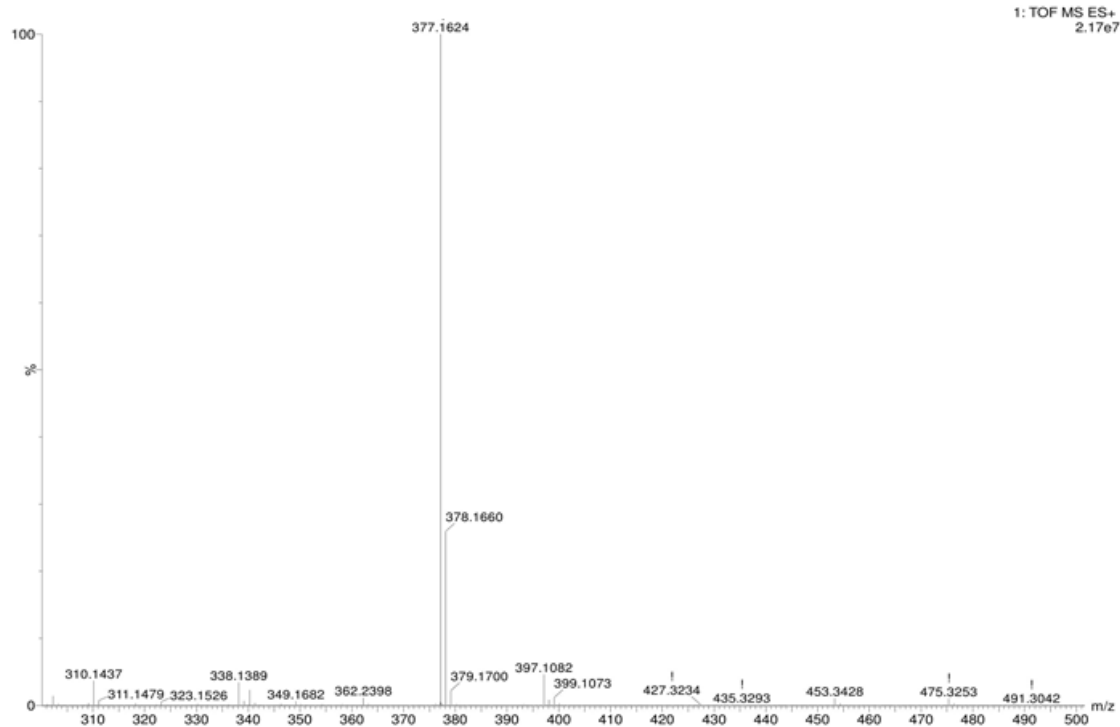


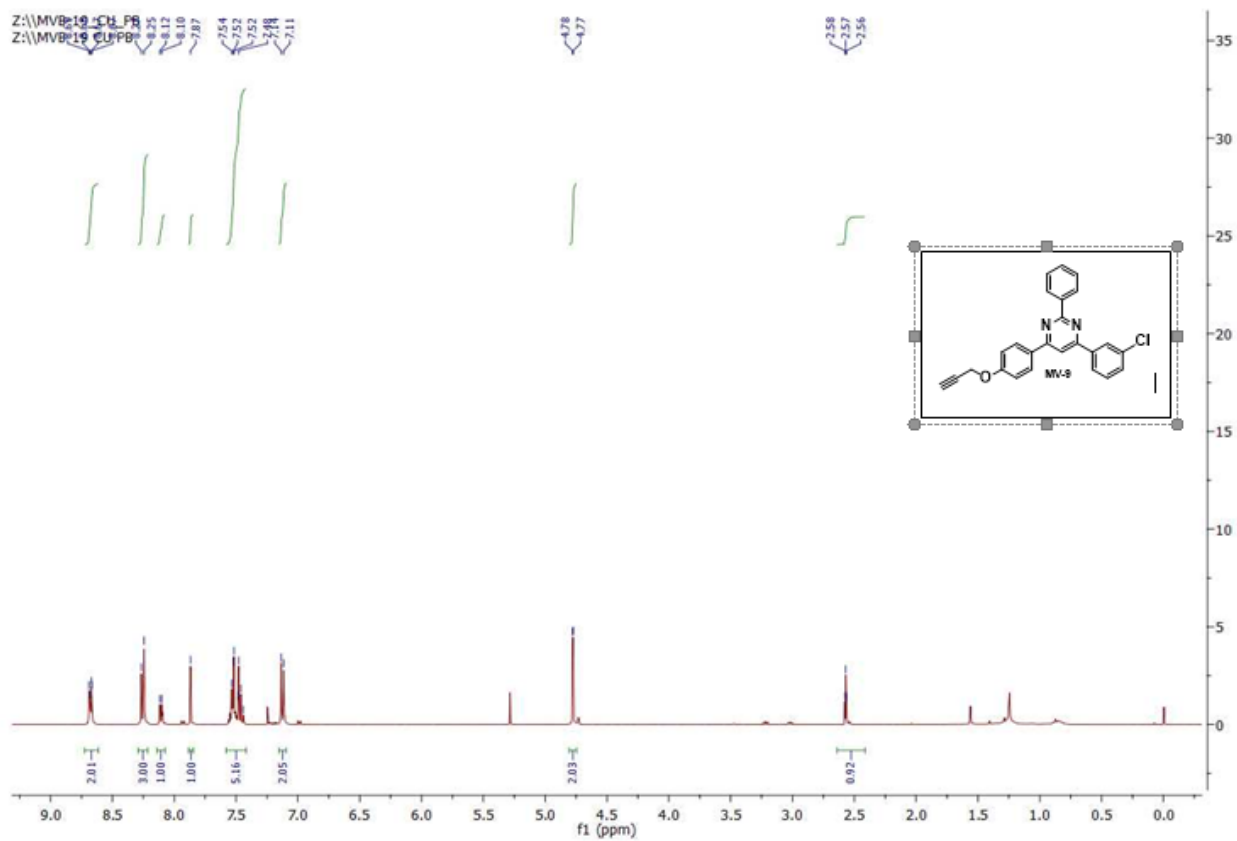


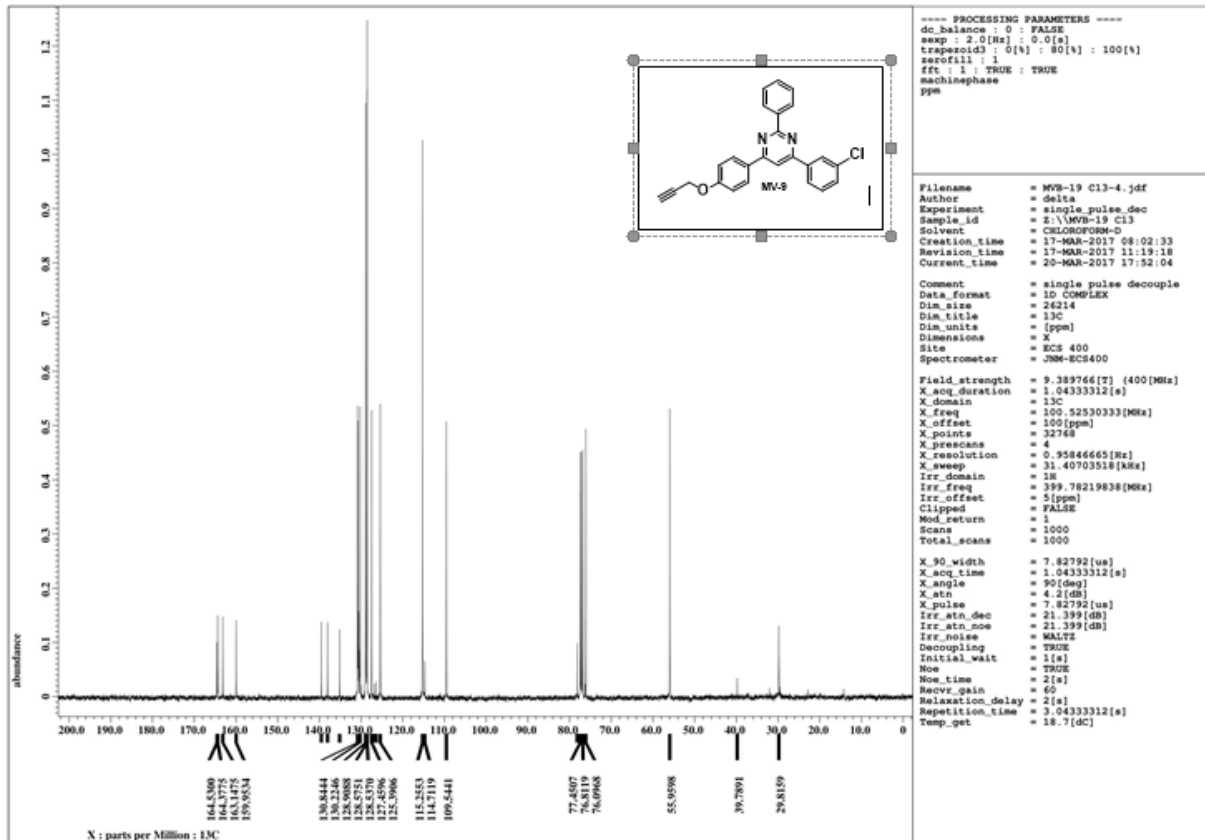


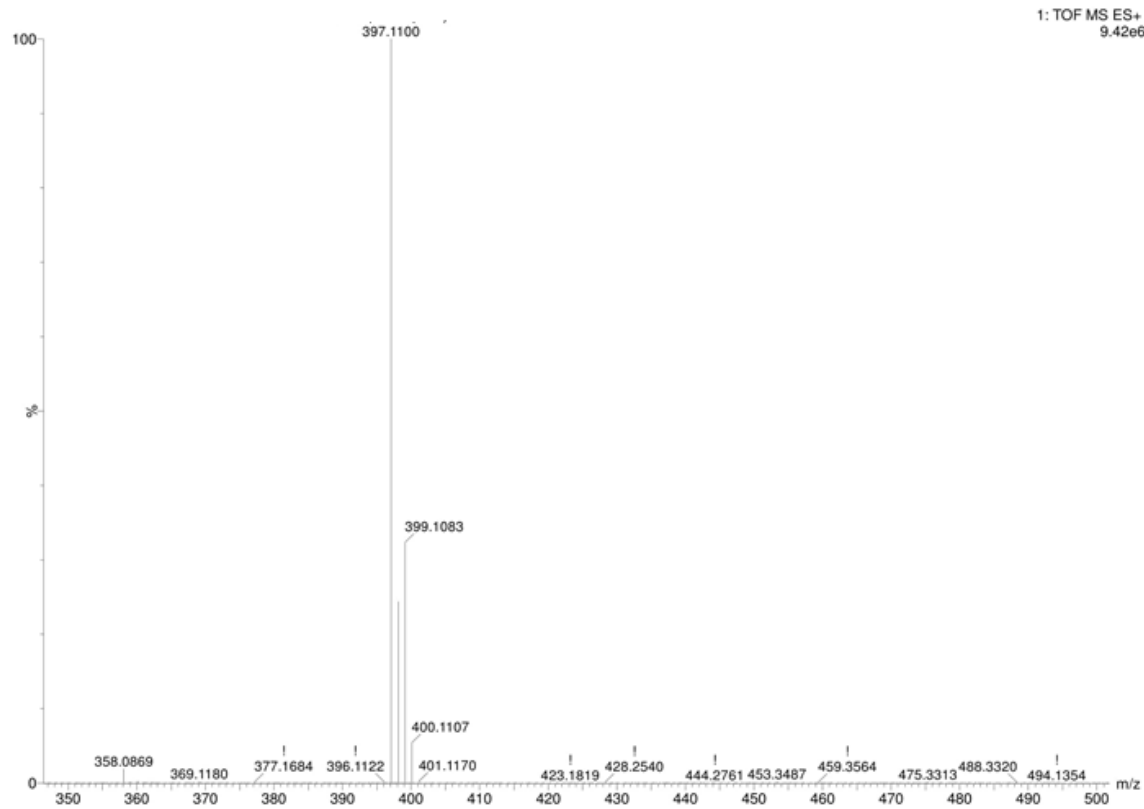


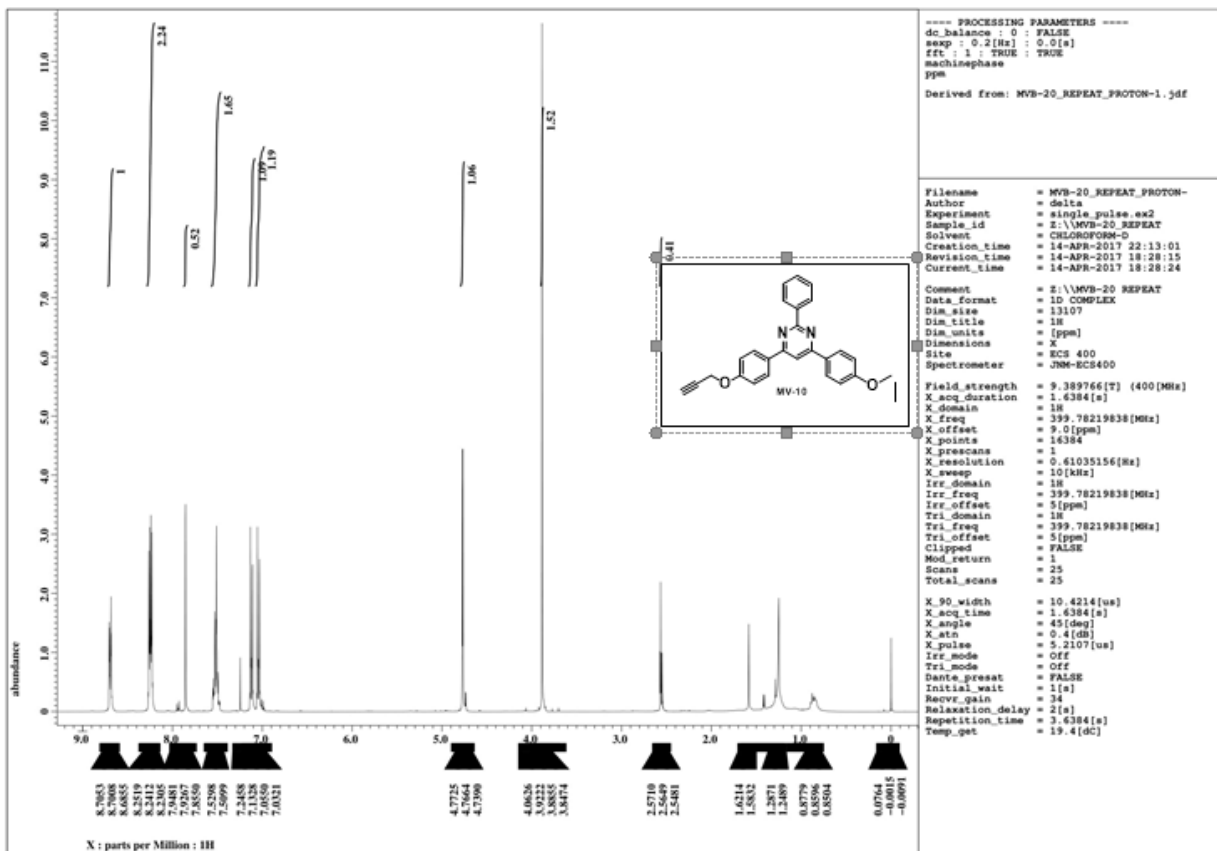


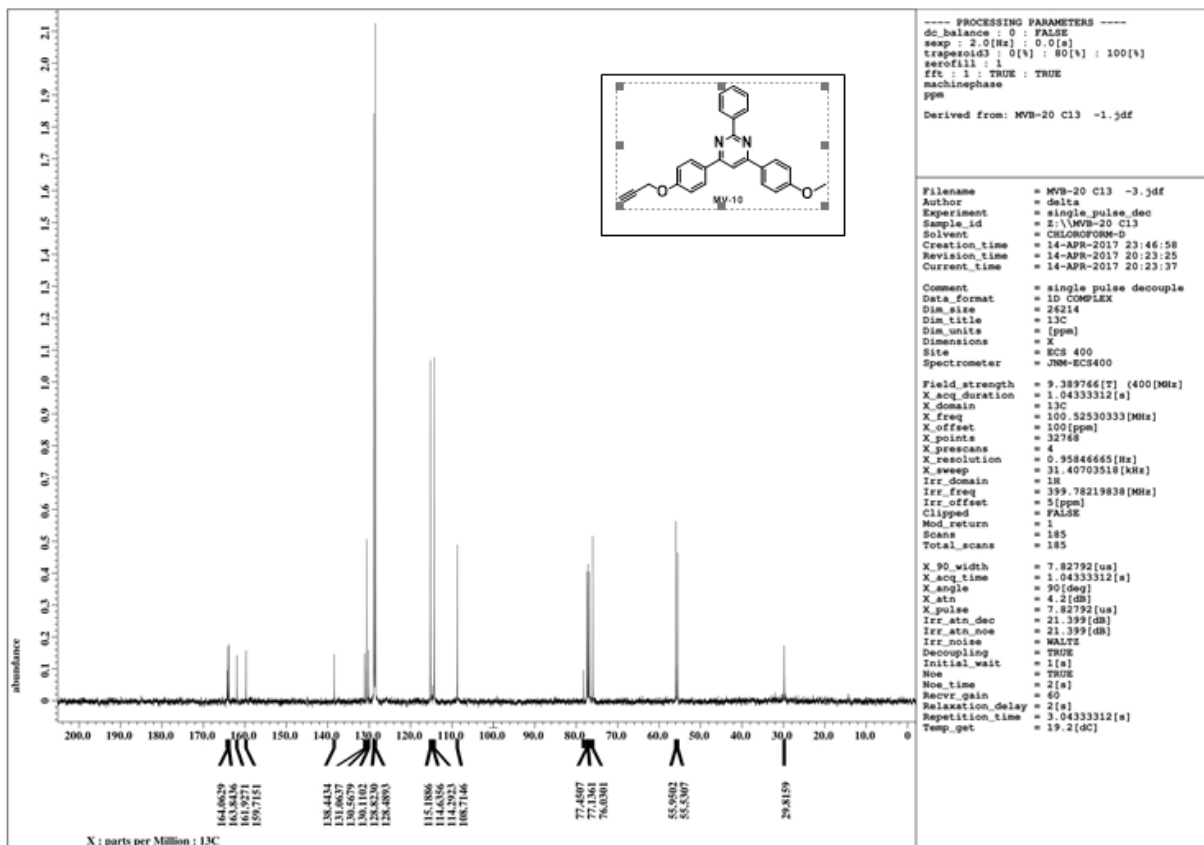


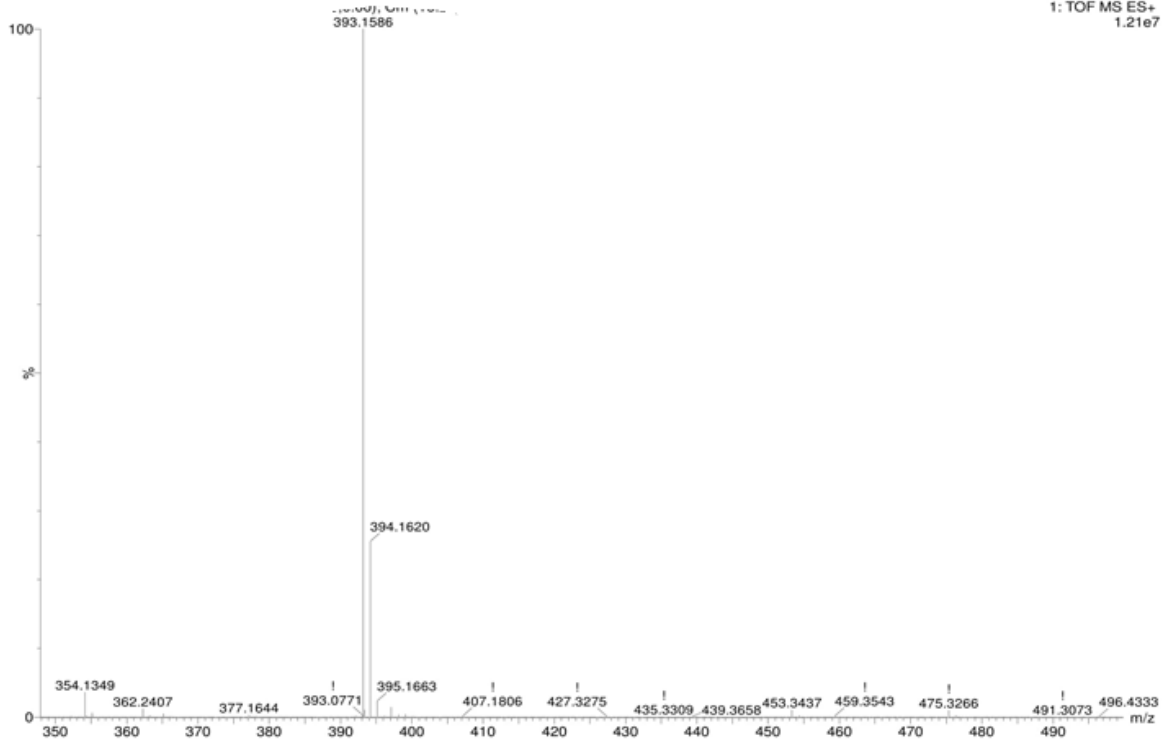












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