

STUDY OF SUBSTITUTION REACTION ON RING A OF ESTRADIOL



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การเชื่อมต่อเอสตราไดออลกับยาต้านมะเร็งจัดเป็นวิธีที่มีประสิทธิภาพในการต่อสู้กับเซลล์มะเร็งเต้านมได้อย่างจำเพาะและลดความเป็นพิษต่อเซลล์ปกติ จากงานวิจัยที่ผ่านมาส่วนใหญ่เป็นการเชื่อมต่อยาalongบนวงบี, ซีและดีของเอสตราไดออล ในงานวิจัยนี้จึงสนใจที่จะศึกษาการเติมหมู่ฟังก์ชันบนวงเอของเอสตราไดออล เพื่อนำไปสู่การเชื่อมต่อยาแบบใหม่ที่อาจมีความจำเพาะและประสิทธิภาพในการจับเอสโตรเจนรีเซพเตอร์ของเซลล์มะเร็งที่ดีขึ้น จากการศึกษาบน 4-คริสซอลเป็นแม่แบบปฏิกิริยาในเตรซันที่ตำแหน่งเมตา สามารถทำได้แต่ได้ผลร้อยละของสารผลิตภัณฑ์เพียงร้อยละ 6 ผลลัพธ์ที่ดีกว่าได้จากปฏิกิริยาไดเอโซคัปปลิงบนตำแหน่งออร์โทของ 4-คริสซอล ซึ่งนำไปสู่การเติมหมู่แทนที่ที่ตำแหน่ง 2 และ 4 ของเอสตราไดออล ไดเอโซเอสตราไดออลจะถูกรีดิวซ์แล้วเชื่อมต่อกับอนุพันธ์คาร์บอกซิล ซึ่งจะเปลี่ยนให้มีหมู่ของกรดไฮดรอกซามิก ที่คล้ายกับโครงสร้างของยาต้านมะเร็งกรดซุเบอร์แอนนิโลไฮดรอกซามิก

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Estradiol-conjugated anticancer drugs are the effective strategy that could specifically combat breast cancer cells, while minimizing the toxicity of the drug toward normal cells. Estradiol has been previously conjugated with drugs mostly at rings B, C and D. Functionalizations at ring A of estradiol introduce new types of conjugated drugs that could improve both the selectivity and efficiency in binding with estrogen receptor (ER). Using 4-cresol as the model, the nitration at *meta*-position was achieved, although with unsatisfied result of only 6% overall yield of the product. The practical results derived from diazo coupling on *ortho*-position of 4-cresol, which led to successful functionalizations at 2- or 4-positions of estradiol. The diazo estradiol was reduced, conjugated with dicarbonyl derivatives, which was a conjugated anticancer drug converted to a conjugated hydroxamic acid that dovelly resembles suberanilohydroxamic acid (SAHA).

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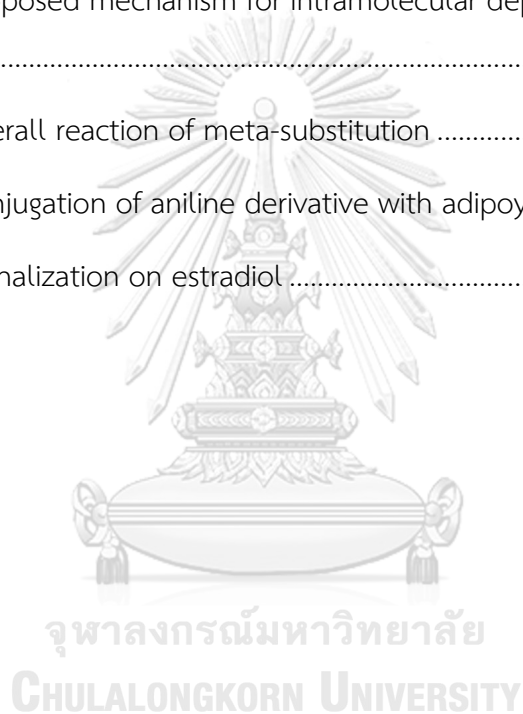
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| ACN | : acetonitrile |
| AcOH | : acetic acid |
| AlCl ₃ | : aluminium chloride |
| cm ⁻¹ | : unit of wavenumber (IR) |
| CDCl ₃ | : deuterated chloroform |
| °C | : degree Celsius |
| ¹³ C NMR | : carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy |
| conc | : concentration |
| d | : doublet (NMR) |
| DCE | : dichloroethane |
| DCM | : dichloromethane |
| DDQ | : 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone |
| DMF | : dimethylformamide |
| eqv | : equivalent |
| FeCl ₃ | : ferric chloride |
| FT-IR | : fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy |
| g | : gram (s) |
| h | : hour (s) |
| ¹ H NMR | : proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy |
| HNO ₃ | : nitric acid |

| | |
|---|--|
| HRMS | : high resolution mass spectrometry |
| H ₂ SO ₄ | : sulfuric acid |
| Hz | : hertz (s) |
| KCN | : potassium cyanide |
| K ₂ CO ₃ | : potassium carbonate |
| KNO ₃ | : potassium nitrate |
| Lit. | : literature |
| M | : molar (s) |
| m | : multiplet (NMR) |
| MeOH | : methanol |
| MgSO ₄ | : magnesium sulfate |
| min | : minute |
| mL | : milliliter (s) |
| mmol | : millimole (s) |
| mp | : melting point |
| Na ₂ CO ₃ | : sodium carbonate |
| NaOH | : sodium hydroxide |
| Na ₂ S | : sodium sulfide |
| NEt ₃ | : triethylamine |
| NH ₂ OH.HCl | : hydroxylamine hydrochloride |
| NO ₂ ⁺ BF ₄ ⁻ | : nitronium tetrafluoroborate |
| NOESY | : nuclear overhauser effect spectroscopy |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| PCC | : pyridinium chlorochromate |
| ppm | : parts per million (unit of chemical shift) |
| rf | : reflux |
| R _f | : retention factor |
| rt | : room temperature |
| s | : singlet (NMR) |
| SnCl ₂ | : tin(II) chloride |
| TBS | : tert-butyl dimethyl silane |
| TIPS | : triisopropyl silane |
| t | : triplet (NMR) |
| THF | : tetrahydrofuran |
| UHP | : urea hydrogen peroxide |
| xs | : excess |
| δ | : chemical shift |

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 The targeted chemotherapy

Cancer is a well-known disease that is the major cause of death worldwide. Cancer cells are abnormal cells that are uncontrollable in growth and division. At present, many treatment options for cancer have been developed such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Among these methods, chemotherapy is one of the most common treatments for many cancers [1]. To prevent the increase of cancer cells, certain drugs are used to kill cancer cells or stop them from spreading to other parts of the body. However, the toxicity of these drugs toward normal cells has been the serious problem that many researchers concern. To get rid of this issue, the combination between the anti-tumor drugs and target-specific carriers is one of the solutions proposed to solve this problem. The carriers that have high selectivity to receptors on target tumor cells may help delivering most of the drugs to the target cells and enhance the probability in killing them [2], together with reducing the toxic effect on normal cells [3].

1.2 Breast cancer and hormone therapy

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women [4-7]. The major reason comes from the excess in estrogen hormone in women [8, 9]. Estrogen is a sex hormone that is responsible for the development of female sexual characteristics, including the growth of breast as a girl. However, in elder females the excess production of estrogen more than need that gathers in the body could lead to breast cancer [10].

To prevent breast cancer cells to spread out all over the body, the therapeutic strategies were focused into targeting the character as hormone-

responsive breast cancer. Hormones play the role of targeting agents that can be linked with some active anti-cancer drug [11-15].

1.3 Estradiol and estrogen receptor (ER)

Estrogens are a group of steroid sex hormones (**Figure 1.1**) that involve in the development of female sex appearance [8]. The excess in these hormones could be correlated with the increasing risk of cancer. Estradiol is one of the estrogen hormones, which is the most active among 4 major types of estrogen, estrone (E1), estradiol (E2), estriol (E3), and estetrol (E4) (**Figure 1.2**)

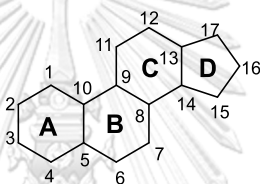


Figure 1.1 The core structure of steroids

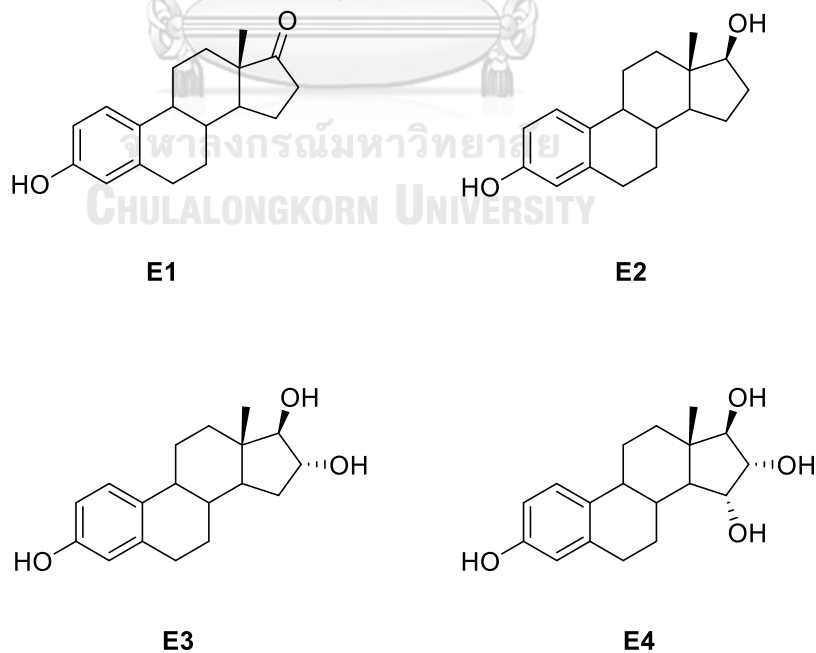


Figure 1.2 Estrogen Hormones: estrone (E1), estradiol (E2), estriol (E3), estetrol (E4)

Recently, estradiol has been introduced as a carrier for delivering anti-cancer drugs to specific cancer cells. The combination between estradiol and anti-cancer drug could increase the selectively targeting the drugs to breast cancer cell, since the existence of high level of estrogen receptor (ER) in breast cancer cells [10, 16]. With the ER excess in breast cancer cell, this will increase the probability to receive more drug to cancer cell more than normal cells and reduce the toxicity toward normal cells [17, 18].

The estrogen receptor (ER) is the protein in cells that have high efficiency binding with estrogen analogue that diffuse into the cell and bind to the ER, which located in the nucleus. The ER exists in 2 main forms, ER α and ER β . ER α was found in endometrium, breast cancer cells, ovarian stromal cells, and the hypothalamus meanwhile ER β were mostly found in ovarian granulosa cells, kidney, brain, bone, heart, lungs, intestinal mucosa, prostate, and endothelial cells [19].

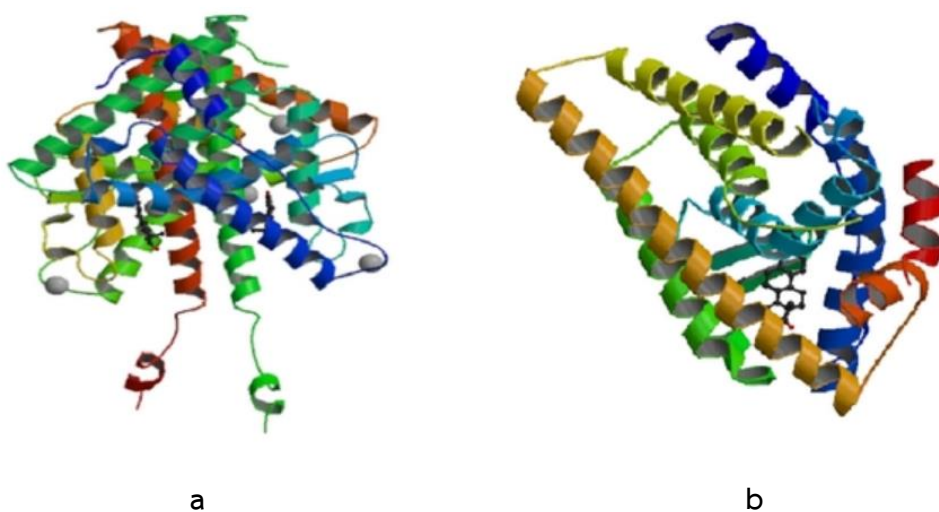


Figure 1.3 two isoforms of estrogen receptors, ER α and ER β bind with estradiol a) ER α + estradiol b) ER β + estradiol

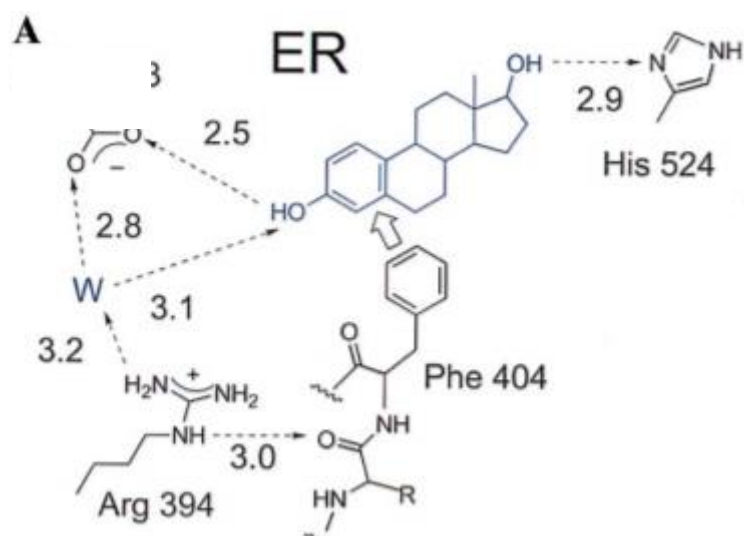


Figure 1.4 The hydrogen-bonding network between estradiol and ER



However, conjugation of the drug on estradiol may deactivate the binding affinity to the receptor. So, finding the best combination and conjugate positions on both estradiol and anticancer drug is a challenge to research in this area. **Figure 1.4** shows the existence of hydrogen bonding between ER and two hydroxy groups at 1- and 17-position of estradiol which is a specific site binding on the ERs [20, 21]. Therefore, those areas in the conjugated estradiol-drug should be free from any substitution to remain the strong binding efficiency toward ER.

1.4 Histone deacetylases (HDAC)

Histone deacetylases (HDAC) are the enzymes that catalyze the transcription in cell including the abnormal cells like cancer cells, by catalyzing the removal of acetyl groups from lysine residues on the tails of histone proteins [22]. Normally, the balance of acetylation and deacetylation of histone and nonhistone protein is an important key for normal cells. The inhibition of HDAC activities leads to nonequilibrium between these two processes and causes the problem in cell growth and division [23]. With this concept, histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACi) are the key for study on cell proliferation in many cancers. HDACs have 18 isoforms and are classified into 4 classes. Class I, II and IV require the presence of zinc ion for the activity of enzymes [24] and for class III is NAD⁺ dependent enzymes [25]. The zinc-dependent enzymes active site consists of a core pocket with a zinc atom at the base of the pocket [26, 27]. HDACi inhibits the enzyme activity by chelating with Zn²⁺ in the pocket [22].

In 2004, *N*-hydroxy-*N*-1-phenylactanediamide or suberanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for phase II clinical trials [28].

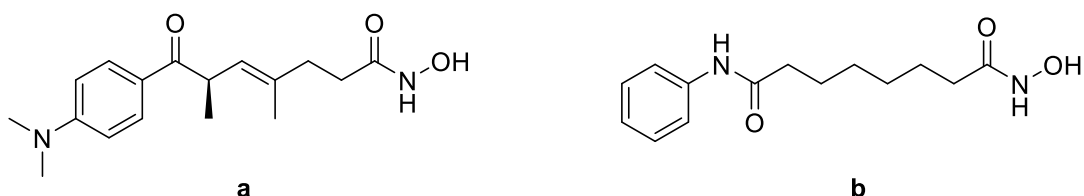


Figure 1.5 Zn^{2+} dependent-HDACi a) Trichostatin A (TSA) b) suberanilohydroxamic acid (SAHA)

Hydroxamate end chain HDACi, trichostatin A (TSA) and suberanilohydroxamic acid (SAHA) (**Figure 1.5**), are the most common zinc binding group (ZBG) that chelate Zn^{2+} at active site [29], have a carbon linker and a hydrophobic cap that block the entrance of active site [30]. These properties of SAHA lead to the use of HDACi as cancer therapeutics in the combination with other targeting or anti-cancer agent have been developed so far.

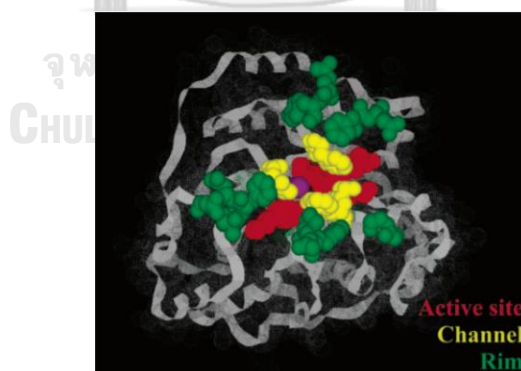


Figure 1.6 Crystal structure of HDAC, the Zn^{2+} is shown in purple [29].

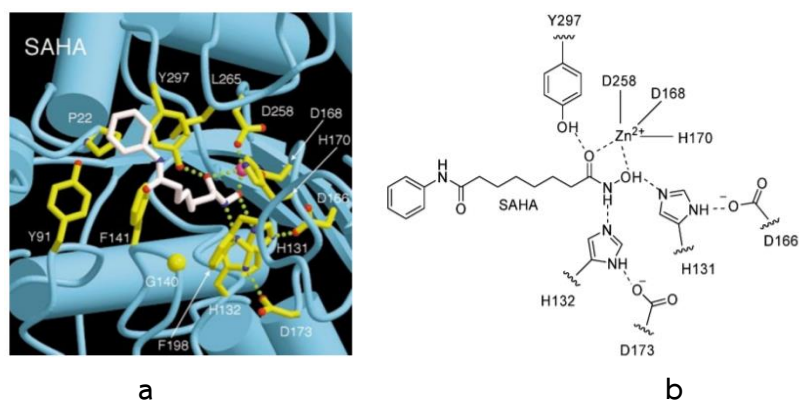


Figure 1.7 SAHA chelating with Zn^{2+} a) SAHA bind with Zn^{2+} [27] b) bidentate chelation of SAHA to Zn^{2+} [29].

1.5 Literature Review

1.5.1 Substitution on estradiol structure

In 1996, Cushman and co-worker [31] synthesized the estradiol conjugated ellipticine in order to use their abilities to bind with estrogen receptor positive cell or ER+ to inhibit topoisomerase II and poisonous cancer cell in human. The three estradiol conjugations were extended from 17α -position of estradiol linked to N-2, N-6 or C-9 position of ellipticine (**Figure1.8**).

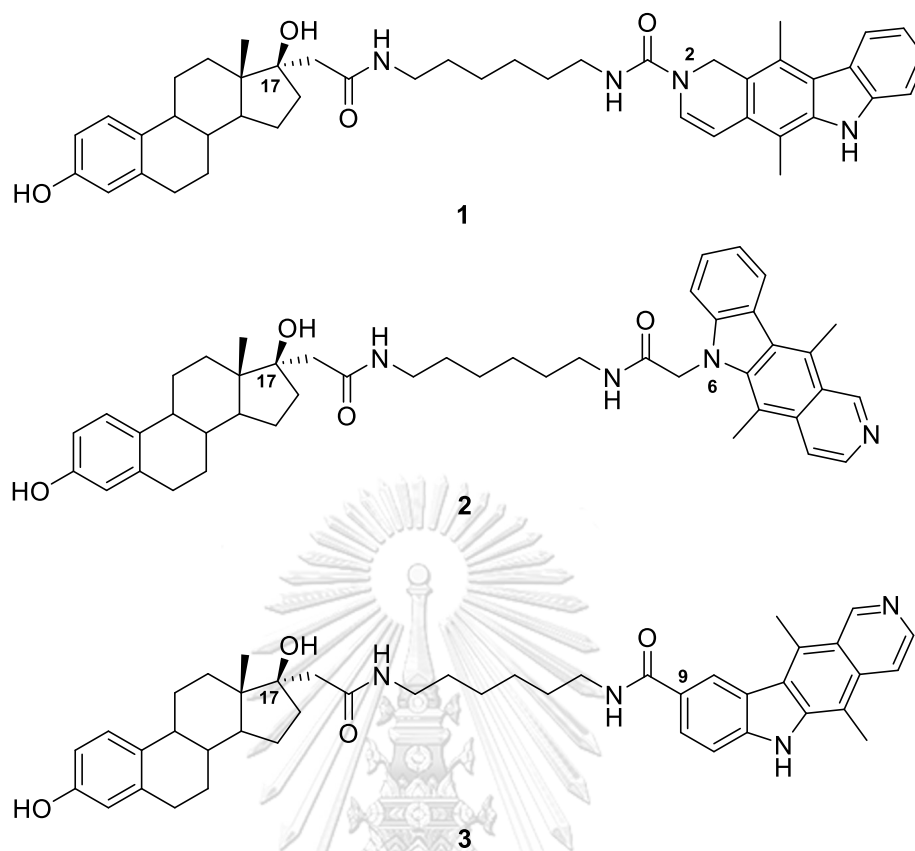


Figure 1.8 The structure of ellipticine-estradiol conjugated 1) from 17α to N-2 2) from 17α to N-6 3) from 17α to C-9

The relative binding affinities (RBAs) of conjugated compounds for ER were determined compared to unmodified estradiol (E2) (RBA=100) (**Table 1.1**). The results showed the weak binding between three conjugated compounds with ER. The same went for the inhibitor against topoisomerase II results (**Table 1.1**). Both studies could be inferred that the position of the conjugation of estradiol to ellipticine is an important topic related to the hinder from each piece of the conjugated compound.

Table 1.1 Relative Estrogen Receptor Binding Affinities and Topoisomerase II Inhibitory Activities of Ellipticine-Estradiol Conjugates

| compound | RBA | IC ₅₀ (μM) |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| E2 | 100 | - |
| 1 | 0.132 (± 0.028) | 24.1 (± 8.3) |
| 2 | - | >200 |
| 3 | 0.303(± 0.028) | >200 |

In 2001, Hochberg and co-worker [32] designed the analogue with 16 α -substitution of estradiol. Various functions and the differences in length of the chain were modified at 16 α -position. The protocol to substituted at 16-position was used from Katzenellenbogen group that reported in 1988 [33].

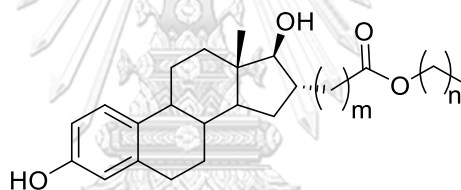


Figure 1.9 The structure analogue of 16-substituted.

Relative Estradiol Receptor Binding Affinities of 16 α -substituted estradiol were measured (**Table 1.2**). The carboxylic acid analogues (E16-1,0, E16-2,0 and E16-3,0) showed the non-binding result with ER. The increasing in chain length of an alkyl group (the number of m) decreased the binding, while the increase in alcohol portion (the number of n) didn't give any significant binding result.

Table 1.2 Relative Estrogen Receptor Binding Affinities of 16 α -substituted estradiol

| Compound | ER (RBA) |
|----------|---------------|
| E2 | 100 |
| E1 | 30 \pm 11 |
| E16-1,0 | 0 |
| E16-1,1 | 35 \pm 4 |
| E16-1,2 | 40 \pm 10 |
| E16-2,0 | 0 |
| E16-2,1 | 5 \pm 2 |
| E16-2,2 | 5 \pm 1 |
| E16-3,0 | 0.1 \pm 0.1 |
| E16-3,1 | 1 \pm 1 |

The selectivity toward different types of ER was also tested with 16 α -substituted estradiol, the selectivity preference in ER α over ER β was reported (**Table 1.3**). The preference to ER α is predictable due to previous work, as 16 α -iodoestradiol [34], showed very poor binding to ER β .

Table 1.3 Binding of Selected E16 to the LBD^a of human ER α and ER β

| Compound | ER α | ER β | ER α /ER β |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| E2 | 100 | 100 | 1 |
| E16-1,1 | 19 \pm 9 | 0.3 \pm 0.2 | 62 \pm 10 |
| E16-1,2 | 19 \pm 5 | 0.3 \pm 0.1 | 77 \pm 12 |
| E16-1,2F ₁ | 16 \pm 2 | 0.1 \pm 0.1 | 89 \pm 3 |
| E16-1,F ₂ | 13 \pm 9 | 0.2 \pm 0.1 | 67 \pm 4 |

^a LBD is ligand binding domain

Afterward, in 2003, the same research group [35] studied on the substitution at different rings of estradiol. The modifications were at 7, 11 β and 15 α -position on B, C and D-ring respectively.

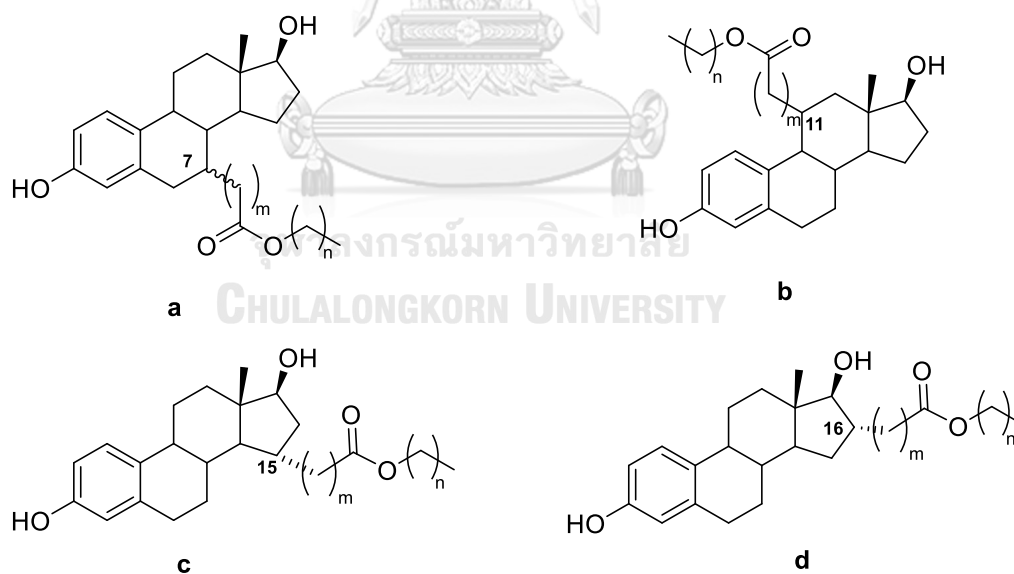


Figure 1.10 The substitution on estradiol a) 7 b) 11 β c) 15 α d) 16 α [32]

Those synthesized products were tested for estrogen receptor binding. Like previous work [32], the carboxylic analogues of all substituted estradiol showed poorly binding with ER. The elongation in alkyl group from attached site (m number) led to decrease in binding affinity. The RBA from each substituted position still gave weakly binding with ER.

For the selectivity study, only 16 α substituted estradiol showed the preference to ER α , for all the 7, 11 β and 15 α -substituted estradiol had no selectivity ER α and ER β (Table 1.4)

Table 1.4 The selectivity of substituted estradiol to ER α and ER β

| Compound | ER α | ER β | ER α /ER β |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| E2 | 100 | 100 | 1 |
| E7R-1,2 | 11 \pm 2 | 9 \pm 2 | 1 \pm 0.1 |
| E11-2,2 | 66 \pm 11 | 70 \pm 14 | 1 \pm 0.04 |
| E11-3,2 | 66 \pm 3 | 64 \pm 7 | 1 \pm 0.4 |
| E15-1,2 | 22 \pm 5 | 7 \pm 2 | 3 \pm 0.6 |
| E16-1,2 27 | 27 \pm 6 | 0.3 \pm 0.1 | 95 \pm 47 |

1.5.2 Estradiol conjugated drug

In 1994, Nique and co-worker [36] synthesized 11 β -amidoalkoxyphenyl estradiols as a new antiestrogen to compared with tamoxifen (TAM) and 4-hydroxytamoxifen (OH-TAM). Substitution at 11 β -position of estradiol led to antiproliferative and antitumoral antiestrogens to compete with estrogen in binding with ER [37]. The new series of 11 β -amido-alkoxyphenyl substituted estradiol derivatives were synthesized and test the activity against MCF-7 cells.

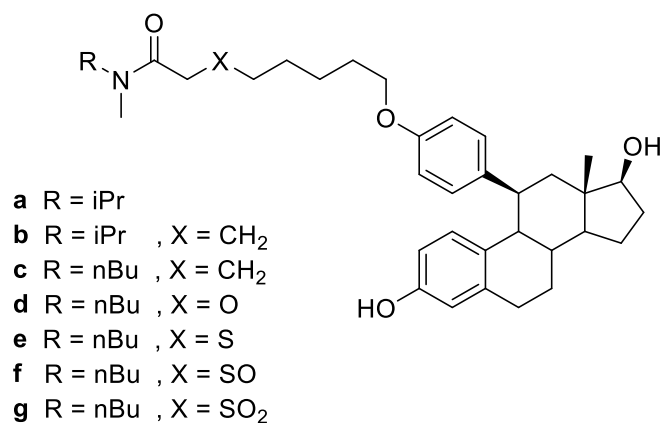


Figure 1.11 The 11 β -amido-alkoxyphenyl substituted estradiol core structure

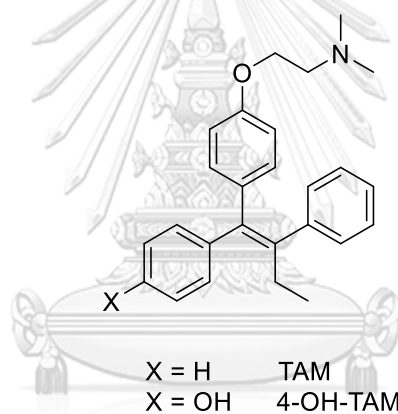


Figure 1.12 tamoxifen (TAM) and 4-hydroxytamoxifen (OH-TAM) structure

From **Table 1.5**, the activity on MCF-7 cell line under different stimulation conditions, compared to OH-TAM, synthesized 11 β -amido-alkoxyphenyl substituted estradiol derivatives have the lower IC₅₀ value 30 to 200 times.

Table 1.5 Pharmacological profile of ant \pm estrogens

| | RBA ER: mice | IC ₅₀ MCF-7 | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | 5h, 25°C | mean \pm SEM (nM) | | |
| | (E2=100) | E2-stimulated (0.1 nM) | Insulin Stimulated | EGF ^a PDGF ^b Stimulated |
| a | 38 \pm 13 | 10 \pm 7 | 2.5 \pm 1.4 | 0.54 \pm 0.35 |
| b | 32 \pm 2 | 0.82 \pm 0.48 | 0.15 \pm 0.09 | 0.21 \pm 0.10 |
| c | 24 \pm 3 | 0.53 \pm 0.08 | 0.11 \pm 0.10 | 0.15 \pm 0.12 |
| d | 30 \pm 4 | 0.28 \pm 0.07 | 0.020 \pm 0.015 | 0.012 \pm 0.009 |
| e | 15 \pm 2 | 0.43 \pm 0.20 | 0.053 \pm 0.036 | 0.023 \pm 0.011 |
| f | 10 \pm 1 | 0.42 \pm 0.14 | 0.068 \pm 0.036 | 0.021 \pm 0.006 |
| g | 9.6 \pm 0.8 | 0.32 \pm 0.14 | 0.020 \pm 0.018 | 0.005 \pm 0.004 |
| Tamoxifen | 0.6 \pm 0.1 | 316 \pm 21 | 470 \pm 230 | 580 \pm 240 |
| 4-OH-TAM | 40 \pm 8 | 7.4 \pm 3.4 | 4.2 \pm 2.3 | 0.66 \pm 0.11 |

^a epidermal growth factor

^b platelet derived growth factor

In 2012, Dao and co-worker [38] successfully synthesized estradiol-doxorubicin conjugate. Many doxorubicin derivatives had been reported for many years [39-42] mostly with tamoxifen (TAM) as the targeting carrier to ER+ on breast cancer cells. However, TAM had a weak binding ability to ER and somehow showed the binding with another site apart from ER.

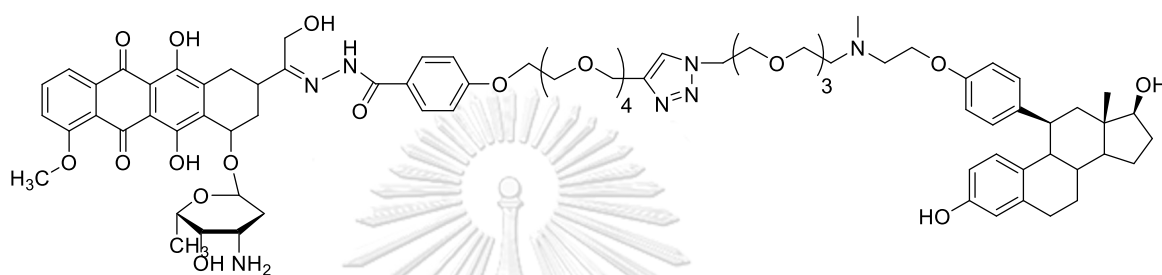


Figure 1.13 estradiol-doxorubicin conjugate

Therefore, this research group interested in combining estradiol with doxorubicin. This study not only focused on targeting and the treatment but also focused on the linker between two moieties. The linker chain should be long enough that two components of the conjugated drug not hinder each other. The elaborate design was to synthesize and link the two parts together. The new compound was tested the cytotoxicity assays against ER (+)-MCF-7 and ER (-)-MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell lines (**Table 1.6**).

Table 1.6 IC₅₀ (nM), of Various Dox Compounds

| compound | MCF-7 | MDA-MB-231 | MCF-7 (+ES) |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Dox | 602 ± 20 | 89 ± 7 | 585 ± 30 |
| Dox-Linker | 597 ± 20 | 86 ± 5 | 594 ± 20 |
| AE-Dox | 11 ± 6 | 90 ± 8 | 589 ± 3 |

The new conjugated compound (AE-Dox) showed the high ability in toxicity toward MCF-7 cells line with the low IC₅₀ compared to normal doxorubicin.

1.5.3 suberanilohydroxamic acid (SAHA) as histone deacetylase inhibitors

(HDACi)

In 2005, Njar and co-worker [28] reported the new method to synthesize SAHA with high yield and shorter time compared to the common synthesis previously reported.

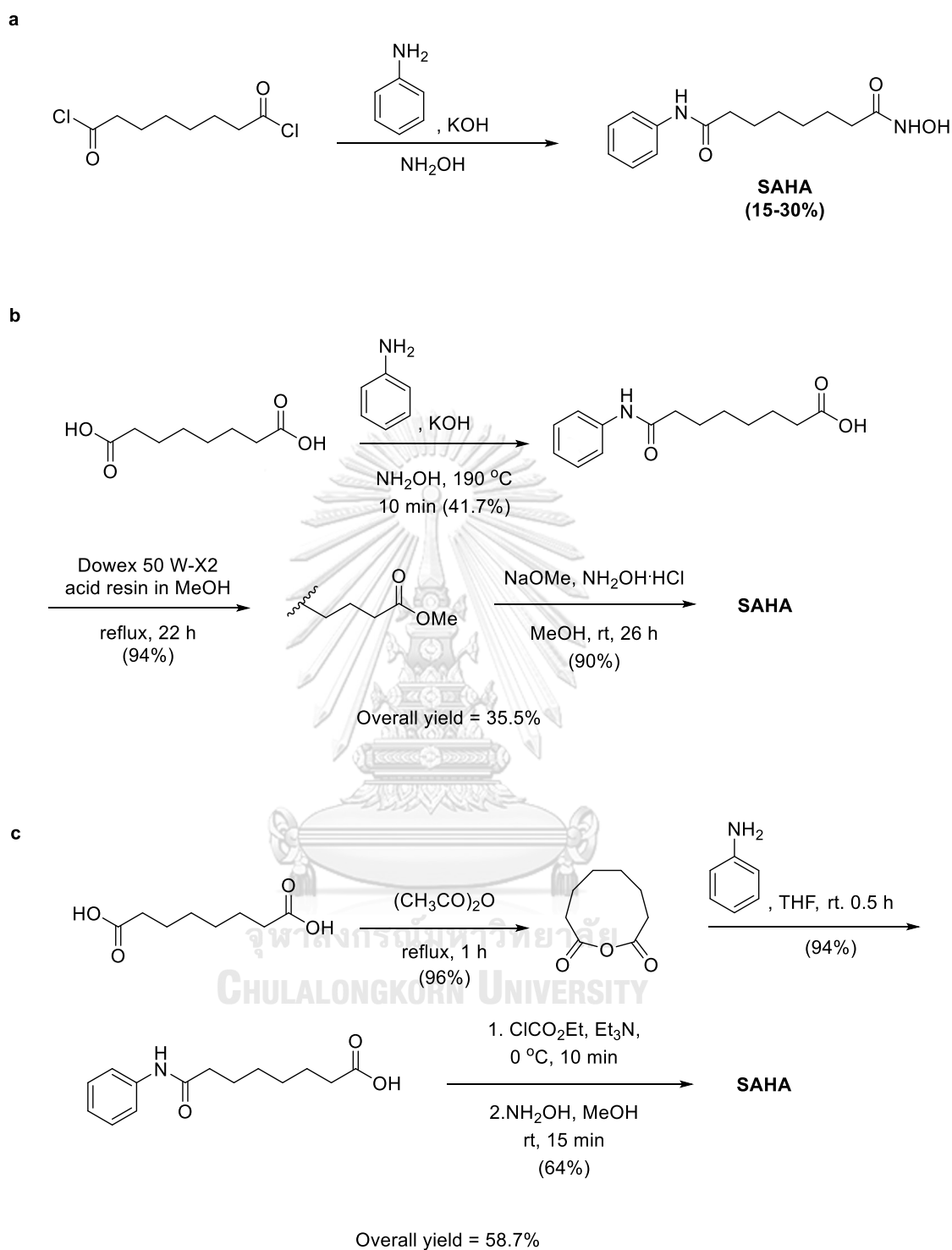


Figure 1.14 Previous procedure for the synthesis of SAHA a) Breslow et al. [43] b) Stowell et al. [44] c) Mai et al. [45]

In this research, they proposed the new way to synthesized SAHA in high yield and processing at room temperature. By using the purchase suberic acid monomethyl ester (**Figure 1.15**), mixed with 1-hydroxybenzotriazole, aniline and DCC in DMF at room temperature to obtain suberanilic acid methyl ester in 88.7%. The methoxy group was converted to hydroxamic acid with hydroxylamine hydrochloride and potassium hydroxide in methanol. The obtained SAHA yield in 90% with an overall yield of 79.8%

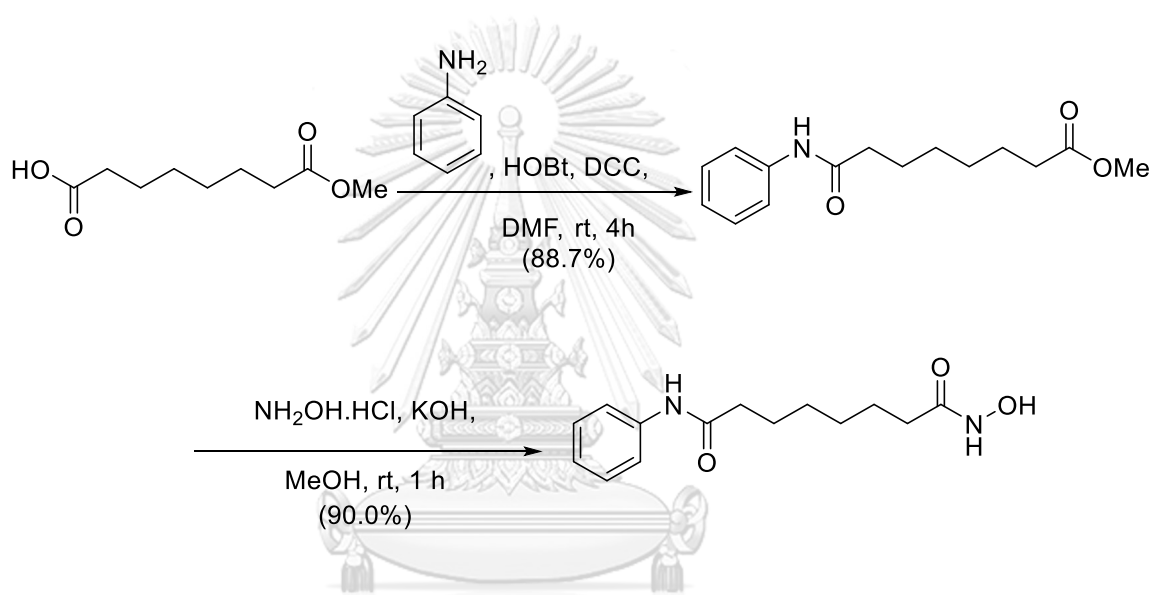


Figure 1.15 The new developed method for synthesise SAHA

In 2013, Berkley and co-worker [46] were interested in histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACi) for inhibiting transcription of cancer cells [47, 48]. Two combinations of HDACi with other anti-cancer compound have been developed, with hormones therapy which helps in targeting HDACi to cancer cells, TAM (an antagonist and selective ER modulator) and estradiol (an ER agonist).

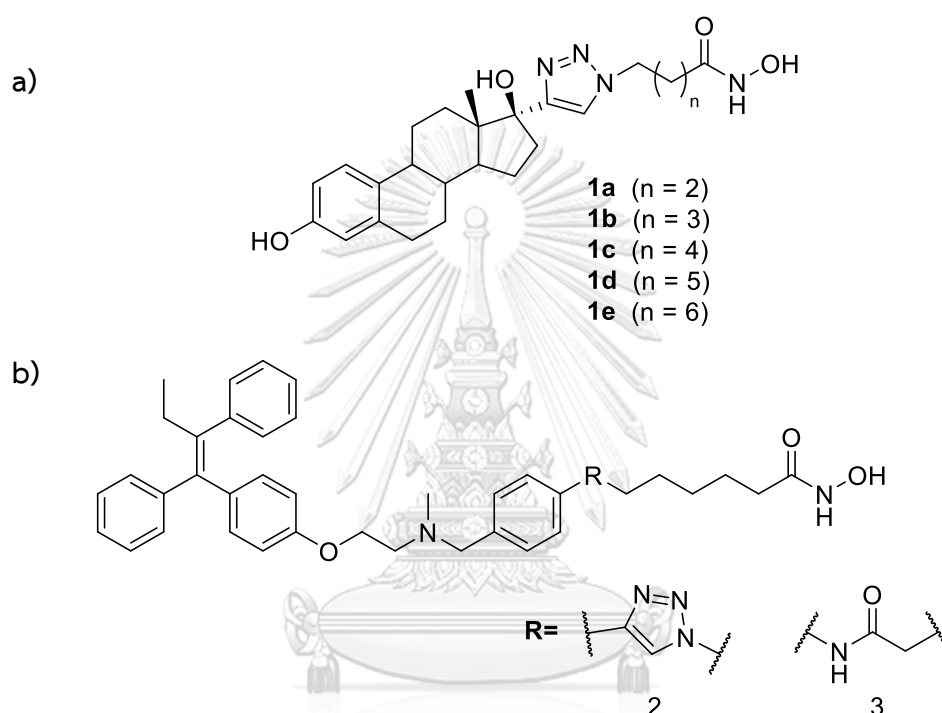
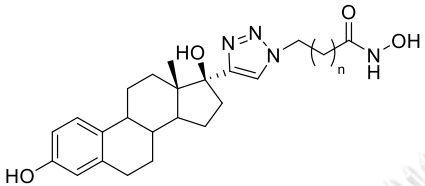
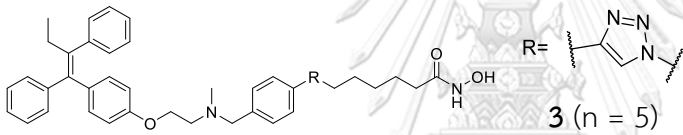


Figure 1.16 conjugated HDACi a) Ethynylestradiol–HDACi conjugates (EED-HDACi), b) tamoxifen–HDACi conjugates (TAM-HDACi)

Two types of conjugated HDACi were successfully synthesized and tested for agonist (EED-HDACi) and antagonist (TAM-HDAi) abilities. Both EED-HDACi and Tam-HDACi retain agonist or antagonist activity of their parent drugs (EED and tamoxifen, respectively). **Table 1.7**, the result showed that EED-HDACi became the weaker agonist compared to the normal estradiol as ER agonist

Table 1.7 Exhibition of ER α -agonist or antagonist activity

| | Agonism (fold activation) | Antagonism IC ₅₀ (μ M) |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|  | 1a (n = 2) 1.55 \pm 0.57 | - |
| | 1b (n = 3) 6.84 \pm 2.05 | - |
| | 1c (n = 4) 2.00 \pm 0.86 | - |
| | 1d (n = 5) 4.72 \pm 2.12 | - |
| | 1e (n = 6) 1.19 \pm 0.48 | - |
| E2 | 16.2 \pm 2.15 | - |
| EED | 19.9 \pm 2.47 | - |
|  | 2 (n = 5) - | 0.248 \pm 0.129 |
| | 3 (n = 5) - | 0.127 \pm 0.049 |
| tamoxifen | - | 0.039 \pm 0.015 |

1.6 The objective of this work

The functionalization at phenolic ring A of estradiol was proposed to find the new conjugated drug which has high efficiency in binding with corresponding estrogen receptor. This may help to improve in targeting the drugs to tumor cells and reduce the toxicity toward normal cells. 4-cresol is used in the role of representation of ring A to optimize the reaction condition before applying on estradiol. Substitution at 1, 2 and 4-position of estradiol with the active functional group would lead to further conjugation with an active anti-cancer to bring the capability of the conjugated drug in the future.

CHAPTER II

EXPERIMENTS

2.1 Chemicals

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on aluminum sheets coated with silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany). Stationary phase in column chromatography was 0.040-0.060 mm or 40-60 mesh ASTM silica gel 60 (Merck Kieselgel 60 P, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany). Solvents for synthesis were reagent or analytical grades, and those for column chromatography were distilled from commercial grade. Other reagents were purchased from the following vendors:

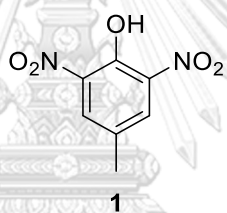
- Acros Organics (USA): hydrobromic acid 33% in glacial acetic acid, imidazole, sodium nitrite (NaNO₂), tin (II) chloride anhydrous, trimethylsilyl chloride,
- Carlo Erba (Italy): triethylamine
- Euriotop (USA): deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃), deuterated acetone (acetone-d₆)
- Merck Co. (Germany): fuming nitric acid, 4-nitrobenzyl chloride, sodium hydroxide (NaOH), sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄)
- RCI Labscan (Thailand): acetone, acetic acid, acetonitrile, 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), dichloromethane (DCM), dimethylformamide (DMF), ethyl acetate (EtOAc), hexane, magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄), methanol, sodium hydrogen carbonate (NaHCO₃), tetrahydrofuran (THF)
- Sigma-Aldrich (USA): benzyl bromide, β -estradiol, bromine (Br₂), *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride, hydroxylamine hydrochloride, *p*-toluidine
- TCI (Japan): Acetyl chloride, adipoyl chloride, aniline hydrochloride, triisopropylsilyl chloride

2.2 Instruments and Equipment

Melting points were determined with a Stuart Scientific Melting Point SMP10 (Bibby Sterlin Ltd., Staffordshire, UK). The FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectra were obtained from Varian Mercury NMR spectrometer operated at 400.00 MHz. ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained from Bruker Avance 400 operated at 100.00 MHz. Mass data were measured with ESI-MS (Quattro microTM API).

2.3 Model functionalization on 4-cresol

2.3.1 2,6-dinitro-4-methylphenol (1)

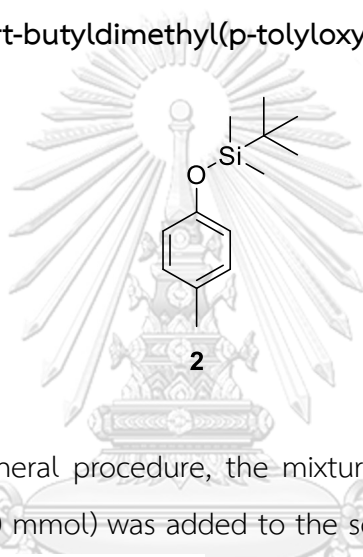


4-cresol (0.108 g, 1 mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (1 mL) and was added dropwise to the mixture of fuming nitric acid (0.5 mL) and conc. sulfuric acid (1.5 mL) at 0 °C in an ice bath for a period of 30 min. The reaction was warmed to room temperature and quenched by pouring into water, extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated NaHCO_3 solution. After evaporation, the crude product was purified by column chromatography, eluted with 8:2 hexane:ethyl acetate. The yellow solid product was found to be the dinitration compound (0.123 g, 62%) [49]. mp. 74-76 °C, lit 77 °C [50]. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 11.29 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H) (Figure A.1, Appendix) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 147.4, 137.3, 131.6, 129.4, 20.0. (Figure A.2, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3512, 3084, 2931, 1532, 1245. (Figure A.3, Appendix).

2.3.2 Phenolic *O*-silylation of 4-cresol.

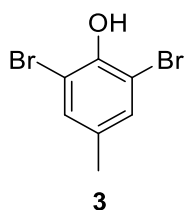
General procedure: One equivalent of 4-cresol derivatives, 5 equivalent of silyl chloride and imidazole were dissolved in DMF (5-10 mL) and stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 30 min. The solution was then added water, extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated.

2.3.2.1 *tert*-butyldimethyl(*p*-toloxy)silane (**2**)



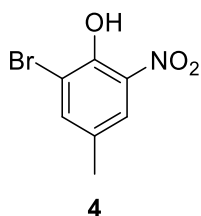
Following the general procedure, the mixture of 4-cresol (0.216 g, 2 mmol) and imidazole (0.68 g, 10 mmol) was added to the solution of *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (1.5 g, 10 mmol) in DMF (5 mL). The crude product was purified by passing through short column chromatography eluted with 100% hexane. The product **2** appeared as colorless liquid (0.396 g, 89%) [51, 52]. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 6.97 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 0.96 (s, 9H), 0.15 (s, 6H) (Figure A.4, Appendix)

2.3.3 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol (**3**)



Bromine (1.598 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (8 mL) and dropped into the solution of 4-cresol (0.54 g, 5 mmol) in 1: 3 acetic acid: water at room temperature over 30 min. The mixture was then stirred for another 30 min. After the reaction completed, it was poured into distilled water (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvent was removed. The crude product **3** was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexane:ethyl acetate as an eluent. The product appeared as a pale-yellow solid (1.06 g, 78.3%). mp. 48-50 °C, lit 49 °C [53]. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.24 (s, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H) (Figure A.6, Appendix). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 147.2, 132.4, 109.4, 20.0. (Figure A.7, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3411, 2921, 1559, 1474 (Figure A.8, Appendix). MS: 265.74 m/z [M^+] (Figure A.9, Appendix)

2.3.4 2-bromo-6-nitro-4-methylphenol (**4**)

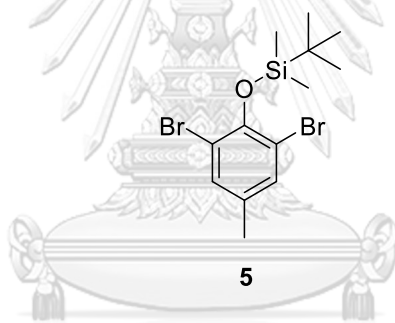


The solution of **3** (0.265 g, 1 mmol) in acetic acid (1 mL) was added conc. nitric acid (3 mL) and conc. sulfuric acid (1 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The reaction was worked up by pouring into water (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous

magnesium sulfate and removed solvent by evaporation. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 8:2 hexane:ethyl acetate as an eluent. Two products were obtained. Compound **4** (0.099g, 43%) [54, 55] was isolated as yellow solid product ($R_f = 0.51$, mp. 68-70°C, lit. 69°C [56, 57]). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 10.97 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.10, Appendix**). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 150.2, 141.8, 132.4, 130.6, 124.1, 112.4, 20.1. (**Figure A.11, Appendix**) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3166, 3065, 2927, 1536, 1309 (**Figure A.12, Appendix**) The second product ($R_f = 0.26$) was compound **1** (0.063g, 31.7%)

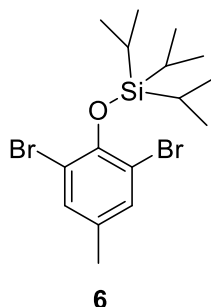
2.3.5 Phenolic *O*-silylation of 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol

2.3.5.1 (2,6-bromo-4-methylphenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (**5**)



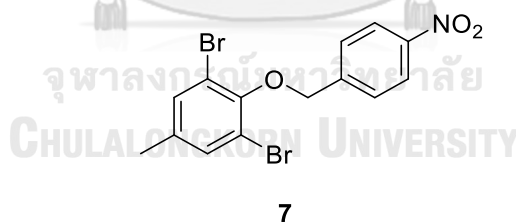
From the general procedure above (section 2.3.2), compound **3** (1.329 g, 5 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (10 mL) and added *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (3.75 g, 25 mmol) and imidazole (1.72 g, 25 mmol). The crude product was purified by column chromatography, eluted with 100% hexane to obtain the product **5** as colorless liquid (1.59 g, 84%) [58]. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 6.93 (s, 2H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 0.71 (s, 9H), 0.00 (s, 6H) (**Figure A.13, Appendix**) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 2948, 2925, 2855, 1462, 1276, 1250 (**Figure A.14, Appendix**).

2.3.5.2 (2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenoxy)triisopropylsilane (6)



From the general procedure, triisopropylsilyl chloride (0.964 g, 5 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **3** (0.265 g, 1 mmol) in DMF (10 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography with eluent 100% hexane to get the product appear as white crystal (1.06 g, 78.3%) [59]. mp. 92-94 °C, lit 95 °C [59]. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.27 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.61-1.47 (m, 3H), 1.15 (d, $J = 7.6$, 18H). (Figure A.15, Appendix)

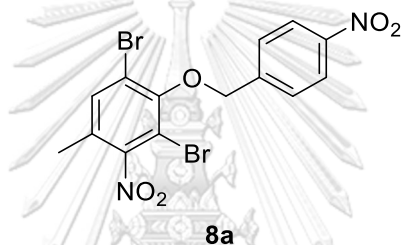
2.3.6 1,3-dibromo-5-methyl-2-(4-nitrobenzyloxy)benzene (7)



The mixture of **3** (0.265 g, 1 mmol), 4-nitrobenzyl chloride (0.205 g, 1.2 mmol), potassium carbonate (0.276 g, 2 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL) and heated to 80 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 8 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was added 10 mL of water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed three times with additional water and brine. The separated organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After removing the solvent by evaporation, the crude product was purified by column

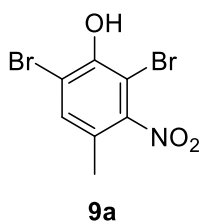
chromatography using 8:2 hexane: ethyl acetate as an eluent to afford the product as white solid (0.312 g, 77%). mp. 117-118°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 8.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.16, Appendix**) $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 155.0, 146.0, 143.7, 137.0, 133.3, 128.4, 123.7, 117.8, 73.0, 20.3. (**Figure A.17, Appendix**) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3112, 3086, 2933, 1517, 1346. (**Figure A.18, Appendix**) HRMS: 423.8973 m/z [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] (calculated 423.8978). (**Figure A.19, Appendix**)

2.3.7 1,3-dibromo-5-methyl-4-nitro-2-(4-nitrobenzyloxy)benzene (**8a**)



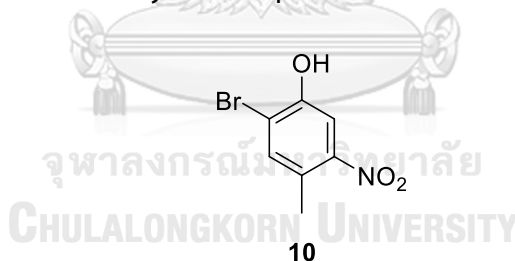
Compound **9** (0.200 g, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (5 mL) in ice bath. The nitrating agent, prepared by mixing fuming HNO_3 (1.5 mL) and conc. H_2SO_4 (0.5 mL) at 0 °C, was added dropwise to the solution for 30 min. The ice bath was then removed and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. After completion, the reaction was worked up by adding saturated NaHCO_3 to basic condition and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to yield product **8a** as a white solid (0.084 g, 37.8%). mp. 147-150°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 8.27 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.56 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.21, Appendix**) $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 151.9, 151.7, 148.1, 142.8, 134.7, 128.6, 128.4, 123.8, 119.8, 110.1, 73.4, 17.0. (**Figure A.22, Appendix**) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3114, 3079, 2929, 1513, 1348. (**Figure A.23, Appendix**) HRMS: 468.8825 m/z [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] (calculated 468.8829). (**Figure A.24, Appendix**)

2.3.8 2,6-dibromo-4-methyl-3-nitrophenol (**9a**)



Compound **8a** (0.022 g, 0.05 mmol) was dissolved in 33% hydrobromic acid in acetic acid (2 mL) and refluxed overnight. The reaction was then poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, evaporated and purified by column chromatography with 8:2 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent. The product **9a** appeared as brown liquid (0.012 g, 78.3%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.45 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.26, Appendix**).

2.3.9 2-bromo-4-methyl-5-nitrophenol (**10**)

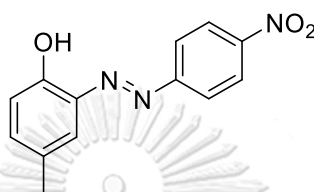


Compound **9a** (0.012 g, 0.038 mmol) was dissolved in 33% hydrobromic acid in acetic acid (5 mL). *p*-Toluidine (0.0163 g, 0.152 mmol) was added into the reaction as bromine scavenger. The mixture was refluxed overnight. After cooled down to room temperature, it was added water and adjusted pH to neutral with sat. NaHCO_3 . The solution was extracted by ethyl acetate, and the organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using 8:2 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to

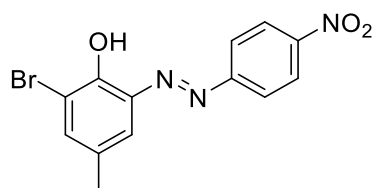
give the product **10** as brown liquid (0.0029 g, 32.4%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.29, Appendix**).

2.3.10 Diazo coupling reaction

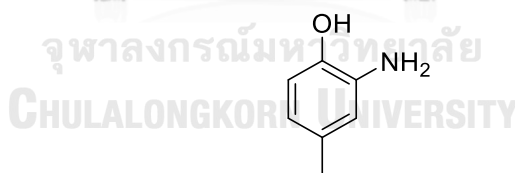
2.3.10.1 4-methyl-2-((4'-nitrophenyl)diazenyl)phenol (**11**)



A cold 1 M NaNO_2 solution (2 mL) was added dropwise to the solution of *p*-nitroaniline (0.138 g, 1 mmol) in 3 M hydrochloric acid (1.5 mL) at 0 °C in ice bath to generate diazonium salt. Then this solution was dropped into a cooled solution of *p*-cresol (0.108 g, 1 mmol) in 1 M NaOH (2 mL). The mixture was then neutralized with 2 M Na_2CO_3 , and stirred at 0 °C for another 10 min. The precipitate was filtered, washed with cold water and left to dry in a desiccator to give a brown orange solid (0.252 g, 97%) [60]. ^1H -NMR (acetone- d_6) δ (ppm): 11.72 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.32, Appendix**) ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 154.2, 150.9, 137.6, 136.3, 133.6, 129.9, 125.0, 125.0, 122.7, 118.3, 20.3 (**Figure A.33, Appendix**). FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3102, 2925, 1608, 1519, 1495, 1429, 1340. (**Figure A.34, Appendix**) MS: 258.09 m/z [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] (**Figure A.35, Appendix**).

2.3.10.2 2-bromo-4-methyl-6-((4-nitrophenyl)diazenyl)phenol (**12**)**12**

The cold solution of *p*-nitroaniline (0.138 g, 1 mmol) in 3 M hydrochloric acid (1.5 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise by cold 1 M NaNO₂ solution (2 mL) in 5 min. Then the solution was dropped into the cold solution of **2** (0.265 g, 1 mmol) in 1 M NaOH (2 mL). The mixture was then neutralized with 2 M Na₂CO₃, and stirred at 0 °C for another 10 min. The precipitate was filtered and washed with cold water, then left to dry in a desiccator to give a brown orange solid (0.276 g, 82%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 13.31 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H) (Figure A.36, Appendix).

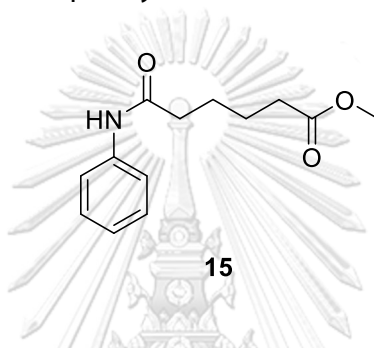
2.3.11 2-amino-4-methylphenol (**13**)**13**

The solution of tin (II) chloride (0.189 g, 1 mmol) in conc. hydrochloric acid (1 mL) was added into the solution of compound **11** (0.05 g, 0.2 mmol) in ethanol (1 mL). The mixture was heated to 50 °C and stirred for 30 min. After cooling down to room temperature it was poured into water (10 mL) and was added sat. NaHCO₃ to adjust the pH to basic, then the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were collected and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 2:1 hexane: ethyl

acetate to afford product **13** as brown solid (0.021 g, 90%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 6.99 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H) (**Figure A.37, Appendix**) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 142.3, 139.6, 133.0, 122.2, 109.2, 108.8, 20.4. (**Figure A.38, Appendix**).

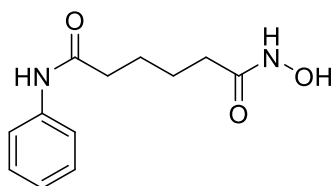
2.4 Model Synthesis for SAHA-like moiety

2.4.1 Methyl 6-oxo-6-(phenylamino)hexanoate (**15**)



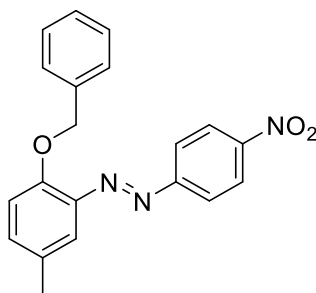
The mixed solution of methanol (0.20 mL, 5 mmol) and triethylamine (0.7 mL, 5 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was dropped into the solution of adipoyl chloride (0.549 g, 3 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL) at 0 °C in ice bath under nitrogen atmosphere. It was then added the solution of aniline (0.047 g, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (0.14 mL, 1 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL). The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for another 30 min, then quenched by adding 2 mL methanol and excess water, extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The crude product was purified by column chromatography with 2:1 hexane: ethyl acetate to obtain product **15** as colorless liquid (0.095 g, 80 %). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.28 (m, 4H), 1.64 (m, 4H). (**Figure A.40, Appendix**) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3306, 2948, 2869, 2362, 1732, 1659, 1599, 1438. (**Figure A.41, Appendix**) MS: 235.87 m/z [M^+] (**Figure A.42, Appendix**).

2.4.2 N¹-hydroxy-N⁶-phenyladipamide (16)

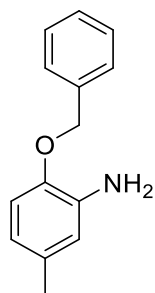
**16**

To a solution of compound **15** (0.023 g, 0.1 mmol) in 3 mL of 1:1 tetrahydrofuran: methanol, was added 50% aqueous solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.104 g, 1.5 mmol) and triethylamine (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 days. It was then poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The obtained product **16** appeared as pale-yellow solid (0.026 g, 92.5%). mp. 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ (ppm): 7.52 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (m, 4H), 1.69 (m, 4H). (Figure A.44, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3310, 2956, 2919, 2874, 2849, 1686, 1655, 1597, 1517. (Figure A.45, Appendix)

2.4.3 1-(2-(benzyloxy)-5-methylphenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)diazene (17)

**17**

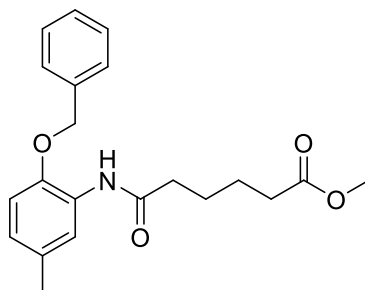
Compound **11** (0.026 g, 0.1 mmol), benzyl bromide (0.06 mL, 0.5 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.28 g, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2 mL). The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature, then extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with water and brine. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexane: ethyl acetate to yield product **17** as a deep orange solid (0.028 g, 82.9%). mp. 130-131 °C. 1H NMR (acetone- d_6) δ (ppm): 8.44 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.12 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.27 (m, 8H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). (Figure A.46, Appendix). FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3100, 3034, 2913, 2857, 1606, 1501, 1338. (Figure A.47, Appendix).

2.4.4 2-(benzyloxy)-5-methylaniline (**18**)**18**

Tin (II) chloride (0.04 g, 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in 10% hydrochloric acid (2 mL) and transferred into the solution of compound **17** (0.014 g, 0.04 mmol) in ethanol (4 mL). The mixture was heated to 50 °C for 15 min. Then 10 mL of water was added and the resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed three times with additional water and then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After evaporation of solvent, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography eluted by 8:2 hexane: ethyl acetate to afford product **18** as brown liquid (0.083 g, 80%). ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ (ppm): 7.44 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H). (Figure A.48, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3468, 3372, 2917, 2849, 1614, 1513, 1451. (Figure A.49, Appendix).

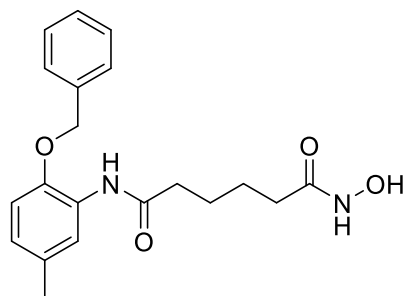
2.4.5 methyl 6-((2-(benzyloxy)-5-methylphenyl)amino)-6-oxohexanoate

(19)

**19**

Methanol (0.05 mL, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.15 mL, 1 mmol) was mixed in dichloromethane (2 mL) and dropped into the solution of adipoyl chloride (0.11 g, 0.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL) at 0 °C in ice bath under nitrogen atmosphere. Then the solution of compound **18** (0.021 g, 0.1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.07 mL, 0.5 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL) was added to the mixture and continue stirring at 0 °C for 30 min. Methanol 1 mL was added to work up the reaction and ethyl acetate and water were added for extractions. The organic layer was collected and the solvent was removed. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 6:4 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain product **19** as colorless liquid (0.034 g, 97.2%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.40 (m, 5H), 6.81 (m, 2H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.34 (m, 4H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.71 (m, 4H). (Figure A.50, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3422, 3333, 2948, 2863, 1729, 1676, 1593, 1532. (Figure A.51, Appendix)

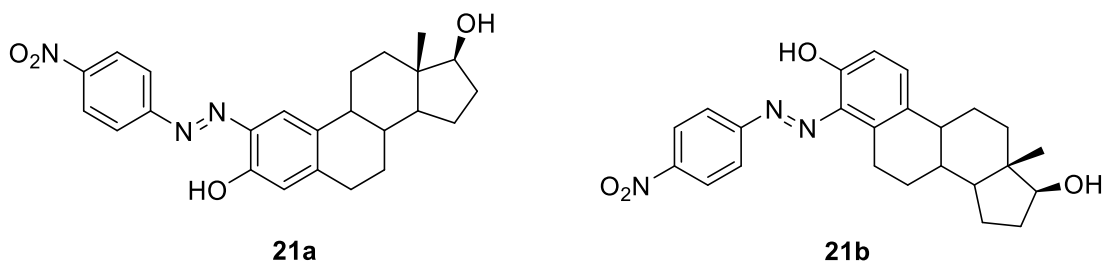
2.4.6 Conversion of methoxy to hydroxamic acid

**20**

The aqueous solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.024 g, 0.35 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **19** (0.008 g, 0.023 mmol) and triethylamine (0.05 mL, 0.35 mmol) in 3 mL of 1:1 tetrahydrofuran: methanol. The solution was refluxed for 3 Days. After cooled down to room temperature, the water was added into the solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvent was removed by evaporator to obtain product **20** as pale yellow liquid (0.006 g, 74.8%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.76 (2, 1H), 7.40 (m, 5H), 6.82 (m, 2H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 2.36 (m, 4H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.72 (m, 4H). (Figure A.52, Appendix)

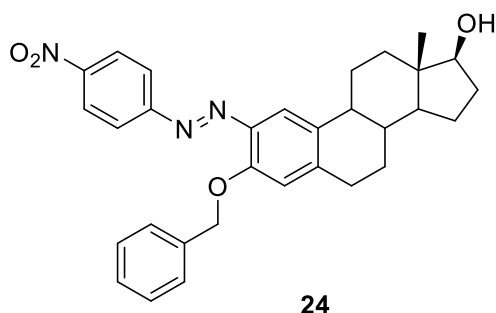
2.5 Functionalization on β -estradiol.

2.5.1 Diazo coupling on β -estradiol



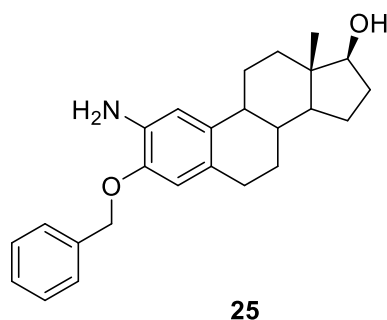
Similar to the diazo coupling protocol in section 2.3.10, diazonium salts was generated by dropping cold 1 M NaNO_2 (0.2 mL) to solution of *p*-nitroaniline (0.014 g, 0.1 mmol) in 3 M hydrochloric acid (1.5 mL) in ice bath. After 5 min, the mixture was added dropwise to the cold solution of estradiol (0.027 g, 0.1 mmol) in 1 M NaOH (5 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, the reaction was adjusted to neutral by adding 2 M Na_2CO_3 and stirred at 0 °C for another 2 h. The crude product was filtered and left to dry in desiccator. Two isomers of diazo products were obtained after purification by column chromatography using 2:1 dichloromethane: ethyl acetate as eluent. The first product ($R_f = 0.71$) was compound **21a** appeared as a yellow solid (0.014 g, 34%). mp. 231-234 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 3.77 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.44 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.32-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.08-1.85 (m, 3H), 1.46-1.11 (m, 6H), 0.82 (s, 3H). (**Figure A.53, Appendix**). The second product **21b** appear as an orange solid (0.012 g, 29%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 13.46 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.73-3.71 (m, 2H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 18.6, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.25-3.08 (m, 2H), 2.87 (d, $J = 50.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.41-1.82 (m, 6H), 1.81-1.69 (m, 2H), 0.85-0.76 (m, 3H). (**Figure A.54, Appendix**).

2.5.2 Benzylation of 2-diazo-estradiol



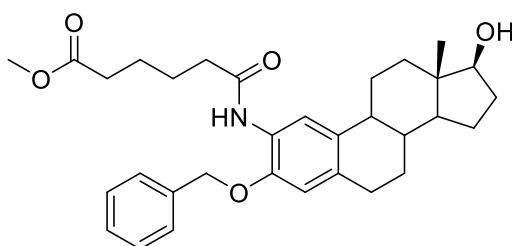
The mixture of compound **21a** (0.02 g, 0.05 mmol), benzyl bromide (0.05 mL, 0.4 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.06 g, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (4 mL) was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was quenched by adding water, extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. After drying organic layers with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, the solvent was removed using evaporator. The crude product was purified by column chromatography with 2:1 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to afford product **24** as an orange solid. (0.018 g, 74.14%) 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 8.33 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.42-1.10 (m, 13H) (Figure A.57, Appendix). FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3370, 2923, 2869, 1606, 1521, 1338. (Figure A.58, Appendix)

2.5.3 Reduction of protected 2-diazo-estradiol



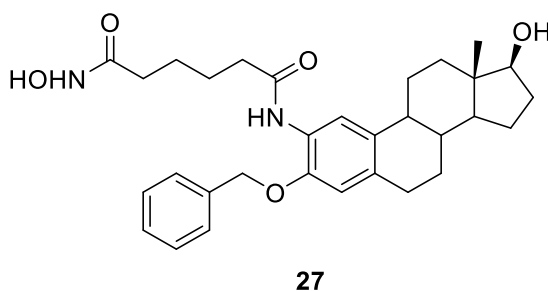
The solution of tin (II) chloride (0.029 g, 0.15 mmol) in 10% hydrochloric acid (2 mL) was transferred to the solution of compound **24** (0.014 g, 0.03 mmol) in ethanol (2 mL). The mixture was stirred for 15 min. Then the reaction was added 10 mL of water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After removal of solvent, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography eluted with 1:1 hexane: ethyl acetate to afford product **25** as brown liquid (0.007 g, 67.8%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.49-7.28 (m, 5H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 2.75 (m, 2H), 2.28-1.03 (m, 13H), 0.77 (s, 3H). (Figure A.59, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3355, 2921, 2851, 1595, 1511, 1307. (Figure A.60, Appendix)

2.5.4 Conjugation with SAHA-like moiety

**26**

Mixture of methanol (0.01 mL, 0.2 mmol), triethylamine (0.03 mL, 0.2 mmol) and dichloromethane (2 mL) was dropped into the solution of adipoyl chloride (0.022 g, 0.12 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture of compound **25** (0.007 g, 0.02 mmol) and triethylamine (0.01 mL, 0.04 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL) and added into the previous solution and stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. Methanol 2 mL and excess water were added to the reaction and the mixture was then extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected and the solvent was removed. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 1:1 hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain product **26** as colorless liquid (0.003 g, 31%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 5H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.68-0.94 (m, 13H), 0.77 (s, 3H). (Figure A.61, Appendix) FTIR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3415, 2925, 2857, 1733, 1521. (Figure A.62, Appendix)

2.5.5 Conversion to hydroxamic acid



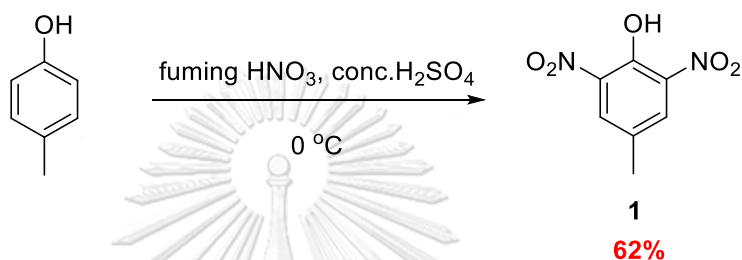
Hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.008 g, 0.12 mmol) in aqueous solution was added into the solution of compound **26** (0.004 g, 0.008 mmol) and triethylamine (0.02 mL, 0.12 mmol) in 2 mL of 1:1 tetrahydrofuran: methanol. The solution was refluxed for 5 days. After cooled down to room temperature, the water was added into the solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvent was removed by evaporator. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using gradient eluent from 1:1 hexane: ethyl acetate to 100% ethyl acetate to obtain product **27** as pale yellow liquid (0.002 g, 49.9%) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 5H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 3.73 (m, 1H) (**Figure A.63, Appendix**).

CHAPTER III

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Model Synthesis

3.1.1 Nitration of 4-methylphenol



2,6-Dinitro-4-methylphenol was synthesized through nitration reaction of 4-methylphenol[61]. The conditions of the reaction were varied to see whether partial nitration on the substrate is possible, as shown in **Table 3.1**.

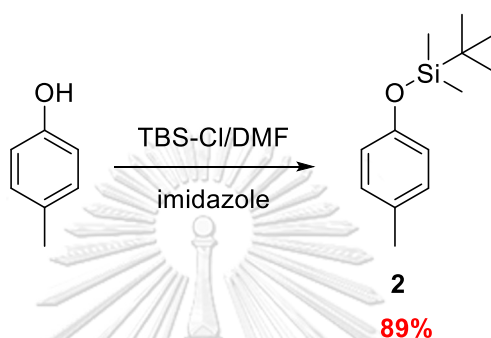
Table 0.1 The synthesis condition for 2,6-dinitro-4-methylphenol

| Entry | Type of HNO ₃ (mL) | Conc. H ₂ SO ₄ (mL) | solvent | Time (h) | Temperature (°C) | Yield (%) |
|-------|----------------------------------|---|---------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | fuming (0.5) | 1.5 | AcOH | 0.5 | 0 | 62 |
| 2 | conc. (1) | 0 | AcOH | 1 | 0 | 70 |
| 3 | 20% (1) | 0 | DCE | overnight | rt | 56 |

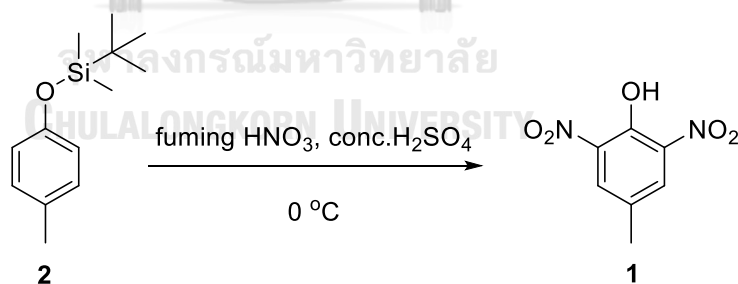
Following **Table 3.1**, the typical nitrating agent (entry 1) gave the 2 times nitrated product in high yield. Even milder conditions as simple concentrated HNO₃

or just 20% solution without sulfuric acid, (entries 2 and 3) all gave only dinitrated compound as the major product with no sign of mononitration. This result indicated that the reaction was too facile and difficult to control.

3.1.2 Nitration of protected 4-methylphenol

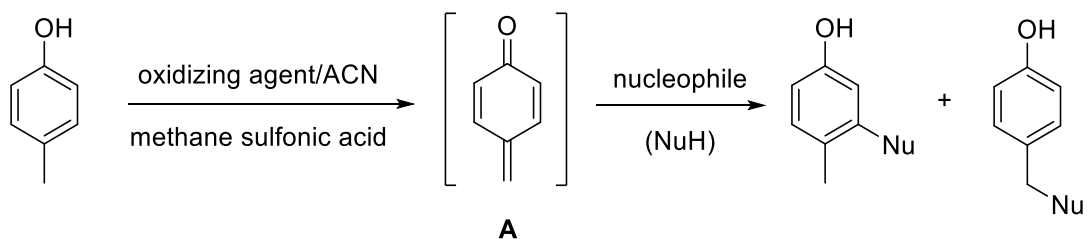


To deactivate 4-methylphenol toward the nitrating agent, the hydroxy group was protected using the highly steric TBS as the protecting group. The structure of the product was confirmed with ^1H NMR spectrum [51, 52] (Figure A.9, Appendix).



TBS-protected 4-methylphenol was nitrated using the ordinary method of fuming HNO_3 and conc. H_2SO_4 , expecting the single substitution at one of the *ortho*-positions. Unfortunately, the O-Si bond was too labile in such a harsh condition and was removed during the process. Therefore, the deprotected 4-methylphenol reacted with the reagent and gave the same dinitrated product as in section 3.1.1.

3.1.3 Oxidation/addition of 4-methylphenol



One of our challenging goals on estradiol functionalization is to put the conjugation point at its 1-position, which is meta to the hydroxy group that is generally much less preferred for typical nucleophilic aromatic substitutions. Therefore, a sequence of oxidation to quinoid followed by nucleophilic addition was attempted. As the model, 4-methylphenol was presumably oxidized to the quinoid intermediate **A**, then a nucleophile was added, preferably at either *meta*-position of the formerly hydroxy group just like a Michael addition or even further addition at δ -position of the carbonyl group (**Figure 3.1**). Many oxidizing agents were screened for obtaining **A** as shown in **Table 3.2**.

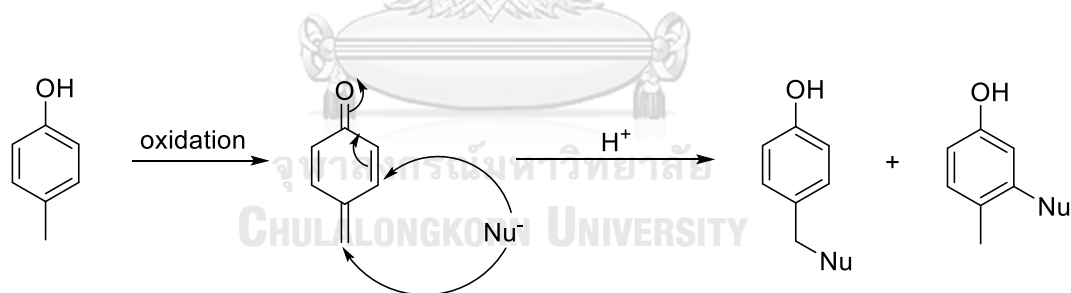


Figure 3.1 Propose mechanism from oxidation/nucleophilic substitution on 4-methylphenol

Table 3.2 Oxidations of 4-methylphenol

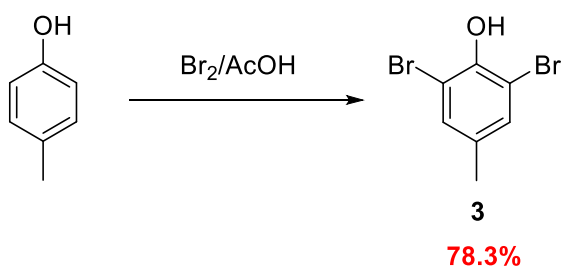
| Entry | Oxidizing agent | solvent | Oxidation progress |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | DDQ | ACN | ✗ |
| 2 | NaOCO ₃ | ACN/H ₂ O | ✗ |
| 3 | PCC | ACN | ✗ |
| 4 | NaIO ₄ /MSA | ACN/H ₂ O | ✓ |
| 5 | UHP | ACN | ✗ |
| 6 | Pd/C | ACN | ✗ |
| 7 | 2-methyl pyridine oxide | ACN | ✗ |

According to **Table 3.2**, various oxidizing agent were used to oxidize 4-methylphenol such as 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ), NaOCO₃, pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC), NaIO₄, urea hydrogen peroxide (UHP), Pd/C and 2-methyl pyridine oxide, only NaIO₄ with 1 drop of methane sulfonic acid (MSA) as the oxidizing agent gave the progress of oxidation (entry 4). When diethylamine was added into the mixture, a spot of a new product was observed on TLC within 5 min. However, the characterization of this product after purification by ¹H NMR showed no signal that corresponded to ethyl groups from the added nucleophile (**Figure A.5, Appendix**).

It's possible that the reaction stopped at the intermediate **A**, which was isolated. Other nucleophiles such as morpholine, KCN, Na₂S or pyrrolidine were added in place of diethylamine to the reaction above. No evidence of nucleophile incorporation was observed.

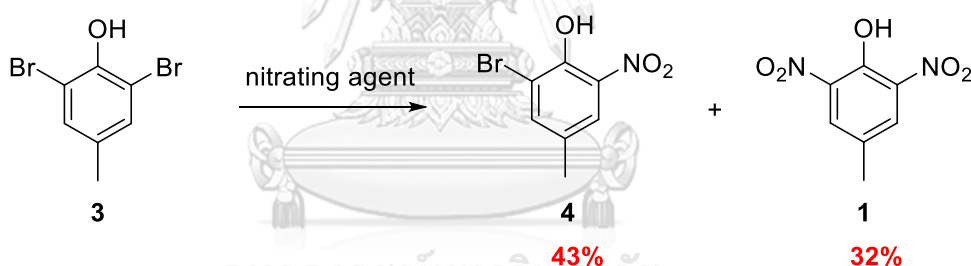
Blocking the *ortho*-positions of 4-methylphenol may divert the electrophile to react at its *meta*-positions instead. Bromine has been reported to be used as the blocking groups, or protecting groups, that could be removed or deprotected later [62].

3.1.4 Brominations of 4-methylphenol



2,6-Dibromo-4-methylphenol was successfully synthesized from brominations on both *ortho*-positions of the substrate, giving good yield (78.3%) of the product. The ^1H NMR spectrum (**Figure A.6, appendix**) showed the signals that matched with those previously report [53].

3.1.5 Nitration of 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol



The bromine blocked 4-methylphenol was nitrated via the general procedure, fuming HNO_3 and conc. H_2SO_4 , expected the nitro group would be substituted at the free *meta*-positions relate to hydroxy group of the substrate. However, the reaction gave almost equal yields of 2-bromo-6-nitro-4-methylphenol [54, 55] (**Figure A.10, Appendix**) and 2,6-dinitro-4-methylphenol [63]. Turning the reagent to milder conditions or even changing the reagent altogether were attempted in order to control the nitration. The changes in these conditions are shown in **Table 3.3**.

Table 3.3 The condition for nitration of 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol

| Entry | Nitrating agent | Solvent | Temperature |
|----------------|---|---------|-------------|
| 1 | fuming HNO ₃ /H ₂ SO ₄ | AcOH | rt |
| 2 | fuming HNO ₃ | AcOH | 0°C |
| 3 | conc. HNO ₃ | AcOH | 0°C |
| 4 ^a | 5-20% HNO ₃ | AcOH | 0°C |
| 5 | 20% HNO ₃ /KNO ₃ /AlCl ₃ | DCM | 0°C |
| 6 | 20% HNO ₃ | DCM | rt |
| 7 | 1 eqv.NO ₂ ⁺ BF ₄ ⁻ | DCM | rt |
| 8 | 1.5 eqv.NO ₂ ⁺ BF ₄ ⁻ | DCM | rt |

^a used 4 concentrations: 5%, 10%, 15% and 20%.

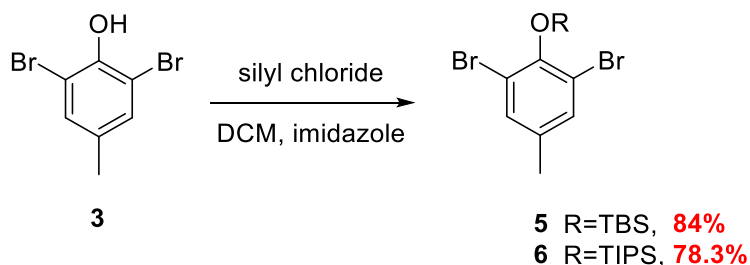
Following **Table 3.3**, all conditions gave the two products, 2-bromo-6-nitro-4-methylphenol and 2,6-dinitro-4-methylphenol, as the major product mixture, even without H₂SO₄ or lower HNO₃ concentrations. It is noted that no reaction occurred when only 5% HNO₃ was used.

To avoid the acidic polar condition that might be the reason for bromine removal, KNO₃ was used with 20% HNO₃ and AlCl₃ in DCM under two-phase condition. The reaction gave spot of a new product on TLC (R_f = 0.15) (**Figure A.64, Appendix**). Unfortunately, this new product was not the desired one and might occur from AlCl₃ reacted with dichloromethane, generating chloromethyl electrophile that substituted onto the substrate.

When nitration salt was used as the nitrating agent, the removal of bromine still occurred, even in the non-protonic, neutral condition. The issue learned from this reaction is that the Br groups could not block the nitration. The bromo groups at *ortho*-positions were still preferably substituted over the unsubstituted (or protonated) *meta*-positions. Therefore, substitution at *meta*-position of phenols was not yet achieved.

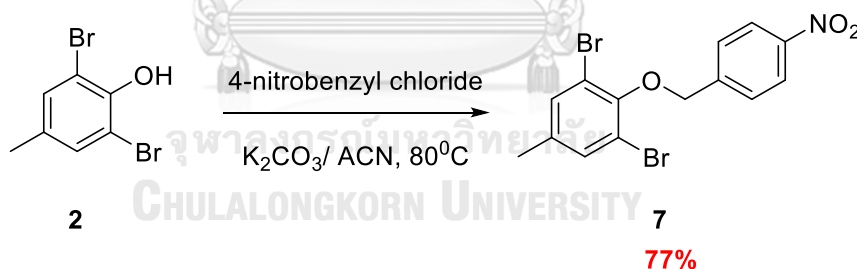
3.1.6 Protections of 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol

3.1.6.1 Silyl protection



TBS-Cl and TIPS-Cl were chosen to protect the hydroxy group of 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol [58]. Both protected products were successfully synthesized in good yields (84%, 78% respectively). ^1H NMR spectra confirmed their structures with previous works [58, 59].

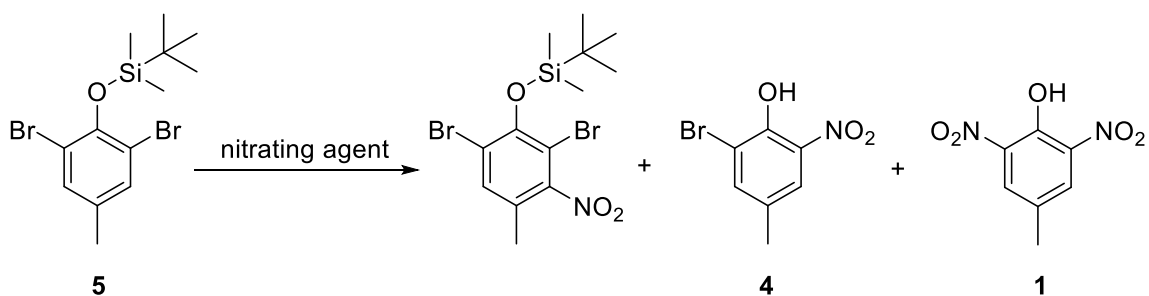
3.1.6.2 nitro benzyl groups protection



4-Nitrobenzyl protection was obtained from the reaction between 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol and 4-nitrobenzyl chloride using K_2CO_3 as base [64]. High yield of the product was obtained, and the reaction performed well in larger scale. ^1H NMR spectrum showed the peaks of nitrobenzyl ring at 8.31 ppm and 7.91 ppm and the singlet peak of benzyl-group at 5.20 ppm (Figure A.16, Appendix).

3.1.7 nitration of protected 4-methylphenol

3.1.7.1 Silyl protection



Various nitration conditions were carried out as shown in **Table 3.4**. The *meta*-nitro substituted product was produced mostly in very low yield (**Figure A.20, Appendix**). The silyl protecting groups could not withstand the conditions and was removed, followed by the mono- and dinitration at *ortho*-position to the typical product mixture of phenol derivatives similar to the unprotected substrate. (section 3.1.5)

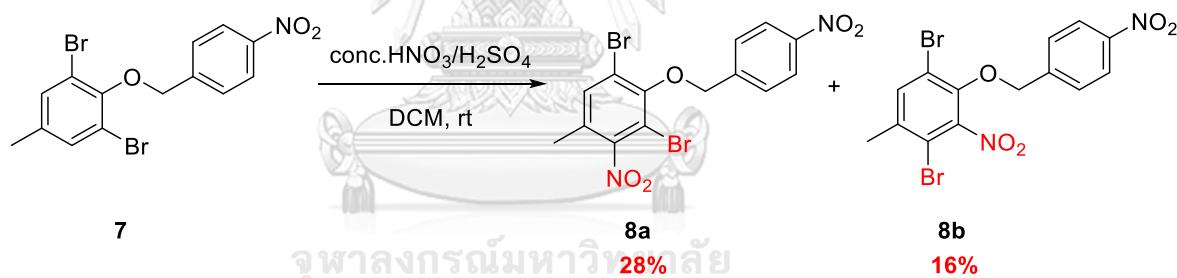
Table 3.4 The condition for nitration on silyl protected 2,6-dibromo-a-methylphenol

| Entry | Protecting group | Nitrating agent | Solvent | Temperature | % yield of <i>meta</i> -nitro product |
|-------|------------------|---|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | TBS | Fuming HNO ₃ /H ₂ SO ₄ | - | 0°C | 3.6 |
| 2 | TBS | Conc.HNO ₃ | - | 0°C | - |
| 3 | TBS | 50-60% HNO ₃ ^a | H ₂ O | 0°C | 2.6 ^b |
| 4 | TBS | Conc. HNO ₃ /H ₂ SO ₄ | DCM | rt | 1.3 |
| 5 | TIPS | Conc. HNO ₃ /H ₂ SO ₄ | DCM | rt | - |

^a with 50%, 55% and 60% HNO₃

^b average yield from 3 concentrations

3.1.7.2 Nitro benzyl groups protection



Follow the general procedure, conc. HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ were used as nitrating agent in two-phase condition with dichloromethane. Two products **8a** and **8b** were obtained in 28 % and 16% yields respectively. ¹H NMR spectra of both products have the same number of peaks with slightly difference in chemical shifts (**Figure 3.2**). The derived *meta*-nitro product **8a** could be increased in yield using fuming HNO₃ instead of conc. HNO₃ (% yields of **8a:8b** = **38: 4**). High resolution mass spectrometry was used to confirm that the two products were actually regioisomers. (**Figure A.24 and A.25, Appendix**).

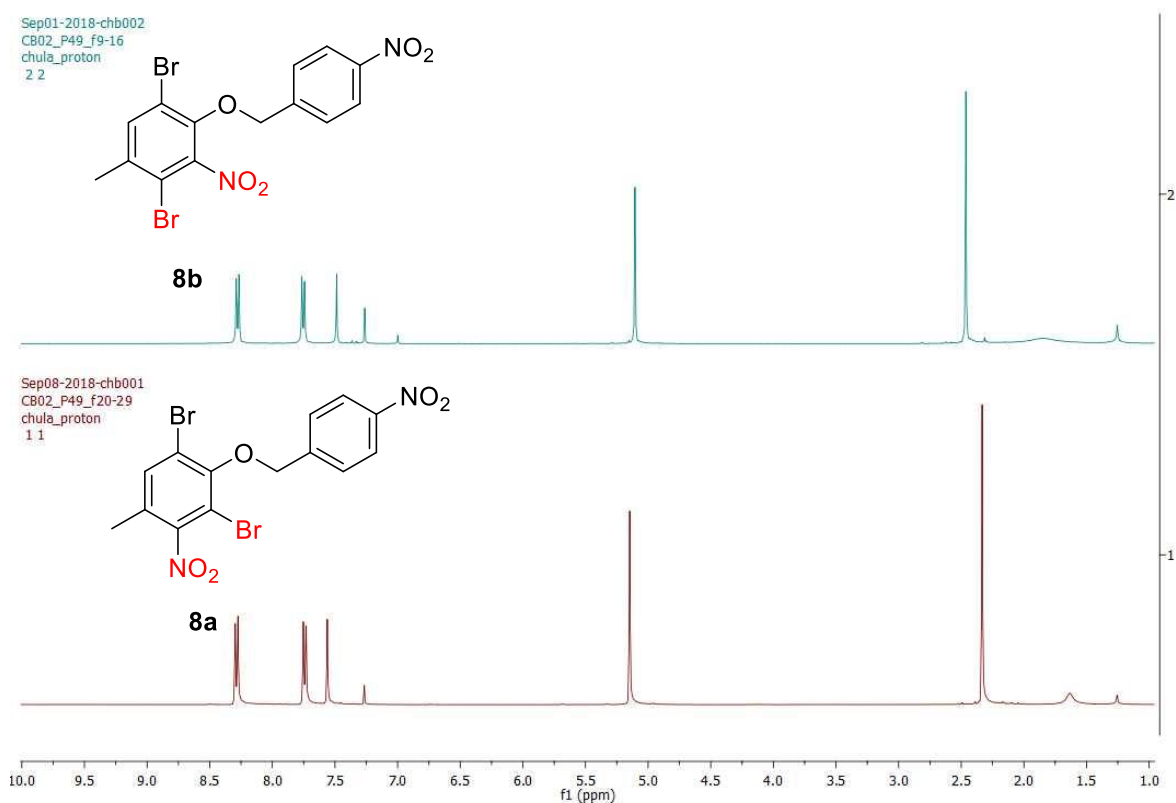


Figure 3.2 Comparison of ^1H NMR spectra between 8a and 8b

Compound **8b** was produced from the rearrangement of bromine from *ortho*-position to *meta*-position via bromonium bridge followed by re-aromatization. (Figure 3.3)

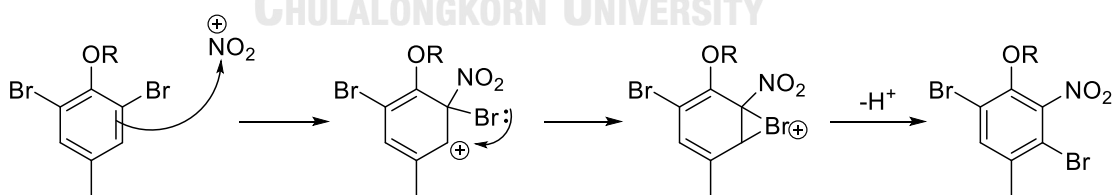
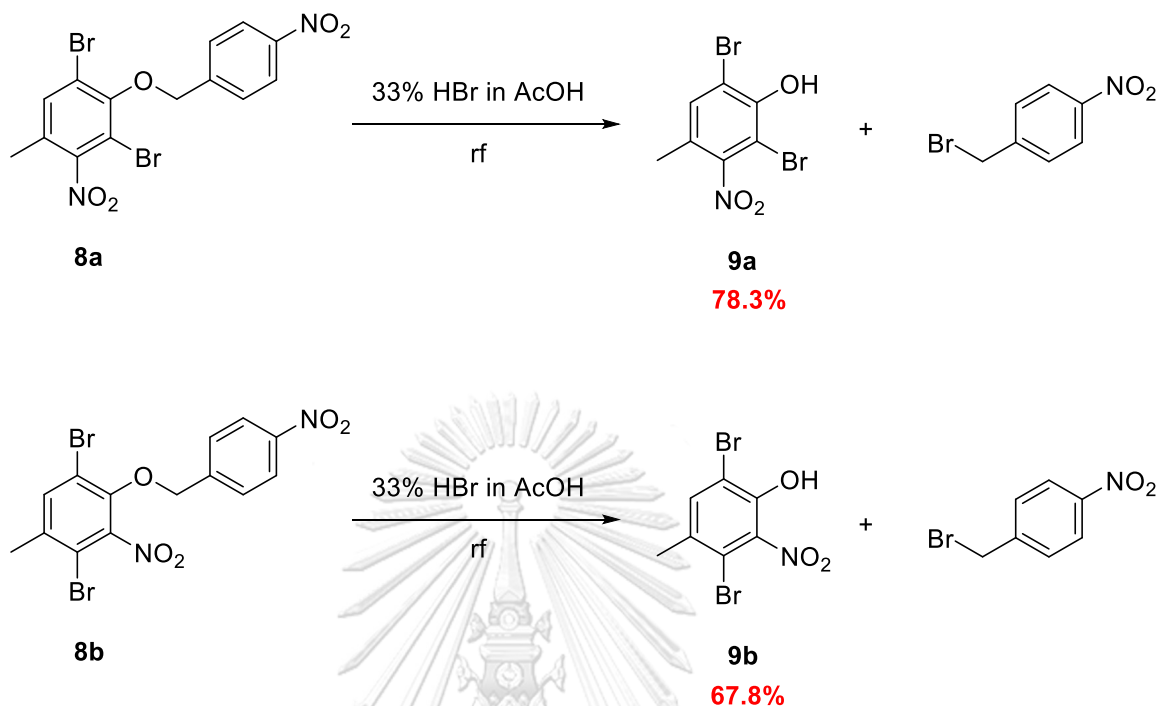


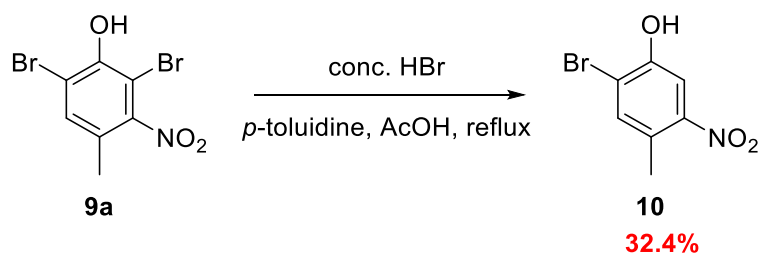
Figure 3.3 The proposed mechanism for bromine rearrangement

3.1.8 Deprotection of nitrobenzyl protected 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol



Deprotection of 4-nitrobenzyl protections of **8a** and **8b** were achieved by refluxing the substrate with 33% HBr in AcOH. Both **8a** and **8b** gave the product **9a** (Figure A. 26, Appendix) and **9b** (Figure A. 27, Appendix) together with the 4-nitrobenzyl bromide (Figure A.28, Appendix)

3.1.9 Debrominations of compound 9a



Debrominations of **9** were operated using previous reported method [62]. *p*-Toluidine was added in order to act as bromine scavenger. The reaction underwent bromine transfer, cleaved from the substrate and re-brominated on *p*-toluidine. Unluckily, only one bromine could be eliminated from the substrate. To product **10** (Figure A.29, Appendix).

The characterization of compound **10** was also confirmed by ^1H - ^1H NOESY-NMR (Figure 3.4 and Figure A.30, Appendix) compared to compound **3** (Figure 3.4 and Figure A.31, Appendix) From Figure 3.4, the spectrum showed only one correlation between aromatic proton signal at 7.47 ppm and protons on the methyl group at 2.52 ppm. This would confirm that only one *meta*-proton to the hydroxy group was present. On the other hand, the NOESY signal from compound **3** showed the correlations between two *meta*-aromatic proton signals and those on the methyl group, supporting the presence of two protons located at *meta*-positions to the hydroxy group. From the result, it was clear that the original protected phenolic derivative was successfully nitrated at *meta*-position, although the overall yield of the process was quite low. More studies were needed for further improvement on this unprecedented substitution at *meta*-positions of electron-rich aromatic compounds [65-67]

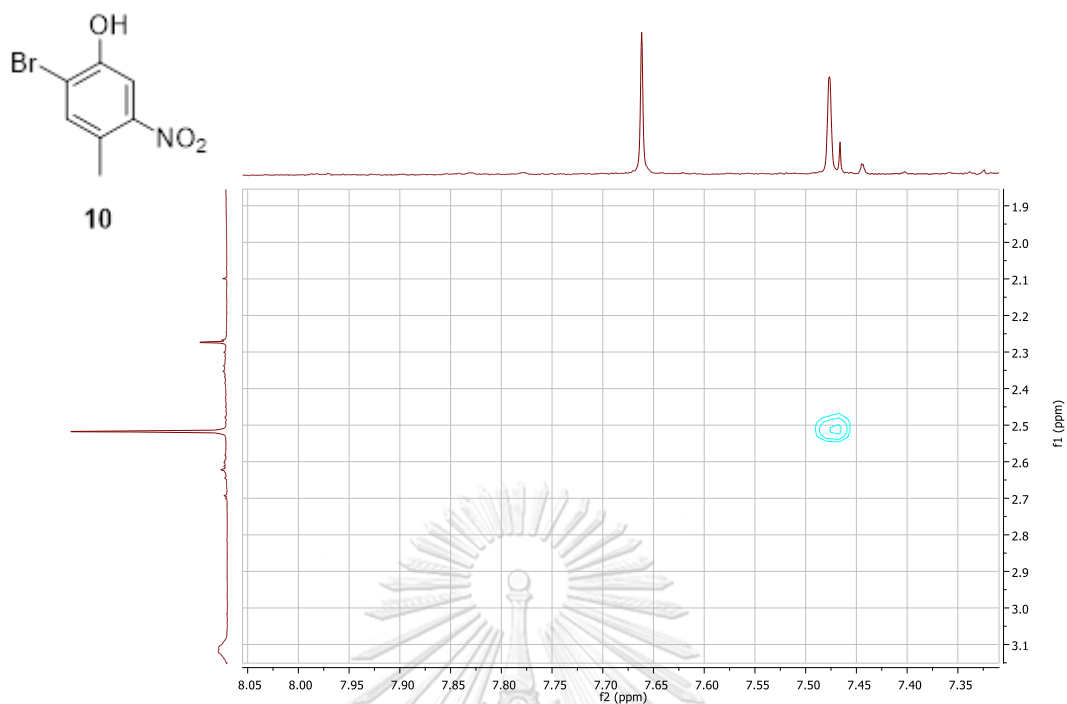


Figure 3.4 ^1H - ^1H NOESY NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) of compound 10

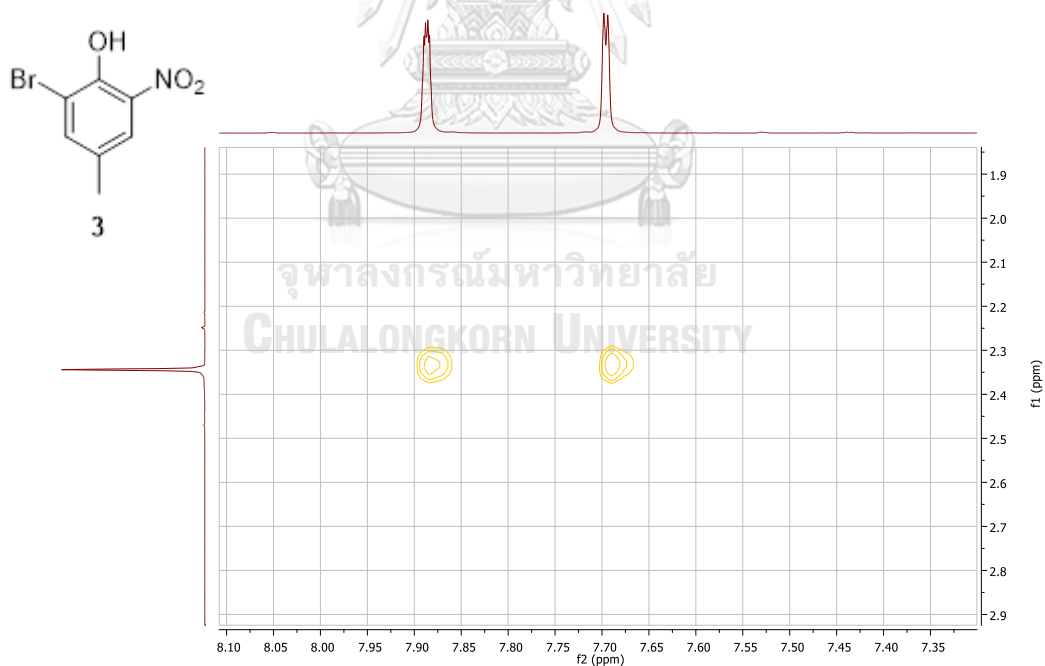
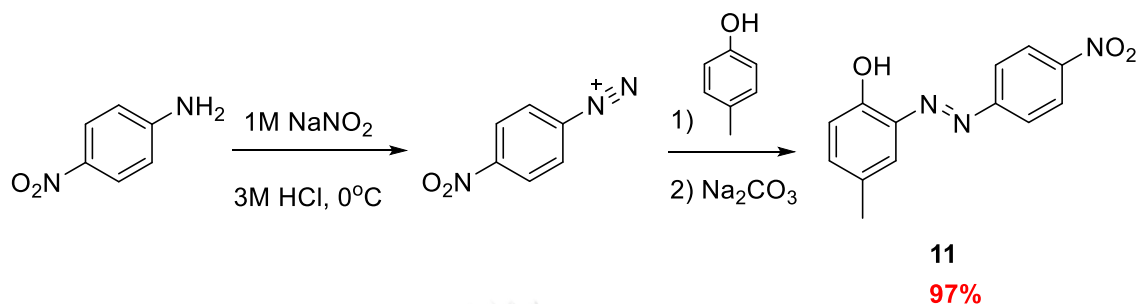


Figure 3.5 ^1H - ^1H NOESY NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) of compound 3

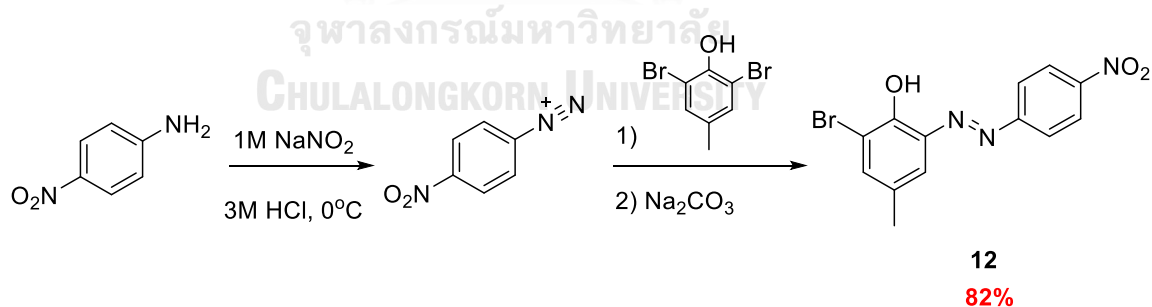
3.1.10 Diazo coupling reaction

3.1.10.1 diazo coupling with 4-methylphenol



Because nitrations on phenolic rings are difficult to control, diazo coupling reaction is the alternative method to introduce substituents onto the phenolic rings in a supposedly controllable fashion. As an example, the diazo coupled-product **11** was afforded from the coupling of 4-methylphenol in excellent yield up to (97%) as the mono-substitution at an *ortho*-position of the product [60]. The diazo group could later be reduced to an amino group by the various reducing agent [68-71]

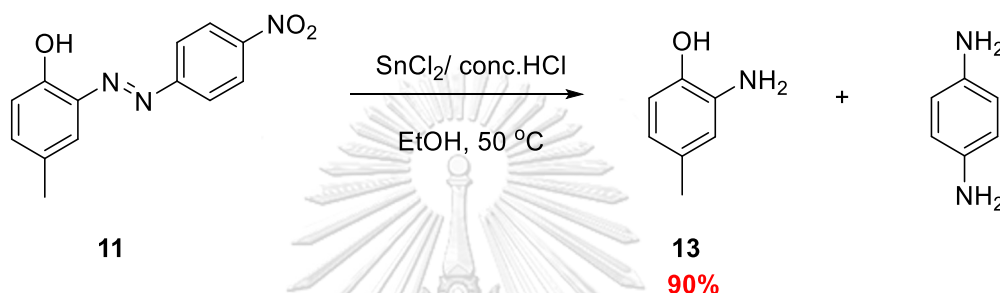
3.1.10.2 diazo coupling with 2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol



2,6-Dibromo-4-methylphenol was coupled with a diazonium salt to examine if bromine could block the *ortho*-position and divert the diazo group to attach at *meta*-position. From ^1H NMR spectrum, apart from nitrophenyl signals, showed two singlet peaks at 7.79 ppm and 7.55 ppm (Figure A.36, Appendix). These peaks indicated that the diazo group was substituted at *ortho*-position, replacing one of the

bromine groups similar to nitration (section 3.1.5). Furthermore, the observed -OH peak was very downfield to 13.31 ppm, reflecting on the existence of strong intramolecular hydrogen bond between the hydroxy group and the adjacent N-atom of the diazo group at *ortho*-position.

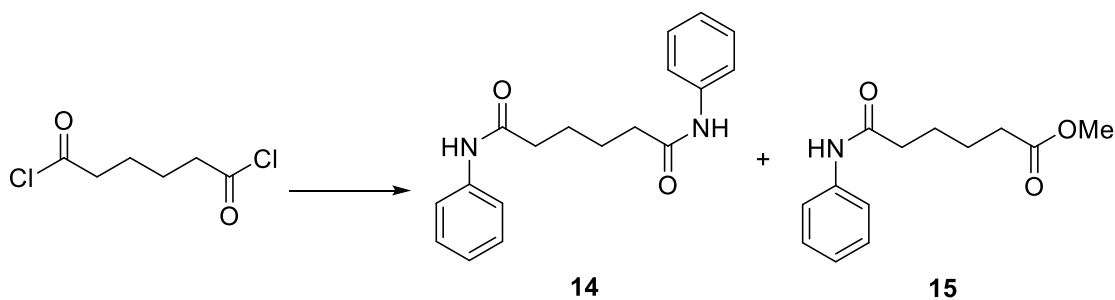
3.1.11 2-amino-4-methylphenol



For further conjugation with other functional groups, the diazo group was reduced to an amino group with SnCl₂ in ethanol. 2-Amino-4-methylphenol was easily obtained in relatively short reaction time (5 min) and good yield. (90%)

3.1.12 Conjugation with adipoyl chloride using aniline as a model substrate

Adipoyl chloride (a C₆ diacid chloride) was selected to represent the bifunctional bridge that link 2 bioactive moieties together as a conjugated drug, just like that of anticancer drug suberanilohydroxamic acid (SAHA). In condition A the diacid chloride reacted with aniline immediately and yield the diamide compound **14** as the only isolable product in high yield (91%), even with limited amount of aniline. (Figure A.39, Appendix). The acid chloride functional group seemed to be too active and difficult to control to limit its reaction halfway.



Condition A: 1) aniline 2) $\text{NEt}_3/0^\circ\text{C}$ 3) $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}/\text{NEt}_3$ (**14:15** 91%:0%)

B: 1) $\text{NEt}_3/0^\circ\text{C}$ 2) aniline 3) MeOH/NEt_3 (**14:15** 56%:31%)

The process was changed to condition B by dissolving adipoyl chloride (1 eqv.) in DCM and NEt_3 at 0°C in an ice bath, then cold aniline (0.5 eqv.) in DCM was slowly added into the mixture. This process gave the derived product **15** (Figure A.40, Appendix). in moderate yield (31%), but still gave compound **14** as the major product (56%). The excess adipoyl chloride was quenched by methanol to give the corresponding diester compound (31 %) (Figure A.43, Appendix).

The development in order to improve the reaction toward higher ratio of asymmetric substitution product was to switch the sequence of synthetic steps by preparing half acid chloride before reacting with aniline (Figure 3.6)

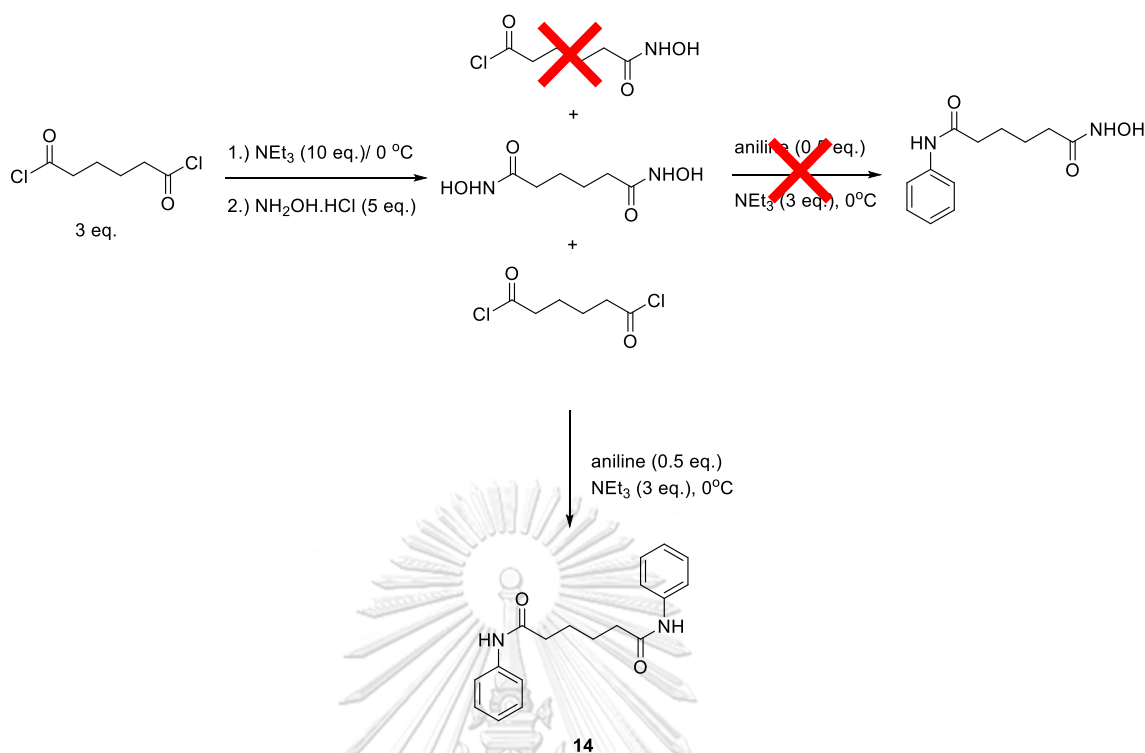


Figure 3.6 The new condition for conjugation with adipoyl chloride

From **Figure 3.6**, half acid chloride was prepared by mixing adipoyl chloride with slightly excess $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$, expecting some of the half acid chloride would be lifted for further reaction with aniline. Unfortunately, NH_2OH was too reactive toward adipoyl chloride, and perhaps even more with the half acid chloride. It reacted twice to preferably give the dihydroxamic acid as the major product (63.5%) and leave the remaining adipoyl chloride to react with aniline to yield **14** as another main product.

The first nucleophile was then replaced with less reactive methanol to get the half ester/ acid chloride intermediates shown in **Figure 3.7**.

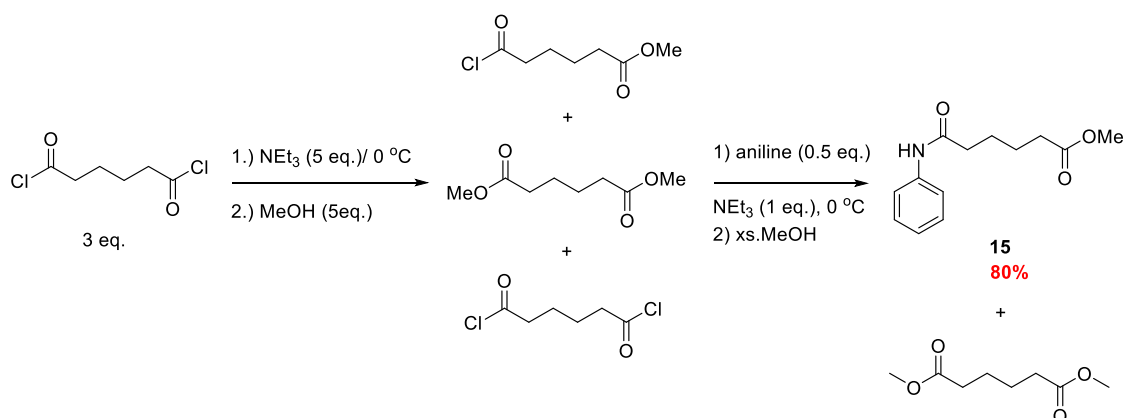
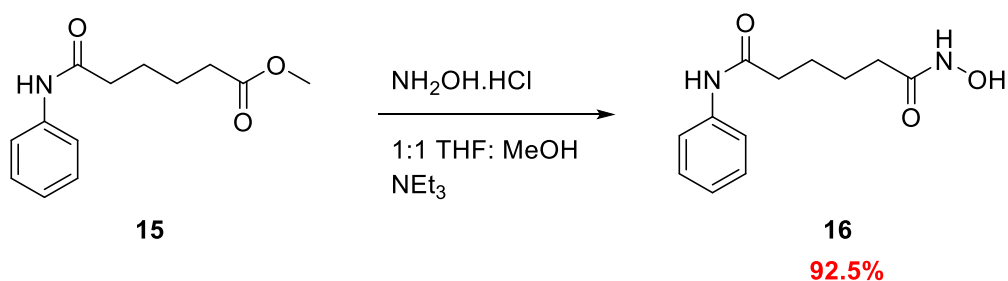


Figure 3.7 Another condition for conjugation with adipoyl chloride

According to **Figure 3.7**, half acid-ester was successfully produced. The expected, approximately 1 equivalence of unreacted acid chloride would further react with aniline (0.5 eq.). The combination of this scheme obtained the desired half amide-ester in high yield based on the starting aniline (80%) (**Figure A.40, Appendix**). Methanol seemed to react randomly with available acid chloride. Therefore, the amount of half acid chloride intermediate was left large enough for incoming aniline as the second nucleophile to give the desired asymmetric product.

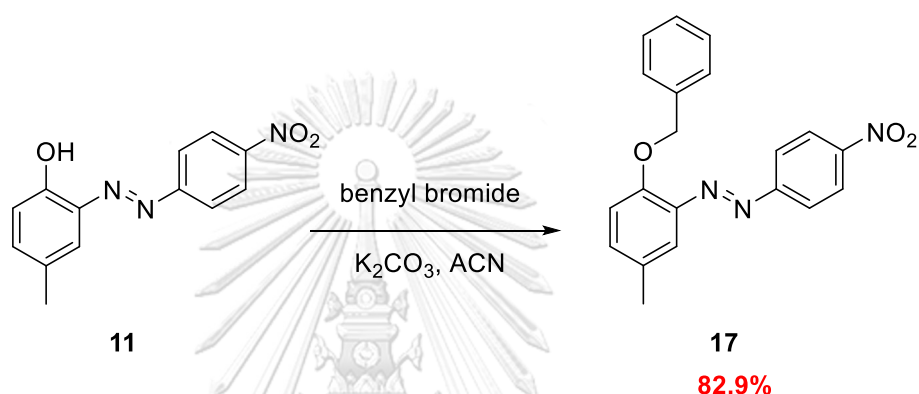
3.1.13 Conversion to hydroxamic acid



The hydroxamic acid could be produced from the methyl ester using $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ in mixed solvents of 1:1 THF:methanol in the presence of NEt_3 . The

chemical test for the hydroxamic acid functional group was performed using 5% FeCl_3 . [72]. The yellow solution of Fe (III) clearly turned to red-violet solution upon complexing with hydroxamic acid, supporting the structural characterizations by spectroscopic methods. (Figure A.44-A.45, Appendix)

3.1.14 Protection of diazo-4-methylphenol



All diazo groups were expected to be reduced to amino groups for conjugation with many types of compounds. Therefore, to avoid the unwanted side reactions, the hydroxy group was needed to be protected.

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Table 3.5 Various protections of diazo-4-methylphenol

| Entry | Protecting reagent (5 eq.) | Base (5 eq.) | solvent | % yield of protected product |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1 ^a | TBS-Cl | imidazole | DMF | - |
| 2 | Benzyl bromide | K_2CO_3 | ACN | 83 |
| 3 | Acetyl chloride | K_2CO_3 | DCM | - |

^a $t\text{-BuO}^-\text{K}^+$ was added after 2 Days.

According to **Table 3.5**, only benzyl bromide (entry 2) was successful to protect the hydroxy group providing the benzyl protected product in good yield (**Figure A.46, Appendix**). The TBS or acetyl protections (entry 1 and 3) showed no progress on the reaction. As described in **Figure 3.8** the diazo group at the adjacent *ortho*-position might act as an internal nucleophile and initiate a facile intramolecular deprotection.

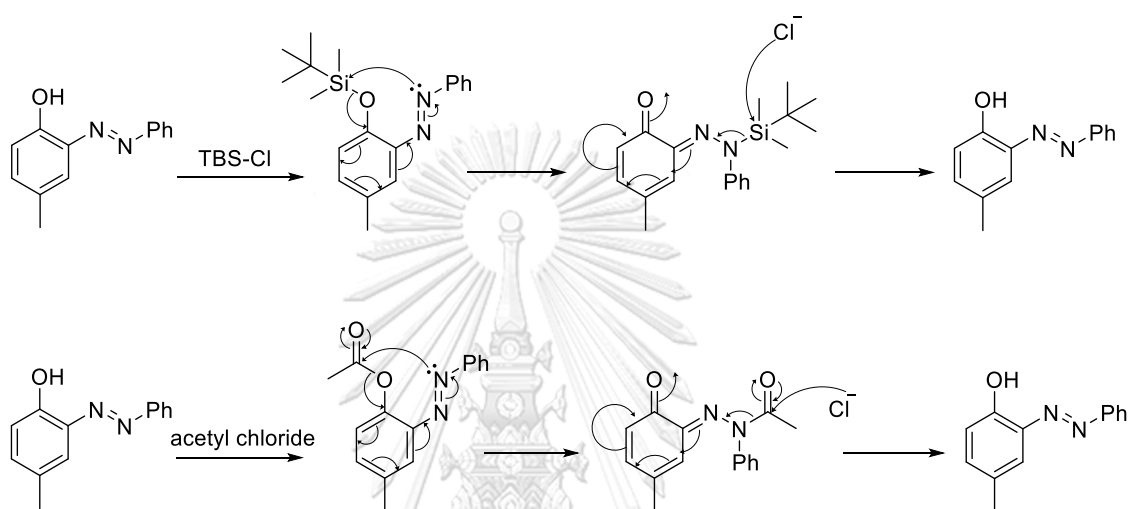
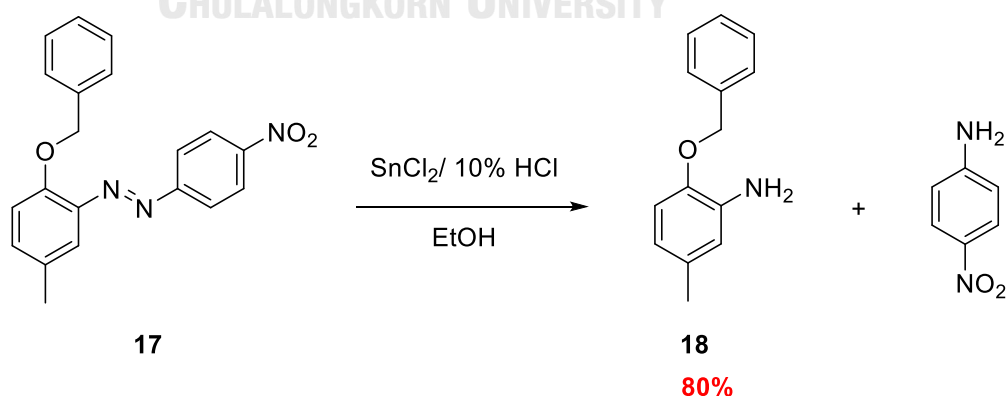


Figure 3.8 The proposed mechanism for intramolecular deprotection by diazo group

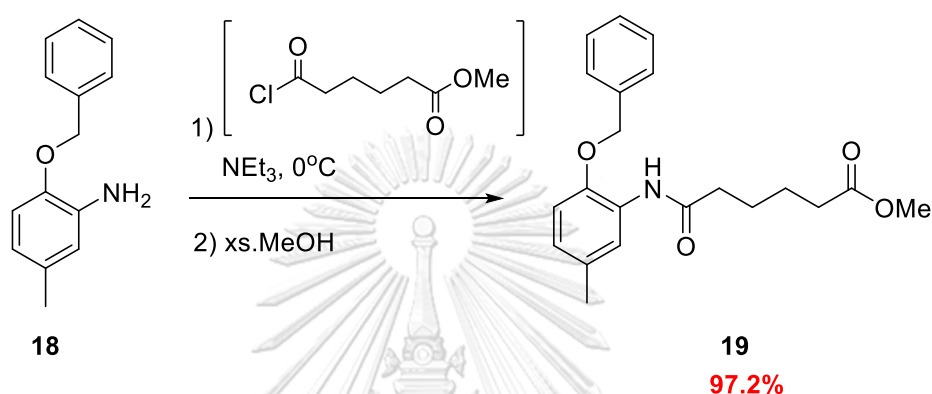
3.1.15 Diazo reduction from benzyl protected-4-methylphenol



Following the same reduction procedure on diazo-4-methylphenol (section 3.1.11) and to decrease the risk from hazardous conc. acid, 10% HCl was used

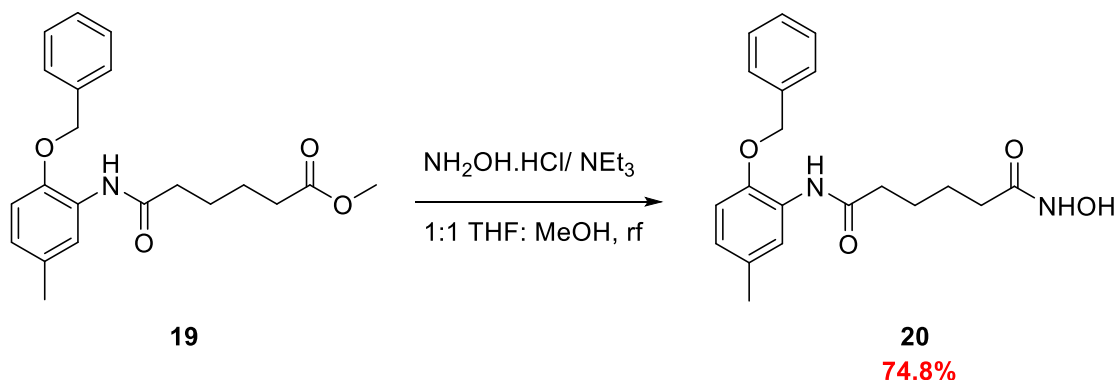
instead. The outcome gave satisfied yield of the desired product with slightly longer reaction time. This milder also gave 4-nitroaniline as another product instead of *p*-phenylene diamine as in conc. HCl condition.

3.1.16 Conjugation of the aniline derivative with adipoyl chloride



Following the protocol optimized in section 3.1.12 (**Figure 3.7**), the half amide-ester (compound **19**) was prepared in the same way in excellent yield (97%). ¹H NMR spectrum showed the new methoxy singlet peak at 3.66 ppm along with the benzyl protons at 5.08 ppm (**Figure A.50, Appendix**). In theory, this compound could be further converted to the corresponding half hydroxamic acid similar to compound **16** in section 3.1.13

3.1.17 Convert methyl ester to hydroxamic acid

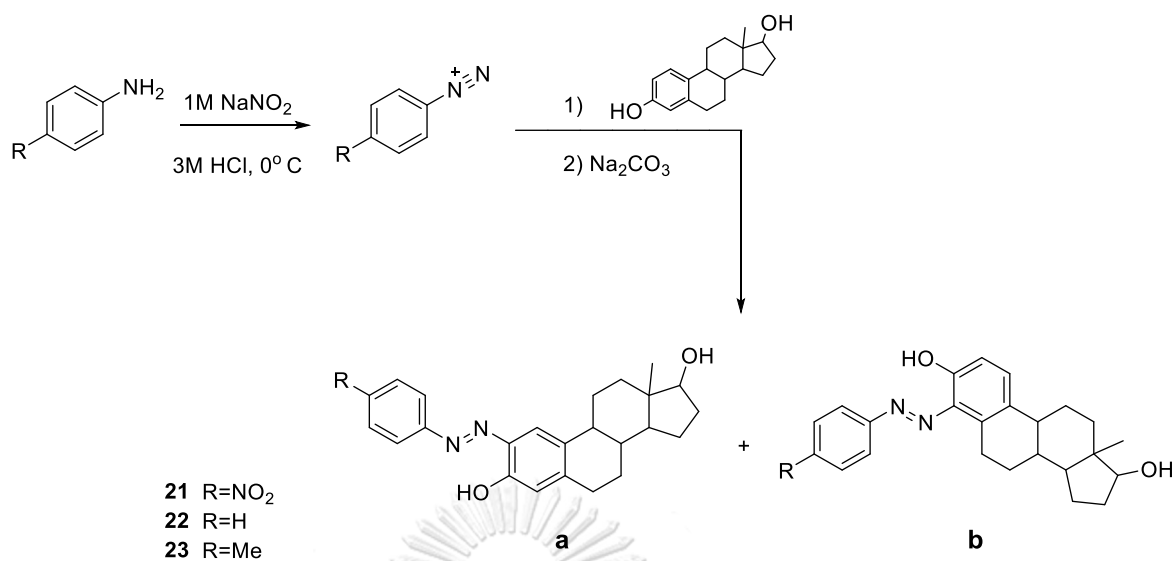


From the section 3.1.13 the hydroxamic acid was produced from methyl ester using $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$, the reaction was completed after reflux for 3 Days. The chemical test was performed with 5% FeCl_3 .

3.2 Functionalization at ring A of estradiol

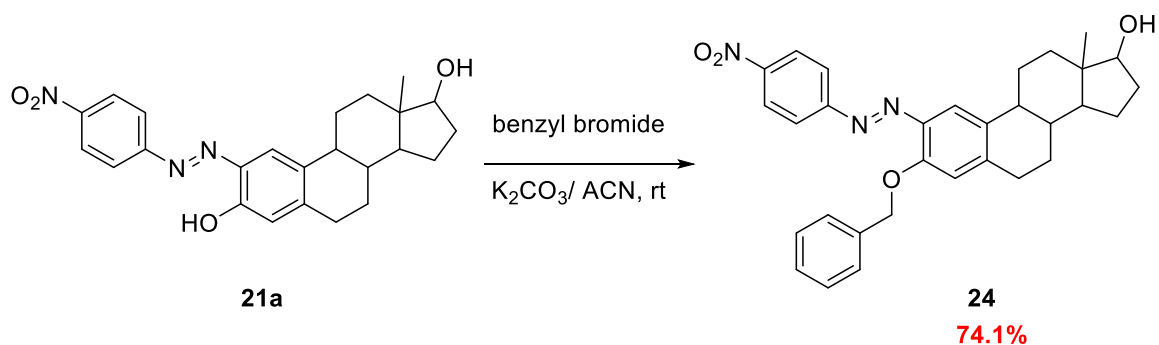
3.2.1 diazo coupling on estradiol

Based on the successful model reactions on *p*-cresol, we continued to perform similar diazo coupling reactions on β -estradiol. In order to optimize the efficiency of the reaction and separation of the two possible regioisomers of the coupling products, the diazonium salts were generated from three different aniline derivatives (aniline, *p*-toluidine and 4-nitroaniline).



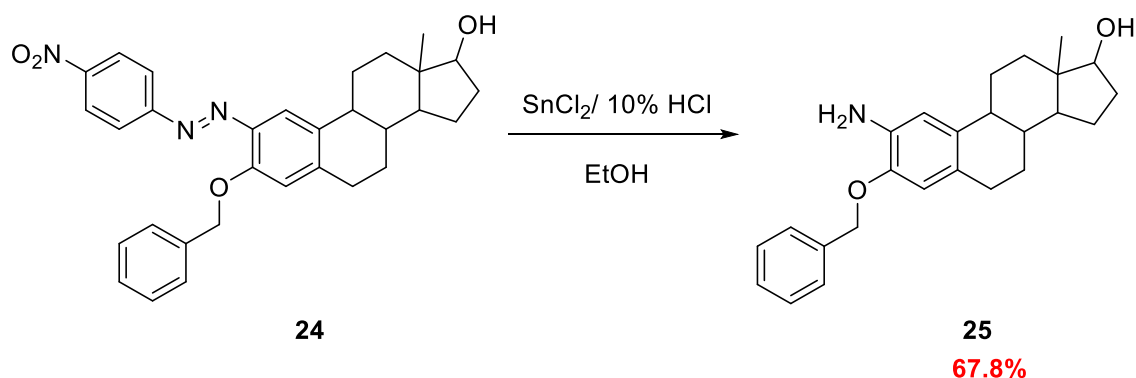
Diazonium salts from different aniline derivatives were prepared with the previously described method (section 3.1.10) and dropped into the 1M NaOH solution of estradiol. It was found that different kinds of aniline derivatives didn't affect the reaction efficiency. Although unlike the reaction on 4-methylphenol, the diazo coupling reactions on estradiol gave two possible regioisomers (**a** and **b**). It was found from TLC that mixture derived from diazonium salt of 4-nitroaniline was the easiest pair to be separated. Two pure isomers isolated from this pair were characterized to identify the products to be the slightly higher amount of 2-substituted (**21a**) and 4-substituted estradiol (**21b**). ¹H NMR could clearly identify the isomers, with their unique aromatic peaks. Apart from the doublet of nitrophenyl signals, the 2-substituted estradiol (**21a**) gave 2 singlet peaks at 7.86 and 6.77 ppm (**Figure A.53, Appendix**), while the 4-substituted estradiol (**21b**) showed 2 doublet peaks at 7.43 and 6.85 ppm. (**Figure A.54, Appendix**).

3.2.2 Protection on diazo coupled estradiol



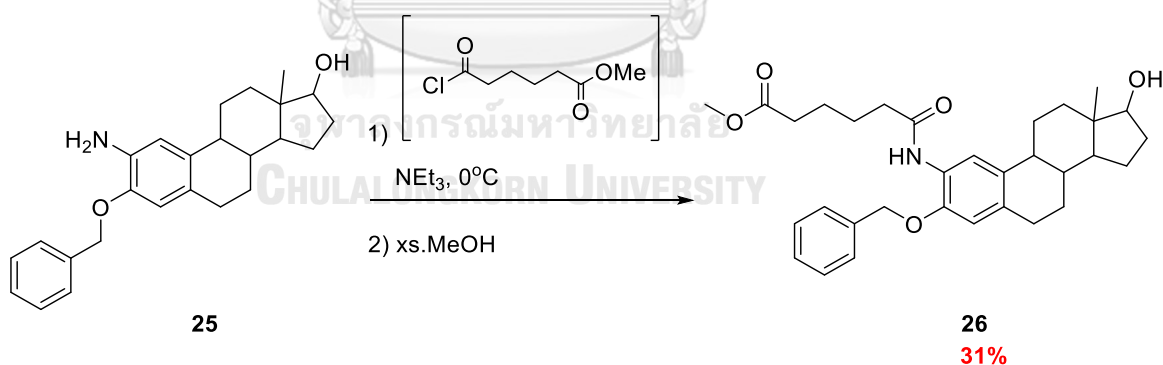
Using the same protocol from protection of diazo-4-methylphenol, the benzyl protecting group was attempted on the 2-substituted estradiol (**21a**). The phenolic hydroxy group was successfully protected as the model compound, however, the other hydroxy group at C-17 of estradiol surprisingly remained unprotected. The reason for its inactivity toward substitution could be due to the highly steric crowd from nearby tertiary alkyl group and surrounded rings that hindered the substitution. The other reason is from their acidity, the phenolic hydroxy group has lower pK_a (9.29 ± 0.10) compare with cyclopentanol (15.33 ± 0.40). From ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **24**, the integration of the benzyl protons (5.30 ppm, 2H) was only twice of the peak of the proton on C-17 of estradiol (3.75 ppm, 1H) (Figure A.57, Appendix).

3.2.3 Reduction of diazo estradiol



The 2-amino substituted protected estradiol **25** was synthesized via the reduction protocol as that of the model (section 3.1.15). The amino product was obtained in good yield (68%). The two singlet aromatic peaks in ¹H NMR spectrum were shifted upfield to 6.71 and 6.59 ppm (Figure A.59, Appendix).

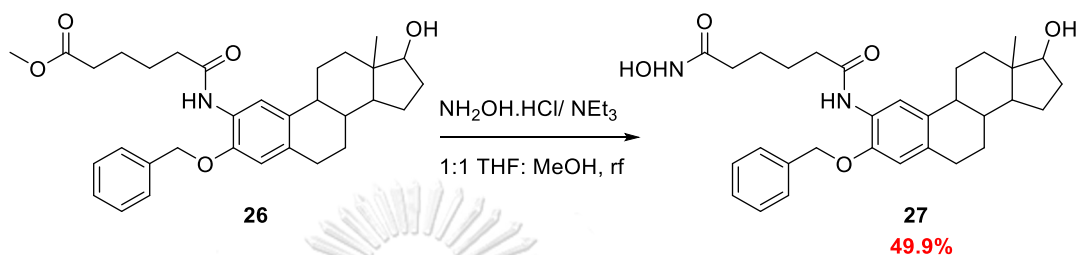
3.2.4 Conjugation of amino estradiol with adipoyl chloride



Following the protocol in section 3.1.12 (Figure 3.7), the prepared half acid chloride-ester was generated in situ and reacted with amino estradiol **25** to obtain the product **26** in moderate yield (31%). Part of the ¹H NMR spectrum was compared with that of the model compound **19**. The pattern of the proton signals of the added dicarbonyl moieties was consistent with the model (Figure A.61, Appendix).

The hydroxy group at C-17 still remained unreacted and didn't interfere with the reaction.

3.2.5 Conversion to hydroxamic acid



According to the protocol in section 3.1.17, the methyl ester group of **22** was converted to hydroxamic acid by $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ and refluxed with 1:1 THF: MeOH. Unfortunately, the reaction was rarely moved forward in a long period of time. Therefore, the reaction was worked up in halfway and purified to remove the left-over substrate. The new product was characterized by ^1H NMR and chemical test to confirmed structural and functional group. (Figure A.63, Appendix).

CHAPTOR IV

CONCLUSION

The functionalizations at the 1, 2 or 4-positions of estradiol were the main targets for further conjugations with anti-tumor moieties to provide target-specific antitumor drugs. The substitution reactions had been examined on 4-cresol as the model. To control the substitutions on the desired positions, two types of reactions were performed: nitration and diazo coupling reaction. The normal nitration conditions led to uncontrollable substitution mostly at *ortho*-positions even with phenolic-O-protection or *ortho*-aromatic bromo substitutions. The *meta*-substituted product was finally synthesized from 4-cresol via 5 steps (**Figure 4.1**), although with overall yield of only 6%. Further research upon improvement of this new methodology is needed.

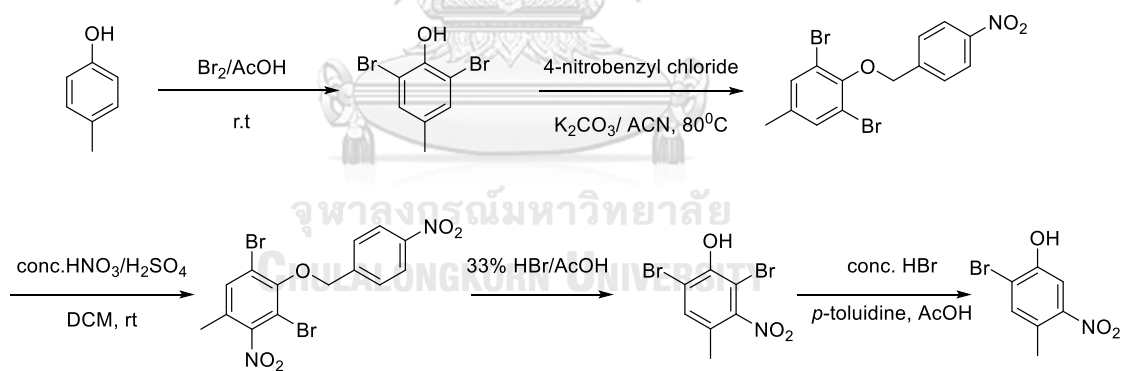


Figure 0.1 The overall reaction of meta-substitution

The diazo coupling reaction was found to be the preferred method for introducing substituents on *ortho*-positions of phenol derivatives. 2-amino-4-methylphenol was synthesized from diazo coupling, followed by reduction to yield the product in 87% from 2 steps. This model was then used as the substrate to

explore the optimized conditions to conjugate with adipoyl chloride to provide a link for further attachment of other bioactive moieties.

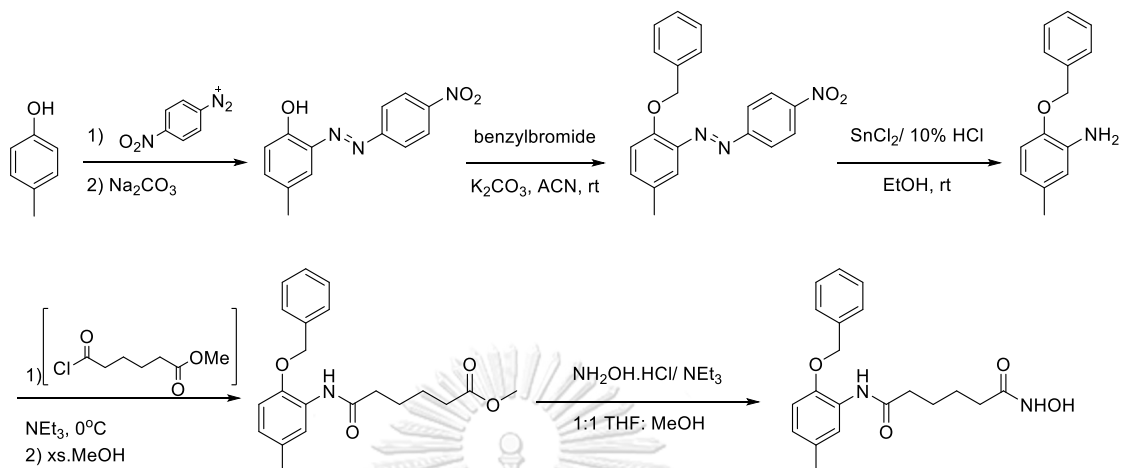


Figure 4.2 The conjugation of aniline derivative with adipoyl hydroxamic acid

The reactions on the model compound led to successful results on functionalizations of β -estradiol. The 2 and 4-positions of estradiol were easily substituted through diazo coupling reactions. The substituted estradiol could be similarly reduced and conjugated with adipoyl linker, ready for further attachment with other active compounds with anti-tumor moiety.

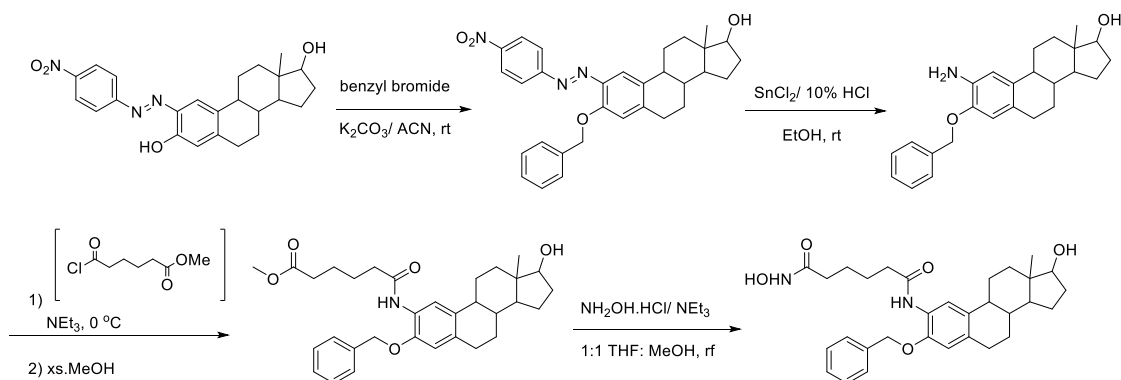


Figure 4.3 Functionalization on estradiol

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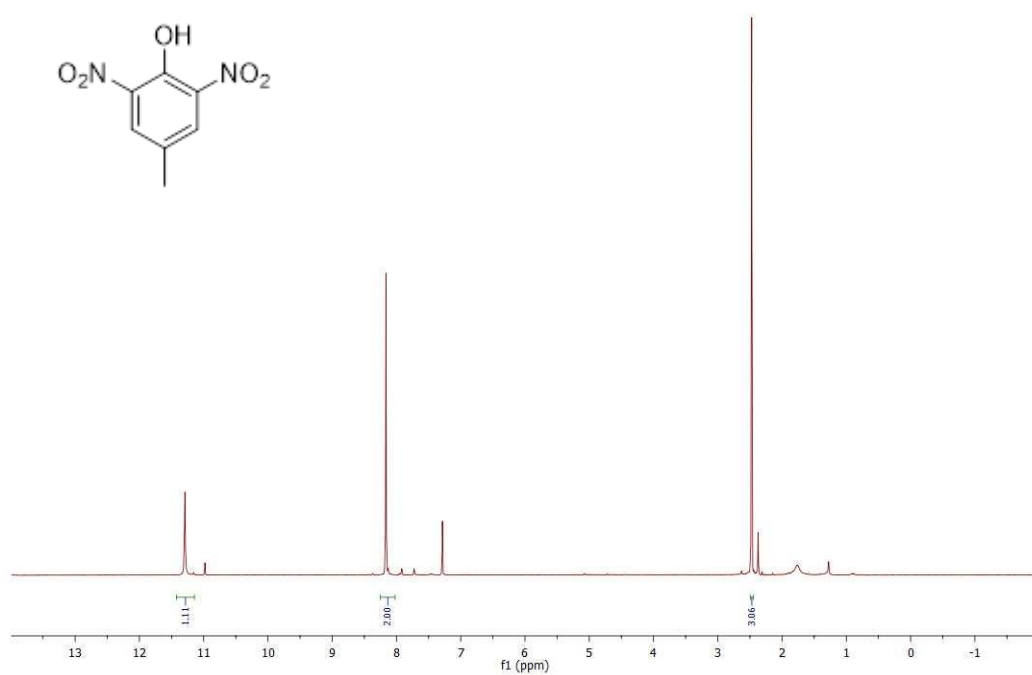
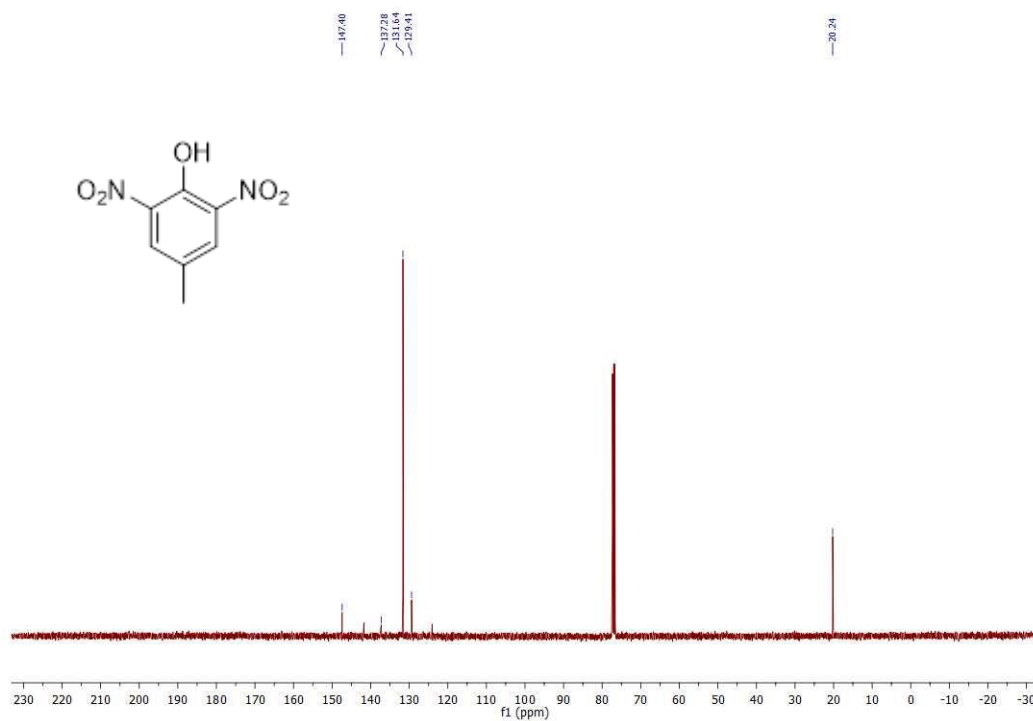
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APPENDIX

จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย
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Figure A.1 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of **compound 1**Figure A.2 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of **compound 1**

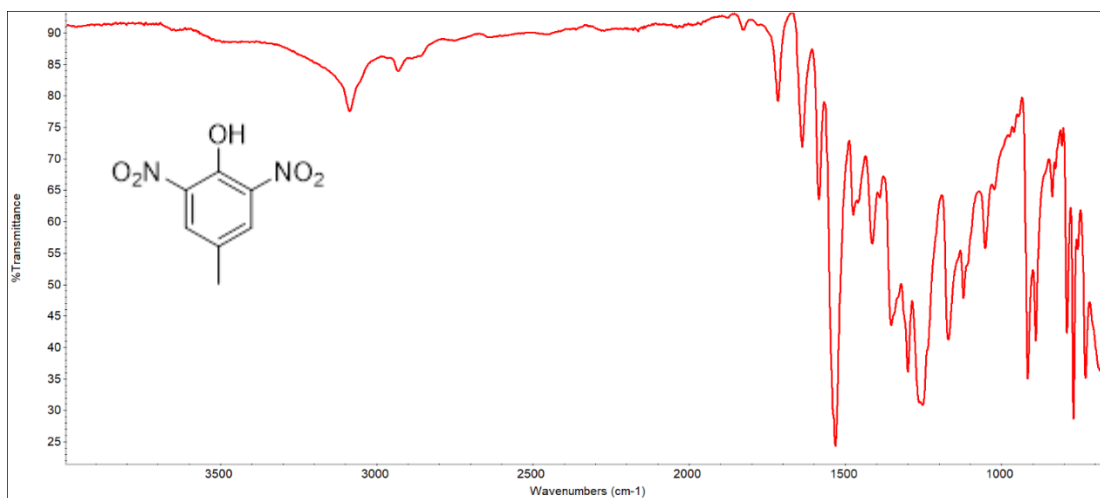


Figure A.3 IR spectrum of **compound 1**



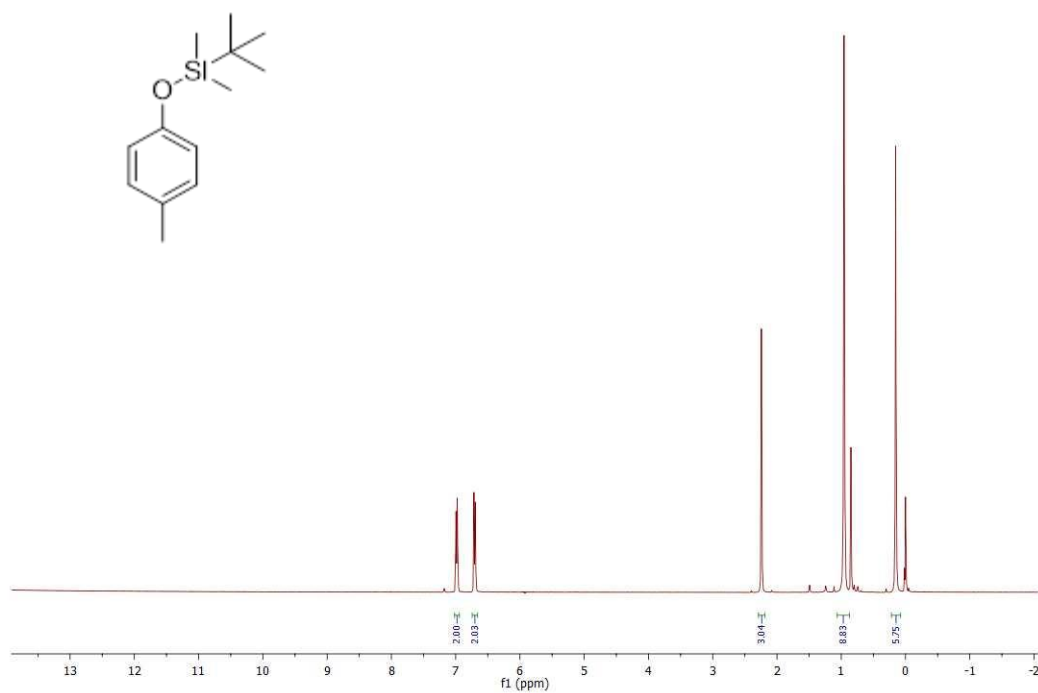


Figure A.4 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 2

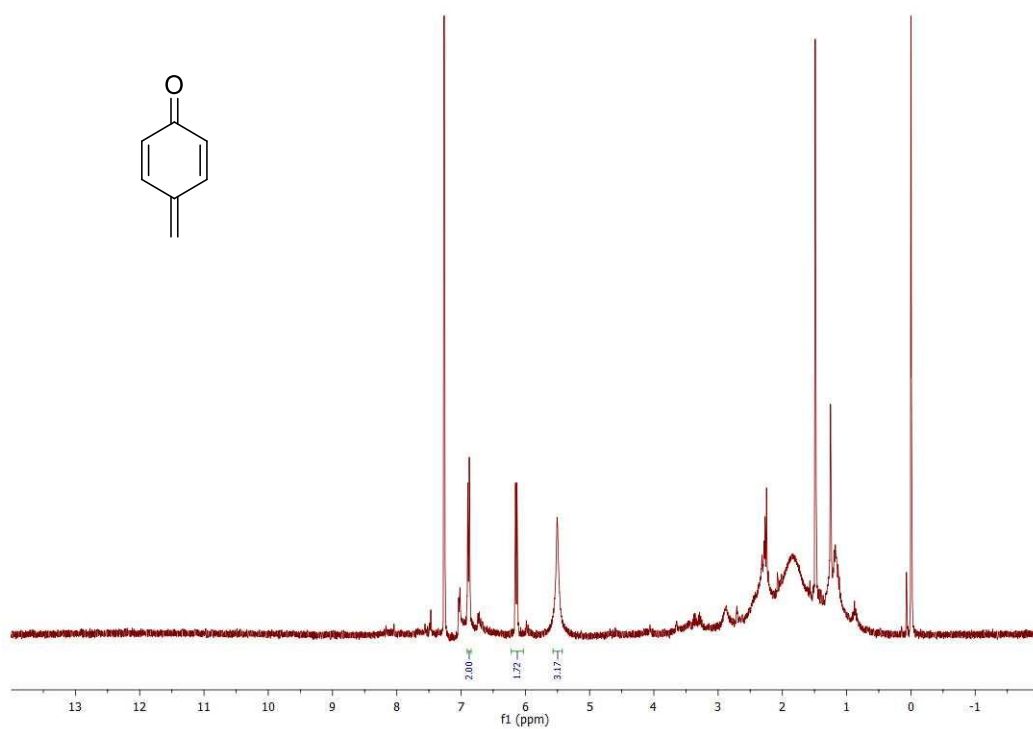
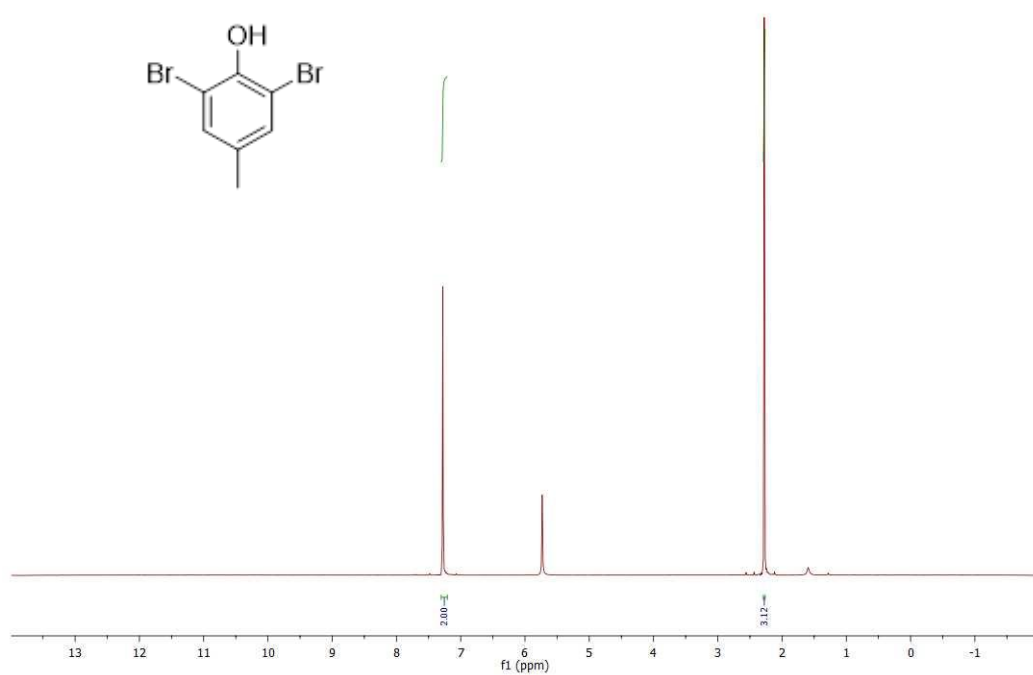
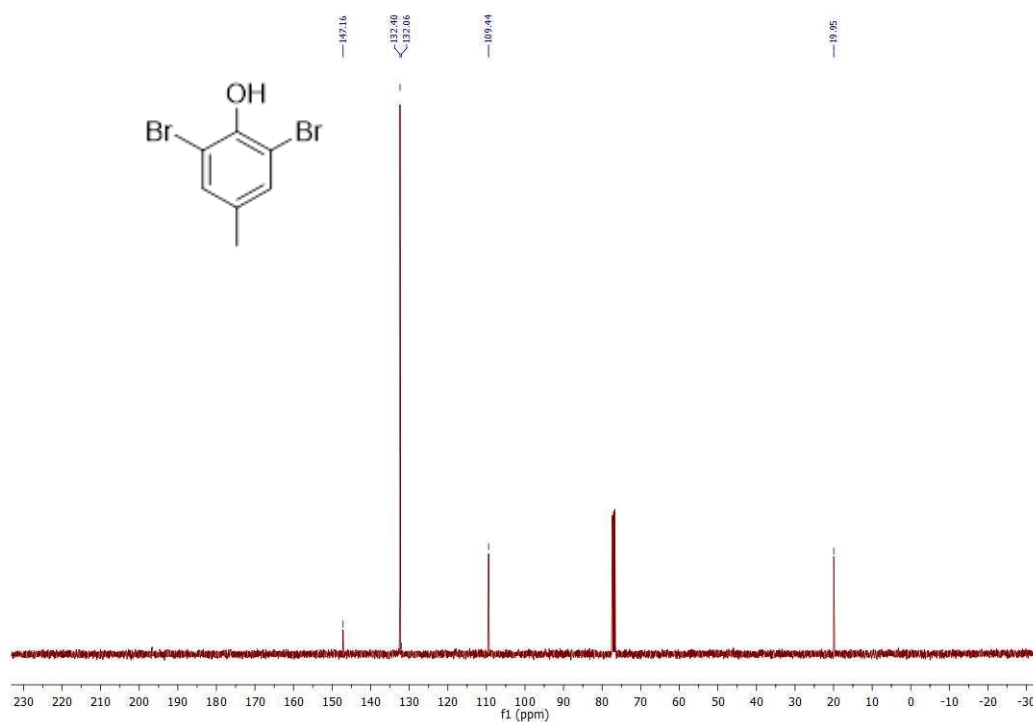


Figure A.5 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of intermediate A



Figure A.6 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 3Figure A.7 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 3

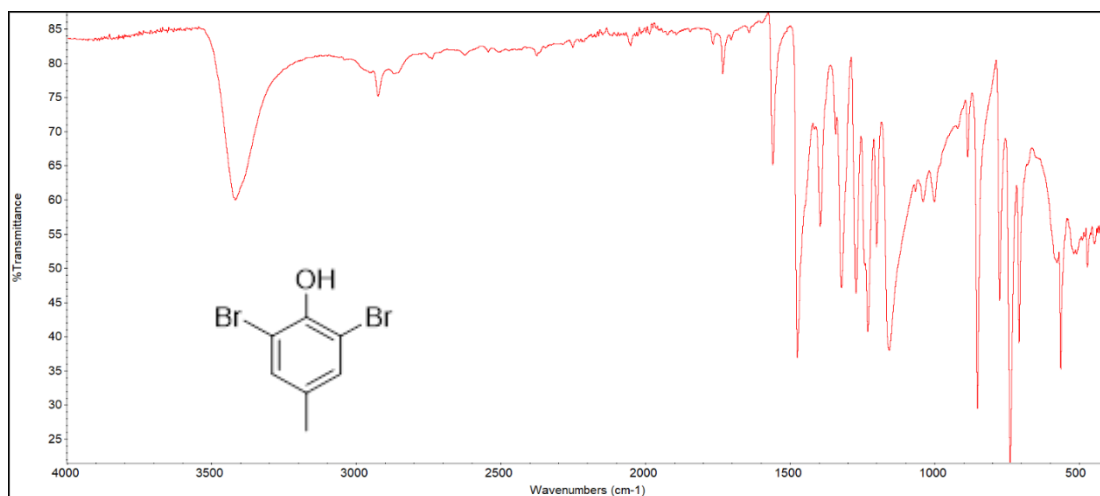


Figure A.8 IR spectrum of compound 3

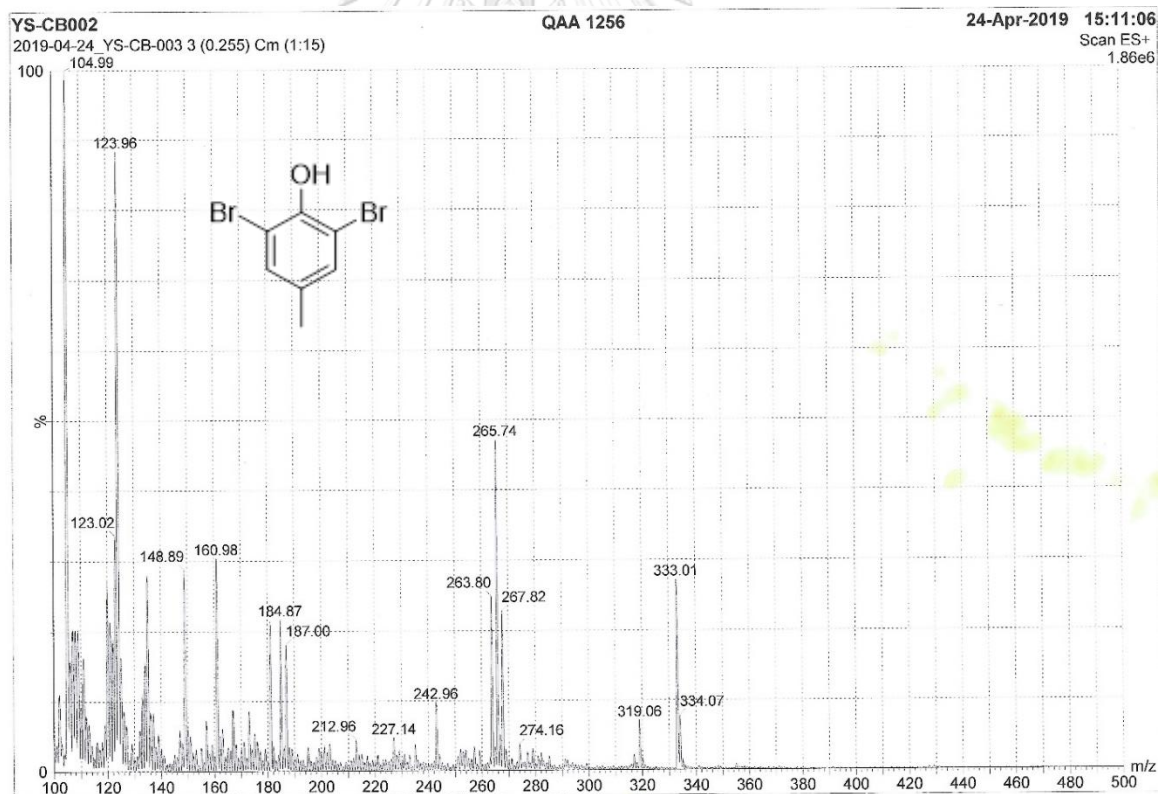
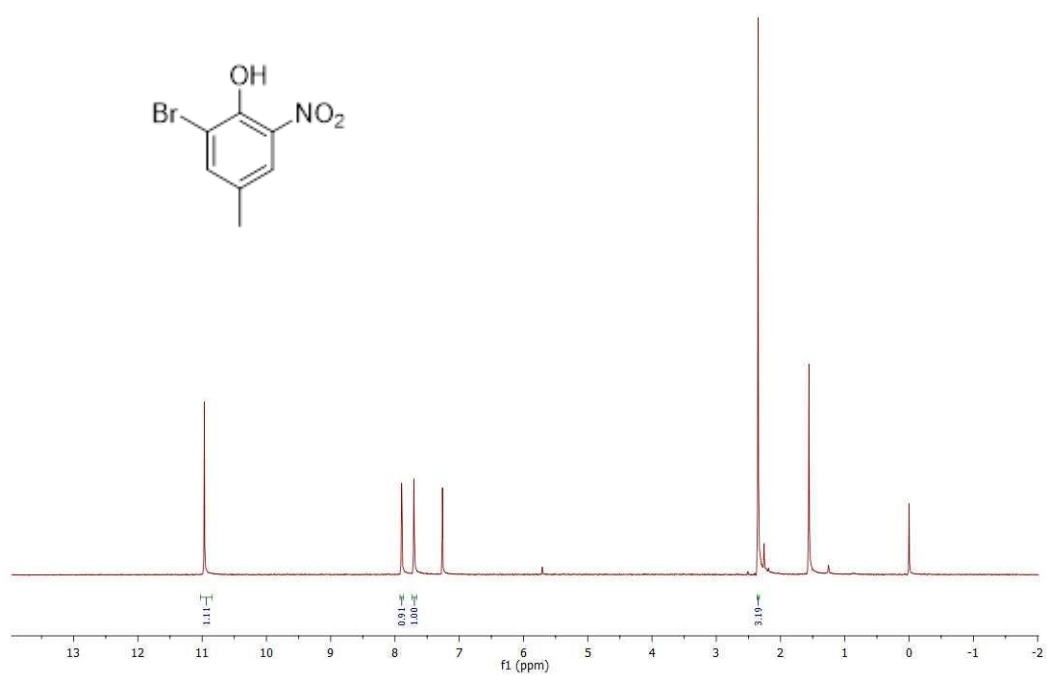
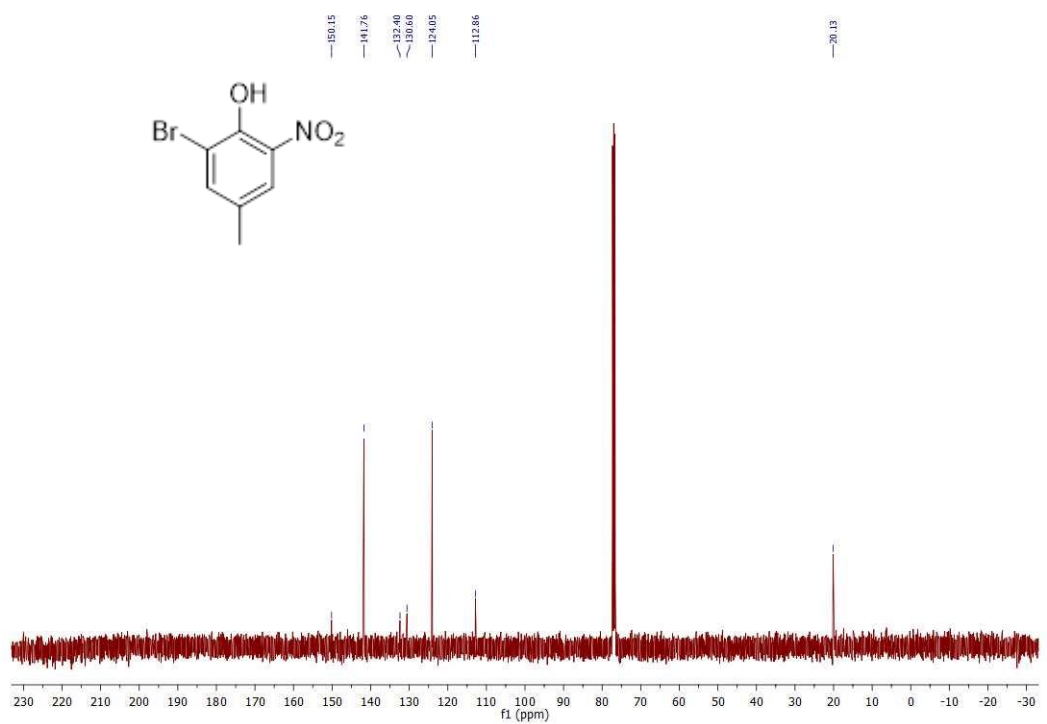


Figure A.9 Mass spectrum of compound 3

Figure A.10 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 4Figure A.11 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 4

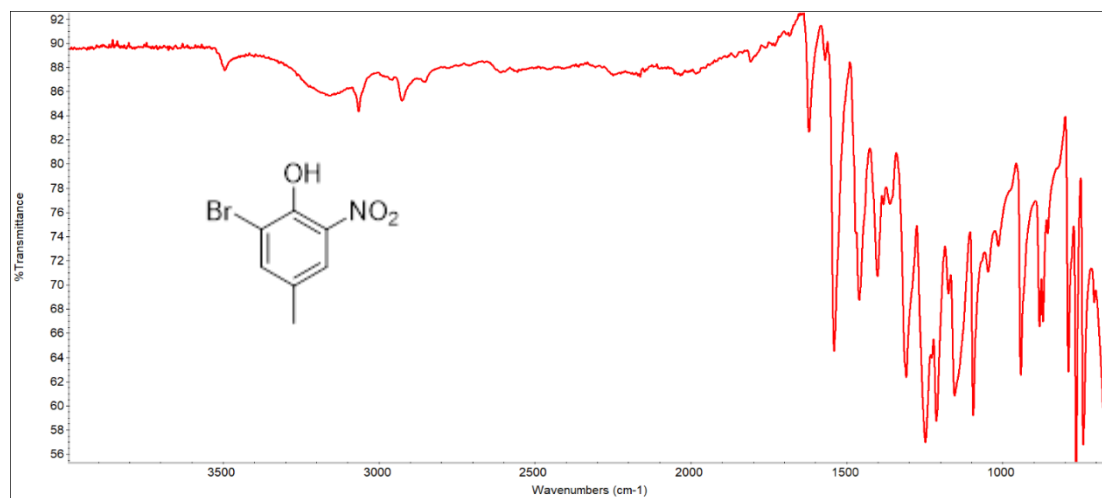


Figure A.12 IR spectrum of compound 4



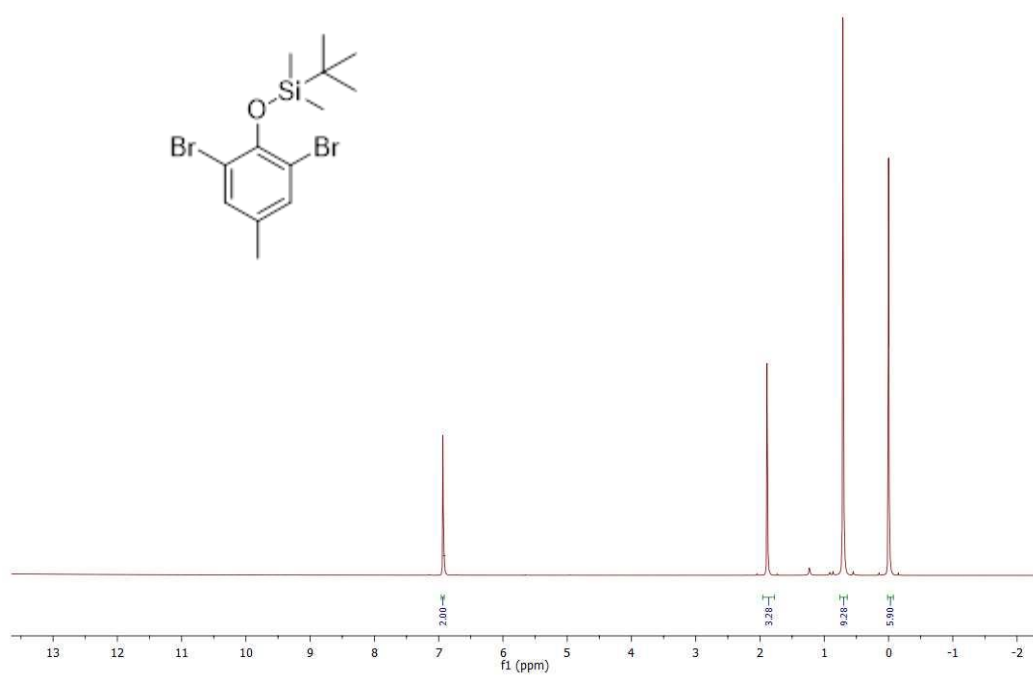


Figure A.13 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 5

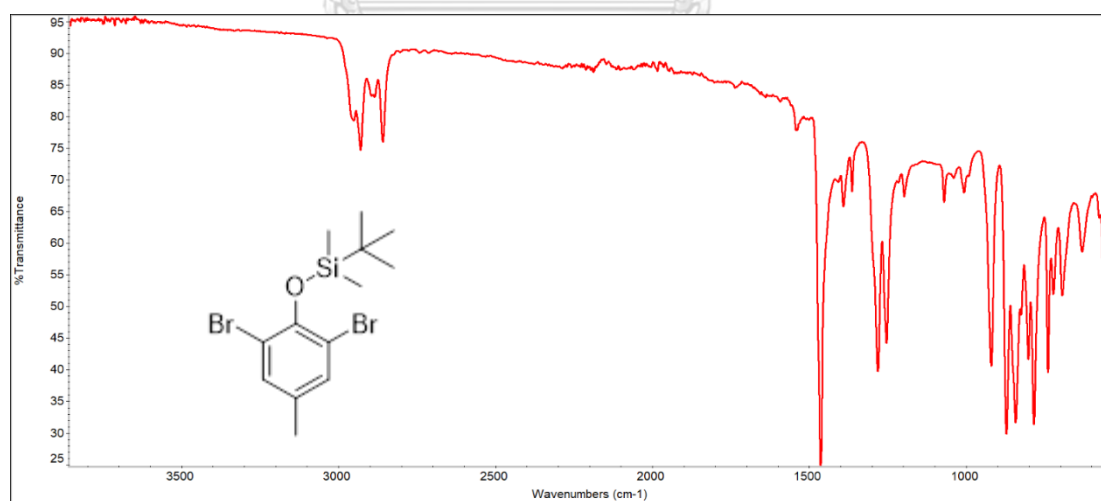


Figure A.14 IR spectrum of compound 5

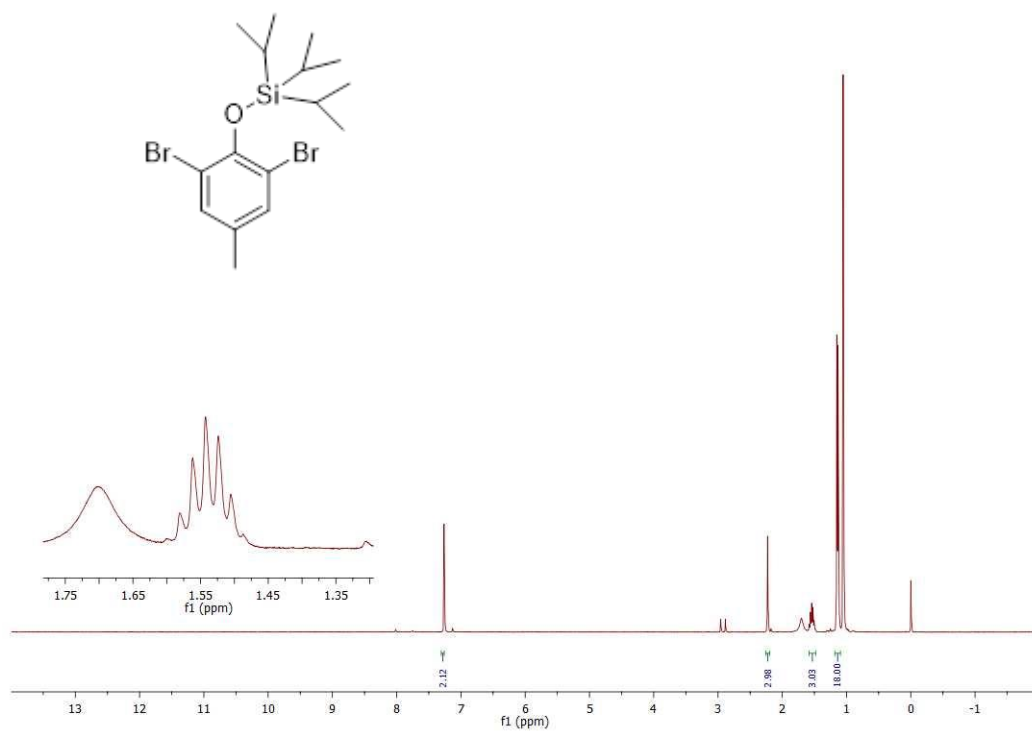
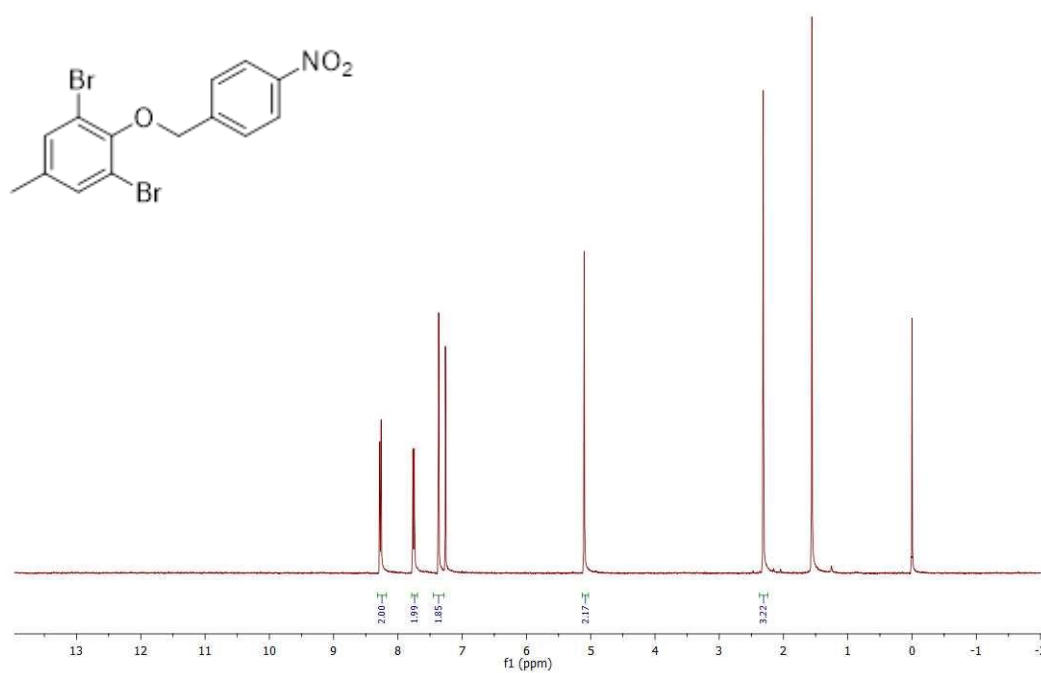
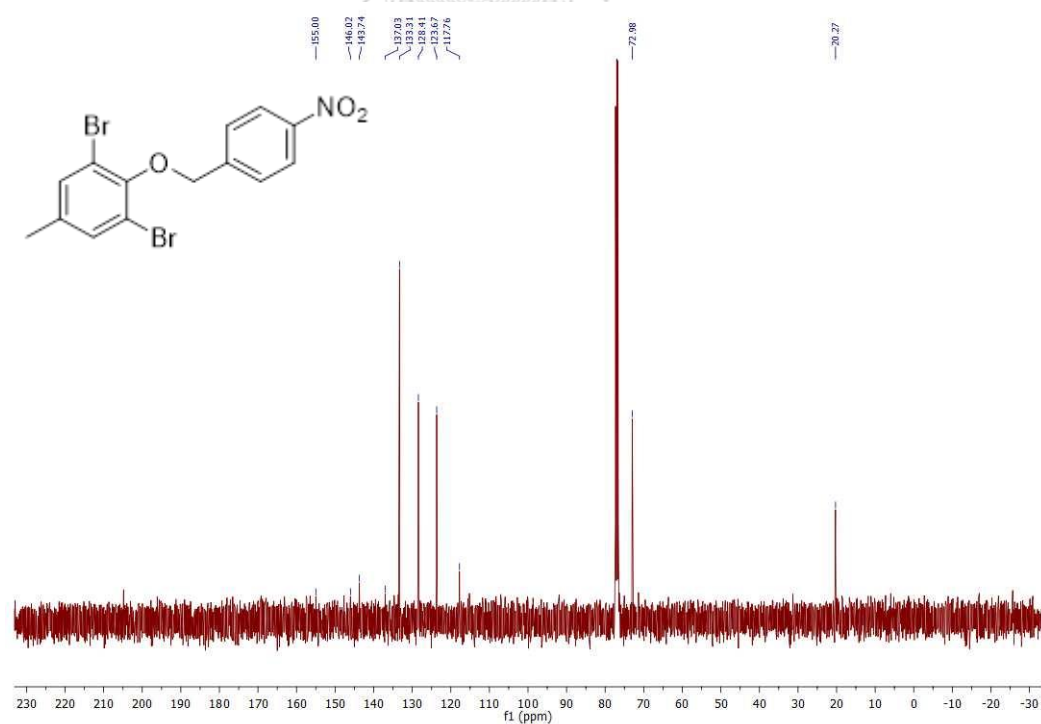
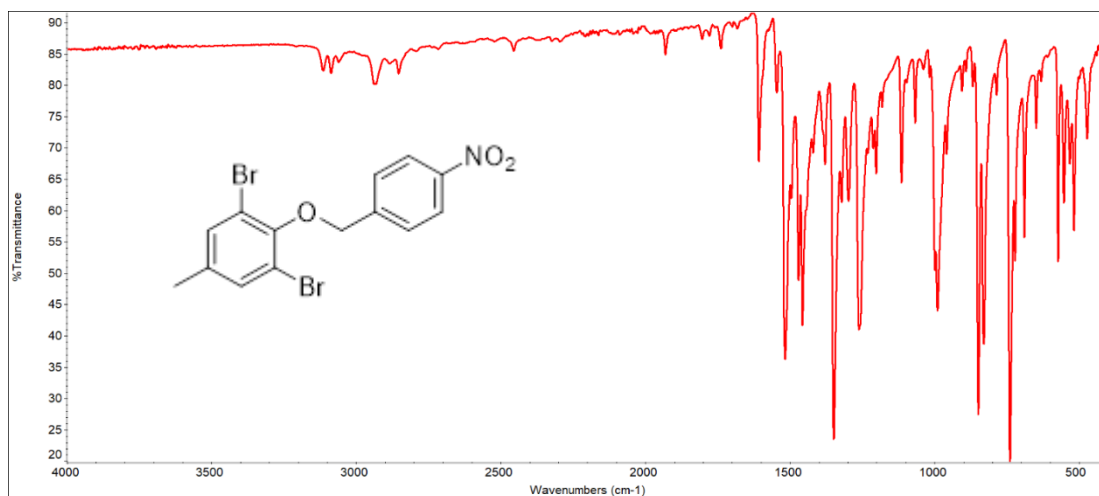
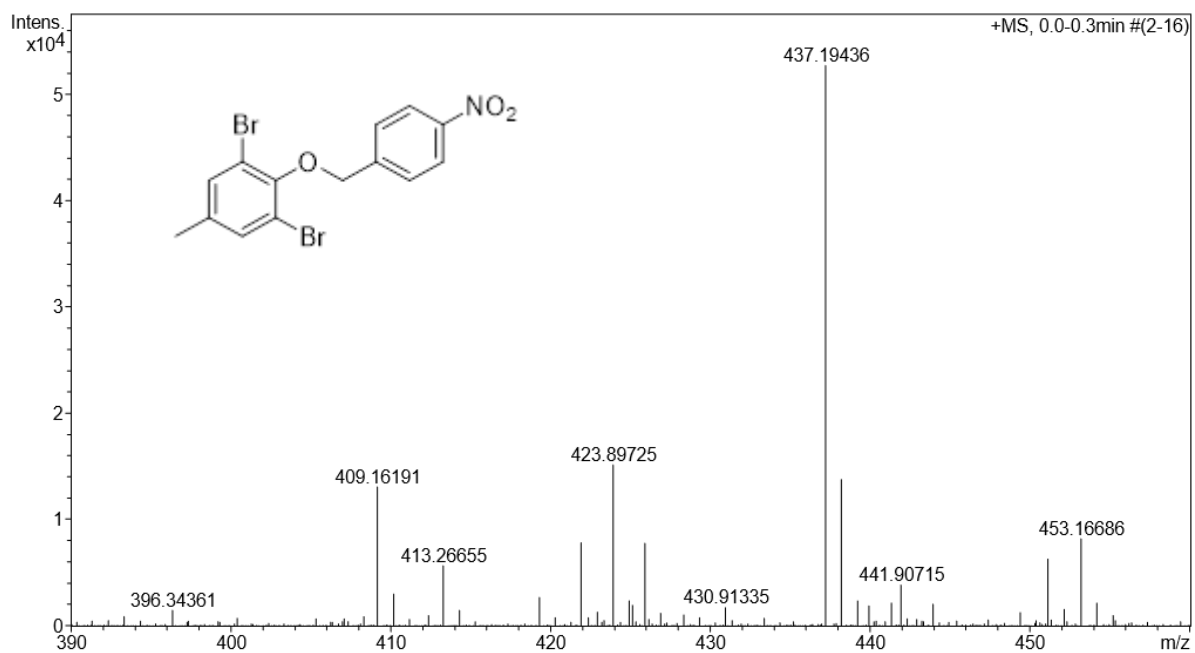


Figure A.15 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 6

Figure A.16 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 7Figure A.17 ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 7

Figure A.18 IR spectrum of **compound 7**Figure A.19 Mass spectrum of **compound 7**

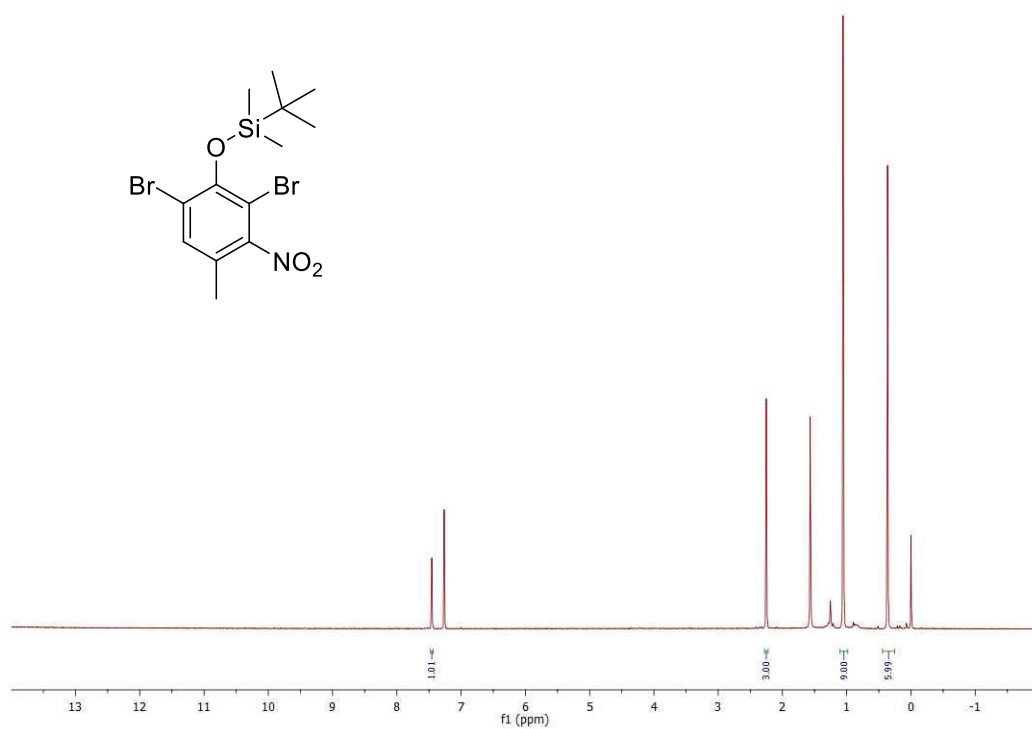
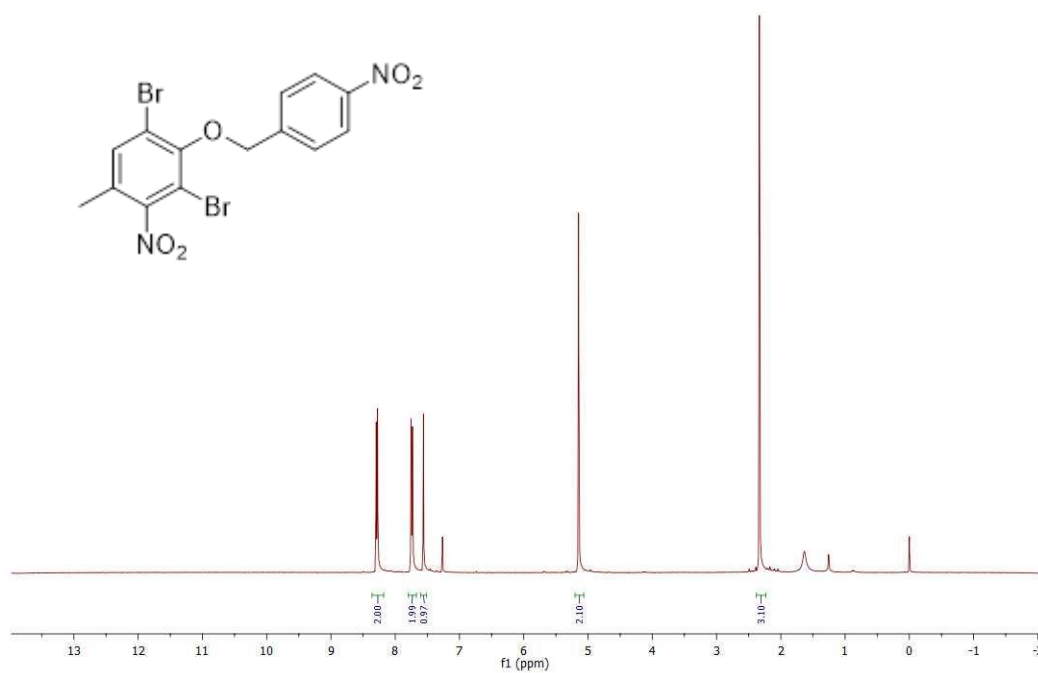
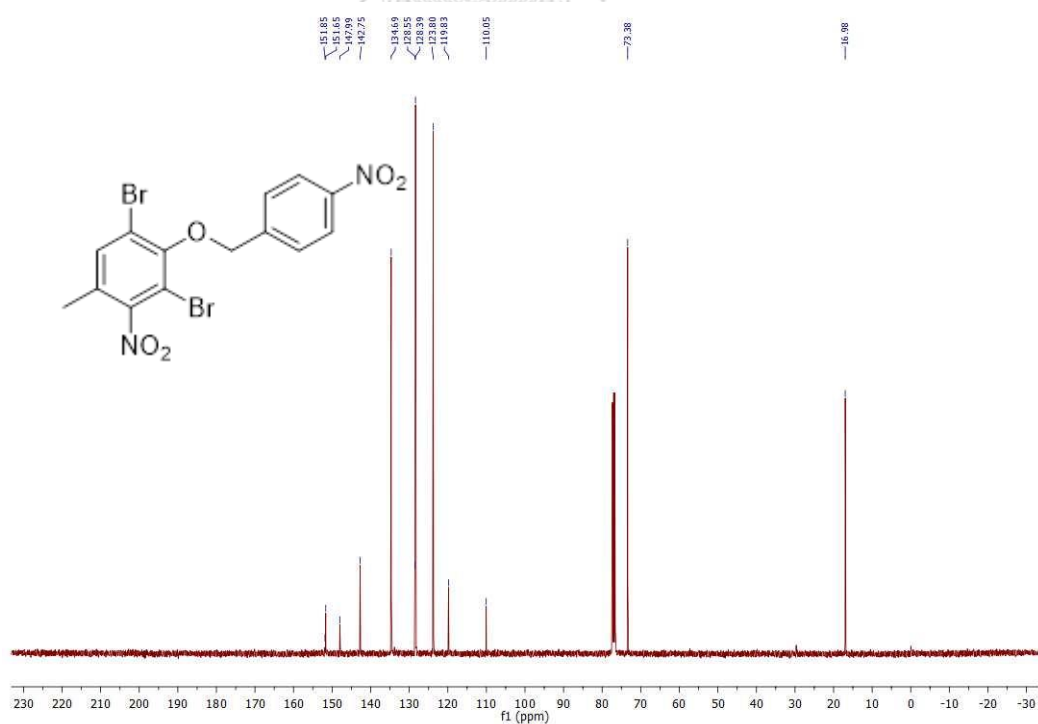


Figure A.20 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of *meta*-nitro-TBS-2,6-dibromo-4-methylphenol



Figure A.21 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 8aFigure A.22 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 8

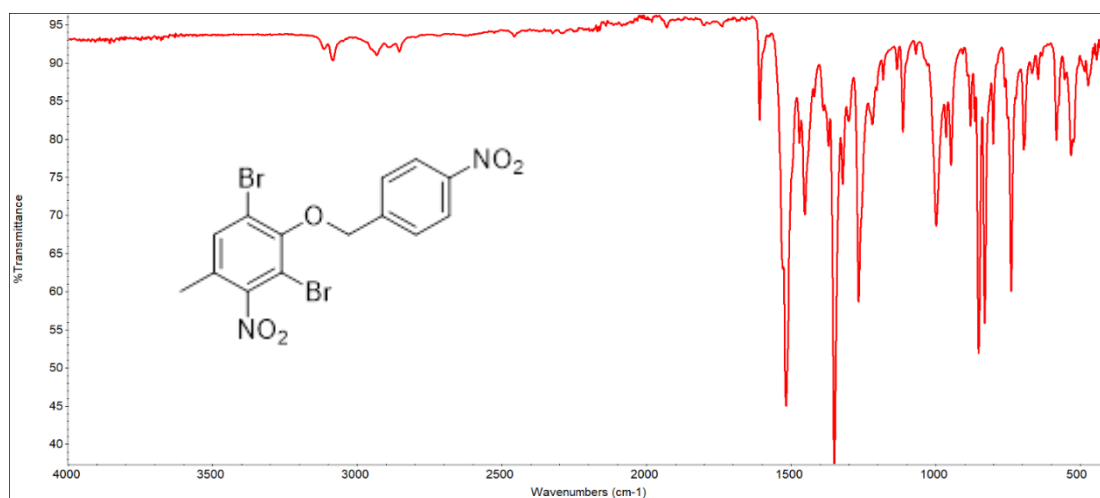


Figure A.23 IR spectrum of compound 8a

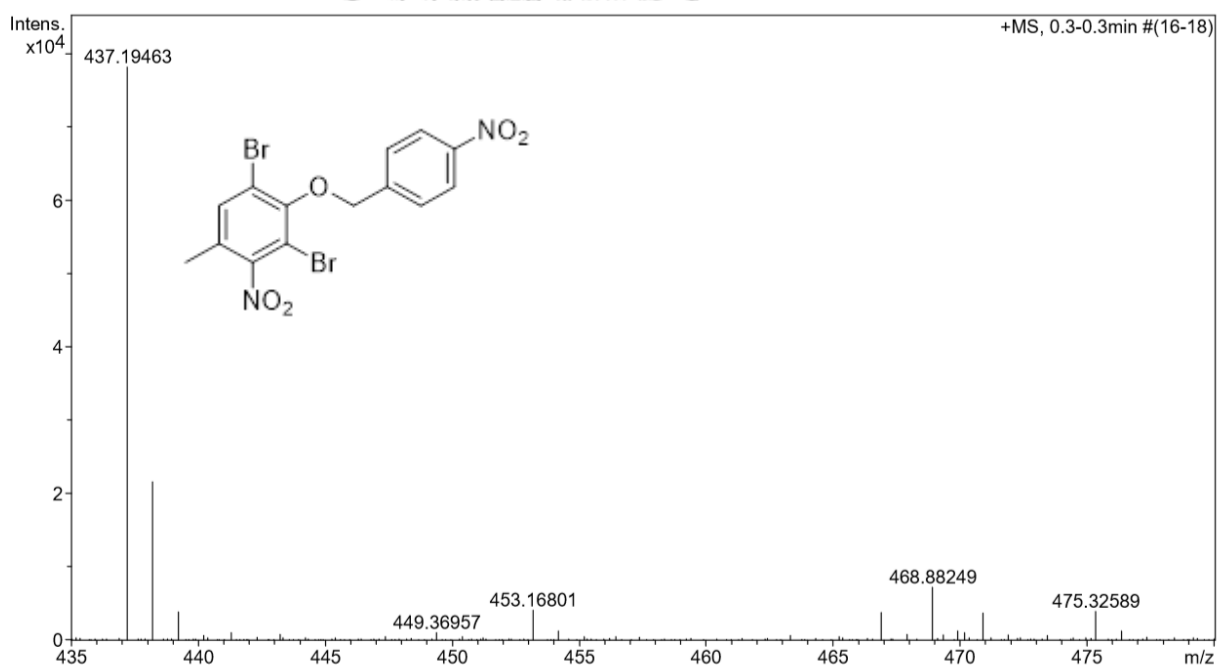
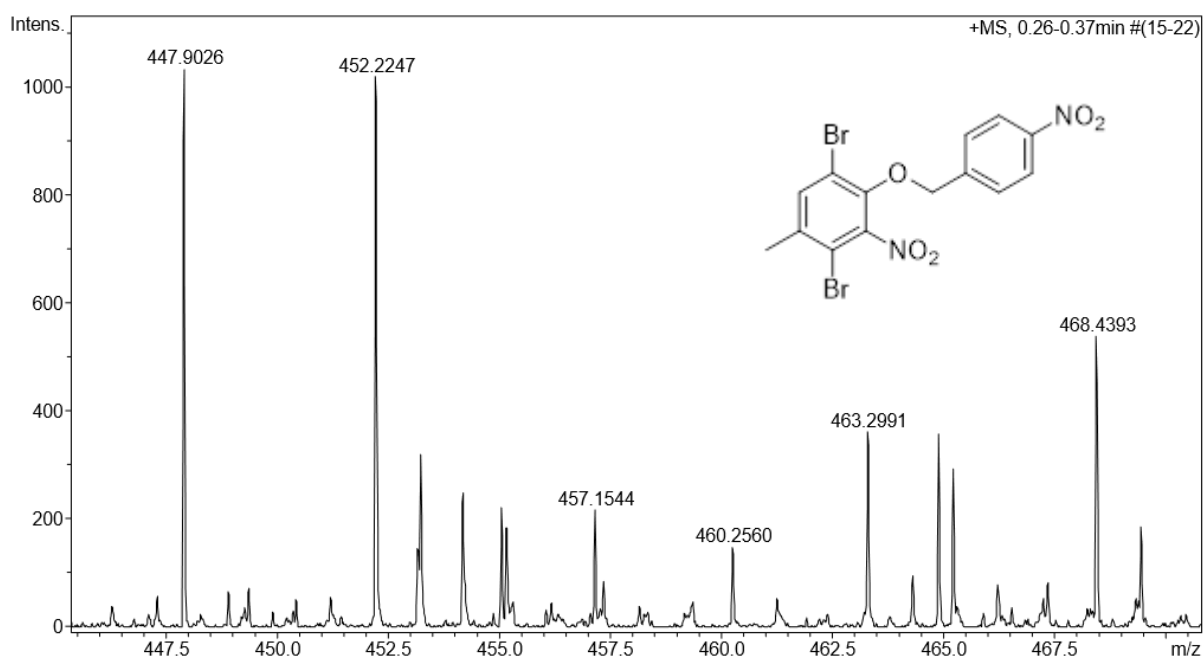


Figure A.24 Mass spectrum of compound 8a



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Figure A.25 Mass spectrum of compound 8b



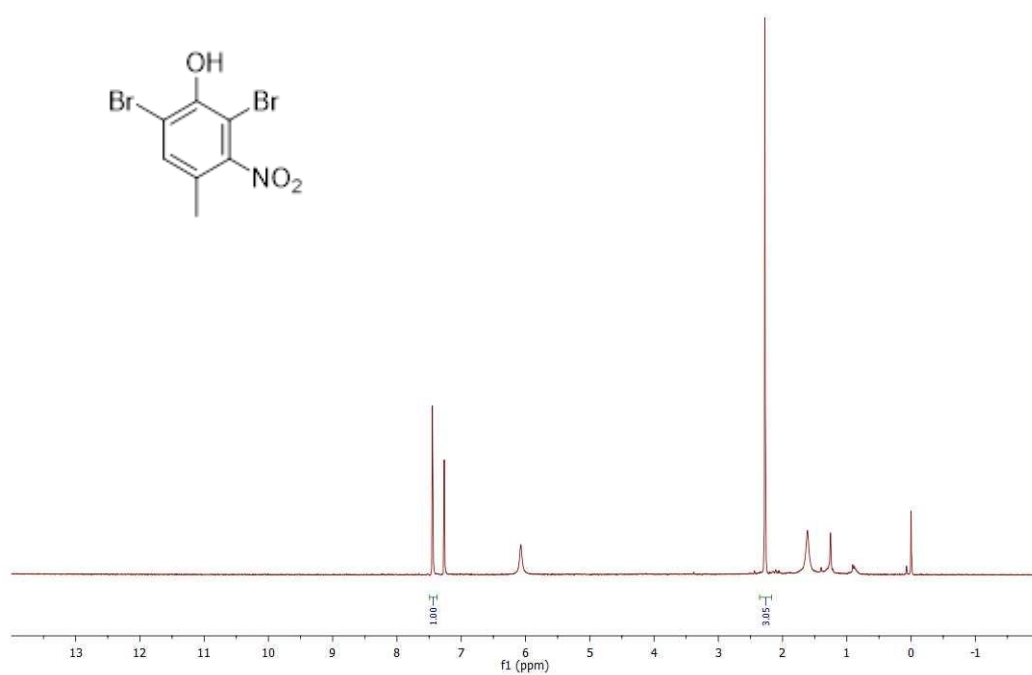


Figure A.26 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 9a



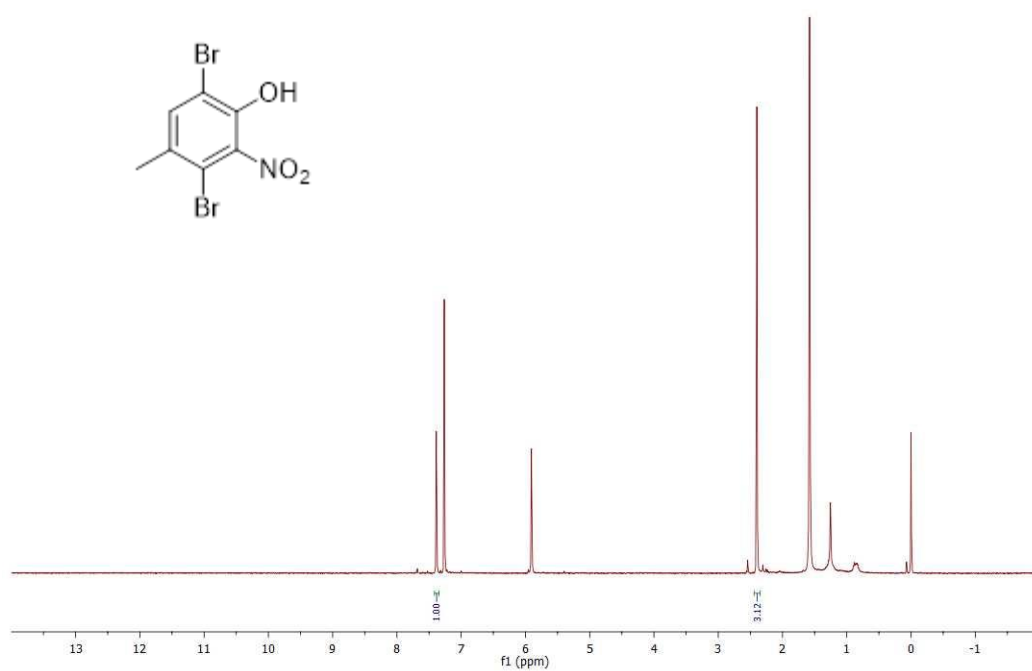


Figure A.27 ^1H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 9b



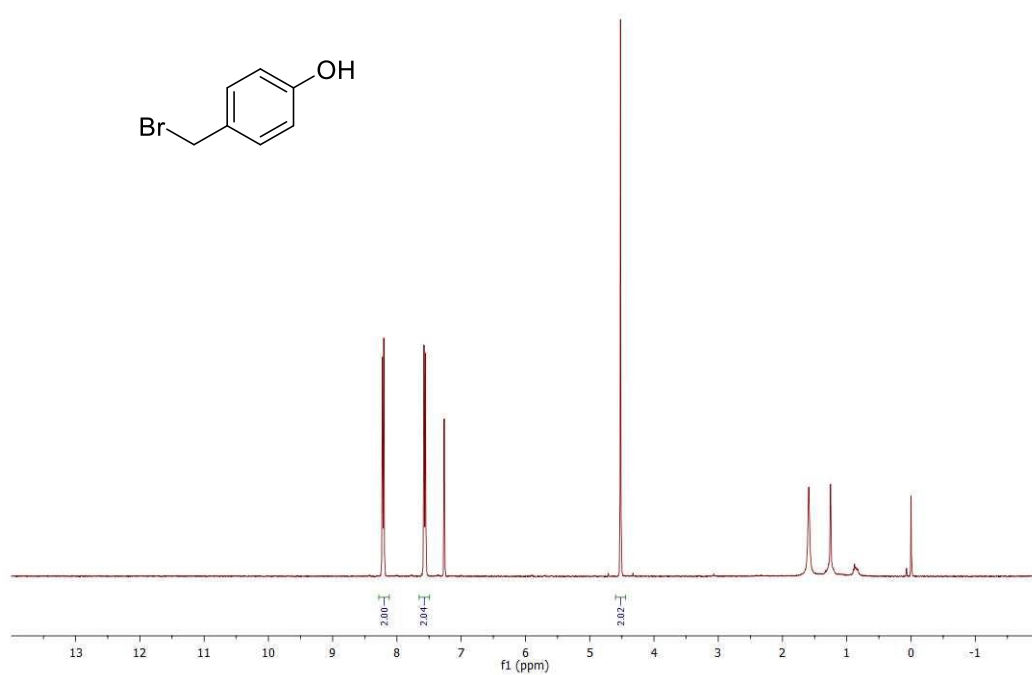
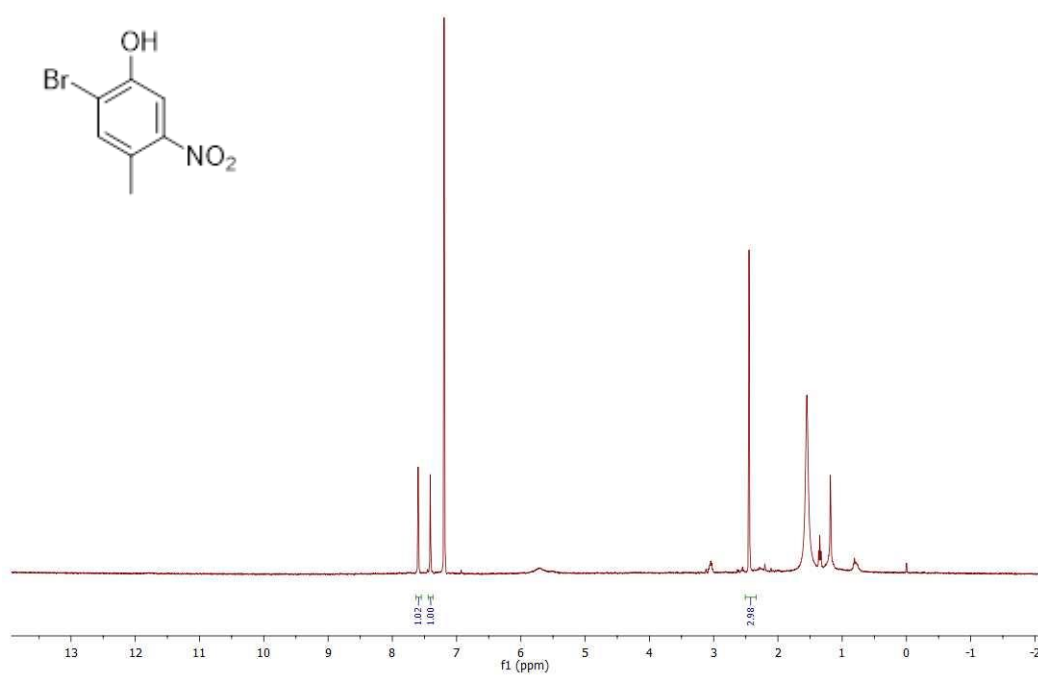
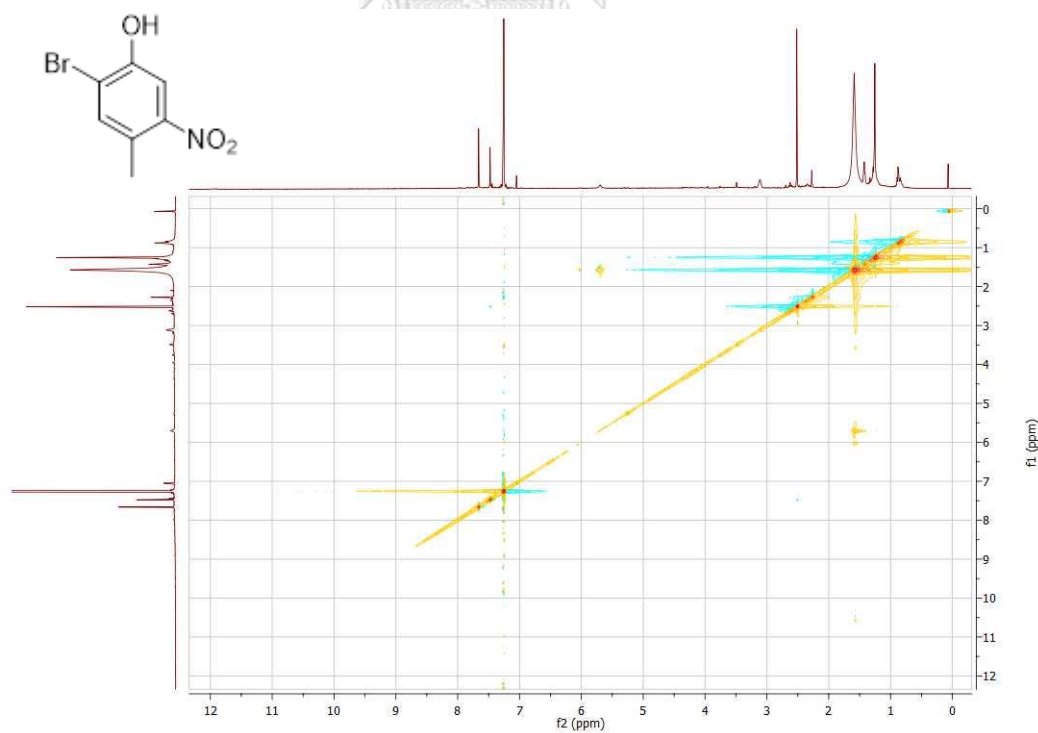


Figure A.28 ^1H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of Nitro benzyl bromine



Figure A.29 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 10Figure A.30 ^1H - ^1H NOESY NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) of compound 10

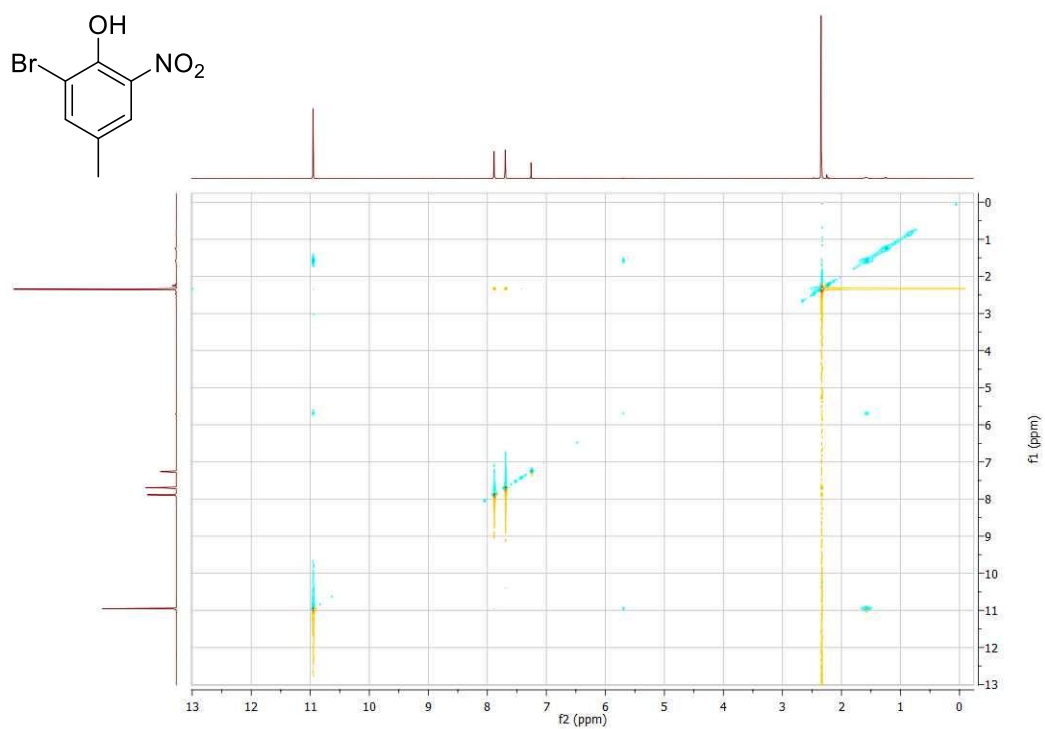
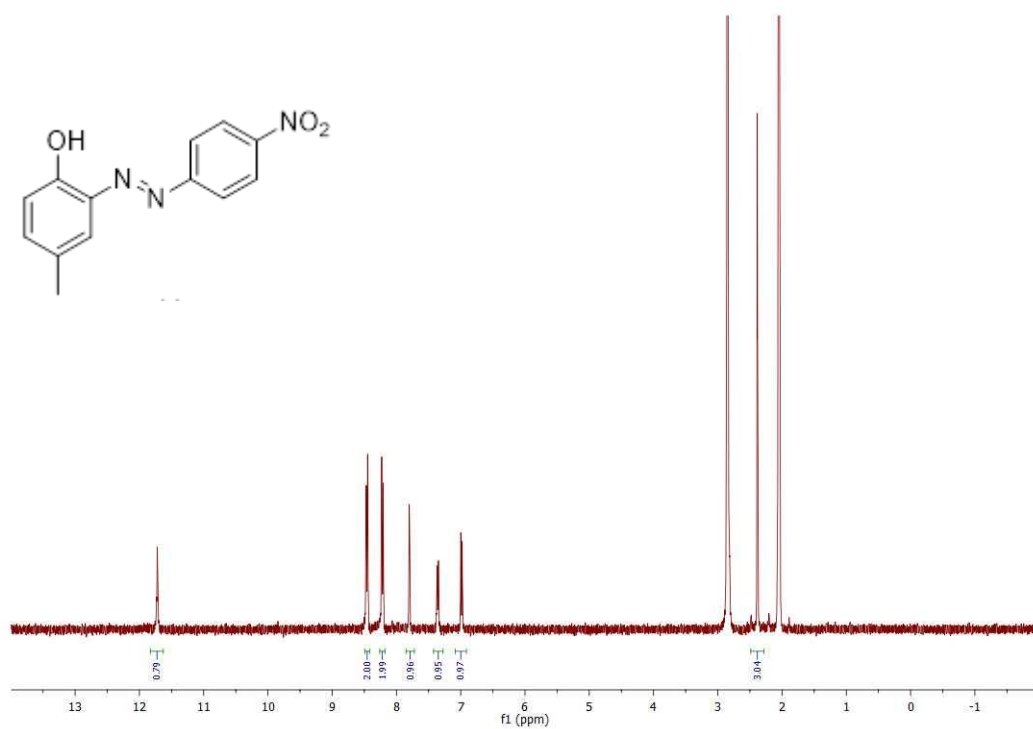
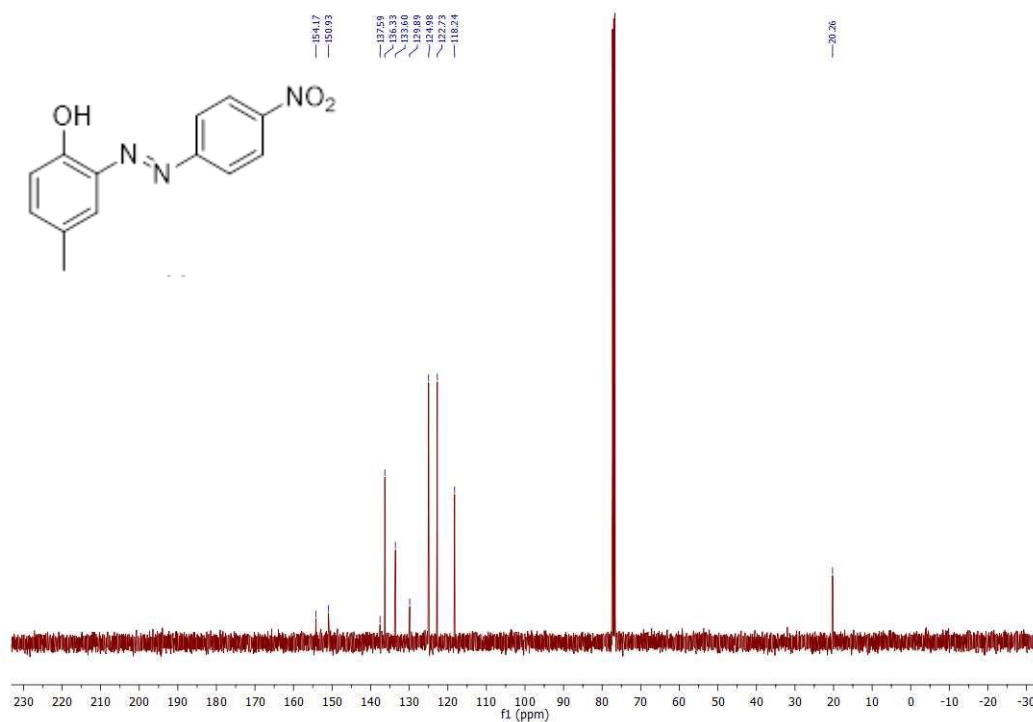


Figure A.31 ^1H - ^1H NOESY NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) of compound 3



Figure A.32 ^1H NMR (acetone- d_6) spectrum of compound 11Figure A.33 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 11

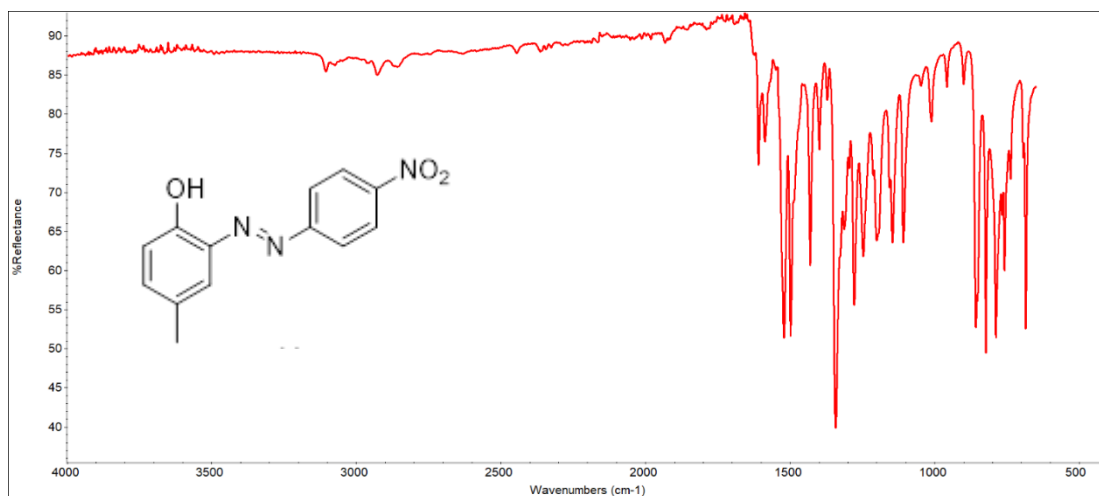


Figure A.34 IR spectrum of compound 11

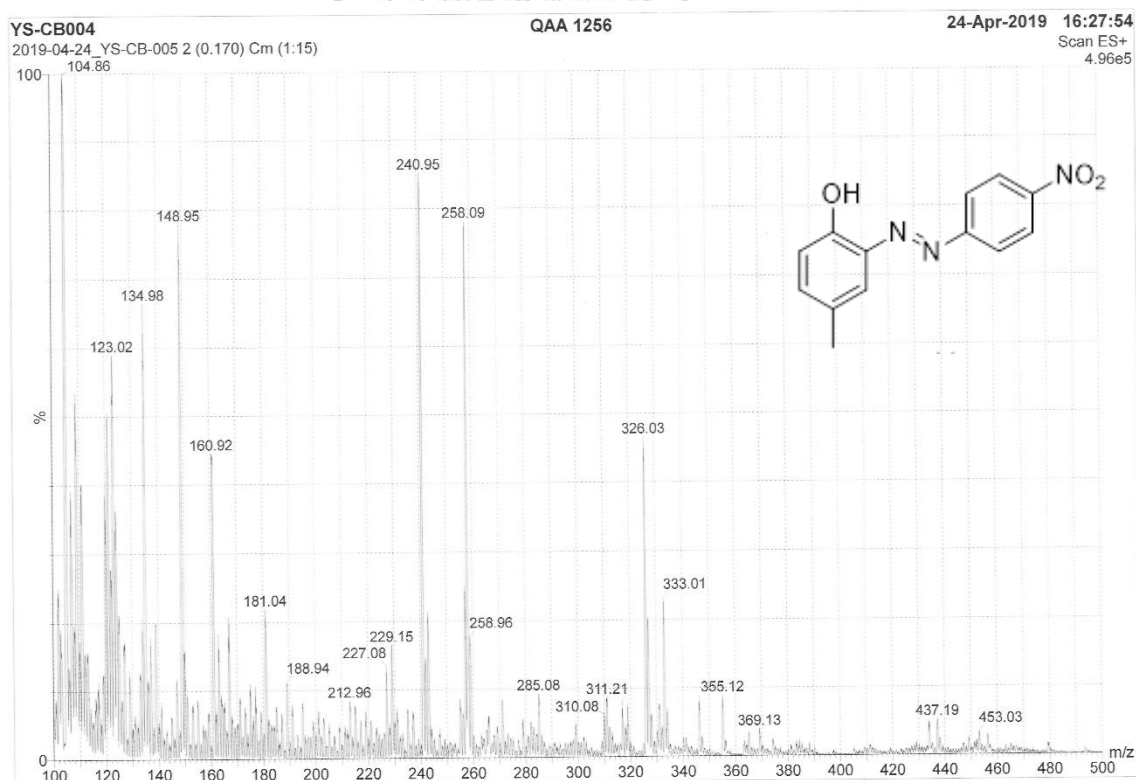


Figure A.35 Mass spectrum of compound 11

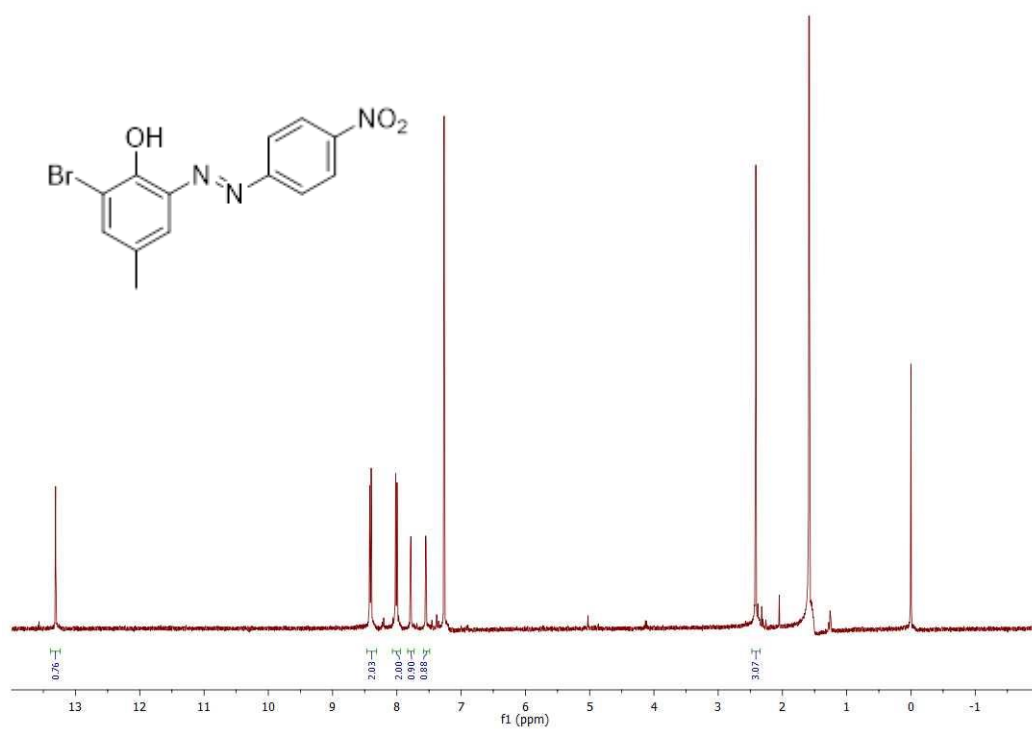
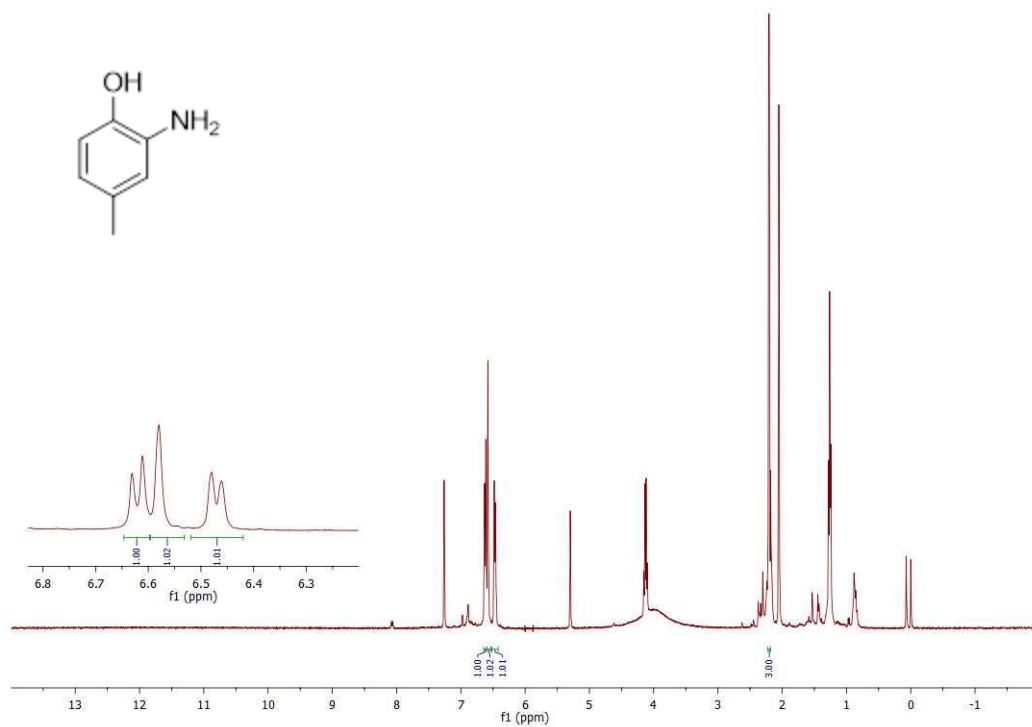
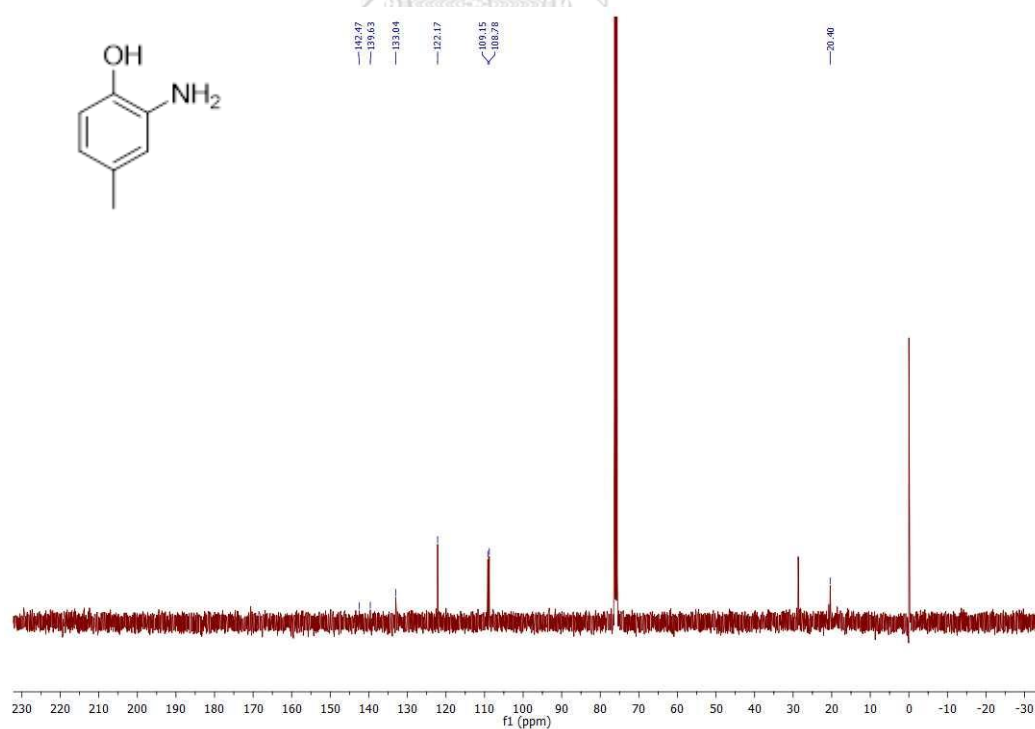


Figure A.36 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 12

Figure A.37 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 13Figure A.38 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 13

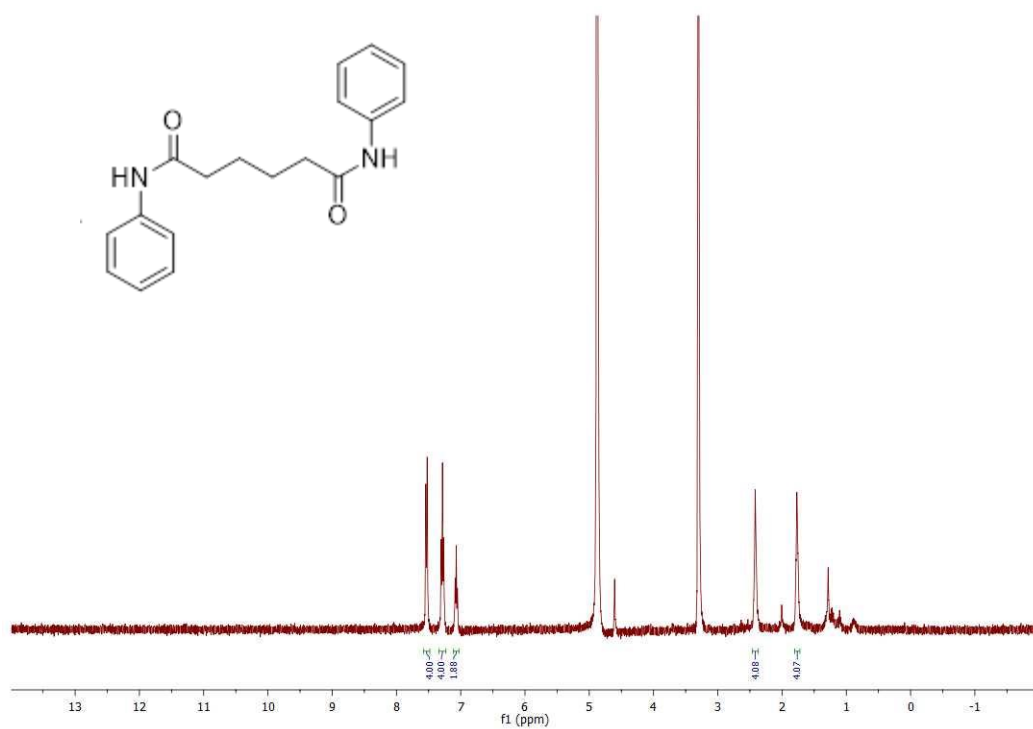


Figure A.39 ^1H NMR (CD_3OD) spectrum of 14

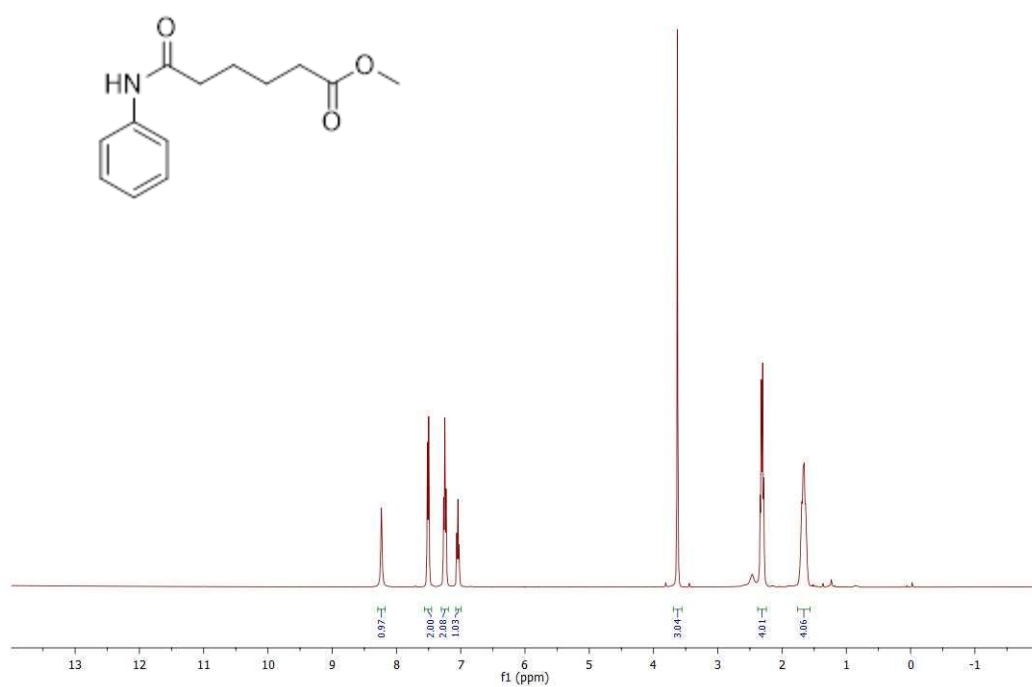


Figure A.40 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 15

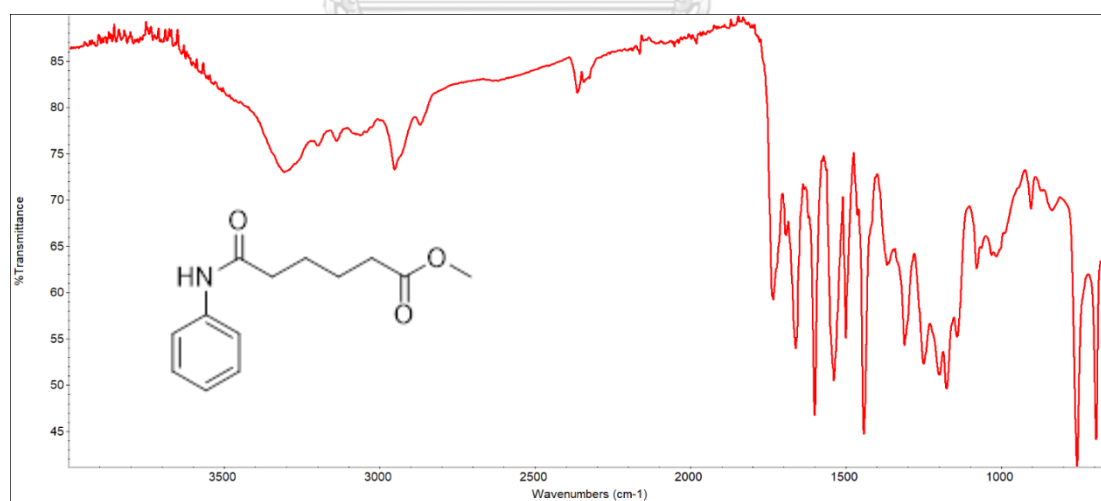


Figure A.41 IR spectrum of compound 15

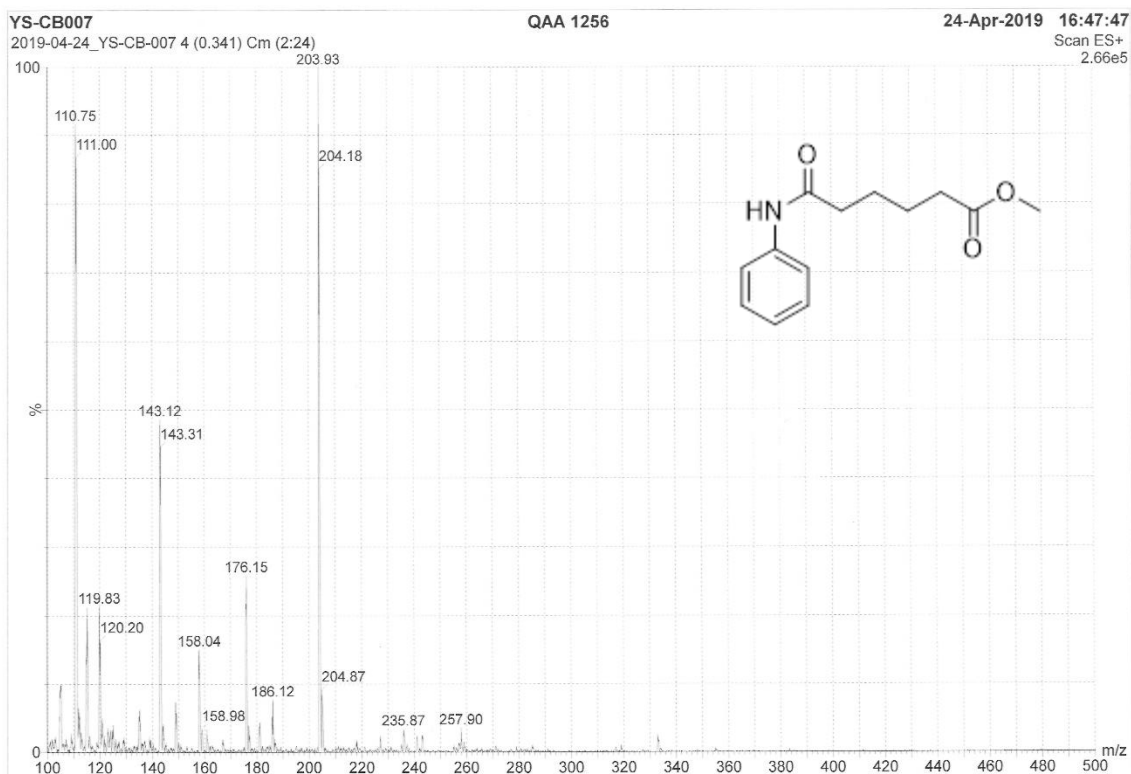


Figure A.42 Mass spectrum of compound 15

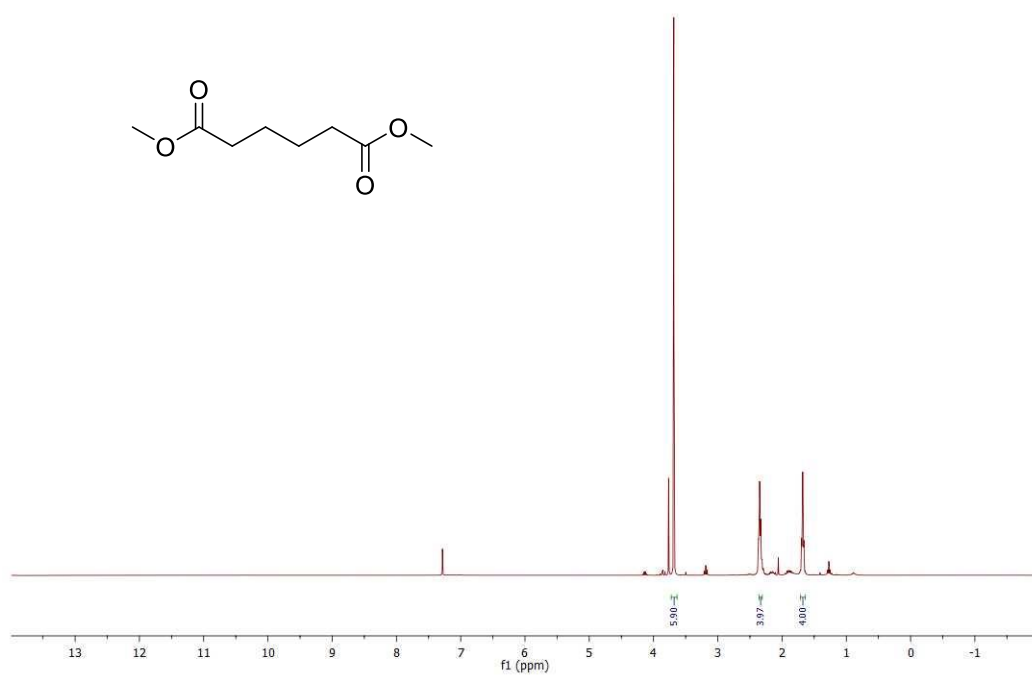


Figure A.43 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) diester compound



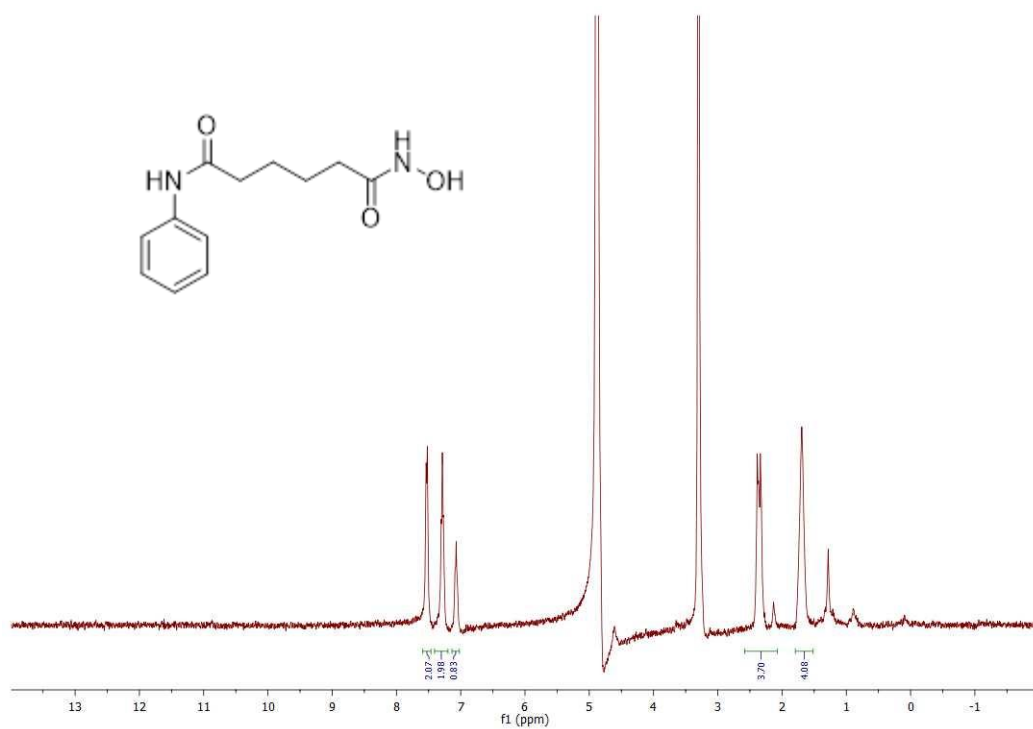
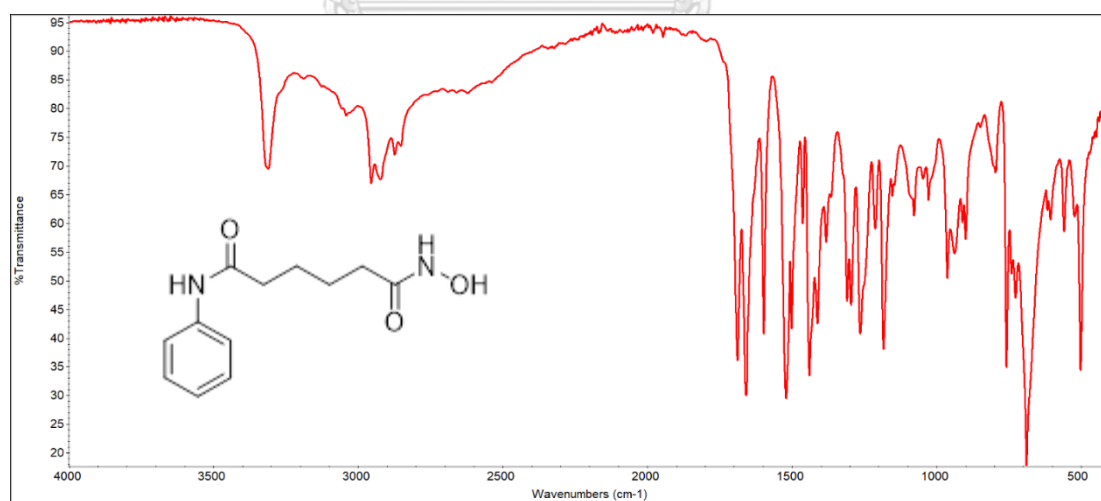
Figure A.44 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CD₃OD) spectrum of compound 16

Figure A.45 IR spectrum of compound 16

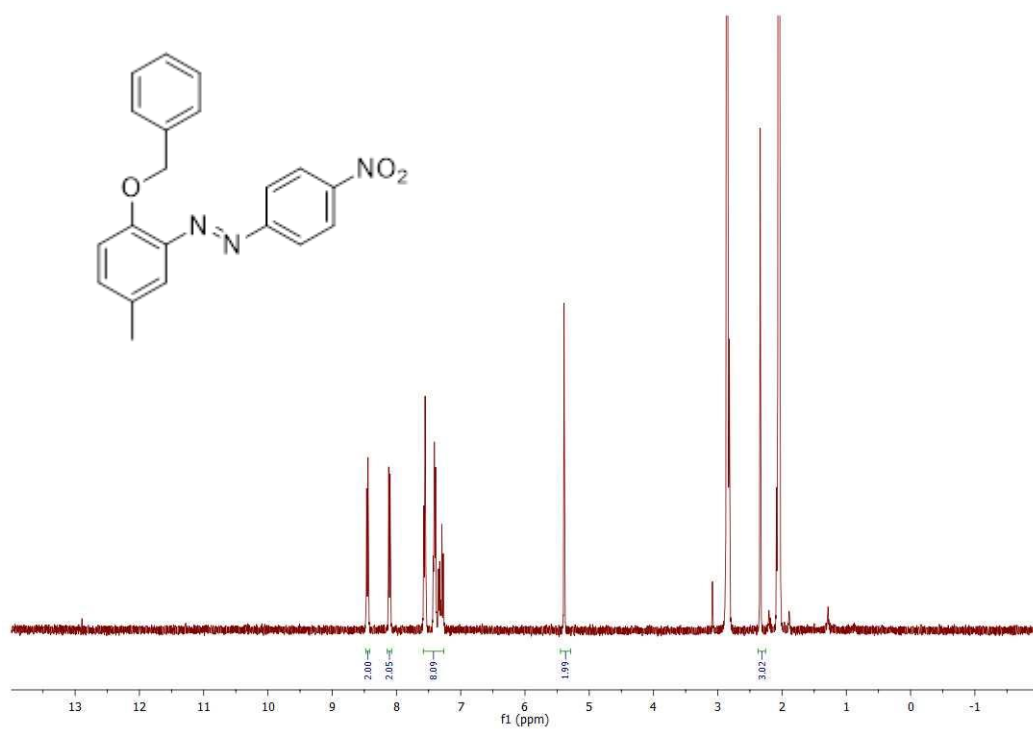
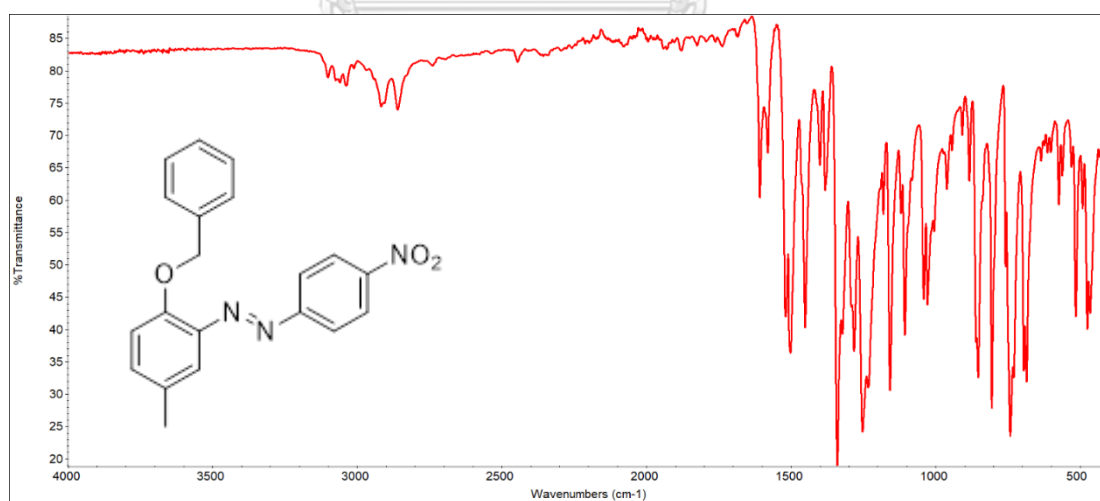
Figure A.46 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (acetone- d_6) spectrum of compound 17

Figure A.47 IR spectrum of compound 17

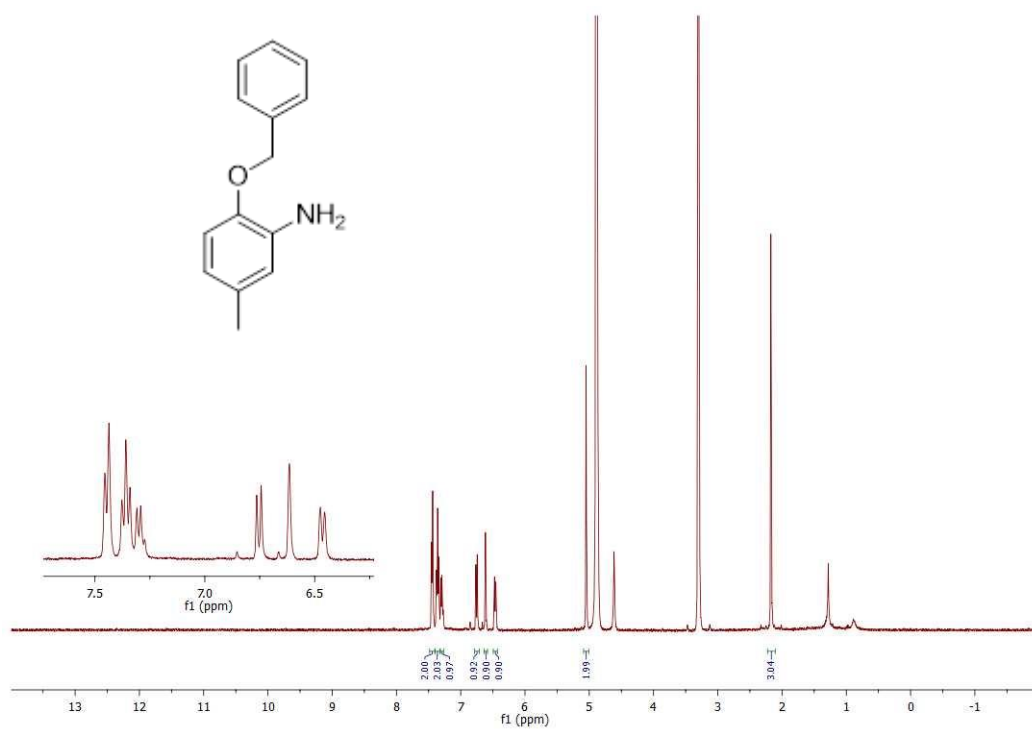
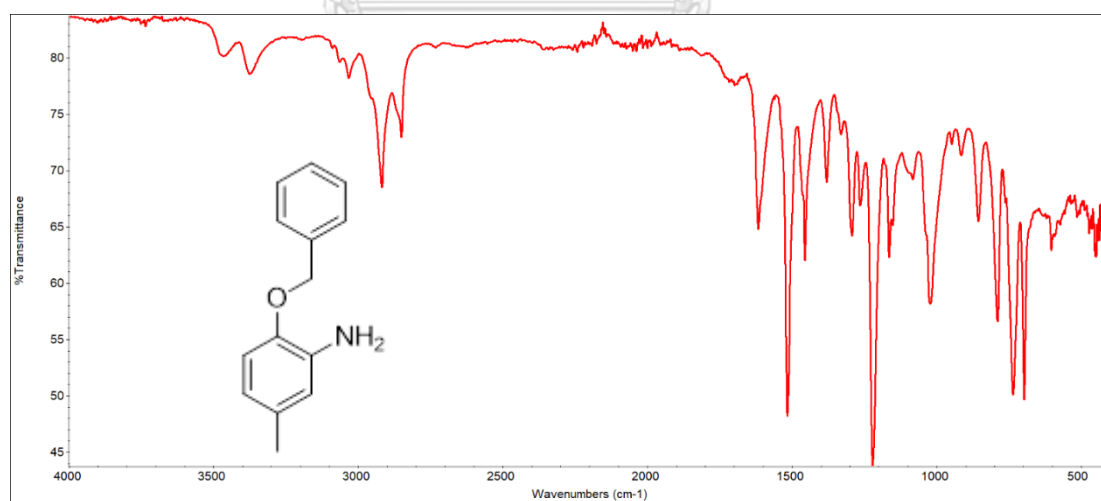
Figure A.48 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CD₃OD) spectrum of compound 18

Figure A.49 IR spectrum of compound 18

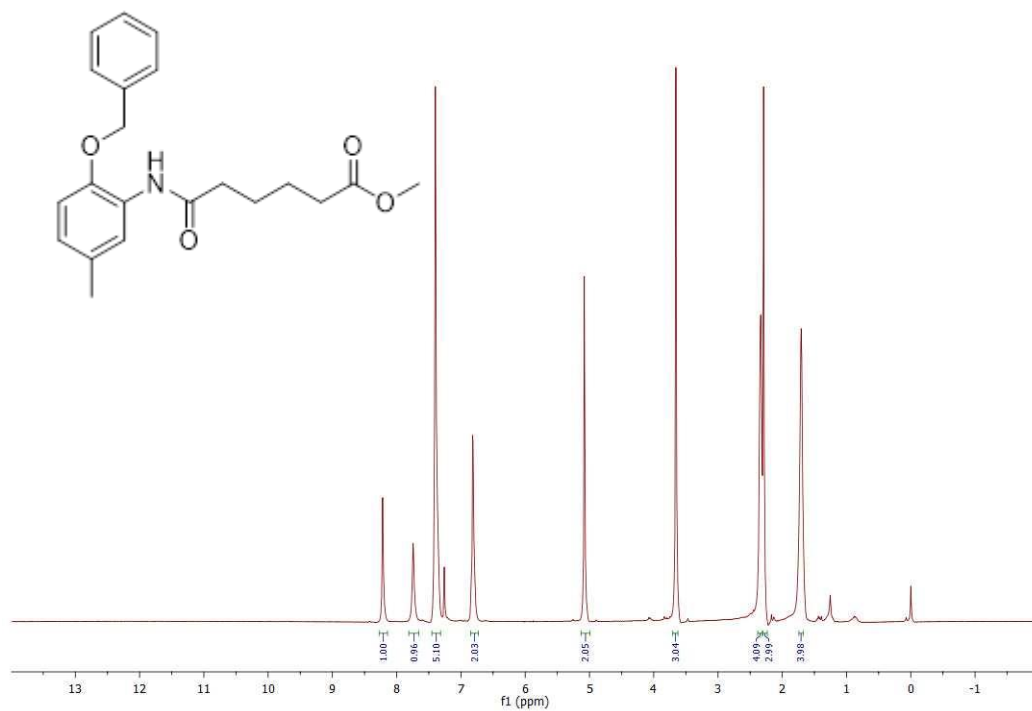


Figure A.50 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 19

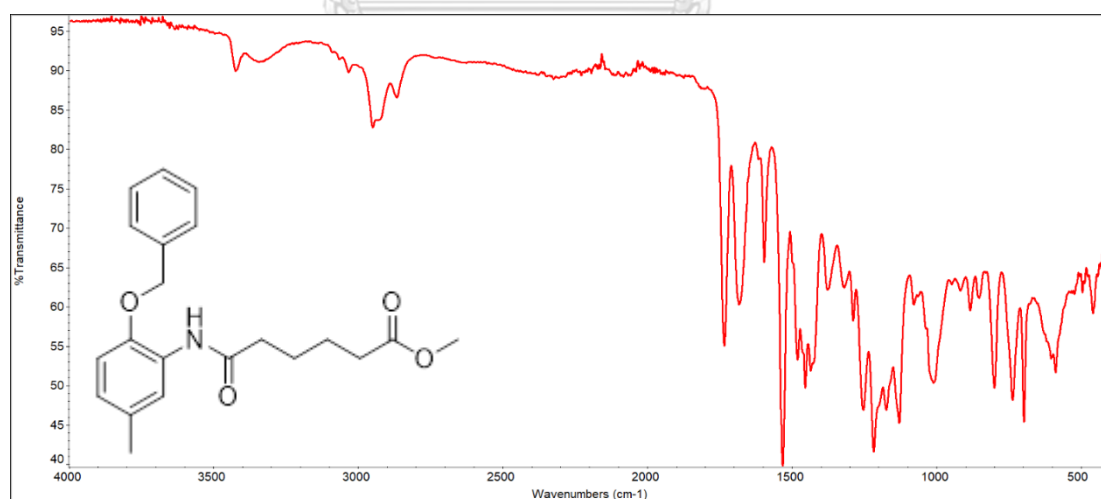


Figure A.51 IR spectrum of compound 19

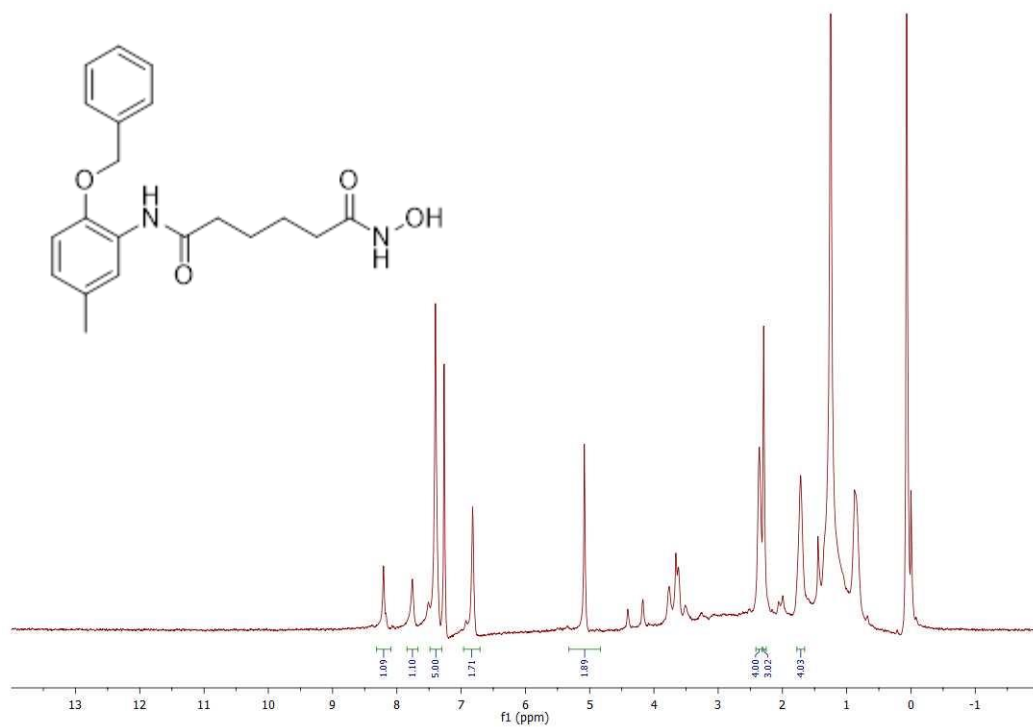


Figure A.52 ^1H NMR (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 20

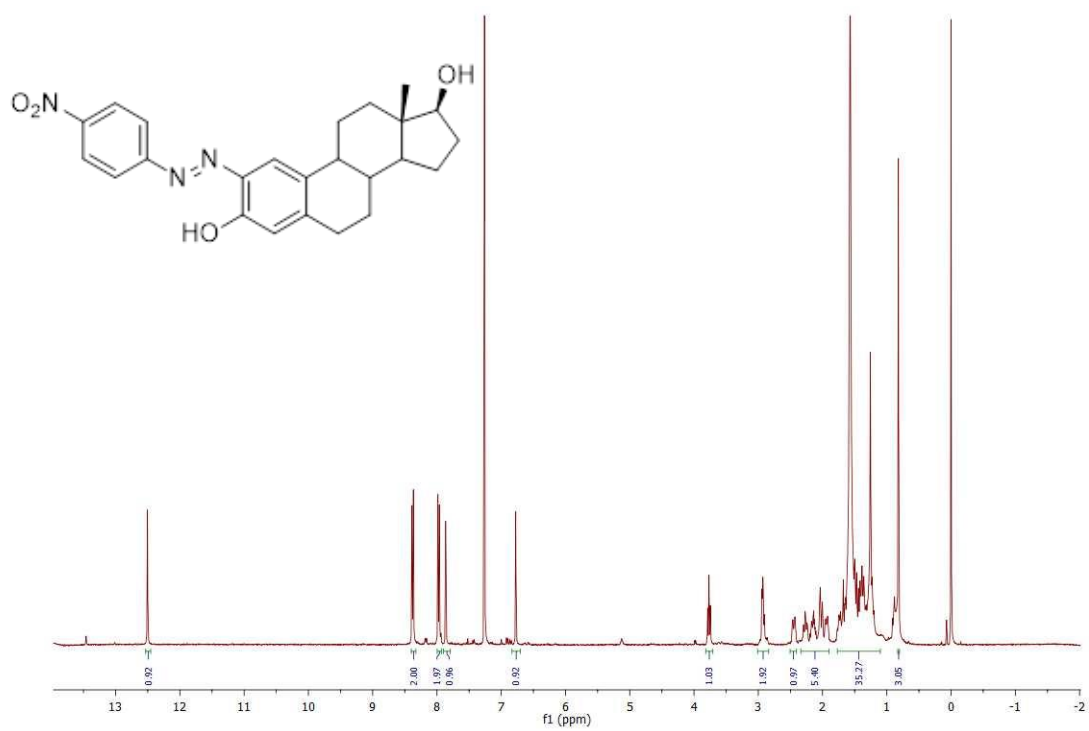


Figure A.53 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 21a

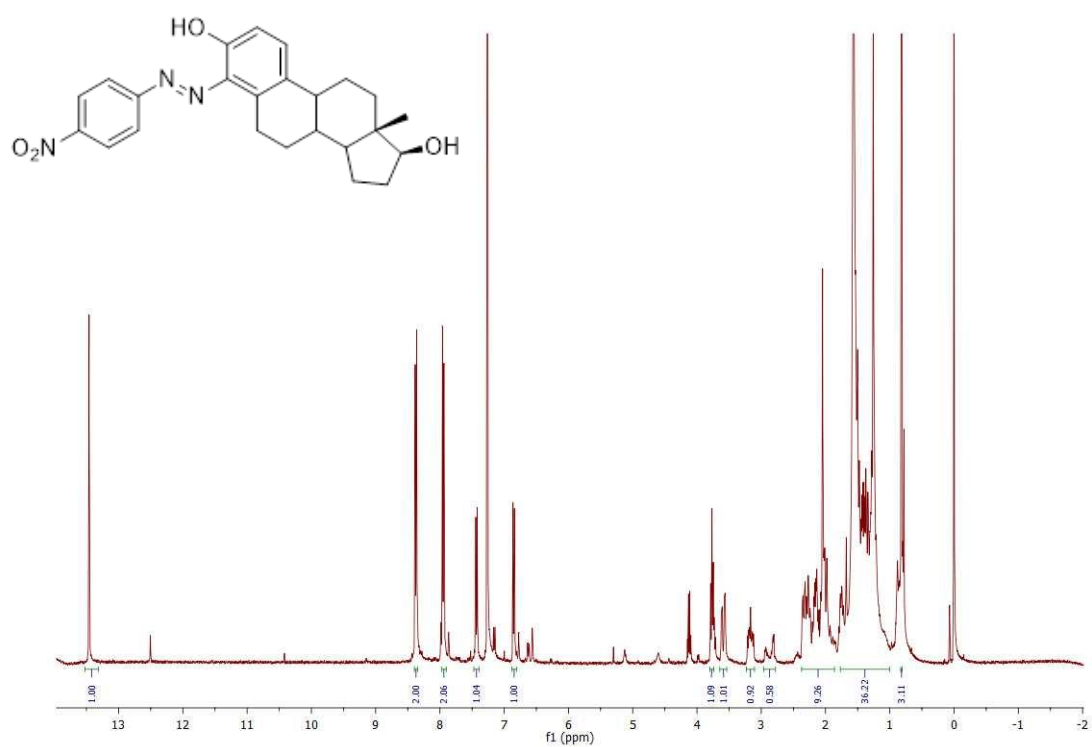


Figure A.54 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 21b

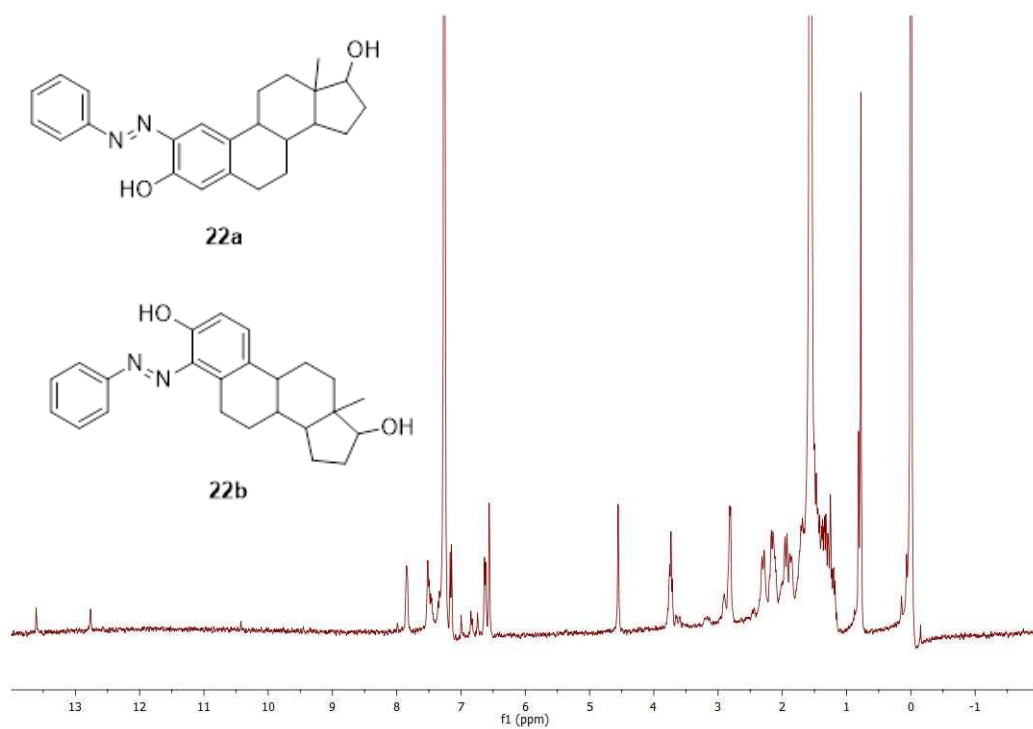


Figure A.55 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of mixture 22a and 22b

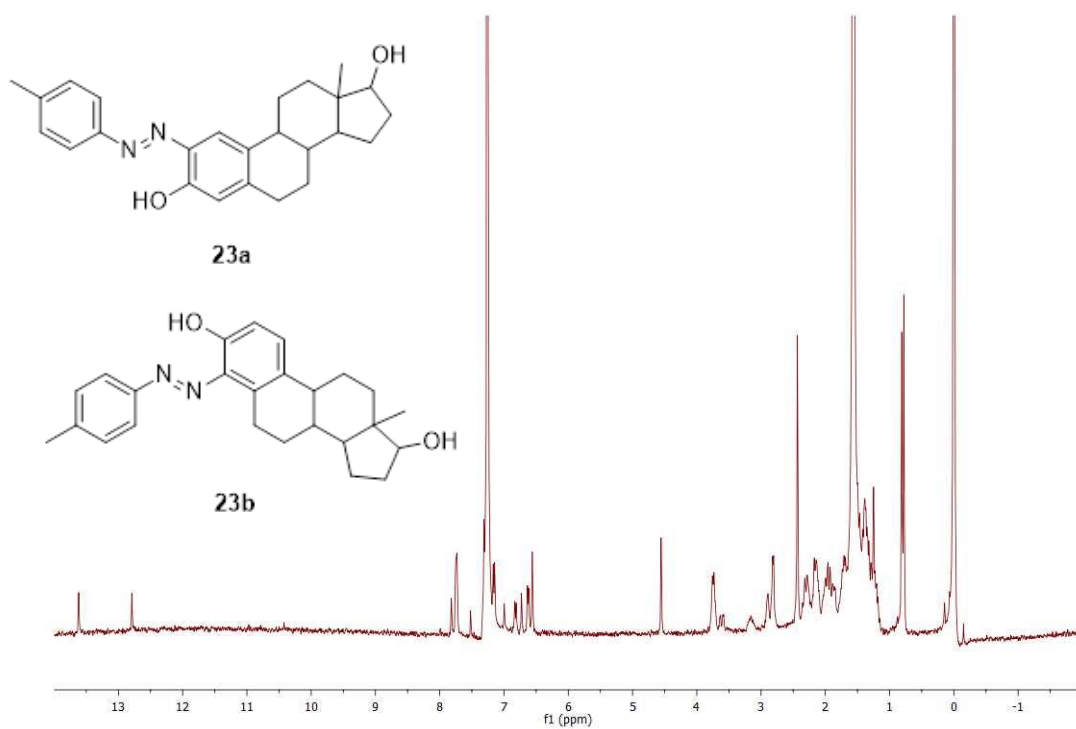


Figure A.56 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of mixture 23a and 23b

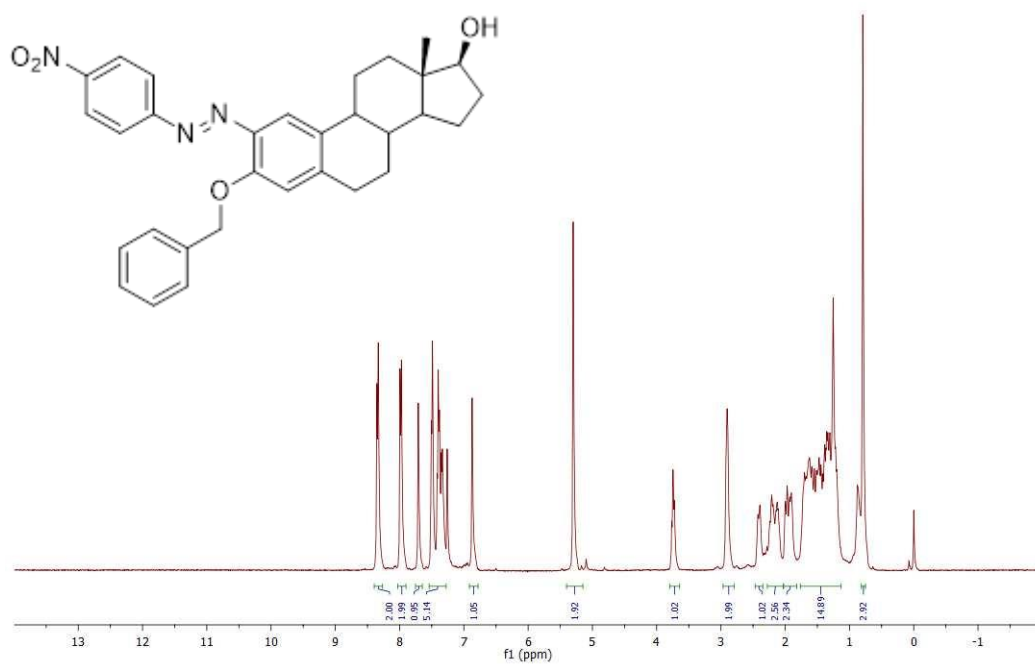


Figure A.57 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 24

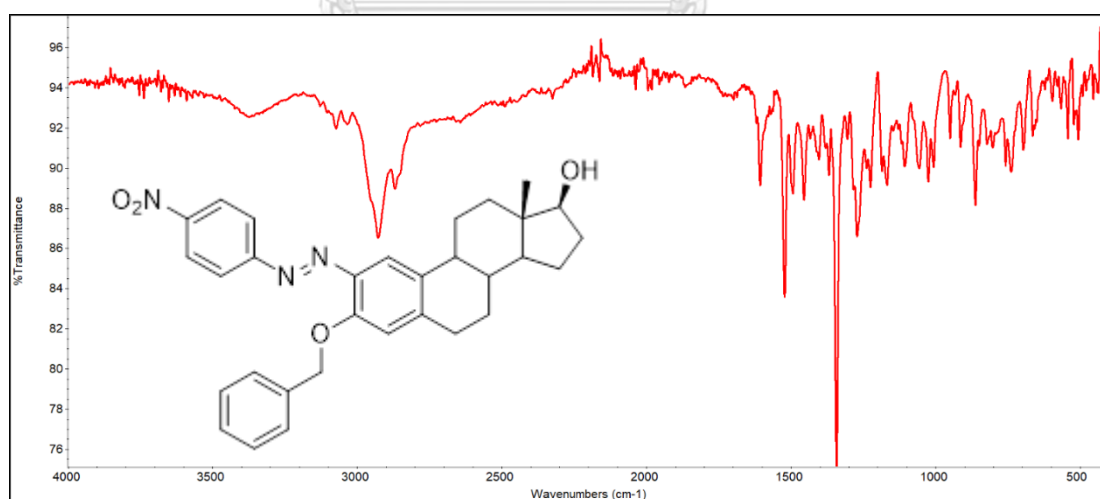


Figure A.58 IR spectrum of compound 24

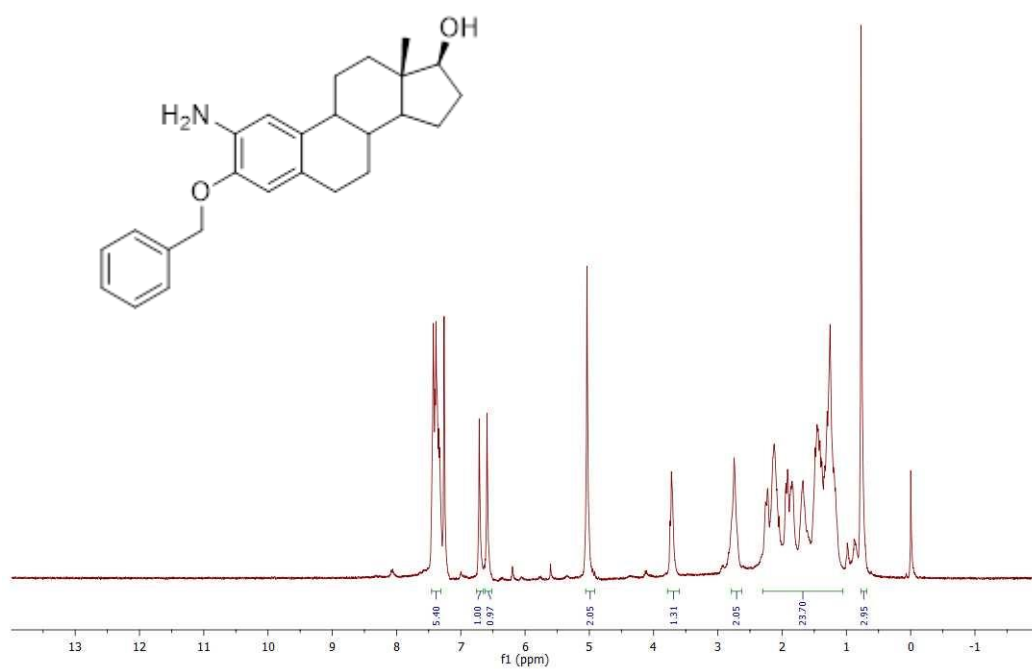


Figure A.59 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 25

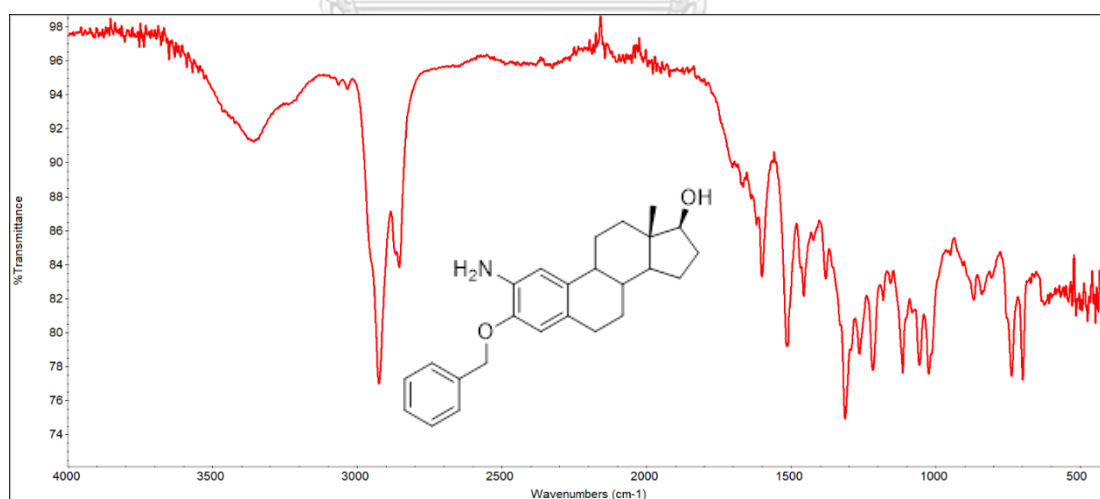


Figure A.60 IR spectrum of compound 25

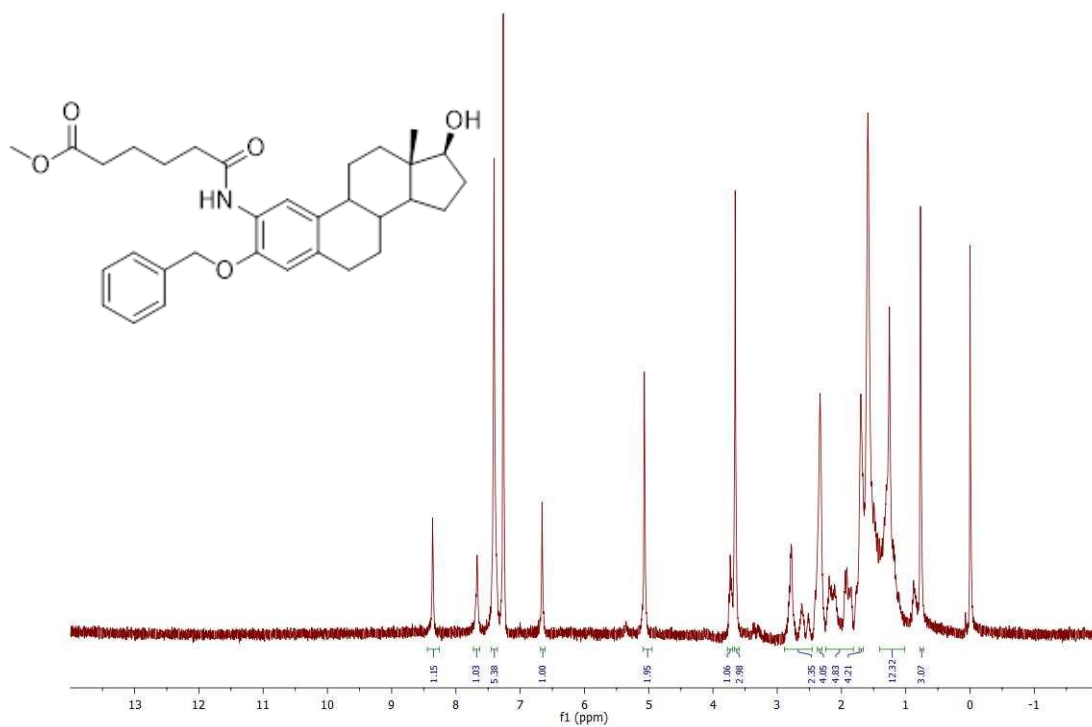
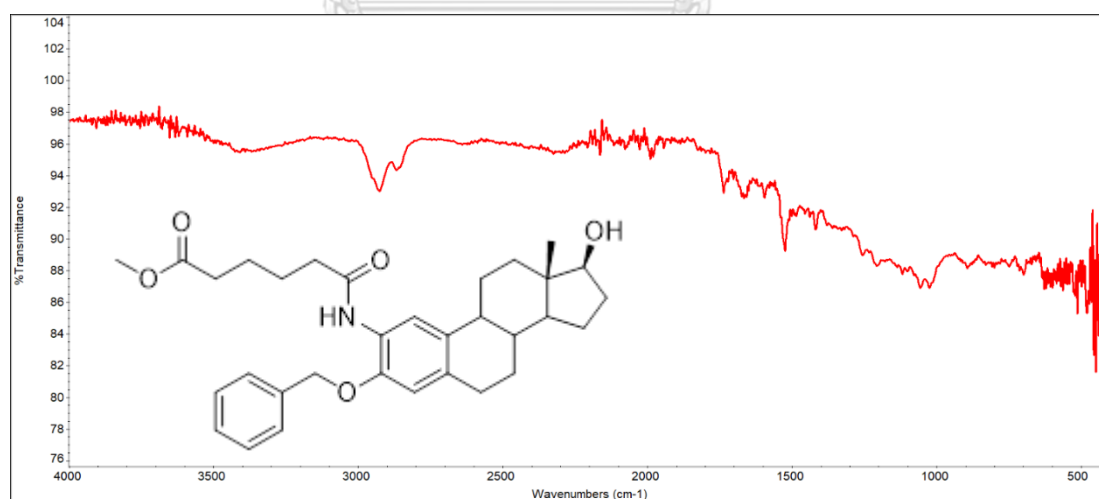
Figure A.61 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 26

Figure A.62 IR spectrum of compound 26

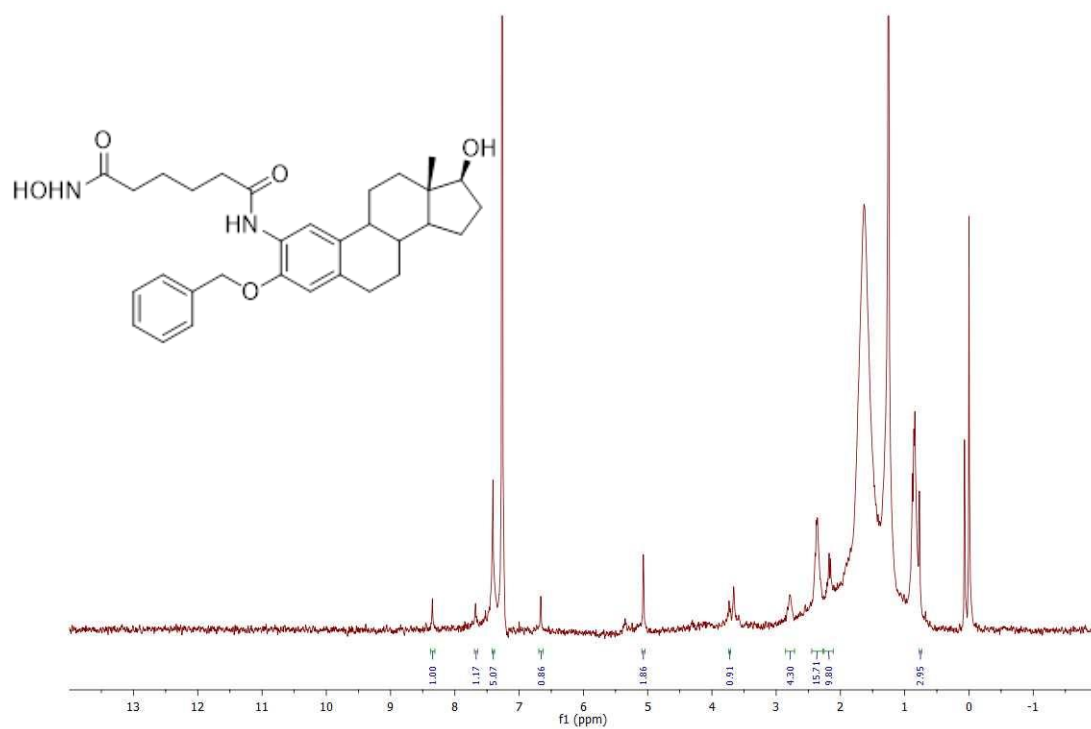


Figure A.63 $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl₃) spectrum of compound 27

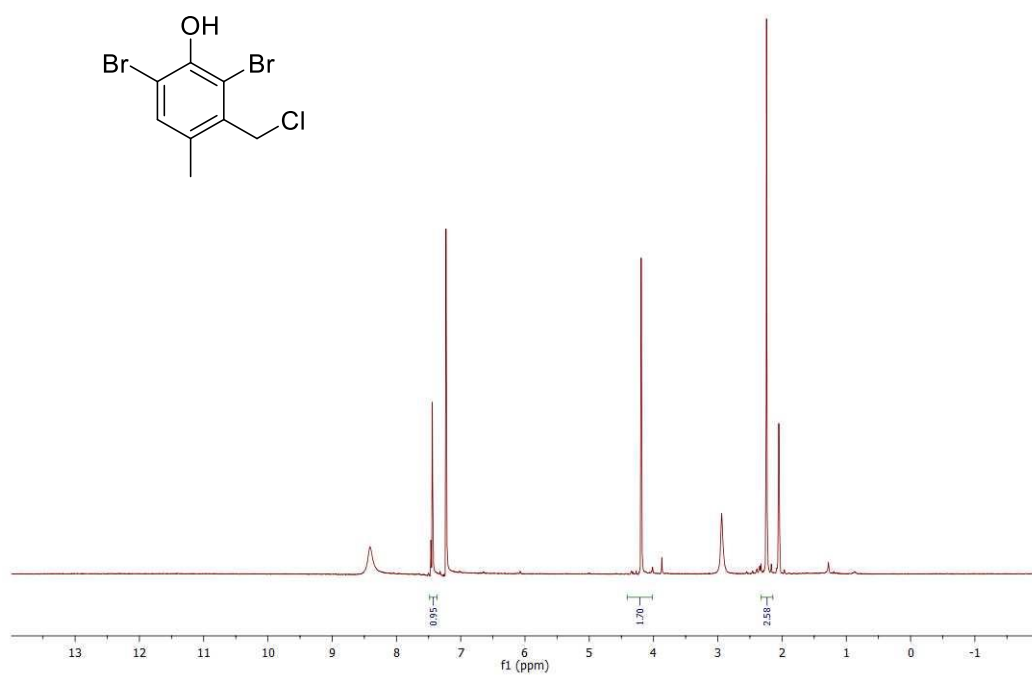


Figure A.64 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) spectrum of compound 28



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