Supplementary Materials for

A convenient synthesis of (16*S*,20*S*)-3 β -hydroxy-5 α -pregnane-20,16-carbolactam and its *N*-alkyl derivatives

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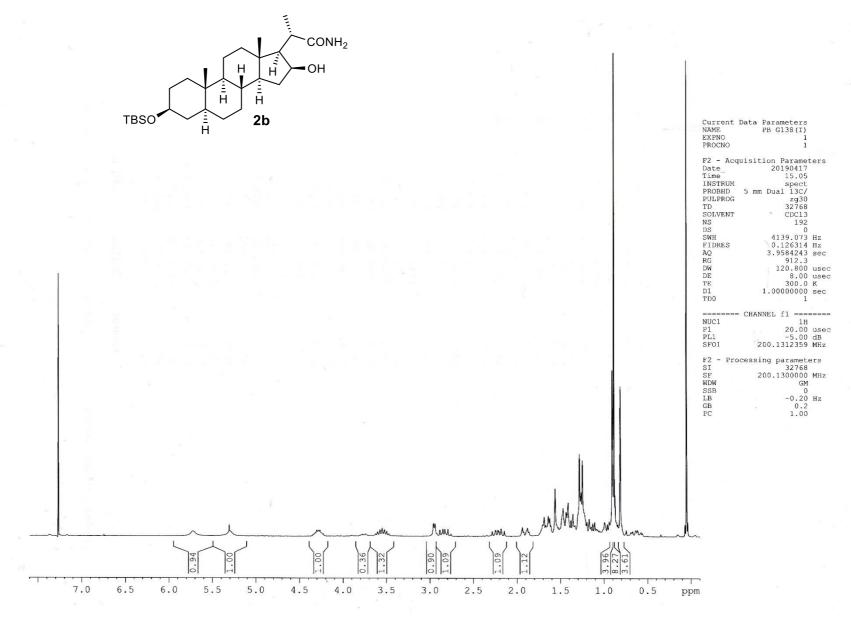
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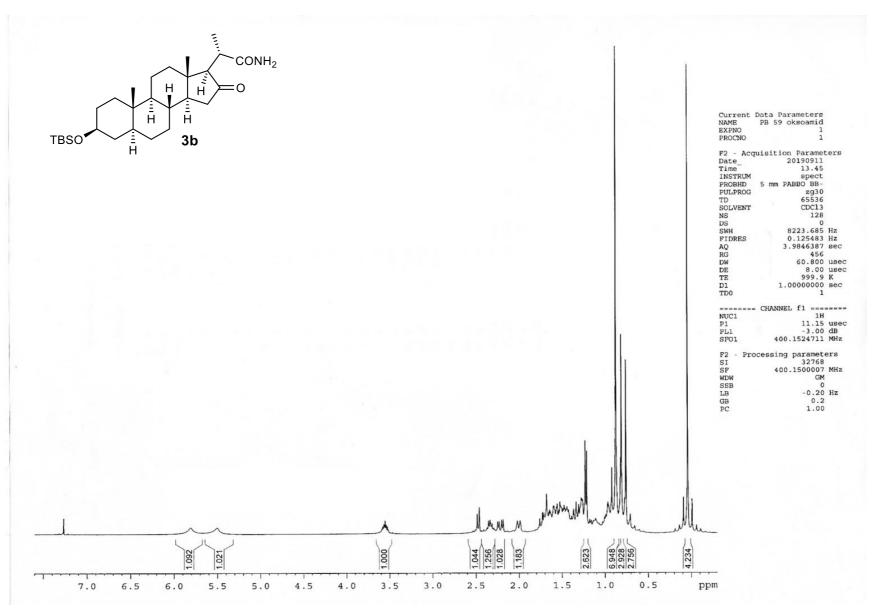
Experimental procedures for (16S,20S)-3 β -t-butyldimethylsilyloxy-5 α -pregnane-20,16-carbolactone (1b) synthesis from tigogenin

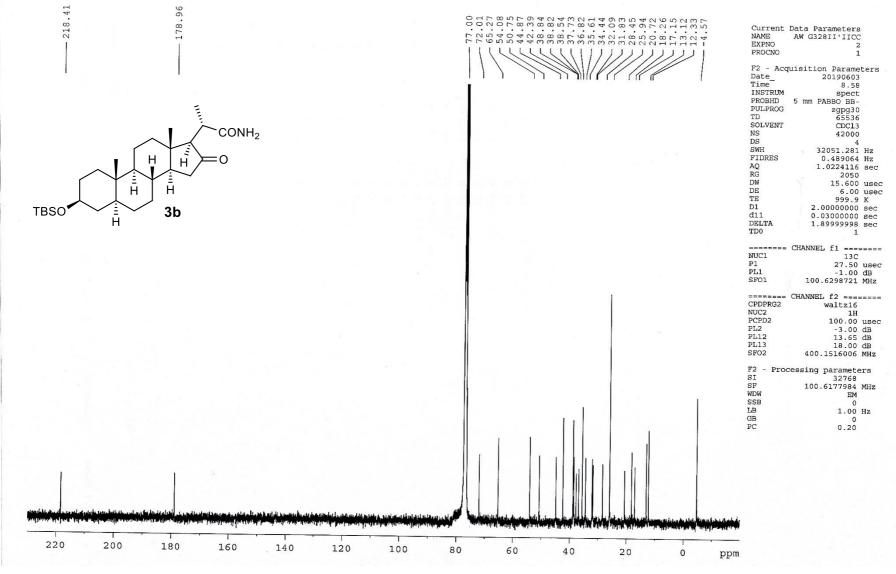
Trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL) and concentrated sulphuric acid (10 mL) were added to the mixture of tigogenin (10 g, 0.024 mol), molecular iodine (0.5 g, 0.002 mol), n-Bu₄NBr (0.100 g, 3 x 10⁻⁴ mol), acetic acid (120 ml) in DCM (30 ml). The multi-component solution was heated at 50° C for 1 hour, then, after cooling to 0°C, 60% aqueous solution of H2O2 (20 mL, 0.438 mol, 18.2 equiv.) was slowly added. After 1 h, the ice bath was removed and stirring was continued at room temperature overnight. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, a saturated aqueous Na₂SO₃ solution was carefully added to the mixture (ca. 300 mL). Stirring was continued until the purple colour of the mixture disappeared. After that, the resulting yellow solution was neutralized with 50% aqueous NaOH solution to pH 7 (ca. 120 mL). Product was extracted with DCM (5 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure. Then, LiOH (2.874, 0.120 mol) and a THF/H₂O (5/2) mixture (200 mL) were added to the residue. The resulting suspension was heated at reflux. The progress of saponification was monitored by TLC. After about 1 hour, the solution was acidified with 12 N HCl to pH 3 and stirring was continued for approx.. 10 min at 80°C. After cooling, THF was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with water (200 mL) and product was extracted with AcOEt (5 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from AcOEt. (16S,20S)-3 β -Hydroxy-5 α -pregnane-20,16-carbolactone (1a) was obtained as a white crystalline material (7.591 g, 91%).

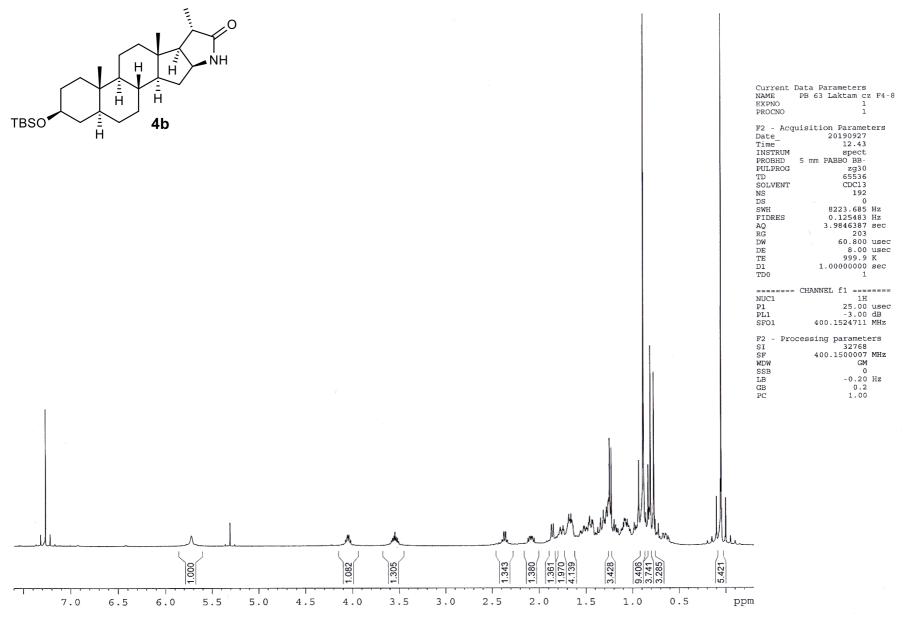
(16S,20S)-3 β -t-Butyldimetylsillioxy-5 α -pregnane-20,16-carbolactone (**1b**) was obtained in 95% (6.321 g) from (16S,20S)-3 β -hydroxy-23,24-bis-norcholano-22,16-lactone (**1a**, 5 g, 0.014 mol, 1.0 equiv.) according to a standard procedure using imidazole (3.93 g, 0.058 mol, 4 equiv.), TBSCl (2.61 g, 0.017 mol, 1.2 equiv.) in anhydrous DMF (200 mL).

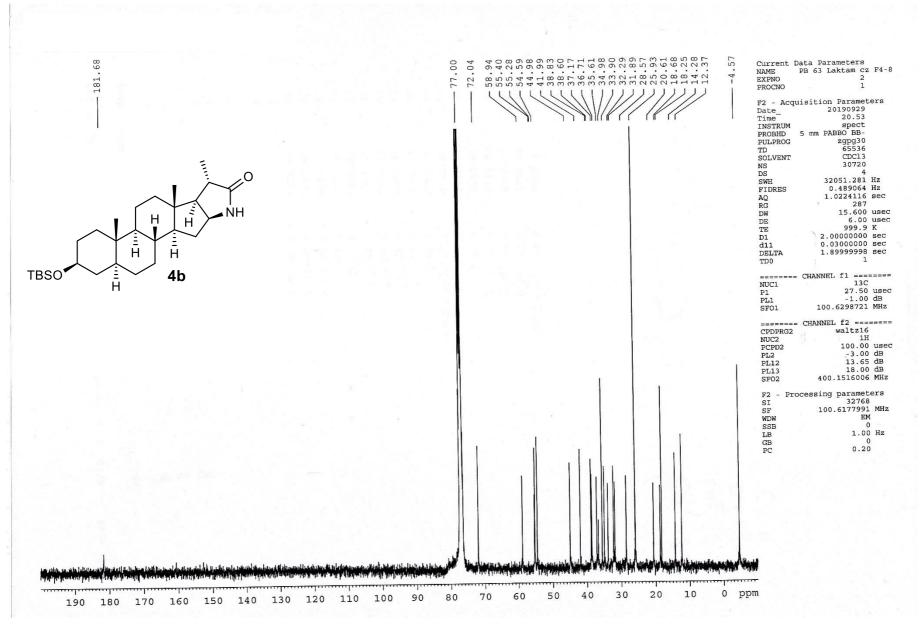
Spectra (1 H NMR, 13 CNMR) of compounds ${\bf 2b}$ - ${\bf 5b}$

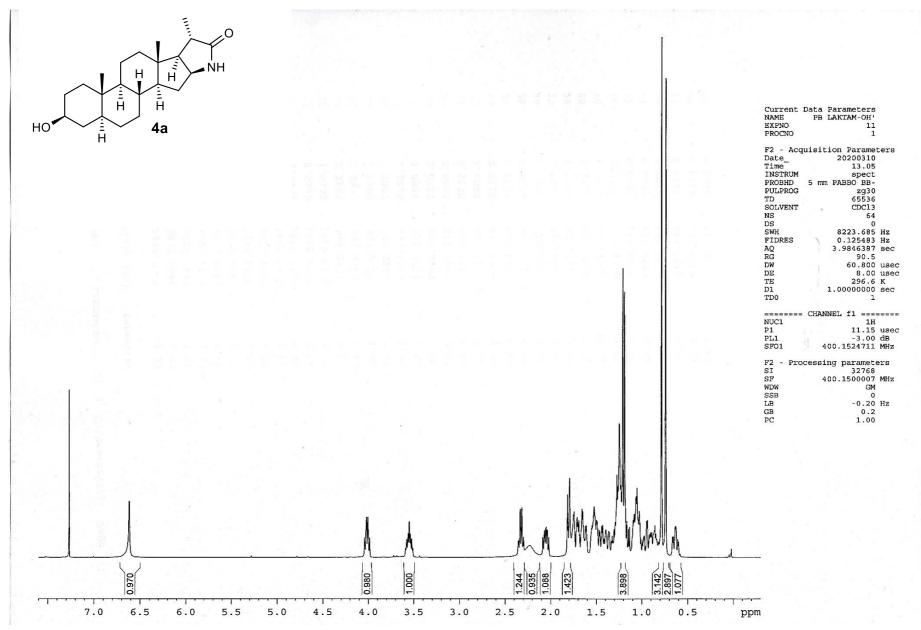


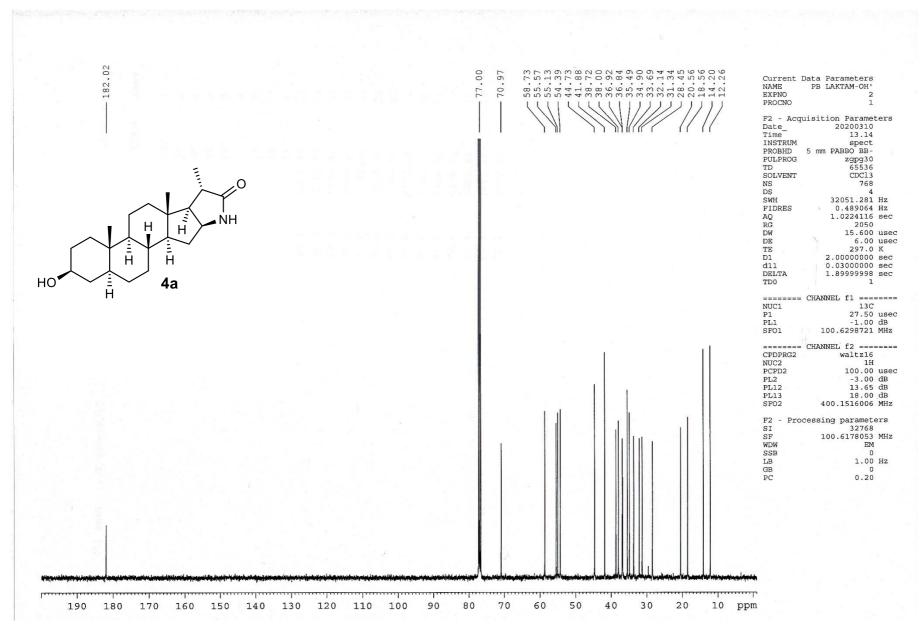


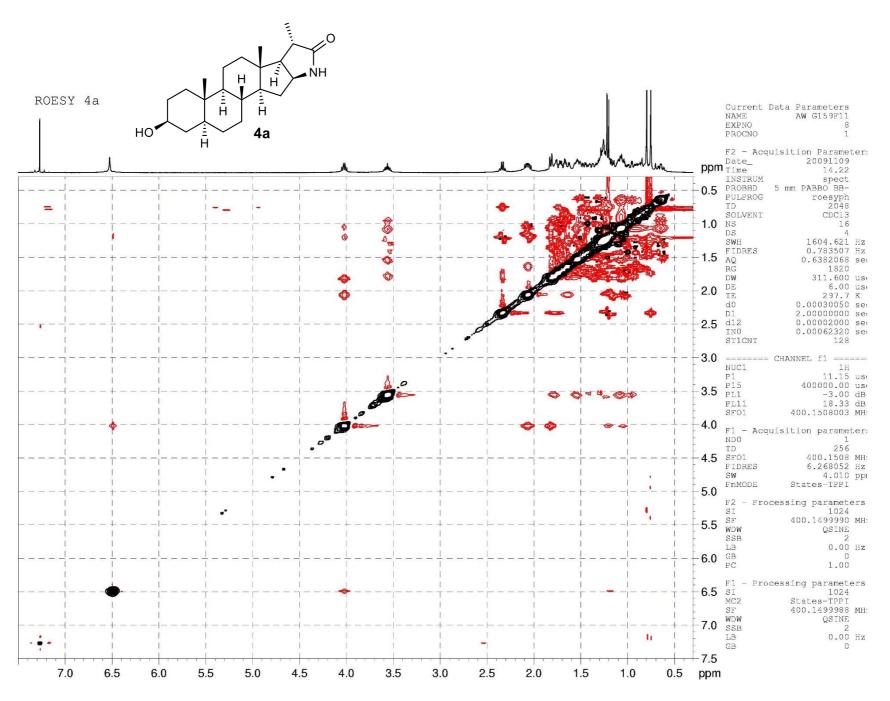


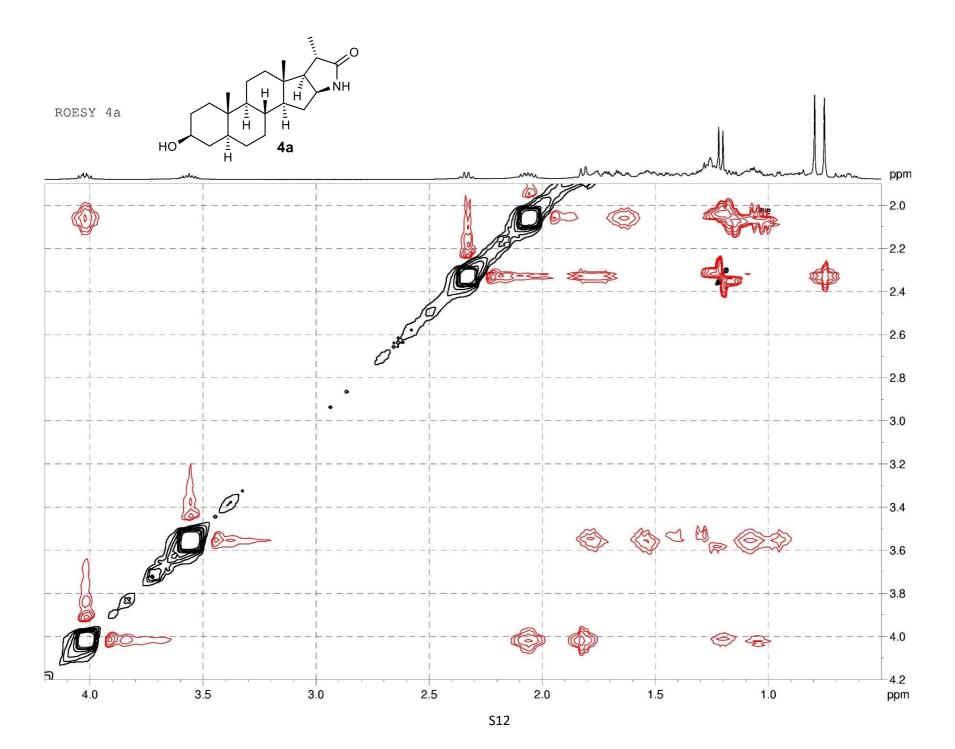


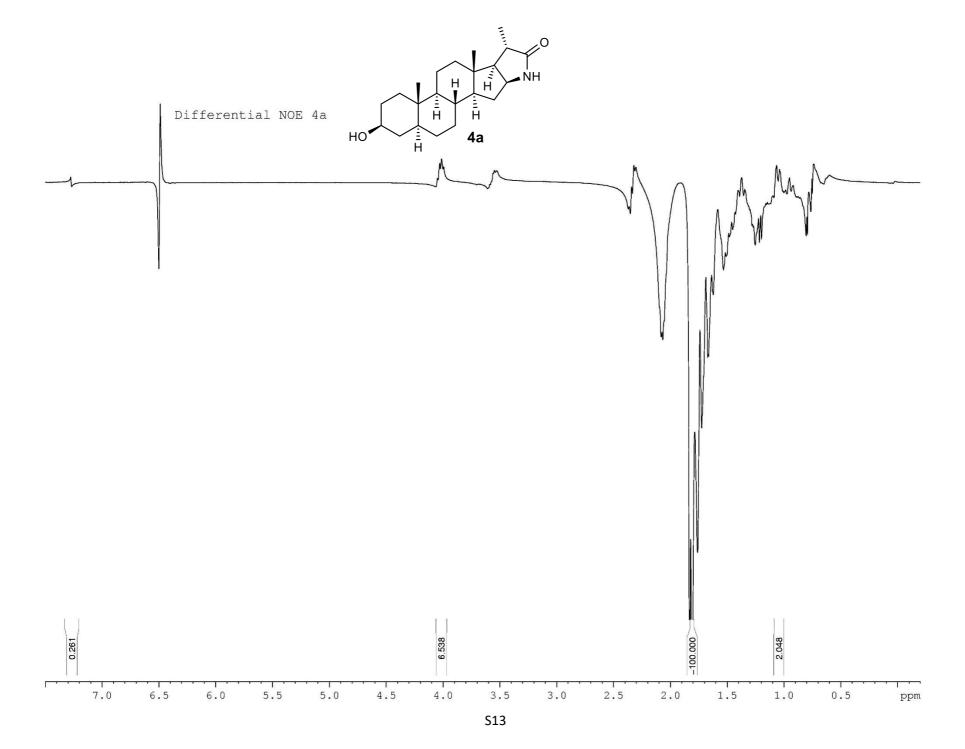


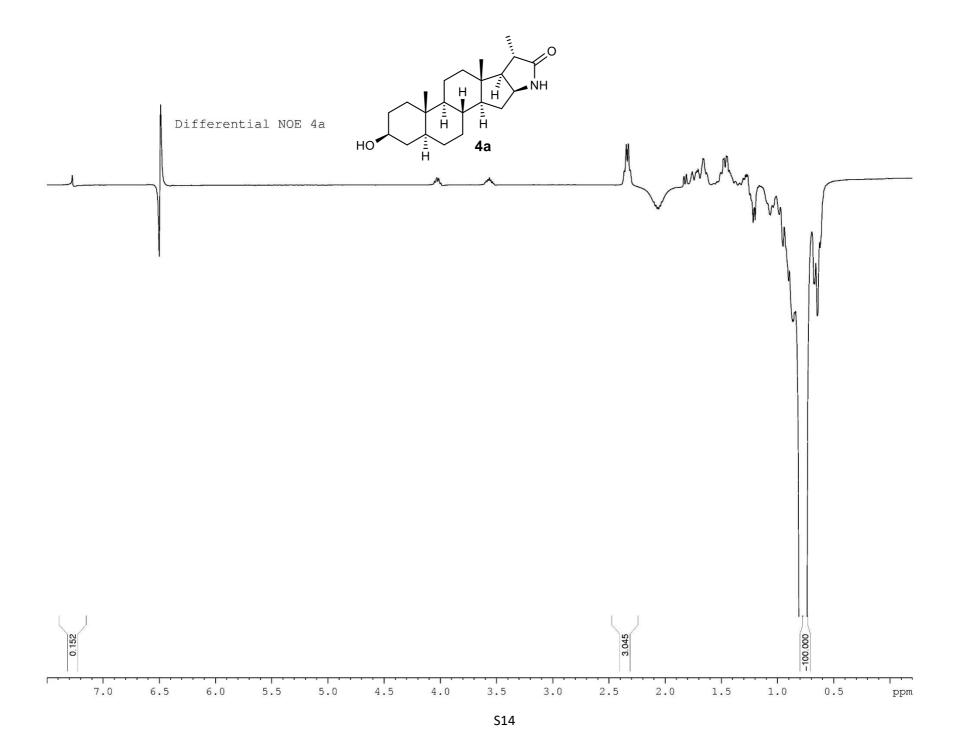


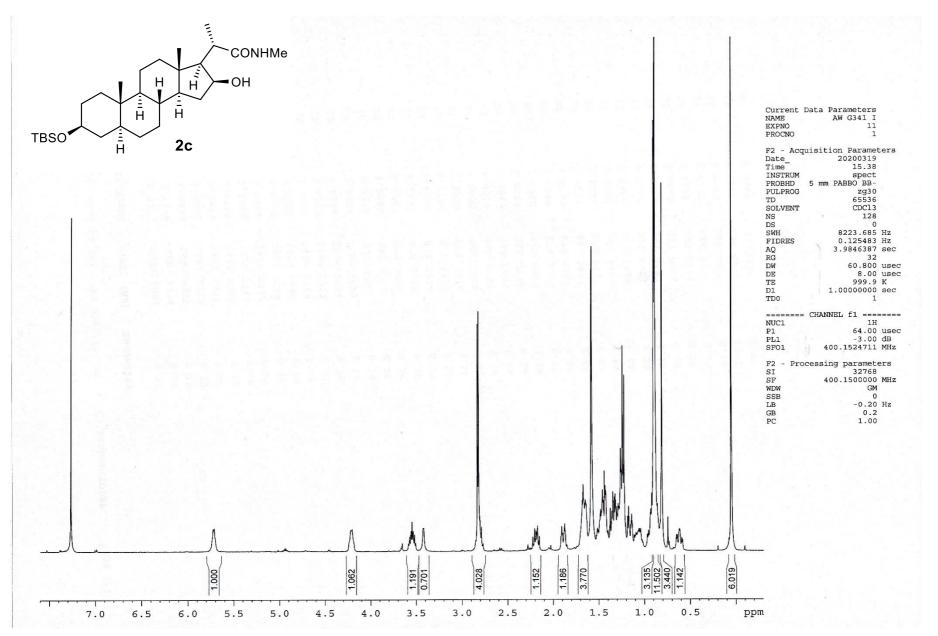


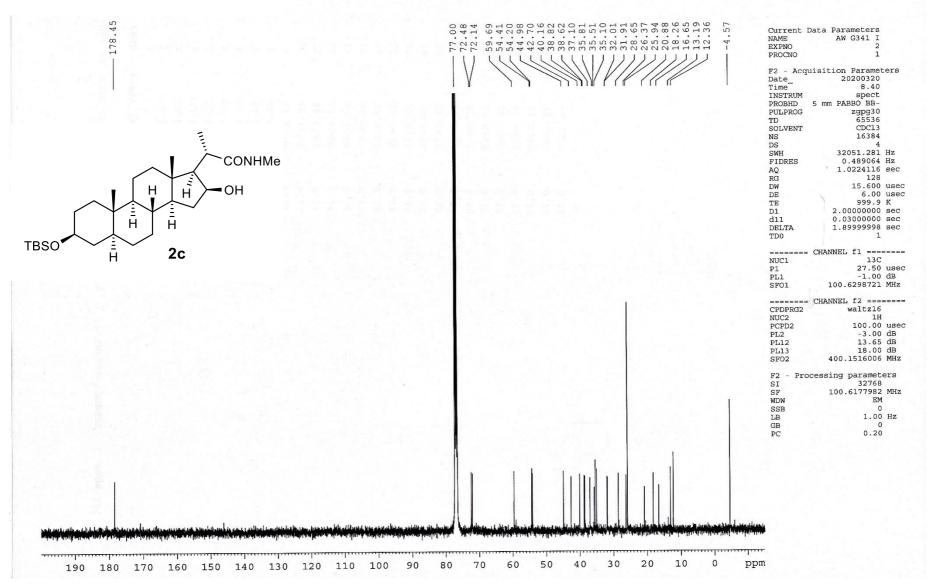


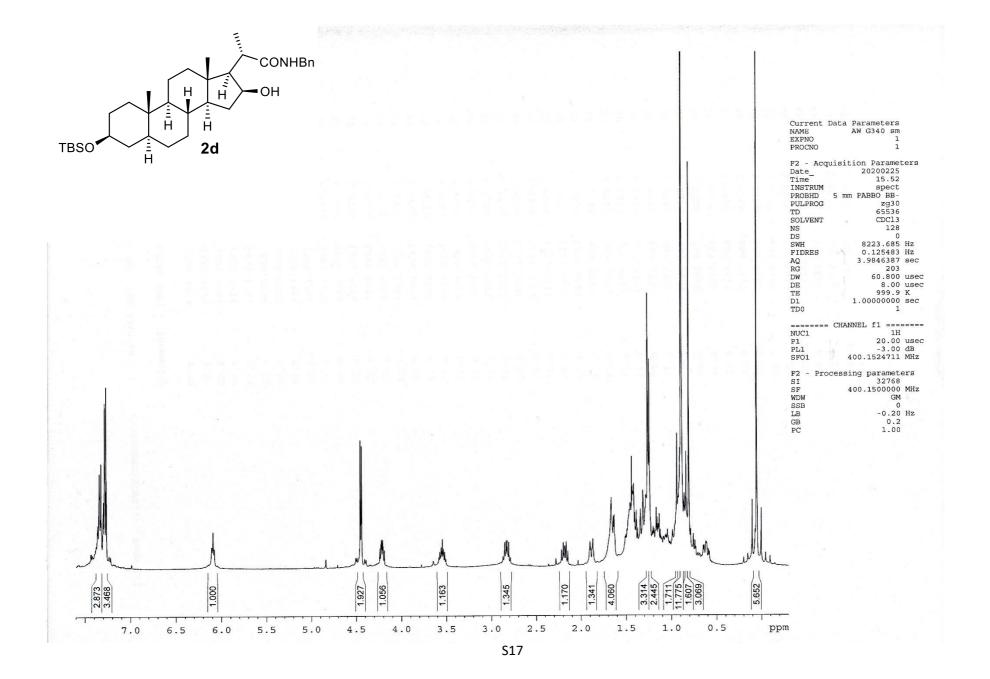


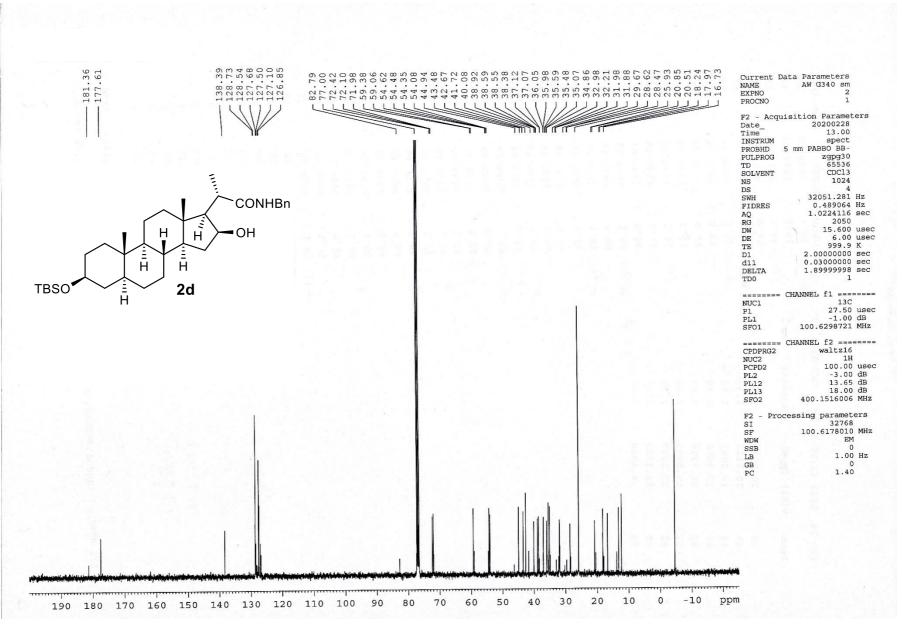


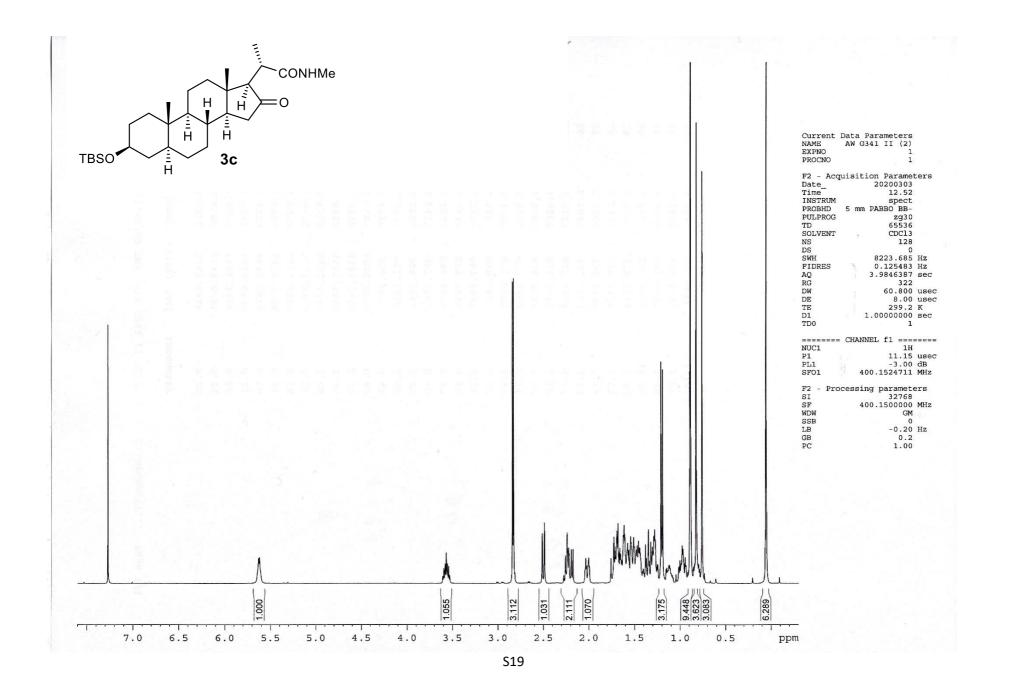


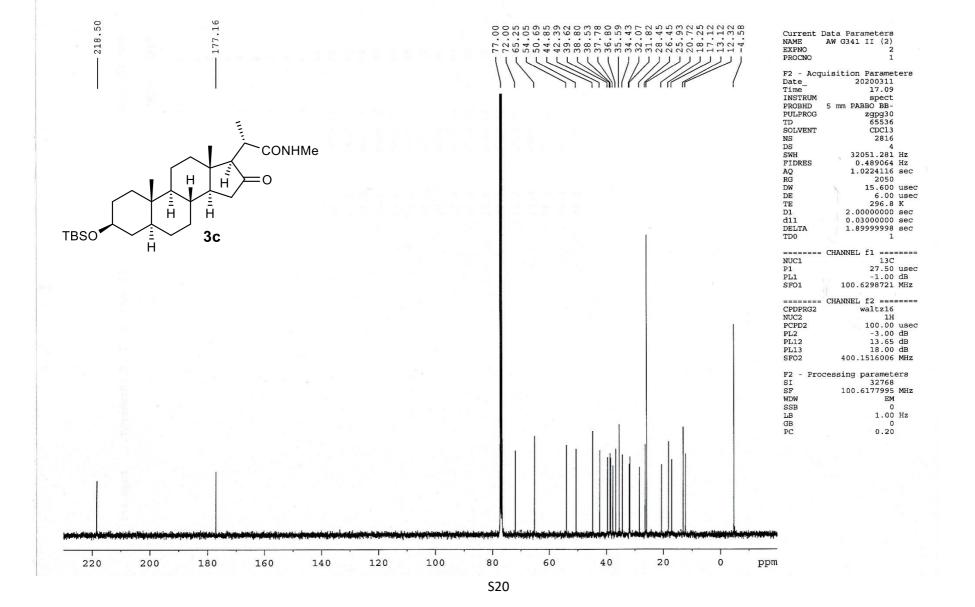


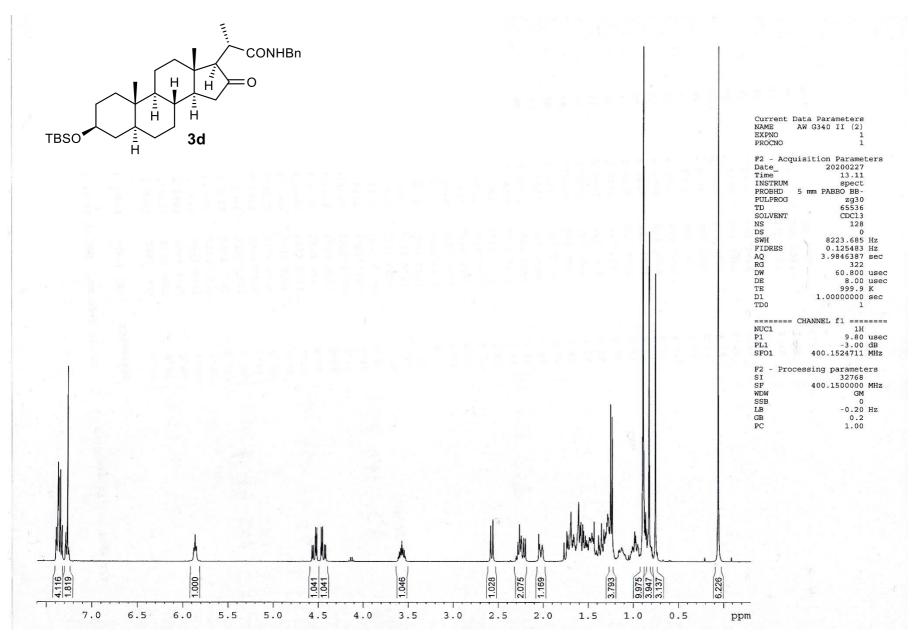


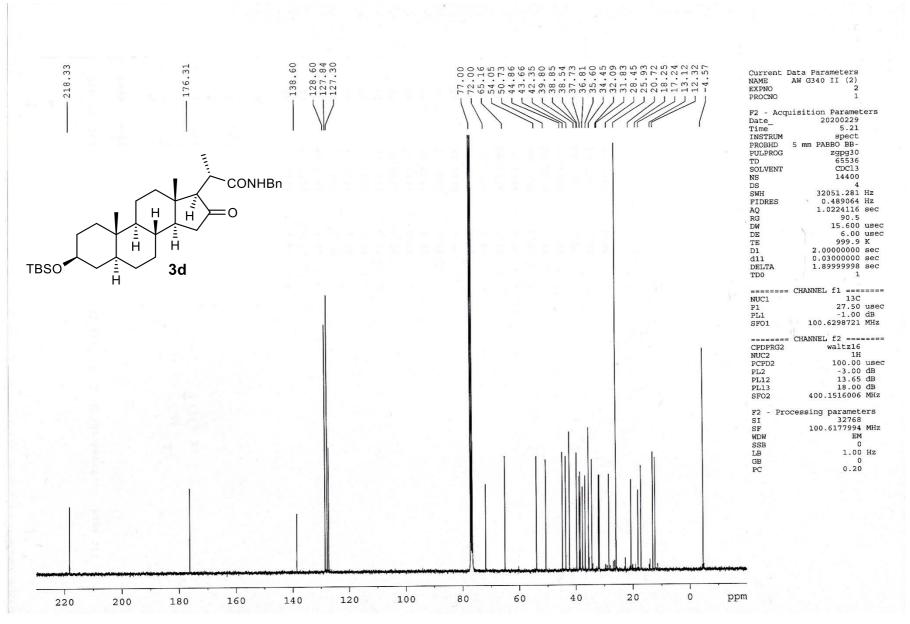


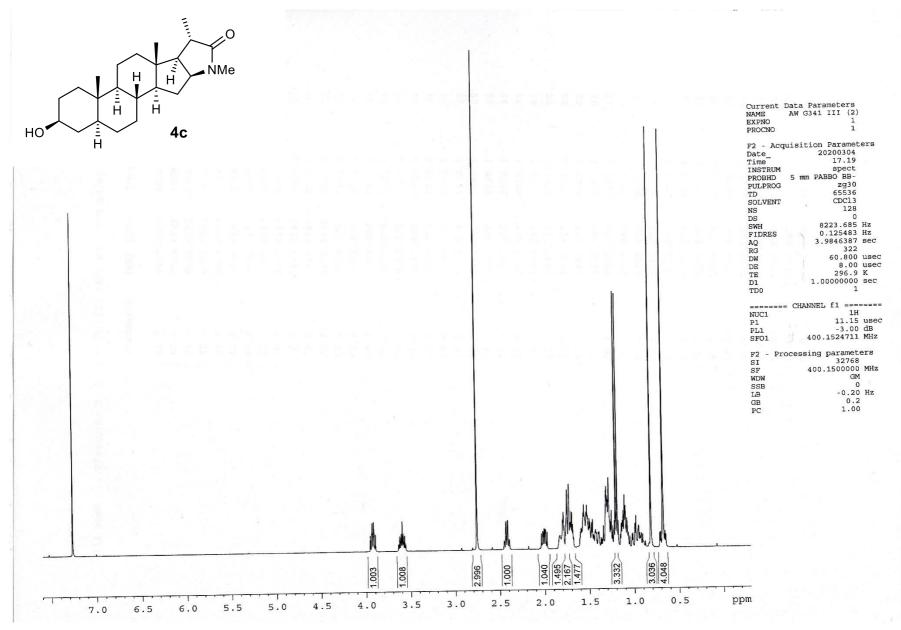


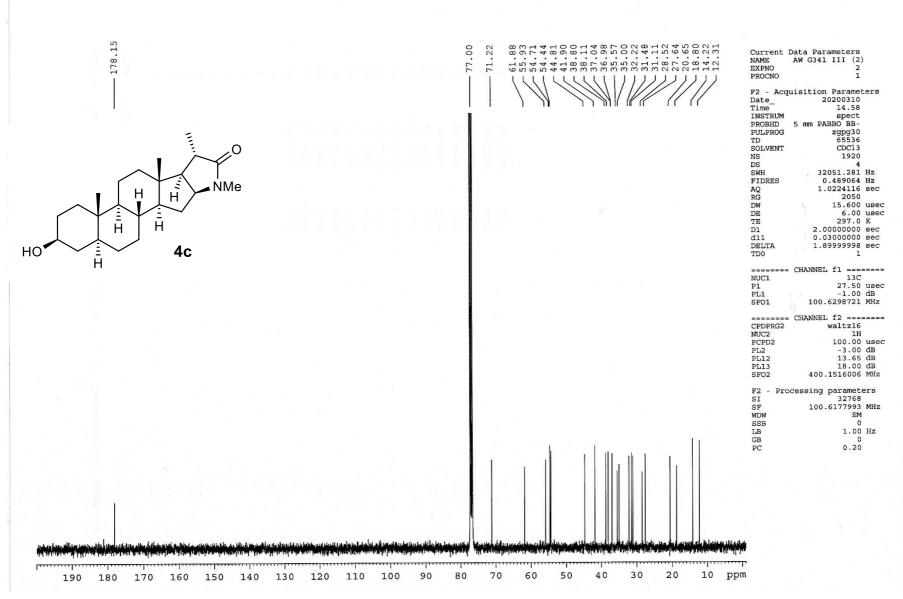


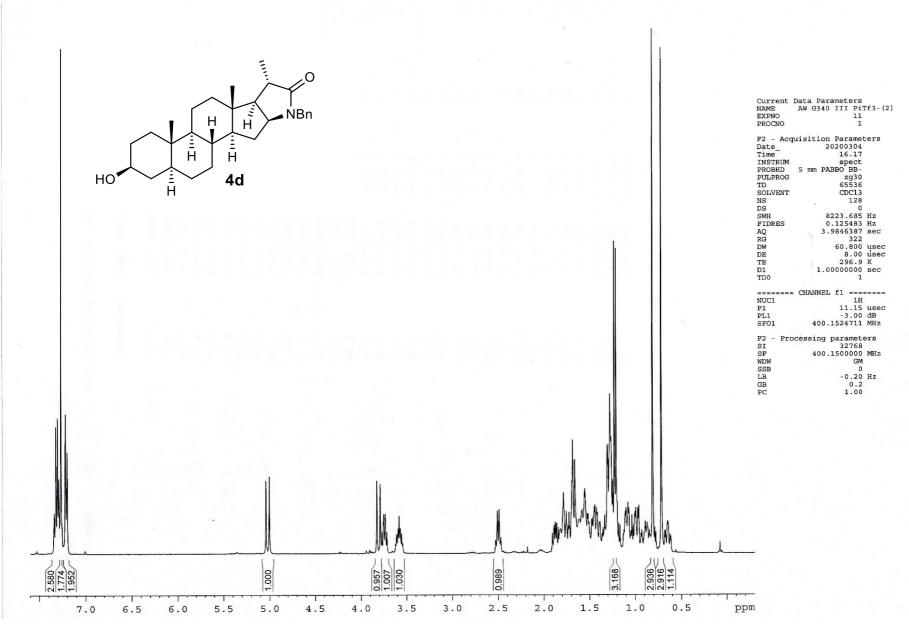


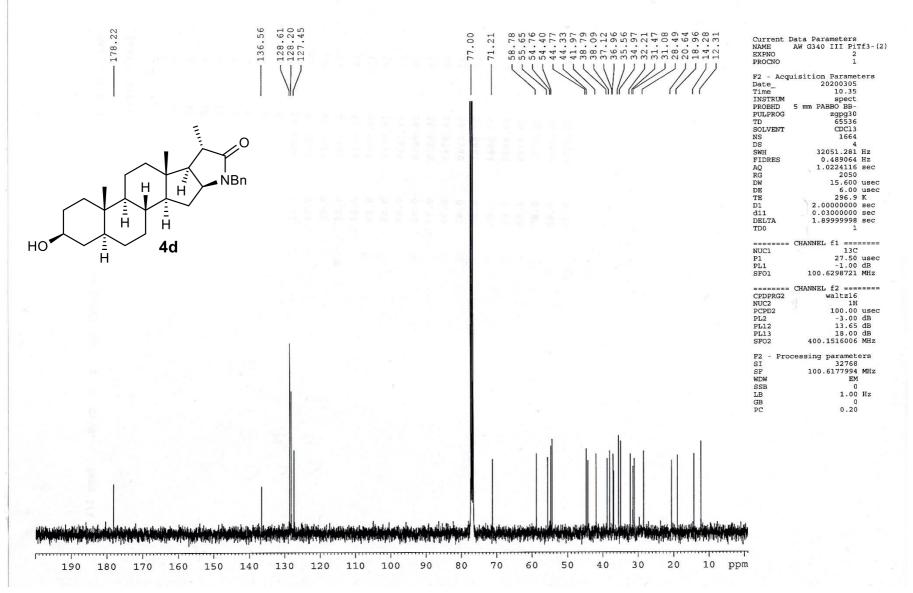


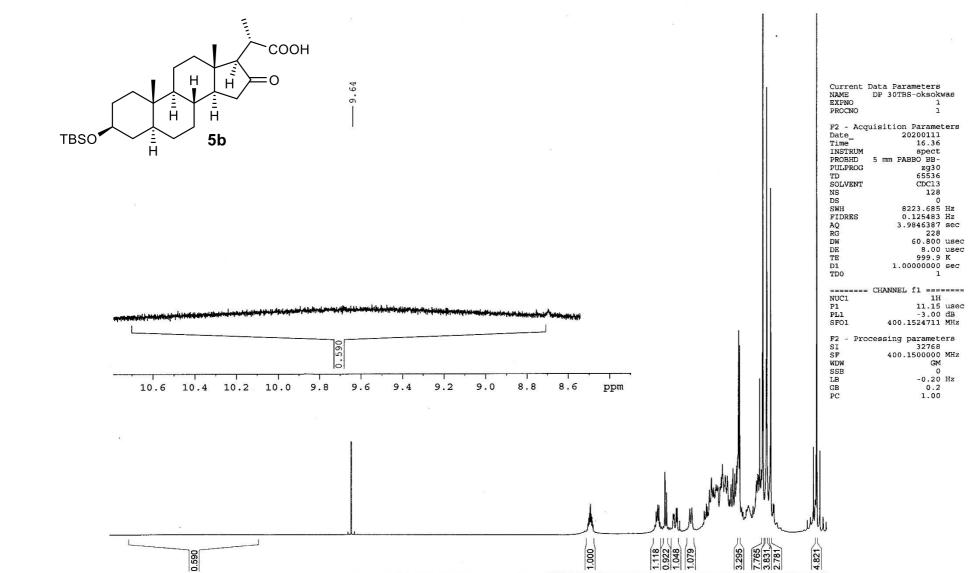












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