

Supporting Information

Development of Dicationic Bisguanidine-arylfuran Derivatives as Potent Agents Against Gram-negative Bacteria

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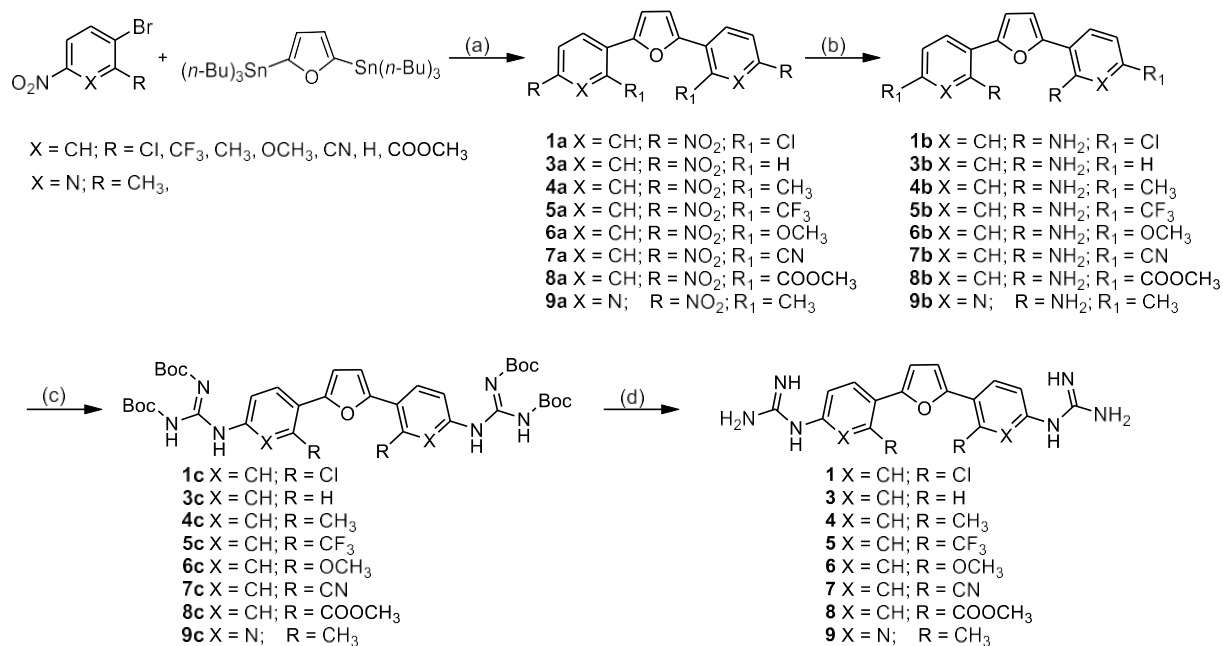
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Table of Contents

1. Scheme S1. Synthetic pathway to 1 , 3-9a	3
2. Scheme S2. Synthetic pathway to 10a	3
3. Scheme S3. Synthetic pathway to 11-14a	3
4. Scheme S4. Synthetic pathways to 16-20a	4
5. Table S1. Effective concentrations of each compound against the Gram-negative and Gram-positive set of laboratory strains	5
6. Table S2. Selectivity indexes of each compound against the Gram-negative and Gram-positive set of laboratory strains.....	6
7. Table S3. MIC values of established antibiotics for the clinical isolates of ESKAPE species and <i>E. coli</i> tested in this paper	7
8. Table S4. Genomic G/C content (%) of bacterial species	7
9. Figure S1. Cytotoxicity dose-response curves of all compounds against MCF-7 (A, B and C) and HepG2 (D, E and F) cell lines.....	8
10. Figure S2. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of all compounds against Gram-negative <i>E. coli</i> (A, B and C), <i>P. putida</i> (D, E and F), <i>P. carotovorum</i> (G, H and I) and <i>P. caledonica</i> (J, K and L)	8
11. Figure S3. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of all compounds against Gram-positive <i>B. subtilis</i> (A, B and C)	9
12. Figure S4. Measurements of the antibacterial activity of ampicillin, as a positive control antibiotic tested against Gram-negative <i>Escherichia coli</i> (A) and Gram-positive <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (B).....	10
13. Figure S5. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 1 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	10
14. Figure S6. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 3 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	11
15. Figure S7. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 4 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	11
16. Figure S8. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 6 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	12
17. Figure S9. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 8 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	12
18. Figure S10. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 10 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	13
19. Figure S11. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 16 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	13
20. Figure S12. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of 17 against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	14
21. Figure S13. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of the known antibiotic cefotaxime (CTX) as a control against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria	14
22. Figure S14. High-resolution microbial phenomics profiling of the synthesized compounds 1 (A), 4 (B), 6 (C), 10 (D), and 16 (E), and the known antibiotic cefotaxime (F), against two <i>E. coli</i> antibiotic resistant libraries.....	15
23. Figures S15-S32. NMR spectra	16

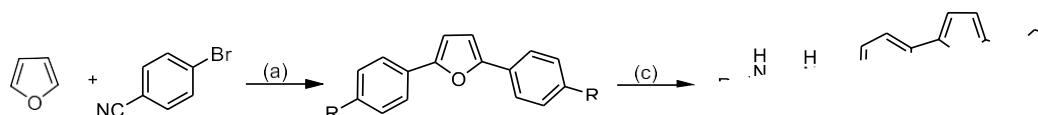
SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEMES

Scheme S1. Synthetic pathway to **1**, **3-9^a**.



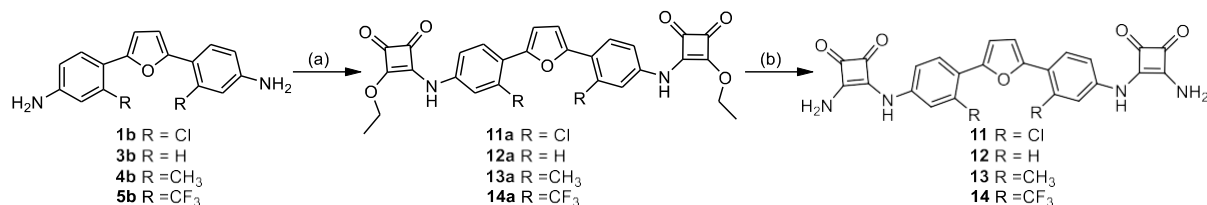
^aReagents and conditions: (a) $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$, DMF, 100 °C, 14 h, 46-80%; (b) Fe, NH_4Cl , EtOH, THF, 60 °C, 4 h, 75-95%; (c) 1,3-bis(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2-methyl-2-thiopseudourea, HgCl_2 , TEA, DMF, rt, 16 h, 93-95%; (d) 4 M HCl in Dioxane, rt, 12 h, 86-90%.

Scheme S2. Synthetic pathway to **10^a**.



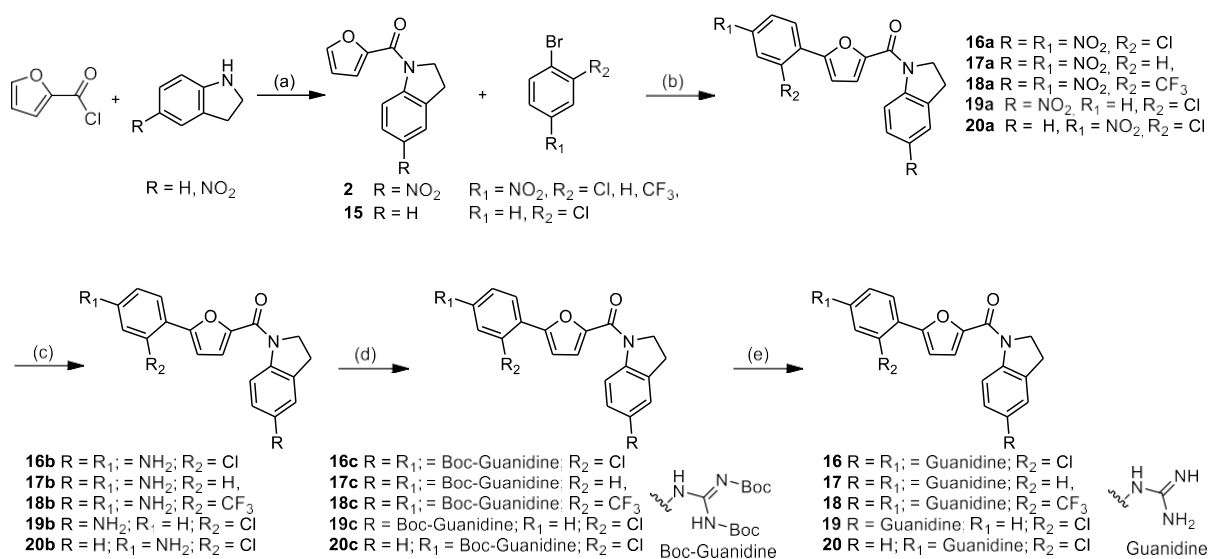
^aReagents and conditions: (a) $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$, KOAc, DMA, 150 °C, 20 h, 29%; (b) LAH, THF, rt, 24 h, 60%; (c) 1,3-bis(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2-methyl-2-thiopseudourea, HgCl_2 , TEA, DMF, rt, 16 h, 76%; (d) 4 M HCl in Dioxane, rt, 12 h, 79%.

Scheme S3. Synthetic pathway to **11-14^a**.



^aReagents and conditions: (a) 3,4-diethoxycyclobut-3-ene-1,2-dione, $(\text{Zn}(\text{OTf})_2)$, EtOH, rt, 4 h, 36-75%; (b) NH_3 in MeOH 7M, MeOH, rt, 4 h, 52-77%.

Scheme S4. Synthetic pathways to **16-20**^a.



^aReagents and conditions: (a) TEA, DCM, rt, 4 h, 50%; (b) Pd(OAc)₂, KOAc, DMA, 150 °C, 20 h, 43-50%; (c) Fe, NH₄Cl, EtOH, THF, 60 °C, 4 h, 75-84%; (d) 1,3-bis(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2-methyl-2-thiopseudourea, HgCl₂, TEA, DMF, rt, 16 h, 21-45%; (e) 4 M HCl in Dioxane, rt, 12 h, 35-86%.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table S1. Effective concentrations of each compound against the Gram-negative and Gram-positive set of laboratory strains.

Structure	#	Bsu		Eco		Ppu		Pcar		Pcal	
		EC50	EC90	EC50	EC90	EC50	EC90	EC50	EC90	EC50	EC90
	1	25.4	136.1	64.8	148.2	257.8	517.1	67.1	114.9	20.3	135.9
	3	11.2	22.5	80.4	173.8	8.3	14.3	34.6	79.0	4.5	18.9
	4	6.2	8.5	48.9	80.8	14.5	59.6	28.6	37.3	8.2	51.9
	5	NE	NE	29.4	59.1	290.3	319.1	184.9	233.2	NE	NE
	6	NE	NE	35.7	76.3	14.3	19.7	28.4	45.0	25.6	35.6
	7	146.2	562.5	59.33	349.7	24.5	51.5	212.3	268.1	NE	NE
	8	22.5	43.6	95.4	128.6	68.4	92.1	140.0	157.5	NE	NE
	9	154.2	245.8	547.3	>900	NE	NE	NE	NE	84.8	212.6
	10	NE	NE	73.2	108.4	25.6	36.7	43.6	61.2	2.9	5.0
	11	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	19.0	60.1
	12	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
	13	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
	14	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	90.4	304.9
	16	NE	NE	13.1	19.0	94.2	147.0	70.9	80.7	51.4	175.6
	17	NE	NE	1.7	4.3	73.9	98.0	129.9	142.4	72.5	>300
	18	9.6	13.6	42.3	58.3	10.1	22.2	94.6	120.2	12.6	176.0
	19	14.5	25.9	0.5	2.5	75.0	84.9	87.1	130.1	96.3	287.0
	20	24.5	38.4	61.7	105.8	NE	NE	158.9	186.6	129.4	>300

Half maximal effective concentration (EC50) and 90% maximal effective concentration (EC90) are expressed in μM for each compound. Values >900 and >300 μM represent the maximum compound concentration tested in the assays, without observing a 50% or 90% inhibition. NE, No effective concentration observed. Tested organisms were *B. subtilis* (Bsu); *E. coli* (Eco); *P. putida* (Ppu); *P. carotovorum* (Pcar); *P. caledonica* (Pcal).

Table S2. Selectivity indexes of each compound against the Gram-negative and Gram-positive set of laboratory strains.

Code	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>P. putida</i>	<i>P. carotovorum</i>	<i>P. caledonica</i>
1	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	1.9
3	11.1	1.5	15.0	3.6	27.4
4	12.2	1.5	5.2	2.6	9.2
5	NE	1.6	0.2	0.2	NE
6	NE	4.0	10.1	5.1	5.6
7	0.4	1.1	2.5	0.3	NE
8	10.8	2.5	3.6	1.7	NE
9	3.6	1.0	NE	NE	6.5
10	NE	1.3	3.6	2.1	31.8
11	NE	NE	NE	NE	18.2
12	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
13	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
14	NE	NE	NE	NE	2.0
16	NE	16.0	2.2	2.9	4.1
17	NE	114.3	2.6	1.5	2.7
18	32.9	7.5	31.3	3.3	25.1
19	1.8	51.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
20	1.4	0.5	NE	0.2	0.3

Average selectivity indexes are calculated as the mean between the ratios of cytotoxicity EC_{50} (μ M) verified for each human cell line (MCF-7 and HepG2) over each bacterial strains' EC_{50} (μ M) values, $SI = ((MCF-7 EC_{50}/bacterial strain EC_{50}) + (HepG2 EC_{50}/bacterial strain EC_{50}))/2$. The highest the value, the more selective is the compound against the different bacterial strain. *Cases where the maximum compound concentration assayed against the bacterial strain did not allow the observation of a half maximal effect concentration. NE, No Effective concentration observed.

Table S3. MIC values of established antibiotics for the ESKAPE strains tested in this paper as established by micro-broth dilution tests.

	CCUG #	MIC (μ M)			
		Amoxicillin	Ciprofloxacin	Cefotaxime	Meropenem
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	17620	11-44	0.025	0.25-0.50	0.16
	67180	350	190	280	10-20
CB ($S \leq$, $R \geq$)		22, 22	0.75, 1.5	2, 4	5.2, 20
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	225T	350	0.18	0.25	0.16-0.32
	58547	350	190	560	>80
CB ($S \leq$, $R \geq$)		22, 22	0.75, 1.5	2, 4	5.2, 20
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	17619	350	1.5-3	36	2.6-5.2
	59347	350	100	>560	335
CB ($S \leq$, $R \geq$)		-	0.003, 1.5	-	5.2, 20
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	57250	175	200	36	40
	57035	175	200	>560	335
CB ($S \leq$, $R \geq$)		-	0.003, 3	-	5.2, 20
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	6323T	350	0.025-0.050	9-36	0.6-1.2
<i>resp. hormaechei</i>	58962	350	0.1	280	0.3
CB ($S \leq$, $R \geq$)		22, 22	0.75, 1.5	2, 4	5.2, 20

Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) are expressed in μ M for each antibiotic. When applicable, clinical breakpoint concentrations (CB) as defined by EUCAST 2022-01-01 (https://www.eucast.org/clinical_breakpoints/) are indicated in μ M.

Table S4. Genomic G/C content of bacterial species (%).

	C/G (%)	NCBI Reference Sequence
Escherichia coli	50.8	NC_000913.3
Klebsiella pneumoniae	57.1	NC_016845.1
Acinetobacter baumannii	39	NZ_CP043953.1
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	66.2	NC_002516.2
Enterobacter cloacae	55	NZ_CP009756.1
Enterobacter hormaechei	55	GCF_000694955.1
Bacillus subtilis	43.5	NC_000964.3
Pectobacterium carotovorum	51.9	NZ_CP051652.1
Paraburkholderia caledonica	61.9	GCF_000383275.1
Pseudomonas putida	61.9	NC_021505.1

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

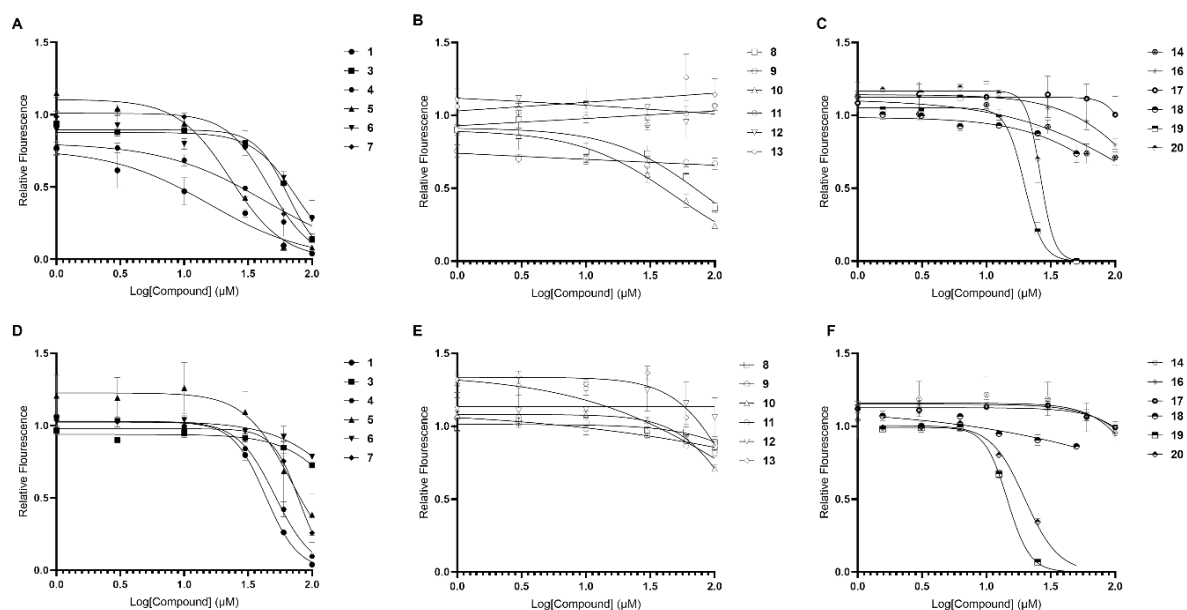


Figure S1. Cytotoxicity dose-response curves of all compounds against MCF-7 (A, B and C) and HepG2 (D, E and F) cell lines. The mean half maximal effective concentrations (EC_{50} in μM) for each compound against the correspondent cell lines were calculated using non-linear regression dose-response inhibition following a log(agonist) vs. response, shown in Table 1. Error bars represent the SEM.

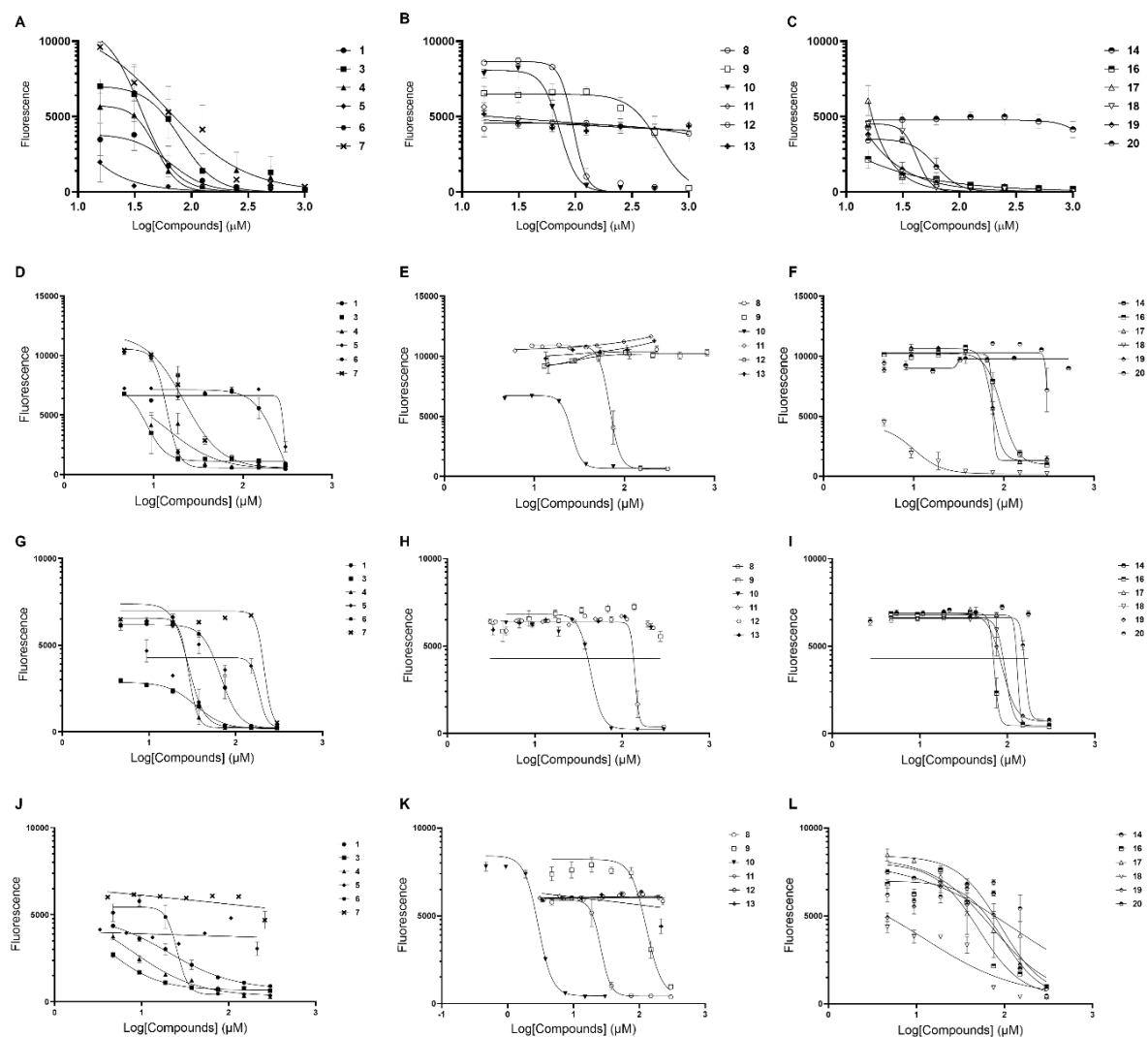


Figure S2. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of all compounds against Gram-negative *E. coli* (A, B and C), *P. putida* (D, E and F), *P. carotovorum* (G, H and I) and *P. caledonica* (J, K and L). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) determined for each compound can be found in Table S1.

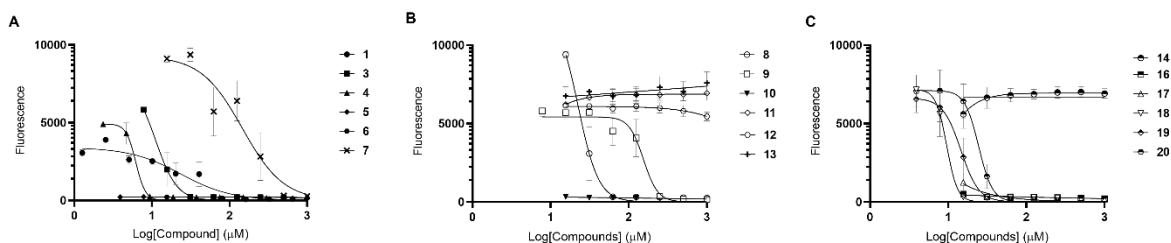


Figure S3. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of all compounds against Gram-positive *B. subtilis* (A, B and C). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) determined for each compound can be found in Table S1.

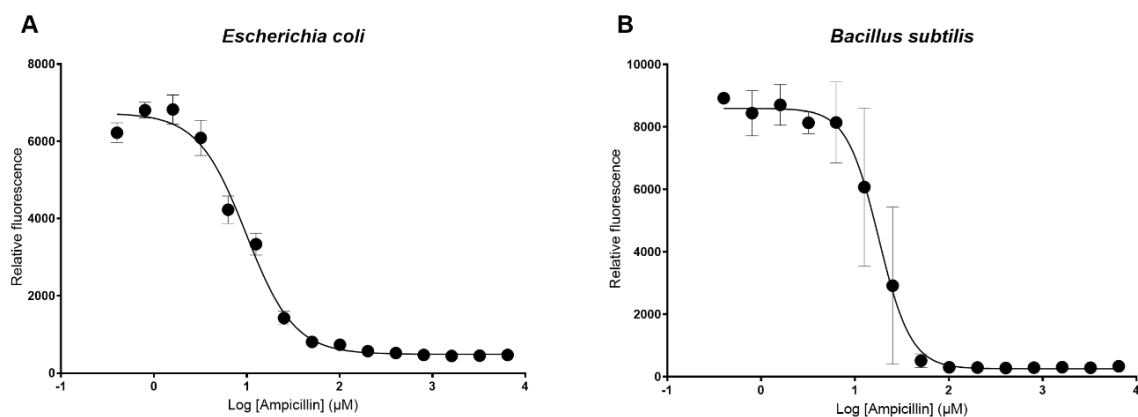


Figure S4. Measurements of the antibacterial activity of ampicillin, as a positive control antibiotic tested against Gram-negative *Escherichia coli* (A) and Gram-positive *Bacillus subtilis* (B). Ampicillin showed an $EC_{50} = 11.5 \mu M$ (SD = 0.72; SE range 11.1 to 11.9 μM) and an $EC_{90} = 89.2 \mu M$ (SD = 14.8; SE range 81.5 to 98.6 μM) against *E. coli* and an $EC_{50} = 17.2 \mu M$ (SD = 8.9; SE range 13.5 to 23.8 μM) and an $EC_{90} = 160.4 \mu M$ (SD = 42.8; SE range 97.1 to 146.5 μM) against *B. subtilis*, as previously reported (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. Data from the EUCAST MIC distribution website, last accessed November 2020". <http://www.eu-cast.org>).

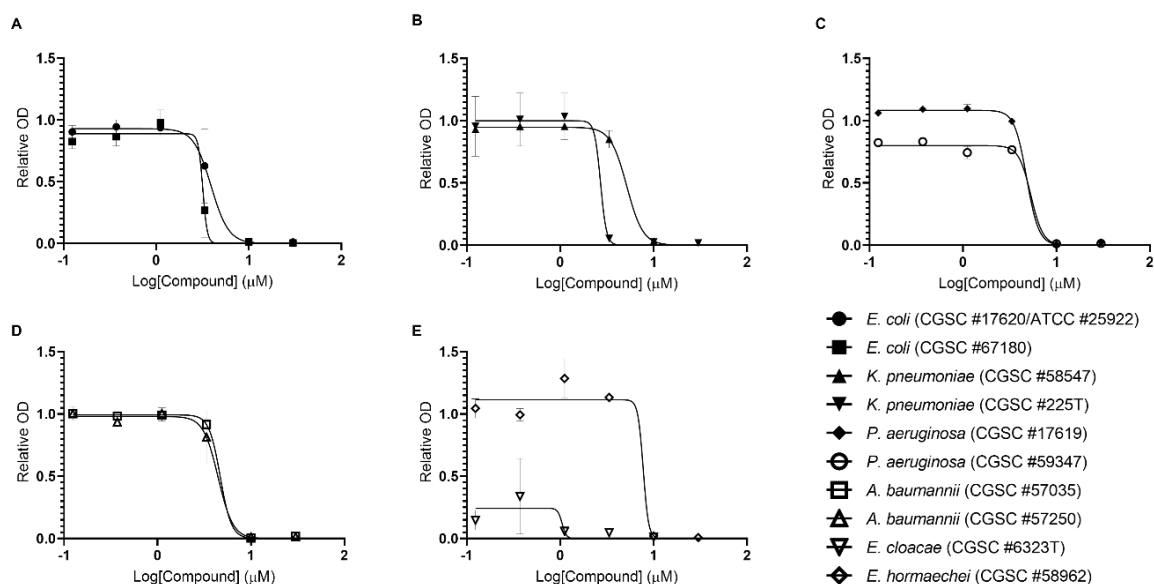


Figure S5. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **1** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC_{50} and EC_{90} values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

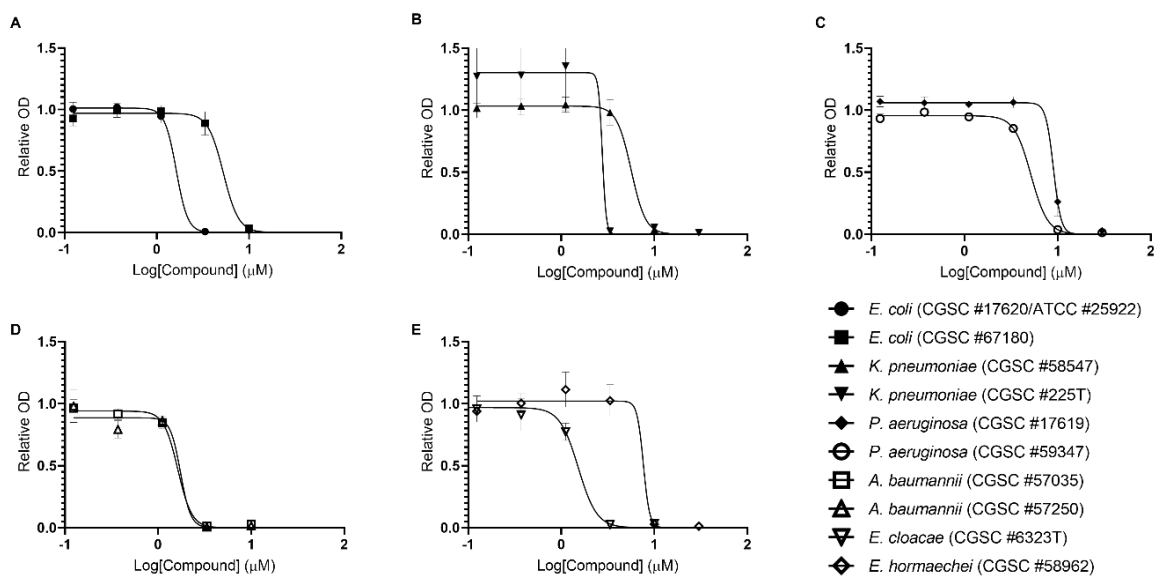


Figure S6. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **3** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

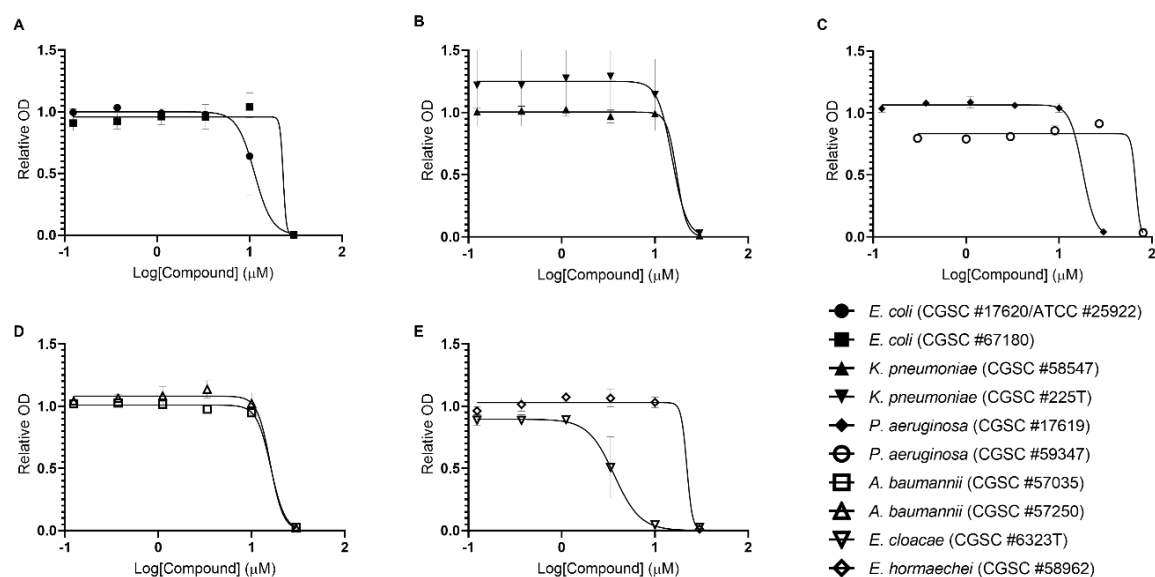


Figure S7. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **4** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

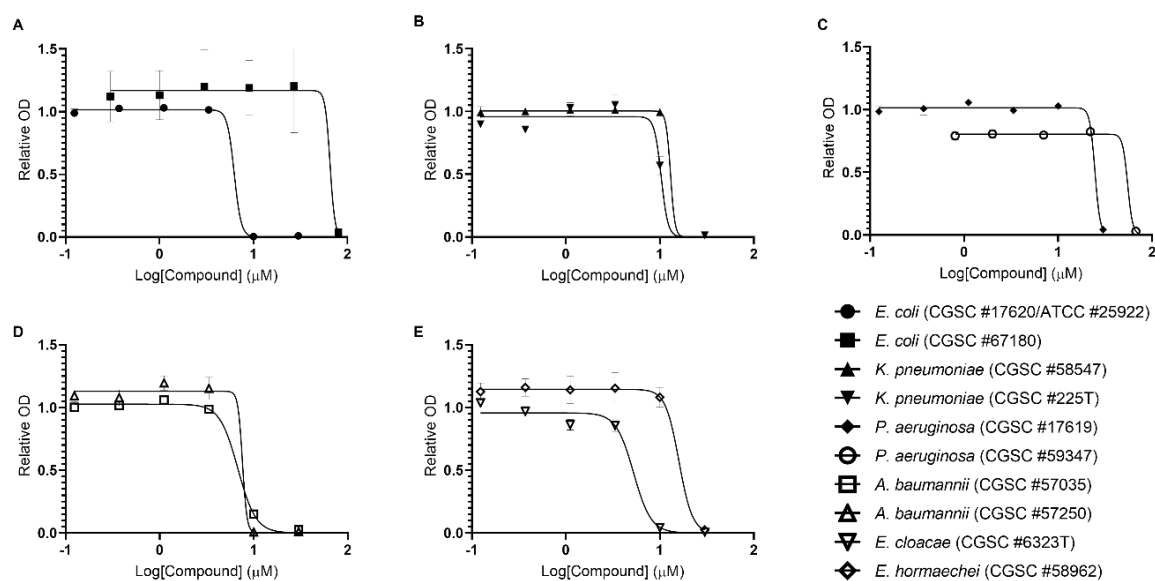


Figure S8. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **6** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC_{50} and EC_{90} values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

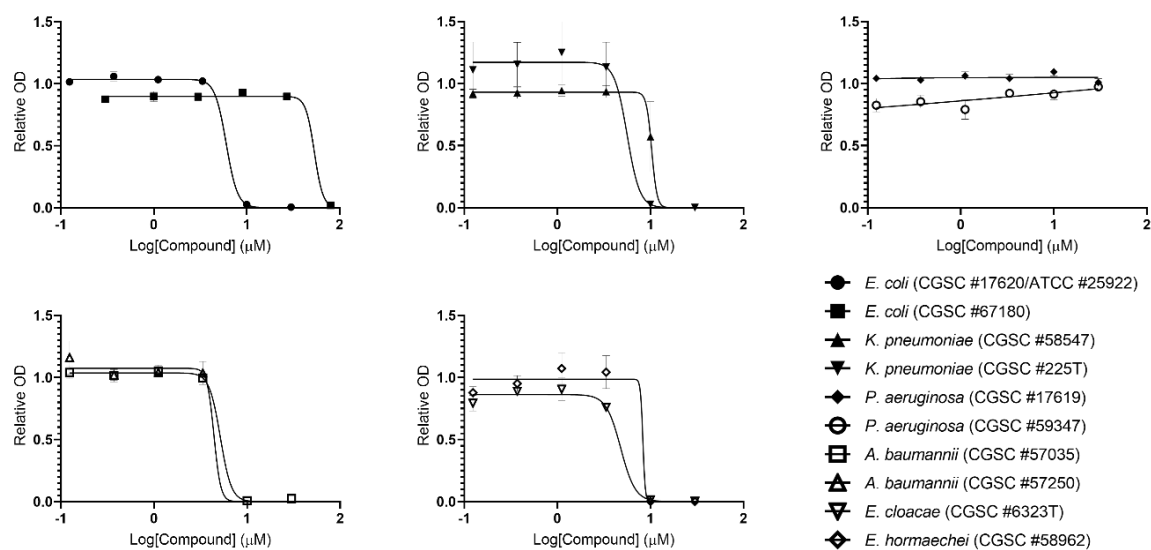


Figure S9. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **8** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC_{50} and EC_{90} values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

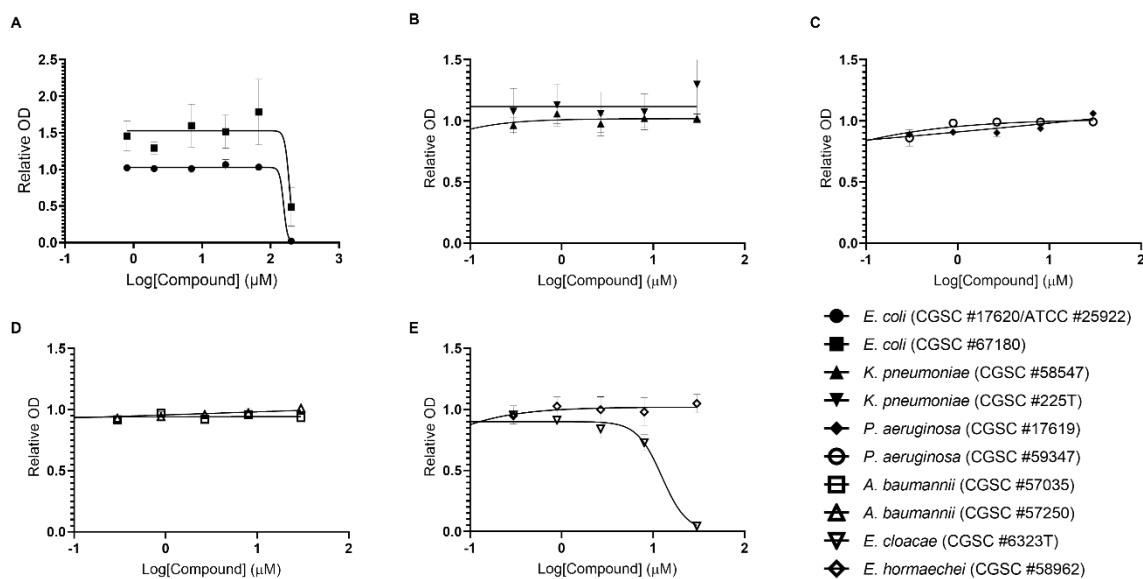


Figure S10. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **10** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

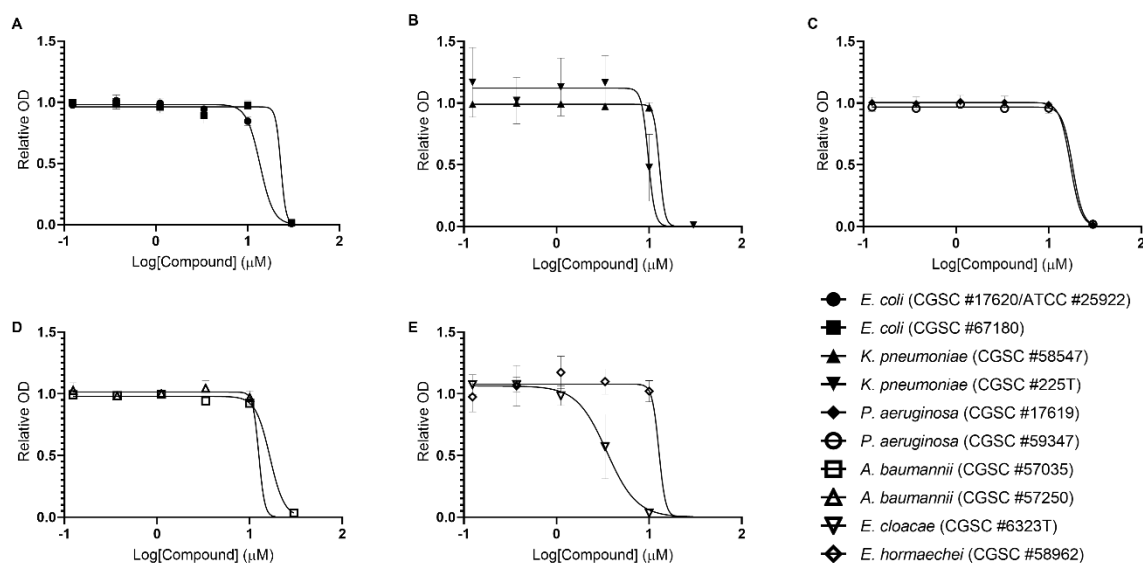


Figure S11. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **16** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

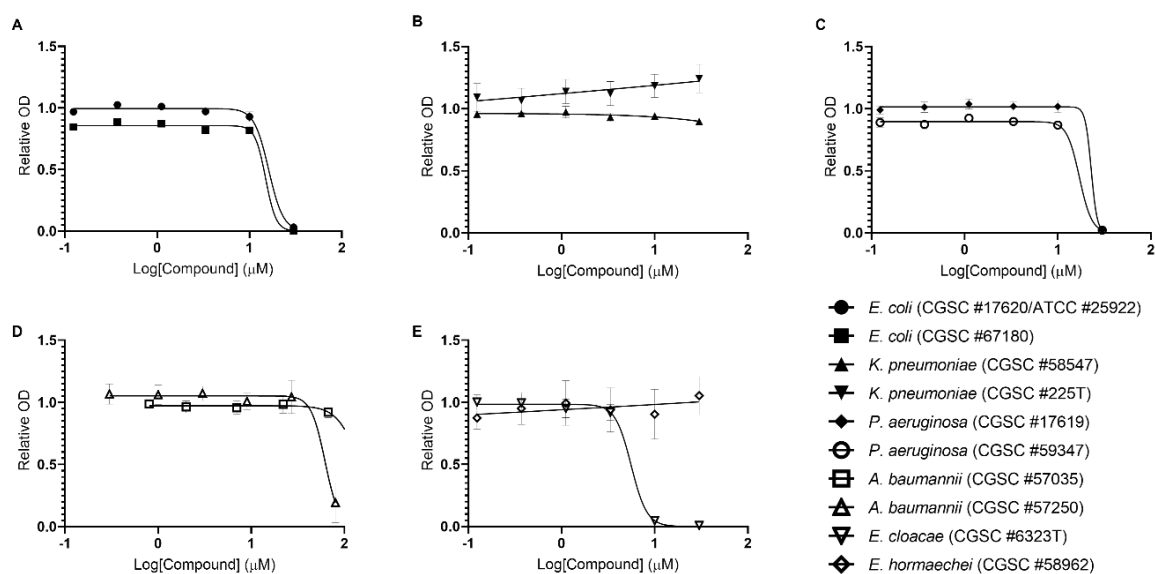


Figure S12. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of **17** against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀ and EC₉₀ values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

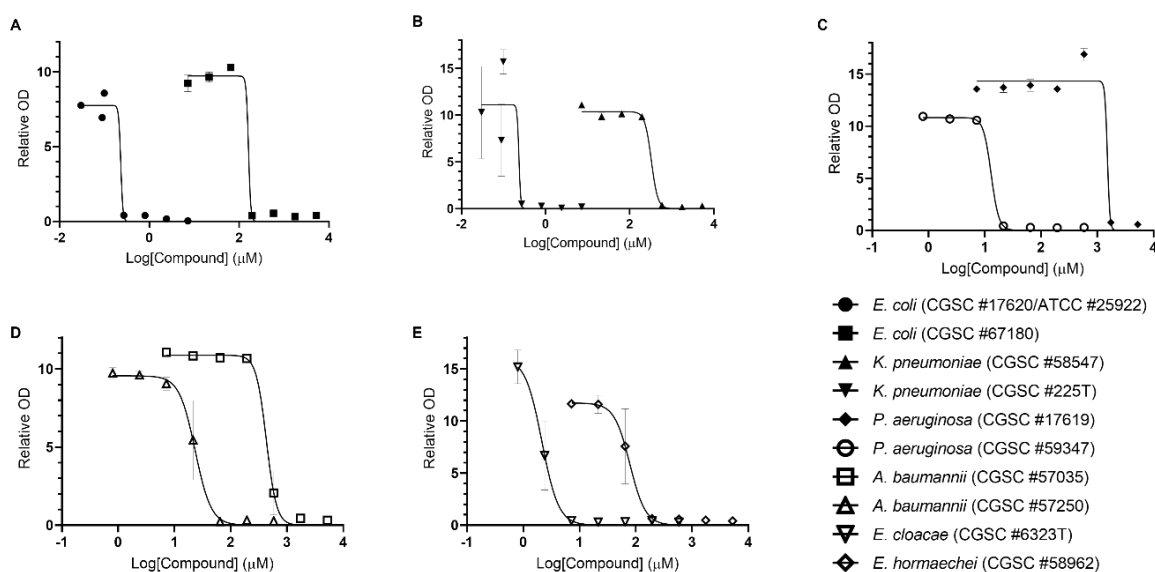


Figure S13. Antibacterial activity dose-response curves of the known antibiotic Cefotaxime (CTX) as a control against the 10 Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* CCUG #67180 and CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 (control strain) (A), *K. pneumoniae* CCUG #58547 and CCUG #225T (B), *P. aeruginosa* CCUG #17619 and CCUG #59347 (C), *A. baumannii* CCUG #57035 and CCUG #57250 (D), *E. cloacae* CCUG #6323T and *E. hormaechei* CCUG #58962 (E). EC₅₀, EC₉₀ and SI values (in μM) can be found in Table 2.

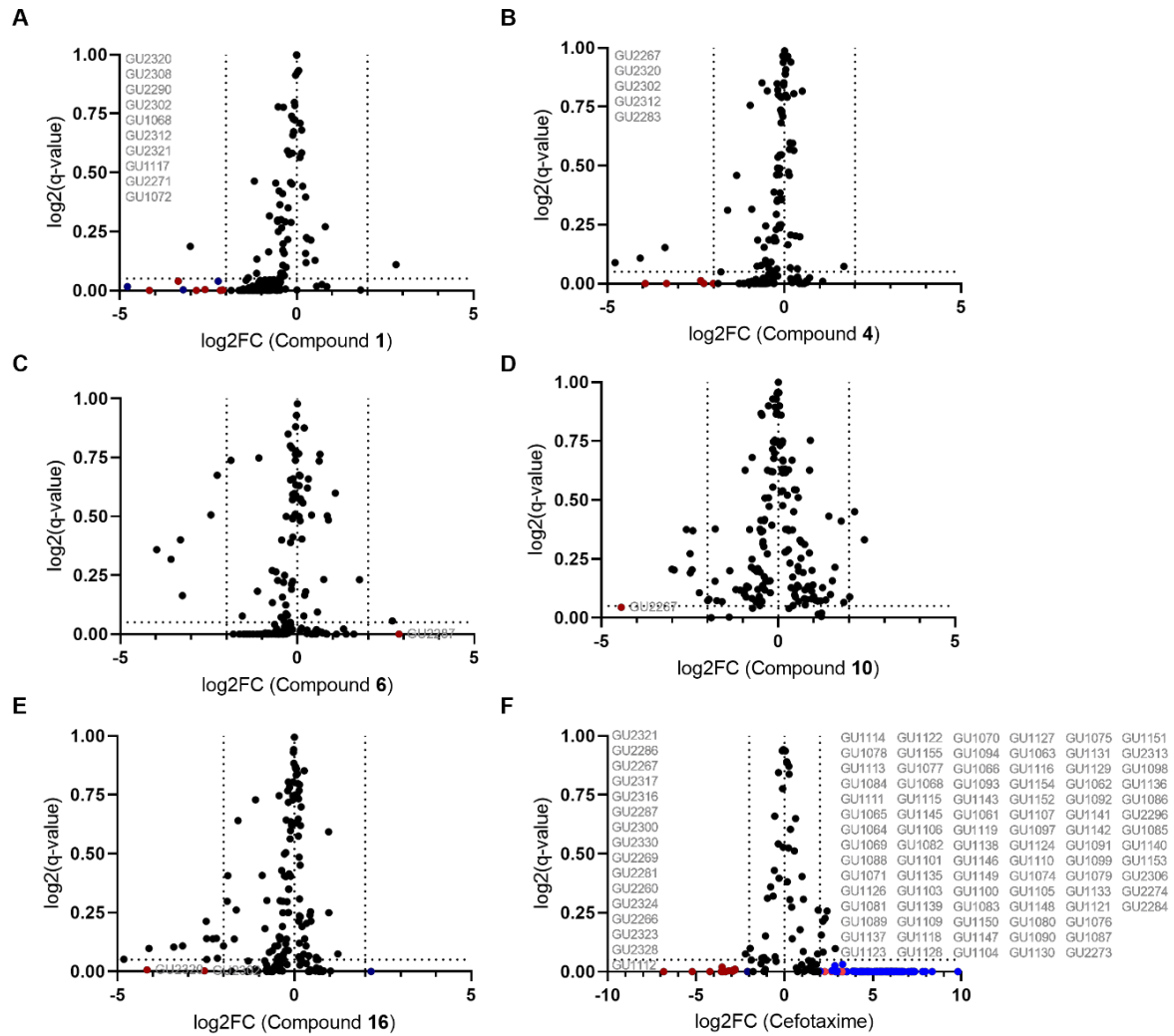
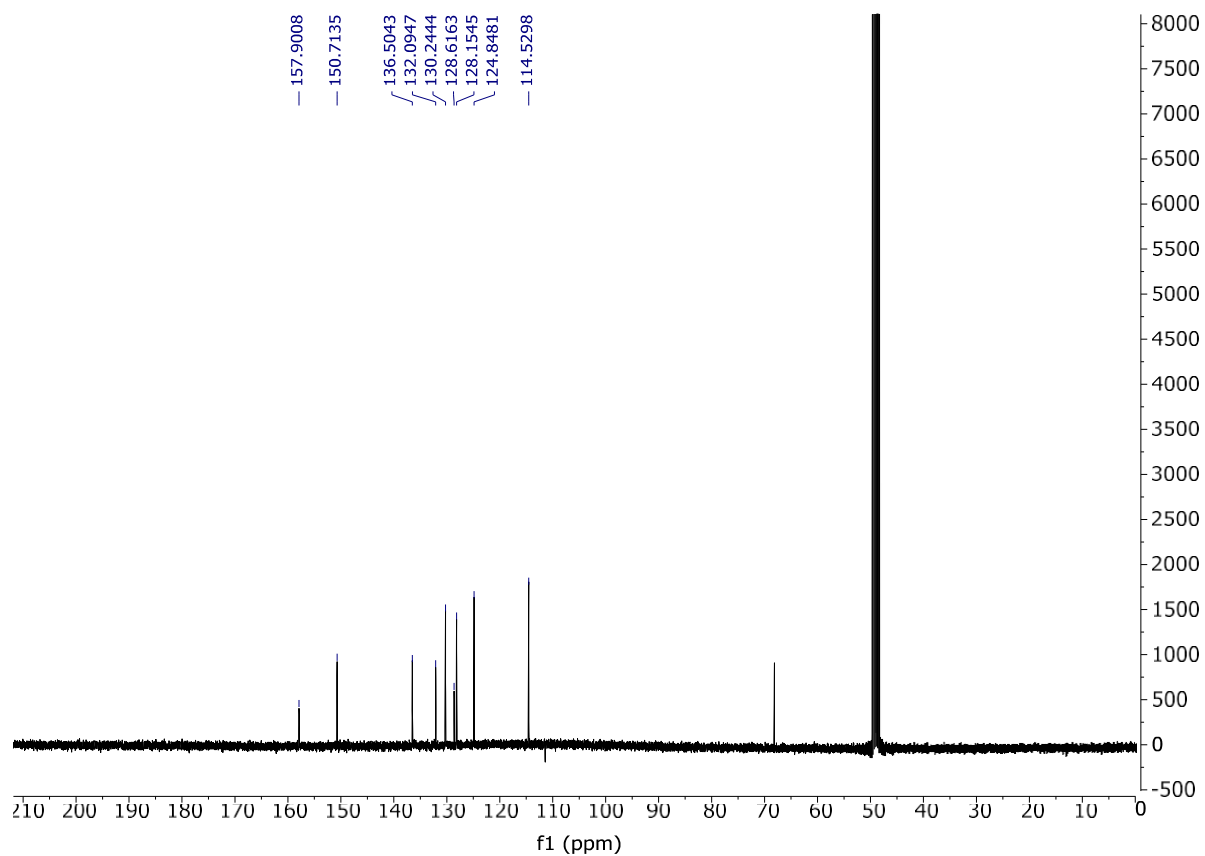
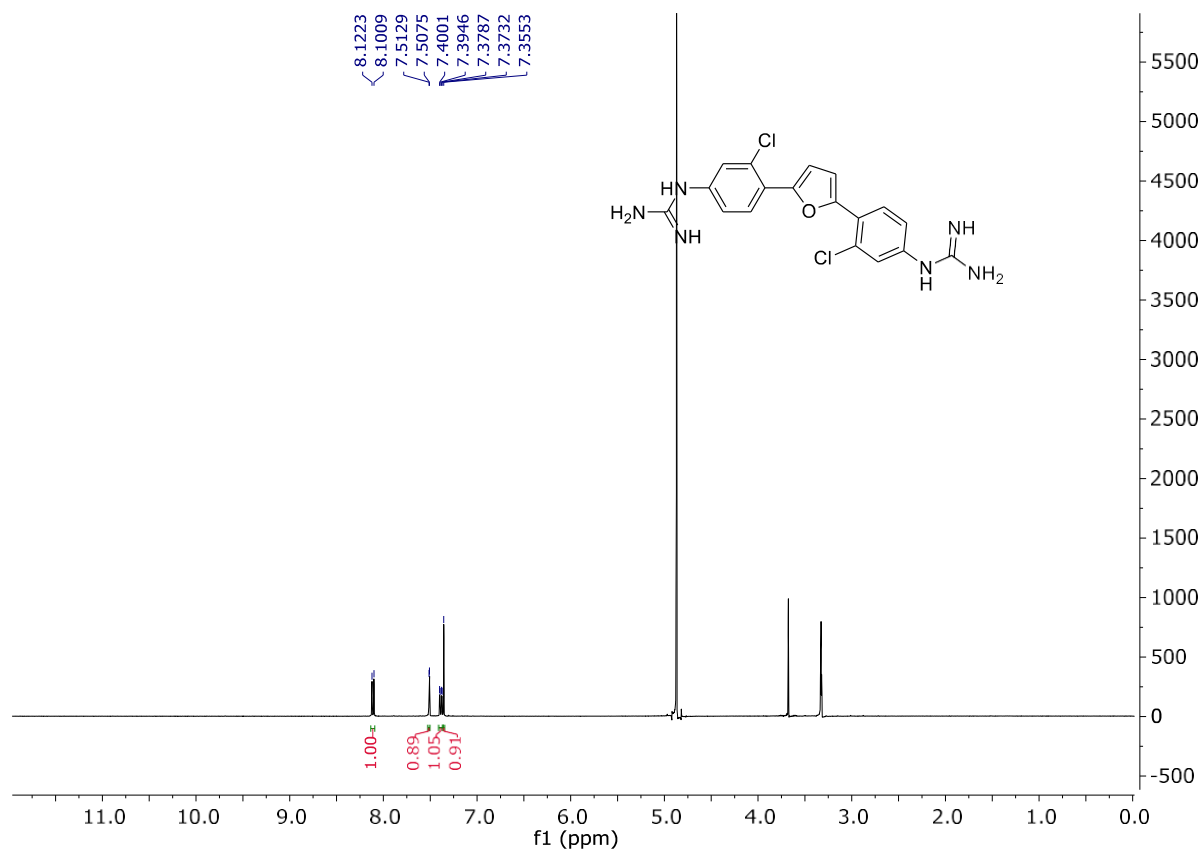
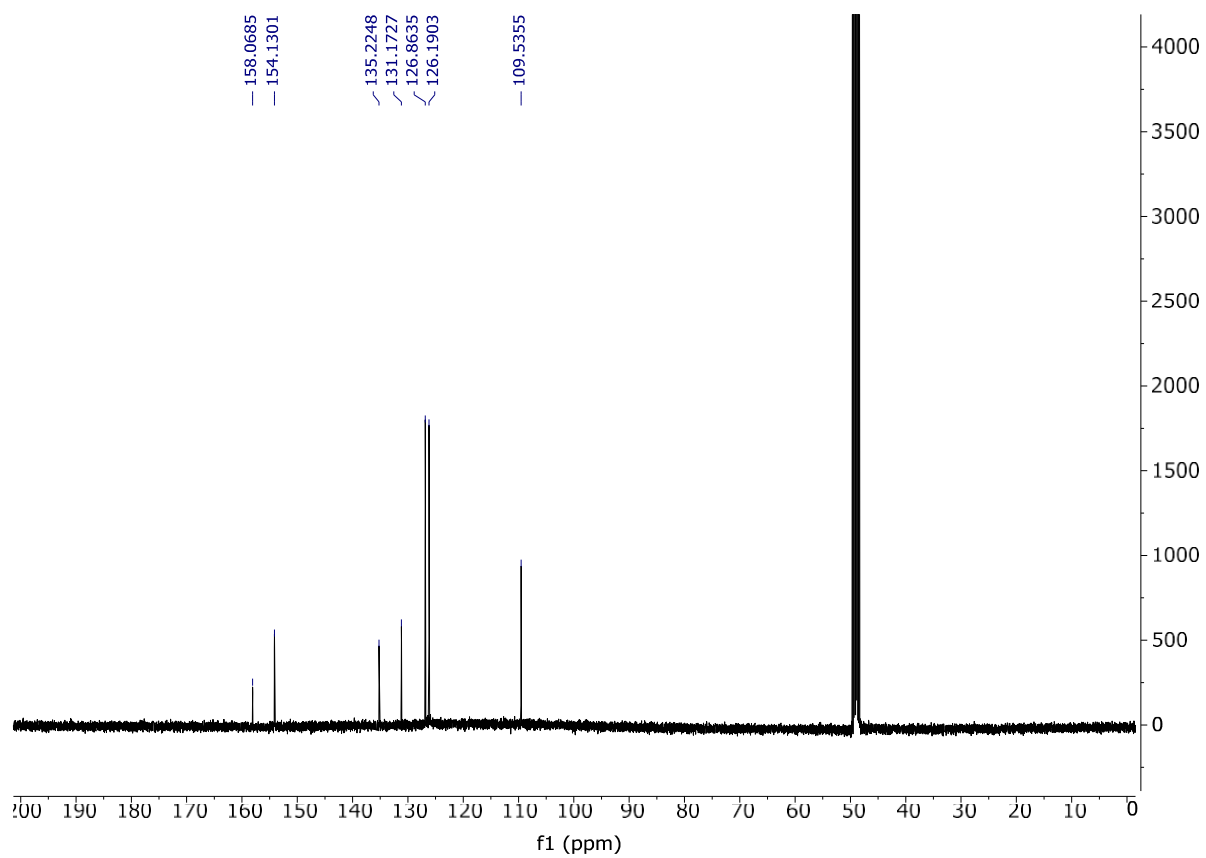
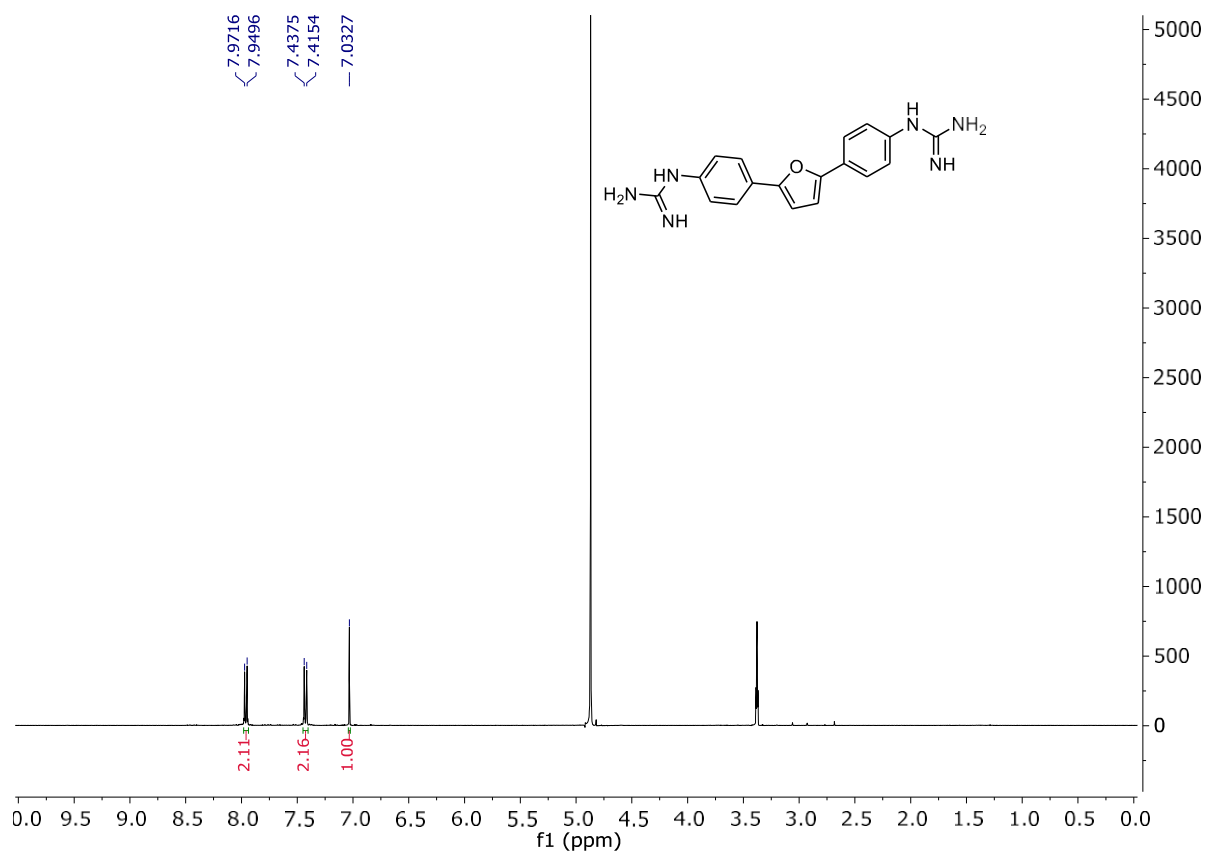
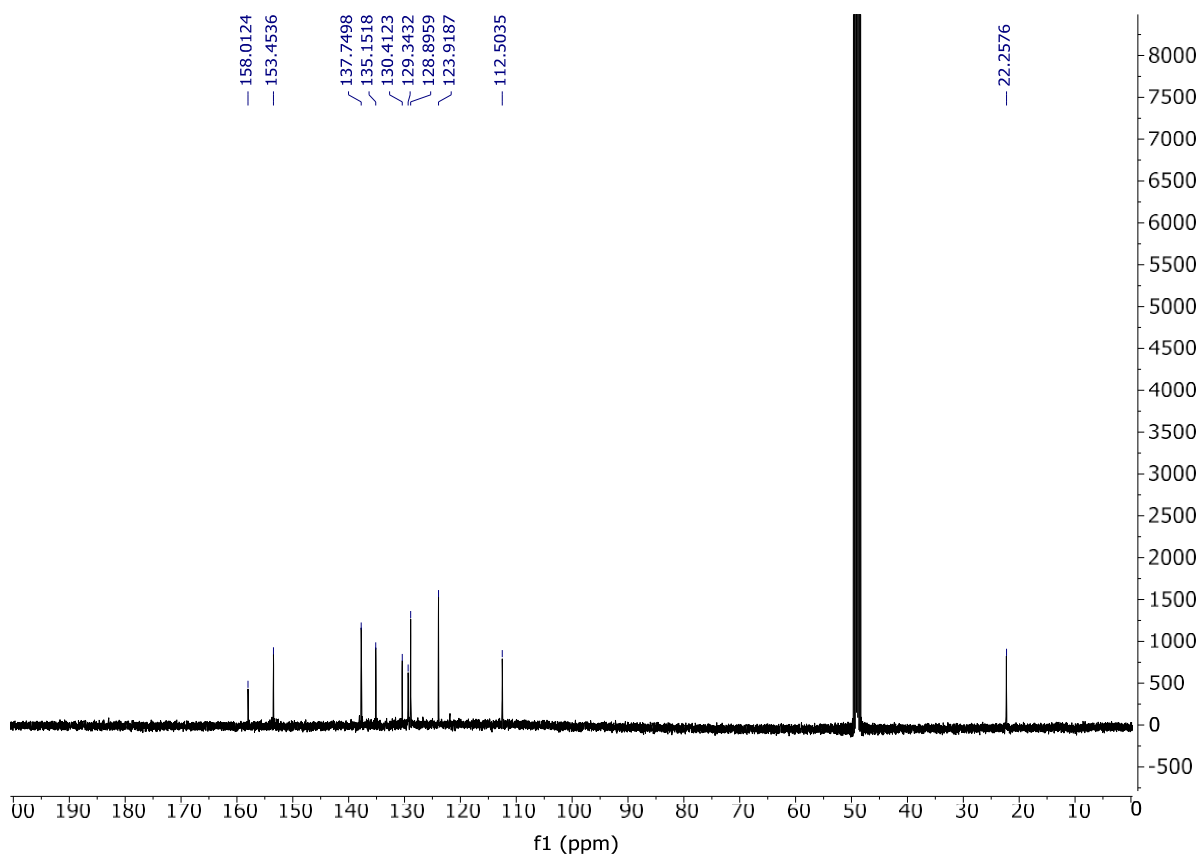
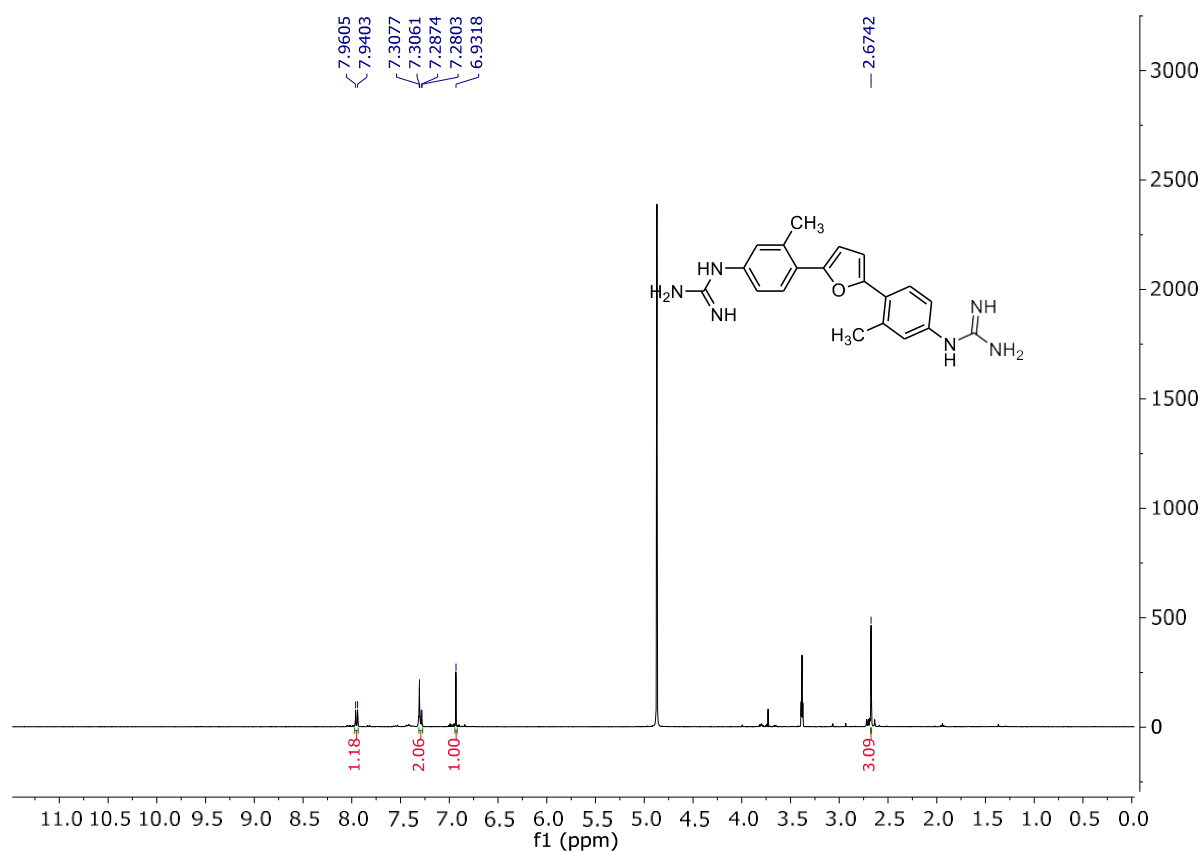
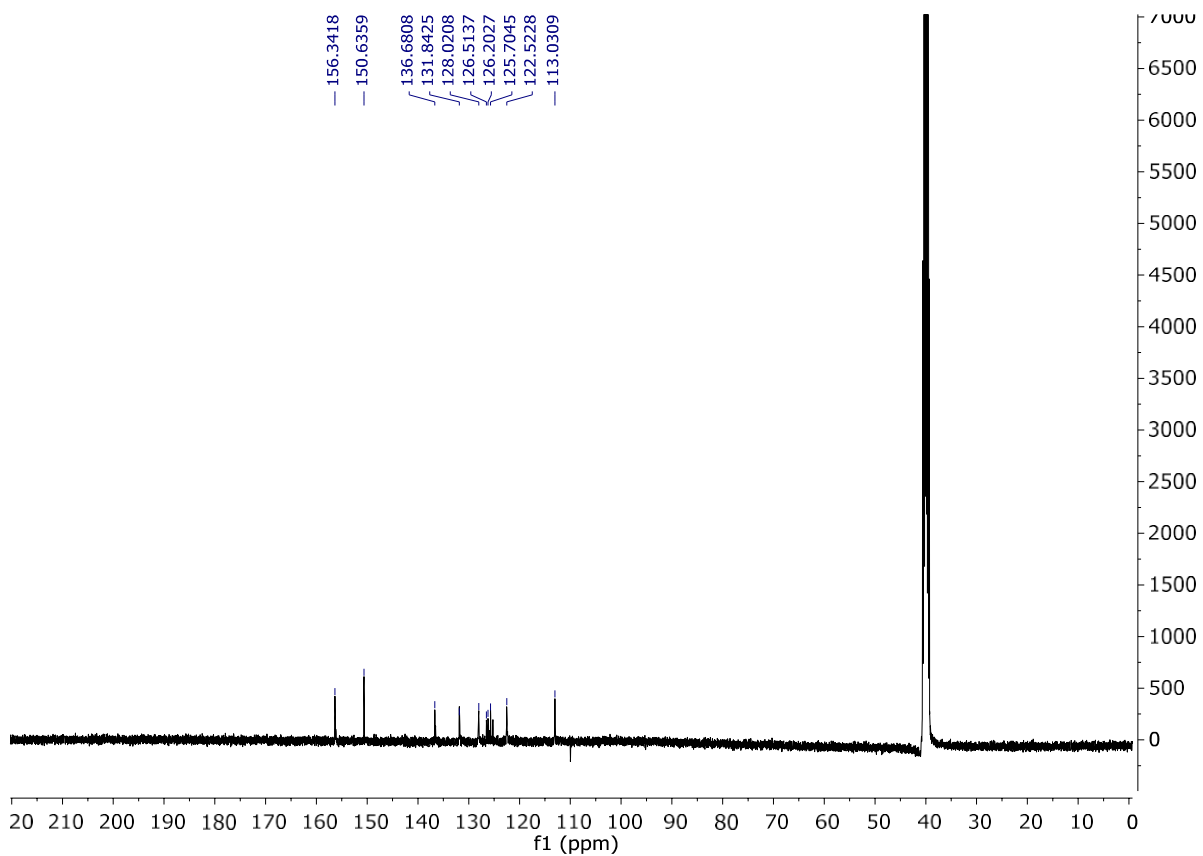
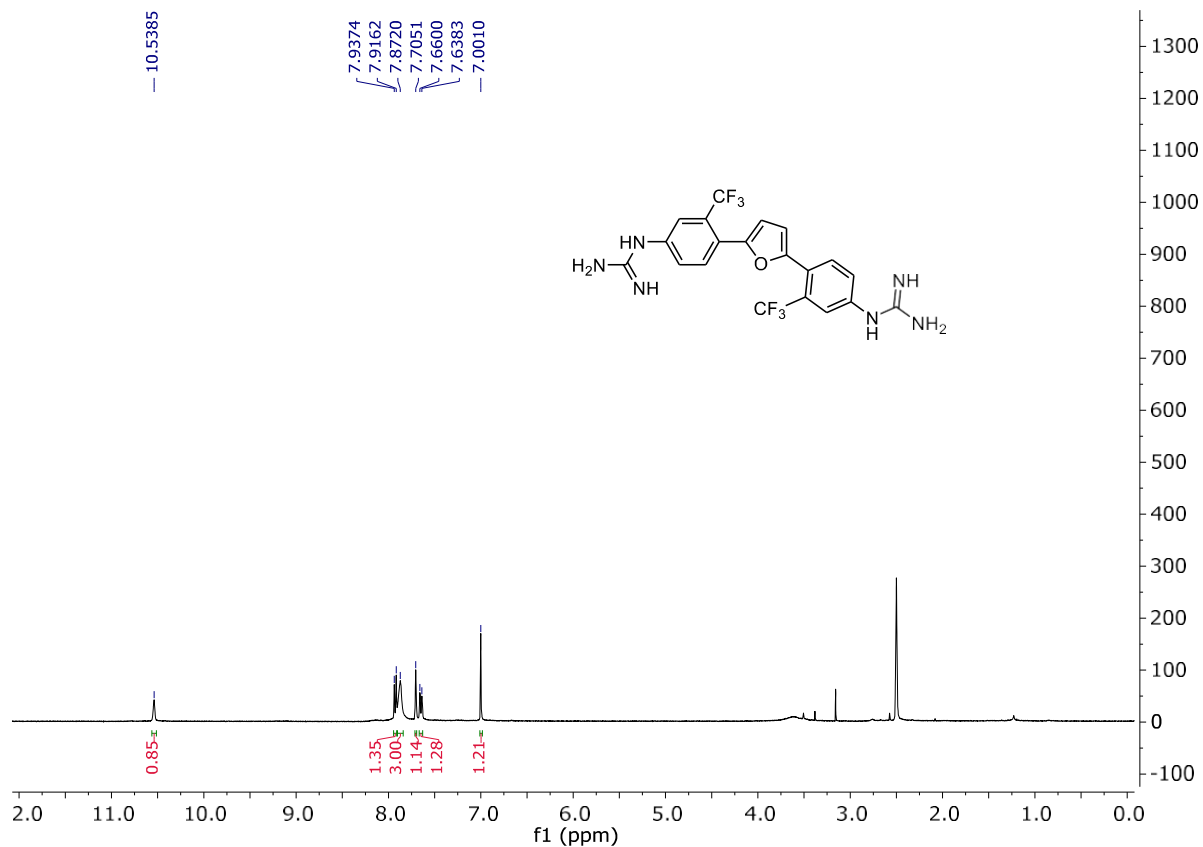


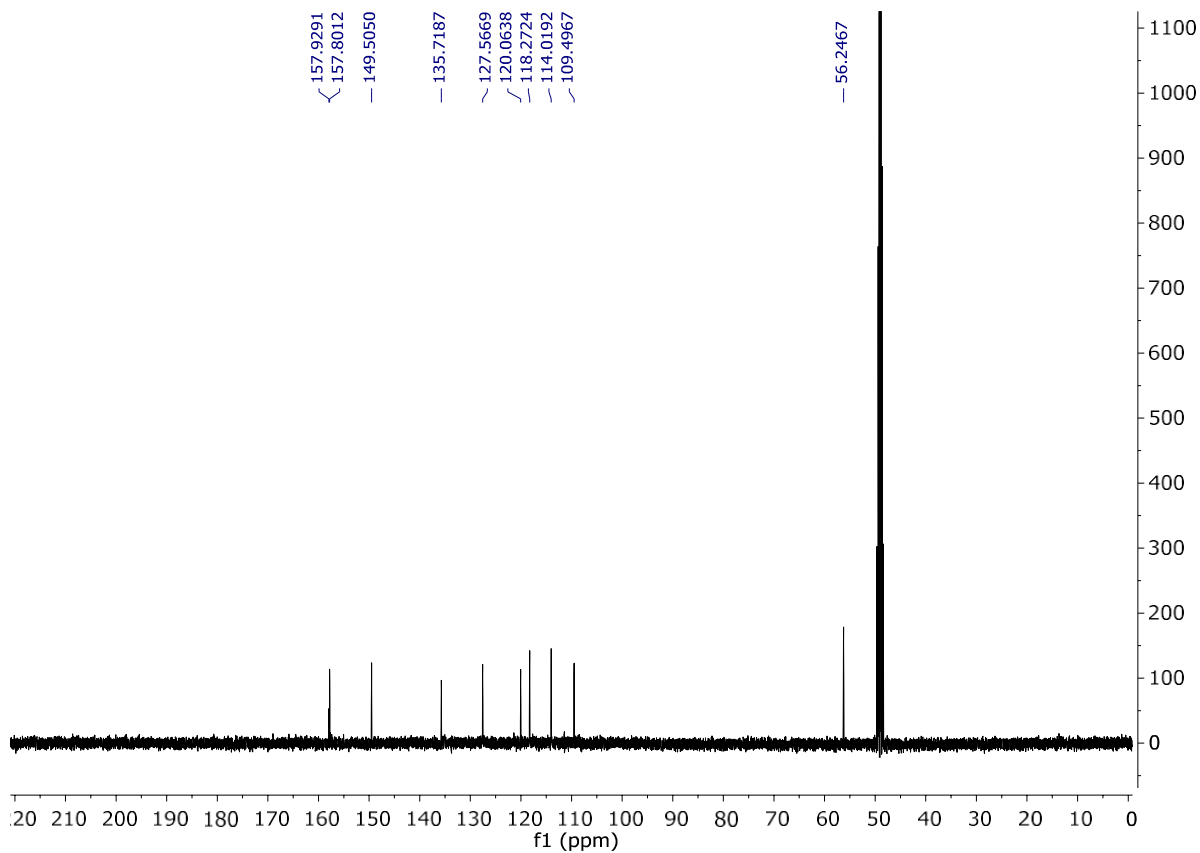
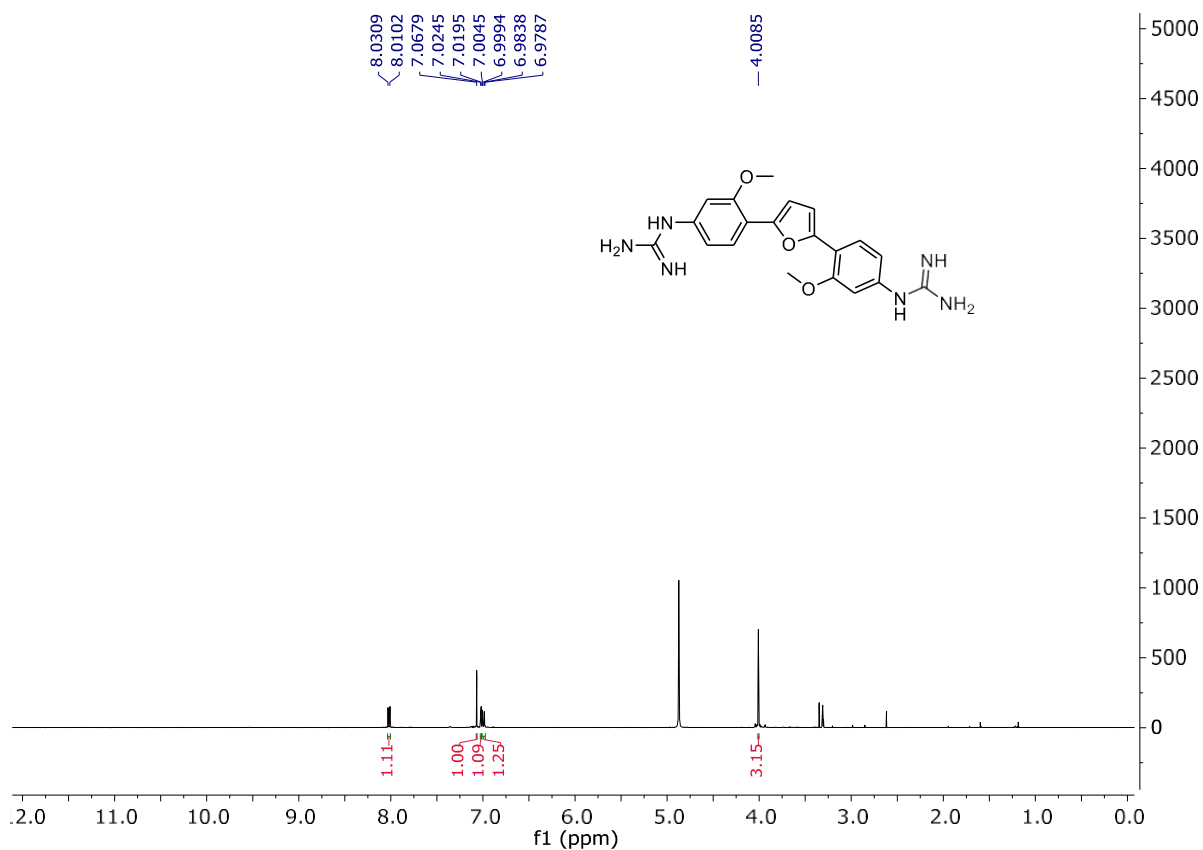
Figure S14. High-resolution microbial phenomics profiling of the synthesized compounds **1** (A), **4** (B), **6** (C), **10** (D) and **16** (E), and the known antibiotic cefotaxime (F) against two *E. coli* antibiotic resistant libraries. Volcano plots show a total of 168 strains screened from the ECOR (n=72) and ESBL (n=96) libraries. The strains presenting a differential yield growth relative to the reference strain *E. coli* CCUG #17620/ATCC #25922 are shown, where statistically significant strains more sensitive fall within a $\log_2\text{FC} \geq -2.0$ and $-\log_2(\text{q-value}) \leq 0.05$ (left quadrant in light red for ECOR and light blue for ESBL libraries) and resistant within a $\log_2\text{FC} \geq 2.0$ and $-\log_2(\text{q-value}) \leq 0.05$ (right quadrant in dark red for ECOR and dark blue for ESBL libraries).

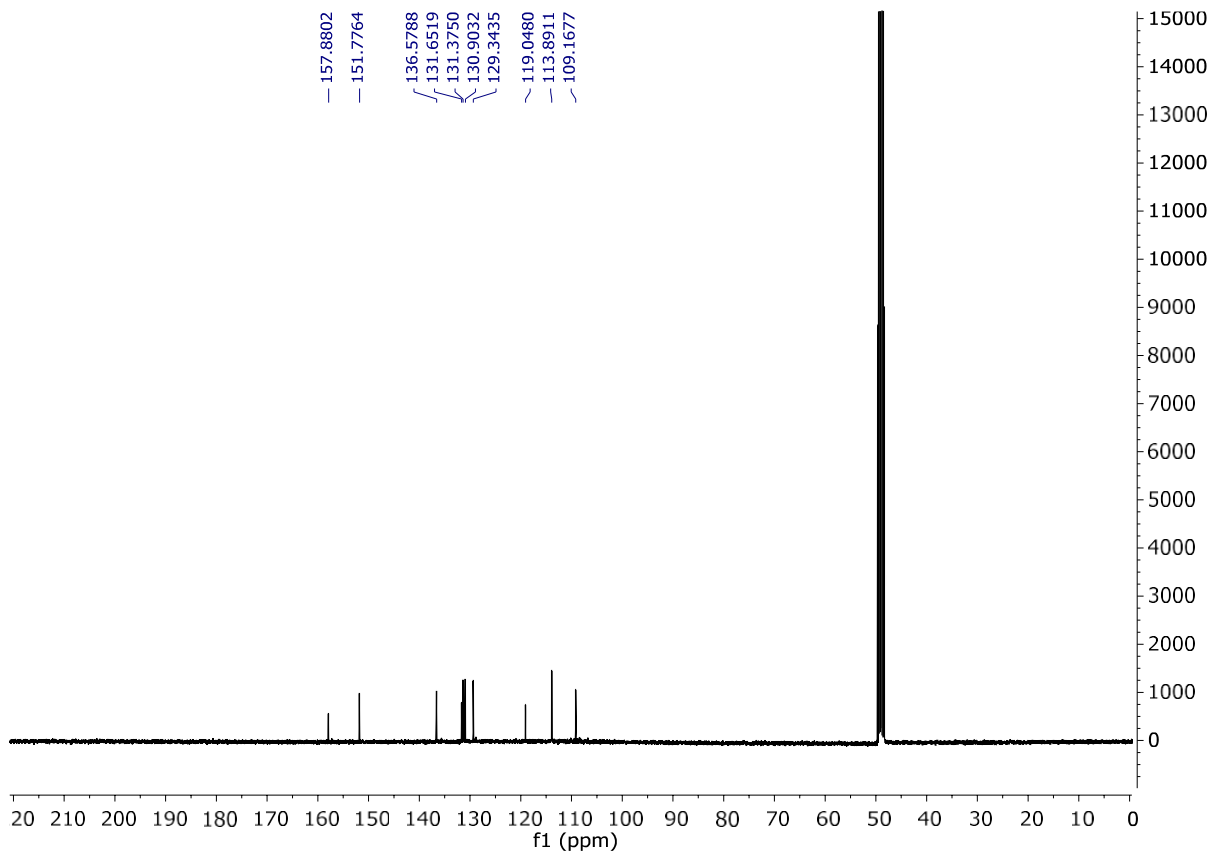
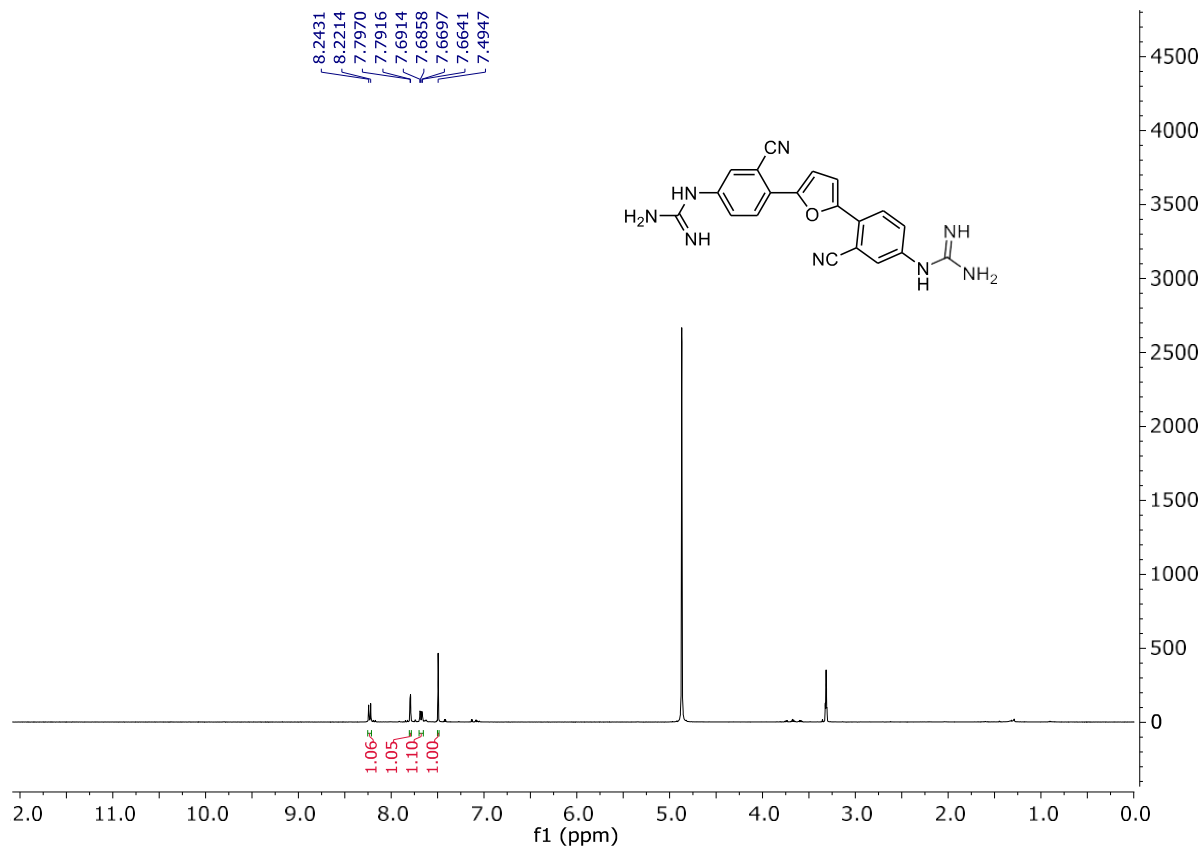


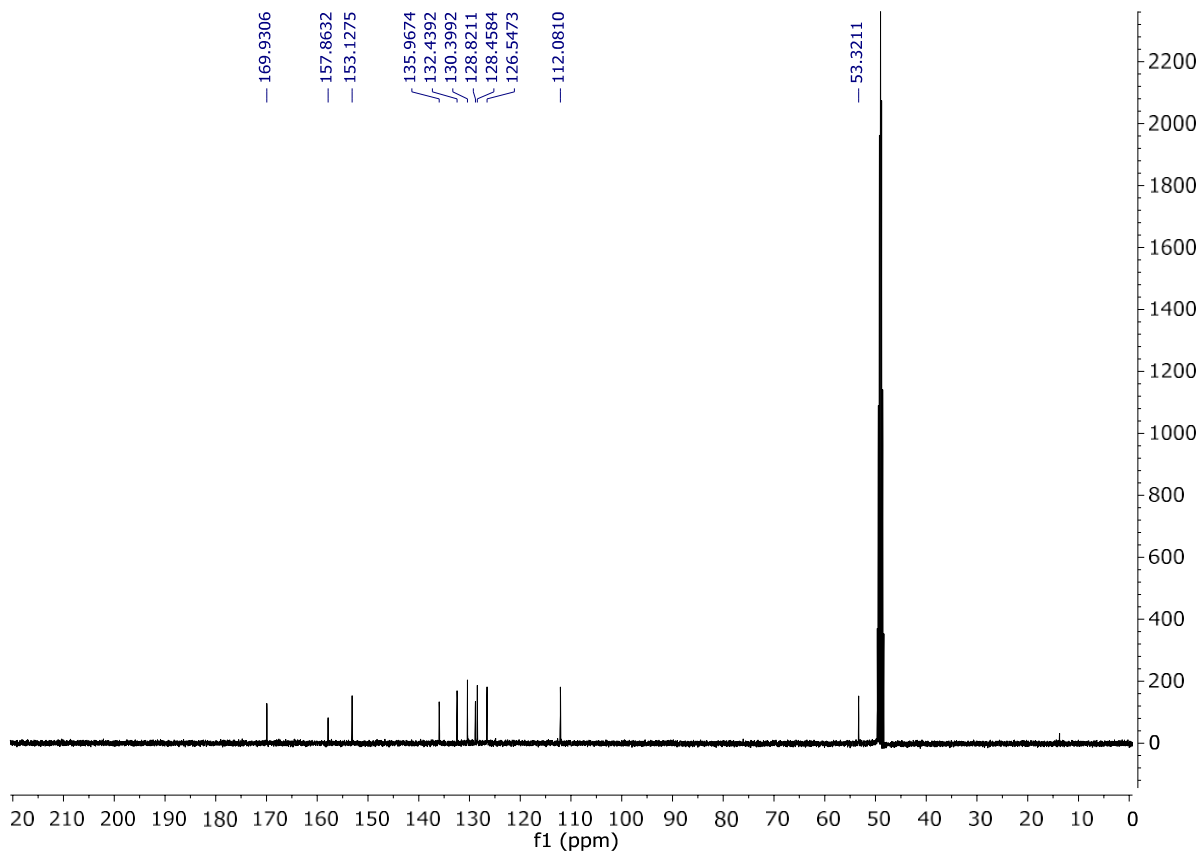
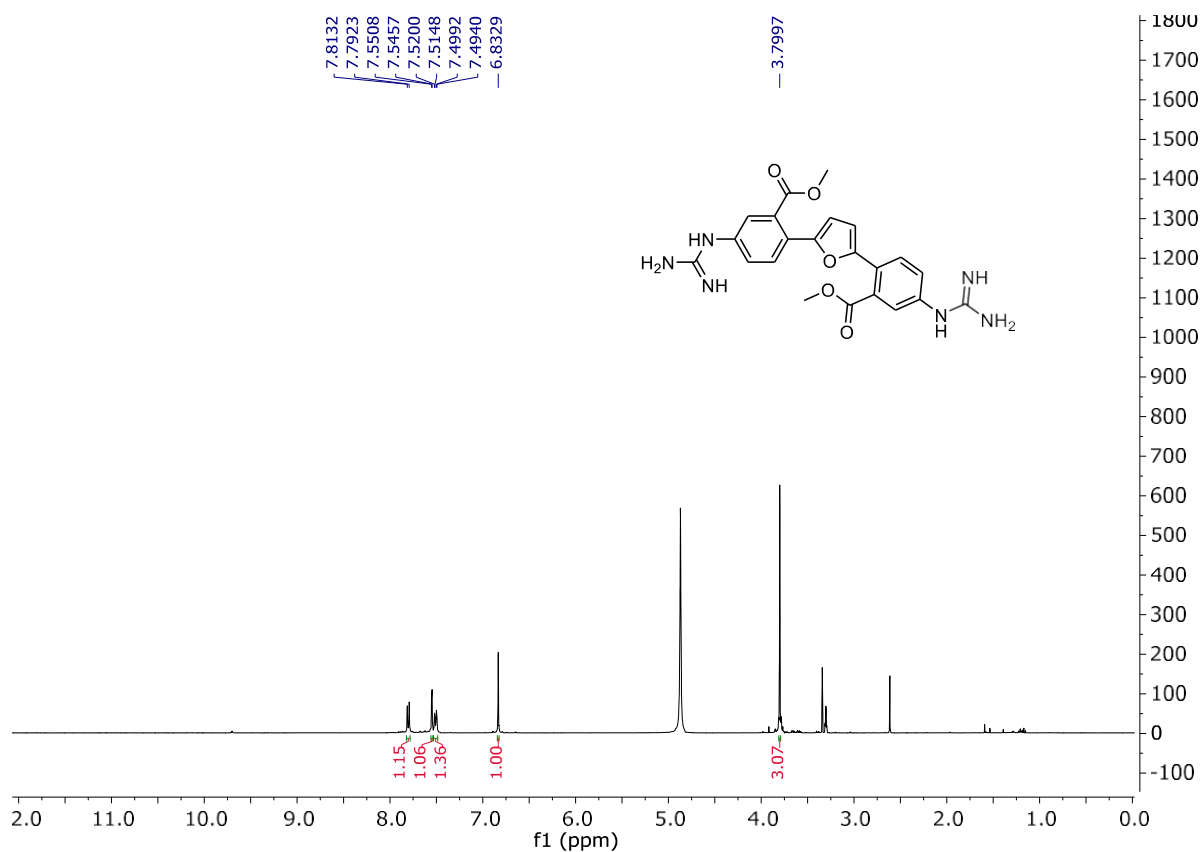


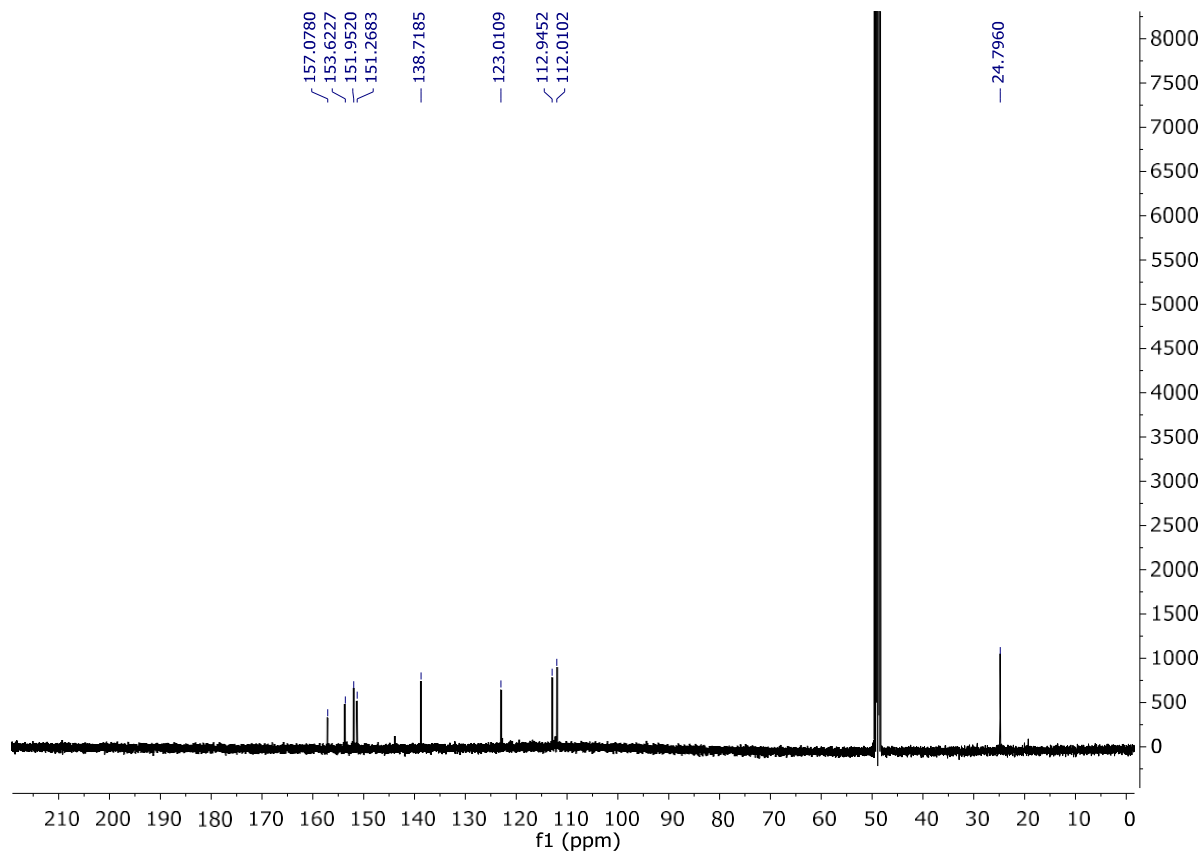
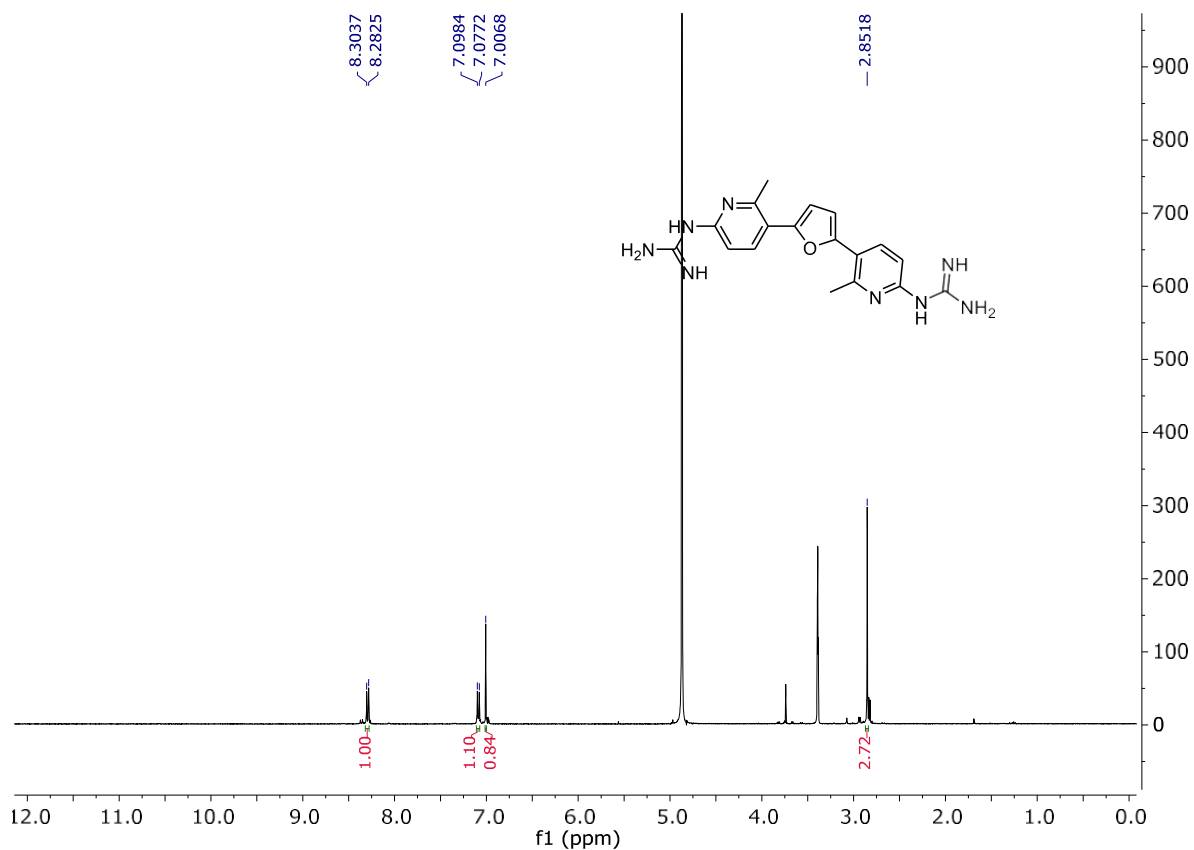


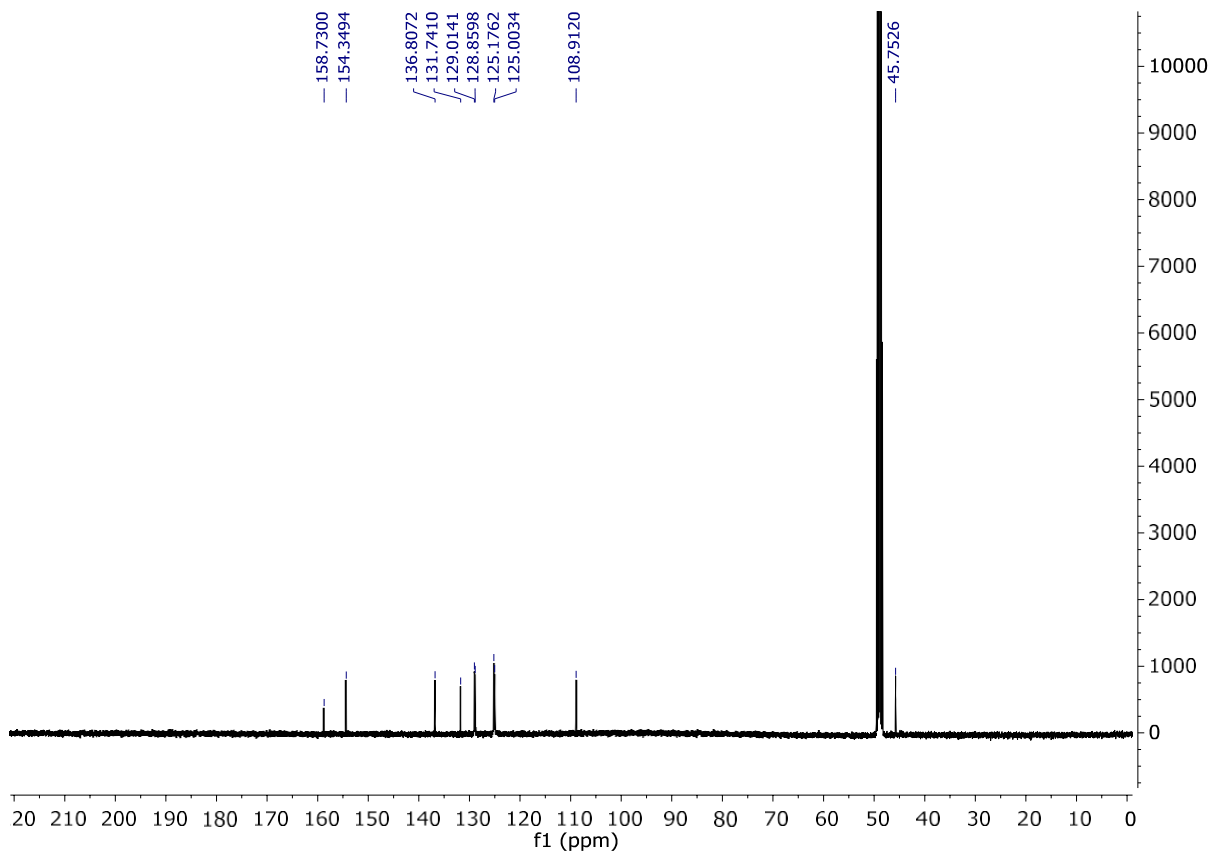
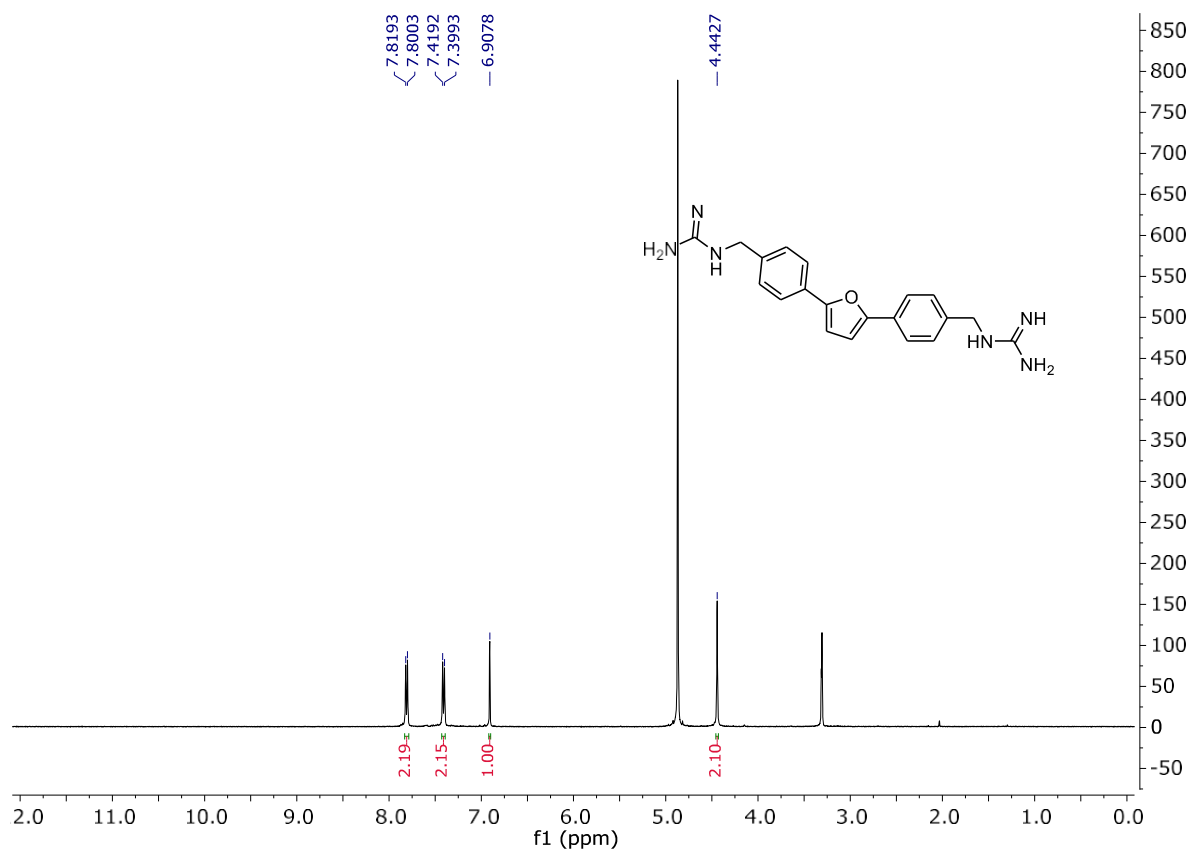












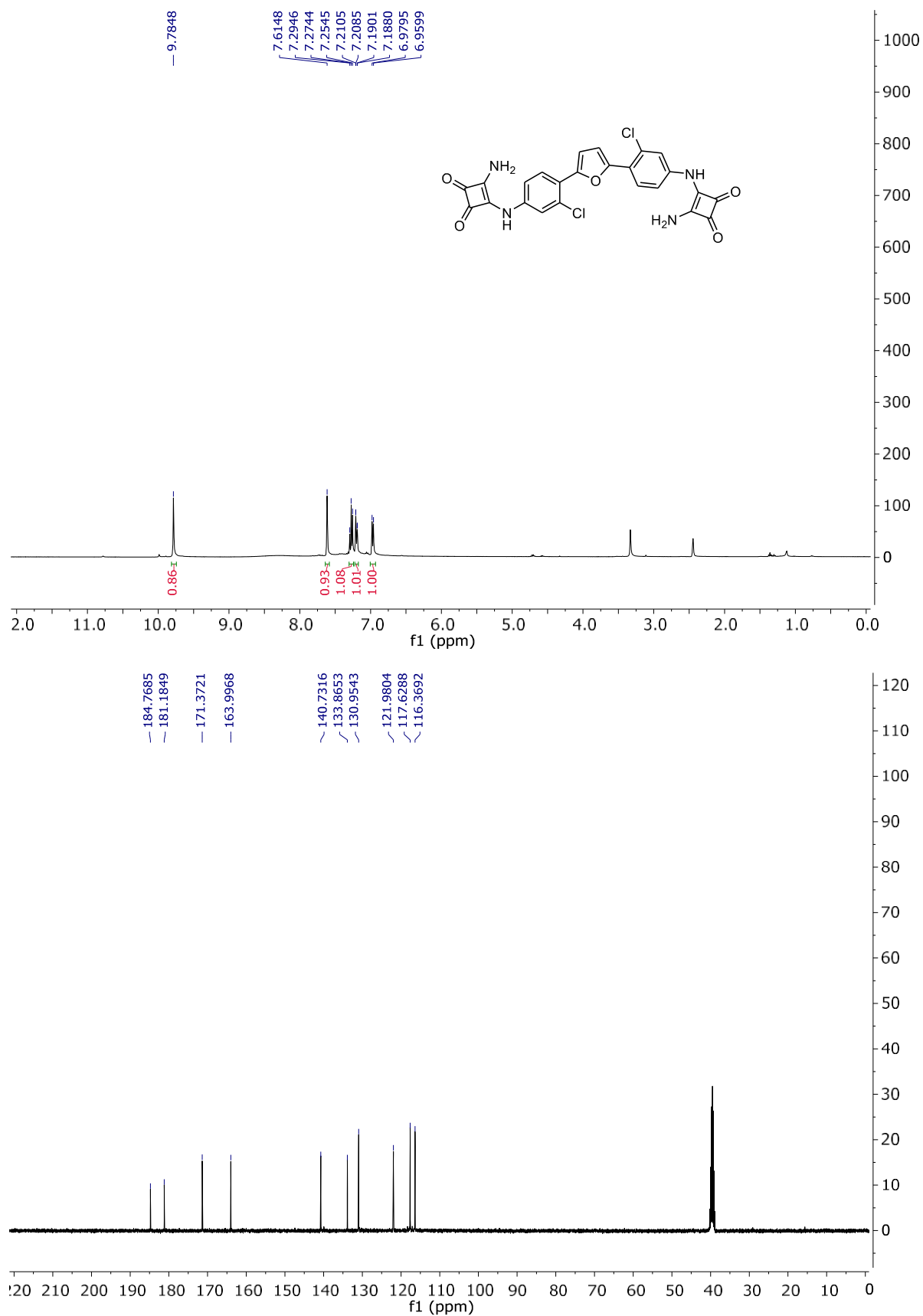


Figure S24. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 100 MHz) spectra for 2,5-bis(2-chloro-4-((3,4-dioxo-2-(amino)cyclobut-1-en-1-yl)amino)phenyl)furan (**11**).

