

SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF SCHIFF BASE AND  
RUTHENIUM *P*-CYMENE COMPLEXES CONTAINING ETHYNYL-  
PYRIDINE BRIDGED TO QUINAZOLINE DERIVATIVES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

DILEBO K.B

2019

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PYRIDINE BRIDGED TO QUINAZOLINE DERIVATIVES**

BY

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A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE, MASTER OF  
SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY, SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL AND MINERAL SCIENCES,  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO,  
SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: Prof R.M. MAMPA

CO-SUPERVISORS: Prof W. NXUMALO

Prof B.O. OWAGA (UKZN)

2019

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to:

- My baby sister Eucharia, my parents and my brothers.

## DECLARATION

I declare that “Synthesis and biological activity of Schiff base and ruthenium *p*-cymene complexes containing ethynyl-pyridine bridged to quinazoline derivatives” is my own, unaided work submitted for the degree of Master Science at Limpopo. It has not been submitted for any degree or examination at any other University, and all sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged through complete references.

.....

**Mr K.B Dilebo**

09/09/2019

**Date**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation has become a reality with the kind support and help of my supervisors Prof R.M Mampa, Prof W Nxumalo and Prof B.O Owaga. I extend my sincere thanks to you all.

I also extend great thanks to the following individuals and institutions (in no order of importance) for the help offered where possible and for successful collaborations during the academic journey, this work is what it is because of your contributions:

- My family for their prayers, encouragement and support and the Almighty God who in his presence I have achieved a lot.
- The department of chemistry at the University of Limpopo for affording me the opportunity to enroll for postgraduate degrees.
- The NRF-Sasol Inzalo bursary for the financial support.
- Prof M.J Mphahlele for inspiring the project and providing financial support where necessary.
- Dr N.J Gumede for teaching and hosting me during molecular modelling training at the Mangosuthu University of Technology.
- Ms TG Ramakadi for her continuous guidance during the period of my postgraduate studies and for teaching and training me the running (experiments), maintenance and processing (data) of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instrument.
- Prof T Matsebatlela for assisting with anticancer assay experimental data.
- The centre for drug delivery and development (H3-D) centre at the University of Cape Town for the anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* assay experimental data.
- University of Stellenbosch for high resolution mass spectrometry analysis.
- Ms Bokome Shaku for her continuous support and encouragement, thanks nana!
- My labmates Ms L.A Raphoko, Mr N.R Moroane and Mr K Lekgau for making the lab space a fun place to be.
- My friends (Cry, Titelo, Msido-Sidwell, Ofentse, Marvelous, Lesedi and Louis) for always being there for me!

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## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Conferences attended:

Oral presentation at:

9<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Sciences and Agriculture, University of Limpopo Research day  
Limpopo South Africa 2018

**Title:** Synthesis, characterisation, molecular docking and in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties of 4-(pyridylamino) - and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines

**Date:** 20-21 September 2018

Abstracts of the 9th FSA -RD | 2018

### Synthesis, characterisation, molecular docking and in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties of 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines

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A series of novel 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines were successfully prepared via Sonogashira cross-coupling and dechloro-amination reactions on the C(4)-Cl position of the requisite 2-(*p*-phenyl)-4-chloroquinazolines. The prepared compounds were characterized by way of (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, COSY and HMBC) NMR, FTIR, Mass spectrometry and UV/Vis. Furthermore, the compounds were evaluated for potential in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) properties employing rifampicin as a reference drug. Preliminary results from the Alamar Blue assay (*Mtb*. H37Rv strain) revealed promising MIC<sub>90</sub> ranging from 10 to 43 ug/ml. The possible mode of action against the *Mtb* was theoretically explained through molecular docking of *glutamine synthetase* (1HTO). These compounds were inductively docked into the 1HTO protein

where a promising hint of the 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines ranging from -6.280 to -8.257 Kcal/ mol is observed.

**Keywords:** 4-(pyridylamino) and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines, 2-(*p*-phenyl)-4-chloroquinazolines, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), Molecular docking, *glutamine synthetase*

Oral presentation at:

43<sup>rd</sup> SACI National Convention, CSIR-ICC, Pretoria, South Africa 2018

Title: Synthesis, characterisation, molecular docking and in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties of 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines

Date: 2-7 December 2018

Synthesis, characterisation, molecular docking and in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties of 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines

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Keywords: 4-(pyridylamino) and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines, 2-(p-phenyl)-4-chloroquinazolines, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb), Molecular docking, *glutamine synthetase*

A series of novel 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines were successfully prepared via Sonogashira cross-coupling and dechloro-amination reactions on the C(4)-Cl position of the requisite 2-(p-phenyl)-4-chloroquinazolines. The prepared compounds were characterized by way of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, FTIR and Mass spectrometry. Furthermore, the compounds were evaluated for potential in vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) properties employing rifampicin as a reference drug. Preliminary results from the Alamar Blue assay (Mtb. H<sub>37</sub>Rv strain) revealed promising MIC<sub>90</sub> ranging from <0.244 to 43 ug/ml. The possible mode of action against the Mtb was theoretically explained through molecular docking of *glutamine synthetase* (1HTO). These compounds were inductively docked into the 1HTO protein where a promising hint of the 4-(pyridylamino)- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines ranging from -6.280 to -8.257 Kcal/mol is observed.



Figure 1&2: The 2D ligand interaction diagram of 4-(pyridylamino) and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines in *glutamine synthetase* (1HTO).

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

### A

A431	Squamous Carcinoma
ATP	Adenosine Triphosphate
ADME	Absorption Distribution Metabolism Excretion
ALA	Alanine
ASP	Asparagine
ARG	Arginine
ADC	Antibody Drug Conjugate
ATNR	Amine Terminated Liquid Natural Rubber

### B

br-s	Broad Signal
------	--------------

### C

c-myc	Avian Myelocytomitis
CAN	Cerium(IV) ammonium nitrate
COSY	Correlation Spectroscopy
CIS	Coordination Induced Shift
CAS	Central Asian Strain
CAN	Cerium Ammonium Nitrate

### D

DDQ	Dichloro Dicyano Benzoquinone
dd	Doublet Of Doublet
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DCM	Dichloromethane
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide
DMF	Dimethylformamide

### E

EGFR	Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor
EGFR-TK	Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Tyrosine Kinase
ES	Electrospray

**F**

FTIR Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

**G**

GLN Glutamine

GLY Glycine

GFP Green Fluorescent Protein

**H**

HTVS High Throughput Virtual Screening

HepG2 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cell Line

HT29 Human Colon Adenocarcinoma Cells

HMBC Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Correlation

HPLC High Performance Liquid Chromatography

HIE Histidine Neutral E-Protonated

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

**I**

IFD Induced Fit Docking

**K**

Kcal Kilocalvins

**L**

Ligprep Ligand Preparation

LBVS Ligand Based Virtual Screening

LBDD Ligand Based Drug Design

LYS Lysine

LLC Limited Liability Company

**M**

MIC Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

MHz Megahertz

MDR Multi-Drug Resistant

mg/mL Milligram Per Milliliter

MCF-7	Michigan Cancer Foundation 7
<i>Mtb</i>	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>
MCHRI	Melanin Concentrating Hormone Receptor
MS	Mass Spectrometry
mp	Melting Point
mol	Molecules
<b>N</b>	
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
<b>O</b>	
OPLS	Optimised Potentials For Liquid Simulations
<b>P</b>	
PGM	Platinum Group Metals
ppm	Parts Per Million
PSCBH	Polymer-Supported Cyanoborohydride
p53	Protein 53
pH	Potential Hydrogen
PDB	Protein Data Bank
<b>Q</b>	
QSAR	Qualitative Structure Activity Relationship
<b>R</b>	
RET	Rational Emotive Therapy
RAQ	Ruthenium Arene Quinazolines
rt	Room Temperature
ROS	Reactive Oxygen Species
RAS	Ruthenium Arene Schiff Bases
<b>S</b>	
SAR	Structure Activity Relationship
SBDD	Structure Based Drug Design
SBVS	Structure Based Virtual Screening
<b>T</b>	

2D	Two Dimension
3D	Three Dimension
3CA	Three Component Assembly
TBABr	Tetrabutylammonium Bromide
TBAI	Tetrabutylammonium Iodide
TEA	Triethylamine
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TYR	Tyrosine
TRP	Tryptophan
TB	Tuberculosis
<b>U</b>	
UCT	University of Cape Town
<b>V</b>	
VAL	Valine
VEGF	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor
<b>W</b>	
WHO	World Health Organisation
<b>X</b>	
XP	Extra Precision

## ABSTRACT

Imidazolyl-ethanamine Schiff base ligands of the *N^N* type were prepared by condensation reaction of histamine dihydrochloride with *para*-substituted aldehyde derivatives to yield: (E)-N-benzylidene-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine **119a**, 4-((E)-(2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethylimino)methyl)phenol **119b**, *E*-N-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine **119c** and (E)-N-(4-nitrobenzylidene)-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine **119d**, which were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR spectroscopy and HRMS. 2D-NMR experiments (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY and 2D-HMBC) for representative ligand **119b** were performed to qualify success in the condensation reaction. An attempted reaction to coordinate Schiff base ligand **119c** to zinc chloride was carried out in an NMR tube and traces of the product were observed between 12 and 24 h monitoring using <sup>1</sup>H-NMR. Iodine promoted cyclocondensation reaction of anthranilamide and *para*-substituted aldehyde derivatives afforded 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **120a-e** and subsequent chloro-aromatisation reaction in SOCl<sub>2</sub> afforded electrophilic *C4-(Cl)* 2-aryl-4-chloro-quinazolines **121a-e** and the compounds were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and FTIR spectroscopic techniques. The 2-aryl-4-chloro-quinazolines served as prerequisites for de-chloro amination on the *C4-(Cl)* position by 2-amino-3-nitropyridine to yield 2-aryl-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine derivatives **123a-e** in good yield and the derivatives were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR and HRMS spectroscopic techniques. The *C4-(Cl)* position further allowed for Sonogashira cross-coupling with ethynylpyridine to yield 2-aryl-4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazoline derivatives **125a-e** which were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR and HRMS spectroscopic techniques. The 2-aryl-4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazoline served as ligands for coordination to monomeric *p*-cymene ruthenium(II) which yielded (η<sup>6</sup>-*p*-cymene)RuCl<sub>2</sub>-2-aryl-4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazoline derivatives **126a-e** in good yield. Compounds **126a-e** were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR and HRMS spectroscopic techniques. 2D-HMBC NMR of representative ligands **126c** and **126e** showed long range couplings from <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> to <sup>9</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> and this was confirmed by coordination induced shifts (CIS) ranging from 1 ppm to 11 ppm.

Compounds **119a-d**, **123a-e** and **125a-e** were inductively docked into the active receptors of tyrosine kinase (PDB:2SRC), *glutamine synthetase* (PDB:1HTO) and

*oxidoreductase* (PDB:3F8P). The docking scores obtained gave hits ranging from -5 to -10 Kcal/mol.

Compounds **119a-d**, **121a-e**, **123a-e**, **125a-e** and **126a-e** were assayed employing the broth-dilution method which gave promising anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity. Compound **125e** gave good activity of <0.244 µg/mL over 7 day and 14 day sampling. Coordination of ligands **125a-e** to Ru(II) group resulted in loss of activity, notably for ligand **125e**.



## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Inorganic chemistry is a field that combines with biochemistry to examine the role of metals in biological cell lines by studying metalloproteins and artificially induced metals [1]. On the other hand, biochemistry is aimed at understanding biological processes in the living cell, through the action of prodrugs i.e. inorganic or organic compounds [2]. The latter fields have grown significantly over the previous 40 years in an excess of 2 million scientific literature reports [3]. There are numerous literature articles in which reports aimed at combating the development and persistence of infectious and deadly diseases such as cholera, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), influenza, malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and cancer through chemotherapeutic techniques [4] have been recorded. Some of the successful drug candidates include transition metal containing cisplatin currently used to treat cancer [5]. Newly food and drug administration (FDA) approved drug candidates include vizimpro, pilifetro, krintafel and terizidone used to treat metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer, HIV-1 infection in adult patients, radical cure of plasmodium vivax malaria and multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis respectively [6].

A major challenge of the aforementioned drug regimen lies in the development of cellular mutations, wherein the prodrugs employed become inactive over time [7]. This has paved the way for drug-drug complementation in the form of molecular hybrids [8]. For example, ruthenium containing compounds (NAMI, NAMI-A, KP1019, KP1339 and KP418) have since entered phase II of clinical trials and are reported to show excellent abnormal-DNA damage and low toxicity towards normal cells [9]. At the same time, drug delivery nanocomposites are being designed to improve targeted therapy [10]. Targeted therapy is a newer type of chemotherapeutic treatment approach which employs chemical compounds to precisely identify and attack infected cells in biological systems. This therapy is complemented by *in silico* studies such as molecular modelling which looks at molecular kinetics and dynamics under molecular docking conditions [11-12].

Molecular docking is a computational process to study protein-ligand interactions and has proven to be a game changer in drug design. The process employs approaches such as ligand preparations (ligprep), conformational search, protein preparation,

ligand docking, virtual screening work-flow (VSW), high-throughput virtual screening (HTVS), induced-fit docking (IFD) of either extracted or synthetic compounds, etc. [12].

Method development for synthesis of the desired active bioinorganic compounds may include one-pot or multi-step non-sequential [13] or sequential [14] synthesis of carbo-substituted heterocycles and coordination to transition metal compounds. Reaction procedures employed may include condensation, cyclondensation, dehydrogenation, oxidation, amination, cross-coupling, mesylation [15], neutral or oxidative coordination of polar ligands to transition metals [16], etc.

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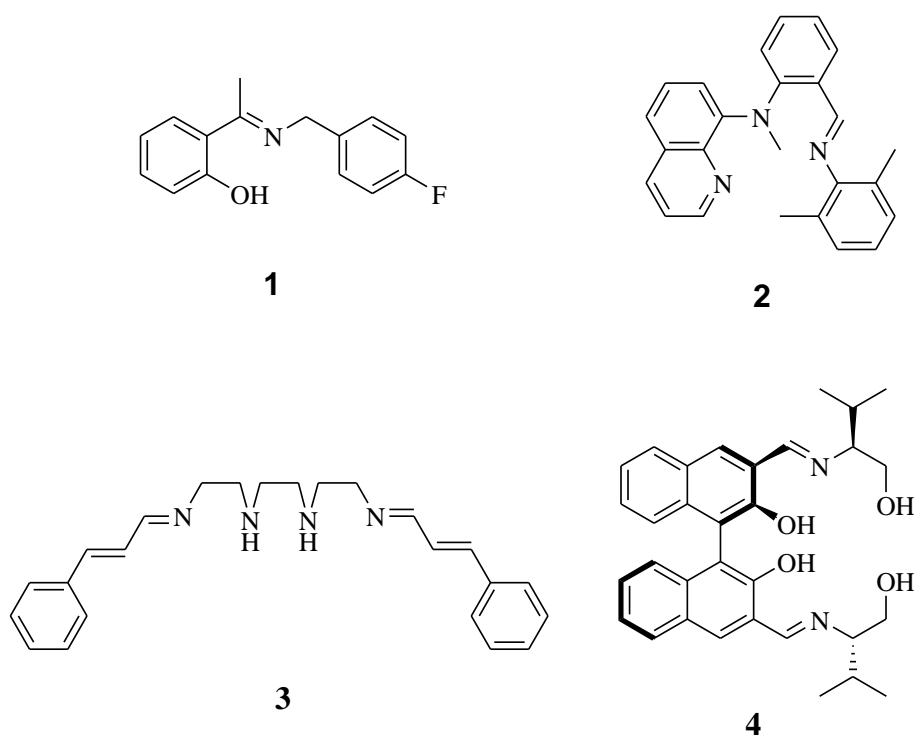
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## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Structure and Chemistry of Schiff base compounds

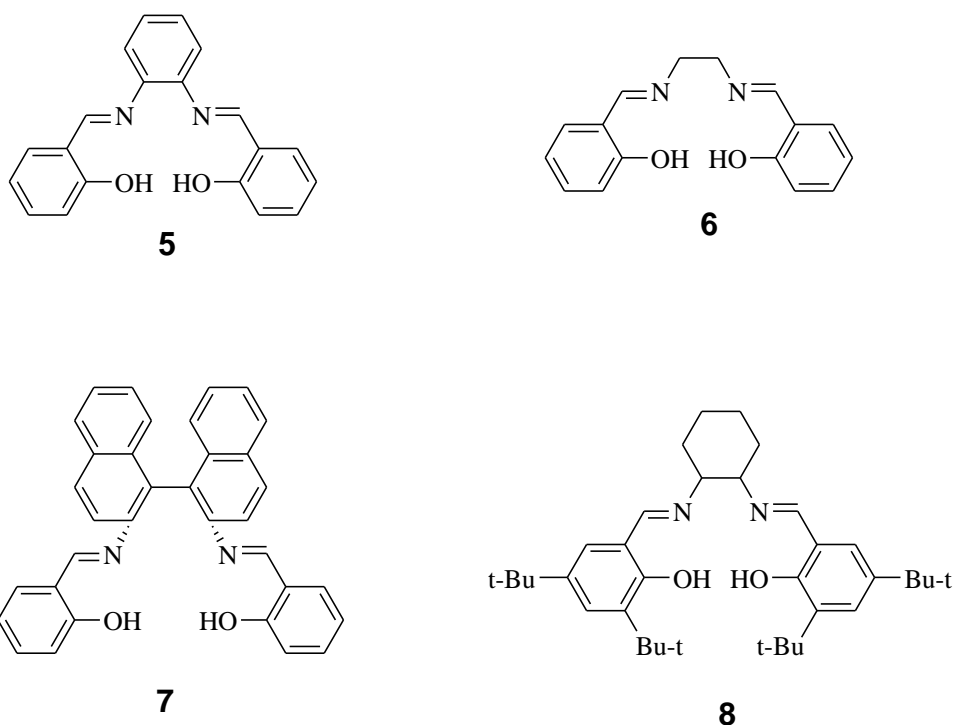
#### 2.1.1 Schiff base ligands

Schiff bases were discovered as azomethine conformers bearing an imino group of the form (-RN=CH-) in 1864 by a German scientist named Hugo Schiff [1]. Schiff base compounds are well studied due to their attractive chemical (catalysis, dyes and corrosion inhibition), physical (photophysics – emission and absorption) and biological (antitubercular, anticancer and antimalarial) properties [2]. The structural conformation of Schiff base ligands plays an important role in developing stable Schiff base transition metal complexes. The chelating ability of the Schiff base ligands is augmented by the presence of  $\pi$ -electrons in the  $sp^2$ -hybridised nitrogen of the azomethino group. The azomethino group imparts excellent chelating ability when combined with one or more electron donor atoms (sulphur, nitrogen, oxygen and phosphorous) to yield bi- 1, tri- 3, tetra- 3 and polydentate 4 coordination systems (Figure 2.1).



**Figure 2.1:** Schiff base ligands with different coordination geometries.

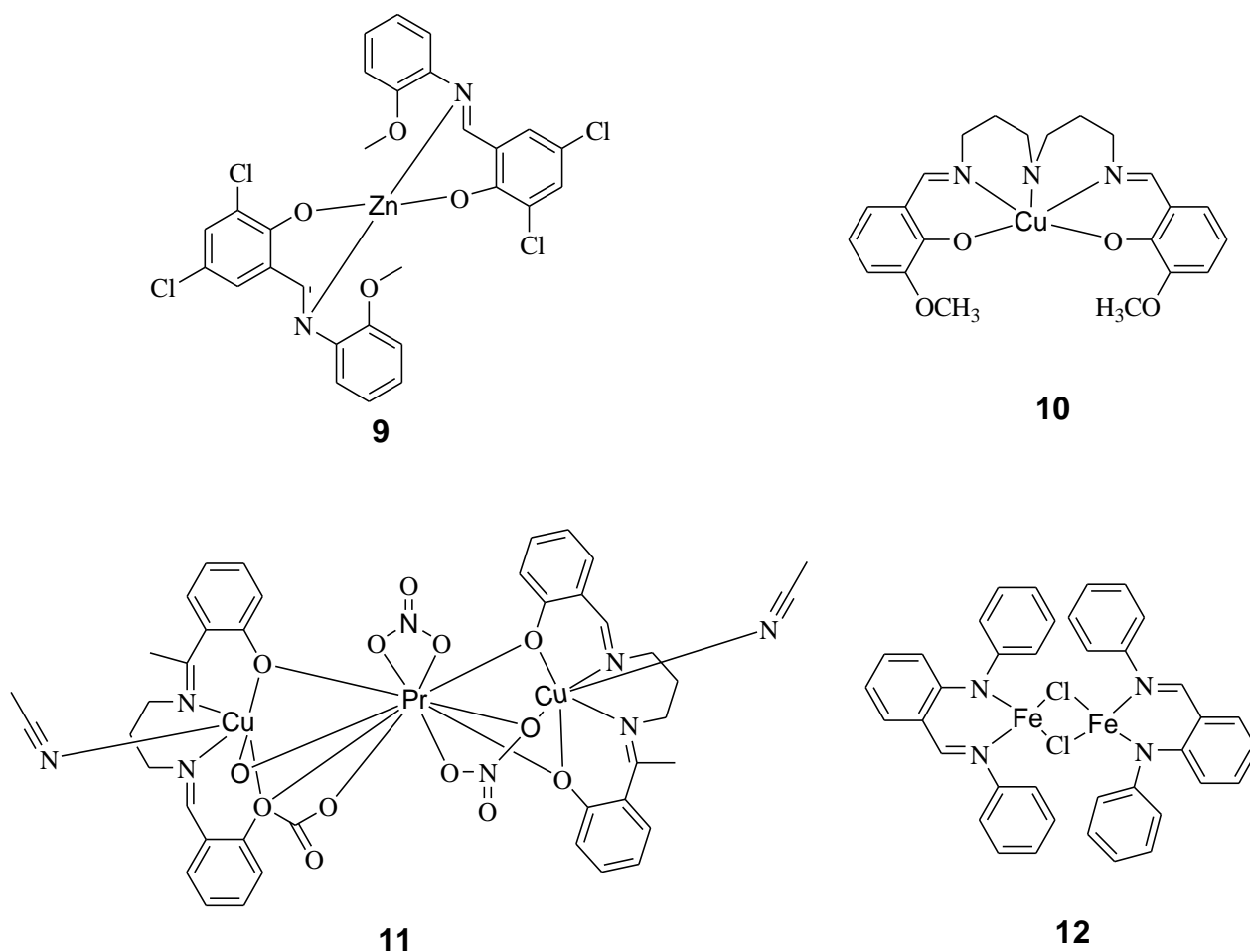
Salicylaldehyde or salen-type Schiff base ligands as shown in **Figure 2.2** are widely studied due to their ease of preparation. The condensed ligands produce a di-nitrogeno-dioxo  $N_2O_2$  or  $N^2O^2$  coordination system. These type of ligands accommodate transition metals with high oxidation numbers. The most popular type of coordination system is the tetradentate bis-Schiff base ligands [3].



**Figure 2.2:** Salen-type Schiff base ligands

### 2.1.2 Schiff base complexes

The aforementioned Schiff base ligands can coordinate a variety of transition metals to yield stable Schiff base complexes with various geometries (**Figure 2.3**) and redox properties. The oxidation and reduction states provides knowledge on stability and geometry of a metal complex. When the  $sp^2$ -hybridised nitrogen of the azomethino group donates electrons towards the metal centre,  $\pi$ -back donation from the metal is triggered and such electronic transitions can be registered as absorption or emission spectra [4-10].



**Figure 2.3:** Schiff base complexes of different geometry.

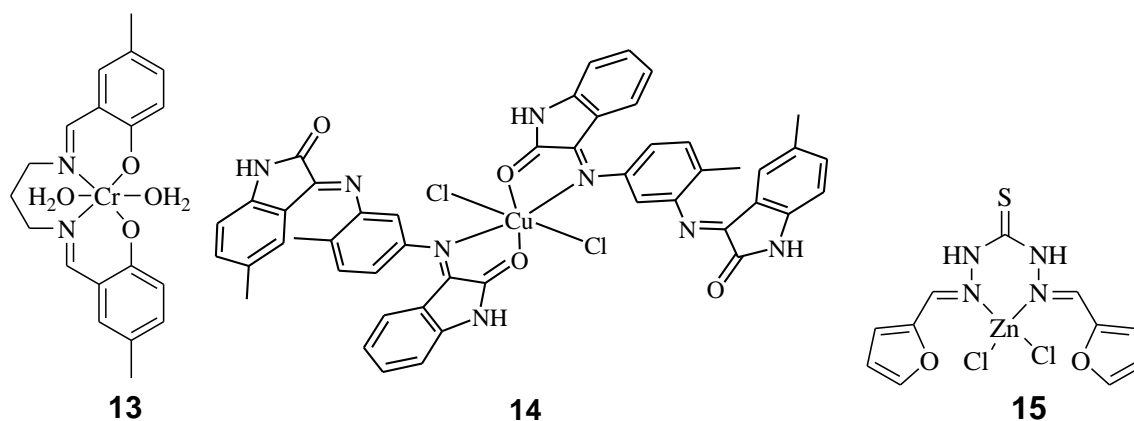
### 2.1.3 Biological application of Schiff base ligands and their complexes

Schiff base complexes possess biological activities including cardiovascular, antimycobacterial, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-leukemic and antibacterial activities depending on the type of metal present in the complex [11-17]. For example, 3d-transition metal Schiff base complexes containing metals such as copper, nickel, chromium, iron, cobalt and zinc have been reported to chelate DNA of various diseased cells [18-25].

Kumar and co-workers [26] reported  $N^N-O^O$ -tetracoordinated acyclic chromium(III) Schiff base complexes with antimicrobial activity. The antimicrobial activity of the [Cr(III)-(N,N'-bis(5-methyl-salicylaldehyde)-N,N'-bis-(3-amino-propyl)-ethylene-

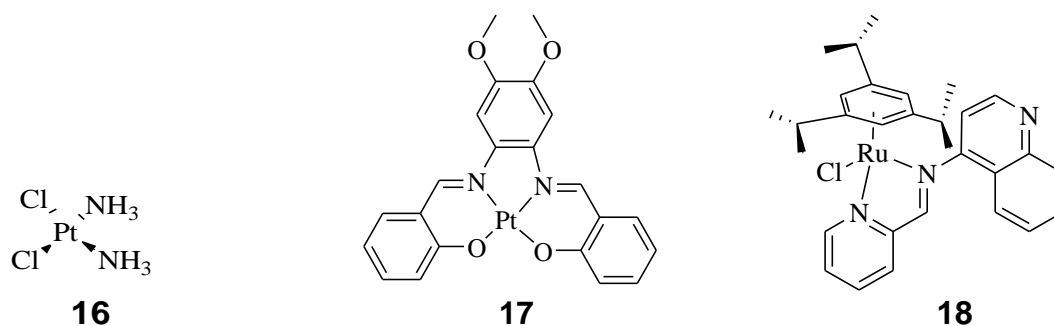
diamine)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> **13** was demonstrated by *in vitro* testing against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The latter demonstrated promising activity with inhibition zones ranging from 18 to 36 mg/mL. In addition, Pervez and co-workers [27] reported salen-derived copper(II) complexes as urease inhibitors. Urease is a nickel ion (Ni<sup>2+</sup>) dependent natural enzyme which catalyses the rate of urea hydrolysis to ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in bacteria, fungi and plants [28].

Medically, ureases have become important therapeutic targets for treatment of disease caused by urease-dependent pathogenic microorganisms [29]. Likewise, the antecedent copper(II) complexes *i.e.*, the dioxo-di-nitrogeno tetracoordinated bipyrimidal Bis-(3Z)-3,3'-[(4-methyl-1,3-phenylene)dinitrilo]bis(1,3-dihydro-2H-indol-2-one) copper(II) chloride complex **14** was tested against *Helicobacter pylori* cells and the latter demonstrated excellent anti-urease activity with an inhibition concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of 0.03 μM [27]. Furthermore, a bidentate, thiocarbohydrazone zinc(II) Schiff base complex, *i.e.* (1E,5E)-1,5-bis((furan-2-yl)methylene)-thiocarbonyl-hydrazide-zinc(II) chloride **15** was synthesised and tested for antibacterial activity against *Acinetobacter septicaemia* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The complex **15** tested positive against *Acinetobacter septicaemia*, with inhibition zones ranging from 8 – 16 mm [30]. Although the complexes in (Figure 2.4) demonstrate promising pharmaceutical importance, key candidates of the transition metal containing bioactive compounds have come from the platinum group metals (PGMs) [31]. Metals such as platinum (Pt) and ruthenium (Ru) are present in drug candidates applied in cancer treatment and some in clinical trials respectively [32].



**Figure 2.4:** Biologically active 3d-transition metal Schiff base complexes.

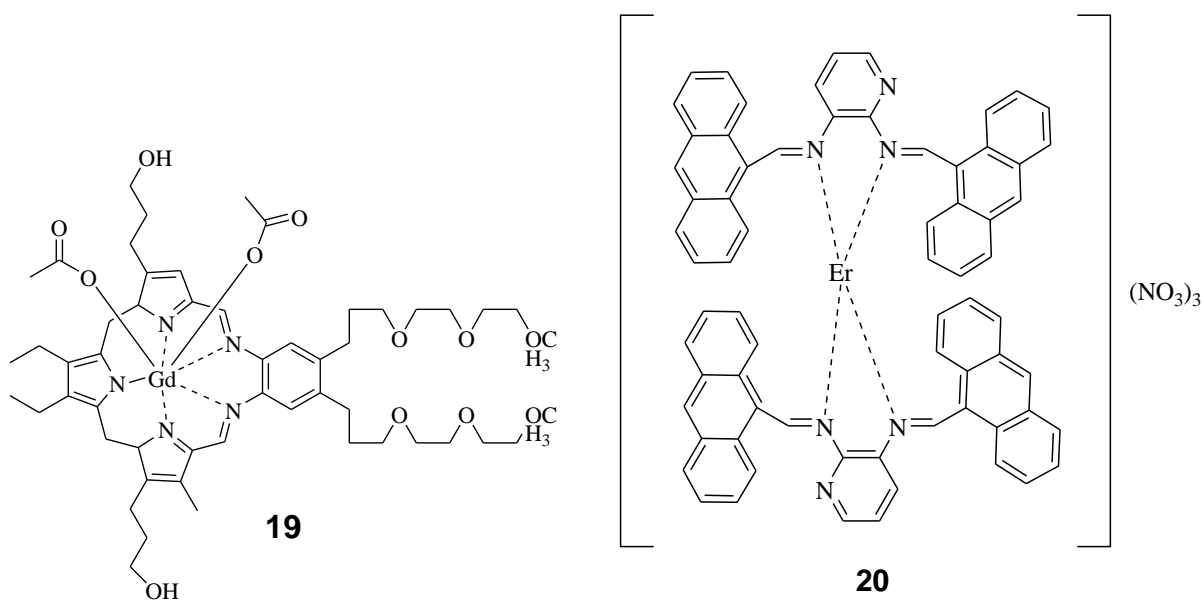
Bioinorganic Schiff base complexes containing the PGMs (**Figure 2.5**) are applied mostly in cancer therapy [33]. The motivation behind this application arises from the success of cisplatin **16**, however its use results in side effects such as hair loss, constipation, normal cell death and diarrhoea [34]. The coordination chemical properties of the Schiff base ligands plays an important role for targeted therapy. For example, Peng Wu and co-workers [35] designed and synthesised platinum(II) complexes with the ability to bind and inhibit *c-myc* by way of stabilising G-quadruplex DNA. The *c-myc* is a gene that encodes DNA-binding to proteins and promotes development of cancers when overexpressed in cells [36]. In this project, the authors tested the corresponding [N,N'-Bis(salicylidene)-4,5-methoxy-1,2-phenylenediamine] platinum(II) **17** against human hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2) and the Pt(II) complex proved cytotoxic with an inhibitory concentration of  $1.09 \pm 0.14 \mu\text{M}$ . In addition, Mun and co-workers [37] reported p53 independent ruthenium(II) arene Schiff base (RAS) complexes with promising anticancer activity. The p53 gene is a tumor suppressor involved in the intercession of cellular DNA repair and neurotoxicity of anticancer drugs. However, it can be deactivated due to mutations. The antecedent RAS complexes are p53 independent, meaning, their mechanism of action is non-binding to the p53 gene. To qualify their theory, the authors designed and prepared “three-legged piano-stool” quinolone derived ruthenium(II) arene Schiff base complexes, *i.e.*  $[(\eta^6\text{-}1,3,5\text{-Triisopropylbenzene})\text{RuCl}(\text{N}-(2\text{-quinolinylmethylene})\text{-}1\text{-naphthyl-amine})]\text{Cl}$  **18** which was tested against MCF7 human cancer cell lines and tested active with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $2.93 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{M}$ . The promising anticancer activity of these PGMs proved insightful and opened doors for research in the coordination chemistry and biological evaluation of Lanthanide Schiff base complexes thereof [38].



**Figure 2.5:** Cisplatin and biological active PGM Schiff base complexes.



Lanthanides are commonly referred to as rare earth elements and comprise of 15 elements. Lanthanide(III) coordinated compounds play an important role as antibacterial agents, in cancer diagnosis and for imaging diagnostics therapy [41]. Radioactive lanthanides and their complexes are reported to find application in neoplastic diseases [42]. For instance, a heptagonal gadolinium(III) complex bearing texaphyrin produces reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as  $O_2^-$ ,  $H_2O_2$  or  $OH$  when reacted with antioxidants. The generated species bind proteins and lead to their destruction and cell apoptosis [43]. Likewise, the Gd(III) Schiff base complex *i.e.* gadolinium(III) texaphyrin **19** (Figure 2.6) was evaluated for anticancer activity against human colon cancer cell lines (HT29) *in vitro* [44] and the study revealed progressive cell killing at a concentration of  $2.2 \pm 0.03 \mu\text{M}$ . Similarly, Andiappan and co-workers [45] prepared distorted square planar erbium(III) Schiff base complexes and the corresponding [bis-((15E,22E)-N<sup>2</sup>-((anthracen-10-yl)methylene)-N<sup>3</sup>-((anthracen-9-yl)methylene) pyridine-2,3-diamine)erbium(III)]nitrate **20** (Figure 2.6) was tested against MCF7 cancer cell lines. The latter proved cytotoxic by killing 20% of cancerous cells at 10  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

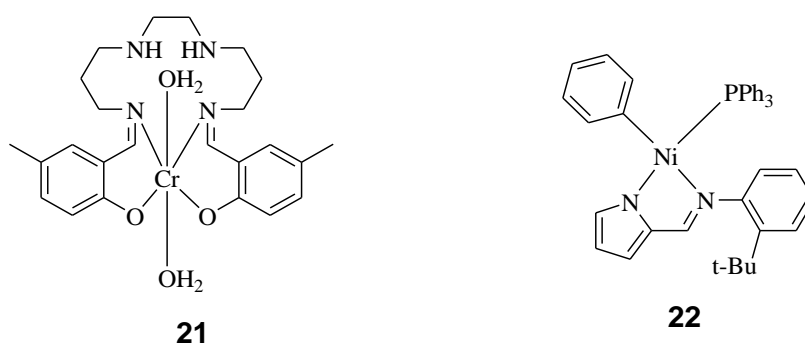


**Figure 2.6.** Anticancerous lanthanide (III) Schiff base complexes.

## 2.1.4 Industrial application of Schiff base complexes

### 2.1.4.1 Catalysts

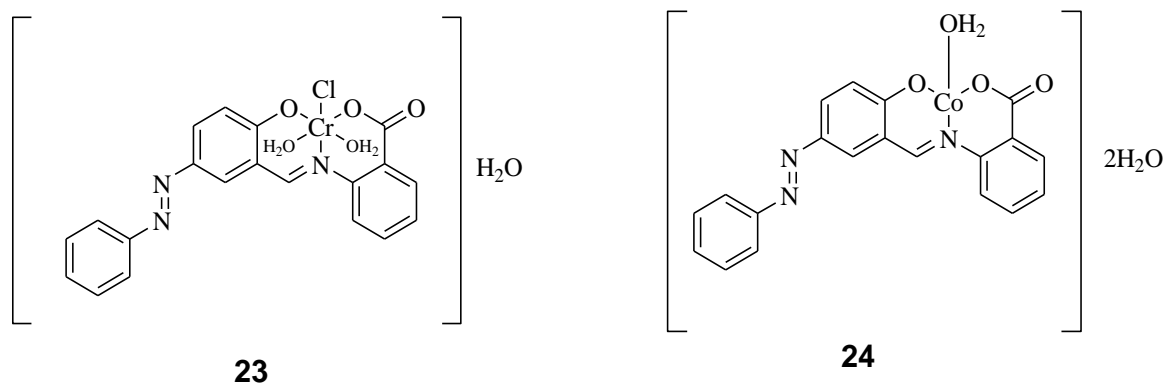
Hydroxy benzaldehyde derived Co(III), Fe(III) and Ru(III) Schiff base complexes are used in hydrogen peroxide promoted aerobic oxidation of cyclohexane to cyclohexanol and cyclohexanone [46-47]. In addition, chromium-salen complexes **21** (Figure 2.7) are reported to take part in heterogeneous catalysis, [48] by catalysing epoxidation of cis-olefins. Furthermore, *N,N*-bischelated nickel(II) Schiff base complexes **22** (Figure 2.8) are reported to act as effective catalytic precursors for active olefin oligomerisation [49].



**Figure 2.7:** Schiff base complexes with catalytic activity.

### 2.1.4.2 Schiff base compounds as dyes

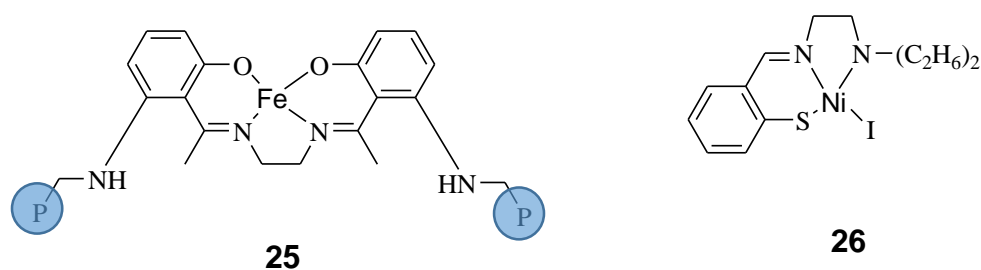
Azomethine complexes of chromium and cobalt are reported to give fast colours to wools, leathers and food packages [50]. Similarly, chromium(III) azo-Schiff base complexes **23** (Figure 2.8) are applied as dyes for cellulose polyester textiles [51]. Some cobalt(II) complexes **24** (Figure 2.8) reported are used in dyeing mass polyfibres [52].



**Figure 2.8:** Dyes of Schiff base complexes.

### 2.1.4.3 Schiff base compounds as polymeric materials

Ethylenediamine promotes photochemical degradation of natural rubber to produce amine terminated liquid natural rubber (ATNR) in solution [53]. The reaction between ATNR and glyoxal polymeric Schiff bases **25** (Figure 2.9) enhances aging resistance [54]. Nickel(III) Schiff base complexes with a tridentate coordination system **26** (Figure 2.9) are reported to initiate emulsion and co-polymerisation of diene and vinyl monomers [55].



**Figure 2.9:** Schiff base complexes with polymerisation properties.

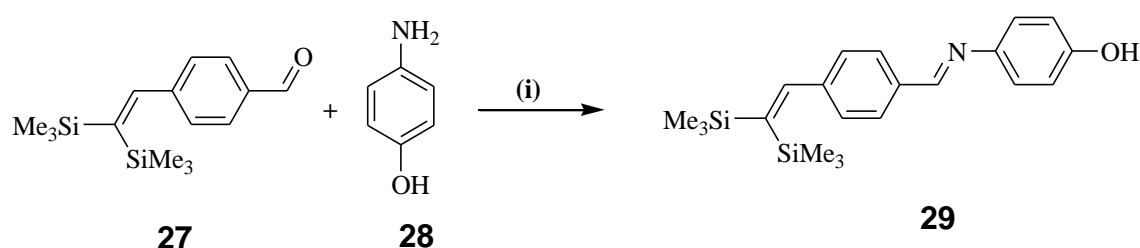
## 2.2 Synthesis of Schiff base ligands

The general method for the synthesis of Schiff base or imine derivatives involves a direct condensation reaction between a primary amine and an aldehyde derivative in basic or acidic conditions [56]. The original synthesis reported by Hugo Schiff involved the condensation of a carbonyl compound with an amine under azeotropic distillation [1] conditions. Molecular sieves were then used to completely remove the by-product (water) formed during the reaction. In the 1990s, an *in situ* method for drying water

was applied using salts such as sodium hydrogen carbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>), sodium carbonate (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and magnesium sulphate (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) [5]. In 2004, Chakraborti and co-workers [16] revealed that the competence of these methods is dependent on the use of highly electrophilic carbonyl compounds and strongly nucleophilic amines. They proposed as an alternative, the use of substances that function as Bronsted-Lowry or Lewis acids to activate the carbonyl group of aldehydes and catalyse the nucleophilic attack by amines, and dehydrate the system, thus eliminating water as the final step.

### 2.2.1 Methods for the synthesis of *n*-carbon spacer Schiff base ligands (*n* = 1, 2 and 3)

Multiple synthetic approaches towards Schiff base derivatives have been described in literature [57]. Problems such as hydrolysis [61] and moisture susceptibility [62] are reported to bring about structural decomposition and encouraging reverse reaction. Synthetic approaches such as racemization by aza-Michael/ retro-aza-Michael addition [58], aerobic oxidation [59], amine reduction [60] etc, are aimed at solving the problems associated with the *imine* bond of the Schiff base compounds. Safa and co-workers [63] reported organosilicon type Schiff base derivatives, prepared by a direct condensation of 4-(2,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)vinyl)benzaldehyde **27** and 4-aminophenol **28** refluxed in ethanol for 15 hours to afford the corresponding (E)-4-(4-(2,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)vinyl)-benzylideneamino)-phenol **29** in low yields ranging from 33 - 45% (**Scheme 2.1**).

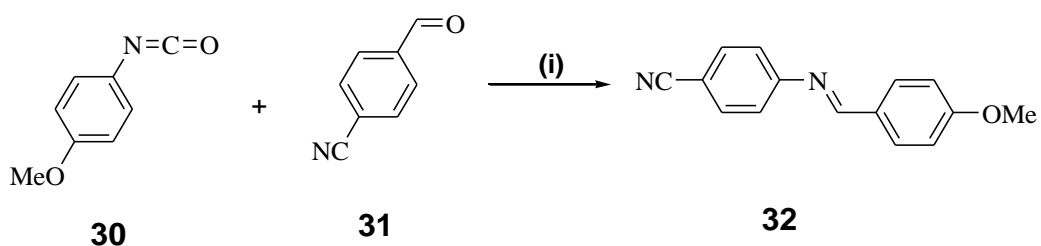


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Ethanol, reflux, 24 h.

**Scheme 2.1:** Synthesis of (E)-4-(4-(2,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)vinyl)benzylideneamino)-phenol **29** via a direct condensation reaction of organosilicon aldehyde derivatives and a primary amine.

A facile and heatless metathesis reaction of aryl isocyanates and aldehydes yielding imino derivatives of Schiff bases was described by Kumar and Samuelson [64]. The metathesis reaction is catalysed by square planar, group IV metal alkoxides. The

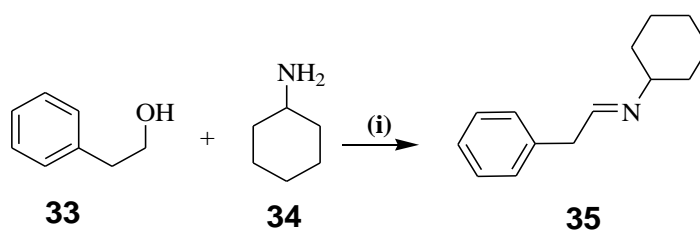
reaction time is accelerated by an insertion step leading to the formation of carbamate. As a demonstration, the authors reacted 1-isocyanato-4-methoxybenzene **30** and *para*-cyanobenzaldehyde derivatives **31** in the presence of  $\text{Zr}(\text{OMe})_4$ , solvated by a combination of THF and water v/v 3:1. The reaction was then stirred at room temperature for 60 h to yield 70% of the corresponding (E)-4-(4-methoxybenzylideneamino)benzonitrile **32** (**Scheme 2.2**).



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{Zr}(\text{OMe})_4$ , rt, 60 h, THF- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**Scheme 2.2:** Group IV metal alkoxide catalysed synthesis of corresponding (E)-4-(4-methoxybenzylideneamino)benzonitrile **32**.

A combination of polymer-supported cyanoborohydride (PSCBH) and manganese dioxide in a one-pot type conversion of alcohols into imines was reported by Blackburn and Taylor [65]. The manganese oxide acts as an oxidant *in situ* and thus adhering to the oxidation-imine formation-reduction sequence and converts the alcohols to tertiary amines. As an example, the authors reacted 2-phenylethanol **33** and cyclohexanamine **34** in the presence of  $\text{MnO}$ / PSCBH in two portions at reflux temperature in DCM to afford 95% of the corresponding (E)-N-(2-phenylethylidene)cyclohexanamine **35** (**Scheme 2.3**).

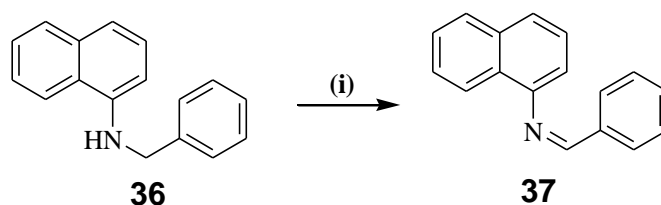


*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{MnO}$ /PSCBH, 60 °C, 24 h, DCM.

**Scheme 2.3:** Manganese oxide catalysed one-pot oxidation-imine formation-reduction of alcohols to imines.

### 2.2.2. Indirect methods for the synthesis of Schiff base derivatives

Amines undergo aerobic oxidation to afford *imino* Schiff base derivatives by way of introducing unsaturation between the amino C- $sp^3$ -carbon and nitrogen [66]. For example, Wang and co-workers [67] presented a palladium catalysed selective aerobic oxidation reaction of N-benzyl-naphthalen-1-amine **36** to yield 99% of the corresponding (Z)-N-benzylidenenaphthalen-1-amine **37** (Scheme 2.4). Synthesis of **37** involves palladium(II) chloride ( $PdCl_2$ ) as catalyst, sodium acetate (NaOAc) as a base, triphenylphosphine ( $PPh_3$ ) as a ligand, oxygen ( $O_2$ ) and dimethylformamide (DMF) as a solvent. The aforementioned reagents were stirred at room temperature for 16 hours in the presence of **36**.

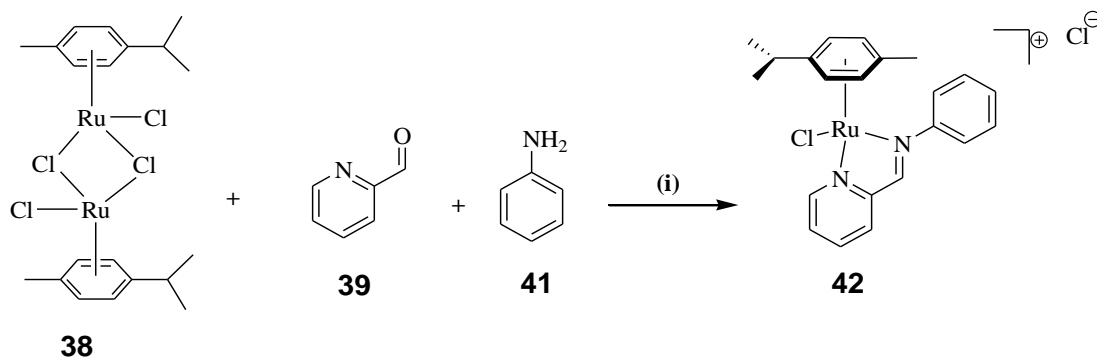


Reagents and conditions: (i)  $PdCl_2$ , NaOAc,  $PPh_3$ ,  $O_2$ , rt, DMF.

**Scheme 2.4:** Palladium catalysed aerobic oxidation of amines to *imino* Schiff base derivatives.

### 2.3 Synthesis of Schiff base complexes

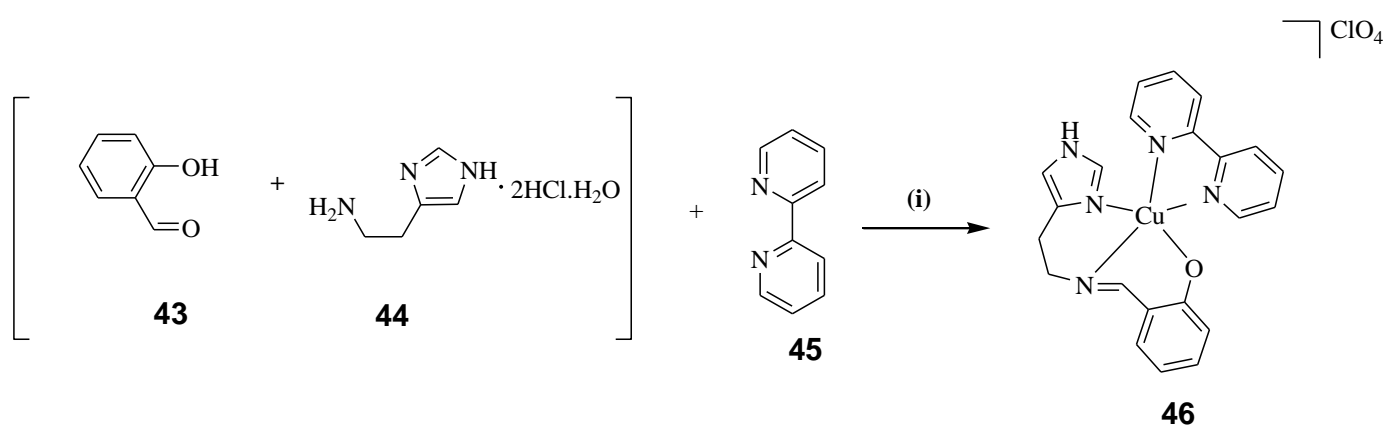
The synthesis of Schiff base complexes generally involves treatment of metal salts with Schiff base ligands under moisture free conditions [68]. However, for Schiff base complexes with catalytic application, a *one-pot* reaction procedure is followed [69]. For example, a purification free, three-component assembly (3CA) of dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38**, picolinaldehyde **39** and 4-aminobenzamidine **41** afforded 74% of the corresponding  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})RuCl((E)\text{-}4\text{-}((\text{pyridin-2-yl})\text{methyleneamino})\text{benzamidine})Cl]$  **42** (scheme 2.5). The synthesis of **42** is effected by continuous stirring at room temperature for 36 h in DMSO- $d_6$ /D $_2$ O mixture 1:1 v/v [70].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) DMSO- $d_6$ /D $_2$ O (1:1 v/v), 36 h, rt.

**Scheme 2.5:** One-pot, three-component assembly (3CA) synthesis of RAS complex.

A one-pot preparation of ternary pyridyl copper(II) Schiff base complexes was reported by Banerjee and co-workers [71]. The pre-mentioned Cu(II) complexes were prepared in a basic medium by refluxing 1:1 mmol of salicylaldehyde **43** and histamine dihydrochloride **44** in methanol for 1 h, after which another 1:1 solution of copper(II) nitrate and 2-(pyridin-2-yl)pyridine **45** was added slowly and the solution was stirred for an additional 1 h (**scheme 2.6**) to yield 78% of 2-(pyridin-2-yl)pyridine-2-((E)-(2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethylimino)methyl)phenol Cu(II) chloride **46**.

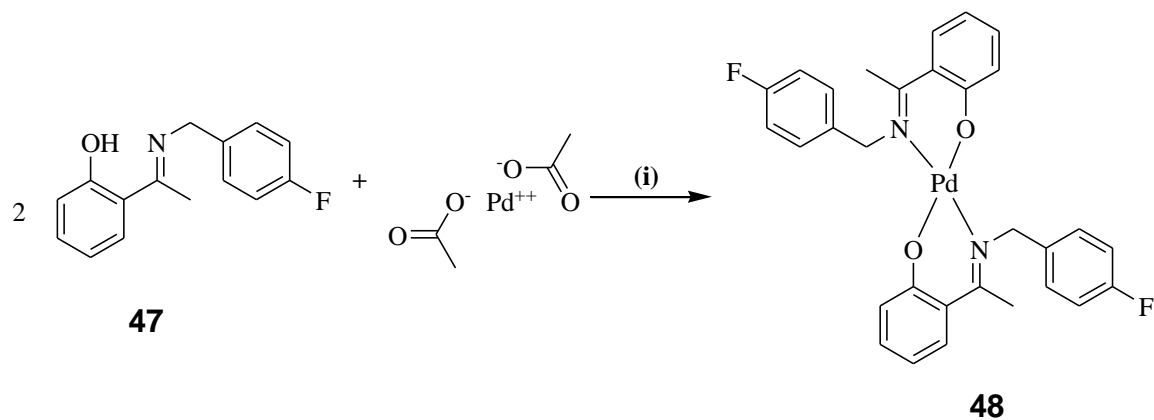


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) TEA, Cu(OAc) $_2$ ·H $_2$ O, MeOH, heat 1h, rt 1h.

**Scheme 2.6:** One-pot synthesis of ternary pyridyl copper(II) complexes.

Tajuddin and co-workers [72] described square planar palladium(II) complexes with potential catalytic activity in Suzuki coupling reactions. The tetracoordinated Pd(II) complexes were synthesised by refluxing the corresponding 2-((E)-1-(4-fluorobenzylimino)ethyl)phenol **47** and palladium(II) acetate **48** in ethanol for 5 h

(Scheme 2.7) to yield 87.8% of bis-2-((E)-1-(4-fluorobenzylimino)ethyl)phenolpalladium(II) **49**.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Ethanol, 5 h, heat.

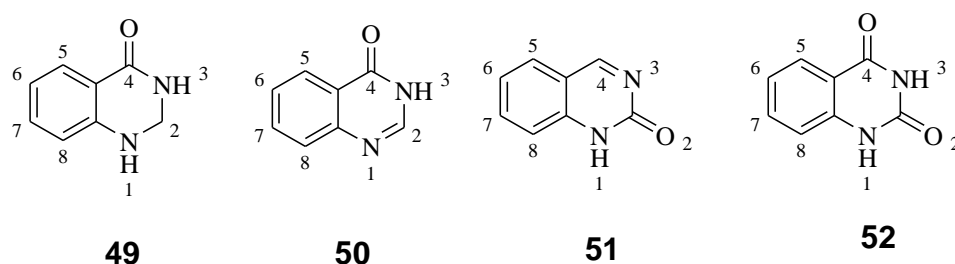
**Scheme 2.7:** Square planar palladium(II) Schiff base complexes.



## 2.4 Quinazolines

### 2.4.1 Structure and biological application of quinazoline derivatives

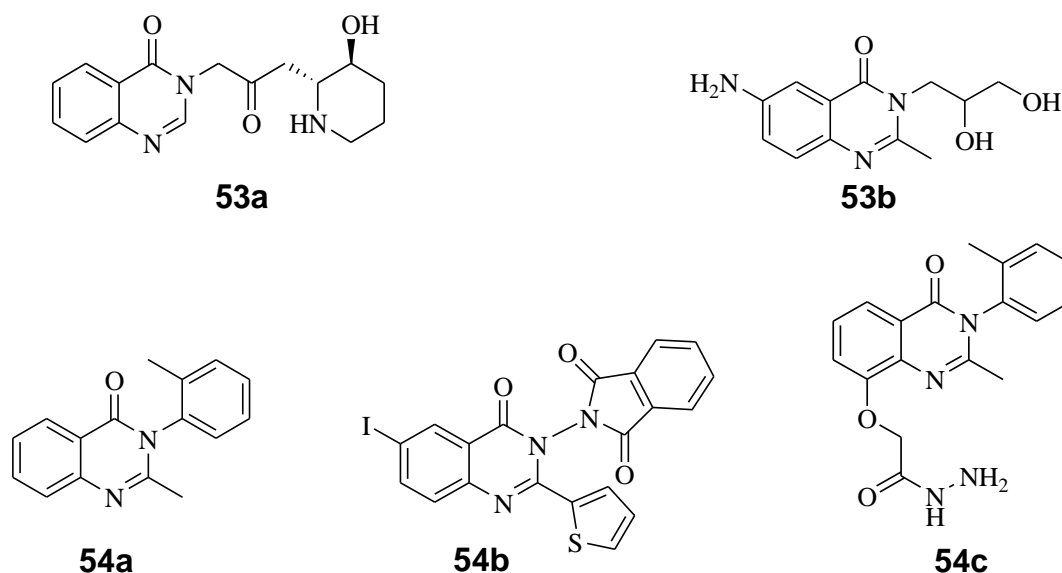
Nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds exert a global dominance in organic chemistry research because of their important biological and medicinal applications [73-74]. Among the pharmaceutically essential organo-nitrogen heterocycles, fused pyrimidines formally found in a variety of natural products possess a broad spectrum of biological properties. These consist of antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, antimalarial, anticancer, anti-inflammatory and analgesics, antidepressant, anticonvulsant, antioxidant, antileishmanial and antiobesity activities [75-76]. Quinazolines which form part of this investigation, are made up of two fused six-membered simple aromatic rings, a benzene ring and a pyrimidine ring with one carbonyl group, [i.e. 2,3-dihydroquinazoline-4(1*H*)-one **49**, quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one **50**, 3,4-dihydroquinazoline-2(1*H*)-one **51**] or two carbonyl groups [i.e. quinazoline-2,4(1*H*, 3*H*)-dione **52**] on the pyrimidine framework (**Figure 2.10**).



**Figure 2.10:** Generalised examples of the quinazoline framework.

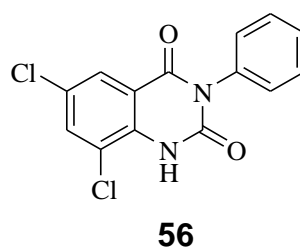
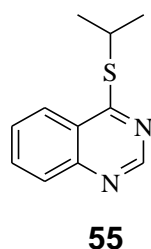
Quinazoline frameworks, the 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones and quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one are the most experimented due to their biological properties and potential application in material sciences [77]. The quinazoline alkaloid termed Febrifugine **53a** (**Figure 2.11**), for example, was the first to be discovered as an extract from the Chinese plant *Dichora Fibrifuga* in 1950 and was reported to exhibit antimalarial activity [78]. A drawback was revealed in its clinical trials as the latter was found to cause gastrointestinal disorders [79]. This drawback made way for the search of Febrifugine analogues with escalated effectiveness and reduced side effects [80]. A hydrated and aminated Febrifugine derivative, Diproqualone **53b** (**Figure 2.11**), was synthesised and is currently used for the treatment of inflammatory pain resulting from osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis [81]. Methaqualone **54a**, an important derivative

in the field of synthetic anticonvulsants was reported by Arora and co-workers [82]. The modification of **54a** was carried out by El-Azab and co-workers [83] to obtain quinazolinone scaffold **54b** which proved to be 2-fold more active than **54a**. According to the findings of El-Azab and co-workers, 8-substituted-4(3*H*)-quinazolinone **54c** was demonstrated to be a better anticonvulsant activity with lower toxicity than **54a** and **54b**.



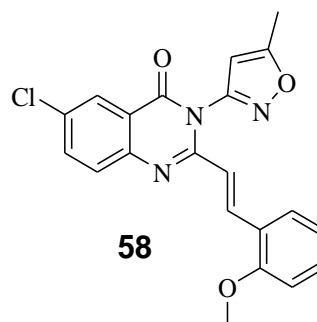
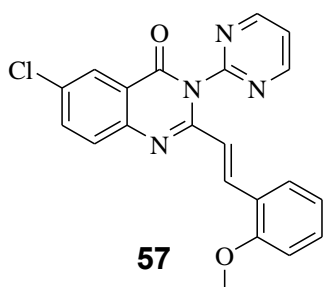
**Figure 2.11:** Examples of biologically active derivatives of febrifugine.

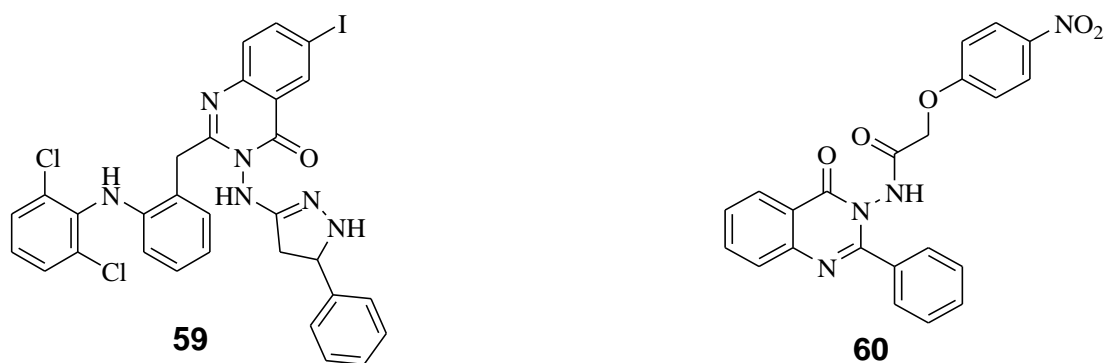
The 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-one framework offers the opportunity for introduction of a vast degree of unsaturation in the heterocyclic ring through dehydration and subsequent aromatisation to afford corresponding quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones and quinazoline derivatives respectively. Quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one based compounds are reported to possess antitubercular activity [84-85] with some derivatives exhibiting sedative properties [86]. For example, 4-(isopropylthio)quinazolinone **55** (Figure 2.12) previously prepared by acylation of the corresponding quinazolin-4-thiol with 2-chloropropane was reported to display significant antibacterial activities against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains [88]. In addition, 6,8-dichloro-3-phenylquinazolin-2,4(1*H*,3*H*)-dione **56** prepared by chlorination of the corresponding anthranilic acid, followed by cyclisation and acylation of the corresponding 6,8-dichloro-3*H*-benzo[*e*][1,3]oxazine-2,4-dione with chlorobenzene was reported to show activity against Multi-Drug resistant MDR-TB [87].



**Figure 2.12:** Examples of biologically active quinazoline derivatives

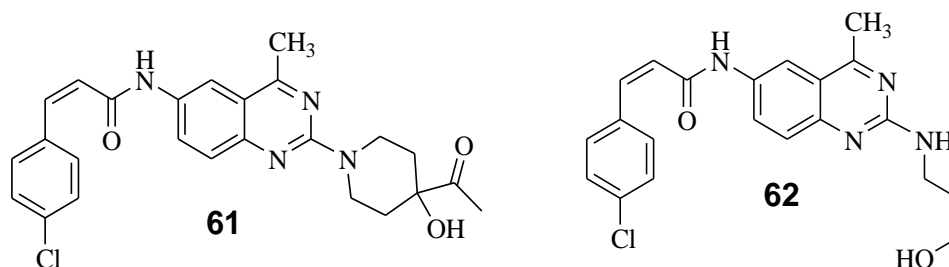
The *keto*-group of the quinazoline-4-ones was reported to be a crucial DNA-chelator during *in silico* studies [89]. As a result, many quinazoline compounds holding the *keto*-group, particularly on the 4-position have been reported to demonstrate anticancer, anti-proliferative, anti-sedative, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activities [90]. For example two derivatives, 2-(2-methoxystyryl)-6-chloro-3-(pyrimidin-2-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **57** and 2-(2-methoxystyryl)-6-chloro-3-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **58** previously prepared by an acetic acid supported reflux of the corresponding 2-methylquinazolines with benzoic aldehyde derivatives were tested for anti-leukemic activity and the latter reported good activity [91]. Moreover, Patel and co-workers [92] reported 2-(2-(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)benzyl)-3-(4,5-dihydro-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-6-iodoquinazolin-4(3H)-one **59** derivatives which showed positive *in vitro* antibacterial activity against both gram negative and gram positive. In addition to quinazolinone containing bactericides, Cakici and co-workers [93] reported 2-(4-nitrophenoxy)-N-(4-oxo-2-phenylquinazolin-3(4H)-yl)acetamide **60** which was prepared by reacting the corresponding 2-chloro-N-(4-oxo-2-phenylquinazolin-3(4H)-yl)acetamide with different substituted benzyl alcohols. The latter was tested for antibacterial activity against *Salmonella typhimurium* by employing a cup plate method measuring inhibition zone, the compound casted excellent antibacterial activity.





**Figure 2.13:** Examples of biologically active quinazoline-4-ones.

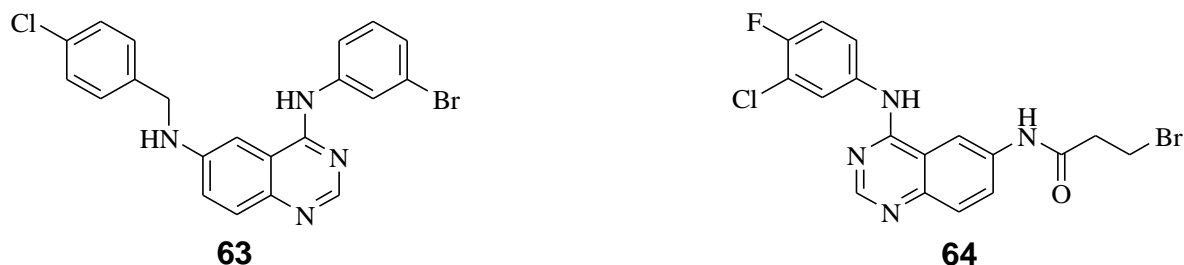
4-methylquinazolines are a rare class of quinazoline analogues which are not as documented as the 4-quinazolinone derivatives. The (Z)-N-(2-(3-hydroxypropylamino)-4-methylquinazolin-6-yl)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylamide **61** and (Z)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-(2-(4-cyclopropyl-4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-4-methylquinazolin-6-yl)-acrylamide **62** were reported to act as antagonists for melanin concentrating hormone receptor 1 (MCHR1) *in vivo* and were therefore applied as antiobesity agents [94].



**Figure 2.14:** Examples of biologically active 4-methylquinazolines.

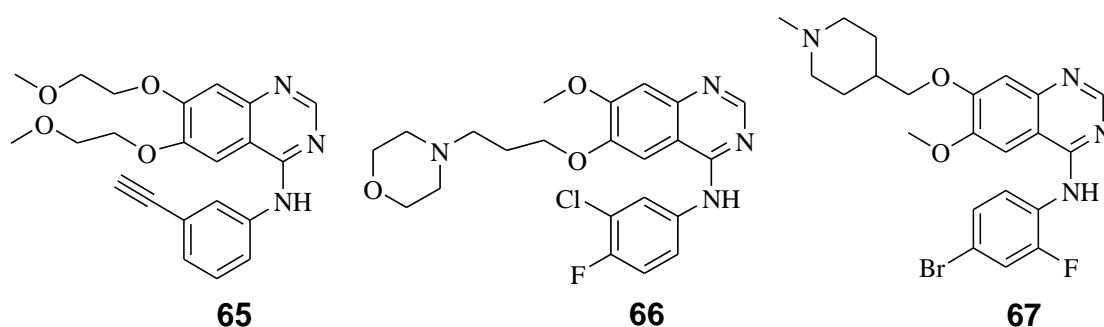
4-Anilinoquinazolines extensively studied as a results of bioactive quinazoline analogues due to their activity against EGFR (Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor), reversible and irreversible kinase inhibition capabilities [95]. The 4-anilinoquinazolines are reported to exhibit anticancer activity against lung, breast, prostate, brain and liver cancer cells [96]. For example, the N<sup>6</sup>-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N<sup>4</sup>-(3-bromophenyl)quinazoline-4,6-diamine **63** was tested for the ability to prompt apoptosis in the Hep G2 liver cancer cell lines. Both *in silico* and *in vitro* studies qualified the latter as having both antiproliferative and EGFR-TK inhibitory activity [97]. In addition, N-(4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenylamino)quinazolin-6-yl)-3-bromopropanamide **64** showed

anti-cell proliferation against A431 breast cancer cell lines and is also reported to participate in cell proliferation and autophosphorylation inhibition of EGFR *in vitro* [98].



**Figure 2.15:** Examples of 4-anilinoquinazolines with EGFR inhibitory properties.

The study of 4-anilinoquinazoline derivatives as inhibitors of tyrosine kinase activity of EGFR resulted in the approval of Gefitinib **65** for the treatment of lung cancer [99]. Protein tyrosine kinases are enzymes involved in many cellular processes and are known to be activated in cancer cells to drive tumour growth and progression. Blocking tyrosine kinase activity therefore represents a coherent approach to cancer therapy. Erlotinib or Tarceva **66**, a 4-anilinoquinazoline derivative bearing an alkynyl moiety on the aniline ring, is also known as a tyrosine kinase inhibitor which acts on the epidermal growth factor receptor [100]. A multiple approach by a marketed drug vandetanib **67** is reported to act against three targets (1) vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR), (2) EGFR and (3) inhibits RET-tyrosine kinase activity, an important growth driver in certain types of thyroid cancer [101].



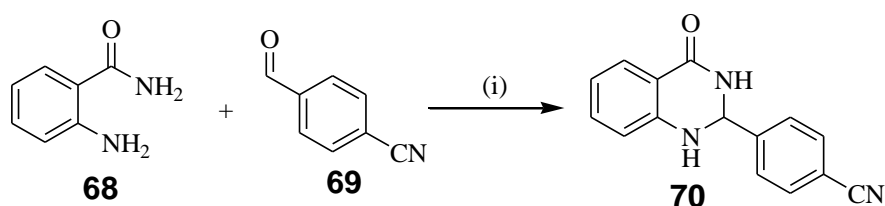
**Figure 2.16:** Examples of cancer active marketed 4-anilinoquinazoline derivatives.

## 2.4.2 Synthesis of quinazolin-4-one derivatives

The primary method for the preparation of quinazoline derived chemical compounds involves the cyclocondensation of anthranilamide and aldehyde derivatives in the presence of iodine [102], phosgene [103], NaOBr [104] to name a few.

### 2.4.2.1 Methods for the synthesis of quinazolin-4(1H)-ones

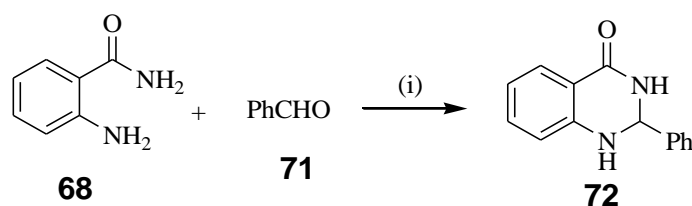
A variety of methods for the synthesis of quinazolin-4(1H)-ones have been presented in literature including cyclisation, amidation and metal promoted reactions. Tajbakhsh and co-workers [105] described a straightforward procedure for the synthesis of 2,3-dihydroquinazolinones. The reaction mixture involves an inexpensive and non-toxic catalyst *i.e.* H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub> (1 mol%) which aids a cyclisation reaction at reflux temperature in water between anthranilamide **68**, aldehyde derivative and 4-formylbenzonitrile **69** to afford the corresponding 4-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxoquinazolin-2-yl)benzonitrile **70** in high yields (**Scheme 2.8**). The catalytic system holds several advantages including short reaction time of 2 h, easy work-up and green procedure avoiding toxic solvents.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub> (1 mol%), 80 °C, reflux, 2 h.

**Scheme 2.8:** H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub> catalysed synthesis of 4-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxoquinazolin-2-yl)benzonitrile **70**.

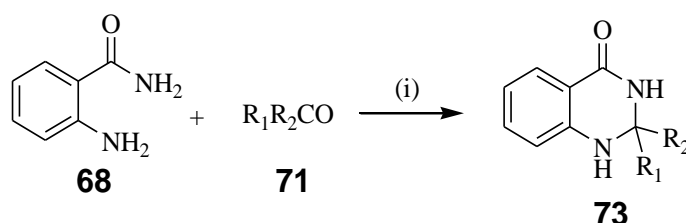
Metal-free cyclisation of anthranilamide **68** and aldehyde derivatives **71** using SO<sub>3</sub>-H-functionalised ionic liquid catalysts under solvation-induced proton transfer afforded 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1H)-one derivatives **72** (**Scheme 2.9, on page 23**) [106]. Methane-sulfonic acid is a Brønsted acid which promotes cyclo-condensation via aerobic oxidation.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Methane-sulfonic acid, O<sub>2</sub>, EtOH, reflux, 2 h.

**Scheme 2.9:** Brønsted acid-promoted aerobic oxidation via solvation-induced proton transfer: Metal-free construction of dihydroquinazolinones

With the escalating amount of organic pollutants found in drinking water, green chemistry has been documented as the future of science in organic synthesis [107]. Wang and co-workers [108], reported a novel synthetic procedure for the synthesis of 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones **73**, which involves the grinding of anthranilamide **68** with aldehyde derivatives **71** at ambient temperature in the presence of cerium(IV) ammonium nitrate (CAN) and water. The reaction is driven to completion by heating at 60 °C (**Scheme 2.10**). Cerium(IV) ammonium nitrate (CAN) is a flexible single-electron oxidant which promotes the cyclisation of anthranilamide **68** derivatives with carbonyl containing compounds. The grinding step was found to be vital in increasing the surface area and resulted in high yields.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) CAN, Grinding.

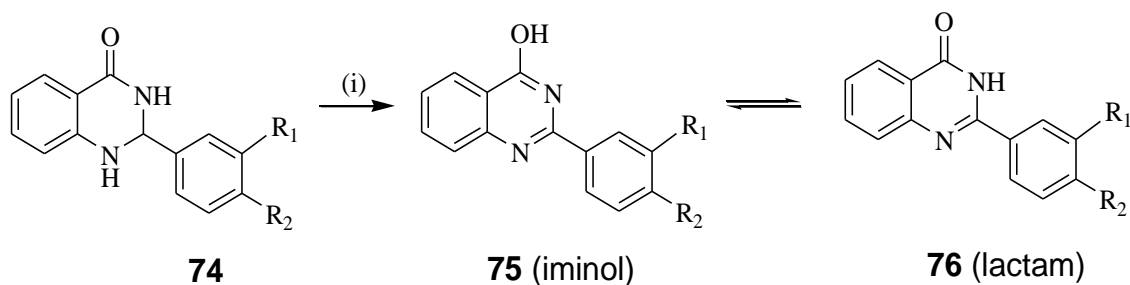
**Scheme 2.10:** CAN-mediated synthesis of dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones

#### 2.4.2.2 Methods for the synthesis of quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones

Dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones undergo tautomerism to afford the corresponding quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones through dehydrogenation aided by oxidising agents introducing unsaturation between *N*-1 and C-2 of the scaffold. Otherwise, quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones can be prepared directly in a single-pot procedure from anthranilamide derivatives and various carbonyl compounds by oxidative cyclocondensation or transition metal-catalyzed reactions [109].

### 2.4.2.3 Indirect methods involving dehydrogenation of quinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones

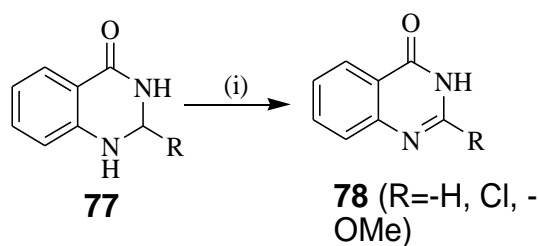
The 2-phenylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one derivatives serve as an example as they are prepared by the oxidation of dihydrogenated derivatives **74** with potassium permanganate in acetone under reflux (**Scheme 2.11**) [110]. Potassium permanganate serves as an oxidising reagent to bring about unsaturation between *N*-1 and C-2. Hitherto, two forms of quinazolin-4-ones were reported namely: the lactam (major) **76** and iminol form (minor) **75**. [111].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) KMnO<sub>4</sub>, Me<sub>2</sub>CO, reflux.

**Scheme 2.11:** Synthesis of 2-phenylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones with KMnO<sub>4</sub>

By the same token, the oxidation of 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones **77** with tertiary-butoxide (2 equiv.) as an oxidising agent under reflux furnished 2-substituted quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **78** yielding between 75 to 93% (**Scheme 2.12**) [112].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) *t*BuO, reflux.

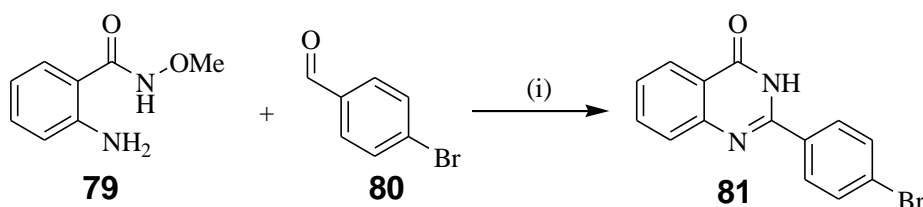
**Scheme 2.12:** Oxidation of 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones with *t*BuO

Although the synthesis of quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones by dehydrogenation of the parallel quinazolin-4(1*H*)-ones has been effective, the majority of these procedures include the use of non-environmentally, non-friendly oxidising agents in large excess. As an attempt to minimise the risk of pollution, one-pot synthesis methods continue to spark interest in literature.



#### 2.4.2.4 Direct methods for the synthesis of quinazolin-4(3H)-ones

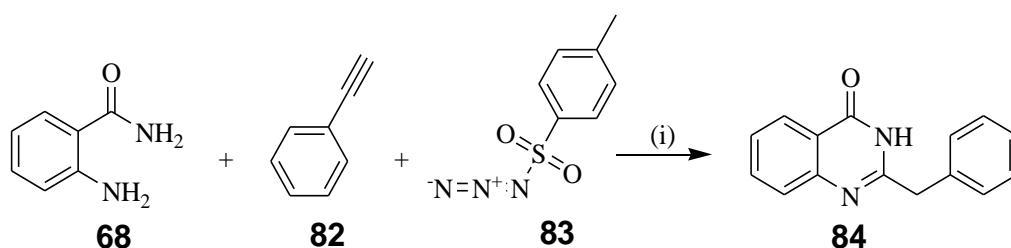
A single pot reaction between 2-amino-N-methoxybenzamide **79** and 4-bromobenzaldehyde **80**, in acetone refluxed at 100 °C for 12 h was reported to undergo a cascade cyclisation sequence to yield the corresponding 2-(4-bromophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **81** by 81% (**Scheme 2.13**) [113].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) 90 °C, acetone, 12 h.

**Scheme 2.13:** Single-pot cyclisation of 2-amino-N-methoxybenzamide with 4-bromobenzaldehyde.

A mixture of anthranilamide **68**, ethynylbenzene **82** and tosylazide **83** in acetonitrile at room temperature for 10 h afforded 2-benzylquinazolin-4(3H)-one **84** in 91% yield. The latter was produced after 8 h in the presence of copper(i) iodide (10 mol%), triethylamine (3 equiv) in acetonitrile (**Scheme 2.14**) [114]. The reaction was found to proceed through two crucial steps involving 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition and intramolecular cyclisation. Though complex, this procedure gave high yields at low temperature. The use of high temperature was dubbed to produce complex decomposed mixtures [115].

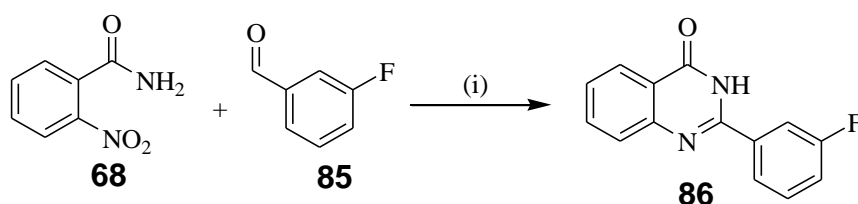


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) CuI, TEA, rt, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 10 h

**Scheme 2.14:** Copper catalysed one-pot synthesis of 2-substituted quinazolin-4(3H)-one.

Romero and co-workers [116] described a simple one-pot synthetic procedure for quinazolin-4(3H)-ones by the reaction of 2-nitrobenzamide **85** with 3-fluorobenzaldehyde **86** in the presence of sodium dithionite (3.5 equiv). Sodium dithionite is a reducing agent of the nitro group and it thus decomposes *in situ* in

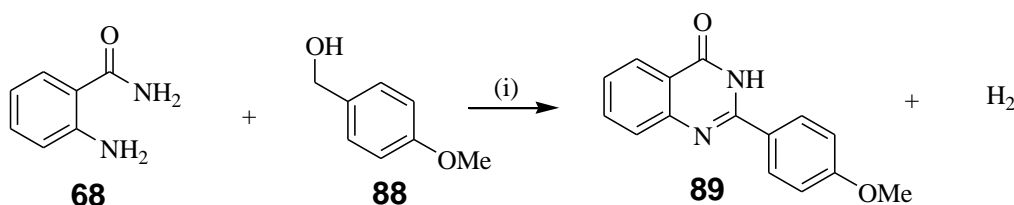
aqueous DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) at 90 °C (reflux) for 5 h (**Scheme 2.15**), leading to an oxidation step that yields the desired 2-(3-fluorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one 99% **87**. The reaction is accelerated by the addition of water.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O, 90 °C, reflux, 5 h

**Scheme 2.15:** One-pot synthesis of quinazolin-4(3H)-ones from 2-nitrobenzamide using sodium dithionite

Parua and co-workers [117] reported an environmental friendly and mild approach for the synthesis of quinazolin-4(3H)-ones via a square-planar nickel(II) complex-catalysed acceptor-less dehydrogenative cyclisation of anthranilamide **68** with (4-methoxyphenyl)methanol **88** (**Scheme 2.16**). The reaction proceeds in xylene with sodium butoxide (1.5 equiv) as a base, Ni-catalyst (5 mol%) at a reflux temperature of 100 °C for 36 h. The approach yielded 74% of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one **89**. The by-product of this particular procedure was reported to be a hydrogen gas.

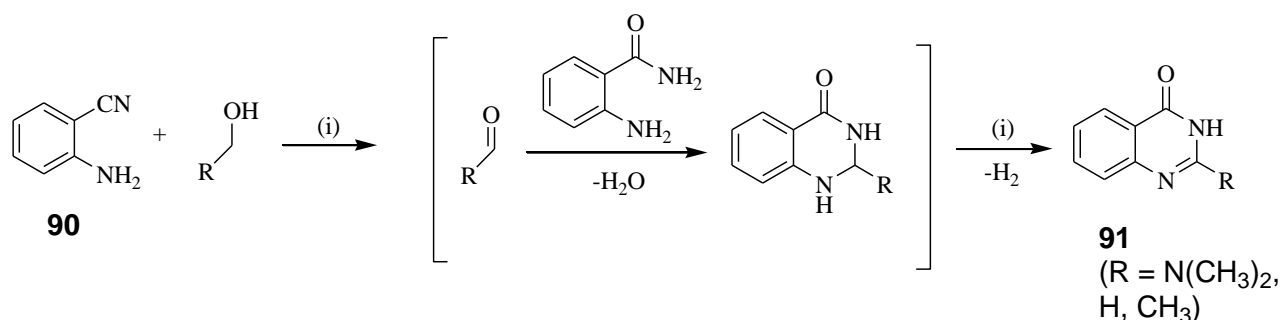


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) [Ni(MeTAA)], Na<sup>t</sup>OBu, xylene, 100 °C, 36 h

**Scheme 2.16:** One-pot Nickel-catalysed synthesis of quinazolin-4(3H)-ones

As an addition to eco-friendly reaction conditions, Fang [118] described the synthesis of quinazolin-4(3H)-ones via a homogeneous transition metal catalysed acceptor-less dehydrogenative alcohol oxidation which produces water via nitrile **90** hydrolysis and later hydrogen via a dehydrogenative oxidation step. The procedure involves the cyclocondensation of anthranilamide **68** derivatives with oxidised alcohols (i.e. aldehydes) **71**. The reaction takes place in water as a solvent at room temperature

while stirring for 3 h (**Scheme 2.17**), and is therefore catalysed by a water soluble Iridium-catalyst  $[\text{CpIrCl}_2]_2$  (5 mol%) to yield 70-81% of 2-substituted quinazolin-4-ones **91**.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $[\text{CpIrCl}_2]_2$ , water, rt, 3 h

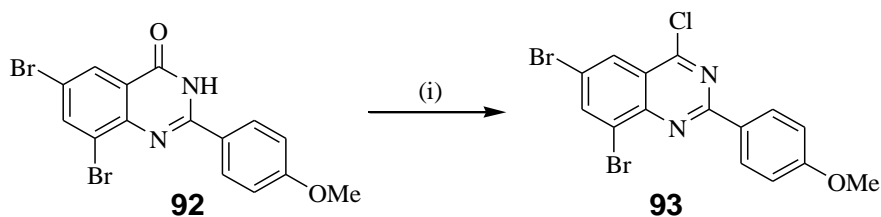
**Scheme 2.17:** One-pot Iridium-catalysed synthesis of 2-substituted quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones

### 2.4.3 Synthesis of quinazolines

An assortment of synthetic methods leading to the synthesis of quinazoline framework have been reported in literature by employing different starting materials, for instance *N*-substituted anthranilamide, isatoic anhydride derivatives and the heavily documented quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones.

#### 2.4.3.1 Oxidative-aromatisation of quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones derivatives

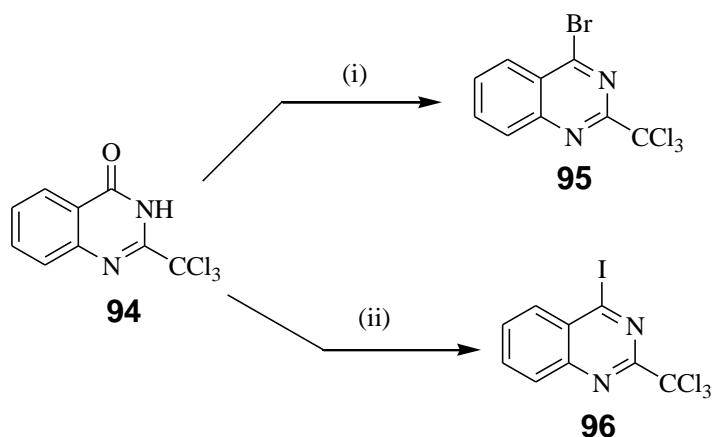
The 4-halogenoquinazolines have proven to be an important class of intermediates in the construction of quinazoline analogues owing to the C-X (X=Cl, Br, I) bond towards various nucleophiles. For example, the conjoint method for the synthesis of 4-chloroquinazoline derivatives involves oxidative aromatisation of the analogous quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones using reagents such as thionyl chloride ( $\text{SOCl}_2$ ) in DMF [119], phosphoryl chloride ( $\text{POCl}_3$ ) [120] and at times the combination of phosphoryl chloride ( $\text{POCl}_3$ ) and pentachloride ( $\text{PCl}_5$ ) [121]. The synthesis of 6,8-dibromo-4-chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline **92**, for example was prepared by aromatisation of the 6,8-dibromo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one **93** (a quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one framework) using  $\text{SOCl}_2$  and DMF as a solvent [122] (**Scheme 2.18**).



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{SOCl}_2$ , DMF, 80 °C.

**Scheme 2.18:** Oxidative aromatisation of **92** with  $\text{SOCl}_2$  and DMF as a solvent.

The treatment of 2-trichloromethylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one **94** in the presence of phosphorous pentoxide ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ) in toluene with either tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBABr) or tetrabutylammonium iodide (TBAI) can result in oxidative aromatisation by bromination or iodination to yield quinazoline derivatives **95** and **96** respectively (**Scheme 2.19**) [123].



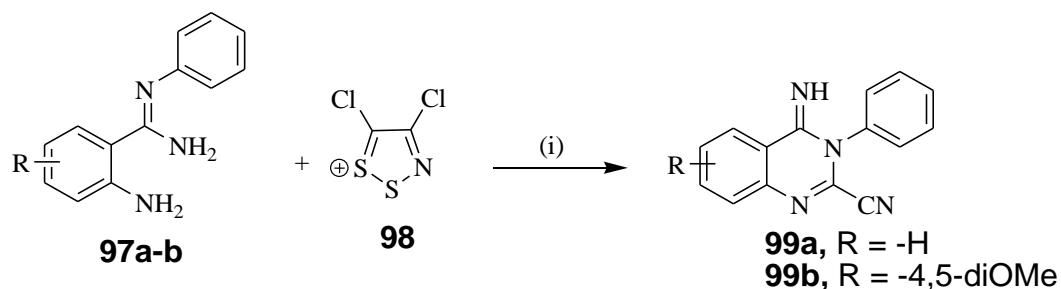
*Reagents and conditions:* (i) TBABr,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  (ii) TBAI,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$

**Scheme 2.19:** Oxidative aromatisation by halogenation in the presence of phosphorous pentoxide ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ).

#### 2.4.3.2 Direct synthesis of quinazolines from substituted anthranilamide derivatives

A new, direct and very convenient procedure to synthesise quinazoline derivatives from substituted anthranilamide derivatives was discovered by Koutentis and co-workers [124]. The authors reported synthesis of 3-aryl-4-imino-3,4-dihydroquinazoline-2-carbonitriles **99a-b** from 2-amino-*N'*-arylbenzamidines **97a-b** with 4,5-dichloro-1,2,3-dithiazolium chloride **98** (Appel salt) in the presence of Hünig's

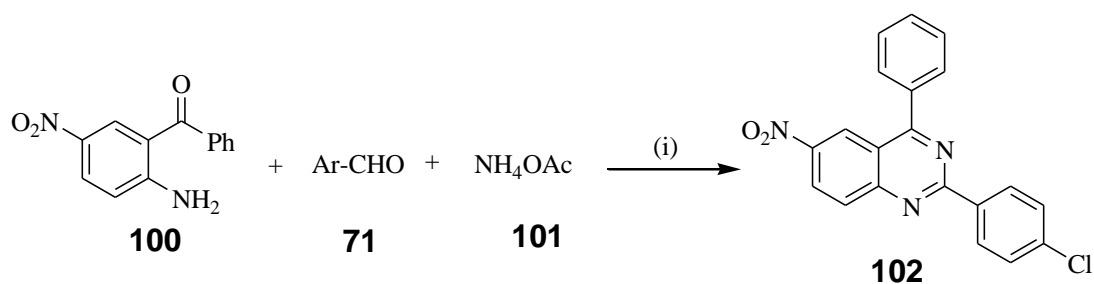
base (2 equiv.). Target compounds were obtained in one-step process in moderate to good yields of 51 to 86% (**Scheme 2.20**). The reaction provides an expedient synthetic route to C-2 cyano substituted quinazolin-4(3H)-imines



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>Net (2 equiv.), DCM, 20 °C, 2h.

**Scheme 2.20:** Hünig's base promoted synthesis of 3-aryl-4-imino-3,4-dihydroquinazoline-2-carbonitriles.

An atom-efficient, atom-economic, eco-friendly, solvent-free, high yielding, multicomponent green strategy to synthesise the highly functionalised 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-nitro-4-phenylquinazoline **102** through a magnetic ionic liquid (IL), butylmethylimidazolium tetrachloroferrate (bmim [FeCl<sub>4</sub>]) aided one-pot reaction of 2-aminobenzophenone **100**, aromatic aldehyde **71**, and ammonium acetate **101** (**Scheme 2.21**) was reported by Saha and Panja [125]. The presence of a nitro group at C-5 position of the corresponding (2-amino-5-nitrophenyl)(phenyl)methanone **100** affects the reaction time significantly.

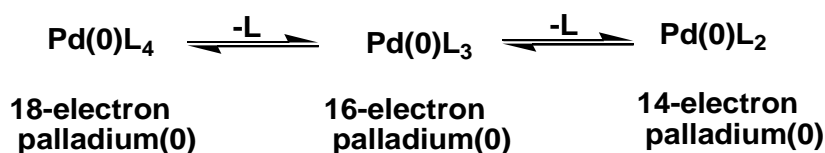


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (2 equiv.), DCM, 20 °C, 2h.

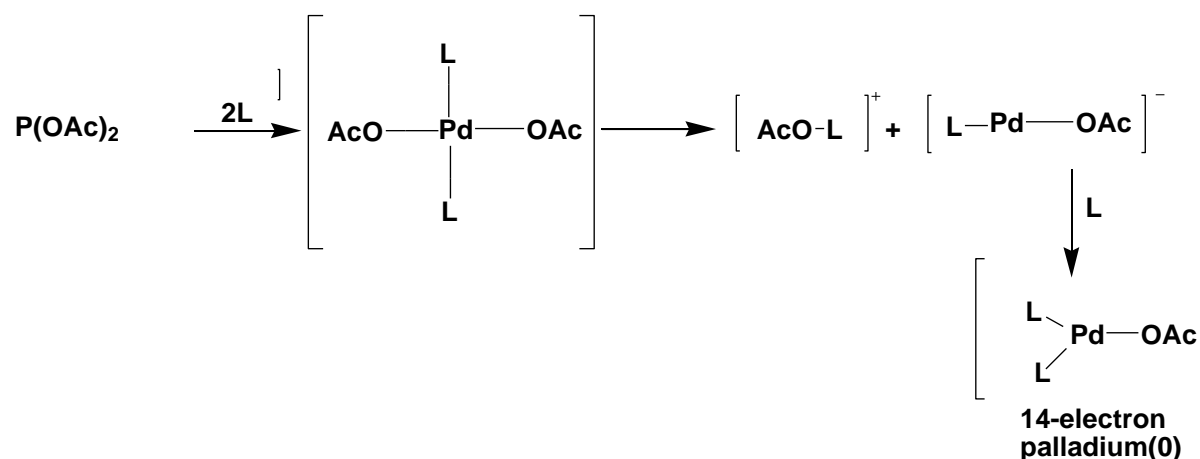
**Scheme 2.21:** Magnetic IL, butylmethylimidazolium tetrachloroferrate (bmim [FeCl<sub>4</sub>]) aided one-pot preparation of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-nitro-4-phenylquinazoline **102**.

### 2.4.3.3 Metal-catalysed cross-coupling reactions aiding the synthesis of carbo-substituted quinazoline derivatives.

The assortment of transition metal-catalysed cross-coupling reactions can easily be regarded as a foundation of construction leading to highly substituted heterocycles in organic synthesis [126]. Kumada, Negishi, Suzuki-Miyaura, Stille, and Sonogashira cross-coupling reactions represent a direct approach towards the synthesis of new carbon-carbon ( $Csp^2-Csp$ ) bonds [127-130]. The mechanism for metal-catalysed cross-coupling follows three steps, namely, oxidative addition, transmetallation and reductive elimination. In the case of palladium cross-coupling reaction conditions, a catalytically active 14-electron Pd(0) species supplied by  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ ,  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ ,  $Pd(OAc)_2$  is generated by ligand dissociation for Pd(0) (**Scheme 2.22**) or by palladium reduction for Pd(II) (**Scheme 2.23**).  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  is most commonly used because of the increased reactivity of palladium which is already in a zero oxidation state. Concurrently,  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  and  $Pd(OAc)_2$  plus an additional  $PPh_3$  or other phosphine ligands have also been reported efficient since they are non-hydroscopic and can be reduced to the active Pd(0) complexes with stoichiometric additions of phosphines.

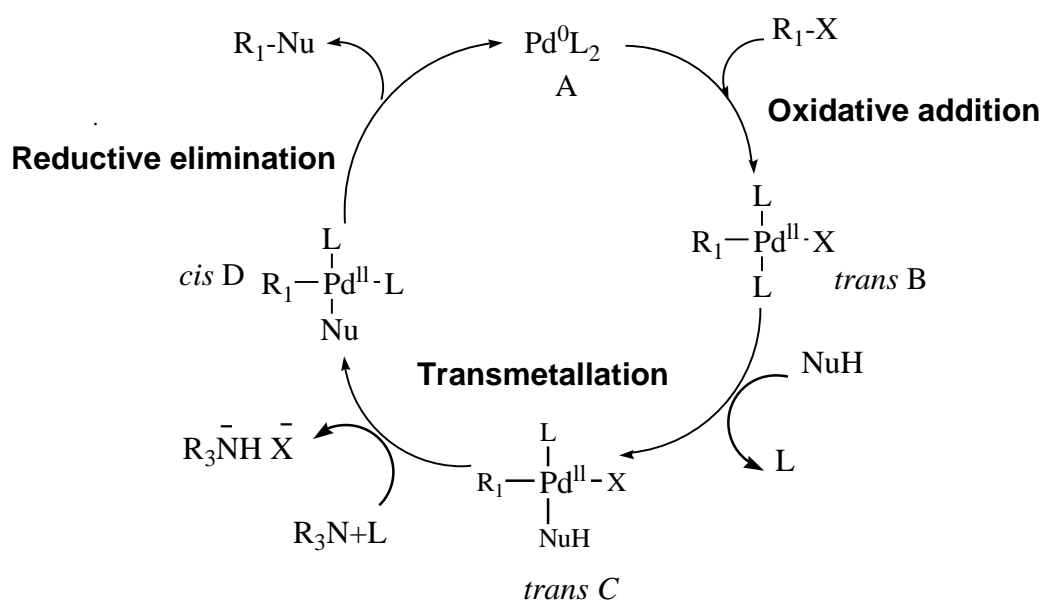


**Scheme 2.22:** Ligand dissociation off palladium species



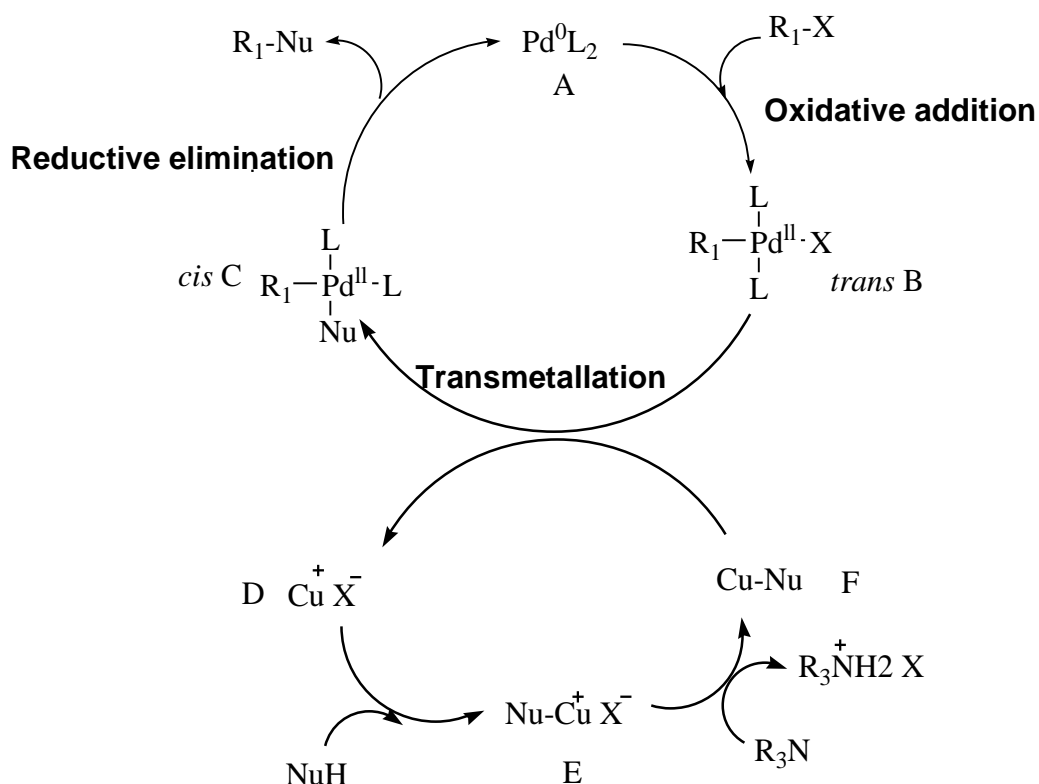
**Scheme 2.23:** Reduction of palladium(II) to palladium(0) on  $Pd(II)(OAc)_2$

The palladium cross-coupling catalytic cycle starts with oxidative addition of the active palladium(0) complex  $\text{Pd}(0)\text{L}_2$  **A** to the aryl halide (**Figure 2.17**). During this step, the  $\text{Csp}^2\text{-X}$  bond breaks forming a palladium(II) complex conforming to *trans*- $\text{R}_1\text{Pd}(\text{II})\text{L}_2\text{X}$  **B** containing aryl and halide ligands. The rate of the oxidative addition is accelerated by the reactivity of the aryl halide and the type of ligand present in the palladium(0) precursor [131]. The periodic order of electronegativity in aryl halides is in agreement with the C-X bond strengths. Likewise, alkylphosphine ligands are reported to increase the electron density by  $\sigma$ -complexation-dehydropalladation-reductive elimination of palladium and thus, accelerate the oxidative addition step. The palladium(II) complex **B** formed is a 16-electron square-planar complex which undergoes transmetallation *via* a ligand exchange process with the aid of a base to form an organopalladium(II) complex  $\text{R}_1\text{Pd}(\text{II})\text{L}_2\text{Nu}$  **C** (**Figure 2.17**). The ligands of compound **C** are *trans* oriented and are converted to *cis* in a *trans-cis* isomerization to form isomer **D**. The final step, known as reductive elimination, the organopalladium(II) complex *cis*- $\text{R}_1\text{Pd}(\text{II})\text{L}_2\text{Nu}$  **D** dissociates the coupled product and regenerates the catalyst  $\text{Pd}(0)$ . The increase of the electron density at the metal centre accelerates the reductive elimination. Alkylphosphine ligands are known to coordinate with palladium and increase its electron density more than arylphosphines. The general catalytic cycle for such reactions is represented as follows:



**Figure 2.17:** Generalised mechanism for  $\text{Csp}^2\text{-Csp}$  cross-coupling reactions.

In addition to the cross-coupling reaction conditions, the Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction has since dominated the field of organic synthesis due to the ease of synthesis leading to carbon-carbon bonds. The cross-coupling reaction involves a copper(I) salt which serves as a co-catalyst. The palladium catalytic cycle in this type of reaction is very much similar to the general palladium reaction which involves 3 catalytic steps (1) oxidative addition (2) transmetalation (3) reductive elimination. The copper co-catalysed Sonogashira reaction takes place in two independent catalytic cycles, where the tertiary amine ( $R_3N$ ) is represented as base. The palladium catalytic cycle follows the one described in **Figure 2.18**. Akin to the palladium cycle, the copper cycle follows three steps, a copper acetylide ( $Nu-Cu^+ X^-$ ) **E**, is formed in the presence of copper(I) salt in solution. The base then abstracts the proton of the alkyne derivative leading to the  $\pi$ -alkyne-Cu complex **F**. The third step is transmetalation between the *trans* palladium complex **B** after which the copper(I) salt **D** is regenerated and the cycle continues.

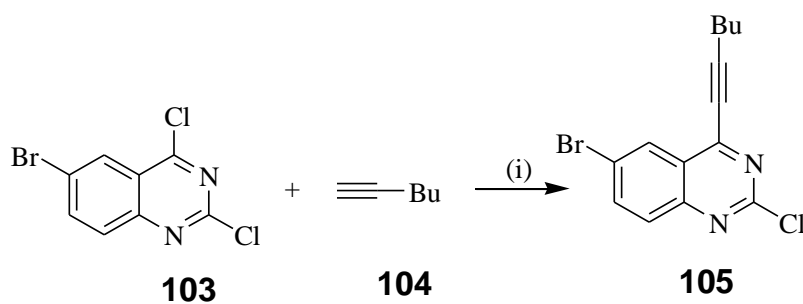


**Figure 2.18:** Generalised Sonogashira copper co-catalysed reaction mechanism for  $Csp^2-Csp$  cross-coupling.



#### 2.4.3.4. Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction

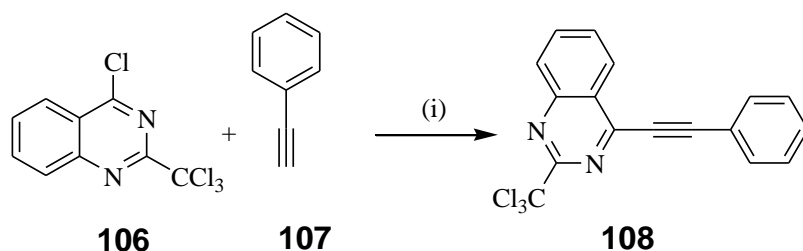
The trend in reactivity of the  $Csp^2$ -halogen bonds in Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction of halogenated quinazoline compounds follows,  $Csp^2-I > C(4)-Cl > Csp^2-Br > C(2)-Cl > C-sp^2-Cl > Csp^2-F$  in relation to the different bond dissociation energies which favours substitution of iodine in the presence of Br, Cl and the C(4)-Cl [132]. The Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction between 6-bromo-2,4-dichloroquinazoline **103** and terminal alkynes **104** catalysed by  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  as Pd(0) source and CuI co-catalysed in triethylamine ( $Et_3N$ ), favoured cross-coupling at the more electrophilic C(4)-Cl position rather than the less activated  $Csp^2(6)-Br$  bond yielding 78-86% of the corresponding 6-bromo-2-chloro-4-(hex-1-ynyl)quinazoline **105** (Scheme 2.24) [133].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ , CuI,  $Et_3N$ , rt.

**Scheme 2.24:** Sonogashira coupling reaction of **103** and **104**.

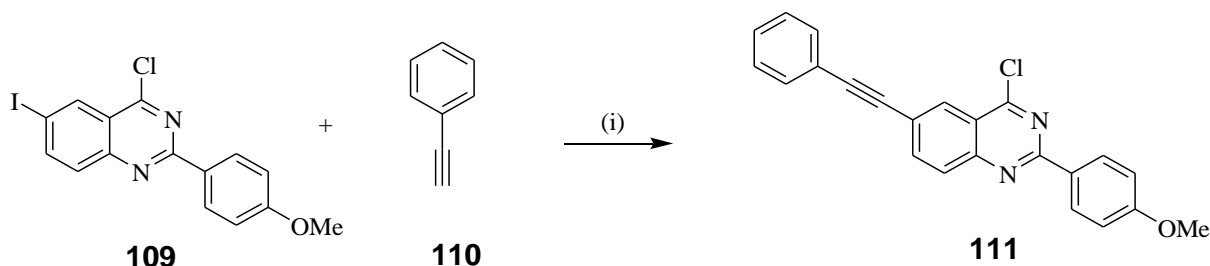
Attempted Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction between 4-chloro-2-trichloromethylquinazoline **106** and phenylacetylene **107** using triethylamine as a base, tetrakis(triphenyl-phosphine)palladium(0) [ $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ ] as a source of a reactive Pd(0) species and copper(I) iodide (CuI) in THF under nitrogen atmosphere did not afford the expected cross-coupled product [134]. The presence of the trichloromethyl group at the 2-position was found to interfere with the outcome of this reaction. The use of cesium carbonate ( $Cs_2CO_3$ ) as a base and palladium(II) acetate [ $Pd(OAc)_2$ ] as a source of Pd(0) in dimethylformamide (DMF), on the other hand, afforded the cross-coupled product **108** in low yield (15%) along with other undesirable products (Scheme 2.25).



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, CuI, DMF, N<sub>2</sub>, rt, 3 h.

**Scheme 2.25:** Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction of 4-chloro-2-trichloromethylquinazoline.

A good demonstration of the reactivity trend in Sonogashira coupling reaction leading to the Csp<sup>2</sup>-Csp bond was shown during a reaction between 4-chloro-6-iodo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline **109** and phenylacetylene **110**. The reaction was catalysed by Pd(II)Cl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and CuI in the presence of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> under nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction conditions favoured cross-coupling at the C(6)sp<sup>2</sup>-I position rather than the C(4)-Cl position to yield 75% of the corresponding 4-chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-phenylethynyl)quinazoline **111** (**Scheme 2.26**) [135].



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Pd(II)Cl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CuI, THF, N<sub>2</sub>, rt, 18 h.

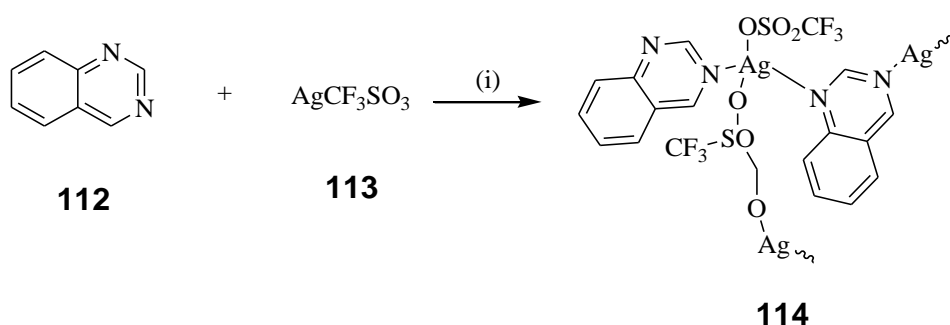
**Scheme 2.26:** Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction of 4-chloro-6-iodo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline **111** on the C(6)sp<sup>2</sup>-I position.

## 2.4 Quinazoline derivatives as intermediates in coordination chemistry including their synthesis and biological application.

The field of bioinorganic chemistry has been at the highest receiving end of chemistry research attention over the past 3 decades [136-137]. The research interest in this field is amplified by the unending increase in activity of heterocyclic compounds with anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antibacterial and anti-proliferative

properties [138]. Of these highly biologically active heterocycles, pyrimidine derivatives, particularly quinazoline bearing derivatives have been under massive exploration both *in silico* and *in vitro* studies [139].

The literature on transition metal containing quinazoline complexes is limited, hence indicative of perhaps, difficulty in synthesising the complexes or area unexplored. The synthesis or coordination of quinazoline derivatives requires knowledge in ligand behaviour, coordination modes, general understanding of coordination chemistry, etc. The type of geometrical arrangement around the metal centre is key in avoiding steric hindrance, hence contributing to the stability of the complex. For example, polynuclear silver(I) quinazoline containing derivatives **114** were reported by Glišić and co-workers [140] to possess activity against the pathogenic *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains *in silico* and *in vitro*. The Ag(I) complexes were synthesised by refluxing 2 mmol of quinazoline **112** and 1 mmol of  $\text{AgCF}_3\text{SO}_3$  **113** in ethanol for 8 h to yield 42% of the corresponding tetrahedral Silver(I) quinazoline complex (**Scheme 2.27**) **114**.

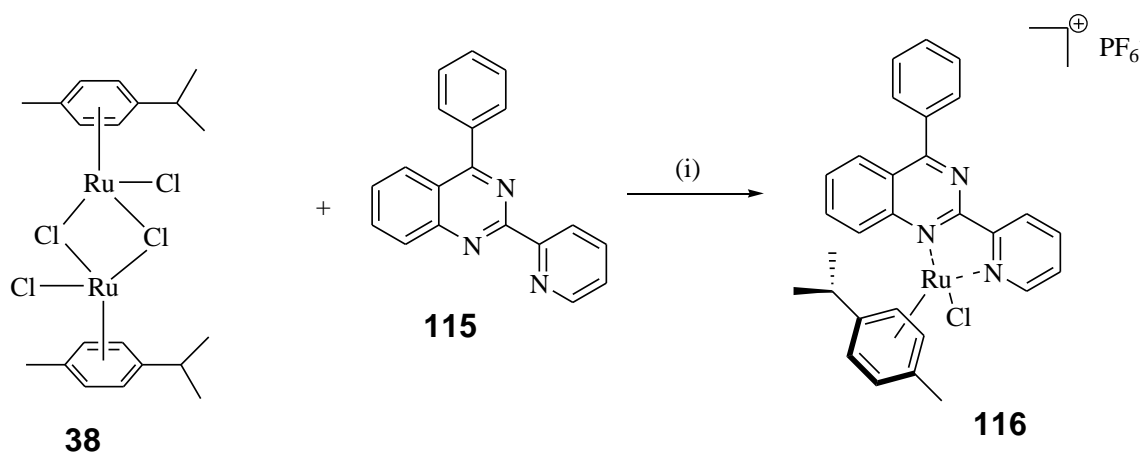


*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{AgBF}_4$ , ethanol, heat, 8 h.

**Scheme 2.27:** Synthesis of silver(I) quinazoline complexes with antimicrobial activity.

A three-legged piano stool ruthenium(II) quinazoline complex possessing oncotherapeutic antiplatelet activity was reported by Kharamang and co-workers [141]. The ruthenium arene quinazoline (RAQ) complex is reported to hinder ATP release and  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ , and therefore decrease Akt/JNK signals. Akt/JNK pathways are involved in autophagy [142] process. Autophagy is a homeostatic, catabolic degradation process whereby cellular proteins and organelles are engulfed into autophagosomes, digested in lysosomes and recycled to sustain cellular metabolism [143]. Targeting these pathways represents an ideal strategy towards cancer cell lysis. Experimental synthesis of the RAQ complex was achieved by stirring dichloro-(p-

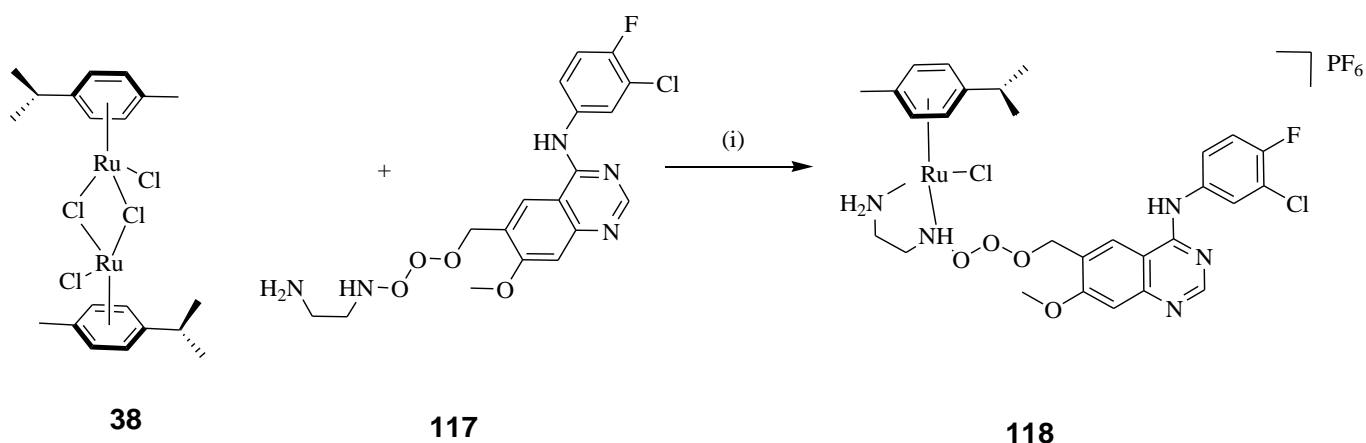
cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** and corresponding 4-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)quinazoline **115** ligand in methanol at room temperature for 24 h to yield 87% of  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{RuCl}_4\text{-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)quinazoline}]\text{tetrafluoroborate}$  **116** (**Scheme 2.28**). Likewise, the RAQ complex inhibited platelet aggregation in washed human platelets while stimulated by collagen in a concentration-dependent manner (1 – 5  $\mu\text{M}$ ).



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{NaBF}_4$ , methanol, rt, 24 h.

**Scheme 2.28:** Synthesis of ruthenium(II) arene quinazoline complexes with antiplatelet activity.

A new, dual-targeting, piano stool ruthenium(II) complex possessing anticancer properties was developed by Zhang and co-workers [144]. The corresponding RAQ complex was synthesised by stirring 6-(2-(2-aminoethylamino)ethoxy)-4-(3'-chloro-4'-fluoroanilino)-7-methoxy-quinazoline **117** and dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** in methanol for 24 h to yield 31.2 % of  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{RuCl}_6\text{-}(2\text{-}(2\text{-aminoethylamino)ethoxy})\text{-4-(3'-chloro-4'-fluoroanilino)-7-methoxy-quinazoline}]\text{hexafluorophosphate}$  **118** (**Scheme 2.29**). The antecedent RAQ complex is reported to exhibit 29-fold  $\text{IC}_{50}$  against HeLa cell lines i.e. 1.36  $\mu\text{M}$  compared to the ligand precursor **117** i.e. 29.5  $\mu\text{M}$ .



*Reagents and conditions:* (i)  $\text{KPF}_6$ , methanol, rt, 24 h.

**Scheme 2.29:** Synthesis of ruthenium(II) erlotinib complex with improved anticancer activity.

The synthesis of biologically active compounds is a challenging and costly process, in the 1960's researchers would blindly screen hundred thousands of natural and synthetic compounds for possible biological activity. Upon viewing activity, medicinal chemists would synthesise a library of compounds for further biological exploration [145]. This method, termed "traditional drug design" is costly as out of 100 thousand compounds only 25 would register the desired property investigated [146]. Previous sources estimated the cost to be ranging from \$200-\$500 million each year worldwide [147]. To ameliorate this injustice, scientists have since developed a computer programme called molecular docking.

## 2.5 Molecular docking

Molecular docking is a modern medicinal chemistry tool which investigates pharmacodynamical data and pharmacokinetic properties through structure activity relationship (SAR) of prodrugs [148]. The pharmacodynamical data includes potency, selectivity, affinity and efficacy of prodrugs [149], on the other hand pharmacokinetic properties investigated include ADME-Tox (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion and toxicity) of the prepared prodrugs [150]. The progression of this field is complemented by advances in biomolecular spectroscopic methods such as X-ray crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance techniques (NMR) [151]. These techniques have produced over 100 000 three-dimensional (3D) protein structures, brewing influential information on macromolecular drug targets [152]. The

incorporation of computational (*in silico*) and experimental (*in vitro*) methods have provided a broad understanding of the complex aspects of intermolecular recognition [153].

Within the pre-described concept, structure-based design (SBDD) methods such as molecular kinetics, molecular dynamics and structure-based virtual screening (SBVS) are employed to aid molecular recognition events such as binding energy, molecular interactions and induced conformational changes [154]. A defined approach in drug design encompasses biologically active small molecule libraries [155]. The unique diversity available in these libraries (co-crystallised ligands within proteins) represents the active site to which ligands target [156]. This application is limited to ligand-based drug design (LBDD) methods. Similarly, ligand-based virtual screening (LBVS), conformational searching and quantitative structure activity relationship (QSAR) modelling are the most used LBDD methods [157]. The SBDD and LBDD methods are the most encountered in computer aided drug-design and have proved valuable to both academia and industry [158].

## **2.6 Purpose of the study**

Infectious airborne and neoplastic diseases are the two causes of illness and mortality in developing and developed countries, respectively [159]. This section covers the challenges faced by chemotherapeutic techniques applied to treat specifically Tuberculosis (TB) and cancer.

### **2.6.1. Tuberculosis (TB)**

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) [1]. The world health organisation (WHO) has reported that TB remains one of the modern day killer bacteria in the world, where treatment and management of the infection remains a big challenge [160]. In 2017 (latest statistics), TB was reported to be the biggest killer disease in the country (South Africa) and unfortunately more and more people are infected daily at an alarming rate [160]. Several TB drugs, such as Isoniazid, Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, Ethambutol and Streptomycin, are administered to treat the TB disease at different stages (i.e. for latent TB, MDR-TB and XDR-TB). Even though the antecedent drugs have several advantages such as low cost, effectiveness and limited host toxicity, the country is still burdened with increased new

infections. This is because of the prolonged treatment period of six (6) months, during which mutations of the *Mtb* resistant strains occurs if care is not taken during the six (6) months period [161]. Recently, drugs by names Delamanid and Bedaquiline have been unveiled as the most progressive treatment for the resistant TB, the major limitation being the QT-prolongation side effect [162]. The QT-prolongation is a serious disturbance of the heart's electrical rhythm. Other side effects include the liver toxicity, deafness, accumulation of phospholipids in cells and even death [162].

### 2.6.2 Cancer

Cancer is defined as a group of unrelated diseases that affect any part of the human body. According to the world health organisation (WHO), cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide and it has been responsible for 9.6 million deaths in 2018 [163]. The development of cancer strategies over the years have employed chemotherapy combined with radiotherapy, surgery and targeted therapy [164]. Chemotherapeutic drugs currently employed to treat this burden include *Cisplatin*, *cobimetinib* and *elronitib* [165]. These drugs, though effective to some extent, pose severe side effects such as hair loss, stroke and vomiting due to their non-selectivity towards normal cells [166]. Apart from the pre-mentioned drawbacks and lack of alternatives, they still find application.

Herein we hypothesise a possible strategy on eliminating the problems described in subsections 2.6.1 and 2.6.2. Schiff base and quinazoline structure activity relationship (SAR) of ruthenium(II) *p*-cymene bioinorganic molecular hybrids with plausible mimic of synergy in cancerous and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* cell lines. In this project, we employ Sonogashira cross-coupling at the *C(4)-Cl* to introduce electron-donating ethynylpyridine bridge, which is used as a link between the quinazoline and the ruthenium(II) *p*-cymene moieties. For the Schiff base groups, a similar idea is hoped to stabilise the ligands in biological solutions such as DMSO and water, and thus improving binding in the active site. Molecular docking is used to better understand the possible interactions in the binding site of cancer and *Mtb* proteins 3F8P and 2SRC belonging to the Tyrosine kinase and oxidoreductase family and the 1HTO of *glutamine synthetase* respectively. In this way, we hope to gain control of the hydrophilicity and size of the complexes in the delivery system, where the two parts of

the compound complement each other to exhibit different interactions in the binding site. Thus, the aim and the objectives of the study are therefore defined as follows:

## 2.7 Aim

The aim of this study was to synthesise, characterise, and perform biological evaluation of *p*-cymene ruthenium(II) complexes of imidazolyl-ethanamine-Schiff bases and 4-ethynylpyridine *cross-coupled* quinazolines.

## 2.8 The objectives were to:

- i. Synthesise imidazolyl-ethanamine-Schiff bases and their M(II) complexes
- ii. Synthesise ethynylpyridine bridged quinazolines and their *p*-cymene ruthenium(II) complexes
- iii. Evaluate the anticancer properties of the synthesised compounds *in vitro*
- iv. Evaluate the anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties of the synthesised compounds *in vitro*
- v. Perform molecular docking of the synthesised compounds in 1HTO, 2RSC and 3F8P

## Reference

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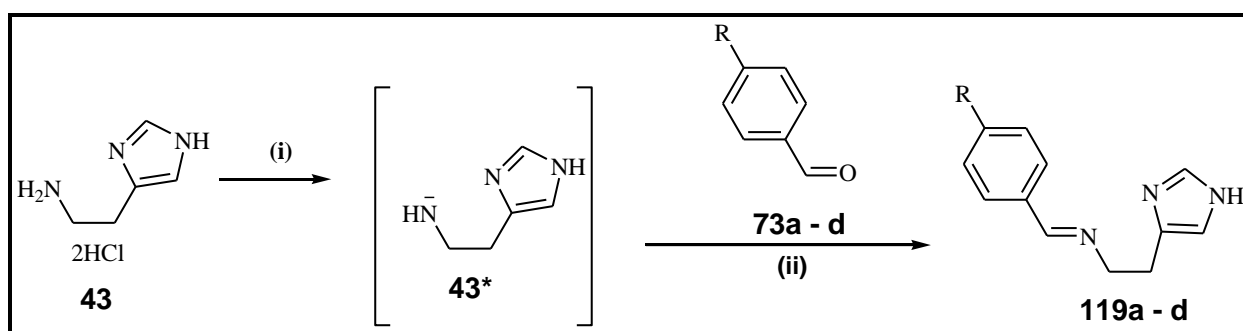
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## CHAPTER 3: EXPERIMENTAL

### 3.1 General

Chemical reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Merck (Johannesburg, South Africa) and used without further purification. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled over sodium metal lumps and benzophenone [1] and stored over activated molecular sieves before use. Melting points were obtained using Lasec/SA-melting point apparatus from Lasec company, SA (Johannesburg, South Africa). IR spectra for compounds 120a-e, **121a-e**, **123a-e**, **125a-e** and **126a-e** were recorded using Agilent technologies Carry 600 series, FTIR spectrometer. For compounds **119a-d**, the FTIR spectra were recorded on Bruker, FTIR spectrometer with a platinum ATR. NMR spectra were obtained as CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> and Methanol-d<sub>4</sub> solutions using Bruker 400 MHz NMR spectrometer (Bruker Biospin GmH, Karlsruhe, Germany) operating at 400 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H) and 100 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C), and <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C-HMBC NMR chemical shifts were quoted relative to the TMS peak. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded at an ionisation potential of 70 eV using Waters Synapt G2 Quadrupole Time-of-flight mass spectrometer (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA) at the University of Stellenbosch Central Analytical Facility. The synthesis of ligands **125a-e**, **119a-d** and attempted synthesis of **119c**\*\* was performed under nitrogen atmosphere purchased from Afrox (Polokwane gas and gear) and used without further purification.

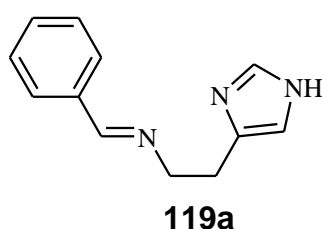
### 3.2 Typical procedure for the synthesis of Schiff base ligands 119a-d



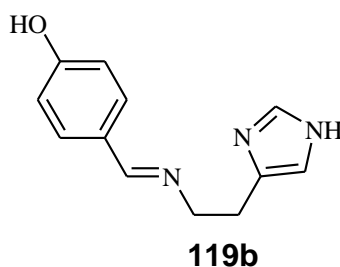
R = -H (**119a**), -OH (**119b**), -F (**119c**) and -NO<sub>2</sub> (**119d**)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a stirrer bar, was added 2.5 mmol histamine dihydrochloride and 5 mmol sodium hydroxide. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at

room temperature in 15 mL methanol to obtain a sodium chloride precipitate which was filtered through a syringe plugged with cotton wool. The filtrate was taken into a 250 mL Schlenk flask charged with 15 mL methanol and 2.5 mmol aldehyde. The mixture was stirred for 5 minutes before the addition of 2.5 mmol sodium hydrogen carbonate, the flask was then purged with nitrogen gas for 2 minutes before stirring at room temperature for 24 h after which stirring was stopped and allowed to cool to room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to obtain a paste of colours white, brown and yellow. The paste was washed thoroughly with hexane and diethyl ether to acquire the corresponding Schiff bases **119a-d**.

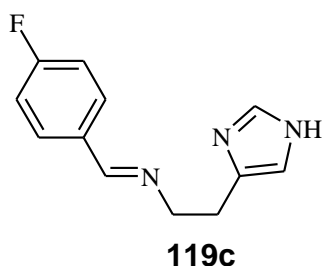


**3.2.1** *(E)-N-benzylidene-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine (119a)*. A mixture of histamine dihydrochloride **43** (460.1675 mg, 2.5 mmol), benzaldehyde **73a** (265.30 mg, 2.50 mmol), sodium hydroxide (199.99 mg, 5.00 mmol) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (210.02 mg, 2.50 mmol) in methanol 30 mL afforded **119a** as white solid (275.21 mg, 92%); m.p. 247.4 – 248.6 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 598, 763, 824, 1089, 1162, 1251, 1354, 1537, 1627, 2450, 3394  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 2.99 (t,  $J = 14.23$  Hz, 2H), 3.87 – 3.90 (td,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 12$  Hz and  $^4J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.12$  Hz, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 7.44 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.71 – 7.73 (dd,  $J = 1.69$  Hz and  $J = 1.71$  Hz, 2H), 8.24 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 29.3, 61.8, 118.5, 129.9, 130.9, 132.3, 136.1, 137.1, 161.6, 165.0; HRMS (ESI): calculated 119.1109,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3^+$ , found 200.1180.

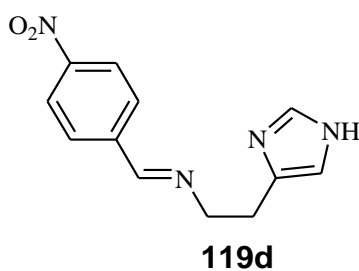


**3.2.2** *4-((E)-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethylimino)methylphenol (119b)*. A mixture of histamine dihydrochloride **43** (460.17 mg, 2.50 mmol), 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (**73b**)

(305.30 mg, 2.50 mmol), sodium hydroxide (199.99 mg, 5.00 mmol) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (210.02 mg, 2.50 mmol) in methanol 30 mL afforded **119b** as brown solid (481.87 mg, 90%); m.p. 262.5 – 263.1 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 599, 720, 834, 1126, 1221, 1257, 1358, 1537, 1668, 2948, 3327, 3928  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 2.95 (t,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.80 (t,  $J = 14$  Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d,  $J = 8.66$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.63$  Hz, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 29.7, 61.5, 118.8, 120.3, 122.7, 131.6, 136, 161.6, 165.9, 173.0; HRMS (ESI): calculated 215.1059,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ , found 216.1126.



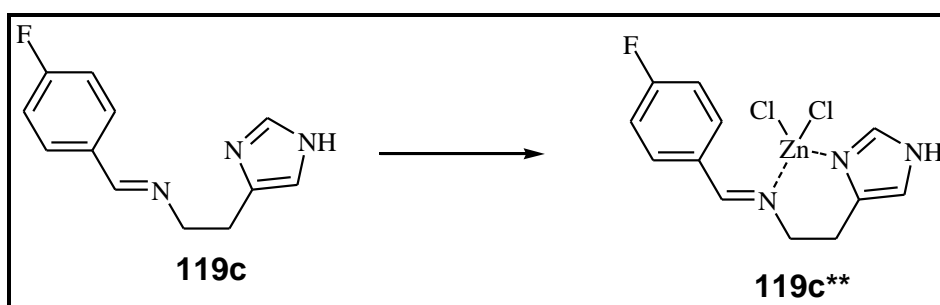
**3.2.3** (*E*)-*N*-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-2-(1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine (**119c**). A mixture of histamine dihydrochloride **43** (460.1675 mg, 2.5 mmol), 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (**73c**) (310.29 mg, 2.5 mmol), sodium hydroxide (199.99 mg, 5.00 mmol) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (210.02 mg, 2.50 mmol) in methanol 30 mL afforded **119c** as white solid (488.56, 90%); m.p. 284.9 – 286.1 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 598, 822, 895, 1088, 1126, 1254, 1362, 1624, 2951, 3340  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 2.98 (t,  $J = 14.30$  Hz, 2H), 3.86 – 3.89 (td,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 12$  Hz and  $^4J_{\text{H-H}} = 0.88$  Hz), 6.82 (s, 1H), 7.16 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.89 (dd,  $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 5.60$  Hz and  $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 5.54$  Hz, 2H), 8.23 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 29.3, 61.8, 115.4 ( $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 22.2$  Hz), 118.5, 131.6 ( $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.6$  Hz), 130.1 ( $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 9$  Hz), 133.7 ( $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 2.9$  Hz), 136.1, 161.6, 163.5, 166.0 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 250$  Hz); HRMS (ESI): calculated 217.1015,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_3^+$ , found 218.1078.



**3.2.4** (*E*)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzylidene)-2-(1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine (**119d**). A mixture of histamine dihydrochloride **43** (460.17 mg, 2.50 mmol), 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (**73d**)

(377.80 mg, 2.50 mmol), sodium hydroxide (199.99 mg, 5.00 mmol) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (210.02 mg, 2.50 mmol) in methanol 30 mL afforded **119d** as yellow solid (594.17, 90%); m.p. 266.2 – 267.4 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 599, 761, 824, 1090, 1121, 1207, 1365, 1537, 1628. 2949, 3348 (-NH)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 3.016 (t, 14.13 Hz, 2H), 3.94-3.98 (td,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 16$  and  $^4J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.25$  Hz, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $^4J = 1.12$  Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.98 (dd,  $J = 2$  Hz and  $J = 2$  Hz, 2H), 8.30-8.33 (dd,  $J = 2$  Hz and  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.38 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ , ppm) 29.3, 62.2, 118.4, 125.0, 130.3, 131.1, 143.0, 150.7, 161.6, 162.3; HRMS (ESI): calculated 244.096,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2^+$ , found 245.1031.

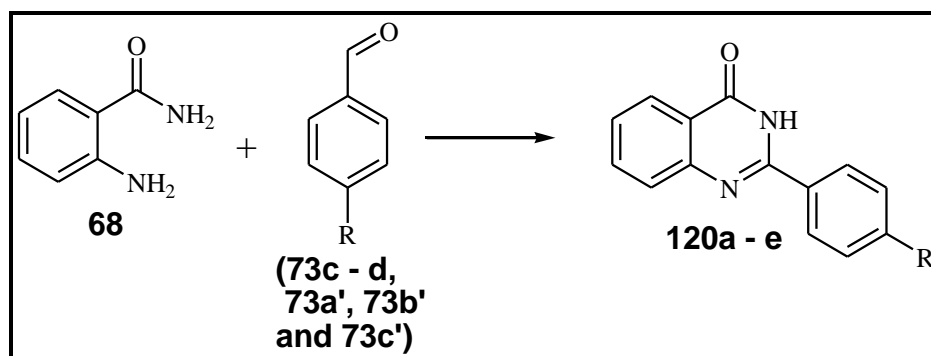
### 3.3 Attempted synthesis of Zn(II) ethanamineimidazolyl-Schiff base complexes



Into an NMR tube was added, (1.00 mg, 0.0001 mmol) of **119c** and (0.63 mg, 0.0001 mmol) of  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ . The mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 24 h in 0.6 mL of  $\text{MeOD-}d_4$ . The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  was recorded at (400 MHz, ppm) 2.90 (br-s, 2H), 4.04 (br-s, 2H), 6.85 (br-s, 1H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 7.55 (br-s, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 3.72$  Hz, 2H), 8.70 (br-s, 1H).

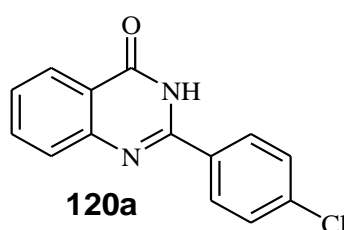
**N.B** Compounds **120a-e** are reported in literature and referenced thereof.

### 3.4 General synthesis of 2-arylquinazoline-4-one derivatives **120a – e**

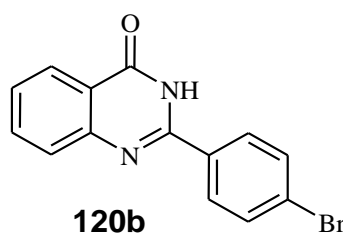


R = -Cl (**120a**), -Br (**120b**), -F (**120c**), -NO<sub>2</sub> (**120d**), -OMe (**120e**)

Quinazoline derivatives were prepared following a literature method reported by Mphahlele and co-workers [2]. To a 100 mL round bottom flask, anthranilamide **68** (1 mmol), benzaldehyde derivatives (**73c – d**, **73a'**, **73b'** and **73c'**) (1 mmol) and iodine (2 equiv.) in ethanol (30 mL per mmol of **68**) was refluxed at 80 °C for 6 h. The mixture was left to cool to room temperature and quenched with cold saturated sodium metabisulfate solution. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed thoroughly with water. The solid product was recrystallised from acetonitrile and oven dried to yield the corresponding quinazolin-4(3H)-ones **120a - e**. The following products were prepared accordingly:

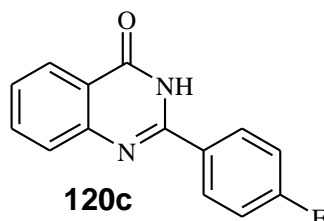


**3.4.1 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (120a):** A mixture of **68** (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol), benzaldehyde (**73a'**) (1550.00 mg, 11.02 mmol) and iodine (2.80 g, 22.04 mmol) in ethanol (100 mL) yielded **120a** as a white solid (2450.00 mg, 87%); m.p. 295.2 – 297.1 °C, lit (298 – 299 °C) [3]; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 764, 840, 1168, 1232, 1259, 1531, 1606, 1666, 3052, 3174  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 7.53 (t,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.77 (m, 3H), 7.84 (t,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.12-8.19 (m, 3H), 12.63 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 121.0, 125.2, 125.9, 126.8, 127.4, 129.8, 131.6, 131.9, 134.6, 148.5, 151.5, 162.2.

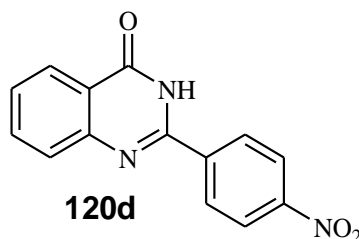


**3.4.2 2-(4-Bromophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (120b):** A mixture of **68** (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol), benzaldehyde (**73b'**) (2000.00 mg, 11.02 mmol) and iodine (2800.00 mg, 22.04 mmol) in ethanol (100 mL) yielded **120b** as a white solid (3001.00 mg, 91%); m.p. >350 °C, lit (>350 °C) [3]; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 766, 840, 1232, 1369, 1486, 1610, 1544, 1656, 3064, 3186  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 7.53 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H) 8.15 (d,  $J = 8$

Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H) 12.63 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 121.0, 125.9, 126.8, 127.5, 128.7, 129.6, 131.6, 134.7, 136.3, 148.5 151.4, 162.2.

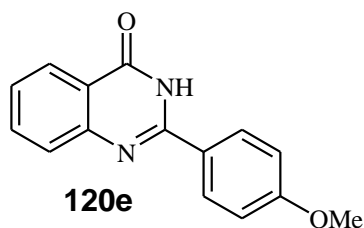


**3.4.3 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (120c):** A mixture of **68** (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol), benzaldehyde (**73c**) (1370.00 mg, 11.02 mmol) and iodine (2800.00 mg, 22.04 mmol) in ethanol (100 mL) yielded **120c** as a white solid (2.46 g, 93%); m.p. 261.3 – 263.2 °C, lit (257 – 259 °C) [3]; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 764, 840, 1166, 1305, 1484, 1555, 1605, 1668, 3098, 3204  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 7.24-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.71-7.77 (m, 2H), 8.09-8.15 (m, 3H), 12.58 (s, 1H) ;  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 115.4 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 22.2$  Hz), 120.9, 125.9, 126.5, 128.9 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 2.9$  Hz), 129.5, 130.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 9$  Hz), 134.6, 148.7, 151.7, 163.8 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 249.2$  Hz).



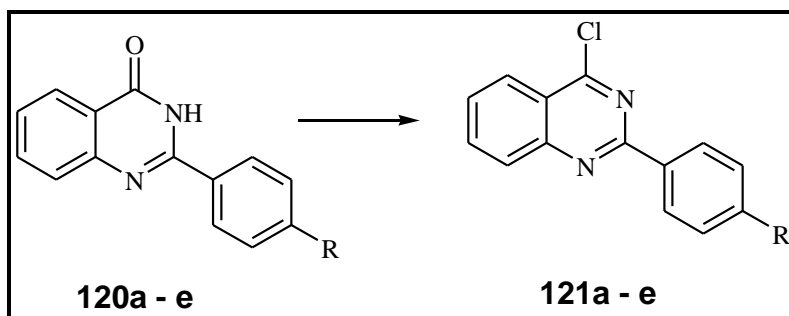
**3.4.4 2-(4-Nitrophenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (120d):** A mixture of **68** (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol), benzaldehyde (**73d**) (1670.00 mg, 11.02 mmol) and iodine (2800.00 mg, 22.04 mmol) in ethanol (100 mL) yielded **120d** as a white solid (2.65 g, 90%); m.p. > 300 °C, lit (>300 °C) [3]; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 741, 833, 1018, 1261, 1399, 1583, 1601, 1684, 3057, 3200;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 7.38-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.51 (m, 2H), 8.21-8.42 (m, 5H), 12.882 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 121.4, 123.3, 123.6, 126.0, 126.8, 127.6, 129.0, 134.3, 134.5, 139.9, 148.8, 152.1.





**3.4.5 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (120e):** A mixture of **68** (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol), benzaldehyde (**73c'**) (1500.00 mg, 11.02 mmol) and iodine (2800.00 mg, 22.04 mmol) in ethanol (100 mL) yielded **120e** as a white solid (2.58 g, 93%); 242.7 – 243.4 °C, lit (240 – 241 °C) [3]; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 703, 888, 1086, 1380, 1477, 1566, 1691, 1699, 3011, 3247;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 3.84 (s, 3H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 2H), 12.43 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 55.46, 114.0, 120.7, 124.9, 125.8, 126.1, 127.1, 129.5, 134.5, 148.9, 152.0, 161.9, 162.4.

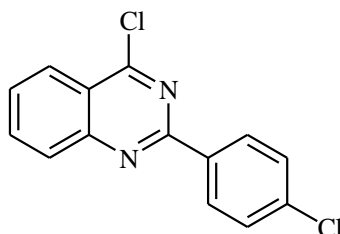
### 3.5 Oxidative aromatisation of 121a - e in $\text{SOCl}_2$ -DMF mixture



R = -Cl (**121a**), -Br (**121b**), -F (**121c**), -NO<sub>2</sub> (**121d**), -OMe (**121e**)

**N.B** Compounds **121a-e** are reported in literature and referenced thereof.

#### 3.5a Typical procedure for the synthesis of 4-chloro-2-arylquinazoline derivatives (121a- e)

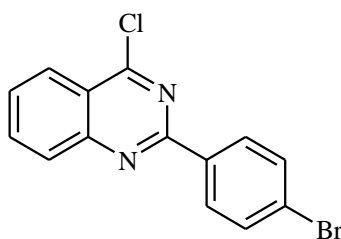


**121a**

Quinazoline derivatives were prepared following a literature method reported by Mphahlele and co-workers [1]. To a stirring suspension of **120a** (1000.00 mg, 3.90

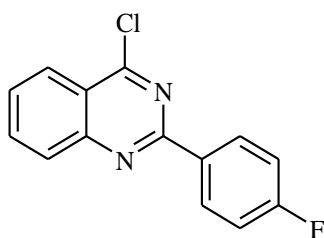
mmol) in thionyl chloride (30 mL) at room temperature, DMF (1 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was refluxed for 4 h and allowed to cool to room temperature before quenching with cold water and was extracted with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to yield (The same procedure was applied to afford **120b – e**):

**3.5.1 4-Chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazoline (121a) [4]** as a white solid (940.00 mg, 88%); m.p. 143.2 – 145.4 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 758, 842, 954, 1152, 1234, 1336, 1519, 1537;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.47 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.92 (t,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 122.4, 125.8, 128.4, 128.9, 130.1, 135.0, 137.4, 143.7, 151.7, 159.0, 162.6.



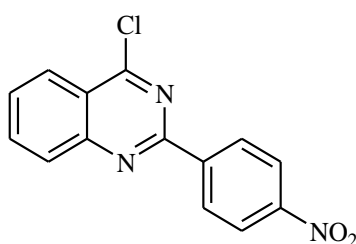
**121b**

**3.5.2 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-chloroquinazoline (121b) [5]**. A stirred mixture of **120b** (1000.00 mg, 3.30 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) in thionyl chloride (30 mL) yielded **121b** as a white solid (1130.00 mg, 93%); m.p. 151.7 – 153.4 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 647, 699, 742, 785, 844, 902, 1152, 1264, 1339, 1600;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.48-7.54 (m, 3H) 7.92 (t,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H) 8.05 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 122.4, 125.8, 128.8, 130.0, 131.8, 135.0, 135.5, 137.3, 151.6, 159.0, 162.6.



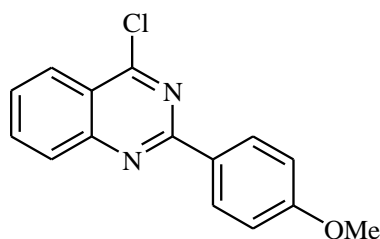
**121c**

**3.5.3 4-Chloro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinazoline (121c)** [6]. A stirred mixture of **120c** (1.00 g, 4.18 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) in thionyl chloride (30 mL) yielded **121c** as a white solid (0.97 g, 90%); m.p. 137.2 – 139.3 °C, lit [139 – 141 °C]; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 655, 688, 726, 760, 844, 933, 1153, 1264, 1510, 1563;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.11-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.92 (t,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.41-8.46 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 115.7 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 84$  Hz), 122.3, 128.2, 128.8, 130.9 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.8$  Hz), 132.9 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 3$  Hz), 151.8, 159.0, 162.5, 165.1 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 248.5$  Hz).



**121d**

**3.5.4 4-Chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)quinazoline (121d)** [4]. A stirred mixture of **120d** (1000.00 mg, 3.74 mmol),  $\nu_{\max}$  (ATR) and DMF (1 mL) in thionyl chloride (30 mL) yielded **121d** as a white solid (900 mg, 84%); m.p. 148.1 – 150.2 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 709, 843, 891, 1026, 1248, 1322, 1373, 1509, 1587;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.74 (t,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.74 (d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 122.7, 123.7, 125.9, 129.5, 129.6, 135.3, 142.3, 144.2, 149.4, 151.6, 157.7, 162.9.

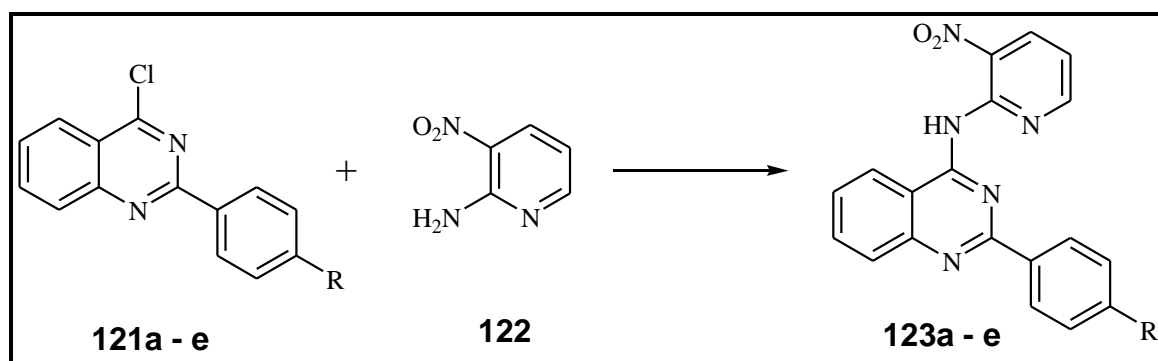


**121e**

**3.5.5 4-Chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline (121e)** [7]. A stirred mixture of **120e** (1000 mg, 3.98 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) in thionyl chloride (30 mL) yielded **121e** as a white solid (960 mg, 89%); m.p. 144.3 – 146.6 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 763, 837, 934, 1152,

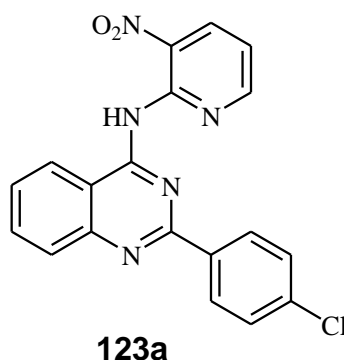
1290, 1336, 1579, 1603; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 3.87 (3H, br-s), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 55.4, 113.9, 122, 125.8, 127.7, 128.5, 129.2, 130.4, 134.7, 151.8, 159.8, 162.1, 162.2.

### 3.6 Typical procedure for Dechloro-Amination of **123a - e**



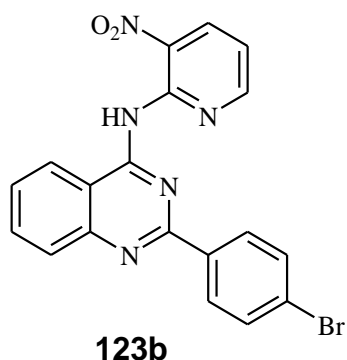
R = -Cl (**123a**), -Br (**123b**), -F (**123c**), -NO<sub>2</sub> (**123d**), -OMe (**123e**)

A stirred mixture of **121a** (1 equiv.), 2-amino-3-nitropyridine 1.1 equiv.) **122** and concentrated sulfuric acid (20 drops) in (3:1) THF-DMF 30 ml was heated at 65 °C for 5 h after which the solution was allowed to cool to RT. The reaction mixture was then added to crushed ice 30 mL, stirred and the product extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer washed with aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford **123a** as yellow solid product **123b-e** were all prepared in a similar fashion.

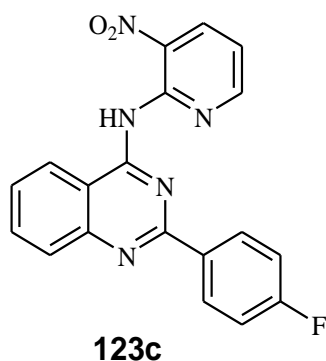


**3.6.1 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (123a).** A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazolinone **121a** (300.00 mg, 1.09 mmol), sulphuric acid 20-drops and 2-amino-3-nitropyridine **122** (166.87 mg, 1.20 mmol) afforded **123a** as yellow solid (280.00 mg, 95%) m.p. 281.2 – 282.1 °C; FT-IR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 458, 478, 538,

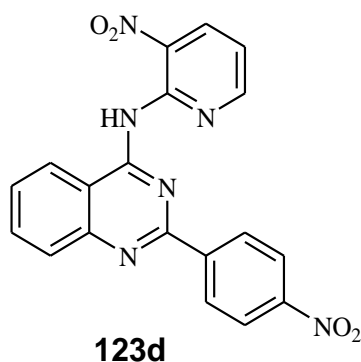
683, 728, 761, 840, 1012, 1074, 1149, 1241, 1280, 1344, 1344, 1443, 1556, 1599, 1669, 3132, 3461;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , ppm) 6.73-6.76 (dd,  $J = 4.8$  Hz and 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.38 (t,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 12.63 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , ppm) 113.0, 121.5, 126.4, 127.3, 128.0, 129.2, 130.1, 132.0, 135.2, 135.4, 136.8, 149, 151.8, 154.2, 156.8, 162.6; HRMS(ESI): calculated 377.0680,  $[\text{M-HCl}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2^+$ , found 341.2670.



**3.6.2 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (123b).** A mixture of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-chloroquinazoline **121b** (300.00 mg, 0.94 mmol), sulphuric acid 20-drops and 2-amino-3-nitropyridine **122** (143.29 mg, 1.03 mmol) afforded **123b** as yellow solid (210.00 mg, 78%), m.p. 292.1 – 284.1 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 389, 505, 545, 771, 799, 1008, 1064, 1150, 1182, 1336, 1480, 1558, 1600, 1670, 2884, 2919, 2960, 3027, 3268, 3462;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , ppm); 6.73-6.76 (dd,  $J = 4.63$  Hz and  $J = 4.44$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t,  $J = 15.03$  Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.78 (m, 3H), 7.85 (t,  $J = 15.51$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 8.10-8.16 (m, 3H), 8.19-8.40 (m, 1H), 12.64 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , ppm) 112.5, 121.0, 125.3, 125.7, 126.8, 126.8, 127.5, 129.9, 131.7, 132.0, 135.0, 148.6, 151.5, 153.8, 156.3, 162.3; HRMS (ESI): calculated 421.0174.  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}^{79}\text{BrN}_5\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$ , found 444.9536.

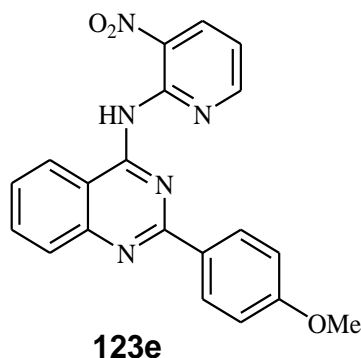


**3.6.3** *2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (123c)*. A mixture of *4-chloro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinazoline 121c* (300.00 mg, 1.16 mmol), sulphuric acid 20-drops and 2-amino-3-nitropyridine **122** (177.48 mg, 1.28 mmol) afforded **123c** as yellow solid (260.00 mg, 92%), m.p. 273.8 – 274.8 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 426, 496, 540, 685, 735, 763, 802, 840, 940, 1019, 1110, 1149, 1233, 1321, 1446, 1518, 1580, 1667, 3090, 3463;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , ppm) 6.73-6.76 (dd,  $J = 4.4$  Hz and 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 17.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (1H, s), 8.15 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.14-8.23 (m, 2H), 8.38 (t,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , ppm) 113.0, 115.7 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.8$  Hz), 121.3, 126.3, 127.1, 127.2, 127.9, 129.3 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 2.9$  Hz), 130.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 9.2$  Hz), 135.1, 135.4, 149.1, 151.9, 154.2, 156.7, 164.2 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 249.4$  Hz); HRMS (ESI): calculated 361.0975,  $[\text{M}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_5\text{O}_2^+$ , found 361.0641.



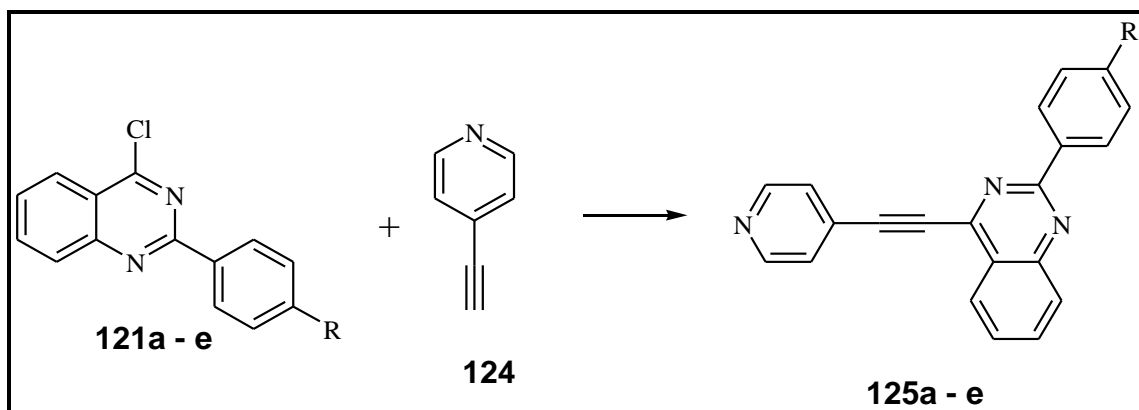
**3.6.4** *2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (123d)*. A mixture of *4-chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)quinazoline 121d* (300.00 mg, 1.05 mmol), sulphuric acid 20-drops and 2-amino-3-nitropyridine **122** (160.70 mg, 1.16 mmol) afforded **123d** as yellow solid (180.00 mg, 66%), m.p. 269.2 – 271.2 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 501, 539, 762, 802, 820, 941, 1030, 1070, 1099, 1149, 1175, 1241, 1440, 1410, 1515, 1561, 1598, 1674, 3133, 3462;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , ppm); 6.73-6.76 (dd,  $J = 4.53$  Hz and  $J =$

4.59 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t,  $J = 15.27$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 7.63$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t,  $J = 15.27$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d,  $J = 7.63$  Hz, 1H), 7.86-8.44 (m, 6H), 12.89 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , ppm) 112.5, 121.3, 123.7, 126, 127.8, 127.7, 129.3, 135.0, 139.1, 148.5, 148.9, 151.3, 153.8, 156.3, 162.7; HRMS (ESI): calculated 388.0920,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_6\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$ , found 411.0530.



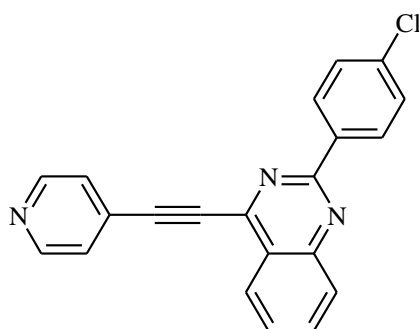
**3.6.5 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-N-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (123e).** A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline **121e** (300.00 mg, 1.11 mmol), sulphuric acid 20-drops and 2-amino-3-nitropyridine **122** (169.59 mg, 1.22 mmol) afforded **123e** as yellow solid (240.00 g, 84%), m.p. 262.4 – 264.4 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 423, 504, 540, 575, 611, 762, 835, 940, 1119, 1244, 1291, 1415, 1441, 1483, 1517, 1558, 1599, 1668, 2994, 3464;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR(400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.73-6.76 (dd,  $J = 4.67$  Hz and  $J = 4.47$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 9.14$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 17.97$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.36$  Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t,  $J = 15.36$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d,  $J = 8.36$  Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d,  $J = 9.14$  Hz, 2H), 8.20-8.40 (m, 1H), 12.43 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR(100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) 55.5, 112.5, 114.0, 120.7, 124.8, 125.9, 126.2, 126.8, 127.3, 129.5, 134.6, 135.0, 149.0, 151.9, 153.8, 156.3, 161.9, 162.4; HRMS(ESI): calculated 373.1175  $[\text{M}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4^+$ , found 373.1553.

### 3.7 Typical procedure for Sonogashira Cross-Coupling of 124a - e with ethynylpyridine



R = -Cl (**125a**), -Br (**125b**), -F (**125c**), -NO<sub>2</sub> (**125d**), -OMe (**125e**)

A mixture of **121** (1 equiv.), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (10%), Cul (10%) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv.) in 3:1 THF-water, in a round-bottom flask equipped with a stirrer bar and a condenser equipped with a balloon was flushed for 5 min with nitrogen gas. 1.5 equiv. Ethynylpyridine **124** was added to the flask at once and the mixture was flushed for an additional 10 min. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h at 65 °C under nitrogen atmosphere and then quenched with an ice cold water. The precipitate was filtered on a sintered funnel and then taken-up into dichloromethane. The solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallised from diethyl ether to afford 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines **125a – e**.

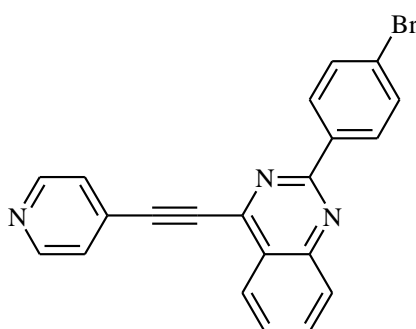


**125a**

**3.7.1 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline (125a)**, A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazoline **121a** (500.00 mg, 1.82 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (127.00 mg, 0.18 mmol), Cul (35.00 mg, 0.18 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1185.99 mg, 3.64

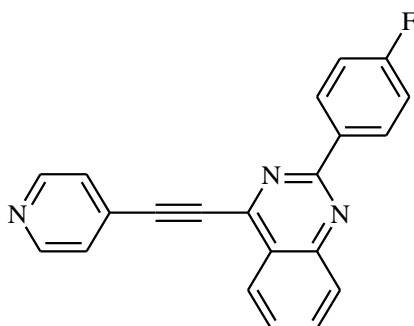


mmol) and 4-ethynylpyridine **124** (381.05 mg, 2.73 mmol) in THF-water, 30 mL (3:1) afforded **125a** as white solid (460.00 mg, 98%); m.p. 209.2 – 210.0 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 759, 845, 881, 1024, 1228, 1252, 1433, 1537, 2221;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.50 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.95 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.74 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 88.8, 93.7, 123.8, 125.9, 126.1, 128.2, 128.9, 129.2, 129.4, 130.0, 134.7, 136.0, 137.1, 150.1, 151.1, 151.9, 159.9; HRMS(ESI): calculated 341.0720,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{12}^{35}\text{ClN}_3^+$ , found 342.0787.



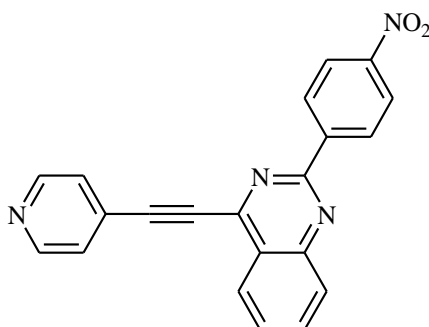
**125b**

**3.7.2 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline (125b)**, A mixture of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-chloroquinazoline **121b** (500.00 mg, 1.56 mmol),  $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$  (110.00 mg, 0.16 mmol),  $\text{CuI}$  (30 mg, 0.16 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1016.56 mg, 3.12 mmol) and 4-ethynylpyridine **124** (327.57 mg, 2.35 mmol) in THF-water, 30 mL (3:1) afforded **125b** white solid (400.00 mg, 90%); m.p. 234.6 – 236.3 °C ; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 767, 1005, 1023, 1264, 1336, 1532, 2225;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 7.60 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.94 (t,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.68 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.74 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 89.0, 93.7, 123.8, 125.7, 125.9, 126.1, 128.2, 129.1, 129.3, 130.2, 131.8, 134.7, 136.4, 150.1, 151.0, 151.9, 159.9; HRMS(ESI): calculated 386.0215,  $[\text{MH}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}^{81}\text{BrN}_3^+$ , found 388.0274.



**125c**

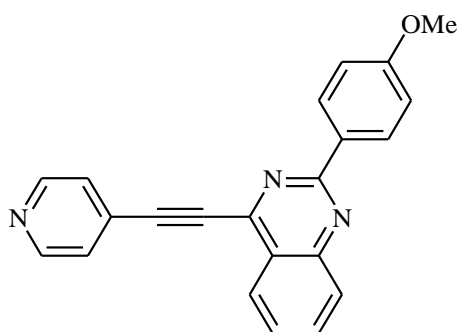
**3.7.3 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline (125c)**, A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinazoline **121c** (500.00 mg, 1.93 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (136.00 mg, 0.19 mmol), Cul (38.00 mg, 0.19 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1257.67 mg, 3.86 mmol) and 4-ethynylpyridine **124** (404.08 mg, 2.90 mmol) in THF-water, 30 mL (3:1) afforded **125c** white solid (0.39 g, 94%); m.p. 197.6 – 199.2 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 758, 819, 925, 1147, 1270, 1336, 1537, 2220; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 7.20 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HF</sub> = 27.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.41-8.67 (m, 2H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 88.9, 93.6, 115.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 21.5 Hz), 123.7, 126.0, 128.0, 129.1, 129.4, 130.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 8.7 Hz), 133.7 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 2.9 Hz), 134.7, 150.2, 151.5, 160.0, 164.7 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 247.6 Hz); HRMS(ESI): calculated 325.1015, [MH]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, found 326.1082.



**125d**

**3.7.4 2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline (125d)**, A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)quinazoline **121d** (500.00 mg, 1.75 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (123.00 mg, 0.18 mmol), Cul (33.00 mg, 0.18 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1140.37 mg, 3.50 mmol) and 4-ethynylpyridine **124** (367.10 mg, 2.63 mmol) in THF-water, 30 mL (3:1) afforded **125d** white solid (390.00 mg, 94%); m.p. 272.7 – 274.8 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 714,

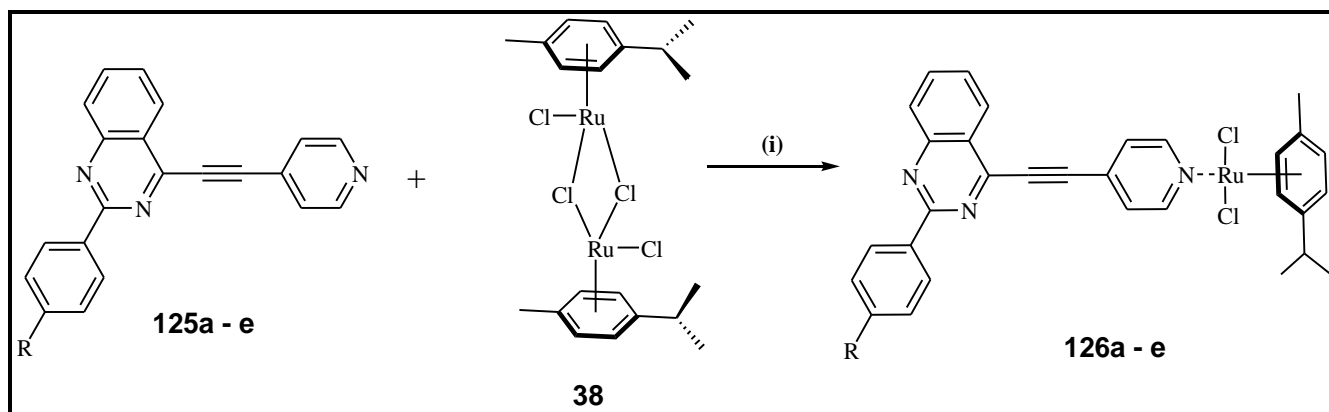
819, 930, 1215, 1250, 13338, 1592, 2207; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 7.61 (d, *J* = 5.60 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 14.62 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t, *J* = 15.87 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.77 Hz, 1H), 8.16-8.35 (m, 3H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 5.01 Hz, 2H), 8.83 (d, *J* = 9.19 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 88.4, 94.1, 123.6, 123.9, 125.8, 126, 128.3, 128.4, 128.4, 129.0, 129.2, 129.3, 134.9, 143.1, 149.1, 149.8, 150.0, 150.8, 151.9, 158.4; HRMS(ESI): calculated 352.1015, [MH]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, found 353.1027.



**125e**

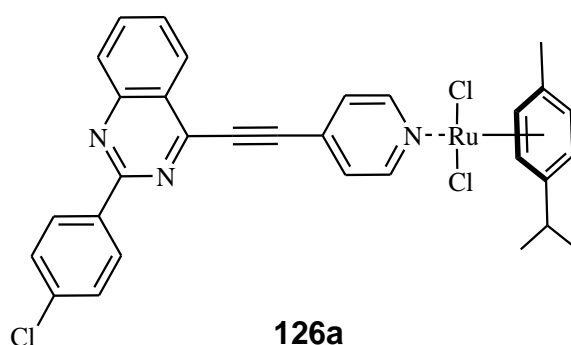
**3.7.5 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline (125e)** A mixture of 4-chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)quinazoline **121d** (500.00 mg, 1.85 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (130 mg, 0.19 mmol), CuI (35.00 mg, 0.19 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1205.53 mg, 3.70 mmol) and 4-ethynylpyridine **124** (388.03 mg, 2.78 mmol) in THF-water, 30 mL (3:1) afforded **125d** yellow solid (495.00 mg, 79 %) ; m.p. 202.6 – 204.6 °C; FTIR(*v*<sub>max</sub>) 761, 818, 924, 1161, 1252, 1360, 1468, 1535, 2219; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm); 3.88 (s, 3H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.87 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 15.97 Hz, 3H), 7.88 (t, *J* = 15.08 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.87 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.87 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.87 Hz, 2H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 3.52 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 55.4, 89, 93.2, 113.9, 123.4, 125.9, 126, 127.4, 129.5, 130.1, 130.3, 134.4, 150.1, 151.1, 151.6, 160.6, 161.9; HRMS(ESI): calculated 337.0215, [MH]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, found 338.1286.

### 3.8 Synthesis of $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{RuCl}_2\text{-4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines}]$ **126a – e**



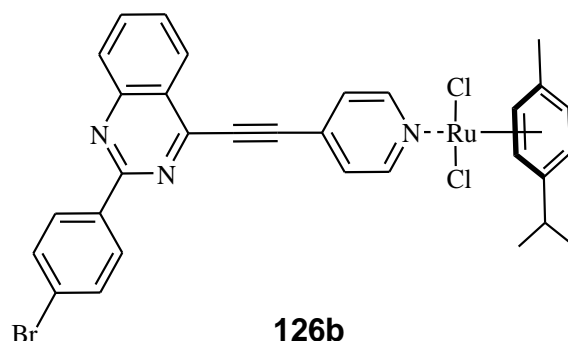
R = -Cl (**126a**), -Br (**126b**), -F (**126c**), -NO<sub>2</sub> (**126d**), -OMe (**126e**)

To a 250 mL Schlenk flask, a mixture of **125** (2.25 equiv.) and dichloro-(p-cymene)-ruthenium (II) dimer **38** (1 equiv.) was heated to reflux in hexane for 5 h, after which stirring was continued for 12 h at room temperature, the precipitate was collected on a filter-paper and washed thoroughly with methanol and diethyl ether to afford **126a – e**.

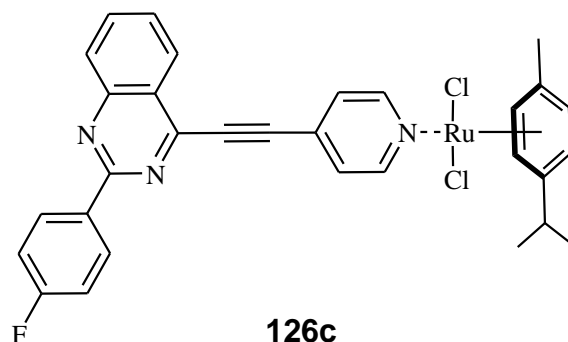


**3.8.1**  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{RuCl}_2\text{-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline}]$  (**126a**), A mixture of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline **125a** (125.40 mg, 0.37 mmol) and dichloro-(p-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** (100.00 mg, 0.16 mmol) in hexane 30 mL afforded **126a** as orange solid (94.31 mg, 90%); m.p 402.2 – 404.1 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 768, 834, 937, 1149, 1270, 1339, 1601, 1805, 2218, 2962; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 1.33 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.01 (sep,  $J = 28.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 2H), 5.45 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 6$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.71 (t,  $J =$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t,  $J =$  Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 9.16 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 18.4, 22.3, 30.9, 58.4, 82.3, 83.1, 91.7, 97.3, 103.7,

123.7, 125.8, 125.9, 126.6, 128.5, 129.2, 130.2, 131.2, 131.8, 134.9, 136.3, 151.1, 155.0, 159.9; HRMS(ESI): calculated 647.02  $[M-Cl]^+$ ,  $C_{31}H_{26}^{35}Cl_2N_3Ru^+$ , found 611.1852.

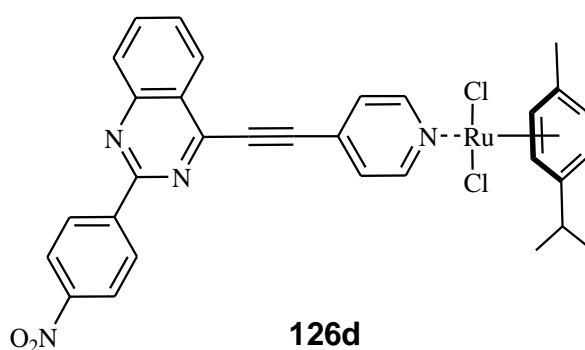


**3.8.2**  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})RuCl_2\text{-}2\text{-}(4\text{-bromoyphenyl})\text{-}4\text{-}(2\text{-}(pyridin\text{-}4\text{-yl})ethynyl)quinazoline]$  (**126b**), A mixture of 2-(4-bromoyphenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline **125b** (151.75, 0.37 mmol) and dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** (100.00 mg, 0.16 mmol) in hexane 30 mL afforded **126b** as orange solid (76.01 mg, 67%); m.p >450 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{max}$ ) 733, 869, 1007, 1171, 1338, 1449, 1536, 1562, 1604, 2219, 2966;  $^1H$ -NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm) 1.33 (br-s, 6H), 2.14 (br-s, 3H), 3.01 (br-s, 1H), 5.27 (br-s, 2H), 5.49 (br-s, 2H), 7.60 (br-s, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H), 7.96 (br-s, 1H), 8.11 (d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.27 (br-s, 1H), 8.50 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2H), 9.17 (br-s, 2H);  $^{13}C$ -NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm) 18.4, 22.3, 30.7, 82.4, 83.1, 91.7, 91.8, 97.4, 103.8, 123.8, 125.8, 126.0, 126.6, 128.5, 129.2, 130.2, 131.2, 131.9, 134.9, 136.3, 151.1, 151.2, 155.1, 159.9; HRMS(ESI): calculated 692.44,  $[M-Cl]^+$ ,  $C_{31}H_{26}^{79}Br^{35}ClN_3Ru^+$ , found 656.0060.

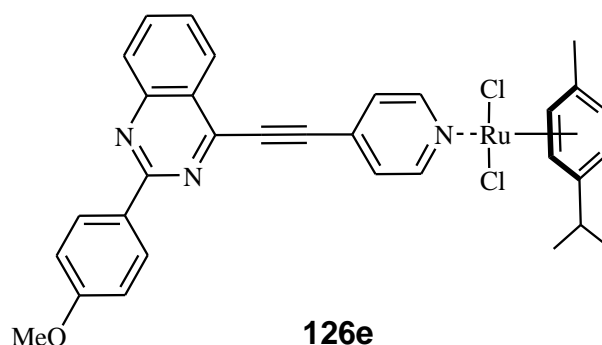


**3.8.3**  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})RuCl_2\text{-}2\text{-}(4\text{-fluorophenyl})\text{-}4\text{-}(2\text{-}(pyridin\text{-}4\text{-yl})ethynyl)quinazoline]$  (**126c**), A mixture of 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline **125c** (119.40 mg, 0.37 mmol) and dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** (100.00 mg, 0.16 mmol) in hexane 30 mL afforded **126c** as orange solid (82.46 mg, 80%); m.p >

410 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 770, 841, 936, 1151, 1264, 1338, 1537, 1813, 2021, 2359, 2963;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 1.31 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.98 (sep,  $J = 26.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 5.48 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (t,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 8.25-8.62 (m, 2H), 9.14 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H)  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 18.3, 22.3, 30.7, 82.2, 83, 91.7, 91.6, 97.4, 103.6, 115.6 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.7$  Hz), 123.5, 125.9, 126.6, 130.0, 130.7 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.6$  Hz), 133.5 (d,  $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 2.8$  Hz), 134.8, 150.1, 155.0, 159.9, 164.7 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 250$  Hz); HRMS(ESI): calculated 631.05,  $[\text{M-}p\text{-cymene}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{12}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{FN}_3\text{Ru}^+$ , found 497.0965.



**3.8.4**  $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{RuCl}_2\text{-}2\text{-}(4\text{-nitrophenyl})\text{-}4\text{-}(2\text{-}(pyridin\text{-}4\text{-yl})\text{ethynyl})\text{quinazoline}]$  (**126d**) A mixture of 2-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline **125d** (129.31 mg, 0.37 mmol) and dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** (100.00 mg, 0.16 mmol) in hexane 30 mL afforded **126d** as orange solid (86.60 mg, 81%); m.p > 410 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ) 714, 833, 937, 1192, 1338, 1520, 1578, 1778, 2210, 2962;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 1.32 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.01 (sep,  $J = 28.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 5.49 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2H), 7.35 (m,  $J = 18.4$  Hz, 3H), 7.60 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 9.17 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm) 18.4, 22.3, 30.7, 82.3, 83.1, 91.3, 97.4, 103.7, 123.8, 126.0, 126.2, 126.6, 129.3, 129.5, 131.0, 135.1, 135.3, 143.1, 149.3, 150.2, 151.0, 155.1, 158.6; HRMS(ESI): calculated 658.05,  $[\text{M-Cl}]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}^{35}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}_2\text{Ru}^+$ , found 622.0796.



**3.8.5** [( $\eta^6$ -*p*-cymene)RuCl<sub>2</sub>-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)-ethynyl)-quinazoline] (**126e**), A mixture of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethynyl)quinazoline **125e** (123.82 mg, 0.37 mmol) and dichloro-(*p*-cymene)-ruthenium(II) dimer **38** (100.00 mg, 0.16 mmol) in hexane 30 mL afforded **126e** as orange solid (74.41 mg, 71%); m.p 410 °C; FTIR( $\nu_{\max}$ ) 714, 829, 930, 1169, 1250, 1354, 1574, 1605, 1774, 2210, 2962; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.01 (sep, *J* = 27.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 5.27 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 9.15 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) 18.3, 22.3, 30.7, 55.4, 82.3, 83.0, 91.3, 91.9, 97.3, 103.7, 114.0, 123.4, 125.8, 126.6, 127.7, 129.0, 130.0, 130.3, 131.3, 151.0, 151.2, 155, 160.7, 162; HRMS(ESI), calculated 643.07, [M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>29</sub><sup>35</sup>ClN<sub>3</sub>ORu<sup>+</sup>, found 607.1059.

### 3.9 Molecular docking of compounds 119a – d, 123a – e, 125a – e

The molecular docking calculations were achieved using the Schrodinger-2018-1 LLC interface, employing Maestro 11.5 database. All ligands and proteins in the induced-fit docking job were prepared at physiological pH 7.4 using Epik. The conformational search for all ligands was done using optimised potentials for liquid simulations (OPLS\_2005) employing water as a solvent. The induced-fit docking (IFD) experiment was run on extra-precision (XP), wherein residues within ligand poses were refined at 5 Å and all ligands were re-docked into structures within 30 Kcal/mol of the best structure, and within the top 20 structures overall.

### 3.10 In vitro anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity of compounds 119a – d, 121a – e, 123a – e, 125a – e and 126a – e.

#### 3.10.1 Broth micro-dilution method

The inhibitory activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was achieved at the University of Cape Town, drug discovery and development centre (H3-D), following broth micro-dilution method. The broth micro-dilution method allows a range of antibiotic concentrations to be tested on a single 96-well microtitre plate in order to determine the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). Briefly, a 10 mL culture of a mutant *Mtb* (H37Rv) strain constitutively expressing recombinant alamar blue assay of a plasmid integrated at the *attB* locus is grown to an OD600 of 0.6–0.7. The *Mtb*. H37Rv strain culture is then diluted 1:100 in 7H9 GLU CAS TX. In a 96-well microtitre plate, 50 µL of 7H9 GLU CAS TX medium is added to all wells from Rows 2-12. The compounds to be tested are added to Row 2-12 in duplicate, at a final concentration of 640 µM (stocks are made up to a concentration of 12.8 mM in DMSO, and diluted to 640 µM in 7H9 GLU CAS TX medium). A two-fold serial dilution is prepared, by transferring 50 µL of the liquid in Row 1 and 2 to mix. 50 µL of the liquid in Row 2 is then transferred to Row 3 and aspirated. The procedure is repeated until Row 12 is reached, from which 50 µL of the liquid is discarded to bring the final volume in all wells to 50 µL. Finally, 50 µL of the 1:100 diluted *Mtb* cultures are added to all wells in Rows 2-12. Row 1 serves as a contamination control which includes media, 5% DMSO and rifampicin. The microtitre plate is stored in a secondary container and incubated at 37 °C with humidifier to prevent evaporation of the liquid. The lowest concentration of compounds which inhibit growth of more than 90% of the bacterial population is considered to be the MIC<sub>90</sub> and MIC<sub>99</sub>. The pellet data is reported as visual score and calculated MIC during 7 and 14 day post inoculation [8].

#### Reference

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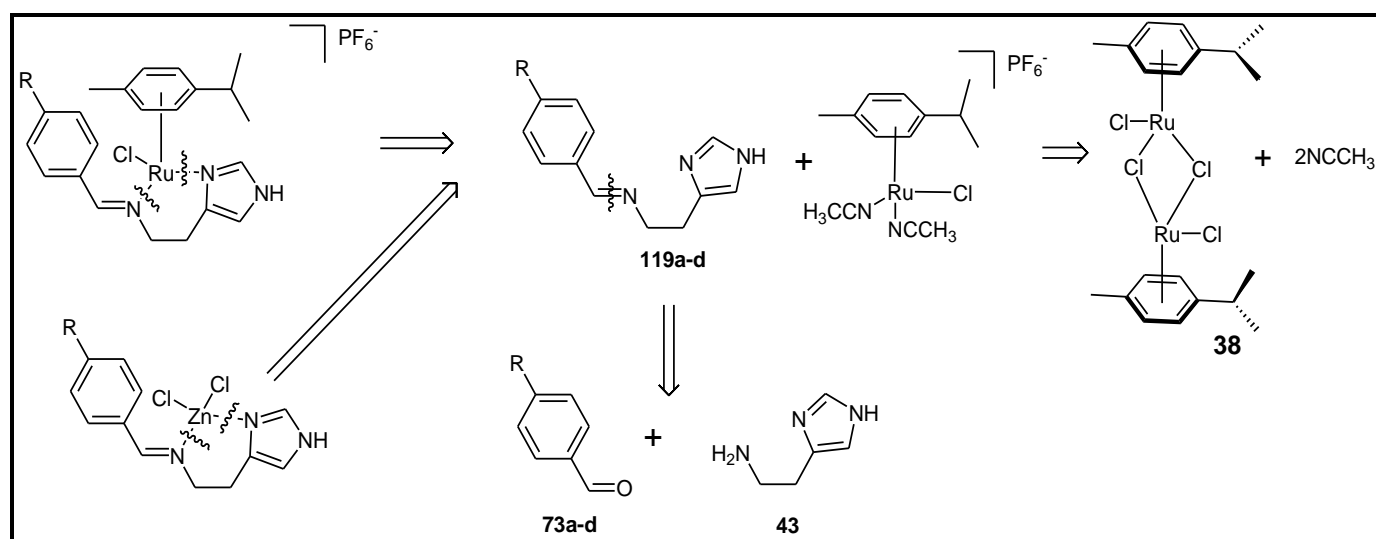
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## CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bidentate Schiff base ligands of the  $N^2N$  type were synthesised in good yields and their respective metal coordinated complexes where M is Zn(II) were also attempted. This was later followed by the synthesis of ethynylpyridine bridged quinoxaline organic moiety derivatives which were coordinated to monomeric *p*-cymene ruthenium(II) centre.

### 4.1 Synthesis of ethanamineimidazolyl-Schiff base ligands and their reaction with M(II) metals

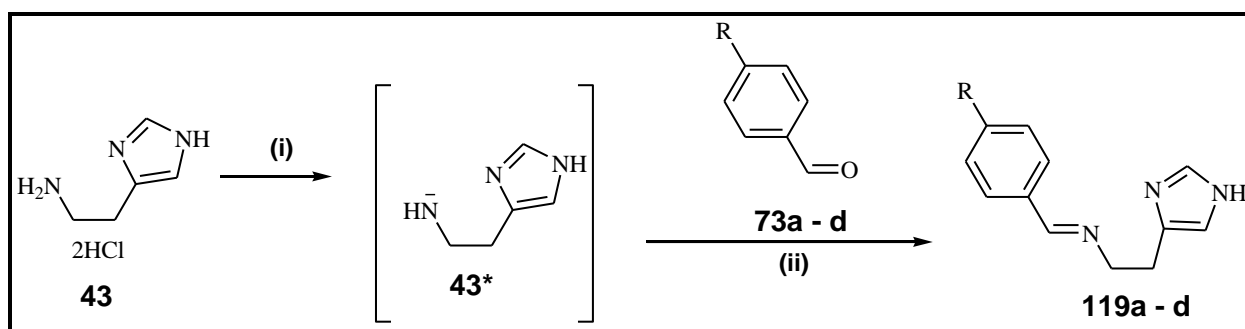
The retrosynthetic analysis strategy for the synthesis of the target ligands **119a-d** to be coordinated to metal centres Ru/Zn is shown below in **Scheme 4.1**.



**Scheme 4.1:** Retrosynthetic strategy for the synthesis of the proposed ethanamineimidazolyl Schiff base complex.

Schiff base ligands are generally accessible by following a direct acid or base catalysed condensation reaction between aldehyde derivatives and primary amine in the presence of a drying agent ( $MgSO_4$ ,  $Na_2SO_4$  and  $NaHCO_3$ ) [1]. The drying agent in this case helps in absorbing the water molecules from the reaction and in-turn form an alkaline solution which does not temper with the progression of the reaction [2]. On the other hand, metal complexes of Schiff bases are formed by treating metal salts with stoichiometric amount of the ligand under moisture free conditions depending on the nature of the ligand and the metal salt employed in the reaction [3].

The synthesis of Schiff base derivatives **119a-d** was initiated by a trial series of acid catalysed reactions. A reaction of *para*-substituted aldehyde derivatives **73a-d**, histamine dihydrochloride **43**, formic acid 5 - 10% (7 - 12 drops) and sodium hydrogen carbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>) in dry methanol while stirring at room temperature for 24 h was unsuccessful. Only starting materials, *i.e.* aldehyde **73a-d** and the histamine dihydrochloride **43**, were isolated. Further attempts using different acids such as hydrochloric acid (HCl, 5 - 10%) [5], sulphuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 5 - 10%) [6] and acetic acid (CH<sub>3</sub>COOH, 5 - 10%) [7] yielded trace amount of the desired product. Reaction of the aldehydes (**73a-d**) and histamine in basic conditions *i.e.* triethylamine solution (TEA) showed the formation of the expected product. However, purification was a challenge as chromatographic purification techniques (prep-TLC and column chromatography) proved detrimental to the ligands. The Schiff base ligands cannot be purified using column/ preparative thin layer chromatographic (TLC) techniques, as they are moisture sensitive and undergo hydrolysis. The imidazolyl-ethanamine Schiff base ligands **119a-d** were successfully synthesised by condensation of the *para*-substituted (-F, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -H and -OH) aldehyde derivatives **73a-d** and histamine dihydrochloride **43** in the presence of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) [4]. Histamine dihydrochloride **43** was neutralised with NaOH in methanol for 2 hrs to give a colourless methanolic reaction mixture *i.e.* **43\***. The reaction mixture was then added dropwise to a methanolic aldehyde solution equipped with a stirrer bar and stirred for 15 minutes before adding NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, after which Schiff base derivatives **119a-d** were isolated in high yields ranging from 94 – 98%, **Scheme 4.2**.



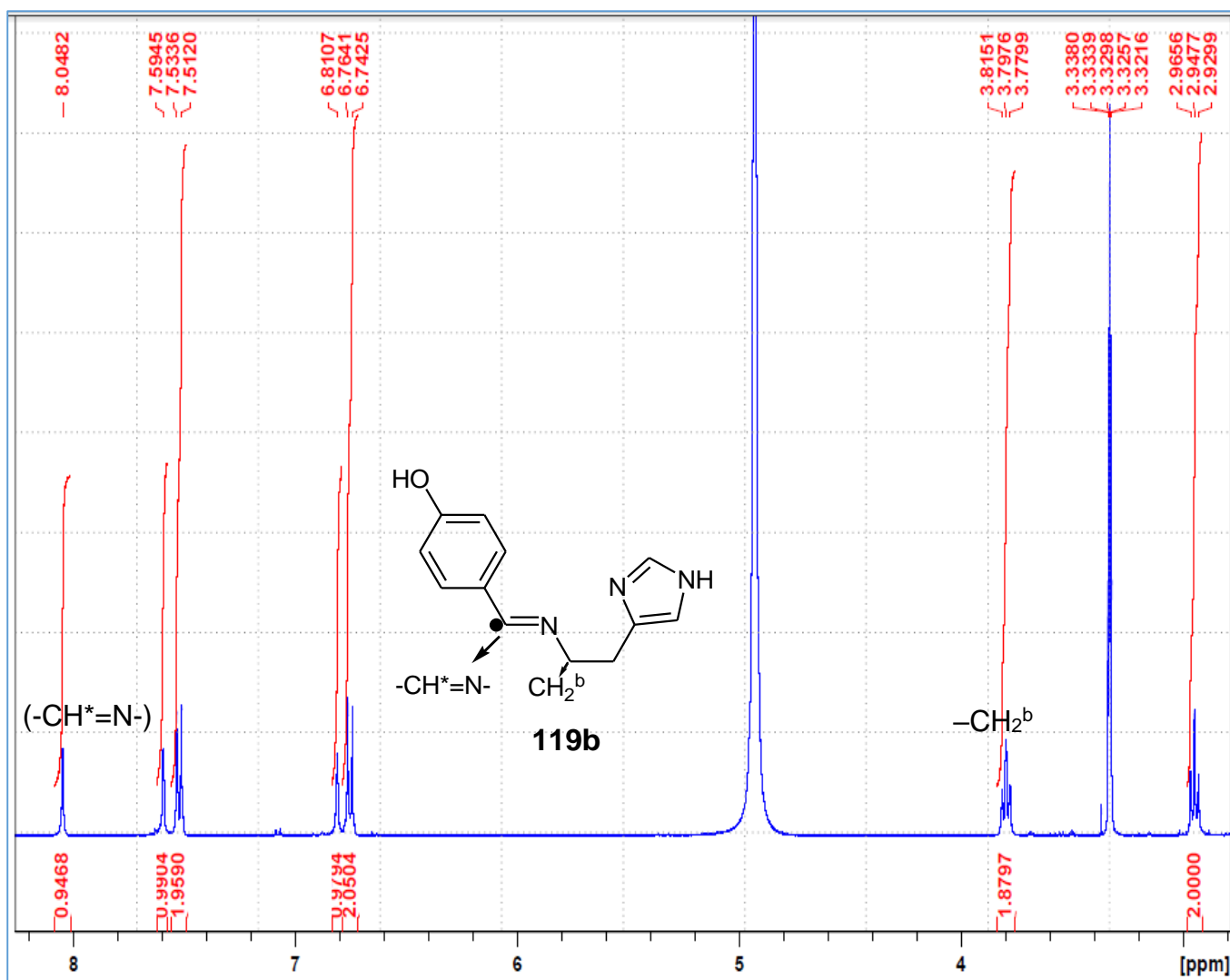
*Reagents and solutions:* (i) NaOH, MeOH, rt, 2h, (ii) MeOH, rt, 24h.

**Scheme 4.2:** Reaction scheme for the synthesis of Schiff base ligands **119a-d**.

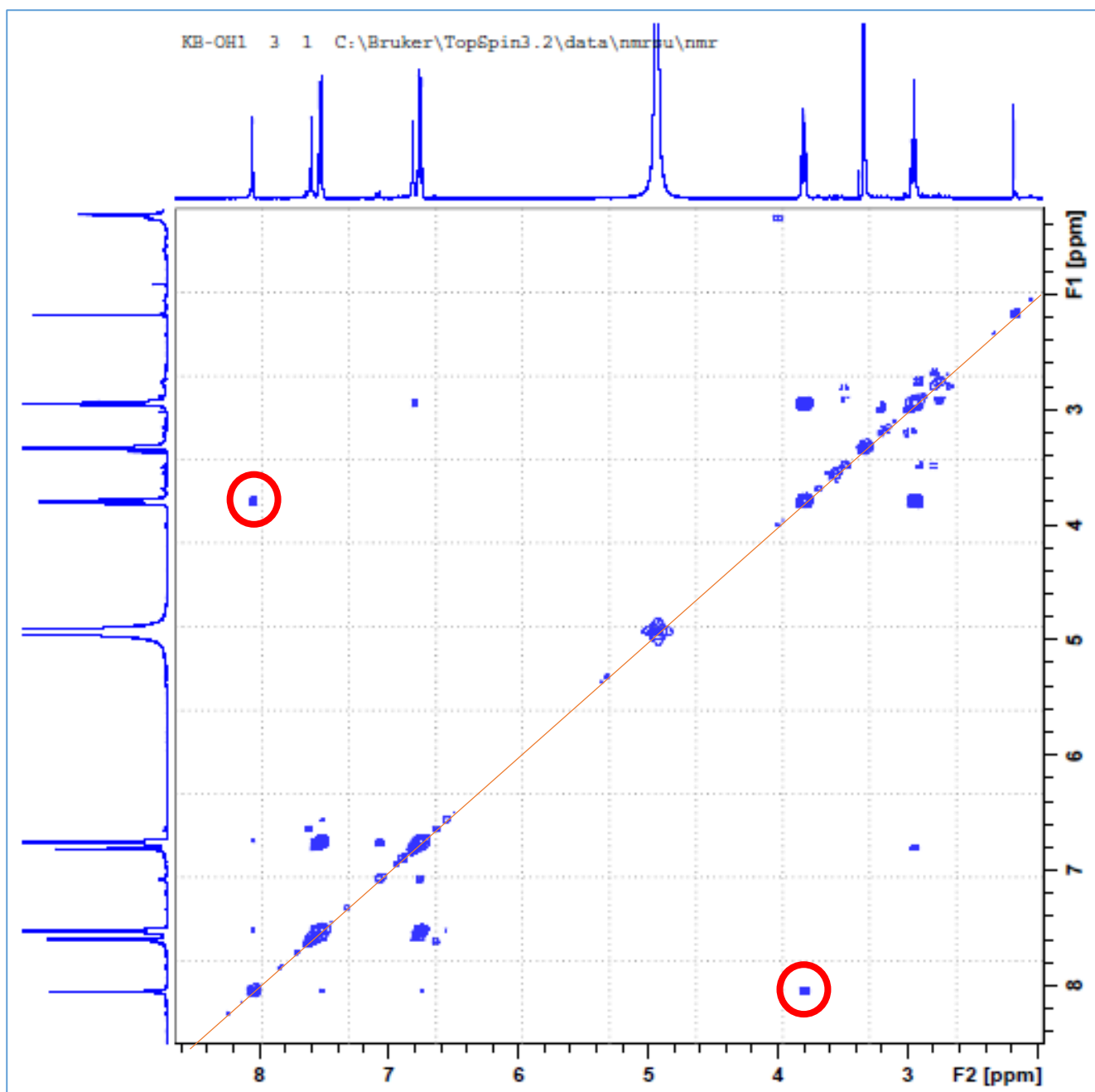
A representative ligand, 4-((E)-(2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethylimino)methyl)phenol **119b** is here described. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (**Figure 4.1**) reveals the presence of an expected set of two singlets and doublets corresponding to the imidazolyl protons and the symmetrical aromatic protons respectively in the region ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.74 – 7.60 ppm). Another expected set of two triplets relatively upfield both integrating for 2H each while the slightly de-shielded  $-\text{CH}_2^{\text{b}}$  of the ethanamine group resonating at  $\delta$  3.80 ppm ( $J = 14.00$  Hz) is also observed. An intense singlet of the imine proton at  $\delta$  8.05 ppm confirms the condensation between 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde derivative **73b** and histamine **43**. The presence of the azomethine group ( $-\text{CH}^*=\text{N}-$ ) was further confirmed using the  $^1\text{H-}^1\text{H}$  COSY experiment. The spectrum revealed a correlation between the imine proton and the de-shielded triplet  $-\text{CH}_2^{\text{b}}$  (correlation peak circled red, (**Figure 4.2**)). The  $^1\text{H-HMBC}$  spectrum (**Figure 4.3**) revealed a correlation between the imine hydrogen (red circles) and the carbon of the  $-\text{CH}_2^{\text{b}}$  group resonating at 63 ppm via  $^4J$ -spin coupling. The FTIR spectrum (**Figure 4.4**) of the 4-((E)-(2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethylimino)methyl)phenol **119b** revealed the azomethine group ( $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ ) at  $1668\text{ cm}^{-1}$  further confirming the presence of the ( $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ ) link. Similar findings of other derivatives summarised in **Table 4.1**.

**Table 4.1:** Summarised characterisation of compounds **119a-d**.

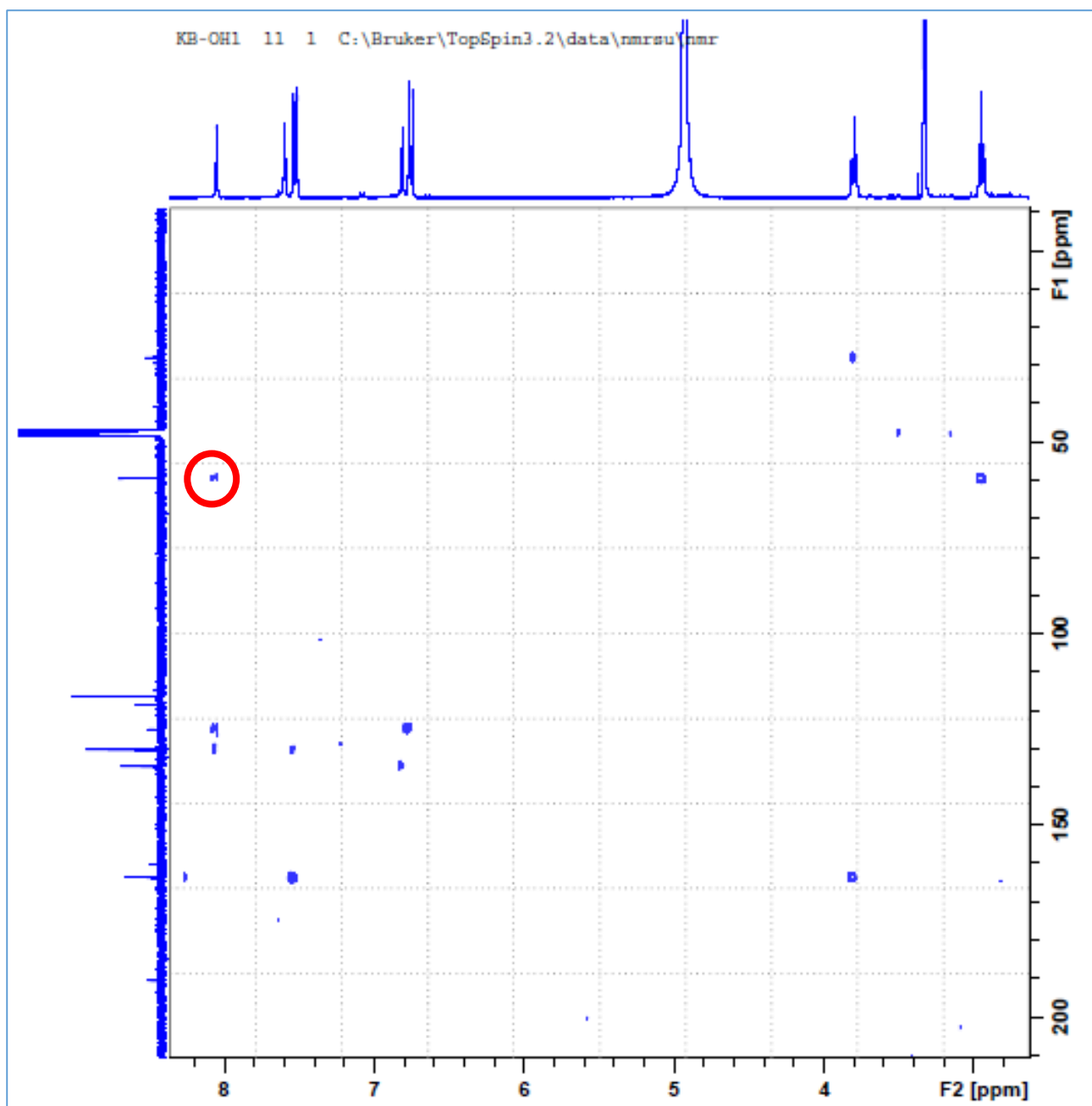
<b>119</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Imine proton (ppm)</b>	<b><math>\nu_{\text{max}}</math> (<math>-\text{CH}^*=\text{N}-</math>) link (<math>\text{cm}^{-1}</math>)</b>	<b>%yield</b>	<b>mp. (<math>^{\circ}\text{C}</math>)</b>
<b>a</b>	-H	8.243	1696	94	247.4 – 248.6
<b>b</b>	-OH	8.048	1668	97	262.5 – 263.1
<b>c</b>	-F	8.229	1666	95	284.9 – 286.1
<b>d</b>	-NO <sub>2</sub>	8.375	1628	98	266.2 – 267.4



**Figure 4.1:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **119b** in  $\text{MeOD-}d_3$  at 400 MHz.



**Figure 4.2:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ -COSY spectrum of **119b** in  $\text{MeOD-}d_3$  at 400 MHz.



**Figure 4.3:** Expanded 2D-HMBC spectrum of **119b** in MeOD-*d*<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz.

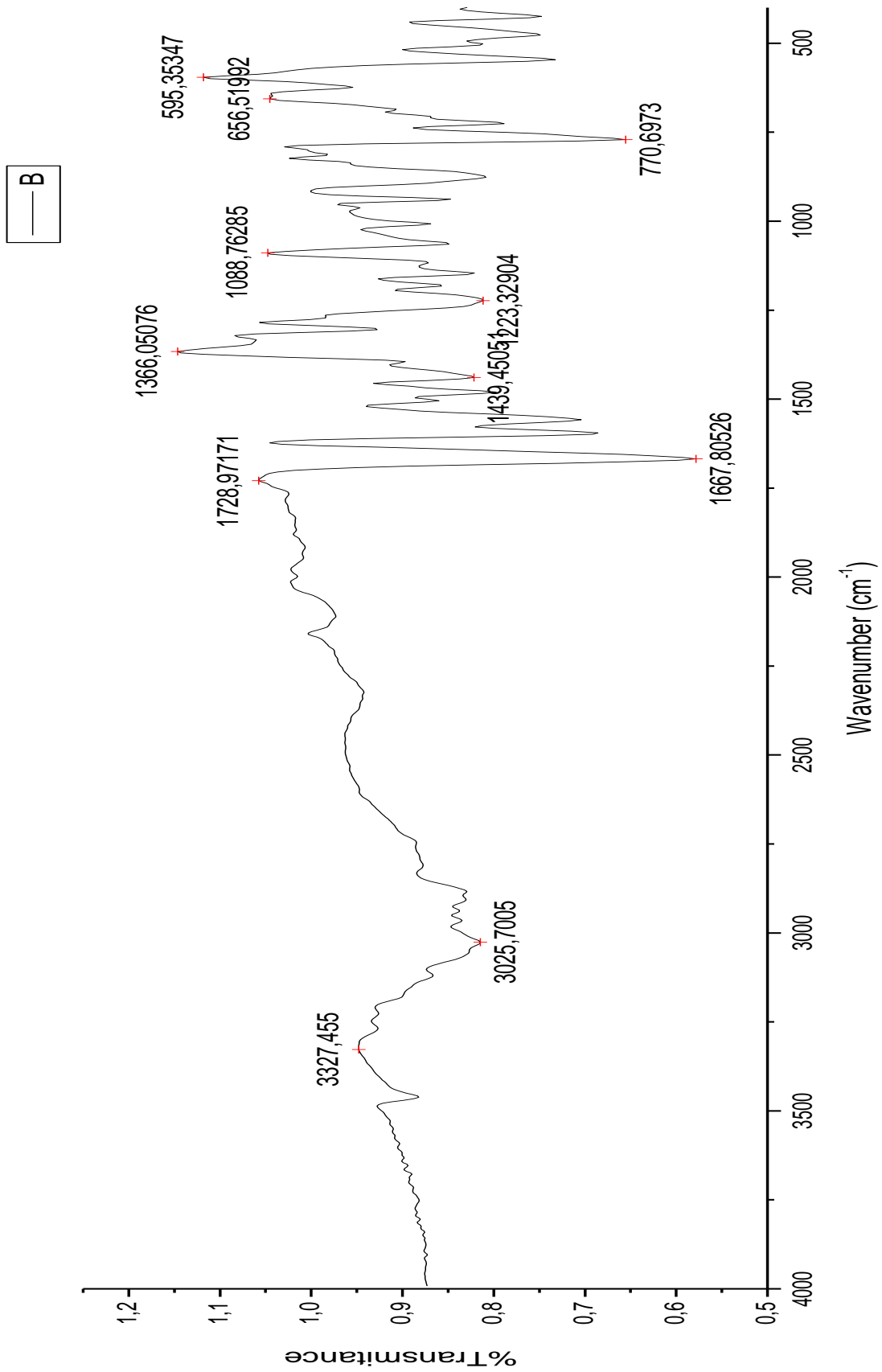
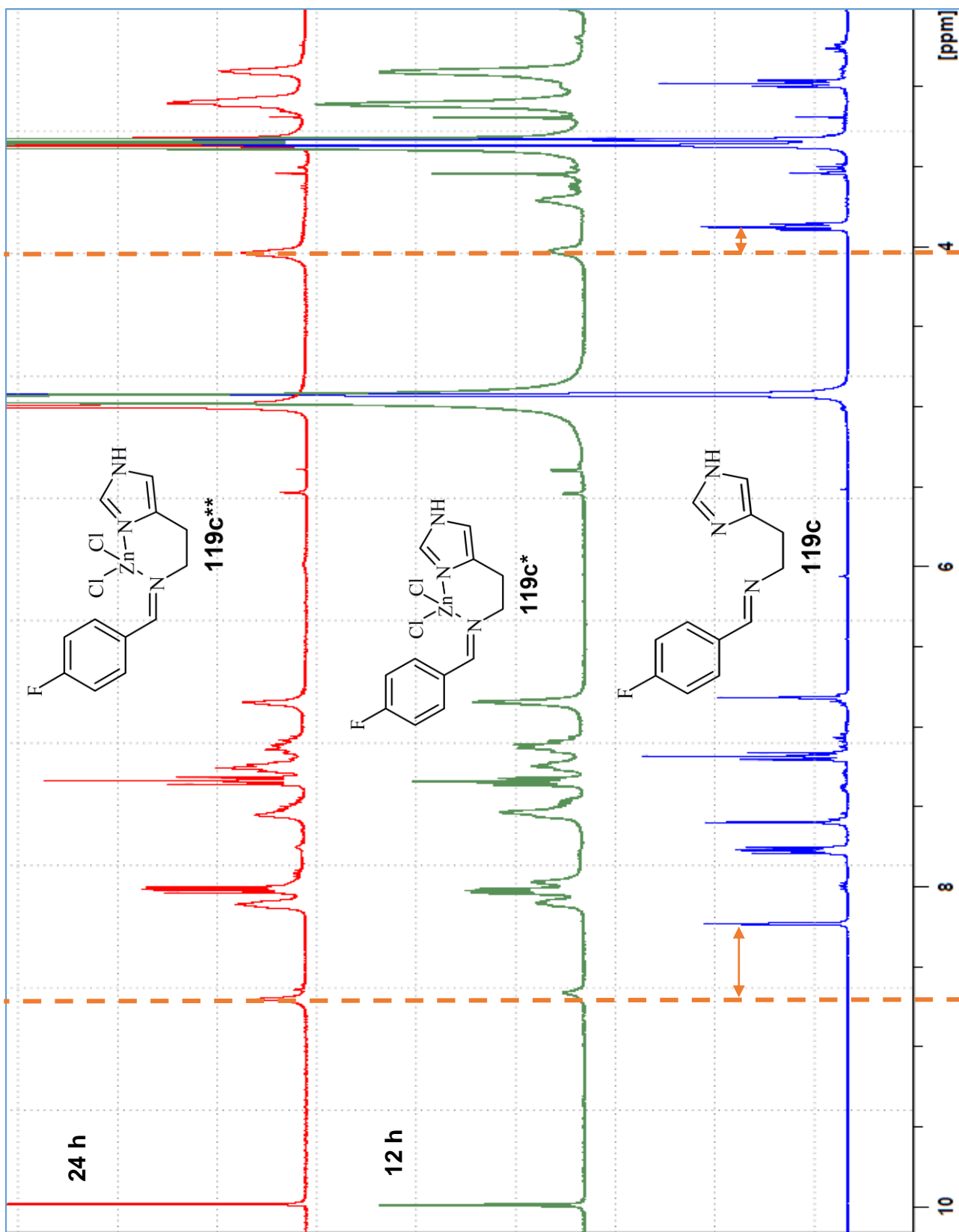


Figure 4.4: FTIR spectrum of 119b.



## 4.2. Attempted synthesis of novel Zn(II)-N<sup>N</sup>-Schiff base complexes.

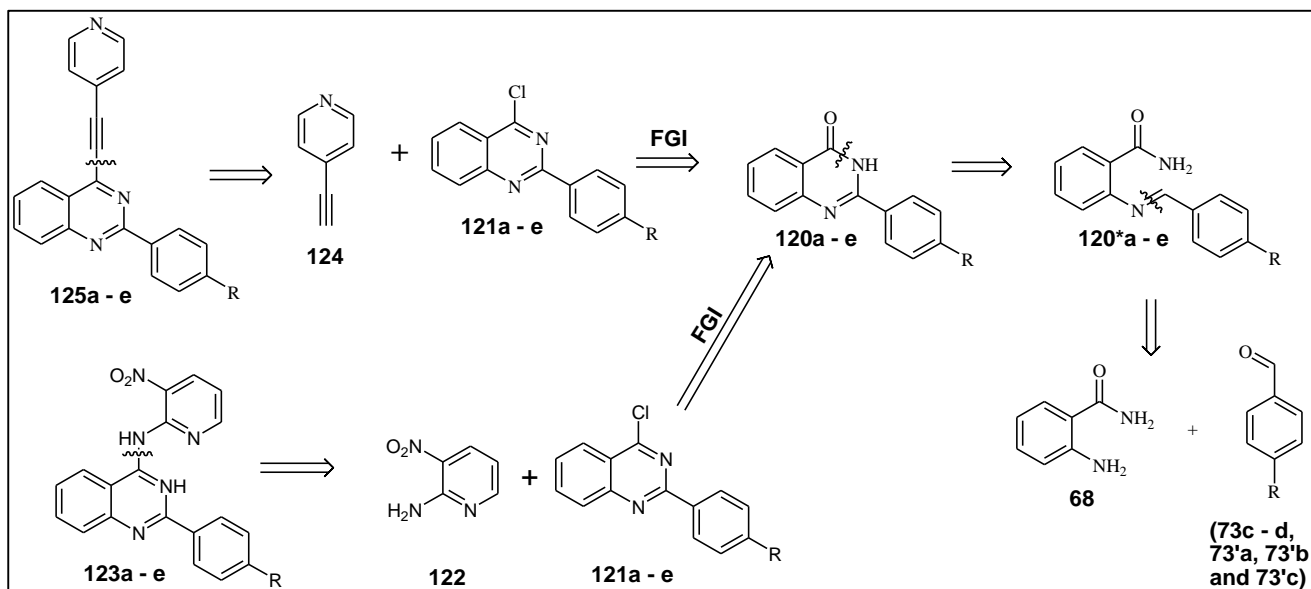
Coordination of Schiff base ligand (**119c**) to ZnCl<sub>2</sub> salt was attempted following literature method [8] in 100 % HPLC grade methanol by adding 1:1 mmol of (E)-N-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine **119c** and ZnCl<sub>2</sub>. The progress of reaction was monitored at room temperature in an NMR-tube for between 12 h and 24 h by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra below indicate a loss in multiplicity from **Figure 4.5a-c** because the zinc has a spin 5/2 ( $I = 5/2$ ) with a natural abundance of 4.102 %. From the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, we observed signs of product formation as the –CH<sub>2</sub><sup>b</sup> and the imine proton both shifting downfield from the original chemical shift position of the ligand, i.e. from 3.87 ppm to 4.0 ppm and 8.23 ppm to 8.65 ppm. This effect is due to the electron donation imine nitrogen towards the metal centre. We also observe that, as the coordination to the metal centre proceeds, the ligand suffers decomposition as the aldehydic proton at 10.01 ppm and the two triplets peaks from the phenyl of the aldehyde in the aromatic region 7.01 ppm and 7.81 ppm reappear, which corresponds to the commercial starting material. Before the aforementioned observation, a trial series of coordination reactions to the ZnCl<sub>2</sub> metal centre were investigated for ligands **119a-d**. In the first attempt, ligands **119a-d** were separately reacted with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (1:1 mmol) in methanol at room temperature for 12 h. To our dismay, all variations gave a mixture of the aldehyde derivatives with histamine. We then investigated the effect of temperature, wherein we heated the reaction mixture to reflux (70-75 °C) under nitrogen atmosphere for 24 h. To our disappointment the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum obtained was difficult to interpret as the data observed yielded unresolved broad peaks. We then reasoned that perhaps the poor results are due to the ZnCl<sub>2</sub> being subjected to moisture and would then prove detrimental to the ligands while stirring in methanol. To avert this misfortune, the ZnCl<sub>2</sub> was oven-dried at 120 °C and used immediately thereof. Even with this measure, the reaction presented yielded undesirable spectral data. We then changed the zinc salt to zinc(II) acetate and repeated the above mentioned trials. However, to our dismay, a similar trend was observed across all ligands *i.e.* decomposition of the Schiff base ligand to give an aldehyde derivative and histamine.



**Figure 4.5:** Overlaid <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of ligand (**119c**) and the attempted reaction time for complexation by ZnCl<sub>2</sub> after 12 h (green) and 24 h (red).

### 4.3. Synthesis of quinazoline derivatives

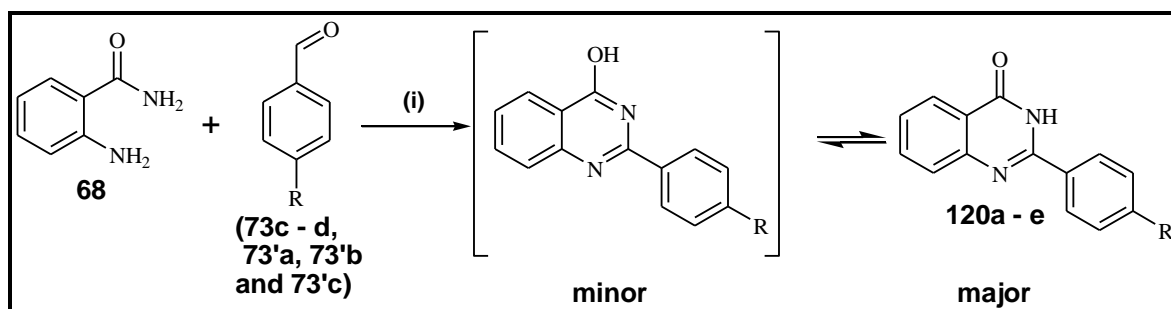
The retrosynthetic analysis strategy for the synthesis of the target ligands **125a – e** for coordination to the monomeric *p*-cymene Ru(II) piano stool centre is shown below in **Scheme 4.3** (except ligands **123a – e**).



**Scheme 4.3:** Retrosynthetic strategy for the synthesis of the proposed 4-pyridyl-quinazoline ligands.

#### 4.3.1 Synthesis of 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones

Compounds **120a – e**, were synthesised following a literature procedure [9]. The first requirement under this investigation was to synthesise the 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **120a – e** to be used as substrates for the requisites 2-aryl-4-chloroquinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **121a – e**. To acquire the desired 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **120a – e**, we performed a one-pot procedure through oxidative cyclocondensation of anthranilamide **68** with *para*-substituted benzaldehyde derivatives (**73c – d**, **73a'**, **73b'** and **73c'**) in the presence of molecular iodine (2 equiv.) in ethanol at 80 °C (**Scheme 4.4**).



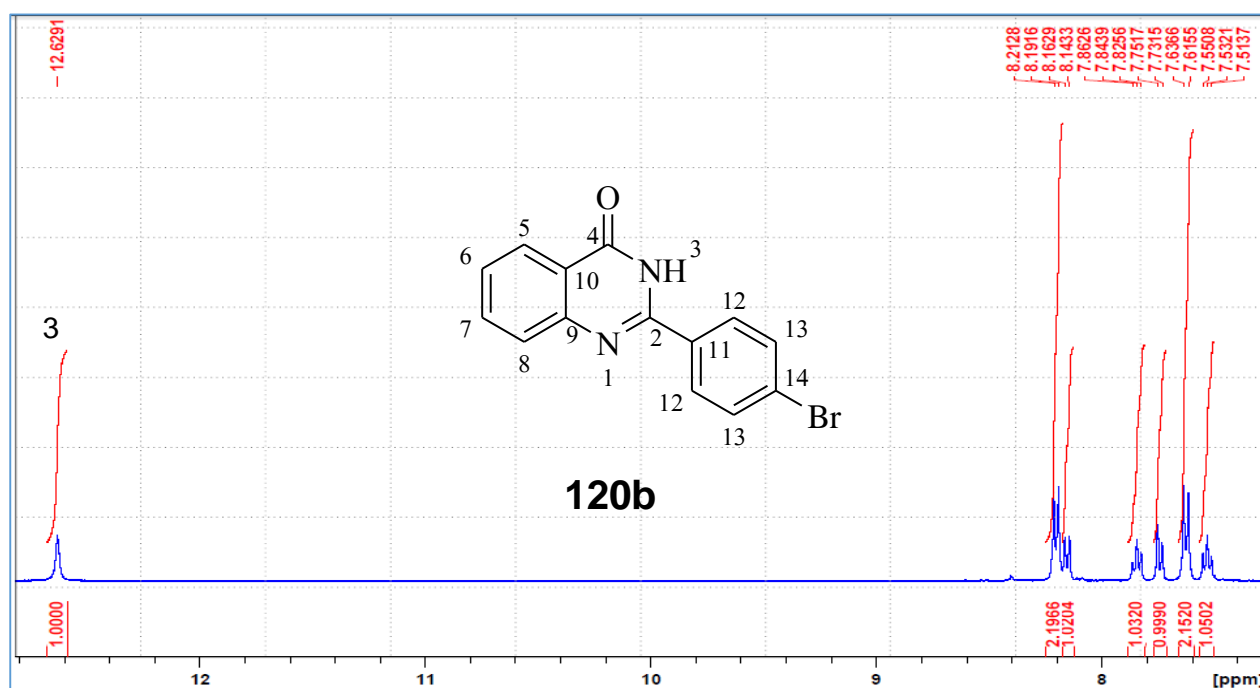
*Reagents and conditions:* (i) I<sub>2</sub> (2 equiv.), EtOH, 80 °C, 6 h.

**Scheme 4.4:** Iodine-promoted oxidative cyclocondensation of anthranilamide with aldehyde derivatives.

The molecular iodine serves as a promoter to effect cyclocondensation and oxidation reactions by introducing dehydrogenation on the *N*-3 position [10]. The quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one framework is generally accessible through a dehydrogenation reaction of 2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-one precursors by treating the latter with oxidants in large excess of DDQ [10] and KMnO<sub>4</sub> [11]. Other synthetic methods include a one-pot procedure wherein a direct cyclocondensation between anthranilamide **68** and aldehyde derivatives **73** is catalysed by DDQ [12] or NaHSO<sub>2</sub> [13]. The literature procedure followed, induces keto-enol tautomerism, wherein the enol (quinazolinol-minor) is favoured at high temperatures (70-100 °C) and the keto (quinazolinone-major) oppositely, is favoured at low temperatures (≤ 20 °C) [9]. The tautomerism in this case was avoided by cooling the reaction vessel to room temperature and later bleaching with an ice-cold saturated sodium metabisulphate (Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>). The synthesised compounds **120a – e**, were characterised using <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR and melting point techniques. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of compounds **120a – e** revealed the presence of a broad singlet at 12.75 ppm corresponding to the N-H proton of the alpha-nitrogen. Further expected protons in the aromatic region ranging from 7.53 – 8.20 ppm are assigned to the 2-phenyl substituent and the quinazoline backbone (**Figure 4.6**). The amide nature of the compounds are confirmed by FTIR due to the presence of C-N and C=O in the regions  $\nu_{\max}$  1531 – 1583 cm<sup>-1</sup> and  $\nu_{\max}$  1656 – 1691 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The melting points recorded are consistent with those reported in literature [14].

**Table 4.2:** Summarised characterisation of compounds **120a – e**.

120	R	$\nu_{\max}$ C=O ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\nu_{\max}$ C-N ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	% Yield	m.p. ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
<b>a</b>	4-Cl	1606	1531	87	295.2 – 297., lit (298 – 299) [14]
<b>b</b>	4-Br	1656	1544	91	>350, lit (>350) [14]
<b>c</b>	4-F	1605	1555	93	261.3 – 263.2, lit (257 – 259) [14]
<b>d</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub>	1601	1583	90	> 300, lit (>300) [14]
<b>e</b>	4-OMe	1691	1566	93	242.7 – 243.4, lit (240 – 241) [14]

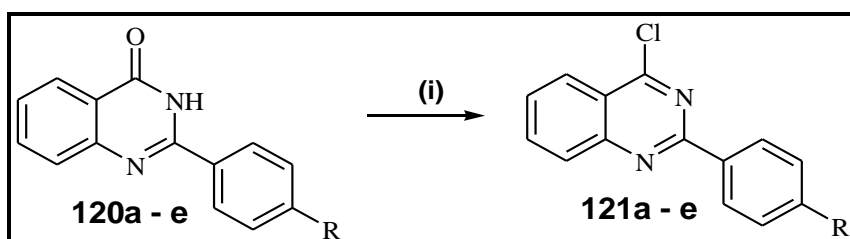


**Figure 4.6:** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum for compound **120b**.

### 4.3.2 Synthesis of 2-aryl-4-chloro-quinazolines

The next step was to generate an electrophilic centre at the 4-position of the scaffolds 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **120a – e** through oxidative aromatisation to afford the 2-aryl-4-chloro-quinazolines **121a – e**. The compounds **121a – e** were successfully

synthesised following literature procedure [9], wherein the scaffolds 2-aryl-quinazolin-4(3*H*)-ones **120a – e** were treated with excess thionyl chloride using DMF as a solvent. The reaction was driven to completion by refluxing at 100 °C for 4 h (**Scheme 4.5**). The full conversion of the latter was confirmed by the absence of an N-H signal on the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of compounds **121a – e**. The FTIR spectra of the compounds **121a – e** revealed the absence of the C=O stretch thus confirming formation of the C(4)-Cl bond. Upon obtaining the requisites **121a – e**, we decided to explore the 4-position through dechloro-amination (**section 4.3.3**) and Sonogashira-cross coupling (**section 4.3.4**). Both functionalities were successfully achieved and the compounds were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, FTIR spectroscopy and HRMS.

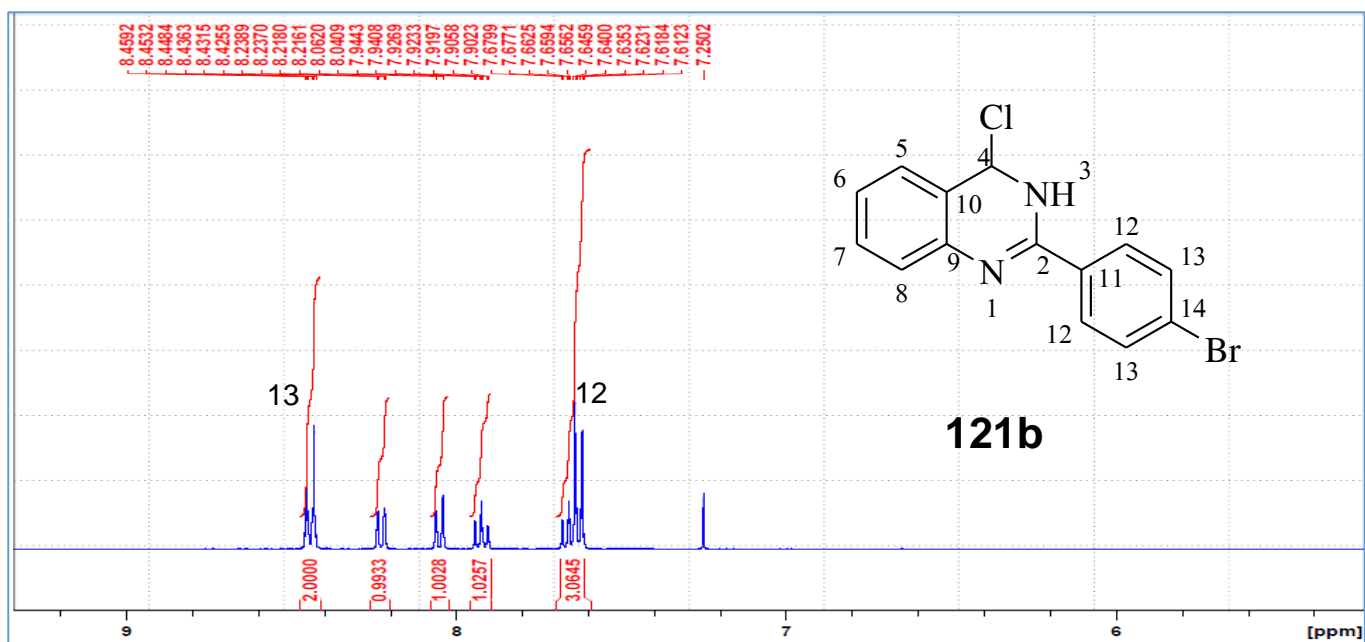


*Reagents and conditions:* (i) SOCl<sub>2</sub>, DMF, 100 °C, 4 h.

**Scheme 4.5:** Oxidative aromatisation of 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines in SOCl<sub>2</sub>

**Table 4.3.** Summarised characterisation of compounds **121a – e**.

<b>121</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>% Yield</b>	<b>m.p. (°C)</b>
<b>a</b>	4-Cl	88	143.2 – 145.4
<b>b</b>	4-Br	93	151.7 – 153.4
<b>c</b>	4-F	90	137.2 – 139.3, lit (139 – 141) [15]
<b>d</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub>	84	148.1 – 150.2
<b>e</b>	4-OMe	89	144.3 – 146.6

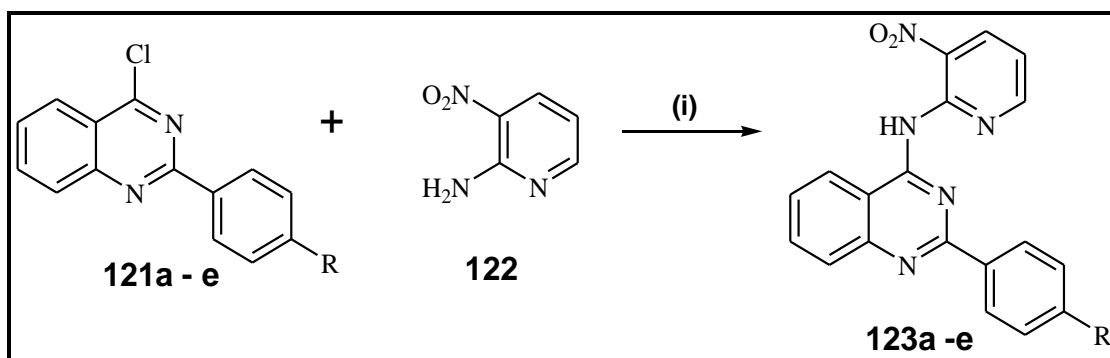


**Figure 4.7:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of compound **121b**.

#### 4.3.3 Dechloro-amination of 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines **121a – e**

The Synthesis of 2-aryl-*N*-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)quinazolin-4-amine **123a – e** was achieved through a modified procedure of Paumo and co-workers [16]. The original literature procedure employs a combination of THF-*i*-PrOH and HCl. The HCl protonates the *N*-1 position of the 4-chloroquinazolines and renders the heterocyclic ring electron deficient and C-4 more electrophilic. Based on this observation, we employed **122** and **121b** in the conditions of the literature procedure, unfortunately the reaction yielded trace amounts of the desired product. The reason for undesired yield was due to the poor solubility of **122** in the solvent mixture *i.e.* THF-*i*-PrOH. To improve the solubility, a mixture of THF-DMF (3:1) together with 98% Sulfuric acid serving as a catalyst was applied to afford **123a - e** (Scheme 4.6). The formation of compounds **123a - e** was confirmed by the appearance of an N-H signal at 12.6 ppm as observed on the representative  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (Figure 4.8). The presence of the N-H was further confirmed by a signal in the region  $3461\text{-}3464\text{ cm}^{-1}$  on IR. Furthermore, the FTIR spectra of compounds **123a - e** reflected bands for (C-N) at  $1666\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These type of compounds are easily distinguished by  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectroscopic techniques from the preceding substrates. Ligand **123b** is here described, from the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (Figure 4.8), additional signals showing multiplicities of dd, br-s and a multiplet in the aromatic region from 6.73 ppm to 8.4 ppm are observed. From

the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (**Figure 4.9**), we observe the quaternary carbon (**20-C**) of the nitro-desielded group resonating at 149 ppm. Furthermore, the molecular ion of the mass spectra revealed the absence of the  $\text{M}^+$  and  $\text{M}2^+$  but instead HMRS (ESI+) revealed  $\text{M}+\text{Na}$  (444.9536) for **123b**. Similar findings were observed for **123d** (411.0530). However for **123a** HRMS (ESI+) revealed only  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2^+$  indicating replacement of the 4-Cl, due to the absence of chlorine isotopes ( $m/z$  35 and 37).



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) 98% sulphuric acid, TH-DMF, 70 °C, 5 h.

**Scheme 4.6:** De-chloro amination of 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines **121a-e**.

**Table 4.4:** Summarised characterisation of compounds **123a – e**.

<b>123</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>N-H <math>\nu_{\text{max}}</math> <math>\text{cm}^{-1}</math></b>	<b>% Yield</b>	<b>m.p. (<math>^{\circ}\text{C}</math>)</b>
<b>a</b>	4-Cl	3461	95%	281.2 – 282.1
<b>b</b>	4-Br	3462	78%	292.1 – 284.1
<b>c</b>	4-F	3463	92%	273.8 – 274.8
<b>d</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub>	3462	66%	269.2 – 271.2
<b>e</b>	4-OMe	3464	84%	262.4 – 264.4



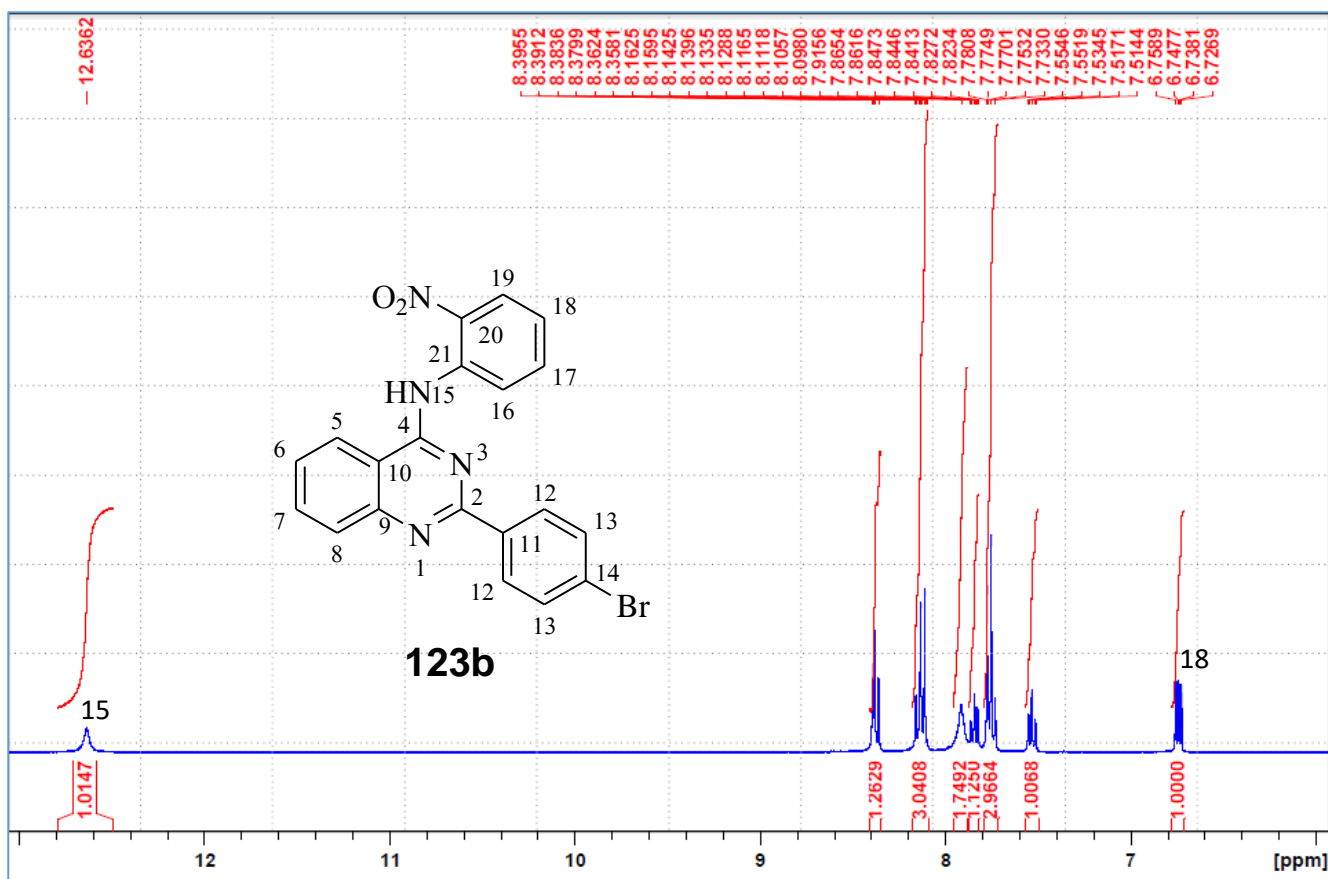


Figure 4.8: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 123b.

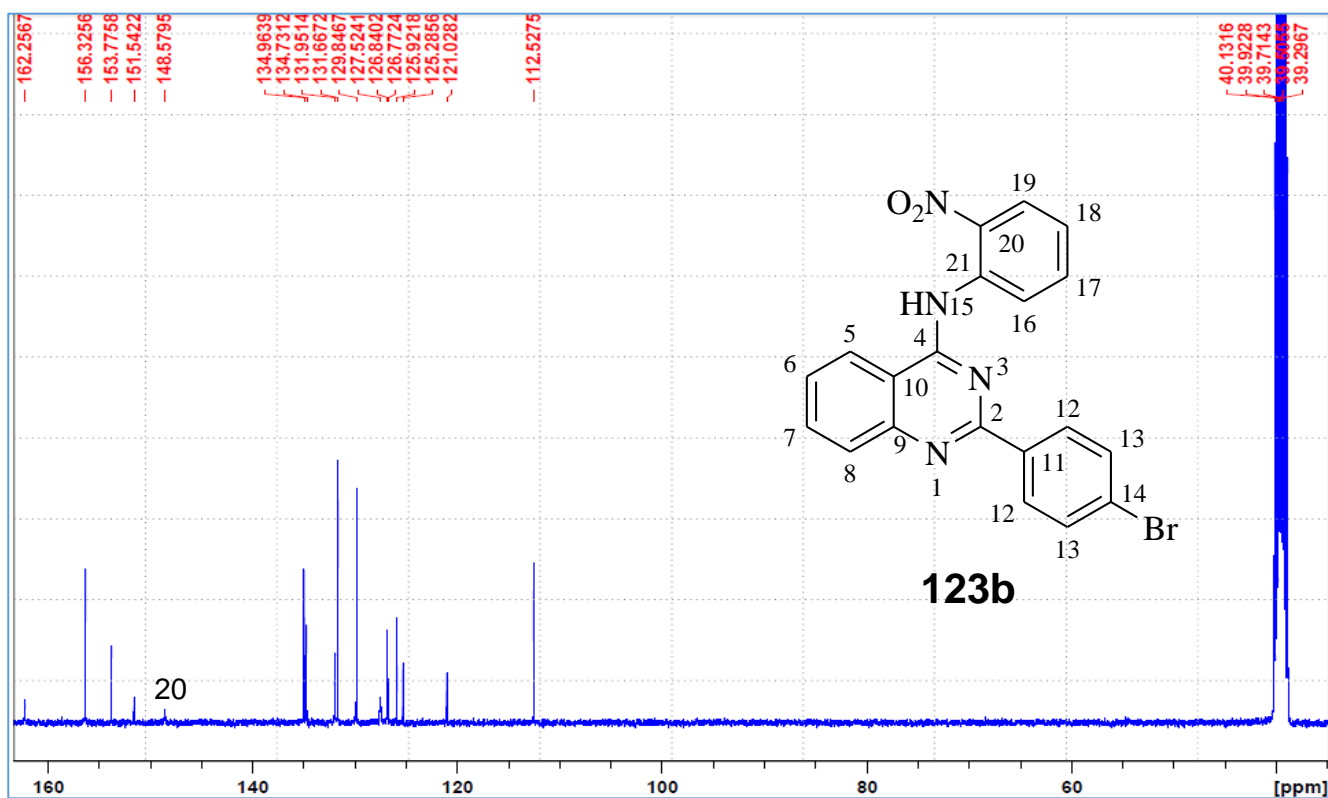
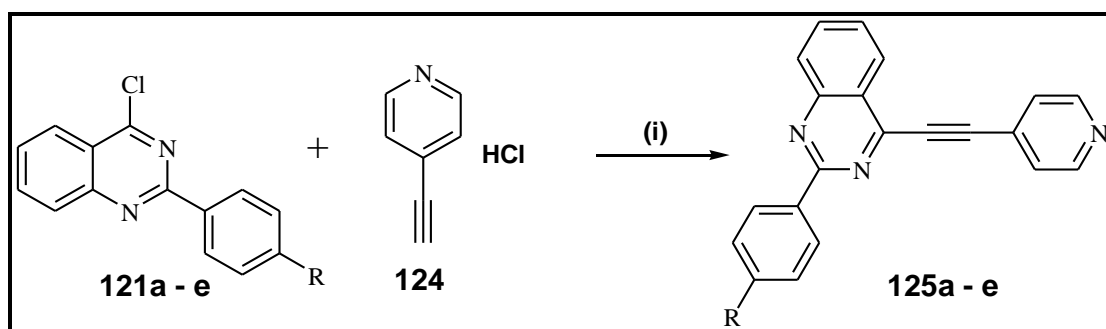


Figure 4.9: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 123b.

#### 4.3.4. Sonogashira cross-coupling of 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines **121a – e**.

The final step in the synthesis of ligands for coordination was to perform Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction on the C(4)-Cl position of the 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines **121a – e**. The choice of Sonogashira cross-coupling in this case, is to create a two-carbon spacer forming a linear bridge to minimise steric hindrance when coordinating to the monomeric *p*-cymene Ru(II) piano stool centre. Prior to this step, the substrate 4-ethynylpyridine **124** was successfully coupled following Sonogashira using palladium-catalysed coupling reactions (**Scheme 4.7**). Comparatively, there are few reported cases of Sonogashira coupling reactions between 4-chloroquinazolines and terminal alkynes to significant cases of Suzuki-Miyaura coupling [17]. Accordingly, 4-chloro-2-arylquinazoline was varied with groups such as (R = -Br, -Cl, -F, -NO<sub>2</sub> and -OMe) on the *para* position of the phenyl ring on the 2-position.



*Reagents and conditions:* (i) PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CuI, Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, THF-water (3:1), 65 °C, 24 h

**Scheme 4.7:** Sonogashira cross-coupling of 2-aryl-4chloro-quinazolines **121a – e** with 4-ethynylpyridine

Our first attempt in the application of Sonogashira cross-coupling conditions at the 4-chloroquinazoline, we employed Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, CuI, Et<sub>3</sub>N and 1.5 equiv of 4-ethynylpyridine in dry THF at mild temperatures (40-60 °C). Unfortunately we isolated only the starting material **121a** and **124** along with Et<sub>3</sub>N. The Pd(0) source, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) is air and moisture sensitive, therefore proving difficult to employ for Sonogashira cross-coupling. We then substituted the palladium source with PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and kept the other reagents constant, unfortunately this attempt led to recovery of starting material. Further attempts in high boiling solvent such as DMF and Dioxane were also unsuccessful. These results were attributed to Et<sub>3</sub>N not being basic enough to deprotonate the terminal alkyne that should in turn

give an anionic nucleophile to form the copper acetylide [18]. Trace amounts of our desired product were obtained when using  $K_2CO_3$ ,  $Na_2CO_3$  and  $NaOH$  as our base during coupling. Since the Sonogashira reaction mechanism requires a relatively strong base to deprotonate the terminal acetylene **124**, we then opted for  $Cs_2CO_3$ . In a one-pot, 4-Chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazoline **121a** (1 equiv.) was reacted with  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  (10%),  $CuI$  (10%) and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (2 equiv.) in 3:1 THF-water, the reaction was left to stir for 24 h at mild heat (40-60 °C) under  $N_2$ . To our delight we isolated 98% of **125a** after recrystallisation from diethyl ether. Synthesis of ligands **125b – e** followed that of **125a** while varying the *para*-position of the 2-aryl group. The formation of **125a - e** was confirmed using  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$ -NMR. Ligand **125b** is here described, on the  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum (**Figure 4.10**) we observed additional two additional doublet peaks resonating at 7.60 (18-H) and 8.74 ppm (19-H). On the  $^{13}C$ -NMR spectrum (**figure 4.11**) additional carbons of the two-carbon spacer resonate at 88.216 (15-C) and 93.712 (16-C) ppm are observed. Further characterisation using FTIR spectroscopy showed the presence of *Csp-Csp* band at  $\nu_{max}$  2219.44  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Table 4.5:** Summarised characterisation of compounds **125a – e**.

<b>125</b>	<b>R</b>	$\nu_{max}$ <b>Csp-Csp</b> $cm^{-1}$	<b>% Yield</b>	<b>m.p. (°C)</b>
<b>a</b>	4-Cl	2219.92	98	209.2 – 210.0
<b>b</b>	4-Br	2219.44	90	234.6 – 236.3
<b>c</b>	4-F	2220.15	94	197.6 – 199.2
<b>d</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub>	2219.71	94	272.7 – 274.8
<b>e</b>	4-OMe	2218.70	79	202.6 – 204.6

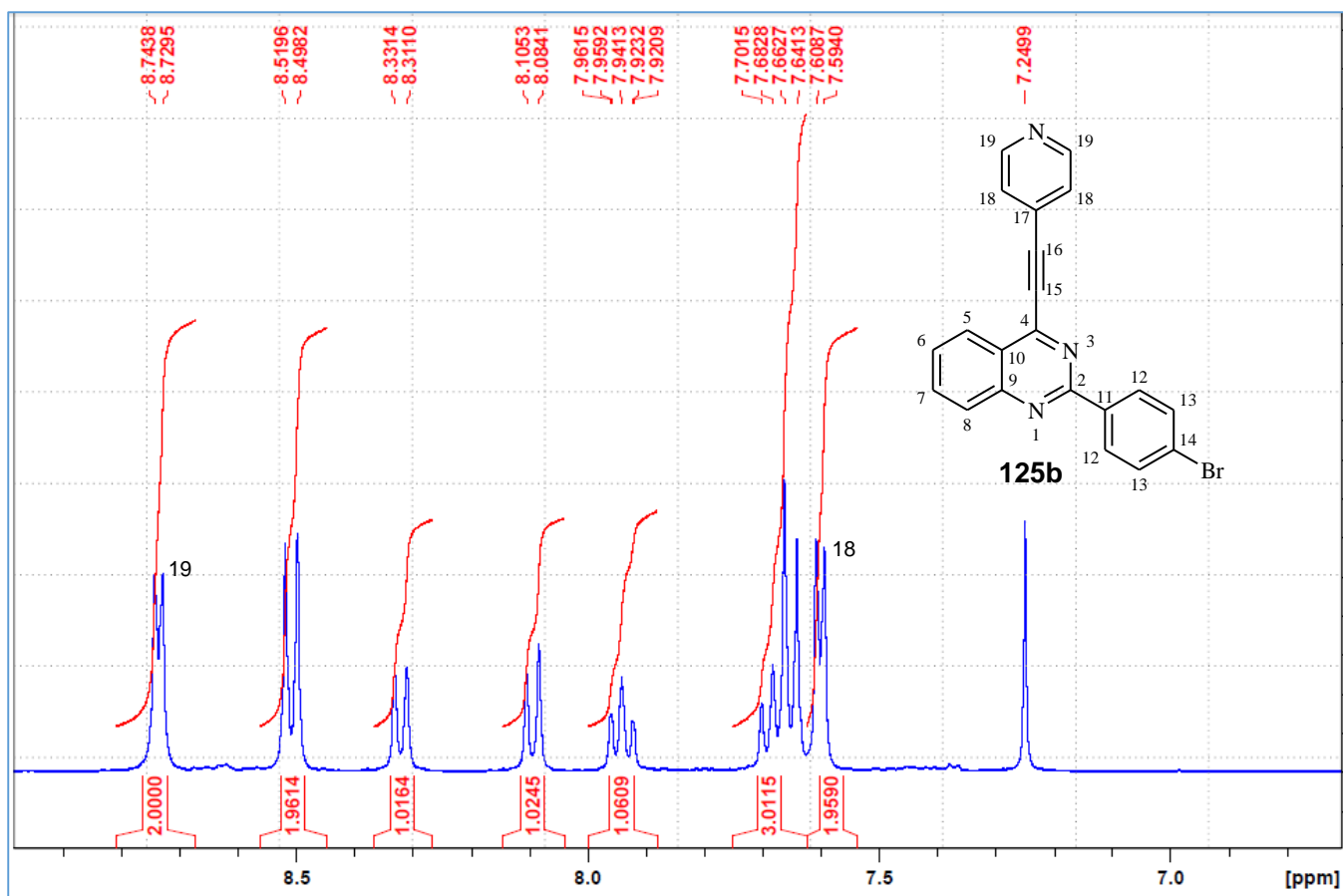


Figure 4.10: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 125b.

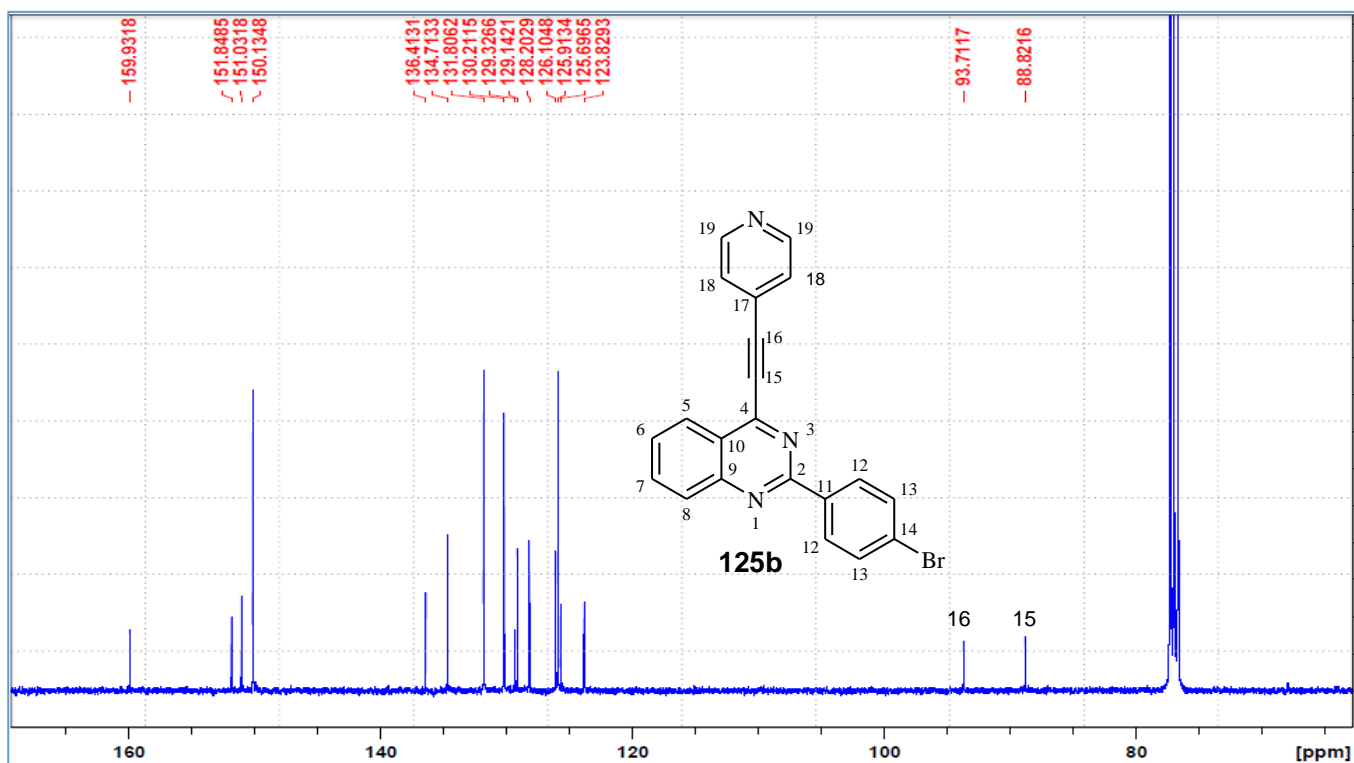
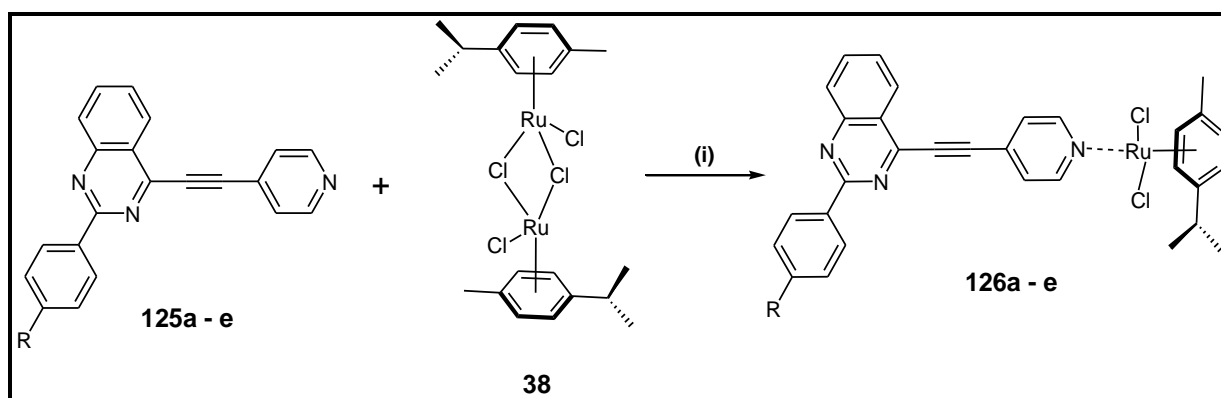


Figure 4.11: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 125b.

#### 4.3.5. Coordination of ligands 125a – e to monomeric *p*-cymene Ru(II) piano stool centre to yield 126a – e.

Three-legged piano-stool Ru(II)/ Ru(III) bearing an arene, *p*-cymene, cyclopentadienyl and heterocyclic caps have come under intense exploration due to their interesting anticancer, anti-metastatic and anti-proliferative properties [19]. These type of complexes are accessible by refluxing a ruthenium dimer and the ligand of interest in a polar solvent [20]. Some ligands however, adopt a double replacement of the lateral chlorine ligands to form a cationic complex which is balanced by anionic counterion. Castonguay and co-workers [21] reported similar complexes wherein, two letrazole ligands were coordinated to monomeric piano-stool arene Ru(II) complex by refluxing in dichloromethane (DCM). The authors reasoned that characterisation of the complex using NMR techniques, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR in particular, was less straightforward as the letrazole ligands were found to be labile in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. This then facilitated replacement of one letrazole ligand by a chloride counterion of the requisite Ru(II) dimer.

Herein, ethynylpyridine-bridged Ru(II)-*p*-cymene bis-chloride complexes were successfully synthesised following a modified procedure reported by Saez and co-workers [22], *i.e.* instead of refluxing the Ru(II) dimer and ligand in methanol, the antecedent reagents were heated to reflux in hexane for 5 hrs to obtain **126a – e** in good yields 67 – 90%. The complexes were characterised using NMR (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and HMBC) and HRMS.



*Reagents and solutions:* Hexane, 60 °C, 5 hrs, rt, 12 hrs.

**Scheme 4.8:** One-pot synthesis of quinazoline monomeric *p*-cymene Ru(II) piano stool centre.

Two representative complexes (**126c** and **126e**) are here described in details. Complex **126e** was characterised using  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (**Figure 4.12**). From the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  we were able to differentiate the complex (**126e**) from its preceding substrate **125e** due to the addition of *p*-cymene protons within the region 1.320 – 5.483 ppm. The upfield peak resonating at 1.320 ppm is assigned to the two methyl groups 26-H which is spin-couples ( $^1\text{H-}^1\text{H}$ ) with 27-H to give an intense doublet ( $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.8$  Hz) peak. The neighbouring singlet at 2.125 ppm is assigned to 21-H and the peak at 2.996 ppm is assigned to 27-H which spin-couples with the two germinal methyl groups to give a septet ( $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 27.6$  Hz). Furthermore, the two set of doublets ( $^2J_{\text{H-H}} = 6$  Hz) around 5.2 and 5.4 ppm are assigned to symmetrical protons 23-H and 24-H. The carbons on the cymene ligand (**Figure 4.13**) all resonate relatively upfield within the region 18.276 – 83.022 ppm except the two quaternary carbons 22-C and 25-C. Further interpretations on the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra include the de-shielding effect brought by coordination to Ru(II) centre. In 1988, Orellana and co-workers [23] reported a study based on coordination induced shifts (CIS) wherein their study involved ruthenium(II) tris chelates containing pyridyl heterocyclic ligands. During their investigation, they assigned factors that affect CIS, calculated as  $\text{CIS} = \delta_{\text{complexed}} - \delta_{\text{free}}$ , to be  $\sigma$ -donation,  $\pi$ -back donation, magnetic anisotropy of surrounding ligands, residual paramagnetism and solvent variation. All  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  assignments for **126e** are summarised in Table **4.5a**. In this investigation, almost all the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclei are de-shielded, this is due to the  $\sigma$ -donation by the 2-(4-methoxyphenyl) group, which in turn promotes de-shielding of the protons and carbons on the quinazoline backbone. Noticeable de-shielded protons and carbons are 20-H and 20-C which are de-shielded by 0.428 and 4.9 ppm respectively. More de-shielded groups include the quaternary carbons (16 and 17-C) of the ethynylpyridine bridge, with a CIS of 8.59 and 10.54 ppm respectively.

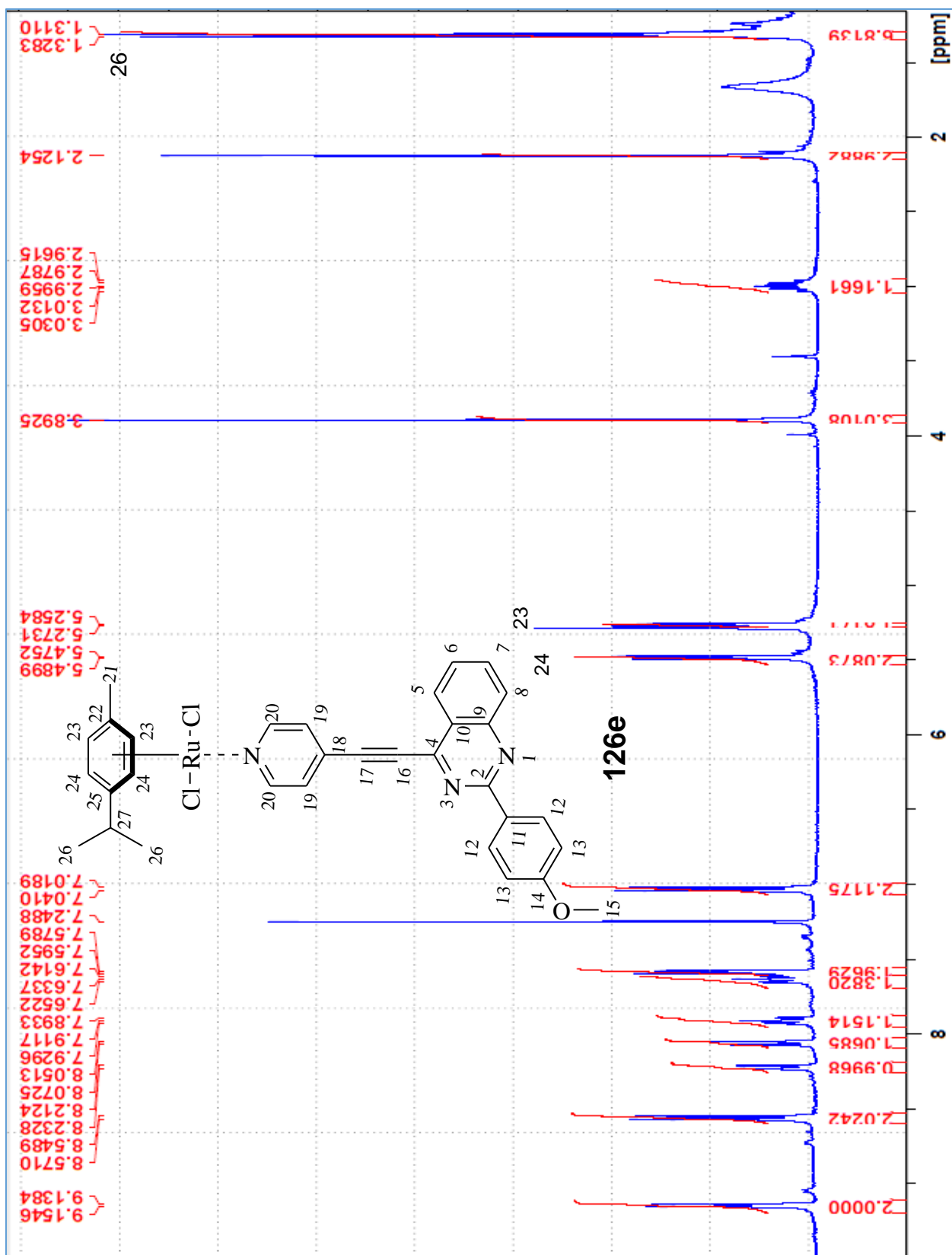


Figure 4.12:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of compound **126e**.

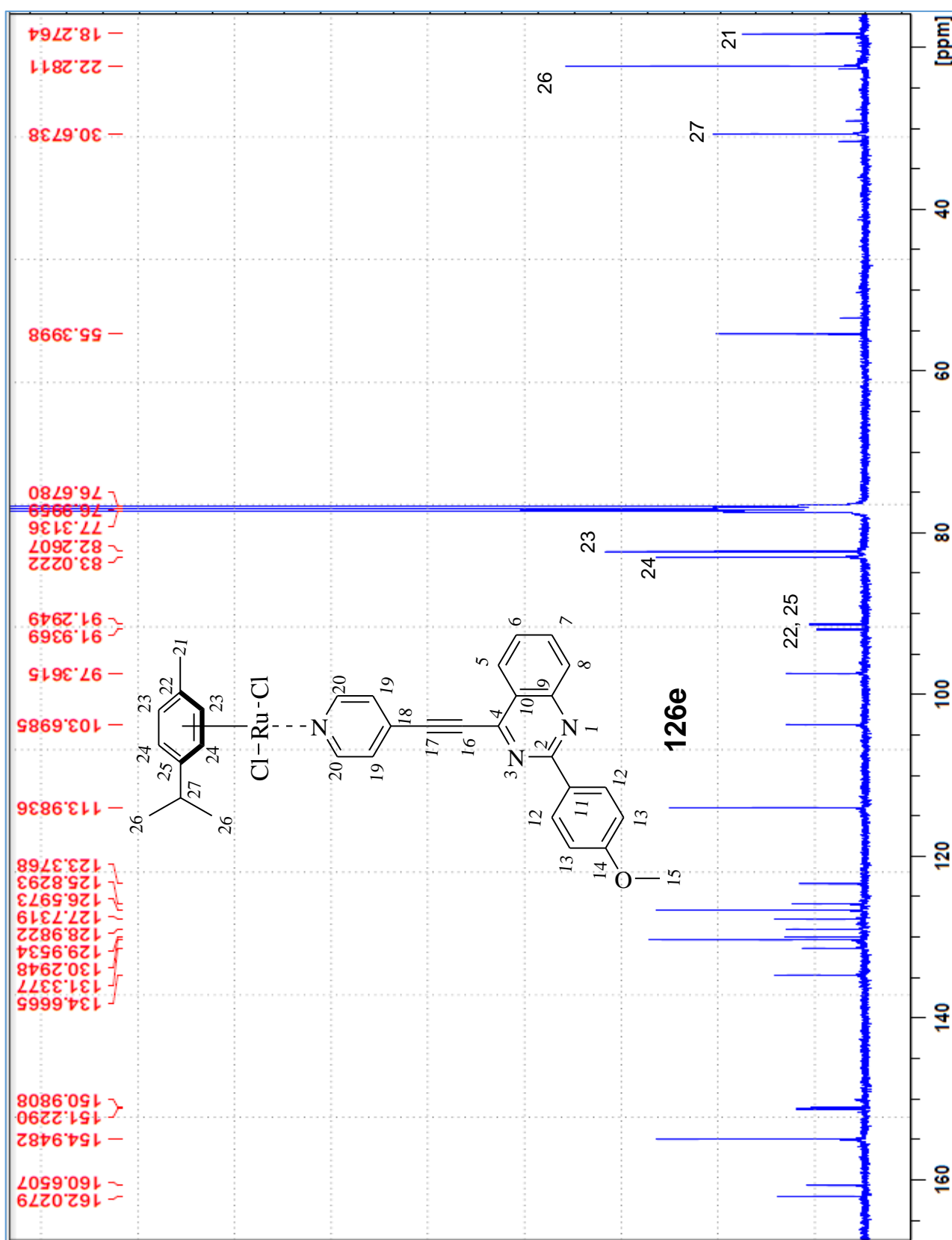


Figure 4.13:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of compound **126e**.

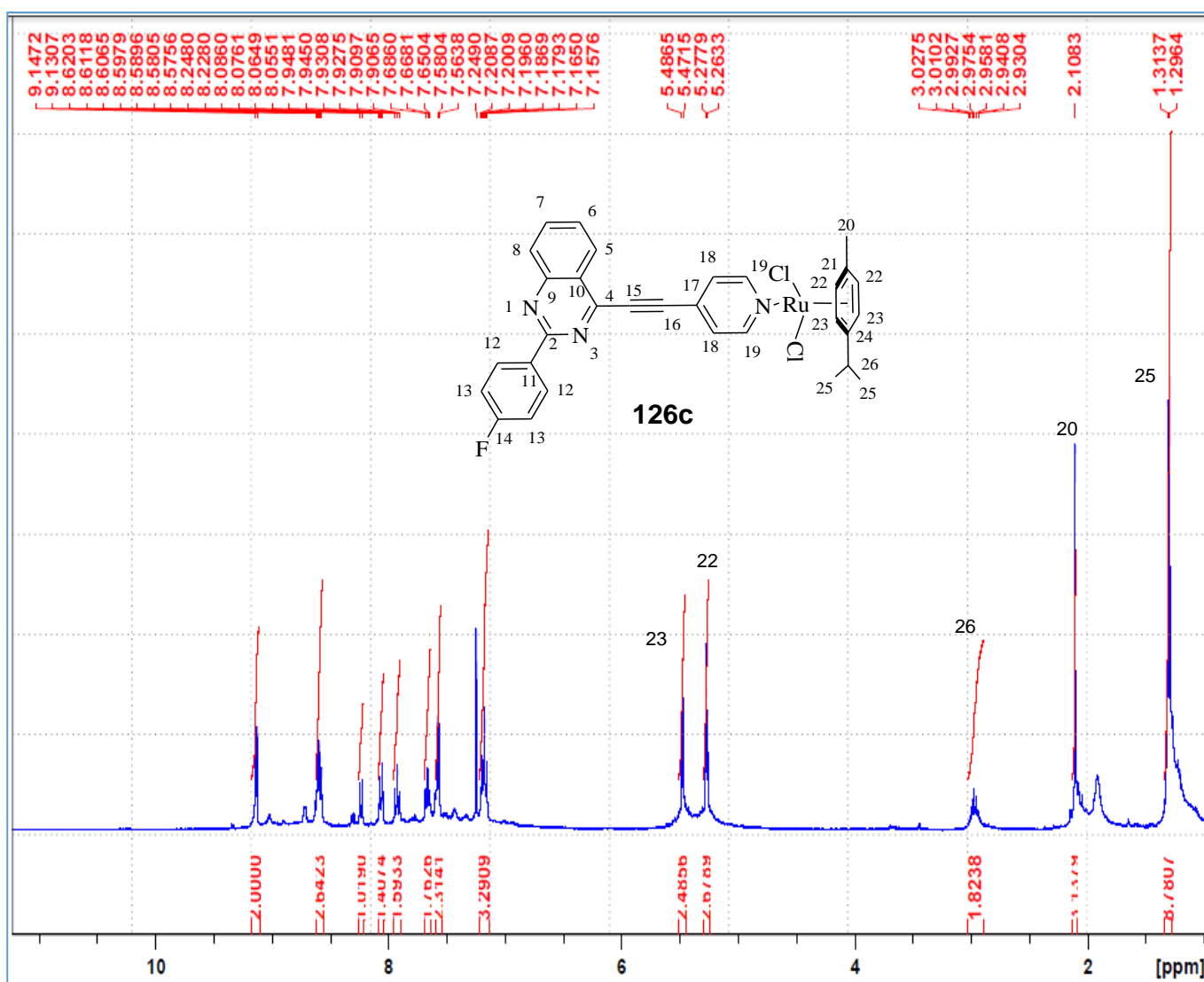


**Table 4.6a.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  coordination induced shifts for Ru(II) complex **126e**

CIS = $\delta_{\text{complexed}} - \delta_{\text{free}}$ for $\delta_{\text{H}}$			CIS = $\delta_{\text{complexed}} - \delta_{\text{free}}$ for $\delta_{\text{C}}$			
#	Complexed	Free ligand	$^1\text{H}$ -CIS (ppm)	Complexed	Free ligand	$^{13}\text{C}$ -CIS (ppm)
2				162.03	161.94	0.09
3						
4				151.23	151.60	-0.37
5	8.062	8.043	0.019	125.83	125.90	-0.07
6	7.652	7.619	0.033	126.60	126.00	0.6
7	7.912	7.881	0.031	134.67	134.41	0.26
8	8.223	8.264	-0.041	128.98	128.88	0.1
9				150.98	151.11	-0.13
10				127.73	127.43	0.3
11				129.95	130.08	-0.13
12	8.560	8.572	-0.012	131.34	130.37	0.97
13	7.03	7.024	0.006	113.98	113.91	0.07
14				160.65	160.60	0.05
15	3.893	3.880	0.013	55.40	55.35	0.05
16				97.36	89.04	8.59
17				103.70	93.16	10.54
18				123.38	123.42	-0.04
19	7.587	7.586	0.001	130.29	130.28	0.01
20	9.147	8.719	0.428	154.95	150.05	4.9

Similar to complex **126e**, **126c** was analysed for CIS effect. The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum (**Figure 4.14**) of **126c** shows expected additions of cymene protons within the region 1.304 - 5.487 ppm. Within the same line as complex **126e**, the intense doublet ( $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.2$  Hz) is assigned to 25-H geminal methyl groups, the singlet peak at 2.108 ppm is assigned to 20-H. The septet peak at 2.975 ppm is assigned to proton 26-H ( $J_{\text{H-H}} =$

26.5 Hz). The two set of doublets ( $J_{H-H} = 6$  Hz) resonating around 5.4 ppm are assigned to the symmetrical protons 22, 23-H. The carbons on the cymene ligand (**Figure 4.15**) resonate relatively upfield within the region 18.254 – 83.020 ppm except the two quaternary carbons 21-C and 24-C. The CIS calculations for complex **126c** gave a great deal of variation (**Table 4.5b**), as almost all the protons and carbons on the quinazoline backbone are shielded upon coordination to the Ru(II) centre, the reason for this unexpected transition could be due to the electron withdrawing effect of 2-(4-fluorophenyl). However, the quaternary carbons 15 and 16-C carbons of the ethynylbridge, are de-shielded by 8.47 and 9.99 ppm respectively and the same applies to the symmetrical protons and carbons (19-H and 19-C) of the pyridyl group, which have a CIS of 0.405 and 4.8 ppm respectively.



**Figure 4.14:** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound **126c**.

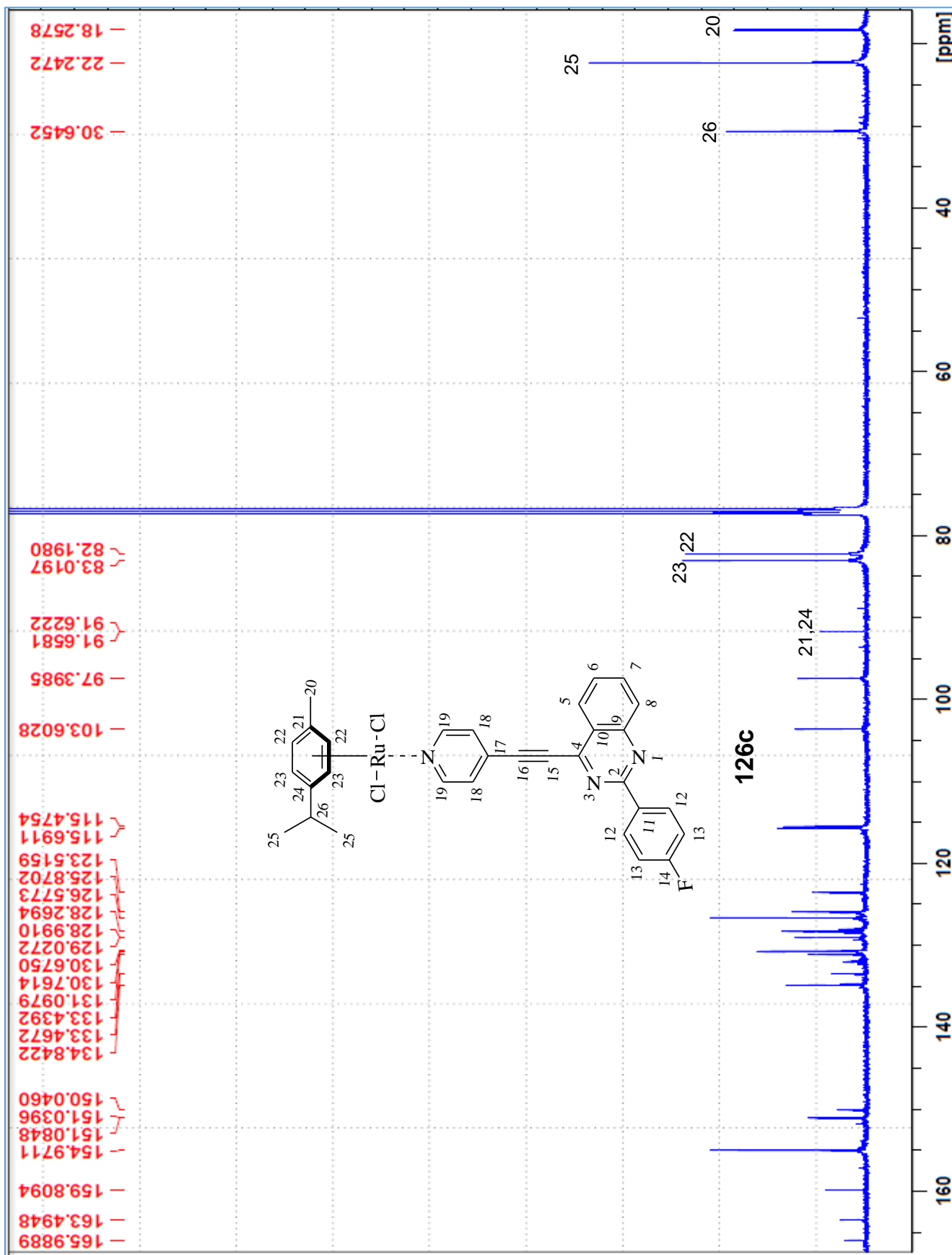


Figure 4.15:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of compound 126c.

**Table 4.6b:**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  coordination induced shifts for Ru(II) complex **126c**

CIS = $\delta_{\text{complexed}} - \delta_{\text{free}}$ for $\delta_{\text{H}}$				CIS = $\delta_{\text{complexed}} - \delta_{\text{free}}$ for $\delta_{\text{C}}$		
#	Complexed	Free ligand	$^1\text{H}$ -CIS (ppm)	Complexed	Free ligand	$^{13}\text{C}$ -CIS (ppm)
2				159.83	160.00	-0.17
3						
4				150.05	151.86	-1.81
5	7.668	7.667	0.001	125.87	126.11	-0.24
6	7.928	7.936	-0.008	129.01	128.02	0.99
7	8.06	8.093	-0.876	134.84	134.67	0.17
8	8.238	8.322	-0.084	128.39	129.13	-0.74
9				151.06	151.13	-0.07
10				131.10	129.41	1.69
11				133.47	133.73	-0.26
12	7.187	7.201	-0.014	130.72	130.83	-0.11
13	8.590	8.641	-0.051	115.58	115.62	-0.04
14				164.74	164.85	-0.11
15				97.40	88.93	8.47
16				103.60	93.61	9.99
17				123.52	123.72	-0.2
18	7.572	7.602	-0.03	126.57	125.93	0.64
19	9.139	8.734	0.405	154.97	150.17	4.8

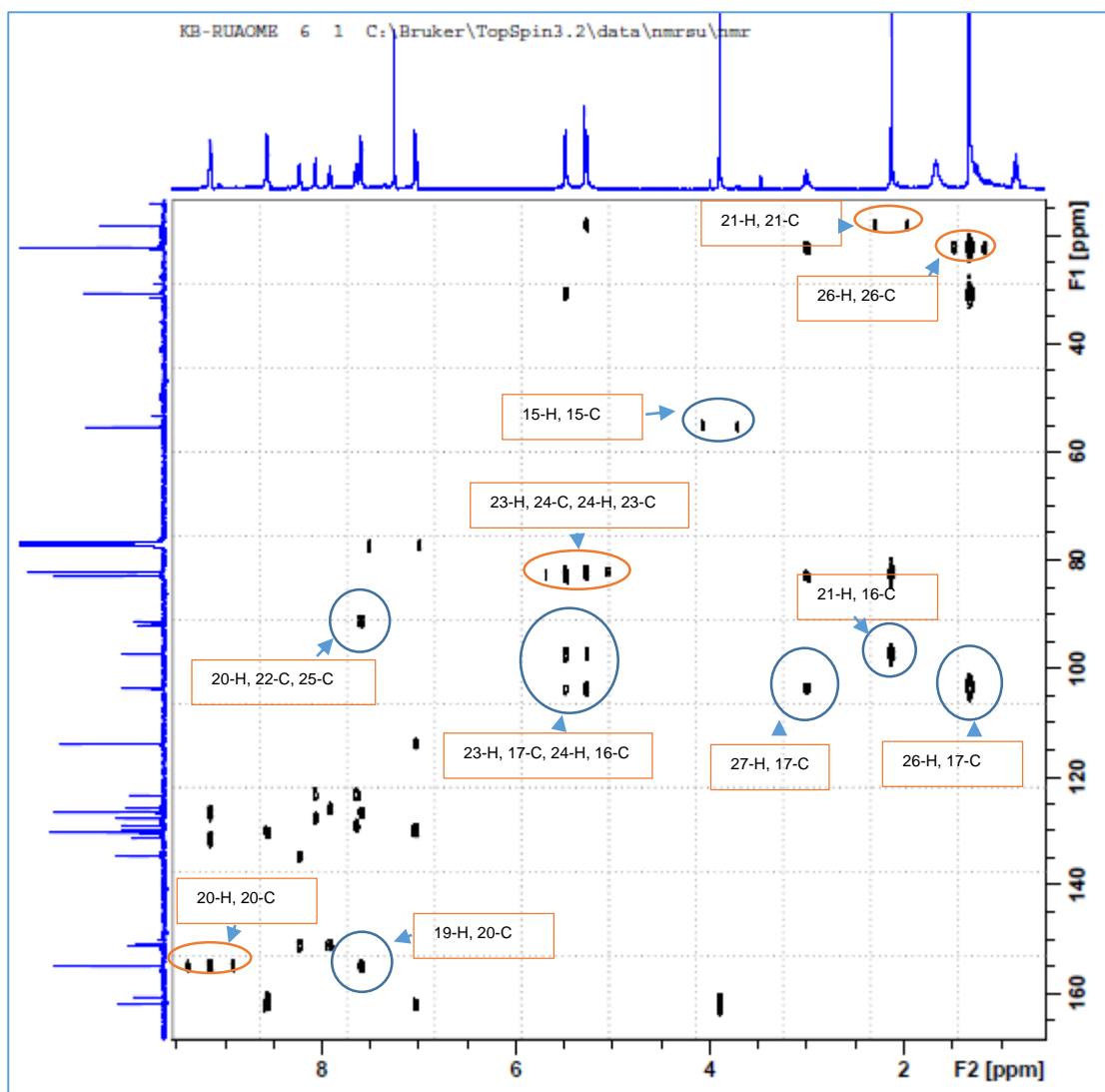
The pyridyl 19-H (20-H) and 19-C (20-C) hydrogen and carbon atoms show great shifts after coordination to Ru(II) centre. Coordination induced shifts for complexes **126a-e** are summarised on **Table 4.6c**.

**Table 4.6c.** Summarised selected  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  shifts for complexes **126a-e**.

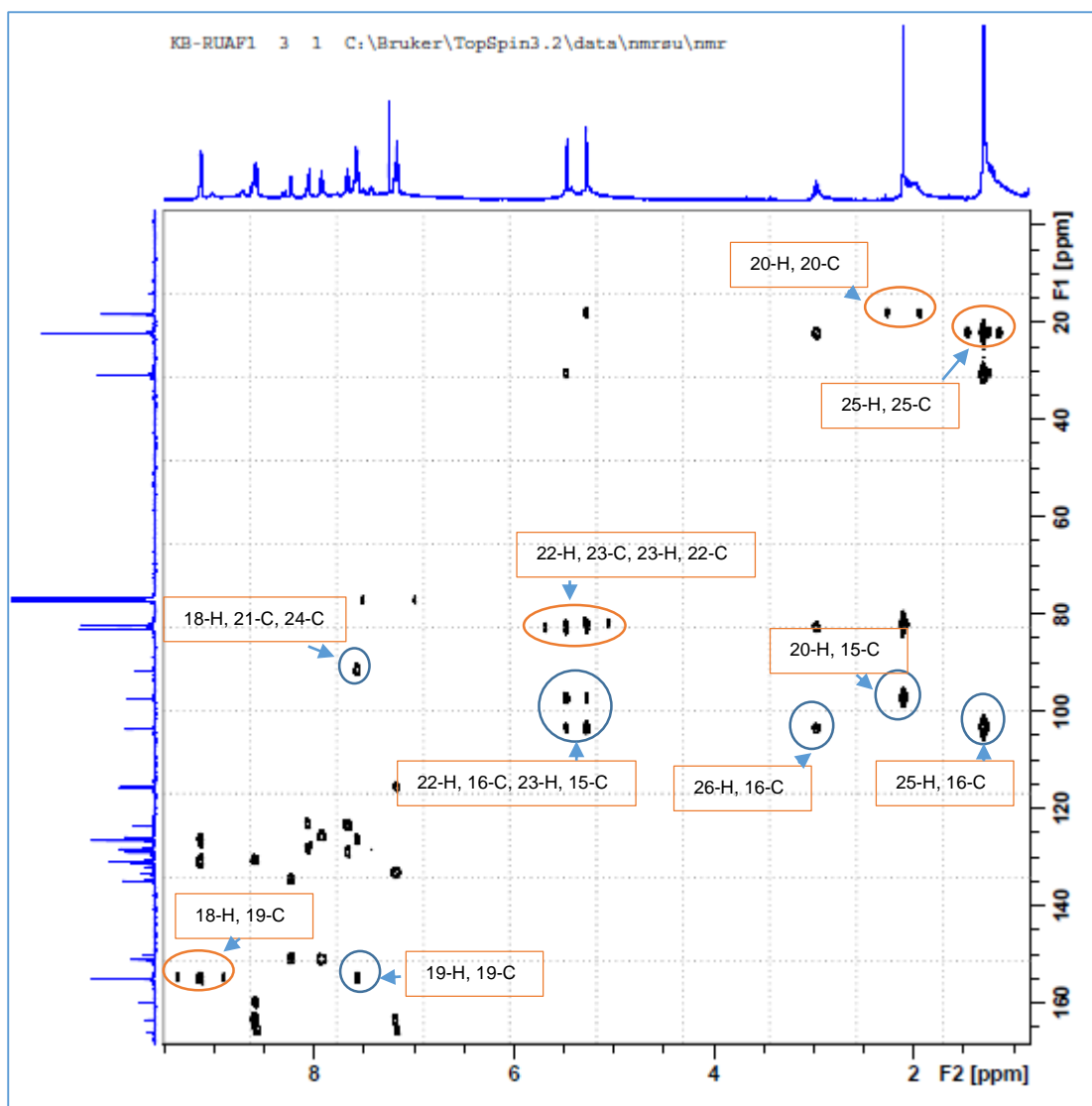
<b>126</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>%Yield</b>	<b><math>^1\text{H}</math>-shift (ppm) (19-H (20-H))</b>	<b><math>^{13}\text{C}</math>-shift (ppm) (19-C(20-C))</b>
<b>a</b>	-Cl	90	9.160	155.03
<b>b</b>	-Br	67	9.170	155.07
<b>c</b>	-F	80	9.139	154.97
<b>d</b>	-NO <sub>2</sub>	81	9.165	155.06
<b>e</b>	-OMe	71	9.147	154.95

**N.B** 20-H and 20-C refer only to complex **126e**

In order to establish the connectivities between the proton and carbon nuclei of the cymene group and the ethynylpyridine quinazoline ligand, we performed a long range 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC experiment for complex **126e**. The 2D-HMBC spectrum below (**Figure 4.16**), revealed interesting  $^{1-9}\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  couplings between the cymene group and the the ethynylpyridine quinazoline, especially for protons and carbons along the ethynyl bridge. An intense correlation between protons 24, 23-H and carbon 26-C interact through a  $^1\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling. A significant correlation between 24-H, 23-H and the ethynyl carbon 17-C through  $^9\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling is observed. Similarly, another significant proton 21-H correlation with carbon 21-C through  $^1\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling, 24-C through  $^4\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  and with 16-C through  $^8\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling is also observed. Proton 27-H correlates with carbon 16-C through  $^9\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling. Further correlations observed for long range couplings are viewed as 23-H shares a strong correlation with ethynyl carbon 16-C through  $^8\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling, but shares a weak interaction with 17-C through  $^9\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling. By the same note, 24-H shares a strong correlation with 17-C through  $^8\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling and a weak correlation with 16-C through  $^9\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling. The observed  $^8\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  and  $^9\text{J}_{\text{CH}}$  coupling are mainly due to the *pi*-connection system which reduces the bond lengths between the carbons and therefore facilitates longer range coupling. Further correlations linking the cymene and the ethynylpyridine bridge are observed as 19-H symmetrical hydrogens interact with quaternary carbon 22-C. These correlations are confirmed for complex **126c** on **Figure 4.17**.



**Figure 4.16.** 2D- $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC correlations for Ru(II) complex **126e**.



**Figure 4.17.** 2D- $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC correlations for Ru(II) complex **126c**.

#### 4.3.6 Conclusion

Ethanamine Schiff base ligands of the  $N^{\wedge}N$  type were synthesised in good yield in a basic medium, attempted coordination of ligand **119b** to zinc chloride showed a hint of formation as the reaction was carried out in NMR tube while monitoring during 12 and 24 h period using  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR. Unfortunately the reaction proceedings showed decomposition of ligand **119b**. The requisite 2-aryl-4-chloro-quinazolines served as a substrate for dechloro-amination and sonogashira cross-coupling reaction at  $C(4)\text{-Cl}$  position which afforded 4-(pyridylamino) and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazolines in good yields. Successful coordination to Ru(II)  $p$ -cymene centre was achieved and the complexes were isolated in good yield. The newly synthesised Ru(II) complexes

showed new long range couplings of  $^{6,7,8,9}J_{CH}$ . Furthermore coordination induced shifts were observed across all ligands with different *para*-substituent of –Br, -Cl, -OMe, -F and –NO<sub>2</sub>.

## Reference

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## CHAPTER 5: APPLICATION

### 5.1 Molecular docking

The molecular docking calculations were done using the Schrodinger-2018-1 LLC interface, employing Maestro 11.5 database. All ligands and proteins in the induced-fit docking (IFD) job were prepared at physiological pH 7.4 using Epik. The conformational search for all ligands was done using optimised potentials for liquid simulations (OPLS\_2005) employing water as a solvent. The IFD experiment was run on extra-precision (XP), wherein residues within ligand poses were refined at 5 Å and all ligands were re-docked into structures within 30 Kcal/mol of the best structure, and within the top 20 structures overall.

Induced-fit docking (IFD) of compounds **119a-d**, **123a-e** and **125a-e** using GLIDE was performed to better understand the anticancer and anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) activity of the ligands. The molecular docking calculations give a docking or glide score. The glide score is defined as an empirical scoring function designed to maximise separation of compounds with strong binding (more negative) affinity from those with little to no binding ability [1]. A ligand is considered to have affinity towards a protein when the docking score is higher than -5 Kcal/mol cut-off. To aid this study, the compounds were inductively docked into the active pockets of *glutamine synthetase* (PDB:1HTO) for *Mtb*, tyrosine kinase (PDB:2SRC) and oxidoreductase (PDB:3F8P) for cancer.

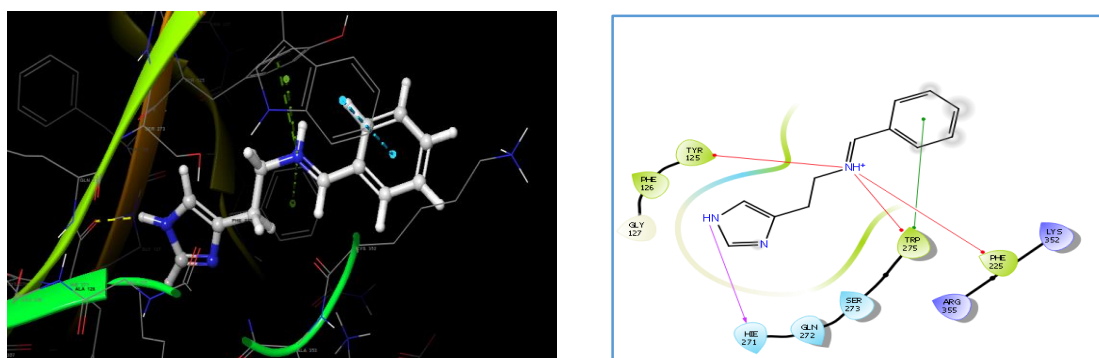
#### 5.1.1 Induced fit docking of compounds 119a-d, 123e and 125e into *glutamine synthetase* (1HTO) receptor grid.

*Glutamine synthetase* (PDB:1HTO) is an enzyme essential for cellular nitrogen metabolism and plays a role in both glutamine biosynthesis and ammonia assimilation [2]. *Glutamine synthetase* (GS) has emerged as a potential target for pharmacological target for tuberculosis therapy due to the critical role it plays in nitrogen metabolism in prokaryotes [3]. Synthetic pyridine derivatives such as isoniazid (first line tuberculosis drug) are reported to inhibit *Glutamine synthetase* [4] which catalyses the ATP-dependent condensation of ammonium and L-glutamate at the amino acid binding site, resulting in the formation of *glnA1* essential for the growth of *Mtb* in both *in vitro*

and *in vivo* [4]. Any disturbance at the amino acid binding site will in turn breakdown cell wall biosynthesis [5] thus leading to cell death. The ligand-protein interactions are described below

The 2-dimensional (2D) and 3-dimensional (3D) docked poses of compounds **119a-d**, **123e** and **125e** are represented in **Figures 5.1a-m** below. The ethanamine-Schiff base ligands (**119a-d**) appear to undergo protonation at the imine group at pH 7.4, which therefore renders all ligands in the receptor grid as positively charged. The docking poses of the ligands in the 1HTO-receptor grid occupy the polar (blue), hydrophobic (green) and electronegative (red) pockets in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -sheets. **Figures 5.1a-m** below indicate increased polar, hydrophobic, electronegative and glycine (H-bond,  $\pi$ - $\pi$ -stacking,  $\pi$ -cation and salt bridge) interactions existing across all ligands with the 1HTO amino-acid sequence TYR125, TRP275, PHE225, LYS208 and HIE271, ASP404 and ARG366.

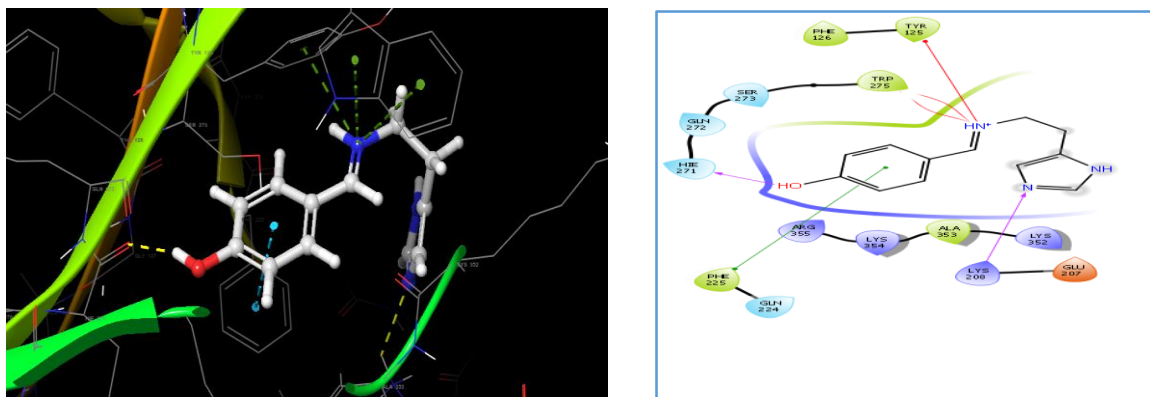
Ligand **119a** exhibits a glide score of -9.972 Kcal/mol wherein the pre-mentioned intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction from TRP275 is due to the fused-phenyl ring of the indole group, the  $\pi$ -cation interaction is due to the fused-pyrrole ring of TRP275, PHE225 phenyl ring and the *para*-methoxy phenyl ring of the TYR125 **Fig.5.1a**.



**Figure 5.1a and 5.1b:** Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119a** in 1HTO.

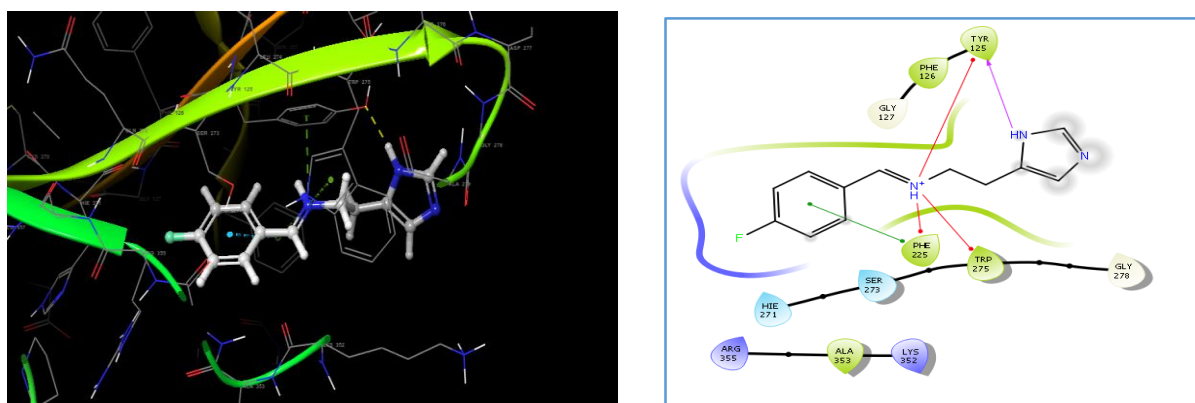
Ligand **119b** on the other hand exhibits a glide score of -9.634 Kcal/mol wherein the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction from PHE225 is due to the phenyl ring of the latter. The H-bond interaction is due to the carbonyl group of HIE271, as the oxygen of the carbonyl group acts as a hydrogen bond acceptor. Interactions with the polar nitrogen of the imidazolyl group on ligand **119b** and LYS208 are of H-bond acceptor due to the  $\pi$ -electrons on

the nitrogen and the  $\pi$ -cation interactions are due to the fused-pyrrole ring of TRP275, PHE225 phenyl ring and the *para*-methoxy phenyl ring of the TYR125 **Fig.5.1c**.



**Figure 5.1c and 5.1d:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119b** in 1HTO.

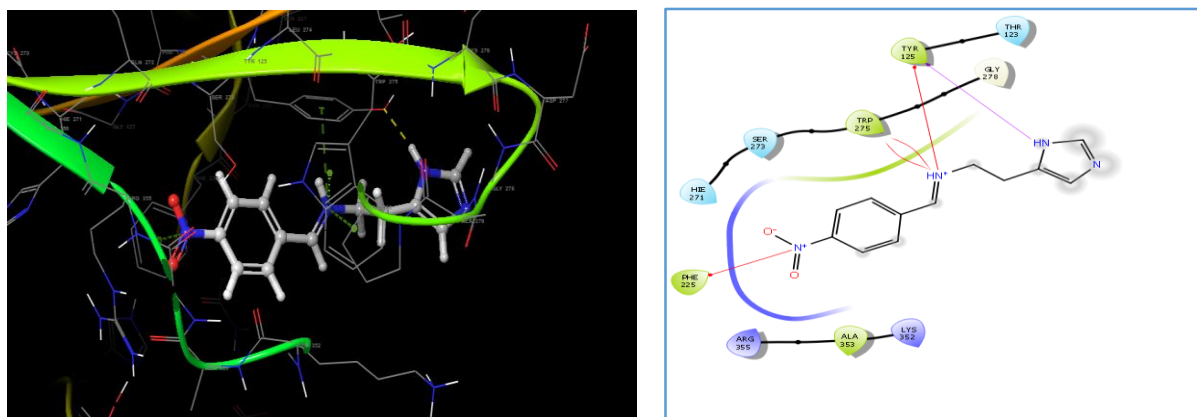
Ligand **119c** exhibits a glide score of -10.040 Kcal/mol. The observed interactions stem from  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions of between PHE225 phenyl ring and the *para*-fluoro phenyl ring of the ligand **119c**. Further interactions from TYR125 show a H-bond acceptor between the *para*-methoxy group of TYR125 and -NH group of the imidazolyl group on ligand **119c**. The  $\pi$ -cation interactions are due to the fused-pyrrole ring of TRP275, PHE225 phenyl ring and the *para*-methoxy phenyl ring of the TYR125 **Fig.5.1e**



**Figure 5.1e and 5.1f:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119c** in 1HTO.

The best pose for ligand **119d** revealed the absence of  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions. Instead we view a  $\pi$ -cation interaction between with a glide score of -8.679 Kcal/mol the *para*-nitro phenyl ring of ligand **119d** and the phenyl ring of PHE225. The interaction with TYR125 owes to the *para*-methoxy group of the H-bond acceptor from the -NH group

of the imidazolyl ring on ligand **119d**. Added  $\pi$ -cation interactions from the cationic imine group of ligand **119d** are due to indole ring of TRP275 and the *para*-methoxy phenyl ring of the TYR125 **Fig.5.1g**. Comparative docking score for the imidazolyl-ethanime Schiff base ligands **119a-d** are summarised on **Table 5.1** below.

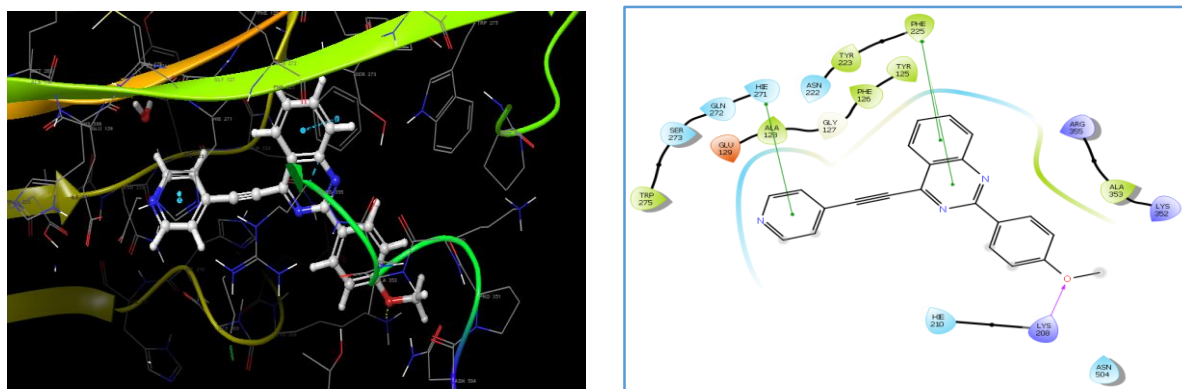


**Figure 5.1g and 5.1h:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119d** in 1HTO.

**Table 5.1:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **119a-d** (1HTO).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>119a</b>	-9.972
<b>119b</b>	-9.634
<b>119c</b>	-10.040
<b>119d</b>	-8.697

The ethynylpyridine cross-coupled ligand **125e** was found to give the best pose in the glycine, polar and hydrophobic pockets between  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -sheets to give a docking score of -9.176 Kcal/ mol. The ligand interacts with the protein through  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking and H-bond acceptor. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions are due to the fused pyrimidine and aromatic quinazoline framework and the two rings link phenyl backbone of PHE225. Further  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking arise from the interaction between the bridged pyridine and tailing pyrrole ring of HIE271. The H-bond acceptor is due to the *para*-methoxy group of the ligand **125e** and  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of LYS208 **Fig. 5.1i**. The docking scores of ligands **125a**, **125b**, **125c** and **125d** are here mentioned as -7.566, -6.935, -7.240 and -7.143 Kcal/mol respectively. Comparative docking score for the ethynylpyridine quinazoline ligands 125a-e are summarised on **Table 5.2**.

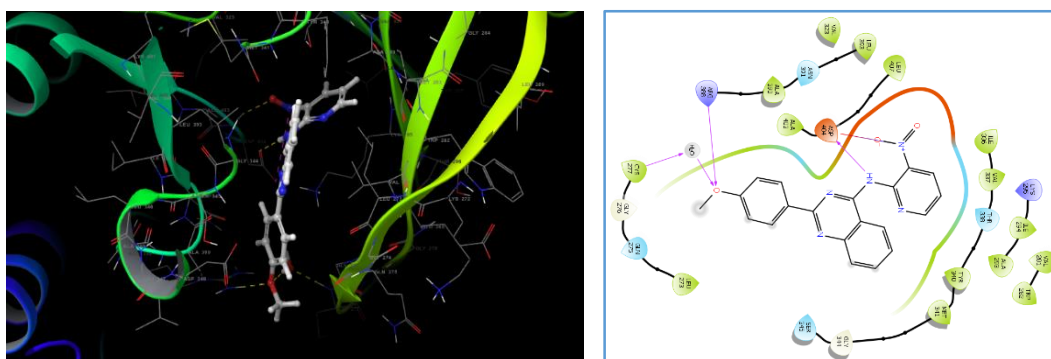


**Figure 5.1i and 5.1k:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **125e** in 1HTO.

**Table 5.2:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **125a-e** (1HTO).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>125a</b>	-7.566
<b>125b</b>	-6.935
<b>125c</b>	-7.240
<b>125d</b>	-7.143
<b>125e</b>	-9.176

Ligand **123e** gave the best pose in the electrophilic, hydrophobic and polar pockets of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -sheets to give a glide score of -7.650 Kcal/ mol. The terminal carboxyl and carboxamide groups of electronegative ASP404 interact with the anionic oxygen of the nitro group through a salt bridge, while the  $-NH$  group of the ligand interacts with the latter through H-bond acceptor. More interactions are observed for the methoxy group of the ligand and the interactions observed are of H-bond acceptor, the lone pairs of electrons on the oxygen interact with germinal  $-NH_2$  hydrogens of ARG366 and the free water molecules of the receptor. The water molecules help fix the ligand in the binding site within the receptor grid **Fig.5.1i**. The docking scores for ligands **123a**, **123b**, **123c** and **123d** are here mentioned as -7.413, -6.653, -6.250 and -6.409 Kcal/ mol respectively. Comparative docking scores for the pyridylamino quinazoline ligands **123a-e** are summarised on **Table 5.3** below.



**Figure 5.1l and 5.1m:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **123e** in 1HTO.

**Table 5.3:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **123a-e** (1HTO).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>123a</b>	-7.413
<b>123b</b>	-6.653
<b>123c</b>	-6.250
<b>123d</b>	-6.409
<b>123e</b>	-7.650

### 5.1.2 Induced fit docking of compounds 119a-d, into oxidoreductase (PDB:3F8P) receptor grid.

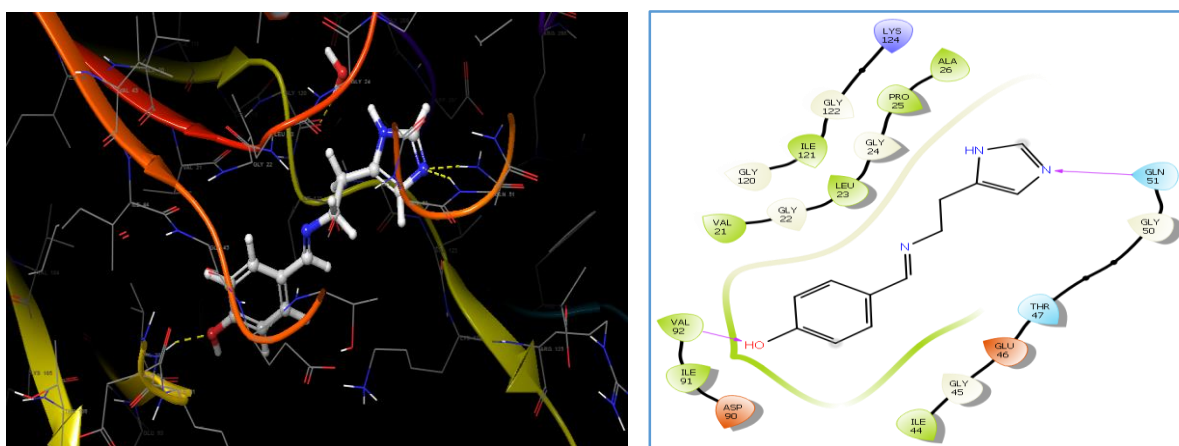
Oxidoreductase (PDB:3F8P) is an enzyme from the protein kinase family and it is overexpressed in breast, liver, gastrointestinal tract and kidney cancer [6]. This enzyme is responsible for catalysing oxidation and reduction reactions in cells. Moreover, the enzyme is responsible for both aerobic and anaerobic metabolisms which aid glycolysis, TCA cycle, oxidative phosphorylation and amino acid metabolism [7]. In cancer cells, oxidoreductase is expressed as xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) and it links with uric acid to proliferate and transform cells to speed the progression of metastasis. Metastasis is described as the development of secondary malignant tumours distant from the site of cancer cells. The XOR and uric acid effect is reported to promote metabolic syndromes. Metabolic syndromes are defined as neoplastic complications that lead to blood pressure, high blood sugar and uncontrollable cholesterol levels. These complications are reported to have anti-therapeutic



protective outcomes [8]. In this light, targeting the active site of this enzyme (3F8P) represent an ideal approach in combating the proliferation of cancer cells. The ligand-protein interactions are described below.

The 2-dimensional (2D) and 3-dimensional (3D) docked poses of compounds **119a-d**, **123e** and **125e** are represented in **Figures 5.2a-h** below. The docking poses of the ligands in the 3F8P-receptor grid occupy the polar (blue), hydrophobic (green), electronegative (red) and glycine (grey) pockets in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -sheets. **Figures 5.2a-h** below indicate increased polar, hydrophobic, electronegative and glycine (H-bond,  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking,  $\pi$ -cation and salt bridge) interactions existing across all ligands with the 3F8P amino-acid sequence VAL92, GLN51, PHE225, LYS124 and GLU46.

In this fit, ligand **119b** exhibits a glide score of -9.221 Kcal/mol. The docking screen, **Fig.5.2a** depicts ligand interactions occurring in the hydrophobic and glycine pockets within the  $\beta$ -sheets. The ligand interacts with the protein through H-bond acceptor and donor. The H-bond is due to double interaction from carboxamide  $-NH_2$  groups of GLN51. The polar nitrogen of the imidazolyl group of the ligand accesses this interaction through the free lone pair of electrons. Similarly, the hydroxyl group of the ligand accesses the  $-NH_2$  group of VAL92 through the readily accessible lone pair of electrons from the oxygen atom **Fig.26a**. Similar docking scores of ligands **119a**, **119c** and **119d** are here mentioned -7.425, -7.033 and -6.035 Kcal/mol respectively. Comparative docking scores for the imidazolyl-ethanime Schiff base ligands **119a-d** are summarised on **Table 5.4**.

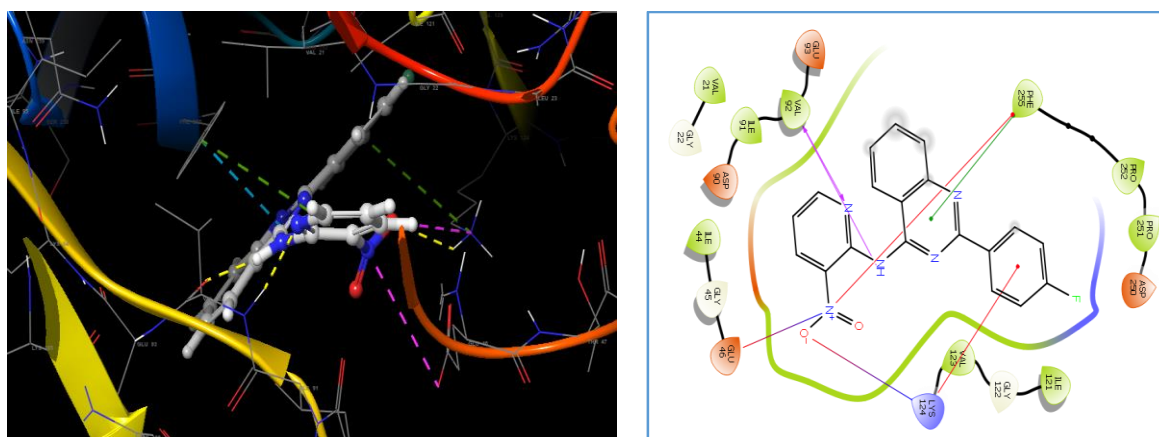


**Figure 5.2a and 5.2b:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119b** in 3F8P.

**Table 5.4:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **119a-d** (3F8P).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>119a</b>	-7.425
<b>119b</b>	-9.221
<b>119c</b>	-7.033
<b>119d</b>	-6.035

Ligand **123c** gave a glide score of -9.441 Kcal/mol. Protein to ligand interactions are observed in the electrophilic, hydrophobic and polar pockets of  $\beta$ -sheets. The interactions observed include  $\pi$ -cation,  $\pi$ - $\pi$ , H-bond donor and acceptor and salt bridging. The  $\pi$ -cation (red lines) and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions (green lines) are due to interactions between cationic nitro group, pyrimide group of the quinazoline framework and the phenyl group of hydrophobic PHE225. Furthermore,  $\pi$ -cation interactions are due to the 2-(4-fluorophenyl) group of the ligand and the tailing  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of polar LYS124. The H-bond acceptor is due to the pyridyl nitrogen of the ligand and the  $-\text{NH}$  group of VAL92. The H-bond donor interaction is due to  $-\text{NH}$  group of ligand and carbonyl group of VAL92. The salt-bridges are interactions resulting from cationic nitrogen of  $-\text{NO}_2$  of the ligand interacting with electronegative GLU46 and the anionic oxygen of  $-\text{NO}_2$  of the ligand which interacts with the  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of polar LYS124 **Fig.5.2c**. Comparative docking scores for the pyridylamino quinazoline ligands are summarised in **Table 5.5**.

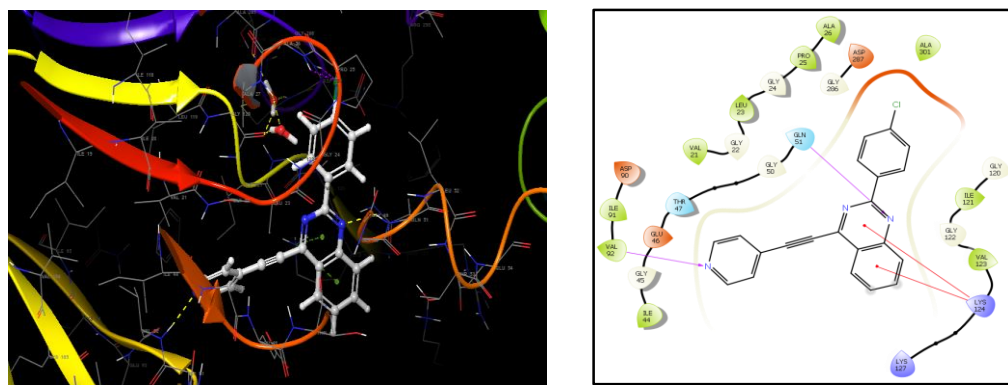


**Figure 5.2c and 5.2d:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **123c** in 3F8P.

**Table 5.5:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **123a-e** (3F8P).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>123a</b>	-5.709
<b>123b</b>	-5.743
<b>123c</b>	-9.441
<b>123d</b>	-5.738
<b>123e</b>	-6.341

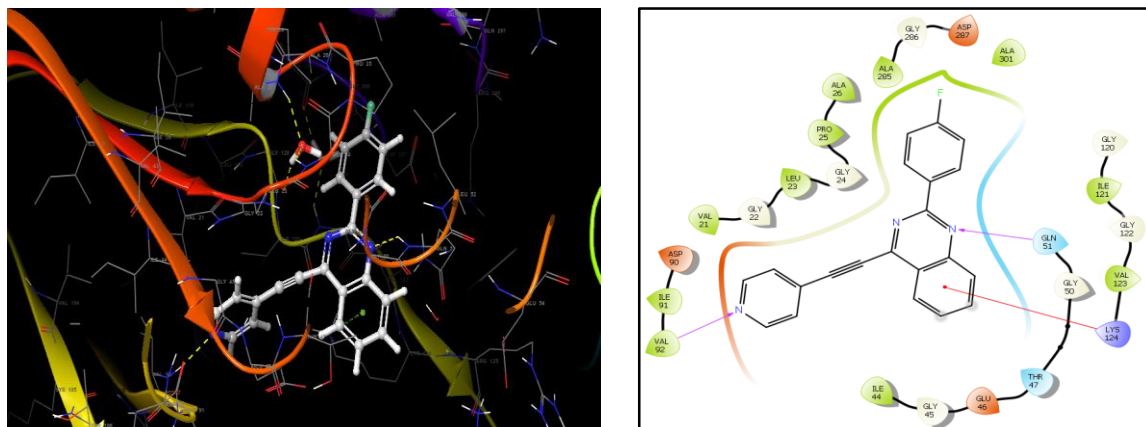
Ligand **125a** exhibited a glide score of -9.107 Kcal/mol. The interactions are observed in the electronegative and glycine pockets of the  $\alpha$ -sheets. However, increased H-bond acceptor and  $\pi$ -cation interactions are observed in the glycine pocket. The  $\pi$ -cation interaction results from the double interaction of quinazoline framework with tailing  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of polar LYS124. The H-bond acceptor is due to interaction between  $N-1$  and  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of GLN51 carboxamide group. Further H-bond acceptor interaction results from the terminal nitrogen of ethnylpyridine and  $-\text{NH}$  group of hydrophobic VAL92 **Fig.5.2e**.



**Figure 5.2e and 5.2f:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **125a** in 3F8P.

Ligand **125c** gave a glide score of -10.043 Kcal/mol. Interactions for this ligand are found in the polar, hydrophobic and electronegative pockets of  $\alpha$ -sheets. However, interactions of H-bond acceptor and  $\pi$ -cation are observed in the polar and electronegative pockets. The H-bond acceptor is due to interaction between  $-\text{NH}_3$  groups of VAL92 and GLN51 for  $N-1$  and pyridyl nitrogen retrospectively. The  $\pi$ -cation is due to interaction between  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of polar LYS124 and fused phenyl group of

the quinazoline framework **Fig.5.2g**. Comparative docking scores for the ethynylpyridine quinazolines ligands 125a-e are summarised in **Table 5.6** below.



**Figure 5.2g and 5.2h:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **125c** in 3F8P.

**Table 5.6:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **125a-e** (3F8P).

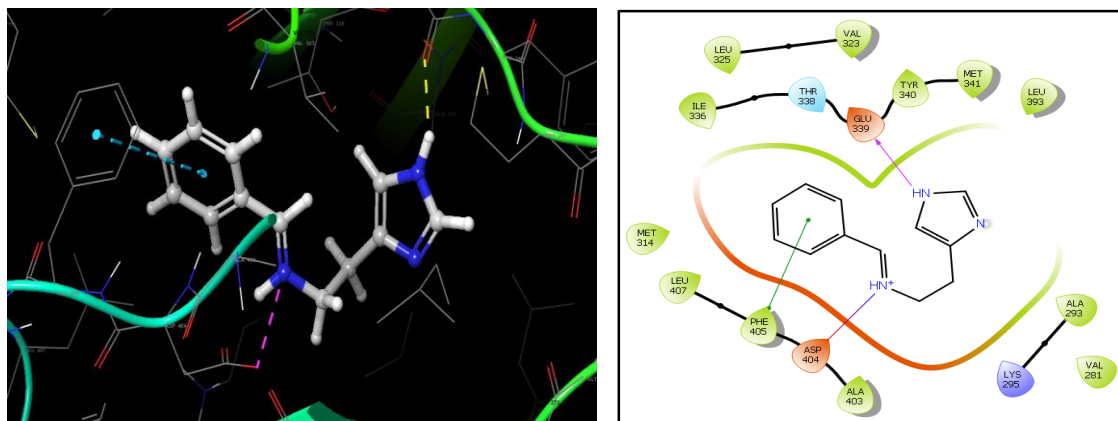
Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>125a</b>	-9.0107
<b>125b</b>	-8.165
<b>125c</b>	-10.043
<b>125d</b>	-8.522
<b>125e</b>	-8.362

### 5.1.3 Induced fit docking of compounds 119a-d into Tyrosine kinase (2SRC) receptor grid.

Tyrosine kinases are a subclass of protein kinase family. They are responsible for the transfer of phosphate groups from adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to cellular proteins. They function as an “on” or “off” switch in modulation of growth factor signalling [9]. This signal transduction process helps the rapid widespread of cancer cells [10]. Compounds designed to specifically fit in the active site of tyrosine kinase compete with the ATP binding site of the catalytic domain. Blocking the ATP phosphate transfer results in reduced multiplication of cancer cells and minimises metastasis [11]. The ligand-protein interactions are described below.

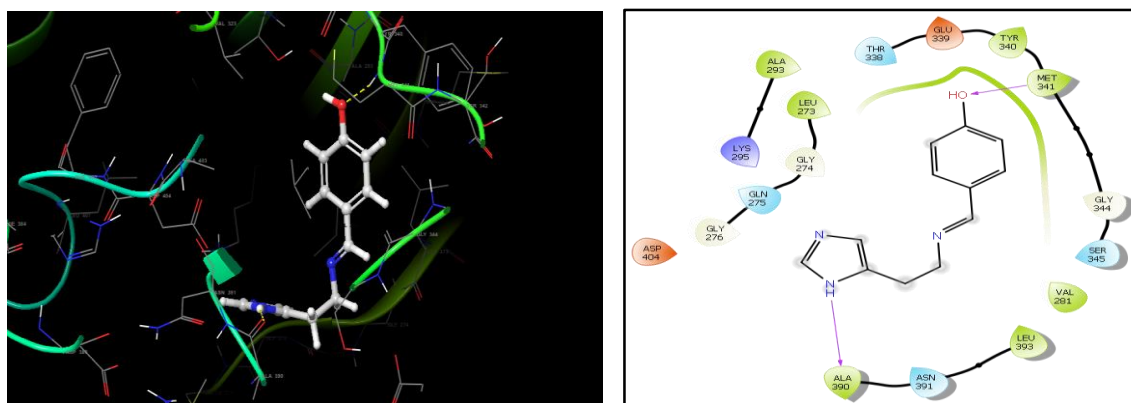
The 2-dimensional (2D) and 3-dimensional (3D) docked poses of compounds **119a-d** are represented in **Figures 5.3a-h** below. Ligands **119a** and **119c** were found to give good docking scores when protonated at pH 7.4. The docking poses of the ligands in the 2SRC-receptor grid occupy the polar (blue), hydrophobic (green) and electronegative (red), glycine (grey) pockets in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -sheets. **Figures 5.3a-h** below indicate increased polar, hydrophobic, electronegative and glycine (H-bond,  $\pi$ - $\pi$ -stacking,  $\pi$ -cation and salt bridge) interactions existing across all ligands with the 2SRC amino-acid sequence PHE225, ASP404, GLU339, MET341, ALA390, VAL323.

In this investigation, ligand **119a** exhibits a glide score of -8.901 Kcal/mol. The ligand-protein interaction is found in the electronegative and hydrophobic pockets of the receptor within the  $\beta$ -sheets. The ligand interacts with the receptor through  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking, H-bond acceptor and salt-bridge linking. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction is due to the phenyl ring of PHE405 and phenyl ring of ligand, the salt-bridge is due to the cationic imino group which interacts with the hydroxyl group of ASP404 carboxyl backbone. The H-bond is through interaction between carboxamide backbone of electronegative GLU339, as the oxygen of the latter acts as hydrogen acceptor of amine hydrogen emanating from imidazolyl group of ligand **119a**, **Fig.5.3a**.



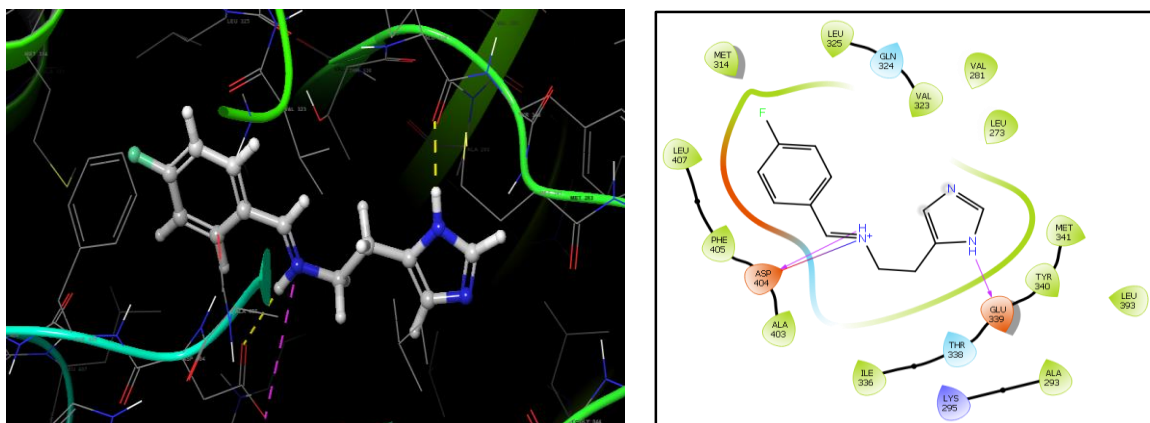
**Figure 5.3a and 5.3b:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119a** in 2SRC.

Ligand **119b** gave a glide score of -8.655 Kcal/mol. All interactions are found in the hydrophobic pocket of the receptor grid. The ligand interacts with the protein by way of H-bond acceptor and donor. The tailing hydroxyl group acts as a hydrogen acceptor for amino carboxamide hydrogen of MET341 and the imidazolyl amine hydrogen interacts with oxygen atoms on carbonyl group of ALA390 **Fig.5.3c**.



**Figure 5.3c and 5.3d:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119b** in 2SRC.

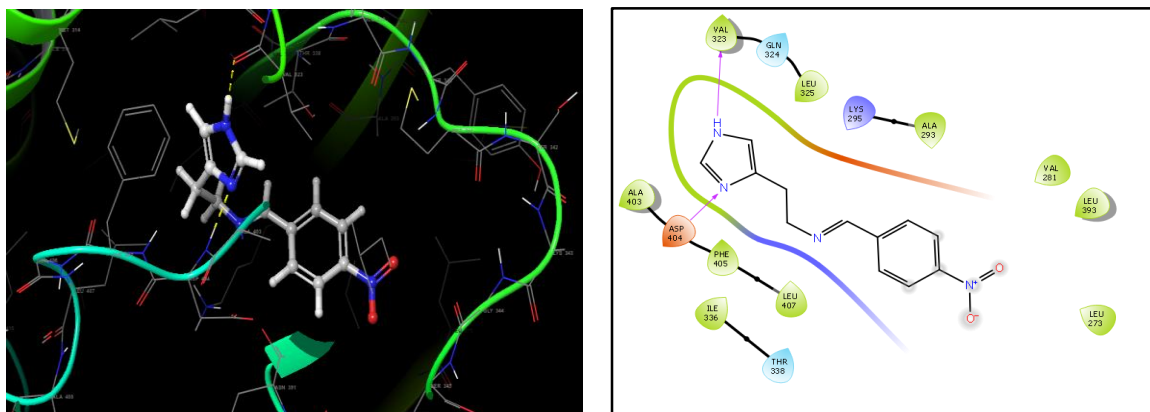
The best pose for ligand **119c** was found in the polar, hydrophobic and electronegative pockets in the  $\beta$ -sheets. A glide score of -9.393 Kcal/mol was obtained for ligand **119c** wherein ligand-protein interactions were found to exhibit salt-bridging and H-bond acceptors. The salt-bridge exists between polar and electronegative pockets. This is due to the cationic imino group of the ligand, which shows a double interaction with the carbonyl oxygen and hydroxyl hydrogen of ASP404. Further interactions observed include H-bond acceptor between  $-NH$  group of the imidazolyl group of the ligand and the carboxamide oxygen of GLU339 **Fig.5.3e**.



**Figure 5.3e and 5.3f:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119c** in 2SRC.

Ligand **119d** gave the best pose in the polar, hydrophobic and electronegative pockets of the  $\beta$ -sheets. However, the ligand-protein interactions were found in the hydrophobic pocket to give a glide score of -8.662 Kcal/mol. The interaction is through both H-bond donor and acceptor. The H-bond acceptor interaction exists between –

NH<sub>2</sub> group of carboxamide backbone of electronegative ASP404 and the *sp*<sup>2</sup>-hybridised nitrogen of the imidazolyl group. The H-bond donor exists between the amino group of the imidazolyl group of ligand and the carboxamide oxygen of hydrophobic VAL323 **Fig.5.3g**. Comparative docking scores for the imidazolyl-ethanamine Schiff base ligands are summarised in **Table 5.7** below.



**Figure 5.3g and 5.3h:** 3D Docking screen (left) and 2D ligand interaction diagram (right) of **119d** in 2SRC.

**Table 5.7:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **119a-d** (2SRC).

Ligand entry#	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>119a</b>	-8.901
<b>119b</b>	-8.655
<b>119c</b>	-9.393
<b>119d</b>	-8.662

In this fit (2SRC), unfortunately ligands **123a – e** and **125a – e** showed limited binding towards the protein receptor grid. This resulted in poor docking scores which are summarised in **Table 5.8**.

**Table 5.8:** Summarised docking scores for ligands **123a-e** and **125a-e**.

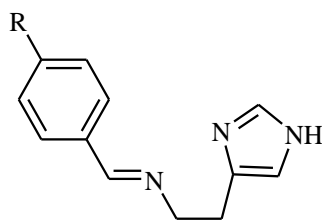
Ligand entry #	Docking score (Kcal/mol)	Ligand entry #	Docking score (Kcal/mol)
<b>123a</b>	-5.958	<b>125a</b>	-6.580
<b>123b</b>	-7.163	<b>125e</b>	-6.010
<b>123c</b>	-7.408	<b>125c</b>	-6.321
<b>123d</b>	-5.118	<b>125d</b>	-6.800
<b>123e</b>	-6.949	<b>125e</b>	-6.870

Computational chemistry studies are usually backed by experimental biological evaluation data [12]. In this study, the IFD study is supported by *in vitro Mtb* studies of ligands **119a-d**, **123a-e** and **125a-e** in subsection **5.2**.

### **5.2 In vitro anti-Mycobacterium tuberculosis properties of compounds 119a-d, 121a-e, 123a-e, 125a-e and 126a-e.**

The *in vitro anti-Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity of compounds **119a-d**, **121a-e**, **123a-e**, **125a-e** and **126a-e** was performed at the drug discovery and development centre (H3-D), University of Cape Town (UCT). The biological experiments are reported as MIC<sub>90</sub> and are summarised in tables **5.9** to **5.13** for ligands **119a-d**, **121a-e**, **123a-e**, **125a-e** and **126a-e** respectively prepared in DMSO. MIC<sub>90</sub> is defined as the minimum inhibitory concentration of a compound that is required to inhibit 90% growth of the bacterium. The preliminary data for *in vitro anti-Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was achieved using the alamar blue assay, employing GFP reporter assay 10pt. The media used includes 7H9 CAS GLU Tx and 7H9 ADC GLU Tw. Compounds were assayed within 7 day and 14 day period using the H<sub>37</sub>Rv strain using Rifampicin as a reference drug. A compound was considered inactive when it showed activity at a concentration >125 µg/mL.



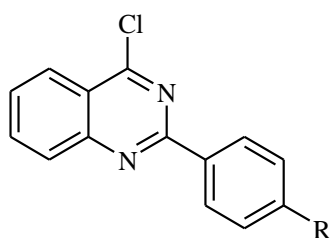


**119a - d**

**Table 5.9:** MIC<sub>90</sub> data for GFP assay for 7 and day 14 data for compounds **119a-d**

R	Entry #	After day 7 data		After day 14 data	
		CAS	ADC	CAS	ADC
-H	119a	>125	>125	>125	>125
-OH	119b	>125	>125	>125	>125
-F	119c	>125	>125	>125	>125
-NO <sub>2</sub>	119d	>125	>125	>125	>125
#####	Rifampicin	0.009	0.001	0.02	0.02

Schiff base derivatives are multifaceted compounds reported to give numerous biological applications [13]. A representative of this class of compounds in TB application is the second line drug Terizidone [14]. The ethanamine-Schiff base derivatives **119a-d**, on **Table 5.9** above showed no activity during the 7 and 14 day period. This inactivity is attributed to the decomposition of the compounds in DMSO as the compounds are moisture sensitive and degrade almost immediately in biological solvents, *i.e* DMSO and water. Due to this, the induced fit docking results contradict that of experimental with appreciable higher glide score. In subsection 5.1.1, the compounds appeared to undergo protonation at mimicked physiological pH 7.4, this perhaps sheds light into the stability of these compounds, where pH is a factor.

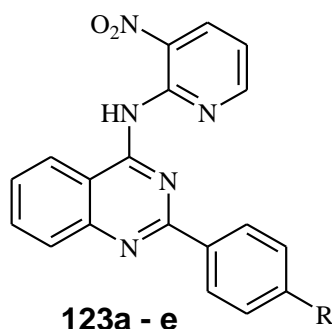


**121a - e**

**Table 5.10:** MIC<sub>90</sub> data for GFP assay for 7 and day 14 data for compounds **121a-e**

R	Entry #	After day 7 data		After day 14 data	
		CAS	ADC	CAS	ADC
-Cl	121a	>125	>125	>125	>125
-Br	121b	>125	>125	>125	>125
-F	121c	>125	>125	>125	>125
-NO <sub>2</sub>	121d	>125	>125	>125	>125
-OMe	121e	>125	>125	>125	>125
#####	Rifampicin	0.009	0.001	0.002	0.02

Quinazoline derivatives are an important class of compounds in bio-organic chemistry, these compounds are largely applied in cancer application, where compounds such as gefitinib and erlotinib have been marketed and are currently used to treat small lung cancer [15]. In this study we explore a small structure activity relationship (SAR), the 4-chloroquinazoline derivatives (**121a-e**) were tested against the *Mtb* strain, unfortunately due to the poor solubility of these compounds in DMSO, no desirable activity was obtained.

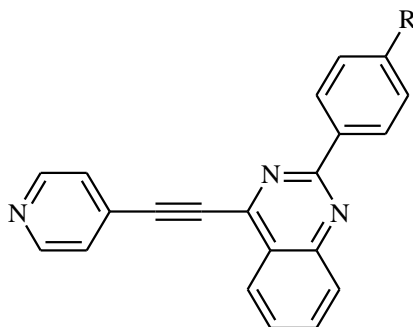


**Table 5.11:** MIC<sub>90</sub> data for GFP assay for 7 day data for compounds **123a-e**

R	Entry #	After day 7 data	
		CAS	ADC
-Cl	123a	>125	>125
-Br	123b	25	17.244
-F	123c	50	30.969
-NO <sub>2</sub>	123d	50	42.362
-OMe	123e	12.5	10.698
#####	Rifampicin	0.019	0.075

Compounds **123a-e** were assayed for 7 days, the compounds gave promising preliminary anti-*Mtb* activity. These compounds however, complement the IFD data as compound **123e** gave the highest docking score of -7.650 Kca/mol amongst the compounds in **Table 5.11**. The activity was confirmed by experimental data of the alamar blue assay as the compound gave promising activity of 12.5 and 10.698 µg/mL. The structure activity relationship (SAR) is here observed as the introduction of a pyridylamino group on the C4-position proves to have improved solubility of the compounds and activity was observed. The variation of the 4-position of the pyridylamino series shows that electron donating groups improve the activity of the compounds. This is because compounds containing halogens -Cl, -Br and -F on the 4-position of the 2-aryl substituent gave MIC<sub>90</sub> of 17.2 µg/mL to the undesirable >125 µg/mL. However, an attachment of a 2-aryl substituent bearing a 4-NO<sub>2</sub> gave MIC<sub>90</sub> of 42.36 µg/mL. Good MIC<sub>90</sub> of 10.698 µg/mL was observed when a 2-aryl substituent bearing a 4-OMe was attached. The methoxy group participates in hydrogen bonding and this helps in fixing the molecule in the receptor grid and thus improving the binding of the molecule in the active binding site. Based on this information, we further explored

the C(4)-Cl position of the pre-requisite 4-chloroquinazolines by attaching ethynylpyridine through Sonogashira cross-coupling.



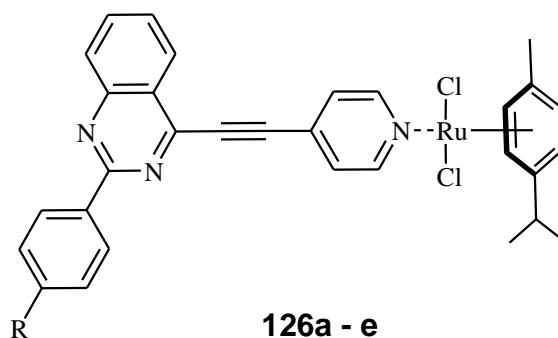
**125a - e**

**Table 5.12:** MIC<sub>90</sub> data for GFP assay for 7 and day 14 data for compounds **125a-e**

R	Entry #	After day 7 data		After day 14 data	
		CAS	ADC	CAS	ADC
-Cl	125a	3.355	23.836	6.338	58.347
-Br	125b	3.625	62.5	6.593	>125
-F	125c	60.25	>125	39.35	>125
-NO <sub>2</sub>	125d	8.267	>125	10.806	>125
-OMe	125e	<0.244	12.102	<0.244	8.48
#####	Rifampicin	0.01	0.01	0.001	0.001

Compounds with protruding pyridyl groups are considered suitable for application against TB [16]. Examples include first line drug isoniazid and second line drugs ethionamide and prothionamide. The 4-ethynylpyridine cross-coupled quinazoline derivatives gave the most promising preliminary *in vitro* anti-*Mtb* activity with MIC<sub>90</sub> ranging from 0.723 – (>125) µg/mL. From **Table 5.5**, compound **125d** which bears a 4-NO<sub>2</sub> group on the *para*-position of the 2-aryl substituent gave an improved MIC<sub>90</sub> which increased from 42.362 µg/mL to 8.267 µg/mL. Compound **125c** registered a loss in activity as the MIC<sub>90</sub> decreased from 30.969 µg/mL to an undesirable 60.25 µg/mL concentration. Compound **125e**, which bears a methoxy group on the 4-position of the 2-aryl substituent gave the highest MIC<sub>90</sub> of <0.244 µg/mL. Varying the 4-position of the 2-aryl substituent appeared to negate the activity of the 4-ethynylpyridine-quinazoline series. This is because an attachment of 2-aryl

substituents with 4-Cl (compound **125a**) and 4-Br (compound **125b**) resulted in a drop in activity with MIC<sub>90</sub> values of 3.355 µg/mL and 3.625 µg/mL respectively. Coordination of free active ligands to monomeric piano-stool Ru(II) centre is considered to improve the bioactivity [17].



**Table 5.13:** MIC<sub>90</sub> data for GFP assay for 7 and day 14 data for compounds **126a-e**

R	Entry #	After day 7 data		After day 14 data	
		CAS	ADC	CAS	ADC
-Cl	126a	30.439	>125	31.864	>125
-Br	126b	11.279	>125	16.346	>125
-F	126c	15.8	>125	15.625	>125
-NO <sub>2</sub>	126d	7.165	>125	3.867	>125
-OMe	126e	8.601	21.865	7.813	20.25
#####	Rifampicin	0.005	0.001	0.002	0.001

In our case we coordinated ligands **125a-e** to *p*-cymene Ru(II) with hope to increase the activity of the ligands in Table **5.12**. Unfortunately, this theory did not suffice as the activity dropped lower than some of the free ligands. We observe a 3-fold drop for compounds **126a-b**, whose free ligands gave MIC<sub>90</sub> of 3.355 µg/mL and 3.625 µg/mL. However, an improvement in activity was observed for complex **126c** whose activity improved 4-fold from 60.25 µg/mL of the free ligand **125c** to 15.8 µg/mL of the Ru(II) complex **126c**. A minute improvement in activity was observed for complex **126d** MIC<sub>90</sub> 7.165 µg/mL. For this slight improvement, the activity of the complex may as well be systematic as the introduction of the *p*-cymene Ru(II) group did not seem to effectively incline the activity of the free ligand of which MIC<sub>90</sub> was 8.267 µg/mL. For the free ligand **125e**, the activity dropped from <0.244 µg/mL to 8.601 µg/mL for

complex **126e** which was undesirable. The reason for a drop in activity could be reasoned as the complexes being affected by efflux, though it may be premature to state, the bulkiness of the complexes may also prevent binding within the receptor grid of the target enzymes. Thus resulting in a loss in activity.

### 5.3. Conclusion

The imidazolyl-ethanmine Schiff base derivatives **119a-d** molecular docking investigations into cancer proteins 3F8P and 2SRC gave docking scores ranging from -6 to -9 and -8 to -10 Kcal/mol respectively. Further investigations into TB (1HTO) (*Mtb*) protein gave good docking scores ranging from -8 to -10 Kcal/mol. However, the *in vitro* screening results against *Mtb* H<sub>37Rv</sub> strain showed no activity due to instability of the compounds in DMSO. The 4-aminopyridyl quinazolines **123a-e** gave poor docking scores ranging from -5 to -7 Kcal/mol in the cancer protein 2SRC and this is due to the limited binding in the 2SRC receptor grid. Relatively good docking scores were realised for the 3F8P cancer protein with docking scores ranging from -5 to -9 Kcal/mol. Sensible docking scores for the **123a-e** series were realised for the 1HTO TB protein, with a range of -6 to -7 Kcal/mol. Within the **123a-e** series, ligand **123e** gave the highest docking score of -7.650 Kcal/mol. This was complemented by *in vitro* screening results, where the compound gave MIC<sub>90</sub> value of 10.698 µg/mL. The ethynylpyridine quinazoline derivatives **125a-e** gave poor docking scores within -6 Kcal/mol range and this is due to limited binding sites within the receptor grid. Satisfactory docking scores ranging from -8 to -10 Kcal/mol for the 3F8P cancer protein were obtained. The docking calculations into 1HTO TB protein range from -6 to -9 Kcal/mol and the *in silico* data complements that of *in vitro* as compound **125e** gave the highest docking score of -9.176 Kcal/mol while the *in vitro* data gave MIC<sub>90</sub> of <0.244 µg/mL. Coordination of **125a-e** to monomeric piano Ru(II) p-cymene group resulted in a drop in activity towards *Mtb*.

The molecular docking calculations prove to be accurate in identifying possible hits in biological assays. Our data suggests that a good docking score equals good activity to some extent.

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## CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND THE FUTURE PROSPECTS

Imidazolyl ethanamine Schiff base ligands of the  $N^{\wedge}N$  type were synthesised in good yield. Attempted coordination to  $ZnCl_2$  yielded poor results due to decomposition of Schiff base ligands. The 4-pyridylamino- and 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazoline ligands bearing  $R = -Cl, Br, -F, -NO_2$  and  $-OMe$  at *para* position were synthesised in good yield through dechloro-amination and sonogashira cross-coupling respectively.

The 4-(ethynylpyridine)quinazoline ligands were coordinated to  $Ru(II)$ -*p*-cymene centre upon which the spectral characterisation by NMR, IR and Mass spectrometry suggests mono-chelation to the  $Ru(II)$  to adopt a piano-stool type complex.

Selected compounds **119a-d**, **121a-e**, **123a-e**, **125a-e** and **126a-e** were tested for anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* properties and the 4-chloro-quinazoline series **121a-e** gave no activity due to their poor solubility in biological solvent DMSO. Similar results were obtained for the Schiff base series wherein the stability of these compounds in DMSO remains a challenge. However, the 4-(pyridylamino)quinazoline series **123a-e** gave promising activity ranging from 10 to 43  $\mu g/mL$ . While the 4-(ethynylpyridine)-quinazolines gave good activity against *Mtb* with ligand **125e** giving an activity of  $<0.244 \mu g/mL$ . Coordination of ligands **125a-e** to  $Ru(II)$  *p*-cymene resulted in a decrease in activity.

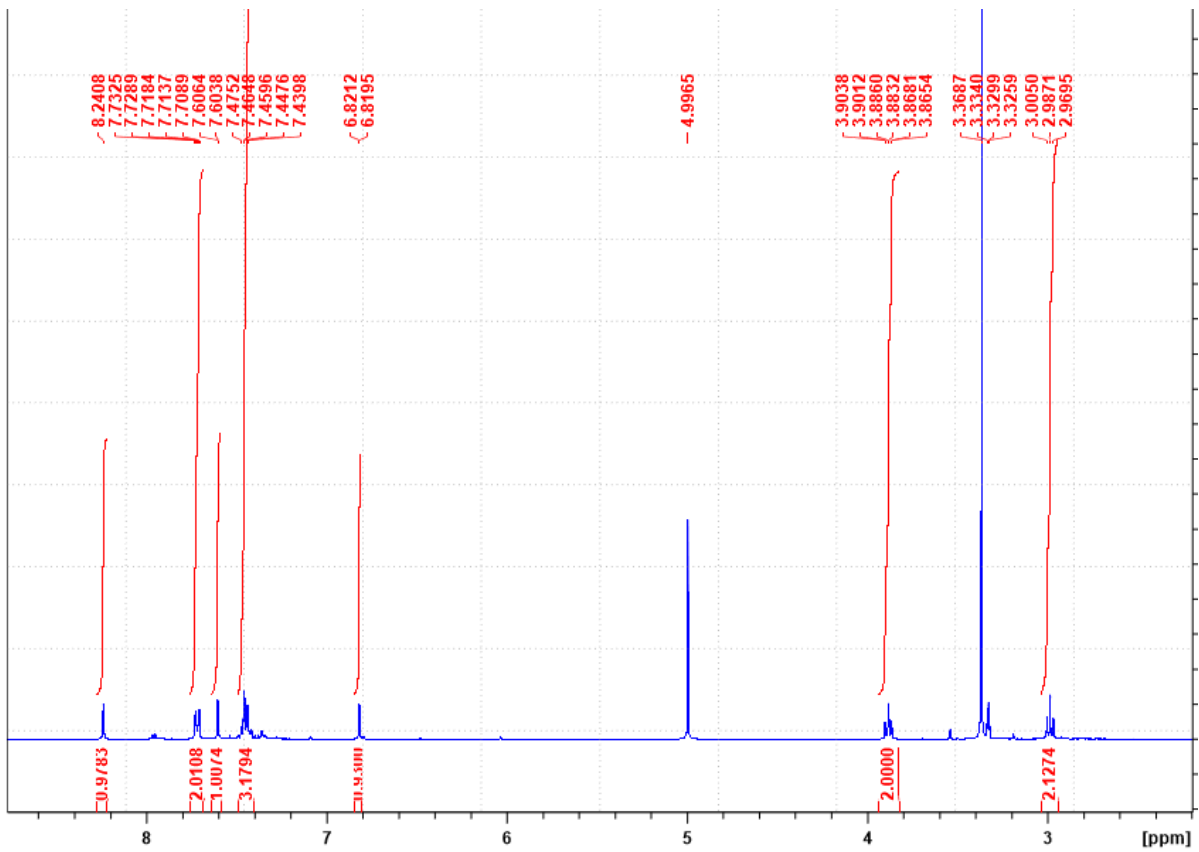
Induced-fit molecular docking of ligands **119a-d**, **121a-e**, **123a-e** and **125a-e** into active sites of 1HTO, 2SRC and 3F8P suggested that these compounds may have binding in proteins such as *glutamine synthetase* against *Mtb*, tyrosine kinase and *oxidoreductase* for possible anti-cancer activity.

In future the imidazolyl-ethanamine Schiff base of the  $N^{\wedge}N$  will be subjected to imino-protonation reactions to yield tertiary-amino two carbon spacer ligands. These ligands will be coordinated to selected transition metal and their protein binding energies will be calculated by way of molecular docking calculations. The molecular docking calculations will determine which compounds to proceed with to *in vitro* biological evaluation. The pyridylamino derivatives will be coordinated to selected transition metals and their biological activity will be investigated. Phenyl-phosphino ligation is reported to improve lipophilicity in biologically active inorganic compounds. The ethynyl-pyridine bridged  $Ru(II)$  complexes will therefore be subjected to phosphine-

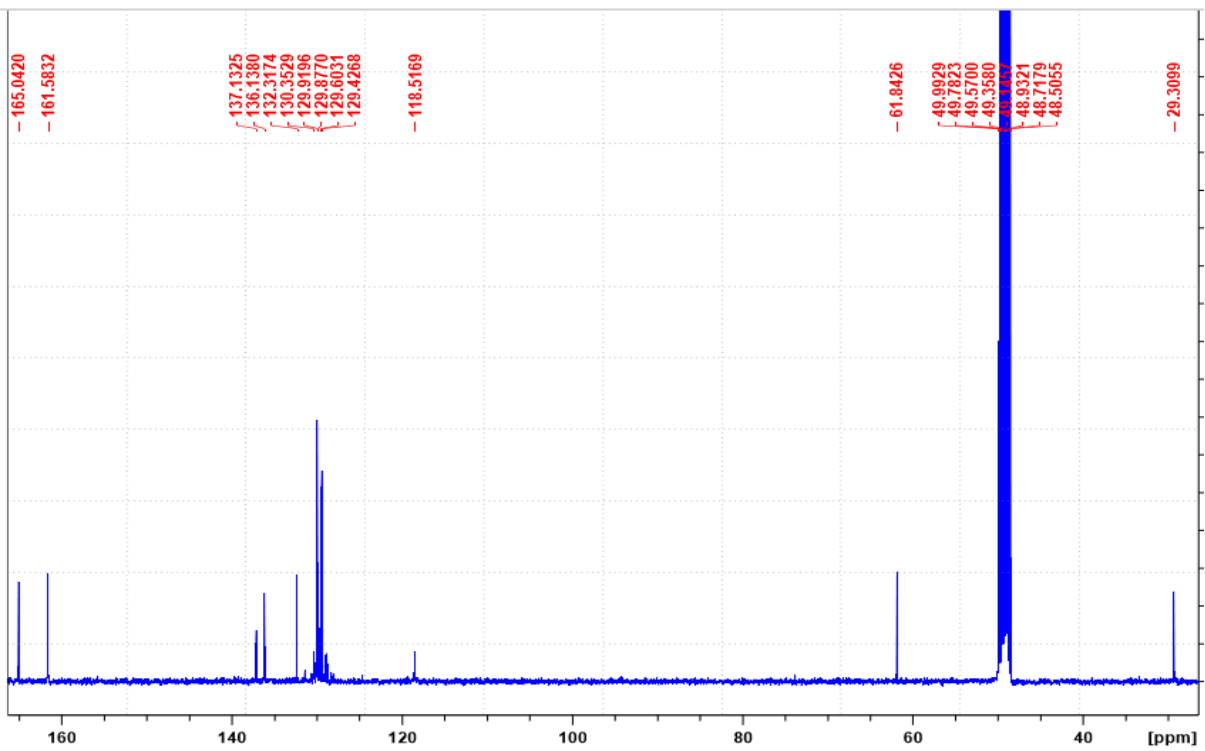
group ligation with hope to increase lipophilicity and biological activity of the Ru(II) complexes. The compounds with promising *in vitro* activity *i.e* activity below 20 µg/mL will be evaluated for safety by way of toxicity assay.

## APPENDIX

- $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and HRMS spectra of **119a-d** on pages 139-144
- $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and HRMS spectra of **123a-e** on pages 144-150
- $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and HRMS spectra of **125a-e** on pages 151-157
- $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and HRMS spectra of **126a-e** on pages 157-162



**Figure 1: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 119a**



**Figure 2: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 119a**

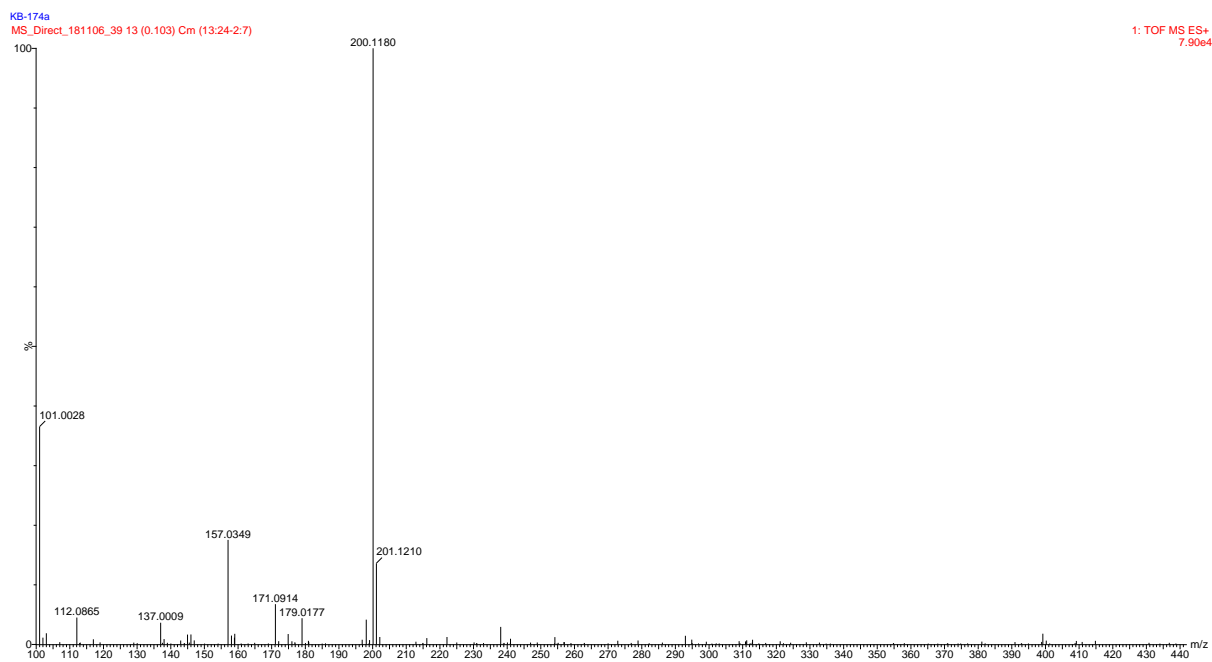


Figure 3: HRMS spectrum of 119a

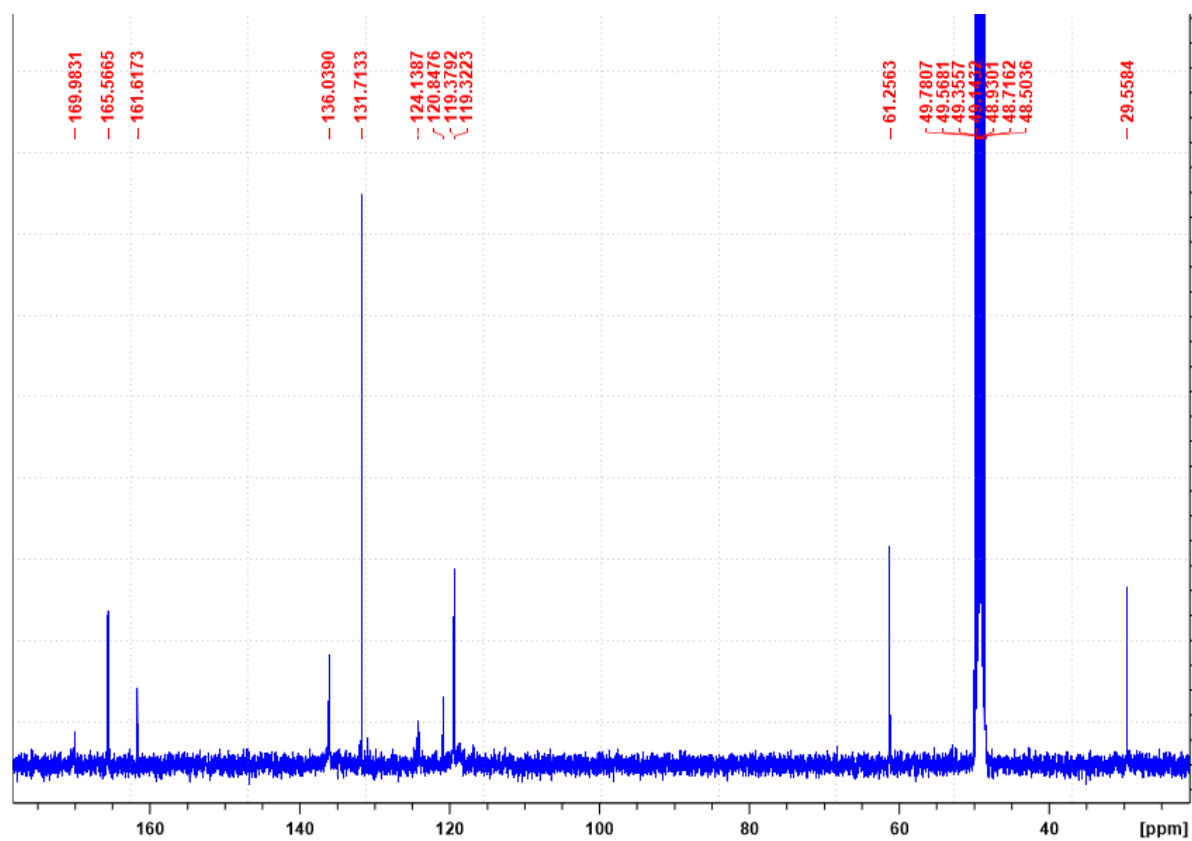


Figure 4: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 119b

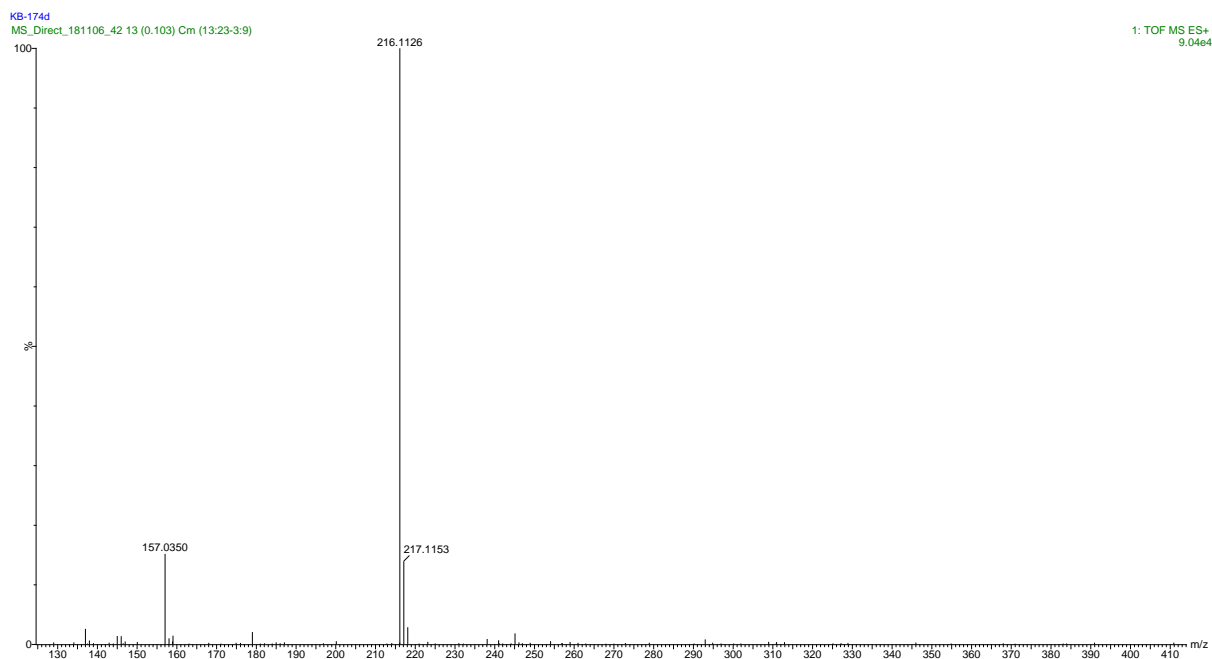


Figure 5: HRMS spectrum of 119b

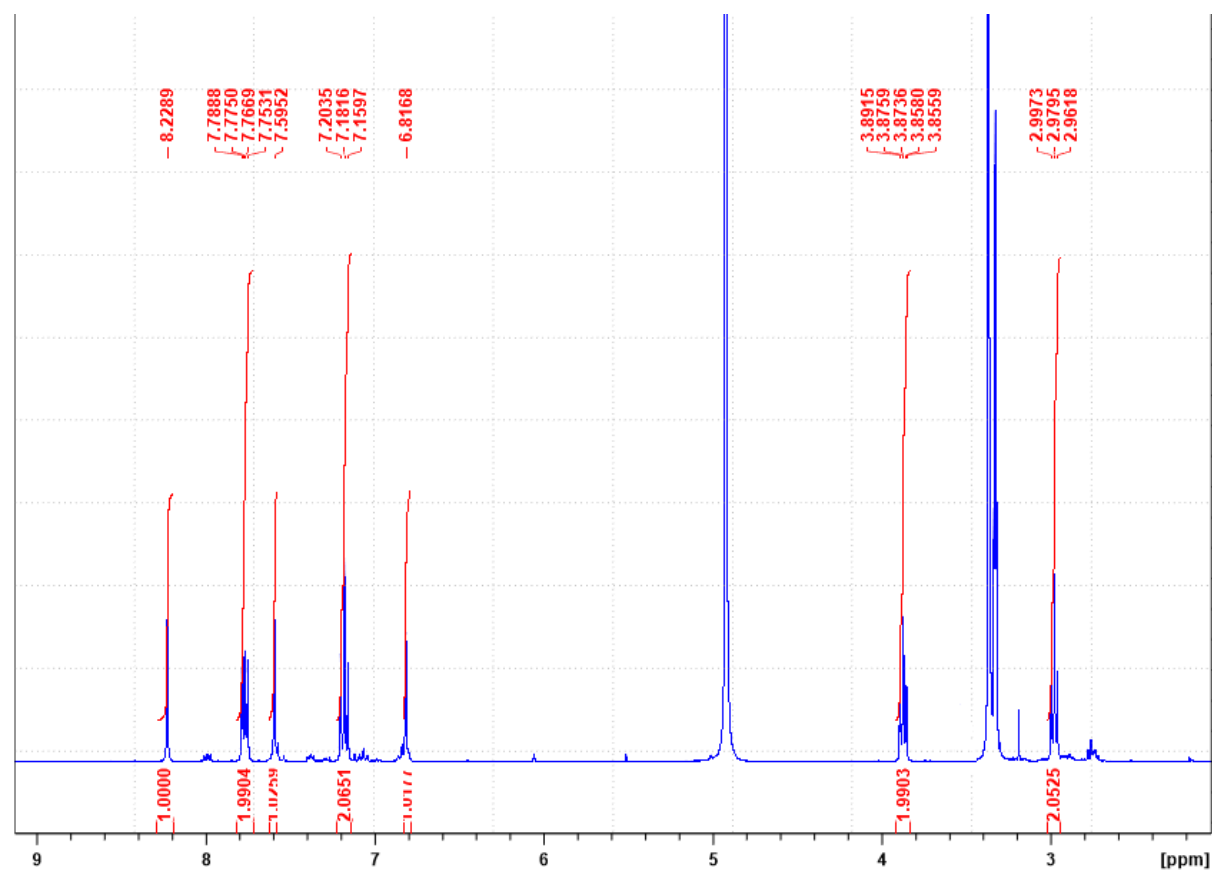


Figure 6: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 119c

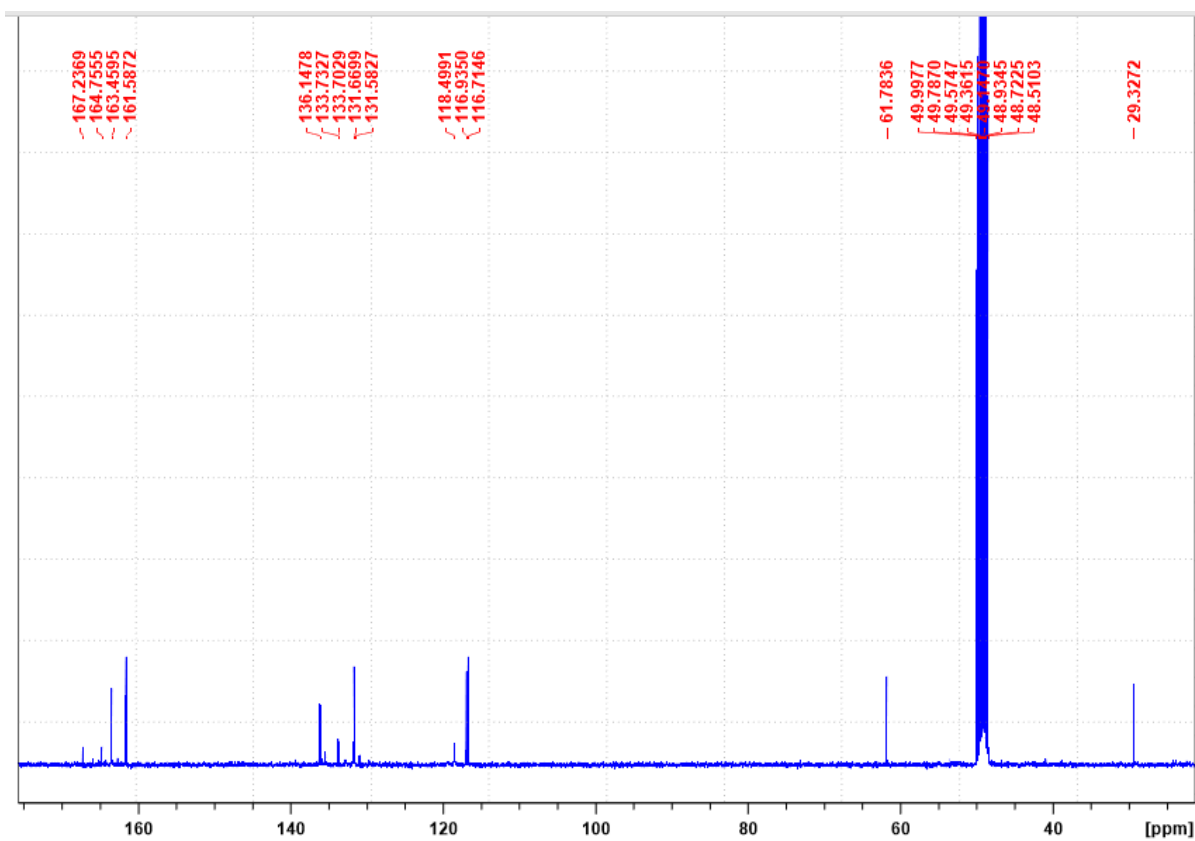


Figure 7:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **119c**

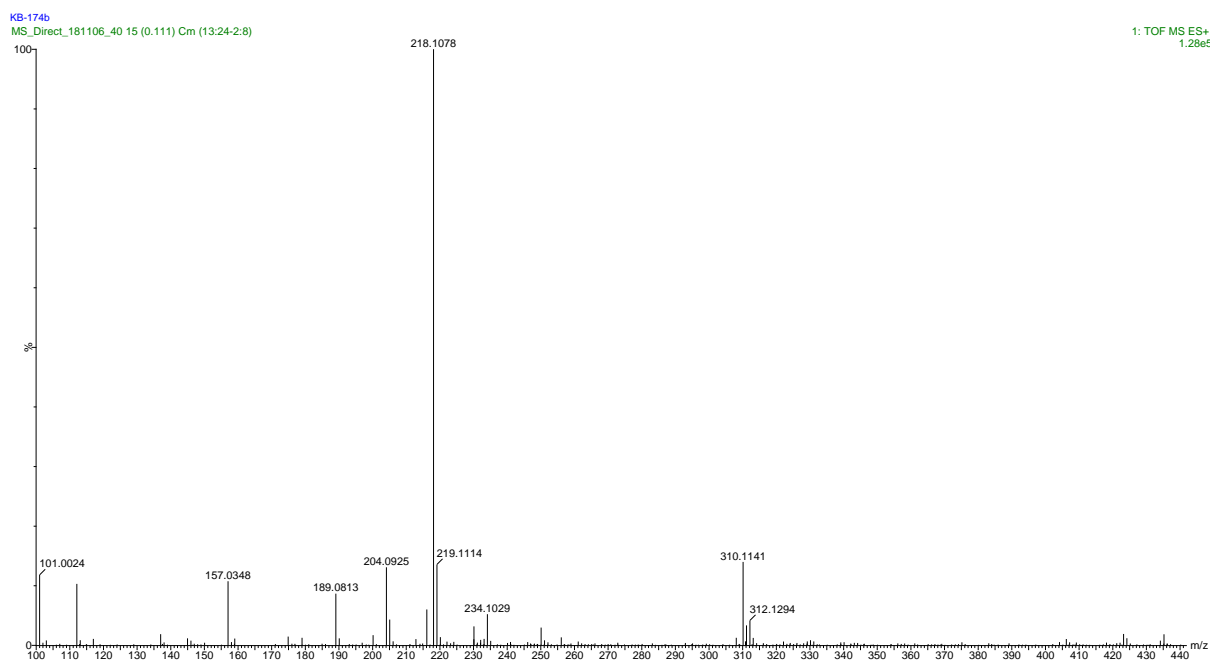
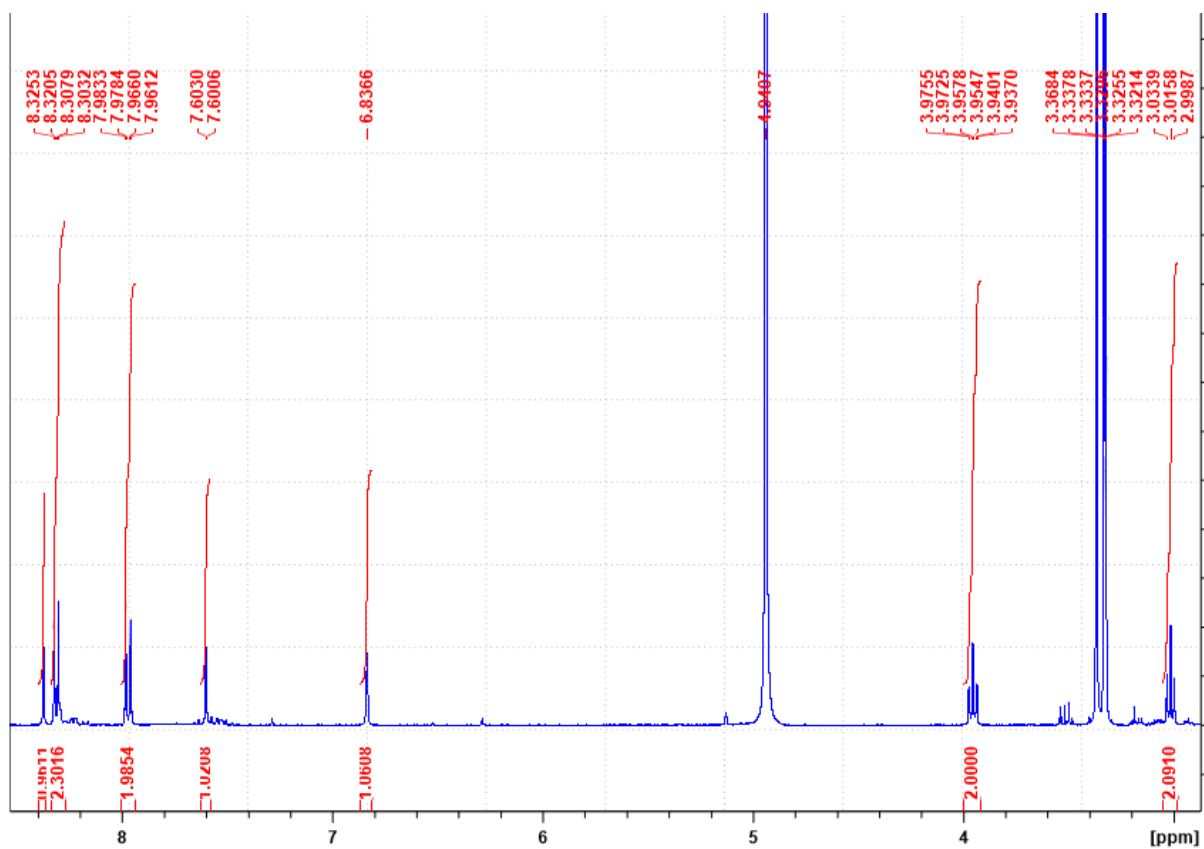
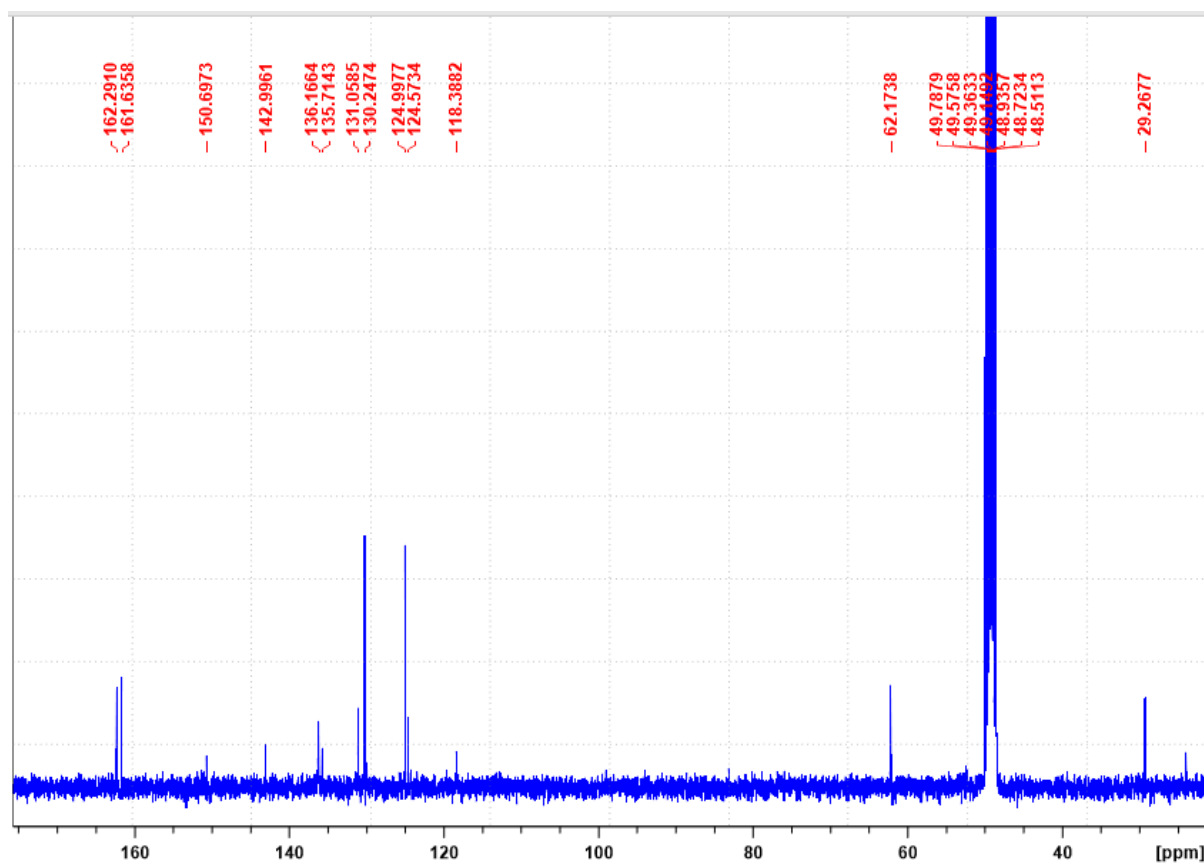


Figure 8: HRMS spectrum of **119c**



**Figure 9:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of 119d**



**Figure 10:  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum of 119d**



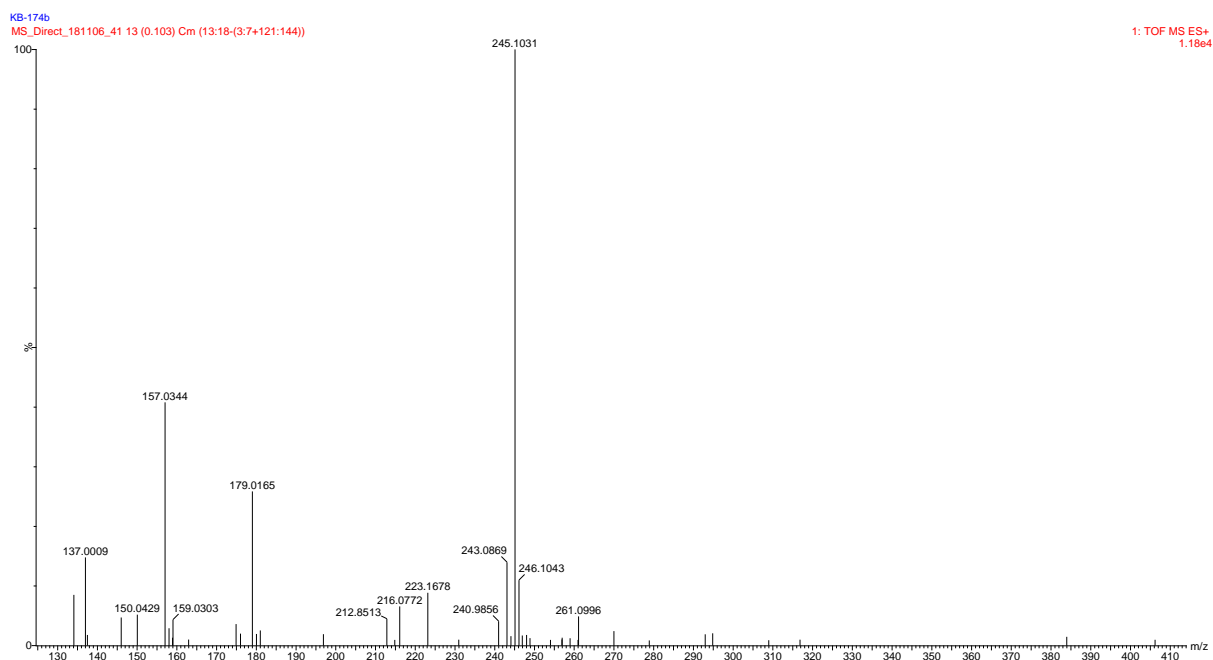


Figure 11: HRMS spectrum of 119d

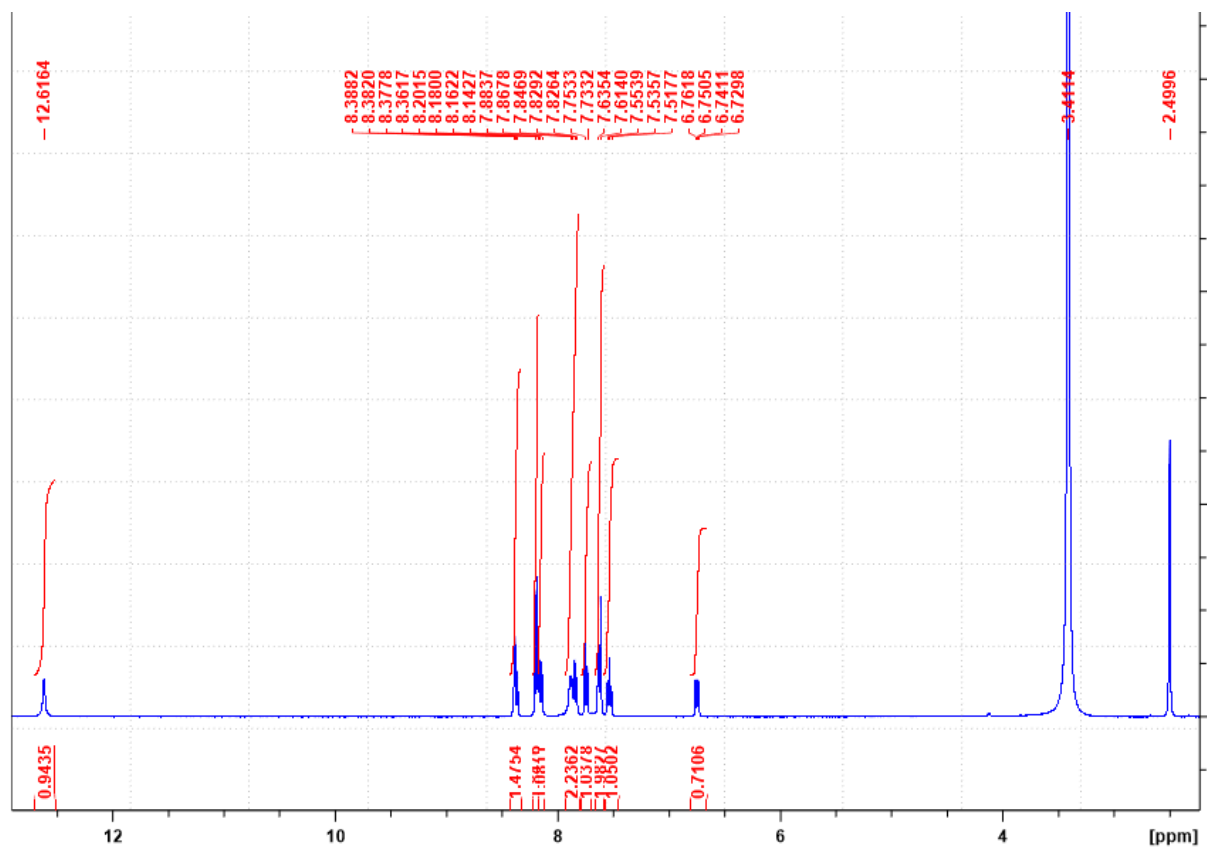


Figure 12: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 123a

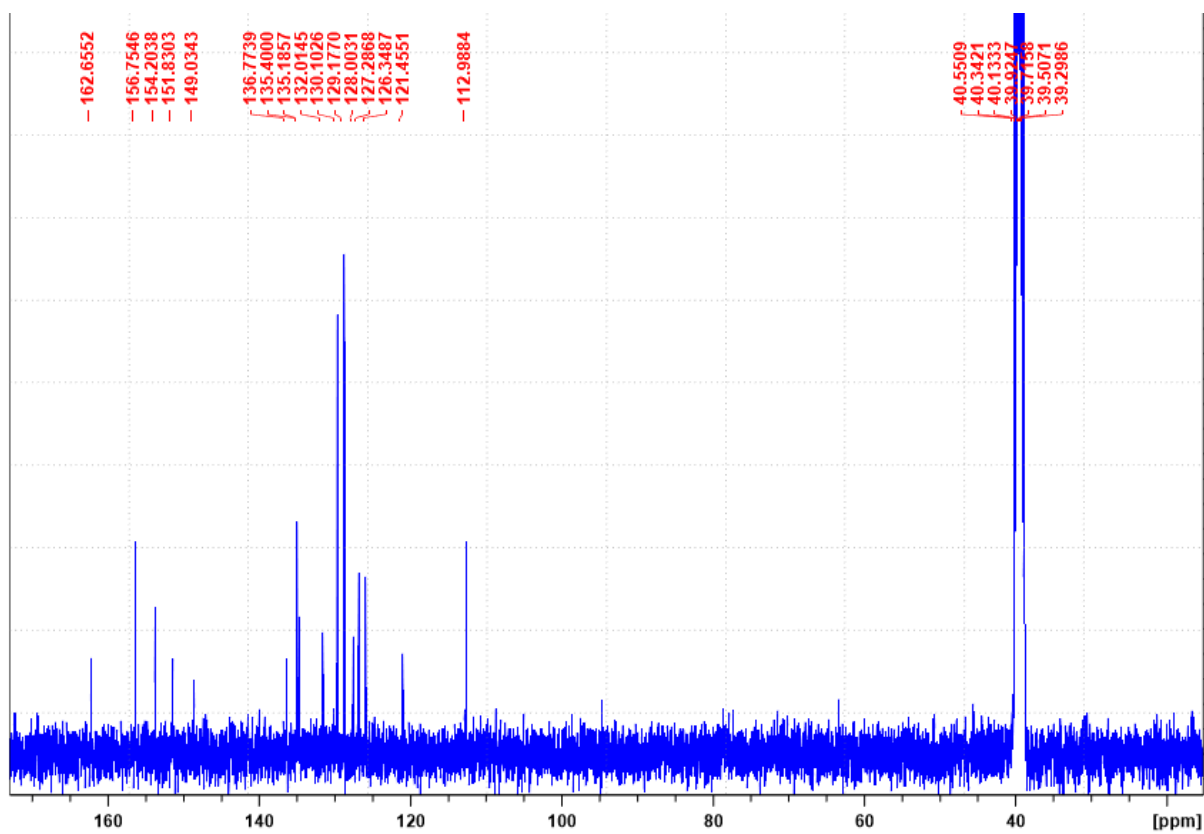


Figure 13:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of 123a

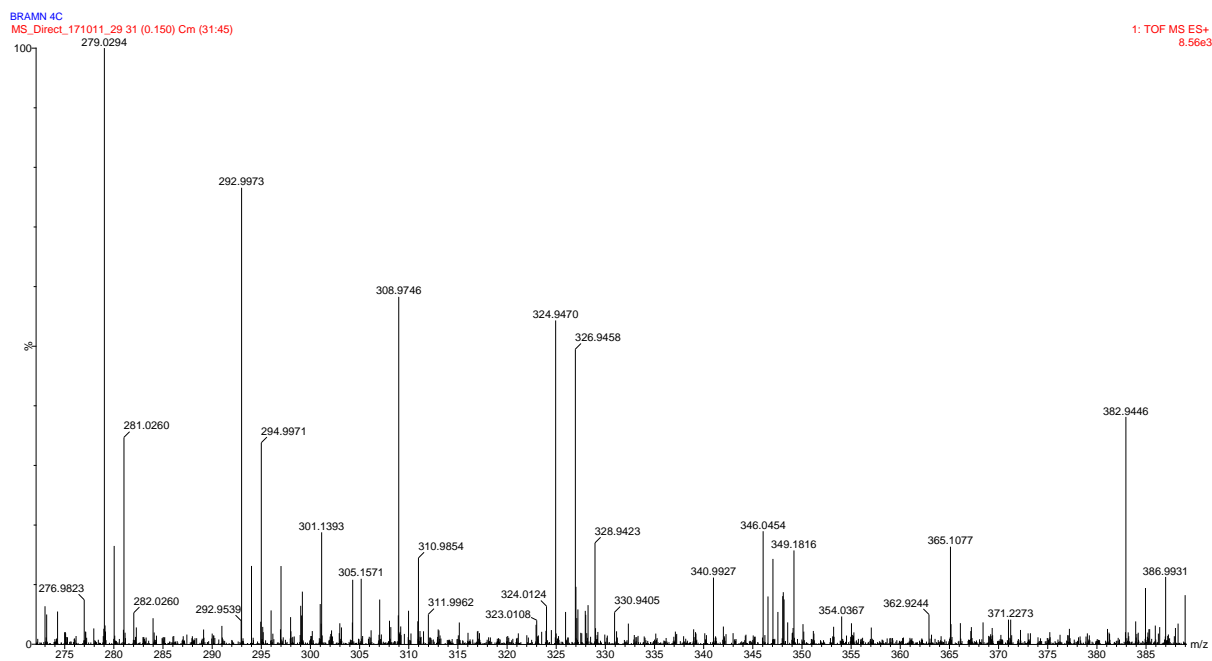


Figure 14: HRMS spectrum of 123a

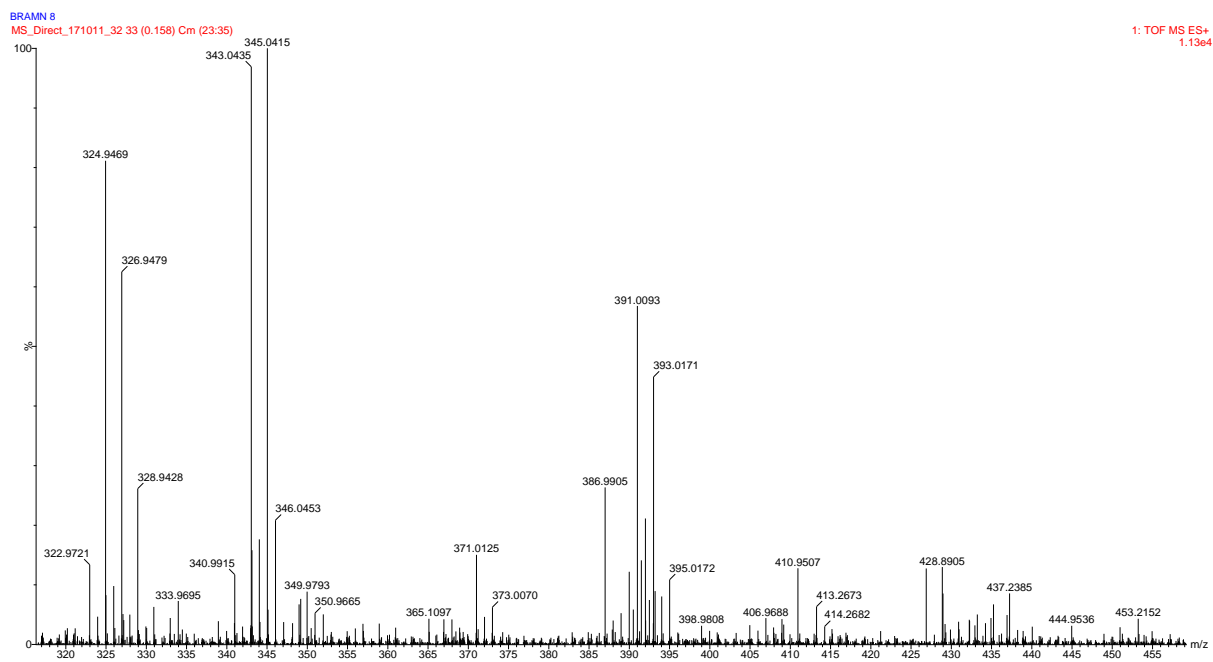


Figure 15: HRMS spectrum of 123b

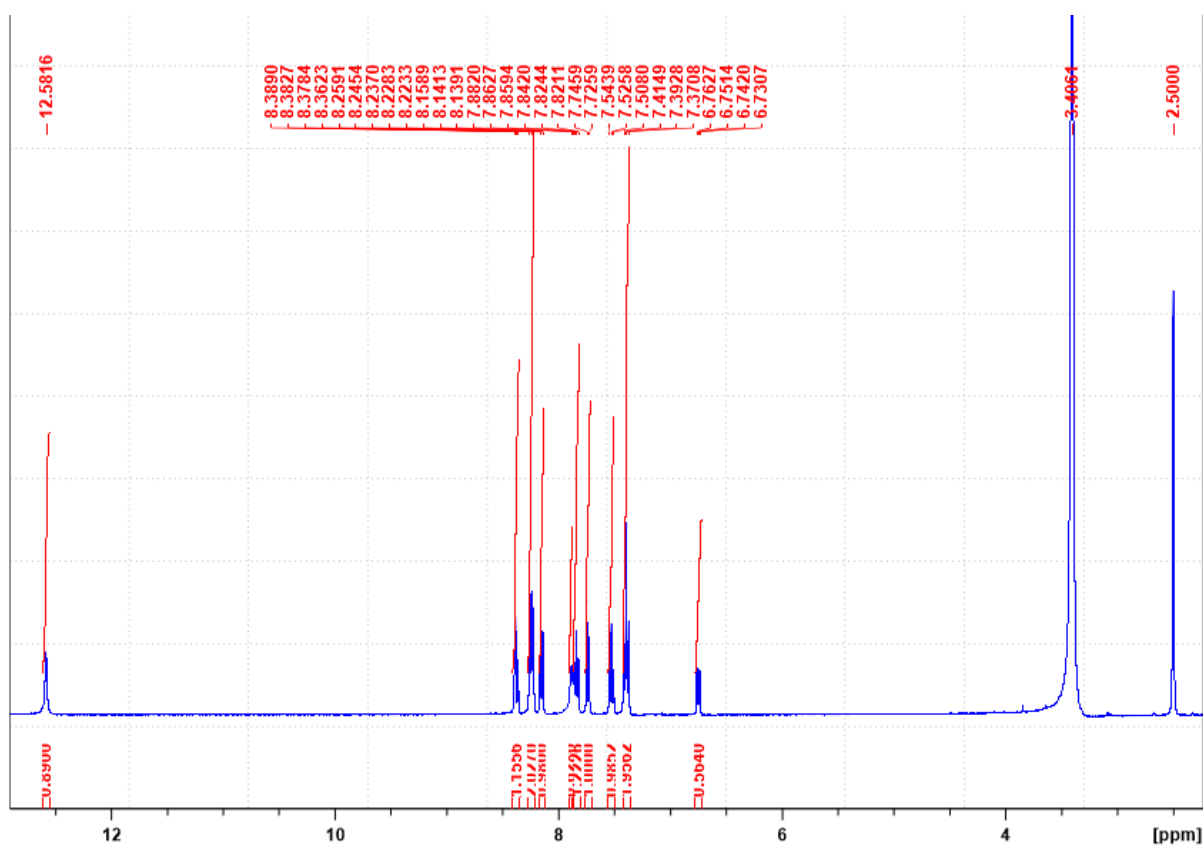
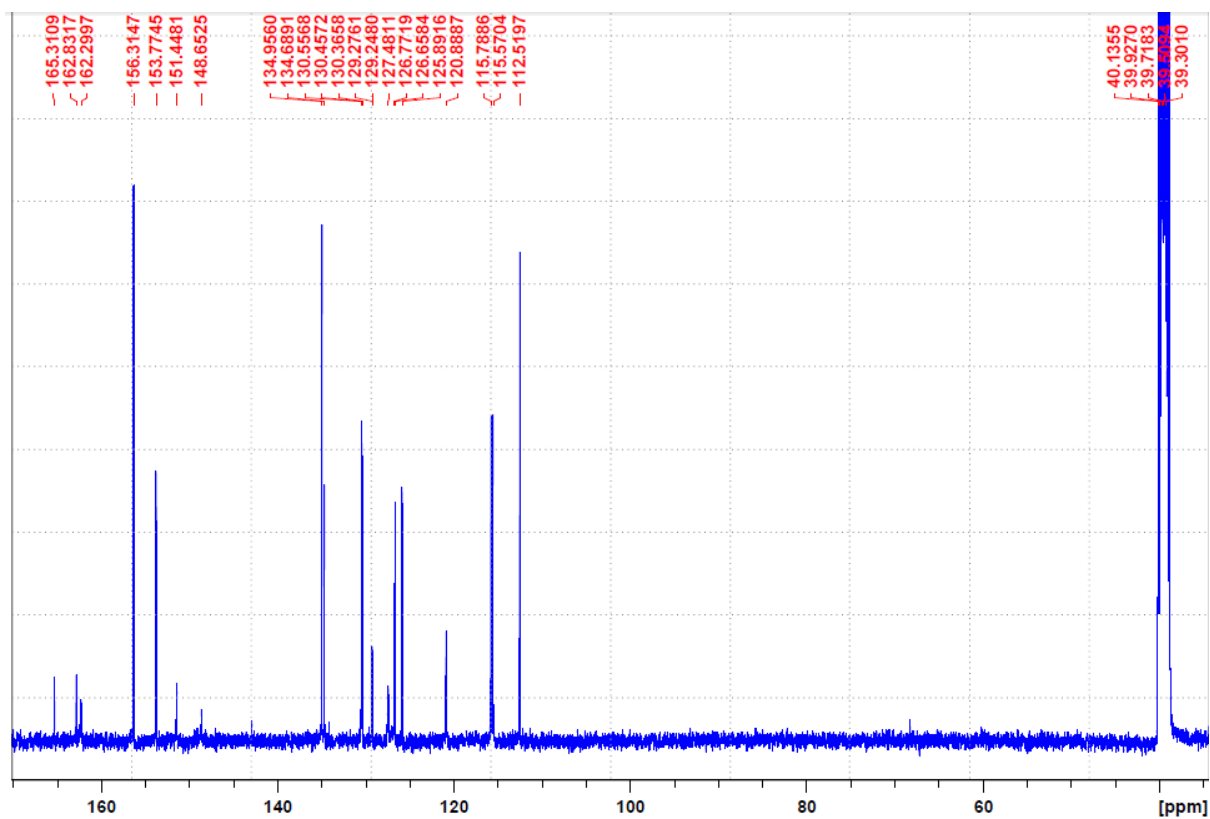
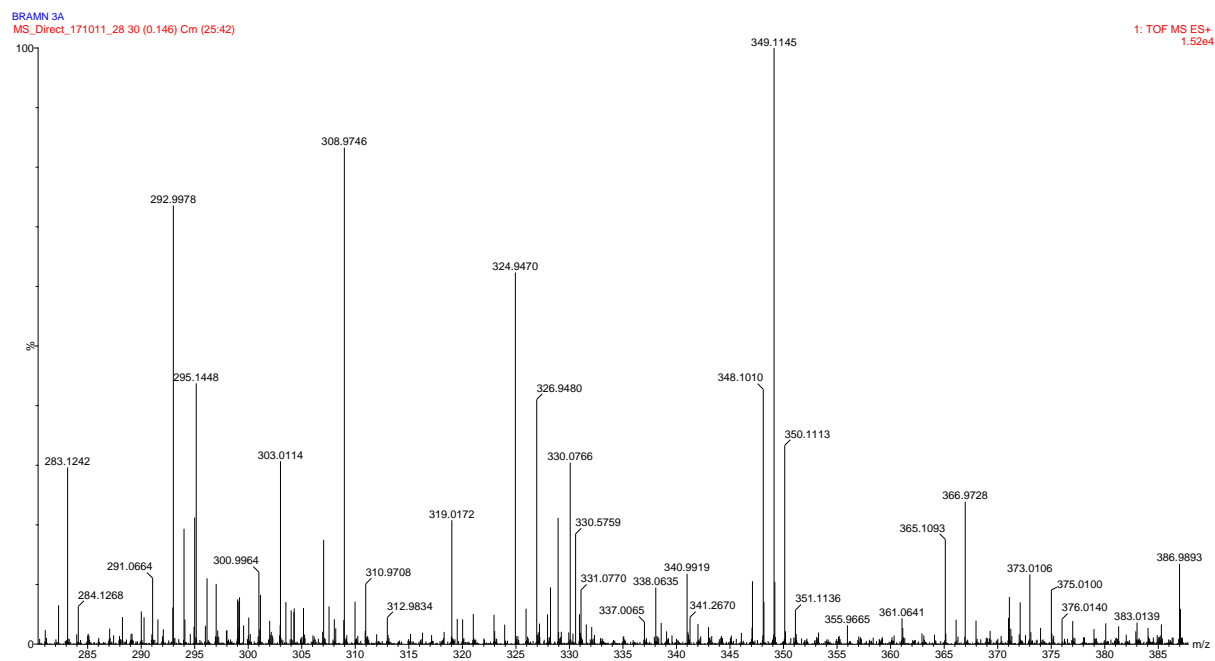


Figure 16: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 123c



**Figure 17:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of 123c**



**Figure 18: HRMS spectrum of 123c**

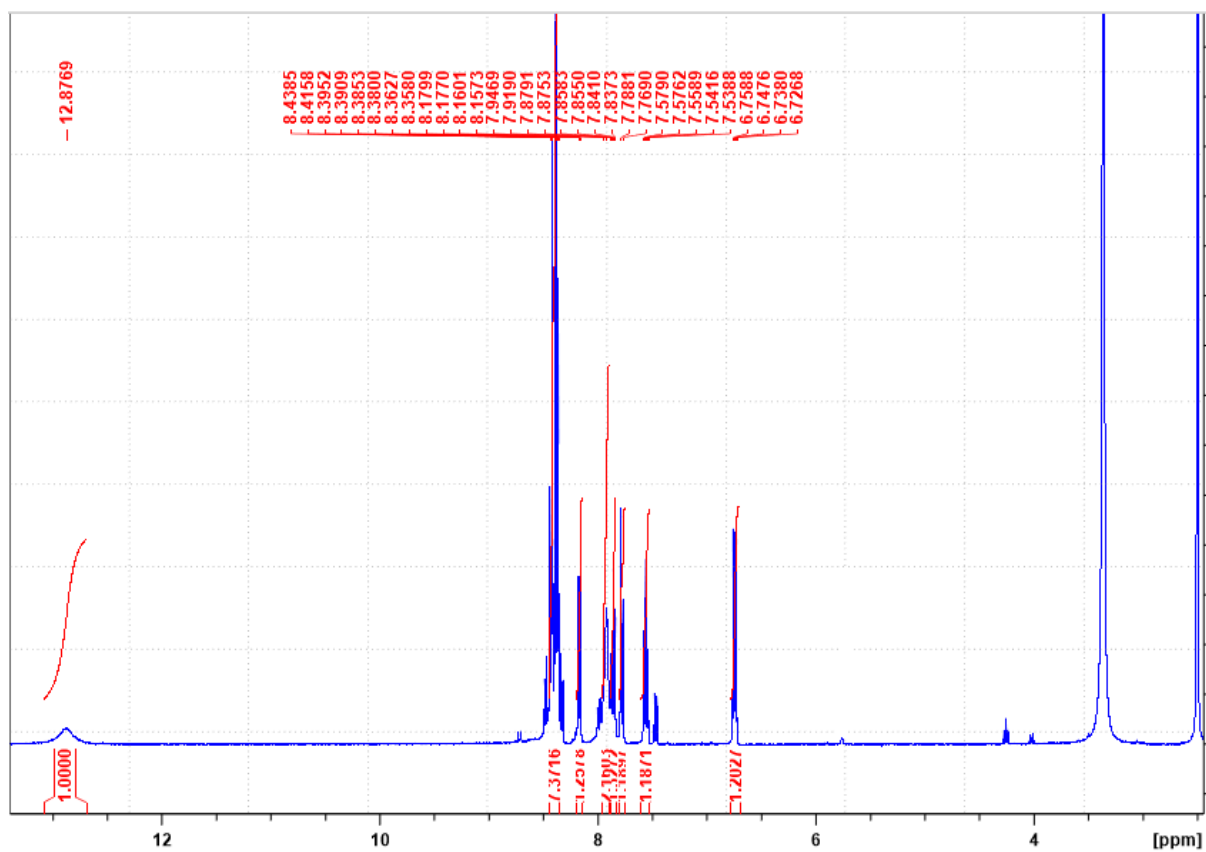


Figure 19:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of 123d

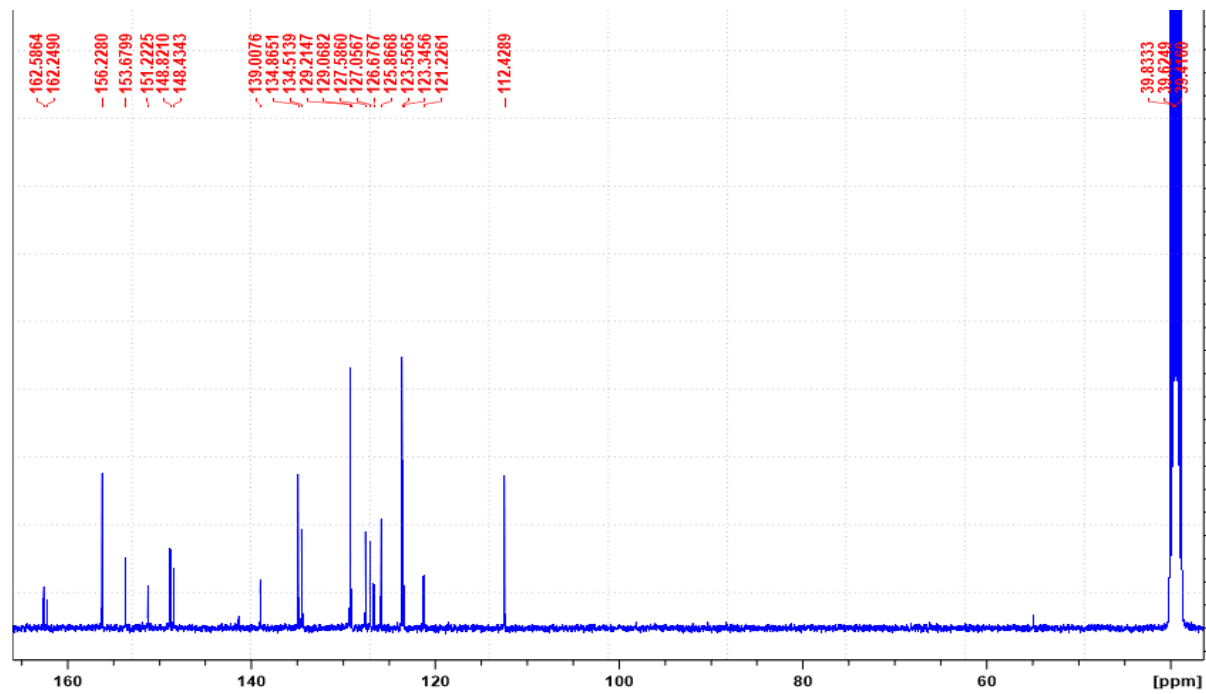


Figure 20:  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum of 123d

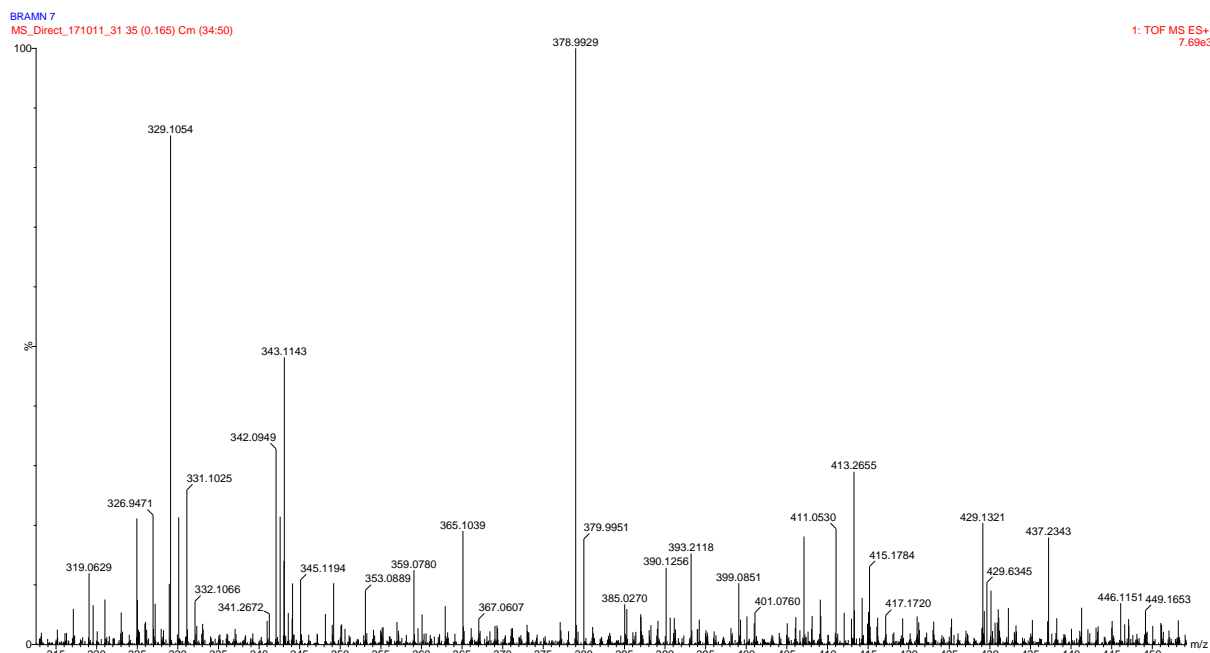


Figure 21: HRMS spectrum of 123d

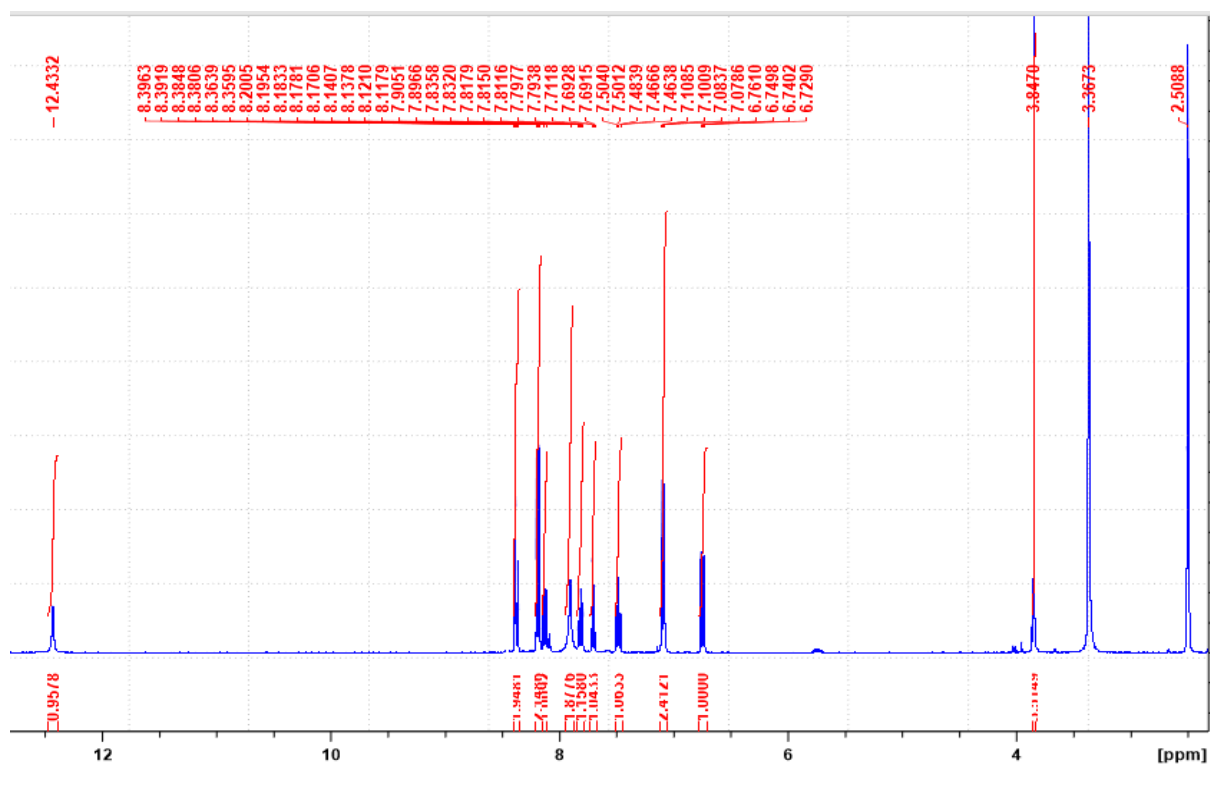


Figure 22: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 123e

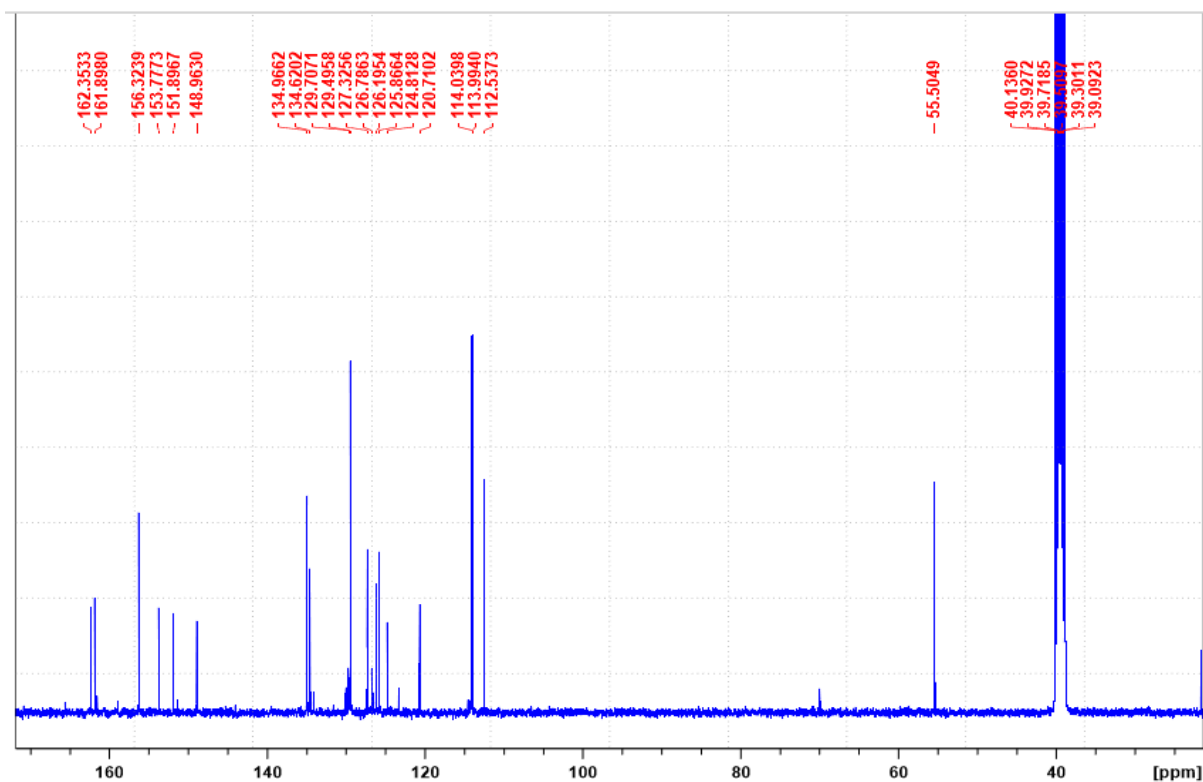


Figure 23:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **123e**

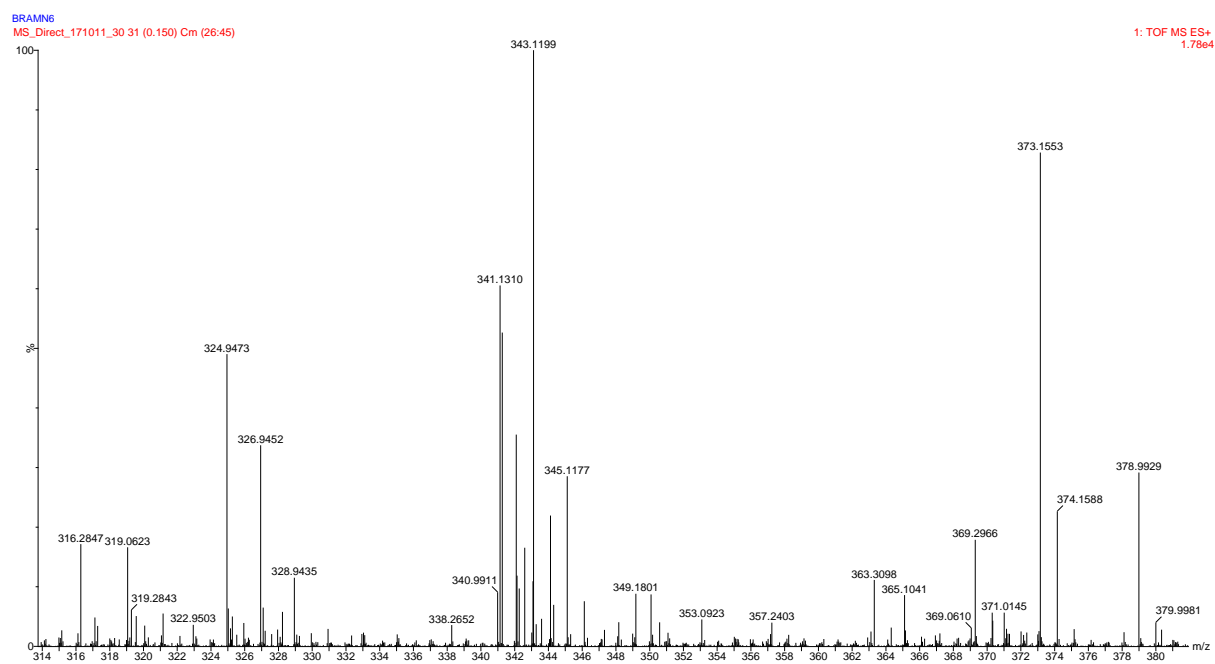
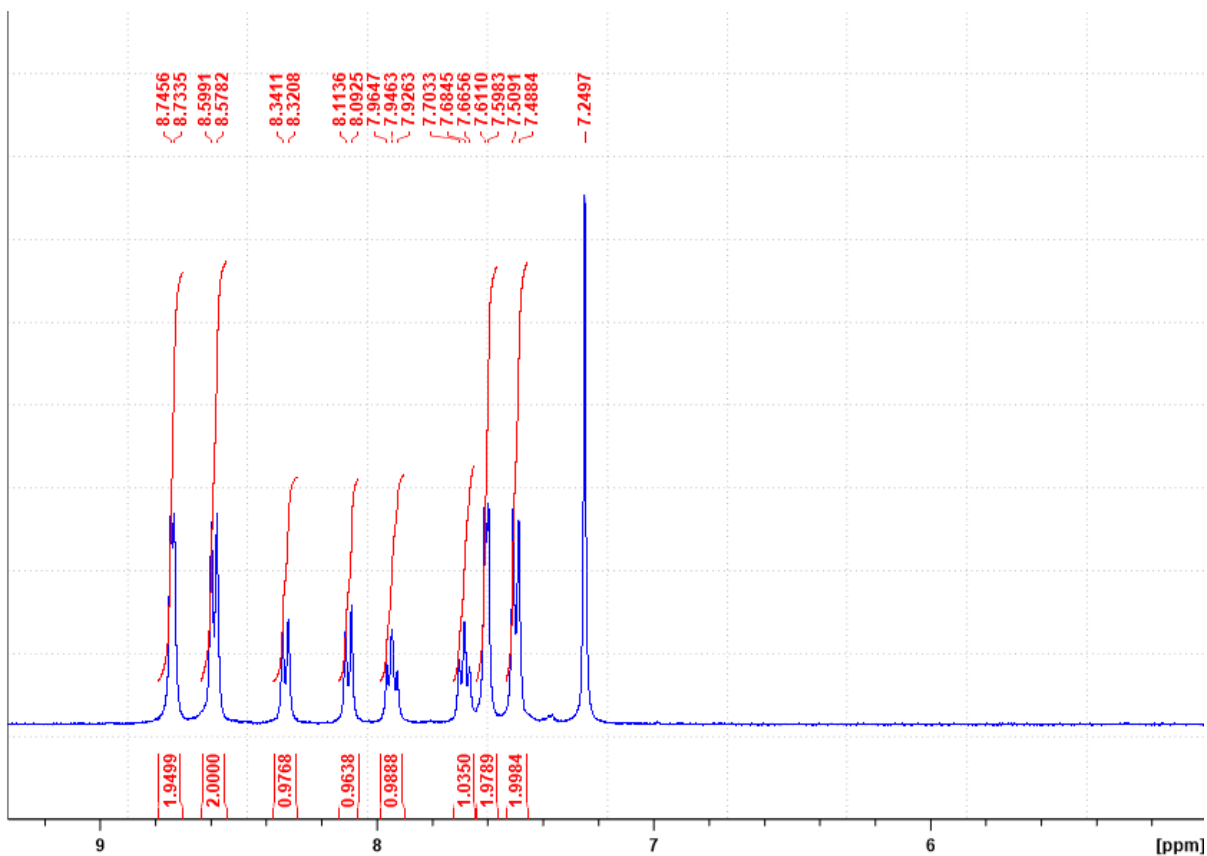
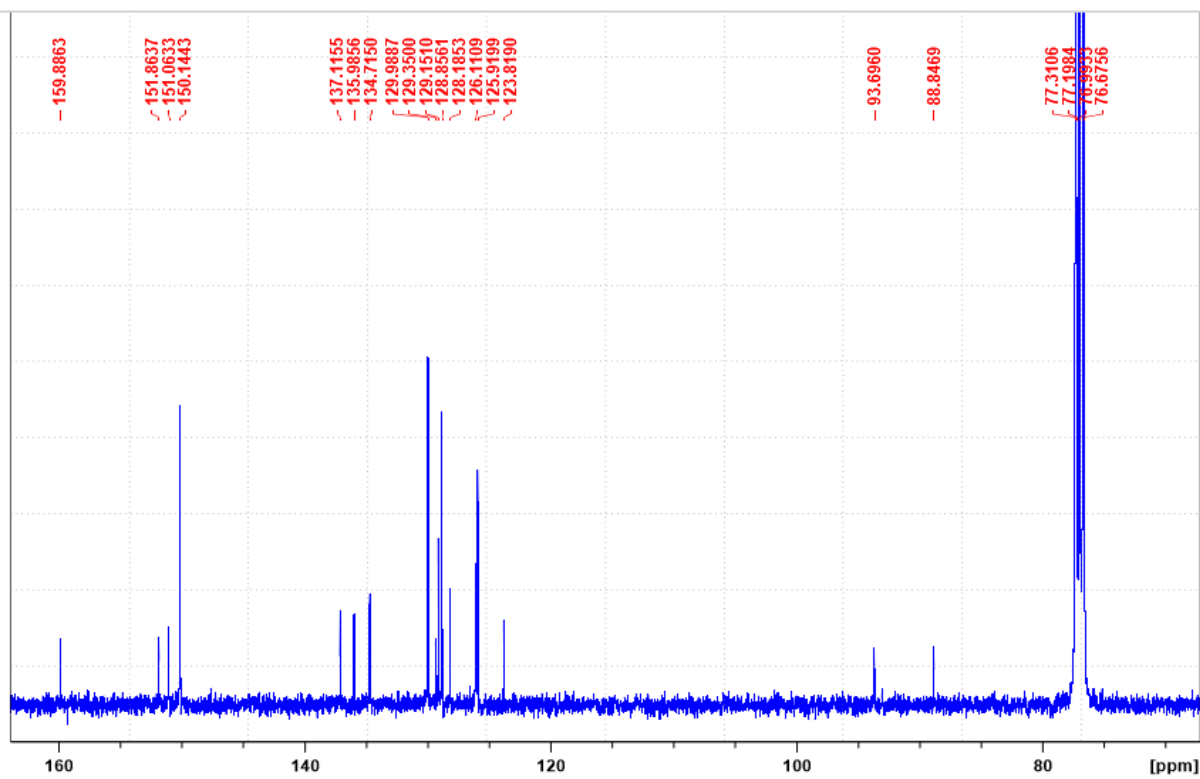


Figure 24: HRMS spectrum of **123e**



**Figure 25: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 125a**



**Figure 26: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 125a**



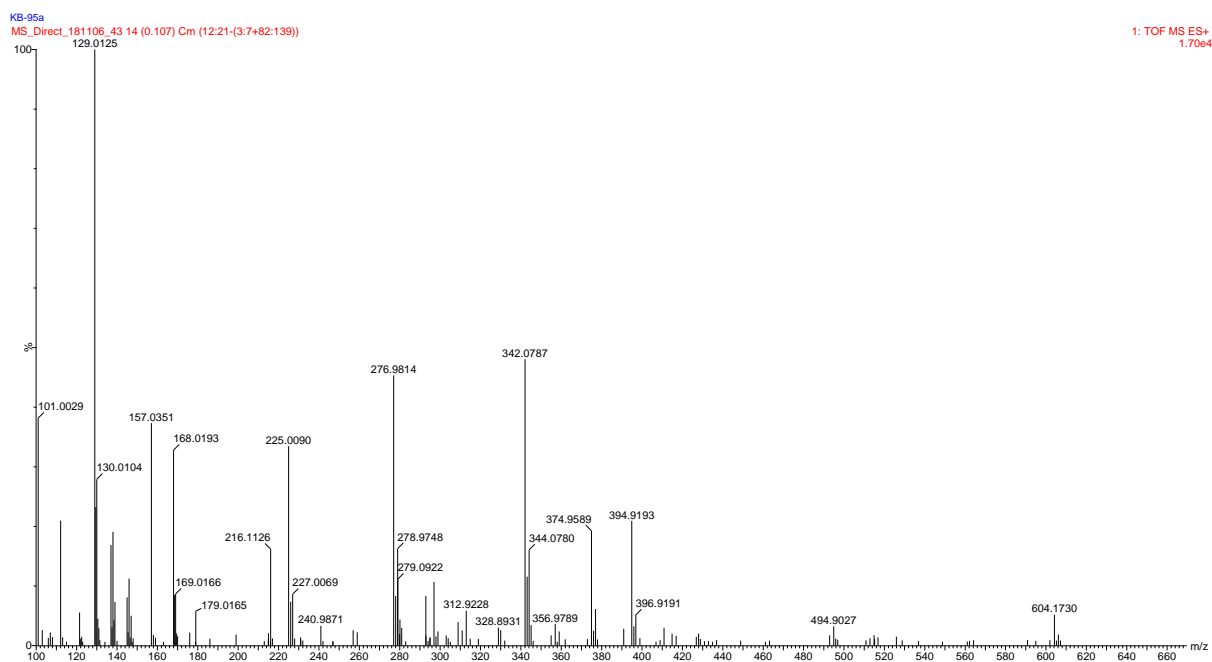


Figure 27: HRMS spectrum of 125a

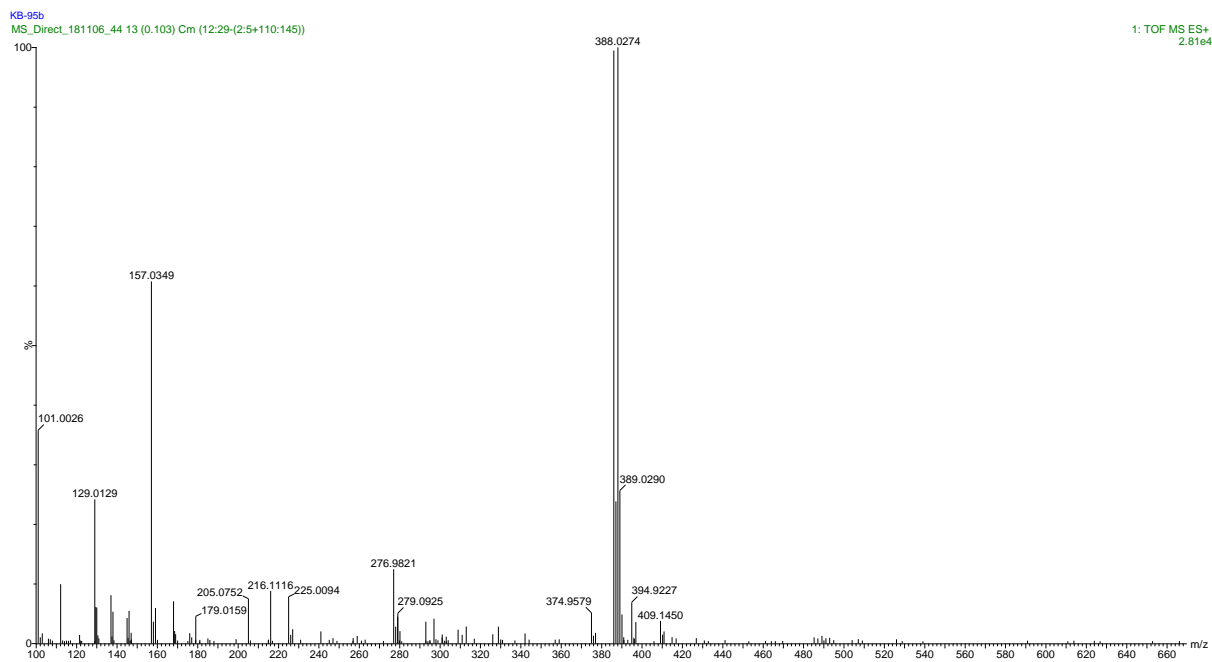


Figure 28: HRMS spectrum of 125b

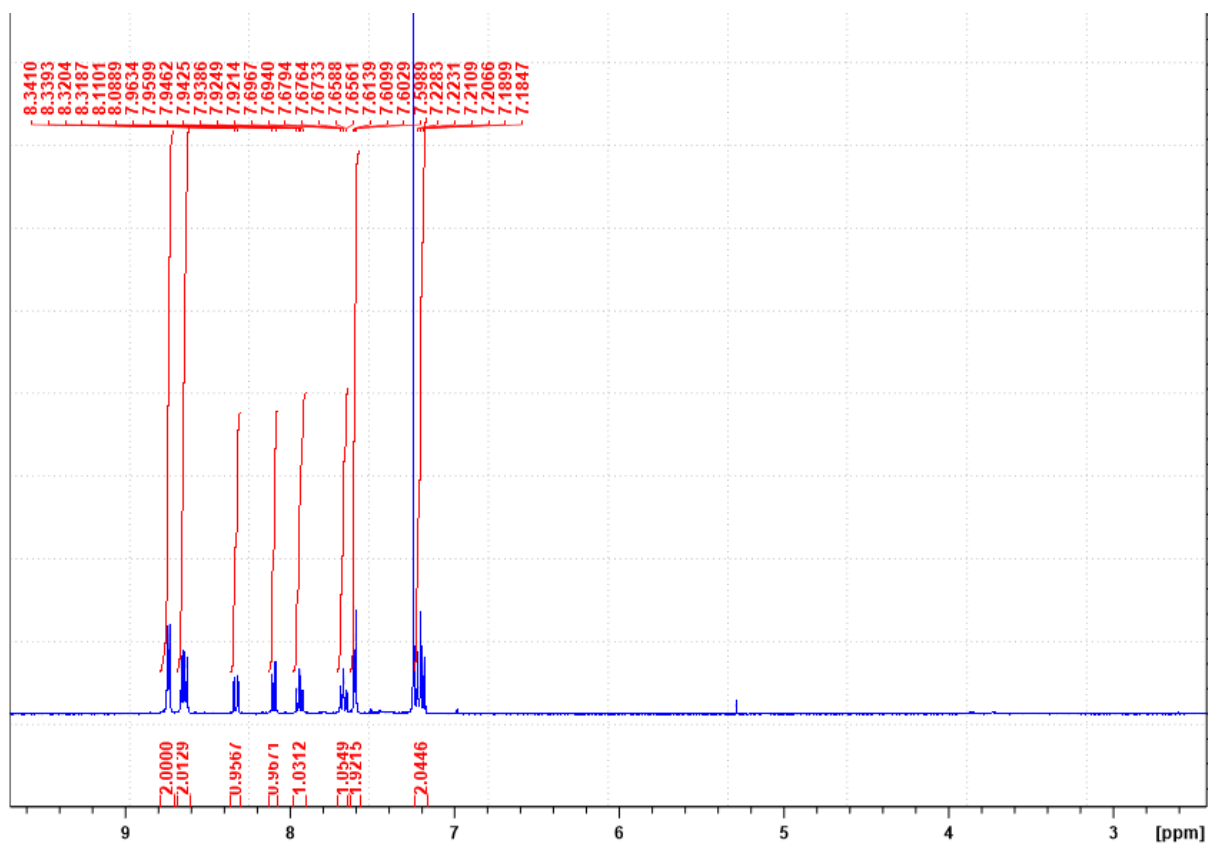


Figure 29:  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of **125c**

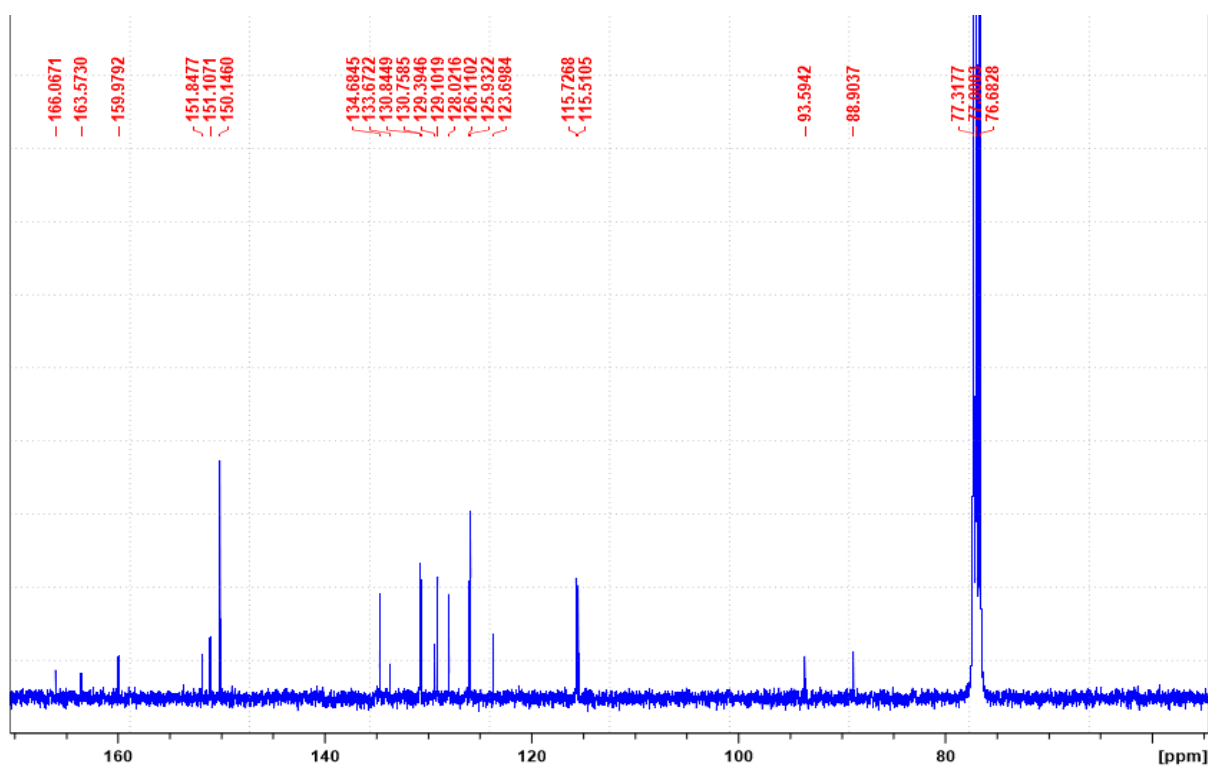
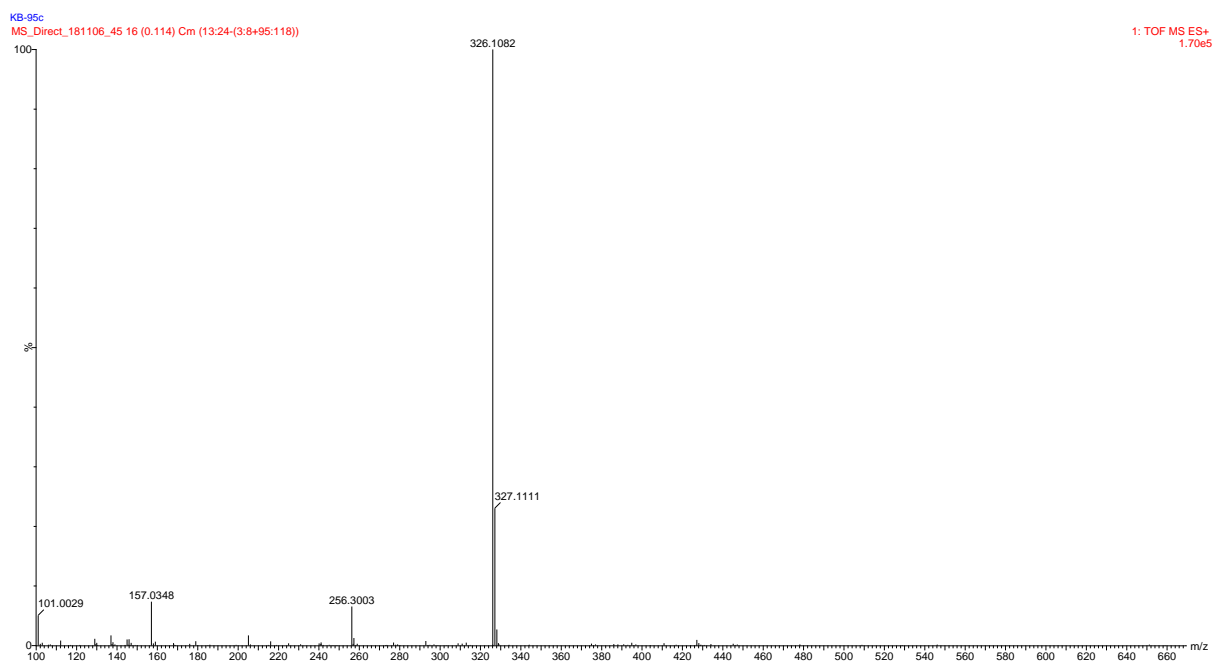
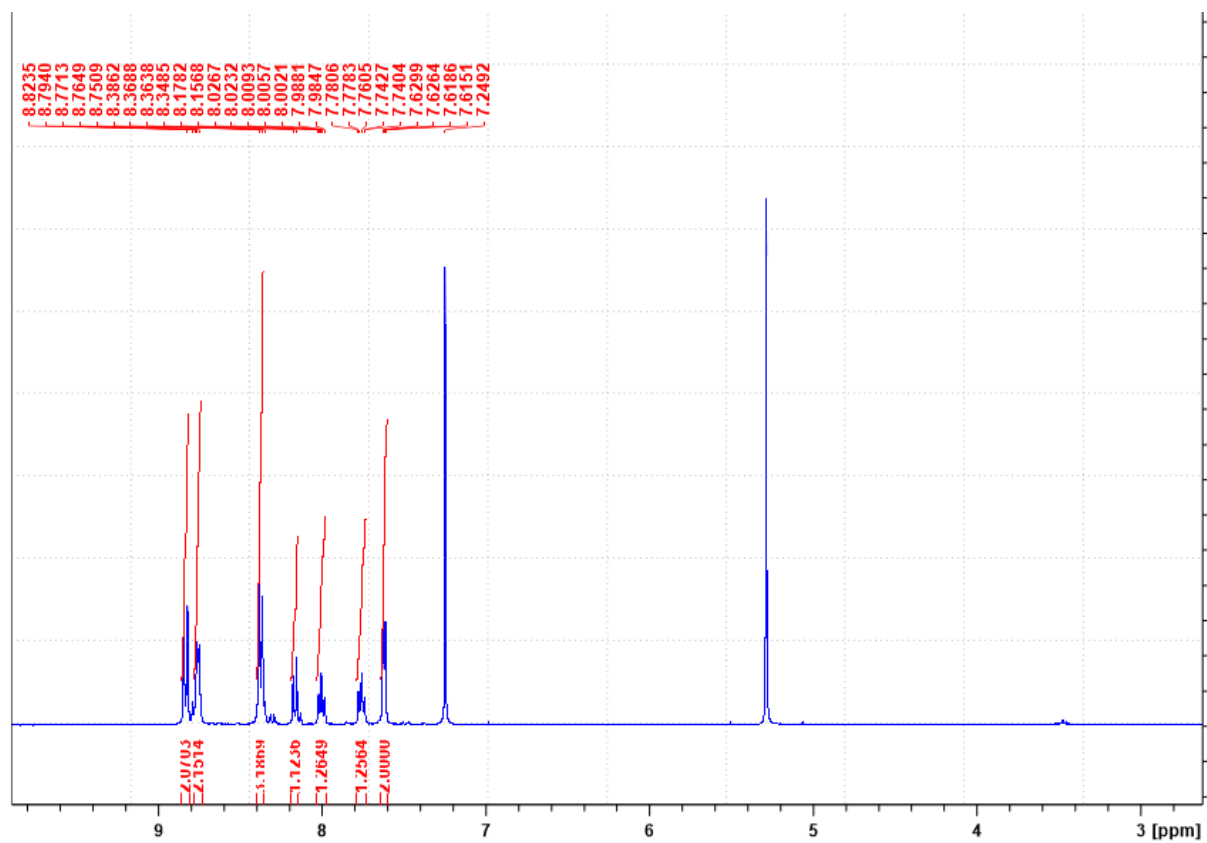


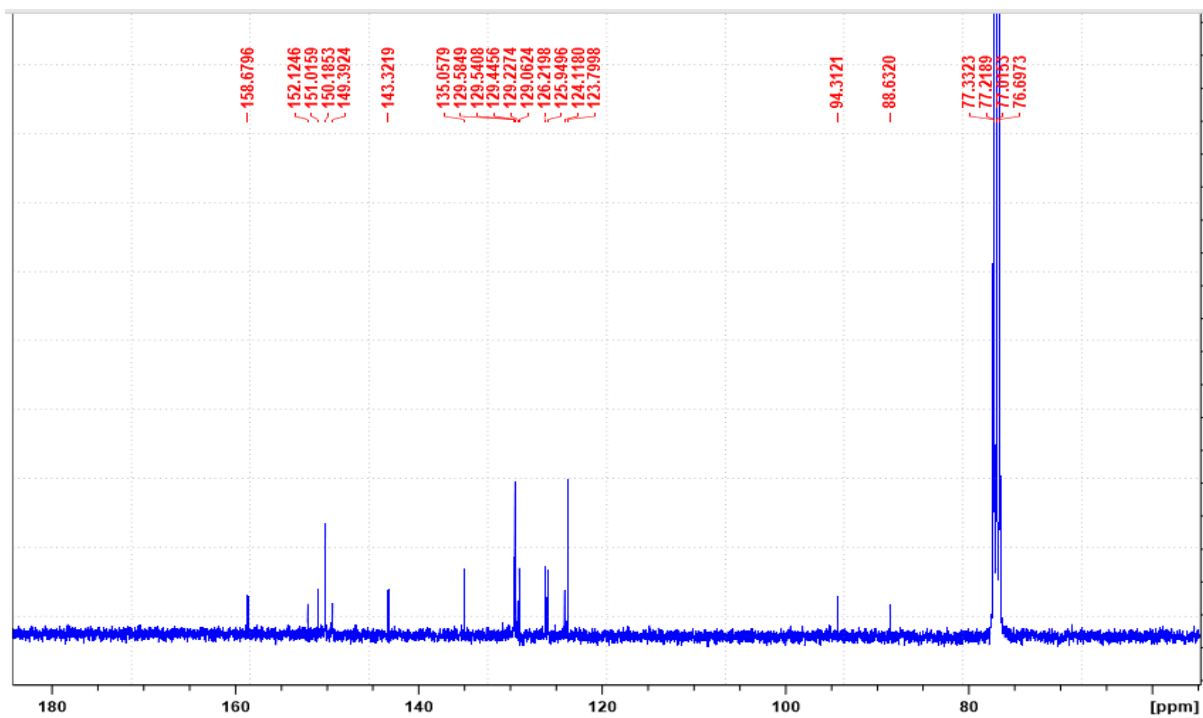
Figure 30:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **125c**



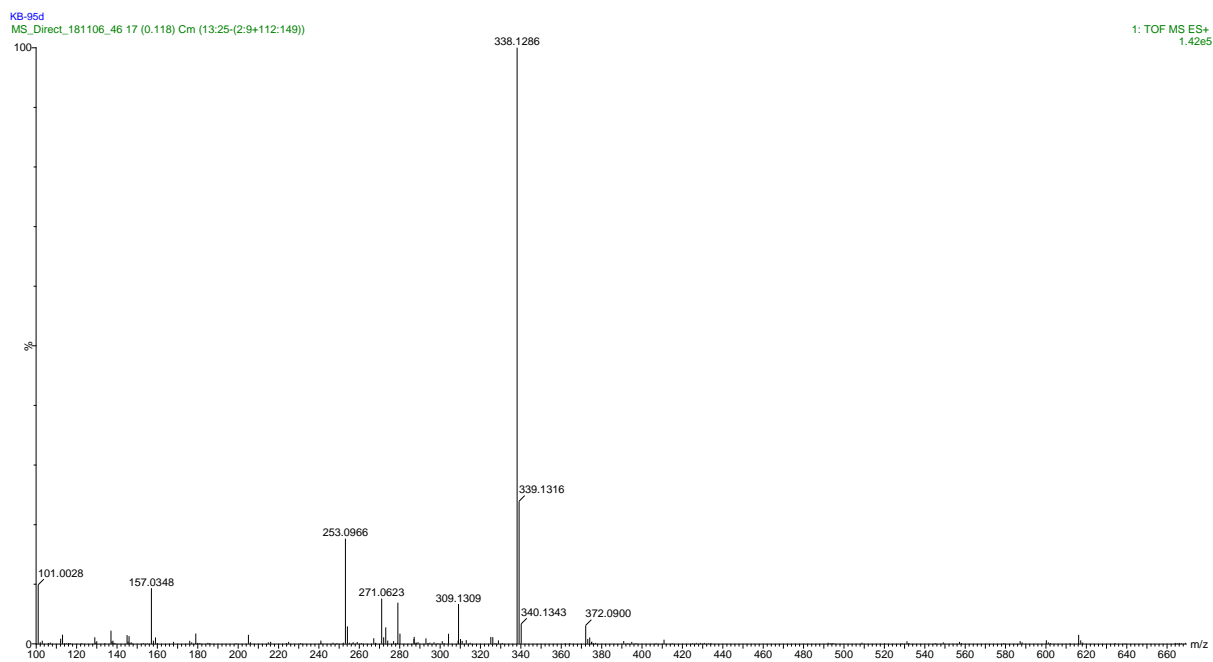
**Figure 31:** HRMS spectrum of **125c**



**Figure 32:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **125d**



**Figure 33:**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **125d**



**Figure 34:** HRMS spectrum of **125d**

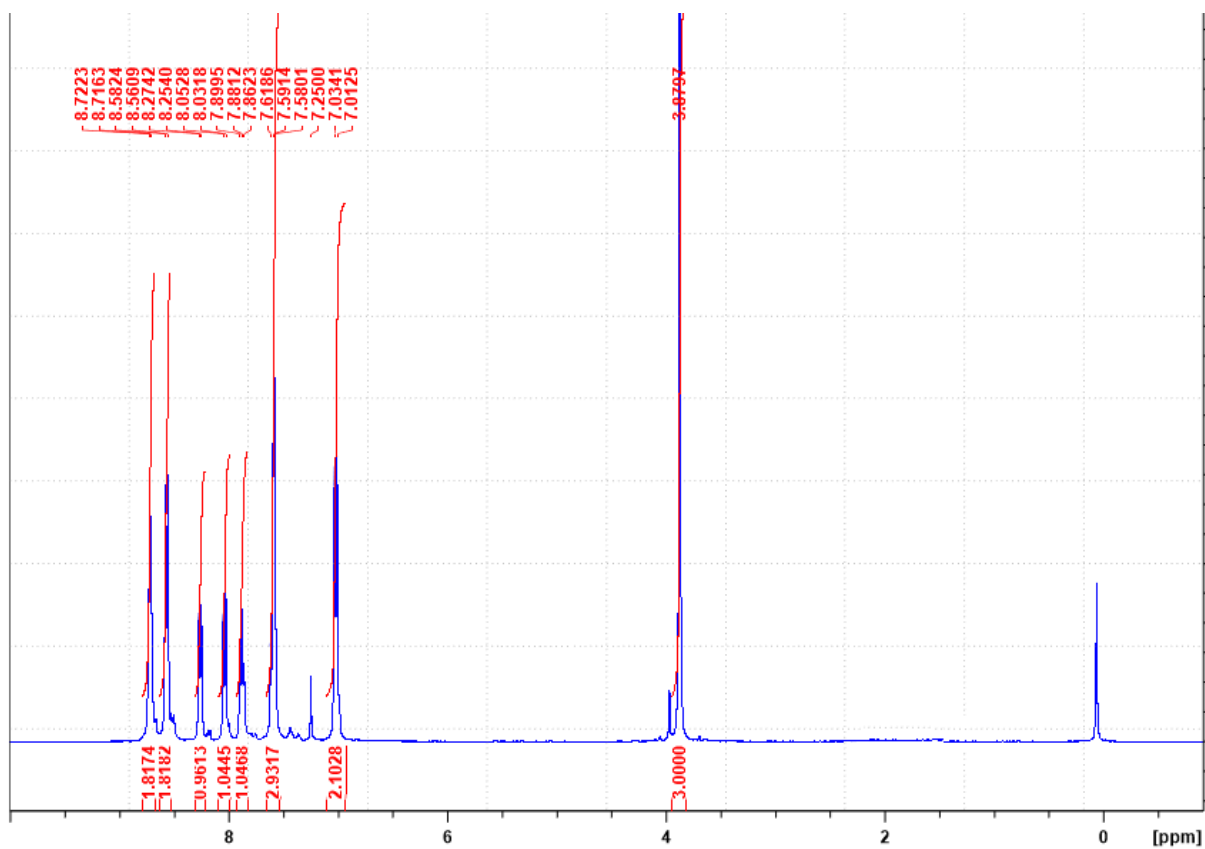


Figure 35:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of 125e

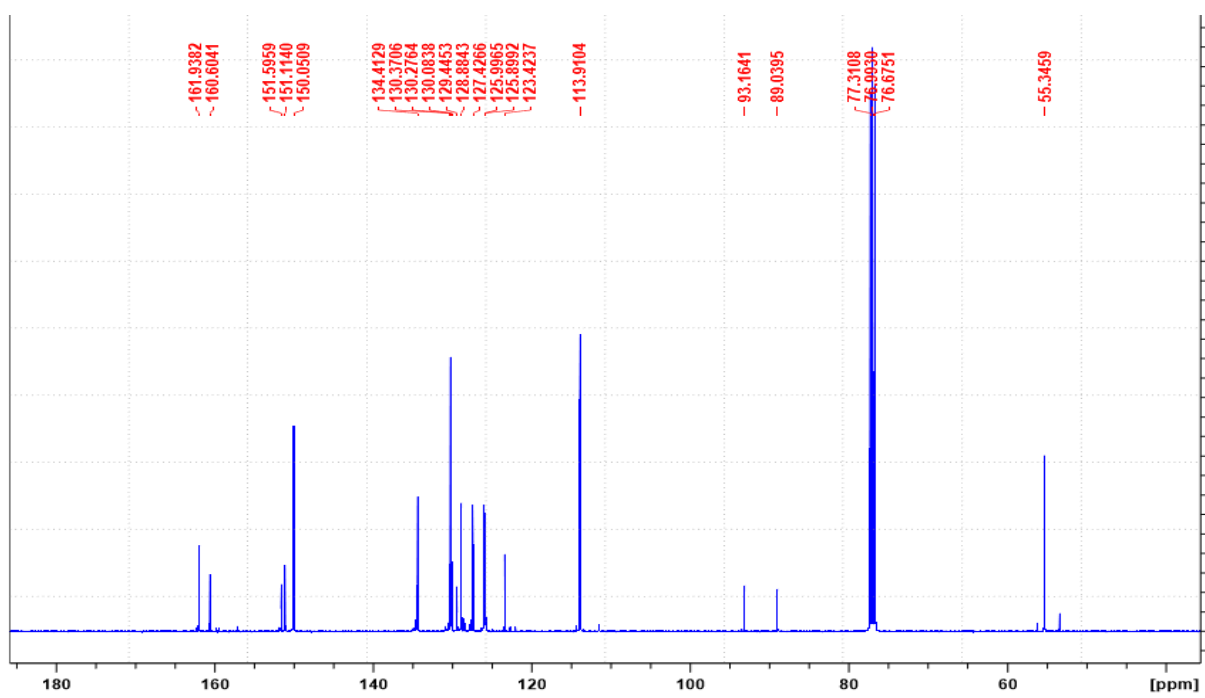


Figure 36:  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum of 125e

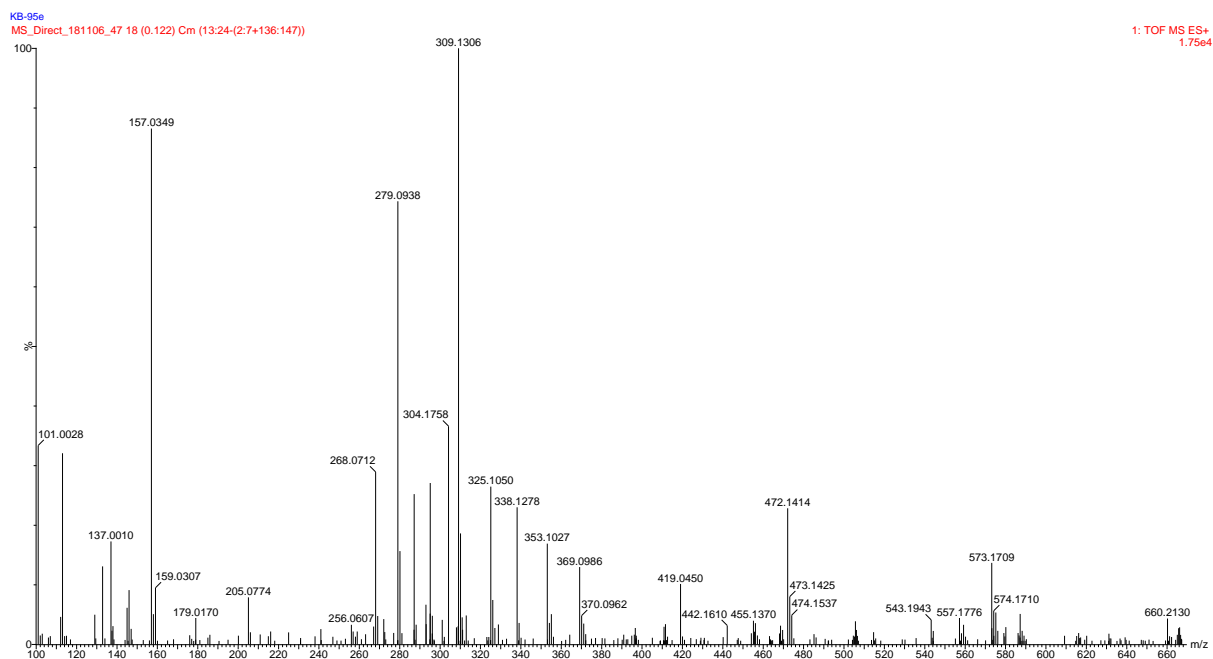


Figure 37: HRMS spectrum of 125e

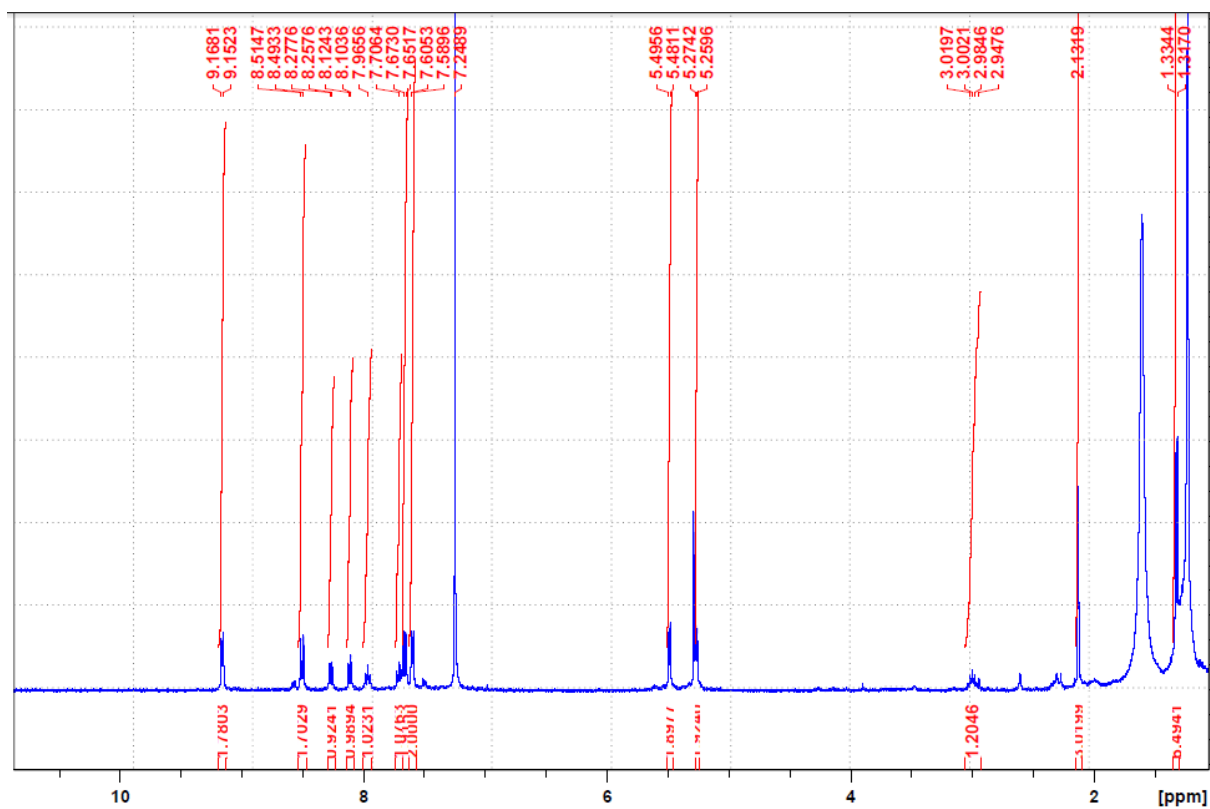


Figure 38: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 126a

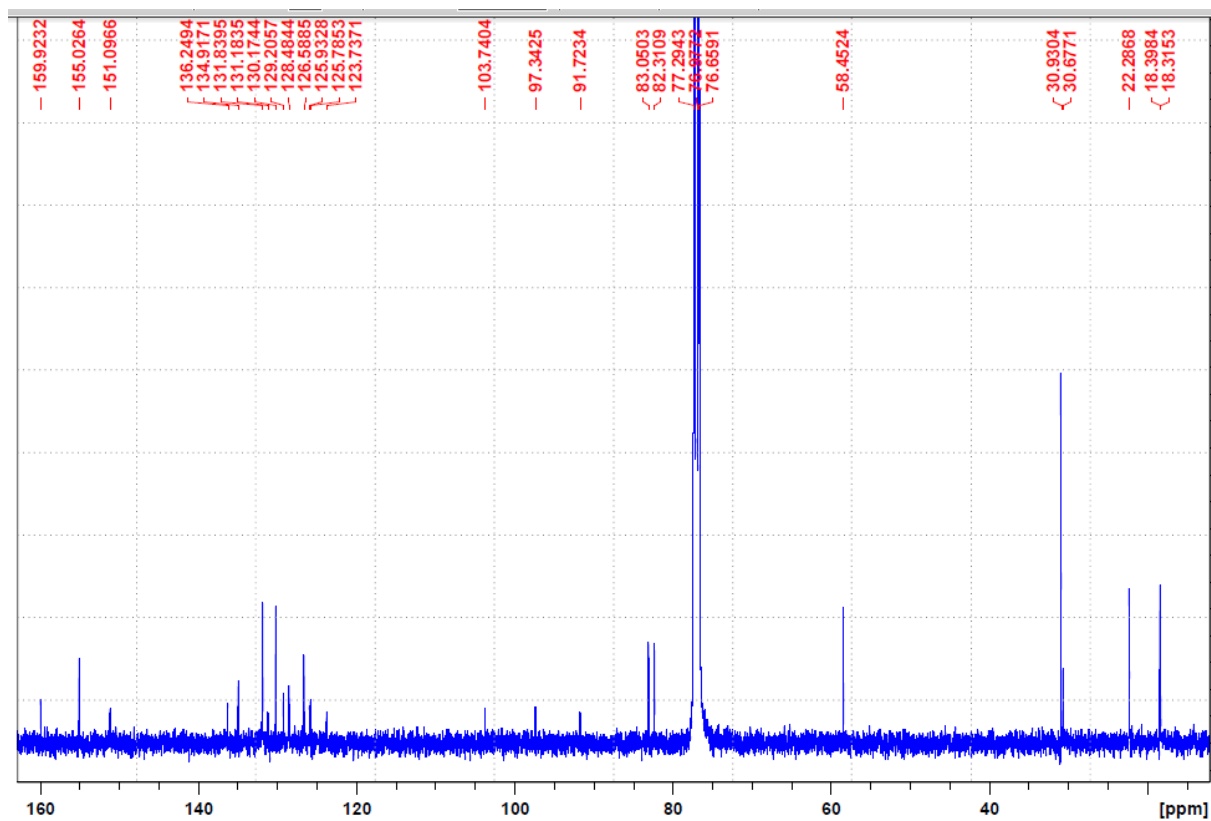


Figure 39:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of 126a

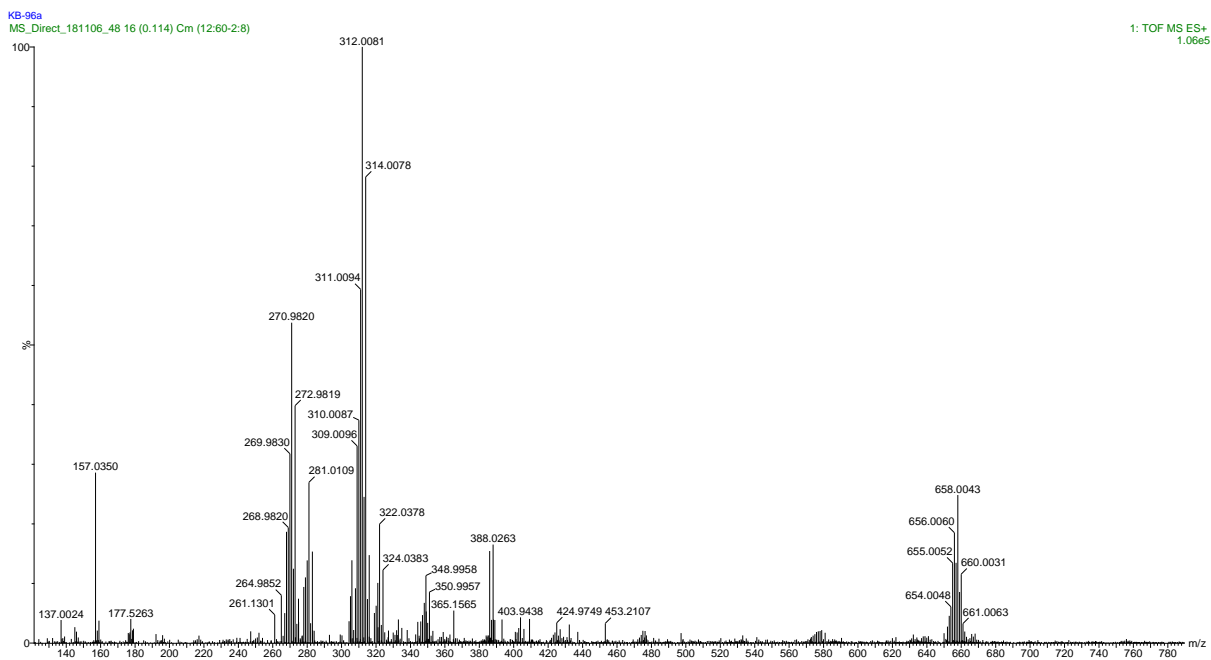


Figure 40: HRMS spectrum of 126a

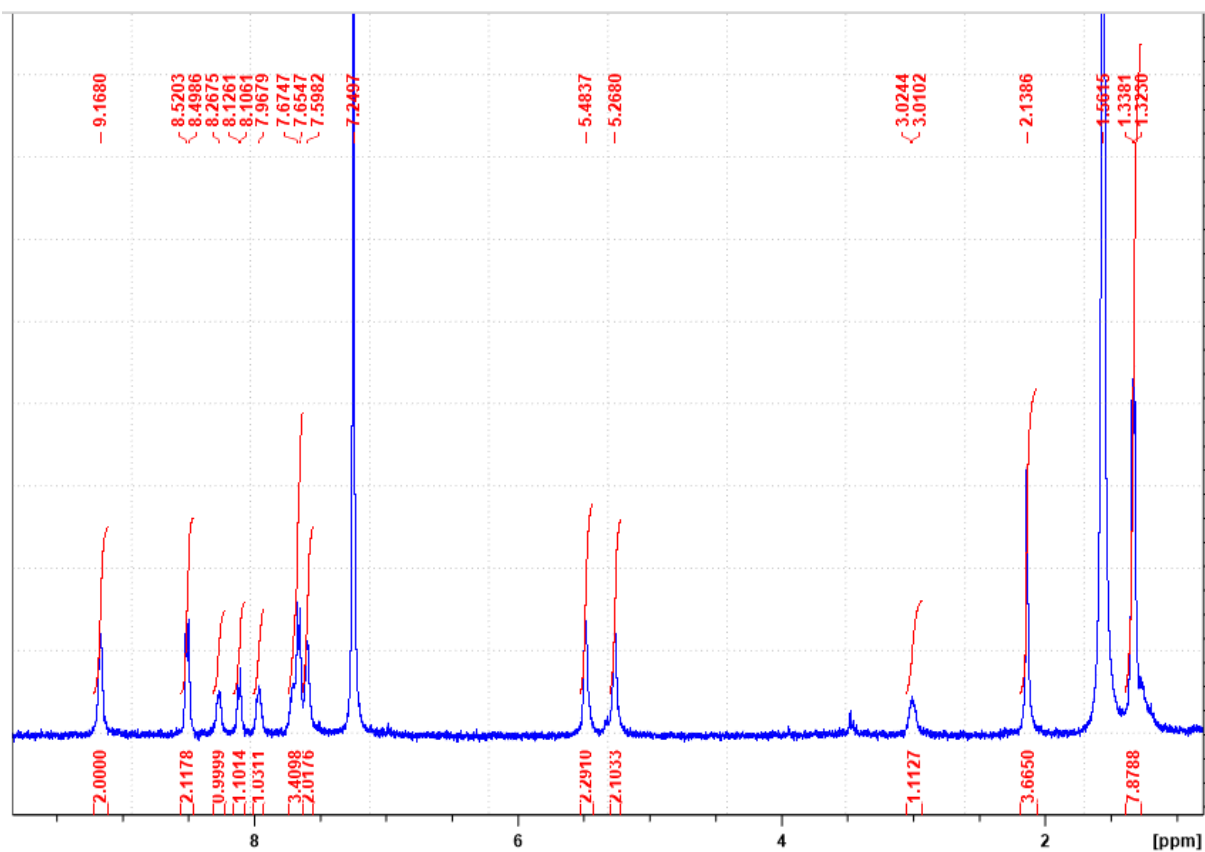


Figure 41: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 126b

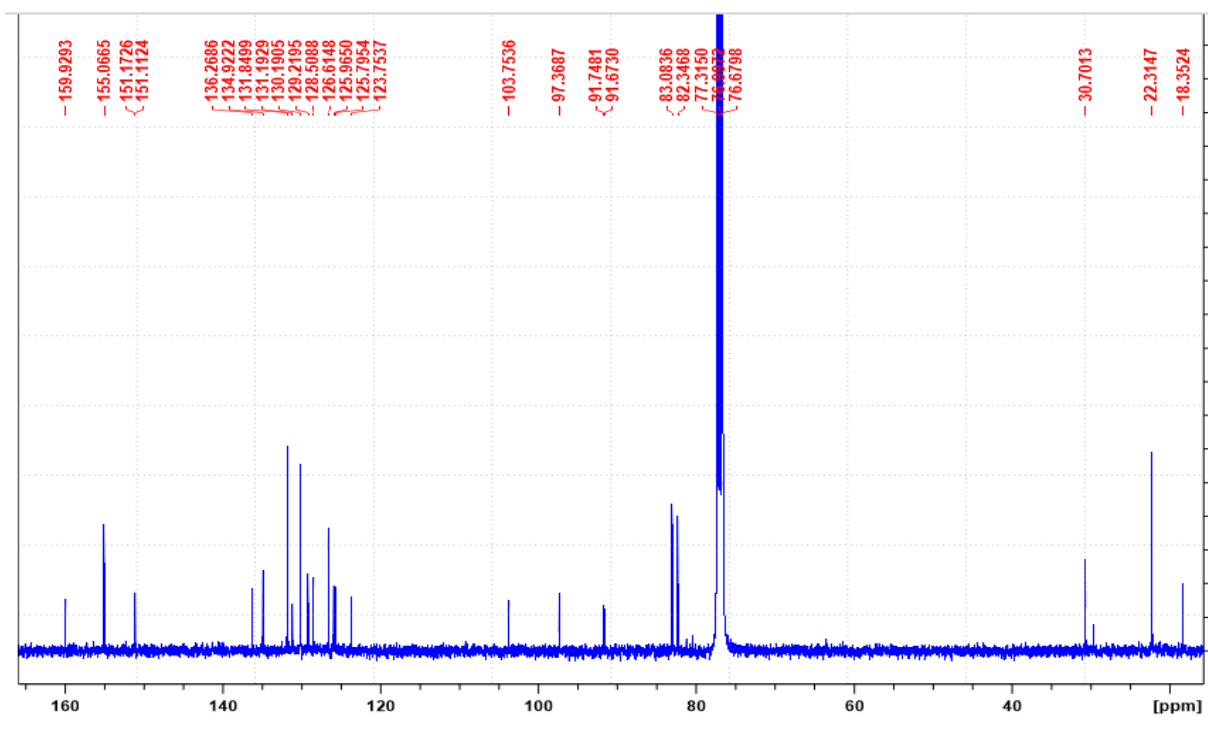


Figure 42: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 126b



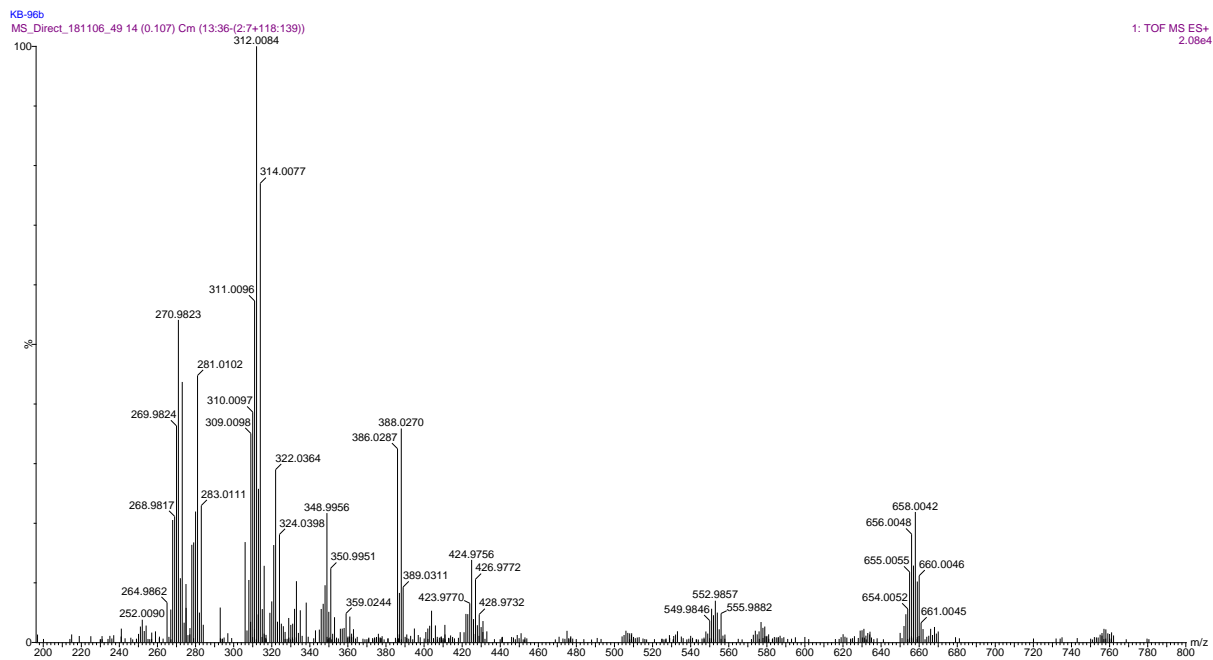


Figure 43: HRMS spectrum of 126b

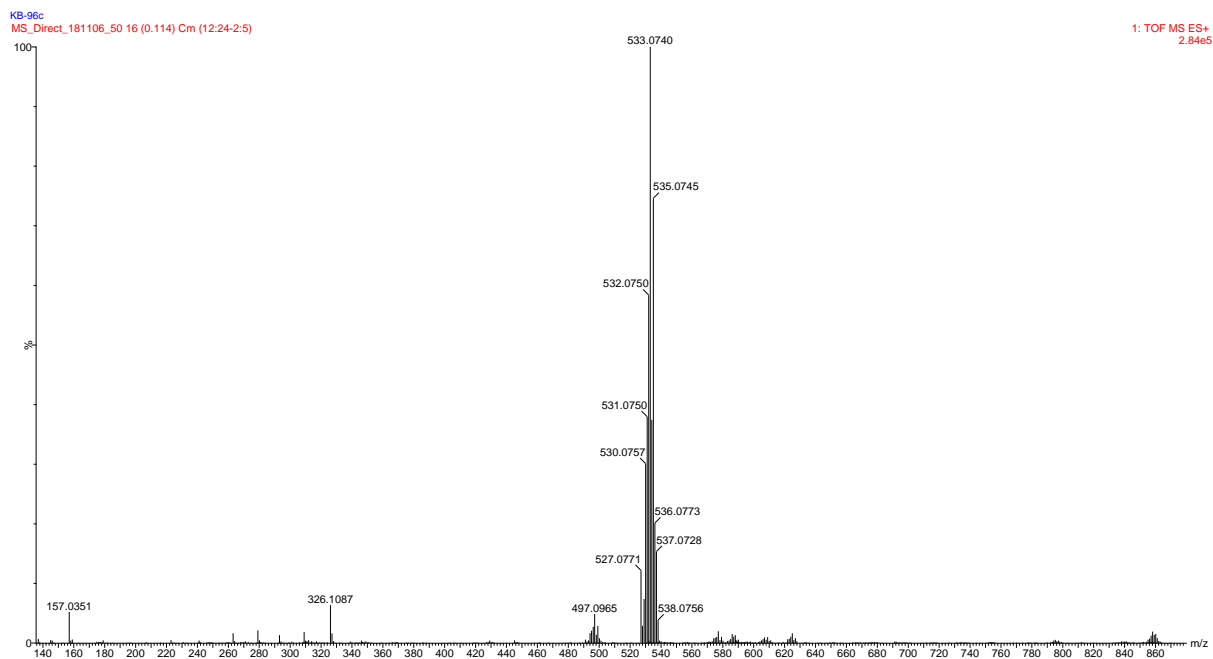


Figure 44: HRMS spectrum of 126c

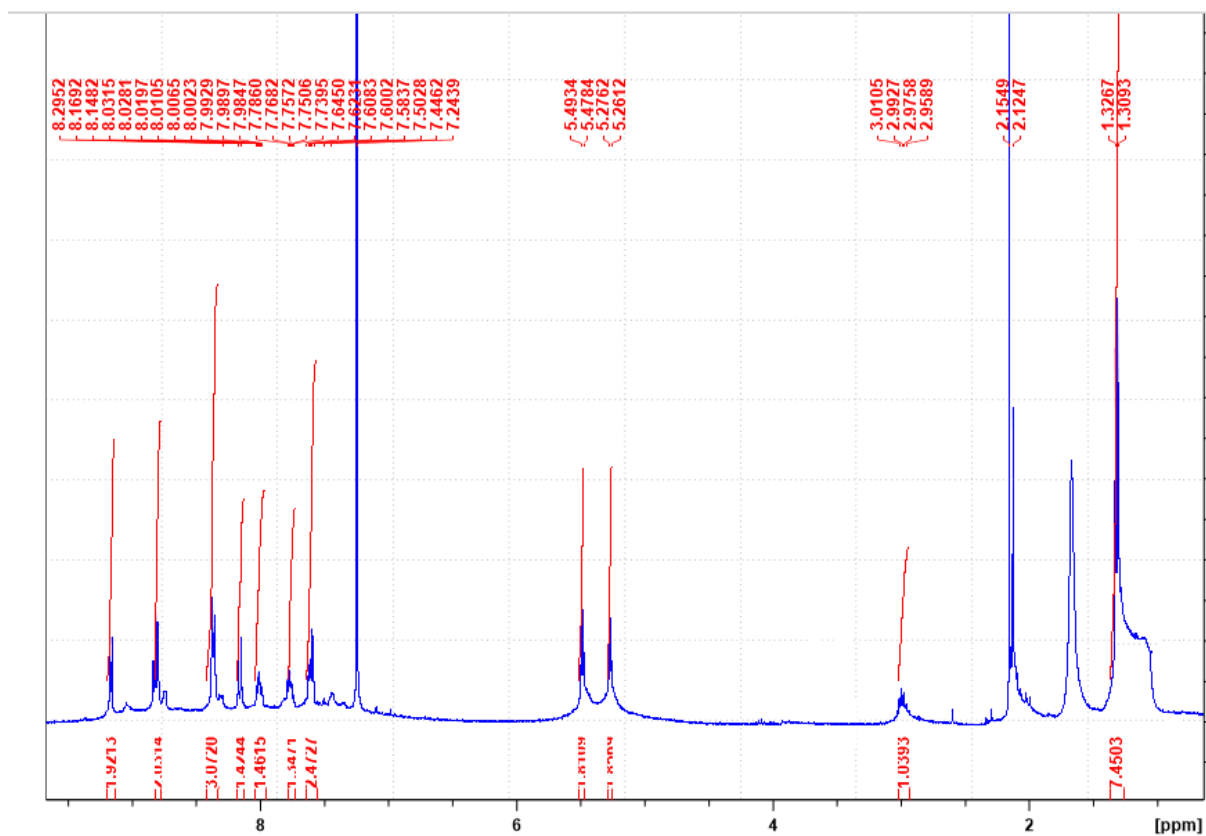


Figure 45: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 126d

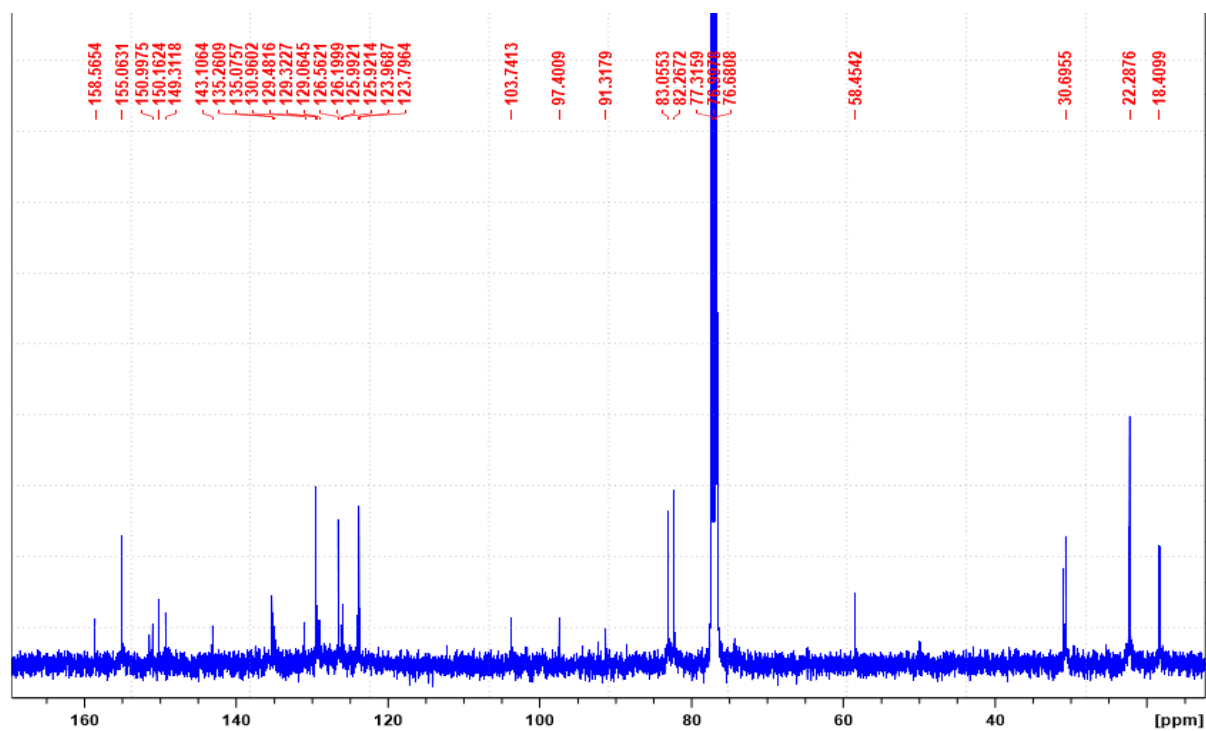


Figure 46: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 126d

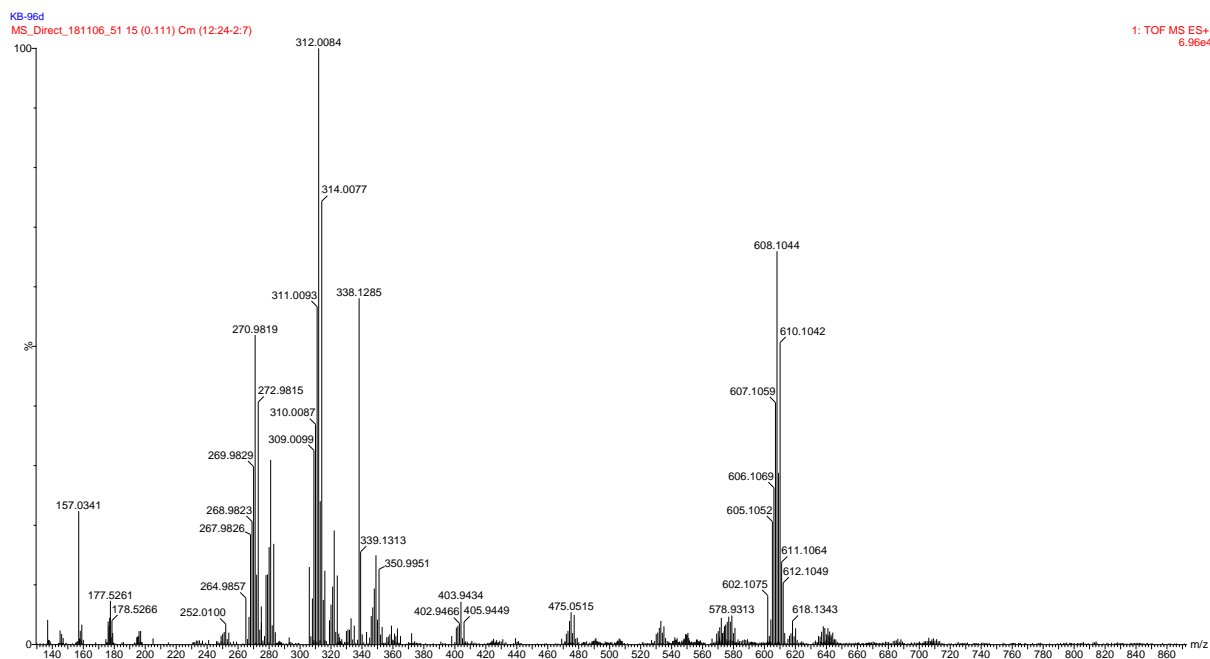


Figure 47: HRMS spectrum of 126d

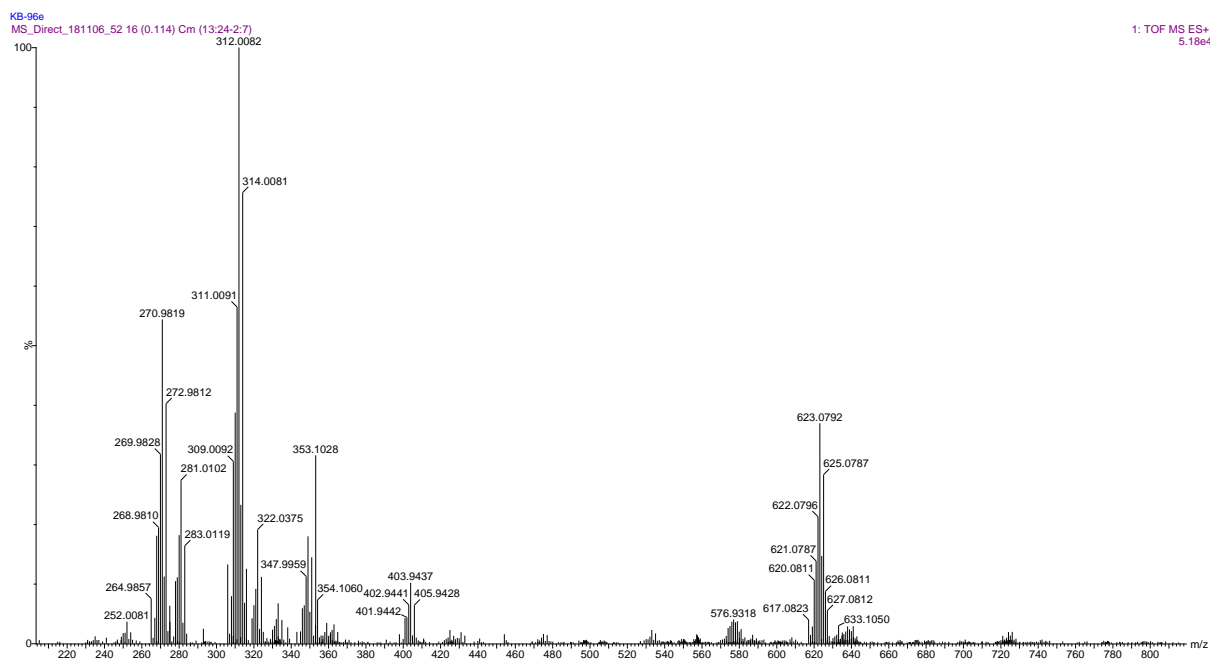


Figure 48: HRMS spectrum of 126e