

Ribozyme-catalyzed site-specific labeling of RNA using O⁶-alkylguanine SNAP-tag substrates

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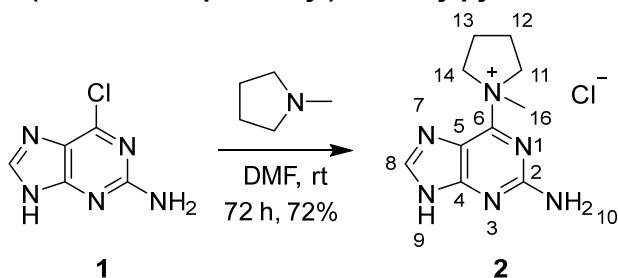
1 General information

1.1 Materials: All standard chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers. Organic solvents were used in “pro analysis” or “for synthesis” quality without further purification. Solvents for extraction and column chromatography were purchased in technical quality and distilled prior to use. Dry solvents (dichloromethane, THF, DMF) were obtained from a solvent purification system (SPS). Nanopure water was obtained from a Sartorius Arium® pro ultrapure water system. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel pre-coated aluminum plates (Alugram SIL G/UV254, Macherey-Nagel). Visualization was accomplished by irradiation with UV light at short wavelength (254 nm). Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (Kieselgel 60, Merck, 0.063 – 0.200 mm). Standard 5'-O-DMT-2'-O-TOM-protected RNA phosphoramidites for solid phase synthesis as well as standard 5'-O-DMT-protected CPG supports (1000 Å, 25-35 µmol/g) were purchased from ChemGenes or Sigma Aldrich.

1.2 NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry: NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance III HD 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz or 600 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ) were referenced to the residual solvent signals as internal standards (in ppm; CDCl₃: ¹H = 7.26, ¹³C = 77.16, DMSO: ¹H = 2.50, ¹³C = 39.52) Coupling constants (*J*) were reported in Hz. Multiplets were abbreviated as following: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet) and m (multiplet). Spectral assignments were verified by 2D NMR experiments. HR-ESI-MS spectra of the oligonucleotides were recorded on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q III spectrometer in negative ion mode upon direct injection of a 3 µM RNA solution in 44% ACN (v/v) containing 44 mM hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) and 3.8 mM triethylamine (TEA), using capillary voltage 3 kV, end plate voltage 2.5 kV, nitrogen nebulizer pressure 0.4 bar, dry gas flow 4 L/min, dry temperature 200 °C, and recorded in the range *m/z* 200 - 4000. Data evaluation and ion deconvolution were performed by Data analysis software DA 4.2 (Bruker Daltonics).

2. Synthesis

2.1 1-(2-Amino-9H-purin-6-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (2):



Compound **2** was synthesized according to a procedure reported in literature.^[1] 6-Chloroguanine (5.00 g, 29.49 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in DMF (250 mL) and stirred for 30 min at 50 °C. The solution was cooled to room temperature. Next, 1-methylpyrrolidine (17.26 mL, 162.19 mmol, 5.5 eq.) was added to the cooled solution and the reaction mixture was stirred for 72 h at room temperature. Acetone was added to ensure complete precipitation. The colourless precipitate was filtered and further washed with acetone and dried in vacuum to obtained the pure product as a white solid (6.5 g, 87%). The product shows blue

fluorescence at longer wavelength (>360 nm) under the UV lamp. Yield and spectral data are in agreement with the previously reported procedure.

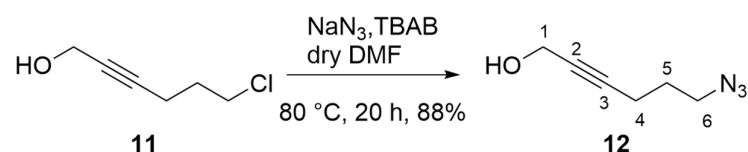
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 13.46 (s, 1H, H-9), 8.34 (s, 1H; H-8), 7.12 (s, 2H, H-10), 4.65 – 4.54 (m, 2H, -CH₂-N⁺-, pyrrolidin), 4.03 – 3.92 (m, 2H, -CH₂-N⁺-, pyrrolidin), 3.65 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.29 – 2.19 (m, 2H, CH₂-, pyrrolidin), 2.09 – 1.98 (m, 2H, CH₂-, pyrrolidin).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.06 (C6), 158.55 (C2), 151.65 (C4), 142.99 (C8), 116.02 (C5), 64.01 (2C, C11, C14), 51.54 (C16), 21.44 (2C, C12, C13).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for [C₁₀H₁₅N₆]⁺: 219.1353, found: 219.1358.

2.2 Synthesis of alcohols

2.2.1 6-Azidohex-2-yn-1-ol (**12**)



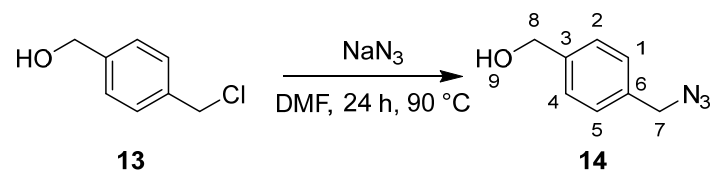
The synthesis was conducted according to a procedure reported in literature.^[2] Sodium azide (2.45 g, 37.70 mmol, 9.93 eq.) and tetrabutylammonium bromide TBAB (122 mg, 378 μmol, 0.10 eq.) were added to a solution of 6-chlorohex-2-yn-1-ol **11** (503 mg, 3.79 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in DMF (25 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred at 80 °C for 20 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, distilled H₂O (25 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with a mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc (1:1, 4 x 5 mL, then 1:2, 2 x 42 mL) followed by EtOAc (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with distilled H₂O (5 x 25 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure afforded **12** as a slightly yellow oil (462 mg, 3.32 mmol, 88%).

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 5.06 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, OH), 4.03 (dt, *J* = 5.9, 2.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂-OH), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, CH₂-N₃), 2.27 (tt, *J* = 7.0, 2.2 Hz, 2H, H-5), 1.68 (p, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H-6).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 82.80 (C4), 81.09 (C2), 49.60 (CH₂-N₃), 49.11 (CH₂-OH), 27.48 (C6), 15.40 (C5).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₆H₉N₃NaO [M+Na]⁺: 162.06378, found: 162.06451.

2.2.2 (4-(Azidomethyl)phenyl)methanol (**14**)



The reaction procedure was modified from a literature known procedure.^[3] 4-(Chloromethyl)-benzylalcohol **13** (2.50 g, 15.96 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and sodium azide (10.38 g, 159.60 mmol, 10.0 eq.) were dissolved in 160 mL dry DMF and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After completion of the reaction almost half the volume of DMF was evaporated, and water (50 mL) was added. The product was extracted with EtOAc. Afterwards the combined organic phases were washed with water (4x100 mL). Further, the product was purified using flash chromatography with 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ which afforded the pure product **14** as a yellow-colored oil.

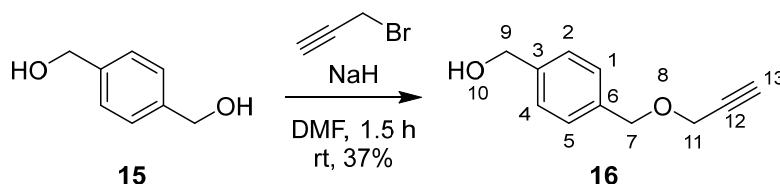
TLC (CH₂Cl₂); *R_f* = 0.33.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.39 – 7.29(m, 4H, Ar), 5.23 (tt, *J* = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H, OH), 4.51 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂-OH), 4.41 (s, 2H, CH₂-N₃) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 143.48, 135.46, 128.37 (2C), 126.77 (2C), 62.60 (CH₂-OH), 54.24 (CH₂-N₃) ppm.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₈H₉N₃NaO [M+Na]⁺: 186.06378; found: 186.06428.

2.2.3 (4-((Prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)methyl)phenyl)methanol (**16**)



The reaction was performed using a literature known procedure.^[1] 1,4-Benzenedimethanol (2.00 g, 14.47 mmol, 1.10 eq.) was dissolved in dry DMF (20 mL) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. Sodium hydride (400 mg, 16.69 mmol, 1.30 eq.) was added in small portions over 10 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 15 min at 0 °C. Afterwards, propargyl bromide (1.93 g, 13.03 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was added, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 1.5 h the reaction was quenched with cold water. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was dissolved in water (50 mL) extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 50 mL) and further purified by column chromatography (EtOAc /*n*-hexane = 50:50), which afforded the pure product as a colorless oil (37%, 0.84 g).

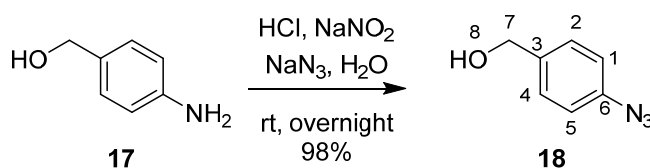
TLC (EtOAc /*n*-hexane = 50:50); *R*_f = 0.50

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 4.51 – 4.46 (m, 4H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 2.4, 2H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 2.4, 1H)

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 142.06, 135.85, 127.68 (2C), 126.39 (2C), 80.24, 77.41, 70.61, 62.67, 56.72.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₁H₁₂NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺: 199.07295; found: 199.07288.

2.2.4 (4-(Azido)phenyl)methanol (**18**)



(4-Azidophenyl)methanol was synthesized according to a procedure reported in literature.^[4] 4-Aminobenzylalcohol **17** (0.50 g, 4.06 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in hydrochloric acid (2.5 mL, 12 M). Sodium nitrite (0.42 mg, 6.09 mmol, 1.50 eq.) was dissolved in water (10 mL) and added dropwise to the reaction mixture within 30 min. The solution was stirred vigorously in ice-cold water. Sodium azide (1.05 g, 16.15 mmol, 4 eq.) was added in portions to the mixture. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature overnight. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc /*n*-hexane = 20:80) to obtain the pure product **18** as a colorless oil (98%, 0.59 g).

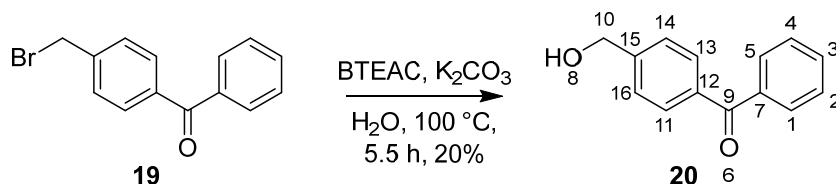
TLC (EtOAc /*n*-hexane = 60:40); *R*_f = 0.57

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.37 – 7.34 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.67 (s, 2H, H-7).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 139.53, 137.71, 130.42 (2C), 120.01 (2C), 64.42.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₇H₈NO [M-N₂+H]⁺: 122.06004, found: 122.06054.

2.2.5 4-Hydroxymethyl benzophenone (**20**)



4-Hydroxymethyl benzophenone **20** was synthesized according to a procedure reported in literature.^[5] A mixture of 4-bromomethyl benzophenone **19** (3.00 g, 10.90 mmol, 1.00 eq.), K₂CO₃ (4.50 g, 32.70 mmol, 3.00 eq.) and the phase transfer catalyst benzyltriethylammonium chloride BTEAC (273 mg, 1.20 mmol, 0.11 eq.) in water (30 mL) was stirred at 100 °C for 5.5 h. Further, the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 30 mL) and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using a gradient based on EtOAc:*n*-hexane to obtain the desired product as a pure white solid. (462 mg, 20%). In addition, dimer formation of the expected product was observed (C₂₈H₂₂O₃, 1.20 g 27% *R*_f = 0.59).

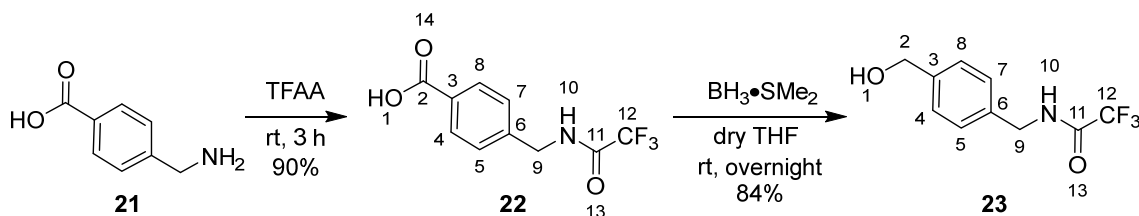
TLC (EtOAc /*n*-hexane = 30:70); *R*_f = 0.20

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.81–7.77 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.50 – 7.46 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 4.80 (s, 2H, CH₂-OH).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 196.67, 145.70, 137.74, 136.85, 132.58, 130.54 (2C), 130.15 (2C), 128.43 (2C), 126.54 (2C), 64.81.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₄H₁₂NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺: 235.0730, found: 235.0736.

2.2.6 2,2,2-Trifluoro-*N*-(4-(hydroxymethyl)benzyl)acetamide (**23**)^[6]



Trifluoroacetic anhydride (8.34 mL, 12.60 g, 60 mmol, 3.00 eq.) was added to a solution of aminomethylbenzoic acid **21** (3.00 g, 19.84 mmol, 1.00 eq.) at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. After completion, the reaction was quenched with cold water (10 mL). The resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with cold water and dried under high vacuum to obtain the desired product **22** a white solid (4.40 g, 90%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 6:94); *R*_f = 0.54.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.95 (s, 1H, OH), 10.08 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, NH), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂-NH).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 167.09, 156.54 (q, *J* = 36.2 Hz, C-11), 142.47, 129.85, 129.61 (2C), 127.40 (2C), 116.01 (q, *J* = 286.3 Hz, CF₃), 42.36 (C-9).

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = -74.86 (CF₃).

HR-MS (ESI⁻): Exact mass calculated for C₁₀H₇F₃NO₃ [M-H]⁻: 246.0384, found: 246.0379.

BH₃·SMe₂ (5 mL, 4.06 g, 53.4 mmol, 3.00 eq.) was added slowly to a solution of compound **22** (4.3 g, 17.4 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in dry THF (180 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere at 0 °C.

Afterwards, the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. After completion, the reaction was quenched with methanol (35 mL) and further stirred for 1 h. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography using 3% methanol in dichloromethane to obtain the desired product **23** as a white solid (3.5 g, 84%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 6:94); *R_f* = 0.57.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.76 (s, 1H, NH), 4.68 (s, 2H, CH₂-OH), 4.50 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H, CH₂-NH).

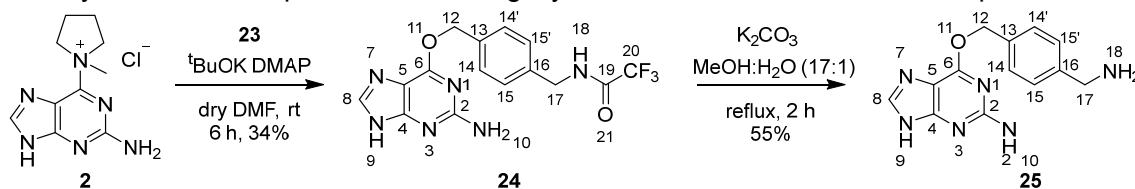
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 157.32 (q, *J* = 37.19 Hz, C11), 141.14, 135.33, 128.31 (2C), 127.69 (2C), 115.98 (q, *J* = 287.82 Hz, CF₃), 64.75 (C-2), 43.59 (C-9).

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = -75.81.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₀H₉F₃NO₂ [M-H]⁻: 232.0591; found: 232.0592.

2.3 Synthesis of O⁶-(4-aminomethylbenzyl)guanine = BG-NH₂(**25**)

The synthesis of compound **24** was slightly modified from literature known procedures.^[6]



2,2,2-Trifluoro-*N*-(4-hydroxymethyl-benzyl)-acetamide **23** (560 mg, 2.4 mmol, 2 eq.) was dissolved in dry DMF (6 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere and potassium-*t*-butoxide (606 mg, 5.4 mmol, 4.5 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min at room temperature. Further, 1-(2-amino-9H-purin-6-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidin-1-ium chloride **2** (300 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (22 mg, 0.18 0.25 eq.) were added and the solution was stirred for 6 h. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain the desired product **24** as a white solid (150 mg, 34%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 12:88); *R_f* = 0.40.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.83 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.27 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.46 (s, 2H, CH₂-OH), 4.39 (s, 2H, CH₂-NH).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.61 (2C, C-2, C-6), 156.38 (q, *J* = 36.7 Hz, C-19), 138.50 (C-8), 137.30, 135.94, 128.74 (2C), 127.49 (2C), 117.47, 66.43 (C-12) 42.40 (C-17).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₁₃F₃N₆NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺: 389.0944, found: 389.0931.

N-[4-(2-amino-9H-purin-6-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido]benzyl-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide **24** (140 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was suspended in methanol (14 mL) and water (0.84 mL). After addition of K₂CO₃ (289 mg, 2.09 mmol, 5.2 eq.), the reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the product was purified by flash column chromatography using 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain the desired product **25** as a white solid (57 mg, 55%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 20:80, containing 2 drops of Et₃N); *R_f* = 0.14.

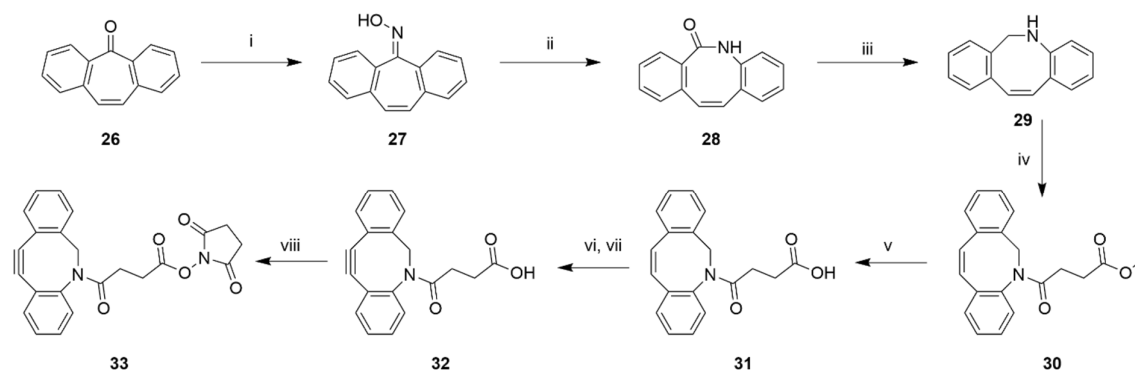
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 7.83 (s, 1H, C-8), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.28 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.46 (s, 2H, CH₂-O), 3.78 (s, 2H, CH₂-NH).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 159.59 (C-6, C-2), 156.16 (C-4), 144.25, 138.63 (C-8), 134.57, 128.45 (2C), 127.04 (2C), 112.97 (C-5), 66.66 (C-12), 45.46 (C-17).

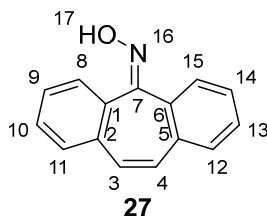
HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₃H₁₄N₆NaO [M+Na]⁺: 293.1121, found: 293.1128.

2.4 Synthesis of DBCO-NHS ester (**33**)

Synthesis of 4-(11,12-Didehydrodibenzo[*b,f*]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-4-oxobutanoic acid (**32**) (DBCO-COOH) according to reference [7]



Scheme S1. i) Hydroxylamine hydrochloride, Na_2CO_3 , EtOH, 90 °C, 24 h, 96%; ii) Eaton's reagent, 100 °C, 45 min, 99%; ii) LiAlH_4 , Et_2O , 49 °C, 21 h, 97%. iv) KOH (2 M), methyl 4-chloro-4-oxobutanoate, CH_2Cl_2 , rt, 4 h, 86%; v) lithium hydroxide monohydrate, MeOH/ H_2O (2:1), 80 °C, 1.5 h, 98%; vi) Br_2 , CH_2Cl_2 , rt, 1h; vii) KO^tBu , THF, -78 °C, 2.5 h, 45%; viii) Et_3N , TSTU, THF, rt, 15 h, 82%

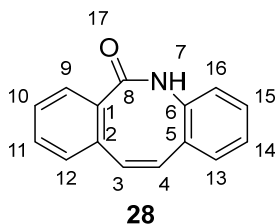


Hydroxylamine hydrochloride (2.70 g, 38.9 mmol, 4.01 eq.) and Na_2CO_3 (1.54 g, 14.6 mmol, 1.50 eq.) were added to a suspension of dibenzosuberone **26** (2.00 g, 9.70 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in anhydrous EtOH (12 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the suspension was poured into ice cold 1 M HCl (150 mL). The resulting off-white slurry was filtered, washed with 1 M HCl (3 x 10 mL) and distilled H_2O (3 x 10 mL) and dried under high vacuum to afford **27** as an off-white solid (2.07 g, 96%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) = 9.85 (s, 1H, OH), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H, H-8; H-15), 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 2H, C9-H; H-14), 7.18 – 7.07 (m, 4H, H-10; H-11; H-12; H-13), 7.00 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, Alkene-CH), 6.89 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, Alkene-CH).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) = 171.70 (C=N-OH), 136.31, 136.14, 134.47, 133.45, 132.65 (Alkene-C), 130.21 (Alkene-C), 128.98, 128.94, 128.08, 127.81, 127.77, 127.41, 126.41, 126.22.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 244.07328, found: 244.07305.

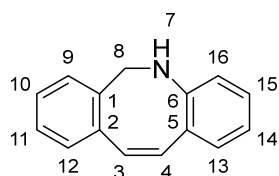


27 (1.98 g, 8.95 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was suspended in the Eaton's reagent (4 mL) and the orange mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 45 min. Afterwards, the hot solution was poured onto ice (10.5 g) and mixed with a glass spatula to quench Eaton's reagent. The light brown suspension was then filtered and the filter cake was washed with distilled H₂O until the filtrate was neutral. After drying under high vacuum, **28** was obtained as a light grey-brown powder (1.95 g, 99%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 9.85 (s, 1H, NH), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H, H-9; H-16), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 2H, H-10; H-15), 7.18 – 7.07 (m, 4H, H-11; H-12; H-13; H-14), 7.00 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.89 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H-3).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 171.70 (C=O), 136.31 (C-6), 136.14 (C-1), 134.47 (C-2), 133.45 (C-5), 132.65 (C-4), 130.21 (C-3), 128.99 (C-9), 128.94 (C-12), 128.08 (C-10), 127.81 (C-16), 127.77 (C-13), 127.42 (C-15), 126.41 (C-14), 126.22 (C-11).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₁₁NNaO [M+Na]⁺:244.07328, found: 244.07381.



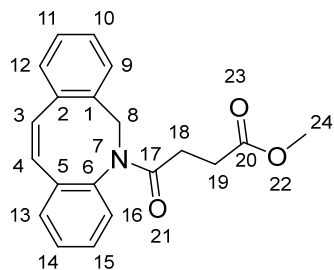
29

28 (1.90 g, 8.60 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was suspended in anhydrous Et₂O (15 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere and the mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Then LiAlH₄ (1.64 g, 43.3 mmol, 5.03 eq.) was added in portions upon stirring. After the mixture was allowed to come to rt, it was diluted with anhydrous Et₂O (5 mL) and stirred at 49 °C for 21 h. The green-grey suspension was cooled to 0 °C and diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) before being quenched by the dropwise addition of distilled H₂O (2 mL). After stirring at 0 °C for 1.5 h, 4 M NaOH (2 mL) was added dropwise, followed by distilled H₂O (6 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to come to rt and stirred for 45 min. During this time its color changed from olive-green to yellow. Then anhydrous Na₂SO₄ was added until the organic phase appeared clear. The mixture was filtered and the filter cake was washed with EtOAc. Removal of the solvent *in vacuo* afforded **29** as a yellow-brown solid (1.73 g, 97%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.29 – 7.15 (m, 3H, H-10; H-11; H-12), 7.15 – 7.11 (m, 1H, H-9), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-13), 6.80 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-15), 6.55 – 6.38 (m, 3H, H-4; H-14; H-16), 6.25 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H, H-3), 4.46 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, H-8).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 148.26 (C-6), 139.13 (C-2), 138.52 (C-1), 134.54 (C-13), 133.11 (C-14), 129.66 (C-11), 129.35 (C-9), 127.83 (C-15), 127.41 (C-10), 127.18 (C-12), 126.35 (C-3), 120.16 (C-5), 117.26 (C-16), 115.93 (C-14), 47.96 (C-8)

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₁₄N [M+H]⁺: 208.11208, found: 208.11200.



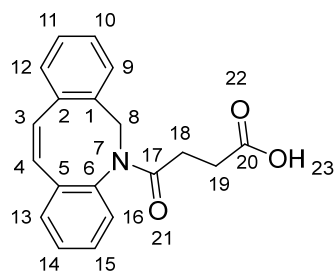
30

A solution of **29** (1.71 g, 8.27 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and 2 M KOH (13.5 mL) was added upon stirring. To this mixture, a solution of methyl 4-chloro-4-oxobutanoate (1.40 mL, 11.4 mmol, 1.38 eq.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.6 mL) was added dropwise over 25 min at 0 °C. The emulsion was allowed to come to rt and stirred for 4 h. Phases were separated and the aqueous phase was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (4 x 5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated onto celite. Column chromatography was performed twice (first column: SiO₂, *n*-hexane/EtOAc 5:1 then 4:1 then 3:2; second column: SiO₂, *n*-hexane/EtOAc 4:1 then 3:1 then 2:1) and **30** was obtained as a beige solid (2.28 g, 86%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 4H, H-13; H-14; H-15; H-16), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.22 – 7.11 (m, 3H, H-10; H-11; H-12), 6.80 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.68 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.40 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H, H_a-8), 4.23 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H, H_b-8), 3.50 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.48 – 2.31 (m, 2H, H_{ab}-18), 2.26 (ddd, *J* = 16.7, 7.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H_a-19), 1.87 (dt, *J* = 16.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H, H_b-19).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 172.63 (C-20), 169.84 (C-17), 140.33 (C-6), 136.21 (C-5), 135.35 (C-2), 134.68 (C-1), 131.94 (C-3), 131.87 (C-12), 130.57 (C-13), 129.98 (C-9), 128.84 (Ar-C), 128.42 (Ar-C), 128.12 (Ar-C), 127.28 (C-11), 127.19 (C-4), 126.82 (C-10), 53.48 (CH₂-N), 51.26 (C-24), 29.11 (C-19), 28.65 (C-18).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ : 344.12571, found: 344.12581.



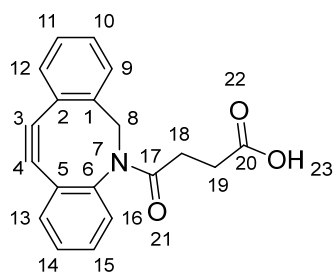
31

30 (2.25 g, 7.01 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was suspended in a 2:1 mixture of MeOH and distilled H₂O (6.8 mL). LiOH·H₂O (1.76 g, 42.0 mmol, 5.99 eq.) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The suspension was allowed to come to rt and 1 M HCl (40.5 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (1 x 35 mL then 3 x 25 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent in vacuo afforded **31** as an off-white foam (2.11 g, 98%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.02 (s, 1H, OH), 7.44 – 7.31 (m, 4H, H-13; H-14; H-15; H-16), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.21 – 7.11 (m, 3H, H-10; H-11; H-12), 6.79 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.67 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.41 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H, H_a-8), 4.23 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H, H_b-8), 2.42 – 2.16 (m, 3H, H_{ab}-19; H_a-18), 1.82 (dt, *J* = 16.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H, H_b-18).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 173.66 (C-20), 170.04 (C-17), 140.41 (C-6), 136.26 (C-5), 135.34 (C-2), 134.74 (C-1), 131.94 (C-3), 131.86 (C-12), 130.48 (C-13), 129.94 (C-9), 128.82 (Ar-C), 128.45 (Ar-C), 128.09 (Ar-C), 127.32 (C-11), 127.20 (C-4), 126.81 (C-10), 53.47 (CH₂-N), 29.17 (C-18), 28.92 (C-19).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺ : 308.12812, found: 308.12507.



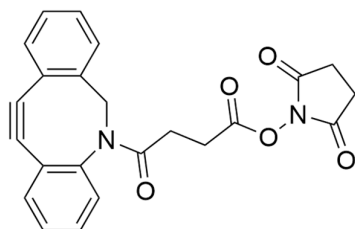
32

A solution of Br₂ (300 μ L, 5.86 mmol, 1.72 eq.) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.7 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **31** (1.05 g, 3.40 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in CH₂Cl₂ (14.7 mL) at 0 °C. After the solution was stirred at rt for 1 h, saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ solution (10 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 5 min. Phases were separated and the organic phase was washed with distilled H₂O (3 x 10 mL), 1 M HCl (1 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent *in vacuo* gave the brominated intermediate as a white-green foam. Since this compound is unstable, it should be eliminated on the same day. The brominated intermediate was dissolved in anhydrous THF (6.75 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Separately, KO^tBu (1.63 g, 14.6 mmol, 4.28 eq.) was suspended in anhydrous THF (14 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere and cooled to -78 °C before being cannulated into the cooled solution of the brominated intermediate. After the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2.5 h, Et₂O (20 mL) was added and the mixture was allowed to come to rt. The suspension was washed with 1 M HCl (3 x 20 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was partially removed at rt under reduced pressure until crystal formation could be observed. Et₂O (50 mL) was added and the mixture was stored at -20 °C overnight. The precipitate was filtered, washed with small amounts of ice-cold Et₂O and dried under high vacuum to give **32** as a white-brown powder (463 mg, 45%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 11.99 (s, 1H, OH), 7.68 – 7.64 (m, 1H, H-16), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 3H, H-13; H-14; H-15), 7.41 – 7.27 (m, 3H, H-10; H-11; H-12), 5.03 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H, H_a-8), 3.62 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H, H_b-8), 2.59 (ddd, *J* = 16.7, 7.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H, H_a-18), 2.30 (ddd, *J* = 17.1, 7.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H, H_a-19), 2.18 (dt, *J* = 17.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H, H_b-19), 1.77 (dt, *J* = 16.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H, H_b-18).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 173.59 (C-20), 170.75 (C-17), 151.47 (C-6), 148.43 (C-1), 132.41 (C-9), 129.64 (C-16), 128.95 (C-15), 128.22 (C-14), 128.04 (C-10), 127.70 (C-11), 126.84 (C-13), 125.18 (C-12), 122.55 (C-2), 121.56 (C-5), 114.29 (C-3), 108.04 (C-4), 54.96 (C-8), 29.27 (C-18), 28.95 (C-19).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 306.11247, found: 306.11245.



33

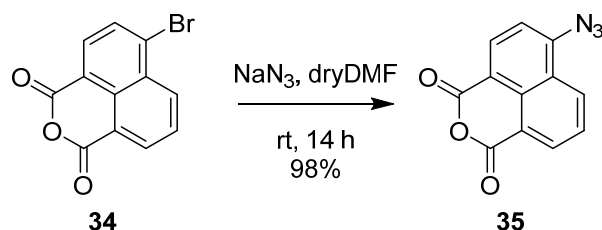
32 (782 mg, 2.56 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (35 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. Et₃N (1.10 mL, 7.89 mmol, 3.08 eq.) and TSTU (1.55 g, 5.15 mmol, 2.01 eq.) were added and the suspension was stirred at rt for 15 h. After the solvent was removed *in vacuo* the residue was suspended in EtOAc (120 mL), washed with distilled H₂O (3 x 50 mL)

and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) before *n*-hexane (100 mL) was added. The solution was carefully concentrated under reduced pressure until a slightly yellow solid started to precipitate. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 15 min before the precipitate was filtered, washed with small amounts of ice-cold *n*-hexane and dried under high vacuum. The filtrate was subjected to two more rounds of precipitation as described above. After the last round, the filtrate was concentrated onto celite and a column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/EtOAc 2:1 then 1:1) was performed. **33** was obtained as a slightly yellow powder (843 mg, 82%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 7.64 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 6.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H, H-9; H-16), 7.55 – 7.45 (m, 3H, H-13; H-14; H-15), 7.42 – 7.27 (m, 3H, H-10; H-11; H-12), 5.05 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H, H_a-8), 3.66 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H, H_b-8), 2.82 – 2.70 (m, 6H, H_a-18, H_a-19, H_{ab}-25, H_{ab}-26), 2.69 – 2.58 (m, 1H, H_b-18), 1.95 – 1.83 (m, 1H, H_b-19).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 170.06 (2C, C-24, C-27), 169.59 (C-17), 168.52 (C-20), 151.12 (C-6), 148.25 (C-1), 132.43 (C-9), 129.57 (C-16), 129.06 (C-15), 128.43 (C-14), 128.13 (C-10), 127.78 (C-11), 126.94 (C-13), 125.24 (C-12), 122.49 (C-2), 121.66 (C-5), 114.34 (C-3), 107.88 (C-4), 55.06 (C-8), 28.58 (C-19), 25.89 (C-18), 25.41 (2C, C-25, C-26).

2.5. Synthesis of 6-azido-1H,3H-benzo[de]isochromene-1,3-dione (**35**)^[8]



To a solution of 4-bromo-1,8-naphthalic anhydride **34** (1.00 g, 3.60 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in dry DMF, sodium azide (351 mg, 5.40 mmol, 1.50 eq.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h. After completion, water (60 mL) was added and the precipitate was filtered and washed with water. The precipitate was dried under high vacuum to get a yellow solid (850 mg, 98%).

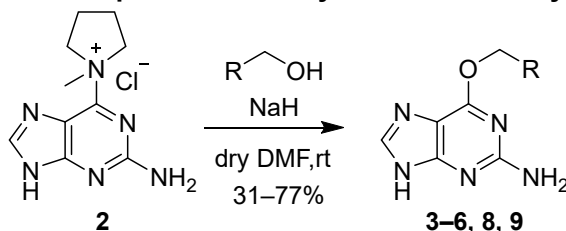
TLC (EtOAc / *n*-hexane = 40:60); *R_f* = 0.70.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 8.53 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 160.67, 160.08, 144.11, 133.31, 133.27, 130.70, 129.47, 127.63, 123.54, 119.16, 116.33, 114.68.

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₂H₅N₃NaO₃ [M+Na]⁺: 262.0223, found: 262.0225.

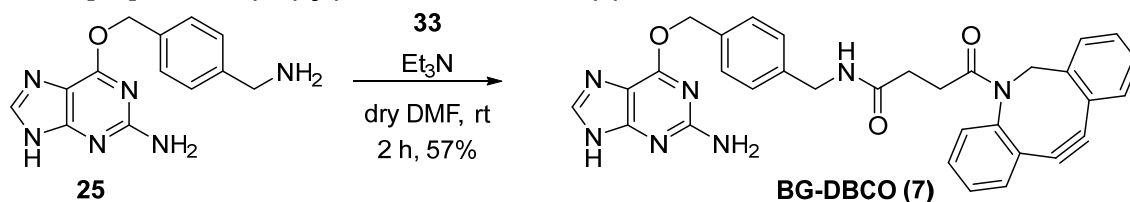
2.6 General procedure for synthesis of O⁶-alkyl guanine cofactors (**3–6**, **8**, **9**) (Table S1)



The respective alcohol (1.10–4.00 eq.) was dissolved in dry DMF (3–4 mL). Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil) (4 eq.) was added in portions to the above solution over 5 min. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was stirred for 10–15 min. 1-(2-Amino-9H-purin-6-yl)-

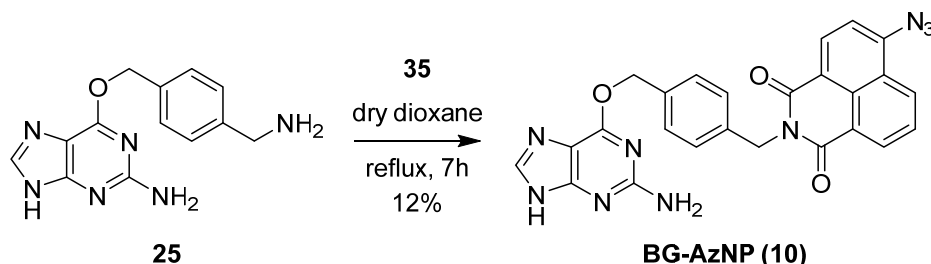
1-methylpyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (**2**, 1.00 eq.) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.25 eq.) were added. Further the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. Distilled water was added to quench the excess sodium hydride. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography using gradient based on MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ (4-6 % MeOH) to afford the desired alkyl guanine cofactors (**3–6**, **8**, **9**) as a pure white solid (For further details see Table S1).

2.7 Synthesis of *N*-(4-(((2-amino-9*H*-purin-6-yl)oxy)methyl)benzyl)-4-(11,12-didehydrodi-benzo[*b,f*]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-4-oxobutanamide (**7**)^[9]



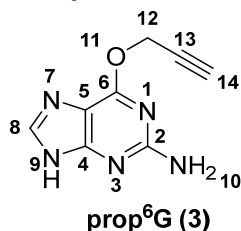
O⁶-(4-aminomethylbenzyl)guanine **25** (15.7 mg, 39.0 μmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (0.6 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. Et₃N (300 μL, 2.15 mmol, 55.20 eq.) was added and the solution was stirred at rt for 10 min. Compound **33** (15.2 mg, 56.2 μmol, 1.44 eq.) was added and the yellow solution was stirred at rt for 2 h before distilled H₂O (8 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (1 x 6 mL; then 3 x 3 mL), the combined organic phases were washed with distilled H₂O (10 x 5 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and subsequent column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9:1) gave **7** as a slightly rose solid (12.4 mg, 57%).

2.8 Synthesis of 2-(4-(((2-amino-9*H*-purin-6-yl)oxy)methyl)benzyl)-6-azido-1*H*-benzo[*de*]isoquinoline-1,3(2*H*)-dione (**10**)^[10]



O⁶-(4-aminomethylbenzyl)guanine **25** (50 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1.10 eq.) and 6-azido-1*H*,3*H*-benzo[*de*]isochromene-1,3-dione **35** (41 mg, 0.17 mmol, 1.00 eq.) were suspended in dry dioxane (3 mL). The resulting suspension was refluxed for 7 h in the dark at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to room temperature. Dioxane was removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography with a gradient of 4% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain the desired product **10** as a yellow solid (10 mg, 12%).

2.9 Spectral data for O⁶-alkyl guanine cofactors (**3–10**)

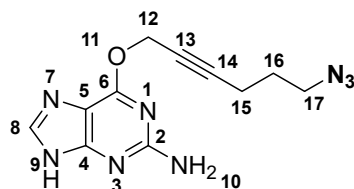


TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.40.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.49 (s, 1H, NH), 7.85 (s, 1H, H-8), 6.33 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.10 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.56 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-14).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.56 (C-6), 158.86 (C-2), 155.43 (C-4), 138.27 (C-8), 113.41 (C-5), 79.34 (C-13), 77.77 (C-14), 52.78 (C-12).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₈H₈N₅O [M+H]⁺: 190.0723, found: 190.0731.



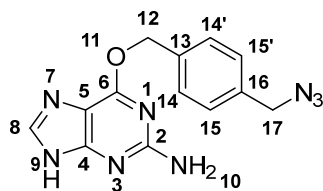
azihex₆G (4)

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.46.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.52 (s, 1H, N-9), 7.85 (s, 1H, H-8), 6.30 (s, 2H, N-10), 5.09 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H-12), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, H-17), 2.33 (tt, *J* = 7.1, 2.2 Hz, 2H, H-15), 1.70 (p, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H-16).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 158.73 (C-2, C-6), 155.87 (C-4), 138.60 (C-8), 113.05 (C-5), 85.83 (C-14), 76.36 (C-13), 53.24 (C-12), 49.57 (C-17), 27.24 (C-16), 15.45 (C-15).

HR-MS (ESI⁻): Exact mass calculated for C₁₁H₁₁N₈O [M-H]⁻: 271.10613, found: 271.10468.



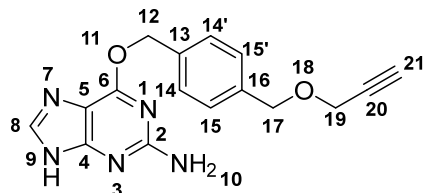
BG-CH₂N₃ (5)

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.50.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.47 (br.s, 1H, H-9), 7.83 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-14, 14'), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-15, 15'), 6.30 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.49 (s, 2H, OCH₂-12), 4.45 (s, 2H, H-17).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.70 (2C, C-2; C-6), 155.28 (C4), 138.03 (C-8), 136.80 (C-13), 135.42 (C-16), 128.84 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 128.59 (2C, C-15, C-15'), 66.41 (C-12), 53.35 (C-17).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₃H₁₃N₈O [M+H]⁺: 297.12068, found: 297.12201.



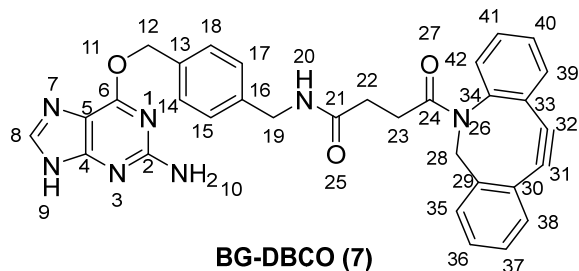
BG-prop (6)

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.44.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.46 (s, 1H, H-9), 7.84 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-14, 14'), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-15, 15'), 6.29 (s, 2H, H-10), 5.48 (s, 2H, H-12), 4.53 (s, 2H, H-17), 4.18 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H, H-19), 3.49 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H-21).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.75 (C-6), 159.56 (C-2) 155.07 (C-4), 137.77 (C-8), 137.30 (C-16), 136.33 (C-13), 128.37 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 127.72 (2C, C-15, C-15'), 113.58 (C-5), 80.10 (C-20), 77.34 (C-21), 70.35 (C-17), 66.36 (C-12), 56.99 (C-19).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₆H₁₅N₅NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ : 332.11180, found: 332.11103.

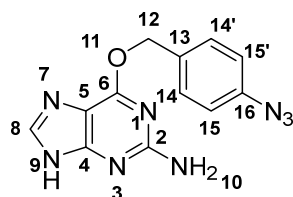


TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.43.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.42 (s, 1H, NH), 8.23 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, NH-20), 7.81 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.71 – 7.67 (m, 1H, H-42), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-35), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 3H, H-39, H-40, H-41), 7.42 – 7.26 (m, 5H, H-14, H-18, H-36, H-37, H-38), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-15, H-17), 6.30 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.44 (s, 2H, O-CH₂), 5.03 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H, H_a-28), 4.16 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H, H_{ab}-19), 3.61 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H, H_b-28), 2.63 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H, H_a-23), 2.30 (dt, *J* = 15.3, 7.5 Hz, 1H, H_a-22), 2.07 (ddd, *J* = 15.4, 7.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H_b-22), 1.80 (ddd, *J* = 16.4, 7.7, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H_b-23).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 171.09 (C-24), 171.06 (C-21), 159.86 (C-6), 159.67 (C-2), 155.21 (C-4), 151.61 (C-34), 148.47 (C-29), 139.34 (C-16), 137.81 (C-8), 135.19 (C-13), 132.45 (C-35), 129.67 (C42), 128.94 (C41), 128.43 (2C, C14, C-18), 128.16 (C-40), 128.04 (C-36), 127.70 (C-37), 127.20 (2C, C-15, C-17), 126.81 (C-39), 125.18 (C-38), 122.55 (C-30), 121.44 (C-33), 114.23 (C-31), 113.52 (C-5), 108.17 (C-32), 66.46 (C-12), 54.93 (C-28), 41.79 (C-19), 30.35 (C-22), 29.70 (C-23).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₃₂H₂₇N₇NaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ : 580.20676, found: 580.20669.

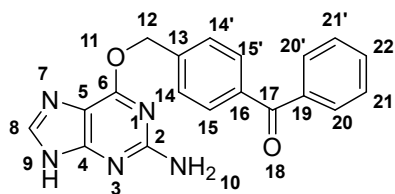


TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.53.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.44 (s, 1H, H-9), 7.81 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-14, H-14'), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-15, H-15'), 6.31 (s, 2H, H-10), 5.46 (s, 2H, H-12).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 159.79 (C-6), 159.66 (C-2), 155.25 (C-4), 139.13 (C-16), 137.88 (C-8), 133.74 (C-13), 130.41 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 119.11 (2C, C-15, C-15'), 113.49 (C-5), 66.14 (C-12).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₂H₁₁N₈O [M+H]⁺ : 283.10558, found: 283.10624.



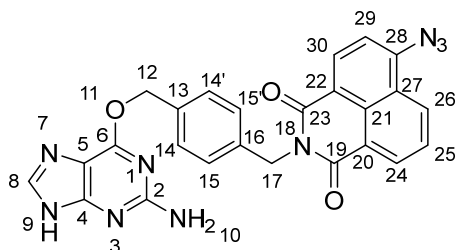
BG-Bz (9)

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.38.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 12.49 (s, 1H, H-9), 7.86 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.78–7.73 (m, 4H, H-15, 15', 20, 20'), 7.70–7.66 (m, 3H, H-14, H-14', H-22), 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H, H-21, H-21'), 6.32 (s, 2H, H-10), 5.61 (s, 2H, H-12).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 195.51 (C-17), 159.67 (2C, C-2, C-6), 155.37 (C-4), 141.72 (C-13), 138.01 (C-8), 137.03 (C-19), 136.51 (C-16), 132.76 (C-22), 129.86 (2C, C-15, C-15'), 129.67 (2C, C-20, C-20'), 128.63 (2C, C-21, C-21'), 128.11 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 113.46 (C-5), 66.02 (C-12).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₁₆N₅O₂ [M+H]⁺ : 346.12985, found: 346.13120.



BG-AzNP (10)

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 6:94); *R_f* = 0.23.

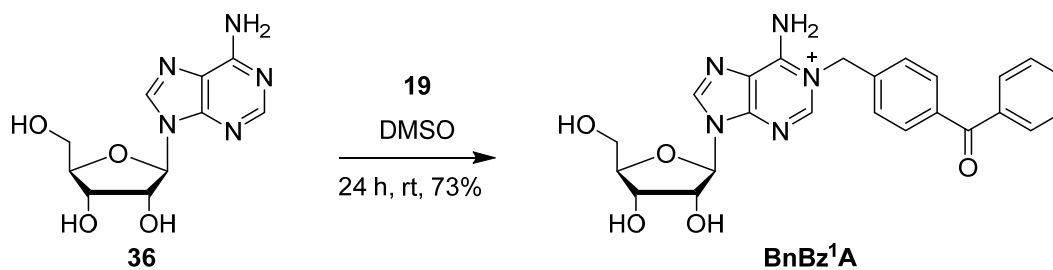
¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 12.39 (s, 1H), 8.58 – 8.53 (m, 1H), 8.54 – 8.48 (m, 1H), 8.48 – 8.42 (m, 1H), 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.78 (s, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (s, 2H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 163.37 (C-23), 162.91, 159.82 (C-6), 159.63 (C-2), 156.17, 155.20 (C-4), 143.18, 137.79, 137.18, 135.66, 131.96 (C-26), 131.89 (C-24), 128.67, 128.63 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 128.50, 127.67 (2C, C-15, C-15'), 127.43, 123.64, 122.10, 118.07, 116.12, 113.48 (C-5), 66.43 (C-12), 42.75 (C-17).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₂₅H₁₈N₉O₃ [M+H]⁺ : 492.15271, found: 492.15411.

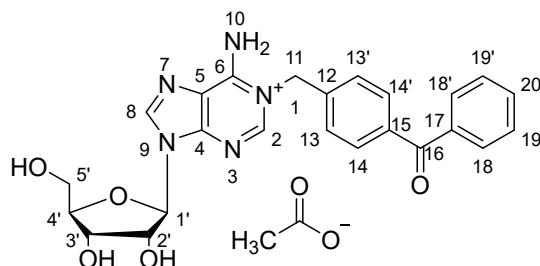
2.10 Synthesis of N¹ and N⁶ modified adenosine standards

2.10.1 N¹-benzophenone modified adenosine (BnBz¹A)^[11]



Adenosine **36** (100 mg, 0.37 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 4-bromomethyl benzophenone **19** (124 mg, 0.45 mmol, 1.00 eq.) were suspended in DMSO (2 mL). After vigorously stirring at room

temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was lyophilized. The residue was dissolved in mixture of H₂O, acetonitrile and methanol. The product was purified by preparative RP-HPLC using aqueous mobile phase A (10 mM NH₄OAc, pH 6.1) and organic mobile phase B (100% acetonitrile). The collected product fractions were lyophilized and the desired product (BnBz)¹A (126 mg, 73%) was obtained as white solid. The analytical data was in agreement with previous reports.^[11]

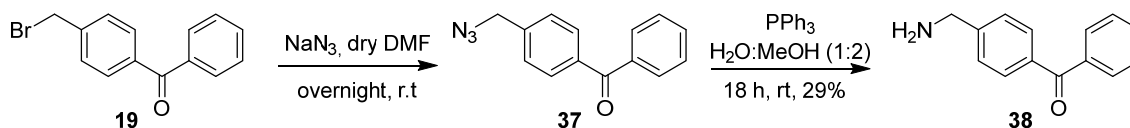


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) = 8.32 (s, 1H, H-8), 8.19 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.76 – 7.68 (m, 4H, H-18, H-18', H-19, H-19'), 7.71 – 7.62 (m, 1H, H-19), 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 4H, H-13, H-13', H-14, H-14'), 5.78 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.35 (s, 2H, H-11), 4.48 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.11 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.93 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.64 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0, 1H, H-5'a), 3.54 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, 5'b), 1.88 (s, 4H, acetate).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 195.40 (C-16), 153.52 (C-6), 148.59 (C-2), 142.32 (C-17), 138.12 (C-8), 137.00 (C-15), 136.01 (C-12), 132.73 (C-20), 129.92 (2C, C-19, C-19'), 129.65 (2C, C-18, C-18'), 128.60 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 127.51 (2C, C-13, C-13'), 122.96 (C-5), 87.55 (C-1'), 85.74 (C-4'), 74.00 (C-2'), 70.42 (C-3'), 61.44 (C-5'), 48.84 (C-11), 21.14 (acetate CH₃).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₂₄H₂₃N₅NaO₅ [M+Na]⁺: 484.15914, found: 484.15847.

2.10.2 4-Aminomethyl benzophenone (**38**)^[12]



A solution of 4-bromo methyl benzophenone **19** (500 mg, 1.82 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and NaN₃ (118 mg, 2.73 mmol, 1.50 eq.) in dry DMF (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature overnight and then diluted with water (3 mL) followed by extraction with diethyl ether (3 x 3 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain **37** as a yellow oil. **TLC** (EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 10:90); *R*_f = 0.40.

The azido intermediate **37** was dissolved in a mixture of H₂O (2 mL) and MeOH (4 mL), then triphenylphosphine (716 mg, 2.73 mmol, 1.50 eq.) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. After diluting with H₂O (2 mL), the mixture was acidified with 1N HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to furnish **38** as a yellow oil (111 mg, 29%). Analytical data in agreement with previous report.^[12]

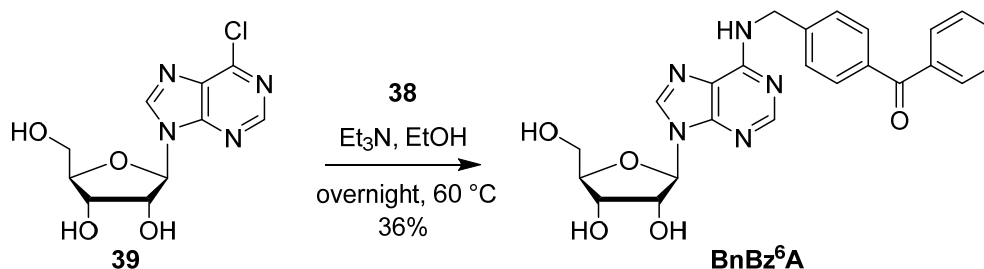
TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 20:80); *R*_f = 0.40.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.81 – 7.78 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.59 (m, 1H, Ar-H); 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 4H, Ar-H); 3.98 (s, 2H, CH₂-N); 1.61 (br.s, 2H, NH₂).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 196.57, 161.78, 147.43, 137.79, 136.33, 132.48, 130.61 (2C), 130.09 (2C), 128.38 (2C), 127.11 (2C), 46.09.

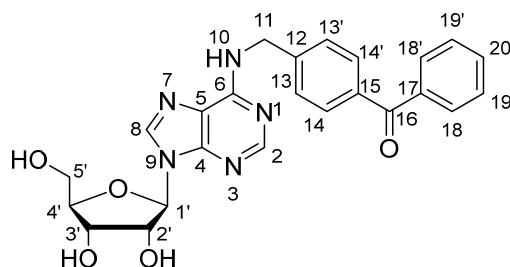
HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₄H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺ : 212.10699, found: 212.10753.

2.10.3 N⁶-benzophenone modified adenosine (BnBz⁶A)



6-Chloropurine nucleoside **39** (70 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 4-aminomethyl benzophenone **38** (103 mg, 0.48 mmol, 2.00 eq.) were suspended in ethanol (6 mL) and Et₃N (132 μ L, 0.96 mmol, 4.00 eq.) was added to the suspension. The mixture was stirred overnight at 60 °C. Then solvents were evaporated and the residue was further dissolved in 3 mL of EtOH (3 mL) and stored at 4 °C overnight. The white precipitate was collected and purified by column chromatography using 4% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain the pure product BnBz⁶A as a white solid (40 mg, 36%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 10:90); *R_f* = 0.68.

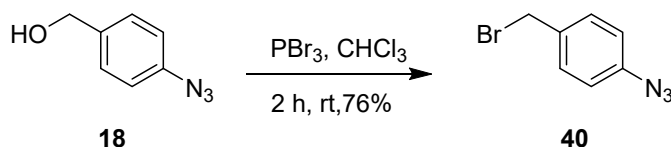


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 8.60 (s, 1H, H-10), 8.41 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.22 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.72 – 7.64 (m, 5H, H-17, H-18, H-18', H-19, H-19'), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 4H, H-13, H-13', H-14, H-14'), 5.90 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.46 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H, 2'-OH), 5.37 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 4.5, 1H, 5'-OH), 5.20 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H, 3'-OH), 4.81 (s, 2H, H-11), 4.64 – 4.60 (q, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.15 (td, *J* = 4.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.97 – 3.95 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.70 – 3.65 (dt, *J* = 12.1, 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 3.58 – 3.52 (ddd, *J* = 12.0, 7.1, 3.7 Hz, H-5'b).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = δ 195.95 (C-16), 154.73 (C-6), 152.84 (C-2), 148.99 (C-4), 145.70 (C-17), 140.57 (C-8), 137.63 (C-15), 135.90 (C-12), 133.05, (C-20) 130.32 (2C, C-19, C-19'), 130.03 (2C, C-18, C-18'), 129.02 (2C, C-13, C-13'), 127.51 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 120.27 (C-5), 88.38 (C-4'), 86.37 (C-4'), 73.93 (C-2'), 71.10 (C-3'), 62.10 (C-5'), 43.25 (C-11).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₂₄H₂₃N₅NaO₅ [M+Na]⁺ : 484.15914, found: 484.15830.

2.10.4 4-Azidobenzyl bromide (**40**)



4-Azidophenylmethanol **18** (300 mg, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in CHCl₃ (6 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. PBr₃ (228 μ L, 650 mg, 2.40 mmol, 1.20 eq) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution

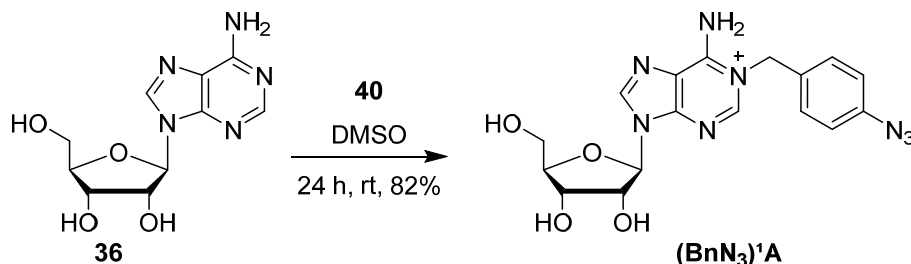
of NaHCO₃ (3 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (6 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to obtain the desired product **40** as a brown solid (330 mg, 76%).

TLC (EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 40:60); *R_f* = 0.69.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.02 – 6.98 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.48 (s, 2H, CH₂).

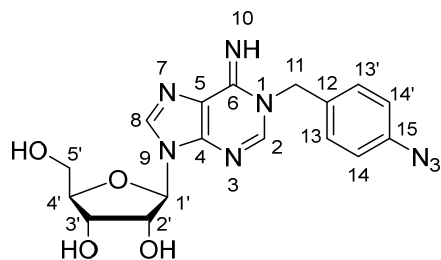
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 137.85, 134.61, 129.37 (2C), 118.65 (2C), 31.33.

2.10.5 N1-azidobenzyl modified adenosine (BnN₃)¹A



Adenosine (50 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 4-azidobenzyl bromide **38** (48 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.20 eq.) was suspended in DMSO (1 mL). After vigorously stirring at room temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was lyophilized. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain pure off-white solid **(BnN₃)¹A** (62 mg, 82%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 20:80); *R_f* = 0.34.

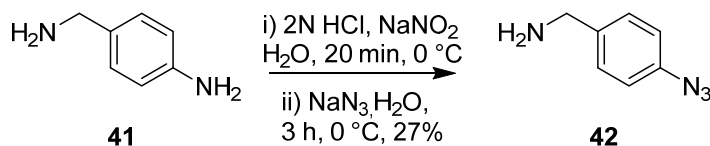


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 8.64 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.51 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H, H-13, H-13'), 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 2H, H-14, H-14'), 5.87 (d, *J* = 5.6, 1H, H-1'), 5.54 (d, *J* = 6.0, 1H, 2'-OH), 5.43 – 5.39 (s, 2H), 5.26 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H, 3'-OH), 5.11 – 5.08 (m, 1H, 5'-OH), 4.49 (q, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.15 – 4.12 (td, *J* = 4.9, 3.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.97 – 3.95 (dd, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.69 – 3.64 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 3.58 – 3.53 (m, 1H, H-5'b).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 151.59 (C-6), 148.19 (C-2), 144.38 (C-4), 140.91 (C-8), 139.22 (C-12), 132.06 (C-15), 129.35 (2C, C-13, C-13'), 120.90 (C-5), 119.44 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 87.83 (C-1'), 85.89 (C-4'), 74.30 (C-2'), 70.24 (C-3'), 61.19 (C-5'), 50.30 (C-11).

HR-MS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₁₇N₈O₄ [M-H]⁻: 397.13782, found: 397.13874.

2.10.6 4-Azidobenzylamine (**42**)^[13]



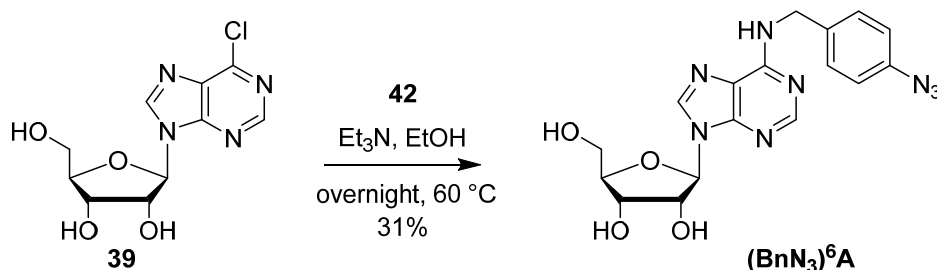
To an ice-cooled solution of 4-aminobenzylamine **41** (500 mg, 4.1 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in 2.0 M aqueous HCl (3.5 mL), NaNO₂ (283 mg, 4.1 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in water (0.7 mL) was added dropwise. After stirring for 20 min at 0 °C, NaN₃ (267 mg, 4.1 mmol) in water (0.7 mL) was added, and the stirring was continued for 3 h at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (3 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 x 3 mL), and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The obtained crude brown solid was used for further reactions without purification.

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 20:80); *R*_f = 0.51.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.40– 7.36 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.02– 6.98 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.48 (s, 2H, CH₂).

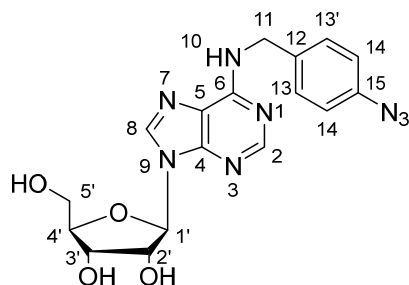
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 137.85, 134.61, 129.37 (2C), 118.65 (2C), 31.33.

2.10.7 N⁶-azidobenzyl modified adenosine (BnN₃)⁶A



6-Chloropurine nucleoside **39** (70 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 4-azidobenzylamine **42** (54 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.50 eq.) were suspended in ethanol (3 mL) and Et₃N (132 μL, 0.96 mmol, 4.00 eq.) was added to the suspension. The mixture was stirred overnight at 60 °C. solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain the pure product **(BnN₃)⁶A** as an off-white solid (30 mg, 31%).

TLC (MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 20:90); *R*_f = 0.72.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 8.50 (s, 1H, H-10), 8.38 (s, 1H, H-8), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H-13, H-13'), 7.07 – 7.03 (m, 2H, H-14, H-14'), 5.89 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.45 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H, 2'-OH), 5.38 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H, 5'-OH), 5.29 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H, 3'-OH), 4.64 (s, 2H, H-11), 4.60 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.16 – 4.12 (m, 1H, H-3'), 3.97 – 3.95 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.69 – 3.64 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 3.57 – 3.52 (m, 1H, H-5'a).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) = 154.42 (C-6), 152.36 (C-2), 148.50 (C-4), 140.03 (C-8), 137.68 (C-12), 128.83 (2C, C-13, C-13'), 119.72 (C-5), 118.97 (2C, C-14, C-14'), 87.93 (C-1'), 85.91 (C-4'), 73.48 (C-2'), 70.66 (C-3'), 61.66 (C-5'), 42.38 (C-11).

HR-MS (ESI⁺): Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₁₈N₈NaO₄ [M+Na]⁺ : 421.13381, found: 421.13432.

3. Solid phase synthesis, deprotection and purification of RNA oligonucleotides

RNA oligonucleotides were prepared by solid-phase synthesis using phosphoramidite chemistry with 2'-O-TOM-protection on controlled pore glass (CPG) solid support. RNA sequences are shown in Tables S3. Modified phosphoramidites (2'-OMe-U, 2'-OMe-C) were purchased. 5'-Hexynyl, *N*⁶-methyl adenosine (m⁶A) and *N*⁶-benzyl Adenosine (Bn⁶A) phosphoramidite were prepared by following published procedures.^[17] RNA sequences are given in the Table S3. RNA oligonucleotides were cleaved from the solid support and deprotected with 1 mL of 1:1 MeNH₂ and aq. NH₃ (AMA) at 37 °C for 5 h. The solid support was filtered off and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude oligonucleotide samples were dissolved in freshly prepared in 1 mL TBAF solution in THF (1 M) and shaken overnight at 37 °C. After addition of 1 M Tris-HCl pH 8.0 (1 mL), THF was removed *in vacuo* and the oligonucleotide samples were desalted by size exclusion chromatography using an ÄKTA start purification system with three HiTRAP Desalting columns (5 mL volume each) from GE Healthcare. The desalted oligonucleotides were eluted with water and a flow rate of 2 mL/min. The water was removed under reduced pressure and the samples were dissolved in fresh nanopure water. The crude oligonucleotides were purified using 20% denaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) and recovered by extraction with TEN buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8.0) at 37 °C for 3 h. The pure RNA oligonucleotides were precipitated with 70% ethanol and their purity was confirmed by anion-exchange HPLC. Measured and calculated masses are listed in the Table S3.

4. In vitro transcription reaction to generate the tRNA

The dsDNA template for in vitro transcription of the 77-nt *E.coli* tRNA-Asp was assembled from two ssDNA oligonucleotides (D3 + D4) by overlap extension using Klenow exo⁻. The reaction was performed at 37 °C for 2 h using 200 pmol of each primer with 0.2 mM of each dNTP and 2.5 U Klenow Polymerase exo⁻ in 50 µL 1x Klenow buffer. Following PCI extraction and EtOH-precipitation of the fully assembled template, 100 pmol of the dsDNA was used for 100 µL of in vitro transcription with T7 RNA polymerase. The dsDNA template was mixed with 4 mM of each NTP, 40 mM Tris (pH = 8), 30 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM DTT, 2 mM spermidine and 4 µL of T7 RNA polymerase (4 mg/µL). After overnight incubation at 37 °C, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 20 µL EDTA (0.5 M, pH 8) and 80 µL loading dye. The transcript was purified on 10% denaturing PAGE and recovered by extraction with TEN buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8.0) at 37 °C for 3 h.

5. Fluorescent labeling of oligonucleotides

5.1 3'-end labeling of RNAs using aminolysis of NHS-ester

Oligonucleotides with 3'-amino group were labeled with 6-carboxyfluorescein succinimidyl ester (NHS-fluorescein). Amino-modified substrate RNA (**R1**) (5 nmol in 5 µL of H₂O) was dissolved in carbonate buffer (40 µL, 100 mM, pH = 9.0) and solution of NHS-fluorescein in DMF (10 µL, 7.5 mM) was added. The reaction mixture was incubated at 37°C for 2 h in the dark. The labeled RNA was purified by 20% denaturing PAGE.

5.2 3' end labeling of substrate RNA using periodate glycol oxidation

The substrate RNA (**R5**) was labeled using periodate oxidation followed by a reaction with fluorescein-5-thiosemicarbazide (Flu-TSC). The substrate RNA (4 nmol) was dissolved in 8 µL of 5x sodium phosphate buffer (8 µL, 250 mM, pH 7.4) and a freshly prepared aqueous solution of NaIO₄ (2 µL, 400 mM). Nanopure water was added to a total volume 40 µL. The resulting mixture was incubated for 10 min at 37 °C. The excess of NaIO₄ was quenched by treatment

with aqueous Na_2SO_3 (4 μL , 1 M) for 5 min at 37 °C. Afterwards, a solution of Flu-TSC (4 μL , 100 mM) in DMF was added, and the reaction mixture was incubated in the dark for 1 h at 37 °C. The labeled product was purified on 20% denaturing PAGE.

5.3 5' end labeling using CuAAC

A solution of 5'-hexynyl-modified RNA oligonucleotide (R8–R10) (500 μM , 1.00 eq.) in water/DMSO/*t*-BuOH 4:3:1 (10 μL) was treated with a solution of 6-FAM azide (5 mM, 10 eq.) in DMSO. A solution of CuBr (5 mM, 10 eq.) and TBTA (10 mM, 20.0 eq.) in DMSO/*t*-BuOH 3:1 was added and the sample was incubated in the dark at 37 °C for 3 h. The labeled oligonucleotides were purified on 20% PAGE. The purity and identity of the labeled RNAs was confirmed by anion-exchange HPLC and HR-ESI-MS.

6. Kinetic assays of RNA-catalyzed RNA alkylation reactions

Fluorescein-labeled target RNA (10 pmol) was mixed with the corresponding 1:1 mixture of 5'- and 3'-fragments of ribozyme (100 pmol each) in 1x reaction buffer (120 mM KCl, 5 mM NaCl and 50 mM Bis-Tris, pH 6.0) in a total volume of 10 μL . To ensure proper folding and formation of the ribozyme-substrate RNA complex, an annealing step (3 min at 95 °C and 15 min at 25 °C) was performed prior to the addition of cofactor (100 μM) and MgCl_2 (5 mM). Addition of MgCl_2 was performed last and marked the start of the reaction. The mixture was incubated at 25 °C and 1 μL aliquots were taken at desired time points and quenched immediately by adding 4 μL of stop solution (80% formamide (99%), 89 mM Tris (pH 8), 89 mM boric acid, 50 mM EDTA (pH 8)). 2.5 μL of each time-point sample was analyzed on 20% denaturing PAGE, and band intensities were quantified by fluorescence imaging using blue epi illumination and a 530/28 nm emission filter. The yield versus time data were fit according to $(\text{fraction reacted}) = Y(1 - e^{-kt})$, in which $k = k_{\text{obs}}$ and $Y = \text{final yield}$, using Origin (2021). All kinetic assays were carried out as two independent replicates.

7. Preparative RNA alkylation using MTR1m2

RNA-catalyzed RNA alkylation reactions were performed in a total volume of 20 μL using 1 nmol target RNA, 1.1 nmol of each 5'- and 3'-fragments of ribozyme, 100 μM of the respective guanine cofactors, and 40 mM MgCl_2 in 1x reaction buffer (120 mM KCl, 5 mM NaCl, 50 mM Bis-Tris, pH 6.0) for 24 h at 25 °C. An annealing step (3 min at 95 °C and 10 min at 25 °C) was performed prior to the addition of the cofactor and MgCl_2 to ensure proper folding of the RNA. The modified RNA product was isolated on a 20% denaturing PAGE and recovered by extraction with TEN buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8.0) at 37 °C for 3 h. Isolated pure RNA products were submitted to HR-ESI-MS analysis (Bruker microOTOF-Q III, direct injection). For mass and isolated yields after purification see table S4.

8. Dimroth rearrangement and analysis by anion exchange HPLC

Dimroth rearrangement using OH^- as nucleophile was performed in a total volume of 12 μL by incubation of the modified RNA substrates (300 pmol) in Na_2CO_3 buffer (25 mM, pH 10) including EDTA (1 mM) at 60 °C for 1 h.

Rearrangement using 4-nitrothiophenol was performed as reported in literature.^[14] The modified RNA substrates (300 pmol) were incubated in 10 μL buffer containing 25 mM 4-Nitrothiophenol, 5 mM Tris(hydroxypropyl)phosphine (THP), 5% (v/v) DMF (pH 6.0, adjusted with HCl) for 9h at 60°C. The buffer was prepared in a 2x concentration and stored as aliquots at -80 °C.

Following EtOH-precipitation, the samples were analyzed using anion-exchange HPLC (Dionex DNAPac PA200, 2 × 250 mm, at 60 °C; solvent A: 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 6 M urea;

solvent B: 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 6 M urea, 0.5 M NaClO₄; linear gradient, 0-40% solvent B, with a slope of 4% solvent B per column volume). For reaction yields see table S5.

9. LC-MS analysis of modified RNA substrates

RNA digestion was performed in a total volume of 20 μ L by incubation of RNA (200 pmol) with 1 U Nuclease P1 (New England BioLabs) and 2 U Shrimp Alkaline Phosphatase (rSAP, New England BioLabs) at 37 °C for 1 h. The reaction was quenched by snap-freezing in liquid nitrogen. The samples were diluted to 70 μ L with nanopure water and residual denatured protein was removed by extraction with CHCl₃ (2 x 70 μ L). The aqueous layer was concentrated under reduced pressure at 35 °C for 1 h. The resulting residue was dissolved in 60 μ L NH₄OAc buffer (10 mM, pH 5.3). The sample was analyzed by LC-MS, using an RP-18 column (Synergi, 4- μ m Fusion-RP C18 80 Å, 250 x 2 mm; Phenomenex) at 25 °C with aqueous mobile phase A (10 mM NH₄OAc, pH 5.3) and organic mobile phase B (100% acetonitrile). The flow rate was 0.2 ml/min with a gradient of 0–5% B in 15 min, followed by 5–70% B in 30 min. The micrOTOF-Q III with an ESI ion source was operated in positive-ion mode, with capillary voltage of 4.5 kV, end plate offset of 500 V, nitrogen nebulizer pressure 1.4 bar, dry gas flow 9 l/min and dry temperature 200 °C. Data were analyzed using Data Analysis software DA 4.2 (Bruker Daltonics).

10. Fluorescence anisotropy studies

Fluorescence anisotropy measurements were performed in Quartz SUPRASIL 10x2 and 3x3 mm High Precision Cell cuvettes (Hellma Analytics) at 25 °C, using a Jasco FP8300 spectrofluorometer with manually operated polarization filters. The excitation and emission wavelengths were set to 470 and 520 nm, respectively. Measurements were performed using 0.2 μ M of 6-FAM-labeled RNA (R8–R10) in anisotropy buffer (30 mM TRIS pH 7.5, 120 mM NaCl). The samples were incubated with increasing concentrations of protein for 5 min at ambient temperature prior to the respective measurements. Fluorescence anisotropy values r were calculated as,

$$r = \frac{I_{VV} - G \cdot I_{VH}}{I_{VV} + 2 \cdot G \cdot I_{VH}}$$

where I_{VV} denotes emission intensity at vertical excitation/vertical emission and I_{VH} emission intensity at vertical excitation/horizontal emission. The grating factor G

$$G = \frac{I_{HV}}{I_{HH}}$$

is introduced as a correction factor to account for inherent unequal sensitivities of the spectrometer toward the different polarization planes.

K_D values were obtained from nonlinear fitting of the anisotropy data according to

$$r = r_f + (r_b - r_f) \cdot \frac{[L] + K_D + [R] + \sqrt{([L] + K_D + [R])^2 - 4 \cdot [L] \cdot [R]}}{2 \cdot [L]}$$

Here, r_f and r_b denote the respective anisotropy values of free ligand and bound complex, while $[L]$ and $[R]$ are the total ligand (RNA) and receptor (protein) concentrations in the sample.

11. Supporting Tables

Table S1: ID and structures for alkyl guanine cofactors (3–10)

ID for O ⁶ -alkyl derivatives	Alcohol	O ⁶ -alkyl derivatives (3–10)	Eq. of alcohol, reaction time and yield
prop⁶G (3)¹⁵ CAS NO: 188680-41-3			3.50 eq., 3 h, 73%
azihex⁶G (4)			1.10 eq., 4 h, 31%
BG-CH₂N₃ (5)¹⁶ CAS NO: 1151762-33-2			2.50 eq., overnight, 67%
BG-prop (6)¹ CAS NO: 680622-71-3			3.60 eq., overnight, 77%
BG-DBCO (7)⁹ CAS NO: 1820756-74-8	n.a		2 h, 57%
BG-N₃ (8)			2.50 eq., 3 h, 55%
BG-Bz (9)			2.0 eq., overnight, 56%
BG-AzNP (10)¹⁰	n.a.		7 h, 12%

Table S2: RNAs synthesized by solid phase synthesis and respective ESI-MS analysis.

Description	5'-sequence-3'	Calculated mass	Measured mass
Substrate RNA (R1)	CCACUGAGAGCUUC-NH ₂	4614.68794	4614.67570
Substrate RNA (R2)	CCACUGAGAGCUUC	4403.62643	4403.62057
MTR1 5' fragment Cm12 (R3) to target R1 and R2	GGAAGCUCUGAC _m CGACCCCCAGCC	7635.11239	7635.13629

MTR1 3' fragment Um42 (R4) to target R1 and R2	GCUGGGACAACUAGACAU _m ACAGUG	7749.12027	7749.14869
E. coli tRNA. fragment A58 (R5)	GGUUCGAGUCCCG	4130.57553	4130.60454
MTR1 5' fragment Cm12 (R6) to target R5	GACGGGACUGAC _m CGACCCCAGCC	7674.13452	7674.11999
MTR1 3' fragment Um42 (R7) to target R5	GCUGGGACAACUAGACAU _m ACGAAC CC	8342.22391	8342.25024
DRACH-RNA with Bn ⁶ A (R8)	Alk-AACCGGBn ⁶ ACUGUC	4042.63573	4042.64565
DRACH-m6A RNA with Bn ⁶ A (R9)	Alk-GAUACGBn ⁶ AUCGGm ⁶ ACUGUC	5687.84937	5687.85004
DRACH-m6A RNA (R10)	Alk-GAUACGAUCGGm ⁶ ACUGUC	5597.80242	5597.81597

Table S3: DNA oligonucleotides

Description	5'-sequence-3'
T7 promoter (D1)	CTGTAATACGACTCACTATA
Transcription template for MTR1 to target R1 and R2 (D2)	CCACTGTATGTCTAGTTGTCCCCGAGCGAACTCGGGGGGTCGGTCAGAG CTTCCTATAGTGAGTCGTATTACAG
Fw primer to assemble E. coli tRNA (D3)	CTGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGAGCGGTAGTTCAGTCGGTTAGAATACCT GCCTGTCACGACGGGGGTC
Rv primer to assemble E. coli tRNA (D4)	TGGCGGAACGGACGGGACTCGAACCCGCGACCCCTGCGTGACAG
Transcription template for MTR1 to target RNA R10 (D5)	GATACGTATGTCTAGTTGTCCCCGAGCGAACTCGGGGGGTCGGTCATCG GACCTATAGTGAGTCGTATTACAG

Table S4: Isolated yields for *trans*-alkylation activity of the ribozyme, molecular formulae, calculated and measured monoisotopic masses of modified RNAs.

Description	Isolated yields (%)	Molecular formula	Calculated mass (g/mol)	Measured mass g/mol
R2-prop	55	C ₁₃₅ H ₁₆₈ N ₅₁ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4441.64263	4441.71686
R2-azihex	59	C ₁₃₈ H ₁₇₃ N ₅₄ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4524.69098	4524.76559
R2-BnCH ₂ N ₃	60	C ₁₄₀ H ₁₇₃ N ₅₄ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4548.69043	4548.67168
R2-BnPr	75	C ₁₄₃ H ₁₇₆ N ₅₁ O ₉₇ P ₁₃	4561.69960	4561.68641
R2-DBCO	63	C ₁₅₉ H ₁₈₈ N ₅₃ O ₉₈ P ₁₃	4809.79511	4809.88158
R2-BnN ₃	70	C ₁₃₉ H ₁₇₁ N ₅₄ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4534.67533	4534.65962
R2-BnBz	87	C ₁₄₆ H ₁₇₆ N ₅₁ O ₉₇ P ₁₃	4597.70015	4597.68489
R2-BnAzNP ^a	40	C ₁₅₂ H ₁₈₀ N ₅₃ O ₉₈ P ₁₃	4717.73251	4717.70016
R5-BnCH ₂ N ₃	86	C ₁₃₁ H ₁₆₁ N ₅₁ O ₉₁ P ₁₂	4275.63897	4275.63840
R5-BnPr	75	C ₁₃₄ H ₁₆₄ N ₄₈ O ₉₂ P ₁₂	4288.64814	4288.64261
R10-BnN ₃	63	C ₁₇₆ H ₂₁₇ N ₆₈ O ₁₂₀ P ₁₇	5728.85131	5728.84117

^aThe observed mass corresponds to NH₂ instead of N₃. This is probably due to release of N₂ during mass measurement. The expected mass for the azido modified product is 4743.72246.

Table S5: Ratio for yields of N¹A to N⁶A modified RNA before and after Dimroth rearrangement as determined by anion-exchange HPLC analysis.

Modified R2 substrate	N ¹ A:N ⁶ A (After PAGE purification)	N ¹ A:N ⁶ A (After Dimroth rearrangement OH) ^b	N ¹ A:N ⁶ A (After Dimroth rearrangement S) ^c
R2-Me	94:6	54:46	20:80
R2-Bn	89:11	56:44	13:87
R2-BnN ₃ ^a	75:10(:15)	48:34 (:18)	7:80 (:13)
R2-BnBz	82:18	53:47	11:89

^a The amount of uncaged RNA (R1) is given in parenthesis.

^b 25 mM Na₂CO₃, pH 10, 1 mM EDTA at 60 °C for 1 h.

^c 25 mM 4-nitrothiophenol, 5 mM THP, 5% (v/v) DMF, pH 6 at 60 °C for 9 h.

Table S6: Isolated yields from click labeling, molecular formulae, calculated and measured monoisotopic masses of the fluorescently labeled RNA oligonucleotides R8-FAM – R10-FAM.

Description	Isolated yields (%)	Molecular formula	Calculated mass (g/mol)	Measured mass g/mol
R8-FAM	29	C ₁₅₁ H ₁₇₆ N ₅₀ O ₉₀ P ₁₂	4500.75891	4500.75806
R9-FAM	53	C ₂₀₀ H ₂₃₆ N ₆₉ O ₁₂₆ P ₁₇	6145.99770	6146.00645
R10-FAM	76	C ₁₉₃ H ₂₃₀ N ₆₉ O ₁₂₆ P ₁₇	6055.92560	6056.03020

12. Supporting Figures

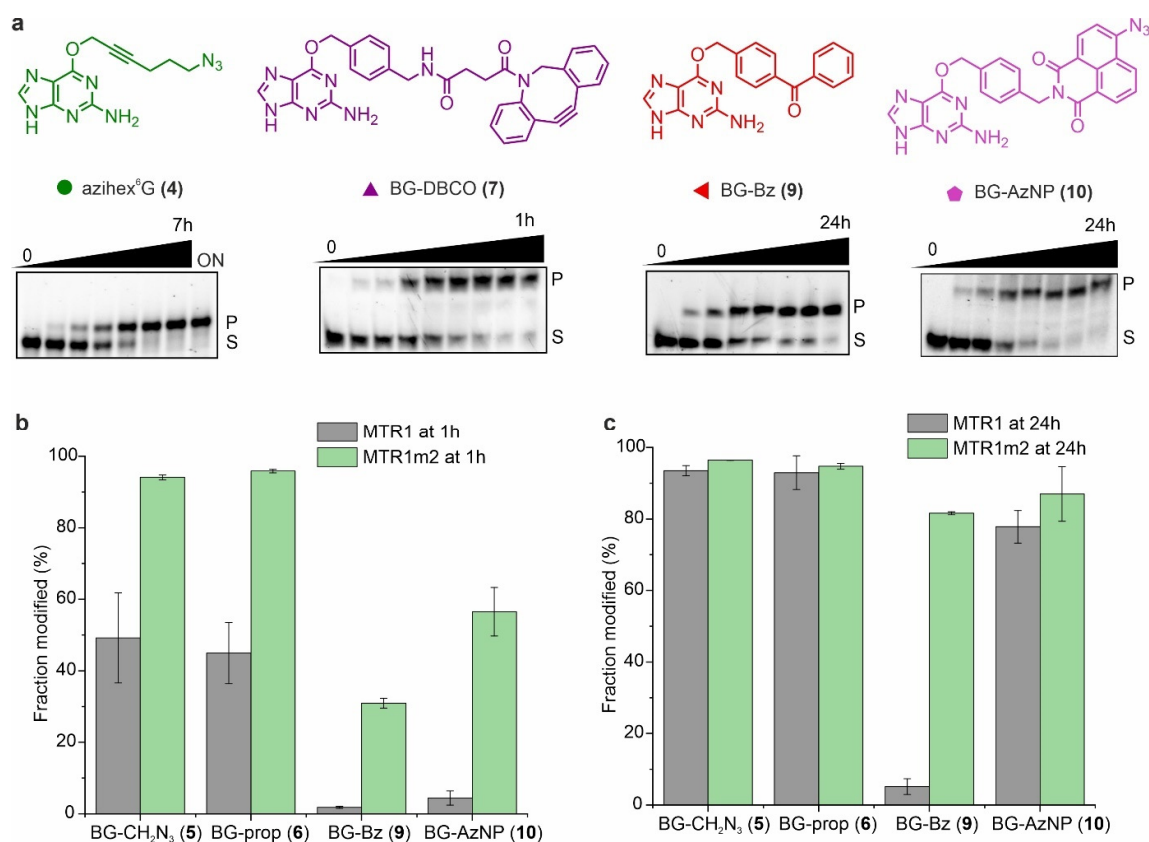


Figure S1: Representative PAGE images of the kinetic assays for cofactors **4**, **7**, **9** and **10** from two independent experiments. 1 μ M 3'-fluorescein labeled RNA R1 (5'-CCACUGAGAGCUUC-NH₂-3'), 10 μ M MTR1m2 (R3+R4, Table S2), 100 μ M cofactor, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 6.0, 25 $^{\circ}$ C, Timepoints: for azihex⁶G: 0, 0.17, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 7, 23 h; BG-DBCO (**7**): 0, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60 min and for BG-Bz (**9**) and BG-AzNP (**10**): 0, 0.5, 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 24h. Yields for modified RNA substrate using MTR1 (grey) and MTR1m2 (green) after 1 h (**b**) and 24 h (**c**) with cofactors **5**, **6**, **9** and **10**; mean of duplicate with standard error bar given. 1 μ M 3'-fluorescein labeled RNA R1 (5'-CCACUGAGAGCUUC-NH₂-3'), 10 μ M of either MTR1 or MTR1m2, 100 μ M cofactor, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 6.0, 25 $^{\circ}$ C.

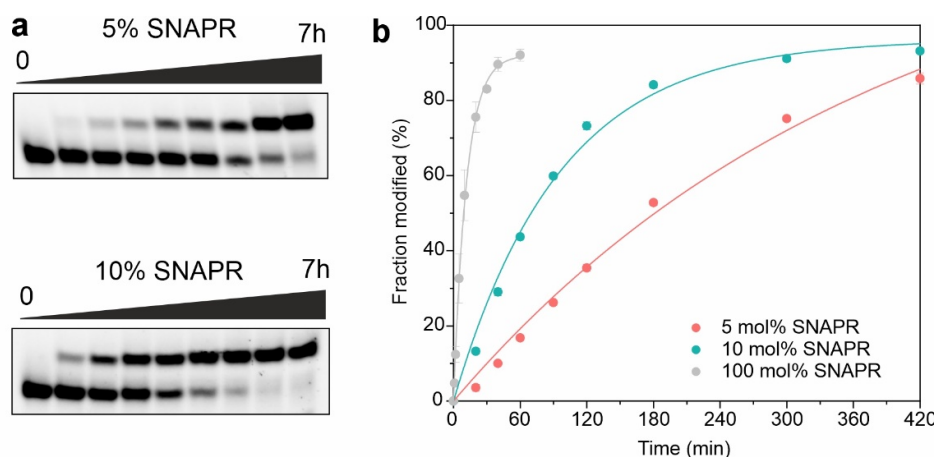


Figure S2: Analysis of multiple turnover activity of SNAPR. **a)** Representative PAGE images for analysis of RNA labeling under multiple turnover conditions. **b)** Kinetic data for labeling of 3' FAM-labelled 14-mer RNA R1 (5'-CCACUGAGAGCUUC-NH₂-Flu3') with p-azidomethyl-BG cofactor **5** using only 5 mol% or 10 mol% MTR1m2 relative to the target RNA. Conditions: 100 μ M cofactor **5**, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 6.0, 25 °C. For comparison, kinetics under single turnover conditions are shown in grey.

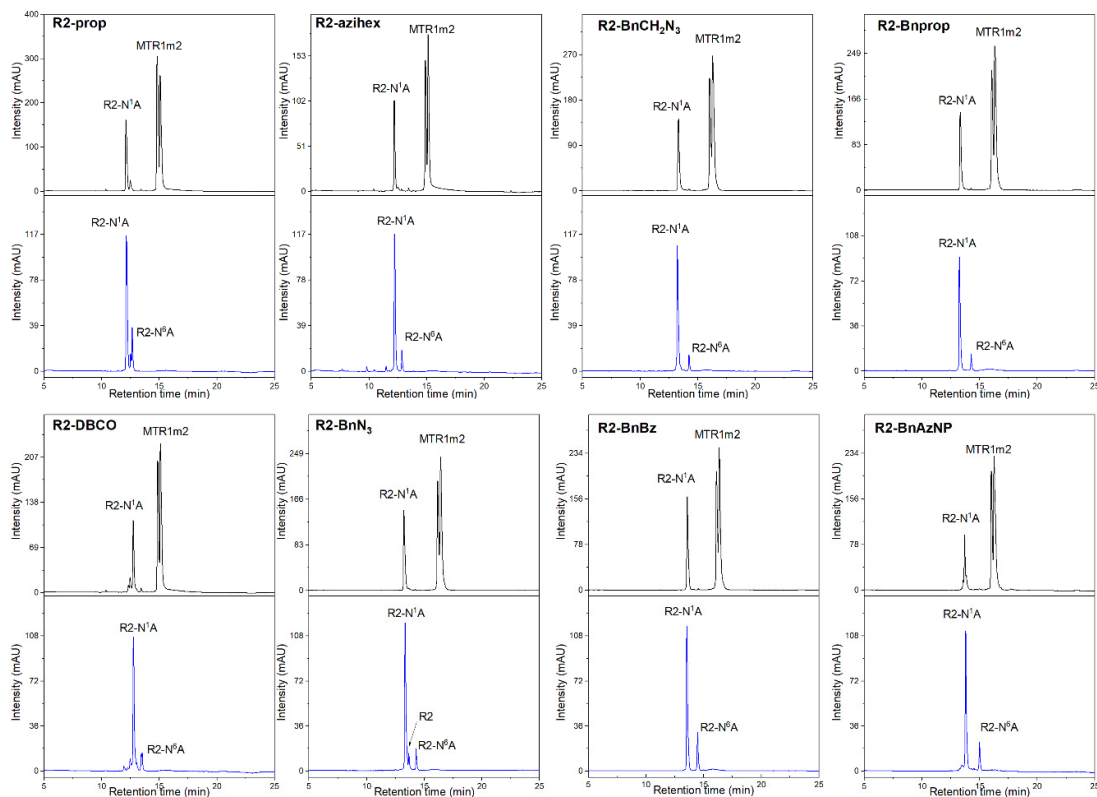


Figure S3: Anion-exchange HPLC profiles of the trans-alkylation reaction using MTR1m2 ribozyme and different guanine-based cofactors before (black) and after (blue) PAGE purification. Reaction conditions: 1 nmol substrate RNA (R2), 1.1 nmol MTR1m2, 100 μ M cofactor, 1x reaction buffer (120 mM KCl, 5 mM NaCl, 50 mM Bis-Tris, pH 6.0), 40 mM MgCl₂, 25 °C, 24 h.

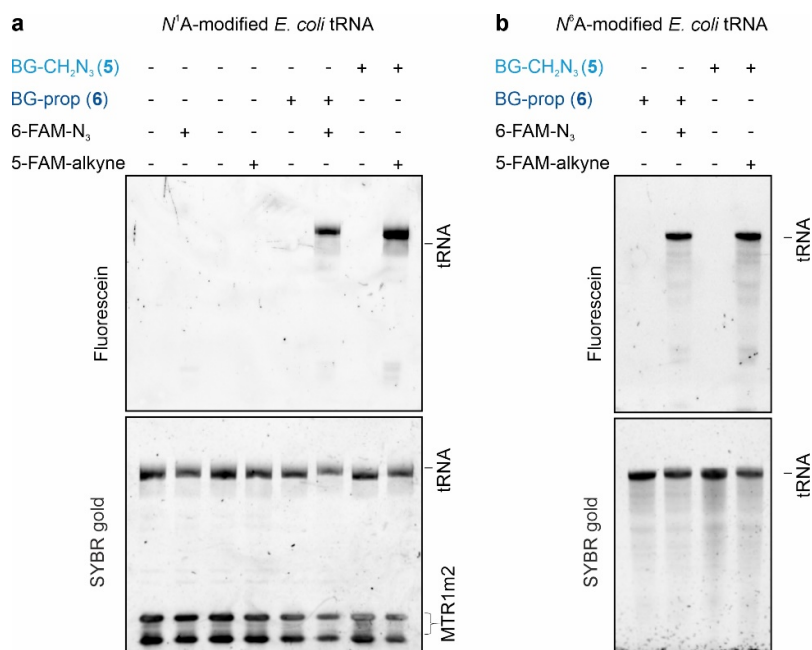


Figure S4: SNAPR-catalyzed labeling of *E. coli* tRNA-Asp. **(a)** expanded version of Figure 3d for CuAAC labeling of *E. coli* tRNA-Asp modified by SNAPR using cofactors **5** or **6** resolved on denaturing PAGE. Conditions: 50 μ M 6-FAM-N₃ or 5-FAM-alkyne, 0.5 mM CuBr, 1 mM TBTA, 37 °C, 3 h. The gel was imaged in the fluorescein-channel (top) to detect the labeled tRNAs. Then it was stained with SYBR gold (bottom) to visualize the tRNA and the two SNAPR fragments. **(b)** CuAAC labeling of *E. coli* tRNA-Asp modified by SNAPR as in **a**, then subjected to Dimroth rearrangement conditions with NTPH at pH 6 to generate A58-N6-alkylated tRNA.

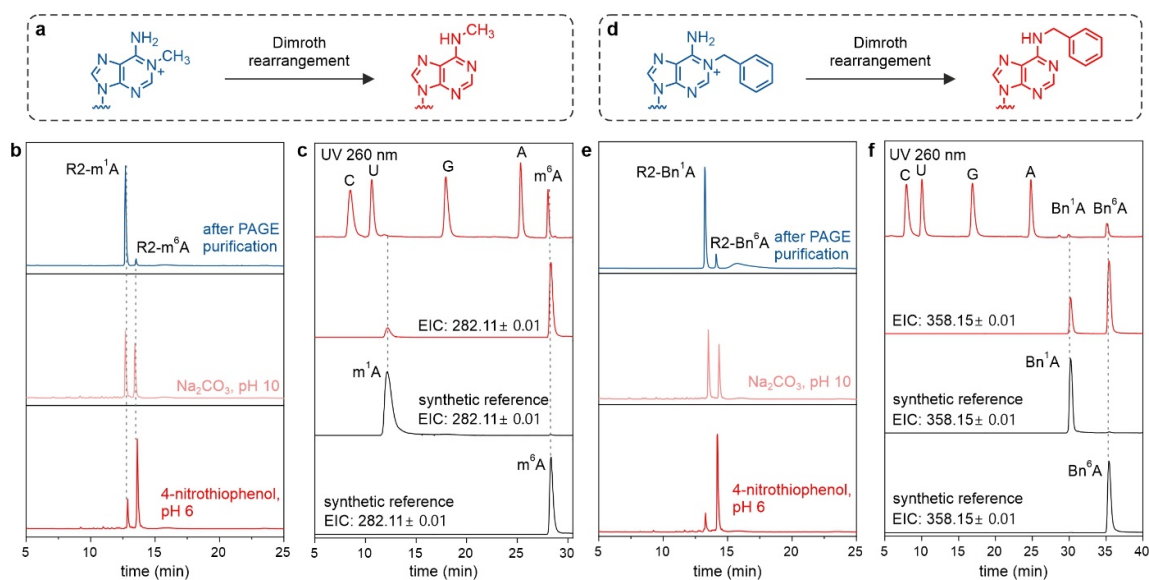


Figure S5: Dimroth rearrangement on *N*¹-modified RNAs (14-nt), R2-m¹A **(a)** and R2-Bn¹A **(d)**. Anion-exchange HPLC profile for harsh (light red) and mild (red) Dimroth rearrangement conditions on m¹A modified R2 **(b)** and Bn¹A modified R2. **(e)** LC-MS analysis of digested RNA R2 after Dimroth rearrangement for R2-m⁶A **(c)** and R2-Bn⁶A **(f)**. Digestion of RNA (200 pmol) performed with nuclease P1 and shrimp alkaline phosphatase at 37 °C for 1 h.

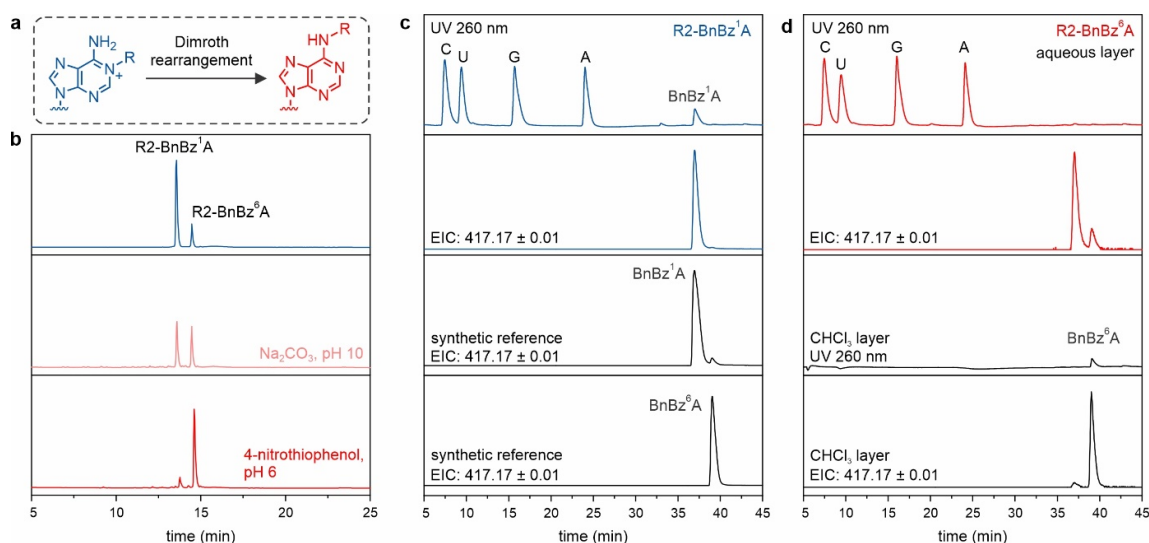


Figure S6: (a) Dimroth rearrangement converts N^1 - to N^6 -modified adenosine RNA R2 (14-nt). (b) Anion-exchange HPLC analysis of isolated N^1 -product from SNAPR reaction of R2 (5'-CCACUGAGAGCUUC-3') with BG-Bz (**9**) after Dimroth rearrangement reactions using Na₂CO₃ (pH 10), 60 °C, 1h (pink) or 4-nitrothiophenol (pH 6), 60 °C, 9 h (red). (c) LC-MS analysis of the digested BG-Bz modified RNA (R2-BnBz¹A). The UV trace (260 nm) and extracted ion chromatogram (EIC, detecting $m/z = 417.17 \pm 0.01$) are shown. Digestion of RNA (200 pmol) performed with nuclease P1 and shrimp alkaline phosphatase at 37 °C for 1 h. (d). LC-MS analysis of digested BG-Bz modified R1 after Dimroth rearrangement (R2-BnBz⁶A). The UV trace (260 nm) and extracted ion chromatogram (EIC, detecting $m/z = 417.17 \pm 0.01$) are shown. After extraction of the digested nucleosides, BnBz⁶A was only detected in the organic, but not in the aqueous layer due to its low solubility in aqueous solvents.

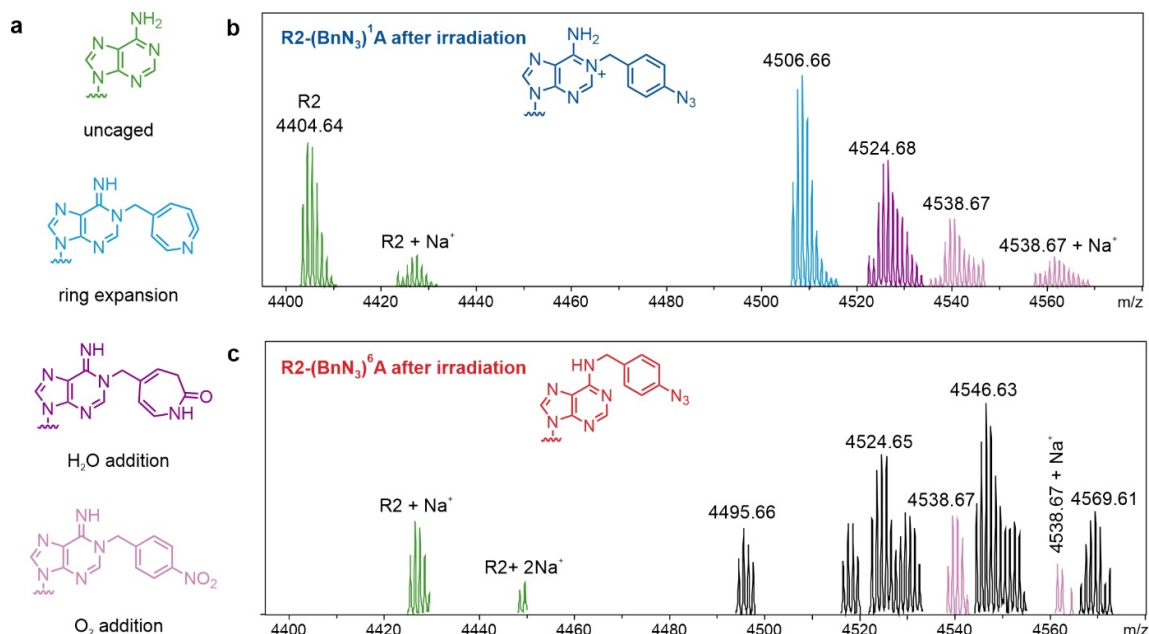


Figure S7: (a) Intermediates formed during Irradiation of R2-(BnN₃)¹A and R2-(BnN₃)⁶A. (b) and (c) Mass analysis for R2-(BnN₃)¹A and R2-(BnN₃)⁶A after irradiation at 312 nm in H₂O (200 pmol for 5 min). The mass corresponding to the starting material R2-(BnN₃)¹A and R2-(BnN₃)⁶A (4534.66 a.u.) was not observed after irradiation.

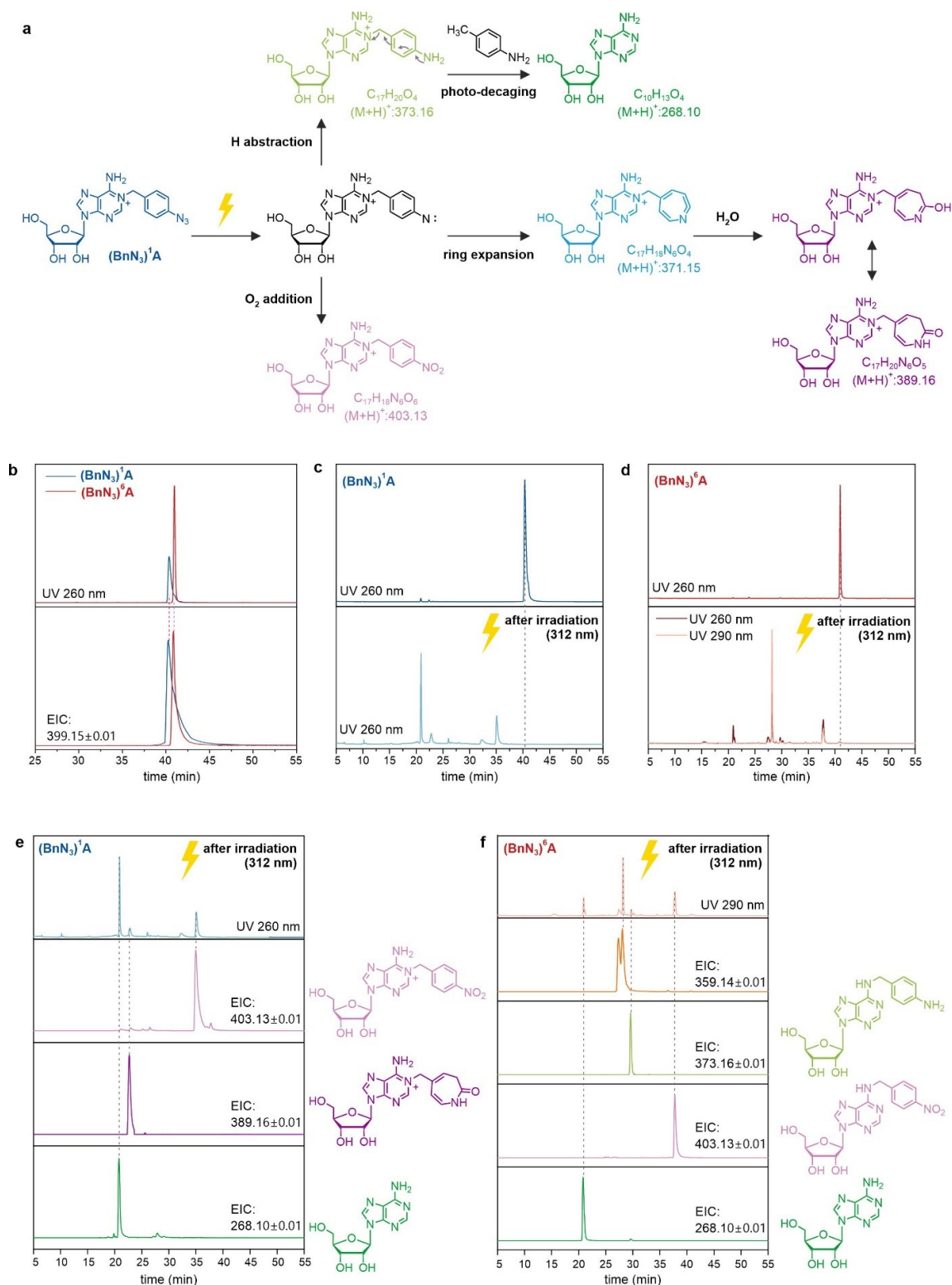


Figure S8: (a) Possible reaction pathways including intermediates formed for the photo-uncaging of $(\text{BnN}_3)^1\text{A}$ after exposure to light. (b) LC-MS for $(\text{BnN}_3)^1\text{A}$ and $(\text{BnN}_3)^6\text{A}$ nucleosides (c), (d) LC-MS profile for $(\text{BnN}_3)^1\text{A}$ and $(\text{BnN}_3)^6\text{A}$ before and after irradiation at 312 nm. (e), (f) LC-MS profiles for $(\text{BnN}_3)^1\text{A}$ and $(\text{BnN}_3)^6\text{A}$ after irradiation at 312 nm reveals the formation of different intermediates.

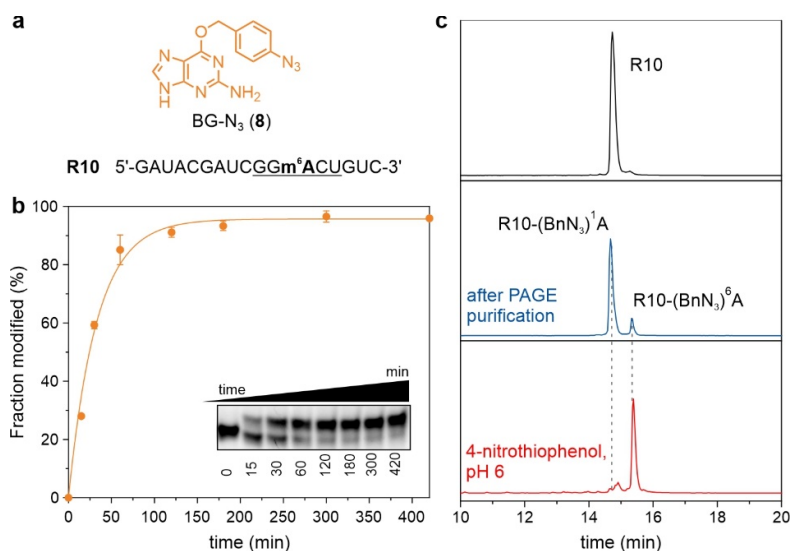


Figure S9: (a) Structure of cofactor and sequence of substrate RNA R10 (17-nt) containing the GGm⁶ACU motif (**8**). (b) Time course of MTR1m2 catalyzed modification of R10 using cofactor **8** fit to a pseudo-first order kinetic. Insert shows a representative gel image of two independent replicates for the reaction analyzed on 20 % denaturing PAGE (100 μ M **8**, 40 mM MgCl₂, pH 6, 25 °C) (c) Anion-exchange HPLC profile for *trans*-alkylation with cofactor **8** before and after Dimroth rearrangement (100 pmol R10-(BnN₃)¹A, 25 mM 4-nitrothiophenol, 5 mM THP in 5% (v/v) DMF, pH 6.0, 60 °C, 9 h). The yield for R10-(BnN₃)⁶A was 84%.

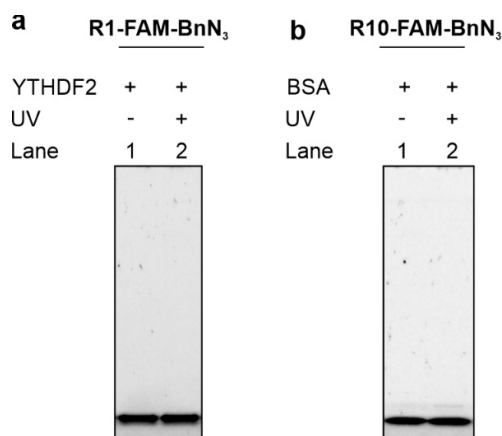


Figure S10: SDS page analysis for controls of photo-crosslinking. (a) Random RNA R1-FAM-BnN₃ not containing the GGm⁶ACU motif (b) R10-FAM-BnN₃ together with BSA protein shows no crosslinking.

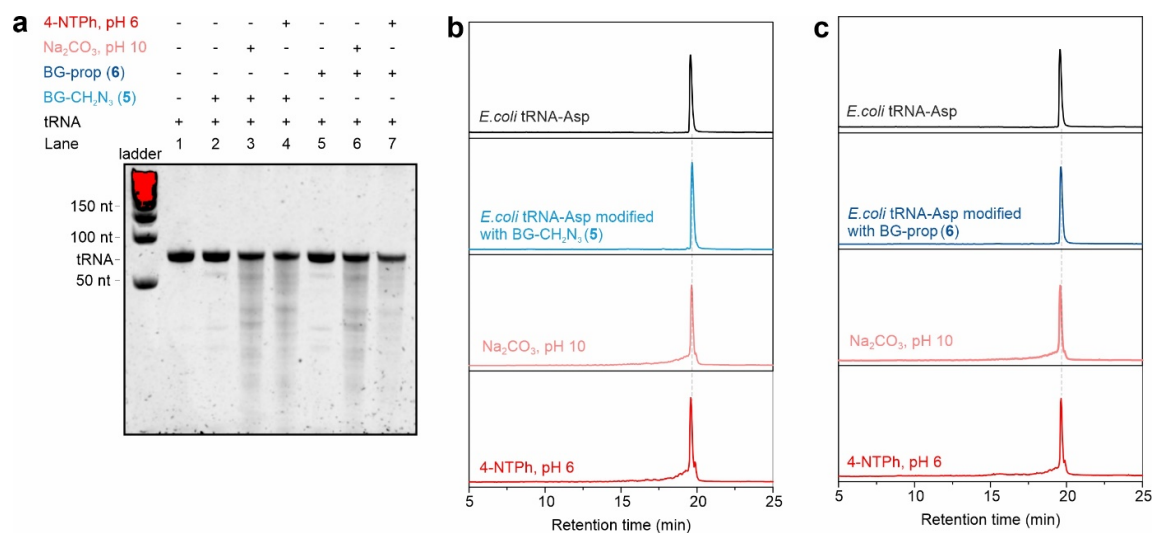


Figure S11. Dimroth rearrangement for converting *N*¹-alkylated-A58 into *N*⁶-alkylated A58, analyzed by a) PAGE and b,c) anion exchange HPLC.

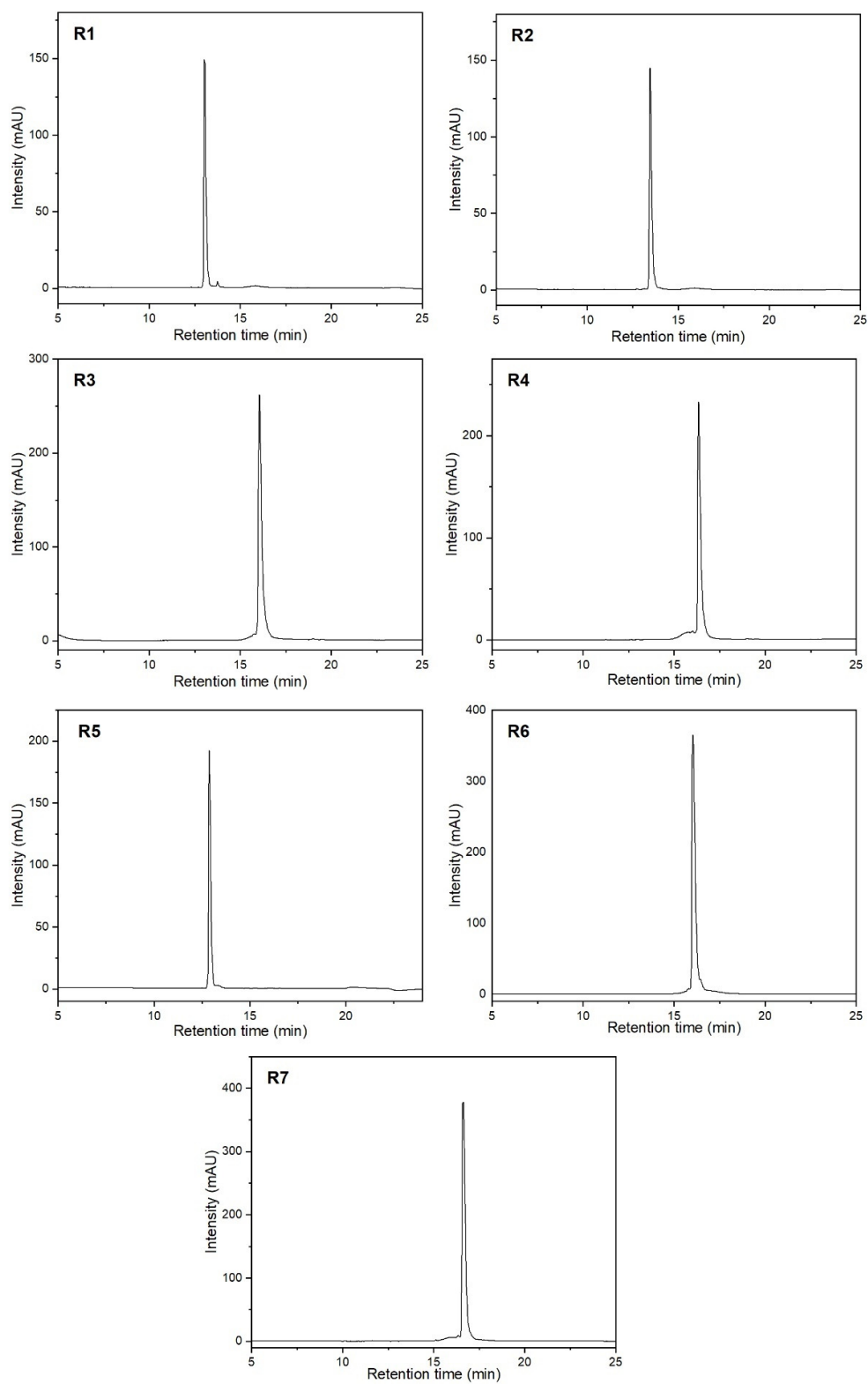


Figure S12: Anion-exchange HPLC profile for RNA R1-R7 (260 nm) to confirm purity of the RNAs.

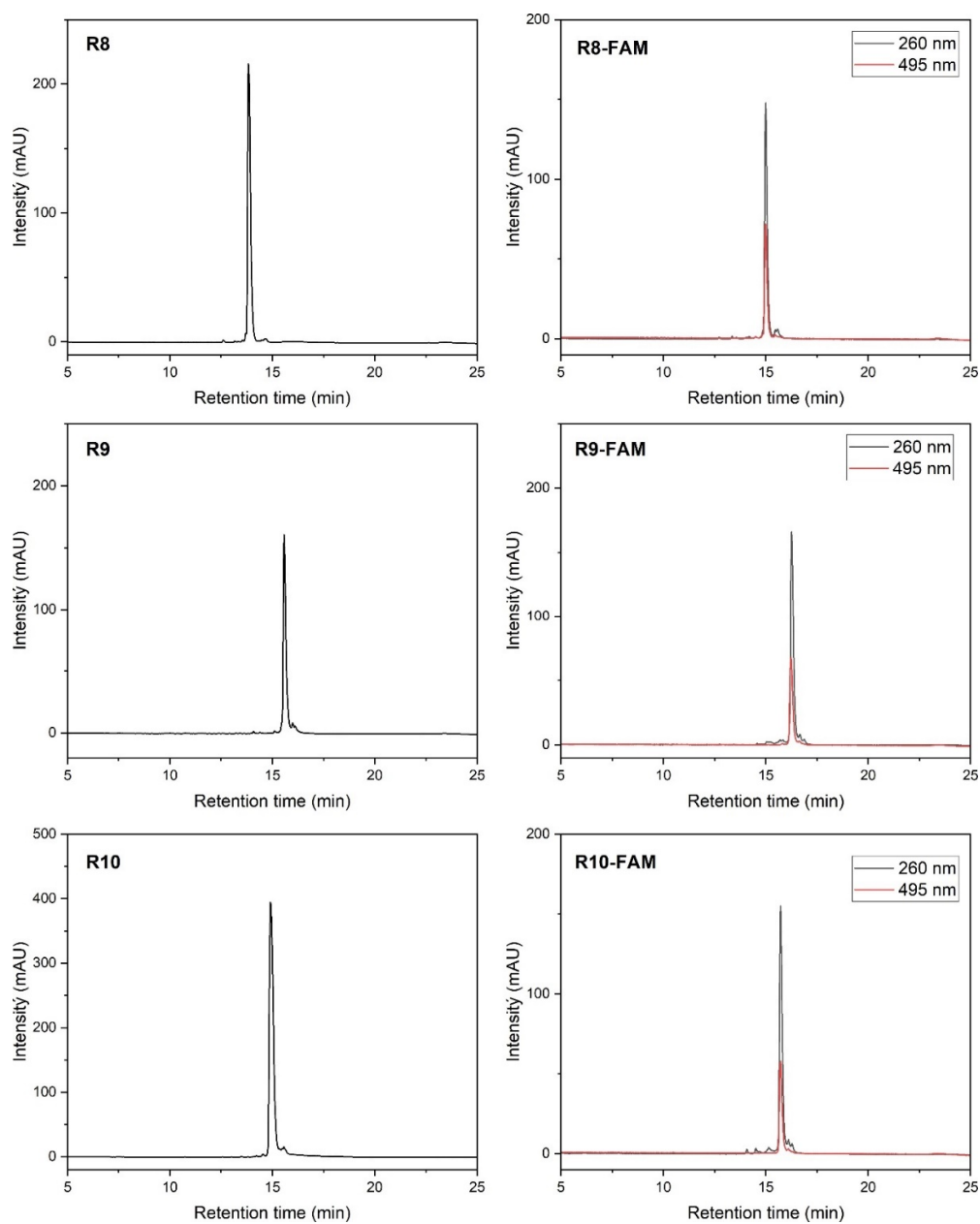
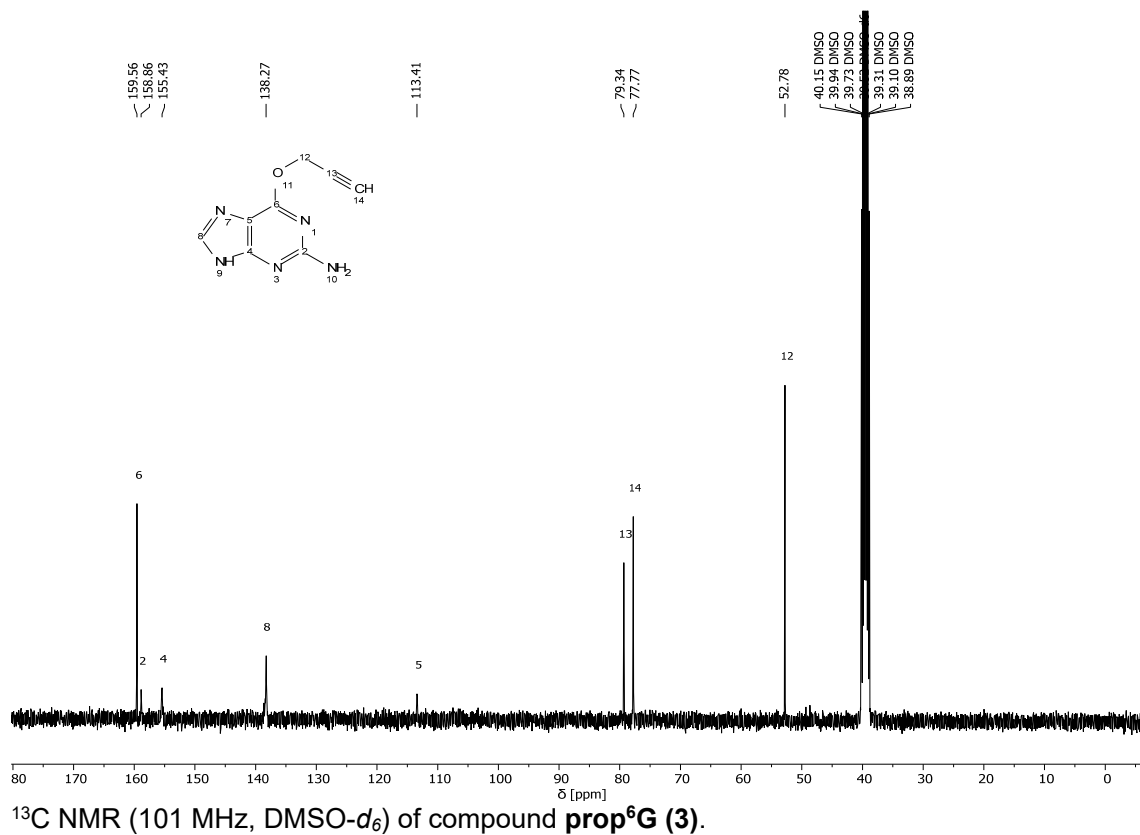
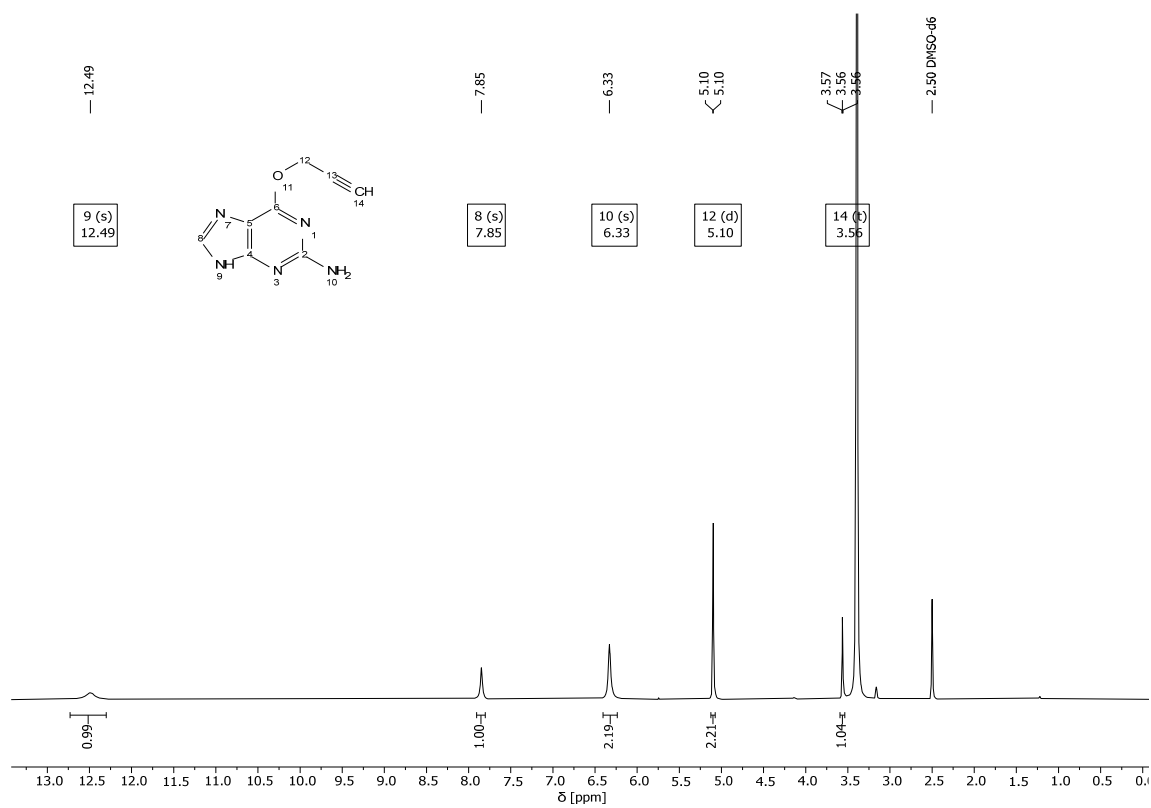
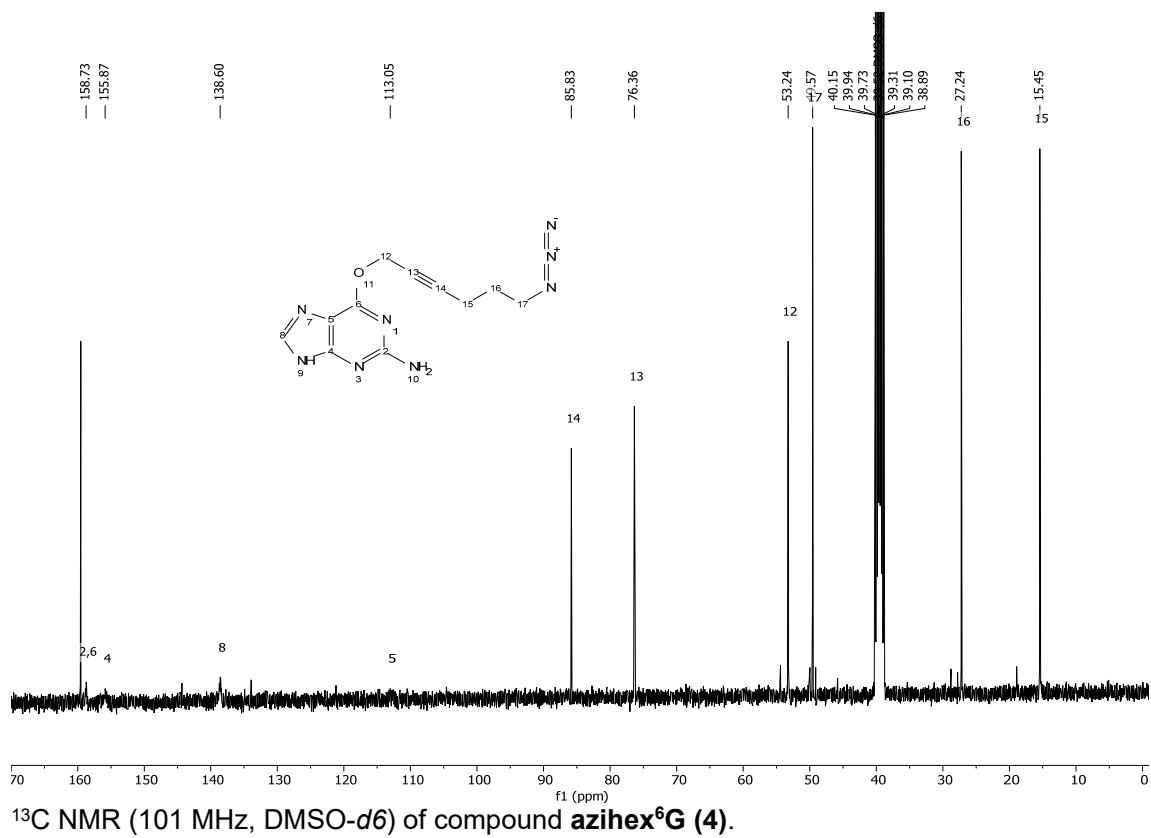
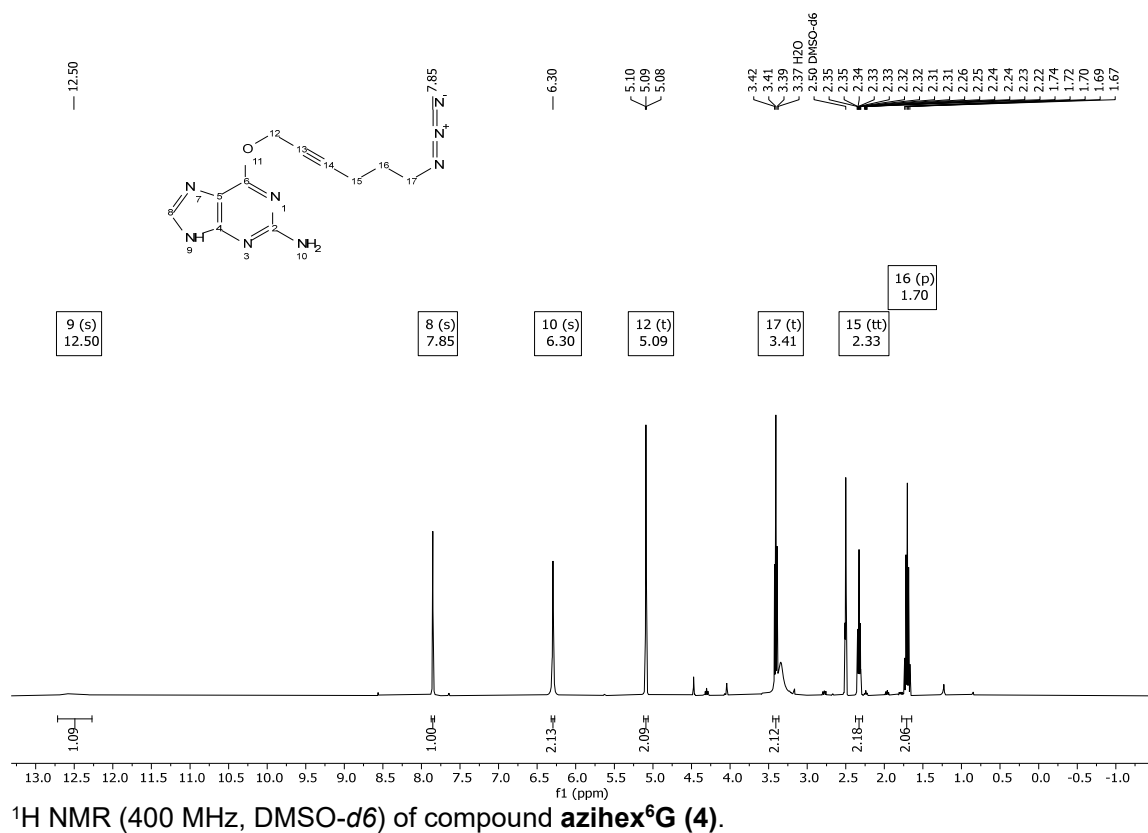
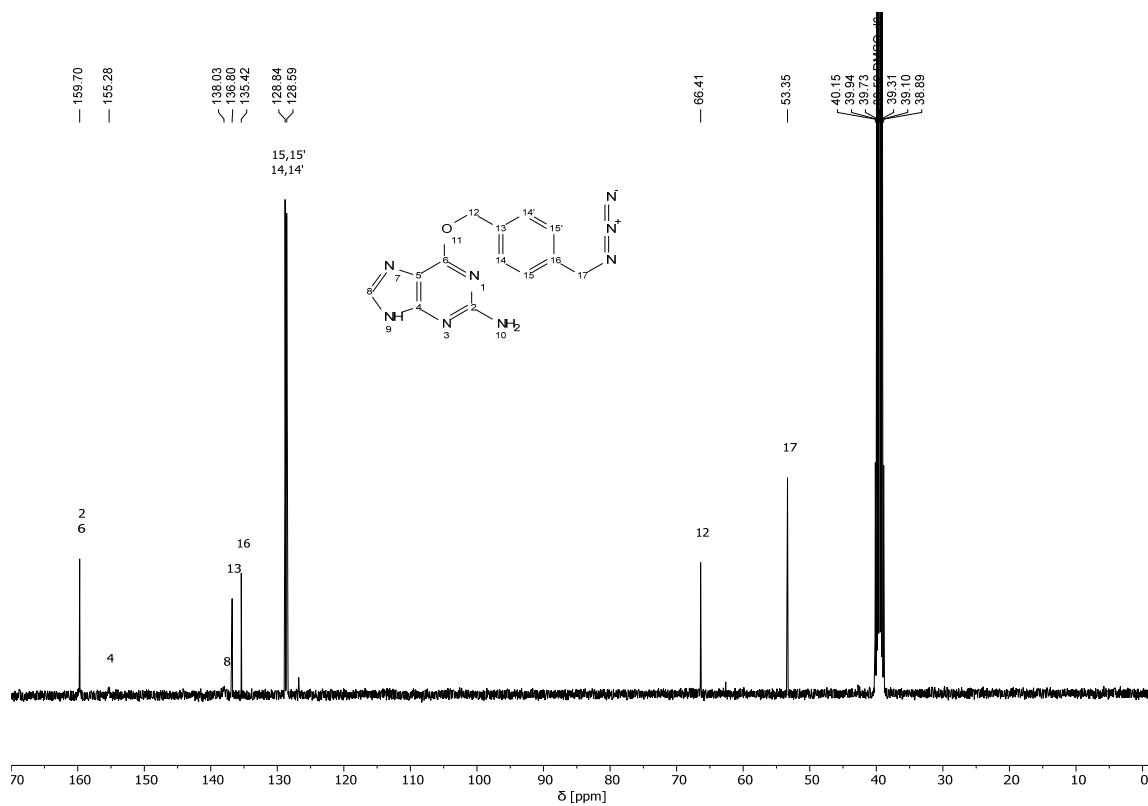
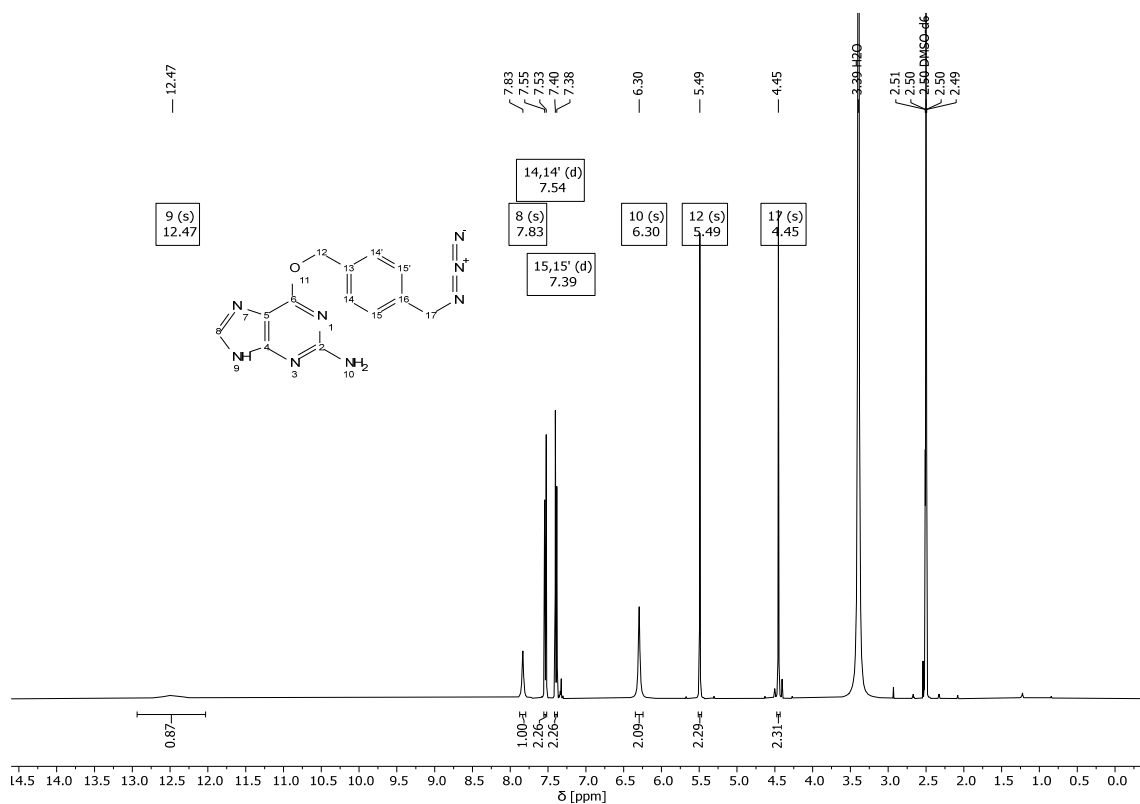


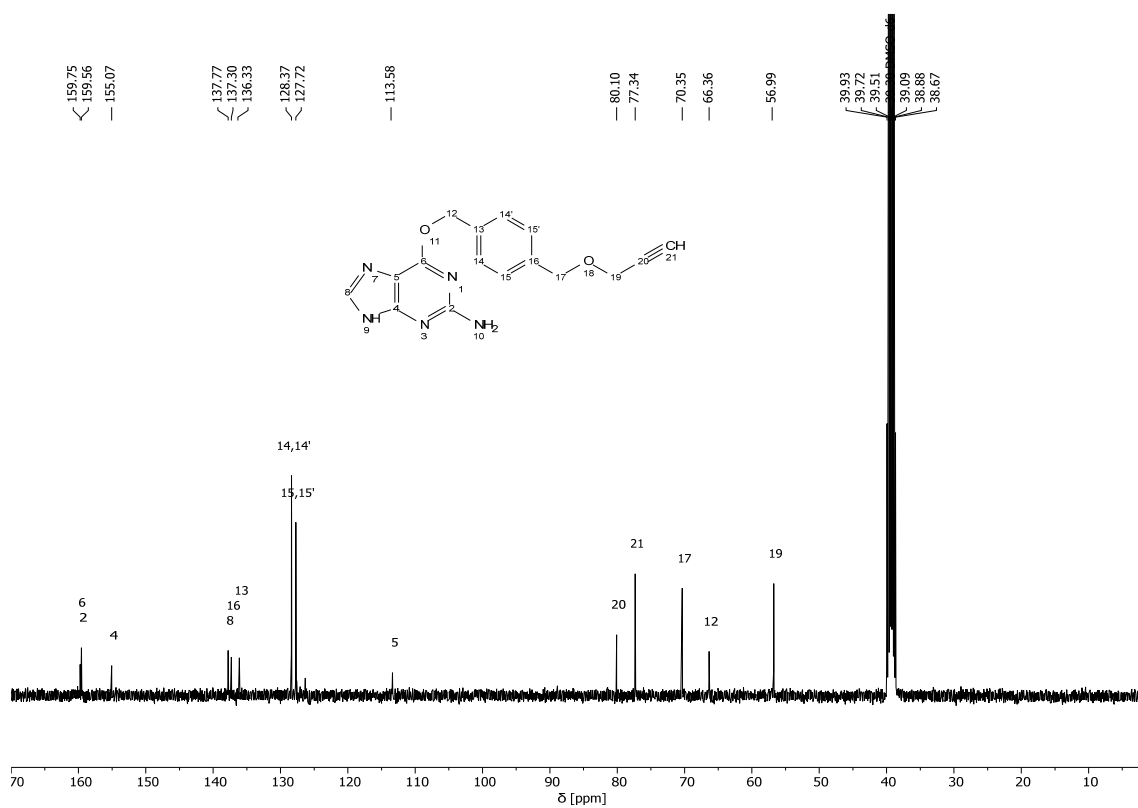
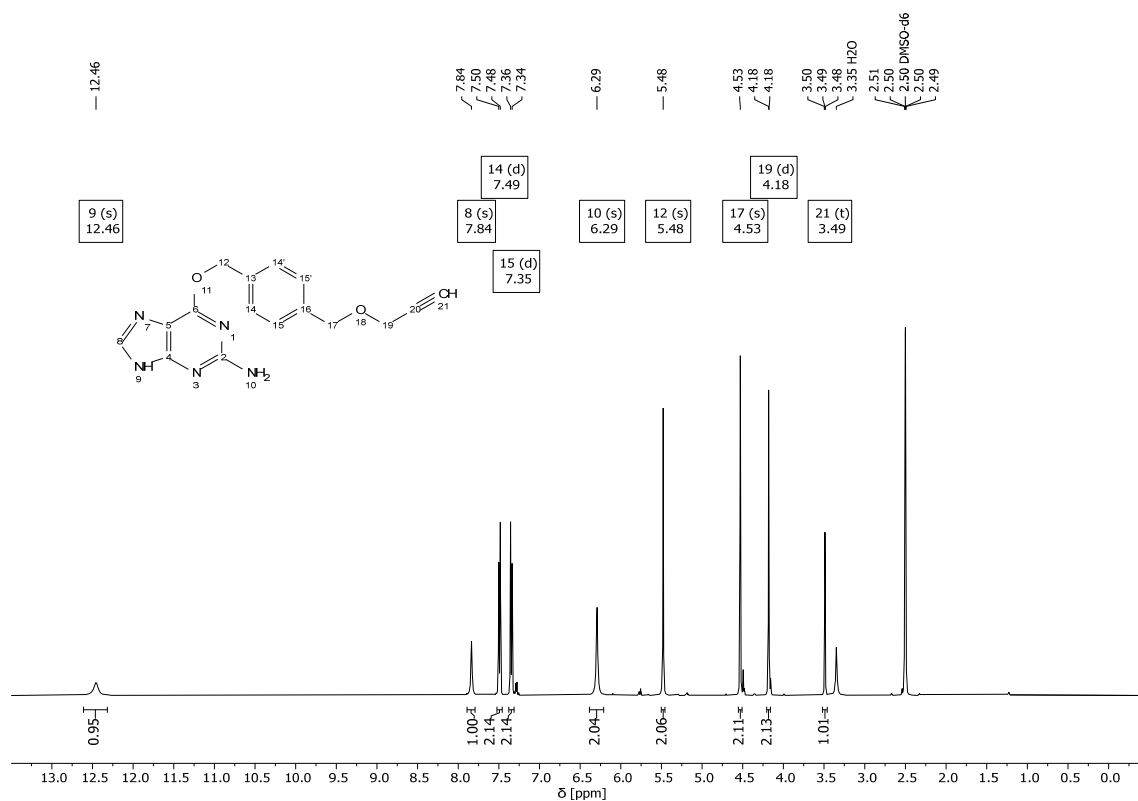
Figure S13: Anion-exchange HPLC profile for RNA R8-R10 (260 nm) and FAM-labeled R8-R10 (260 and 495 nm) to confirm purity of the RNAs.

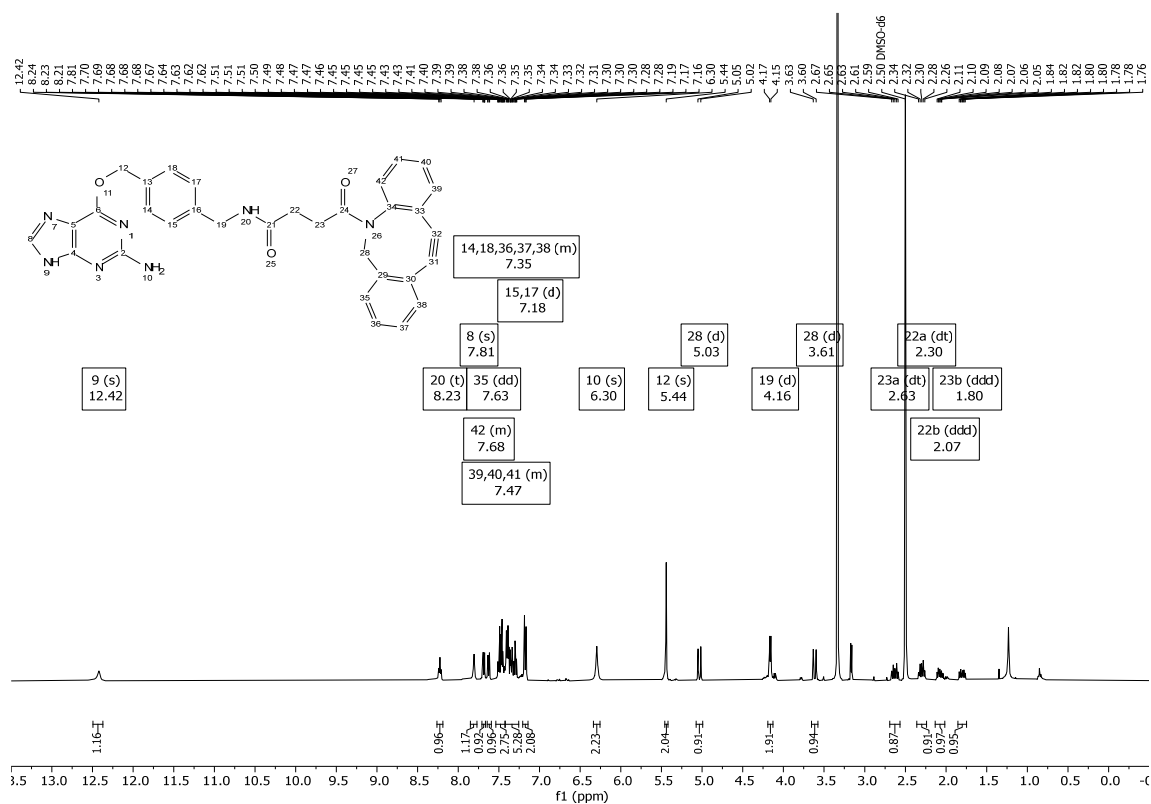
13 NMR spectra



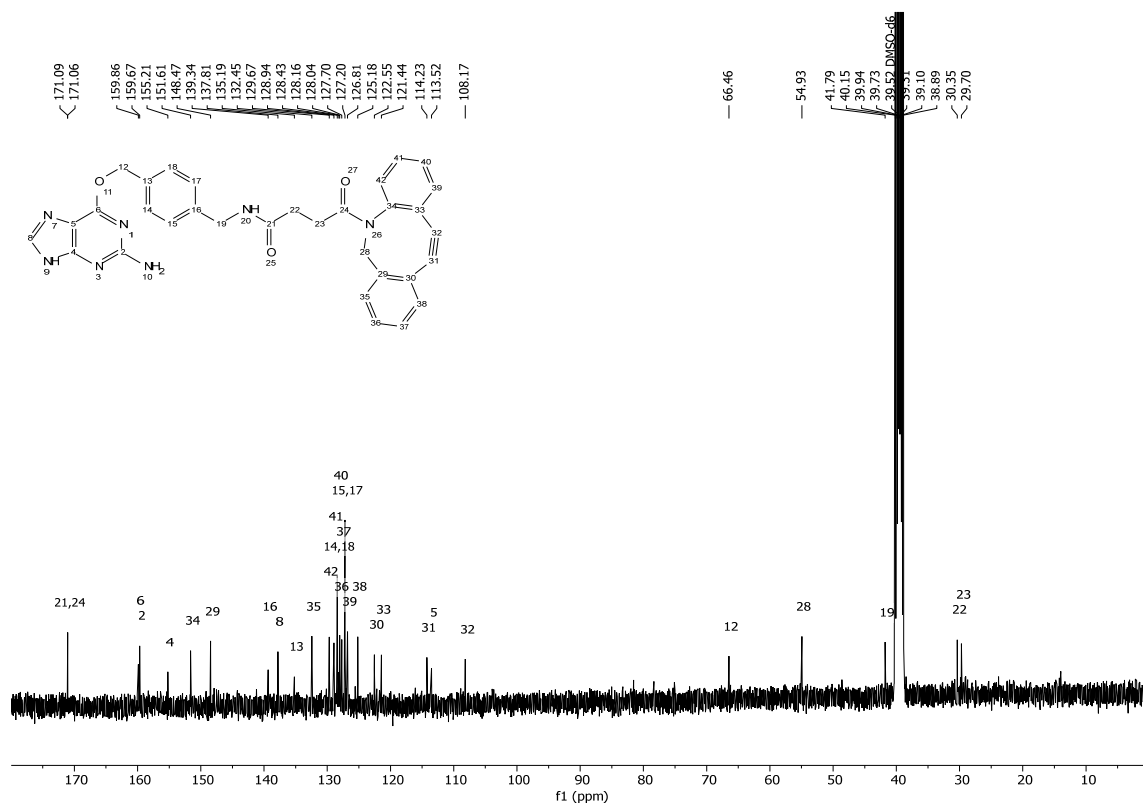




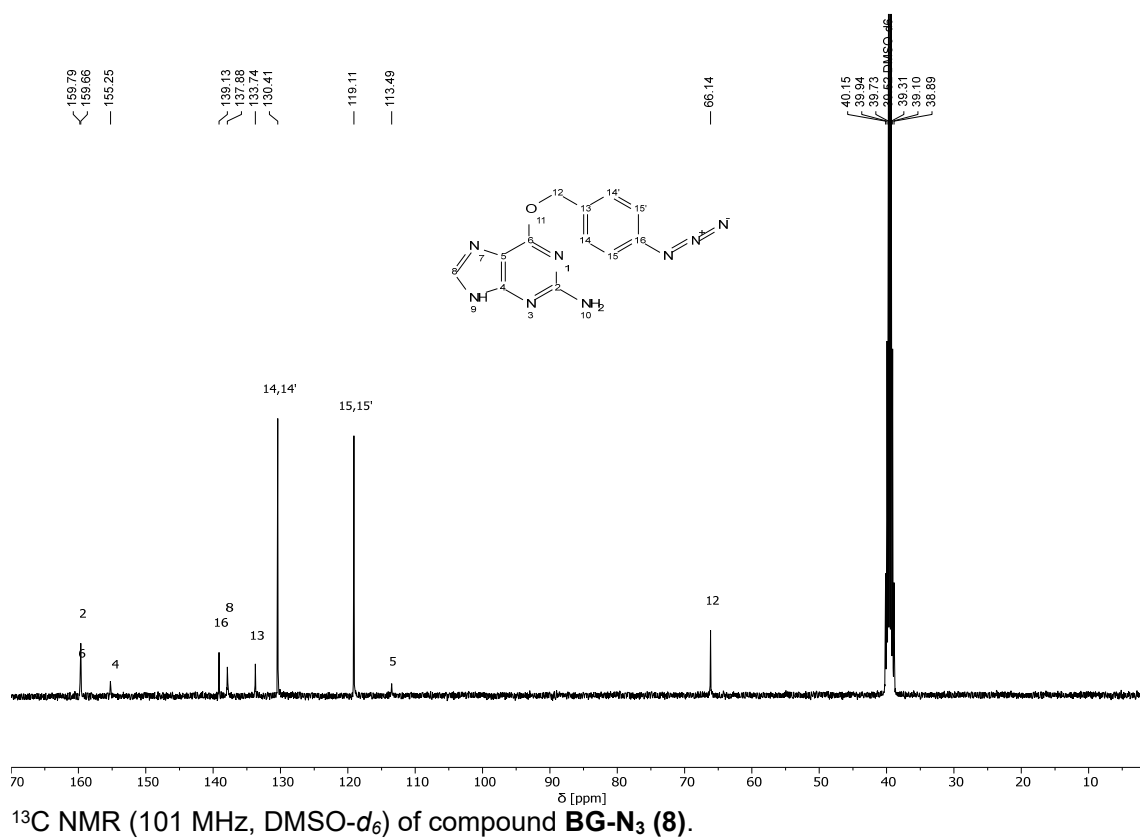
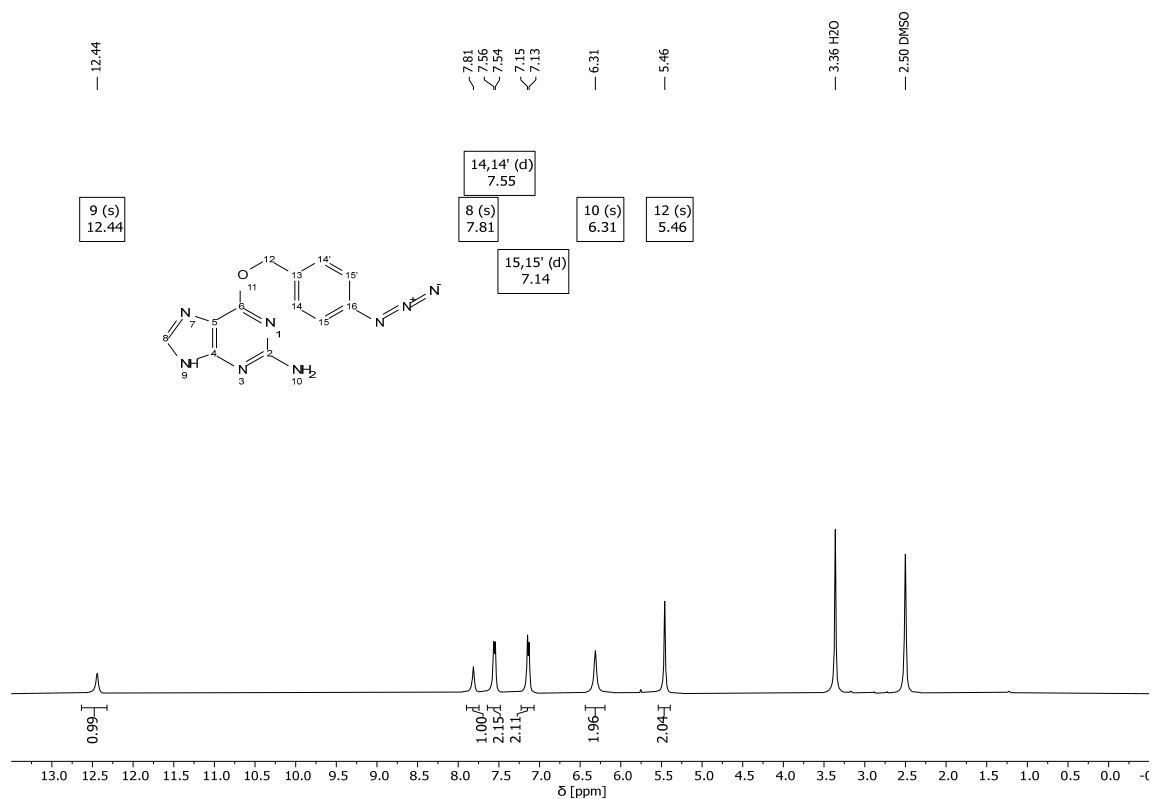


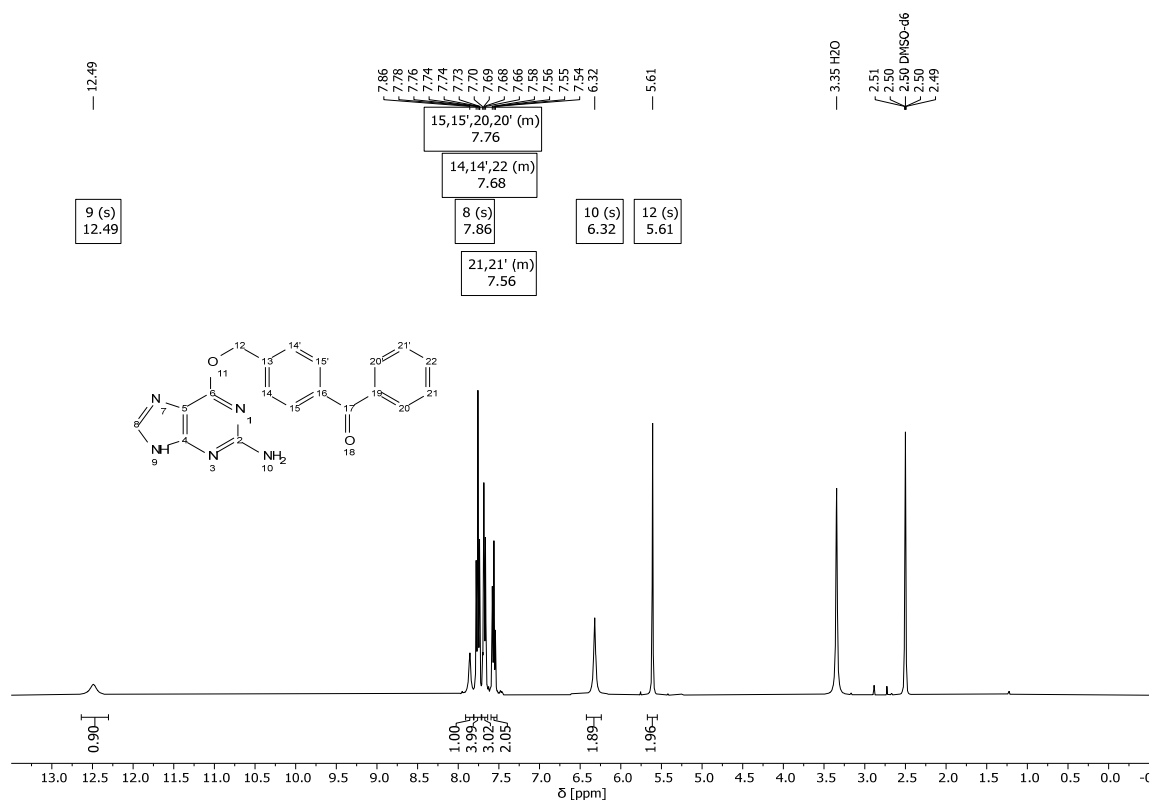


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound BG-DBCO (7).

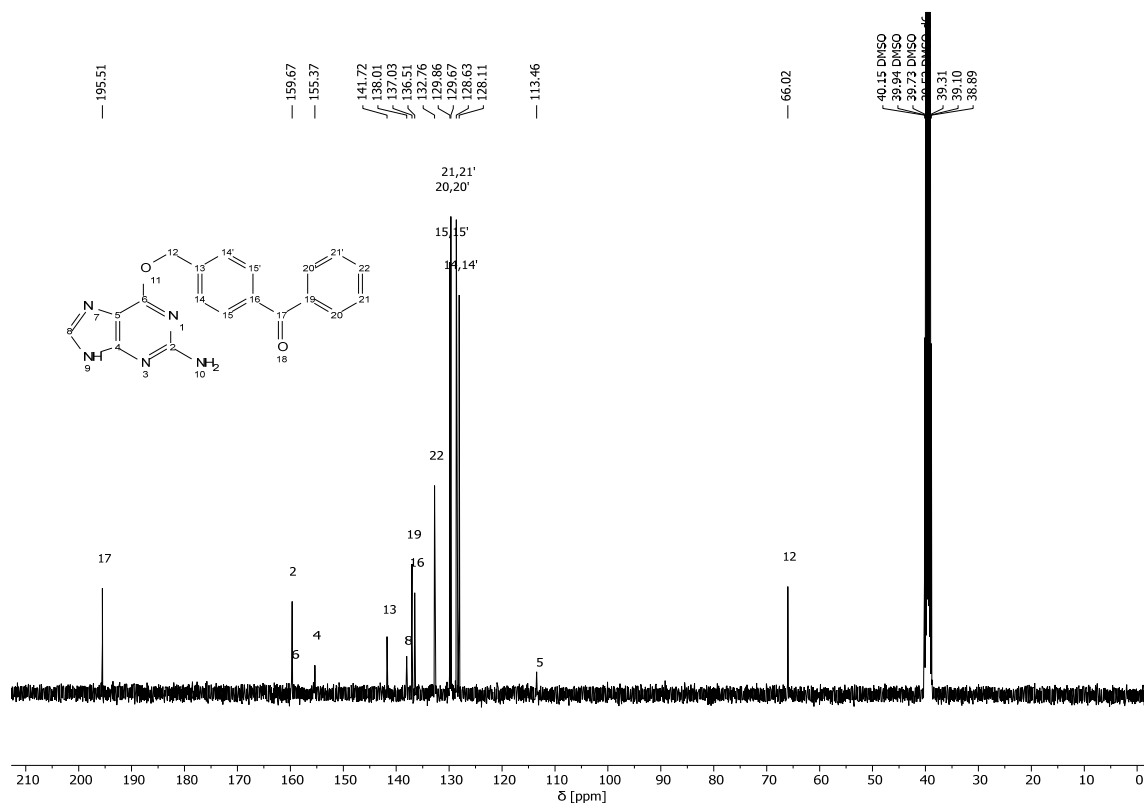


¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound BG-DBCO (7).

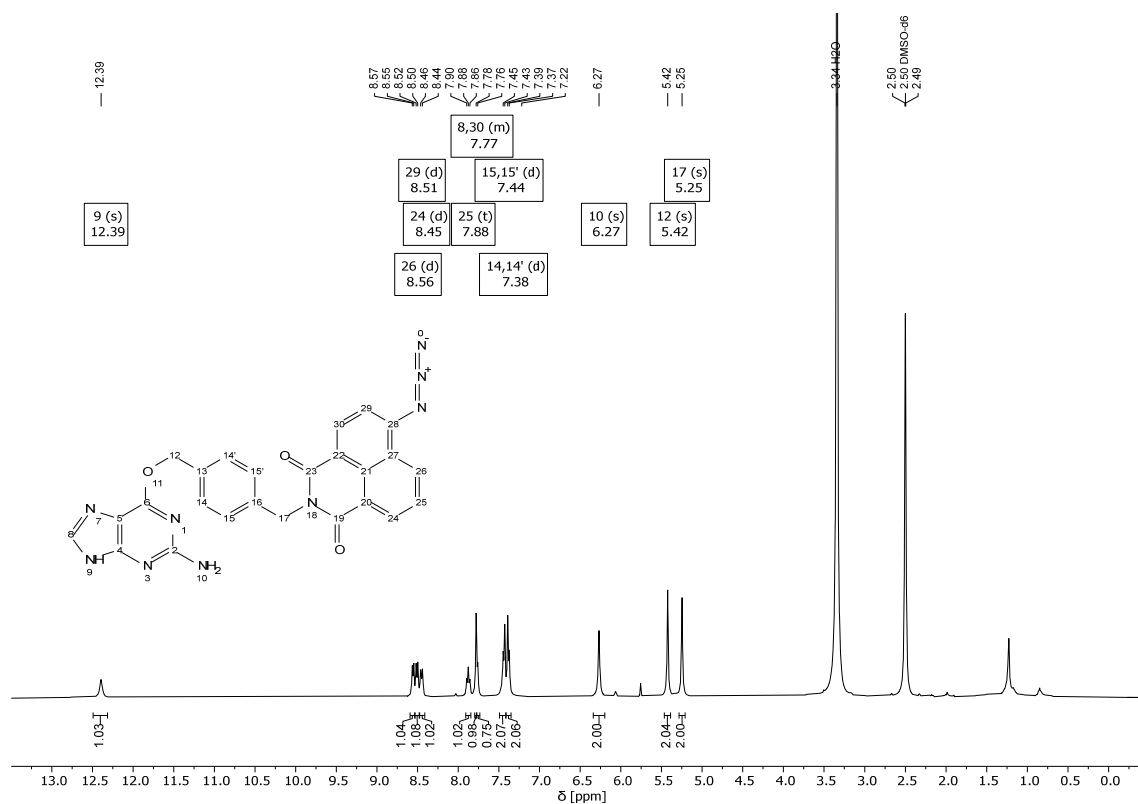




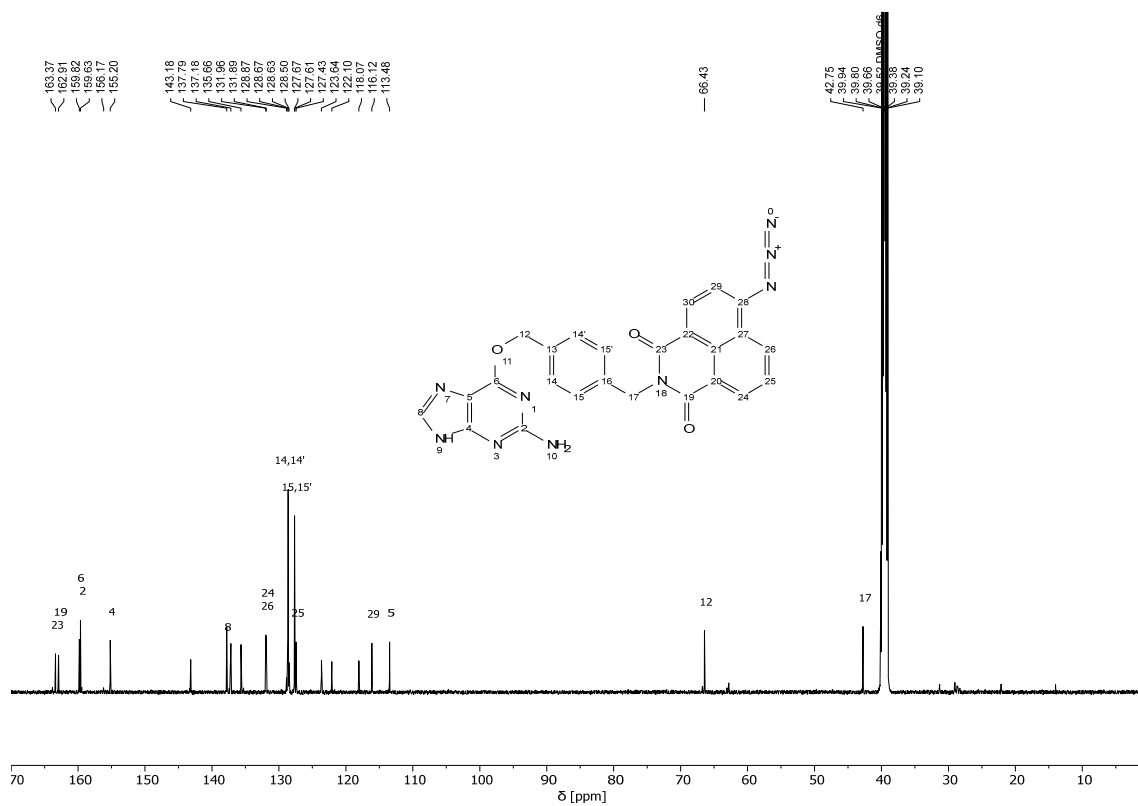
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound BG-Bz (9).



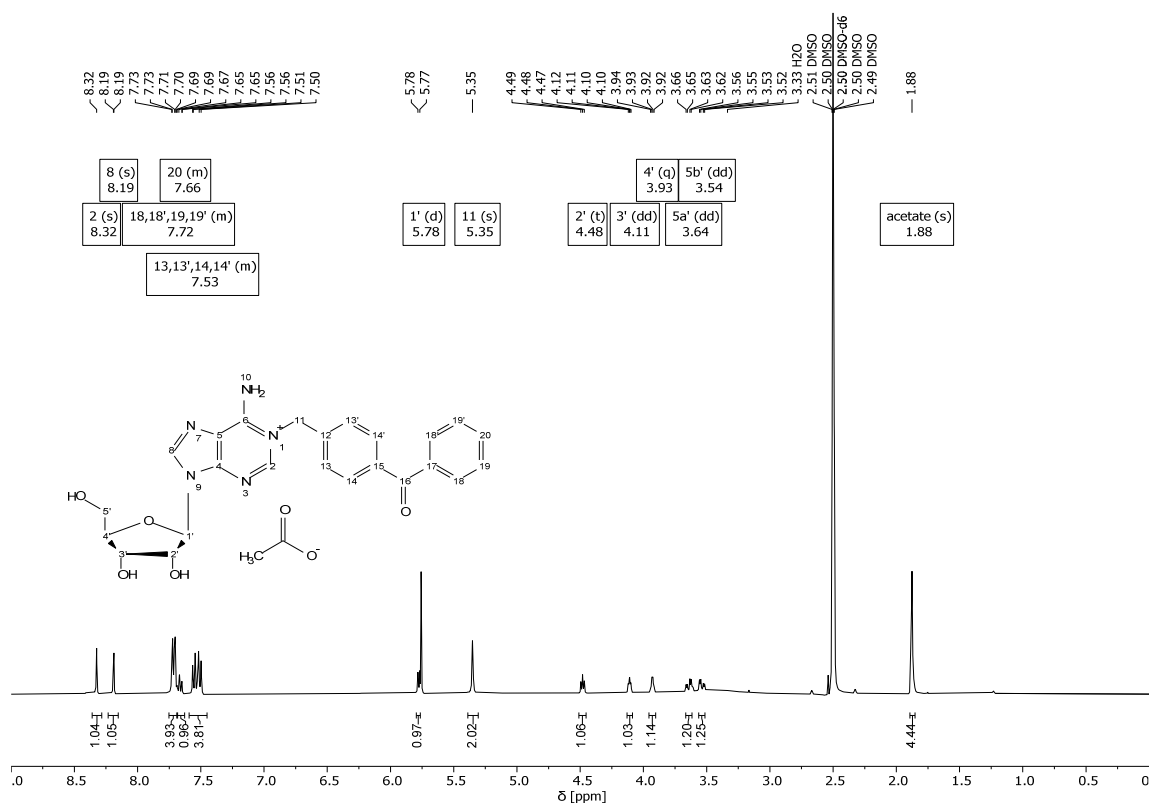
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound BG-Bz (9).



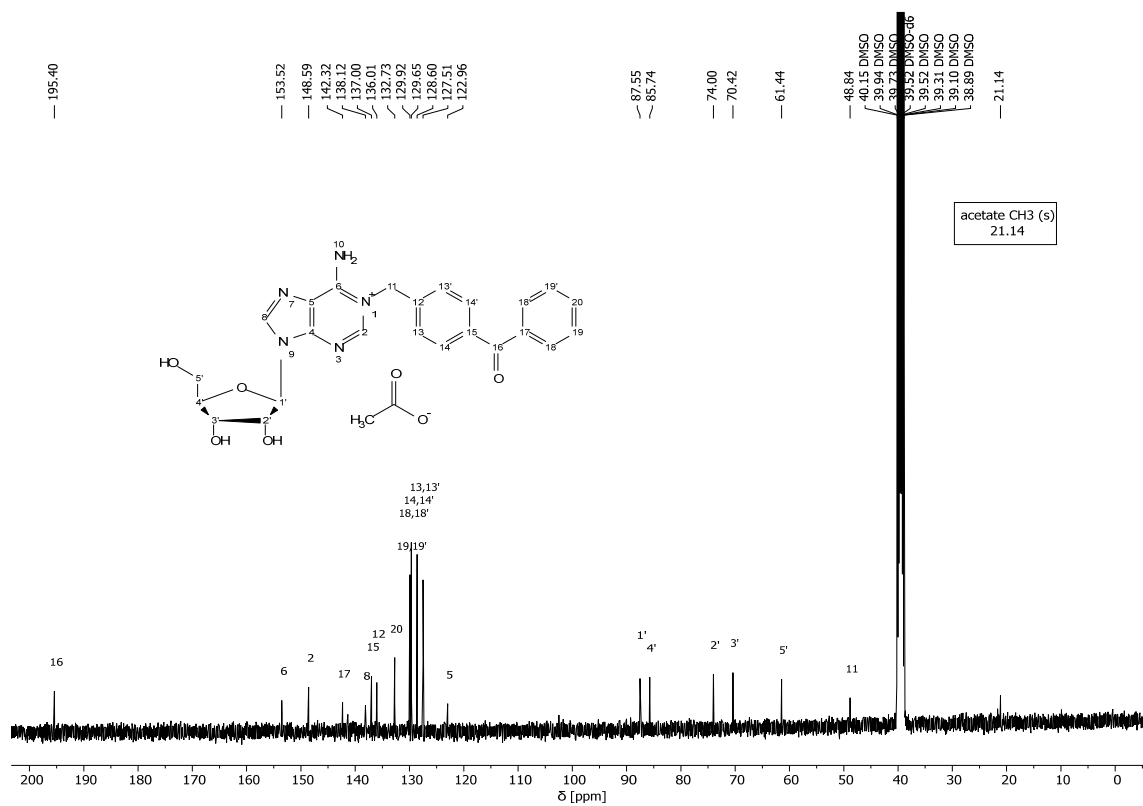
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound **BG-AzNP (10)**.



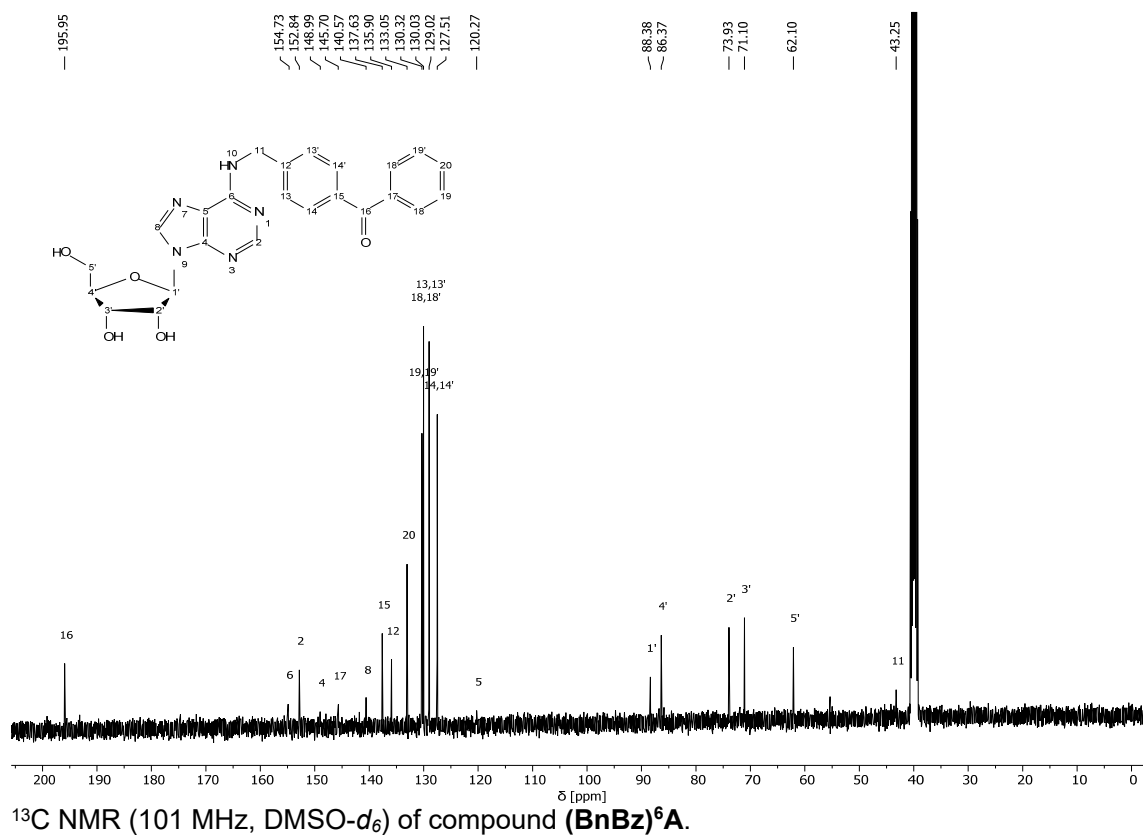
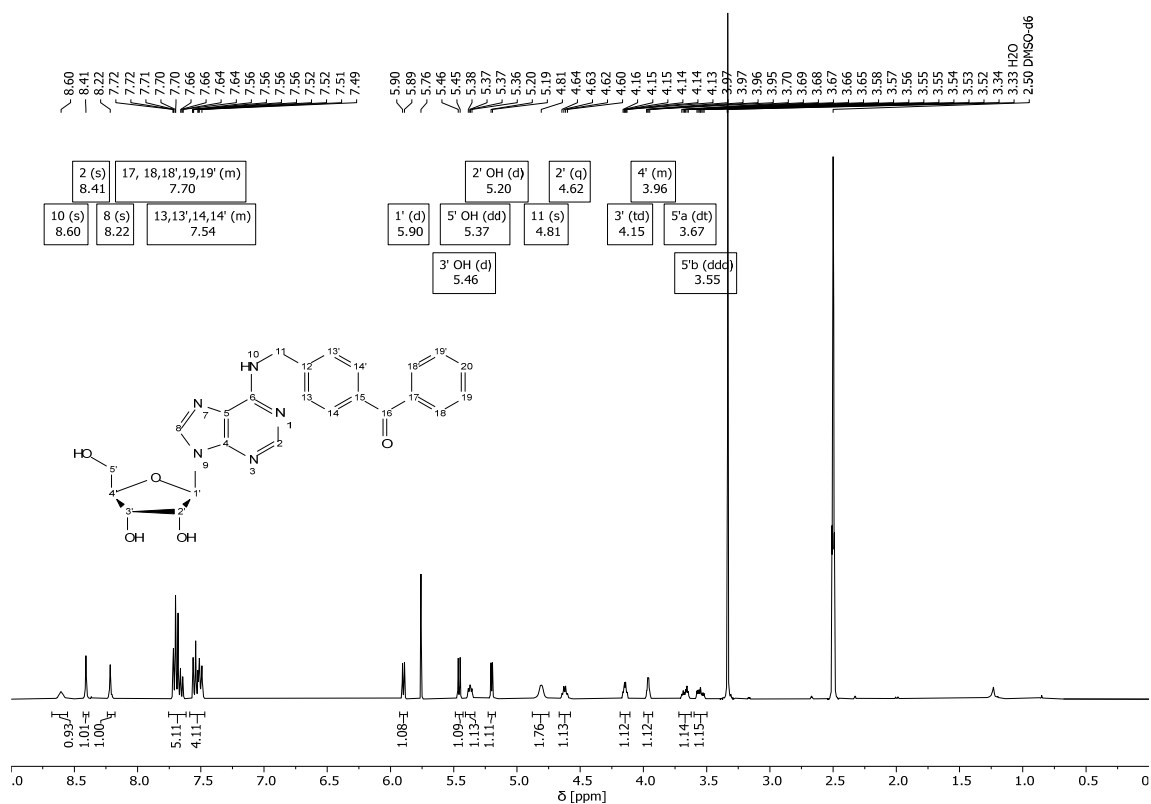
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound **BG-AzNP (10)**.

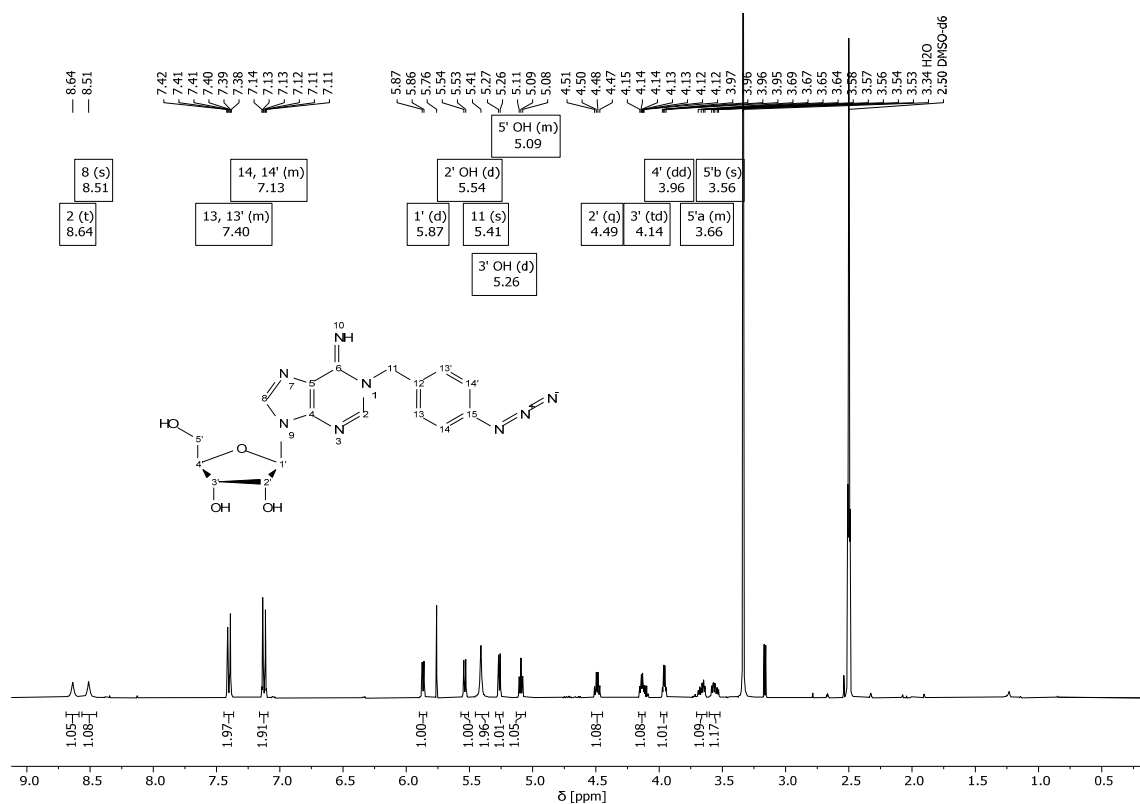


^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) of compound **(BnBz) 1 A**.

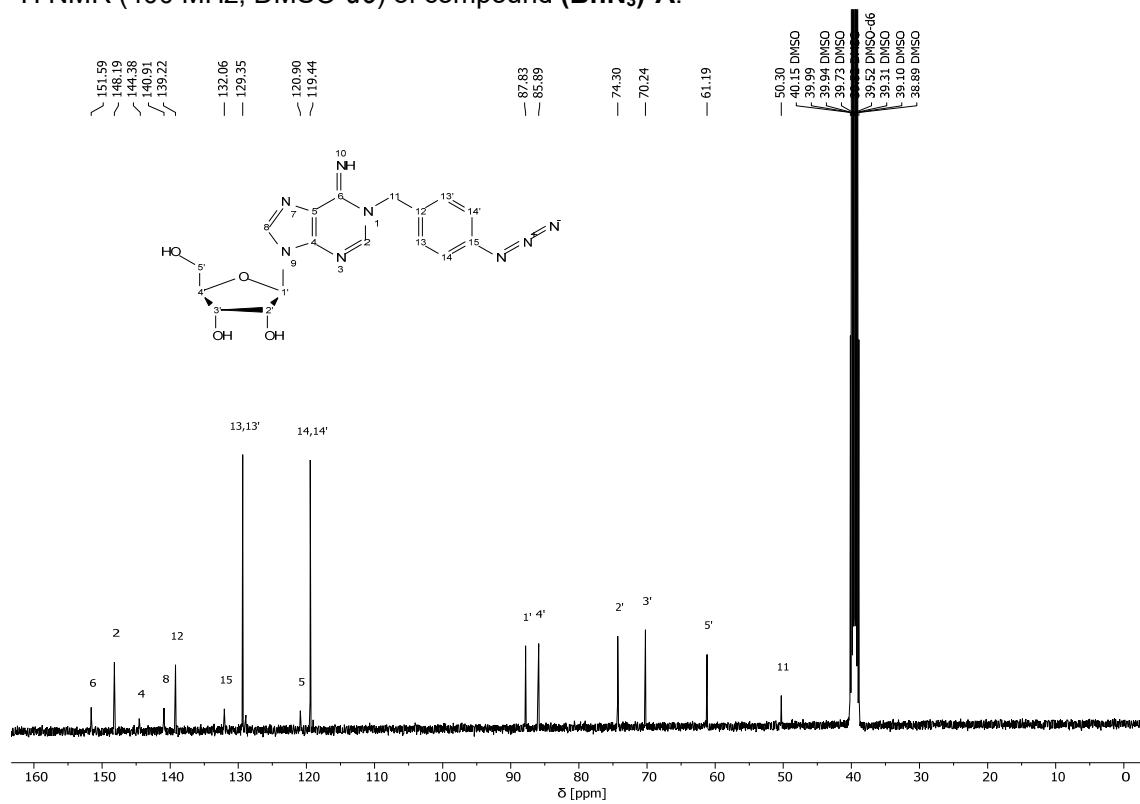


^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) of compound **(BnBz) 1 A**.

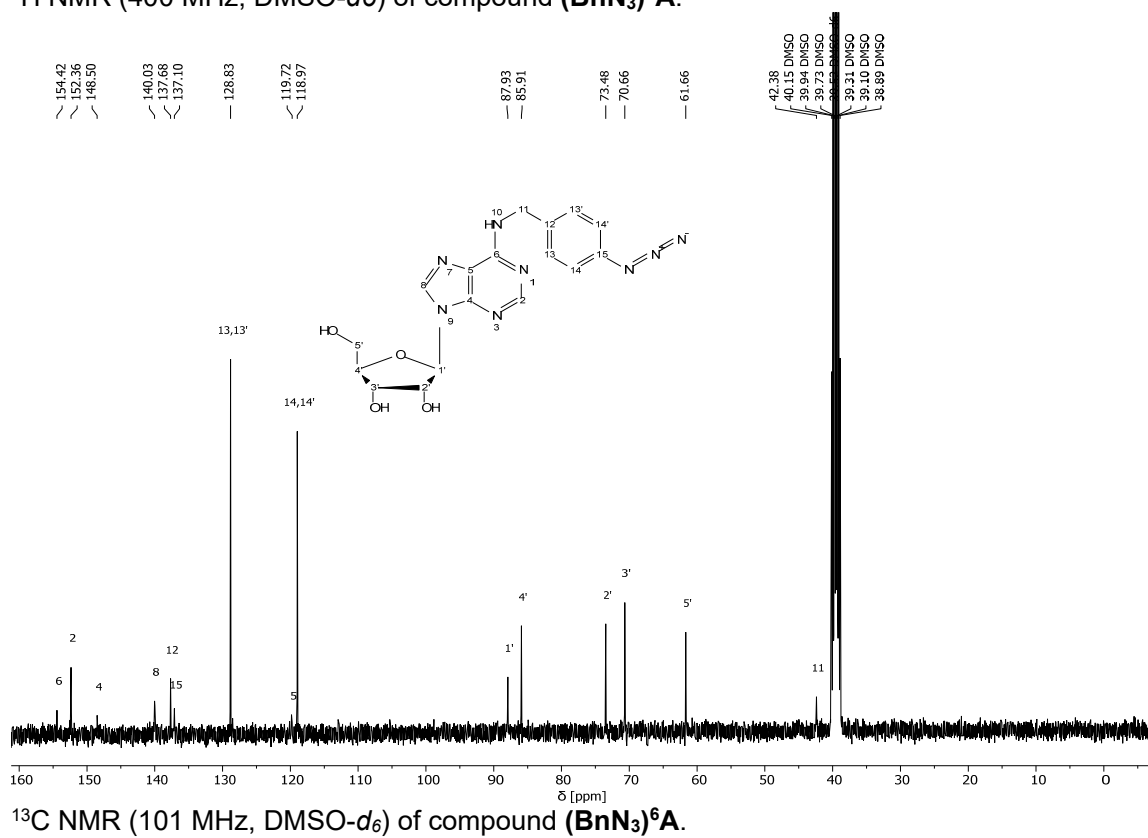
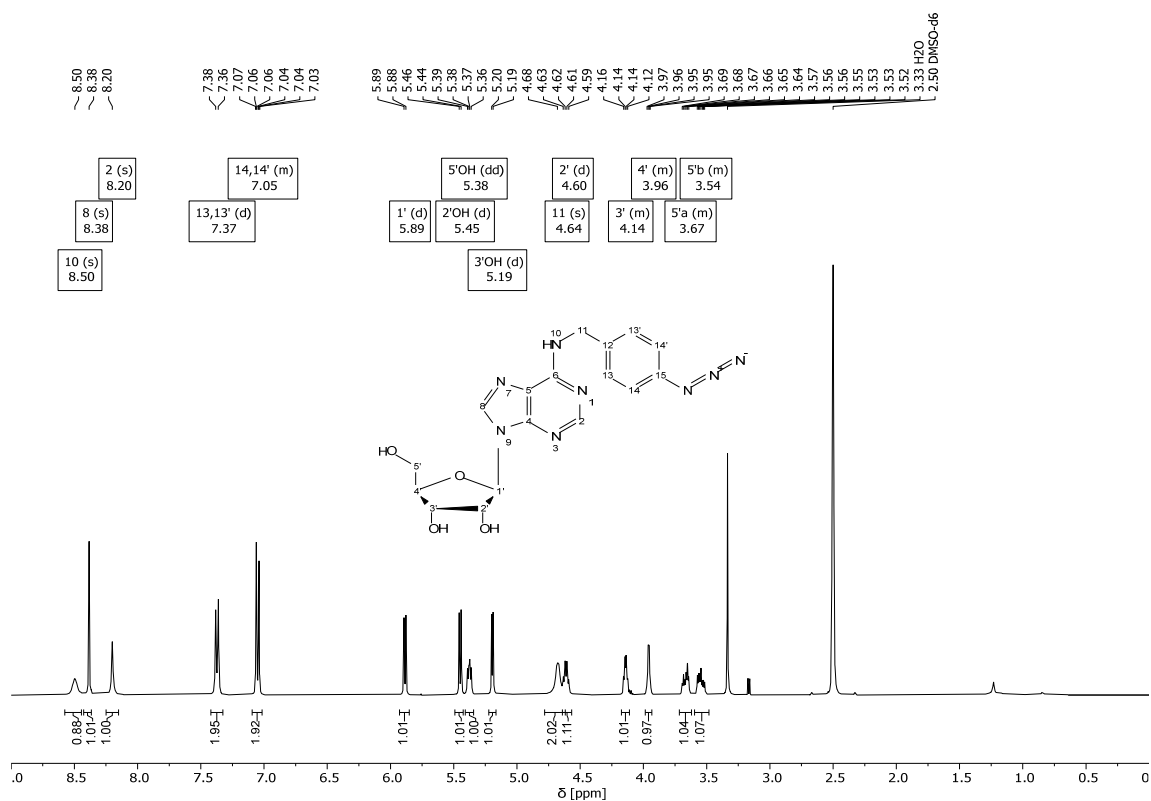




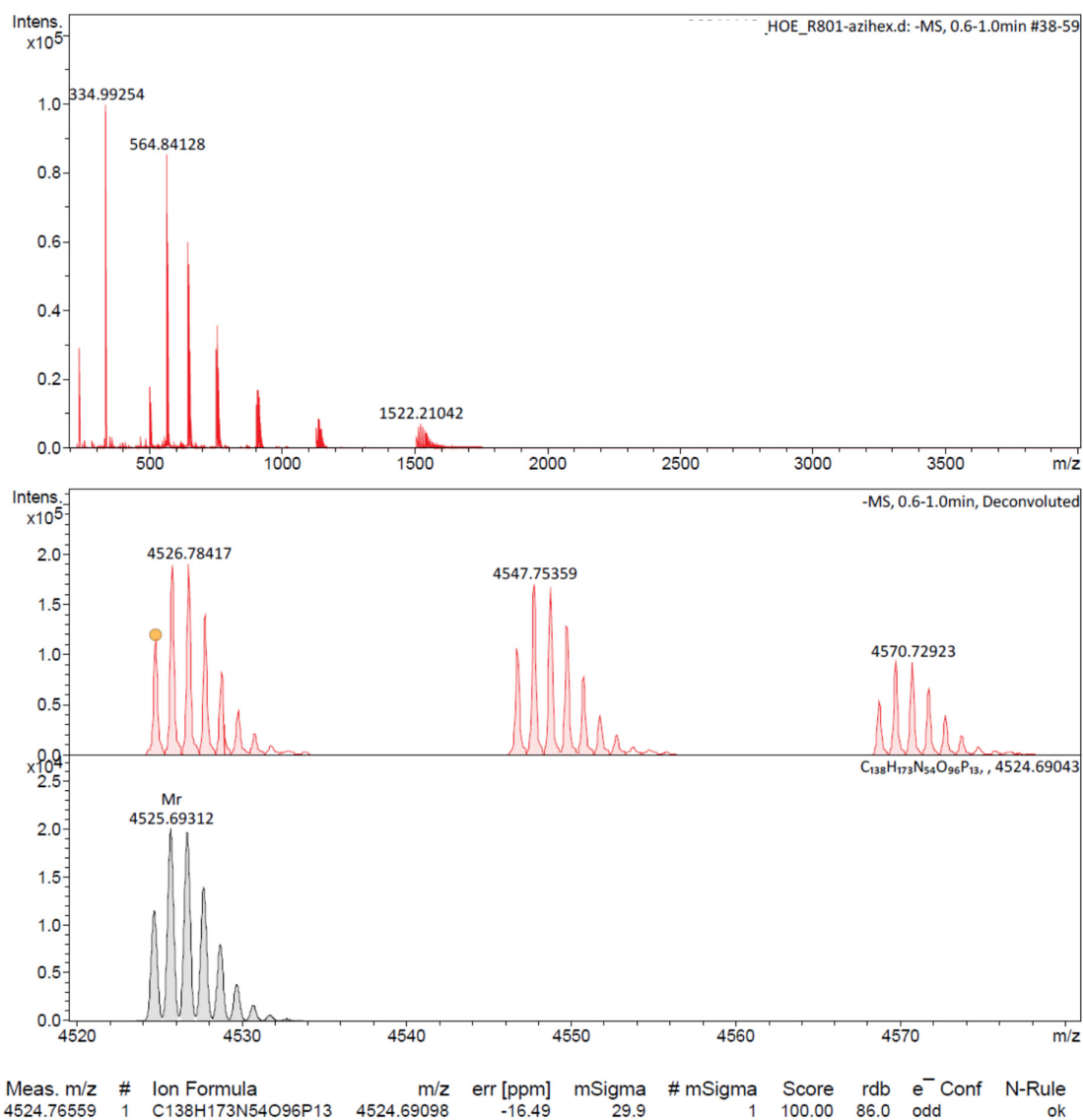
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound (BnN₃)¹A.



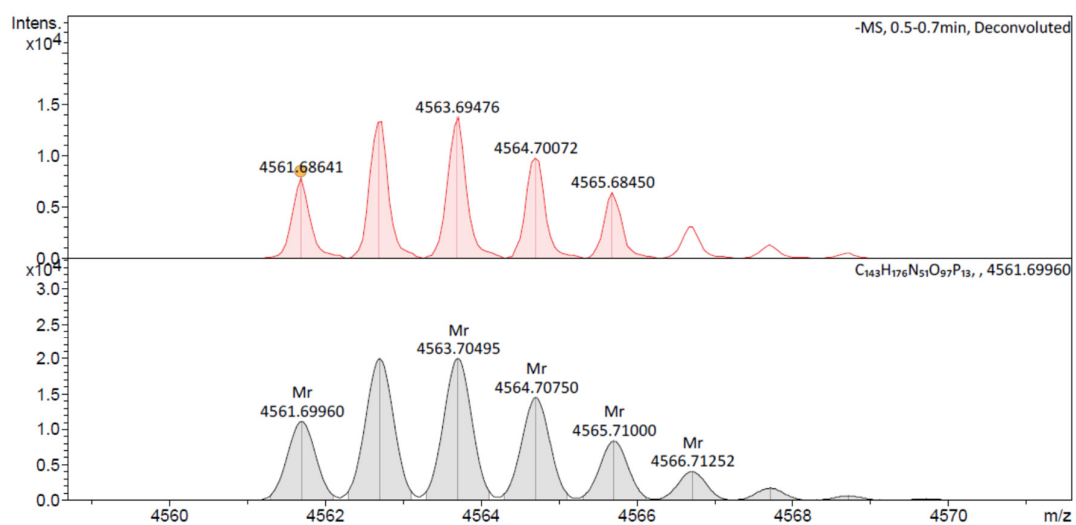
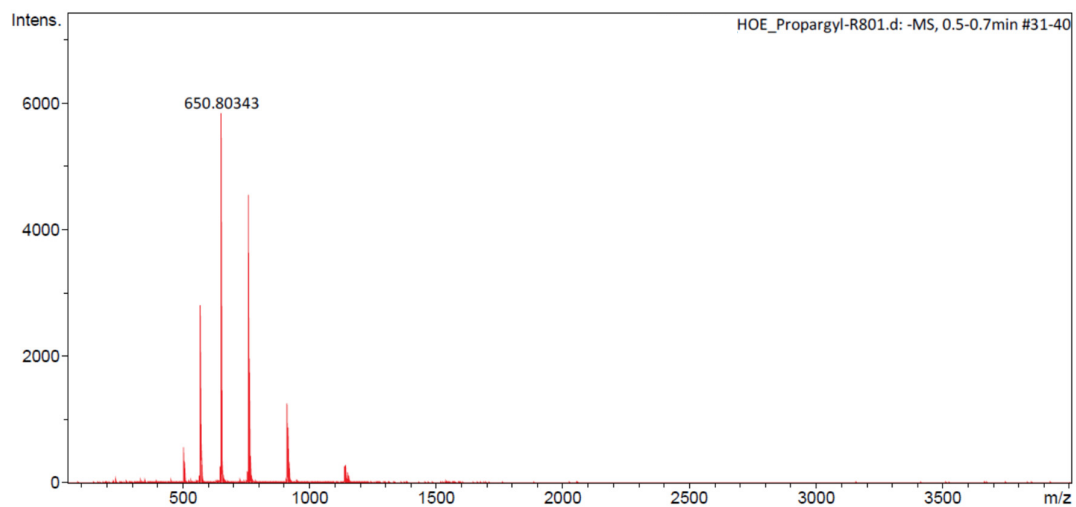
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound (BnN₃)¹A.



14. HR-ESI-MS spectra of isolated alkylated RNA

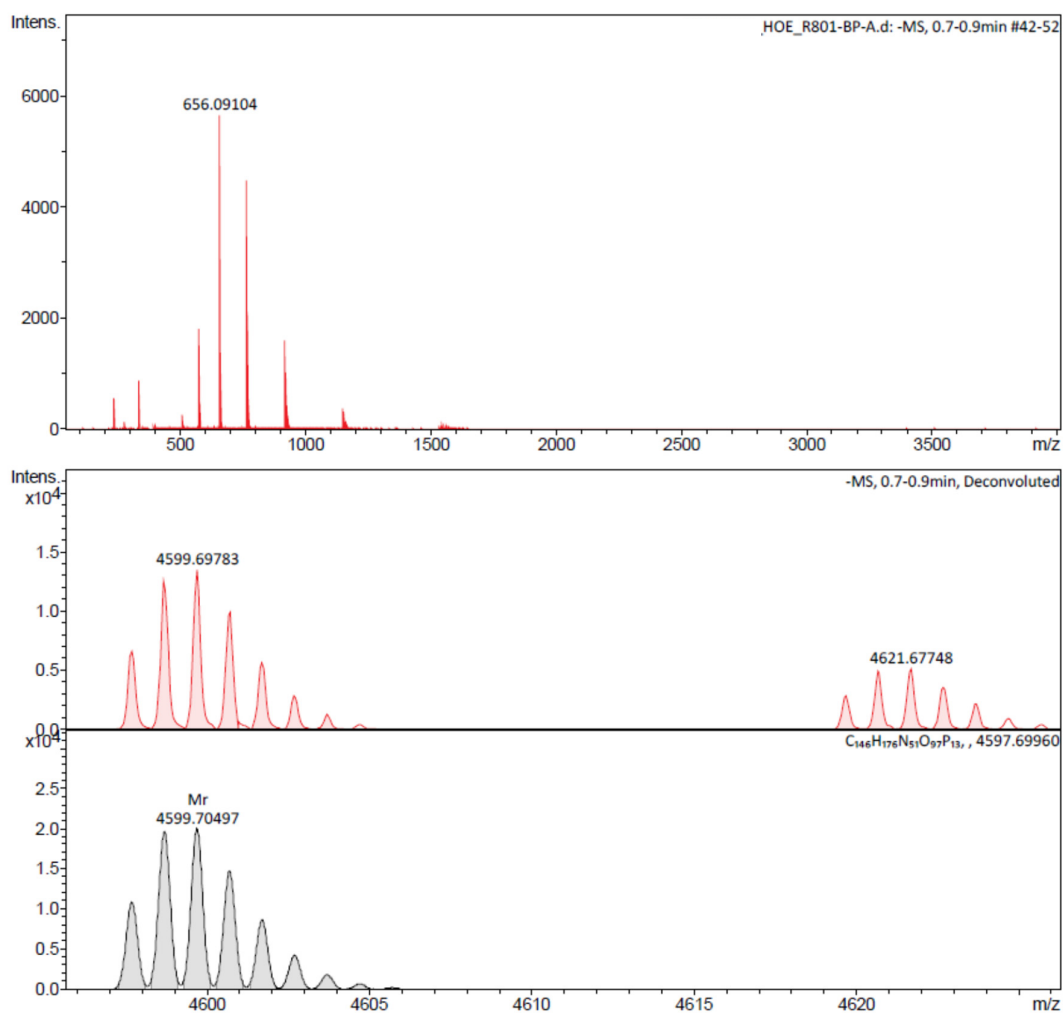


HR-ESI-MS of R2-azihex



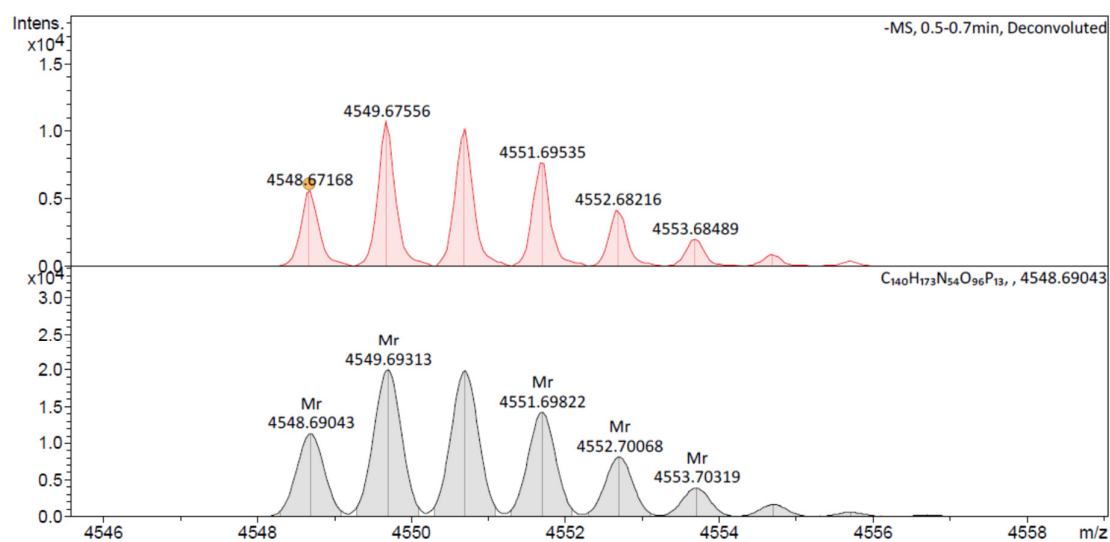
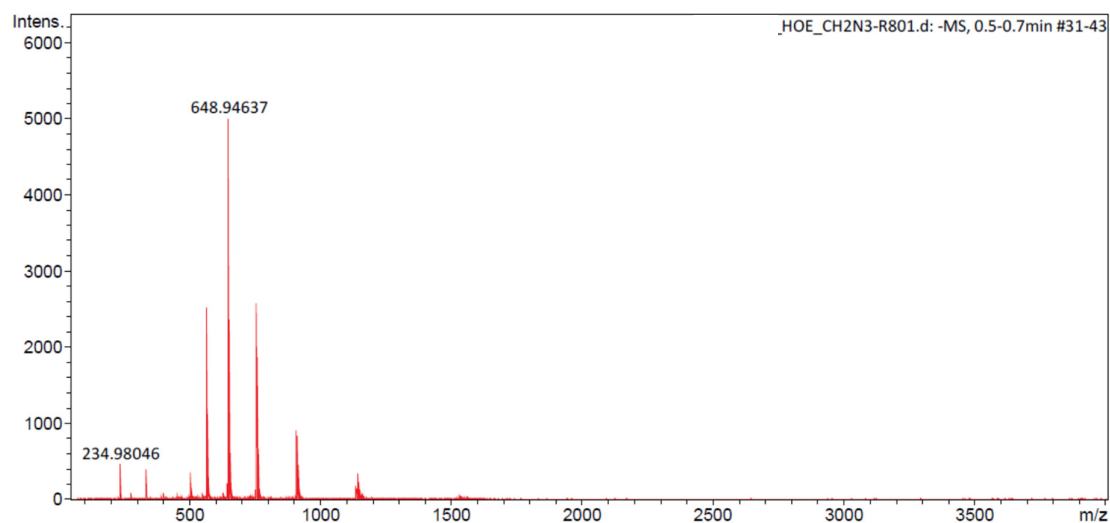
Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻	Conf	N-Rule
4561.68641	1	$C_{143}H_{176}N_{51}O_{97}P_{13}$	4561.69960	2.89	82.3	1	100.00	88.0	odd		ok

HR-ESI-MS of R2-Bnprop



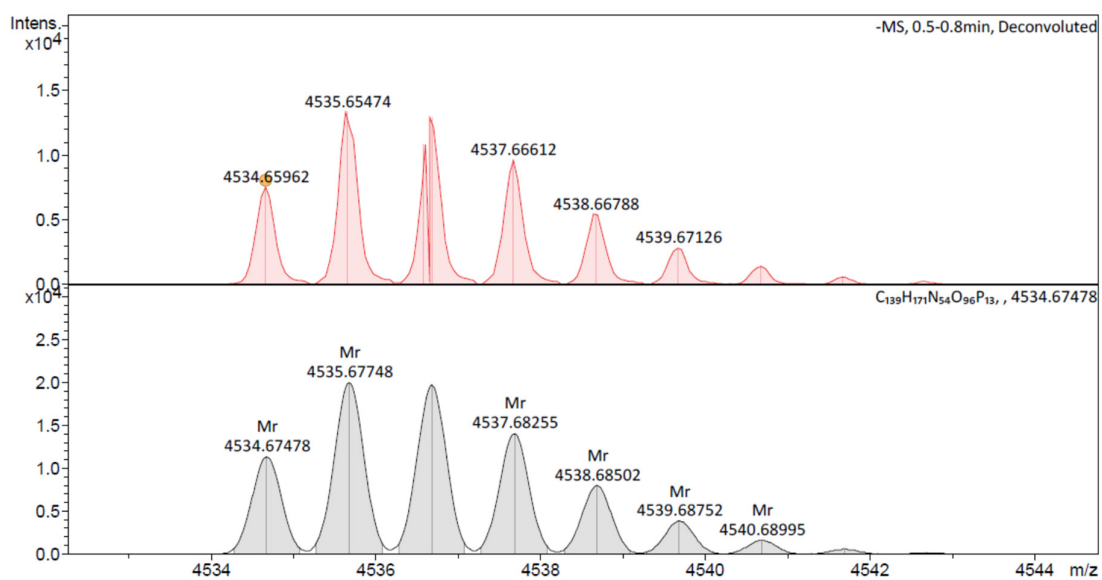
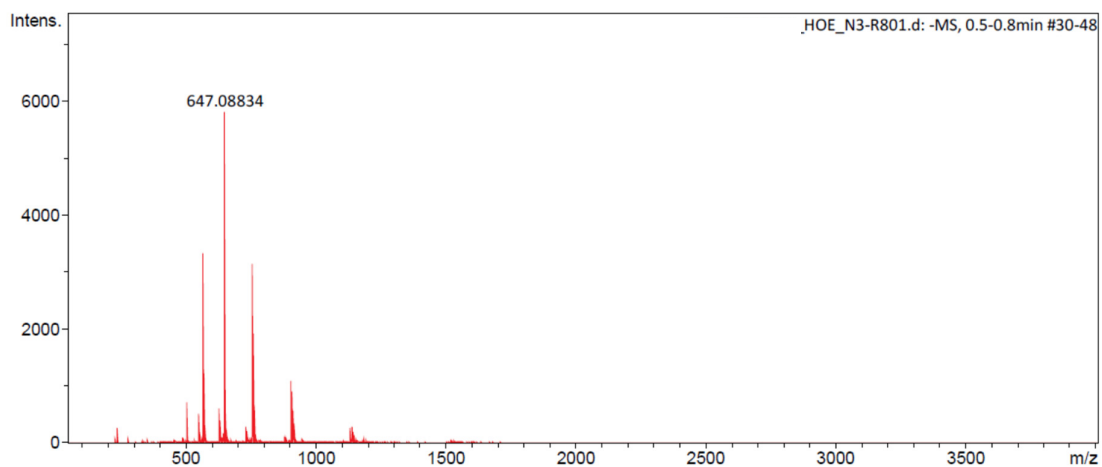
Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻	Conf	N-Rule
4597.68489	1	C146H176N51O97P13	4597.70015	3.32	30.3	1	100.00	91.0	odd		ok

HR-ESI-MS of R2-BnBz



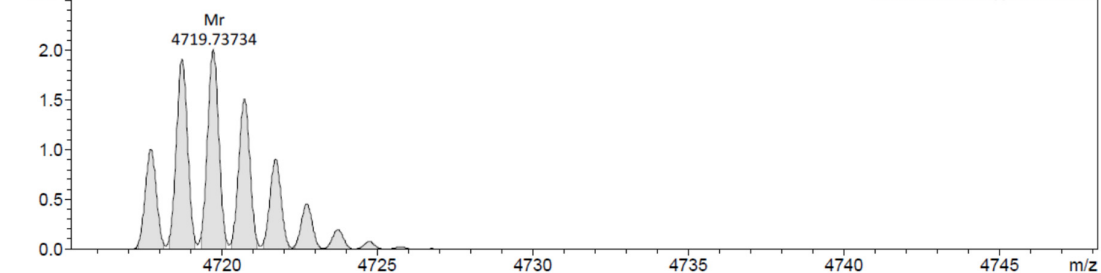
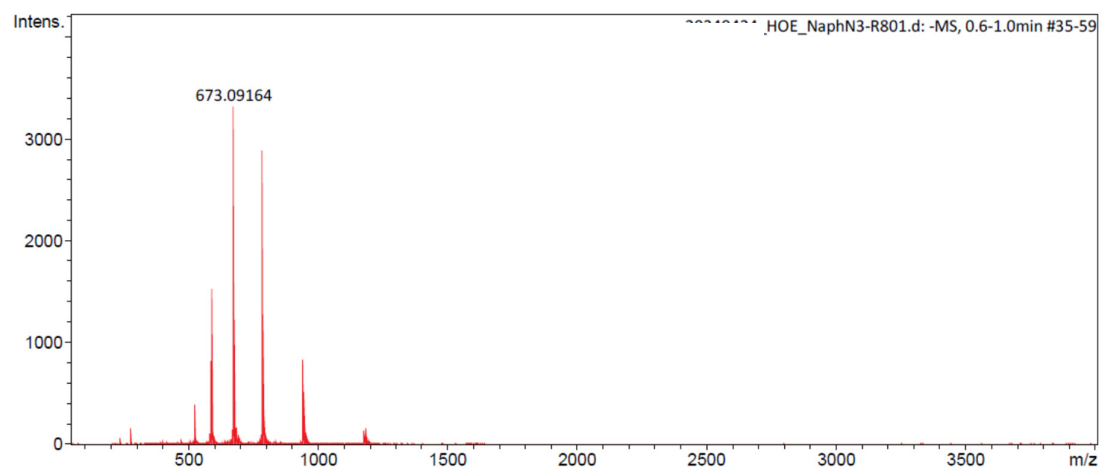
Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻ Conf	N-Rule
4548.67168	1	C ₁₄₀ H ₁₇₃ N ₅₄ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4548.69043	4.12	25.7	1	100.00	88.0	odd	ok

HR-ESI-MS of R2-BnCH2N3



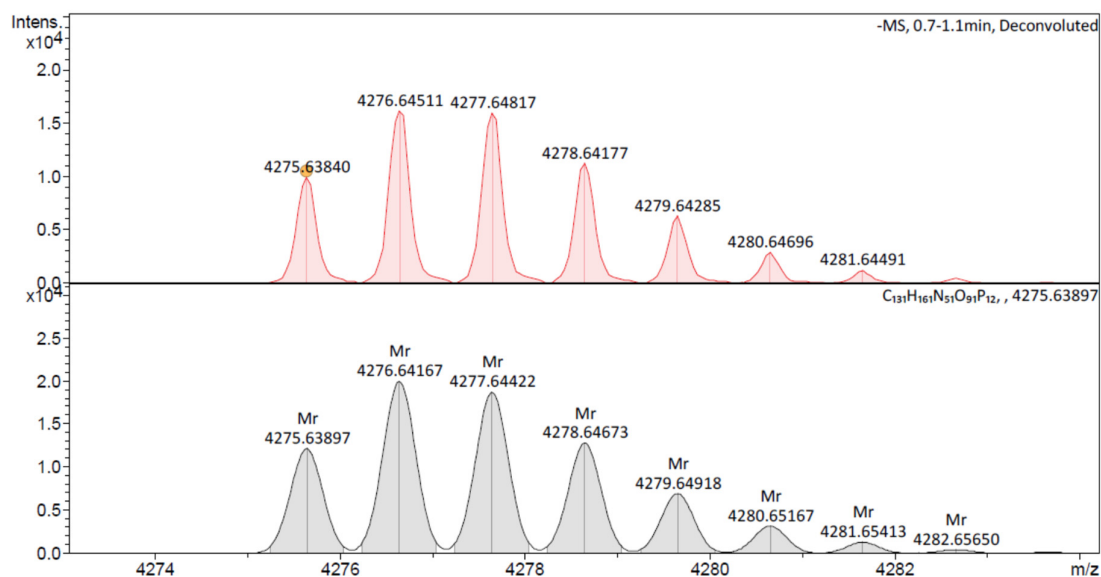
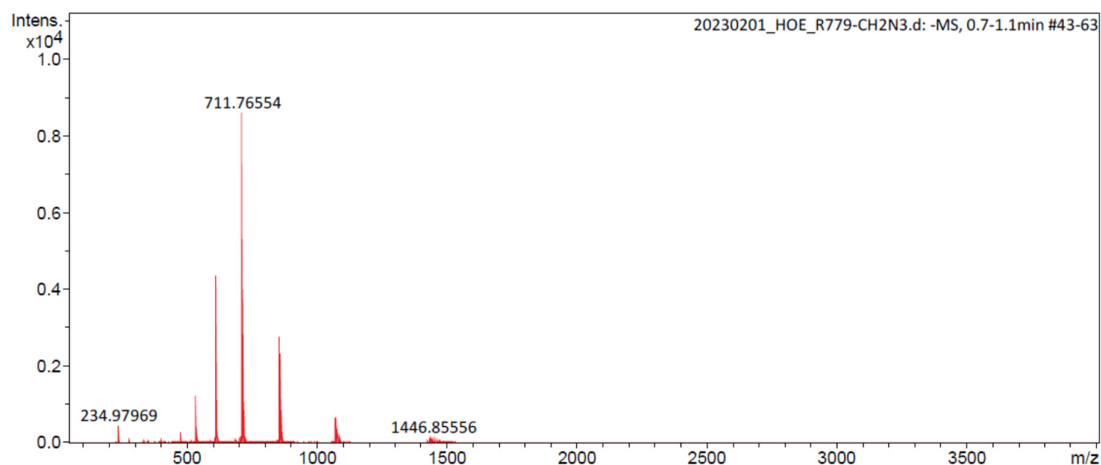
Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻	Conf	N-Rule
4534.65962	1	C ₁₃₉ H ₁₇₁ N ₅₄ O ₉₆ P ₁₃	4534.67533	3.46	16.8	1	100.00	88.0	odd		ok

HR-ESI-MS of R2-BnN3



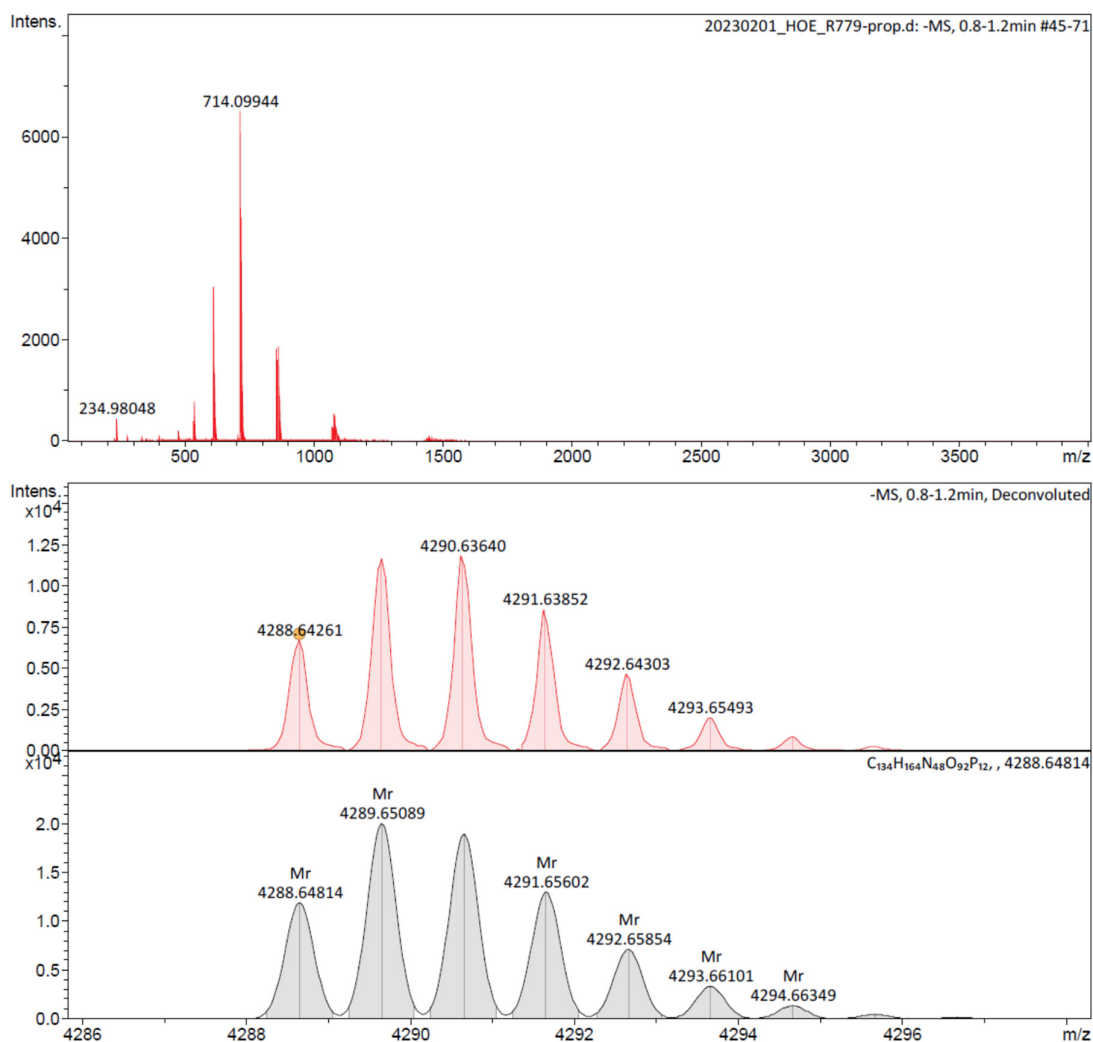
Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻ Conf	N-Rule
4717.70016	1	C ₁₅₂ H ₁₈₀ N ₅₃ O ₉₈ P ₁₃	4717.73251	6.86	23.3	1	100.00	96.0	odd	ok

HR-ESI-MS of R2-BnAzNP (-N2)



Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻ Conf	N-Rule
4275.63840	1	C ₁₃₁ H ₁₆₁ N ₅₁ O ₉₁ P ₁₂	4275.63897	0.14	34.8	1	100.00	83.0	odd	ok

HR-ESI-MS of R5-BnCH2N3



Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma	# mSigma	Score	rdb	e ⁻	Conf	N-Rule
4288.64261	1	C ₁₃₄ H ₁₆₄ N ₄₈ O ₉₂ P ₁₂	4288.64814	1.29	37.5	1	100.00	83.0	odd		ok

HR-ESI-MS of R5-BnPr

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