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Peer review history for:

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Reviewer I: Round 1

Date completed: 02 March 2024

Recommendation: Accept / **Revisions required** / Resubmit for review / Decline

Conflicts of interest: None

Does the manuscript fall within the scope of SAJS?

Yes/No

Is the manuscript written in a style suitable for a non-specialist and is it of wider interest than to specialists alone?

Yes/No

Does the manuscript contain sufficient novel and significant information to justify publication?

Yes/No

Do the Title and Abstract clearly and accurately reflect the content of the manuscript?

Yes/No

Is the research problem significant and concisely stated?

Yes/No

Are the methods described comprehensively?

Yes/No

Is the statistical treatment appropriate?

Yes/No/Not applicable/Not qualified to judge

Are the interpretations and conclusions justified by the research results?

Yes/Partly/No

Please rate the manuscript on overall contribution to the field

Excellent/Good/Average/Below average/Poor

Please rate the manuscript on language, grammar and tone

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Is the manuscript succinct and free of repetition and redundancies?

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Excellent/Good/ Average /Below average/Poor
Is appropriate and adequate reference made to other work in the field?
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Yes/No/Not applicable
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With regard to our policy on ' Publishing peer review reports ', do you give us permission to publish your anonymised peer review report alongside the authors' response, as a supplementary file to the published article? Publication is voluntary and only with permission from both yourself and the author.
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Comments to the Author:
The draft: Structures and anti-Rhino virus properties of 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-1 methylheptyl 15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate against 2 HsNMT1 protein target, from Leaf Extract of Spondias mombin Linn (SM), has been undertaken to study and characterize two novel ester compounds isolated from leaf extract of SM. Furthermore, anti-Rhino virus properties of the compounds were studied in silico against a known biological target (HsNMT1). This is claimed to be helpful in developing therapeutics against the common cold. It is an interesting subject matter with relation to developing therapeutics against common cold and the study has been meticulously done. It is an original piece of work undertaken by the authors. The experiments undertaken for analyzing data reach to a logical conclusion. The abstract is appropriate and representative of the content. The references are up to date.
My concerns are:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please revise manuscript for English syntax correction. 2. Consider revising the title to make it concise and understandable. 3. Do we need the heading: significance, in the abstract part? 4. For making the study more concrete, at least the in vitro study should be conducted to confirm the anti-Rhino virus activity of the compounds. 5. TLC test does not add much of significance to the manuscript. Please add some reasoning to it and revise. 6. For CR3R4 R3, perhaps structural representation would be better. 7. FTIR and NMR studies may be shifted to main manuscript. 8. What does EIMS stand for and DEPT-35. 9. The control taken is not explained in the initial paras where biological targets are introduced. 10. Explain the activities with regards to biological activity in Table 4. 11. What is significance of the sentence: However, in comparing the relative flexibilities of the simulated systems, the complexed HsNMT1 systems show lower fluctuations in contrast to the native unbound system of HsNMT1, indicating that the bound inhibitors enact rigidity on the protein structure. 12. Check if all Figures are appended where they need to be 13. In Figure S1, replace chromatography with spectroscopy. 14. In Figure S3 and S4, there is so much noise in the data. 15. Figure S13 and Figure S14 are not explained in text.
[See Appendix 1 for Reviewer I's comments made directly on the manuscript]

Author response to Reviewer I: Round 1
The draft: Structures and anti-Rhino virus properties of 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-1

methylheptyl 15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate against 2 HsNMT1 protein target, from Leaf Extract of *Spondias mombin* Linn (SM), has been undertaken to study and characterize two novel ester compounds isolated from leaf extract of SM. Furthermore, anti-Rhino virus properties of the compounds were studied *in silico* against a known biological target (HsNMT1). This is claimed to be helpful in developing therapeutics against the common cold. It is an interesting subject matter with relation to developing therapeutics against common cold and the study has been meticulously done. It is an original piece of work undertaken by the authors. The experiments undertaken for analyzing data reach to a logical conclusion. The abstract is appropriate and representative of the content. The references are up to date.

Thank you for the comment.

Please revise manuscript for English syntax correction.

Thank you for your comment: Authors have corrected all English syntax errors.

Consider revising the title to make it concise and understandable.

Thank you for your insightful comment. Thank you for the comment. The title has been revised.

“PHARMACO-PHYTOCHEMISTRY OF ESTERS ISOLATED FROM LEAF EXTRACTS OF SPONDIAS MOMBIN AS POTENTIAL ANTIVIRAL AGENT.”

Do we need the heading: significance, in the abstract part?

Thank you for your comment. Thank you for the comment. Significance has been deleted.

For making the study more concrete, at least the *in vitro* study should be conducted to confirm the anti-Rhino virus activity of the compounds.

Thank you for your insightful comment. The authors recommended that further studies such as *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies must be conducted in future investigations.

TLC test does not add much of significance to the manuscript. Please add some reasoning to it and revise.

Thank you for the comment. TLC test was added to the manuscript to give a rationale as to why certain aliquots were bulked up together according to their similar R_f -value (retention factor) SP^3 carbon (C-H stretch), this wavelength being reported by other authors at a figure between 2961 cm^{-1} and 2923 cm^{-1}

For CR3R4 R3, perhaps structural representation would be better.

Thank you for the comment. R3,R4= alkyl,

FTIR and NMR studies may be shifted to main manuscript.

Thank you for the comment. FTIR and NMR studies, make the manuscripts more cumbersome, also guidelines of the journal indicate that they must be in the supplementary/appendix.

What does EIMS stand for and DEPT-35.

Thank you for the comment. Electron Ionization Mass Spectroscopy (EIMS), Distortionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer (DEPT-135)

The control taken is not explained in the initial paras where biological targets are introduced.

Thank you for the comment.

Explain the activities with regards to biological activity in Table 4.

Thank you for your insightful comment: The biological activity was explained in the first sentence of the paragraph. ‘A biological activity spectrum for a substance is a list of biological activity types for which the probability to be revealed (P_a) and the probability not to be revealed (P_i) are calculated. P_a and P_i values are independent and their values vary from 0 to 1. Biological activity spectra were predicted for the two isolated structures of 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-methylheptyl-15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate via PASSonline 2005 version’

What is significance of the sentence: However, in comparing the relative flexibilities of the simulated systems, the complexed HsNMT1 systems show lower fluctuations in contrast to the native unbound system of HsNMT1, indicating that the bound inhibitors enact rigidity on the protein structure.

Thank you for the comment. Sentence revised.

Check if all Figures are appended where they need to be

Thank you for your comment. All Figures have been checked.

In Figure S1, replace chromatography with spectroscopy.

Figure S1: FTIR spectroscopy of CS1

In Figure S3 and S4, there is so much noise in the data.

Thank you for the comment. Authors had to show the entire spectroscopy.

Figure S13 and Figure S14 are not explained in text.

The 2D NMR of proposed compound CS2 demonstrated varying coupling dimension. Typical example is the two protons on carbon 10 close to carbonyl moiety coupled with it adjacent proton on carbon 9 (Fig. 7) as confirmed by HSQC Fig 9. Similarly, proton on carbon 12 and 13 can also be confirmed by the HSQC spectrum which also coupled with each other to give triplet at δ 2.29 and 1.65. The methylene protons between carbon 4 and carbon 8, as well as carbon 14 and 23 shifted up field and overlap at δ 1.261.

Author response: Other additions

The omitted J values were for compound CS2 and not CS1. The corrections made are indicated below and highlighted in red in the corrected version on page 165-166:

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta^1\text{H}$ (ppm): 7.66 (1H, J = 2.4 Hz, H-5), 7.12 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H-6), 6.8 (1H, J = 8.8 Hz, H-7), 4.16 (1H, d, J = 3.32 Hz, H-10), 3.97 (1H, J = 2.32 Hz, H-4), 3.96 (1H, J = 3.42 Hz, H-8), 3.63 (1H, d, J = 5.92 Hz), 3.30 (1H, d, J = 5.8 Hz), 2.29 (1H, d, J = 5.84 Hz, H-9), 1.53 (2H, d, J = 3.52 Hz, H-18), 1.26 (25H, m, H-19, 20, 22, 25-28), 0.86 (10H, m, H-24)."

Reviewer E: Round 1

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Appendix 1: Reviewer I comments on manuscript

- 1 **Structures and anti-Rhino virus properties of 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-**
- 2 **methylheptyl 15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate against**
- 3 **HsNMT1 protein target, from Leaf Extract of *Spondias mombin* Linn**
- 4

5 **ABSTRACT**

6 The present work reports on the isolation and characterization of two novel antiviral ester
7 compounds from Dichloromethane leaf extracts of *Spondias mombin* (*SM*). The
8 characterization and structural elucidation were established from spectroscopic evidence of
9 NMR, FTIR and mass spectroscopy (MS/MS). The compounds identified were 6-
10 methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-methylheptyl-15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-
11 yl)pentadecanoate . The novel isolated ester compounds were reported to have anti-Rhino
12 virus activity *in silico* against a known biological target (HsNMT1) that plays a key role in
13 developing therapeutics against the common cold. Molecular docking analysis revealed the
14 binding affinity across all targets within the range of -4.6 to -8.2kcal/mol, while Molecular
15 Dynamic simulation showed that systems attained good stability due to the maintenance of
16 mean RMSD values within the acceptable range of 1.5 -2.5Å. It can be concluded that the
17 novel compounds are potential inhibitory candidates against Rhinovirus protein target
18 HsNMT1. **However, *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments are further** required to validate the
19 possible inhibitory candidates against Rhinovirus disease (common cold).

20 **KEYWORDS:** *Spondias mombin*, phytochemistry, ethnomedicine, pharmacological activity,
21 esters, Rhinovirus.

22 **SIGNIFICANCE**



23 The significance of this study contributes to the scientific rationale for the use of *SM* leaf
24 extracts in treating viral diseases Two novel compounds isolated were 6-methylheptyl
25 pentadecanoate and 6-methylheptyl-15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-
26 yl)pentadecanoate were predicted to possess anti-rhinovirus properties, through computer-
27 aided techniques.


29

INTRODUCTION

30 Novel phytochemical compounds have diverse phytochemical and pharmacological properties.
31 These phytochemicals are abundant in natural products(1), with some used as new drugs
32 leading to drug discovery(2). The combination of ethnomedicinal uses, phytochemistry and
33 pharmacological properties of crude, fractionated and /or isolated, pure compounds against
34 numerous biological targets have led to the discovery of numerous drugs in the treatment of
35 infectious diseases(3-5). Natural products such as *Spondias mombin* (*SM*)(Anacardiaceae) leaf
36 extracts have been used to treat several infectious diseases (6). The pharmacological activities
37 of leaf extracts of *S. mombin* (*SM*) have been attributed to some bioactive compounds isolated
38 from the medicinal plant. Some of these isolated compounds from leaf extracts of *S. mombin*
39 include esters such as 3 β -Olean-12-en-3-yl (9Z)-hexadec-9-enoate(7), chlorogenic acid butyl
40 ester(8) and caffeoyl ester (9, 10). The leaves are reported to be part of the medicinal plant mostly
41 used for treating viral respiratory infections such as rhinovirus in traditional African healing
42 systems (11).

43 Human Rhinoviruses affect the upper and lower respiratory tract and cause common colds
44 associated with pneumonia, wheezing and asthma (12).

45 Isolated compounds from natural products are identified by several chromatographic and
46 spectroscopic methods such as Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC), Column
47 Chromatography(CC), Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy, Gas chromatography
48 and Mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) and Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) among others.
49 These methods for separation, Identification and structural determination of phytochemicals
50 are becoming increasingly powerful(13). TLC might be the simplest of all chromatographic
51 methods, but it provides critical information in identifying compounds separated by other
52 methods during the phytochemistry analysis of natural products (14).

53 FTIR is known to identify only the types of functional groups in a compound, most commonly,
54 CH₂, CH₃, = CH, \equiv CH, O-H, C = O, C-O, C = C, C \equiv C, C-O-C and C-C- O (15). FTIR and
55 NMR analysis, coupled with mass spectroscopy (MS), are helpful tools in the structural
56 elucidation of an isolated compound. 


57 In other to assess the therapeutic potential of the selected compounds via *in silico* methods, it
58 was necessary to identify a peculiar biological target. The prediction of biological activities of
59 the compounds was determined by utilizing the PASSonline software(16). This software is
60 utilized for the prediction of different physiological activities for multiple compounds, both
61 natural and synthetic, based on their chemical formula. Additionally, PASS Online predicts
62 also pharmacological effects, mechanisms of action, adverse effects, interaction with metabolic

63 enzymes and transporters, and influence on gene expression. It uses the 2D molecular
64 fragments known as multilevel neighbors of atoms descriptors, which postulates that a
65 compound's molecular structure determines **how active it is** biologically(17). With this
66 software, the evaluated activity of a compound is estimated as probable activity (Pa) and
67 probable inactivity (Pi)(18).

68 The current study aims to isolate, identify, characterise and predict antiviral properties through
69 **Molecular Targets** prediction of novel compounds from Dichloromethane (DCM) leaf extracts
70 of *SM*. The study revealed, for the first time, two ester compounds from *SM* leaf extract that
71 possess antiviral properties in an *in silico* molecular target prediction.

72 **METHODS**

73 **Material processing and extraction**

74 Fresh leaves of *SM Linn* were collected from Cape Coast - Ghana and authenticated by Mr.
75 **[anonymised]** at the Herbarium section of the University of **[anonymised]** and given a
76 voucher number **[anonymised]**. Leafs dried at room temperature were pulverized by using a
77 hammer mill. The leaf powder of mass 100 g was initially defatted with 1 L of hexane and
78 then extracted with 2 L DCM by cold macera  for 72 h until the solvent was clear. The
79 extracts were filtered with filter paper and concentrated using a rotary evaporator under
80 reduced pressure at 40°C. The concentrate was completely dried **with a weight of** 5.19g
81 (5.17%) and denoted as SMDCM.

82 **General Analytical Information.**

83 ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 400 MHz instrument at 400 MHz (1H
84 NMR) and 100 MHz (¹³C NMR). All ¹H NMR spectra were measured in parts per million
85 (ppm) downfield or relative to the residual proton signals of d1-chloroform (CDCl₃, 7.26ppm).
86 All ¹³C NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to residual carbon signals of CDCl₃ (77.16
87 ppm). Coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Multiplicity is indicated as follows: s
88 (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), and m (multiplet) (15). Thin-layer
89 chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated Merck Silica gel 60 F254 plates using
90 different polarities of hexane-ethyl acetate solvent systems and compounds were visualized
91 with UV light at 254 nm(19). The R_f values of the different spots that were observed were
92 calculated (20).

93 The retention factor (R_f) values were calculated using the equation below:

94
$$R_f = \frac{\text{Distance traveled by the solute}}{\text{Distance traveled by the solvent}}$$

95 FTIR Spectroscopy was performed using PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 spectrophotometer at
96 room temperature, while MS of isolates was determined by using CombiFlash Purlon Mass
97 Spectrometer (2000 Da Polarity Auto Switching).

98 **Preliminary Phytochemical screening of SMDCM extract**

99 Preliminary phytochemical screening was performed as a qualitative process to investigate the
100 presence of different classes of phytochemicals according to standard procedures as reported
101 by other authors (21, 22). Briefly, crude DCM leaf extract of *SM* was used for the qualitative
102 analysis to determine the presence of alkaloids, steroid flavonoids, saponins, terpenoid tannins,
103 anthraquinone derivatives, and cardiac glycosides.

104 **Column fractionation of SMDCM mixture**

105 The *SM* DCM extract was loaded onto a glass column packed with silica gel. It was then
106 eluted with mixtures of ethyl acetate and hexane of increasing gradient polarity, starting with
107 100% hexane to 100% ethyl acetate. One hundred and seventy-one fractions were collected in
108 50 mL aliquots and based on their TLC analysis, aliquots 55 to 100 were bulked together
109 (denoted C) for further separation of the two compounds. **C** was further separated using
110 column chromatography with silica gel using a solvent mixture of gradient, ethyl acetate and
111 hexane. Seventy fractions were collected in 10 mL aliquots and based on the TLC, aliquots 1
112 to 23 were bulked into CS1 and 24 to 70 into CS2.

113 **Characterization of Isolated Compounds**

114 Chemical shifts are reported about DSS-trimethyl singlet resonance at 0.0000 ppm and
115 multiplicity.

116 **Characterization of CS1**

117 A dark green solid, CS1: FTIR (KBr) ν_{\max} cm^{-1} : 2927 (CH_2), 1748($\text{C}=\text{O}$), 1465 (CH bending),
118 1220 (C-O), 725(CH). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) $\delta^1\text{H}$ (ppm): 3.96(2H, q, $J = 2.56$ Hz, H-8),
119 2.30 (2H, q, $J = 4.72$ Hz, H-10), 1.64(1H, m, H-11), 1.55 (1H, q, $J = 5.96$ Hz, H-2), 1.30 (30H,
120 m, H4-7, H-11-21) 0.90 (12H, m, H1&3, H23&22). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm):
121 173.57(C-11), 79(C-10), 68(C-9),40 (C-8), 36 (C-7), 35(C-6), 32(C-5), 30(C-4), 22-25(C-3),
122 14.03-14.11 (C-2),10.97 (C-1).

123 **Characterization of CS2**

124 A dark green solid, CS₂: FTIR (KBr) ν_{\max} cm⁻¹: 2927 (CH₂), 1748(C=O), 1465 (C-H
125 bending), 1220 (C-O), 725(C-H). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta^1\text{H}$ (ppm): 7.66 (1H, d, J =
126 Hz, H-5), 7.29 (1H, d, J = Hz, H-6), 6.64 (1H, d, J = Hz, H-7), 3.96(2H, q, J = 2.48Hz, H-
127 8), 2.300(2H, d, J = 5.84 Hz, H-10), 1.64(2H, m, H-4), 2.68(1H, d, J = Hz, H-9), 1.63, 1.38
128 (H, d, J = Hz, H-23), 1.54 (1H, d, J = Hz, H-23), 1.53 (2H, d, J = 3.52 Hz, H-18), 1.26, (25H, tm
129 H-19, 20, 22, 25-28), 0.86(10H, m H-24). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm): 173.57
130 (C-9), 127.58 (C-33), 114.03 (C-30), 66.81 (C-8), 38.74 (C-18), 34.00 (C-17), 31.93 (C-
131 16), 30.41 (C-15), 29.70 (C-14), 29.66 (C-13), 29.36 (C-12), 28.92 (C-11), 24.48 (C-7), 23.79 (C-
132 6), 22.96 (C-5), 22.69 (C-4), 14.11 (C-3), 14.04 (C-2), 10.98 (C-1).

133 **Biological Activity Prediction via PASSonline**

134 PASSonline software(16) is used to predict physiological activities, pharmacological effects,
135 mechanisms of action, toxic and adverse effects, interaction with metabolic enzymes and
136 transporters and influence on gene expression for multiple compounds, both from natural
137 products and synthetic, based on their chemical formula.

138 The evaluated activity of a compound is estimated as probable activity (Pa) and probable
139 inactivity (Pi)(18). Compounds presenting Pa higher than Pi relative to a particular activity are
140 considered feasible for that specific medical activity and those with Pi higher than Pa were
141 therefore eliminated. To this end, the selected compounds were assessed for their biological
142 activities on PASSonline.

143 **Molecular Docking**

144 The X-ray crystal structures of some selected rhinovirus antiviral targets (PDB ID: 5FX6,
145 5MU6, 4C2X and 1CQQ (23) were retrieved from the Protein Data Bank(24). These structures
146 were co-crystallized with native inhibitors that defined their respective binding site. The
147 structures, 5FX6, 5MU6, 4C2X and 1CQQ, were then prepared by using UCSF Chimera
148 version 1.13.1(25) to remove all non-standard residues and Modeller 9.25 version (26) was
149 employed to fix missing residues. The binding site residues were obtained by zoning the native
150 inhibitors and selecting residues that lie within 5Å for each target protein. Subsequently, the
151 isolated compounds were optimized using Avogadro 2.0 software and saved. Molecular
152 docking was carried out for the three selected compounds against each of the rhinovirus target

153 proteins using Prix software. The target which showed the best docking property against all
154 compounds was selected for molecular dynamics simulation.

155 **Molecular Dynamic simulation(MD)**

156 MD simulations were performed using the AMBER18 GPU package for the best-docked
157 ligand; CS1 and CS2 and IMP-1088 to the target (HsNMT1). The ligand and receptor were
158 both defined and optimized using the AMBER force fields by using the Antechamber and
159 LEAP modules, respectively. Solvation and neutralization were carried out for the receptor
160 prior to its combination with the ligand. Partial minimization of the receptor in the system was
161 conducted for 2500 steps with a restraint potential of 500 kcal/mol Å², followed by complete
162 minimization of 10 000. The system underwent heating at 300K using Langevin thermostat in
163 a canonical ensemble (NVT). Equilibration of the system was carried out to ensure that
164 AMBER rechecks the system and it was at 300K. MD simulation was run for 12 hrs. at 100ns,
165 and results were obtained in the form of trajectories and analysed using statistics. The
166 trajectories generated allow for the measurement of the binding energies of the association of
167 the ligand to the receptor. Visualization of the interactions was produced from Snapshots and
168 Discovery studio.

169 **Binding Free Energy Analysis via MM/GBSA Method**

170 The Molecular Mechanics/Generalized Born Surface Area (MM/GBSA)(27, 28) method was
171 employed in estimating the binding free energy for each of the inhibitor-bound systems. The
172 binding free energy (ΔG_{bind}) was calculated from the following equation:

$$173 \Delta G_{\text{bind}} = G_{\text{complex}} - G_{\text{receptor}} - G_{\text{ligand}} \quad (1)$$

$$174 \Delta G_{\text{bind}} = E_{\text{gas}} + \Delta G_{\text{solv}} - TS, \quad (2)$$

175 Where ΔG_{bind} is considered to be the summation of the gas phase and solvation energy terms
176 less the entropy (TS) term

$$177 E_{\text{gas}} = E_{\text{int}} + E_{\text{vdw}} + E_{\text{lec}} \quad (3)$$

178 E_{gas} is the sum of the AMBER force field internal energy terms E_{int} (bond, angle and torsion),
179 the covalent van der Waals (E_{vdw}) and the non-bonded electrostatic energy component (E_{lec}).

180 The solvation energy is calculated from the following equation:

$$181 G_{\text{solv}} = G_{\text{GB}} + G_{\text{non-polar}} \quad (4)$$

$$182 G_{\text{non-polar}} = \gamma \text{SASA} + b \quad (5)$$

183 Where ΔG_{bind} is taken to be the sum of the gas phase and solvation energy terms less the
184 entropy (TΔS) term., G_{Complex} represents the energy of the receptor-ligand complex. Whiles

185 G_{receptor} and G_{ligand} represent energies of receptor and ligand, respectively. E_{gas} denotes gas-
186 phase energy; E_{int} signifies internal energy; and E_{ele} and E_{vdw} indicate the electrostatic and
187 Van der Waals contributions, respectively. E_{gas} is the gas phase, elevated directly from the
188 FF14SB force terms. G_{asol} denotes solvation-free energy and can be decomposed into polar
189 and nonpolar contribution states. The polar solvation contribution, G_{GB} , is determined by
190 solving the GB equation, whereas G_{SA} , the nonpolar solvation contribution, is estimated from
191 the solvent accessible surface area (SASA) determined using a water probe radius of 1.4 Å. T
192 and S correspond to temperature and total solute entropy, respectively. Γ Is a constant(29).
193 Per-residue decomposition analyses were also carried out to estimate the individual energy
194 contribution of residues of the substrate pocket towards the affinity and stabilization of each
195 target

196 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

197 **Figures 1 and 3** show structures of isolated esters: 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-
198 methylheptyl 15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate from DCM leaf
199 extracts of *SM*. The FTIR, NMR and MS/MS spectra of the isolated compounds are provided
200 in the supplementary materials (**Figures S1- S14**)

201 **Preliminary Phytochemical screening and TLC test of compounds CS1 and CS2**

202 **Table 1** indicates a phytochemical test to examine the qualitative chemical constituents
203 contained in leaf extracts of *SM*. The phytochemical test revealed the presence of
204 anthraquinone derivatives, steroids, tannins and cardiac glucosides. The results of the
205 preliminary phytochemical screening are in line with reports by other authors (30, 31).

206 The percentage yield in this study was calculated using the weight of extracted sample divided
207 by the total sample used and found to be 11.14% (**Table 2**).

208 During the TLC test, the retention factor values obtained in this experiment (**Table 3**) did not
209 give many clues as to the type of compounds in the extract, but they suggest the polarity of the
210 compounds as reported by Talukdar *et al.*(2010) (14). The authors indicated that a high R_f value
211 in a less polar solvent system possesses low polarity (14).

212

213

214 **Table 1: Preliminary Phytochemical screening of SMDCM extract**

Class of phytochemicals	Tests performed	<i>Spondias mombin</i> leaf extracts
		<i>SM-DCM</i>
Alkaloids	Meyer	-
Antraquinones Derivatives	Bontrager test	+
Steroids	Liebermann-Burchard test	+
Terpenoids	Liebermann-Burchard test	-
Saponins	Frothing	-
Flavonoids	Sulfuric acid test	-
Tannins	Ferric chloride test	+
Cardiac glucosides	Keller Killian	+

215 **Key: + present, - absent**

216
217

218 **Table 2: Physical properties and percentage (%) yield from 60g SMDCM dry powder.**

Physical properties	SM-DCM leaf Extract
Physical appearance	Yellowish green
Yield/ Weight of crude extract (g)	6.688g
% Yield	11.14%

219

220 **Table 3: TLC test of CS1 and CS2**

S.No.	Solvent phase	Distance traveled by solvent (cm)	Distance traveled by the solute (cm)	Experimental RF Values	RF Values literature	Color of Peaks
CS1	30 % v/v hexane in ethyl acetate	2.8	2.0	0.714	0.71 (Phenolics) (32-35)	dark
CS2	30 % v/v hexane in ethyl acetate	2.8	1.3	0.464	-	dark

221

222 **Structural elucidation of CS1**

223 The FTIR spectrum was used to identify the functional groups of the active components present
224 in the extract based on the peak values in the region of IR radiation. When the extract was
225 analysed by FTIR, the functional groups of the components were separated based on their peak
226 ratio.

227 The peak values were recorded in **Table TS1** and **Figure S1** for CS1, indicating the carbonyl
228 group, which represents an ester with C=O stretch, was observed at 1748.0 cm⁻¹ with very
229 strong intensity (1750 -1735cm⁻¹) (36). This is in line with the reported carbonyl group 1750cm⁻¹
230 ¹ by Wang, *et al.*, (2019) (36). At 1748.0 cm⁻¹, the peak assigned to C=O ester was confirmed
231 by other researchers to be between 1734–1745 cm⁻¹ (37-39). An aliphatic ester O=C-O-C, with

232 two bands, one stronger than the other, was also observed at 1220.0 cm^{-1} ($1160\text{-}1210\text{ cm}^{-1}$) (40,
233 41). As noted, the two bands at 1220.0 cm^{-1} , with one stronger than the other, attributed to the
234 presence of an aliphatic ester C-O, although Jain *et al.*, 2016 (42) assigned a C-O stretching at
235 1253.97 cm^{-1} and 1054.89 cm^{-1} . Compound CS1 has bands at 2927.0 cm^{-1} that are due to the
236 symmetric stretching of the Sp^3 carbon (C-H stretch), this wavelength being reported by other
237 authors at a figure between 2961 cm^{-1} and 2923 cm^{-1} (39, 42-44). Findings from this study
238 revealed a band at 1465.0 cm^{-1} , indicating a C-H bending, although other investigators reported
239 the C-H bending at 1470 cm^{-1} (44).

240 The NMR analysis of CS1, referenced with Table TS2, indicates that the proton shifts between
241 carbons C1-C7 are aliphatic alkanes, with carbons C8, C10, C11 and C2 at 3.96ppm
242 (q, 2H, J=2.59Hz, H-8)(45), 2.30 ppm (q, 2H, J=4.72 Hz, H-10) (6, 46, 47), 1.64 ppm (m, 1H, H-
243 11) (48), 1.55 (1H, q, J = 5.96 Hz, H-2), with, 0.9 ppm (m, 12H, H1&3, H23&22) (48-51).
244 Carbon C8 is an alkyl (-CH₂) of the ester, with C10 showing a carbonyl ester group (O-CH₂);
245 this is in line with the literature and reported to be an alkyl adjacent to a heteroatom (R-O-
246 CH₂)(36, 48, 52). Proton on carbon C10, indicated two Hydrogen quartets at 2.30ppm, which
247 is in line with reports by Buckingham, A. D. (1960) (48), who also revealed a band at 2.30ppm
248 to be CH₃COR (48). The singlet hydrogen, occurring at 7.25ppm (7.05 - 7.25ppm), indicates
249 a proposed functional group of CR³R⁴ R³ (48).

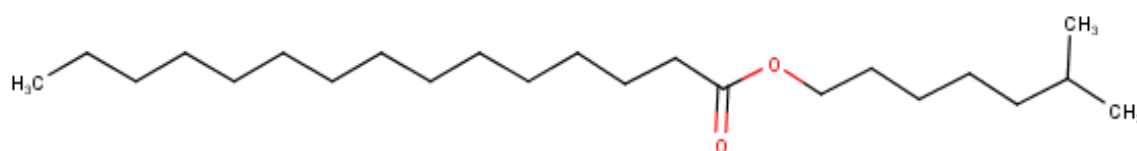
250 Table TS4 indicates the analysis of ¹³C NMR spectrum for CS1, which revealed that the ¹³C
251 spectrum has approximately 16 carbon peaks (δ 10.97, 14.03-14.11, 22-25, 30, 32, 35, 36, 40,
252 68, 79 and 173.57 ppm), as expected given the top/bottom overlaps in the spectrum, with a
253 strong carbonyl peak at 173.57ppm assigned to carbon 9 (Figure 1).

254 The DEPT-135 obviously distinguishes between the methyl (-CH₃) (14.11, 14.04 and 10.97
255 ppm), methine (CH) (38.74ppm) and methylene (52)(-CH₂) (66.63, 34.01, 31.93, 30.41, 29.70,
256 29.37, 28.92, 24.49, 23.79, 22.99, 22.69 ppm)(52, 53) of the ethyl chain (Figure S7 and S12).
257 The peak, close to carbonyl at 66.63 ppm, was assigned to -CH₂- carbon 8, that of tertiary
258 carbon two at 34.01 ppm, while primary carbons 1 and 3 also appeared at 14.11 ppm and 14.04
259 ppm, respectively. The rest of the methylene carbons 4-7 could be seen at 29.37- 31.93 ppm
260 (Figure 4).

261 EIMS of the isolated compound CS1 showed a mass ion peak at m/z 355 [M+H] (Figure S3),
262 from which a molecular formula of C₂₃H₄₆O₂ was assigned. Typically, molecule CS1, at a
263 retention time (Rt) of 0.714 min (Table 3), produced a precursor ion at m/z 355 [M+H], and
264 the fragmentation of this molecule (Figure 2) generated product ions at m/z 298. These were
265 derived from the loss of the isobutyl side chain (-57 Da) after a possible 1,3 methyl

266 rearrangement of isopropyl derivative of methyl heptyl pentadecanoate to a more stable butyl
267 pentadecanoate derivative (**Figure 2**). Products ions at m/z 284, due to the neutral loss of
268 methyl (-14 Da), and at m/z 266 (loss of propyl molecule) were also observed. Based on these
269 data, CS1 was identified as 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate.

270 Authors, therefore, propose the structure and IUPAC name for compound CS1 based on the
271 information obtained as 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate.

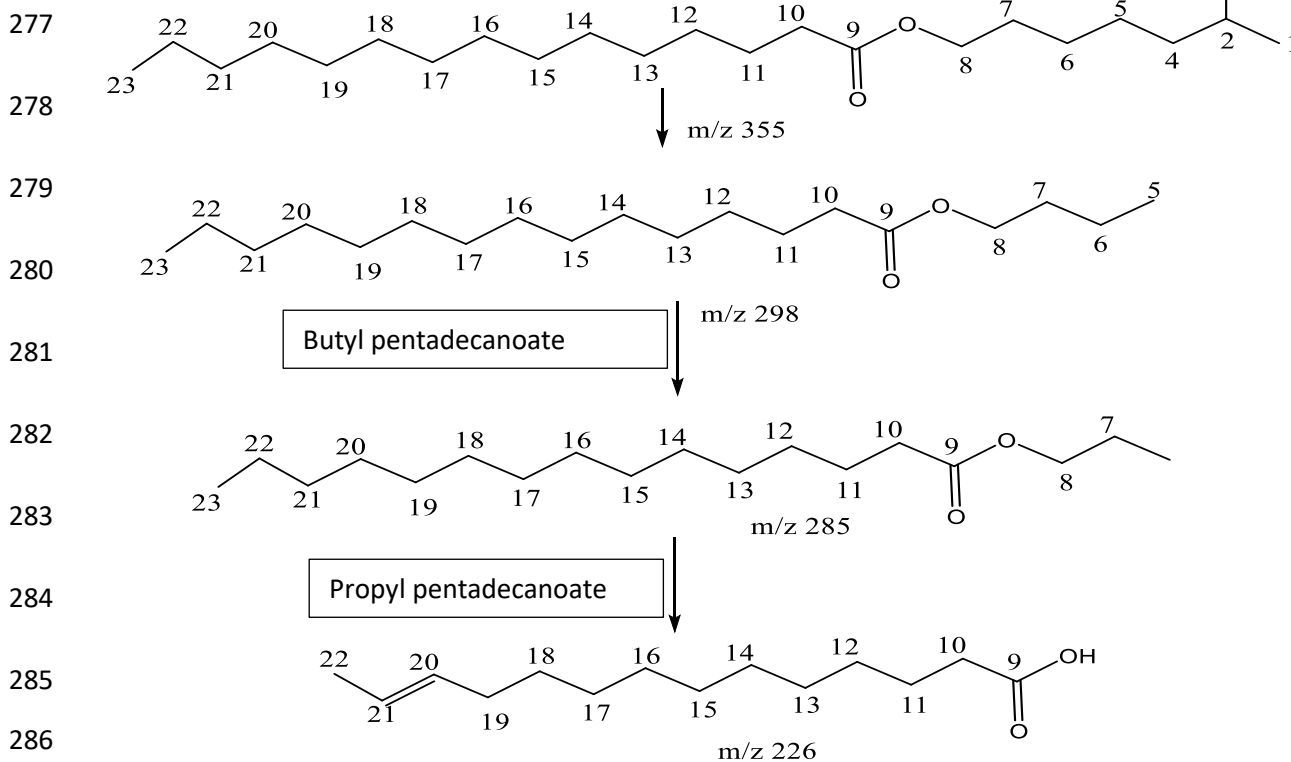


272

273 **Figure 1: Proposed structure of CS1**

274 The fragmentation pattern of 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate was based on the analysis of
275 mass spectroscopy in **Figure S3**. The fragmentation pattern is indicated below (**Figure 2**).

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287 **Figure 2: Fragmentation pattern of CS1 from the mass spectroscopy.**

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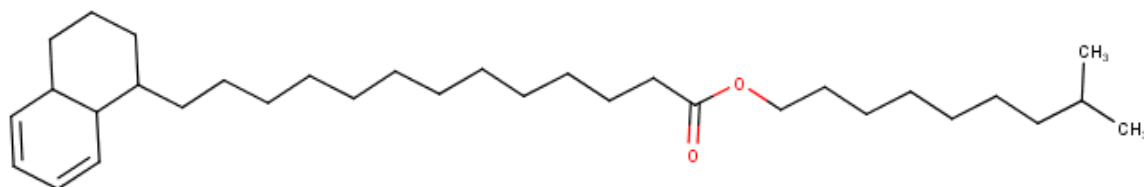
289

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291 **Structural elucidation of CS2**

292 Similar to the FTIR analysis of **Table TS1 and Figure S2**, compound CS2 indicates that the
293 isolated compound is an ester. Evidence of the presence of an ester showed peaks at 1748 cm^{-1}
294 and 1220 cm^{-1} , indicating the functional groups of C=O and C-O, respectively(36, 40, 41).

295 The NMR data analysis, as indicated in **Table TS3**, revealed that compound CS2 showed
296 proton shifts on carbons C10-C17 as aliphatic alkanes, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2$ between 1.19- 1.26ppm (0.8-
297 1.6ppm) (45, 46). Protons on carbon numbers C18 – C23 and C25 - C28 indicate the presence
298 of Cyclic alkane, $\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}$ with shifts between 1.20- 1.63ppm (1.2-1.7ppm)(6, 45, 46).
299 Similarly, proton shifts of carbons 5-8, between 5.80 and 7.29 ppm (4.0-7.3ppm), indicate an
300 alkene, $\text{HC}=\text{CH}$ (54, 55). A proton shift of 7.66ppm on carbon 5, $=\text{CH}$, shows that the
301 compound CS2 contains a Cyclic alkene(54). Significantly, on compound CS2, the proton on
302 carbon number 8 indicated an alkyl of ester, $-\text{OCH}_2$ at 4.20ppm (3.5-4.8ppm), while proton
303 adjacent to C=O on carbon 10, 2.88ppm (2.0-3.0ppm), shows $-\text{CH}$. Proton on carbons C8
304 confirms the ester nature of CS2 (54, 55). **Table TS5** indicates the analysis of ^{13}C NMR
305 spectrum, with approximately 19 carbon peaks (δ 10.98, 14.04, 14.11, 22.69, 22.96, 23.79,
306 24.48, 28.92, 29.37, 29.66, 29.70, 30.41, 31.93, 34.00, 38.74, 66.81 114.03, 127.58 and 173.57
307 ppm), as expected given the overlaps in the spectrum, with a strong carbonyl peak at
308 173.57ppm, assigned to carbon 9 (**Figure 3**).

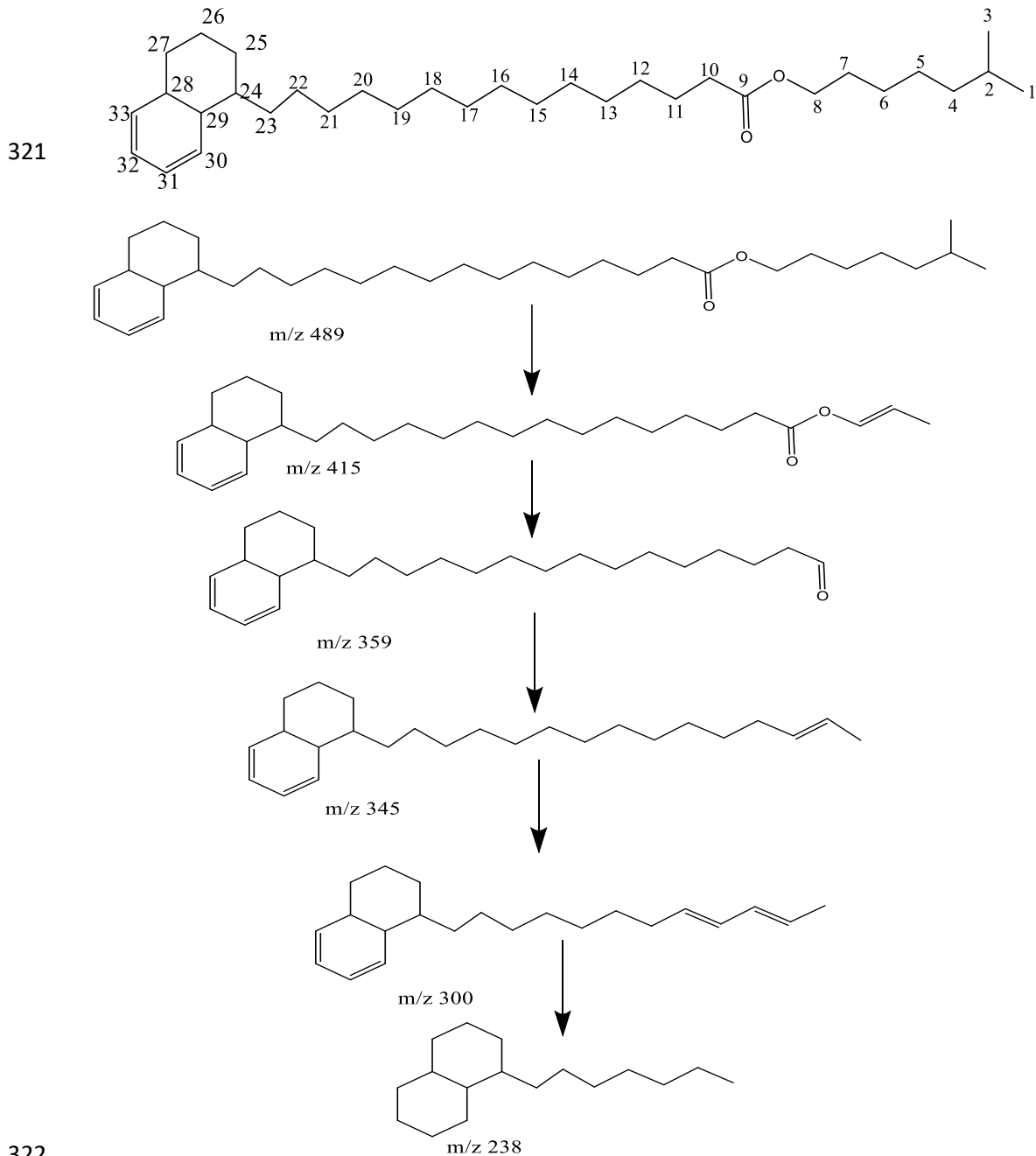


309

310 **Figure 3: Proposed structure of CS2**

311 The mass spectrometric analysis of CS2, showed a mass ion peak at m/z 489 (M+H) from
312 which a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{60}\text{O}_2$ was assigned (**Figure S4**). A retention time of (Rt) of
313 0.464 min (**Table 3**) produced a precursor ion at m/z 489 [M+H] and fragmentation of this
314 molecule (**Figure 7**) generated product ions at m/z 414, derived from the loss of isopentyl
315 side chain (-75 Da), m/z 359 due to loss of propanol (-58 Da), m/z 300 also due to loss of the
316 second propanol (-59 Da). Based on these data, in addition to the NMR and FTIR data,
317 molecule CS2 was identified as 6-methylheptyl-15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-
318 yl)pentadecanoate. The fragmentation pattern of CS2 was based on the analysis of mass
319 spectroscopy of **Figure S4**. The fragmentation pattern is indicated below (**Figure 4**).

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A biological activity spectrum for a substance is a list of biological activity types for which the probability to be revealed (P_a) and the probability not to be revealed (P_i) are calculated. P_a and P_i values are independent and their values vary from 0 to 1. Biological activity spectra were predicted for the two isolated structures of CS1 and CS2 via PASSonline 2005 version (56). Generally, in predicting the desired biological activity, $P_a > P_i$ is considered feasible since there is a high chance of the compound revealing that particular activity. If $P_a > 0.7$, the compound is likely to reveal its activity in experiments, but in this case, the chance of being

334 the analog of the known pharmaceutical agent is high. If $0.5 < Pa < 0.7$, the compound is likely
 335 to reveal this activity in experiments, but this is less and the compound is not so similar to the
 336 known pharmaceutical agent. If $Pa < 0.5$, the compound is unlikely to reveal this activity in
 337 experiments, but if the presence of this activity is confirmed in the experiment, the compound
 338 might be a new chemical entity. The biological activities predicted for each of the compounds
 339 herein include antieczematic, phobic disorders, and antipruritic for CS1, as shown in **Table 4**.
 340 Whilst antieczematic, antiulcerative and antieczematic, were predicted for CS2 also shown in
 341 **Table 1**. Findings from the biological activity prediction show that all two compounds had
 342 diverse activities towards different biological processes. However, the selected compounds
 343 were predicted to have a common antiviral property, particularly against rhinovirus.
 344 In this study, special attention was given to certain reported activities of *SM* to actively have
 345 antiviral properties (57, 58). Hence the selection of a suitable biological activity related to the
 346 antiviral activity for its isolated compounds CS1 and CS2 was feasible. Additionally, the
 347 desired novelty of a chemical compound is important as well. The predicted *Pa* values for
 348 CS1 (0.655) and CS2 (0.643) both correlated to antiviral activity (Rhinovirus) which falls
 349 within the $0.5 < Pa < 0.7$ thresholds correlating to a novel compound that has no known
 350 similarity to a known pharmaceutical agent. Subsequently, various antiviral macromolecules
 351 were selected to test the efficiency of CS1 and CS2 via *in silico* molecular docking.



352 **Table 4:** Predicted biological activity via PASSonline.

Biological Activity					
CS1			CS2		
Pa	Pi	Activity	Pa	Pi	Activity
0.962	0.002	Eye Irritation	0.868	0.012	Phobic disorders
0.944	0.003	Phobic disorders	0.757	0.005	Cholesterol antagonist
0.820	0.015	Antieczematic	0.723	0.030	Antieczematic
0.713	0.007	Antipruritic	0.730	0.005	Antiulcerative
0.655	0.004	Antiviral(Rhinovirus)	0.643	0.013	Antiviral(Rhinovirus)

353 Key: Pa= probability to be revealed Pi = probability not to be revealed

354 Molecular docking

355 Molecular docking of selected Rhinovirus targets was, Human rhinovirus HRV (5FX6),
 356 HsNMT1 (5MU6), HsNMT2 (4C2X), and Rhinovirus 3C protease (1CQQ). The compounds
 357 showed to have good binding towards the selected targets, as evidenced by obtaining an overall
 358 binding affinity in the range -4.6 to -8.2kcal/mol across all targets, as shown in **Table 5**.
 359 However, CS1 and CS2 proved to have the best binding affinity when docked to HsNMT1
 360 (5MU6), suggesting they may have a potential activity towards HsMNT1 macromolecule
 361 which is an attractive target in developing therapeutics against the common cold.

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364 **Table 5:** Molecular docking Scores

Compound	Binding energy Kcal/mol			
	HRV(5fx6)	HsNMT1 (5mu6)	HsNMT2(4c2x)	HRV 3C(1CQQ)
CS1	-4.6	-7.6	-7.3	6.5
CS2	-4.2	-8.2	-7.9	7.0
Rupintrivir(reference)	-7.7	X	X	X
imp-1088(reference)	X	-11	-9.8	X
AG7088(reference)	X	X	X	6.5

365

366 **Analysis of Molecular Dynamic simulation**

367 Molecular dynamic simulations were conducted to assess the conformation dynamics as well
368 as the spatial distribution of atoms in the backbone structure of HsMNT1 upon binding of the
369 compounds. MD simulations were also employed to further validate findings from molecular
370 docking by showing the most stable conformations of the complexed structures across time.
371 Post-MD analyses protocols, including; Root-mean-square deviation (RMSD), and Root-
372 mean-square fluctuation (RMSF), Radius of gyration (RoG), and Solvent accessible surface
373 area (SASA), were employed to provide insights on the structural impact of the phytochemical
374 compounds on HsNMT1. An error assessment was also established in analyzing all MD
375 trajectories to consider technical and biological variability. Eliminating these systematic errors
376 lowers experimental variability and makes it possible to determine the underlying dynamics of
377 protein motions in cellular signaling with greater accuracy.

378 **Structural Stability of HsNMT1**

379 A 150ns MD simulation trajectory was established to analyse the conformational dynamics of
380 the c- α atoms in the backbone structure of HsNMT1 in all the simulated systems. The root
381 means square deviation gives an estimation of the protein convergence and stability of the
382 simulated systems. Furthermore, the RMSD value estimates the average variation in atomic
383 displacement over a given period of time compared to a reference time (59). The acceptable
384 threshold for an average change in RMSD of a protein-ligand complex is between 1-3Å. If
385 the RMSD average is more significant than this threshold, it implies there is an extensive
386 conformational alteration in the structure of the protein. Findings show that systems
387 converged early during the simulation and maintained steady atomic motions till the 150ns
388 simulation run, as shown in **Figure 5A**. The mean RMSD estimated for all the simulated
389 systems were 1.88Å, 2.15Å, 1.54Å and 1.83Å for the unbound HsNMT1, CS1, CS2 and
390 IMP-1088 complex systems respectively. As observed from the findings, all systems attained
391 good stability due to the maintenance of mean RMSD values within the acceptable range of
392 1.5 -2.5Å during the simulation. Also, good stability highlights the reliability of the simulated
393 systems for further conformational analysis.

394 **Structural Flexibility of HsNMT1**

395 The root means square fluctuations were assessed to determine the relative flexibility of the
396 c- α atoms in the backbone structure of HsNMT1 upon binding of the inhibitors. As such, the
397 RMSF values of the unbound HsNMT1, CS1, CS2 and IMP-1088 **in complex** with HsNMT1
398 were estimated to observe the change in protein structural flexibility during the simulation
399 run. As shown in **Figure 5B**, all the selected compounds, including the reference IMP-1088
400 compound, show a peak area of the protein at Glu130, Leu175, Lys240, Ser315 and Thr395
401 residual positions that fluctuate the most during the simulation. It was observed that the
402 amino acid residues where the reference IMP-1088 bound have similar structural behavior as
403 that of the phytochemical bound systems of HsMNT1. The mean RMSF values estimated
404 were $0.98\pm 0.03\text{\AA}$, $1.01\pm 0.04\text{\AA}$, $0.87\pm 0.02\text{\AA}$, $0.95\pm 0.03\text{\AA}$ for unbound HsNMT1, CS1, CS2
405 and IMP-1088, respectively, showing that the values are very close to each other. However,
406 in comparing the relative flexibilities of the simulated systems, the complexed HsNMT1
407 systems show lower fluctuations in contrast to the native unbound system of HsNMT1,
408 indicating that the bound inhibitors enact rigidity on the protein structure.

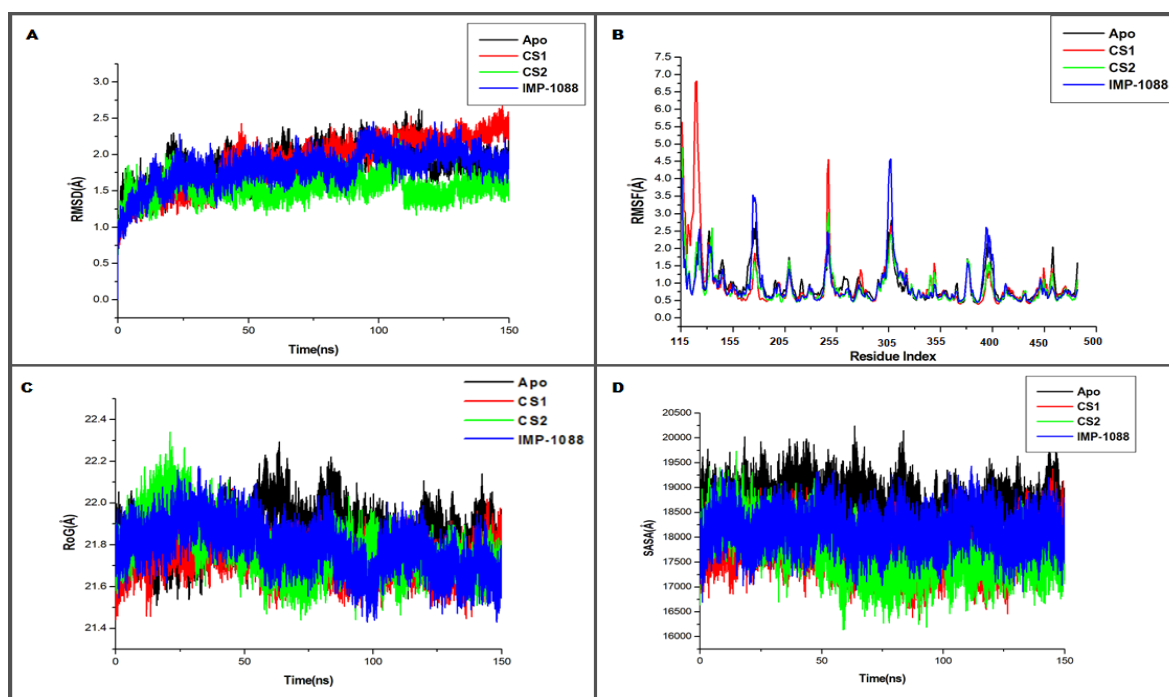
409 **Radius of Gyration**

410 The spatial arrangement of atoms in a protein-ligand complex system around its axis is
411 known as the radius of gyration (RoG) (56, 60). Estimating RoG is one of the most crucial
412 indicators for predicting a macromolecule's structural activity, and it provides insights into
413 variations in the compactness of the protein complex. Therefore, the stability of the unbound
414 HsNMT1, CS1, CS2 and IMP-1088 complex was estimated by measuring RoG over the
415 150ns simulation as shown in **Figure 5C**. The respective RoG averages computed were
416 21.85\AA , 21.75\AA , 21.77\AA , and 21.78\AA for the Apo (HsNMT1), CS1, CS2 and IMP-1088
417 systems. The similarity in mean values of the native unbound state (apo) of HsNMT1 and the
418 bound complexes indicates that the selected compounds do not induce major conformational
419 changes to the active site upon binding.

420 **Solvent Accessible surface area**

421 Solvent-accessible surface area (SASA) impacts the structure and activity of biological
422 macromolecules. SASA analysis provides important insights into residual exposure to
423 surrounding solvent molecules during the simulation. Furthermore, due to the location of
424 active site residues at the surface of the protein, greater insight into residue accessibility to
425 solvent would be important in understanding solvent-like behaviour (hydrophilic or
426 hydrophobic) of a molecule as well protein-ligand complex (61, 62). SASA analysis can also

427 be used to describe protein folding and unfolding (61). As such, the SASA for the simulated
 428 systems was computed, as shown in **Figure 5D**. The averages estimated for the simulated
 429 systems were 18570.40\AA^2 , 17877.74\AA^2 , 17707.02\AA^2 and 18000.32\AA^2 for the Apo, CS1, CS2
 430 and Imp-1088 respectively. The SASA values of the complexed systems were slightly lower
 431 than the unbound HsNMT1 system, indicating a lower surface area exposed to solvent. The
 432 binding of the inhibitors induces rigidity to the amino acids in the structure of HsNMT1 upon
 433 binding. Findings further highlight the similarity in the structural impact of the compounds
 434 and the reference inhibitor of HsNMT1.



435 **Figure 5:** Comparative C- α RMSD, RMSF, RoG and SASA plots showing conformational alterations
 436 upon binding of the compounds and reference compound to HsNMT1 over the 150ns MD simulation
 437 time [A]. Shows the RMSD plots, which indicate the compounds induced relative stability on the
 438 HsNMT1 enzyme upon binding. [B]. Shows the RMSF plots indicating peak regions of residual
 439 fluctuations [C] Show relative compactness of all simulated systems of complexed structures and the
 440 unbound (Apo) system. [D] Showing the surface area exposed to solvent between the simulated
 441 systems. [D] Showing the surface area exposed to solvent between the simulated
 442 systems.

443 Binding Free Energy

444 The mechanics/generalized-born surface area (MM/GBSA) method was employed to
 445 estimate the binding free energetics of the complexed systems of CS1 and CS2 including the
 446 reference IMP-1088 compound. It is well recognized that the MM/GBSA method for
 447 predicting binding energy is more accurate than the majority of molecular docking scoring

448 functions and computationally less complex than **alchemical** free energy techniques (63-66).
 449 The computed binding free energies for the complexed systems of HsNMT1 were estimated
 450 to be -35.20kcal/mol, for CS1, -44.55kcal/mol for CS2 and -47.06kcal/mol for IMP-1088.
 451 Findings show that CS2 had the strongest binding free energy among the two compounds;
 452 however, both compounds demonstrated overall stronger energies than the reference
 453 compound used in the study. The results indicate that these compounds can be considered
 454 potential inhibitors of HsNMT1. **Table 6** indicates the energy terms that contribute to the
 455 binding free energy, the most favourable components being the ΔE_{ele} , ΔE_{vdw} and ΔG_{gas} , while
 456 ΔG_{sol} is unfavourable. The MM/GBSA method is a well-known technique that demonstrates
 457 computational effectiveness using implicit solvent and also offers a transparent environment
 458 for determining the physical causes of observed effects in protein-ligand interactions (28, 66).
 459 Taken together, the energies presented by these compounds suggest the spontaneity,
 460 permeation and a measure of the reaction kinetics that characterize their complexing with the
 461 target protein.

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 463
 464

TABLE 6: Binding free energy estimations via MM/GBSA

Complexes	ΔE_{vdw}	ΔE_{ele}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔG_{sol}	ΔG_{bind}
HsNMT1-IMP-1088	-44.97 ±0.33	-47.24±0.39	-82.21±0.27	54.03±0.36	-35.20±0.15
HsNMT1-CS1	-53.60± 0.23	-10.67 ±0.18	-64.27±0.30	19.72±0.13	-44.55±0.24
HsNMT1-CS2	-60.19±0.32	-5.28±0.29	-65.45±0.43	18.41±0.24	-47.06±0.28

465 ΔE_{ele} = electrostatic energy; ΔE_{vdW} = van der Waals energy; ΔG_{bind} = total binding free energy;
 466 ΔG_{sol} = solvation free energy ΔG = gas phase free energy

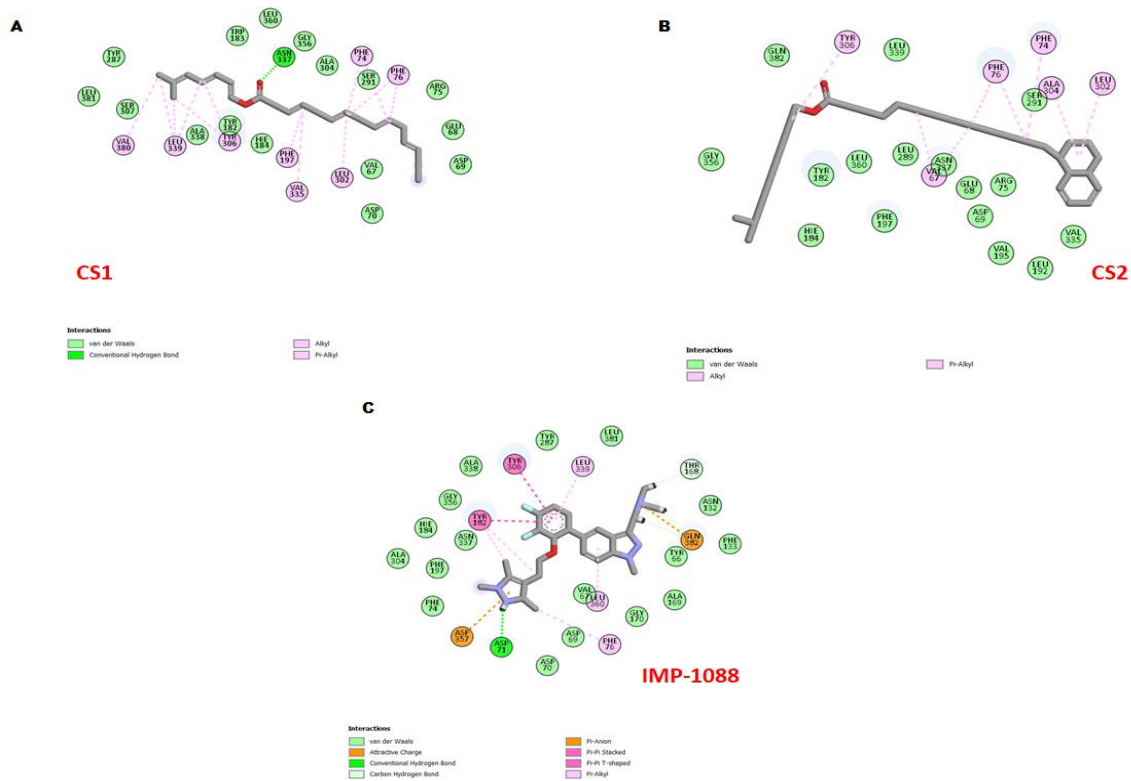
467 **Binding Interactions**

468 The types of interactions a molecule has in a target protein's binding pocket emphasize how
 469 therapeutically effective it is for the protein (67). The binding interactions of CS1, CS2 and
 470 the reference IMP-1088 compound bounded to HsNMT1 was assessed. The CS1 and CS2 as
 471 potential inhibitors were observed to engage in a variety of interactions involving
 472 conventional and carbon-hydrogen bonds, van der Waals and pi-Alkyl, Alkyl interaction as
 473 depicted in **Figure 5**. The variation of interaction types between the potential inhibitors and
 474 the binding site residues was attributed to the different molecular features. Assessing the
 475 interaction profile of the reference (IMP-1088) compounds showed similar interaction types,
 476 as observed in **Figure 6**. The interactions observed herein include conventional and carbon-
 477 hydrogen bonds, van der Waals and pi-Alkyl, Alkyl interaction, pi-pi stacked, pi-pi T-shaped.
 478 Findings revealed similar interactions with binding site residue between the compounds and

479 the reference compound, suggesting CS1 and CS2 compounds may have the potential to elicit
480 similar therapeutic effects against HsNMT1.

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484 **Figure 6:** 2D molecular interactions of inhibitors A) CS1, B) CS2 and C) IMP-1088 within the binding
485 site of the HsNMT1 showing similar interactions with the binding site residues suggesting the
486 compounds have the potential to elicit similar therapeutic effects as reference IMP-1088.

487

488 The outcome of this investigation highlighted several possible biological activities; however,
489 the selection of suitable biological activity was considered based on a higher Probable
490 Activity (Pa) value over a probable inactivity value (Pi). Special attention was given to
491 reported biological activity associated with the *SM* leaf extracts known to have antiviral
492 activity. Thus the suitable biological activity predicted for the two isolated novel esters was
493 antiviral activity, particularly towards rhinovirus. Amongst the selected targets, CS1 and CS2
494 showed a higher binding potential toward HsMNT1, an essential enzyme in treating the
495 common cold. The MD simulation employed to test the effect of the compounds against
496 HsNMT1 enzymes revealed that the compounds enacted good stability, flexibility, structural
497 rigidity and reduced surface area exposed to solvents. These structural effects of the

498 compounds towards HsNMT1 were similar to the structural effects of the reference inhibitor,
499 suggesting the potential inhibitory effects of the compounds toward HsNMT1.

500 *In silico* molecular recognition, protocols were employed to assess the pharmacological effects
501 of the compounds CS1 and CS2 from the *SM* leaf. The predicted biological activity for the two
502 isolated novel esters was anti-rhinovirus activity.

503 Molecular docking analysis indicated that CS1 and CS2 showed a higher binding potential
504 toward HsMNT1. The MM/GBSA method revealed stronger binding free energy in CS1 and
505 CS2 than the reference compound. Assessment of binding interactions also shows similarity
506 in interactions CS1, CS2 and the reference IMP-1088 inhibitor, indicating the potential to
507 elicit similar therapeutic effects against HsNMT.

508 **CONCLUSION**

509 The current study of the phytochemical analysis of DCM leaf extracts of *SM* led to the
510 Identification of two esters that had previously not been reported in the plant. These
511 compounds, 6-methylheptyl pentadecanoate and 6-methylheptyl-15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-
512 hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate, possess anti-Rhino virus(HsNMT1) properties as
513 indicated through an *in silico* molecular targeting prediction.

514 Further *in vitro* validation is required to optimize as a potential drug candidate.

515 **Conflict of interest**

516 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal
517 relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

518

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Supplementary materials

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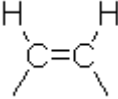
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692 methylheptyl 15-(1,2,3,4,4a,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pentadecanoate against

693 HsNMT1 protein target, from Leaf Extract of *Spondias mombin* Linn

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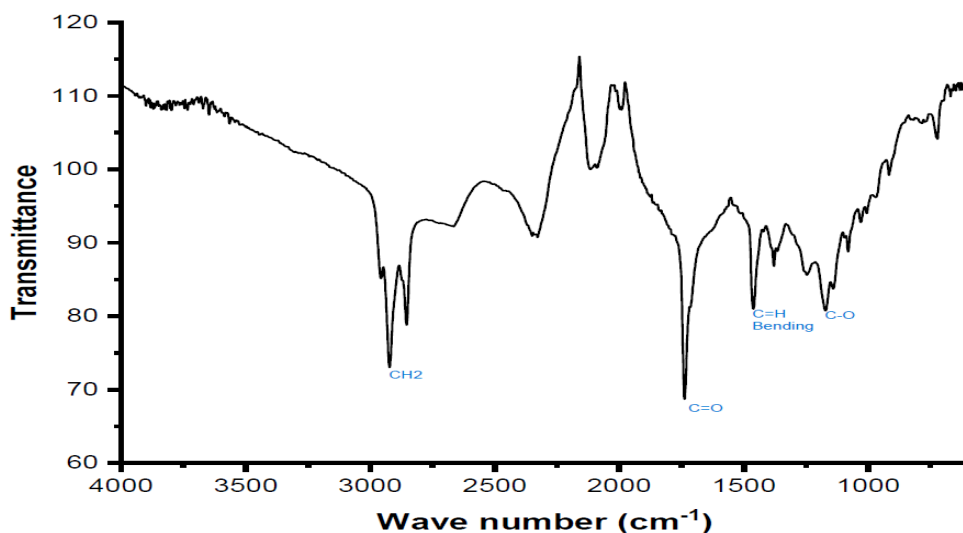
695 Supplementary Table TS1: FTIR Analysis of compounds CS1 and CS2

Absorption Wavelength (cm ⁻¹)	Literature Wavelength (cm ⁻¹)	Intensity	Functional Group	Compound Type
725.0	715-725	m-w		Alkanes and Alkyls
1220.0	1160-1210	s-vs	C-O	Aliphatic esters O=C-O-C With two bands, 1 stronger than the other
1465.0	1450-1470	s	C-H (bending)	Alkyls
1748.0	1750-1735	vs	C=O	Carbonyl (ester C=O Stretch) Membrane lipid, fatty acid
2927.0	2850-3000	s	C-H stretch	Alkyls

696 Intensity key: vw = very weak, w = weak, m = medium, s = strong, vs = very strong

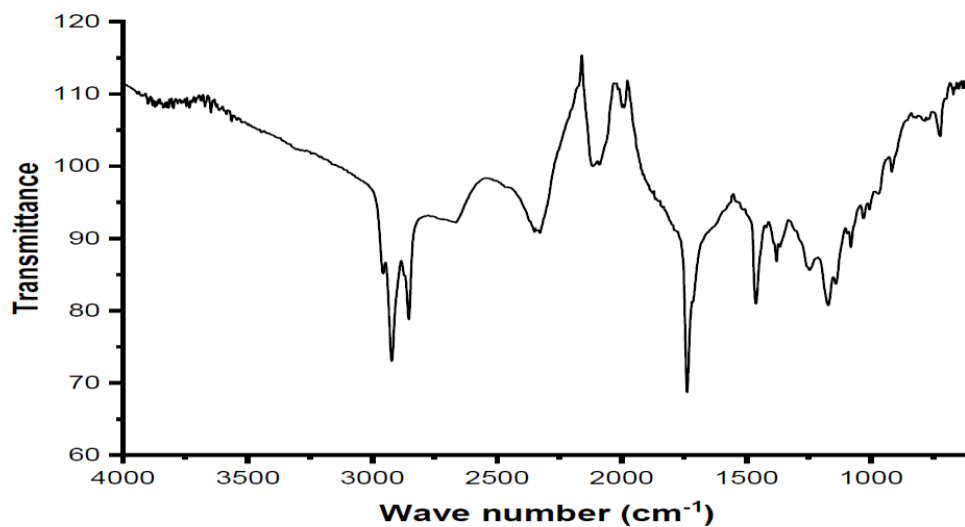
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700 Figure S1: FTIR chromatogram of CS1

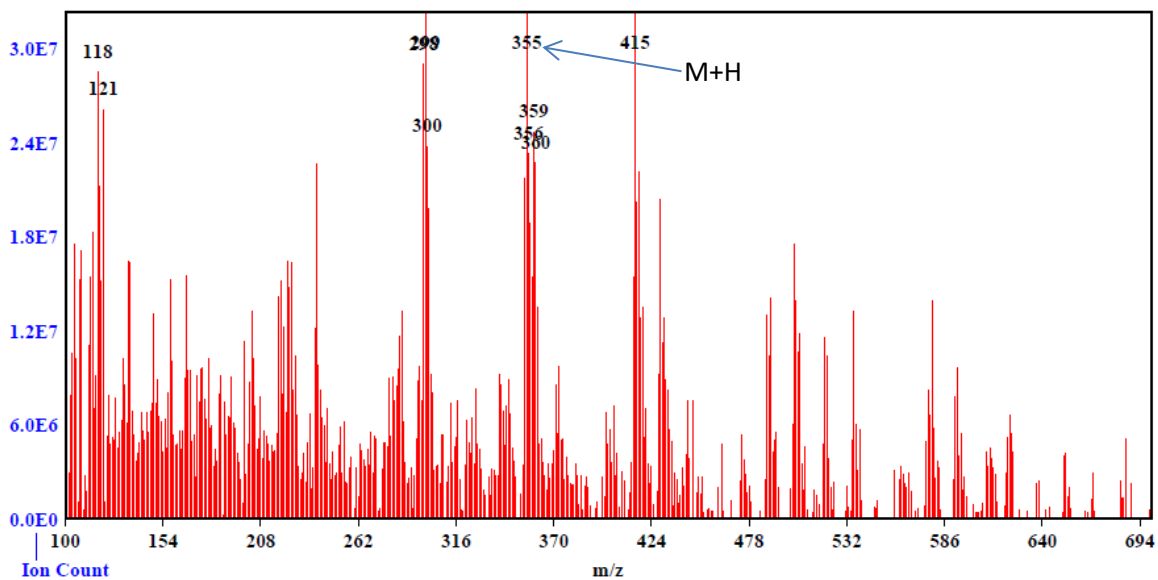


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702 **Figure S2: FTIR chromatogram of CS2**

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Spectrum Name: sample_1-john
 Start Ion: 100
 End Ion: 700
 Source: ESI + 3.5kV 350C
 Capillary: 180V 300C Offset: 30V Span: 20V

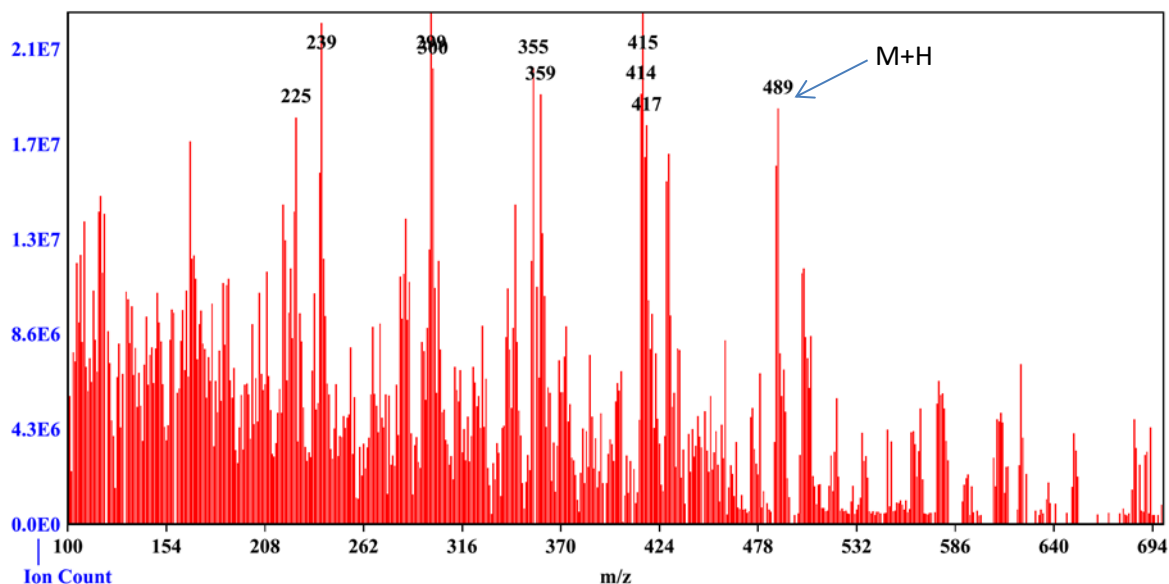


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705 **Figure S3: Mass spectrum of CS1**

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Spectrum Name: sample_1-john_2
 Start Ion: 100
 End Ion: 700
 Source: ESI + 3.5kV 350C
 Capillary: 180V 300C Offset: 30V Span: 20V



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708 **Figure S4: Mass spectrum of CS2**

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710 **Supplementary Table 2- TS2: Proton 1H NMR Analysis of compound CS1**

Carbon No.	$\delta^1\text{H}$ (ppm)	$\delta^1\text{H}$ C (ppm) literature	Functional Group	Compound Type
1	1.30	0.8-1.6	CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	Aliphatic alkane
2	1.70		CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	Aliphatic alkane
3	1.50	0.8-1.6	CH ₃ -CH ₂ -	Aliphatic alkane
4	0.90	0.8-1.6	CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	Aliphatic alkane
8	3.90	3.5-4.8	-OCH ₂	Alkyl of ester
10	2.30	2.0-3.0	O=C-CH ₂	Proton/Alkyl adjacent to carbonyl

711

712 **Supplementary Table 3- TS3: Carbon 13 NMR Analysis of compound CS1**

Carbon No.	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) literature	Functional Group	Compound Type
1	10.97	10-40	CH ₃	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
2	14.03-14.11	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
3	22-25	10-40	CH ₃	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
4	30	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
5	32	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
6	35	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
7	36	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
8	40	37.0-60.0	CH ₂	Methine (CH) group in alkyl fragments; CH and CH ₂ alkyl groups of naphthenic fragments, adjacent to CH group
9	68	62-69	CH ₂ O	Glycerol ester
10	79	-	C-C=O	Carbon next to the carbonyl of ester
11	173.57	180-163	C=O	Ester, carboxylic acid

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714 **Supplementary Table 4- TS4 Proton (¹H) NMR Analysis of compound CS2**

Carbon No.	$\delta^1\text{H}$ (ppm)	$\delta^1\text{H}$ C (ppm) literature	Functional Group	Compound Type
1	1.21	0.8-1.6	-CH ₃	Aliphatic alkane
2	4.20	3.5-4.8	-OCH ₂	Alkyl of ester
3	-	-	C=O	C=O of ester (no proton)
4	2.88	2.0-3.0	CH	Proton next to C=O
5	7.66	-	=CH	Cyclic alkene
6	7.29	4.0-7.3	HC=CH	alkene
7	6.64	4.0-7.3	HC=CH	alkene
8	5.80	-	=C-CH	Proton next to alkene
9	2.68	2.0-3.0	-CH	Proton next to C=O/alkene
10	1.25	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
11	1.25	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
12	1.25	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
13	1.26	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
14	1.26	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
15	1.25	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
16	1.25	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Aliphatic alkane
17	1.19	0.8-1.6	-CH ₂ -CH	Aliphatic alkane
18	1.50	1.2-1.7	CH ₂ -CH-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
19	1.63,1.38	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
20	1.63,1.38	1.2-1.7	CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH	Cyclic alkane
21	1.24	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
22	1.45,1.20	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂ -CH	Cyclic alkane
23	1.54	1.2-1.7	CH ₂ -CH-CH ₃	Cyclic alkane
24	0.86	-	-CH-CH ₃	Alkyl attached to a non- aromatic cyclic ring
25	1.63,1.38	1.2-1.7	CH ₂ -CH-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
26	1.63,1.38	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂ -CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
27	1.24	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
28	1.45,1.20	1.2-1.7	CH-CH ₂ -CH	Cyclic alkane

715 **Supplementary Table 5- TS5: Carbon 13 NMR Analysis of compound CS2**

Carbon No.	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (ppm) literature	Functional Group	Compound Type
1	10.98	10-40	-CH ₃	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
2	14.04	10-40	-CH-	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
3	14.11	10-40	-CH ₃	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
4	22.69	10-40	-CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
5	22.96	10-40	-CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
6	23.79	10-40	-CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
7	24.48	10-40	-CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
8	66.81	62-69	-OCH ₂ -	Ester
9	173.57	180-163	-OCO-	Ester
10			-CH ₃ COO-	CH ₃ attached to the carbon of ester
11	28.92	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
12	29.36	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
13	29.66	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
14	29.70	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
15	30.41	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
16	31.93	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
17	34.00	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
18	38.74	10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
19		10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
20		10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
21		10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
22		10-40	CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
23		10-40	-CH ₂	Aliphatic hydrocarbon
24		10-40	-CH-	Cyclic alkane
25		10-40	-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
26		10-40	-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
27		10-40	-CH ₂	Cyclic alkane
28		20-50	-CH-	Cyclic alkane
29		20-50	-CH-	Cyclic alkane
30	114.03	80-150	=CH	Cyclic alkene
31	127.58	80-150	=CH	Cyclic alkene
32	127.58	80-150	=CH	Cyclic alkene
33	127.58	80-150	=CH	Cyclic alkene

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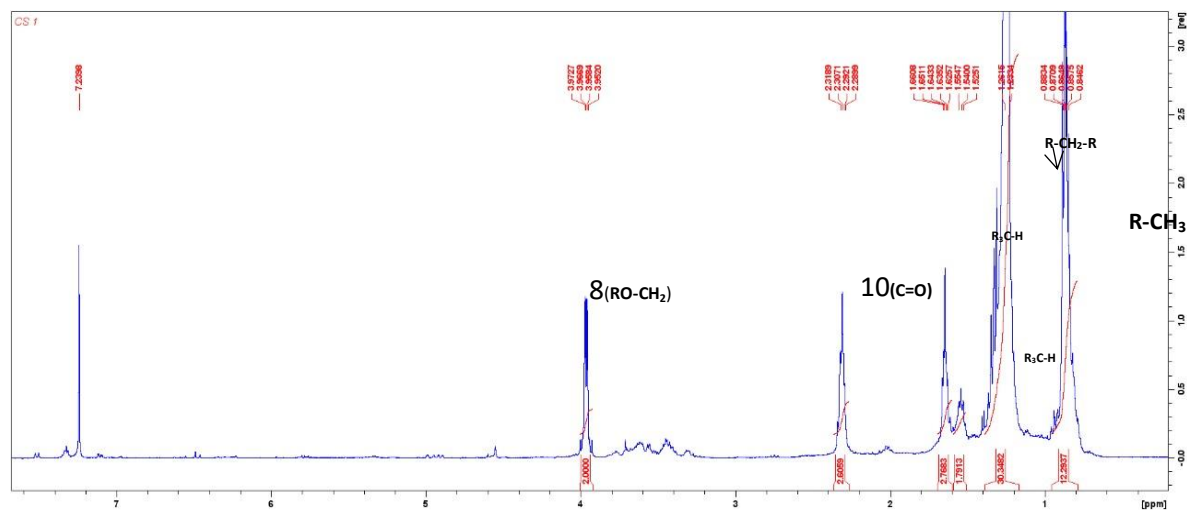


Figure S5: Proton (^1H) NMR Spectrum of compound CS1

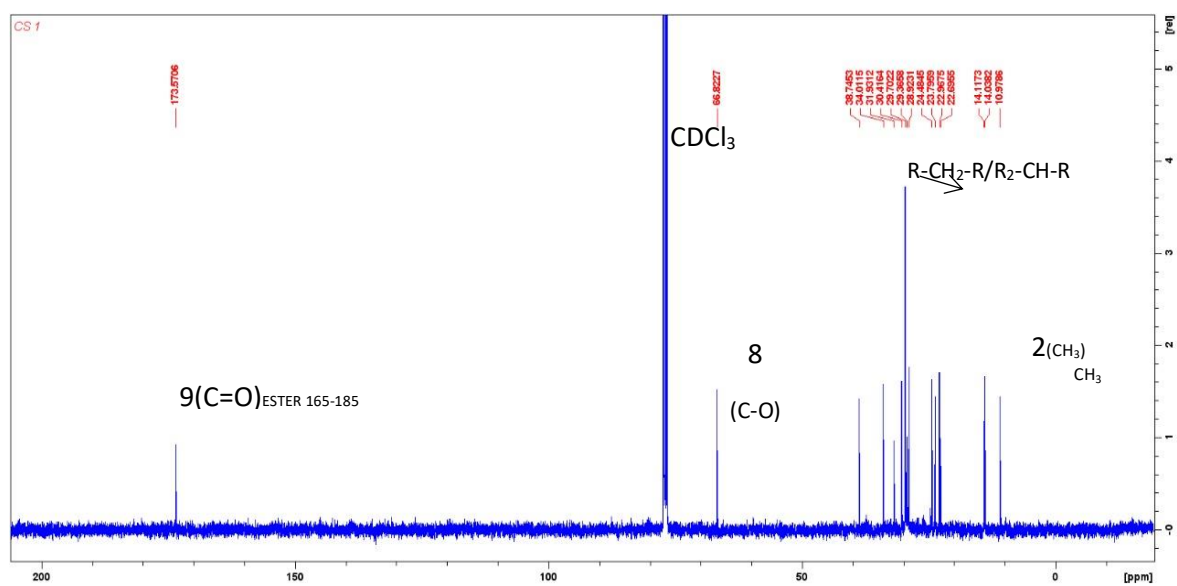


Figure S6: Carbon 13 NMR Analysis of compound CS1

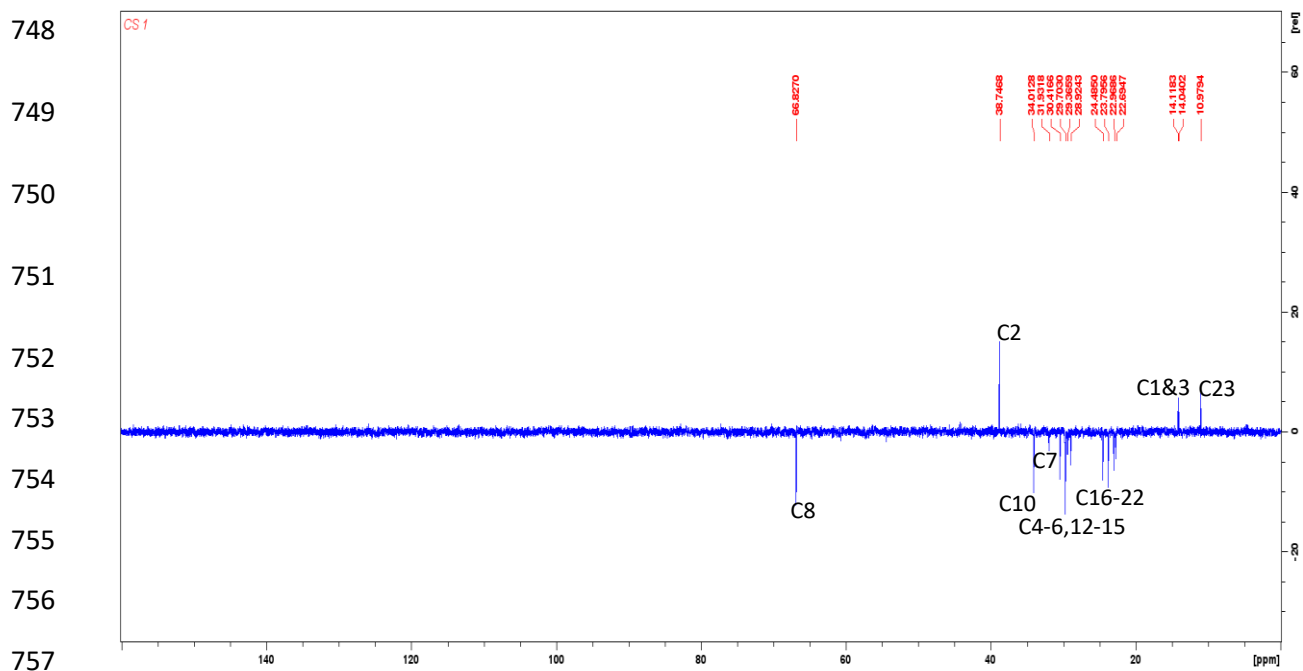


Figure S7: DEPT-135 spectrum of CS1

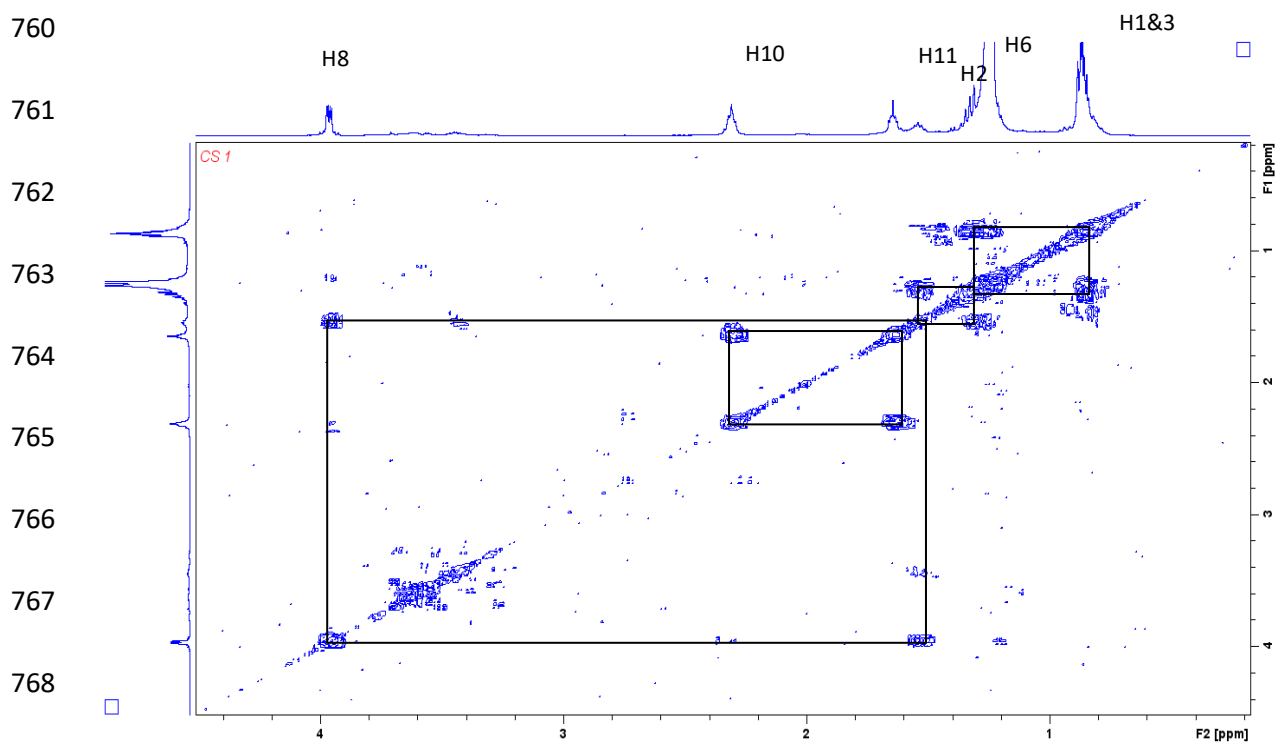
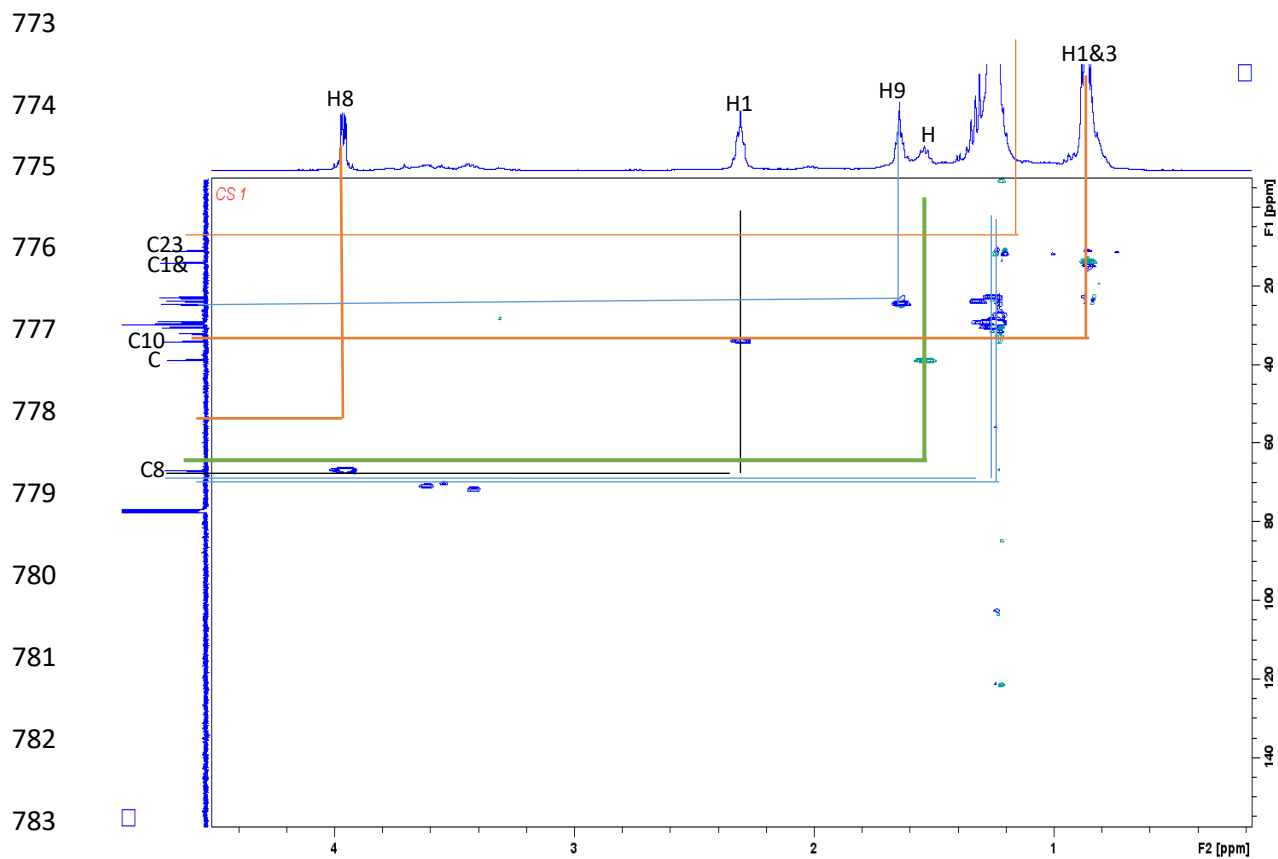


Figure S8: COSY Spectrum of CS1

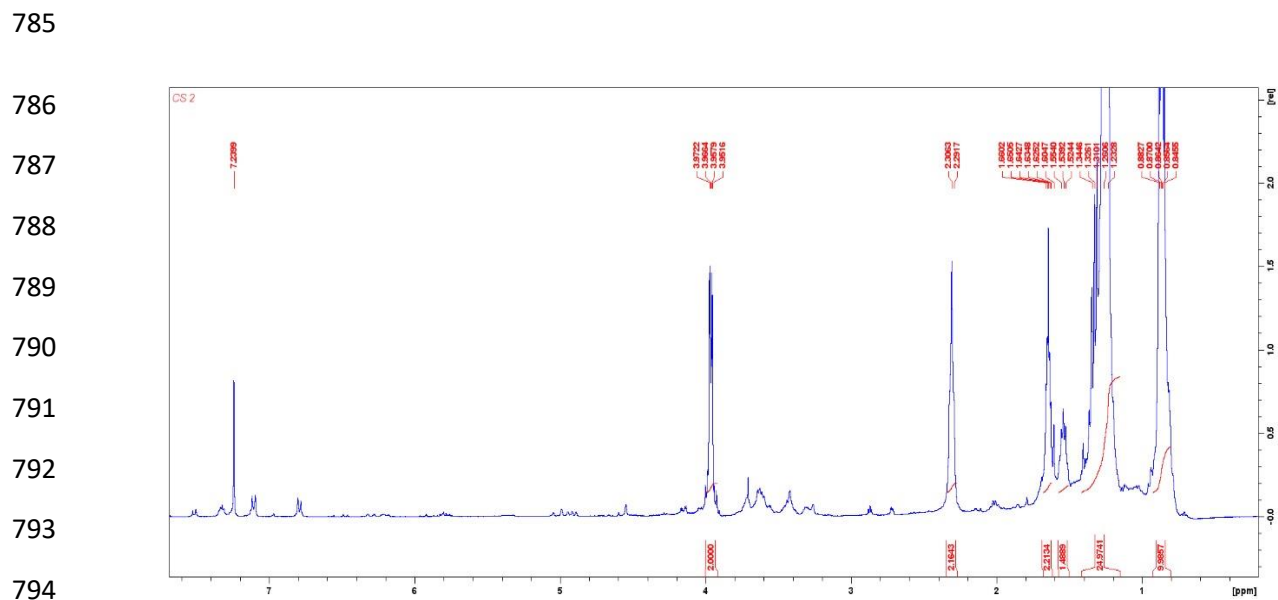
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784 **Figure S9: HSQC spectrum of CS1**



795 **Figure S10: Proton (^1H) NMR Spectrum of compound CS2**

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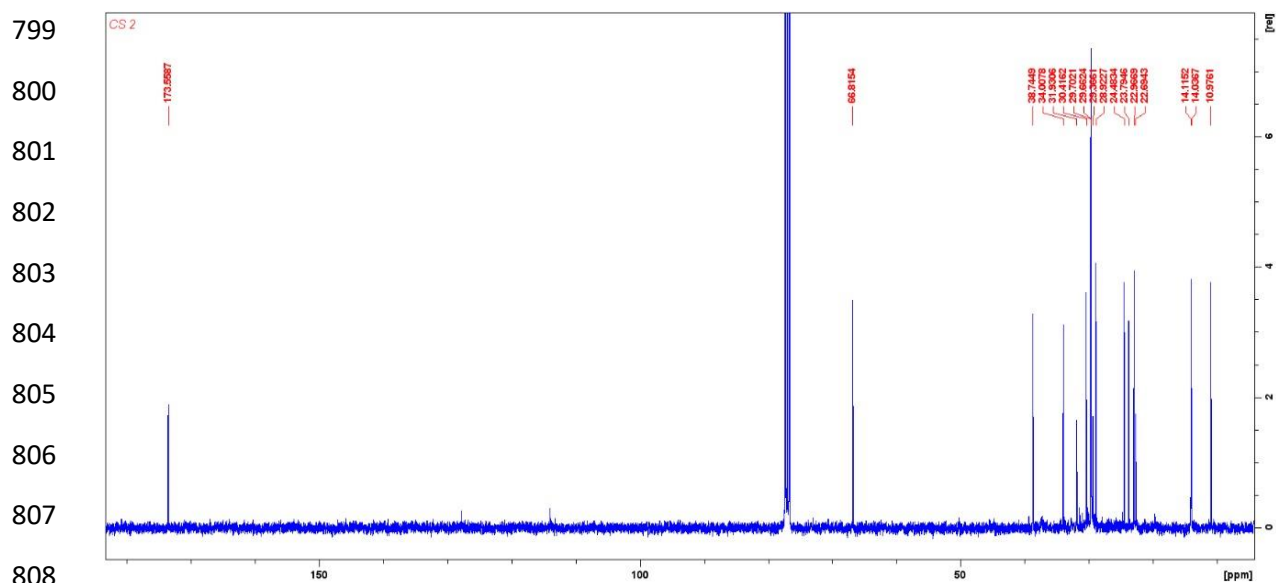


FIGURE S11: carbon 13 NMR Spectrum of compound CS2

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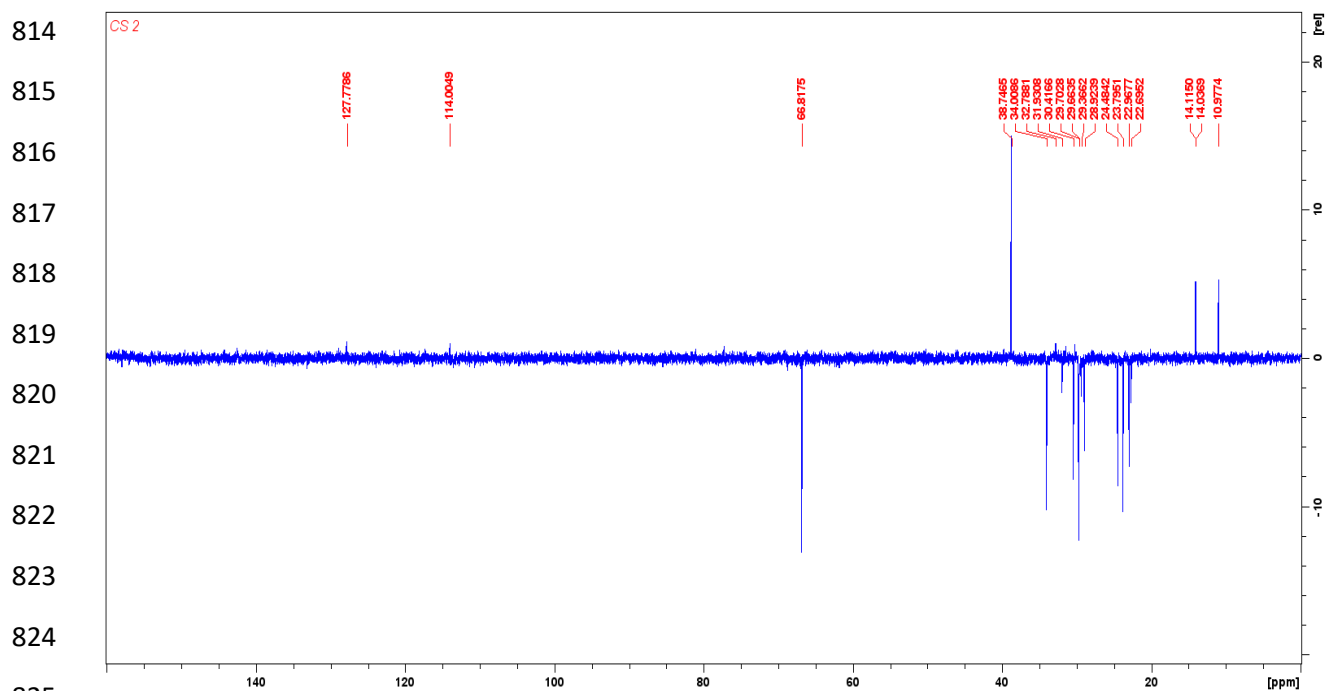
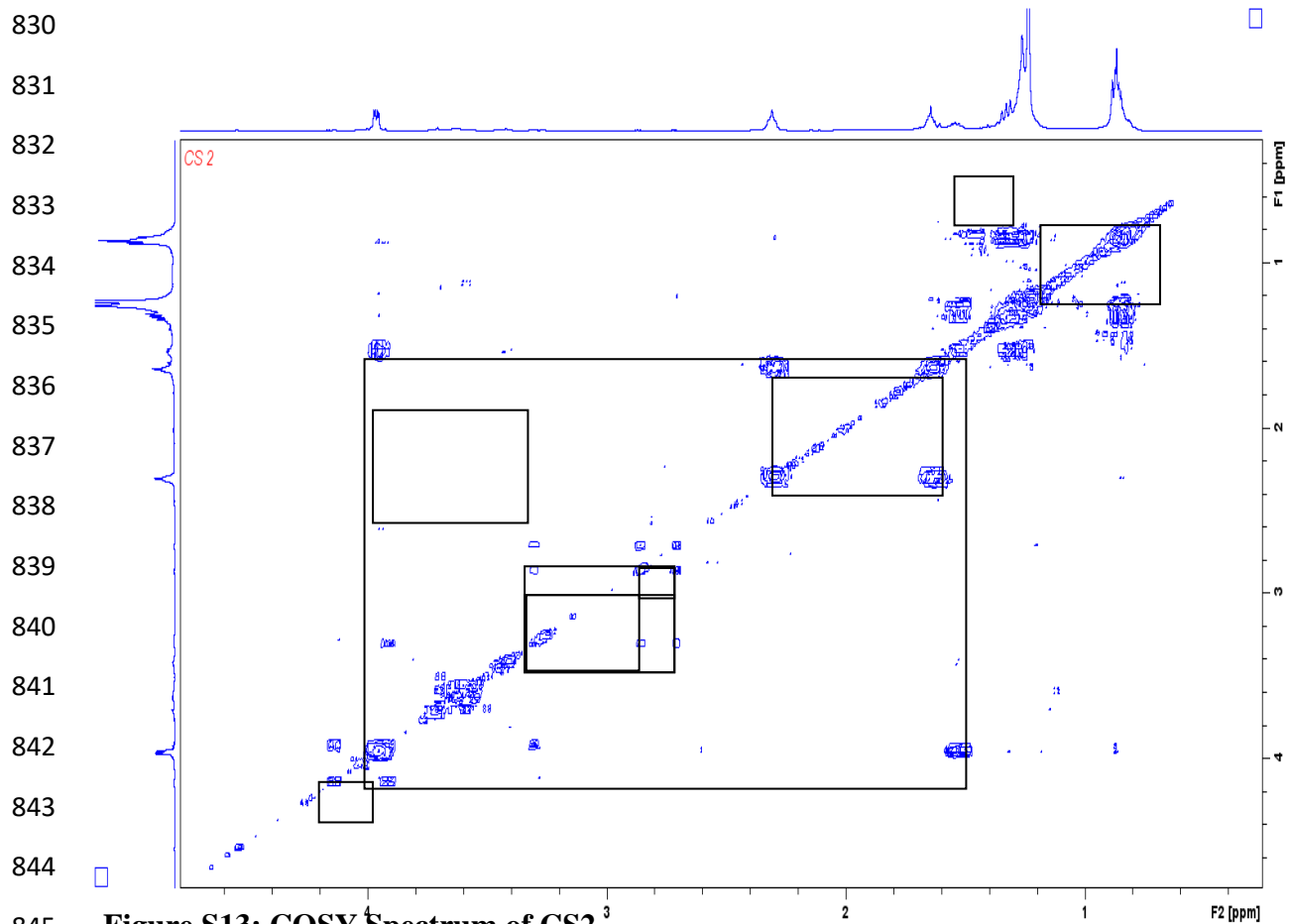
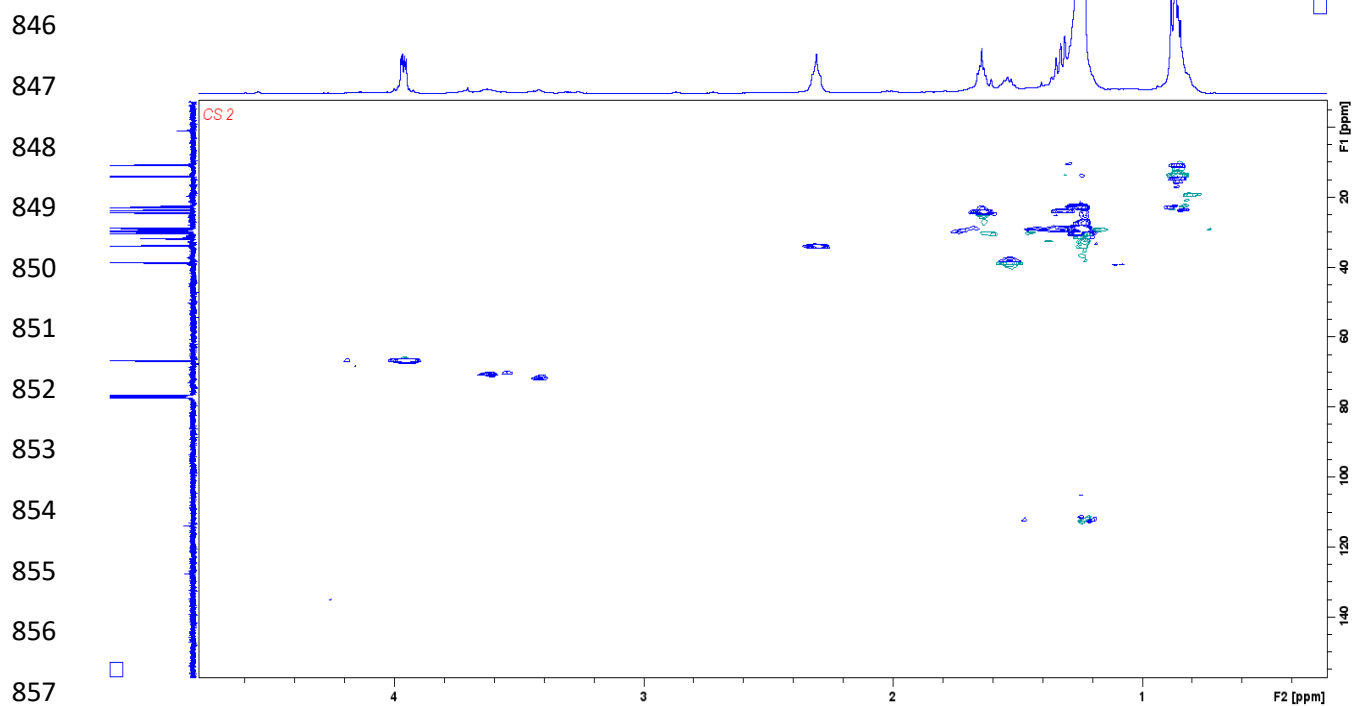


Figure S12: DEPT-135 spectrum of CS2

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845 **Figure S13: COSY Spectrum of CS2**



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859 **Figure S14: HSQC Spectrum of CS2**