## **Supporting Information**

## Synthesis of Crispine-A analogues *via* an intramolecular Schmidt reaction

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**5,6-dimethoxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one** <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 7.27 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 171.4, 154.8 150.4, 141.0, 117.6, 103.4, 69.1, 56.3, 56.2; MS (ESI) C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 195.

**1,2-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dimethoxybenzene** (**9**): To a stirred solution of LAH (430 mg, 11.34 mmol) in dry THF (20 ml) at 0 °C was slowly added a solution of 5,6-dimethoxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (2 g, 10.306 mmol) and stirred at 0 °C for 15 mins. The reaction mixture was then heated to reflux for 4h, cooled to 0 °C, quenched with moist Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The filtrated was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the corresponding diol (**9**) (1.92 g, 94% yield). The crude product was taken for further reaction without purification. (IR (Neat): 3460, 3337, 2922, 1607, 1511, 1460, 1103, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.89 (s, 2H), 4.66 (s, 4H), 3.89 (s,

1

6H), 3.08 (bs, 1H), 1.76 (bs, 1H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 148.5, 132.0, 113.2, 63.8, 56.0; MS (ESI) C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 221.

**1,2-Bis**(bromomethyl)-**4,5-dimethoxybenzene:** To a suspension of diol (**9**) (2 g, 10.10 mmol) in benzene (20 ml) was slowly added PBr<sub>3</sub> (2.06 ml, 22 mmol) and stirred at 50 °C for 1h then cooled to rt and stirred for 24h. The reaction mixture was then basified with saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (PH = 9). Organic layer was washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by recrystallization to afford the corresponding **1,2-bis**(bromomethyl)-**4,5-dimethoxybenzene** (3.01 g, 92% yield). IR (neat): 2955, 1605, 1522, 1460, 1358, 1277, 1204, 1128, 1000, 871, 603 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.84 (s, 2H), 4.63 (s, 4H), 3.89 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 149.5, 129.0, 113.7, 56.0, 30.5.

**2,2'-(4,5-dimethoxy-1,2-phenylene)diacetonitrile (10):** To a stirred solution of NaCN (3.16 g, 64.51 mmol) in dry DMSO (50 ml) was slowly added a solution of 1,2-bis(bromomethyl)-4,5-dimethoxybenzene (9.5 g, 29.321

mmol) at 90 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for additional 3h. Then quenched with water and extracted with chloroform. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10 - 20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding dicyano compound (10) (5.71 g, 90% yield). IR (neat): 2959, 2941, 2837, 2250, 1609, 1525, 1417, 1272, 1180, 1089, 873, 756 cm<sup>-1</sup>; 1H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.90 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.70 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  149.3, 120.2, 116.9, 112.8, 56.1, 21.0; MS (ESI)  $C_{12}H_{12}N_2O_2$  (M+Na) + 239.

**Dimethyl 2,2'-(4,5-dimethoxy-1,2-phenylene)diacetate (11a):** To a solution of dicyano compound (**10**) (2.12 g, 8.62 mmol) in methanol (15 ml), thionyl chloride was slowly added (4.13 ml, 56.96 mmol) and heated to reflux for 2 days. Reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with water. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10 – 20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding diester (**11**) (2.86 g, 94% yield). IR (neat): 2952, 2851, 1729, 1520, 1273, 1192, 1009, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR

[400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.76 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 3.67 (s, 6H), 3.62 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 171.7, 148.3, 125.2, 114.1, 55.9, 51.8, 38.2, 29.60; MS (ESI) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 305.

Methyl 5',6'-dimethoxy-1',3'-dihydrospiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-indene]-1'carboxylate (12): To a stirred solution of β-ketoester (7) (100 mg, 0.378 mmol), triethyl orthoformate (251 µl, 1.51 mmol) and ethylene glycol (212 µl, 3.77 mmol) in dry DCM (10 ml) added catalytic amount of PTSA (7 mg, 0.03 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for about 3 days. Reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM, washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> followed by brine and extracted with DCM. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, conc. and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10 - 20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding ethylene ketal (12) (53%).IR (neat): 2957, 2836, 1728, 1508, 1466, 1257, 1180, 1031, 857, 572 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 4.01-4.11 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.43 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 171.0, 149.4, 148.5, 132.3, 129.4, 117.9, 108.3, 107.7, 65.4, 64.5, 59.3, 56.0, 55.9, 52.0, 42.9; MS (ESI) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 317.

Methyl 1-(3-chloropropyl)-2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-5,6-dimethoxy-1Hindene-1-carboxylate (13): To a suspension of NaH (14 mg, 0.35 mmol) in dry DMF (3 ml) at 0 °C was slowly added a solution of ethylene ketal (12) (100 mg, 0.325 mmol) in dry DMF (3 ml) and stirred at 0 °C for 5 min. Then into this added 1-chloro-3-iodopropane (52 µl, 0.487 mmol) and stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The reaction mixture was then guenched, washed with water and extracted with EtOAc. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10-20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the alkylated product (13) (87.3 mg, 70% yield). IR (neat): 3513, 2951, 2835, 1727, 1607, 1491, 1454, 1312, 1213, 1075, 1032, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 4.15-4.10 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.42-3.37 (m, 2H), 2.32 (t, J = 8 Hz,

1H), 1.46-1.25 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 172.6, 164.3, 149,4, 146.1, 136.2, 129.9, 107.2, 104.0, 101.2, 71.5, 60.7, 60.4, 56.6.

1-(3-chloropropyl)-2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-**Methyl** indene-1-carboxylate (14): To a stirred solution of alkylated compound (13) (9 mg, 0.024 mmol) in dry DCM (1 ml), acetic anhydride (3.47 μl, 0.0364 mmol) and triethyl amine (3.23 µl, 0.0243 mmol) was added followed by catalytic amount DMAP and stirred at rt for 2h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM and washed with water. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, conc. under reduced pressuren and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10-15 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the acetylated compound (14) (7 mg, 70% yield). IR (neat): 2952, 1731, 1608, 1491, 1455, 1316, 1232, 1058, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400] MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 4.41-4.39 (m, 2H) 4.20-4.13 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.41-3.36 (m, 2H), 2.32-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 172.4, 170.8, 164.8, 149.5, 146.2, 136.1, 130.4, 107.1, 104.2, 100.9, 68.09, 62.1, 61.1, 56.6, 56.1, 52.6, 44.9, 30.5, 26.6, 20.7; MS (ESI) C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClO<sub>7</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 413.

Methyl 1-(3-azidopropyl)-2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indene-1-carboxylate (15): To a solution of alkylated compound (13) (70 mg, 0.0189 mmol) in DMF (2 ml) was added NaN<sub>3</sub> (13.5 mg, 0.020 mmol) and stirred at 60 °C for 24h. Reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with water. Organic layer was dried, conc. and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10-20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding azido compound (15) (59 mg, 83% yield). IR (neat): 3498, 2935, 2094, 1727, 1607, 1491, 1455, 1309, 1214, 1966, 762 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.85 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 4.11-3.91 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.18-3.14 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.23 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 172.5, 164.5, 149.7, 146.3, 136.3, 130.1, 107.6, 104.4, 100.2, 71.6, 62.3, 60.6, 56.7, 56.1, 52.6, 51.2, 30.3, 22.7.; MS (ESI)  $C_{18}H_{23}N_3O_6 (M+Na)^+ 400$ .

**Methyl 1-(3-azidopropyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene-1-carboxylate (6):** To a stirred solution of azide (**15**) (488 mg, 1.294 mmol) in methanol (10 ml) was added Dowex activated using 1N HCl and heated to reflux for 20h. The reaction mixture was then filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 10 - 20 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding keto azide (**6**) (349 mg, 81% yield). IR (neat): 2913, 2095, 1613, 1494, 1454, 1286, 1164, 1032, 763 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.87 (s, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, J = 22.4 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 3.24-3.16 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.19 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.26 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  212.2, 170.8, 149,9, 145.5, 131.6, 129.1, 107.7, 106.4, 64.6, 56.1, 56.0, 52.8, 51.1, 43.4, 31.0, 23.7.

Methyl 8,9-dimethoxy-5-oxo-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1alisoquinoline-10b-carboxylate (3): In a clean flame dried RB flask, ketoazide (15) (364 mg, 1.04 mmol) was taken and dried azeotropically with dry benzene. Into this added DCM (5 ml) and cooled to -5 °C. Triflic acid (139 µl, 1.57 mmol) was slowly added and stirred at -5 °C for 15min. Reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM and washed with water. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 30 - 40 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding cyclized product (3) (180.69 mg, 54% yield). IR (neat): 2953, 1731, 1650, 1518, 1433, 1411, 1254, 1217, 1133, 805, 628 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.77 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J =19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 3.05-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.81 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ]  $\delta$  172.1, 168.1, 149.4, 148.1, 126.0, 125.1, 110.0, 108.6, 71.6, 56.2, 56.0, 53.1, 44.7, 37.6, 36.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 306.134; found: 306.1350.

## Single Crystal X-Ray Analysis of Hydroxy analogue of Crispine A (4):

To a solution of ester (3) (40 mg, 0.125 mmol) in dioxane: water (3:1) (3 ml), KOH was added and stirred at rt for 5h. Then diluted with water and neutralized (PH = 6) with 1N HCl and extracted with EtOAc. Organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated under reduced pressure and purifired by recrystallisation from EtOAc:Hexane (1:5) (5 mg/mL) afforded suitable size and quality crystals for x-ray diffraction in the form of pale yellow needles. CCDC Number: CCDC 663178

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for ajoy.

Identification code	ajoy
Empirical formula	C15 H19 N O6
Formula weight	309.31
Temperature	298(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 A

Crystal system, space group Orthorhombic, P2(1)2(1)2(1)

Unit cell dimensions a = 10.3243(9) A alpha = 90 deg.

b = 10.6834(10) A beta = 90 deg.

c = 13.6598(12) A gamma = 90 deg.

Volume 1506.7(2) A^3

Z, Calculated density 4, 1.364 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>

Absorption coefficient 0.106 mm^-1

F(000) 656

Crystal size  $0.25 \times 0.22 \times 0.22 \text{ mm}$ 

Theta range for data collection 2.42 to 28.46 deg.

Limiting indices -13 <= h <= 9, -12 <= k <= 14, -17 <= l <= 14

Reflections collected / unique 19002 / 3594 [R(int) = 0.0738]

Completeness to theta = 25.00 100.0 %

Absorption correction None

Max. and min. transmission 0.9771 and 0.9740

Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup>

Data / restraints / parameters 3594 / 3 / 214

Goodness-of-fit on  $F^2$  0.740

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.0481, wR2 = 0.1125

R indices (all data) R1 = 0.1352, wR2 = 0.1597

Absolute structure parameter -0.3(19)

Extinction coefficient 0.009(3)

Largest diff. peak and hole 0.151 and -0.167 e.A^-3

10b-(hydroxymethyl)-8,9-dimethoxy-1,2,3,10b-tetrahydropyrrolo[2,1-

**a]isoquinolin-5(6H)-one (5):** To a suspension of LAH (7.5 mg, 0.19 mmol) in dry THF (2 ml) at 0 °C, a solution of ester (3) (55 mg, 0.18 mmol) in dry THF (2 ml) was slowly added and stirred at 0 °C for 8h. Reaction mixture was then quenched with moist Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solid was filtered, washed with EtOAc. Filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 30–50 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding alcohol (5) (4.8 mg, 70 % yield). IR (neat): 3385, 2940, 1618, 1514, 1452, 1298, 1214, 1065, 765 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.67 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.78 (d, J = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86-3.59 (m, 4H), 3.43 (d, J = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (bs, 1H), 2.55-2.54 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.05 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR [100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  168.5, 148.7, 147.9, 129.4, 124.9, 110.2, 108.4, 69.3, 67.9, 60.4,

56.2, 56.0, 44.9, 37.5, 33.8, 29.6, 21.2, 21.0, 14.1; MS (ESI) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 278.

(8,9-dimethoxy-5-oxo-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-

10b-yl)methyl methanesulfonate (16): To a solution of alcohol (5) (5 mg, 0.0180 mmol) in dry DCM at 0 °C was added triethyl amine (5.5 μl, 0.03969 mmol) and stirred for 10 mins. Into this slowly added methane sulfonylchloride (1.54 μl, 0.0198 mmol) and stirred at 0 °C for 20 min. The temperature was then slowly raised to rt and stirred for 6h. Reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM and washed with water. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, conc. and purified by column chromatography over silica gel using gradient elution with 30–50 % EtOAc in hexane to yield the corresponding mesylate (16) (6 mg, 93 % yield). IR (neat): 2940, 1618, 1514,

1452, 1366, 1298, 1214, 1065, 765 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>] δ 6.68

(s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.15 (dd, J = 23.2, 10 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H),

3.77 (d, J = 19.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.49 (d, J = 19.6 Hz, 1H), 2.82

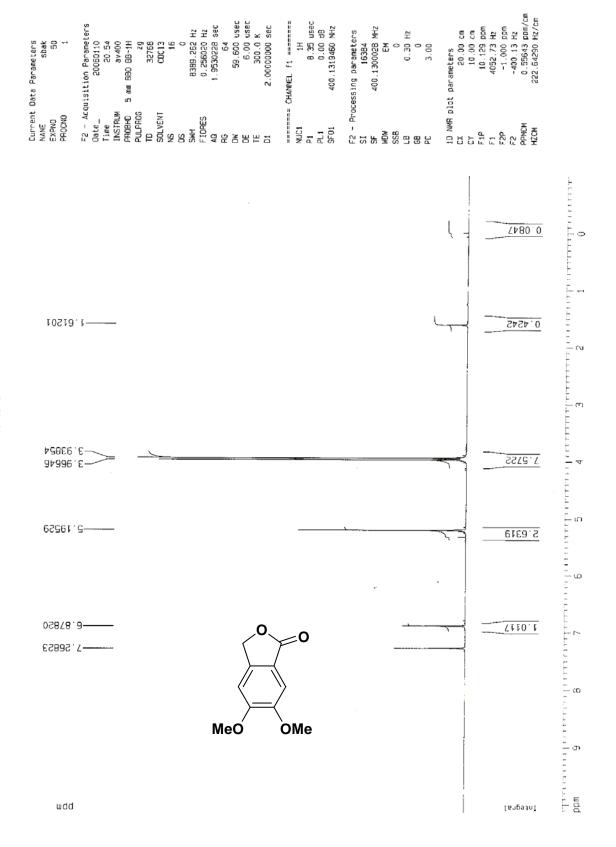
(s, 3H), 2.64-2.62 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.37 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

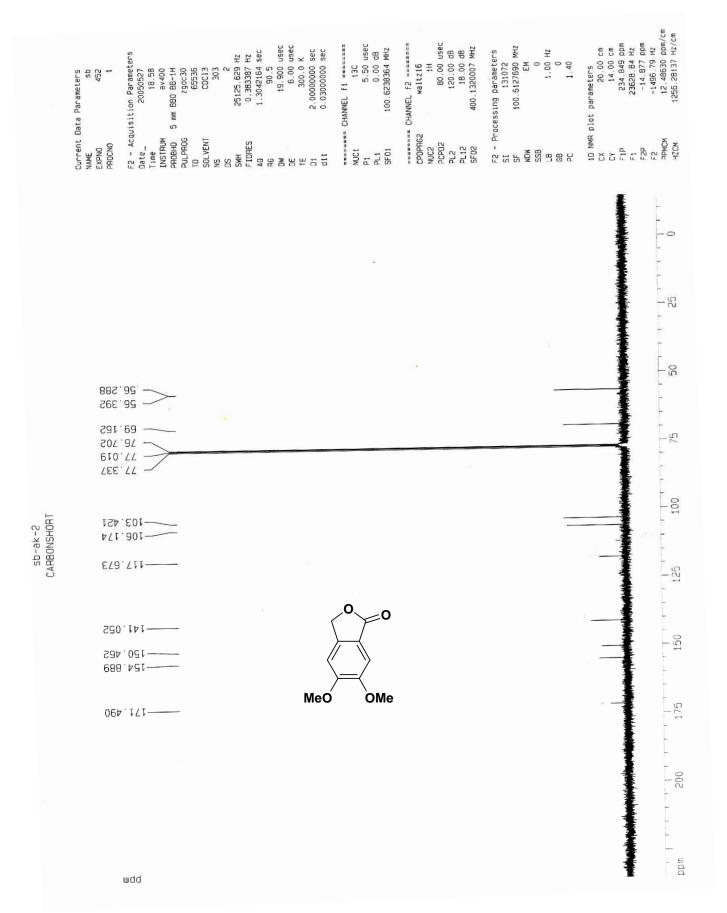
[100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  168.1, 149.4, 148.3, 128.3, 127.8, 124.9, 110.4, 108.9, 72.4, 67.0, 56.4, 56.1, 46.2, 45.2, 37.5, 34.6, 31.5, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{21}NO_6S$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: 378.0987; found: 378.0988.

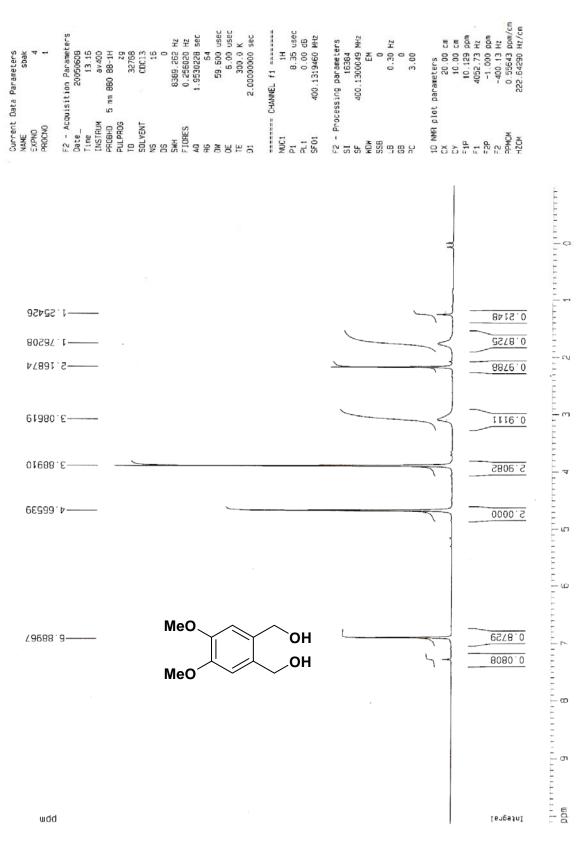
Pyrroridino[a]-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-terahydroisoquinoline (2):<sup>26</sup> To a stirred solution of LAH (1 mg, 0.0264 mmol) in dry THF (25 µl) at 0 °C under argon atmosphere was slowly added a solution of Conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.5 µl) in 50 µl of dry THF. After stirring at 0 °C for 15 min, compound (16) (2 mg, 0.0072 mmol) in dry THF (20 µl) was added in one portion and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and 2 N NaOH (6 μl) was then carefully added and the reaction mixture stirred for 15 min. The solid was collected and washed with ether. Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, conc. under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography over deactivated silica gel using gradient elution with 30-50% methanol in DCM to yield the corresponding methyl analogue of Crispine A (2) in 80% yield. IR (neat) 2962, 2931, 2862, 1609, 1510, 1464, 1357, 1254, 1211, 1167, 1078, 996, 858, 770 cm-1; <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>]  $\delta$  6.65 (s, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.22

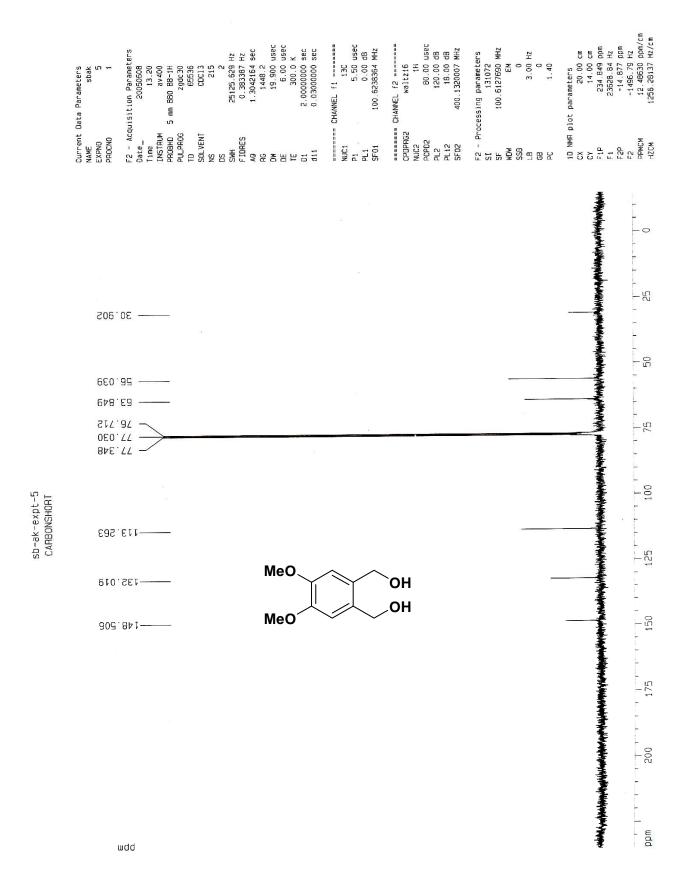
(ddd, J = 5.1, 11.4, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.12-2.80 (m, 4H), 2.45 (ddd, J = 15.9, 4.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.18-2.00 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.36 (s, 3H); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{21}NO_2(M+Na)^+$ : 248.1651; found: 248.1657.

sb-ak-34 PROTON(-5to15) CDC13 d: iitmadras 5

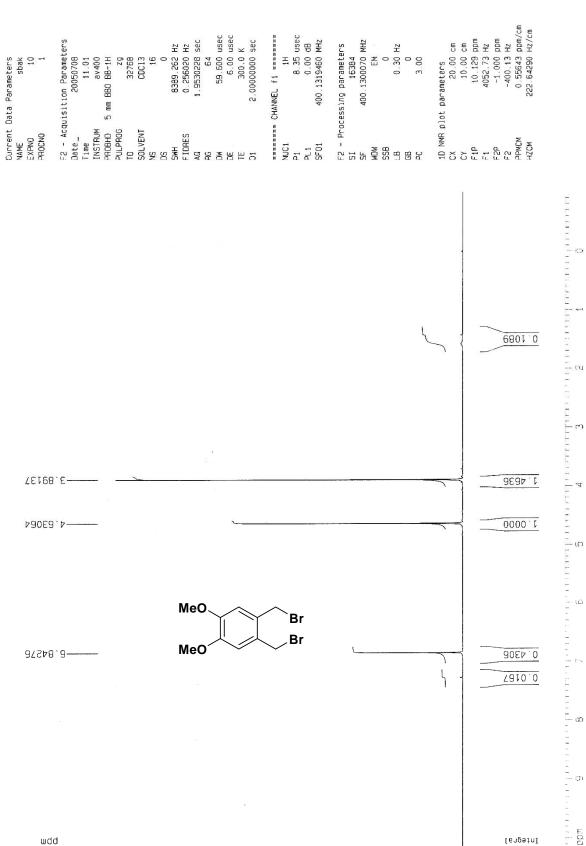


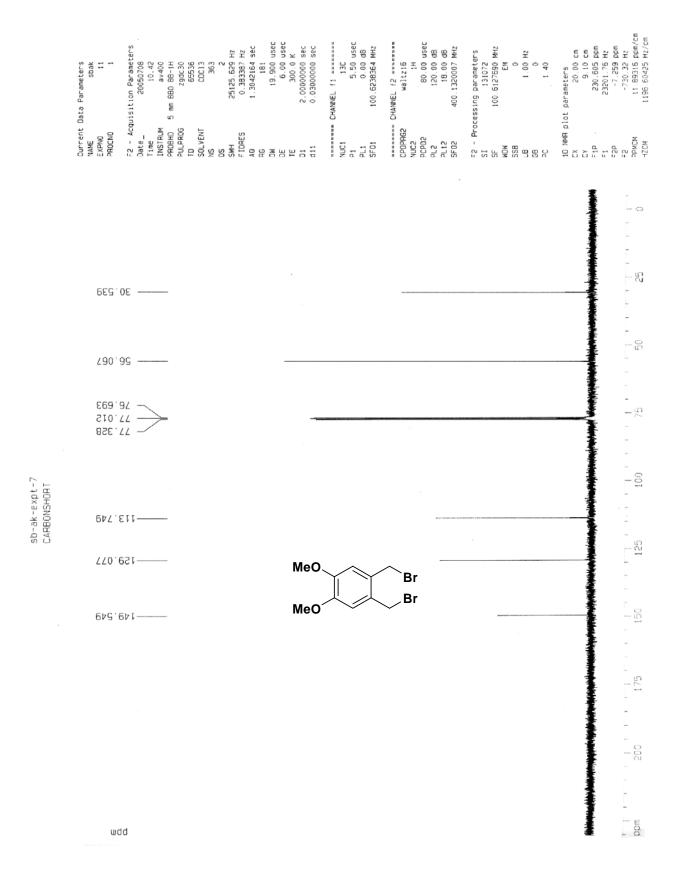






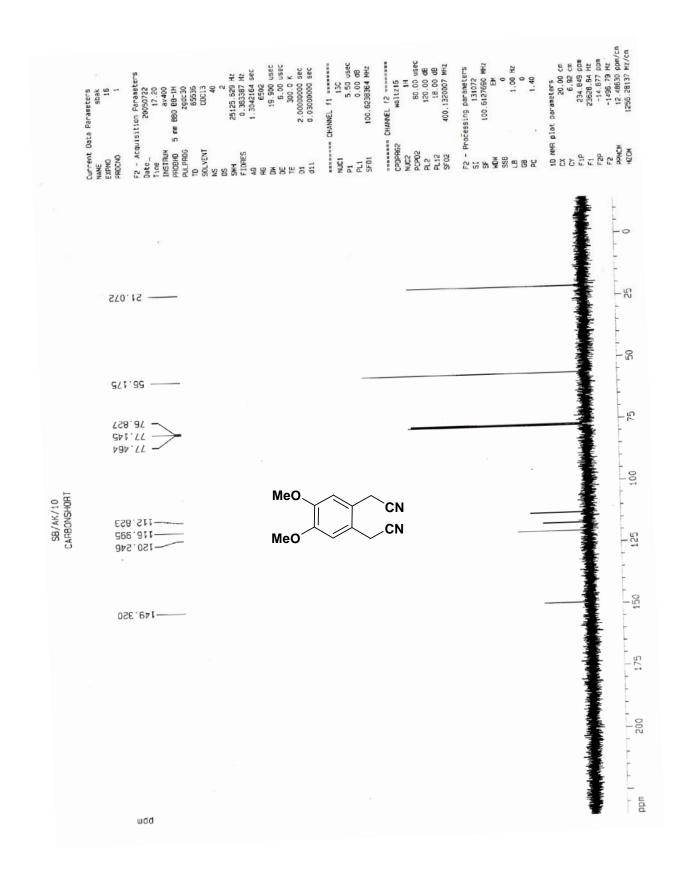
xsb-ak-expt-7 PROTON (-5to15)





wdd

Integral



wdd

Integral

