

Structural insight of new Butyrylcholinesterase inhibitors based on Benzylbenzofuran scaffold

Giovanna L. Delogu¹, Antonella Fais¹, Francesca Pintus¹, Chinmayi Goyal², Maria J. Matos³, Benedetta Era^{1,*} and Amit Kumar⁴

¹Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Monserrato, Cagliari, 09042, Italy; delogug@unica.it; fais@unica.it; fpintus@unica.it; era@unica.it

²Yorktown High School, 2727 Crompond Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, USA; chinmayigoyal.1@gmail.com

³Departamento de Química Orgânica, Faculdade de Farmácia, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain; mariacmatos@gmail.com

⁴Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Cagliari, via Marengo 2, Cagliari, 09123, Italy; amit369@gmail.com or amit.kumar@unica.it

* Correspondence: era@unica.it (B.E).

1. Chemistry

- 1.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of methoxylated 2-phenylbenzofurans **5A** and **7A**
- 2.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of hydroxylated 2-phenylbenzofurans **13A** and **15A**
- 3.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of methoxylated 2-benzylbenzofurans **1-8(B)**
- 4.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of hydroxylated 2-benzylbenzofurans **9-16(B)**
- 5.1 ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra 2-phenylbenzofurans hydroxylated **13A** and **15A**
- 6.1 ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra 2-benzylbenzofurans hydroxylated **9-16(B)**

2. Molecular modelling studies

2.1 Docking studies

Table S.2.1 [Table S1](#)

2.2 Validation of Docking Method

Figure S.2.1. [Figure S1](#)

1. Chemistry

1.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of methoxylated 2-phenylbenzofurans 1-8(A)

A mixture of 2-hydroxybenzyltriphenylphosphonium bromide **IIa-IId** (0.50 g, 1.11 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.12 mL, 1.11 mol) in a mixed solvent (toluene 20 mL and Et₃N 0.5 mL) was stirred under reflux for 2h. The precipitate was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to give the desired compounds **1-8(A)** [8,10].

5-bromo-2-(3-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran 5A. Yield: 75%; m.p.: 93-94 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 6.91-6.94 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.70 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 55.53, 101.28, 110.84, 112.74, 115.04, 116.15, 117.80, 123.63, 127.29, 130.07, 131.31, 131.32, 153.73, 157.21, 160.13; Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁BrO₂: C, 59.43%; H, 3.66%. Found: C, 59.48%; H, 3.70%.

5-chloro-2-(3-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran 7A. Yield: 78%; m.p.: 64-66 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 6.93-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 55.55, 101.26, 110.48, 112.27, 115.04, 117.80, 120.59, 124.61, 128.67, 130.09, 130.69, 131.40, 153.38, 157.39, 160.14; Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁ClO₂: C, 69.64%; H, 4.29%. Found: C, 69.70%; H, 4.33%.

2.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of hydroxylated 2-phenylbenzofurans 9-16(A)

A solution of the methoxy-2-phenylbenzofuran (0.11 g, 0.050 mmol) in acetic acid (5.0 mL) and acetic anhydride (5.0 mL), at 0°C, was prepared. Hydriodic acid 57% (10.0 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred under reflux temperature for 3h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the dry residue was purified by FC (dichloromethane/methanol 9.8:0.2) to give the desired compound **9-16(A)** [8,10,20].

5-bromo-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran 13A. Yield: 65%; m.p.: 127-129°C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 6.85 (s, 1H); 7.29-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.43 (dd J = 8.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 9.72 (s, 1H, -OH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 101.26, 110.04, 115.04, 117.80, 120.59, 124.61, 128.67, 130.09, 130.69, 131.40, 153.38, 157.39, 160.14; Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₉BrO₂: C, 58.16%; H, 3.14%. Found: C, 58.24%; H, 3.25%.

5-chloro-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran **15A**. Yield: 78%; m.p.: 115-157 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 6.86 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 9.73 (s, 1H, -OH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 101.39, 111.99, 112.28, 116.19, 117.94, 120.64, 124.70, 128.70, 130.35, 134.94, 153.31, 156.05, 157.06; Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₉ClO₂: C, 68.72%; H, 3.71%. Found: C, 68.76%; H, 3.80%.

3.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of methoxylated 2-benzylbenzofurans **1-8(B)**

2-Hydroxybenzyltriphenylphosphonium bromide **Ila-Ild** (1 g, 2.22 mmol) and 2-phenylacetyl chloride (0.32 mL, 2.22 mmol) in a mixed solvent (toluene 50 mL and Et₃N 1mL) were heated to reflux for 2h. The mixture is allowed to cool, and the white precipitate formed is filtered off. The filtrate is evaporated to dryness, and the residue is purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to obtain the desired compounds **1-8(B)**.

5-Bromo-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran **1B**. Yield: 32 %; m.p.: brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.95 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.26, 55.43, 102.80, 112.47, 114.25, 115.69, 123.18, 126.35, 128.91, 130.05, 131.00, 153.86, 158.72, 159.97 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃BrO₂: C, 60.59%; H, 4.13%. Found: C, 60.64%; H, 4.18%.

7-Bromo-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran **2B**. Yield: 35 %; m.p.: brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.00 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.25 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.21, 55.42, 103.73, 104.02, 114.23, 119.68, 123.94, 126.59, 128.87, 130.17, 130.28, 152.15, 158.72, 159.73 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃BrO₂: C, 60.59%; H, 4.13%. Found: C, 60.61%; H, 4.16%.

5-Chloro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran **3B**. Yield: 30 %; m.p.: yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.03 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.29, 55.42, 102.94, 111.95, 114.24, 120.13, 123.63, 128.93, 130.05, 130.36, 132.19, 153.48, 158.71, 160.12 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃ClO₂: C, 70.46%; H, 4.80%. Found: C, 70.48%; H, 4.84%.

7-Chloro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran **4B**. Yield: 30 %; m.p.: brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.12 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C

NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.19, 55.41, 103.88, 114.23, 116.39, 119.05, 123.54, 123.73, 128.87, 130.15, 130.61, 150.78, 158.71, 159.77 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃ClO₂: C, 70.46%; H, 4.80%. Found: C, 70.47%; H, 4.83%.

5-Bromo-2-(3-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran 5B. Yield: 35 %; m.p.: yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.97 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.70-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 35.10, 55.32, 103.08, 112.33, 112.48, 114.89, 115.71, 121.38, 123.21, 126.42, 129.80, 130.94, 138.40, 153.84, 159.25, 159.98 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃BrO₂: C, 60.59%; H, 4.13%. Found: C, 60.63%; H, 4.16%.

7-Bromo-2-(3-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran 6B. Yield: 40 %; m.p.: yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.03 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.73 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.98 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.30 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 35.06, 55.34, 103.75, 104.27, 112.46, 114.89, 119.73, 121.49, 123.97, 126.66, 129.78, 130.23, 138.35, 152.15, 158.98, 159.98 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃BrO₂: C, 60.59%; H, 4.13%. Found: C, 60.65%; H, 4.19%.

5-Chloro-2-(3-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran 7B. Yield: 45 %; m.p.: yellow oil °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.10 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.38 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.84-6.90 (m, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 6.91-6.95 (m, 1H, H-7'), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.30 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H-6'), 7.35 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.47 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H, H-4) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 35.10, 55.30, 103.21, 111.96, 112.30, 114.89, 120.15, 121.37, 123.69, 128.19, 129.78, 130.30, 138.41, 153.46, 159.39, 159.97 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃ClO₂: C, 70.46%; H, 4.80%. Found: C, 70.51%; H, 4.87%.

7-Chloro-2-(3-methoxybenzyl)benzofuran 8B. Yield: 42 %; m.p.: yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.02 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.28 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.73 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-6'), 6.77-6.84 (m, 2H, H-3', H-5'), 7.00 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H-7'), 7.12-7.16 (m, 2H, H-5, H-6), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H, H-4) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 35.04, 55.33, 104.15, 112.42, 114.90, 116.41, 119.09, 121.48, 123.58, 123.80, 129.78, 130.57, 138.36, 150.79, 159.03, 159.97 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃ClO₂: C, 70.46%; H, 4.80%. Found: C, 70.50%; H, 4.86%. Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₃ClO₂: C, 70.46%; H, 4.80%. Found: C, 70.50%; H, 4.86%.

4.1 General Experimental Procedure for the Synthesis of hydroxylated 2-benzylbenzofurans 9-16(B)

General procedure for the preparation of hydroxylated 2-benzylbenzofuran **9-16(B)**.

Methoxy-2-benzylbenzofuran (0.40 g, 1.2 mmol) was dissolved in acetic acid (20 mL) and acetic anhydride (20 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. To this solution, hydriodic acid was added dropwise, and then the reaction mixture was refluxed for 3h. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered, and the solvent was removed to give a crude solid product. Purification was carried out by column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol 9.8:0.2 to provide the desired compounds 9-16(B).

5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran 9B. Yield: 61 %; m.p.: 83-85 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 4.07 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.75-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.32-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 34.71, 103.15, 111.92, 113.74, 115.87, 120.38, 121.34, 123.24, 127.99, 129.88, 138.65, 153.48, 155.89, 159.20 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₁₁BrO₂: C, 59.43%; H, 3.66%. Found: C, 59.46%; H, 3.69%.

7-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran 10B. Yield: 71 %; m.p.: brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 4.07 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.34 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.36-7.39 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 35.16, 103.76, 104.37, 114.20, 115.86, 119.41, 122.03, 124.64, 126.76, 129.86, 138.66, 152.15, 156.86 158.76 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₁₁BrO₂: C, 59.43%; H, 3.66%. Found: C, 59.48%; H, 3.71%.

5-Chloro-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran 11B. Yield: 61 %; m.p.: 74-76 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 4.02 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.26 (s, 1H, OH), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 34.92, 103.30, 112.00, 114.04, 115.95, 120.19, 121.51, 123.77, 128.25, 130.04, 130.28, 138.78, 153.48, 155.89, 159.20 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₁₁ClO₂: C, 69.74%; H, 4.29%. Found: C, 69.77%; H, 4.32%.

7-Chloro-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran 12B. Yield: 99 %; m.p.: brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 4.08 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.34 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.27 (s, 1H, OH) 7.35-7.37 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm), *J* (Hz) = 34.83, 104.26, 114.04, 116.03, 119.13, 121.63, 123.63, 123.87, 130.05, , 138.72, 150.80, 155.87, 158.83 ppm; Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₁₁ClO₂: C, 69.74%; H, 4.29%. Found: C, 69.76%; H, 4.33%.

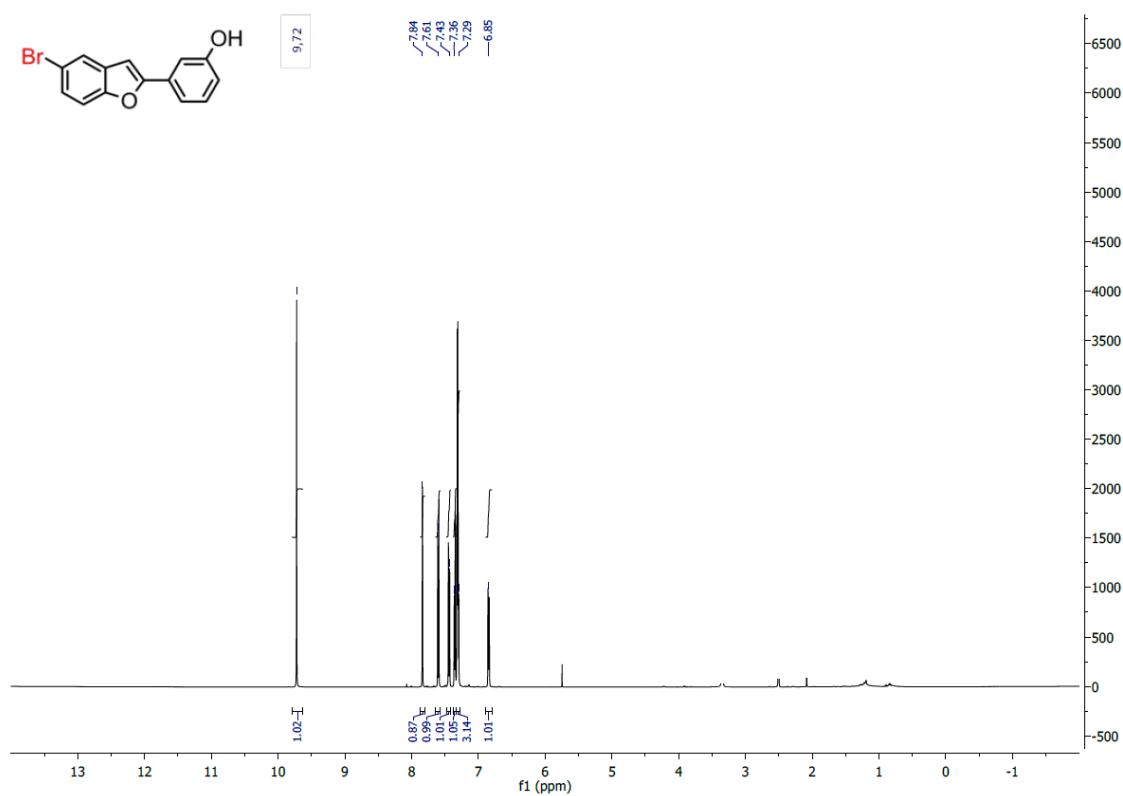
5-Bromo-2-(3-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **13B**. Yield: 70 %; m.p.: 76-78 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 4.07 (s, 2H, CH_2), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.75-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.90, 103.17, 112.52, 114.04, 115.76, 115.94, 121.53, 123.25, 126.49, 130.06, 130.92, 138.77, 153.87, 155.88, 159.05 ppm; Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrO}_2$: C, 59.43%; H, 3.66%. Found: C, 59.49%; H, 3.72%.

7-Bromo-2-(3-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **14B**. Yield: 94 %; m.p.: brown oil; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 4.12 (s, 2H, CH_2), 6.43 (s, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.93 (m, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.40-7.42 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.83, 103.76, 104.37, 114.04, 116.05, 119.75, 121.63, 124.01, 126.71, 130.04, 130.21, 138.69, 152.15, 155.86, 158.78 ppm; Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrO}_2$: C, 59.43%; H, 3.66%. Found: C, 59.47%; H, 3.70%.

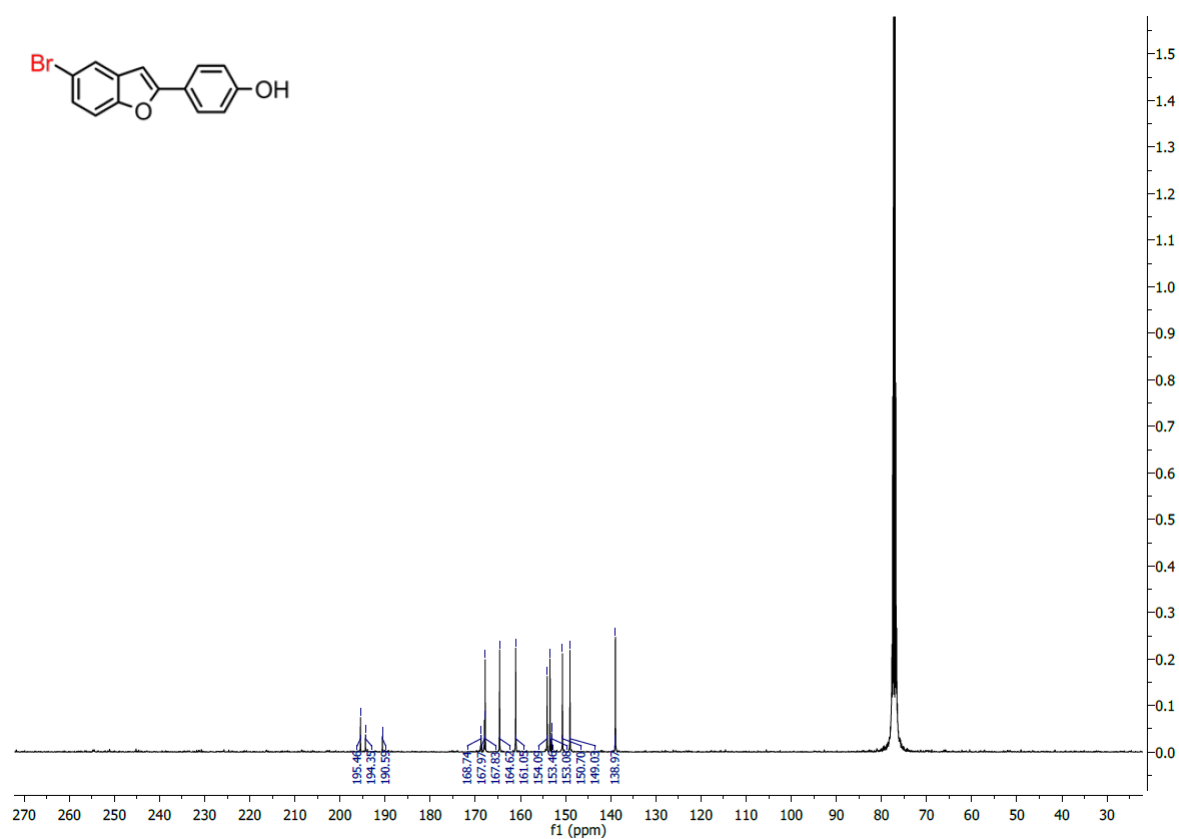
5-Chloro-2-(3-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **15B**. Yield: 97 %; m.p.: 60-62 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 4.01 (s, 2H, CH_2), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.65-6.70 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H, OH), 7.28 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.92, 103.30, 112.00, 114.04, 115.95, 120.19, 121.51, 123.77, 128.25, 130.04, 130.28, 138.78, 153.48, 155.89, 159.20 ppm; Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_2$: C, 69.74%; H, 4.29%. Found: C, 69.79%; H, 4.36%.

7-Chloro-2-(3-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **16B**. Yield: 93 %; m.p.: 78-80 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 4.01 (s, 2H, CH_2), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.65-6.70 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H, -OH), 7.28 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm), J (Hz) = 34.83, 104.26, 114.04, 116.03, 116.44, 119.13, 121.63, 123.63, 123.87, 130.05, 130.55, 138.72, 150.80, 155.87, 158.83 ppm; Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_2$: C, 69.74%; H, 4.29%. Found: C, 69.78%; H, 4.36%.

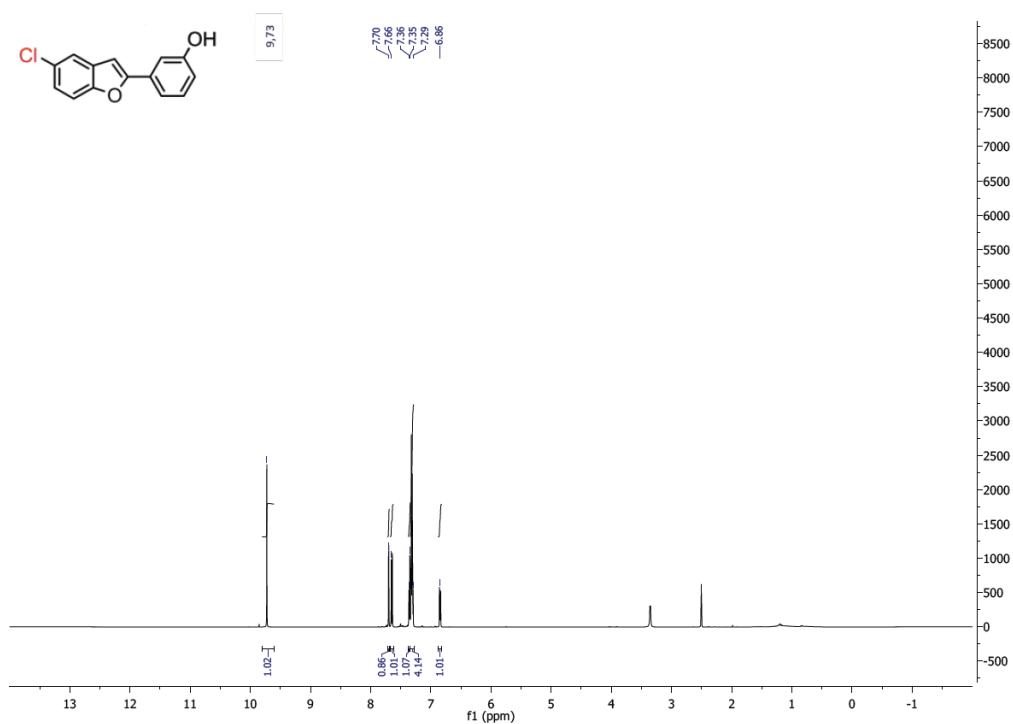
5.1 ^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran **13A**



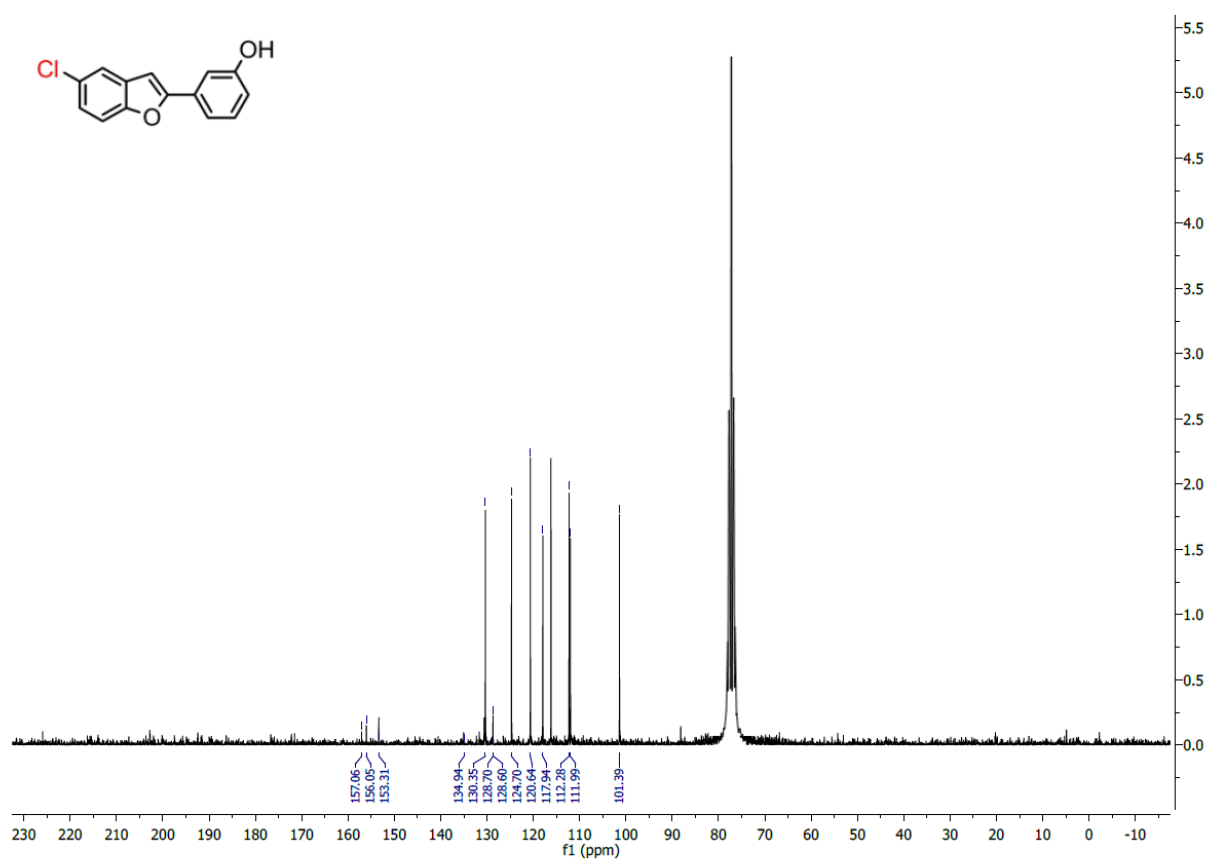
^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran **13A**



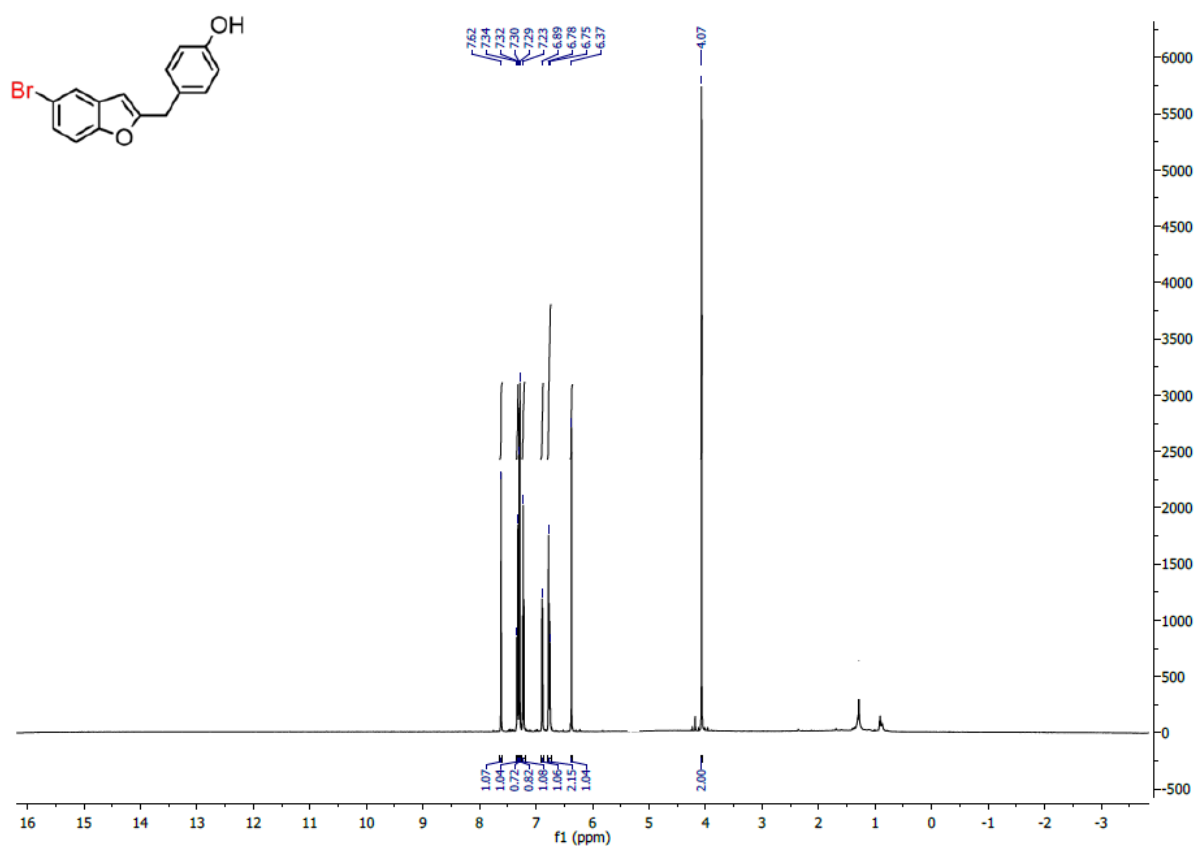
¹H NMR spectra of 5-Chloro-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran **15A**



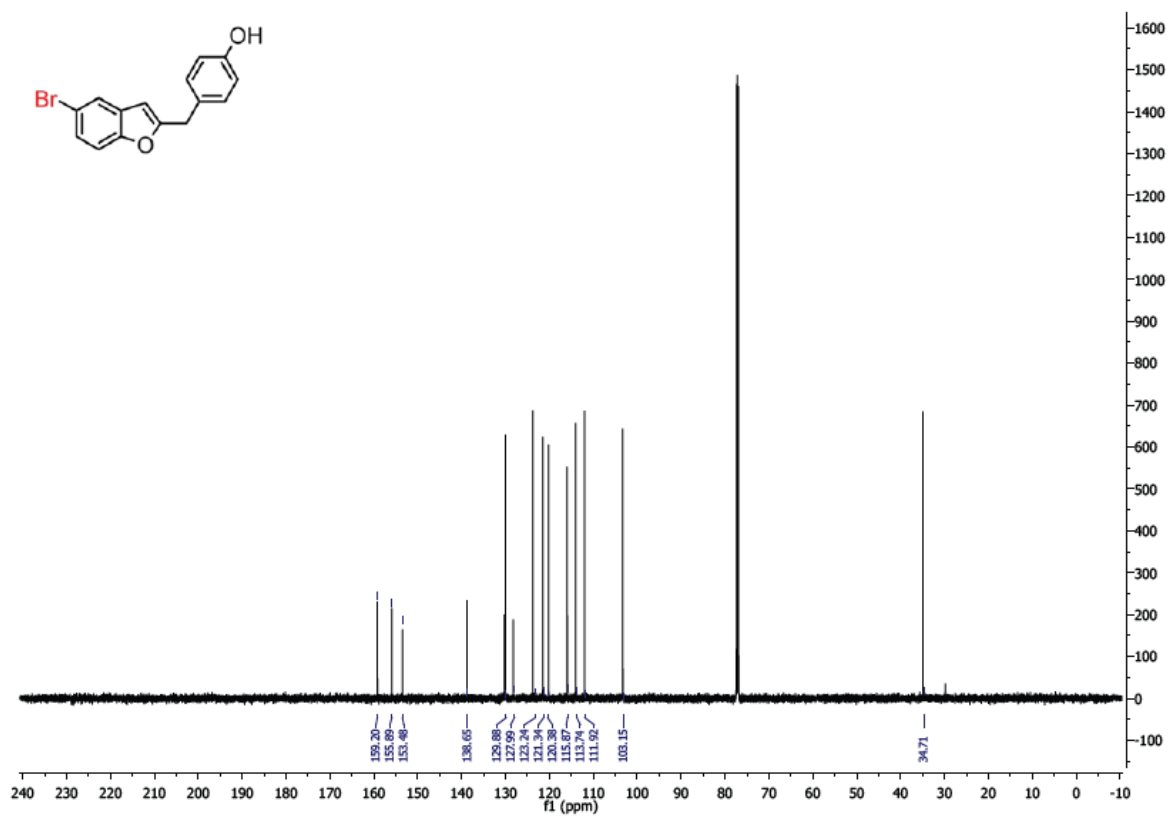
¹³C NMR spectra of 5-Chloro-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)benzofuran **15A**



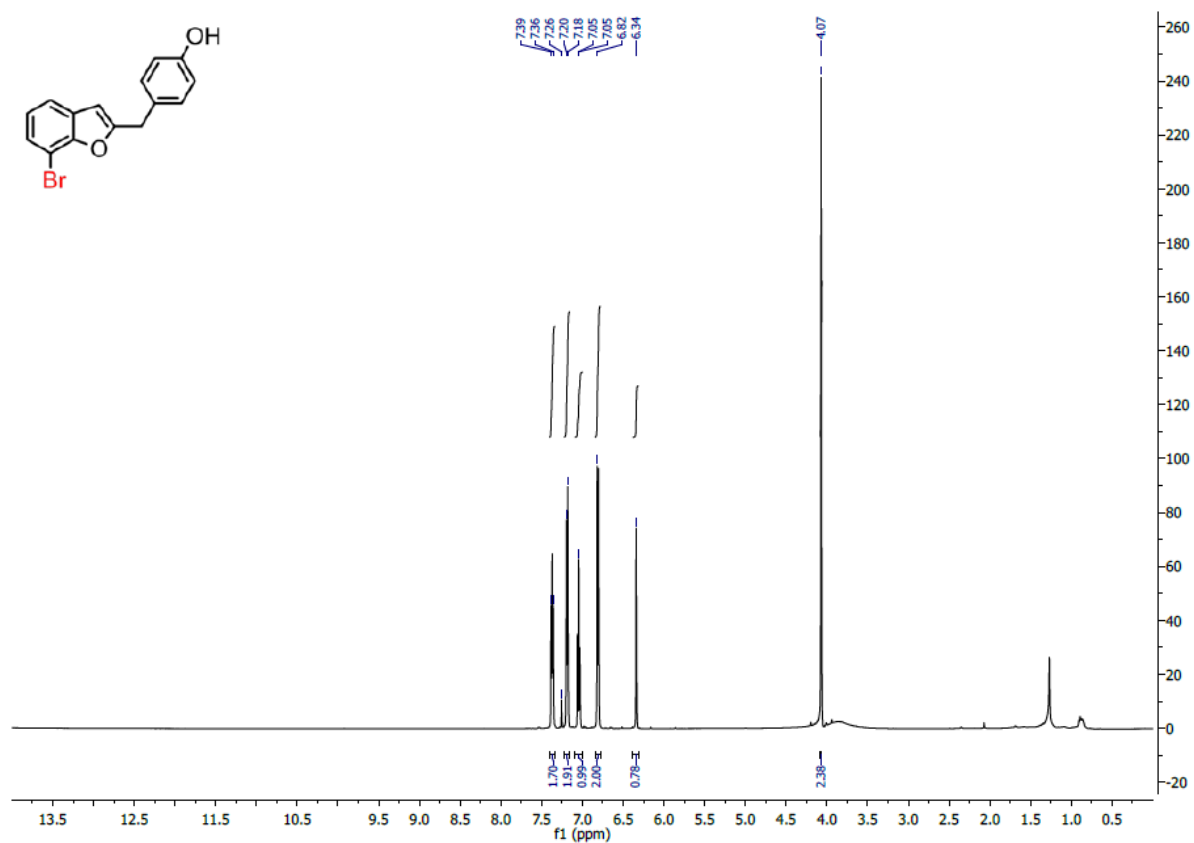
6.1 ^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **9B**



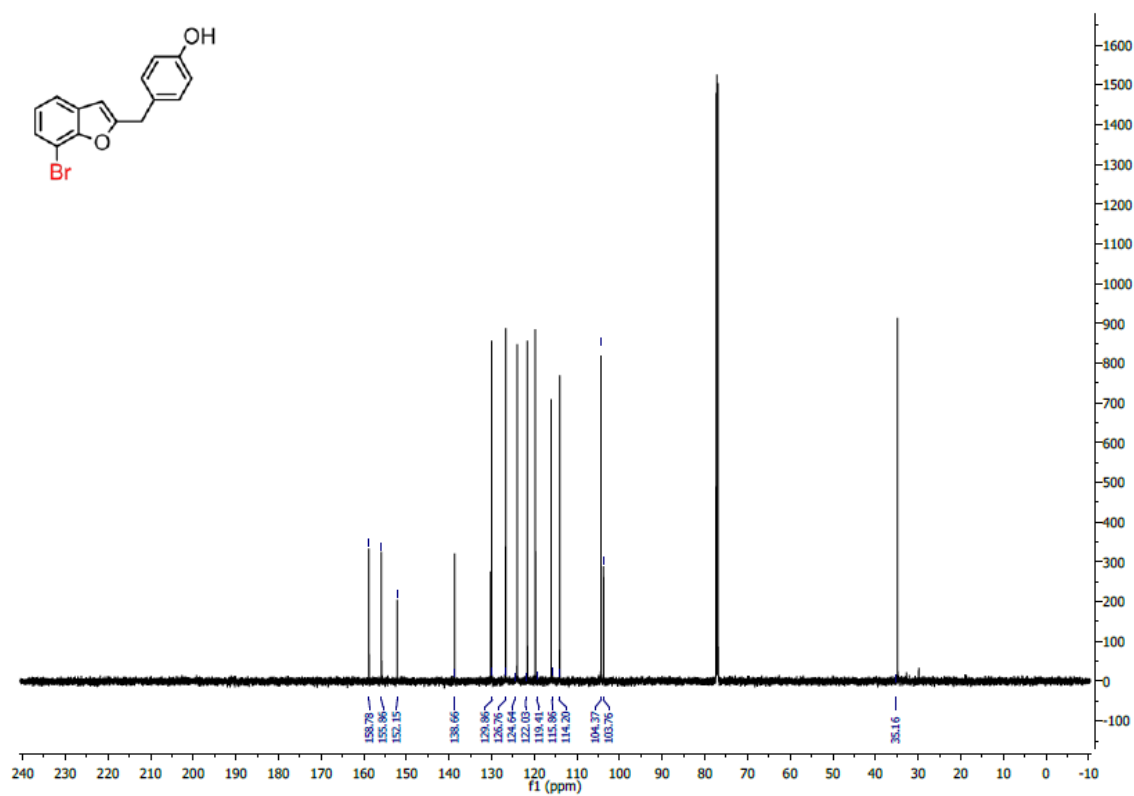
^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **9B**



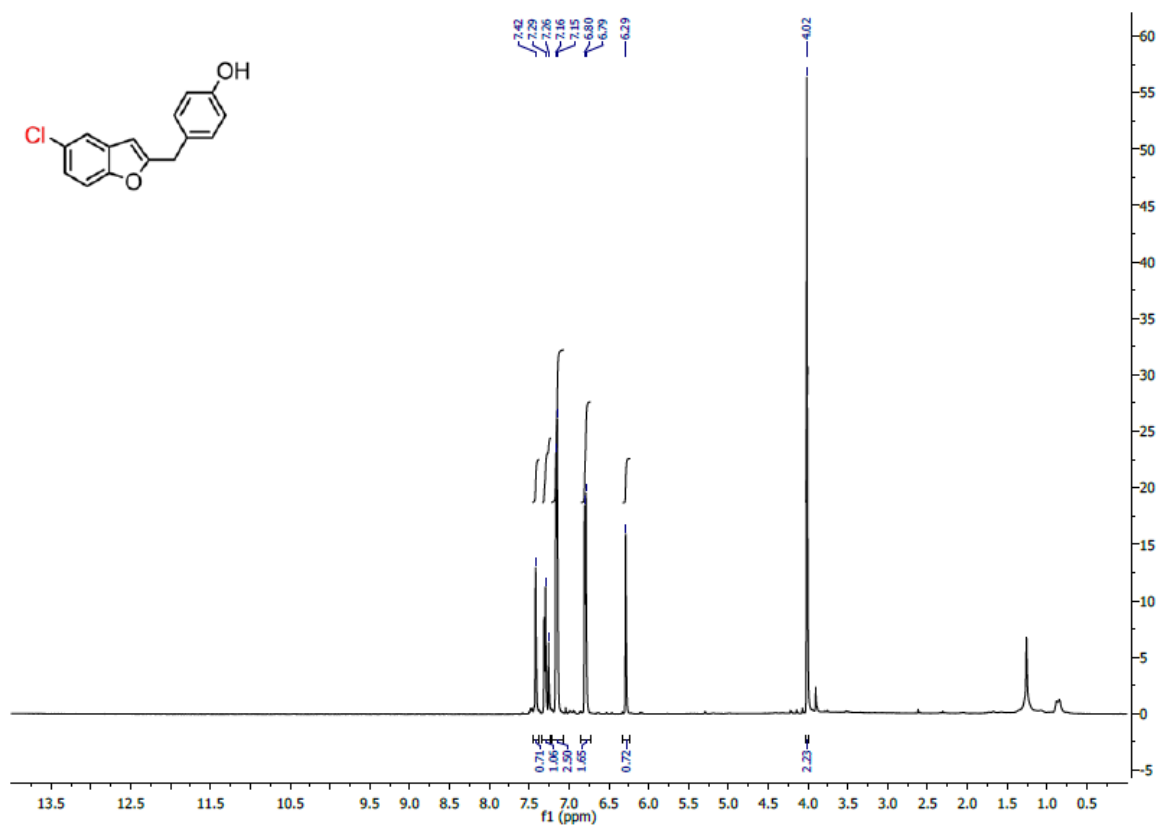
¹H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **10B**



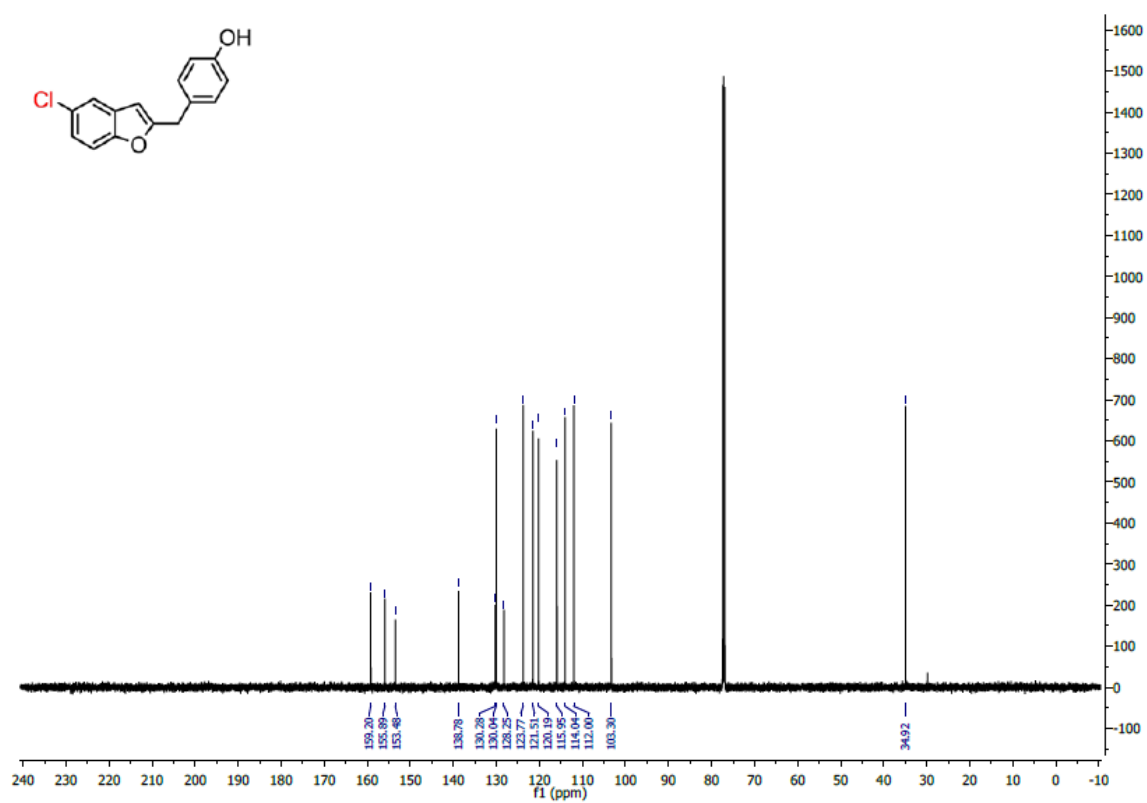
¹³C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **10B**



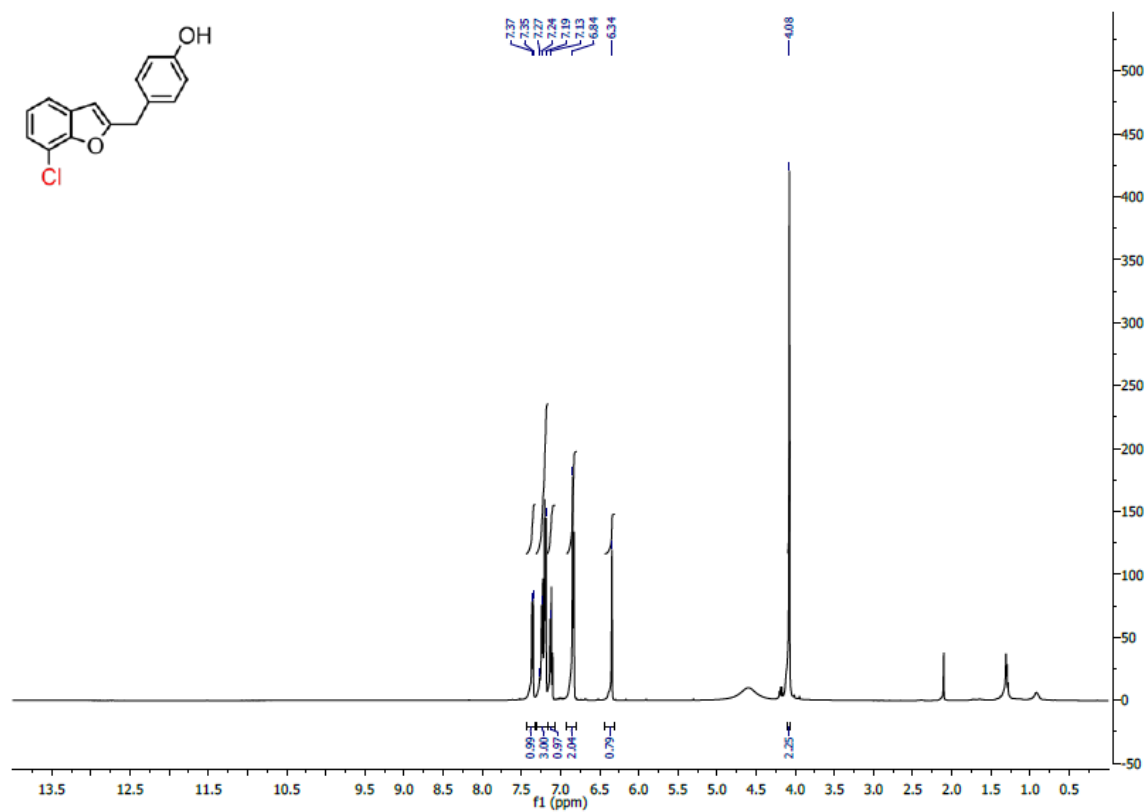
^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **11B**



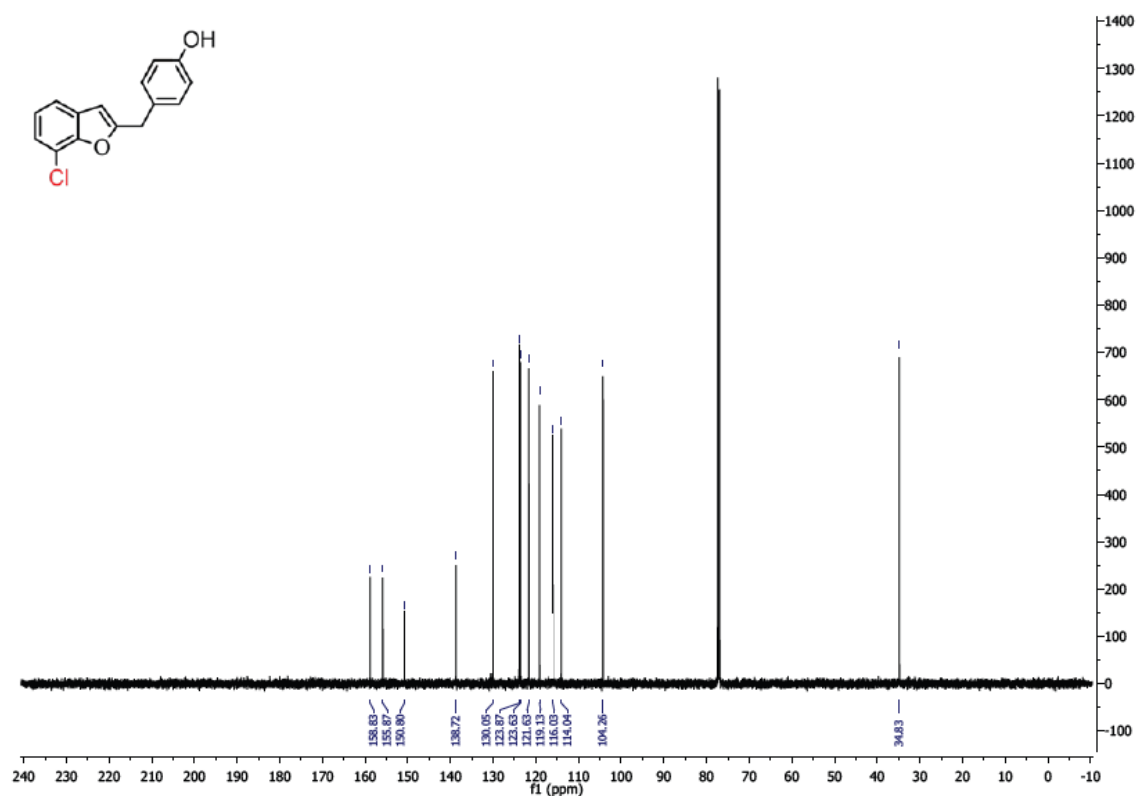
^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **11B**



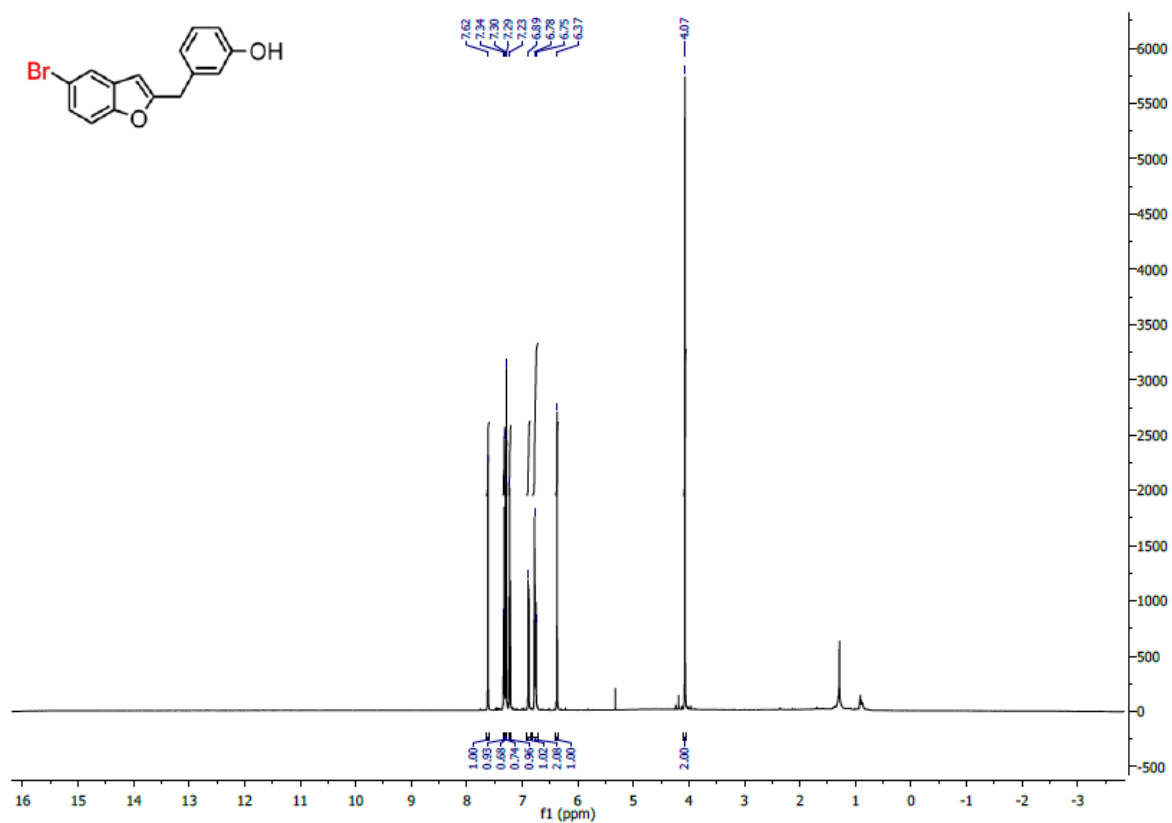
^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **12B**



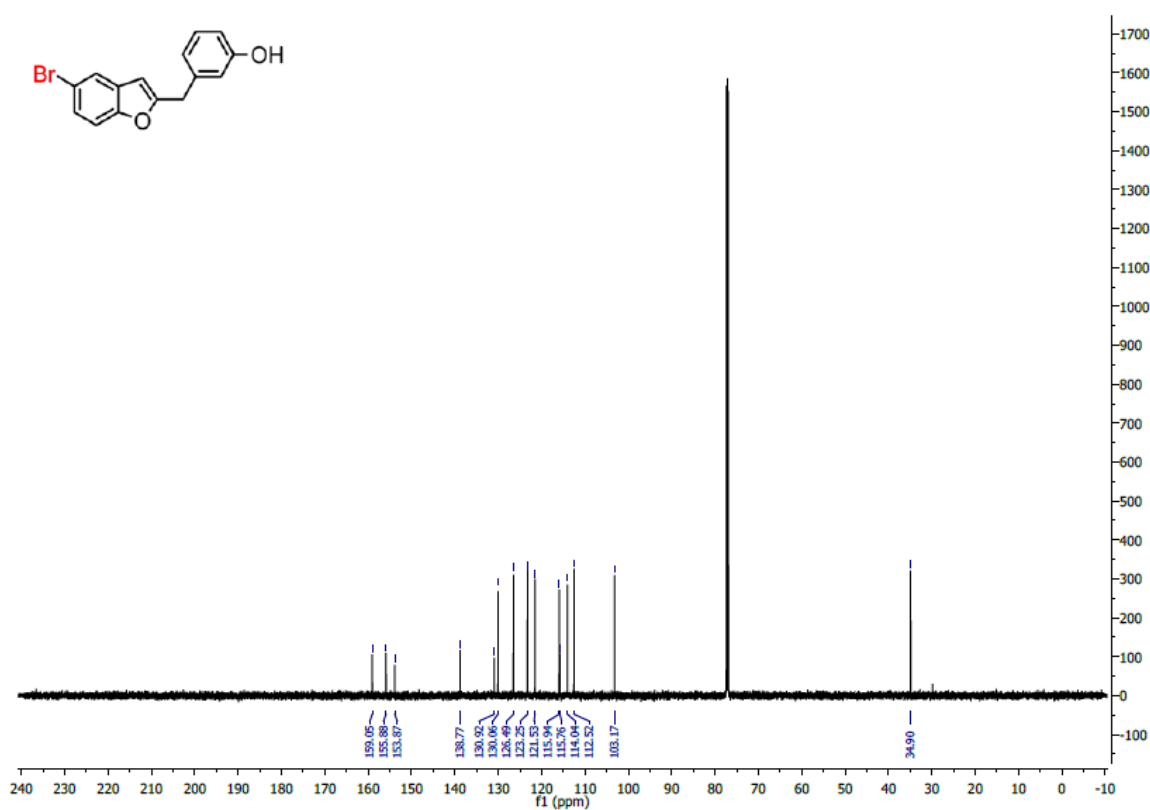
^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **12B**

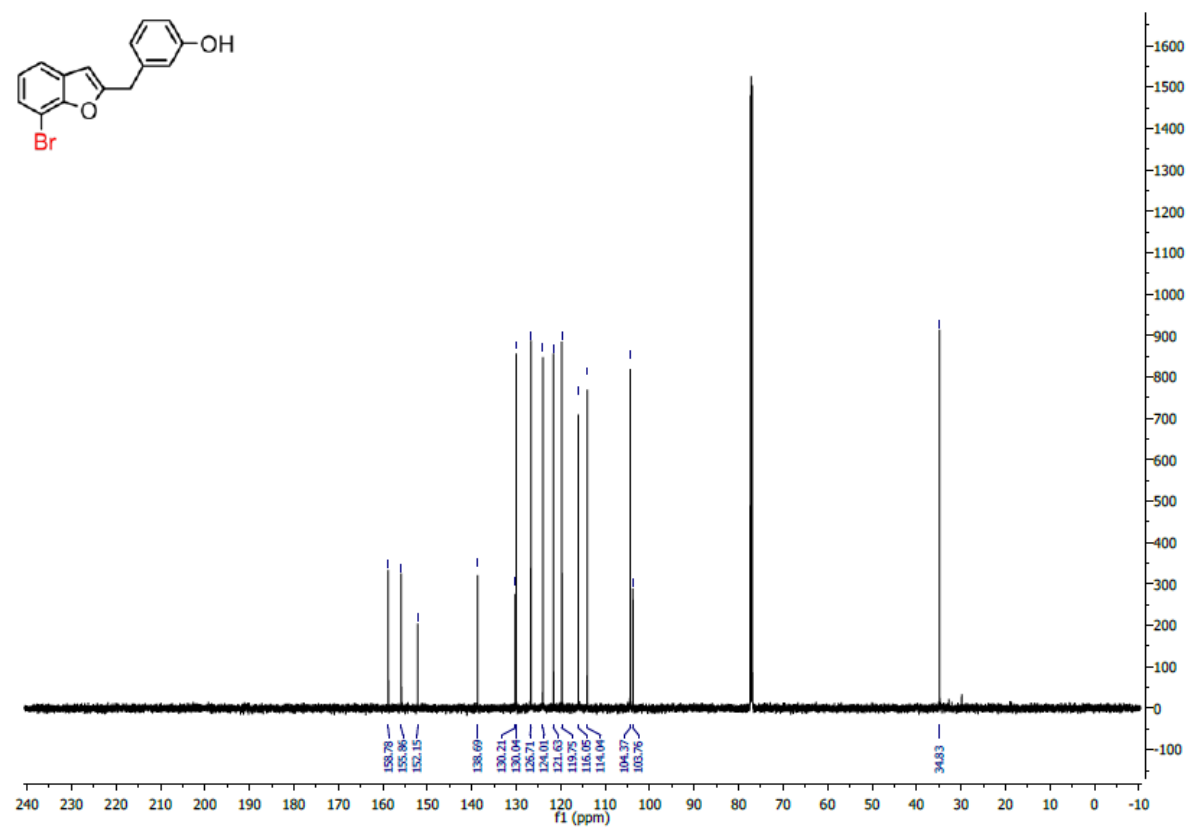
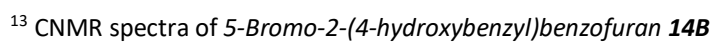



^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **13B**

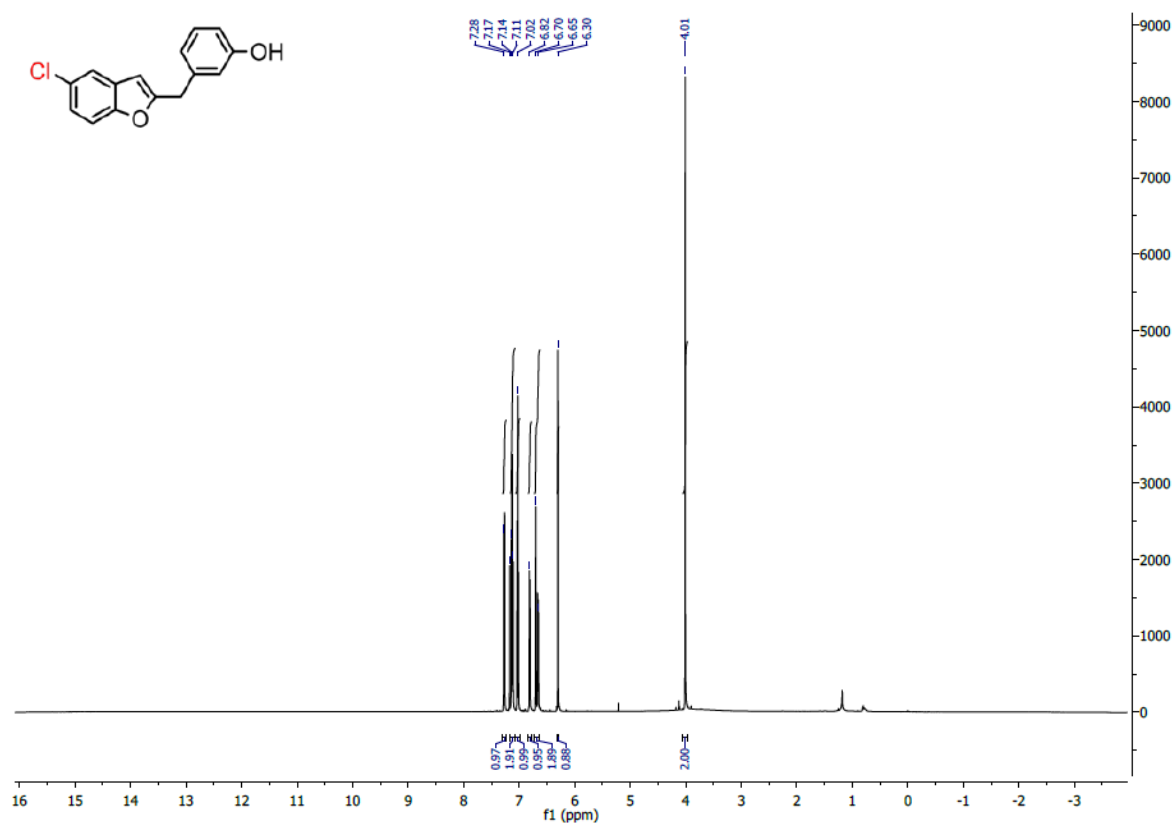


^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **13B**

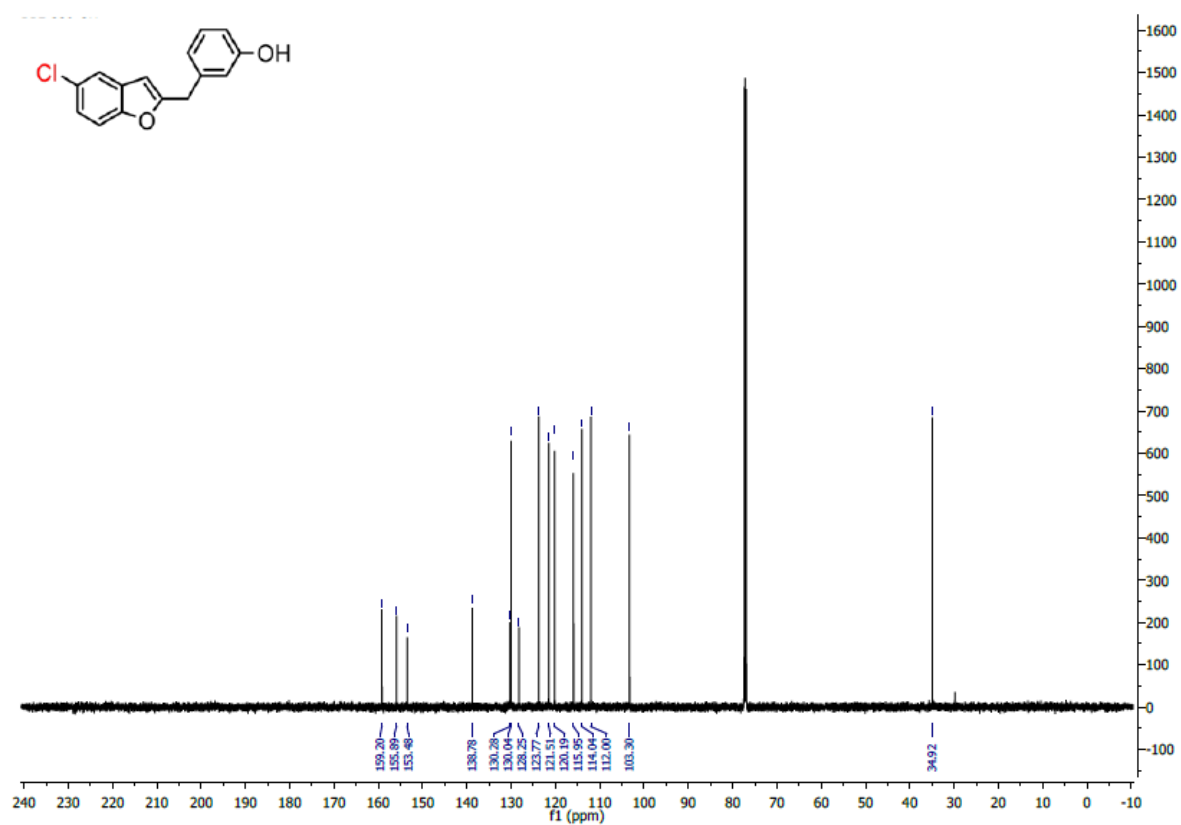




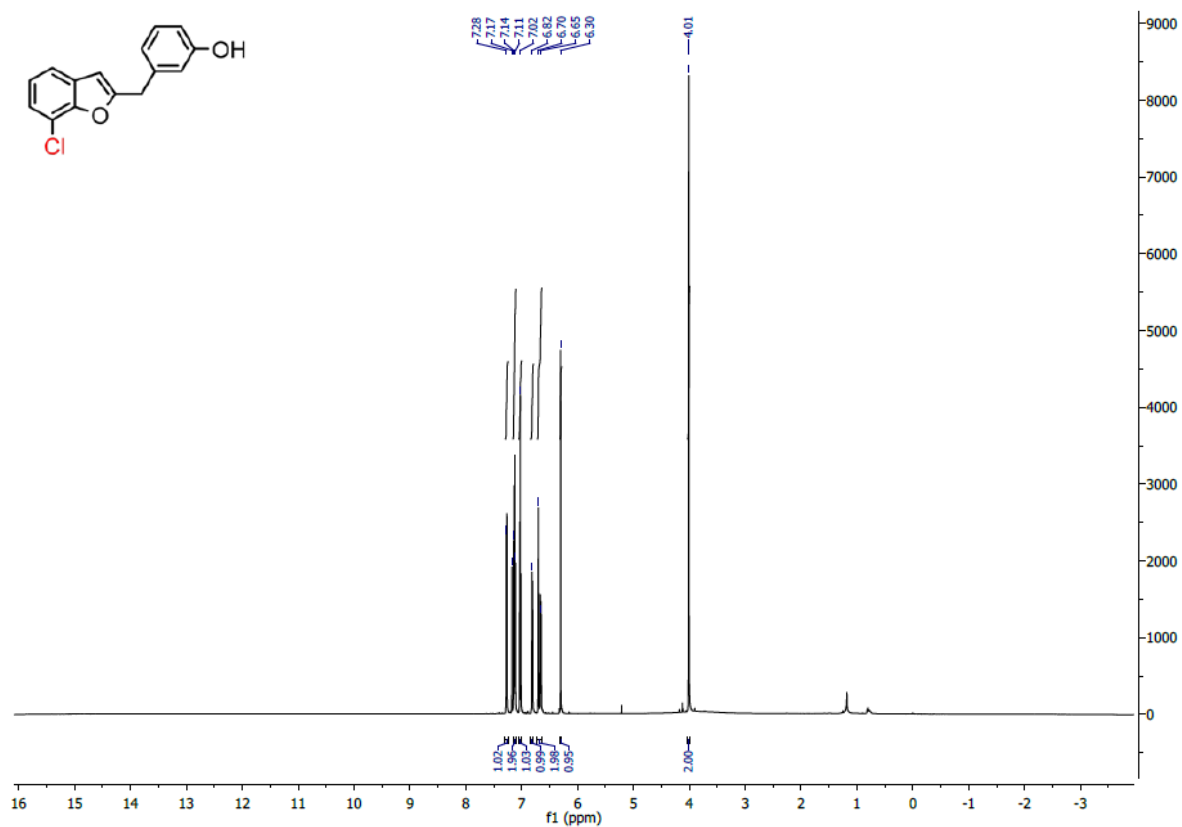
^1H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **15B**



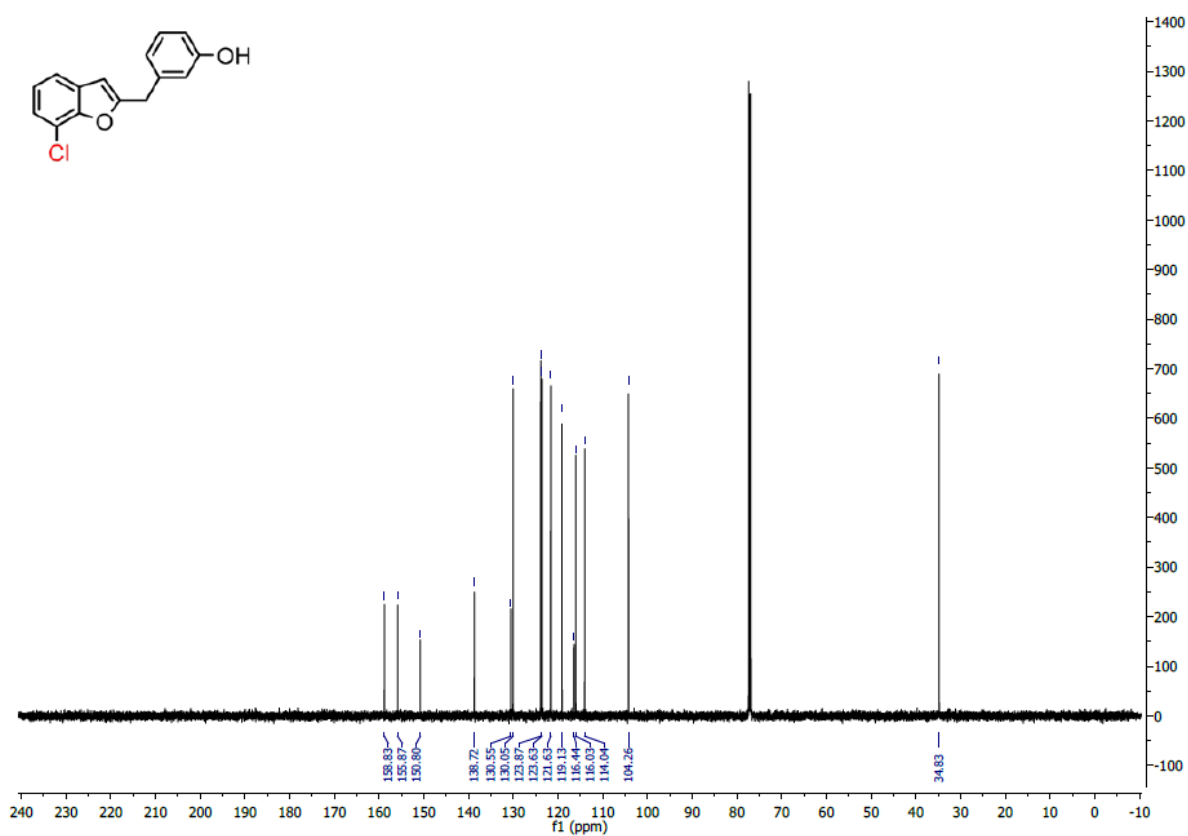
^{13}C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **15B**



¹H NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **16B**



¹³C NMR spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)benzofuran **16B**



2. Molecular modelling studies

Table S.2.1. Effect of spacer on the docking and IC₅₀ values of compounds

[Table S1](#)

Ligands	A (no spacer)		B (with spacer)	
	ΔG (kcal/mol)	IC ₅₀ (μM)	ΔG (kcal/mol)	IC ₅₀ (μM)
Compound 9	-7.02	>100	-8.81	2.93
Compound 10	-7.52	82.5	-7.80	32.6
Compound 11	-7.58	>100	-7.64	55.66
Compound 12	-7.53	30.3	-7.70	42.98
Compound 13	-7.54	10.6	-7.70	39.95
Compound 14	-7.68	7.96	-7.93	31.37
Compound 15	-7.46	10.52	-7.46	27.84
Compound 16	-7.53	13.42	-8.31	61.65

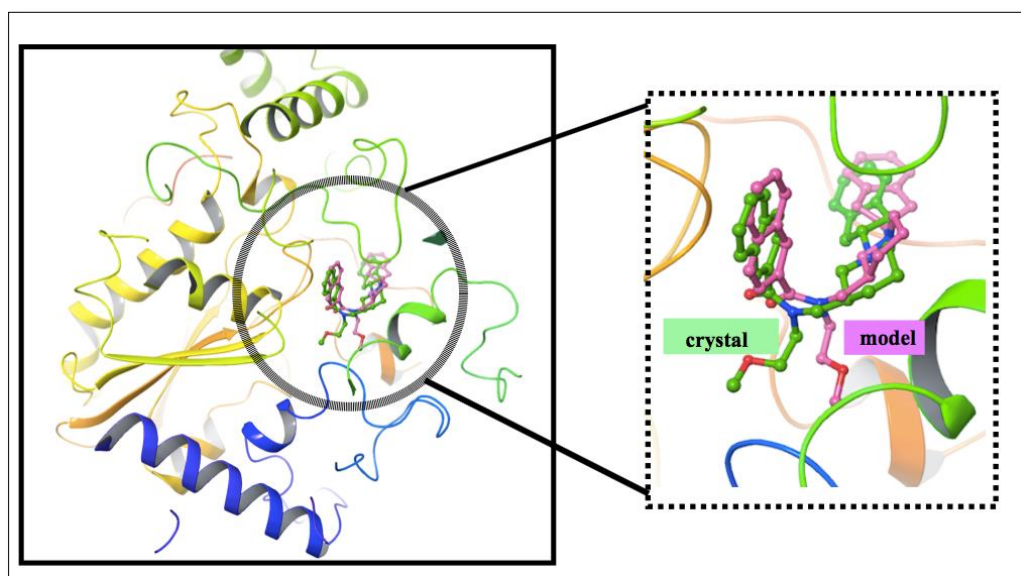


Figure S.2.1. Superimposition of the reference complex (PDB code: 4TPK) and the best docked ligand pose obtained from Swissdock webserver. [Figure S1](#)