

# Phytochemical Analysis, Antioxidant Activities In Vitro and In Vivo, and Theoretical Calculation of Different Extracts of *Euphorbia fischeriana*

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## Preparation of preliminary experimental solutions for qualitative phytochemical analysis

### Aqueous extraction solutions

*Euphorbia fischeriana* powder (5 g) was weighed and passed through a sieve (20 mesh). Distilled water (50 mL) was added and the mixture was allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. Next, 5 mL of filtrate was obtained by filtration, and this filtrate was analysed to check for amino acids and proteins. The remaining residue and leaching solution were heated at 60 °C for 10 min. After heating, the mixture was filtered immediately. This filtrate was used to check for carbohydrates, organic acids, saponins, glycosides, phenols, tannins and cyanogenic glycosides.

### Methanol extraction solutions

*Euphorbia fischeriana* powder (5 g) was weighed and passed through a sieve (20 mesh). Ethyl ether (50 mL) was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 10 min. The filter residue was transferred back into the bottle after filtration. Next, 35 mL of methanol was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 10 min. After heating, the mixture was filtered immediately. This filtrate was used to check for flavonoids, anthraquinones, cardiac glycosides, coumarins, lactones, volatile oils, terpenoids, steroids, lipids and alkaloids.

### Petroleum ether extraction solutions

*Euphorbia fischeriana* powder (3 g) was weighed and passed through a sieve (20 mesh). Petroleum ether (15 mL) was added and the mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 4 h. Next, 5 mL of filtrate was obtained by filtration, and this filtrate was analysed to check for volatile oils, lipids, steroids and triterpenoids.

## Qualitative phytochemical analysis

### Tests for proteins

#### Ninhydrin tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 0.2% ninhydrin solution. The mixture was boiled for 5 min. Development of a purple colour indicated the presence of amino acids or proteins.

#### Biuret tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of solution A (0.1 g/mL NaOH), and then two drops of solution B (0.01 g/mL  $\text{CuSO}_4$ ) were added. This mixture was shaken, and a purple, red, or purplish-red colour indicated the presence of amino acids or proteins.

#### Tests for carbohydrates

##### Fehling's tests

Equal volumes of solution A (34.66 g of  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  dissolved in 500 mL of distilled water) and solution B (173 g of sodium potassium tartrate tetrahydrate and 50 g of NaOH dissolved in 500 mL of distilled water) were mixed together. A sample (1 mL) of this mixture was then mixed with 1 mL of aqueous extraction solution. The resulting mixture was boiled gently. Formation of a brick-red precipitate indicated the presence of reducing sugars.

##### Benedict's tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of Benedict's reagent and the resulting mixture was boiled gently. Formation of a reddish-brown precipitate indicated the presence of carbohydrates.

##### Molisch's tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of Molisch's solution (2 g of  $\alpha$ -naphthol dissolved in 100 mL of 95% ethanol). The mixture was then poured carefully into another test tube containing 1 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . A purple ring at the aqueous phase/organic phase interface indicated the presence of carbohydrates.

##### Iodine tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of iodine solution (127 mg of iodine and 200 mg of KI dissolved in 10 mL of distilled water). Development of a dark blue or purple colour indicated the presence of carbohydrates.

#### Tests for phenols

##### $\text{FeCl}_3$ tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 2%  $\text{FeCl}_3$  solution. Development of a blue-green or black colour indicated the presence of phenols.

##### $\text{FeCl}_3$ - $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ tests

A few drops of aqueous extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate, and the chromogenic reagent (1%  $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  solution was mixed with 2%  $\text{FeCl}_3$  solution in equal volumes) was sprayed onto the plate, thus generating a blue colour. Then, 2 M HCl was sprayed onto the plate, and a darker colour indicated the presence of phenols.

##### Diazotization tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 3%  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution. The resulting mixture was boiled for 3 min and then cooled in ice water. Two drops of newly prepared diazotization reagent were added. Development of a red colour indicated the presence of phenols.

#### Tests for organic acids

##### pH tests

The pH of aqueous extraction solution was measured with pH meter. A pH value below 7.0 indicated the presence of organic acids.

##### Blue litmus paper tests

A few drops of aqueous extraction solution were placed on a blue litmus paper. Development of a red colour indicated the presence of organic acids.

##### Bromocresol green tests

A few drops of aqueous extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate. Chromogenic reagent (0.1 g of bromocresol green dissolved in 500 mL of ethanol and mixed with 5 mL of 0.1 N NaOH) was sprayed onto the plate. Development of a yellow colour on a blue background indicated the presence of organic acids.

#### Tests for tannins

##### FeCl<sub>3</sub> tests

The experimental procedure was the same as that described in FeCl<sub>3</sub> tests. Development of a blue-green or black colour indicated the presence of tannins.

##### Bromine water tests

Bromine water (3%) was added to 1 mL of aqueous extraction solution. Formation of a precipitate indicated the presence of tannins.

##### Lead acetate tests

1 mL of lead acetate solution was added to 1 mL of aqueous extraction solution; a precipitate was considered evidence for the presence of tannins.

##### Lime water tests

Clear lime water (1 mL) was added to 1 mL of aqueous extraction solution. Formation of a precipitate indicated the presence of tannins.

##### Gelatin tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 0.5% gelatin dissolved in 10% NaCl solution. Turbidity indicated the presence of tannins.

#### Tests for flavonoids

##### Shinoda tests

An appropriate amount of magnesium powder was added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution, followed by two drops of HCl. Development of a red to red-purple colour indicated the presence of flavonoids.

##### Alkaline reagent tests

1 mL of methanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 2% NaOH solution. Development of an intense yellow colour followed by a change to colourless on addition of a few drops of diluted HCl indicated the presence of flavonoids.

##### AlCl<sub>3</sub> tests

A few drops of methanol extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate. A 1% AlCl<sub>3</sub> methanol solution was sprayed onto the plate. Observation of yellow-green fluorescence under an ultraviolet lamp indicated the presence of flavonoids.

##### Lead acetate test

A few drops of lead acetate solution were added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution. Formation of a yellow precipitate indicated the presence of flavonoids.

#### Tests for saponins

##### Foam tests

1 mL of aqueous extraction solution was mixed with 5 mL of distilled water. This mixture was shaken and then left to stand for 10 min. Formation of a stable foam indicated the presence of saponins.

#### Tests for steroids and triterpenoids

##### Liebermann-Burchard tests

5 mL of the aqueous extraction solution was placed in an evaporating dish and then evaporated. The residue was dissolved in 1 mL of acetic anhydride. One drop of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added and development of a red or purple colour indicated the presence of triterpenoids. Development of a blue-green colour indicated the presence of steroids.

##### Salkowski tests

1 mL of methanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . Then, 1 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  was added carefully, and the mixture was shaken gently. A reddish-brown colour in the  $\text{CHCl}_3$  layer and green fluorescence in the  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  layer indicated the presence of steroids or triterpenoids.

Tests for terpenoids

$\text{CHCl}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  tests

1 mL of methanol extraction solution was mixed with 2 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and then evaporated.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (2 mL) was added carefully, and the mixture was heated at 60 °C for 2 min. Development of a grey colour indicated the presence of terpenoids.

Vanillin- $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  tests

A few drops of petroleum ether extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate. Chromogenic reagent was prepared by dissolving 5 g of vanillin in 100 mL of 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  ethanol solution, and then sprayed onto the plate. Development of a red, blue, or purple colour indicated the presence of volatile oils, terpenoids, and steroids.

Tests for alkaloids

Bertrad's reagent tests

1 mL of ethanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of tungstosilicic acid reagent. The reagent was prepared by dissolving 5 g of tungstosilicic acid hydrate in 100 mL of distilled water and adding a small amount of HCl to adjust the pH to 2.0. Formation of a pale yellow or off-white precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloids.

Dragendorff's reagent tests

1 mL of ethanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of Dragendorff's reagent. For the reagent, solution A (850 mg of bismuth subnitrate dissolved in 40 mL of distilled water and 10 mL of acetic acid) and solution B (8 g of KI dissolved in 20 mL of distilled water) were mixed in equal volumes to prepare a stock solution. A sample of this stock solution (10 mL) was then mixed with 20 mL of acetic acid and diluted to 100 mL with distilled water. Formation of a light yellow or reddish brown precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloids.

Mayer's reagent tests

1 mL of ethanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of Mayer's reagent. For the reagent, solution A (1358 mg of  $\text{HgCl}_2$  dissolved in 60 mL of distilled water) and solution B (5 g of KI dissolved in 10 mL of distilled water) were mixed and then diluted to 100 mL with distilled water. Formation of a white or light yellow precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloids.

Tests for anthraquinones

Borntrager's tests

1 mL of methanol extraction solution was mixed with 1 mL of 10% NaOH solution. A red colour developed. Next, a small volume of 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solution was added and the mixture was heated at 60 °C. HCl solution was then added and the red colour disappeared, finally, NaOH solution was added and development of a red colour indicated the presence of anthraquinones.

Magnesium acetate tests

Three drops of 1% magnesium acetate methanol solution were added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution. Development of a red colour indicated the presence of anthraquinones.

Tests for coumarins and lactones

Hydroxamic acid iron tests

Three drops of 7% hydroxylamine hydrochloride methanol solution and 10% KOH methanol solution were added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution. After heating at 60 °C, 5% HCl was added to adjust the pH to 3.0-4.0. Next, two drops of 1%  $\text{FeCl}_3$  ethanol solution were added. Development of an orange or purple colour indicated the presence of coumarins and lactones.

Diazotization tests

Methanol extraction solution was used. The experimental procedure was the same as that described in

Diazotization tests. Development of a red colour indicated the presence of coumarins and lactones.

#### Fluorescence tests

A few drops of methanol extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate and blue-green fluorescence was observed under ultraviolet lamp. 1% KOH solution was sprayed onto the plate. Generation of intense fluorescence indicated the presence of coumarins.

#### Tests for volatile oils and fats

#### Phosphomolybdic acid tests

A few drops of petroleum ether extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate and 25% phosphomolybdic acid solution (2.5 g of phosphomolybdic acid hydrate dissolved in 10 mL of absolute ethanol) was sprayed onto the plate. Development of a blue colour indicated the presence of lipids, triterpenoids, and steroids.

#### Vanillin-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> tests

Methanol extraction solution was used. The experimental procedure was the same as that described in Vanillin-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> tests. Development of a red, blue, or purple colour indicated the presence of volatile oils, terpenoids, and steroids.

#### Sudan tests

One drop of Sudan III solution (0.1 g of sudan III dissolved in 10 mL of 95% ethanol) was added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution. Development of an orange colour indicated the presence of oils and fats. One drop of Sudan IV solution (0.01 g of Sudan IV dissolved in 5 mL of acetone, followed by addition of 5 mL of 70% ethanol) was added to 1 mL of methanol extraction solution. Development of a red colour indicated the presence of oils and fats.

#### Tests for cardiac glycosides

#### Kedde tests

A few drops of methanol extraction solution were added onto a thin-layer chromatography plate. Chromogenic reagent was prepared by mixing solution A (2% methanol solution of 3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid) and solution B (2 M KOH solution) in equal volumes. The reagent was sprayed onto the plate. Development of a purple-red colour followed by a change to colourless indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides.

#### Raymond tests

Methanol extract (1 mg) was dissolved in 50% ethanol. Both 2% *m*-dinitrobenzene ethanol solution (0.1 mL) and 20% NaOH solution (0.2 mL) were added. Development of a blue-purple colour indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides.

#### Legal tests

Methanol extract (1 mg) was dissolved in two drops of pyridine. One drop of 3% sodium nitroprusside solution and one drop of 2 M NaOH solution were added. Development of a dark red colour followed by a change to colourless indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides.

#### Tests for cyanogenic glycosides

#### Prussian blue tests

1 g of TL powder was placed in a test tube, 2 mL of distilled water was added, and the test tube was immediately wrapped with filter paper. Then, one drop of 10% KOH solution was added onto the filter paper, and the system was heated at 60 °C for 30 min. Next, one drop each of 10% ferrous sulphate, 10% HCl, and 5% FeCl<sub>3</sub> were sequentially added onto the filter paper. A blue colour on the filter paper indicated the presence of cyanogenic glycosides.

#### Quantitative phytochemical analysis

#### Determination of total carbohydrate content (TCC)

Briefly, 250 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in distilled water, 125 µL of phenol solution (5%), and 625 µL of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated for 30 min. Subsequently, 200 µL of the sample was pipetted from each Eppendorf tube onto a microplate. A calibration curve was produced based on glucose (0–200 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 490 nm against a blank

sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with distilled water. The mean of three readings was used and TCC was expressed in milligrams of glucose equivalents (GE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of total protein content (TP<sub>roC</sub>)

Briefly, 200  $\mu$ L of bicinchoninic acid (BCA) working solution and 20  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in distilled water were mixed in a microplate and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. A calibration curve was produced based on bovine serum albumin (BSA) (0–500 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 562 nm against a blank sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with distilled water. The mean of three readings was used and TP<sub>roC</sub> was expressed in milligrams of BSA equivalents (BSAE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of total triterpenoid content (TT<sub>riC</sub>)

Briefly, 180  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in acetic anhydride and 20  $\mu$ L of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were mixed in a microplate and incubated at room temperature for 10 min. A calibration curve was produced based on ginsenoside Re (0–400 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 350 nm against a blank sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with acetic anhydride. The mean of three readings was used and TT<sub>riC</sub> was expressed in milligrams of ginsenoside Re equivalents (GRE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of total phenolic content (TP<sub>heC</sub>)

Briefly, 100  $\mu$ L of Folin & Ciocalteu's phenol reagent (FC reagent) (1 M) and 200  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in distilled water were mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated for 5 min. Subsequently, 500  $\mu$ L of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (20%) was added and allowed to stand at room temperature for 40 min in the dark (with mixing every 10 min). Subsequently, 200  $\mu$ L of the sample was pipetted from each Eppendorf tube onto a microplate. A calibration curve was produced based on gallic acid (0–100 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 750 nm against a blank sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with distilled water and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The mean of three readings was used and TP<sub>heC</sub> was expressed in milligrams of gallic acid equivalents (GAE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of total flavonoid content (TFC)

Briefly, 100  $\mu$ L of AlCl<sub>3</sub> (2%) in methanol and 100  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol were mixed in a microplate and incubated at room temperature for 10 min. A calibration curve was produced based on quercetin (0–100 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 415 nm against a blank sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with methanol. The mean of three readings was used and TFC was expressed in milligrams of quercetin equivalents (QE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of total tannin content (TT<sub>anC</sub>)

Briefly, 200  $\mu$ L of FC reagent (1 M) and 200  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in distilled water were mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated for 5 min. Subsequently, 100  $\mu$ L of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (20%) and 1500  $\mu$ L of distilled water were added and allowed to stand at room temperature for 30 min in the dark (with mixing every 10 min). Subsequently, 200  $\mu$ L of the sample was pipetted from each Eppendorf tube onto a microplate. A calibration curve was produced based on tannic acid (0–200 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 725 nm against a blank sample consisting of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract with distilled water and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The mean of three readings was used and TT<sub>anC</sub> was expressed in milligrams of tannic acid equivalents (TAE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of gallotannin content (GC)

Briefly, 875  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol and 375  $\mu$ L of saturated KIO<sub>3</sub> solution were mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated at 15 °C for 120 min. A calibration curve was produced based on gallic acid (0–400 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 550 nm against a blank sample (KIO<sub>3</sub> was replaced with distilled water). The mean of three readings was used and GC was expressed in milligrams of gallic acid equivalents (GAE)/g of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Determination of condensed tannin content (CTC)

Briefly, 4 mg of phloroglucinol was added to 2 mL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in distilled water. Subsequently, 1 mL of HCl solution and 1 mL of formaldehyde solution were added and mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated at room temperature overnight. The precipitate was separated by filtration, the unprecipitated phenolics were measured in the filtrate according to the method of TP<sub>he</sub>C.

#### Determination of total alkaloid content (TAC)

Berberine hydrochloride (1.24–12.36 mg/L) was used as a reference material to construct a standard curve. The absorbance was obtained at 420 nm against a blank sample of chloroform. The mean of three measurements was calculated. The total alkaloid content is expressed in milligrams of berberine hydrochloride equivalents per gram of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract.

#### Antioxidant activity assay

##### DPPH assay

Briefly, 100 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol and 100 µL of DPPH in methanol (50 µM) were mixed in a microplate and allowed to stand at room temperature for 20 min in the dark. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 515 nm. Trolox was used as positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=11.595x+0.1821$ . The Half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) values were calculated and expressed as the mean ± standard deviation (SD) in µg/mL.

##### ABTS assay

Briefly, 190 µL of diluted ABTS solution and 10 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in DMSO were mixed in a microplate and incubated for 20 min in the dark. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 734 nm. Trolox was used as positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=0.8026x+11.878$ . The IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated and expressed as the mean ± SD in µg/mL.

##### Hydroxyl radical assay

Briefly, 50 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in DMSO, 50 µL of FeSO<sub>4</sub> solution (3 mM) and 50 µL of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (3 mM) were mixed in a microplate and incubated for 10 min. After then 50 µL of salicylic acid solution (6 mM) was added and incubated at room temperature for 30 min in the dark. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 492 nm. Trolox was used as positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=0.0327x+35.047$ . The IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated and expressed as the mean ± SD in µg/mL.

##### Superoxide radical assay

Briefly, 45 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in DMSO (10 mg/mL), 15 µL of *p*-nitroblue tetrazolium chloride (NBT) in DMSO (1 mg/mL) and 150 µL of NaOH in DMSO (50 µM) were mixed in a microplate and the absorbance of the sample was recorded immediately at 560 nm against a blank sample (NBT was replaced with DMSO). Curcumin was used as a positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=84.38239x/122.02931+x$ . The scavenging activity was expressed as % scavenging rate and was calculated as follows:

$$\%scavenging = \left(1 - \frac{\Delta A_{sample}}{\Delta A_{control}}\right) \times 100\%$$

##### FRAP assay

Briefly, 20 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in DMSO and 180 µL of FRAP reagent were mixed in a microplate and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min in the dark. A calibration curve was produced based on FeSO<sub>4</sub> (0–600 mg/L) as a standard. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 595 nm. The standard curve of ferrous ion is  $y=4.416x+0.087$ . Trolox was used as positive reference. The FRAP was expressed as the Trolox Equivalent Antioxidant Capacity (TEAC<sub>FRAP</sub>).

##### CUPRAC assay

Briefly, 20 µL of CuCl<sub>2</sub> solution (100 mM), 50 µL of neocuproine in 96% ethanol (7.5 mM), 50 µL of NH<sub>4</sub>Ac solution, 20 µL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in DMSO, and 30 µL of distilled water were mixed in a microplate and incubated at 50 °C for 20 min. This mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 min. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 450 nm. Trolox was used as positive reference and its

standard curve is  $y=2.8264x+0.0462$ . The CUPRAC was expressed as the Trolox Equivalent Antioxidant Capacity ( $TEAC_{CUPRAC}$ ).

#### Iron chelating assay

Briefly, 50  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol, 110  $\mu$ L of ultra-pure water, and 20  $\mu$ L of  $FeCl_3$  solution (0.5 mM) were mixed in a microplate and incubated for 5 min. Subsequently, 20  $\mu$ L of ferrozine solution (2.5 mM) was added and incubated for 10 min. The absorbance was recorded at 562 nm against a blank sample (ferrozine solution was replaced with water). Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt ( $EDTANa_2$ ) was used as a positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=2142.2x+26.6$ . The  $IC_{50}$  values were calculated and expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD in  $\mu$ g/mL.

#### Copper chelating assay

Briefly, 40  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in ultra-pure water, 140  $\mu$ L of acetic acid-sodium acetate buffer solution (pH 6.0, 50 mM), and 10  $\mu$ L of  $CuSO_4$  solution (5 mM) were mixed in a microplate and incubated for 30 min. Subsequently, 10  $\mu$ L of pyrocatechol violet solution (4 mM) was added and incubated for 30 min. The absorbance was recorded at 632 nm against a blank sample (pyrocatechol violet was replaced with water).  $EDTANa_2$  was used as a positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=214.5x+6.9643$ . The  $IC_{50}$  values were calculated and expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD in  $\mu$ g/mL.

#### $H_2O_2$ assay

Briefly, 70  $\mu$ L of phenol solution (pH 7.0, 12 mM, in 84 mM phosphate buffer (PBS)), 20  $\mu$ L of 4-aminoantipyrine solution (pH 7.0, 0.5 mM, in 84 mM PBS), 32  $\mu$ L of  $H_2O_2$  solution (pH 7.0, 0.7 mM, in 84 mM PBS), 8  $\mu$ L of horseradish peroxidase (EC 1.11.1.7) solution (pH 7.0, 1 U/mL, in 84 mM PBS) and 70  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract (pH 7.0, in 84 mM PBS) were mixed in a microplate and the absorbance of the sample was recorded immediately at 504 nm against a blank sample (phenol solution was replaced with PBS). Gallic acid was used as a positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=0.3898x+25.193$ . The  $IC_{50}$  values were calculated and expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD in  $\mu$ g/mL.

#### Singlet oxygen assay

Briefly, 40  $\mu$ L of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract (pH 7.4, in 45 mM PBS), 50  $\mu$ L of N,N-Dimethyl-4-nitrosoaniline (pH 7.4, 0.2 mM, in 45 mM PBS), 20  $\mu$ L of histidine solution (pH 7.4, 0.1 mM, in 45 mM PBS), 20  $\mu$ L of NaClO solution (pH 7.4, 0.1 mM, in 45 mM PBS), 20  $\mu$ L of  $H_2O_2$  (pH 7.4, 0.1 mM, in 45 mM PBS) and 50  $\mu$ L of PBS (pH 7.4, 45 mM) were mixed in a microplate and allowed to stand at room temperature for 40 min. The absorbance of the sample was recorded at 440 nm against a blank sample (*Euphorbia fischeriana* extract was replaced with PBS). Ferulic acid was used as a positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=41.354-42.868$ . The  $IC_{50}$  values were calculated and expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD in  $\mu$ g/mL.

#### HClO assay

HClO was freshly prepared by adjusting the pH of a 1% (v/v) of NaClO to 6.2 with 1%  $H_2SO_4$ . The concentration of HClO was determined by reading the absorbance at 235 nm and using the molar extinction coefficient of  $100\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Briefly, twenty-microliters of AR extract aqueous solution, 20  $\mu$ L of 150 mM taurine aqueous solution, 20  $\mu$ L of 0.5 mM HClO solution and 140  $\mu$ L of PBS (pH 7.4, 50 mM) were mixed in a microplate and incubated for 10 min. Subsequently, 2  $\mu$ L of 2 M KI aqueous solution was added and mixed. The absorbance was recorded at 350 nm against a blank sample (taurine and HClO were replaced with water). Trolox was used as positive reference and its standard curve is  $y=0.3007x+11.474$ .  $IC_{50}$  values were calculated and expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD in  $\mu$ g/mL.

#### $\beta$ -Carotene bleaching assay

Briefly,  $\beta$ -carotene solution was prepared by dissolving  $\beta$ -carotene (2 mg) in  $CHCl_3$  (10 mL). Then, 2 mL of the solution was pipetted into a flask and vortex-mixed with linoleic acid (40 mg) and Tween 40 (400 mg). After the removal of  $CHCl_3$ , 100 mL of oxygenated ultrapure water was added, and the emulsion shaken vigorously. Aliquots (2.4 mL) of the emulsion were pipetted into different test tubes containing 0.1 mL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol (5 mg/mL). BHT and butyl hydroxyanisole (BHA) were used as positive controls. In the control group, *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract was replaced with water. When the



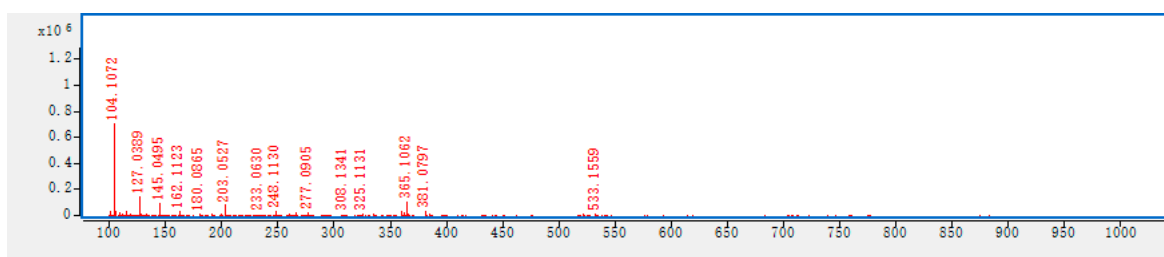
sample was added to the emulsion, it was recorded as  $t = 0$  min. The tubes were capped and placed in a water bath at 60 °C. The absorbance was recorded at 470 nm every 15 min until 120 min. Antioxidant activity coefficient (AAC) was calculated according to the following equation:

$$AAC = \frac{A_{A(120)} - A_{C(120)}}{A_{C(0)} - A_{C(120)}} \times 1000$$

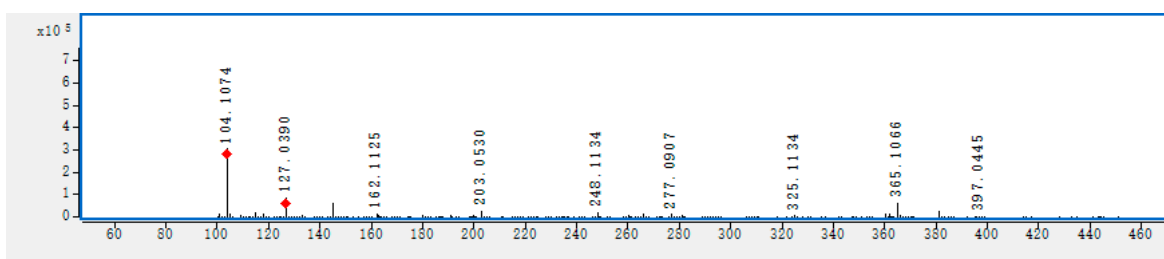
where  $A_{A(120)}$  is the absorbance of the antioxidant at 120 min,  $A_{C(120)}$  is the absorbance of the control at 120 min, and  $A_{C(0)}$  is the absorbance of the control at 0 min.

NO assay

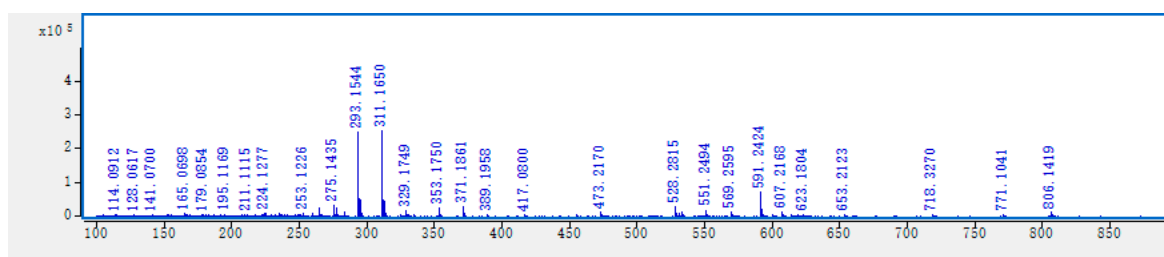
Briefly, 3 mL of *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract in methanol (1 mg/mL) and 3 mL of sodium nitroprusside solution (pH 7.4, 5 mM, in 0.1 M PBS) were mixed in an Eppendorf tube and incubated at 25 °C for 150 min. At intervals, 100  $\mu$ L of the sample was pipetted from each Eppendorf tube onto a microplate containing 100  $\mu$ L of Griess reagent. In the control group, *Euphorbia fischeriana* extract was replaced with methanol. The absorbance was recorded at 546 nm against a blank sample (Griess reagent was replaced with distilled water). Curcumin (0.1 mg/mL) was used as a positive reference.



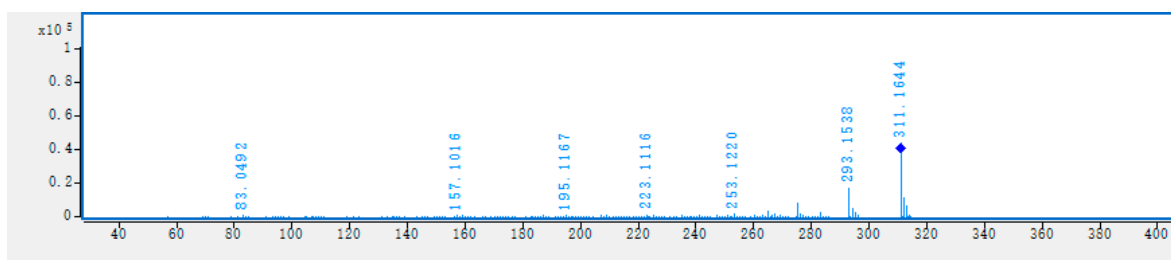
**Figure S1** MS spectrum of peak 1



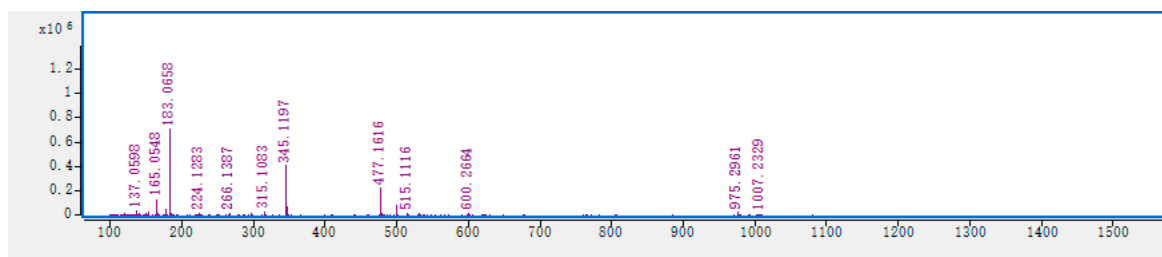
**Figure S2** MS/MS spectrum of peak 1



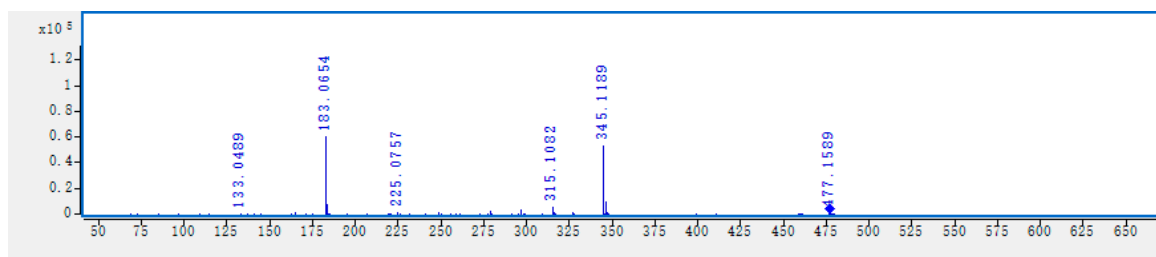
**Figure S3** MS spectrum of peak 2



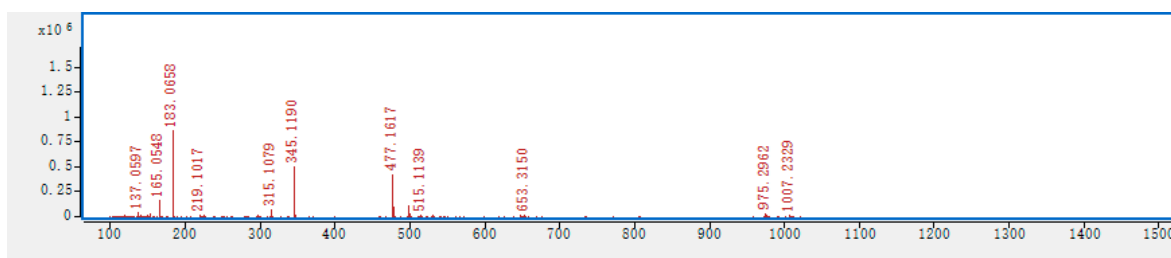
**Figure S4** MS/MS spectrum of peak 2



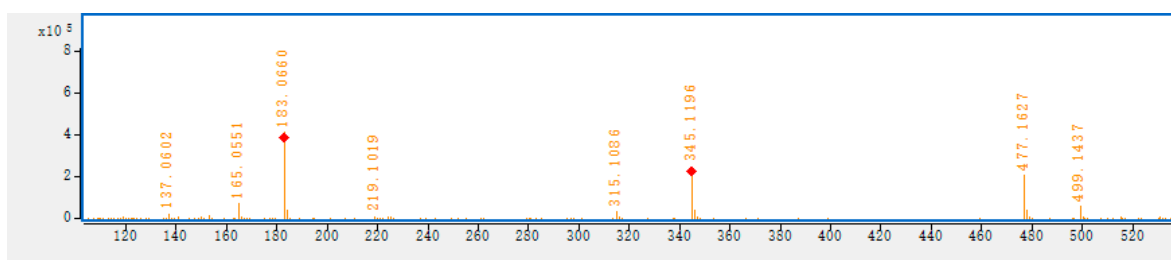
**Figure S5** MS spectrum of peak 3



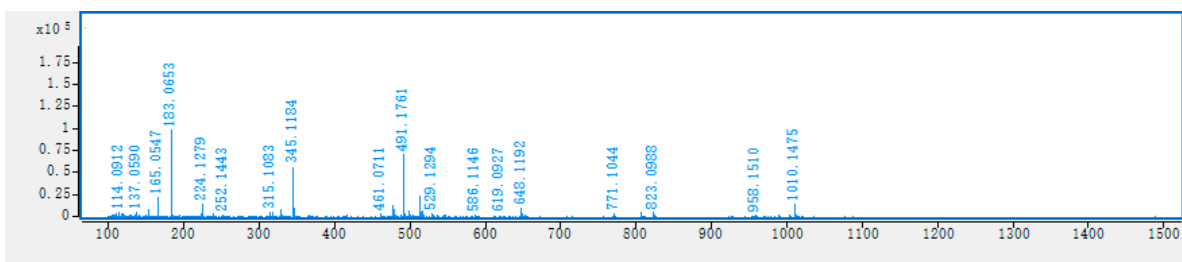
**Figure S6** MS/MS spectrum of peak 3



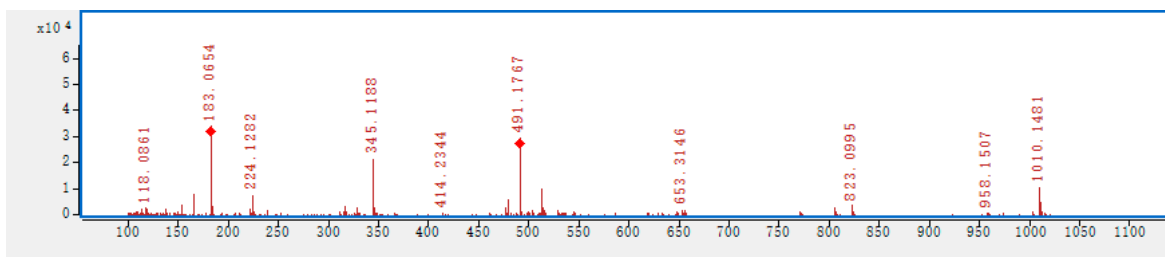
**Figure S7** MS spectrum of peak 4



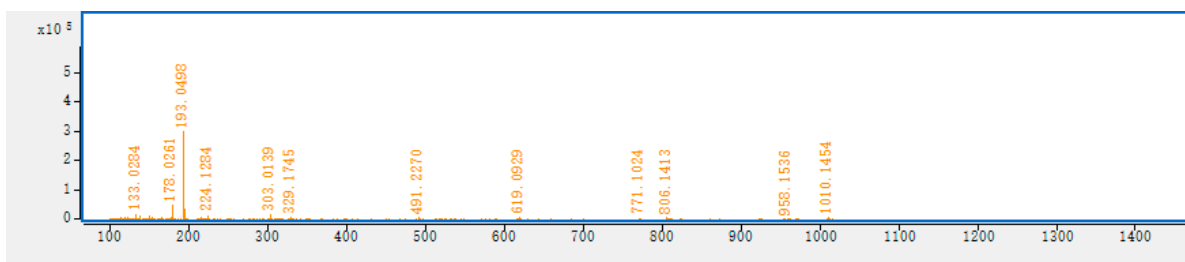
**Figure S8** MS/MS spectrum of peak 4



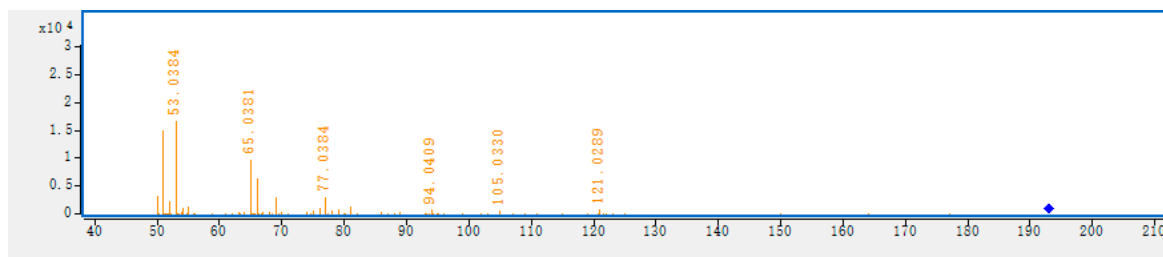
**Figure S9** MS spectrum of peak 5



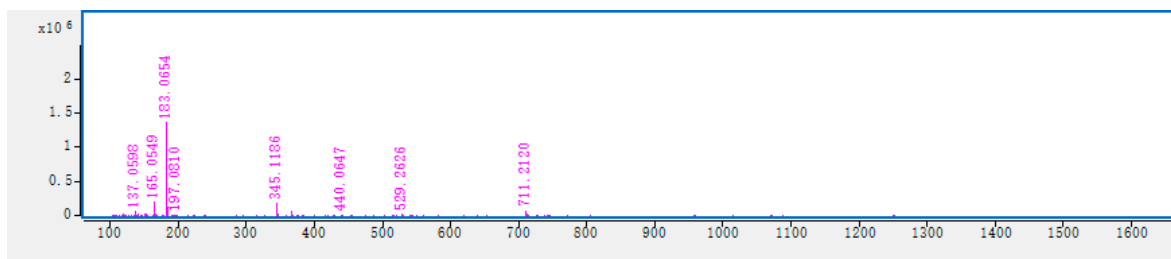
**Figure S10** MS/MS spectrum of peak 5



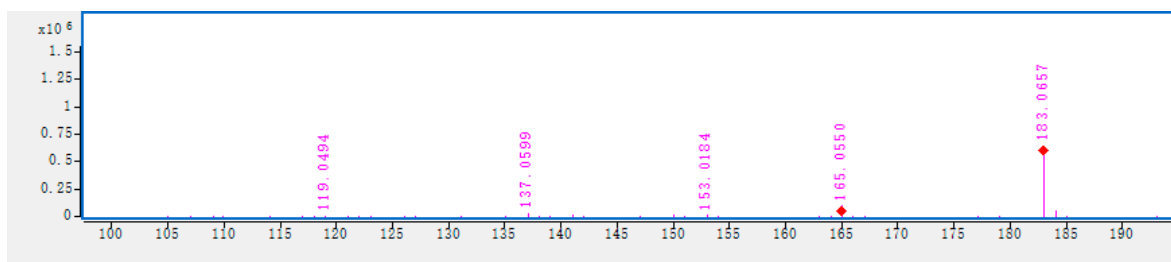
**Figure S11** MS spectrum of peak 6



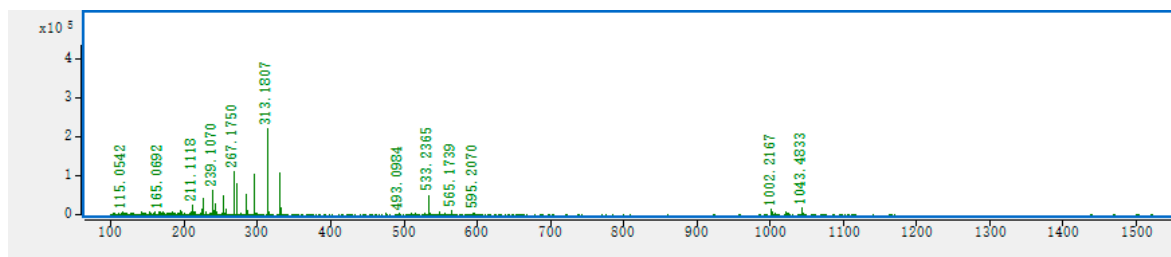
**Figure S12** MS/MS spectrum of peak 6



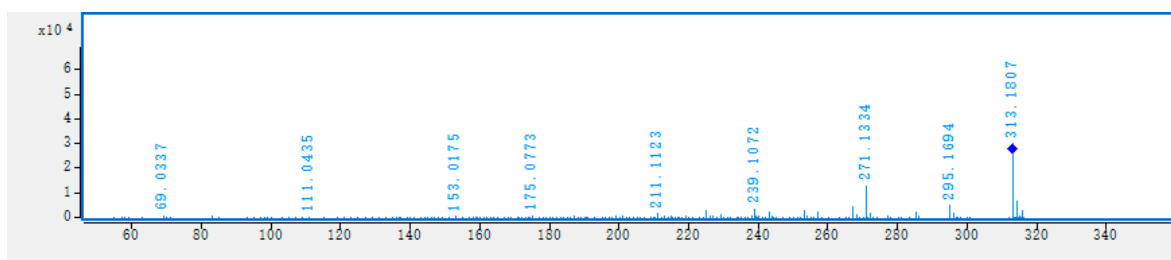
**Figure S13** MS spectrum of peak 7



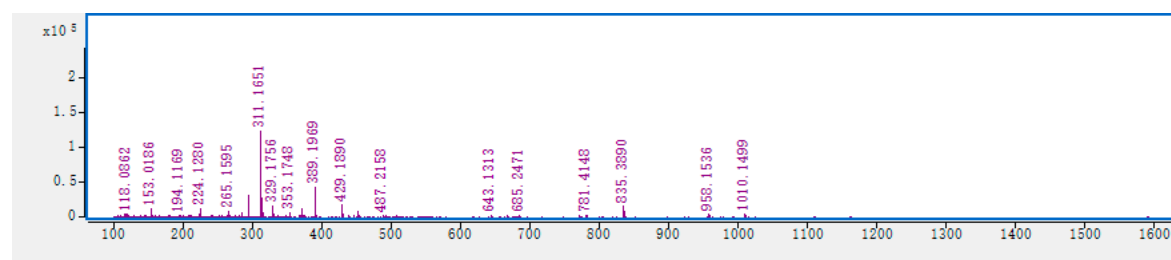
**Figure S14** MS/MS spectrum of peak 7



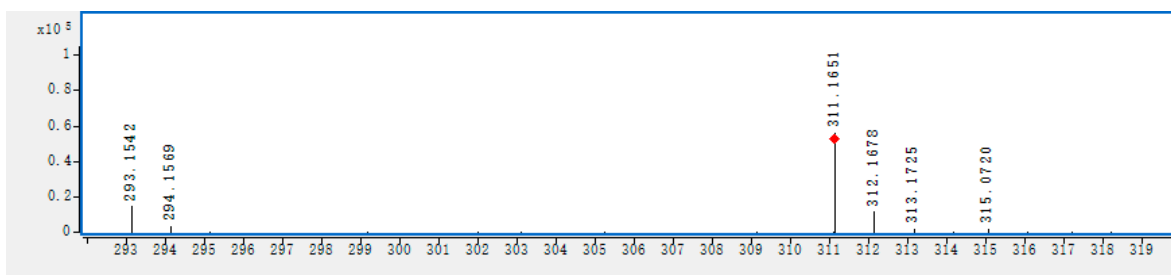
**Figure S15** MS spectrum of peak 8



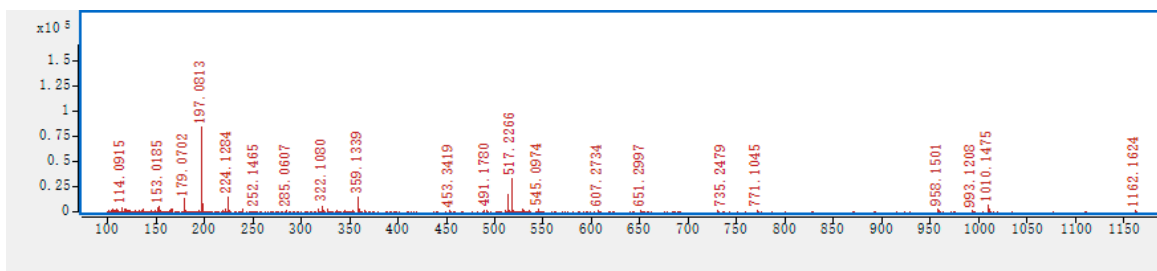
**Figure S16** MS/MS spectrum of peak 8



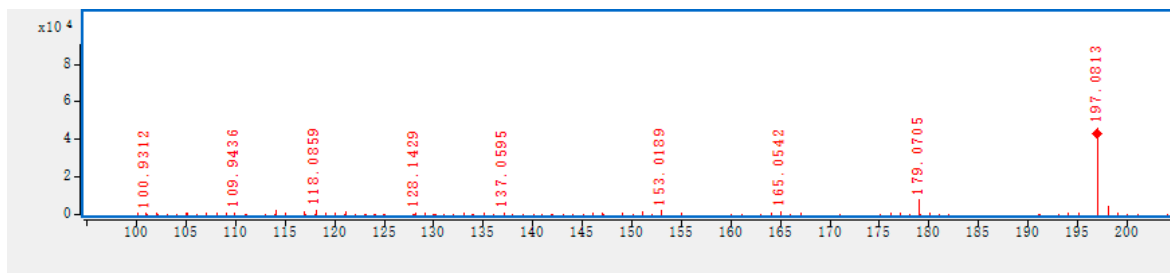
**Figure S17** MS spectrum of peak 9



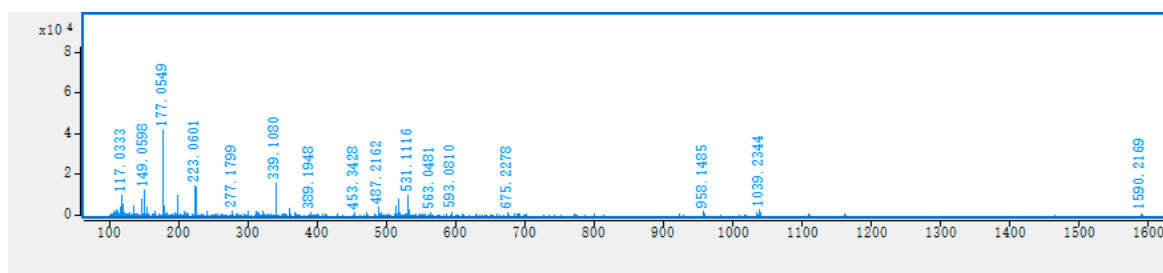
**Figure S18** MS/MS spectrum of peak 9



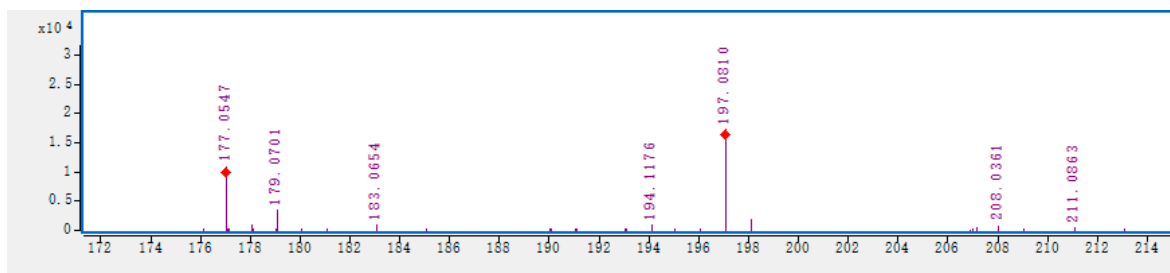
**Figure S19** MS spectrum of peak 10



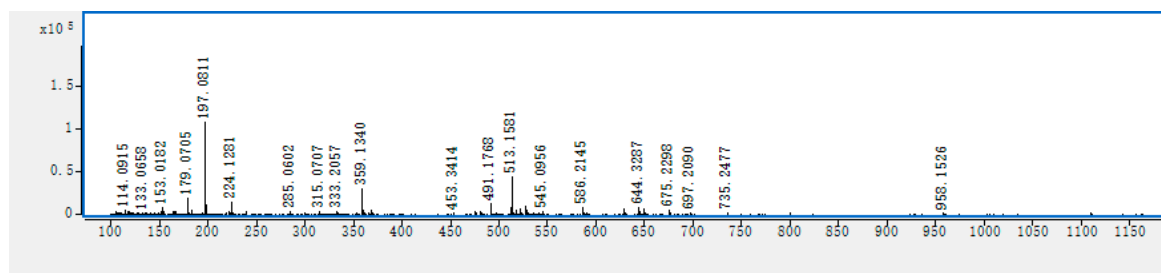
**Figure S20** MS/MS spectrum of peak 10



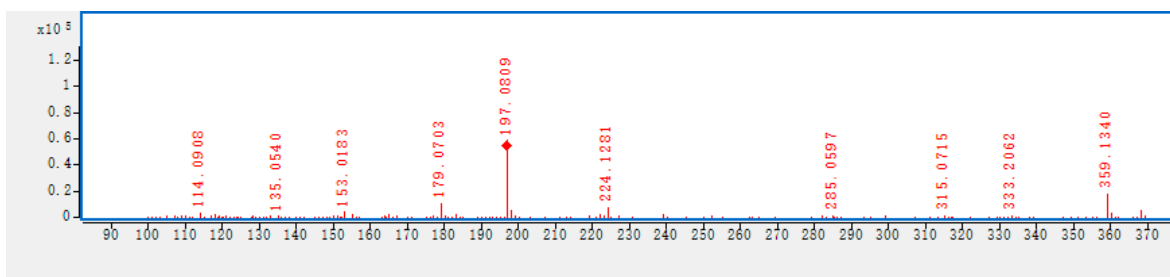
**Figure S21** MS spectrum of peak 11



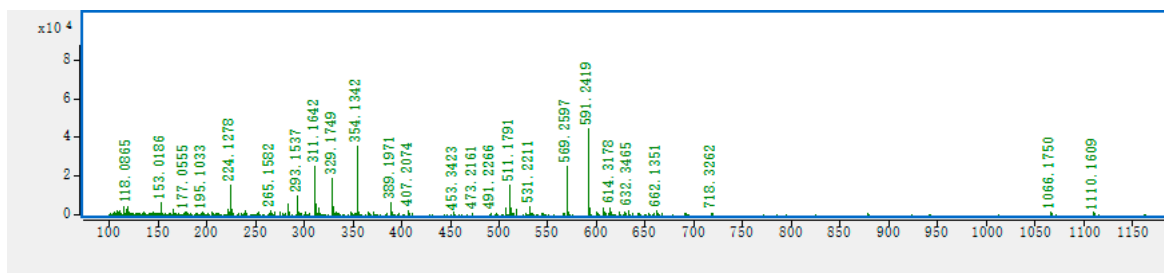
**Figure S22** MS/MS spectrum of peak 11



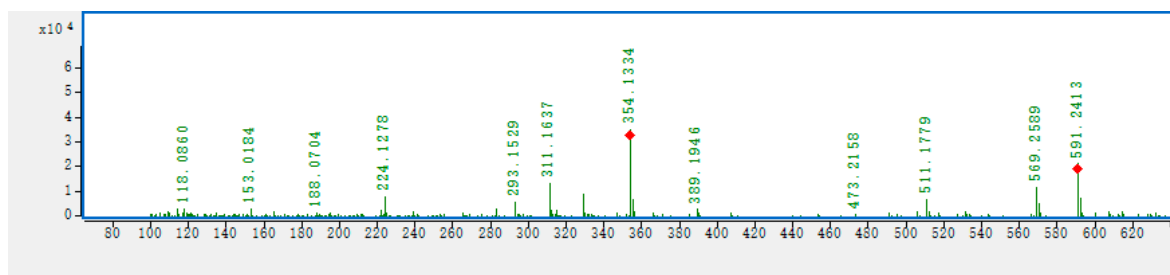
**Figure S23** MS spectrum of peak 12



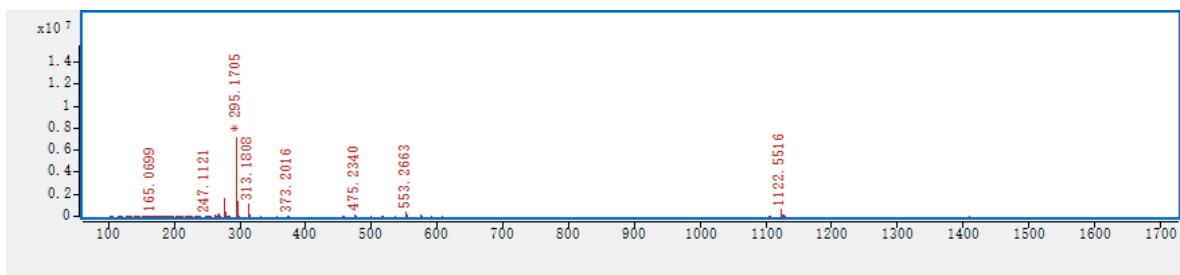
**Figure S24** MS/MS spectrum of peak 12



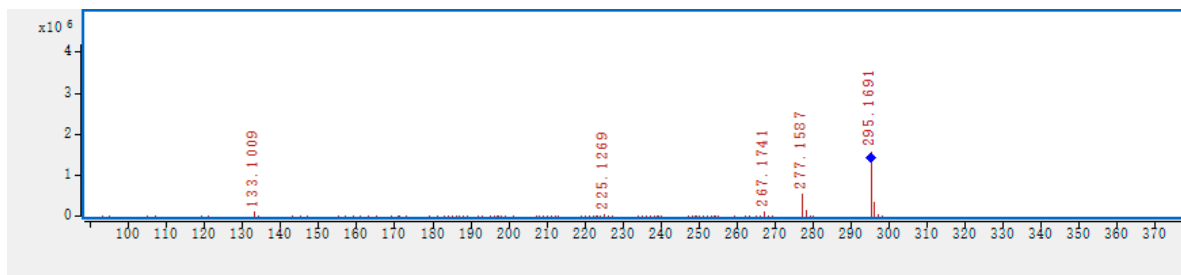
**Figure S25** MS spectrum of peak 13



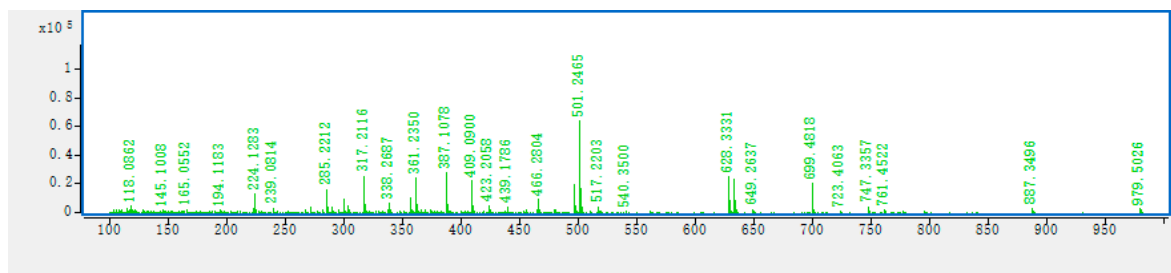
**Figure S26** MS/MS spectrum of peak 13



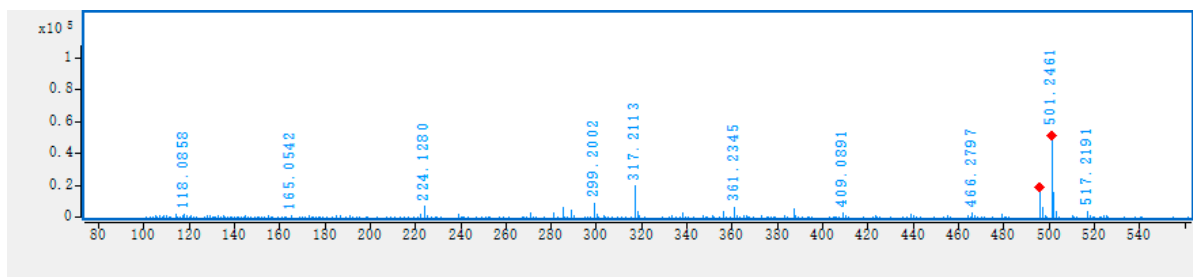
**Figure S27** MS spectrum of peak 14



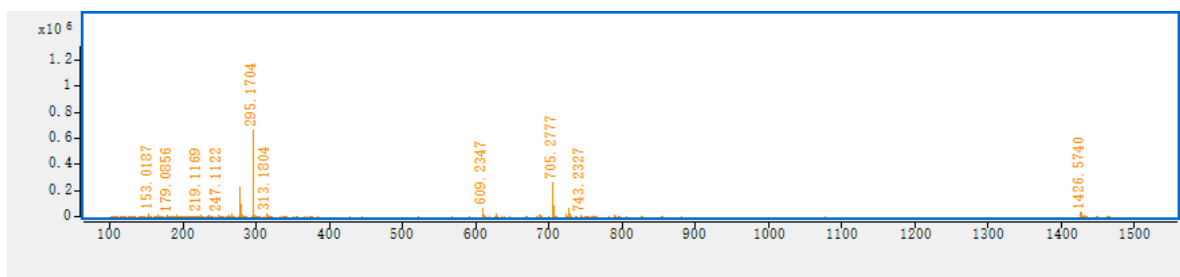
**Figure S28** MS/MS spectrum of peak 14



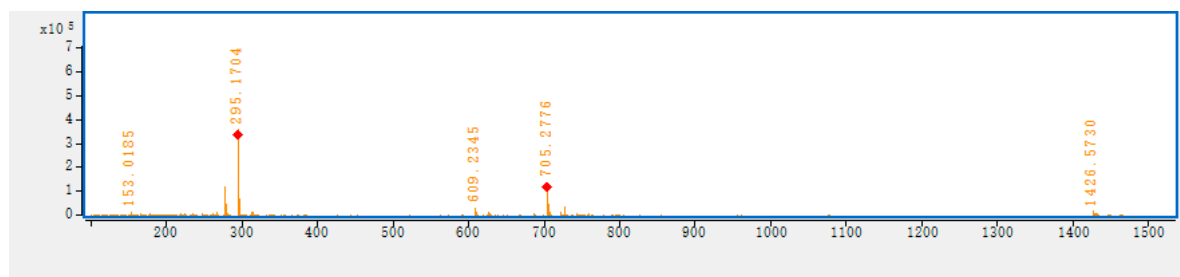
**Figure S29** MS spectrum of peak 15



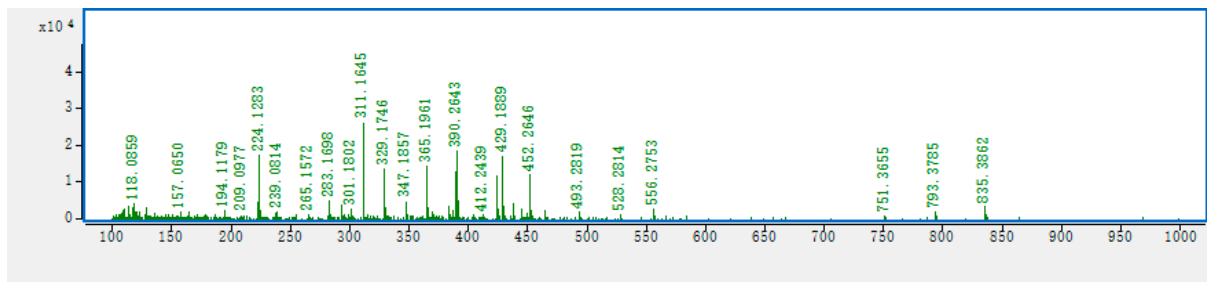
**Figure S30** MS/MS spectrum of peak 15



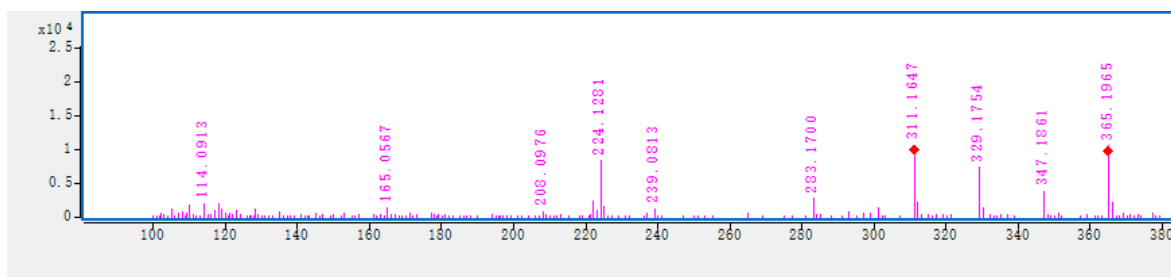
**Figure S31** MS spectrum of peak 16



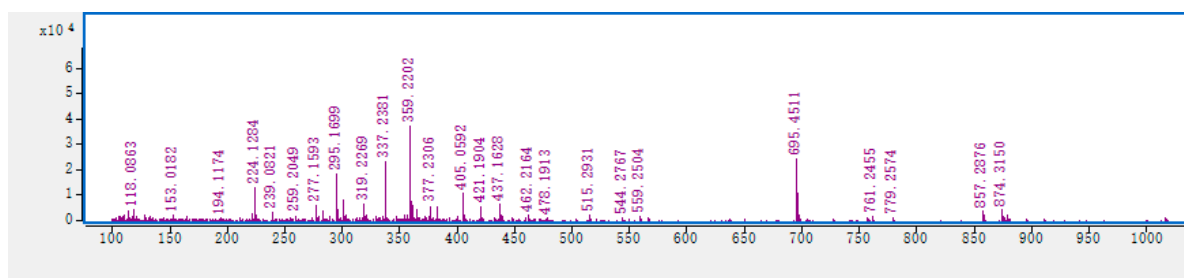
**Figure S32** MS/MS spectrum of peak 16



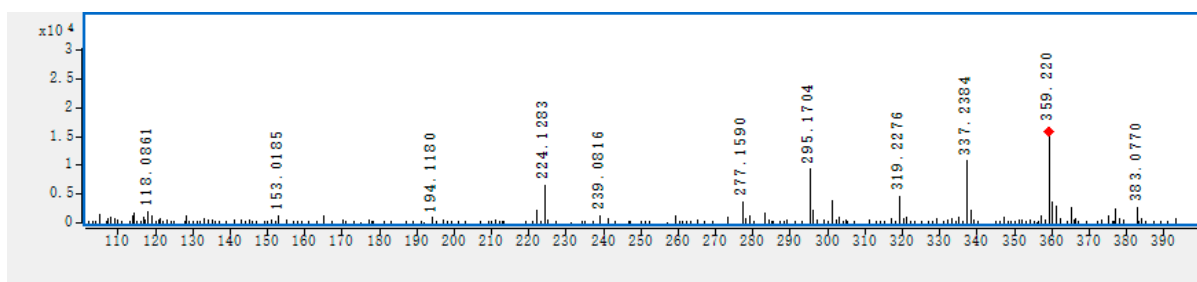
**Figure S33** MS spectrum of peak 17



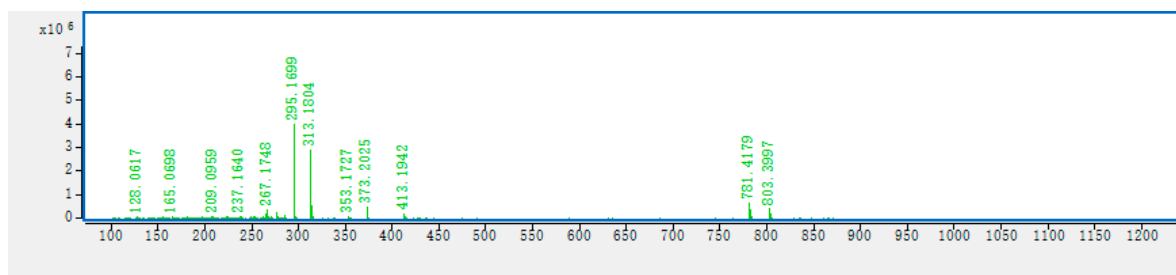
**Figure S34** MS/MS spectrum of peak 17



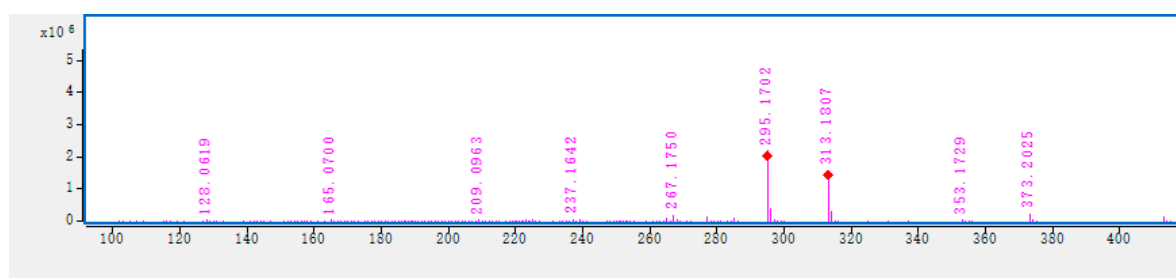
**Figure S35** MS spectrum of peak 18



**Figure S36** MS/MS spectrum of peak 18

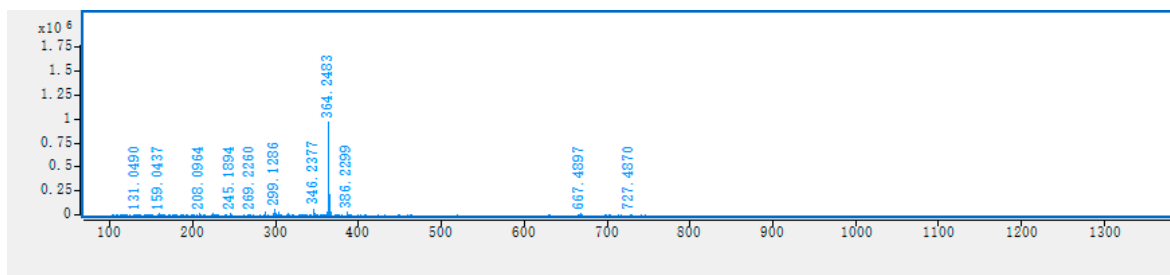


**Figure S37** MS spectrum of peak 19

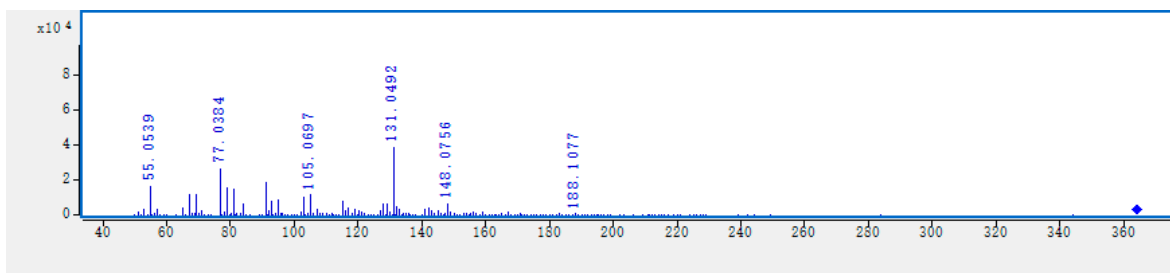


**Figure S38** MS/MS spectrum of peak 19

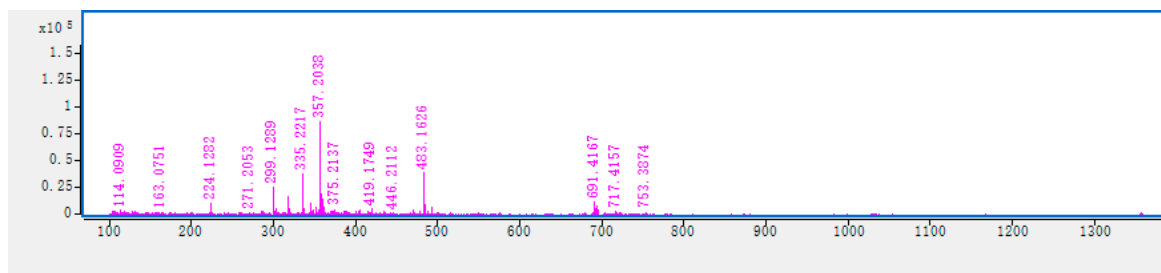




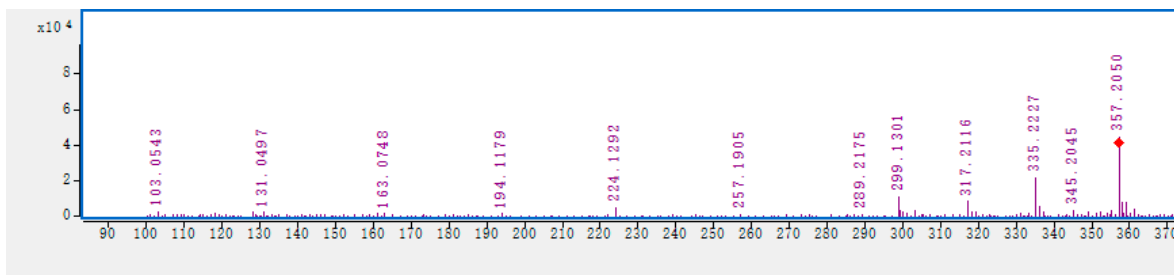
**Figure S39** MS spectrum of peak 20



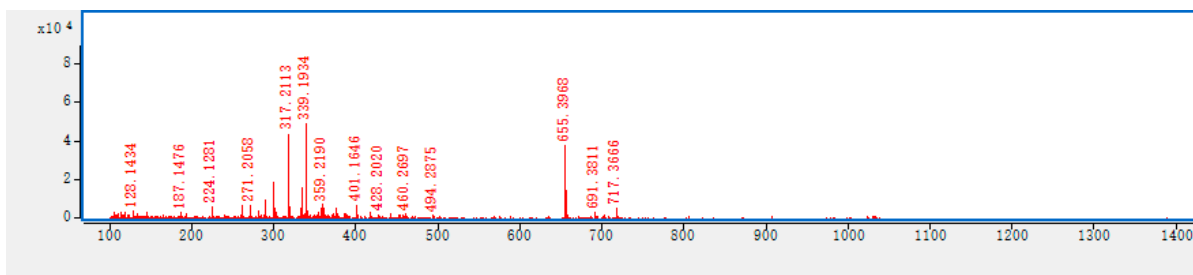
**Figure S40** MS/MS spectrum of peak 20



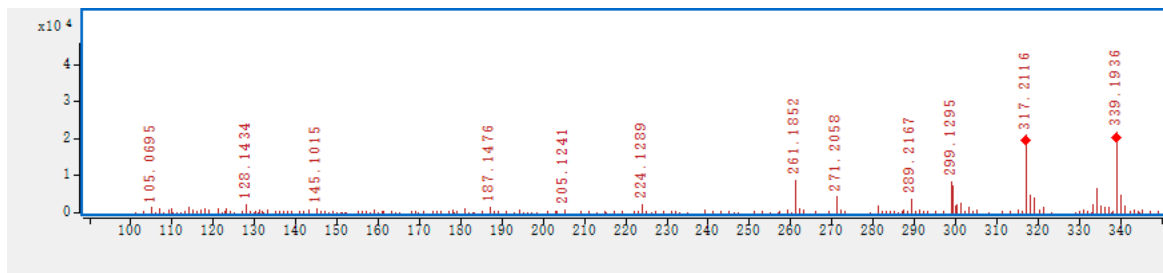
**Figure S41** MS spectrum of peak 21



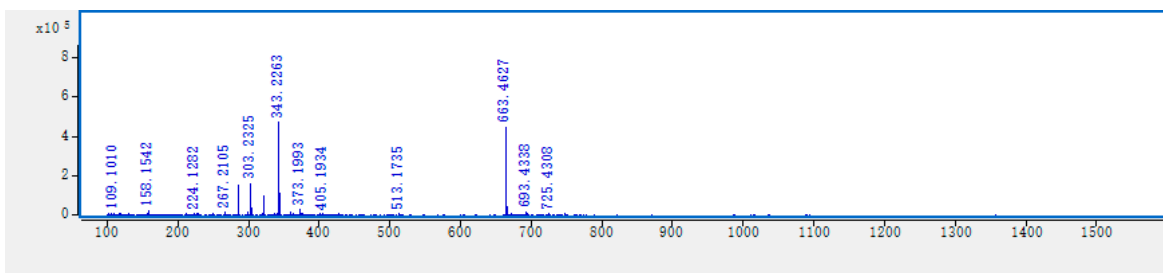
**Figure S42** MS/MS spectrum of peak 21



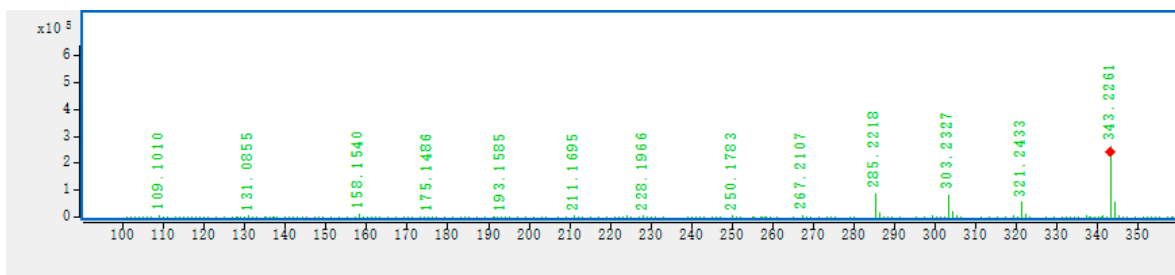
**Figure S43** MS spectrum of peak 22



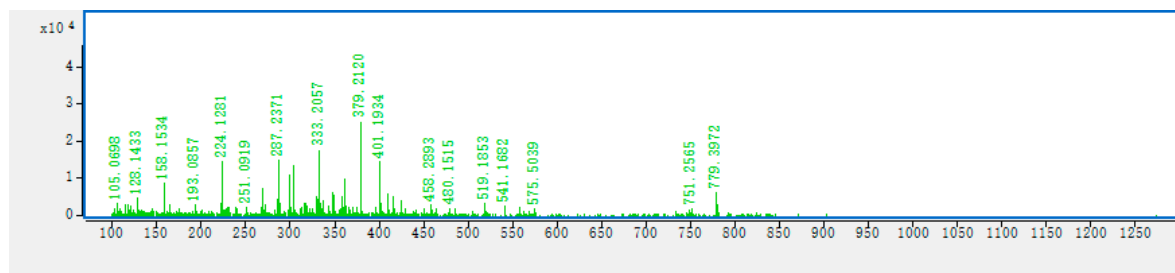
**Figure S44** MS/MS spectrum of peak 22



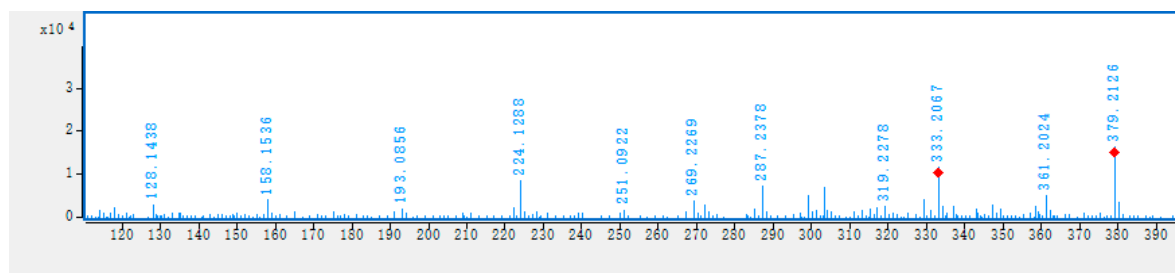
**Figure S45** MS spectrum of peak 23



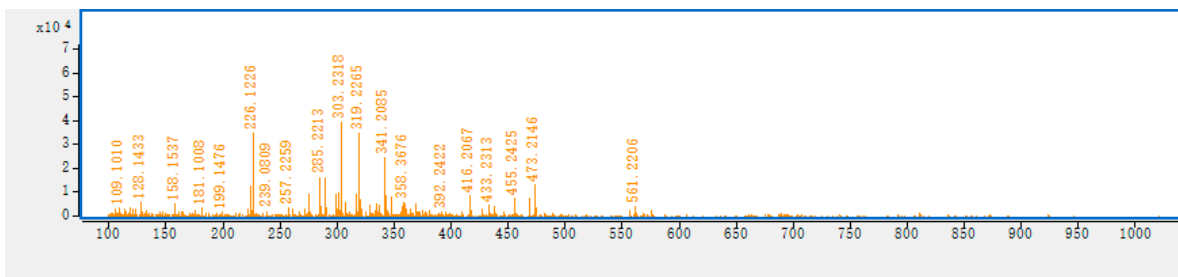
**Figure S46** MS/MS spectrum of peak 23



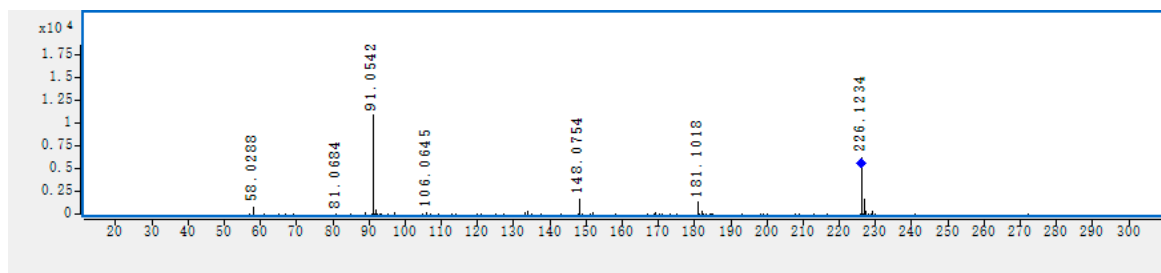
**Figure S47** MS spectrum of peak 24



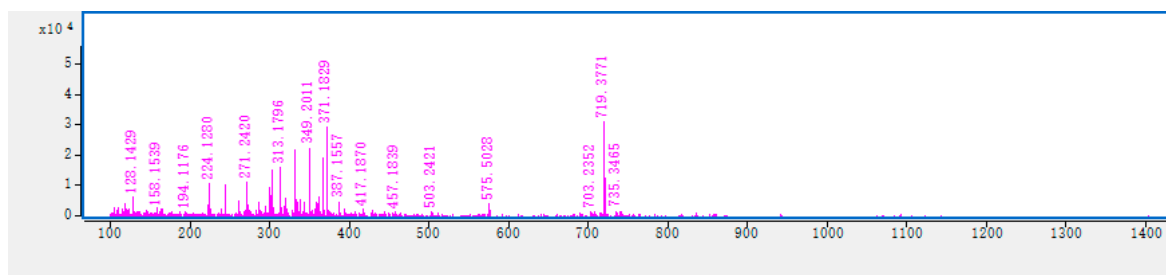
**Figure S48** MS/MS spectrum of peak 24



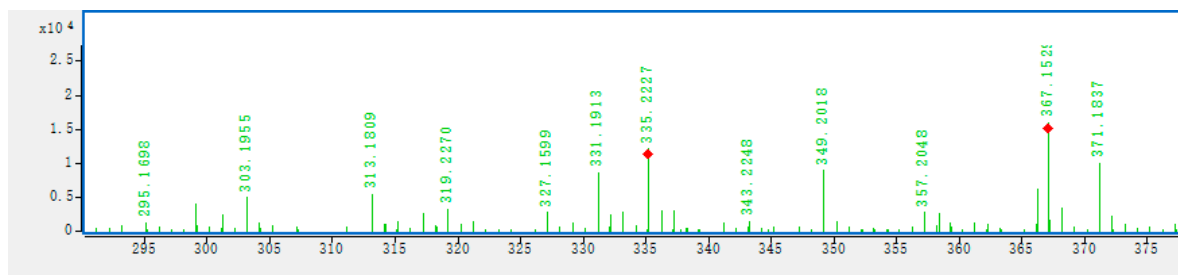
**Figure S49** MS spectrum of peak 25



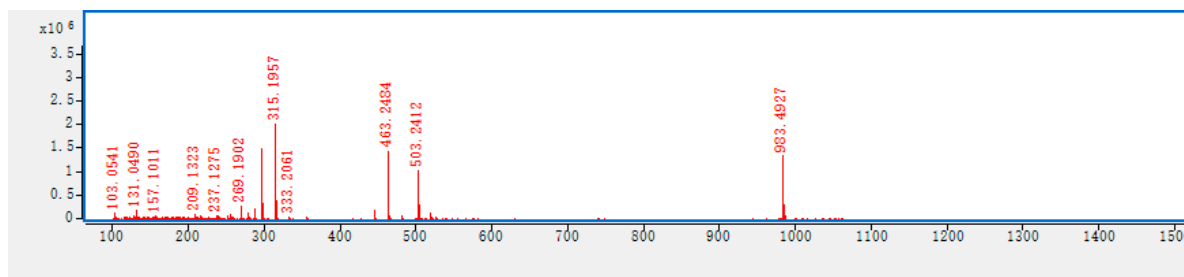
**Figure S50** MS/MS spectrum of peak 25



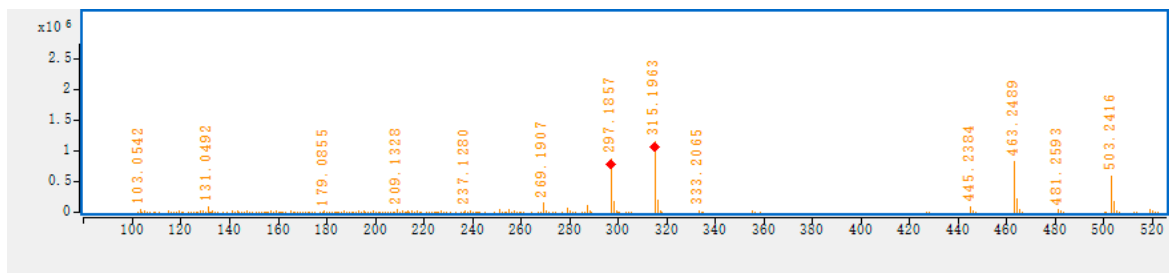
**Figure S51** MS spectrum of peak 26



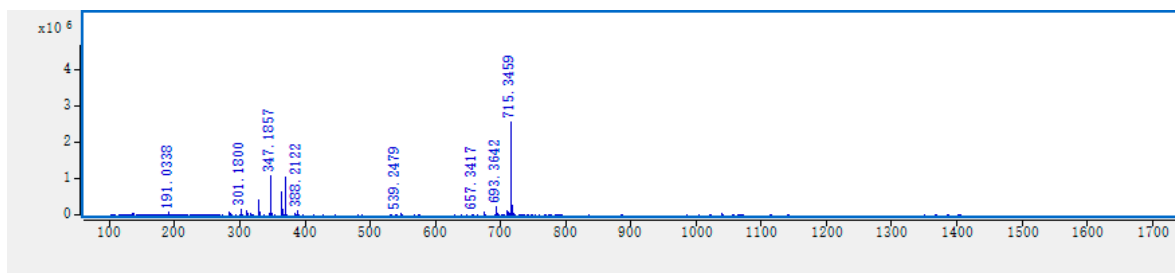
**Figure S52** MS/MS spectrum of peak 26



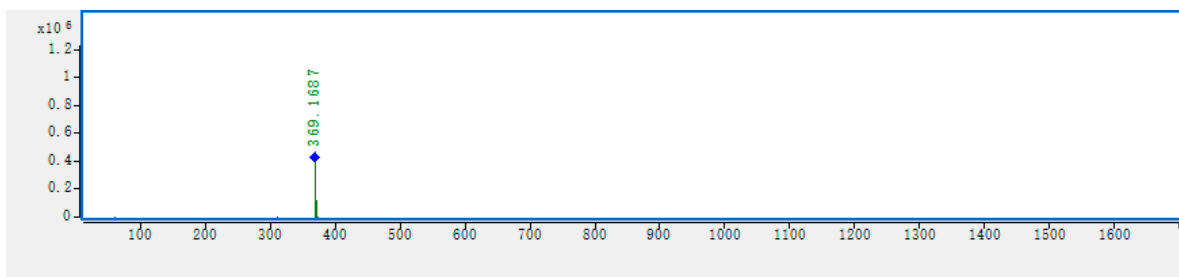
**Figure S53** MS spectrum of peak 27



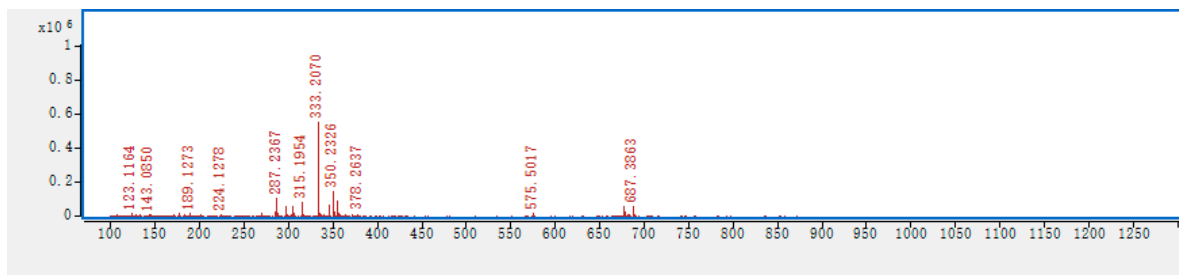
**Figure S54** MS/MS spectrum of peak 27



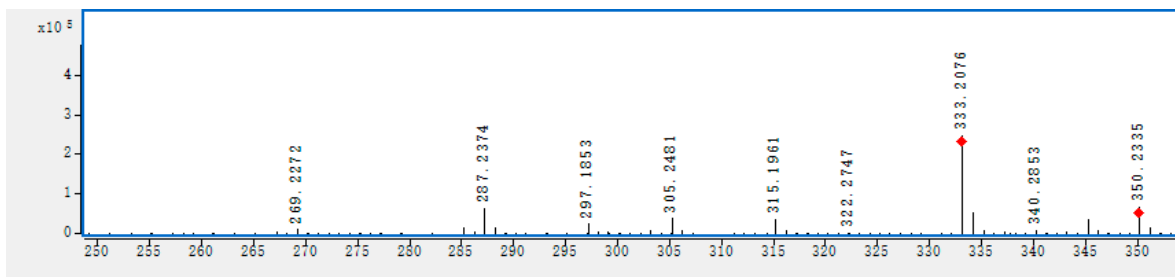
**Figure S55** MS spectrum of peak 28



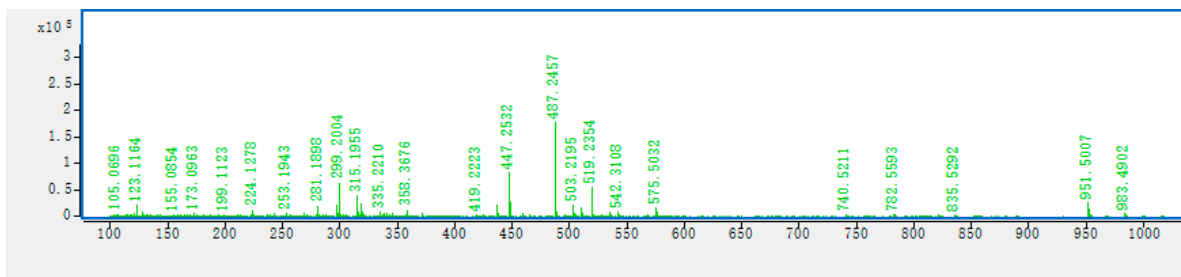
**Figure S56** MS/MS spectrum of peak 28



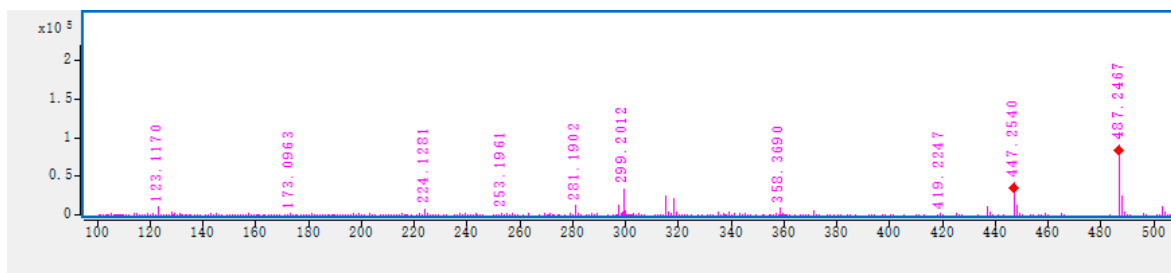
**Figure S57** MS spectrum of peak 29



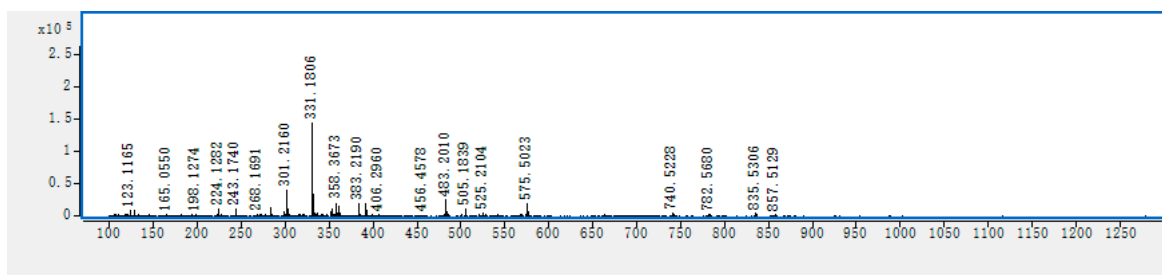
**Figure S58** MS/MS spectrum of peak 29



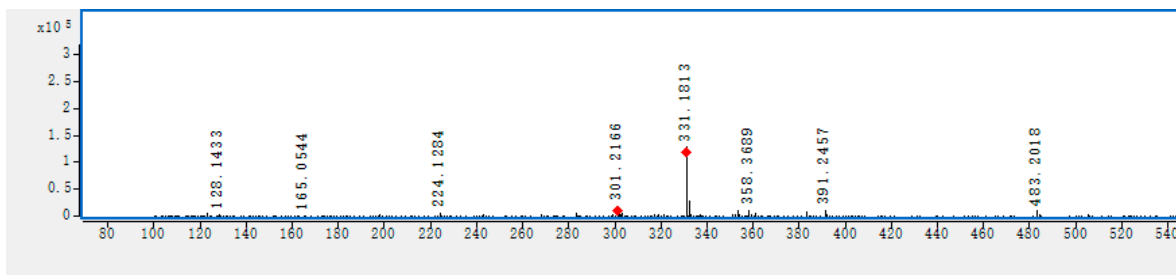
**Figure S59** MS spectrum of peak 30



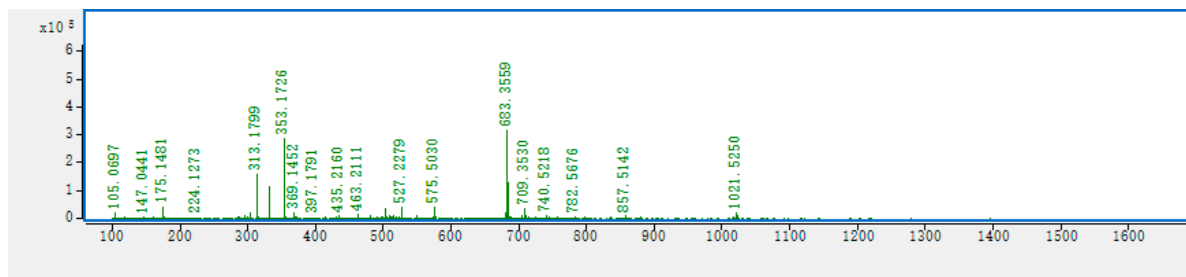
**Figure S60** MS/MS spectrum of peak 30



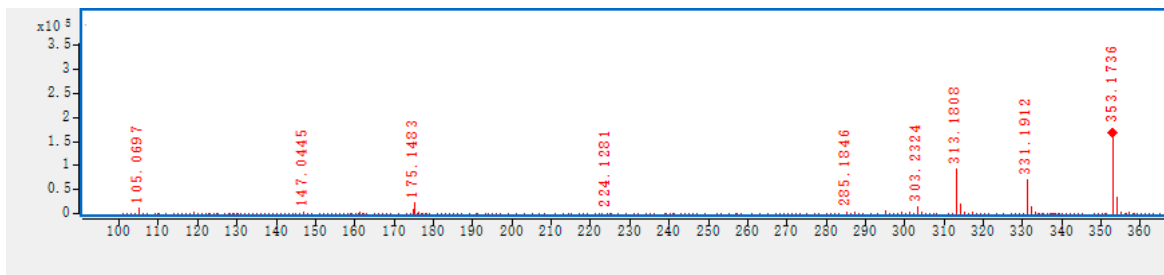
**Figure S61** MS spectrum of peak 31



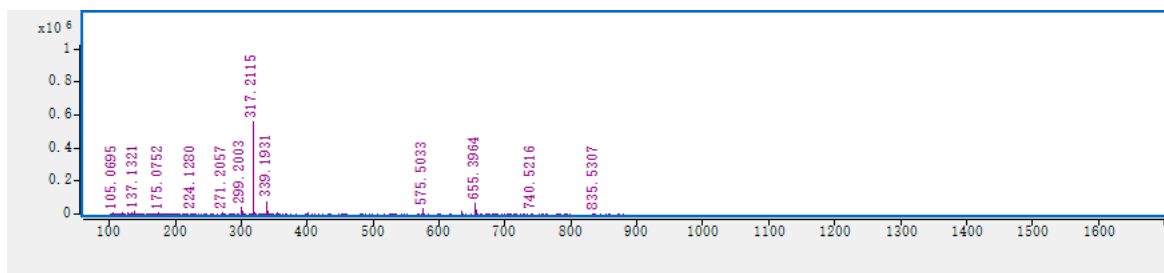
**Figure S62** MS/MS spectrum of peak 31



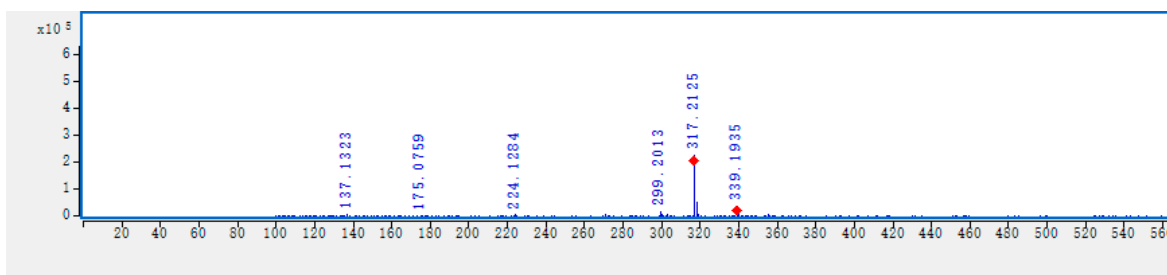
**Figure S63** MS spectrum of peak 32



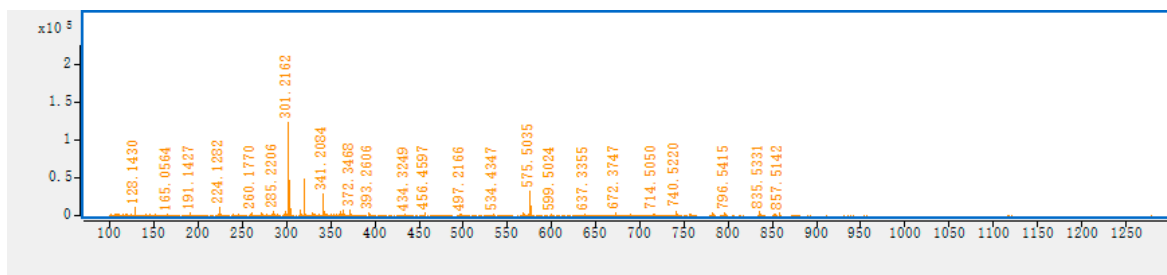
**Figure S64** MS/MS spectrum of peak 32



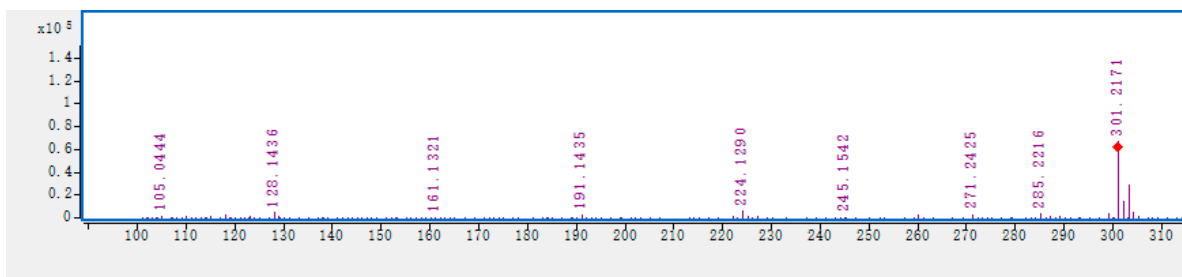
**Figure S65** MS spectrum of peak 33



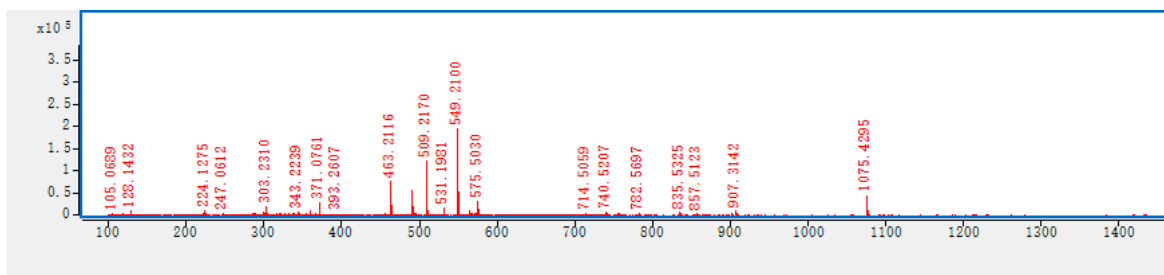
**Figure S66** MS/MS spectrum of peak 33



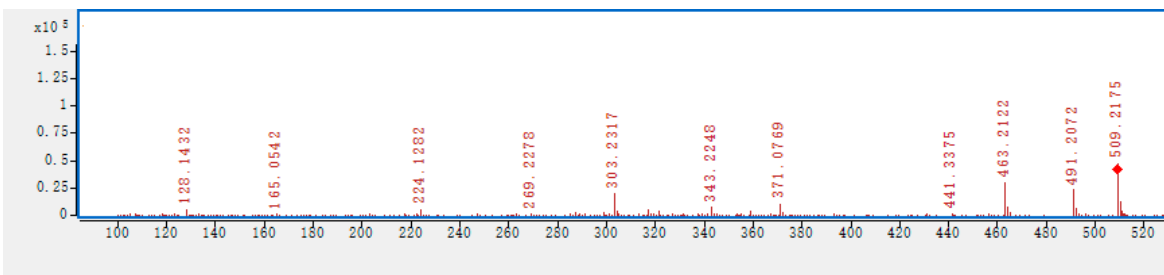
**Figure S67** MS spectrum of peak 34



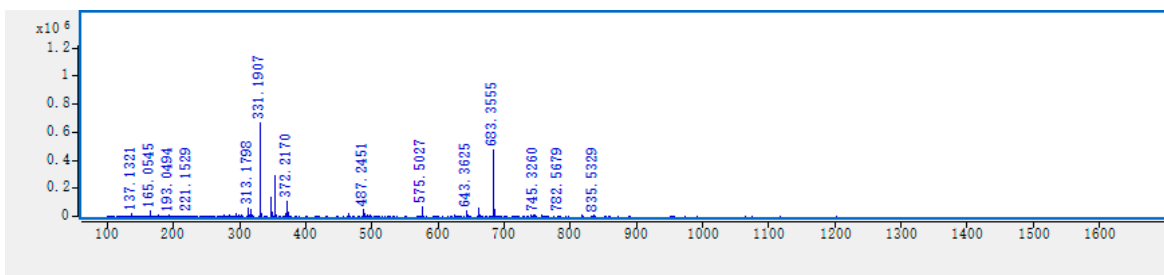
**Figure S68** MS/MS spectrum of peak 34



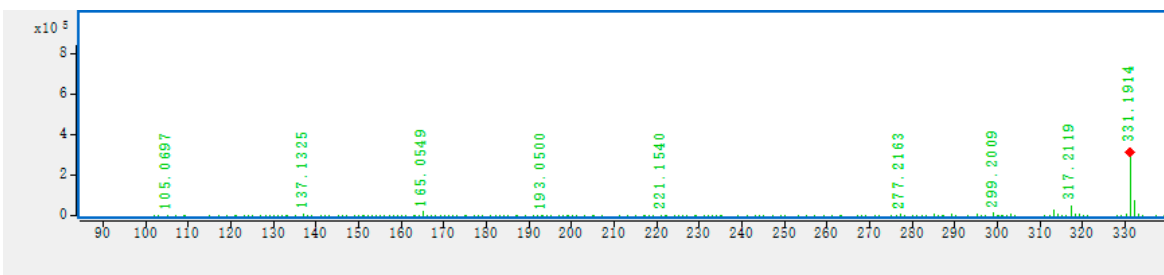
**Figure S69** MS spectrum of peak 35



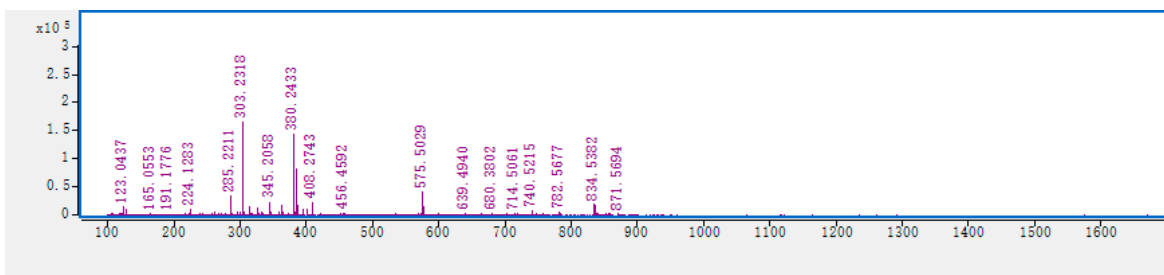
**Figure S70** MS/MS spectrum of peak 35



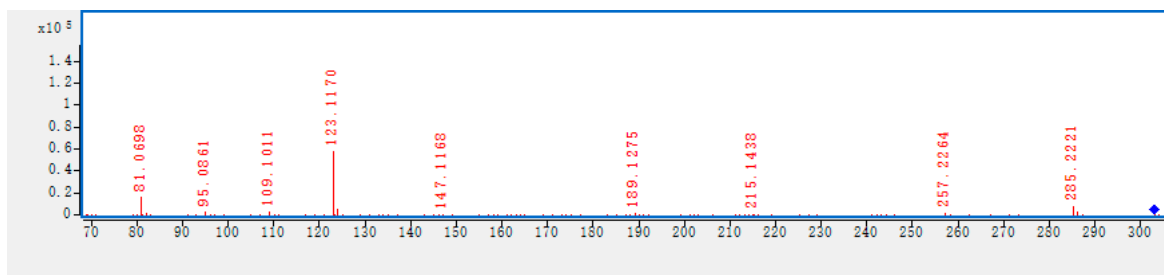
**Figure S71** MS spectrum of peak 36



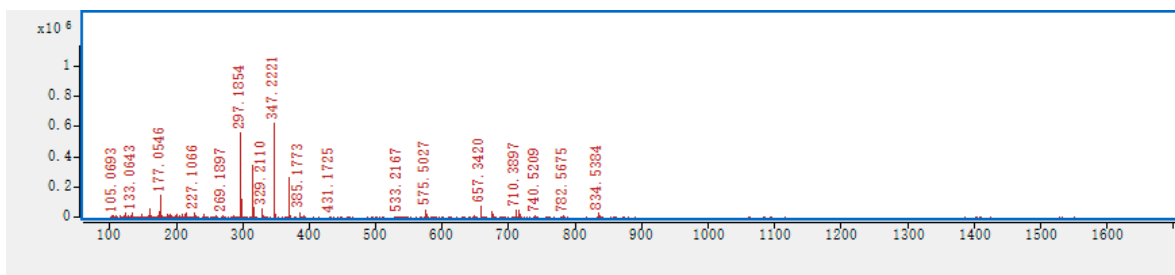
**Figure S72** MS/MS spectrum of peak 36



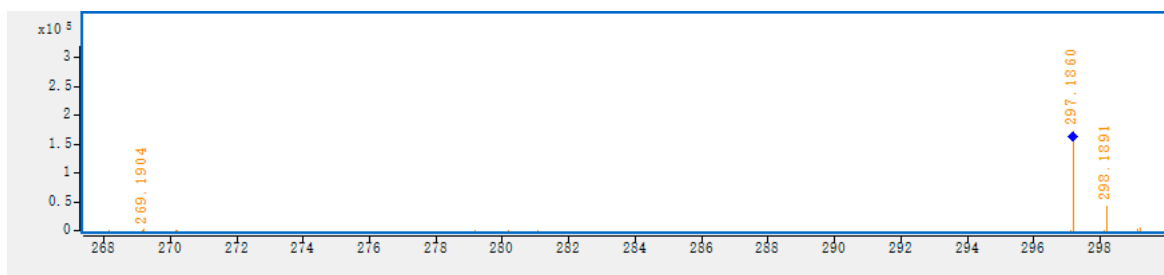
**Figure S73** MS spectrum of peak 37



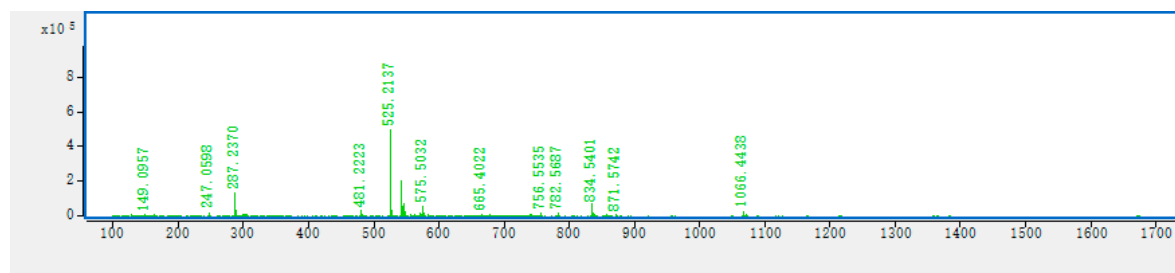
**Figure S74** MS/MS spectrum of peak 37



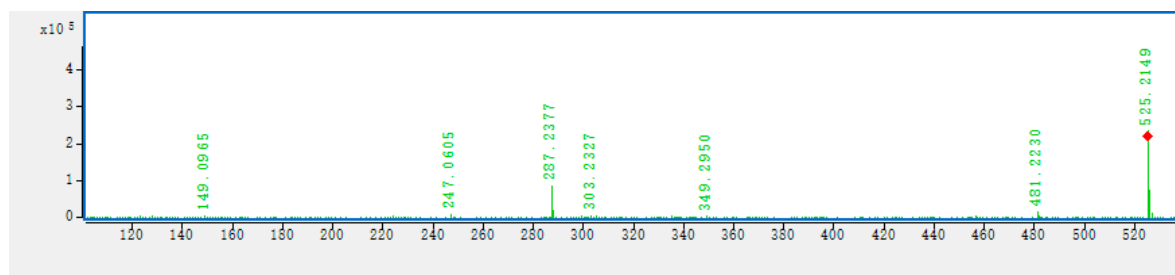
**Figure S75** MS spectrum of peak 38



**Figure S76** MS/MS spectrum of peak 38



**Figure S77** MS spectrum of peak 39



**Figure S78** MS/MS spectrum of peak 39