

Supplementary Information

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Table S1: Crystal data and structure refinement for **8h**, **8i**, **9h**, **10f**, **10h**, **11b-d** **11h**, **11t**

Table S2: Stability study for compounds **9q**, **15a**, **10h**, **10q**, **10p**, **10r** and **CA-4** at pH 4.0, pH 7.5, pH 9.0 and in plasma

Table S3: Stability study for compounds **10h**, **10q**, **10p** and **10r** (HCl, NaOH, heat (80 °C), Light, H₂O₂)

Table S4: Tier-1 Profiling Screen of Selected β -Lactams

Table S5: ADMET and Lipinski Properties for Selected β -Lactams

Table S6: Antitumour Evaluations of compound **9q** in the NCI60 cell line *in vitro* primary one dose screen

Table S7: Comparative Antitumour Evaluations of compounds **9h**, **9q**, **9s**, **10p**, **10h**, **10r**, **15a**, **15b** in the NCI60 *leukaemia, non-small cell lung cancer, colon cancer* and *CNS cancer* cell lines *in vitro* primary screen

Table S8: Comparative Antitumour Evaluations of compounds **9h**, **9q**, **9s**, **10p**, **10h**, **10r**, **15a**, **15b** in the NCI60 *melanoma, ovarian cancer, renal cancer* and *breast cancer* cell line *in vitro* primary screen

Table S9: Standard COMPARE analysis of β -lactam **9q**

Table S10: Standard COMPARE analysis of β -lactam **9s**

Table S11: Docking scores for selected β -lactams

Table S12: X-Ray data and torsional angles for compounds **9h**, **10h**, **10f**, **11a-c**, **11h**.

Table S13. X-ray crystal structure of compounds **8h**, **8i** and **11t**

Table S14: X-ray crystal structure of compounds **10f**, **11b**, **11c**, **11d**.

Figures S1-S20: ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

Figure S21: Stability study for compounds **9q**, **15a**, **10h**, **10q**, **10p**, **10r** and **CA-4** at pH 4.0, pH 7.5, pH 9.0 and in plasma.

Figure S22: Flexible alignment of **11p** and combretastatin A-4

Figure S23: Inter-atomic distances between oxygen atoms for compounds **25**, **11p** and **CA-4**

Figure S24: Protein ligand interactions for β -Lactam **11p** docked in the colchicine-binding site of tubulin

Figure S25: Overlay of the X-ray structure of tubulin crystallised with DAMA Colchicine with β -lactams

Figure S26: β -Lactams **9s**, **10h**, **11p** and **11r** docked in the colchicine-binding site of tubulin.

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 8h, 8i, 9h, 10f, 10h, 11b-d, 11h, 11t.

| Identification code | 8h | 8i | 9h[†] | 10f | 10h |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Empirical formula | C ₁₇ H ₁₉ NO ₄ | C ₁₈ H ₂₁ NO ₄ | C ₂₂ H ₂₅ NO ₅ | C ₂₁ H ₂₃ NO ₄ | C ₂₂ H ₂₅ NO ₅ |
| Formula weight | 301.33 | 315.36 | 383.43 | 353.40 | 383.43 |
| Temperature/K | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) |
| Crystal system | monoclinic | monoclinic | monoclinic | monoclinic | monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /n | P2 ₁ /c |
| a (Å) | 13.9299(9) | 22.5651(4) | 8.9915(3) | 10.0918(11) | 9.0246(6) |
| b (Å) | 15.2516(10) | 5.22320(10) | 21.9379(8) | 8.7491(9) | 22.6999(13) |
| c (Å) | 7.2194(5) | 13.9585(2) | 20.6602(8) | 21.330(2) | 19.3997(11) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 94.187(2) | 100.4590(10) | 90.091(2) | 99.292(3) | 90.4597(17) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Volume (Å ³) | 1529.69(18) | 1617.84(5) | 4075.3(3) | 1858.6(3) | 3974.0(4) |
| Z | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| ρ _{calc} (g/cm ³) | 1.308 | 1.295 | 1.250 | 1.263 | 1.282 |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 0.093 | 0.091 | 0.724 | 0.087 | 0.091 |
| F(000) | 640.0 | 672.0 | 1632.0 | 752.0 | 1632.0 |
| Crystal size (mm ³) | 0.3 × 0.25 × 0.16 | 0.14 × 0.1 × 0.06 | 0.2 × 0.07 × 0.07 | 0.364 × 0.312 × 0.124 | 0.31 × 0.11 × 0.08 |
| Radiation | Mo Kα | Mo Kα | Cu Kα | Mo Kα | Mo Kα |
| Reflections collected | 26793 | 95360 | 43185 | 21577 | 69795 |
| Independent reflections | 3528 R _{int} = 0.0227, R _{sigma} = 0.0120 | 4759 R _{int} = 0.0496, R _{sigma} = 0.0232 | 7062 R _{int} = 0.0421, R _{sigma} = 0.0284 | 4630 R _{int} = 0.0337, R _{sigma} = 0.0254 | 8185 R _{int} = 0.1336, R _{sigma} = 0.0632 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 3528/0/203 | 4759/0/212 | 7062/0/516 | 4630/0/239 | 8185/72/551 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.029 | 1.035 | 1.041 | 1.022 | 1.070 |
| Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]* | R ₁ = 0.0319, wR ₂ = 0.0824 | R ₁ = 0.0436, wR ₂ = 0.0996 | R ₁ = 0.0339, wR ₂ = 0.0829 | R ₁ = 0.0388, wR ₂ = 0.0916 | R ₁ = 0.0541, wR ₂ = 0.1008 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R ₁ = 0.0381, wR ₂ = 0.0872 | R ₁ = 0.0672, wR ₂ = 0.1127 | R ₁ = 0.0391, wR ₂ = 0.0868 | R ₁ = 0.0537, wR ₂ = 0.1014 | R ₁ = 0.1163, wR ₂ = 0.1264 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å ⁻³) | 0.33/-0.19 | 0.44/-0.27 | 0.34/-0.24 | 0.30/-0.20 | 0.25/-0.24 |
| CCDC No. | 2241430 | 2241431 | 1820359 | 2241432 | 2241433 |

$$*R_1 = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|}, wR_2 = \left[\frac{\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2}{\sum w(F_o^2)^2} \right]^{1/2}.$$

[†] See reference Shu Wang, Azizah M. Malebari, Thomas F. Greene, Niamh M. O'Boyle, Darren Fayne, Seema M. Nathwani, Brendan Twamley, Thomas McCabe, Niall O. Keely, Daniela M. Zisterer, Mary J. Meegan CCDC 1820359: Experimental Crystal Structure Determination, 2020, DOI: [10.5517/ccdc.csd.cclz378l](https://doi.org/10.5517/ccdc.csd.cclz378l)

| Identification code | 11d | 11b | 11c | 11h | 11t |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Empirical formula | C ₂₂ H ₂₂ FNO ₄ | C ₂₂ H ₂₂ ClNO ₄ | C ₂₂ H ₂₂ BrNO ₄ | C ₂₃ H ₂₅ NO ₅ | C ₁₁ H ₁₃ NO |
| Formula weight | 383.40 | 399.85 | 444.31 | 395.44 | 175.22 |
| Temperature/K | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) |
| Crystal system | monoclinic | monoclinic | monoclinic | orthorhombic | triclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c | Pbca | P-1 |
| a (Å) | 14.5661(11) | 14.6264(9) | 14.6668(8) | 19.2285(12) | 8.7662(5) |
| b (Å) | 7.5756(5) | 7.6621(5) | 7.7384(5) | 9.1143(6) | 9.7900(5) |
| c (Å) | 18.2634(13) | 18.5583(11) | 18.6524(10) | 23.8043(16) | 11.6028(6) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 78.3022(15) |
| β (°) | 108.9192(19) | 108.9354(14) | 108.6557(14) | 90 | 78.8925(15) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 89.9494(15) |
| Volume (Å ³) | 1906.4(2) | 1967.3(2) | 2005.8(2) | 4171.8(5) | 956.06(9) |
| Z | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| ρ _{calc} (g/cm ³) | 1.336 | 1.350 | 1.471 | 1.259 | 1.217 |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 0.098 | 0.223 | 2.077 | 0.089 | 0.078 |
| F(000) | 808.0 | 840.0 | 912.0 | 1680.0 | 376.0 |
| Crystal size (mm ³) | 0.32 × 0.09 × 0.07 | 0.491 × 0.36 × 0.082 | 0.361 × 0.139 × 0.057 | 0.36 × 0.16 × 0.042 | 0.464 × 0.244 × 0.182 |
| Radiation | Mo Kα | Mo Kα | Mo Kα | Mo Kα | Mo Kα |
| Reflections collected | 41050 | 44829 | 48902 | 47449 | 37132 |
| Independent reflections | 4749 R _{int} = 0.1009, R _{sigma} = 0.0484 | 4943 R _{int} = 0.0459, R _{sigma} = 0.0229 | 5062 R _{int} = 0.0799, R _{sigma} = 0.0363 | 4300 R _{int} = 0.1050, R _{sigma} = 0.0427 | 4817 R _{int} = 0.0310, R _{sigma} = 0.0193 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 4749/0/257 | 4943/0/257 | 5062/0/257 | 4300/0/267 | 4817/0/244 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.058 | 1.050 | 1.052 | 1.082 | 1.038 |
| Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]* | R ₁ = 0.0523, wR ₂ = 0.0914 | R ₁ = 0.0358, wR ₂ = 0.0829 | R ₁ = 0.0326, wR ₂ = 0.0598 | R ₁ = 0.0480, wR ₂ = 0.0938 | R ₁ = 0.0382, wR ₂ = 0.0916 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R ₁ = 0.0922, wR ₂ = 0.1076 | R ₁ = 0.0495, wR ₂ = 0.0911 | R ₁ = 0.0560, wR ₂ = 0.0675 | R ₁ = 0.0906, wR ₂ = 0.1130 | R ₁ = 0.0480, wR ₂ = 0.0987 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å ⁻³) | 0.36/-0.24 | 0.38/-0.27 | 0.51/-0.43 | 0.20/-0.21 | 0.31/-0.22 |
| CCDC No. | 2241434 | 2241435 | 2241436 | 2241437 | 2241438 |

* $R_1 = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|}$, $wR_2 = [\frac{\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2}{\sum w(F_o^2)^2}]^{1/2}$.

Table S2: Stability study for compounds **9q**, **15a**, **10h**, **10q**, **10p**, **10r** and CA-4 at pH 4.0, pH 7.5, pH 9.0 and in plasma ^a

| Compound | pH 4.0 % Remaining | pH 7.4 % Remaining | pH 9.0 % Remaining | Plasma % Remaining |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 9q ^b | 33 | 35 | 34 | 80 |
| 15a ^b | 96 | 98 | nde ^e | 97 |
| 10h ^c | 28 | 41 | 24 | 100 |
| 10q ^c | 26 | 25 | 22 | 90 |
| 10p ^c | 98 | 99 | 96 | 97 |
| 10r ^c | 96 | 99 | 83 | 97 |
| CA-4 ^d | 97 | 89 | 90 | 95 |

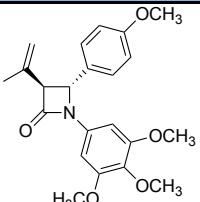
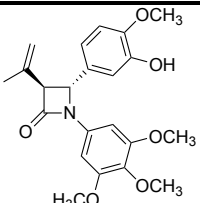
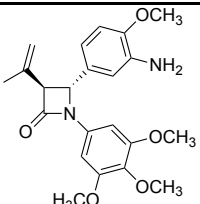
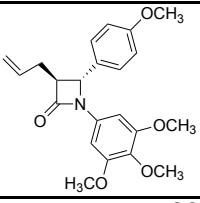
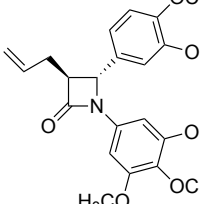
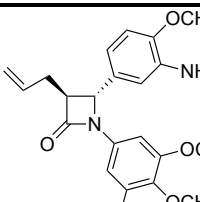
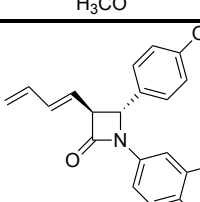
^a The stability study for compounds **9q**, **15a**, **10h**, **10q**, **10p**, **10r** and CA-4 was performed by analytical HPLC, [Symmetry® column (C18, 5 mm, 4.6 x150 mm), Dual Wavelength Absorbance detector (Waters 2487), binary HPLC pump (Waters 1525), and Autosampler (Waters 717 plus)], with mobile phase acetonitrile (80%)/water (20%), flow rate 1 mL/min over 15 min and detection at λ 254 nm. Stock solutions of the compounds (5 mg/mL in 10 mL mobile phase) were used with appropriate dilutions of 0.5 mg/mL, 0.25 mg/mL, 0.125 mg/mL, 0.0625 mg/mL, 0.03125 mg/mL, 0.015625 and 0.0078 mg/mL were prepared for the calibration curve. ^bStability study over 24 h; ^c Stability study over 264 h; ^dStability study over 7 h; Nd compound not detected

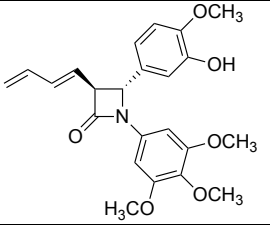
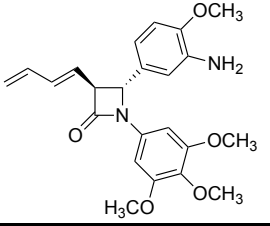
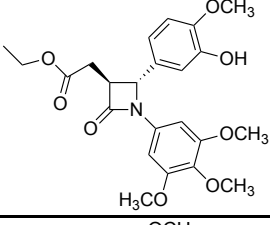
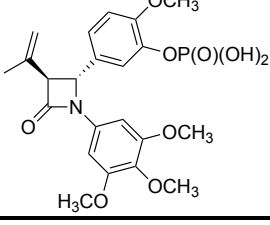
Table S3: Stability study for compounds **10h**, **10q**, **10p** and **10r** (HCl, NaOH, heat (80 °C), Light, H₂O₂)^a

| Compound | | 10h | 10q | 10p | 10r |
|-------------|--|-----------------|------|------|------|
| % Remaining | 1M HCl (0.1 mL, 20 °C, 4h) | 97.5 | 99.2 | 91.3 | 91.8 |
| % Remaining | 1M HCl (0.2 mL, 50 °C, 4h) | 99.6 | 98.7 | 91.3 | 92.2 |
| % Remaining | 1M NaOH (0.1 mL, 20 °C, 4h) | 96 | 97.8 | 95.2 | Nd |
| % Remaining | 1M NaOH (0.2 mL, 50 °C, 4h) | Nd ^b | 97.8 | 82.1 | 83.1 |
| % Remaining | 80 °C (heating block, 5 h) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| % Remaining | Daylight (acetonitrile (80%):water (20%) 13 days) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 93 |
| % Remaining | Hydrogen peroxide (30 % H ₂ O ₂ , 0.2 mL), 20 °C, 6h | 100 | 92 | 79 | 8 |

^a All samples were analysed using acetonitrile (80%):water (20%) as the mobile phase over 10 min and a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Stock solutions are prepared by dissolving 5 mg of compounds in 10 mL of mobile phase. ^b Nd compound not detected.

Table S4. Tier-1 Profiling Screen of Selected β -Lactams^a

| Compound | Cpd No. | ADMET Solubility ^b | ADMET Solubility Level ^c | ADMET BBB ^d | ADMET BBB Level ^e | ADMET CYP2D6 Prediction ^f | ADMET Hepatotoxic Prediction ^g |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|  | 9h | -4.7100 | 2 | 0.070000 | 1 | false | false |
|  | 9q | -4.2720 | 2 | -0.33400 | 2 | false | true |
|  | 9s | -4.5090 | 2 | -0.58100 | 3 | false | false |
|  | 10h | -4.5660 | 2 | 0.073000 | 1 | false | false |
|  | 10p | -4.1280 | 2 | -0.33100 | 2 | false | false |
|  | 10r | -4.3640 | 2 | -0.57800 | 3 | false | false |
|  | 11h | -4.5610 | 2 | 0.077000 | 1 | false | false |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------|---|----------|---|-------|-------|
|  | 11p | -4.1170 | 2 | -0.32700 | 2 | false | false |
|  | 11r | -4.3550 | 2 | -0.57400 | 3 | false | false |
|  | 17g | -3.4130 | 3 | -0.98400 | 3 | false | false |
|  | 15a | -4.23 | 2 | - | 4 | false | true |

^aCalculated using Pipeline Pilot Professional (v8.5.0.200) BIOVIA, Dassault Systèmes

^bADMET Solubility: Log of the water solubility at 25 °C (LogSw)(mol/L)

^cADMET Solubility Level: Ranking of the solubility values into the following classes: 0: Extremely Low; 1: Very Low; 2: Low; 3: Good; 4: Optimal; 5: Very Soluble

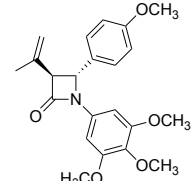
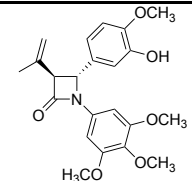
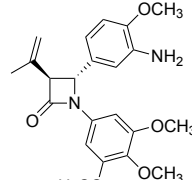
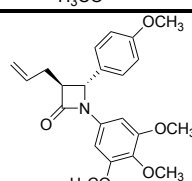
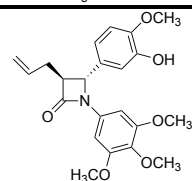
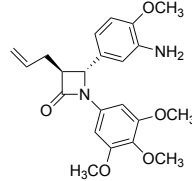
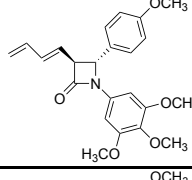
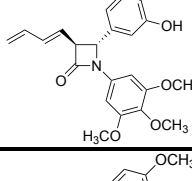
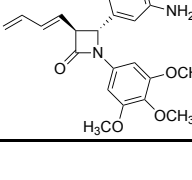
^dADMET BBB: Predicts the blood brain barrier penetration of a molecule, defined as the ratio of the concentrations of solute (compound) on the both sides of the membrane after oral administration.

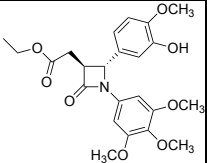
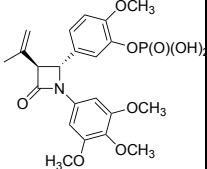
^eADMET Blood Brain Barrier Absorption (BBB) Level: Ranking of LogBBB values into one of the following levels: 0: Very High; 1: High; 2: Medium; 3: Low; 4: Undefined (molecule is outside the confidence area of the regression model used to calculate LogBB)

^fCYP2D6 inhibitor prediction

^gHuman hepatotoxicity prediction

Table S5. Lipinski-Properties for Selected β -Lactams^a

| Compound | Cpd No. | ADMET Absorption Level ^b | ADMET PPB Prediction ^c | ALogP | MW | HBA | HBD | Rot Bonds | Molecular Volume | Molecular Polar Surface Area |
|---|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|
|  | 9h | 0 | true | 3.6110 | 383.44 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 266.85 | 57.230 |
|  | 9q | 0 | true | 3.3690 | 399.44 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 272.68 | 77.460 |
|  | 9s | 0 | true | 2.8640 | 398.45 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 278.85 | 83.250 |
|  | 10h | 0 | true | 3.6210 | 383.44 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 265.13 | 57.230 |
|  | 10p | 0 | true | 3.3790 | 399.44 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 269.94 | 77.460 |
|  | 10r | 0 | true | 2.8740 | 398.45 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 277.82 | 83.250 |
|  | 11h | 0 | true | 3.6320 | 395.45 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 276.45 | 57.230 |
|  | 11p | 0 | true | 3.3900 | 411.45 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 277.48 | 77.460 |
|  | 11r | 0 | true | 2.8860 | 410.46 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 280.57 | 83.250 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|------|--------|--------|---|---|----|--------|--------|
|  | 17g | 0 | true | 2.6100 | 445.46 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 299.43 | 103.76 |
|  | 15a | 1 | true | 3.12 | 479.42 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 305.95 | 133.80 |

^aCalculated using Pipeline Pilot Professional (v8.5.0.200) BIOVIA, Dassault Systèmes

^bADMET Calculates ADMET Passive Intestinal Absorption properties. Accelrys passive intestinal absorption model. Absorption Level: Ranking of the molecule into one of the following levels: 0: Good; 1: Moderate; 2: Poor; 3: Very Poor

^cADMET Plasma Protein Binding (PPB) Prediction: If true, the compound is predicted to be a binder ($\geq 90\%$). Otherwise, it is predicted to be a weak or nonbinder ($< 90\%$).

Table S6: Antitumour Evaluations of compound **9q** in the NCI60 cell line *in vitro* primary one dose screen^a

| Panel | Cell line | % Growth |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Leukaemia | | |
| | HL-60(TB) | -51.24 |
| | K-562 | 2.20 |
| | MOLT-4 | -15.34 |
| | RPMI-8226 | 11.06 |
| | SR | -2.84 |
| Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer | | |
| | A549/A TCC | 14.76 |
| | EKVX | 68.88 |
| | HOP-62 | 22.22 |
| | HOP-92 | 16.15 |
| | NCI-H23 | 14.46, |
| | NCI-H460 | 3.52 |
| | NCI-H522 | -43.45 |
| Colon Cancer | | |
| | COLO 205 | -27.00 |
| | HCC-2998 | -6.59 |
| | HCT-116 | -10.74 |
| | HCT-15 | 15.23 |
| | HT29 | 2.66 |
| | KM12 | -24.63 |
| | SW-620 | 17.89 |
| CNS Cancer | | |
| | SF-268 | 19.27 |
| | SF-295 | 20.26 |
| | SF-539 | -8.30 |
| | SNB-19 | 37.93 |
| | SNB-75 | 41.90 |
| | U251 | 9.06 |
| Melanoma | | |
| | LOX IMVI | 30.61 |
| | MALME-3M | 63.23 |
| | M14 | 3.41 |
| | MDA-MB-435 | -13.45 |
| | SK-MEL-2 | 9.55 |
| | SK-MEL-28 | 65.72 |
| | SK-MEL-5 | -0.90 |
| | UACC-257 | 74.47 |
| | UACC-62 | 38.81 |
| Ovarian Cancer | | |
| | IGROV1 | 29.32 |
| | OVCAR-3 | -40.14 |
| | OVCAR-4 | 25.51 |
| | OVCAR-5 | 44.67 |
| | OVCAR-8 | 14.64 |
| | NCI/ADR-RES | -2.95 |
| | SK-OV-3 | 8.15 |
| Renal Cancer | | |
| | 786-0 | 4.28 |
| | A498 | -13.19 |
| | ACHN | 34.94 |
| | CAKI-1 | 44.03 |
| | RXF 393 | 18.79 |
| | SN12C | 31.39 |
| | TK-10 | 46.63 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | UO-31 | 29.39 |
| Prostate Cancer | | |
| | PC-3 | 27.31 |
| | DU-145 | -52.00 |
| Breast Cancer | | |
| | MCF7 | 15.44 |
| | MDA-MB-231/ATCC | -6.67 |
| | BT-549 | -9.94 |
| | T-47D | 67.35 |
| | MDA-MB-468 | 13.36 |
| | | |
| Mean | 13.02 | |
| Delta | 65.02 | |
| Range | 126.47 | |

^aNCI *in vitro* human tumour cell screen 5 dose assay for compounds **9q (S-762032)**: The compound was evaluated at 10 μ M concentrations over the NCI 60 cell line panel and incubations were carried out over 48 h exposures to the drug.

Table S7: Comparative Antitumour Evaluations of compounds **9h**, **9q**, **9s**, **10p**, **11h**, **10r**, **15a**, **15b** in the NCI60 *leukaemia*, *non-small cell lung cancer*, *colon cancer* and *CNS cancer* cell lines *in vitro* primary screen^a

| Cell line | 9h GI₅₀ (μM) | 9q GI₅₀ (μM) | 9s GI₅₀ (μM) | 10p GI₅₀ (μM) | 11h GI₅₀ (μM) | 11r GI₅₀ (μM) | 15a GI₅₀ (μM) | 15b GI₅₀ (μM) |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <i>NCI code</i> | 762037 | 762032 | 762042 | 762033 | 762039 | 762044 | 775044 | 775045 |
| <i>Leukemia</i> | | | | | | | | |
| CCRF-CEM | 0.0375 | 0.0192 | 0.0377 | 0.0361 | 0.0378 | 0.0365 | 0.0557 | 0.356 |
| HL-60(TB) | 0.0331 | 0.0211 | 0.0283 | 0.0323 | 0.0338 | 0.0295 | 0.0279 | 0.305 |
| K-562 | 0.0410 | 0.0352 | 0.0383 | 0.0431 | 0.0410 | 0.0393 | 0.045 | 0.374 |
| MOLT-4 | 0.0397 | 0.0202 | 0.0372 | 0.0408 | 0.0369 | 0.0396 | 0.0852 | 0.493 |
| RPMI-8226 | 0.0399 | 0.0111 | 0.0359 | 0.0406 | 0.0384 | 0.0348 | 0.105 | 0.478 |
| SR | 0.0385 | < 0.010 | 0.0304 | 0.0314 | 0.0356 | 0.0335 | 0.0531 | 0.324 |
| <i>Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A549/ATCC | 0.0408 | 0.0278 | 0.0415 | 0.0373 | 0.0364 | 0.0380 | 0.0596 | 0.353 |
| EKVX | 0.0813 | °Nd | 0.587 | 0.0764 | 0.0834 | 0.0880 | °Nd | °Nd |
| HOP-62 | 0.0576 | 0.0521 | 0.0521 | 0.0610 | 0.0558 | 0.0525 | 0.105 | 0.374 |
| HOP-92 | 0.0719 | 0.0154 | 0.0437 | 0.0238 | 0.0244 | 0.0253 | 0.315 | 11.2 |
| NCI-H226 | °Nd | °Nd | 0.0435 | 0.0560 | 0.0768 | 0.0564 | >100 | >100 |
| NCI-H23 | 0.0237 | 0.0237 | 0.0258 | 0.0307 | 0.0321 | 0.0300 | 0.0902 | 0.368 |
| NCI-H332M | °Nd | 0.0477 | 0.0511 | 0.0512 | 0.0626 | 0.0579 | 0.082 | 0.592 |
| NCI-H460 | 0.0356 | 0.0300 | 0.0332 | 0.0320 | 0.0332 | 0.0332 | 0.0448 | 0.325 |
| NCI-H552 | 0.0222 | <0.0100 | 0.0146 | 0.0151 | 0.0151 | 0.0169 | 0.026 | 0.237 |
| <i>Colon Cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| COLO 205 | 0.0271 | 0.284 | 0.0197 | 0.563 | 0.0265 | 0.0231 | 0.312 | 1.23 |
| HCT-2998 | 0.0307 | 0.0301 | 0.0291 | 0.0299 | 0.0300 | 0.0270 | 0.238 | 0.452 |
| HCT-116 | 0.0317 | 0.0149 | 0.0302 | 0.0249 | 0.0264 | 0.0272 | 0.0506 | 0.319 |
| HCT-15 | 0.0406 | 0.0299 | 0.0416 | 0.0367 | 0.0405 | 0.0370 | 0.0707 | 0.298 |
| HT29 | 0.0354 | 0.187 | 0.0337 | 0.360 | 0.0332 | 0.0336 | 0.577 | 3.47 |
| KM12 | 0.0340 | <0.0100 | 0.0231 | 0.0224 | 0.0304 | 0.0331 | 0.0381 | 0.18 |
| SW-620 | 0.0424 | 0.0334 | 0.0394 | 0.0422 | 0.0438 | 0.0429 | 0.0807 | 0.373 |
| <i>CNS Cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |
| SF-268 | ^c Nd | 0.0229 | ^c Nd | ^c Nd | ^c Nd | ^c Nd | 0.0981 | 0.447 |
| SF295 | 0.043 | <0.0100 | 0.0344 | 0.0291 | 0.0309 | 0.0301 | 0.0324 | 0.137 |
| SF539 | 0.0352 | ^c Nd | 0.0402 | 0.0382 | 0.0332 | 0.0390 | 0.0398 | 0.132 |
| SNB-19 | 0.0675 | 0.0588 | ^c Nd | 0.0589 | 0.0654 | 0.0649 | 0.429 | 0.477 |
| SNB-75 | 0.038 | 0.0473 | 0.0601 | 0.0448 | 0.0307 | 0.0368 | 0.0361 | 0.116 |
| U251 | 0.0360 | 0.0305 | 0.0375 | 0.0317 | 0.0322 | 0.0357 | 0.0395 | 0.276 |
| <i>Prostate cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |
| PC-3 | 0.0453 | 0.0201 | 0.0379 | 0.0403 | 0.0404 | 0.0392 | 0.0494 | 0.278 |
| DU-145 | 0.0291 | 0.0215 | 0.0236 | 0.0266 | 0.0270 | 0.0260 | 0.0809 | 0.368 |

^a NCI *in vitro* human tumour cell screen 5 dose assay for compounds **9h** (S-762037), **9q** (S-762032), **9s** (S-762042), **10p** (D-762033), **11h** (D-762039), **11r** (D-762044), **15a** (S-775044) and **15b** (S-775045); The compounds were evaluated using five different concentrations (100 μ M, 10 μ M, 1 μ M, 0.1 μ M and 0.01 μ M) over the NCI 60 cell line panel and incubations were carried out over 48 h exposures to the drug; ^bGI₅₀ is the molar concentration of the compound causing 50% inhibition of growth of the tumour cells; ^cNd: Not determined.

Table S8: Results of Comparative Antitumour Evaluations of compounds **9h**, **9q**, **9s**, **10p**, **11h**, **11r**, **15a**, **15b** in the NCI60 *melanoma*, *ovarian cancer*, *renal cancer* and *breast cancer* cell line *in vitro* primary screen^a

| Cell line | 9h GI₅₀ (μM) | 9q GI₅₀ (μM) | 9s GI₅₀ (μM) | 10p GI₅₀ (μM) | 11h GI₅₀ (μM) | 11r GI₅₀ (μM) | 15a GI₅₀ (μM) | 15b GI₅₀ (μM) |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <i>NCI code</i> | 762037 | 762032 | 762042 | 762033 | 762039 | 762044 | 775044 | 775045 |
| <i>Melanoma</i> | | | | | | | | |
| LOX IMVI | 0.0388 | <0.0100 | 0.0325 | 0.0339 | 0.0327 | 0.0344 | 0.0426 | 0.328 |
| MALME-3M | >100 | 20.5 | °Nd | 0.0306 | >100 | °Nd | 30.1 | >100 |
| M14 | 0.221 | 0.0173 | 0.0248 | 0.0176 | 0.0194 | 0.0223 | 0.123 | 0.291 |
| MDA-MB-435 | 0.294 | <0.0100 | 0.0260 | 0.0205 | 0.0191 | 0.0221 | 0.0259 | 0.0738 |
| SK-MEL-2 | 18.6 | 0.0446 | 0.0676 | 0.301 | 3.25 | °Nd | 0.075 | 0.5 |
| SK-MEL-28 | °Nd | 64.3 | >100 | 76.2 | 16.0 | >100 | 0.0831 | 0.389 |
| SK-MEL-5 | 0.0243 | 0.0124 | 0.0232 | 0.0249 | 0.0260 | 0.0222 | 0.0406 | 0.164 |
| UACC-257 | °Nd | °Nd | >100 | °Nd | 11.2 | °Nd | >100 | >100 |
| UACC-62 | 0.0392 | <0.0100 | 0.0406 | 0.0320 | 0.0267 | 0.0396 | 0.0555 | 0.131 |
| <i>Ovarian cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |
| IGROV1 | 0.0499 | 0.0322 | 0.0357 | 0.0448 | 0.0507 | 0.0466 | 0.0628 | 0.434 |
| OVCAR-3 | 0.0254 | 0.0207 | 0.0228 | 0.0233 | 0.0252 | 0.0262 | 0.0624 | 0.27 |
| OVCAR-4 | 0.0391 | °<0.0100 | 0.0407 | 0.0397 | 0.0373 | 0.0388 | 0.0739 | 0.282 |
| OVCAR-5 | 0.0983 | 0.0494 | 0.0813 | 0.0618 | 0.0948 | 0.0937 | 0.535 | 2.34 |
| OVCAR-8 | 0.0373 | <0.0100 | 0.0308 | 0.0340 | 0.0374 | 0.0384 | 0.0506 | 0.3 |
| NCI/ADR-RES | 0.0213 | <0.0100 | 0.0185 | 0.0206 | 0.0173 | 0.0196 | 0.0365 | 0.212 |
| SK-OV-3 | 0.0381 | 0.0304 | 0.0317 | 0.0366 | 0.0373 | 0.0356 | 0.0791 | 0.416 |
| <i>Renal cancer</i> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 786-0 | 0.0442 | 0.0268 | 0.0376 | 0.0255 | 0.0231 | 0.0327 | 0.39 | 0.439 |
| A498 | 0.0243 | <0.0100 | 0.0234 | 0.0175 | 0.0183 | 0.0223 | 0.0324 | 0.104 |
| ACHN | 0.0643 | 0.0213 | 0.0620 | 0.0532 | 0.0607 | 0.0614 | 0.0771 | 0.359 |
| CAKI-1 | 0.0831 | 0.0308 | 0.0491 | 0.0440 | 0.0589 | 0.0631 | 0.0805 | 0.32 |
| RXF 393 | 0.0375 | 0.0428 | 0.0396 | 0.0410 | 0.0301 | 0.0457 | 0.123 | 0.282 |
| SN12C | 0.0503 | 0.0370 | 0.0629 | 0.0298 | 0.0508 | 0.0591 | 0.192 | 0.463 |
| TK-10 | 0.0965 | 0.0534 | 0.0649 | 0.0802 | 0.0617 | 0.0748 | 43.1 | 0.695 |
| UO-31 | 0.505 | 0.0878 | 0.0740 | 0.0858 | 0.216 | 0.190 | 0.182 | 0.538 |
| Breast cancer | | | | | | | | |
| MCF-7 | 0.0368 | <0.0100 | 0.0324 | 0.0353 | 0.0335 | 0.0336 | 0.0513 | 0.244 |
| MDA-MB-231/ATCC | 0.0322 | 0.0168 | 0.0315 | 0.0240 | 0.0296 | 0.0315 | 0.0534 | 0.215 |
| HS 578T | 0.0391 | 0.0106 | 0.0409 | 0.0517 | 0.0247 | 0.0530 | 0.0631 | 0.173 |
| BT-549 | 0.0329 | 0.0110 | 0.0378 | 0.0188 | 0.0203 | 0.0253 | 0.0596 | 0.411 |
| T-47D | 26.5 | >100 | >100 | 63.5 | 56.2 | >100 | >100 | >100 |
| MDA-MB-468 | 0.0250 | <0.0100 | 0.0216 | 0.0250 | 0.0233 | 0.0267 | 0.131 | 0.273 |

^a NCI *in vitro* human tumour cell screen 5 dose assay for compounds **9h** (S-762037), **9q** (S-762032), **9s** (S-762042), **10p** (D-762033), **11h** (D-762039), **11r** (D-762044), **15a** (S-775044) and **15b** (S-775045); The compounds were evaluated using five different concentrations (100 μ M, 10 μ M, 1 μ M, 0.1 μ M and 0.01 μ M) over the NCI 60 cell line panel and incubations were carried out over 48 h exposures to the drug; ^bGI₅₀ is the molar concentration of the compound causing 50% inhibition of growth of the tumour cells; ^cNd: Not determined.

Table S9: Standard COMPARE analysis of β -lactam **9q**

| Rank | Compound | r |
|--|---|-------|
| <i>Based on GI₅₀ mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻³ M) | 0.585 |
| 2 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁵ M) | 0.522 |
| 3 | Maytansine | 0.514 |
| 4 | Glycoxalic acid | 0.481 |
| 5 | Vinblastine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁴ M) | 0.465 |
| <i>Based on TGI mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻³ M) | 0.664 |
| 2 | Vinblastine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ^{-5.6} M) | 0.636 |
| 3 | Maytansine | 0.602 |
| 4 | Rhizoxin (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁴ M) | 0.568 |
| 5 | Rhizoxin (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁹ M) | 0.555 |
| <i>Based on LC₅₀ mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | <i>Tetraplatin</i> | 0.896 |
| 2 | <i>5-FUDR</i> | 0.862 |
| 3 | <i>Didemnin B</i> | 0.853 |
| 4 | Maytansine | 0.826 |
| 5 | B-TGDR | 0.785 |

Table S10: Standard COMPARE analysis of β -lactam **9s**

| Rank | Compound | r |
|--|---|-------|
| <i>Based on GI₅₀ mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁵ M) | 0.604 |
| 2 | Maytansine | 0.561 |
| 3 | Vinblastine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁴ M) | 0.520 |
| 4 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻³ M) | 0.520 |
| 5 | Tiazofurin | 0.484 |
| <i>Based on TGI mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | Vinblastine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ^{-5.6} M) | 0.632 |
| 2 | Maytansine | 0.566 |
| 3 | Vinblastine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻⁴ M) | 0.562 |
| 4 | Vincristine sulfate (hiConc = 10 ⁻³ M) | 0.538 |
| 5 | A-TGDR | 0.481 |
| <i>Based on LC₅₀ mean graph</i> | | |
| 1 | Tetraplatin | 0.885 |
| 2 | B-TGDR | 0.880 |
| 3 | Didemnin B | 0.861 |
| 4 | Paclitaxel (Taxol) | 0.768 |
| 5 | Maytansine | 0.741 |

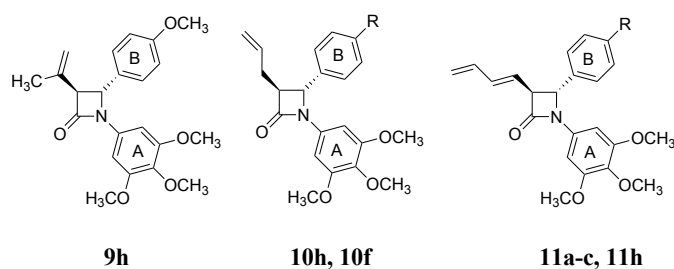
The target set was the standard agent database and the target set endpoints were selected to be equal to the seed end points. Standard COMPARE analysis was performed. Correlation values (r) are Pearson correlation coefficients. Vincristine sulfate appears at different concentrations as it has been tested by the NCI at multiple concentration ranges.

Table S11: Docking scores for selected β -lactams

| Compound ID | Docking Score^a |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17d | -9.83 |
| 11p | -9.65 |
| 9q | -9.60 |
| 11h | -9.43 |
| 9s | -9.42 |
| 9h | -9.41 |
| 10p | -9.39 |
| 10h | -9.36 |
| 11r | -9.20 |
| 10r | -9.04 |

^aScores from docking with MOE 2022 using the MMFF94x force field of the best ranked pose of each compound

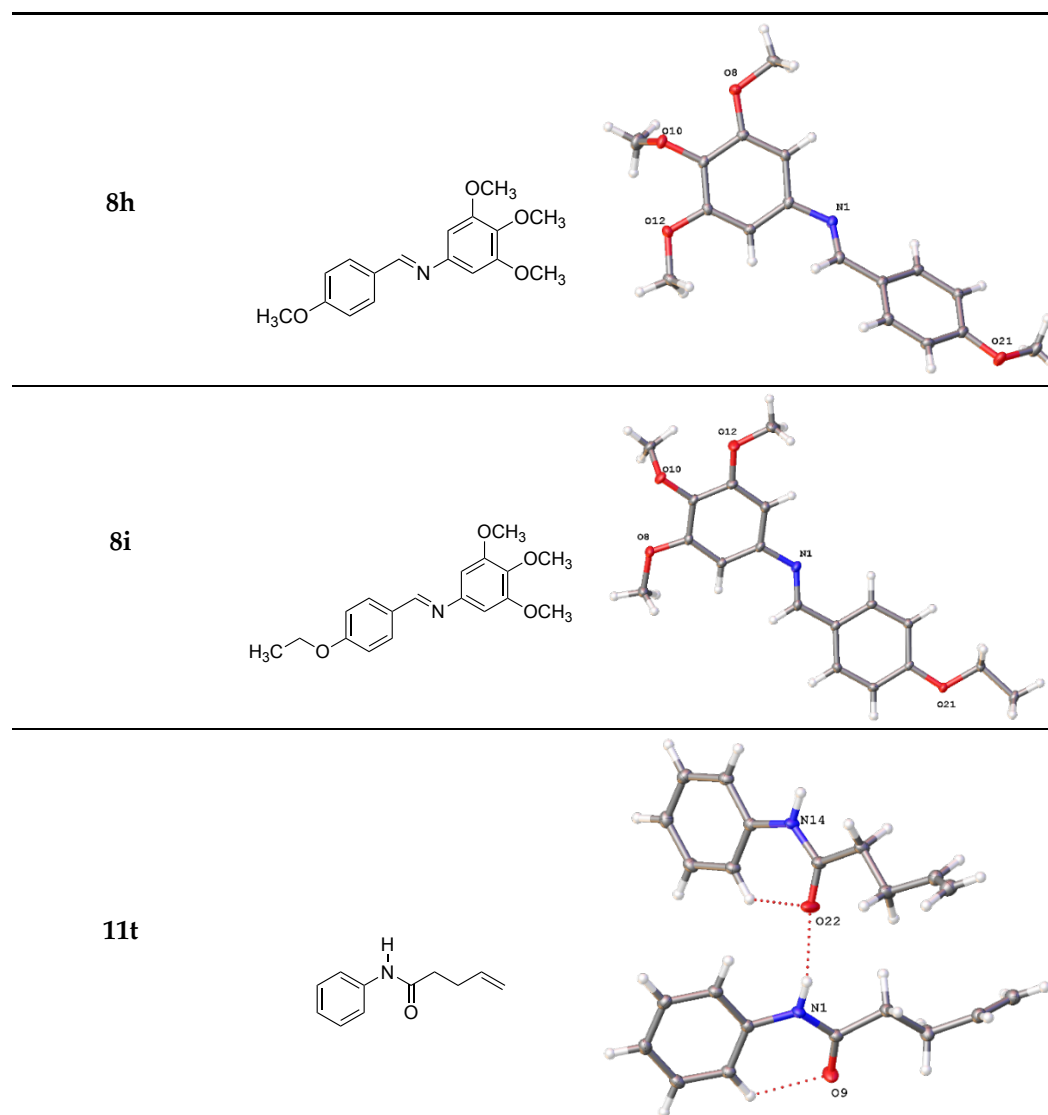
Table S12. X-Ray data and torsional angles for compounds **9h**, **10h**, **10f**, **11a-c**, **11h**



| Structure | Ring plane normal AB angle(°) | Ring A to β -lactam Torsion (°) ^a | Ring B to β -lactam Torsion (°) ^b | Ring AB Torsion (°) ^c | Ring B Vinyl Torsion (°) ^d |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9h^e | 89.46(4) 96.83(4) | -174.38(12) 174.99(12) | -130.95(12) 131.59(12) | 61.87(16) -58.22(16) | -117.26(12) 118.05(13) |
| 10h^e, R=OCH₃ | 81.71(9) 80.88(8) | -176.5(3) 178.1(3) | -134.4(2) 138.9(2) | 58.9(3) -57.0(3) | -125.8(3) 127.0(8) |
| 10f, R=H | 93.69(2) | 177.33(3) | 140.971(2) | -65.140(6) | 123.91(5) |
| 11a, R=F | 84.75(6) | -174.62(16) | -131.95(18) | 67.3(2) | -130.69(15) |
| 11b, R=Cl | 87.39(5) | -177.57(13) | -131.77(13) | 64.78(18) | -128.27(11) |
| 11c, R=Br | 91.56(7) | -178.68(19) | -132.3(2) | 64.0(3) | -127.03(19) |
| 11h, R=OCH₃ | 76.78(3) | 167.43(1) | 132.97(2) | -55.57(4) | 127.50(3) |

^aC14-C13-N1-C2; ^bC10-C5-C4-N1; ^cC13-N1-C4-C5; ^dC5-C4-C3-C26; only the first atom numbering scheme is outlined above and all measurements follow the same scheme; ^e2 independent molecules in the asymmetric unit

Table S13. X-ray crystal structure of compounds **8h**, **8i** and **11t**^{a, b}.

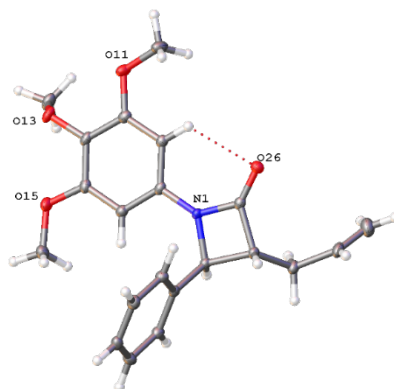
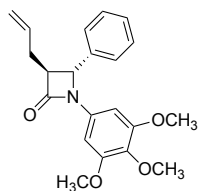


^a X-ray crystal structure of compounds **8h**, **8i** and **11t** with the thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability.

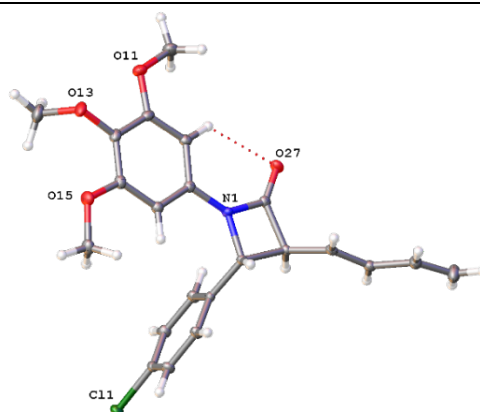
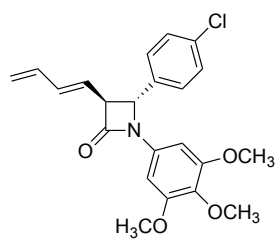
^b Crystallographic data deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) 2241430 (**8h**), 2241431 (**8i**), 2241438 (**11t**).

Table S14. X-ray crystal structure of compounds **10f**, **11b**, **11c**, **11d**.

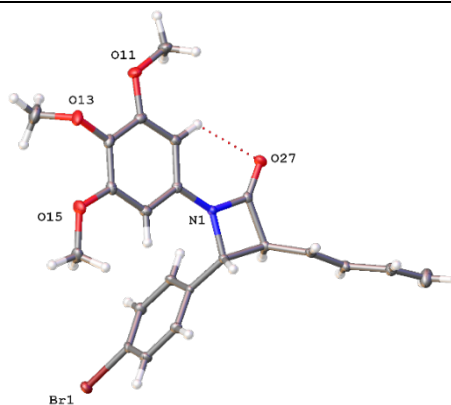
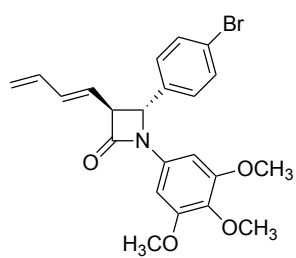
10f



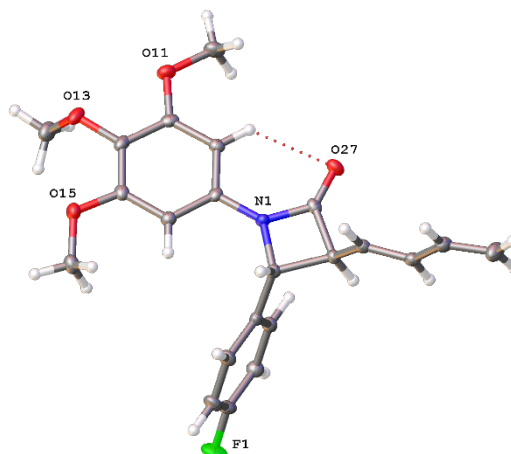
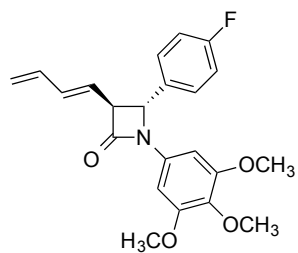
11b



11c



11d



^a X-ray crystal structure of compounds **10f**, **11b**, **11c** and **11d** with the thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability.

^b Crystallographic data deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) 2241430 (**10f**), 2241435 (**11b**), 2241436 (**11c**), and 2241434 (**11d**).

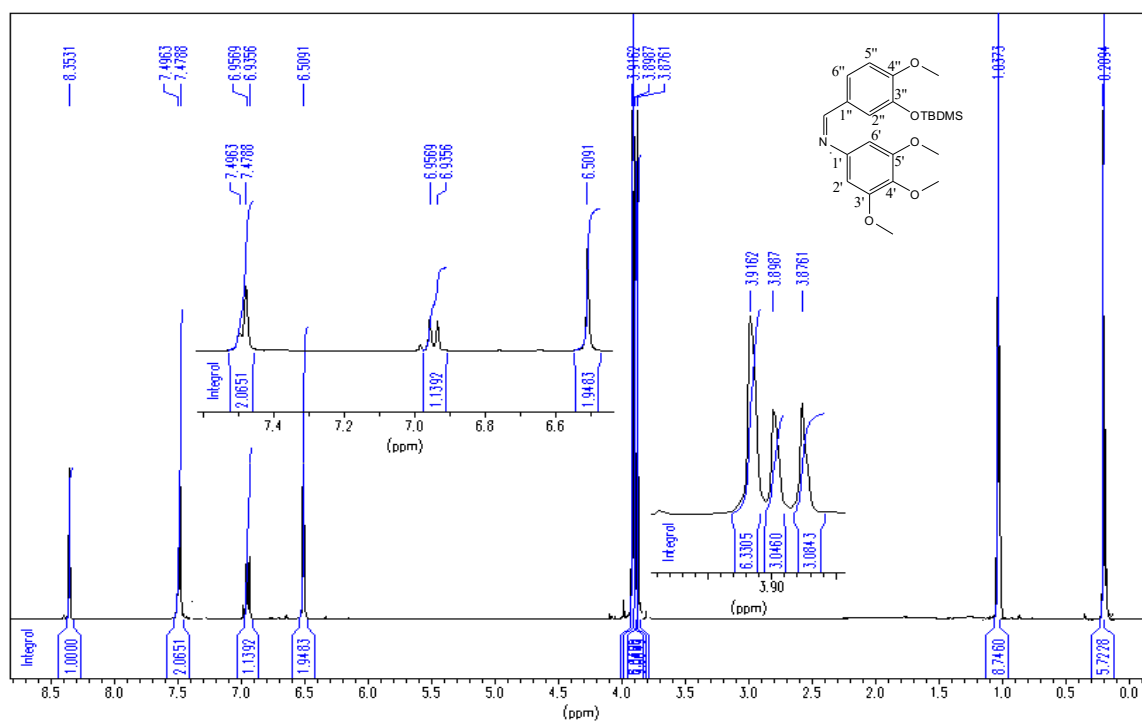


Figure S1: ^1H NMR spectrum for compound **8p**

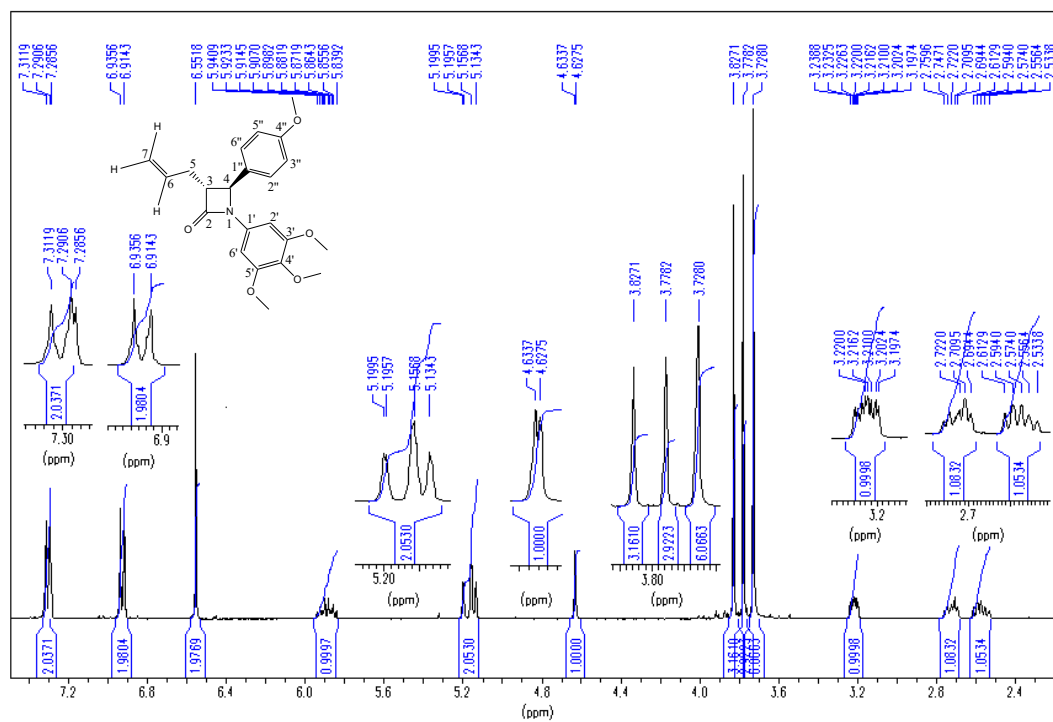


Figure S2: ^1H NMR spectrum of β -lactam **10h**

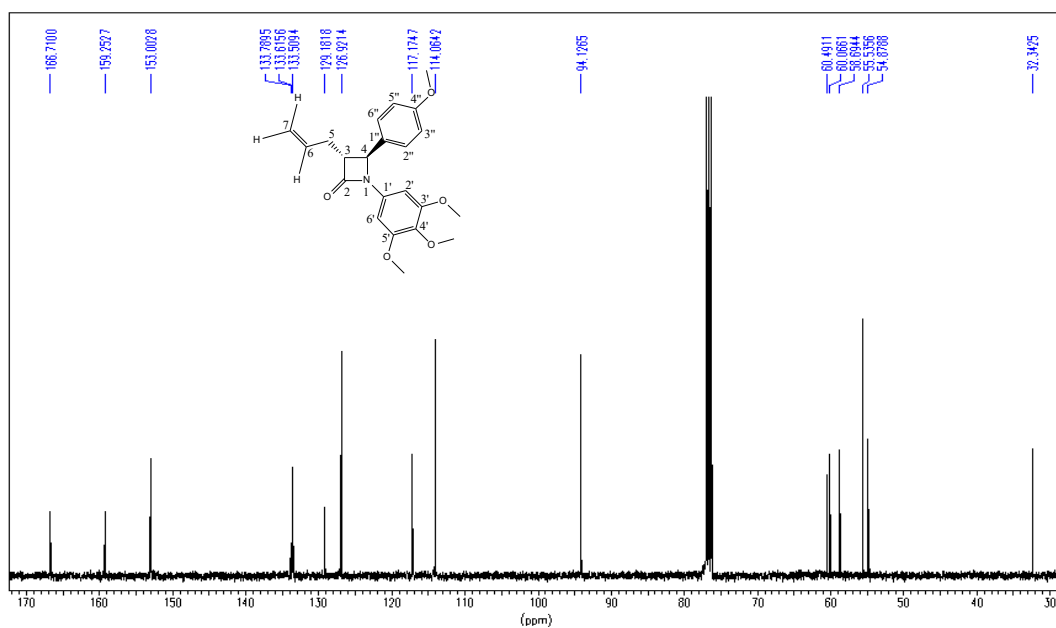


Figure S3: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of β -lactam 10h

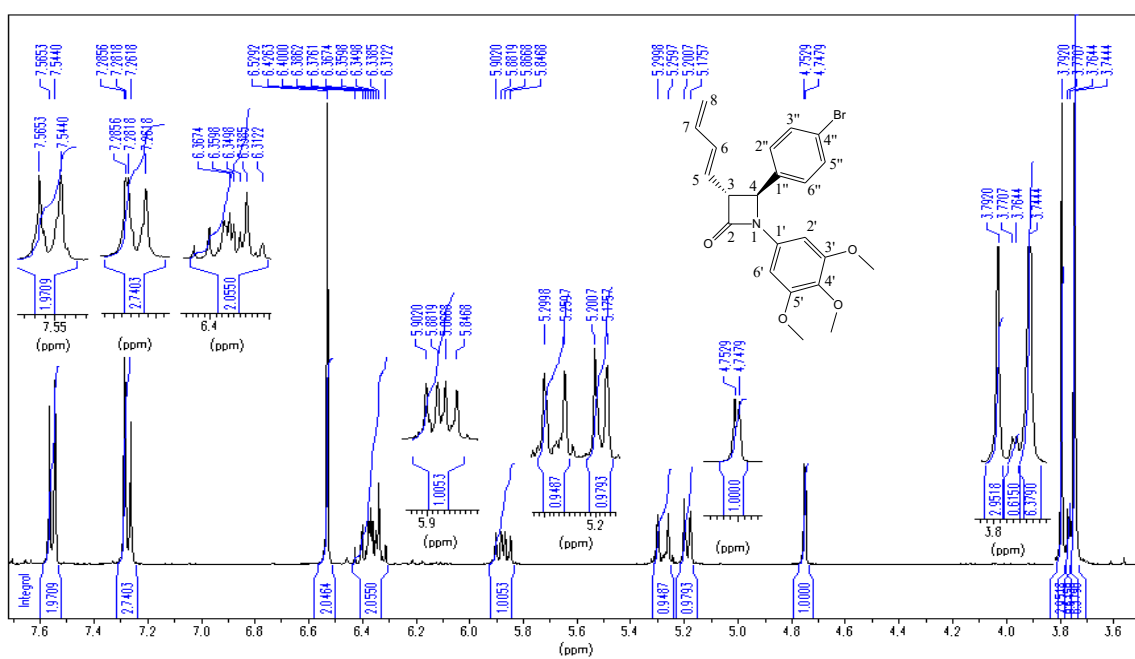
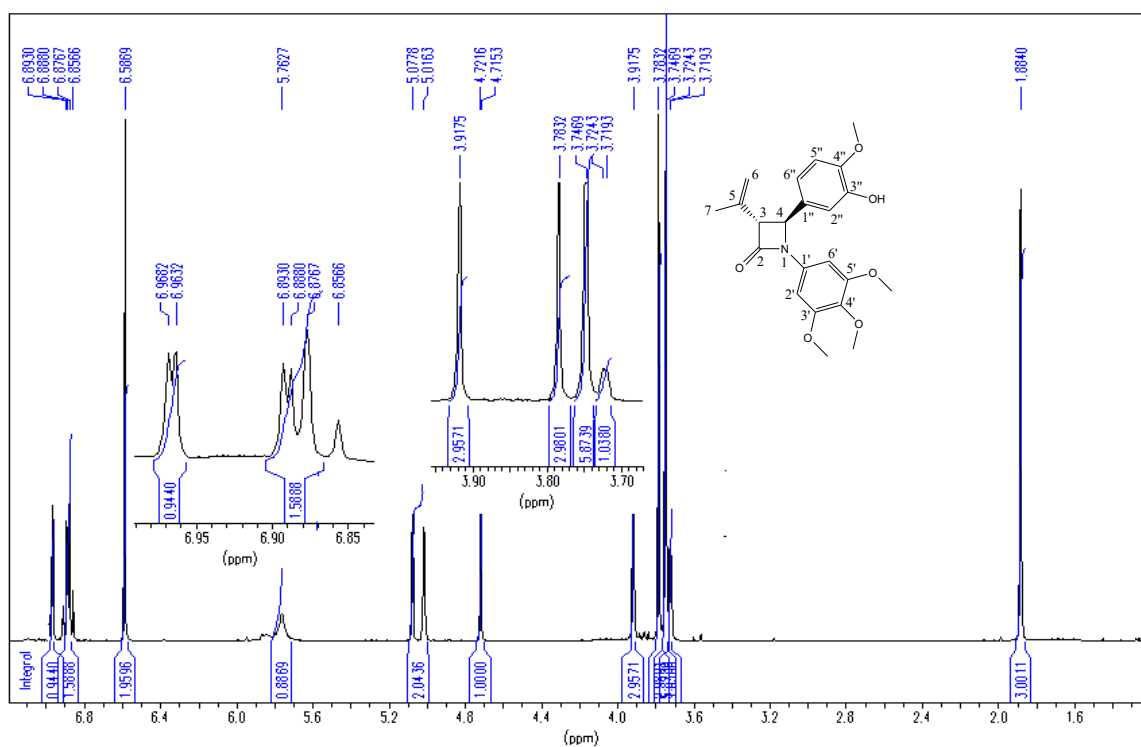
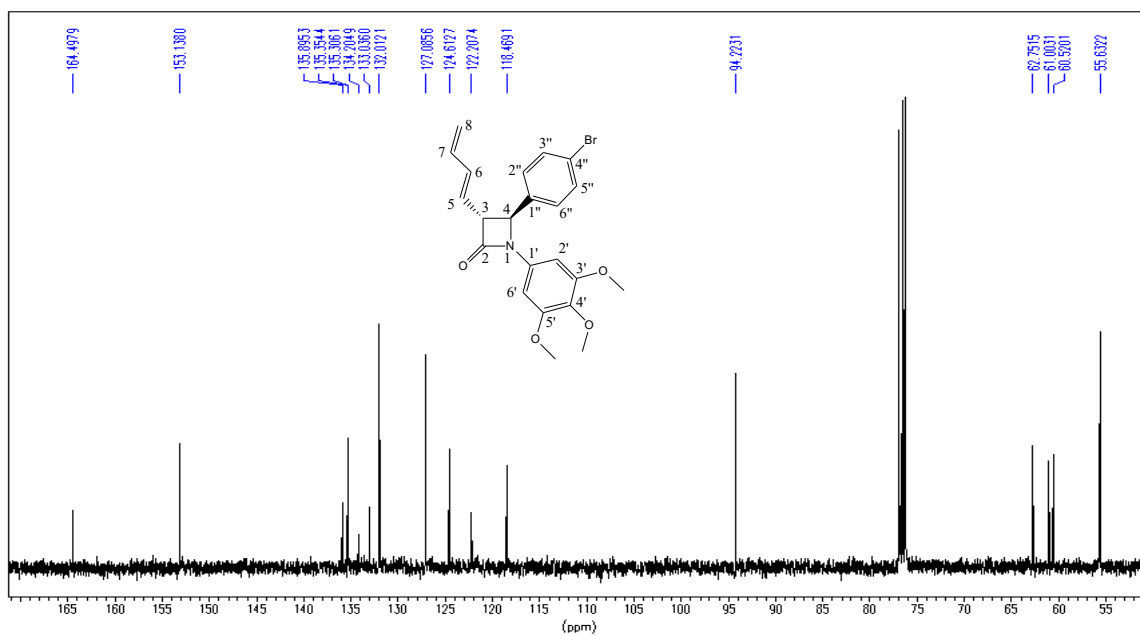
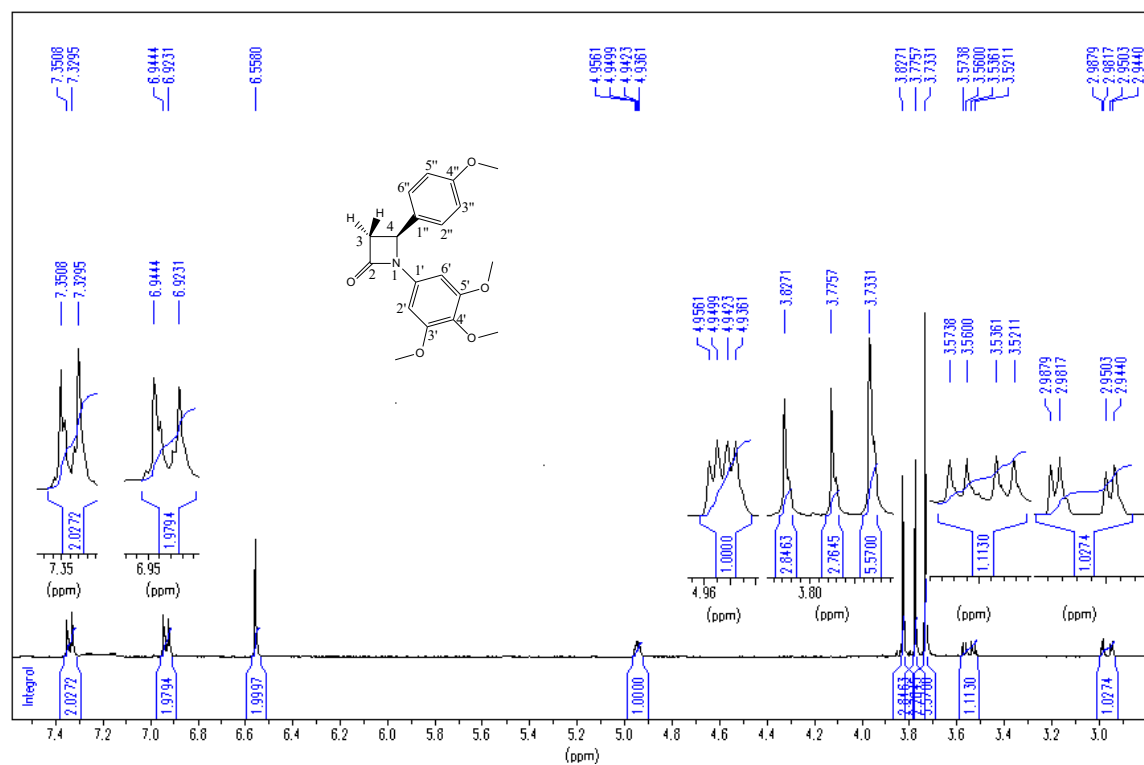
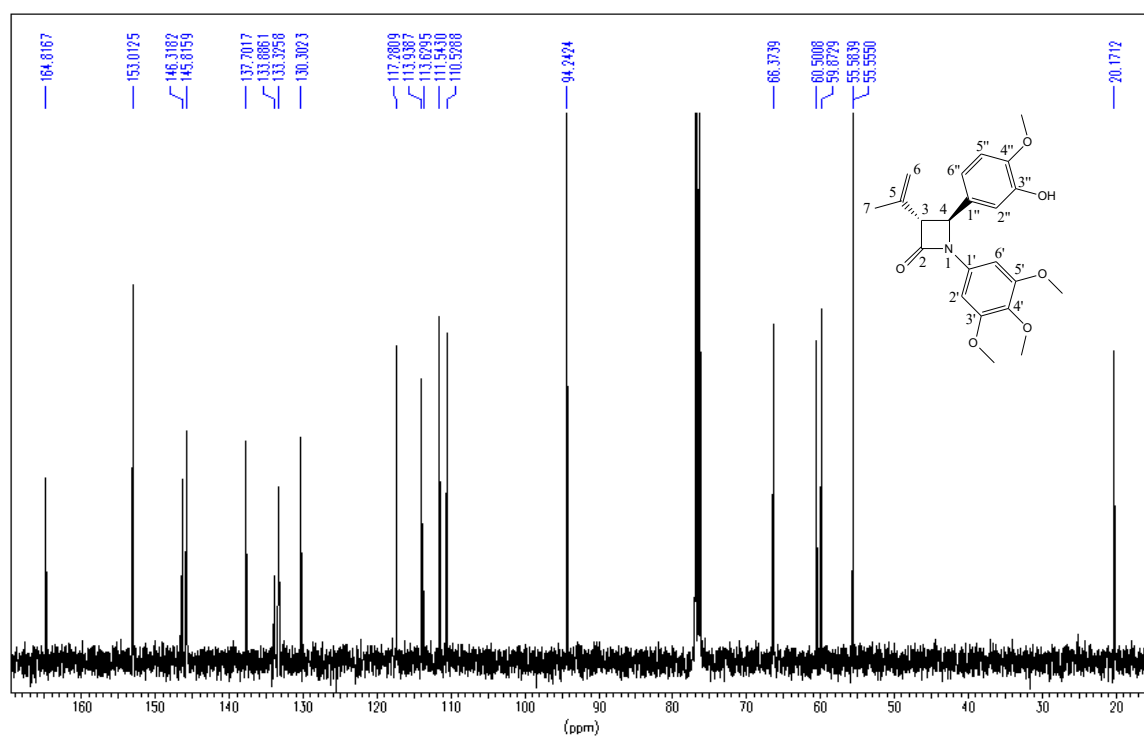


Figure S4: ^1H NMR spectrum of β -lactam 11c





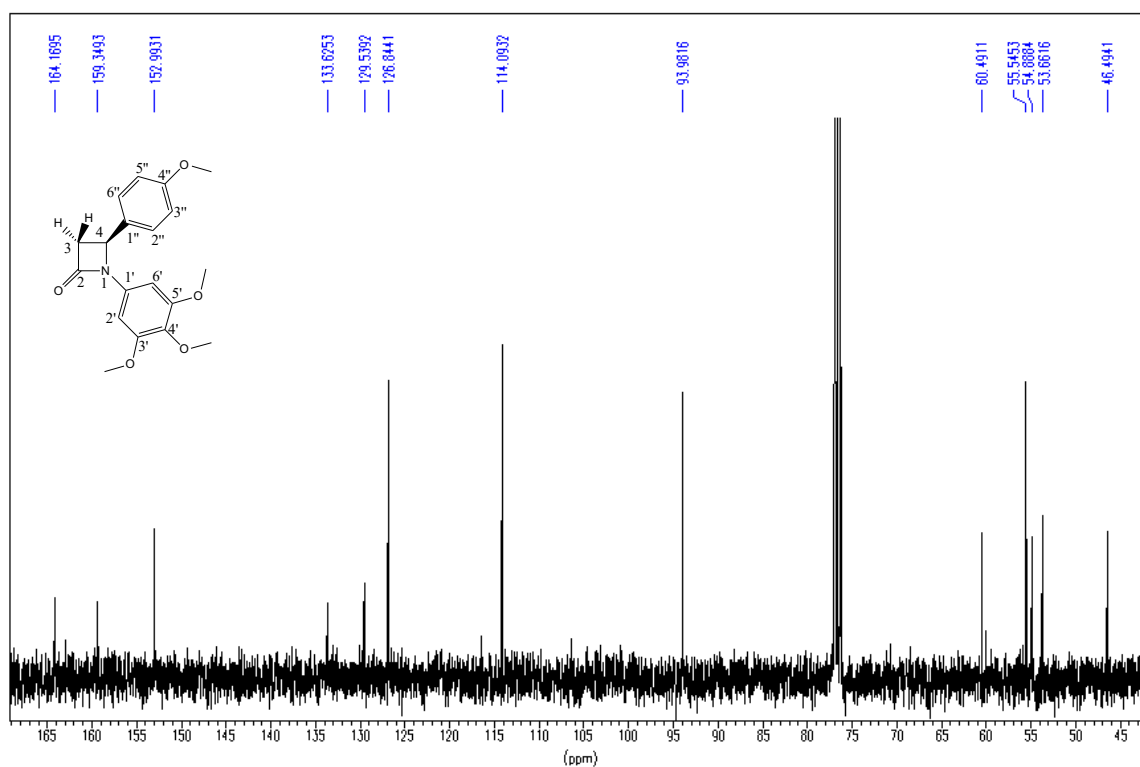


Figure S9: ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 16a

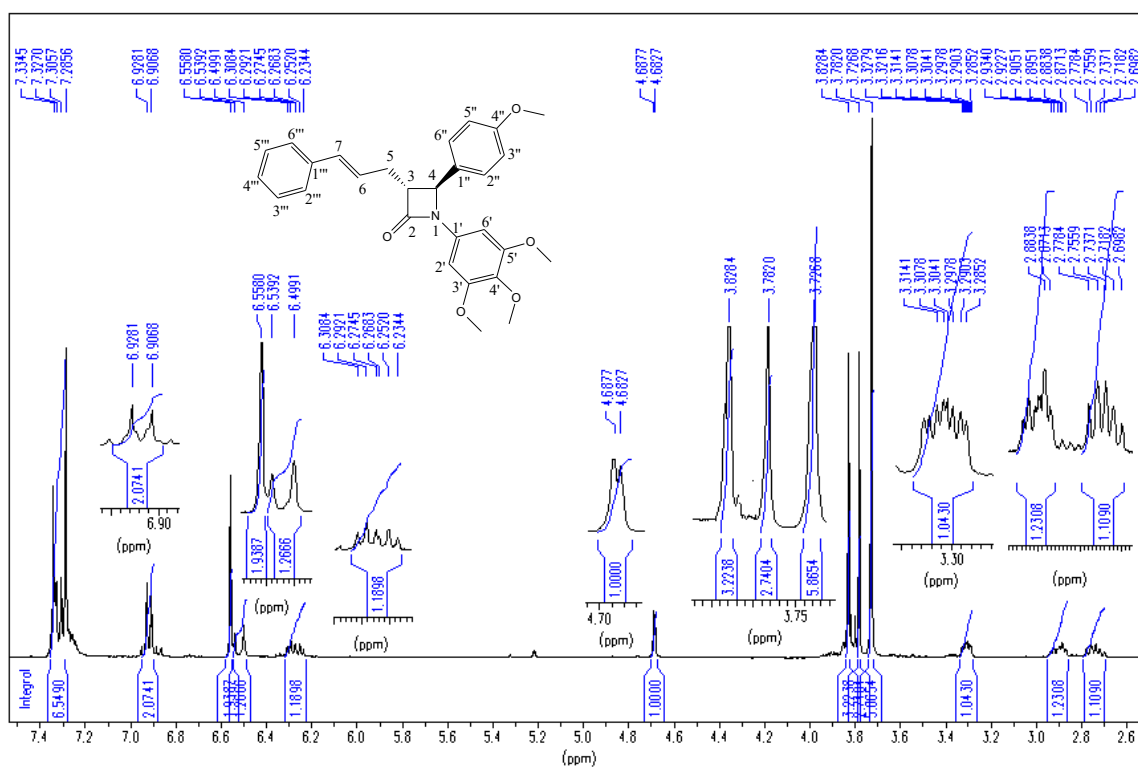


Figure S10: ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 17a

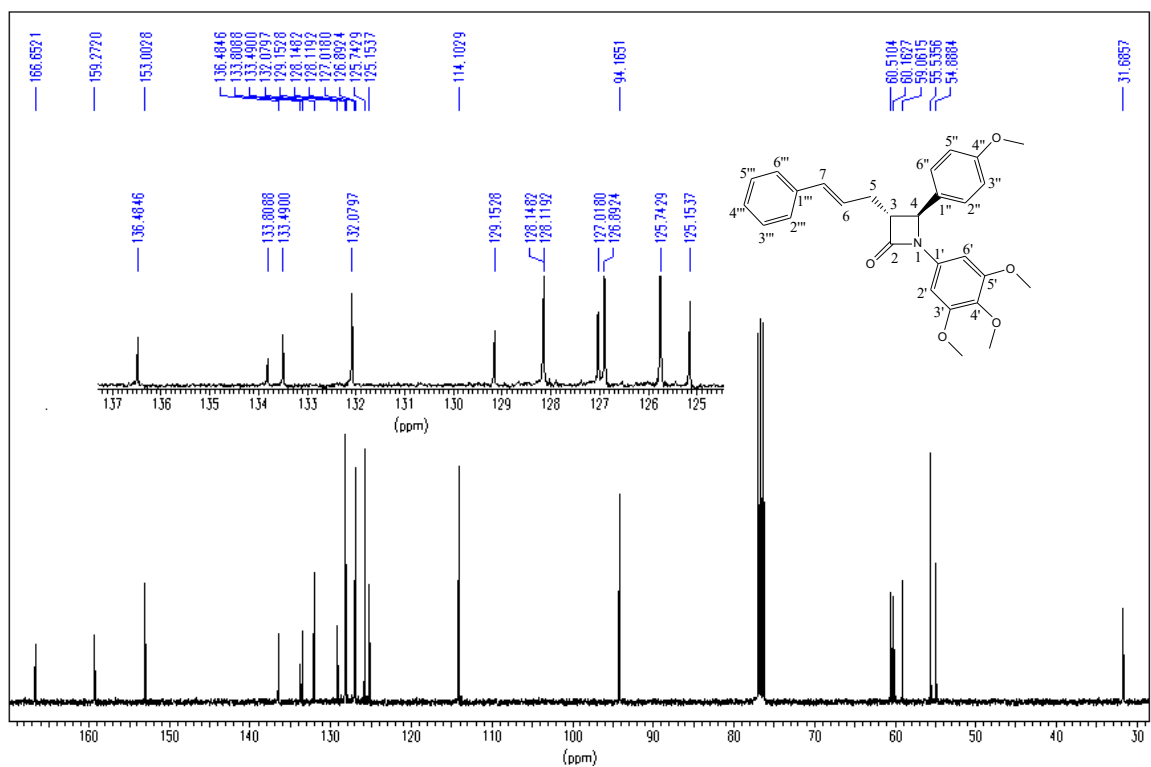


Figure S11: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **17a**

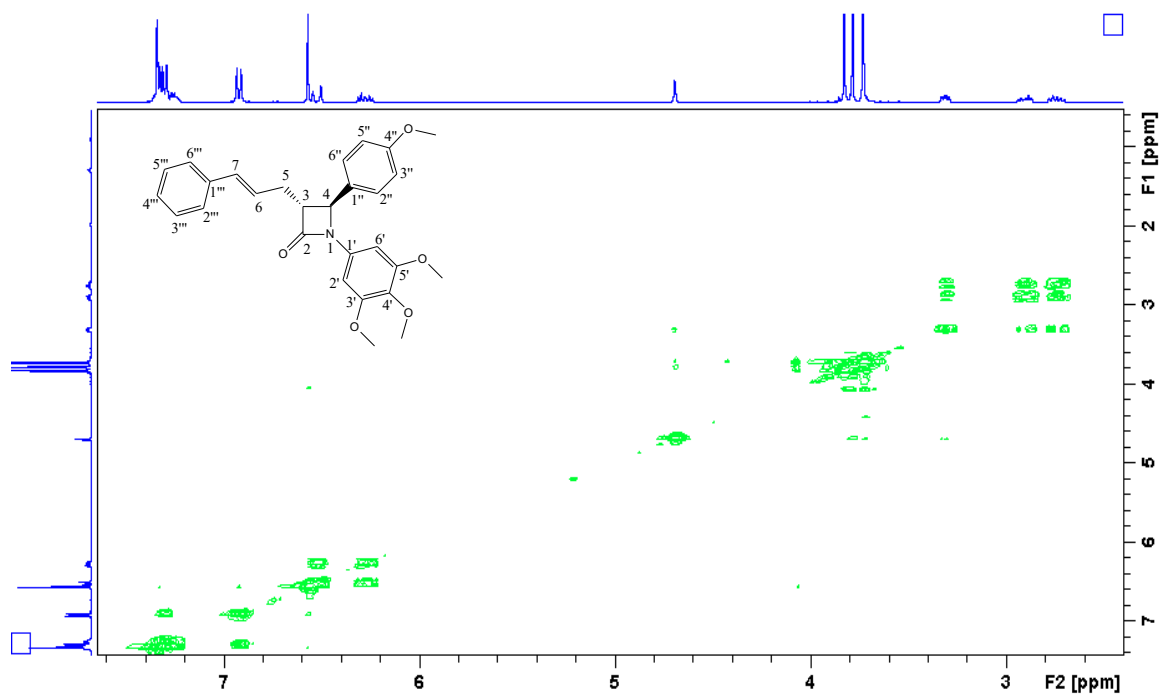


Figure S12: HH COSY spectrum for compound **17a**

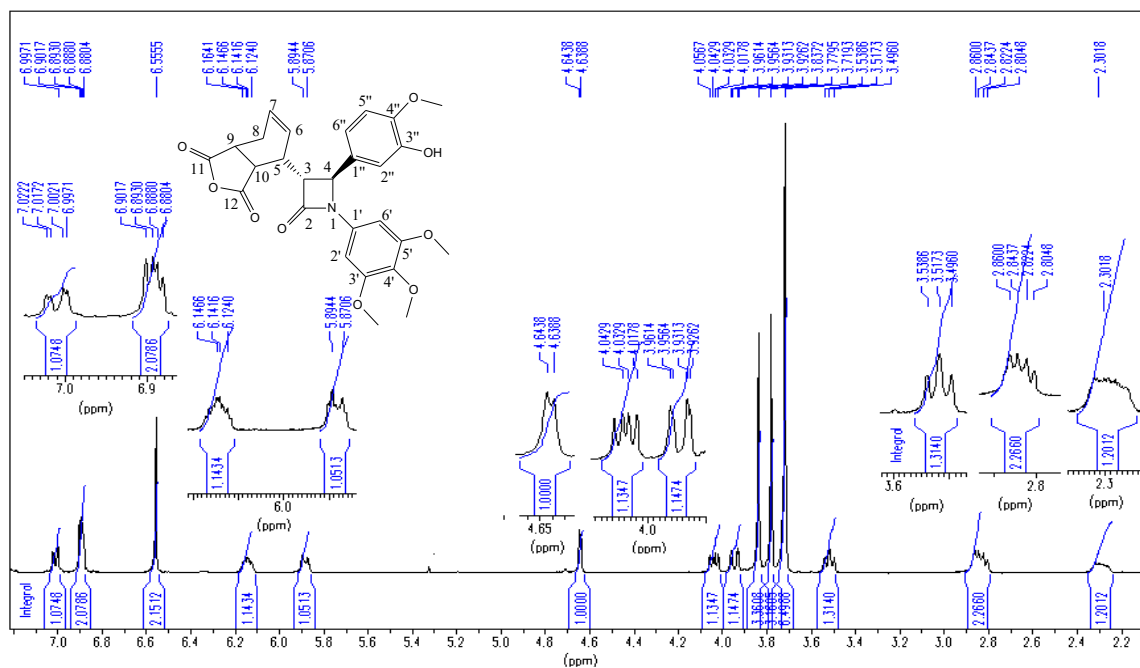


Figure S13: ^1H NMR spectrum for compound 22b

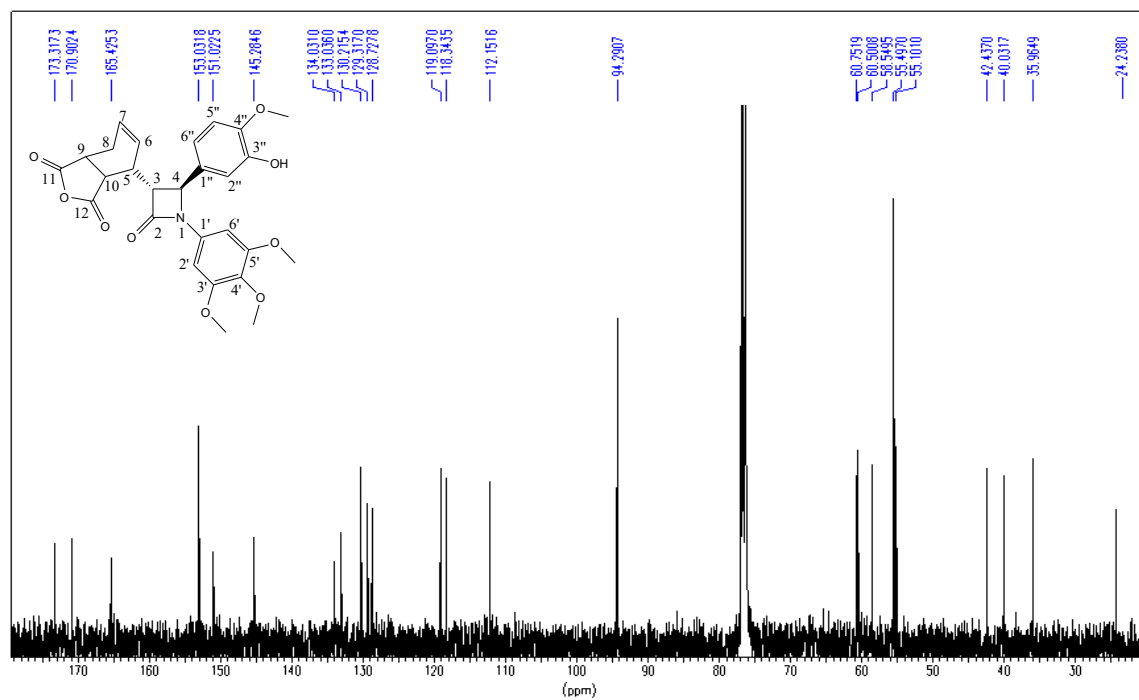


Figure S14: ^{13}C NMR spectrum for compound 22b

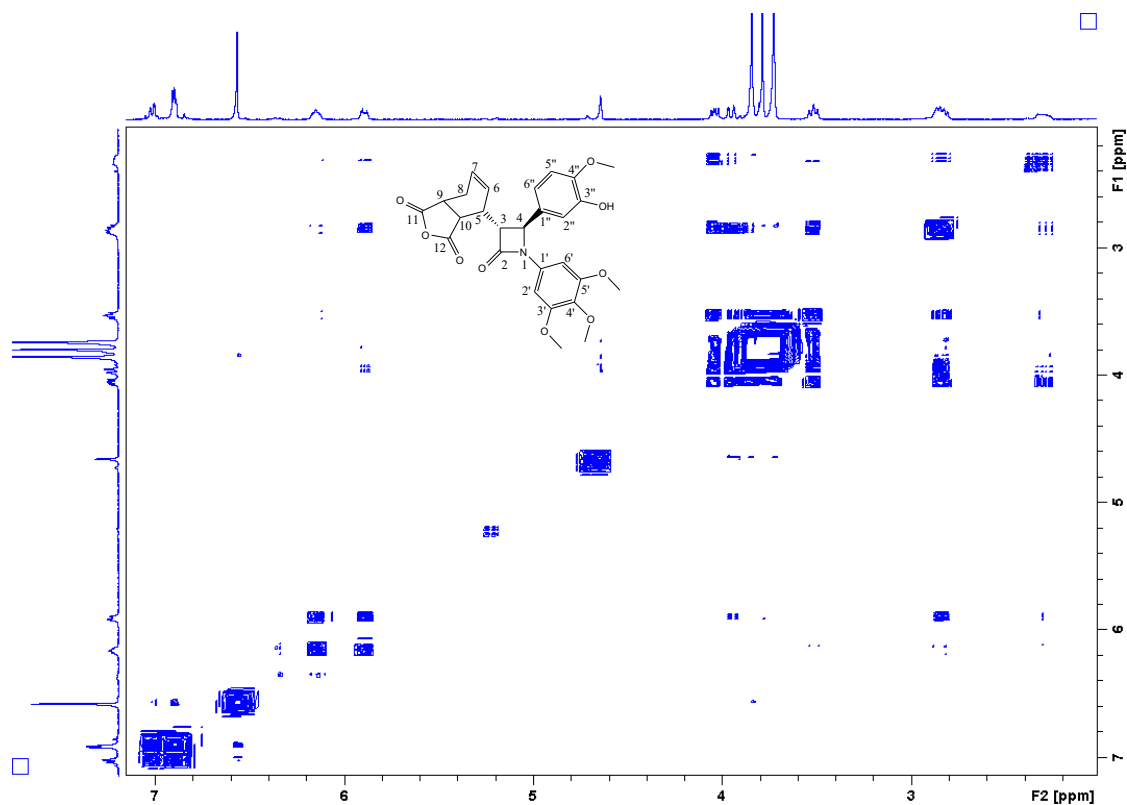


Figure S15: ^1H - ^1H COSY for compound **22b**

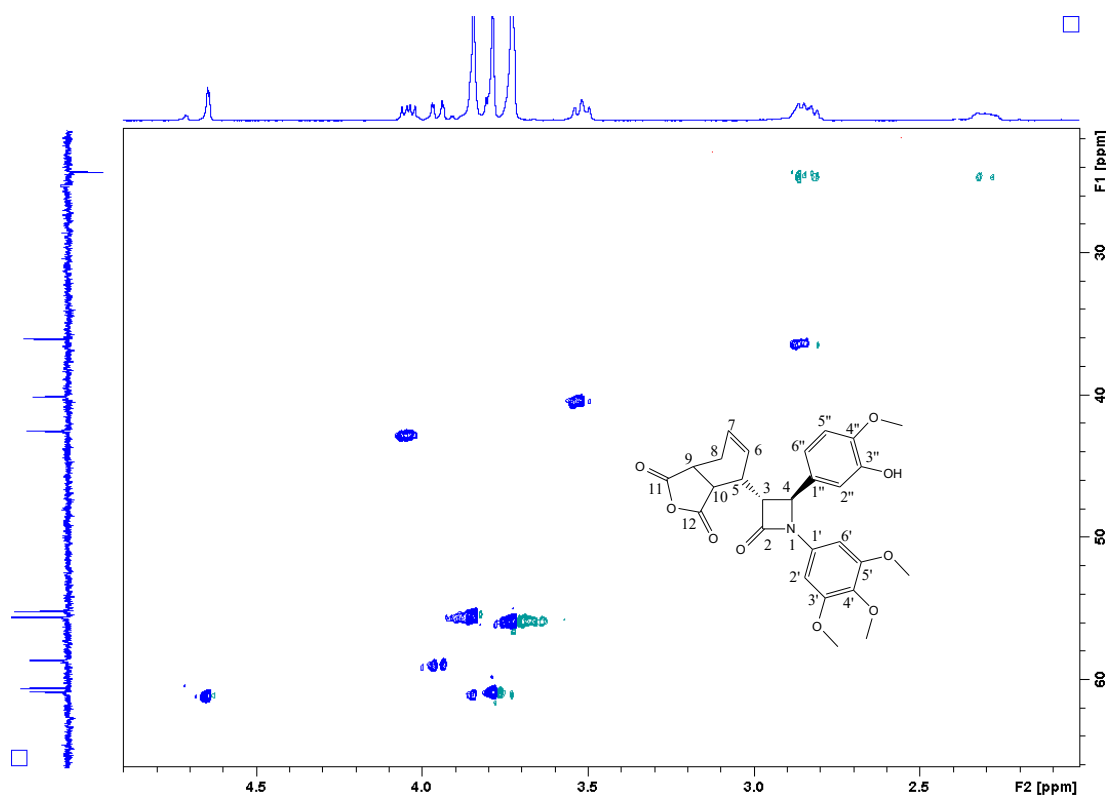
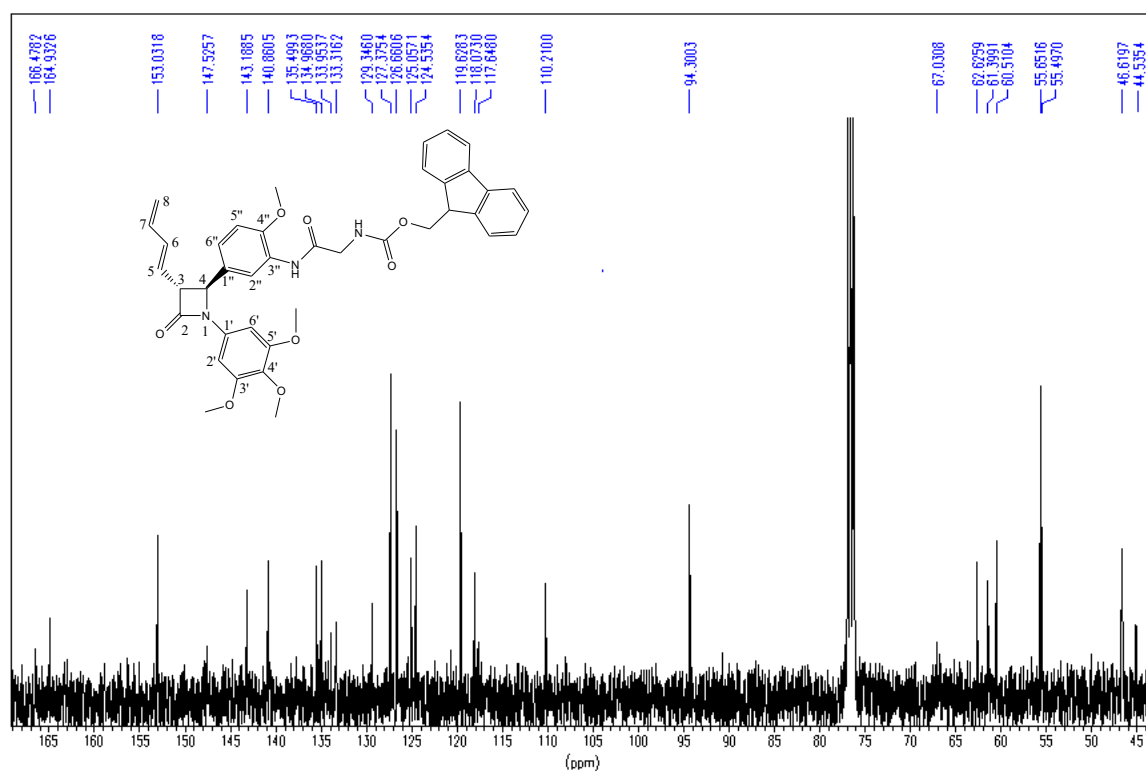
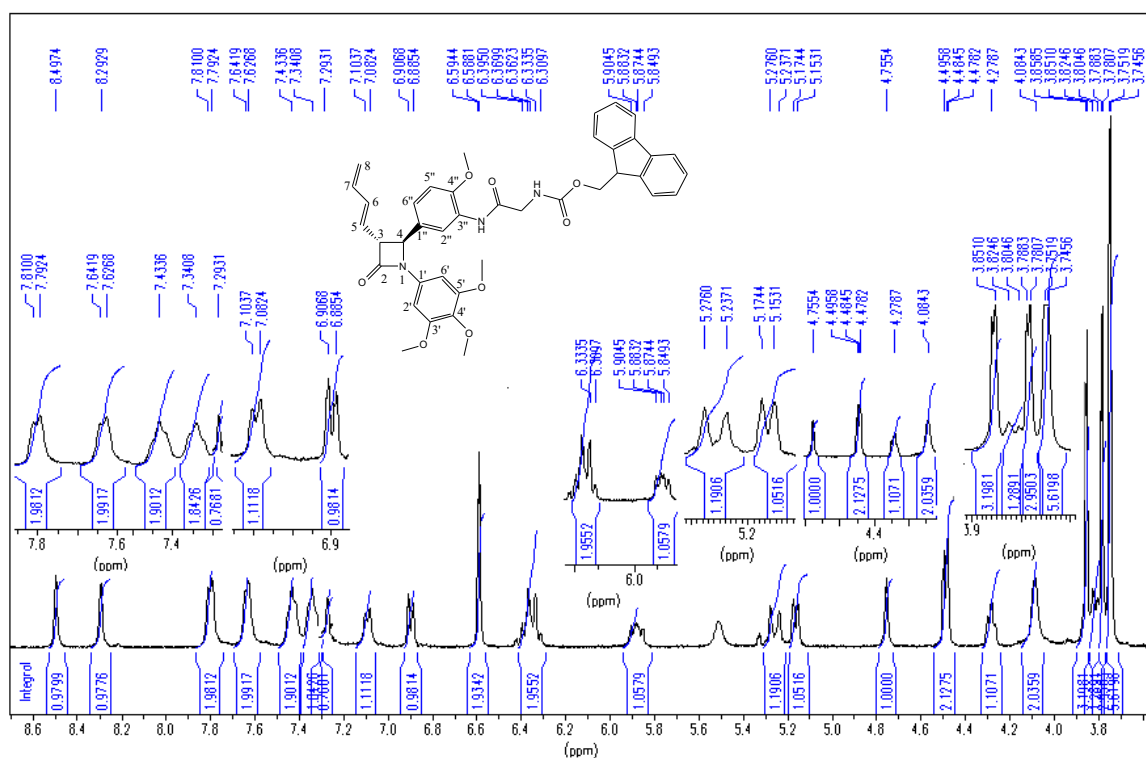


Figure S16: ^1H - ^{13}C COSY for compound **22b**



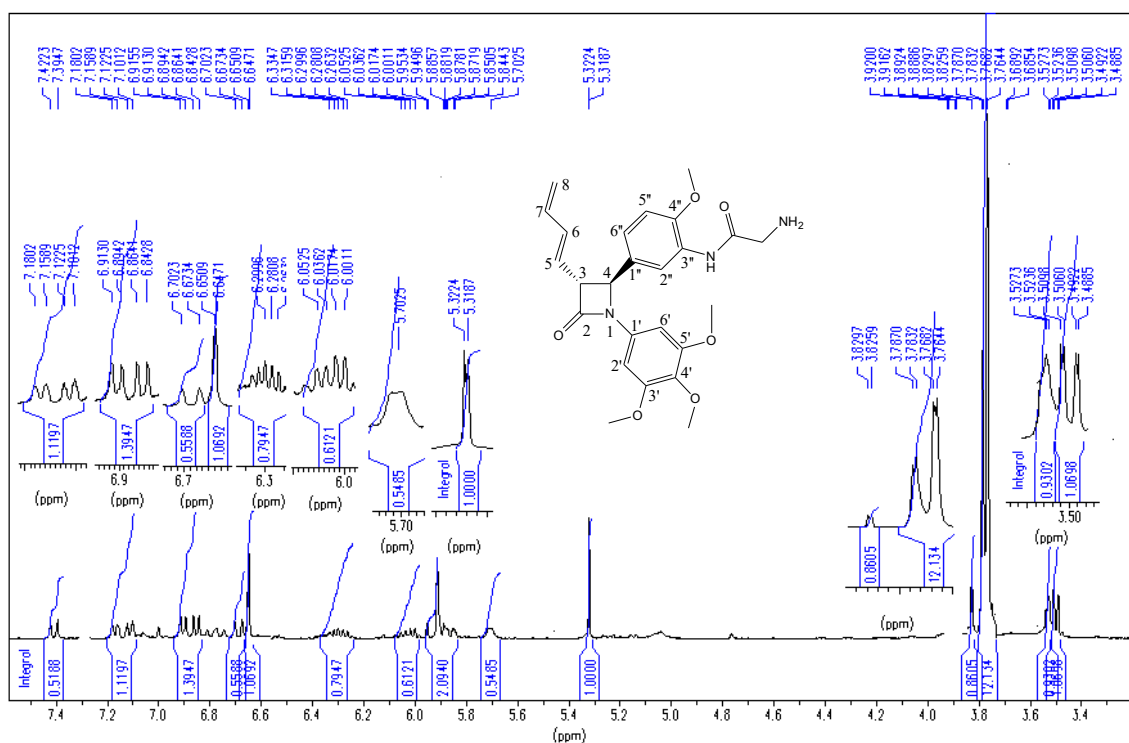


Figure S19: ¹H NMR spectrum collected for amino acid prodrug **13e**

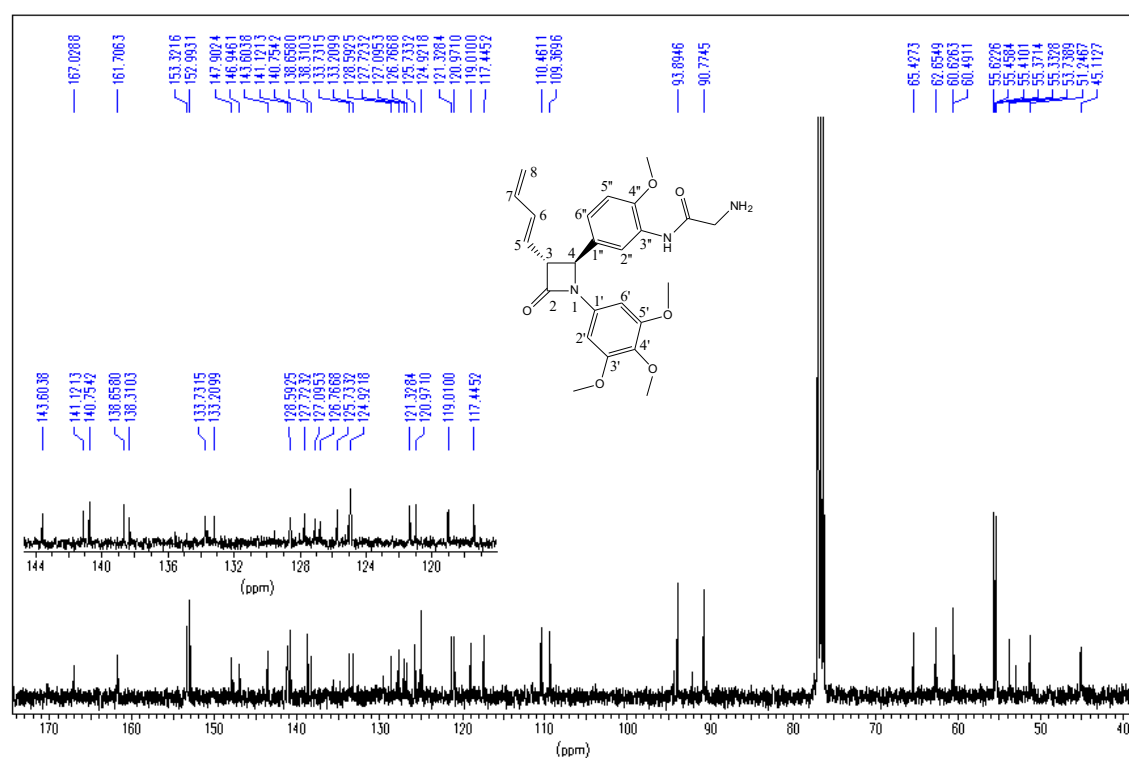


Figure S20: ¹³C NMR spectrum collected for amino acid prodrug **13e**

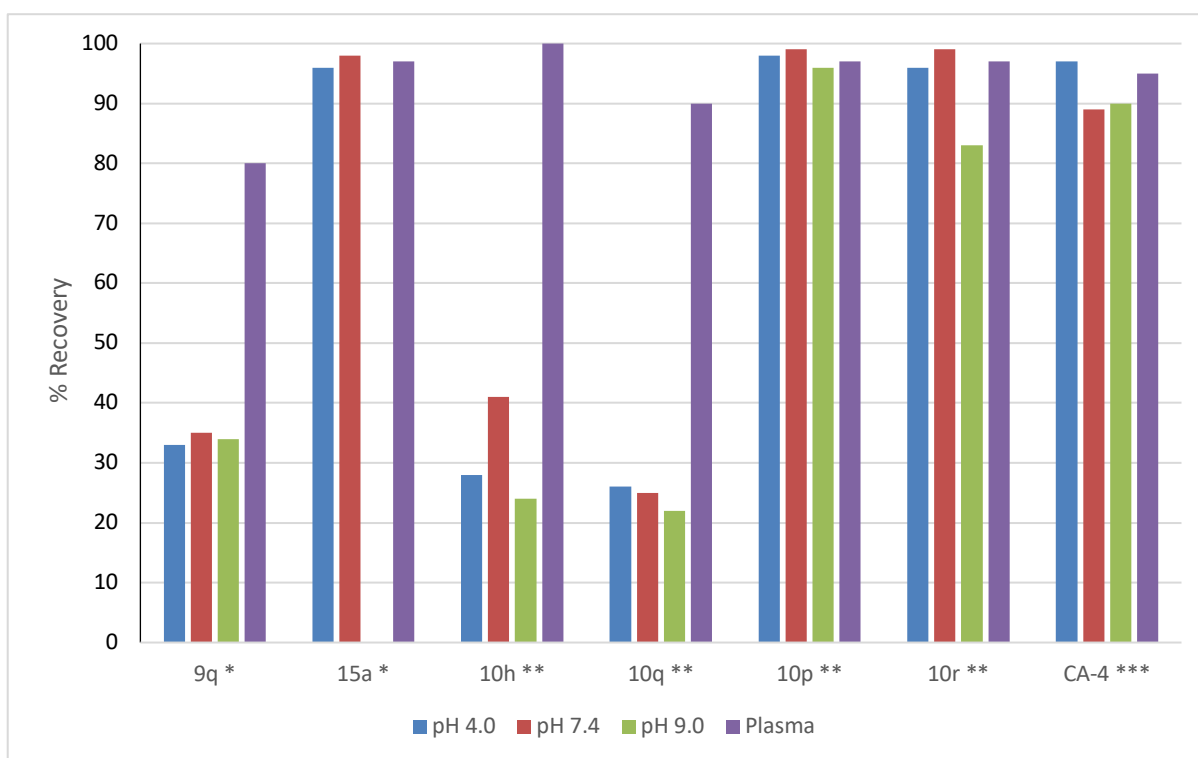


Figure S21: Stability study for compounds **9q**, **15a**, **10h**, **10q**, **10p**, **10r** and **CA-4** at pH 4.0, pH 7.5, pH 9.0 and in plasma.

All samples were analysed using acetonitrile (80%):water (20%) as the mobile phase over 10 min and a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Stock solutions are prepared by dissolving 5 mg of compounds in 10 mL of mobile phase. [* Stability study over 24 h, * Stability study over 264 h, *** Stability study over 7 h] Precipitation was observed immediately when the prodrug **15a** was in contact with pH 9.0 buffer solution and compound **15a** was not detected at its retention time (5.2 minutes). Data presented represents the results of single experiments.

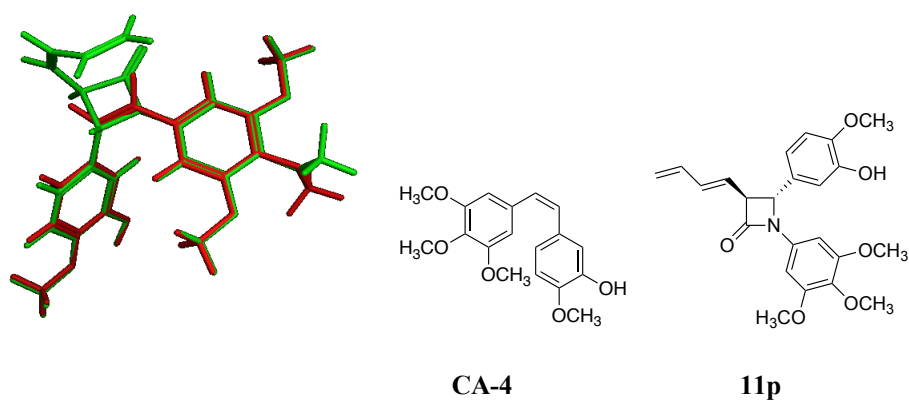


Figure S22: Flexible alignment of **11p** [green] and combretastatin A-4 [red]; 2D structures are shown for comparison

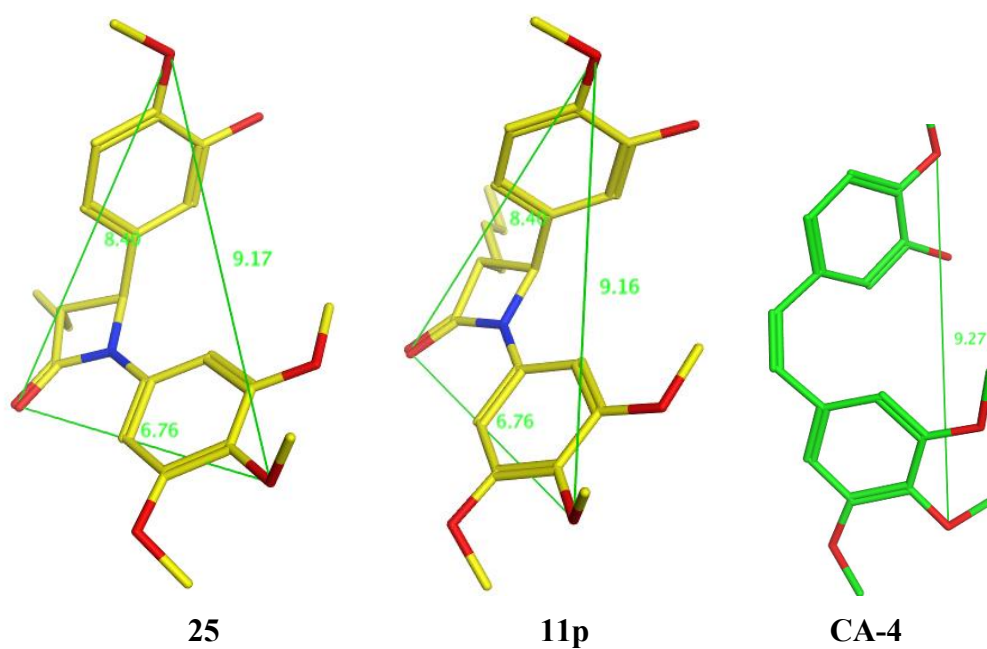


Figure S23: Inter-atomic distances between oxygen atoms for compounds **25**, **11p** and CA-4 (calculated using MOE 2011.10)

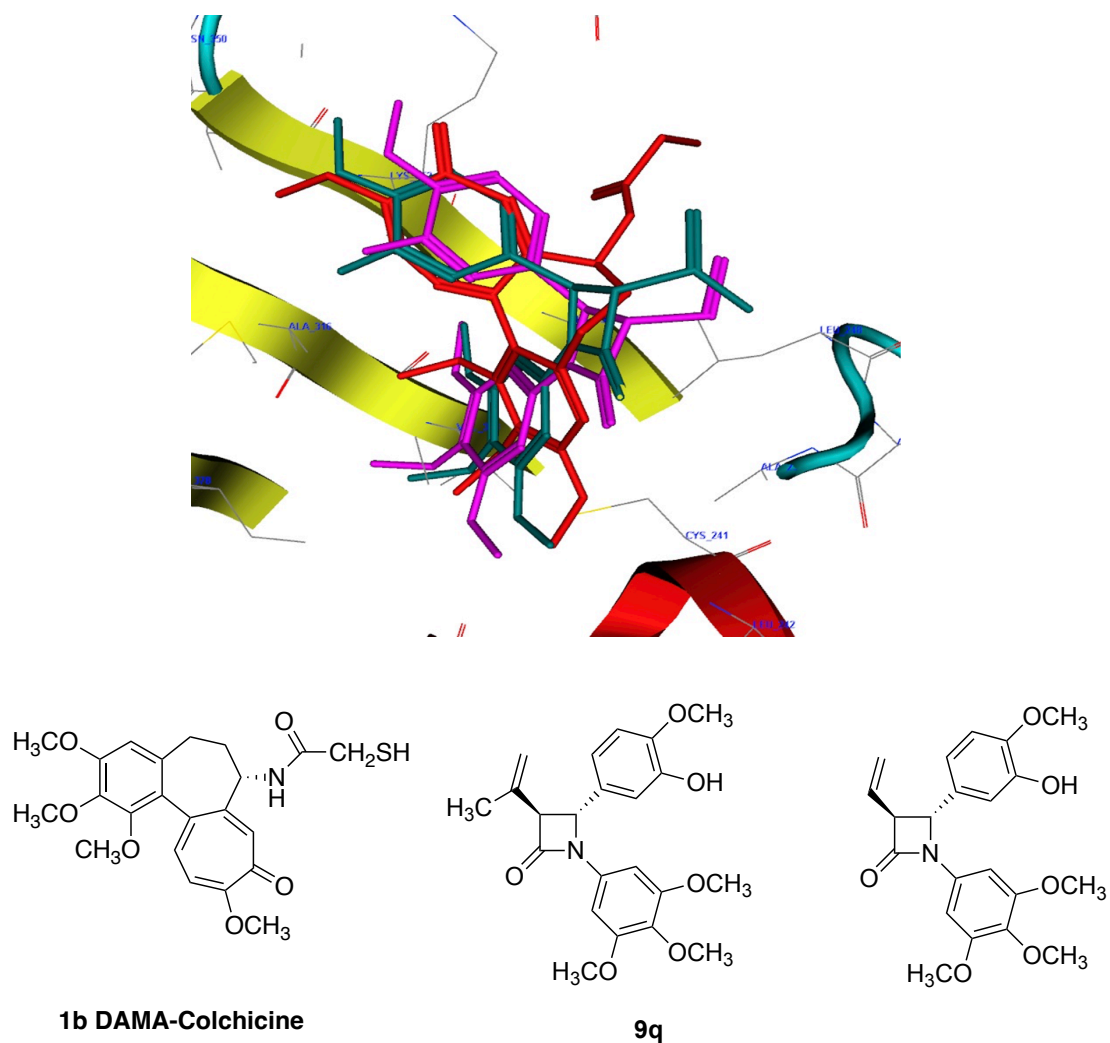
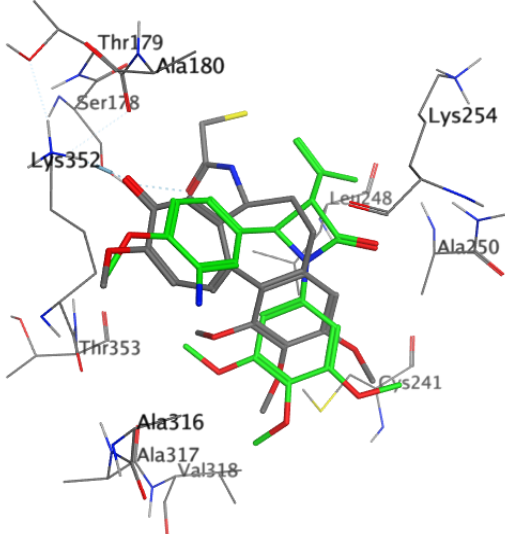
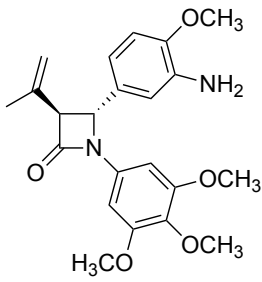
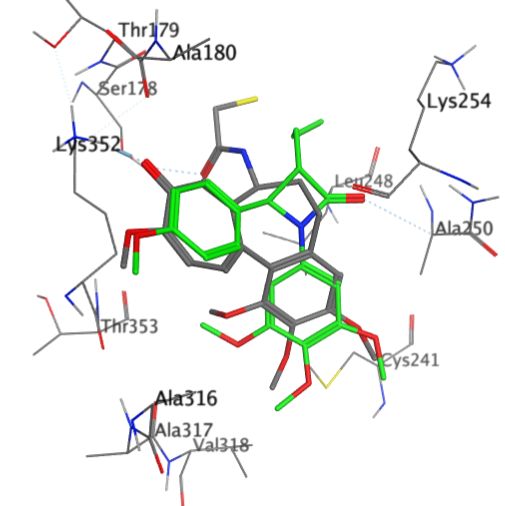
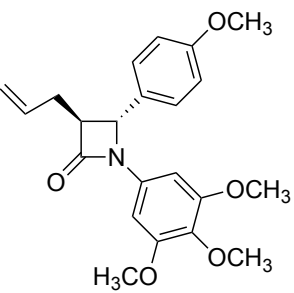
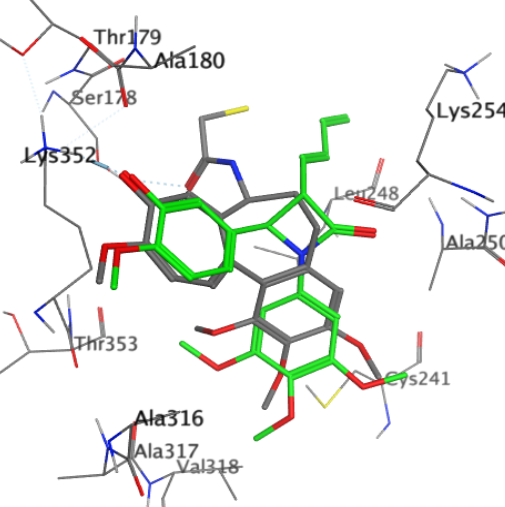
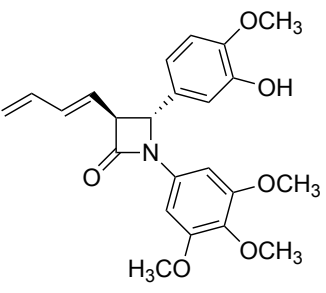


Figure S25: Overlay of the X-ray structure of tubulin crystallised with DAMA Colchicine (PDB entry 1SA0) (**1b**) (red) on docked solution of β -lactam **9q** (green) and a related 3-vinyl β -lactam (pink)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>(A)</p>  | <p>(3<i>S</i>,4<i>R</i>)-9s</p>  |
| <p>(B)</p>  | <p>(3<i>S</i>,4<i>R</i>)-10h</p>  |
| <p>(C)</p>  | <p>(3<i>S</i>,4<i>R</i>)-11p</p>  |

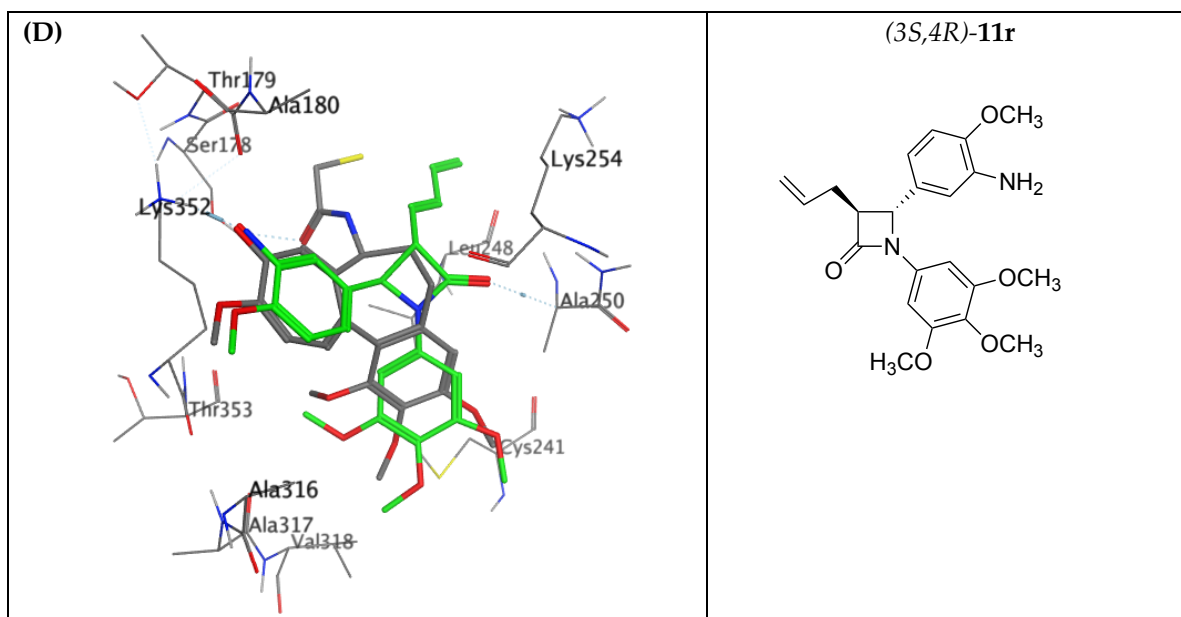


Figure S26. Overlay of the X-ray structure of tubulin co-crystallised with DAMA-colchicine (PDB entry 1SA0) on the best ranked docked pose of the 3*S*,4*R* enantiomer **9s**, **10h**, **11p** and **11r**, panels **A-D** respectively.

Ligands are rendered as tube and amino acids as line. Tubulin amino acids and DAMA-colchicine are coloured by atom type: carbon = grey, hydrogen = white, oxygen = red, nitrogen = blue. The β -lactam is depicted with a green backbone. The atoms are coloured by element type, Key amino acid residues are labelled, and multiple residues are hidden to enable a clearer view.