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**Brandt, SD, Kavanagh, PV, Westphal, F, Elliott, SP, Wallach, J, Stratford, A, Nichols, DE and Halberstadt, AL**

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**Return of the lysergamides. Part III: Analytical characterization of *N*<sup>6</sup>-ethyl-6-norlysergic acid diethylamide (ETH-LAD) and 1-propionyl ETH-LAD (1P-ETH-LAD)**

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Keywords:	New psychoactive substances, LSD, Lysergamides, Psychedelics, Chemical analysis
Abstract:	The psychoactive properties of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) have fascinated scientists across disciplines and the exploration of other analogs and derivatives has been motivated by deepening the understanding of ligand-receptor interactions at the molecular level as well as by the search for new therapeutics. Several LSD congeners have appeared on the new psychoactive substances (NPS) market in the form of blotters or powders. Examples include 1-propionyl-LSD (1P-LSD), AL-LAD and LSZ. The absence of analytical data for novel compounds is a frequent challenge encountered in clinical and toxicological investigations. Two newly emerging lysergamides <i>N</i> <sup>6</sup> -ethyl-6-norlysergic acid diethylamide (ETH-LAD) and 1P-ETH-LAD were characterized by gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS), low and high mass accuracy electrospray MS(/MS), GC solid-state infrared analysis, high performance liquid chromatography diode array detection as well as nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Limited analytical data for ETH-LAD were previously available, whereas information about 1P-ETH-LAD has not previously been encountered in scientific literature. This study extends the characterization of lysergamides distributed on the NPS market, which will help to make analytical data available to clinicians, toxicologists and other stakeholders who are likely to encounter these substances. The analysis of a test incubation of 1P-ETH-LAD with human serum at 37°C by LC single quadrupole MS at various

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	time points (0–6 h, once per hour and one measurement after 24 h) revealed the formation of ETH-LAD, suggesting that 1P-ETH-LAD might serve as a pro-drug. 1P-ETH-LAD was still detectable in serum after 24 h.

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5 **propionyl ETH-LAD (1P-ETH-LAD)**  
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50 chemical analysis  
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## Abstract

The psychoactive properties of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) have fascinated scientists across disciplines and the exploration of other analogs and derivatives has been motivated by deepening the understanding of ligand-receptor interactions at the molecular level as well as by the search for new therapeutics. Several LSD congeners have appeared on the new psychoactive substances (NPS) market in the form of blotters or powders. Examples include 1-propionyl-LSD (1P-LSD), AL-LAD and LSZ. The absence of analytical data for novel compounds is a frequent challenge encountered in clinical and toxicological investigations. Two newly emerging lysergamides *N*<sup>6</sup>-ethyl-6-norlysergic acid diethylamide (ETH-LAD) and 1P-ETH-LAD were characterized by gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS), low and high mass accuracy electrospray MS(/MS), GC solid-state infrared analysis, high performance liquid chromatography diode array detection as well as nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Limited analytical data for ETH-LAD were previously available, whereas information about 1P-ETH-LAD has not previously been encountered in scientific literature. This study extends the characterization of lysergamides distributed on the NPS market, which will help to make analytical data available to clinicians, toxicologists and other stakeholders who are likely to encounter these substances. The analysis of a test incubation of 1P-ETH-LAD with human serum at 37°C by LC single quadrupole MS at various time points (0–6 h, once per hour and one measurement after 24 h) revealed the formation of ETH-LAD, suggesting that 1P-ETH-LAD might serve as a pro-drug. 1P-ETH-LAD was still detectable in serum after 24 h.

## Introduction

Whereas the history of human use of psychoactive lysergamides goes back at least centuries with the ritual usage of ergine (*d*-lysergic acid amide),<sup>[1]</sup> the synthesis and psychoactive effects of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) have been described in the early 1940s.<sup>[2,3]</sup> Since that time, the pharmacological and psychoactive properties of LSD and its congeners have attracted substantial interest and one area of focus has been the structure-activity relationships of lysergic acid amides. For example, studies have examined the effect of alkyl substitution at the *N*<sup>6</sup>-position, which contains a methyl substituent in the case of LSD (Figure 1). Synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of a series of *N*<sup>6</sup>-alkyl norlysergic acid diethylamide derivatives revealed that LSD-like activity in rats was either maintained or increased with ethyl, *n*-propyl, or allyl substituents, whereas longer or bulkier substituents such as isopropyl and *n*-butyl reduced activity.<sup>[4-6]</sup> The extent to which these findings are translatable to humans remains unclear but anecdotal reports indicate that some *N*<sup>6</sup>-alkyl homologues of LSD have hallucinogenic effects in humans.<sup>[7,8]</sup> From the perspective of molecular pharmacology, investigating the structure-activity relationships of lysergic acid amides may help to elucidate the molecular interactions that occur between LSD and its biological targets.<sup>[9-11]</sup>

Currently, a wide variety of psychoactive substances are marketed to the general public by Internet vendors; most of these substances, commonly referred to as new psychoactive substances (NPS) or 'research chemicals', were originally synthesized during the course of legitimate scientific research, but some were developed by NPS vendors as potential recreational drugs.<sup>[12,13]</sup> To date, only a few LSD congeners have appeared on the NPS market. *N*<sup>6</sup>-Allyl-6-norlysergic acid diethylamide (AL-LAD) and (2'*S*,4'*S*)-lysergic acid 2,4-dimethylazetidide (LSZ), which have been available on the NPS market for a few years as bulk powdered material or absorbed on blotter paper,<sup>[14]</sup> are examples of compounds repurposed from the scientific literature.<sup>[4,15]</sup> Conversely, 1-propionyl-LSD (1P-LSD; Figure 1), which first appeared online in early 2015, had never been described in the scientific literature prior to its appearance as a new psychoactive substance.<sup>[16]</sup>

The preparation of *N*<sup>6</sup>-ethyl-6-norlysergic acid diethylamide ((8 $\beta$ )-*N,N*,6-triethyl-9,10-didehydroergoline-8-carboxamide, ETH-LAD; Figure 1) was first reported in 1976.<sup>[17]</sup> The same group subsequently found that ETH-LAD mimics the hyperthermic effect of LSD in rabbits and rats<sup>[18]</sup> and has greater oxytocic activity than LSD in the isolated rat uterus.<sup>[19]</sup> ETH-LAD reportedly produces complete substitution in rats trained to discriminate LSD and is even more potent than the training drug.<sup>[4]</sup> In addition, ETH-LAD was subsequently shown to produce hallucinogenic effects in humans at slightly lower doses compared with LSD,<sup>[7]</sup> which is consistent with the relative potencies of ETH-LAD and LSD in the drug discrimination paradigm. Moreover, similar to LSD, ETH-LAD has high affinity for 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors ( $K_i = 5.1$  nM vs. [<sup>3</sup>H]ketanserin), dopamine D<sub>1</sub> receptors ( $K_i = 22.1$  nM vs. [<sup>3</sup>H]SCH-23390), and dopamine D<sub>2</sub> receptors ( $K_i = 4.4$  nM vs. [<sup>3</sup>H]spiperone).<sup>[4,20]</sup> Both LSD and ETH-LAD were found to act as partial agonists (measured using cAMP accumulation) when tested in C-6 glioma cells expressing the rhesus macaque D<sub>1A</sub> receptor.<sup>[20]</sup> In contrast to ETH-LAD,

no information about 1-propionyl-ETH-LAD (1P-ETH-LAD; Figure 1) was found in the scientific literature.

In the present study, the newly emerging lysergamides ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD were extensively characterized using a variety of chromatographic, mass spectrometric, and spectroscopic methods. To date, only limited analytical data have been reported for ETH-LAD and information about 1P-ETH-LAD appears to be absent from the literature. These studies extend the characterization of lysergamides distributed on the NPS market,<sup>[14,16]</sup> which will help to make analytical data available to clinicians, toxicologists and other stakeholders who are likely to encounter these substances. Previous work on 1P-LSD indicated that it served as a pro-drug for LSD when incubated in human serum.<sup>[16]</sup> In the present study, a test incubation of 1P-ETH-LAD with human serum at 37°C was also included to ETH-LAD formation.

## Experimental

### Materials

All chemicals used were of analytical or HPLC grade and were obtained either from Rathburn Chemicals Ltd (Walkerburn, Scotland, UK), Fisher Scientific (Dublin, Ireland) or Aldrich (Dorset, UK). Dimethyl sulphoxide- $d_6$  (99.9% D) was from Aldrich. Powdered samples of ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD were provided by Synex Synthetics BV (Delft, The Netherlands) and characterized as the hemitartrate salt forms.

### Instrumentation

#### *Gas chromatography mass spectrometry*

Electron ionization (EI) mass spectra (70 eV) were recorded using a Finnigan TSQ 7000 triple stage quadrupole mass spectrometer coupled to a gas chromatograph (Trace GC Ultra, Thermo Electron, Dreieich, Germany). Sample introduction was carried out using a CTC CombiPAL (CTC Analytics, Zwingen, Switzerland) autosampler. The emission current was 200  $\mu$ A and the scan time was 1 s spanning a scan range between  $m/z$  29– $m/z$  600. The ion source temperature was maintained at 175°C. Samples were introduced via gas chromatography with splitless injection using a fused silica capillary DB-1 column (30 m  $\times$  0.25 mm, film thickness 0.25  $\mu$ m). For the analysis of ETH-LAD, the temperature program consisted of an initial temperature of 80°C, held for 1 min, followed by a ramp to 280°C at 15°C/min. The final temperature was held for 21 min. For the analysis of 1P-ETH-LAD, the temperature program consisted of an initial temperature of 80°C, held for 2 min, followed by a ramp to 310°C at 20°C/min. The final temperature was held for 23 min. The injector temperature was 220°C/250°C (for ETH-LAD/1P-ETH-LAD, respectively). The transfer line temperature was maintained at 280°C/300°C (for ETH-LAD/1P-ETH-LAD, respectively) and the carrier gas was helium in constant flow mode at a flow rate of 1.2 mL/min. Approximately 2 mg were dissolved in 1.5 mL chloroform. For analysis, 1  $\mu$ L sample solution was injected into the GC-MS system.

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3 Kovats retention indices (RI) were calculated from measurement of an *n*-alkane  
4 mixture analyzed with the above-mentioned temperature programs.  
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#### 6 *Gas chromatography solid-state infrared analysis*

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9 Samples were analyzed using a GC-solid phase-IR-system that consisted of an  
10 Agilent GC 7890B (Waldbronn, Germany) with probe sampler Agilent G4567A and a  
11 DiscovIR-GC™ (Spectra Analysis, Marlborough, MA, USA). The column eluent was  
12 cryogenically accumulated on a spirally rotating ZnSe disk cooled by liquid nitrogen.  
13 IR spectra were recorded through the IR-transparent ZnSe disk using a nitrogen-  
14 cooled MCT detector. GC parameters: injection in splitless mode with an injection  
15 port temperature set at 240°C and a DB-1 fused silica capillary column (30 m ×  
16 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness). The carrier gas was helium with a flow rate of  
17 2.5 mL/min and the oven temperature program was as follows: 80°C for 2 min,  
18 ramped to 290°C at 20°C/min, and held at for 20 min. The transfer line was heated at  
19 280°C. Infrared conditions: oven temperature, restrictor temperature, disc  
20 temperature, and Dewar cap temperatures were 280°C, 280°C, -40°C, and 35°C,  
21 respectively. The vacuum was 0.2 mTorr, disc speed 3 mm/s, spiral separation was 1  
22 mm, wavelength resolution 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> and IR range 650–4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Acquisition time was  
23 0.6 s/file with 64 scans/spectrum. Data were processed using GRAMS/AI Ver. 9.1  
24 (Grams Spectroscopy Software Suite, Thermo Fischer Scientific, Dreieich, Germany)  
25 followed by implementation of the OMNIC Software, Ver. 7.4.127 (Thermo Electron  
26 Corporation, Dreieich, Germany).  
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#### 32 *High mass accuracy electrospray mass spectrometry*

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34 Ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography quadrupole time-of-flight single and  
35 tandem mass spectrometry (UHPLC-QTOF-MS/MS) data were obtained from an  
36 Agilent 6540 UHD Accurate-Mass Q-TOF LC-MS system coupled to an Agilent 1290  
37 Infinity UHPLC system (Agilent, Cheshire, UK). Separation was achieved using an  
38 Agilent Zorbax Eclipse Plus C18 column (100 mm × 2.1 mm, 1.8 µm) (Agilent,  
39 Cheshire, UK). Mobile phases consisted of 100% acetonitrile (1% formic acid) and  
40 1% formic acid in water. The column temperature was set at 40°C (0.6 mL/min) and  
41 data were acquired for 5.5 min. The gradient was set at 5–70% acetonitrile over 3.5  
42 min, then increased to 95% acetonitrile in 1 min and held for 0.5 min before returning  
43 to 5% acetonitrile in 0.5 min. QTOF-MS data were acquired in positive mode  
44 scanning from *m/z* 100–*m/z* 1000 with and without auto MS/MS fragmentation.  
45 Ionization was achieved with an Agilent JetStream electrospray source and infused  
46 internal reference masses. QTOF-MS parameters: gas temperature 325°C, drying  
47 gas 10 L/min and sheath gas temperature 400 °C. Internal reference ions at *m/z*  
48 121.0509 and *m/z* 922.0098 were used for calibration purposes.  
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#### 52 *Liquid chromatography electrospray ionization mass spectrometry*

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55 HPLC single quadrupole mass spectrometry (LC-Q-MS) analyses were carried out  
56 on an Agilent 1100 system using a Restek (Bellefonte, PA, USA) Allure PFPP  
57 column (5 µm, 50 × 2.1 mm). The aqueous mobile phase A consisted of 0.1% formic  
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3 acid, whereas, mobile phase B consisted of 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile. The total  
4 run time was 25 min. The following gradient elution program was used: 0–2 min 2%  
5 B, followed by an increase to 60% within 15 min, then up to 80% within 20 min,  
6 returning to 2% within 25 min. The Agilent LC-MSD settings were as follows: positive  
7 electrospray mode, capillary voltage 3500 V, drying gas (N<sub>2</sub>) 12 L/min at 350°C,  
8 nebulizer gas (N<sub>2</sub>) pressure 50 psi, scan mode  $m/z$  70– $m/z$  500, fragmentor voltage  
9 values used for in-source collision-induced dissociation (CID) were 30 V and 150 V,  
10 respectively. The sample was dissolved in acetonitrile/water (1:1, containing 0.1%  
11 formic acid) at a concentration of 10 µg/mL. The injection volume was 1 µL, flow rate  
12 was 0.80 mL/min and the column temperature was 30°C.  
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#### 15 16 *Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy*

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18 Samples were prepared in deuterated dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR  
19 spectra (400.23 MHz) were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 NMR spectrometer  
20 using a 5mm BBFO probe with z gradients. <sup>13</sup>C spectra (150.90 MHz) were  
21 recorded on a Bruker AV600 NMR spectrometer using a 5 mm TCI cryoprobe.  
22 Spectra were referenced to residual solvent and assignments were supported by  
23 both 1D and 2D experiments.  
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#### 26 **Results and discussion**

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28 The EI mass spectra for ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD are shown in **Figure 2** and it  
29 can be seen that the relative abundance of the molecular ions was significant for  
30 both compounds, which was in agreement with other lysergamides investigated  
31 previously.<sup>[14,16]</sup> Some key fragments recorded for ETH-LAD (Figure 2A) were  
32 reported previously;<sup>[17]</sup> additionally, the entire EI mass spectrum depicted here is  
33 identical to the spectrum of a purported ETH-LAD sample that was published in the  
34 public domain.<sup>[21]</sup> The majority of the ETH-LAD spectrum exhibited fragments that  
35 were also encountered in the mass spectrum of LSD, such as the iminium ions at  
36  $m/z$  72, fragment clusters at  $m/z$  151– $m/z$  156,  $m/z$  178– $m/z$  182 or  $m/z$  205– $m/z$  208,  
37 and the retro-Diels-Alder fragment at  $m/z$  280.<sup>[16]</sup> As suggested in the Supporting  
38 Information section, further fragmentation of this particular species might have  
39 accounted for the formation of both the  $m/z$  265 and  $m/z$  207 species, respectively.  
40 The same three ions were also observed in the EI mass spectra of LSD<sup>[16]</sup> and AL-  
41 LAD<sup>[14]</sup>, which were considered characteristic for lysergamides with *N,N*-diethylamide  
42 substitution given that the *N*<sup>6</sup>-alkyl group is lost during fragmentation, thus, not  
43 impacting on the masses of the resulting ions. Aside from the  $m/z$  of M<sup>+</sup>, the most  
44 prominent feature that pointed to ETH-LAD (i.e. reflecting the presence of the *N*<sup>6</sup>-  
45 ethyl group) was detected at  $m/z$  235, presumably induced *via* a loss of *N,N*-  
46 diethylformamide and cleavage of a hydrogen radical (see the Supporting  
47 Information). Correspondingly, the equivalent species in LSD may have been  
48 observed at  $m/z$  221 (*N*<sup>6</sup>-methyl),<sup>[16]</sup> whereas the *N*<sup>6</sup>-allyl equivalent in AL-LAD  
49 (Figure 1) would have given rise to  $m/z$  247.<sup>[14]</sup> The EI mass spectrum recorded for  
50 1P-ETH-LAD (Figure 2B) was comparable to those recorded for LSD and 1P-LSD,<sup>[16]</sup>  
51 the two most important features differentiating the EI-MS of 1P-ETH-LAD and 1P-  
52 LSD were the 14 Da (*N*<sup>6</sup>-ethyl group) mass shifts at the  $m/z$  236– $m/z$  237 and  $m/z$   
53 291– $m/z$  293 clusters. In the case of 1P-LSD, these shifts were detected at 221– $m/z$   
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223 and  $m/z$  277– $m/z$  279.<sup>[16]</sup> The detection of  $m/z$  336,  $m/z$  321 and  $m/z$  263 (Figure 2B) represented the mass shift induced by the 1-propionyl group and might have reflected the retro-Diels Alder counterpart at  $m/z$  280 followed by formation of  $m/z$  265 and  $m/z$  207 mentioned above for *N,N*-diethylamides LSD and AL-LAD (Supporting Information). As described in the Experimental section, the GC analysis of 1P-ETH-LAD required higher temperatures in order to facilitate the determination of the Kovats retention index since the implementation of the temperature profile used to elute ETH-LAD resulted in a retention time beyond the last eluting alkane standard.

When subjected to GC-MS analysis, ETH-LAD but not 1P-ETH-LAD formed three additional degradation products of comparatively minor abundance (see the Supporting Information); the similarity of the mass spectral data indicated that these GC-induced degradations (which were absent under HPLC conditions) might have reflected the presence of isomeric species. The EI mass spectrum shown in Figure 2A belongs to the most abundant peak, which is referred to as isomer III (see the Supporting Information). GC-induced degradation was also observed previously in an investigation of LSZ, although degradation did not occur during the analysis of AL-LAD.<sup>[14]</sup> The solid-state infrared (sIR) spectra recorded from the peaks eluting from the GC column, as well as those recorded directly from the hemitartrate salts, are provided as Supporting Information. The advantage of using GC-sIR is that also compound mixtures and substances available in small amounts, such as those encountered on blotters, are amenable to IR analysis. The resulting spectra are comparable to those obtained under traditional conditions where individual (and pure) substances are converted to the free base state and subjected to neat ATR-IR measurements. A key difference between ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD was the absence of the indole NH group in the latter ( $\sim 3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), which is comparable with observations made previously with 1P-LSD. Correspondingly, the appearance of a second carbonyl signal in the spectrum of 1P-ETH-LAD was detected at  $1704\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to the presence of the propionyl group in the 1-position. GC-sIR spectra could be recorded for three of the four ETH-LAD isomers and are included individually in the Supporting Information section. In the case of GC-MS analysis of 1P-ETH-LAD (Figure 2B), a different temperature profile was employed (see Experimental section) to ensure that elution occurred within the associated series of *n*-alkane standards for the determination of a suitable retention index.

Similar to what was observed during GC-MS analysis, both ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD could be conveniently separated using three different liquid chromatography (LC) systems (see Figure 3 and the Supporting information). The electrospray ionization mass spectra, obtained for both compounds using time-of-flight tandem MS as well as single quadrupole MS with in-source collision-induced dissociation, are shown in Figure 3. A product ion characteristic for ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD, presumably due to the presence of the *N*<sup>6</sup>-ethyl substituent, was the appearance of  $m/z$  237 (Figure 3, calculated  $m/z$  237.1386) and  $m/z$  293 (1P-ETH-LAD, calculated  $m/z$  293.1648, Figure 3C), respectively. Proposed mechanisms of formation for ions formed under QTOF-MS/MS conditions (Figures 3A and 3C) are summarized in Figures 4 and 5. Potentially equivalent species observed with the *N,N*-diethylamides LSD and AL-LAD were detected at  $m/z$  223 and  $m/z$  249, respectively.<sup>[14,16]</sup> When

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3 ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD were analyzed by LC single quadrupole MS in selected  
4 ion monitoring mode (inserts in Figures 3B and 3D), only one peak was observable,  
5 indicating that the iso-forms were not detectable under the conditions used, which  
6 provided support for the conclusion that the ETH-LAD isomers detected under GC-  
7 MS conditions (see above) were artificially generated during analysis using this  
8 particular methodology. The LC-diode array detection data for both ETH-LAD and  
9 1P-ETH-LSD are shown as Supporting Information. The UV spectra were recorded  
10 from the HPLC peaks using a scan range between 200 nm and 595 nm and with 1P-  
11 ETH-LAD it can be seen that the addition of the propionyl group to the indole  
12 nitrogen introduced a third significant peak, resulting in distinct peaks at 224.4, 253.5  
13 and 293.1 nm, compared to 226.0 and 310.5 nm for ETH-LAD (Supporting  
14 Information). For 1P-LSD, three distinct peaks were observed at 226, 250 and 294  
15 nm, compared with peaks at 222 and 314 nm for LSD, thus offering only limited  
16 opportunities to facilitate differentiation.<sup>[16]</sup> The analysis of a test incubation of 1P-  
17 ETH-LAD with human serum at 37°C by LC single quadrupole MS at various time  
18 points (0–6 h, once per hour and one measurement after 24 h) revealed the  
19 formation of ETH-LAD, suggesting that 1P-ETH-LAD might serve as a pro-drug. 1P-  
20 ETH-LAD, however, was still detectable in serum after 24 h (Supporting Information).  
21 This observation was in agreement with what was observed previously during the  
22 incubation of 1P-LSD, which hydrolyzed to LSD under comparable conditions.<sup>[16]</sup>  
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28 The nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) data collected for ETH-LAD  
29 and 1P-ETH-LAD are summarized in **Tables 1 and 2**; all spectra are supplied as  
30 Supporting Information. The suggested assignments were based on several  
31 lysergamides characterized previously (1P-LSD, LSD, AL-LAD and LSZ)<sup>[14,16]</sup> and  
32 with the help of 1D and 2D experiments. One key difference observed between ETH-  
33 LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD is that an indole nitrogen proton resonance at 10.75 ppm was  
34 absent in the latter compound due to the propionyl group attachment to the 1-  
35 position. Correspondingly, a second carbonyl signal appeared in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR  
36 spectrum of 1P-ETH-LAD at 172.45 ppm. In comparison to ETH-LAD, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR  
37 spectrum of 1P-ETH-LAD also revealed a noticeable downfield shift for the aromatic  
38 protons H-12, H-14 and H-2. For example, the H-2 proton of ETH-LAD, found to  
39 overlap with H-12 and H-13 at 7.11–6.98 ppm, was detected as a distinct fine doublet  
40 at 7.59 ppm ( $J = 1.8$  Hz) in 1P-ETH-LAD (Tables 1 and 2). The remaining proton  
41 chemical shifts remained largely unaffected. However, the presence of the propionyl  
42 group in 1P-ETH-LAD also led to increasing signal overlap further upfield from the  
43 aromatic chemical shifts. For example, the methylene protons (H-25) were observed  
44 to overlap with one of the protons of the  $N^6$ -CH<sub>2</sub> group (H-17) integrating to three  
45 protons. The triplet associated with the propionyl methyl group (H-26) overlapped  
46 with one of the triplets corresponding to the methyl groups present in the *N,N*-  
47 diethylamide functionality. Similarly, the methyl group of the  $N^6$ -substituent (H-18)  
48 overlapped with the triplet associated with the more upfield triplet of the *N,N*-  
49 diethylamide group. As was the case with other lysergamides, the axial and  
50 equatorial configurations of the H-7 and H-4 protons resulted in distinct proton  
51 chemical shifts.<sup>[14,16]</sup> The two methylene protons of the  $N^6$ -CH<sub>2</sub> group (H-17) also  
52 displayed individual chemical shift values for each proton (Tables 1 and 2). Some <sup>1</sup>H  
53 NMR data for ETH-LAD freebase in CDCl<sub>3</sub> were reported previously,<sup>[4,17,22]</sup> although  
54 there were minor differences in some chemical shift values, presumably due to  
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3 differences in the solvents used ( $d_6$ -DMSO vs.  $CDCl_3$ ) and the hemitartrate form  
4 investigated in the present study. Attachment of the propionyl group affected some of  
5 the  $^{13}C$  carbon chemical shifts recorded for ETH-LAD, with the most pronounced  
6 downfield shifts experienced by C-3 (109.17 to 116.11 ppm), C-12 (111.58 to 116.50  
7 ppm) and C-14 (110.39 to 114.72 ppm), respectively.  
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10 1P-LSD was previously shown to hydrolyze to LSD when exposed to human serum.  
11 <sup>[16]</sup> As depicted in the Supporting Information, 1P-ETH-LAD conversion to ETH-LAD  
12 was also identified following incubation in human serum at 37°C and analysis by LC-  
13 MS analysis in selective ion monitoring mode. The analysis was carried out at  
14 various time points (0–6 h, once per hour and one measurement after 24 h) and it  
15 was found that ETH-LAD was detectable at first internal at 1 h, which indicated that  
16 1P-ETH-LAD might also serve as a pro-drug *in vivo*. 1P-ETH-LAD was still  
17 detectable in serum after 24 h.  
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## 20 Conclusion

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22 In the present study, ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD, two recently emerging  
23 lysergamides available on the NPS market, were subjected to a comprehensive  
24 analytical characterization, which revealed that the differentiation between the two  
25 was straightforward. These studies extend the characterization of lysergamides  
26 distributed on the NPS market, which will help to make analytical data available to  
27 clinicians, toxicologists and other stakeholders who are likely to encounter these  
28 substances. Further studies are warranted to determine whether 1P-ETH-LAD shows  
29 bioactivity independent from the hydrolysis product ETH-LAD, which was detected  
30 during the incubation of 1P-ETH-LAD with human serum at 37°C.  
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## 34 Acknowledgement

35  
36 This work was supported by an award from NIDA (R01 DA041336). The support from  
37 Isomer Design (Toronto, Canada) is also gratefully acknowledged.  
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### Figure captions

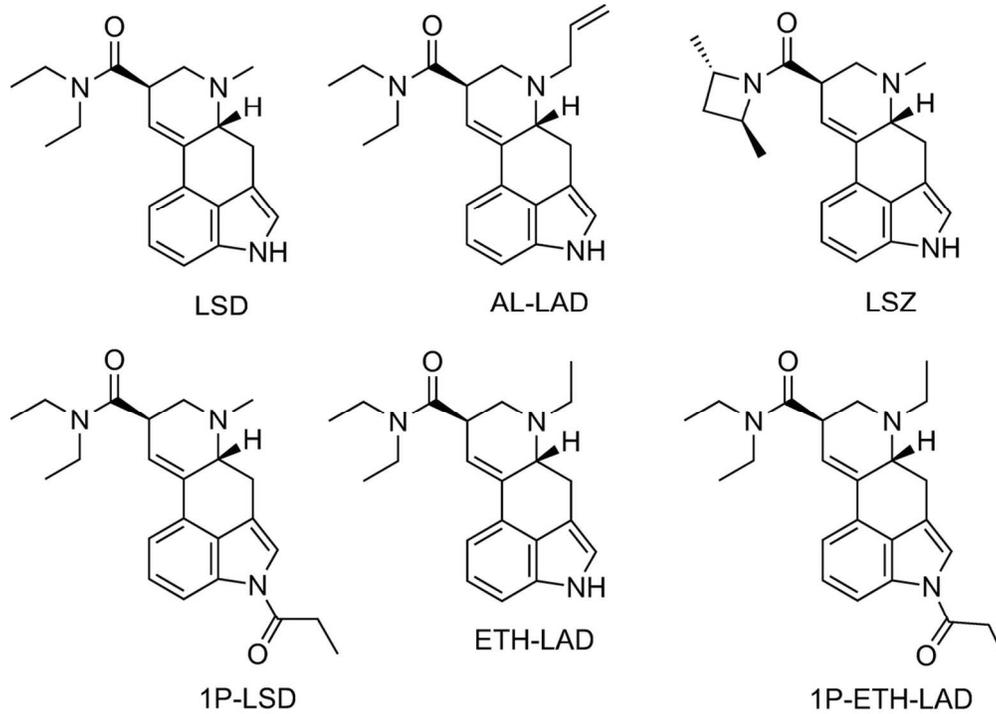
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18 **Figure 1.** Lysergide (LSD) and derivatives that appeared on the new psychoactive  
19 substances market.  
20

21 **Figure 2.** Electron ionization mass spectra of ETH-LAD (A) and 1P-ETH-LAD (B).  
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23 **Figure 3.** Electrospray ionization mass spectra. A and C: Quadrupole time-of-flight  
24 tandem mass spectra obtained from ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD. B and D: Single  
25 quadrupole mass spectra of ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD following in-source collision-  
26 induced-dissociation. Inserts in B and D: HPLC single ion monitoring using the m/z  
27 values of the protonated molecules.  
28

29 **Figure 4.** Proposed formation of product ions following collision-induced dissociation  
30 of ETH-LAD under QTOF-MS/MS conditions.  
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32 **Figure 5.** Proposed formation of product ions following collision-induced dissociation  
33 of 1P-ETH-LAD under QTOF-MS/MS conditions.  
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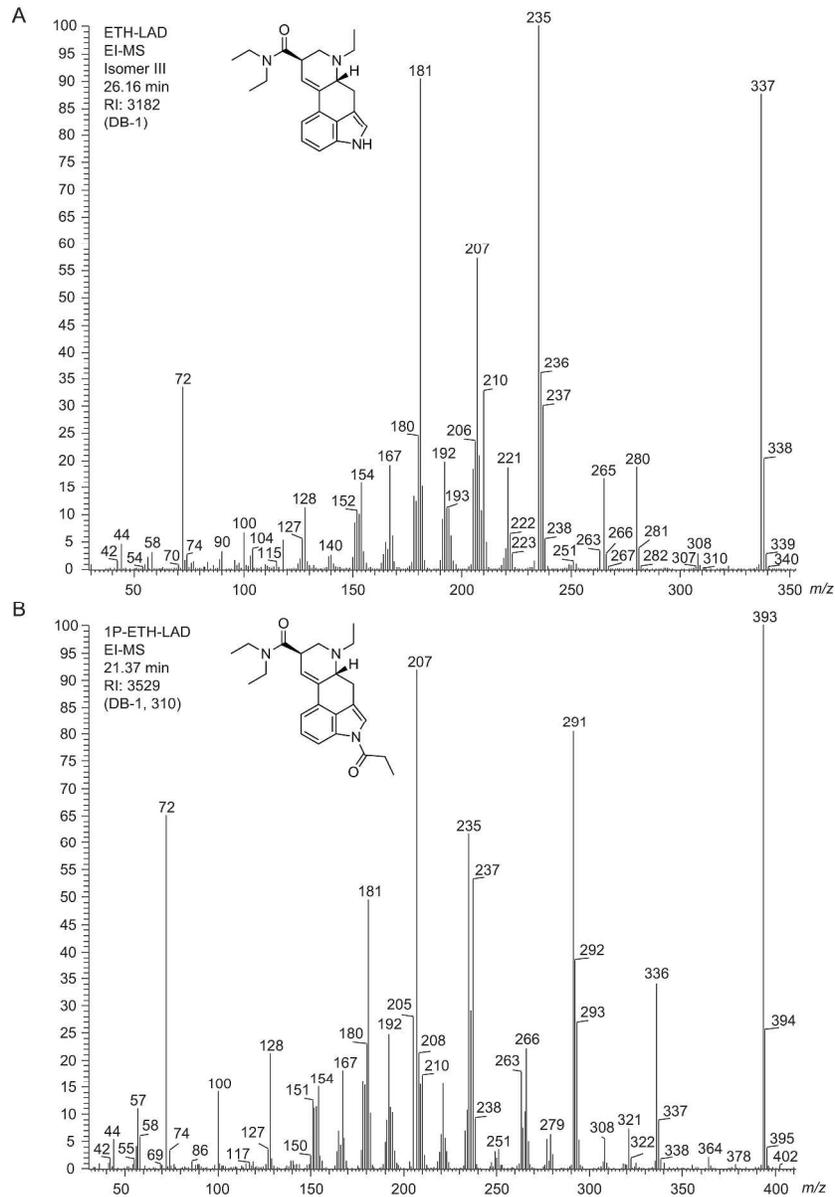


31 Lysergide (LSD) and derivatives that appeared on the new psychoactive substances market.

32 Figure 1

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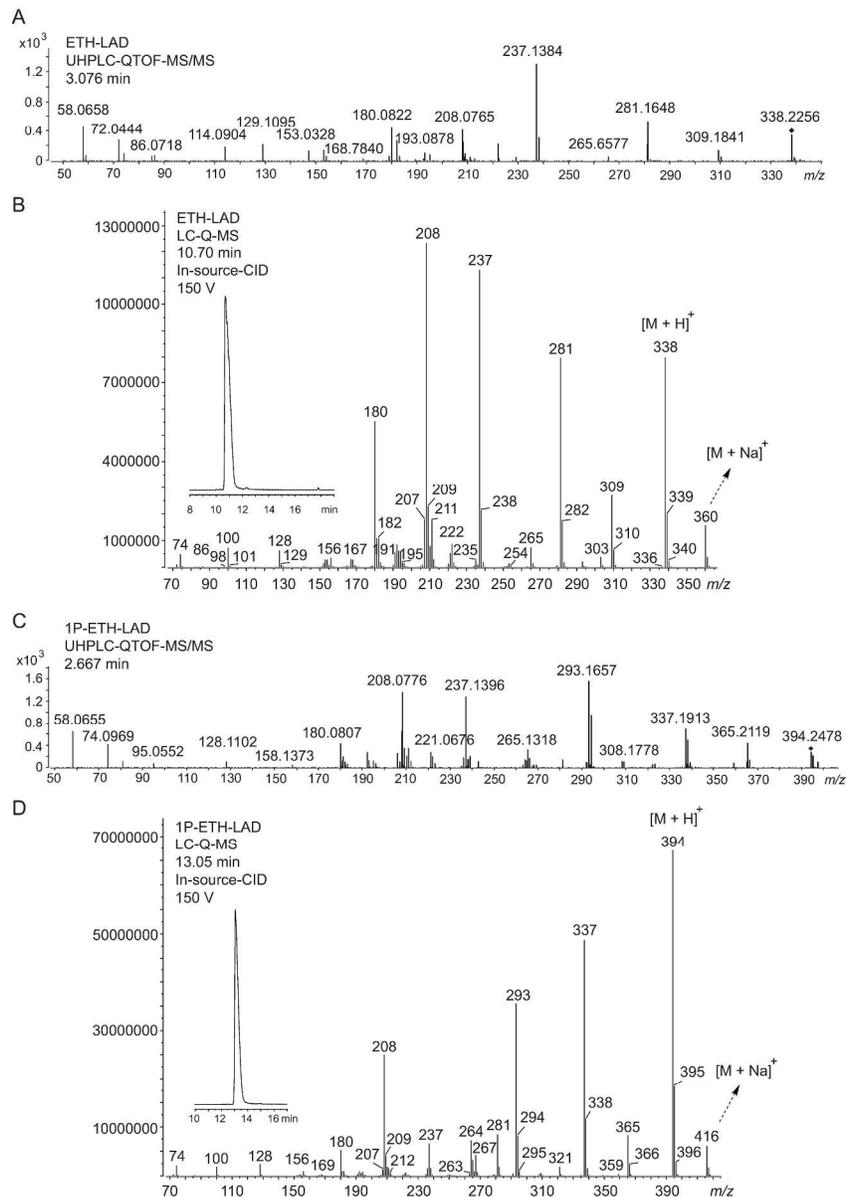
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Electron ionization mass spectra of ETH-LAD (A) and 1P-ETH-LAD (B).

Figure 2

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Electrospray ionization mass spectra. A and C: Quadrupole time-of-flight tandem mass spectra obtained from ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD. B and D: Single quadrupole mass spectra of ETH-LAD and 1P-ETH-LAD following in-source collision-induced-dissociation. Inserts in B and D: HPLC single ion monitoring using the m/z values of the protonated molecules.

Figure 3  
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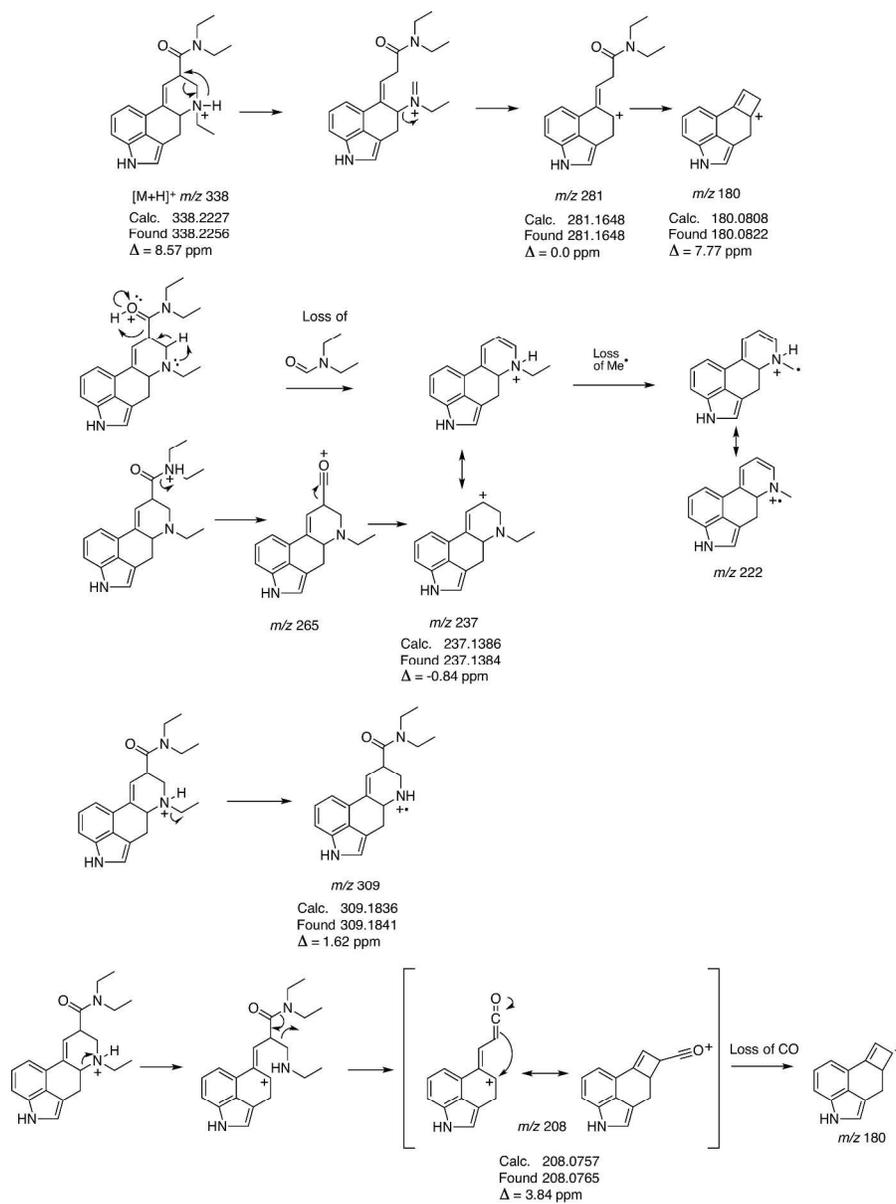
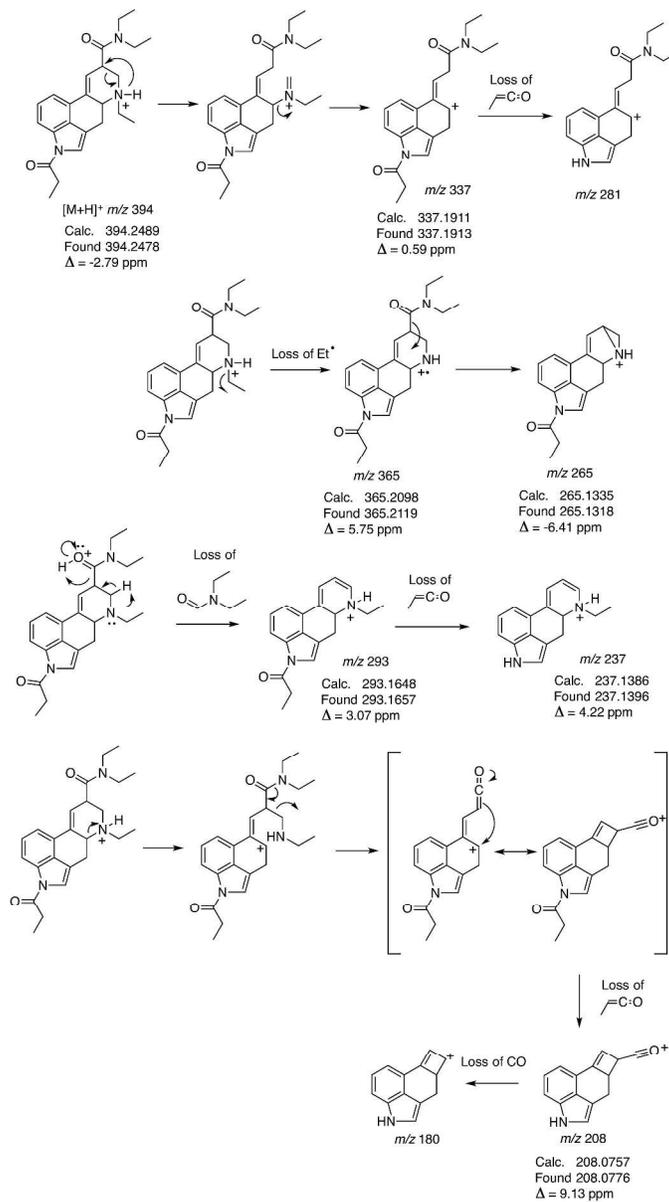


Figure 4. Proposed formation of product ions following collision-induced dissociation of ETH-LAD under QTOF-MS/MS conditions.

Figure 4  
275x369mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Proposed formation of product ions following collision-induced dissociation of 1P-ETH-LAD under QTOF-MS/MS conditions.

Figure 5

291x519mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**Table 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for ETH-LAD hemitartrate in  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO at 400 / 150 MHz

No.	$^{13}\text{C}$ [ $\delta$ / ppm]	$^1\text{H}$ [ $\delta$ / ppm]
1	–	10.75 (s, 1H)
2	119.88	7.05 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H) <sup>a</sup>
3	109.17	–
4	26.88	3.54–3.47 (m, 4 $\beta$ -H, 1H) <sup>b</sup> 2.60–2.51 (m, 4 $\alpha$ -H, 1H) <sup>c</sup>
5	59.59	3.47–3.41 (m, H-5 $\beta$ , 1H) <sup>d</sup>
6	–	–
7	51.44	3.11 (dd, $J = 10.8, 4.6$ Hz, H-7 $\alpha$ ) <sup>e</sup> 2.84–2.67 (m, H-7 $\beta$ , 1H) <sup>f</sup>
8	39.22	3.83–3.71 (m, H-8 $\alpha$ , 1H)
9	120.64	6.24 (s, 1H)
10	135.88	–
11	127.85	–
12	111.58	7.02 (dd, $J = 7.2, 0.8$ Hz, 1H) <sup>g</sup>
13	122.79	7.07 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H) <sup>h</sup>
14	110.39	7.20 (dd, $J = 7.2, 0.8$ Hz, 1H)
15	134.28	–
16	126.31	–
17	47.62	3.09–3.01 (m, 1H) <sup>i</sup>
	47.62	2.84–2.67 (m, 1H) <sup>j</sup>
18	10.37	1.09 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H) <sup>k</sup>
19	171.09	–
20	–	–
21	42.01	3.47–3.41 (m, 2H) <sup>l</sup>
21	39.72	3.32 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H)
22	15.29	1.19 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H)
22	13.55	1.07 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H) <sup>m</sup>
TA <sup>n</sup>	72.33	4.18 (s, 1H)
TA <sup>n</sup>	173.89	–

<sup>a</sup> Overlapping with H-13 and H-12

<sup>b</sup> Overlapping with H-5 $\beta$  and H-21 (2H)

<sup>c</sup> Overlapping with solvent

<sup>d</sup> Overlapping H-4 $\beta$  and H-21 (2H)

<sup>e</sup> Overlapping H-17 (1H)

<sup>f</sup> Overlapping with H-17 (1H)

<sup>g</sup> Overlapping with H-13 and H-2

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<sup>n</sup> Overlapping with H-12 and H-2

<sup>i</sup> Overlapping with H-7 $\alpha$

<sup>j</sup> Overlapping with H-7 $\beta$

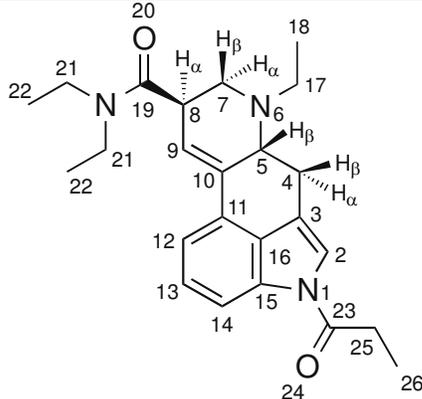
<sup>k</sup> Overlapping with H-22 (3H)

<sup>l</sup> Overlapping H-5 $\beta$  and H-4 $\beta$  (1H)

<sup>m</sup> Overlapping with H-18 (3H)

<sup>n</sup> TA: tartaric acid

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**Table 2.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for 1P-ETH-LAD hemitartrate in  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO at 400 / 150 MHz


No.	$^{13}\text{C}$ [ $\delta$ / ppm]	$^1\text{H}$ [ $\delta$ / ppm]
1	–	–
2	119.89	7.59 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H)
3	116.11	–
4	26.08	3.49 (dd, $J = 15.3, 5.4$ Hz, 4 $\beta$ -H, 1H) <sup>a</sup> 2.49–2.39 (m, 4 $\alpha$ -H, 1H) <sup>b</sup>
5	58.23	3.41–3.36 (m, H-5 $\beta$ , 1H) <sup>c</sup>
6	–	–
7	50.83	3.08 (dd, $J = 11.4, 4.6$ Hz, H-7 $\alpha$ , 1H) <sup>d</sup> 2.68–2.59 (m H-7 $\beta$ , 1H) <sup>e</sup>
8	39.07	3.80–3.70 (m, H-8 $\alpha$ , 1H)
9	122.17	6.34 (s, 1H)
10	134.05	–
11	128.14	–
12	116.50	7.34 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.4$ Hz, 1H) <sup>f</sup>
13	125.86	7.31 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H) <sup>g</sup>
14	114.72	8.01 (dd, $J = 7.2, 0.8$ Hz, 1H)
15	133.08	–
16	127.56	–
17	46.94 46.94	3.37–3.26 (m, 1H) <sup>h</sup> 2.77–2.68 (m, 1H) <sup>i</sup>
18	9.99	1.07 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) <sup>j</sup>
19	170.51	–
20	–	–
21	41.54	3.47–3.41 (m, 2H) <sup>k</sup>
21	39.43	3.37–3.26 (m, 2H) <sup>l</sup>
22	14.79	1.19 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) <sup>m</sup>
22	13.04	1.07 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) <sup>n</sup>
23	172.45	–
24	–	–
25	28.15	3.37–3.26 (m, 1H) <sup>o</sup>
26	8.54	1.18 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) <sup>p</sup>
TA <sup>q</sup>	71.94	4.25 (s, 1H)
TA <sup>q</sup>	173.19	–

<sup>a</sup> Overlapping with H-21 (2H)  
<sup>b</sup> Overlapping with solvent  
<sup>c</sup> Overlapping H-21 (2H)  
<sup>d</sup> Overlapping H-17 (1H) and H-25

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4<sup>e</sup> Overlapping with H-17 (1H)  
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6<sup>f</sup> Overlapping with H-13  
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8<sup>g</sup> Overlapping with H-12  
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10<sup>h</sup> Overlapping with H-7 $\alpha$  and H-25  
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12<sup>i</sup> Overlapping with H-7 $\beta$   
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14<sup>j</sup> Overlapping with H-22 (3H)  
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16<sup>k</sup> Overlapping H-4 $\beta$  (1H)  
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18<sup>l</sup> Overlapping H-5 $\beta$  (1H)  
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20<sup>m</sup> Overlapping with H-26 (3H)  
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22<sup>n</sup> Overlapping with H-18 (3H)  
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24<sup>o</sup> Overlapping with H-7 $\alpha$  and H-17 (1H)  
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- <sup>o</sup> TA: tartaric acid