

JEOL GC-MS Soft Ionization Mass Spectra Collection

A comparison of electron ionization and soft ionization methods for GC-MS applications

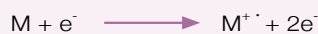
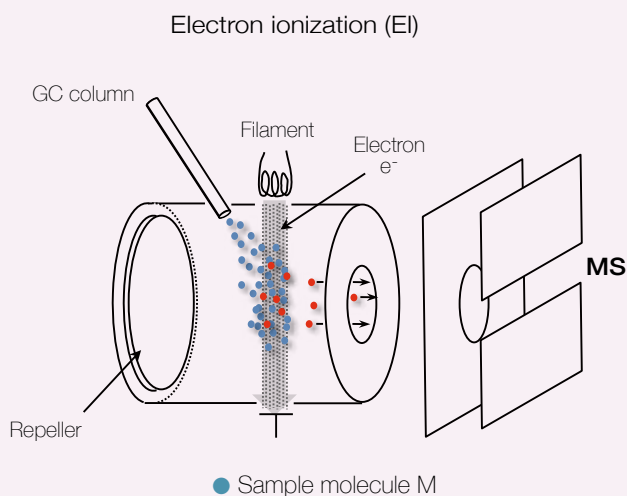
Chemical Ionization (CI)
Photoionization (PI)
Field Ionization (FI)



Ionization methods available for JEOL GC-MS

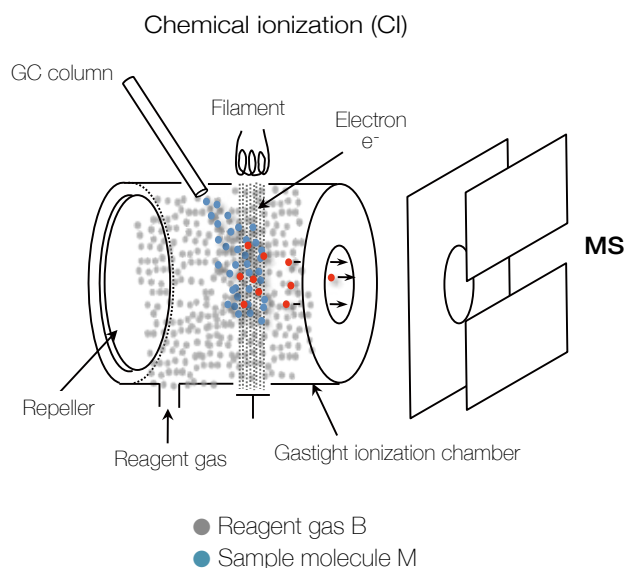
Electron Ionization (EI)

This is the ionization method most widely used for GC-MS. A thermal filament emits high-energy electrons that collide with gas-phase molecules to produce ions. The gas-phase requirement for ionization makes EI readily compatible with gas chromatography (GC) sample introduction. Ion/electron collisions can produce many fragment ions ("hard ionization"). Because the relative intensity of each ion observed (spectral pattern) has high reproducibility, components can be identified by comparing the acquired spectrum against EI mass spectrum library databases. More than 300,000 compounds from multiple databases are available with measured EI spectra, supporting various GC-MS applications.



Chemical Ionization (CI)

This is a common soft ionization method used for GC-MS. A reagent gas is introduced into a highly gastight ionization chamber (approx. 10^{-2} Pa), and the reagent gas (B) is ionized by thermal electrons. Reagent gas ions undergo ion-molecule reactions with sample molecules (M) to produce protonated molecules, adducts, and fragments. Compared to EI, CI produces fewer fragments ("soft ionization") and provides information about the sample elemental composition. Methane, isobutane, and ammonia are commonly used as reagent gases. Methane and isobutane typically produce protonated molecules $[M + H]^+$, while ammonia produces ammonium adducts $[M + NH_4]^+$.



Proton adduct (most predominant reaction)



Reagent gas adduct



Hydride ion abstraction



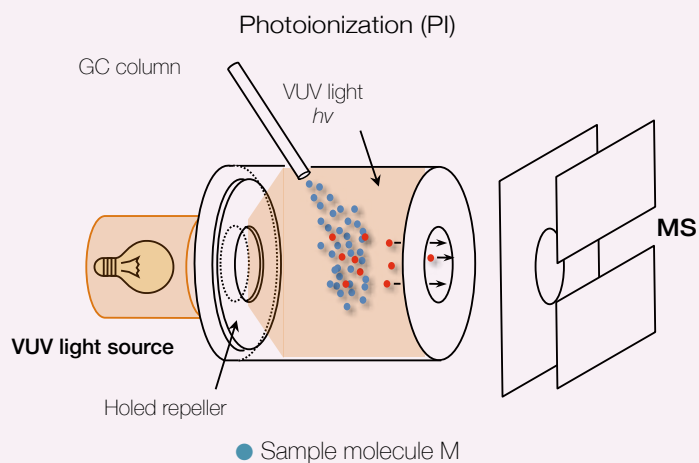
Charge exchange



Photoionization (PI)

Photoionization uses vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) light with a photon energy at 8 to 10 eV to irradiate and ionize sample molecules. Because the photon energy is just above the ionization energy for typical organic compounds (8 to 11 eV), PI is a soft ionization method resulting in minimal fragmentation. Compounds that absorb ultraviolet light, such as aromatic compounds, tend to have higher sensitivity compared to other compounds.

Photoionization is a soft ionization method for GC-MS that does not require a reagent gas. It is easy to use and is effective in determining the elemental composition of an unknown compound.



PI source flange for
JMS-Q1600GC

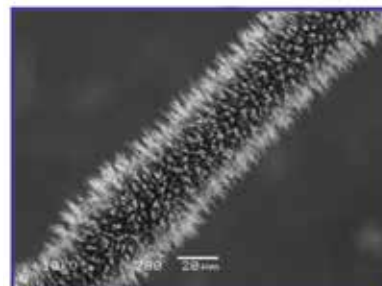
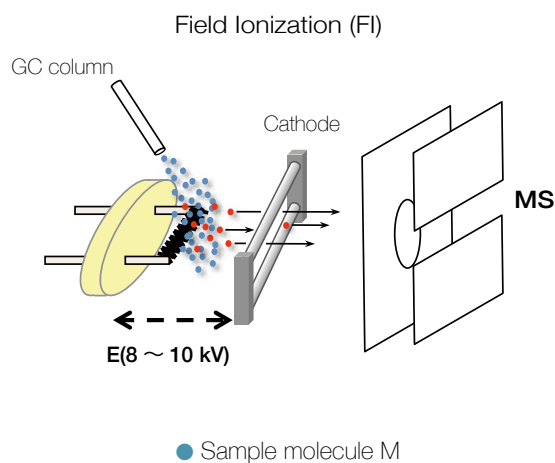


PI source flange for
JMS-T2000GC

Field Ionization (FI)

In field ionization, a high electrical potential (8 to 10 kV) is applied between a wire emitter coated with dendritic carbon microneedles and a counter electrode (cathode). Electron tunneling produces molecular ions when sample molecules are exposed to the high electric field at the sharp tip of each microneedle. The internal energy imparted into sample molecules during the ionization process is 1 eV or less, which is considerably smaller than that of the EI, CI, and PI methods, and results in minimal fragmentation. Although FI primarily produces molecular ions, protonated molecules are also possible for highly polar compounds. In practice, FI is used with GC-MS to ionize gaseous sample molecules as they elute from the GC column.

Field ionization is available for JEOL AccuTOF™ GC series GC-TOFMS systems.



Scanning electron micrograph of a
carbon emitter

INDEX

Classification of compounds	Page No.	Classification of compounds	Page No.
n-Alkanes		Phthalic acid esters	
Pentadecane	4	Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate) [DEHP]	20
Pentacosane	5	Diisononyl Phthalate [DINP]	21
Octatriacontane	6	Phenols	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)		2,6-Di-tert-butyl-p-cresol [BHT]	22
Anthracene	7	2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane [Bisphenol A]	23
Pyrene	8	4,4'-Methylenebis(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol) [Ethanox 702]	24
Benzo[a]pyrene	9	2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane [Irganox 1076]	25
Cycloalkanes		Amines	
Cyclohexane	10	N,N-Dimethylbenzylamine	26
Methylcyclohexane	11	Triisopropanolamine	27
Ketones		Fatty acid amides	
Benzophenone	12	Oleamide	28
2-Hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone	13	Stearamide	29
Fatty acid esters		Halogen compounds	
Methyl palmitate	14	2-Bromophenol	30
Methyl stearate	15	Hexachlorobenzene	31
Alcohols		2-t-Butyl-6-(5-chloro-2 H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-methylphenol	
1,6-Hexanediol	16	[Tinuvin326]	32
1-Octanol	17	Phosphorus compounds	
Terpenes		Tributyl Phosphate	33
Limonene	18	Tris(2-ethylhexyl) Phosphate	34
DL- α -Tocopherol [Vitamin E]	19		

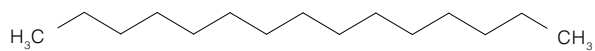
JEOL's GC-MS

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CI	●	●	●	
PI	●	●	●	
FI			●	

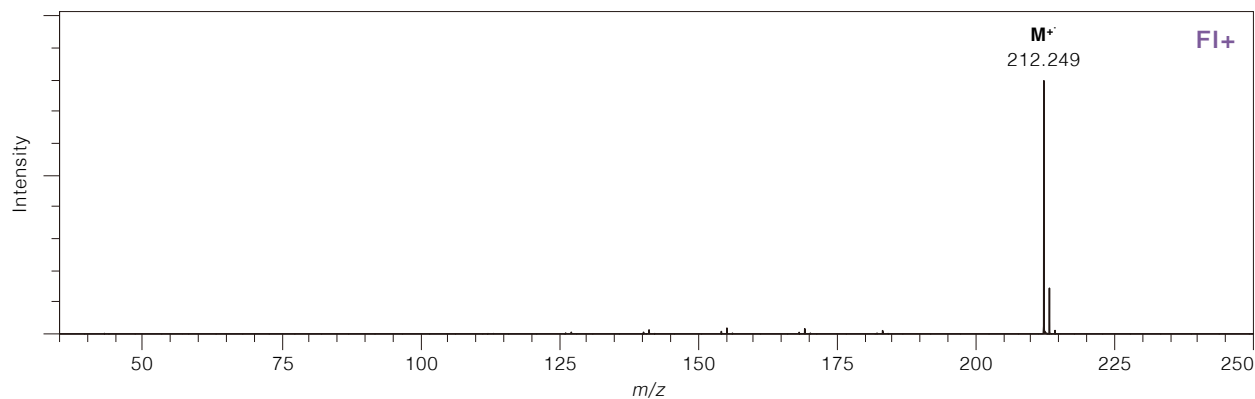
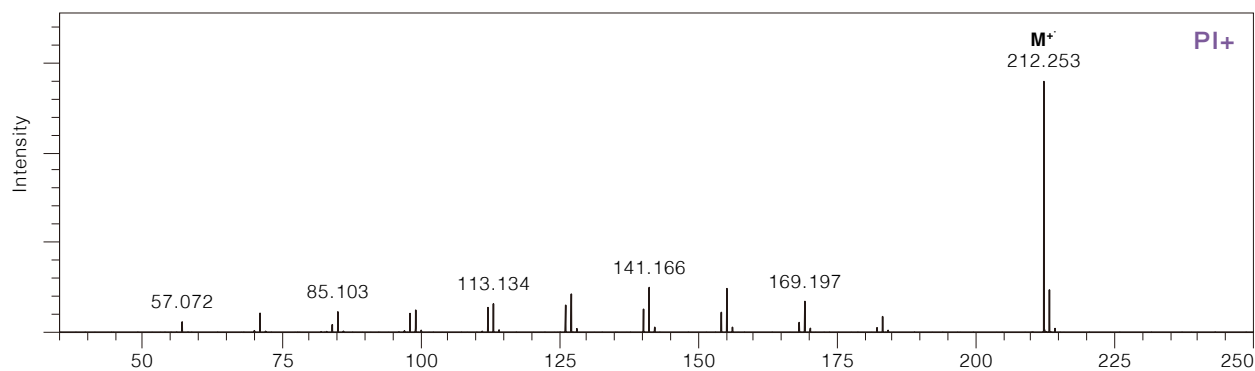
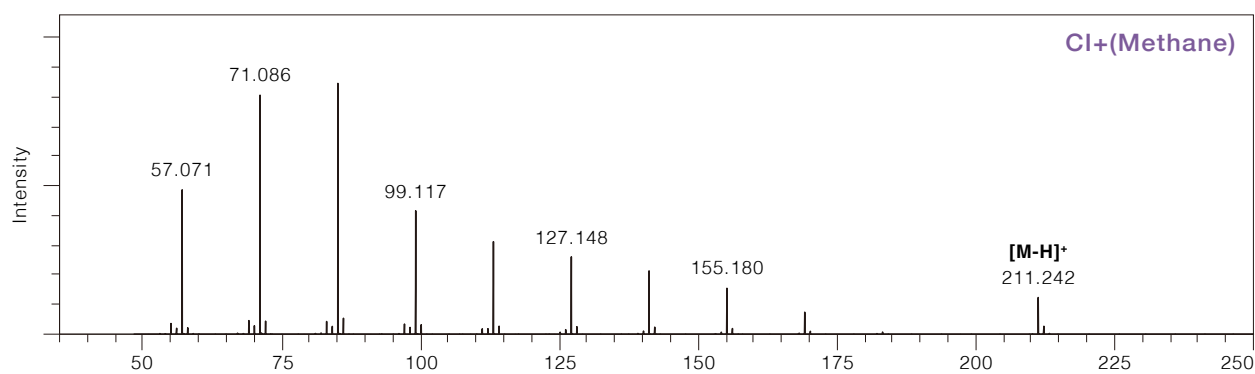
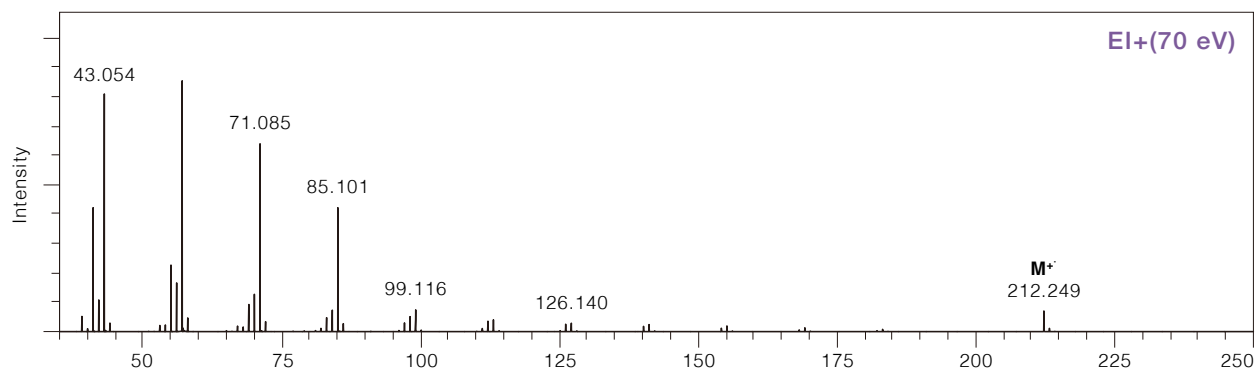
n-Alkanes

Pentadecane

CAS No.629-62-9



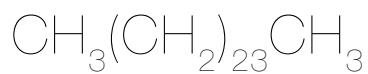
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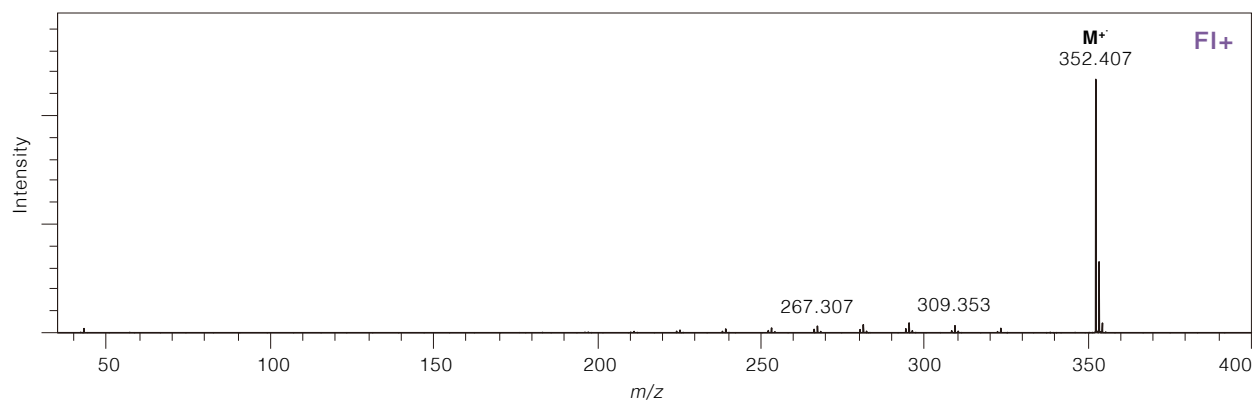
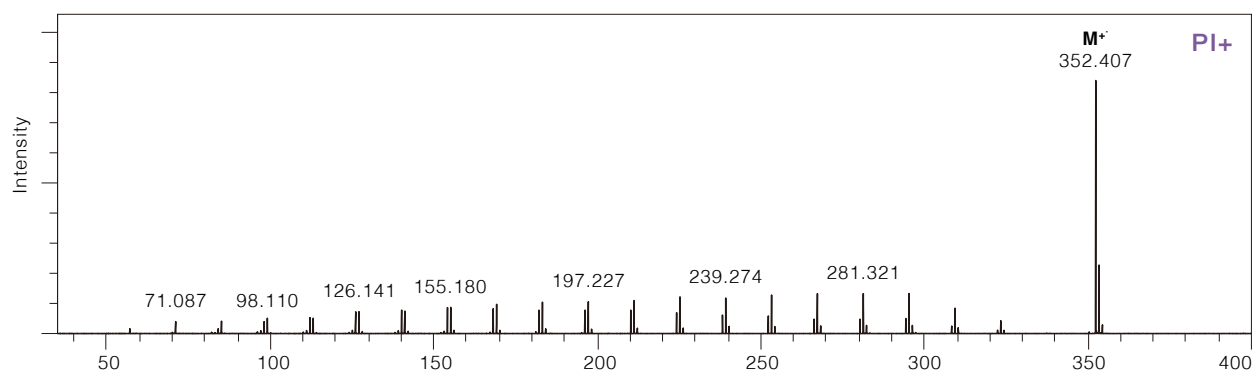
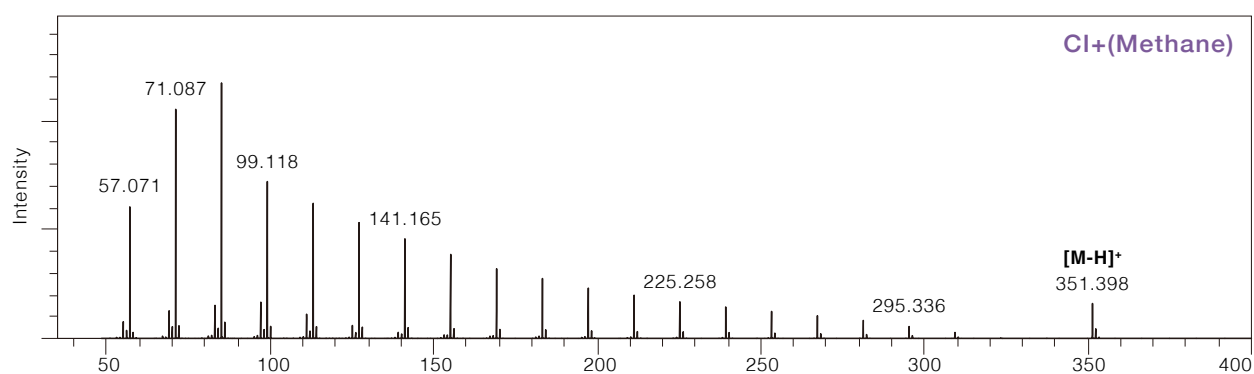
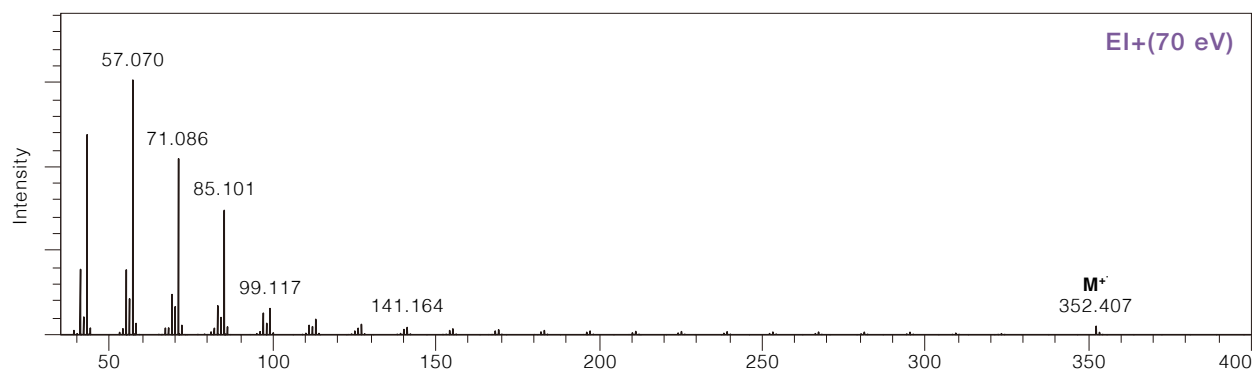
n-Alkanes

Pentacosane

CAS No.629-99-2



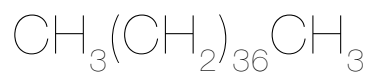
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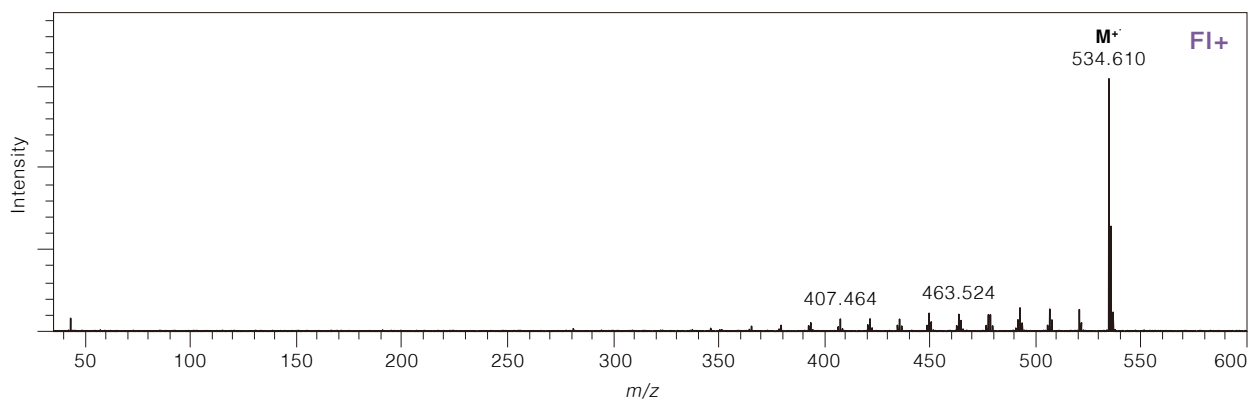
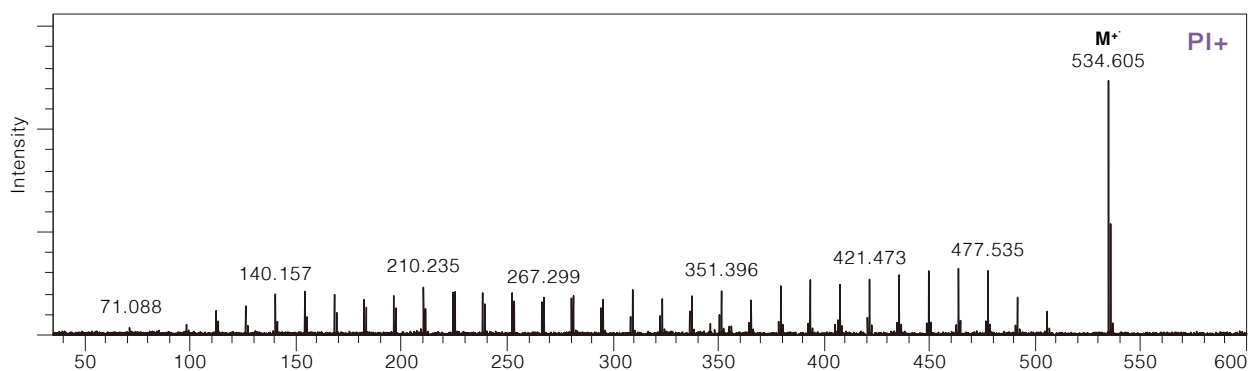
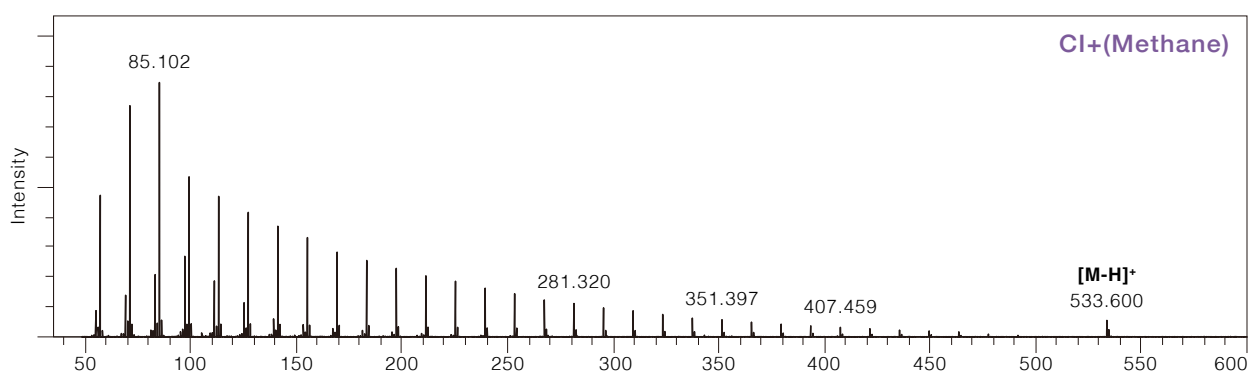
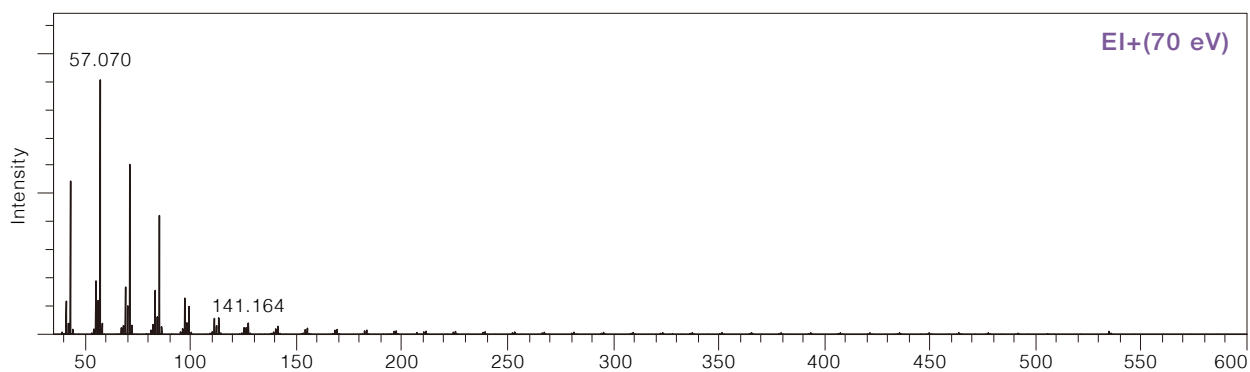
n-Alkanes

Octatriacontane

CAS No.7194-85-6



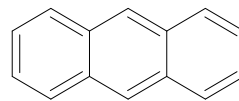
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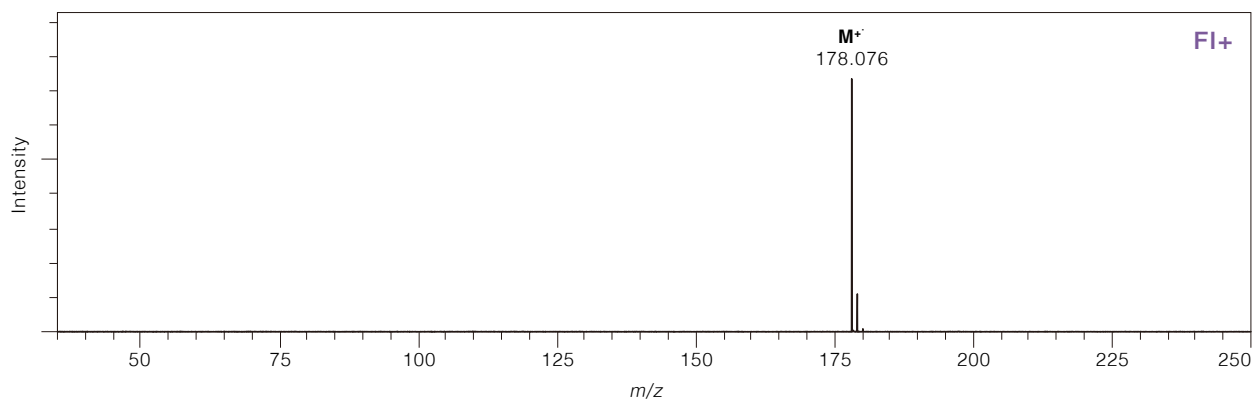
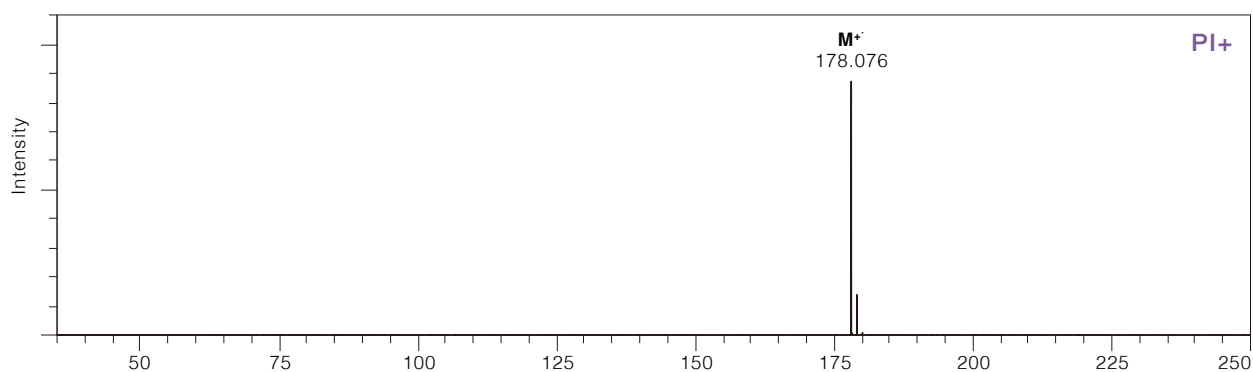
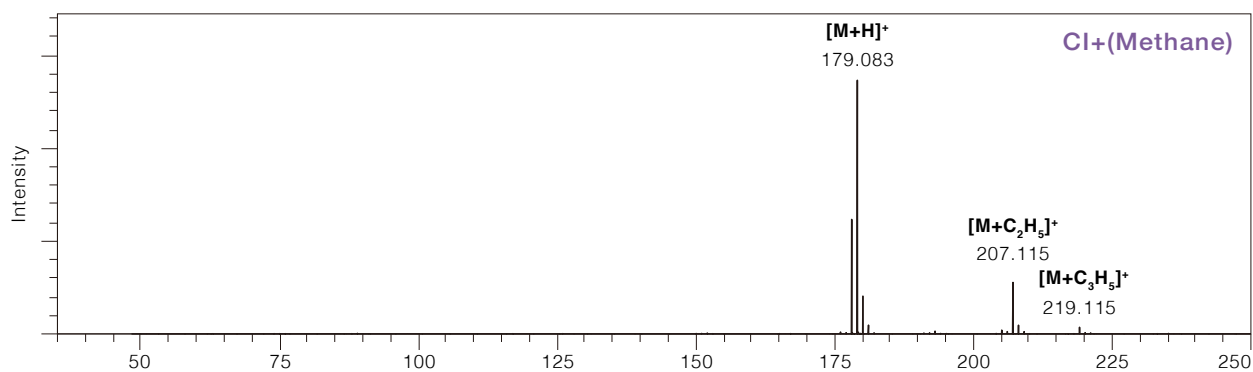
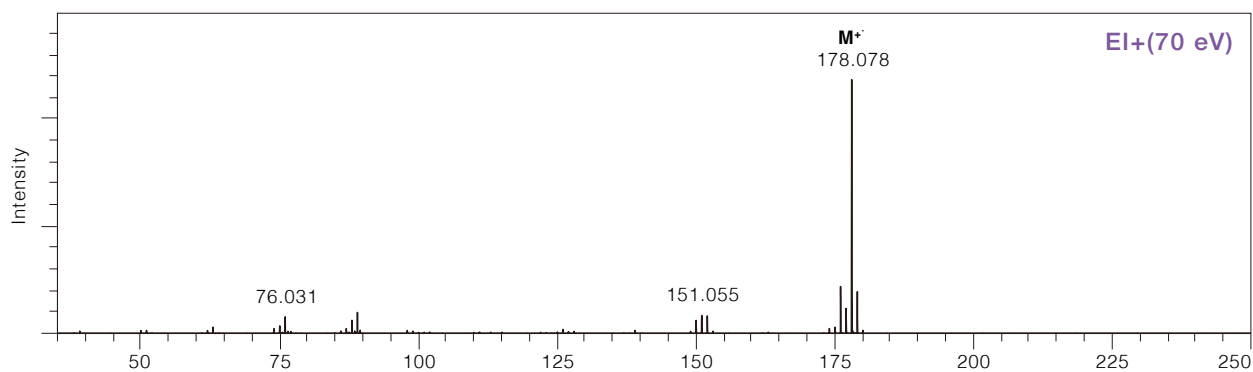
PAHs

Anthracene

CAS No.120-12-7



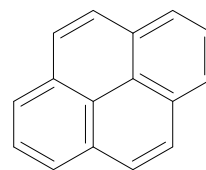
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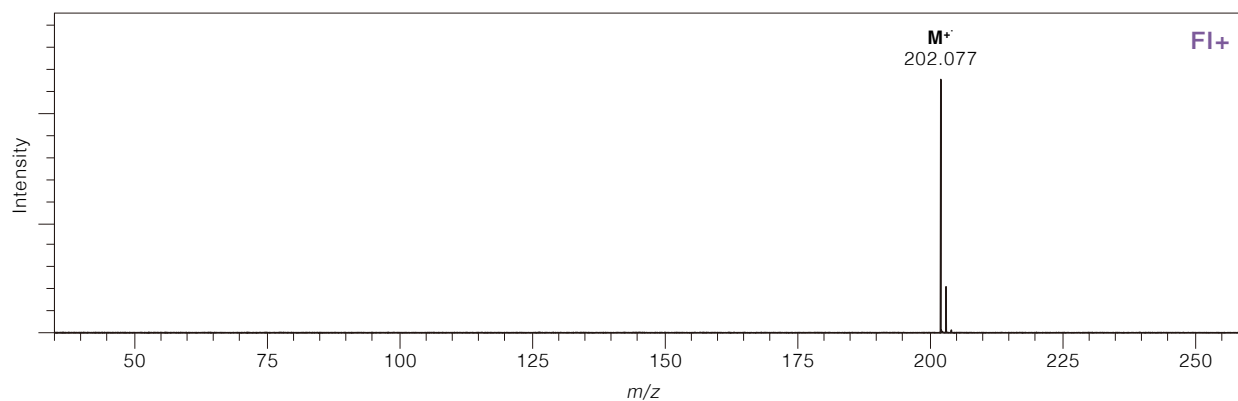
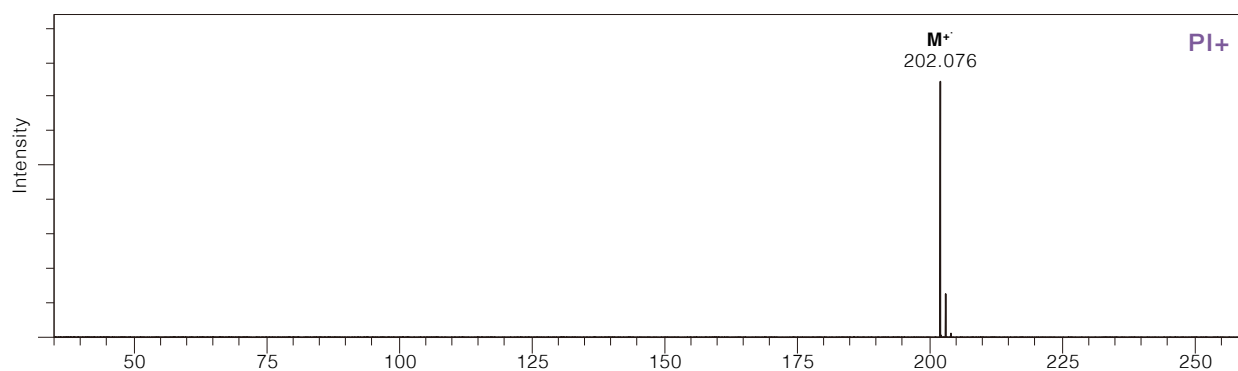
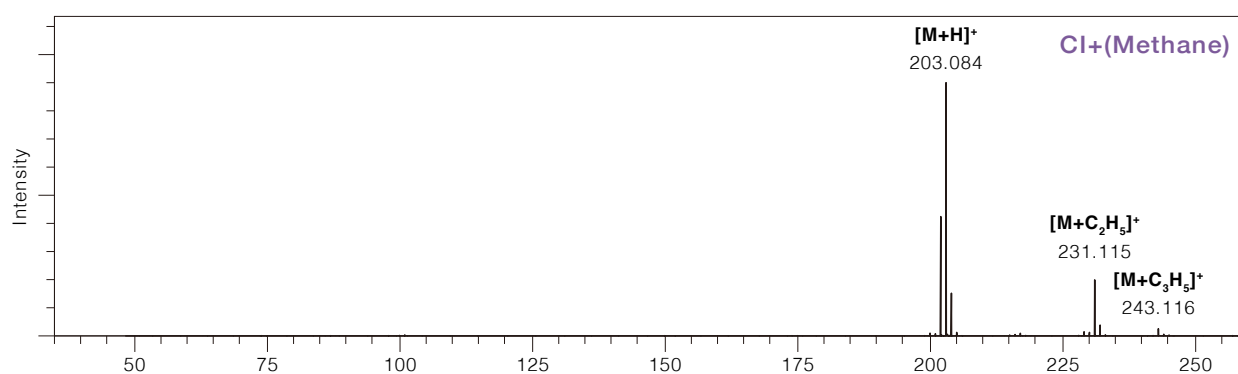
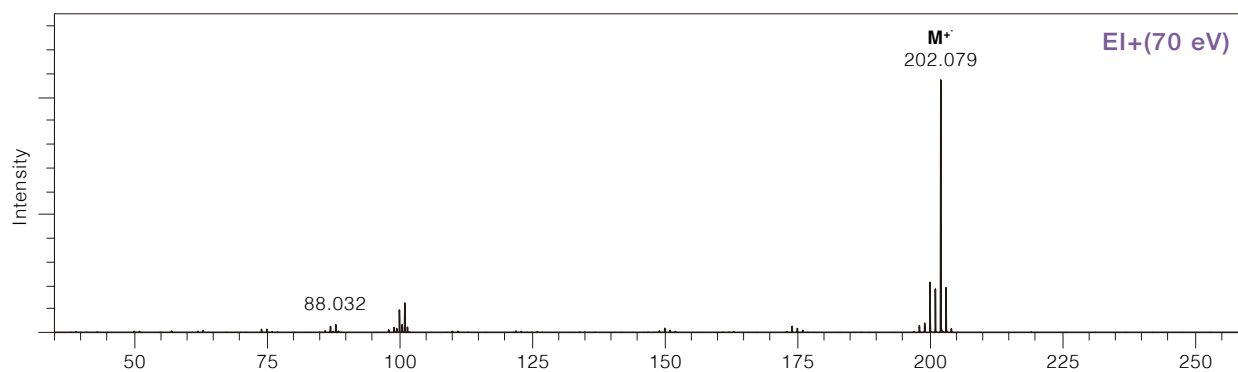
PAHs

Pyrene

CAS No.129-00-0



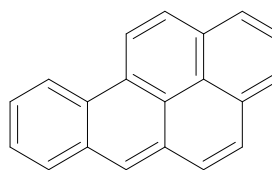
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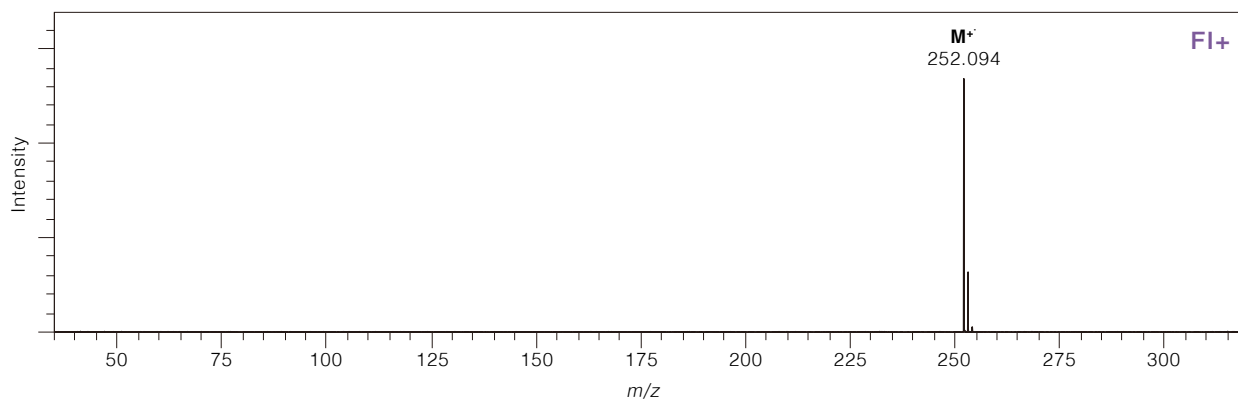
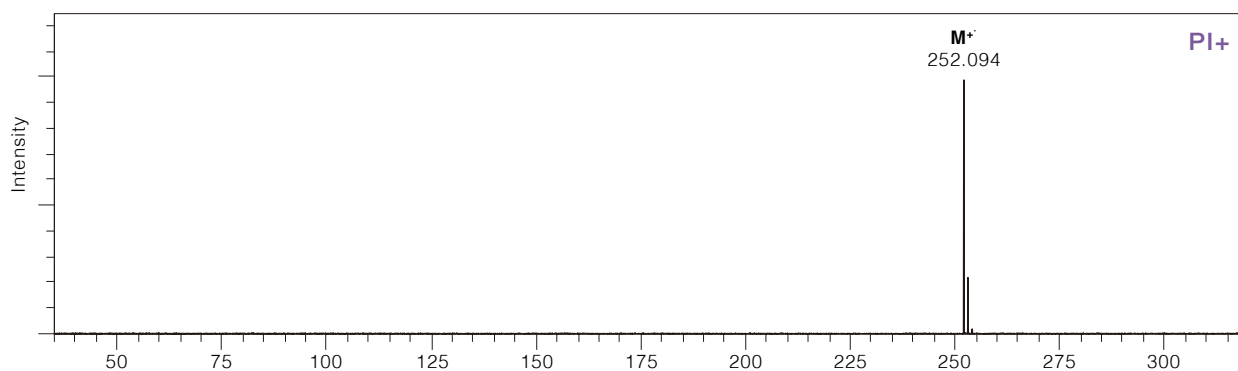
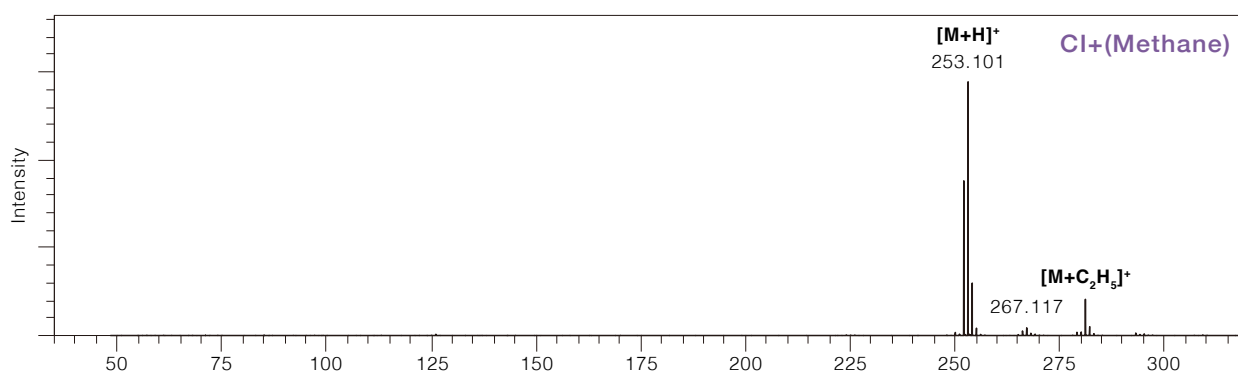
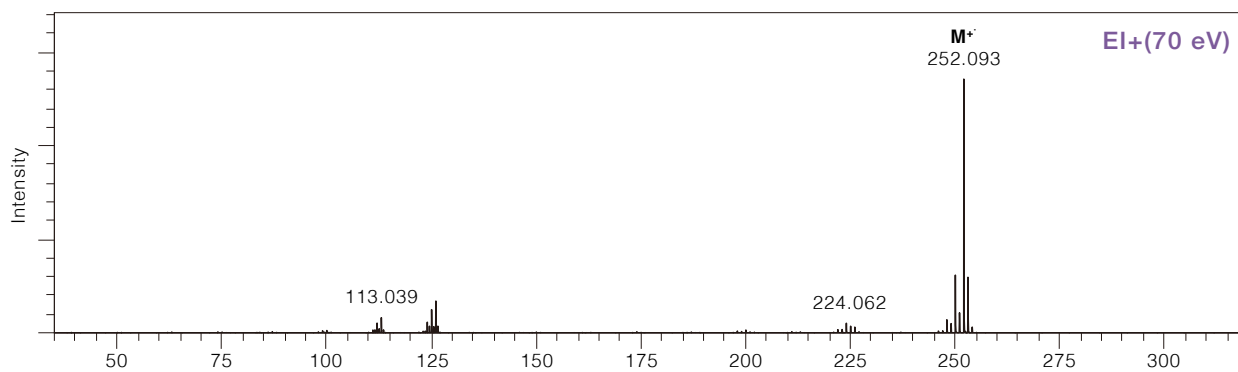
PAHs

Benzo[a]pyrene

CAS No.50-32-8



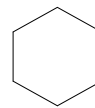
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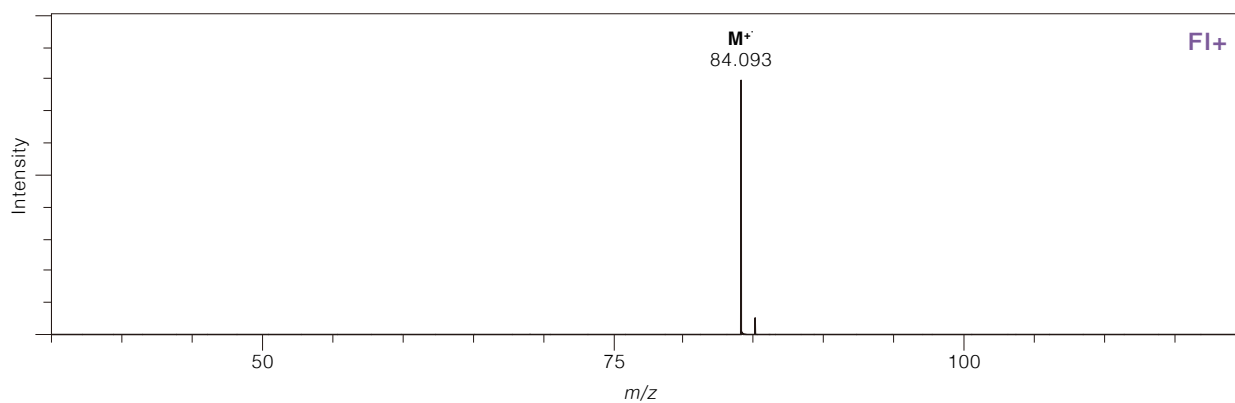
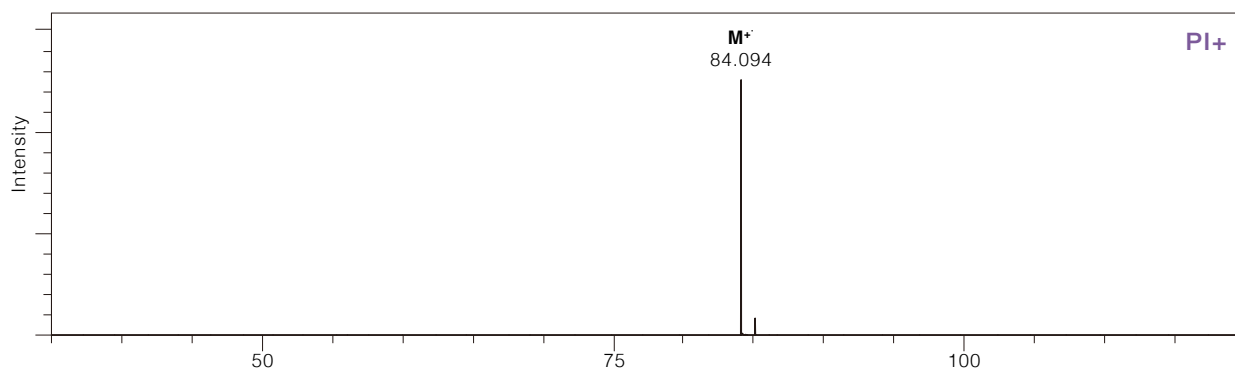
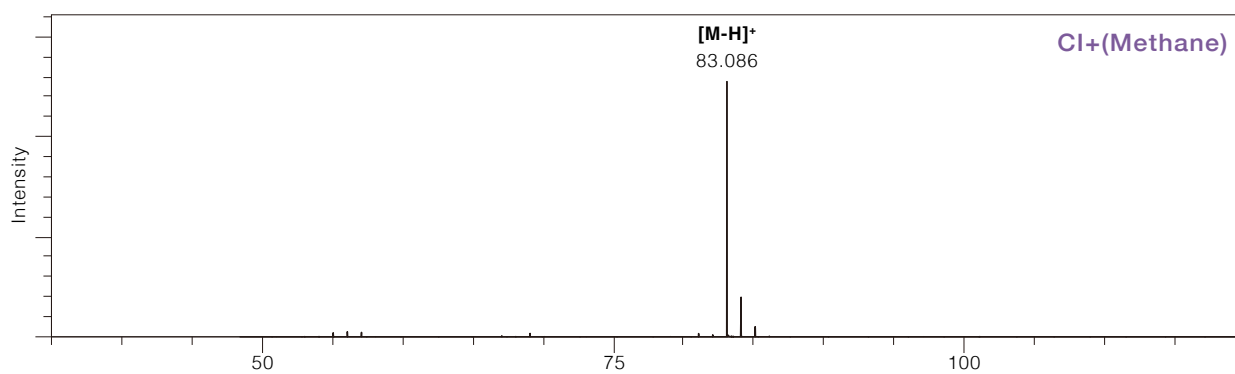
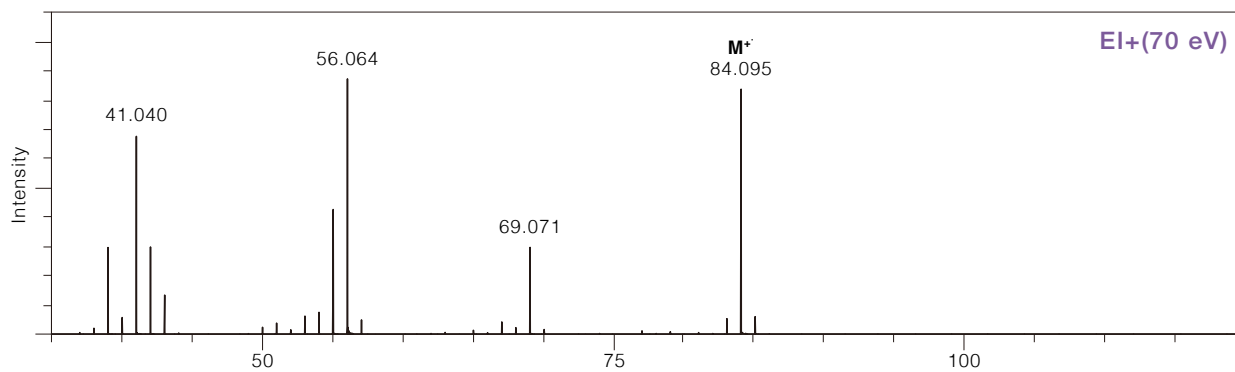
Cycloalkanes

Cyclohexane

CAS No.110-82-7



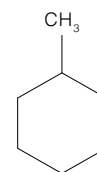
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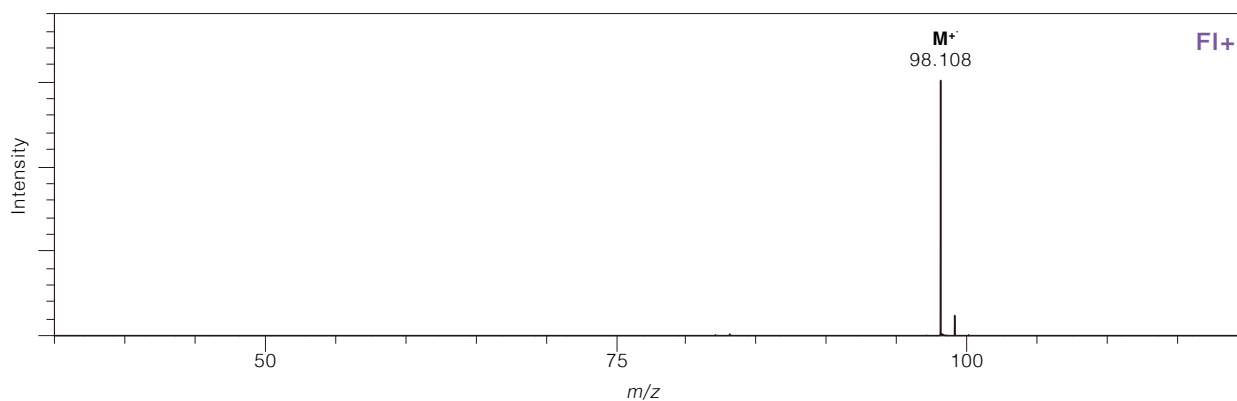
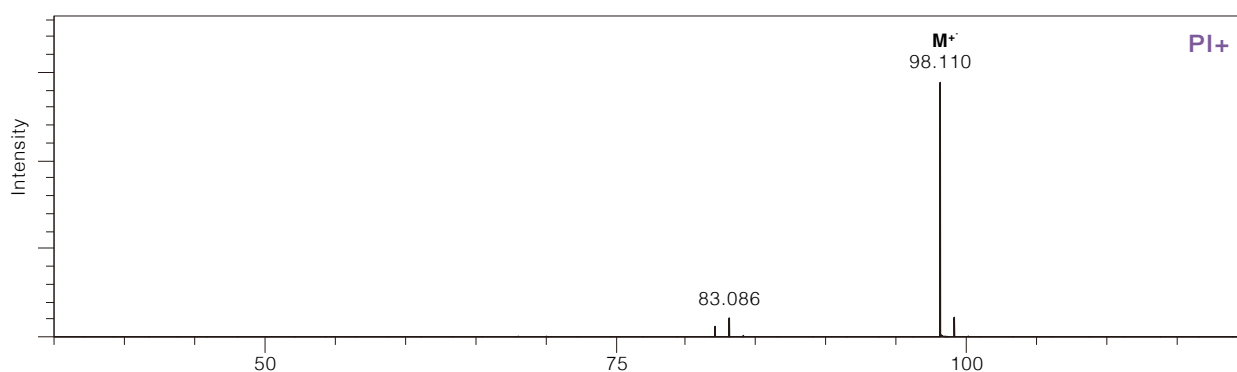
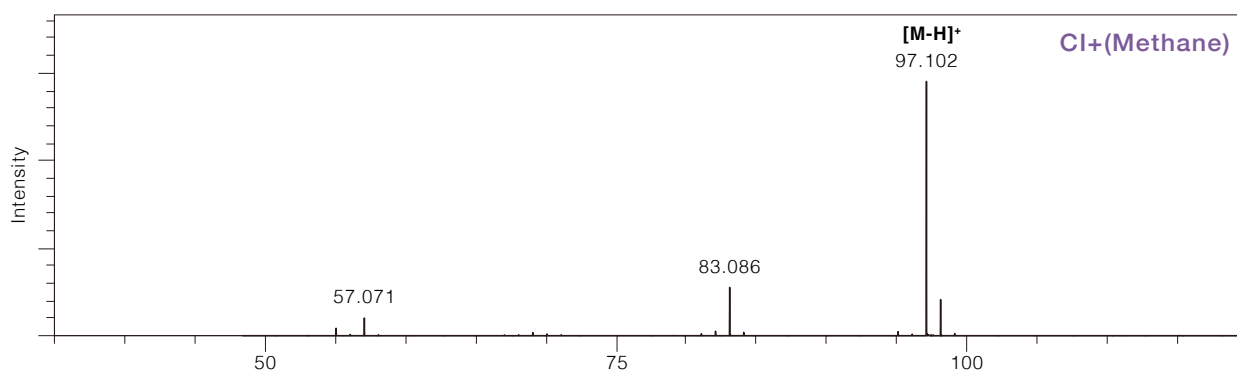
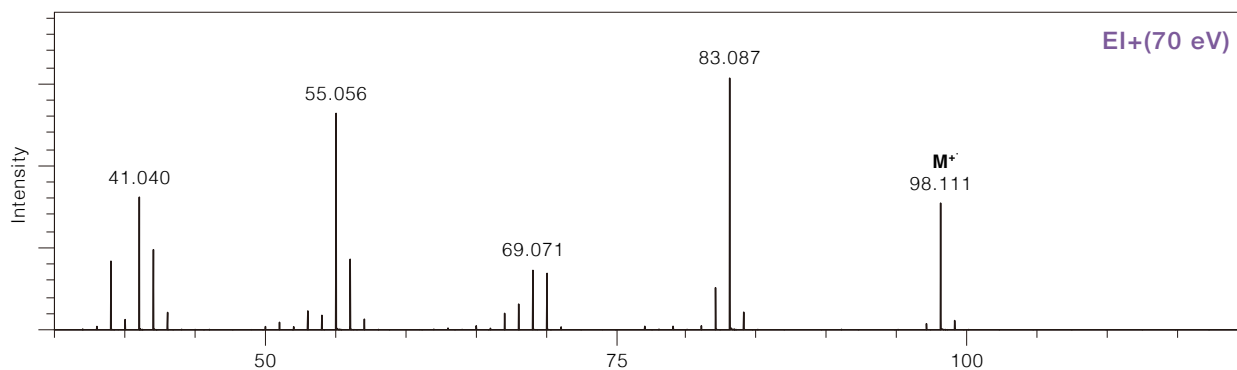
Cycloalkanes

Methylcyclohexane

CAS No.108-87-2



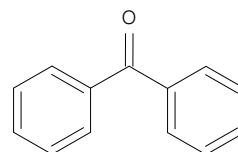
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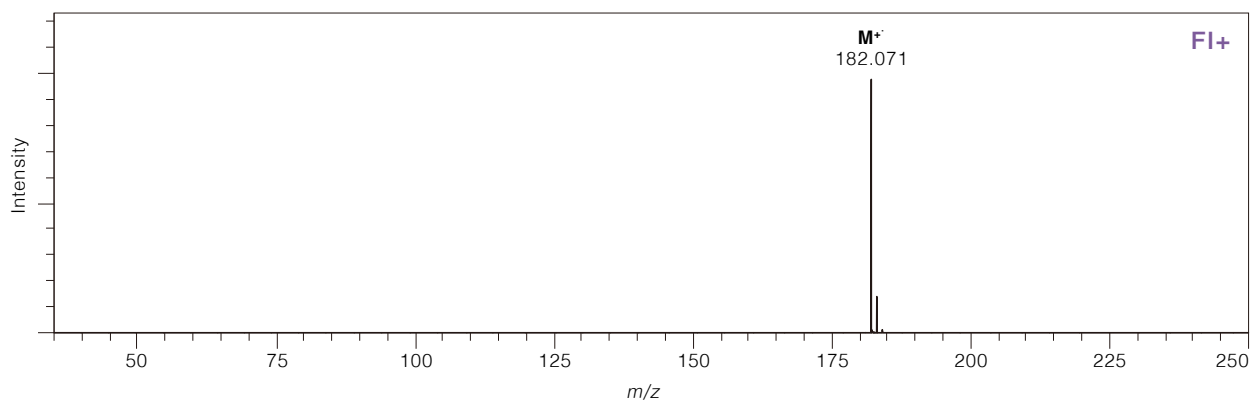
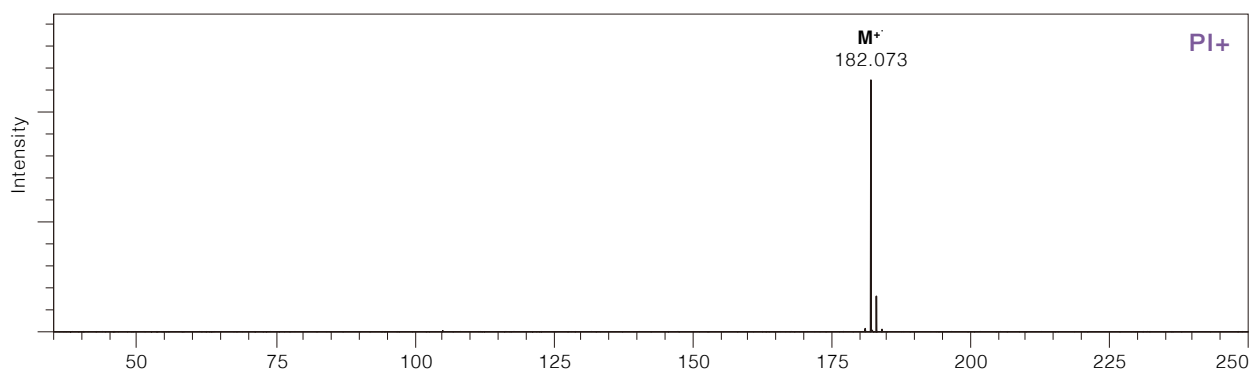
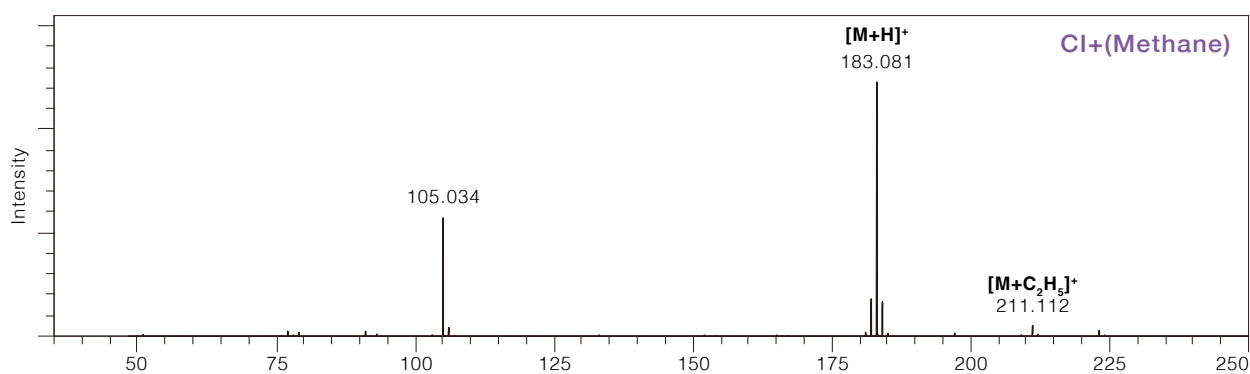
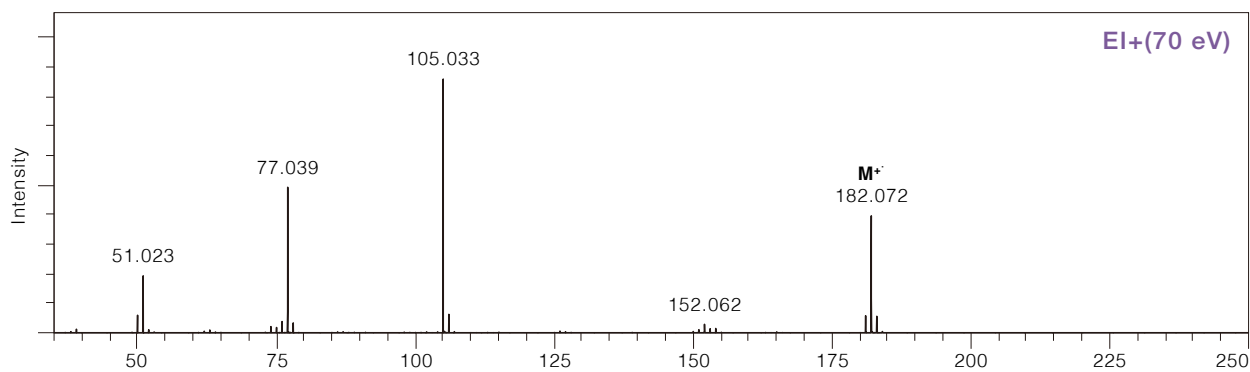
Ketones

Benzophenone

CAS No.119-61-9



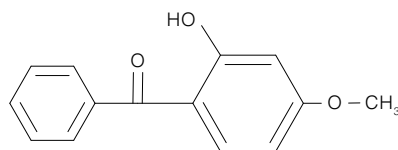
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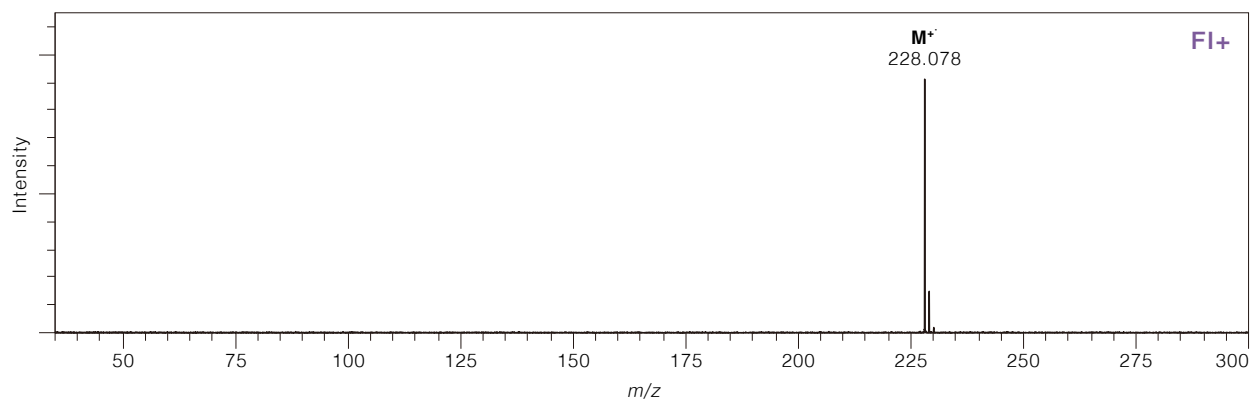
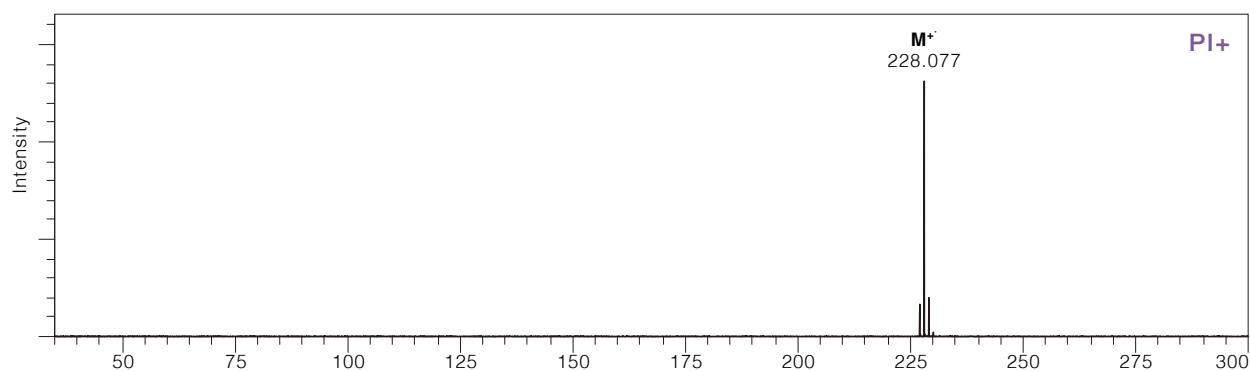
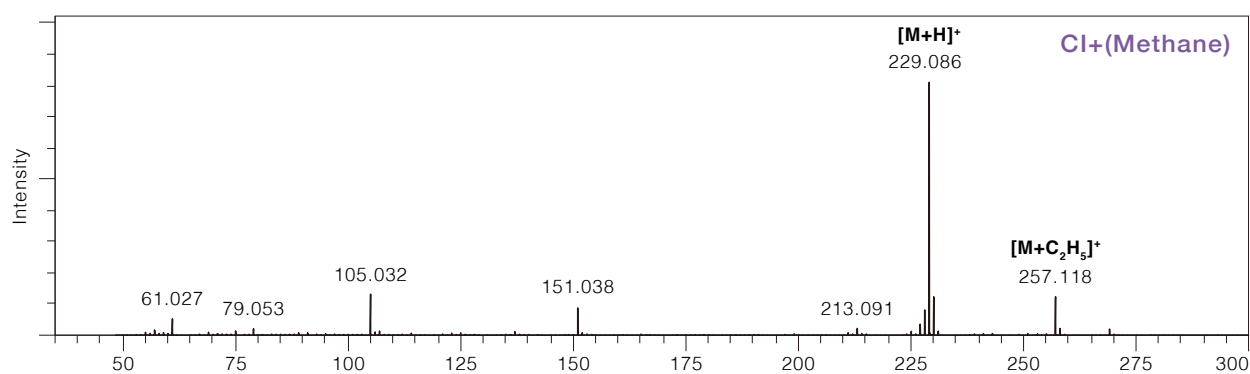
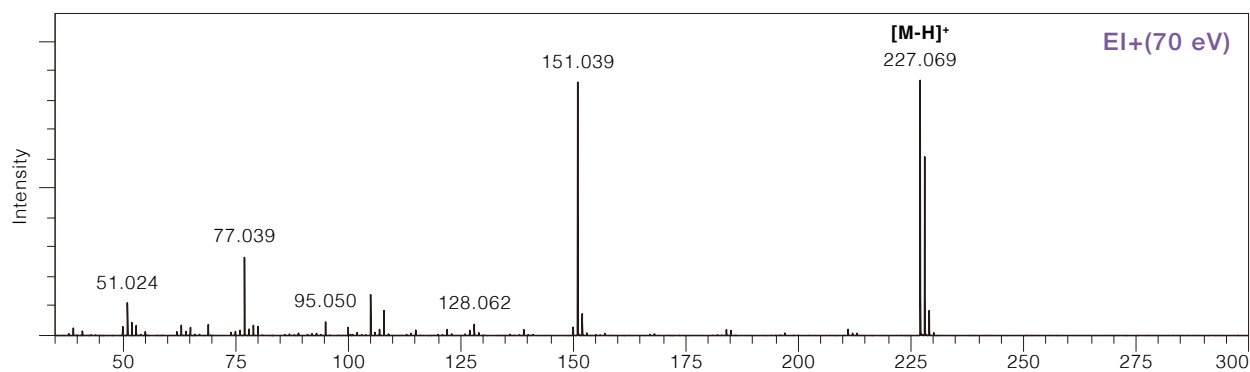
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2-Hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone

CAS No.131-57-7



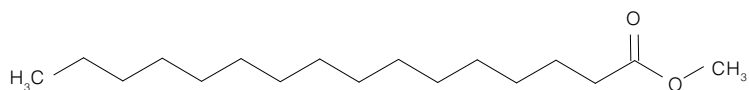
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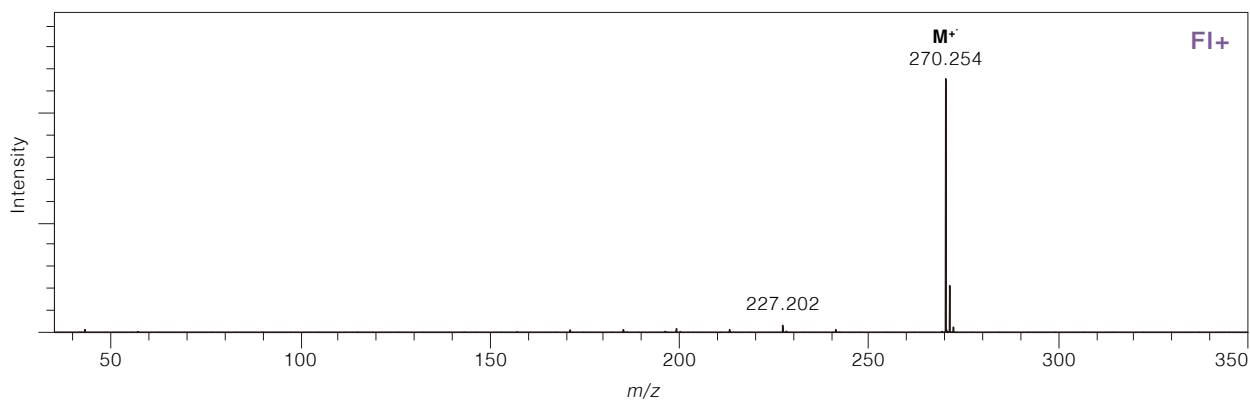
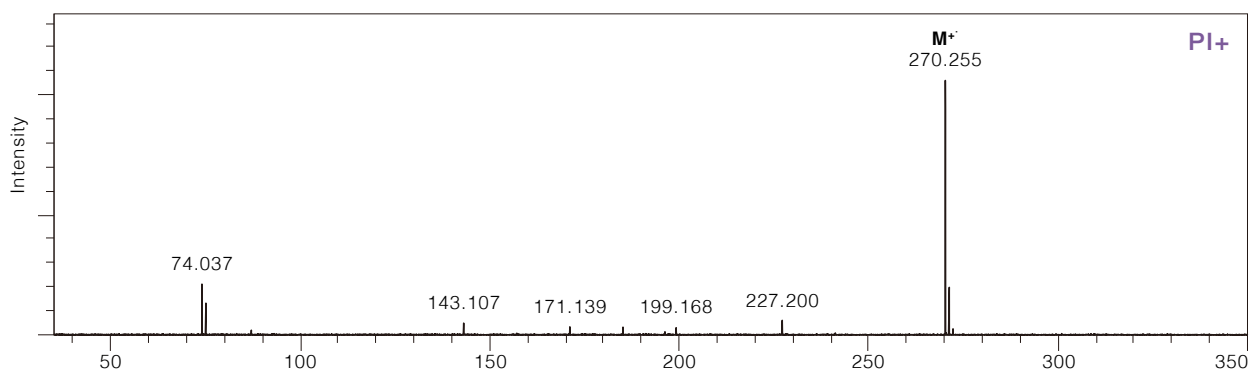
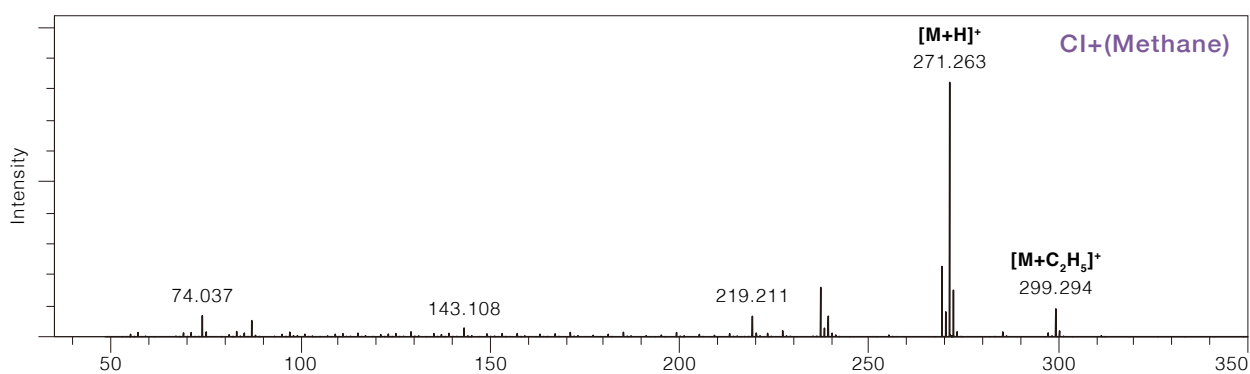
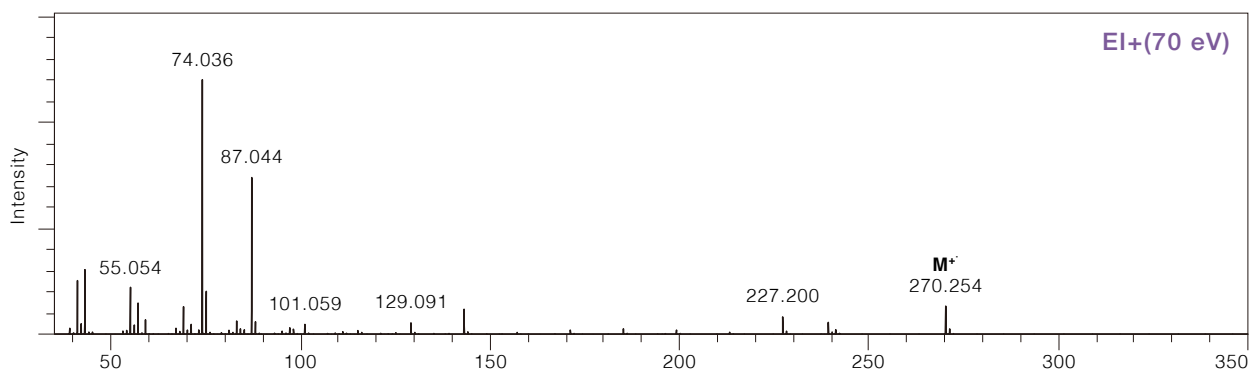
Fatty acid esters

Methyl palmitate

CAS No.112-39-0



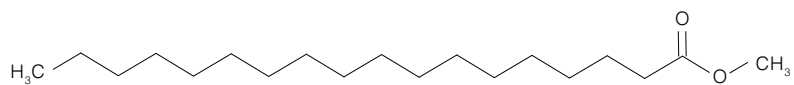
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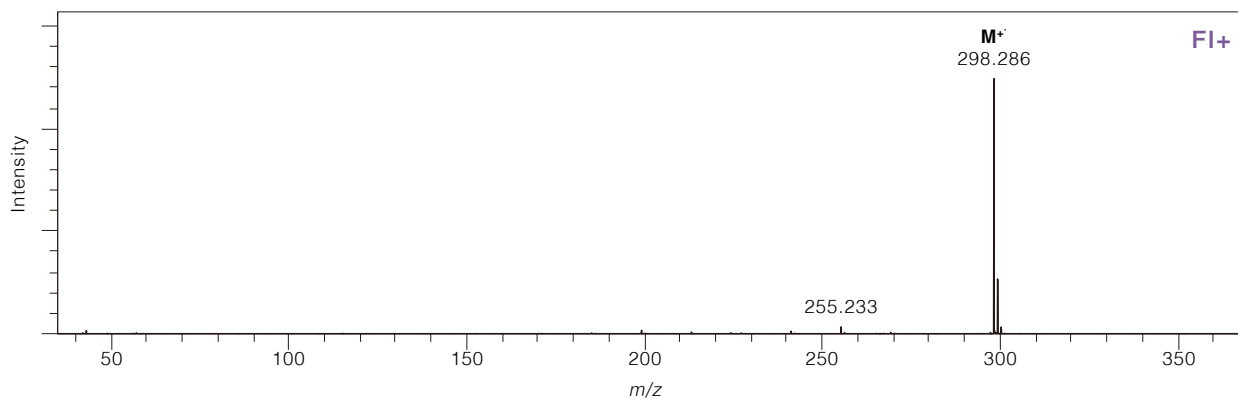
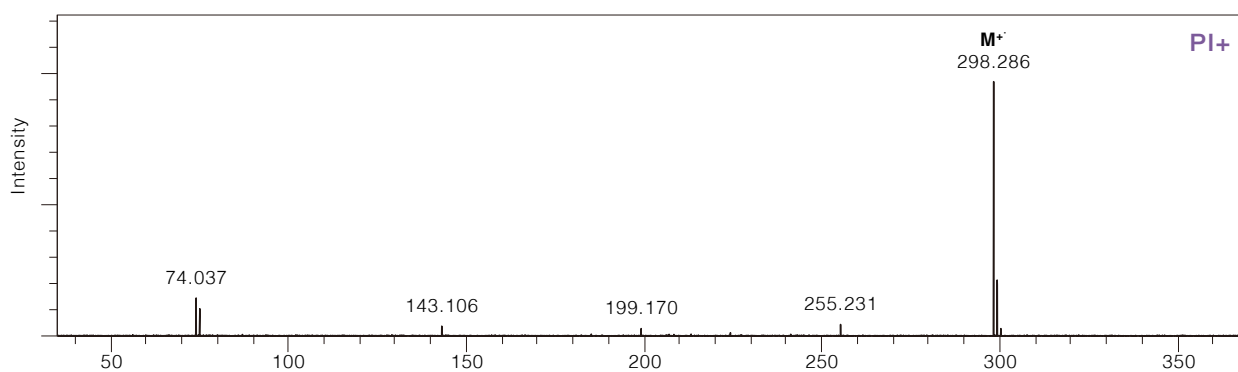
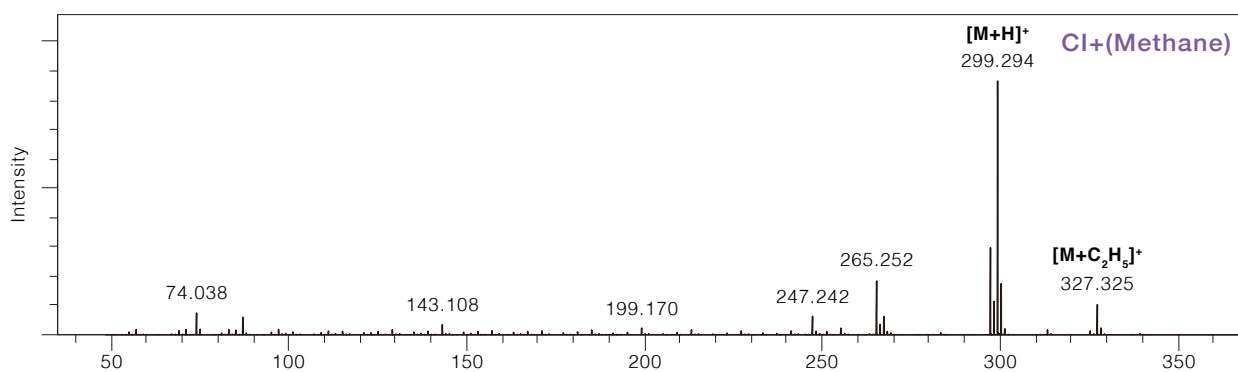
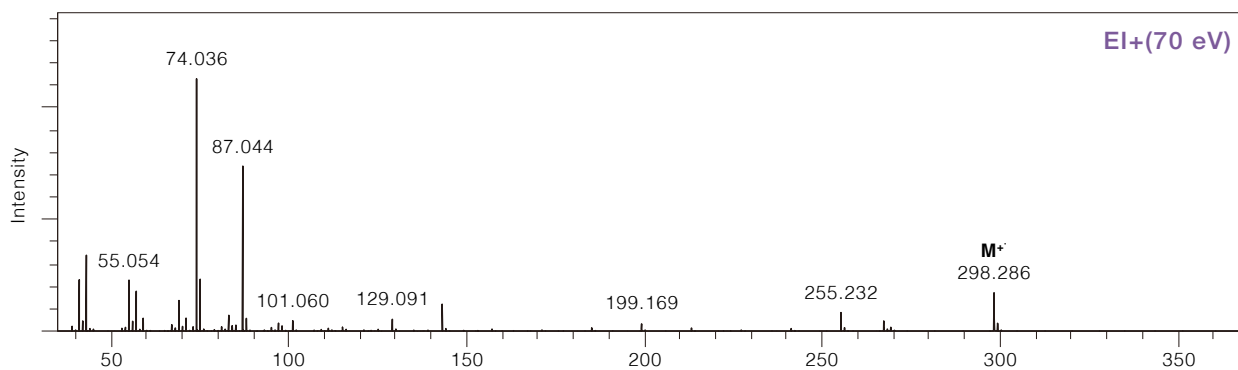
Fatty acid esters

Methyl stearate

CAS No.112-61-8



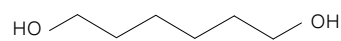
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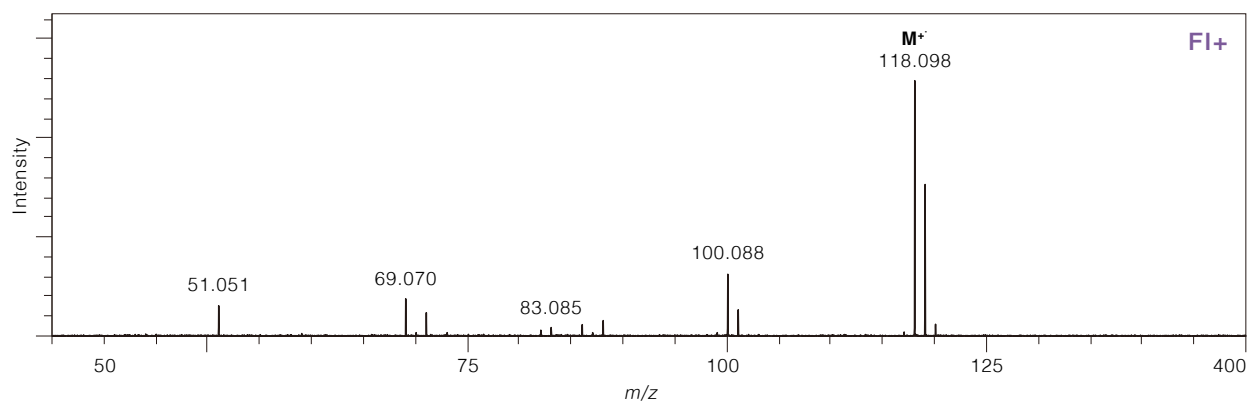
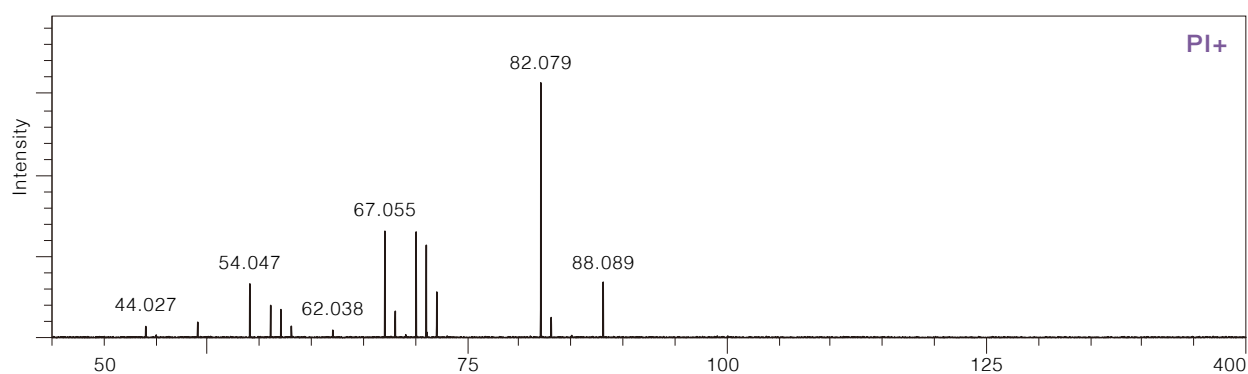
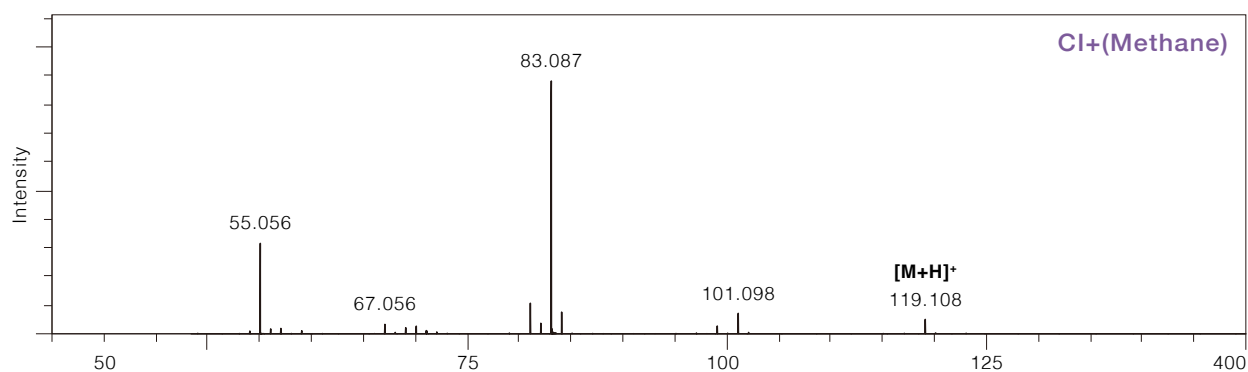
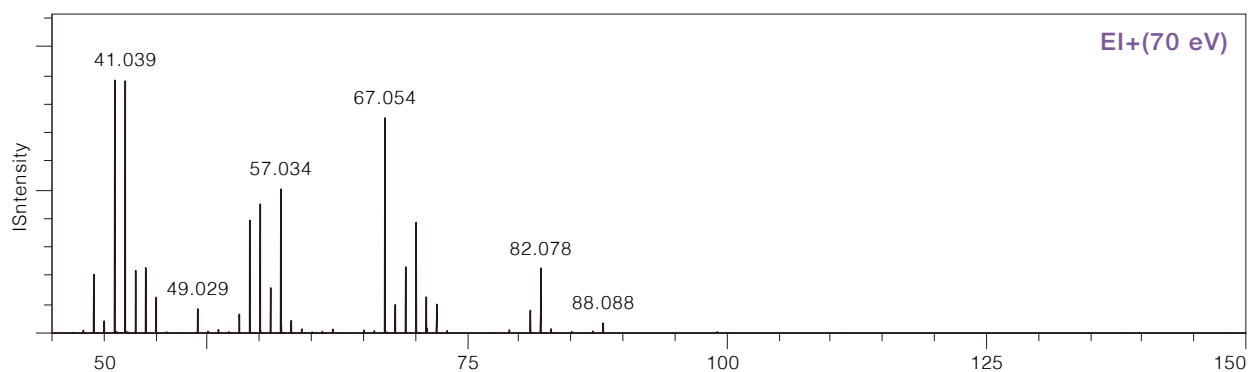
Alcohols

1,6-Hexanediol

CAS No.629-11-8



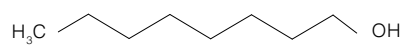
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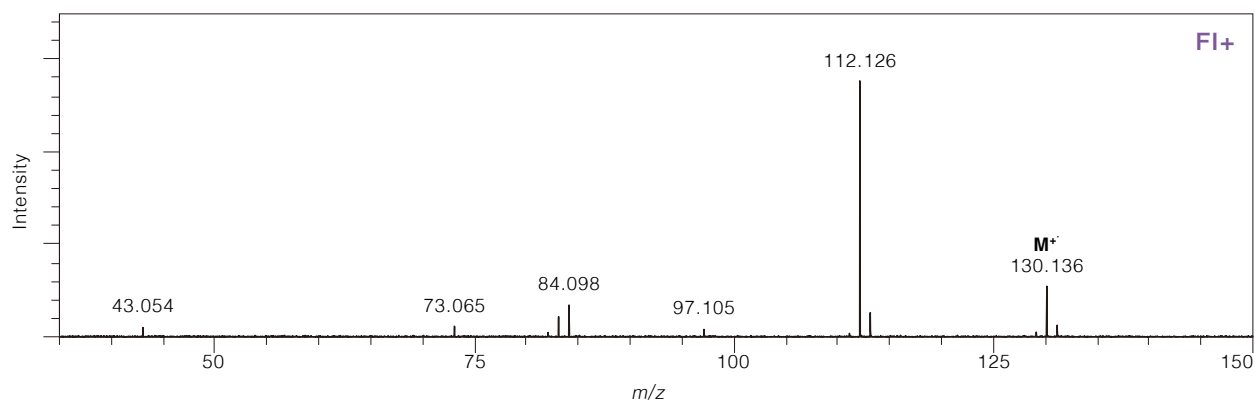
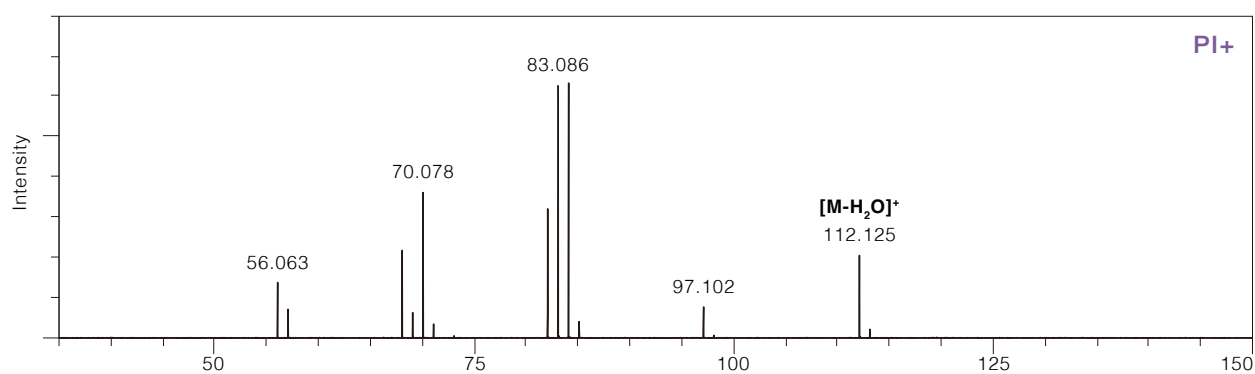
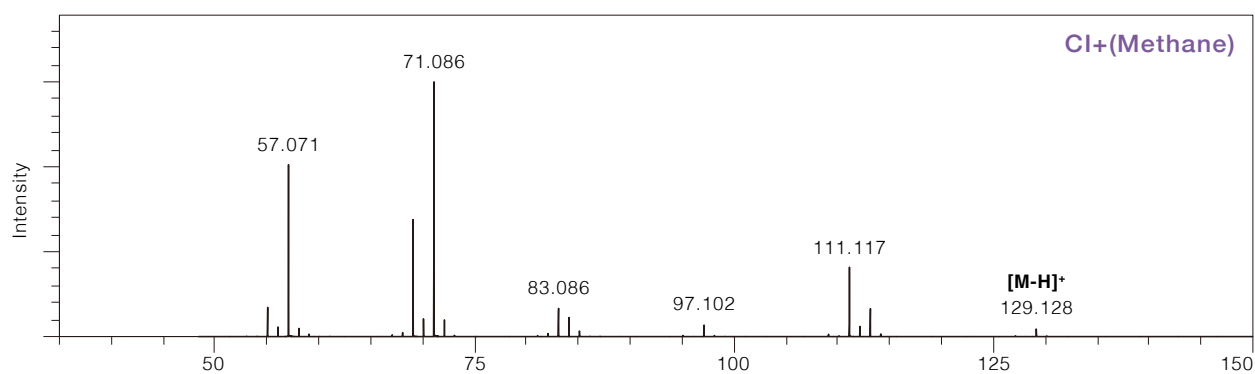
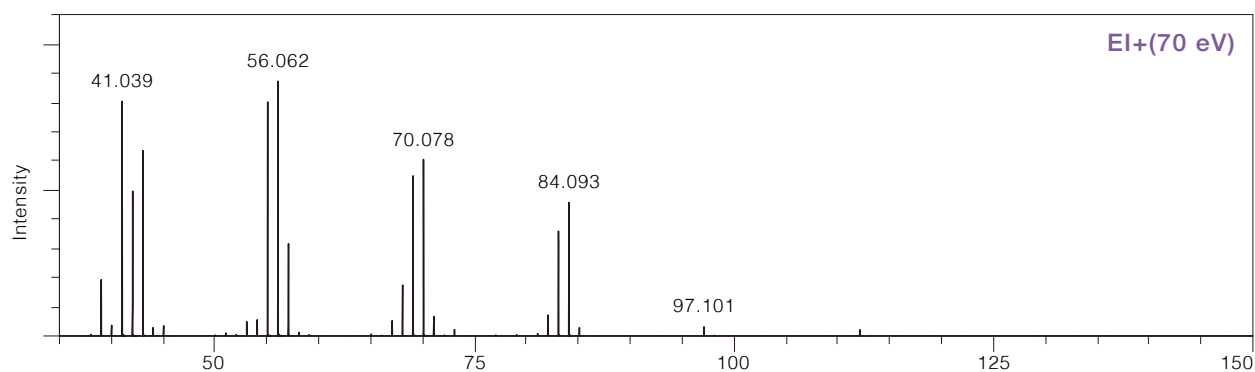
Alcohols

1-Octanol

CAS No.111-87-5



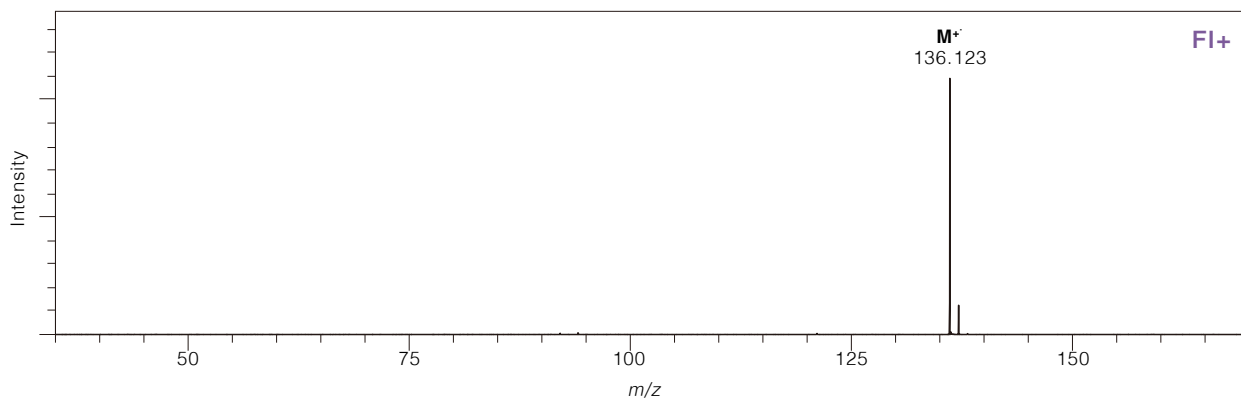
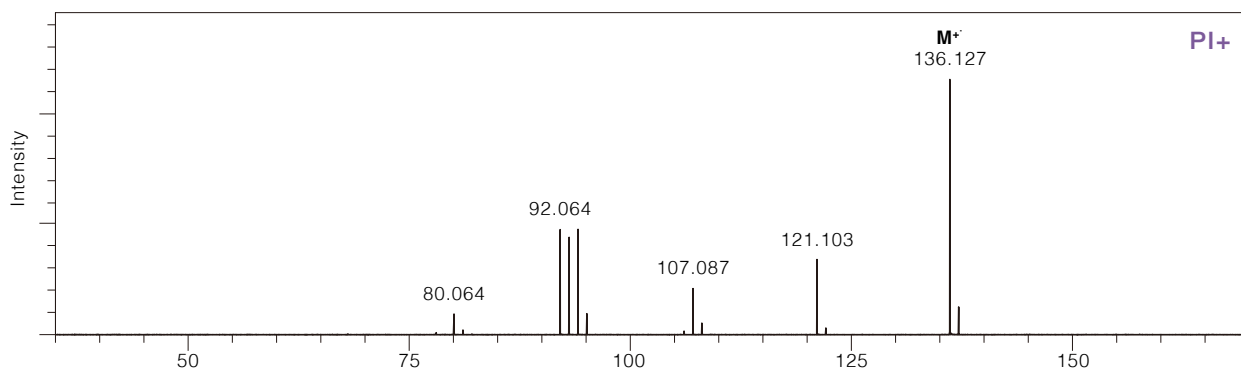
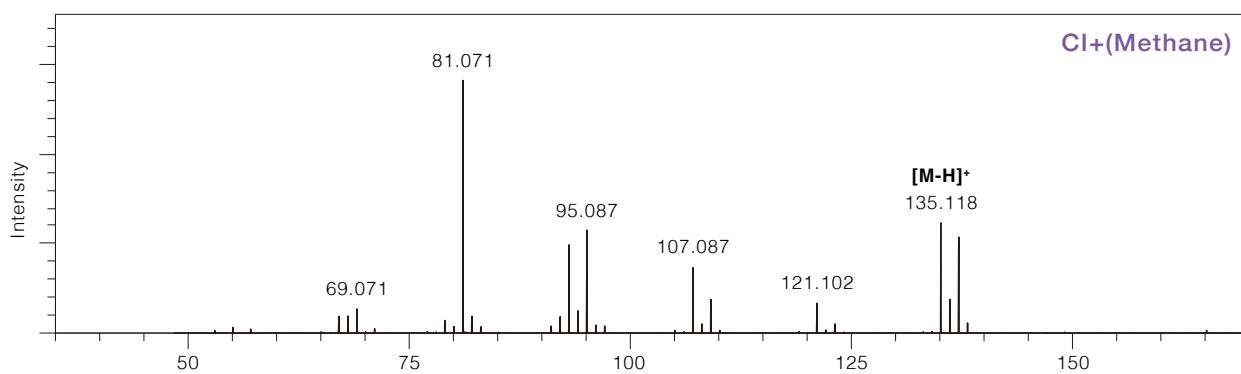
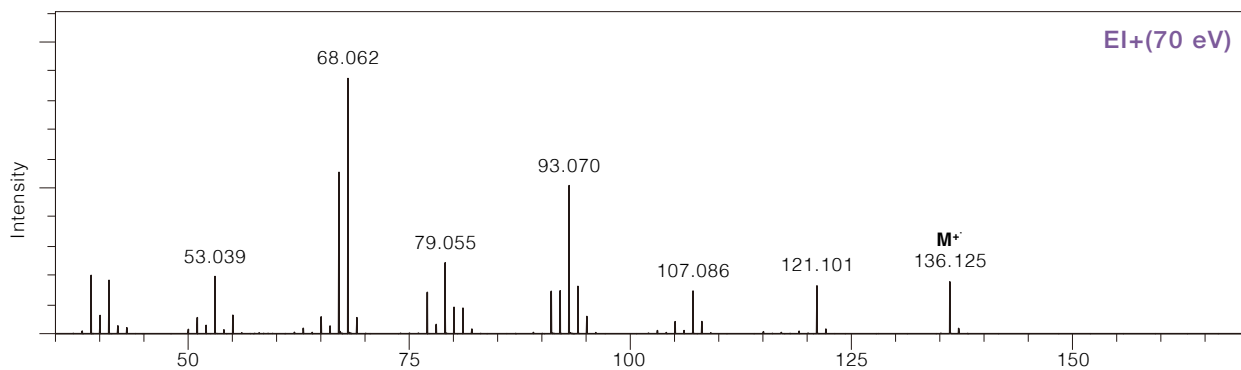
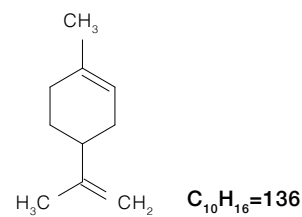
$\text{C}_8\text{H}_{18}\text{O}=130$



Terpenes

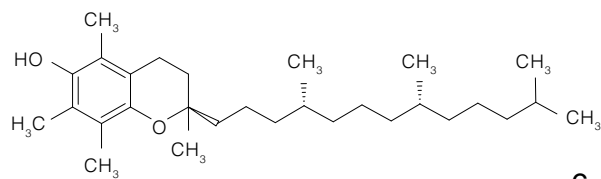
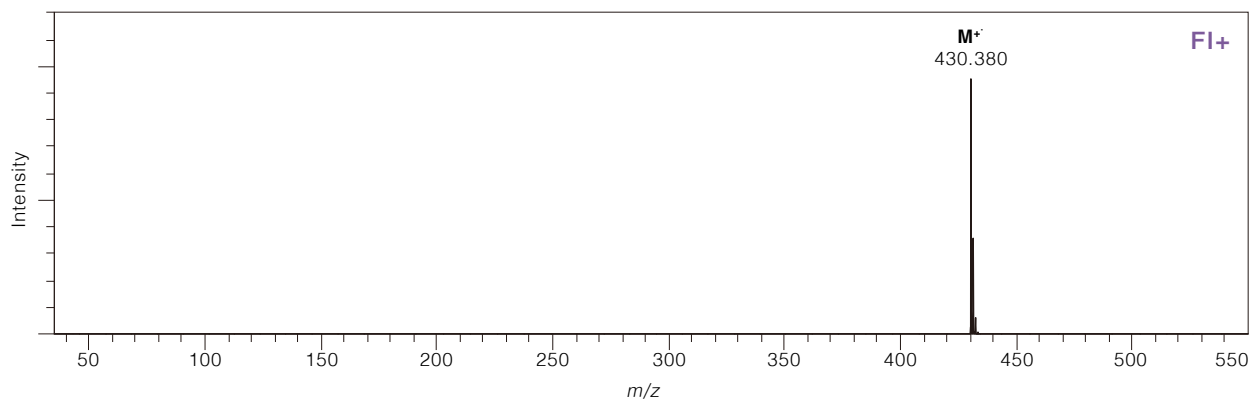
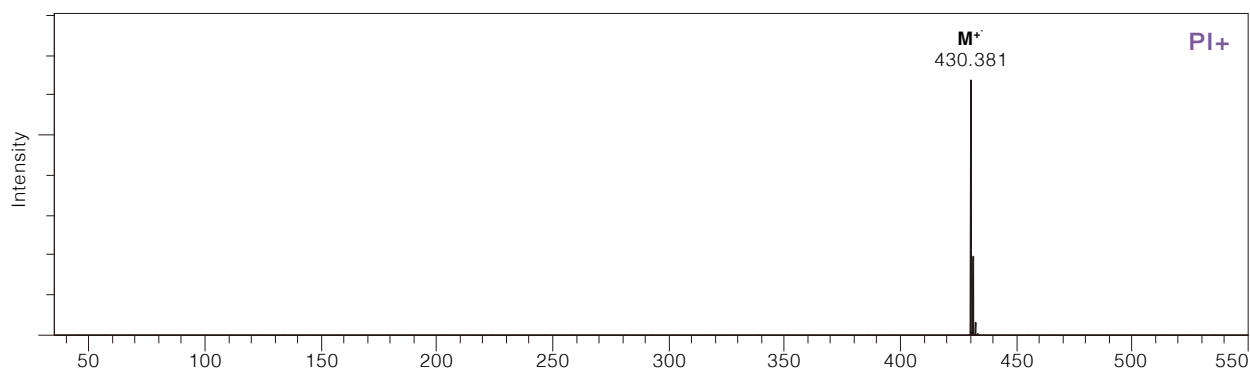
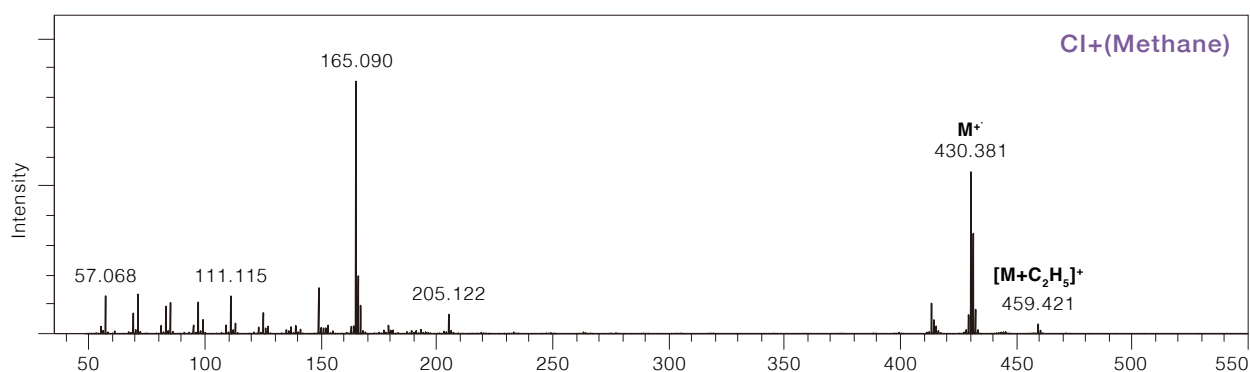
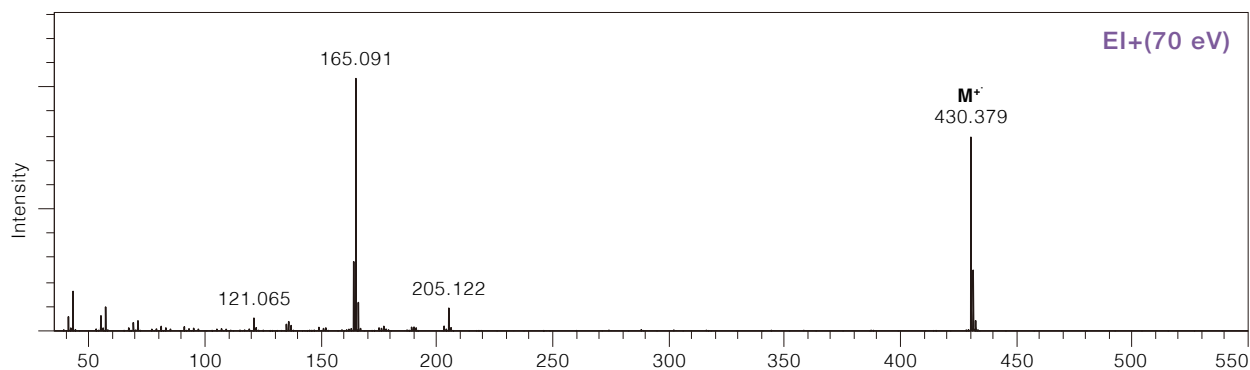
Limonene

CAS No.138-86-3



DL- α -Tocopherol
[Vitamin E]

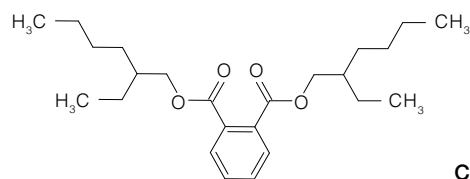
CAS No.10191-41-0


$$\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{50}\text{O}=430$$


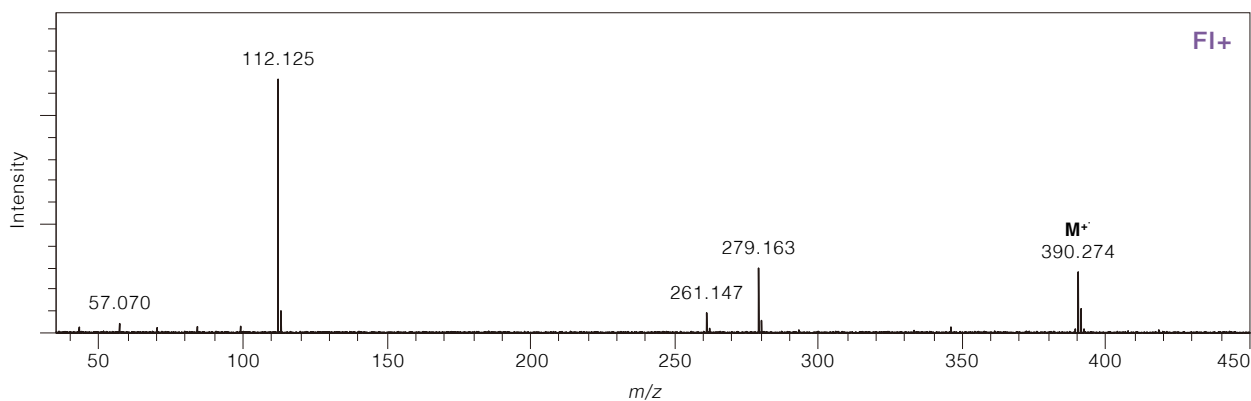
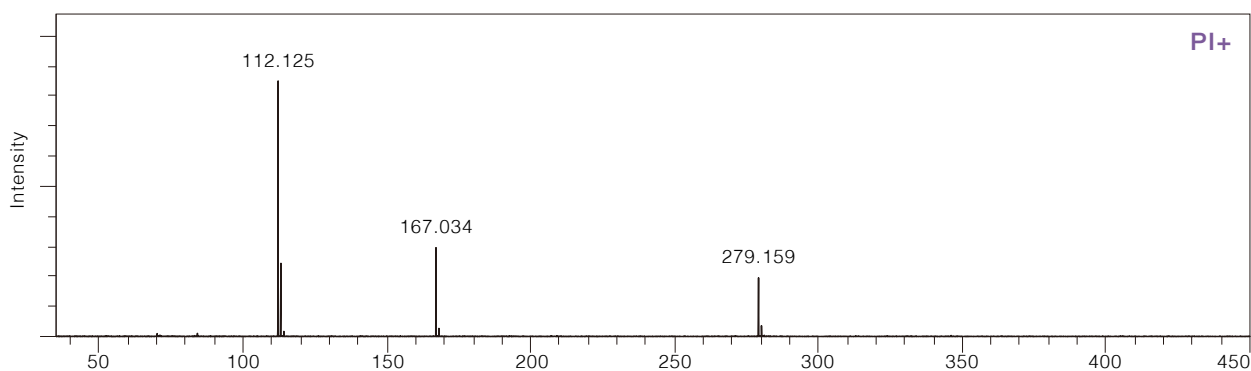
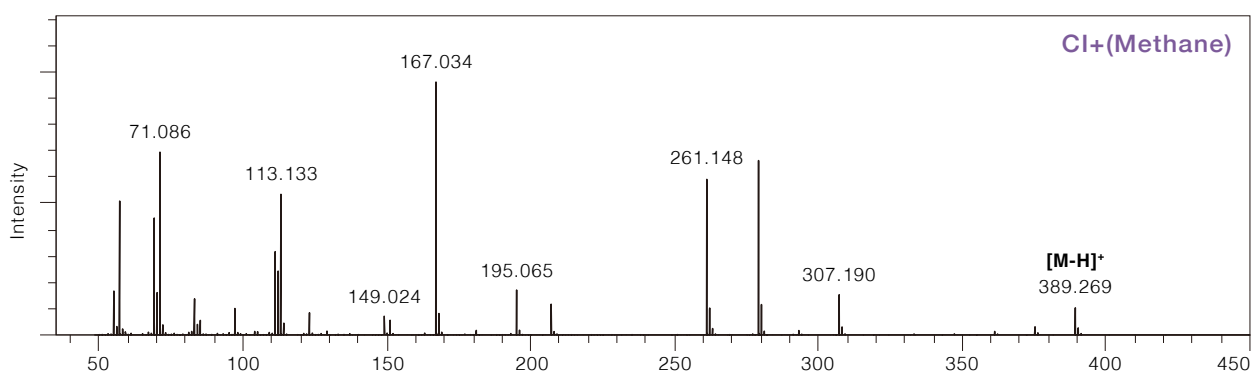
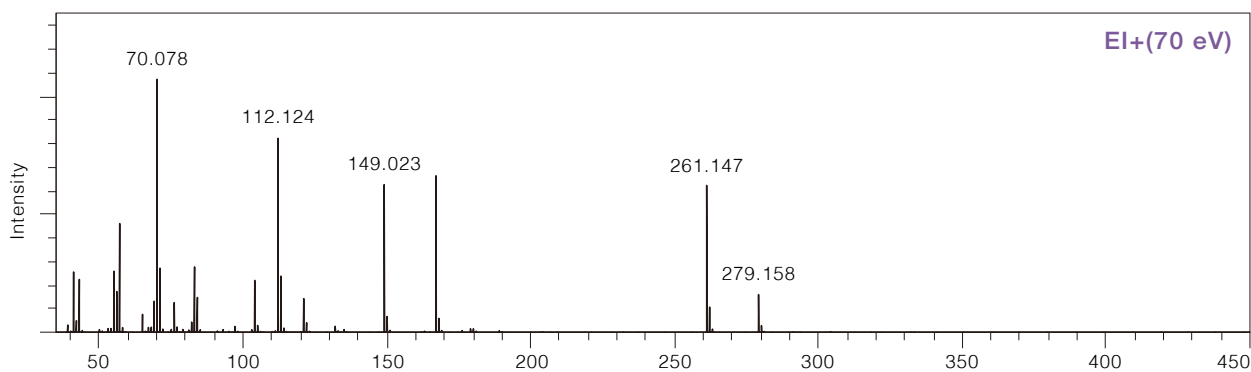
Phthalic acid esters

Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate)
[DEHP]

CAS No.117-81-7



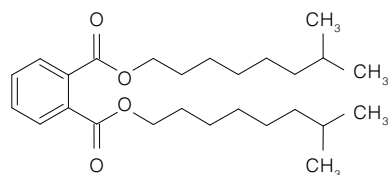
$C_{24}H_{38}O_4=390$



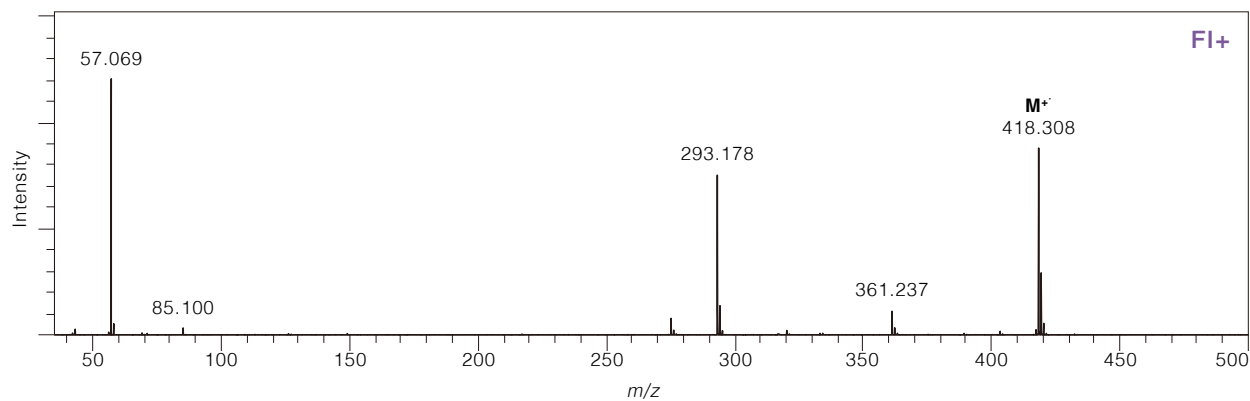
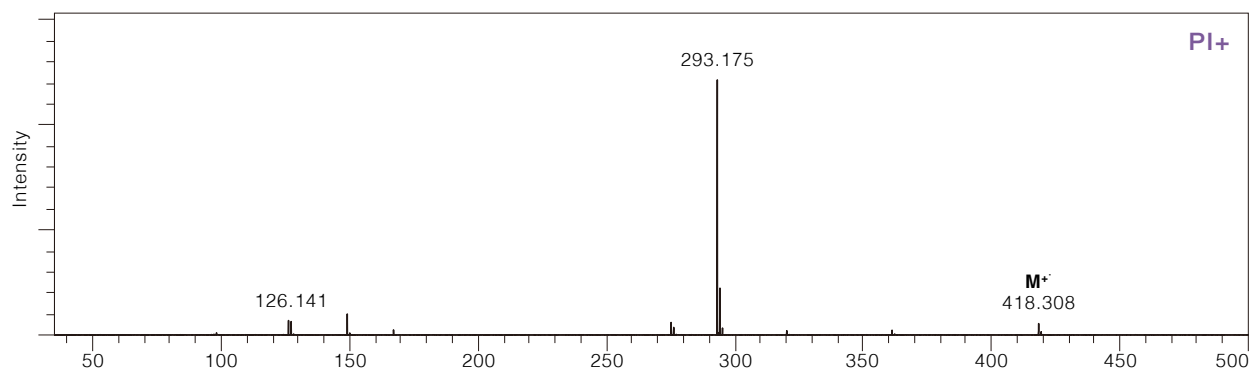
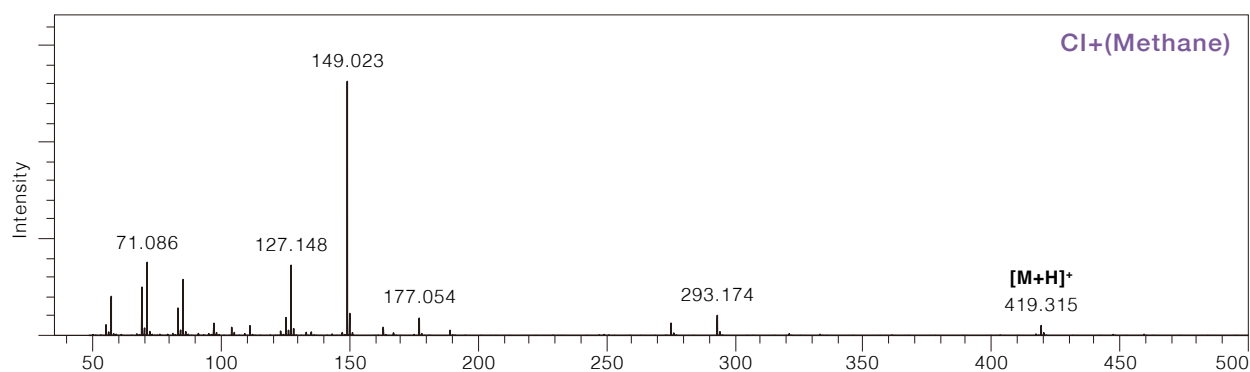
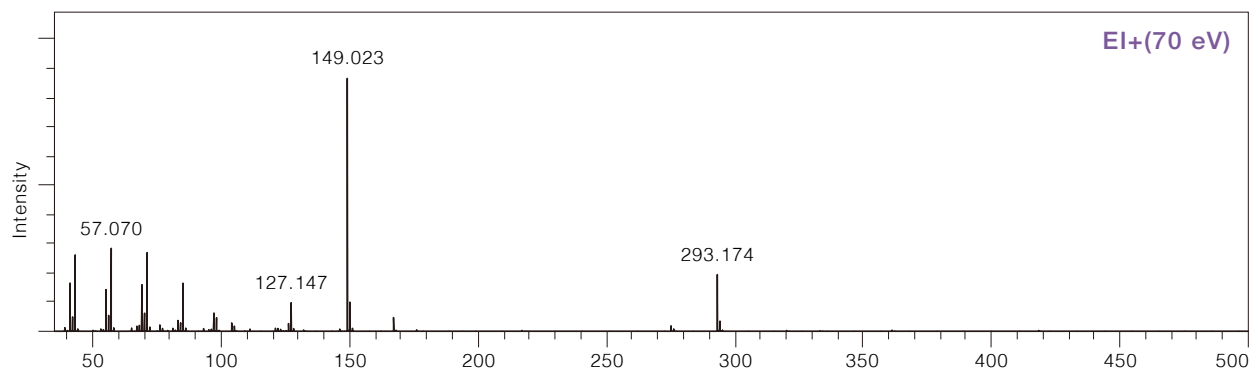
Phthalic acid esters

Diisononyl Phthalate [DINP]

CAS No.28553-12-0



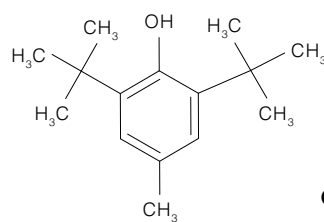
$C_{26}H_{42}O_4=418$



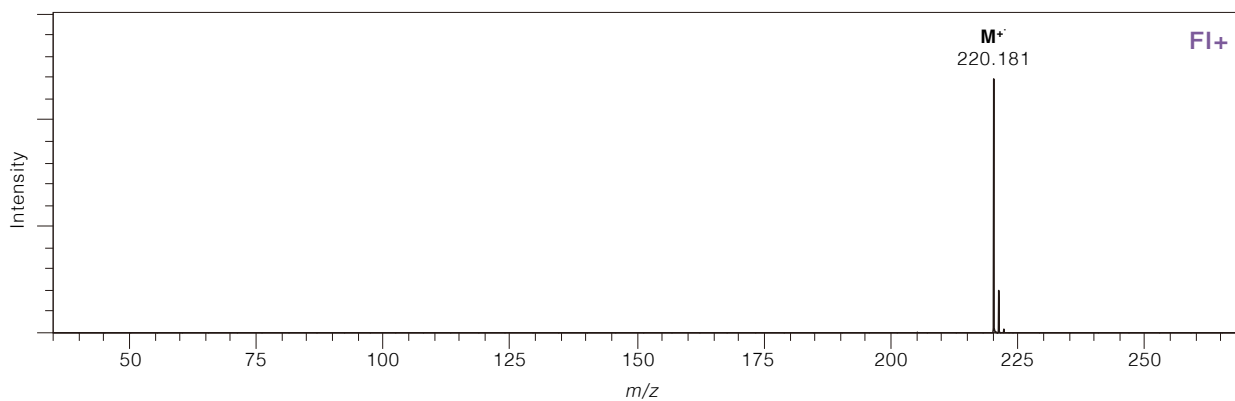
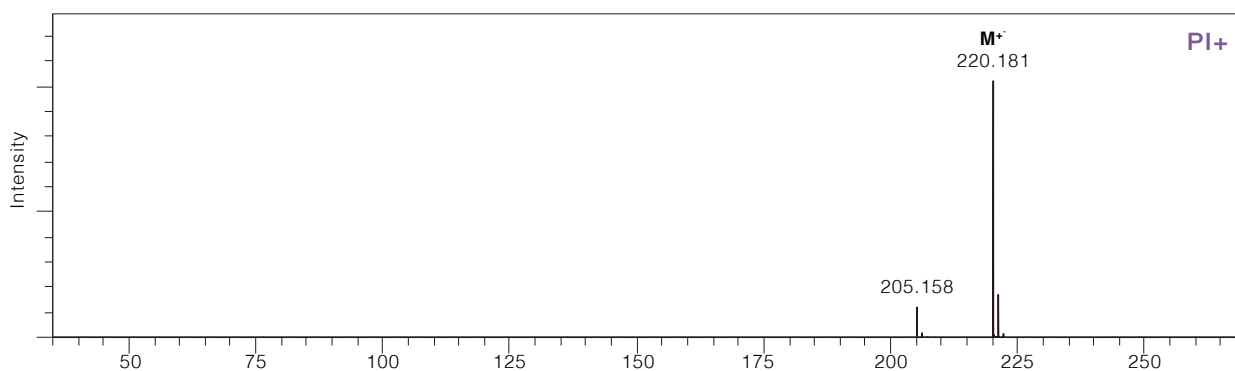
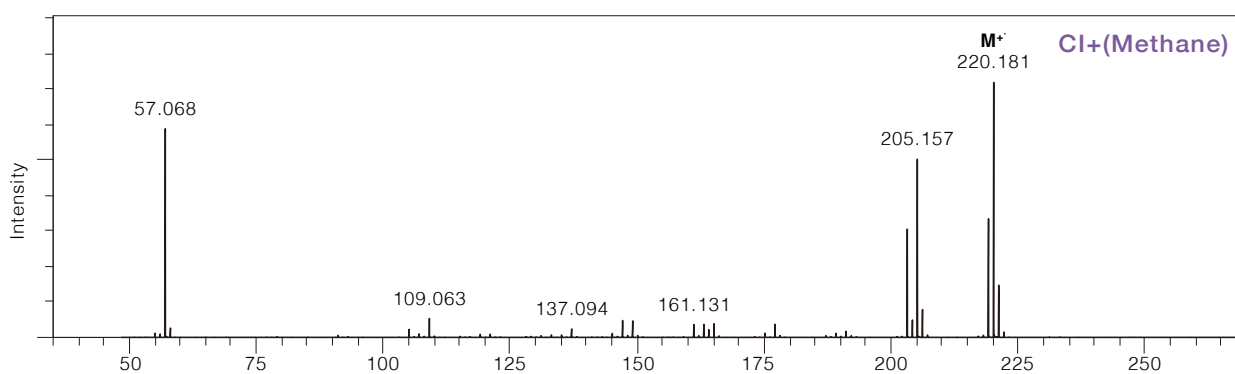
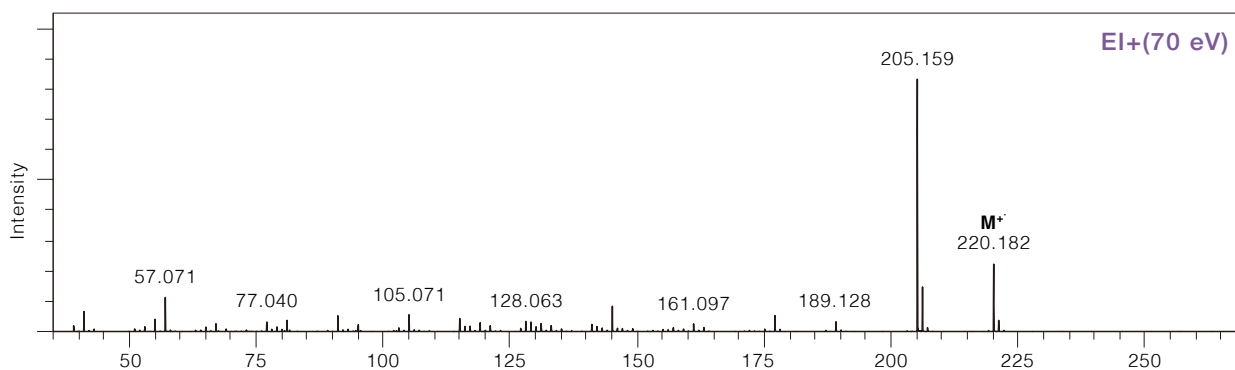
Phenols

2,6-Di-tert-butyl-p-cresol [BHT]

CAS No.128-37-0



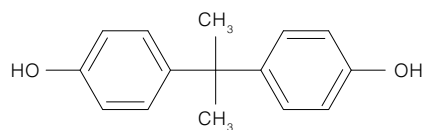
$C_{15}H_{24}O=220$



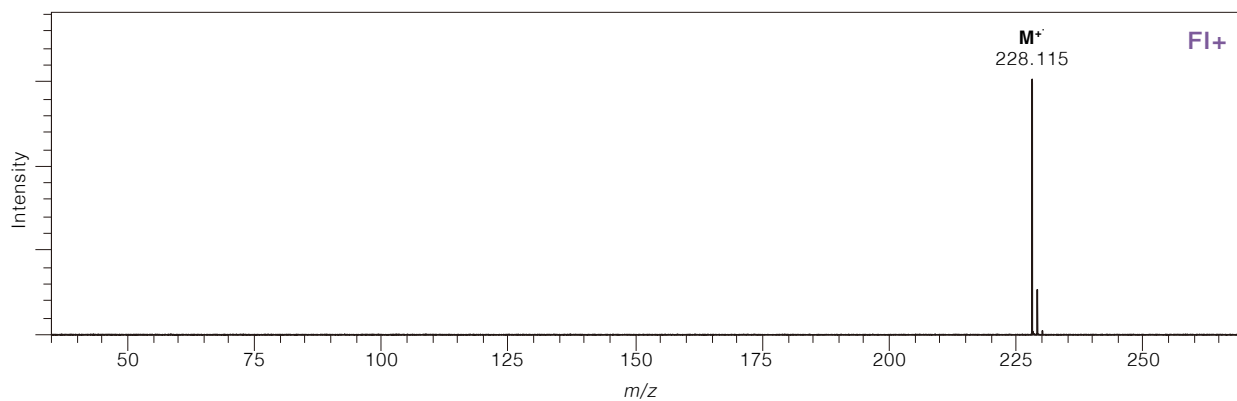
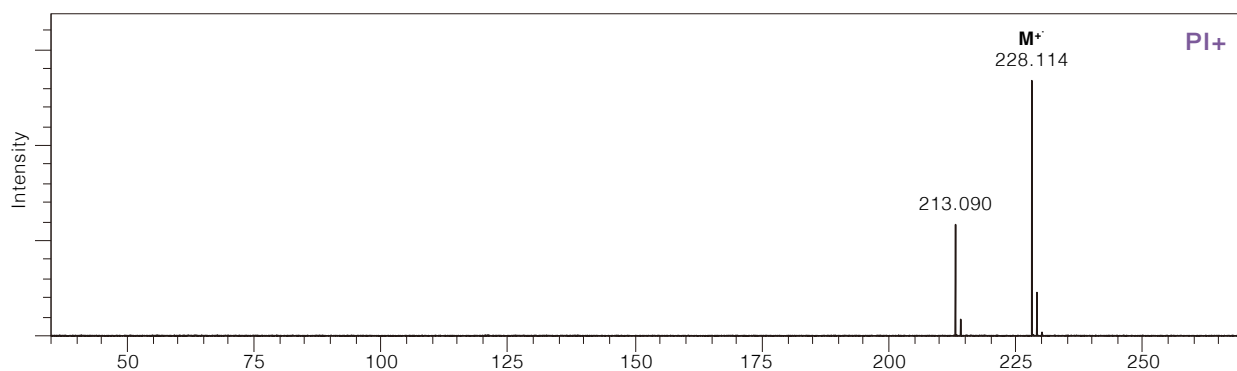
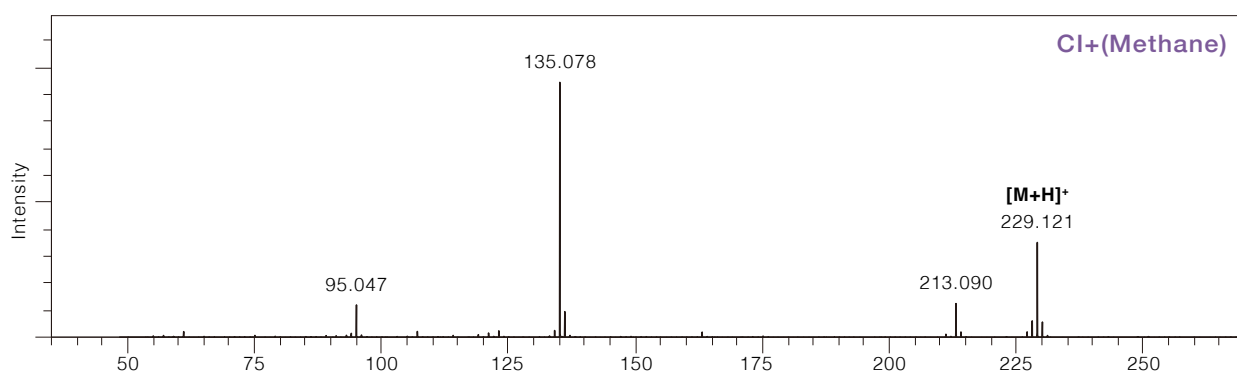
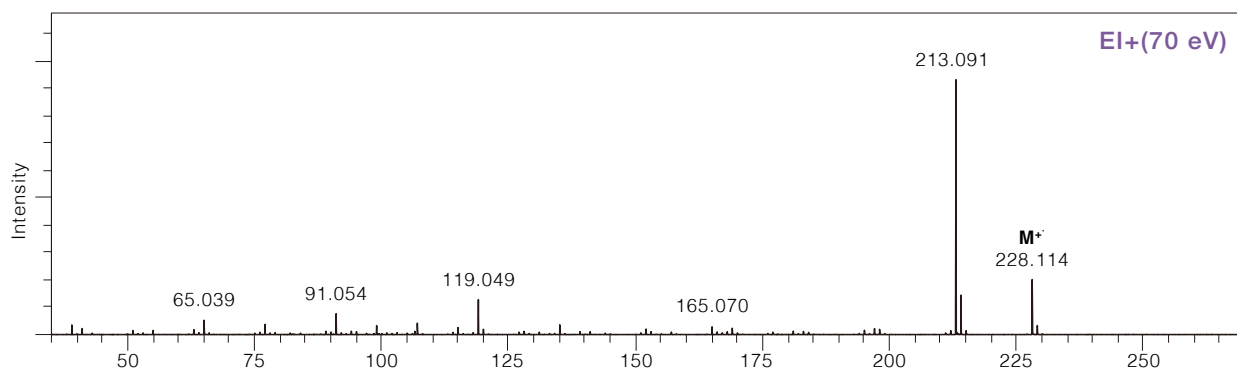
Phenols

2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane [Bisphenol A]

CAS No.80-05-7



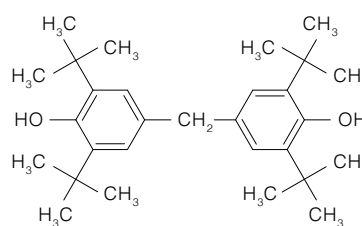
$C_{15}H_{16}O_2=228$



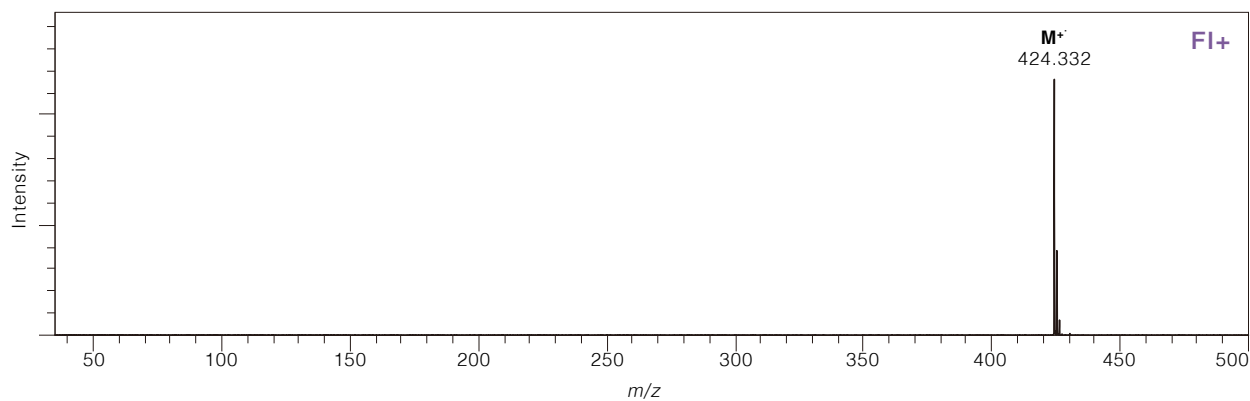
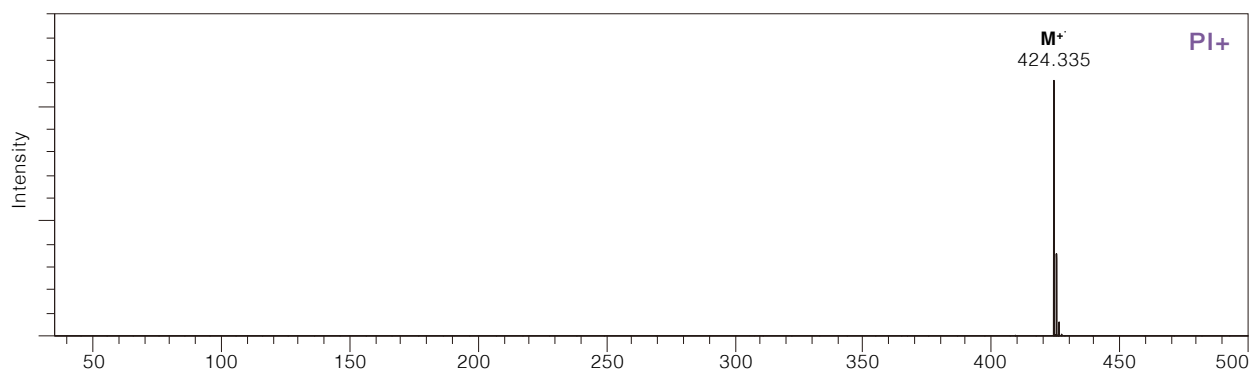
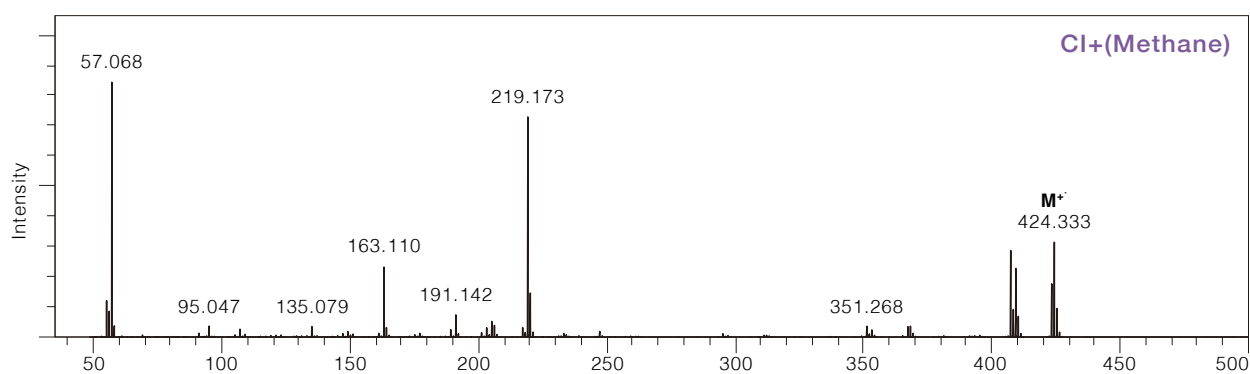
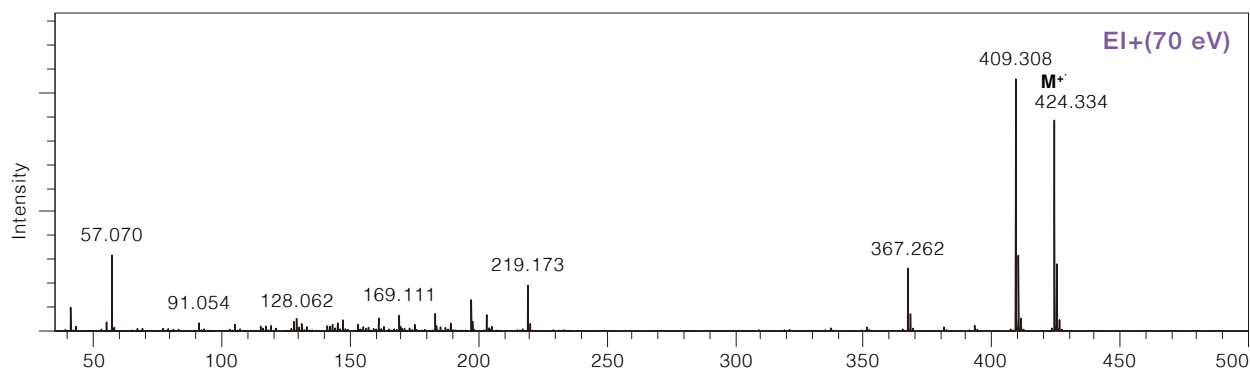
Phenols

4,4'-Methylenebis
(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol)
[Ethanox 702]

CAS No.118-82-1



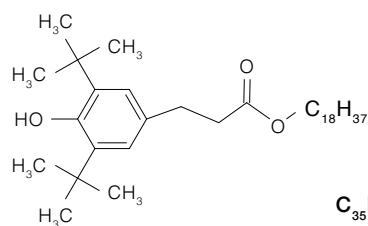
$C_{29}H_{44}O_2=424$



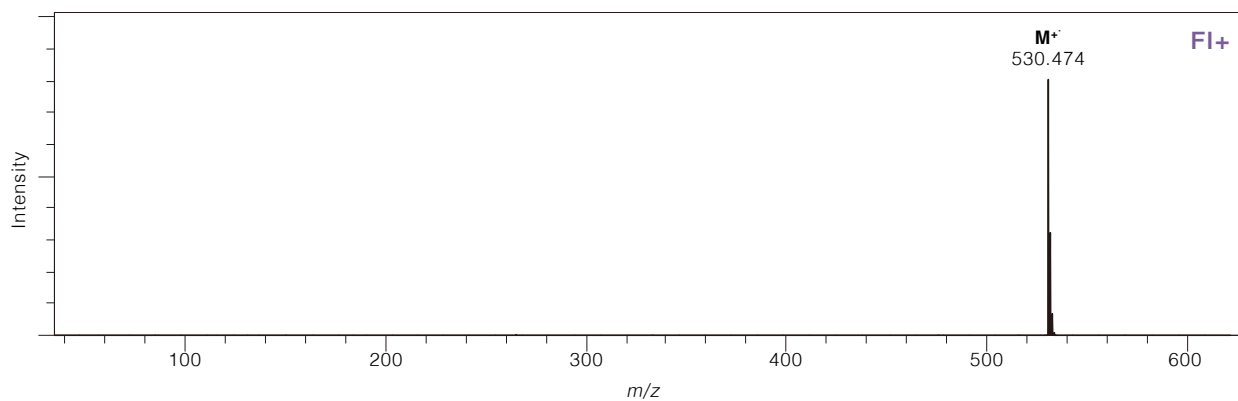
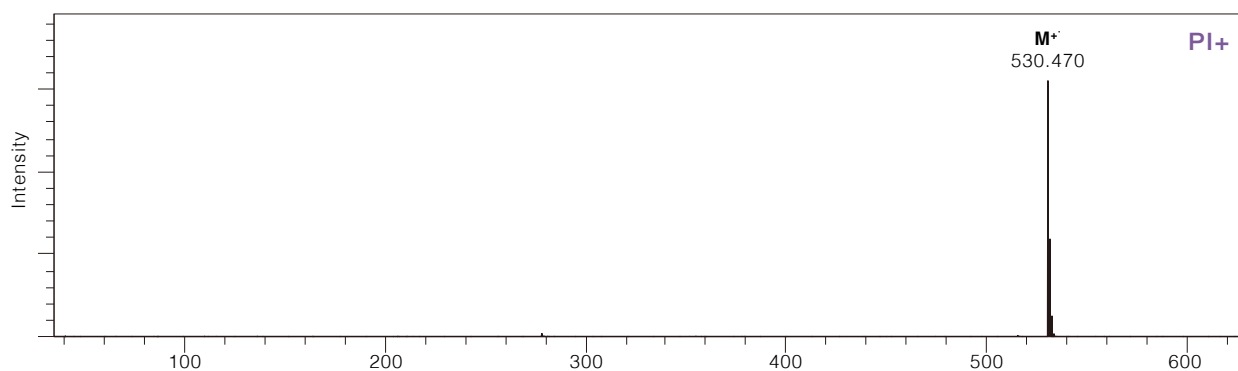
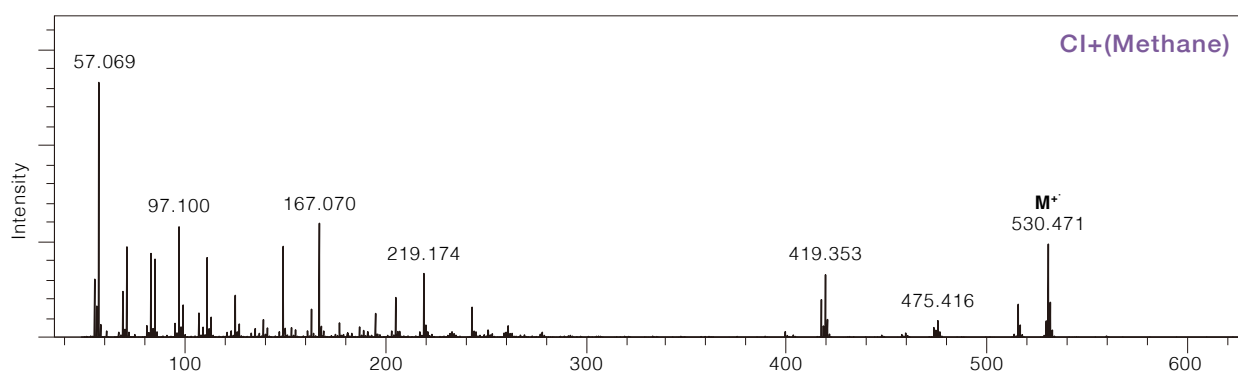
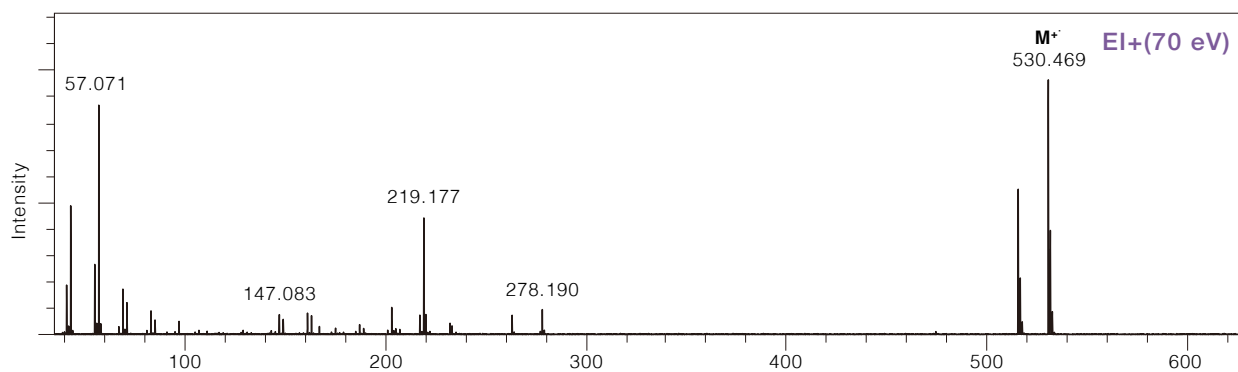
Phenols

2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane [Irganox 1076]

CAS No.2082-79-3



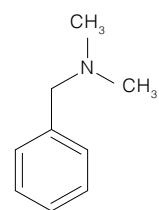
$\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{62}\text{O}_3=530$



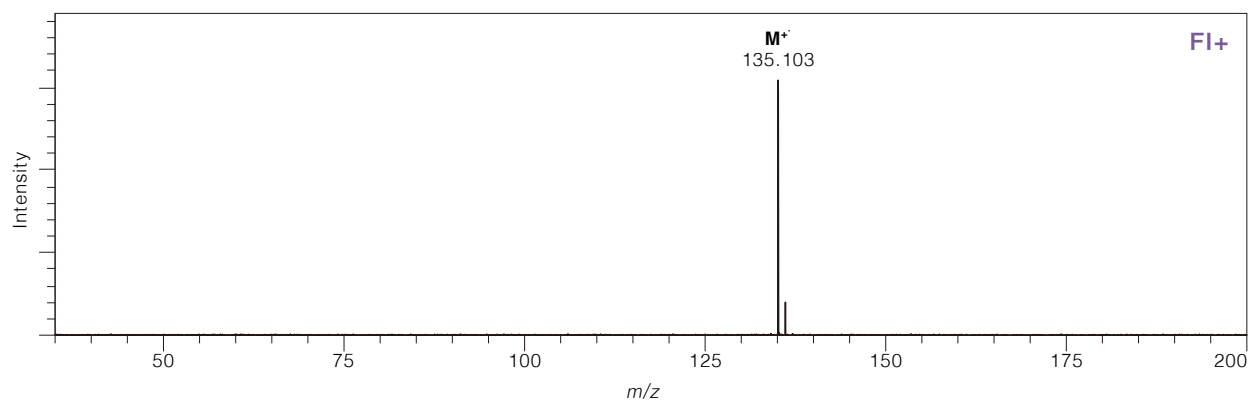
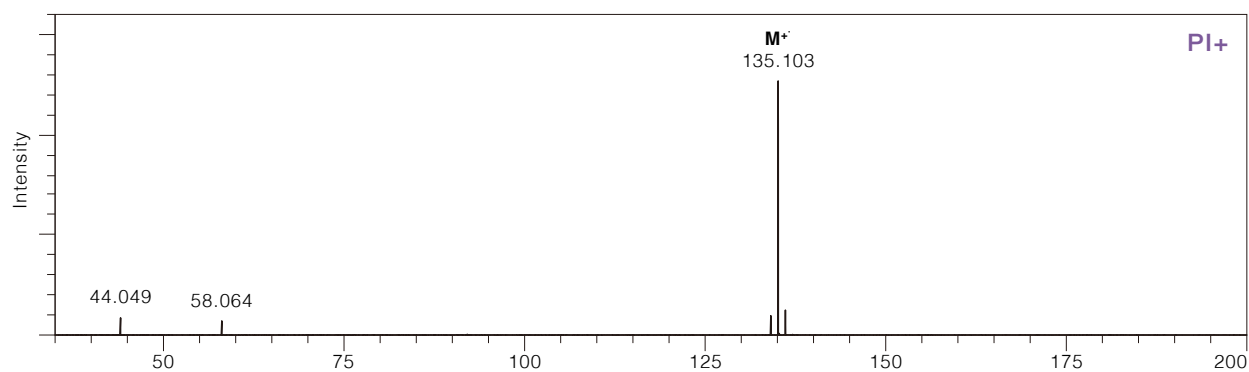
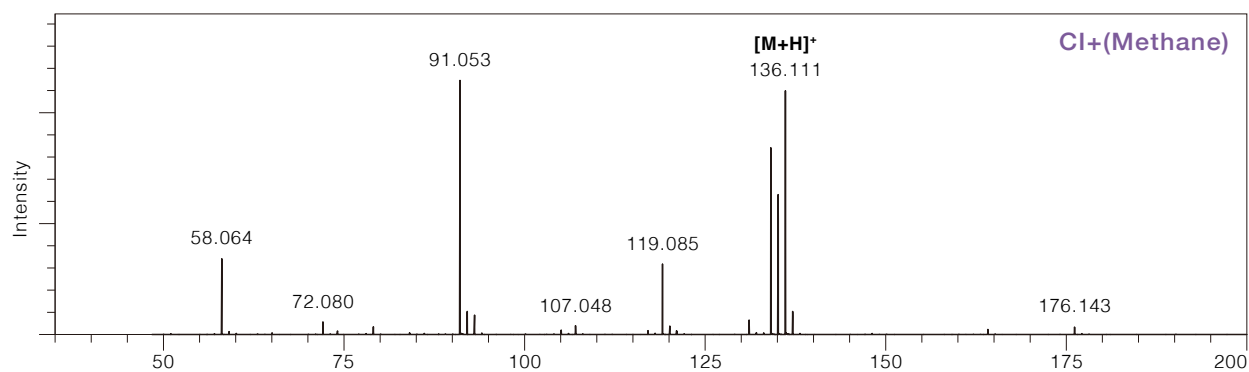
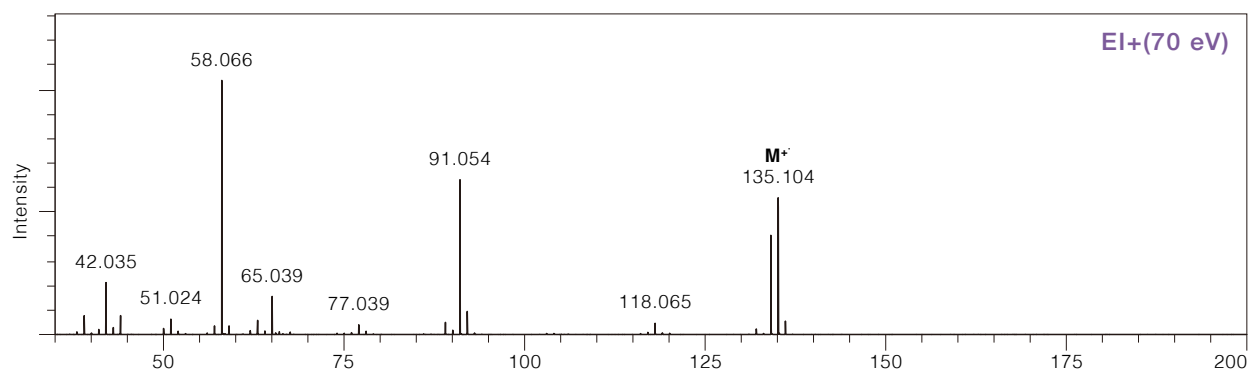
Amines

N,N-Dimethylbenzylamine

CAS No.103-83-3



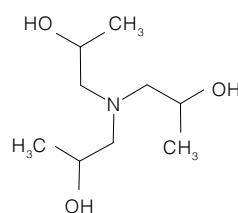
$C_9H_{13}N=135$



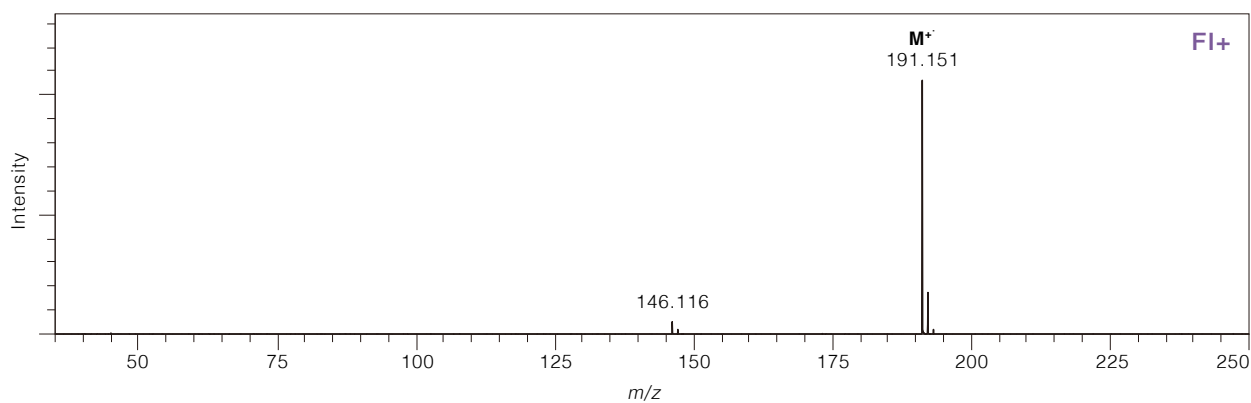
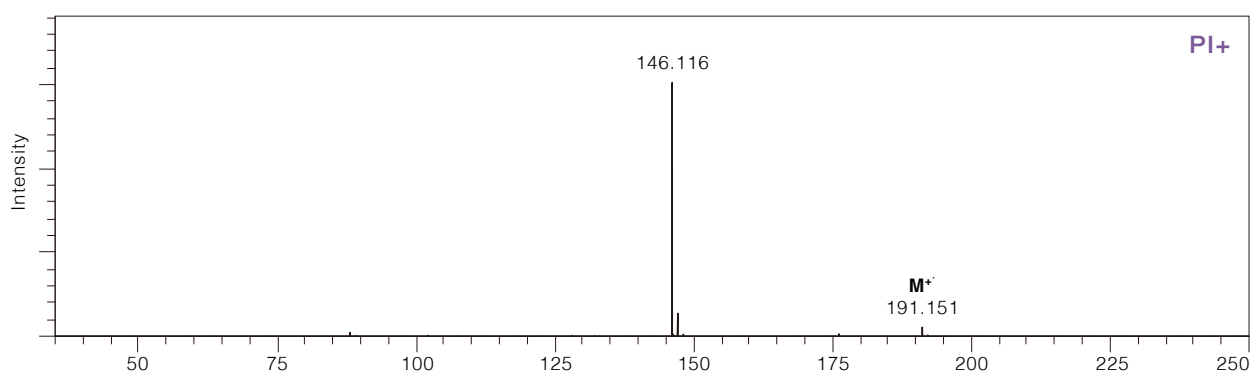
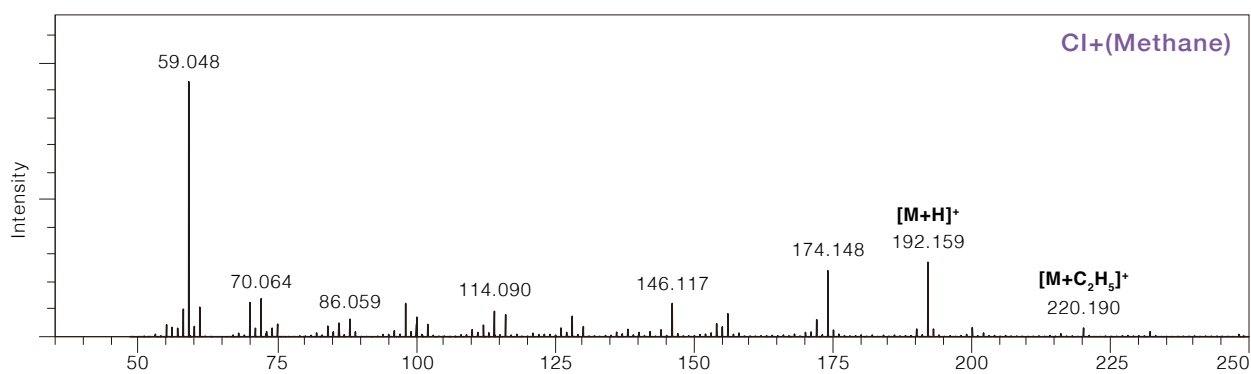
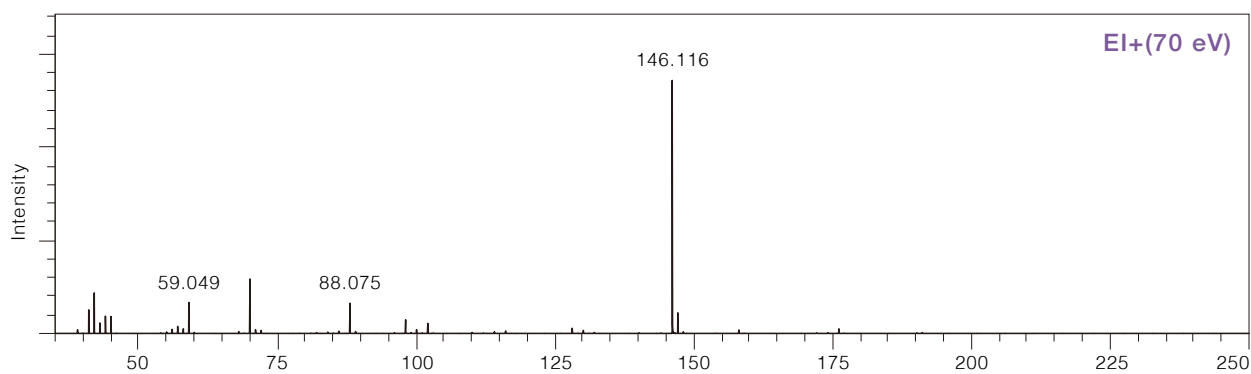
Amines

Triisopropanolamine

CAS No.122-20-3



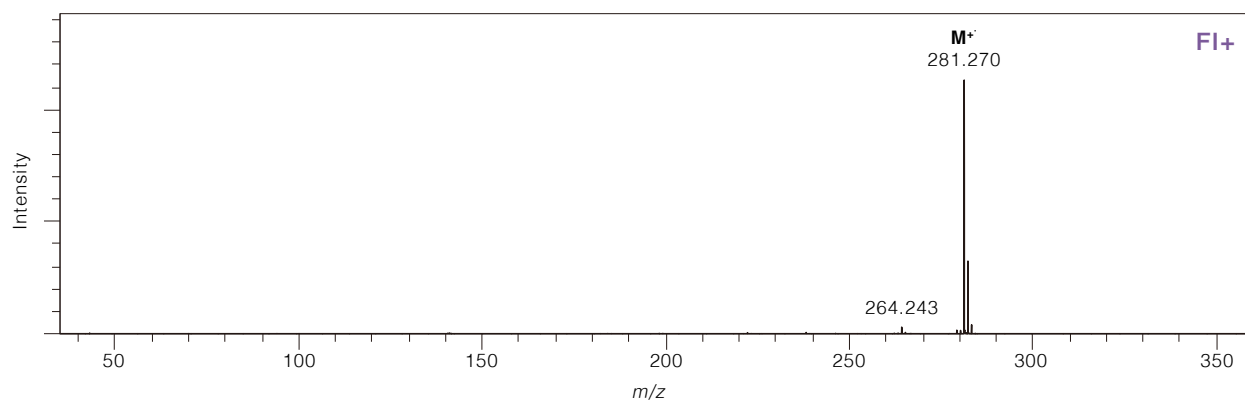
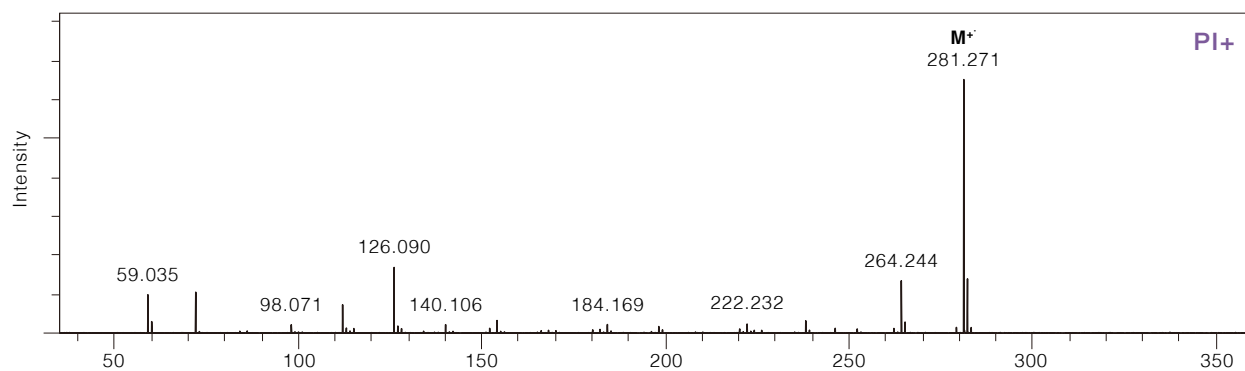
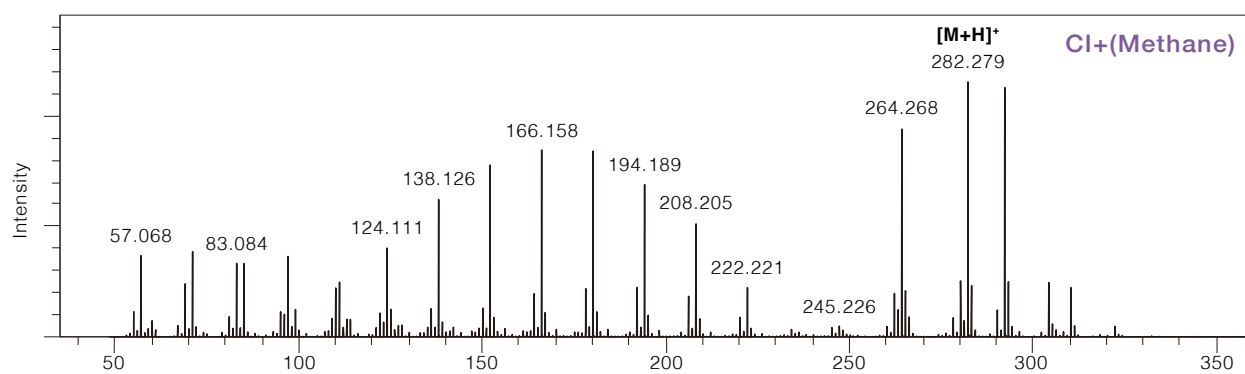
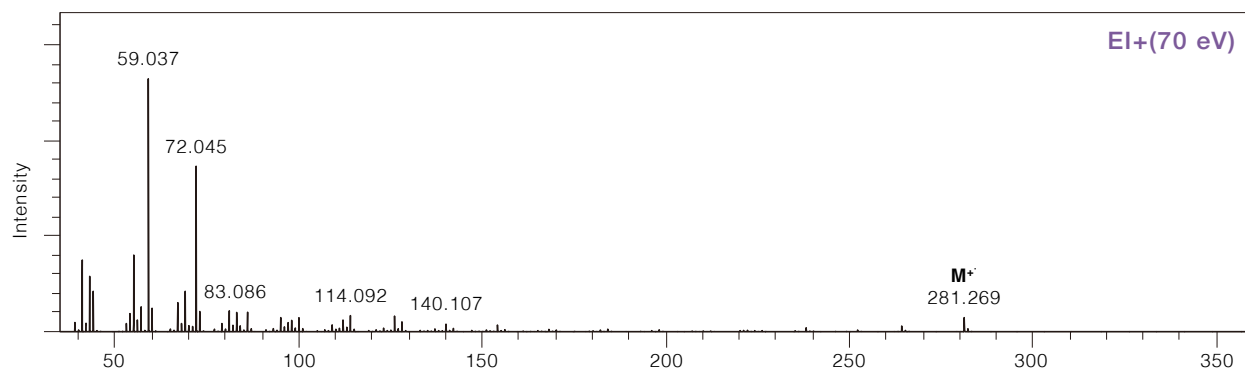
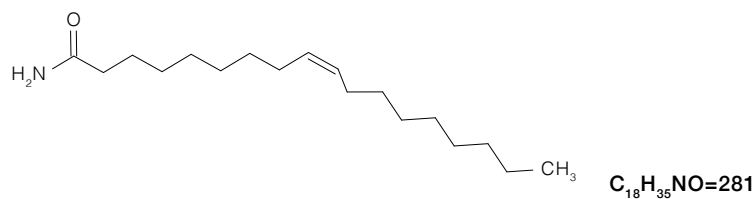
$C_9H_{21}NO_3=191$



Fatty acid amides

Oleamide

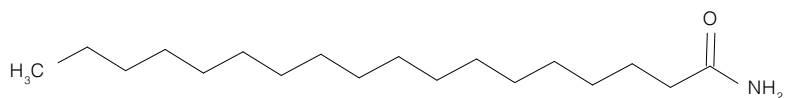
CAS No.301-02-0



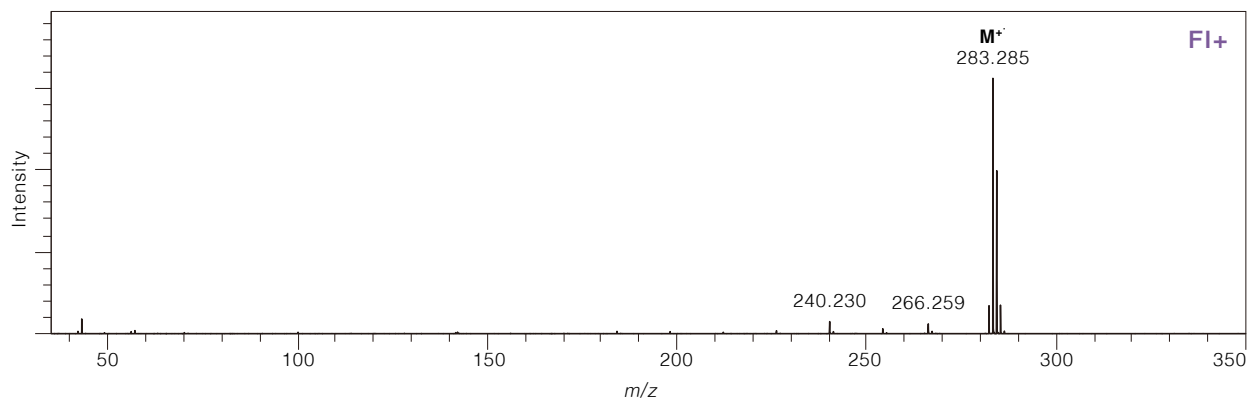
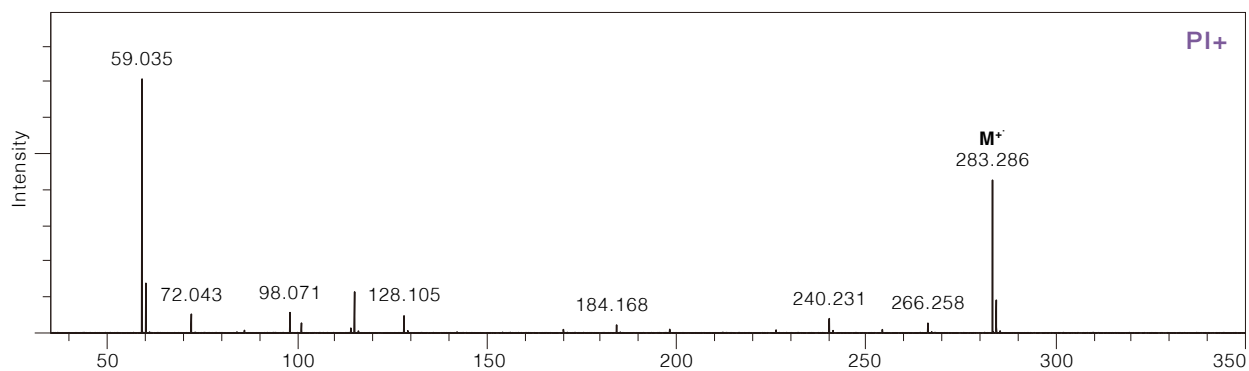
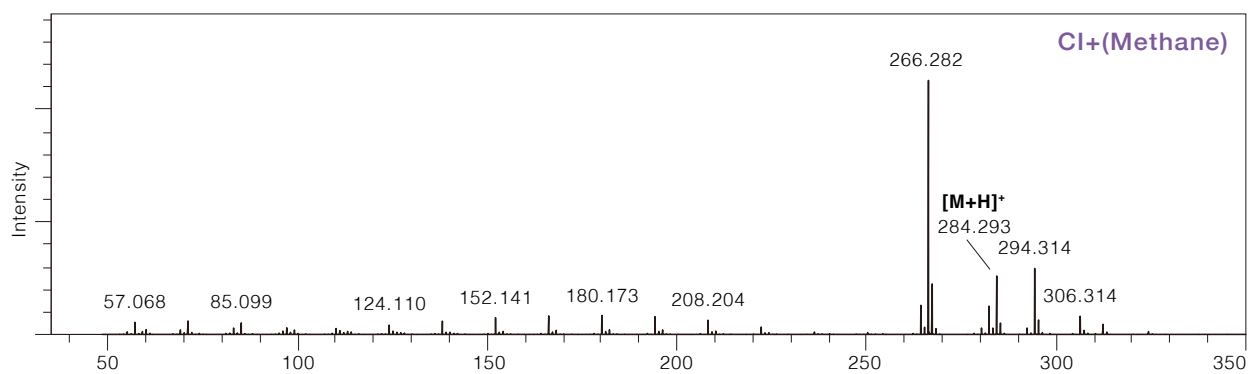
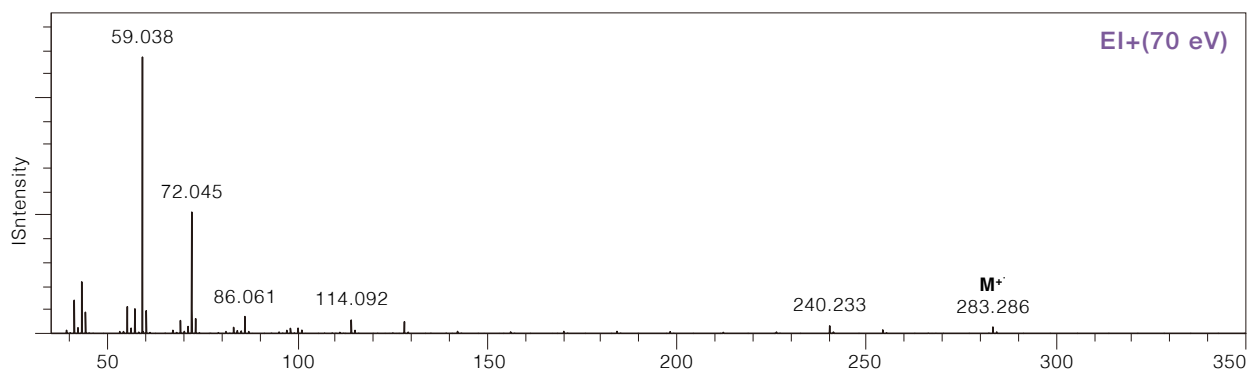
Fatty acid amides

Stearamide

CAS No.124-26-5



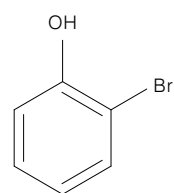
$C_{18}H_{37}NO=283$



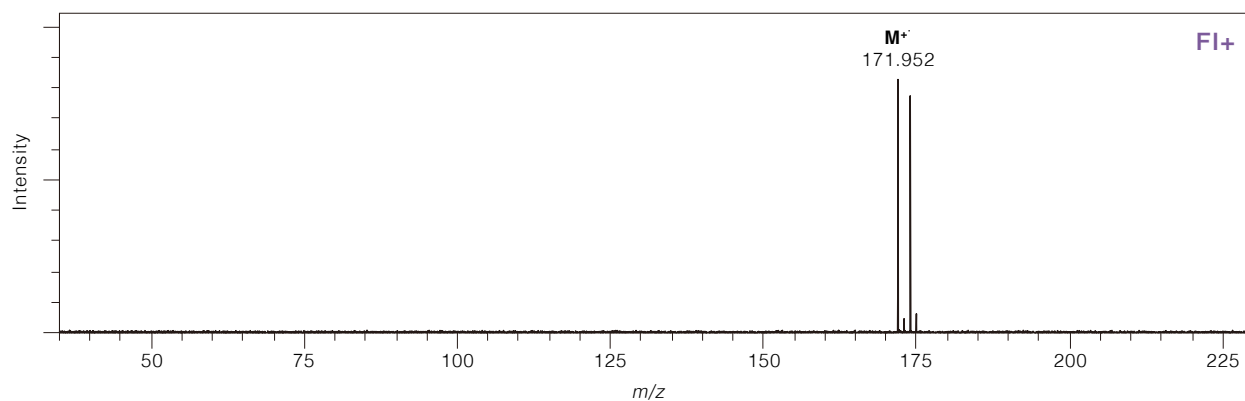
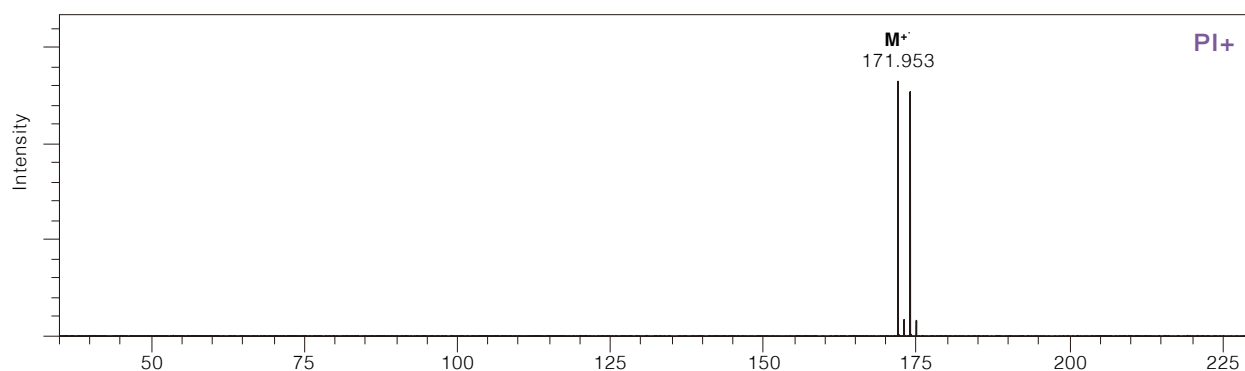
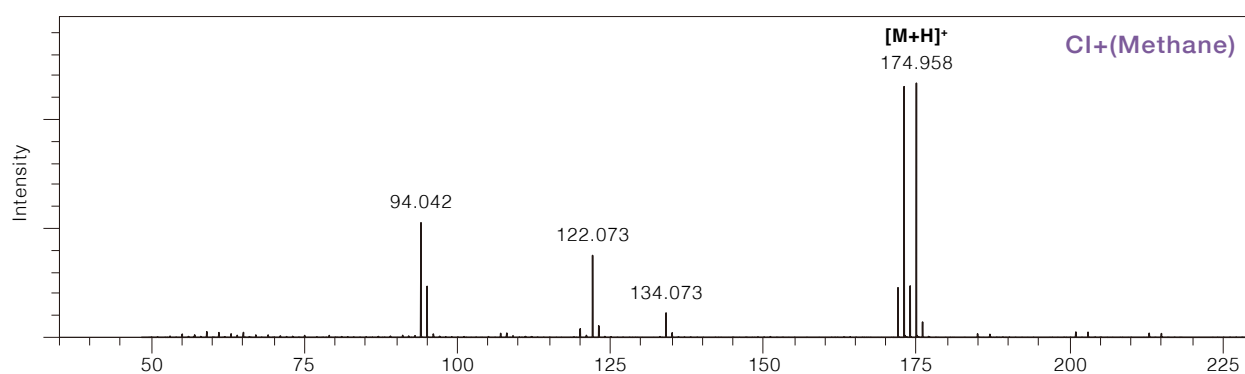
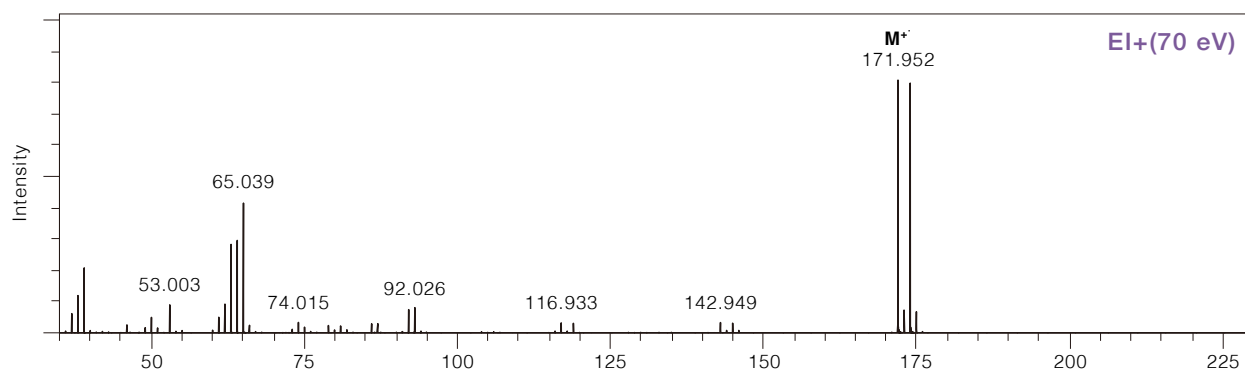
Halogen compounds

2-Bromophenol

CAS No.95-56-7



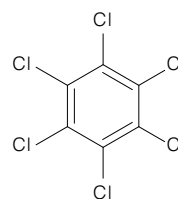
$C_6H_5BrO=173$



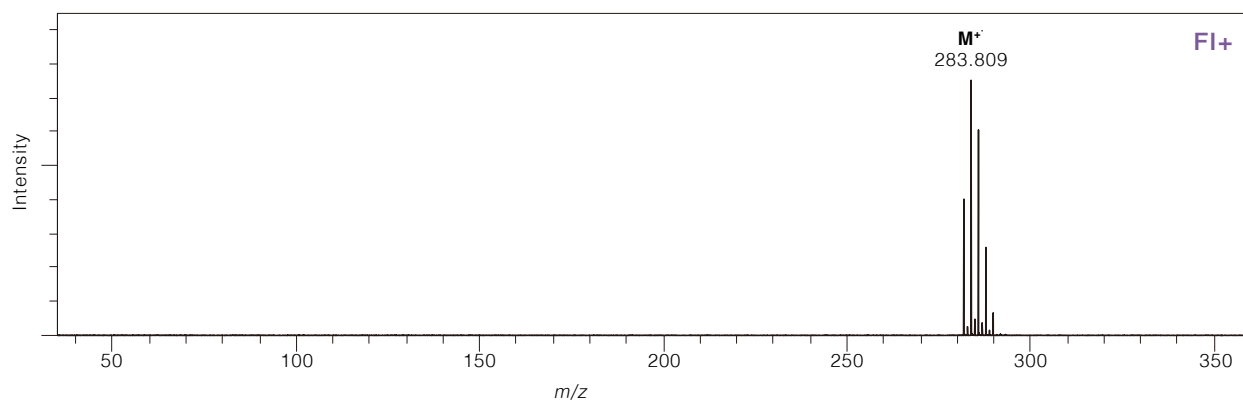
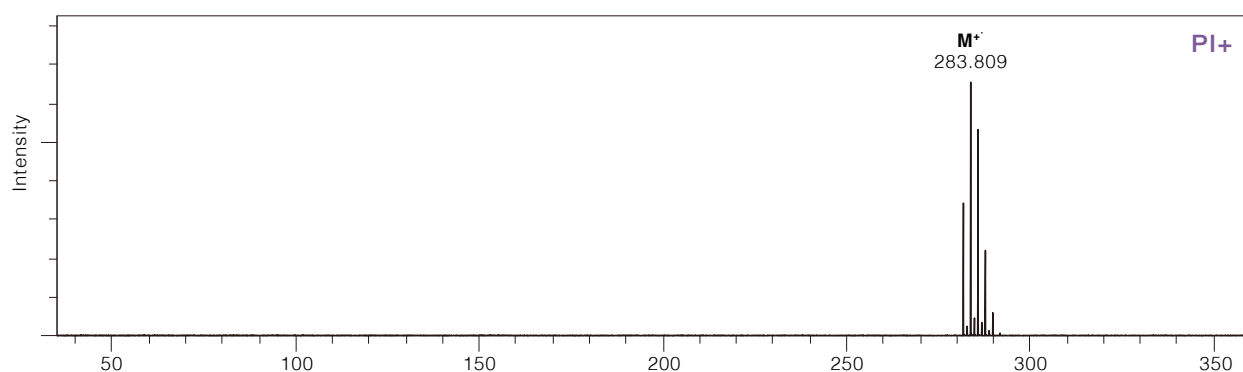
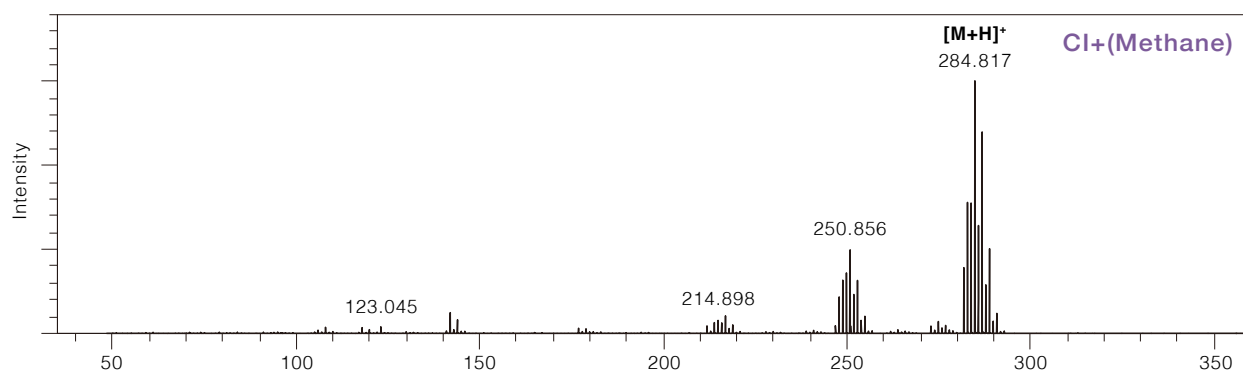
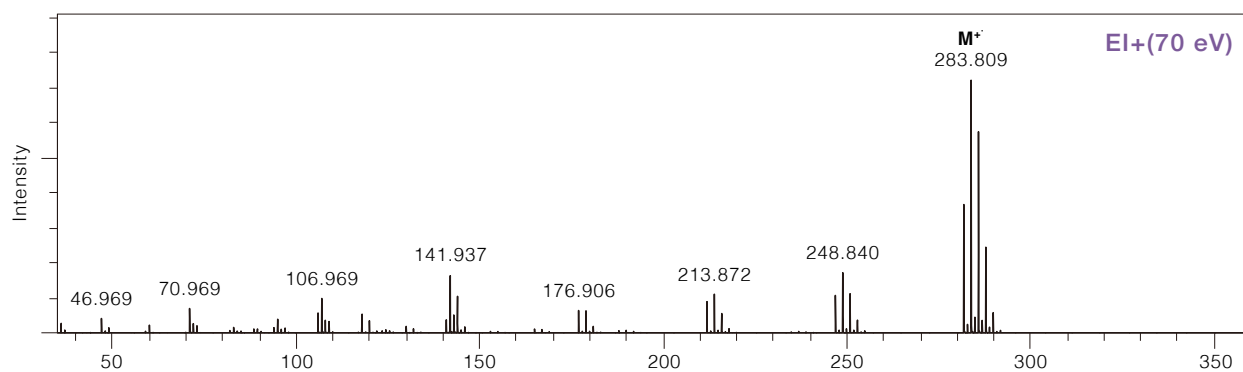
Halogen compounds

Hexachlorobenzene

CAS No.124-26-5



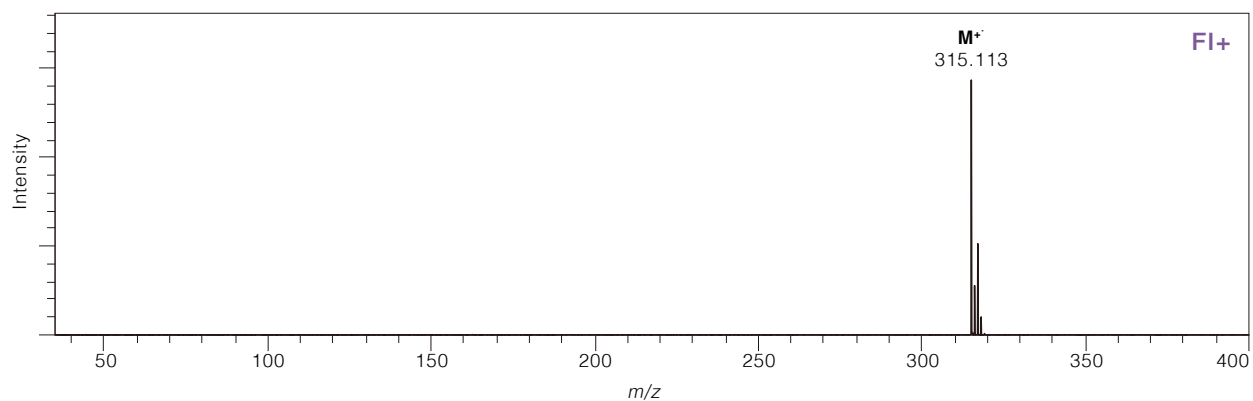
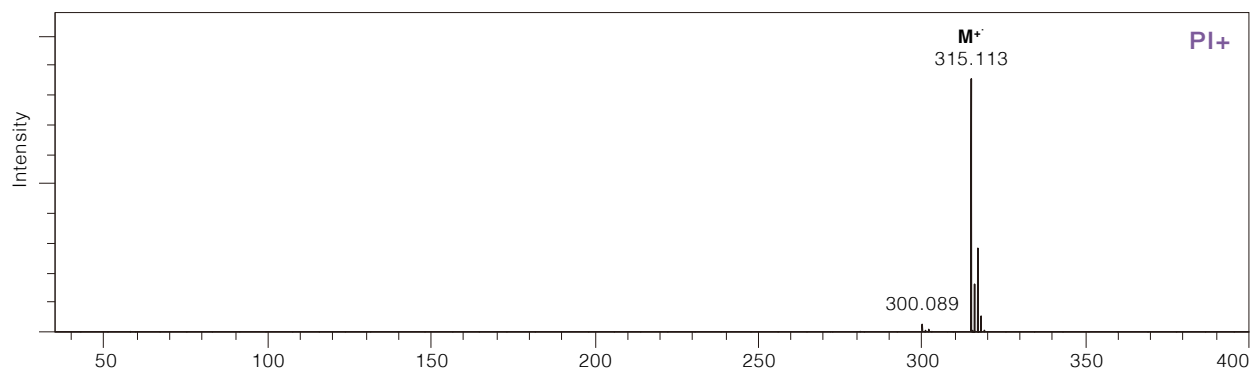
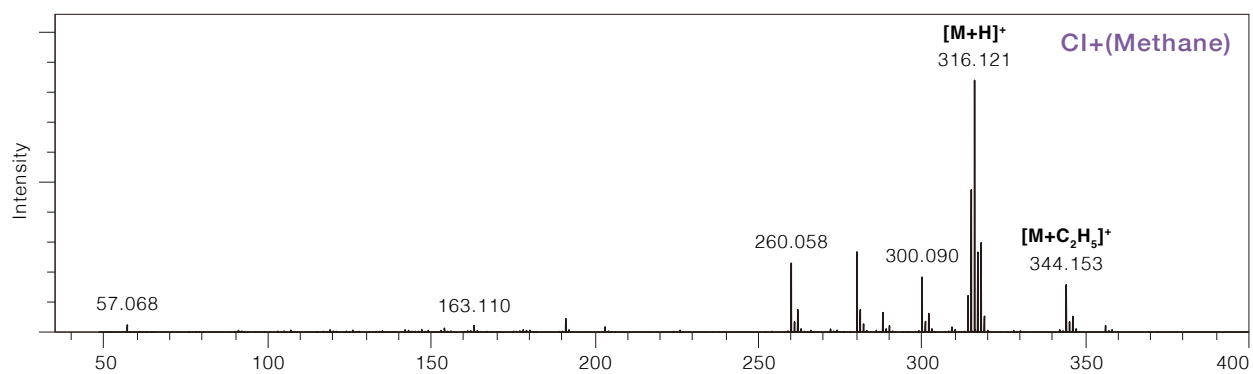
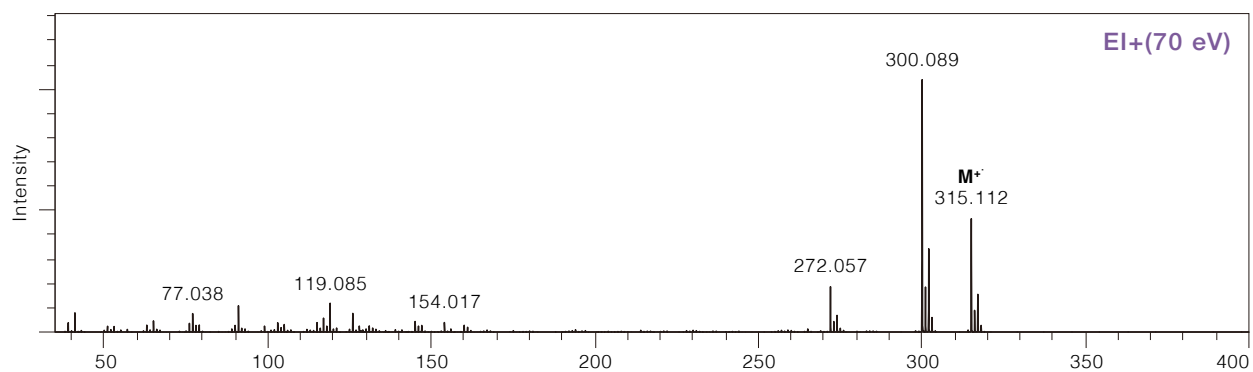
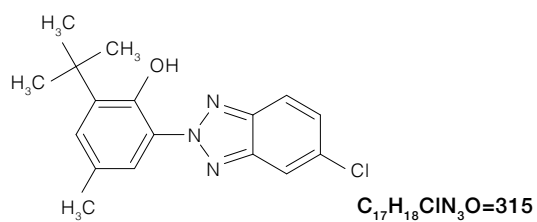
$C_6Cl_6=284$



Halogen compounds

2-t-Butyl-6-(5-chloro-2 H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-methylphenol
[Tinuvin326]

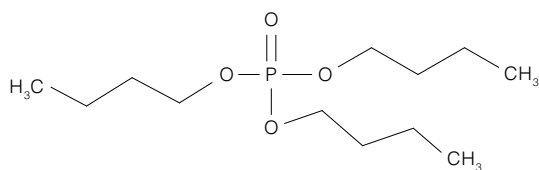
CAS No.3896-11-5



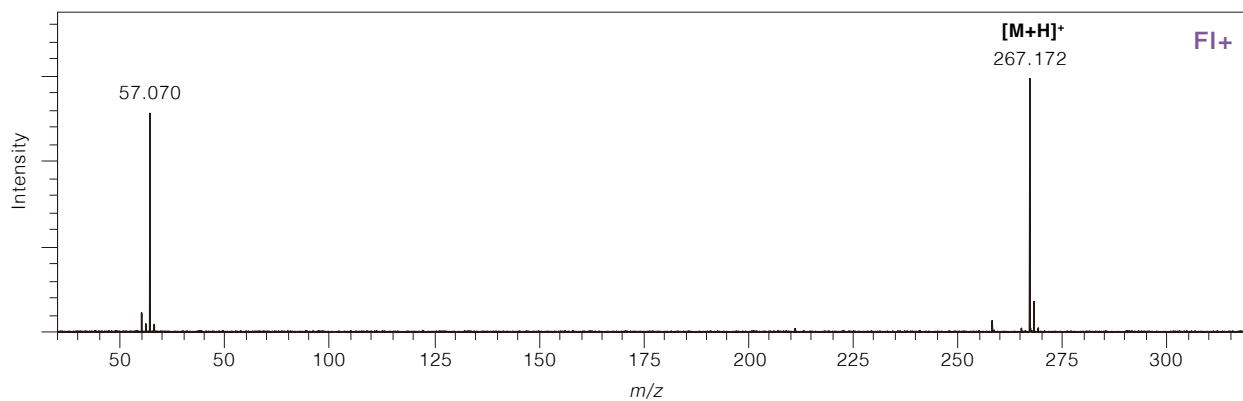
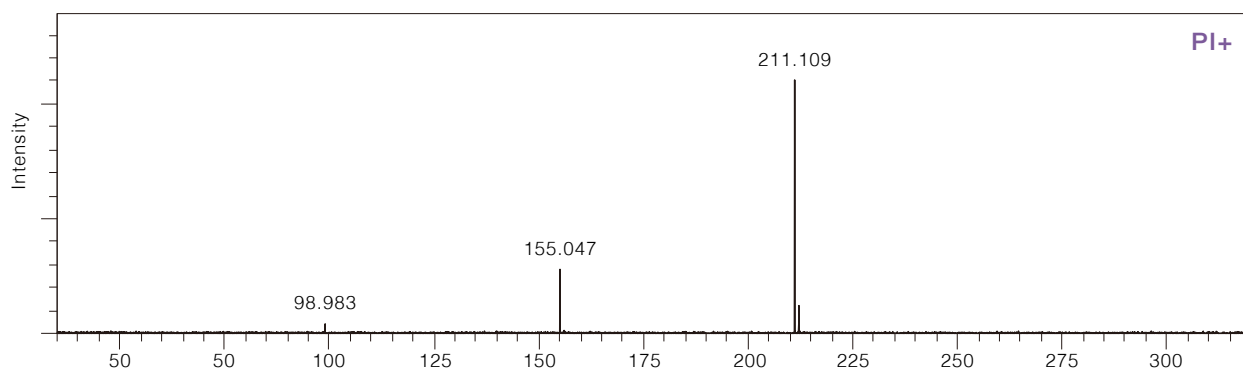
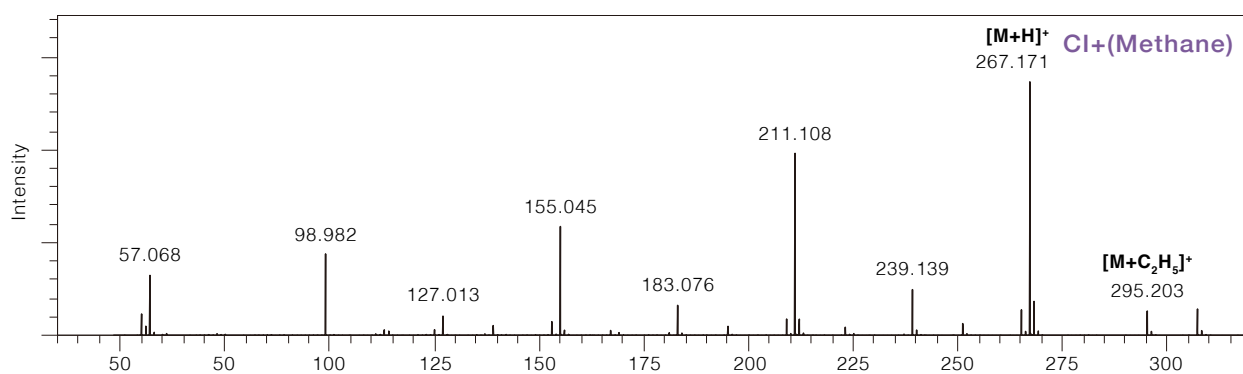
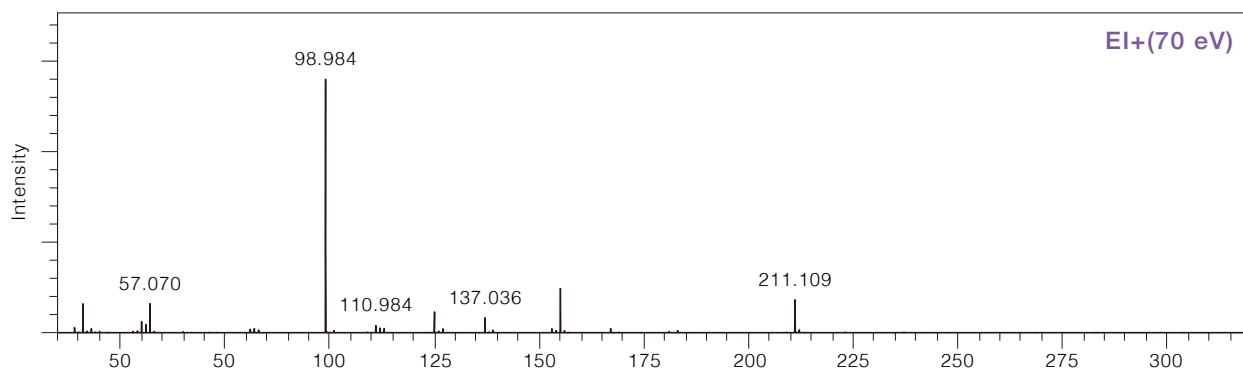
Phosphorus compounds

Tributyl Phosphate

CAS No.126-73-8



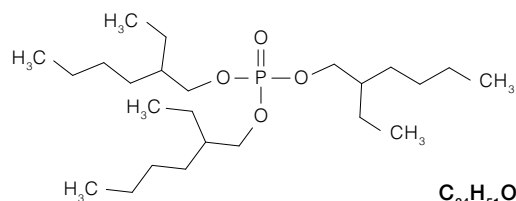
C₁₂H₂₇O₄P=266



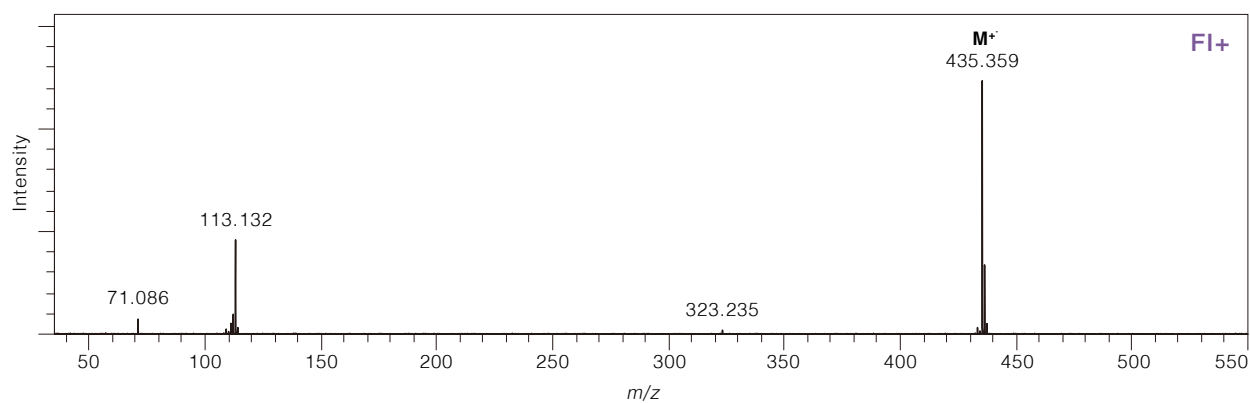
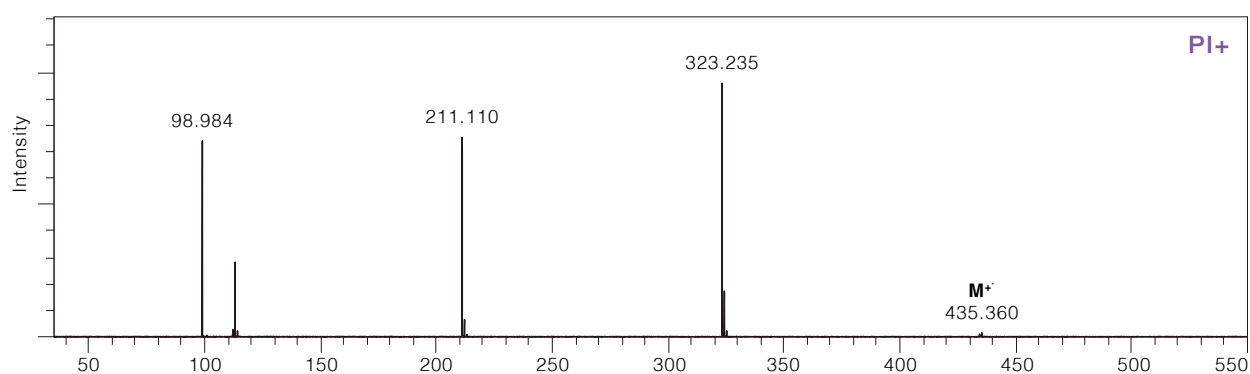
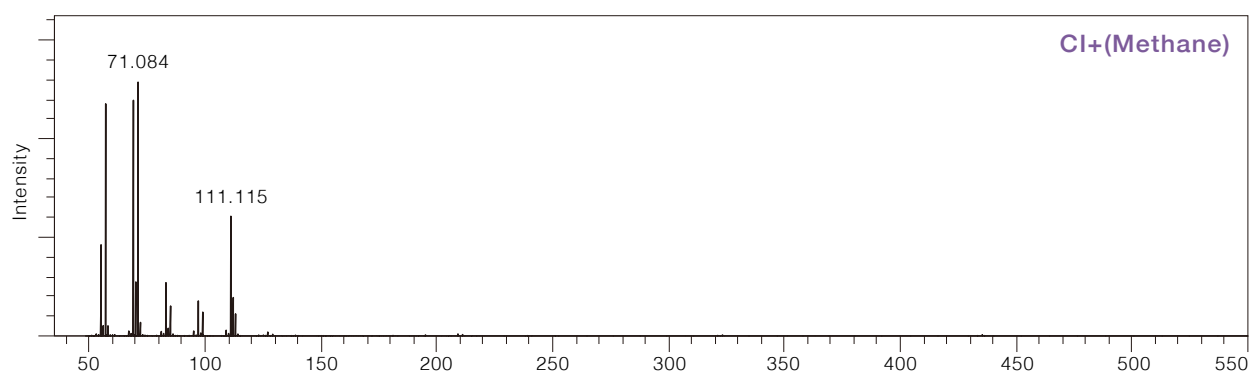
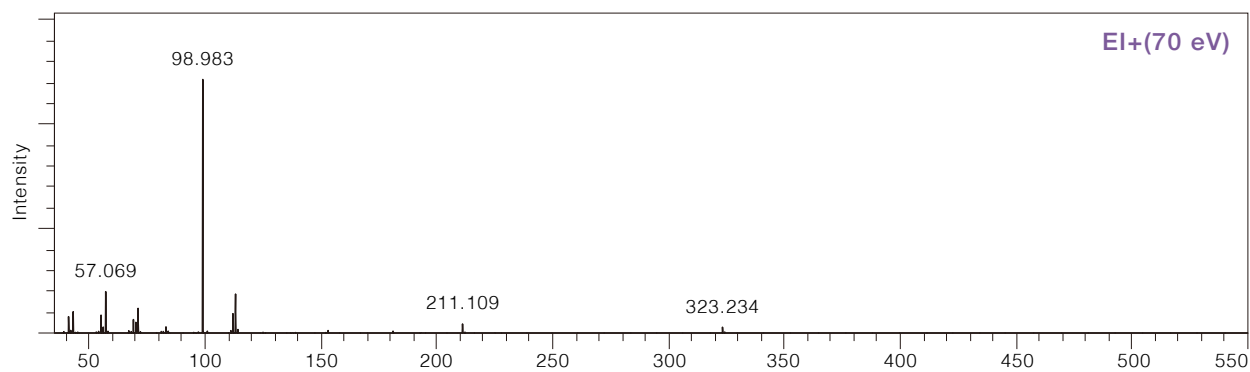
Phosphorus compounds

Tris(2-ethylhexyl) Phosphate

CAS No.78-42-2



$C_{24}H_{51}O_4P=434$



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