

## The mass spectral fragmentation of substituted m-terphenyl and biaryl derivatives

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**Abstract:** A series of m-terphenyl and biaryl derivatives have been investigated by EI mass spectrometry because of due to their versatile wide applications such as laser dyes, OLED, liquid crystals, solar cells and NLO properties. Mass spectral fragmentation of m-terphenyl and biaryl derivatives were thoroughly analyzed in this article. In general, all the compounds except **3b**, showed the molecular ion peak. Loss of  $\text{CH}_3$  group from the  $\text{Ar-CH}_2\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{N-CH}_2\text{CH}_3$  has been observed from their parent skeleton compounds **2a-g**. The most common loss of  $\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{HCN}$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  groups were observed from the compounds **1a-e**, **2a-g**, **3a-c**, which are depicted in the scheme (I, II, III & IV). The loss of  $\text{CHO}$  group is the characteristic of furfuryl moiety has been observed in compound **3c** ( $m/z$  194). As a representative fragmentation pattern of compound **1a** depicted in Scheme-V.

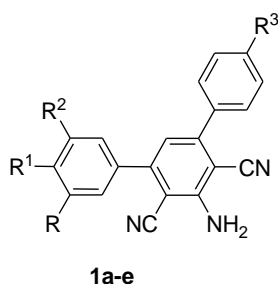
**Key words:** M-terphenyl, biaryl, OLED, NLO, furfuryl,  $\text{HCN}$ ,  $\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{CHO}$ .

### Introduction

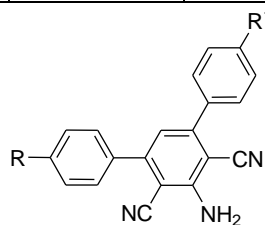
Mass spectrometry (MS) is unequivocally a powerful tool of characterization of organic compounds. In recent years, we have witnessed a significant development in the utilization of the terphenyls, particularly m-terphenyl<sup>1</sup> which are useful intermediate for building blocks for cyclophanes<sup>2</sup> to create a large molecular cavity<sup>3</sup> and host-guest complexes<sup>4</sup>. The biaryl unit is represented in several types of compounds of current interest including natural products, polymers, advanced materials, liquid crystals, ligands and molecules of medicinal interest<sup>5</sup>. In continuation of our work on the synthesis of m-terphenyl and biaryl compounds having laser dyes<sup>6</sup> and NLO properties<sup>7</sup>. In this paper, we would like to report the mass spectral fragmentation pattern of m-terphenyl and biaryl compounds **1 a-e**, **2 a-g** and **3 a-c**. Similar loss of  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{HCHO}$  and  $\text{HCN}$  groups were observed both methyl substituted compounds **1b** and **1d**. The characteristic loss of  $\text{CHO}$  group was observed in compound **3c**, it shows presence of furfuryl moiety.

### Experimental

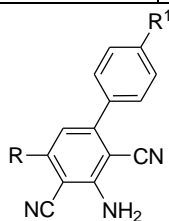
The mass spectra were recorded with Jeol-JMS-DX 303 HF and GCMS QP 5000 Shimadzu instruments. Synthesis of m-terphenyl and biaryl compounds **1a-e**, **2a-g**, **3a-c** were previously reported<sup>8</sup> by our research group.



Compounds	R	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>
<b>1a</b>	H	H	H	H
<b>1b</b>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>1c</b>	H	Cl	H	H
<b>1d</b>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>1e</b>	H	H	H	CH <sub>3</sub>

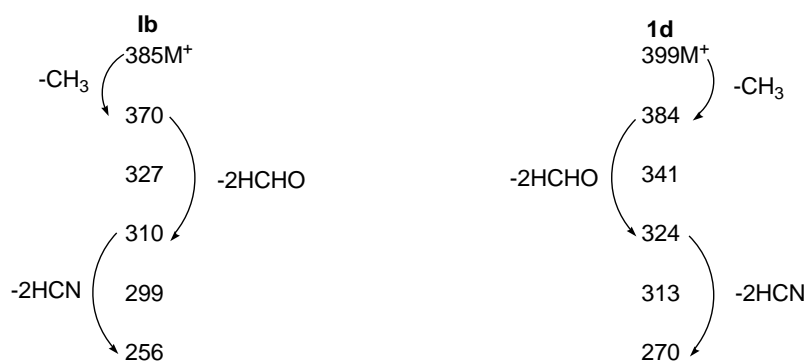
**2a-g**

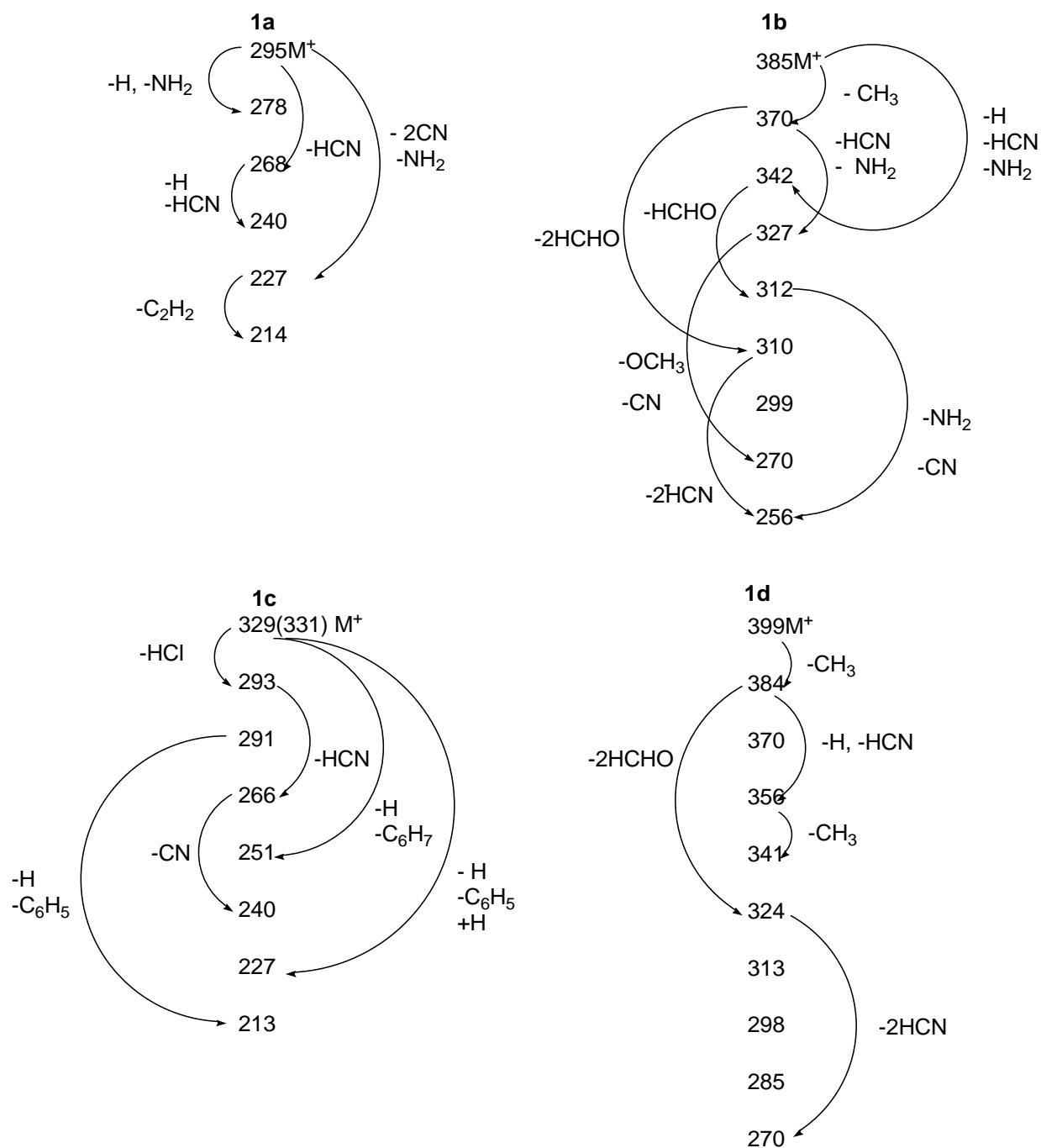
COMPOUND	R	R <sup>1</sup>
<b>2a</b>	N(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2b</b>	N(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2c</b>	N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2d</b>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2e</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2f</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>2g</b>	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>

**3a-c**

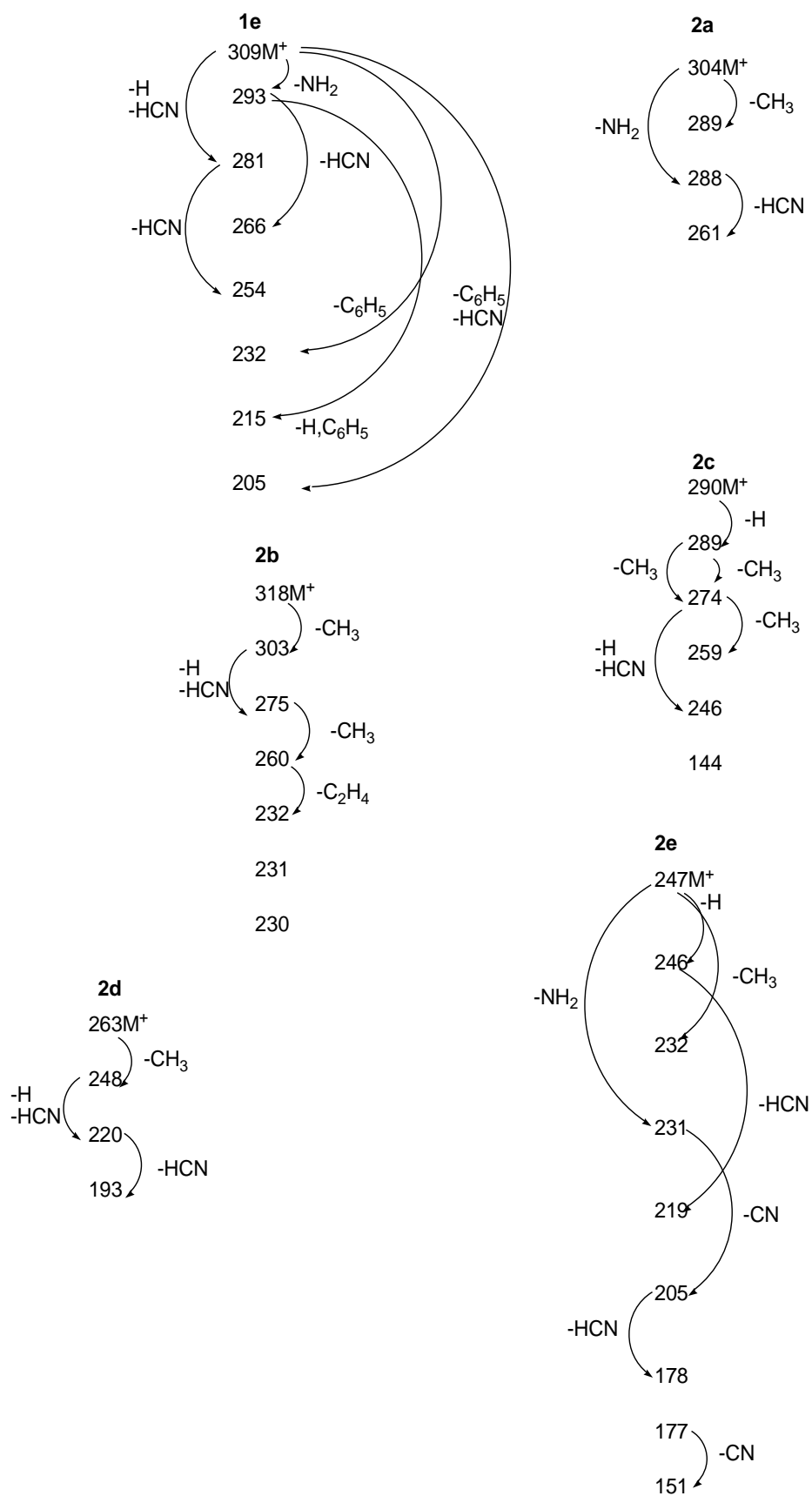
COMPOUND	R	R <sup>1</sup>
<b>3a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H
<b>3b</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
<b>3c</b>	Furfuryl	CH <sub>3</sub>

Similar loss of CH<sub>3</sub>, HCHO and HCN was observed both methyl substituted compounds **1b** and **1d** from the molecular ion shown in **scheme -I**. A successive loss of phenyl groups were observed compound **1c** and fragmentation pattern of m-terphenyl compounds **1b** and **1c** is depicted in **scheme -II**.

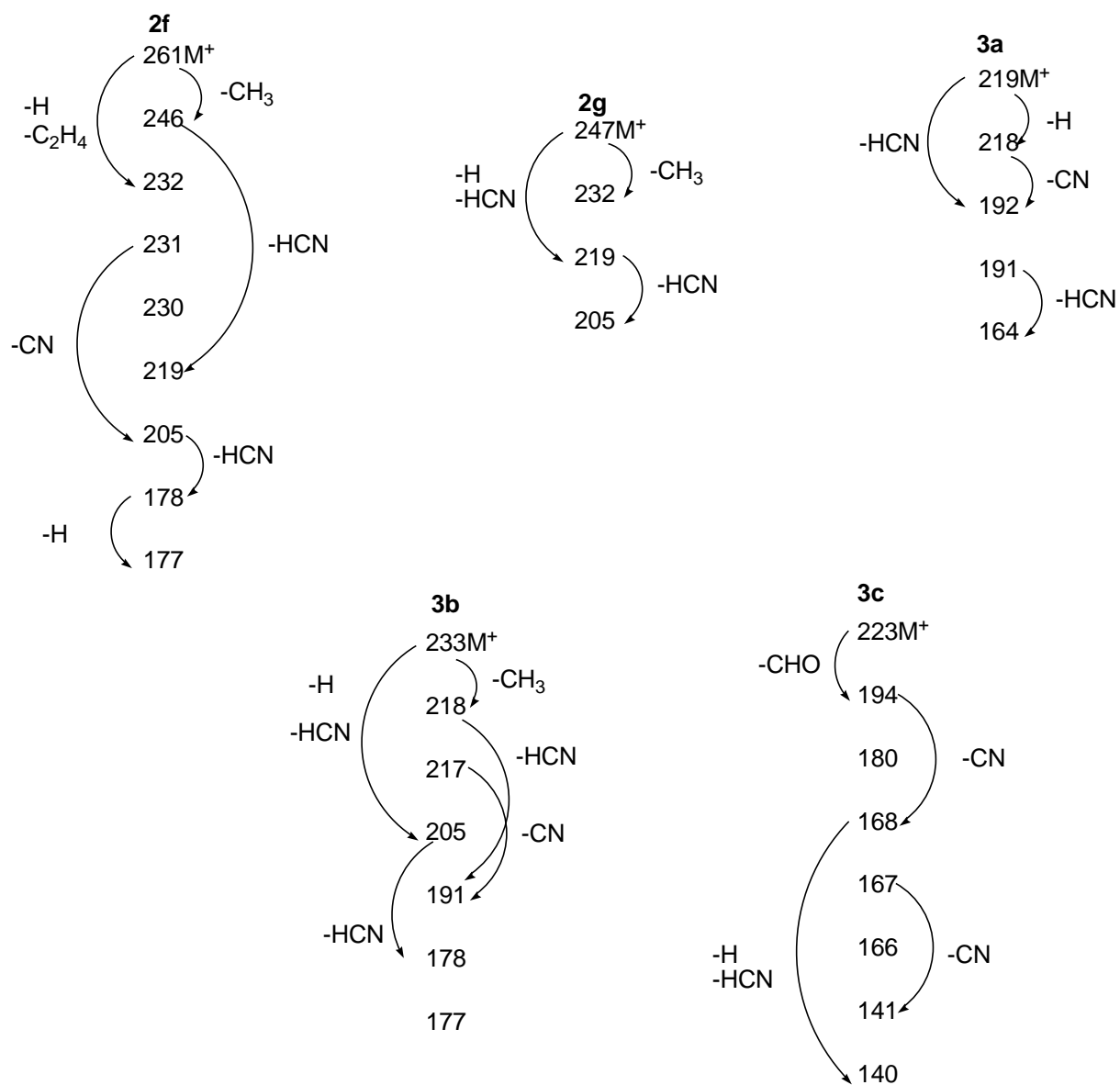
**Scheme - I**



Scheme- II

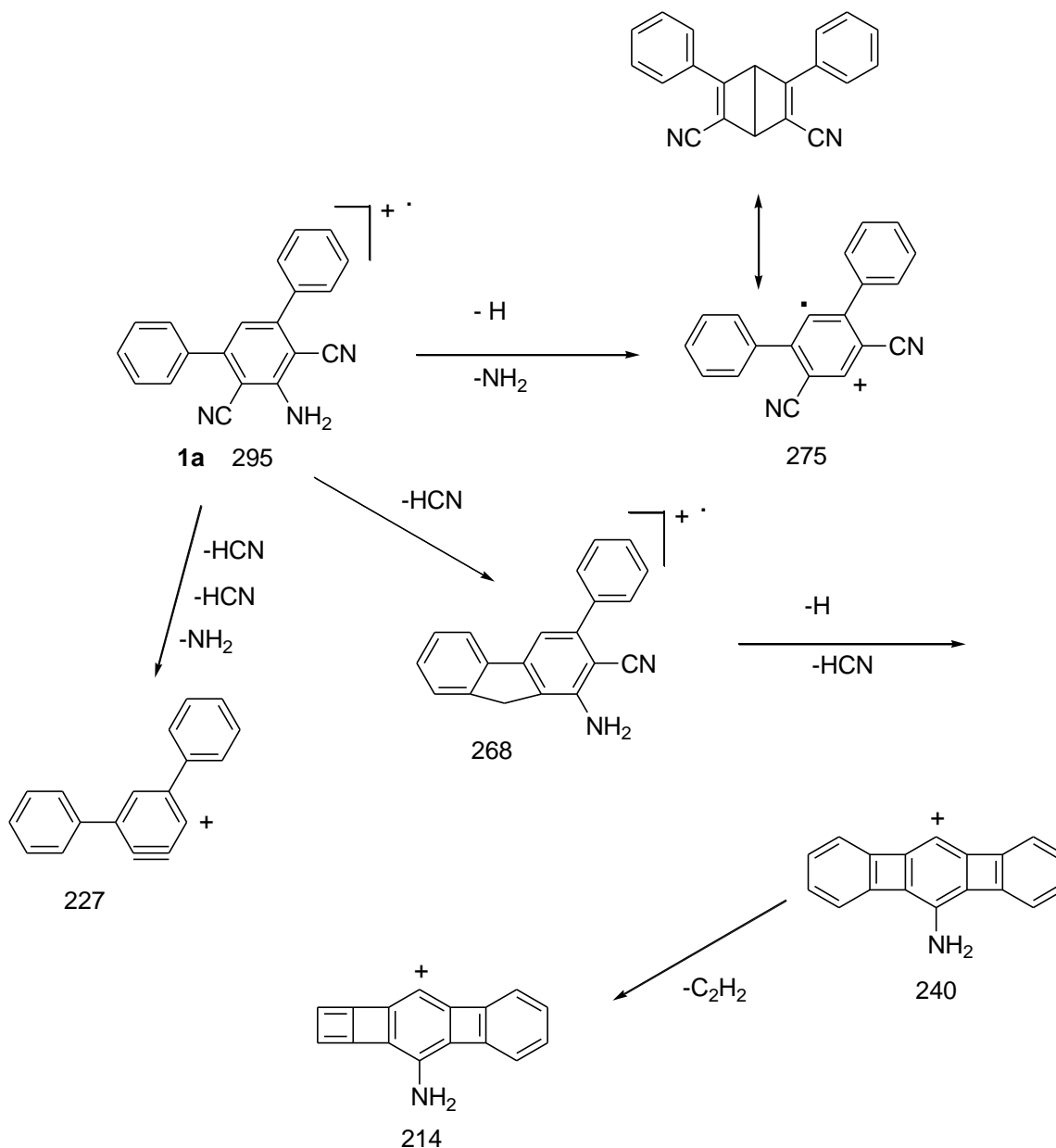


Scheme -III



Scheme -IV

The representative fragmentation pattern of m- terphenyl compound **1a** is furnished in **scheme-V**.



Scheme- V

## Conclusion

Totally **15** m-terphenyl and biaryl derivatives were studied for their mass spectral fragmentation pattern. Molecular mass information and fragmentation pattern are easily obtained under the electron ionization (EI) condition. The most common loss of CN, NH<sub>2</sub>, HCN, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> groups were observed from all the compounds **1a-e**, **2a-g**, **3a-c**. Similar loss of CH<sub>3</sub>, HCHO and HCN groups were identified both methyl substituted compounds **1b** and **1d** from the molecular ions. Successive loss of phenyl groups were observed in compound **1c** and the loss of CHO group is the characteristic of furfuryl moiety has been observed in compound **3c** (m/z 194).

## Acknowledgment

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