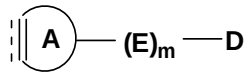
**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS**

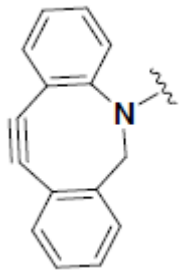
1. A compound of Formula I




Formula I

wherein

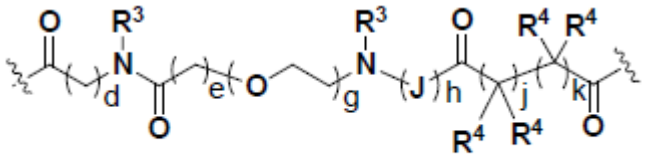
A is selected from the group consisting of dibenzocyclooctynyl, cyclooct-4-ynoxyl,




(1R,8S,9S)-bicyclo[6.1.0]non-4-yn-9-ylmethyloxy, and ;

D is a maytansinoid;

E is




E4

,

wherein:

J is an amino acid or a peptide;

d, e, g, j, and k are each independently an integer from 1 to 30;

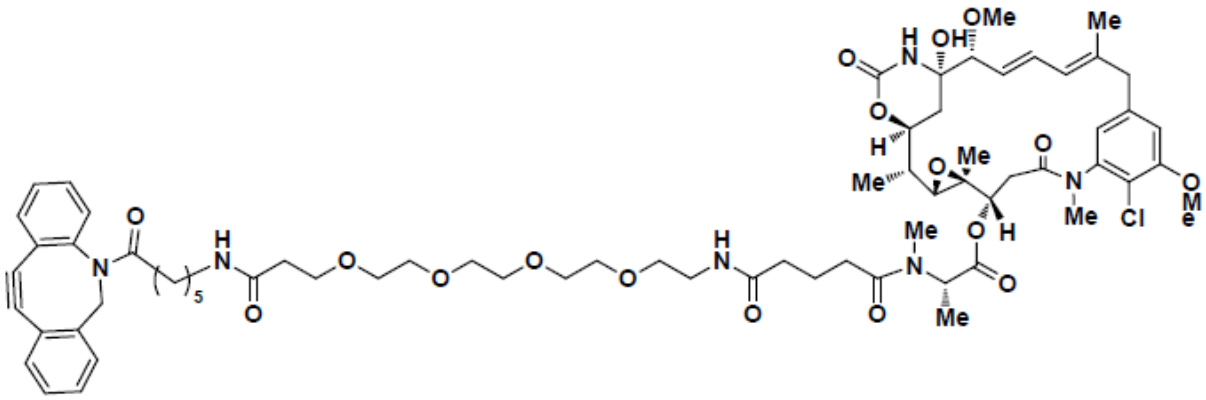
h is an integer from 0 to 30;

Each $R^4$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, $-N(R^3)_2$, $-SR^3$, C1-C8 alkoxy, and aryl;

Each $R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, and C1-C8 alkyl; and

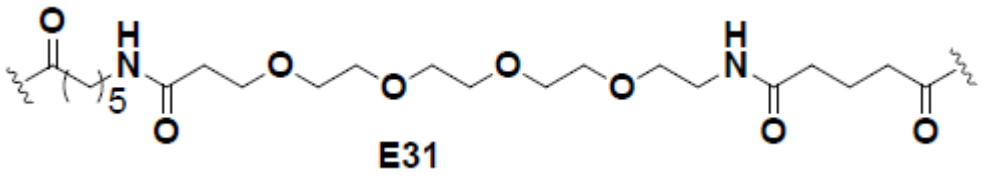
m is 1;

provided that the compound of Formula I is not

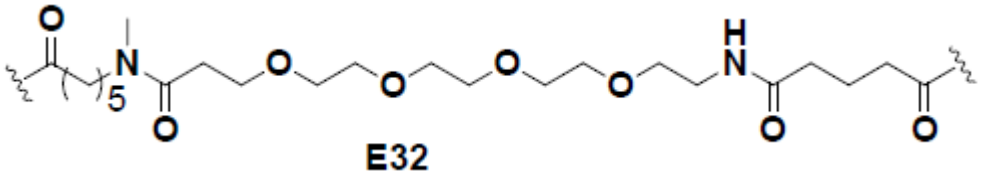


I1.

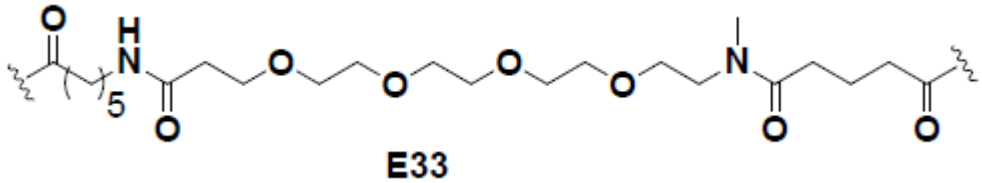
2. A compound of Formula I according to claim 1, wherein E is selected from the group consisting of



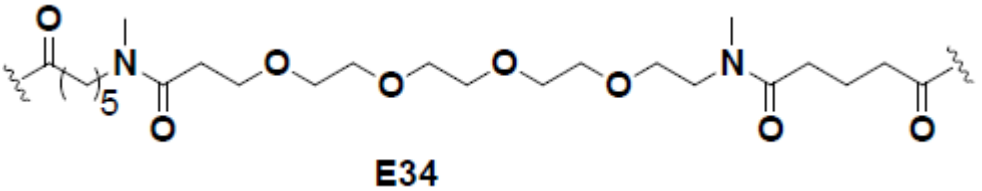
E31;



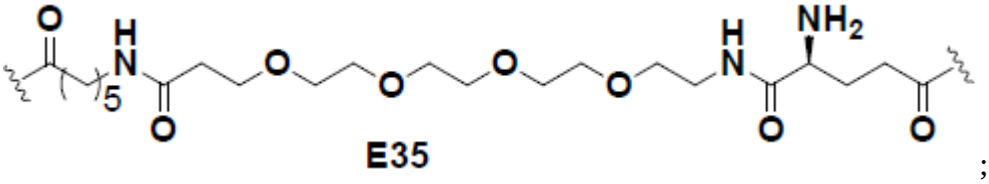
E32;



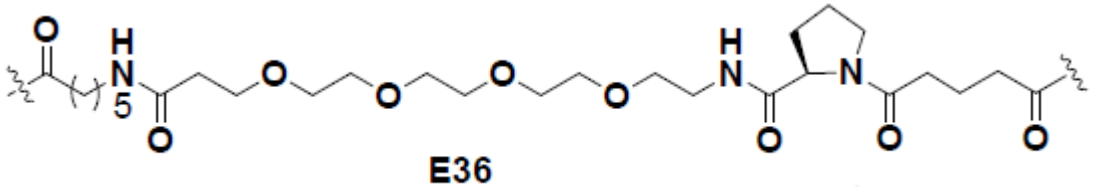
E33;



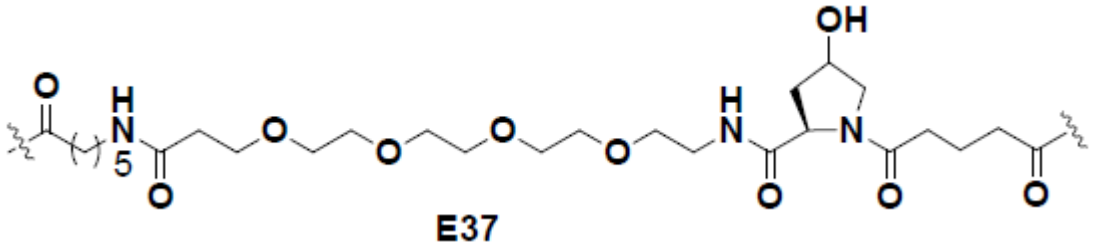
E34;



E35;

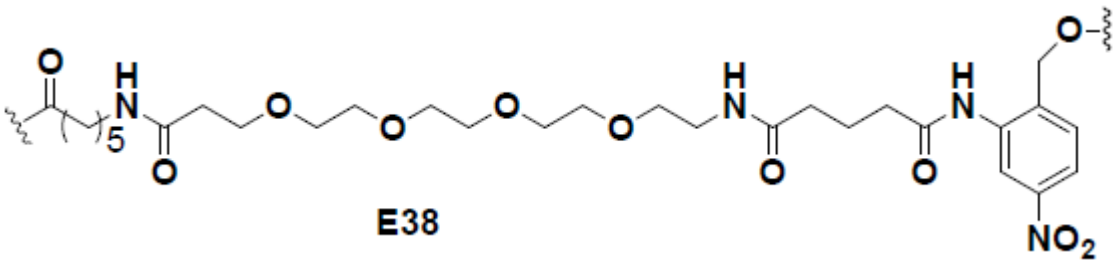


E36;



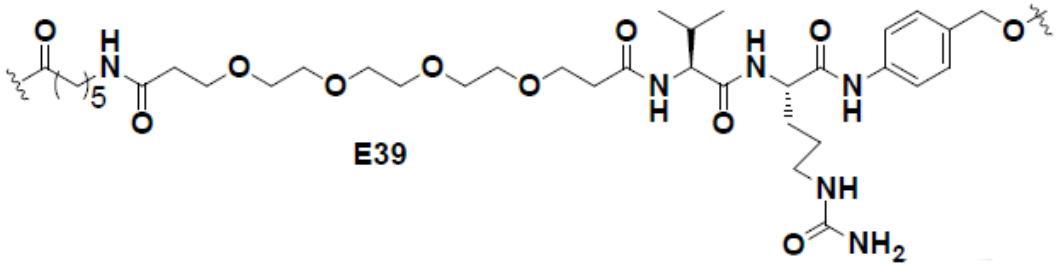
E37

;



E38

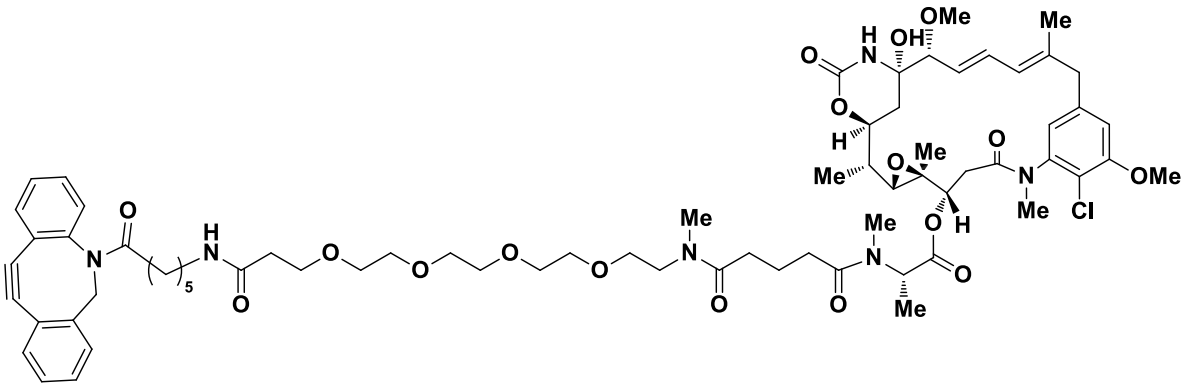
; and



E39

.

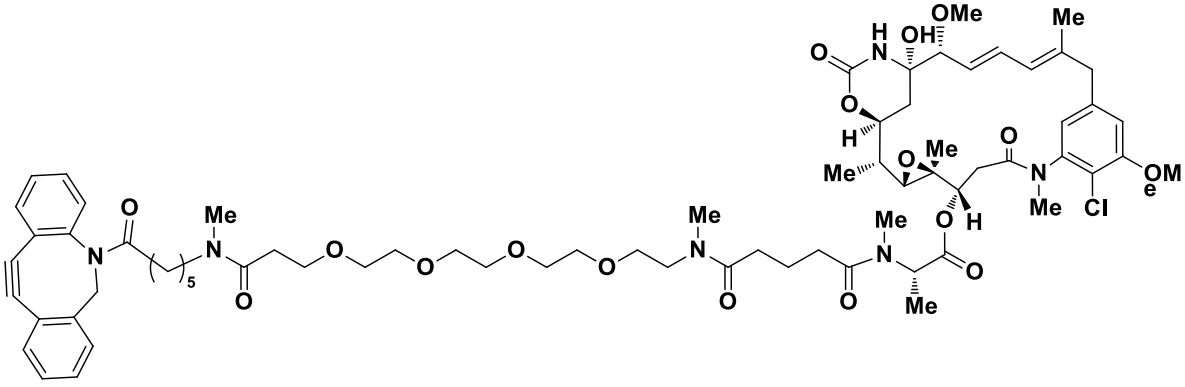
3. A compound of Formula I according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of



,

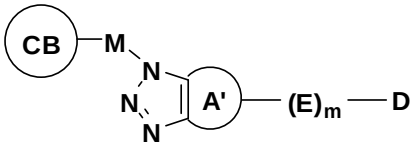
I3

and



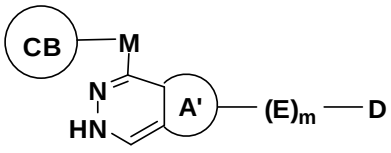
I4.

4. A conjugate of Formula III or Formula III' or Formula III''

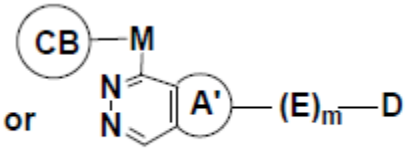



Formula III

or




Formula III'




Formula III''

wherein:

CB is a cell-binding agent;

M is a non-natural amino acid;

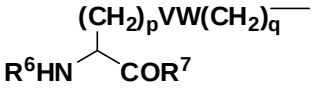
A' is defined as A in any one of claims 1 to 3;

D is a maytansinoid;

E is defined as in any one of claims 1 to 3; and

m is 1 .

5. A conjugate according to claim 4, wherein M exhibits the structure




Formula IV

wherein p and q are each an integer from 0-10;

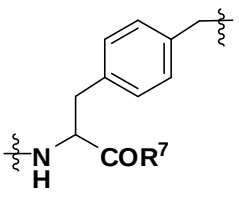
$R^6$ is H, amino acid, polypeptide, or a bond;

$R^7$ is OH, amino acid, polypeptide, or a bond;

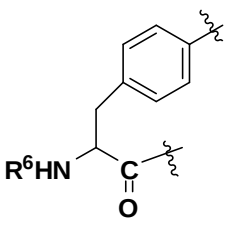
V is an alkyl, aryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, or absent; and,

W is O, N, S, or absent.

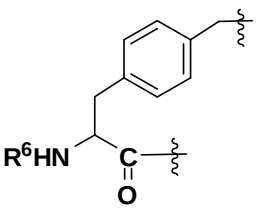
6. A conjugate according to claim 5, wherein M is selected from the group consisting of



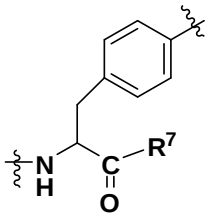

V ;



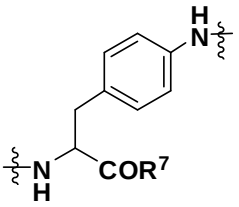

VI ;



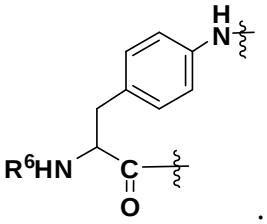
VII ;



VIII ;

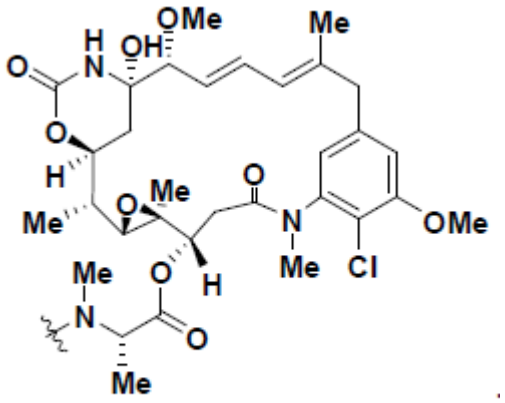


IX ; and



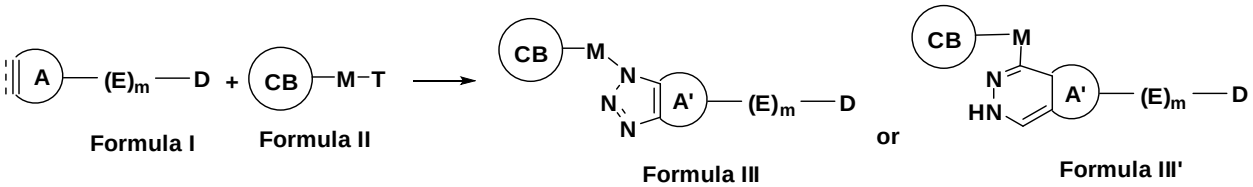
X .

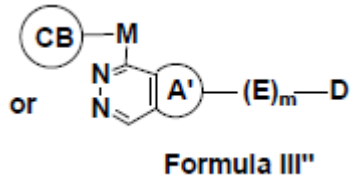
7. A compound or conjugate according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the maytansinoid is of the structure



C2

8. A process for preparing a conjugate of Formula III or Formula III' or Formula III'', the process comprising the step of reacting a compound of Formula I with a compound of Formula II




wherein

Formula I is defined as in any one of claims 1 to 3,

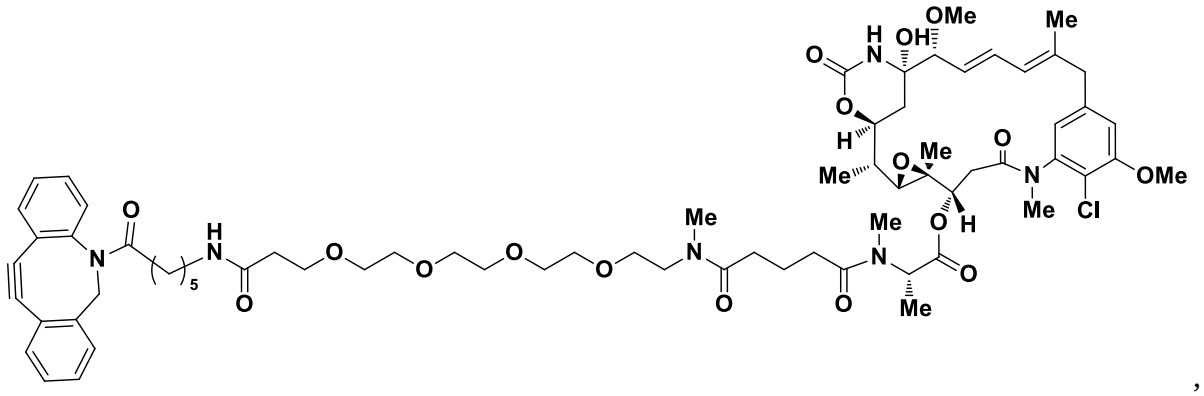
with reference to Formula II,

CB is a cell-binding agent; M is a non-natural amino acid; T is an azide group or a tetrazine group; and,

with reference to Formula III and Formula III', and Formula III'',

A' is defined as A in any one of claims 1 to 3.

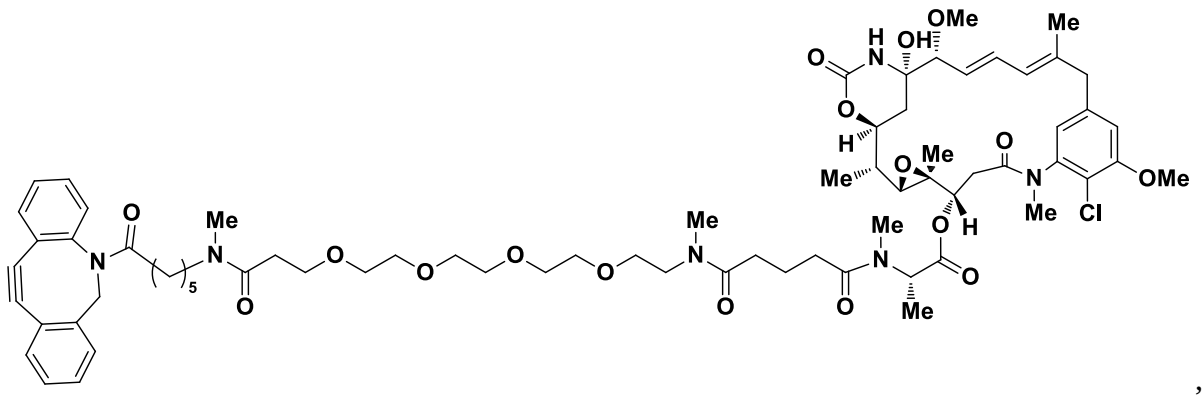
9. A process according to claim 8 wherein each compound of Formula I is independently selected from the group consisting of



,

I3

and



,

I4.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a conjugate according to any one of claims 4 to 7 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

11. A conjugate according to any one of claims 4 to 7, or the composition of claim 10, for use in the treatment of a disorder in a mammal.

12. The conjugate according to claim 11, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of malignant tumors, autoimmune diseases, graft rejections, graft versus host disease, viral infections, microorganism infections, and parasite infections.

13. Use of the conjugate according to any one of claims 4-7, or the composition of claim 10, for the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of a disorder in a mammal, wherein the disorder is responsive to suppression of cell growth or induction of cell death.

14. The use according to claim 13, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of malignant tumors, autoimmune diseases, graft rejections, graft versus host disease, viral infections, microorganism infections, and parasite infections.