

Supplementary Information

Dual Catalytic Synthesis of Antiviral Compounds Based on Metallocarbene-Azide Cascade Chemistry

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Compound Stability Studies:

A. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).

An example of a DSC experiment for compound **1a**¹ is shown (Figure S1). These data show the temperature at which the crystals of **1a** began to melt (endotherm, positive peak, 75.5 °C) and began to decompose (exotherm, negative peak, 127 °C to 168 °C). The heat released after the decomposition is about 1730 J/g material.

¹Bott, T. M.; Atienza, B. J.; West, F. G. *RSC Adv.* **2014**, *4*, 31955-31959.

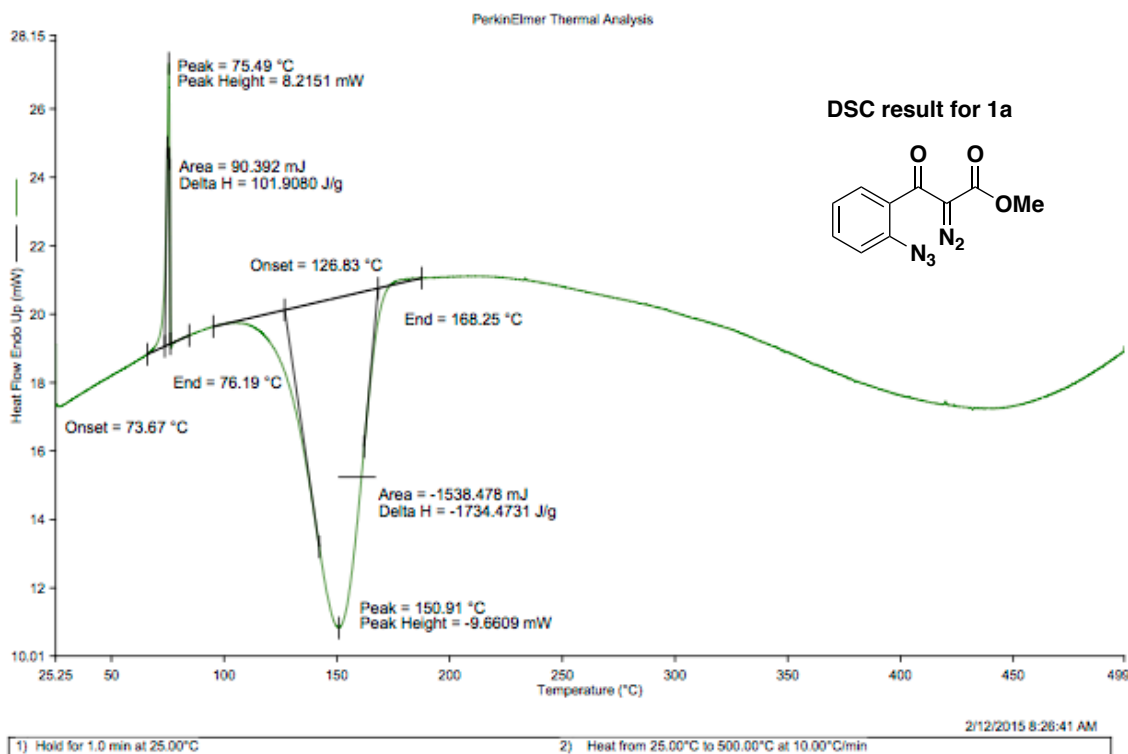


Figure S1: Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) data for **1a**.

B. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)

The decomposition pattern was further monitored using a TGA experiment. An example of a TGA experiment for compound **1a** is shown in Figure S2. We found that dicarbonyl stabilized diazo crystals of **1a** generally exhibited one sharp inflection point, starting at temperatures around 130 °C, in agreement with the DSC experiment. No substantial mass change was noticed during the solid to liquid phase transition, indicative of no decomposition of material during melting phase transition.

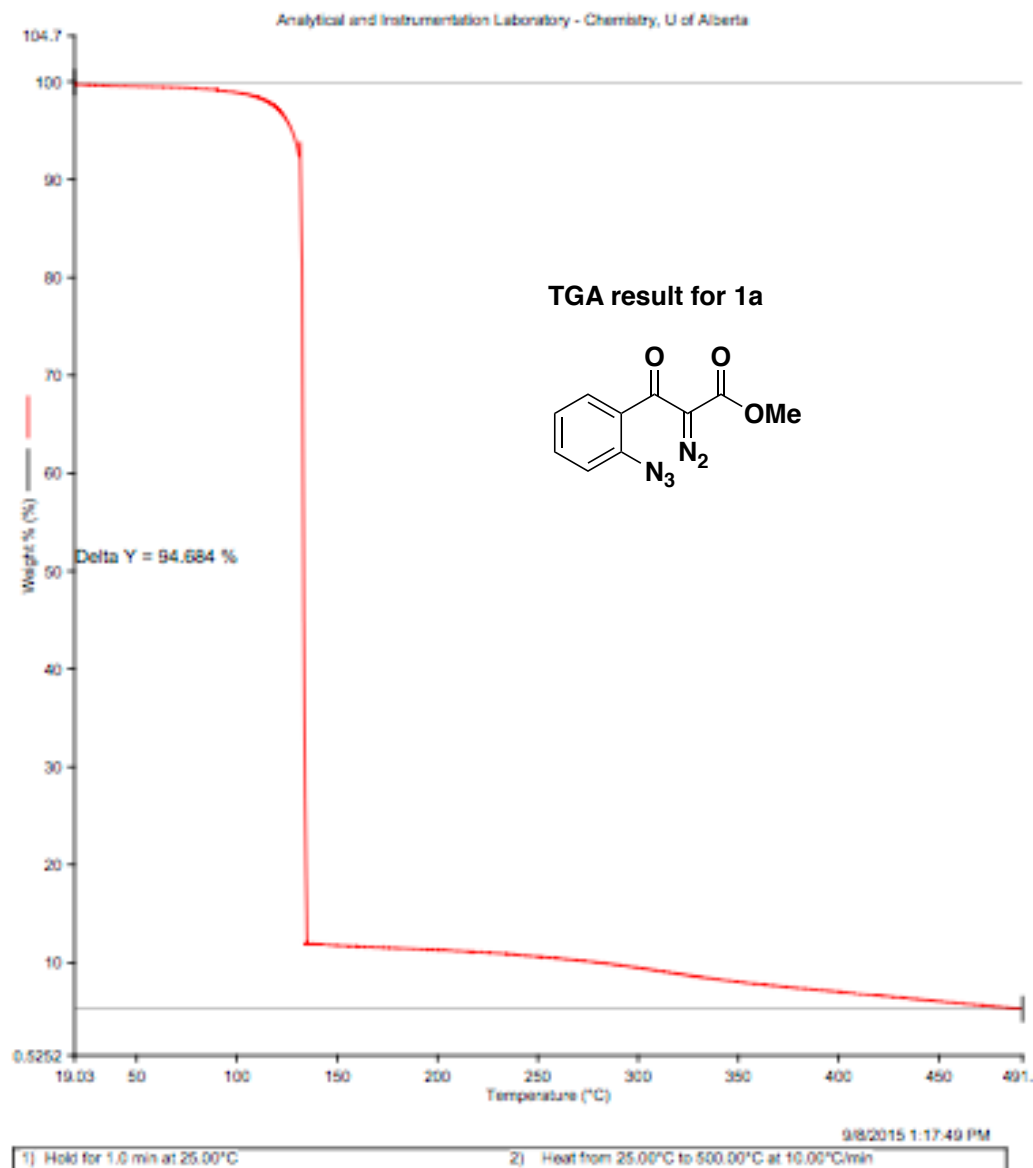


Figure S2: Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) data for 1a.

Both of these experiments shed some light on the thermal stability of **1a**. These experiments provide clear and compelling evidence that the metal catalyzed transformation, associated with the starting material **1a**, at ambient temperature (22 °C to 40 °C), described in the manuscript, is not merely heat driven as the starting material **1a** is stable at this temperature range. Moreover, using the DSC data, we anticipated that there would be significantly less risk of detonation, due to thermal runaway, associated with compound **1a**, or analogous diazoazides, provided the material is stored at freezer temperature (< 0 °C) when not in use.

Long-term storage (> 1 week) is generally not advisable for compound **1a**, especially for a large-scale preparation, but we noticed that compound **1a** and the other analogues survived with little or no decomposition during storage at freezer temperature (−20 °C) for >3 months (monitored weekly using ¹H NMR).

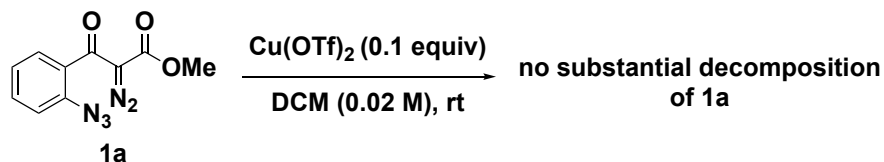
These experiments (DSC and TGA) alone should not, however, be taken as an indication that the material is completely safe for handling. Other parameters, for example potential shock sensitivity, are equally important. Attempts to carry out a hammer test for compound **1a** (ca. 0.5 mg) to evaluate its shock sensitivity were inconclusive. A small spark was observed, but in the absence of a reliable benchmark, we are unable to draw any conclusions regarding the shock sensitivity of **1a**. Similar to other common potentially explosive materials used in organic synthesis laboratories, such as peroxides, we caution potential users to treat the starting material **1a** and analogues with due care and respect. In our hands, we did not observe any unanticipated detonation of these diazo azide starting materials and we performed most of our large-scale reactions involving these substrates in a well-ventilated fume hood equipped with a blast shield. We also recommend wearing a Kevlar® apron and safety gloves and using earplugs as added safety precautions, especially for large-scale reactions.

Mechanistic Considerations:

A. Copper Oxidation State in the Catalytic Cycle

Conversion Studies (% Recovery):

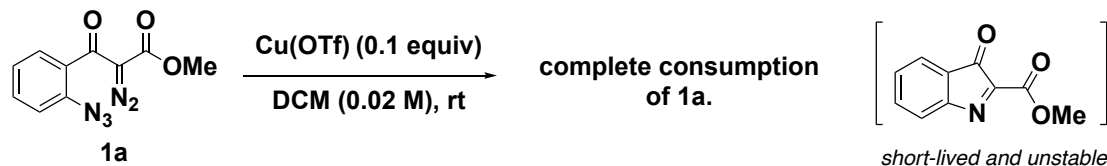
Copper (II) oxidation state:



A solution of diazo-azide **1a** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to a solution of Cu(OTf)₂ (7.3 mg, 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature *via* syringe pump over 1 h. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was monitored by TLC for consumption of the diazo-azide starting material. After 24 h, the solution was extracted

with water (10 mL, 3×) to remove the copper salt, and the DCM solution was dried with MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude oil was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography eluting with 20% EtOAc/Hexanes. This procedure resulted in the recovery of diazo-azide **1a**, in 81-93% (three repeats). Using identical conditions but allowing the mixture to stir for 5 d instead of 24 h resulted to the recovery of 73-84% (three repeats) starting material **1a**. Analysis of the TLC and NMR spectra of the crude mixture revealed the presence of starting material, and a faint spot on the baseline using 20% EtOAc/Hexanes as the eluent (TLC).

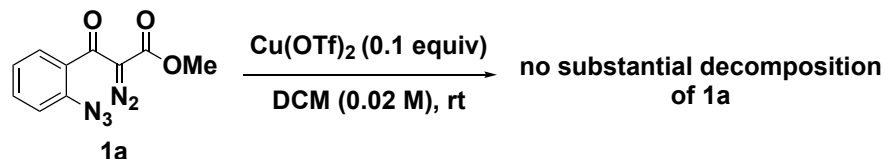
Copper (I) oxidation state:



A solution of diazo-azide **1a** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to a solution of Cu(OTf)(PhMe) (10 mg, 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature *via* syringe pump over 1 h. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was monitored by TLC for consumption of the diazo-azide starting material. After 24 h, the solution was extracted with water (10 mL, 3×) to remove the copper salt, the DCM solution was dried with MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude oil was purified using silica gel flash column chromatography eluting with 20% EtOAc/Hexanes. This procedure resulted to the recovery of trace amount of **1a** (< 5%). Analysis of the TLC chromatogram of the crude mixture revealed the presence of multiple colored spots. The crude NMR spectra revealed an intractable mixture of multiple compounds.

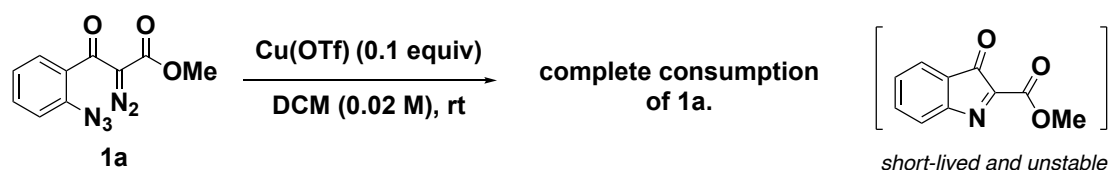
Conversion Studies (*in-situ* IR analysis and ^1H -NMR spectroscopy)

Copper (II) oxidation state:



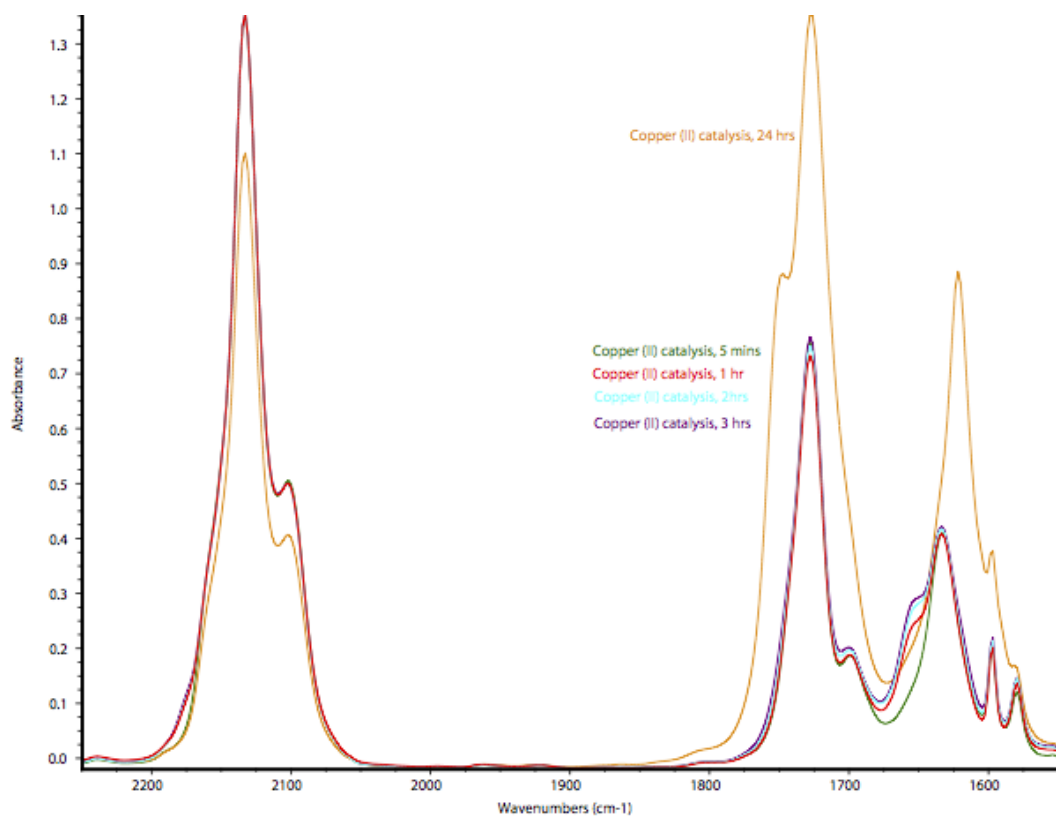
A solution of diazo-azide **1a** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to a solution of Cu(OTf)₂ (7.6 mg, 0.02 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature *via* syringe pump over 1 h. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was monitored by TLC for consumption of the diazo-azide starting material. An aliquot of the stirred solution (0.5 mL), was taken after *ca.* 5 min, 1 h, 2 h, 3 h, and 24 h of stirring, each aliquot was diluted with DCM (1 mL). The diluted solution was analyzed using IR spectroscopy and plotted as overlaid spectra (Figure S3a).

Copper (I) oxidation state:

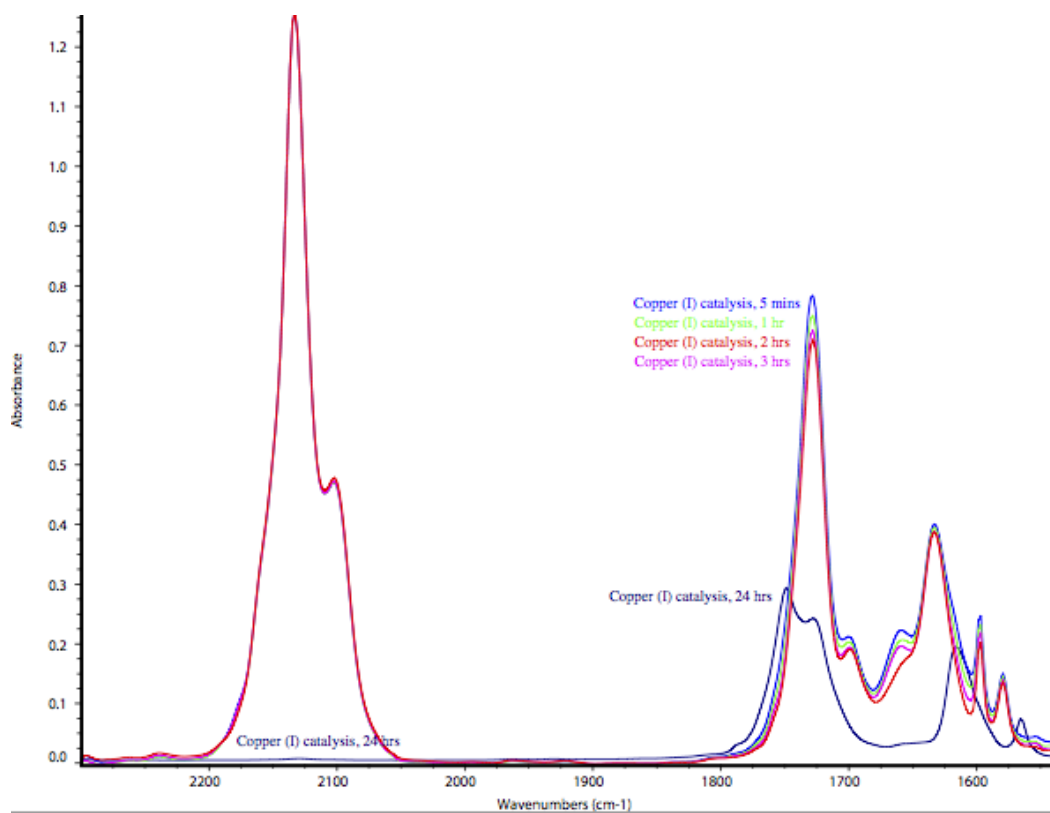


Using IR spectroscopy

A solution of diazo-azide **1a** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to a solution of Cu(OTf)(PhMe) (10 mg, 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature *via* syringe pump over 1 h. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was monitored by TLC for consumption of the diazo-azide starting material. An aliquot of the stirred solution (0.5 mL), was taken after *ca.* 5 min, 1 h, 2 h, 3 h and 24 h of stirring, each aliquot was diluted with DCM (1 mL). The diluted solution was analyzed using IR spectroscopy and plotted as overlaid spectra (Figure S3b).



(a)



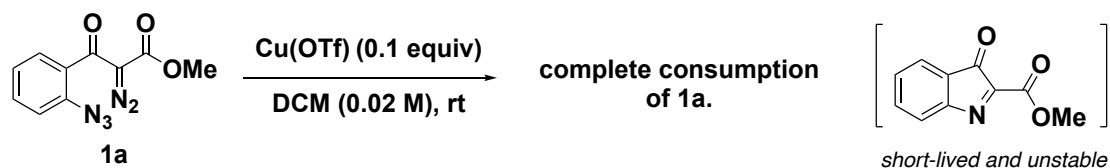
(b)

Figure S3: In-situ IR spectroscopic analysis of the decomposition of compound 1a.

Discussion of *in-situ* IR analysis:

The complete absence of a broad peak at 2137 cm^{-1} indicated complete decomposition of the diazoketone and the azide functional groups. An increase in the absorbance and broadening of signal around 1730 cm^{-1} was noticed on diazo-azide starting material upon exposure with copper (II) triflate over 24 h, indicative of carbonyl interaction (dative bond) with copper (II), which did not progress to substantial diazo-ketone decomposition (notice the continued substantial absorbance at 2137 cm^{-1}). However, a notable *decrease* in the absorbance of the signal around 2137 cm^{-1} was noticed on diazo-azide starting material upon exposure with copper (I) triflate over 24 h, indicative of complete decomposition of diazoketone and azide over a 24 h period. This time period is within the observed optimized reaction time (16-36 h, depending on the substitution of indole substrate) for azide-metallocarbene coupling, followed by Friedel-Crafts alkylation with indole. This pair of experiments, together with the recovery analysis, and ^1H NMR spectroscopy (*vide infra*) provided a clear distinction between the catalytic behaviors of the two copper oxidation states.

Using ^1H -NMR spectroscopy



In a 2.0 mL vial, a solution of diazo-azide **1a** (10 mg, 0.040 mmol) in deuterated DCM (0.5 mL) at room temperature was added to $\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})(\text{PhMe})$ (*ca.* 2.0 mg, 0.0039 mmol) as a solid. The solution was quickly transferred in an NMR tube, capped with septum, and purged with argon. NMR spectra (400 MHz) were acquired once per hour over a 10 h period. The array of spectra was plotted. After 8-10 h, the starting material **1a** was completely consumed. These data, corroborated with the IR results, provide compelling evidence that copper (I) is the kinetically competent oxidation state during the conversion of diazoazide into C-acylimine.

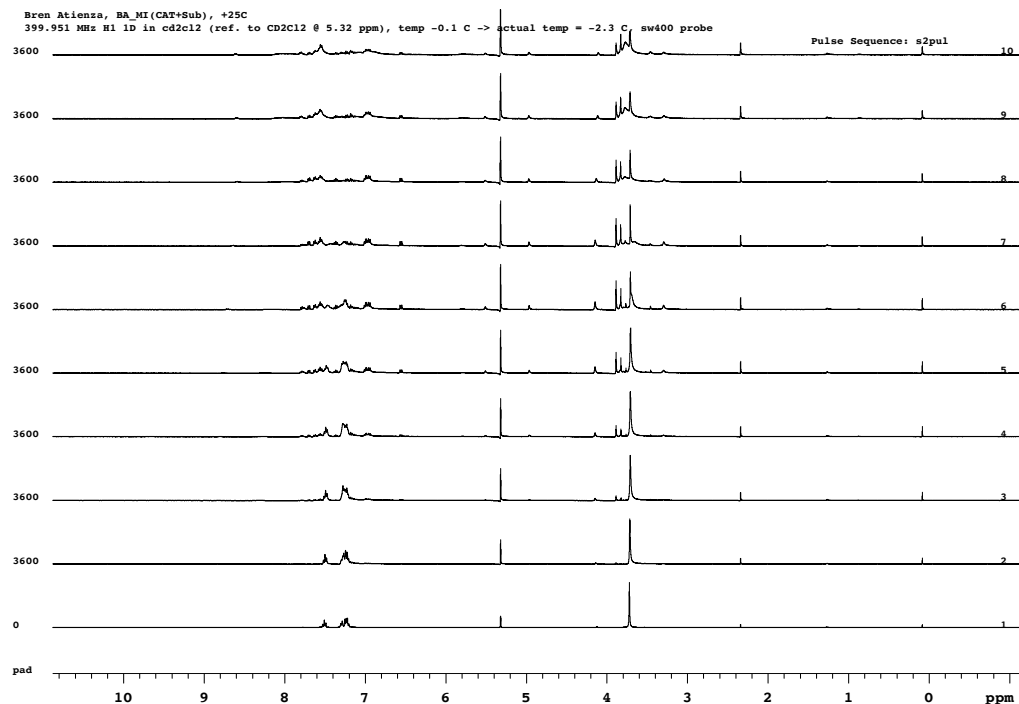
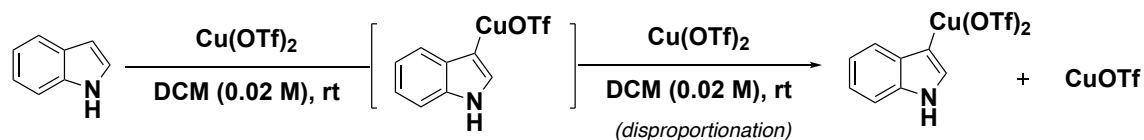


Figure S4: Decomposition analysis of 1a, in the presence of Cu (I) catalyst, using NMR.

After extensive analysis of the copper oxidation state necessary for the decomposition of the starting material **1a**, we posited that copper (I) was the kinetically competent oxidation state. This, however, was not expected since our initially loaded catalyst was copper (II) triflate. A logical next step was to examine whether the indole could function as a competent reductant.

Formation of Active Copper (I) Catalyst from Copper (II) Precatalyst

Using UV spectroscopy, formation of a new σ -copper indole complex.



Solution A: A solution of indole (55 mg, 0.47 mmol) was added to Cu(OTf)₂ (7.3 mg, 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature. Once the addition was complete, noticeable formation of light green solution occurred after 1 h. An aliquot of this solution (1 mL) was diluted with 5 mL of DCM and was subjected to UV spectroscopy. **Solution B:** An aliquot (1 mL) of a solution of indole dissolved in DCM (0.02 M, 10 mL) at room temperature was also subjected to UV spectroscopy. **Solution C:** An aliquot (1 mL) of a solution of Cu(OTf)₂ dissolved in DCM (0.02 M, 10 mL) at room temperature was also subjected to UV spectroscopy. Further dilution was necessary until the peaks (> 300 nm) can be seen. After analysis of the three spectra, formation a broad new peak at 395 nm was seen from **Solution A**, indicating the formation of a new colored complex (Figure S5). This new peak at 395 nm does not persist and generally has low relative concentration. Hence, a concentrated reaction mixture was needed to observe the absorption at 395 nm. Notably, similar copper-indole species was detected by Toste et. al. upon mixing of Cu(II) chiral phosphate and indole.²

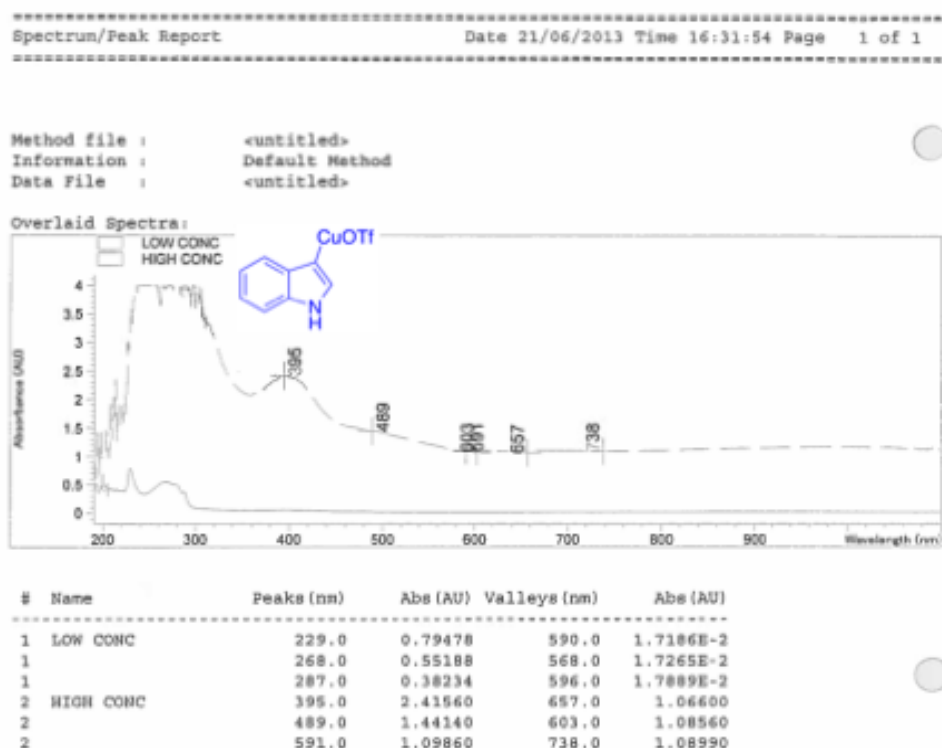
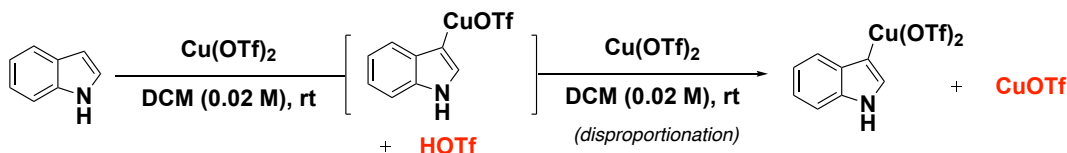


Figure S5: UV-VIS spectra of solution A.

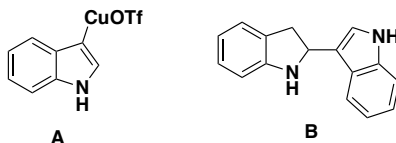
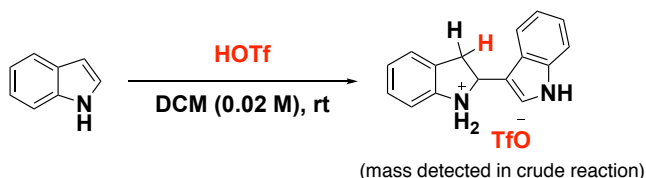
²Rauniyar, V.; Wang, Z. J.; Burks, H. E.; Toste, F. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 8486-8489.

Using ESI-MS, detection of the mass fragments corresponding to the dimer and the copper-indole complex.

Primary reaction:



Possible pathway to dimer:



A solution of indole (55 mg, 0.47 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to Cu(OTf)_2 (7.3 mg, 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature. Once the addition was done, noticeable formation of light green solution occurred after one hour. An aliquot of this solution (1 mL) was diluted with acetonitrile and directly subjected to ESI-MS analysis. After analysis of the ESI-MS (Figure 6), the following fragments were detected and partially ascribed to the formation: **A** HRMS calc'd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{CuF}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 327.9316, found 327.9645 (fleeting), for **B** HRMS calc'd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 235.1230, found 235.1230, and protonated and sodiated **2a**. *N.B.*: Compound **B** was likewise detected in the crude reaction mixture to make **2a**.

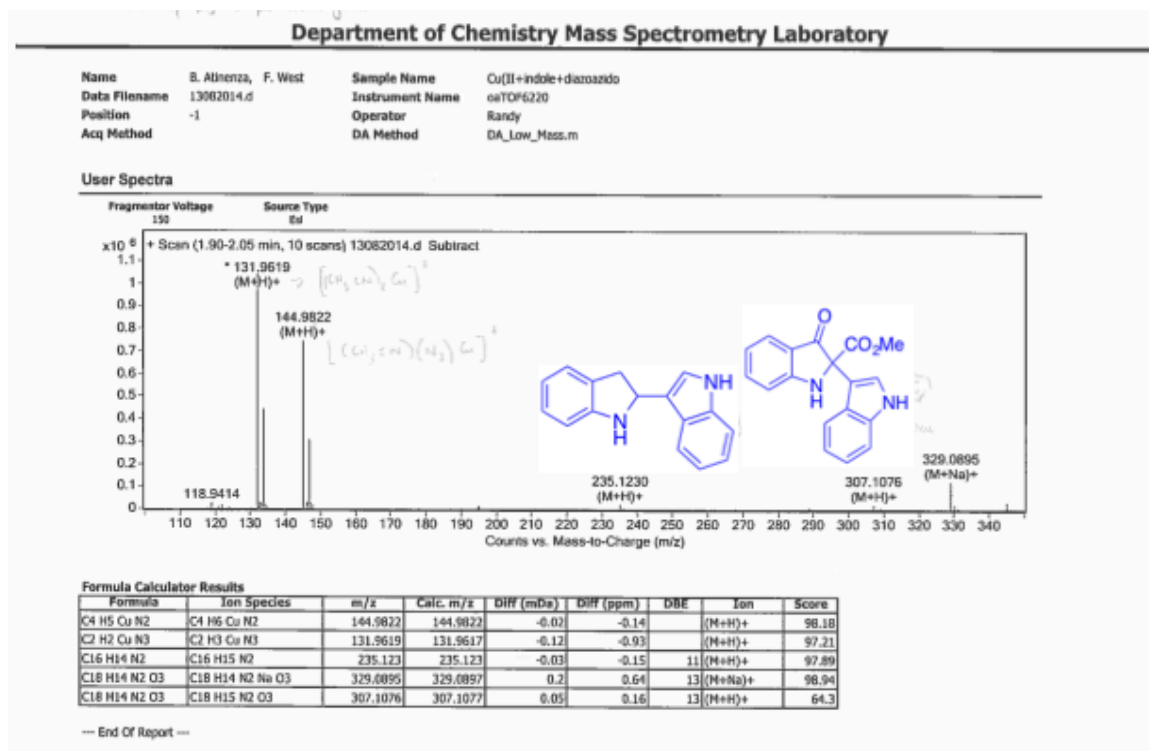


Figure S6: Electrospray mass spectra of the crude reaction mixture to make 2a.

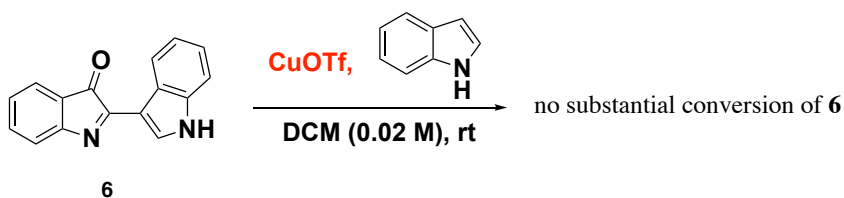
Discussion. Given an apparent reaction between the indole and copper (II) triflate to afford an initially colored complex, the absorption detected through UV-VIS spectroscopy, and literature precedent,² we posit the reduction of copper (II) triflate through the initially formed metallated indole, followed by disproportionation reaction. This disproportionation reaction could theoretically generate copper (I) triflate, and copper (III) triflate indole complex. The latter could, conceivably, reductively eliminate to copper (I) triflate and indole triflate. Based on these experiments, the kinetically competent copper (I) triflate is proposed to result from a redox process involving copper (II) precatalyst and indole. However, this proposal on its own cannot explain the substantial difference in isolated yield of **2a** between Cu(OTf)₂ and CuOTf. An additional component in the reaction, presumably derived from the activation reaction of Cu(OTf)₂ and indole, was necessary for efficient Friedel Crafts alkylation with indole. We took a cue from the reduction reaction scheme and the result of ESI-MS analysis of the crude reaction. We propose a Brønsted acid catalyst, either TfOH or its salt with indole dimer **B**,

acts to catalyze Friedel-Crafts addition of indole to the intermediate *C*-acylimine formed from metallocarbene-azide coupling.

Evidence for Brønsted Acid Catalysis of Friedel-Crafts Alkylation

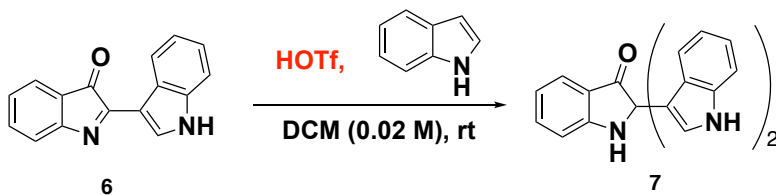
NOTE: Since the putative *C*-acylimine occurring in the Cu(I)-catalyzed coupling step is transient and cannot be isolated, we used isolable *C*-acylimine **6** as a model to help understand the second catalytic cycle.

Stirring *C*-acylimine **6** with Indole in the Presence of Cu(OTf)(PhMe):



A solution of *C*-acylimine **6** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) and indole (50 mg, 0.43 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to Cu(OTf)(PhMe) (9.7 mg, *ca* 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature. Once the addition was complete, the solution was allowed to stir overnight. After stirring for 16 h, the solution was extracted with water (5 mL, 2x), and the organic layer was dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Analysis of crude reaction mixture indicated that substantial quantities of **6** were present. Upon purification via a short pad of silica (20% EtOAc/Hexanes), *ca.* 91% of **6** was recovered. This model reaction showed that, although copper (I) triflate can convert **1a** to the *C*-acylimine (see the previous experiments), copper (I) could not efficiently catalyze the Friedel-Crafts alkylation reaction with indole.

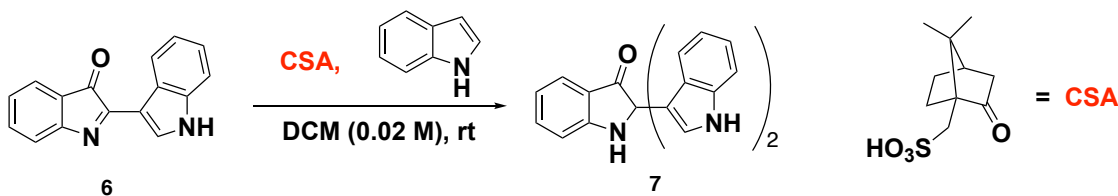
Stirring *C*-acylimine **6** with Indole in the Presence of TfOH:



A solution of *C*-acylimine **6** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) and indole (50 mg, 0.43 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was mixed with excess TfOH (*ca.* 50 μ L, *ca.* 0.57 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room

temperature. Once the mixing was complete, within 5 minutes a change in color was noticed, from deep purple to light orange. The solution was diluted with water (5 mL) and extracted with DCM (5 mL, 3x). The organic layer was dried using MgSO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure. Analysis of the crude mixture indicated that **6** was completely consumed, and adduct **7** can be detected using crude NMR. The purification of **7**, however, was hampered by the presence of several side products.

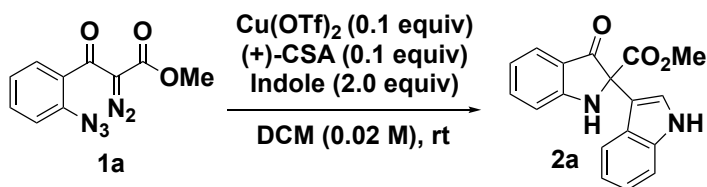
Stirring *C*-acylimine **6 with Indole in the Presence of CSA:**



A solution of *C*-acylimine **6** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) and indole (50 mg, 0.43 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was mixed with camphorsulfonic acid (CSA; 4.0 mg, *ca.* 0.020 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature. Once the addition was complete, the solution gradually (overnight) changed color from deep purple to a yellow suspension. Analysis of the TLC indicated that **6** was completely consumed. The suspension was filtered. The filtered solid was dissolved in deuterated DMSO and was analyzed using NMR spectroscopy. Analysis of the spectra revealed that the 2:1 adduct, **7**, (indole:indol-3-one), along with water and DMSO, were the only detectable components present in the solution.

These results indicate that Brønsted acid, produced during the reduction of copper (II) triflate by indole, could activate the *C*-acylimine towards Friedel-Crafts alkylation reaction.

Using a (+)-Camphorsulfonic Acid as a Chiral Co-catalyst:



A solution of diazo-azide **1a** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added to a solution of indole (46 mg, 0.39 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ (7.3 mg, 0.020 mmol), and (+)-CSA (4.0 mg, *ca.* 0.02 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) at room temperature *via* syringe pump over 1 h. The reaction mixture turned light green over 2 h, then slowly turned dark brown over 24 h. Once the addition was complete, the reaction was monitored by TLC for consumption of **1a**. Upon consumption of **1a**, the reaction mixture was poured in an Erlenmeyer flask, thoroughly dissolved in ethyl acetate (*ca.* 10 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography. (*N.B.*: the crude mixture after concentration was noticeably insoluble in DCM. In this case, necessarily, ethyl acetate was used as a solvent to load the sample onto silica gel (silica gel, 7:3 hexanes:EtOAc). All pure fractions of **2a** were concentrated together to afford yellow oil. Upon standing for at least 24 h, this oil slowly formed a yellow solid. Analysis of the yellow oil using chiral HPLC revealed that the product was formed in a 68:32 enantiomeric ratio. HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H, 80:20, Hexanes:*i*-PrOH, rt, retention time = 33.77 min (major), 37.71 min (minor).

X-ray Crystallographic Data

Compound: Methyl 2-diazo-3-(2-azido-3-methylphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (**1b**)

Formula: C₁₁H₉N₅O₃

Procedure: Following the steps to make **1b** (see the manuscript), and purification using EtOAc:Hexanes (1:9)→EtOAc:Hexanes (2:8)→EtOAc:Hexanes (3:7). The yellow oil, after reduced pressure evaporation of solvent was left undisturbed at room temperature until yellow crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained.

Crystallographic Experimental Details:

A. Crystal Data

formula	C ₁₁ H ₉ N ₅ O ₃
formula weight	259.23
crystal dimensions (mm)	0.26 × 0.18 × 0.06
crystal system	triclinic
space group	$P\bar{1}$ (No. 2)
unit cell parameters ^a	
<i>a</i> (Å)	7.3874 (3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	8.0591 (4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	10.8556 (5)
α (deg)	96.711 (2)
β (deg)	104.962 (2)
γ (deg)	105.019 (2)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	591.25 (5)
<i>Z</i>	2
ρ_{calcd} (g cm ⁻³)	1.456
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.938

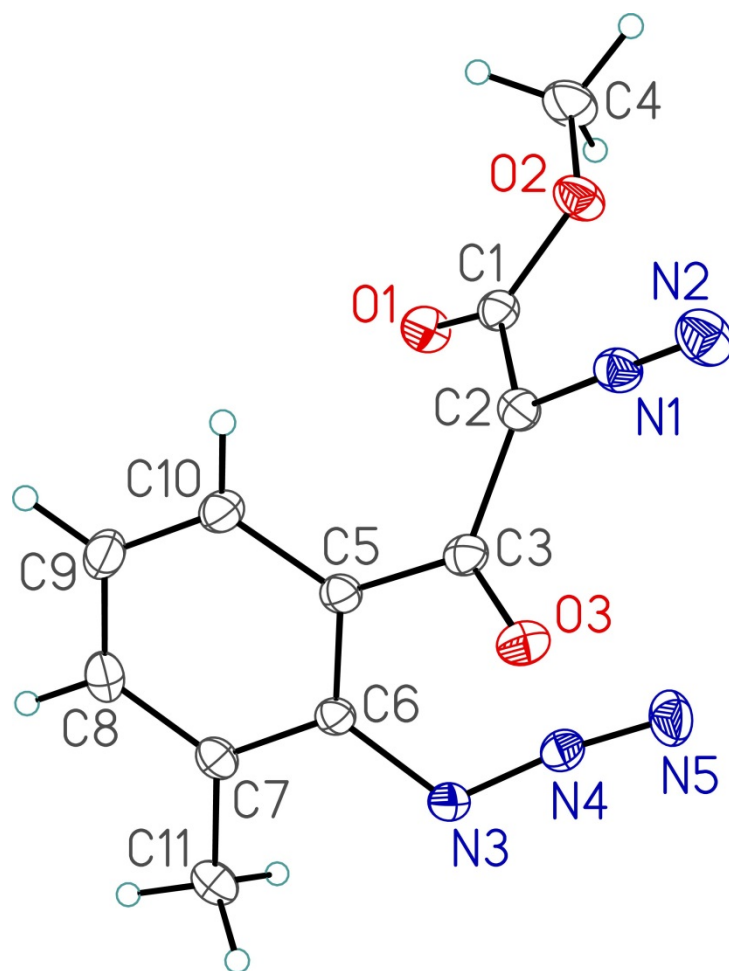
B. Data Collection and Refinement Conditions

diffractometer	Bruker D8/APEX II CCD
radiation (λ [Å])	Cu K α (1.54178) (microfocus source)
temperature (°C)	−100
scan type	ω and ϕ scans (1.0°) (5 s exposures)
data collection 2θ limit (deg)	148.11
total data collected	4241 ($-9 \leq h \leq 9, -10 \leq k \leq 10, -12 \leq l \leq 10$)
independent reflections	2302 ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0177$)
number of observed reflections (<i>NO</i>)	2041 [$F_o^2 \geq 2\sigma(F_o^2)$]
structure solution method	direct methods/dual space (<i>SHELXD</i>)
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on F^2 (<i>SHELXL-2014</i>)

absorption correction method	Gaussian integration (face-indexed)
range of transmission factors	1.0000–0.7941
data/restraints/parameters	2302 / 0 / 173
goodness-of-fit (S) ^e [all data]	1.056
final R indices ^f	
R_1 [$F_o^2 \geq 2\sigma(F_o^2)$]	0.0328
wR_2 [all data]	0.0919
largest difference peak and hole	0.205 and –0.202 e Å ^{–3}

ORTEP Structure for compound 1b.

Perspective view of methyl 2-diazo-3-(2-azido-3-methylphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate. Non-hydrogen atoms are represented by Gaussian ellipsoids at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are shown with arbitrarily small thermal parameters.



Compound: Methyl 3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1'*H*,2*H*-2,3'-biindole-2-carboxylate (**2a**)

Formula: C₁₈H₁₄N₂O₃

Procedure: Following the steps to make **2a** (see the manuscript), and purification using flash column chromatography on silica gel [eluent, EtOAc:Hexanes (3:7)]. The yellow oil, after reduced pressure evaporation of solvent, was added with minimum amount of MeOH:EtOAc (1:1), and was left undisturbed at room temperature until yellow crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained.

Crystallographic Experimental Details:

A. Crystal Data

formula	C ₁₈ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₃
formula weight	306.31
crystal dimensions (mm)	0.26 × 0.26 × 0.11
crystal system	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> (No. 14)
unit cell parameters	
<i>a</i> (Å)	11.9170 (4)
<i>b</i> (Å)	7.9729 (3)
<i>c</i> (Å)	15.3812 (5)
β (deg)	92.5421 (4)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1459.98 (9)
<i>Z</i>	4
ρ _{calcd} (g cm ⁻³)	1.394
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.097

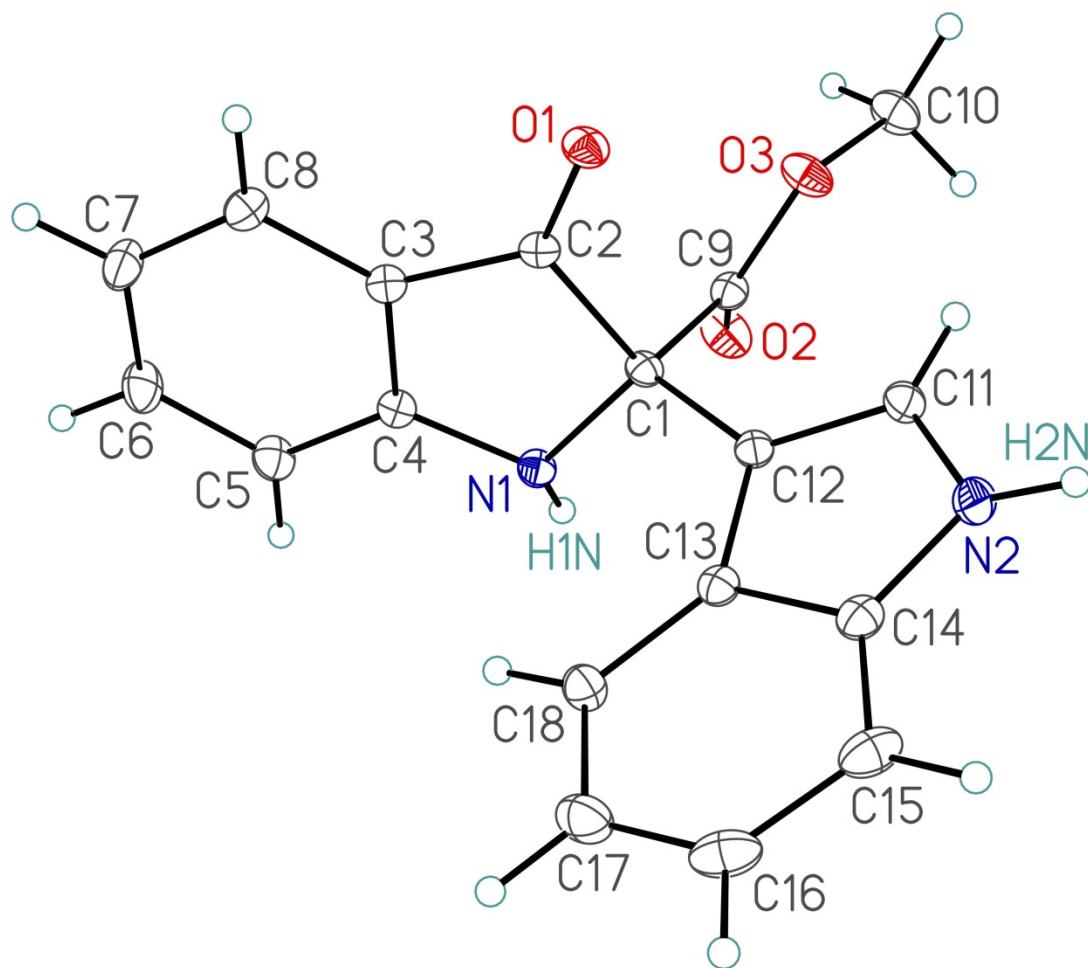
B. Data Collection and Refinement Conditions

diffractometer	Bruker PLATFORM/APEX II CCD
radiation (λ [Å])	graphite-monochromated Mo Kα (0.71073)
temperature (°C)	−100
scan type	ω scans (0.3°) (15 s exposures)
data collection 2θ limit (deg)	54.96
total data collected	12628 (−15 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15, −10 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 10, −19 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 19)
independent reflections	3347 (<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0219)
number of observed reflections (<i>NO</i>)	2932 [<i>F</i> _o ² ≥ 2σ(<i>F</i> _o ²)]
structure solution method	direct methods/dual space (<i>SHELXD</i>)
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ² (<i>SHELXL</i> –2013)
absorption correction method	Gaussian integration (face-indexed)
range of transmission factors	1.0000–0.9333
data/restraints/parameters	3347 / 0 / 216

goodness-of-fit (S) ^e [all data]	1.042
final R indices ^f	
R_1 [$F_o^2 \geq 2\sigma(F_o^2)$]	0.0355
wR_2 [all data]	0.0965
largest difference peak and hole	0.301 and $-0.203 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

ORTEP Structure for compound 2a.

Perspective view of methyl 3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1'*H*,2*H*-2,3'-biindole-2-carboxylate. Non-hydrogen atoms are represented by Gaussian ellipsoids at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are shown with arbitrarily small thermal parameters.



Compound: Methyl 6-chloro-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1'*H*,2*H*-2,3'-biindole-2 carboxylate (**2o**)

Formula: C₁₈H₁₃ClN₂O₃

Procedure: Following the steps to make **2o** (see the manuscript), and purification using flash column chromatography on silica gel [eluent, EtOAc:Hexanes (3:7)]. The yellow oil, after reduced pressure evaporation of solvent, was left undisturbed at room temperature until yellow crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained.

Crystallographic Experimental Details:

A. Crystal Data

formula	C ₁₈ H ₁₃ ClN ₂ O ₃
formula weight	340.75
crystal dimensions (mm)	0.28 × 0.12 × 0.06
crystal system	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> (No. 14)
unit cell parameters ^a	
<i>a</i> (Å)	12.1387 (2)
<i>b</i> (Å)	8.0853 (2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	15.9792 (3)
β (deg)	98.1986 (6)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1552.25 (5)
<i>Z</i>	4
ρ _{calcd} (g cm ⁻³)	1.458
μ (mm ⁻¹)	2.351

B. Data Collection and Refinement Conditions

diffractometer	Bruker D8/APEX II CCD
radiation (λ [Å])	Cu Kα (1.54178) (microfocus source)
temperature (°C)	−100
scan type	ω and φ scans (1.0°) (5 s exposures)
data collection 2θ limit (deg)	148.09
total data collected	10664 (−15 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15, −10 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 9, −19 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 19)
independent reflections	3143 (<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0134)
number of observed reflections (<i>NO</i>)	3010 [<i>F</i> _o ² ≥ 2σ(<i>F</i> _o ²)]
structure solution method	direct methods/dual space (<i>SHELXD</i>)
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ² (<i>SHELXL-2014</i>)
absorption correction method	Gaussian integration (face-indexed)
range of transmission factors	0.9006–0.6955
data/restraints/parameters	3143 / 0 / 225
goodness-of-fit (<i>S</i>) ^e [all data]	1.061

final R indices^f

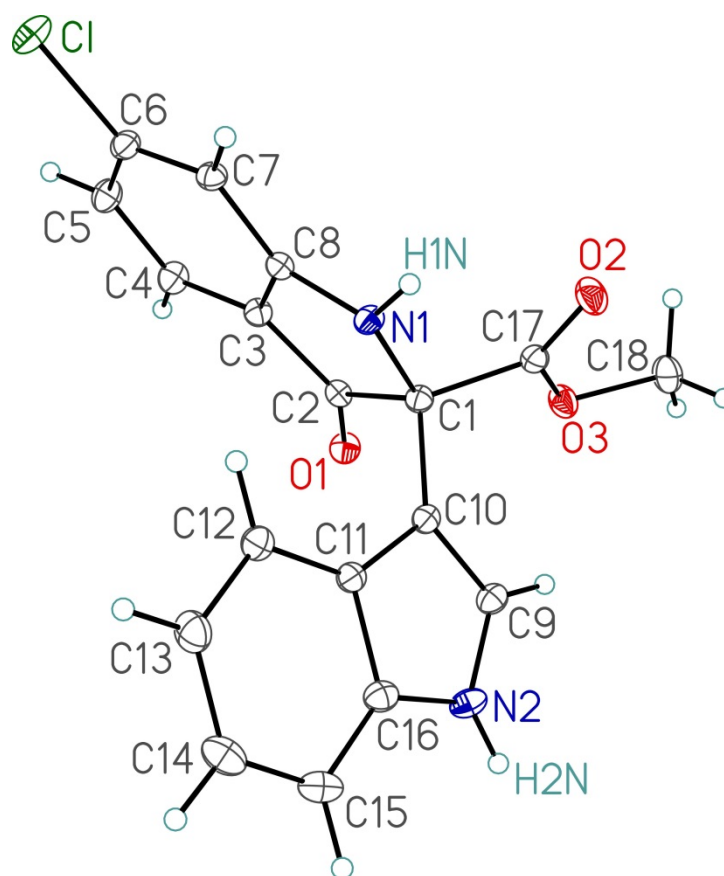
$R_1 [F_o^2 \geq 2\sigma(F_o^2)]$ 0.0303

wR_2 [all data] 0.0822

largest difference peak and hole 0.283 and $-0.266 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

ORTEP Structure for compound 2o.

Perspective view of methyl 6-chloro-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1' H ,2 H -2,3'-biindole-2 carboxylate. Non-hydrogen atoms are represented by Gaussian ellipsoids at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are shown with arbitrarily small thermal parameters.



Compound: (-)-Menthyl (2*R*)-1'-benzyl-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1'*H*,2*H*-2,3'-biindole-2-carboxylate (**2za**)

Formula: C₃₄H₃₆N₂O₃

Procedure: Following the steps to make **2z** (1.0 mmol scale, see the manuscript), and purification using flash column chromatography on silica gel [eluent, EtOAc:Hexanes (1:9)→EtOAc:Hexanes (2:8)→EtOAc:Hexanes (3:7)]. Fractions containing the major diastereomer (**2za**) slowly formed needles. These needles were filtered and dried under vacuum, and were suitable enough for X-ray crystallography.

Crystallographic Experimental Details:

A. Crystal Data

formula	C ₃₄ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₃
formula weight	520.65
crystal dimensions (mm)	0.75 × 0.14 × 0.12
crystal system	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ (No. 4)
unit cell parameters	
<i>a</i> (Å)	11.0321 (5)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.4646 (5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	11.5824 (5)
β (deg)	95.6775 (6)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1457.74 (11)
<i>Z</i>	2
ρ _{calcd} (g cm ⁻³)	1.186
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.075

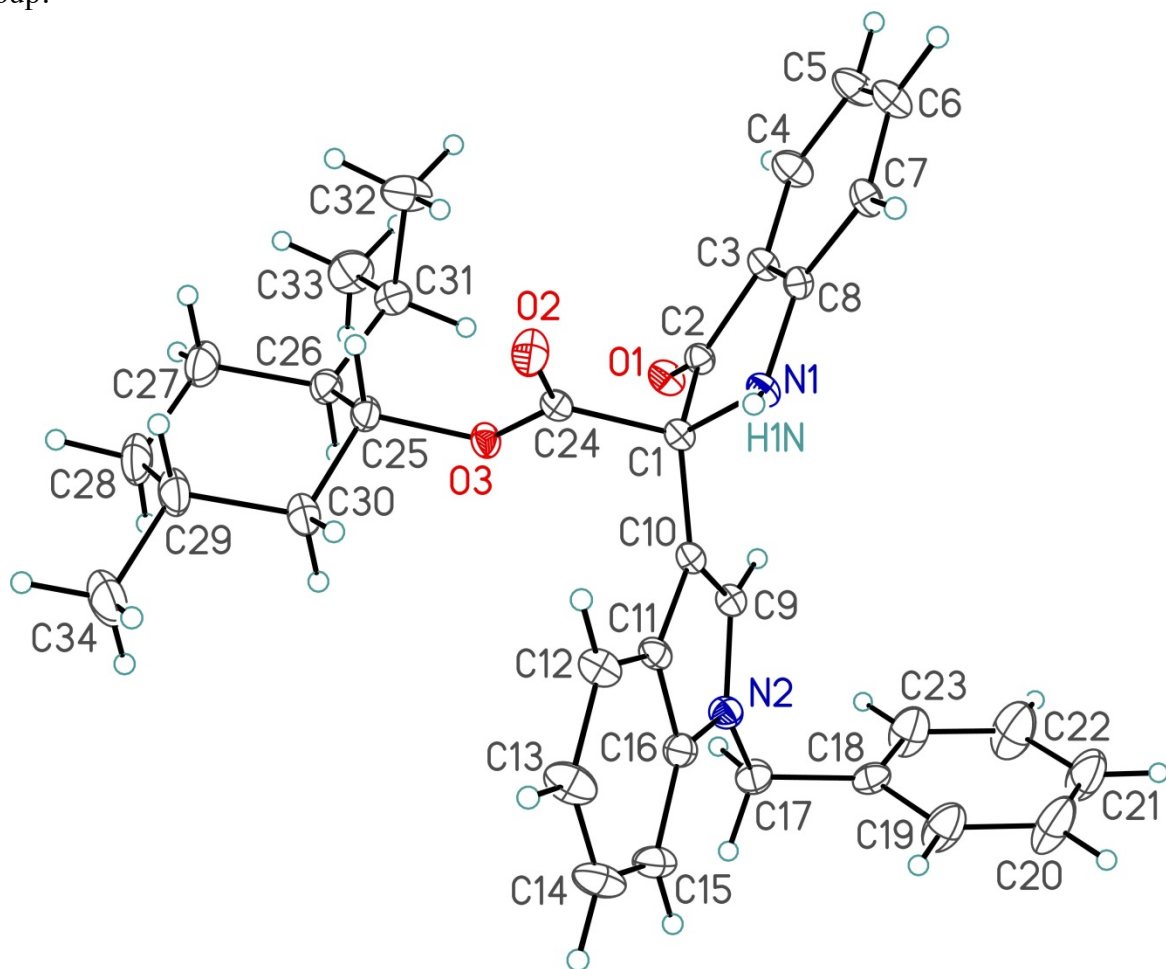
B. Data Collection and Refinement Conditions

diffractometer	Bruker D8/APEX II CCD
radiation (λ [Å])	graphite-monochromated Mo Kα (0.71073)
temperature (°C)	-100
scan type	ω scans (0.3°) (20 s exposures)
data collection 2θ limit (deg)	56.62
total data collected	13193 (-14 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 14, -15 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 15, -14 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 14)
independent reflections	6914 (<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0192)
number of observed reflections (<i>NO</i>)	6090 [<i>F</i> _o ² ≥ 2σ(<i>F</i> _o ²)]
structure solution method	direct methods/dual space (<i>SHELXD</i>)
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ² (<i>SHELXL-2013</i>)
absorption correction method	Gaussian integration (face-indexed)
range of transmission factors	1.0000–0.9186

data/restraints/parameters	6914 / 0 / 356
Flack absolute structure parameter ^e	-0.1(3)
goodness-of-fit (<i>S</i>) ^f [all data]	1.033
final <i>R</i> indices ^g	
<i>R</i> ₁ [<i>F</i> _o ² ≥ 2σ(<i>F</i> _o ²)]	0.0385
<i>wR</i> ₂ [all data]	0.0952
largest difference peak and hole	0.203 and -0.207 e Å ⁻³

ORTEP structure for compound 2za.

Perspective view of (-)-Menthyl (2*R*)-1'-benzyl-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-1'*H*,2*H*-2,3'-biindole-2-carboxylate. Non-hydrogen atoms are represented by Gaussian ellipsoids at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are shown with arbitrarily small thermal parameters. Assignment of absolute structure for this compound is based on the known stereochemistry of the (-)-menthyl group.

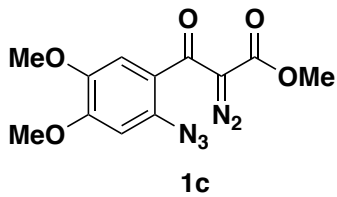


NMR spectra of the starting materials and products:

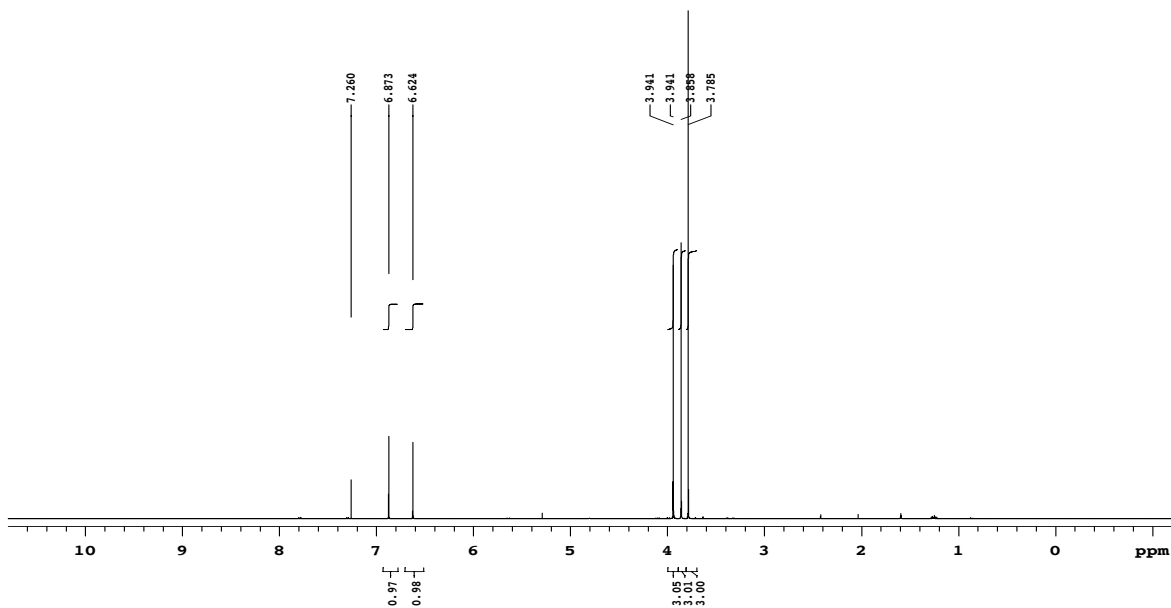
N.B.: The presence of significant signals for residual water in the ^1H NMR spectra of **2a**, **2e**, **2l**, **2o**, **2t** and **2v** may raise questions about proof of purity. It should be noted that the presence of one or more heavy halogen atoms and/or an unprotected indole nitrogen atom render these compounds only sparingly soluble in common deuterated NMR solvents (CDCl_3 , CD_2Cl_2 , C_6D_6 , $\text{C}_3\text{D}_8\text{O}$, CD_3OD , and $\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{SO}$). Consequently, minor amounts of water contaminant in these solvents may appear to have anomalously enhanced signals relative to the those of the compounds of interest. The ^1H NMR spectra of these compounds are not representative of the bulk material, and cannot be used as the sole judge or proof of purity. Also, regardless of these trace impurities, we deemed the spectra suitable for characterization purposes.

However, we would like to point out the following observations from the data presented earlier as reasonable proof of purity, apart from the ^1H NMR spectra presented in the next section:

- (1) Reasonable accuracy of experimental elemental analysis (C, H, and N) compared to the theoretical value (0.05–0.34 %) in those cases where combustion analysis was performed.
- (2) Sharp (1–3 °C) and high (> 100 °C) melting points.
- (3) Substantially higher melting points compared to the reported literature value (**2a** and **2b**).³
- (4) High degree of crystallinity, and with X-ray crystal structures and measurements for **2a**, **2o**, and **2za**.



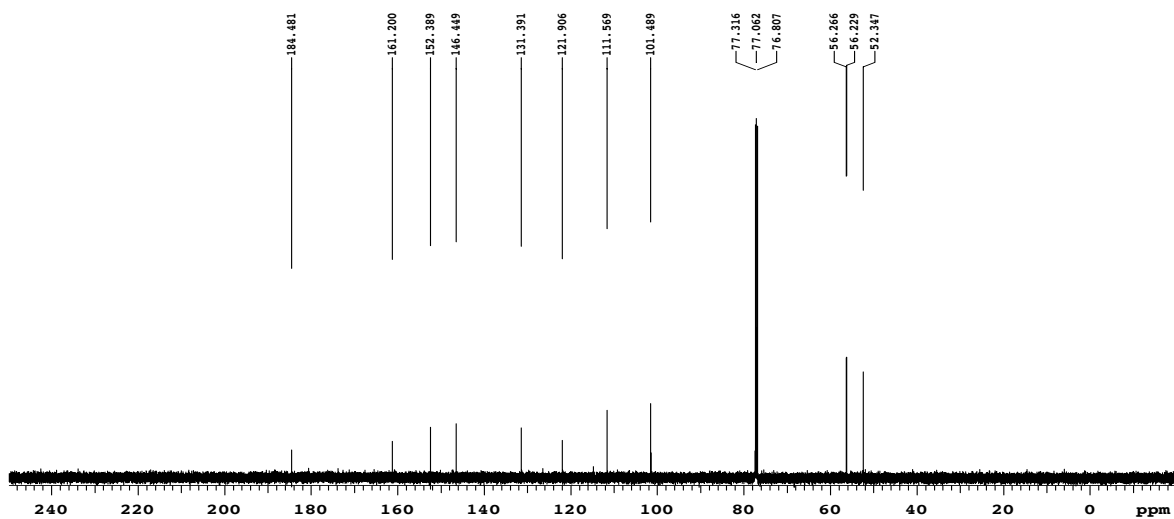
DIMETHOXYAZIDODIAZOKETONE



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

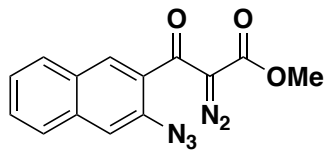
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Dimethoxydiazoozide



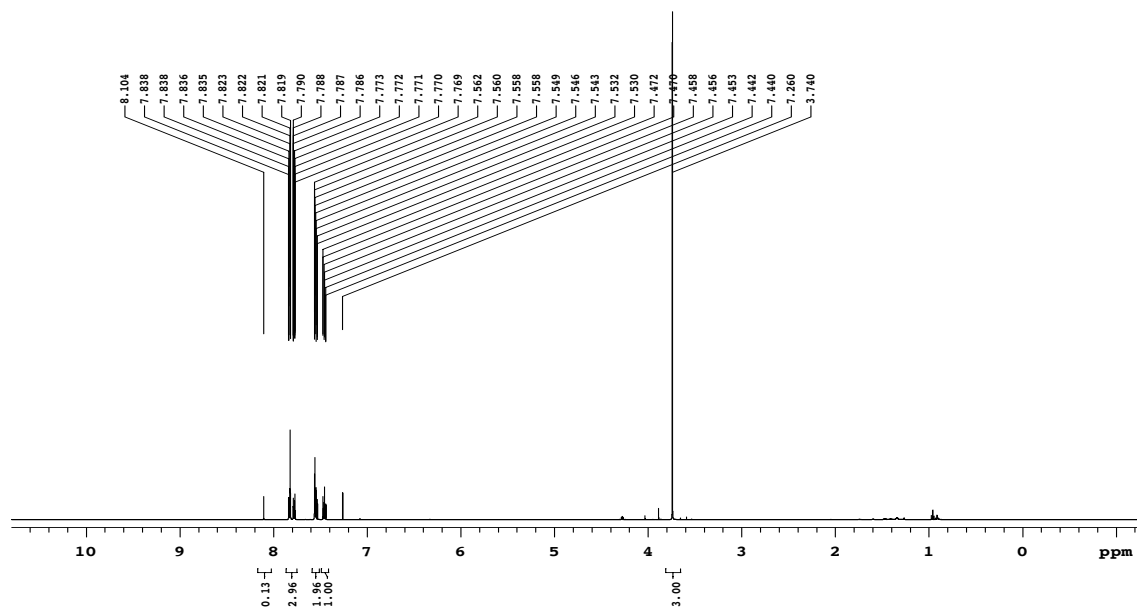
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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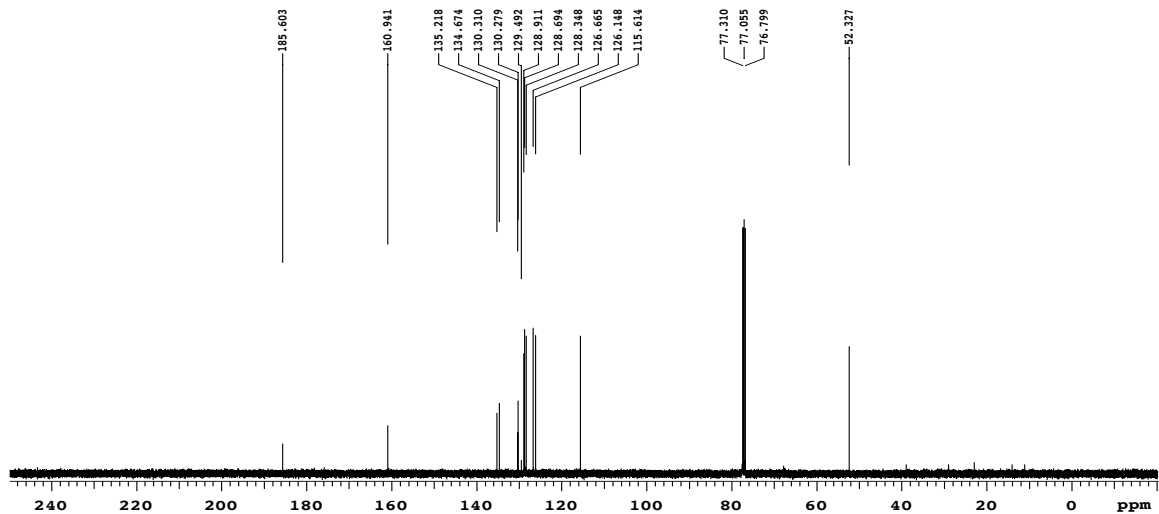
1f

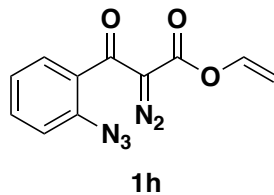
Naphthalenediazoazide



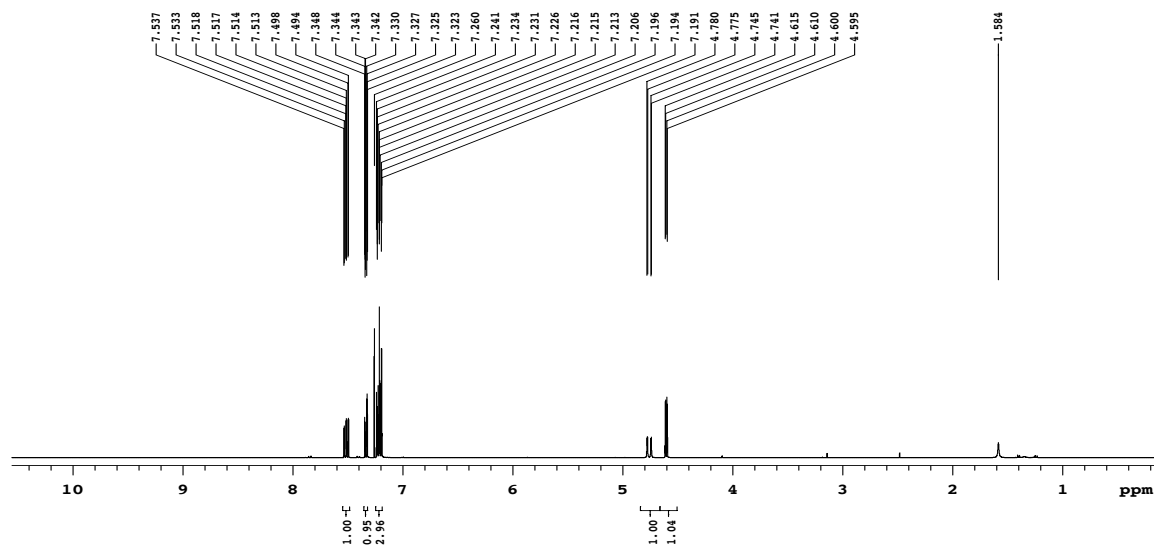
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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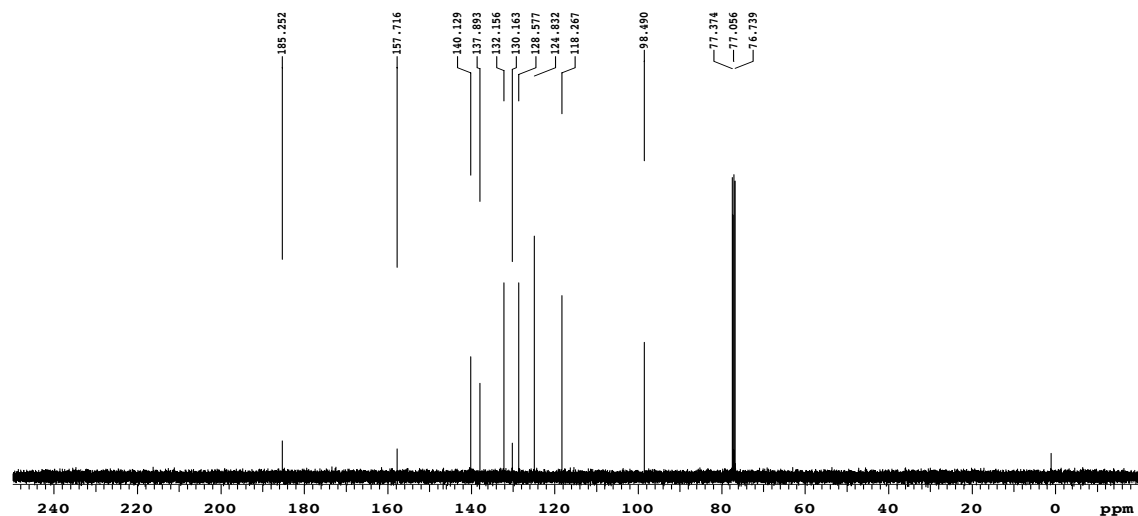
Diazo-azide with vinyl side chain (ester)



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

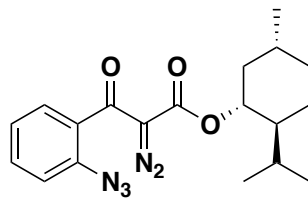
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Diazo-azide with allyl sidechain (ester)



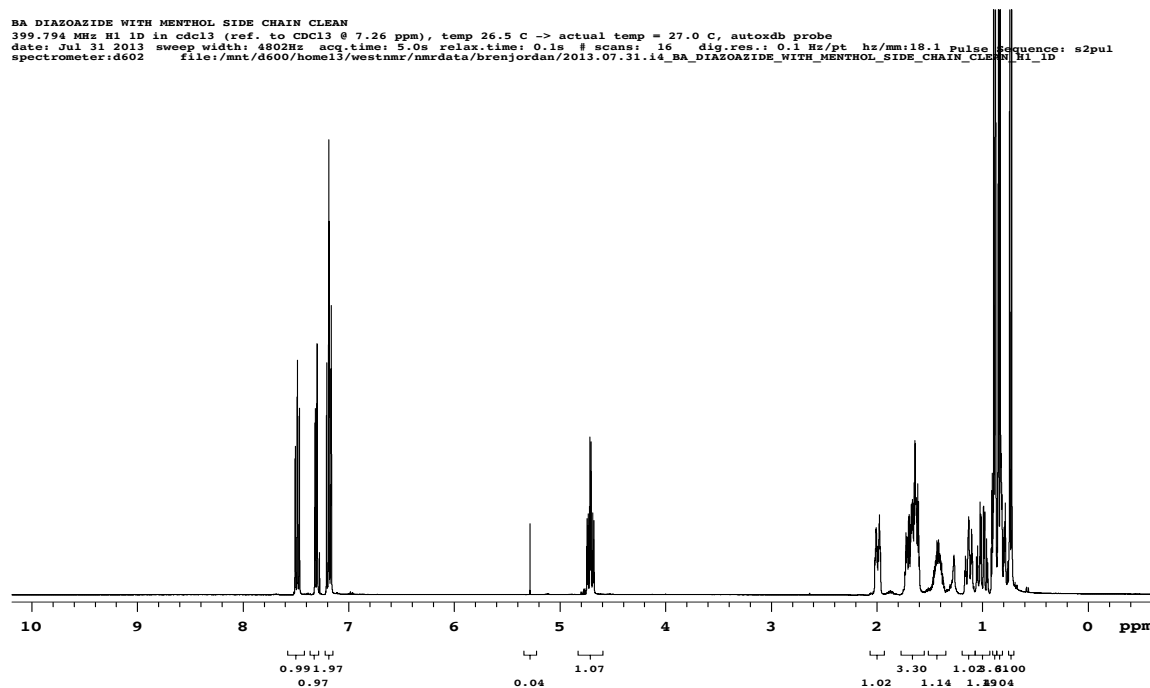
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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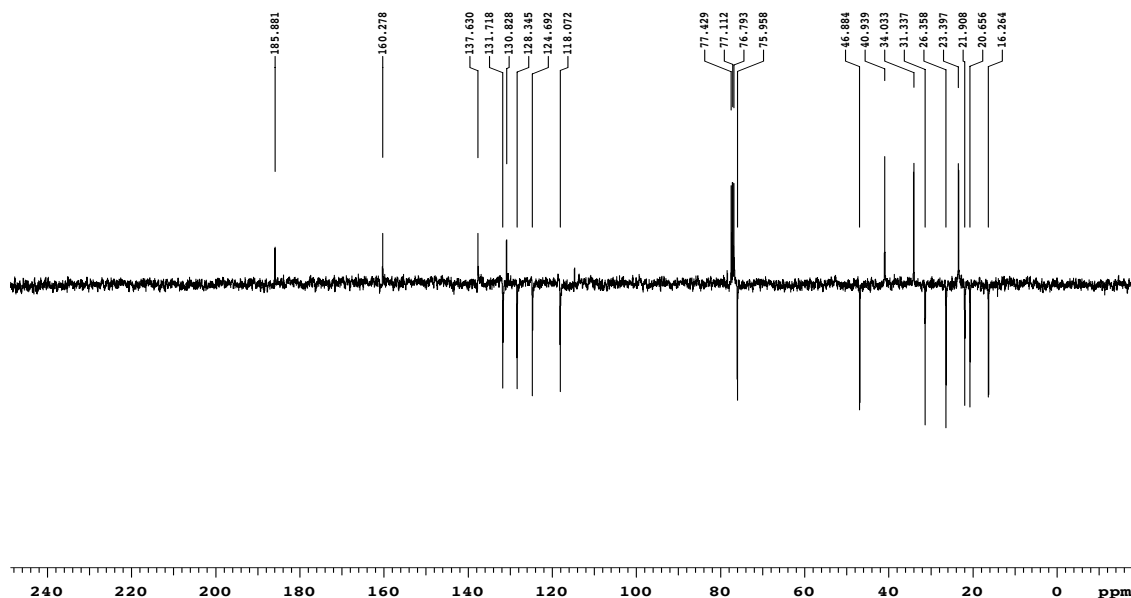


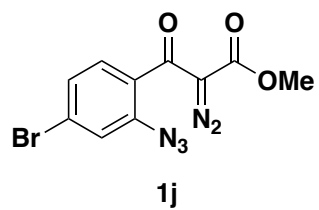
1i

BA DIAZOAZIDE WITH MENTHOL SIDE CHAIN CLEAN
 399.794 MHz H1 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 26.5 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, autotx probe
 date: Jul 31 2013 sweep width: 4802 Hz acq time: 5.0 s relax time: 0.1 s # scans: 16 dig.res.: 0.1 Hz/pt hz/mm:18.1 Pulse sequence: s2pul
 spectrometer:d602 file:/mnt/d600/home13/westnmr/nmrdata/brenjordan/2013.07.31.14_BA_DIAZOAZIDE_WITH_MENTHOL_SIDE_CHAIN_CLEAN_H1_1D

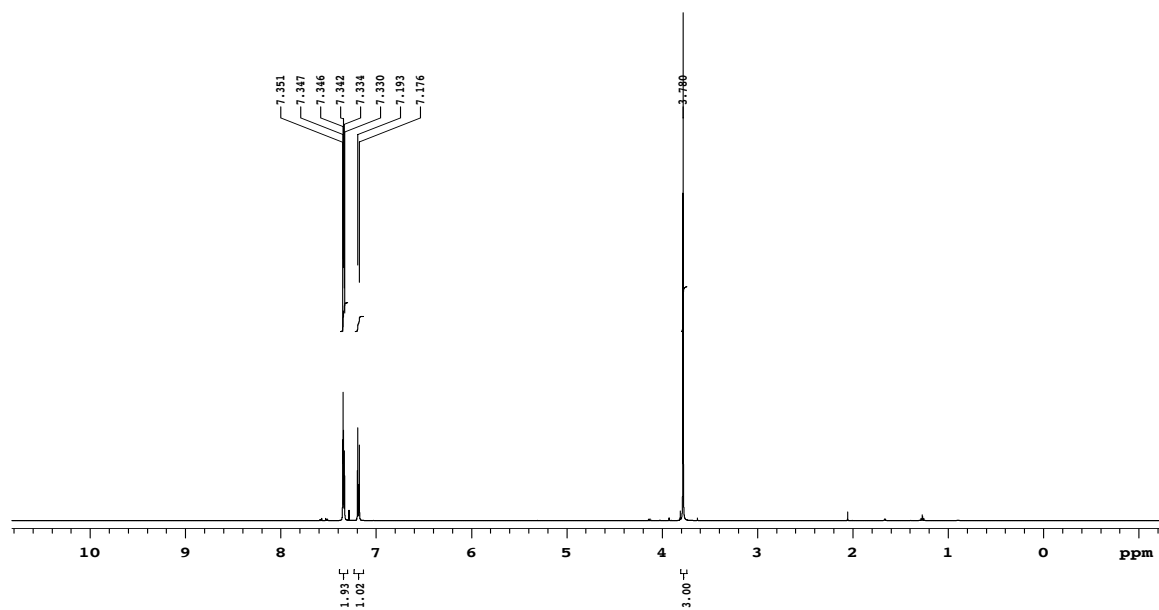


BA DIAZOAZIDE WITH MENTHOL SIDECHAIN 13C
 100.539 MHz C13[H1] APT ad in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 26.5 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, autotx probe
 date: Jul 31 2013 sweep width: 16054 Hz acq time: 2.0 s relax time: 0.1 s # scans: 44 dig.res.: 0.2 Hz/pt hz/mm:112.3
 spectrometer:d602 file:/mnt/d600/home13/westnmr/nmrdata/brenjordan/2013.07.31.14_BA_DIAZO_AZIDE_WITH_MENTHOL_SIDE_CHAIN_CLEAN_APT_C13_APT_ad



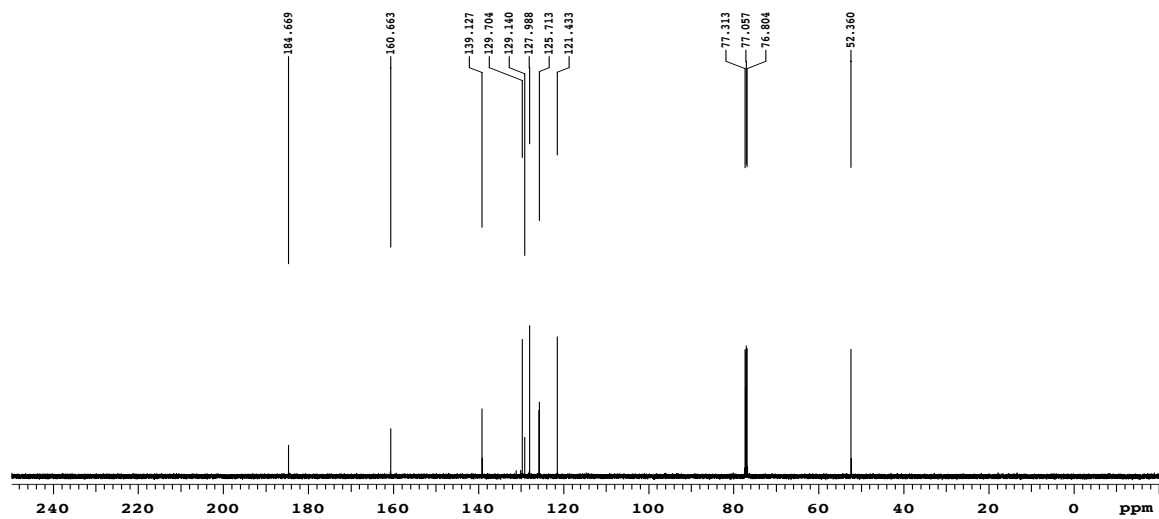


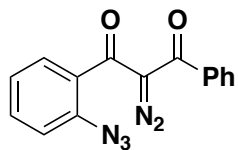
Bromodiazoozide



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

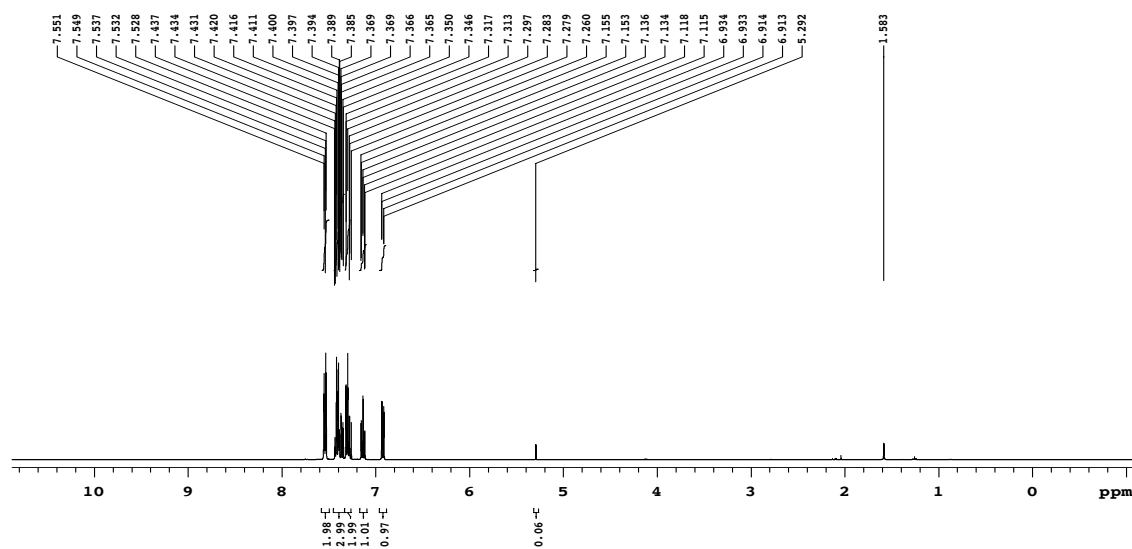
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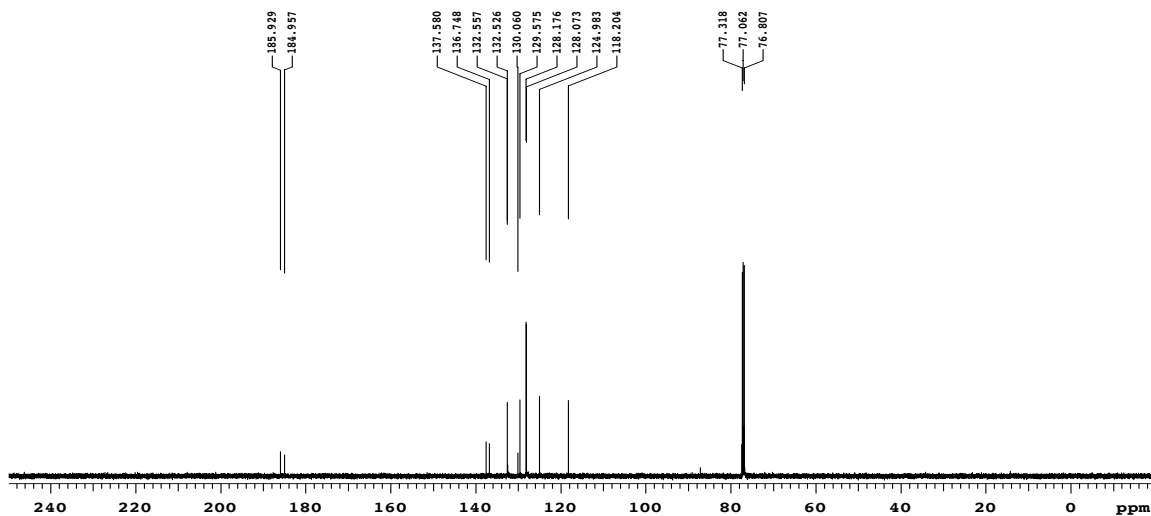
1k

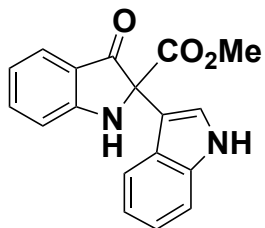
Phenyldiazoketoneazide



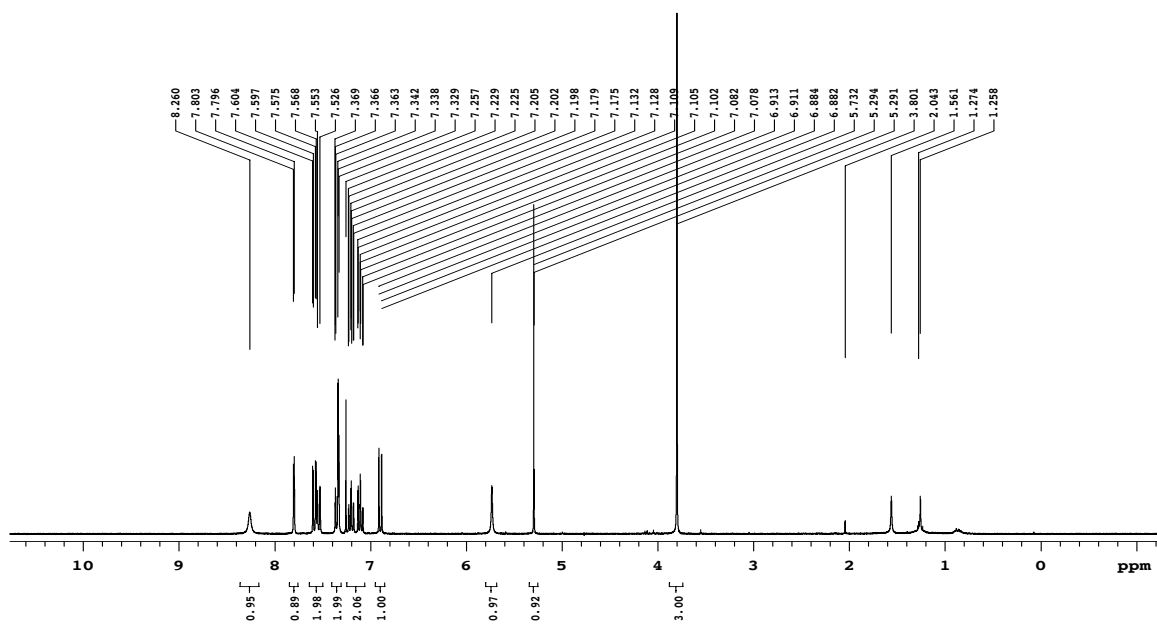
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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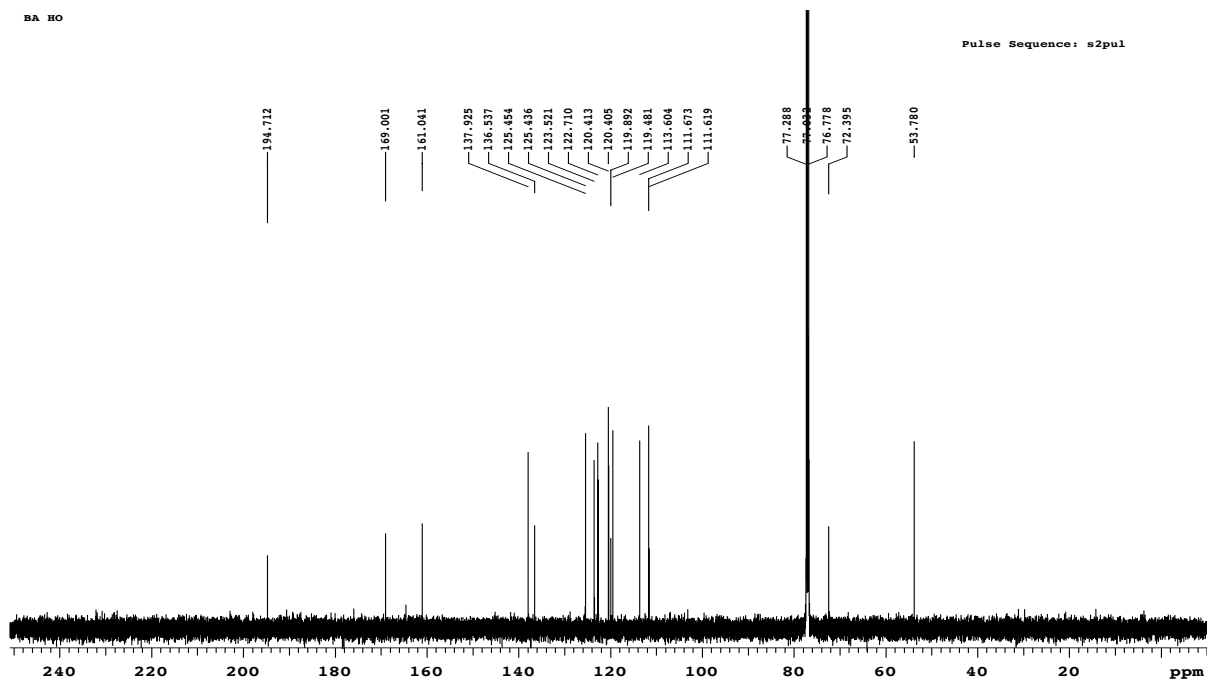


2a



BA HO

Pulse Sequence: s2pul



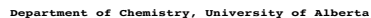


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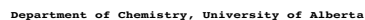
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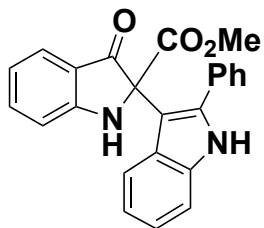


499.806 MHz H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



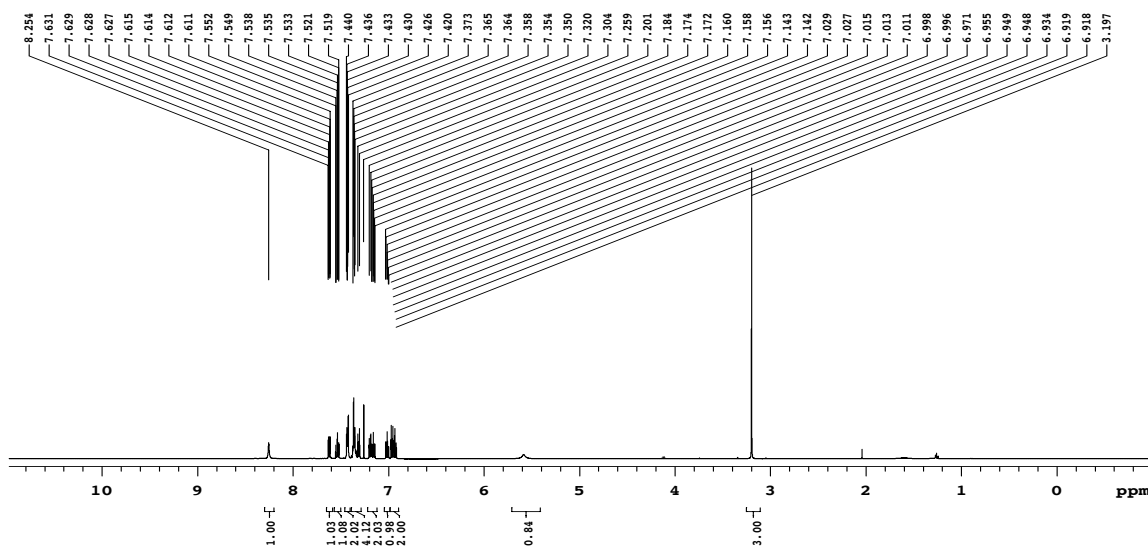
125.691 MHz C13[HI] 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, colddual probe





2d

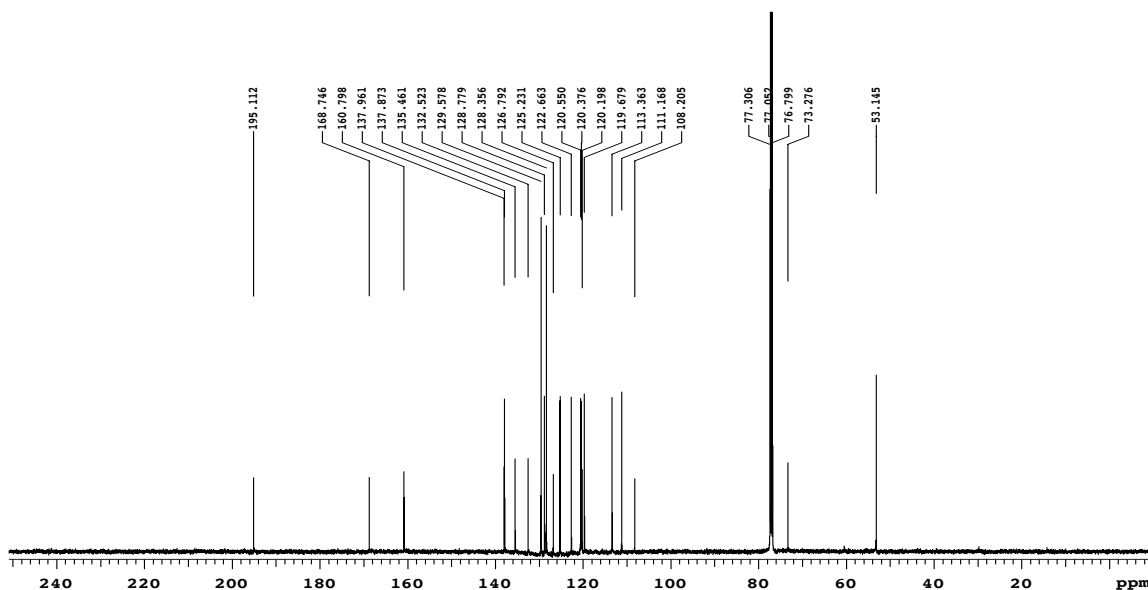
2-Phindole trap



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

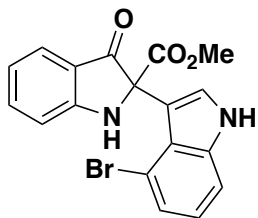
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Phenyl indole trap

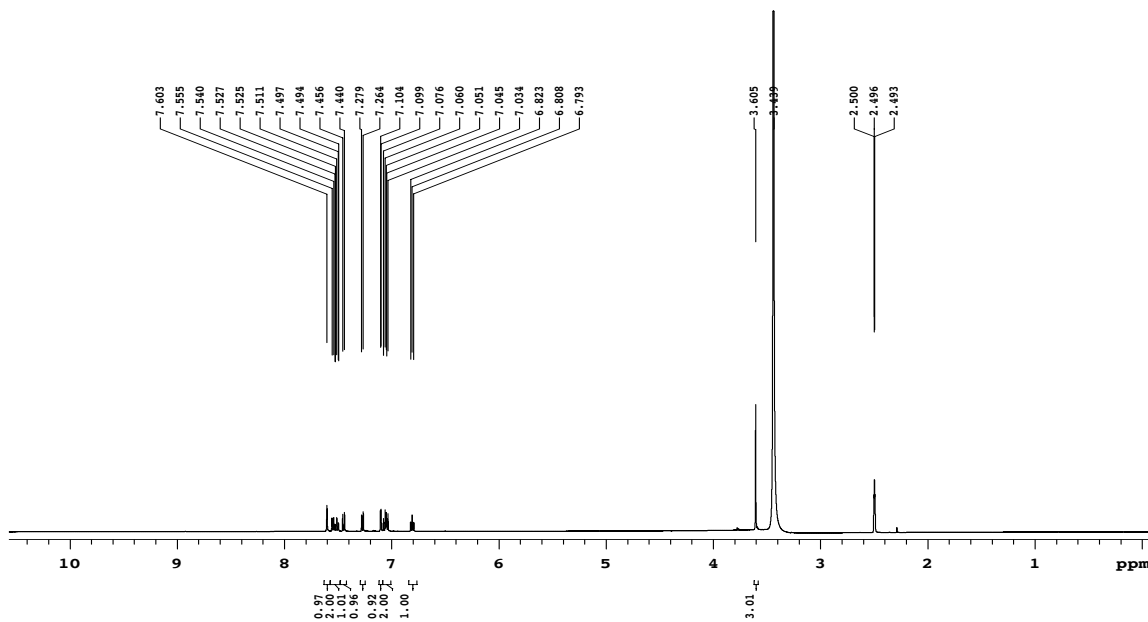


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

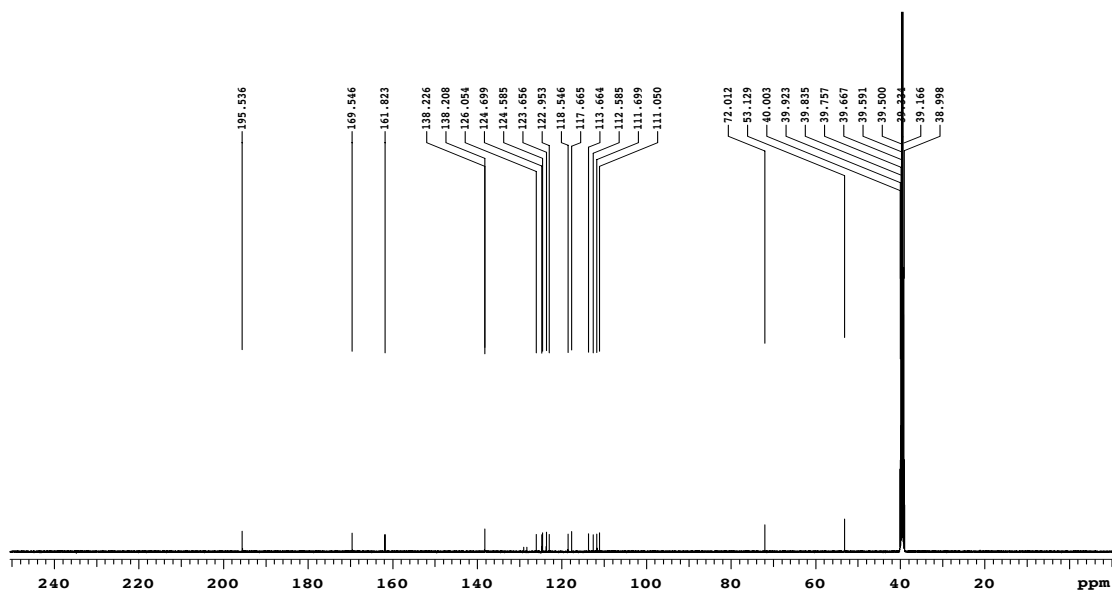
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2e

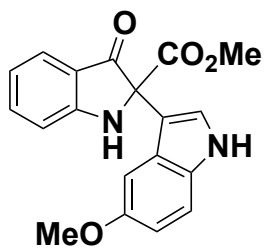


Bromolindole (H4) (in DMSO and water)



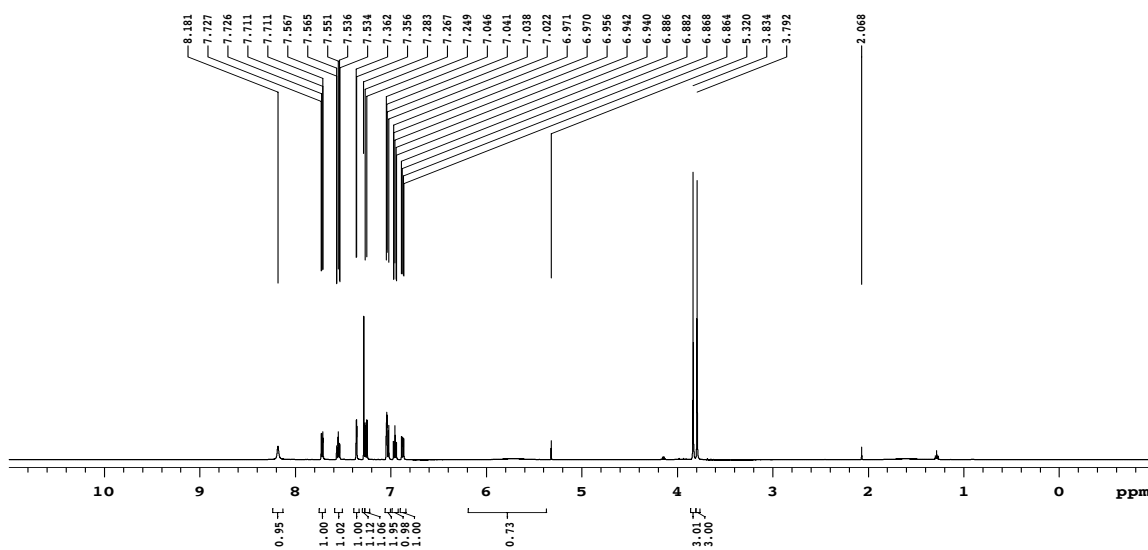
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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2f

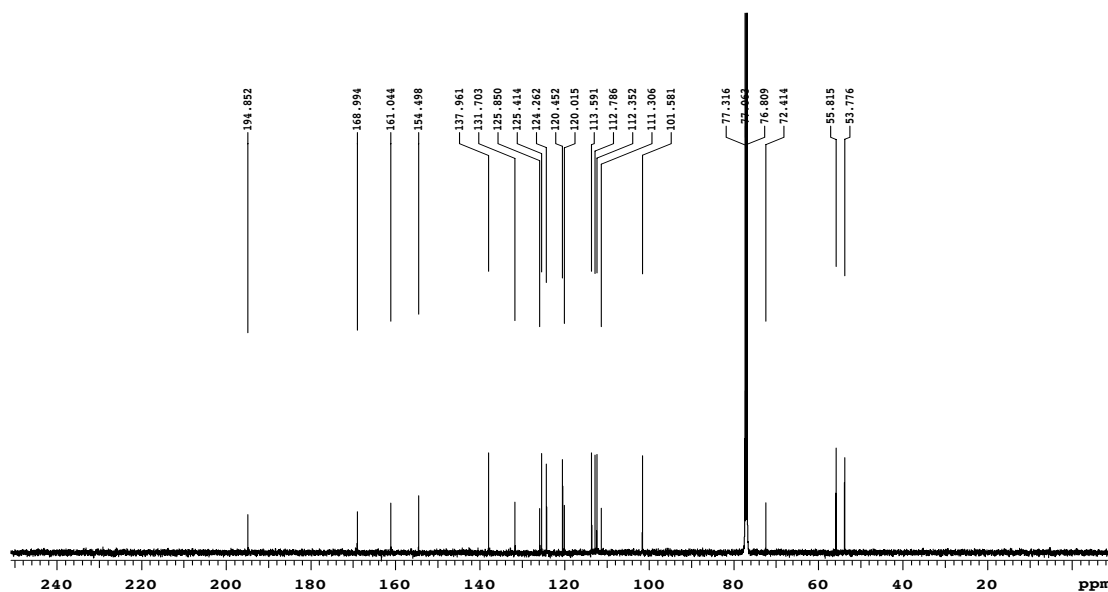
Methoxyindole trap



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

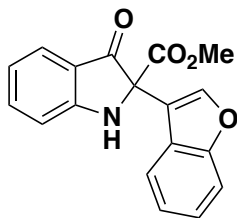
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Methoxyindole trap



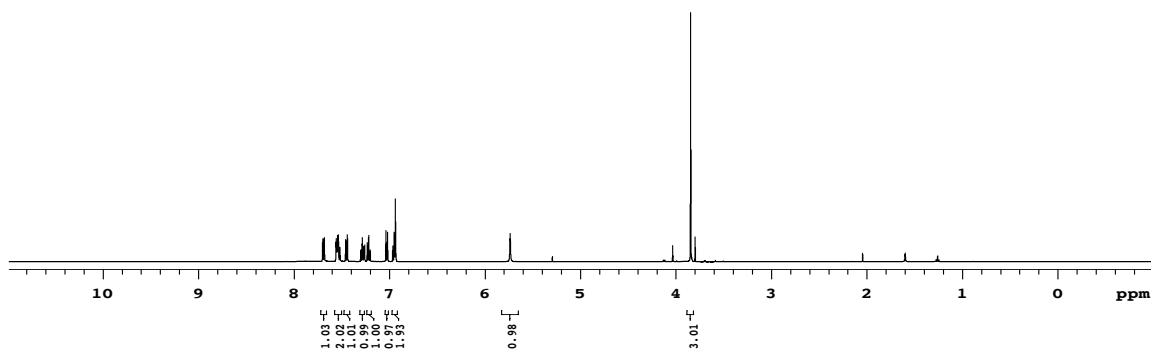
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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2h

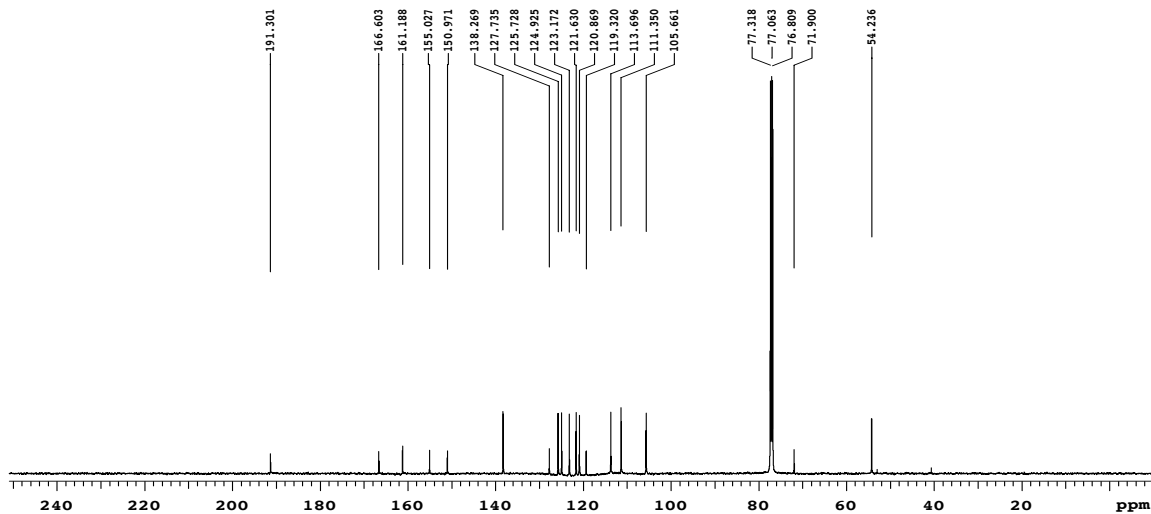
Benzofuran trap



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

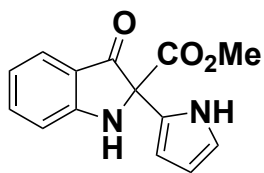
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Benzofuran trap



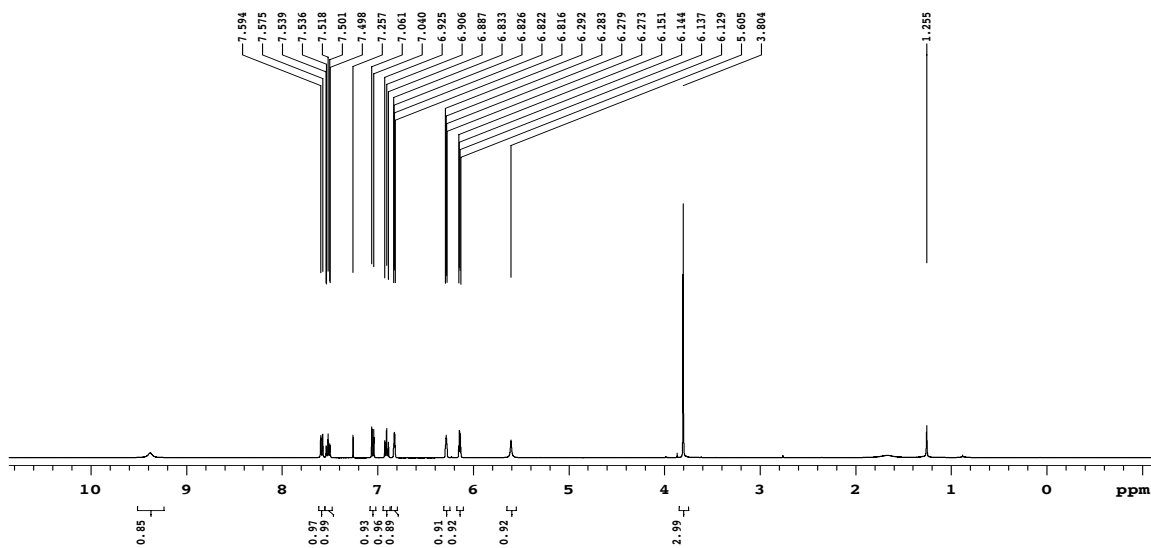
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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2i

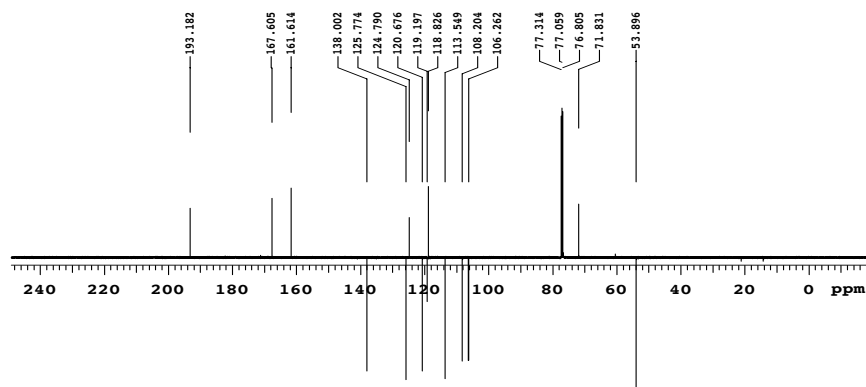
Pyrrole trap



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

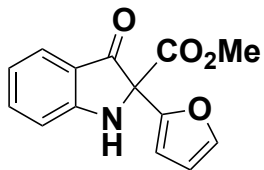
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Pyrrole trap



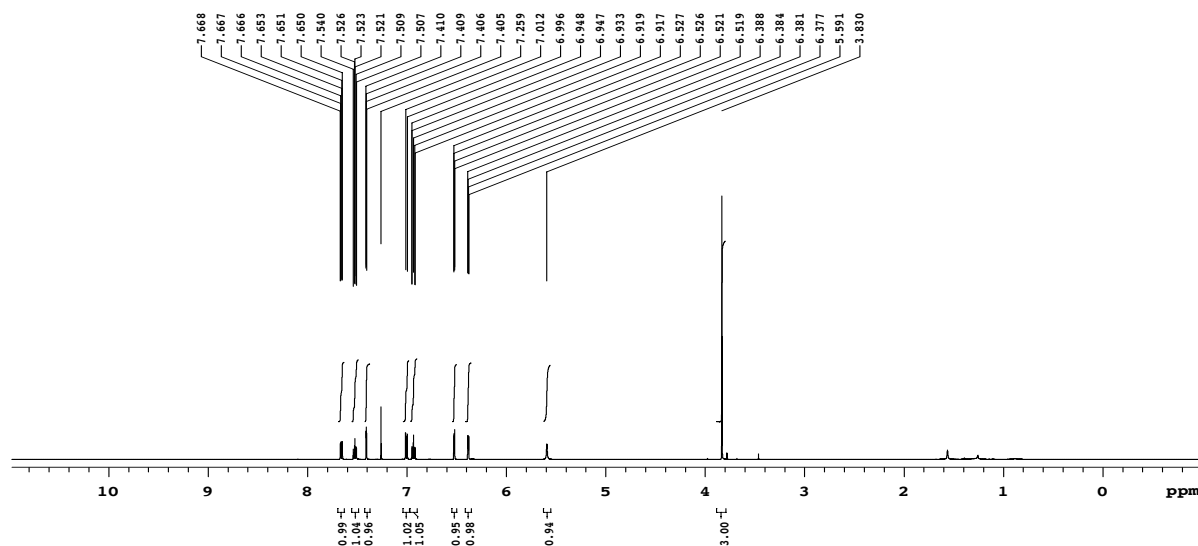
Pulse Sequence: APT_ad

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



2j

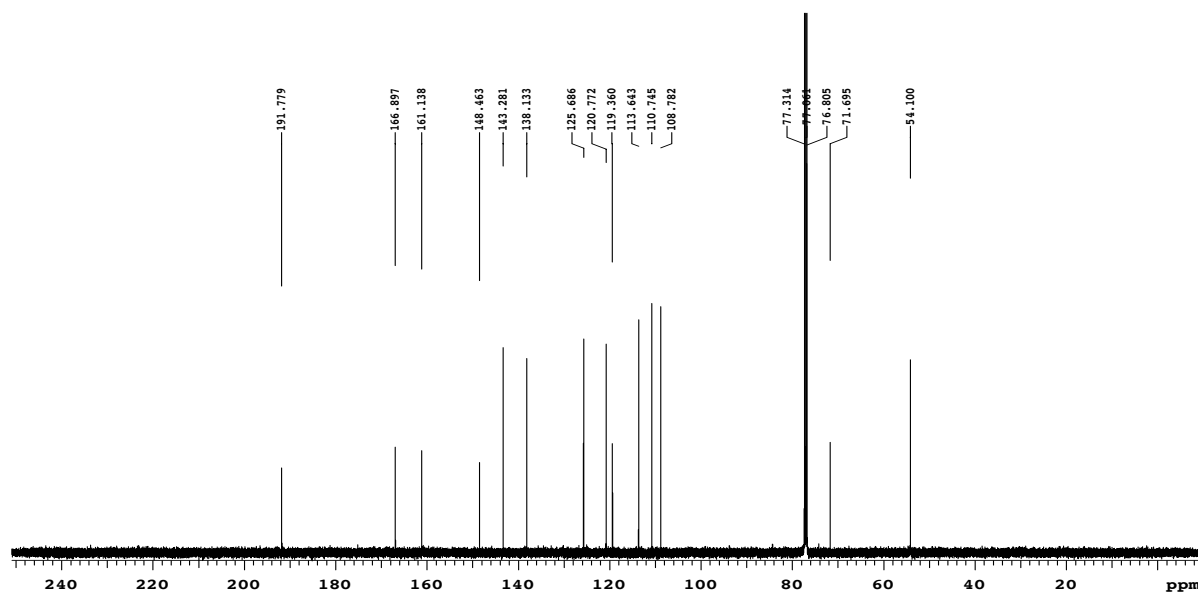
Furan trap
499.806 MHz ¹H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

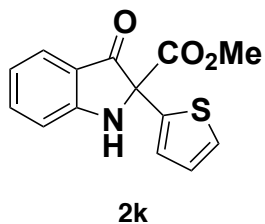
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Furan trap
125.691 MHz ¹³C13[H1] 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe

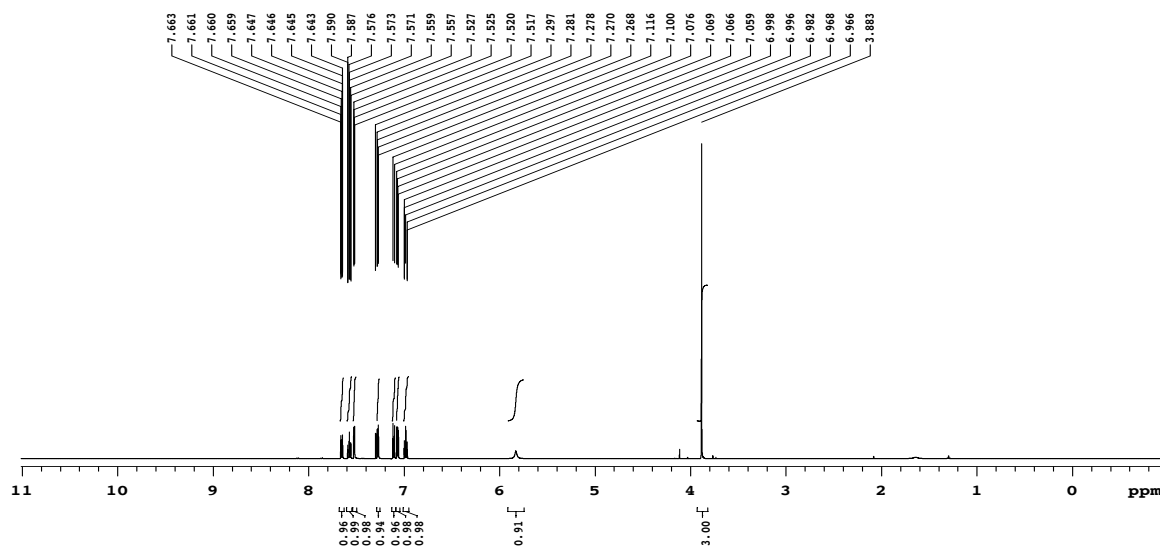


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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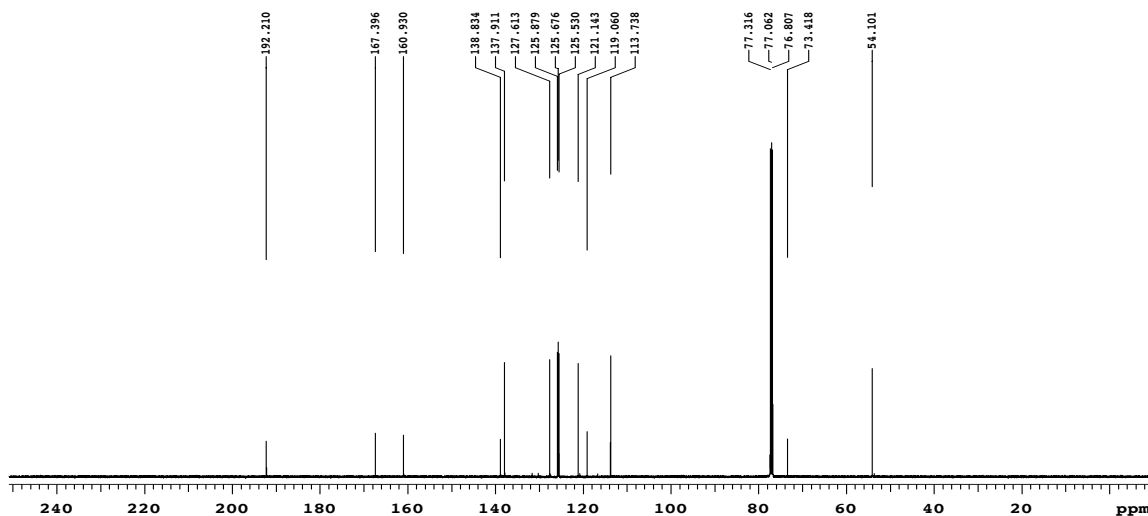
Thiophene trap
499.806 MHz ¹H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

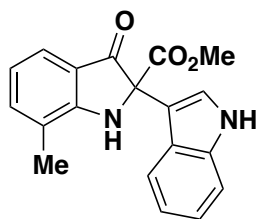
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Thiophene trap
125.691 MHz ¹³C13{H1} 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



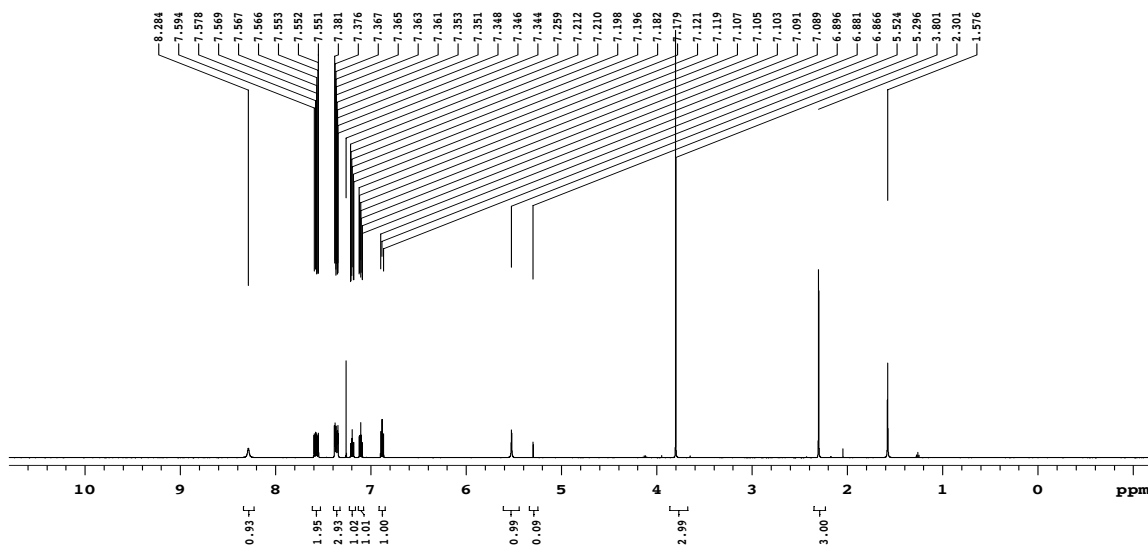
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



2I

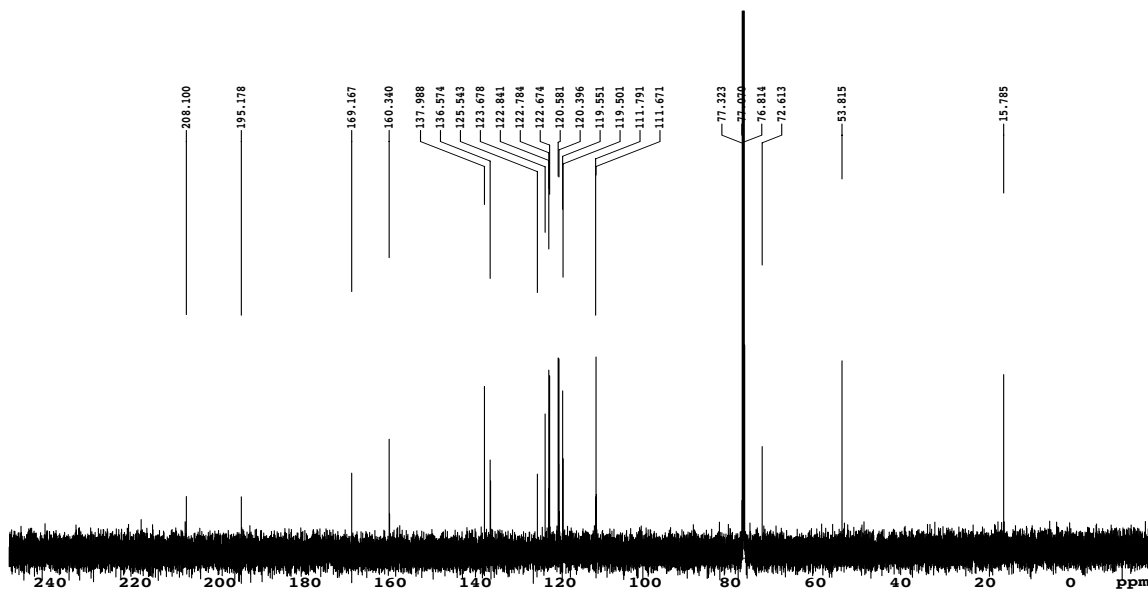
BA MeO 1H



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

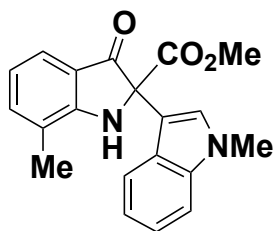
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

BA MeO 13C



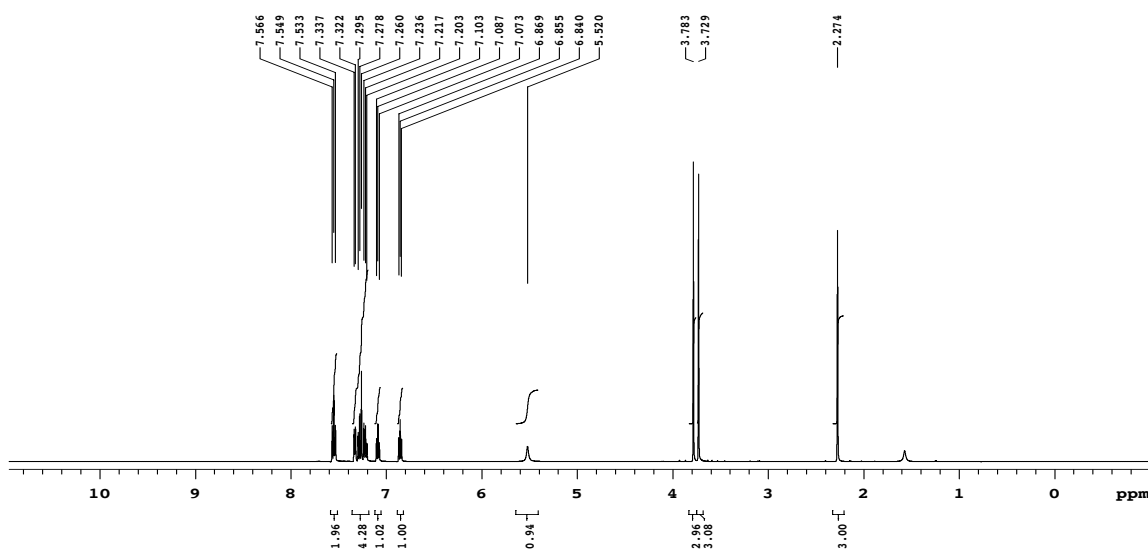
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



2m

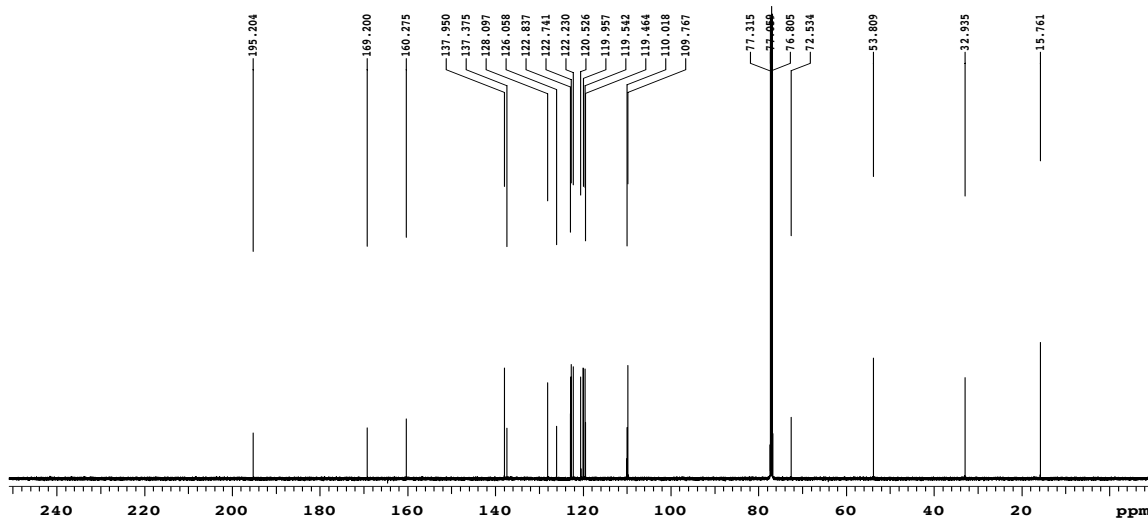
N-methylindole trap on methyldiazoazide
499.806 MHz ¹H PRESAT in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDCl₃ @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

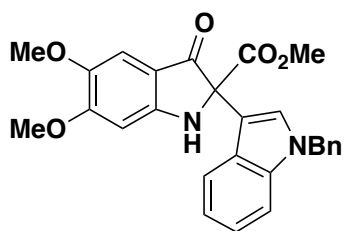
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

N-methylindole trap on methyldiazoazide
125.691 MHz ¹³C{¹H} 1D in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDCl₃ @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



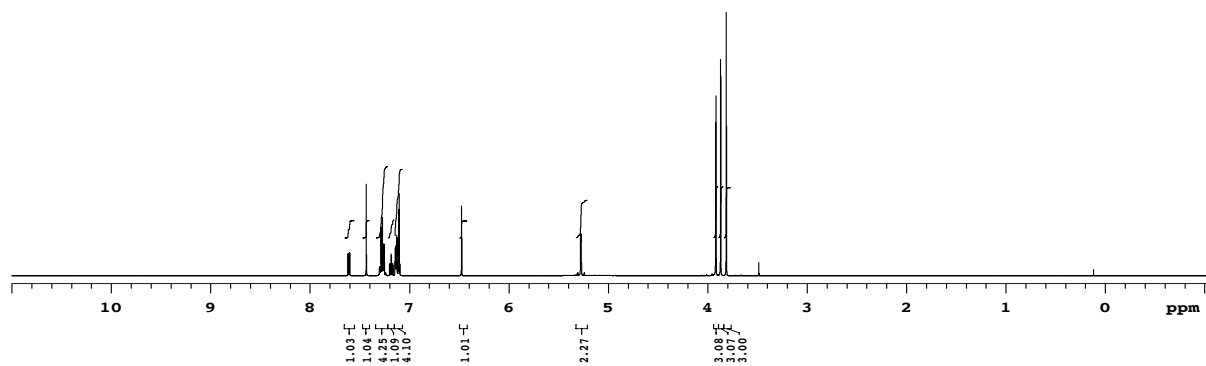
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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2n

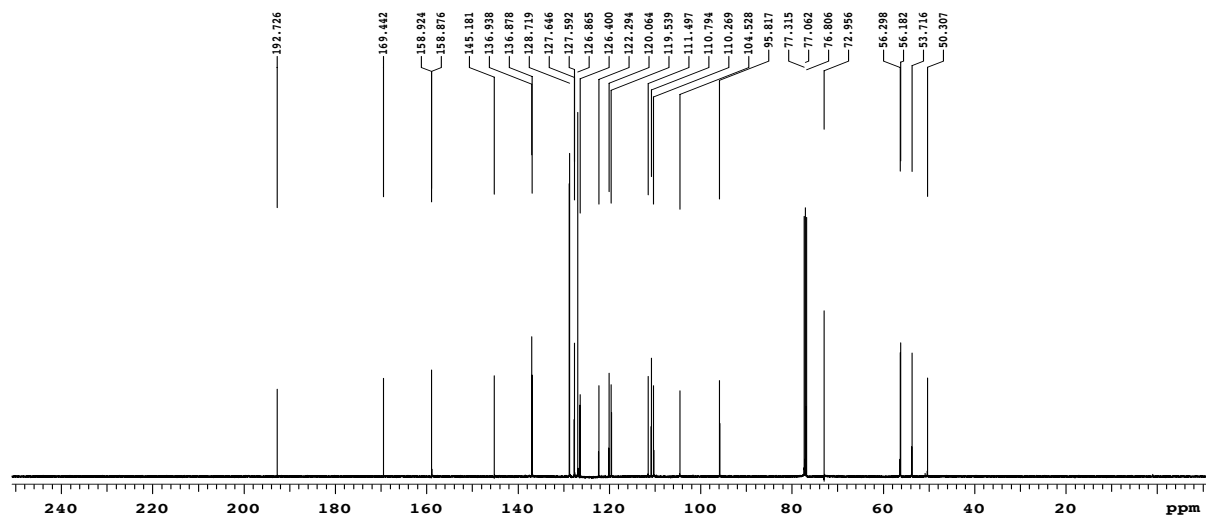
N-benzylindole trap on dimethoxydiazoside
499.806 MHz H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

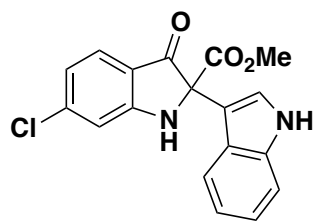
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

N-benzylindole trap on dimethoxydiazoside
125.691 MHz C13[H1] 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



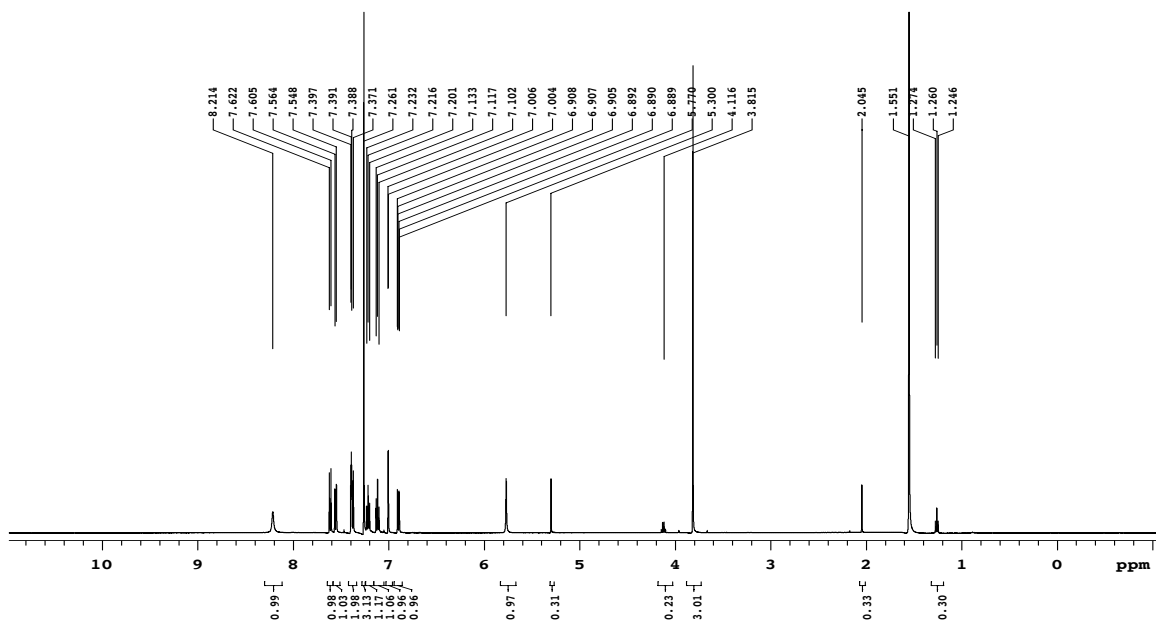
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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20

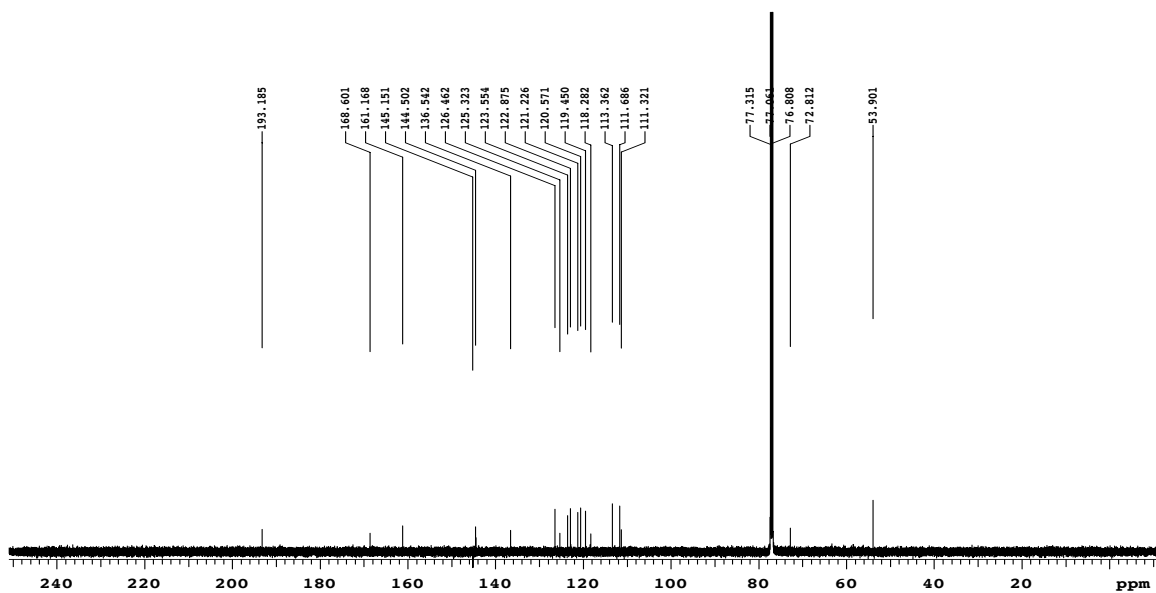
C10



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

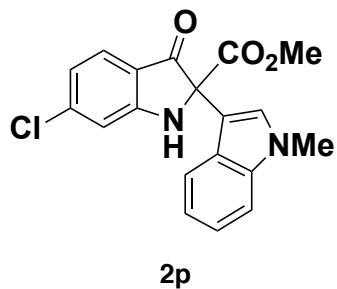
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

C10

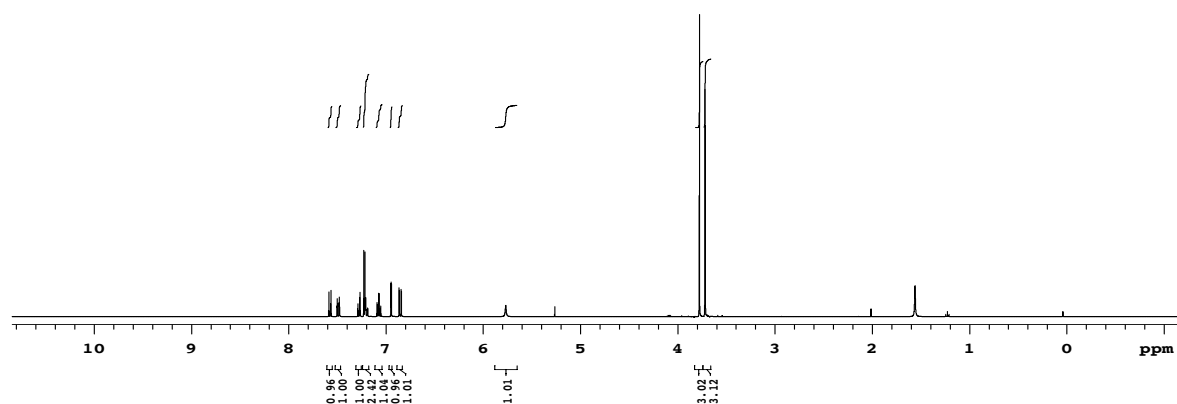


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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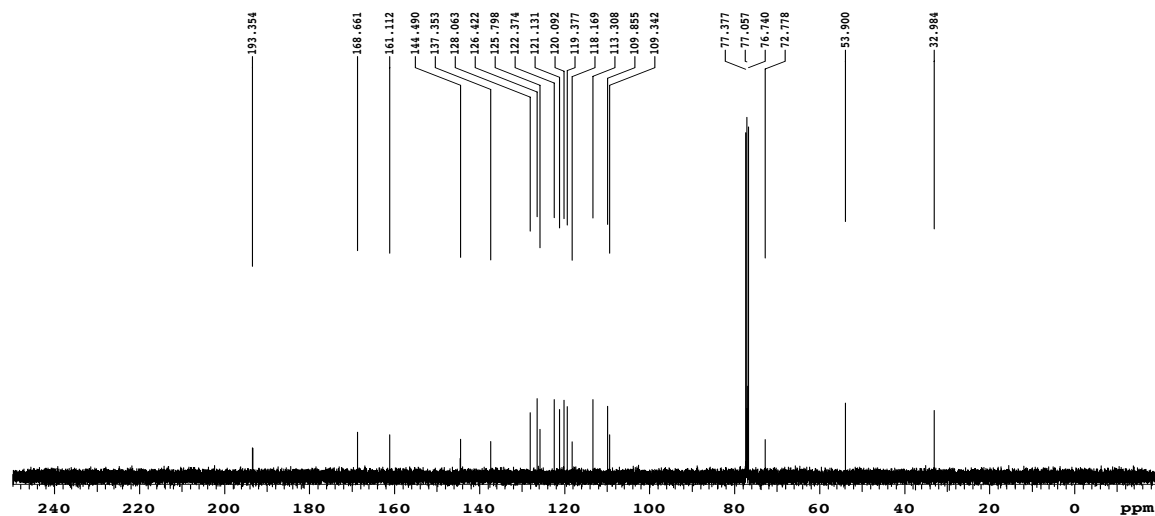
N-methylindole trap on chlorodiazoozide
 399.984 MHz ¹H 1D in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDC13 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 25.9 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, onenmr probe



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

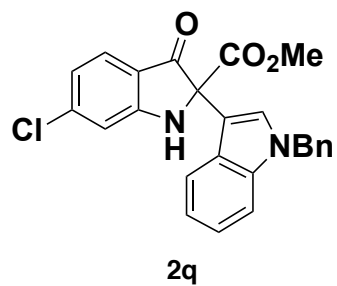
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N-methylindole trap on chlorodiazoozide
 100.587 MHz ¹³C{¹H} 1D in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDC13 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 25.9 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, onenmr probe

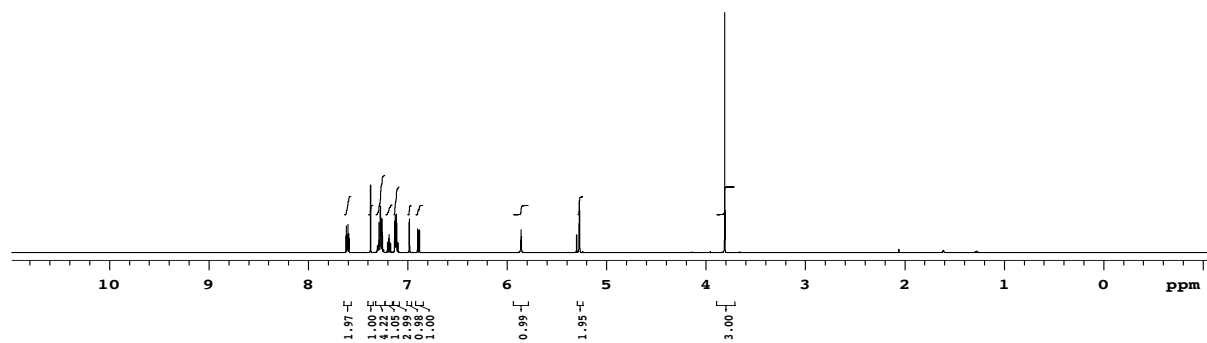


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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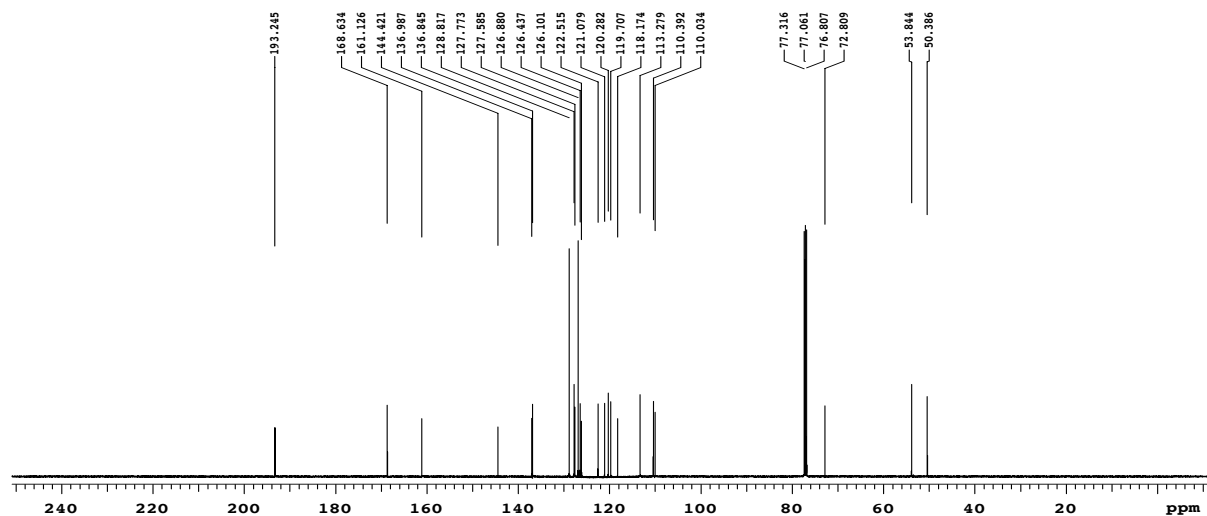
N-Benzylindole trap on chlorodiazoside
 499.806 MHz ¹H1 PRESAT in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDCl₃ @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

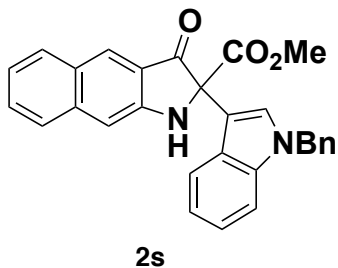
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N-benzylindole trap on chlorodiazoside
 125.691 MHz ¹³C13[H1] 1D in cdcl₃ (ref. to CDCl₃ @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe

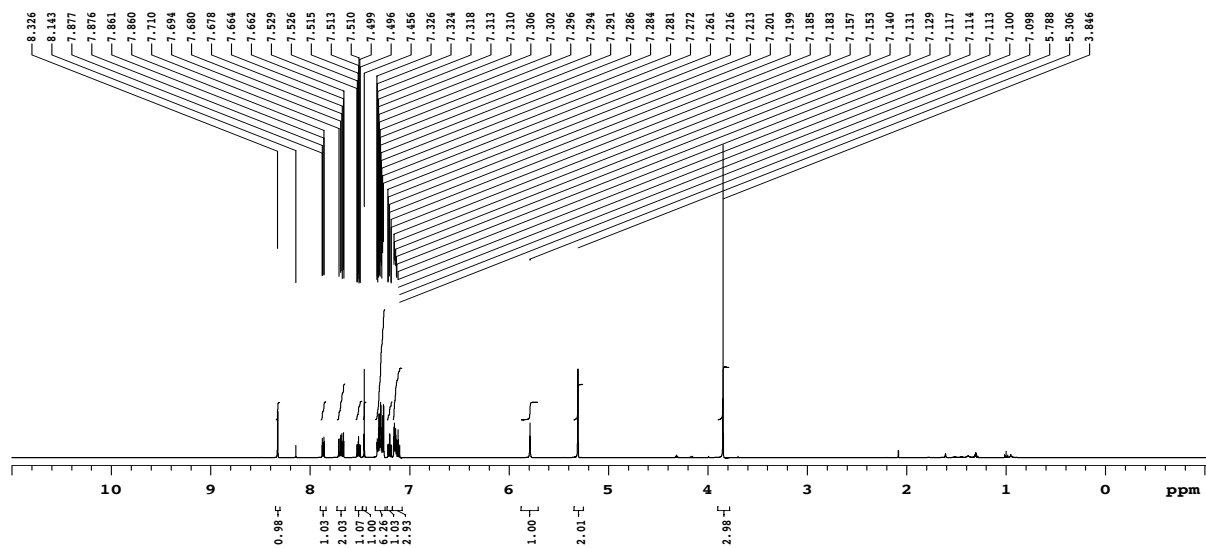


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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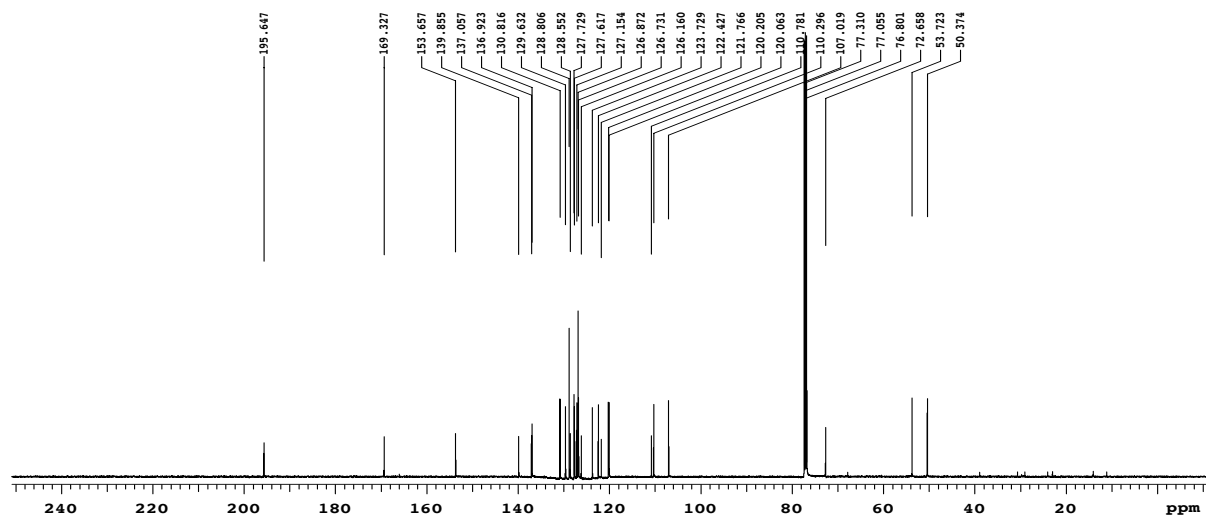
N-benzylindoletrap on naphthalene diazoazide
499.806 MHz H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

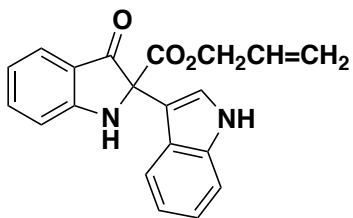
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N-benzylindole trap on Naphthalenediazoazide
125.691 MHz C13[H1] 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



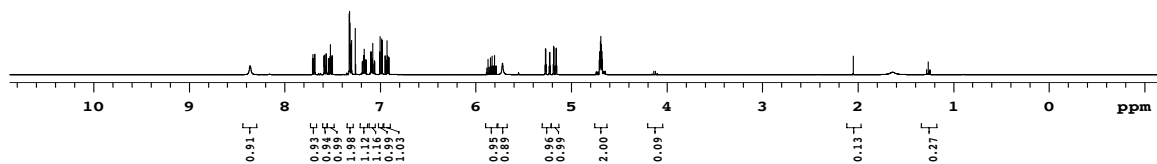
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



2t

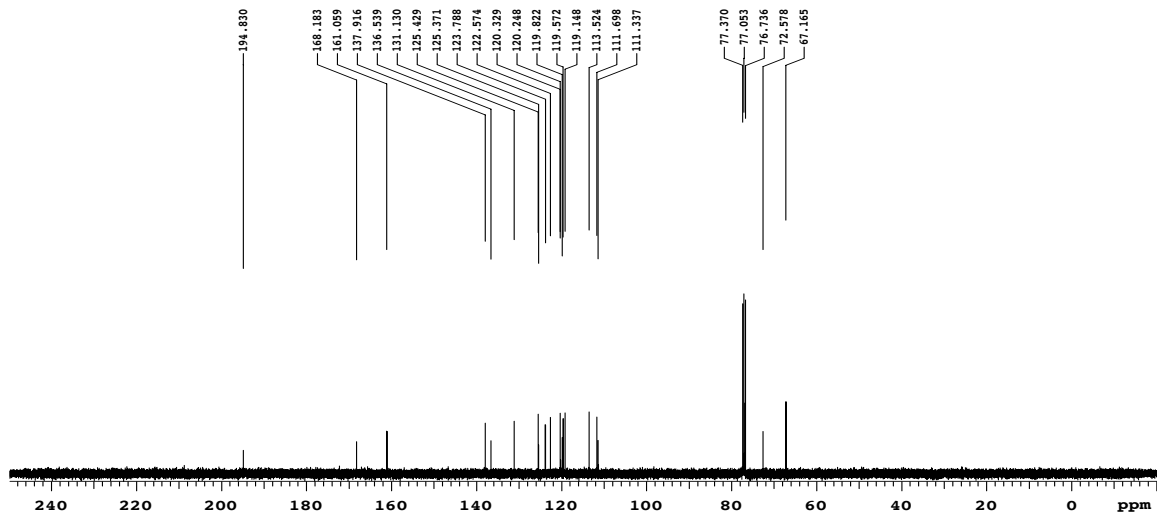
Indole trap on allyldiazoazide



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

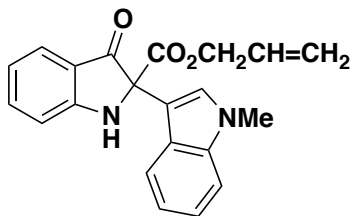
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Indole trap on allyldiazoazide



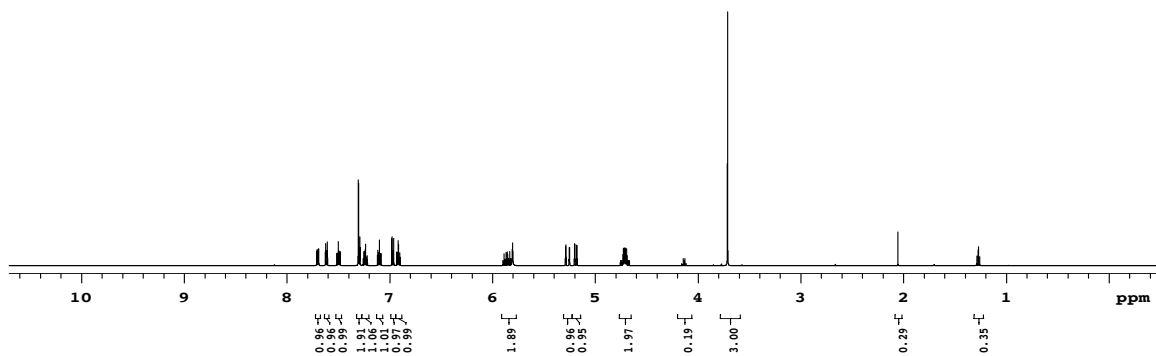
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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2u

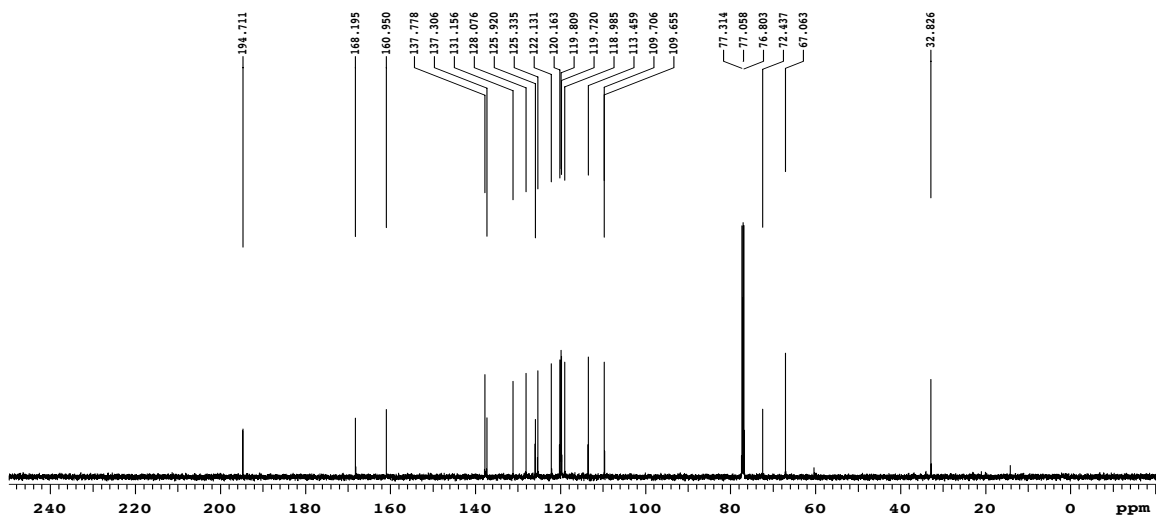
N-methyl indole trap on allyldiazoaside



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

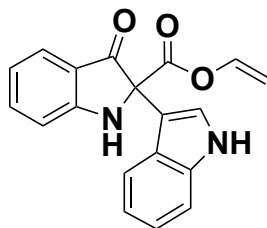
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

N-methylindole trap on allyl diazoaside



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

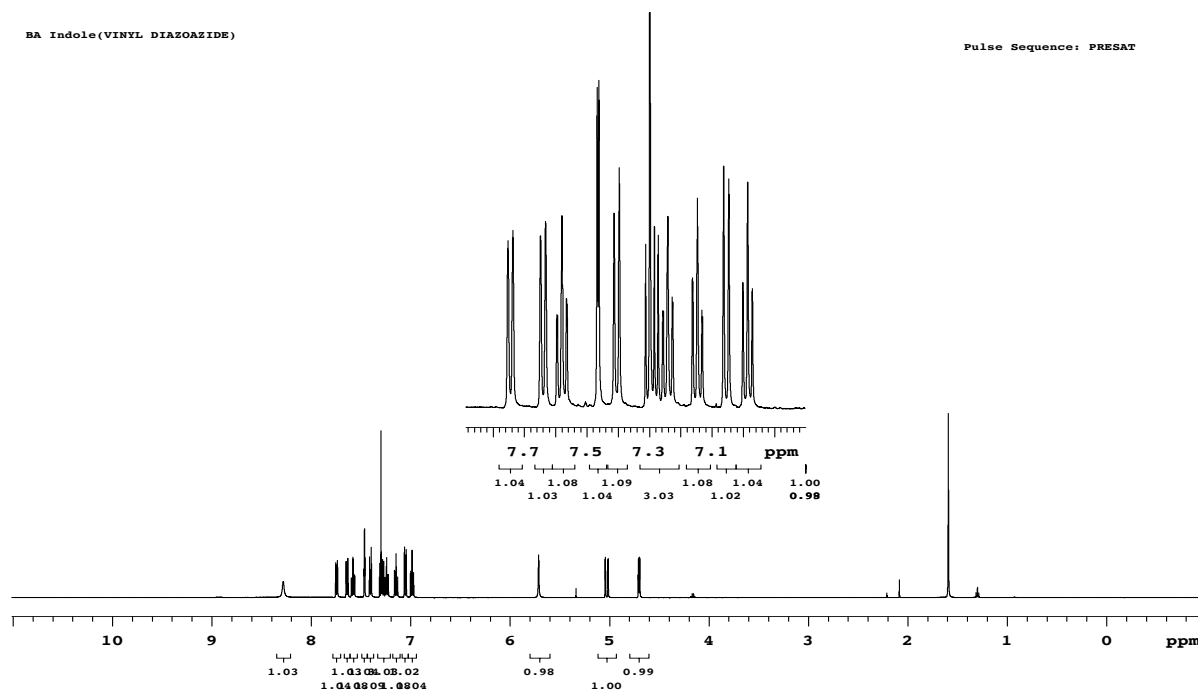
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



2v

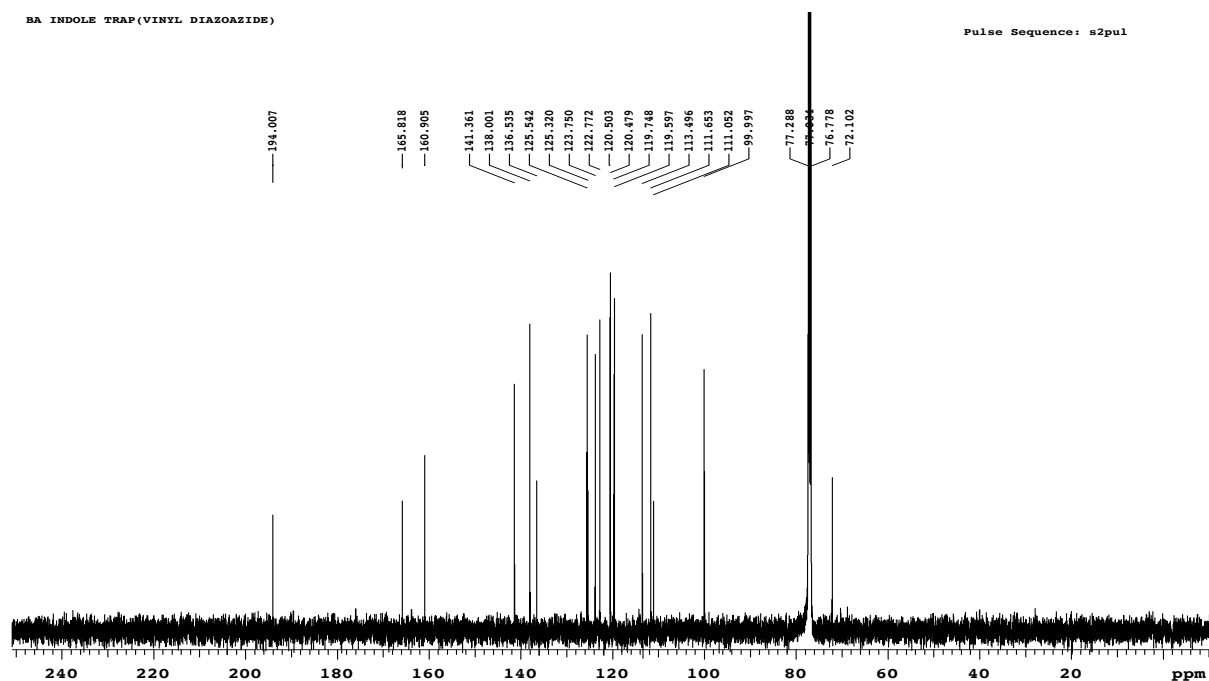
BA Indole(VINYL DIAZOAZIDE)

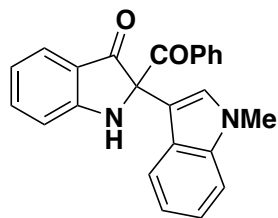
Pulse Sequence: PRESAT



BA INDOLE TRAP(VINYL DIAZOAZIDE)

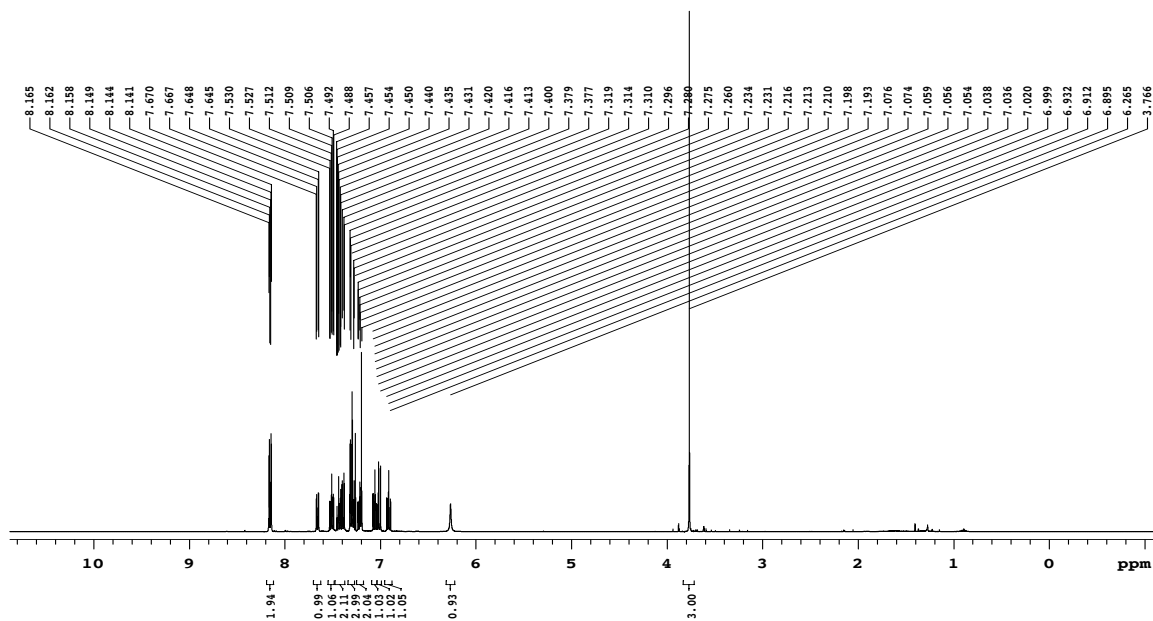
Pulse Sequence: s2pul





2w

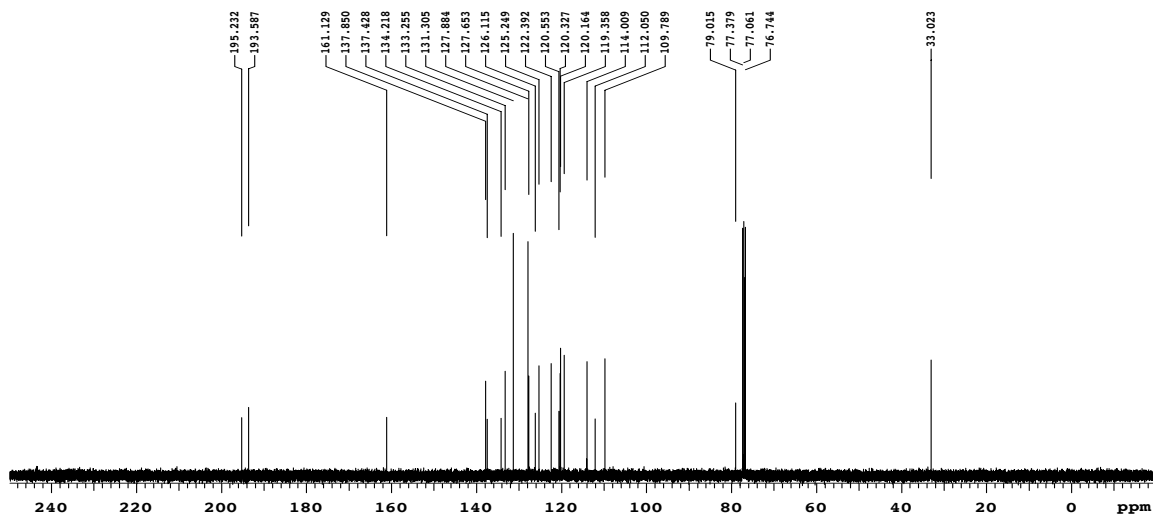
BA Ac1



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

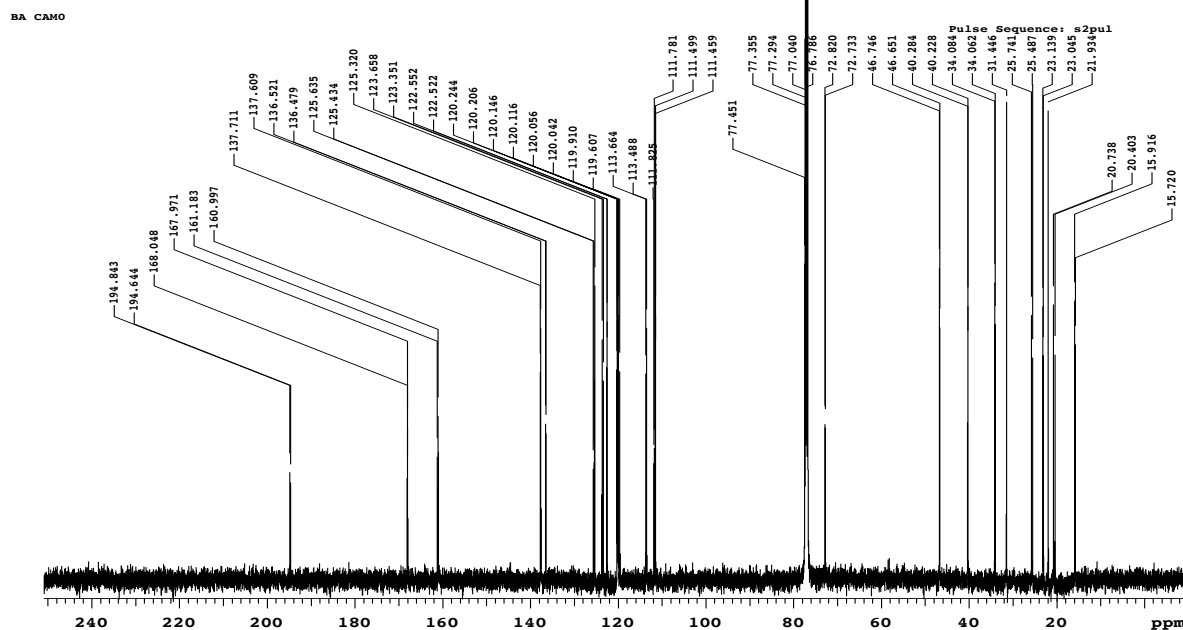
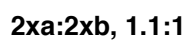
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

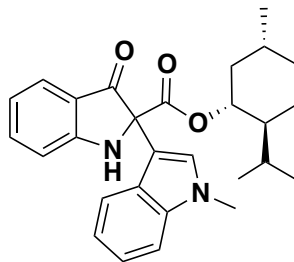
BA Ac1



Pulse Sequence: s2pul

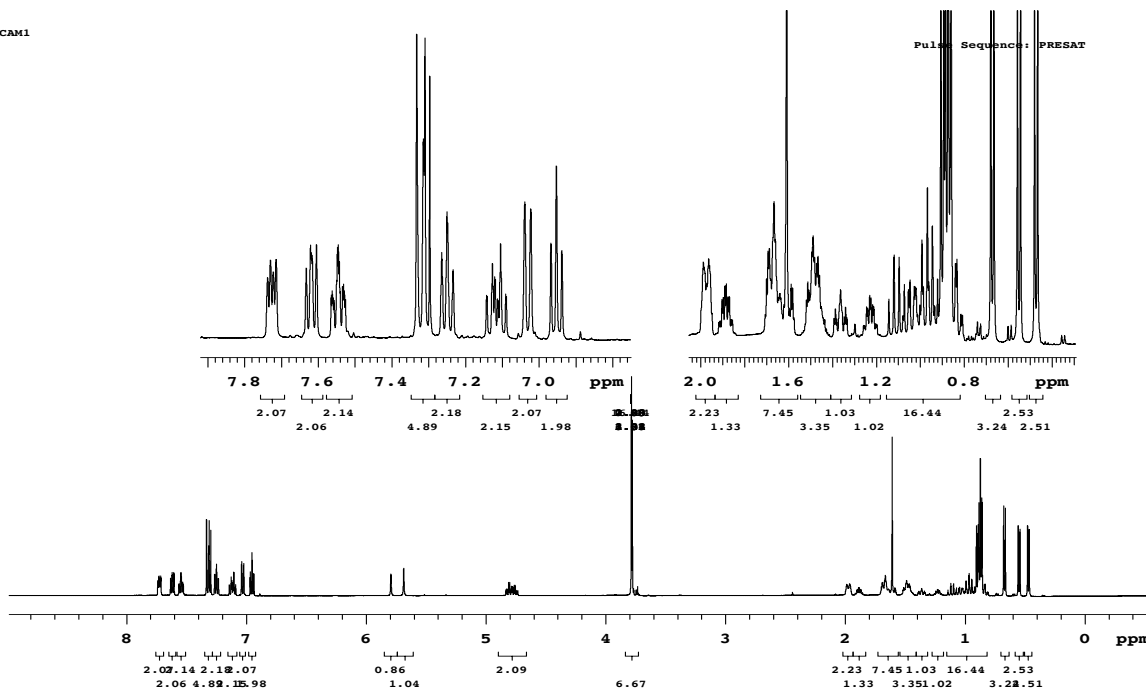
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



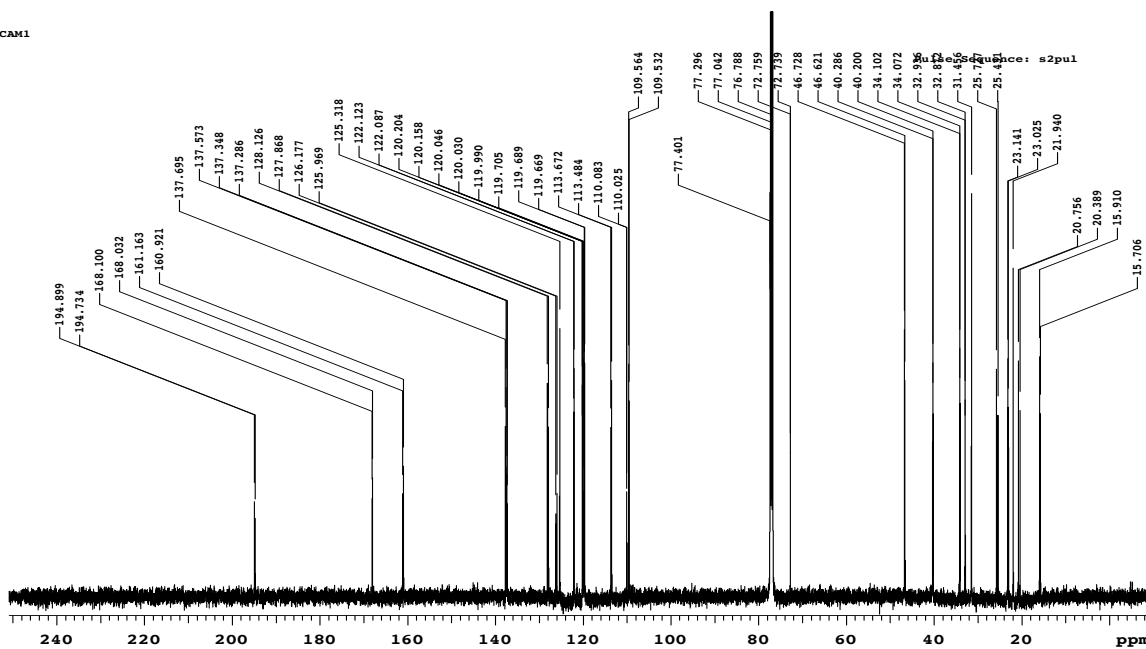


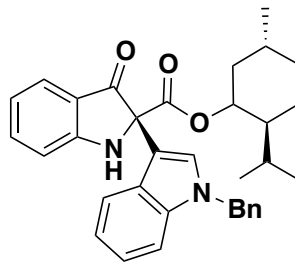
2ya:2yb; 1.3:1
(after column chromatography)

BA CAM1



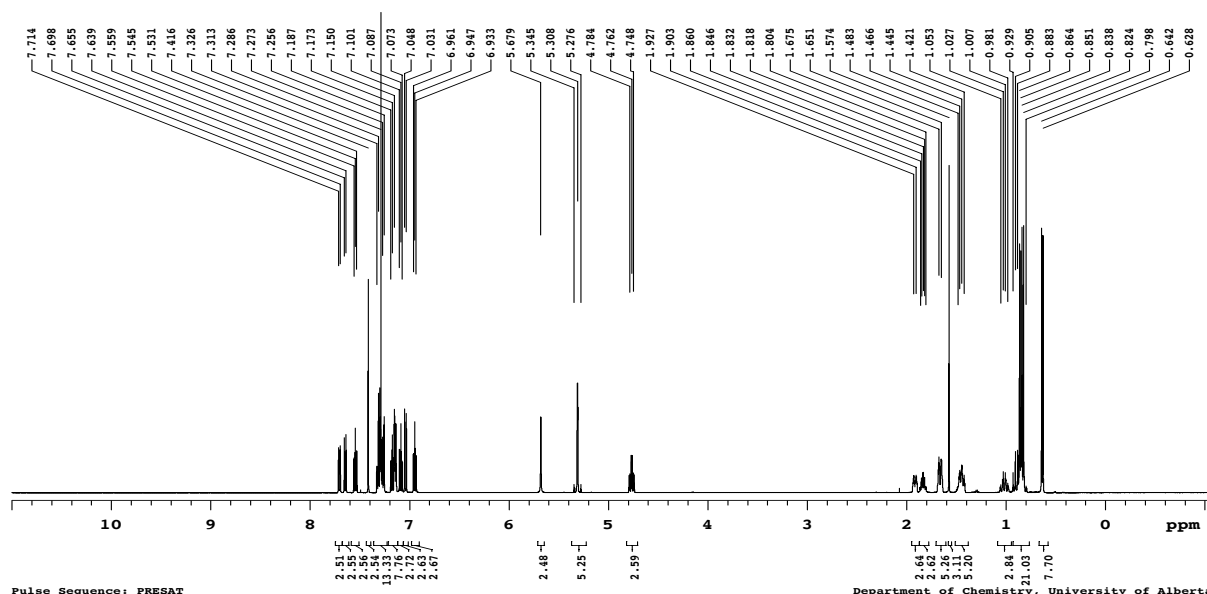
BA CAM1





2za

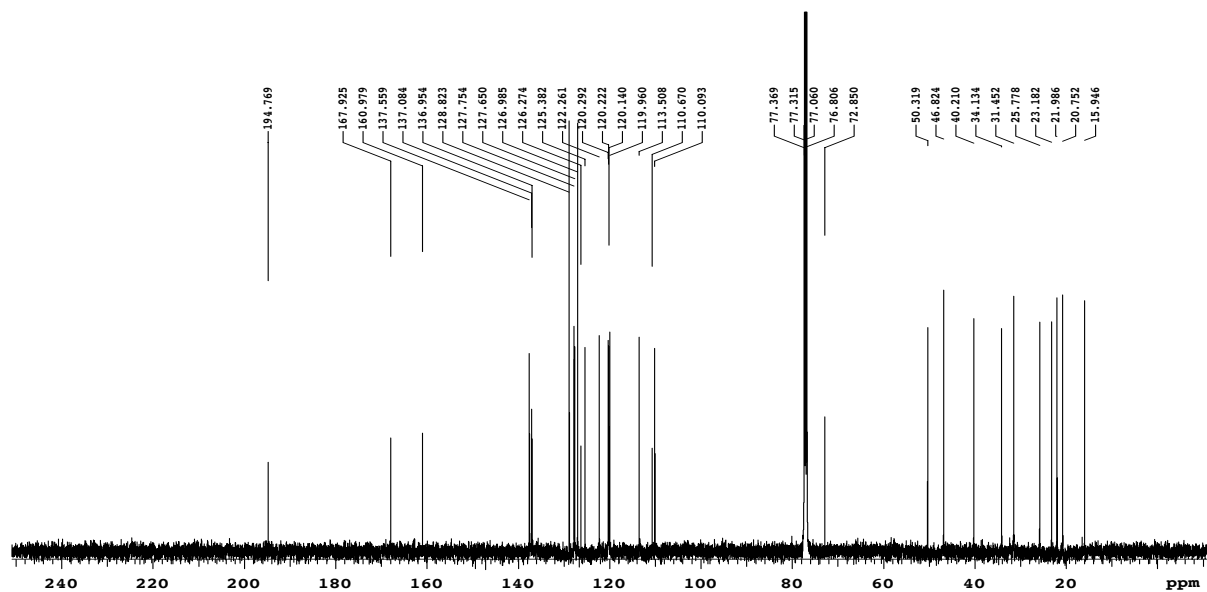
Benzylindole trap on mentholdiazoazide(single diastereomer, with X-ray)



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

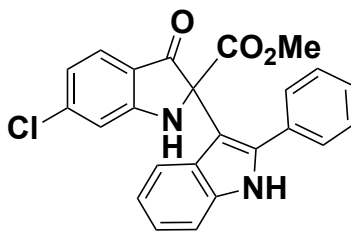
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Benzylindole trap on mentholdiazoazide (single diastereomer, with X-ray)



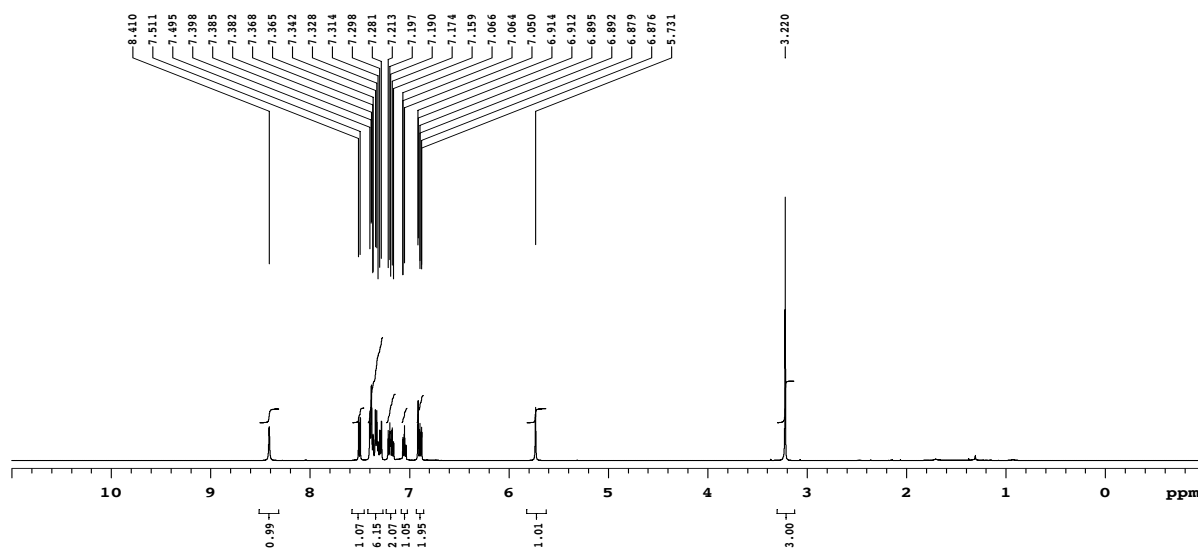
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



5a

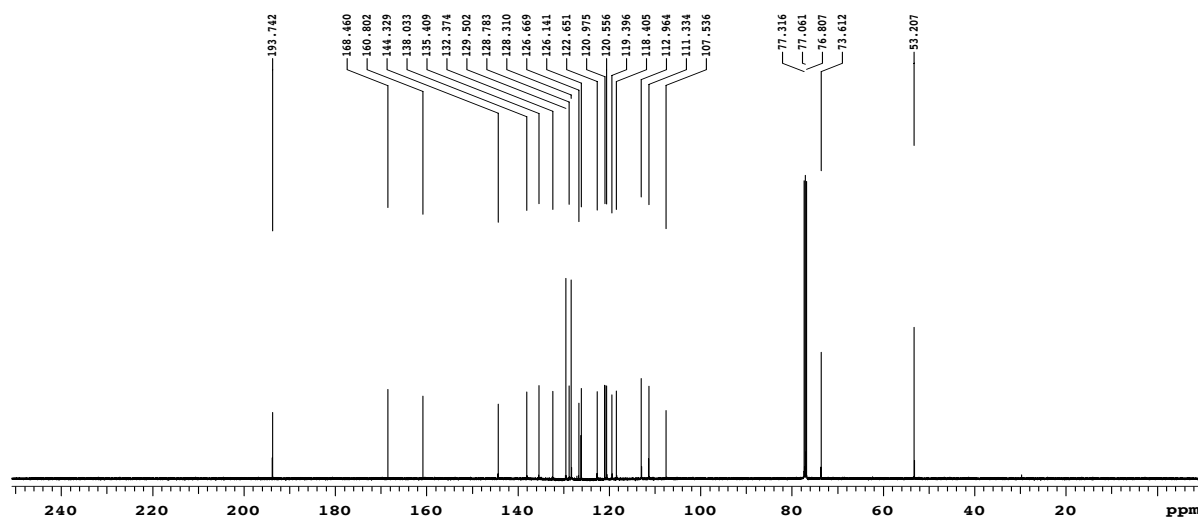
2-phenylindole trap on chlorodiazazide
499.806 MHz H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

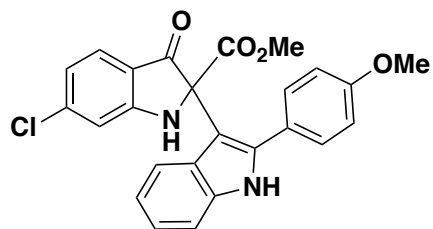
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

2-phenylindole trap on chlorodiazide
125.691 MHz C13{H1} 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDC13 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



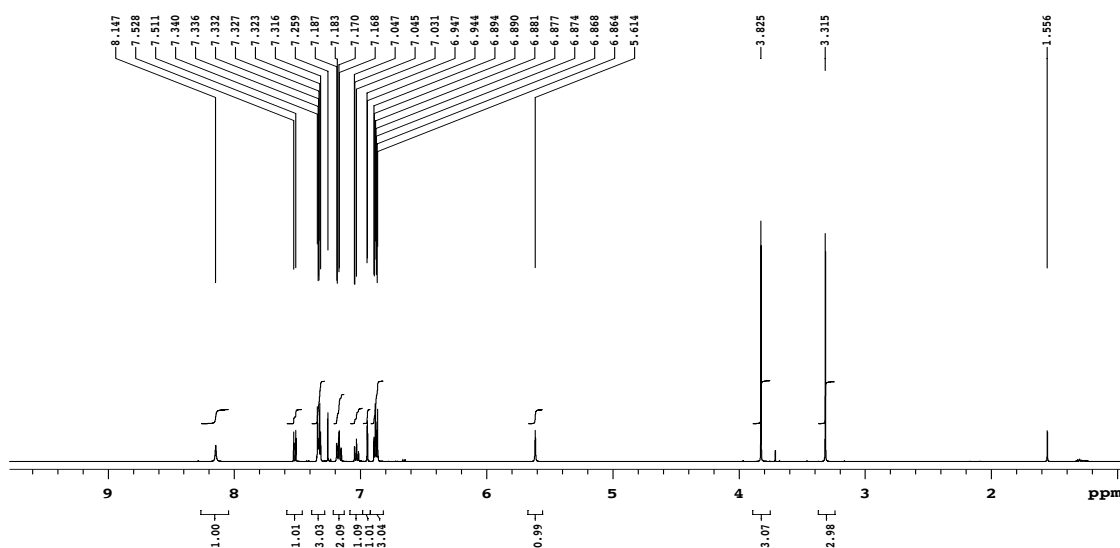
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



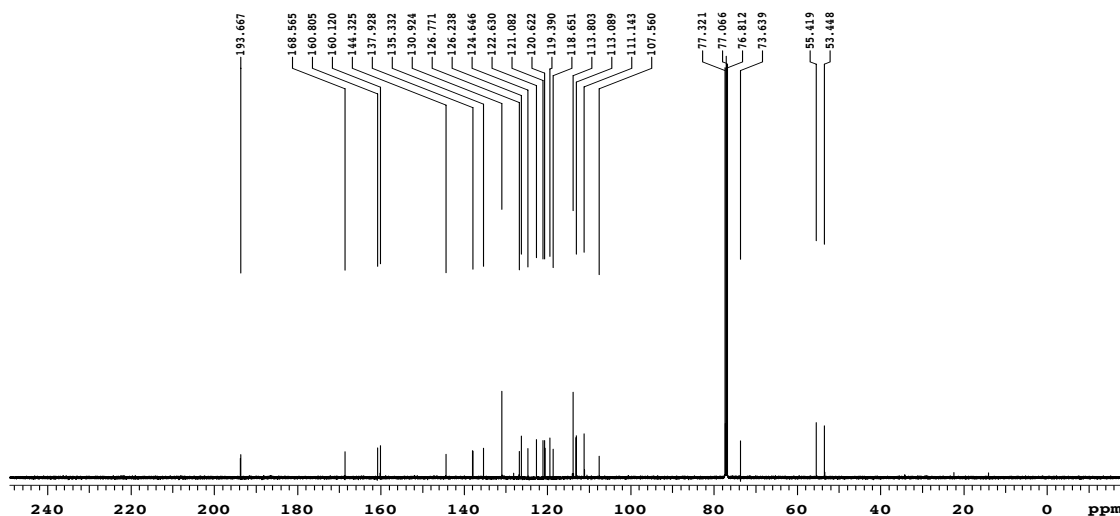
5b

C102Me



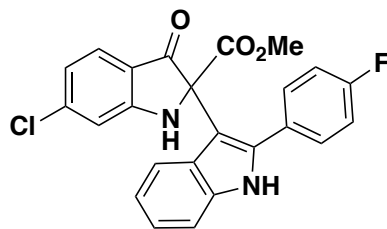
Pulse Sequence: PRESAT
C1020Me

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



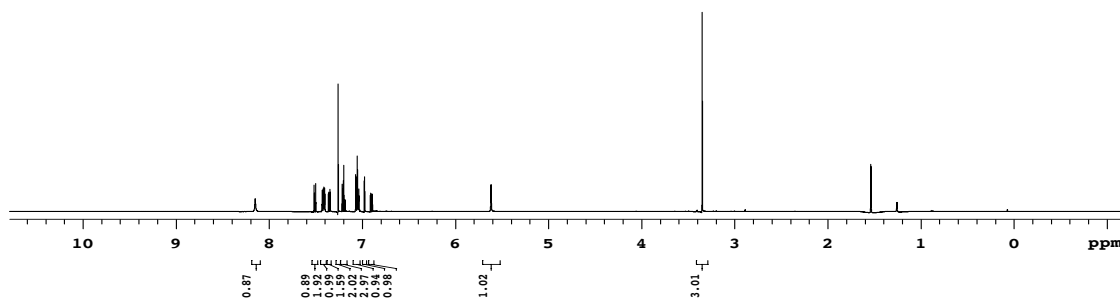
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



5c

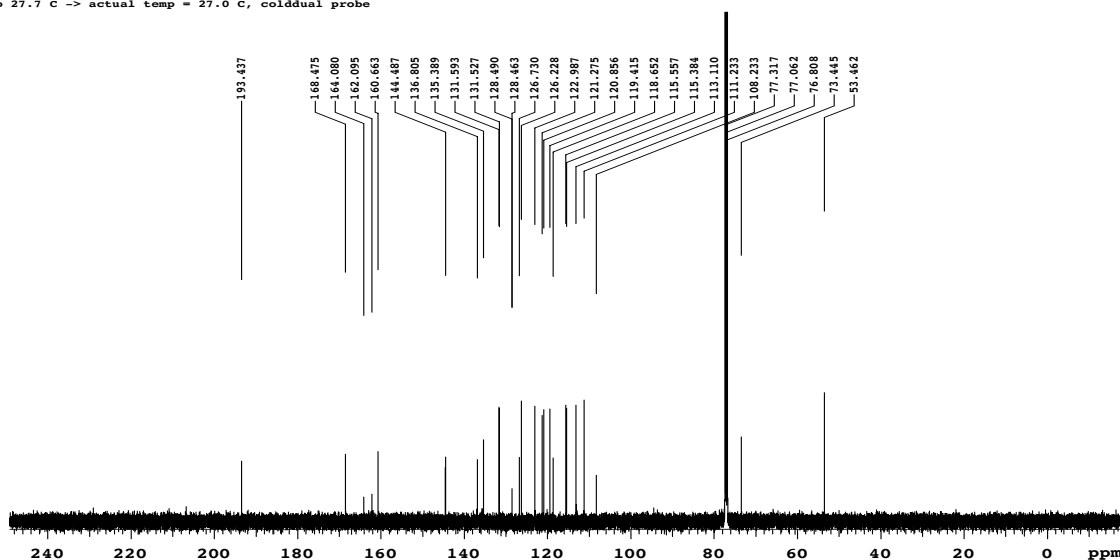
C102F



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

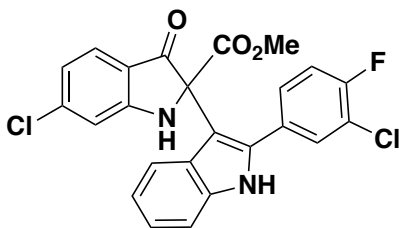
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

Bren+Jordan, BA_C102F_clean
125.688 MHz C13{H1} 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm)
temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



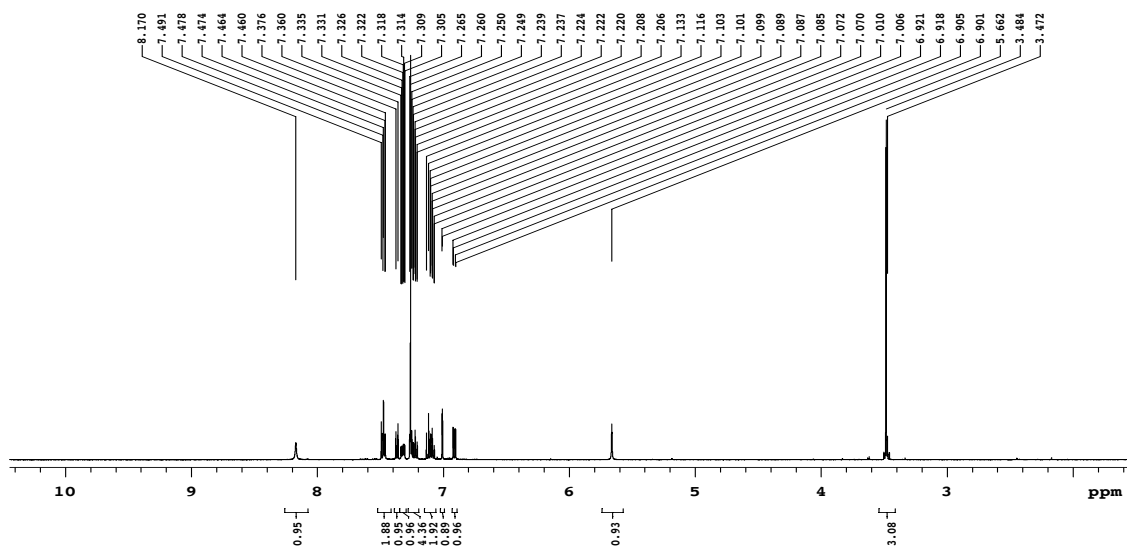
Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta



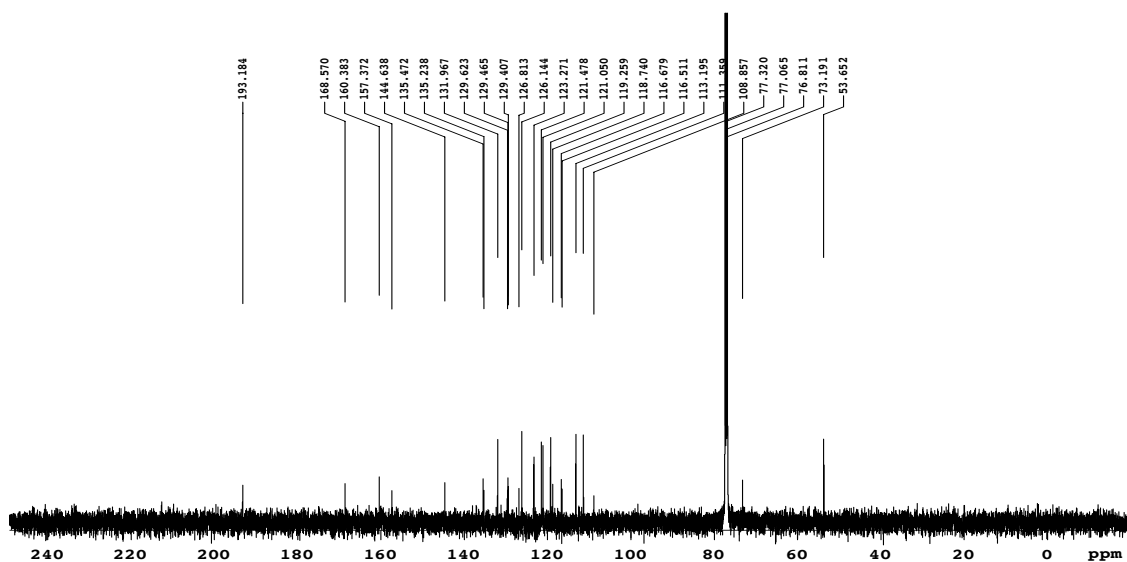
5d

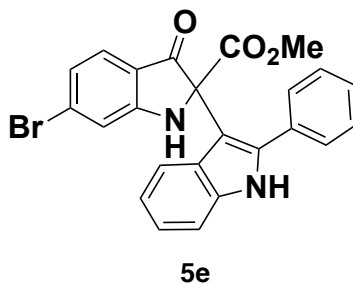
C102FC1



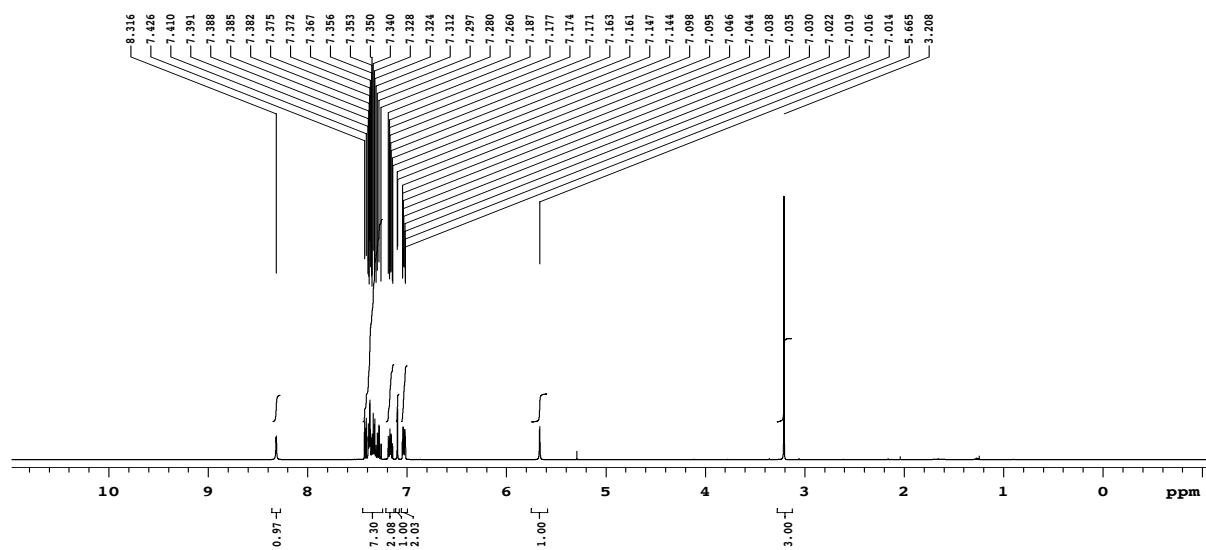
Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta





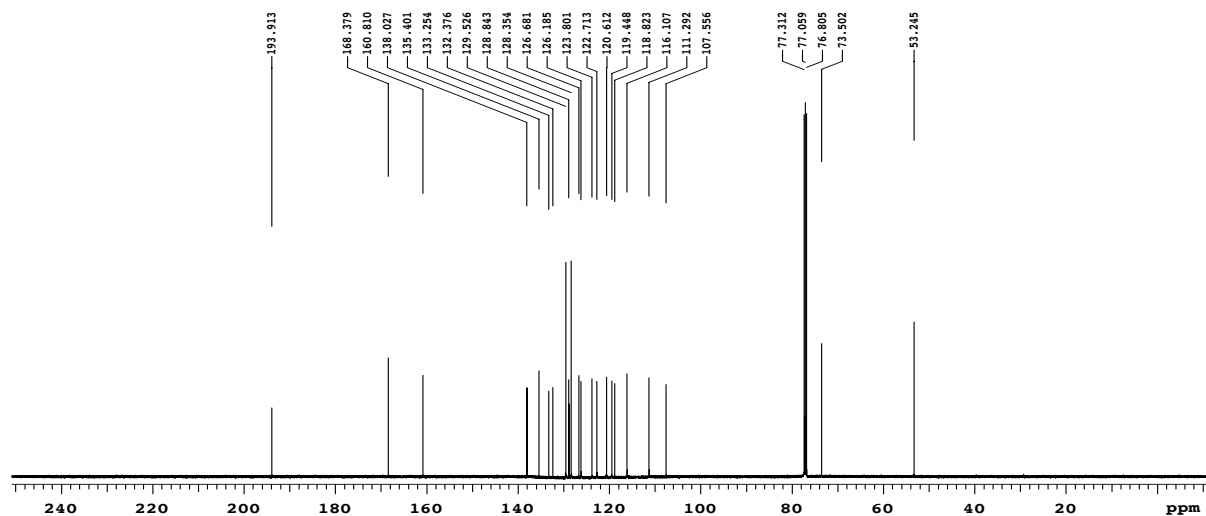
2-phenylindole trap on bromo diazo azide
 499.806 MHz H1 PRESAT in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 7.26 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

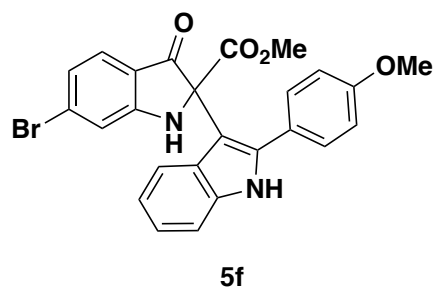
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

2-phenylindole trap on bromodiazoozide
 125.691 MHz C13[H1] 1D in cdcl3 (ref. to CDCl3 @ 77.06 ppm), temp 27.7 C -> actual temp = 27.0 C, cold dual probe

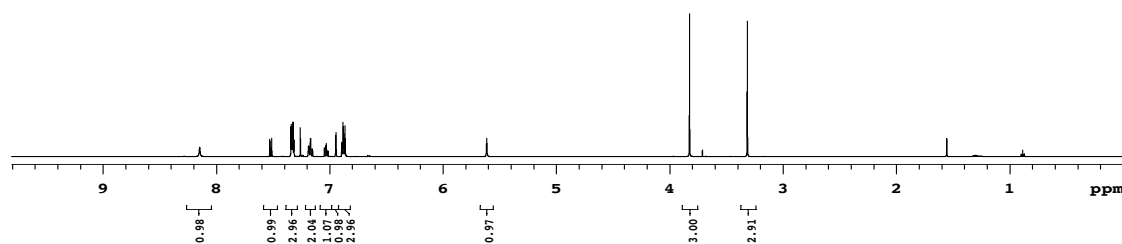


Pulse Sequence: s2pul

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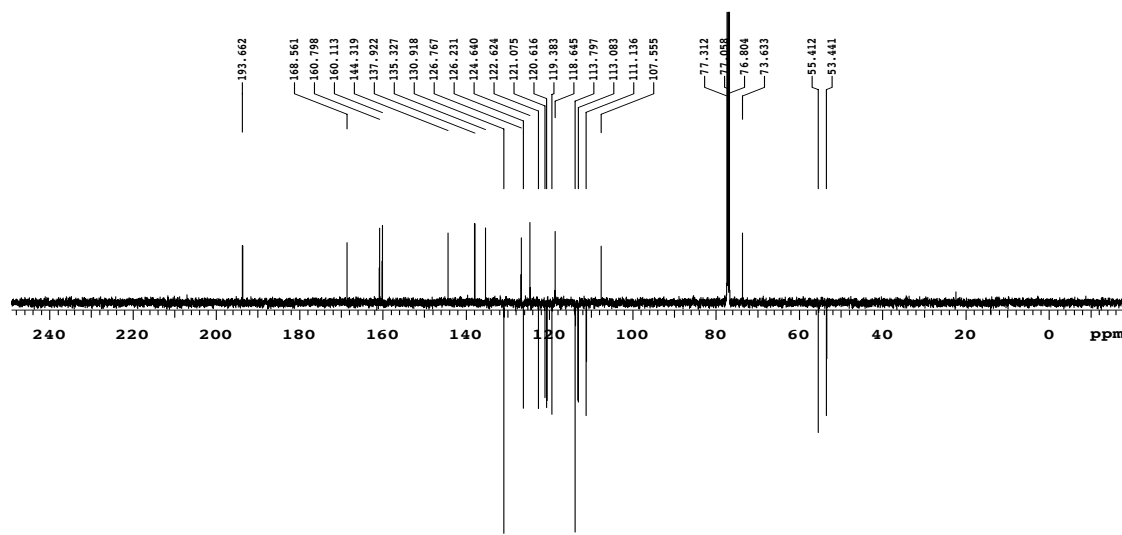


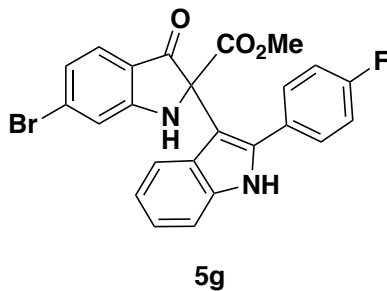
BrO2Me



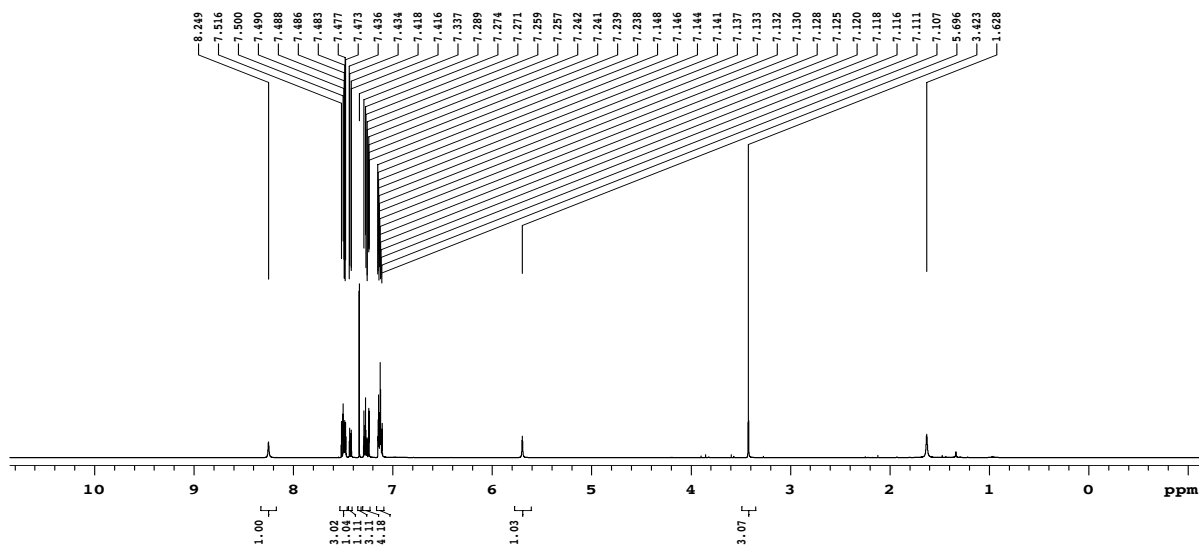
Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta





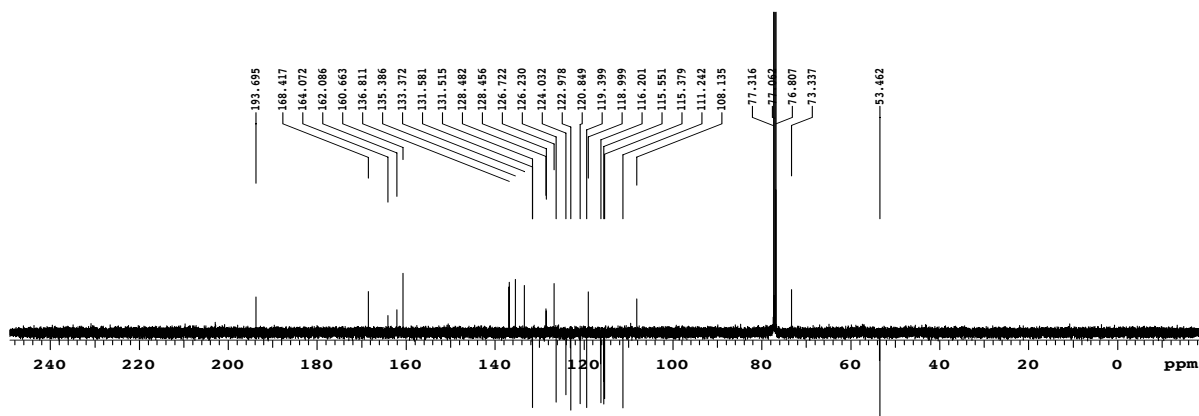
BA BrO2F



Pulse Sequence: PRESAT

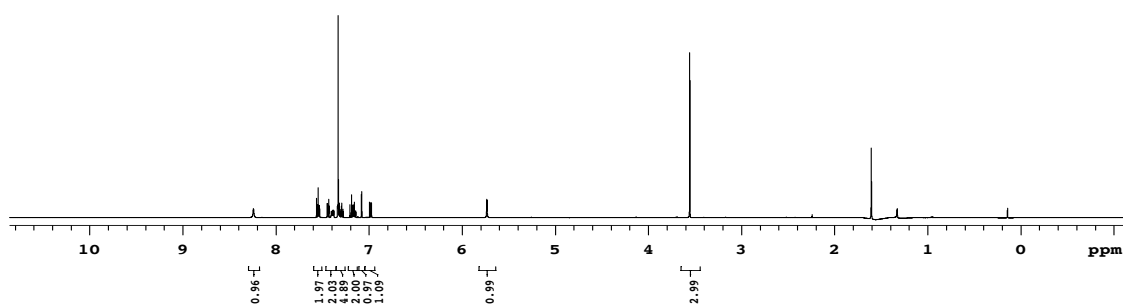
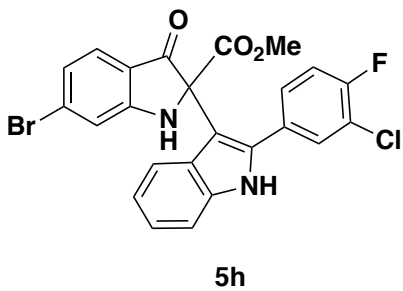
Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta

BrO2F

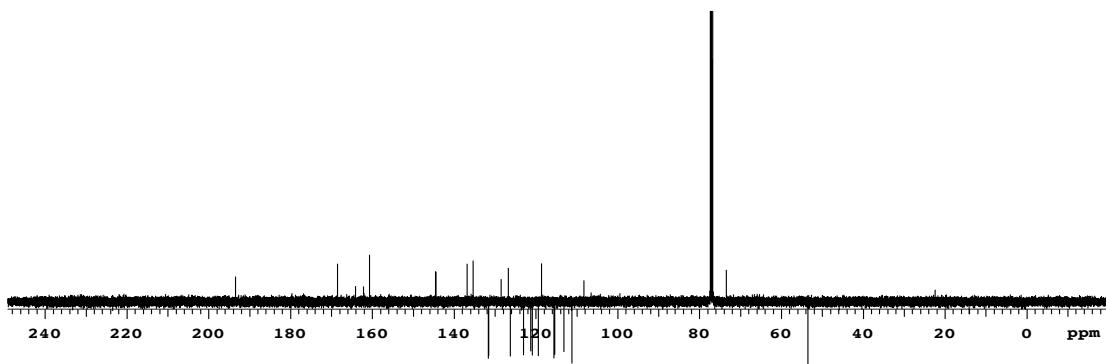


Pulse Sequence: APT_ad

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BrO2FC1



Pulse Sequence: APT_ad

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