
Unexpected Regioselectivity Switch: Organophosphine-Triggered Reactions of Cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylates with Aldehydes

Shengjun Ni^a, Jie Chen^a, and Shengming Ma^{*a,b}

^a *State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Lingling Road, Shanghai 200032, P. R. China*

^b *Shanghai Key Laboratory of Green Chemistry and Chemical Process, Department of Chemistry, East China Normal University, 3663 North Zhongshan Road, Shanghai 200062, P. R. China*

masm@mail.sioc.ac.cn

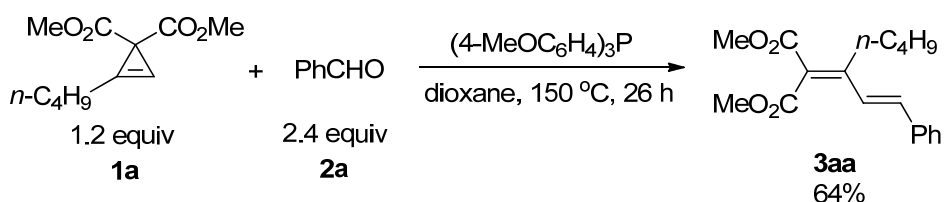
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General Information. ^1H NMR (300 or 400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (75 or 100 MHz) spectra were recorded with CDCl_3 as the solvent. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in parts per million (ppm). Infrared spectra were recorded with a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR Spectrometer. Mass and HRMS spectra were carried out in EI or ESI mode. Thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated glass-back plates and visualized with UV light at 254 nm. Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel (10-40 μ). All reactions were carried out in oven dried Schlenk tubes with a screw cap. Dioxane used in experiment was refluxed over sodium wire using diphenyl ketone as indicator and distilled right before use. All the temperatures are referred to the oil baths applied. $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%) was purchased from Sigama-Aldrich. PhCHO was distilled before use. ^{19}F NMR experiments were measured with trifluoroacetic acid (-77.0 ppm) as the external reference.

Experimental procedures and characterization data

1. (*E*)-3-Butyl-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3aa** (nsj-6-19):

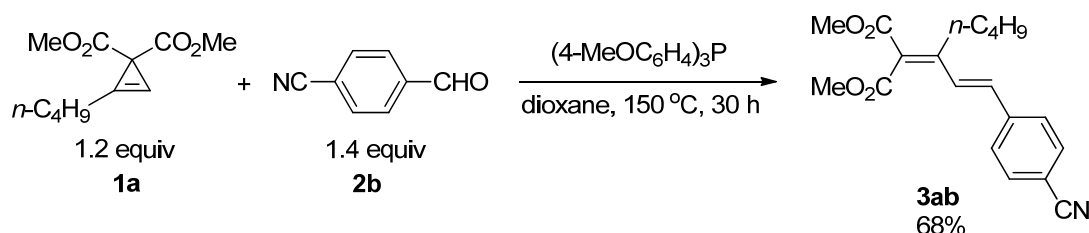


Typical Procedure: To a flame dried Schlenk tube with a screw cap were added $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.1 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), benzaldehyde **2a** (84.9 mg, 0.8 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) sequentially under Ar atmosphere. After being stirred at $150\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 26 h, the reaction was over as monitored by TLC. The mixture was exposed to air for one day to oxidize the remaining $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ to simplify the isolation. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1) afforded the desired product **3aa** (65.8 mg, 64%): oil; ^1H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.50 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.05 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.71-2.62 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.62-1.52 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.50-1.38 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 166.0, 154.6, 137.0, 136.1, 129.1, 128.7, 127.4, 125.1, 123.6, 52.2, 52.1, 32.0, 29.8, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 303 (M^+ + 1, 9.27), 302 (M^+ , 45.34), 141 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2954, 2868, 1718, 1617, 1578, 1435, 1328, 1280, 1210, 1102, 1060, 1016; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₂₂O₄ [M^+]: 302.1518, found 302.1520.

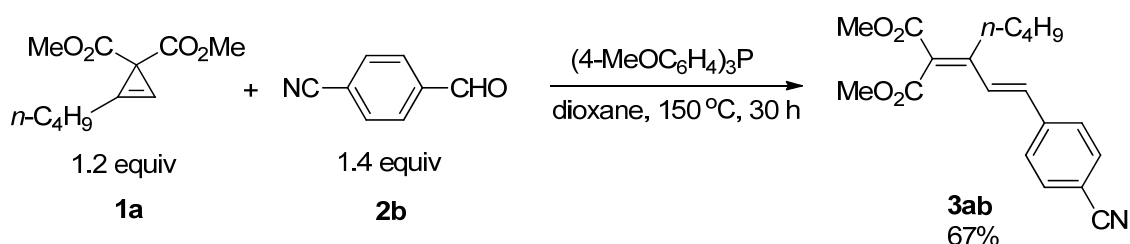
The following compounds were prepared according to this procedure. For the synthesis of **3ab**, **3ac**, **3ad** and **3af** the resulting reaction mixture was isolated without being exposed to air.

2. (*E*)-3-Butyl-5-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ab (nsj-6-47):**



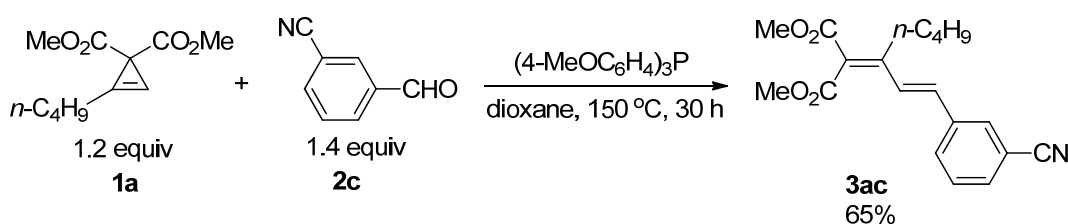
The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.2 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 4-cyanobenzaldehyde **2b** (62.8 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ab** (75.2 mg, 68%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.00 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.83 (s, 6 H, 2 × OCH₃), 2.65-2.58 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.61-1.51 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.49-1.37 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.1, 165.3, 153.2, 140.6, 134.4, 132.5, 128.6, 127.8, 125.4, 118.6, 112.0, 52.31, 52.27, 31.9, 30.0, 22.9, 13.7; MS (EI) m/z 328 (M^+ + 1, 21.93), 327 (M^+ , 100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2226, 1717, 1619, 1603, 1580, 1433, 1218, 1101, 1061, 1014; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₄ [M^+]: 327.1471, found 327.1473.

Gram scale synthesis (nsj-6-20):



The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 1.5743 g, 4.25 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (1.0609 g, 5.0 mmol), dioxane (25 mL), 4-cyanobenzaldehyde **2b** (0.7866 g, 6.0 mmol), and dioxane (25 mL) afforded the desired product **3ab** (0.9311 g, 67%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.00 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.83 (s, 6 H, $2 \times \text{OCH}_3$), 2.66-2.57 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.62-1.36 (m, 4 H, $2 \times \text{CH}_2$), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.1, 165.3, 153.2, 140.6, 134.4, 132.4, 128.5, 127.8, 125.3, 118.6, 111.9, 52.32, 52.28, 31.9, 30.0, 22.9, 13.7.

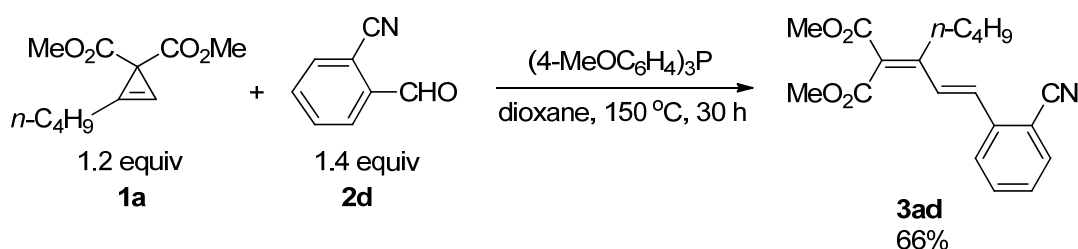
3. (*E*)-3-Butyl-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ac** (nsj-5-172):



The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.1 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 3-cyanobenzaldehyde **2c** (62.9 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ac** (72.1 mg, 65%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77-7.67 (m, 3 H, CH= and Ar-H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 6.99 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.84 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.65-2.58 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.61-1.51 (m, 2 H, CH_2),

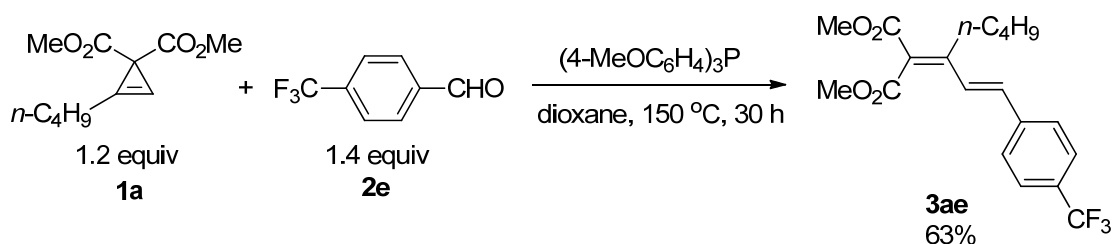
1.49-1.38 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.1, 165.4, 153.3, 137.5, 134.0, 132.0, 131.1, 130.8, 129.6, 127.6, 125.1, 118.3, 113.1, 52.32, 52.25, 31.9, 30.0, 22.9, 13.7; MS (EI) *m/z* 328 (M⁺ + 1, 3.76), 327 (M⁺, 15.26), 149 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2961, 2231, 1718, 1258, 1214, 1090, 1061, 1014; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₄ [M⁺]: 327.1471, found 327.1475.

4. (*E*)-3-Butyl-5-(2-cyanophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ad (nsj-5-173):**



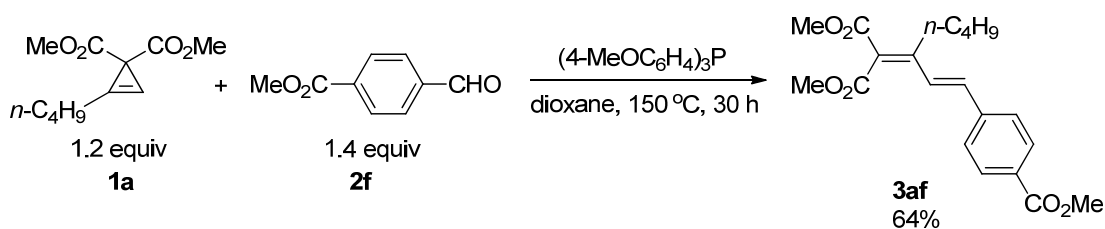
The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.1 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.3 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 2-cyanobenzaldehyde **2d** (63.0 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ad** (73.5 mg, 66%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 2 H, CH= and Ar-H), 3.84 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.70-2.62 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.67-1.55 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.52-1.40 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 165.3, 153.4, 139.3, 133.0, 132.9, 131.9, 129.3, 128.9, 126.0, 125.5, 117.4, 112.1, 52.33, 52.32, 31.9, 30.2, 22.9, 13.7; MS (EI) *m/z* 328 (M⁺ + 1, 6.08), 327 (M⁺, 26.42), 285 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2958, 2220, 1725, 1711, 1620, 1585, 1475, 1451, 1433, 1226, 1065, 1014; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₄ [M⁺]: 327.1471, found 327.1477.

5. (*E*)-3-Butyl-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ae (nsj-6-18):**



The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde **2e** (83.6 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ae** (79.3 mg, 63%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 40/1): oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.65-7.55 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.830 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.825 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.68-2.60 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.62-1.52 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.50-1.38 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 165.6, 153.7, 139.7 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 135.0, 130.5 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 127.5, 125.7 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.9, 123.9 (q, *J* = 270.6 Hz), 52.3, 52.2, 32.0, 30.0, 23.0, 13.7; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz) δ -62.7; MS (EI) *m/z* 371 (*M*⁺ + 1, 11.10), 370 (*M*⁺, 51.82), 306 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 1720, 1618, 1583, 1435, 1322, 1215, 1165, 1120, 1062, 1014; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₁O₄F₃ [*M*⁺]: 370.1392, found 370.1389.

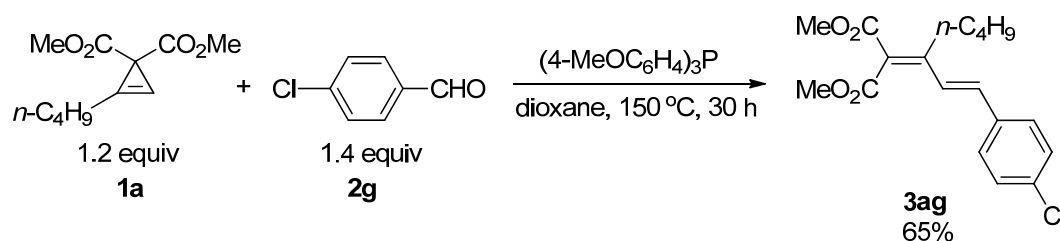
6. (E)-3-Butyl-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3af** (nsj-5-186):



The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.7 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), methyl 4-formylbenzoate **2f** (78.7 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3af** (78.2 mg, 64%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.93 (s, 3 H, CH₃),

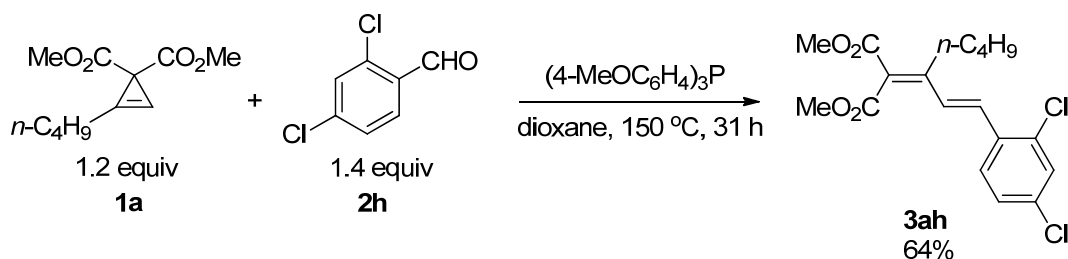
OCH₃), 3.84 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.69-2.62 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.62-1.52 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.50-1.39 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.5, 166.2, 165.6, 153.8, 140.6, 135.5, 130.2, 130.0, 127.5, 127.3, 124.8, 52.3, 52.2, 52.1, 32.0, 29.9, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) *m/z* 361 (*M*⁺ + 1, 11.55), 360 (*M*⁺, 50.60), 258 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 1716, 1580, 1434, 1276, 1217, 1107, 1061, 1016; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₄O₆ [*M*⁺]: 360.1573, found 360.1569.

7. (*E*)-3-Butyl-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ag (nsj-6-45):**



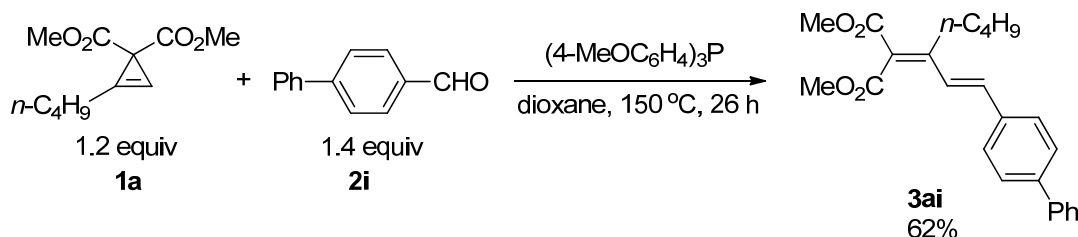
The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 4-chlorobenzaldehyde **2g** (67.8 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ag** (74.5 mg, 65%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.67-2.58 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.62-1.50 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.49-1.35 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.3, 165.8, 154.2, 135.5, 134.8, 134.7, 129.0, 128.6, 125.7, 124.0, 52.24, 52.18, 32.0, 29.9, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) *m/z* 339 (*M*⁺ (³⁵Cl) + 1, 5.61), 338 (*M*⁺ (³⁷Cl), 24.52), 337 (*M*⁺ (³⁵Cl) + 1, 14.43), 336 (*M*⁺ (³⁵Cl), 69.97), 245 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 1716, 1618, 1577, 1491, 1433, 1216, 1061; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₁O₄³⁵Cl [*M*⁺]: 336.1128, found 336.1130.

8. (*E*)-3-Butyl-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ah (nsj-6-17):**



The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.4 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 2,4-dichlorobenzaldehyde **2h** (84.1 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ah** (81.1 mg, 64%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63-7.56 (m, 2 H, Ar-H and CH=), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2 H, Ar-H and CH=), 7.24 (dd, $J_1 = 8.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.64 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H, CH_2), 1.65-1.54 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.50-1.39 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 165.5, 154.0, 134.9, 134.6, 133.0, 131.6, 129.6, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 124.7, 52.3, 52.2, 31.9, 30.1, 23.0, 13.7; MS (EI) m/z 374 (M^+ ($^{37}\text{Cl}^{37}\text{Cl}$), 7.59), 373 (M^+ ($^{37}\text{Cl}^{35}\text{Cl}$) + 1, 8.27), 372 (M^+ ($^{37}\text{Cl}^{35}\text{Cl}$), 41.60), 371 (M^+ ($^{35}\text{Cl}^{35}\text{Cl}$) + 1, 12.88), 370 (M^+ ($^{35}\text{Cl}^{35}\text{Cl}$), 62.74), 271 (100); IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2958, 1719, 1578, 1468, 1433, 1256, 1215, 1140, 1100, 1061, 1014; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4^{35}\text{Cl}_2$ [M^+]: 370.0739, found 370.0742.

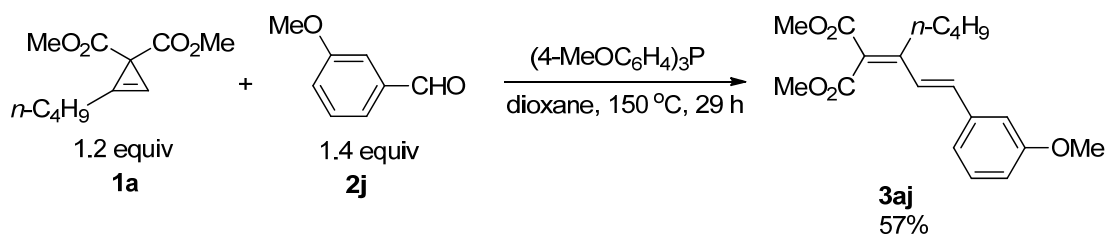
9. (E)-3-Butyl-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-(4-phenylphenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3ai (nsj-6-48):**



The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.2 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 4-phenylbenzaldehyde **2i** (87.5 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ai** (79.5 mg, 62%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1) and

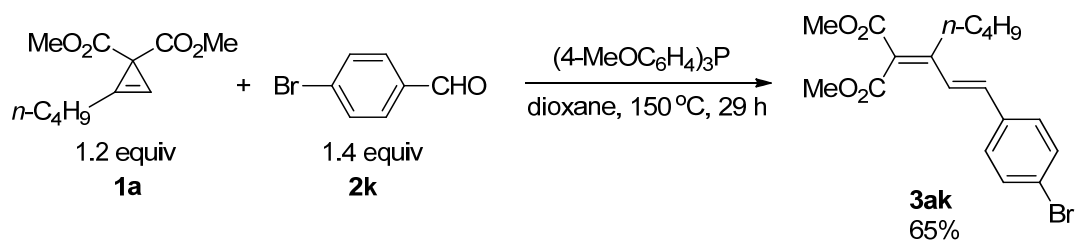
recrystallization from hexane: solid; m.p. 155-157 °C (hexane); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67-7.53 (m, 7 H, Ar-H and CH=), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.08 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.73-2.63 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.66-1.52 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.52-1.38 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 0.96 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.3, 166.0, 154.6, 141.8, 140.3, 136.5, 135.2, 128.8, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 125.2, 123.7, 52.2, 52.1, 32.1, 29.8, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 379 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 21.30), 378 (M^+ , 80.59), 287 (100); IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1722, 1707, 1573, 1486, 1433, 1213, 1193, 1060, 1014; Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4$: C 76.17; H 6.92. Found: C 75.94; H 6.97.

10. (E)-3-Butyl-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester **3aj (nsj-5-175):**

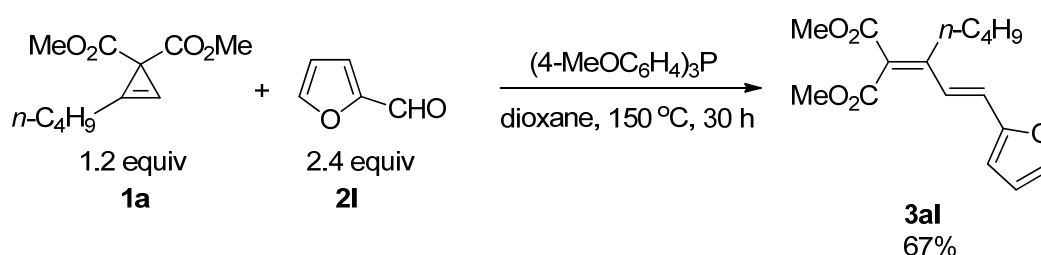


The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.2 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 3-methoxybenzaldehyde **2j** (65.5 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3aj** (63.8 mg, 57%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.28 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.06-6.96 (m, 2 H, Ar-H and CH=), 6.87 (dd, J_1 = 8.1 Hz, J_2 = 1.5 Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.71-2.61 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.63-1.37 (m, 4 H, $2 \times \text{CH}_2$), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 166.0, 159.8, 154.5, 137.6, 136.9, 129.7, 125.5, 123.8, 120.1, 114.8, 112.7, 55.2, 52.2, 52.1, 32.0, 29.8, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 332 (M^+ , 15.92), 272 (100); IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1717, 1580, 1433, 1210, 1157, 1061, 1015; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5$ [M^+]: 332.1624, found 332.1625.

11. (E)-3-Butyl-5-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid

methyl ester 3ak (nsj-5-176):

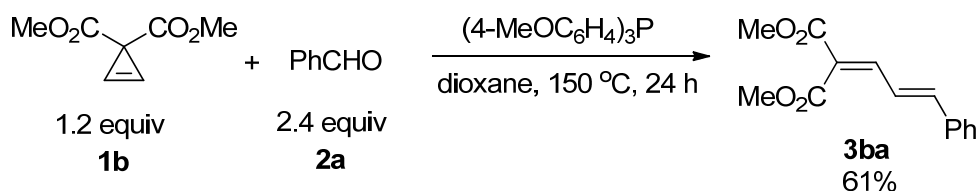
The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.1 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.5 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 4-bromobenzaldehyde **2k** (88.8 mg, 0.48 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ak** (84.1 mg, 65%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.96 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.67-2.57 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.61-1.50 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.49-1.37 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.3, 165.7, 154.2, 135.5, 135.1, 131.9, 128.8, 125.8, 124.1, 123.1, 52.23, 52.18, 32.0, 29.9, 23.0, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 383 ($\text{M}^+(\text{}^{81}\text{Br}) + 1$, 3.44), 382 ($\text{M}^+(\text{}^{81}\text{Br})$, 15.68), 381 ($\text{M}^+(\text{}^{81}\text{Br}) + 1$, 3.33), 380 ($\text{M}^+(\text{}^{79}\text{Br})$, 16.87), 199 (100); IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1717, 1617, 1576, 1487, 1433, 1216, 1100, 1062, 1008; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4\text{}^{79}\text{Br}$ [M^+]: 380.0623, found 380.0625.

12. (E)-3-Butyl-5-(2-furyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester 3al (nsj-5-184):

The reaction of $(4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{P}$ (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a** (84.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), 2-furaldehyde **2l** (76.3 mg, 0.8 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3al** (66.1 mg, 67%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 (s, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.36 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1 H, CH=),

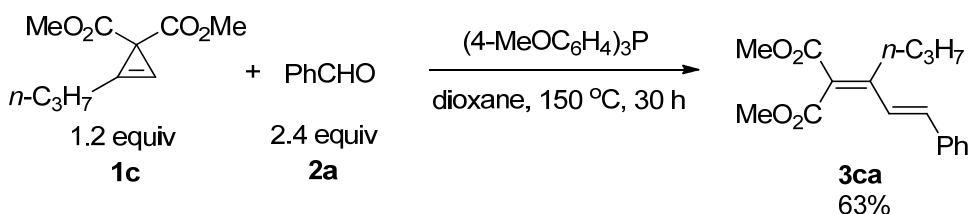
6.82 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 6.53-6.48 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 6.47-6.41 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.80 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.68-2.58 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.61-1.35 (m, 4 H, 2×CH₂), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.1, 165.9, 154.2, 152.3, 143.8, 123.9, 123.4, 123.3, 112.3, 112.0, 52.2, 52.0, 32.0, 29.3, 23.0, 13.7; MS (EI) m/z 293 ($M^+ + 1$, 18.46), 292 (M^+ , 98.03), 118 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 1777, 1719, 1618, 1584, 1434, 1260, 1222, 1201, 1099, 1061, 1014; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₅ [M^+]: 292.1311, found 292.1310.

13. (E)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester 3ba (nsj-5-180):



The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol), cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1b** (62.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), benzaldehyde **2a** (84.8 mg, 0.8 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ba**^[1] (51.2 mg, 61%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1): oil; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.53-7.44 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.42-7.30 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 1 H, CH=), 7.05 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.90 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 165.6, 165.1, 146.2, 145.1, 135.5, 129.9, 128.8, 127.8, 124.0, 123.2, 52.33, 52.27; MS (EI) m/z 247 ($M^+ + 1$, 7.27), 246 (M^+ , 46.22), 214 (100); IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2962, 1714, 1614, 1435, 1260, 1020.

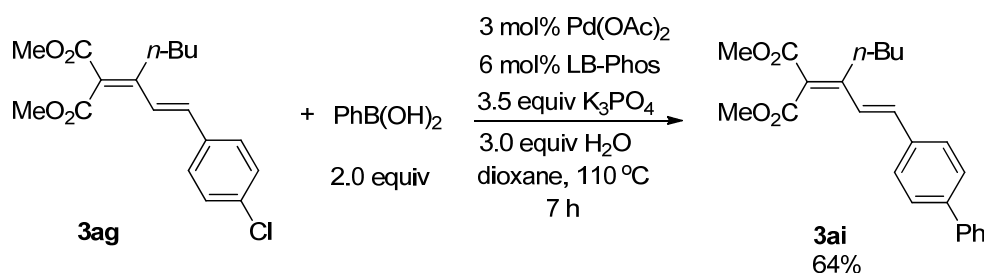
14. (E)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-phenyl-3-propyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid methyl ester 3ca (nsj-5-181):



The reaction of (4-MeOC₆H₄)₃P (95 wt%, 126.0 mg, 0.34 mmol),

cyclopropene-1,1-dicarboxylate **1c** (78.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (2 mL), benzaldehyde **2a** (84.8 mg, 0.8 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL) afforded the desired product **3ca** (62.1 mg, 63%) (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1): oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 7.52-7.46 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.04 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.80 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 2.70-2.60 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.68-1.55 (m, 2 H, CH_2), 1.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 165.9, 154.4, 137.0, 136.1, 129.1, 128.7, 127.4, 125.1, 123.7, 52.2, 52.1, 31.9, 23.3, 14.3; MS (EI) m/z 289 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 12.74), 288 (M^+ , 67.84), 224 (100); IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1717, 1617, 1580, 1433, 1277, 1209, 1061; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ [M^+]: 288.1362, found 288.1366.

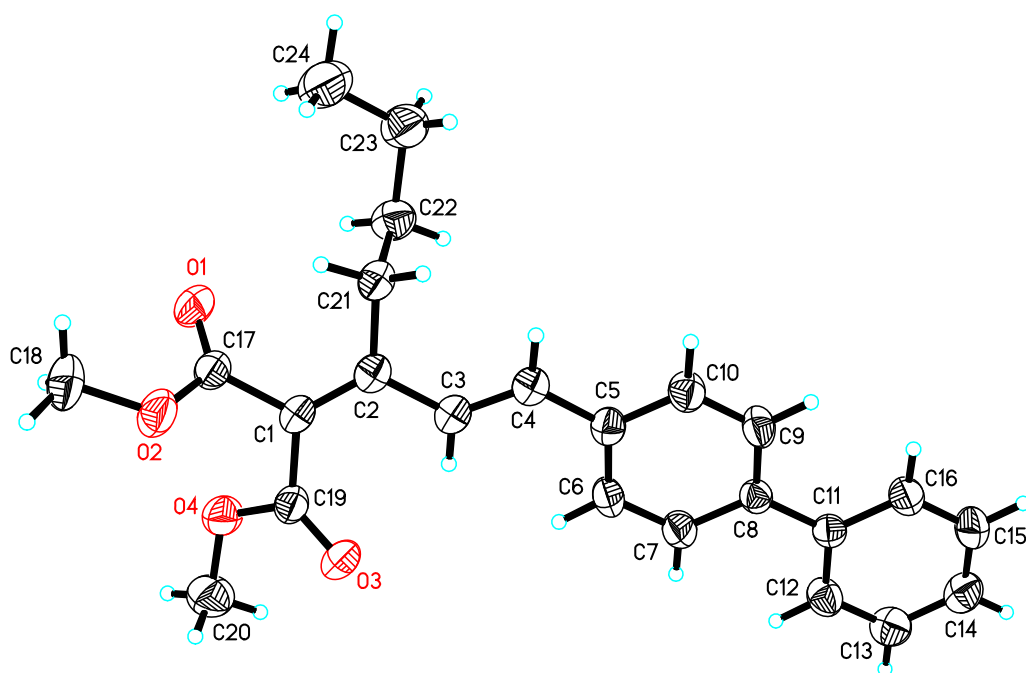
Coupling of **3ag** with phenylboronic acid (**nsj-5-92**):^[2]

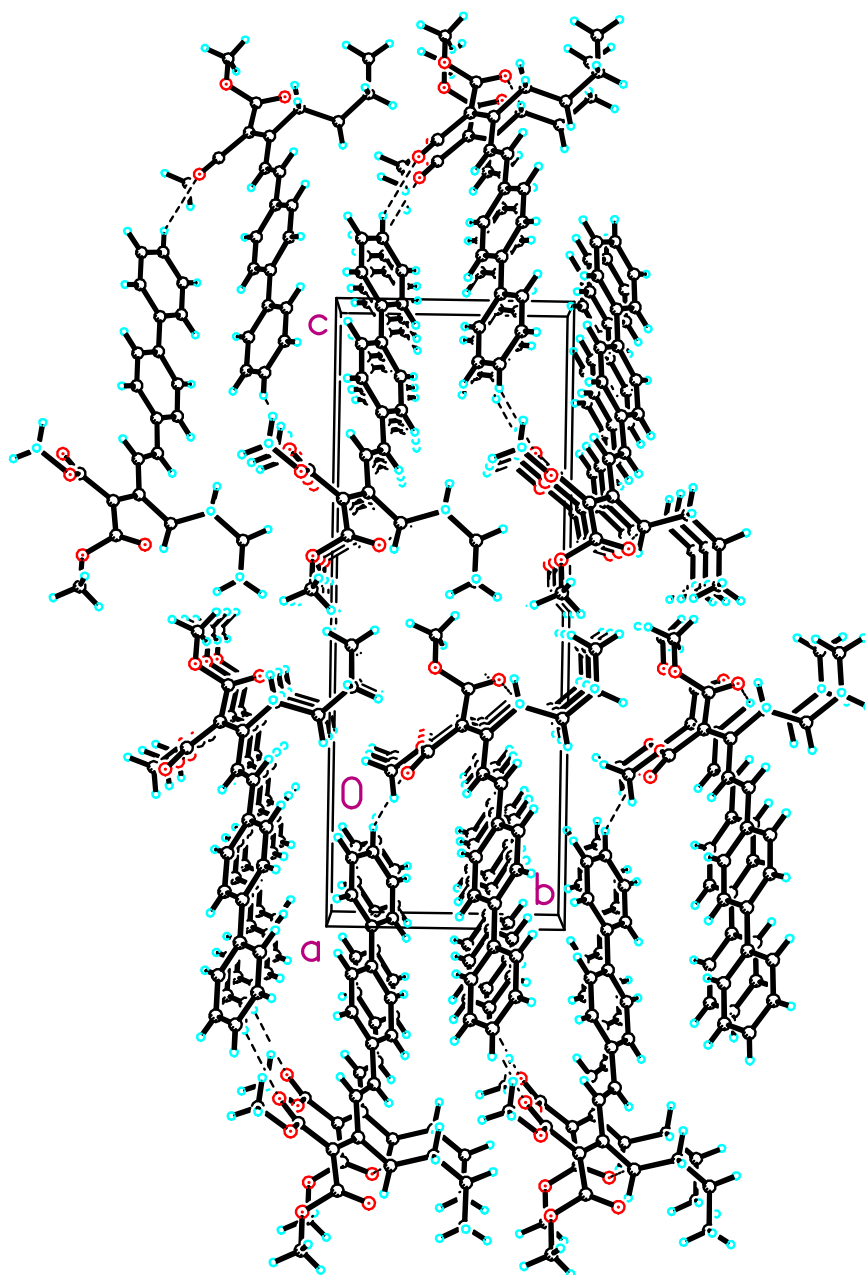


To a flame dried Schlenk tube with a screw cap were added K_3PO_4 (303.9 mg, 1.4 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (2.7 mg, 0.012 mmol), LB-Phos.HBF₄ (10.8 mg, 0.024 mmol), phenylboronic acid (97.5 mg, 0.8 mmol), dioxane (1 mL), **3ag** (135.1 mg, 0.4 mmol), dioxane (1 mL), and H_2O (21.6 μL , 21.6 mg, 1.2 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 110 °C. After 7 h the reaction was over as monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtrated through a short column of silica gel (2 cm) to remove the inorganic salts (eluent: 80 mL of Et_2O). After evaporation of the solvent, chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1) afforded the desired product **3ai** (96.7 mg, 64%): solid; m.p. 155-157 °C (hexane); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66-7.54 (m, 7 H, Ar-H and CH=), 7.47-7.40 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.08 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.81

(s, 3 H, OCH₃), 2.72-2.63 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.65-1.53 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.51-1.39 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.2, 165.9, 154.6, 141.7, 140.2, 136.5, 135.1, 128.7, 127.9, 127.5, 127.3, 126.8, 125.1, 123.5, 52.13, 52.05, 32.0, 29.7, 23.0, 13.8.

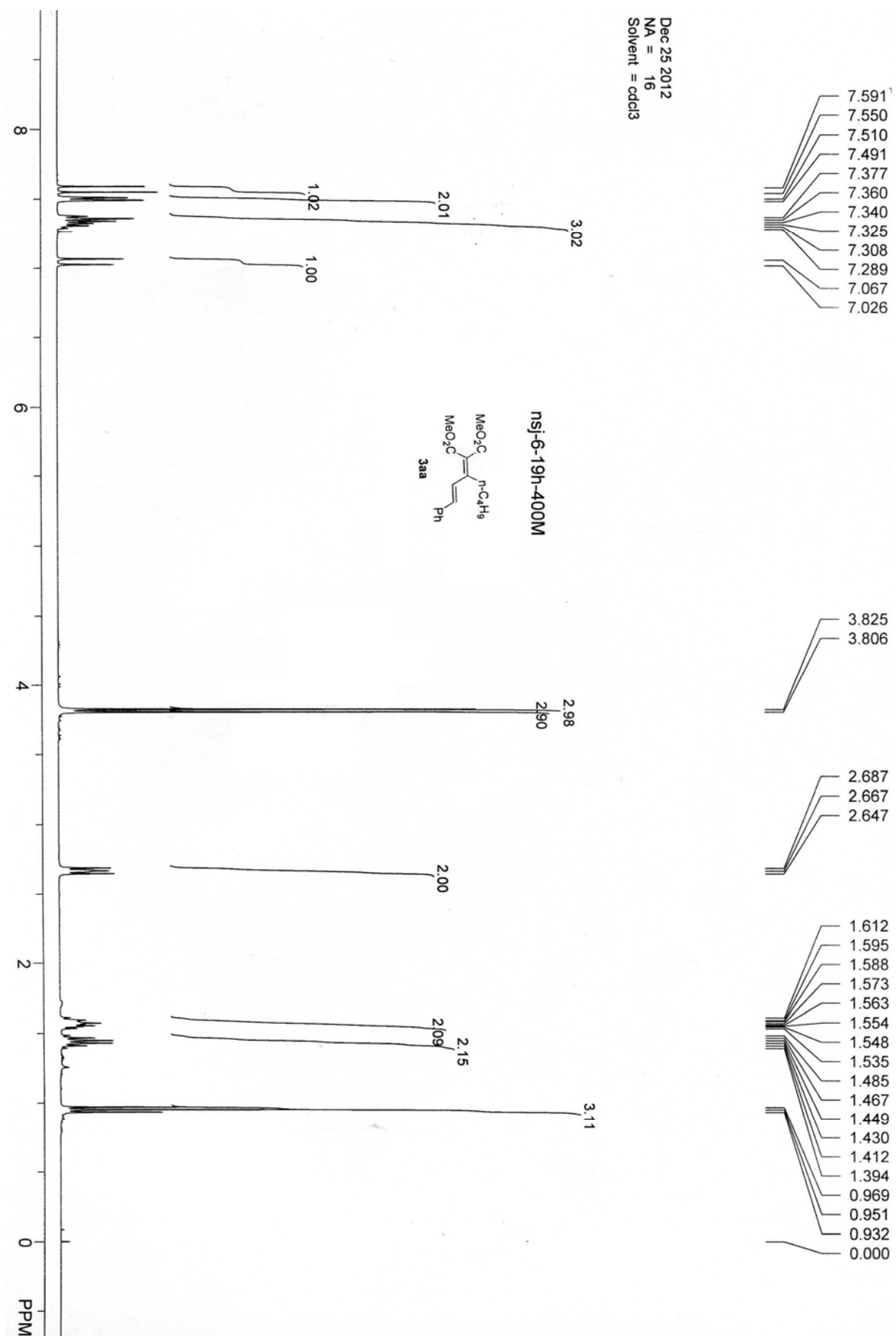
X-ray structure of (*E*)-2-[1-Butyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-allylidene]-malonic acid dimethyl ester (**3ai**) [CCDC 918034 contains the supplementary crystallographic data. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk /data request/cif.](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif)]

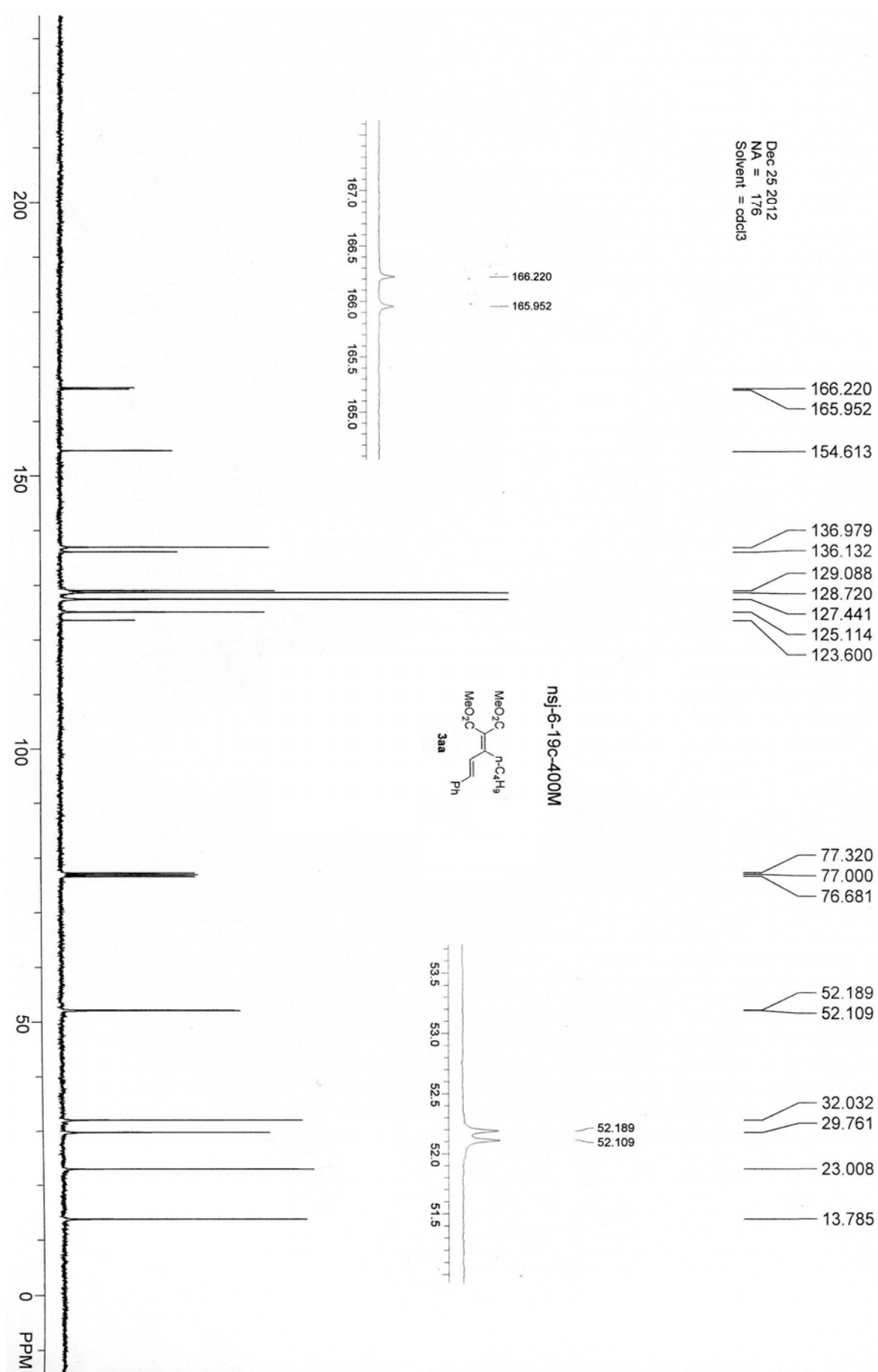


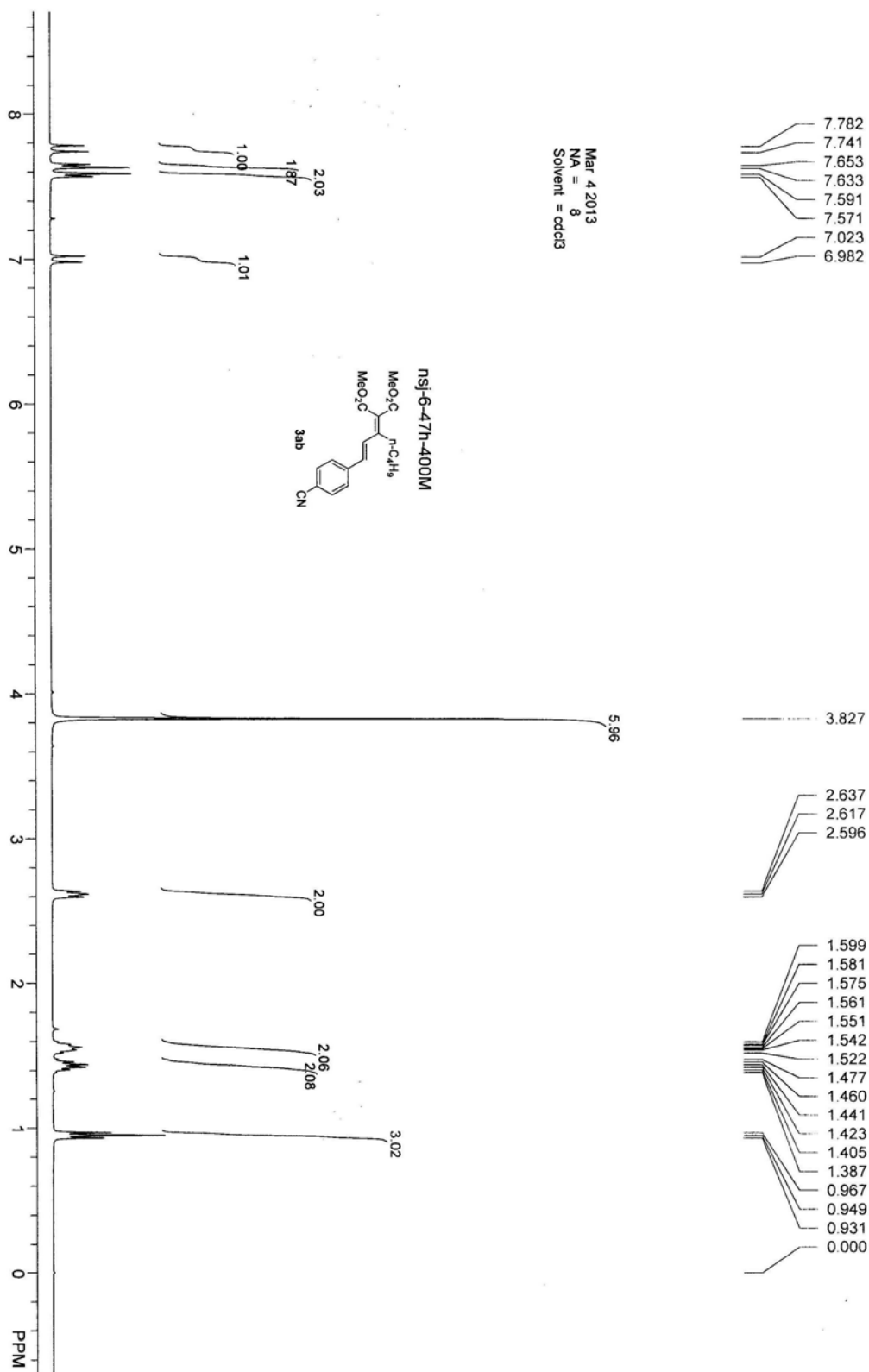


References:

1. a) Nigmatov, A. G.; Komilova, I. N. and Serebryakov, E. P. *Russ. Chem. Bull* **1996**, 45, 144. b) Lenhart, W. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1970**, 11, 4723. c) Lenhart, W. *Tetrahedron* **1973**, 29, 635. d) Mikami, K.; Ohmura, H. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, 4, 3355.
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Mar 4 2013
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153.222

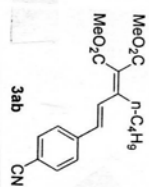
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52.265

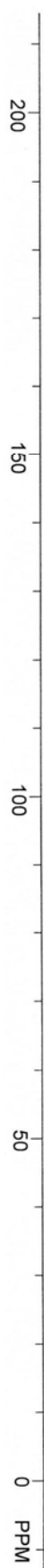
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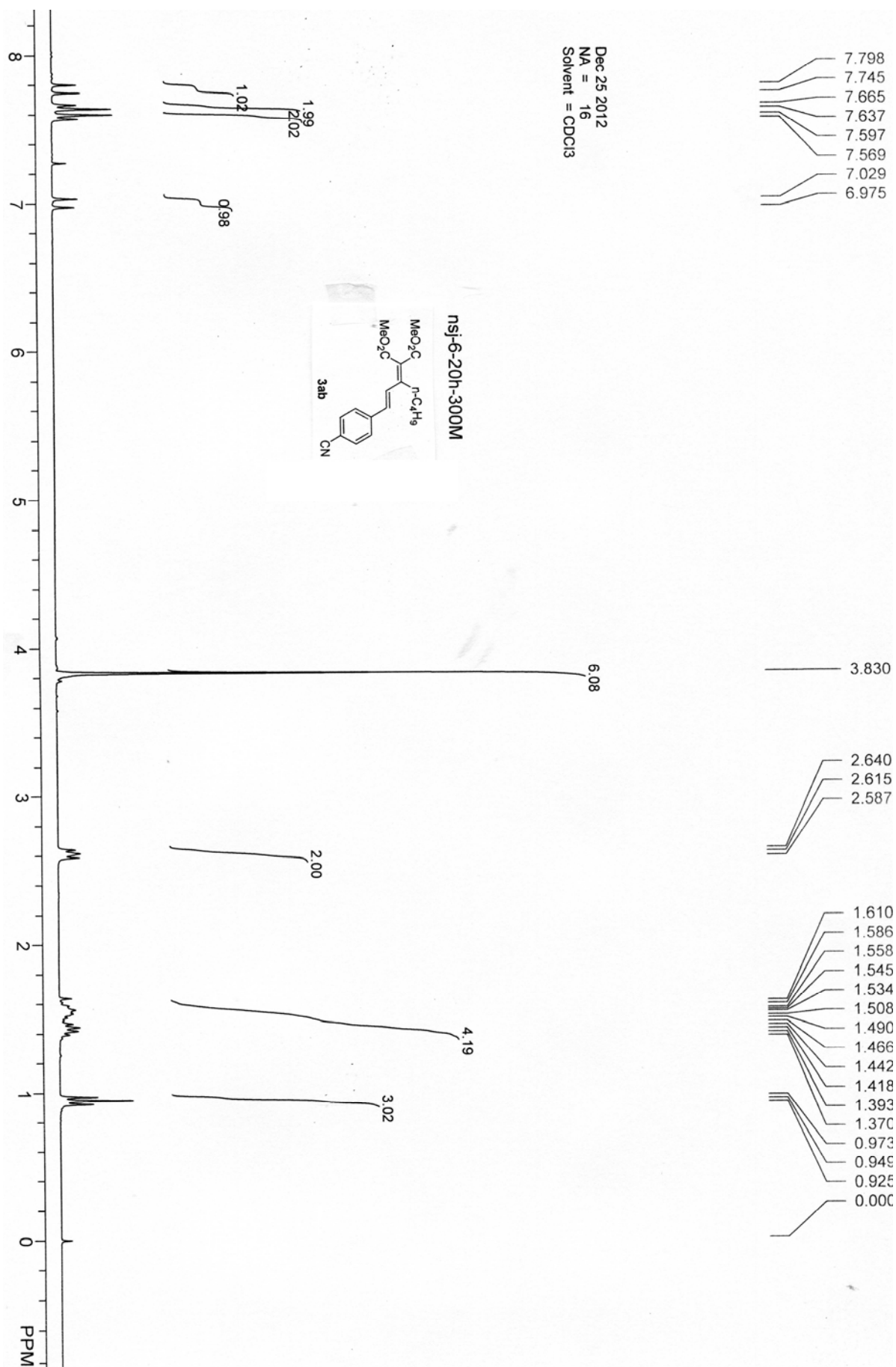
nsj-6-47c-400M



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52.307
52.265





Dec 25 2012
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Solvent = cdcl3

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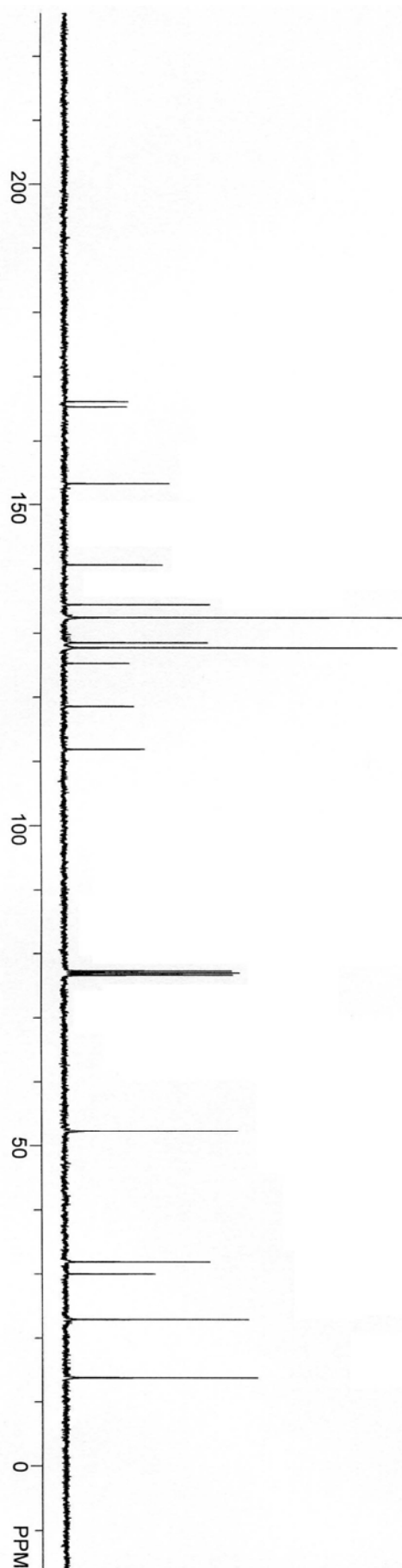
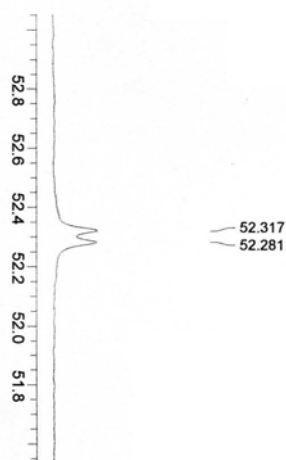
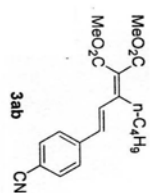
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30.007

22.930

13.723

nsj-6-20c-400M



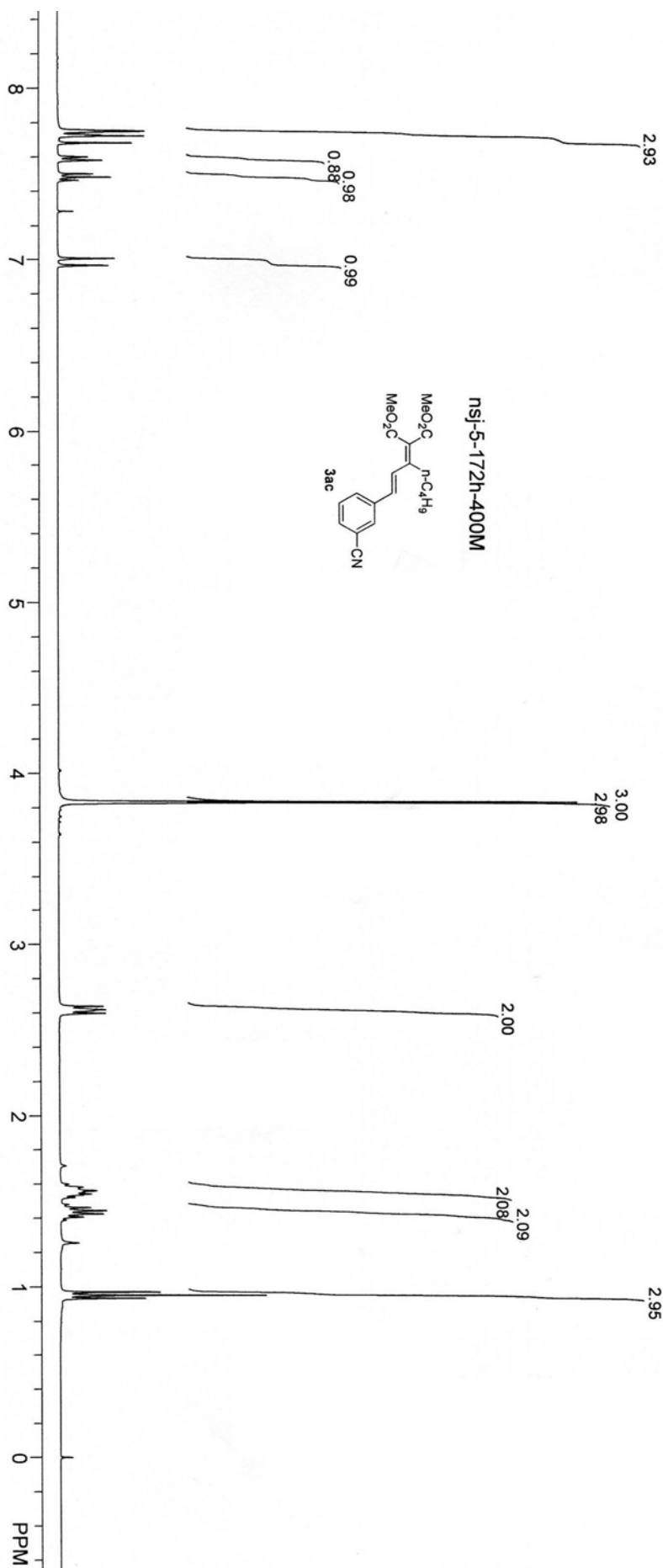
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3.836
3.831

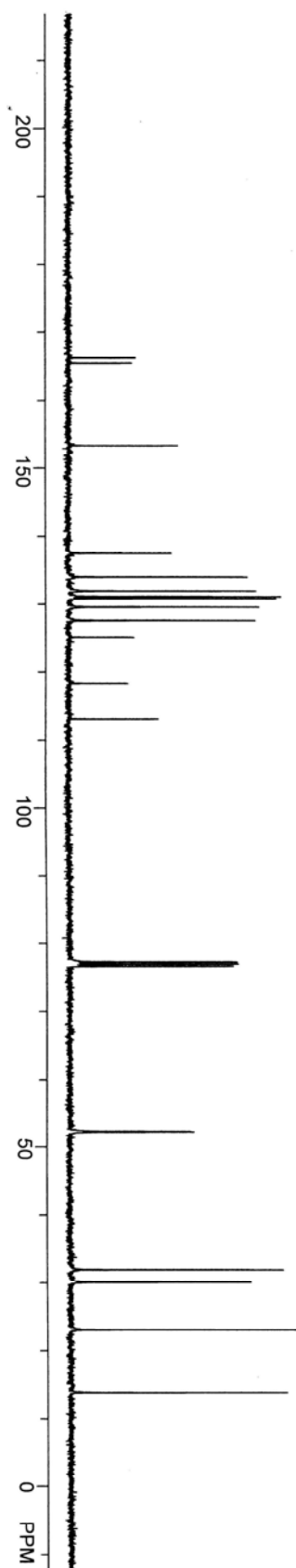
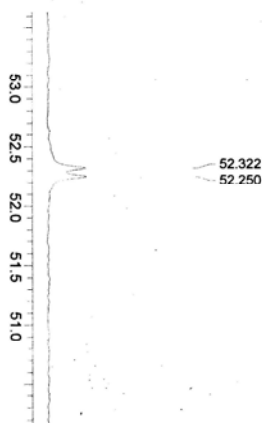
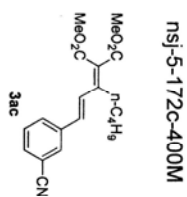
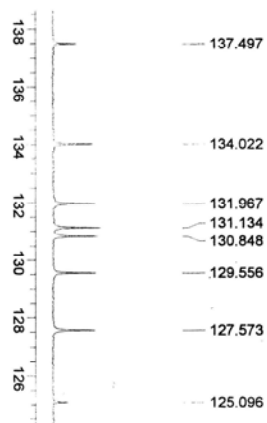
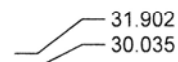
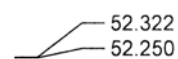
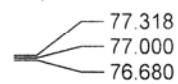
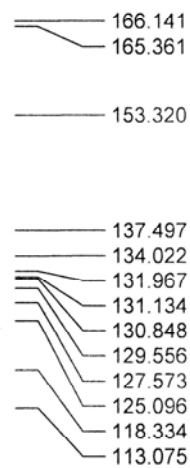
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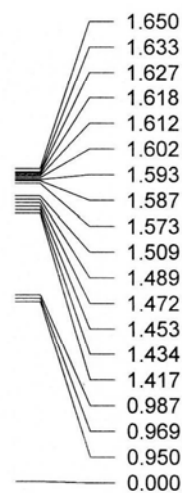
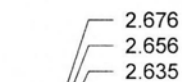
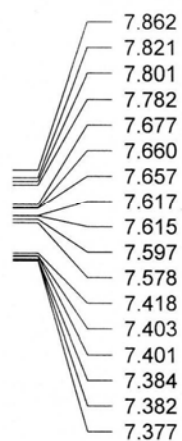
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Dec 5 2012
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Solvent = cdcl3



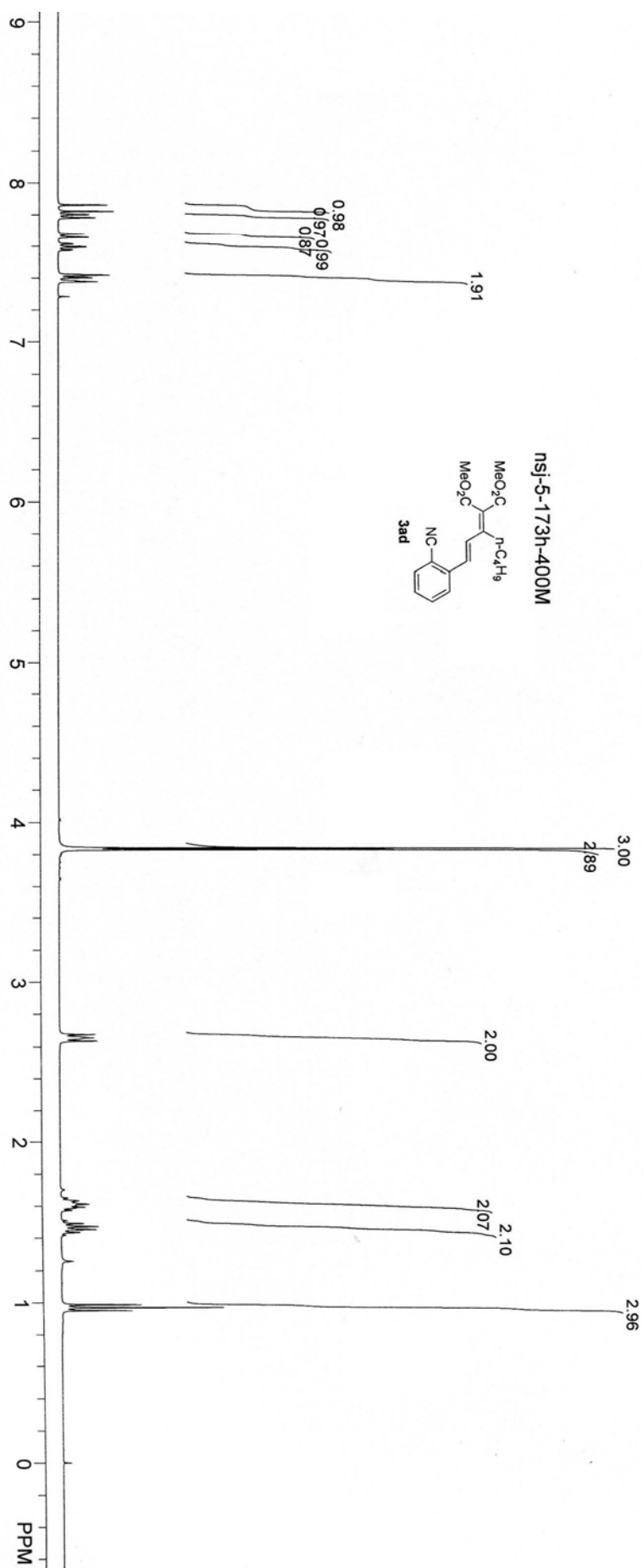
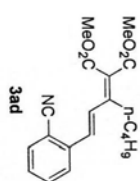
Mar 5 2013
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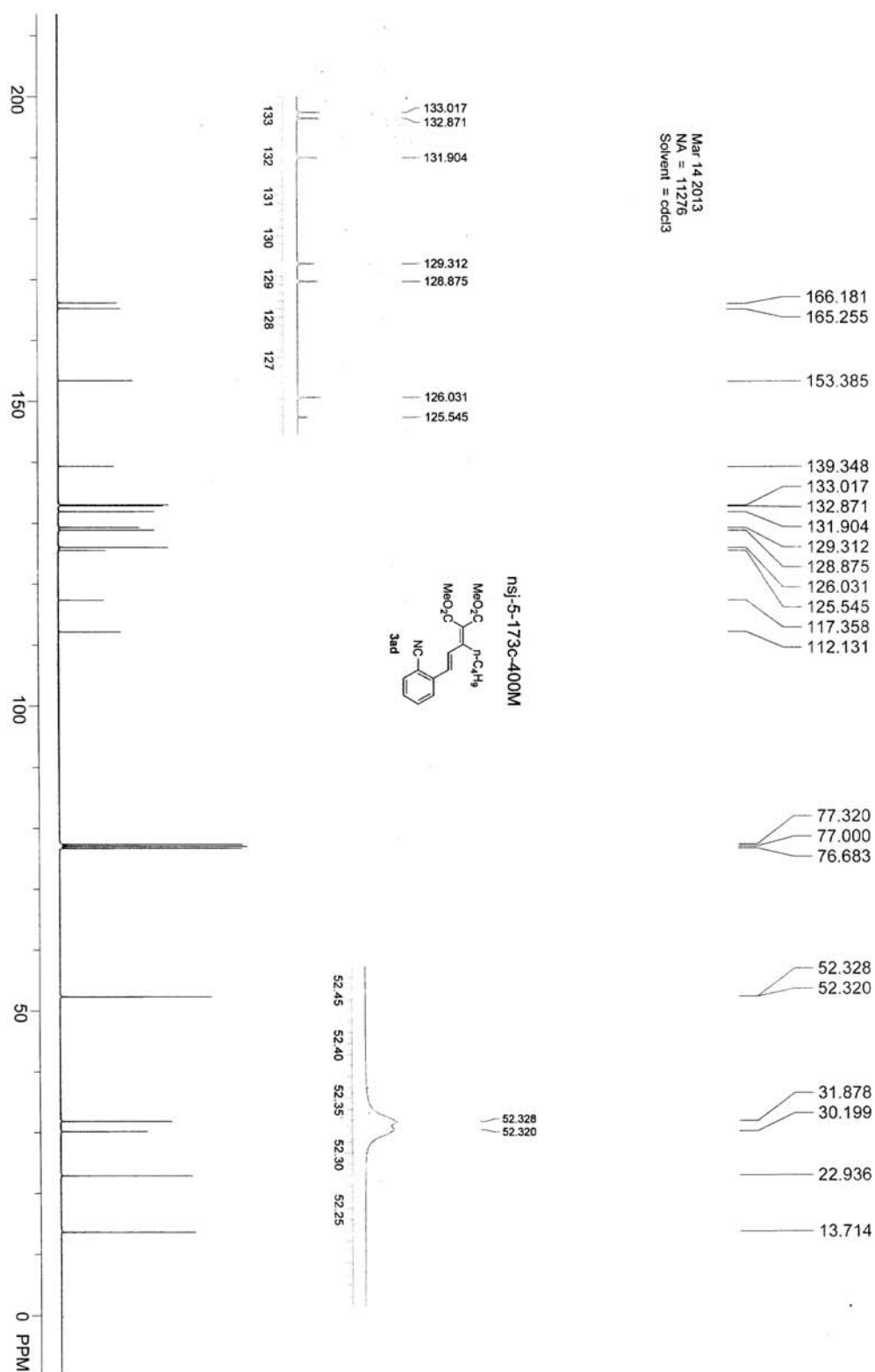


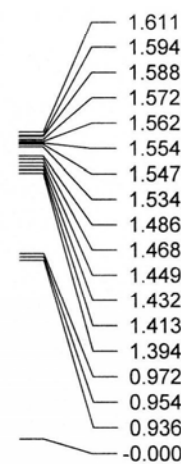
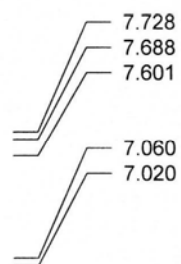


Dec 5 2012
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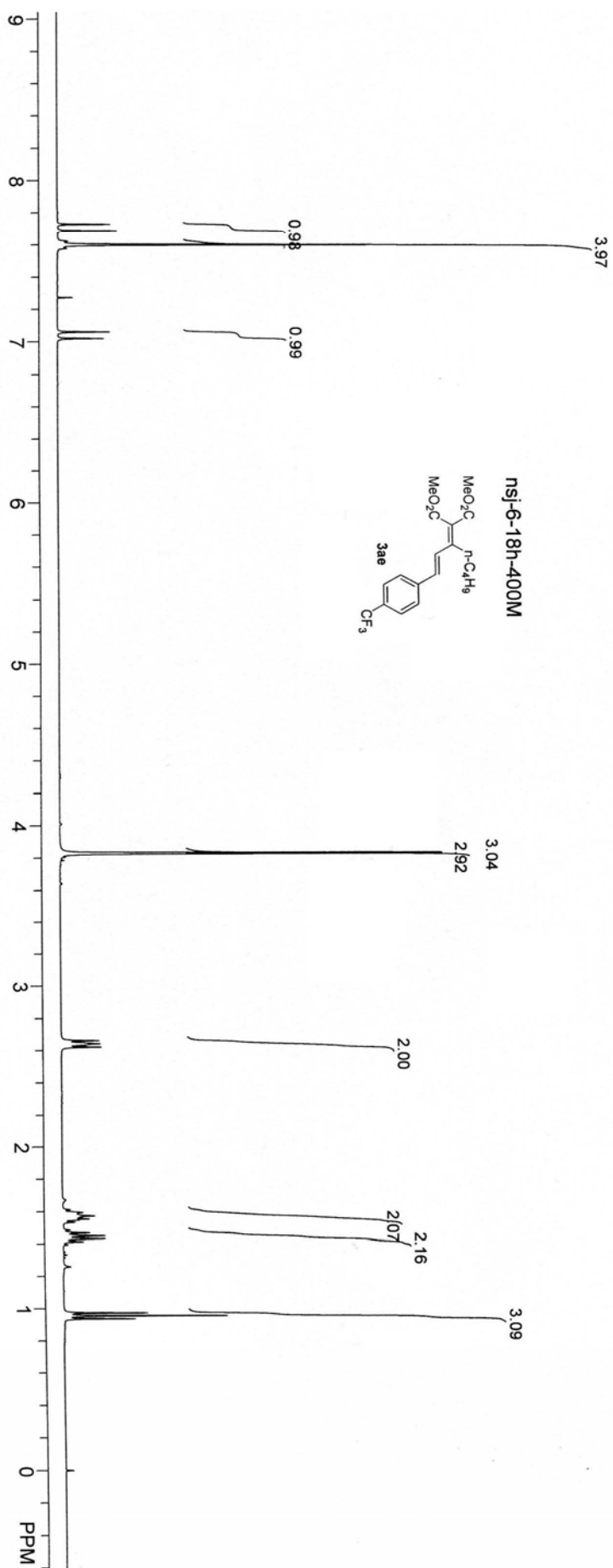
nsj-5-173h-400M







Dec 25 2012
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Solvent = cdcl3



Dec 25 2012
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Solvent = cdcl3

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139.631

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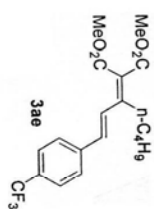
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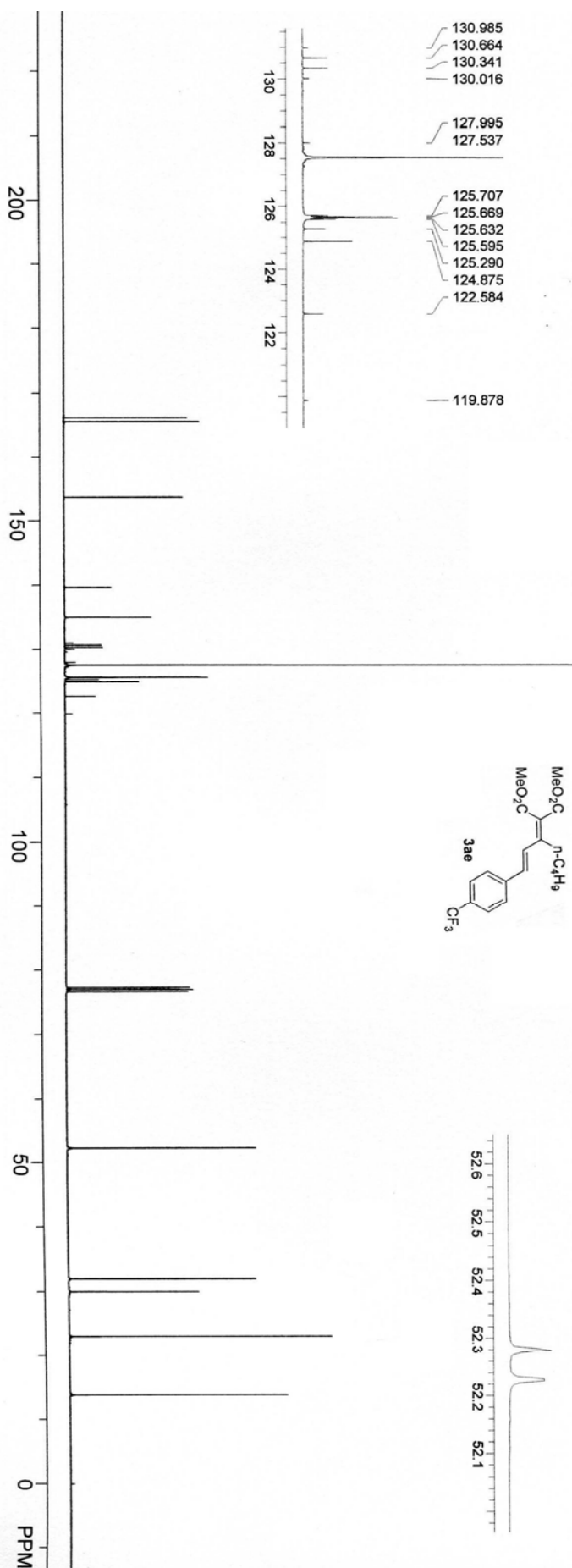
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nsj-6-18c-400M



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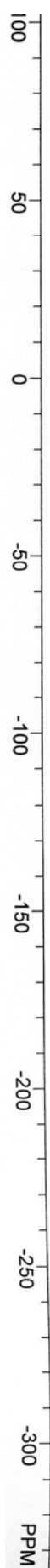
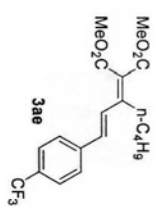
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52.222

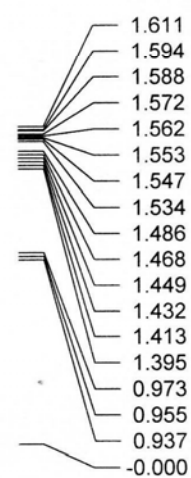
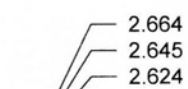
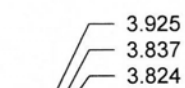
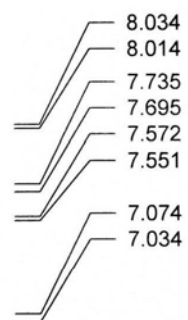


Dec 25 2012
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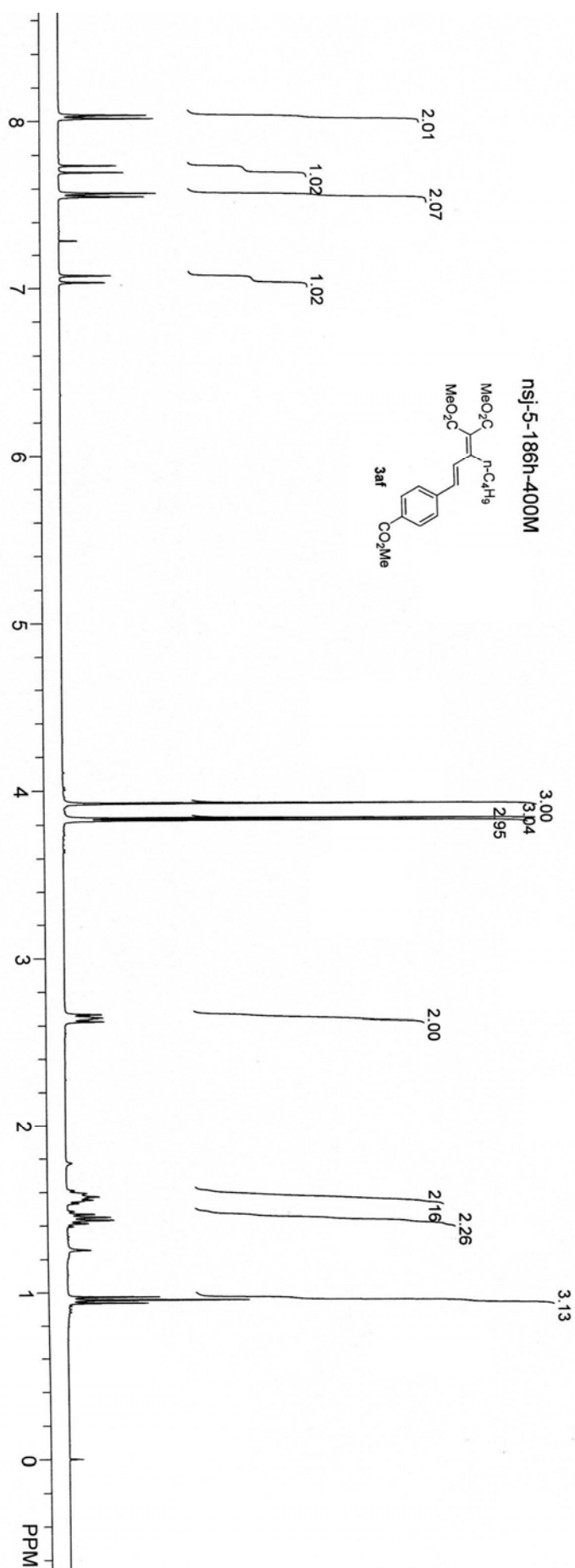
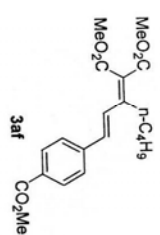
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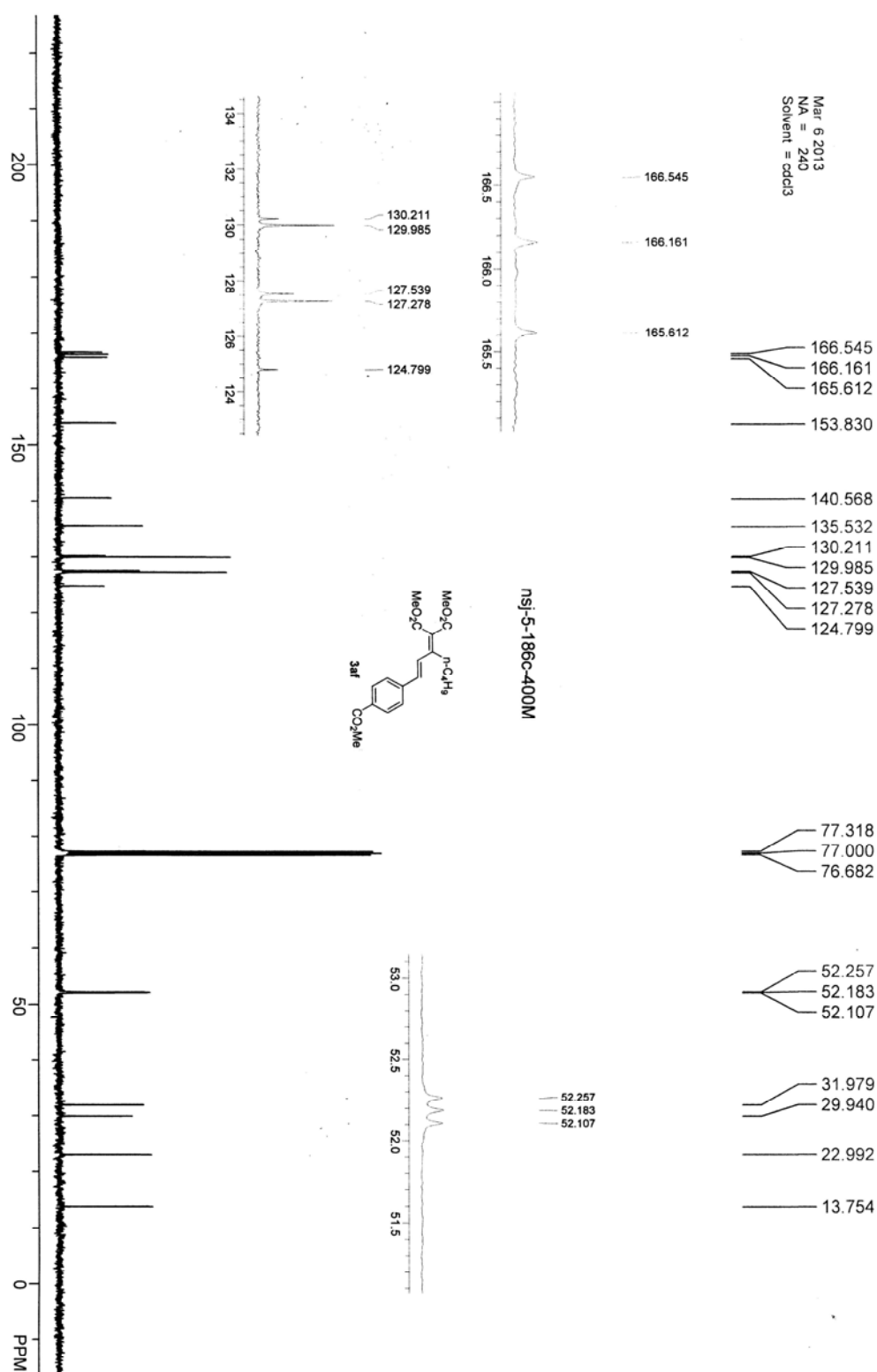




Dec 10 2012
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6.999
6.958

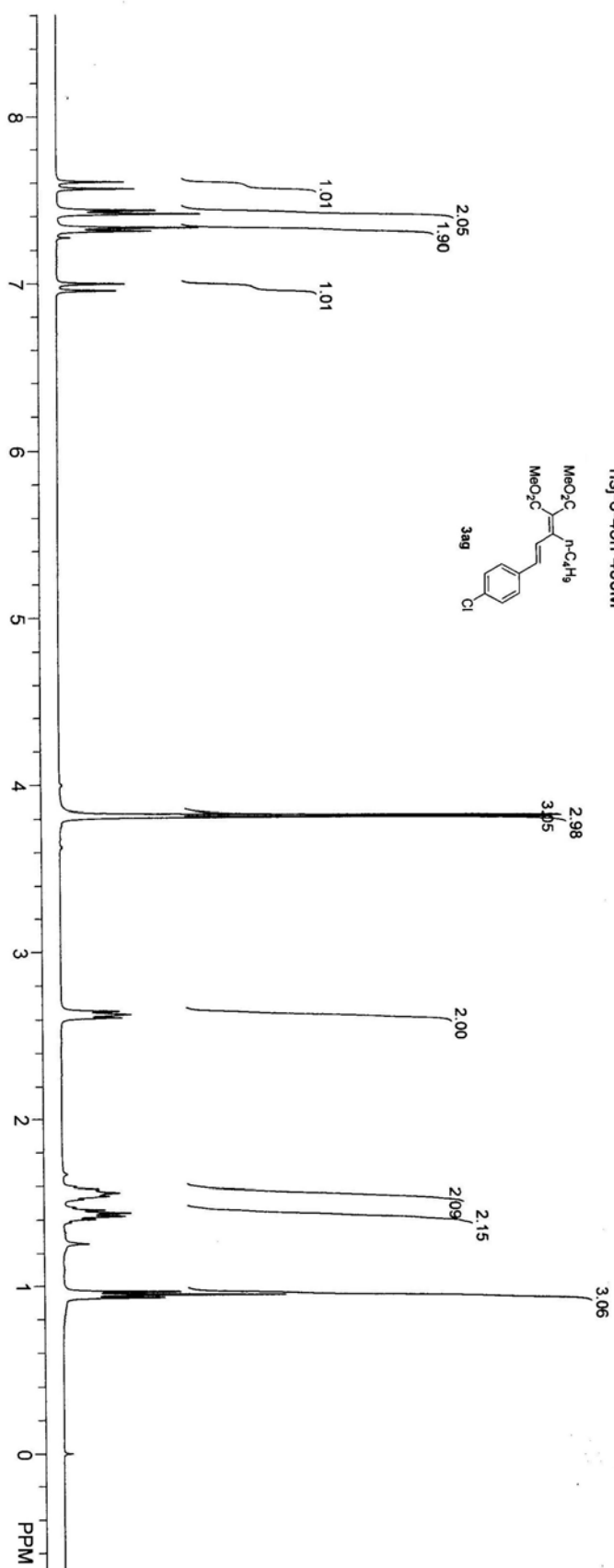
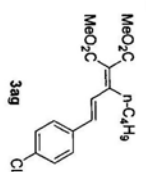
3.822
3.812

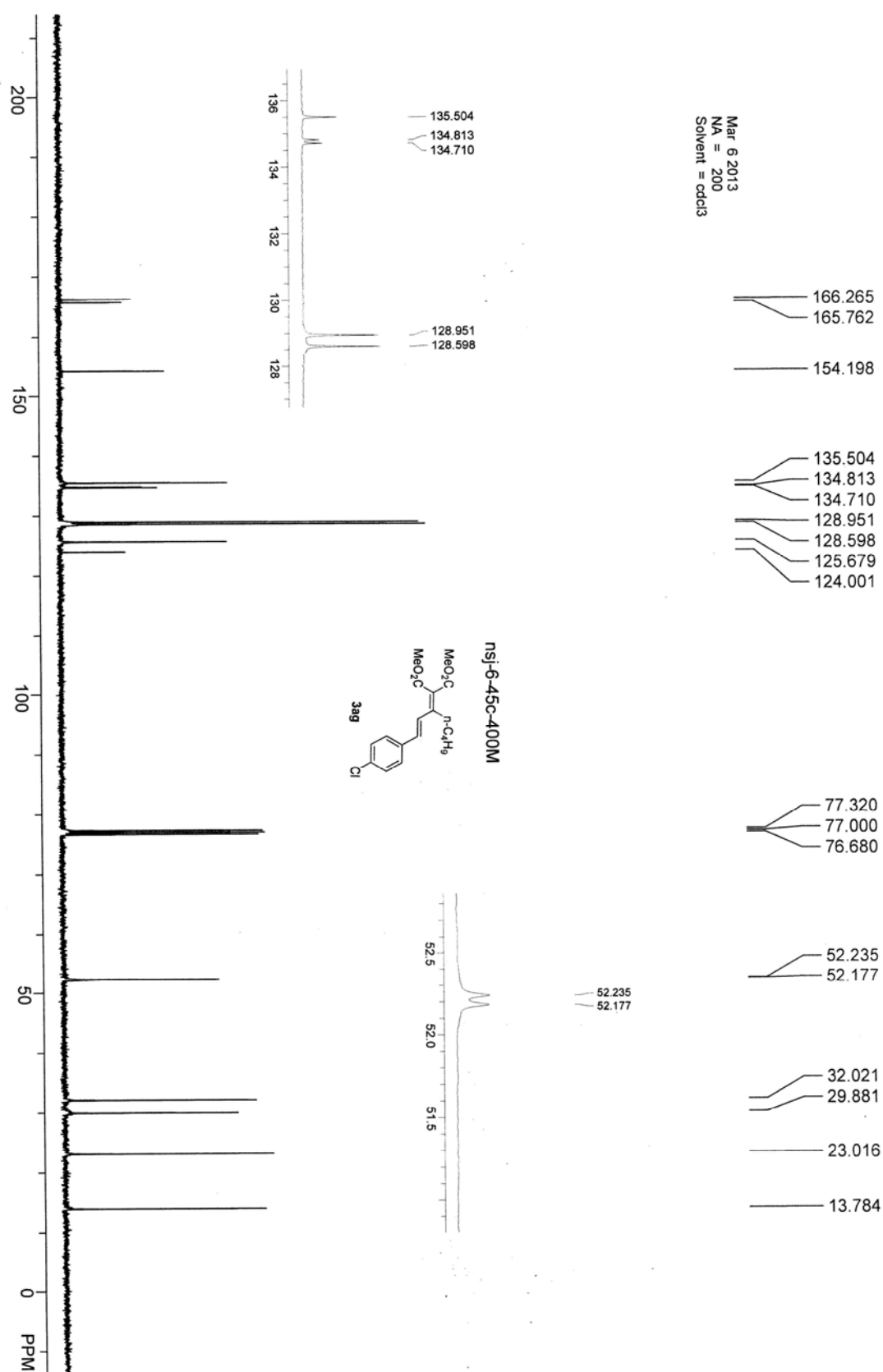
2.650
2.631
2.610

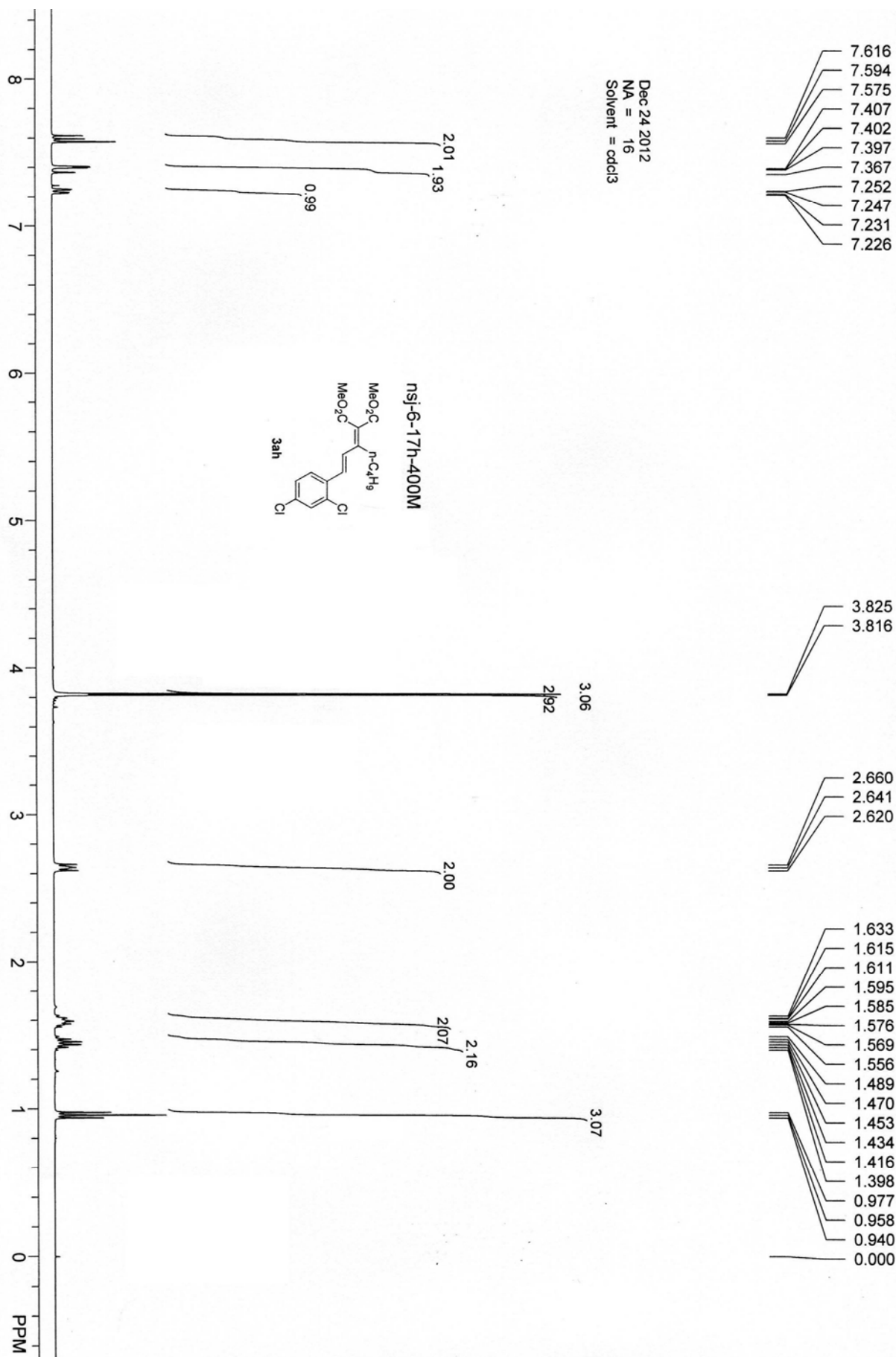
1.597
1.580
1.575
1.559
1.549
1.541
1.521
1.476
1.457
1.439
1.421
1.403
1.385
0.965
0.946
0.929
0.000

Jan 31 2013
NA = 16
Solvent = cdcl3

nsj-6-45h-400M







Dec 24 2012
NA = 168
Solvent = cdcl3

166.238
165.479

153.967

134.939
134.613
132.982
131.649
129.568
127.883
127.737
127.468
124.707

77.320
77.000
76.680

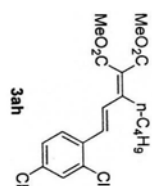
52.258
52.242

31.903
30.143

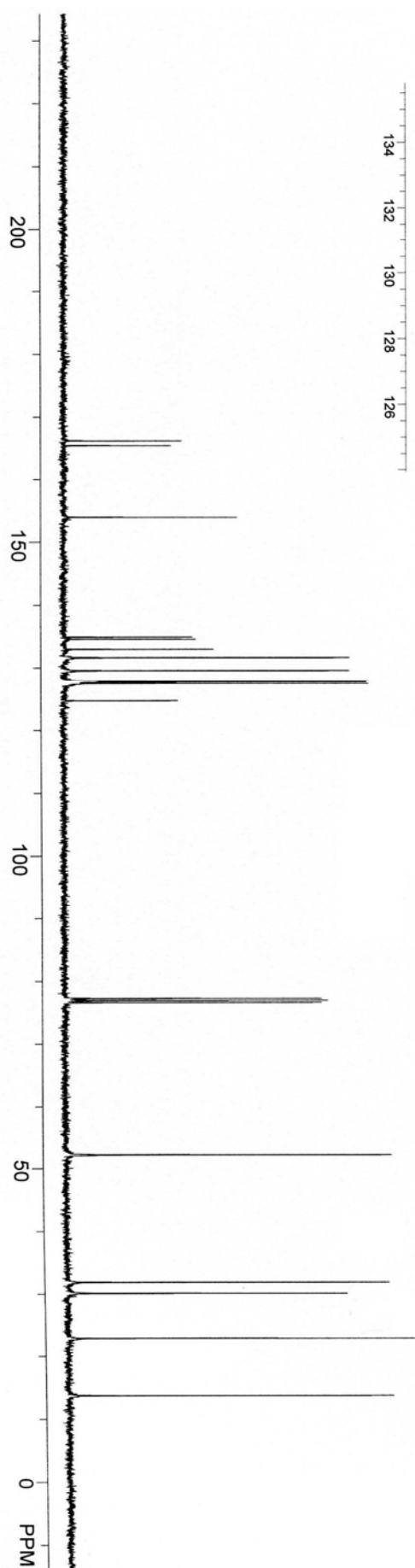
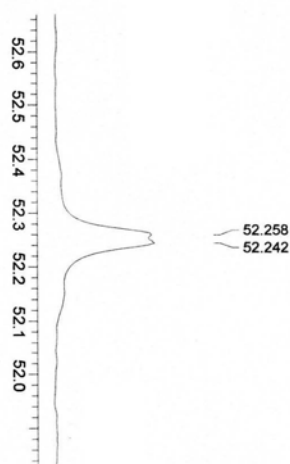
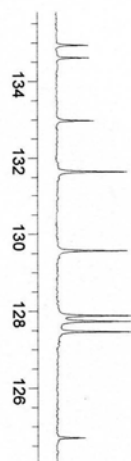
22.956

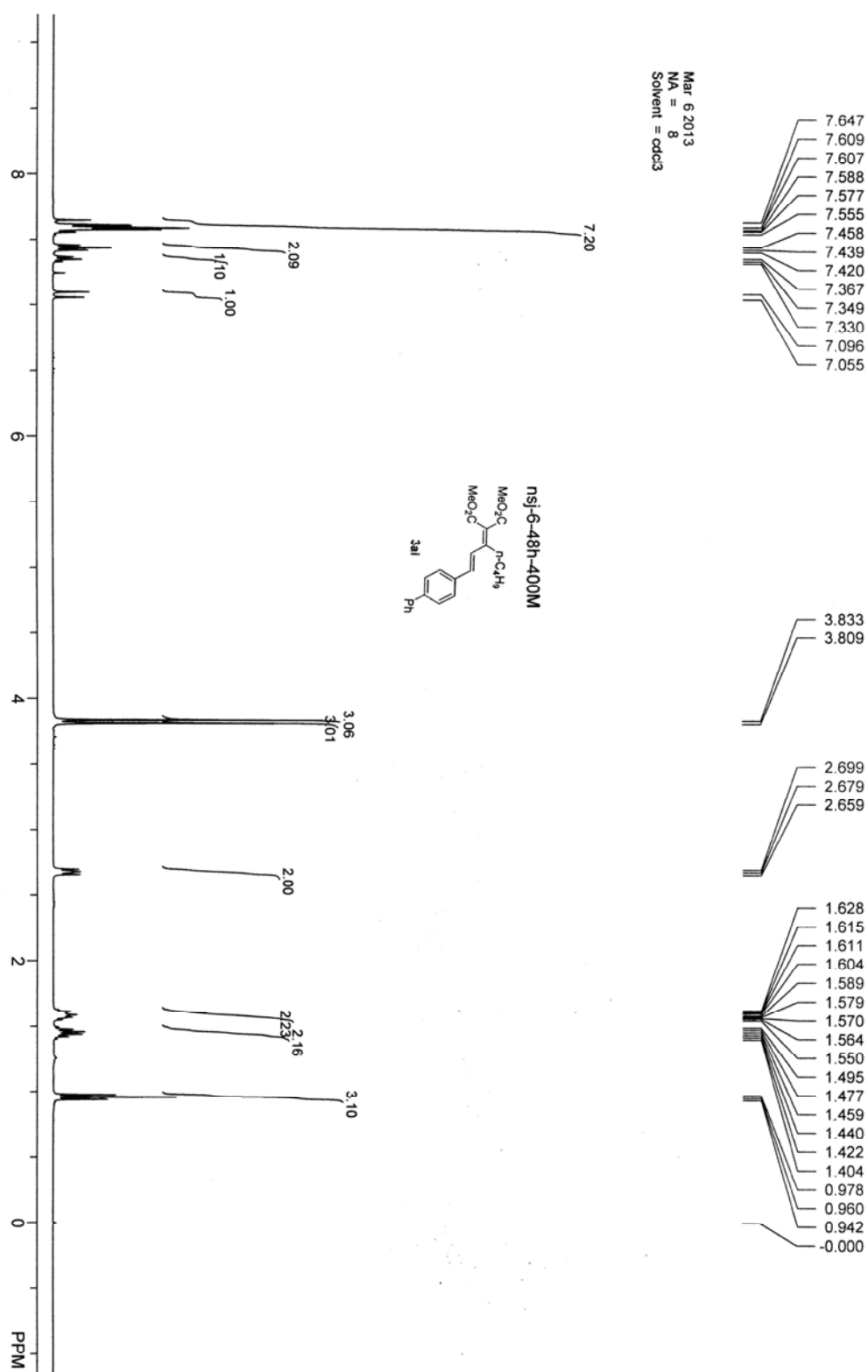
13.725

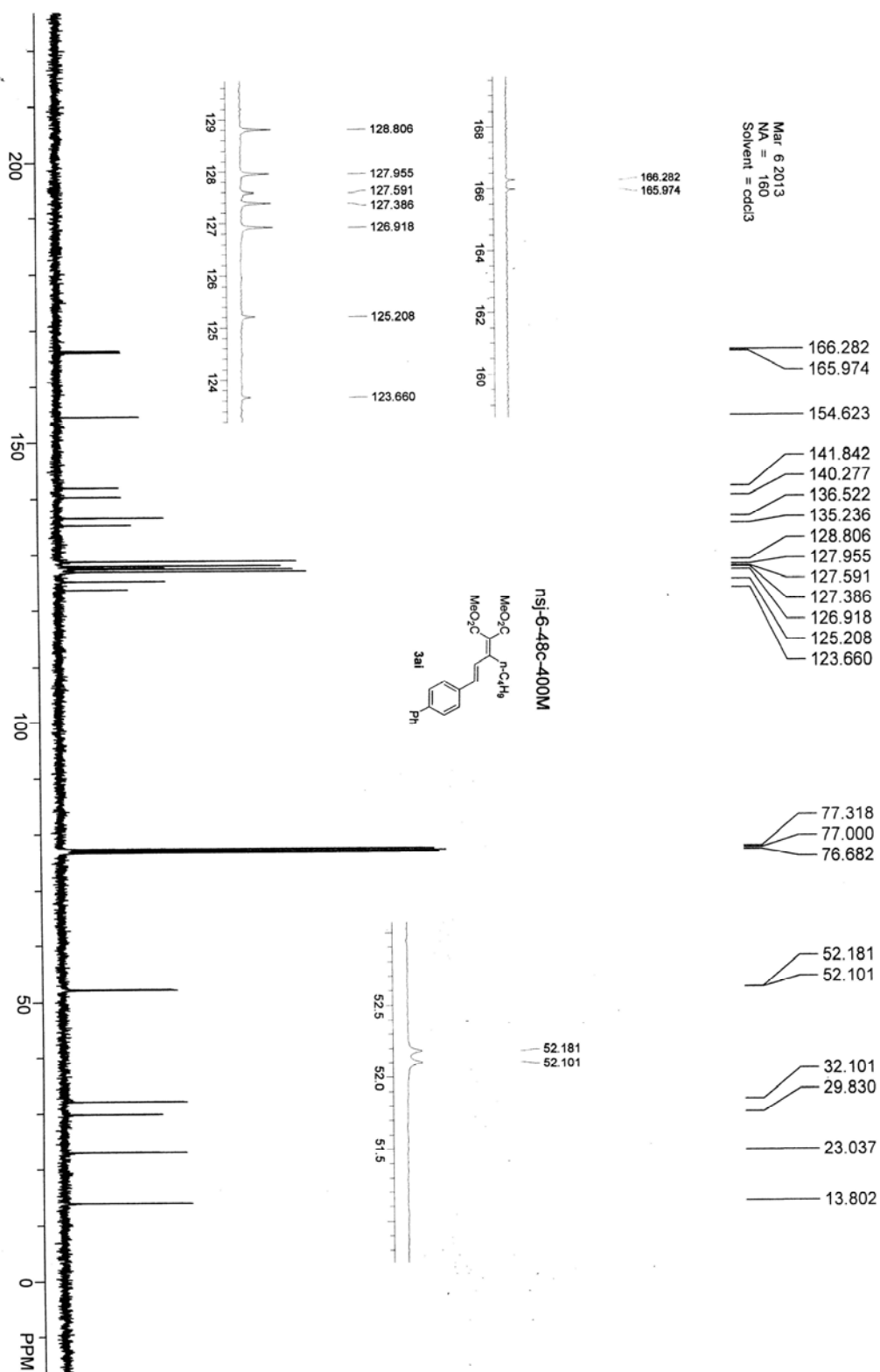
nsj-6-17c-400M

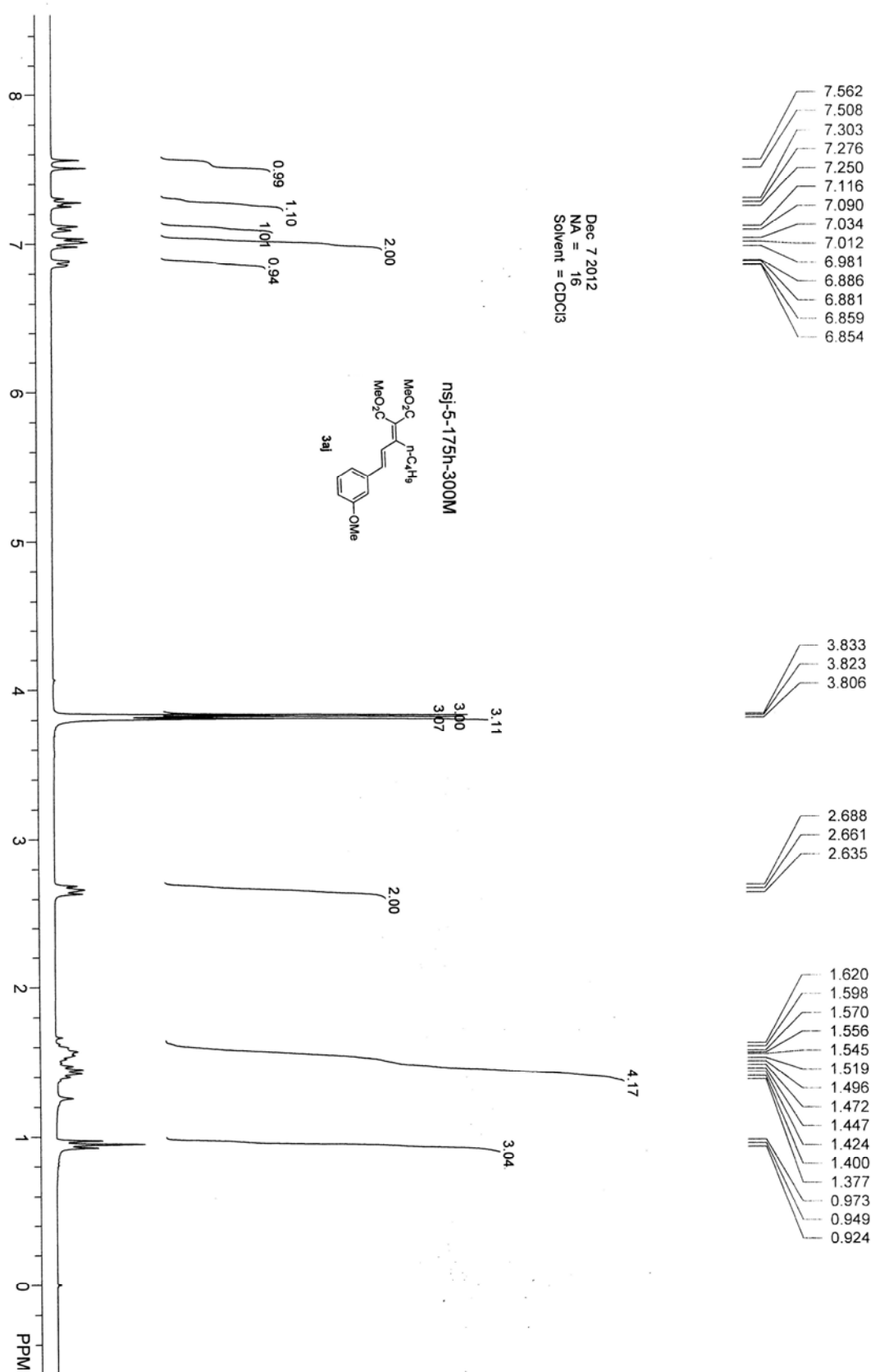


134.939
134.613
132.982
131.649
129.568
127.883
127.737
127.468
124.707









Mar 14 2013
NA = 400
Solvent = cdd3

166.214
165.956
159.840
154.525

137.625
136.883
129.727
125.520
123.789
120.054
114.750
112.748

77.318
77.000
76.683

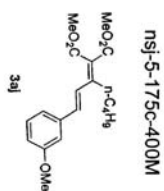
55.244
52.223
52.139

32.047
29.818

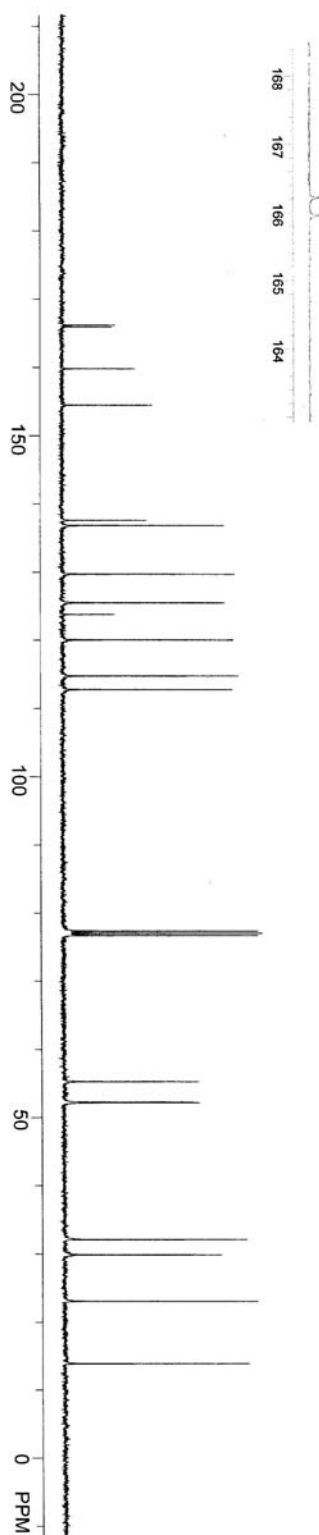
23.040

13.813

166.214
165.956



55.244
55.5 55.0 54.5 54.0 53.5 53.0 52.5
52.223
52.139



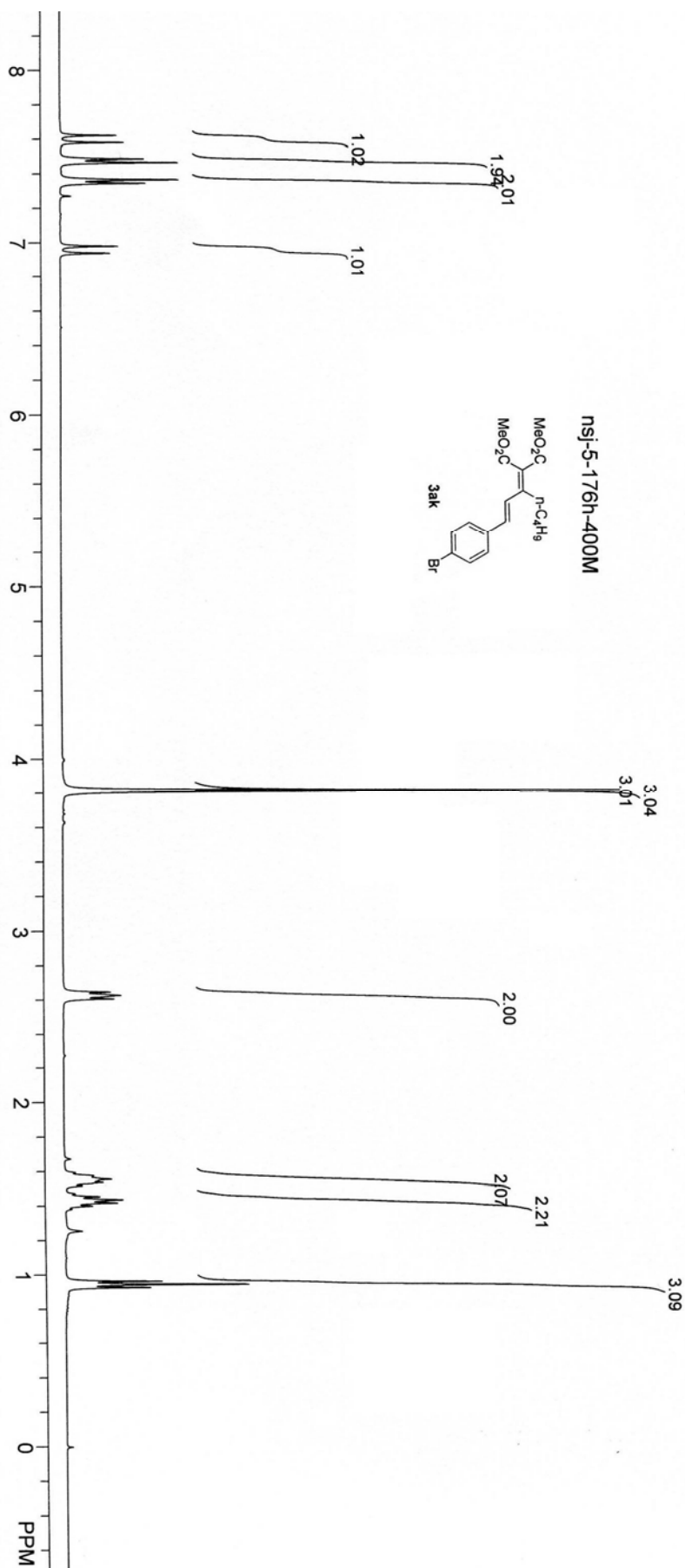
7.622
7.581
7.487
7.466
7.367
7.346
6.980
6.939

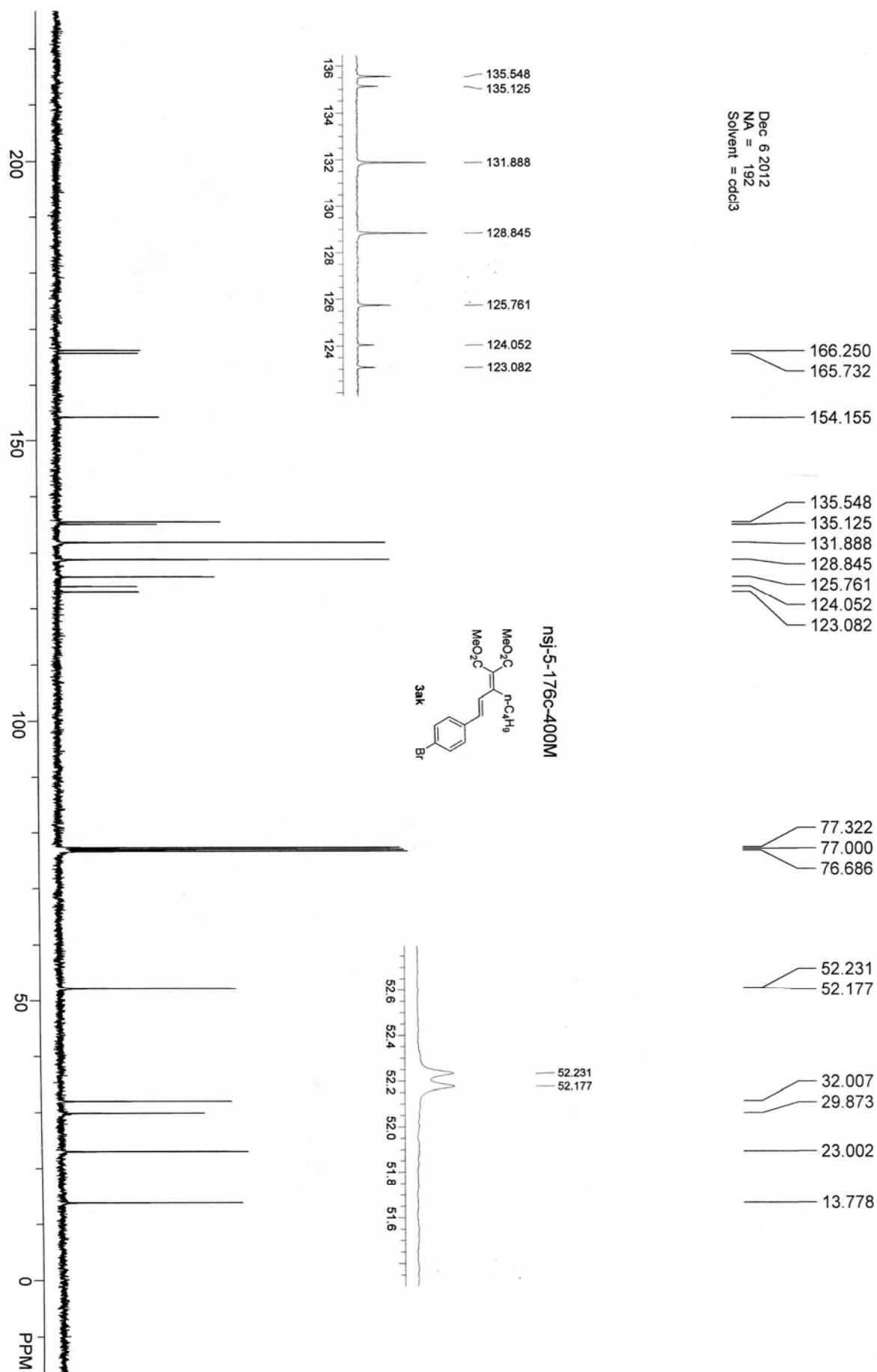
3.820
3.811

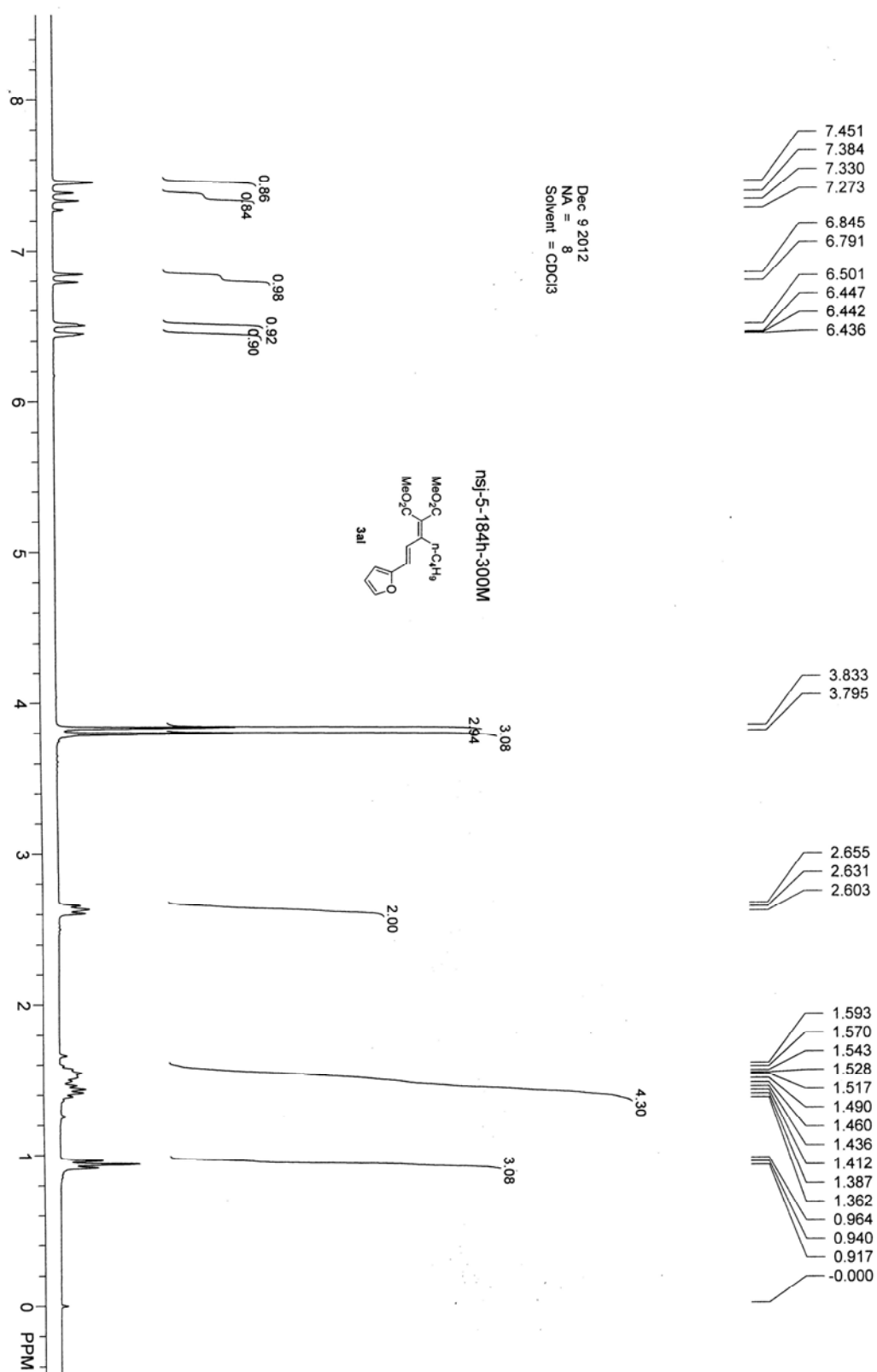
2.647
2.627
2.607

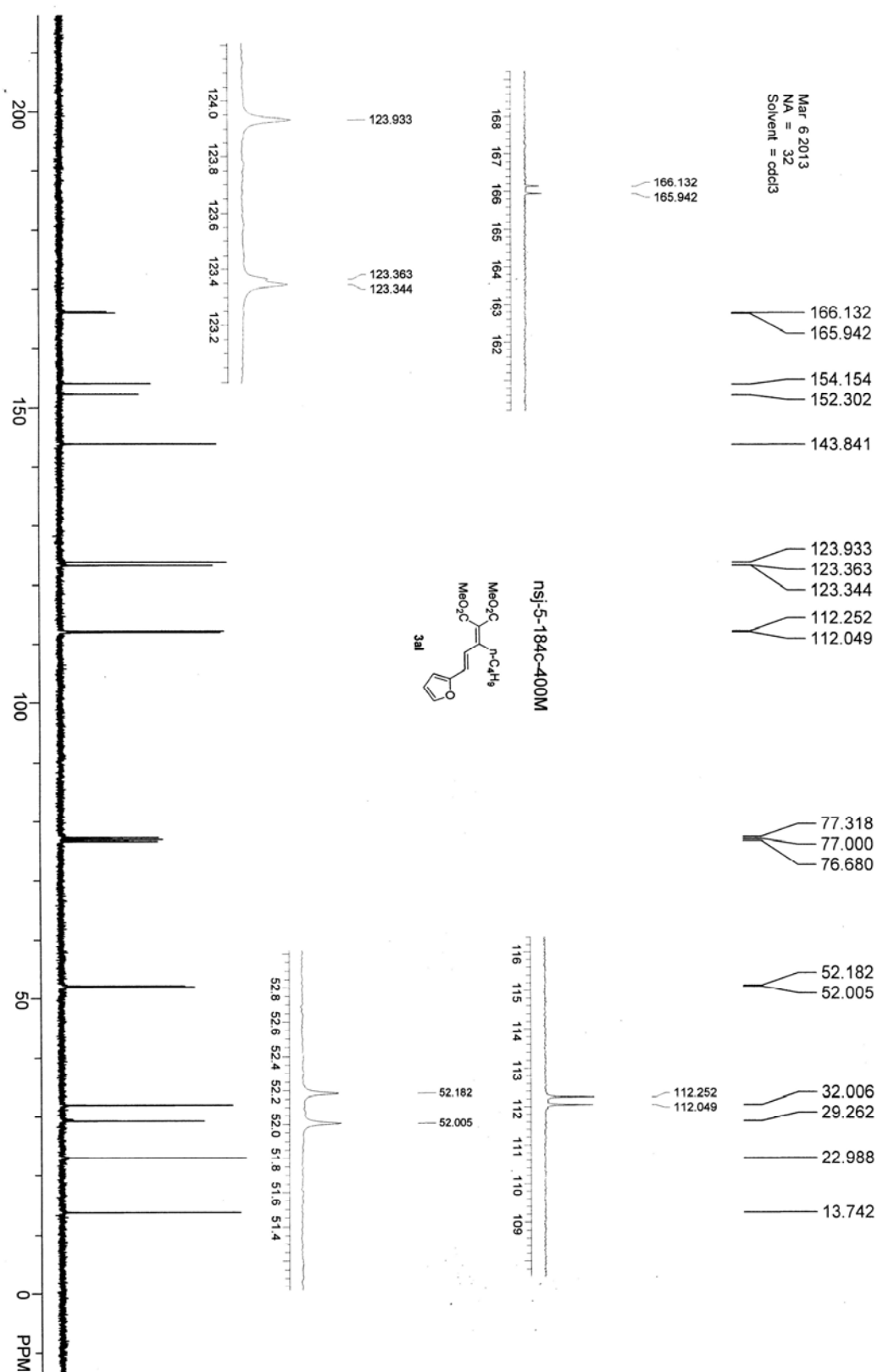
1.595
1.577
1.556
1.546
1.538
1.518
1.473
1.456
1.437
1.419
1.400
1.383
0.963
0.945
0.927
0.000

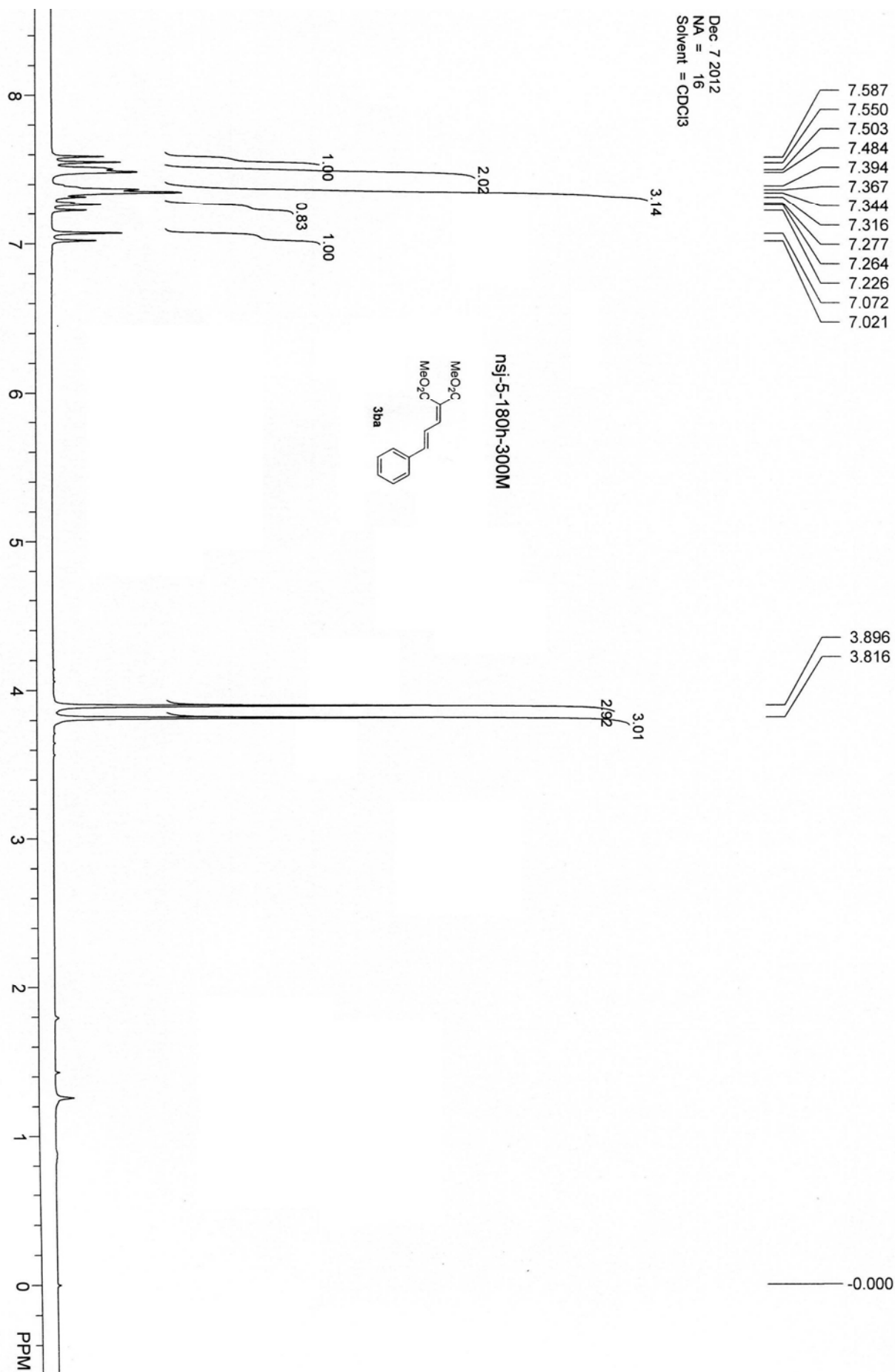
Dec 6 2012
NA = 16
Solvent = cdcl3











Mar 6 2013
NA = 80
Solvent = cdcl3

165.647
165.104

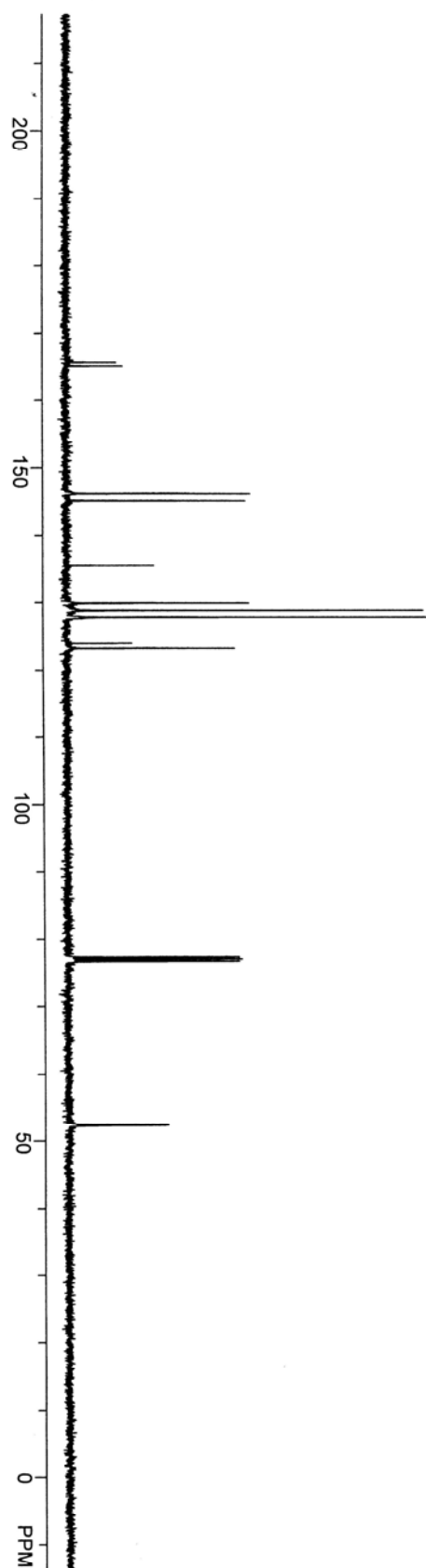
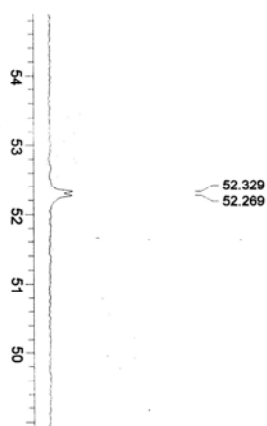
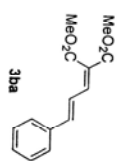
146.151
145.092

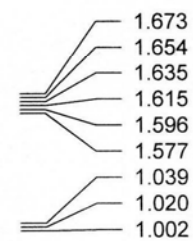
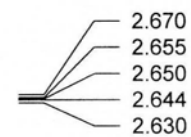
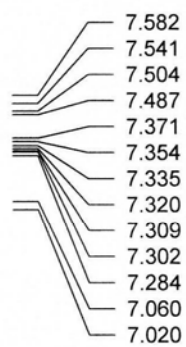
135.488
129.874
128.824
127.825
123.963
123.223

77.320
77.000
76.686

52.329
52.269

nsj-5-180c-400M





0.000

Dec 7 2012
NA = 16
Solvent = cdcl3

