

# Simple Silver Salts and Palladium Bis(N-heterocyclic carbene) Complexes As Complementary Catalysts for the Nazarov Cyclization

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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## GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

All manipulations were carried out under air unless otherwise noted. Diethyl ether (Acros), toluene (Pharmco), and hexanes (Pharmco) were purified by distillation from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Dichloromethane (Pharmco) and dichloroethane (Acros) were washed with a sequence of concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, deionized water, 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and deionized water, followed by pre-drying over anhydrous CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and then refluxed over and distilled from P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> under nitrogen. Acetonitrile (Pharmco) was pre-dried over anhydrous CaCl<sub>2</sub> and refluxed over and distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> under nitrogen. NMR solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotopes Laboratories. DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> and CD<sub>3</sub>CN-*d*<sub>3</sub> were dried over activated 4 Å molecular sieves followed by vacuum distillation at room temperature and stored in the glovebox for use. CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was dried over activated 4 Å molecular sieves and stored over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and then vacuum distilled at room temperature for use. Silver salts were purchased from Strem (AgSbF<sub>6</sub>, 98%; AgBF<sub>4</sub>, 99%; AgPF<sub>6</sub>, 99%; AgOAc, 99%; AgOTf, 98%) or prepared by a literature procedure (AgBAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>)<sup>1</sup> and stored in a nitrogen glove box in foil-wrapped containers. Compounds **1**,<sup>2,3</sup> **4**,<sup>2</sup> 1,1'-(1,2-phenylene)bis(imidazole) (**24**),<sup>4</sup> and 1-(bromomethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene<sup>5</sup> were prepared using literature procedures. All other reagents (excluding Nazarov substrates—see below) were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, or Strem and used as received.

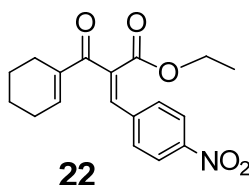
NMR spectra were recorded on Varian GEMINI 2000 (300 MHz) or Varian Unity INOVA (400 MHz) spectrometers. Reported chemical shifts are referenced to residual solvent peaks. IR spectra were acquired on a Perkin Elmer System 2000 FT-IR spectrometer, using 0.5 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution and weak apodization. HRMS were recorded on a Thermo LCQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer using nano-electrospray ionization. Elemental analyses were performed by Midwest Microlab, Indianapolis, Indiana.

## SYNTHESIS OF NAZAROV CYCLIZATION SUBSTRATES

$\beta$ -Keto esters **2**,<sup>6</sup> **9**,<sup>6</sup> and **11**<sup>7</sup> were synthesized by literature procedures. Known  $\beta$ -keto esters **7**, **13**, **16**, and **19** were prepared by a synthetic procedure reported by Togni and co-workers for **2** and **9**,<sup>6</sup> and their NMR spectra were compared with published data for the same compounds synthesized by different methods (**7**, **13**, and **19**;<sup>8</sup> **16**<sup>9</sup>). New  $\beta$ -keto ester **22** was prepared by the same general procedure, which is summarized below.

The starting acid ( $\alpha$ -methylcinnamic acid or cyclohexenyl-1-carboxylic acid) was treated with oxalyl chloride in dichloromethane, with a few drops of dimethyl formamide added, at 0 °C for 3 h to form the corresponding acid chloride. The volatiles were evaporated, and the residue was dried under vacuum for 2 h and then dissolved in THF. Ethyl acetate was treated with lithium diisopropylamide generated in situ by reaction of *n*-butyl lithium with diisopropylamine in dry THF at -78 °C. The acid chloride solution was added to the lithium enolate solution, and the mixture was stirred for 3 h at -78 °C. Acidic workup and flash chromatography afforded the vinyl  $\beta$ -keto ester intermediate as a yellow oil. A Knoevenagel condensation was then used to produce the Nazarov substrate. The vinyl  $\beta$ -keto ester was treated with the corresponding aldehyde in the presence of catalytic amounts of acetic acid and piperidine in a Dean-Stark apparatus, using benzene as a solvent. Divinyl  $\beta$ -keto esters were purified by flash chromatography on silica with ethyl acetate/hexane or Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexane mixtures as eluents.

### (*Z*)-Ethyl-2-(cyclohex-1-enecarbonyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylate (**22**)



*R*<sub>f</sub> 0.62 (1:1 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); white solid, mp 128-129 °C; yield 1.28 g, 64%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; *Z* stereochemistry assigned by NOESY):  $\delta$  8.17 (AB, *J* = 2.0 Hz, *C* = 4.4 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.80 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 7.49 (AB, *J* = 2.0 Hz, *C* = 4.4 Hz, 2H, Ar), 6.80-6.78 (m, 1H, cyclohex. CH), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.34-2.32 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.17-2.14 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.66-1.55 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101

MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  195.5 (C=O), 164.4 (O-C=O), 148.0 (Ar *para*), 145.9 (Ar), 139.5 (Ar *ipso*), 139.4 (HC=C), 138.3 (Ar), 135.7 (HC=C), 130.3 (C=CH), 123.8 (C=CH), 61.8 (O-CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  1715 (s), 1657 (s), 1628 (s), 1597 (m). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.64; H, 5.82; N, 4.25 %. Found: C, 65.56; H, 5.84; N, 4.29 %.

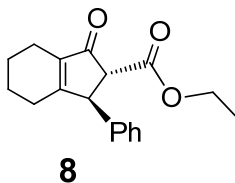
## CATALYTIC NAZAROV CYCLIZATION PROCEDURE

In a nitrogen glovebox, catalyst was placed into a 4 mL reaction vial. The vial was sealed by a screw cap with a PTFE/silicon septum and then placed in an aluminum heating block on a Chemglass OptiChem heat/stir plate. A nitrogen-saturated 61 mM solution of substrate in freshly distilled CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or DCE (2 mL) was injected into the reaction vial through the septum, and stirring was commenced, with heating if applicable. Reaction progress was monitored by TLC and/or HPLC until starting material had been consumed. After aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> workup, products were purified by flash chromatography on silica with ethyl acetate/hexanes or Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes mixtures as eluents.

## CHARACTERIZATION OF NAZAROV CYCLIZATION PRODUCTS

Characterization data of **3**,<sup>6</sup> **10**,<sup>6</sup> **12**,<sup>6</sup> **17**,<sup>9</sup> and **18**<sup>9</sup> have been previously reported. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of these compounds are included below as evidence of identity and purity.

### Ethyl 1-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (**8**)

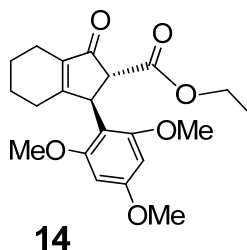


*R*<sub>f</sub> 0.42 (3:2 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by comparison with **14** and **20**):  $\delta$  7.28-7.18 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.18-4.11 (m, 3H, overlapping O-CH<sub>2</sub> & CH), 3.29 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.18-1.99 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.66-1.56 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.21 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments



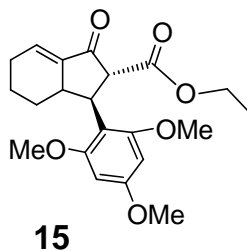
by comparison with **14** and **20**):  $\delta$  200.6 (C=O), 175.2 (O-C=O), 168.9 (C=C), 140.0 (C=C), 137.5 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 61.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.4 (CH), 52.0 (CH), 26.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  1730 (s), 1670 (s), 1646 (s). HRMS (ESI, C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 285.1491, found  $m/z$  285.1479.

**Ethyl 1-oxo-3-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate**  
**(14)**



$R_f$  0.51 (3:2 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC):  $\delta$  6.14 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.04 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 4.81 (bs, 1H, CH), 4.24-4.13 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.54 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.18-1.94 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.71-1.56 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC):  $\delta$  202.1 (C=O), 177.5 (C=C), 170.7 (O-C=O), 160.7 (Ar), 159.8 (Ar), 159.6 (Ar), 135.3 (C=C), 107.4 (Ar *ipso*), 91.0 (Ar), 90.9 (Ar), 61.3 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 58.7 (CH), 56.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 41.8 (CH), 26.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  1733 (s), 1699 (s), 1646 (s), 1607 (s). HRMS (ESI, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 375.1808, found  $m/z$  375.1788.

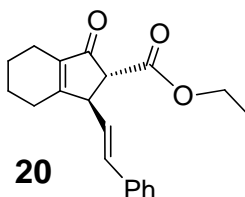
**Ethyl 1-oxo-3-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3,3a,4,5,6-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate**  
**(15)**



$R_f$  0.60 (3:2 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC and DEPT):  $\delta$  6.79 (pseudo q,  $J$  = 3.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H, vinylic CH), 6.13 (s, 2H, Ar), 4.24 (d,  $J$  = 12 Hz,

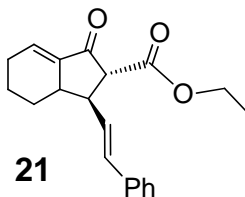
1H, C(=O)CH), 4.20-4.00 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.92 (pseudo t, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.78 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.97-2.91 (m, 1H, CH), 2.34-2.19 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.88-1.80 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49-1.42 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC and DEPT): δ 199.8 (C=O), 170.0 (O-C=O), 160.1 (Ar), 159.9 (Ar), 140.9 (HC=C), 134.5 (C=CH), 107.7 (Ar *ipso*), 91.2 (Ar), 60.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 58.0 (CH), 56.0 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.7 (CH), 39.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν 1739 (s), 1712 (s), 1651 (s), 1608 (s). HRMS (ESI, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 375.1808, found *m/z* 375.1794.

**(*E*)-Ethyl 1-oxo-3-styryl-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (20)**



*R<sub>f</sub>* 0.41 (1:1 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC, HMBC, and DEPT): δ 7.36-7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.57 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H, C=CHPh), 5.93 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 16 Hz, 1H, C=CH), 4.25-4.17 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.83 (br d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.26 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.40-2.16 (m, 4H, cyclohex.), 1.74-1.60 (m, 4H, cyclohex.), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by HMQC, HMBC, and DEPT): δ 200.2 (C=O), 174.7 (C=C), 169.0 (O-C=O), 137.2 (C=C), 136.3 (Ph *ipso*), 133.5 (C=CH), 128.6 (Ar), 127.9 (C=CH), 126.3 (Ar), 61.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 58.8 (CH), 50.1 (CH), 26.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν 1734 (s), 1718 (s), 1653 (s), 1599 (m). HRMS (ESI, C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 311.1642, found *m/z* 311.1632.

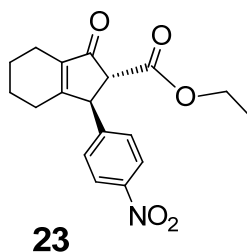
**(*E*)-Ethyl 1-oxo-3-styryl-2,3,3a,4,5,6-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (21)**



*R<sub>f</sub>* 0.48 (1:1 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by comparison with **15** and **20**): δ 7.37-7.20 (m, 5H, Ar), 6.83 (pseudo q, *J* = 3.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H, cyclohex. vinylic

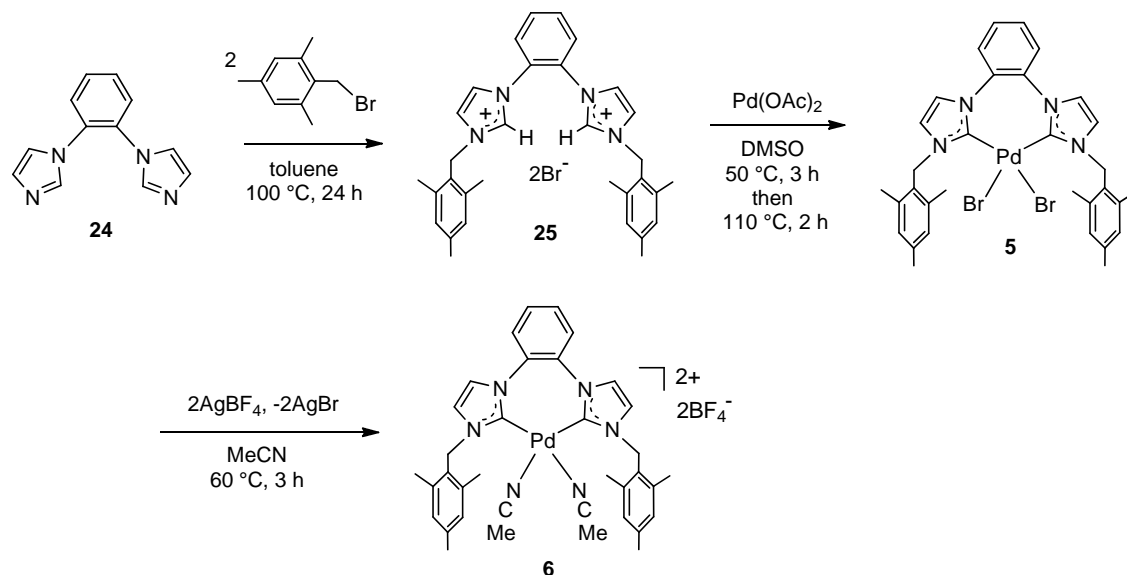
CH), 6.53 (d,  $J = 16$  Hz, 1H, C=CHPh), 6.16 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 16$  Hz, 1H, C=CH), 4.25-4.15 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.25 (d,  $J = 12$  Hz, 1H, C(=O)CH), 2.88-2.80 (m, 1H, CH), 2.44-2.30 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.27-2.14 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95-1.87 (m, 2H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.25 (t,  $J = 12$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by comparison with **15** and **20**)  $\delta$  197.8 (C=O), 169.2 (O-C=O), 139.1 (cyclohex HC=C), 136.8 (cyclohex HC=C), 136.0 (Ph *ipso*), 132.4 (C=CH), 128.8 (C=CH), 128.7 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 126.4 (Ph), 61.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.1 (CH), 49.7 (CH), 42.0 (CH), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  1733 (s), 1700 (s), 1645 (s), 1600 (m). HRMS (ESI, C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 311.1642, found  $m/z$  311.1630.

**Ethyl 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (23)**



$R_f$  0.40 (7:3 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes); white solid, mp 31-32 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by comparison with **14** and **20**):  $\delta$  8.19 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.27 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.37 (br s, 1H, CH), 4.27-4.15 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.29 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.26-1.96 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.72-1.68 (m, 4H, cyclohex. CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.27 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; assignments by comparison with **14** and **20**):  $\delta$  199.6 (C=O), 173.3 (O-C=O), 168.3 (C=C), 147.8 (Ar), 147.5 (Ar), 138.9 (C=C), 128.7 (Ar), 124.6 (Ar), 62.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.1 (CH), 51.7 (CH), 26.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  1734 (s), 1706 (s), 1653 (s), 1599 (m). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.64; H, 5.82; N, 4.25 %. Found: C, 65.56; H, 5.72; N, 4.30 %.

## SYNTHESIS OF PALLADIUM BIS(NHC) COMPLEXES



**Note:** Despite repeat analyses on freshly prepared samples that showed no significant impurities in their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (see scanned spectra below), elemental analyses of compounds **25**, **5**, **6**, and **26** were consistently off for one element (low % C for **25**, **5**, and **26**; high % N for **6**). We believe that the phenylene bridge renders these compounds resistant to combustion relative to methylene-linked bis(NHC) analogues. We have found several complexes of the latter type to give acceptable analyses under identical conditions,<sup>10,11</sup> which included the use of a WO<sub>3</sub> combustion aid.

### Bis(imidazolium) salt (**25**)

1,1'-(1,2-phenylene)bis(imidazole)<sup>4</sup> **24** (500 mg, 2.38 mmol) and 1-(bromomethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene<sup>5</sup> (558 mg, 2.62 mmol) were suspended in freshly distilled toluene (25 mL), and the mixture was heated in flask sealed with a PTFE stopcock at 100 °C for 24 hours. The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with THF. The crude product was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and then dried in vacuo for 12 h. Yield: 890 mg, 75 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.19 (s, 2H, imidazole), 7.89 (s, 4H, imidazole), 7.78 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H, phen.), 7.76 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H, phen.), 6.98 (s, 4H, Mes), 5.40 (s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.27 (s, 6H, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.22 (s, 12H, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 138.7 (Ar), 138.2 (Ar), 137.4 (Ar), 131.9 (Ar), 129.9 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 128.4 (Ar), 126.0 (Ar), 123.7 (imidazole), 122.8 (imidazole),

47.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 20.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>36</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: C, 60.39; H, 5.70; N, 8.80 %. Found: C, 59.17; H, 5.61; N, 8.97 %. HRMS (ESI, [M – 2HBr]<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 474.2783, found m/z 474.2900.

### **Bis(NHC)PdBr<sub>2</sub> complex (5)**

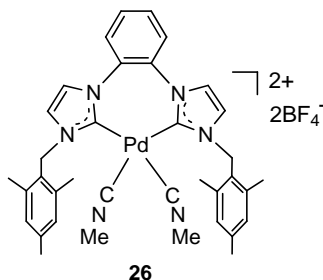
Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (176 mg, 0.786 mmol) and **25** (500 mg, 0.786 mmol) were dissolved in undried DMSO (10 mL), and the solution was heated at 50 °C for 2 h, followed by further heating at 110 °C for 3 h. Addition of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to the cooled reaction mixture afforded pale yellow crystals. The product was isolated by filtration and dried in vacuo for 12 h. Yield: 303 mg, 52 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.88-7.86 (m, 2H, phen.), 7.79-7.71 (m, 2H, phen.), 7.71 (br s, 2H, imidazole), 7.00 (s, 4H, Mes), 6.53 (s, 2H, imidazole), 6.02 (d, *J* = 14 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.43 (d, *J* = 14 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.27 (s, 6H, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.23 (s, 12H, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 162.9 (carbene), 139.6 (Ar), 139.0 (Ar), 133.3 (Ar), 130.6 (Ar), 129.9 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 127.1 (Ar), 122.2 (Ar), 121.3 (imidazole), 50.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); traces of DMSO (41.5) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (66.0, 15.4) visible. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>34</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>Pd: C, 51.87; H, 4.63; N, 7.56 %. Found: C, 51.06; H, 4.55; N, 7.22 %.

### **[Bis(NHC)Pd(NCMe)<sub>2</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (6)**

A mixture of **5** (150 mg, 0.202 mmol), AgBF<sub>4</sub> (79 mg, 0.404 mmol), and dried acetonitrile (15 mL) was placed in a sealable flask under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C under nitrogen for 4 h with stirring. The mixture was then filtered through celite, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was dried in vacuo for 3 h. The crude product was dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL), the solution was filtered again through celite, the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dried in vacuo for 3 h. This sequence was repeated a third time to ensure complete removal of AgBr. Diethyl ether was added to the acetonitrile solution obtained after the last celite filtration, affording white crystals of **6**. The product was isolated by filtration and dried in vacuo for 12 h. Yield: 139 mg, 82%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 7.84-7.75 (m, 4H, phen.), 7.50 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, imidazole), 7.06 (s, 4H, Mes), 6.65 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, imidazole), 5.53 (br s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.32 (s, 6H, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (s, 12H, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CN). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 148.2 (carbene), 140.8 (Ar), 139.7 (Ar), 132.3 (Ar), 131.8 (Ar), 130.6 (Ar), 128.2 (Ar), 127.0 (Ar), 125.5 (Ar), 123.5 (imidazole), 50.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.1

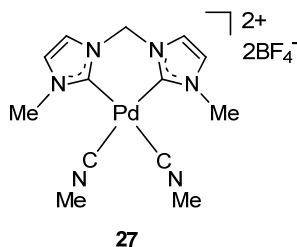
(CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.5(CH<sub>3</sub>CN). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>40</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>N<sub>6</sub>Pd: C, 51.67; H, 4.82; N, 10.04 %. Found: C, 51.34; H, 4.92; N, 10.89 %. HRMS (ESI, [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>6</sub>Pd + H]<sup>+</sup>) calcd. 659.2449, found m/z 659.2980.

**Bis(methylisocyanide) adduct of **6** for  $\Delta\nu^{\text{MeNC}}$  determination (**26**)**



Methyl isocyanide (17  $\mu$ L, 0.30 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **5** (90 mg, 0.12 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. AgBF<sub>4</sub> (47 mg, 0.24 mmol) was then added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 2 h. The mixture was filtered through celite, solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dried in vacuo for 12 h. The crude product was dissolved in dichloromethane (5 mL), the solution was filtered through celite, the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dried in vacuo for 12 h. This sequence was repeated two more times to ensure complete removal of AgBr. Diethyl ether was added to the dichloromethane solution obtained after the last celite filtration, affording **26** as white crystals. The product was isolated by filtration and dried in vacuo for 12 h. Yield: 84 mg, 93%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.96 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H, imidazole), 7.82 (s, 4H, phen.), 7.05 (s, 4H, Mes), 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, imidazole), 5.41 (AB, *J* = 15 Hz, *C* = 19 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.63 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CN), 2.29 (s, 6H, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.27 (s, 12H, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  155.3 (carbene), 138.7 (Ar), 138.1 (Ar), 131.1 (Ar), 130.8 (Ar), 129.5 (Ar), 127.5 (Ar), 126.5 (Ar), 125.5 (imidazole), 123.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>CN), 122.9 (imidazole), 49.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 30.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>CN), 20.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (Nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2279 (m), 2271 (m). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>40</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>N<sub>6</sub>Pd·0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (solvent content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR): C, 50.88; H, 4.80; N, 9.76 %. Found: C, 49.33; H, 5.08; N, 9.45 %.

**Bis(methylisocyanide) adduct of 4 for  $\Delta\nu^{\text{MeNC}}$  determination (27)**

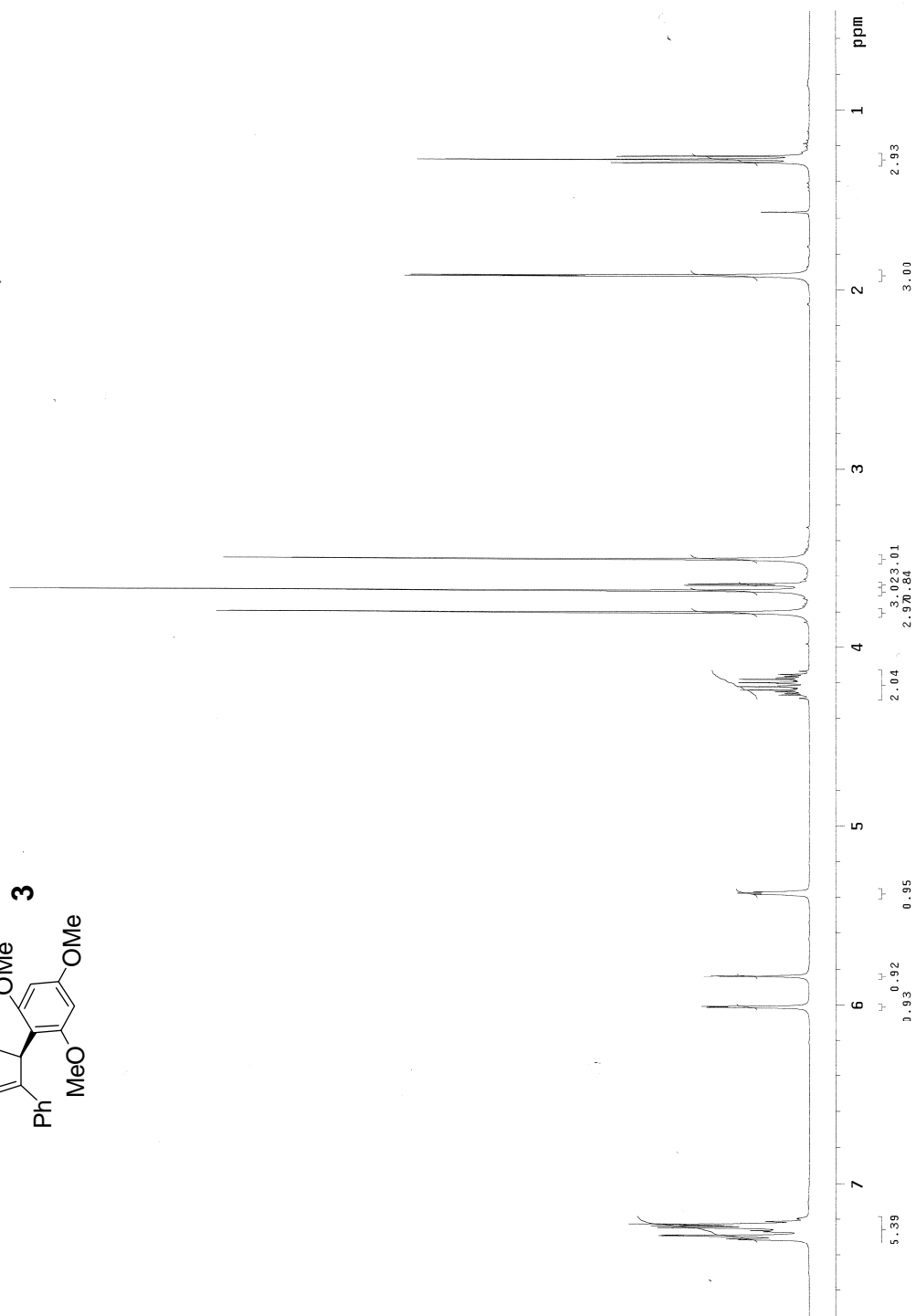
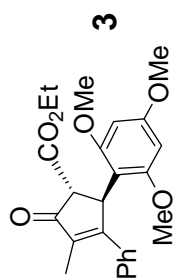


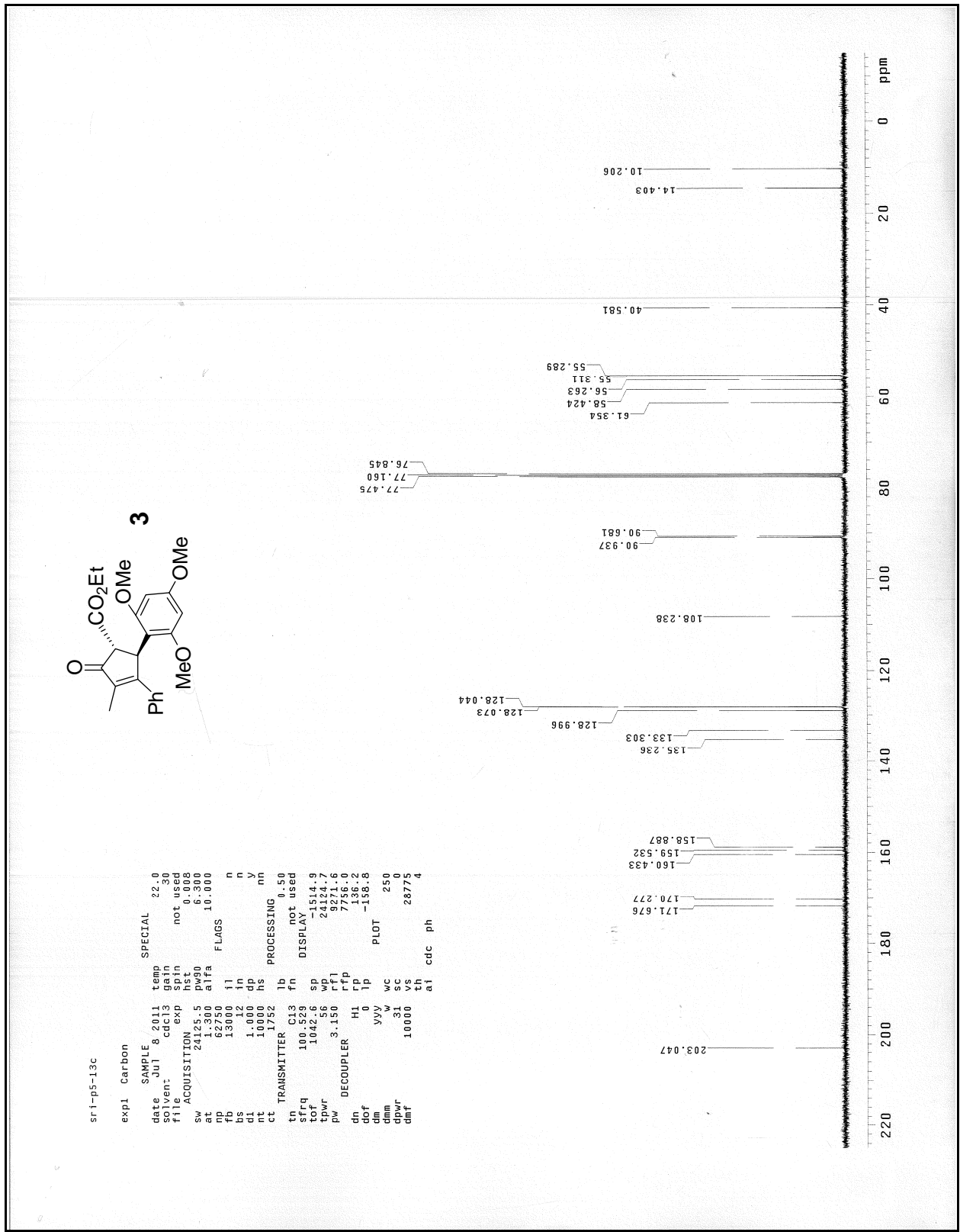
Methyl isocyanide (16  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.28 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of methylene-bridged bis(NHC)PdBr<sub>2</sub> complex **1**<sup>2,3</sup> (50 mg, 0.11 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. AgBF<sub>4</sub> (44 mg, 0.23 mmol) was then added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. The mixture was filtered through celite, the solvent was evaporated, and the solid was dried in vacuo for 12 h. The crude product was dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL), the solution was filtered through celite, the solvent was evaporated, and the solid was dried in vacuo for 12 h. This sequence was repeated a third time to ensure complete removal of AgBr. Diethyl ether was added to the dichloromethane solution obtained after the last celite filtration, affording **27** as white crystals. The product was isolated by filtration and dried in vacuo for 12 h. Yield: 48 mg, 80 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.75 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H, imidazole), 7.58 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H, imidazole), 6.35 (br s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.86 (s, 6H, CNCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (s, 6H, imid.NCH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  155.6 (carbene), 124.1 (imidazole), 124.0 (CNCH<sub>3</sub>), 123.0 (imidazole), 62.4 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 38.2 (imid. NCH<sub>3</sub>), 30.4 (CNCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (Nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  2269 (m). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>N<sub>6</sub>Pd·0.22CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (solvent content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR): C, 28.51; H, 3.34; N, 15.09 %. Found: C, 28.26; H, 3.15; N, 14.71 %.

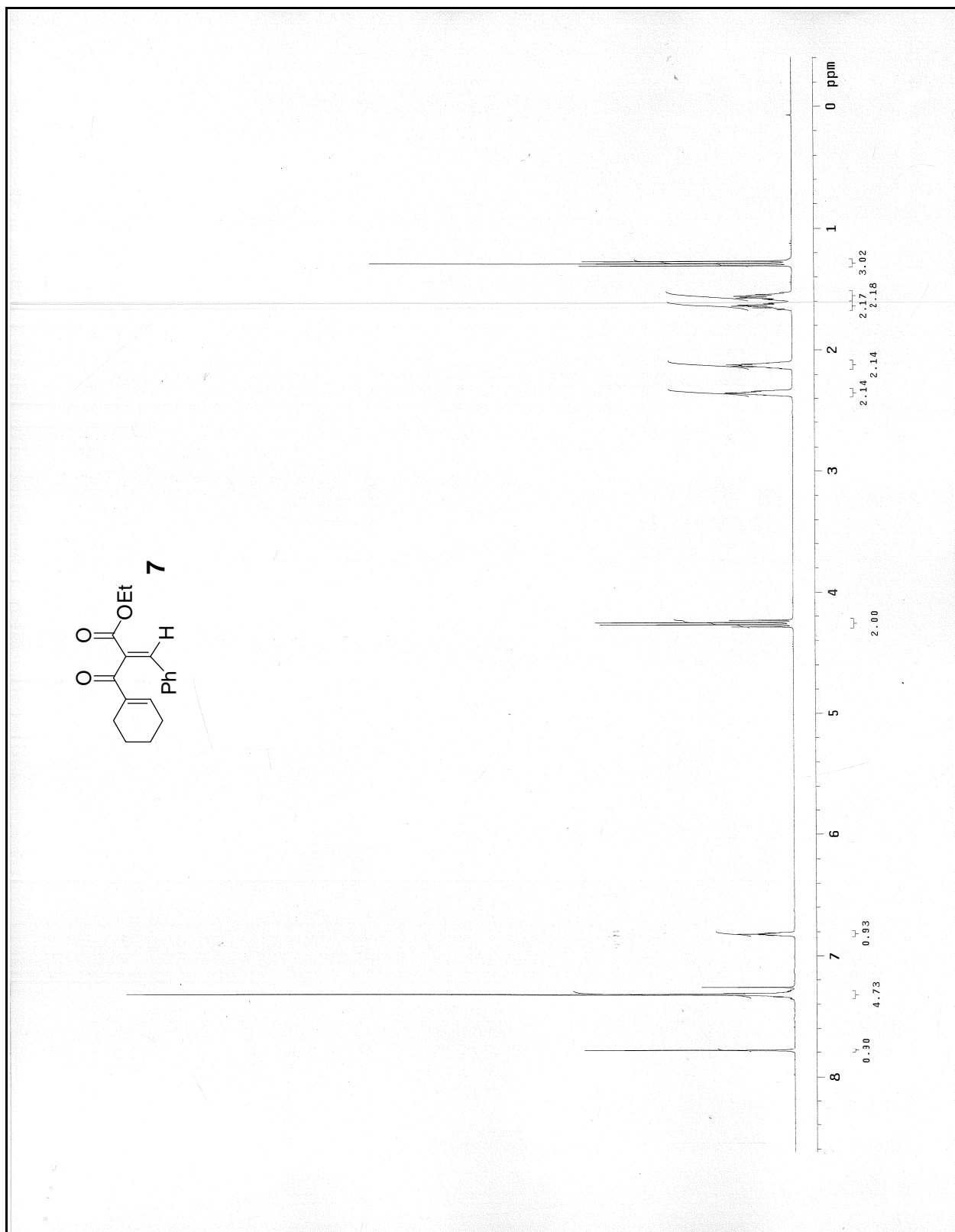
## REFERENCES

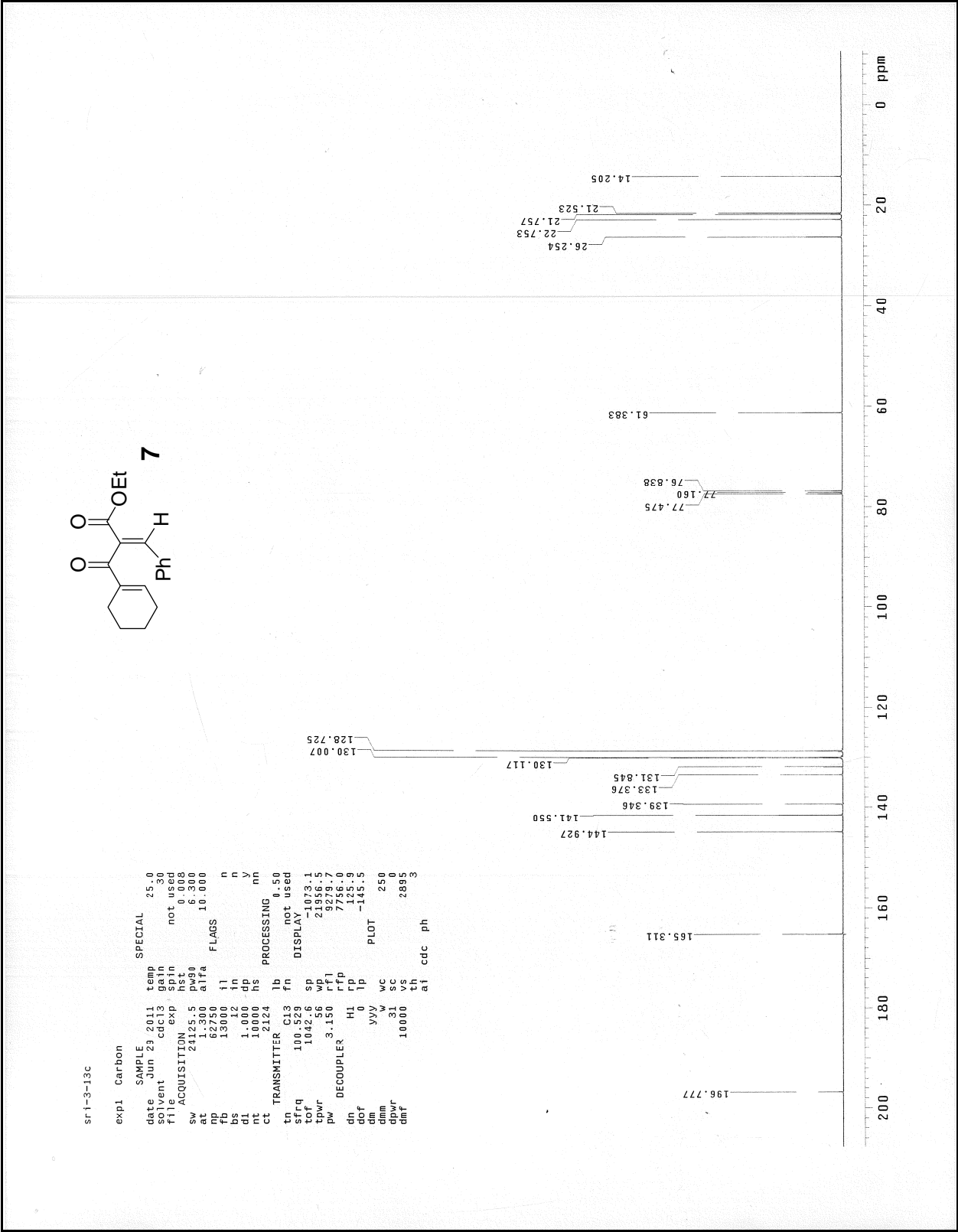
- (1) Miller, K. J.; Kitagawa, T. T.; Abu-Omar, M. M. *Organometallics* **2001**, 20, 4403-4412.
- (2) Gardiner, M. G.; Herrmann, W. A.; Reisinger, C.-P.; Schwarz, J.; Spiegler, M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1999**, 572, 239-247.
- (3) Herdtweck, E.; Muehlhofer, M.; Strassner, T. *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. E: Struct. Rep. Online* **2003**, E59, m970-m971.
- (4) So, Y.-H. *Macromolecules* **1992**, 25, 516-520.
- (5) van der Made, A. W.; van der Made, R. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, 58, 1262-1263.
- (6) Walz, I.; Bertogg, A.; Togni, A. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, 2650-2658.
- (7) Aggarwal, V. K.; Belfield, A. J. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 5075-5078.
- (8) Canterbury, D. P.; Herrick, I. R.; Um, J.; Houk, K. N.; Frontier, A. J. *Tetrahedron* **2009**, 65, 3165-3179.
- (9) Murugan, K.; Srimurugan, S.; Chen, C. *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, 46, 1127-1129. *Note:* Compounds **16-18** were incorrectly depicted as the phenyl derivative in the text of this reference (compounds **12**, **12a**, and **12b**; Table 2, entry 9), but the experimental procedures and scanned NMR spectral data in the Supporting Information confirm that they are in fact the *p*-methoxyphenyl compounds.
- (10) Wanniarachchi, Y. A.; Khan, M. A.; Slaughter, L. M. *Organometallics* **2004**, 23, 5881-5884.
- (11) Subramaniam, S. S.; Slaughter, L. M. *Dalton Trans.* **2009**, 6930-6933.

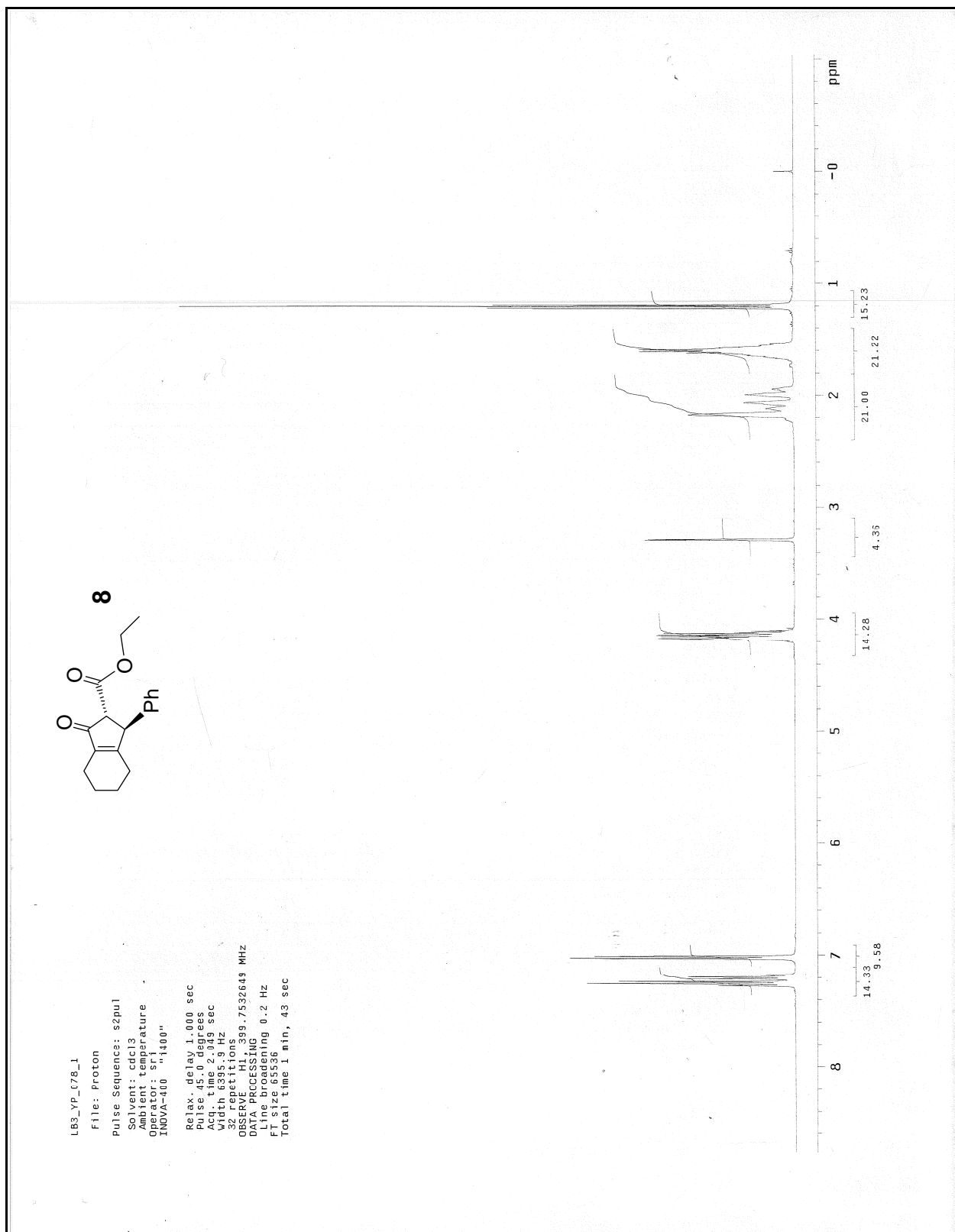


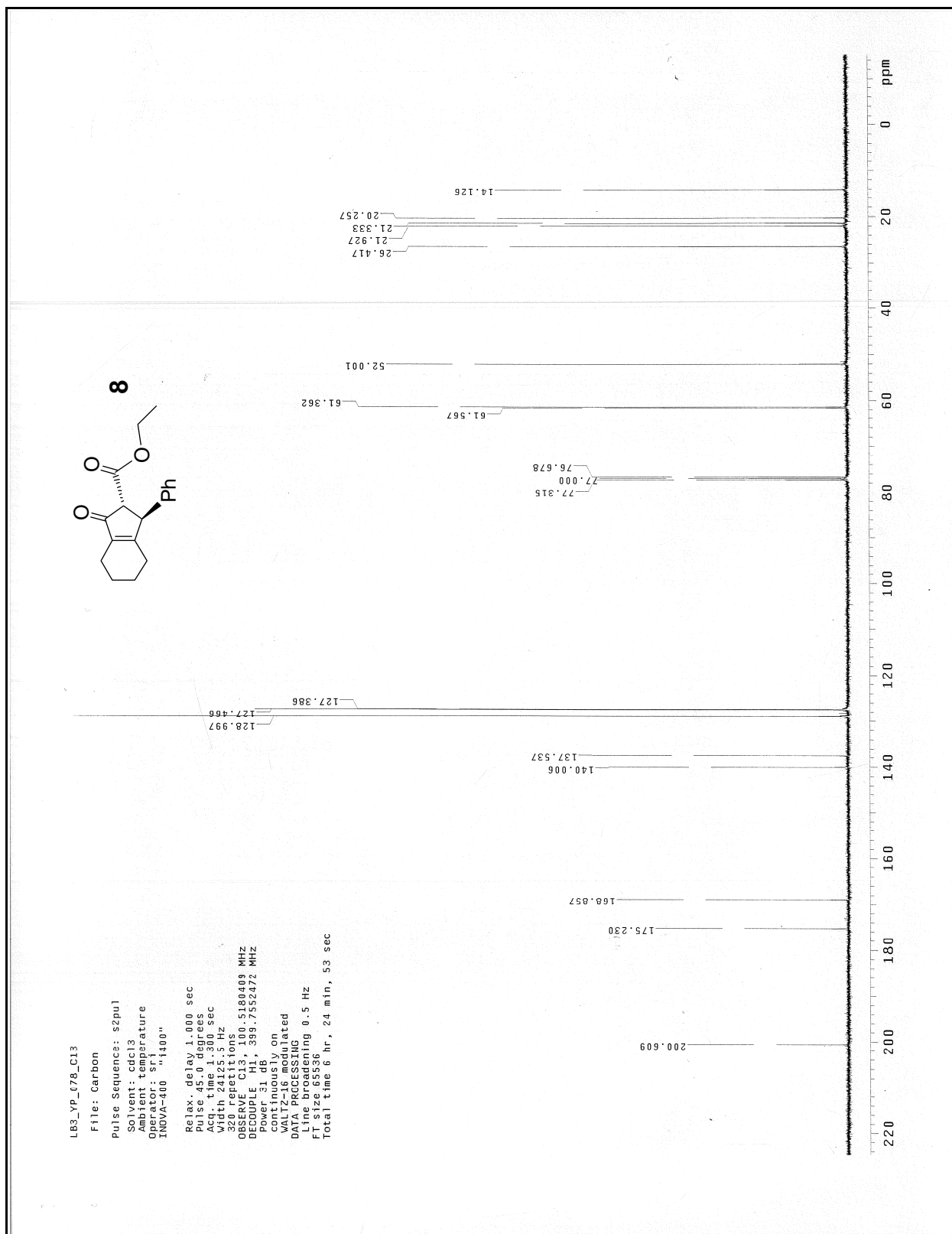






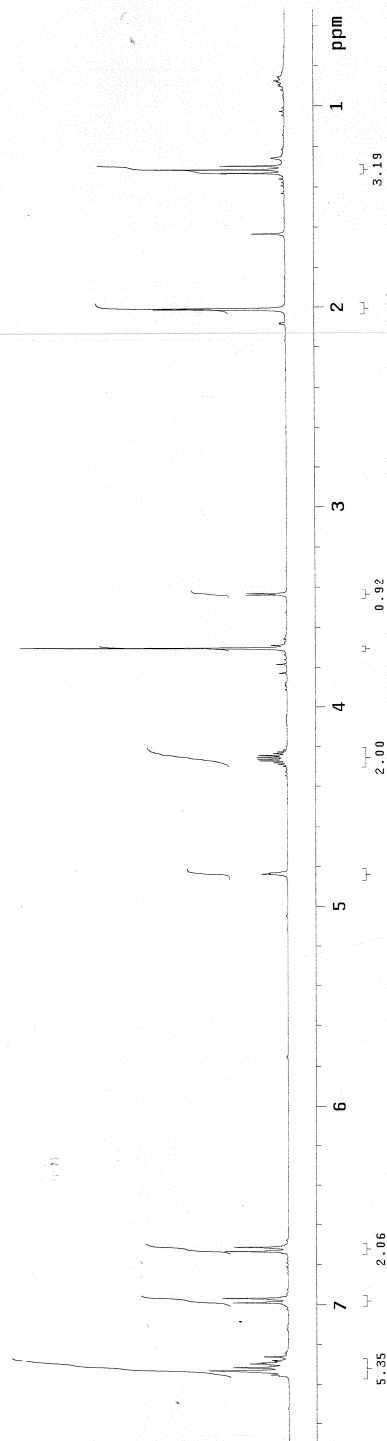


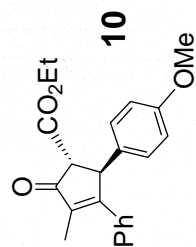




expl Proton

**10**

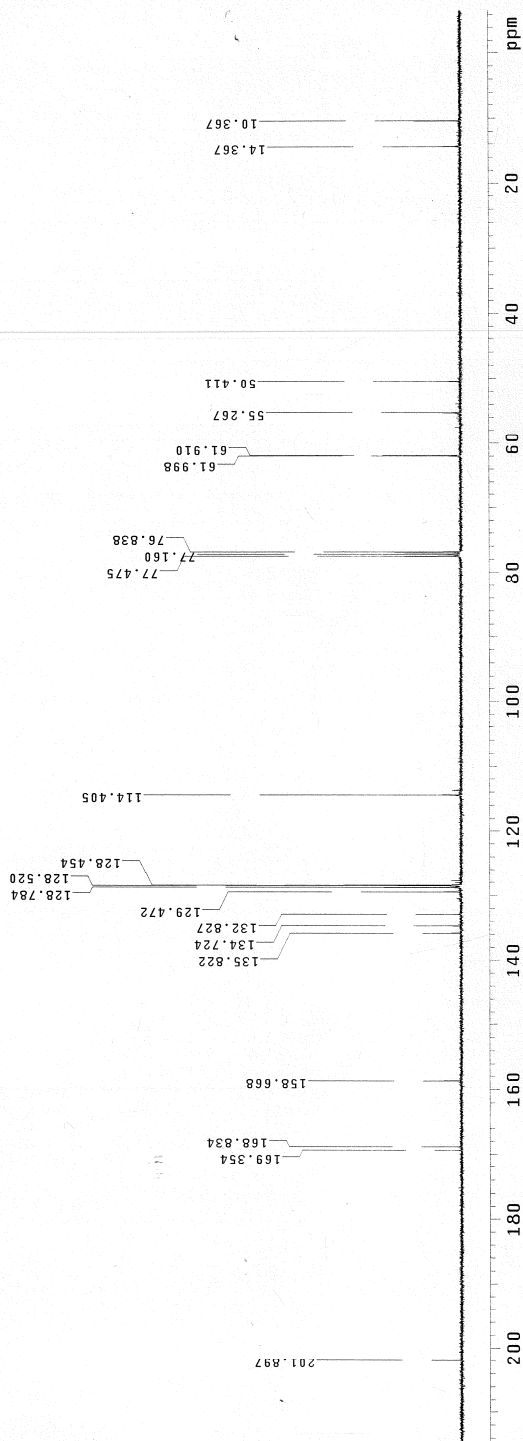
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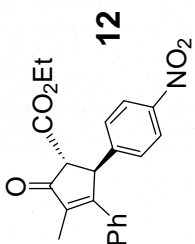
sr1-p15-1-13c

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13000	il	fb	13000
1.012	in	bs	1.012
1000	dp	dl	1000
804	ns	ct	804
TRANSMITTER	C13	lb	0.50
fn	not used	tn	100.529
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pw	3.150	rf1	7756.0
DECOUPLER	H1	rfp	131.8
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	ph		

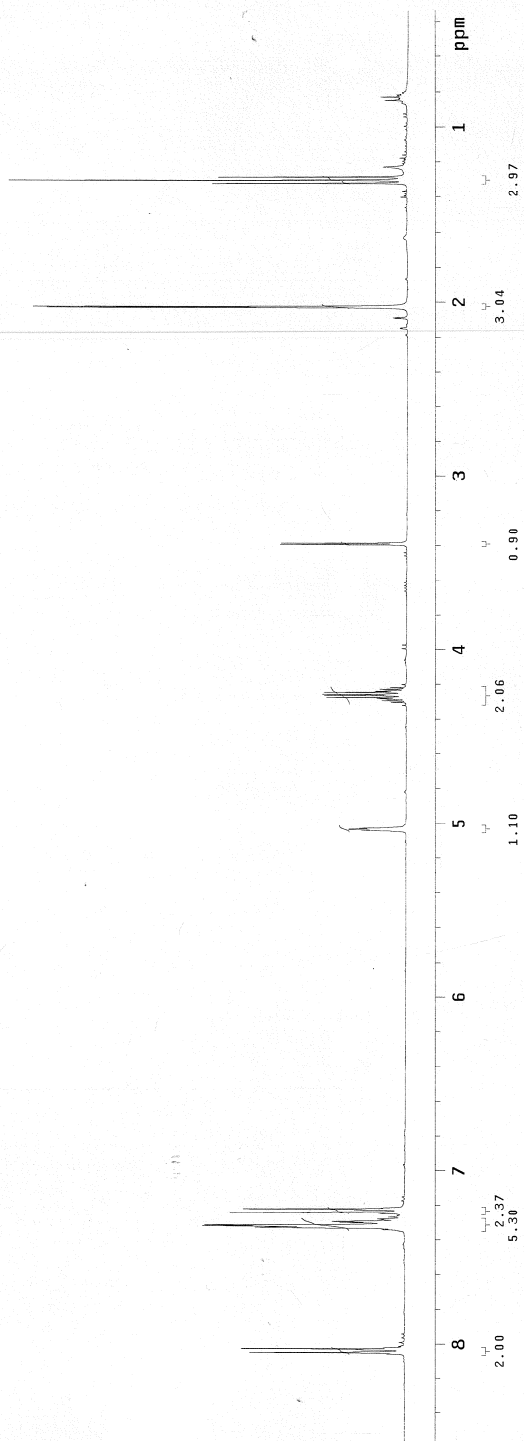


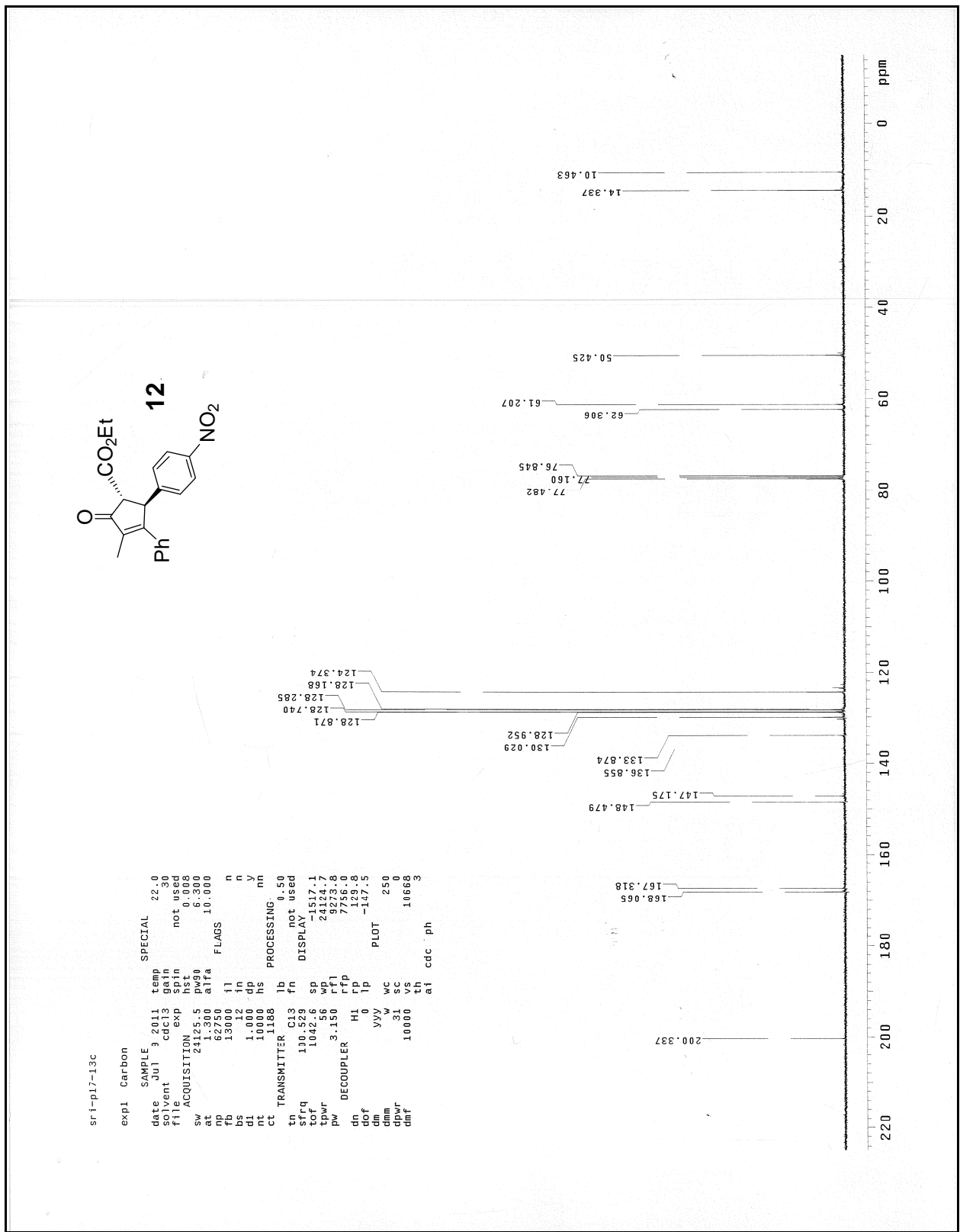


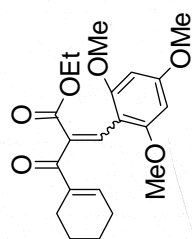


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 at 2.049 alfa  
 np 26206 f1  
 bq 4092 f2  
 ss 32 in y  
 d1 1.000 hs  
 nt 8  
 ct 1b  
 TRANSMITTER H1  
 tn 399.716 SP 0.20  
 tq 399.716 SP 65536  
 tof 339.4 Wf 133.6  
 tovr 339.4 rfl 3238.5  
 pw 3.400 rfp 739.4  
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 ph

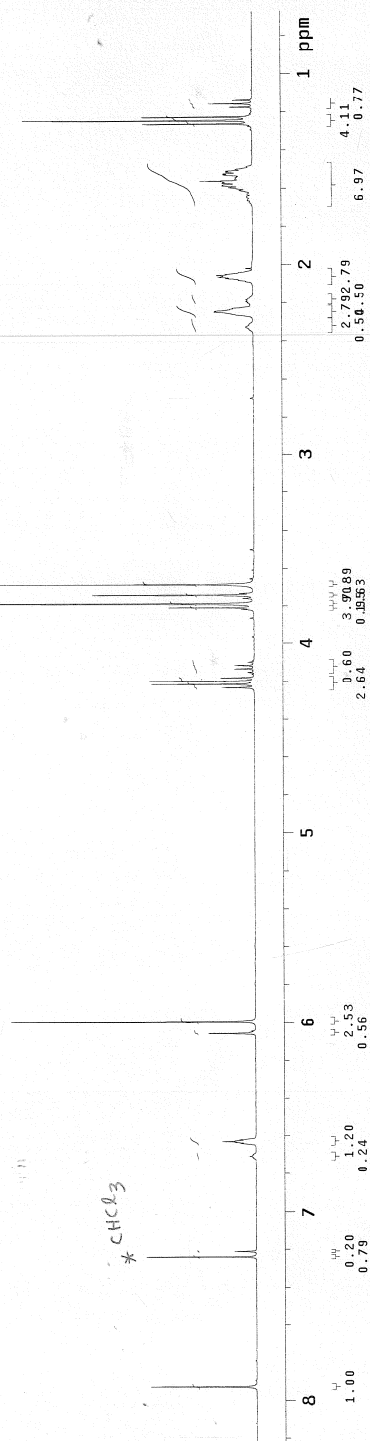






**13**

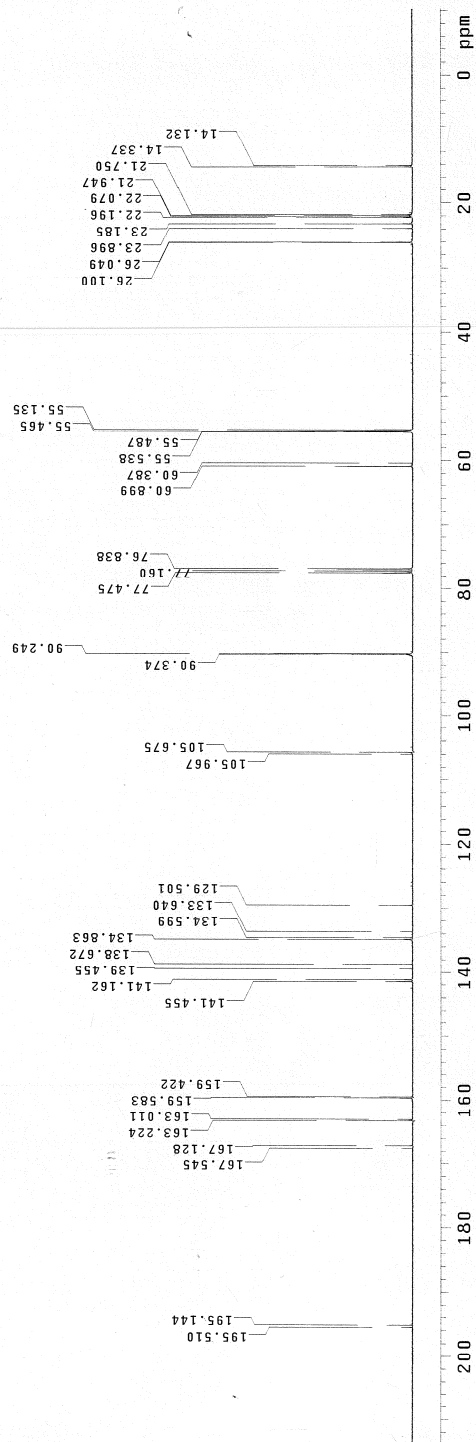
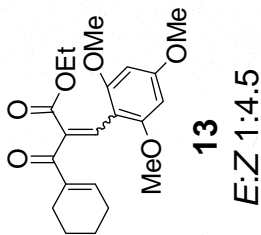
*E:Z* 1:4.5



sri-1-13c

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at 1.300 alfa 10.000  
np 62750 11  
fb 13000 11  
ds 1.000 11  
dt 1.000 11  
nt 10000 11  
ct 4644 11  
PROCESSING  
tn TRANSMITTER C13 lb 0.50  
fn not used  
sfrq 100.529  
torq 1042.58  
pwr 3.150  
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ai cdc ph 1

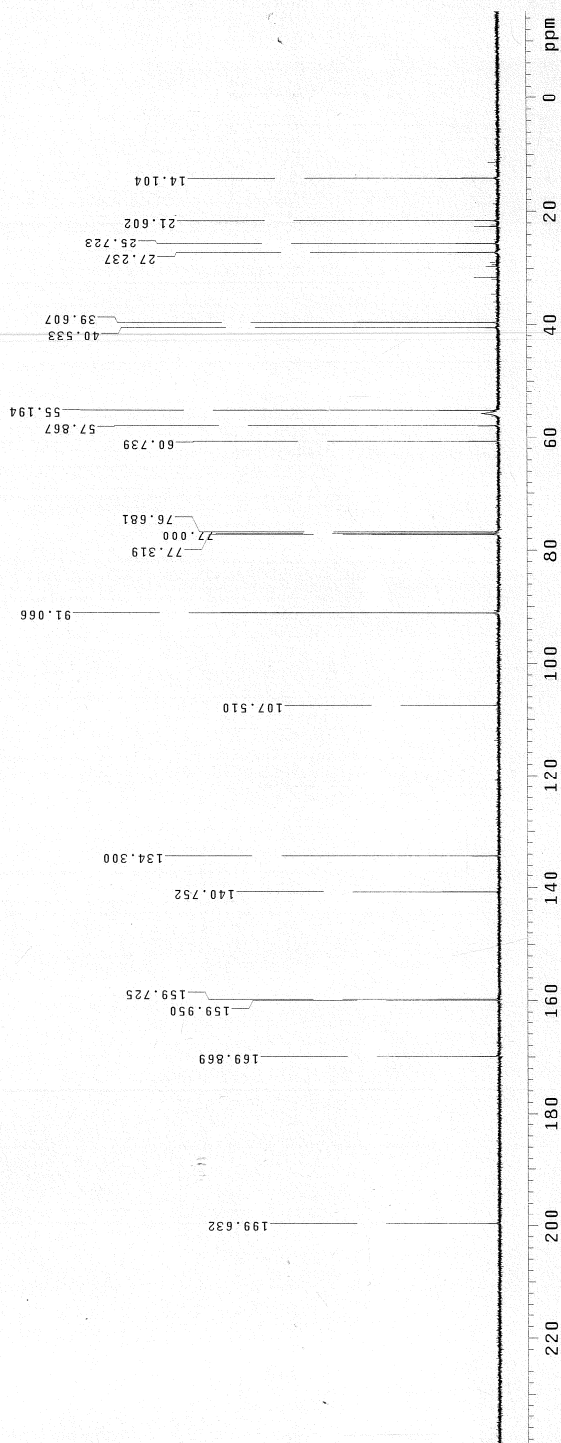
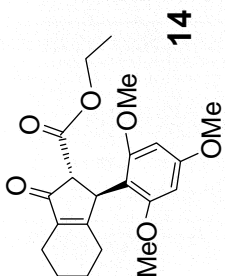




LB3\_YP\_083\_C13

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at	1.300	alpha	10.000
np	66670	fl	n
ps	14064	in	n
dl	1.000	ds	y
nt	5000	hs	nn
ct	640	PROCESSING	
TRANSMITTER	C13	lb	0.50
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trfq	1796.5	sp	-1534.5
tofr	56	wp	25632.4
towr	3.150	rf1	9274.8
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dmf		th	12
		ai	cdc
		ph	



LB3\_WP\_066\_1

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Solvent: cdcl3

Ambient temperature

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INOVA-400 100 MHz

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Width 6395.9 Hz

32 repetitions

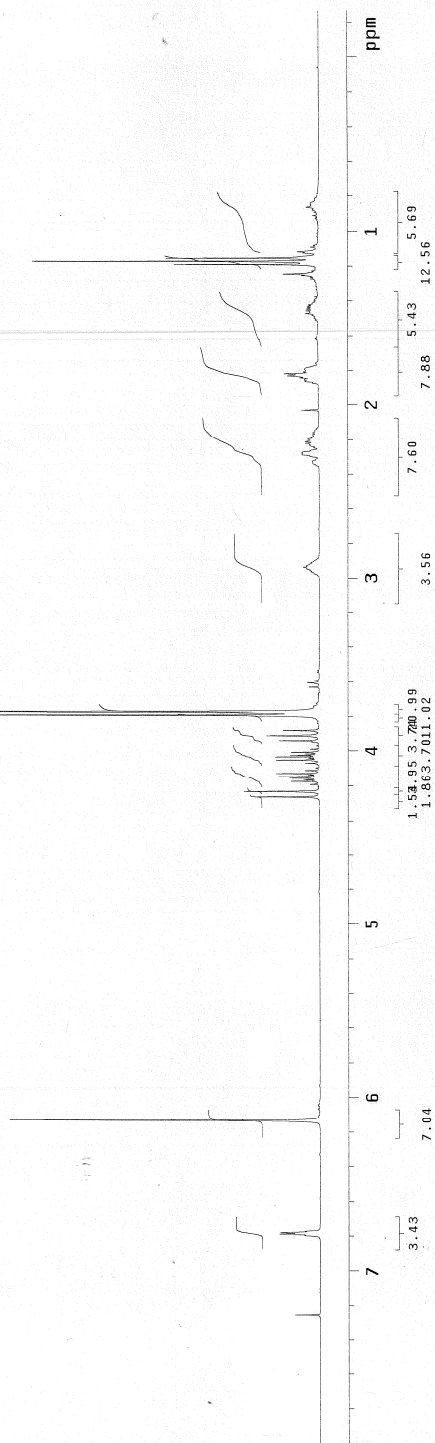
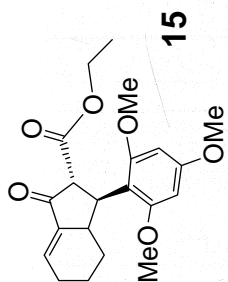
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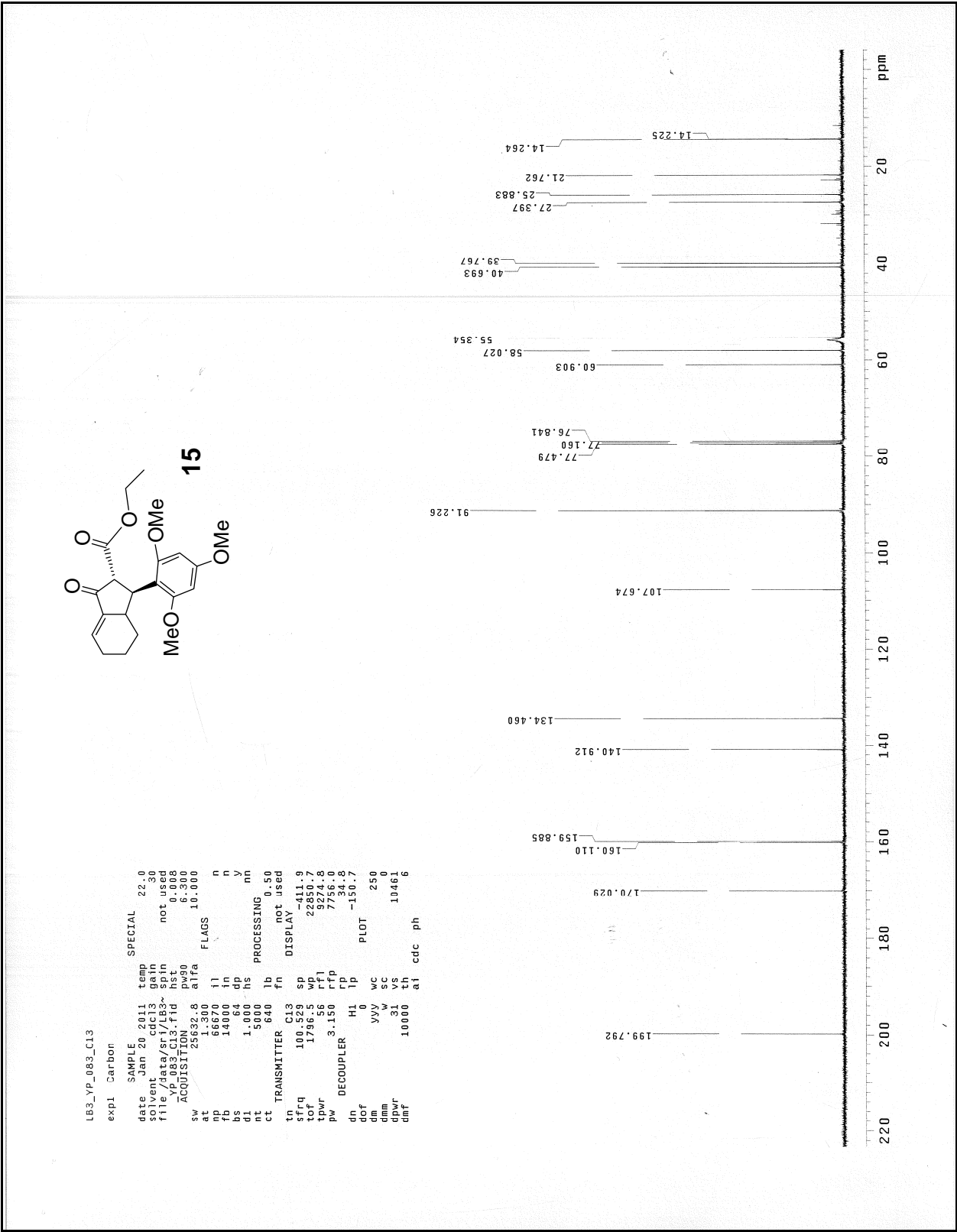
DATA PROCESSING

Line broadening 0.2 Hz

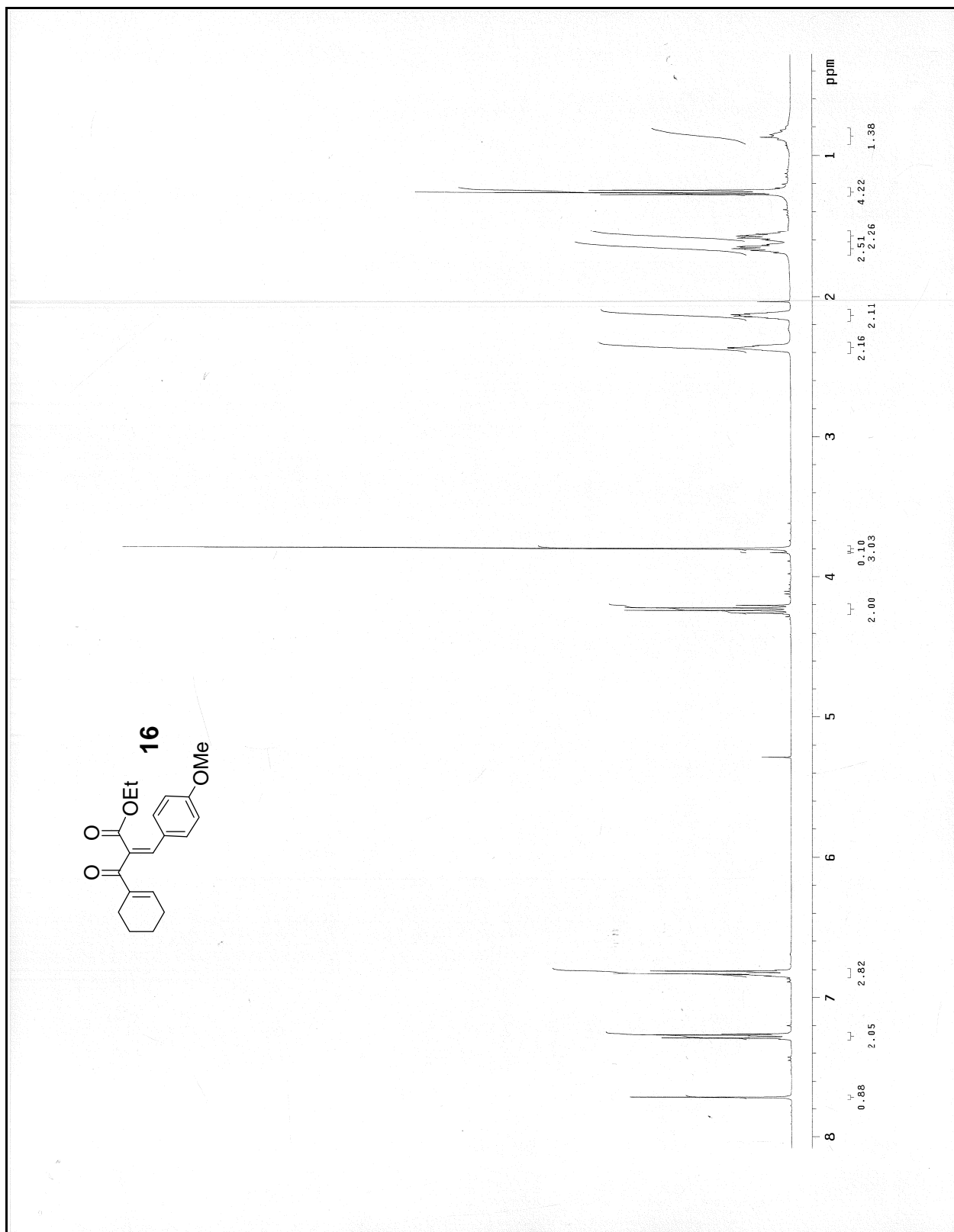
File size 1.0 MB

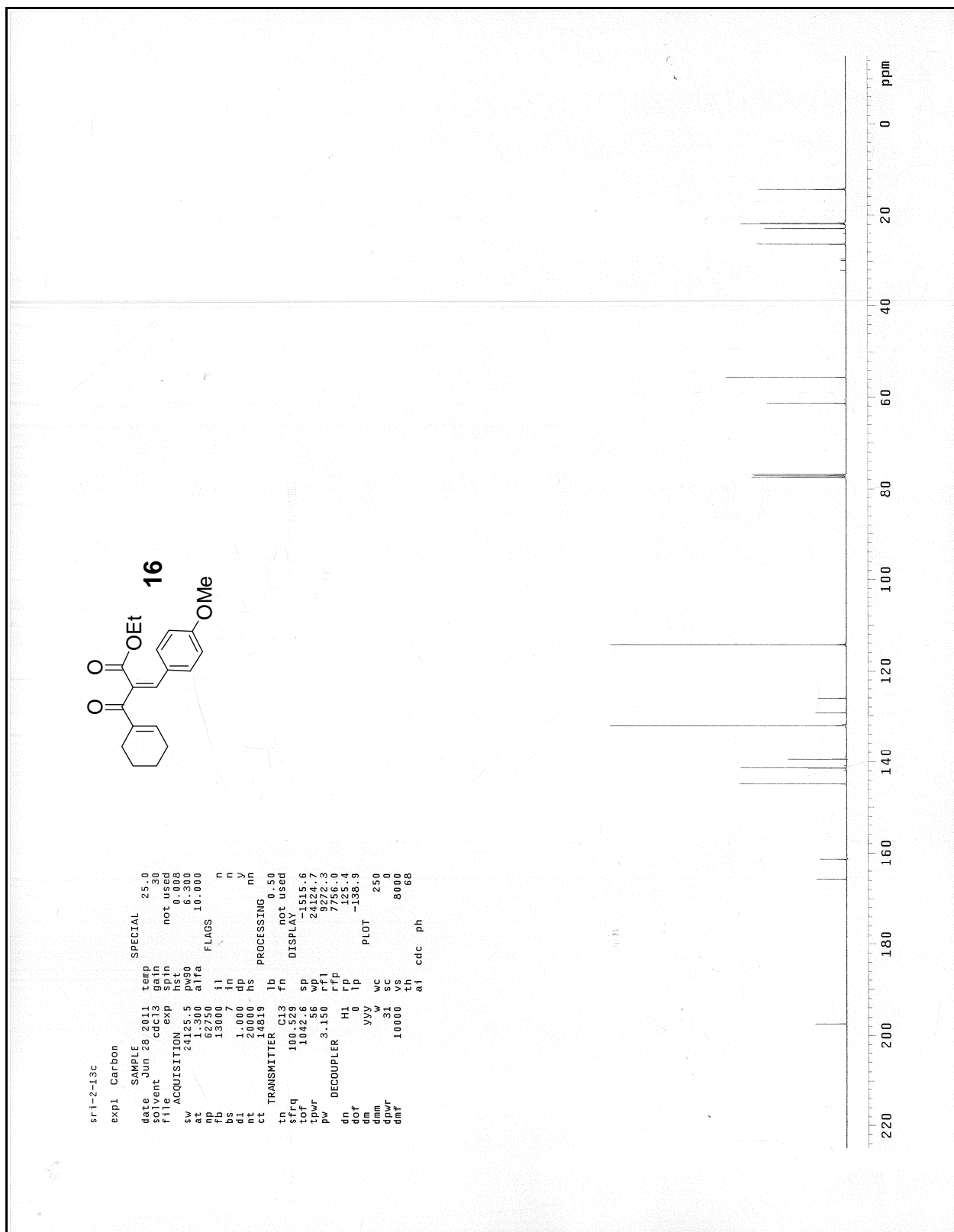
Total time 3 min, 59 sec

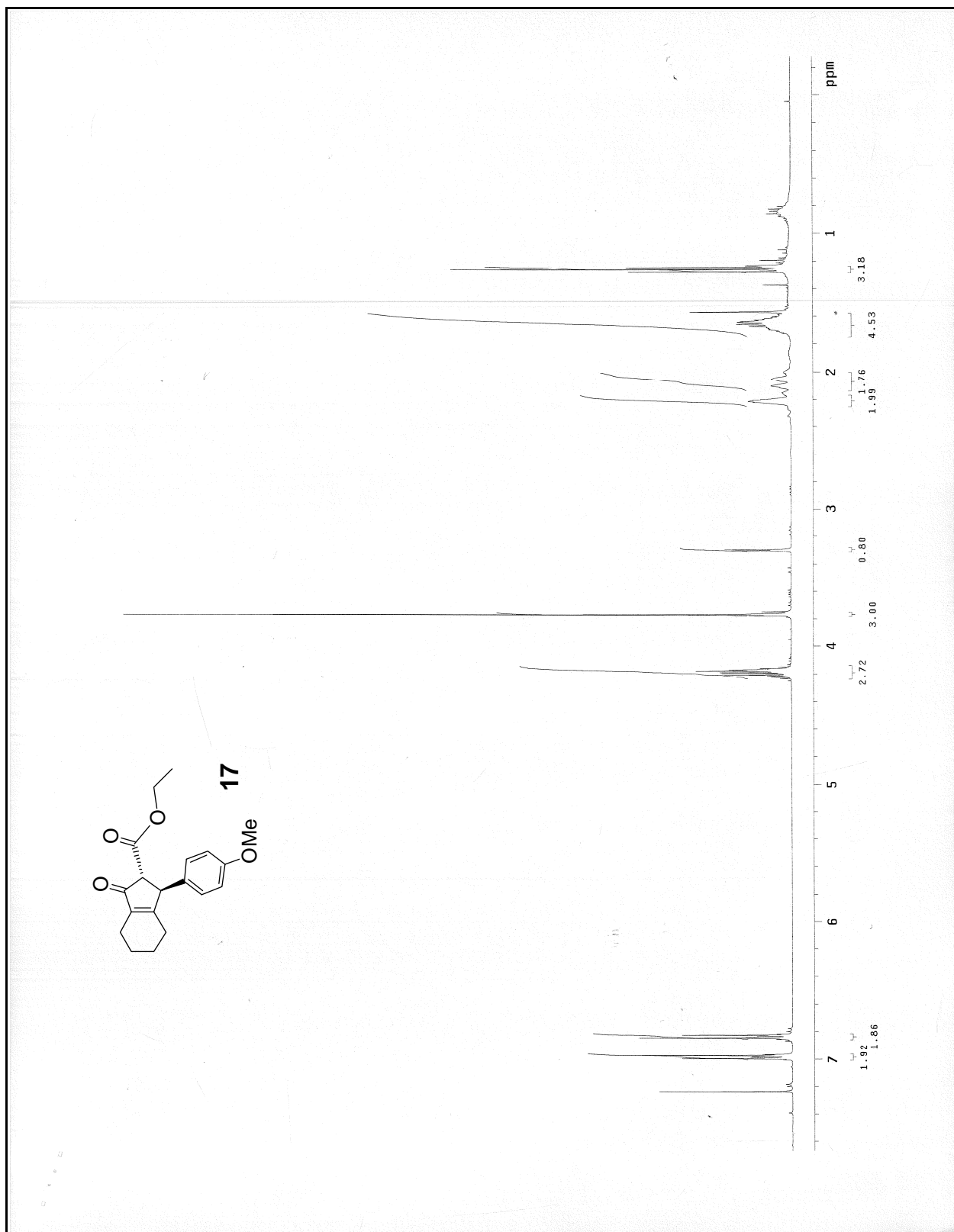


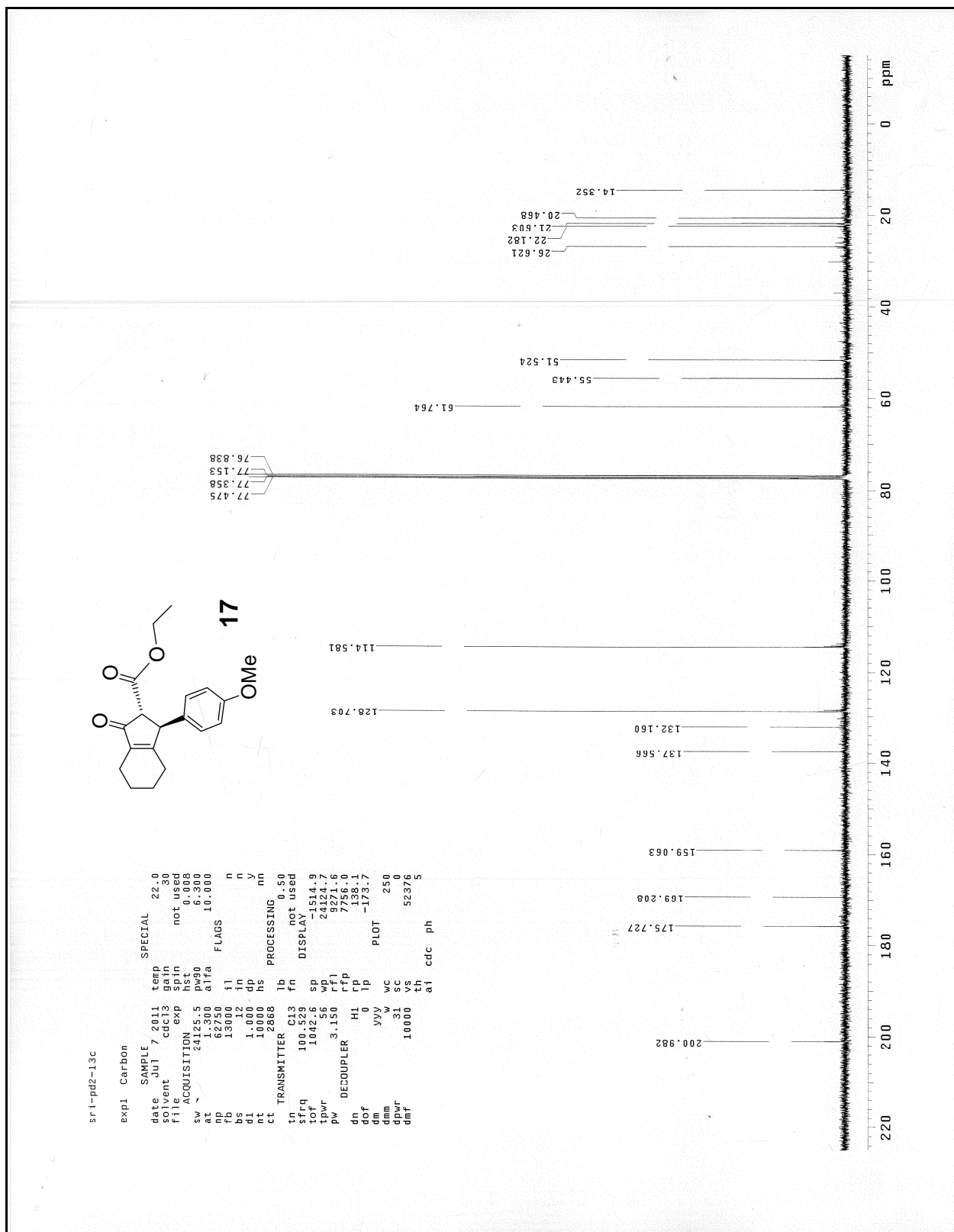












exp1 Proton

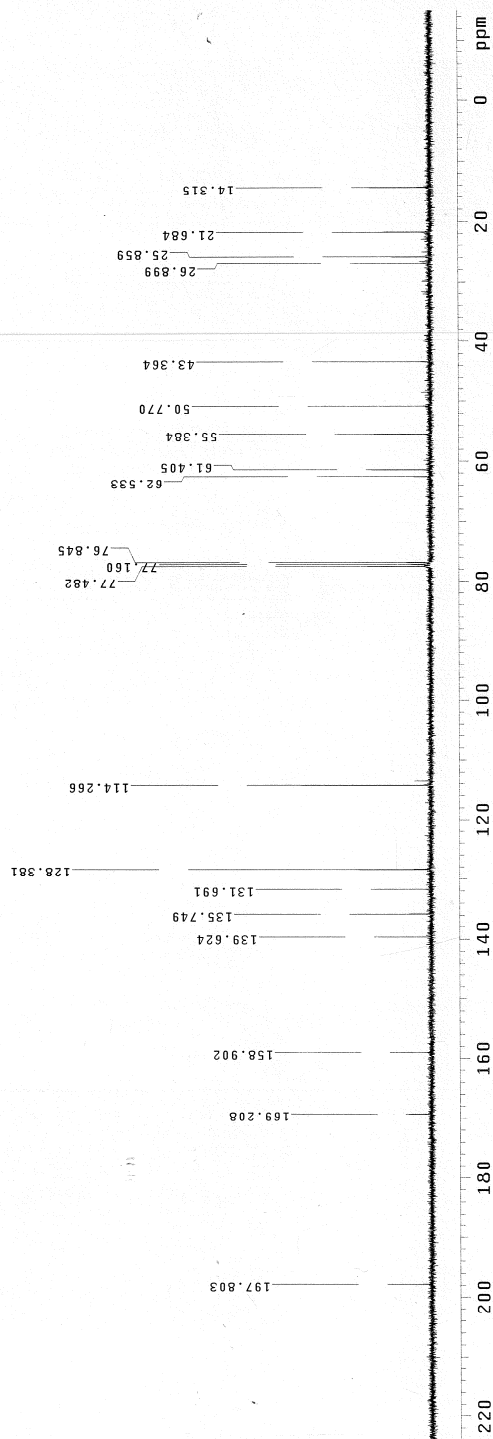
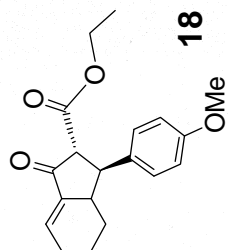
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file	exp	spin	not used			
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26208	alpha	0.008	6.000			
4000	fl	FLAGS				
32	ns	n	n			
40	dp	n	y			
1.000	hs	PROCESSING	0.20			
8	fn	PROCESSING	65536			
TRANSMITTER	H1	DISPLAY				
399.756	sp		-0.2			
399.74	wp		3216.5			
1.000	rfp		2003.2			
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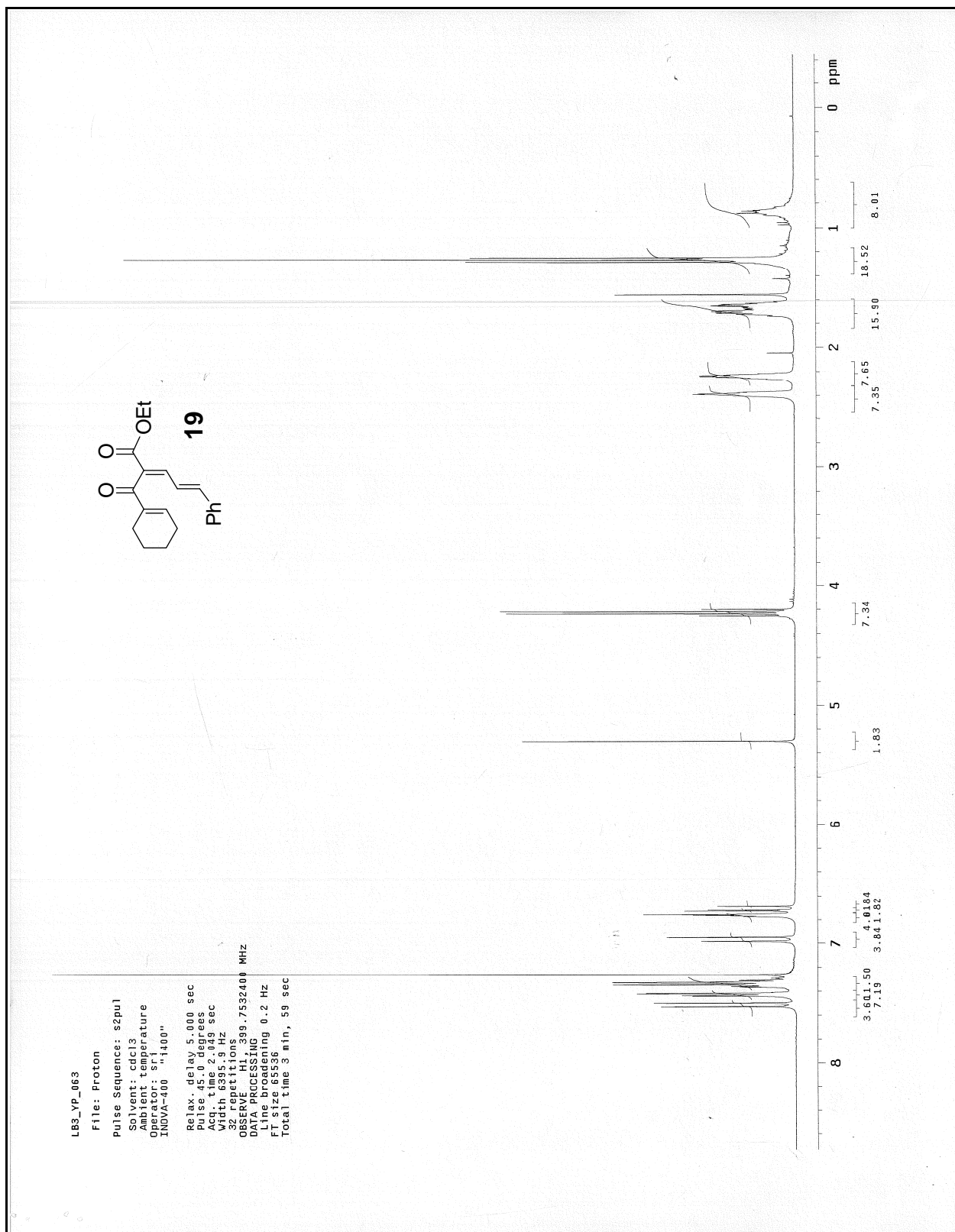


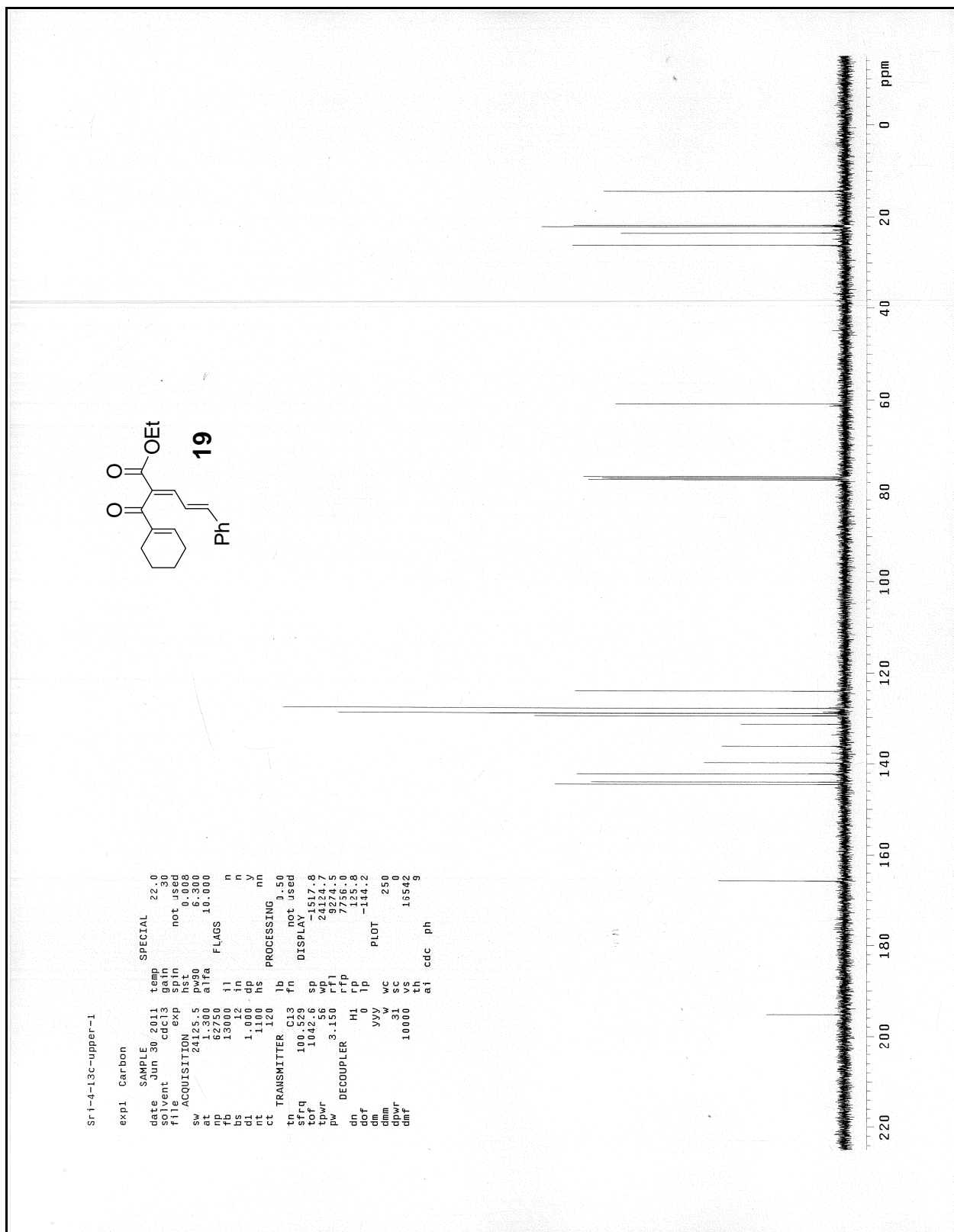
sr1-p8-13c

exp1 Carbon

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bs	1.042	in	n
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ct	180	PROCESSING	nn
tn	TRANSMITTER C13	lb	0.50
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pw	DECOUPLER	rfp	7756.0
dn	0	rp	136.9
dof	0	lp	-159.6
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dmm	w	wc	250
dpwr	3	vc	3000
dnt	10000	th	4
		ai	cdc
		ph	









LB3\_YP\_088\_2\_H1

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Ambient temperature

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INOVA-400

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Acq. time 2.048 sec

Width 3388.5 Hz

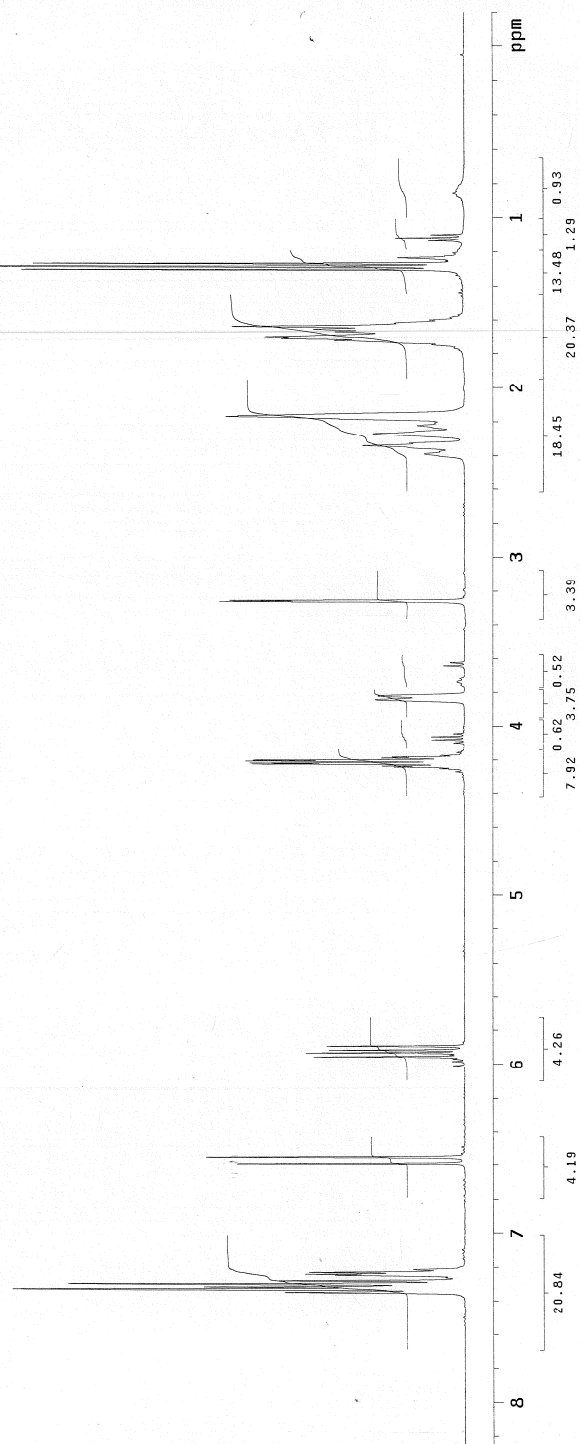
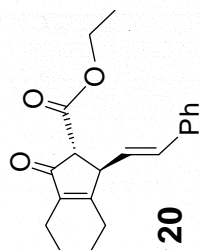
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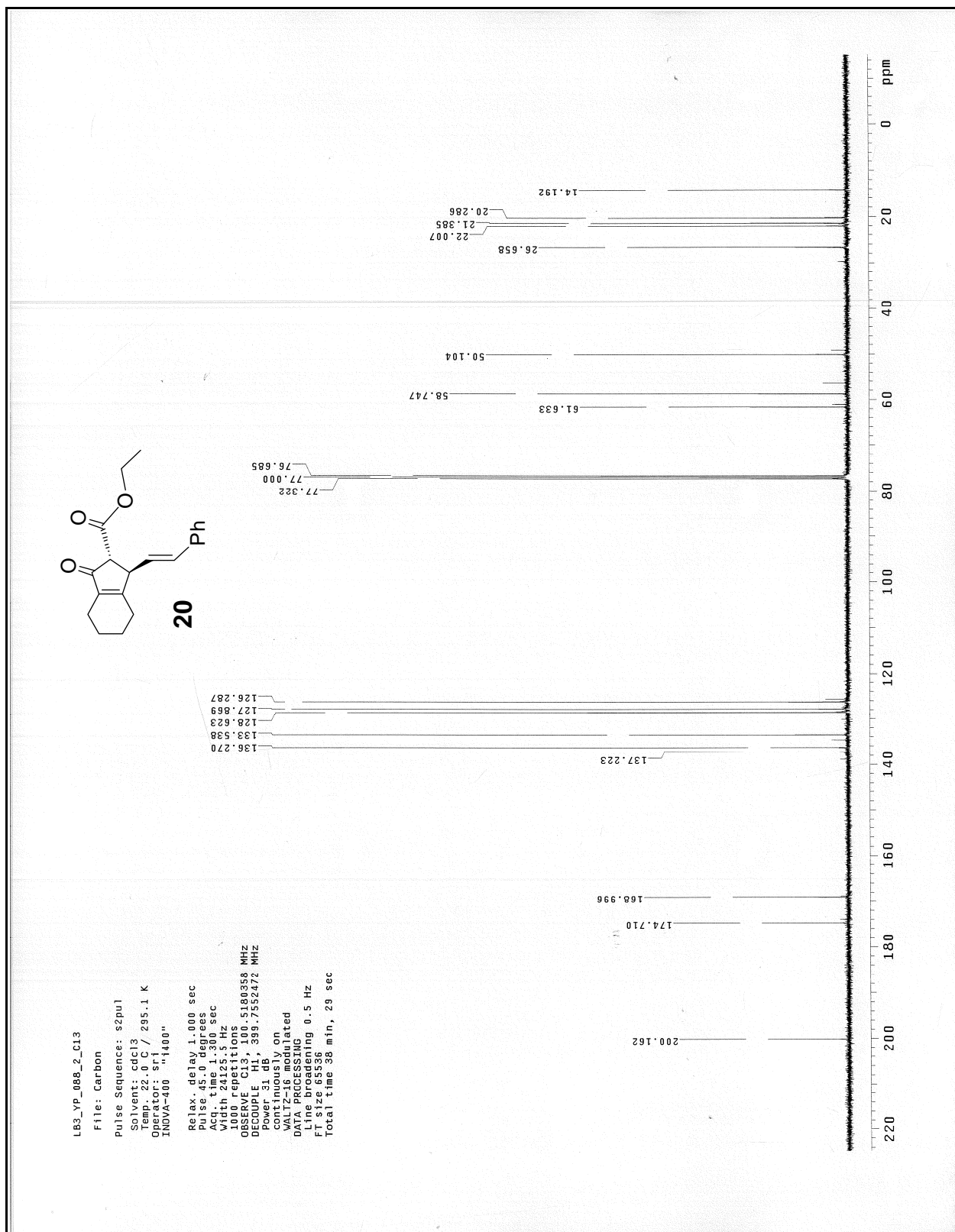
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DATA PROCESSING

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Total time 1 min, 43 sec



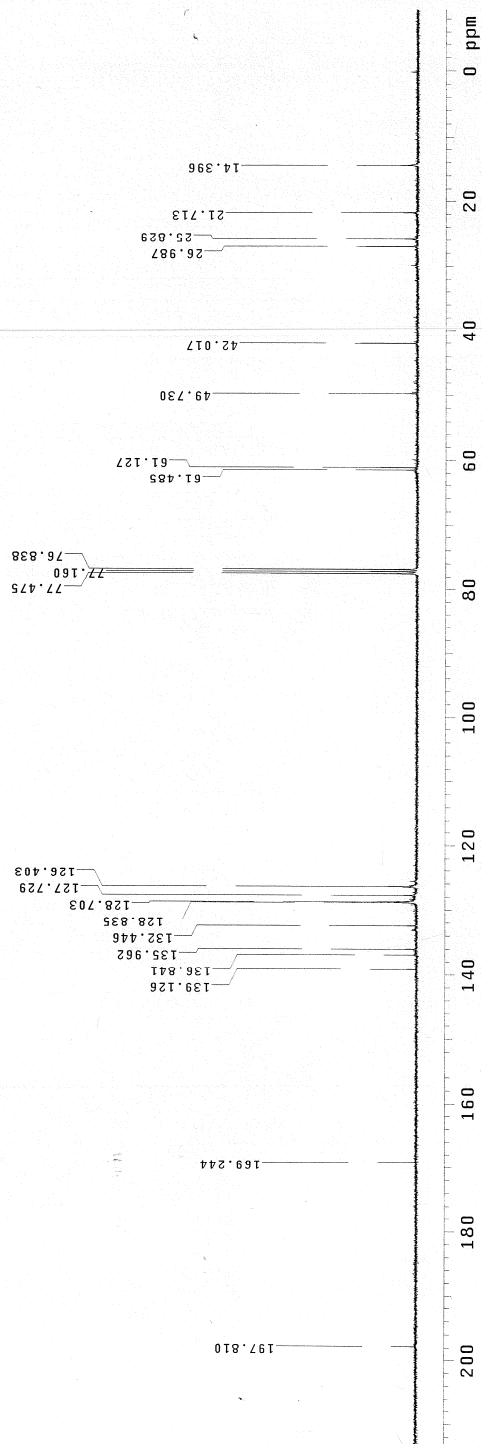
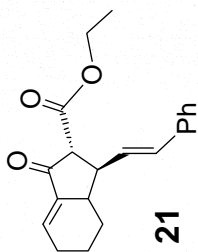




```

sri-p12-13c
expl Carbor
SAMPLE
date Feb 28 2011 temp 21.0
time 00:00:00
file /data/sri/L13-~
vp 038.1 13c.fid hst not used
pw90 6.300
sw 24125.5 alfa 10.000
at 1.300 il
rp 62750 in
bs 13064 dn
d1 1.000 hs
nt 5000 lb
ct 1600 fn
tn TRANSMITTER C13 not used
tp 100 C13 DISPLAY
tof 22437.0 sp
towr 9273.8 rfl
pw 3.150 rfp 7756.0
dn DECOUPLER H1 lp PLOT -187.6
dof 0 yy xc 250
dmm 31 vs 11919
dpwr 3
dmf 10000 th cdc ph

```



LB3\_WP\_063

File: proton

Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Solvent: cdcl3

Temp: 298.1 K

Operator: srl

INOVA-400 "1400"

Relax. delay 5.000 sec

Pulse 45.0 degrees

Acq. time 2.049 sec

Width 6395.9 Hz

16 repetitions

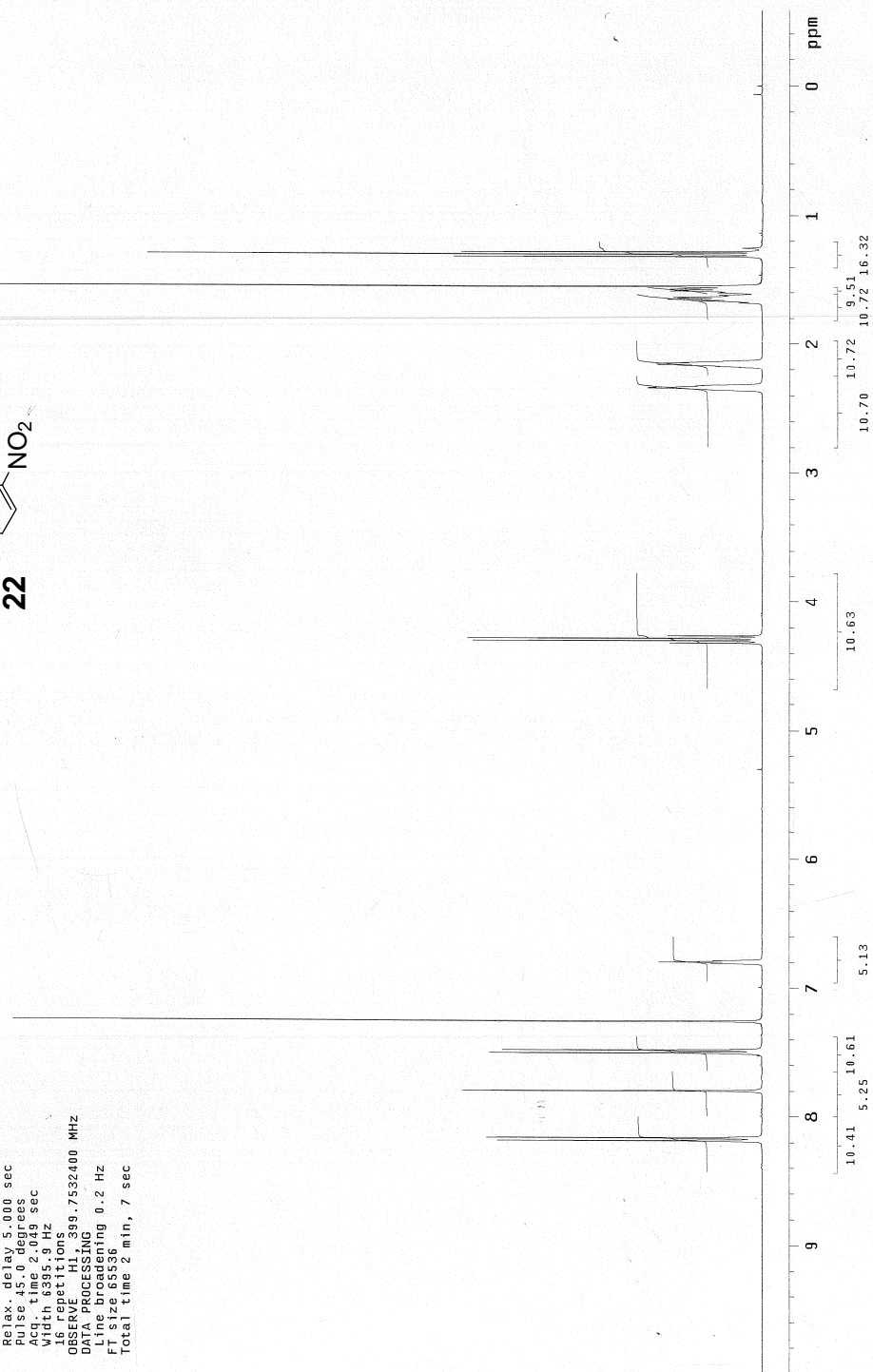
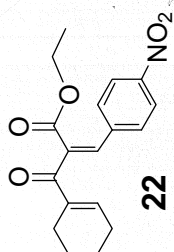
OBSERVE H1, 399.7532400 MHz

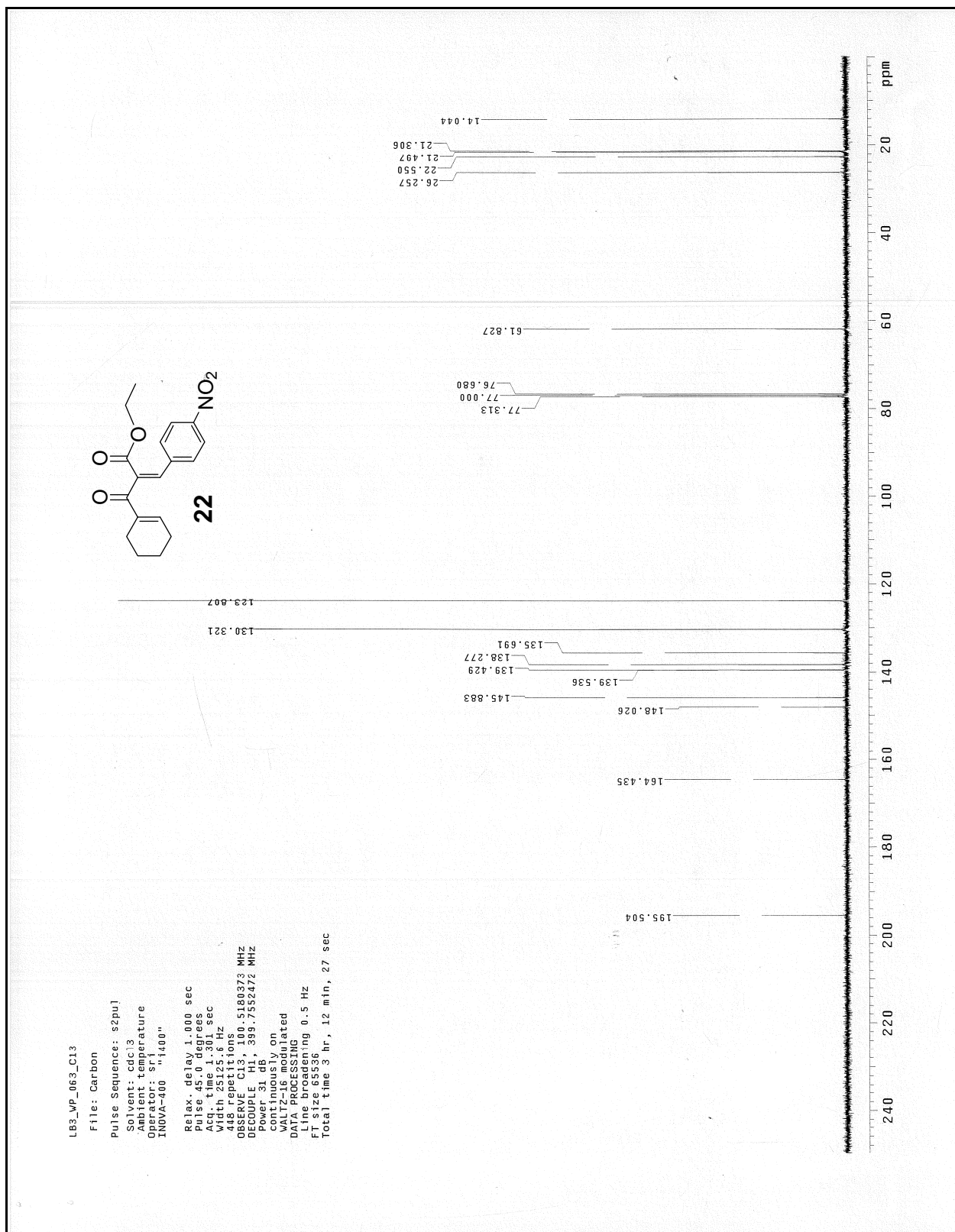
DATA PROCESSING

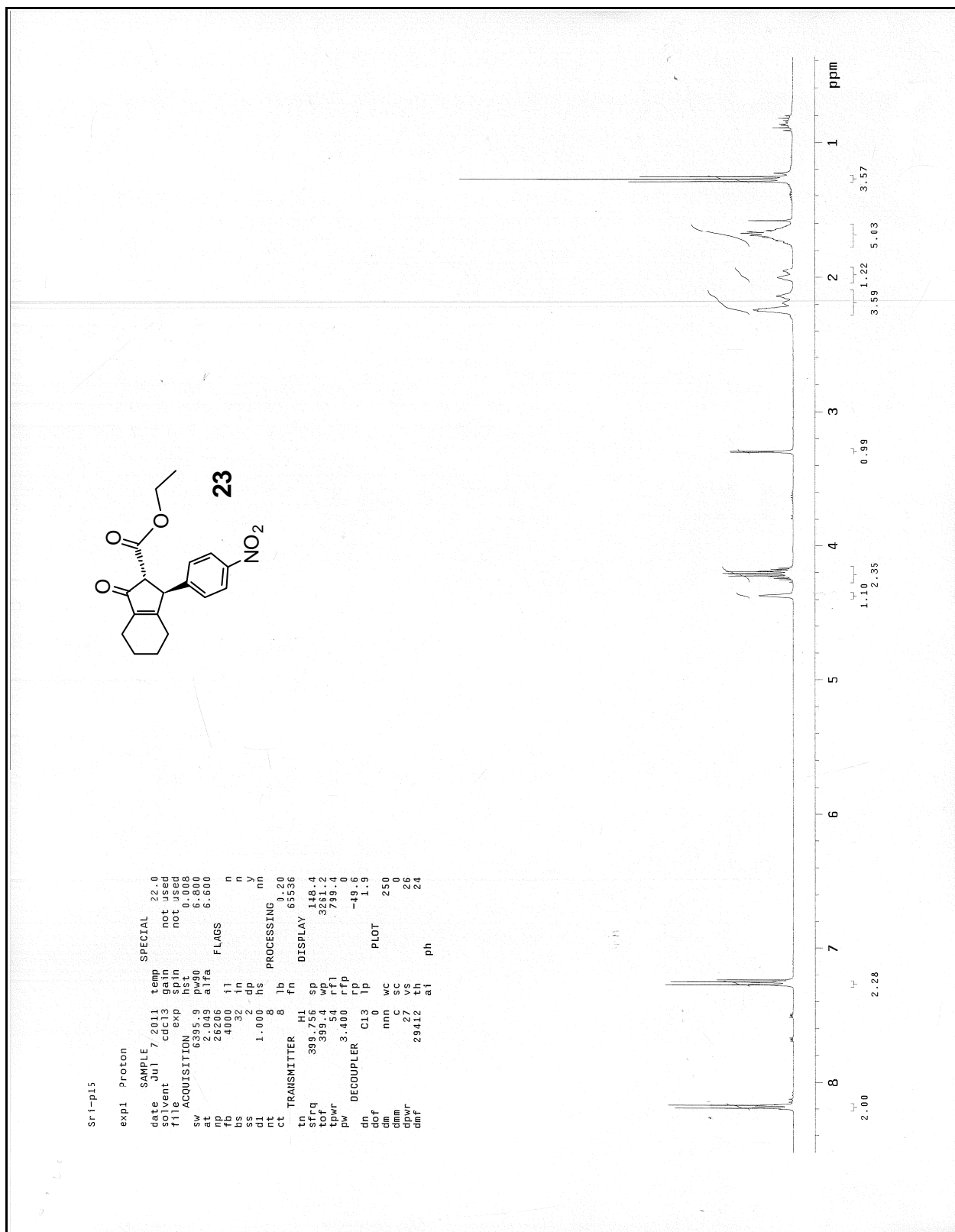
Delta processing 0.2 Hz

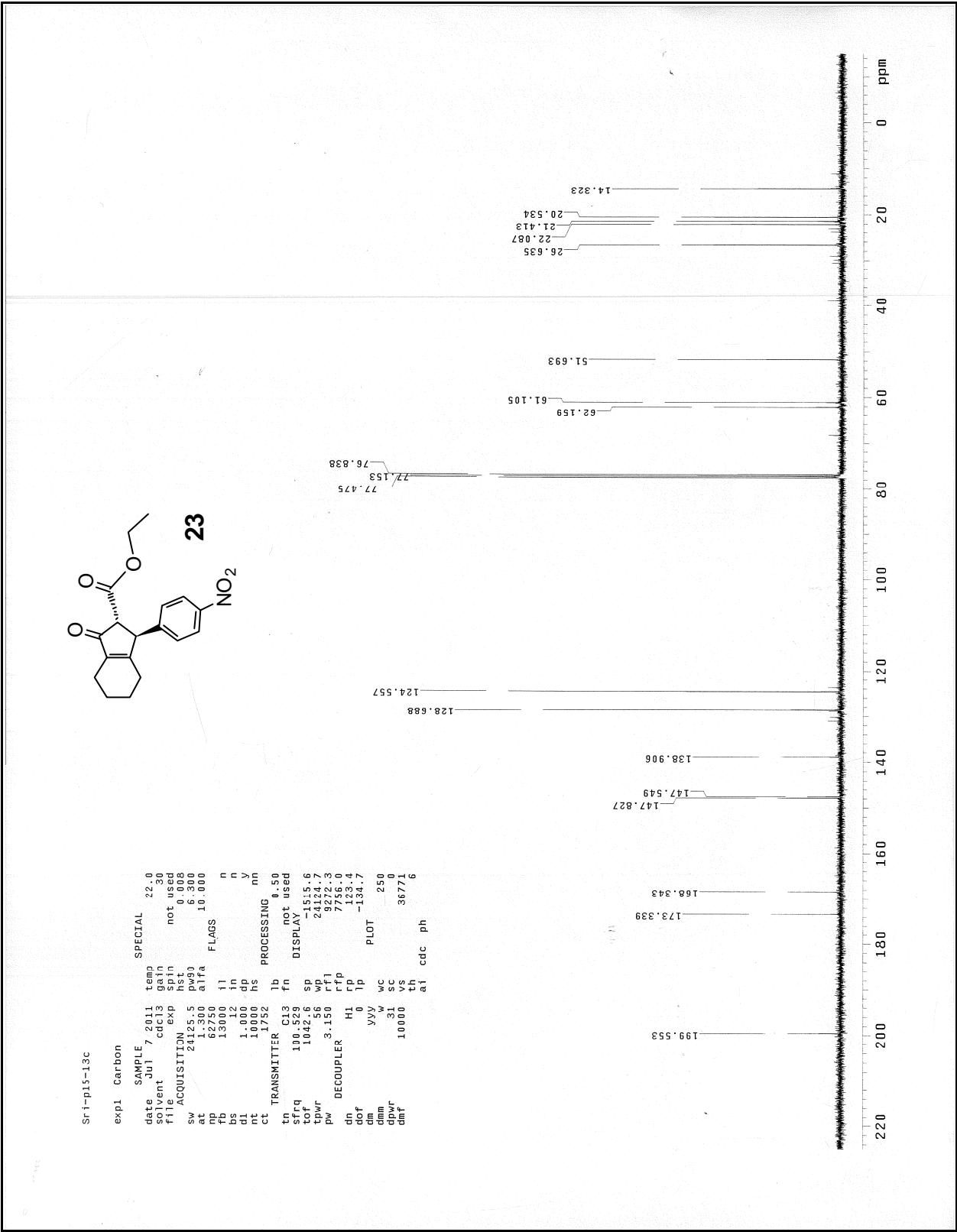
FI size 65536

Total time 2 min, 7 sec











LB3\_WP018

File: Proton

Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Solvent: dms

Ambient temperature

Operator: sr

INOVA-400 "1400"

Relax. delay 5.000 sec

Acq. time 2.039 sec

Width 6395.9 Hz

32 repetitions

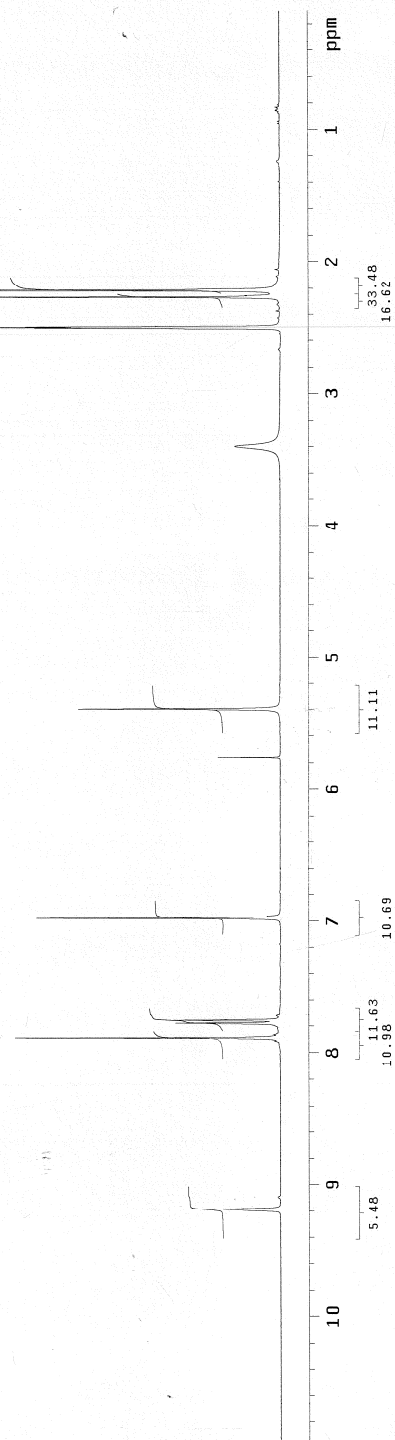
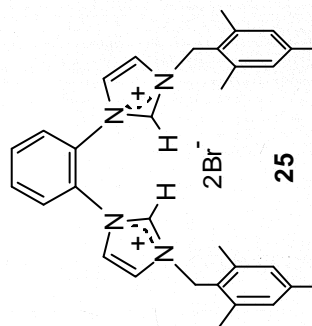
OBSERVE H1, 399.7551330 MHz

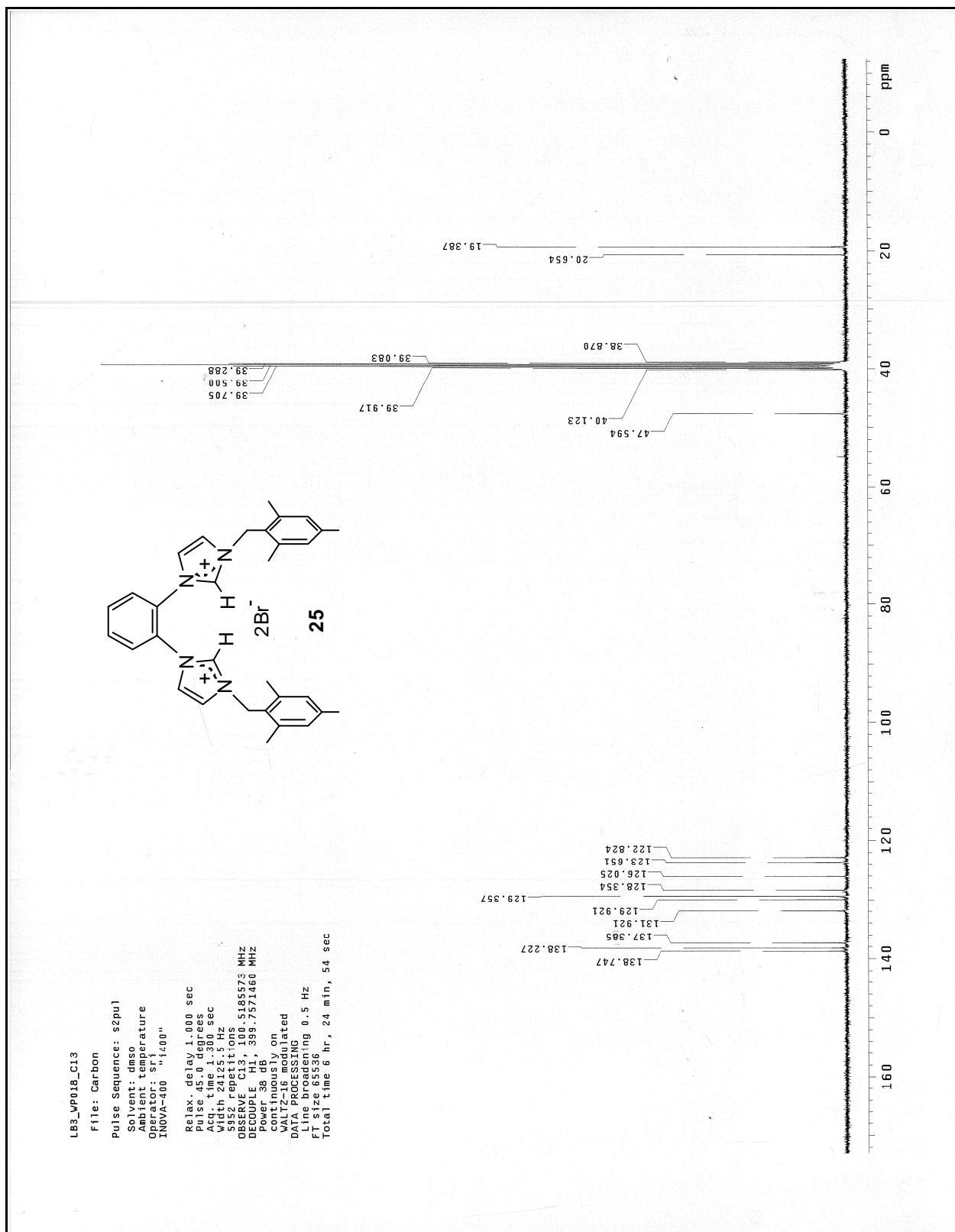
DATA PROCESSING

Line broadening 0.2 Hz

File size 163536

Total time 5 min, 59 sec





LB3\_YP053

File: Proton

Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Solvent: dmsd

Ambient temperature

Operator: sr

INOVA-300 "1400"

Relax. delay 10.000 sec

Acq. time 2.009 sec

Width 6395.9 Hz

16 repetitions

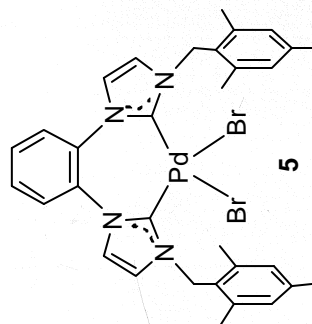
OBSERVE H1, 399.7551325 MHz

DATA PROCESSING

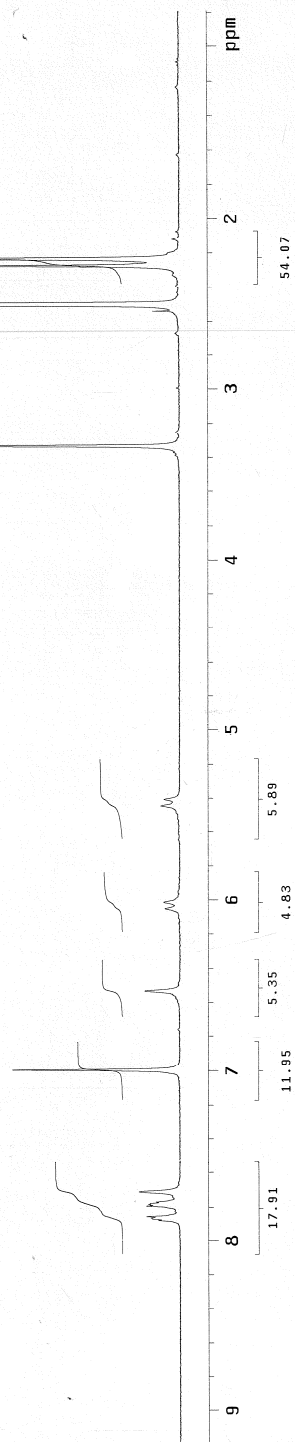
Line broadening 0.2 Hz

File size 6356

Total time 3 min, 37 sec



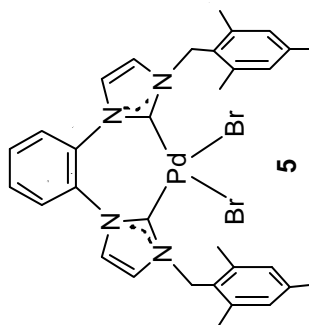
5



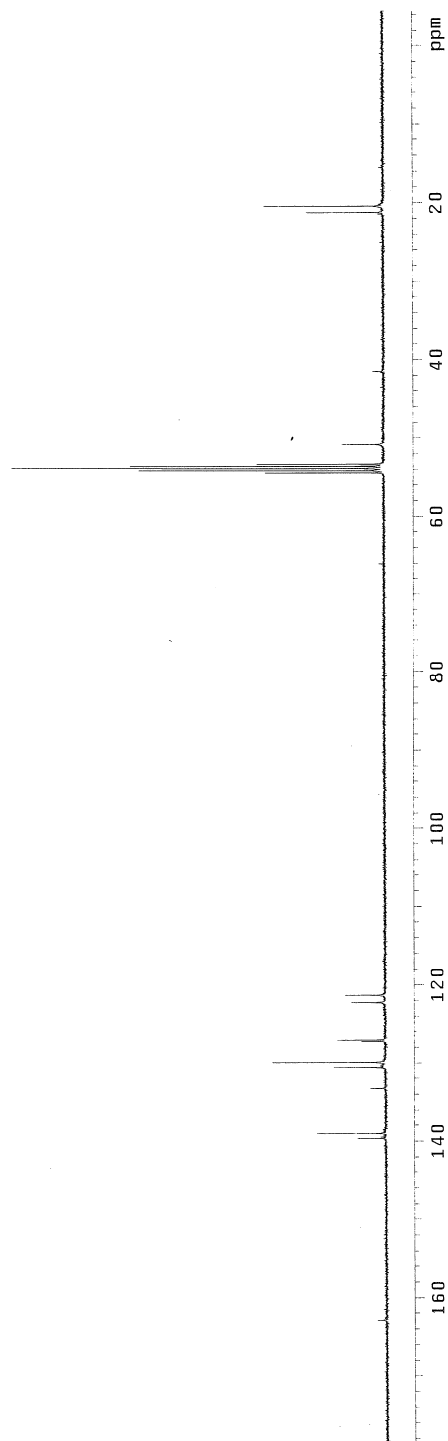
sh-sr1-complex5-1

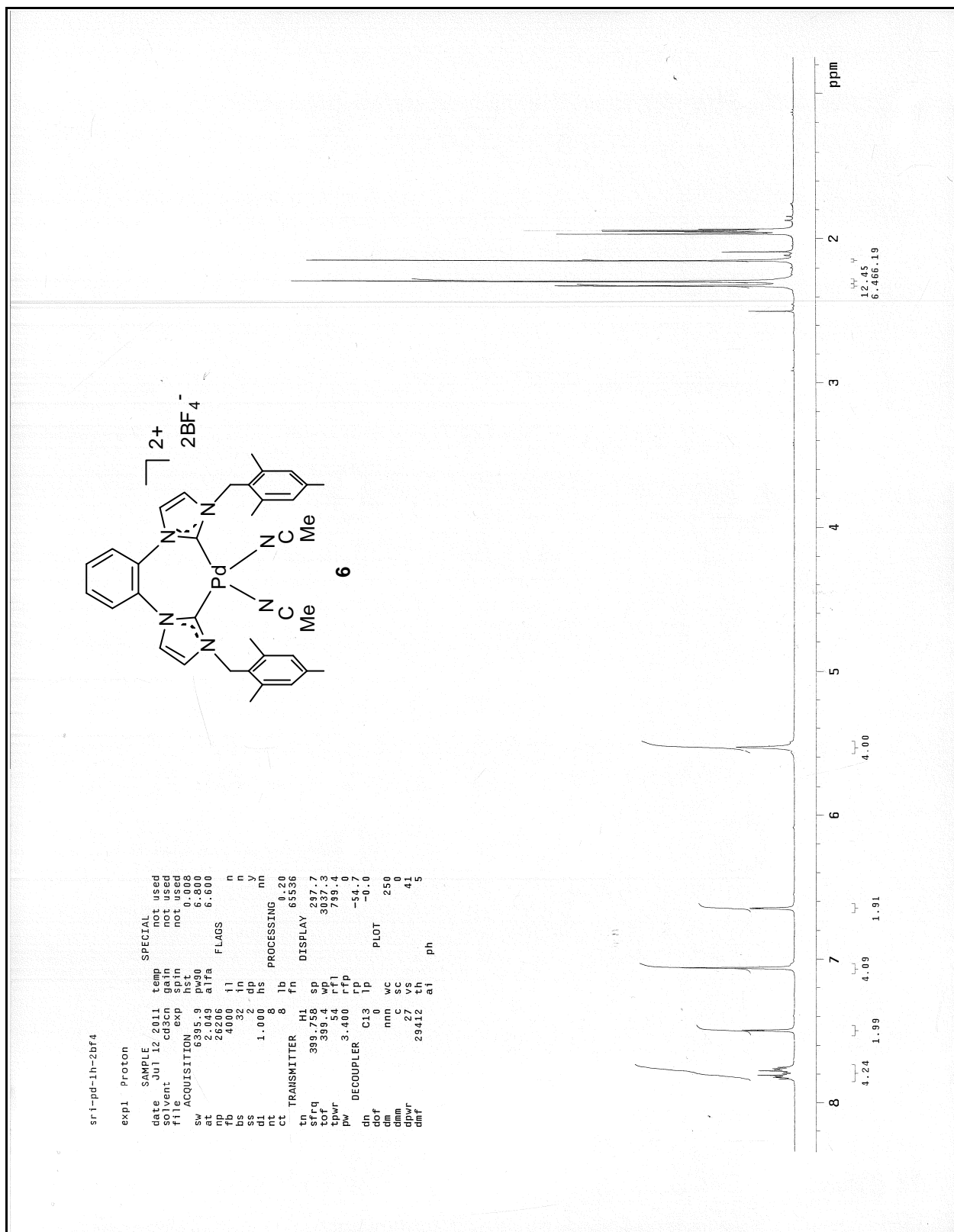
exp2 Carbon

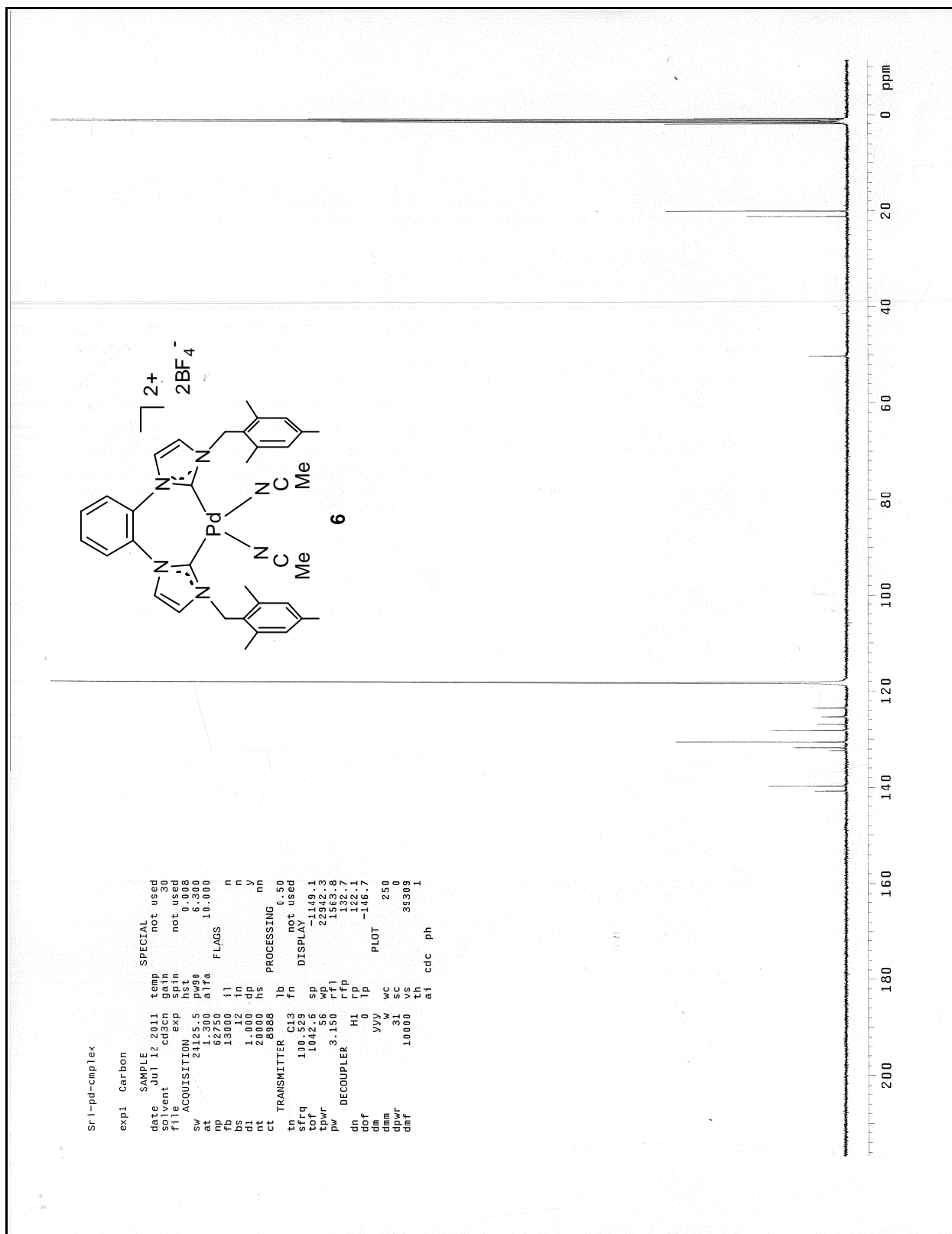
SAMPLE		SPECIAL	
date	Aug 11 2011	temp	21.5
solvent	cd2cl2	gain	30
file	exp	spin	not used
ACQUISITION		hst	0.008
sw	24125.5	pw90	14.700
at	1.300	alpha	10.000
ap	62750	fl	10.000
ps	1300	fl	n
bs	12	in	n
d1	1.000	dp	y
nt	30000	hs	nn
ct	22176	lb	0.50
TRANSMITTER		fn	not used
tn	c13	sp	16460.0
trf	100.525	wp	16460.0
tpwr	104253	rfl	6901.6
pw	7.350	rfl	5411.9
DECOUPLER		rp	187.9
dn	H1	lp	-173.7
dof	0	PLOT	
dm	yyy	wc	250
dm	36	sc	0
dpr	9900	vs	44147
dpr	th	ai	23
dpr	cdc	ph	

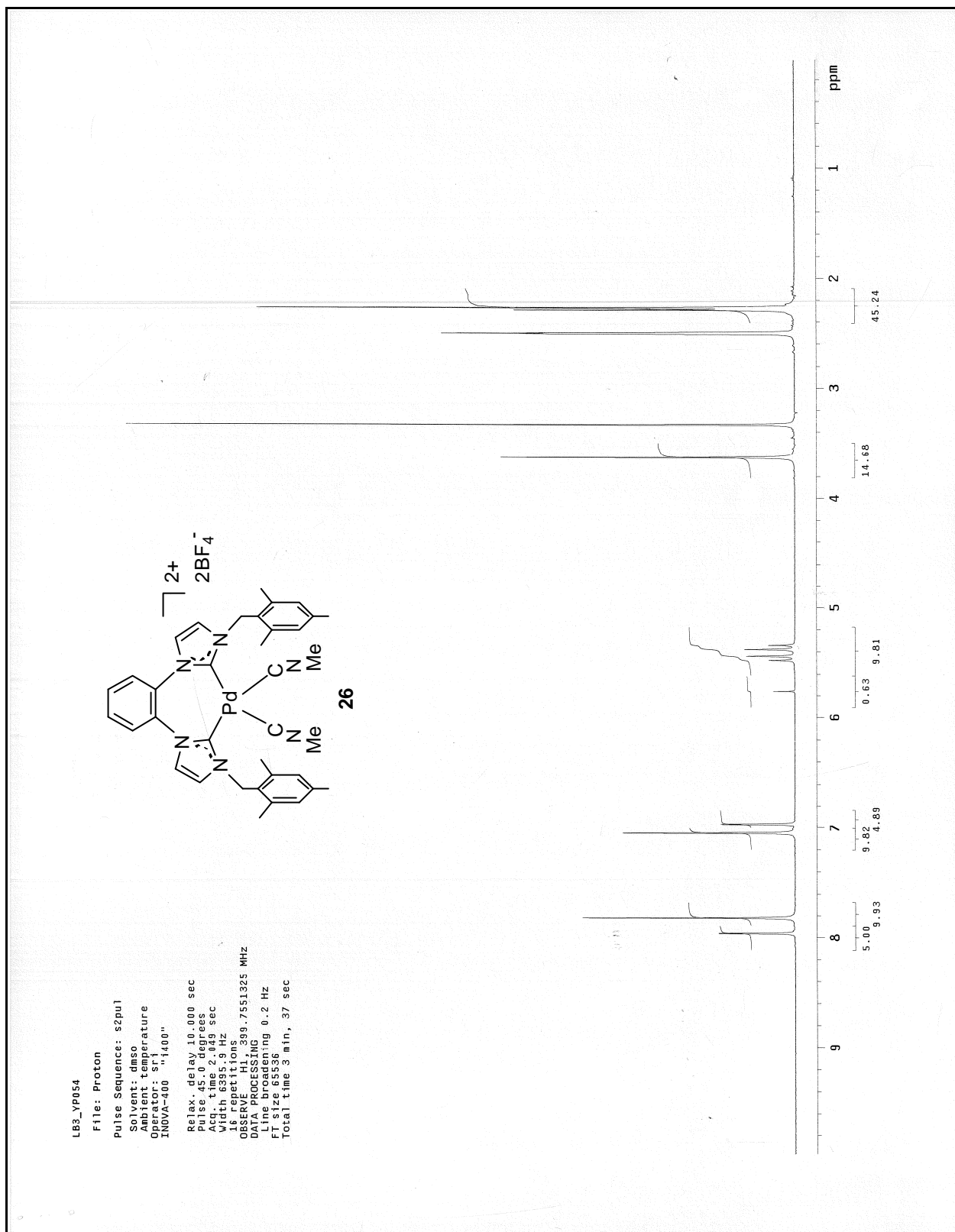


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LB3\_YP059\_C13

File: Carbon

Pulse Sequence: s2pul

Solvent: dmso

Ambient temperature

Operator: s11

INNOVA-400 "1400"

Relax. delay 2.000 sec

Acq. time 1.500 sec

Width 21125.5 Hz

7936 repetitions

OBSERVE C13, 100.518558 MHz

DECOUPLE H1, 399.7571460 MHz

Power 38.00 dB

Continuous on

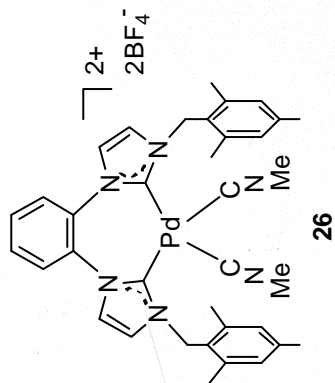
WALTZ16 modulated

DATA PROCESSING

Line broadening 0.5 Hz

FT size 55536

Total time 13 hr, 47 min, 21 sec



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