

# A General one step Synthesis of $\beta$ -nitronitriles

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## **General experimental**

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen. All glassware was flame dried and allowed to cool under a stream of nitrogen before use. Cooling to 0 °C was effected using an ice-water bath. Cooling to temperatures below 0 °C was effected using dry ice-acetone mixtures. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using Polygram® SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> 0.25 mm silica gel precoated plastic plates with fluorescent indicator. Sheets were visualised using ultra-violet light (254 nm) and/or anisaldehyde or KMnO<sub>4</sub> solutions, as appropriate. Flash column chromatography was performed using Fluorochrom silica gel 60, 35-70  $\mu$ . The liquid phase was analytical grade 40-60 petroleum ether (petrol) and ethyl acetate (EtOAc) unless otherwise noted.

## **Purification of Solvents and Reagents:**

Commercial solvents and reagents were used as supplied or purified in accordance with standard procedures, as described below.

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was pre-dried over sodium wire and distilled under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen from sodium benzophenone ketal or obtained from a solvent tower, where degassed THF was passed through two columns of activated alumina and a 7 micron filter under 4 bar pressure.

Diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O) was pre-dried over sodium wire and distilled under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen from sodium benzophenone ketal or obtained from a solvent tower, where degassed Et<sub>2</sub>O was passed through two columns of activated alumina and a 7 micron filter under 4 bar pressure.

Toluene was obtained from a solvent tower, where degassed toluene was passed through two columns of activated alumina and a 7 micron filter under 4 bar pressure. Dichloromethane was distilled from calcium hydride powder or purchased as an analytical grade and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Anhydrous MeCN was used as supplied.

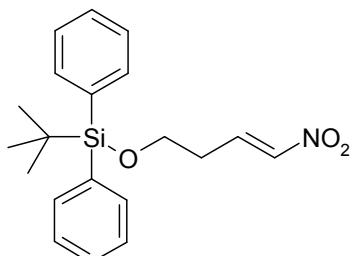
## Characterisation:

Melting points are uncorrected and were recorded on a Reichert Melting Point Apparatus.

Optical rotations were recorded at 25 °C on a JASCO DIP-370 Digital Polarimeter and are reported in deg cm<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>. Infrared spectra are recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 FTIR instrument as a thin film on sodium chloride discs or as dilute chloroform solutions. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AV 400 or a Bruker DRX 500 as dilute solutions in deuteriochloroform unless otherwise stated. All chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual solvent peaks. All chemical shifts are reported relative to chloroform ( $\delta_H = 7.27$  ppm,  $\delta_c = 77.1$  ppm). Coupling constants ( $J$ ) are reported in Hertz and are recorded as observed in the spectrum without averaging. The multiplicity of an <sup>1</sup>H signal is designated by the following abbreviations: m = multiplet, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet and quin = quintet, br = broad signal. <sup>13</sup>C multiplicities were assigned using a DEPT sequence. Where appropriate, HMQC and NOE experiments were carried out to aid assignment. Mass spectra were acquired on a VG micromass 70E, VG Autospec or Micromass LCTOF. Elemental analyses were performed on an Exeter Analytical Inc. CE440 Elemental Analyser.

**Nitroalkenes 2** were prepared according to literature procedures<sup>1</sup> and their data was in accord with that published.<sup>2</sup>

### **tert-Butyl-((E)-4-nitro-but-3-enyloxy)-diphenyl-silane**

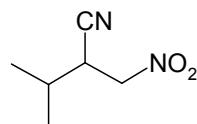


To a stirred solution of 3-(*tert*-Butyl-diphenyl-silyloxy)-propionaldehyde<sup>3</sup> (789 mg, 2.52 mmol) in nitromethane (680 µL, 12.60 mmol) at rt was added triethylamine (35 µL, 0.25 mmol) dropwise over a 5 min period. The solution was stirred under N<sub>2</sub> for 16 h. Excess solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude nitro-alcohol (670 mg, 1.79 mmol) dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL), cooled to 0 °C and MsCl (278 µL, 3.59 mmol) followed by Ethyl-diisopropyl-amine (1.10 mL, 6.28 mmol) added. The solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred under N<sub>2</sub> until TLC analysis indicated consumption of nitro-alcohol. Water and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were added, and the organic phase separated, washed with 2 M HCl, brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to an orange oil, which was purified by flash chromatography (silica, 20-40 % CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: petrol) to give the title compound as a yellow oil (341 mg, 53 %). Rf 0.37 (30 % DCM: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3106, 2932, 2859, 1651, 1353, 1095, 972 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.12 (9H, s, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>C), 2.48 (2H, dtd,  $J = 7.5, 6.0, 1.5$ , CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OSi), 3.83 (2H, t,  $J = 6.0$ ,

*CH<sub>2</sub>OSi), 7.05 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.5, 1.5, CH=CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 7.31 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.5, 7.5, CH=CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 7.41 (4H, m, ArCH), 7.46 (2H, m, ArCH), 7.66 (4H, m, ArCH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 19.2 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 26.8 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 31.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OSi), 61.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>OSi), 128.0 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 133.2 (ArC), 135.5 (ArCH), 139.8 (C=CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 140.8 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>); m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 378 (100 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub>Si calcd. 378.14959, found 378.1493.*

### **General method A for the synthesis of β-nitronitriles.**

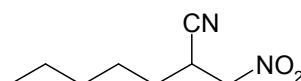
#### **3-Methyl-2-nitromethylbutyronitrile**



To a stirred solution of KCN (7.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (27.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) in MeCN (1.2 mL) was added (*E*)-3-methyl-1nitro-but-1-ene (120.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) and acetone cyanohydrin (114.0 μL), the mixture stirred at rt and monitored for consumption of nitro-alkene by TLC. The mixture was concentrated to an orange oil, which was purified by flash chromatography (silica, eluting with 50 % CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: petrol) to afford the title compound (108.0 mg, 73 %) as a colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.13 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8), 1.16 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8), 2.01 (1H, appt. oct, *J* = 4), 3.35 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 6.0), 4.63 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 8.4). All data was in accord with the literature.<sup>4</sup>

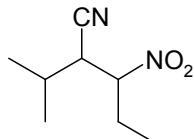
### **General method B for the synthesis of β-nitronitriles.**

#### **2-Nitromethyl-heptanenitrile**



To a stirred solution of KCN (7.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), 18-crown-6 (27.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and acetone cyanohydrin (109.8 μL, 1.2 mmol) in MeCN (1 mL) was added a solution of (*E*)-1-Nitro-hept-1-ene (143.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) via syringe pump over a 5 h period. After complete addition a further portion of acetone cyanohydrin (109.8 μL, 1.2 mmol) was added and the solution stirred at rt and monitored for consumption of nitro-alkene by TLC. The mixture was concentrated to an orange oil and purified by flash chromatography (silica, eluting with 10 % acetone: petrol) to afford the title compound (116 mg, 68 %) as a colourless oil. Rf 0.17 (10 % acetone: petrol), IR ν<sub>max</sub> (KBr disk) 2958, 2931, 2863, 2248, 1561, 1378 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 0.92 (3H, m), 1.35 (4H, m), 1.47-1.75 (4H, m), 3.40 (1H, m), 4.51 (1H, ddd, *J* = 14.0, 7.6, 0.8), 4.64 (1H, ddd, *J* = 14.0, 7.6, 0.8). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.9 (CHCN), 30.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 74.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 118.0 (CN); m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 193 (100%, M+Na<sup>+</sup>). HRMS C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 193.0947, found 193.0941. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 56.45 %, H 8.29 %, N 16.46 %. Found C 56.17 %, H 8.25 %, N 16.16 %.

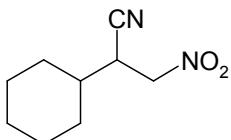
## **2-Isopropyl-3-nitro-pentanenitrile**



Synthesised using general procedure A. Isolated as a 1:1 mixture of diastereoisomers which were separable by flash chromatography (silica, 40 % CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: petrol) as a white solid (123 mg, 69 %), m.p. 41-42 °C. Rf 0.26 (40 % CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2973, 2247, 1560, 1463, 1376 cm<sup>-1</sup>. First eluted diastereoisomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.04 (3H, t, *J* = 7.6), 1.13 (6H, t, *J* = 6.8), 1.81 (1H m), 2.02-2.25 (2H, m), 3.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.4, 3.6), 4.60 (1H, td, *J* = 10.0, 3.2). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  9.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.8 (CH), 42.4 (CHCN), 87.2 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 116.5 (CN). m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 193 (100 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>). HRMS C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 193.0938, found 193.09475.

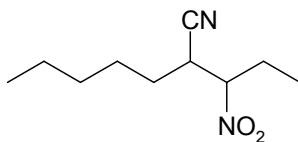
Second eluted diastereomer <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.04 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2), 1.12-1.17 (6H, m), 1.91-2.03 (2H, m), 2.11-2.23 (1H m), 2.85 (1H, appt t, *J* = 7.2), 4.58-4.65 (1H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  9.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.8 (CH), 42.5 (CHCN), 87.2 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 116.5 (CN).

## **2-Cyclohexyl-3-nitro-propionitrile**



Synthesised using general procedure A. Isolated as a colourless oil (238 mg, 75 %). Rf 0.20 (50 % DCM: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (KBr disk) 2930, 2856, 2245, 1558, 1450, 1430, 1377 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.19-1.29 (5H, m), 1.58-1.86 (6H, m), 3.34 (1H, m), 4.55 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.6, 6.0, 1.6) 4.64 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.6, 6.0, 1.6). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  25.2 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.17 (CHCN), 37.5 (CH), 73.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 117.2 (CN). m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 205 (39 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>). HRMS C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 205.0953, found 205.0930. Anal. calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> C 59.32 %, H 7.74 %, N 15.37 %. Found C 59.45 %, H 7.84 %, N 15.34 %.

## **2-(1-Nitro-propyl)-heptanenitrile**

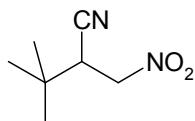


Synthesised using general procedure B, isolated as a colourless oil as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers, separable by flash chromatography (20 % ether: petrol). Rf 0.23 (20 % ether: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2931, 2864, 2248, 1561, 1459, 1374, 1354 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  0.9 (3H, m), 1.04 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2), 1.31-1.40 (4H, m), 1.42-1.66 (4H, m), 2.08-2.18 (2H, m), 3.22 (1H, td, *J* = 9.2, 4.0), 4.48 (1H, td, *J* = 9.6, 4.0); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  9.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>),

30.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.7 (CHCN), 89.1 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 117.6 (CN); m/z 221 (18 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>). HRMS C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 221.12605, found 221.1258.

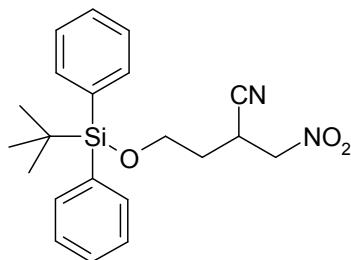
Second diastereomer NMR δ 0.88-0.96 (3H, m), 1.06 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2), 1.37-1.47 (4H, m), 1.41-1.54 (1H, m), 1.54-1.69 (3H, m), 1.98 (1H, dqd, *J* = 14.4, 7.2, 4.8), 2.34 (1H, ddq, *J* = 14.8, 9.6, 7.4), 3.04 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.6, 5.6), 4.51 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 5.4, 5.2); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 10.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.1 (CHCN), 88.4 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 117.4 (CN).

### 3,3-Dimethyl-2-nitromethyl-butyronitrile



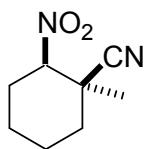
Synthesised using general procedure A, isolated as a white solid mp 45-47 °C (172 mg, 64 %). Rf 0.43 (40 % DCM: Petrol); IR ν<sub>max</sub> (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2971, 2248, 1565, 13.74, 902 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 1.15 (9H, s), 3.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 6.8), 4.57 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 6.8); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 27.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 33.4 (C), 41.5 (CHCN), 73.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 117.7 (CN); m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 179 (100 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 179.0791. Found 179.0791.

### 4-(*tert*-Butyl-diphenyl-silyloxy)-2-nitromethyl-butyronitrile



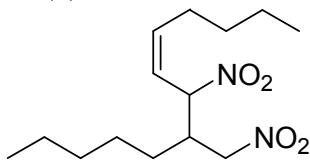
Synthesised by general procedure B, isolated as a yellow oil (143 mg, 76 %); Rf 0.08 (50 % DCM: petrol); IR ν<sub>max</sub> (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2932, 2860, 2306, 1565, 1375, 1266, 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR 1.08 (9H, s), 1.93 (2H, m), 3.77 (1H, m), 3.87 (2H, m), 4.60 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.8, 4.4), 4.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.0), 7.44 (6H, m), 7.66 (4H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 19.2 (C), 26.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 60.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>OSi), 74.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 117.9 (CN), 127.9 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 132.6 (ArC), 135.5 (ArCH); m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 405 (100 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>), 383 (3 %, M+H<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>Si calcd. 405.1605, found 405.1617, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Si calcd. 383.1785, found 383.1790; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Si: C 65.94 %, H 6.85 %, N 7.32 %. Found C 65.67 %, H 6.81 %, N 7.14 %.

### **1-Methyl-2-nitro-cyclohexanecarbonitrile (6)**



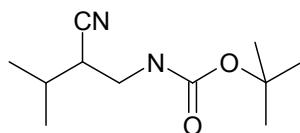
Synthesised using general procedure A, isolated as a white crystalline solid after crystallisation from ether/pentane mp 60.5 – 62.4 °C (31 mg, 84 %). Rf 0.48 (50% DCM: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2949, 2243, 1559, 1452, 1370 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 1.35-1.50 (2H, m), 1.49 (3H, s), 1.8 (2H, m), 2.02 (1H, m), 2.18 (1H, m), 2.24 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.0, 3.2), 2.28-2.33 (1H, m), 4.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.6, 3.2); <sup>13</sup>C δ 20.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.4 (C), 90.5 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 119.7 (CN); m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 191 (100 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 191.1868, found 191.0798; Anal Calcd. For C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> C 57.13 %, H 7.19 %, N 16.66 %. Found C 57.06 %, H 7.17 %, N 16.48 %.

### **(E)-7-Nitro-8-nitromethyl-tridec-5-ene (4)**



Isolated as a by product during the synthesis of 2-Nitromethyl-heptanenitrile under the conditions described in Method A as a colourless oil (71 mg, 14 %): Rf 0.28 (40 % DCM: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3696, 2931, 2862, 1601, 1557, 1458, 1380, 908 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 0.89 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5), 1.20-1.50 (12H, m), 2.20 (2H, m), 2.83 (1H, m), 4.43 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.7, 5.2), 4.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.7, 5.6), 5.49 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.9, 8.8), 5.57 (1H, app tt, *J* = 10.4, 1.0), 5.96 (1H, dt, *J* = 10.4, 7.8); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 13.9 (2×CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.9 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 74.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), 85.5 (CHNO<sub>2</sub>), 120.8 (CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>), 141.6 (CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>); m/z (EI<sup>+</sup>) 309 (100%, M+Na<sup>+</sup>), 304 (3.4%, M+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> calcd. 309.1785. Found 309.1774. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> calcd. 304.2231. Found 304.2236.

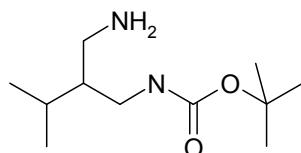
### **(2-Cyano-3-methyl-butyl)-carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester (9)**



To a stirred solution of 3-Methyl-2-nitromethylbutyronitrile **8** (0.30 g, 2.1 mmol) in EtOH (40 mL) was added Zinc powder (2.07 g, 31.7 mmol) and 6 M HCl<sub>(aq)</sub> (10 mL, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h. Excess zinc was removed by filtration, the EtOH removed *in vacuo* and NaOH (15 %) added until pH 10. The aqueous layer was extracted into CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the combined organic layers washed with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and evaporated to dryness. The crude amino-nitrile (264 mg, 2.36 mmol)

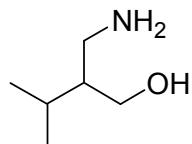
dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (12 mL), Boc anhydride (566 mg, 2.59 mmol) added and the solution stirred at r.t. for 12 h. Excess solvent was removed *in vaccuo* and the resultant product purified by flash chromatography (silica, 20 % Et<sub>2</sub>O: petrol) to yield the title compound (352 mg, 79 %) as a white solid (mp 54.3-55.3 °C). Rf 0.37 (30 % CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: petrol); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3456, 2970, 2241, 1713, 1368 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 1.07 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8), 1.09 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8), 1.43 (9H, s), 1.90 (1H, appt. oct, *J* = 6.8), 2.78 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.6, 5.2, 5.2), 3.18 (1H, ddd, *J* = 14.0, 9.6, 5.2), 3.47 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.6, 5.2, 5.2), 5.05 (1H, brs); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 18.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.1 (CH), 28.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 40.3 (CHCN), 41.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 80.1 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 120.1 (CN), 155.7 (C=O); m/z (ESI) 235 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 235.1417. Found 235.1423. Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> C 62.24 %, H 9.50 %, N 13.20 %. Found C 62.27 %, H 9.62 %, N 13.16 %.

### (2-Aminomethyl-3-methyl-butyl)-carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester (10)



To a stirred solution of **9** (75.0 mg, 0.35 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (50 mg, 1.41 mmol) and heated at reflux for 4 h. The reaction was allowed to cool to 0 °C, and water (0.5 mL), 20 % NaOH<sub>(aq)</sub> (0.5 mL) and water (1.5 mL) were added dropwise and sequentially. The granular precipitate was filtered through cotton wool, water and Et<sub>2</sub>O added to the filtrate, the layers separated and the aqueous layer extracted twice with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated *in vaccuo* to yield the title compound as a yellow oil (68 mg, 89 %). Rf 0.12 (2 % MeOH: 1 % Net<sub>3</sub>: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3455, 3387, 3310, 2875, 1713, 1391, 1366 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 0.89 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0), 0.91 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0), 1.28 (1H, m), 1.54 (2H, brs), 1.69 (1H, appt. oct, *J* = 6.8), 2.63 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 7.5), 2.82 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 4.0), 3.09 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.0, 7.5, 5.5), 3.29 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.0, 5.5, 5.5), 5.05 (1H, brs); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 19.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.8 (CH), 28.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 41.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.1 (CH), 78.9 (C), 156.3 (CO). m/z 239 (16.6 %, M+Na<sup>+</sup>); HRMS C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> calcd. 239.1730. Found 239.1724.

### 2-Aminomethyl-3-methyl-butan-1-ol (12)



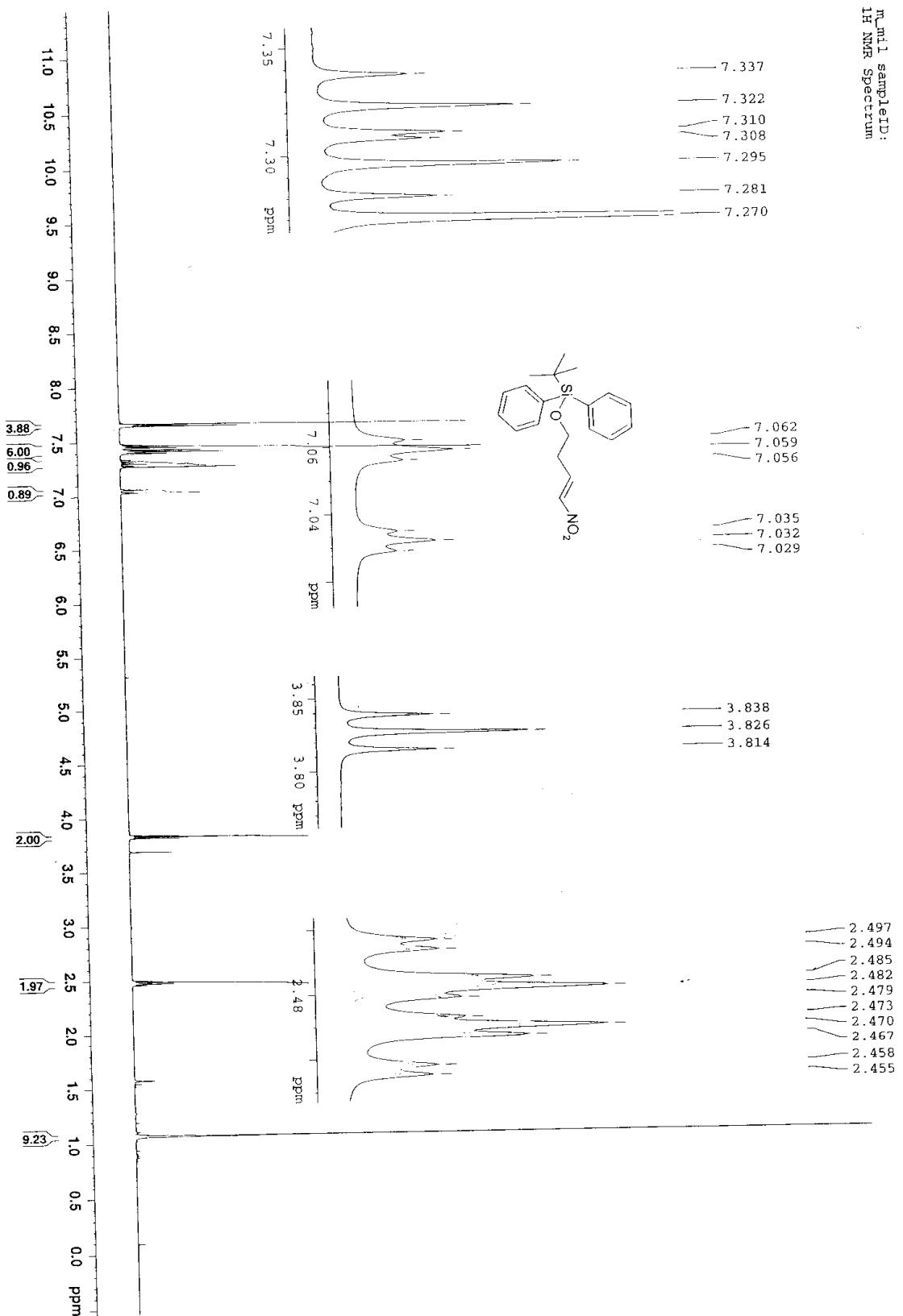
To a stirred solution of 3-Methyl-2-nitromethylbutyronitrile (**8**) (5.41g, 38.10 mmol) in THF (165 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of TiCl<sub>3</sub> (20 % by weight in HCl<sub>(aq)</sub>, 84.2 mL, 152.2 mmol). After 1 h the reaction was allowed to warm to rt and stirred until the purple colour disappeared (3-4 days). The reaction was extracted with ether (3 × 40 mL), and the combined extracts washed with brine,

dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and solvent removed *in vaccuo* to afford the crude and unstable  $\alpha$ -cyano aldehyde **11** as a yellow oil (3.43 g).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  1.16 (3H, d,  $J=3.5$ ), 1.24 (3H, d,  $J=3.5$ ), 2.52 (1H, m), 3.41 (1H, dd,  $J=5.0, 0.8$ ), 9.58 (1H, d,  $J=0.8$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  19.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 21.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 27.8 (CH), 51.9 (CH), 114.8 (CN), 191.9 (CO).

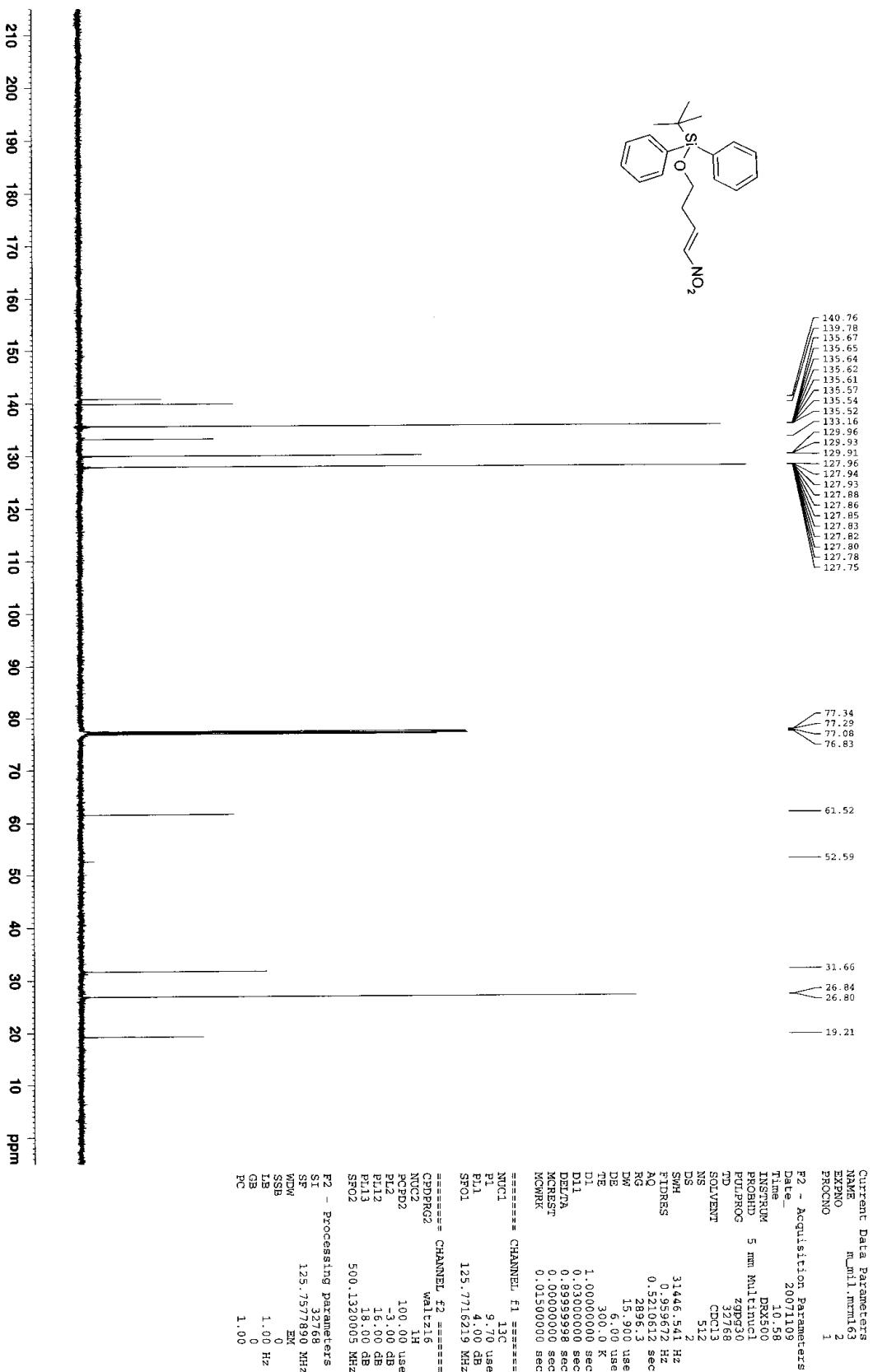
The yellow oil (3.43 g, 38.1 mmol) was immediately dissolved in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (200 mL), cooled to 0 °C and  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  (8.68 g, 228.6 mmol) added portion-wise over 10 min. The mixture was heated at reflux for 4 h. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and water (8.6 mL), 20 %  $\text{NaOH}_{(\text{aq})}$  (8.6 mL) and water (25.8 mL) were added dropwise and sequentially. After a granular precipitate had formed the solution was filtered through cotton wool, water and  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  added to the filtrate, the layers separated and the aqueous layer extracted twice with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and concentrated *in vaccuo*. The resulting oil was purified by ion exchange chromatography (SCX Strata<sup>TM</sup>, 2M  $\text{NH}_3$  in MeOH) to yield the title compound as a yellow oil (2.71 g, 77 %), which was further purified by bulb-to-bulb distillation to give a colourless oil (2.25 g, 64%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  0.86 (3H, d,  $J = 1.4$ ), 0.88 (3H, d,  $J = 1.4$ ), 1.39 (1H, m), 1.63 (1H, appt oct,  $J = 6.5$ ), 2.79 (1H, dd,  $J = 12.2, 9.2$ ), 2.84 (2H, brs), 3.04 (1H, ddd,  $J = 12.1, 3.3, 1.6$ ), 3.70 (1H, dd,  $J = 10.6, 8.3$ ), 3.78 (1H, ddd,  $J = 10.6, 3.3, 1.5$ ). All other data was in accord with the literature.<sup>5</sup>

- 
1. a) Fieser, L. F.; Gates, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1946**, *68*, 2249. b) Melton, J.; McMurry, J. E. *J. Org. Chem.* **1975**, *40*, 2138.
  2. a) Kumaran, G.; Kulkarni, G.H. *Synthesis*, **1995**, 1545. b) Enders, D.; Wiedemann, J. *Synthesis*, **1996**, 1443.
  3. Barry C.S.; Bushby, N.; Harding, J.R.; Willis, C.L., *Org. Lett.*, **2005**, *7*, 2683
  4. Enders, D.; Syrig, R.; Raabe, G.; Fernández, R.; Gasch, C.; Lassaletta, J. *Synthesis*, **1996**, 48
  5. Angle, S.R.; Belanger, D.S. *J. Org. Chem.*, **2004**, *69*, 4361

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1H NMR Spectrum



userID: m\_mil sampleID: mrm163  
**13C[CPD] Spectrum**



UserID m\_mil SampleID mmn26 SupervisorID ander Lab phone No. 1 Slot Number 42

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PROCNO 1

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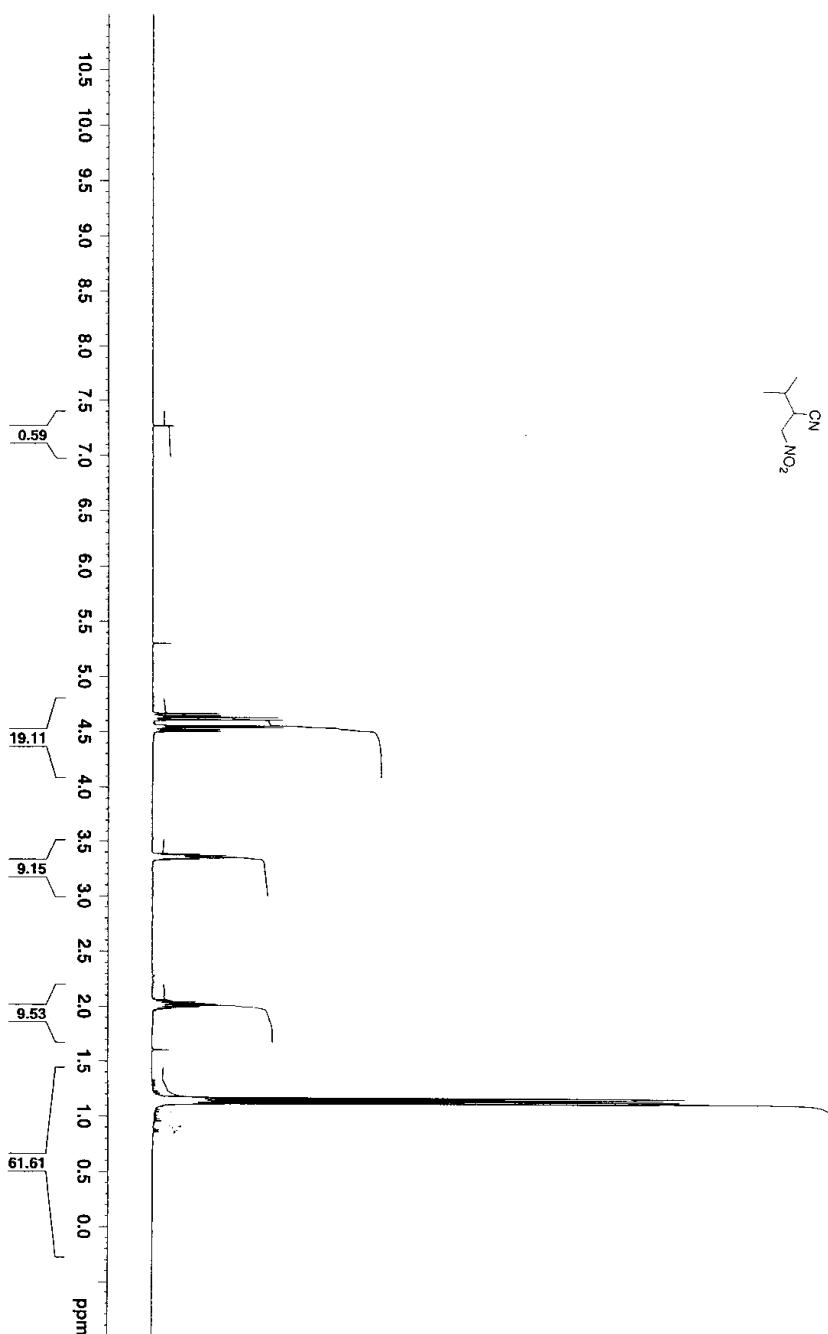
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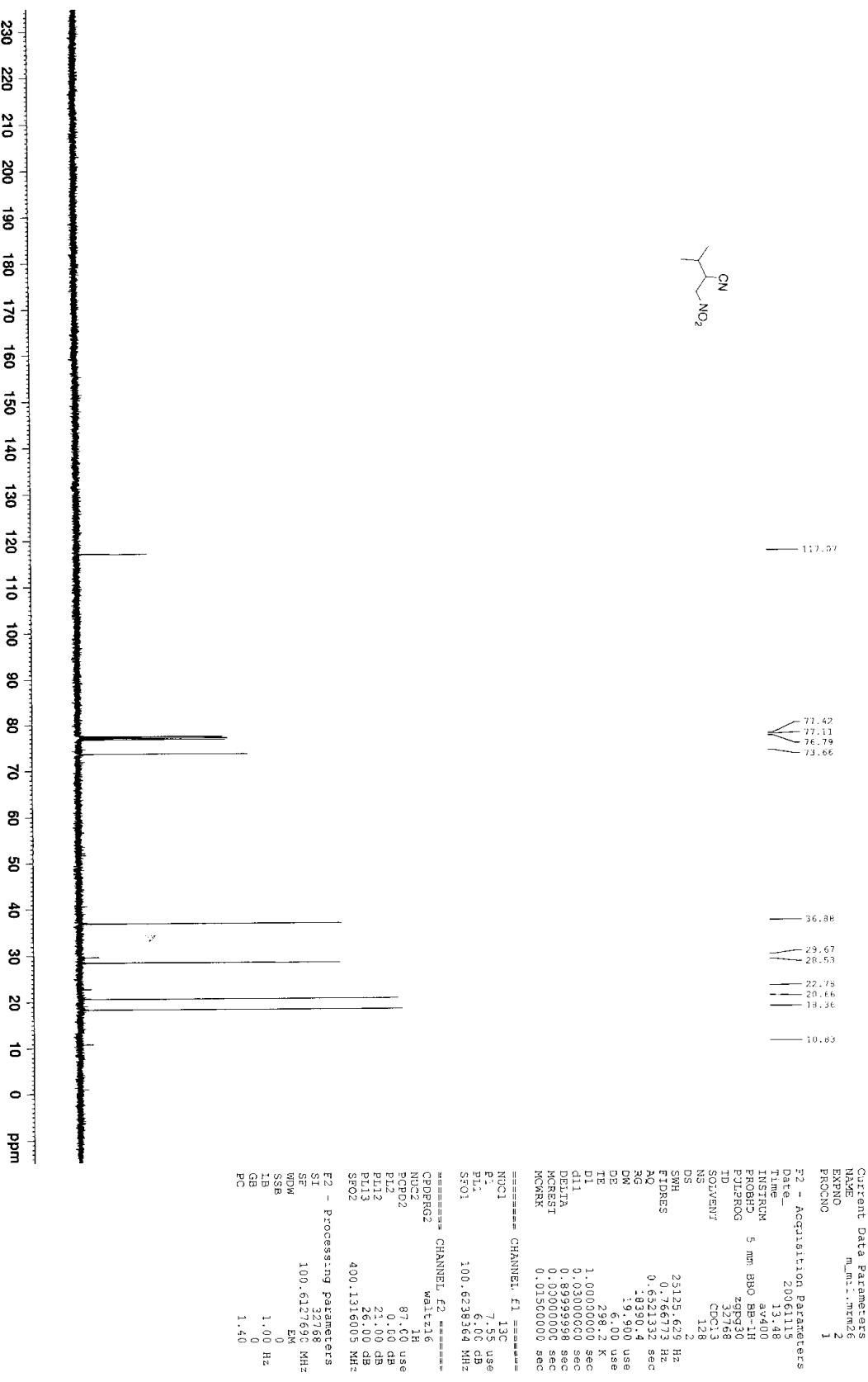
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PROCNO 1

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DW 19.900 use  
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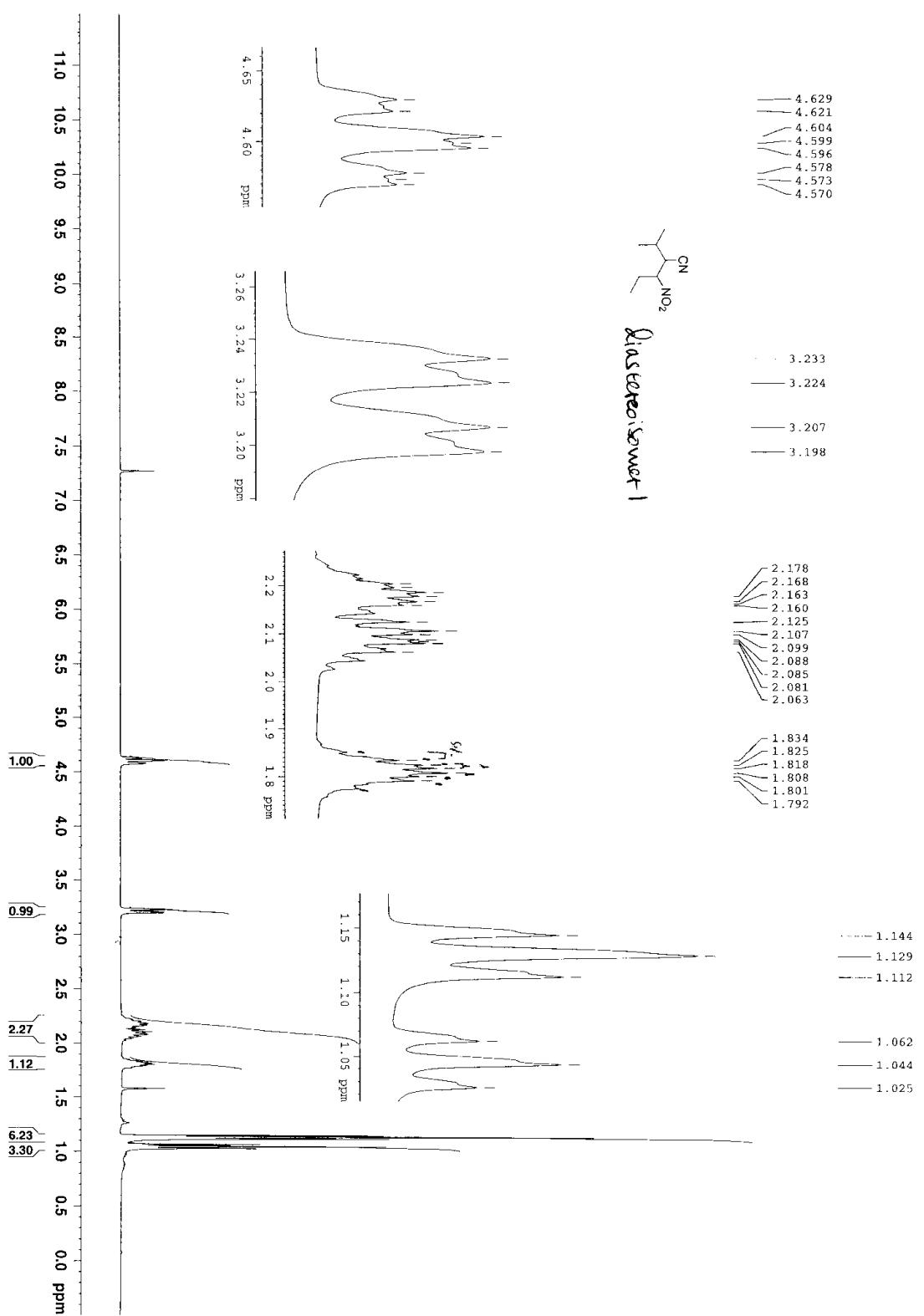
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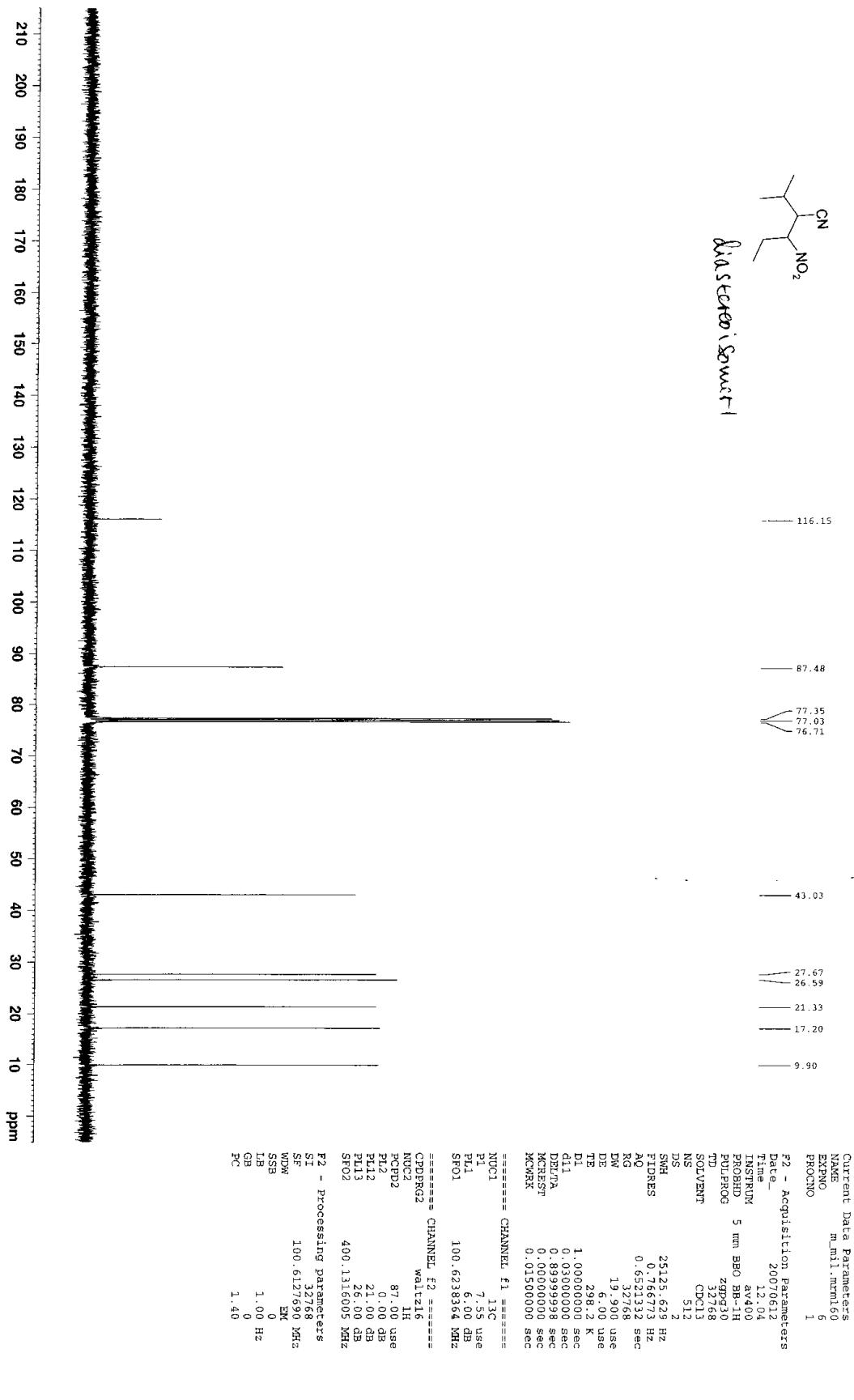
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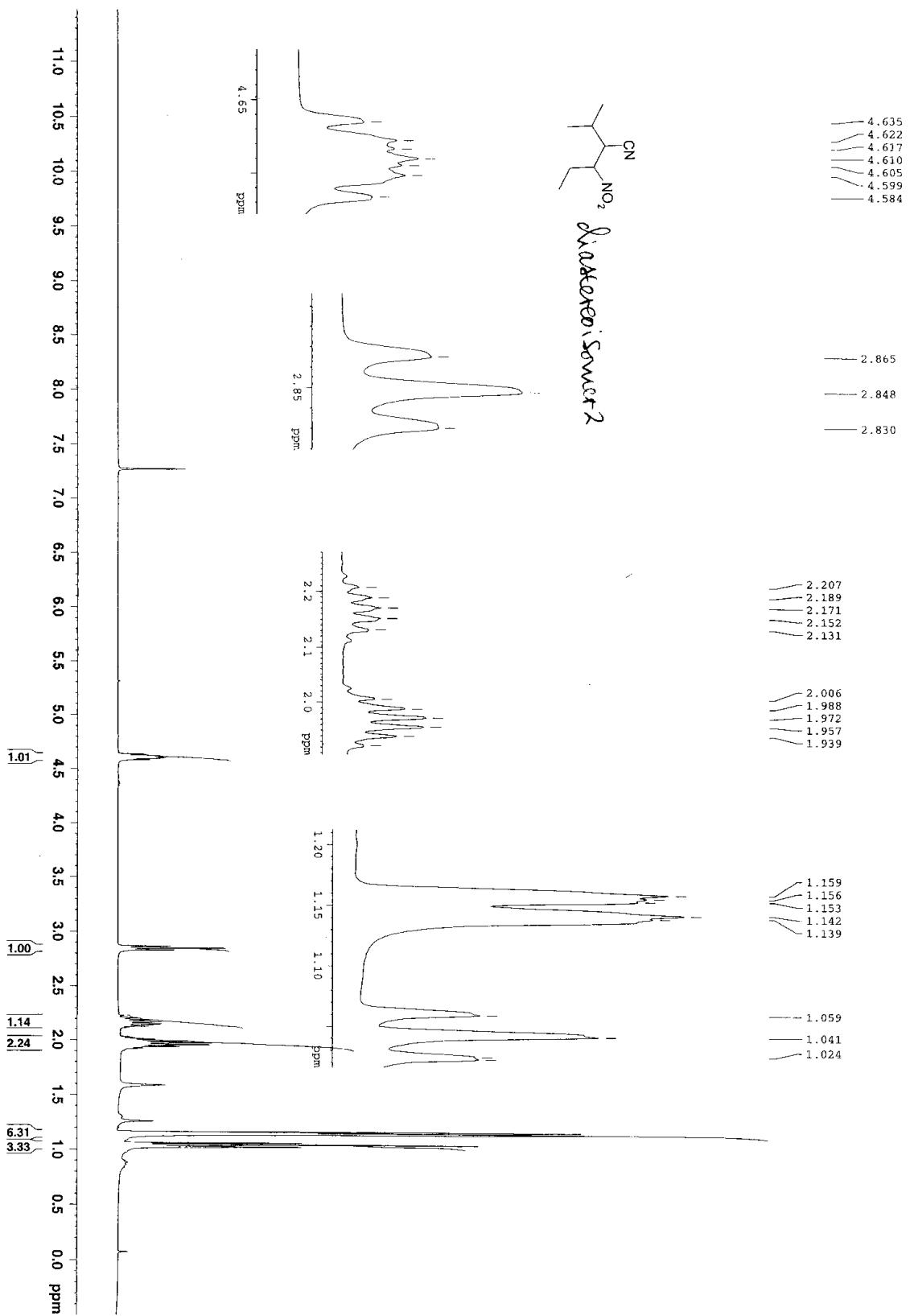
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Lab Phone No. 1 Slot Number 11

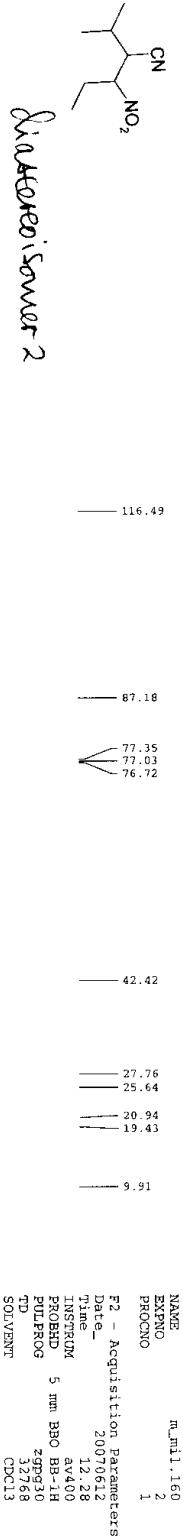


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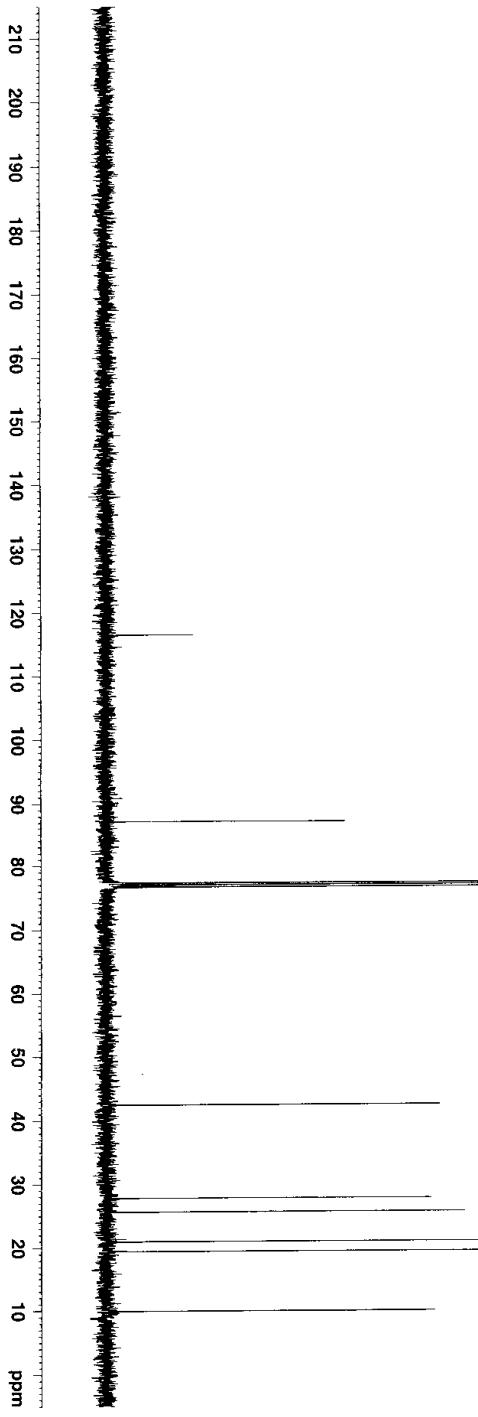




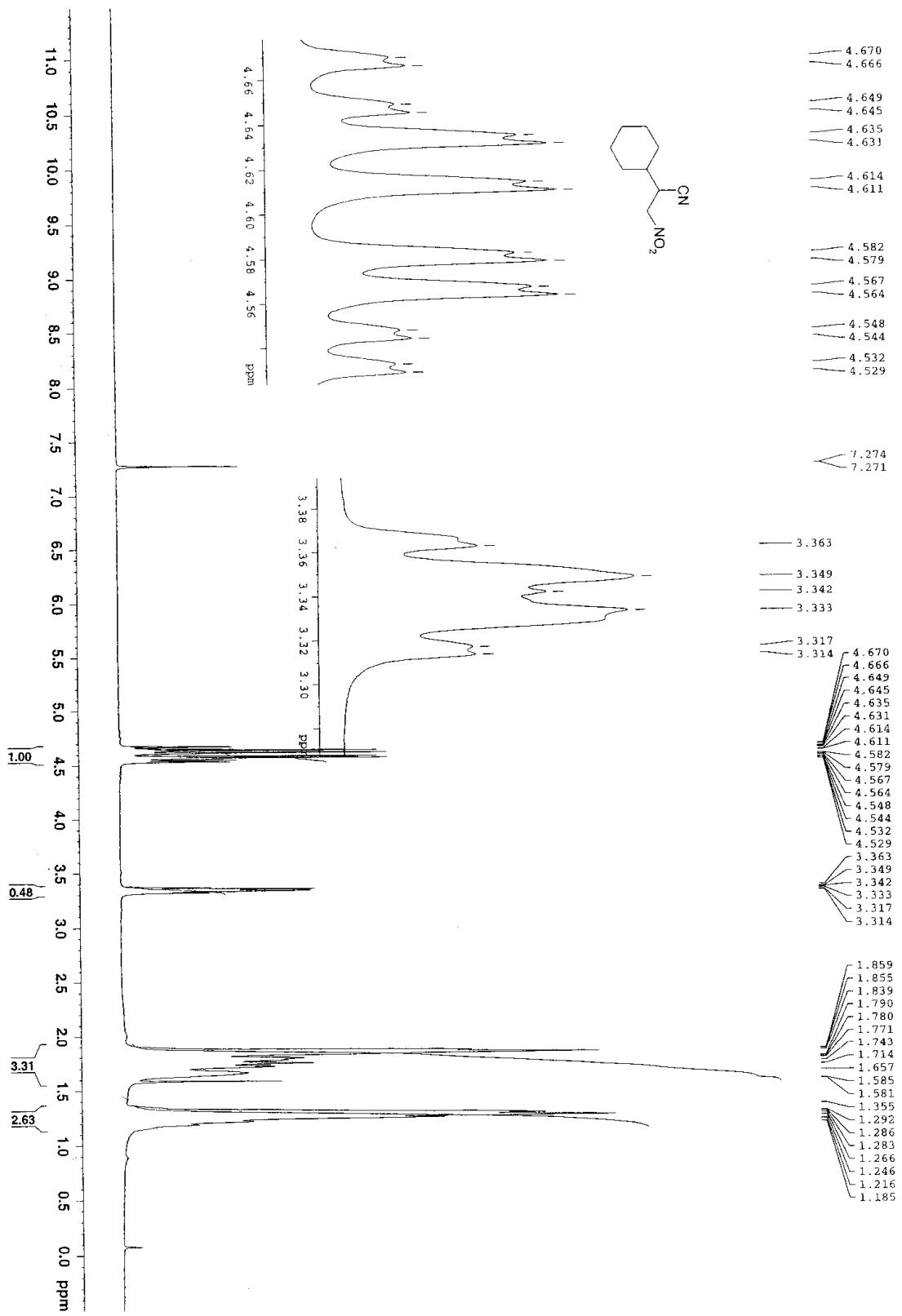
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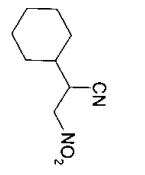
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MCWRK 0.0150000 sec  
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UserID m\_mil SampleID mrm168 SupervisorID ander Lab Phone No. 12 Slot Number 38



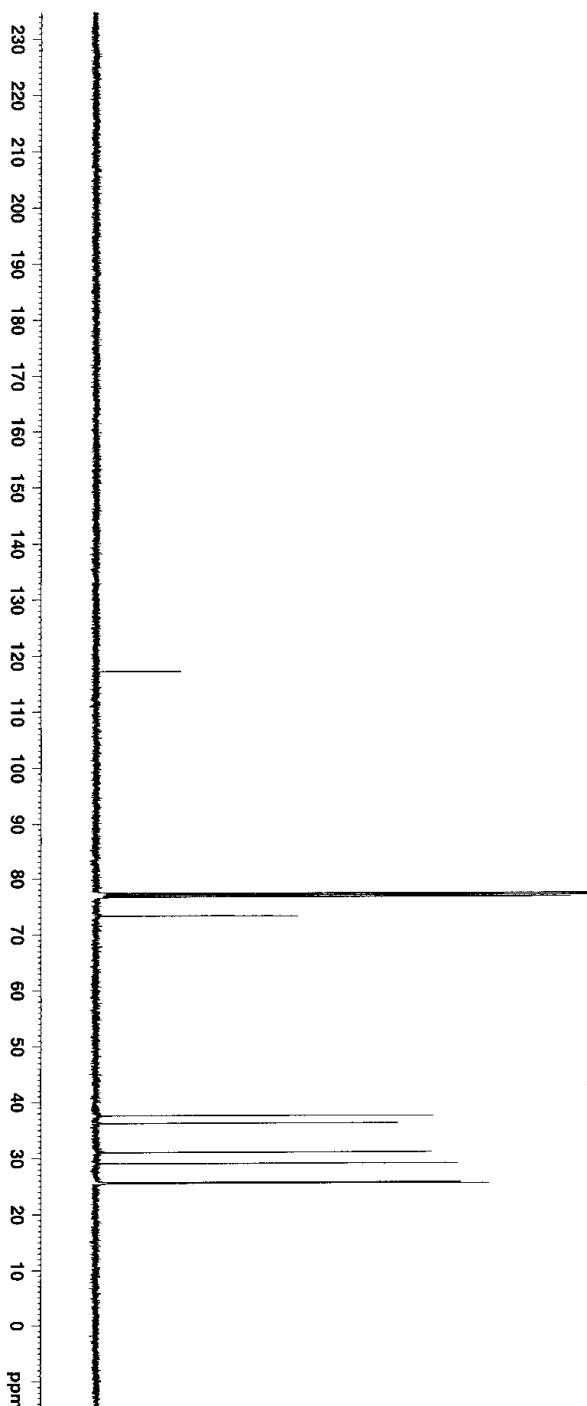
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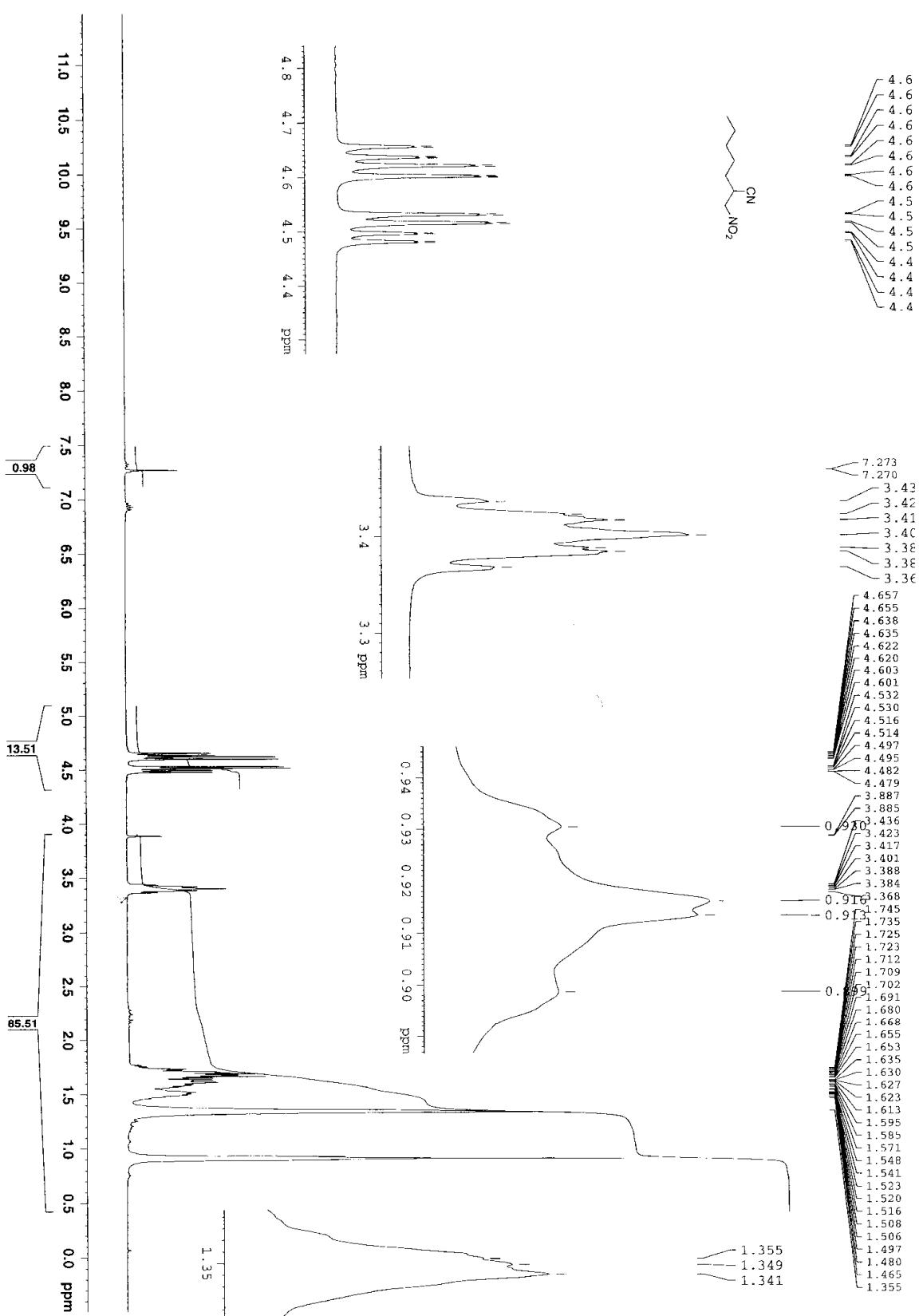
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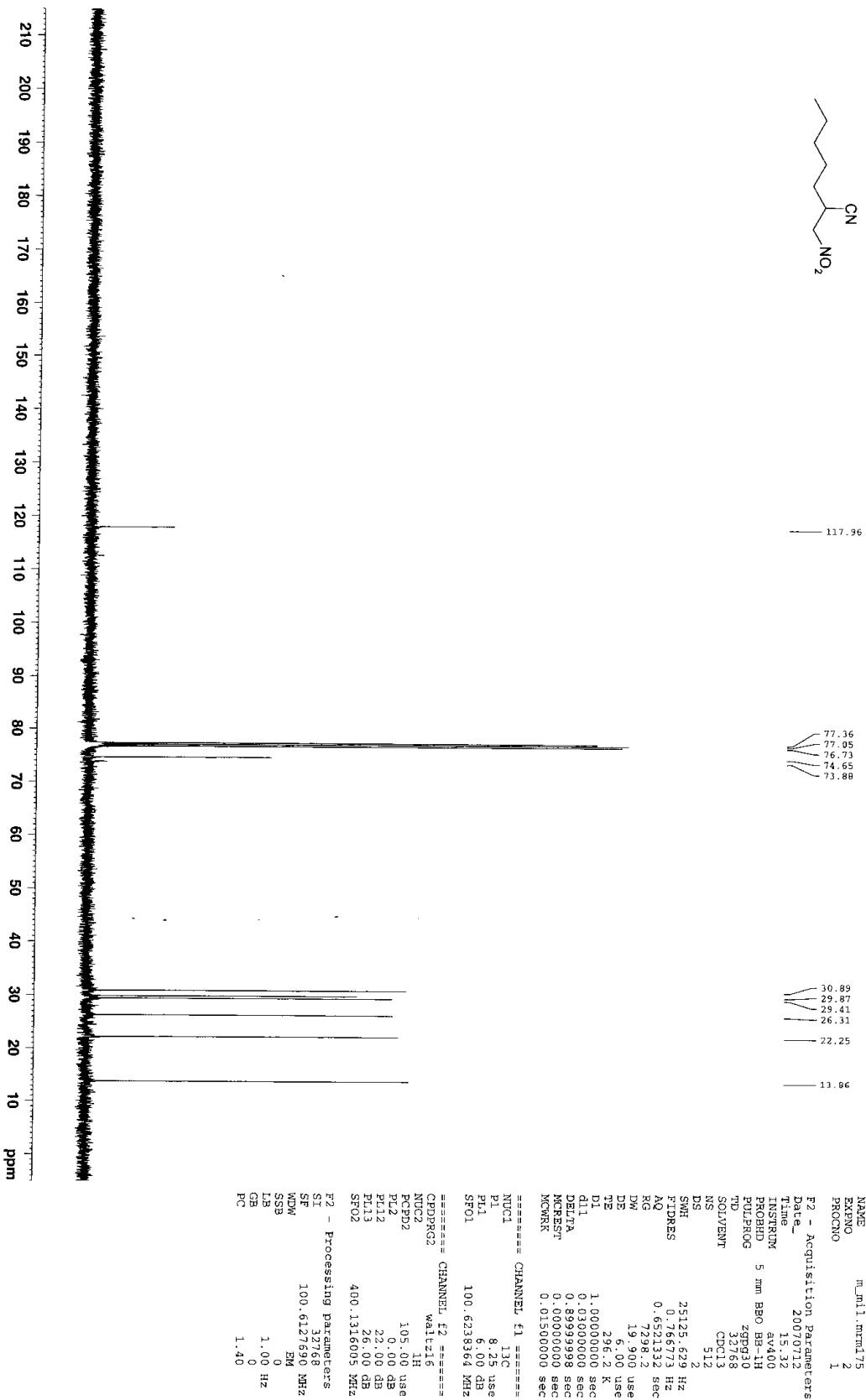
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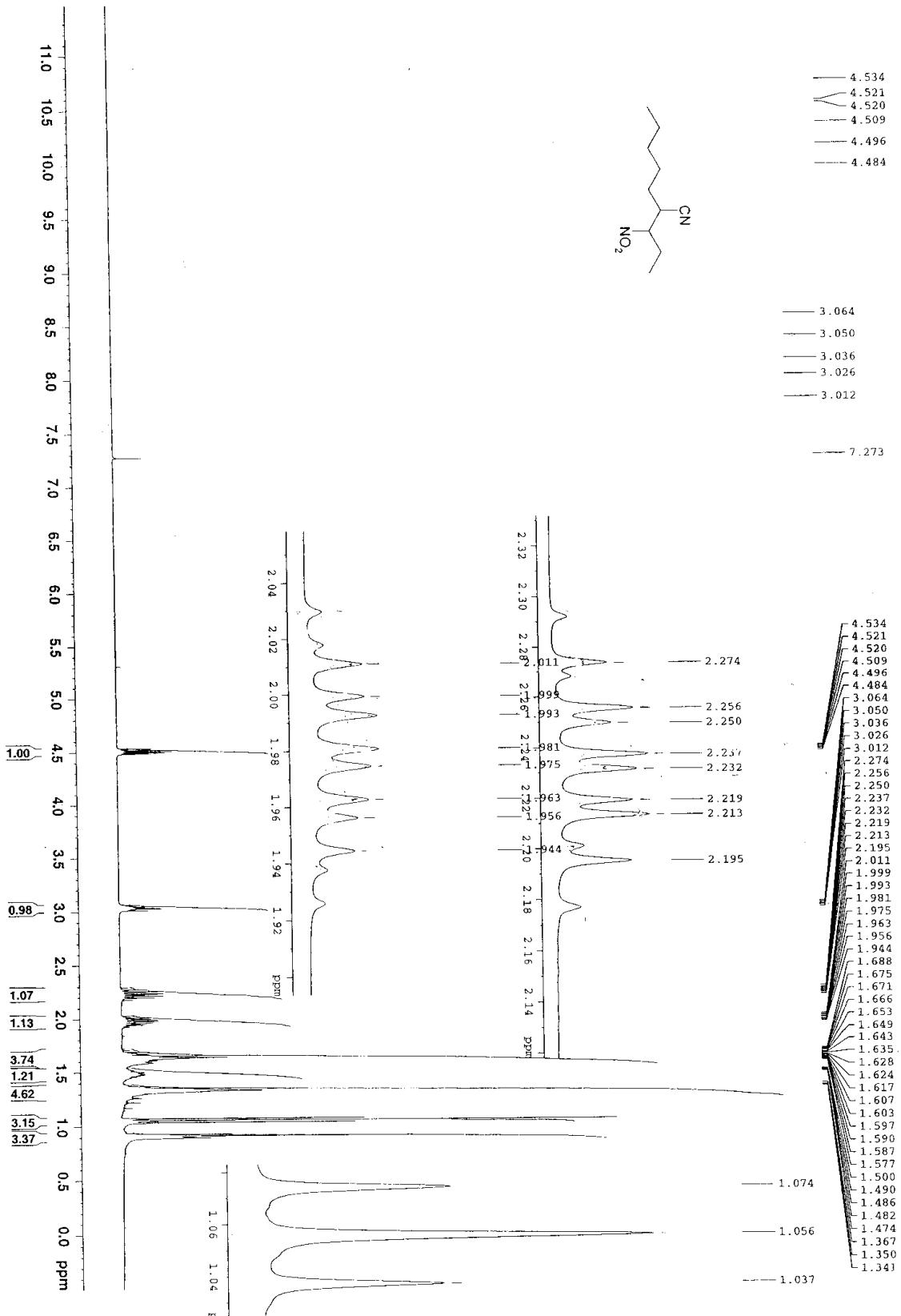
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PROCNO 1

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RG 22170.5 sec  
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MOREST 0.0000000 sec  
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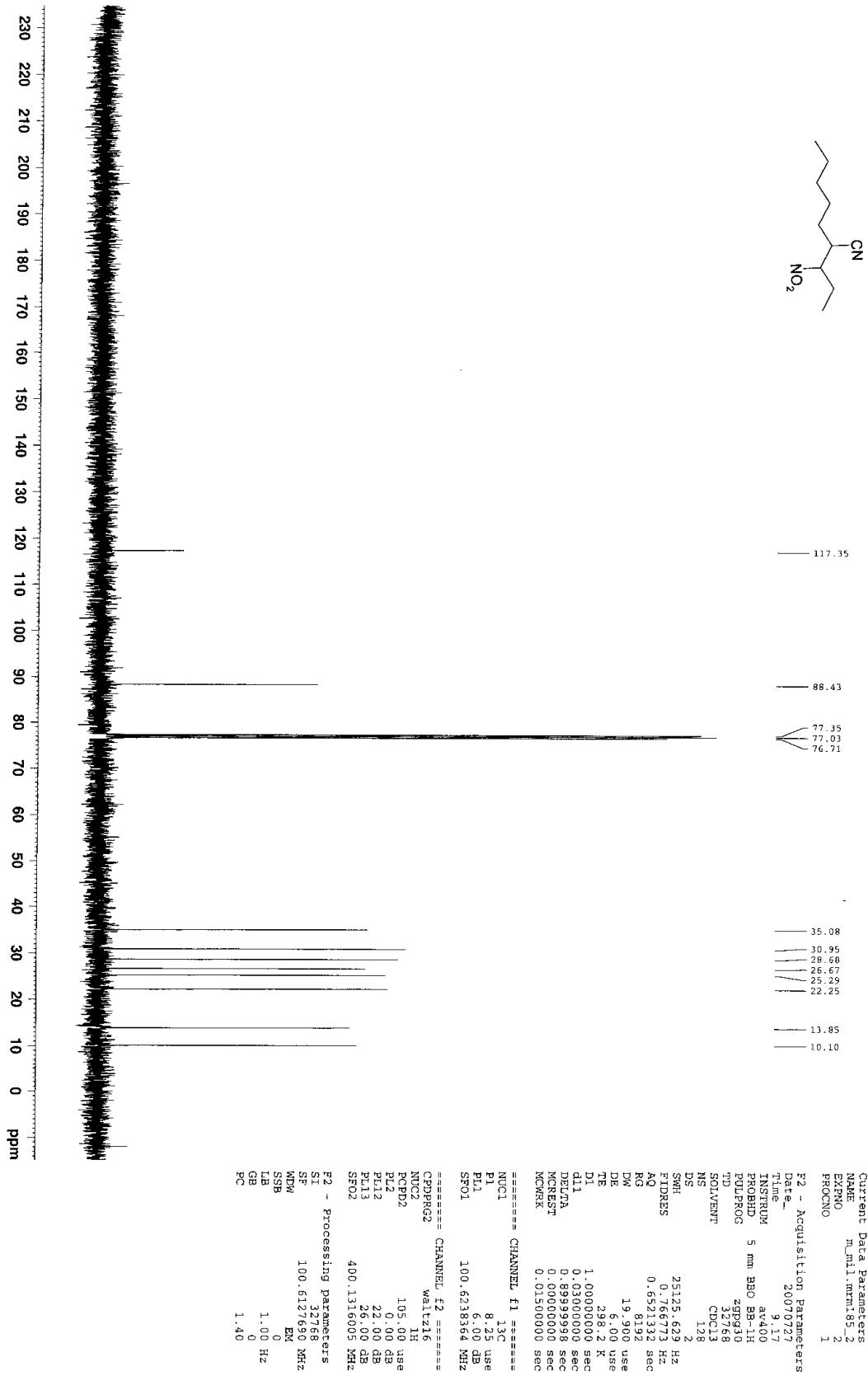


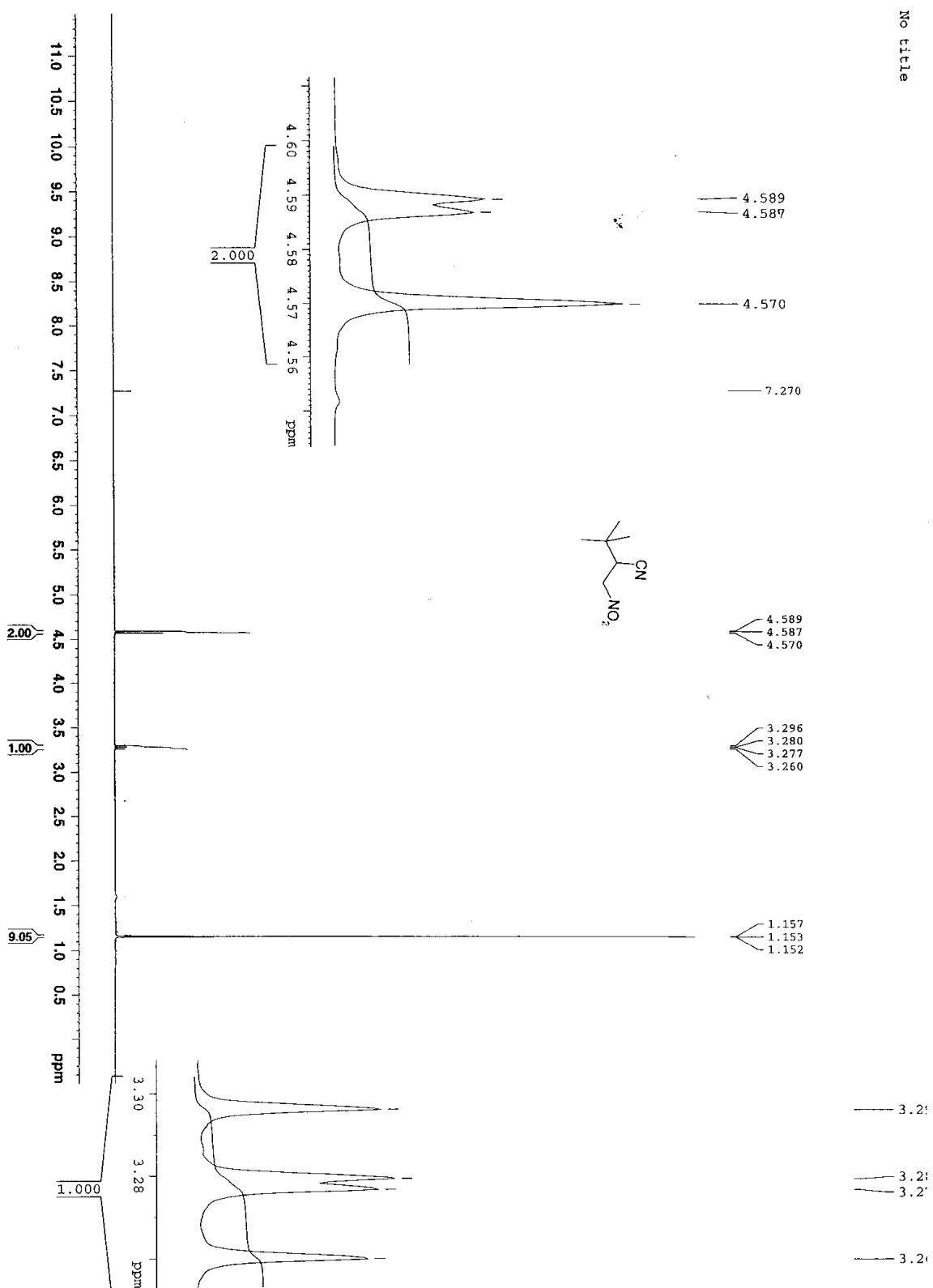




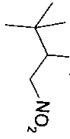


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<sup>13</sup>C[CPD] Spectrum



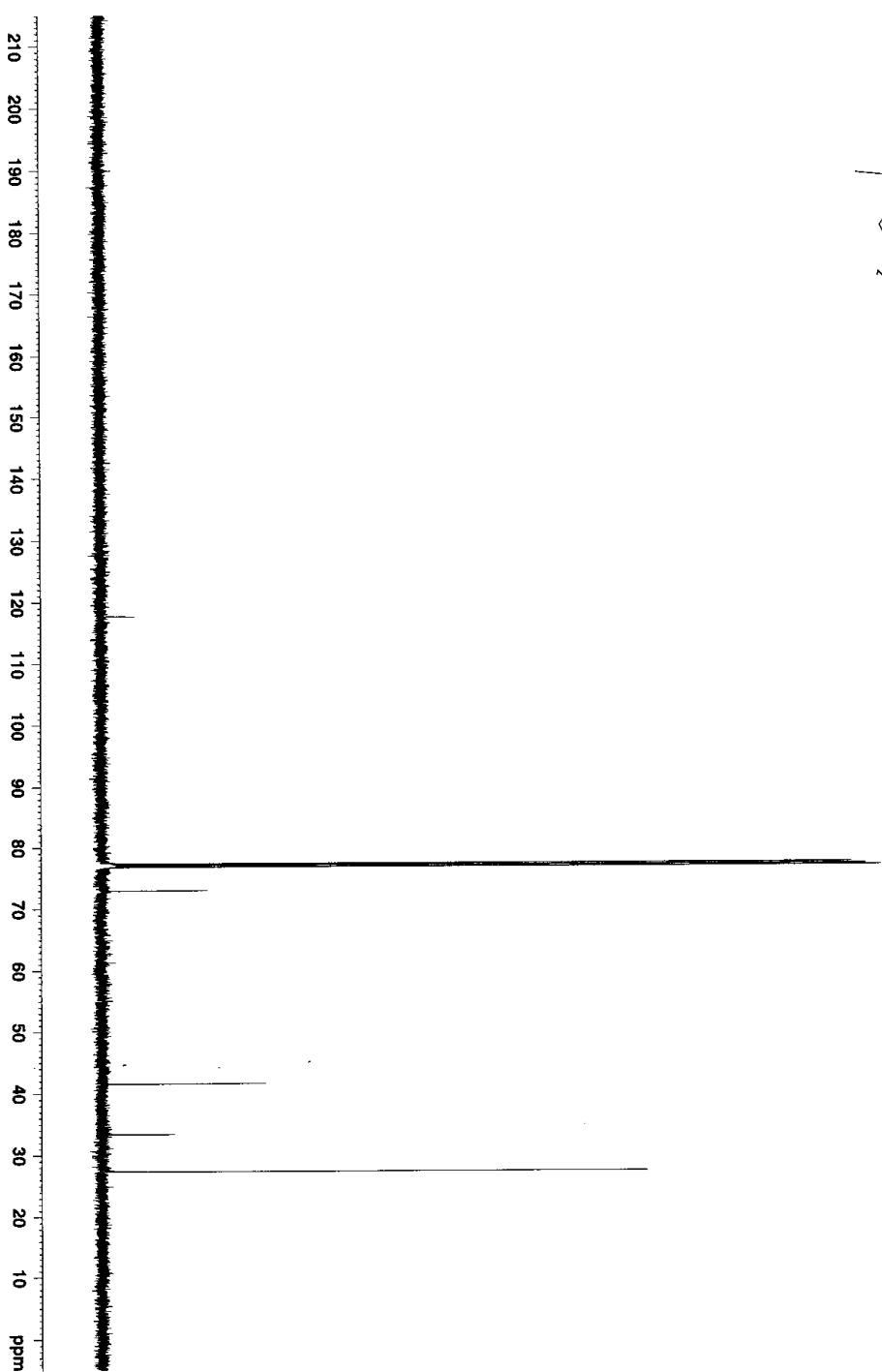
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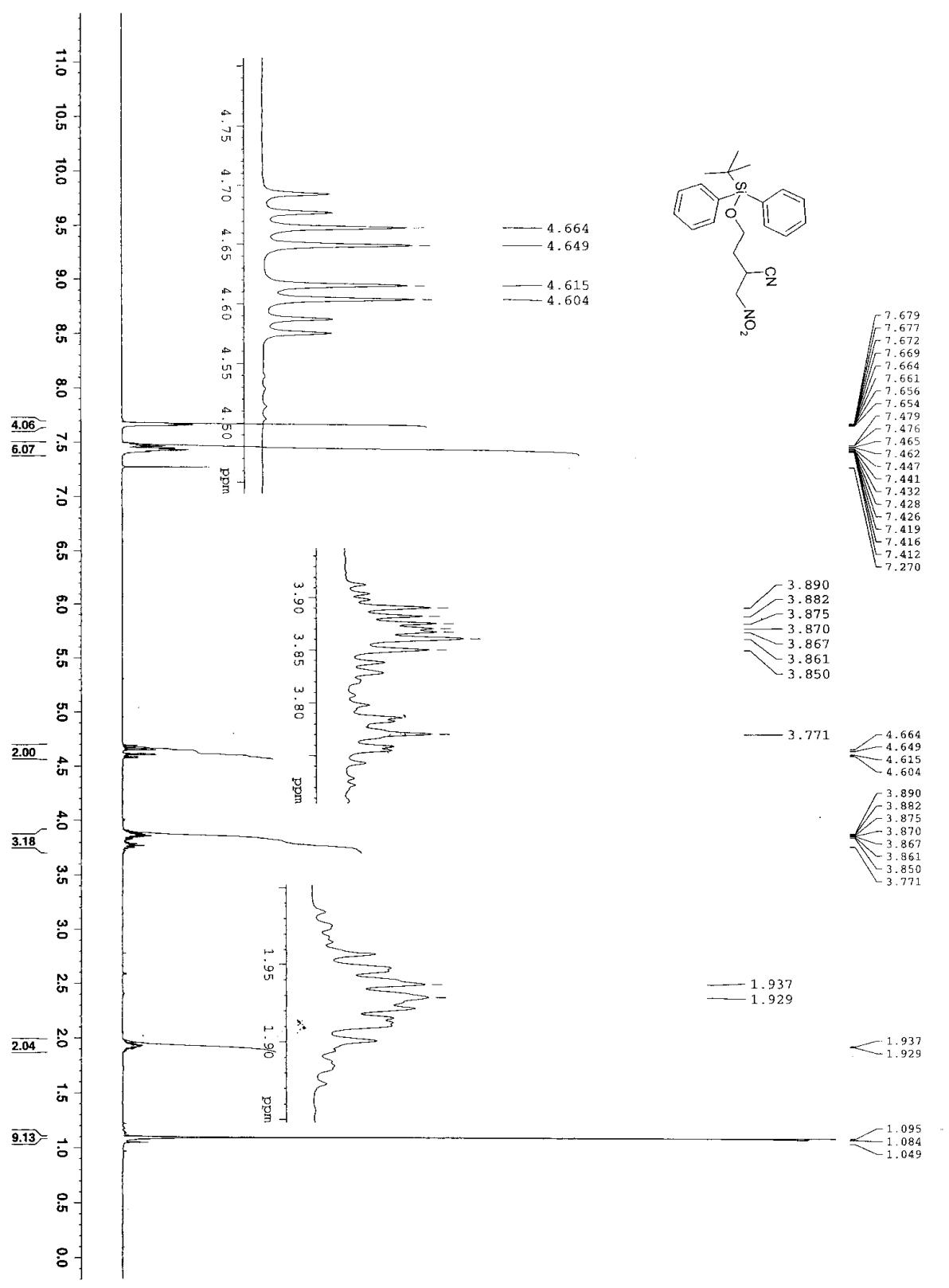
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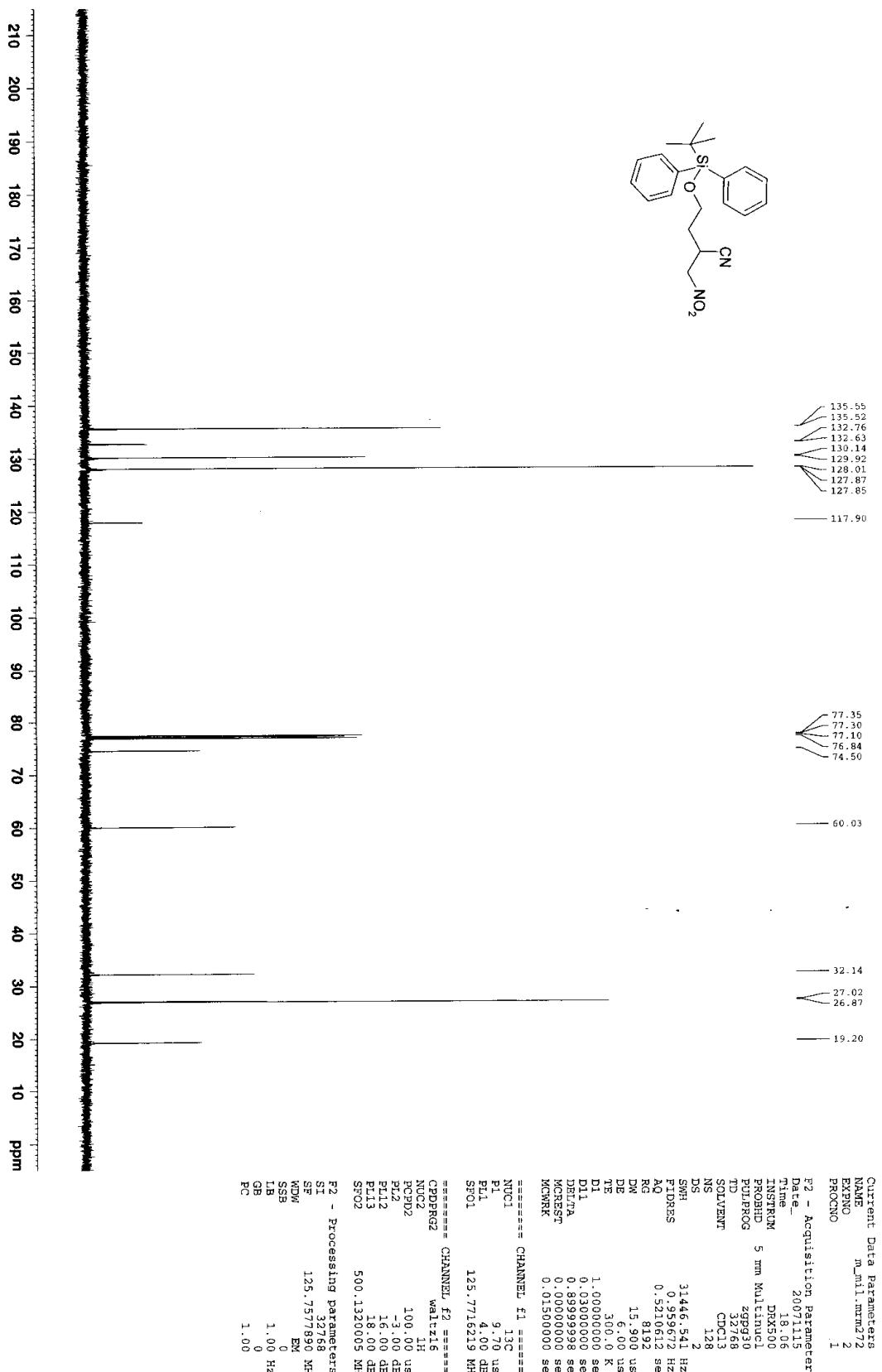
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 PLL2 16.00 dB  
 PLL3 18.00 dB  
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13C[CPD] Spectrum



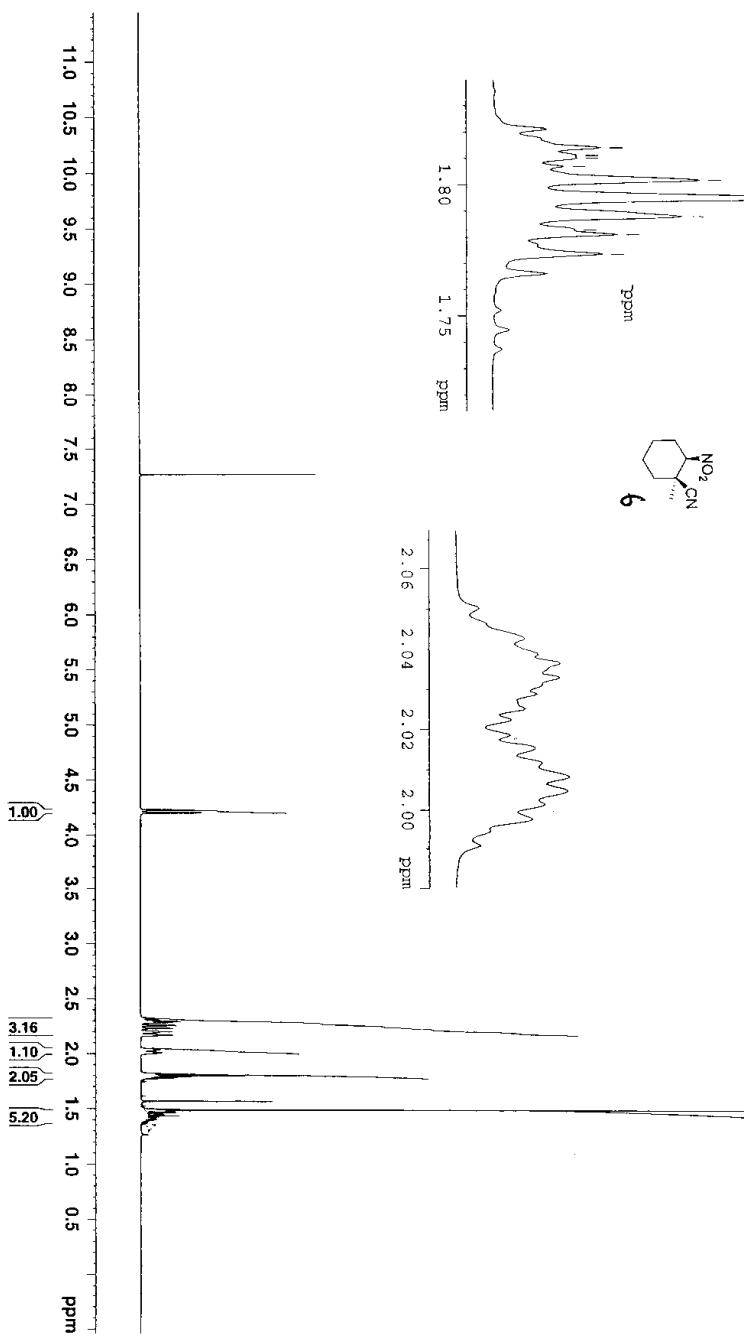
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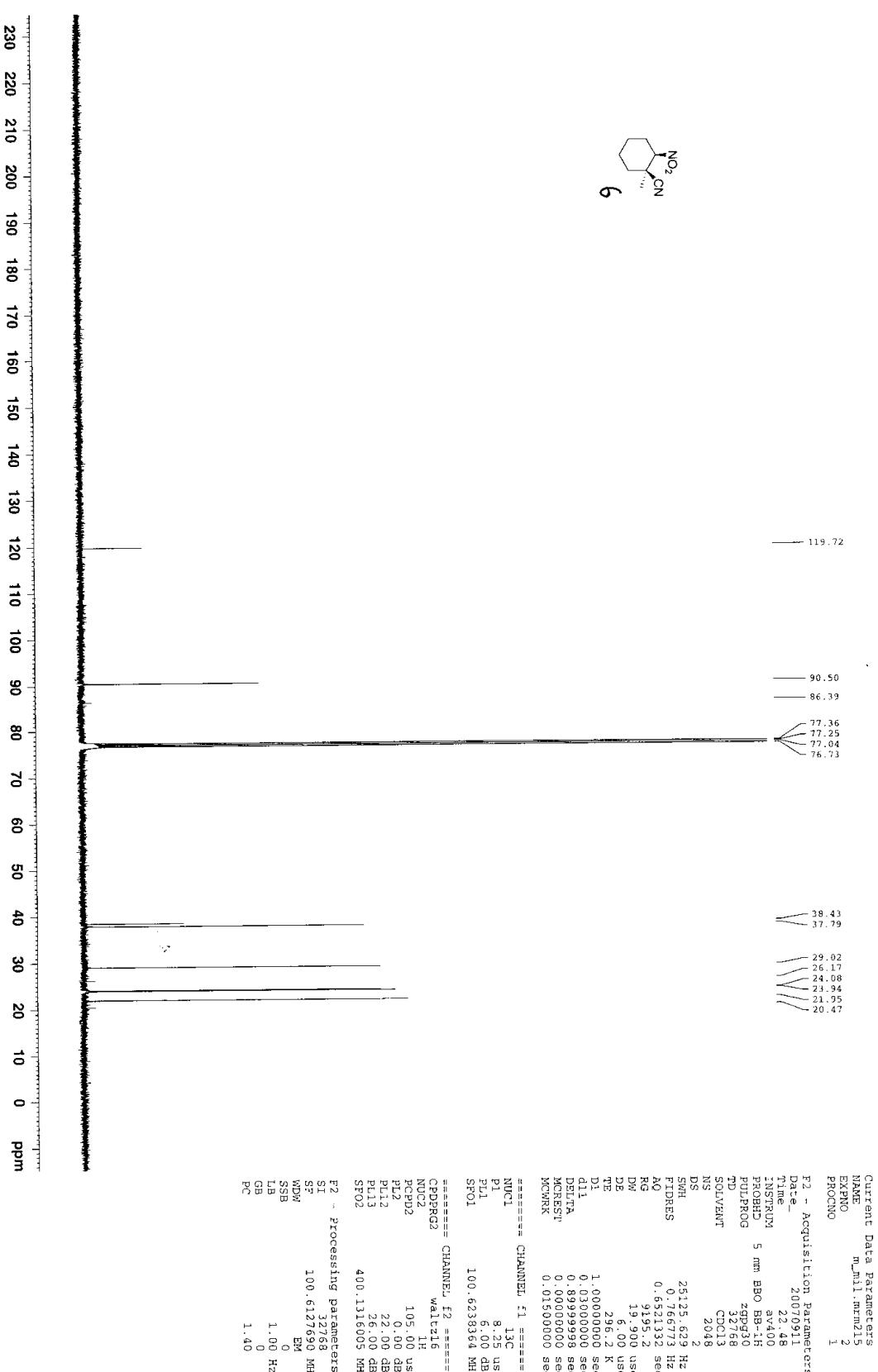
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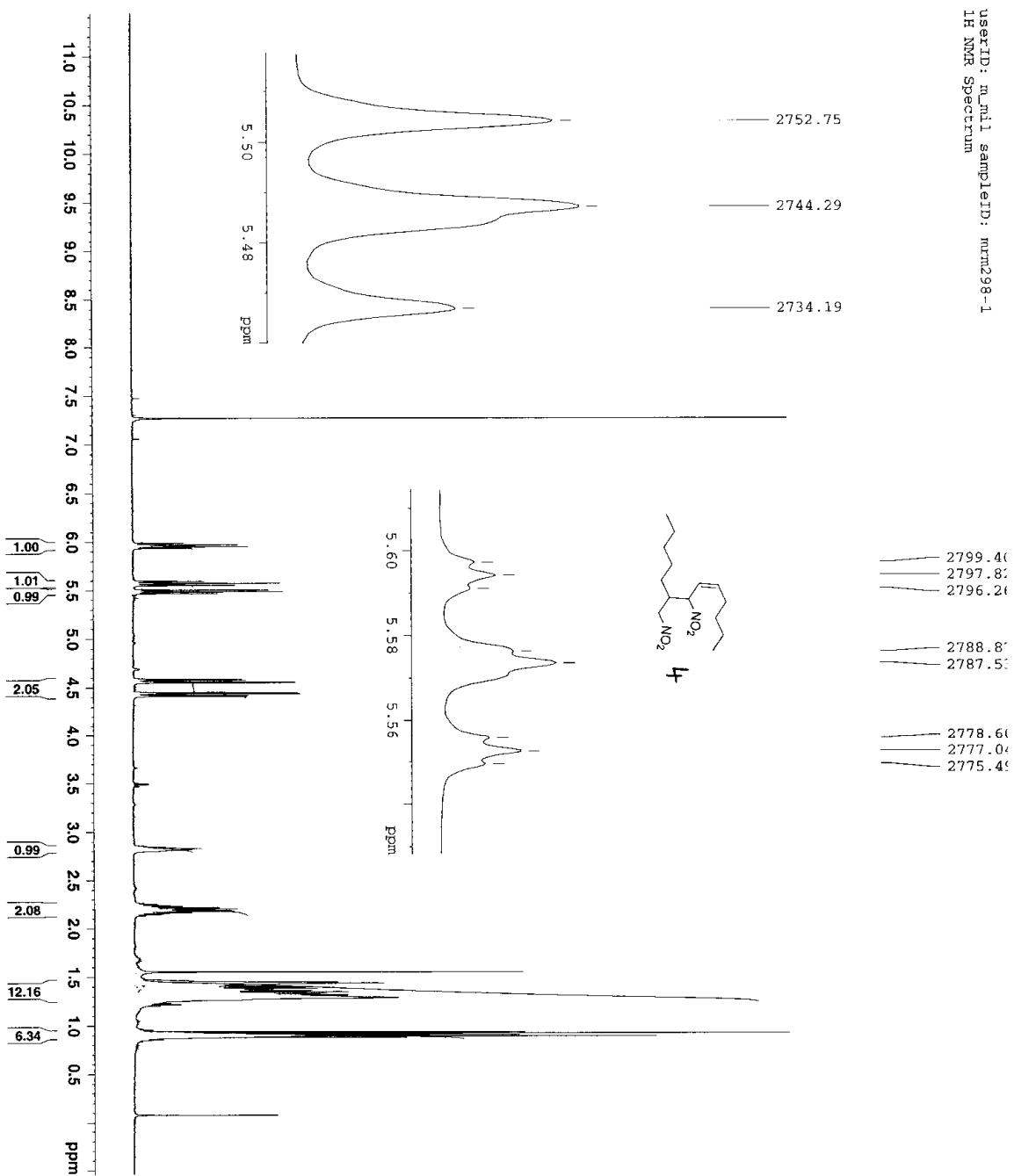
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JB 6.00 usec  
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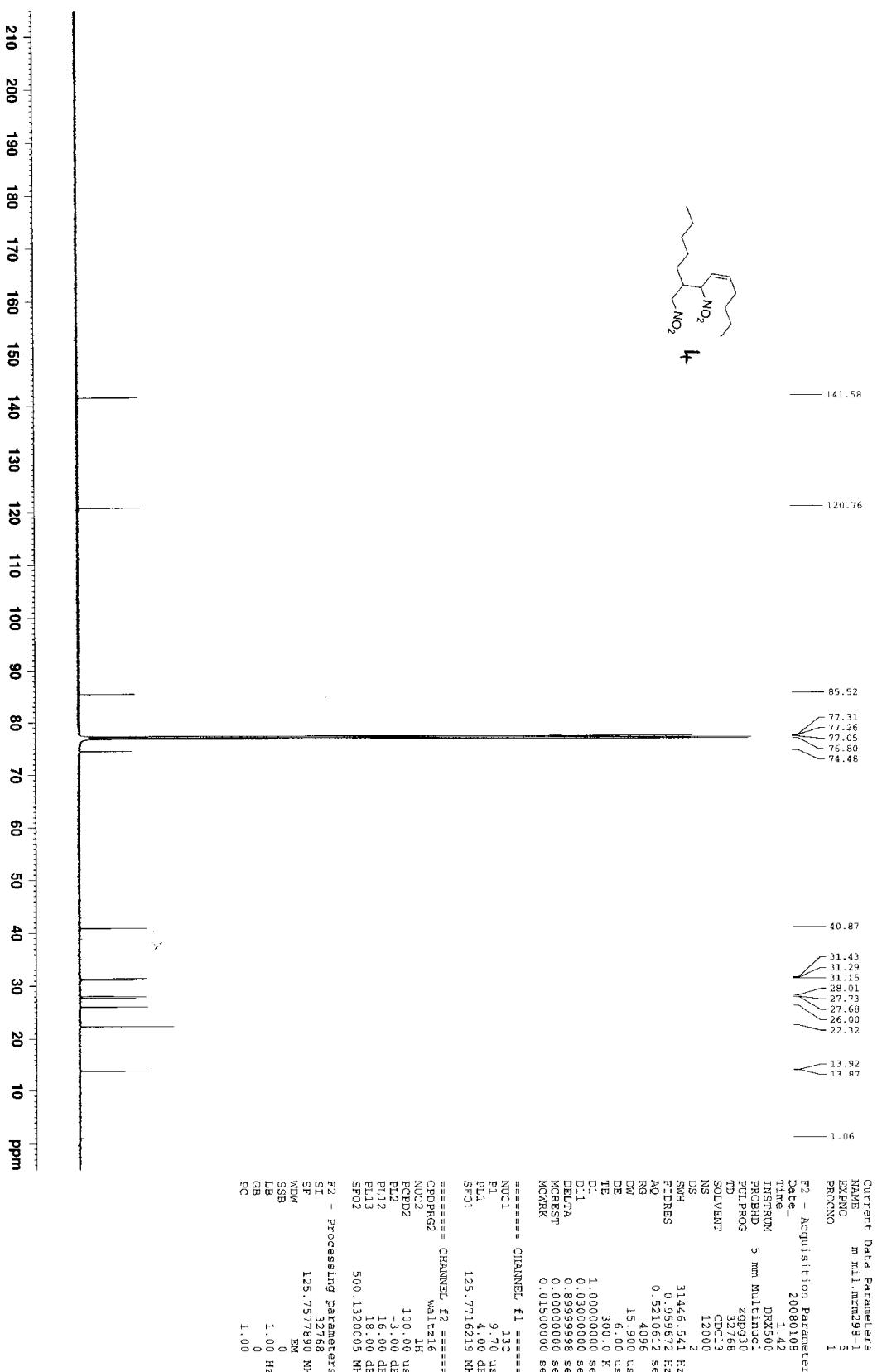


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userID: m\_mil sampleID: mrm298-1  
13C[CPD] Spectrum



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Current Data Parameters

NAME m\_mil.mrm239

EXPO 1

PROCIO

F2 - Acquisition Parameters

Date 2007/01/16

Time 11:46

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SP 3768

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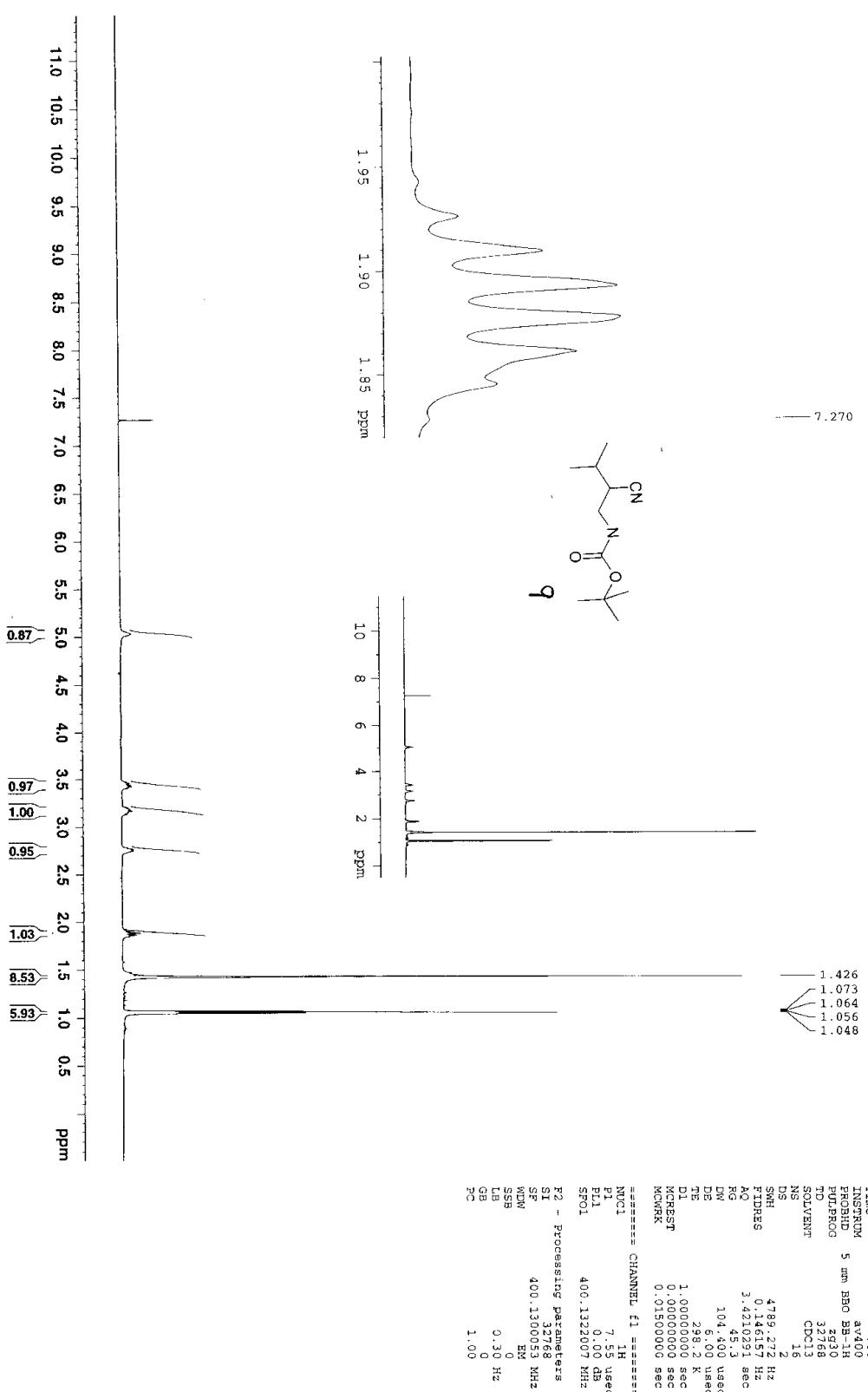
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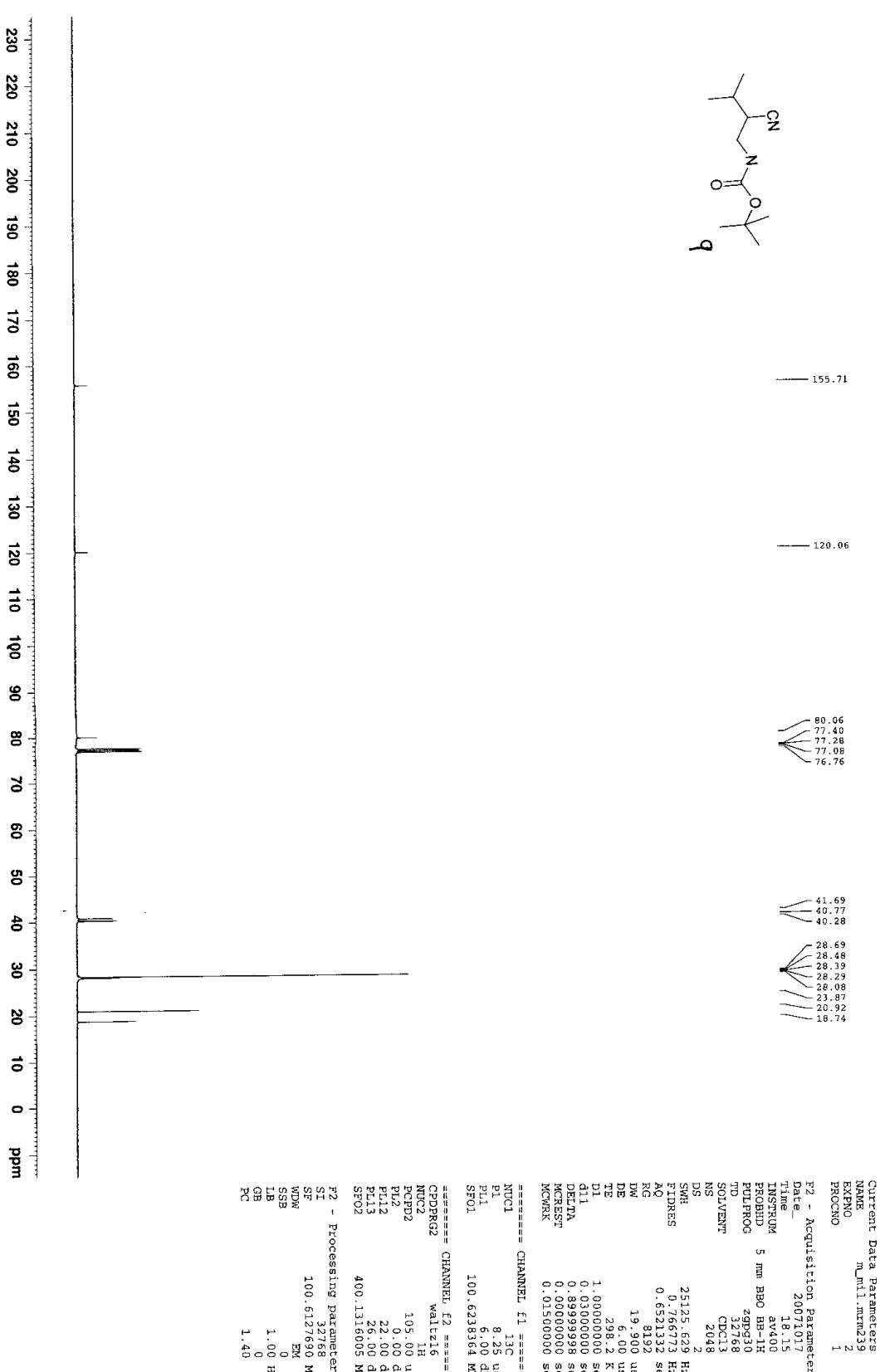
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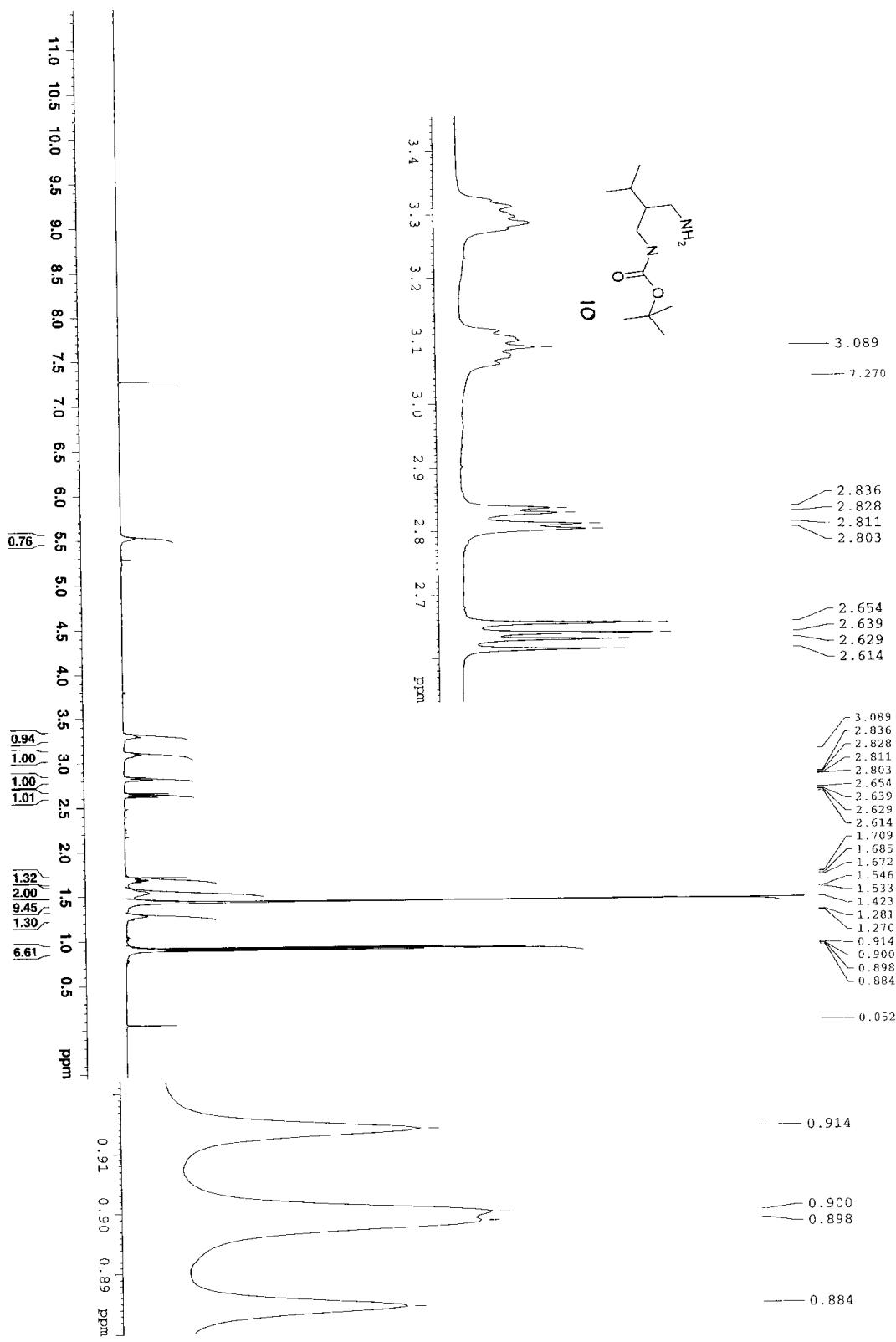
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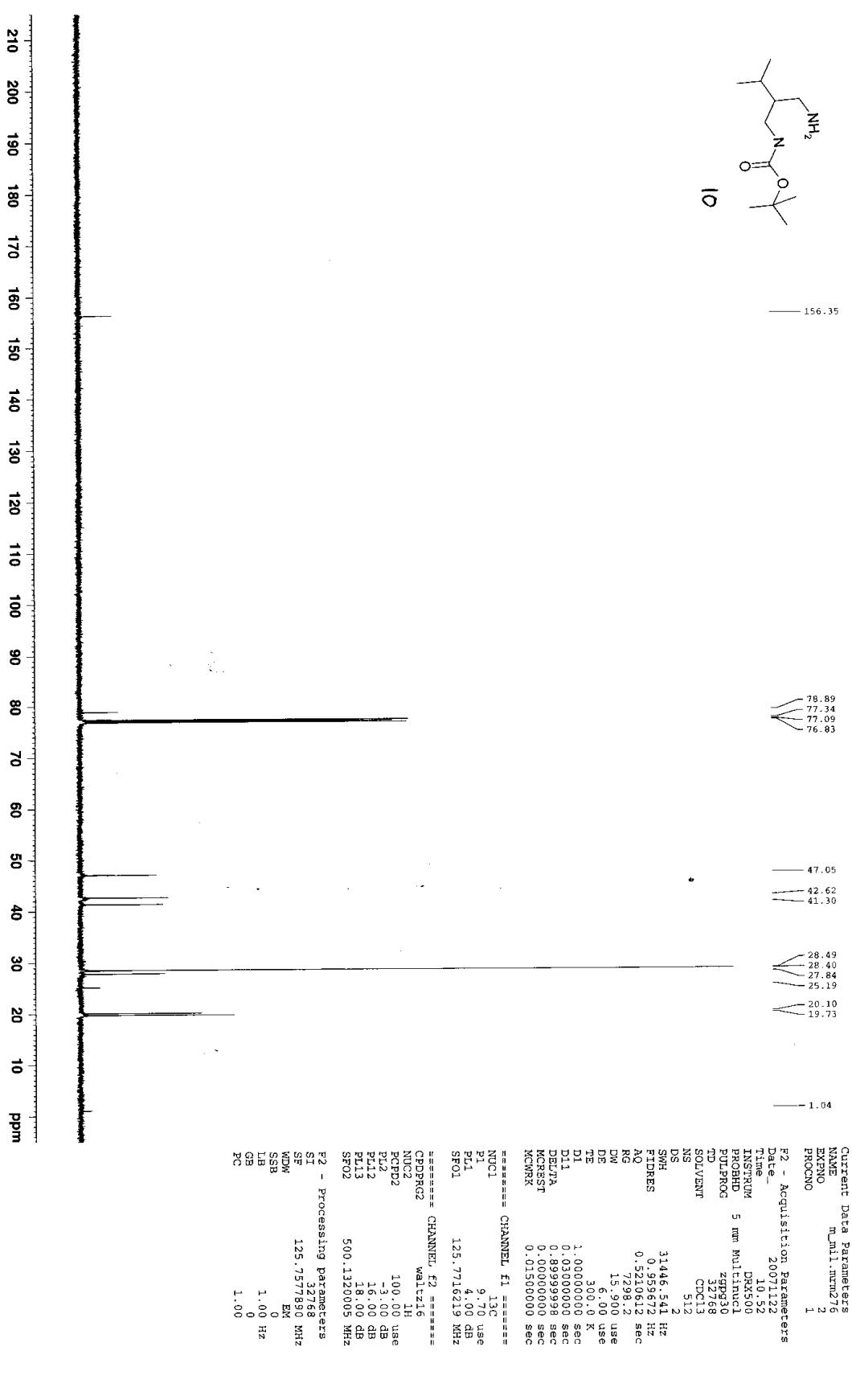
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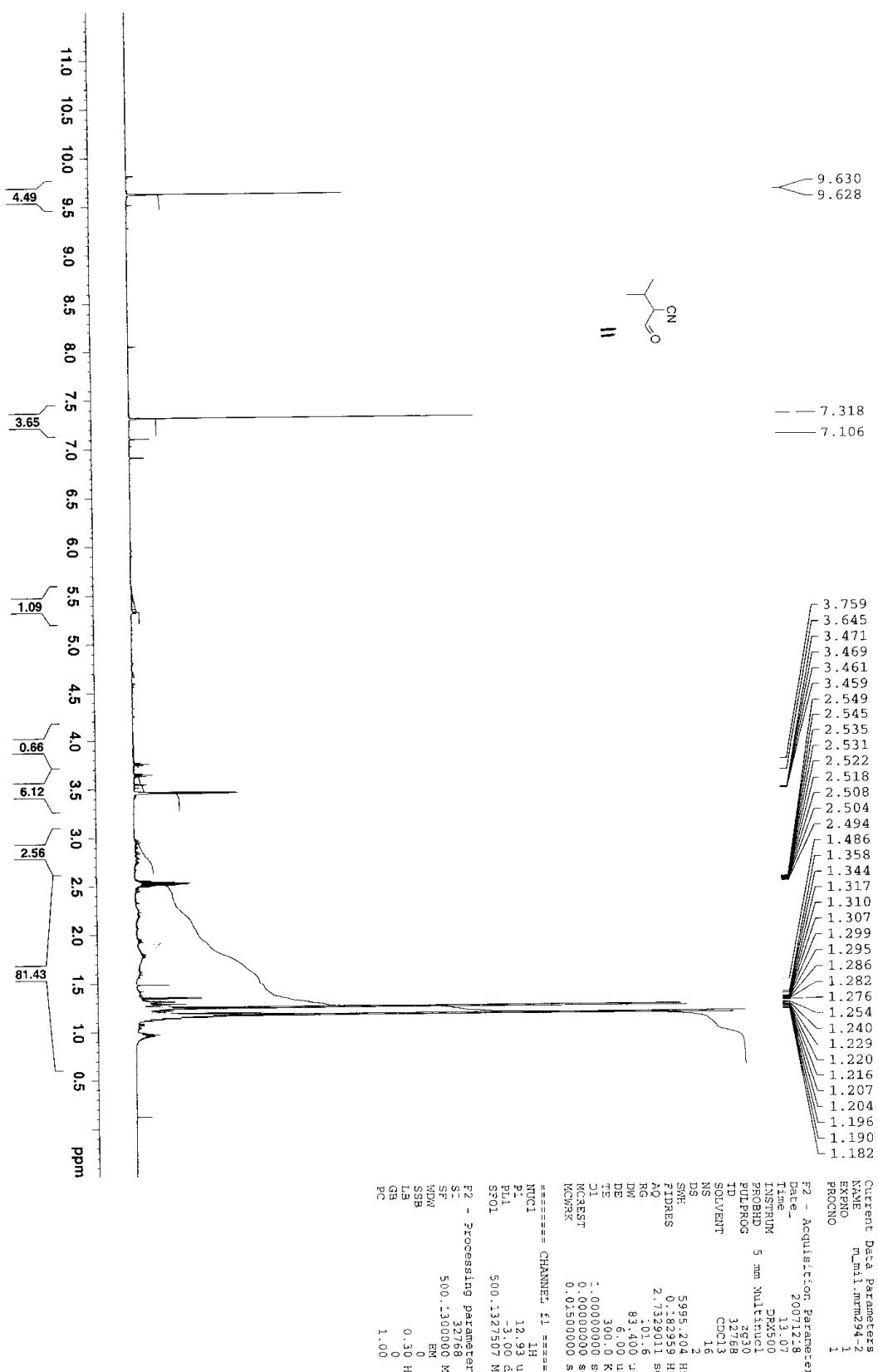
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1H NMR Spectrum



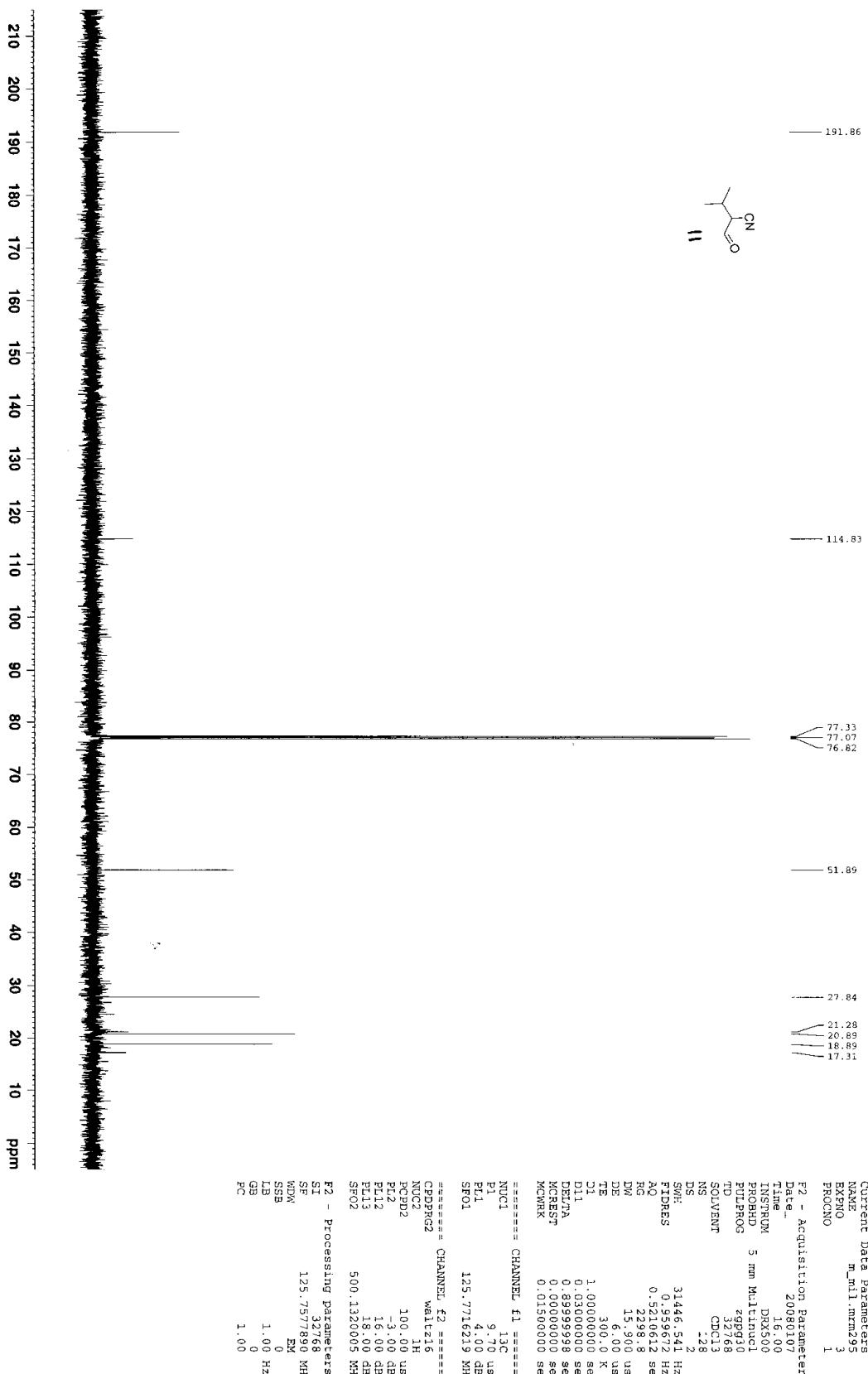
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**13C[CPD] Spectrum**

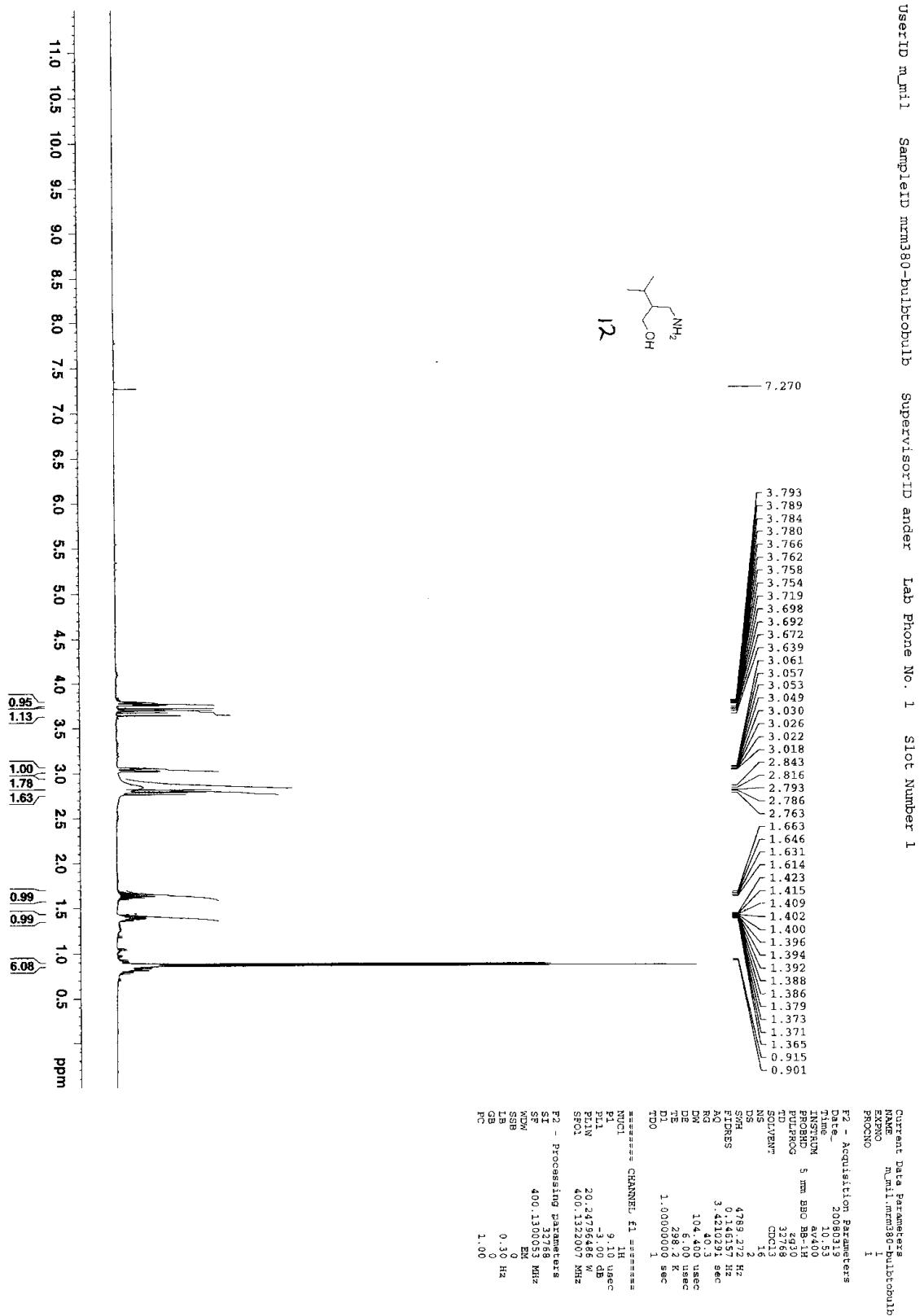


userID: m\_mil sampleID: mmr294-2  
**1H NMR Spectrum**



userID: m\_mil sampleID: mmr295  
13C[CPD] Spectrum





UserID m\_mil SampleID mrm380 SupervisorID ander Lab Phone No. 1 Slot Number 6

