

# **A New Concise Strategy for Synthesis of Dibenzo[*b,f*]thiepins and Related Fused Symmetrical Thiepin Derivatives**

Hamid Shirani and Tomasz Janosik\*

*Unit for Organic Chemistry, Department of Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institute, Novum Research Park, SE-141 57 Huddinge, Sweden*

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

General information, experimental procedures and spectral data for  
compounds 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 11, 16, 17, 18  
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra

S2–S4  
S5–S28

**General information.** All reactions were performed under nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise stated. NMR spectra were recorded at 300.1 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 75.5 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ , respectively, using the residual solvent signal as reference. The IR spectra were acquired using a FT-IR instrument. Melting points were determined on a capillary melting point apparatus. Bis(phenylsulfonyl) sulfide was prepared following a literature procedure.<sup>8</sup> All other reagents and solvents were commercially available and used as received, except THF, which was distilled from sodium and benzophenone. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40–63  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

**Bis(aryl) sulfide 7.** To a solution of the acetal **5** (2.0 g, 6.9 mmol) in THF (40 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 3.4 mL, 8.5 mmol) dropwise at –78 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at –78 °C for 30 min followed by addition of a solution of  $(\text{PhSO}_2)_2\text{S}$  (1.10 g, 3.5 mmol) in THF (30 mL) during 15 min. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 16 h. Workup as above, followed by column chromatography [*n*-heptane/EtOAc (1:2)] afforded the sulfide **7** (0.90 g, 58%) as a white solid; mp 133–136.5 °C; IR (neat) 2886, 1594, 1506, 1458, 1444, 1383, 1265, 1253, 1204, 1165, 1082, 1041, 1027, 989, 978, 951, 867, 854, 835, 756  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.07 (s, 2H), 6.79 (s, 2H), 6.11 (s, 2H), 4.13–3.93 (m, 8H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 3.61 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  149.5 (s), 148.5 (s), 130.8 (s), 125.6 (s), 115.6 (d), 109.8 (d), 100.5 (d), 64.9 (t), 55.6 (q), 55.6 (q); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_8\text{S}$ : C, 58.65; H, 5.82. Found: C, 58.26; H, 5.73.

**Dialdehyde 9.** A solution of aq.  $\text{HClO}_4$  (70%, 0.09 mL) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.0 mL) was added to a solution of compound **7** (0.30 g, 0.67 mmol) in acetone (10 mL) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Workup as above, followed by trituration with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  provided the dialdehyde **9** (230 mg, 95%) as a white solid; mp 202–204 °C; IR (neat) 2860, 1665, 1585, 1497, 1380, 1260, 1214, 1149, 1038, 868, 741  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.36 (s, 2H), 7.46 (s, 2H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H), 3.77 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.0 (d), 154.5 (s), 149.3 (s), 133.0 (s), 129.0 (s), 114.7 (d), 111.9 (d), 56.5 (q), 56.5 (q);  $m/z$  (ESI+) 363 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ : C, 59.66; H, 5.01. Found: C, 59.82; H, 5.14.

**2,3,7,8-Tetramethoxydibenzo[*b,f*]thiepin (10).** The procedure above was used, employing the dialdehyde **9** (181 mg, 0.50 mmol) as the substrate. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography [*n*-heptane/EtOAc (1:2)] yielded the thiepin **10** (132 mg, 80%) as an off-white solid; mp 197–199 °C; IR (neat) 2921, 1590, 1500, 1465, 1453, 1440, 1431, 1348, 1237, 1197, 1176, 1163, 1150, 1046, 1029, 961, 856, 800, 768  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.98 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 6.73 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.85 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.1 (s),

149.2 (s), 133.4 (s), 132.6 (d), 125.8 (s), 115.2 (d), 111.8 (d), 56.2 (q), 56.2 (q). HRMS (FAB+)  $m/z$  330.0925 [ $M^+$ ],  $C_{18}H_{18}O_4S$  requires 330.0926.

**Diacetal 13.** To a solution of anhydrous diisopropylamine (0.52 mL, 3.7 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added *t*-BuLi (1.7 M in pentane, 2.2 mL, 3.7 mmol) at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . After stirring at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min a solution of the acetal **12**<sup>16</sup> (1.0 g, 3.0 mmol) in THF (7 mL) was added during 15 min. After stirring for 40 min at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $(SO_2Ph)_2S$  (0.50 g, 1.59 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added during 10 min at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , and the reaction mixture was thereafter allowed to warm to room temperature over 16 h. A solution of sat.  $NH_4Cl$  (20 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was extracted with  $Et_2O$  ( $2 \times 30$  mL). The combined organic phases were washed with water ( $2 \times 30$  mL), brine (30 mL) and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . Evaporation of the solvents in vacuo and trituration of the residue with MeOH gave compound **13** (810 mg, 78%) as an off white solid; mp 203–206.5 °C; IR (neat) 1448, 1439, 1369, 1220, 1188, 1136, 1086, 1064, 975, 956, 750, 727  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.09 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.92–7.90 (m, 4H), 7.71–7.55 (m, 8H), 7.44–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.23 (m, 2H), 3.95–3.93 (m, 4H), 3.65–3.60 (m, 4H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  137.0 (s), 137.0 (s), 134.8 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.4 (s), 127.0 (s), 126.7 (d), 126.1 (d), 125.1 (s), 123.8 (d), 121.4 (d), 114.4 (d), 97.9 (d), 64.7 (t). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{34}H_{28}N_2O_8S_3$ : C, 59.29; H, 4.10; N, 4.07. Found: C, 59.11; H, 4.15; N, 4.02.

**Dialdehyde 14.** A similar procedure as described for compound **8** was used, starting with the diacetal **13** (0.50 g, 0.73 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (7 mL), and aq.  $HClO_4$  (70%, 0.12 mL) in  $H_2O$  (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. Workup as for **8**, and subsequent recrystallization from  $CH_3CN$  gave the dialdehyde **14** (430 mg, 98%) as an off white solid; mp 211–213 °C; IR (neat) 1665, 1449, 1432, 1386, 1378, 1193, 1159, 1140, 1086, 972, 847, 754, 748, 730  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  9.77 (s, 2H), 8.24–8.19 (m, 4H), 7.91–7.88 (m, 4H), 7.58–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.35 (m, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  185.9 (d), 138.8 (s), 137.8 (s), 137.6 (s), 135.0 (d), 129.7 (d), 127.5 (d), 127.2 (d), 126.3 (s), 126.0 (d), 124.2 (s), 122.5 (d), 114.8 (d). HRMS (FAB+)  $m/z$  601.0570 [ $M + H$ ]<sup>+</sup>,  $C_{30}H_{20}N_2O_6S_3 + H$  requires 601.0562.

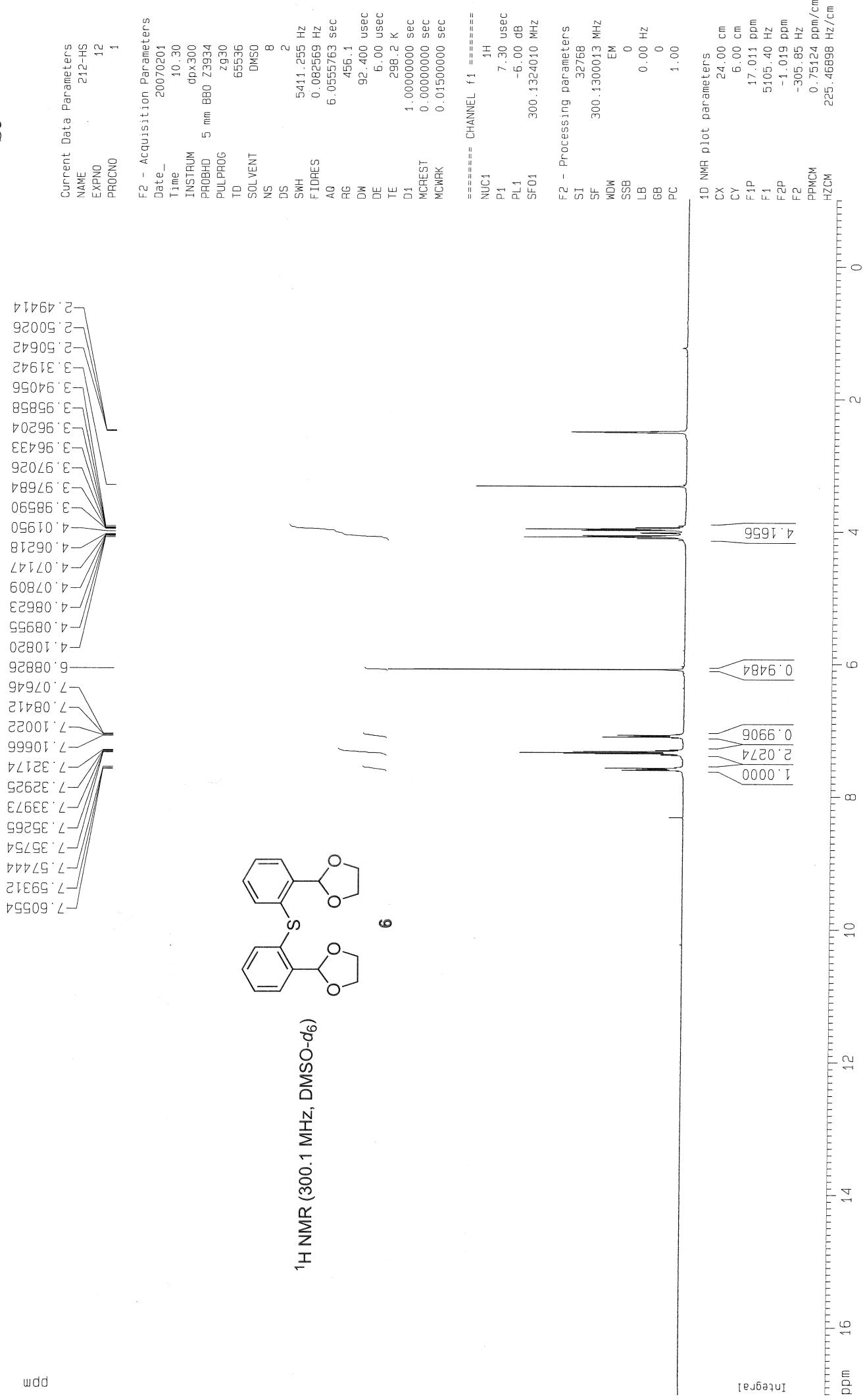
**2,12-Di(phenylsulfonyl)thiepino[2,3-*b*:7,6-*b'*]bisindole (11).** The same procedure as described for compound **1** was employed, starting with **14** (200 mg, 0.33 mmol) dissolved in THF (90 mL),  $TiCl_4$  (1.9 mL, 17.4 mmol), Zn (2.3 g, 35 mmol), pyridine (0.4 mL) and THF (80 mL). The crude product was subjected to column chromatography [*n*-hexane/EtOAc (4:1)] to give the fused thiepin **11** (150 mg, 79%) as yellowish crystalline solid; mp: 230–232 °C; IR (neat) 1443, 1383, 1361, 1186, 1168, 1150, 1129, 1103, 1082, 959, 790, 767, 752, 740, 721  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.11–8.04 (m, 6H), 7.72–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.55 (m, 6H),

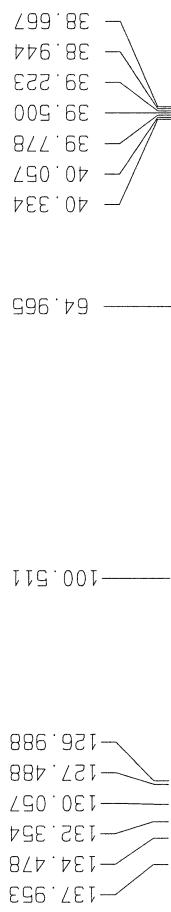
7.45–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  137.2 (s), 136.5 (s), 135.0 (d), 129.8 (d), 127.9 (s), 127.5 (s), 126.9 (d), 126.5 (d), 124.6 (d), 124.2 (d), 121.5 (s), 119.3 (d), 115.2 (d). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_3$ : C, 63.36; H, 3.54; N, 4.93. Found: C, 63.22; H, 3.55; N, 4.86.

**Diacetal 16.** The synthesis of **16** was performed according to the procedure described above for compound **6** starting with the acetal **15**<sup>17a</sup> (1.14 g, 4.0 mmol), *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 1.9 mL, 4.8 mmol) using THF (20 mL) as the solvent, followed by addition of  $(\text{PhSO}_2)_2\text{S}$  (630 mg, 2.0 mmol) dissolved in THF (15 mL). The crude product was subjected to gradient column chromatography [*n*-hexane/EtOAc (4:1 → 2:1)] to give **16** (652 mg, 74%) as a white solid; mp 184–185 °C; IR (neat) 2886, 1362, 1197, 1078, 1057, 1018, 992, 949, 935, 793, 756, 727  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80–7.75 (m, 4H), 7.34–7.23 (m, 4H), 6.58 (s, 2H), 4.21–4.06 (m, 8H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.7 (s), 140.1 (s), 138.5 (s), 125.6 (d), 125.0 (d), 123.3 (s), 123.2 (d), 122.9 (d), 99.3 (d), 65.8 (t). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{S}_3$ : C, 59.70; H, 4.10. Found: C, 59.84; H, 4.12.

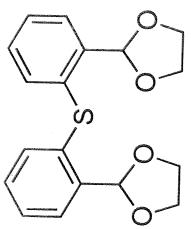
**Dialdehyde 17.** A procedure similar to that described for compound **8** was used, starting with the diacetal **16** (443 mg, 1.0 mmol) in acetone (40 mL) and aq.  $\text{HClO}_4$  (70%, 0.3 mL) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3 mL). The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After workup as for **8**, the crude product was triturated with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  to give the dialdehyde **17** (335 mg, 94%) as a yellow solid; mp 223–225 °C; IR (neat) 1656, 1589, 1478, 1425, 1296, 1248, 1194, 1160, 940, 755, 726, 713  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.58 (s, 2H), 7.91–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.83–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  183.8 (d), 142.6 (s), 141.5 (s), 139.4 (s), 133.7 (s), 129.2 (d), 126.3 (d), 124.5 (d), 124.0 (d). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{S}_3$ : C, 60.99; H, 2.84. Found: C, 61.18; H, 2.73.

**Thiepino[3,2-*b*:6,7-*b'*]bis[1]benzothiophene (18).** This compound was prepared according to the procedure for described for **1** with the same amounts of reagents and solvents employing **17** (179 mg, 0.5 mmol) as the starting material. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (*n*-heptane) gave compound **18** (138 mg, 86%) as a yellow crystalline solid; mp 213–215.5 °C; IR (neat) 1431, 1317, 1252, 1220, 1098, 1018, 950, 922, 856, 836, 760, 751, 743, 723  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  142.8 (s), 142.1 (s), 139.5 (s), 128.5 (d), 126.7 (d), 126.2 (d), 123.7 (d), 123.4 (s), 123.2 (d). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{S}_3$ : C, 67.04; H, 3.13; S, 29.83. Found: C, 66.97; H, 3.02; S, 29.87.

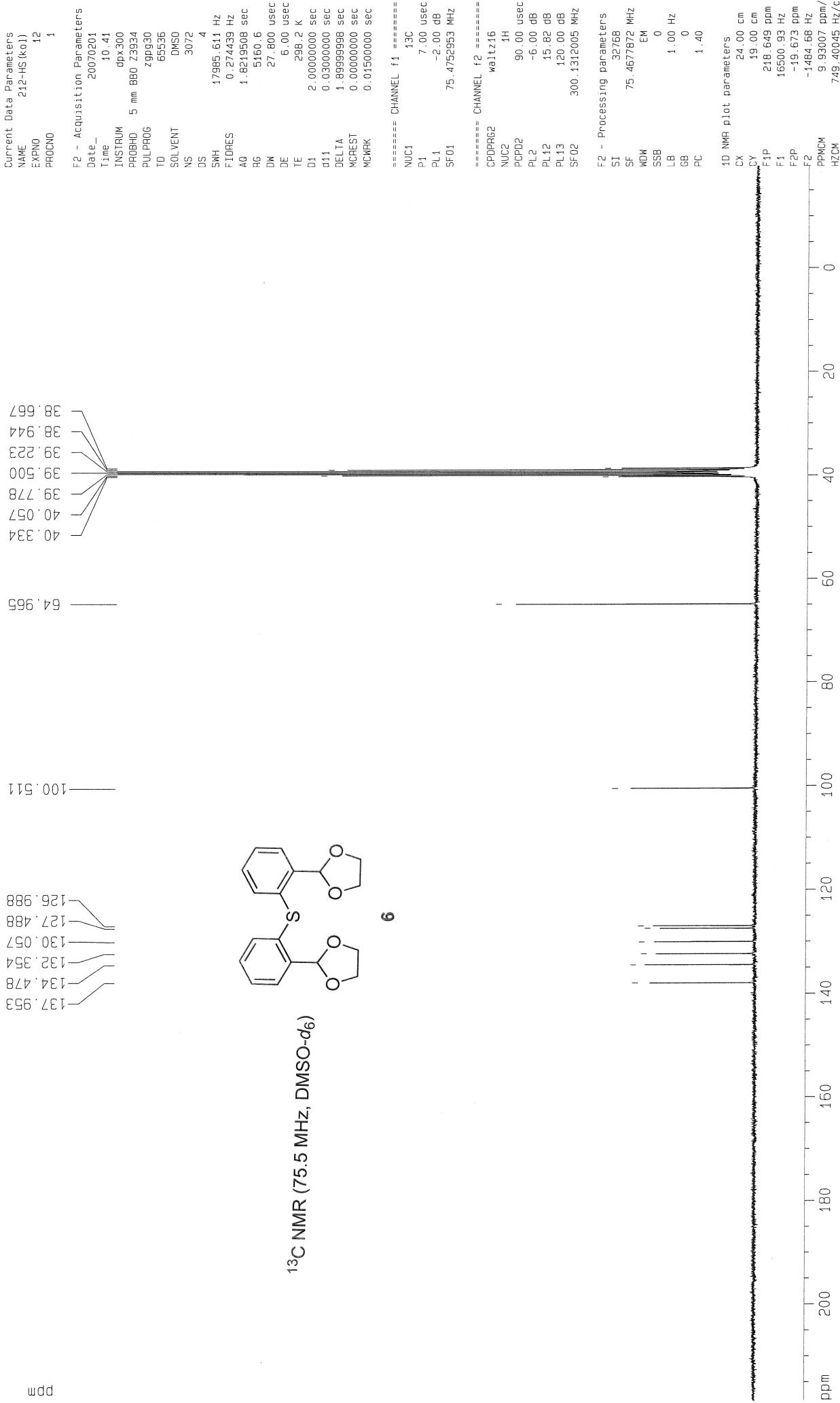




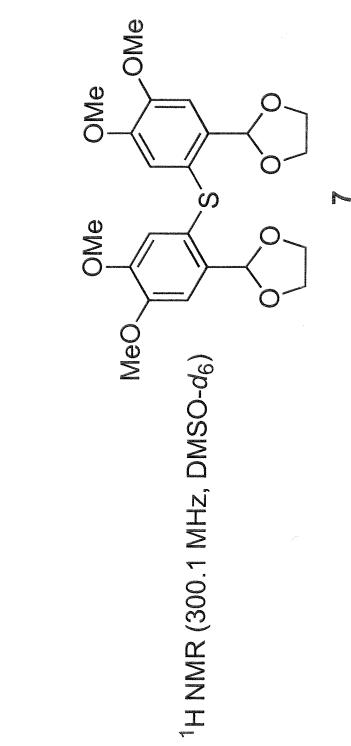
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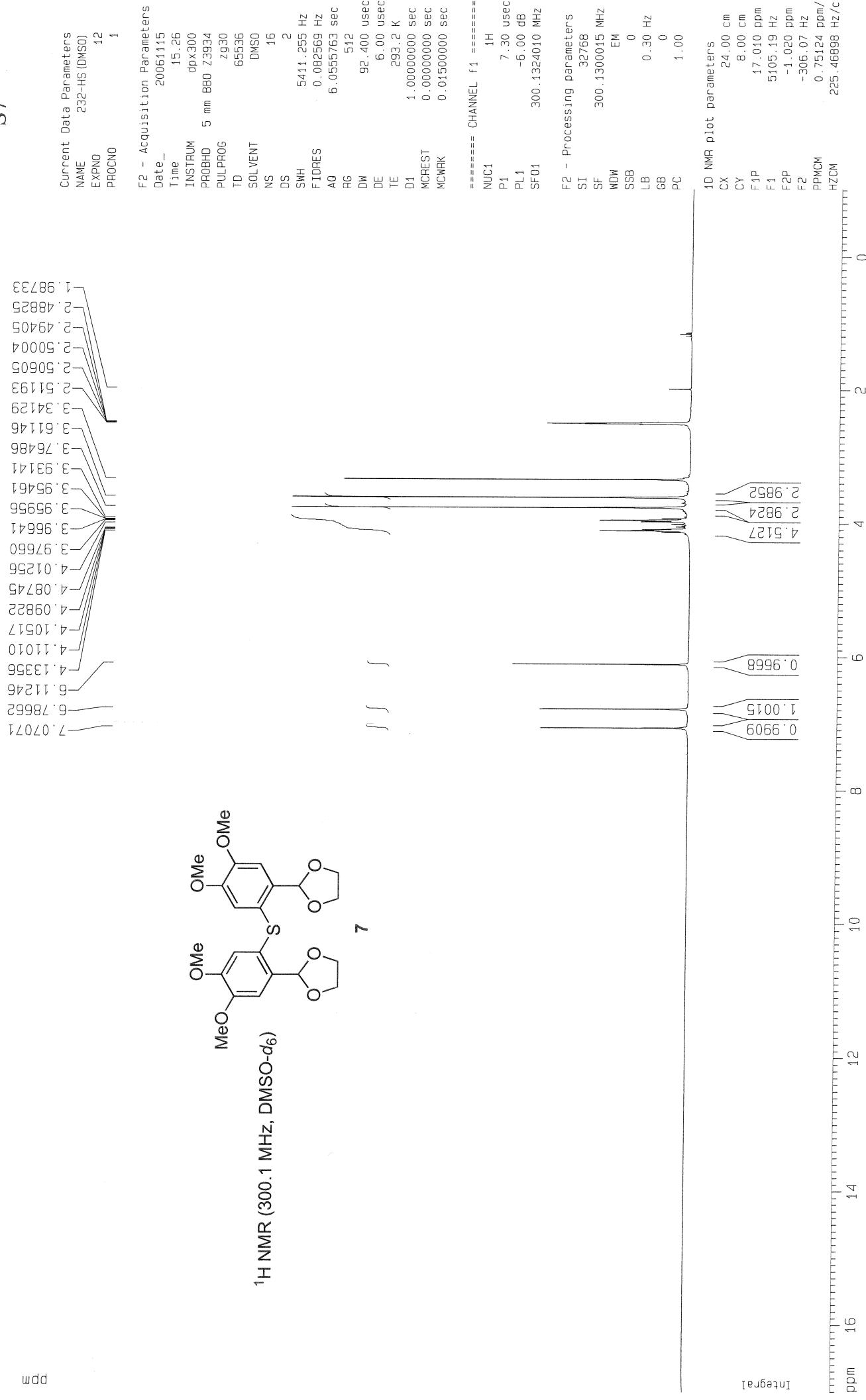
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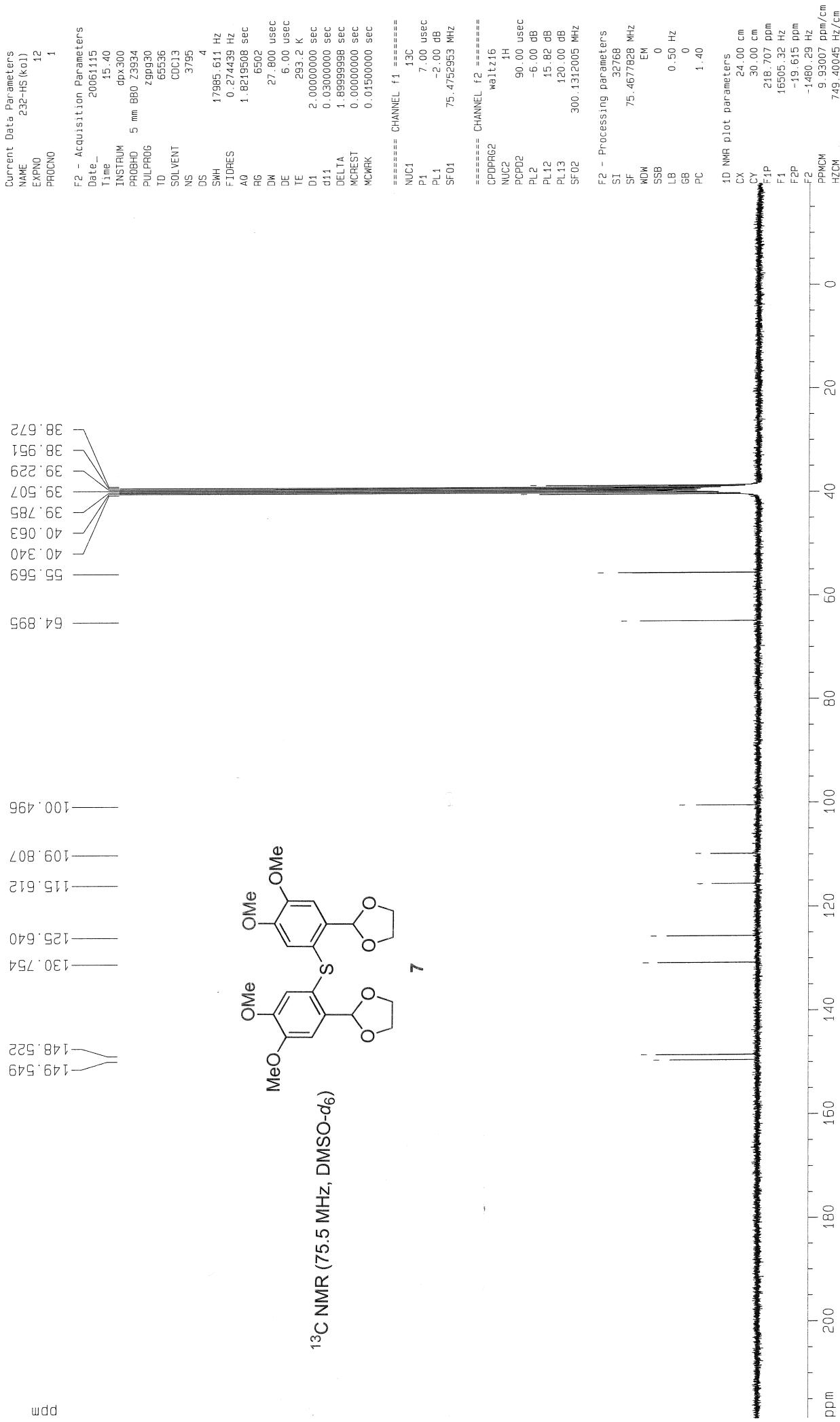


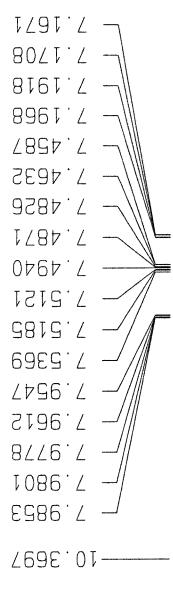
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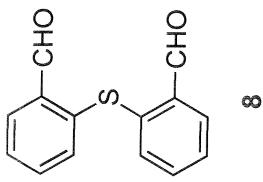
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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



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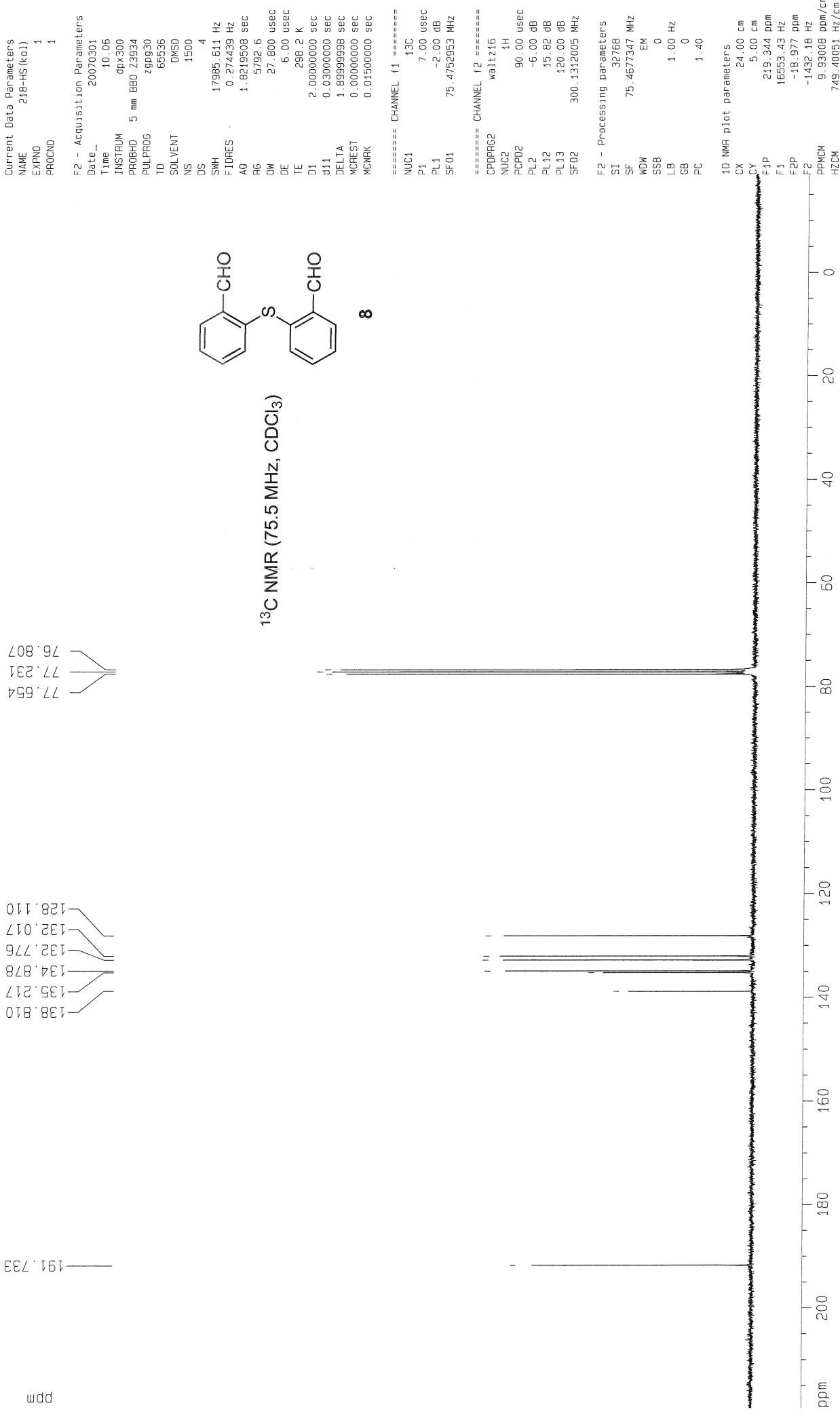
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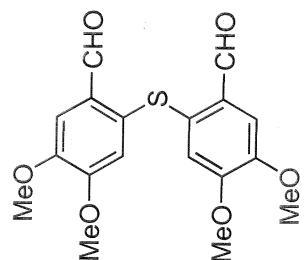
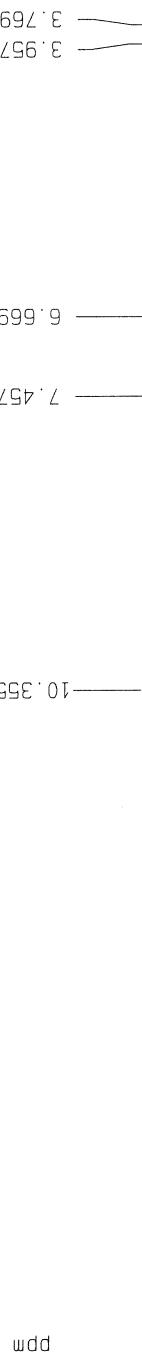
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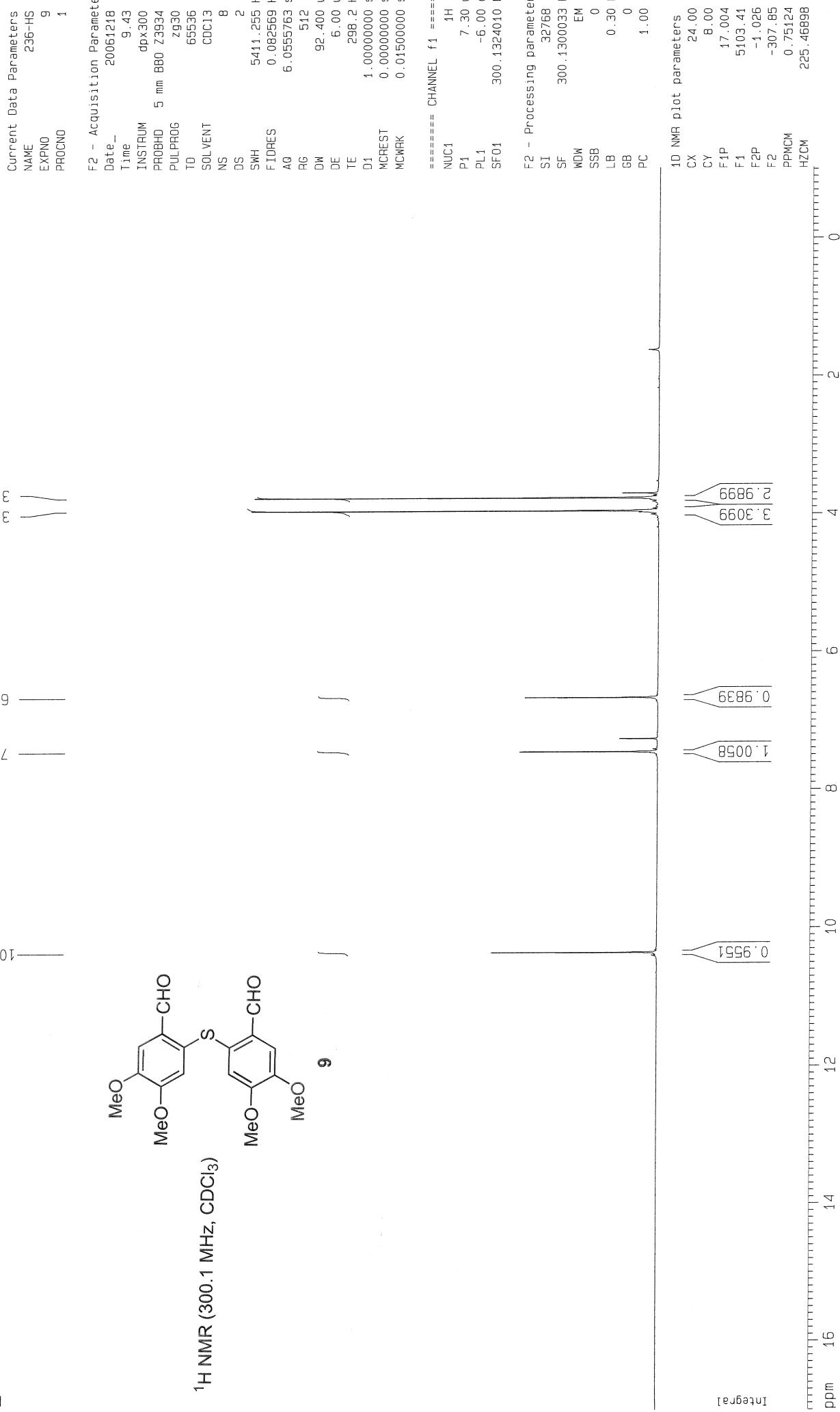
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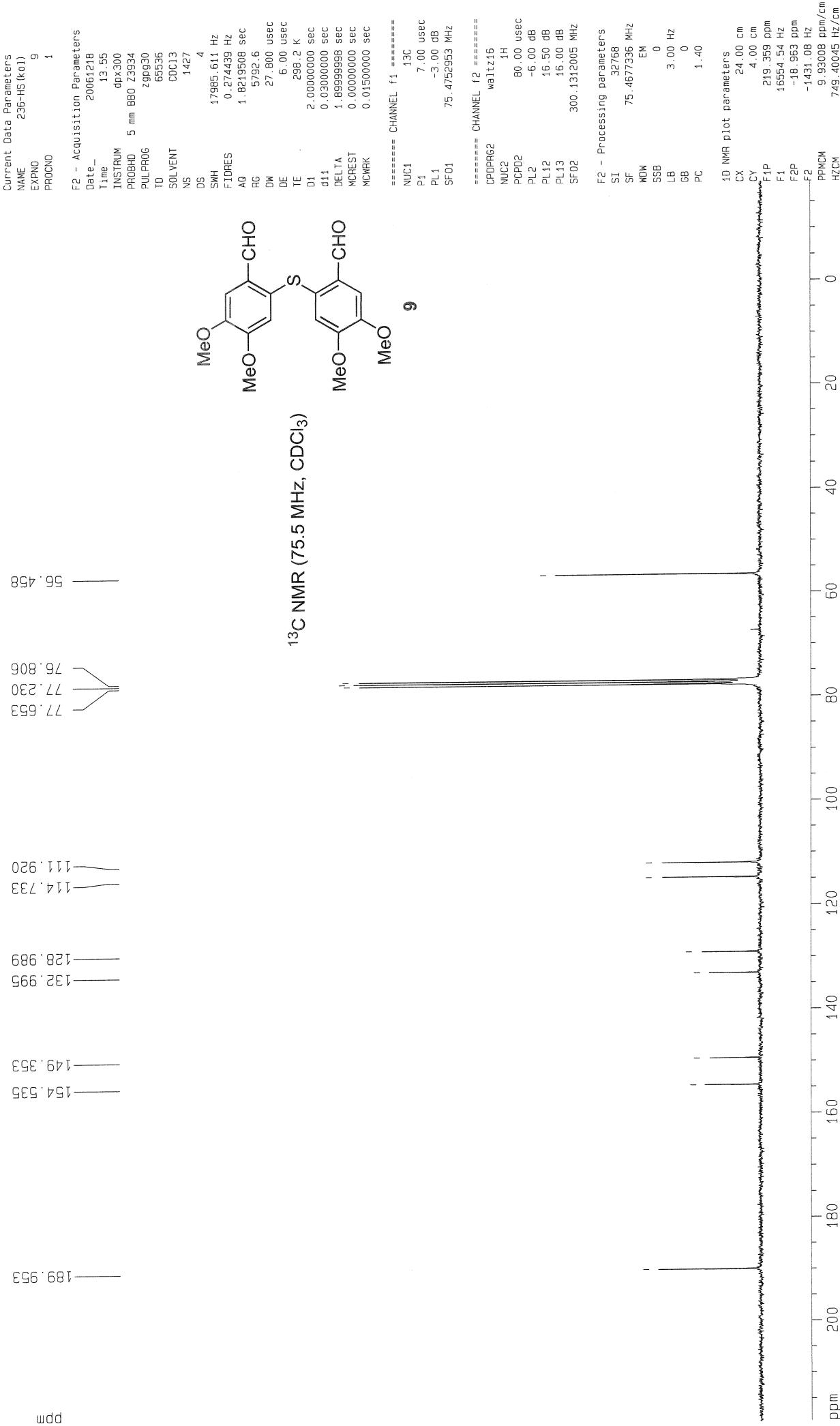
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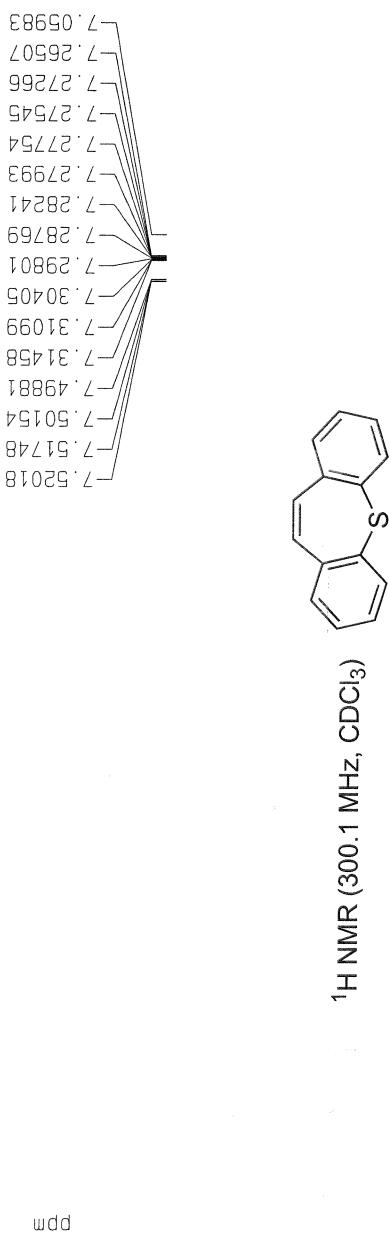




<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)







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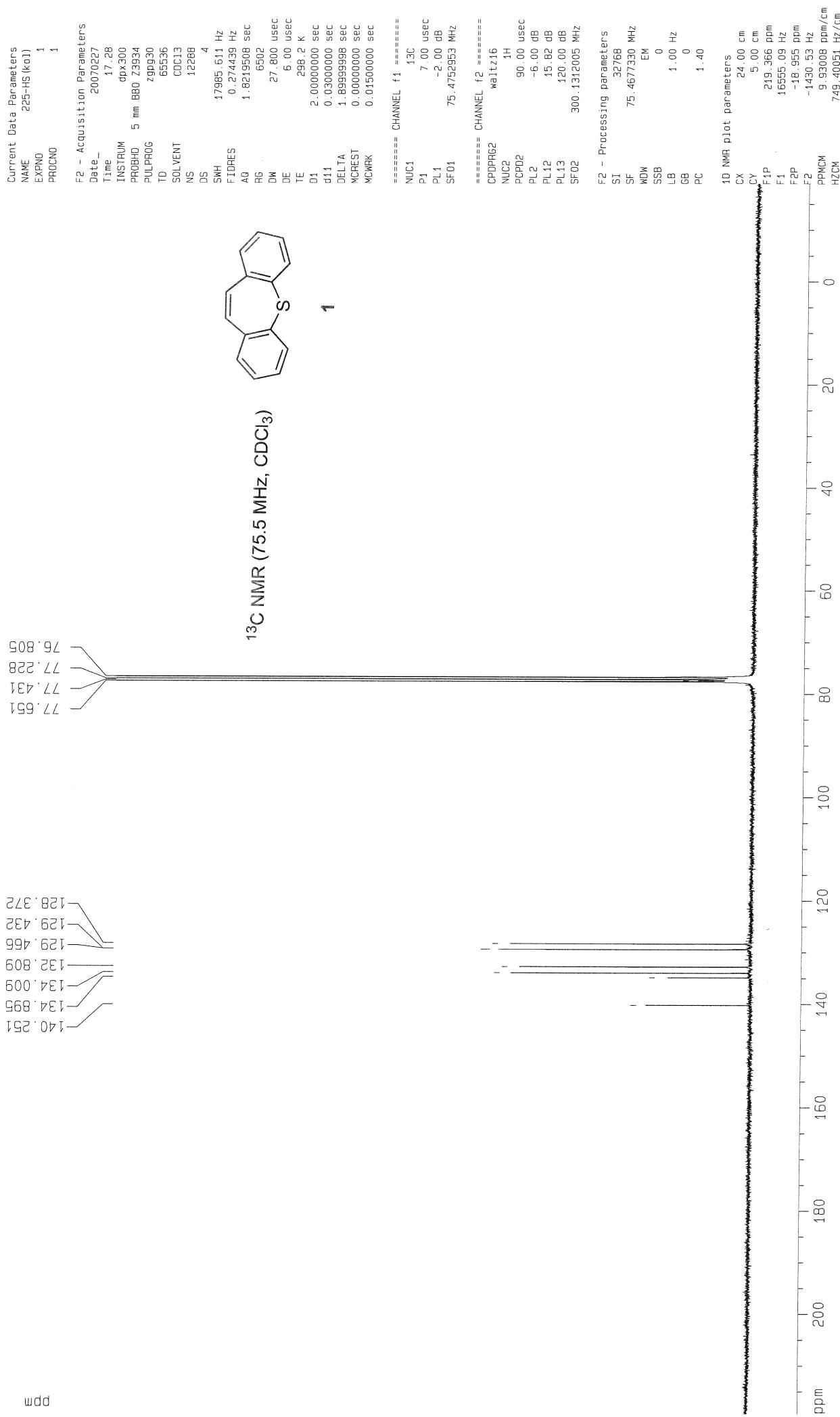
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Integral

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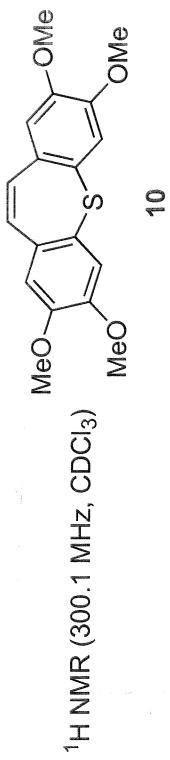
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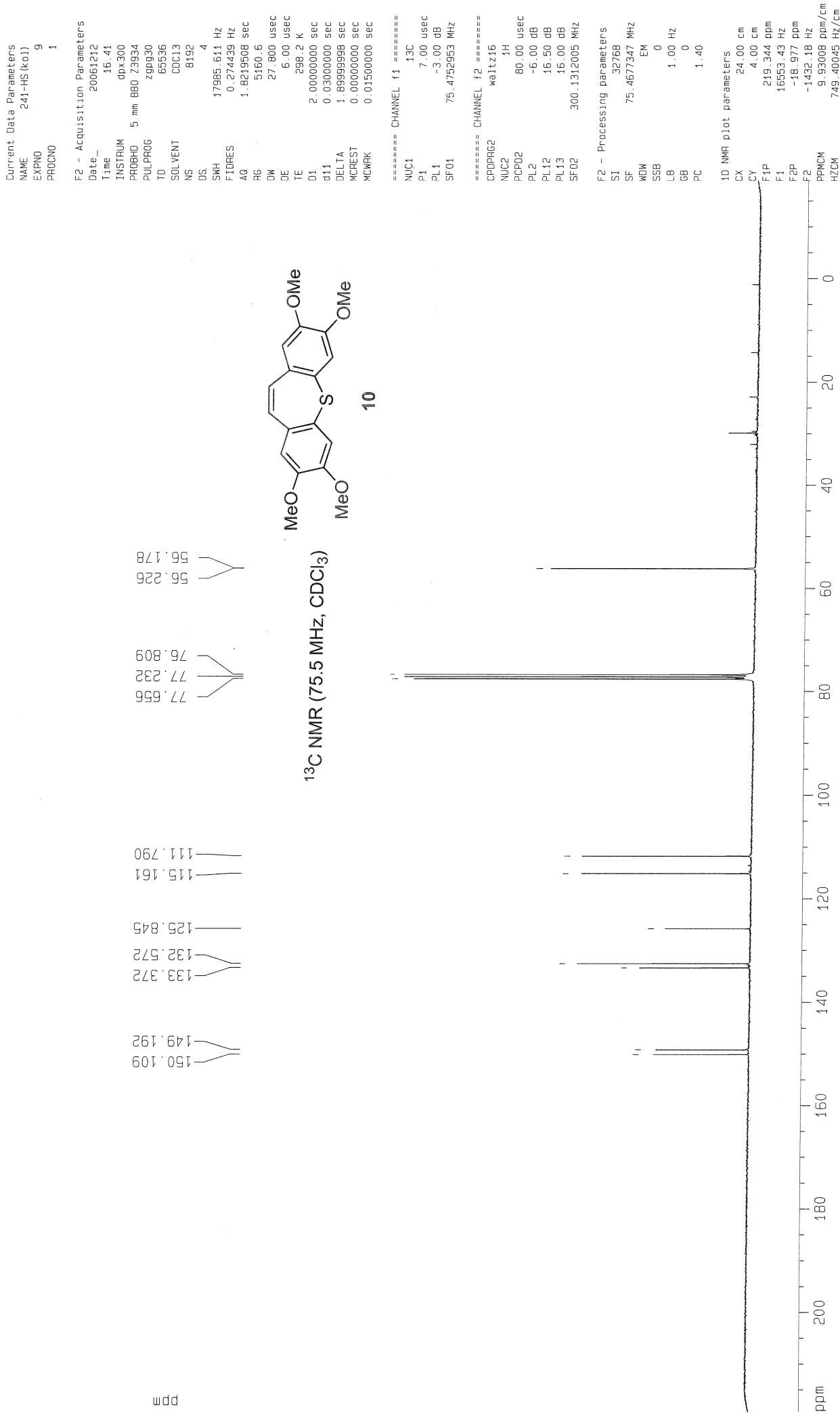
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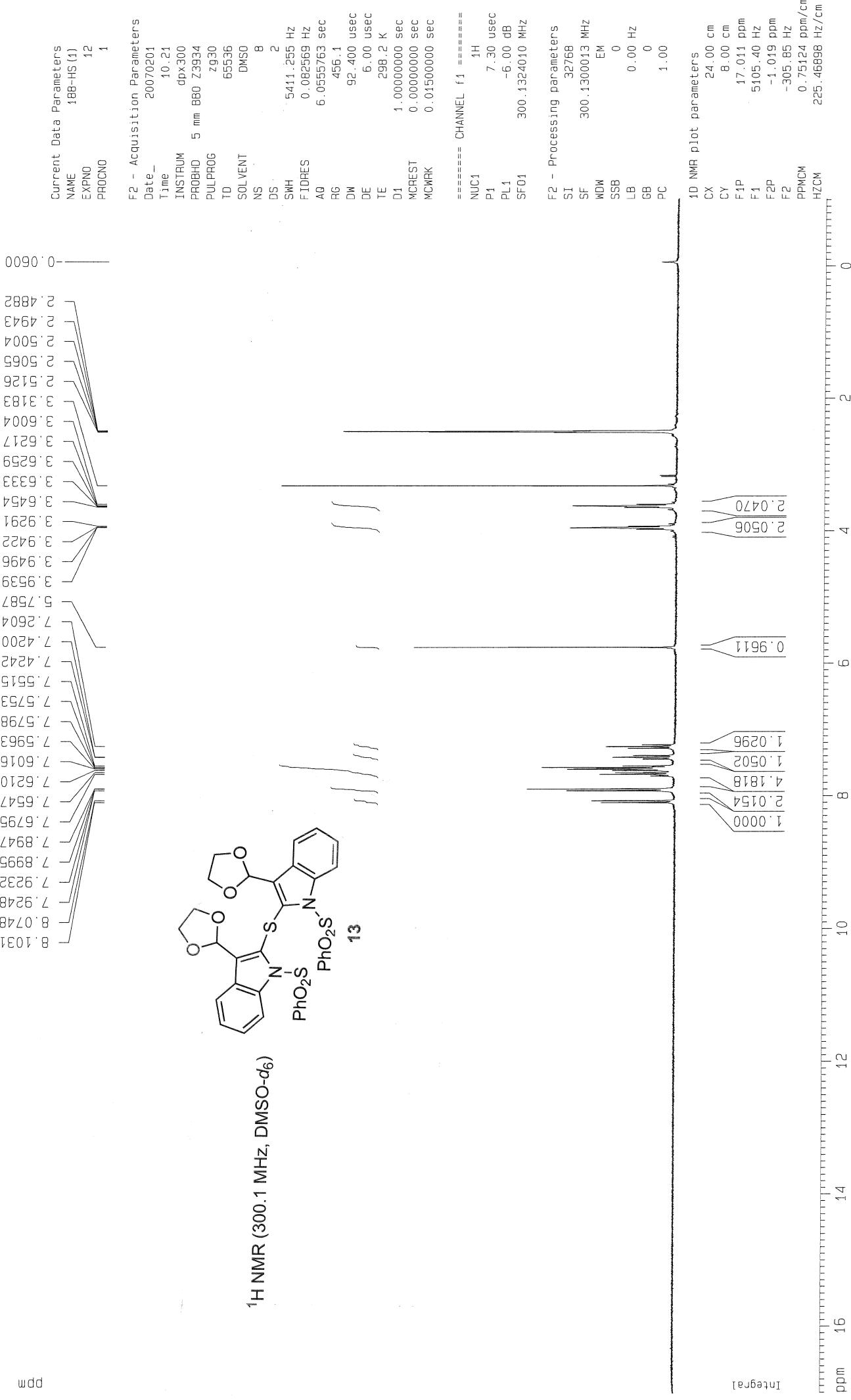
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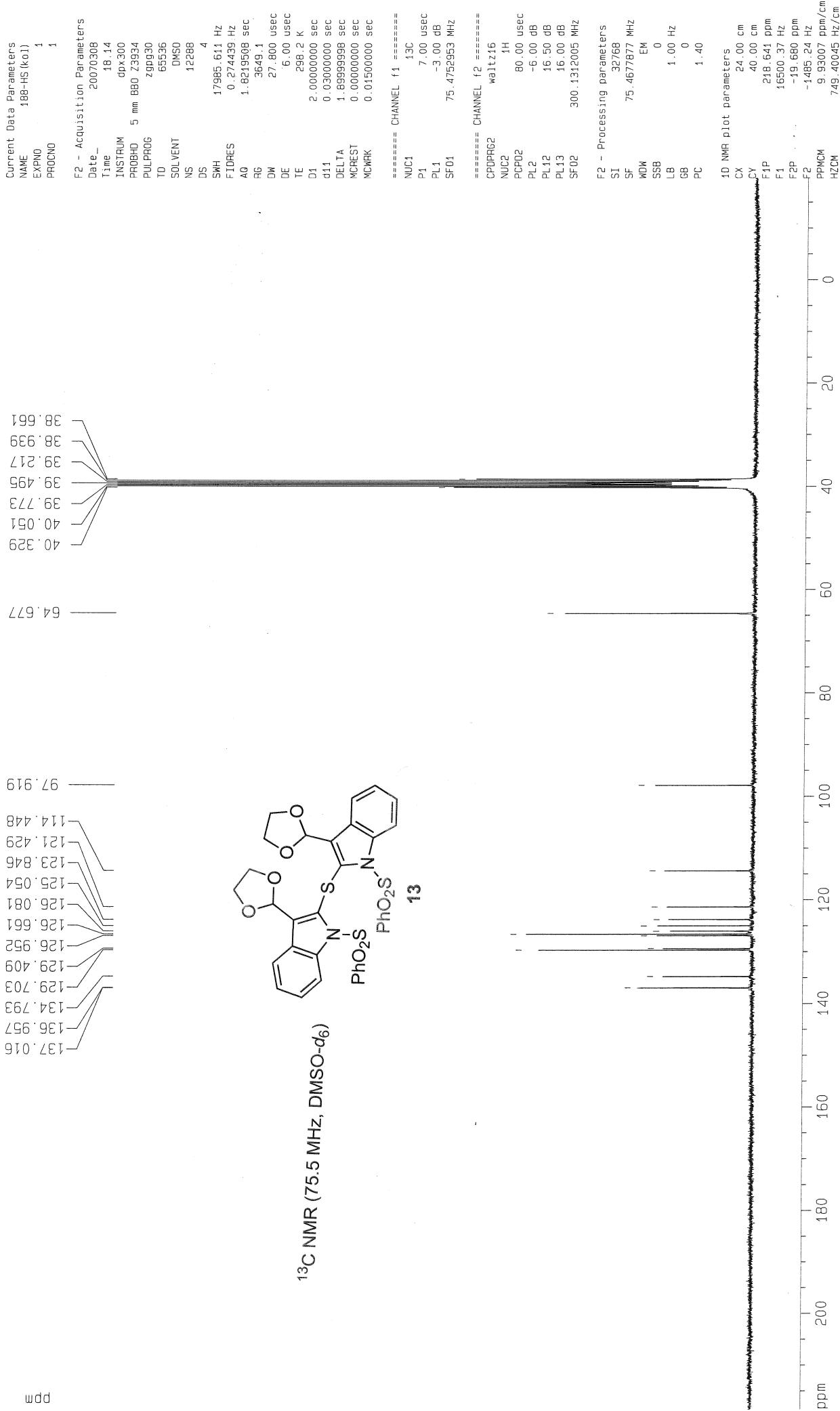
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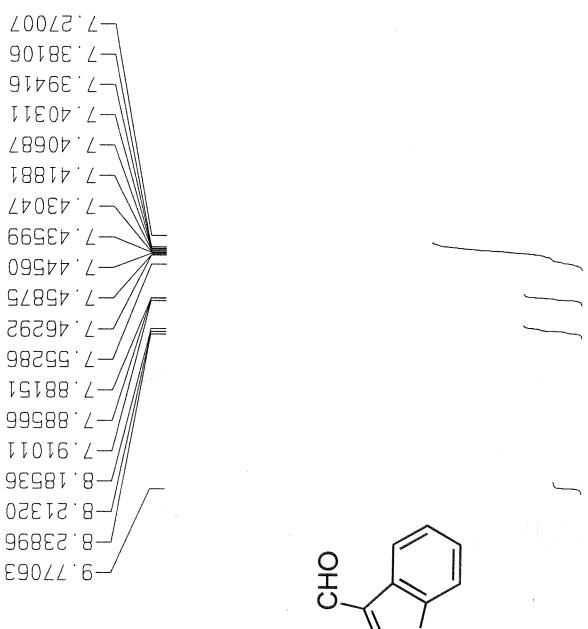
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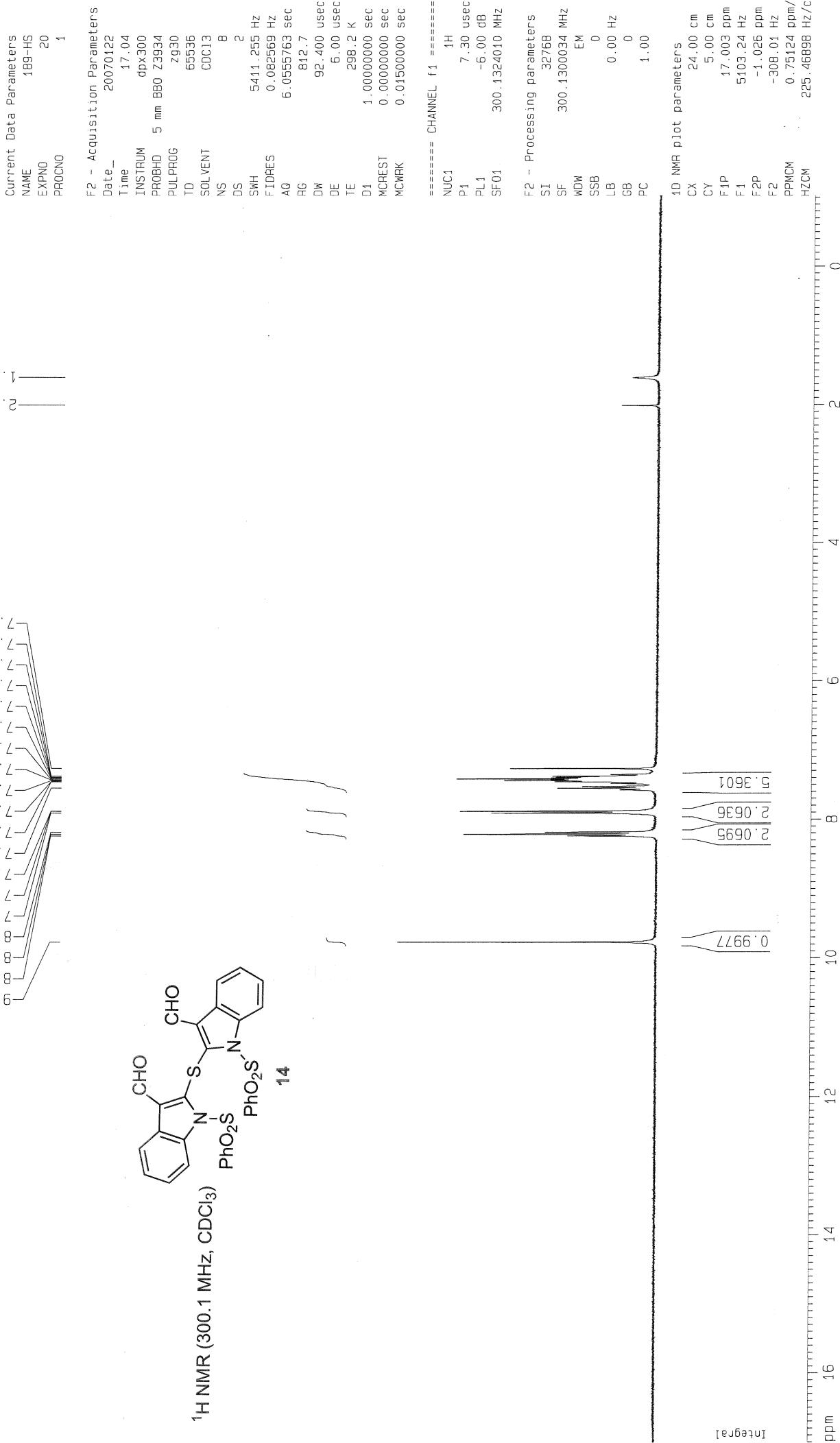


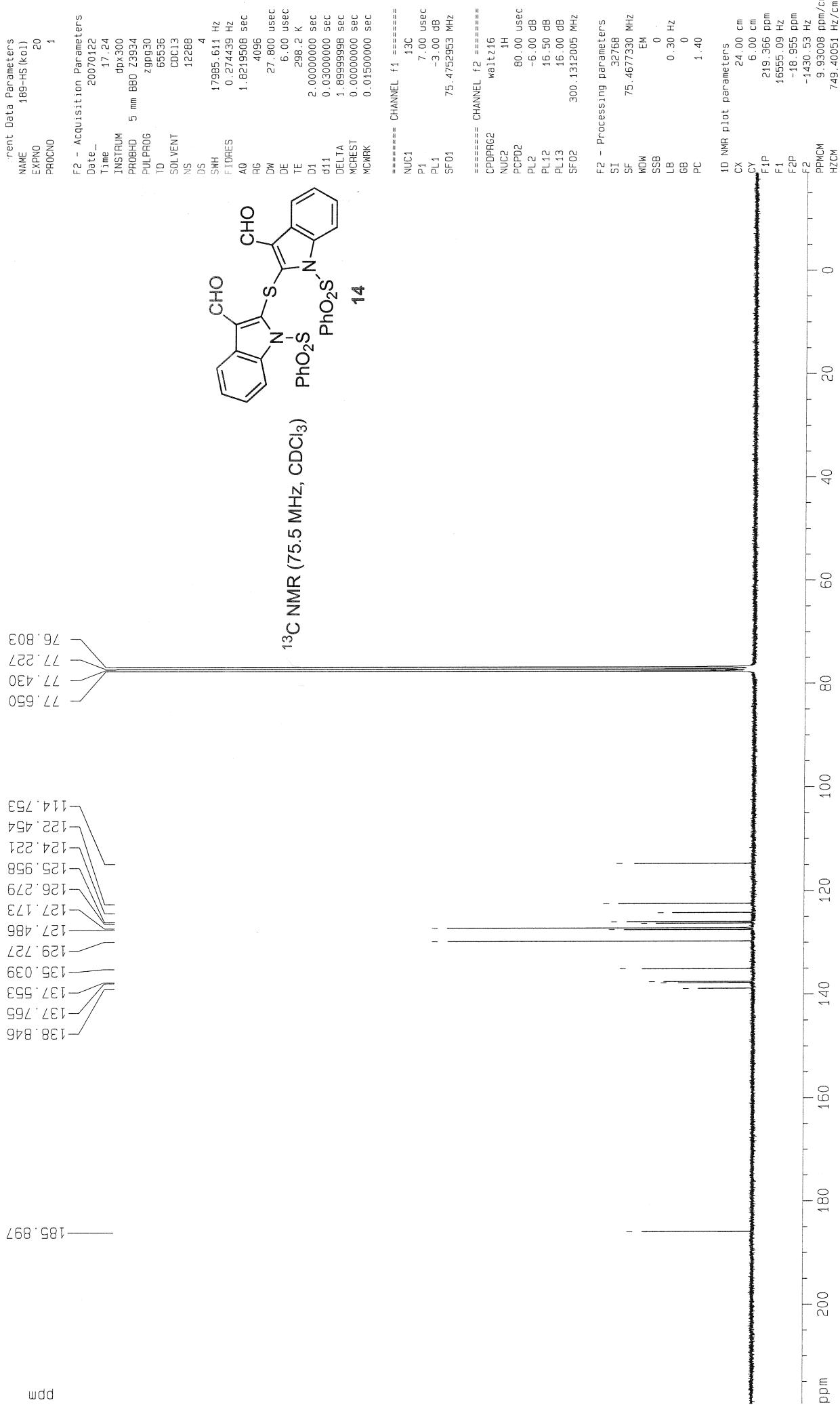


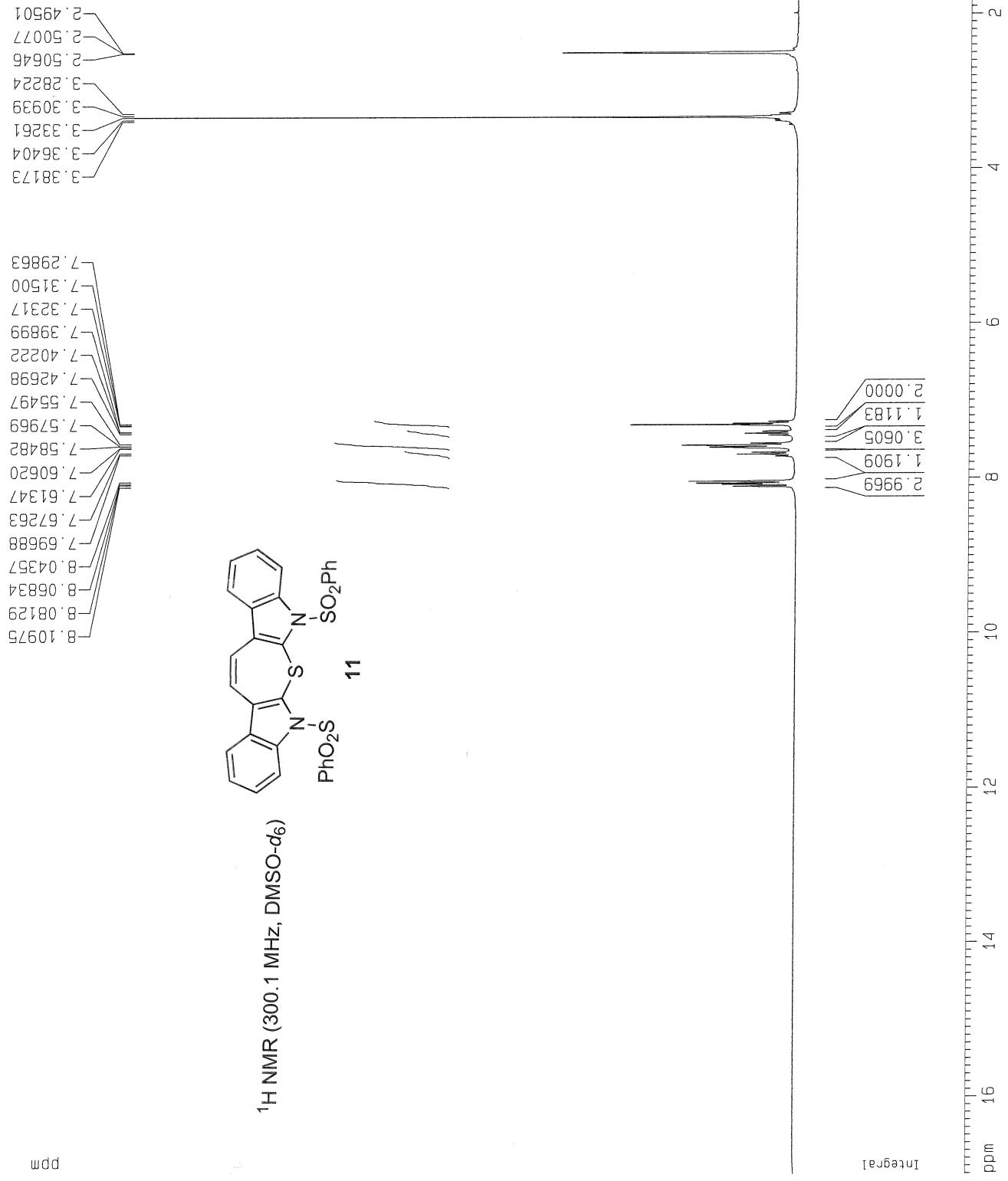
1.61135  
2.01302



ppm

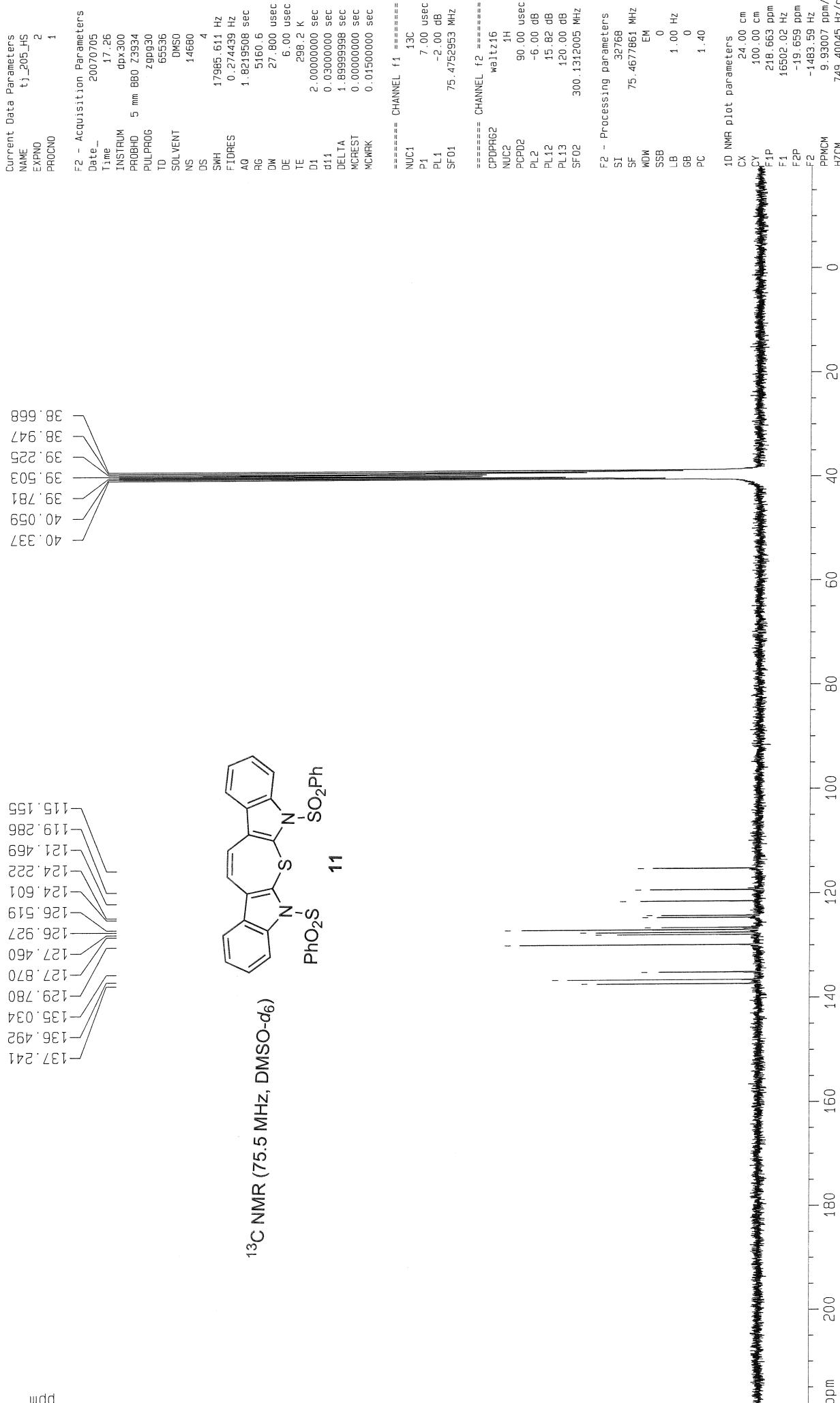
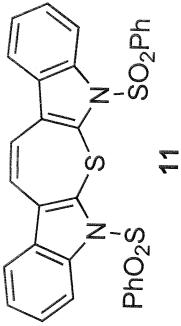


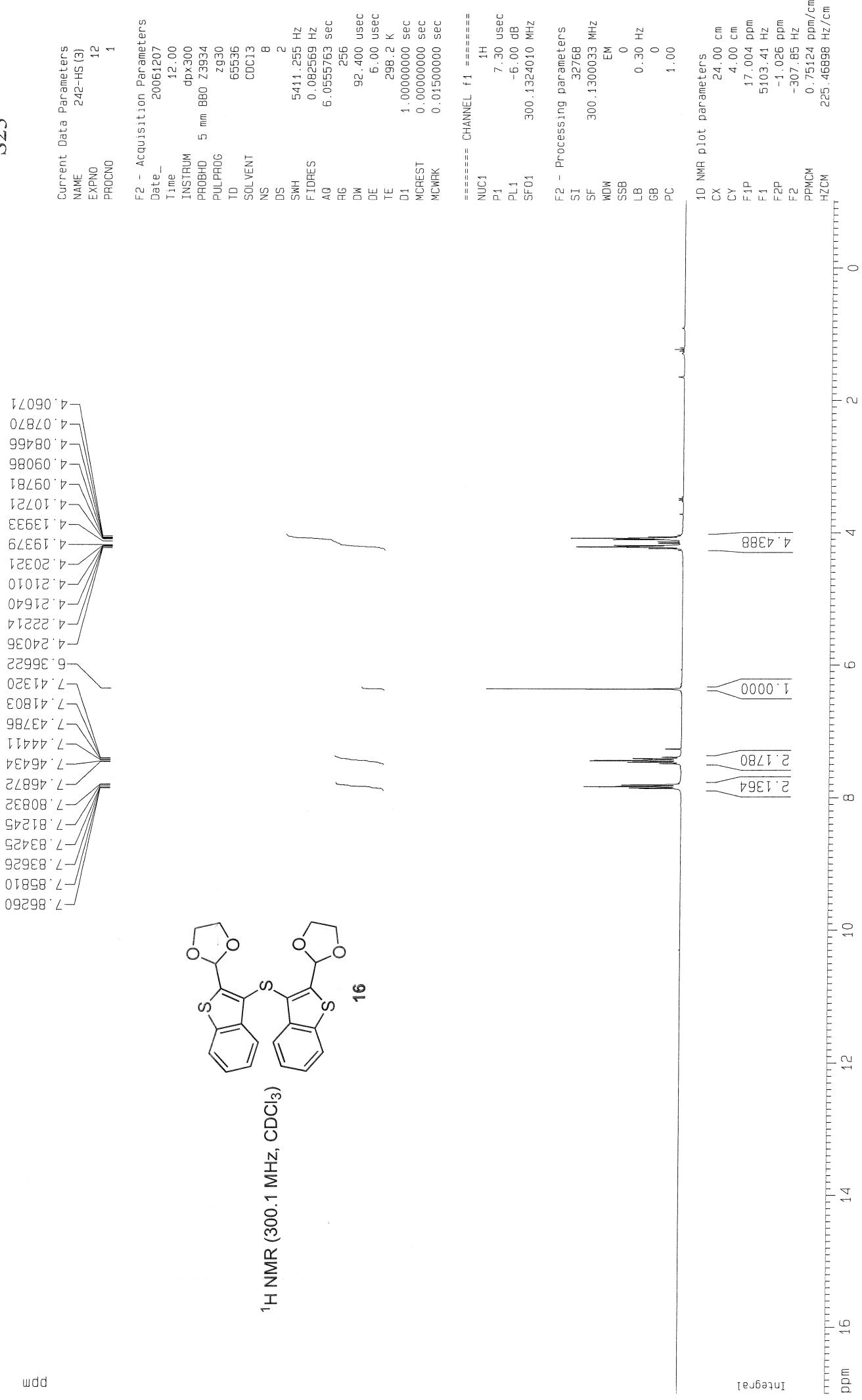


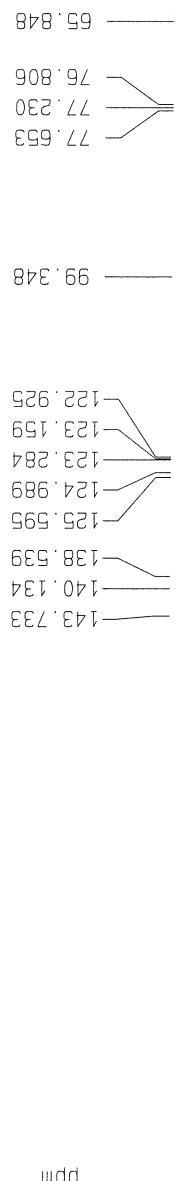




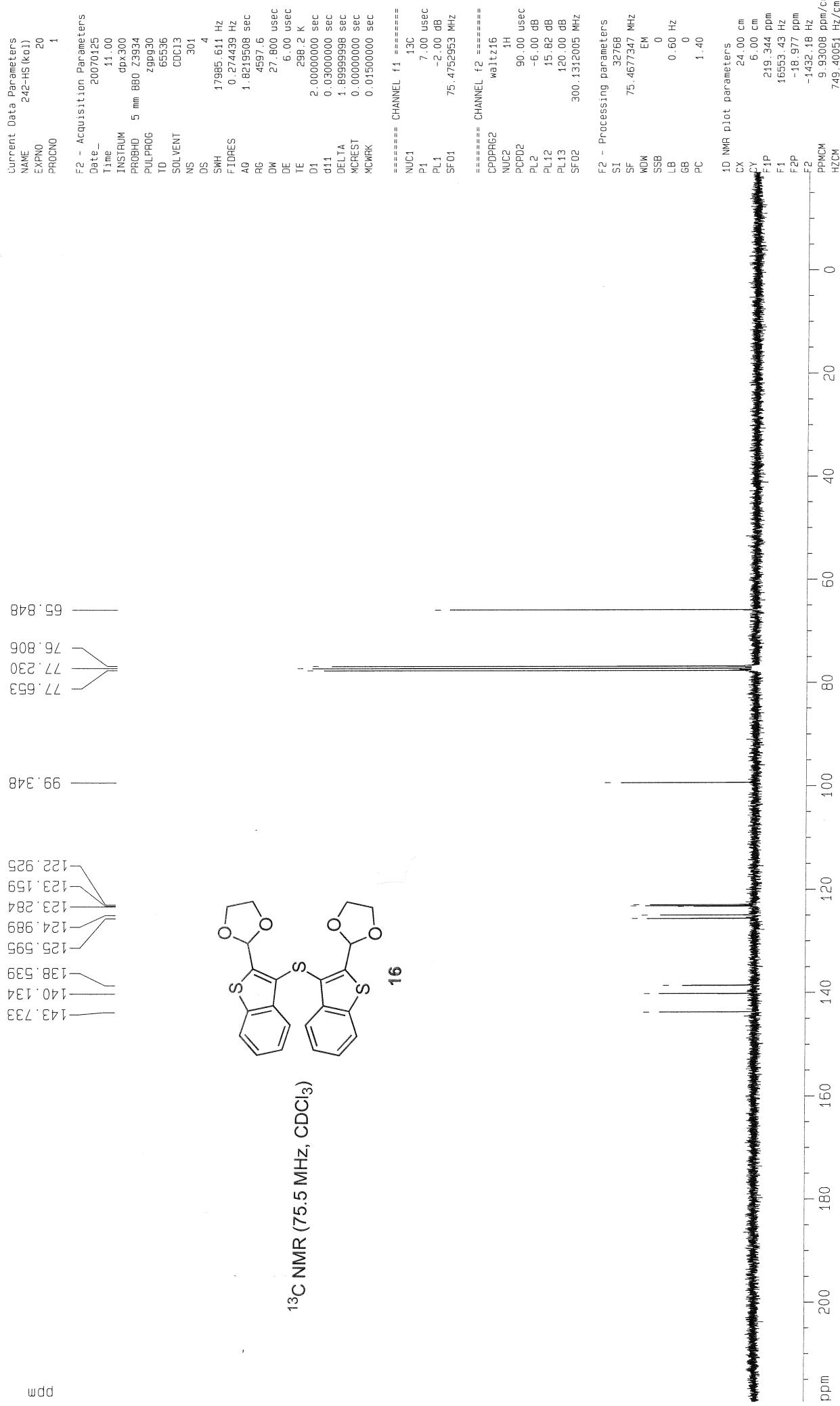
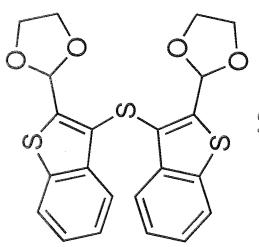
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )





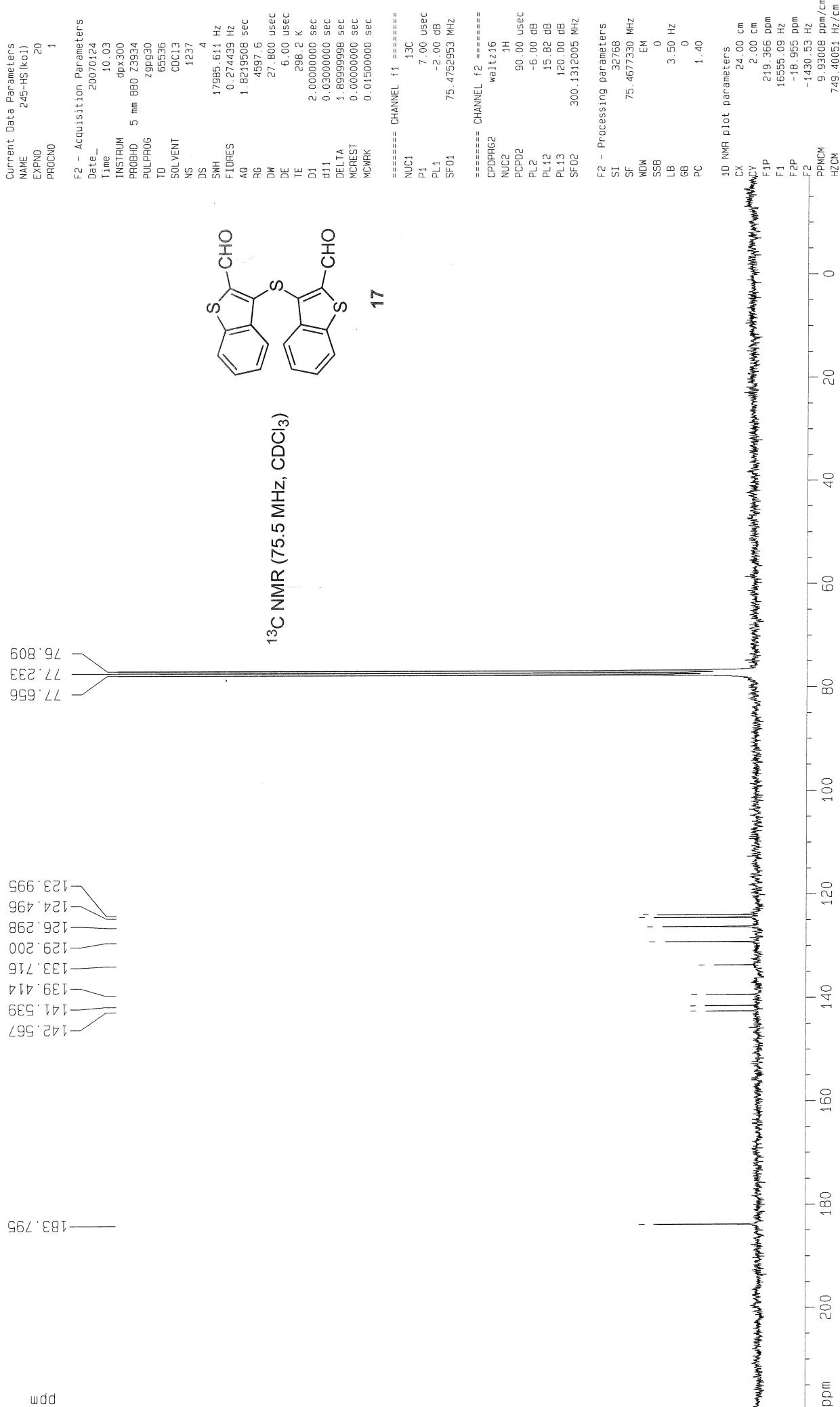


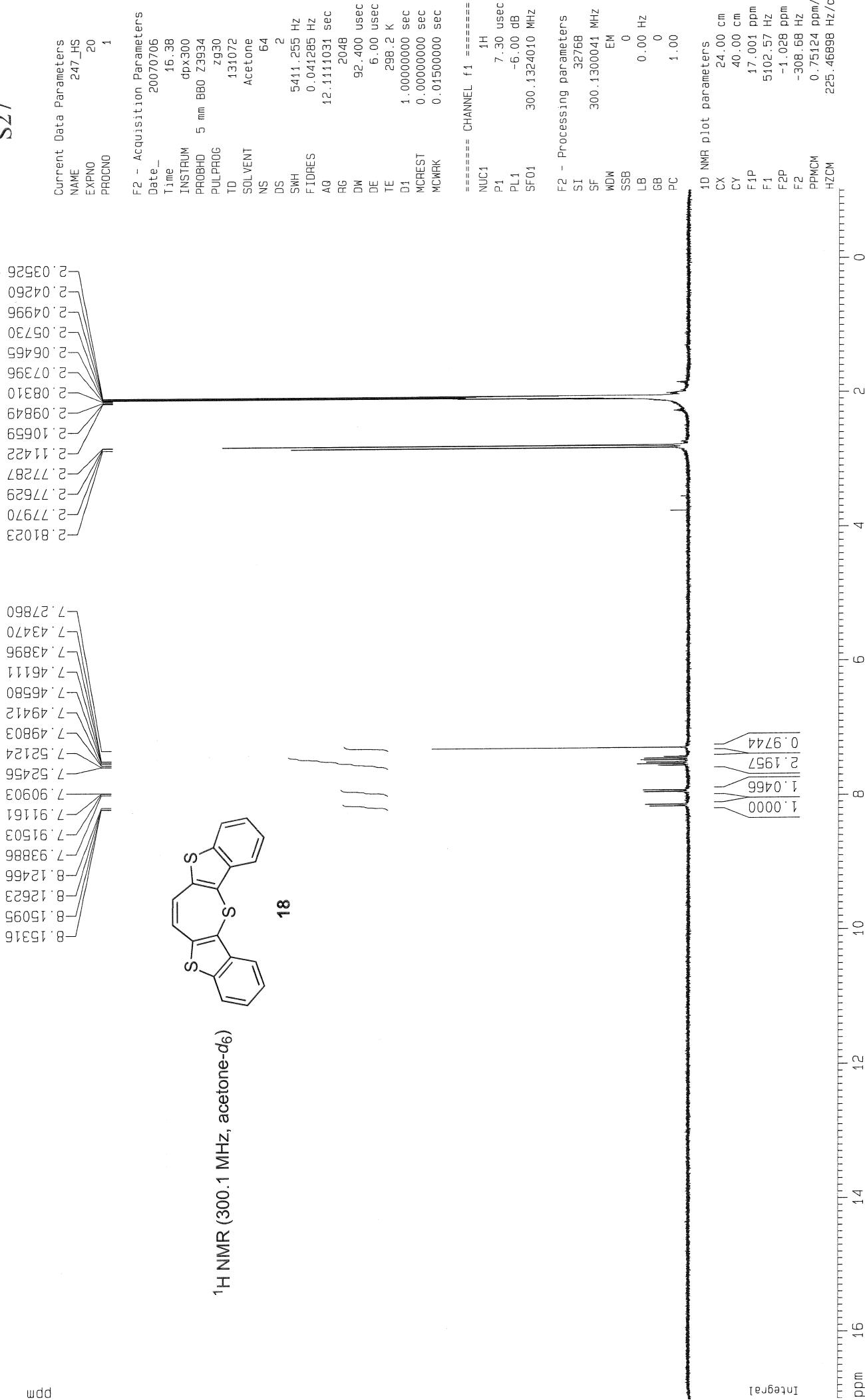
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

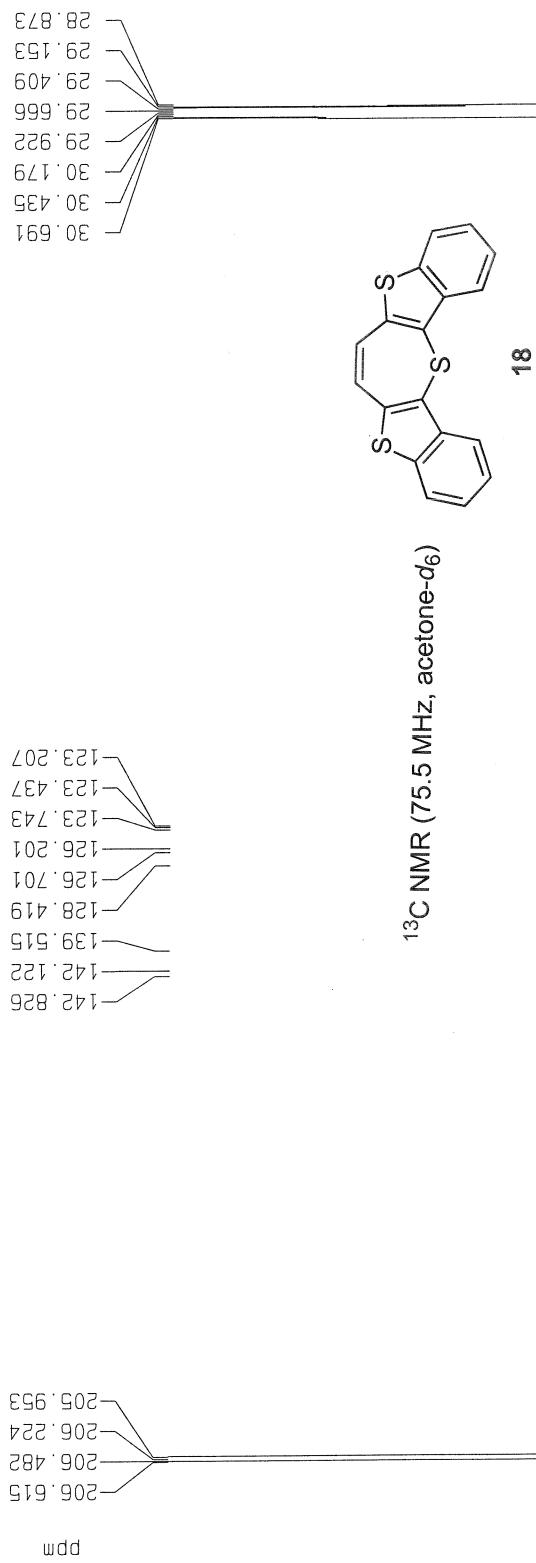


S25









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Current Data Parameters
NAME          247_HS
EXPO          21
PROBNO        1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
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Time         16:52
INSTRUM      dp300
PROBHD      5 mm BBO 23934
PULPROG     zg30
TD           65536
TOFACQ      Acetone
SOLVENT      NS
NS           54856
DS           4
SWH          17985.611 Hz
FIDRES      0.27439 Hz
AQ           1.8216508 sec
RG           4096
DW           27.800 usec
DE           6.00 usec
TE           258.2 K
D1           2.0000000 sec
d11          0.0300000 sec
d12          0.0300000 sec
d13          0.0300000 sec
DELTA        1.8899998 sec
MCREST       0.0000000 sec
MCWEK        0.0150000 sec

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1         13C
CPDPG2      32768
PL1          7.00 usec
SF1          75.475953 MHz
SF01         300.1312005 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
NUC2         1H
PCP02       90.00 usec
PL2          -6.00 dB
PL12         15.82 dB
PL13         120.00 dB
SF02         300.1312005 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
SI            32768
SF            75.467637 MHz
NDW          EM
SSB           0
LB           1.00 Hz
GB           0
PC           1.40

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10 NMR plot parameters  
CX 24.00 cm  
CY 120.00 cm  
CP 220.153 ppm  
F1 16614.43 Hz  
F2P -18.169 ppm  
PPCM 9.93009 ppm/cm  
H2CM 749.40051 Hz/cm

ppm

0

20

60

40

20

100

80

60

40

20

160

140

120

100

80

60

40

20

0

ppm