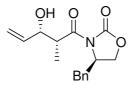
A Concise Total Synthesis of Melithiazole C

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General: All reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere in anhydrous solvents (CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from CaH₂, THF and Et₂O were distilled from sodium/benzophenone). TLC was performed on Merck 60F₂₅₄ silica gel plates and visualized with a UV lamp (254 nm) and a KMnO₄/K₂CO₃/AcOH solution in H₂O followed by heating. Flash chromatography was performed with Merck Geduran Si60 silica gel (40-63 µM). Optical rotations were determined with a Perkin Elmer 343 polarimeter. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker TENSORTM 27 (IRFT) and wave-numbers are indicated in cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 at 400 MHz and data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, m = multiplet or overlap of non equivalent resonances), integral. 13 C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 at 100 MHz and data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak, multiplicity with respect to proton (deduced from DEPT experiments, $s = C_a$, d = CH, $t = CH_2$, $q = CH_3$). Mass spectra with electronic impact (MS) were recorded with a Hewlett-Packard tandem 5890A/5971 GC-MS (70 eV). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed by the Groupe de Spectrométrie de Masse de l'Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris).

(R)-4-Benzyl-3-[(2R,3S)-3-hydroxy-2-methyl-pent-4-enoyl]-oxazolidin-2-one (6)¹

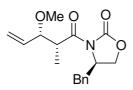


To a solution of oxazolidinone **4** (4.67 g, 20 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL) were added *n*-Bu₂BOTf 24 mL, 1.0 M in CH₂Cl₂, 24 mmol) and ^{*i*}Pr₂NEt (4.8 mL, 27.6 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C. After

¹ Nicolaou, K. C.; Brenzovich, W. E.; Bulger, P. G.; Francis, T. M. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2006, 4, 2119-2157.

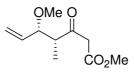
10 min the mixture was cooled to -78 °C and freshly distilled acrolein (7.0 mL, 105 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 min. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 45 min and allowed to warm to 0 °C over 30 min before a pH 7 aqueous buffer solution (30 mL) and MeOH (100 mL) were added. A MeOH/35% H₂O₂ mixture (2/1, 100 mL) was then added slowly over 20 min and the mixture was stirred for a further 20 min at 0 °C before it was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was partitioned between Et₂O (200 mL) and H₂O (200 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 200 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (150 mL) and brine (150 mL). Drying over MgSO₄, evaporation of the solvent and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; 30% EtOAc in hexane) gave **6** (5.39 g, 93%) as a white solid.

(R)-4-Benzyl-3-[(2R,3S)-3-methoxy-2-methyl-pent-4-enoyl]-oxazolidin-2-one (7)



To a solution of alcohol **6** (1.8 g, 6.2 mmol) and 2,6-ditertbutyl pyridine (11.5 g, 60 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) was added methyl triflate (8.2 g, 50 mmol) dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 40 h at rt. The reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL), extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x 100 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation of the solvent and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; hexane to ether/hexane : 1/1) gave **7** (1.6 g, 85%) as a colourless viscous oil.

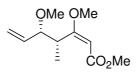
R*f* = 0.28 (ether/hexane : 1/1); $[α]^{20}_{D}$ – 69.0 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); **IR**: 2981, 2922, 1773, 1694, 1454, 1379, 1192, 1092, 980, 928, 745, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.40-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 2H), 5.82 (m, 1H), 5.31-5.27 (m, 2H), 4.66 (m, 1H), 4.19 (quint, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.77 (t_{app}, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 9.8 and 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 174.6 (s), 153.2 (s), 136.0 (d), 135.3 (s), 129.5 (2 x d), 128.9 (2 x d), 127.3 (d), 119.0 (t), 84.1 (d), 66.0 (t), 56.8 (q), 55.5 (d), 42.3 (d), 37.8 (t), 13.3 (q); **MS** (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 303 (2), 272 (10), 256 (2), 156 (3), 127 (28), 117 (12), 99 (8), 91 (18), 71 (100); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NNaO₄ [M + Na]⁺: 326.1363, found: 326.1357.



To a solution of oxazolidinone **7** (607 mg, 2 mmol) in THF/H₂O (4/1, 5 mL) at 0 °C was added a 35% aqueous H₂O₂ solution (0.8 mL, 8 mmol) dropwise followed by LiOH•H₂O (168 mg, 4 mmol). After 1 h the mixture was treated with a saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₅ solution (5 mL), diluted with H₂O (20 mL) and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 20 mL). The aqueous phase was then acidified with 3M HCl (8 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 30 mL). Drying of the combined organic phases over MgSO₄ and evaporation of the solvent gave the crude acid which was dissolved in THF (10 mL) and treated with carbonyl diimidazole (357 mg, 2.2 mmol) at 0 °C. After 2 h at rt the mixture was added dropwise to a solution of LiCH₂CO₂Me prepared from AcOMe (444 mg, 6 mmol), ^{*i*}Pr₂NH (610 mg, 6 mmol) and *n*-BuLi (6 mmol, 2M in cyclohexane) at -78 °C and stirring was continued for 2 h at -78 °C. The reaction was quenched with 2N HCl (20 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL). Drying of the combined organic phases over MgSO₄, evaporation of the solvent and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; ether/hexane : 1/4) gave **8** (300 mg, 75%) as a colourless oil [ratio keto/enol-form = 9/1).

R*f* = 0.18 (ether/hexane : 1/4); $[\alpha]^{20}{}_{D}$ – 41.8 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); **IR**: 2983, 2939, 2825, 1747, 1713, 1629, 1437, 1311, 1238, 1160, 1087, 997, 930, 841, 656 cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, keto-form): δ = 5.64 (m, 1H), 5.33-5.24 (m, 2H), 3.77 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.94 (dq, *J* = 5.5 and 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, keto-form): δ = 204.6 (s), 167.8 (s), 134.9 (d), 119.4 (t), 83.8 (d), 56.6 (q), 52.2 (d), 50.8 (q), 49.4 (t), 11.8 (q); **MS** (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 168 (2), 127 (4), 101 (12), 95 (6), 71 (100), 59 (8); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₁₀H₁₆NaO₄ [M + Na]⁺: 223.0946, found: 223.0941.

(E)-(4R,5S)-3,5-Dimethoxy-4-methyl-hepta-2,6-dienoic acid methyl ester (2)



To a solution of keto ester **8** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) and trimethyl orthoformate (424 mg, 4.0 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was added concentrated sulphuric acid (20 mg, 0.2 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 48 h at rt. After dilution with Et_2O (80 ml) the organic phase was washed with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; ether/hexane : 1/5) gave **2** (180 mg, 84%) as a colourless oil.

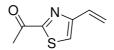
R*f* = 0.25 (ether/hexane : 1/5); $[\alpha]^{20}{}_{D}$ + 171.0 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); **IR**: 2940, 2821, 1710, 1621, 1436, 1382, 1270, 1193, 1138, 1093, 1038, 993, 923, 824, 696 cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR** (C₆D₆, 400 MHz): *δ* = 5.97 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 10.3 and 16.9 Hz, 1H), 5.22-5.13 (m, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.79 (dq, *J* = 6.8 and 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t_{app}, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (C₆D₆, 100 MHz): *δ* = 176.5 (s), 167.3 (s), 137.7 (d), 117.2 (t), 91.4 (d), 85.4 (d), 56.2 (q), 54.5 (q), 50.2 (q), 39.7 (d), 14.5 (q); **MS** (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 199 (2), 182 (14), 169 (8), 155 (7), 123 (12), 111 (3), 71 (100); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₈NaO₄ [M + Na]⁺: 237.1103, found: 237.1097.

1-(4-Bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-ethanone (9)²



To a solution of dibromthiazole **5** (1.2 g, 5 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (2.75 mL, 5.5 mmol) dropwise at -78 °C. After 30 min *N*-acetyl morpholine was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C before being diluted with Et₂O (100 ml) and washed with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL). Drying of the organic phase over MgSO₄, evaporation of the solvent and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; 10% ether in hexane) gave **9** (835 mg, 81%) as a white solid.

1-(4-Vinyl-thiazol-2-yl)-ethanone (3)

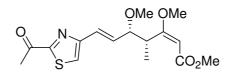


² Ung, A. T.; Pyne, S. G. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry **1998**, *9*, 1395-1407.

To a solution of bromide **9** (410 mg, 2 mmol) and $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (30 mg, 0.04 mmol) in dioxane (10 mL) was added vinyl tributyltin (700 mg, 2.2 mmol) dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. After dilution with Et₂O (100 mL) the organic phase was washed with H₂O (2 x 20 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; pentane to 5% ether in pentane) gave **3** (280 mg, 91%) as a yellow oil.

R*f* = 0.13 (5% ether in pentane); **IR**: 3099, 1685, 1483, 1451, 1357, 1275, 1054, 984, 946, 924, 780, 735 cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.36 (s, 1H), 6.70 (dd, *J* = 10.8 and 17 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 17.0 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 191.9 (s), 166.7 (s), 156.2 (s), 129.4 (d), 121.9 (d), 118.0 (t), 26.0 (q); **MS** (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 153 (100), 138 (22), 125 (34), 111 (25), 84 (32), 69 (4), 58 (15); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₇H₇NNaOS [M + Na]⁺: 176.0141, found: 176.0140.

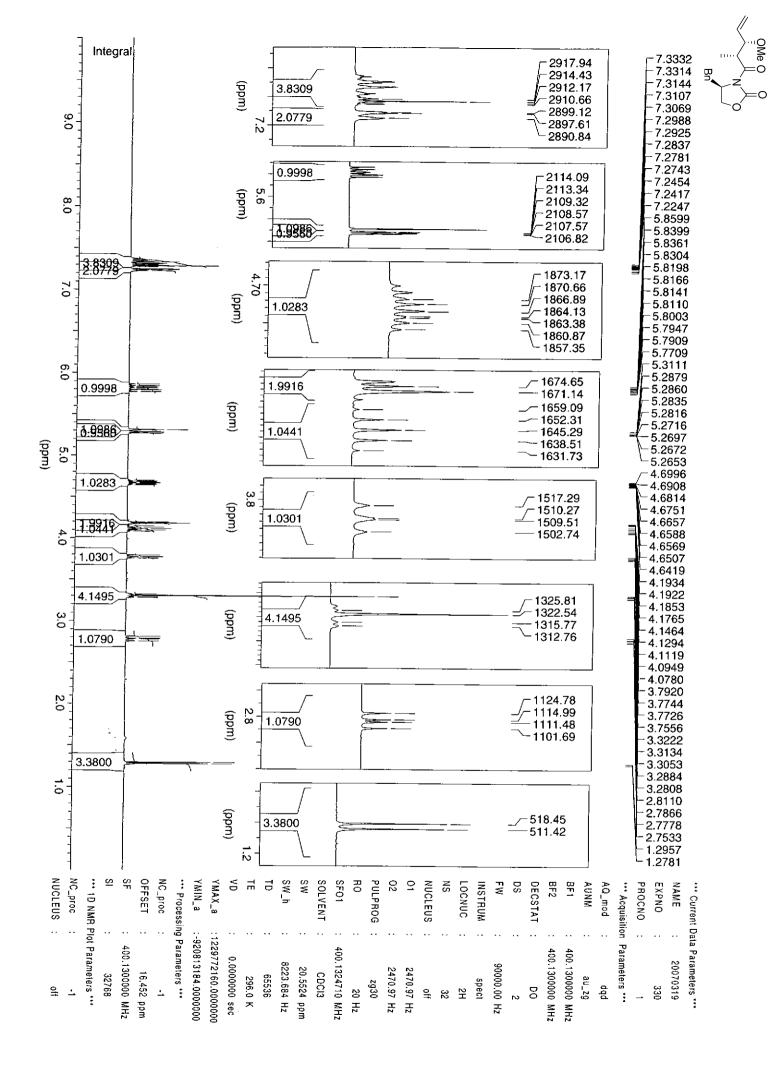
Melithiazole C $(1)^3$



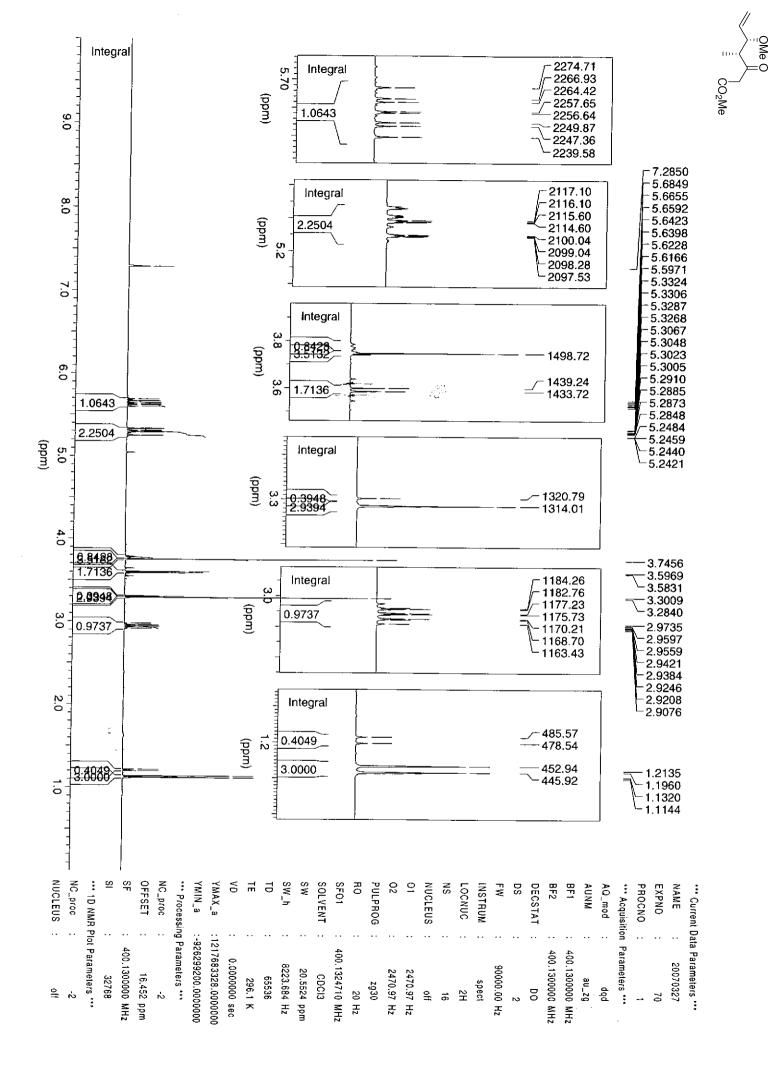
To a solution of **2** (21 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **3** (31 mg, 0.2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) was added Grubbs 2nd generation catalyst (25 mg, 0.03 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 60 h at 40 °C. Evaporation of the solvent, purification of the residue by flash chromatography (SiO₂; 2% acetone in CH_2Cl_2) and recrystallization from ether/hexane gave **1** (19 mg, 56%) as a white solid.

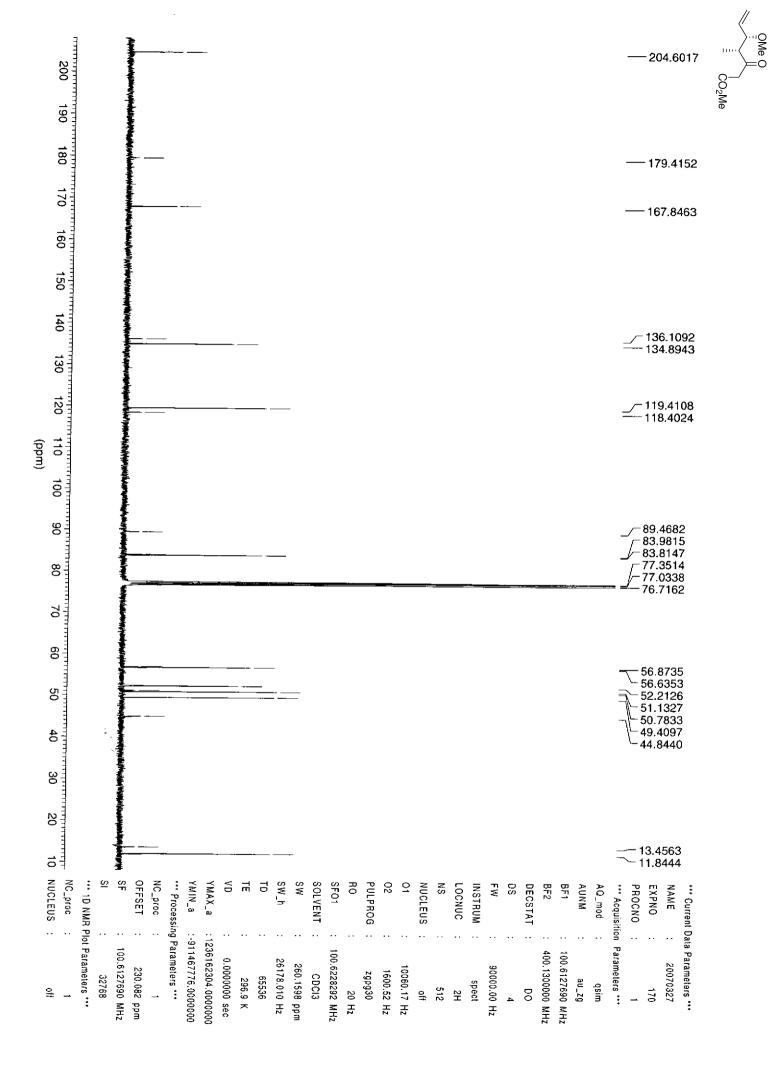
R*f* = 0.23 (2% acetone in CH₂Cl₂); **Mp**: 97-99 °C [α]²⁰_D + 167.0 (*c* 0.3, MeOH); **IR**: 2933, 1709, 1688, 1622, 1438, 1383, 1359, 1272, 1145, 1093, 1054, 972, 928, 826 cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.31 (s, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dd, *J* = 7.5 and 15.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.11 (dq, *J* = 7.0 and 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t_{app}, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C **NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 191.9 (s), 176.5 (s), 167.7 (s), 166.5 (s), 155.6 (s), 133.2 (d), 124.7 (d), 121.4 (d), 91.1 (d), 84.2 (d), 57.1 (q), 55.5 (q), 50.8 (q), 39.8 (d), 26.0 (q), 13.9 (q); **MS** (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 307 (4), 276 (6), 196 (100), 181 (12), 154 (15), 123 (4); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₂₁NNaO₅S [M + Na]⁺: 362.1033, found: 362.1027.

³ Söker, U.; Sasse, F.; Kunze, B.; Höfle, G. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2000, 11, 2021-2026.

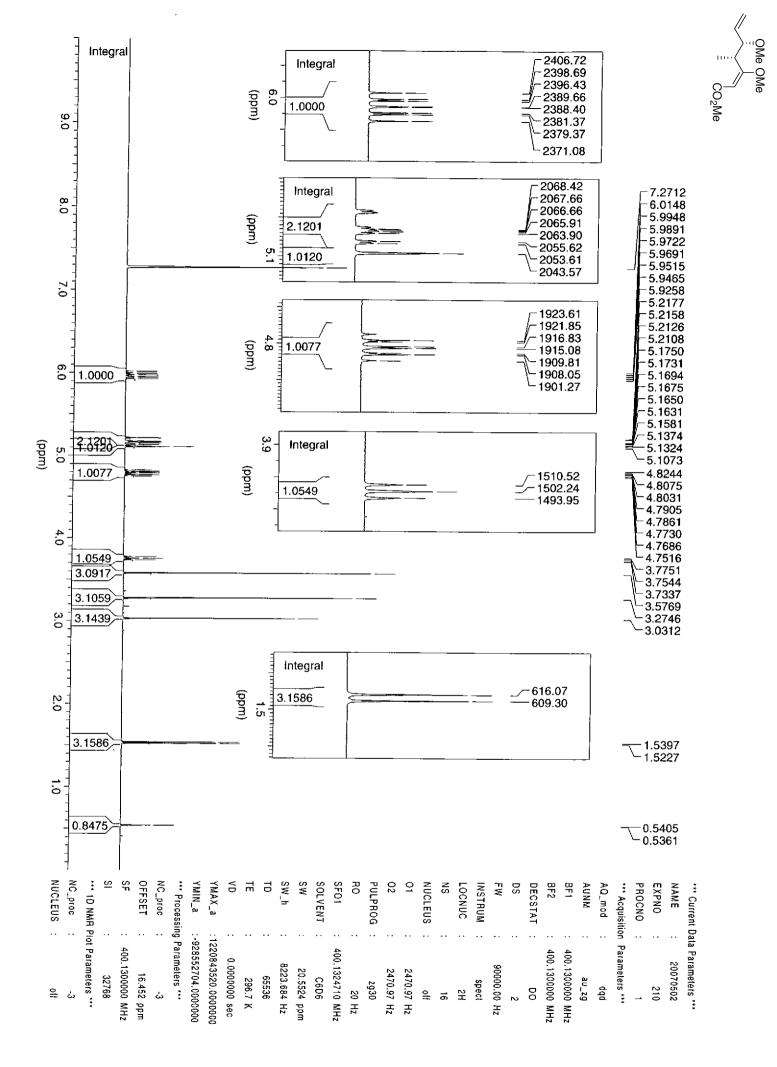


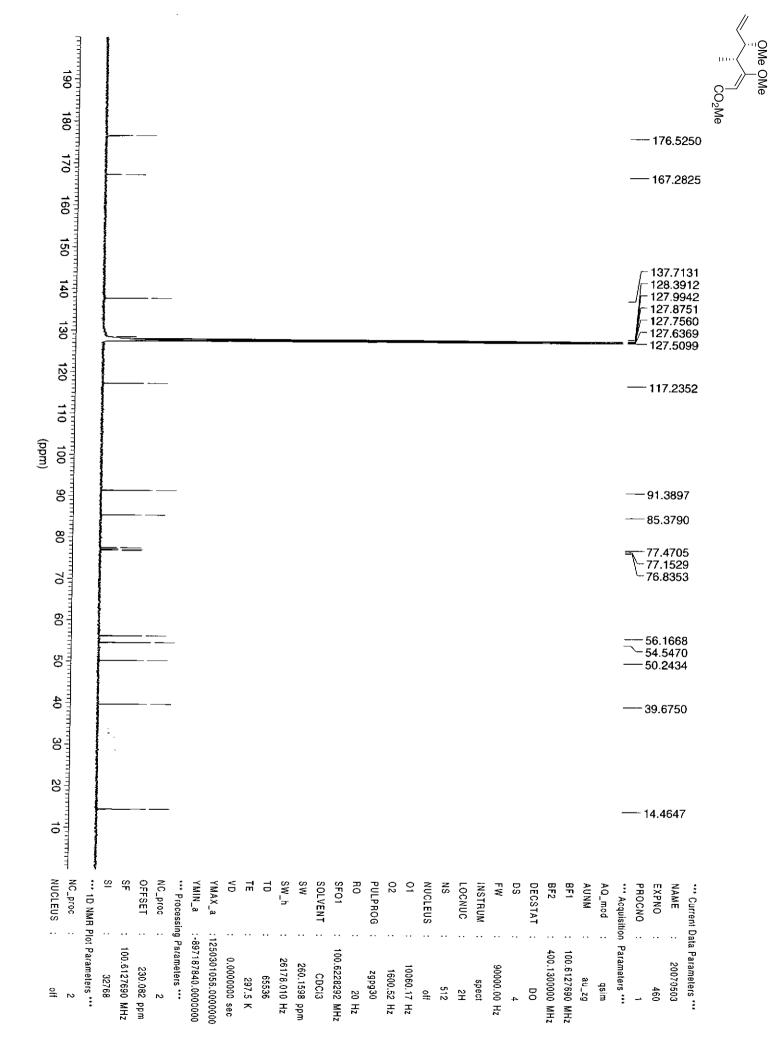
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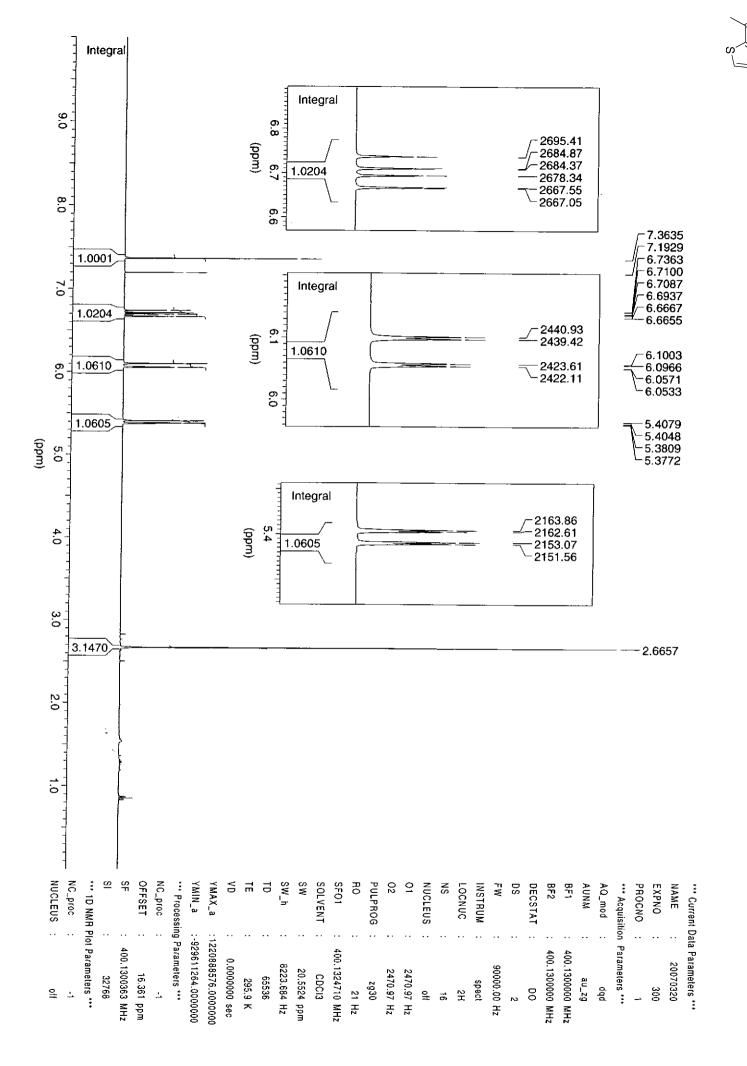




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