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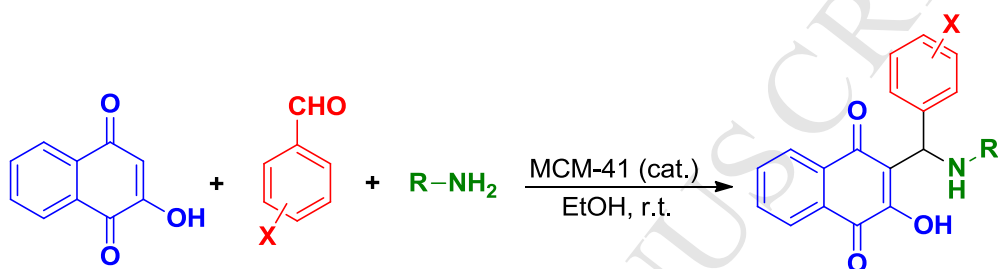
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Graphical Abstract

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Synthesis of 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone derivatives via a three-component reaction catalyzed by nanoporous MCM-41

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Abstract

A one-pot procedure for synthesis of hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives via a three-component reaction of 2-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione, aromatic aldehydes and heterocyclic or carbocyclic amines is developed. MCM-41 nanoporous catalyst is effective, easy recovery, reusable and makes work-up easy. This approach is clean and environmentally friendly. The structures of the new compounds were confirmed by FT-IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and elemental analysis.

Keywords: Naphthoquinone pigment, 2-Hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione, Nanoporous MCM-41, Environmentally friendly, Multicomponent reaction, One-pot synthesis.

1. Introduction

Multicomponent reactions (MCRs) are an important class of convergent organic reactions, in which three or more starting materials react together to form a unique product [1,2]. They have recently received special interest, because of the ability of the formation of multi-bonds in a one-pot reaction with high atom efficiency and mild and environmentally benign conditions [3]. Due to this important ability, researches on MCRs have received a rapidly increasing attention in both academic and industrial researches [4].

On the other hand, in recent years, the use of heterogeneous catalysts has been widely studied; because, they are easily removable from the reaction media by simple filtration after completion of the reaction and in many cases they are reusable [5]. In order to overcome the lower reaction rate of heterogeneous catalysts compared to homogeneous ones, the use of high surface area materials such as nanoporous MCMs, SBAs, and zeolites have been widely investigated [6-9].

Molecules with the naphthoquinone structure constitute one of the most interesting classes of compounds in organic chemistry. They may possess different biological properties, industrial applications (such as pigments) and can be used as potential intermediates in the synthesis of heterocycles [10]. A series of related naphthoquinone pigments from *Streptocarpus dunnii* have been isolated and characterized (Fig. 1) [11,12].

Fig. 1.

2-Hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (HNQ; Lawsone) exists in the leaves of henna as the principal natural dye (1.0–1.4%). Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*, also called mignonette tree) is a flowering plant, which has been used since the Bronze Age to dye hair, skin (including body art),

fingernails, leather, silk and wool. In various festivals and celebrations, it is used as a natural colorant [13,14].

Herein, we wish to report an easy and efficient methodology for the one-pot synthesis of hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives **4a-t** from 2-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione **1**, aromatic aldehydes **2** and heterocyclic or carbocyclic amines **3** in the presence of MCM-41 as an efficient heterogenous catalyst at room temperature in short reaction times, high yields and simple work-up procedure (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1.

2. Experimental

2.1. General

All chemicals were purchased from Merck or Aldrich and have been used as received, except for liquid aldehydes, which have been freshly distilled prior to use. MCM-41 was synthesized according to the literature [15]. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) for monitoring reactions was performed using Merck 0.2 mm silica gel 60 F-254 Al-plates. Melting points were determined using an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and uncorrected. FT-IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets on a Shimadzu FT-IR- 8400S spectrometer. BET apparatus was a Micromeritics ASAP 2020, USA. ¹H NMR spectra were obtained using Bruker DRX-500 Avance spectrometer at 500.13 MHz. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained using Bruker DRX-400 Avance spectrometer at 100.63 MHz or Bruker DRX-500 Avance spectrometer at 125.76 MHz. Microanalysis of the products was carried out by a CHN analyzer (Perkine Elmer Series II, 2400).

2.2. General procedure for the preparation of MCM-41

To 42 mL deionized water in a 500 mL beaker, 2.7 g diethylamine was added at ambient temperature and stirred. Then, 1.47 g cetyltributylammonium bromide (CTAB) was gradually added to the above mixture until a clear solution was obtained. Tetraethyl orthosilicate (2.1 g) was added drop-wise to the solution and the pH was fixed at 8.5 by addition of 1 M HCl solution. After 2 h, the resulting solid product was filtered and washed several times with deionized water, and dried at 45 °C for 12 h. The obtained MCM-41 was calcined at 550 °C for 5 h to remove all the surfactant [7]. FT-IR spectra showed the characteristic peak of Si-O-Si at 1100 cm^{-1} , while the broad peak around 3413 cm^{-1} belongs to the terminal silanol groups of MCM-41. A sample of the prepared MCM-41 was investigated by SEM and BET tests. According to the SEM micrograph, the particle sizes were around 35 nm in diameter. The adsorption/desorption isotherms of the synthesized MCM-41 were recorded by BET apparatus and the BET surface area was measured as 1261 m^2g^{-1} , while BJH adsorption average pore width (4 V/A) was measured as 2.3 nm. These confirm the nanoporous structure of the synthesized MCM-41.

2.3. General procedure for the preparation of 2-hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-diones **4**

A mixture of 2-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione (1 mmol), amine (1 mmol), aldehyde (1 mmol), MCM-41 (5 mg) was stirred in EtOH (3 mL) at room temperature for appropriate time (as indicated in Table 4). After completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and the catalyst was separated by filtration. The solvent was evaporated

under reduced pressure. The structures of all known products were determined on the basis of their analytical and/or spectral data comparing with the literature data. The spectral data of the new products are as following.

2.4. Characterization of the new compounds

Despite of heating the samples in CDCl_3 prior to ^{13}C NMR measurement, the low solubility of such compounds makes it difficult to receive a clean ^{13}C NMR spectrum (please see also section 2.2 in ref. 14). As a result, although the following data have been carefully taken from the spectra, wherever possible, they could be inaccurate.

2.4.1. 2-((2,4-Dichlorophenyl)(phenylamino)methyl)-3-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione (**4d**)

Yellow powder (yield 90%); mp 147 °C. IR (KBr) ($\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$): 3338 (br, OH and NH), 3095 (Ar), 1676 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 6.13 (1H, s, CH), 6.50-6.53 (3H, m, H-Ar), 6.91-6.97 (2H, m, H-Ar), 6.97-6.99 (1H, dd, $J = 10.0, 2.1$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.12-7.14 (1H, m, H-Ar), 7.45-7.54 (3H, m, H-Ar), 7.83-7.84 (2H, m, H-Ar). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_3$: C, 65.11; H, 3.56; N, 3.30%. Found: C, 65.19; H, 3.53; N, 3.11%.

2.4.2. 2-((4-Chlorophenyl)(p-tolylamino)methyl)-3-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione (**4o**)

Orange powder (yield 90%); mp 147 °C. IR (KBr) ($\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$): 3369 (br, OH and NH), 3084 (Ar), 2920 (CH_3), 1670 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 2.04 (3H, s, CH_3), 5.97 (1H, s, CH), 6.53 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, H-Ar), 6.80 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.09 (2H, d, $J = 8.2$

Hz, H-Ar), 7.32 (2H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.48-7.70 (2H, m, H-Ar), 7.87 (2H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-Ar). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 21.0, 54.4, 116.0 (2C), 120.9, 126.8 (2C), 127.1 (2C), 127.6, 129.5 (2C), 129.8 (2C), 130.4 (2C), 130.5, 132.8, 133.6, 134.3, 137.3, 143.8, 181.4, 184.2. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}_3$: C, 71.38; H, 4.49; N, 3.47%. Found: C, 71.31; H, 4.43; N, 3.53%.

2.4.3. 2-((Benzylamino)(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methyl)-3-hydroxynaphthalene-1,4-dione (**4t**)

Orange powder (yield 90%); mp 158 °C. IR (KBr) ($\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$): 3440 (br, OH and NH), 3064 (Ar), 1674 (CO), 1591 (CO). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 3.86 (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, CH_2), 4.11 (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, CH_2), 5.96 (1H, s, CH), 6.96-6.99 (1H, dd, $J = 10.0, 2.1$ Hz, H-Ar), 7.18-7.22 (4H, m, H-Ar), 7.25-7.28 (2H, m, H-Ar), 7.40-7.44 (1H, m, H-Ar), 7.49-7.52 (2H, m, H-Ar), 7.85-7.87 (2H, m, H-Ar). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 50.8, 56.2, 125.6, 126.0, 126.2, 127.1, 127.8, 128.0, 128.9, 129.0 (2C), 129.3, 129.7 (2C), 131.3, 131.3, 131.8, 133.0, 133.6, 134.3, 135.1, 135.6, 181.9, 184.4. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_3$: C, 65.77; H, 3.91; N, 3.20%. Found: C, 65.73; H, 3.91; N, 3.23%.

3. Results and discussion

To optimize the reaction conditions, the reaction of 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone **1**, benzaldehyde and aniline as model reactants (1.0 mmol each) was studied at room temperature (Table 1). Different solvents and catalysts were screened in the model reaction. After screening a number of catalysts such as InCl_3 , ZnCl_2 , p -TSA, MCM-41, and MCM-41- SO_3H , it has been

found that mesoporous catalysts MCM-41 and MCM-41-SO₃H promote the reaction in very good yields, while other catalysts formed the product in lower yields. MCM-41 has been used for further investigations, due to its more mildness and easier preparation method in comparison to MCM-41-SO₃H.

Table 1.

In order to examine the rule of different solvents on the yield of hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives, we investigated the model reaction in various solvents such as CH₃CN, acetone, H₂O and EtOH (96%) and also under solvent-free condition at room temperature. It was found that the best results were obtained in EtOH in the presence of MCM-41 (Table 2).

Table 2.

In order to optimize the amount of the catalyst loading, the model reaction was also studied in the presence of less amounts of MCM-41 at room temperature (Table 3). The best results were obtained when 5 mg of the catalyst was used. It is notable that by using excess amounts of the catalyst, the yield of the desired product was decreased.

Table 3.

After developing the optimized reaction conditions, a variety of aromatic aldehydes and amines were employed under similar circumstances to evaluate the substrate scope of this methodology. The results are summarized in Table 4. The aromatic aldehydes carrying both electron-withdrawing and electron-releasing substituents were converted to their corresponding 2-hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-diones derivatives in high yields.

In addition, due to various biological properties of polyfunctionalized heterocyclic compounds, a few 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone derivatives were also synthesized by starting from heterocyclic amines such as 2-aminopyridine, 2-aminobenzimidazole and benzyl amine in high yields under the same reaction conditions (Table 4, entries 16-20).

Table 4.

The reusability of the catalyst was also investigated in the model reaction. After each run, the filtered catalyst was washed several times with acetone and ethanol, and dried in an oven at 80°C for 5 h [15] and re-used in consecutive runs. The results of catalyst recyclability have been summarized in Fig. 2. As it is shown, after 4 consecutive runs the catalyst remained still intact.

Fig. 2.

4. Conclusions

In summary, we have developed a simple, efficient and green methodology for the synthesis of hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives under heterogeneous catalysis conditions. The simple experimental procedure at room temperature, short reaction times, high yields, simple work-up, easy recovery and reusability of the catalyst and environmentally acceptable solvent are the advantages of the present method.

Acknowledgements

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Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at www.elsevier.com/locate/dyepig.

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Captions

Fig. 1. Examples of naphthoquinone pigments.

Scheme 1. Synthesis of hydroxyl naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives **4a-t**.

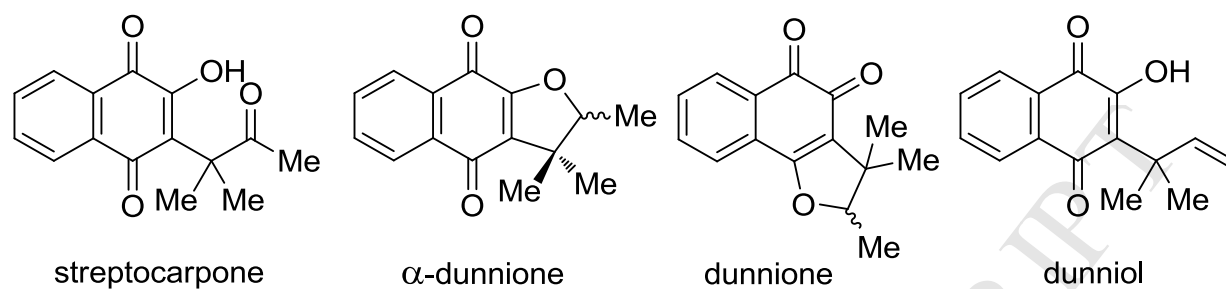
Table 1. Screening of different catalysts in the model reaction.

Table 2. Screening of the different solvents in the model reaction.

Table 3. Optimization of the amount of the catalyst loading in the model reaction.

Table 4. Synthesis of 2-hydroxy(aryl(aryl amino)methyl)naphthalene-1,4-diones **4a-t**.

Fig. 2. Reusability study of the catalyst in the model reaction.

Fig. 1.

Scheme 1.

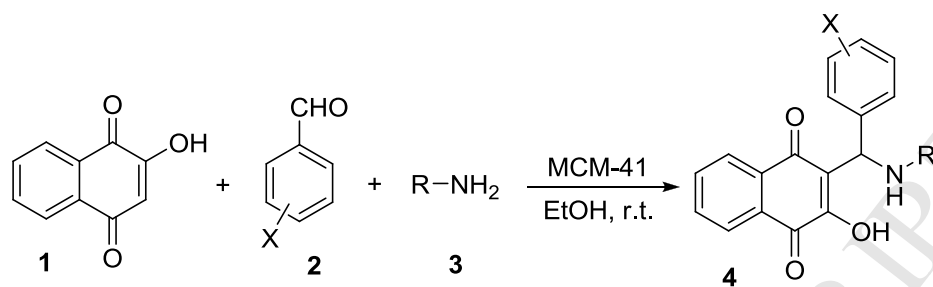


Table 1.

Entry	Catalyst	Catalyst loading (mg)	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)
1	InCl ₃	30	6	20
2	ZnCl ₂	30	6	40
3	<i>p</i> -TSA	30	6	30
4	MCM-41	30	3	90
5	MCM-41-SO ₃ H	30	3	90

^a Isolated yield.

Table 2.

Entry	Solvent	Time	Yield ^a (%)
1	CH ₃ CN	10 h	32
2	CH ₃ COCH ₃	12 h	27
3	H ₂ O	8 h	70
4	EtOH (96%)	80 min	90
5	-	48 h	Trace

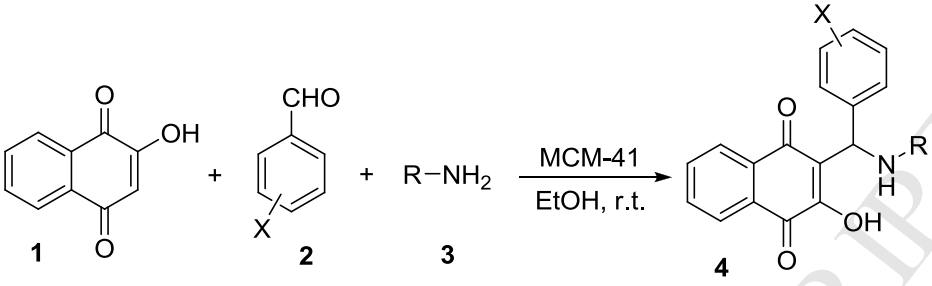
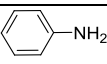
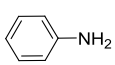
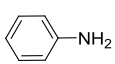
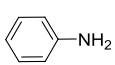
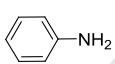
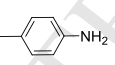
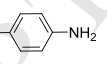
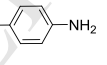
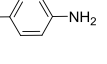
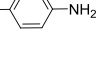
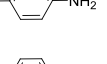
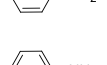
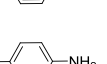

^a Isolated yield.

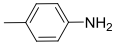


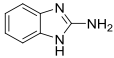
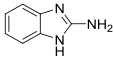
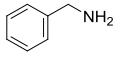
Table 3.

Entry	Catalyst loading (mg)	Time (min)	Yield ^a (%)
1	5	80	95
2	10	100	88
3	20	80	90
4	30	180	90

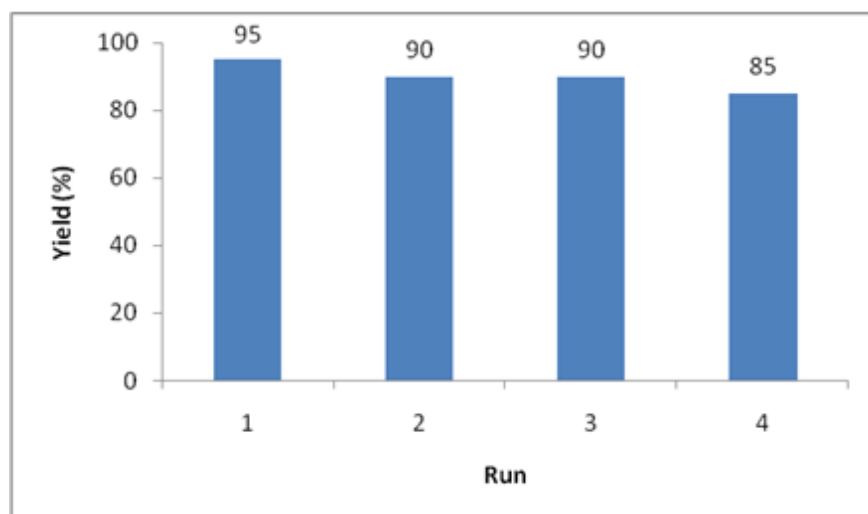
^a Isolated yield.

Table 4.

							
Entry	Product	X	Amine	Time (min)	Yield ^a (%)	Mp (°C)	
						Obsd.	Lit.
1	4a	H		80	95	148	143-145 [14]
2	4b	4-Me		150	95	145	145-148 [14]
3	4c	4-NO ₂		25	95	145	145-148 [14]
4	4d	2,4-di-Cl		180	90	147	-
5	4e	4-OH		120	90	175	185-190 [14]
6	4f	H		120	90	146	147-150 [14]
7	4g	4-OMe		175	90	145	144-147 [14]
8	4h	4-Me		125	95	146	146-149 [14]
9	4i	4-OH		180	95	150	149-152 [14]
10	4j	4-NO ₂		60	95	150	141-144 [14]
11	4k	4-Br		210	95	154	147-150 [14]
12	4l	2,4-di-Cl		185	90	148	144-147 [14]
13	4m	2-Cl		70	90	144	149-152 [14]
14	4n	3-NO ₂		70	95	148	144-147 [14]

15	4o	4-Cl		95	90	147	-
16	4p	H		60	90	145	145-148 [14]
17	4q	4-NO ₂		20	95	150	148-151 [14]
18	4r	H		125	90	150	155-151 [14]
19	4s	4-NO ₂		70	99	154	150-153 [14]
20	4t	2,4- <i>di</i> -Cl		60	90	158	-

^a Isolated yield.

Fig. 2.

Highlights

- A green procedure was developed for the one-pot synthesis of naphthalene-1,4-diones.
- The multicomponent reaction gave good to excellent yields from simple precursors.
- The protocol includes important aspects like easy workup procedure and high atom economy.
- An efficient and reusable nanocatalyst was introduced.

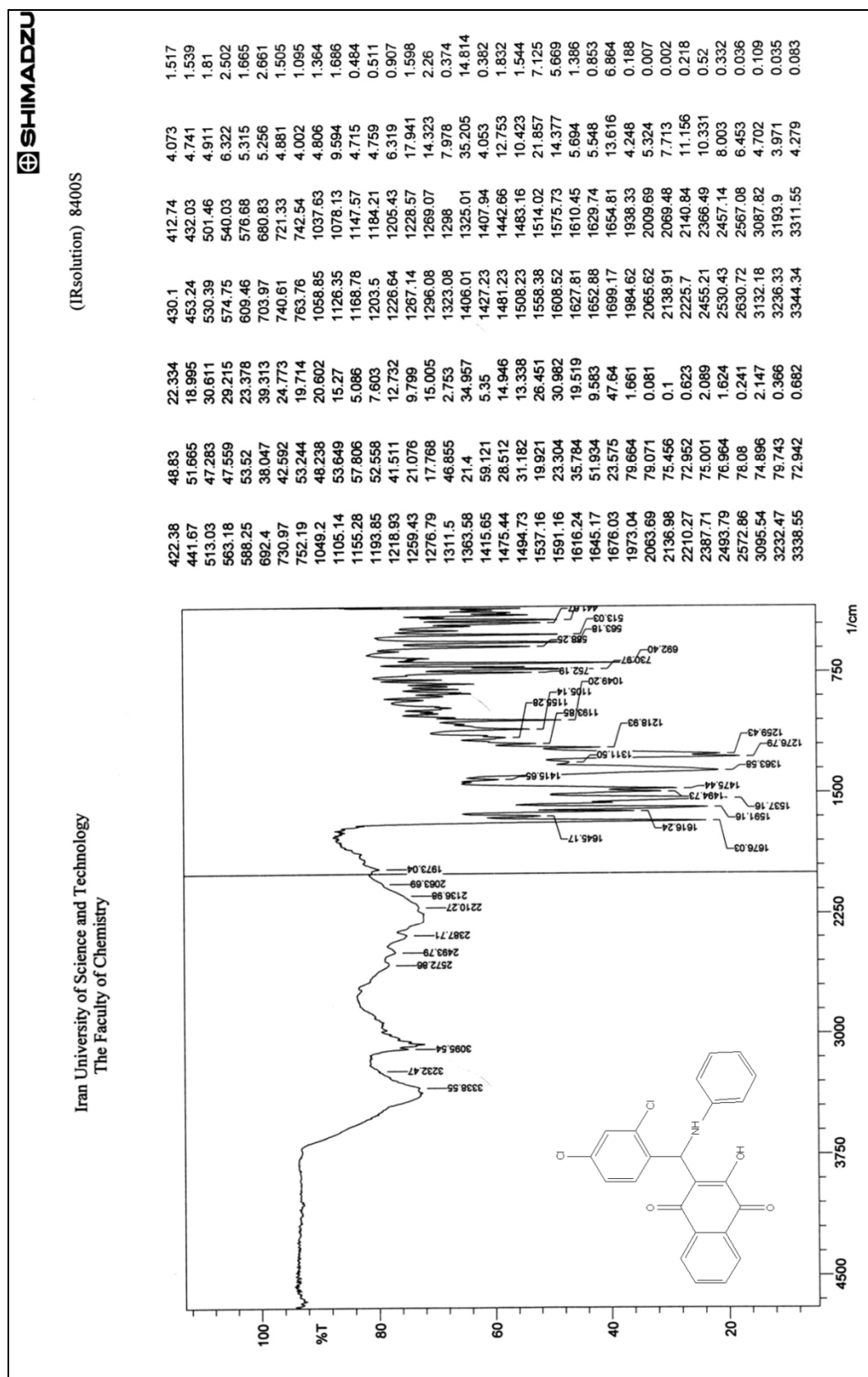
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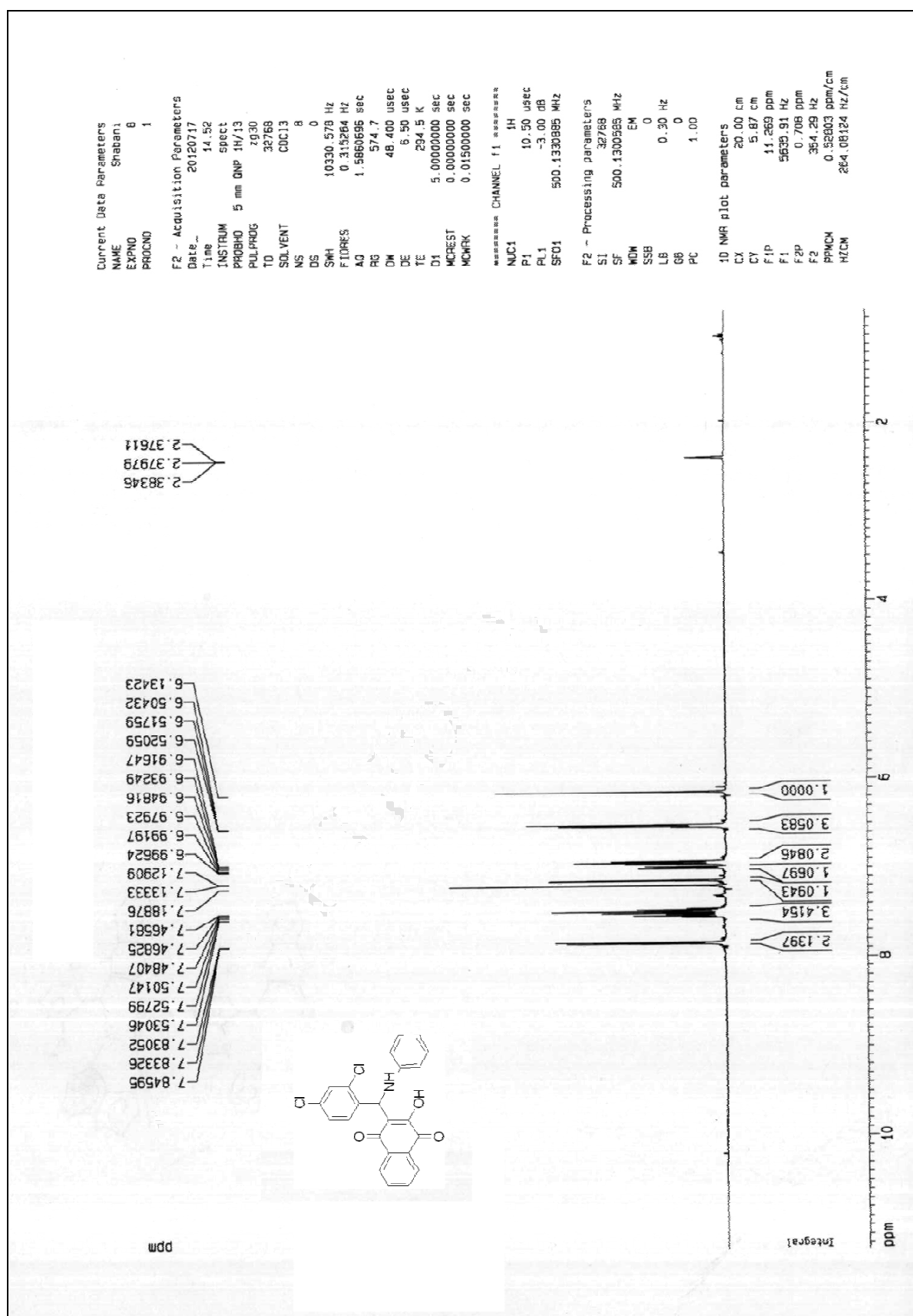
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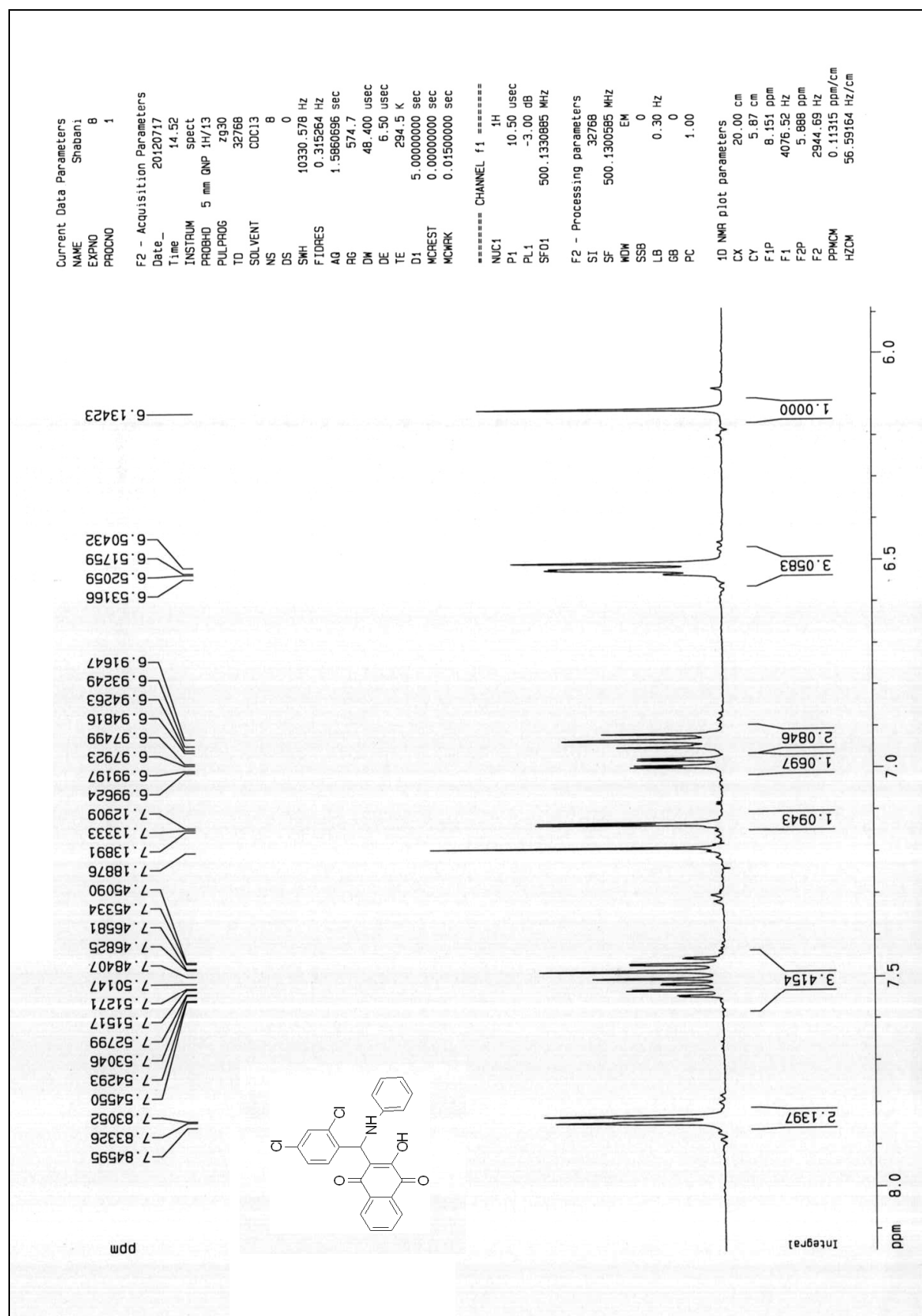
¹ *Research Laboratory of Green Organic Synthesis and Polymers, Department of Chemistry, Iran University of Science and Technology, 16846-13114 Tehran, Iran*

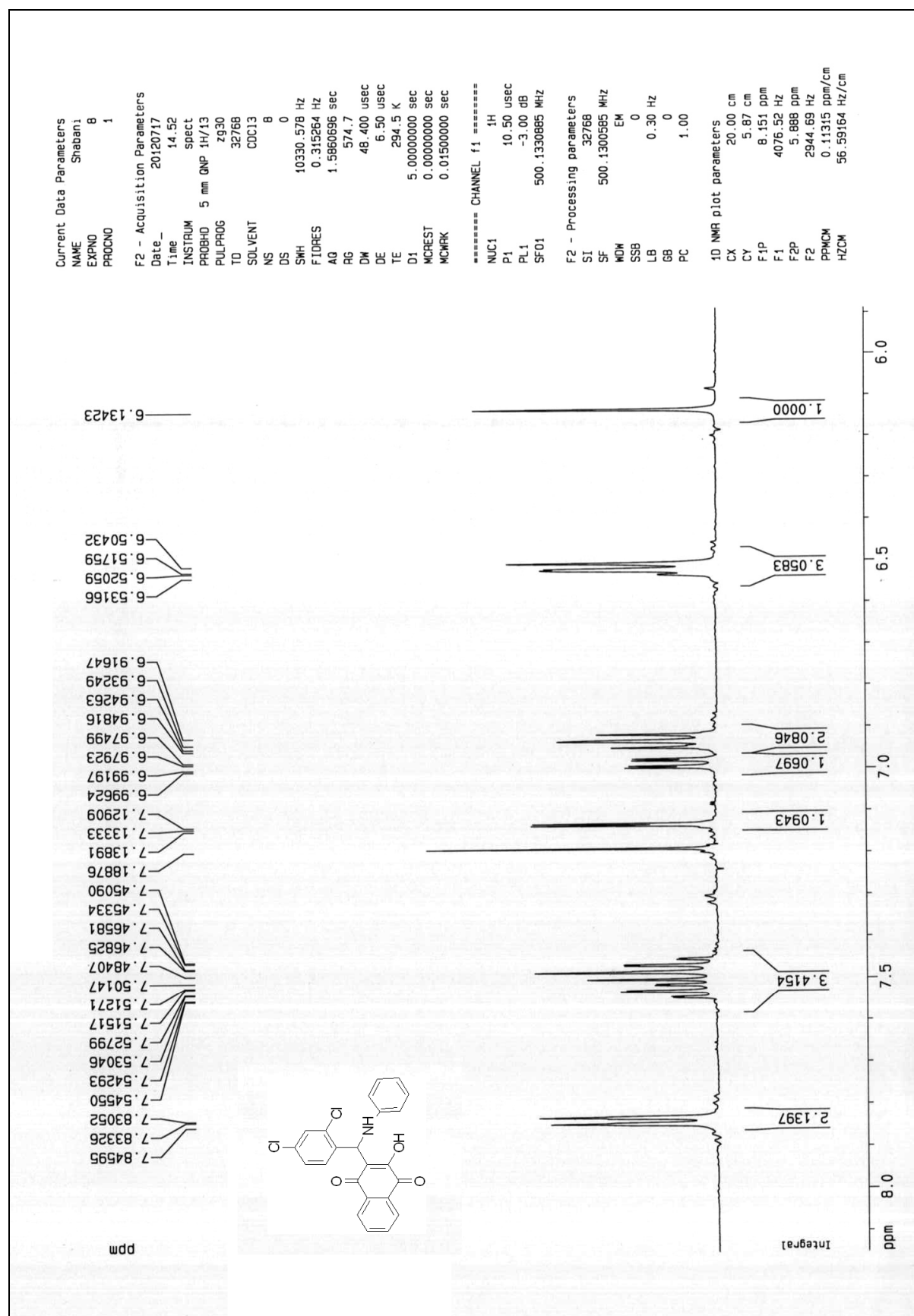
² *Catalysts and Organic Synthesis Research Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran 16846-13114, Iran.*

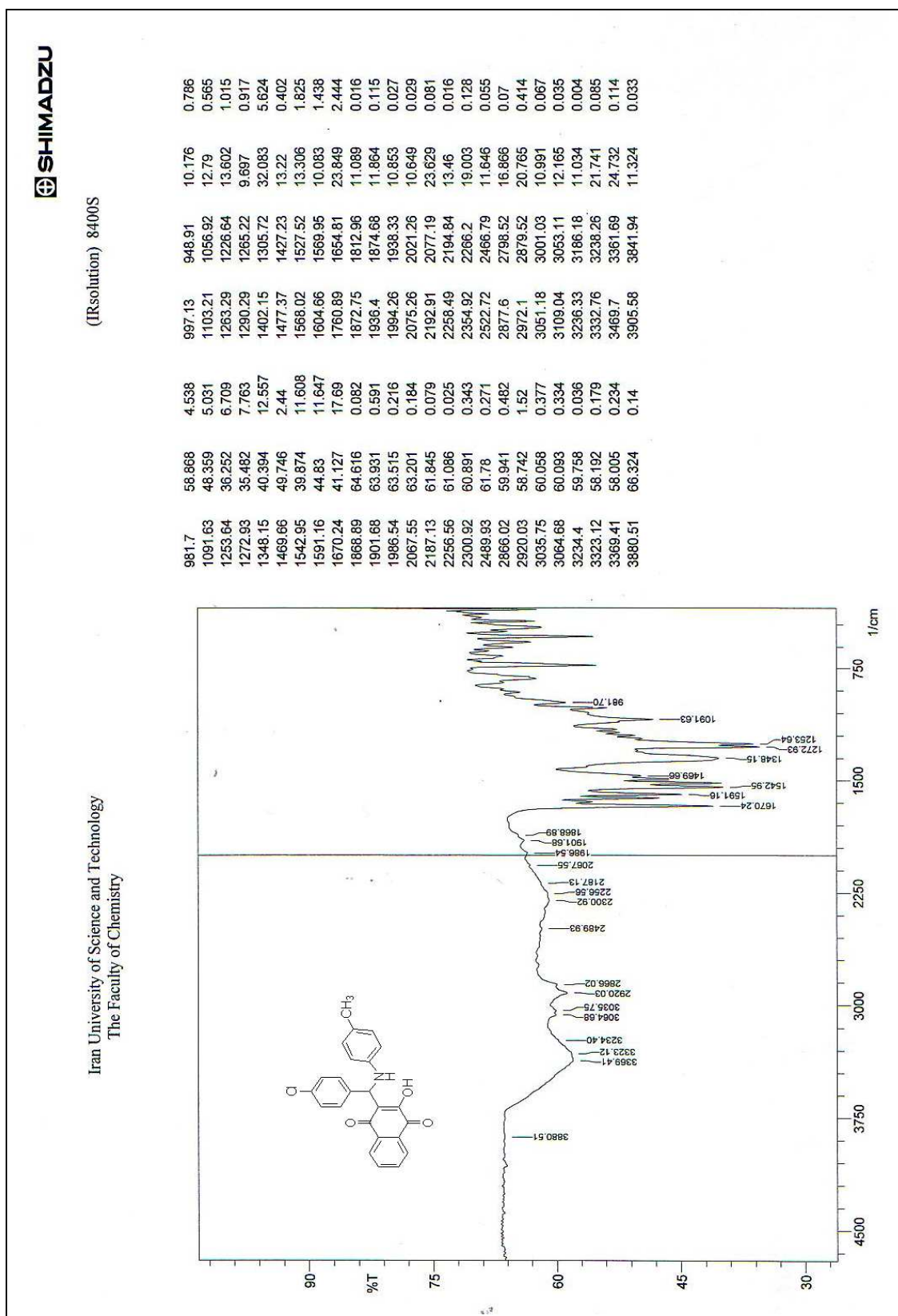
E-mail: naimi@iust.ac.ir; Fax: +98-21-77491204

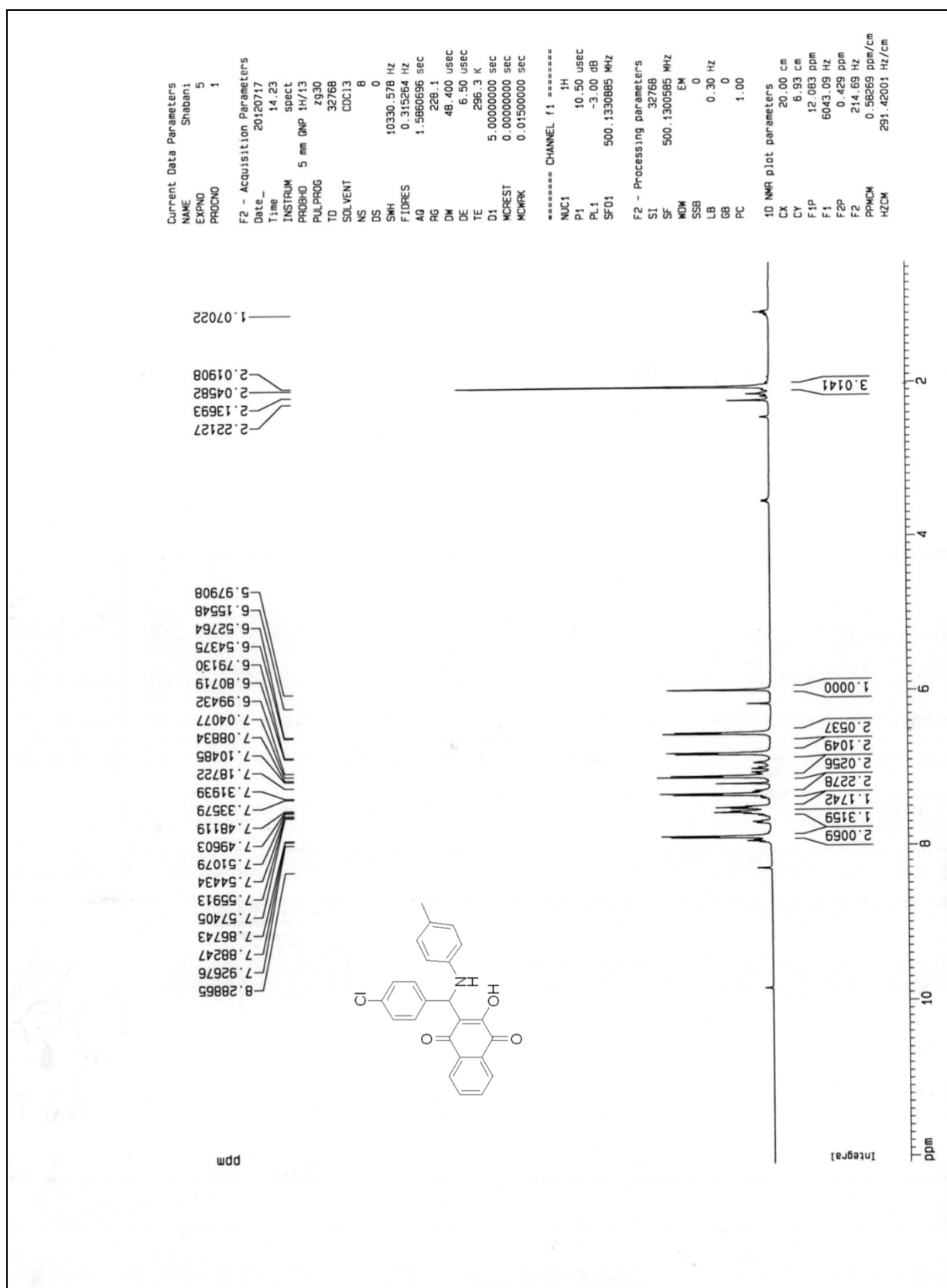
Characterization of the new compounds (**4d**, **4o** and **4t**)FT-IR spectrum of **4d**

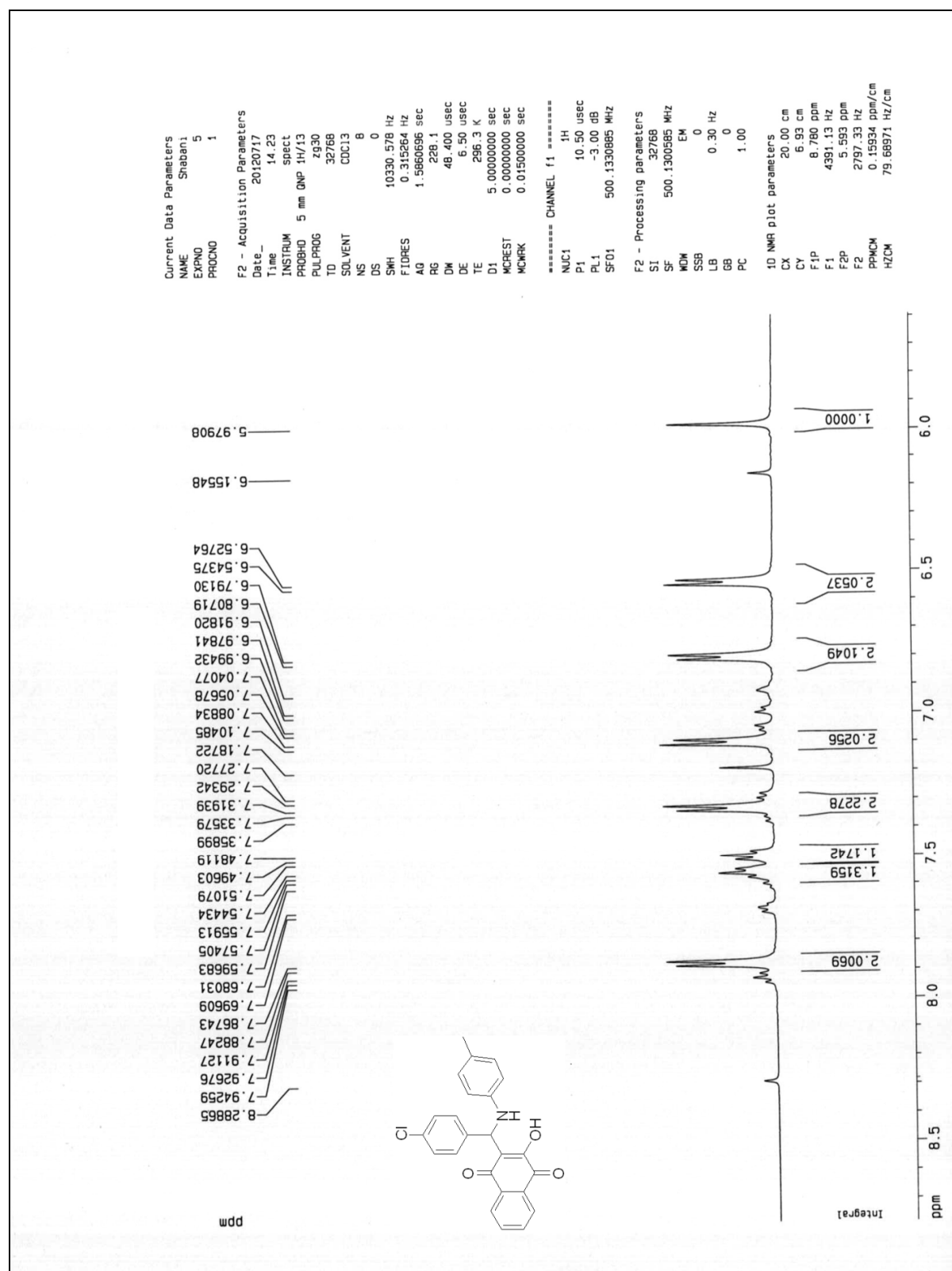
¹H NMR spectrum of **4d**

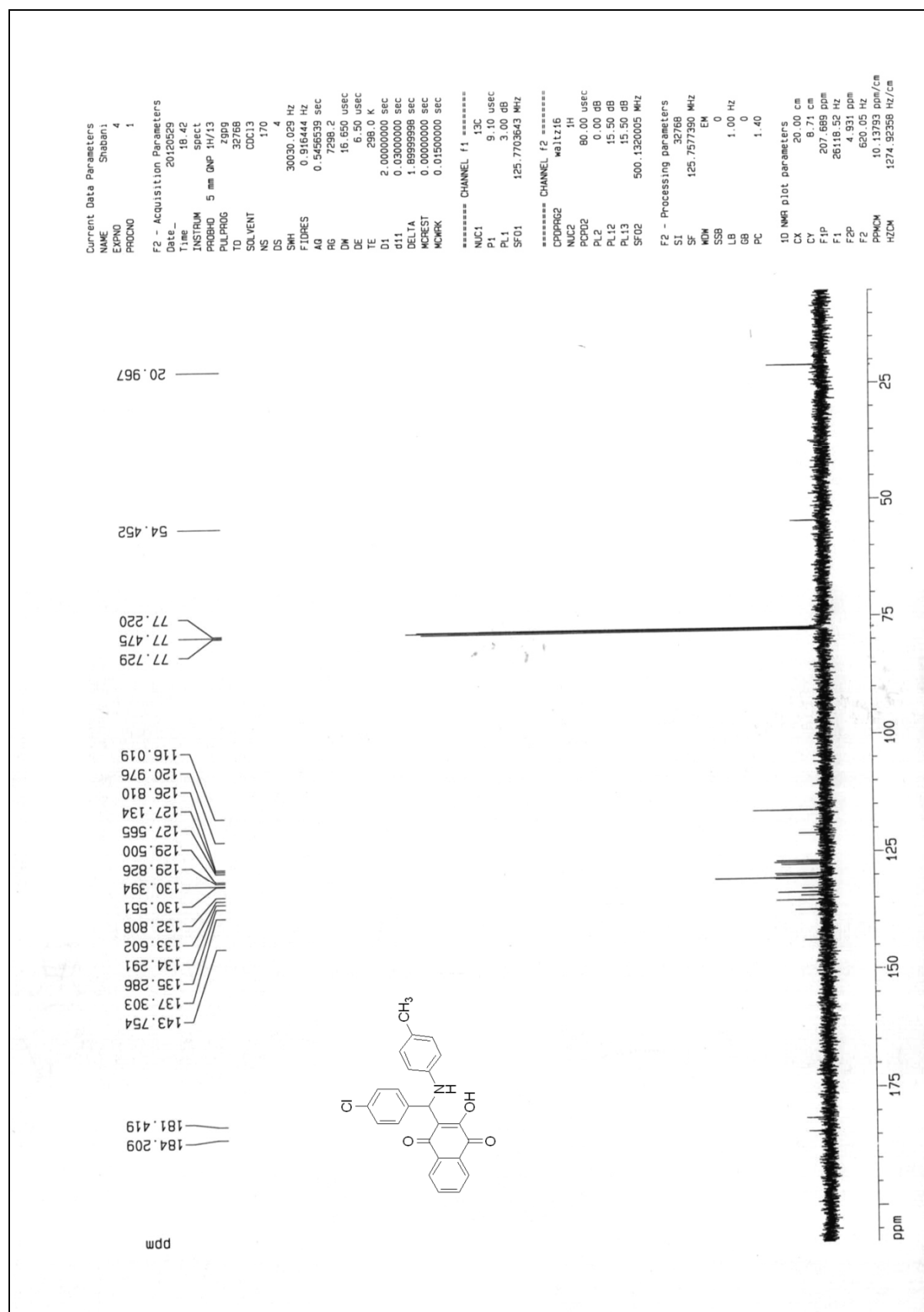
Expanded ^1H NMR spectrum of **4d**

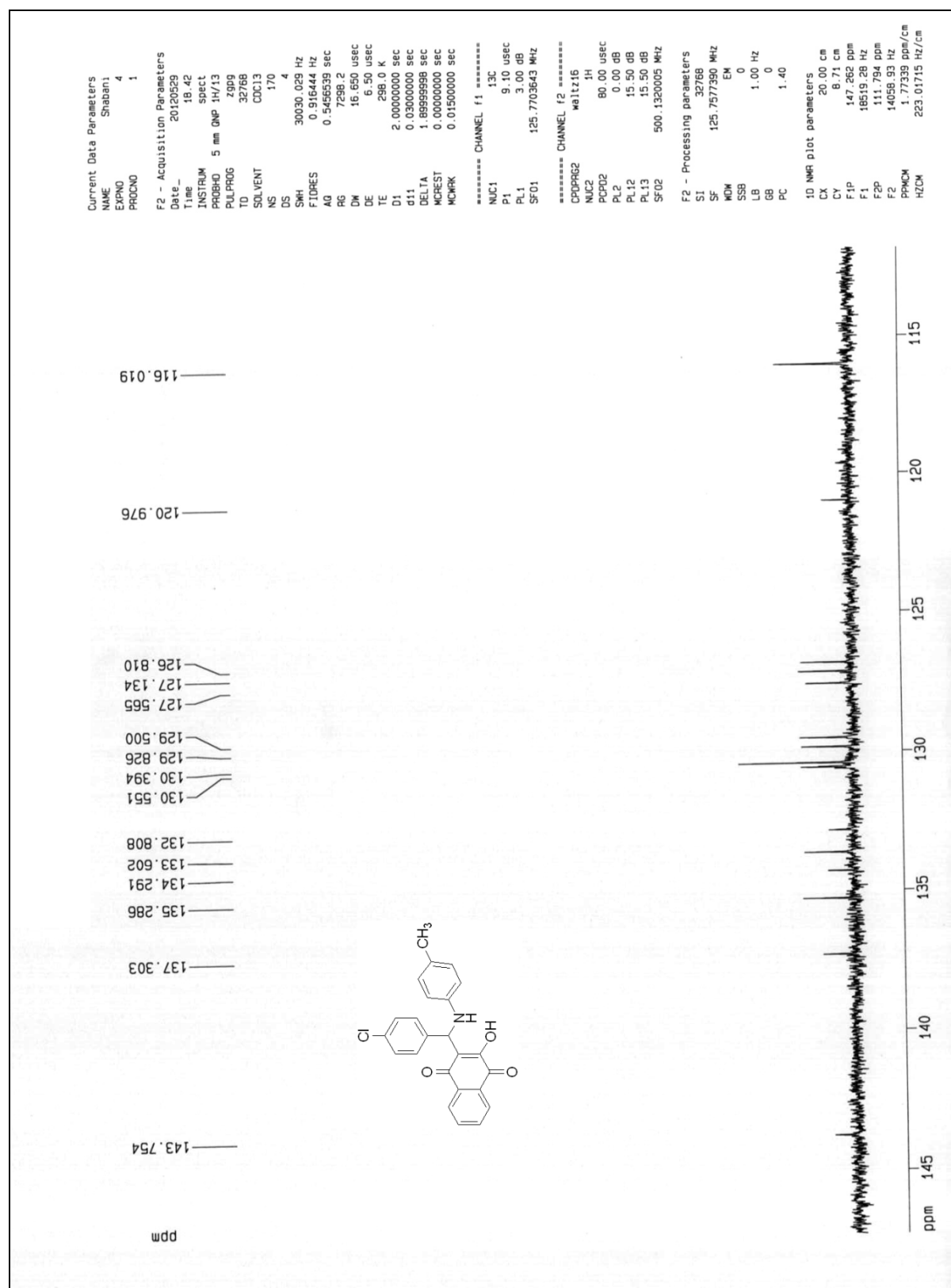
Expanded ^1H NMR spectrum of **4d**

FT-IR spectrum of **4o**

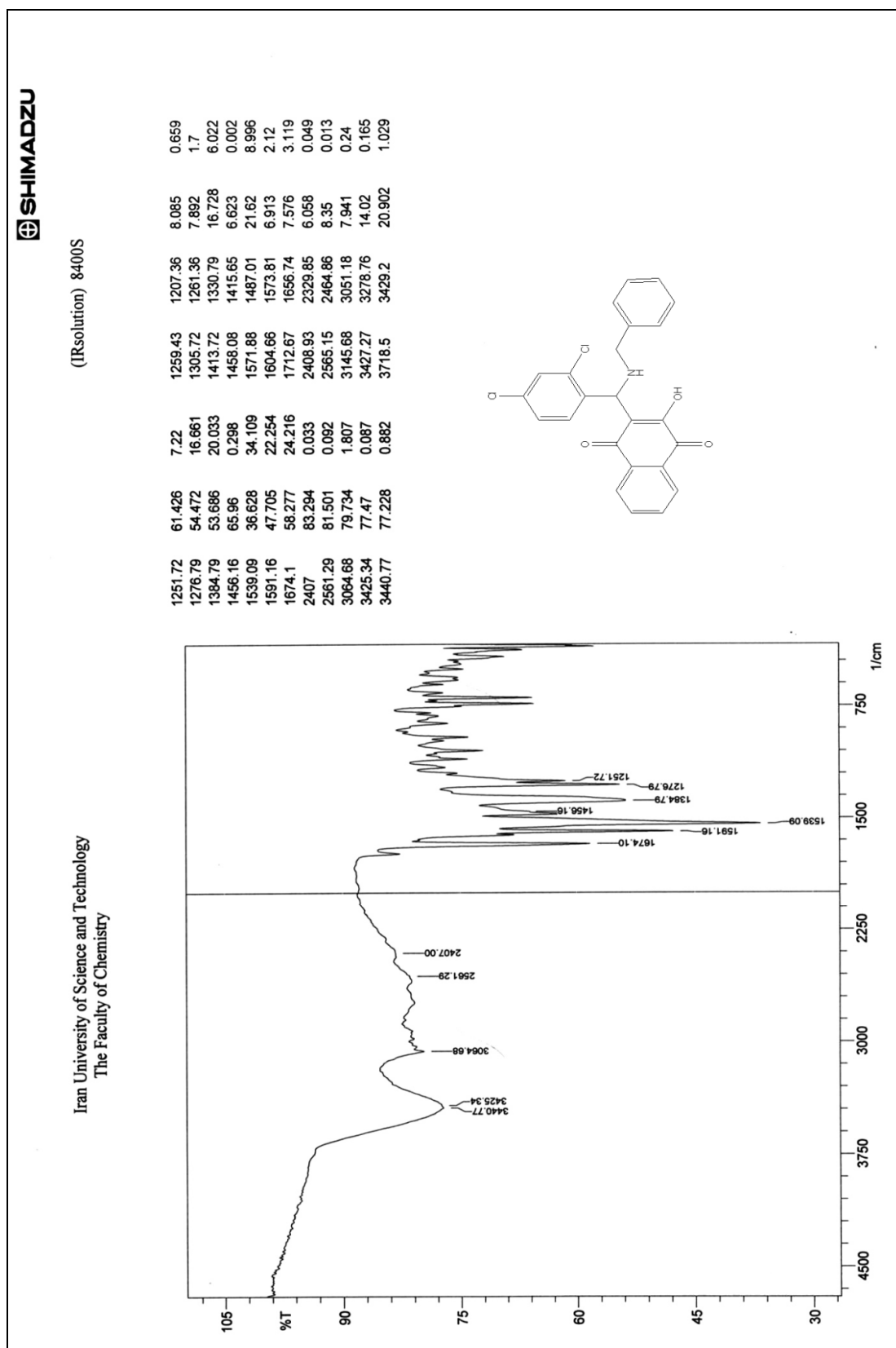
¹H NMR spectrum of **40**

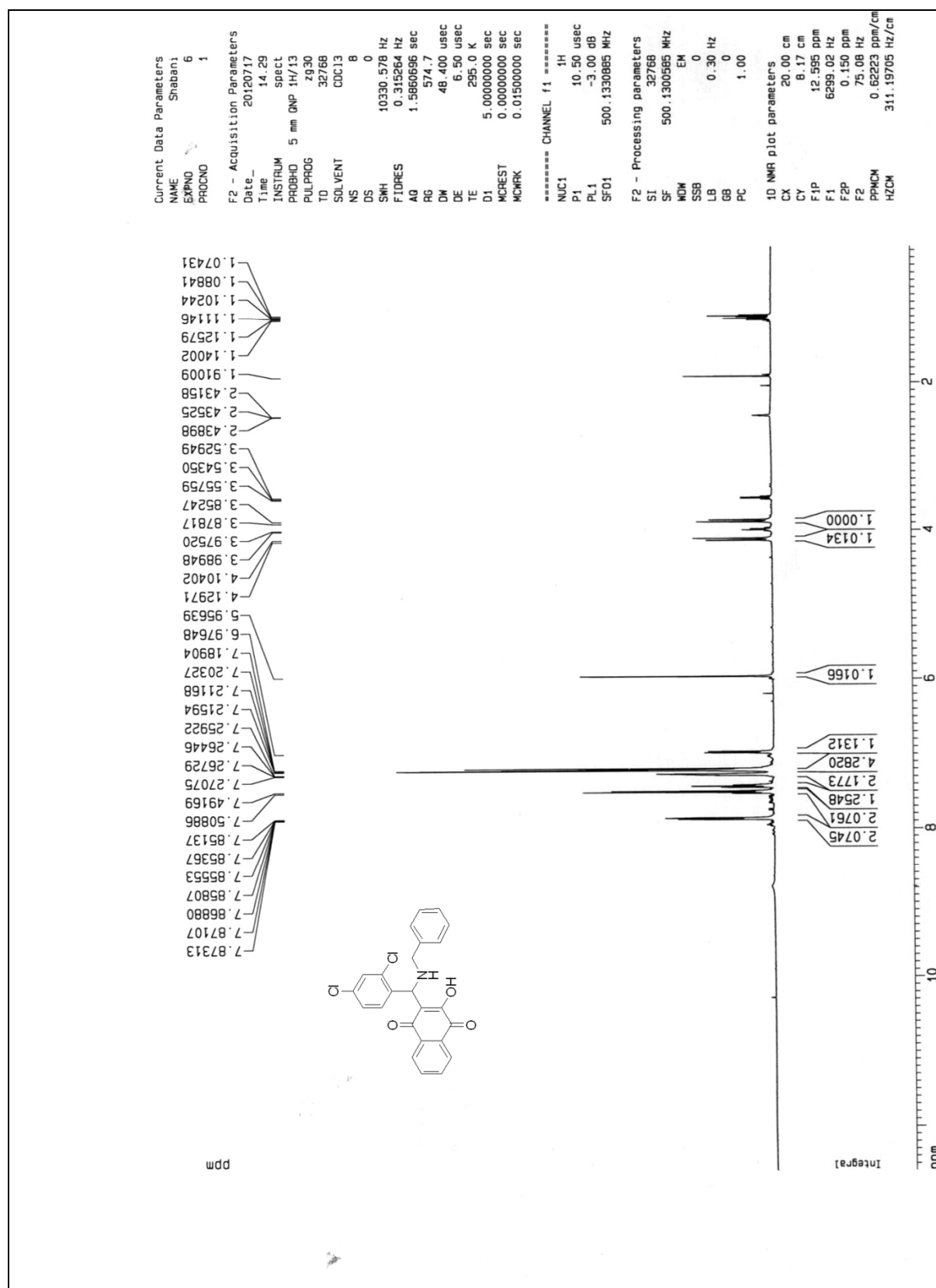
Expanded ^1H NMR spectrum of **40**

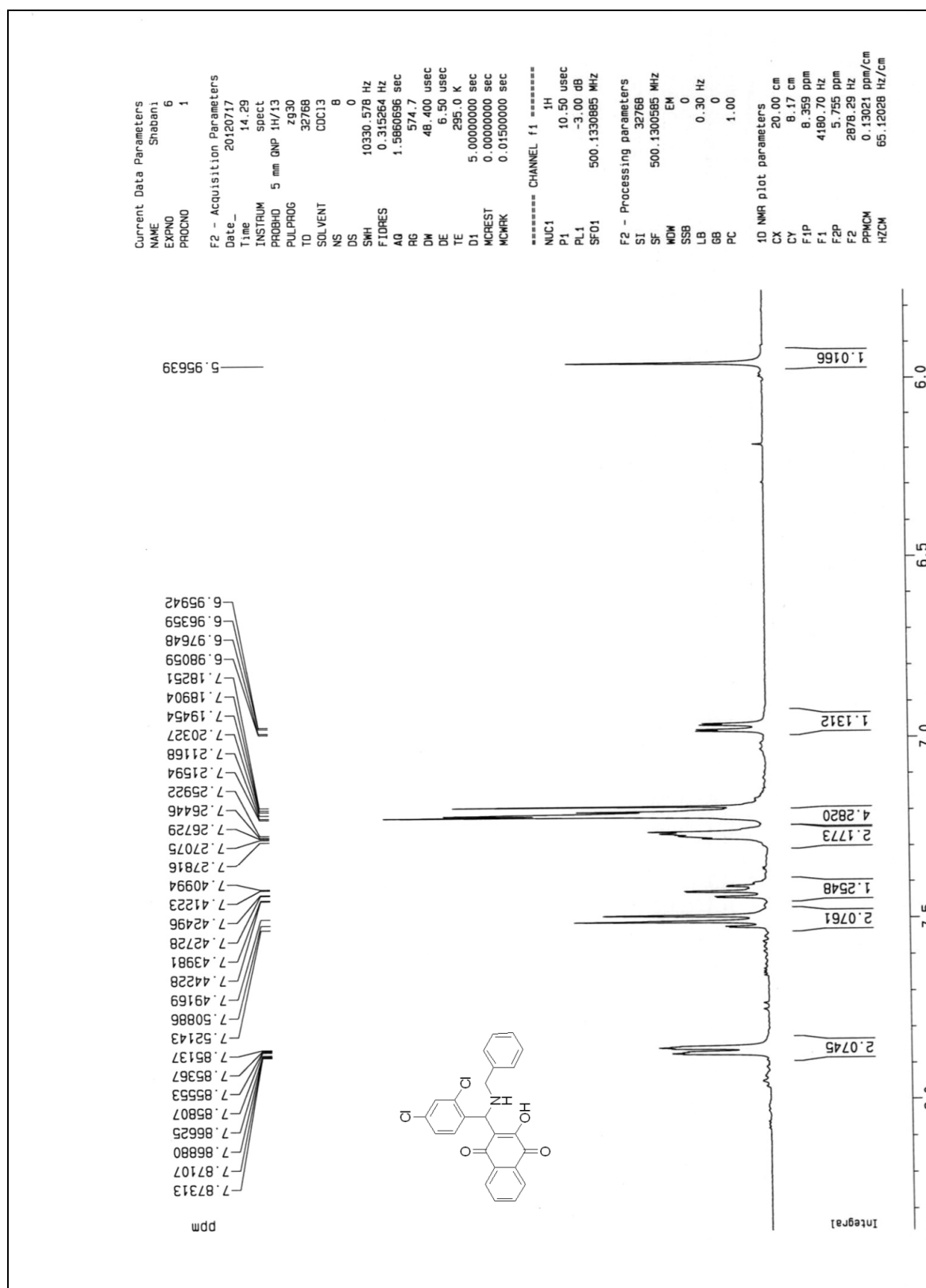
¹³C NMR spectrum of **4o**

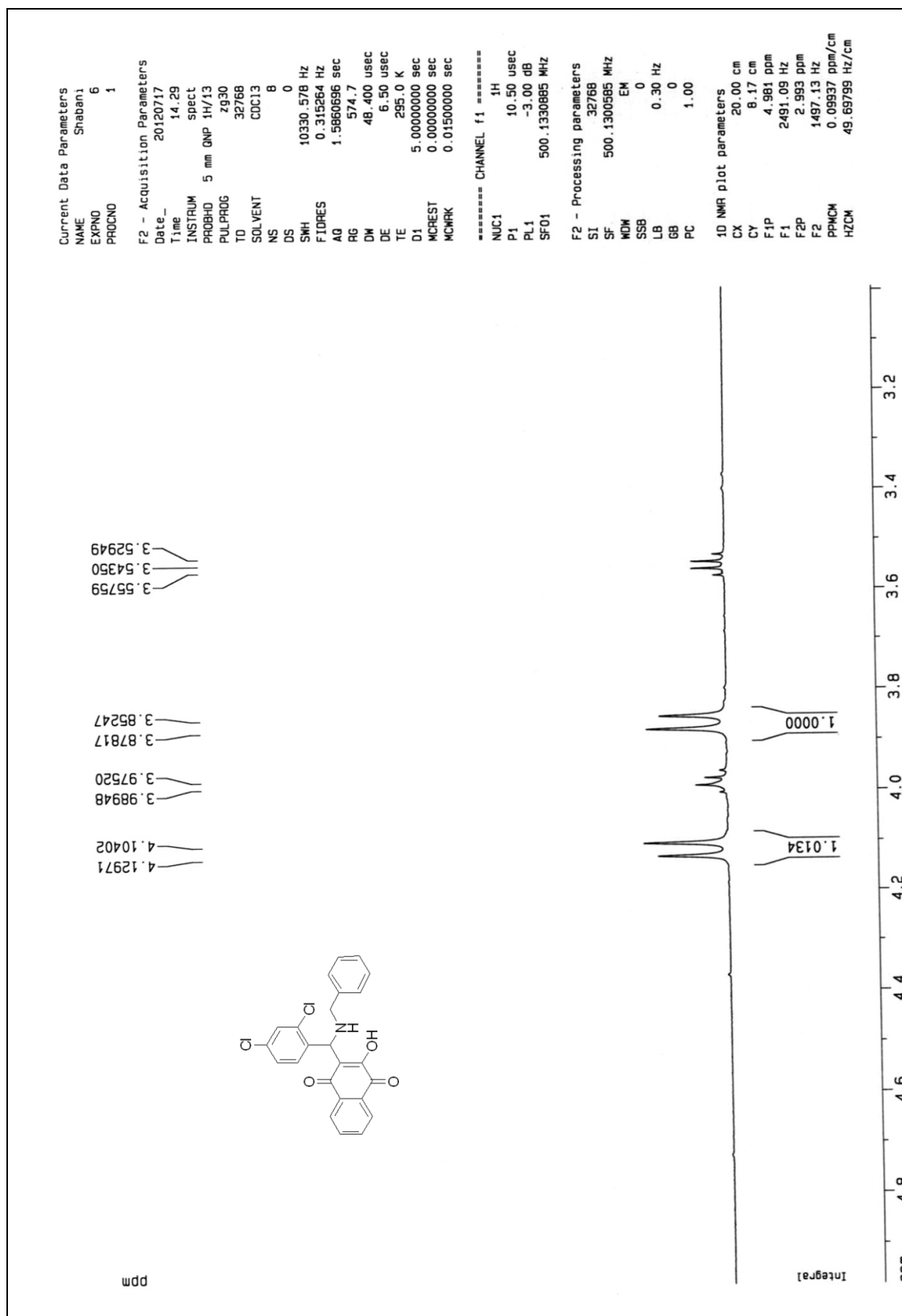
Expanded ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **4o**

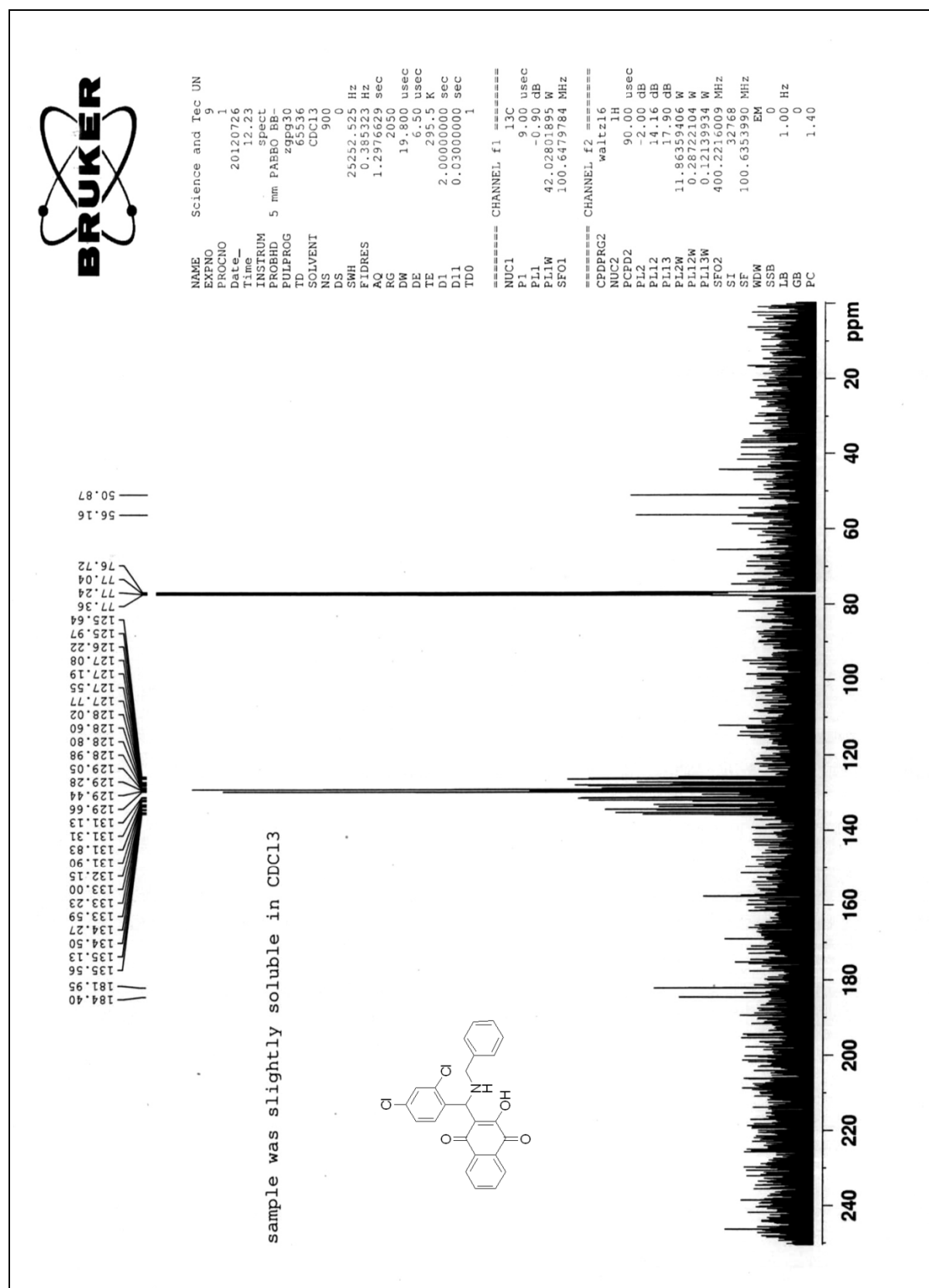
FT-IR spectrum of **4t**



¹H NMR spectrum of **4t**

Expanded ^1H NMR spectrum of **4t**

Expanded ^1H NMR spectrum of **4t**

¹³C NMR spectrum of **4t**

Expanded ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **4t**