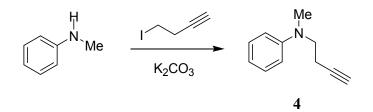
Supporting Information

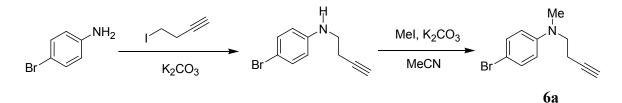
## Gold or No Gold: One-Pot Synthesis of Tetrahydrobenz[b]azepin-4-ones from tertiary *N*-(But-3-ynyl)anilines

Li Cui, Guozhu Zhang, Yu Peng and Liming Zhang

Department of Chemistry/216, University of Nevada, Reno 1664 North Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89557 **General.** Ethyl acetate (ACS grade), hexanes (ACS grade) and diethyl ether (ACS grade) were purchased from Fisher Scientific and used without further purification. Anhydrous dichloromethane (HPLC grade) was purified by distillation over calcium hydride. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran in Pure-Pac<sup>™</sup> from Aldrich was used directly without further purification. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using whatman precoated silica gel plates. Flash column chromatography was performed over silicycle silica gel (230-400 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 500 MHz Unity plus spectrometer and a Varian 400 MHz spectrometer using residue solvent peaks as internal standards. Infrared spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer FT-IR spectrum 2000 spectrometer and are reported in reciprocal centimeter (cm<sup>-1</sup>). Mass spectra were recorded with Waters micromass ZQ detector using electron spray method.

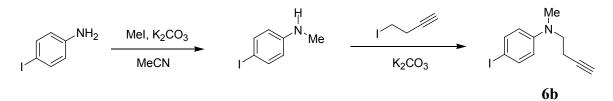


4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of *N*-methylaniline (2 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 6 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford compound **4** in 72 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.73 (m, 3H), 3.56 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.69 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.2, 2.8 Hz), 1.99 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.4, 129.3, 116.6, 112.2, 82.2, 69.6, 51.8, 38.4, 16.4; IR (neat):3289, 2911, 2115, 1601, 1501, 1356, 1282, 1228, 1356, 1193, 1115, 1037, 991; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 160.1; Found: 160.0.



4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of 4-bromophenylamine (2 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 80 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford (4-bromophenyl)but-3-ynylamine.

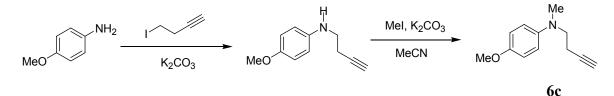
Iodomethane (2 mmol) was added to a mixture of (4-bromophenyl)but-3-ynylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 60 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound **6a** in 45 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 6.57 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 3.53 (t, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.41 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.5, 2.5 Hz), 2.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.4, 131.9, 113.8, 108.5, 81.8, 69.9, 51.7, 38.5, 16.4; IR (neat): 3293, 2914, 2360, 1590, 1497, 1365, 1189, 1113; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN]<sup>+</sup>: 238.0; Found: 237.8.



Iodomethane (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of 4-iodophenylamine (1 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 80 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with

 $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford (4-iodo-phenyl)methylamine.

4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of (4-iodo-phenyl)-methylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 2d and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound 6b in 35 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.45 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 6.46 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 3.51 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.94 (s, 3H), 2.40 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.2, 2.8 Hz), 2.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.8, 137.7, 114.3, 81.8, 77.4, 69.9, 51.5, 38.4, 16.3; IR (neat): 3294, 2927, 2347, 2117, 1589, 1495, 1374, 1194, 1114, 963, 875, 824; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IN]<sup>+</sup>: 286.0; Found: 285.9.

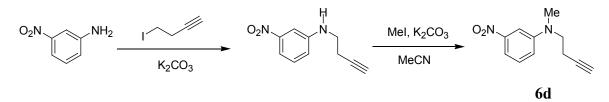


4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of 4-methoxyphenylamine (2 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 5 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1) to afford but-3-ynyl(4-methoxyphenyl)amine.

Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynyl-(4-methoxyphenyl)-amine (1 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 60 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was

diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound **6c** in 28 % yield in 2 steps.

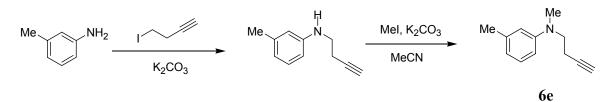
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.84 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 6.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.48 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.39 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.5, 2.5 Hz), 1.99 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.9, 143.4, 114.8, 114.5, 82.4, 69.5, 55.8, 52.9, 38.9, 16.2; IR (neat): 3296, 2926, 2862, 1605, 1496, 1450, 1403, 1246, 1051; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 190.1; Found: 190.0.



4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of 3-nitrophenylamine (2 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 90 °C for 2 d and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford but-3-ynyl(3-nitrophenyl)amine.

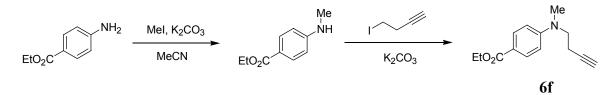
Iodomethane (4mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynyl-(3-nitrophenyl)amine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 1 d and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound **6d** in 62 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49- 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.5

Hz), 6.97 (dd, 1H, J = 8, 2.5 Hz), 3.63 (t, 2H, J = 7 Hz), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.47 (td, 2H, J = 7, 2.5 Hz), 2.02 (t, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.7,149.0, 129.7, 117.4, 110.9, 106.0, 81.4, 70.2, 51.4, 38.7, 16.6; IR (neat):3293, 2910, 2360, 2118, 1617, 1525, 1345, 1228, 1198, 1122, 991, 846; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: 227.1; Found: 226.9.



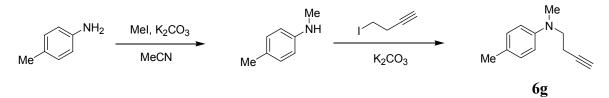
4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of *m*-toluidine (3 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (3 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 60 °C for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford but-3-ynyl-*m*-tolylamine.

Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynyl-m-tolylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound **6e** in 45 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 6.53- 6.56 (m, 3H), 3.55 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.43 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.6, 2.8 Hz), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.5, 139.0, 129.1, 117.6, 113.0, 109.4, 82.3, 69.6, 51.8, 38.5, 21.9, 16.4; IR (neat): 3289, 2910, 2360, 2115, 1601, 1495, 1358, 1172, 1089, 1042, 998 ; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 174.1; Found: 174.0.



Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of 4-aminobenzoicacid ethylester (1 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 6 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford ethyl 4-methylaminobenzoate.

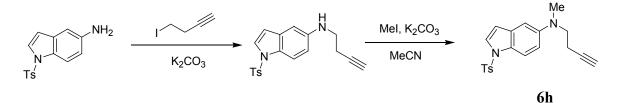
4-Iodobut-1-yne (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of 4-methylamino-benzoicacid ethylester (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 90 °C for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford compound **6f** in 31 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.91 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 6.65 (d, 2H, *J* = 9 Hz), 4.32 (q, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz), 3.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.46 (td, 2H, *J* = 7, 3 Hz), 2.01 (t, 1H, *J* = 3 Hz), 1.36(t, 3H, *J* = 7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.8, 151.5, 131.4, 117.8, 110.6, 81.5, 70.1, 60.1, 51.2, 38.6, 16.7, 14.1; IR (neat): 3289, 2977, 2368, 2114, 1699, 1604, 1523, 1384, 1276, 1183, 1106, 1026, 961, 827; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: 254.1; Found: 253.9.



Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of *p*-toluidine (1 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/ mmol),

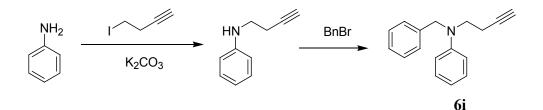
and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford methyl-*p*-tolylamine.

4-Iodobut-1-yne (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of methyl-*p*-tolylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 90 °C for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 50:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1) to afford compound **6g** in 49 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.64 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.52 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.41 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.2, 2.8 Hz), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.98 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.4, 129.8, 125.9, 112.6, 82.3, 69.5, 52.1, 38.5, 20.2, 16.2; IR (neat): 3301, 2914, 2368, 2113, 1617, 1519, 1356, 1185, 1111, 1039; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 174.1; Found: 174.0.



4-Iodobut-1-yne (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of 1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-ylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 60 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 7:1) to afford but-3-ynyl[1-(toluene-4sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]amine.

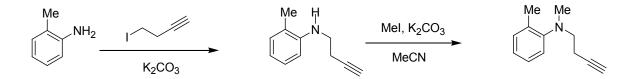
Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynyl-[1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]-amine (1 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was stirred at 60 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford compound **6h** in 50 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2H, *J* = 8 Hz), 6.82 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz), 6.75 (d, 2H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 3.54 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.40 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.2, 2.4 Hz), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.98 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 145.7, 144.6, 135.4, 132.2, 129.8, 127.0, 126.8, 126.7, 114.3, 112.0, 109.3, 103.7, 82.2, 69.7, 52.8, 39.0, 21.5, 16.4; IR (neat): 3294, 2925, 2861, 2345, 2115, 1612, 1558, 1495, 1366, 1259, 1132, 1050, 876, 824; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S]<sup>+</sup>: 353.1; Found: 353.4.



4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of aniline (2 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 80 °C for 6 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford but-3-ynylphenylamine.

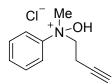
Benzyl bromide (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynylphenylamine (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 60 °C for 20 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 50:1) to afford compound **6i** in 43 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18 – 7.31 (m, 7H), 6.69– 6.72 (m, 3H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 3.65 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.52 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.6, 2.8 Hz), 2.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.7, 138.6, 129.3, 128.6, 126.9, 126.5, 116.7,

112.2, 82.0, 69.8, 54.5, 50.2, 29.7, 17.0; IR (neat): 3278, 2918, 2360, 1595, 1504, 1449, 1360, 1246, 1213, 1165, 1026, 996; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{17}H_{18}N]^+$ : 236.1; Found: 235.9.



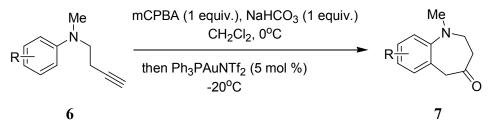
4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of *o*-toluidine (2 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 60 °C for 2 d and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford but-3-ynyl-*o*-tolylamine.

Iodomethane (1.2 mmol) was added to a mixture of but-3-ynyl-*o*-tolylamine (1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (5 mL/ mmol). The reaction was heated at 80 °C overnight and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford desired product in 53 % yield in 2 steps. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16- 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5), 7.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 7), 3.14 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.40 (td, 2H, *J* = 7.5, 2.5 Hz), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.98 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.1, 133.4, 131.1, 126.3, 123.3, 120.2, 82.6, 69.1, 54.8, 41.6, 18.2, 17.3; IR (neat): 3297, 2936, 2115, 1599, 1493, 1369, 1169, 1094, 1037, 944; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 174.1; Found: 174.0.

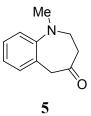


*m*CPBA (1 equiv.) was added into a solution of a N-(but-3-ynyl)aniline (1 equiv.) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv.) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.05 M) under N<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h. The N-oxide purified directly through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: DCM: MeOH = 2: 1). The anhydrous hydrogen chloride gas was bubbled into the eluent containing N-oxide then concentrated under vacuum to afford the desired product in 80 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94- 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.67- 7.57 (m, 3H), 4.71- 4.63 (m, 1H), 4.44-4.36 (m, 1H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 2.92- 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.41- 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.03 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 145.8,131.1, 130.4, 120.0, 77.1, 72.0, 69.2, 60.2, 13.9; IR (neat):2923, 2859, 2253, 1713, 1605, 1555, 1497, 1452, 1401; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 176.1; Found: 176.1.

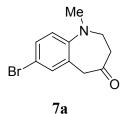
## General procedure A: Preparation of tetrahydrobenz[b]azepin-4-ones



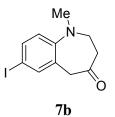
*m*CPBA (0.2 mmol) was added into a solution of a *N*-(but-3-ynyl)aniline (0.2 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.05 M) under N<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C. The N-oxide formation was monitored by TLC. After completion of the N-oxide formation, Ph3PAuNTf<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) was added into the reaction at -20 °C. Upon completion, the reaction was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and washed with 5 % aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), 10 % aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and water. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under *vacuum*. The residue was purified through silica gel flash column (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1).



Compound **5** was prepared in 79 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (t, 1H, *J* = 6 Hz), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.01 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 3.68(s, 2H), 3.26 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.55 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.8, 149.3, 129.6, 129.4, 128.3, 122.2, 118.2, 53.9, 48.7, 41.6, 41.5; IR (neat): 2940, 2806, 2360, 1716, 1651, 1554, 1495, 1465, 1323, 1183, 1052; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ONa]<sup>+</sup>: 198.1; Found: 198.0.

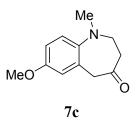


Compound **7a** was prepared in 73 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz), 7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 6.86 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.26 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.55 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  207.5, 148.3, 132.3, 131.3, 131.1, 119.8, 114.5, 53.6, 48.3, 41.6, 41.3; IR (neat): 2951, 2810, 2364, 2334, 1718, 1491, 1324, 1271, 1098; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrNONa]<sup>+</sup>: 276.0; Found: 275.9.

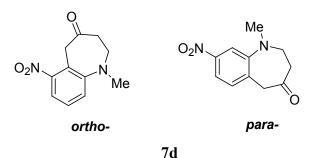


Compound **7b** was prepared in 68 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 2 h for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.38 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.28 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.56 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  207.4, 149.0, 138.1, 137.2, 131.3, 120.2, 84.6, 53.5, 48.1, 41.5, 41.4; IR (neat): 2934, 2856, 2364, 2334, 1717, 1491, 1322, 1269, 1093; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>INO]<sup>+</sup>: 302.0; Found: 301.7.

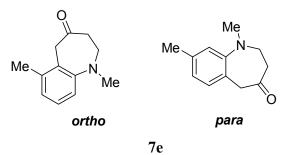


Compound **7c** was prepared in 73 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 15 min for the formation of N-oxide and 15 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 6 Hz), 6.81 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 3.2 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.15 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.51 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.2, 155.2, 142.7, 131.9, 119.3, 115.5, 112.7, 55.5, 54.9, 48.6, 41.9, 41.4; IR (neat): 2940, 2799, 1716, 1608, 1501, 1252, 1124, 1042; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: 228.1; Found: 227.9.

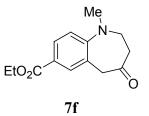


Compound **7d** was prepared in 58 % yield (*ortho: para*= 1.35 :1) according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 2 h for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.79 (d, 1H, *para*, *J* = 2 Hz,), 7.77 (dd, 1H, *para*, *J* = 8, 2 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, *ortho*, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.37 (t, 1H, *ortho*, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.23 (d, 1H, *para*, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.20 (d, 1H, *ortho*, *J* = 8 Hz), 3.83 (s, 3H, *ortho*), 3.81 (s, 3H, *para*), 3.41 (t, 2H, *para*, *J* = 6 Hz), 3.35 (t, 2H, *ortho*, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H, *para*), 2.93 (s, 3H, *ortho*),

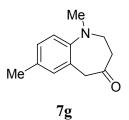
2.61 (t, 2H, *para*, J = 6.4), 2.59 (t, 2H, *ortho*, J = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  205.7, 204.7, 151.0, 150.5, 150.1, 148.4, 135.2, 130.3, 128.4, 123.6, 122.4, 1117.3, 116.4, 112.5, 53.2, 52.9, 48.8, 43.7, 41.7, 41.6, 41.5, 40.8; IR (neat): 2914, 2855, 2360, 1718, 1525, 1345, 1109; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: 228.1; Found: 227.9.



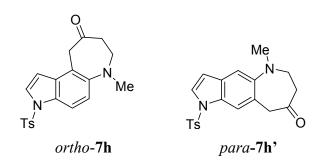
Compound **7e** was prepared in 70 % yield (*ortho: para*= 1:1) according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.17 (t, 1H,*ortho*, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.96 (d, 1H, *para*, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.83 (s, 3H, *para*), 6.76 (d, 1H, *para*, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H, *para*), 3.25 (t, 2H, *para*, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.21 (t, 2H, *J* = 6 Hz), 2.86 (s, 3H, *para*), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.55 (t, 2H, *para*, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.50 (t, 2H, *J* = 6 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H, *para*), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.2, 208.8, 149.5, 149.1, 138.1,136.2, 129.4, 128.7, 126.3, 124.7, 122.8, 119.0, 116.3, 54.0, 48.3, 44.3, 41.9, 41.6, 41.5, 40.9, 21.4, 20.4; IR (neat): 2925, 2806, 2360, 1718, 1577, 1454, 1324, 1174; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NONa]<sup>+</sup>: 212.1; Found: 211.9. Compound *Para*- 7e: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.17 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.21 (t, 2H, *J* = 6 Hz), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.8, 149.5, 136.2, 128.7, 127.5, 124.7, 116.3, 54.0, 44.3, 41.9, 40.9, 20.4; IR (neat): 2925, 2806, 2360, 1718, 1577, 1454, 1324, 1174; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NONa]<sup>+</sup>: 212.1; Found: 211.9.



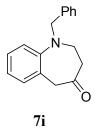
Compound **7f** was prepared in 40 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.90 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz), 7.72 (d, 1H, J = 2 Hz), 6.89 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.34 (q, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz) 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.50 (t, 2H, J = 6 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.64 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.37 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  207.1, 166.4, 152.9, 131.7, 130.2, 125.3, 122.2, 116.4, 60.6, 52.2, 48.9, 41.7, 41.4, 14.4; IR (neat): 2914, 2360, 2338, 1705, 1603, 1508, 1363, 1274, 1183, 1113, 1029; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: 270.1; Found: 269.9.



Compound **7g** was prepared in 70 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.07 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz), 6.91- 6.94 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.20 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.83 (s, 3H), 2.53 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.2, 146.9, 131.8, 130.3, 129.7, 128.7, 118.1, 54.4, 48.6, 41.7, 41.5, 20.5; IR (neat): 2940, 2364, 2323, 1718, 1504, 1326, 1274, 1178, 1089, 1035; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NONa]<sup>+</sup>: 212.1; Found: 211.9.

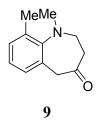


Compound *ortho*-7h and *para*-7h was prepared in 65 % yield in a 1:1 separable mixture according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of Noxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. For compound ortho-7h : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.74 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.54 (d, 2H, J = 3.6 Hz), 7.21 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.05 (d, 2H, J = 5.2 Hz), 6.58 (d, 2H, J = 3.6 Hz), 3.78 (s, 2H), 3.23 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.86 (s, 3H), 2.50 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125) MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 208.6, 144.9, 135.3, 130.8, 130.6, 129.9, 127.0, 126.8, 121.6, 116.1, 112.7, 107.1, 54.7, 44.3, 42.0, 41.6, 21.6; IR (neat): 2926, 2861, 2381, 2345, 2327, 1714, 1597, 1558, 1495, 1451, 1369, 1272, 1172, 1142, 1050, 876, 824; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{20}H_{20}N_2O_3SNa]^+$ : 391.1; Found: 391.4. For compound *para*-7h: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.17 (s, 1H), 6.57 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.14 (t, 2H, J = 6.8Hz), 2.84 (s, 3H), 2.47 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$ 209.1, 145.8, 144.9, 135.4, 130.8, 129.9, 128.7, 126.8, 126.4, 114.0, 110.8, 108.8, 54.7, 49.1, 42.1, 41.1, 21.6; IR (neat): 2925, 2861, 2382, 2347, 2081, 1713, 1607, 1557, 1495, 1451, 1371, 1260, 1172, 1120, 1092, 105, 875, 824; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{20}H_{20}N_2O_3SNa]^+$ : 391.1; Found: 391.2.

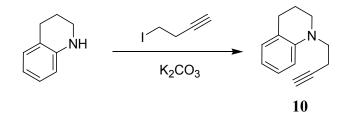


Compound **7i** was prepared in 69 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 2h for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31- 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.23- 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.12 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.97 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 1 Hz), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.29 (s, 2H), 3.23 (t, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.53 (t, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.6, 149.1, 138.4, 129.8, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.3, 122.5, 119.4, 58.2, 50.9, 48.9, 41.6;

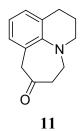
IR (neat): 2918, 2843, 2360, 2334, 1716, 1495, 1365, 1224; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{17}H_{17}NONa]^+$ : 274.1; Found: 273.9.



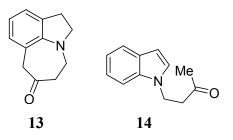
Compound **9** was prepared in 20 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 1 h for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. For compound **8**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16- 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 3.22 (t, 4H, *J* = 6 Hz), 2.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 6 Hz), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.9, 147.0, 135.5, 131.7, 131.1, 130.8, 124.2, 51.0, 49.2, 41.3, 40.9, 19.2.



4-Iodobut-1-yne (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-quinoline (2 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) without solvents. The reaction was heated at 60 °C for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/ mmol), and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated under *vacuum*, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 25:1, then hexanes: ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford compound in 72 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.03 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.03 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.60– 6.56 (m, 2H), 3.48 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz ), 3.33 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.6 Hz ), 2.74 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz ), 2.45 (td, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 1.99 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 1.97–1.92 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  144.3, 129.3, 127.2, 122.5, 116.0, 110.3, 82.4, 69.5, 50.4, 49.6, 28.0, 22.1, 15.9; IR (neat): 3288, 2926, 1600, 1450, 1344; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 186.1; Found: 186.0.

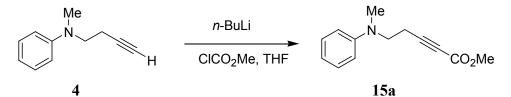


Compound **11** was prepared in 57 % yield according to the general procedure A,  $(2-biphenyl)^{t}Bu_{2}PAuNTf_{2}$  was used. The reaction temperature for Au-catalysis was room temperature and the reaction time was 40 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.97 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz ), 6.87 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 6.80-6.76 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.43 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.20 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 2.77 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.63 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.90–1.84(m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.6, 144.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 126.3, 120.5, 52.0, 51.7, 49.1, 42.0, 27.8, 19.4; IR (neat): 2936, 2855, 1718, 1595, 1491, 1450, 1317; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO]<sup>+</sup>: 224.1; Found: 224.1.

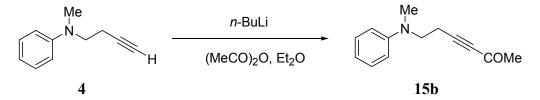


Compound **13** was isolated in 40 % yield along with **14** (26 % yield) according to the general procedure A, (2-biphenyl)'Bu<sub>2</sub>PAuNTf<sub>2</sub> was used. The reaction temperature for Au-catalysis was room temperature and the reaction time was 30 min. From compound **13**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.00 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz ), 6.78 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.67-6.63 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 3.43-3.39 (m, 4H), 2.93 (t, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 2.83 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  207.1, 150.1, 131.0, 128.8, 123.4, 119.2, 114.2, 56.0, 47.9, 45.8, 44.6, 28.7; IR (neat): 2926, 2855, 1713, 1602, 1558, 1494, 1452; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO]<sup>+</sup>: 210.1; Found: 209.9. For compound **14** was isolated in 26 % yield when making the compound **13** according to the general procedure A. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, 1H, J = 8 Hz), 7.33 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.47 (d, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.42 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.94 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.10 (s, 3H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  206.2, 135.5, 128.7, 128.2,

121.5, 121.1, 119.4, 109.0, 101.4, 43.4, 40.5, 30.4; IR (neat): 2923, 2855, 1711, 1607, 1489, 1453, 1399; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{12}H_{13}NNaO]^+$ : 210.1; Found: 209.9.

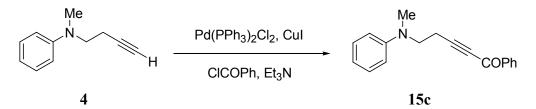


Compound **4** (1 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled to -78 °C in a dry ice-acetone bath. *n*-BuLi (1.2 mmol) was added drop-wise over 3 minutes. After stirring at -78 °C for 0.5 h, The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for another 0.5 h. Methyl chloroformate (1.2 mmol) was added in one portion. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then quenched with sat. aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers was washed with brine (25 mL), dried upon MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 2:1) to yield the desired compound **15a** in 60 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.70 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.58 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.0, 148.0, 129.4, 117.0, 112.3, 87.2, 74.0, 52.6, 50.8, 38.5, 16.6; IR (neat): 3028, 2926, 2236, 1715, 1598, 1502, 1433, 1356, 1258; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 240.1; Found: 240.1.

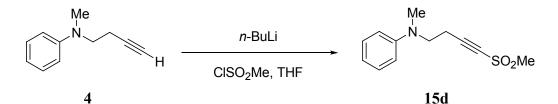


Compound 4(1 mmol) was dissolved in  $Et_2O$  (5 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled down to -78°C in a dry ice-acetone bath. *n*-BuLi (1.1 mmol) was added drop-wise over 5 minutes. After stirring at -78 °C for 0.5 h. The resulting mixture was stirred at -

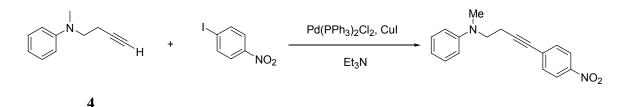
78°C for another 0.5 h. Acetyl chloride (12 mmol) was added in one portion. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was then quenched with sat. aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers was washed with brine (25 mL), dried upon MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 2:1) to yield the desired compound **15b** in 60 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.71 (m, 3H), 3.63 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  184.6, 148.1, 129.4, 117.0, 112.3, 91.2, 82.3, 50.9, 38.4, 32.6, 16.9; IR (neat): 2923, 2859, 2209, 1674, 1602, 1499, 1356, 1229; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO]<sup>+</sup>: 224.1; Found: 224.1.



To a solution of anhydrous Et<sub>3</sub>N (2 mL) was successively added copper iodide (0.05 mmol), dichlorobis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.05 mmol). Under nitrogen, compound **4** (1.32 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (1.5 mmol) were added in succession. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. The reaction was quenched by filtration through a pad of silica gel using ethyl acetate as eluent. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 2:1) to yield the desired compound **15c** in 52 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.10 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.59 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.45 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.27 (t, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.77– 6.33 (m, 3H), 3.72 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.75 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.9, 148.1, 136.6, 134.0, 129.5, 129.4, 128.5, 117.0, 112.4, 93.9, 80.7, 50.9, 38.4, 17.3; IR (neat): 3058, 2920, 2196, 1642, 1598, 1502, 1452, 1263; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO]<sup>+</sup>: 286.1; Found: 286.1.

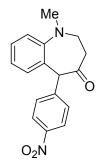


Ccompound 4 (2 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled down to -78°C in a dry ice-acetone bath. *n*-BuLi (3 mmol) was added drop-wise over 3 minutes. After stirring at -78 °C for 1 h. Methanesulfonyl chloride (2.4 mmol) was added in dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for overnight. The reaction mixture was then quenched with sat. aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers was washed with brine (25 mL), dried upon MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 2:1) to yield the desired compound **15d** in 18 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.28- 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.77- 6.71 (m, 3H), 3.67 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.67 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  184.6, 148.1, 129.4, 117.0, 112.3, 91.2, 82.3, 50.9, 38.4, 32.6, 16.9; IR (neat): 3018, 2923, 2862, 2202, 1600, 1502, 1450, 1322, 1148; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>S]<sup>+</sup>: 260.1; Found: 260.0.

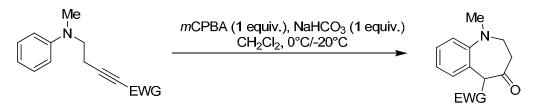


To a solution of anhydrous Et<sub>3</sub>N (2 mL) was successively added copper iodide(0.03 mmol), dichlorobis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.015 mmol). Under nitrogen, compound **4** (0.3 mmol) and 1-iodo-4-nitro-benzene (0.3 mmol) were added in succession. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 10 min. The reaction was cooled down to room temperature and quenched by filtration through a pad of silica gel using ethyl acetate as eluent. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate = 2:1) to yield the desired compound in 71 % yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.15 (d, 2H, *J* =

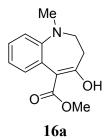
7.2 Hz), 7.47 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.28–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.78–6.72 (m, 3H), 3.68 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.71 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.4, 146.8, 132.2, 130.7, 129.3, 123.5, 116.8, 112.3, 94.0, 80.6, 51.5, 38.4, 17.7; IR (neat): 2923, 2855, 2219, 1593, 1506, 1342; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H]<sup>+</sup>: 281.1; Found: 281.1.



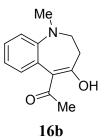
The above compound was prepared in 44 % yield according to the general procedure A. The reaction time is 30 min for the formation of N-oxide and 30 min for Au catalysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.13 (d, 2H, J = 9.2 Hz ), 7.38-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.08-7.04 (m, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 3.42–3.35 (m, 1H), 3.18-3.13 (m, 1H), 2.96–2.89(m, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 2.56–2.51 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  207.8, 148.2, 146.2, 133.8, 130.4, 130.0, 129.4, 124.0, 123.4, 120.1, 63.5, 56.0, 41.7, 39.9; IR (neat): 2933, 2859, 1716, 1600, 1517, 1491, 1447, 1346; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 319.1; Found: 319.0. General procedure B: Preparation of EWG substituted tetrahydrobenz[b]azepin-4ones



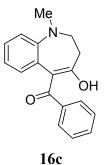
*m*CPBA (0.2 mmol) was added into a solution of a *N*-(but-3-ynyl)aniline (0.2 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.05 M) under N<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C. The product formation was monitored by TLC. Upon completion, Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and washed with 5 % aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), 10 % aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), water and brine. The organic layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under *vacuum*. The residue was purified through silica gel flash column chromatography (eluents: hexanes: ethyl acetate= 2:1).



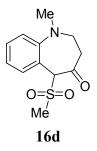
Compound **16a** was prepared in 73% yield according to the general procedure B, reaction time is 30 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.01(s, 1H), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.01 (m, 2H), 3.76(s, 3H), 3.48-3.45 (m, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.34 (t, 2H, *J* = 7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.1, 171.8, 147.6, 131.2, 128.9, 127.5, 121.6, 118.8, 100.3, 62.2, 52.0, 41.4, 32.2; IR (neat): 2936, 2859, 1646, 1612, 1491, 1443, 1341, 1224; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 256.1; Found: 256.0.



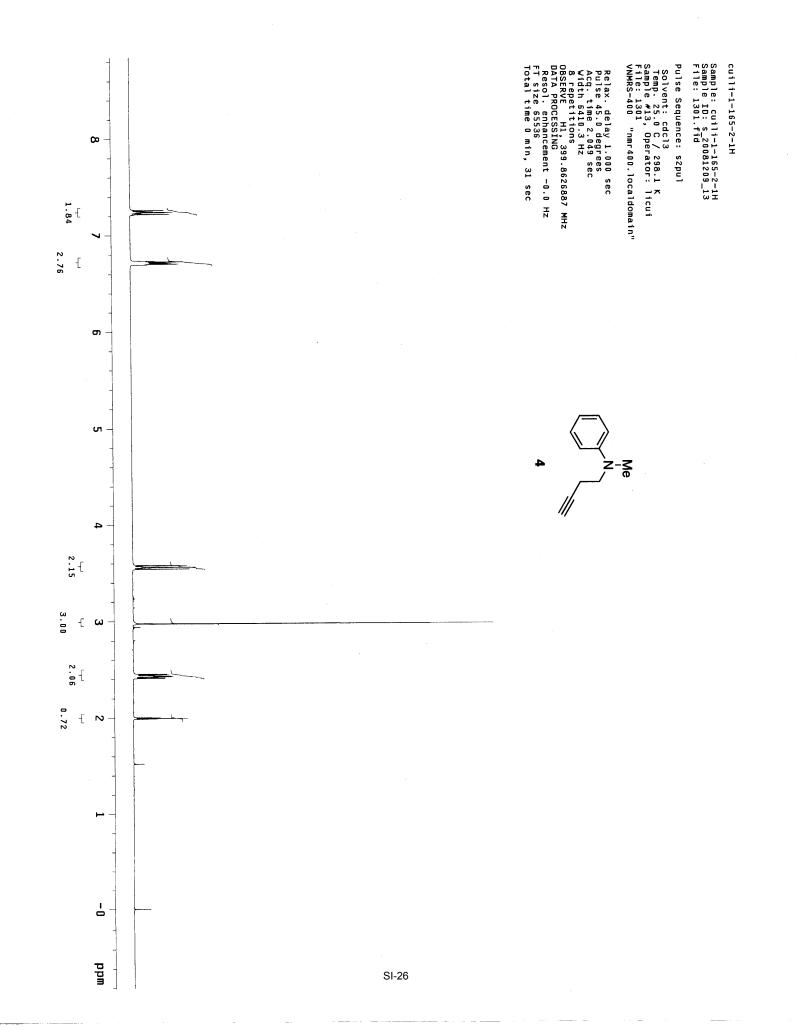
Compound **16b** was prepared in 76% yield according to the general procedure B, the reaction time was 60 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29-7.26(m, 1H), 7.11-7.03(m, 3H), 3.67-3.55(m, 1H), 3.05-2.99 (m, 1H), 2.79(s, 3H), 2.65-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.23 (m, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.6, 184.7, 148.3, 131.0, 130.6, 128.1, 122.3, 118.9, 112.5, 59.1, 41.4, 37.6, 22.3; IR (neat): 2926, 2859, 1602, 1494, 1450, 1405, 1268; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 240.1; Found: 240.0.

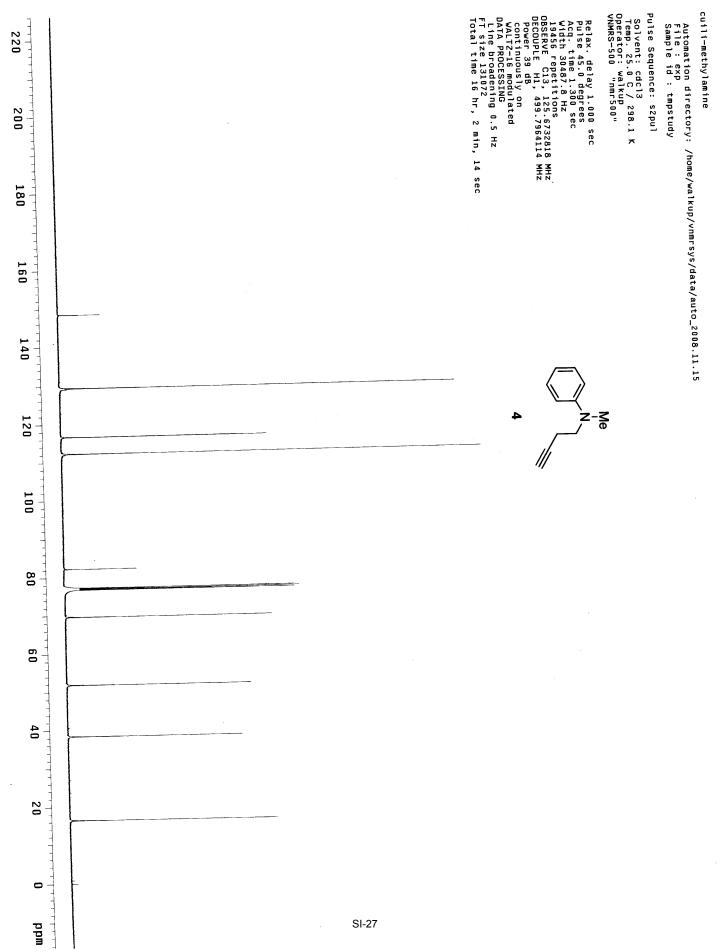


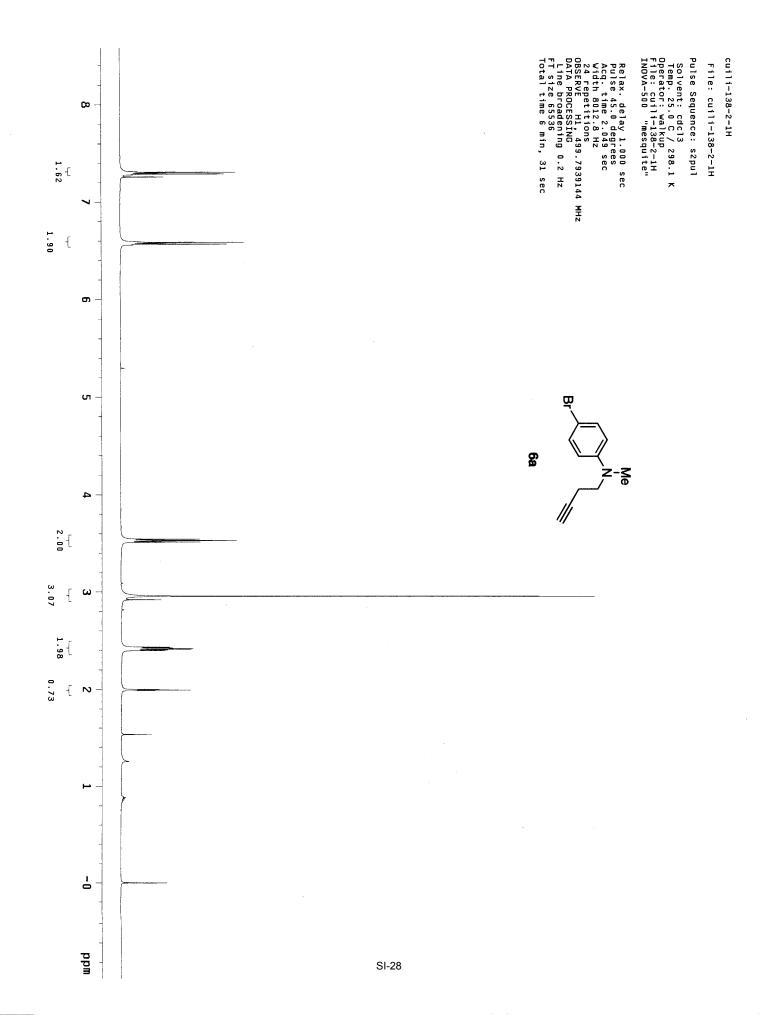
Compound **16c** was prepared in 82 % yield according to the general procedure B, the reaction time was 1 h. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 6.71-6.67 (m, 1H), 6.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6Hz), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.15-3.11 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.78-2.71 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.41 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>) $\delta$  198.8, 180.4, 148.2, 135.5, 132.1, 131.4, 130.4, 129.5, 128.1, 127.6, 122.2, 118.5, 111.7, 58.9, 41.3, 37.9; IR (neat): 2930, 2808, 1725, 1600, 1560, 1494, 1455, 1403, 1334; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 302.1; Found: 302.0.

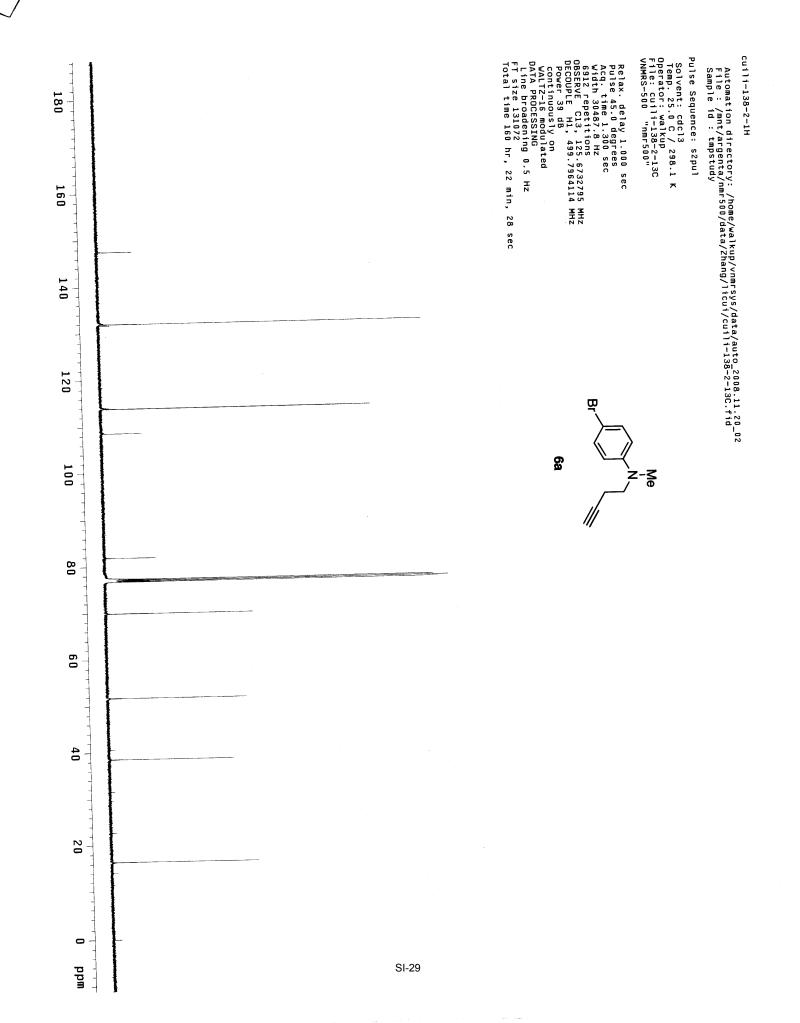


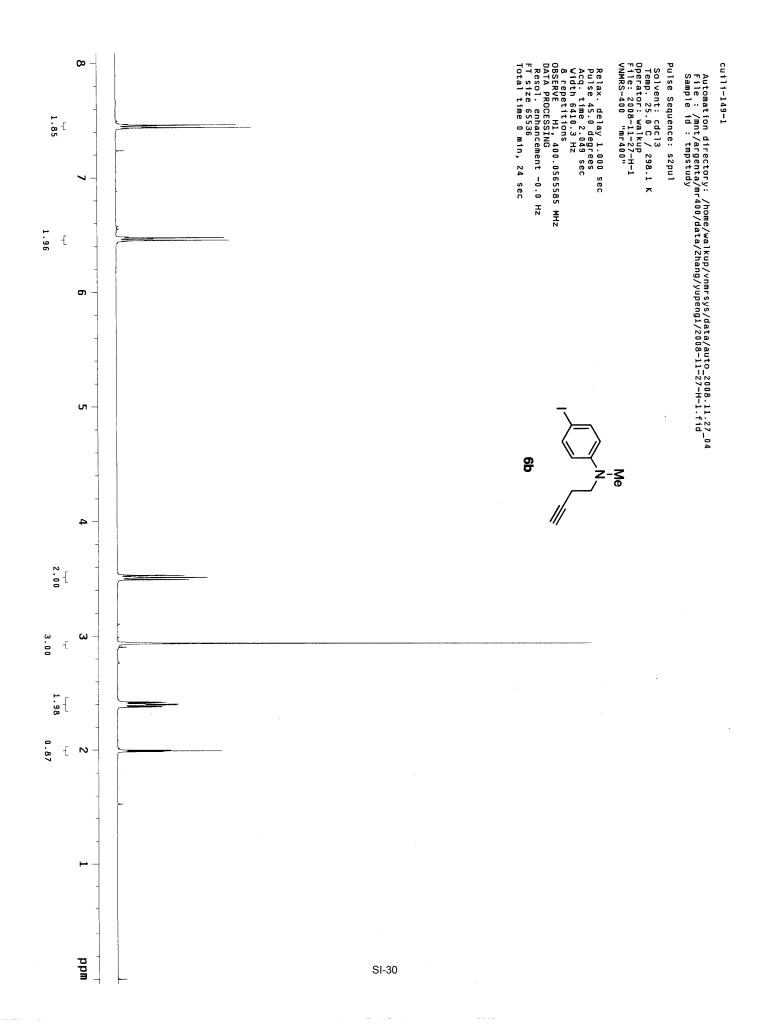
Compound **16d** was prepared in 63 % yield according to the general procedure B, the reaction temperature was -20 °C and reaction time was 4 h. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47-7.43(m, 1H), 7.39(d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.19-7.15(m, 2H), 4.65(s, 1H), 3.52-3.45(m, 1H), 3.07-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.99(s, 3H), 2.89-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.79(s, 3H), 2.57-2.52 (m, 1H);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  201.6, 148.8, 133.8, 131.5, 125.4, 124.4, 120.3, 79.1, 55.9, 41.4, 40.8, 40.5; IR (neat): 2930, 2862, 1720, 1600, 1556, 1492, 1453, 1403; MS (ES<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub>S]<sup>+</sup>: 276.1; Found: 276.0.

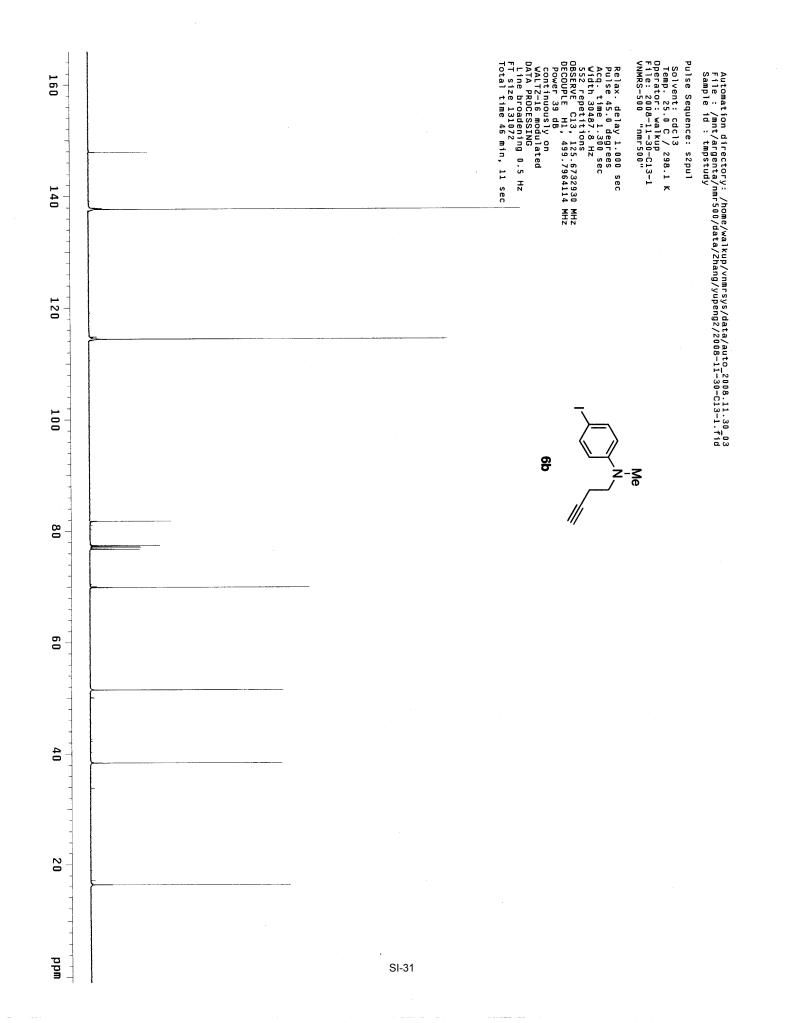


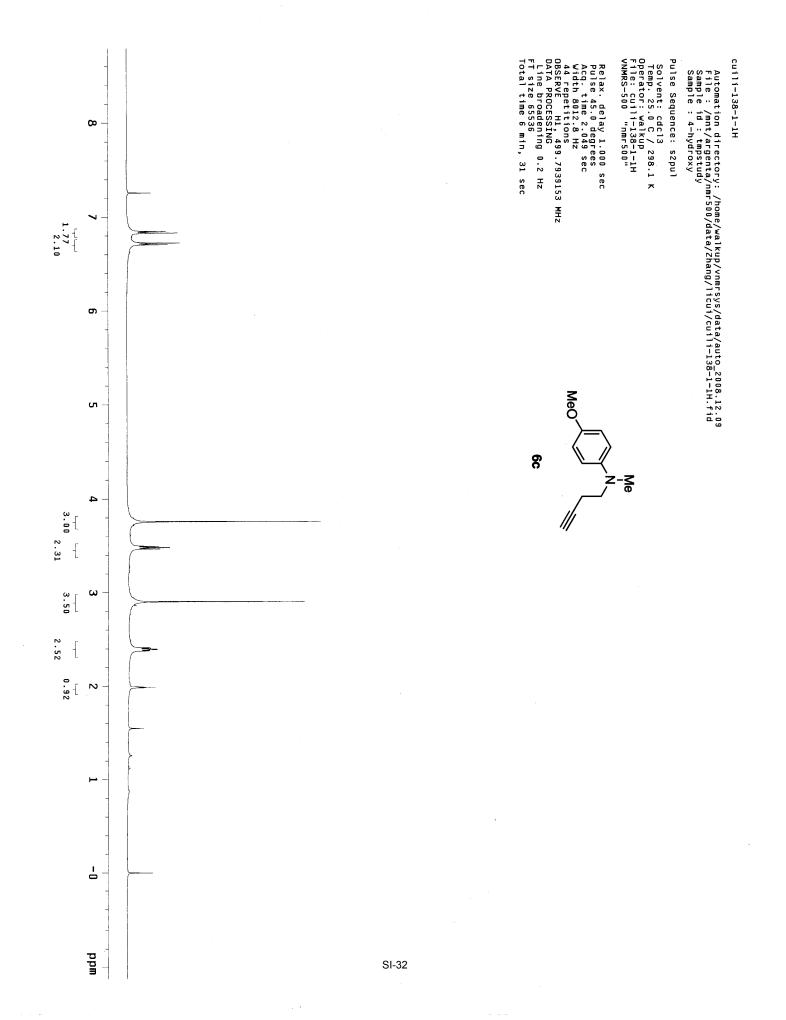


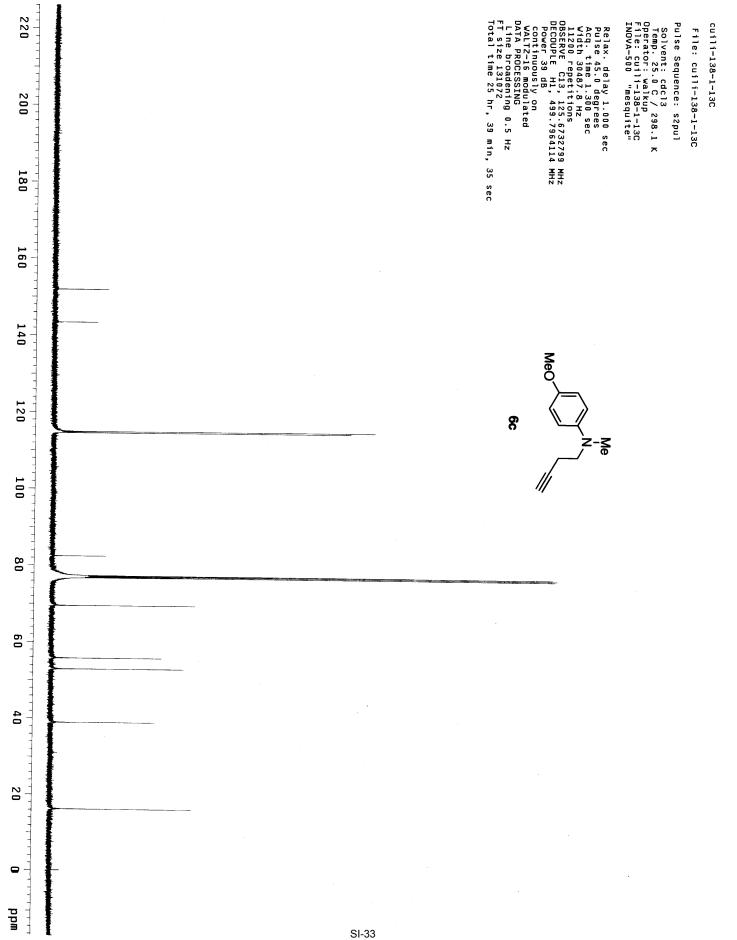


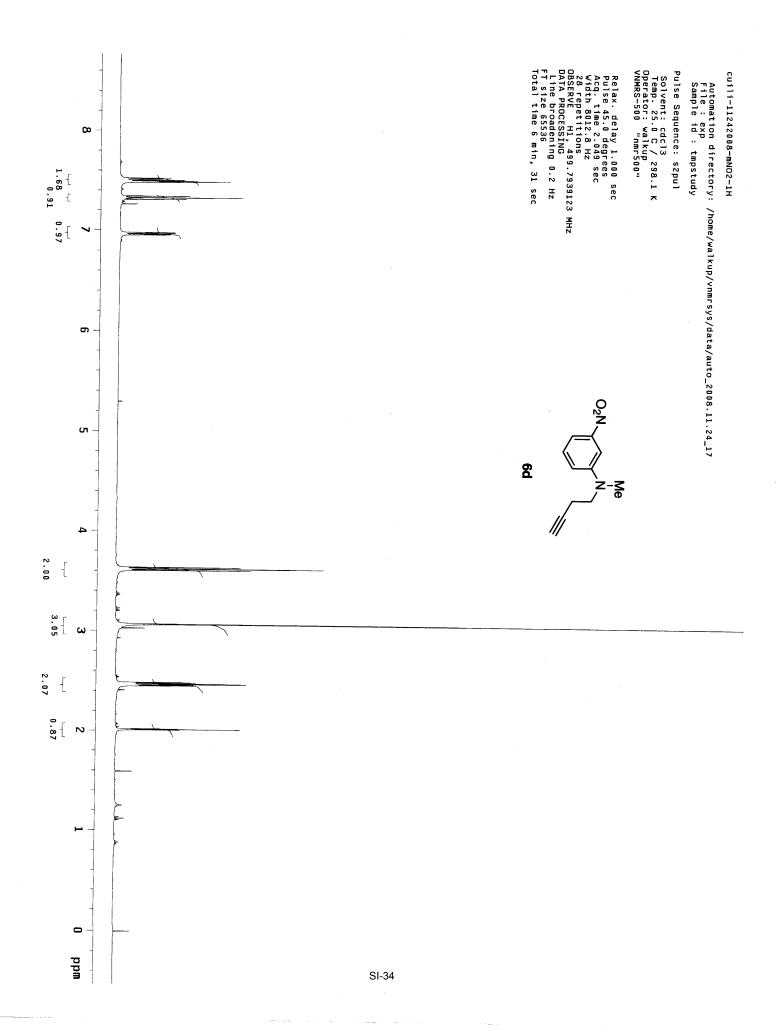


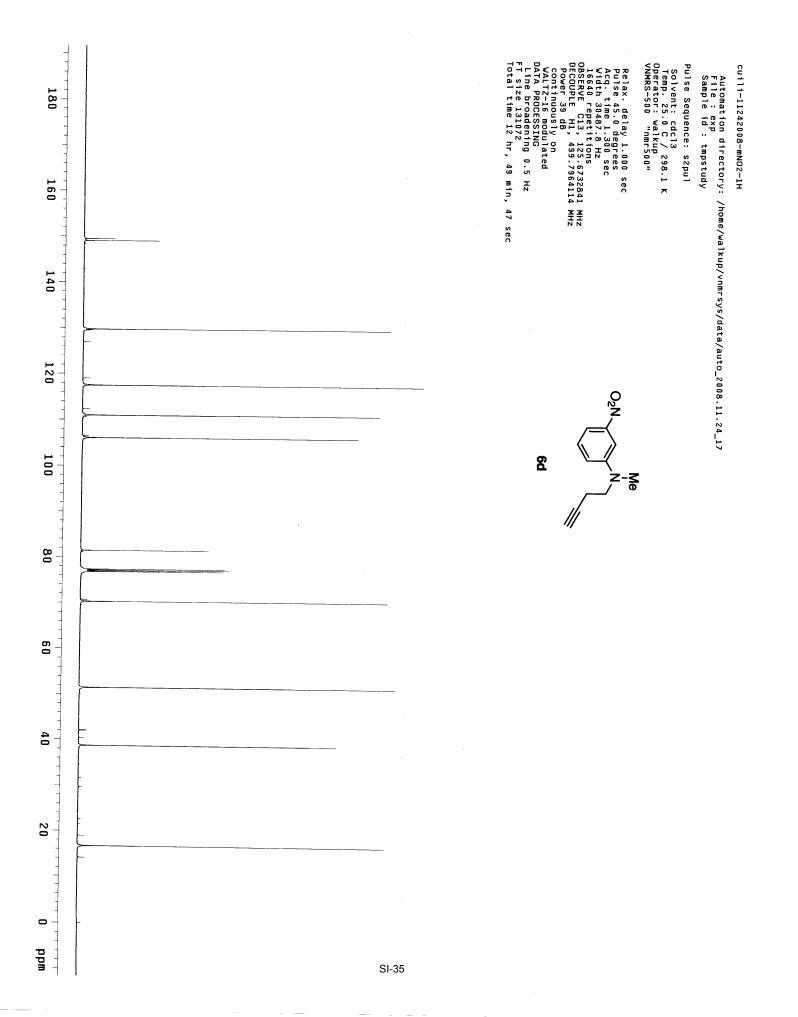


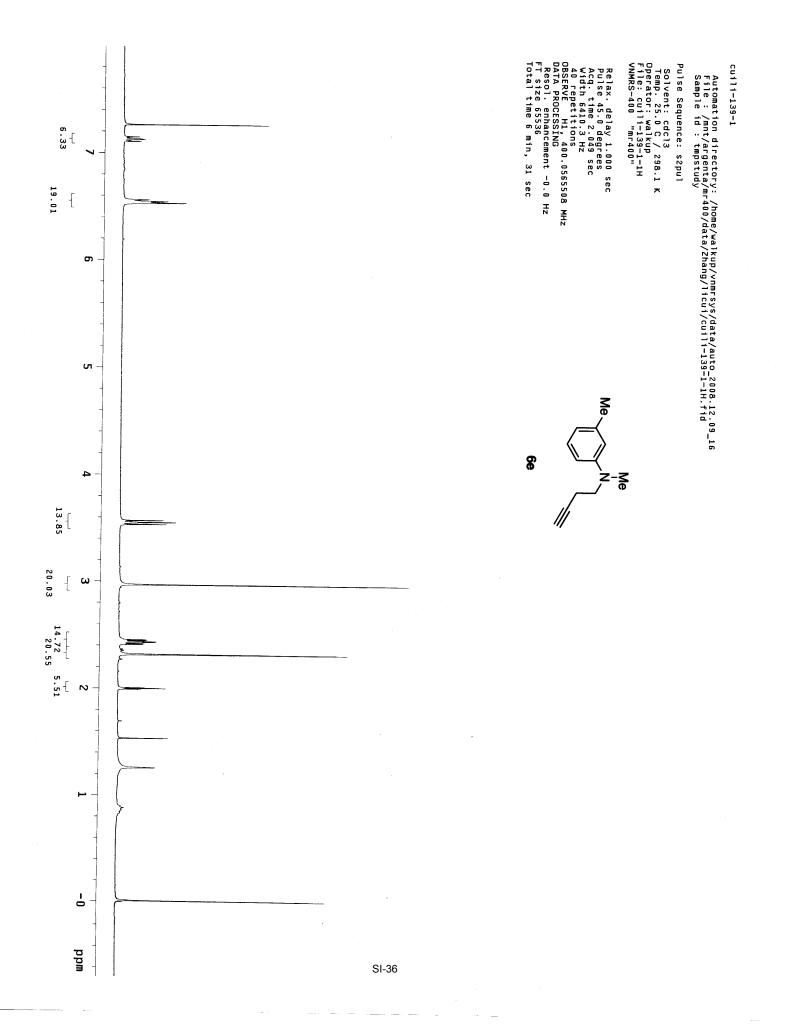


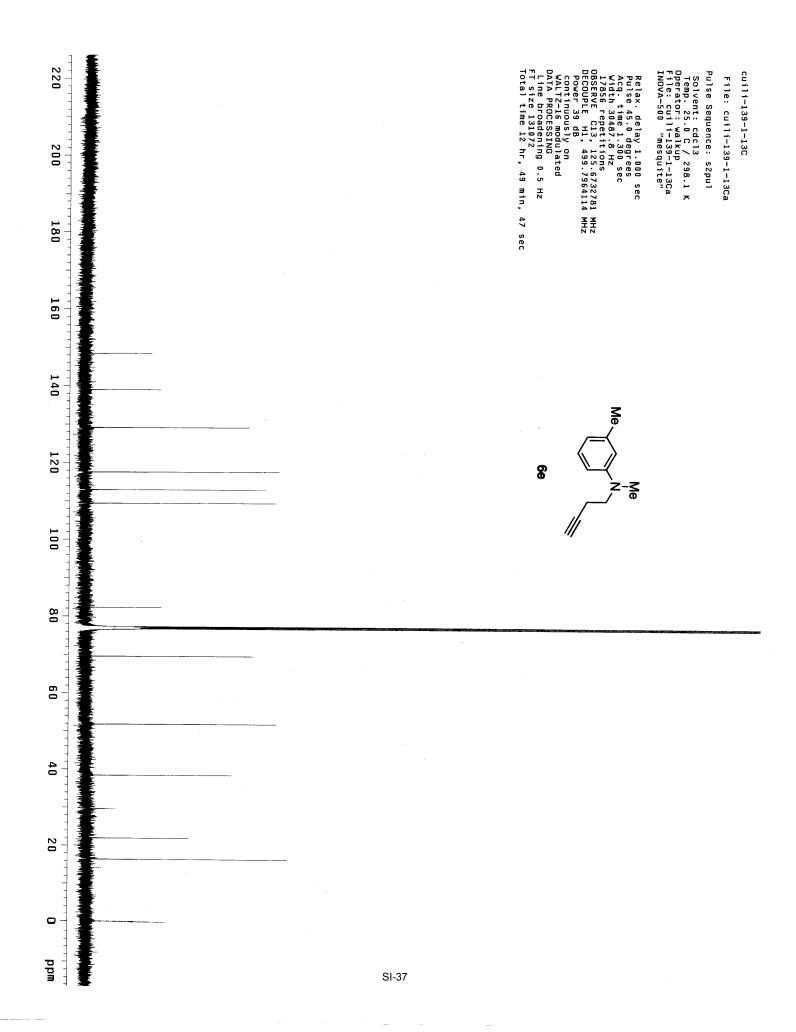


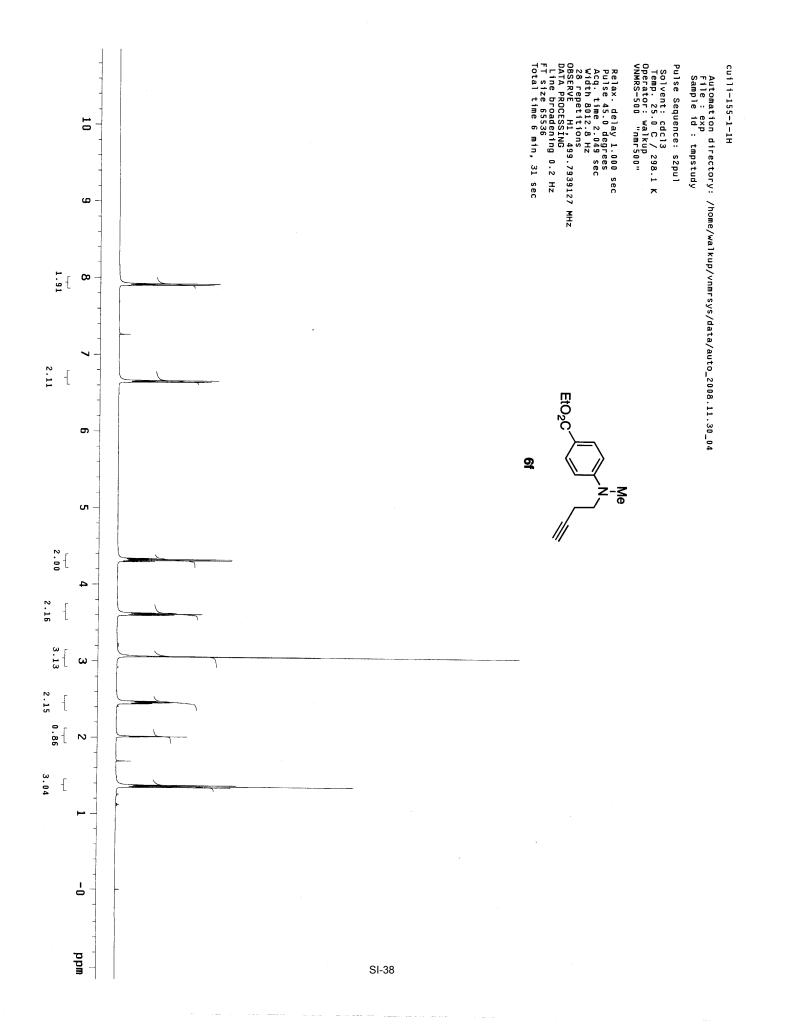


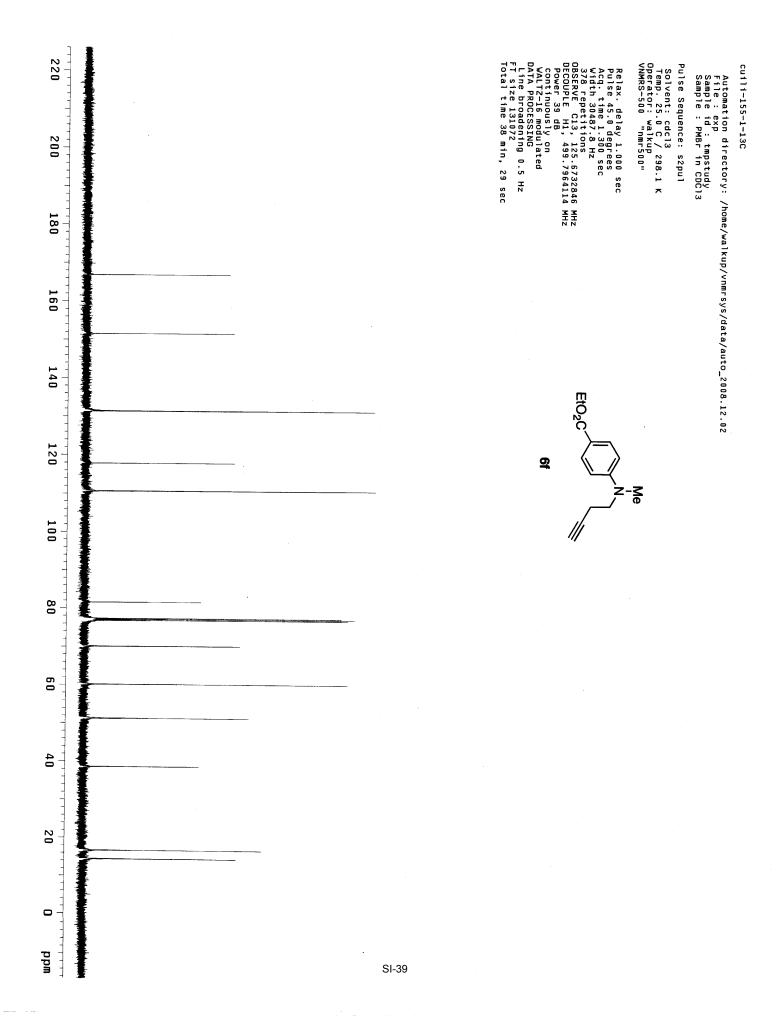


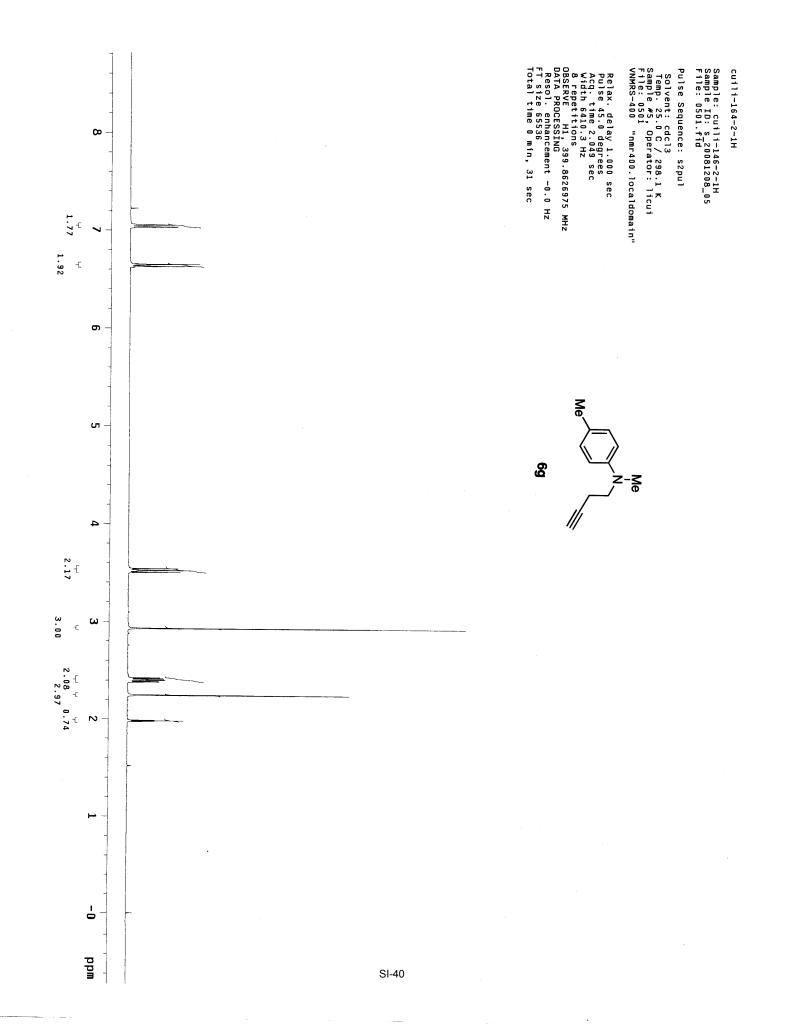


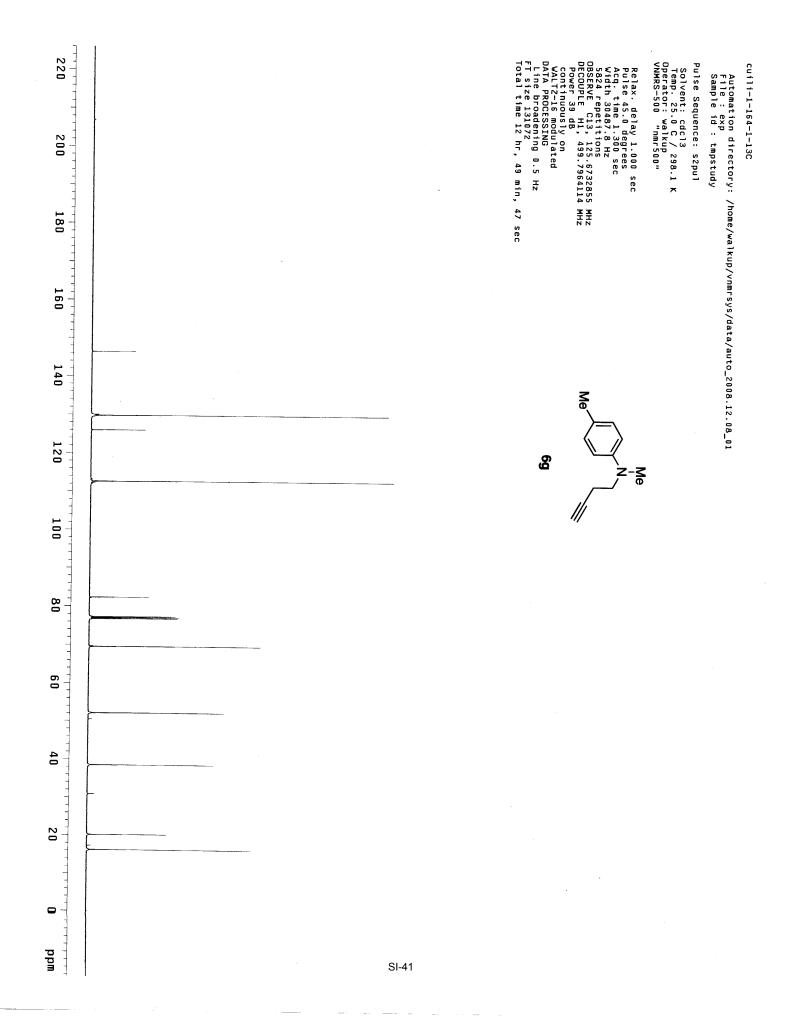


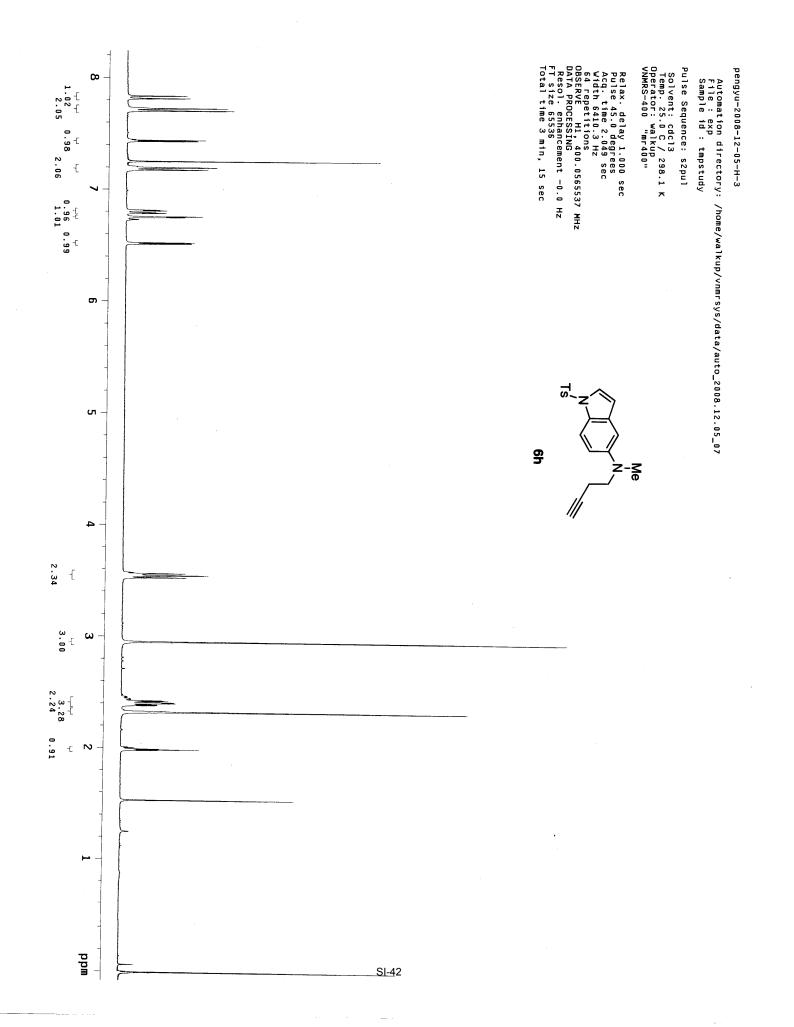


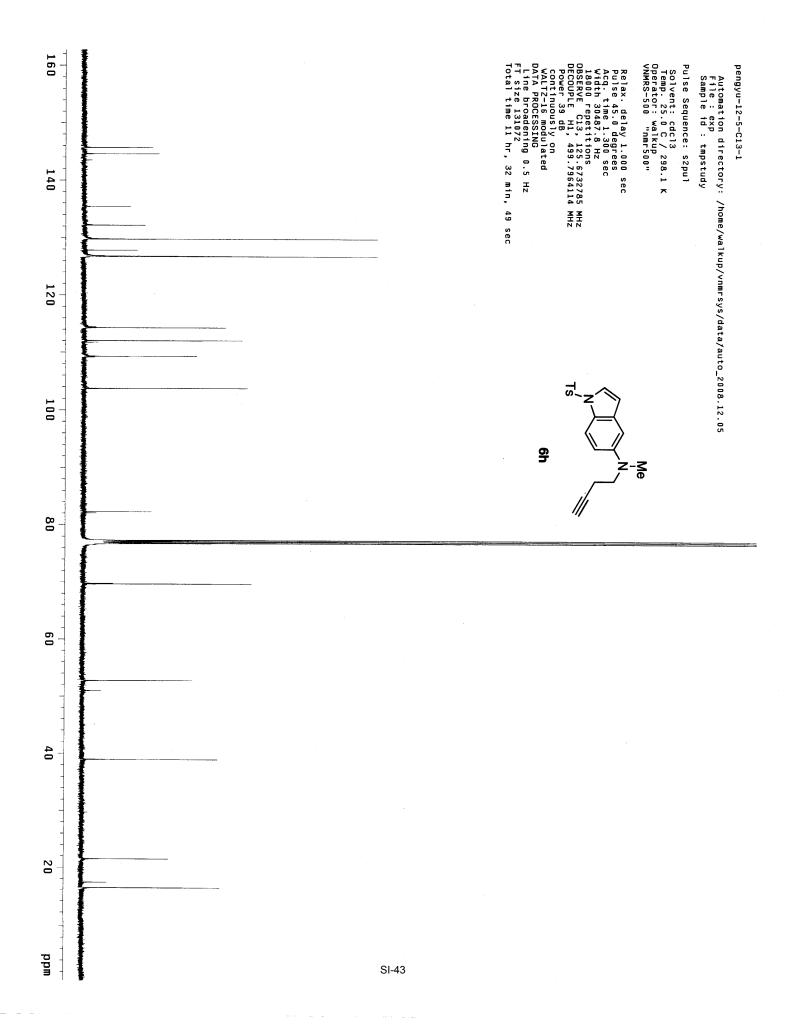


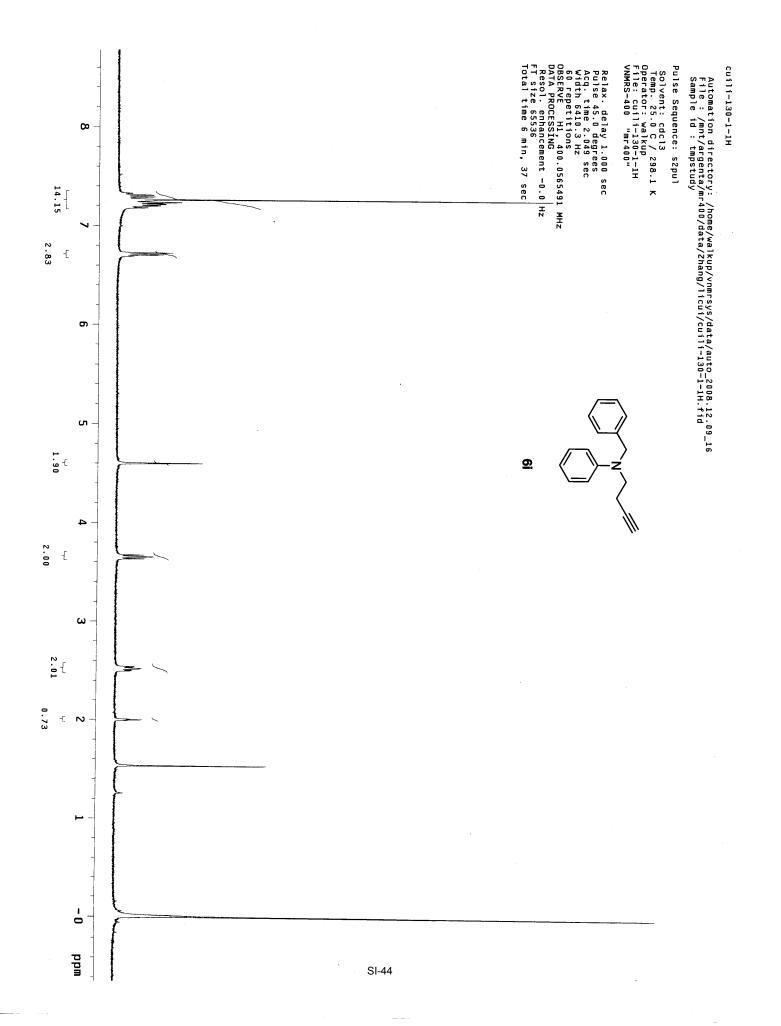


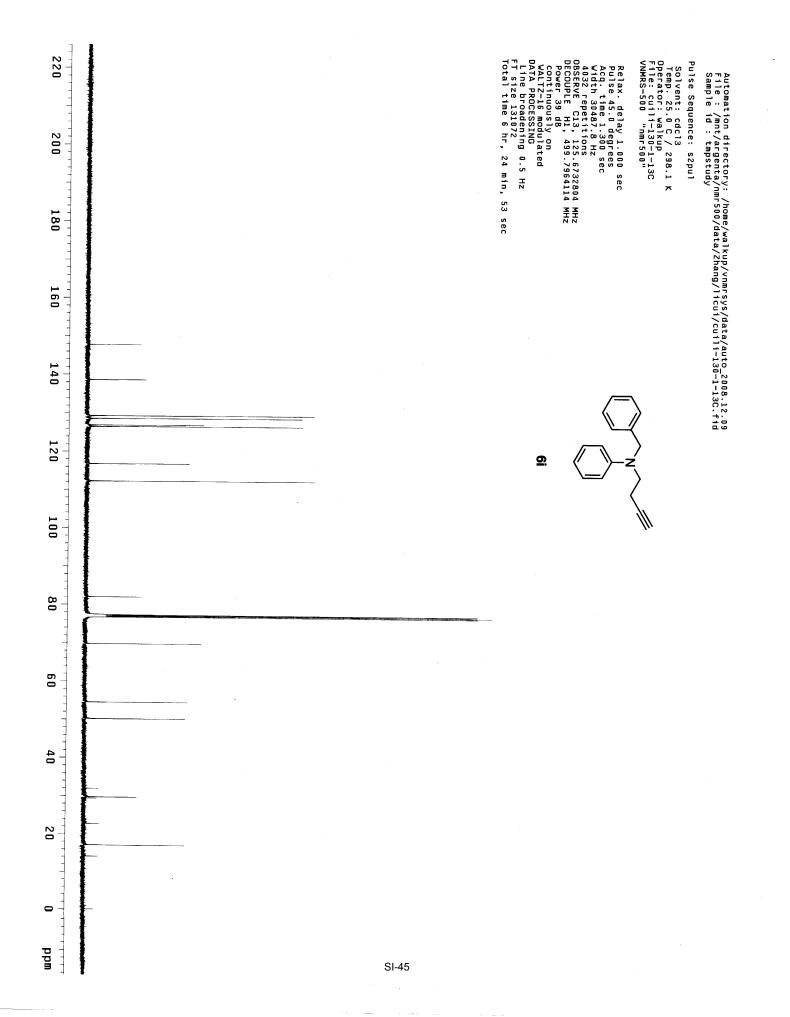


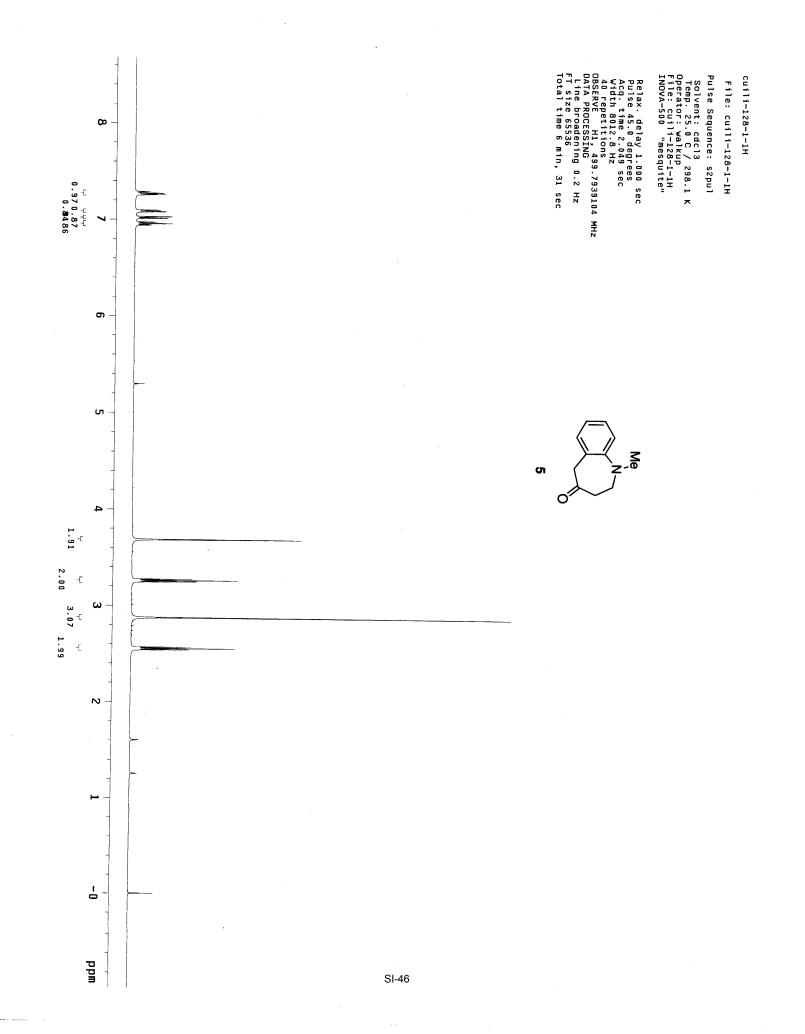


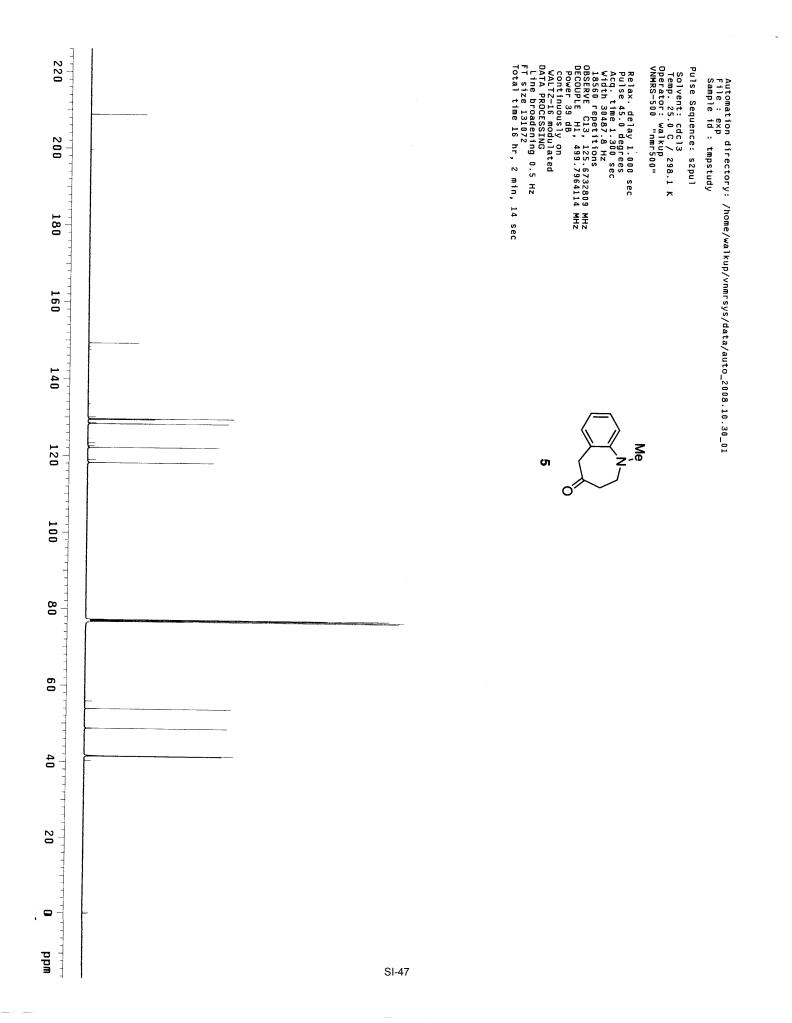


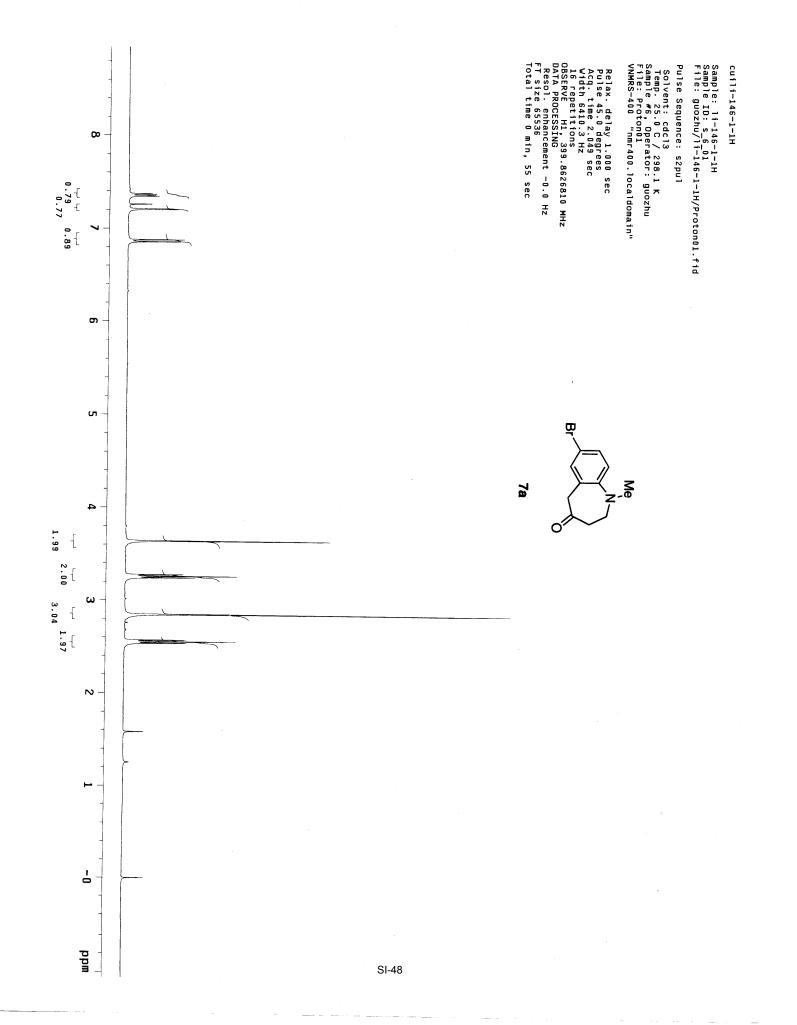


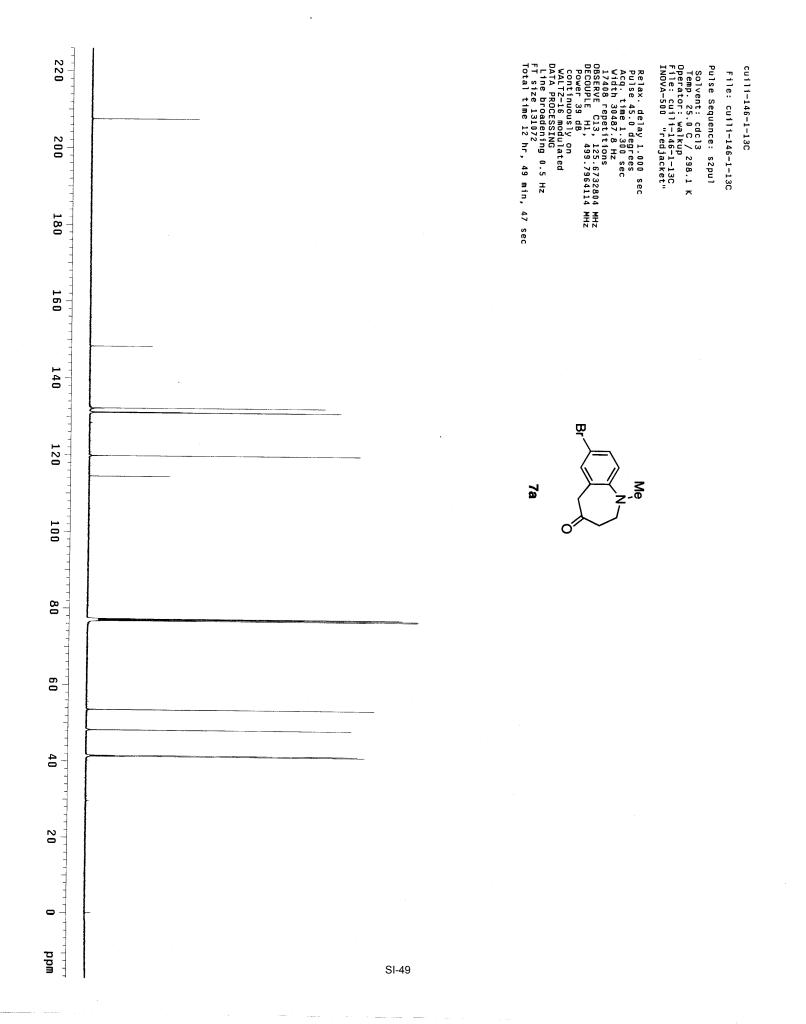


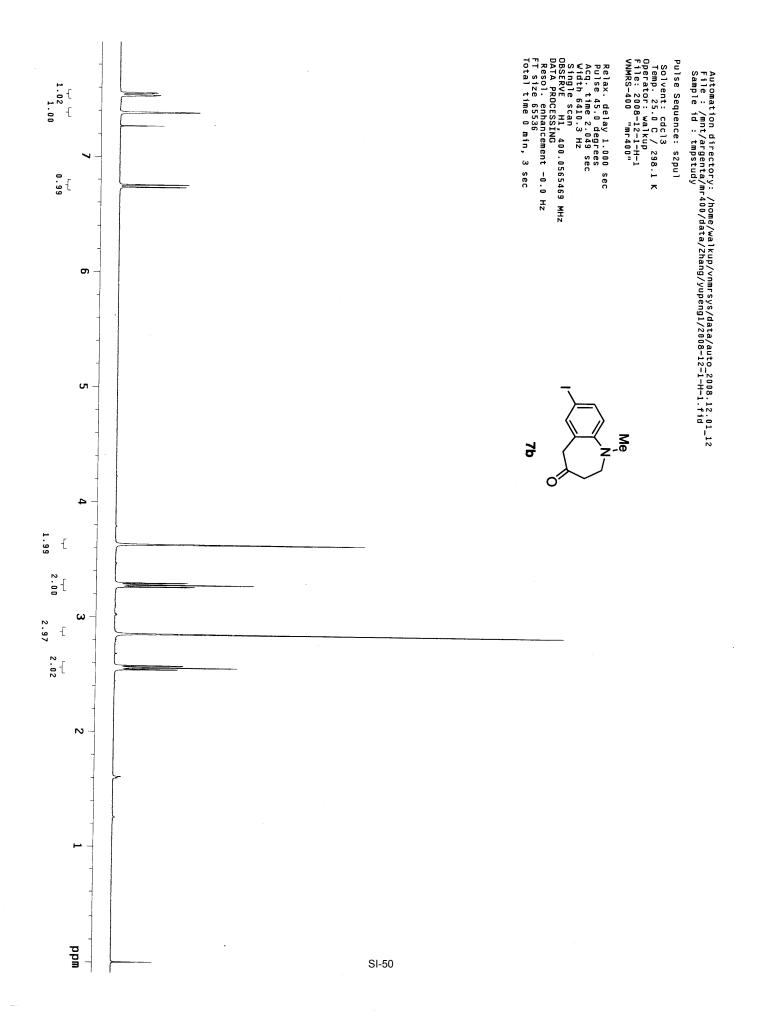


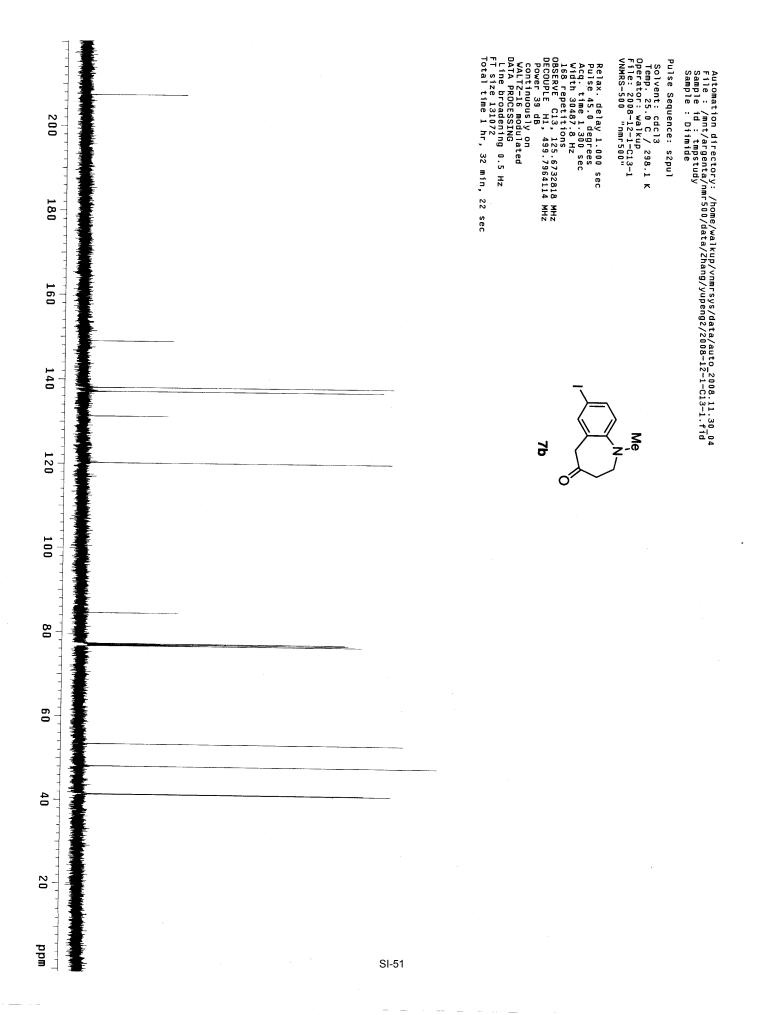


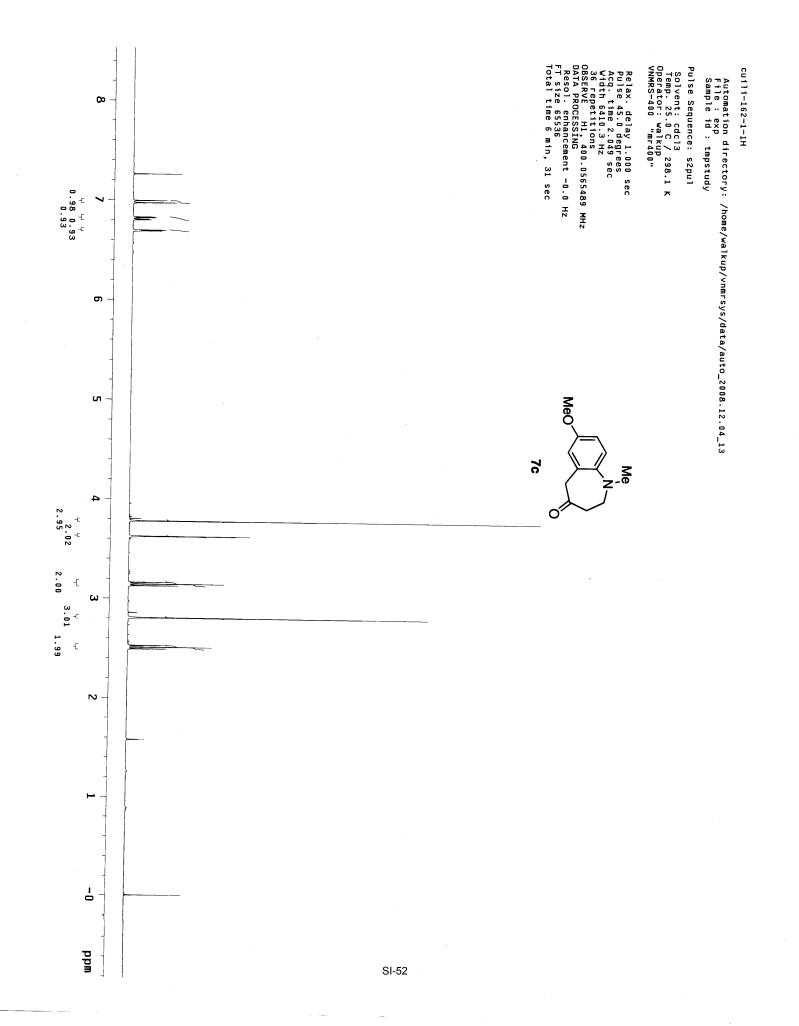


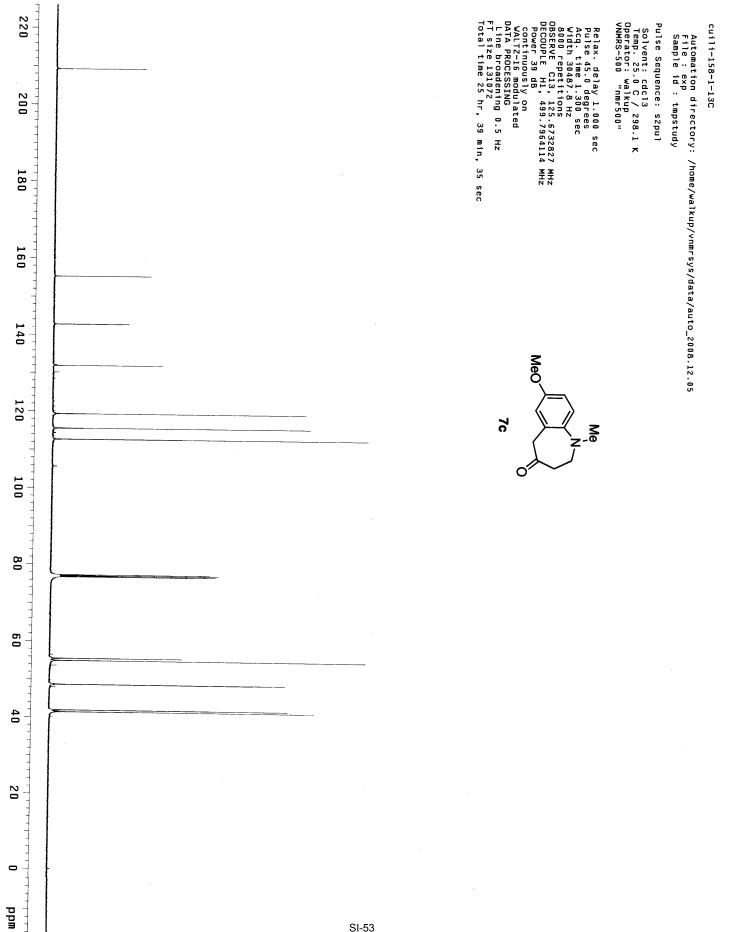




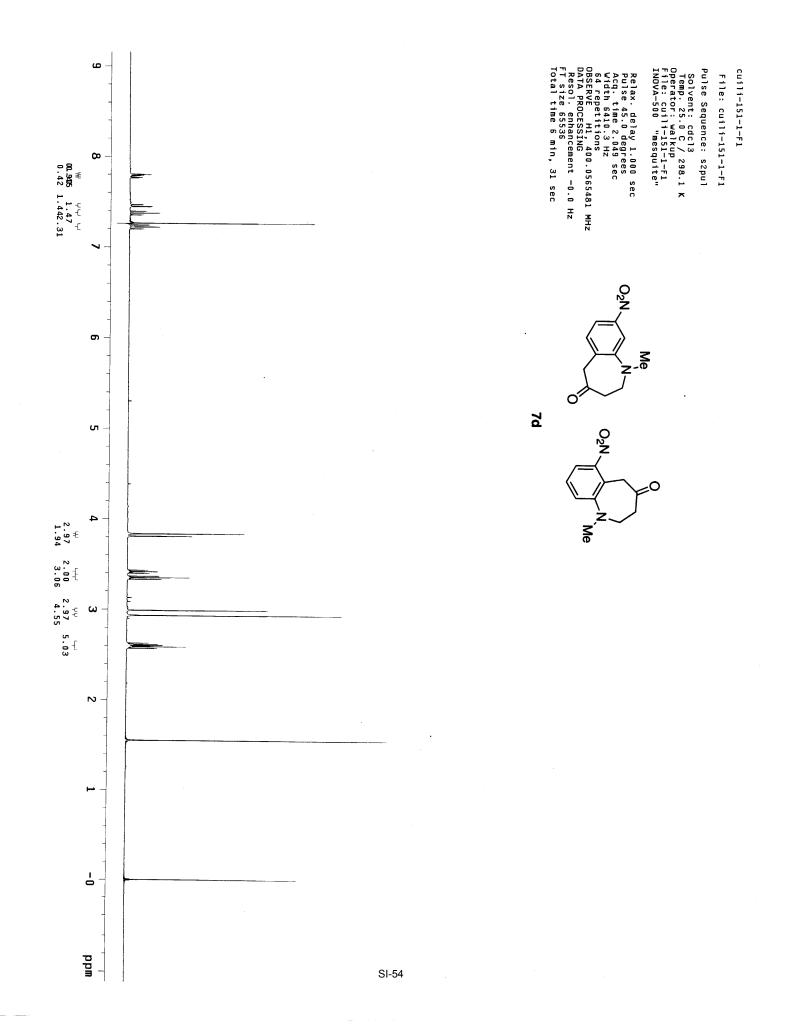


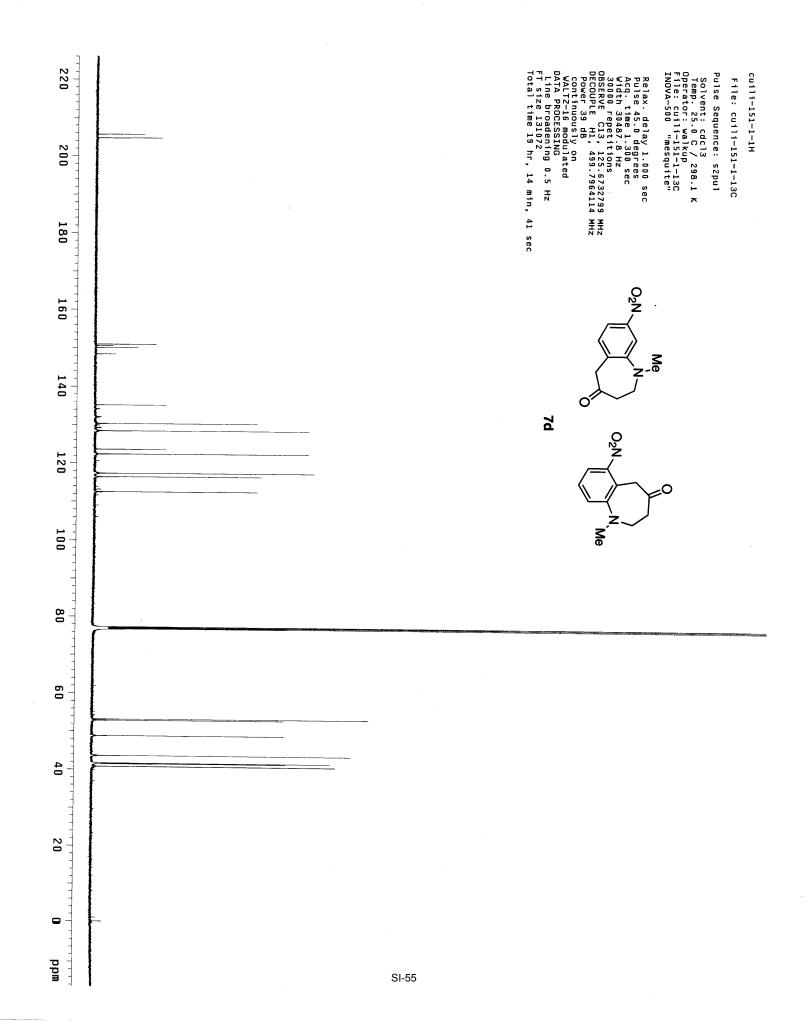


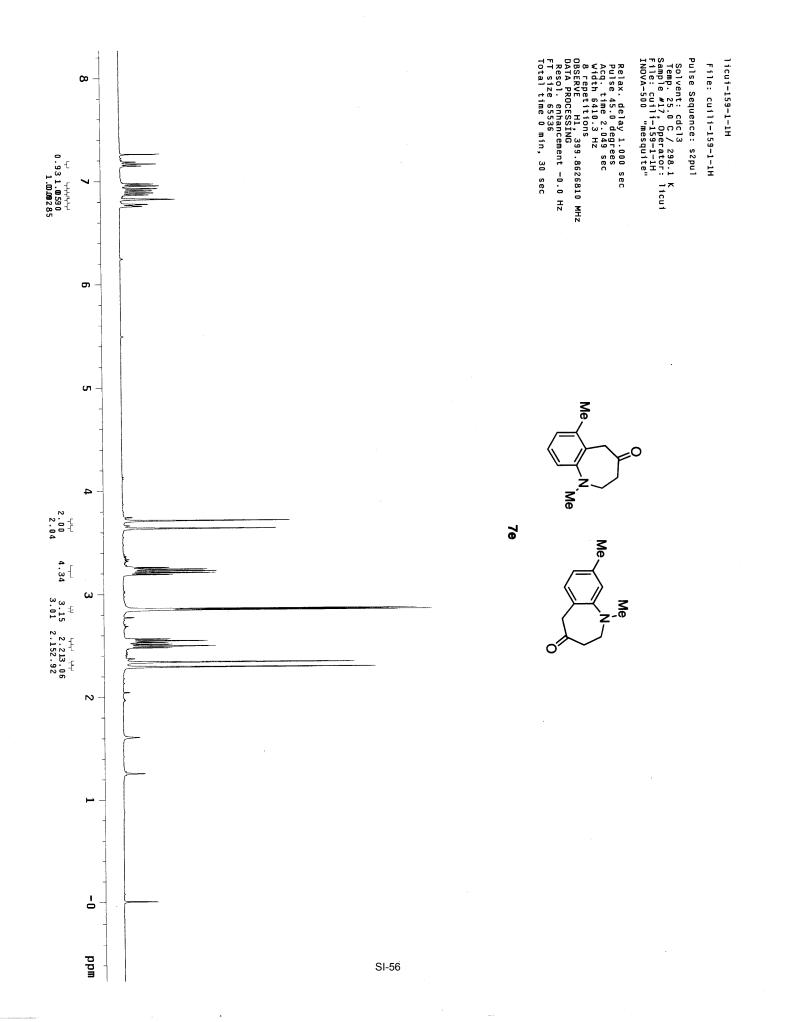


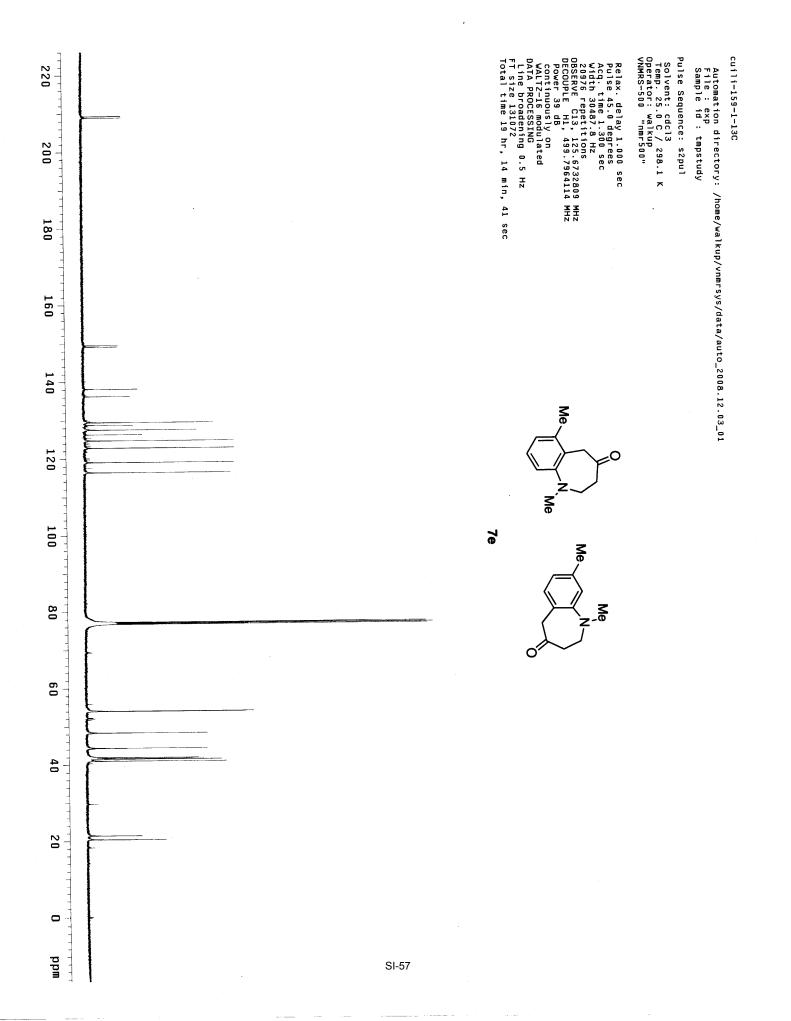


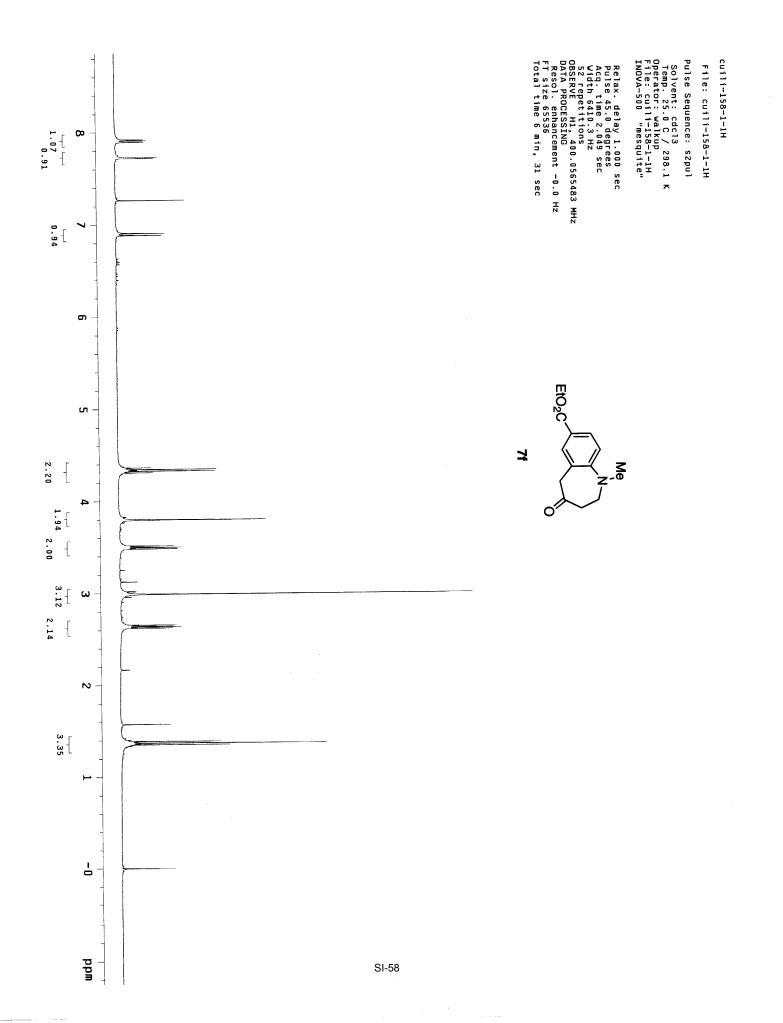
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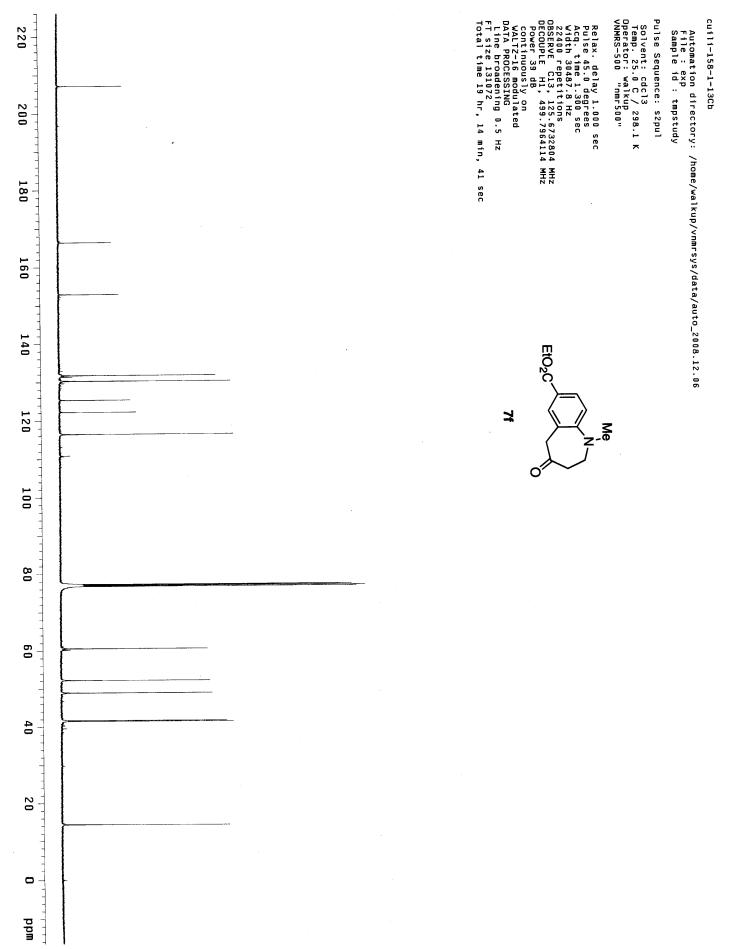




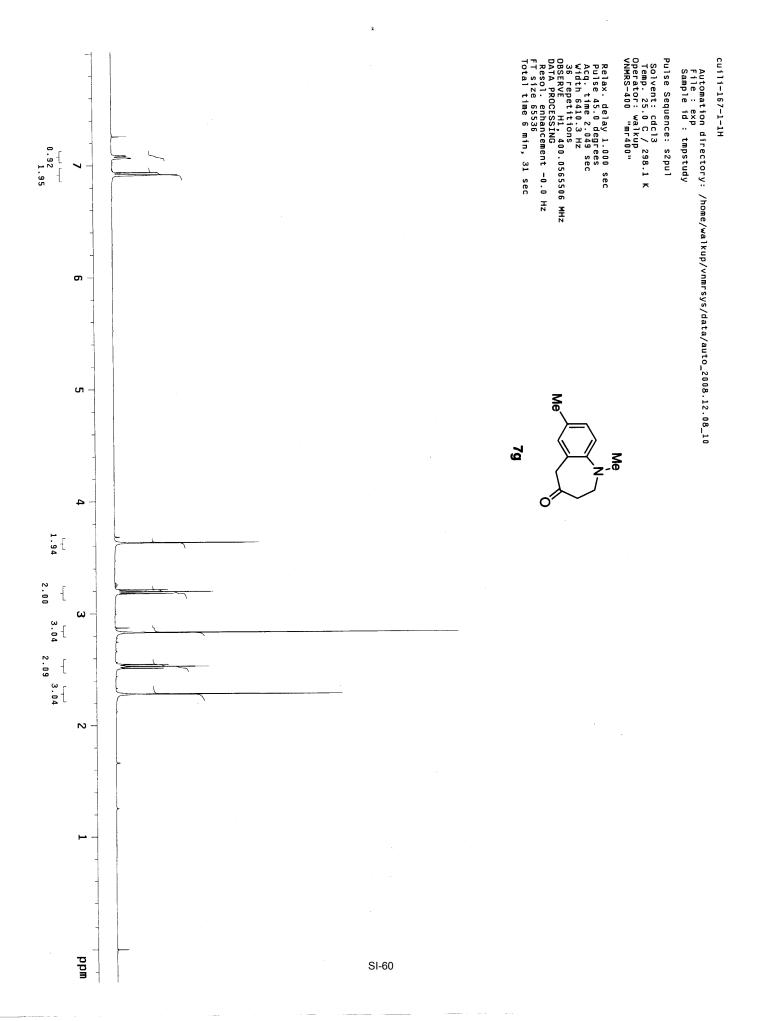


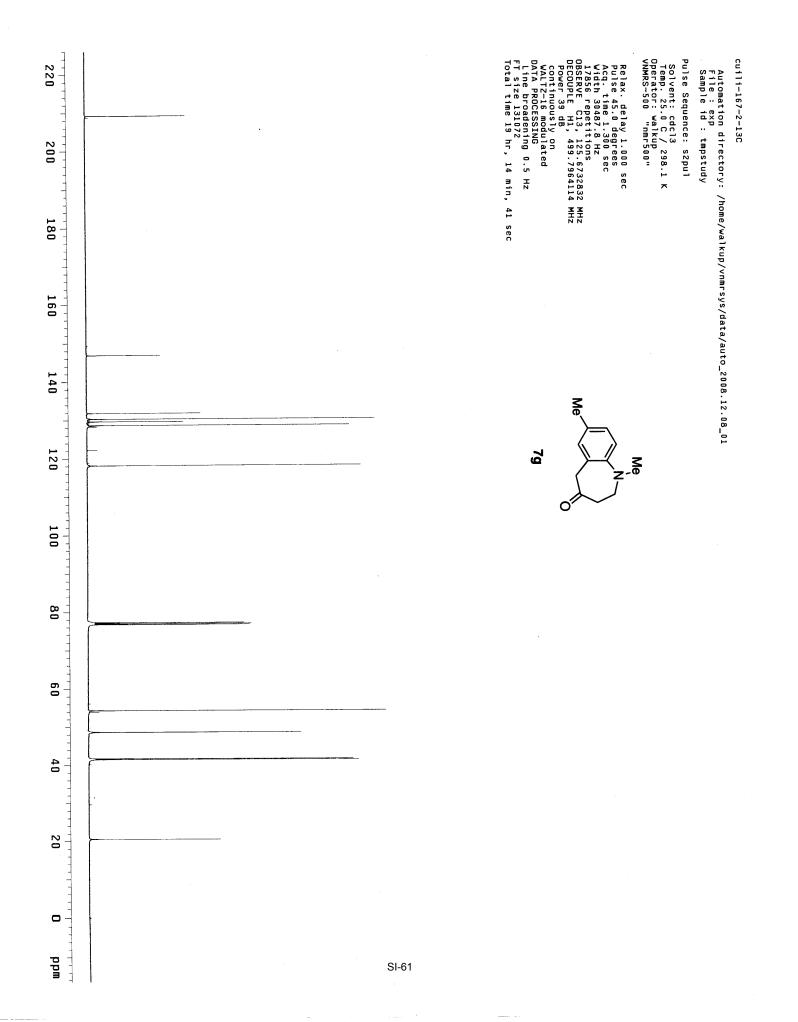


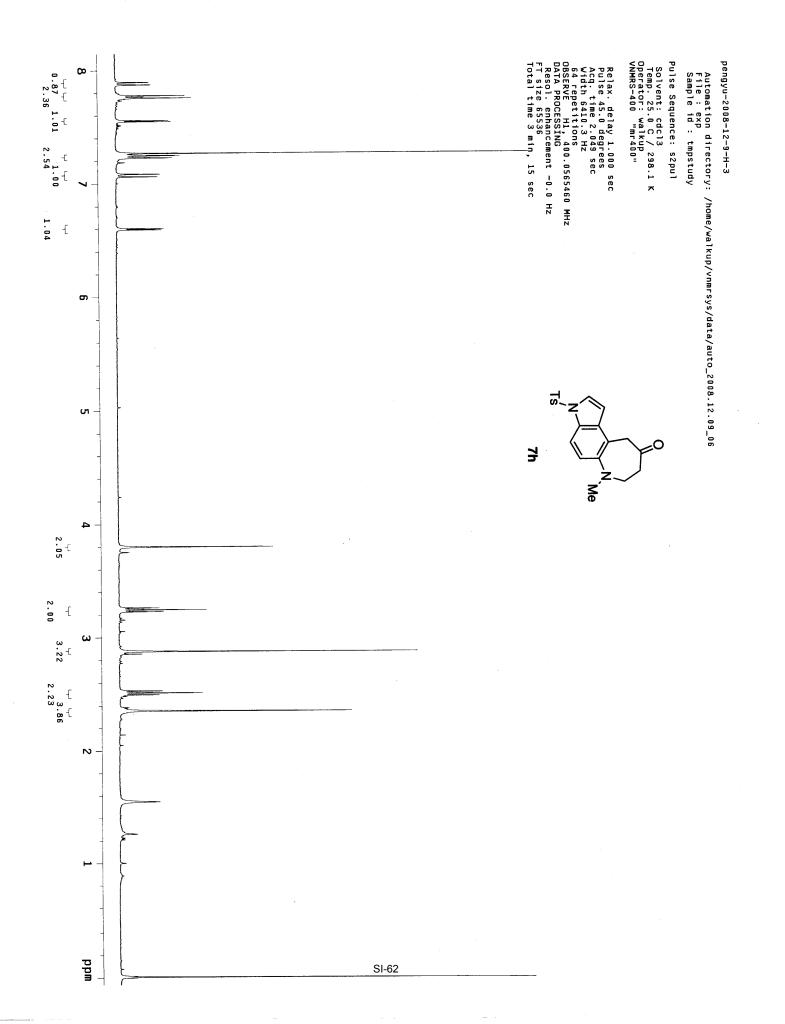


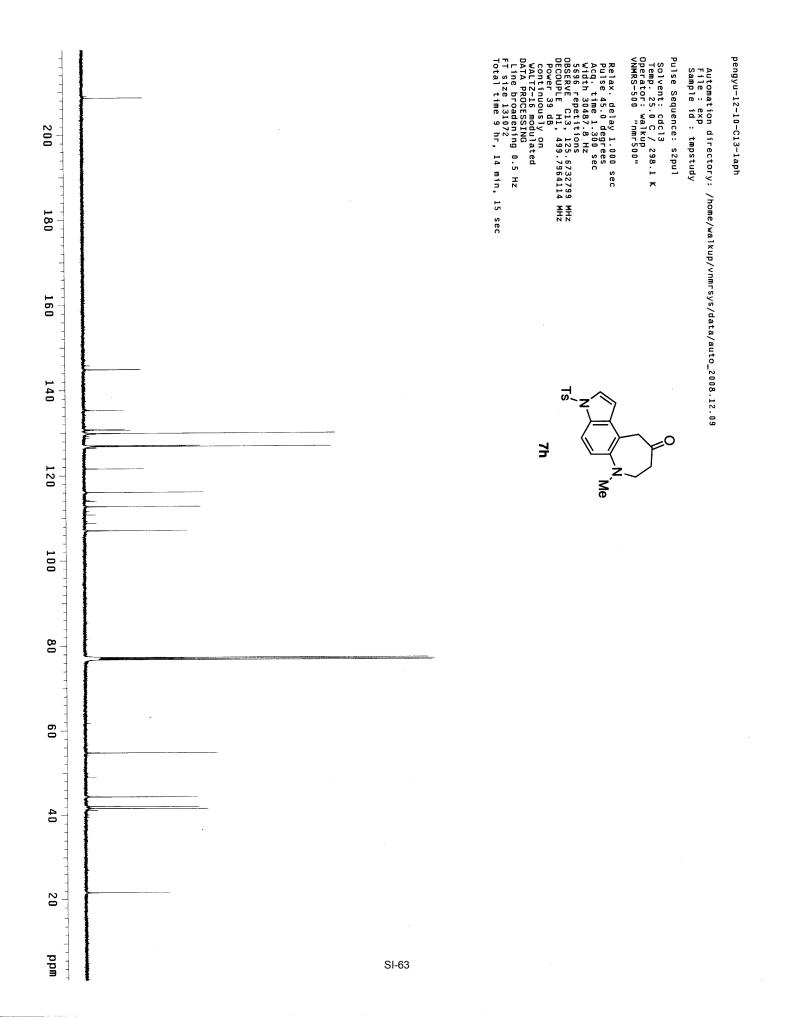


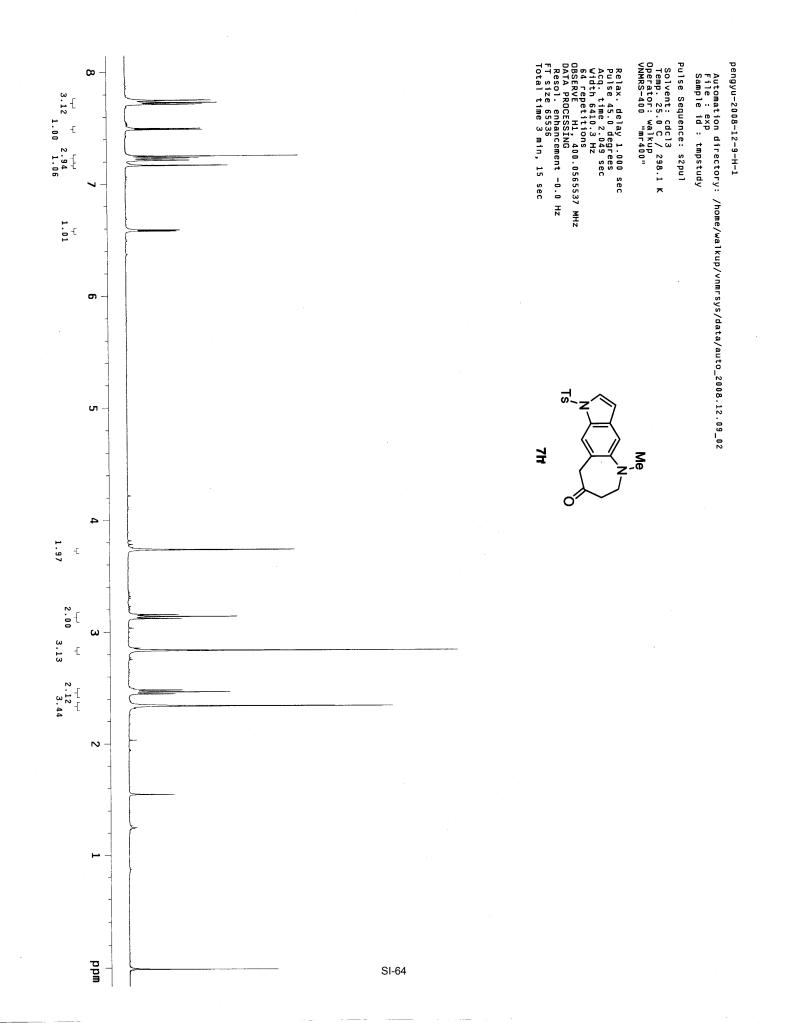
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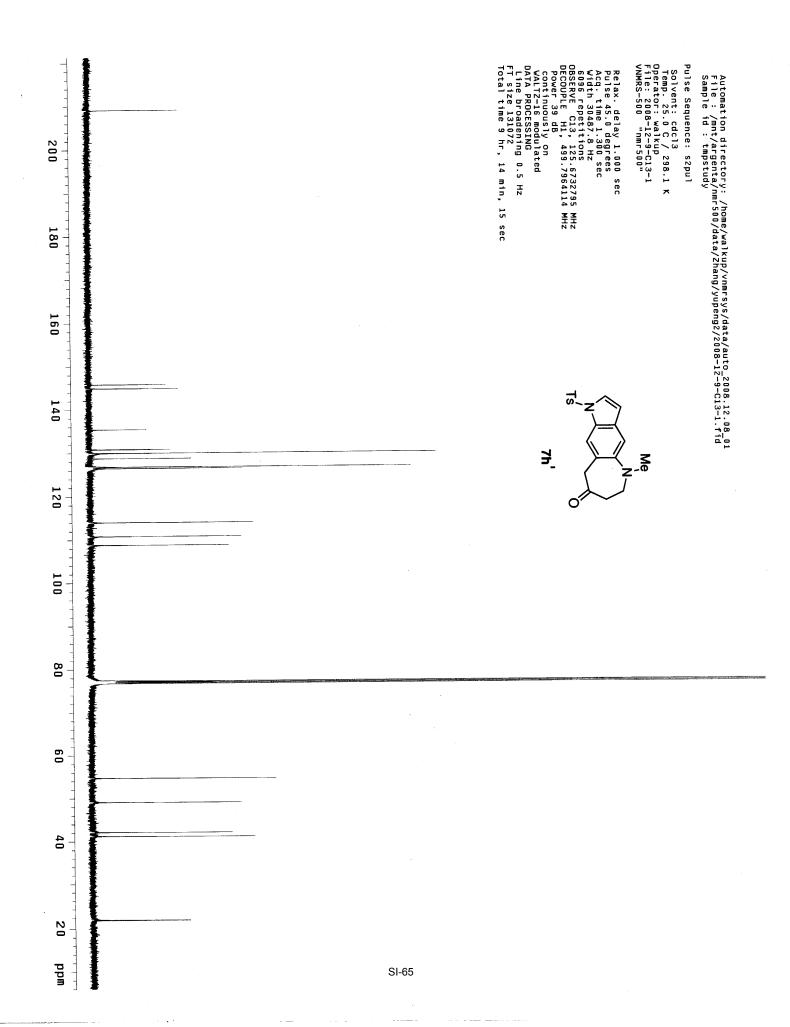


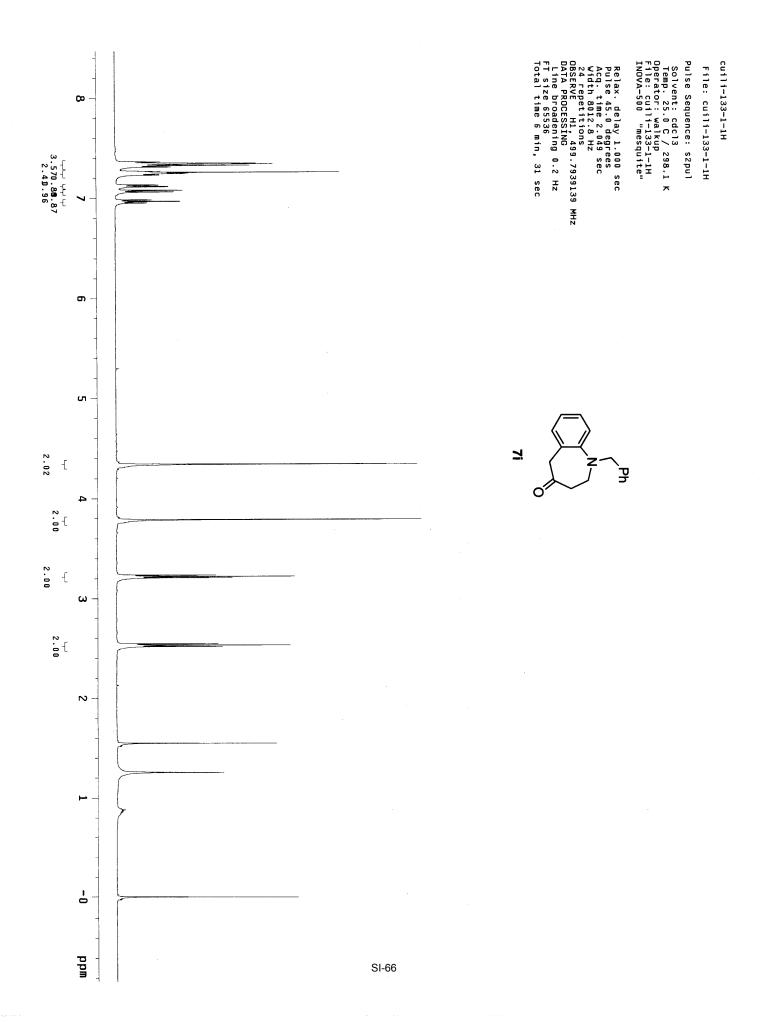


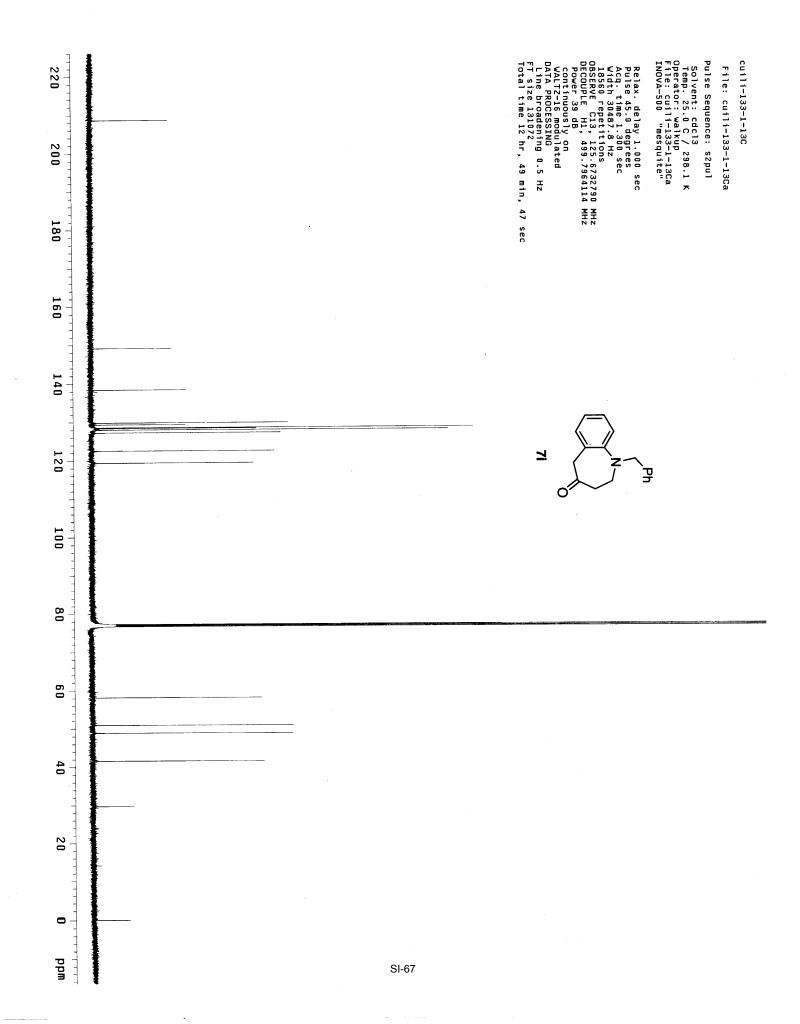


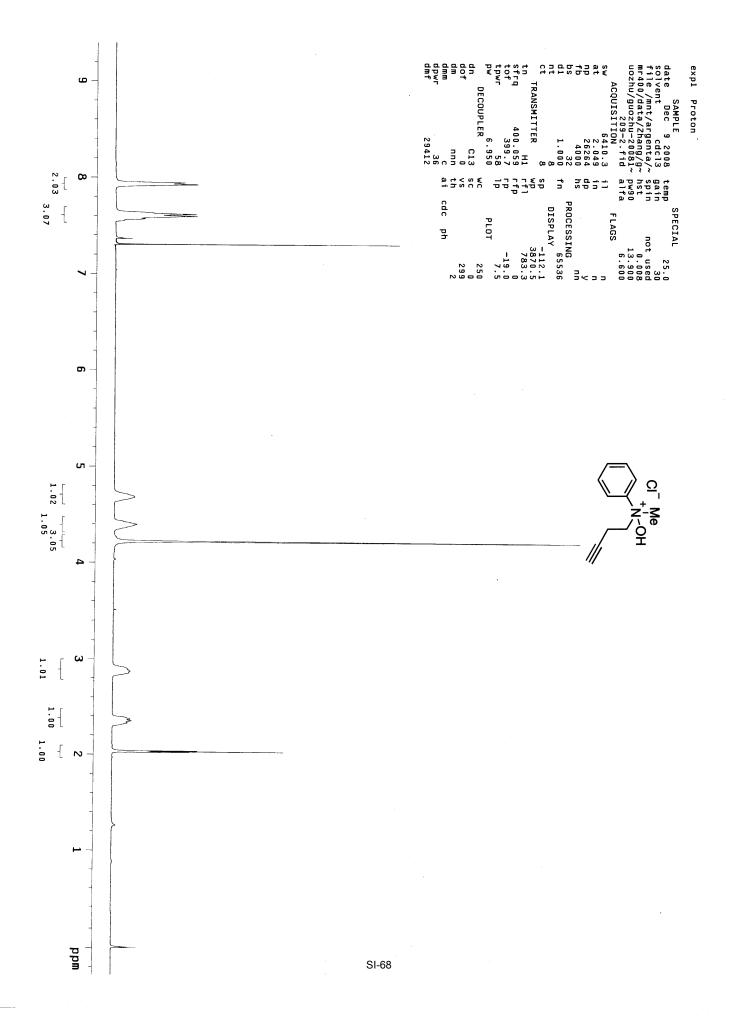


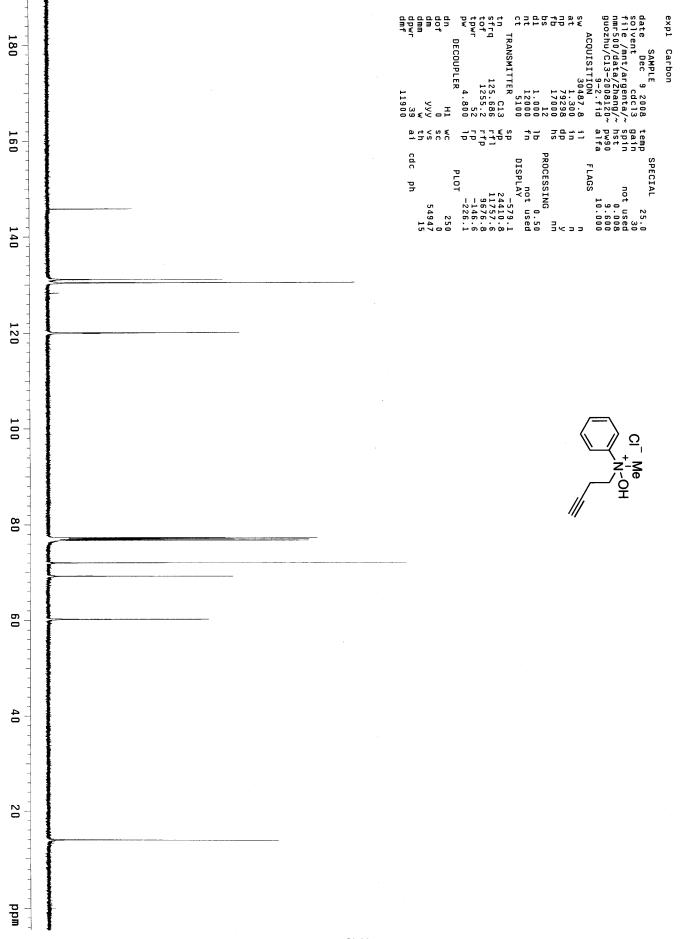




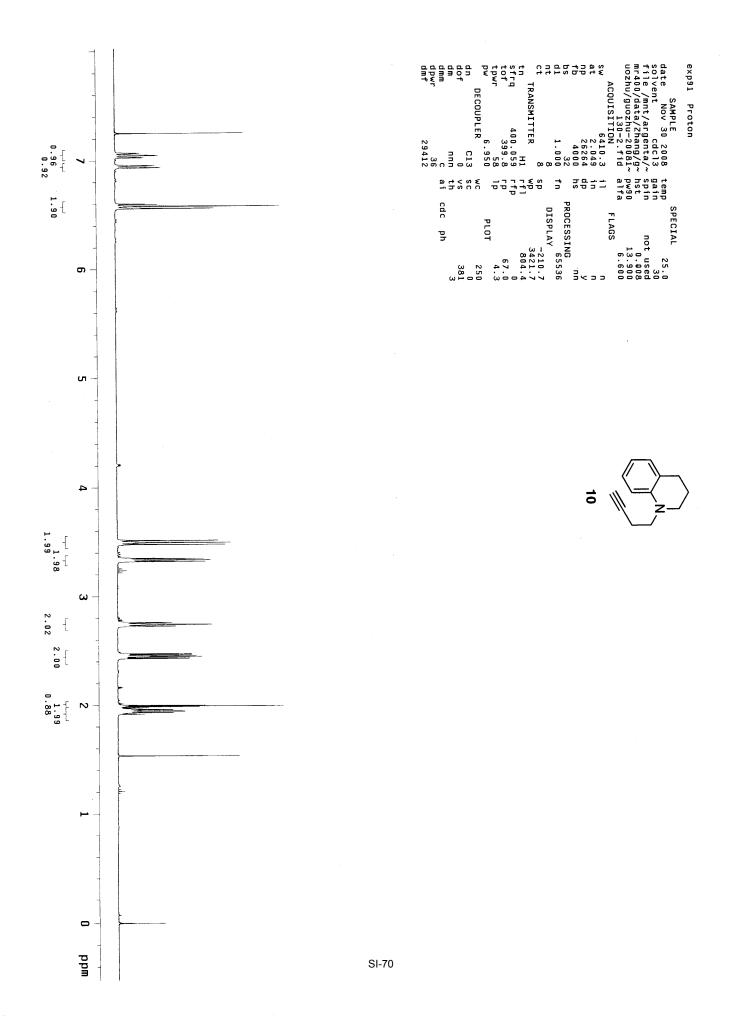


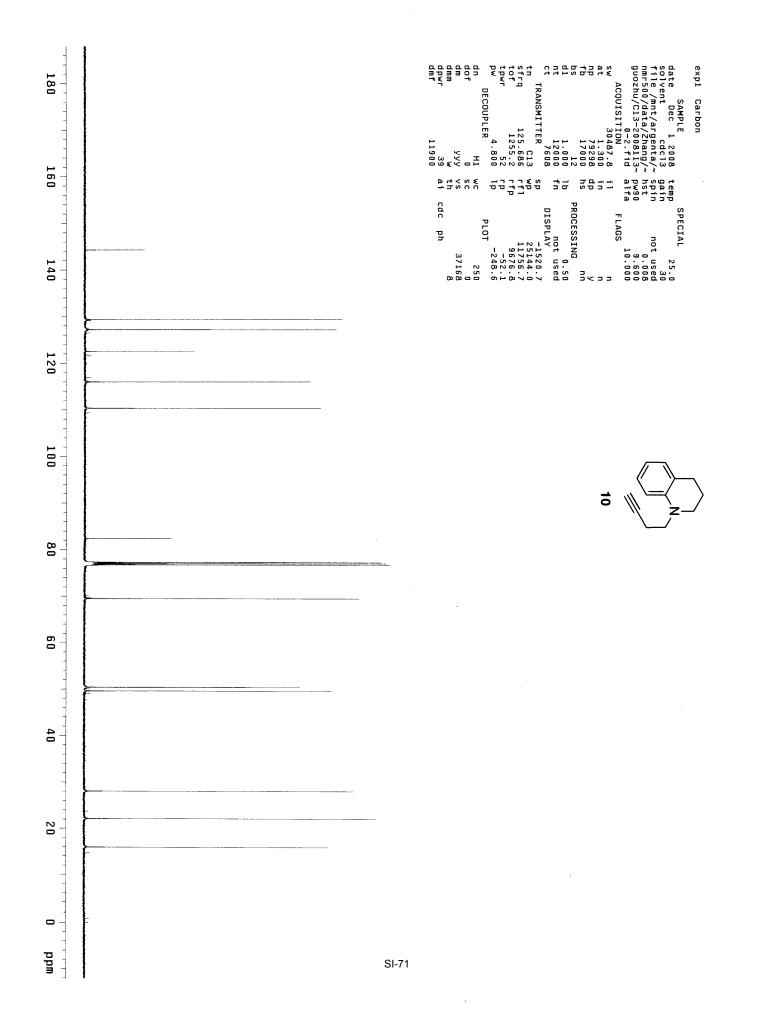


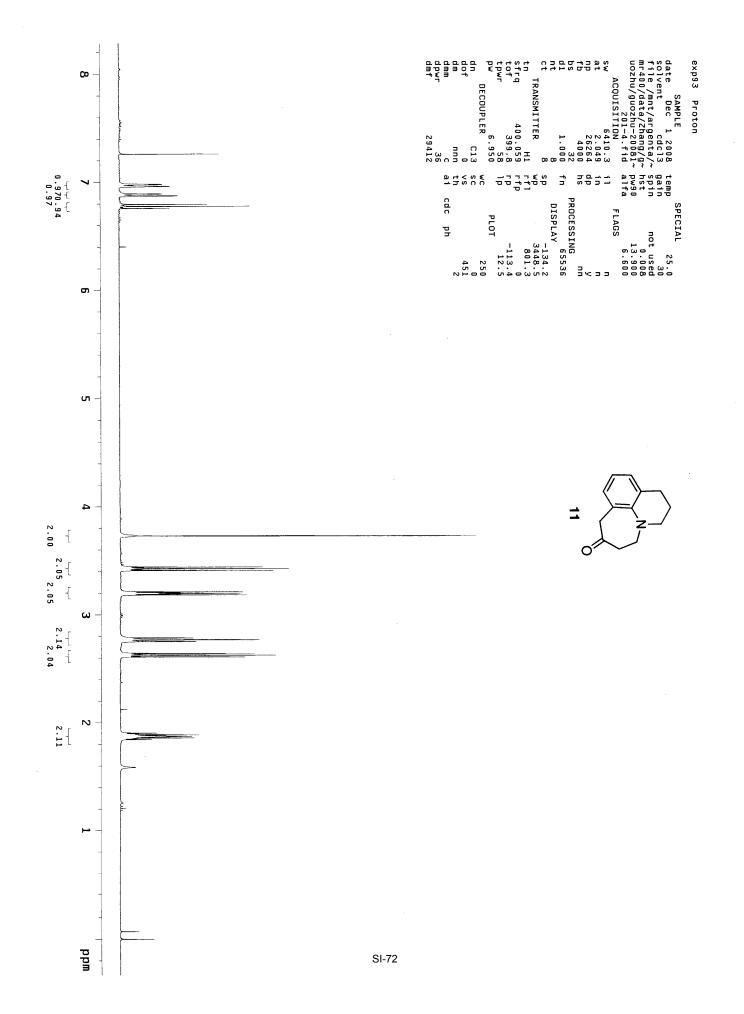


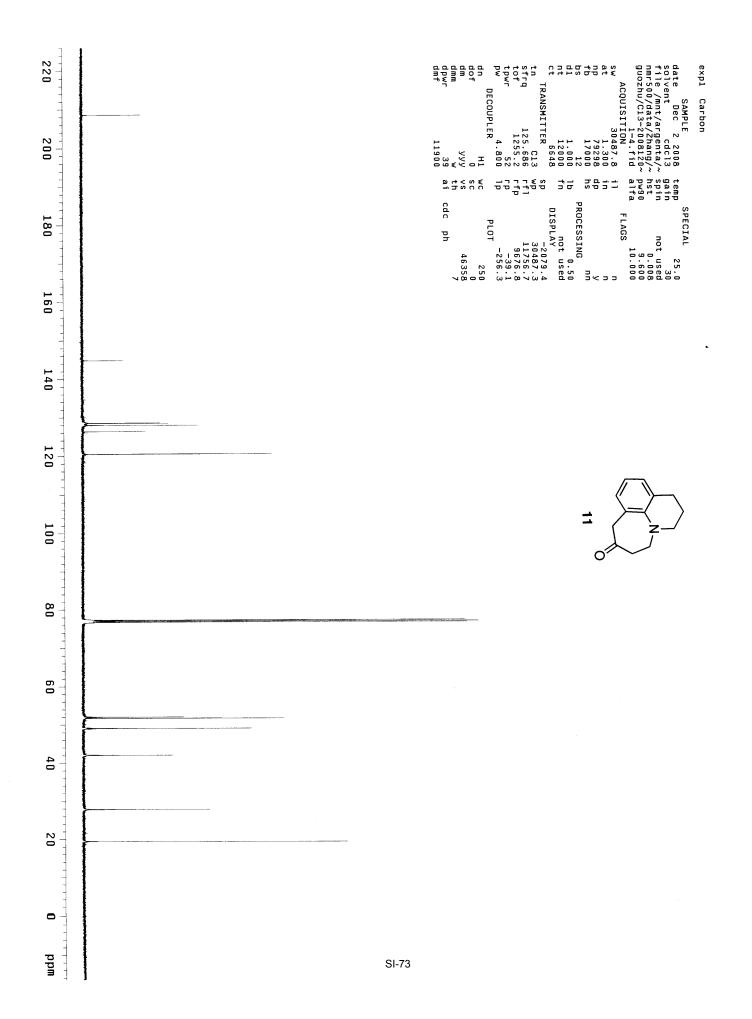


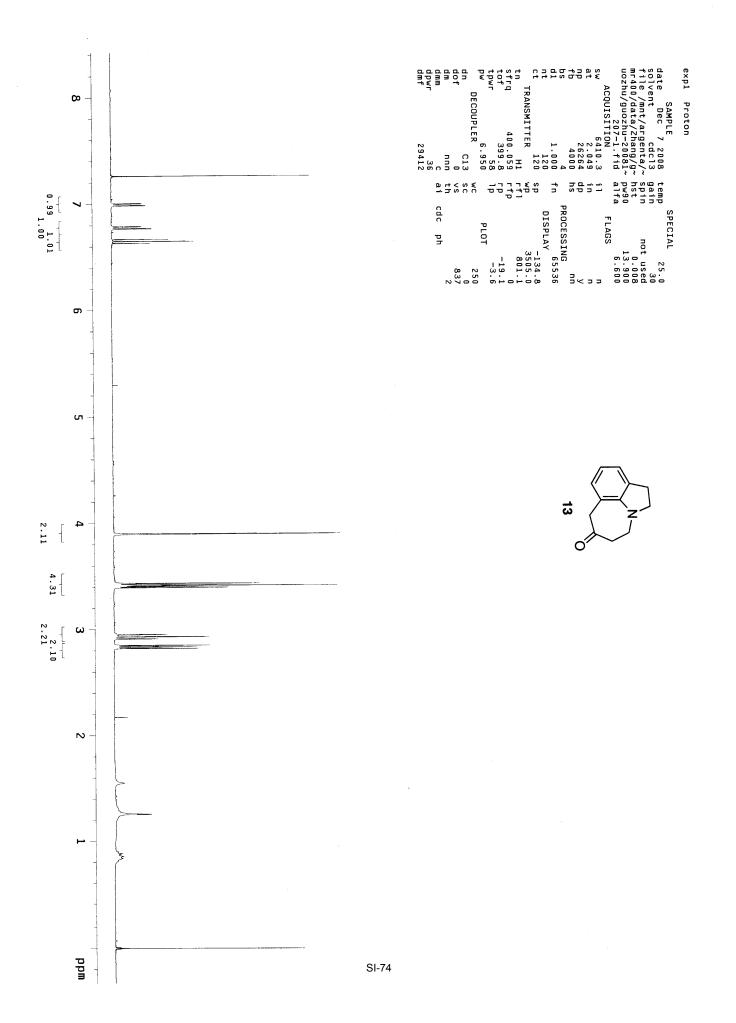
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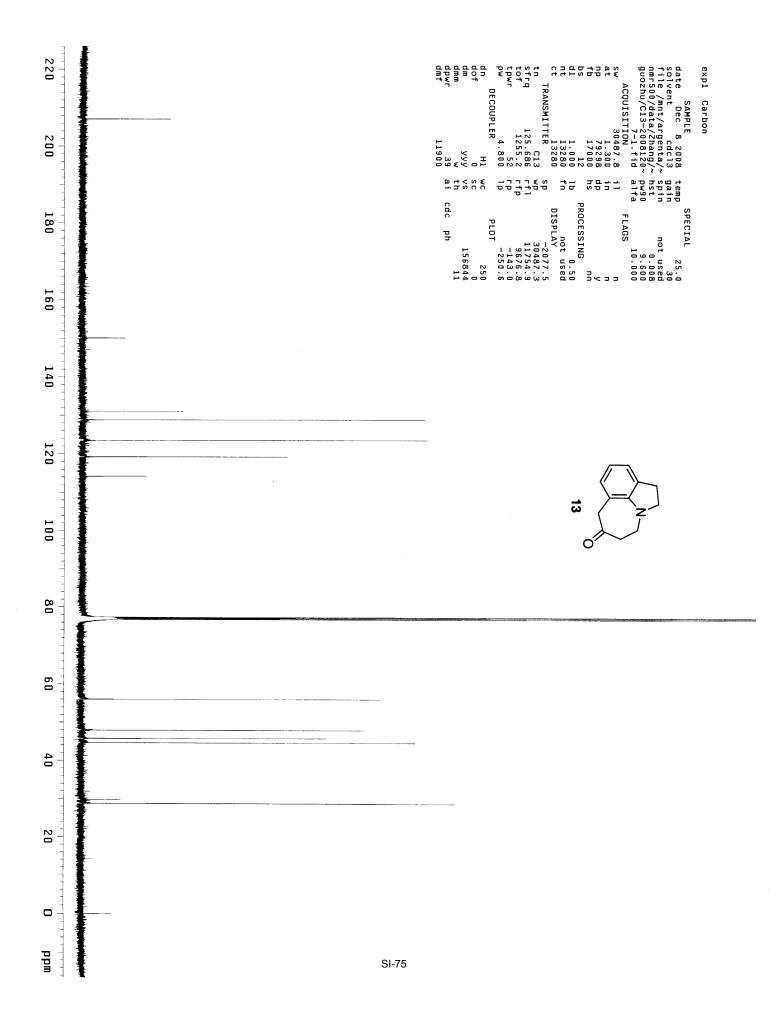


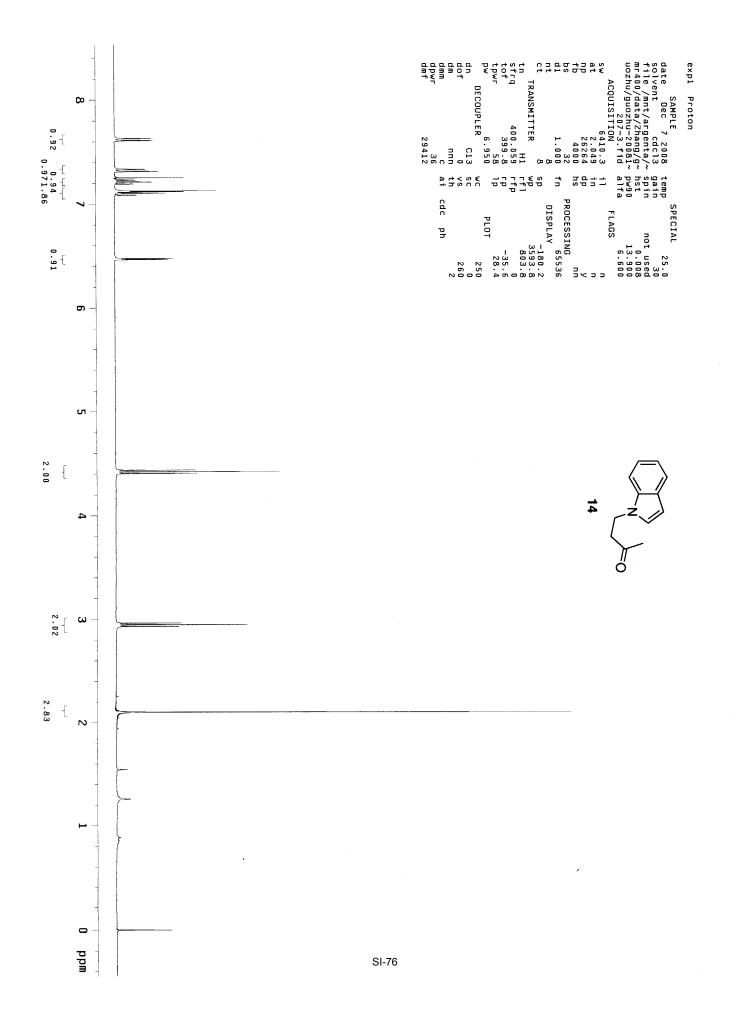


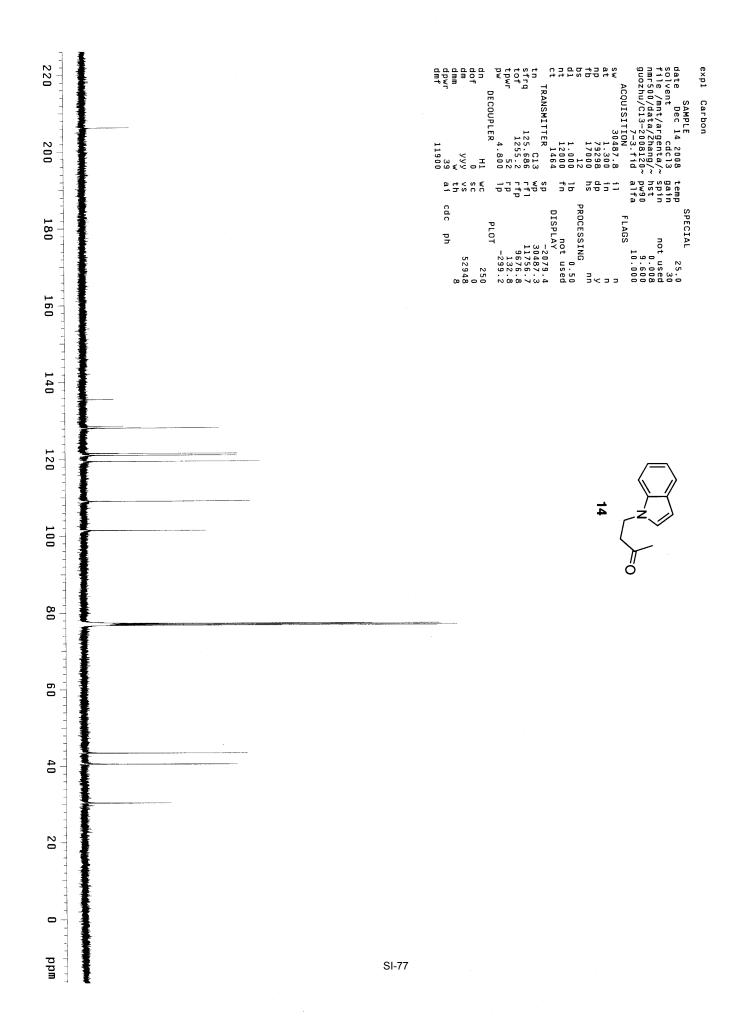


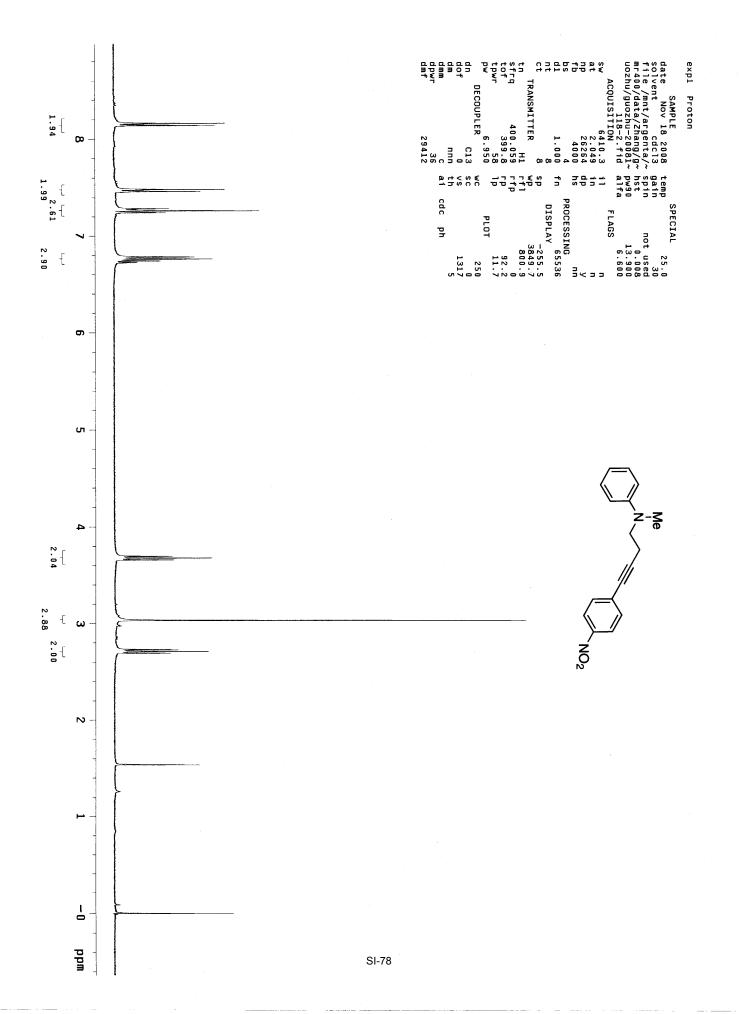


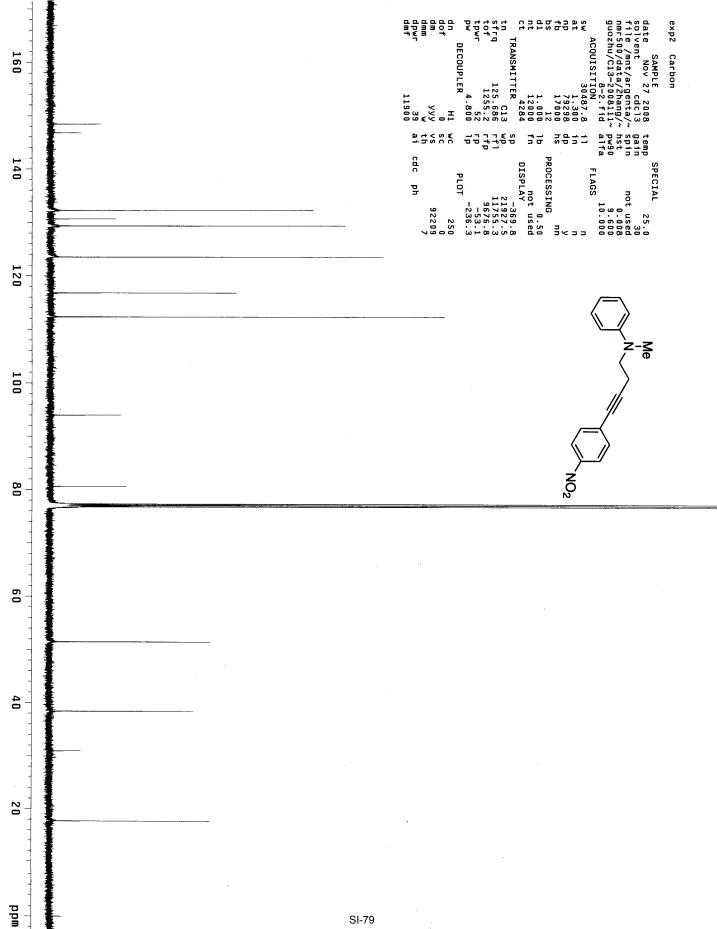


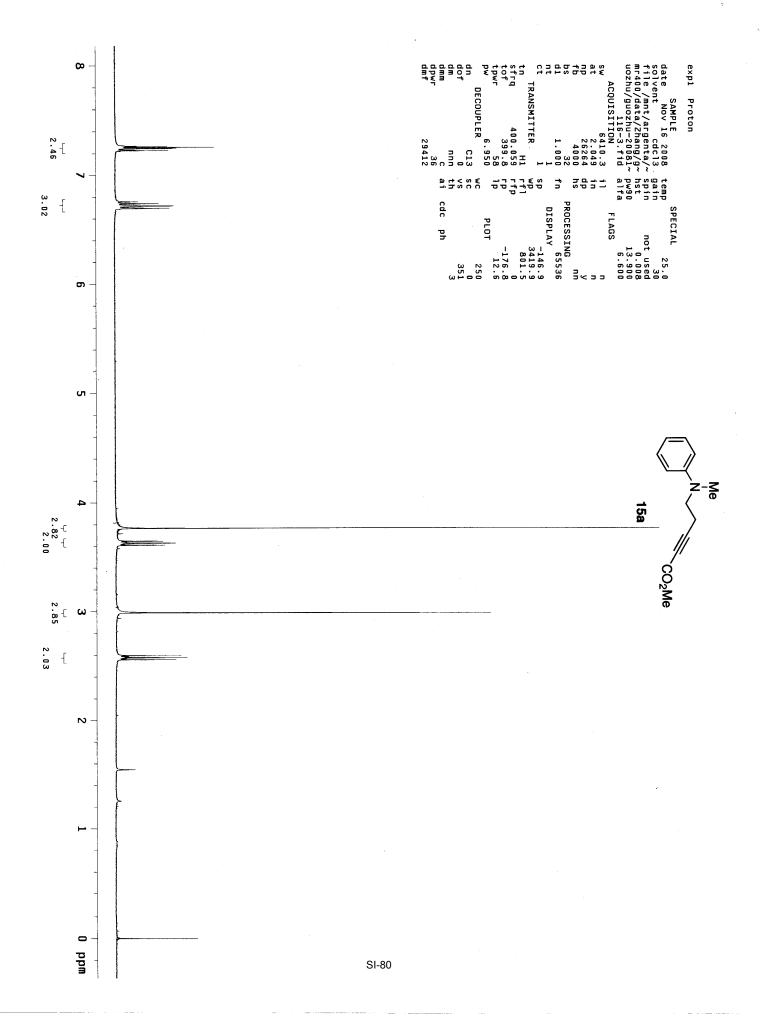


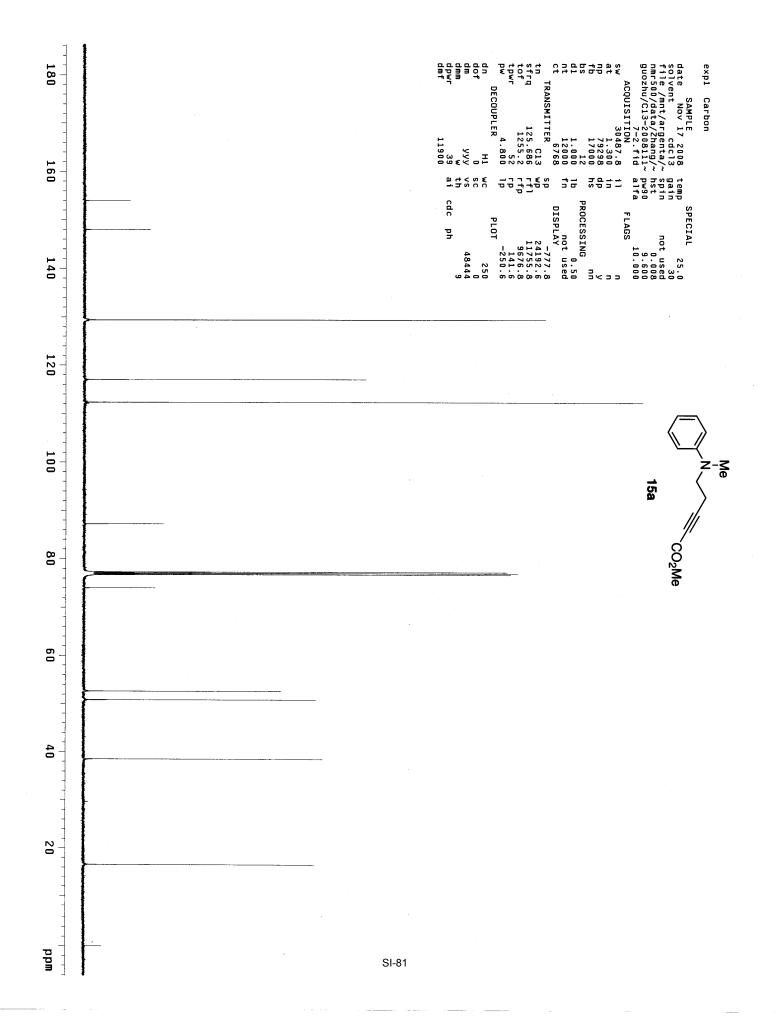


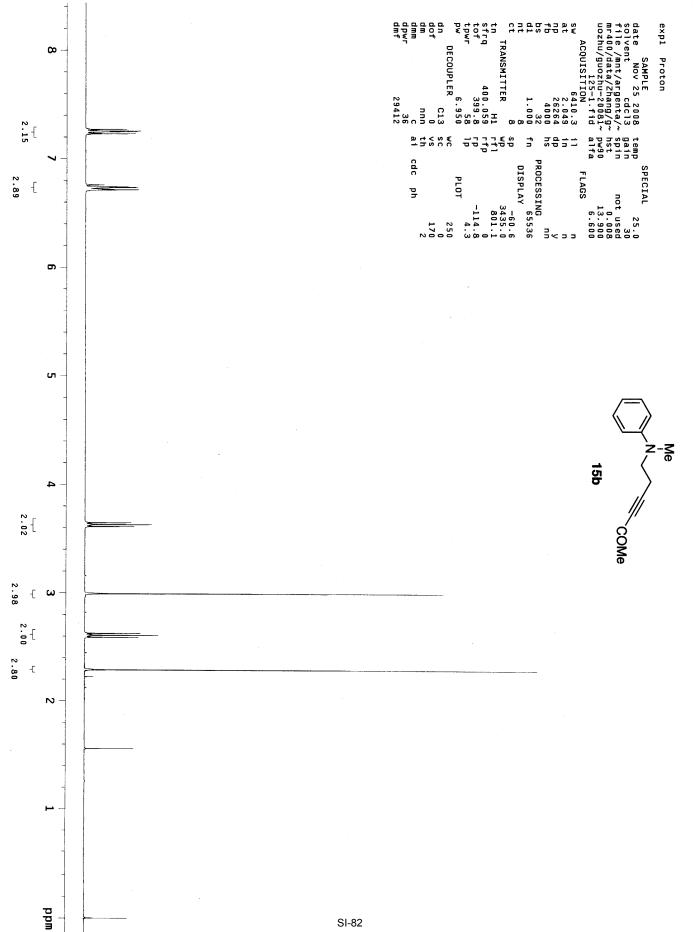


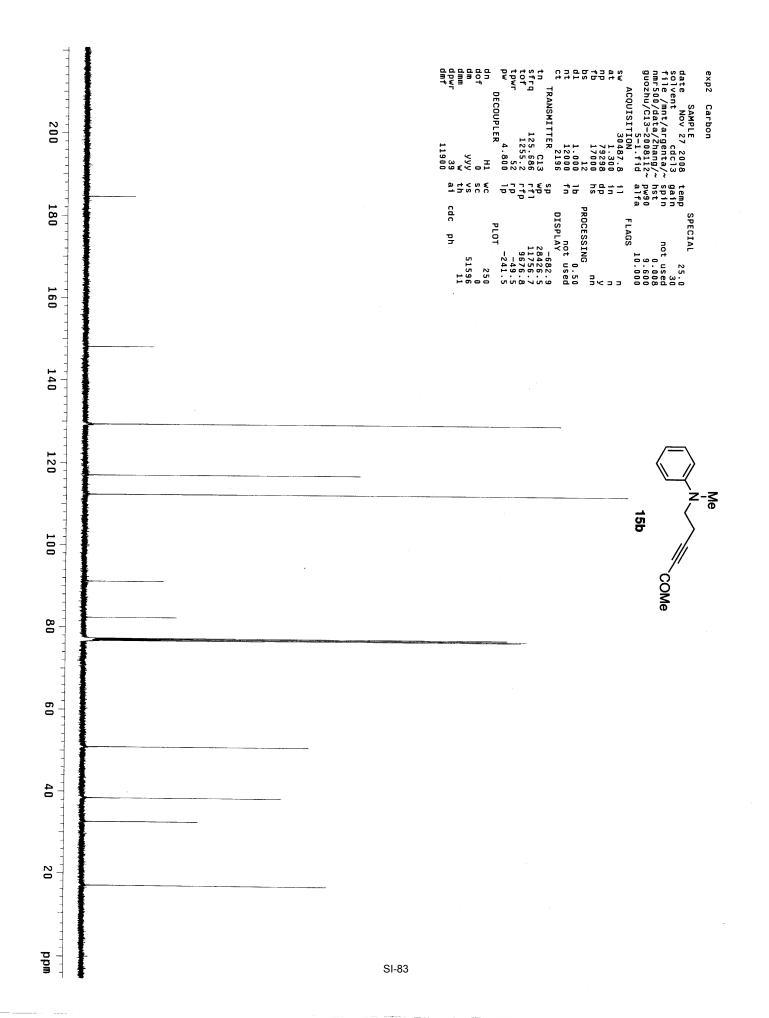


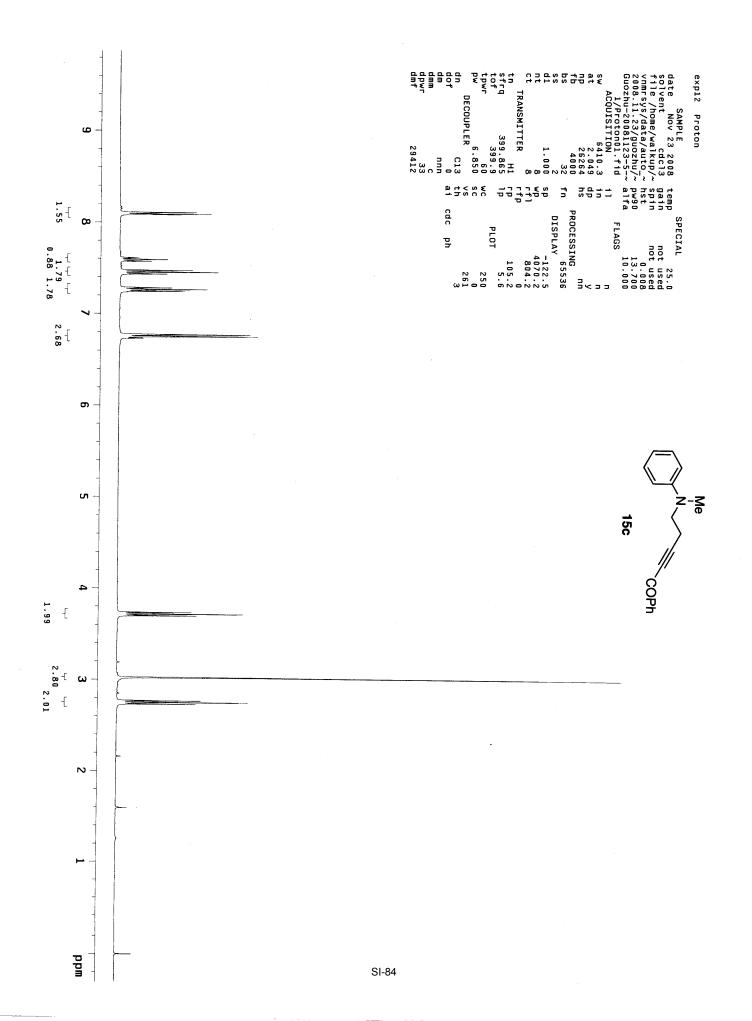


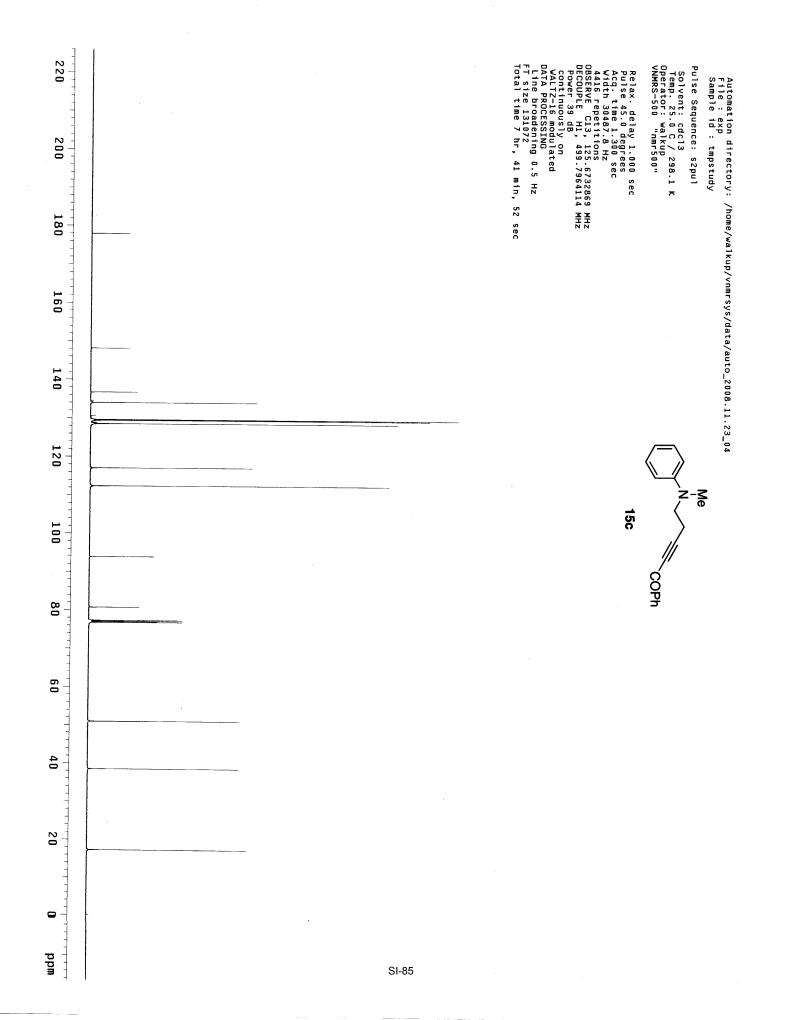


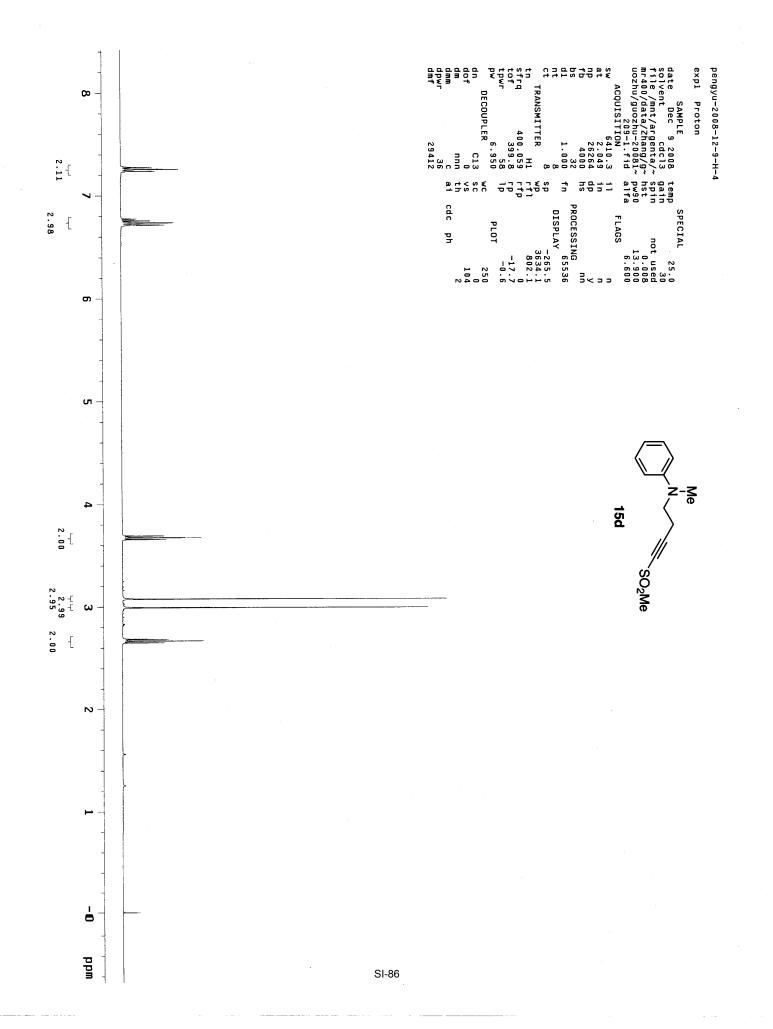


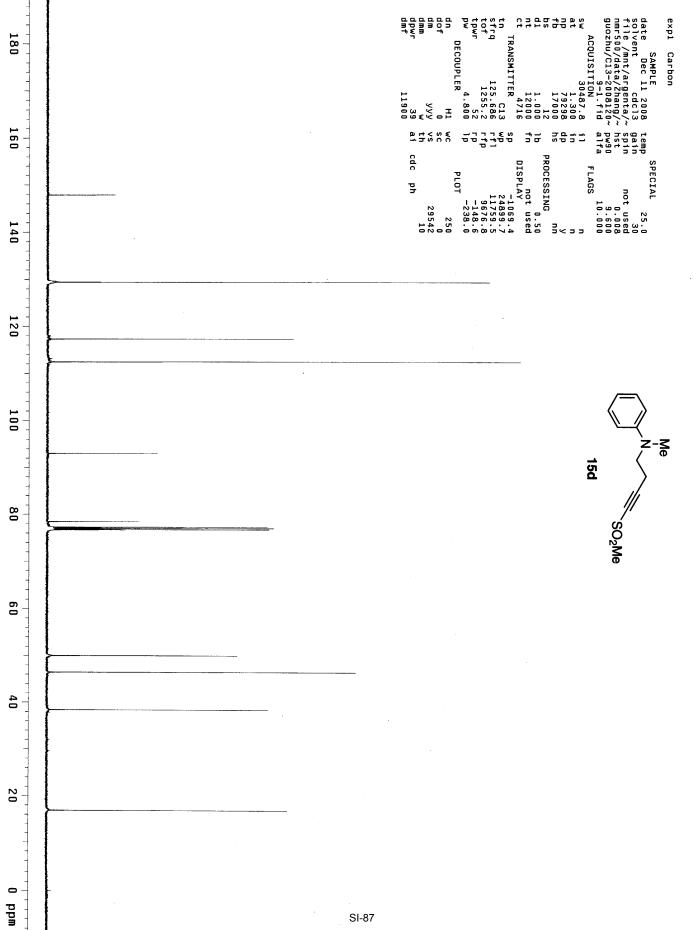












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