

Diastereo- and Enantioselective Conjugate Addition of α -Ketoesters to Nitroalkenes Catalyzed by Chiral Ni(OAc)₂ Complex under Mild Conditions

Ayako Nakamura,^{†,‡,§} Sylvain Lectard,[†] Daisuke Hashizume,[¶] Yoshitaka Hamashima,[†] and Mikiko Sodeoka*,[†]

RIKEN Advanced Science Institute, 2-1 Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Saitama University, 255 Shimo-okubo, Sakura-ku, Saitama 338-8570, Exploratory Research Laboratories, Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., 2399-1, Nogi, Nogi-Machi, Shimotsuga-Gun, Tochigi 329-0114, Japan, and Advanced Technology Support Division, RIKEN, 2-1 Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan.

sodeoka@riken.jp

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(A) Recent selected papers on catalytic asymmetric conjugate addition of pronucleophiles to nitroalkenes

1,3-Dicarbonyls: (a) Li, X.-J.; Liu, K.; Ma, H.; Nie, J.; Ma, J.-A. *Synlett* **2008**, 3242. (b) Janka, M.; He, W.; Haedicke, I. E.; Fronczek, F. R.; Frontier, A. J.; Eisenberg, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 5312. (c) Terada, M.; Ube, H.; Yaguchi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 1454. (d) Okino, T.; Hoashi, Y.; Furukawa, T.; Xu, X.; Takemoto, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 119. (e) Watanabe, M.; Ikagawa, A.; Wang, H.; Murata, K.; Ikariya, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 11148. (f) Evans, D. A.; Mito, S.; Seidel, D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 129, 11583, and references therein.

Oxindoles: (g) Kato, Y.; Furutachi, M.; Chen, Z.; Mitsunuma, H.; Matsunaga, S.; Shibasaki, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 9168. (h) Bui, T.; Syed, S.; Barbas III, C. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 8758. (i) He, R.; Shirakawa, S.; Maruoka, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 16620.

Ketones and aldehydes: (j) Scroggins, S. T.; Chi, Y.; Fréchet, J. M. *J. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, early view (anie.200902945). (k) RiRocco, D. A.; Oberg, K. M.; Dalton, D. M.; Rovis, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 10872. (l) Rasappan, R.; Reiser, O. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 1305. (m) Tan, B.; Zeng, X.; Lu, Y.; Chua, P. J.; Zhong, G. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, 11, 1927. (n) Mandal, T.; Zhao, C.-G. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 7714. (o) Wiesner, M.; Revell, J. D.; Wennemers, H. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 1871. (p) Enders, D.; Huttel, M. R. M.; Grondal, C.; Raabe, G. *Nature* **2006**, 441, 861. (q) Palomo, C.; Vera, S.; Mielgo, A.; Gómez-Benrgoa, E. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, 45, 5984. (r) Hayashi, Y.; Okano, T.; Aratake, S.; Hazelard, D. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 4922. (s) Pansare, S. V.; Pandya, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 9624. (t) Huang, H.; Jacobsen, E. N. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 7170. (u) Wang, J.; Li, H.; Lou, B.; Zu, L.; Guo, H.; Wang, W. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2006**, 12, 4321. (v) Mase, N.; Watanabe, K.; Yoda, H.; Takabe, K.; Tanaka, F.; Barbas III, C. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 4966. (w) Ishii, T.; Fujioka, S.; Sekiguchi, Y.; Kotsuki, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 9558. (x) Wiesner, M.; Upert, G.; Angelici, G.; Wennemers, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 6. (y) Zeng, Z.; Perkins, B. L.; Ni, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 50.

Nitroalkanes: (z) Yang, X.; Zhou, X.; Lin, L.; Chang, L.; Liu, X.; Feng, X. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 7079. (aa) Rabalakos, C.; Wulff, W. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 13524. (bb) Lu, S.-F.; Du, D.-M.; Xu, J.; Zhang, S.-W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 7418.

2-Furanone: (cc) Trost, B. M.; Hitce, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 4572.

Heteroaromatics: (dd) Trost, B. M.; Müller, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 2438. (ee) Arai, T.; Yokoyama, N. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 4989.

(B) General

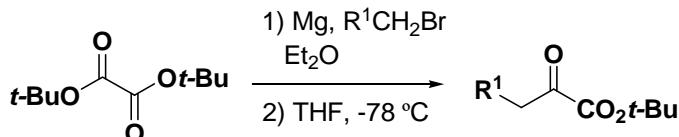
¹NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz for ¹H-NMR, 100.4 MHz for ¹³C-NMR, or at 500 MHz for ¹H-NMR, 125.8 MHz for ¹³C-NMR. Chemical shifts were reported downfield from TMS (= 0) for

¹H-NMR. For ¹³C-NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to CDCl₃ or acetone as an internal reference. FAB-LRMS and HRMS were taken using *m*-nitrobenzyl alcohol (*m*NBA) or glycerol as matrix. IR was measured by attenuated total reflectance (ATR). Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel N 60 (40-100 μm). In some case, purification was carried out using medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) or precoated thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, 0.50 mm). Precoated TLC plates (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, 0.25 mm) were used for the TLC analysis. The enantiomeric excesses (ees) were determined by chiral HPLC analysis. Dehydrated solvents used in this paper were purchased and used directly without further purification. Triethylamine was distilled from calcium hydride. Pd(OAc)₂, Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O, Cu(OAc)₂·2H₂O, Zn(OAc)₂·2H₂O, NiBr₂, (*R*)-BINAP and (*S,S*)-(−)-*tert*-Bu-BOX were obtained from commercial source and were used as received. Other reagents were purified by usual methods. Known ligands and nitroalkenes were prepared according to literature procedures.

(C) Preparation of α-ketoesters and nitroalkenes used in this work

(C-1) General procedure for α-ketoesters

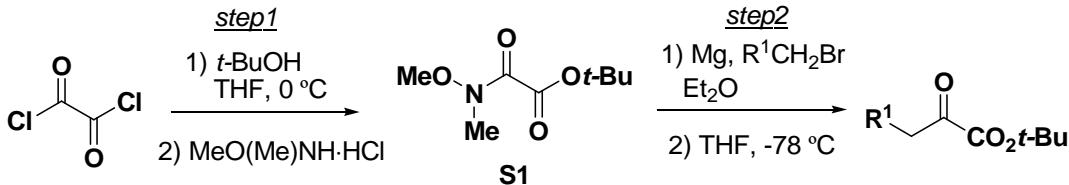
General procedure A¹



Magnesium turnings (0.29 g, 11.9 mmol) were placed inside 3-necked flask. Diethyl ether (2 mL) and a piece of iodine were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred until the yellow color of iodine had faded out. The alkyl bromide (16.4 mmol) in diethyl ether (3 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. To di-*tert*-butyl-glyoxylate (2.00 g, 11.9 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was added the resulting Grignard solution by dropwise over 30 min at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, then dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Further purification by column chromatography (SiO₂), followed by recrystallization from *n*-hexane/diethyl ether gave the product.

¹ Weinstock, L. M.; Currie, R. B.; Lovell, A. V. *Synth. Commun.* **1981**, *11*, 943.

General procedure B²



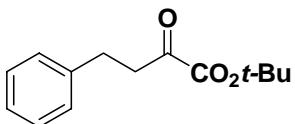
Step1: *tert*-Butanol (24 mL, 251 mmol) was added in one batch to a solution of oxalyl chloride (distilled, 22 mL, 257 mmol) in THF (400 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ atmosphere. After 1 h, *N*, *O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (25.0 g, 256 mmol) and triethylamine (107 mL, 769 mmol) were added and the solution was stirred for 2 h. Water (200 mL) was added, and THF was evaporated under reduced pressure. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (100 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with water (100 mL), brine (100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give mono-*tert*-butyloxalic acid-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylamide (**S1**) in 71% yield as a slightly yellow oil (33.7 g).

mono-*tert*-Butyloxalic acid-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylamide (S1)

IR (neat) ν 2982, 2941, 1736, 1674, 1260, 1151, 1090, 993, 844 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.2, 161.7, 84.3, 62.1, 31.3, 28.0; MS (CI+) m/z 190 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₈H₁₆NO₄ 190.1079, found 190.1066.

Step2: Magnesium turnings (972 mg, 40.0 mmol) were placed inside 3-necked flask. Diethyl ether (5 mL) and a piece of iodine were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred until the yellow color of iodine had faded out. The alkyl bromide (30.0 mmol) in diethyl ether (5 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. To **S1** (3.78 g, 20.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (75 mL) was added the Grignard solution dropwise over 30 min at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1.5 h and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (75 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (50 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (100 mL), then dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography, and distillation or recrystallization gave the pure product.

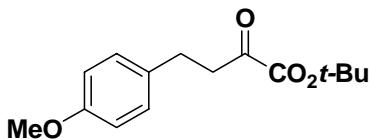
² (a) Nimitz, J. S.; Mosher, H. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1981**, *46*, 211. (b) Heras, M. A; Vaquero, J. J.; Garcia-Navio, J. L.; Alvarez-Builla, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 9009. (c) Chiu, C. C.; Jordan, F. *J. Org. Chem.* **1994**, *59*, 5763.



tert-Butyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (1a)³

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A using 2-bromoethylbenzene as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1), followed by recrystallization from *n*-hexane/diethyl ether to give **1a** in 52% yield as colorless crystals.

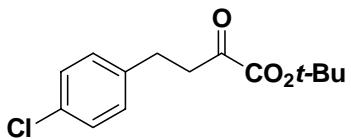
Mp 52-53 °C; IR (neat) ν 2984, 1738, 1367, 1251, 1155, 1082, 833, 753 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34-7.13 (m, 5H), 3.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.5, 160.3, 140.2, 128.5, 128.3, 126.2, 84.0, 40.9, 29.2, 27.8; MS (CI+) m/z 235 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3$ 235.1334, found 235.1338.



tert-Butyl 4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxobutanoate (S2)³

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A using 4-methoxyphenethyl bromide as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1, and then SiO_2 , dichloromethane/*n*-hexane = 1:2 to 2:1) to give the product in 57% yield as a colorless solid. Before use, the solid was recrystallized from *n*-hexane/diethyl ether to give **S2** as a microcrystalline colorless powder.

Mp 62-63 °C; IR (neat) ν 2985, 1715, 1511, 1260, 1242, 1156, 1078, 1015 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.07 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.6, 160.3, 158.0, 132.2, 129.3, 113.9, 84.0, 55.3, 41.1, 28.3, 27.8; MS (EI+) m/z 264 [M]⁺; HRMS (EI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ 264.1362, found 264.1398.



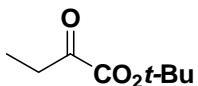
tert-Butyl 4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-oxobutanoate (S3)³

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure B using 4-chlorophenethyl bromide as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to give the product in 75% yield as a pale yellow oil. The product was further purified by recrystallization from *n*-hexane/diethyl ether to give **S3** in 46% yield as colorless crystals.

Mp 50-52 °C; IR (neat) ν 2980, 1742, 1366, 1252, 1154, 1082, 1016 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, J = 7.6

³ Rueppel, M. L.; Rapoport, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1972**, 94, 3877.

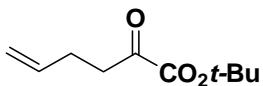
Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.2, 160.1, 138.6, 132.0, 129.7, 128.6, 84.1, 40.6, 28.5, 27.8; MS (CI+) m/z 269 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClO}_3$ 269.0944, found 269.0974.



tert-Butyl 2-oxobutanoate (S4)⁴

Di-*tert*-butyl-glyoxylate (2.02 g, 10.0 mmol) was dissolved in THF (6 mL) and diethyl ether (14 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. The ethyl magnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 10 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min with stirring. The solution was allowed to warm up to room temperature over 4.5 h and quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (20 mL). The resulting mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 100:0 to 5:1) and distillation (18 mmHg, 90 °C) gave **S4** in 30% as a colorless oil (0.47 g).

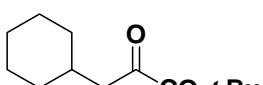
IR (neat) ν 2982, 2941, 1721, 1099 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.80 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (s, 9H), 1.11 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 160.6, 83.8, 32.6, 27.9, 7.1; MS (CI+) m/z 159 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_3$ 159.1021, found 159.1047.



tert-Butyl 2-oxohex-5-enoate (S5)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A using 4-bromo-1-butene as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/diethyl ether = 15:1, and then SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 2:1) to give **S5** in 51% yield as a pale yellow oil.

IR (neat) ν 3081, 2982, 1720, 1642, 1138, 1070 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.89-5.74 (m, 1H), 5.06 (dd, J = 17.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (dd, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (apparent q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.7, 160.4, 136.2, 115.7, 83.9, 38.3, 27.8, 27.1; MS (CI+) m/z 185 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$ 185.1178, found 185.1179.

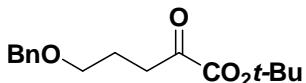


tert-Butyl 3-cyclohexyl-2-oxopropanoate (S6)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A using (bromomethyl)cyclohexane as the bromide and purified by column

⁴ Hari, Y.; Tanaka, S.; Takuma, Y.; Aoyama, T. *Synlett* **2003**, 14, 2151.

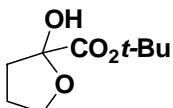
chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **S6** in 31% yield as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν 2924, 2853, 1718, 1162, 1143, 1047 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.63 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.61 (m, 5H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.41-1.08 (m, 3H), 1.04-0.91 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 160.9, 83.8, 46.6, 33.7, 33.2, 28.0, 26.2, 26.1; MS (CI+) m/z 227 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3$ 227.1647, found 227.1655.



***tert*-Butyl 5-(benzyloxy)-2-oxopentanoate (S7)**

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A using benzyl 3-bromopropylether as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1, and then *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **S7** in 52% yield as a colorless oil.

IR (neat) ν 2980, 2861, 1718, 1369, 1162, 1099, 1029, 736, 698 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42-7.36 (m, 5H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.95 (tt, J = 7.1, 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 160.3, 138.1, 128.2, 127.5, 127.4, 83.6, 72.8, 68.8, 36.1, 27.8, 23.7; MS (CI+) m/z 279 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_4$ 279.1569, found 279.1586.



***tert*-Butyl tetrahydro-2-hydroxyfuran-2-carboxylate (S8)**

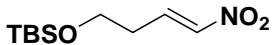
A solution of **S7** (200 mg, 0.719 mmol) in methanol (2.5 mL) with 10% Pd/C (10 wt%) was submitted to a hydrogen atmosphere for 18 h. The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite to remove Pd/C. After evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 0:100) to give **S8** in 66% as a colorless oil.

IR (neat) ν 3455 (br), 2980, 2884, 1729, 1143, 1053 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.15-4.06 (m, 1H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 4.00-3.93 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.07 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.51 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.1, 102.3, 83.0, 69.4, 35.0, 27.9, 25.5; MS (FAB) m/z 211 [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_4$ 211.0946, found 211.0943.

(C-2) General procedure for nitro-alkenes

1-Methoxy-4-[*(E*)-2-nitrovinyl]benzene^{5b}, 1-bromo-4-[*(E*)-2-nitrovinyl]benzene^{5b}, 2-[*(E*)-2-nitrovinyl]furan^{5c}, and [*(E*)-2-nitrovinyl]cyclohexane^{5d} were prepared according to the

reported procedure.^{5a}



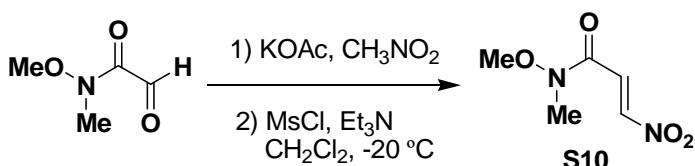
tert-Butyldimethylsilyl [(E)-4-nitro-but-3-enyl]ether (S9)

To a solution of 3-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)propionaldehyde (1.17 g, 6.21 mmol) and nitromethane (1.7 mL, 31.1 mmol) was added triethylamine (86 μ L, 0.62 mmol) dropwise at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature then filtered through a pad of SiO_2 (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 1:1). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to yield the crude nitro-alcohol, which was used in the next step without further purification.

The crude nitro-alcohol was dissolved in dichloromethane (30 mL) at 0 °C. Methanesulfonyl chloride (0.96 mL, 12.4 mmol) and diisopropylethylamine (3.8 mL, 21.7 mmol) were added successively and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and at room temperature for 15 min. Brine (20 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **S9** in 43% yield as a yellow oil (619 mg).

IR (neat) ν 2954, 2929, 2857, 1650, 1529, 1472, 1351, 1254, 1096, 971, 832, 775 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.29 (dt, J = 13.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dt, J = 13.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (td, J = 7.3, 6.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.06 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.5, 139.7, 60.6, 31.8, 25.8, 18.2, -5.4; MS (FAB) m/z 254 [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_3\text{Si}$ 254.1183, found 254.1194.

N-Methoxy-N-methyl-3-nitroacrylamide (S10)



Step 1. Potassium acetate (0.94 g, 9.57 mmol) was added to a solution of formyl-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylformamide⁶ (1.12 g, 9.57 mmol) in nitromethane (10 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h and quenched with water (10 mL). The aqueous layer

⁵ (a) McNulty, J.; Steere, J. A.; Wolf, S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, 39, 8013. (b) Batra, S.; Sabnis, Y. A.; Rosenthal, P. J.; Avery, M. A. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2003**, 11, 2293. (c) Mahmood, S. Y.; Lallemand, M.-C.; Sader-Bakaouni, L.; Charton, O.; Vérité, P.; Dufat, H.; Tillequin, F. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, 60, 5105. (d) Trost, B. M.; Müller, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 2438.

⁶ Parhi, A. K.; Frank, R. W. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 3063.

was extracted with diethyl ether (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 1:2) to give nitro-alcohol in 55% yield as a colorless oil (0.94 g).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.00 (ddd, J = 7.6, 7.1, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 12.7, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (dd, J = 12.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 77.8, 66.6, 61.8, 32.7.

Step2. Triethylamine (2.04 mL, 14.7 mmol) was added to a solution of nitro-alcohol (0.87 g, 4.91 mmol) and methanesulfonyl chloride (1.14 mL, 14.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (12 mL) at -20 °C under N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at -20 °C and then quenched with water (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 2:1 to 1:1) to give **S10** in 84% yield as a pale yellow solid (0.66 g).

Mp 36-38 °C; IR (neat) ν 3115, 2991, 1660, 1626, 1512, 1354, 947 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 148.5, 126.0, 62.6, 32.5; MS (EI+) m/z 160 [$\text{M}]^+$; HRMS (EI+) calcd for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ 160.0484, found for 160.0465.

(D) Synthesis of metal catalysts

(D-1) Preparation of palladium complex 5

The palladium μ -hydroxo complex **5** was prepared according to the reported procedures.⁷

(D-2) Preparation of diamine ligands

(*R,R*)-*N,N'*-Dibenzylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine **7**^{8a} and (*R,R*)-*N,N'*-dibenzyl-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-ethane-

⁷ (a) Fujii, A.; Hagiwara, E.; Sodeoka, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 5450. (b) Hamashima, Y.; Yagi, K.; Takano, H.; Tamás, L.; Sodeoka, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 14530. (c) Dubs, C.; Hamashima, Y.; Sasamoto, N.; Seidel, T. M.; Suzuki, S.; Hashizume, D.; Sodeoka, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 5859.

⁸ (a) Denmark, S. E.; Stadler, H.; Dorow, R. L.; Kim, J. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, *56*, 5063. (b) Hamada, T.; Manabe, K.; Kobayashi, S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 3927. (c) Hamada, T.; Manabe, K.;

diamine **8**^{a-c} were prepared according to the reported procedure.^{8a,d}

7: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.18 (m, 10H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 2.32-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.08 (m, 2H), 1.84 (br s, 2H), 1.78-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.15 (m, 2H), 1.12-0.94 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.0, 128.2, 128.0, 126.6, 60.9, 50.9, 31.6, 25.1.

8: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.03 (m, 20H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.0, 140.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 68.3, 51.4.

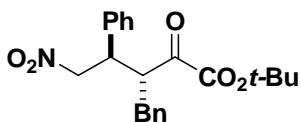
(D-3) Preparation of isolated nickel-diamine complex

A mixture of diamine **7** (123 mg, 0.418 mmol) and nickel acetate tetrahydrate (104 mg, 0.418 mmol) in ethanol (17 mL) was stirred for 1.5 h at room temperature. The resulting solution was filtered through a membrane filter. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the complex as a blue powder (197 mg).

(E) Optimization studies

(E-1) Experimental procedure for optimization of the reaction of **1a** with **2a**.

Metal acetate *n* hydrate (5 mol%) and corresponding ligand (5 mol%) were combined under N₂ atmosphere in 2-propanol (100 μL) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. *tert*-Butyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (**1a**, 23.4 mg, 0.100 mmol) and *trans*-β-nitrostyrene (**2a**, 15.0 mg, 0.101 mmol) were added to the resulting solution and the mixture was stirred for the time given in the main text (Table 1). During the reaction, the product started to precipitate out, and the resulting suspension was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1 mL). The solution was passed through a pad of SiO₂ and concentrated under reduced pressure. ¹H-NMR of the residue was measured to determine the diastereomeric ratio. Purification by MPLC gave pure products.



(3*R*,4*R*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-benzyl-5-nitro-2-oxo-4-phenylpentanoate (3a)

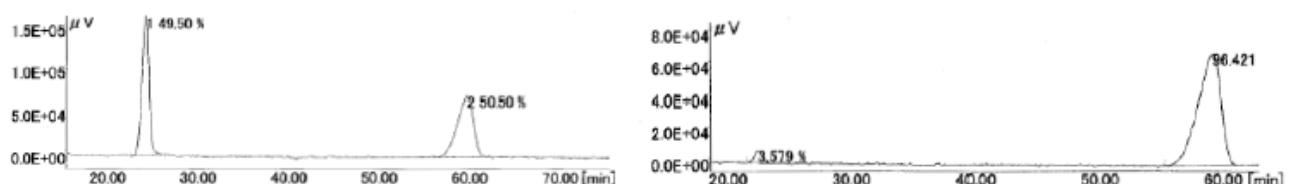
The title compound was prepared according to the experimental procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3a** as a colorless solid. Single recrystallization from IPA gave optically pure

Kobayashi, S. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2006**, *12*, 1205. (d) Corey, E. J.; Jardine, P. D.; Virgil, S.; Yuen, P.; Connell, R. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 9243.

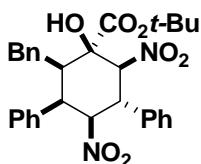
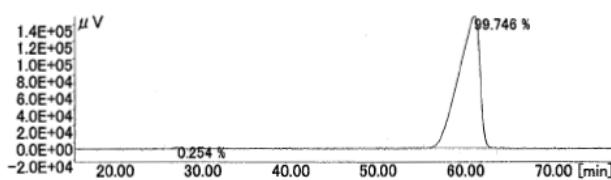
compound in 79% (>99% ee).

Mp 135-136 °C; IR (neat) ν 2983, 2937, 1733, 1540, 1284, 1157, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16-7.34 (m, 8H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (dd, J = 12.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 12.7, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (apparent q, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (apparent td, J = 9.3, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 159.1, 137.0, 136.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 128.1, 126.9, 84.1, 77.7, 50.8, 45.6, 35.9, 27.5; MS (Cl+) m/z 384 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (Cl+) calcd for C₂₂H₂₆NO₅ 384.1811, found 384.1809; $[\alpha]_D^{30}$ +34.2 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃) (>99% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 22.8 min, τ_{major} 59.6 min).

Before recrystallization (93% ee)



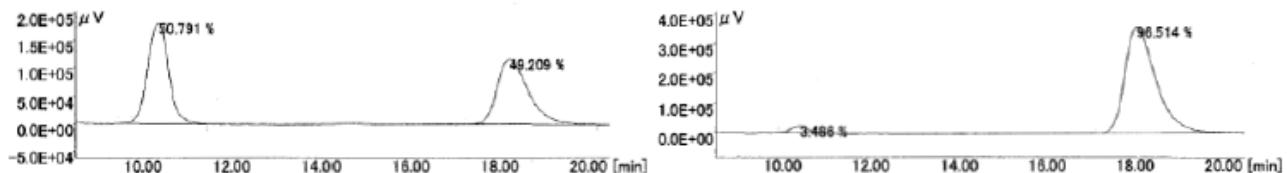
After recrystallization (>99% ee)



(1*R*,2*R*,3*R*,4*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-tert-Butyl-2-benzyl-1-hydroxy-4,6-dinitro-3,5-diphenylcyclohexanecarboxylate (4a)

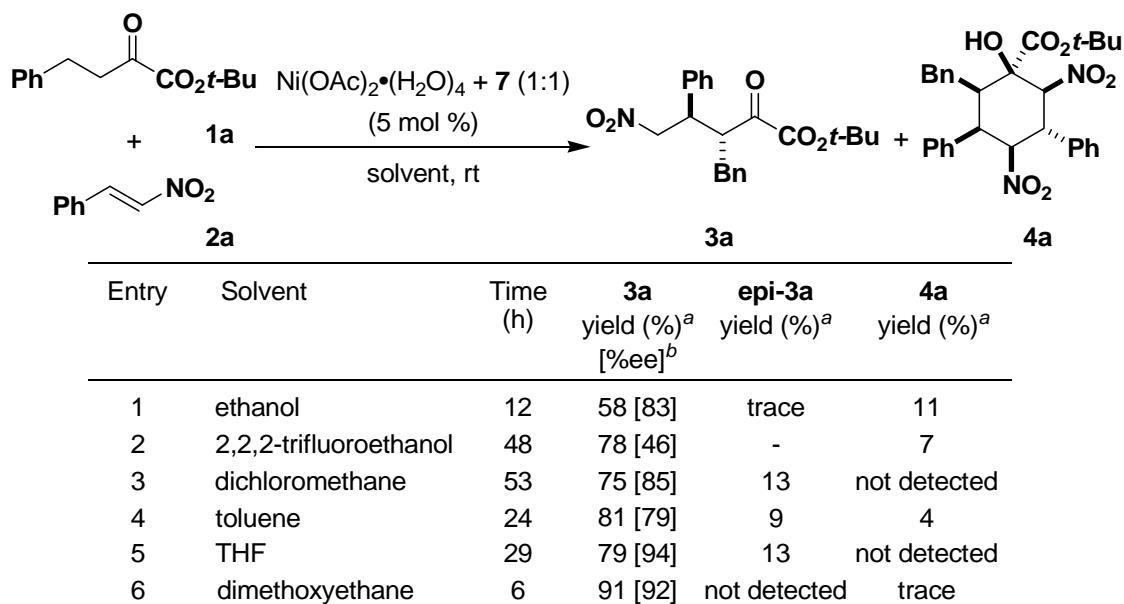
The title compound was prepared according to the experimental procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **4a** as a colorless solid.

Mp 159-161 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 3445, 2984, 1721, 1550, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41-7.18 (m, 13H), 6.90-6.80 (m, 2H), 5.26 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (dd, J = 12.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07-2.97 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.46 (m, 2H), 1.66 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 137.2, 134.7, 131.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 126.8, 92.6, 90.3, 86.5, 77.6, 47.2, 45.7, 40.4, 33.7, 28.0; MS (ESI-) m/z 531 [M-H]⁻; HRMS (ESI-) calcd for C₃₀H₃₁N₂O₇ 531.21313, found 531.21322; $[\alpha]_D^{29}$ +41.7 (*c* 0.19, CHCl₃) (93% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IA, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 10.5 min, τ_{major} 18.2 min).



(E-2) Solvent effect

The reactions in usual organic solvents basically took longer time to reach >70% yield.

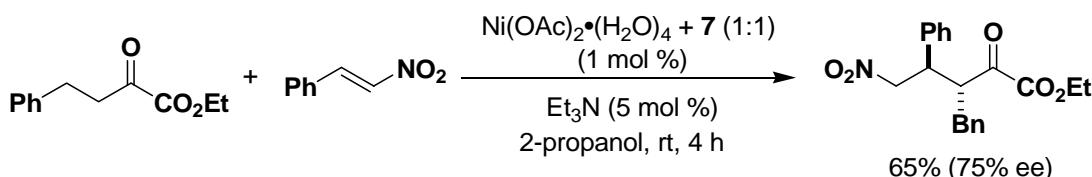


^aIsolated yield based on **1a**. ^bThe ee was determined by chiral HPLC analysis.

^cThe catalyst was prepared in situ.

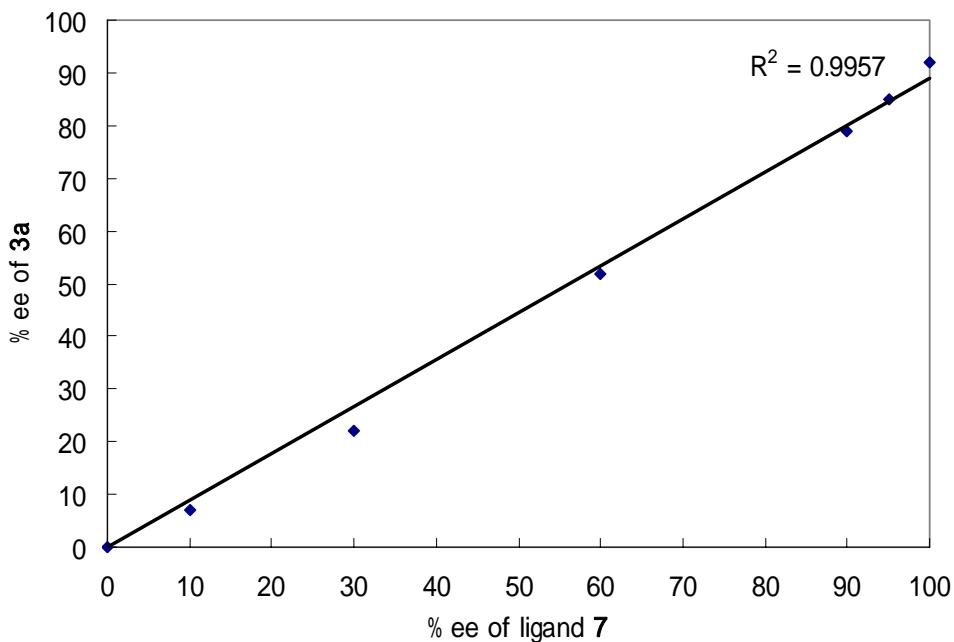
(E-3) Ester effect

The corresponding ethyl ester gave a lower enantioselectivity.



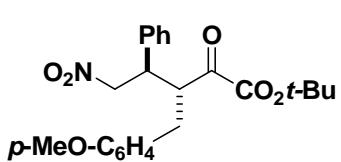
(F) Investigation on non-linear effect

In order to obtain insight into the mechanism of the reaction, the relationship between the enantiomeric excess values of **3a** and ligand **7** was investigated. The linear relationship ($R^2 = 0.9957$) was observed and it suggests that the active catalyst is a monomeric species.



(G) General procedure of the conjugate addition of α -ketoesters to nitroalkenes for generality of the reaction

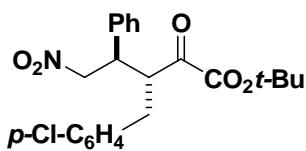
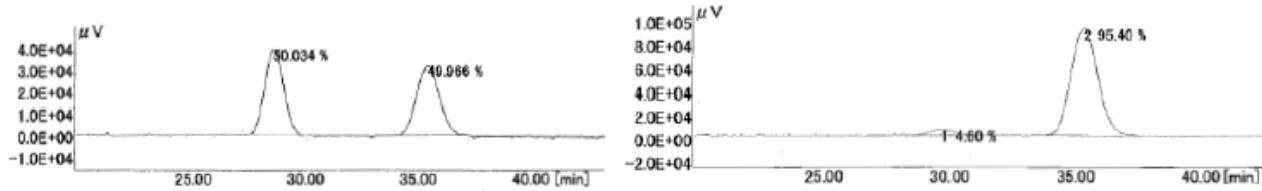
$\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_4 + \mathbf{7}$ complex (isolated, 0.5 mg, 1 mol % or 2.5 mg, 5 mol %) and triethylamine (0.7 μL , 5 mol %) were combined under N_2 atmosphere in 2-propanol (100 μL) at room temperature. α -Ketoester (0.100 or 0.150 mmol) and nitroalkene (0.101 mmol) were added to the resulting mixture and the mixture was stirred for the time given in the main text (Chart 1). During the reaction, the product started to precipitate out, and the resulting suspension was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1 mL). The solution was passed through a pad of SiO_2 . After evaporation of solvent, the residue was purified by MPLC or preparative thin layer chromatography to give the corresponding product.



tert-Butyl 3-(4'-methoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-2-oxo-4-phenylpentanoate (3b)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3b** in 82% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 142-143 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 2982, 1722, 1538, 1287, 1255, 1158, 1026 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.15 (5H, m), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (td, *J* = 8.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (td, *J* = 9.3, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.90 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4, 159.1, 158.4, 136.7, 129.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 114.1, 84.1, 77.8, 55.2, 51.0, 45.6, 35.1, 27.5; MS (CI+) m/z 414 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₂₃H₂₈NO₆ 414.1917, found for 414.1907; $[\alpha]_D^{29}$ +28.7 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃) (91% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 29.9 min, τ_{major} 35.5 min).

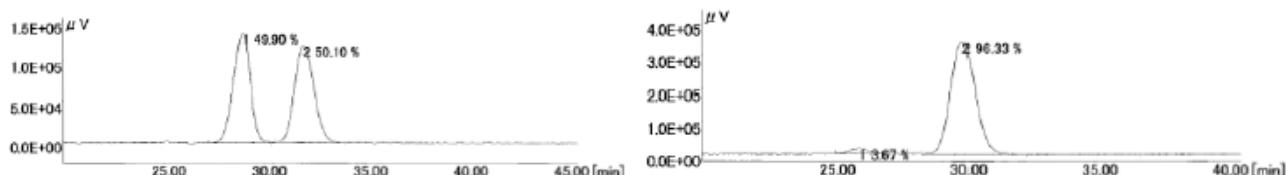


tert-Butyl 3-(4'-chlorobenzyl)-5-nitro-2-oxo-4-phenylpentanoate (3c)

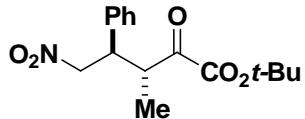
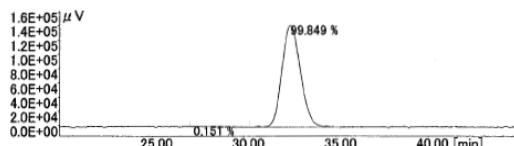
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3c** in 75% yield (93% ee) as a colorless solid. Single recrystallization from IPA gave optically pure compound in 63% (>99% ee).

Mp 113-114 °C; IR (neat) ν 3448, 2981, 1722, 1558, 1493, 1362, 1281, 1135, 759, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.16 (m, 7H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 8.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.8, 159.1, 136.3, 135.4, 132.7, 130.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.2, 128.0, 84.4, 77.4, 50.8, 45.6, 35.0, 27.6; MS (CI+) m/z 418 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₂₂H₂₅ClNO₅ 418.1421, found 418.1425; $[\alpha]_D^{30}$ +25.1 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃) (>99% ee, after recrystallization); HPLC (93% ee, DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 26.0 min, τ_{major} 29.9 min).

Before recrystallization (93% ee)



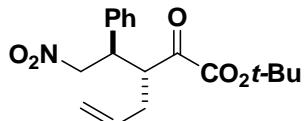
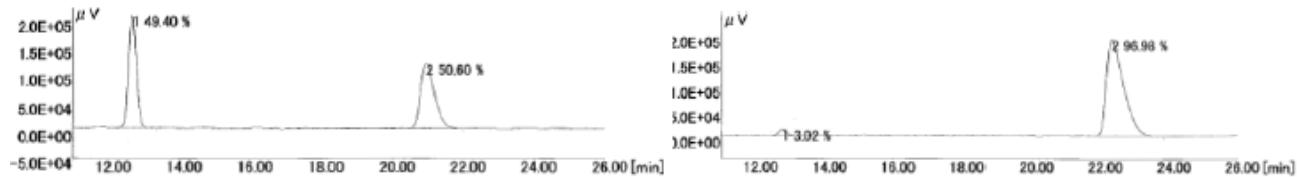
After recrystallization (>99% ee)



***tert*-Butyl 3-methyl-5-nitro-2-oxo-4-phenylpentanoate (3d)**

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3d** in 77% yield as a colorless solid.

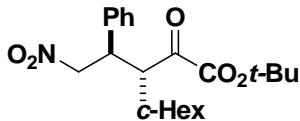
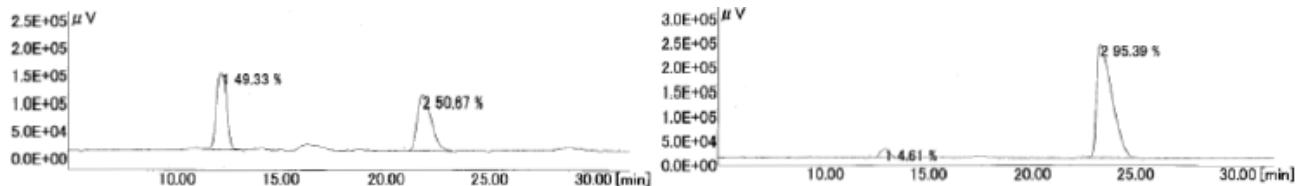
Mp 121-122 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 2987, 1716, 1541, 1306, 1160, 1013, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.18 (m, 5H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (td, *J* = 9.0, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.70 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9, 159.9, 137.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.8, 84.5, 77.3, 45.2, 44.7, 27.8, 13.5; MS (CI+) m/z 308 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₁₆H₂₂NO₅ 308.1498, found 308.1469; $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ +9.2 (*c* 1.09, acetone) (94% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/ethanol = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 280 nm, τ_{minor} 12.8 min, τ_{major} 22.3 min).



***tert*-Butyl 3-(2'-nitro-1'-phenylethyl)-2-oxohex-5-enoate (3e)**

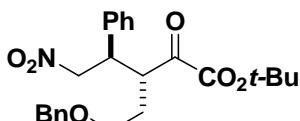
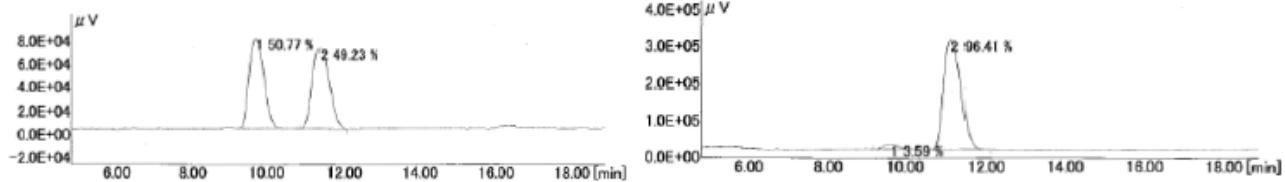
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3e** in 77% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 85-87 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate) IR (neat) ν 2982, 1709, 1550, 704 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.16 (m, 5H), 5.76-5.62 (m, 1H), 5.14-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.82 (m, 2H), 2.56-2.38 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.5, 159.8, 136.7, 133.1, 128.9, 128.1, 118.6, 84.3, 77.6, 48.9, 44.7, 33.4, 27.7; MS (CI+) m/z 334 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₁₈H₂₄NO₅ 334.1654, found 334.1627; $[\alpha]_D^{30}$ +4.0 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃) (91% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 13.1 min, τ_{major} 23.6 min).



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3f** in 60% yield as a colorless solid.

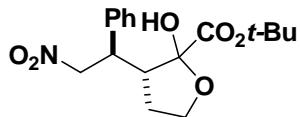
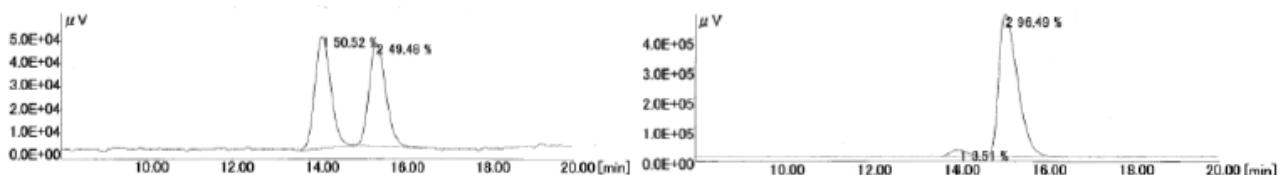
Mp 139-140 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 2929, 2854, 1736, 1540, 1154, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29-7.15 (m, 5H), 4.73 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.99-3.90 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.63 (m, 6H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 1.31-1.04 (m, 4H), 0.96 (dq, *J* = 12.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3, 160.1, 137.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 83.9, 78.6, 52.6, 42.9, 39.1, 32.2, 27.6, 27.0, 26.9, 26.3, 26.1; MS (CI+) m/z 376 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₂₁H₃₀NO₅ 376.2124, found 376.2102; $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ +59.1 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃) (93% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 9.8 min, τ_{major} 11.3 min).



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3g** in 93% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 83-84 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 2931, 2873, 1719, 1539, 1290, 1103, 1016, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.14 (m, 10H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.39 (m, 2H), 2.24-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 159.3, 137.5, 136.9, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.4, 83.6, 77.8, 72.7, 67.8, 47.4, 45.4, 30.4, 27.5; MS (CI+) m/z 428 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₂₄H₃₀NO₆ 428.2073, found 428.2070; $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ -13.8 (*c* 1.03, CHCl₃) (93% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK AD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA = 90:10,

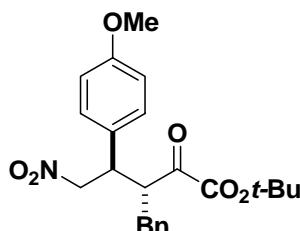
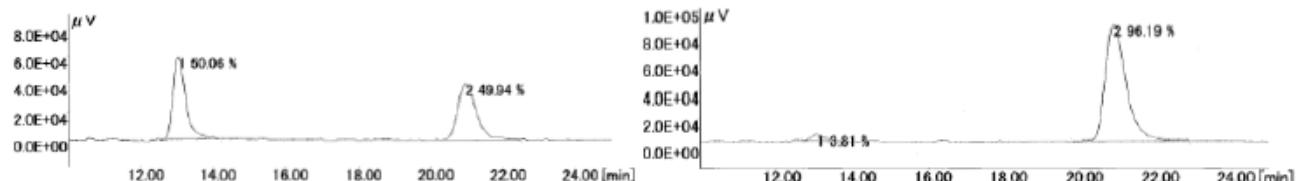
1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 14.0 min, τ_{major} 15.1 min).



tert-Butyl tetrahydro-2-hydroxy-3-(2'-nitro-1'-phenylethyl)furan-2-carboxylate (3h)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3h** in 84% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 90-91 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); IR (neat) ν 3551, 2976, 2898, 1733, 1552, 1251, 1056 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.15 (m, 5H), 4.75-4.63 (m, 2H), 4.24 (s, 1H), 4.19 (td, *J* = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.72 (m, 1H), 2.98 (td, *J* = 11.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.28-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.20 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 137.6, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 100.8, 83.5, 79.7, 67.7, 48.3, 44.1, 29.3, 27.5; MS (ESI+) *m/z* 355 [M+NH₄]⁺; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₁₇H₂₇N₂O₆ 355.18691, found 355.18785; $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ +42.6 (*c* 1.02, CHCl₃) (92% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 13.1 min, τ_{major} 20.9 min).

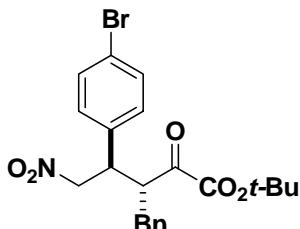
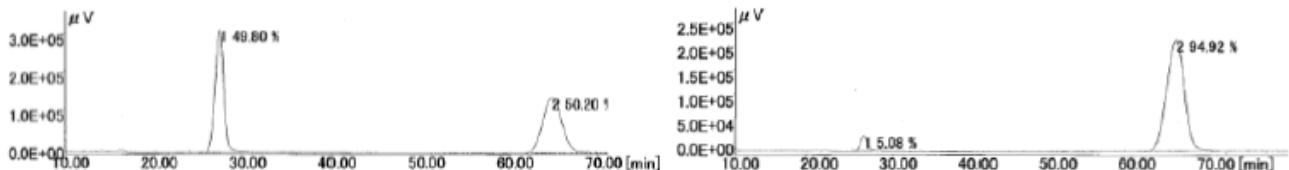


tert-Butyl 3-benzyl-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-5-nitro-2-oxopentanoate (3i)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to give **3i** in 81% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 113-115 °C; IR (neat) ν 3087, 3062, 3032, 3010, 2981, 2920, 1738, 1722, 1537, 1514, 1278, 1254, 1180, 1156, 1033, 837, 806, 748, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 4H), 6.81 (m, 2H), 4.78 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dt, *J* = 9.0, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (apparent td, *J* = 9.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3,

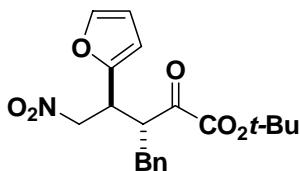
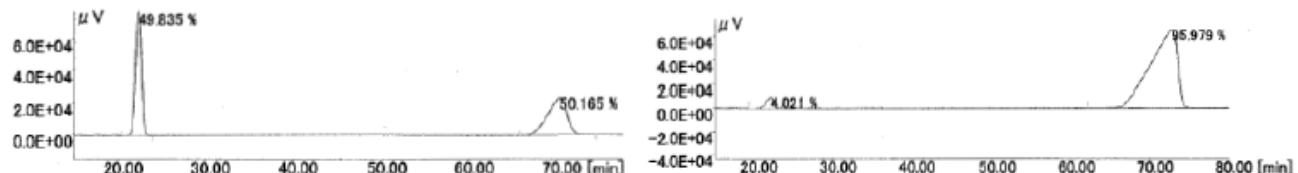
159.2, 159.1, 137.0, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 126.9, 114.3, 84.1, 78.0, 55.2, 50.9, 45.1, 36.0, 27.5; MS (FAB) m/z 436 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₃H₂₇NNaO₆ 436.1731, found 436.1732; [α]_D²⁷ +27.8 (*c* 0.67, CHCl₃) (90% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA/ethyl acetate = 90:7:3, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 26.3 min, τ_{major} 65.7 min).



tert-Butyl 3-benzyl-4-(4'-bromophenyl)-5-nitro-2-oxopentanoate (3j)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 85:15) to give **3j** in 81% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 124-125 °C; IR (neat) ν 3028, 2980, 2927, 2854, 1738, 1723, 1713, 1552, 1491, 1371, 1259, 1157, 1075, 1011, 832, 752, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 4H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dt, *J* = 8.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (apparent td, *J* = 9.5, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 159.2, 136.6, 135.7, 132.1, 129.8, 128.8, 128.8, 127.0, 122.2, 84.4, 77.5, 50.4, 45.1, 36.0, 27.5; MS (FAB) m/z 484 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₂H₂₄BrNNaO₅ 484.0730, found 484.0736; [α]_D²⁶ +24.5 (*c* 1.20, CHCl₃) (92% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA/ethyl acetate = 90:7:3, 1.0 mL/min, 280 nm, τ_{minor} 22.1 min, τ_{major} 72.7 min).

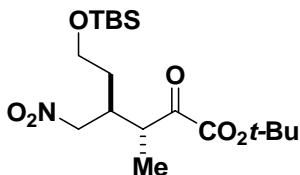
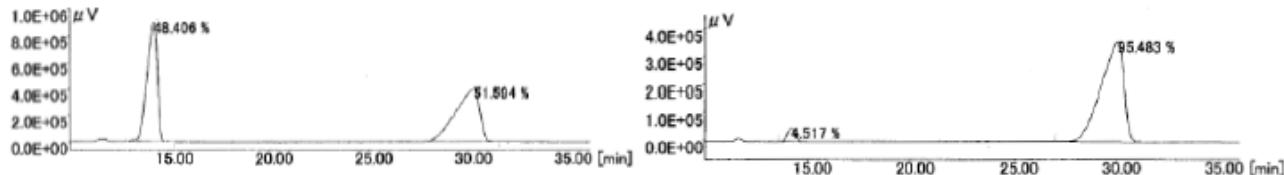


tert-Butyl 3-benzyl-4-(furan-2'-yl)-5-nitro-2-oxopentanoate (3k)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3k** in 72% yield as a colorless solid.

Mp 59-60 °C; IR (neat) ν 3318, 3087, 3064, 3030, 2981, 2935, 1741, 1722, 1713, 1552, 1507, 1371, 1256, 1156, 1066, 1015, 915, 848, 834, 740, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.29 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H),

6.22-6.08 (m, 1H), 4.78 (dd, J = 13.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, J = 13.2, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.10 (m, 1H), 4.10-4.02 (m, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 13.6, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.6, 159.3, 149.8, 137.0, 128.9, 128.7, 126.9, 110.6, 108.7, 84.5, 75.4, 49.3, 38.9, 35.0, 27.6; MS (FAB) m/z 396 [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_6$ 396.1418, found 396.1435; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -4.7 (c 0.60, THF) (90% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALCEL OD-H, *n*-hexane/IPA/ethyl acetate = 90:7:3, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 14.2 min, τ_{major} 30.1 min).



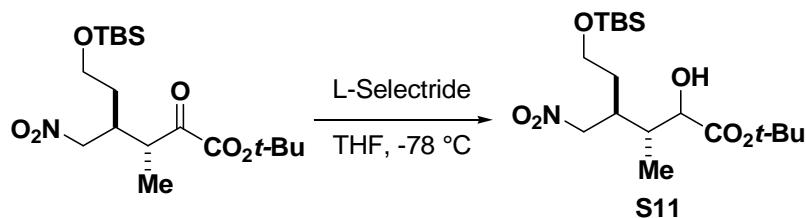
tert-Butyl 6-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methyl-4-(nitromethyl)-2-oxohexanoate (3l)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **3l** in 83% yield as a colorless oil.

IR (neat) ν 2931, 2858, 1721, 1553, 1255, 1097, 835, 777 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.46 (dd, J = 13.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 13.1, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (qd, J = 7.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.77 (m, 1H), 1.66 (apparent q, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (s, 9H), 1.15 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.9, 160.7, 84.6, 76.4, 60.8, 42.9, 36.1, 32.5, 27.9, 26.0, 18.3, 11.7, -5.3, -5.3; MS (CI+) m/z 390 [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]; HRMS (CI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_6\text{Si}$ 390.2312, found 390.2311, $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ -9.3 (c 0.88, CHCl_3) (94% ee).

Determination of the ee of 3l

Since **3l** was not separable on chiral HPLC, the ee of **3l** was determined after reduction below. The major isomer of alcohol **S11** was separable on chiral HPLC.

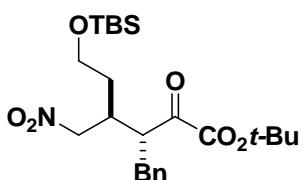
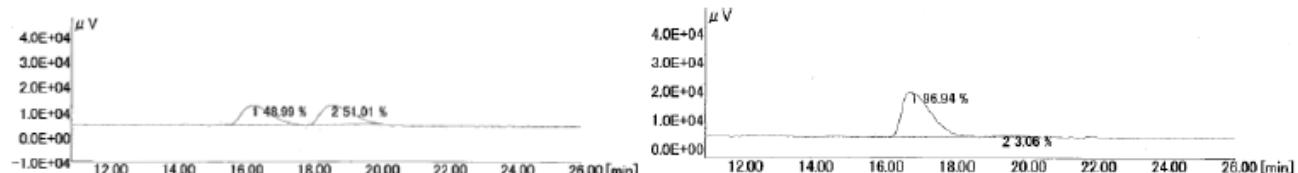


tert-Butyl 6-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-2-hydroxy-3-methyl-4-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (S11)

To a solution of **3l** (10.0 mg, 0.0257 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL) was added L-Selectride (1.0 M in THF,

77 μ L) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h and then quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (2 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (2 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **S11** in 83% yield as a colorless oil.

IR (neat) ν 3505, 2930, 2858, 1722, 1551, 1253, 1150, 1091, 834, 776 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.82 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71-3.59 (m, 2H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.04 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 83.3, 78.1, 74.4, 61.0, 37.8, 36.2, 33.5, 28.2, 26.0, 18.4, 12.7; MS (CI+) m/z 392 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (CI+) calcd for C₁₈H₃₈NO₆Si 392.2468, found 392.2471; $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ +3.0 (c 0.53, CHCl₃) (94% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 280 nm, τ_{major} 16.8 min, τ_{minor} 19.4 min).



tert-Butyl 3-benzyl-6-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4-(nitromethyl)-2-oxohexanoate (3m)

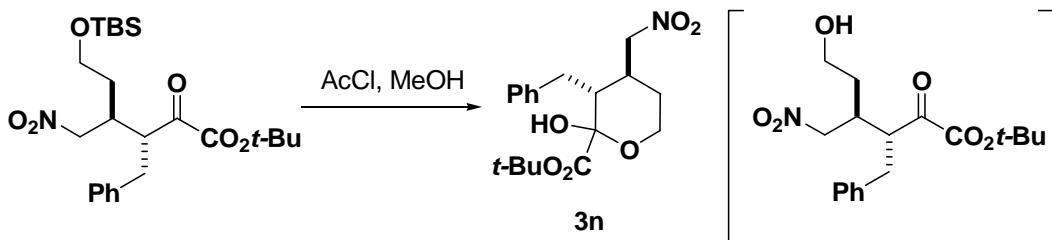
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (toluene) to give **3m** in 77% yield as a light yellow oil.

IR (neat) ν 3030, 2954, 2930, 2858, 1738, 1722, 1552, 1370, 1254, 1159, 1098, 1048, 1031, 981, 888, 834, 776, 751, 732, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.07 (m, 5H), 4.54 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (apparent dt, *J* = 9.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76-3.60 (m, 2H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.71 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.01 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.0, 160.3, 137.6, 128.9, 128.6, 126.7, 84.4, 76.5, 60.8, 49.6, 36.1, 34.2, 31.9, 27.7, 25.9, 18.3, -5.4, -5.4; MS (FAB) m/z 488 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₄H₃₉NNaO₆Si 488.2439, found 488.2447; $[\alpha]_D^{26}$ +2.1 (c 0.48, CHCl₃) (92% ee).

Determination of the ee of **3m**

Since **3m** was not separable on chiral HPLC, the ee of **3m** was determined after conversion to **3n**

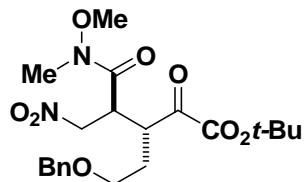
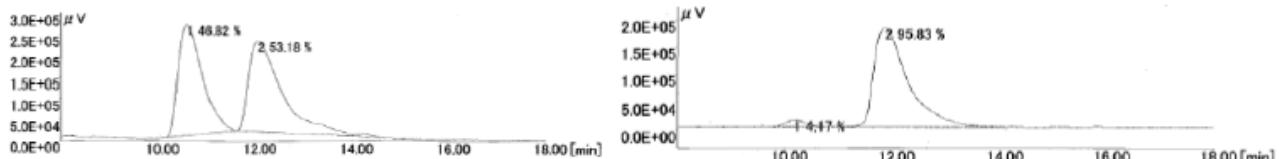
according to the following procedure.



tert-Butyl 3-benzyl-tetrahydro-2-hydroxy-4-(nitromethyl)-2*H*-pyran-2-carboxylate (3n)

To a solution of **3m** (72.1 mg, 0.154 mmol) in methanol (1 mL) was added acetyl chloride (2 μ L, 0.028 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 min, then the desired compound was directly purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 85:15) to give **3n** in 94% yield as a colorless oil (50.1 mg).

IR (neat) ν 3478 (br), 3062, 3028, 2979, 2935, 1738, 1727, 1548, 1370, 1291, 1141, 1080, 1024, 841, 735, 699 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37-7.14 (m, 5H), 4.28 (dd, J = 12.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.13-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.76 (dt, J = 11.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, J = 11.5, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.70 (m, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 15.9, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, J = 15.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.39 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.49 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 139.8, 128.9, 128.2, 126.7, 96.1, 84.2, 79.7, 60.0, 43.0, 36.8, 36.5, 29.2, 27.8; MS (FAB) m/z 374 [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_6$ 374.1574, found 374.1573; $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ +40.8 (c 1.06, CHCl_3) (92% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK AS-H, *n*-hexane/IPA = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{minor} 10.2 min, τ_{major} 11.9 min).

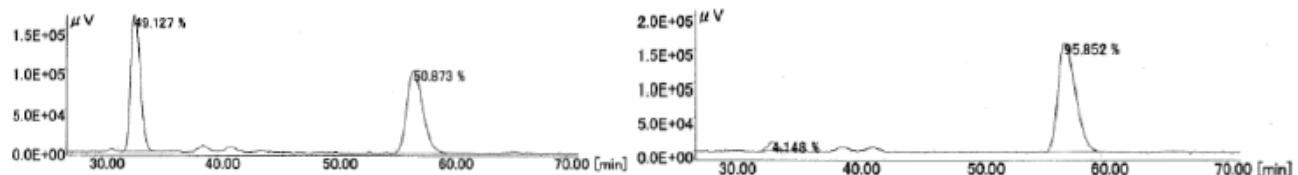


tert-Butyl 4-(*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylcarbamoyl)-3-[2'-(benzyloxy)ethyl]-5-nitro-2-oxopentanoate (3o)

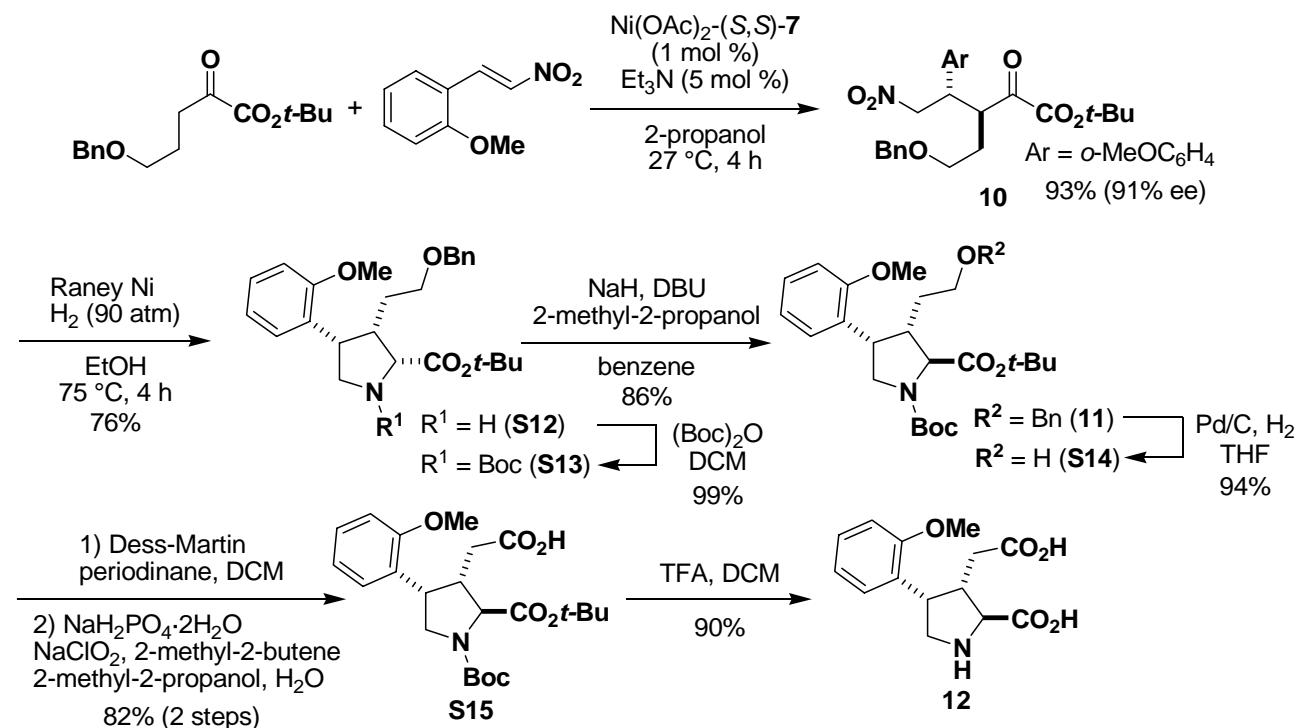
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give **3o** in 89% yield as a colorless oil.

IR (neat) ν 2980, 2868, 1720, 1659, 1554, 1370, 1161, 1100, 1028, 750, 698 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33-7.22 (m, 5H), 4.87 (dd, J = 14.4, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd, J = 14.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 2H), 4.00-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.44 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.4, 170.2, 159.7, 137.6, 128.2,

127.5, 127.4, 83.9, 77.2, 72.6, 67.6, 61.5, 43.1, 40.6, 32.3, 28.1, 27.7; MS (Cl⁺) m/z 439 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (Cl⁺) calcd for C₂₁H₃₁N₂O₈ 439.2080, found 439.2041; [α]_D²³ -18.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃) (92% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm, τ_{minor} 33.2 min, τ_{major} 56.7 min).



(H) Application to the synthesis of kainoid analog 12⁹



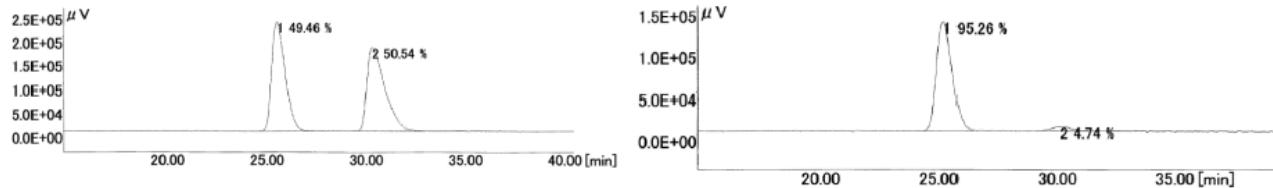
(3*S*,4*S*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-[2'-(benzyloxy)ethyl]-5-nitro-2-oxo-4-(2'-methoxy)-phenylpentanoate (10)

Ni(OAc)₂·(H₂O)₄—(S,S)-*N,N'*-dibenzylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine complex (isolated, 5 mg, 1 mol %) and triethylamine (7 μL, 5 mol %) were combined under N₂ atmosphere in 2-propanol (1 mL) at 27 °C. α-Ketoester (278 mg, 1.00 mmol) and 1-methoxy-2-[*(E*)-2-nitrovinyl]benzene (179 mg, 1.00

⁹ (a) Hashimoto, K.; Horikawa, M.; Shirahama, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 7047. (b) Hashimoto, K.; Shirahama, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, *32*, 2625. (c) Baldwin, J. E.; Fryer, A. M.; Spyvee, M. R.; Whitehead, R. C.; Wood, M. E. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 6923. (d) Baldwin, J. E.; Bamford, S. J.; Fryer, A. M.; Rudolph, M. P. W.; Wood, M. E. *Tetrahedron* **1997**, *53*, 5255. (e) Maeda, H.; Kraus, G. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 2314. (f) Maeda, H.; Selvakumar, N.; Kraus, G. A. *Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 943. (g) Peixoto da Silva, K.; Godoi, M. N.; Correia, C. R. D. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 2815.

mmol) were added to the resulting mixture and the mixture was stirred for 4 h. During the reaction, the product started to precipitate out, and the resulting suspension was dissolved in ethyl acetate (4 mL). The solution was passed through a pad of SiO_2 . After evaporation of solvent, the residue was purified by MPLC (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to give **10** in 93 % yield as a colorless oil (425 mg).

IR (neat) ν 2975, 1866, 1721, 1551, 1247, 1026 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34-7.16 (m, 6H), 7.05 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.79 (m, 2H), 4.90 (dd, J = 12.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 12.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 4.11-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.05-3.97 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, J = 6.8, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.25-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.89 (ddd, J = 13.9, 8.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.7, 159.5, 157.0, 137.7, 130.5, 129.2, 128.2, 127.4, 127.4, 124.5, 120.7, 111.1, 83.2, 76.8, 72.6, 68.1, 55.3, 45.7, 42.7, 30.9, 27.5; MS (FAB) m/z 458 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_7$ 458.2179, found 458.2180; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +8.3 (*c* 1.01, CHCl_3) (91% ee); HPLC (DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC, *n*-hexane/IPA = 95:5 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, τ_{major} 25.2 min, τ_{minor} 30.3 min).



(2*R*,3*S*,4*S*)-*tert*-Butyl 3-[(2'-benzyloxy)ethyl]-4-phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (**S12**)

Compound **10** (410 mg, 0.897 mmol) was hydrogenated using Raney nickel (966 mg) in ethanol (10 mL) under hydrogen atmosphere (90 atm) at 75 °C for 4 h.¹⁰ The mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a pad of celite. The catalyst and the celite were washed with ethyl acetate. The combined organic solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , dichloromethane/methanol = 20:1) to give **S12** in 76% yield as a colorless oil (281 mg).

IR (neat) ν 2971, 2932, 2870, 1722, 1240, 1154 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36-7.10 (m, 7H), 6.89 (td, J = 7.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dt, J = 10.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.48 (apparent t, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, J = 9.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.07-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.97-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.79 (m, 1H), 1.79 (br s, 1H), 1.52-1.32 (m, 11H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 157.5, 138.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 120.1, 109.9, 81.5, 72.4, 69.3, 65.8, 55.2, 48.3, 42.7, 40.8, 28.3, 26.1; MS (FAB) m/z 412 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_4$ 412.2488, found 412.2490; $[\alpha]_D^{26}$ -62.2 (*c* 1.03, CHCl_3).

¹⁰ Barluenga, J.; Aznar, F.; Ribas, C.; Valdés C. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, 63, 10052.

(2*R*,3*S*,4*S*)-Di-*tert*-butyl

3-[2-(benzyloxy)ethyl]-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (S13)

To a solution of **S12** (358 mg, 0.869 mmol) of dichloromethane (2.7 mL) and triethylamine (242 μ L, 1.74 mmol), di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (195 mg, 0.895 mmol) was added and stirred at room temperature for 30 min. After quenching with water, the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (8 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **S13** in 99% yield as a colorless oil (440mg).

This compound exists as a mixture of rotamers in CDCl_3 at 23 °C, and contains the epimer **11**.

IR (neat) ν 2975, 2931, 1692, 1391, 1365, 1242, 1151 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35-7.15 (m, 7H), 6.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82-6.75 (m, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 0.4H [minor]), 4.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 0.6H [major]), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.99-3.65 (m, 6H), 3.25-2.98 (m, 3H), 1.60-1.36 (m, 20H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.0, 169.9, 157.2, 157.2, 154.1, 138.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.3, 127.0, 126.9, 120.3, 120.2, 109.9, 109.7, 81.3, 79.9, 72.5, 69.1, 68.9, 63.9, 63.8, 55.2, 55.2, 49.9, 49.7, 41.0, 40.3, 39.7, 39.2, 28.6, 28.5, 28.2, 28.1, 26.8, 26.5; MS (FAB) m/z 512 [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{42}\text{NO}_6$ 512.3012, found 512.2999; $[\alpha]_D^{26}$ -42.9 (*c* 1.06, CHCl_3).

(2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-Di-*tert*-butyl

3-[2-(benzyloxy)ethyl]-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (11)

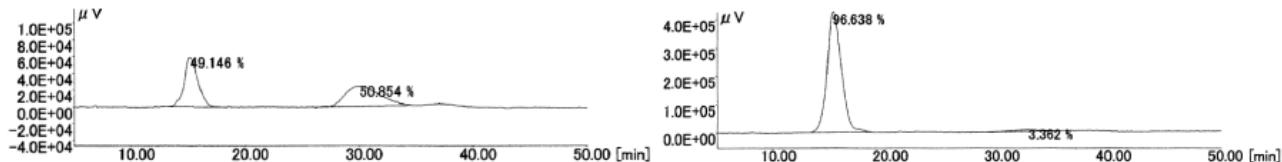
To a solution of **S13** (307 mg, 0.600 mmol) and DBU (412 μ L, 3.00 mmol) in benzene (6 mL) and 2-methyl-2-propanol (307 μ L, 3.23 mmol) was added sodium hydride (55%, 65.5 mg, 1.50 mmol) at room temperature and stirred for 18 h.¹¹ After quenching with water (3 mL), the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 80:20) to give **11** in 86% yield as a colorless oil (246 mg).

This compound exists as a mixture of rotamers in CDCl_3 at 22 °C.

IR (neat) ν 2976, 2927, 1693, 1392, 1365, 1244, 1154, 1121 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 0.4H [minor]), 4.08 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 0.6H [major]), 4.01-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.64 (m, 5H), 3.49-3.34 (m, 2H), 2.83-2.72 (m, 1H), 1.55-1.24 (m, 20H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

¹¹ Modified condition of Ogasawara's method (Takano, S.; Iwabuchi, Y.; Ogasawara, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 1204).

171.7, 171.6, 157.1, 157.1, 154.2, 153.9, 138.3, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 120.4, 120.4, 110.2, 110.1, 80.9, 80.9, 79.8, 79.6, 72.8, 68.8, 68.5, 64.7, 64.5, 55.3, 55.2, 49.3, 48.4, 44.0, 42.8, 38.8, 38.3, 28.7, 28.6, 28.5, 28.2, 28.1, 28.1; MS (FAB) m/z 512 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₃₀H₄₂NO₆ 512.3012, found 512.2997; [α]_D²⁶ -40.7 (c 1.07, CHCl₃).



(2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-Di-*tert*-butyl 3-[2-(hydroxyethyl]-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (S14)

Compound **11** (150.2 mg, 0.294 mmol) was hydrogenated in THF (2 mL) for 3 h in presence of 10% Pd/C (10 wt%). The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite. The catalyst and the celite were washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by MPLC (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate = 83:37 to 50:50) to give **S14** in 94% yield as a colorless oil (117 mg).

This compound exists as a mixture of rotamers in CDCl₃ at 23 °C.

IR (neat) ν 3435 (br), 2976, 1692, 1402, 1367, 1365, 1245, 1157, 1133 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (apparent td, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (td, J = 7.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 0.4H [minor]), 4.00 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 0.6H [major]), 3.99-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.66 (m, 5H), 3.65-3.50 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.67 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.55 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.43 (m, 18H), 1.43-1.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.9, 171.8, 157.0, 156.9, 153.8, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 120.6, 120.6, 110.3, 110.2, 81.2, 80.0, 79.7, 64.6, 64.3, 61.3, 61.2, 55.4, 49.8, 48.9, 44.1, 43.1, 39.0, 38.4, 31.7, 28.6, 28.5, 28.1, 28.1; MS (FAB) m/z 422 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₃H₃₆NO₆ 422.2543, found 422.2549; [α]_D²⁷ -67.9 (c 1.03, CHCl₃).

2-[(2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-1,2-Di-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl]acetic acid (S15)

To a solution of **S14** (74.1 mg, 0.176 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (89.5 mg, 0.211 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to give the aldehyde as a colorless oil.

To a solution of the aldehyde (43.5 mg, 0.104 mmol) in 2-methyl-2-butene (281 μL, 2.65 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-propanol (3.4 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of NaClO₂ (178 mg, 1.97 mmol) and NaH₂PO₄·2H₂O (146 mg, 0.93 mmol) in H₂O (0.8 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room

temperature for 0.5 h. The reaction was quenched by saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with ethyl acetate (8 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by MPLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 95:5 and then chloroform/methanol = 95:5) to give **S15** in 82% yield (2 steps) as a colorless oil (44 mg).

This compound exists as a mixture of rotamers in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.

IR (neat) ν 3216 (br), 2977, 2927, 1738, 1704, 1397, 1368, 1247, 1161 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (apparent td, *J* = 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.06-3.69 (m, 7H), 3.18-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.02 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.48 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.5, 177.5, 171.1, 170.9, 157.1, 157.1, 154.0, 153.9, 128.2, 127.2, 126.4, 126.0, 120.7, 120.7, 110.0, 81.3, 81.2, 80.3, 79.9, 64.1, 63.9, 55.0, 49.8, 49.0, 43.2, 42.2, 38.3, 37.7, 33.3, 33.2, 28.5, 28.4, 28.0, 28.0; MS (FAB) m/z 436 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₃H₃₄NO₇ 436.2335, found 436.2345; [α]_D²⁵ -63.4 (c 1.07, CHCl₃).

(2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-3-(Carboxymethyl)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (12)

To a solution of **S15** (34.8 mg, 0.080 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (0.3 mL) at room temperature, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h. After concentration under reduced pressure, the residue was added to a column containing Dowex-50 WX8 hydrogen form (50-100 mesh). After elution with 3% aqueous NH₃, and the collected fractions were freeze-dried to give **12** in 90% as a white solid (20 mg).

Mp 167-169 °C; IR (neat) ν 2944 (br), 2835, 1710, 1601, 1495, 1384, 1245 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.86-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.23-3.13 (m, 1H), 2.48 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 10.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 173.9, 157.6, 130.2, 129.8, 124.6, 121.1, 111.7, 66.1, 55.8, 48.4, 43.2, 41.9, 35.9; MS (FAB, negative mode) m/z 278 [M-H]⁻; HRMS (FAB, negative mode) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO₅ 278.1028, found 278.1039; [α]_D²⁵ +7.7 (c 0.58, H₂O).

(I) X-ray crystal structure analysis of **3a**

CCDC-752633 (**3a**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Crystal data: C₂₂H₂₅O₅N, FW = 383.43, orthorhombic P2₁2₁2₁, $a = 6.14599(11)$, $b = 17.8565(3)$, $c = 19.4532(4)$ Å, $V = 2134.91(7)$ Å³; $D_X = 1.193$ Mg m⁻³; $Z = 4$; $\mu(\text{Cu } K\alpha) = 0.691$ mm⁻¹, $T = 300$ K. The crystals of **3a** showed solid-to-solid phase transition below room temperature. Since the single crystal of **3a** was decomposed on the phase transition, the measurements were performed at 300 K.

Block shaped colorless crystals were grown from a *n*-hexane/chloroform solution of **3a**. A single crystal with the dimensions of 0.20 x 0.13 x 0.08 mm was mounted on a glass capillary and set on a Rigaku RAXIS-RAPID diffractometer. The diffraction data were collected using graphite-monochromated Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. The unit cell dimensions were determined using 28379 reflections with $6.8 \leq 2\theta \leq 136.6^\circ$. The diffraction data of 38239 within $6.7 \leq 2\theta \leq 136.5^\circ$ were collected and merged to give 3827 unique reflections with R_{int} of 0.0240. The structure was solved by a direct method and refined on F^2 by a least-squares method by the programs SIR2004 and SHELXL97, respectively. The final R values against 2620 unique reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ are 0.0458 and 0.1177 for $R(F)$ and $wR(F^2)$, respectively. The phenyl and benzyl groups were disordered.

The absolute structure of the crystal was determined by comparing four Bijvoet pairs, which differed in intensities each other, significantly. The reflections were 2 1 1, 3 4 3, 3 1 2 and 1 7 6, and their Bivoet pairs. The result was confirmed by Flack parameter, which was refined using reflections of $2\theta < 120^\circ$. 1846 Friedel pairs, $\chi = 0.0(3)$.

Programs used: SIR2004: Burla, M. C., Caliandro, R., Camalli, M., Carrozzini, B., Cascarano, G. L., De Caro, L., Giacovazzo, C., Polidori, G., Spagna, R. *J. Appl. Cryst.* **2005**, *38*, 381-388; SHELXL97: Sheldrick, G. M. *Acta Crystallogr. Sect. A*, **2008**, *64*, 112-122.

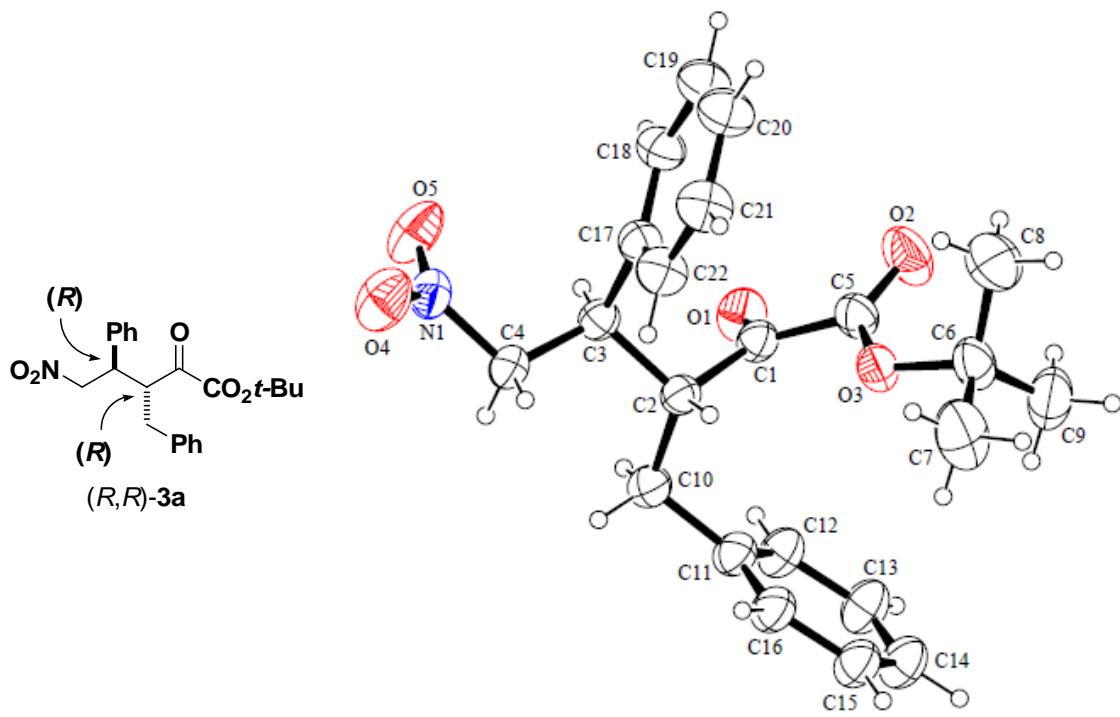
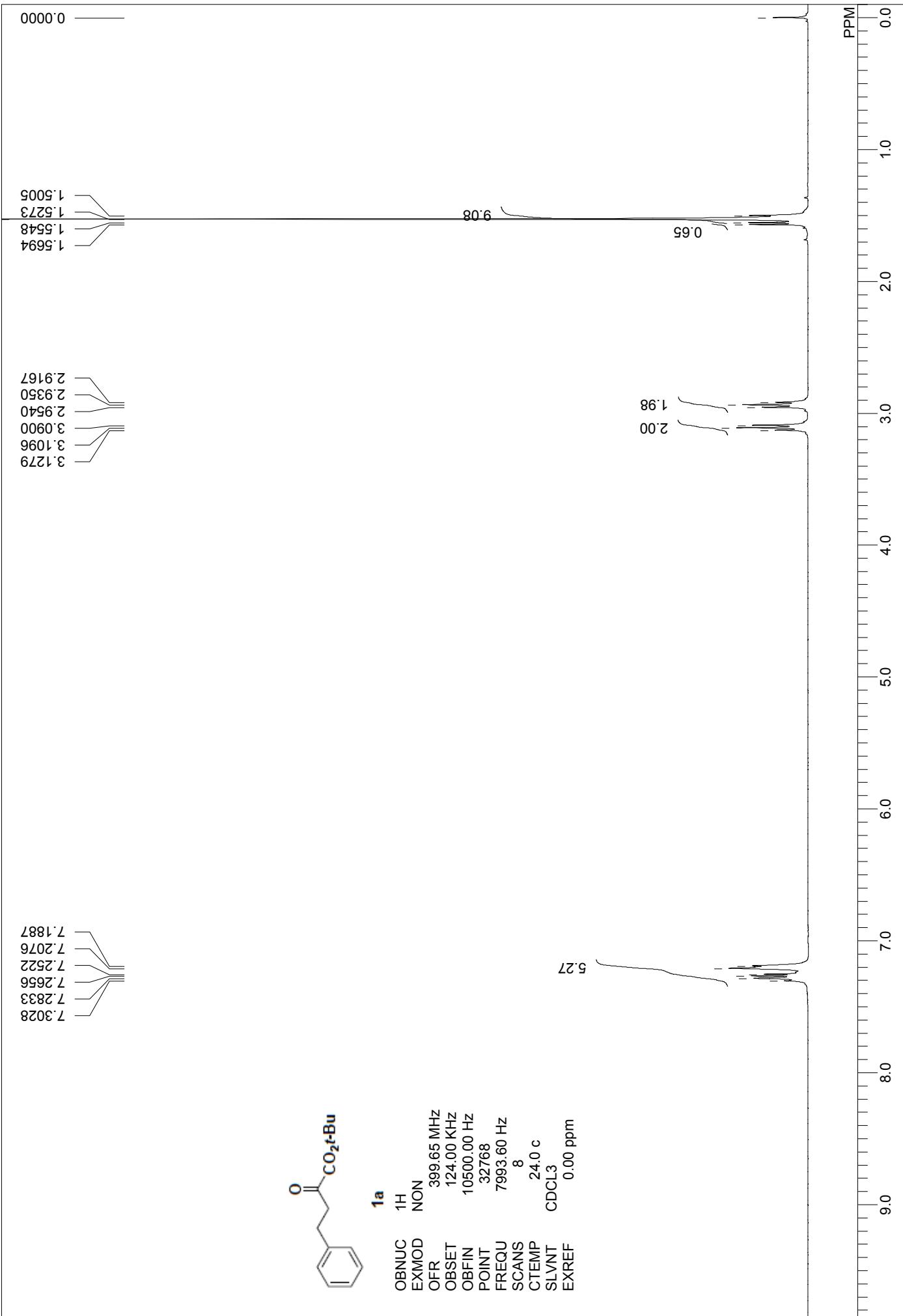
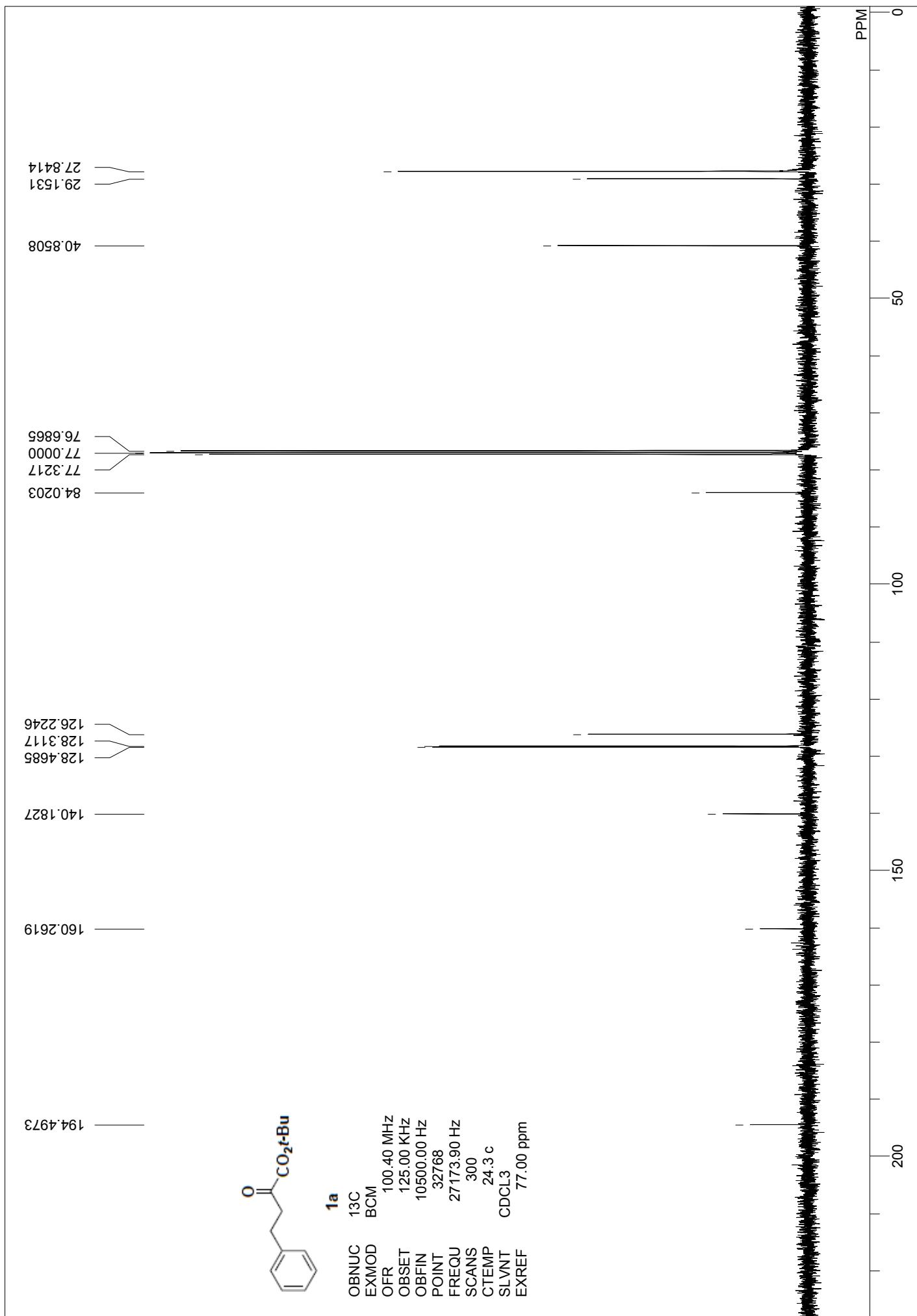
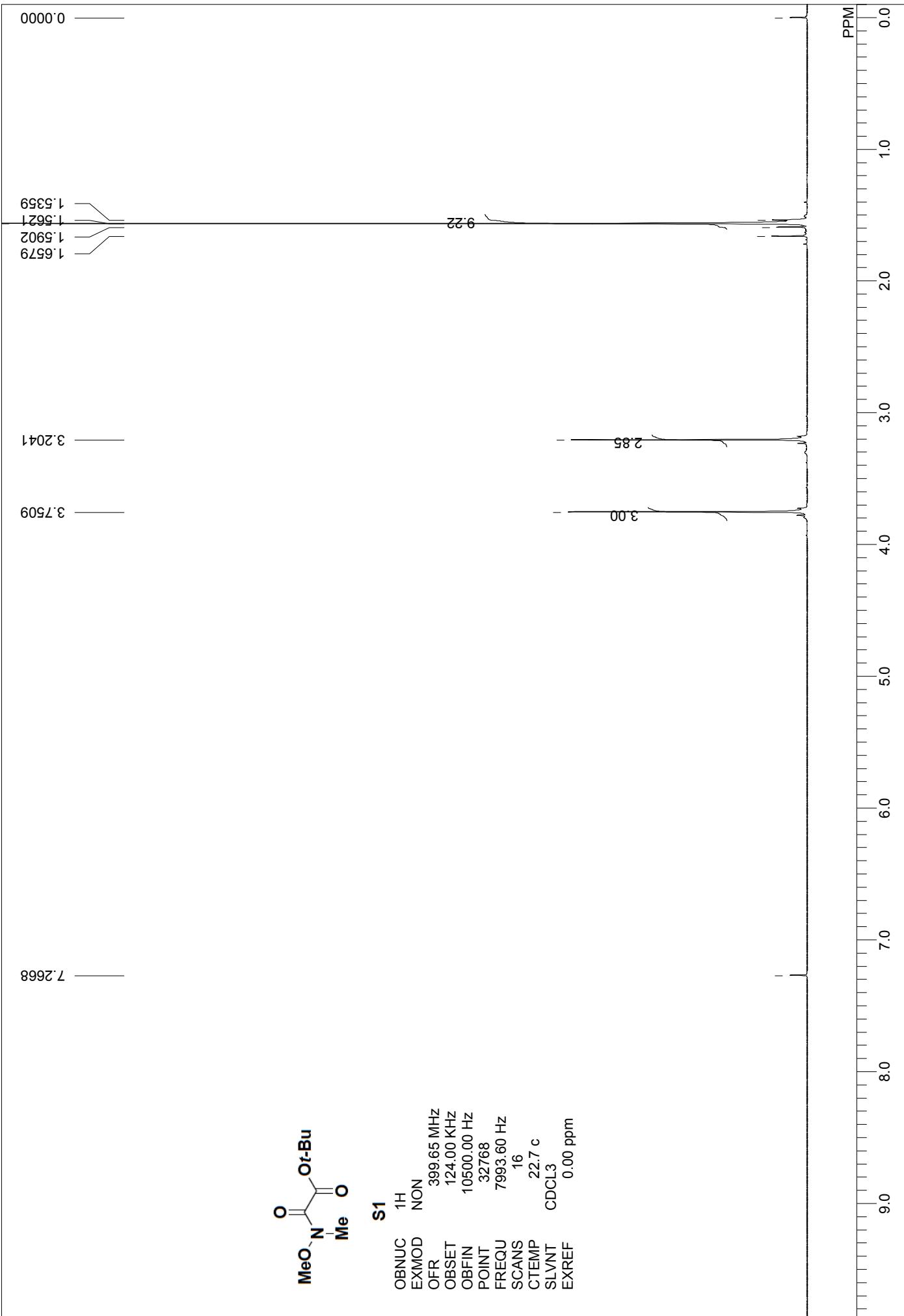


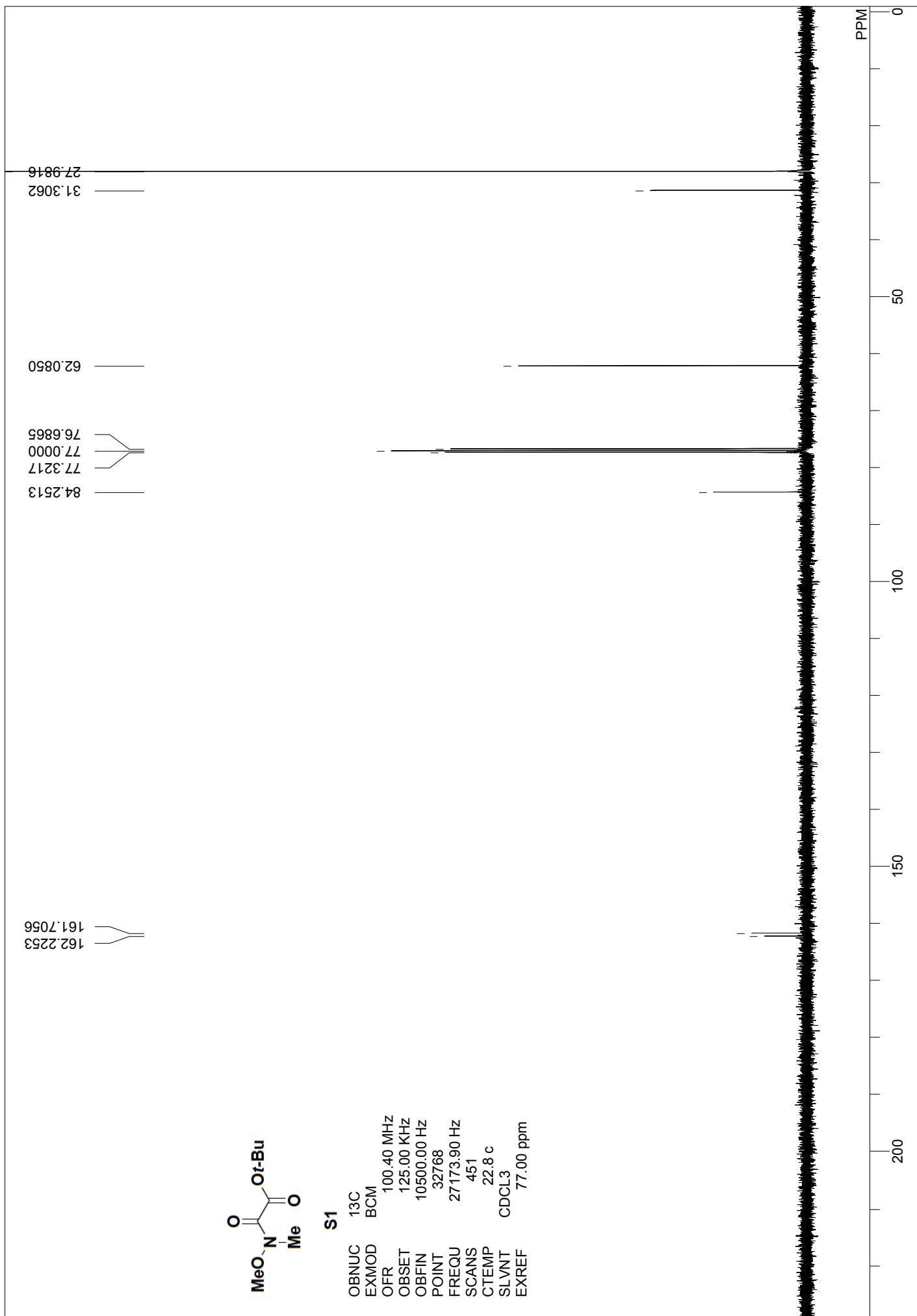
Figure 1. Molecular structure of **3a**. Only the major parts of the phenyl and benzyl groups were drawn. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30 % probability level.

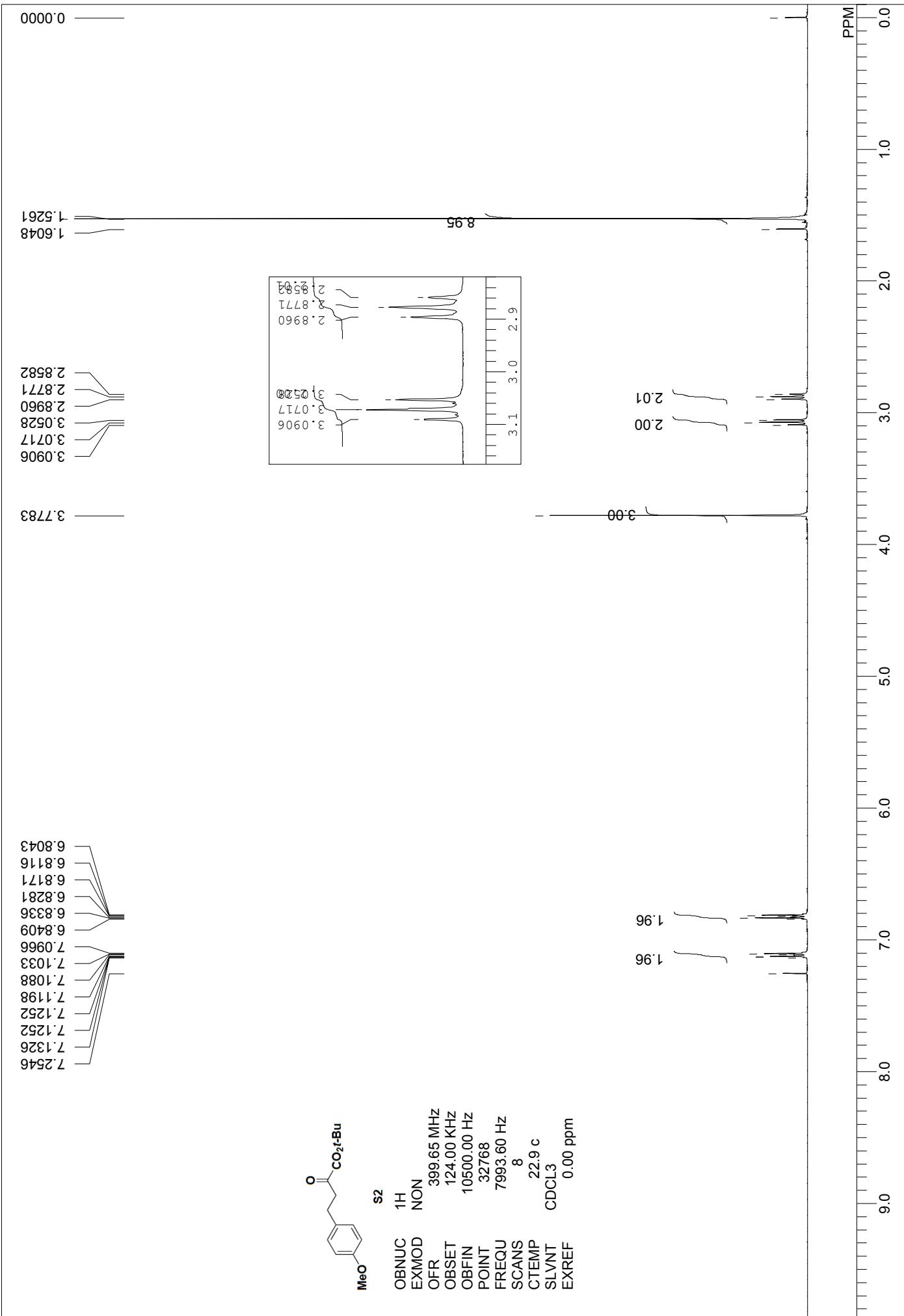
(J) NMR spectra

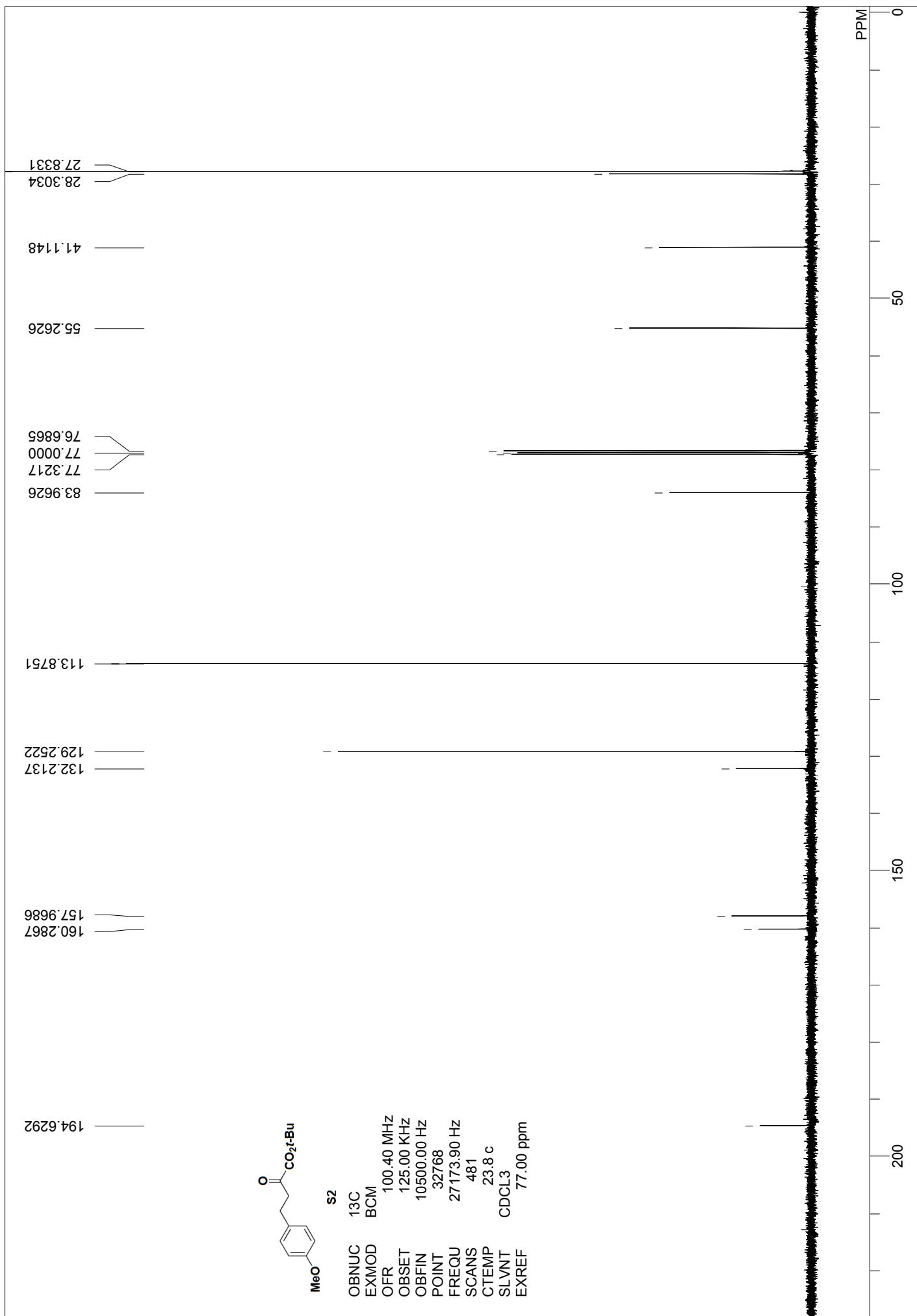


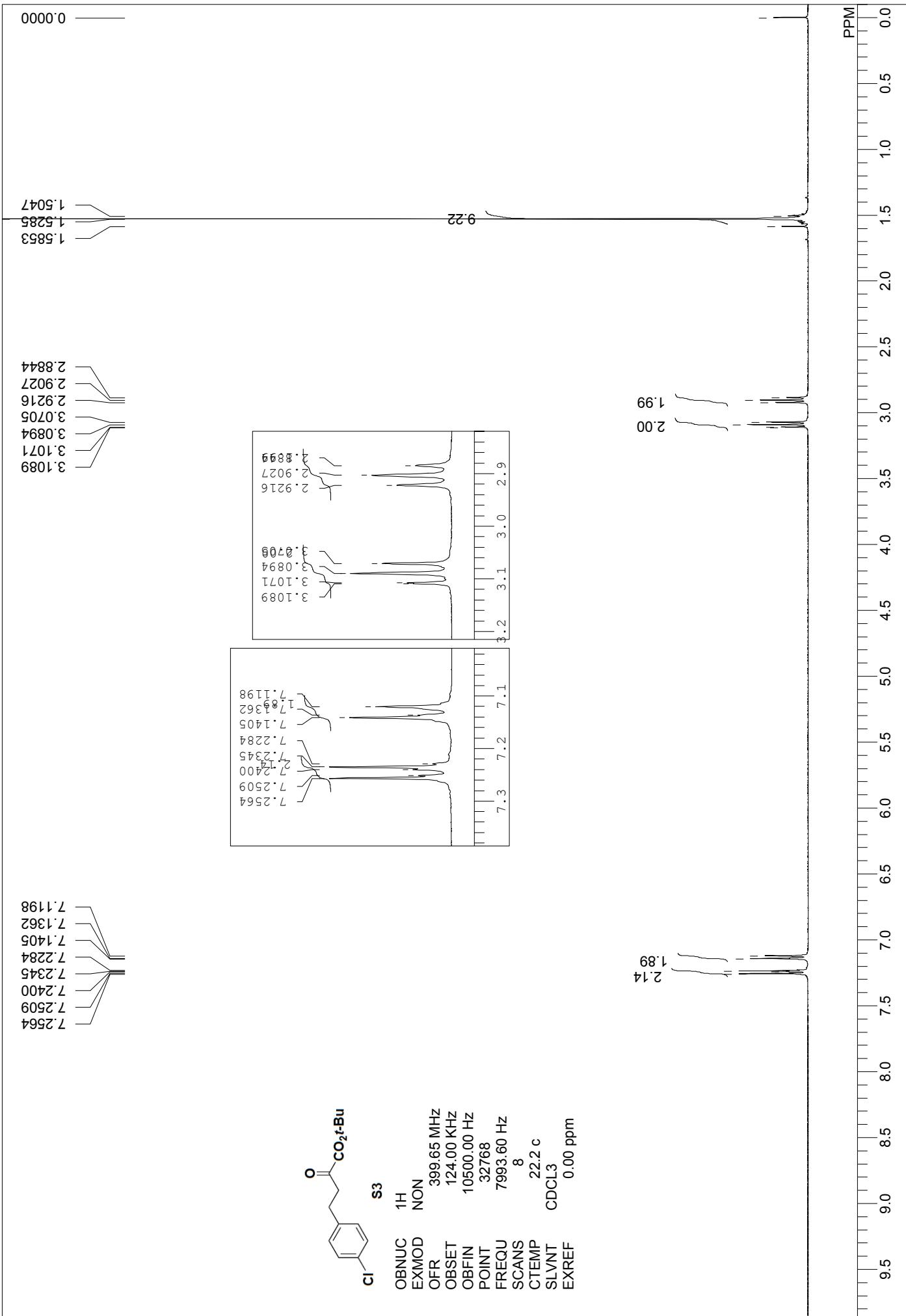


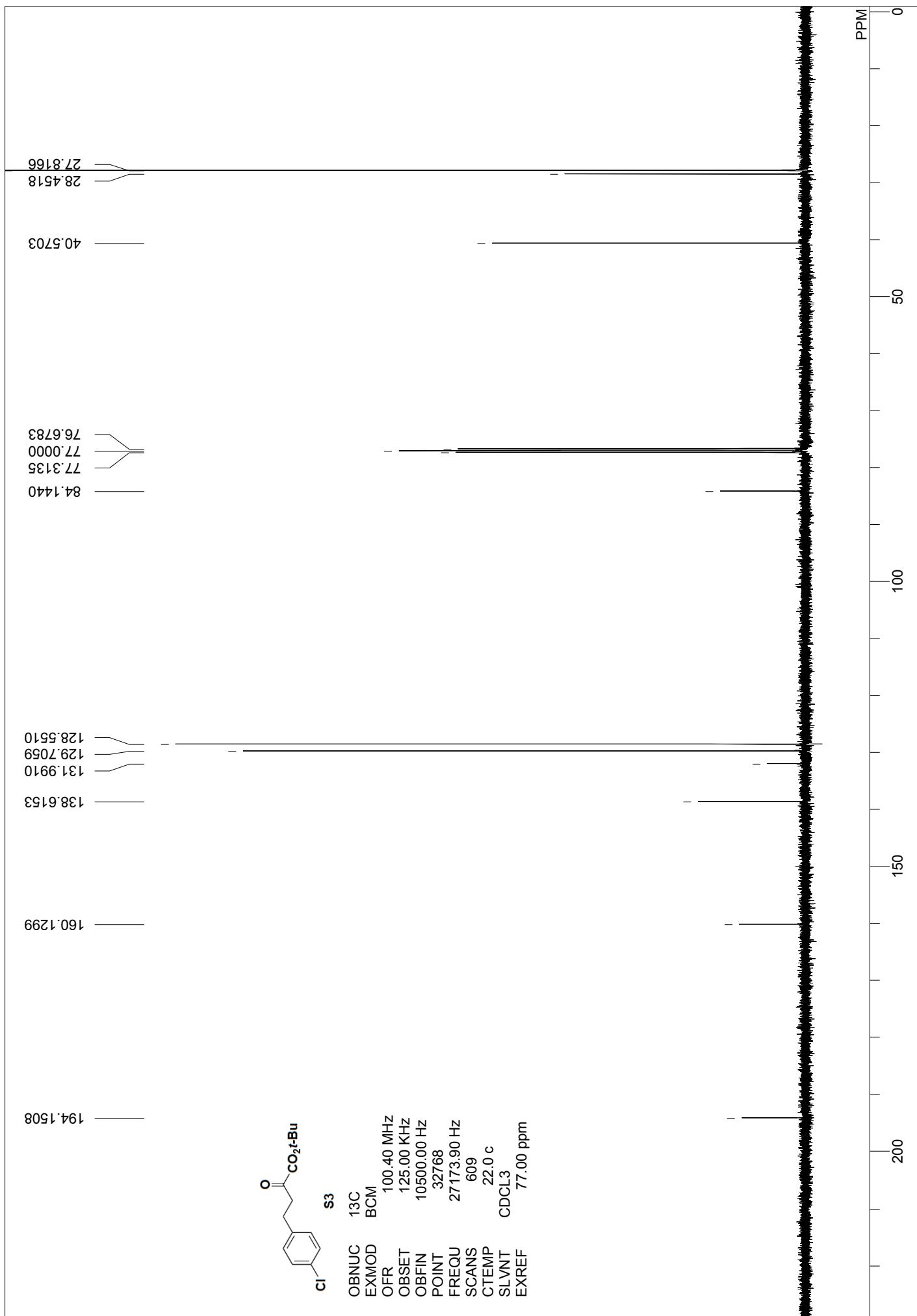


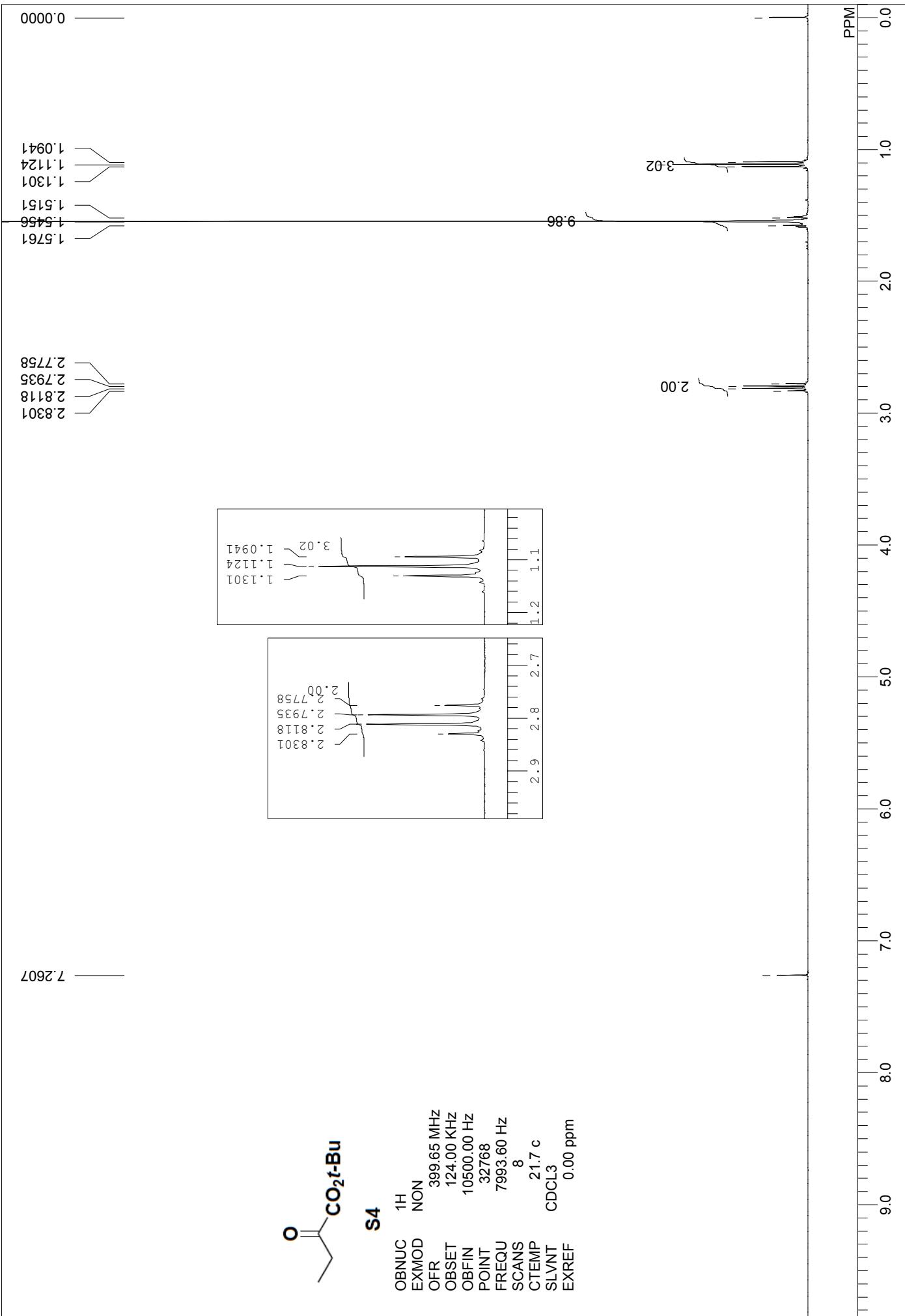












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160.6332

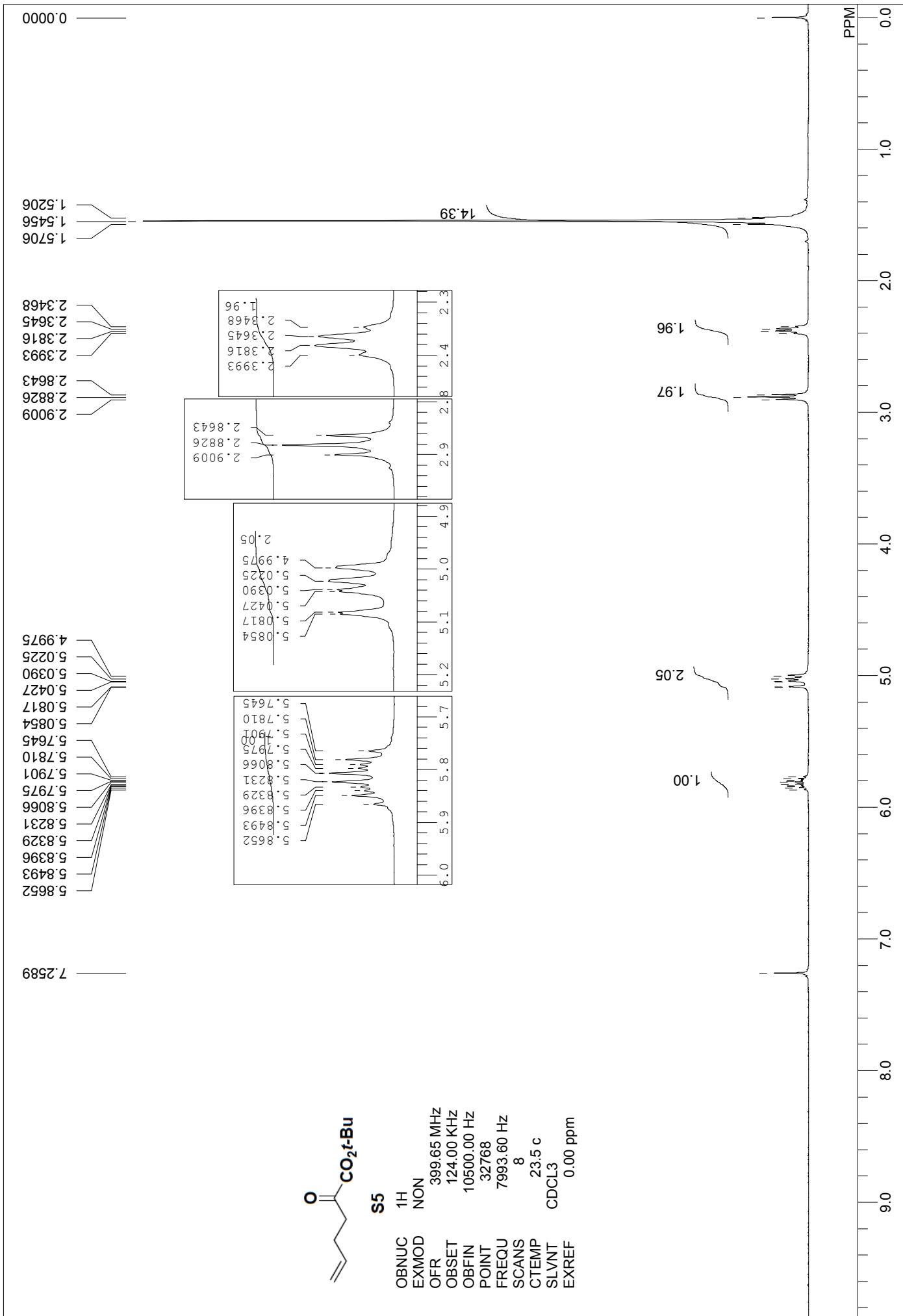
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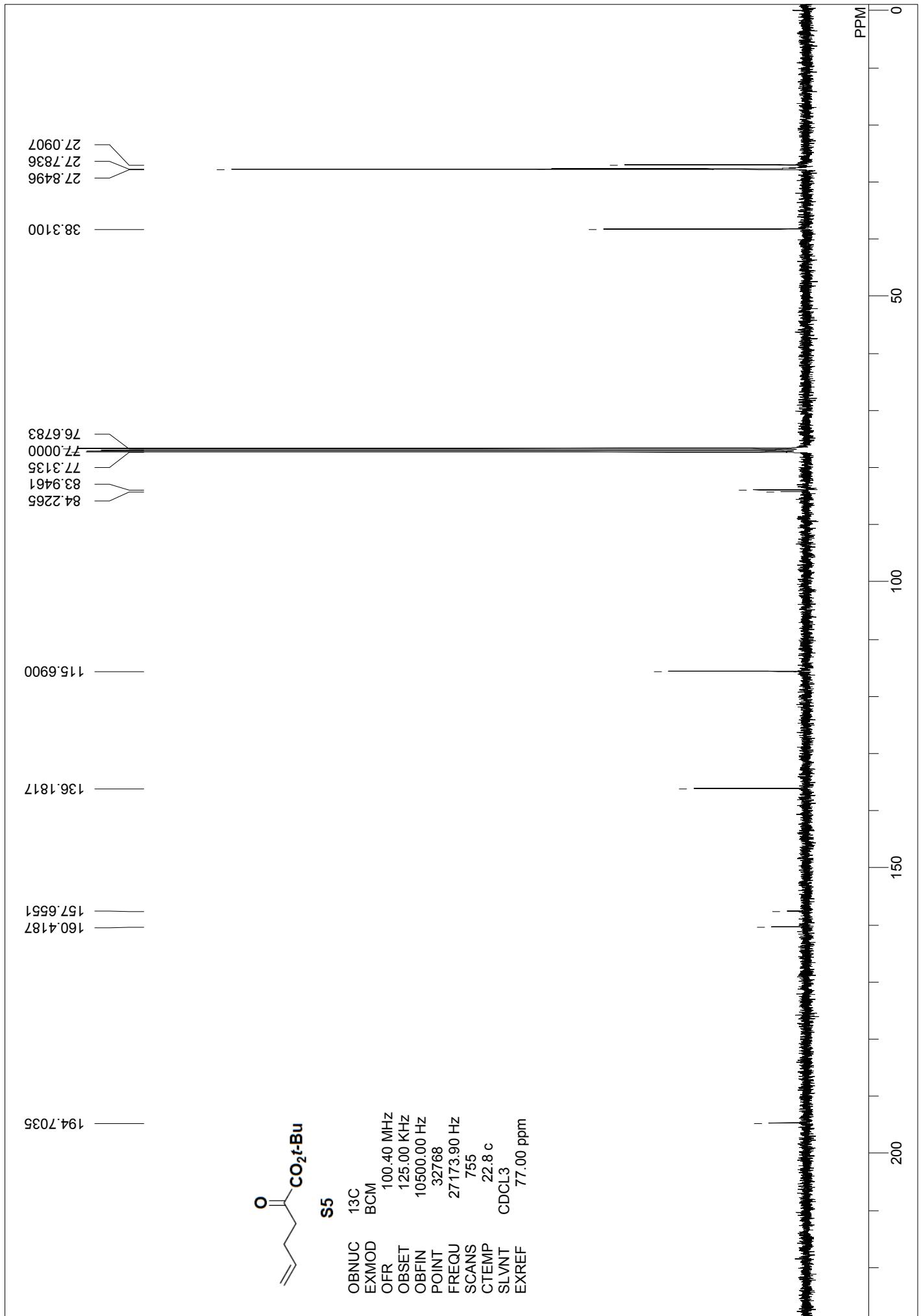
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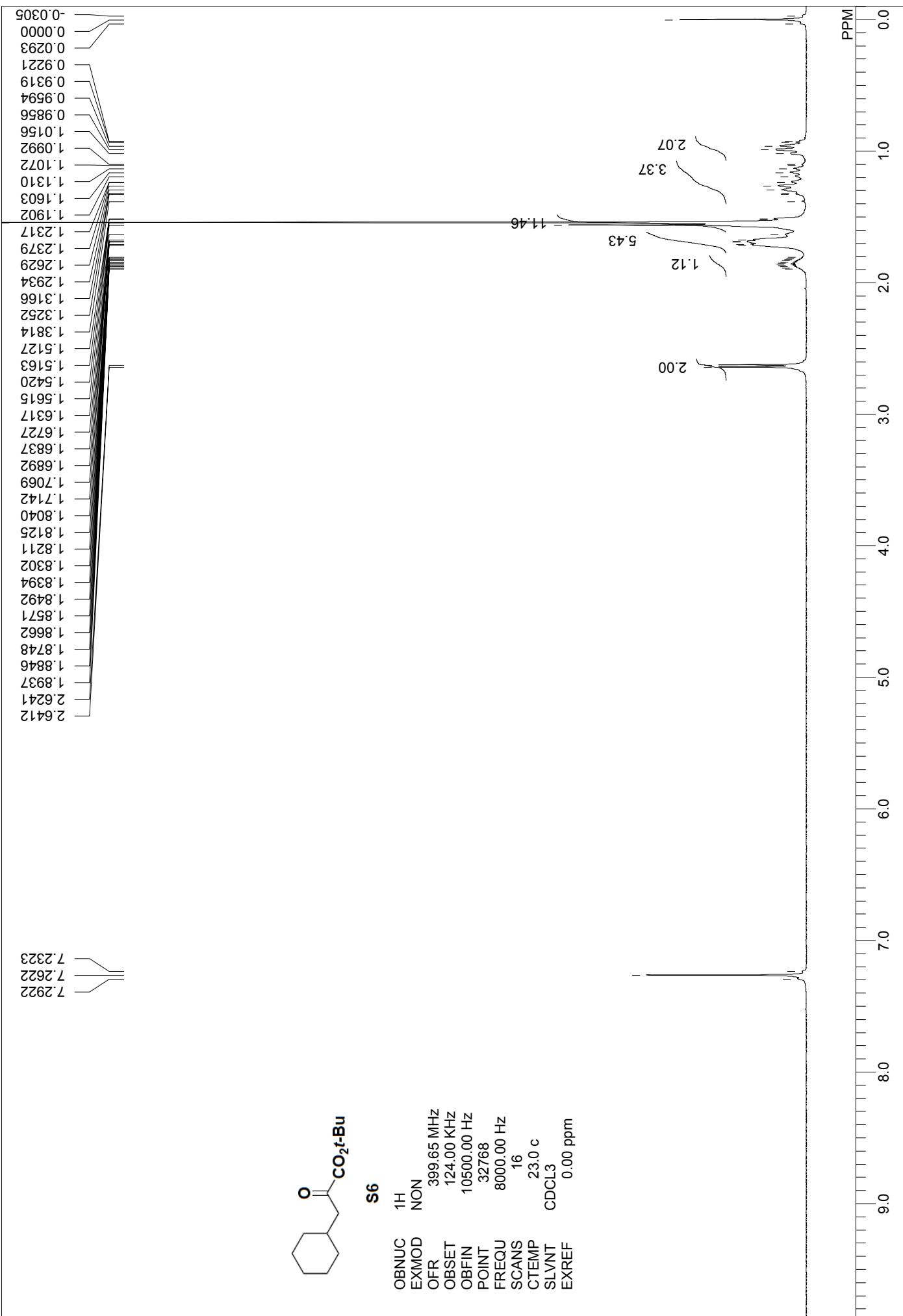
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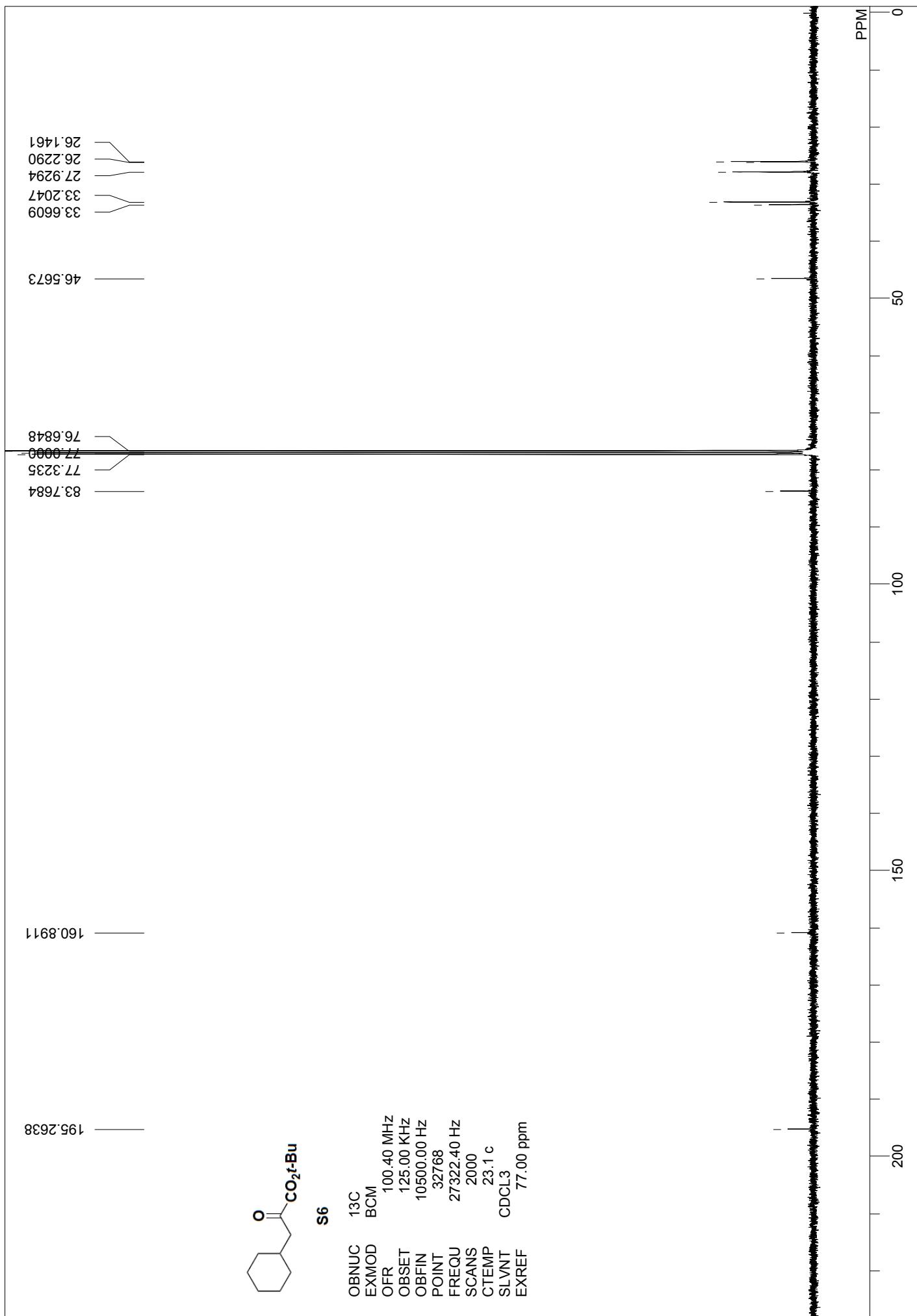
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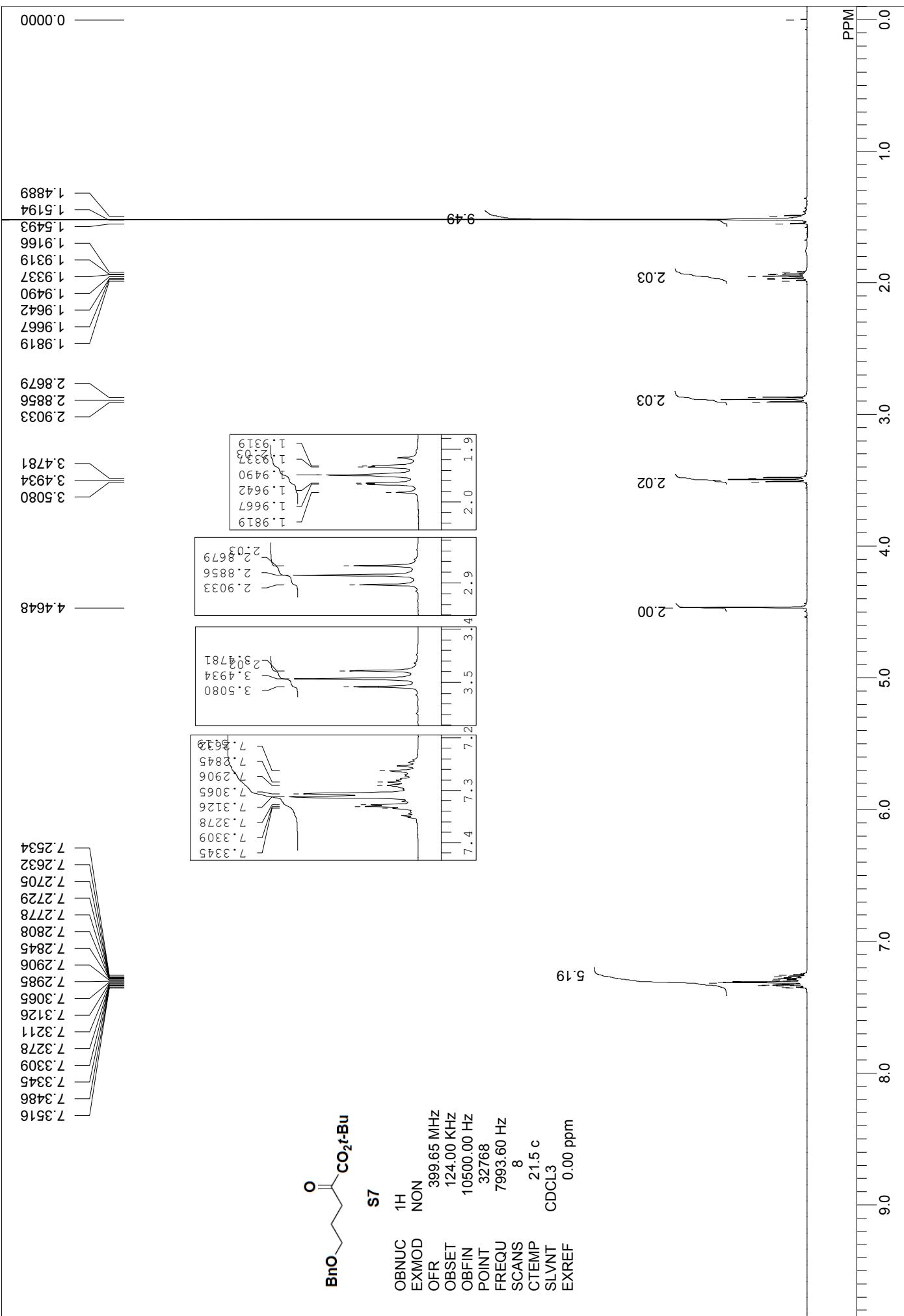
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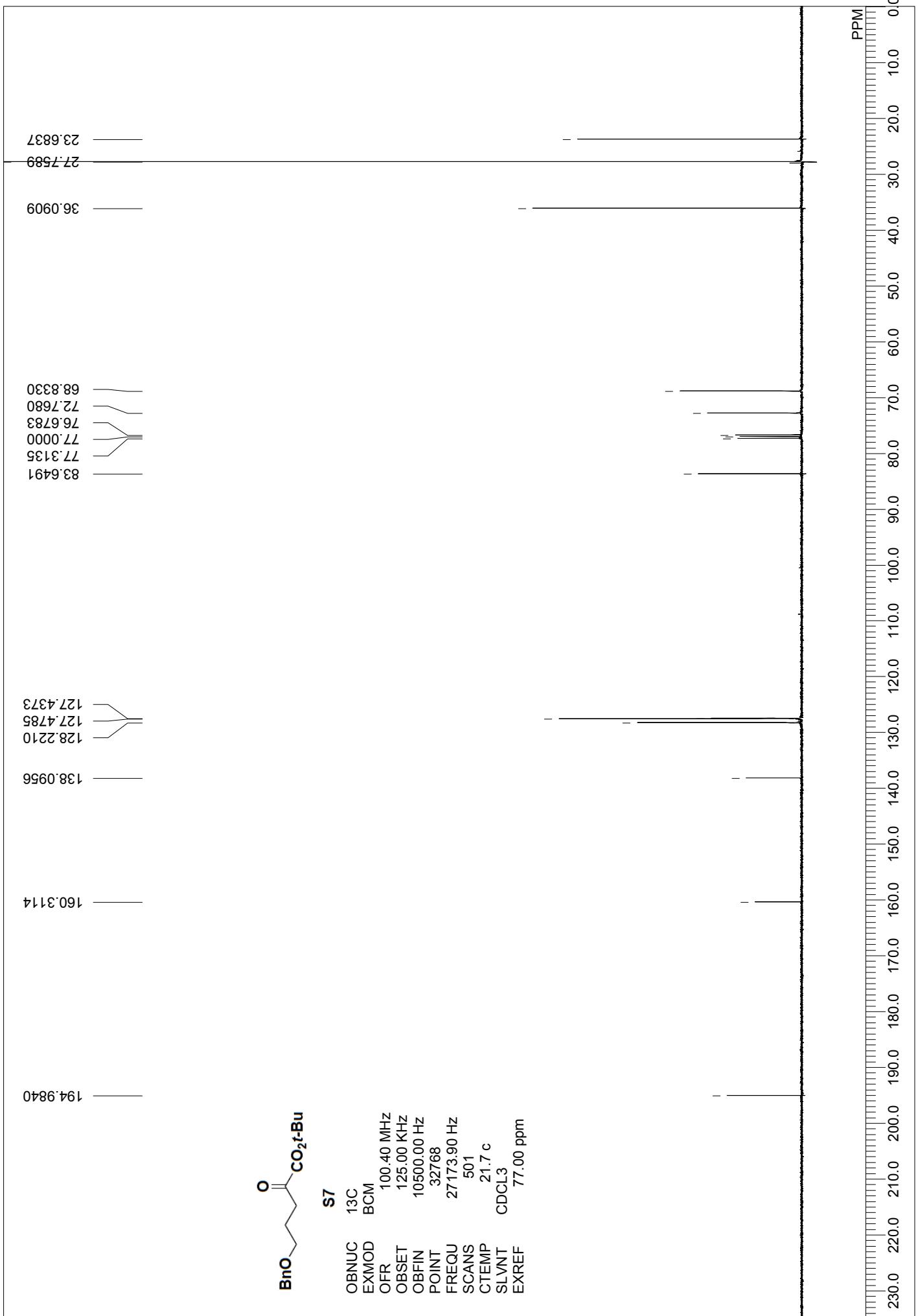


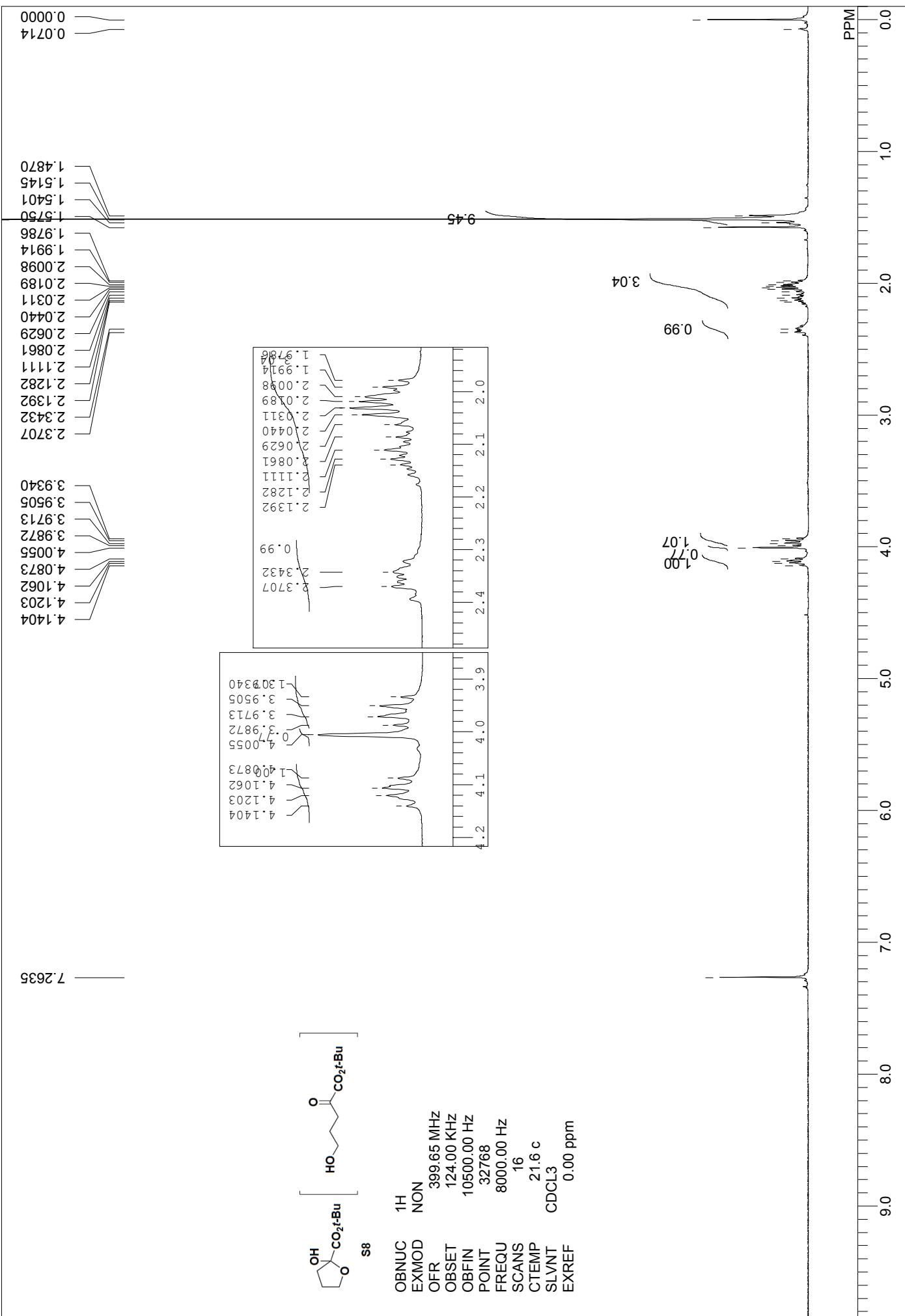


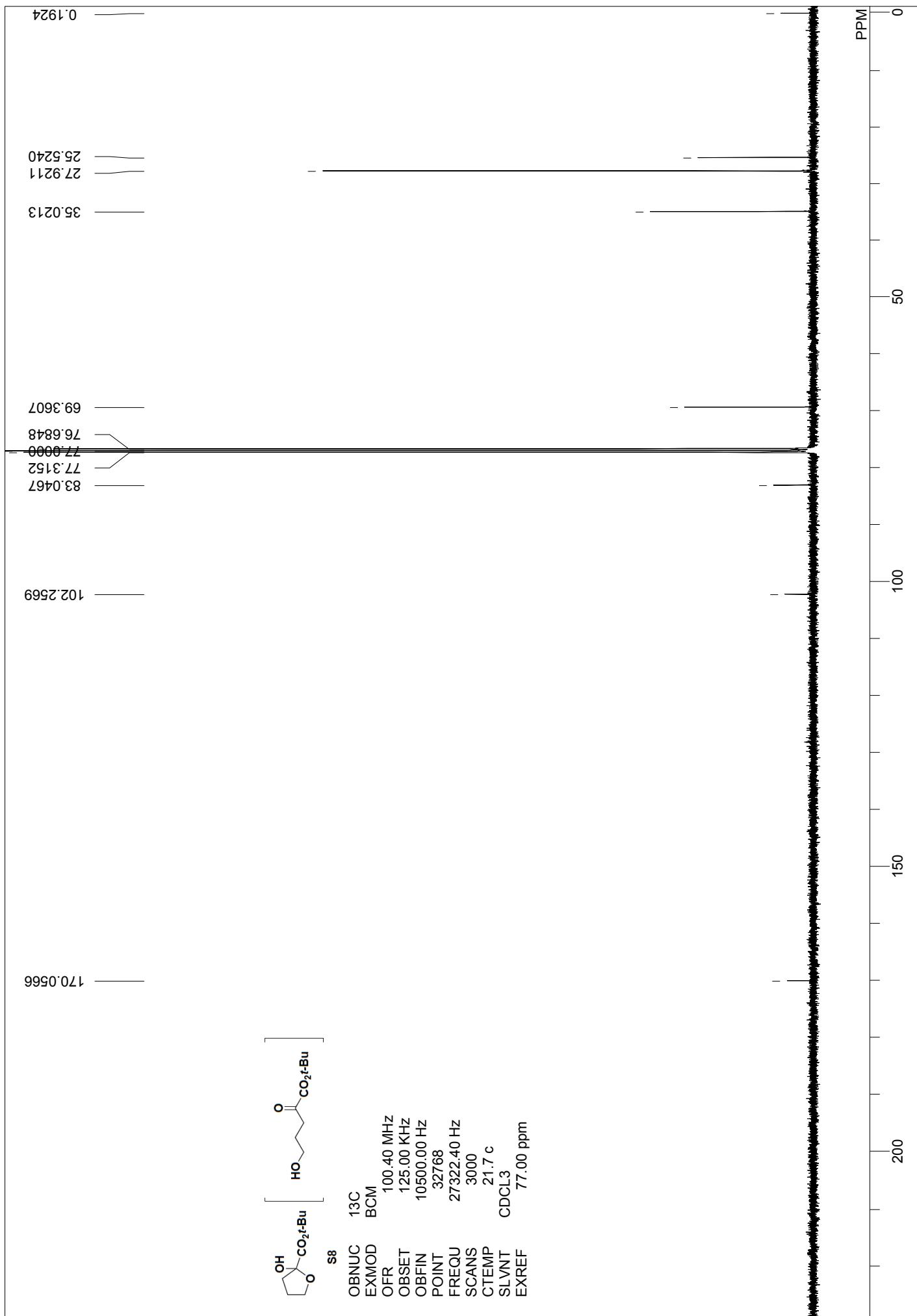


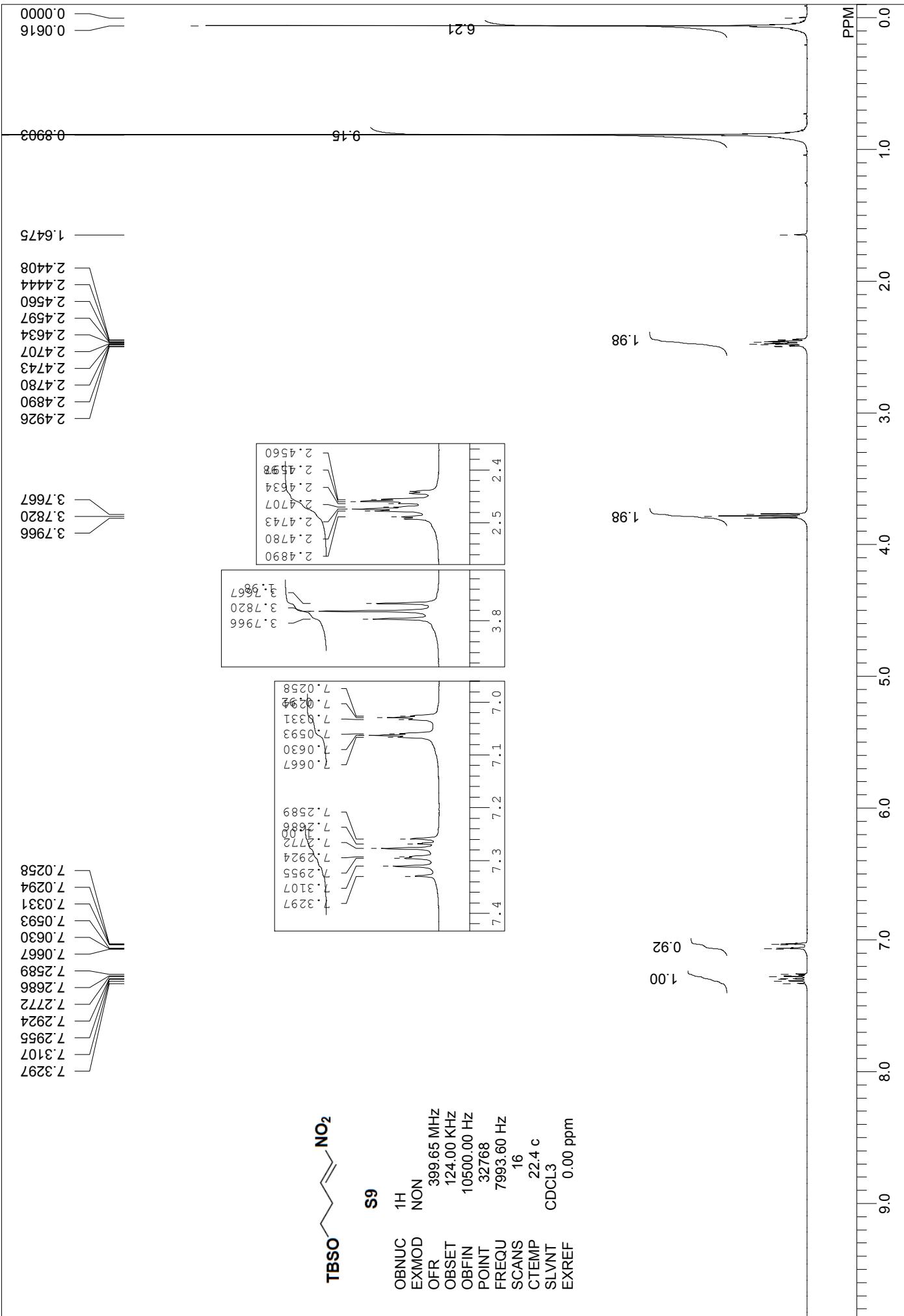


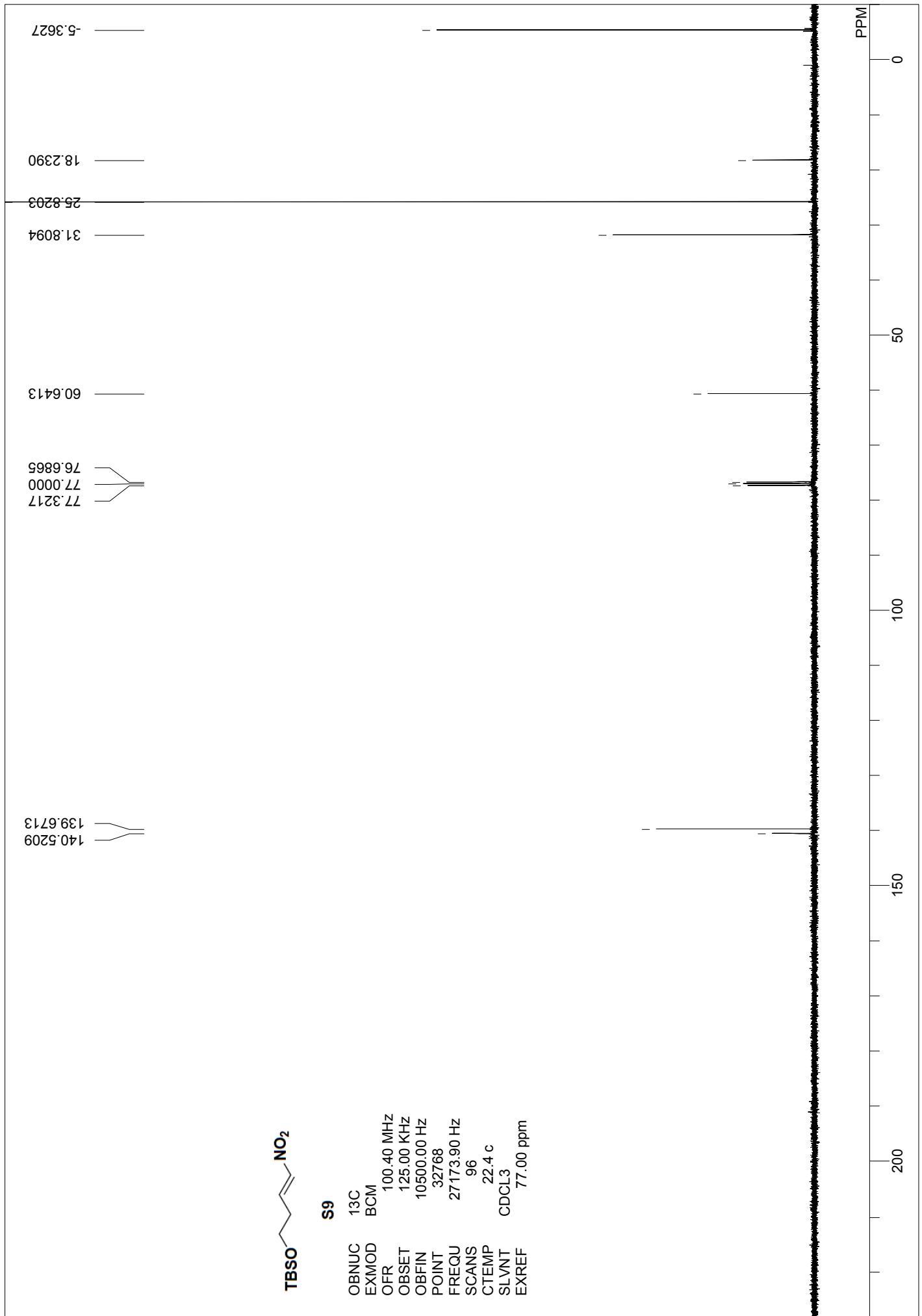


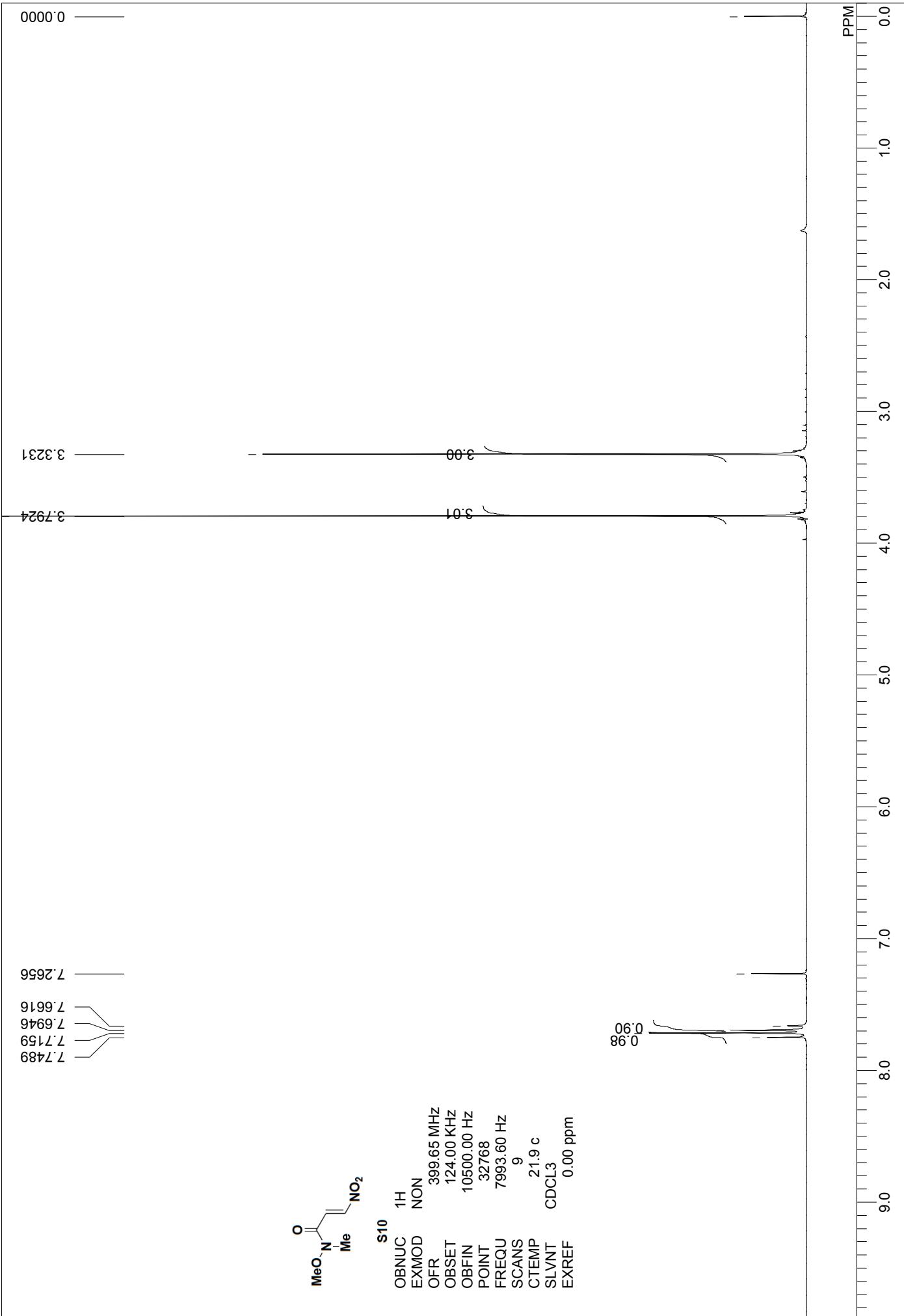


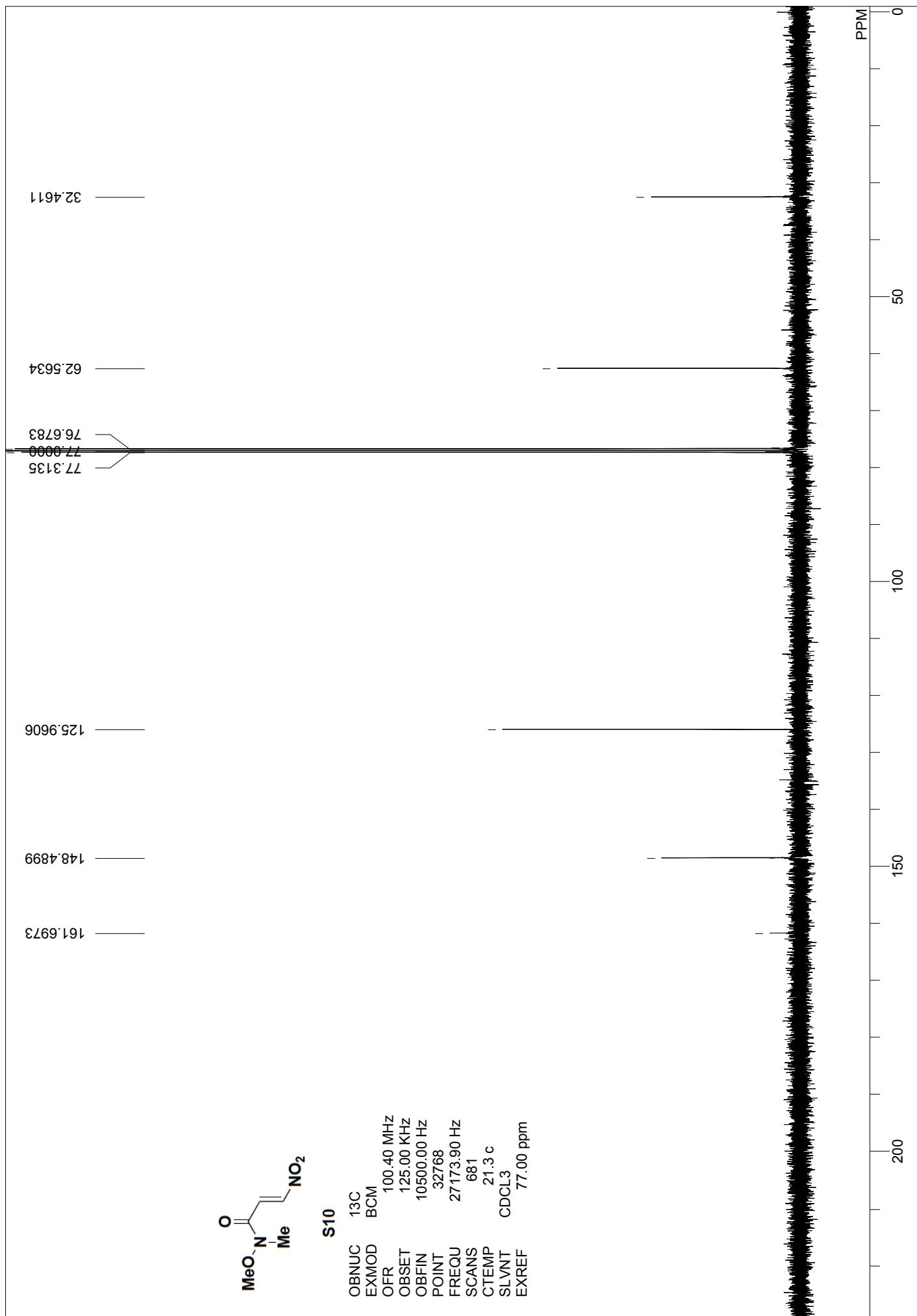


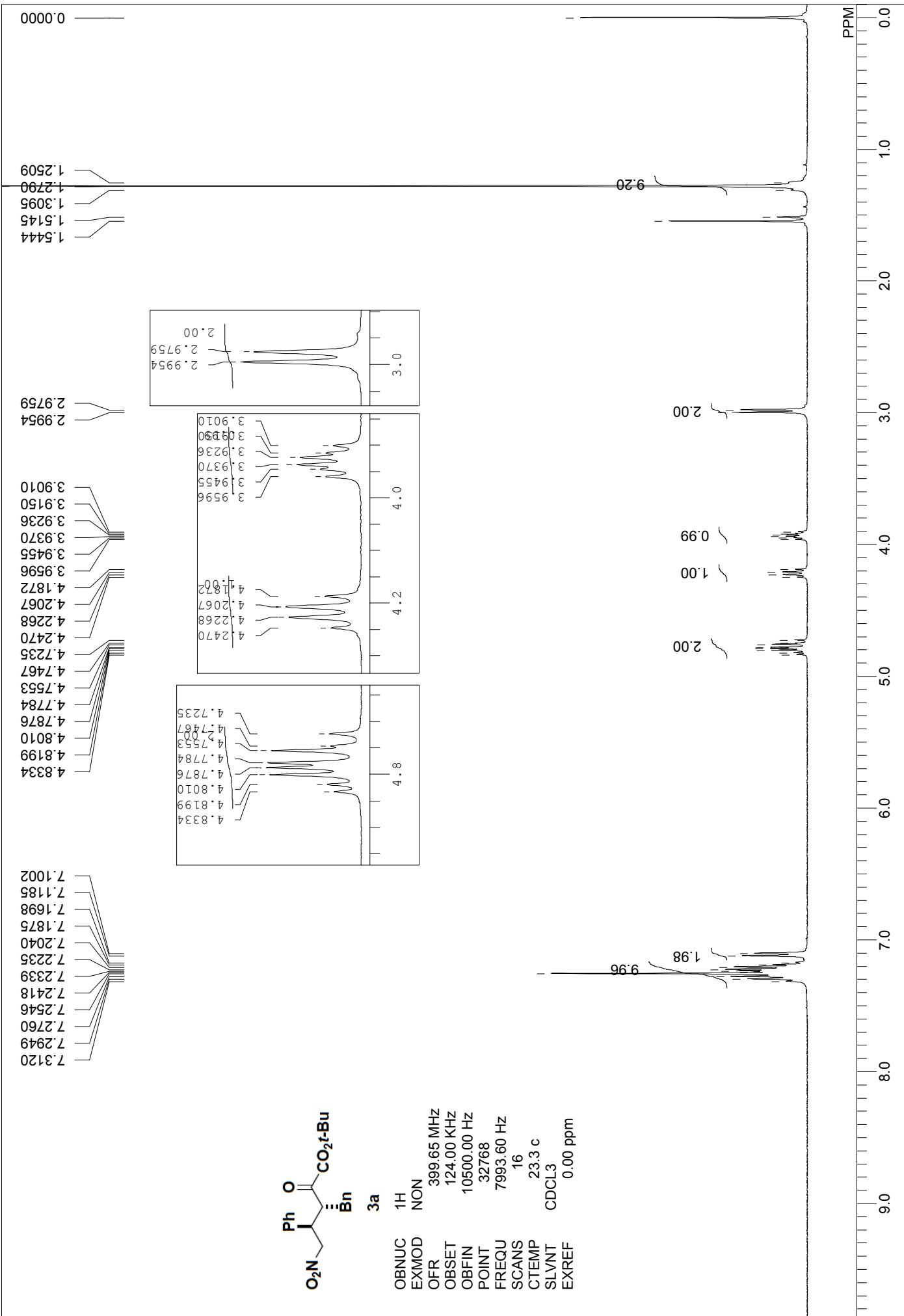


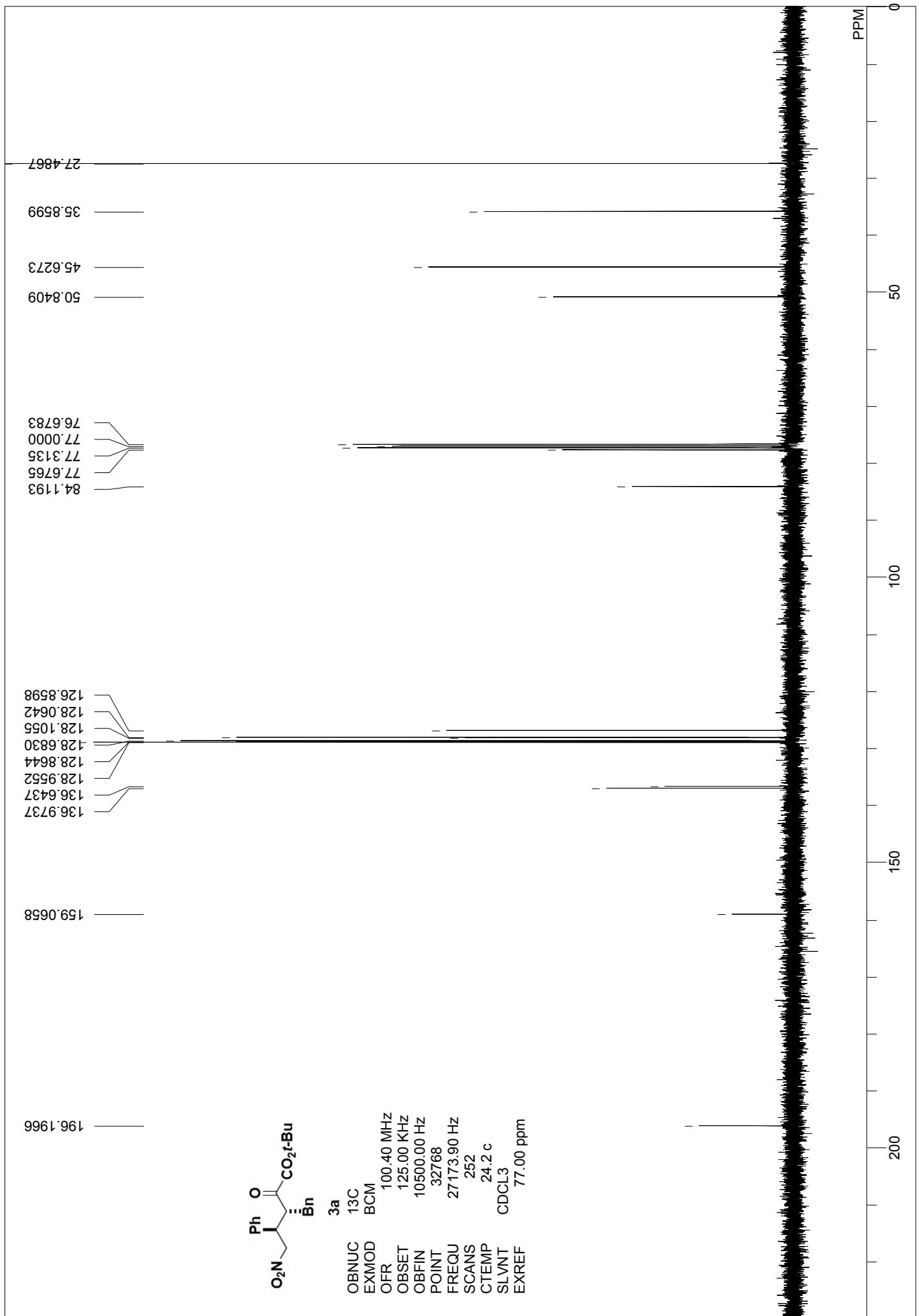


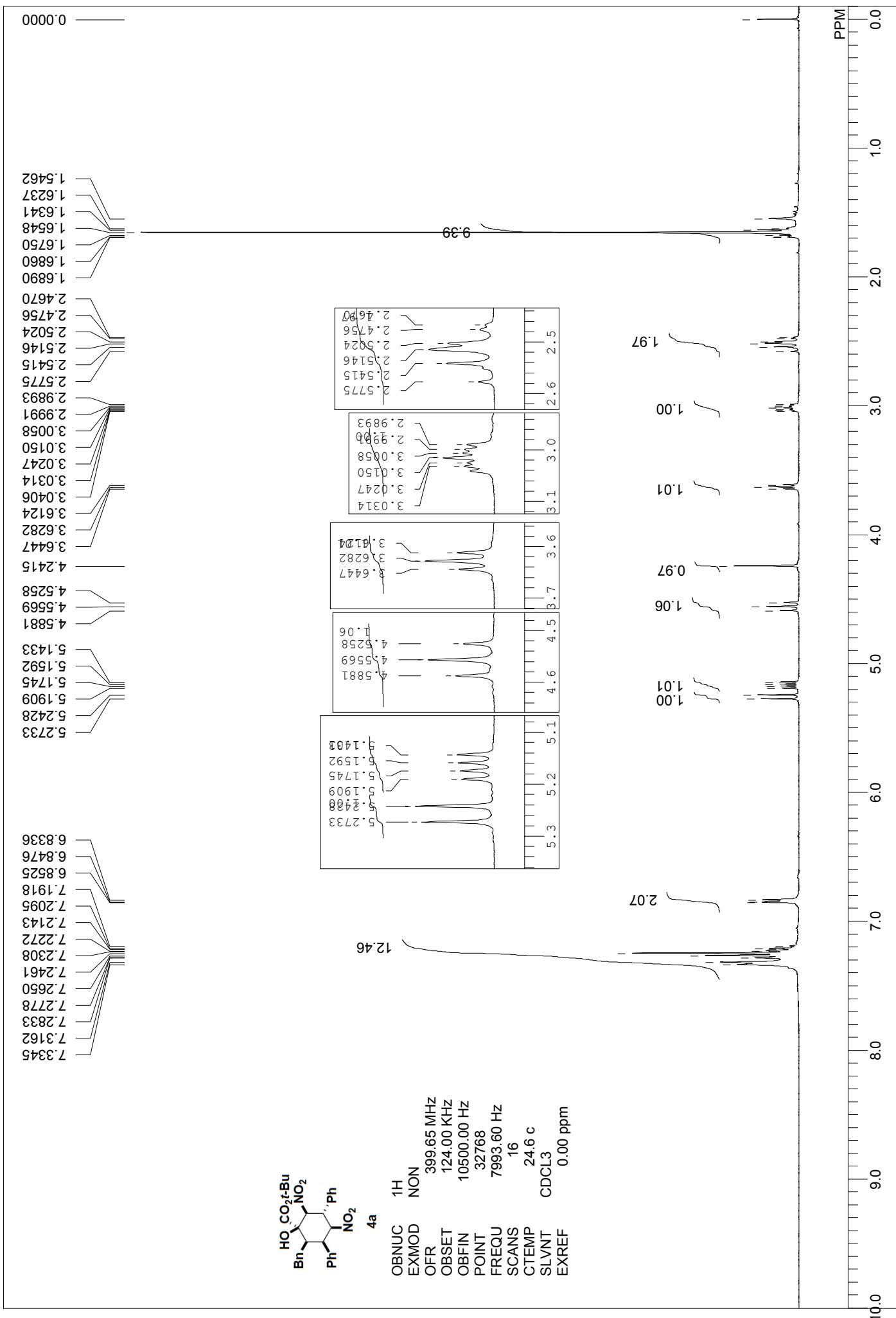


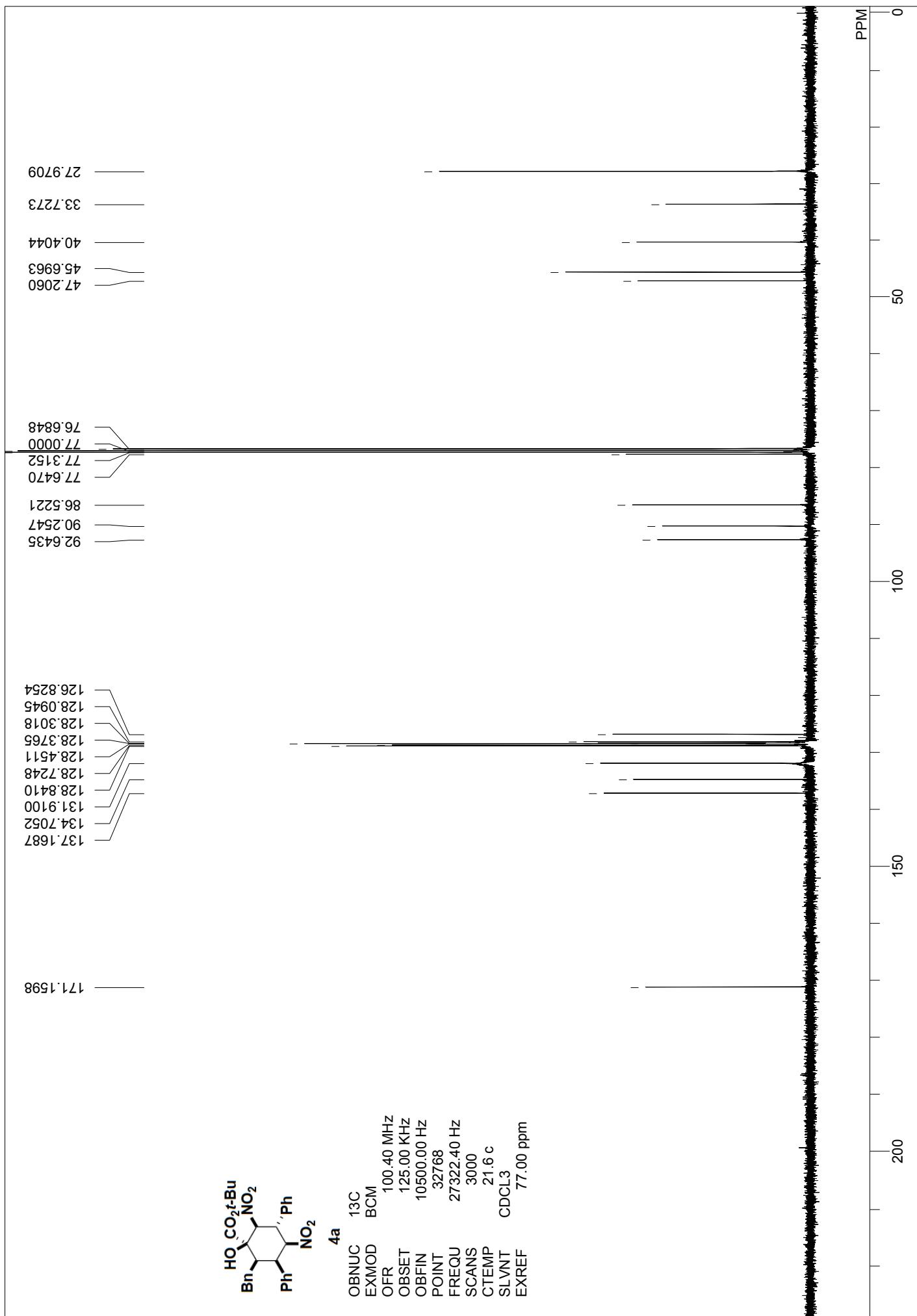


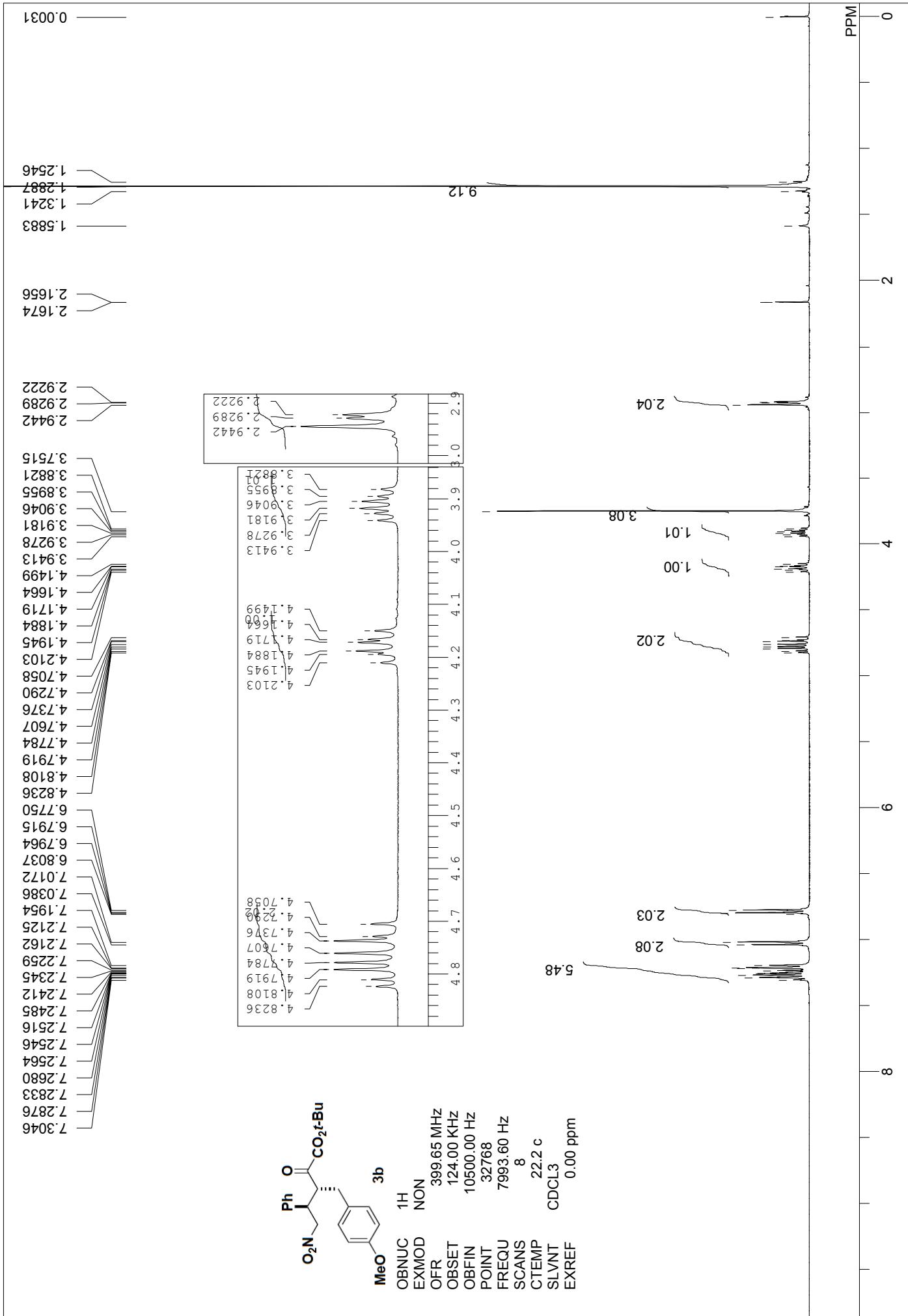


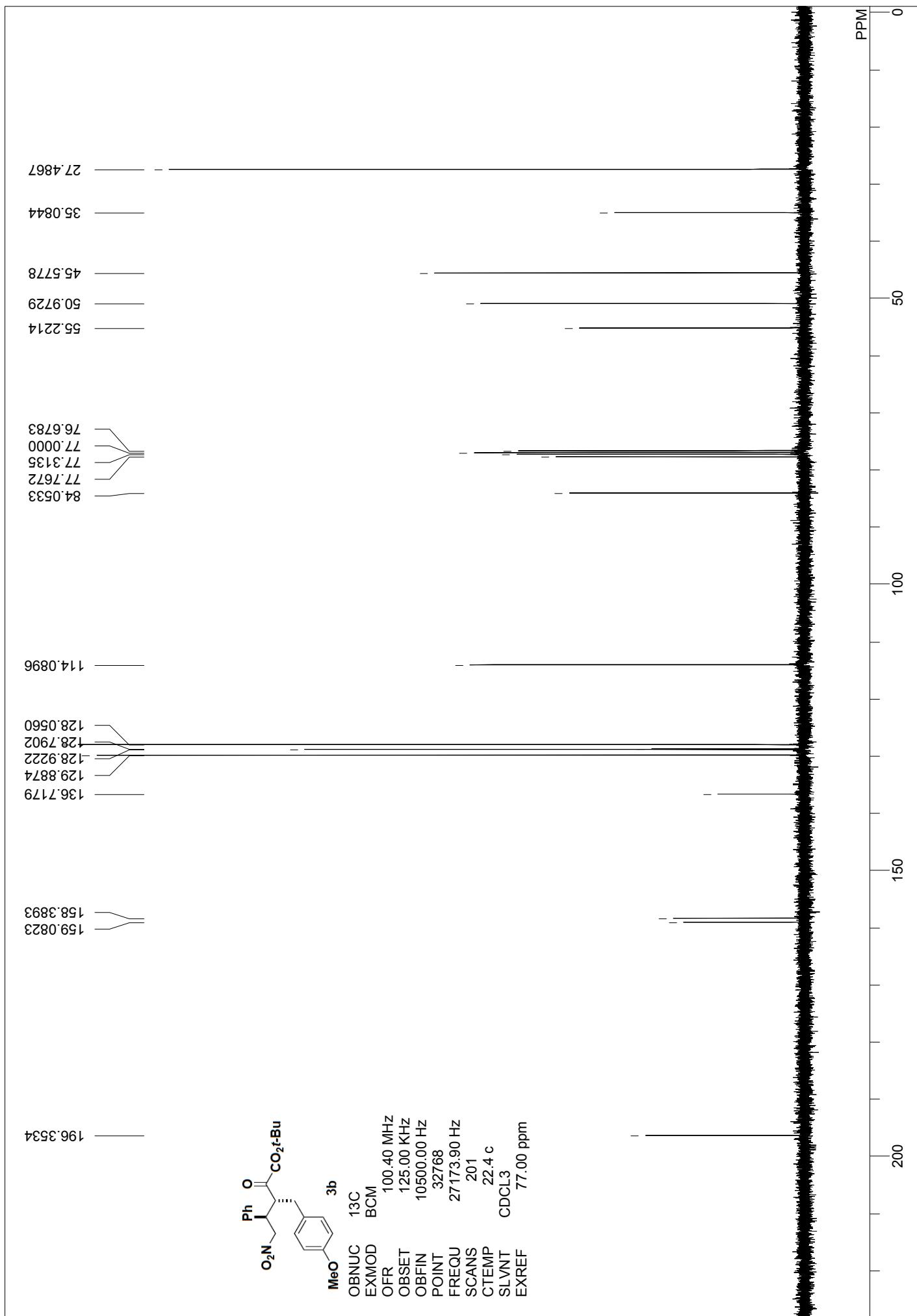


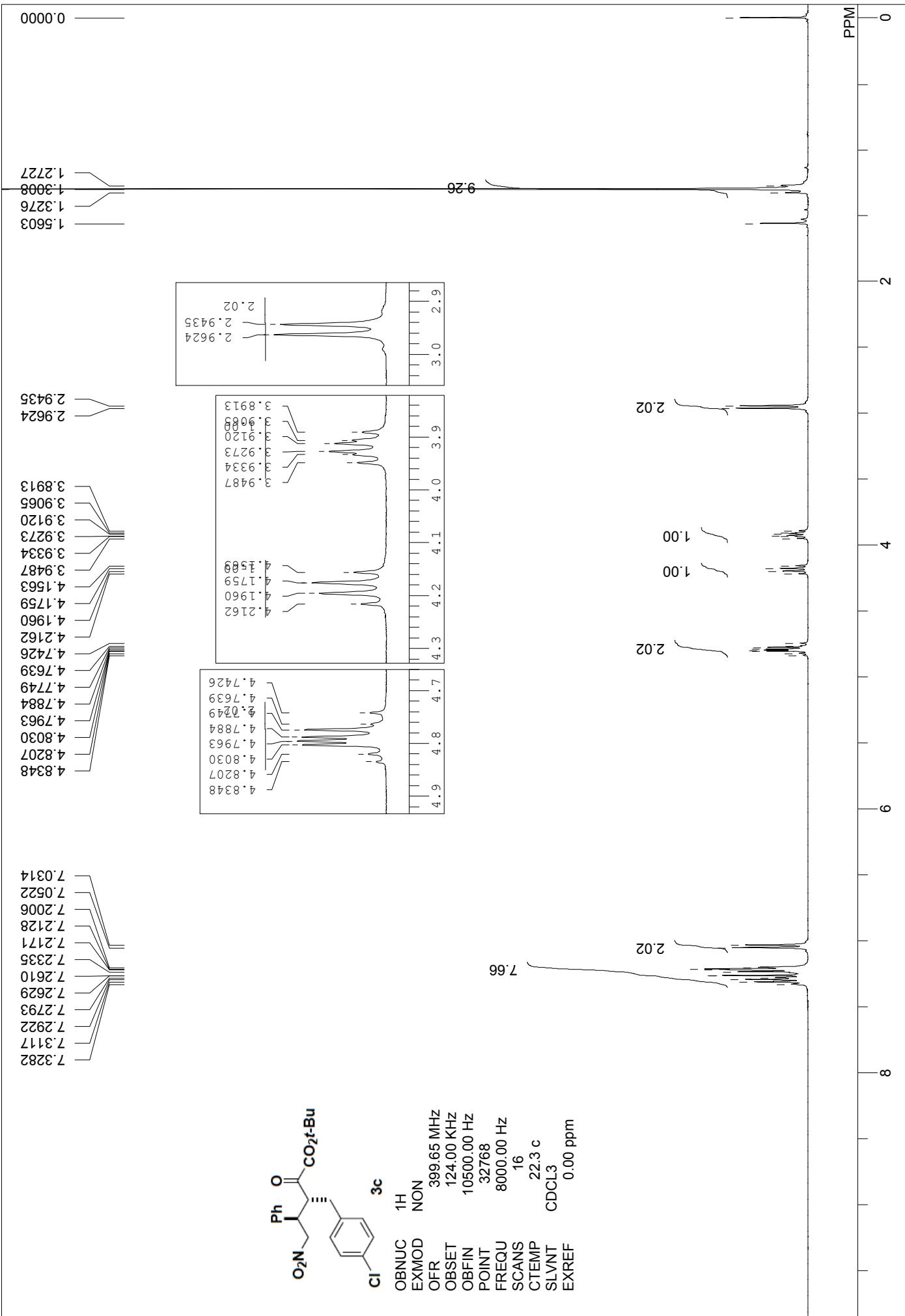


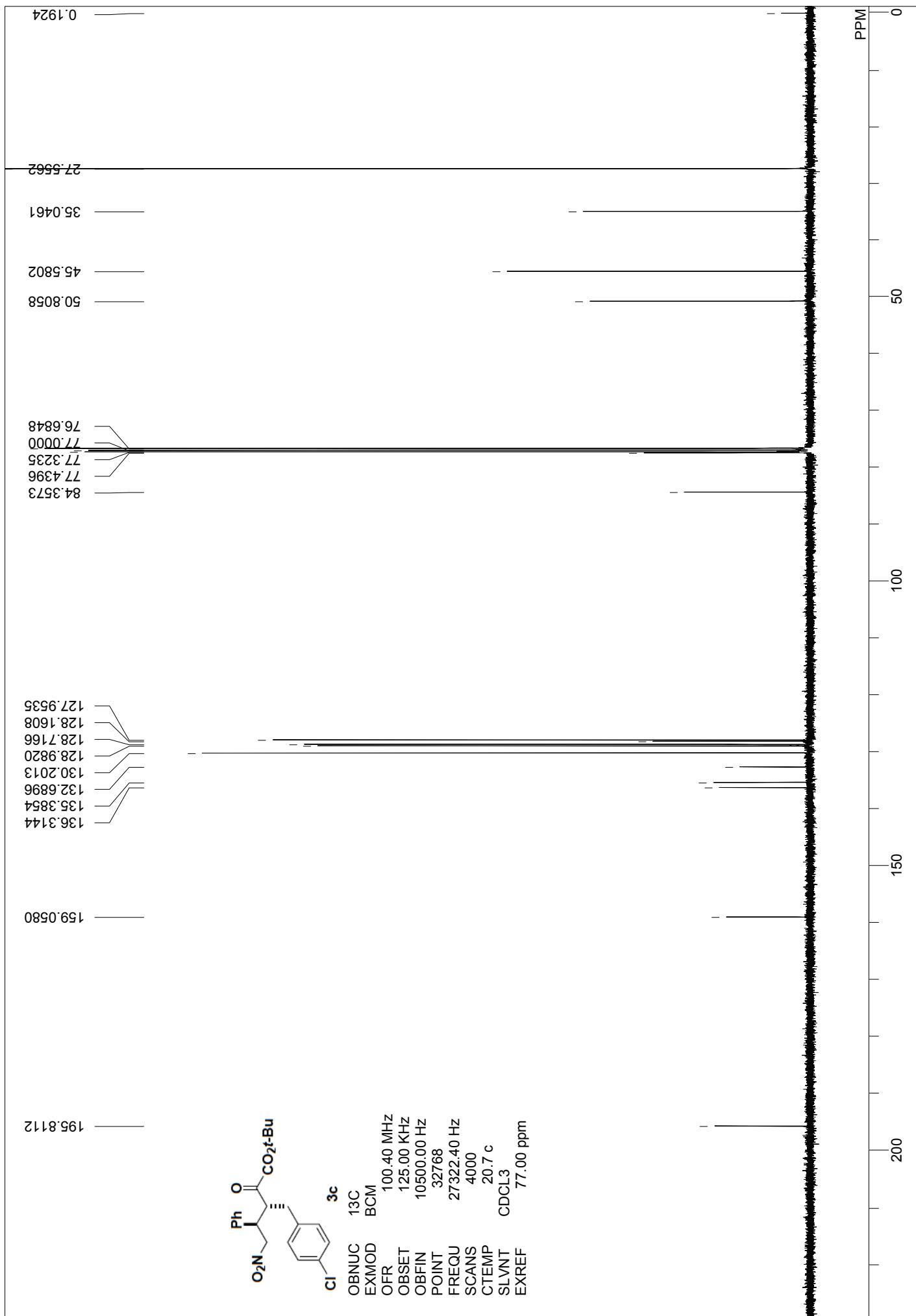


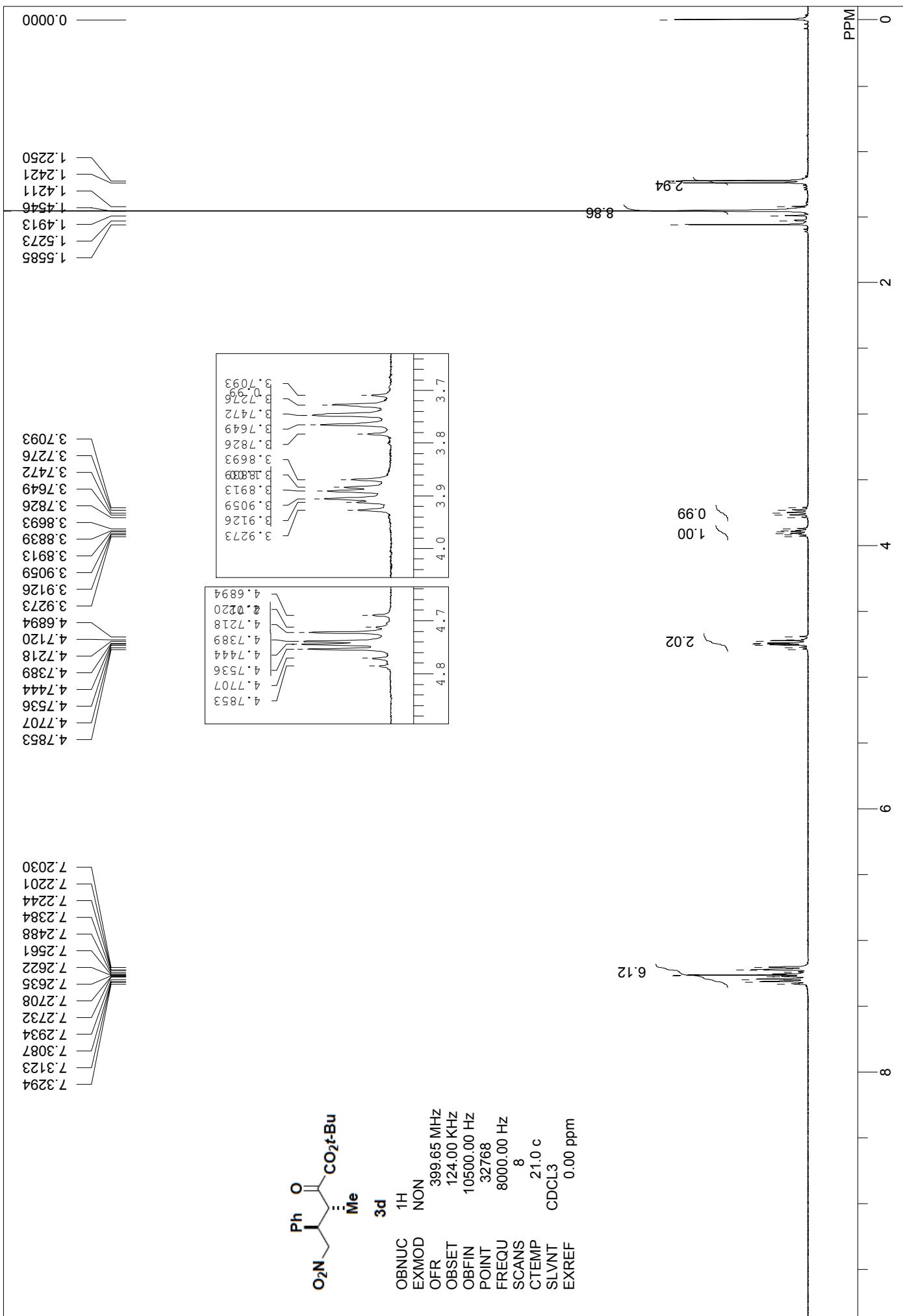


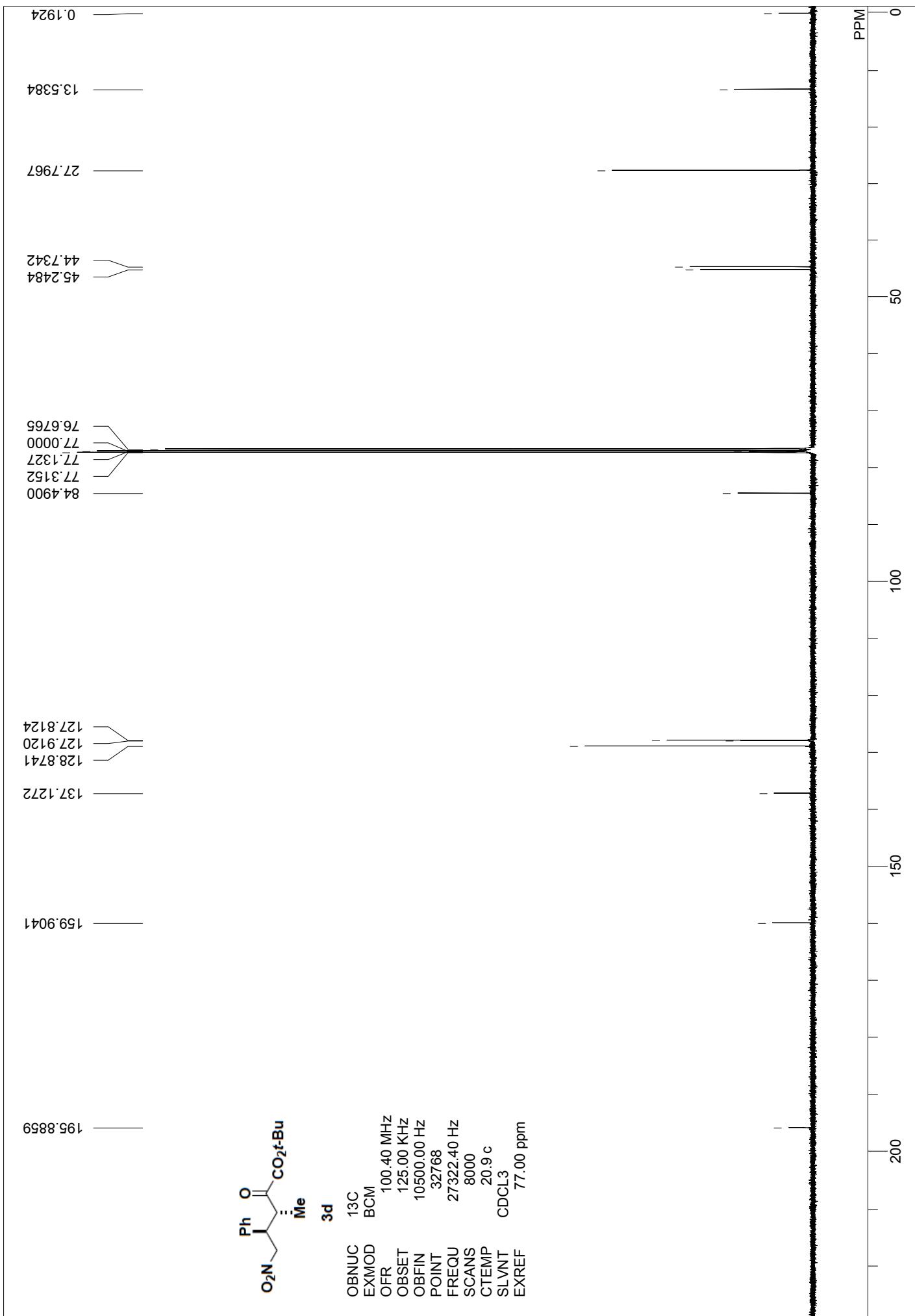


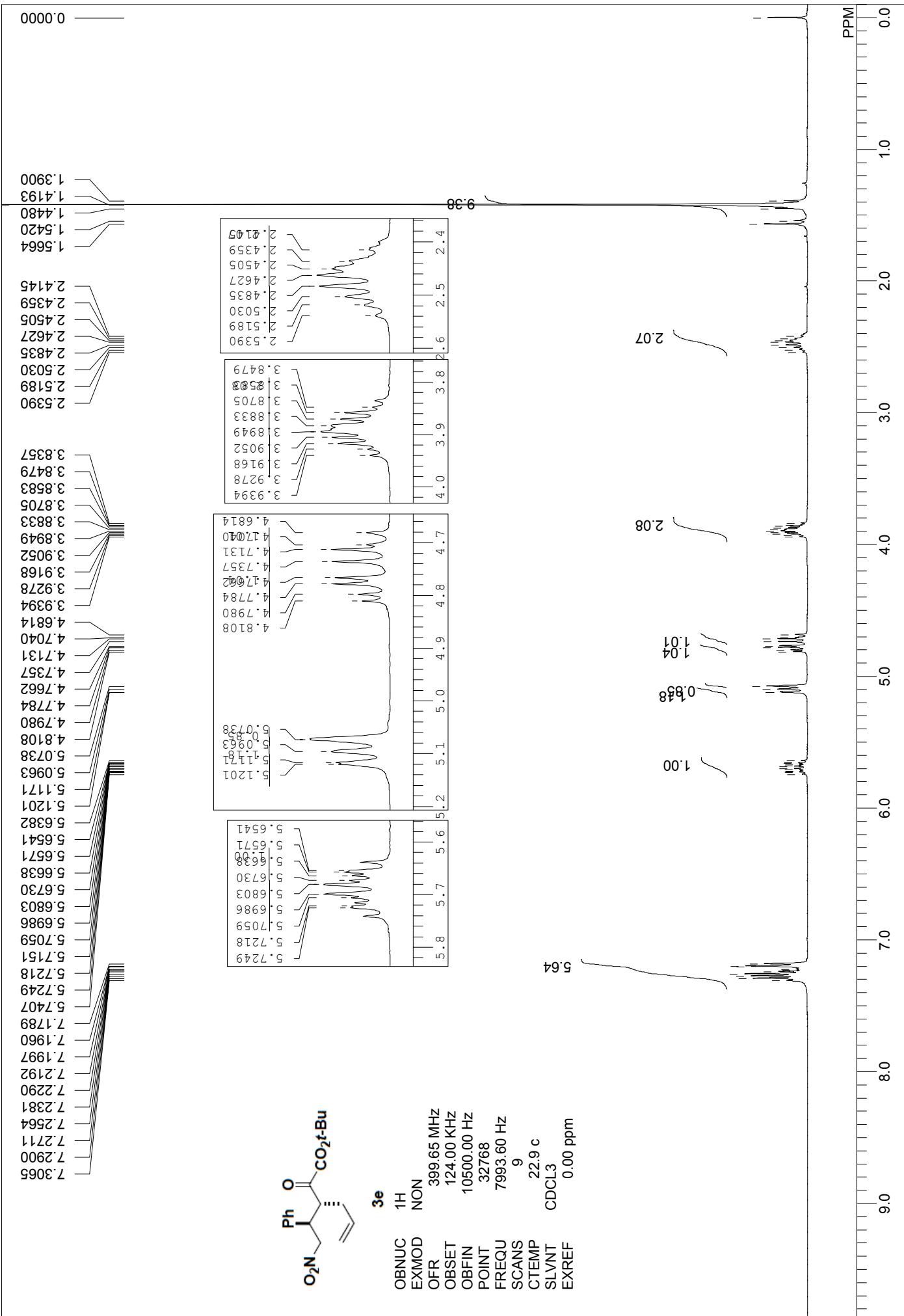


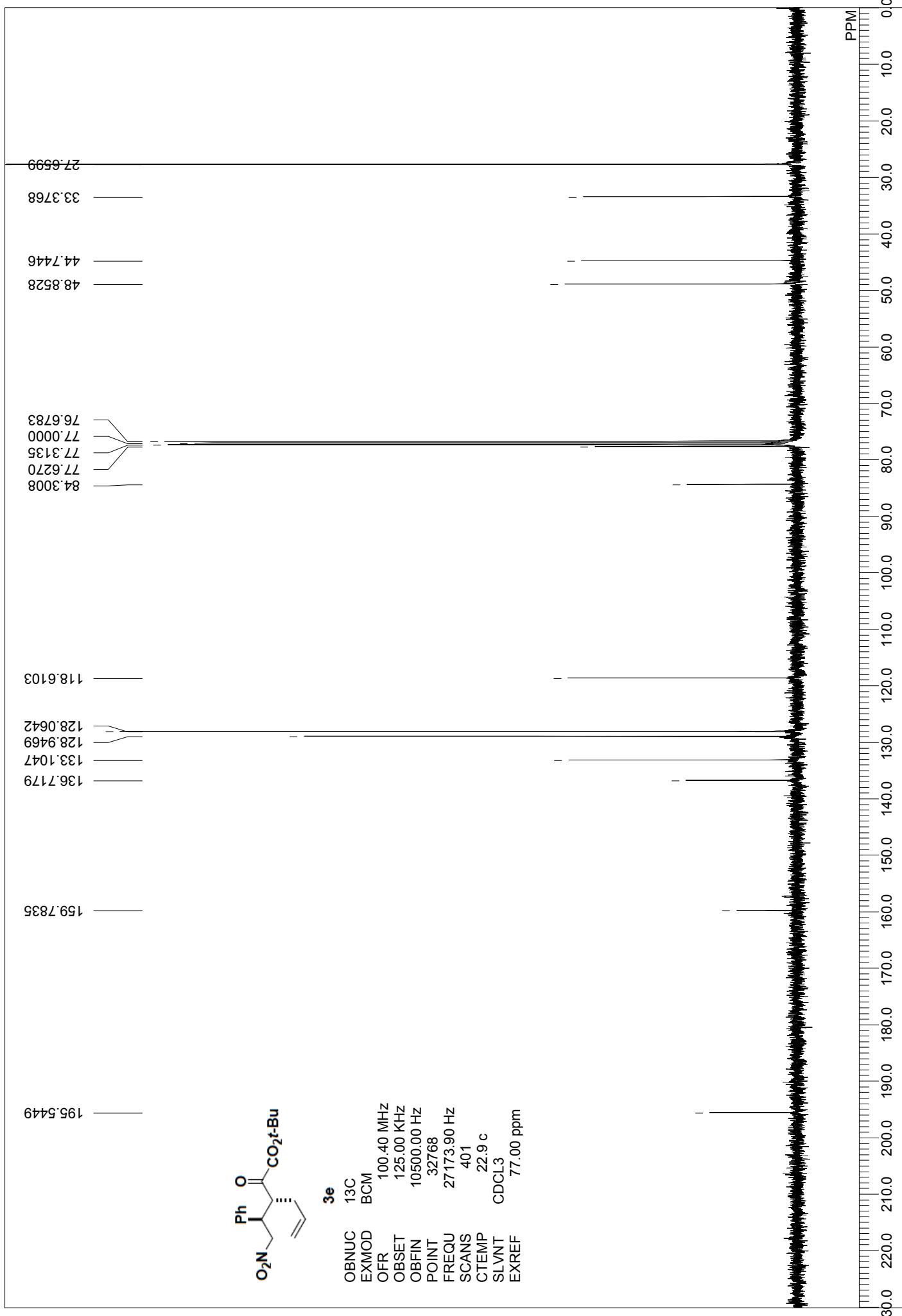


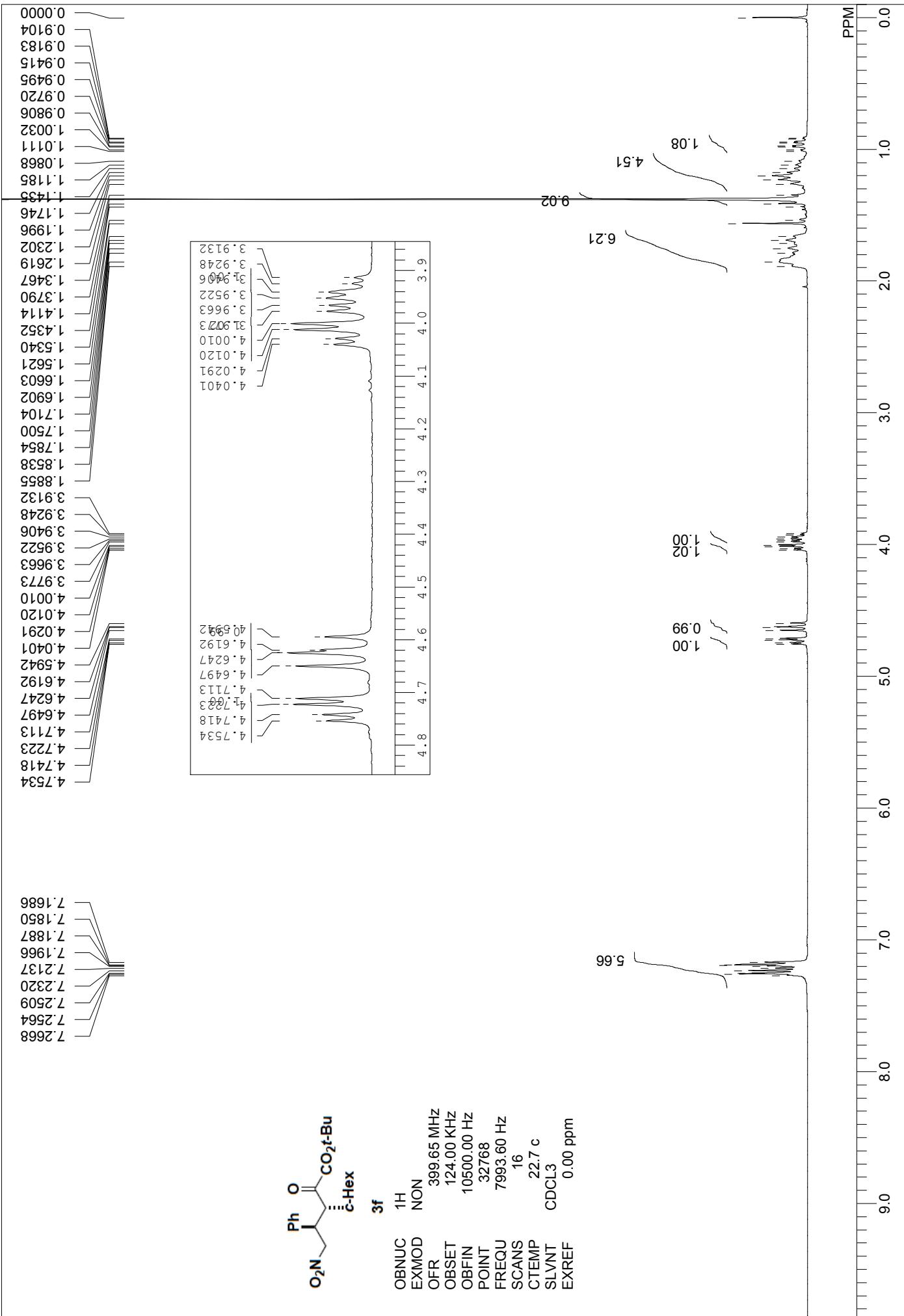


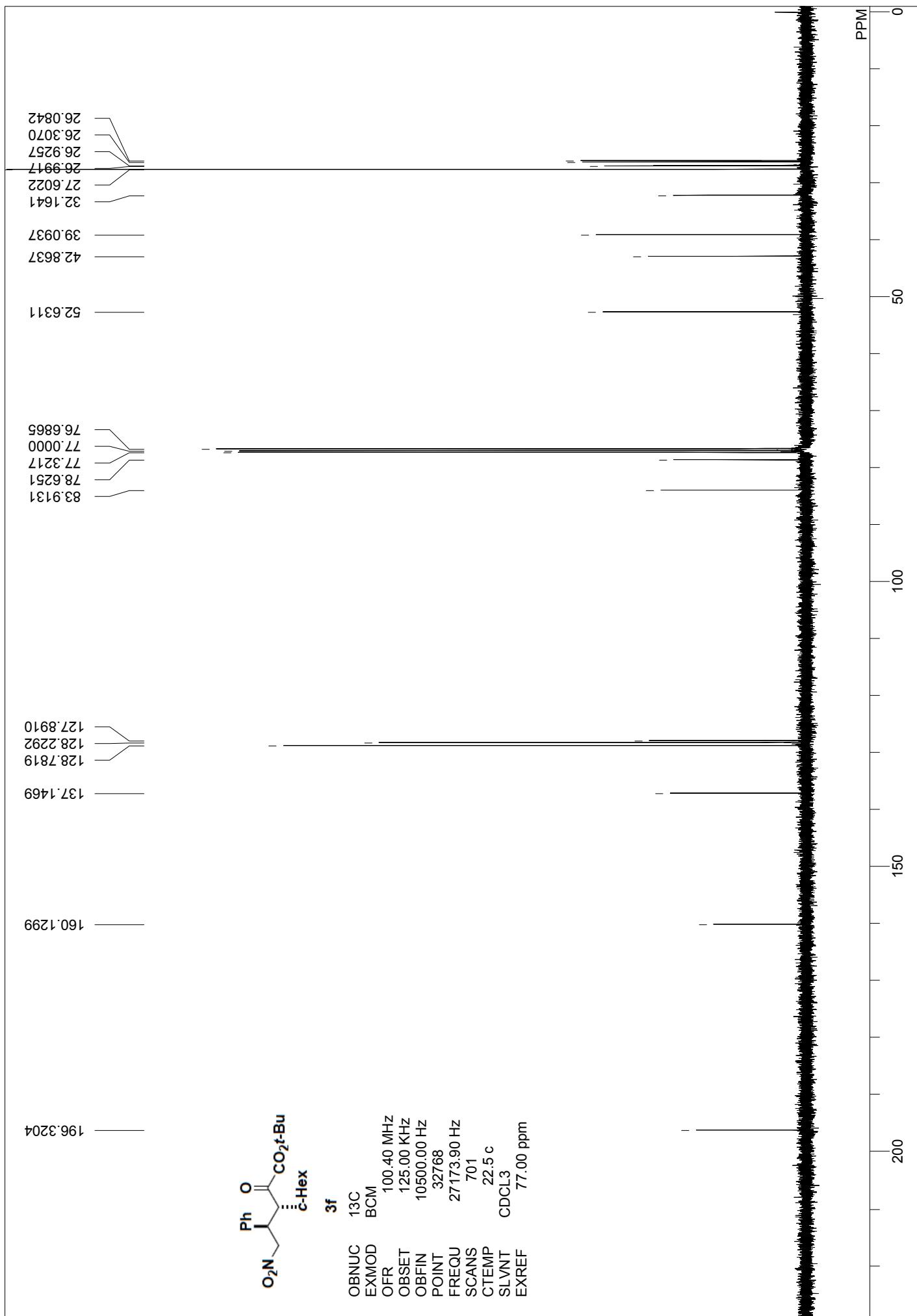


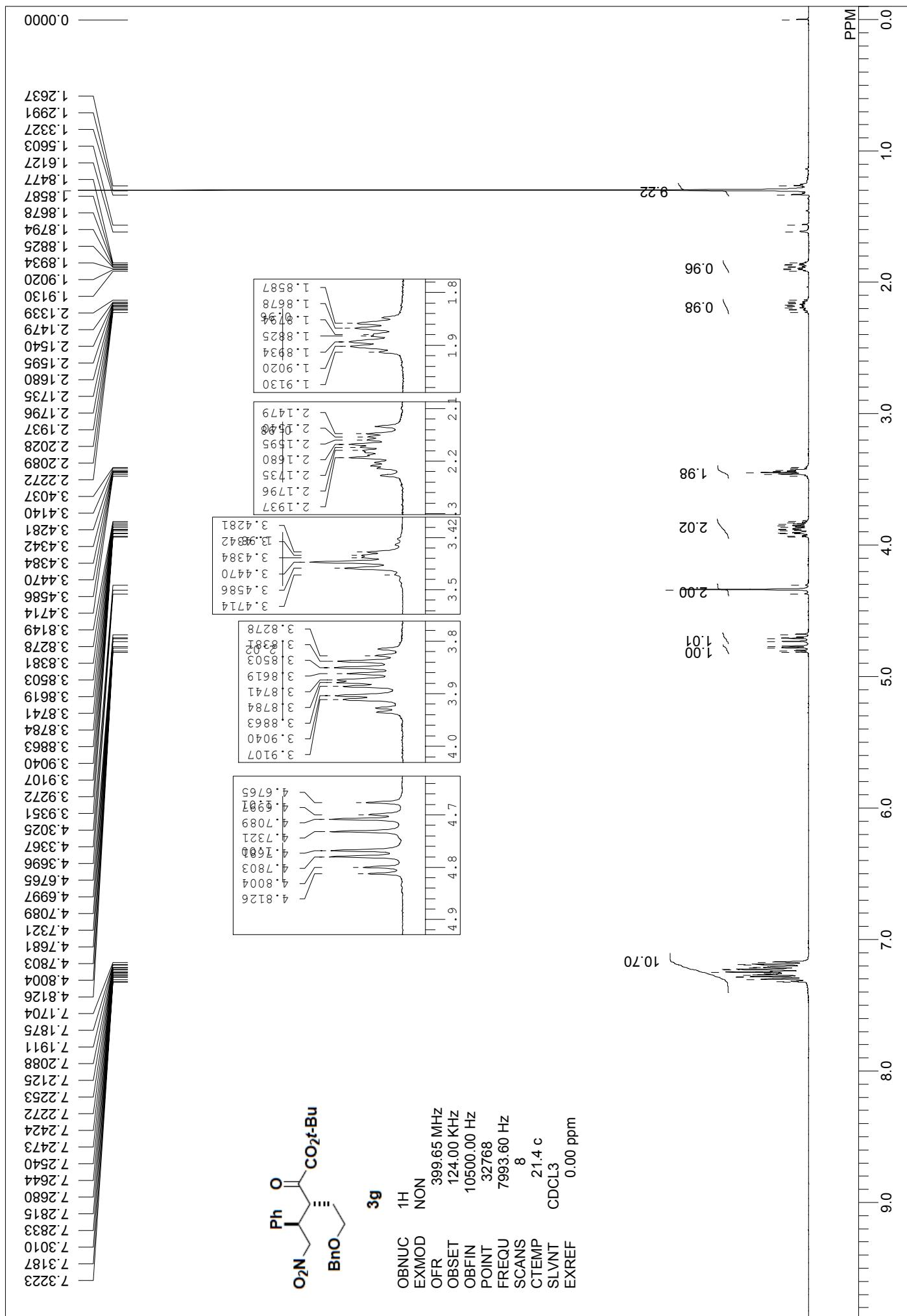


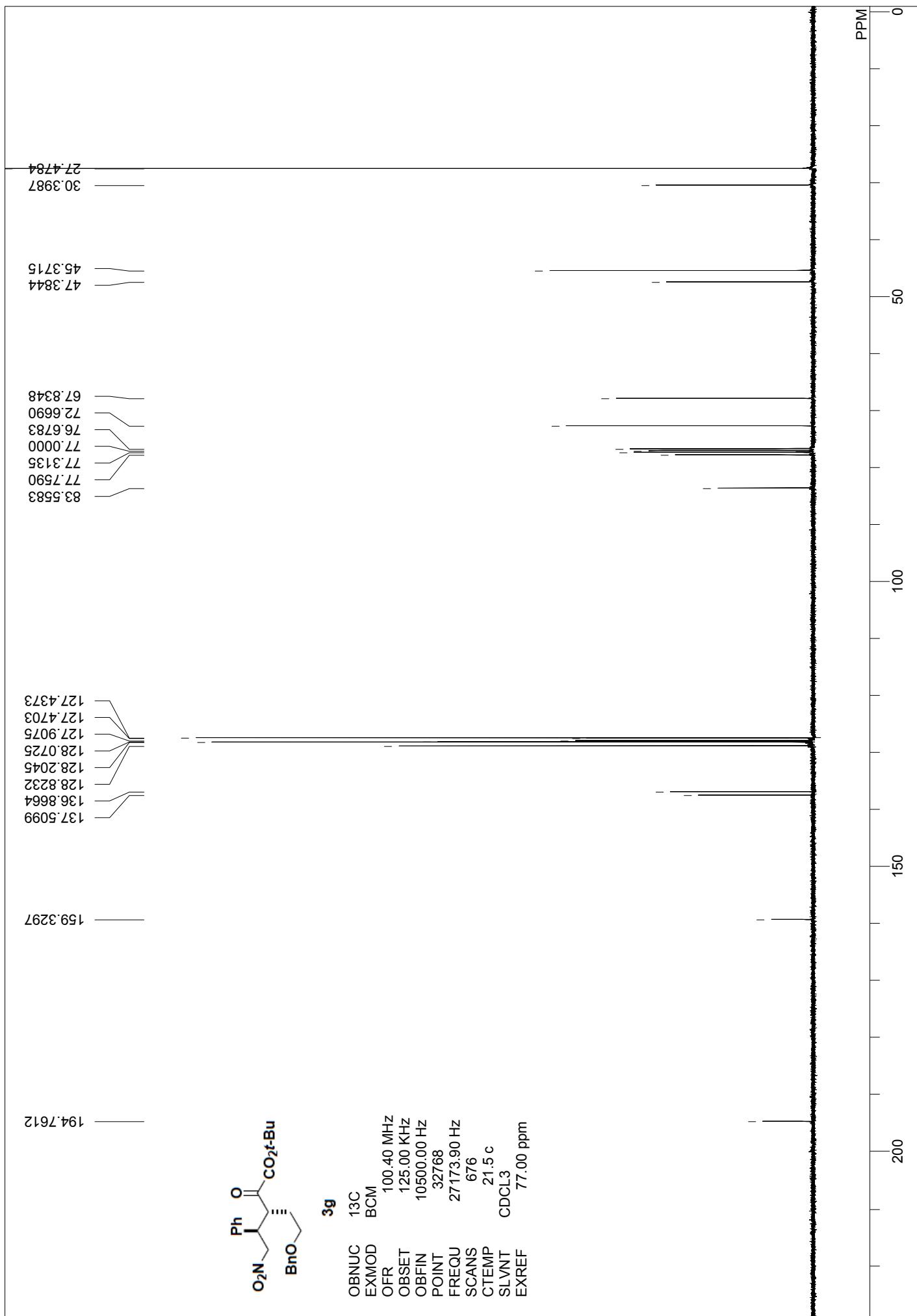


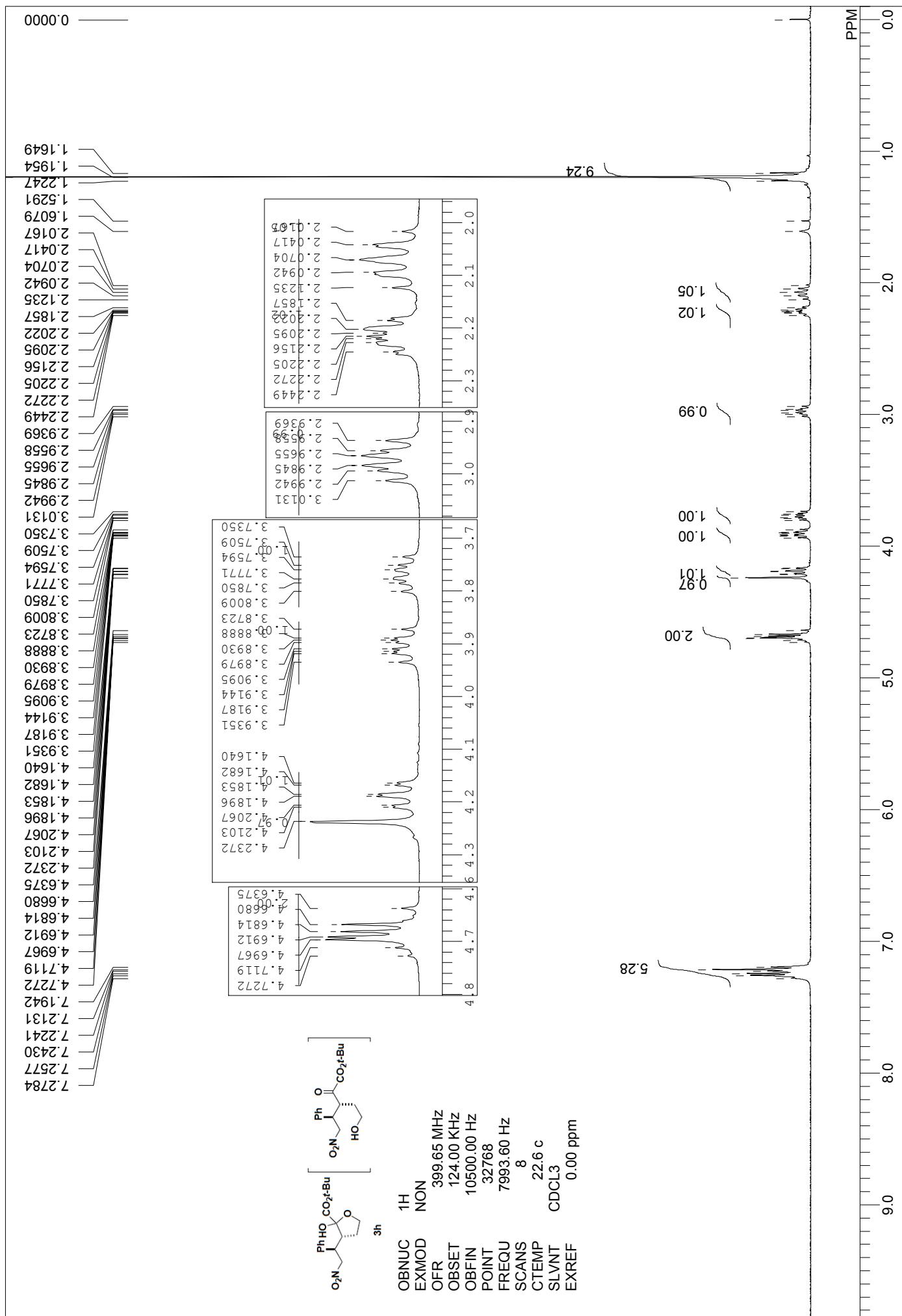


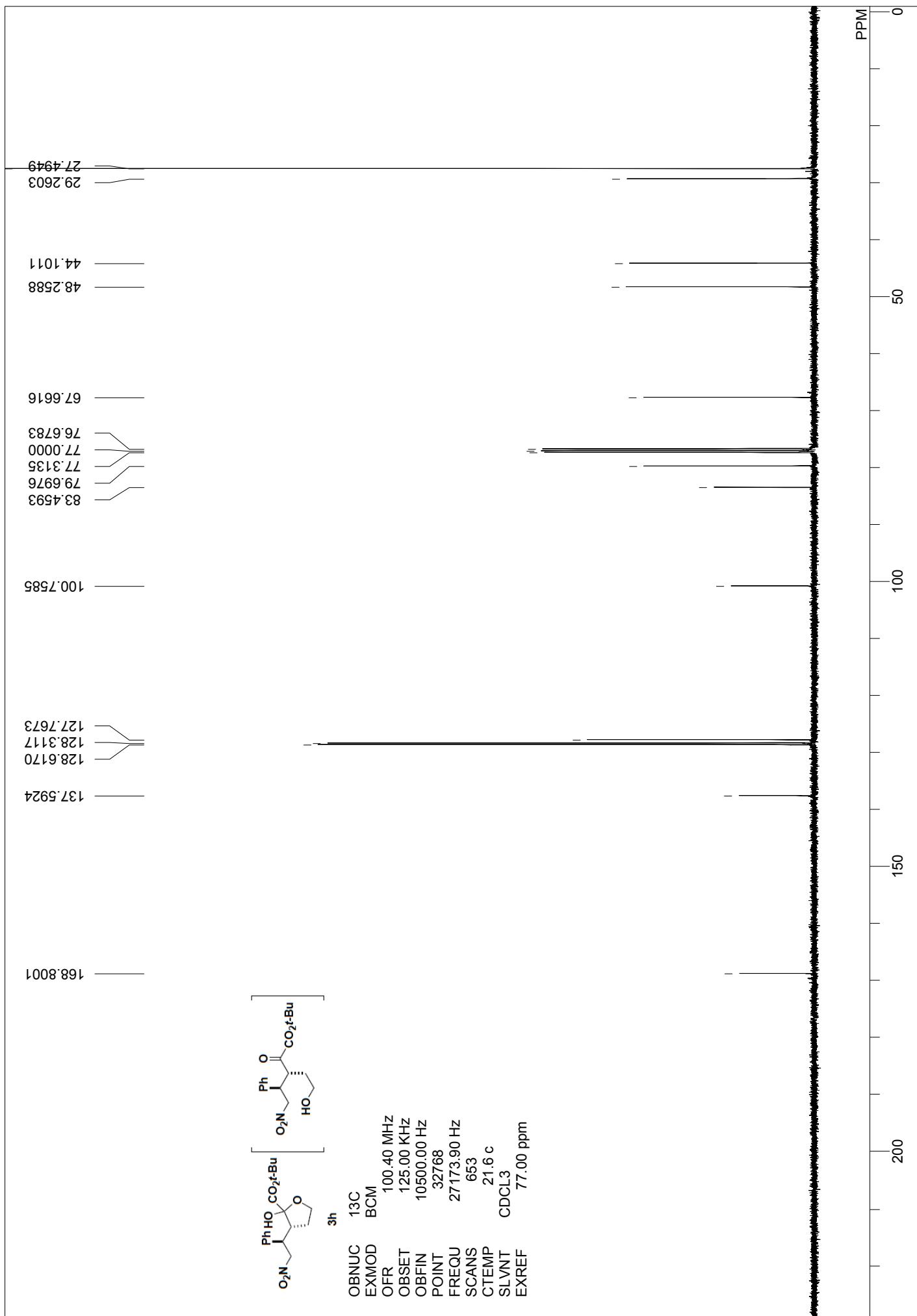


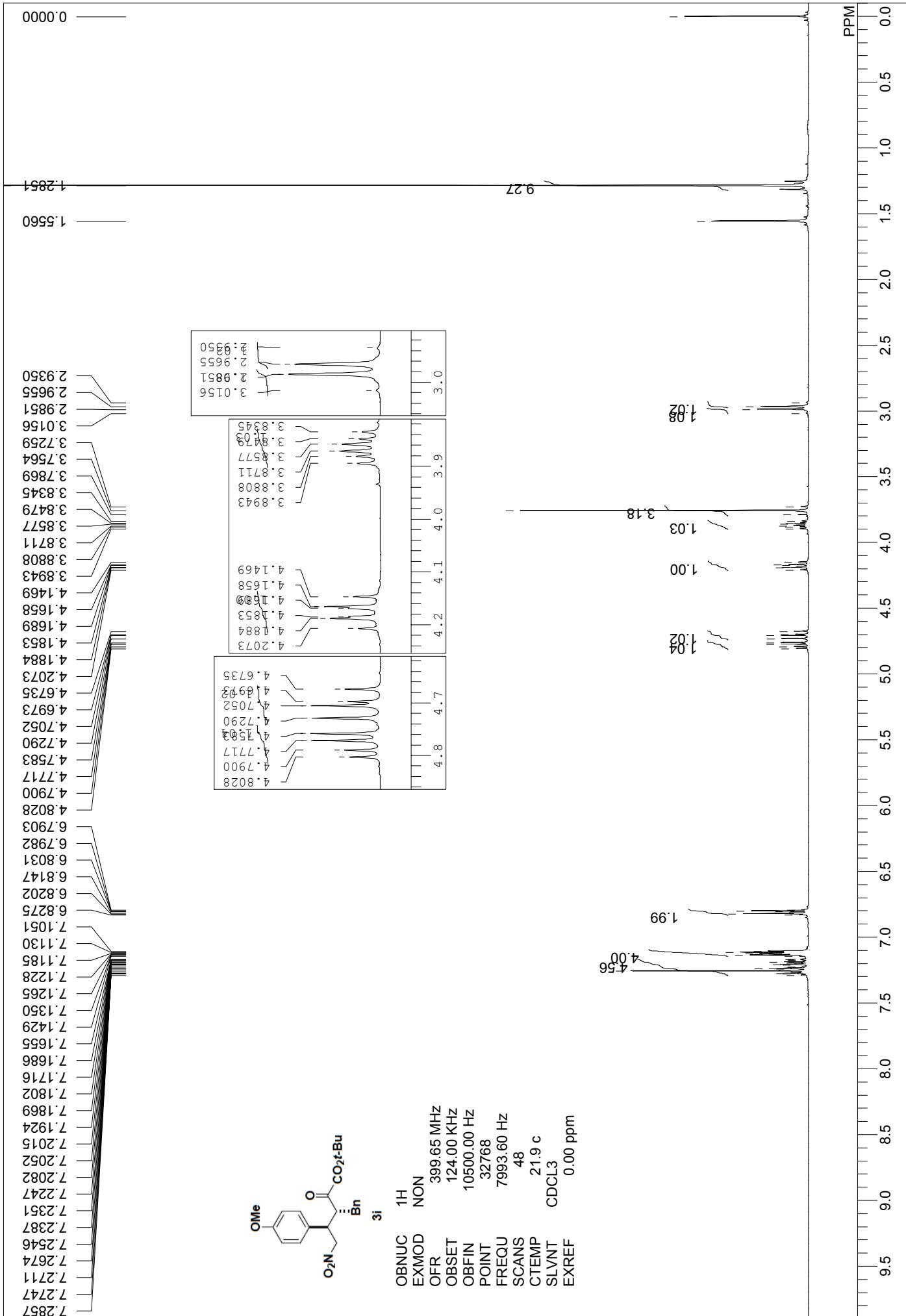


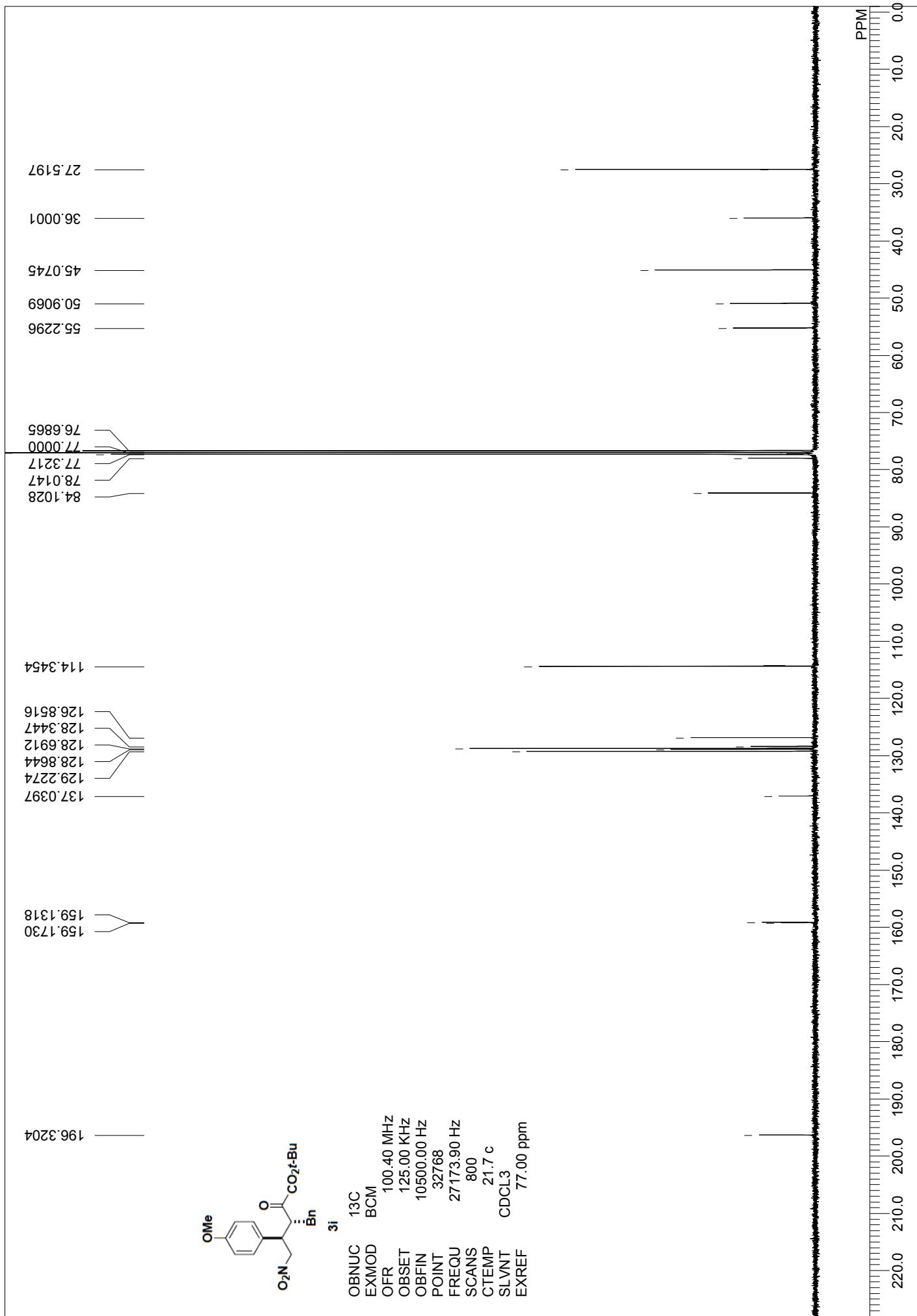


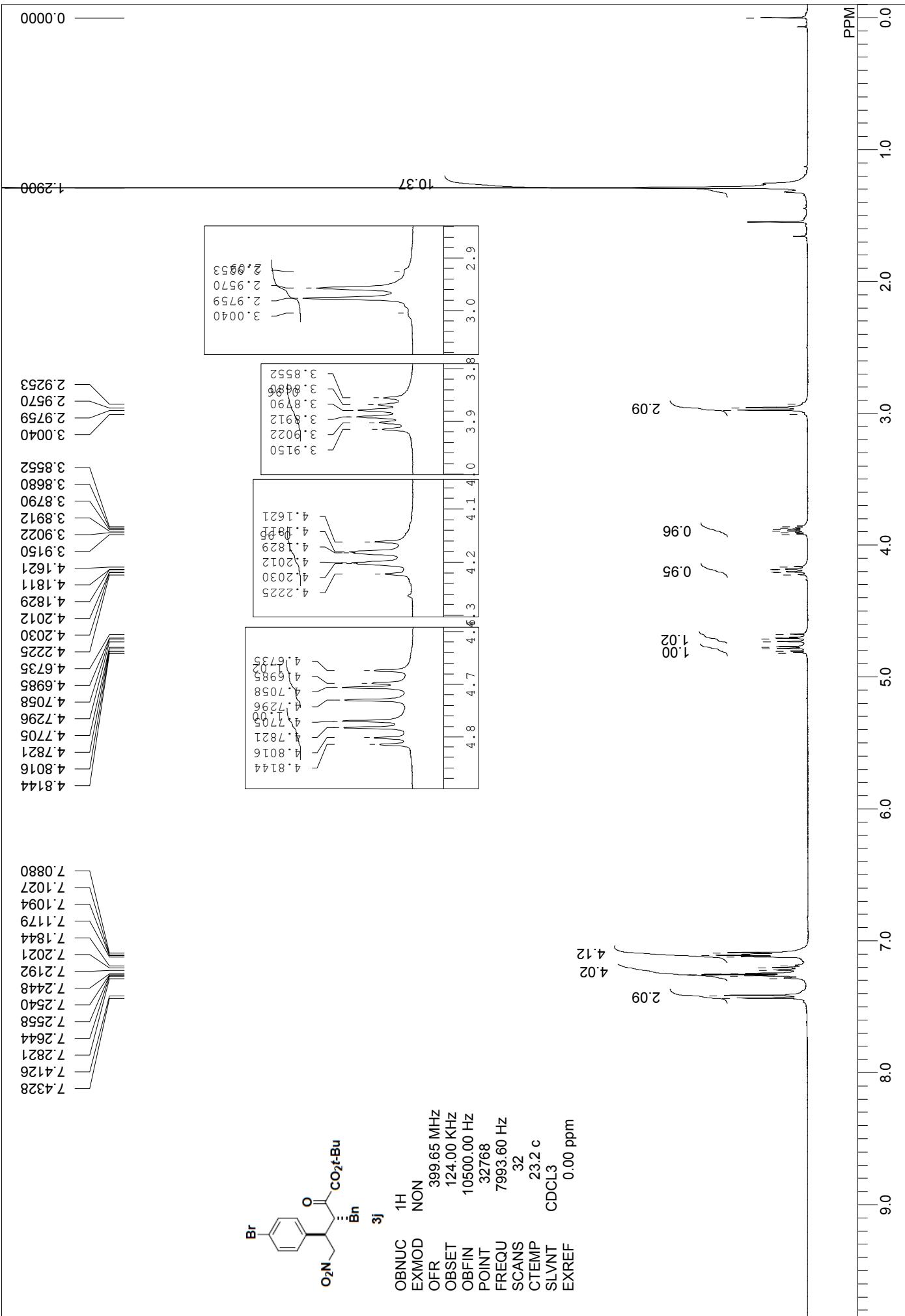


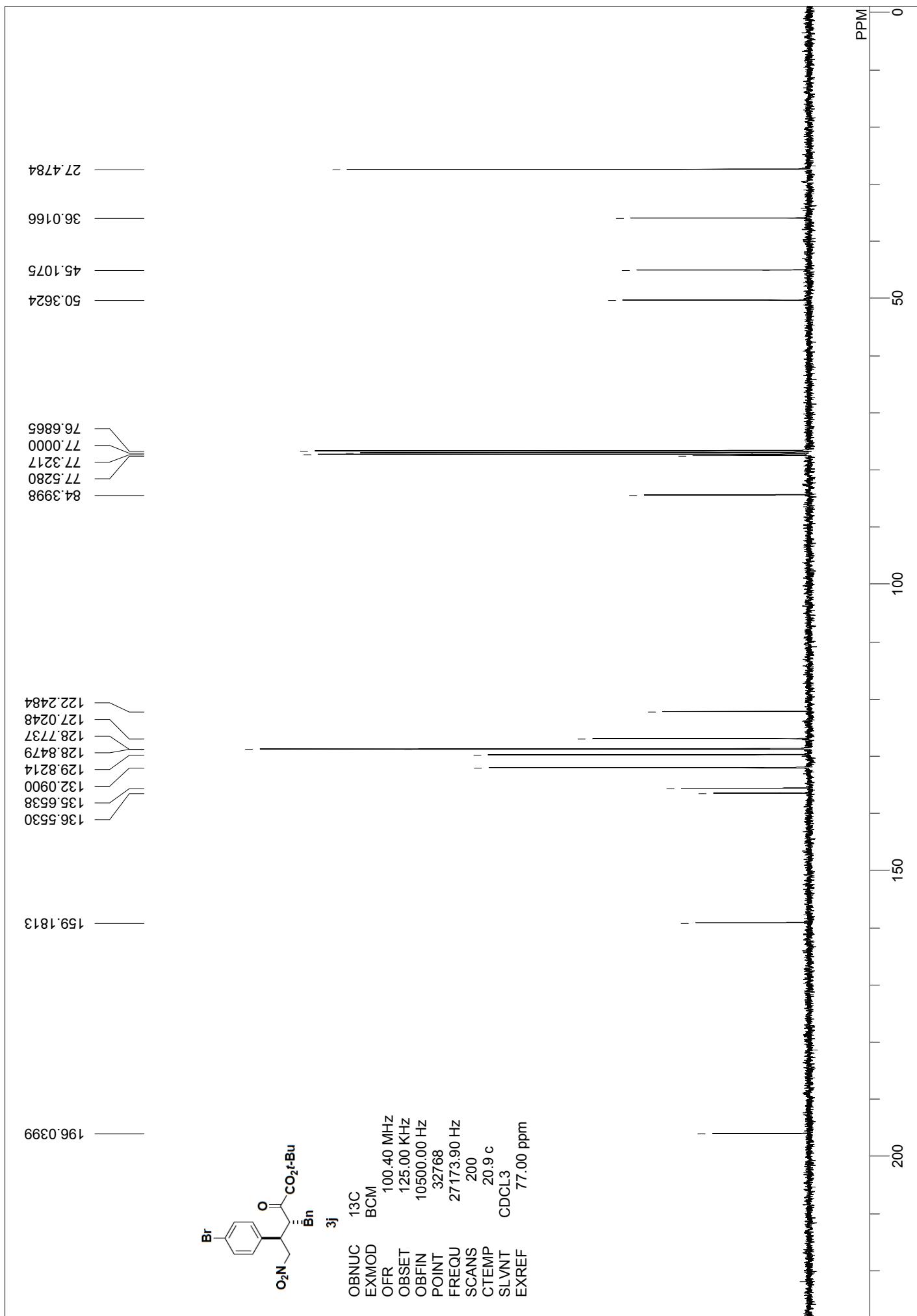


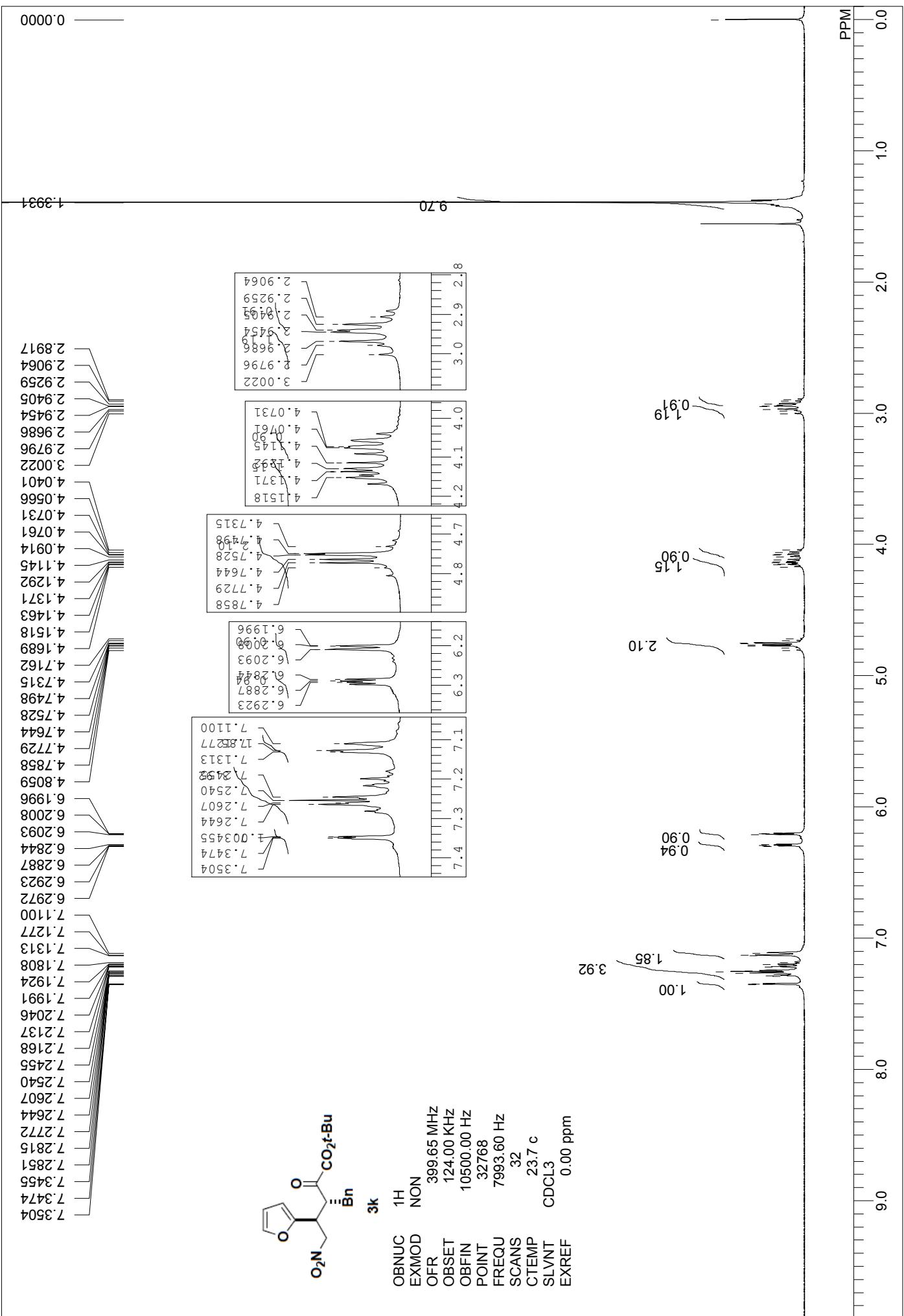


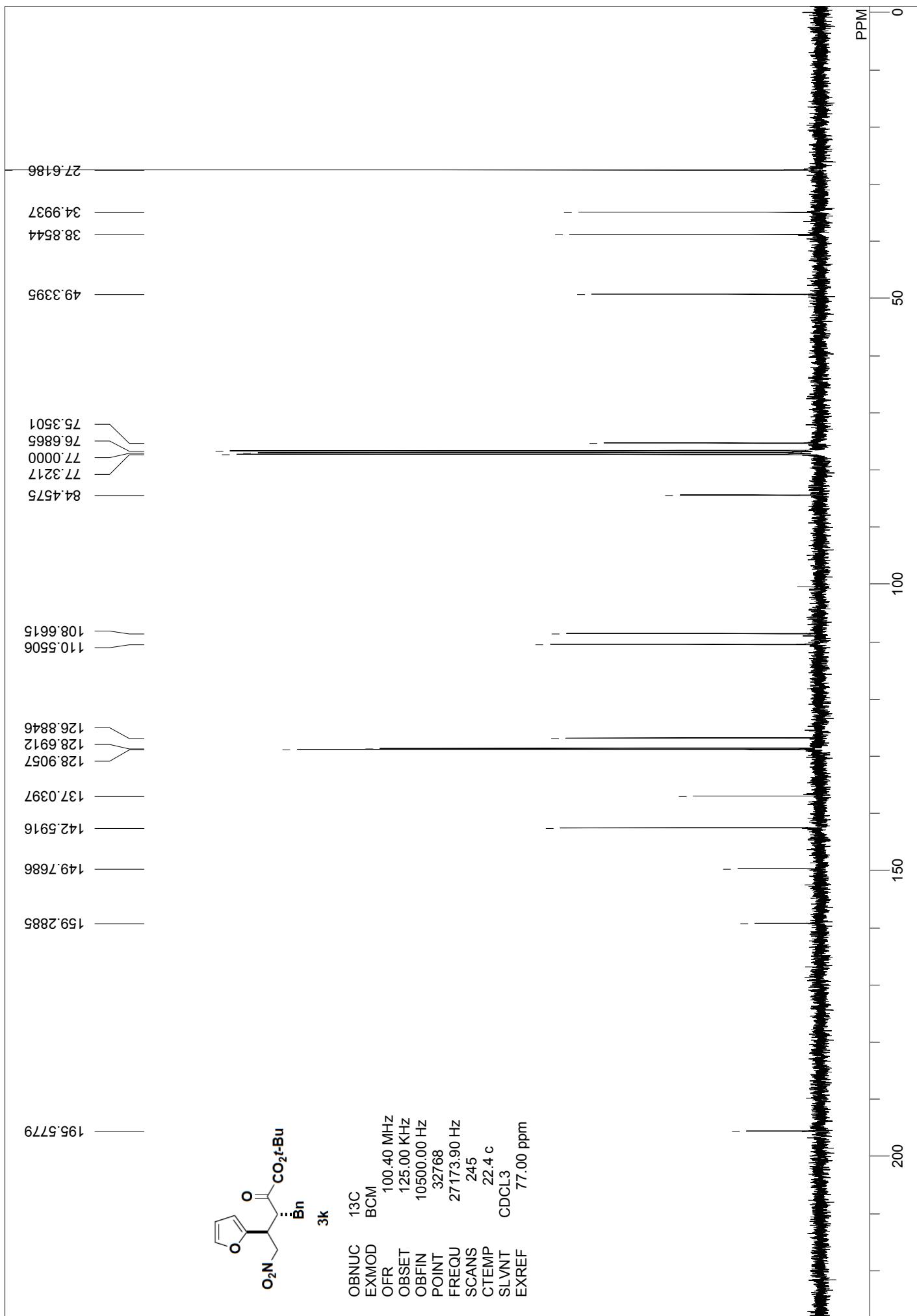


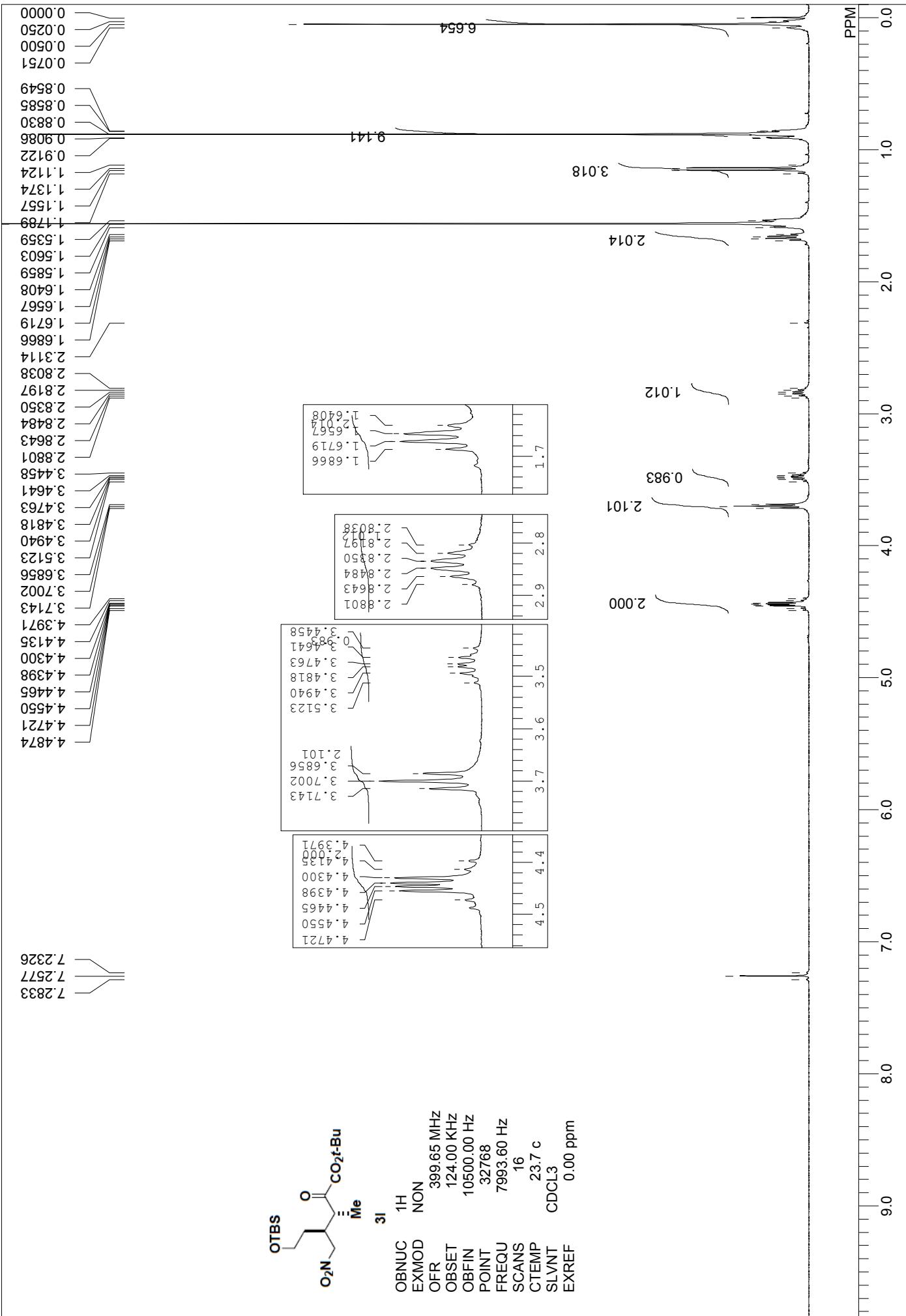


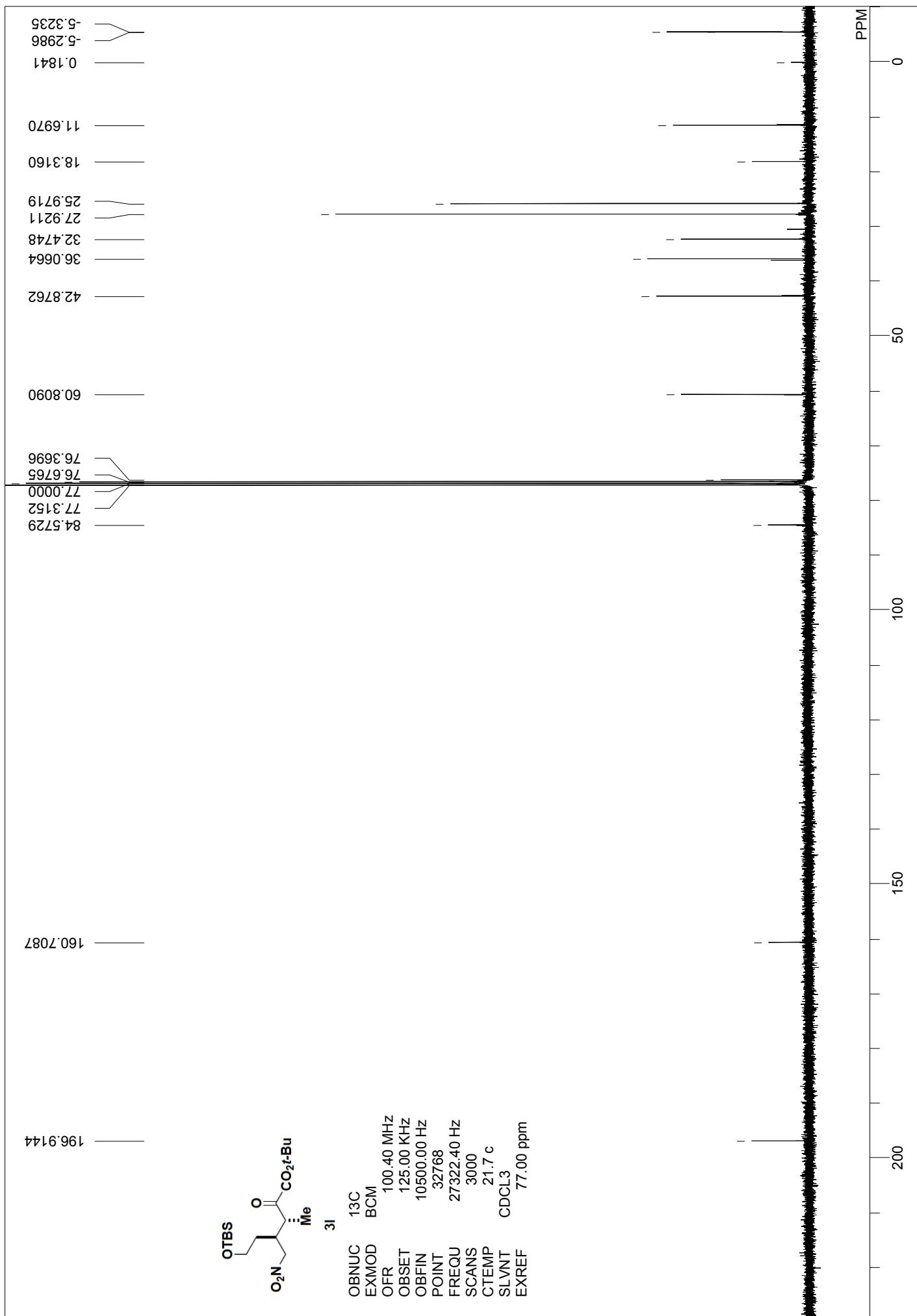


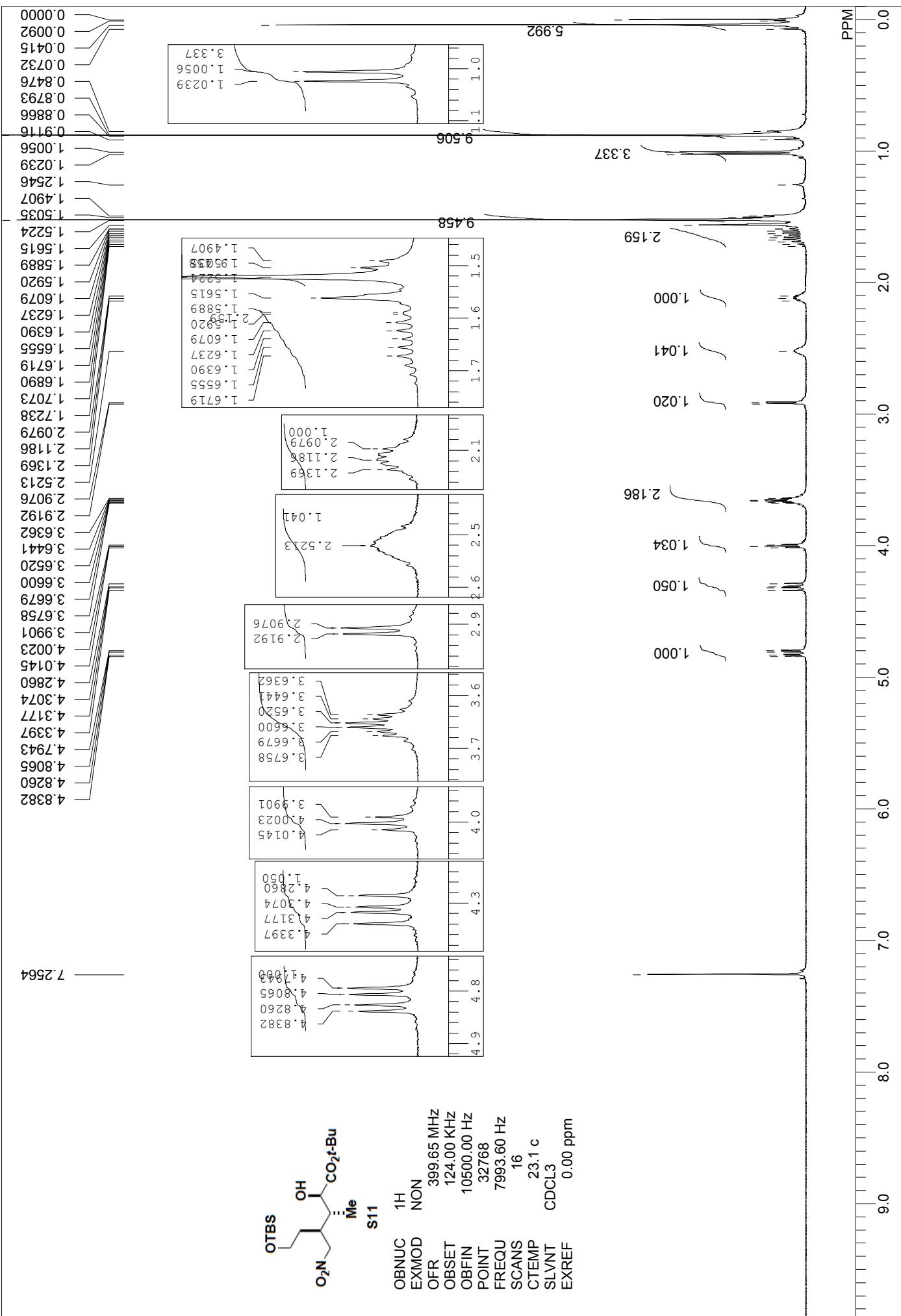


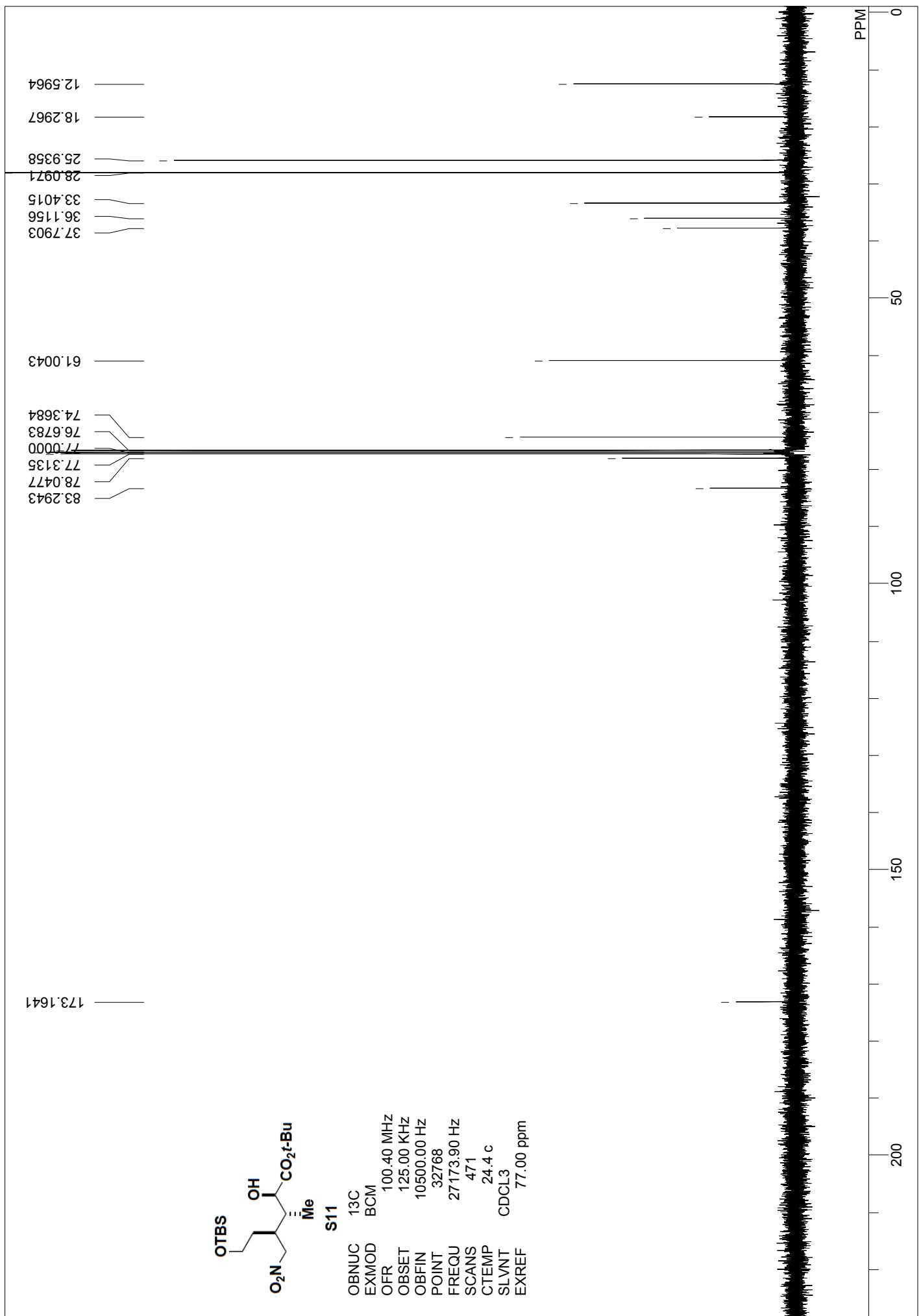


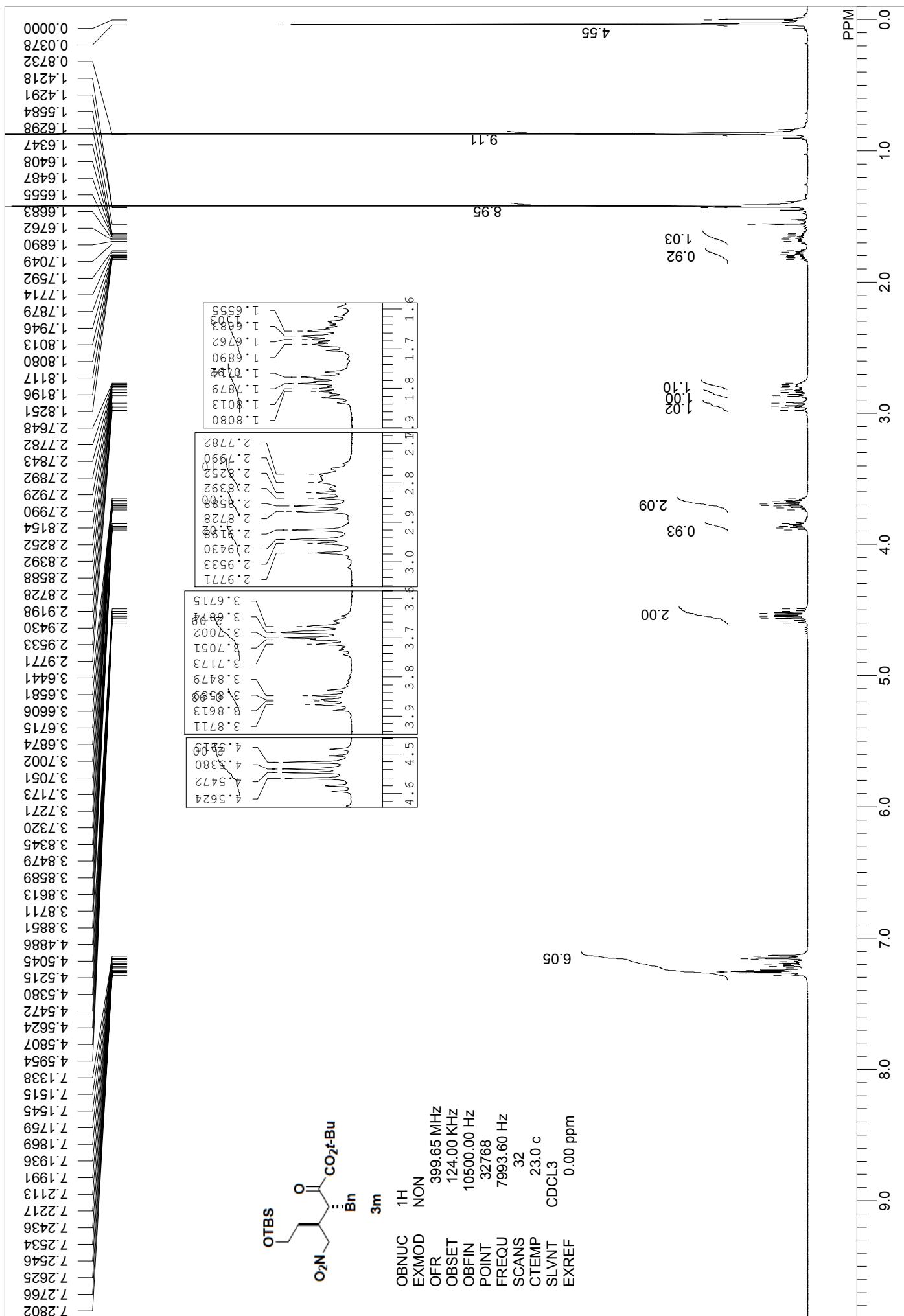


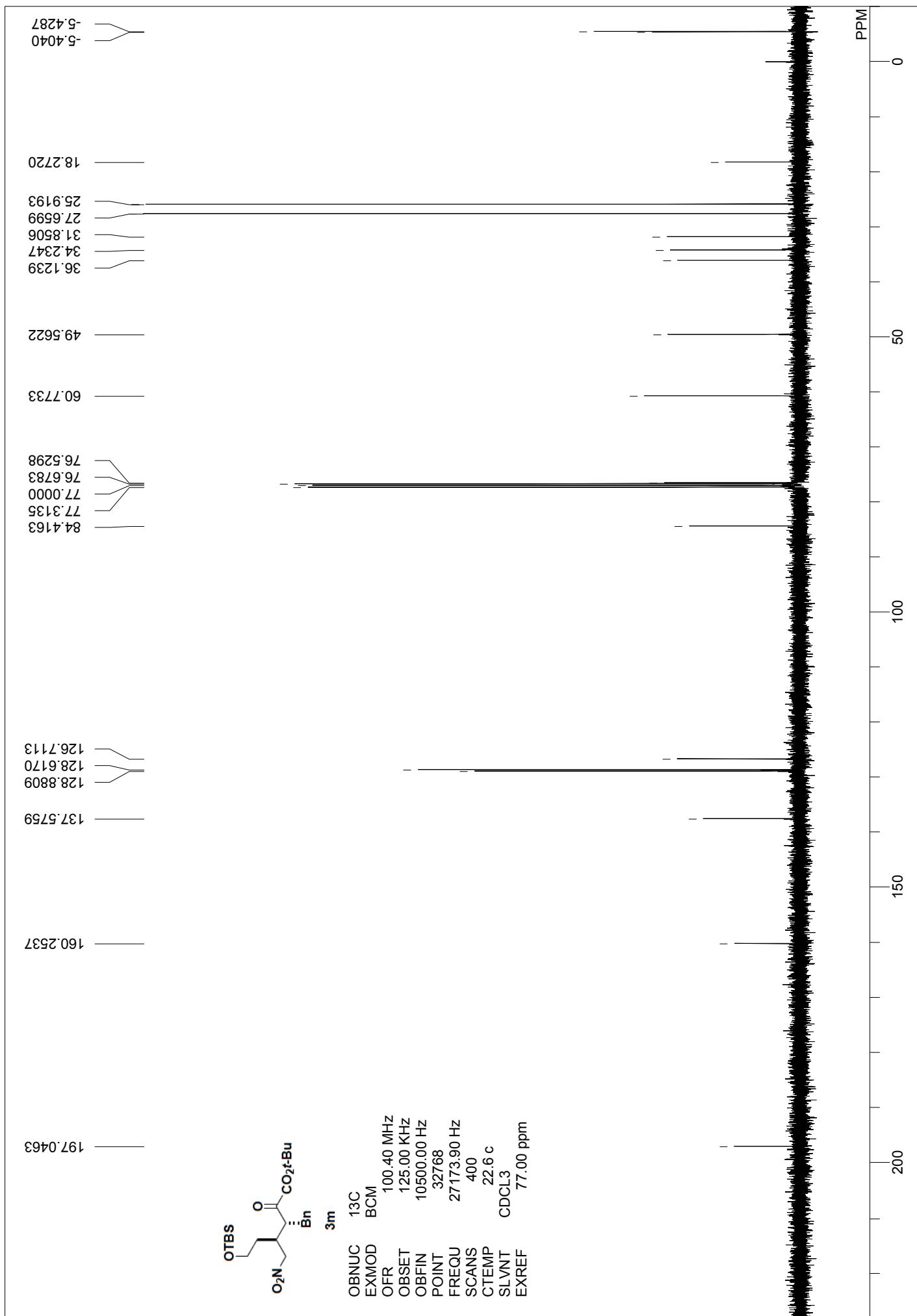


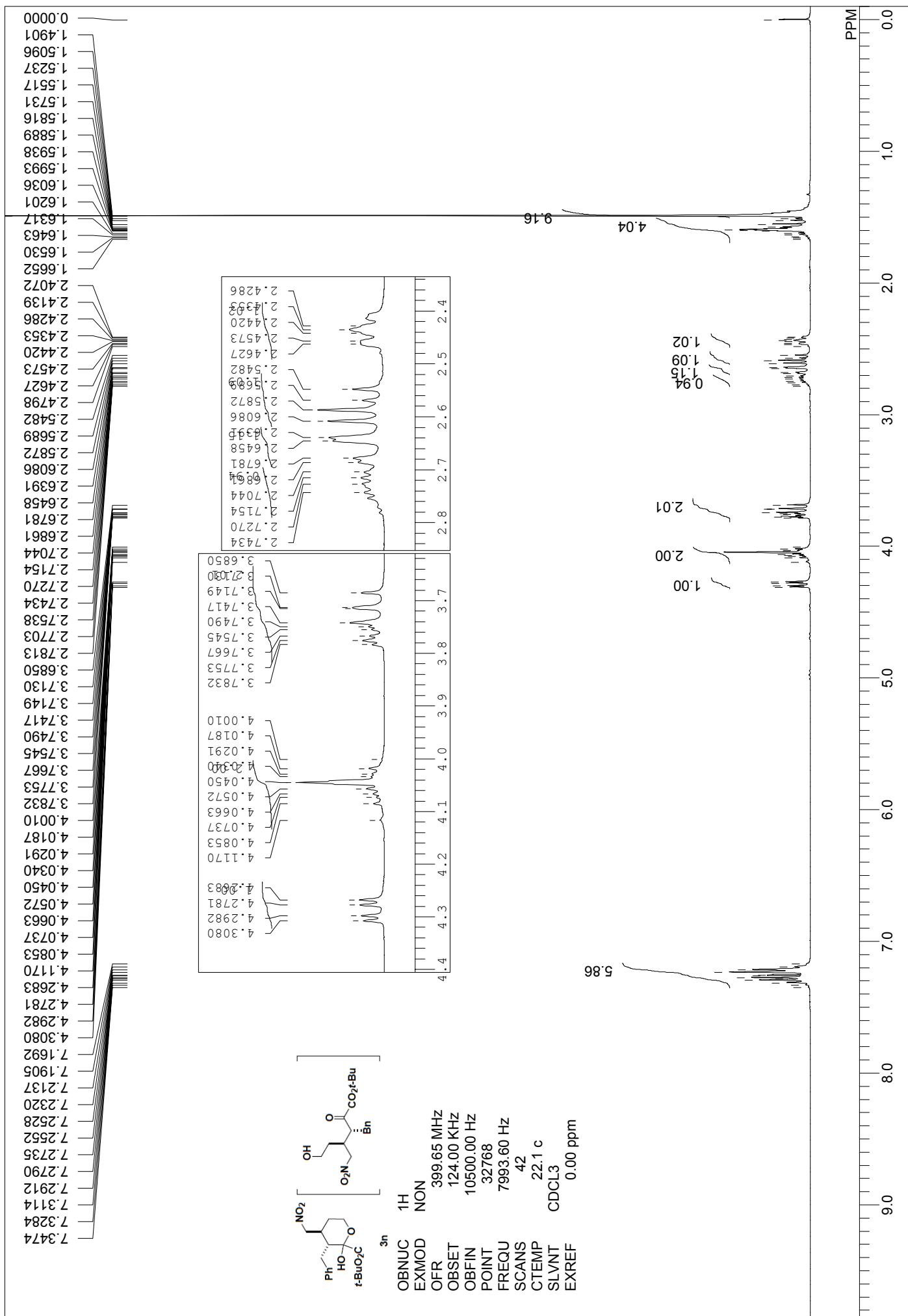


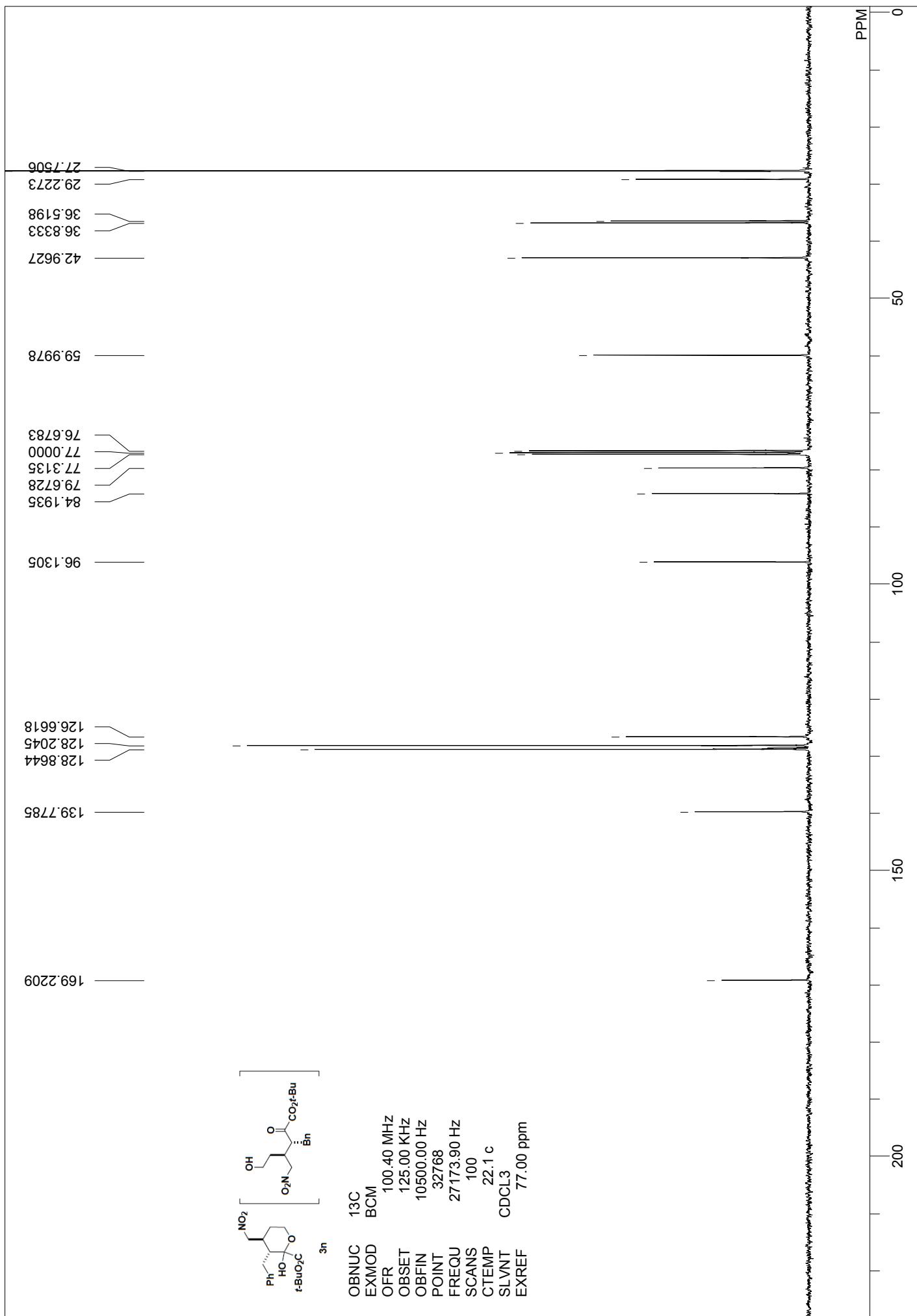


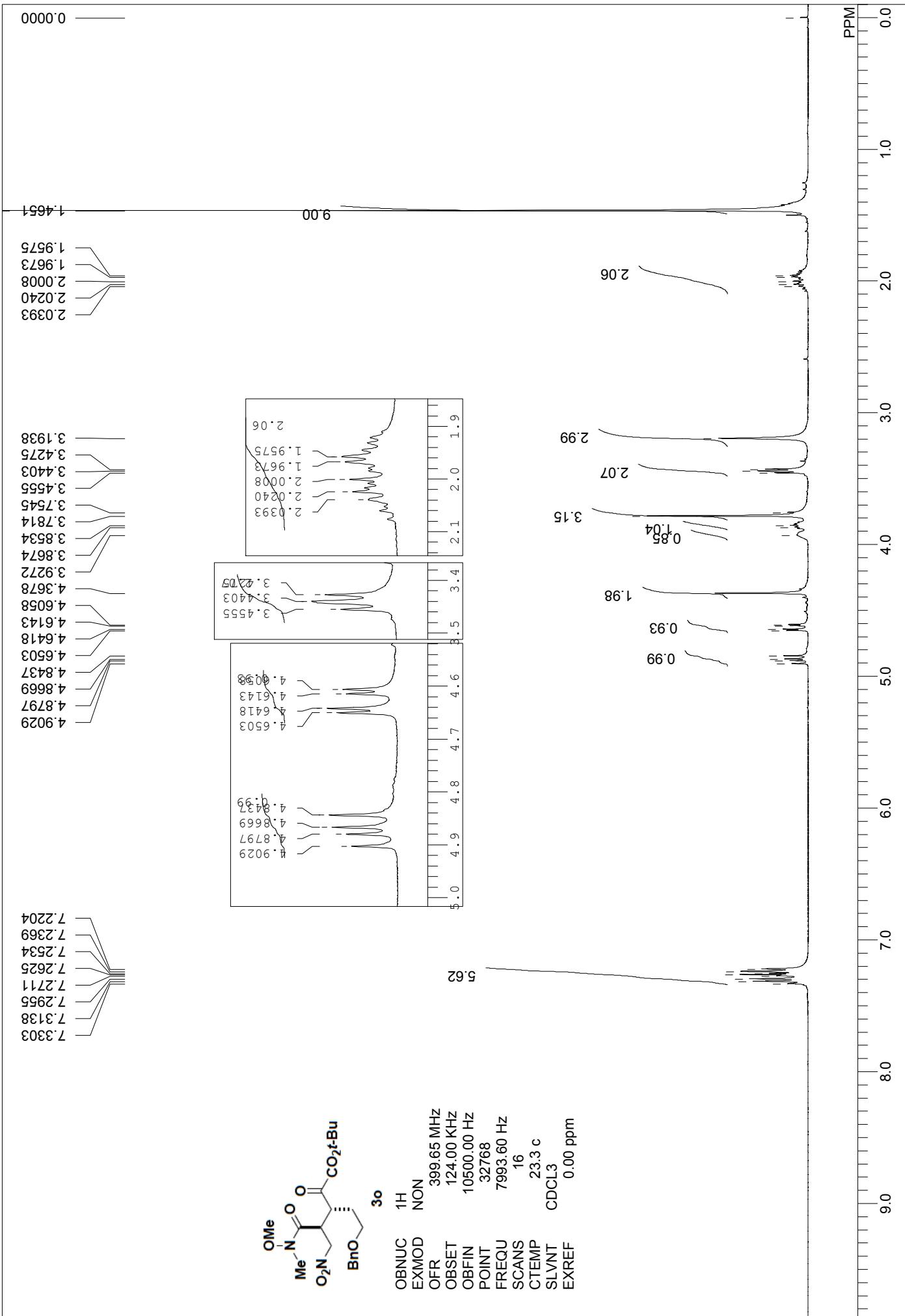


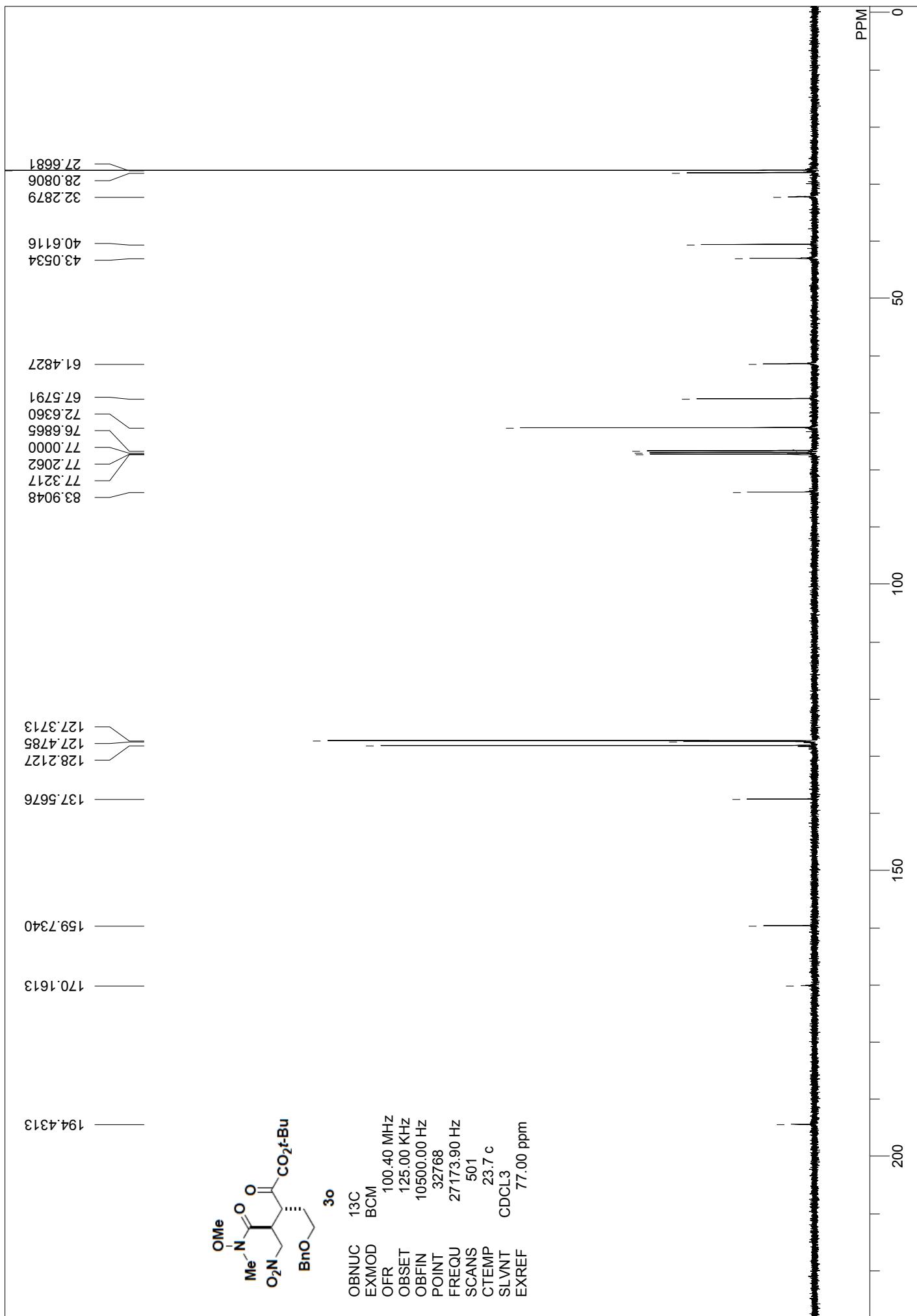


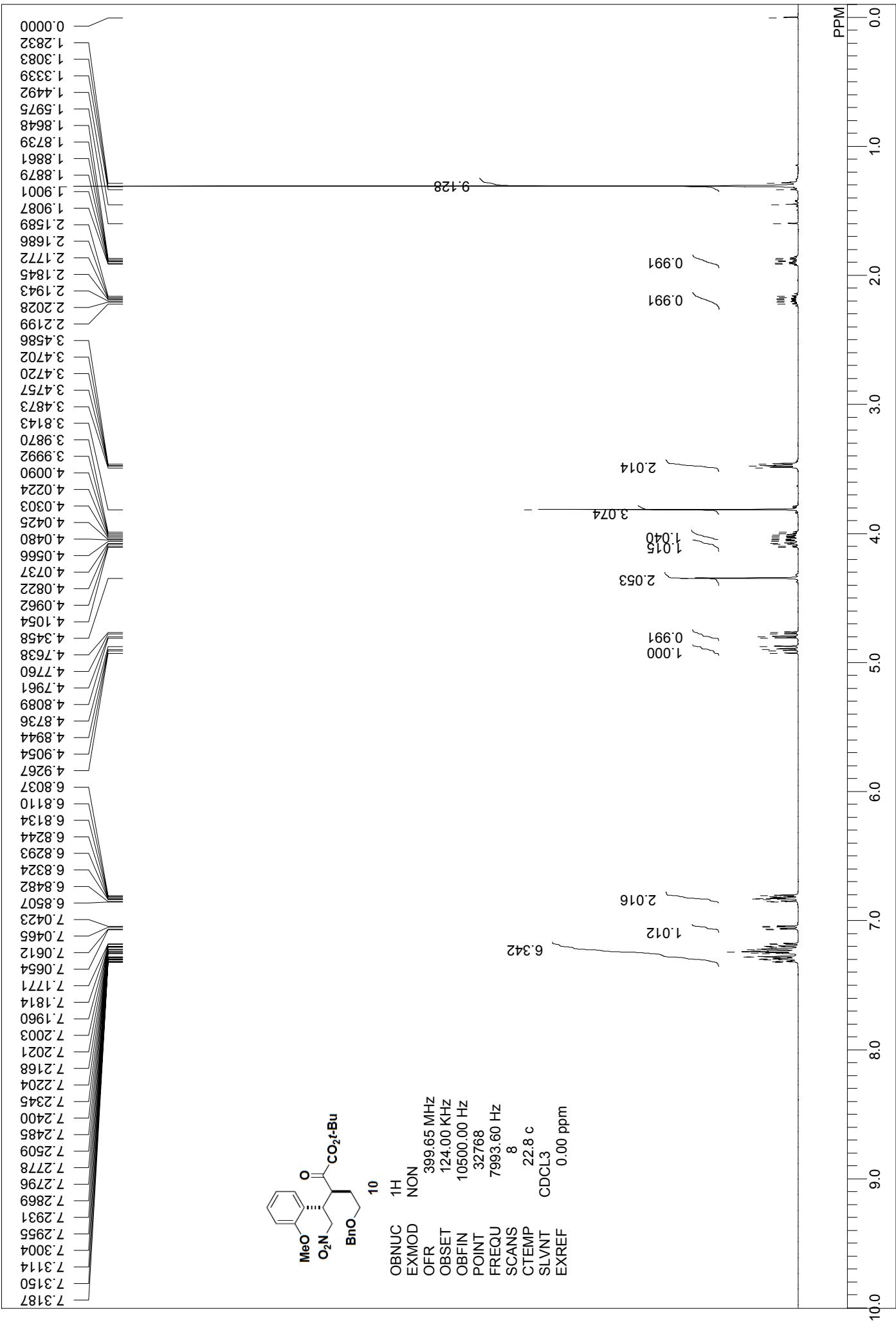


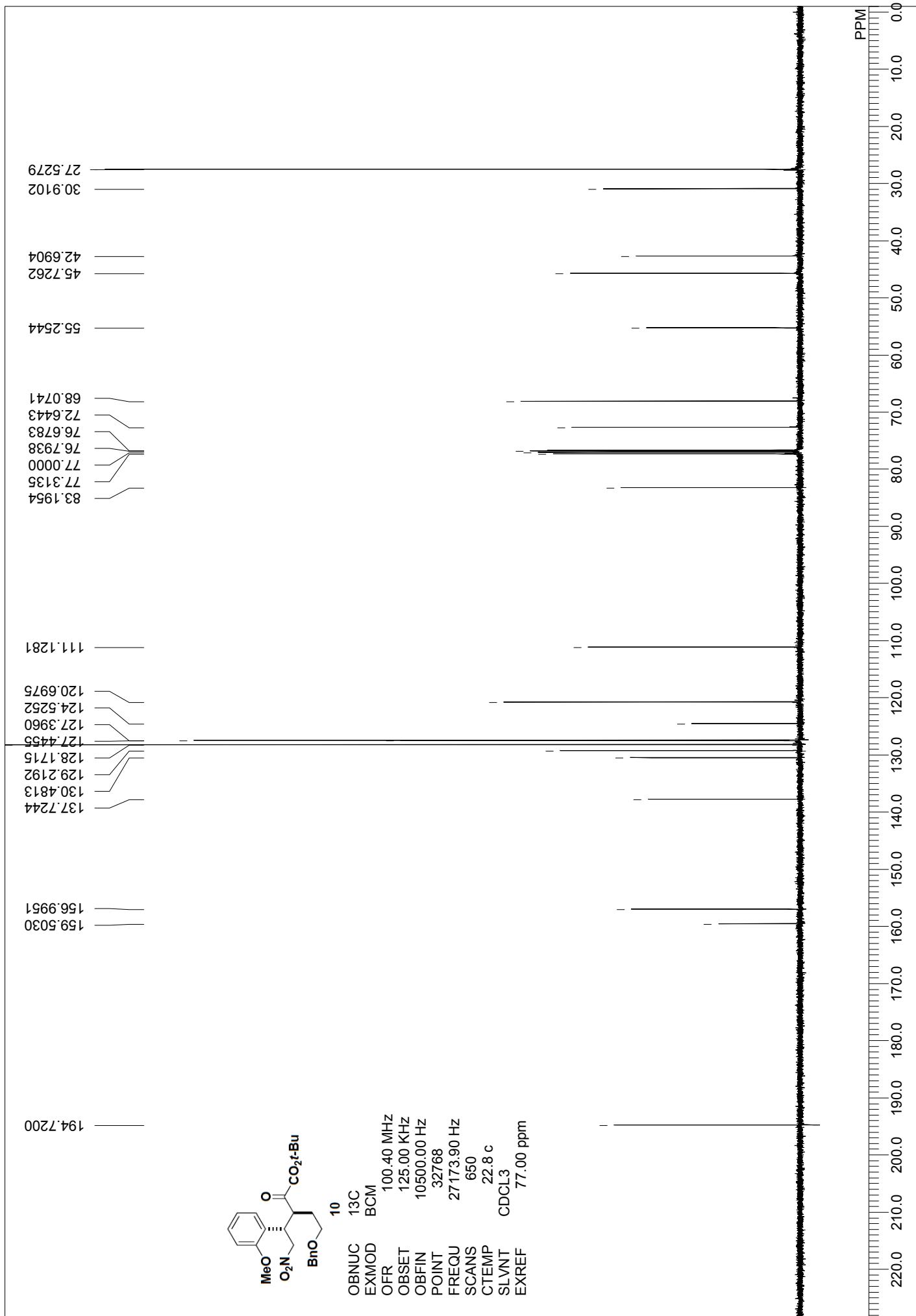


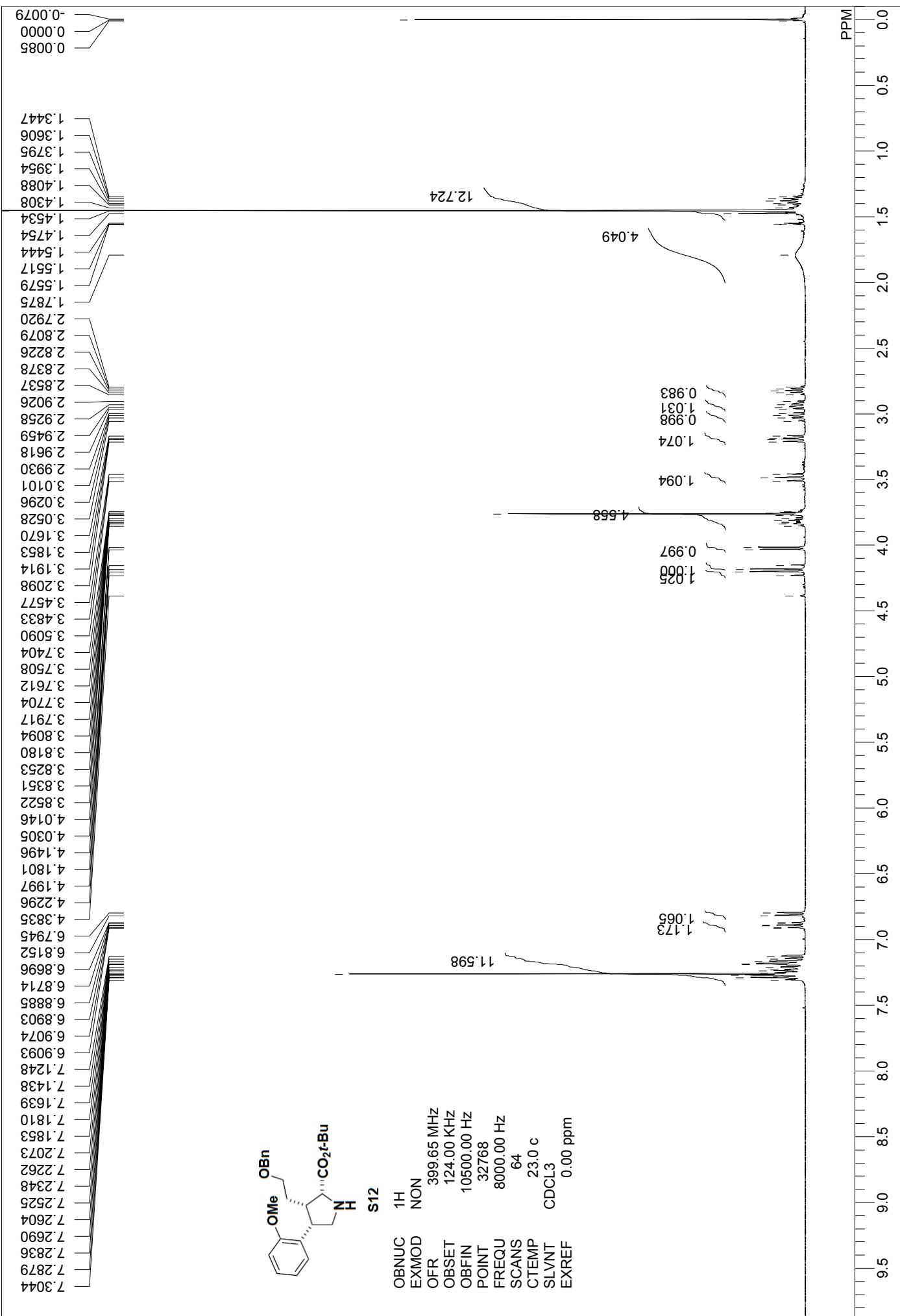


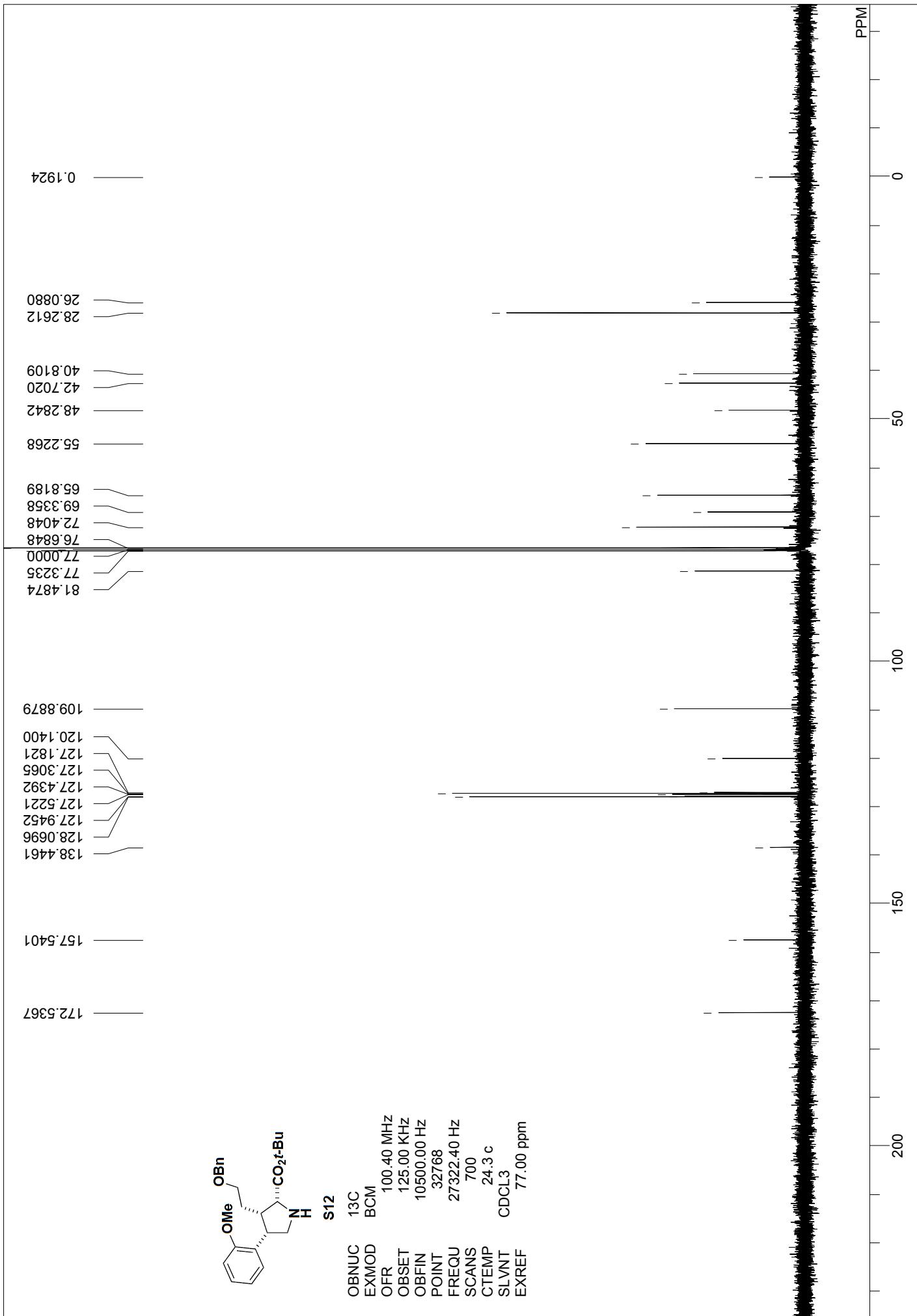


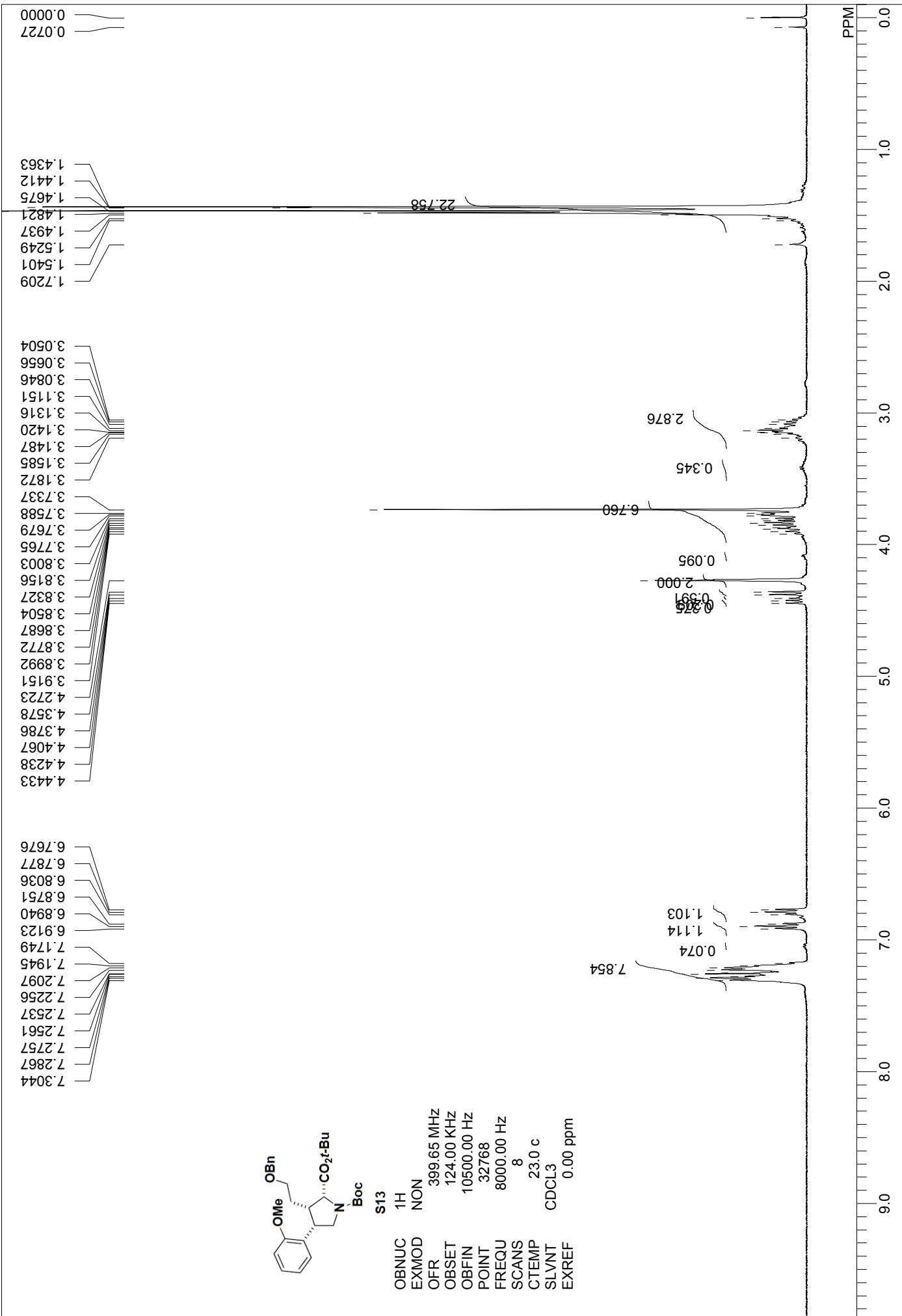


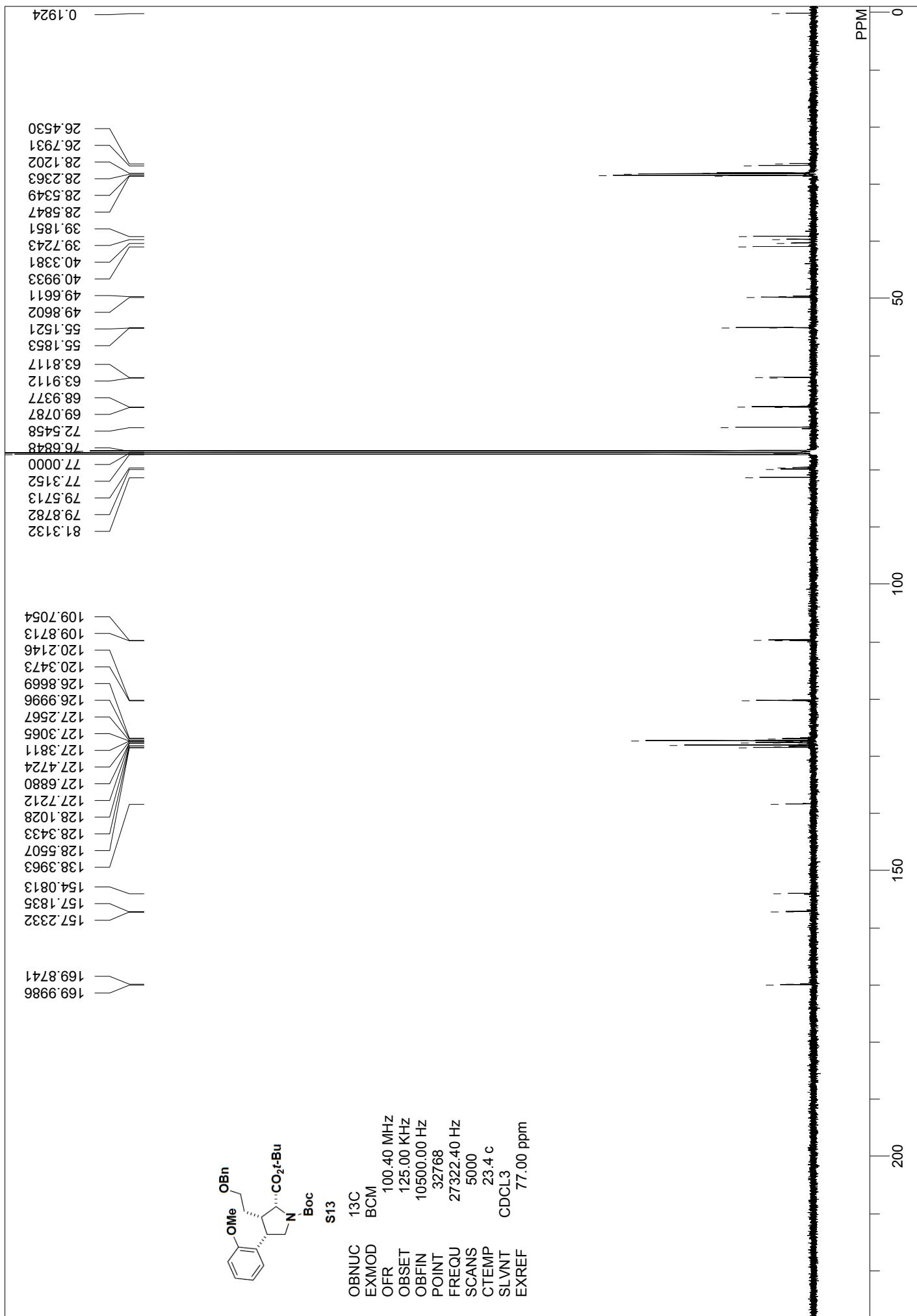


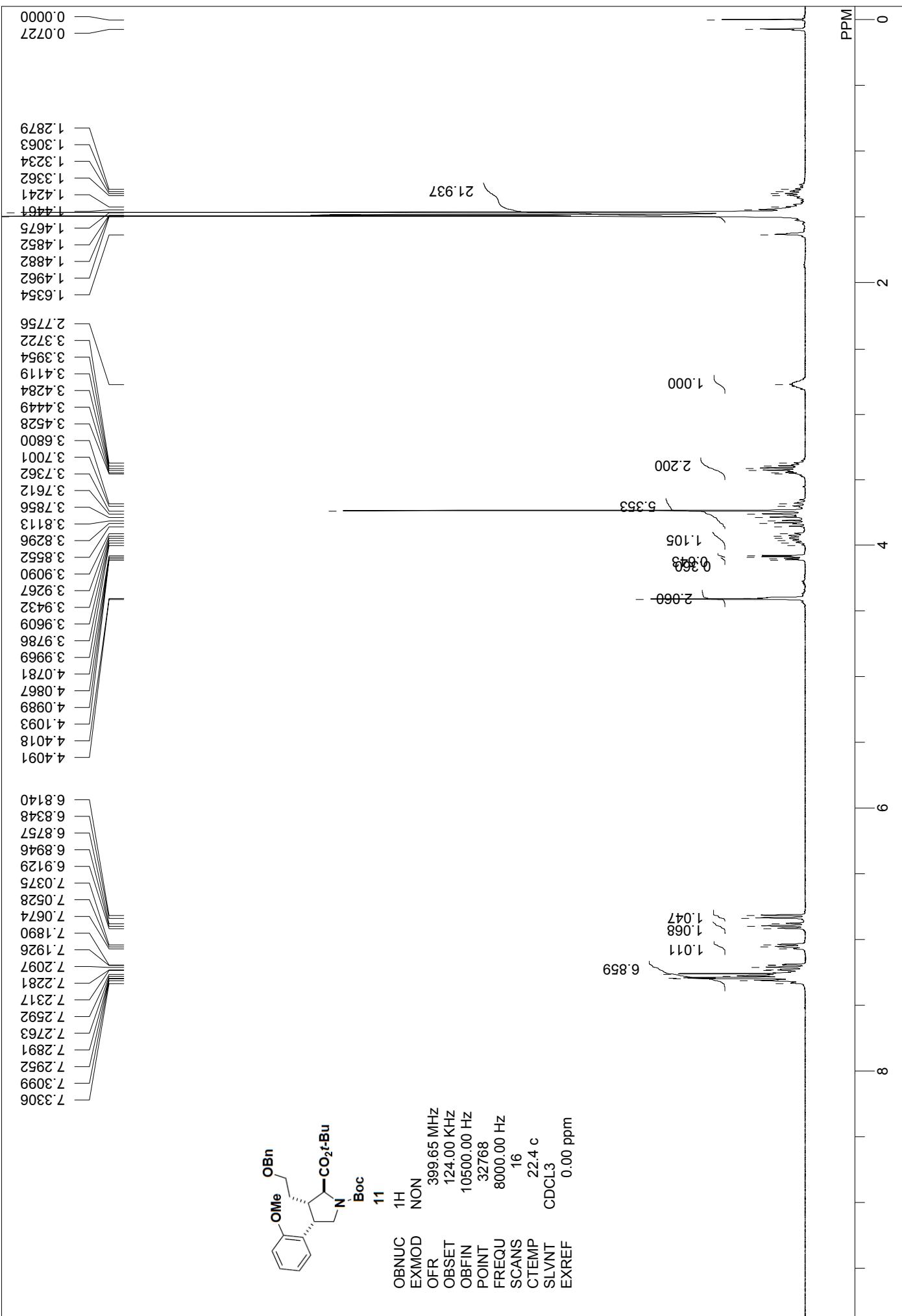


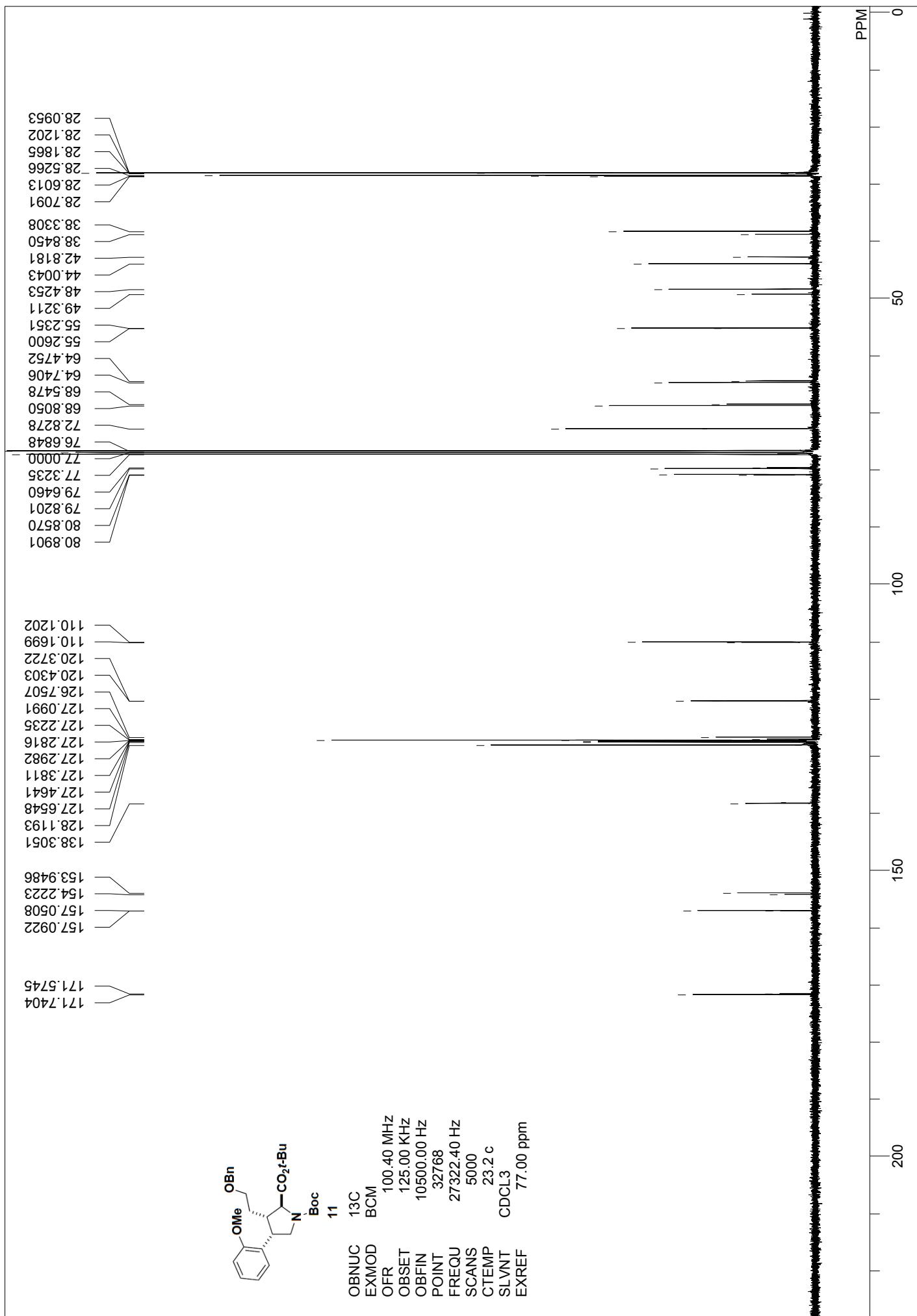


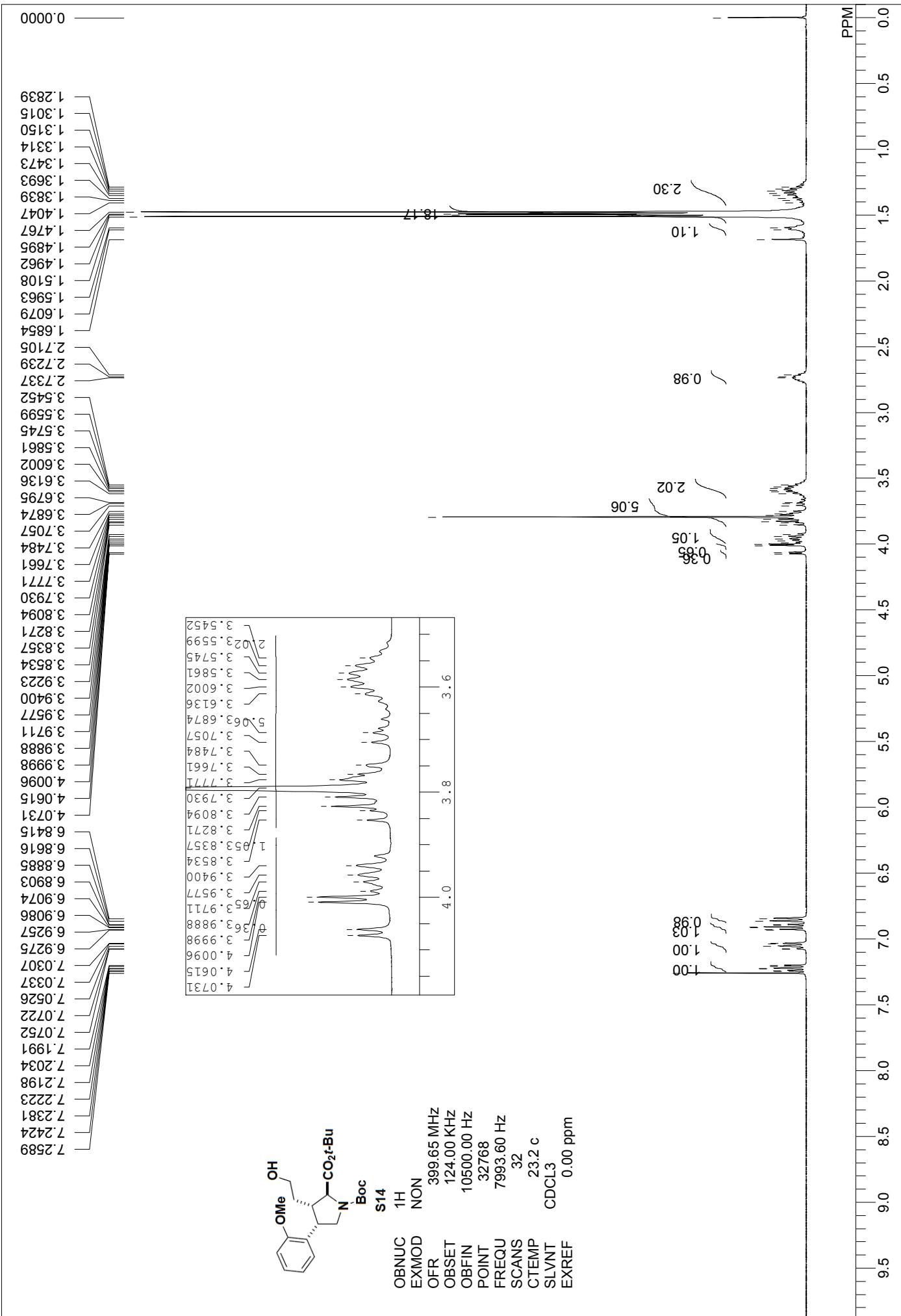


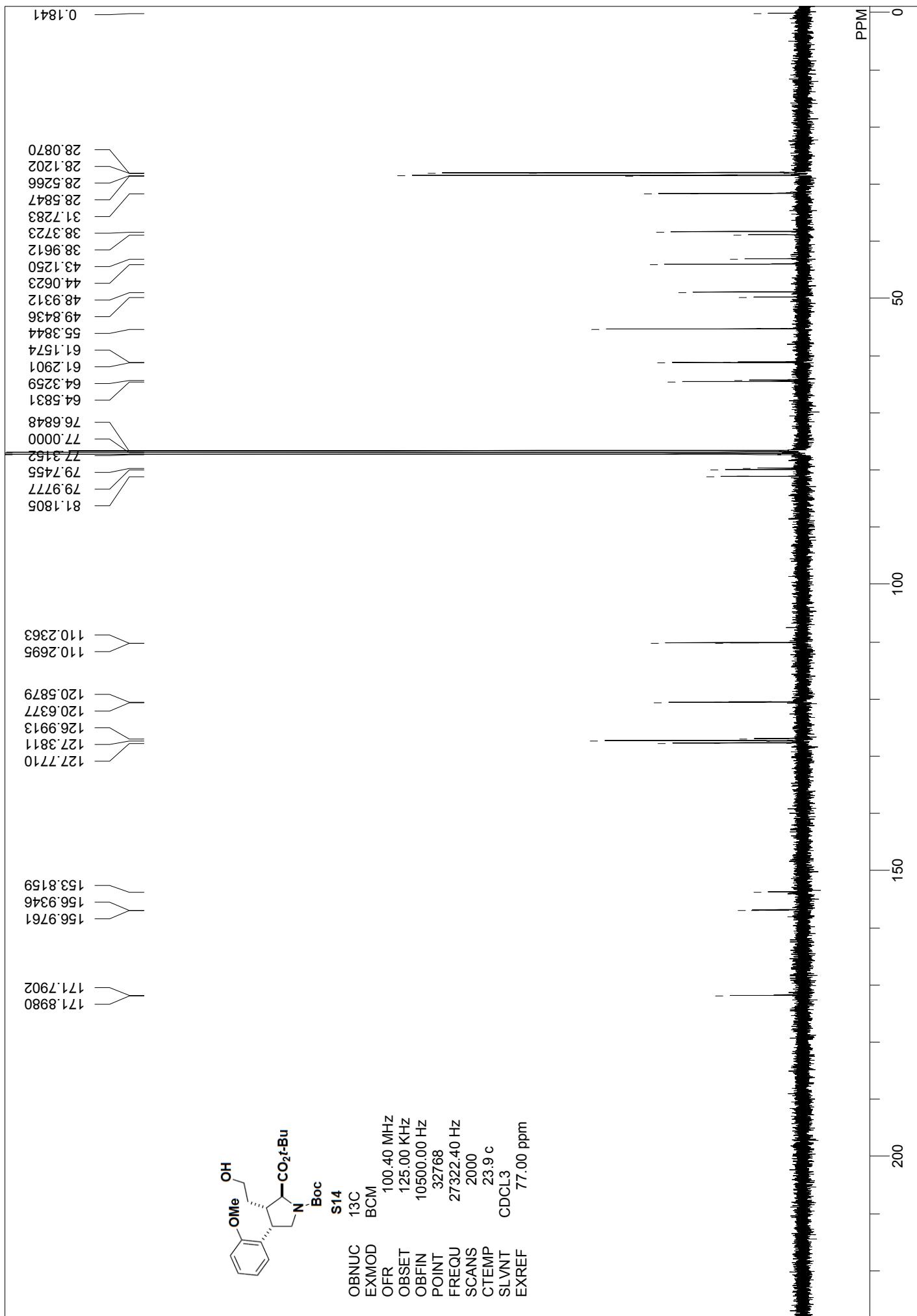


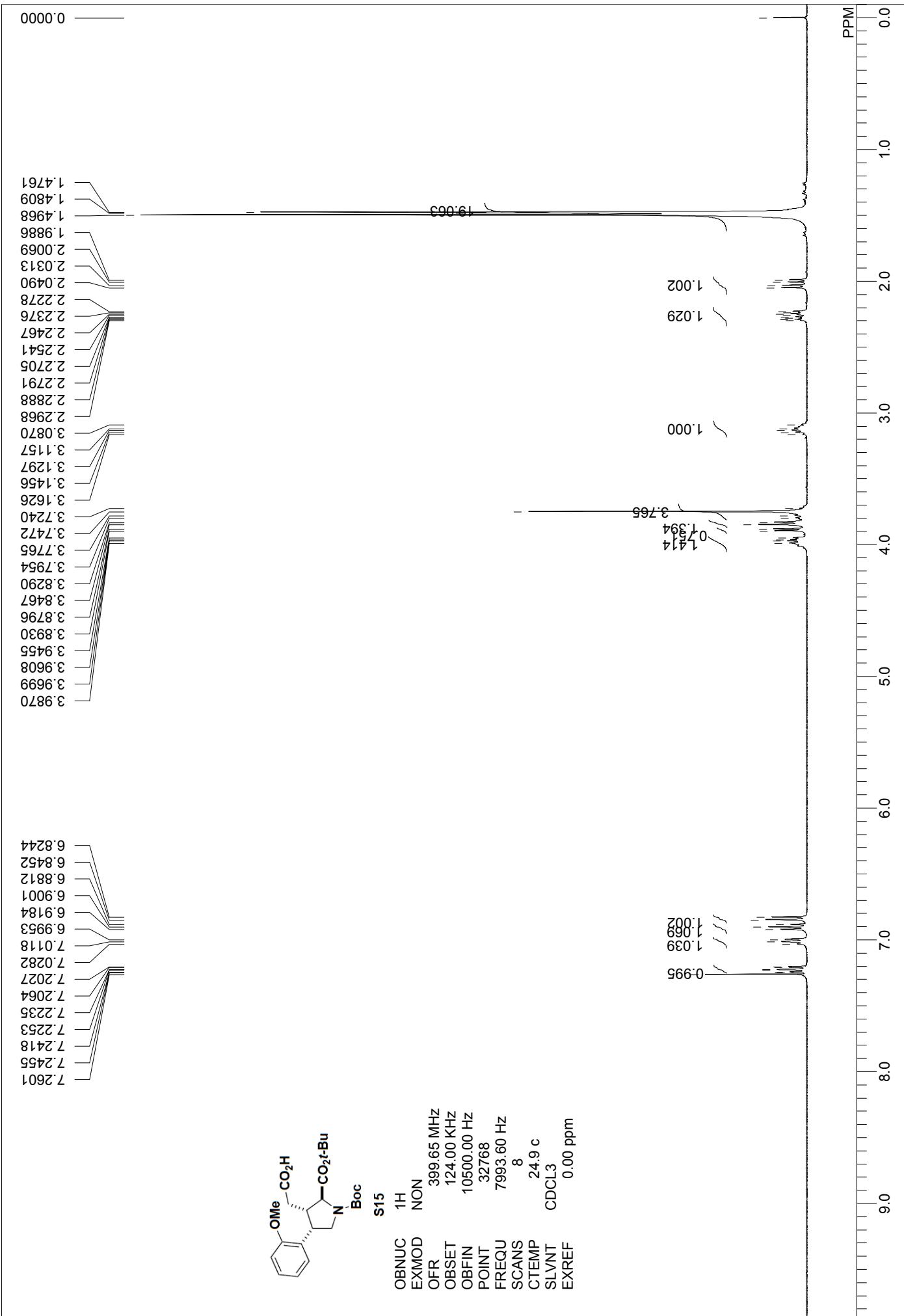


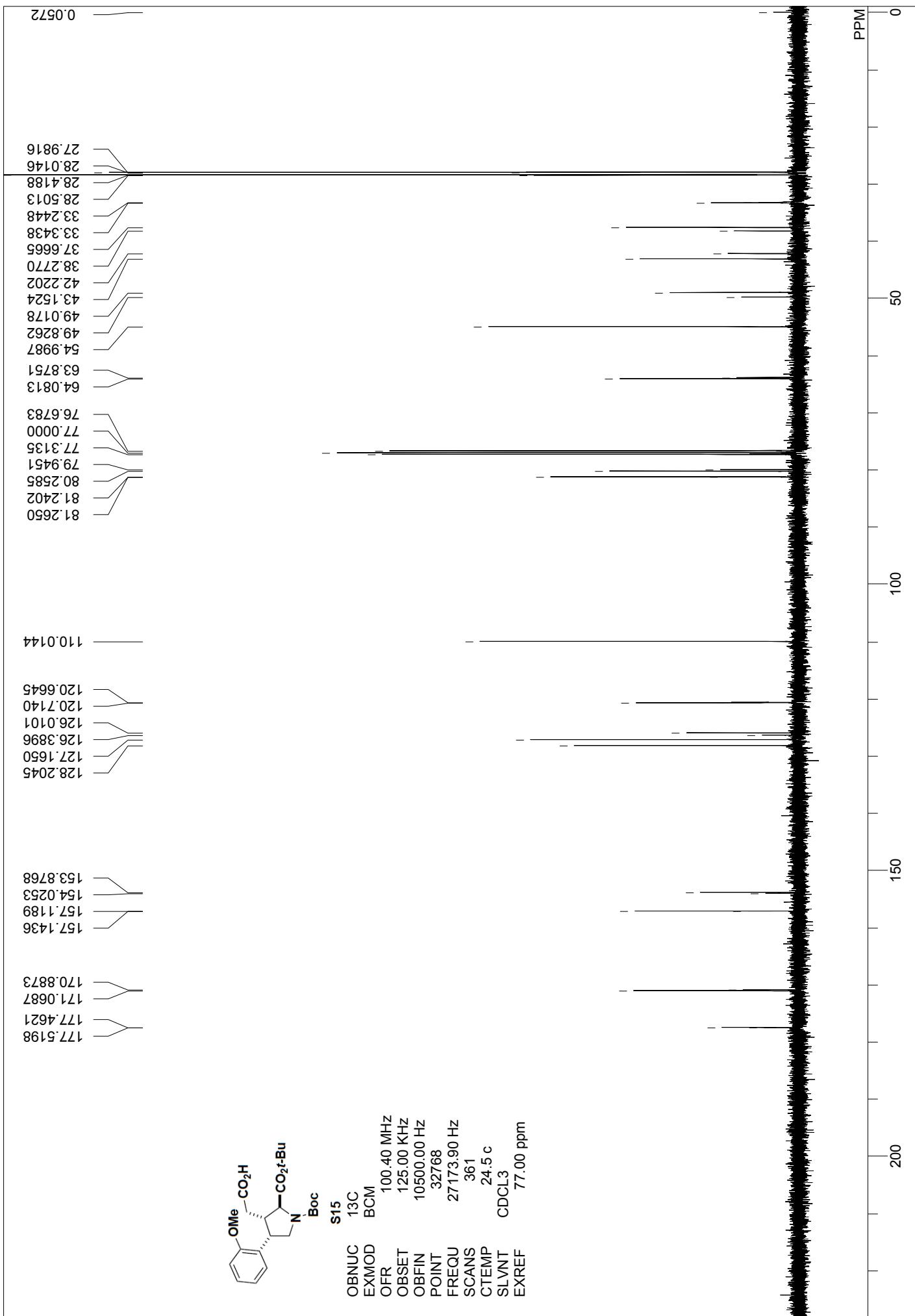


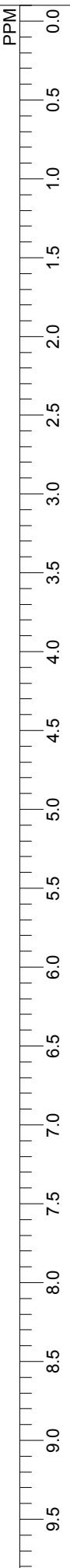












OBNUC 1H
 EXMOD NON
 OFR 399.65 MHz
 OBSET 124.00 kHz
 OBFIN 10500.00 Hz
 POINT 32768
 FREQU 8000.00 Hz
 SCANS 8
 CTEMP 23.1 °C
 SLVNT D2O
 EXREF 4.79 ppm

