



Supporting Information

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Palladium-Catalyzed C–H Activation of N-Allyl Imines: Regioselective Allylic Alkylation to Deliver Substituted Aza-1,3-Dienes**

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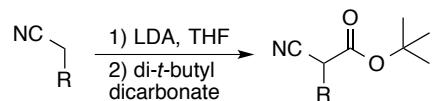
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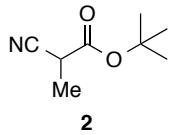
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S9	49	7	87	27	125
S10	51	8	89	28	127
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S12	55	10	93	30	131
S13	57	11	95	31	133
S14	59	12	97	33	135
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General: All reactions were performed in flame- or oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring under nitrogen or argon atmosphere using freshly distilled solvents. THF was distilled over sodium and CH_2Cl_2 was obtained from a solvent purification system. All commercial reagents were used without purification unless otherwise noted. Air and moisture sensitive liquids and solutions were transferred via stainless steel syringe or cannula and introduced into the reaction vessel through rubber septa. Thin-layer chromatography was performed on EMD silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (0.25 mm); visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by fluorescence quenching and staining with aqueous ceric ammonium molybdate, *p*-anisaldehyde, or potassium permanganate. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation below 40 °C at *ca.* 25 mm Hg. Chromatographic purification of products was accomplished using forced-flow chromatography on Silicycle silica gel (particle size 0.040-0.063 μm). All isolated and characterized compounds were >95% pure as judged by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis. Melting points were determined on a Thomas Hoover Capillary Melting Point Apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy were performed on a Varian Mercury NMR operating at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the residual protiated solvent (CDCl_3 : $\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 77.16$ ppm); all ¹³C NMR spectra are proton decoupled. Data for ¹H are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sept = septet, m = multiplet), coupling constant, and integration; data for ¹³C are reported in terms of chemical shift. Infrared spectroscopic data was recorded as thin films on sodium chloride plates on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet IR100 FT-IR spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was measured on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q II electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectrometer by the Vincent Coates Foundation Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at Stanford University. Mass peaks are reported in *m/z* units.

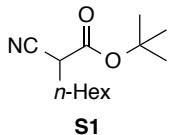
General Method for Synthesis of Cyanoester Nucleophiles:



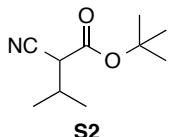
To a stirred solution of nitrile (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (30.0 mL) at -78 °C was cannulated a solution of LDA (25.0 mL, 25.0 mmol, 1M in THF, 2.5 equiv.). After 30 min, the reaction was warmed to rt. After another 30 min, the reaction was cooled back down to -78 °C. A solution of di-*t*-butyl dicarbonate (2.30 g, 10.5 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise. After 3 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with satd. aq. NH_4Cl (25 mL) and aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (2 X 40 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with 10% aq. HCl (2 X 30 mL) and brine (30 mL). The dried extract (MgSO_4) was concentrated *in vacuo* and was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with 5-10% EtOAc / hexanes to give desired cyanoesters (**2**, **S1-S3, 25**) as colorless oils.



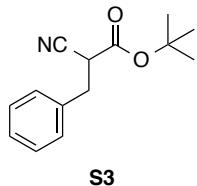
t-Butyl 2-cyanopropanoate (2): Obtained as colorless oil (1.35 g, 8.70 mmol, 87%). Previously reported compound:¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 3.44 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.49 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 117.9, 84.0, 32.6, 27.9, 15.4 ppm.



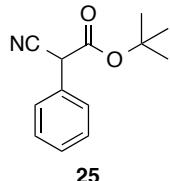
t-Butyl 2-cyanoctanoate (S1): Obtained as colorless oil (2.06 g, 9.14 mmol, 91%). Previously reported compound:¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 3.38 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.44-1.49 (m, 11H), 1.29-1.37 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.4, 117.1, 84.0, 38.7, 31.5, 30.0, 28.6, 27.9, 26.8, 22.6, 14.1 ppm.



t-Butyl-2-cyano-3-methylbutanoate (S2): Obtained as colorless oil (1.70 g, 9.28 mmol, 93%). Previously reported compound:² ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 3.29 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33-2.41 (m, 1H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.0, 115.9, 83.9, 46.5, 30.1, 27.9, 20.8, 18.9 ppm.

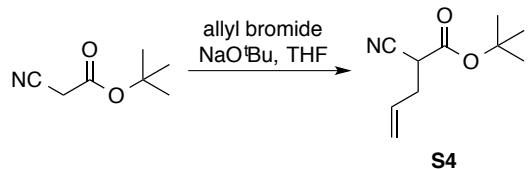


t-Butyl 2-cyano-3-phenylpropanoate (S3): Obtained as colorless oil (2.27 g, 9.81 mmol, 98%). Previously reported compound:¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 7.27-7.36 (m, 5H), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 135.6, 129.2, 128.9, 127.8, 116.7, 84.4, 40.6, 35.9, 27.9 ppm.



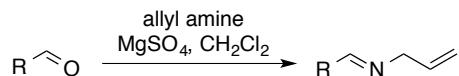
25

t-Butyl 2-cyano-2-phenylacetate (25): Obtained as colorless oil (2.07 g, 9.53 mmol, 95%). Previously reported compound:¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.46 (m, 5H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 1.44 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 130.5, 129.3, 129.1, 127.8, 116.1, 84.6, 44.9, 27.7 ppm.

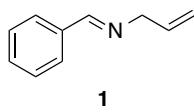


t-Butyl-2-cyanopent-4-enoate (S4): To a stirred suspension of NaOtBu (961 mg, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (40 mL) at 0 °C was added *t*-butyl 2-cyanoacetate (1.41 g, 10.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) slowly. After 30 min, allyl bromide (1.21 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. After 3 h, the reaction was quenched with H₂O (25 mL) and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 X 30 mL). The dried extract (MgSO₄) was concentrated *in vacuo* and was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with 2-5% EtOAc / hexanes to give cyanoester **S4** (783 mg, 4.32 mmol, 43%) as colorless oil. Previously reported compound:² ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 5.81 (ddt, *J* = 17.1, 10.1, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.21-5.28 (m, 2H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.62-2.67 (m, 2H), 1.49 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.6, 131.7, 119.9, 116.6, 84.3, 38.5, 34.1, 27.9 ppm.

General Method for Synthesis of Imines:

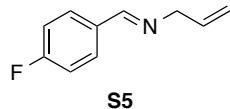


To a stirred solution of aldehyde (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL) was added MgSO₄ (1.0 g) followed by allyl amine (0.82 mL, 628 mg, 11.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). After 24 h, the reaction was filtered through a sintered glass funnel. Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and kept under high vacuum for 3 h. The crude was sufficiently clean (>95% purity by NMR) and was directly used for oxidative C-H activation.

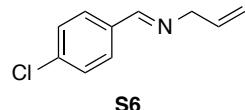


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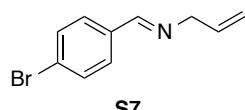
(E)-N-Allyl-1-phenylmethanimine (1): Obtained as colorless oil (1.45 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.30 (t, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 3H), 6.08 (ddt, *J* = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (dq, *J* = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (dq, *J* = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dq, *J* = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.1, 136.2, 135.9, 130.8, 128.6, 128.2, 116.1, 63.6 ppm.



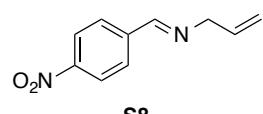
(*E*)-*N*-Allyl-1-(4-fluorophenyl)methanimine (S5): Obtained as colorless oil (1.63 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.25 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.06 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dq, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4 (d, J = 249.5 Hz), 160.6, 135.9, 132.5 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 130.1 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 116.1 (d, J = 35.9 Hz), 115.7, 63.5 ppm.



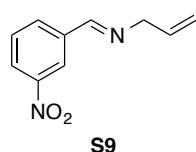
(*E*)-*N*-Allyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)methanimine (S6): Obtained as colorless oil (1.79 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.23 (t, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 2H), 6.05 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dq, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.6, 136.7, 135.7, 134.7, 129.4, 128.9, 116.3, 63.5 ppm.



(*E*)-*N*-Allyl-1-(4-bromophenyl)methanimine (S7): Obtained as light yellow oil (2.25 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2H), 6.05 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dq, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.8, 135.7, 135.1, 131.9, 129.6, 125.2, 116.4, 63.6 ppm.



(*E*)-*N*-Allyl-1-(4-nitrophenyl)methanimine (S8): Obtained as pale yellow solid (1.89 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁶ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.37 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23-8.26 (m, 2H), 7.89-7.92 (m, 2H), 6.06 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (dq, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.6, 149.1, 141.7, 135.2, 128.9, 123.9, 116.8, 63.7 ppm.

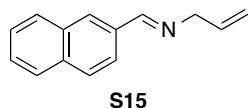


(*E*)-*N*-Allyl-1-(3-nitrophenyl)methanimine (S9): Obtained as pale yellow oil (1.90 g, quant.). IR: (neat) 3041, 2970, 2940, 2835, 1626, 1508, 1420, 1332, 980, 907 cm^{-1} ; ^1H

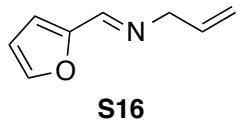
3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 161.4, 136.3, 129.8, 129.2, 116.0, 114.1, 63.6, 55.4 ppm.



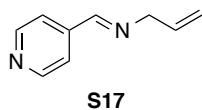
(E)-N-Allyl-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)methanimine (S14): Obtained as light yellow oil (1.96 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁹ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.97 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.96 (s, 1H), 7.90-7.96 (m, 3H), 7.62 (ddd, $J = 8.5, 6.9, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.57 (m, 2H), 6.22 (ddt, $J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.37 (dq, $J = 17.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.25 (dq, $J = 10.3, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dq, $J = 5.6, 1.6$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.6, 136.2, 133.8, 131.6, 131.3, 131.1, 128.8, 128.6, 127.2, 126.1, 125.3, 124.3, 116.0, 64.5 ppm.



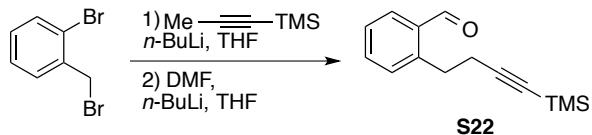
(E)-N-Allyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)methanimine (S15): Obtained as white solid (1.95 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:⁹ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 8.03 (dd, $J = 8.5, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.91 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.55 (m, 2H), 6.13 (ddt, $J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.29 (dq, $J = 17.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (dq, $J = 10.3, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dq, $J = 5.7, 1.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.2, 136.0, 134.8, 133.9, 133.2, 130.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.2, 126.6, 123.9, 116.3, 63.7 ppm.



(E)-N-Allyl-1-(furan-2-yl)methanimine (S16): Obtained as light yellow oil (1.34 g, quant.) Previously reported compound:¹⁰ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, $J = 3.4, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.99-6.09 (m, 1H), 5.20 (dq, $J = 17.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.13 (dq, $J = 10.2, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.21 (dq, $J = 5.9, 1.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.7, 150.4, 144.8, 135.6, 116.5, 114.0, 111.7, 63.7 ppm.

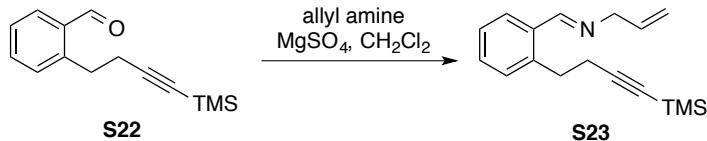


(E)-N-Allyl-1-(pyridin-4-yl)methanimine (S17): Obtained as colorless oil (1.47 g, quant.). Previously reported compound:¹¹ ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.69 (dd, $J = 6.0, 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.60 (dd, $J = 6.0, 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.06 (ddt, $J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.24 (dq, $J = 17.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.18 (dq, $J = 10.3, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.29 (dq, $J = 5.7, 1.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 150.3, 142.7, 134.9, 121.7, 116.5, 63.4 ppm.



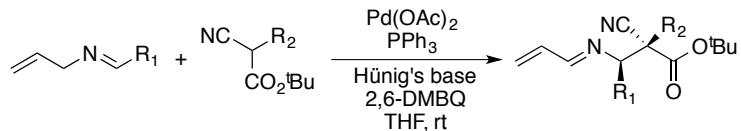
2-(4-(Trimethylsilyl)but-3-yn-1-yl)benzaldehyde (S22): To a stirred solution of 1-(trimethylsilyl)propane (1.25 g, 11.1 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) in THF (35.0 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-BuLi (4.4 mL, 11.1 mmol, 2.51 M in hexanes, 1.05 equiv.) dropwise. After 2 h, a solution of 2-bromobenzylbromide (2.65 g, 10.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (4.0 mL) was cannulated over 15 min. The reaction was allowed to warm to rt. After 15 h, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with 2-5% EtOAc / hexanes to give known intermediate aryl bromide¹⁴ (2.65 g, 9.42 mmol, 89%) as colorless oil.

To a stirred solution of intermediate aryl bromide (2.60 g, 9.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-BuLi (5.5 mL, 13.8 mmol, 2.51 M in hexanes, 1.5 equiv.) dropwise. After 30 min, DMF (1.69 g, 23.1 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added dropwise and the reaction was warmed to rt. After 16 h, the reaction was poured into a mixture of satd. aq. NH₄Cl and Et₂O (50 mL, 1:1) and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 X 30 mL). The dried extract (MgSO₄) was concentrated *in vacuo* and was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with 5-10% EtOAc / hexanes to give aldehyde **S22** (1.72 g, 7.47 mmol, 81 %) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2917, 2859, 2143, 1673, 1578, 1552, 1232, 1175, 1025, 830 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.26 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 0.10 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.6, 142.9, 134.0, 133.7, 132.6, 131.8, 127.2, 105.9, 86.4, 31.4, 22.1, 0.11 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₉OSi (M+H) 231.1200, found 231.1193.

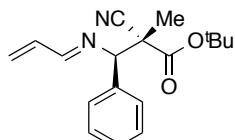


(E)-N-Allyl-1-(2-(4-(trimethylsilyl)but-3-yn-1-yl)phenyl)methanimine (S23): To a stirred solution of aldehyde **S22** (1.18 g, 5.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (6.0 mL) was added MgSO₄ (500 mg) followed by allyl amine (0.42 mL, 322 mg, 5.63 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). After 24 h, the reaction was filtered through a sintered glass funnel. Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and kept under high vacuum for 3 h to give imine **S23** (1.38 g, 5.12 mmol, quant.) as colorless oil. The crude was sufficiently clean (>95% purity by NMR) and was directly used for oxidative C-H activation. IR: (neat) 2916, 2858, 2144, 1618, 1425, 1232, 1026, 979, 905, 830 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.36 (m, 4H), 6.09 (ddt, *J* = 17.2, 10.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (dq, *J* = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dq, *J* = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dq, *J* = 5.6, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.13 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.4, 140.2, 136.1, 134.0, 130.6, 130.3, 128.3, 127.0, 116.0, 106.3, 85.8, 64.2, 31.8, 22.3, 0.21 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₄NSi (M+H) 270.1673, found 270.1664.

General Method for Synthesis of β -Amino Ester via Oxidative C-H Activation:

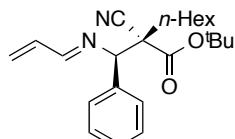


An oven dried Pyrex microwave vial was charged with $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (0.03 equiv.), PPh_3 (0.06 equiv.), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (1.1 equiv.) and was sealed with a rubber septa. The vial was evacuated and filled with nitrogen three times in an interval of 10 min. In a separate sealed nitrogen flushed vial, cyanoester (1.0 equiv.) and *N*-allyl imine (1.1 equiv.) were taken in freshly distilled THF. The solution was cannulated to the microwave vial with palladium catalyst. *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (1.1 equiv.) was added to the resulting turbid solution and was allowed to stir at rt for 10-60 h depending on the substrates. Upon completion (monitored by crude NMR), the reaction was passed through a plug of silica gel (pre-neutralized with 2% Et_3N in Hexanes). Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (pre-neutralized with 1% Et_3N in Hexanes), eluting with EtOAc / hexanes, to give β -amino- α -cyanoesters **3-24**.



3

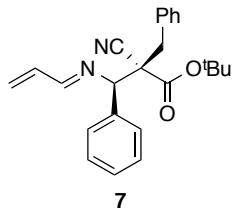
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoate (3): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **1** (160 mg, 1.10 mmol), cyanoester **2** (155 mg, 1.00 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (6.7 mg, 0.030 mmol), PPh_3 (15.7 mg, 0.060 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (150 mg, 1.10 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142 mg, 0.19 mL, 1.10 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **3** (278 mg, 0.932 mmol, 93%) as white solid. Mp. 108-110 °C; IR: (neat) 2940, 1710, 1622, 1435, 1351, 1261, 1240, 1140, 1108, 827 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.39 (m, 3H), 6.58 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (dd, J = 17.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.41 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.9, 165.4, 137.3, 136.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 119.0, 84.2, 78.6, 51.7, 27.9, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) 299.1754, found 299.1750.



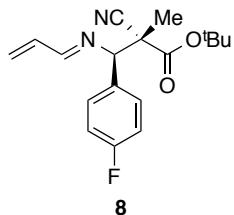
4

t-Butyl-2-((E)-allylidene)amino(phenyl)methyl-2-cyanooctanoate (4): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **1** (89.2 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **S1** (135 mg, 0.600 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh_3 (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 μL , 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 14 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-

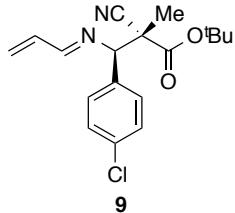
120.7, 118.0, 84.6, 78.8, 57.1, 39.6, 28.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $C_{20}H_{25}N_2O_2$ ($M+H$) 325.1911, found 325.1901.



t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-benzyl-2-cyano-3-phenylpropanoate (7): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **1** (47.9 mg, 0.330 mmol), cyanoester **S3** (109 mg, 0.300 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.0 mg, 0.009 mmol), PPh_3 (4.7 mg, 0.018 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (44.9 mg, 0.330 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (42.7 mg, 58.0 μ L, 0.660 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **7** (103 mg, 0.275 mmol, 92%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2990, 2938, 2892, 1703, 1621, 1581, 1434, 1349, 1242, 1138, 827 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.86 (dd, J = 8.9, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.58 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (ddd, J = 10.2, 1.1, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (ddd, J = 17.4, 1.2, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 9H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 166.8, 165.4, 137.3, 136.9, 134.0, 130.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 118.2, 84.3, 79.5, 58.6, 40.9, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $C_{24}H_{26}N_2O_2Na$ ($M+Na$) 397.1886, found 397.1875.

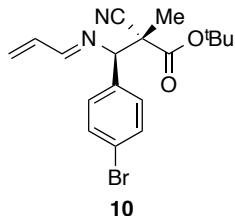


t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methylpropanoate (8): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S5** (108 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh_3 (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 μ L, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **8** (162 mg, 0.512 mmol, 85%) as white solid. Mp. 85-86 °C; IR: (neat) 2941, 1711, 1621, 1582, 1488, 1352, 1263, 1239, 1142, 1108 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 7.85 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.56 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dt, J = 10.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.68-5.72 (m, 1H), 4.45 (s, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.8, 165.5, 163.0 (d, J = 247.9 Hz), 136.8, 133.1 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 130.5 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 129.1, 118.9, 115.5 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 84.4, 77.8, 51.7 (d, J = 1.3 Hz), 27.9, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $C_{18}H_{22}FN_2O_2$ ($M+H$) 317.1660, found 317.1651.



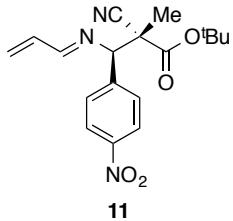
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropanoate

(**9**): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S6** (119 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 10 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **9** (186 mg, 0.558 mmol, 93%) as white solid. Mp. 86-88 °C; IR: (neat) 2940, 2896, 1711, 1622, 1470, 1351, 1260, 1142, 1108, 823 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 0.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 2H), 6.55 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dt, *J* = 10.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 1.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.39 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 165.6, 136.6, 135.8, 134.6, 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 118.7, 84.4, 77.7, 51.5, 27.8, 21.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂CIN₂O₂ (M+H) 333.1364, found 333.1363.



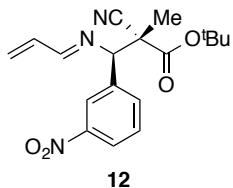
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropanoate

(**10**): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S7** (148 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **10** (170 mg, 0.451 mmol, 75%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2939, 1711, 1622, 1581, 1465, 1351, 1259, 1142, 1108, 996 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.41 (m, 2H), 6.55 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 165.6, 136.7, 136.3, 131.7, 130.5, 129.3, 122.9, 118.7, 84.4, 77.8, 51.5, 27.9, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₁BrN₂O₂Na (M+Na) 399.0679, found 399.0672.



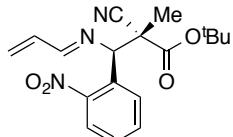
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate

(11): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S8** (126 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 10 h. Purification by flash chromatography (10-25% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **11** (178 mg, 0.518 mmol, 86%) as white solid. Mp. 122-125 °C; IR: (neat) 2940, 1711, 1622, 1581, 1502, 1330, 1263, 1143, 1109, 829 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21-8.24 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.74 (m, 2H), 6.57 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dt, *J* = 10.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 1.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.42 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 166.3, 148.2, 144.4, 136.5, 130.0, 129.9, 123.7, 118.3, 84.9, 77.7, 51.4, 27.9, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₁N₃O₄Na (M+Na) 366.1424, found 366.1413.



t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(3-nitrophenyl)propanoate

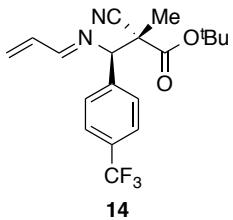
(12): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S9** (126 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 115 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (10-25% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **12** (171 mg, 0.498 mmol, 83%) as white solid. Mp. 111-113 °C; IR: (neat) 3048, 2941, 2832, 1710, 1622, 1509, 1331, 1263, 1141, 827 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dt, *J* = 10.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.73-5.78 (m, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.44 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 166.4, 148.0, 139.4, 136.5, 135.0, 130.0, 129.7, 123.9, 123.7, 118.4, 84.8, 77.6, 51.5, 27.9, 21.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂N₃O₄ (M+H) 344.1605, found 344.1601.



13

t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)propanoate

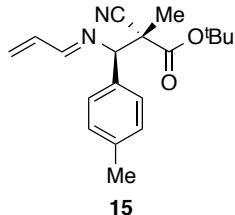
(13): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S10** (126 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 μ L, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 12 h. Purification by flash chromatography (10-25% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **13** (194 mg, 0.564 mmol, 94%) as white solid. Mp: 84-86 °C; IR: (neat) 2940, 1713, 1620, 1509, 1434, 1349, 1260, 1143, 1108, 829 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dt, *J* = 10.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.38 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.03, 167.00, 150.0, 136.6, 133.2, 131.4, 131.3, 130.0, 129.3, 124.1, 118.8, 84.7, 70.0, 52.3, 20.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂N₃O₄ (M+H) 344.1605, found 344.1596.



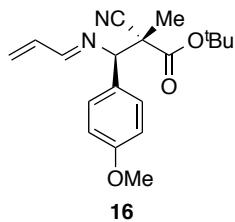
14

t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (14):

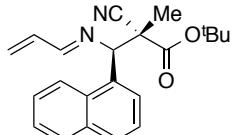
The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S11** (141 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 μ L, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 18 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **14** (174 mg, 0.474 mmol, 79%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2940, 1710, 1618, 1505, 1440, 1348, 1262, 1145, 1110, 827 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.67 (m, 4H), 6.57 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dt, *J* = 10.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 1.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.42 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 166.0, 141.3, 136.6, 130.9 (q, *J* = 32.2 Hz), 129.5, 129.4, 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 118.6, 84.6, 78.0, 51.5, 27.9, 21.2 ppm.



t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-3-(p-tolyl)propanoate (15): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S12** (105 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 14 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **15** (178 mg, 0.570 mmol, 95%) as white solid. Mp. 102-104 °C; IR: (neat) 2939, 2897, 1711, 1621, 1435, 1351, 1262, 1142, 1108, 829 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.57 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (dt, *J* = 10.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 1.1, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.41 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 165.2, 138.6, 137.0, 134.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 119.1, 84.2, 78.4, 51.7, 27.9, 21.3, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₉H₂₅N₂O₂ (M+H) 313.1911, found 313.1906.

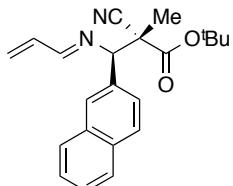


t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanoate (16): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S13** (116 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 µL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 16 h. Purification by flash chromatography (10-20% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **16** (176 mg, 0.536 mmol, 89%) as white solid. Mp. 73-75 °C; IR: (neat) 2939, 2896, 1710, 1584, 1491, 1351, 1235, 1144, 1108, 826 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.57 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (dt, *J* = 10.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.65-5.70 (m, 1H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 165.1, 159.9, 136.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.7, 119.2, 113.9, 84.1, 78.1, 55.4, 51.8, 27.9, 21.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₁₉H₂₄N₂O₃Na (M+Na) 351.1679, found 351.1675.



17

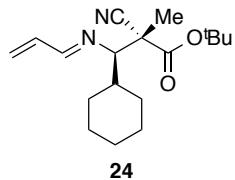
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)propanoate (17): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S14** (129 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 μL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 16 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **17** (189 mg, 0.542 mmol, 90%) as white solid. Mp. 114-116 °C; IR: (neat) 3012, 2939, 1709, 1621, 1580, 1434, 1351, 1258, 1144, 1108 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (dd, *J* = 19.8, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.59 (m, 3H), 6.60 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.80 ((dt, *J* = 10.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H)), 5.64-5.68 (m, 1H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 165.3, 137.0, 133.8, 133.5, 132.1, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.9, 126.6, 126.0, 125.7, 122.7, 119.3, 84.5, 71.3, 53.3, 28.0, 21.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₂ (M+H) 349.1911, found 349.1903.



18

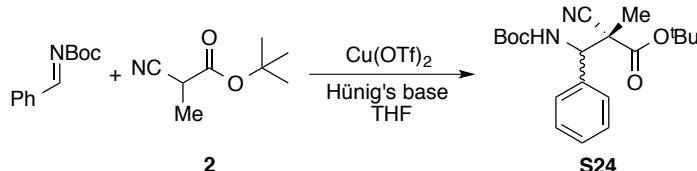
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate (18): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S15** (129 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh₃ (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 μL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 14 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **18** (171 mg, 0.491 mmol, 82%) as white solid. Mp. 96-98 °C; IR: (neat) 3014, 2939, 2896, 1710, 1620, 1582, 1351, 1241, 1142, 828 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.89 (m, 3H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 2H), 6.62 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 165.6, 136.9, 134.8, 133.5, 133.1, 129.0, 128.35, 128.34, 128.28, 127.8, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 119.1, 84.3, 78.7, 51.7, 27.9, 21.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₂ (M+H) 349.1911, found 349.1908.

168.0, 164.8, 140.4, 137.0, 131.9, 128.5, 120.0, 84.0, 75.6, 49.3, 32.4, 31.9, 27.9, 23.5, 21.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $C_{17}H_{25}N_2O_2$ ($M+H$) 289.1911, found 289.1909.



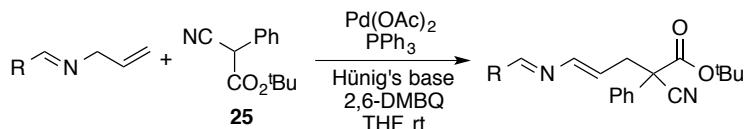
t-Butyl-3-((E)-allylidene)amino-2-cyano-3-cyclohexyl-2-methylpropanoate (24):
The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S21** (99.8 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **2** (93.2 mg, 0.600 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), PPh_3 (9.4 mg, 0.036 mmol) 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 μ L, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 60 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **24** (102 mg, 0.335 mmol, 56%) as white solid. Mp. 93-95 °C; IR: (neat) 2886, 2813, 1705, 1623, 1581, 1429, 1350, 1240, 1142, 942 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.71 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (ddd, J = 10.2, 1.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69-5.73 (m, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.00-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.81 (m, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.49-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.14-1.33 (m, 2H), 0.95-1.12 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.9, 165.0, 136.7, 128.5, 120.1, 83.9, 79.6, 49.0, 39.2, 32.1, 28.2, 27.8, 26.5, 26.3, 26.1, 20.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for $C_{18}H_{29}N_2O_2$ ($M+H$) 305.2224, found 305.2222.

Test of Diastereoselectivity for Imine addition by Lewis Acid Activation:



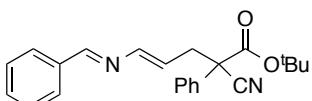
t-Butyl 3-((t-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-2-cyano-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoate (S24):
To a stirred solution of *N*-boc phenyl imine (67.8 mg, 0.330 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and cyanoester **2** (46.6 mg, 0.300 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (1.5 mL) was added $Cu(OTf)_2$ (10.9 mg, 0.030 mmol, 0.10 equiv.) followed by *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (58 μ L, 42.6 mg, 0.330 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). After 2.5 h, the reaction was quenched with satd. aq. $NaHCO_3$ (5 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (2 X 10 mL). The dried extract ($MgSO_4$) was concentrated *in vacuo* and was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel, eluting with 10-20% EtOAC / hexanes to give coupled adduct **S24** (72.1 mg, 0.200 mmol, 67%) as colorless oil in 1:1 dr.

General Method for Synthesis of 2-Aza Diene via Oxidative C-H Activation:



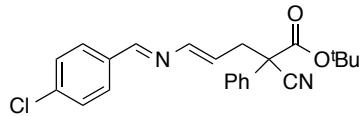
An oven dried Pyrex microwave vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (0.05 equiv.), PPh_3 (0.10 equiv.), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (1.1 equiv.) and was sealed with a rubber

septa. The vial was evacuated and filled with nitrogen three times in an interval of 10 min. In a separate sealed nitrogen flushed vial, cyanoester **25** (1.0 equiv.) and *N*-allyl imine (1.1 equiv.) were taken in freshly distilled THF. The solution was cannulated to the microwave vial with palladium catalyst. *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (1.1 equiv.) was added to the resulting turbid solution and was allowed to stir at rt for 48-65 h depending on the substrates. Upon completion (monitored by crude NMR), the reaction was passed through a plug of silica gel (pre-neutralized with 2% Et₃N in Hexanes). Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (pre-neutralized with 1% Et₃N in Hexanes), eluting with EtOAc / hexanes, to give 2-aza-dienes **26-31**.



26

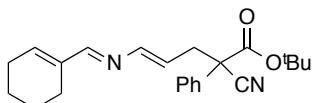
t-Butyl-(E)-5-(((E)-benzylidene)amino)-2-cyano-2-phenylpent-4-enoate (26): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **1** (145 mg, 1.10 mmol), cyanoester **25** (217 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol), PPh₃ (26.2 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (150 mg, 1.10 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142 mg, 0.19 mL, 1.10 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL) for 52 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **26** (175 mg, 0.485 mmol, 81%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2937, 2892, 1712, 1578, 1550, 1429, 1351, 1236, 1136, 826 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 6H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (dt, *J* = 12.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 162.0, 147.4, 135.9, 134.6, 131.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.81, 128.79, 126.2, 123.8, 118.4, 84.7, 55.3, 39.2, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₃H₂₅N₂O₂ (M+H) 361.1911, found 361.1906.



27

t-Butyl-(E)-5-(((E)-4-chlorobenzylidene)amino)-2-cyano-2-phenylpent-4-enoate (27): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S6** (119 mg, 0.660 mmol), cyanoester **25** (130 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.7 mg, 0.030 mmol), PPh₃ (15.7 mg, 0.060 mmol), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.3 mg, 115 μL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 48 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAC / hexanes) gave product **27** (199 mg, 0.504 mmol, 84%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2939, 2893, 1713, 1568, 1469, 1351, 1237, 1136, 1073, 825 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 5H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (dt, *J* = 12.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 160.4, 147.1, 137.3, 134.5, 134.4, 129.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 126.1, 124.5, 118.4, 84.7, 55.2, 39.1, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₃H₂₄ClN₂O₂ (M+H) 395.1521, found 395.1515.

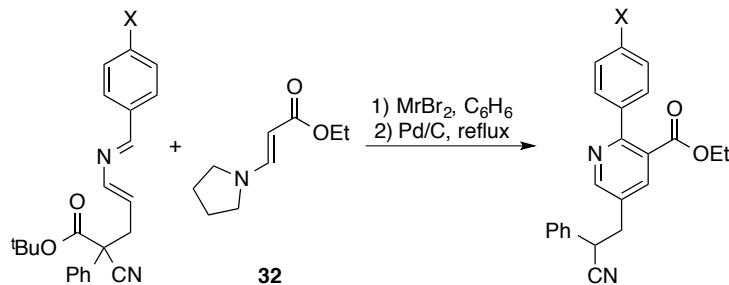
cyanoester **25** (130 mg, 0.600 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.7 mg, 0.030 mmol), PPh₃ (15.8 mg, 0.060 mmol), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (89.8 mg, 0.660 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (85.4 mg, 116 mL, 0.660 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) for 54 h. Purification by flash chromatography (40-80% EtOAc / hexanes) gave product **30** (155 mg, 0.429 mmol, 71%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2938, 2893, 1713, 1576, 1430, 1393, 1351, 1237, 1136, 964 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dt, *J* = 12.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.8, 159.4, 150.6, 146.7, 142.7, 134.4, 129.3, 129.0, 127.2, 126.1, 122.2, 118.3, 84.8, 55.1, 39.1, 27.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₂H₂₄N₃O₂ (M+H) 362.1863, found 362.1865.



31

t-Butyl-(E)-2-cyano-5-((E)-cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethylen)amino)-2-phenylpent-4-enoate (31): The reaction was performed with *N*-allyl imine **S19** (164 mg, 1.10 mmol), cyanoester **25** (217 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.3 mg, 0.050 mmol), PPh₃ (26.3 mg, 0.100 mmol), 2,6-dimethylbenzoquinone (150 mg, 1.10 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142 mg, 0.19 mL, 1.10 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL) for 65 h. Purification by flash chromatography (5-15% EtOAc / hexanes) gave product **31** (283 mg, 0.776 mmol, 78%) as colorless oil. IR: (neat) 2937, 2890, 2819, 1713, 1562, 1429, 1351, 1236, 1136, 827 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.42 (m, 3H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 6.25-6.27 (m, 1H), 5.86 (dt, *J* = 13.0, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.28-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.24 (m, 2H), 1.64 (dt, *J* = 6.2, 3.0 Hz, 4H), 1.41 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 165.7, 148.0, 142.0, 138.3, 134.6, 129.1, 128.8, 126.2, 121.7, 118.5, 84.5, 55.3, 39.2, 27.7, 26.6, 23.7, 22.4, 22.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) calcd. for C₂₃H₂₉N₂O₂ (M+H) 365.2224, found 365.2220.

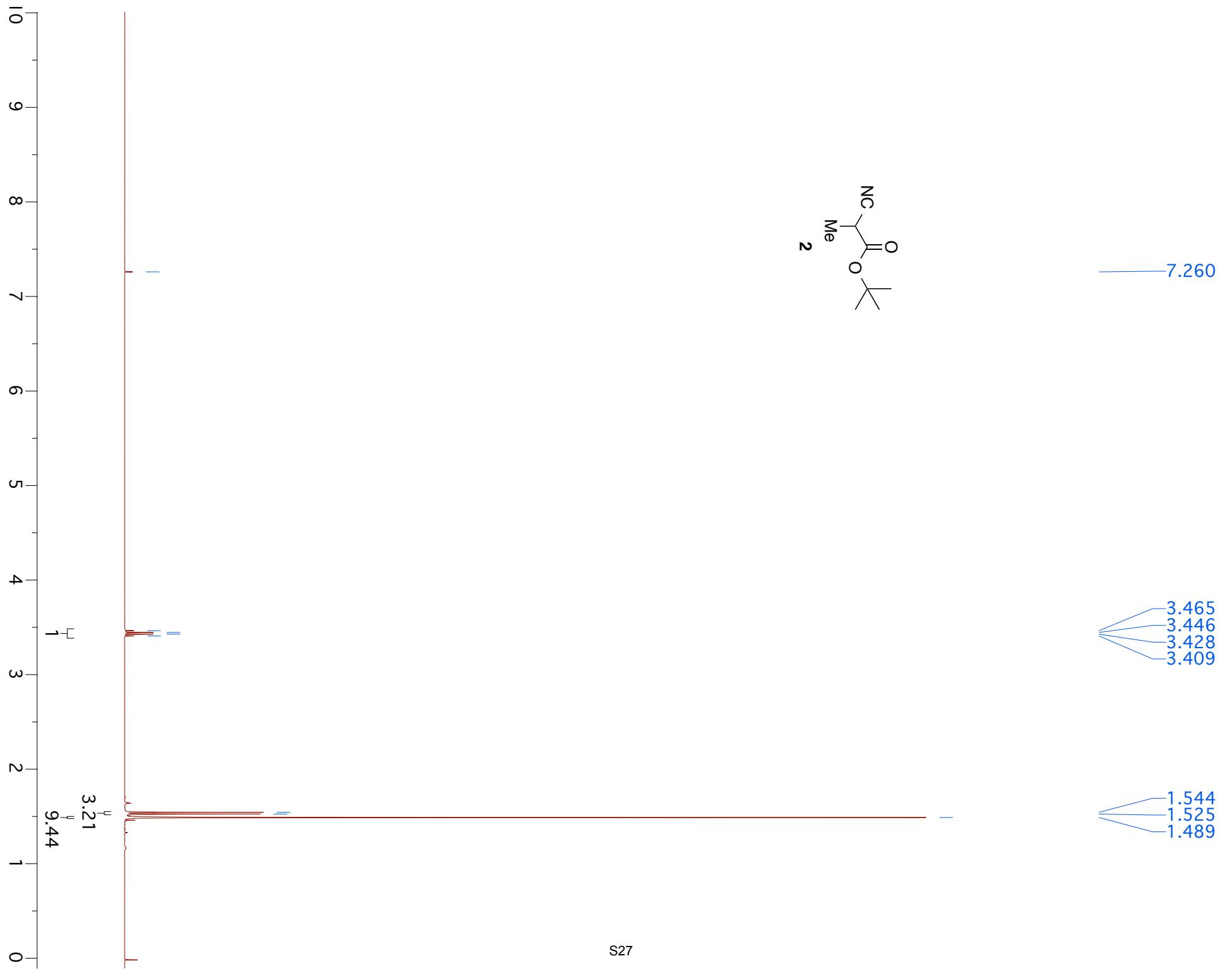
General Method for Synthesis of Pyridine Derivatives:

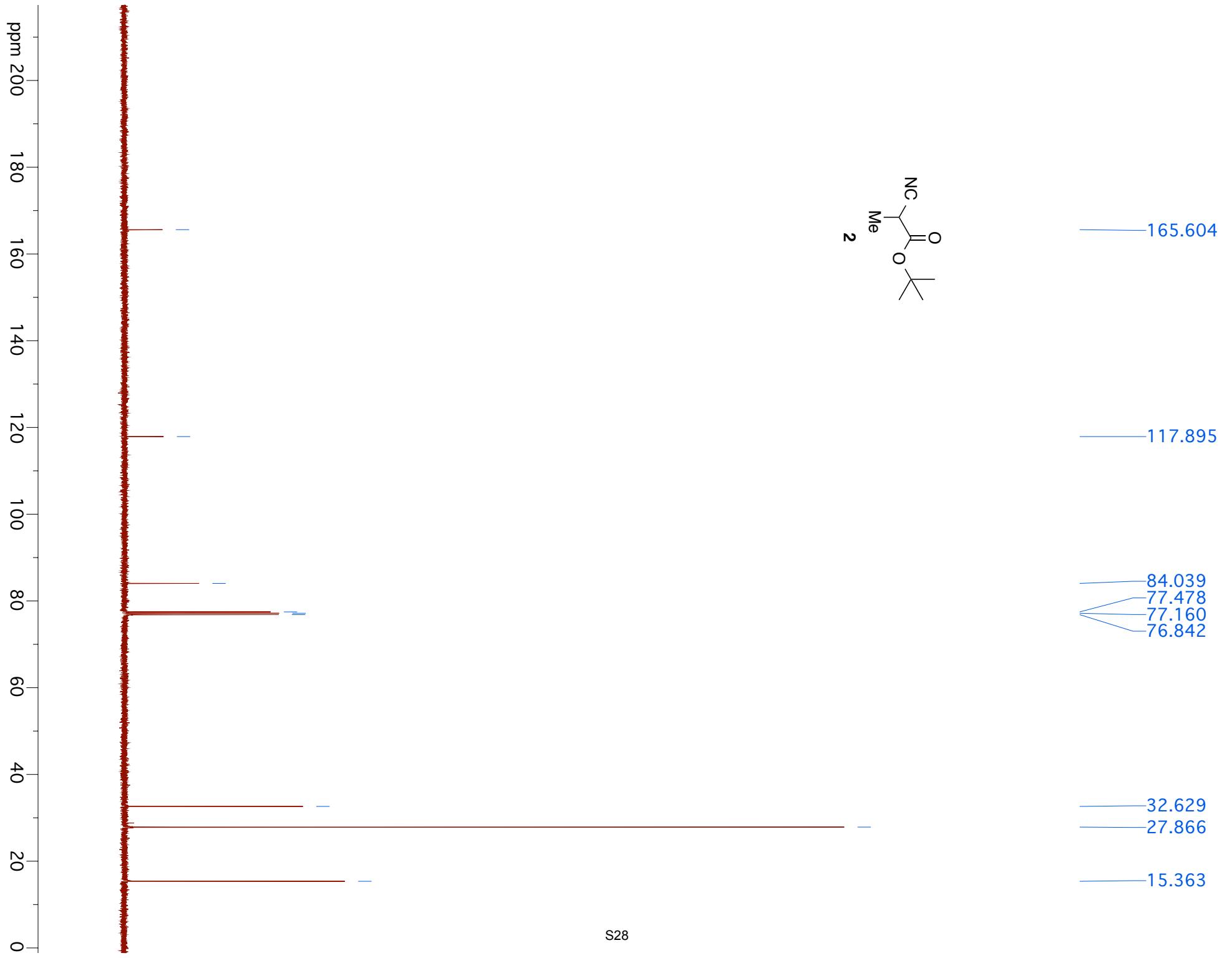


An oven dried round bottom flask was charged with 2-aza-diene (1.0 equiv.), enamine ester **32**¹⁵ (2.0 equiv.), MgBr₂ (1.2 equiv.), and 4 Å mol. sieves. The flask was evacuated and filled with argon (X 3). Toluene was added to the mixture and warmed to 60 °C. After 24 h, Pd/C (5 wt. %) was added and heated to reflux. After 10 h, the reaction was cooled down to rt. The reaction mixture was directly loaded onto column and purified by flash

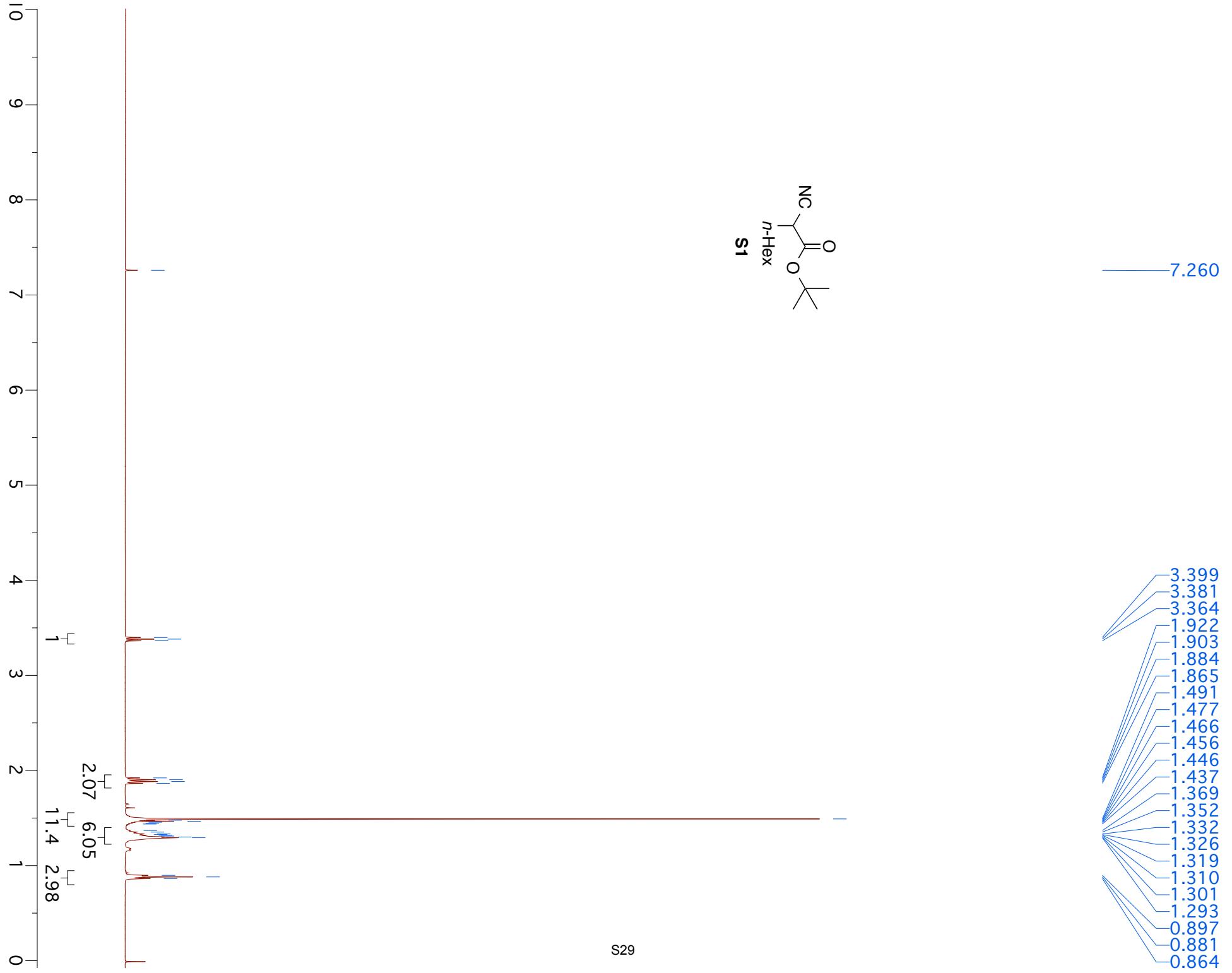
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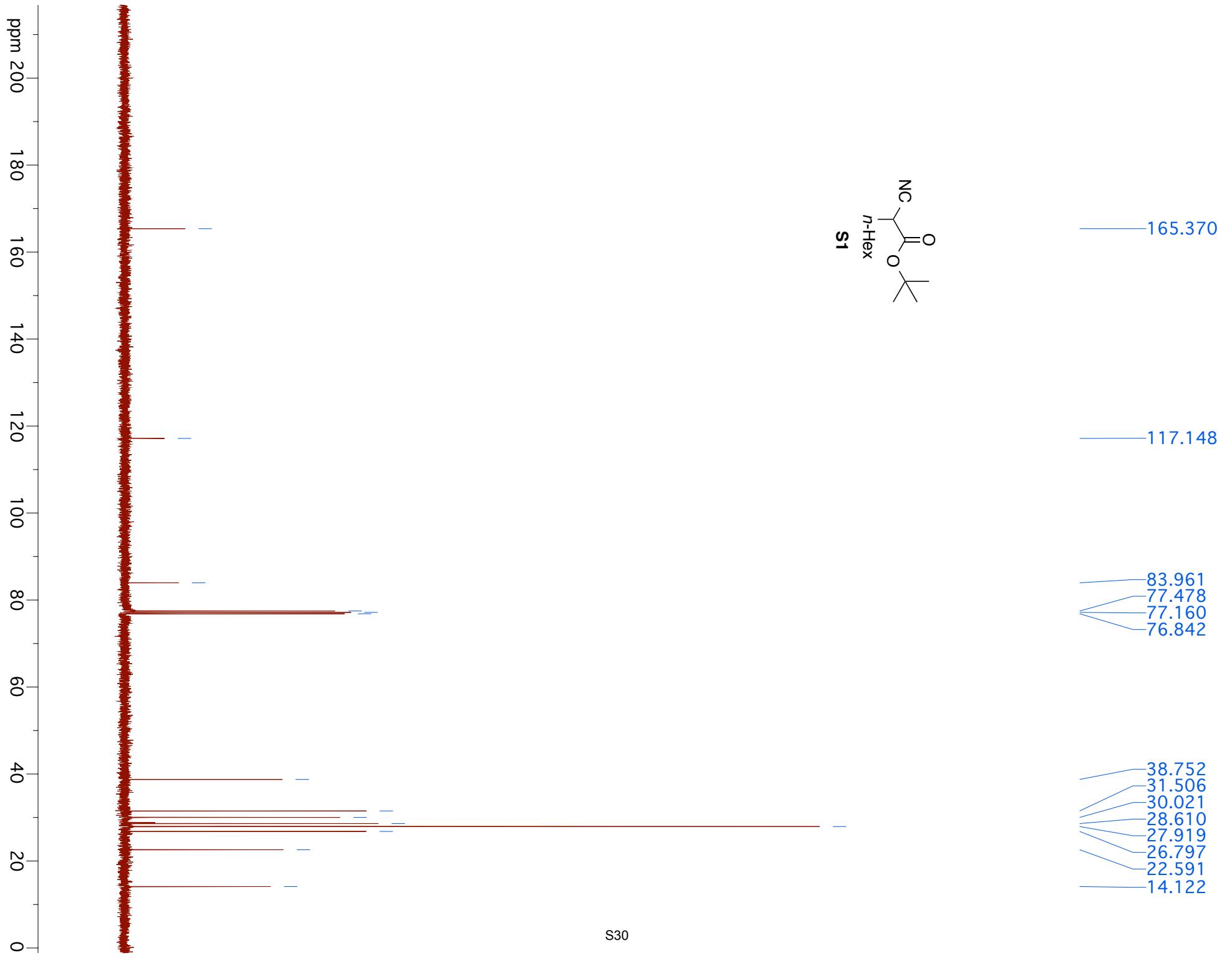
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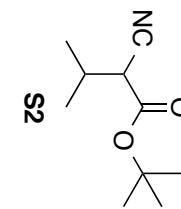
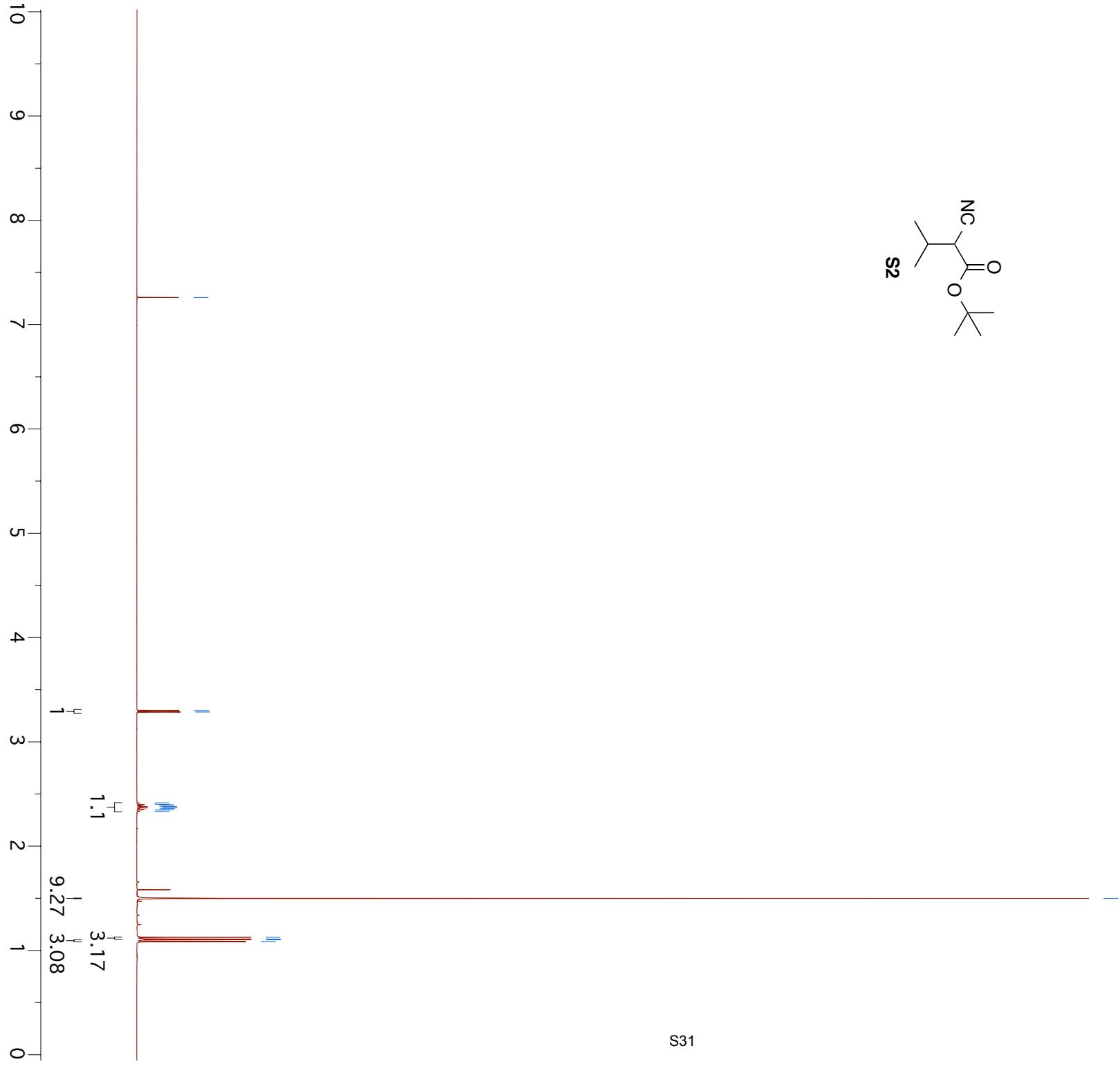




S28

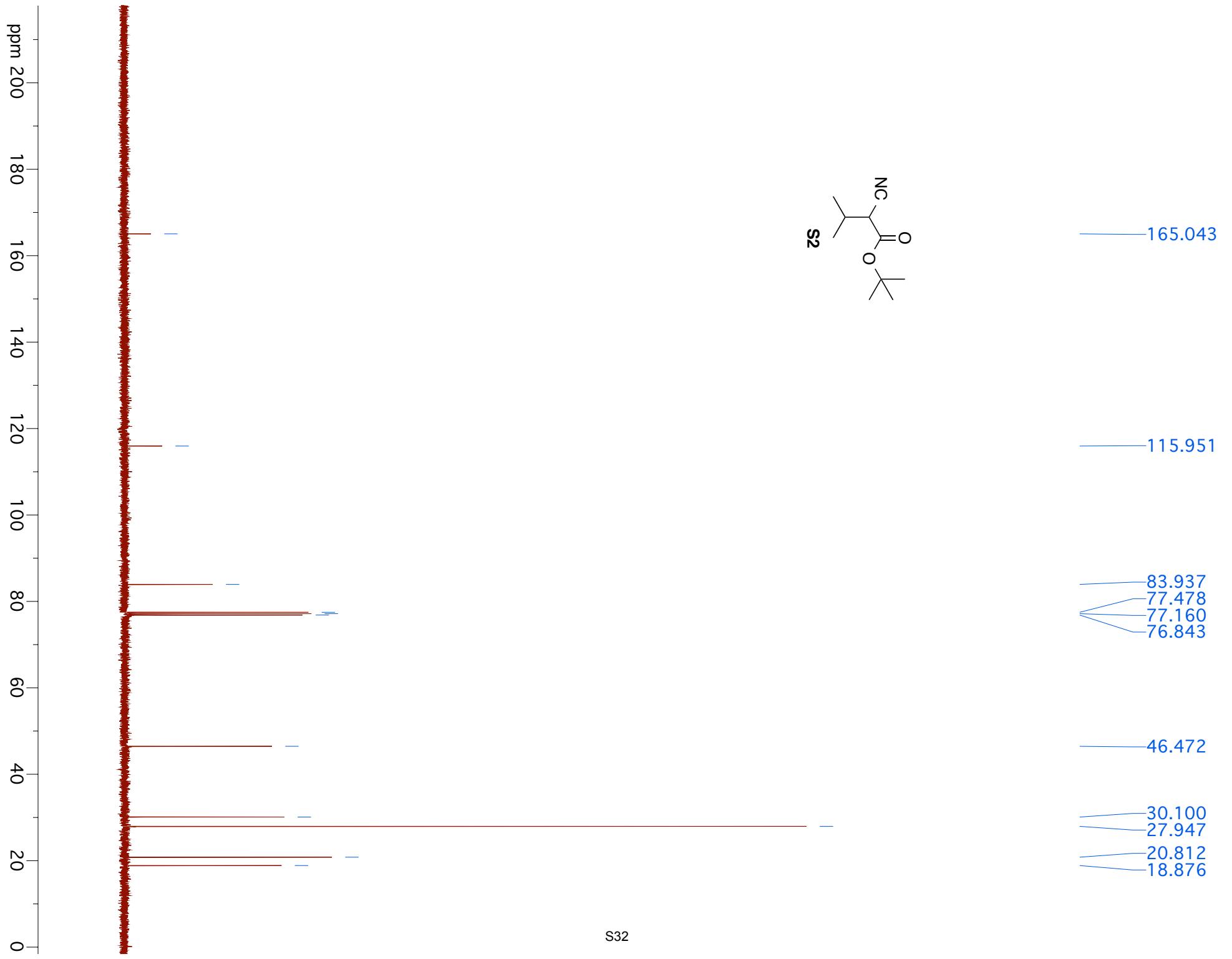


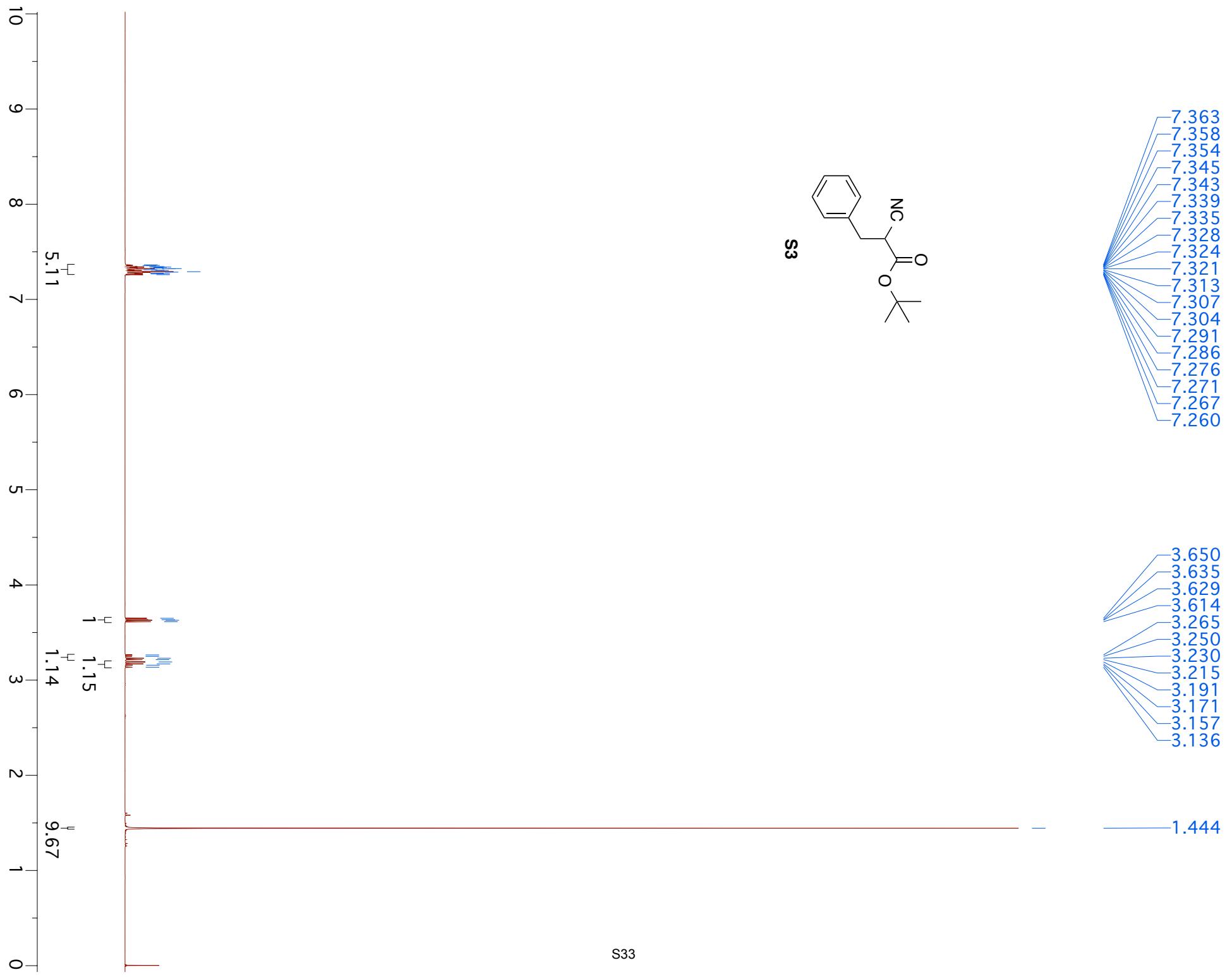


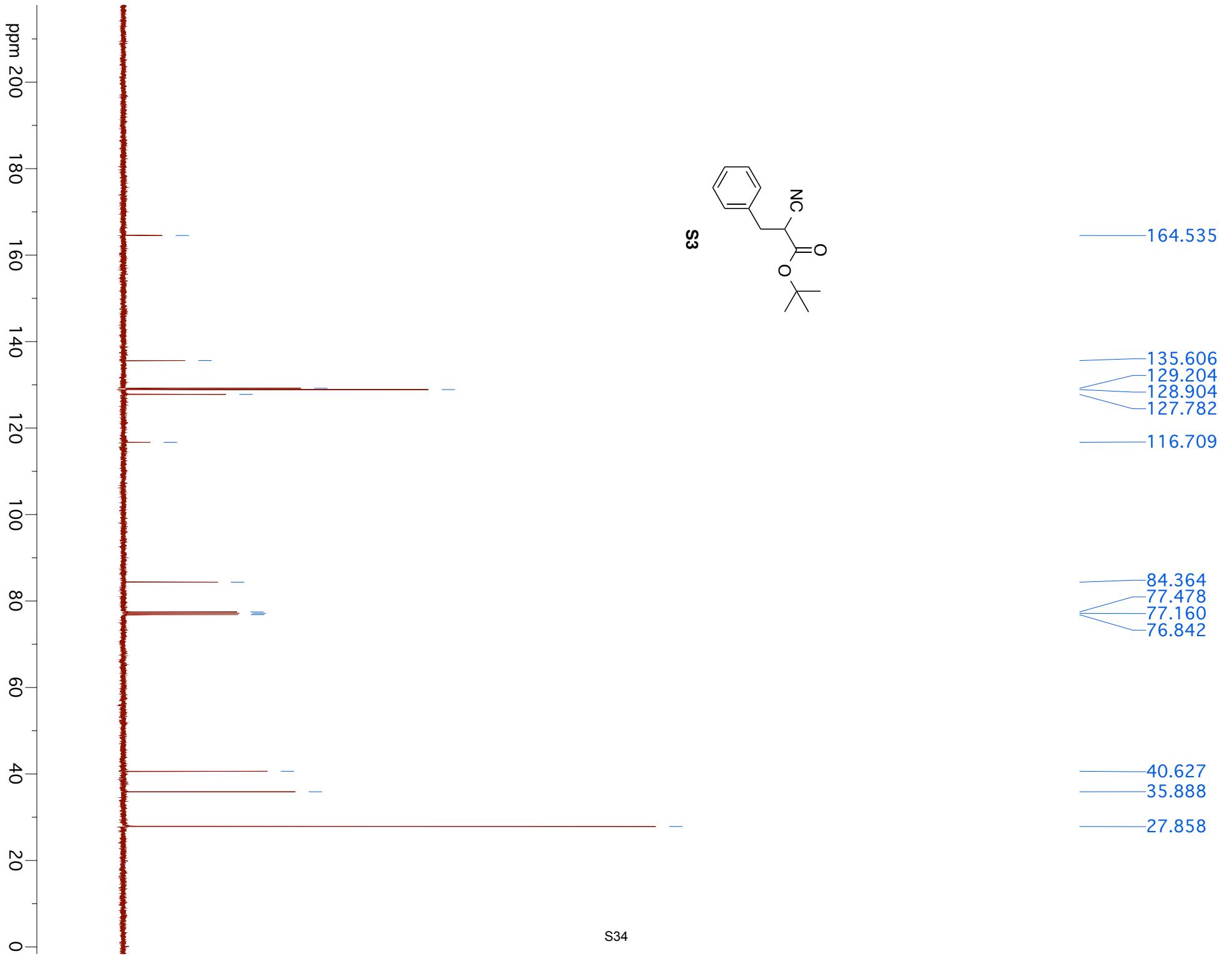


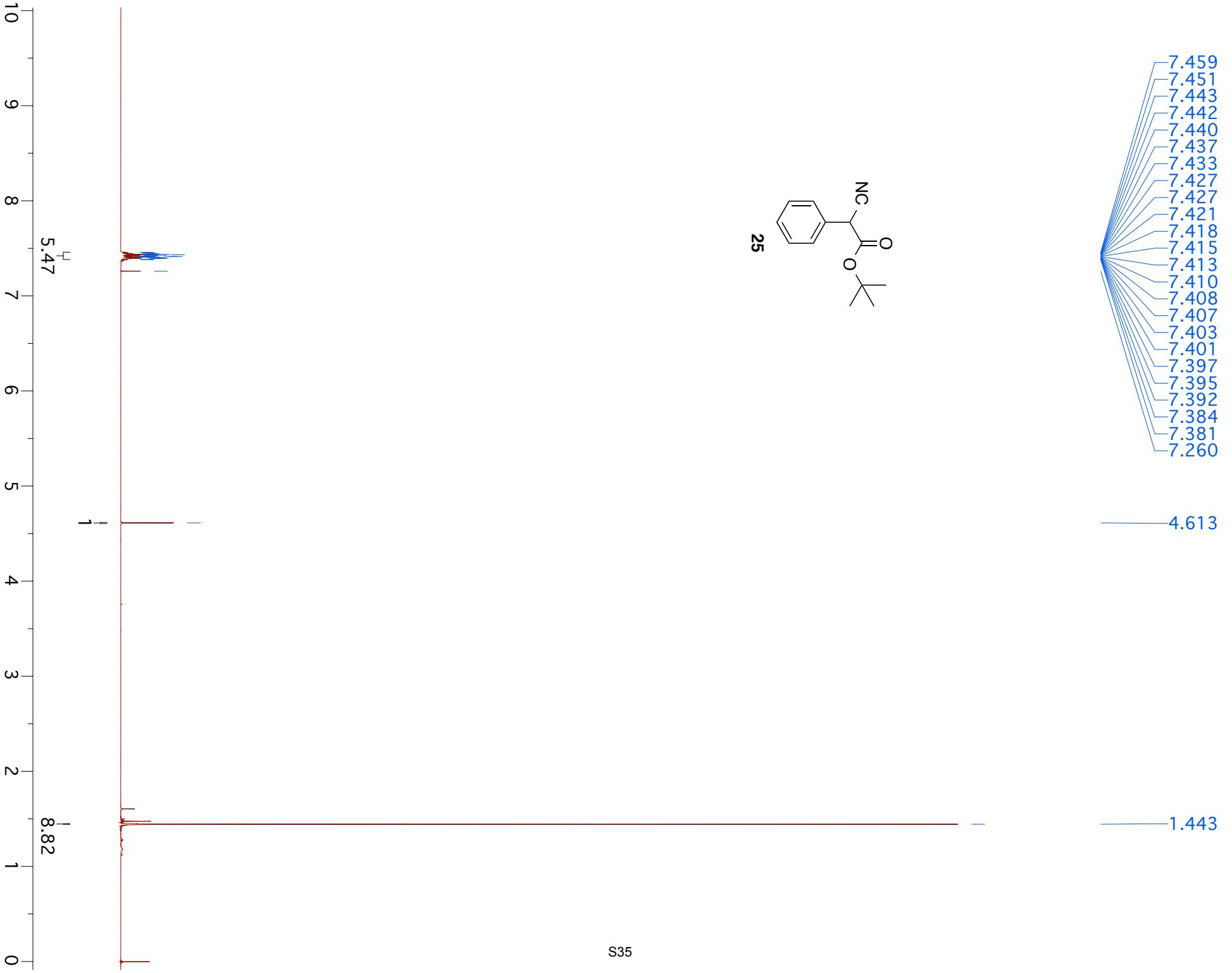
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1.102
1.085

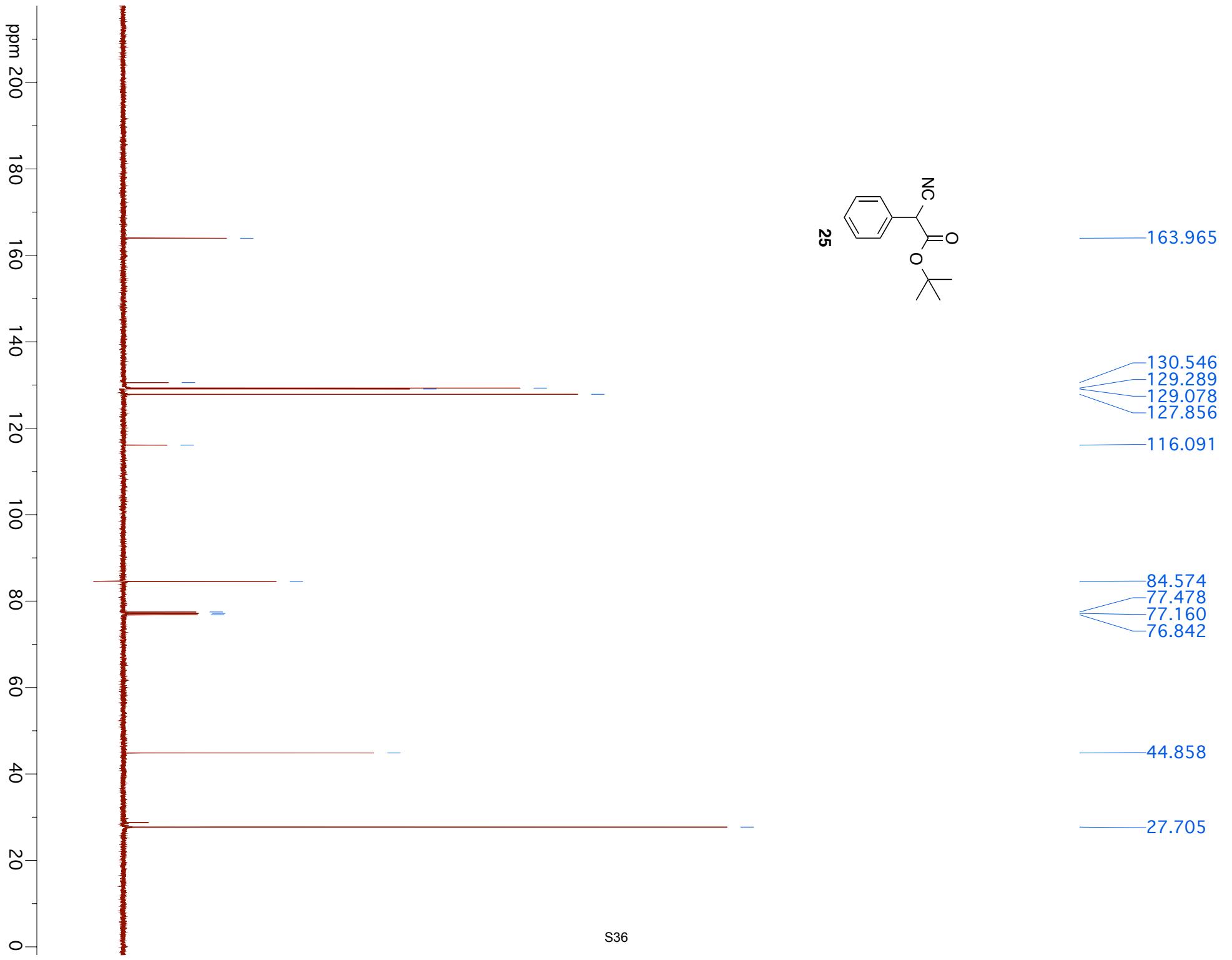
s31

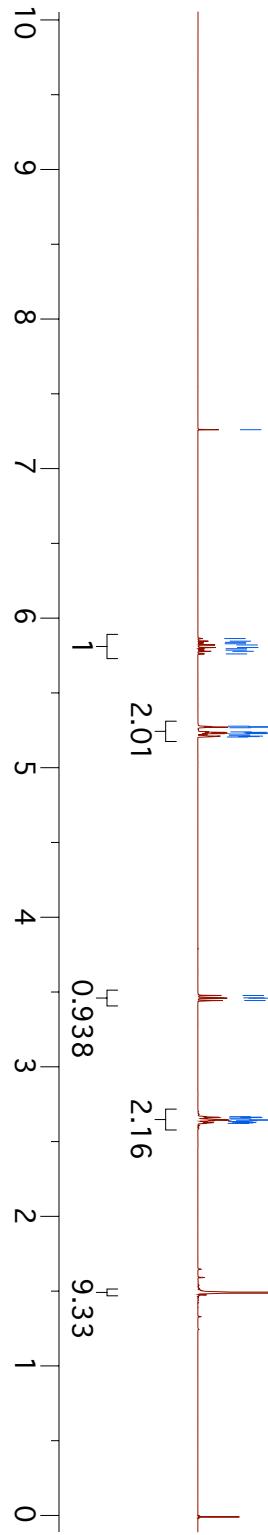




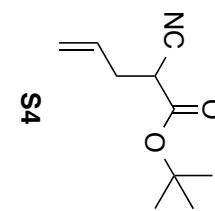




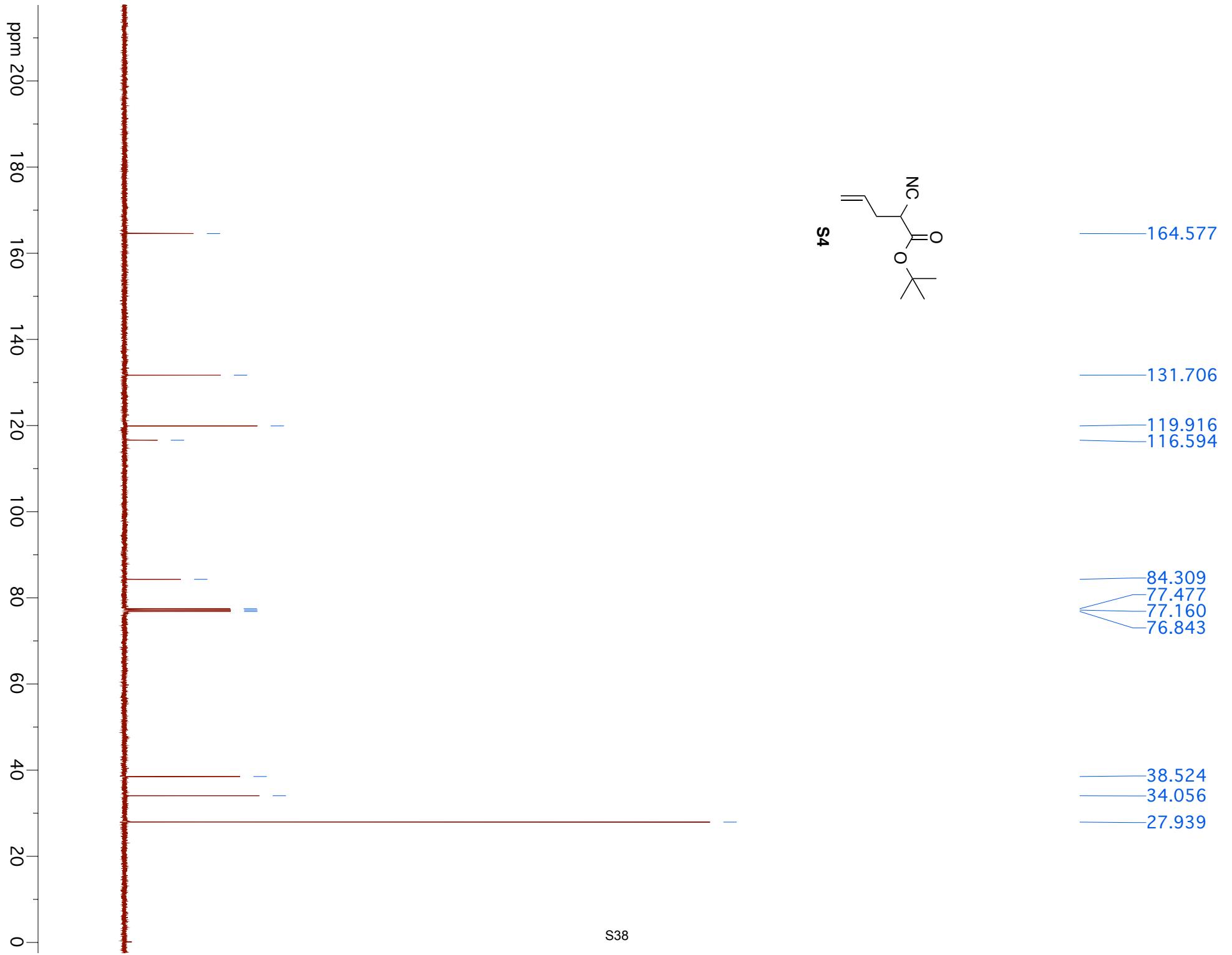


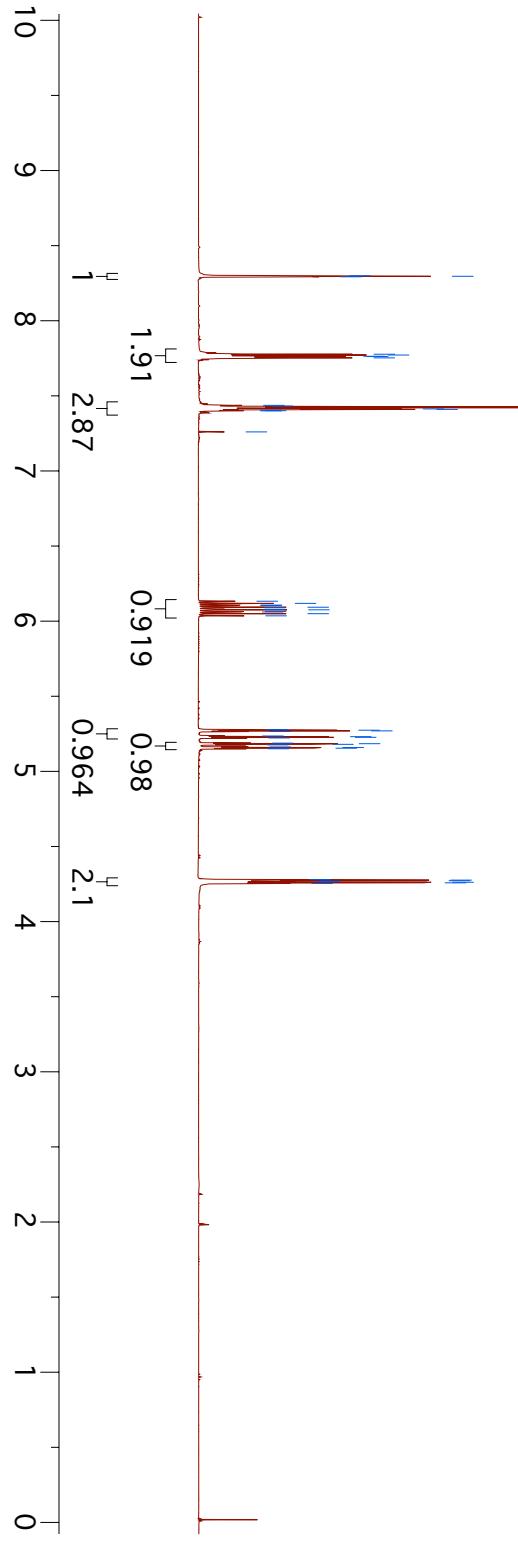


S37

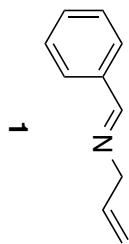


- 7.260
5.864
5.846
5.838
5.829
5.821
5.803
5.796
5.786
5.778
5.761
5.278
5.274
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5.267
5.239
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5.233
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5.228
5.225
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5.208
5.205
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3.443
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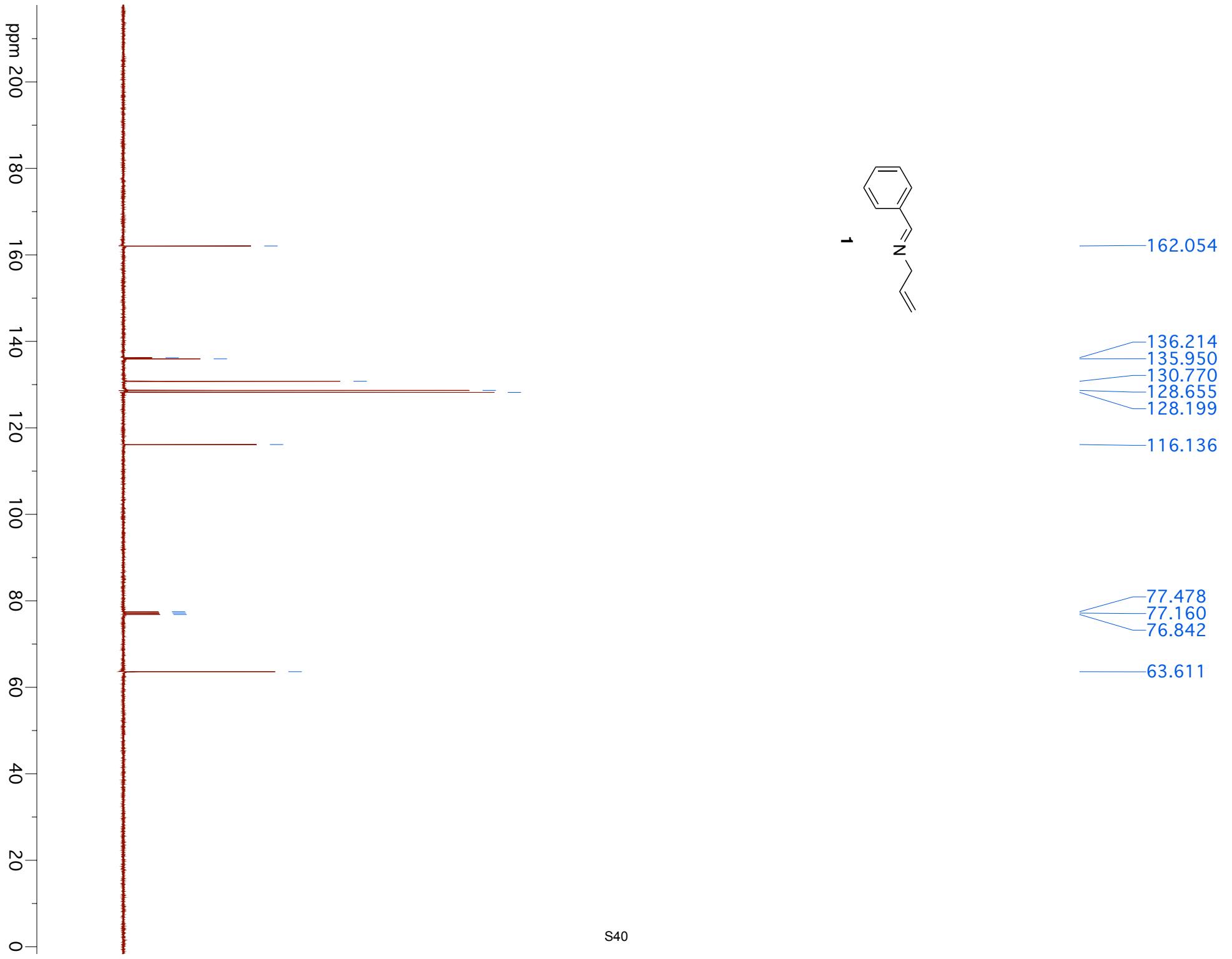


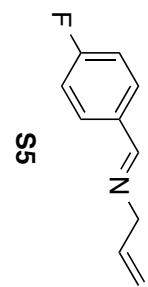
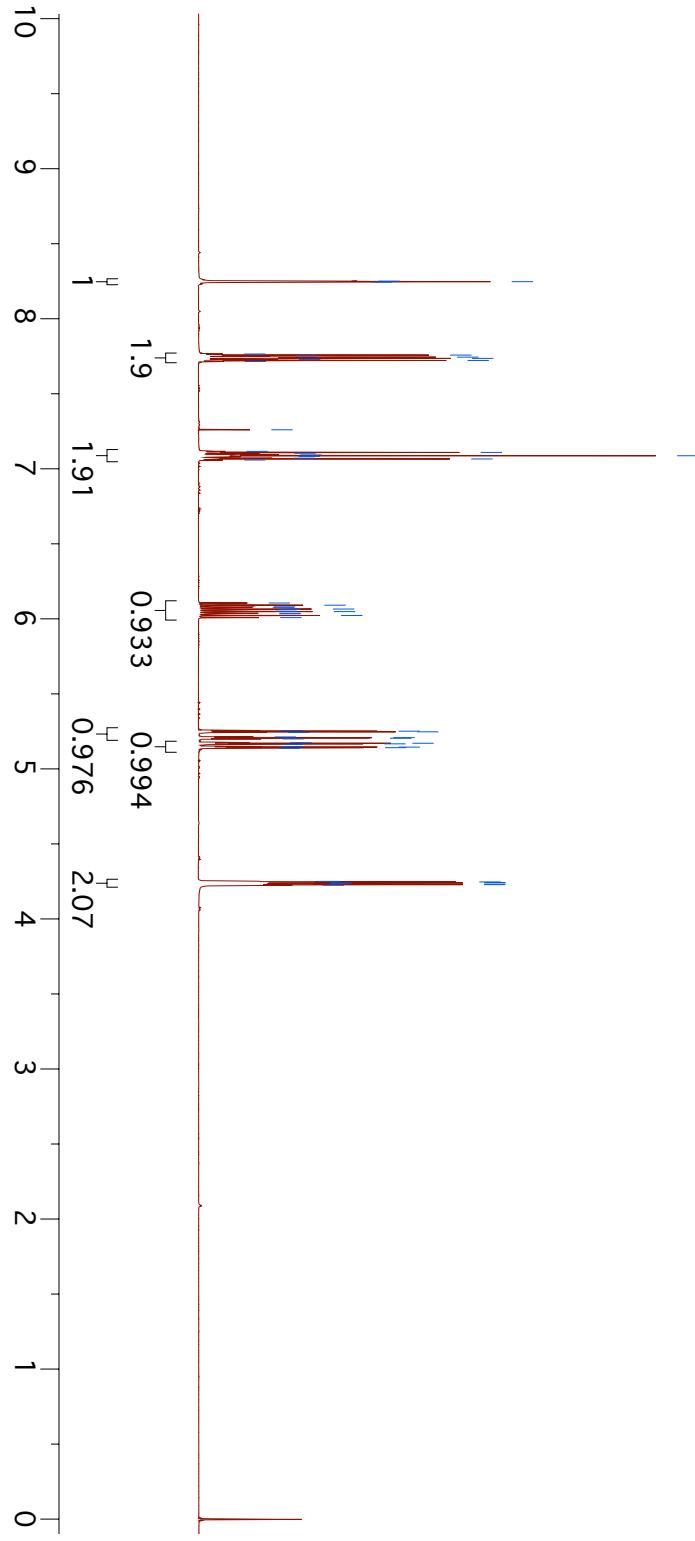


S39

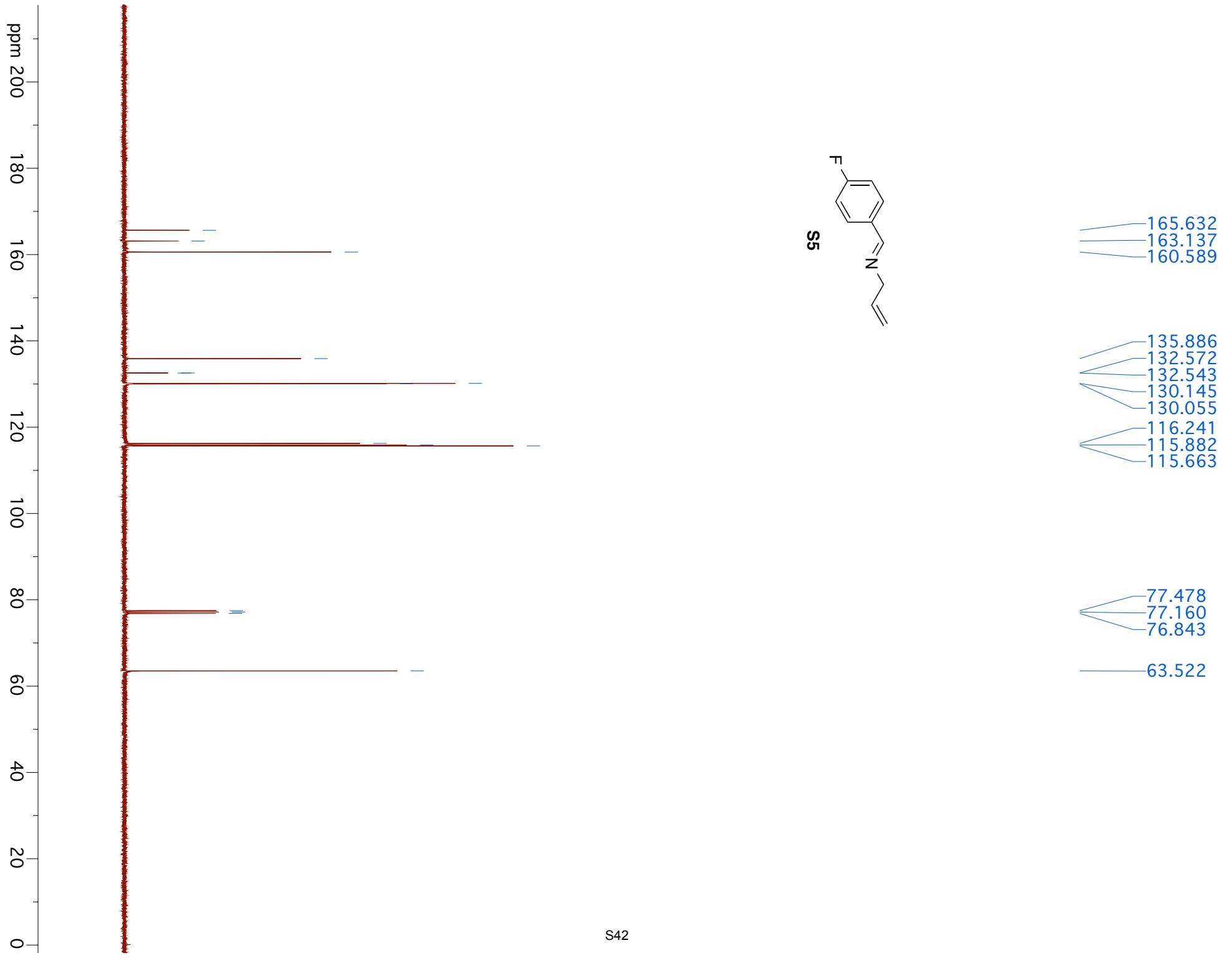


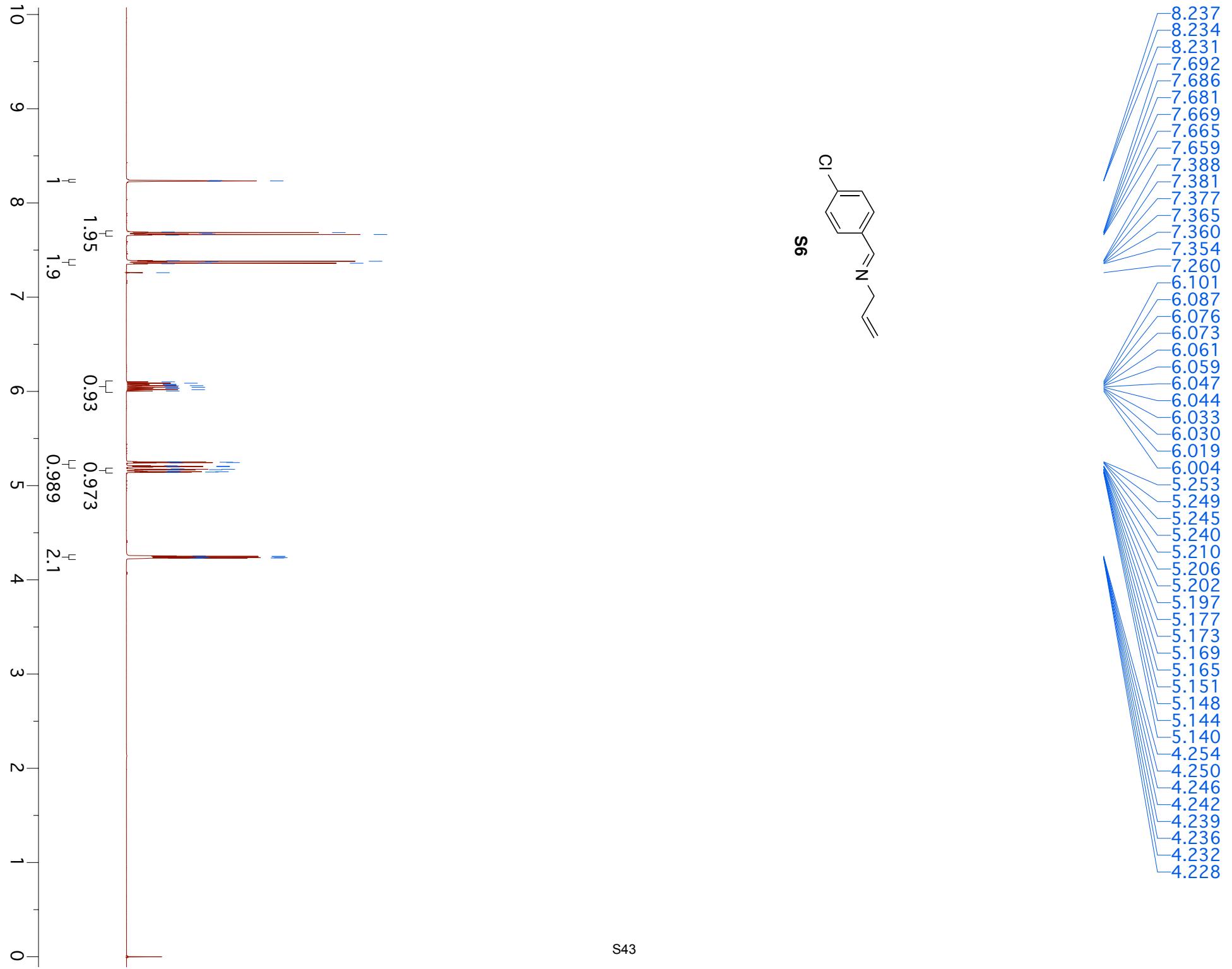
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-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

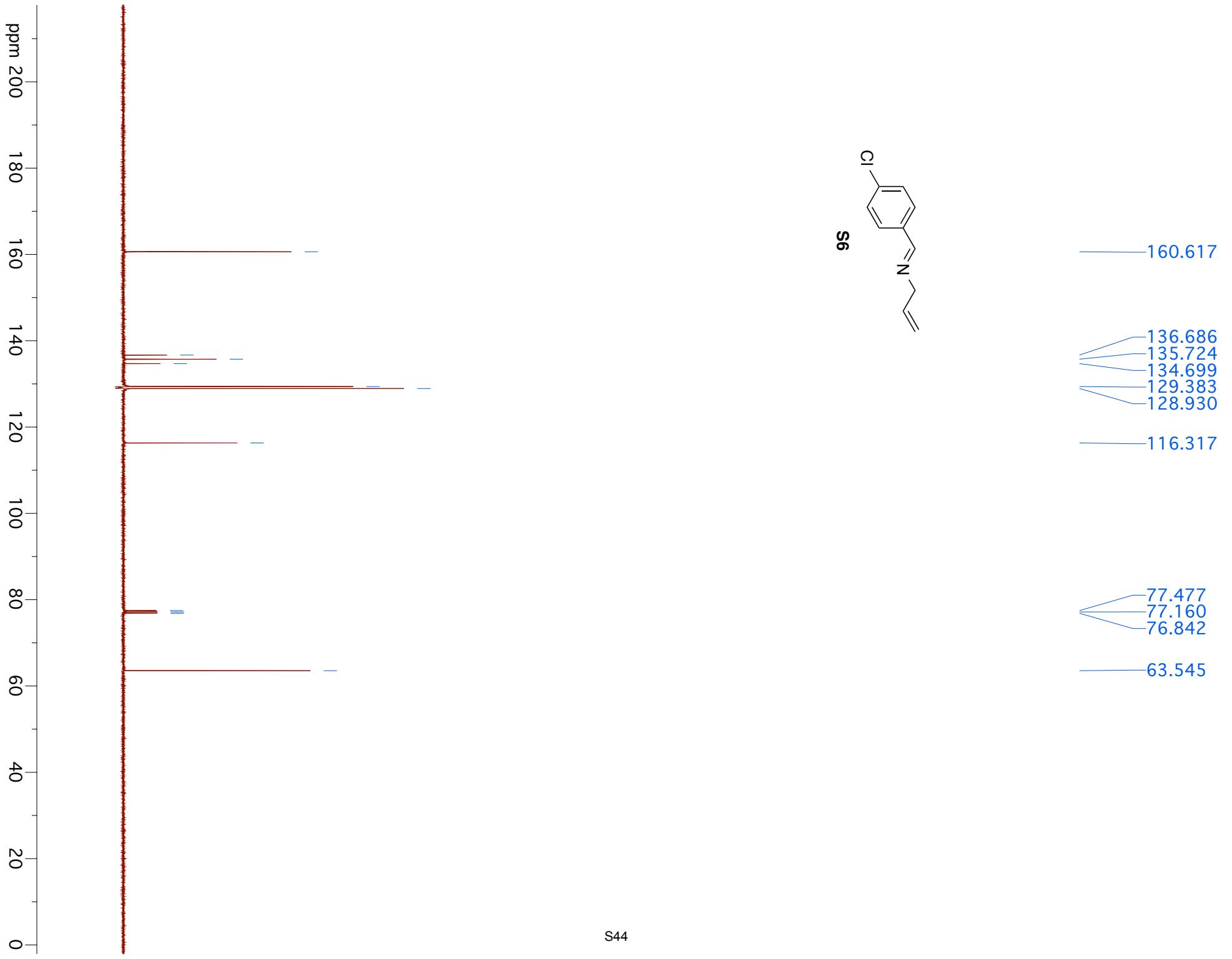


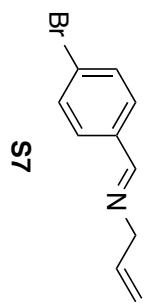
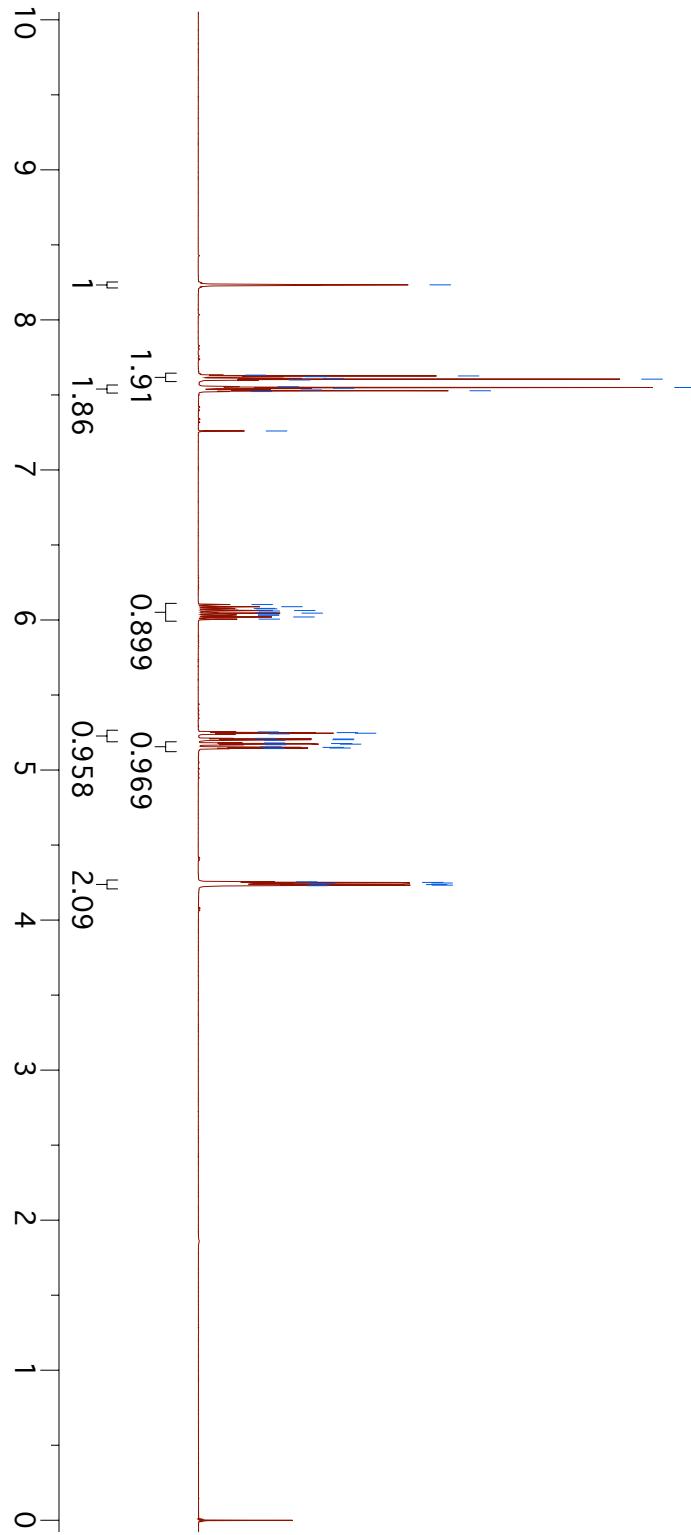


S41



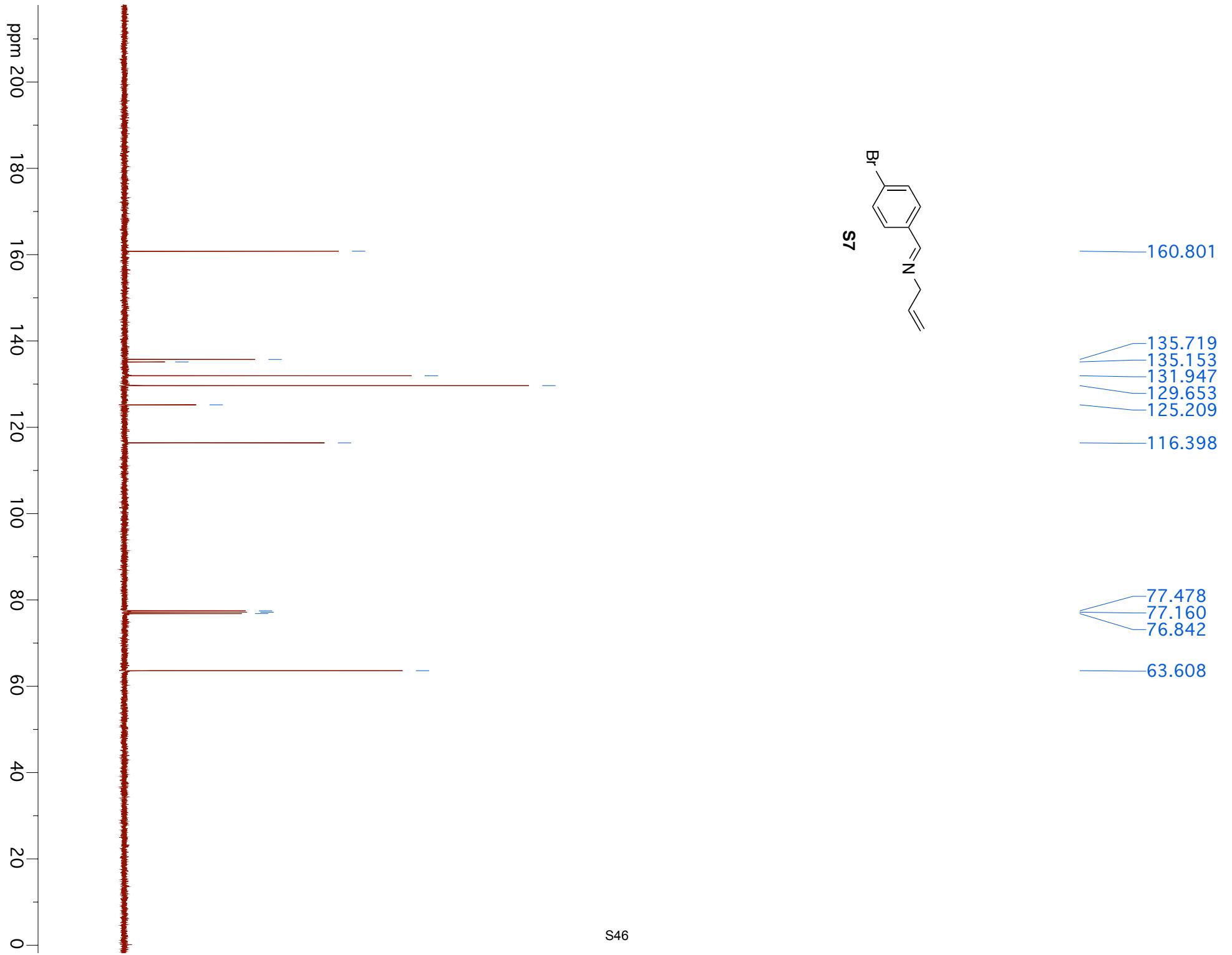


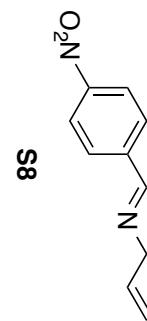
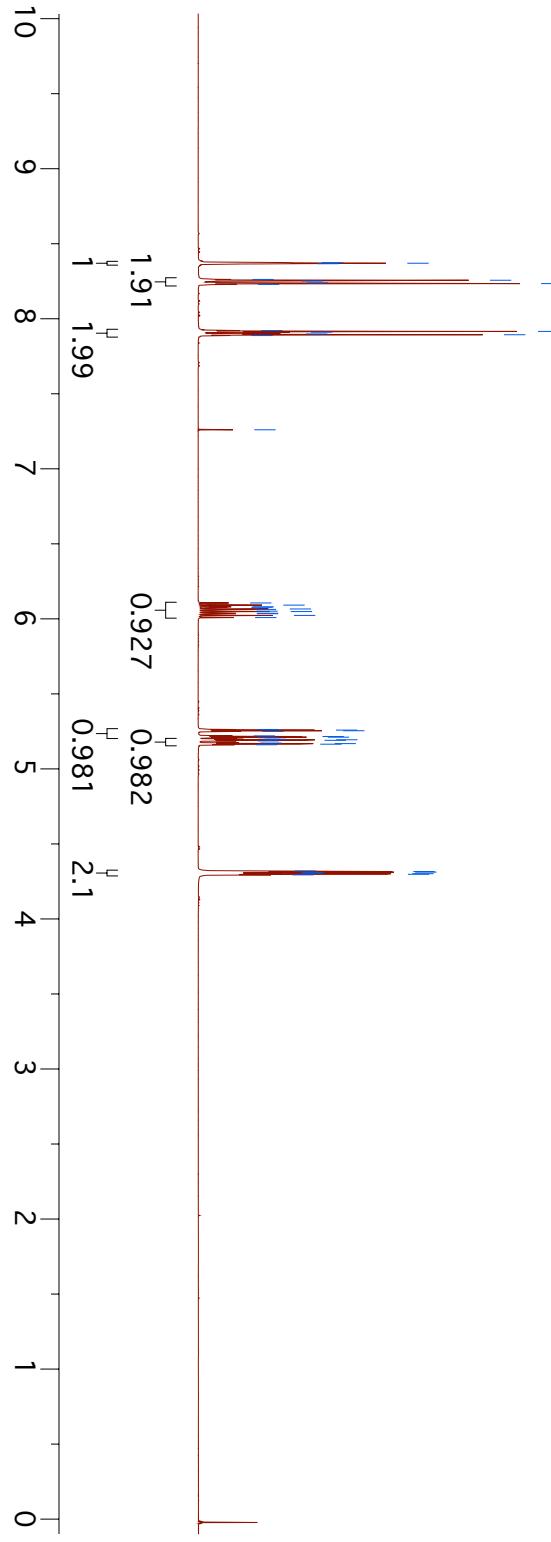


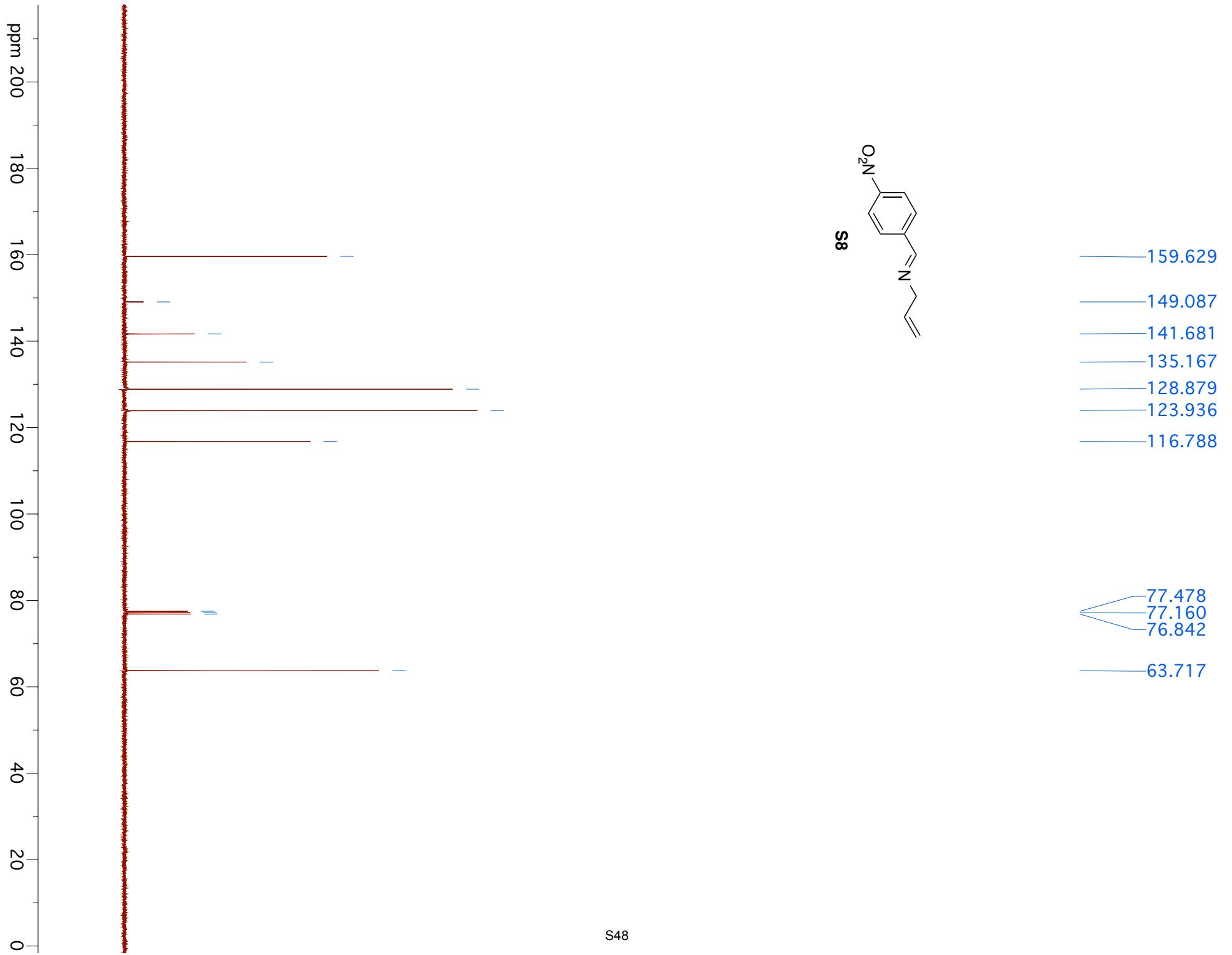


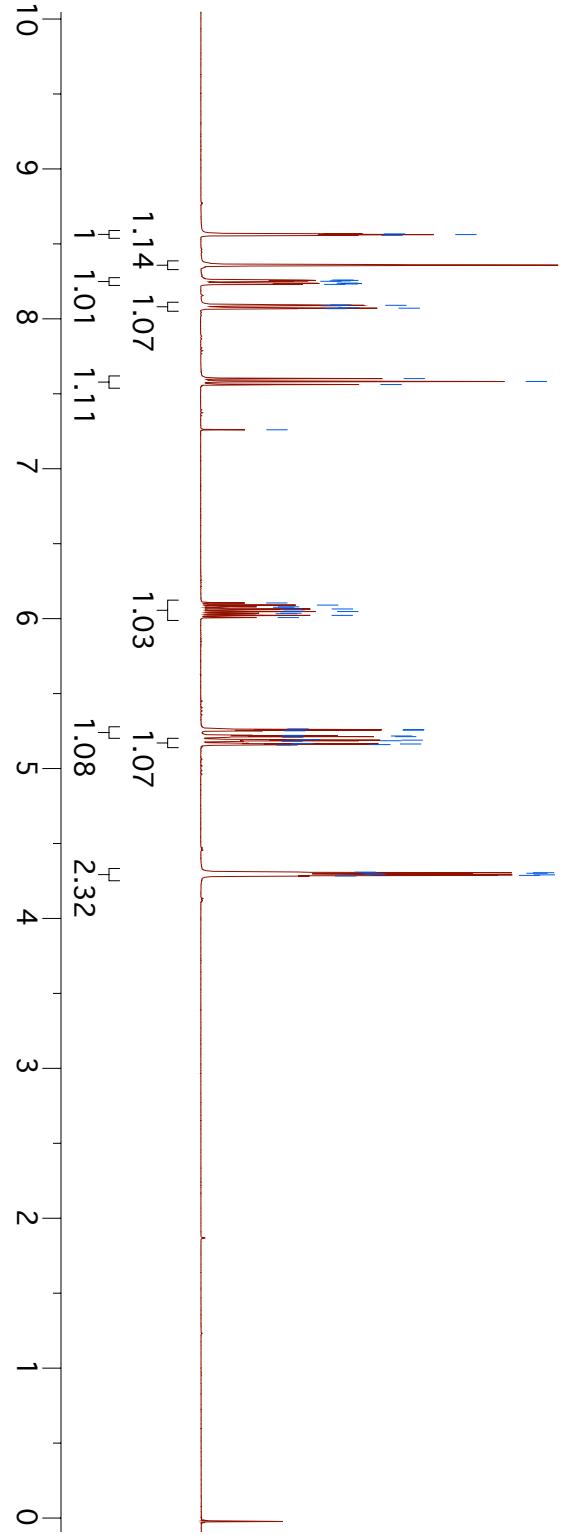
S45

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7.622
7.610
7.605
7.600
7.555
7.549
7.544
7.533
7.528
7.522
7.260
6.103
6.089
6.077
6.074
6.063
6.060
6.049
6.046
6.034
6.031
6.020
6.006
5.254
5.250
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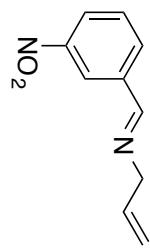


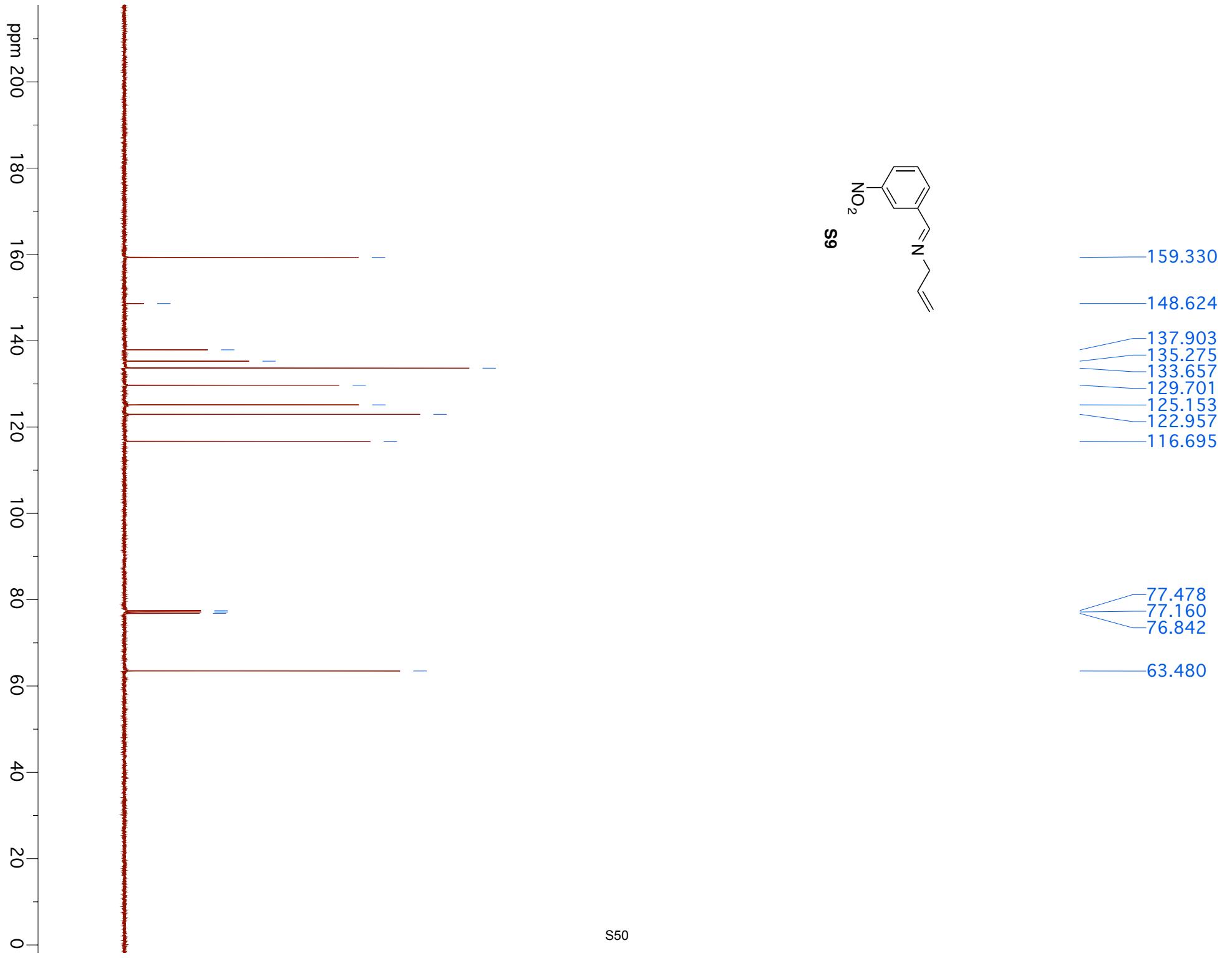


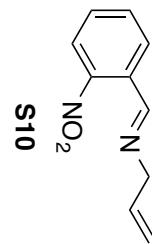
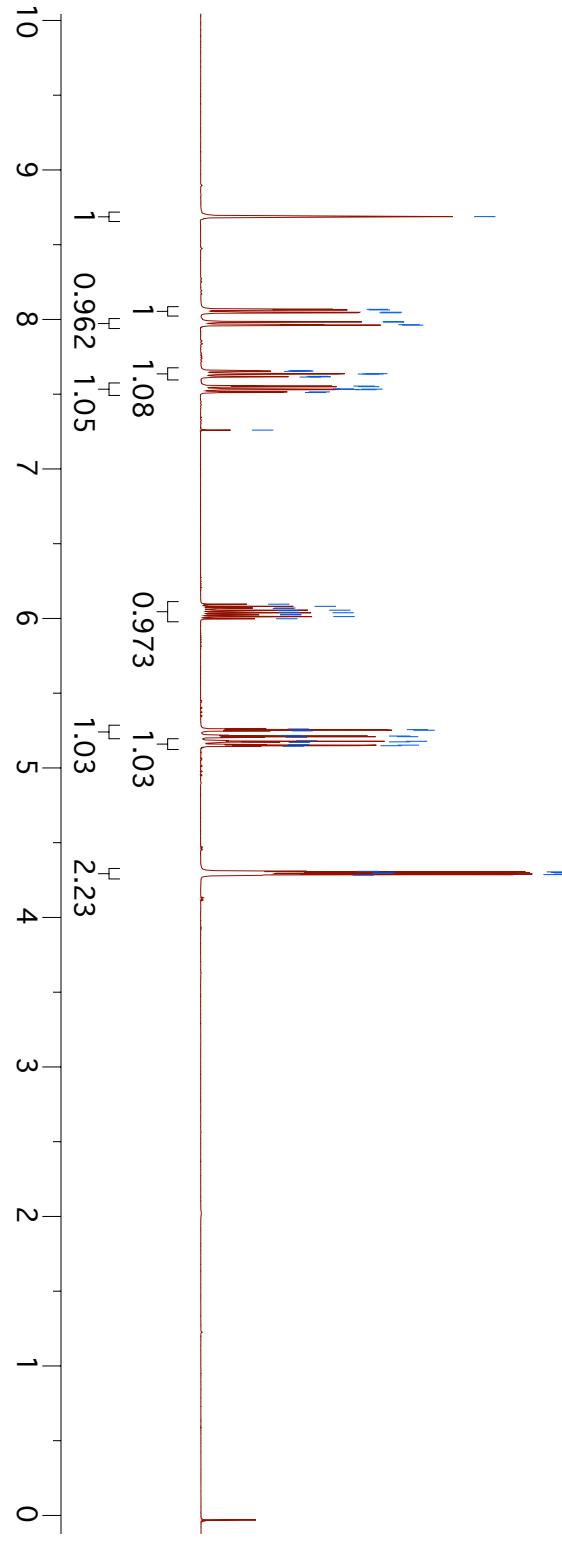




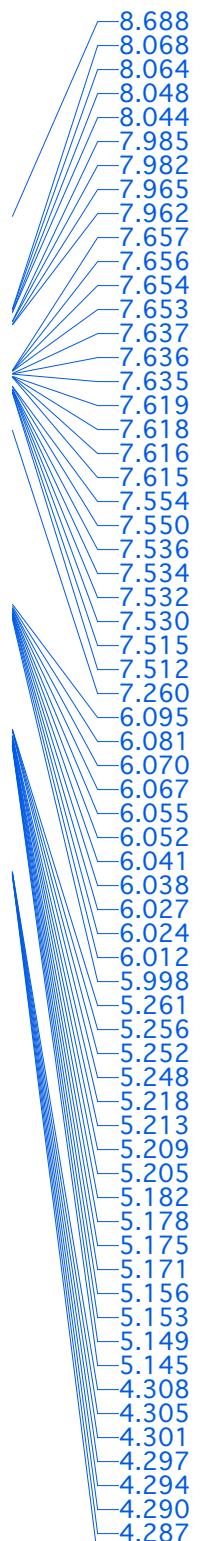
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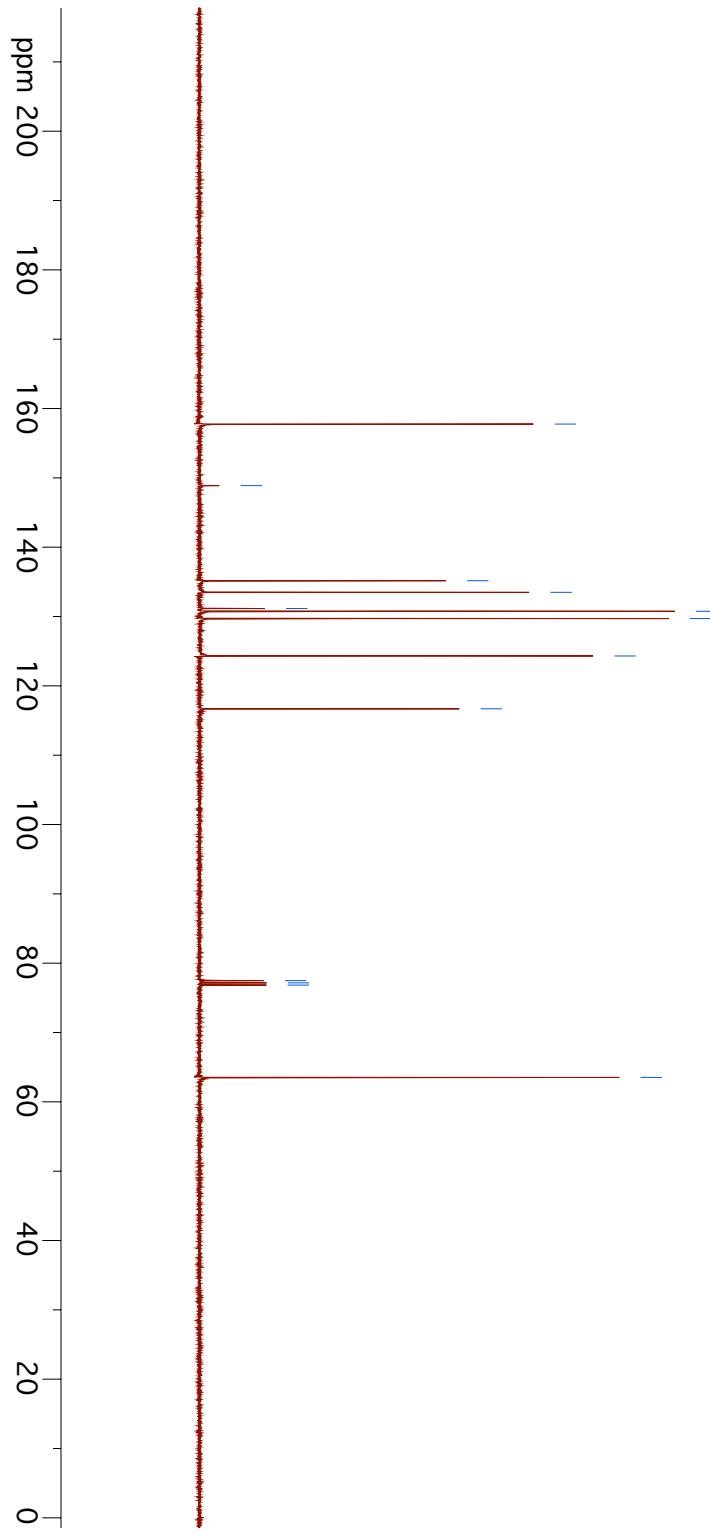




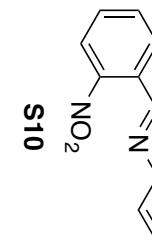


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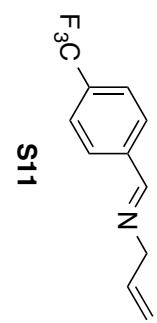
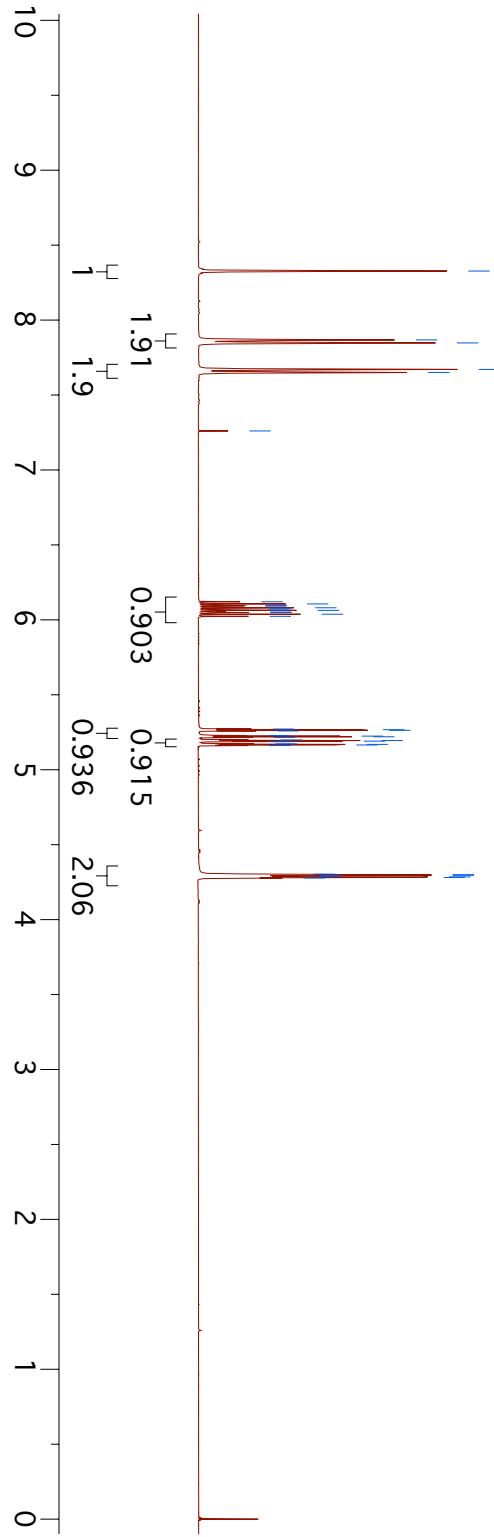




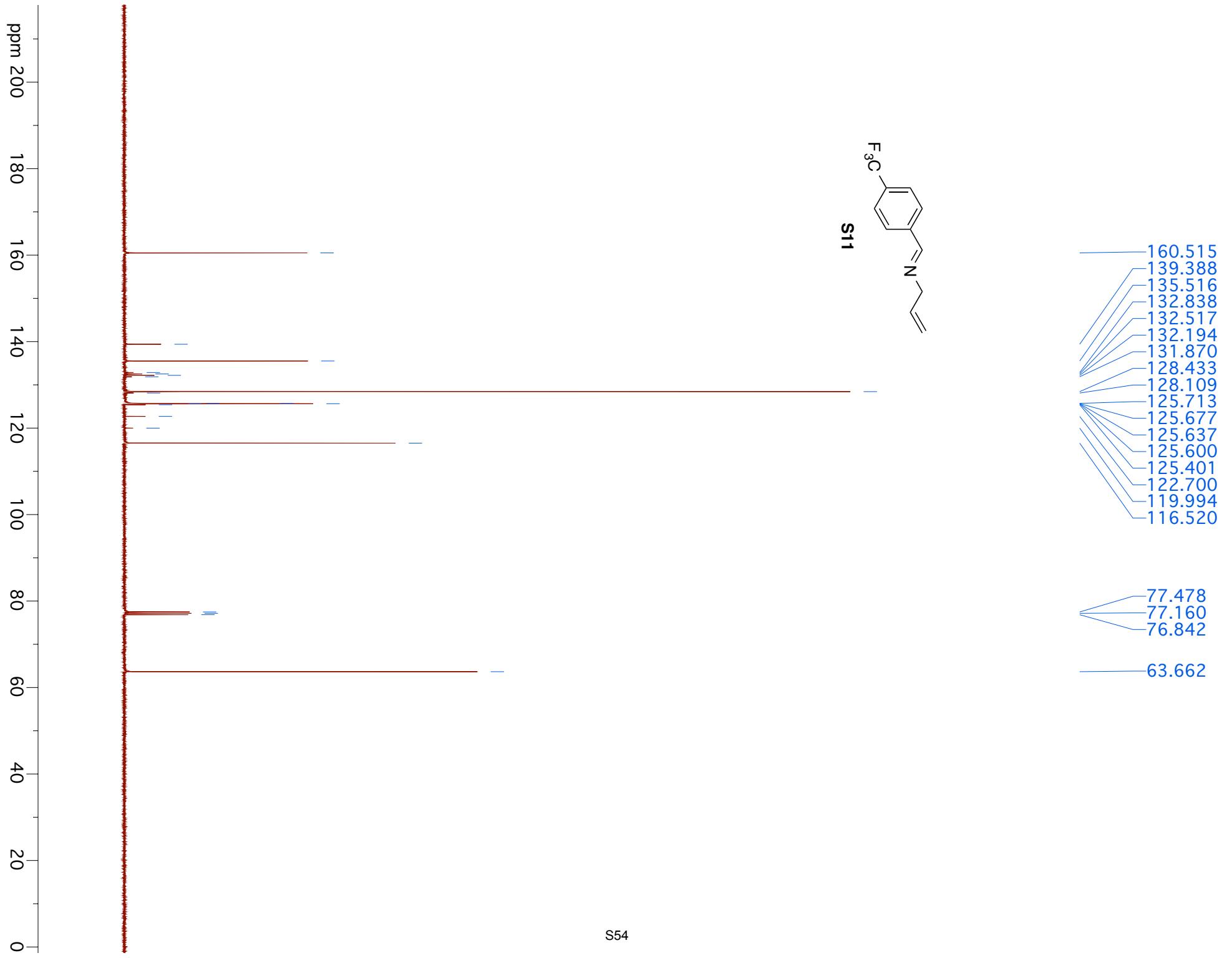
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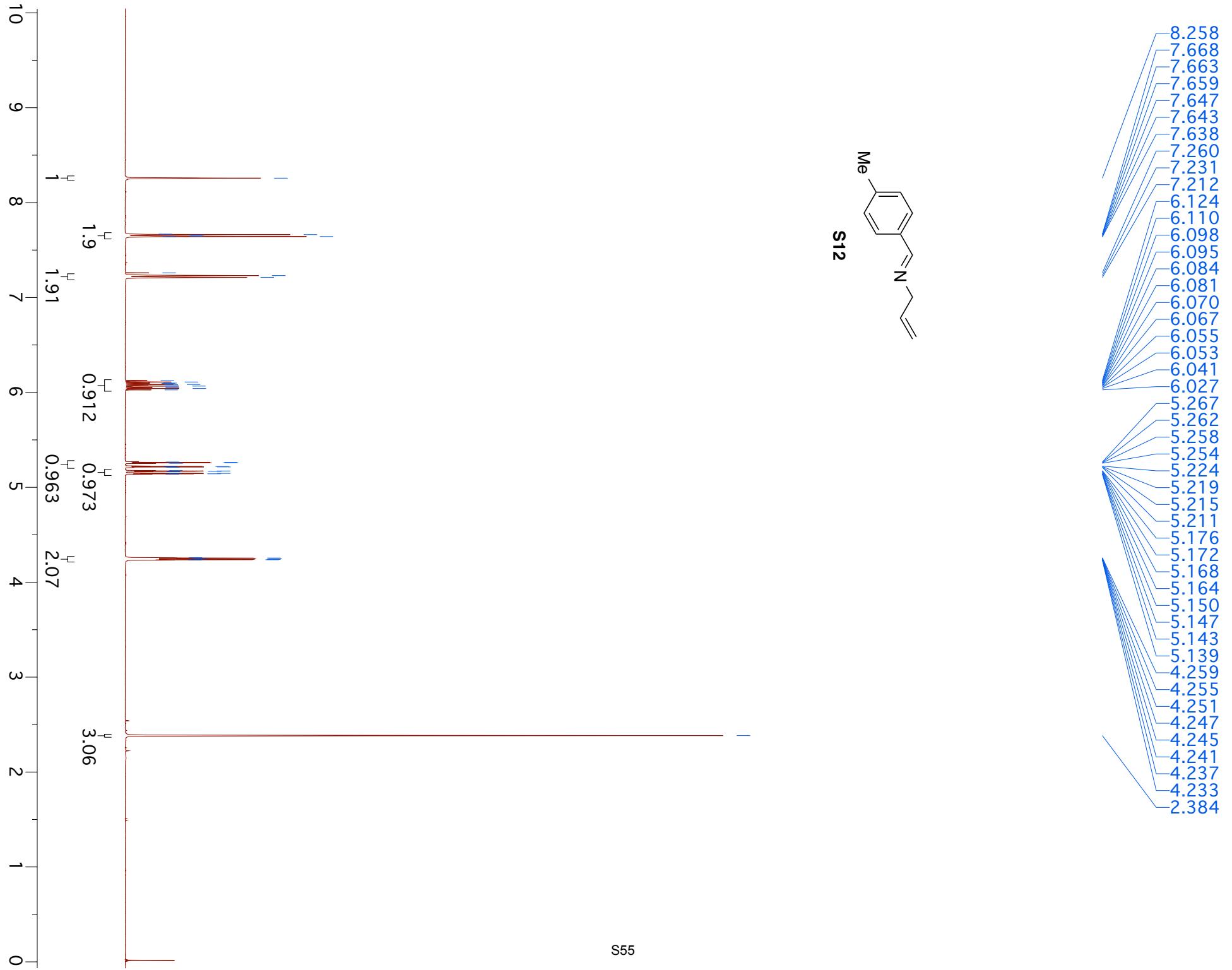


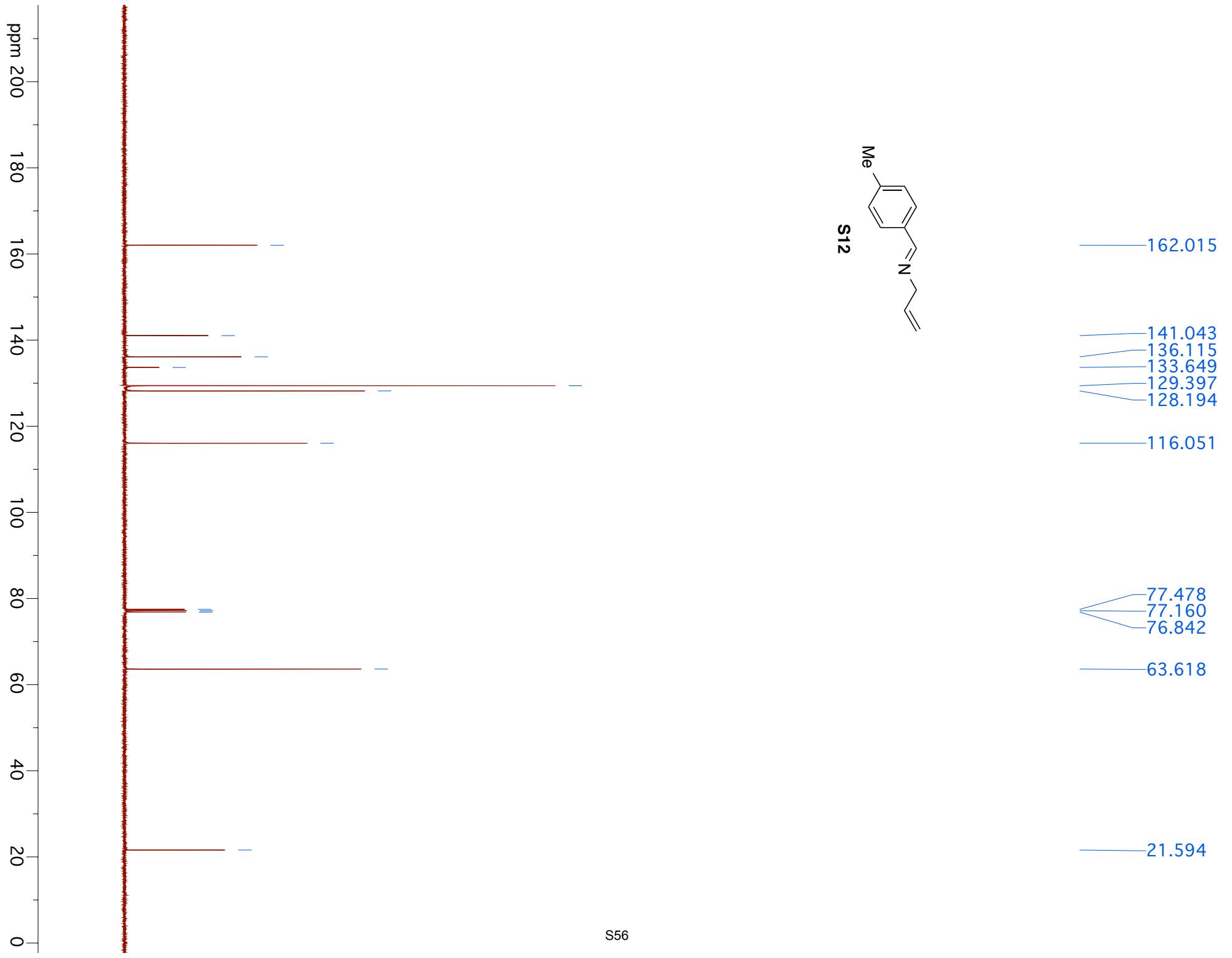
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|---------|
| 157.757 |
| 148.880 |
| 135.161 |
| 133.488 |
| 131.152 |
| 130.755 |
| 129.701 |
| 124.309 |
| 116.685 |
| 77.478 |
| 77.160 |
| 76.842 |
| 63.521 |

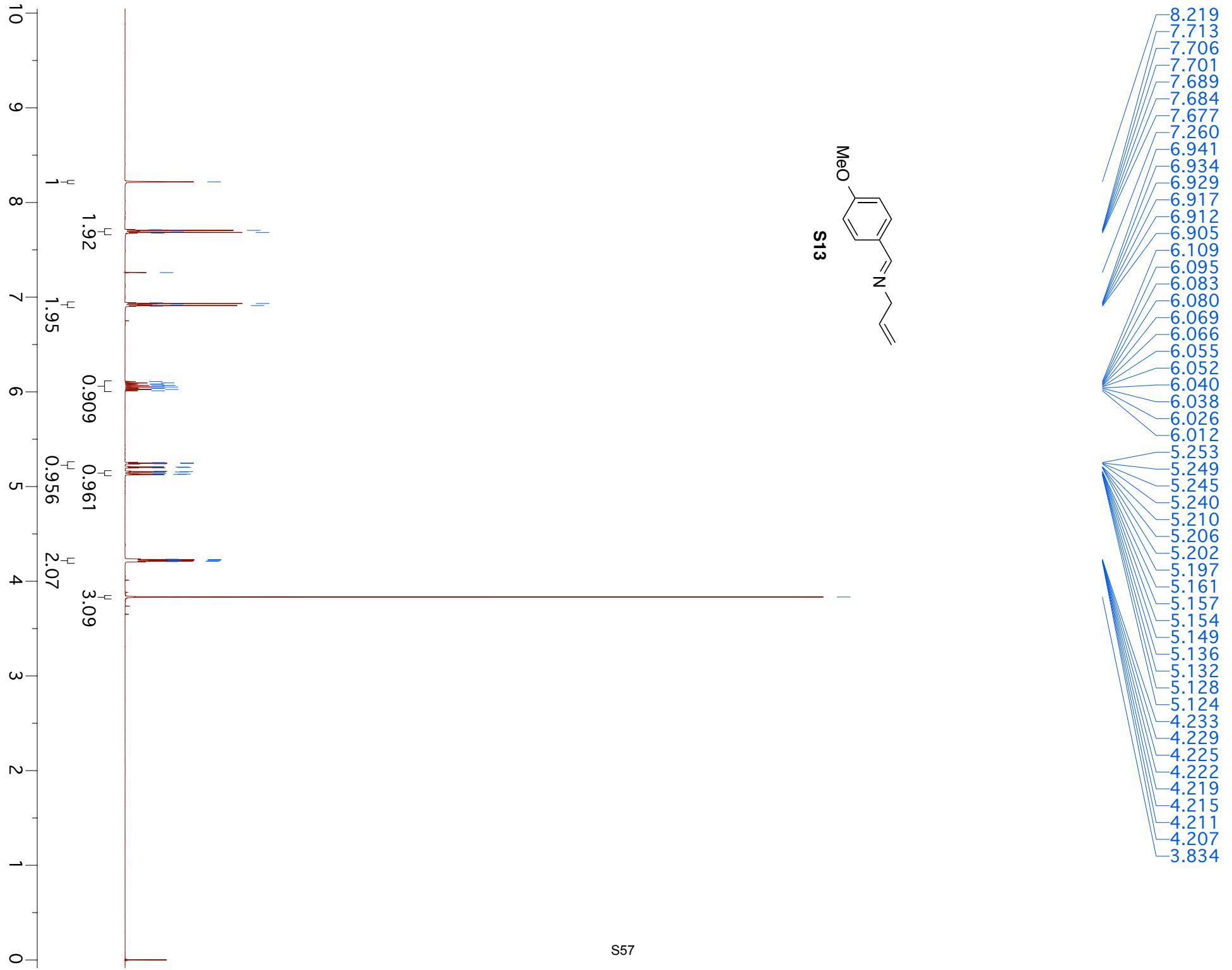


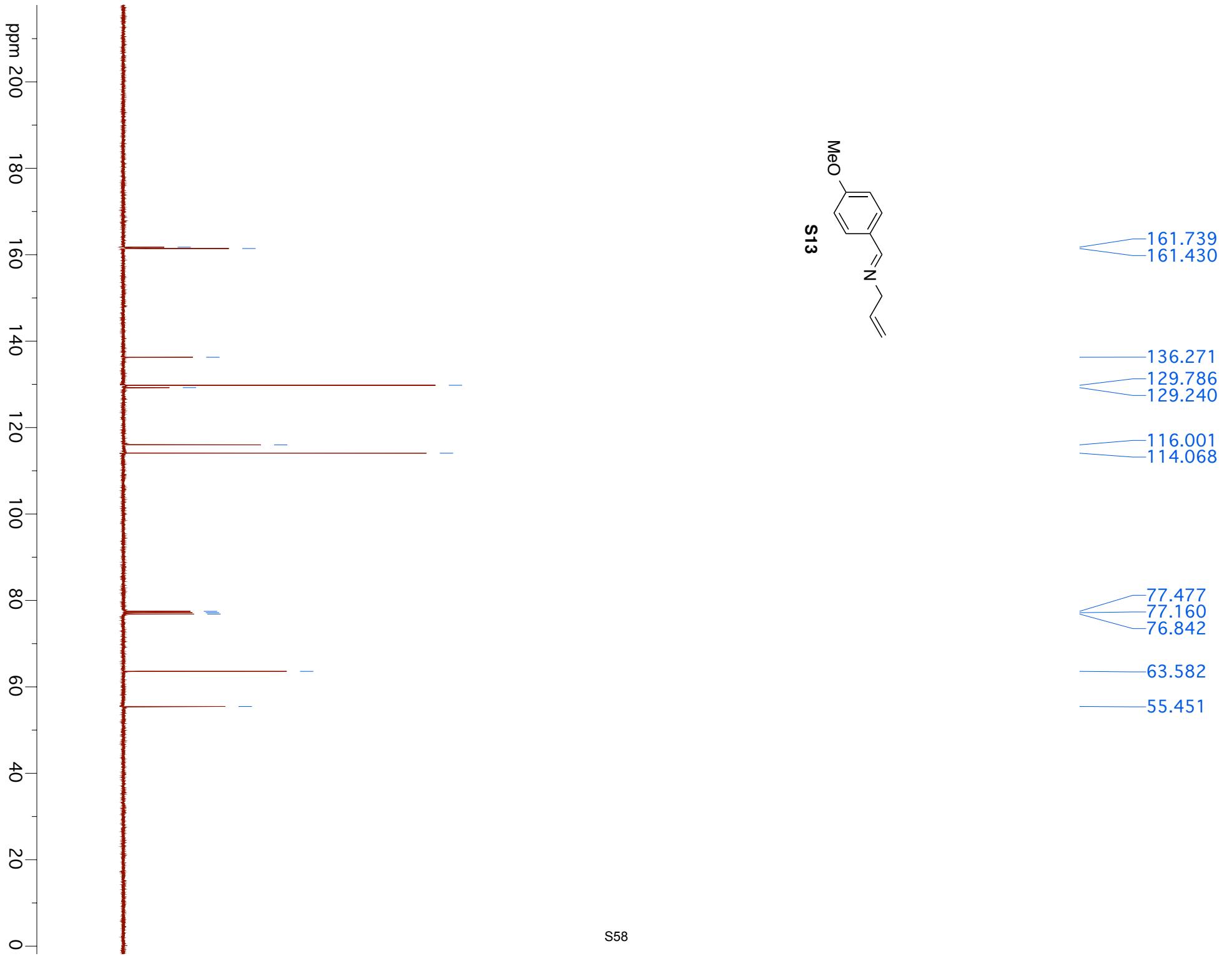
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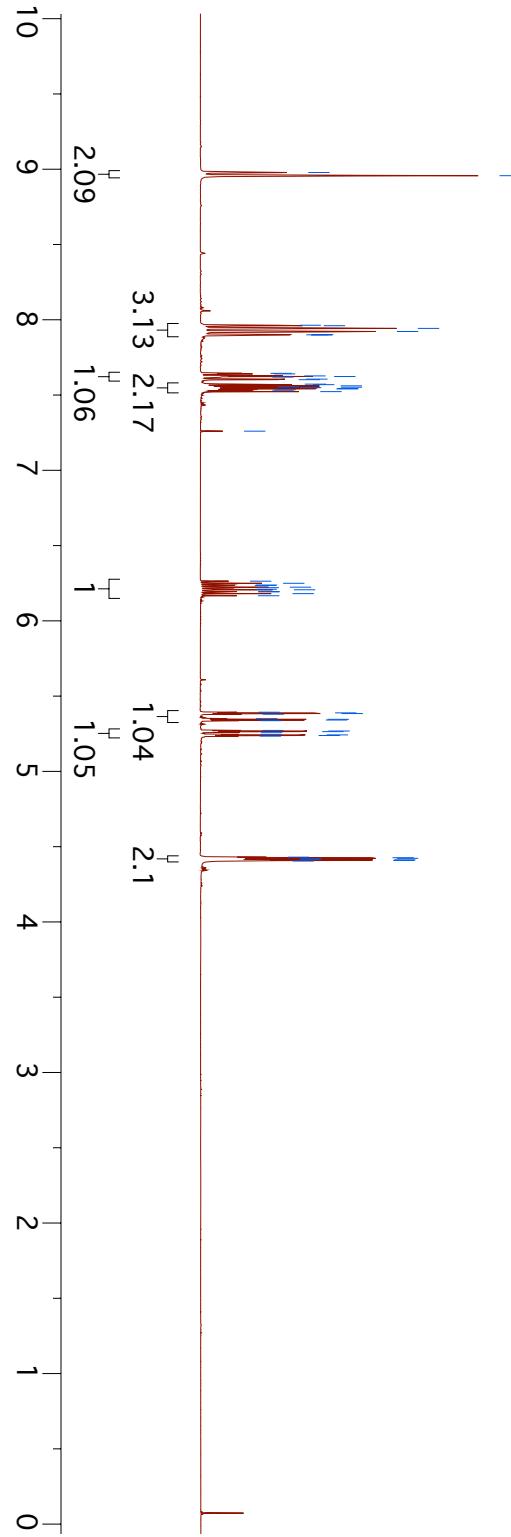




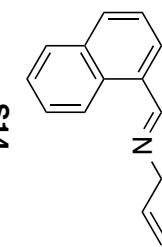




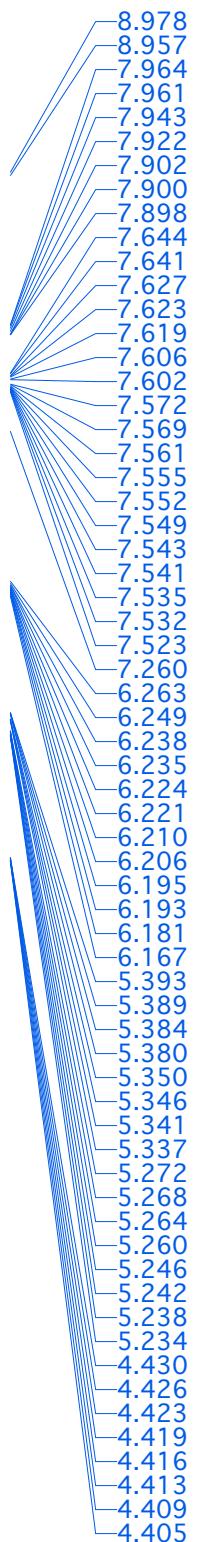


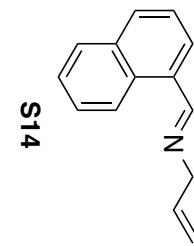
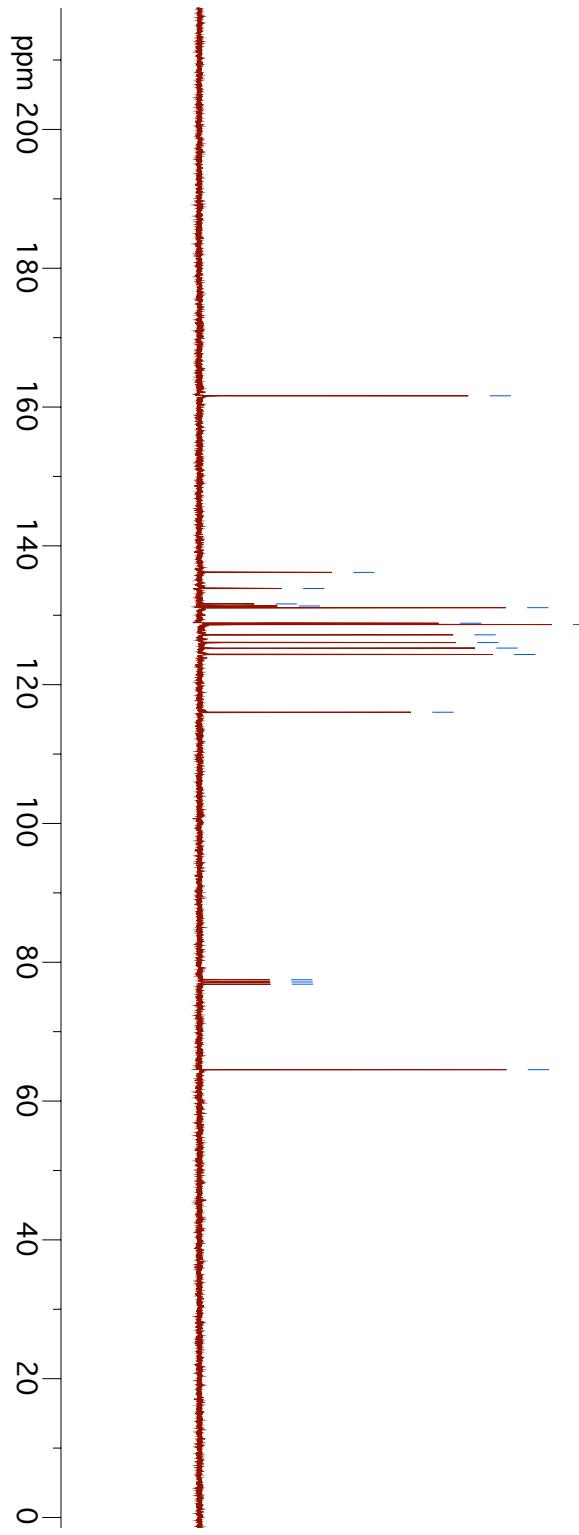


S14

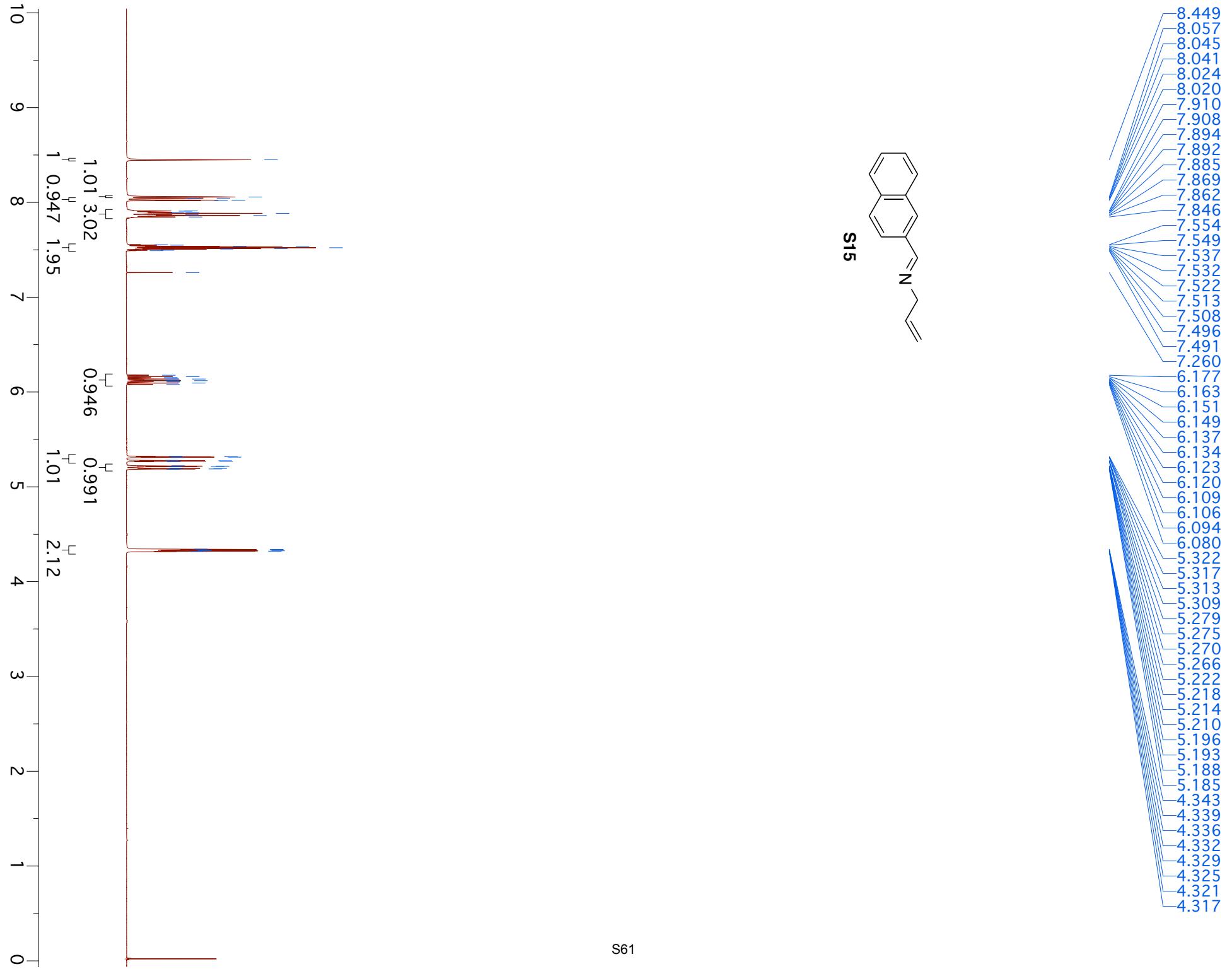


S59

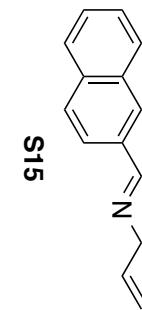
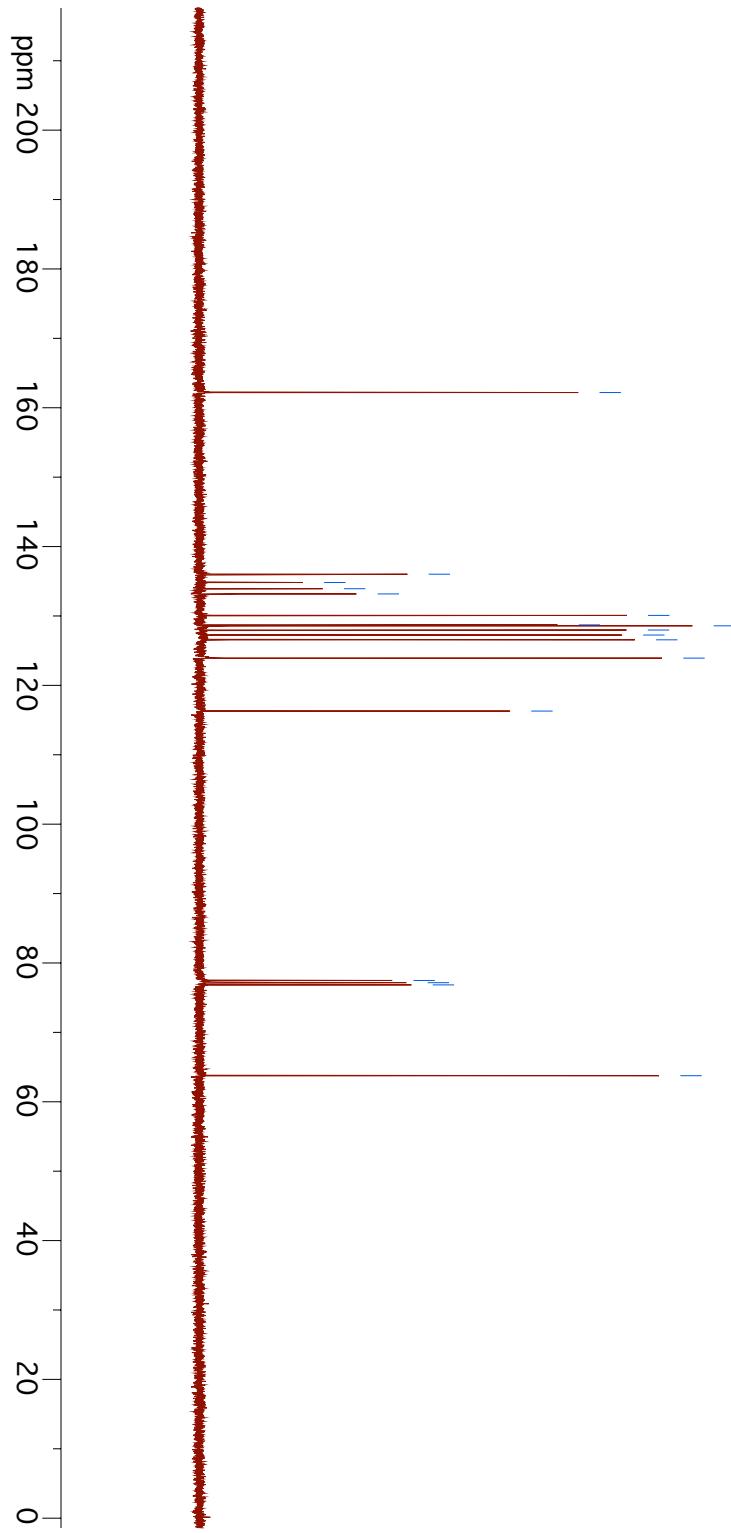




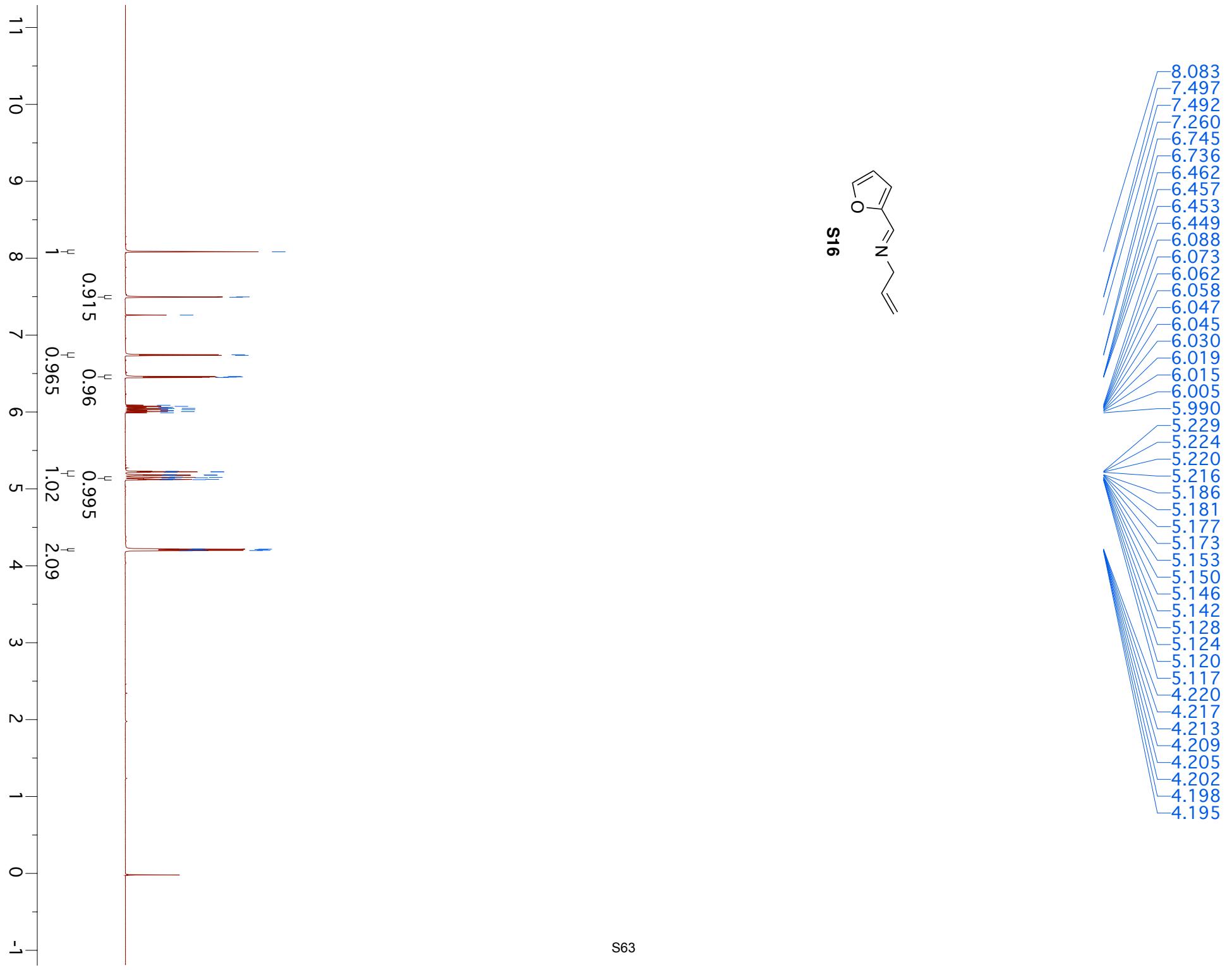
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128.659
127.181
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125.270
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116.026
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77.160
76.842
64.526

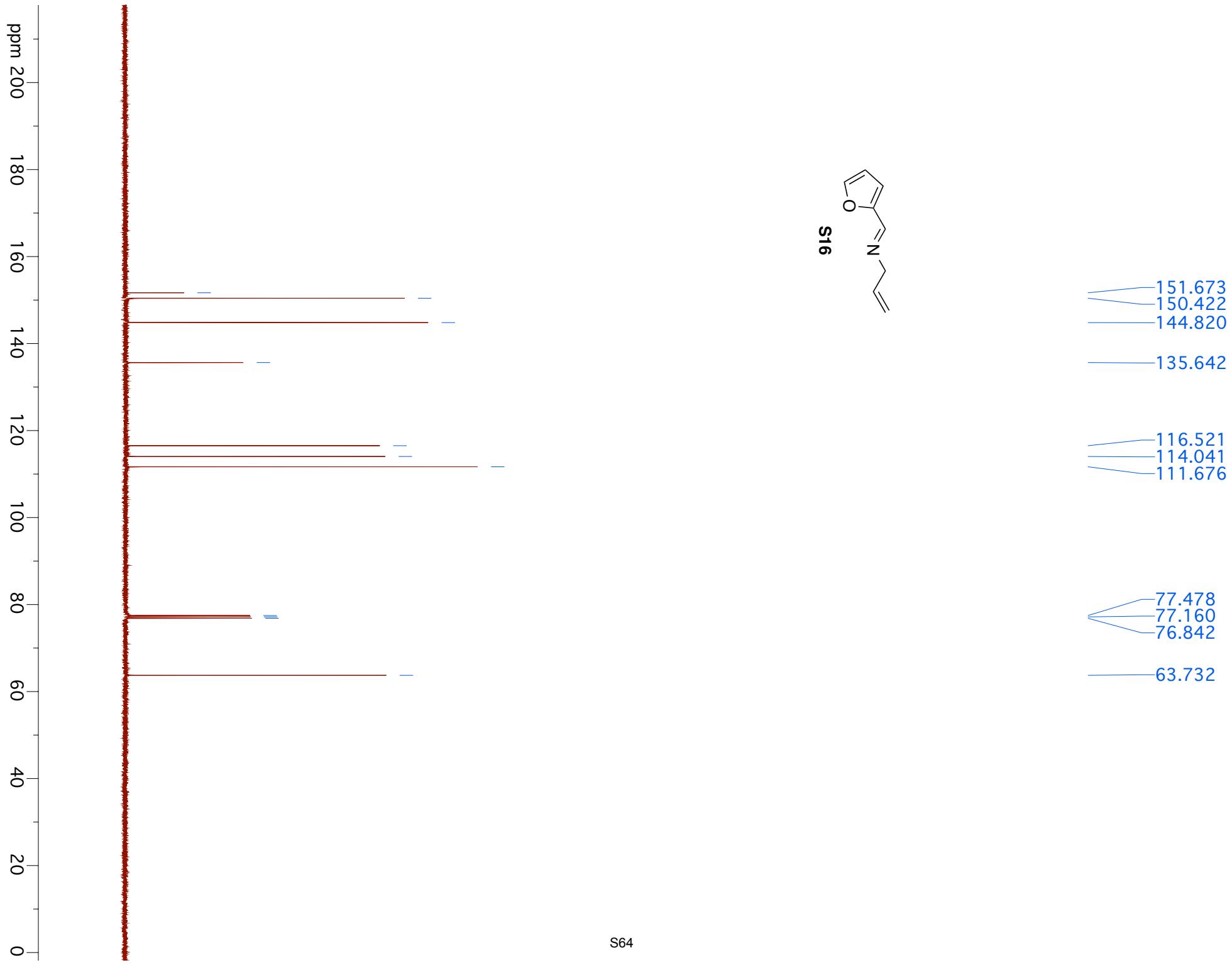


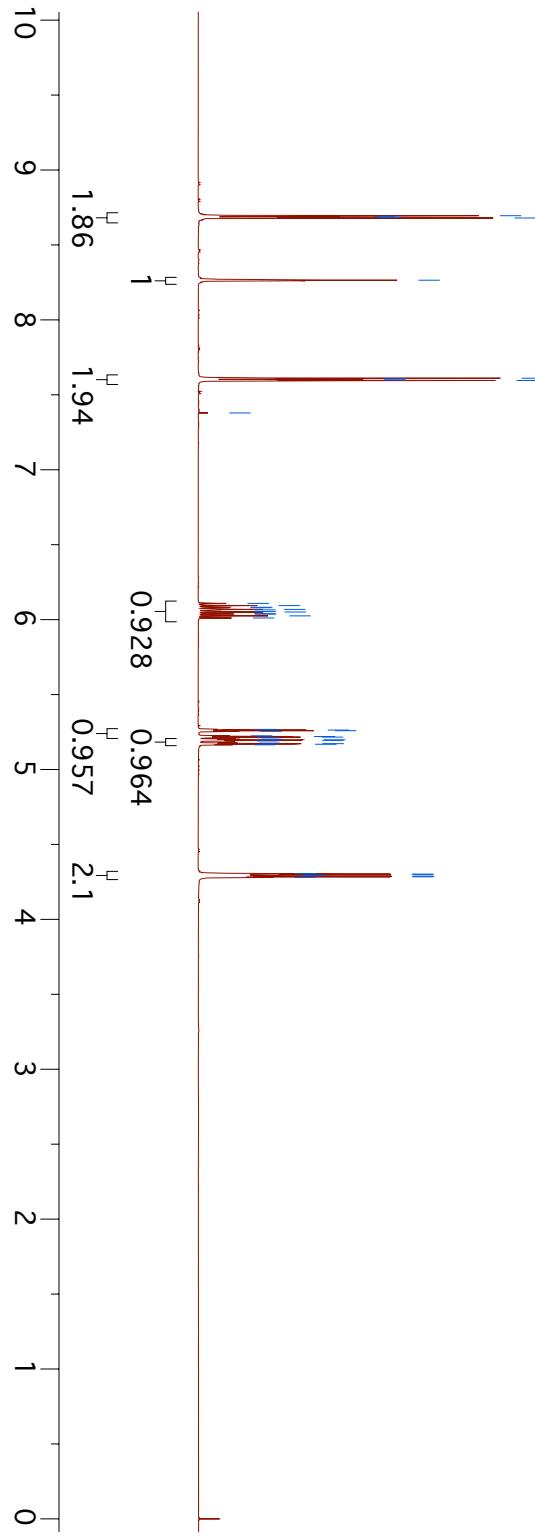
S61



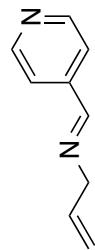
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133.925
133.174
130.081
128.715
128.579
127.973
127.253
126.562
123.924
116.295
77.477
77.160
76.842
63.756



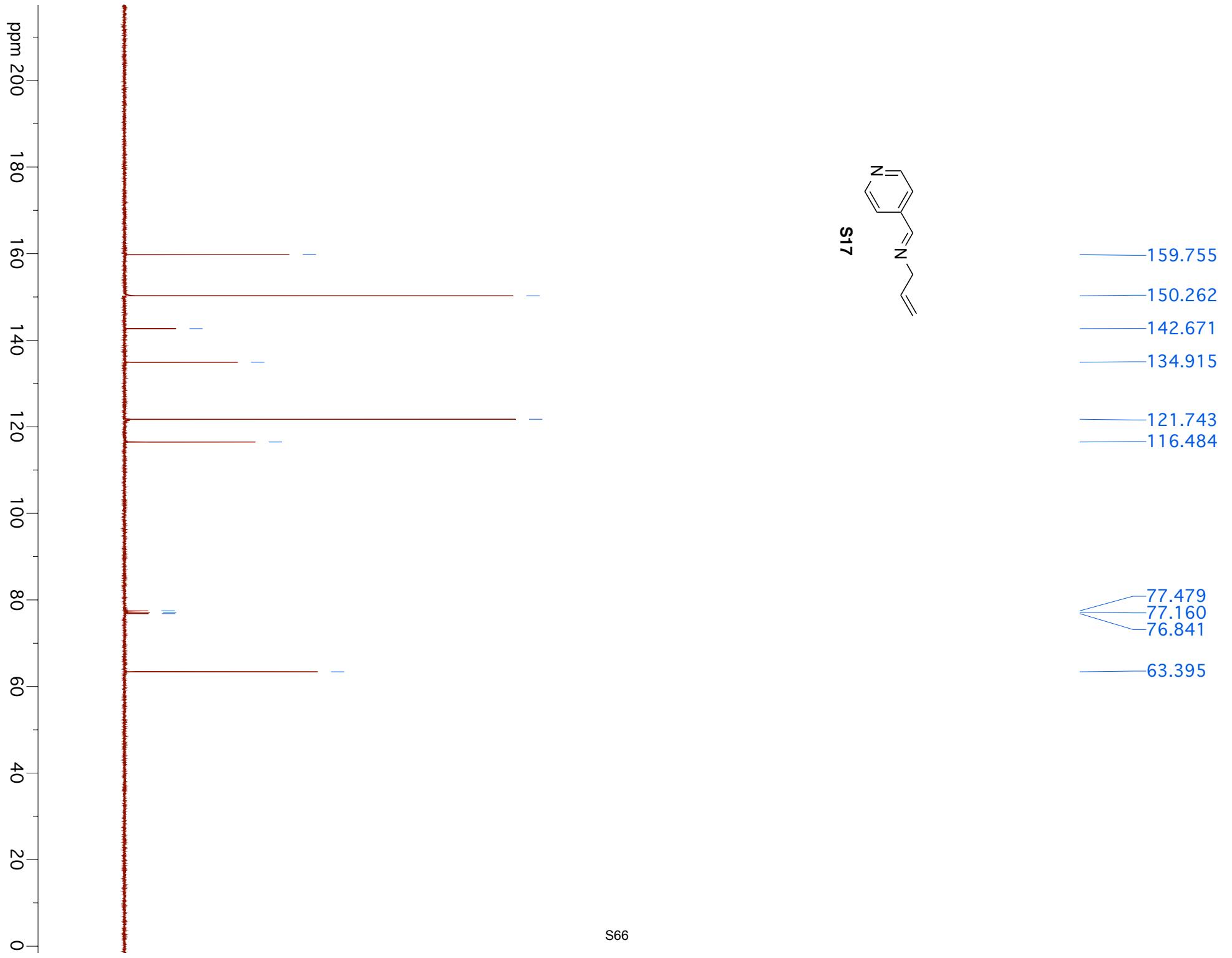


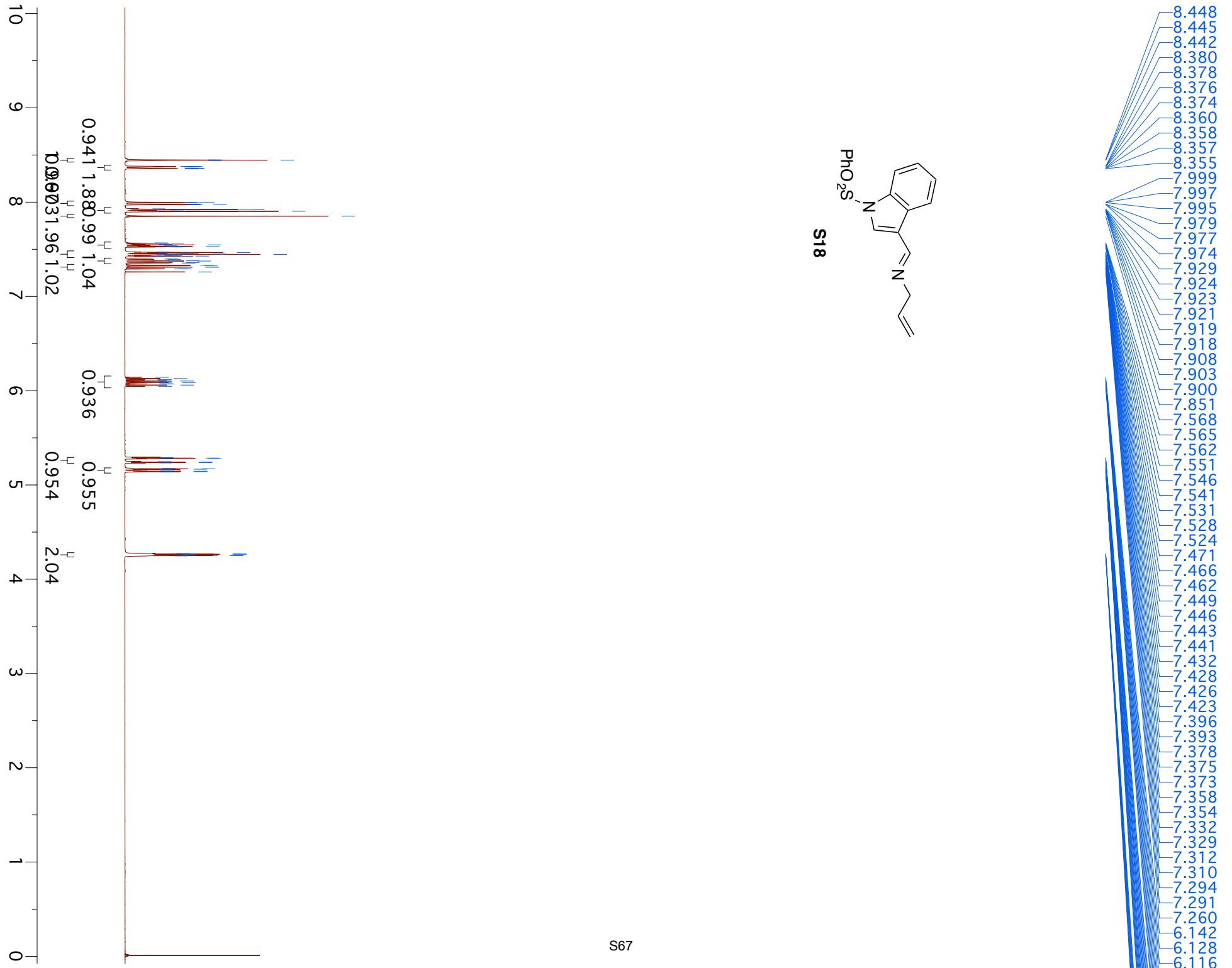


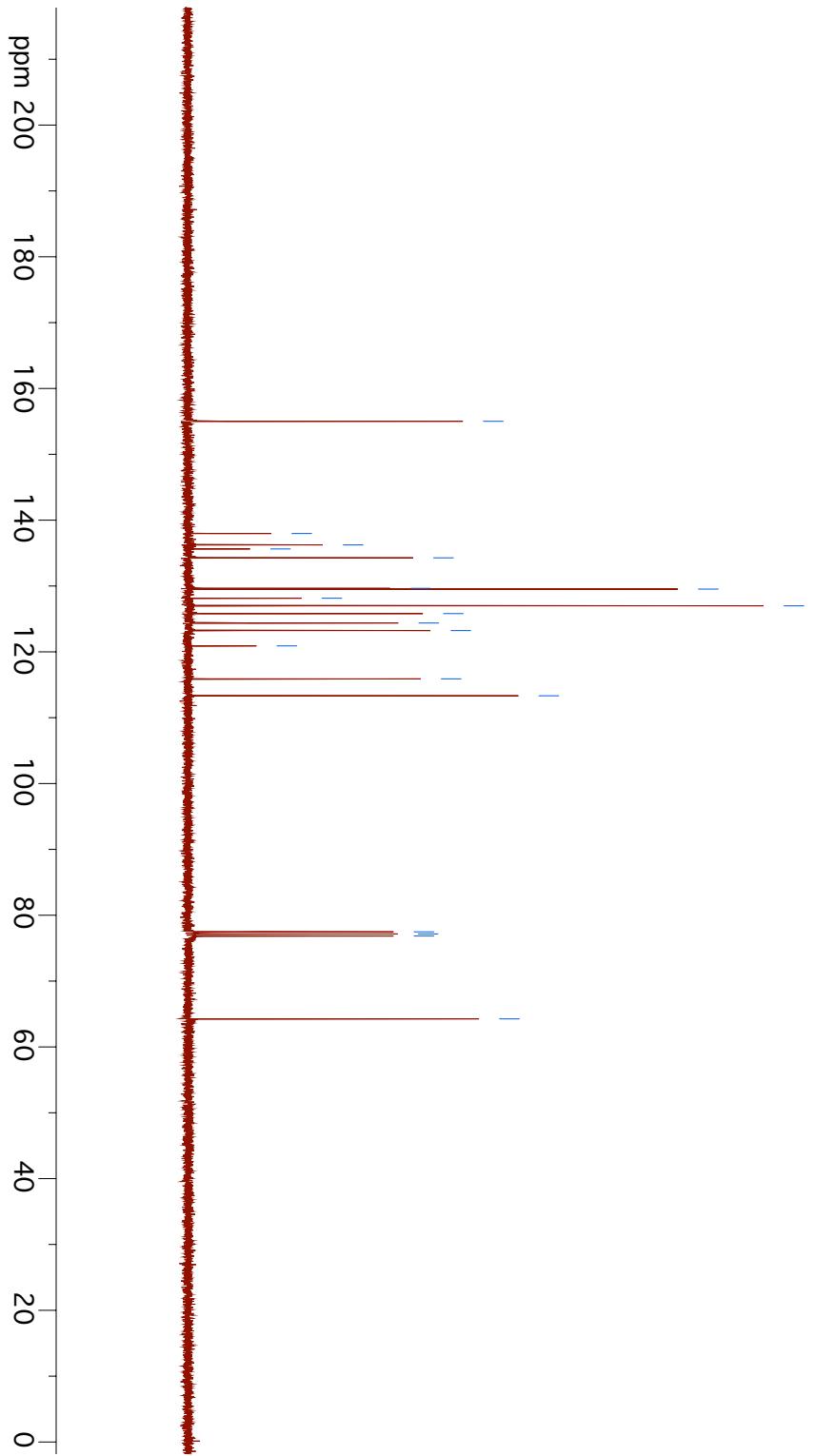
S17



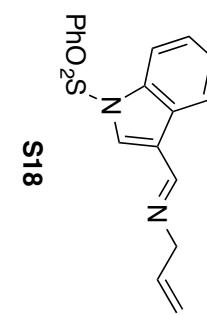
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8.680
8.265
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7.607
7.600
7.596
7.379
6.108
6.094
6.082
6.080
6.068
6.065
6.054
6.051
6.040
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6.011
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5.263
5.259
5.255
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5.220
5.216
5.212
5.202
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5.194
5.190
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5.165
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4.288
4.284
4.280





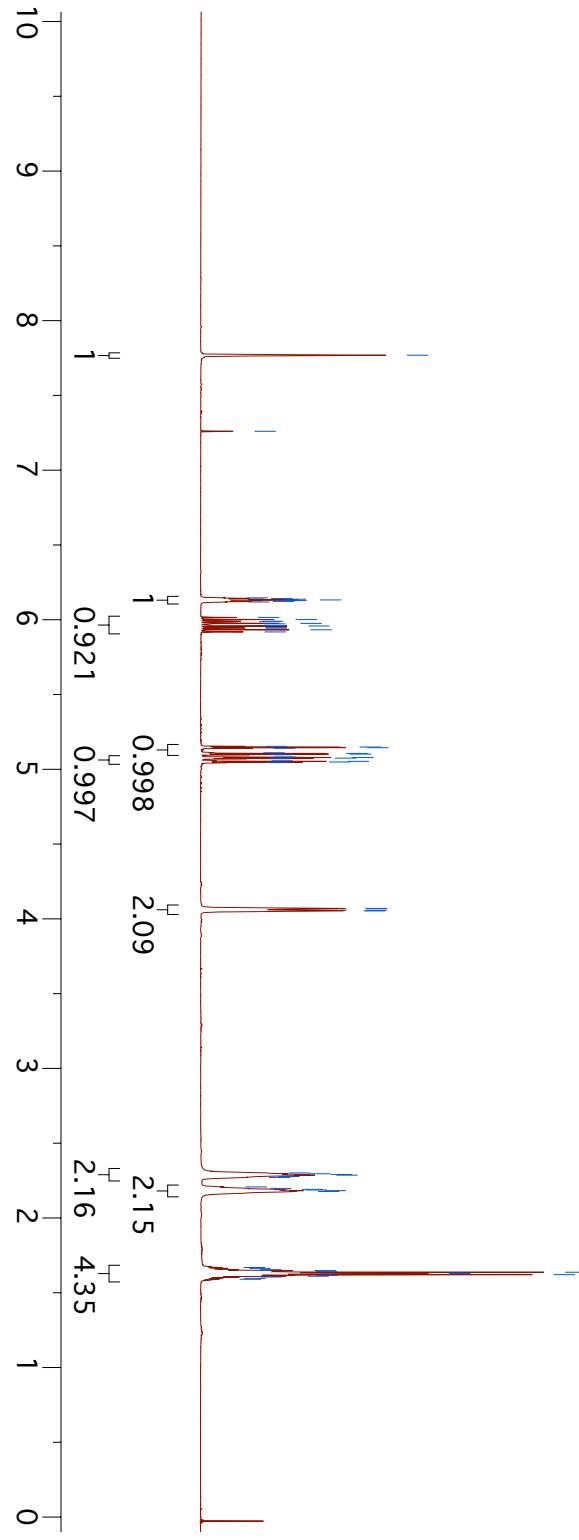


S68

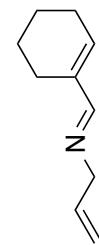


155.017
137.971
136.241
135.630
134.278
129.648
129.532
128.143
126.992
125.808
124.381
123.232
120.905
115.898
113.328

77.478
77.160
76.842
64.261

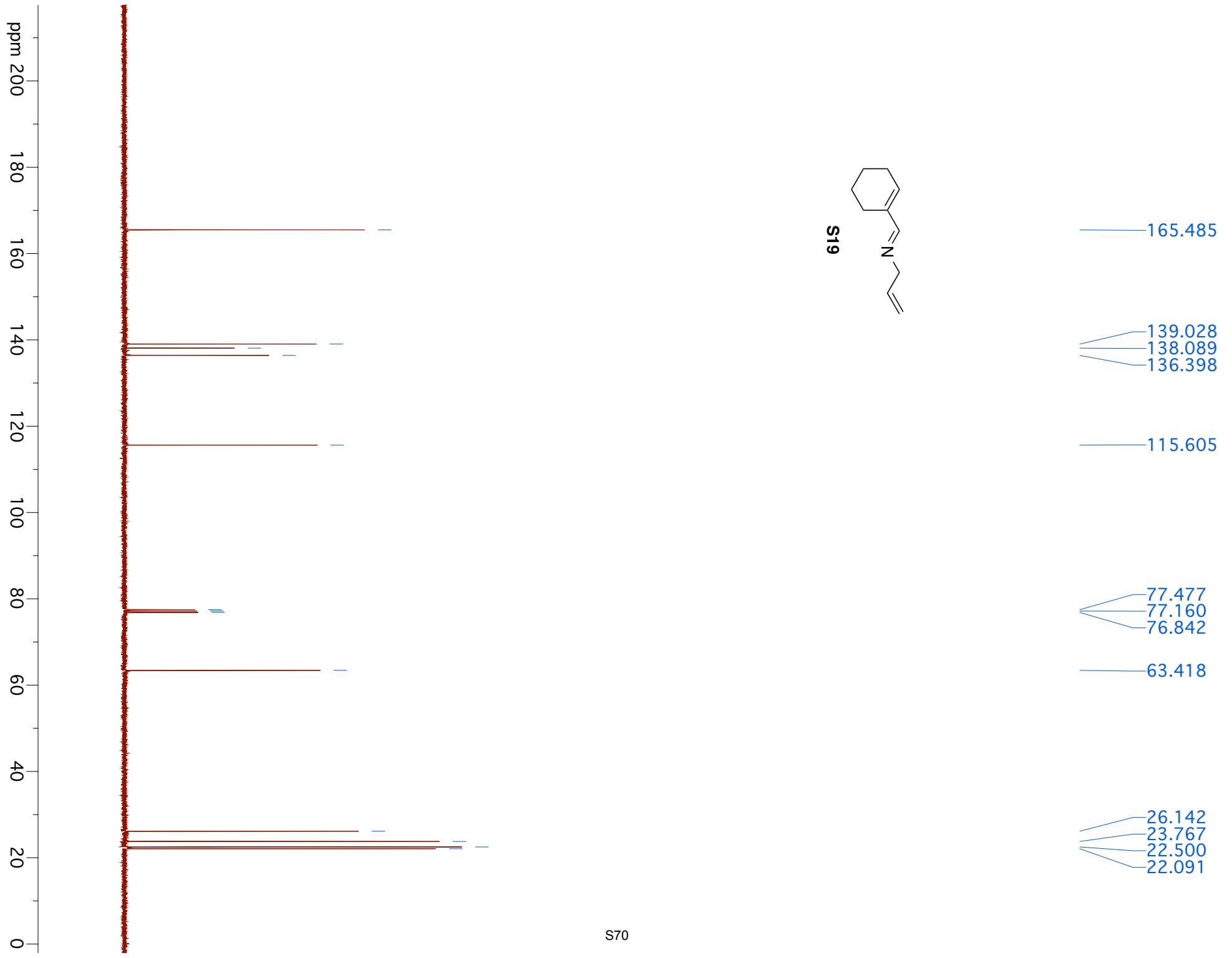


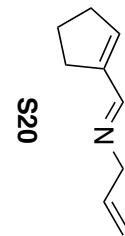
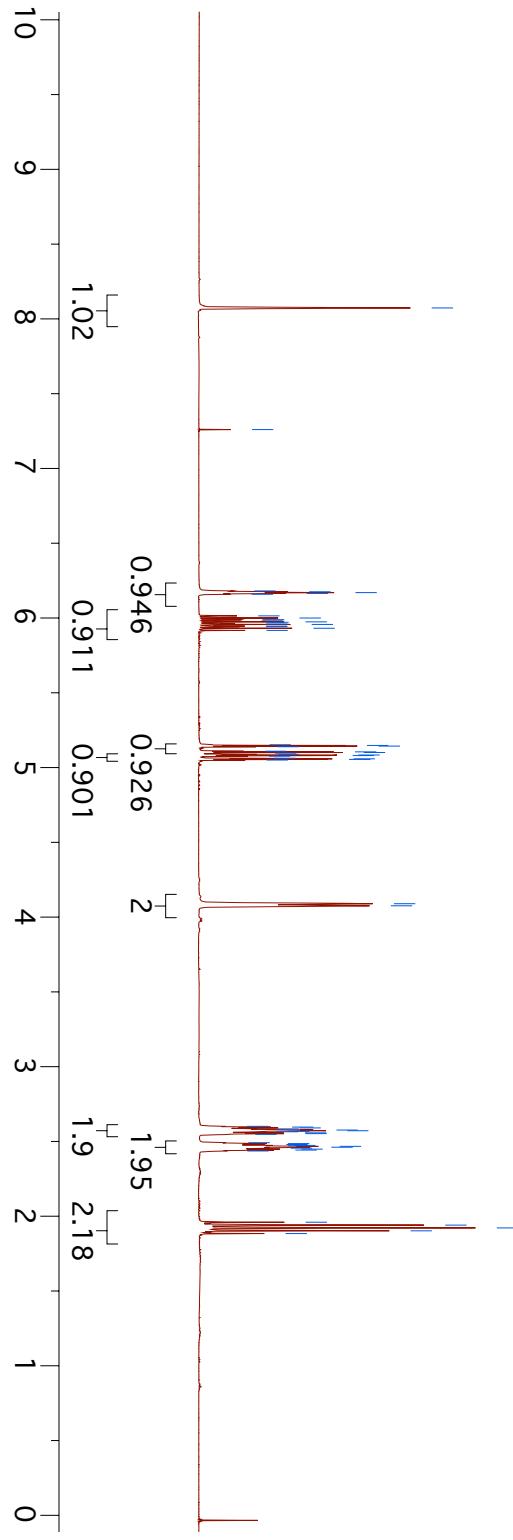
S19



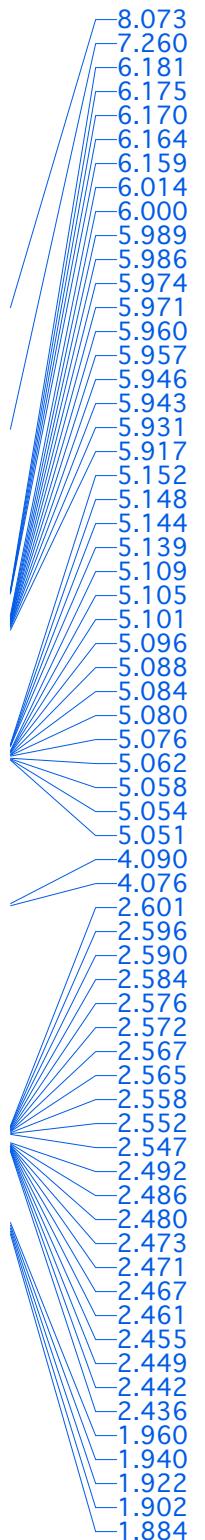
S69

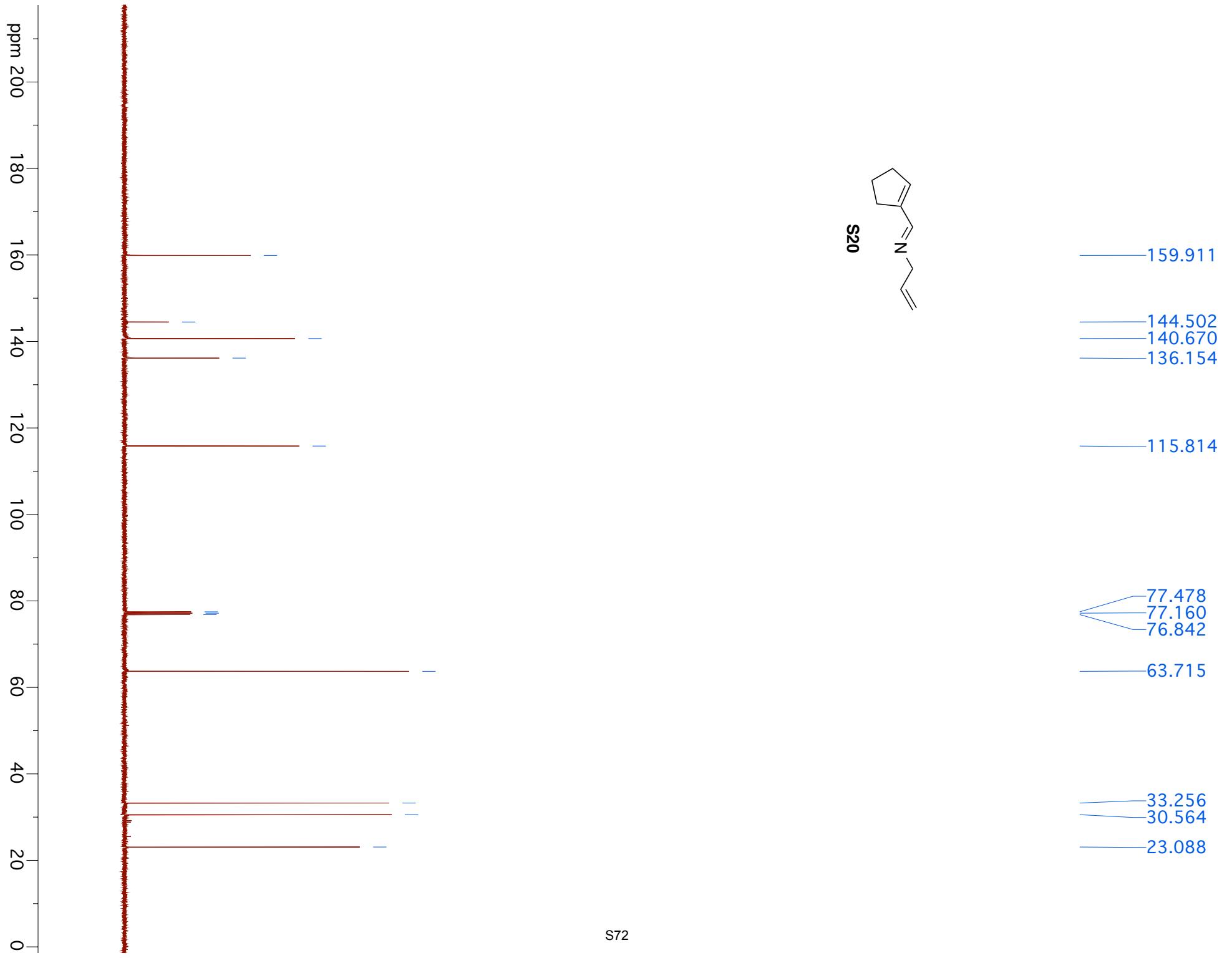
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6.137
6.133
6.128
6.123
6.119
6.016
6.001
5.990
5.987
5.976
5.973
5.961
5.958
5.947
5.944
5.933
5.919
5.153
5.149
5.145
5.140
5.111
5.106
5.102
5.097
5.082
5.079
5.075
5.071
5.057
5.053
5.049
5.045
4.069
4.067
4.055
4.053
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2.296
2.291
2.286
2.277
2.271
2.208
2.198
2.191
2.187
2.183
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1.610



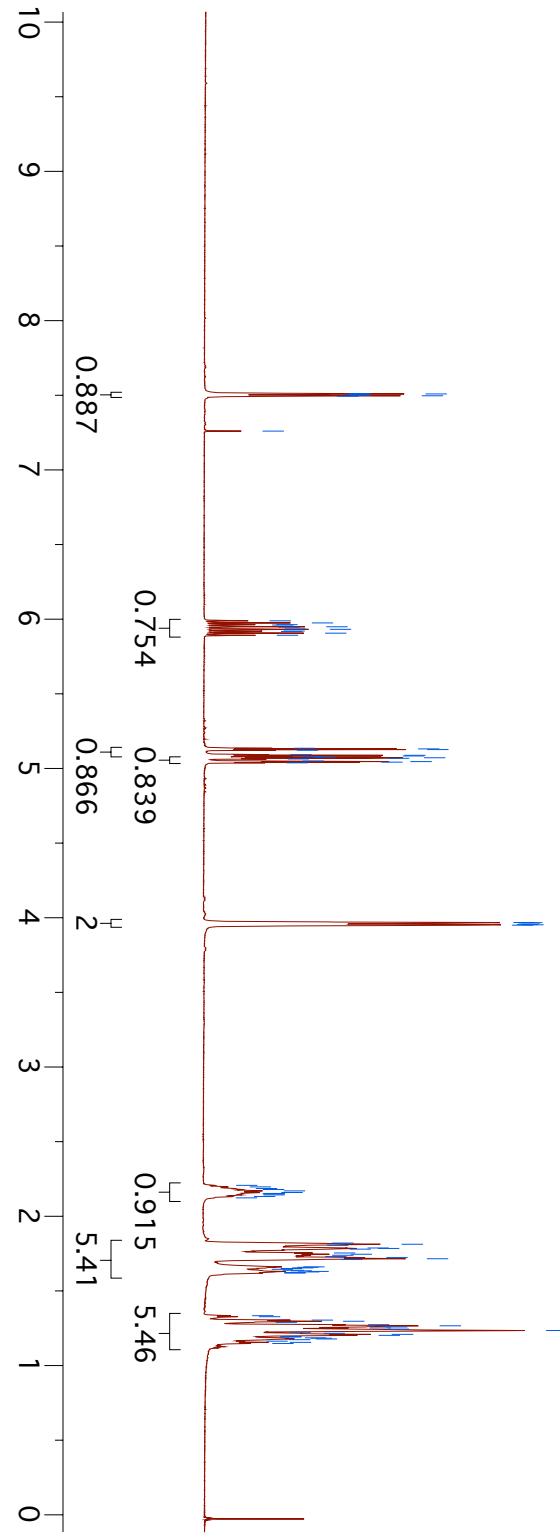


S71

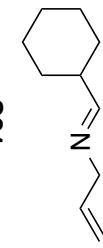




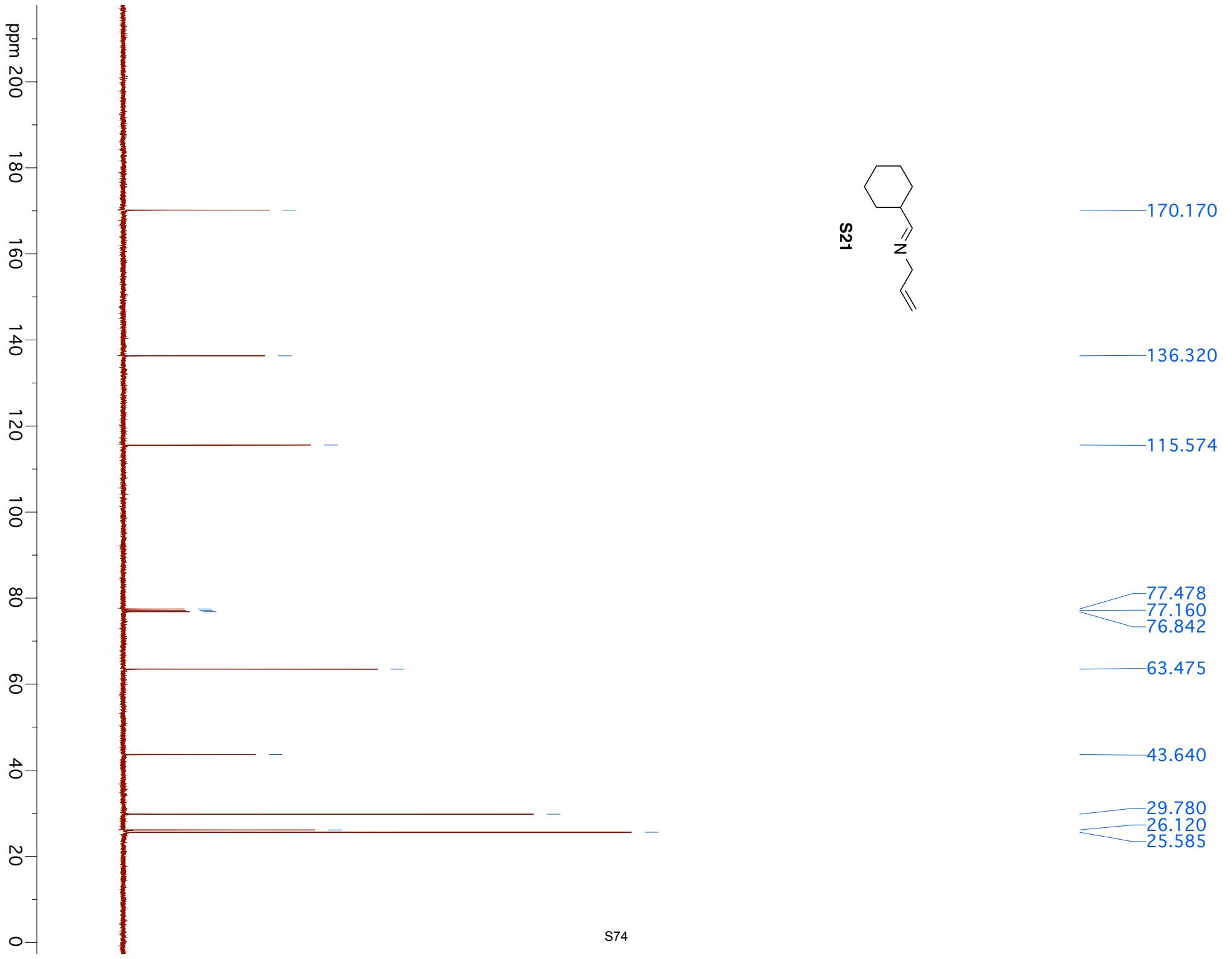
S72

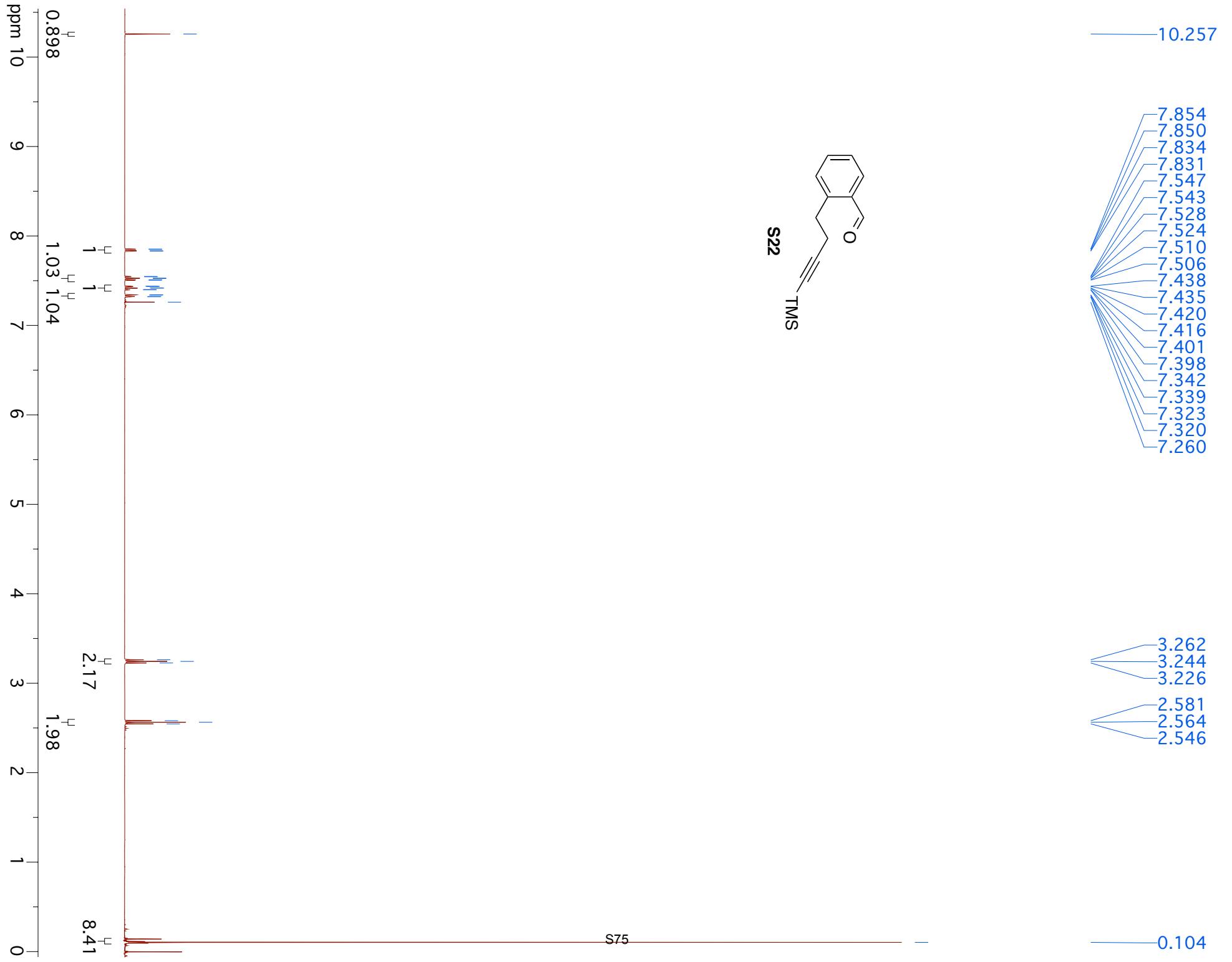


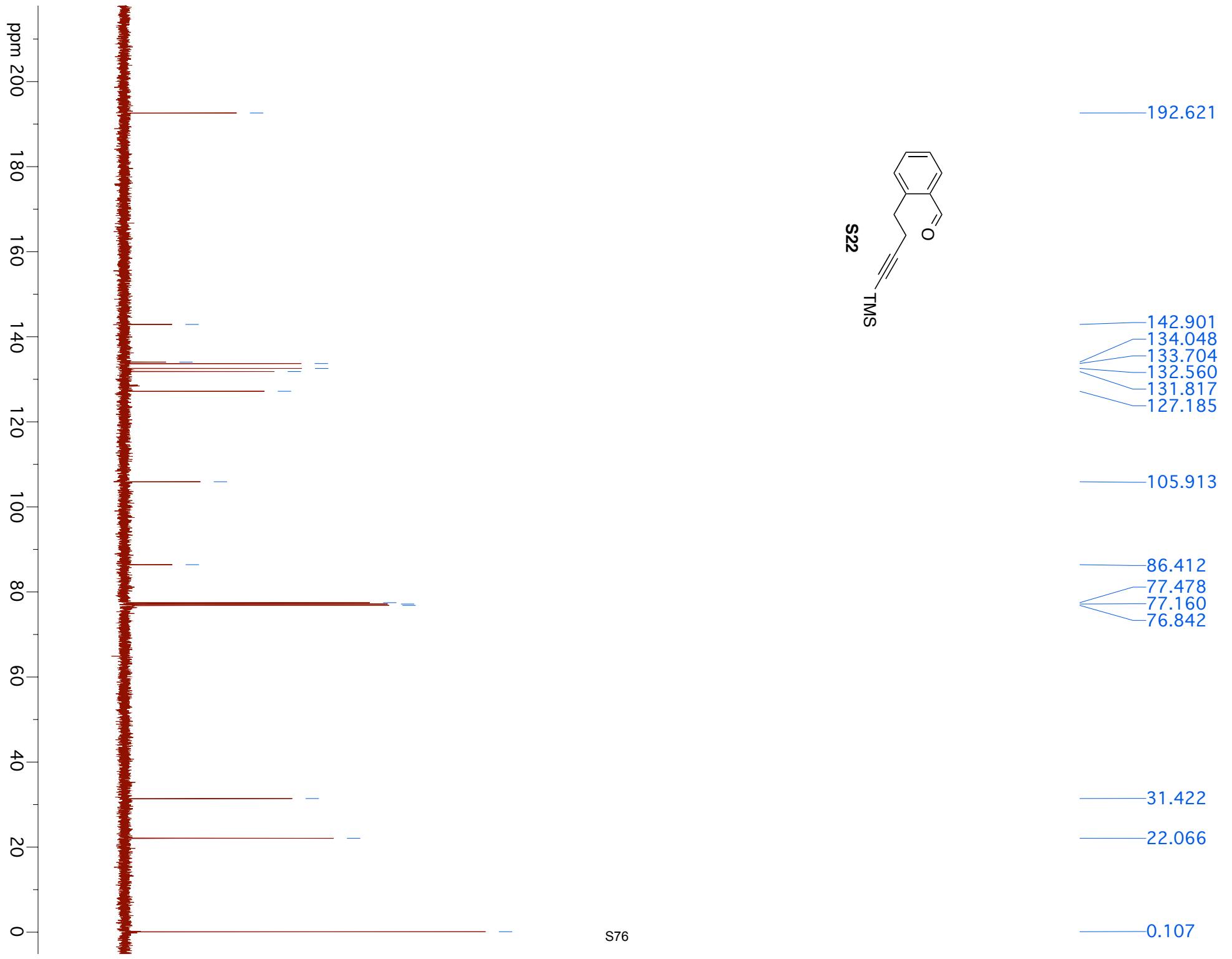
S21

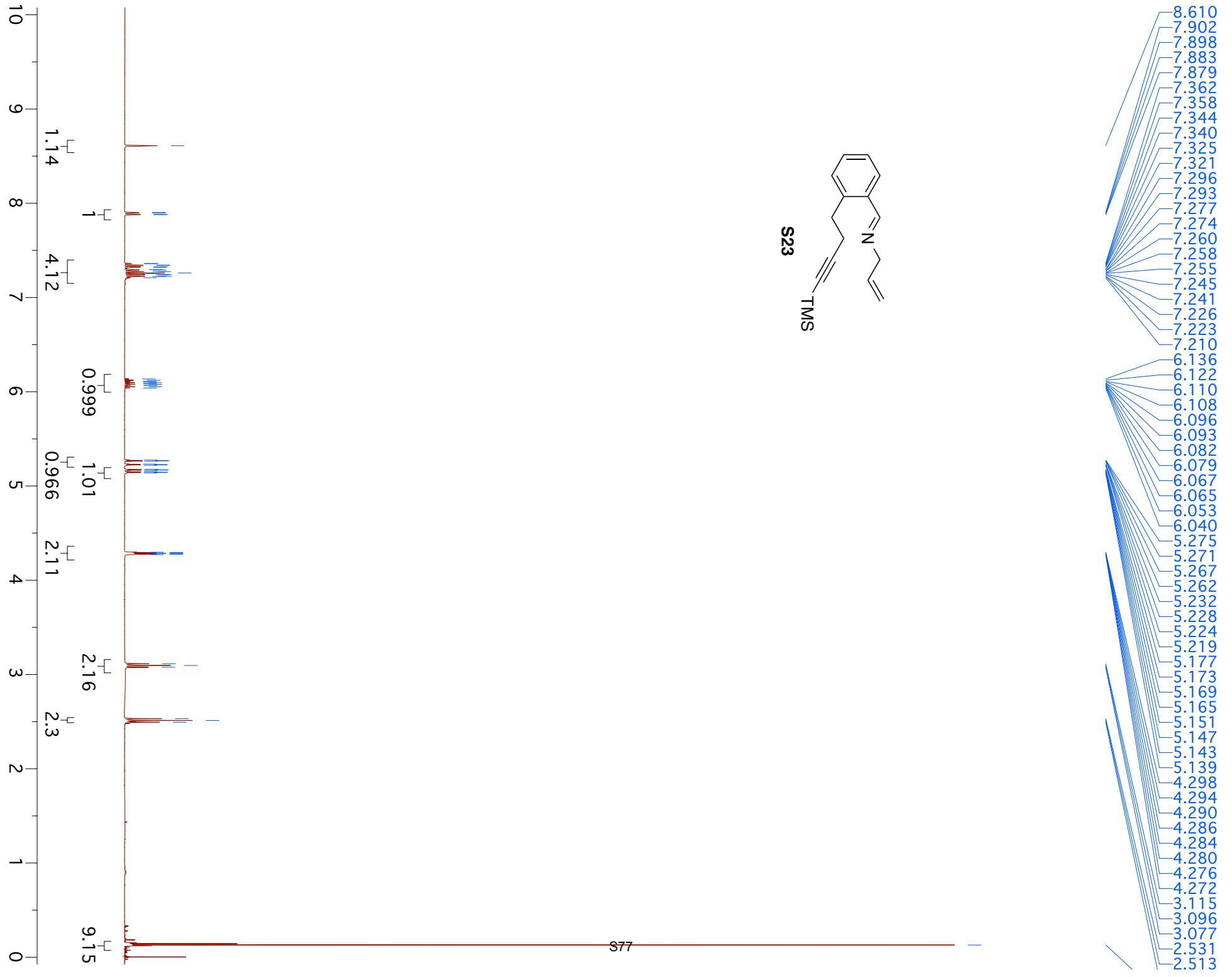


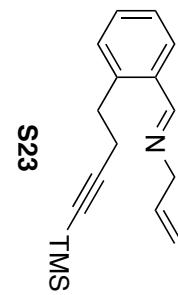
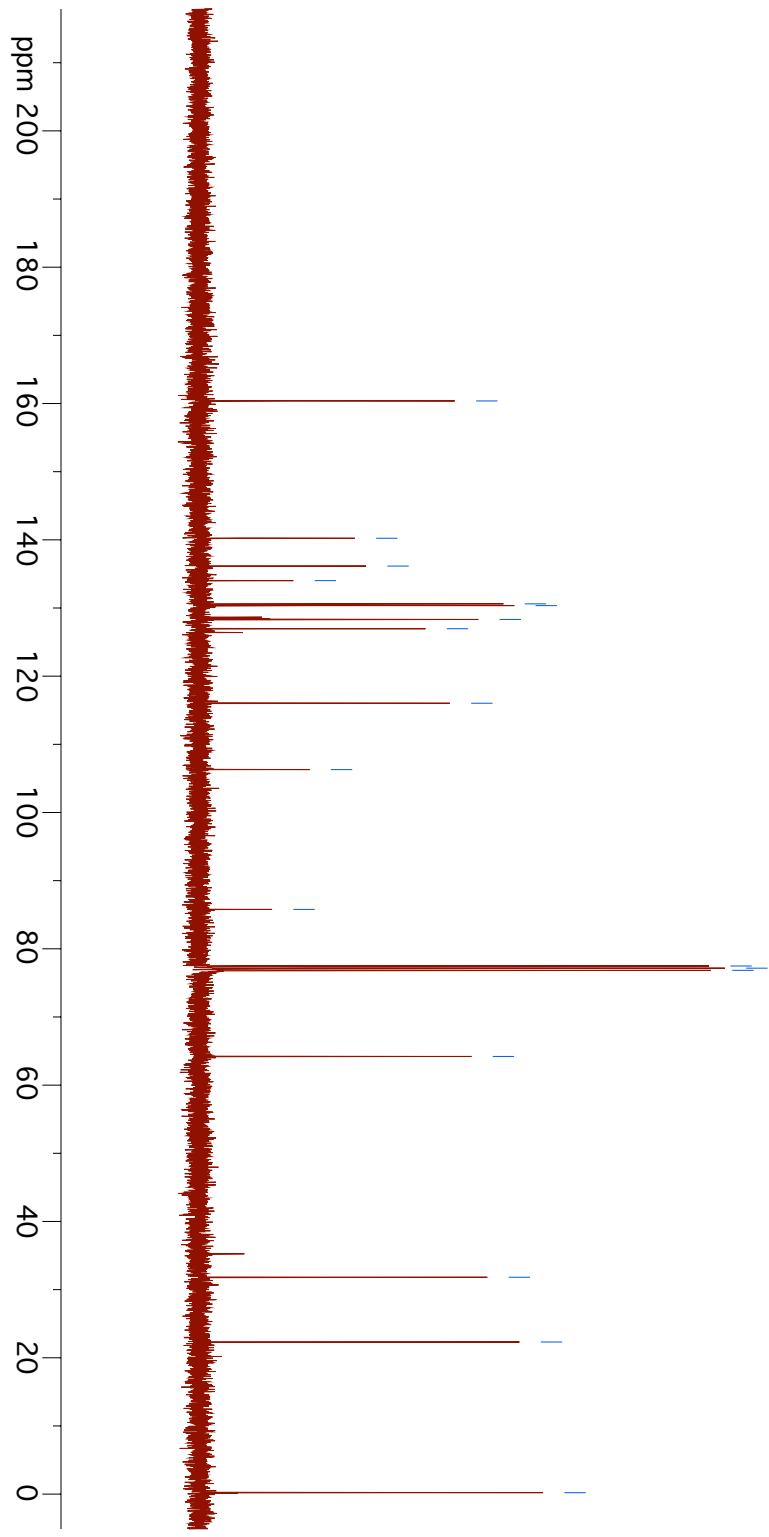
S73



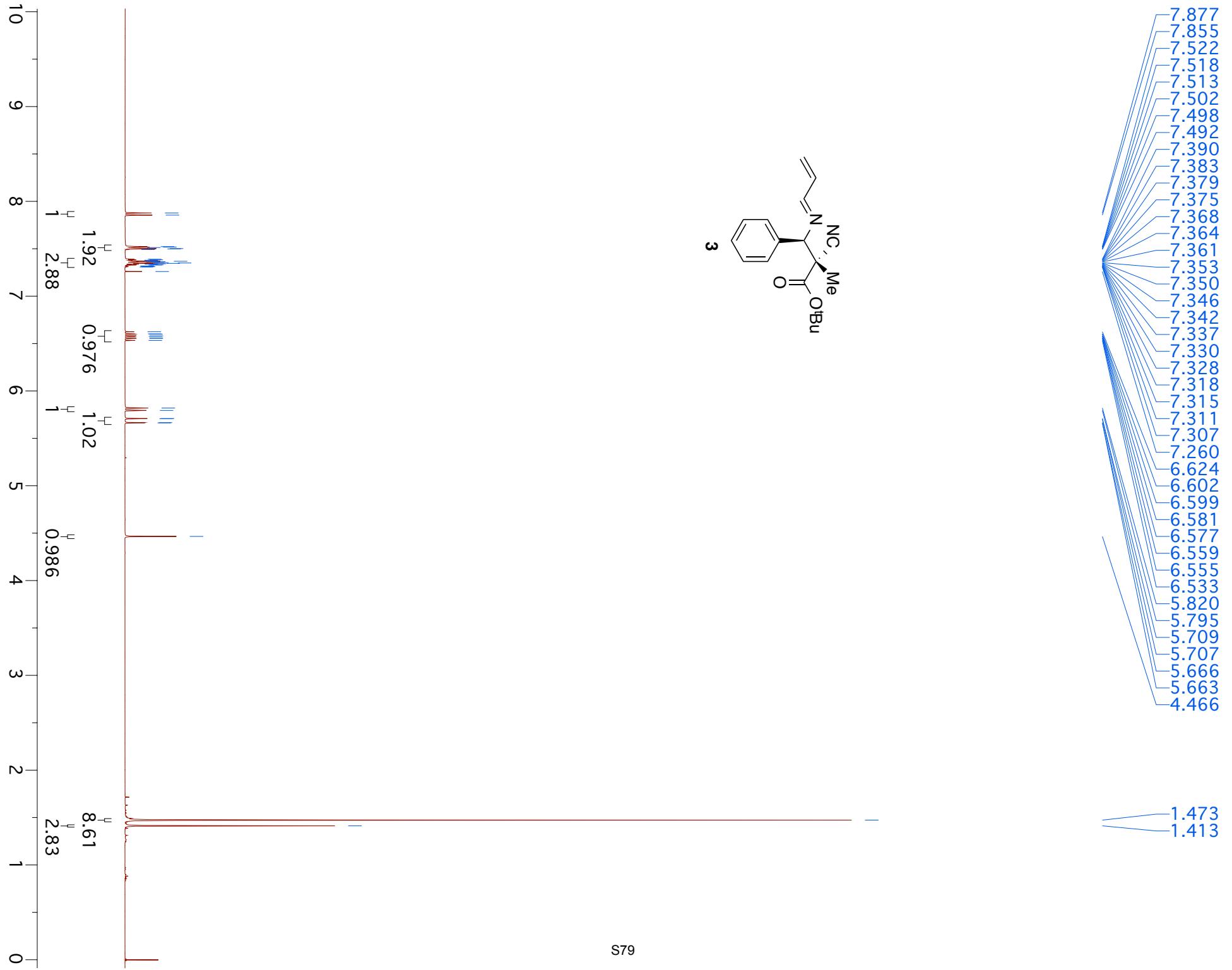


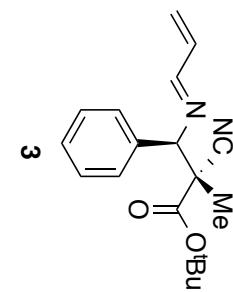
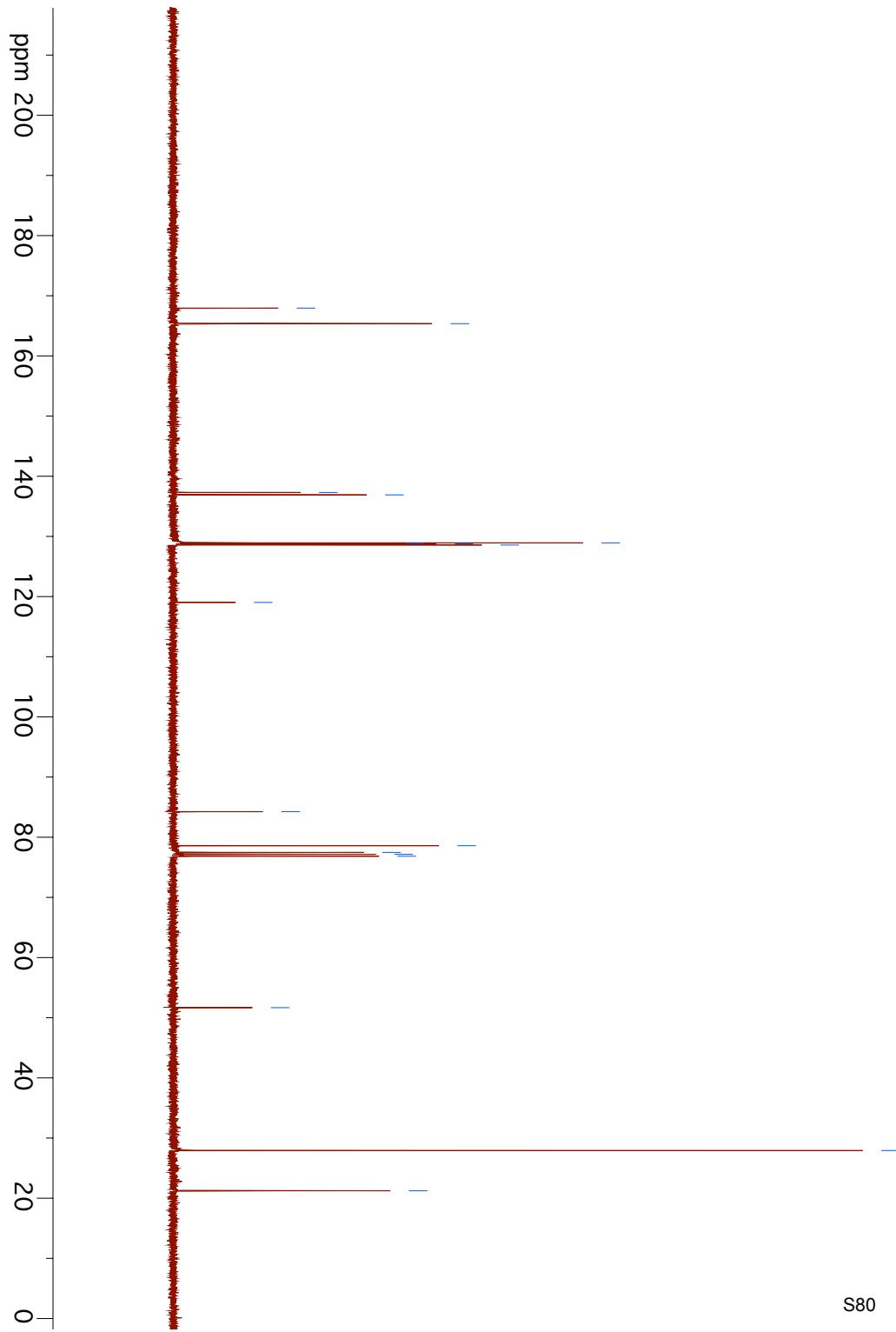




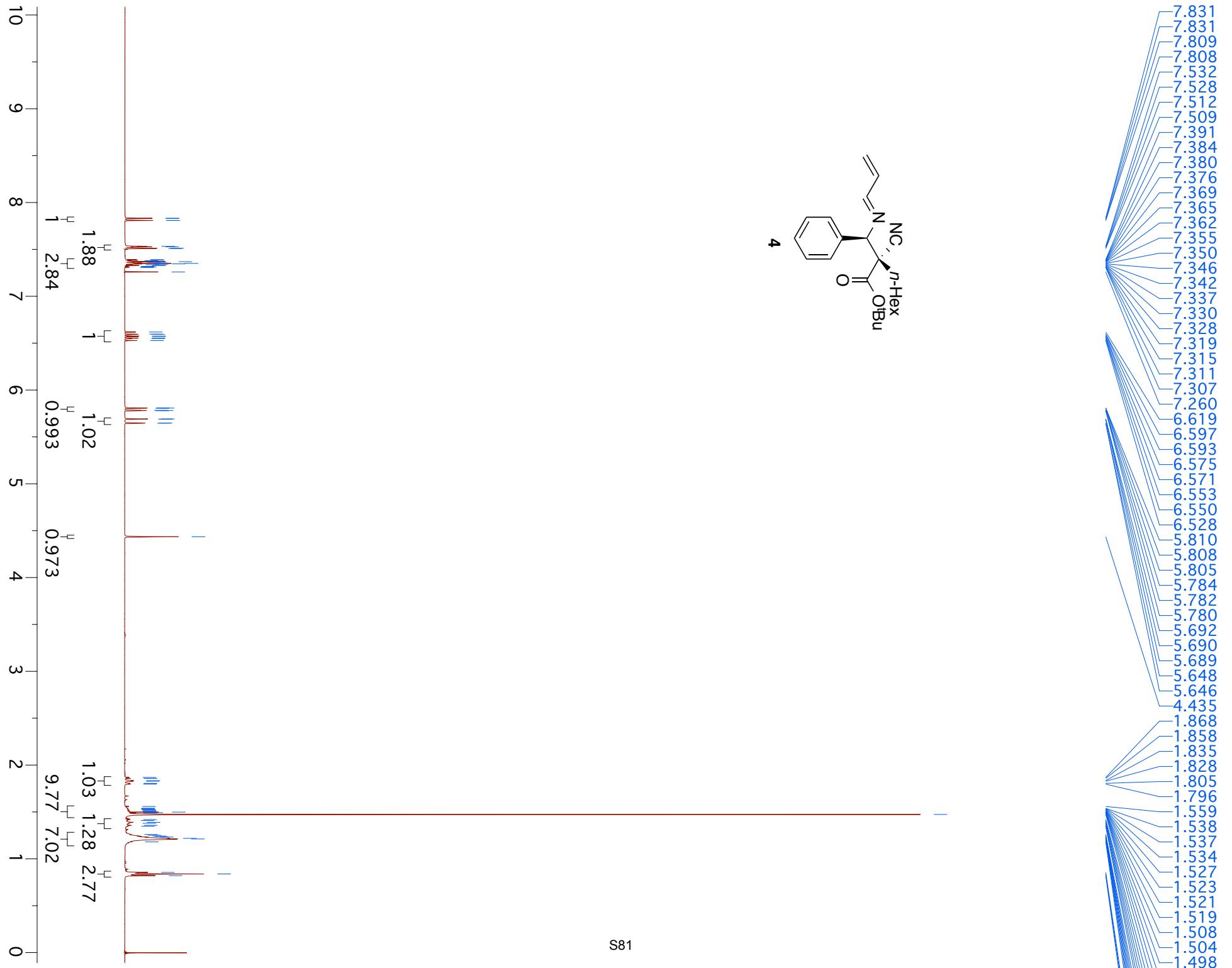


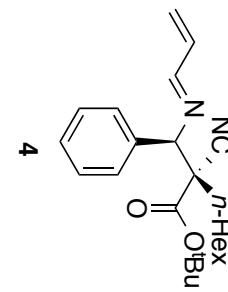
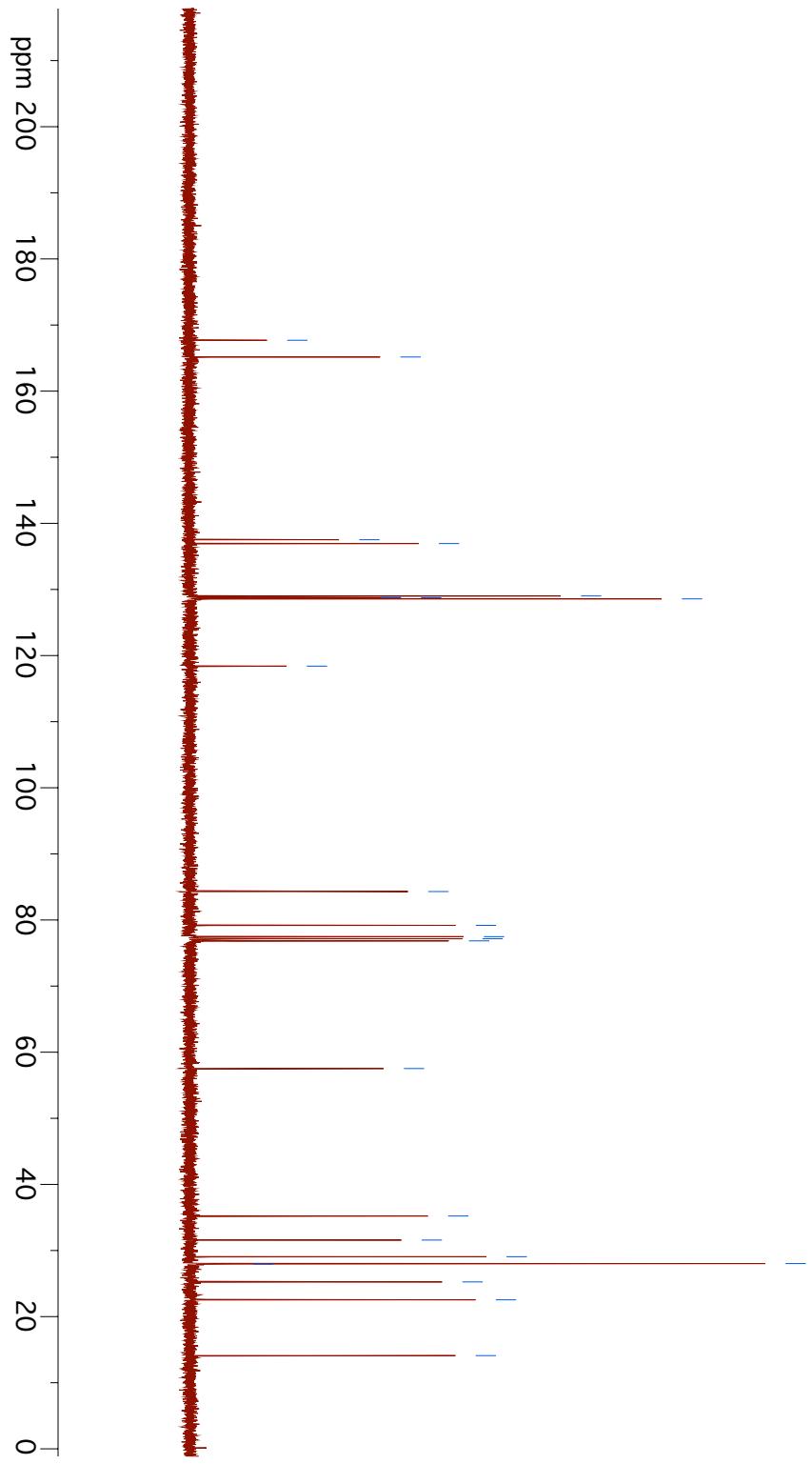
S78

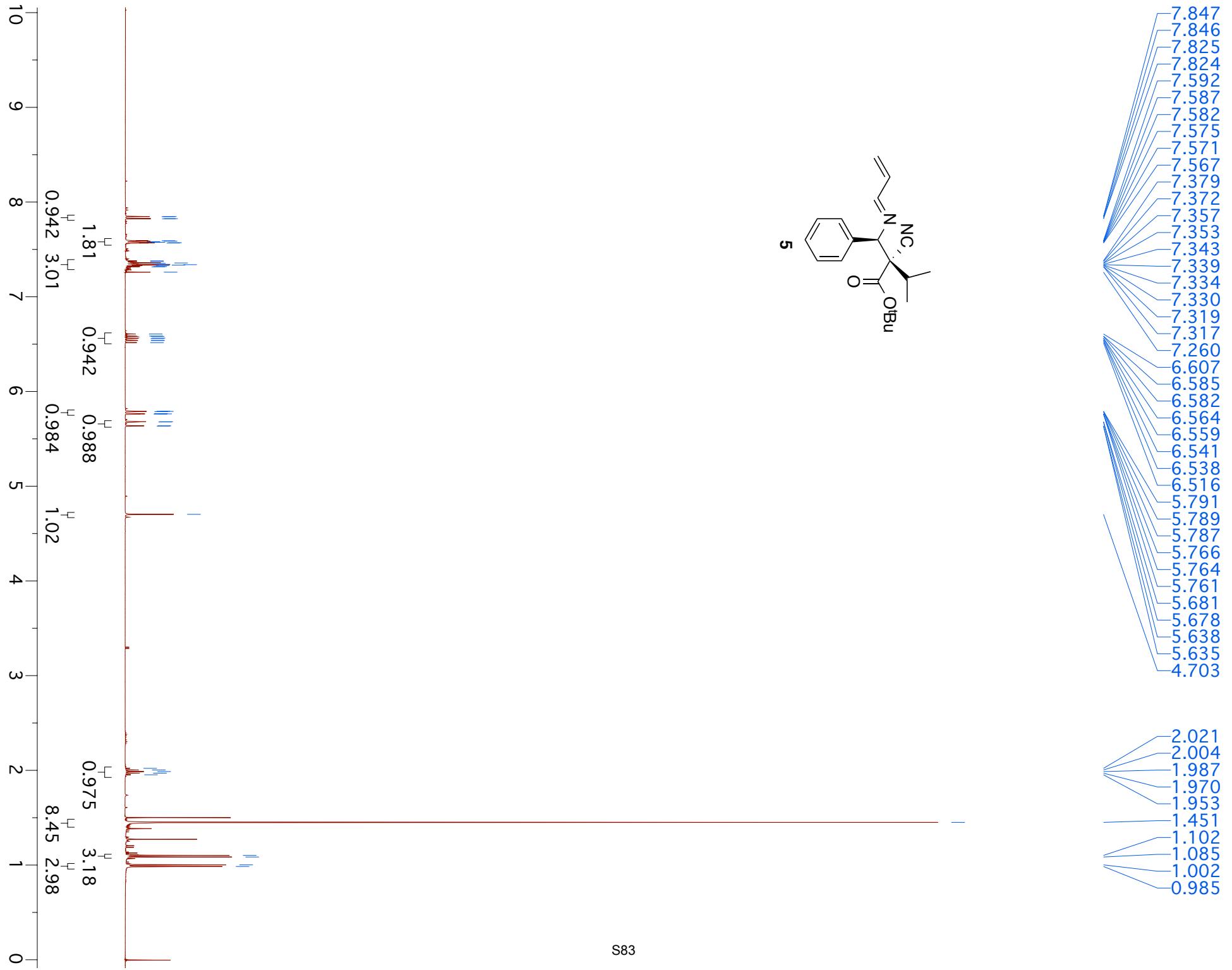


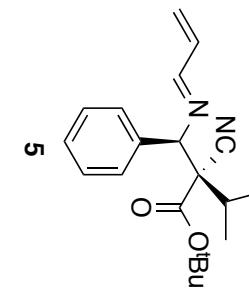
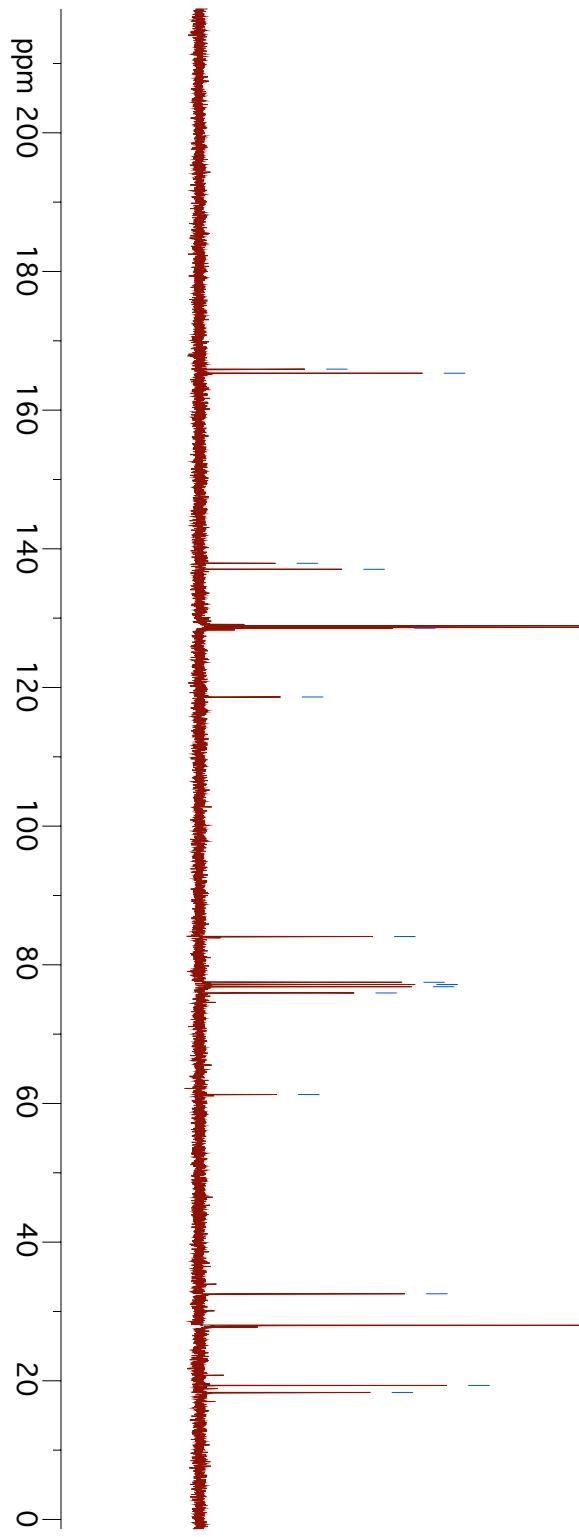


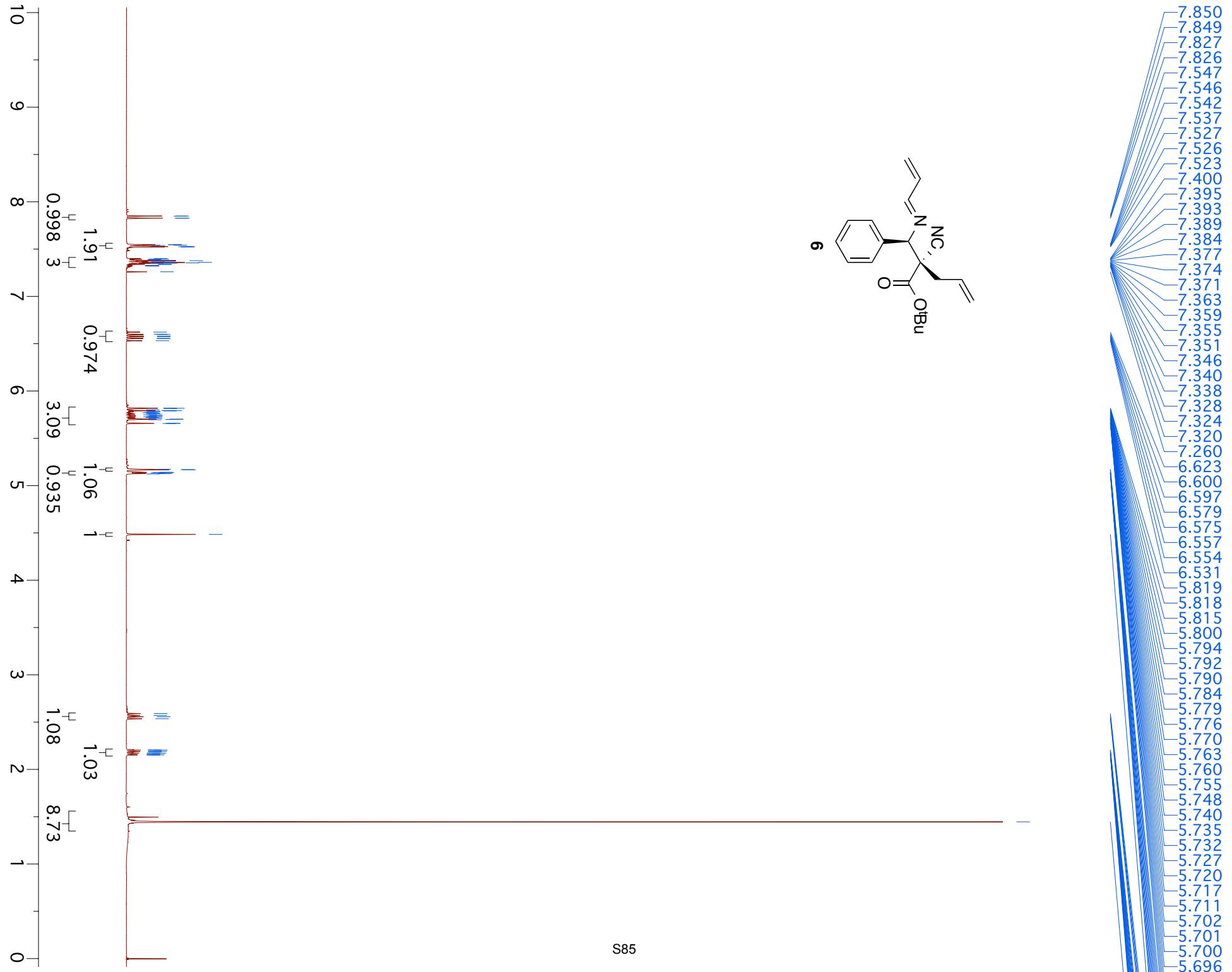
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128.570
119.032
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78.595
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77.160
76.842
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27.922
21.232

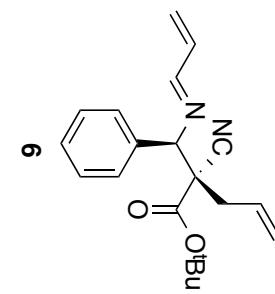
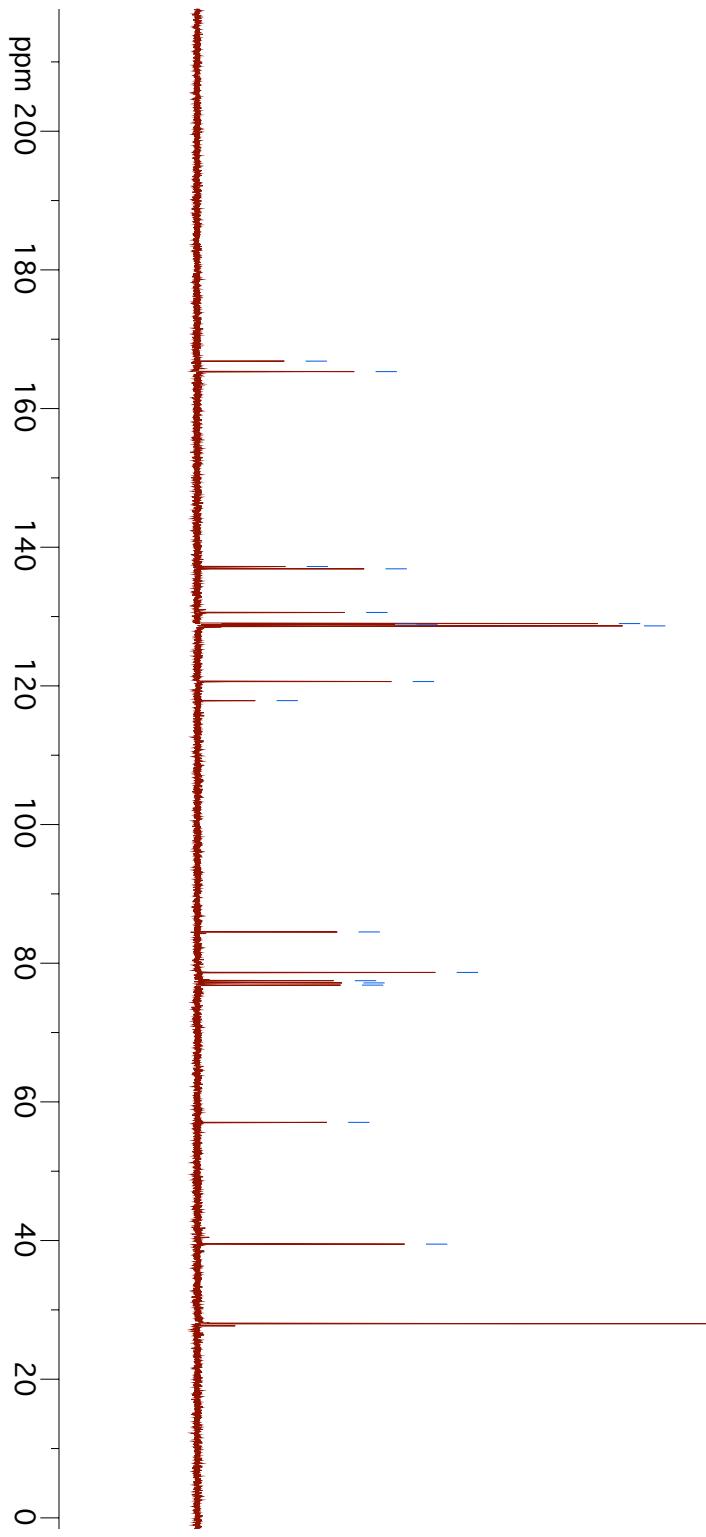




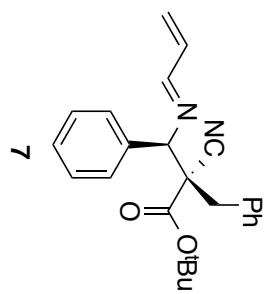
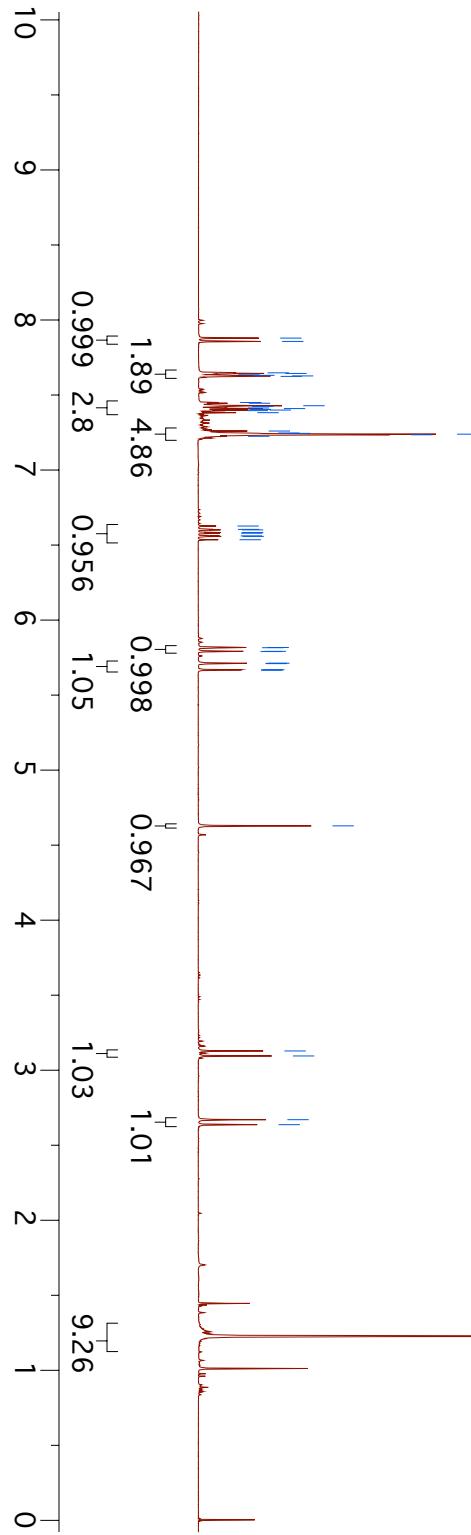






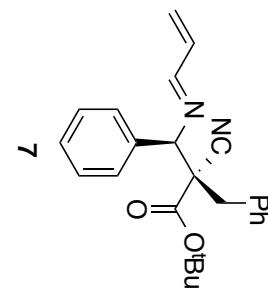
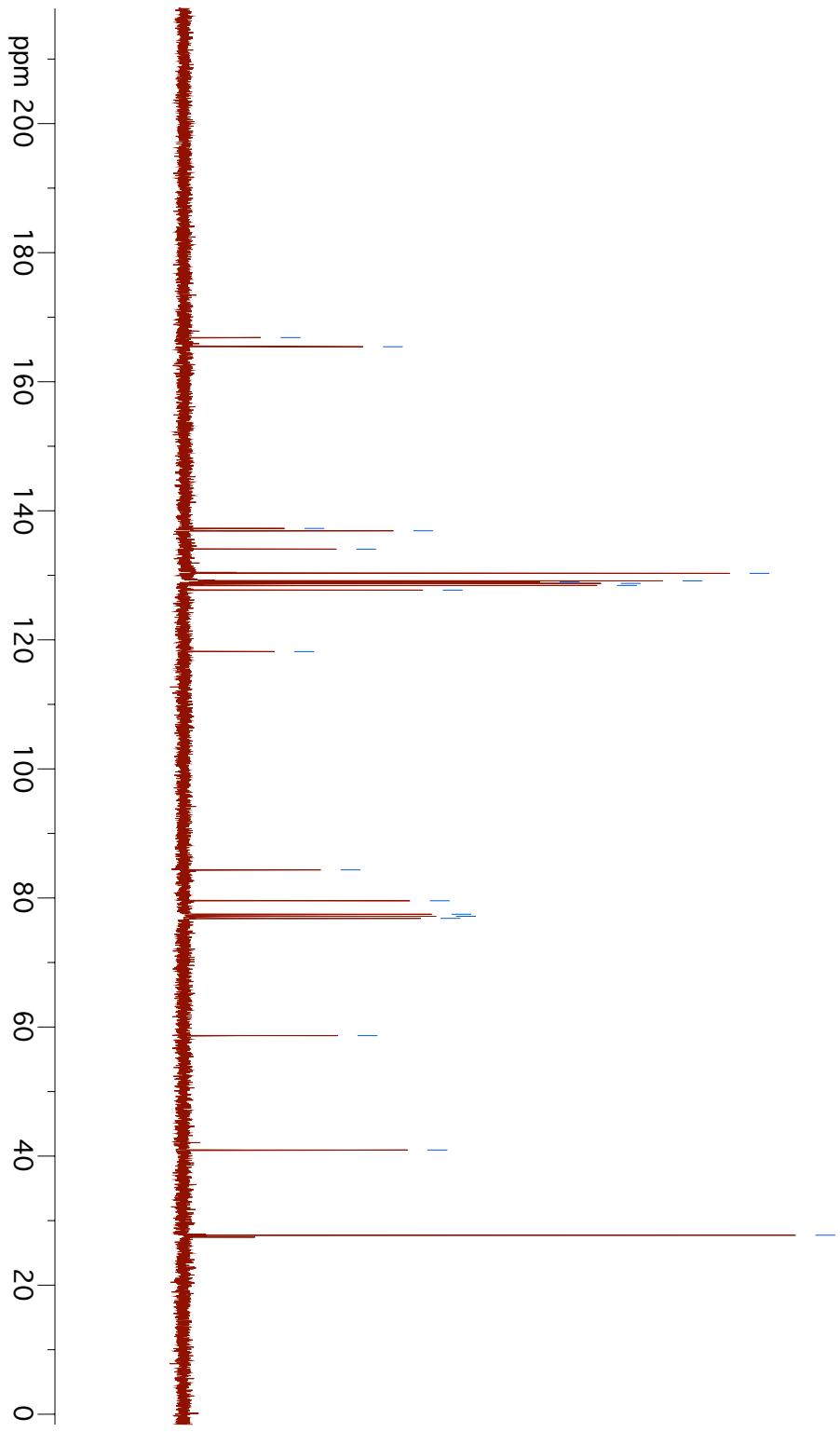


- 166.841
- 165.329
- 137.215
- 136.883
- 130.590
- 128.987
- 128.928
- 128.883
- 128.654
- 120.625
- 117.873
- 84.509
- 78.671
- 77.478
- 77.160
- 76.842
- 57.045
- 39.484
- 28.012

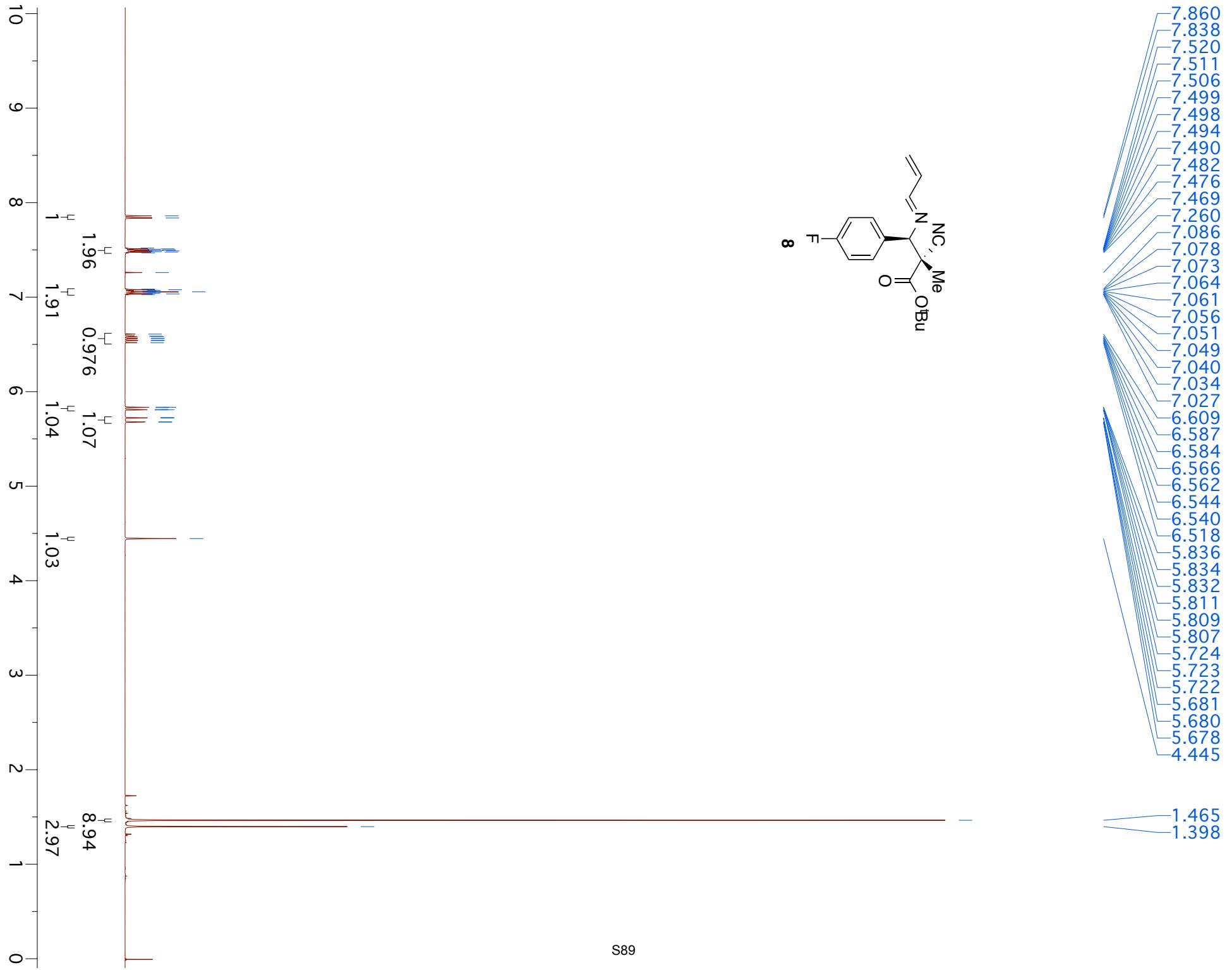


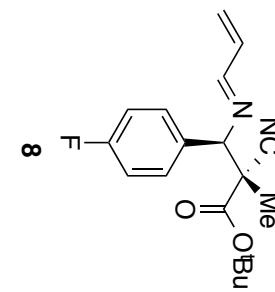
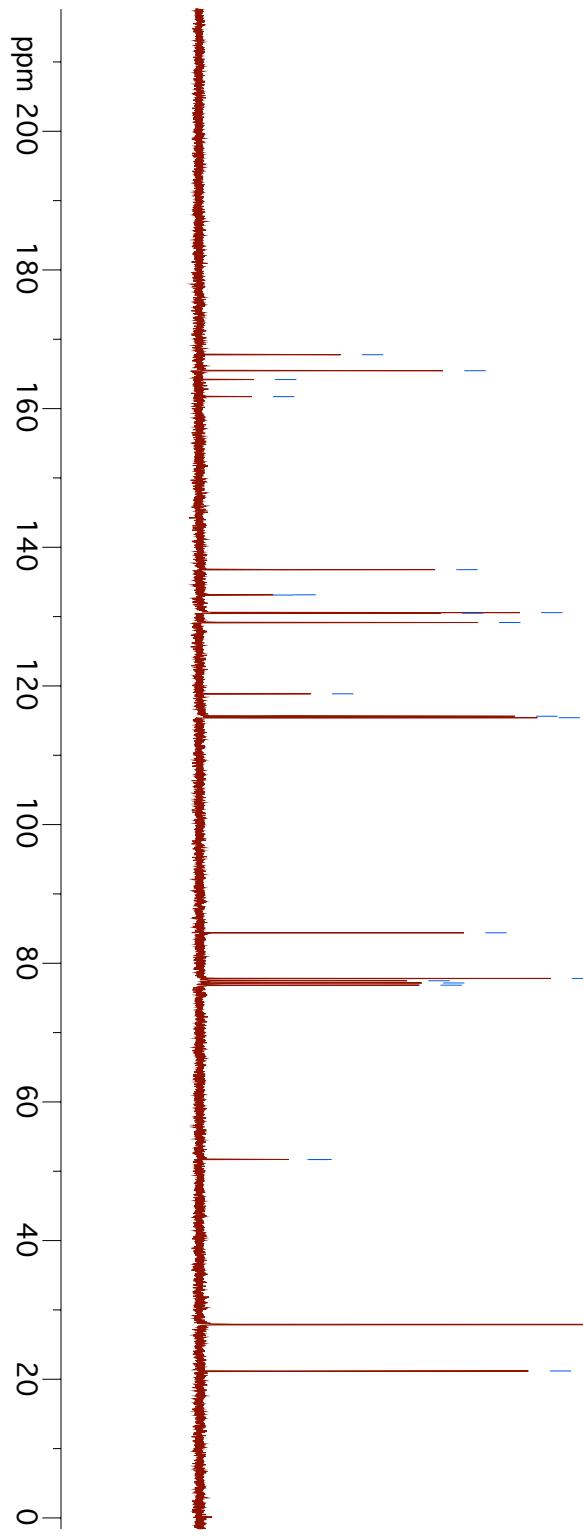
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7.445
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7.414
7.410
7.404
7.400
7.396
7.382
7.260
7.247
7.244
7.239
7.235
7.225
6.627
6.605
6.601
6.583
6.579
6.561
6.558
6.536
5.817
5.816
5.792
5.790
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2.670
2.637

1.228

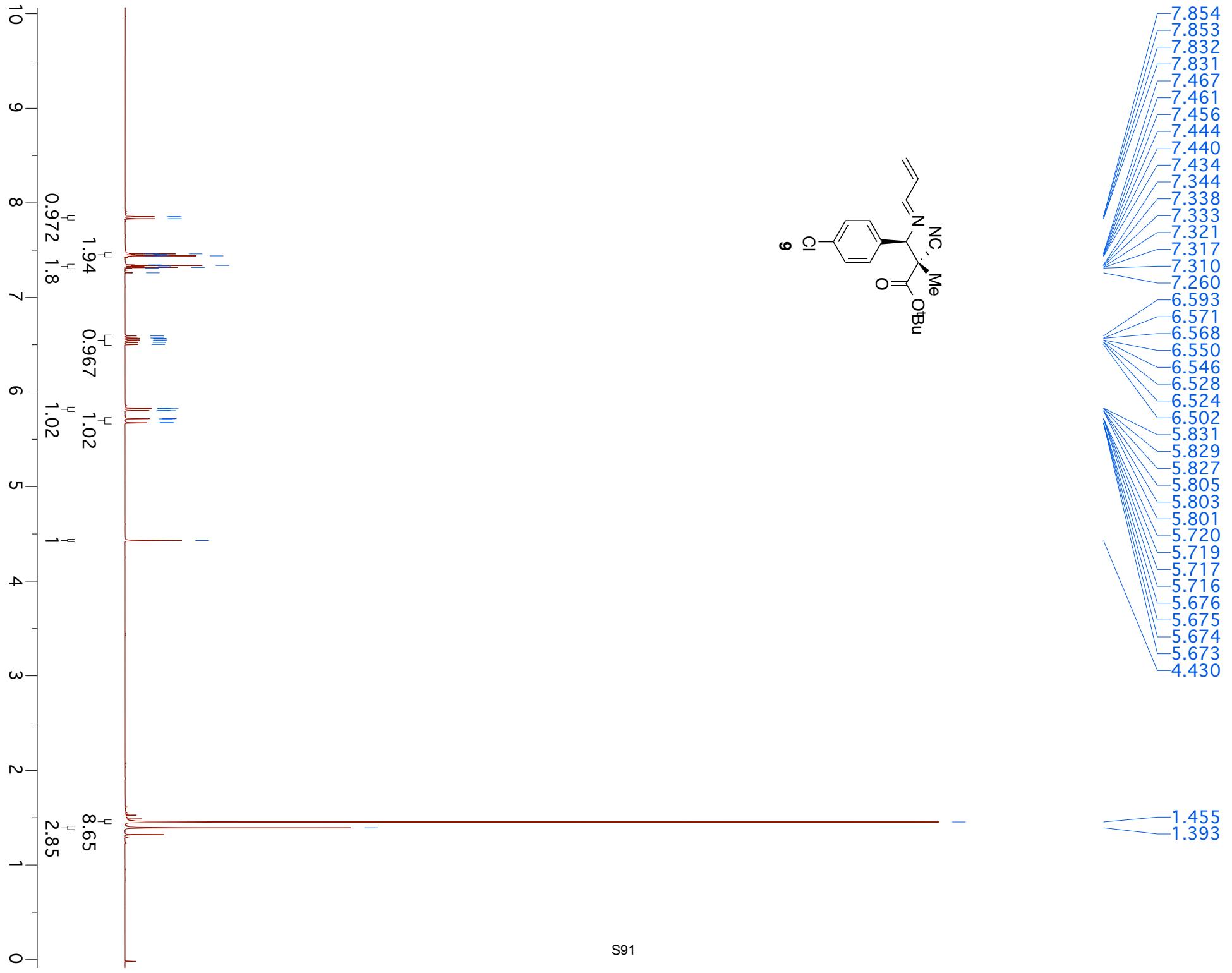


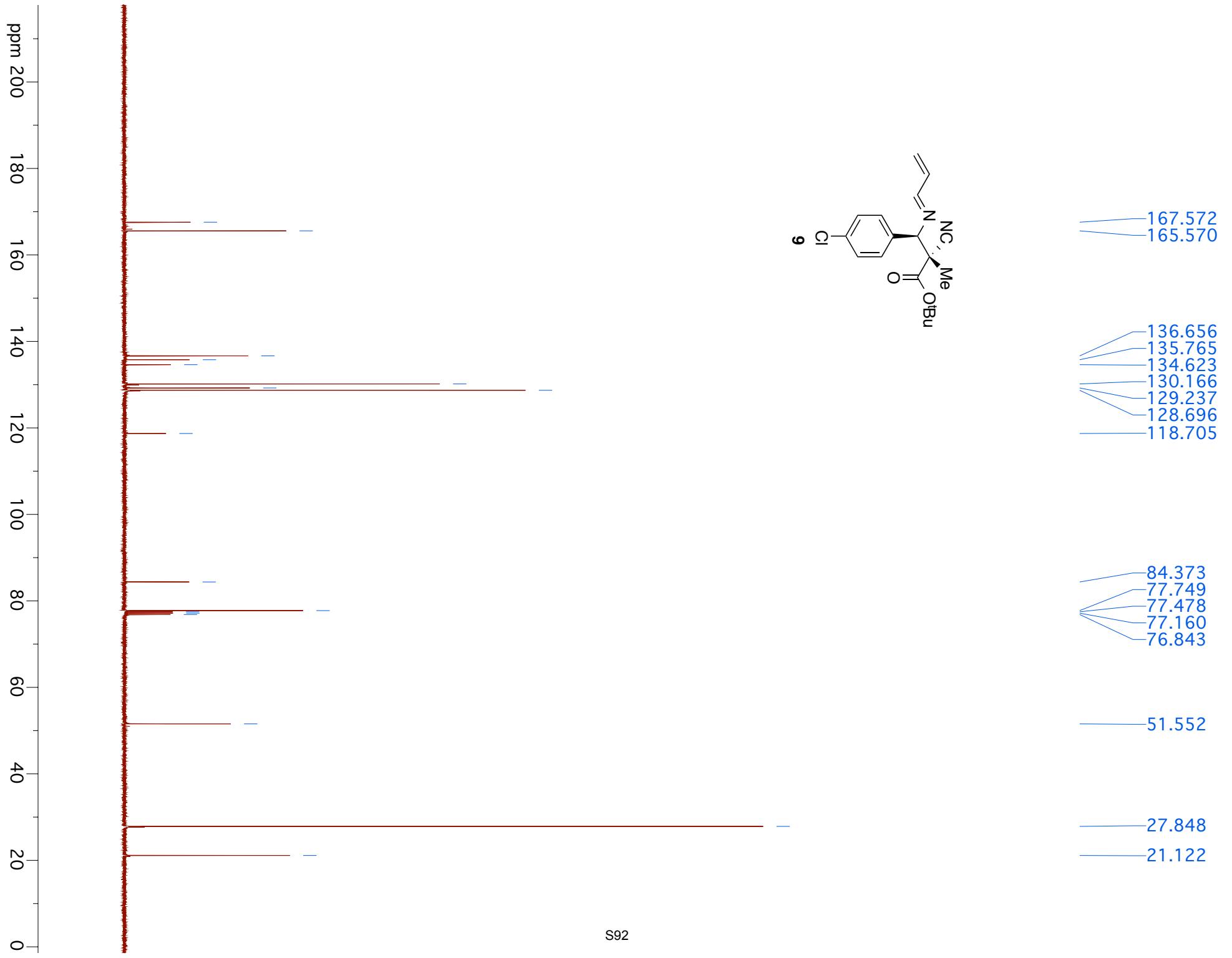
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- 165.422
- 137.267
- 136.901
- 134.058
- 130.305
- 129.137
- 128.972
- 128.750
- 128.433
- 127.704
- 118.181
- 84.353
- 79.569
- 77.478
- 77.160
- 76.843
- 58.664
- 40.944
- 27.745

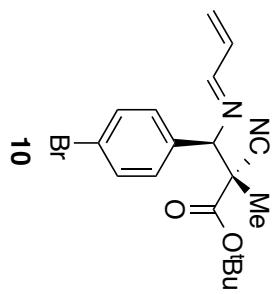
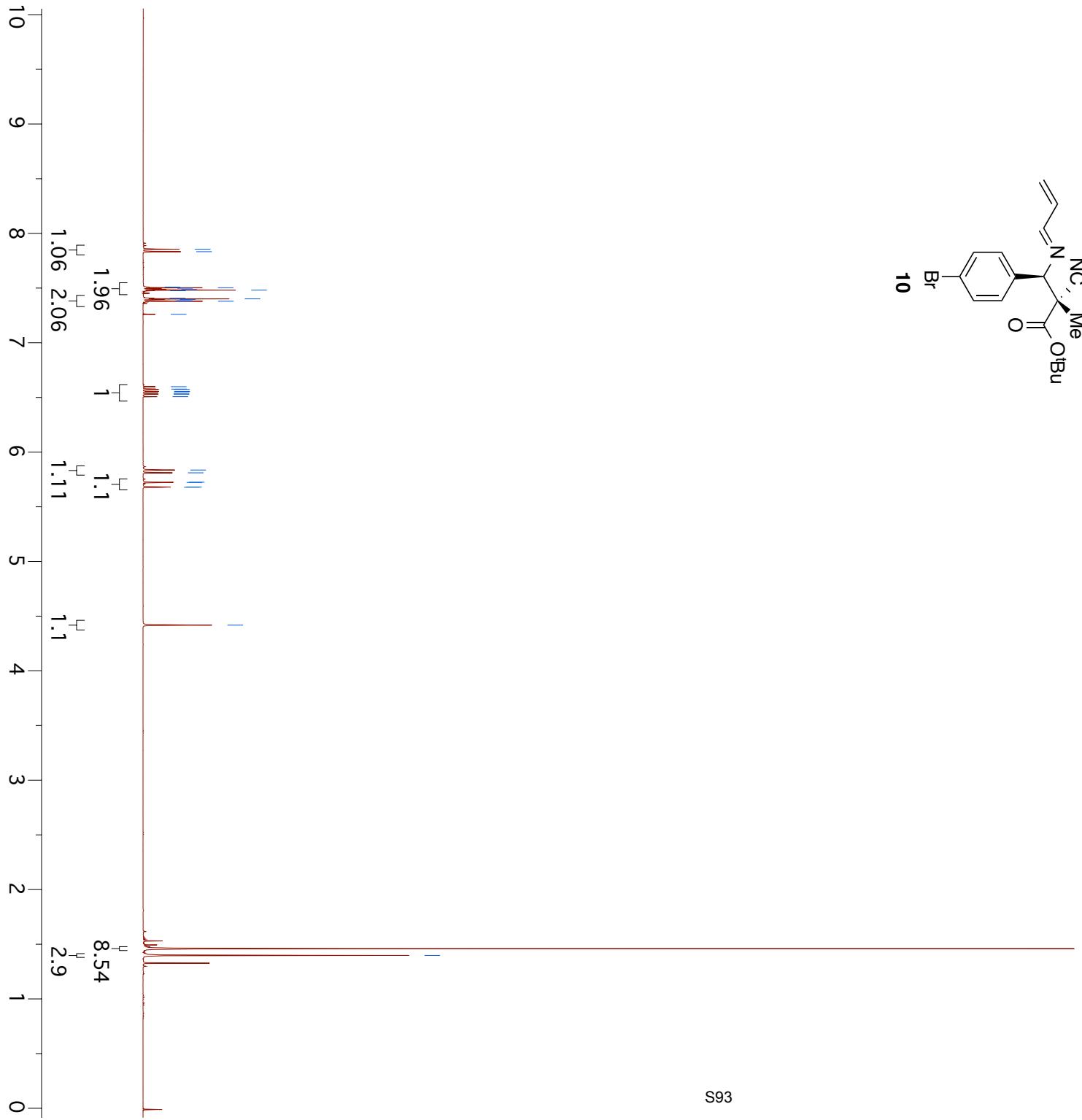




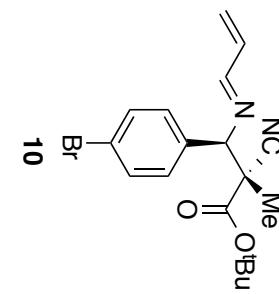
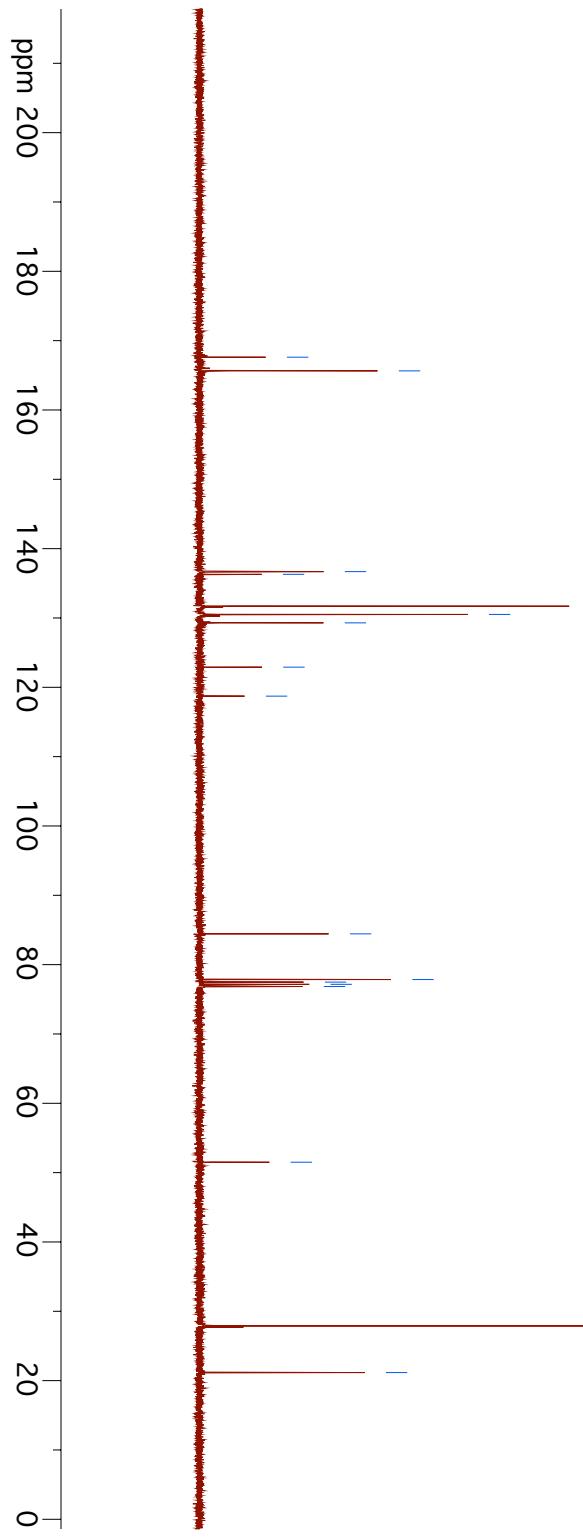
S90

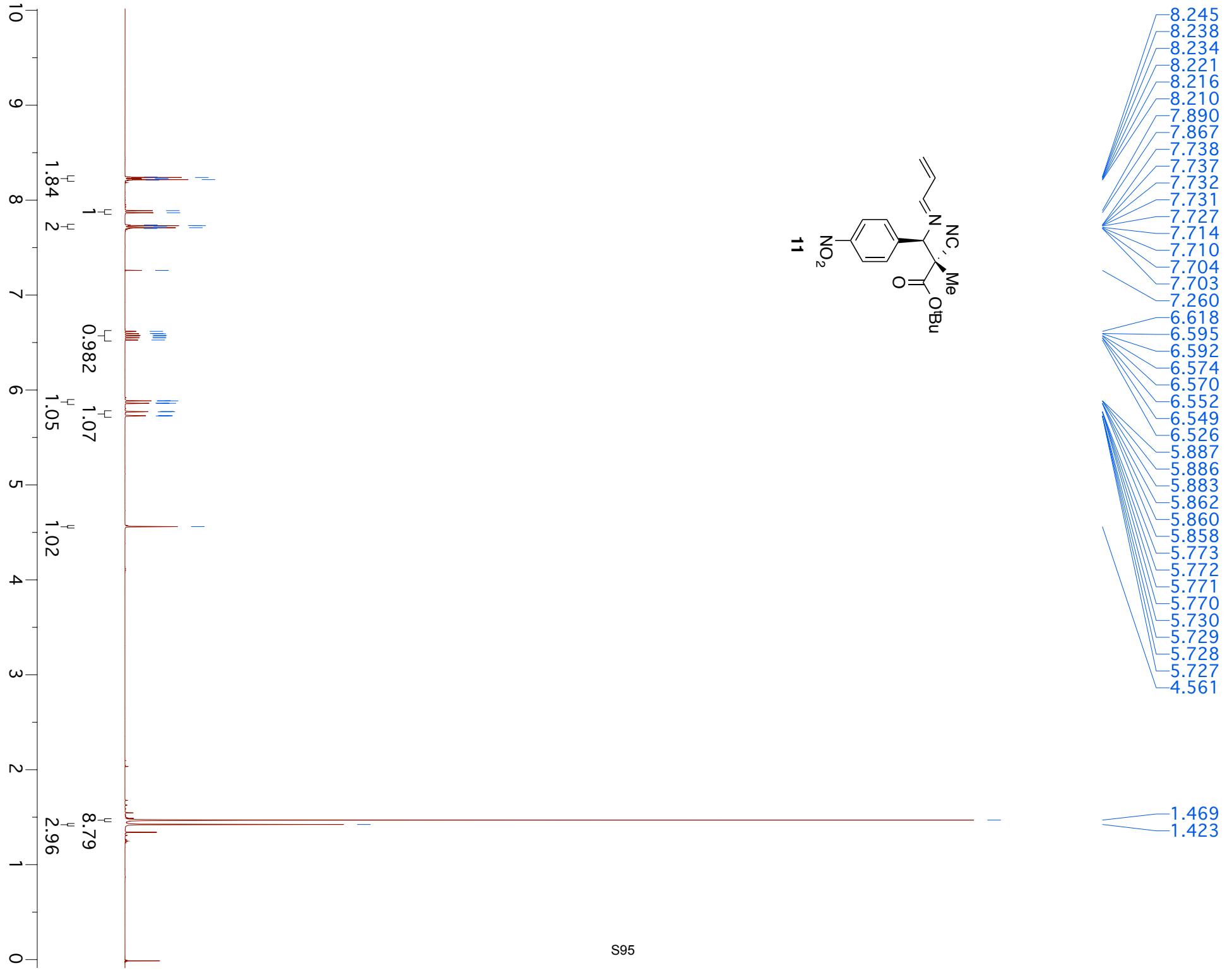


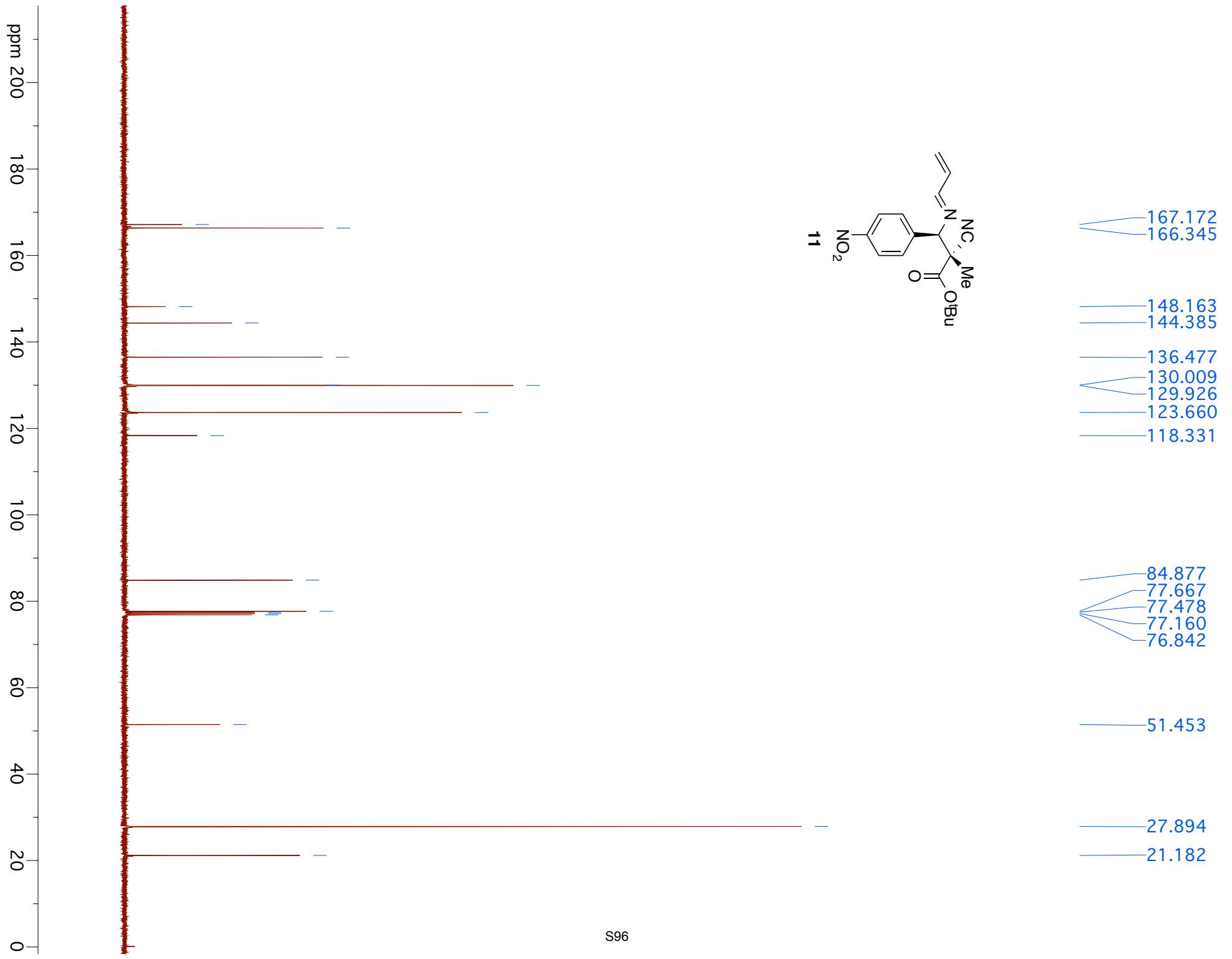


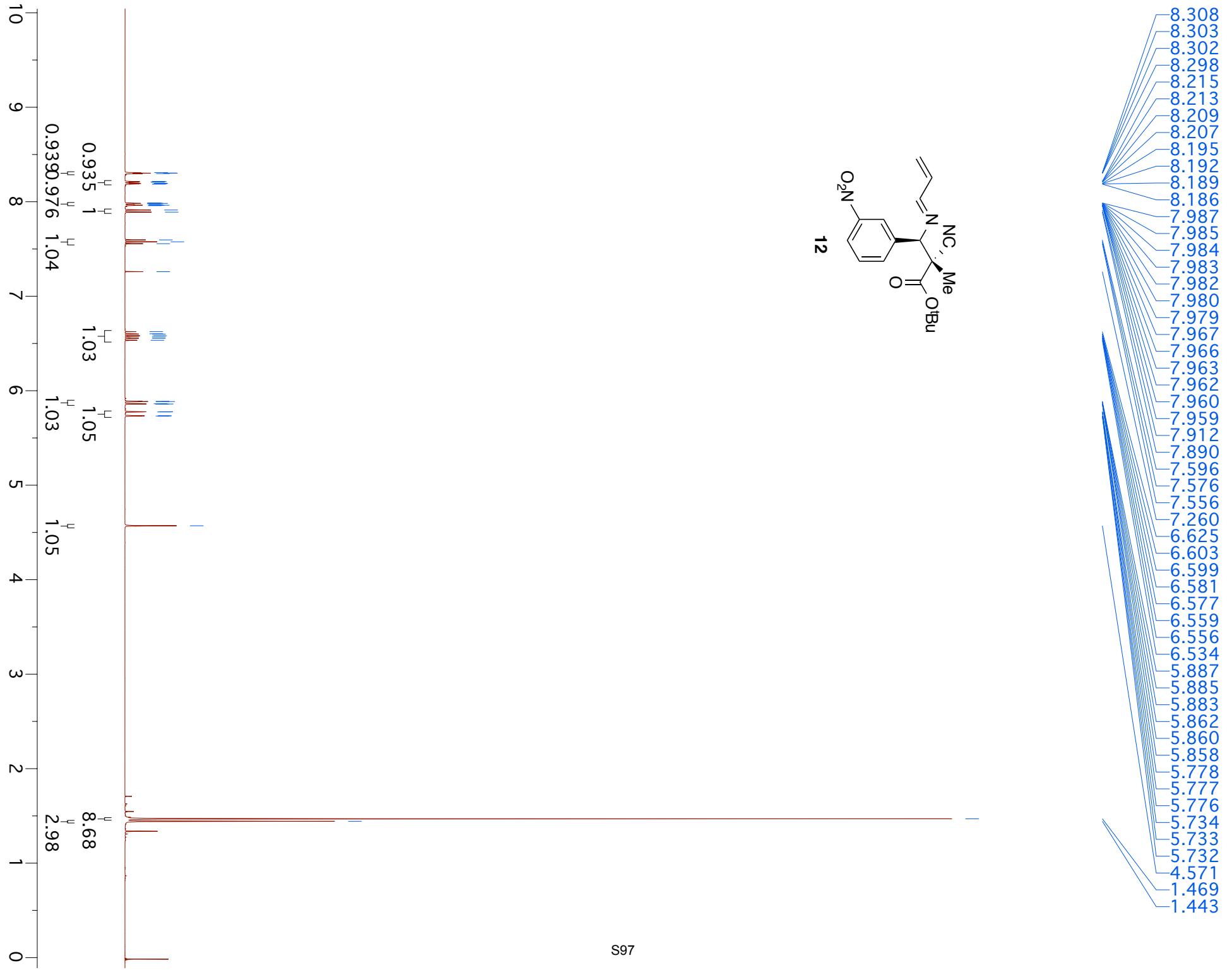


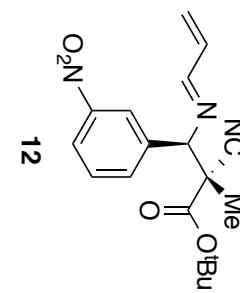
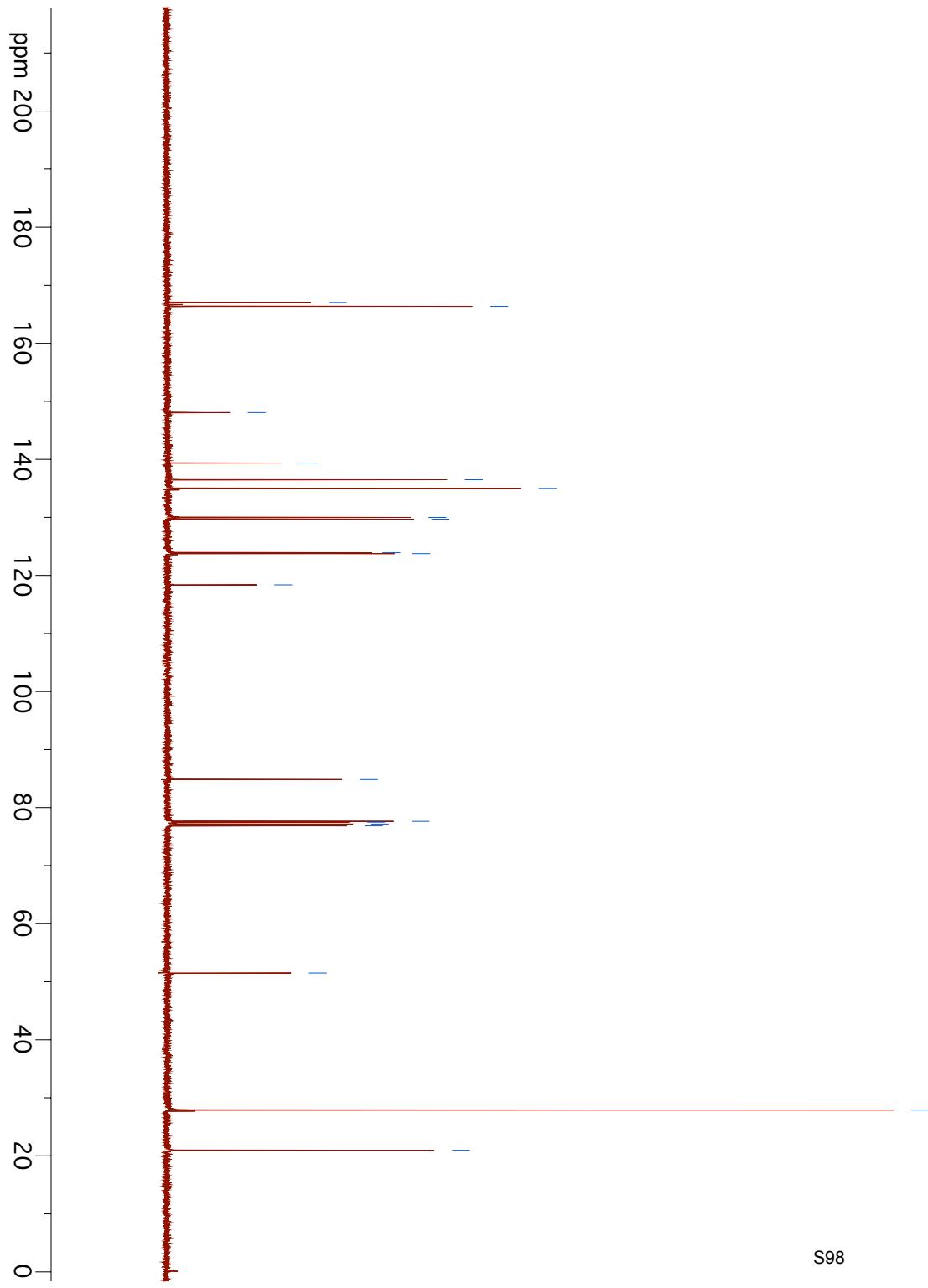
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7.260
6.598
6.576
6.573
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5.722
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5.679
4.418

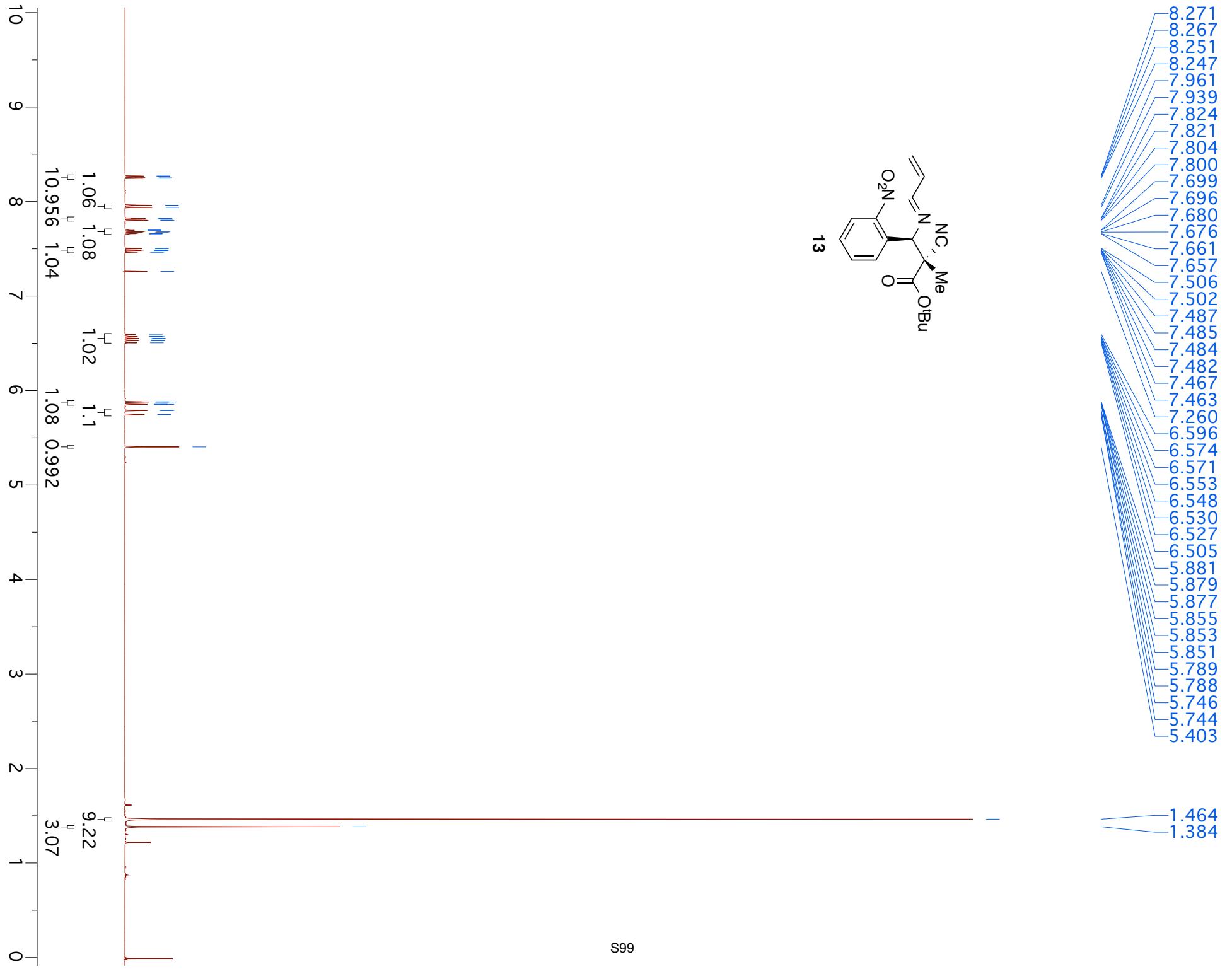


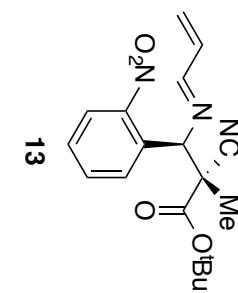
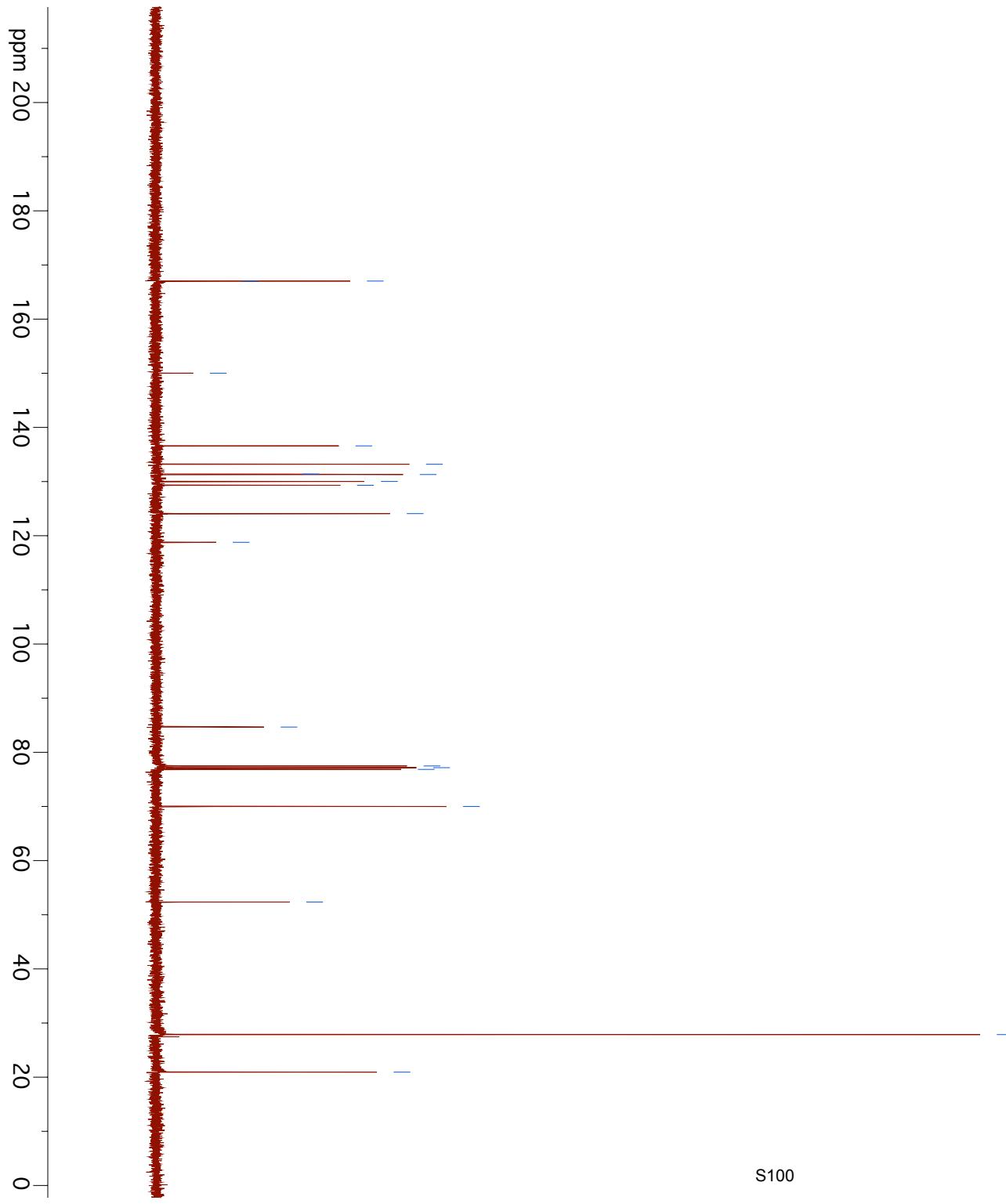




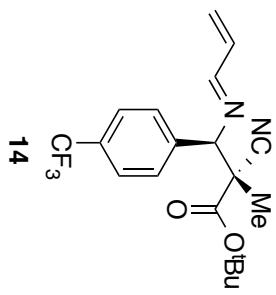
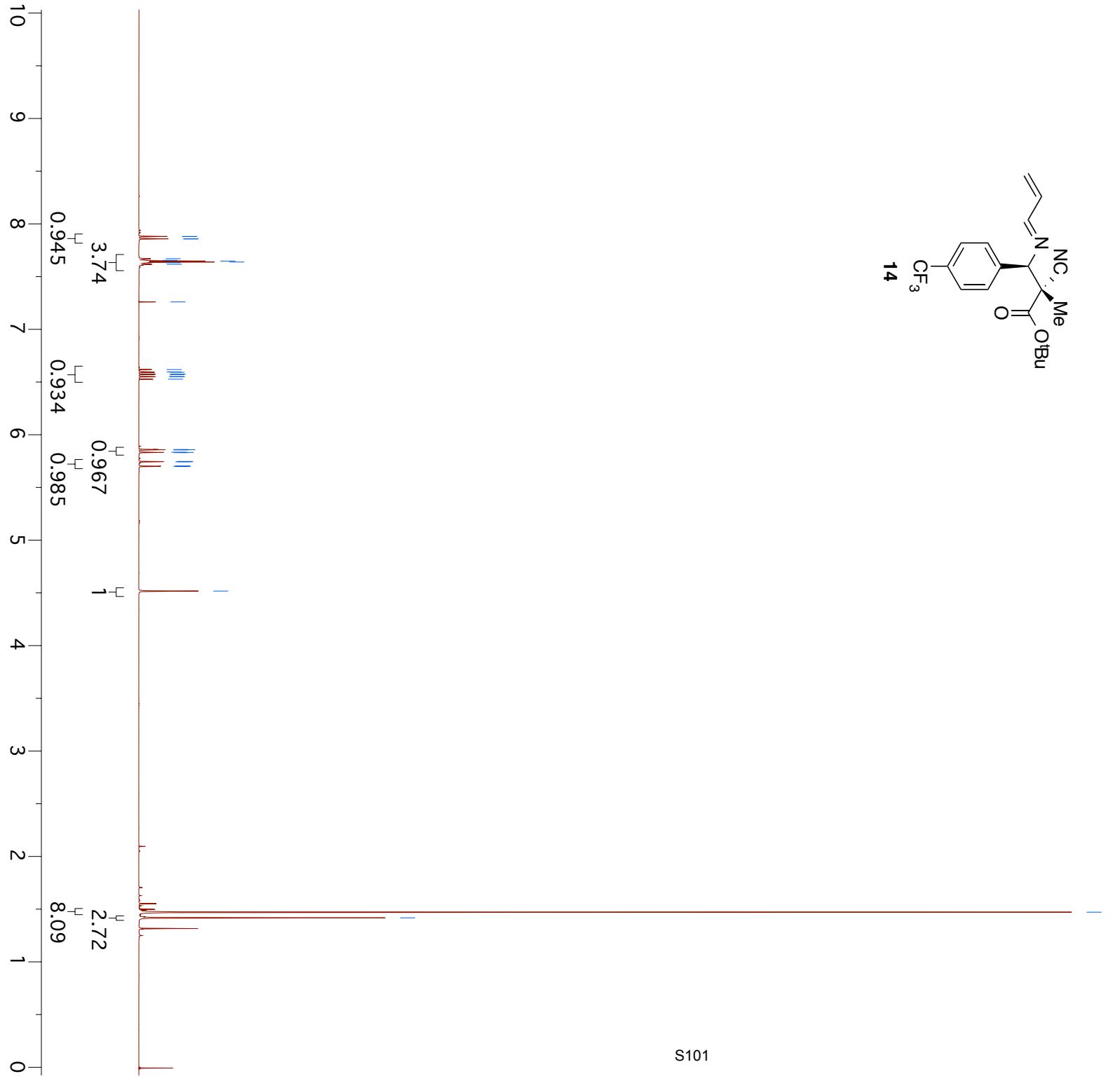






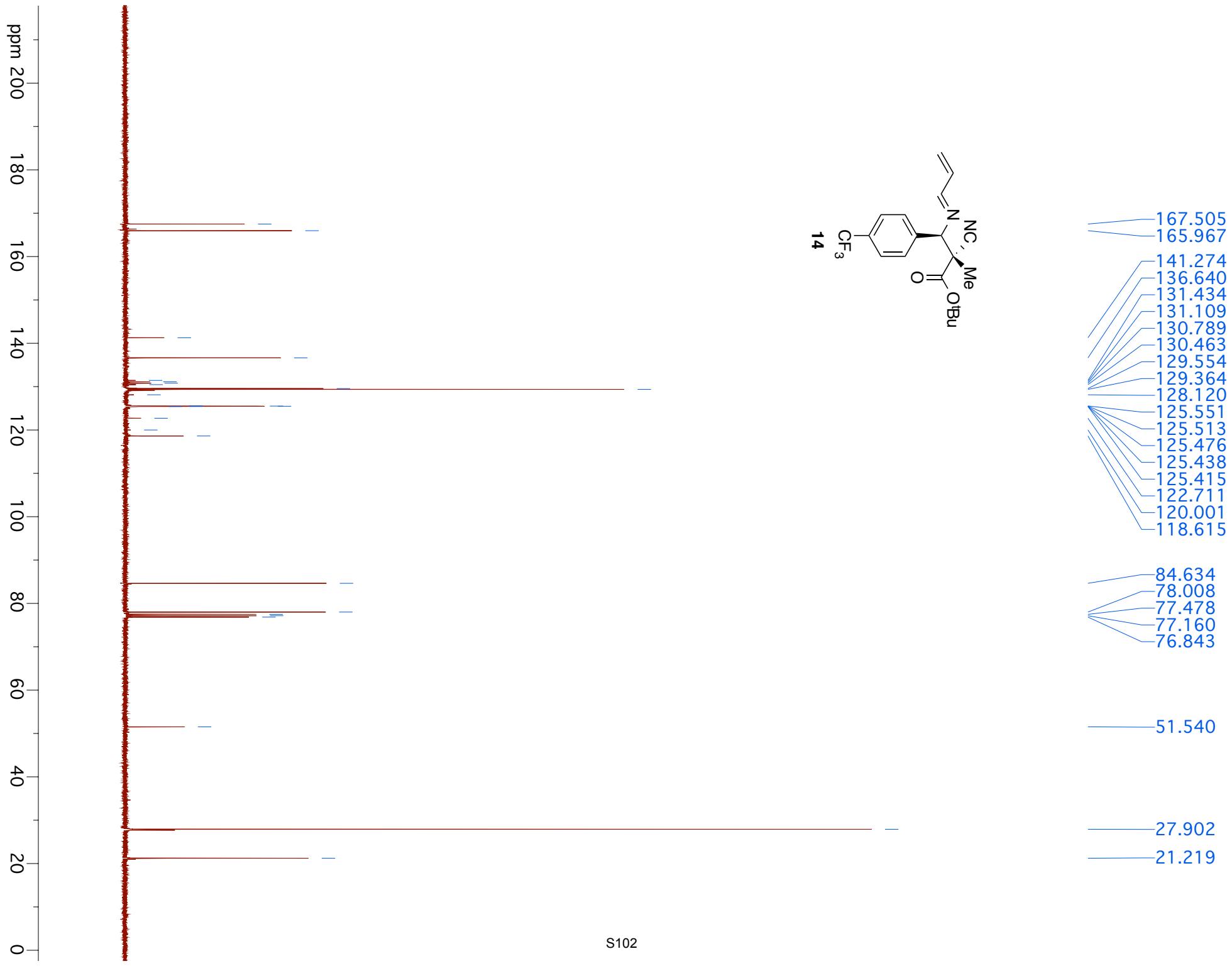


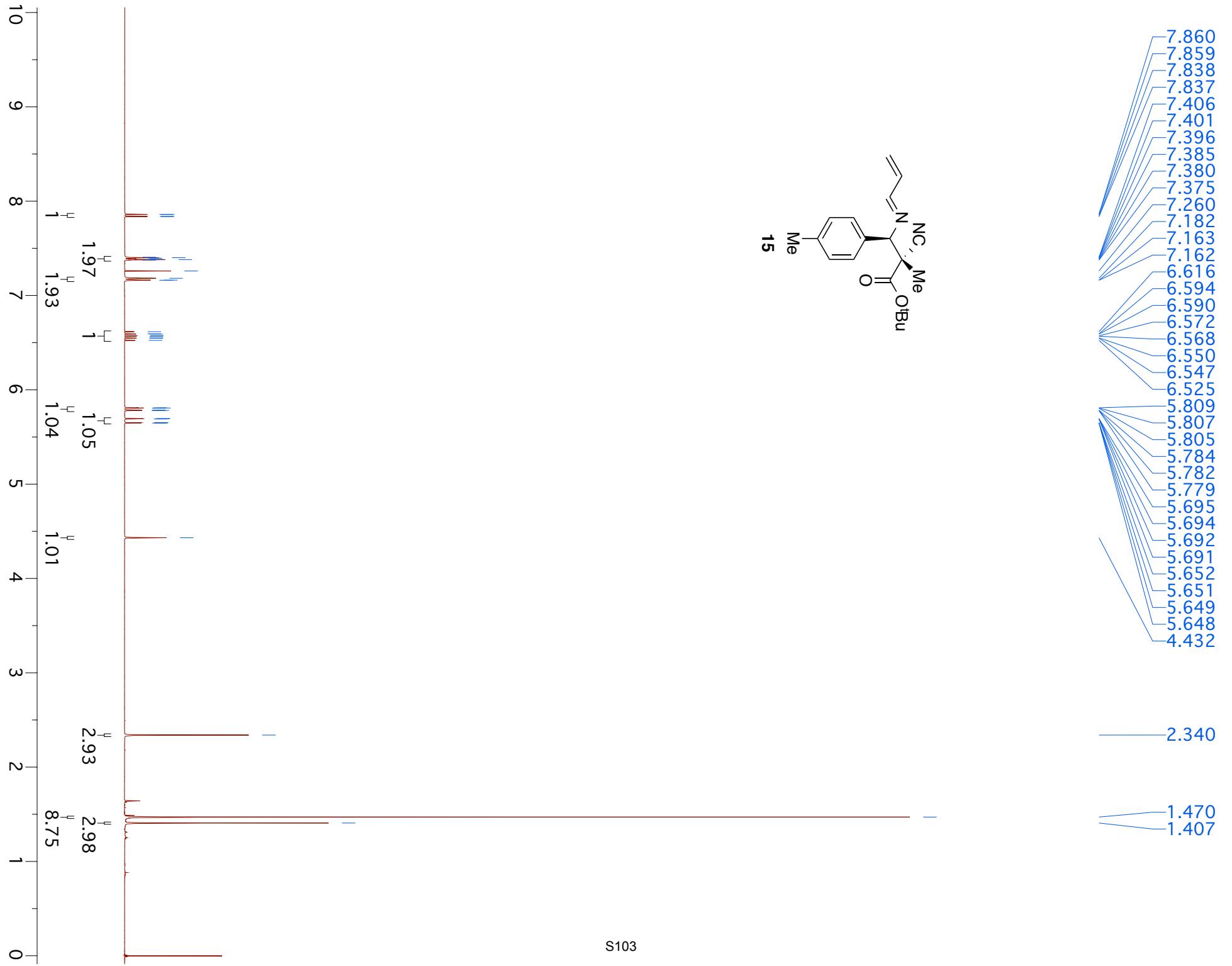
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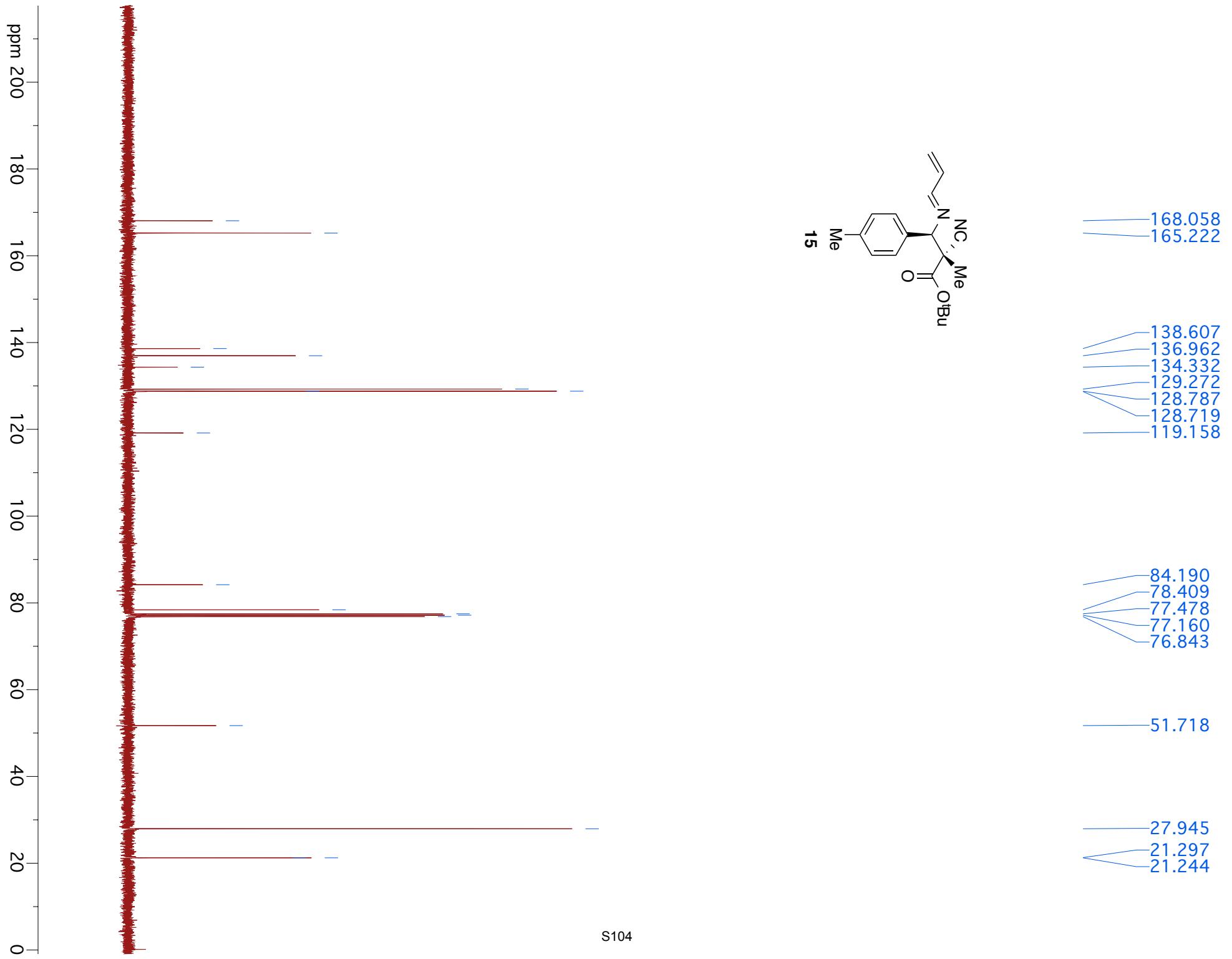


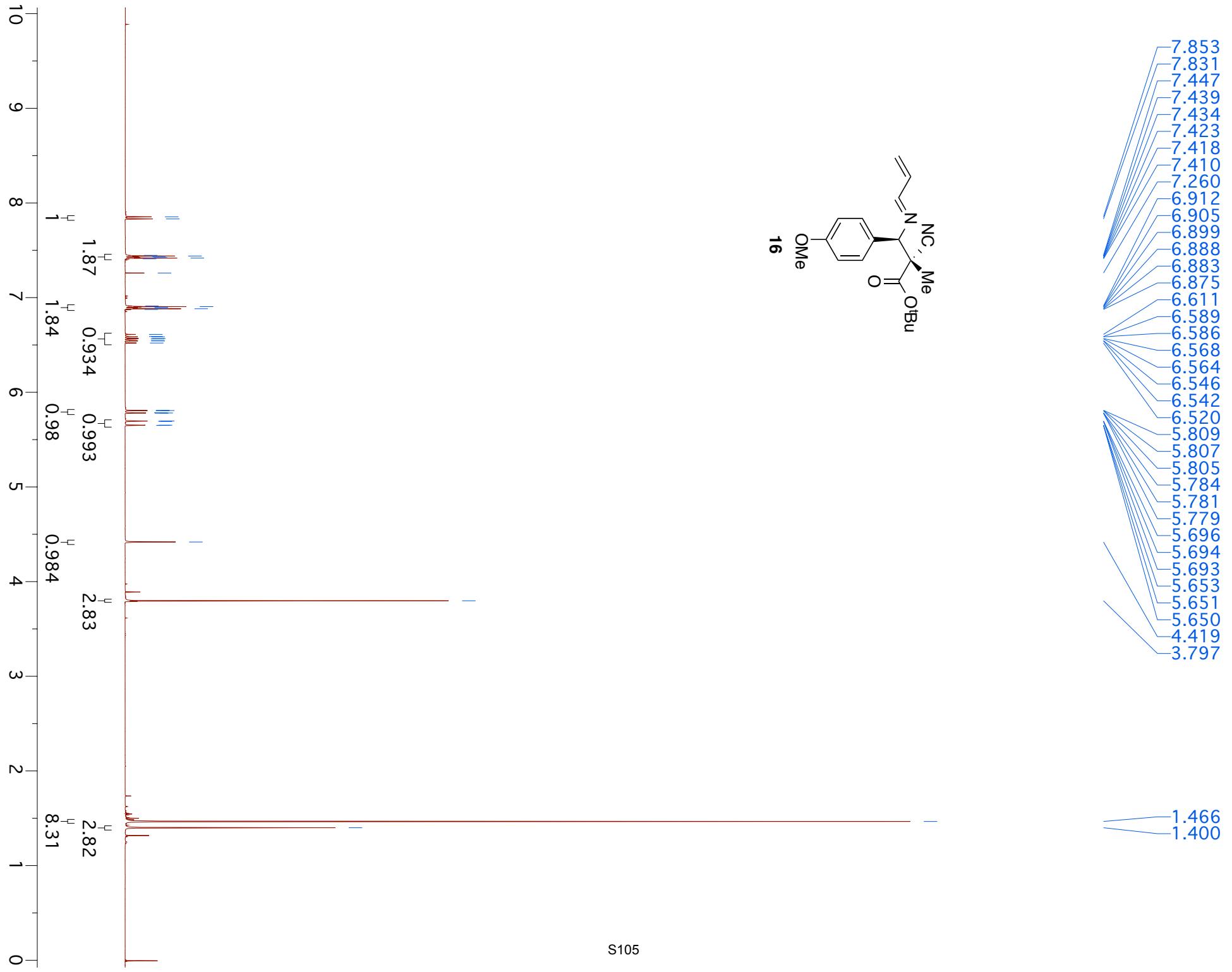
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7.638
7.632
7.617
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6.618
6.596
6.593
6.575
6.570
6.553
6.549
6.527
5.860
5.858
5.856
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5.744
5.743
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5.699
4.517

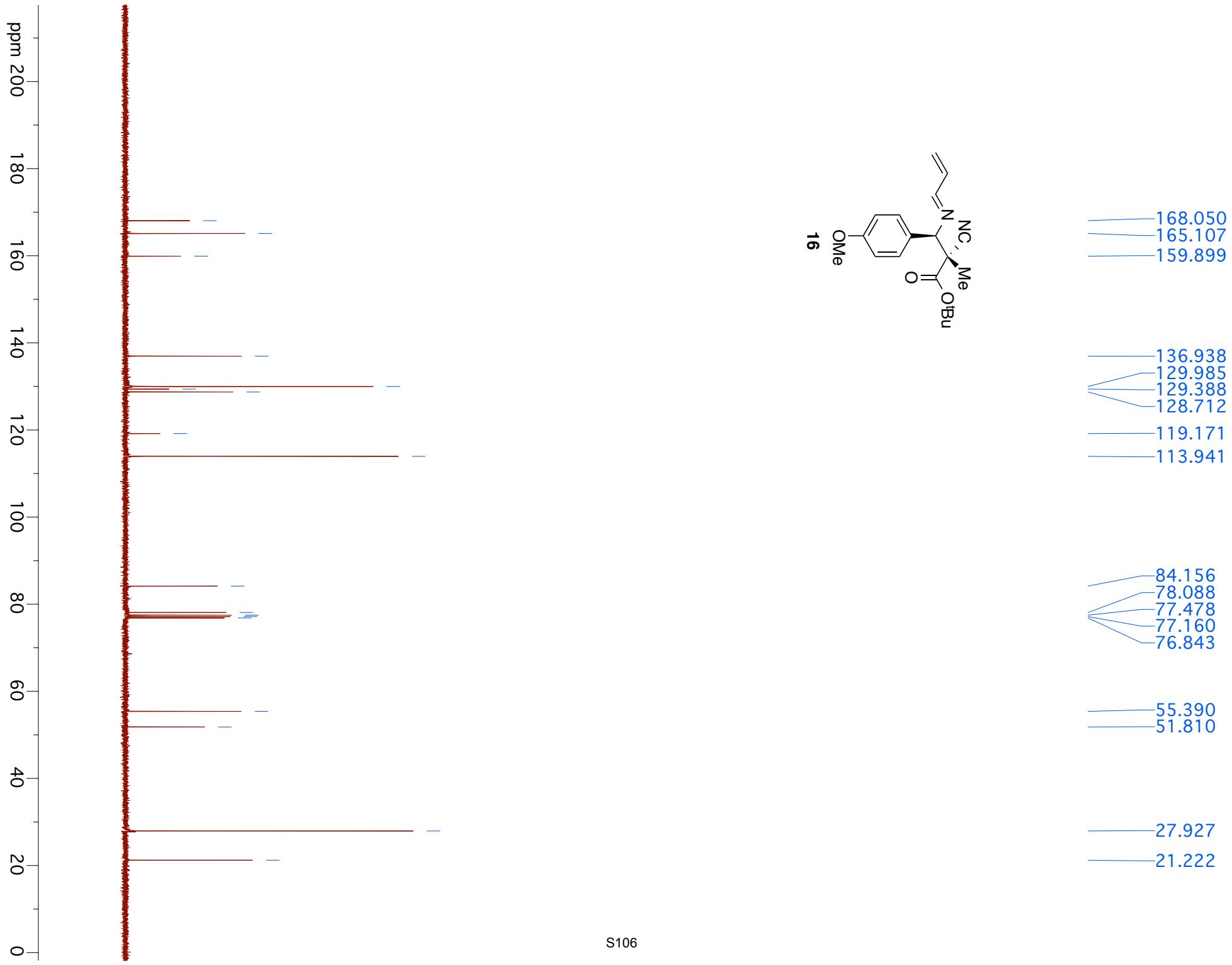
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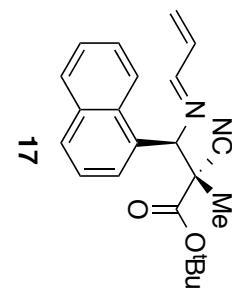
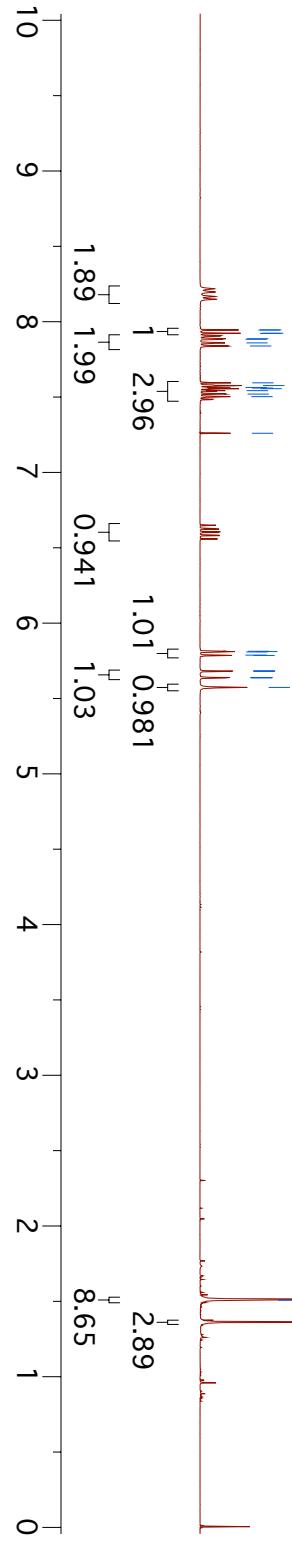






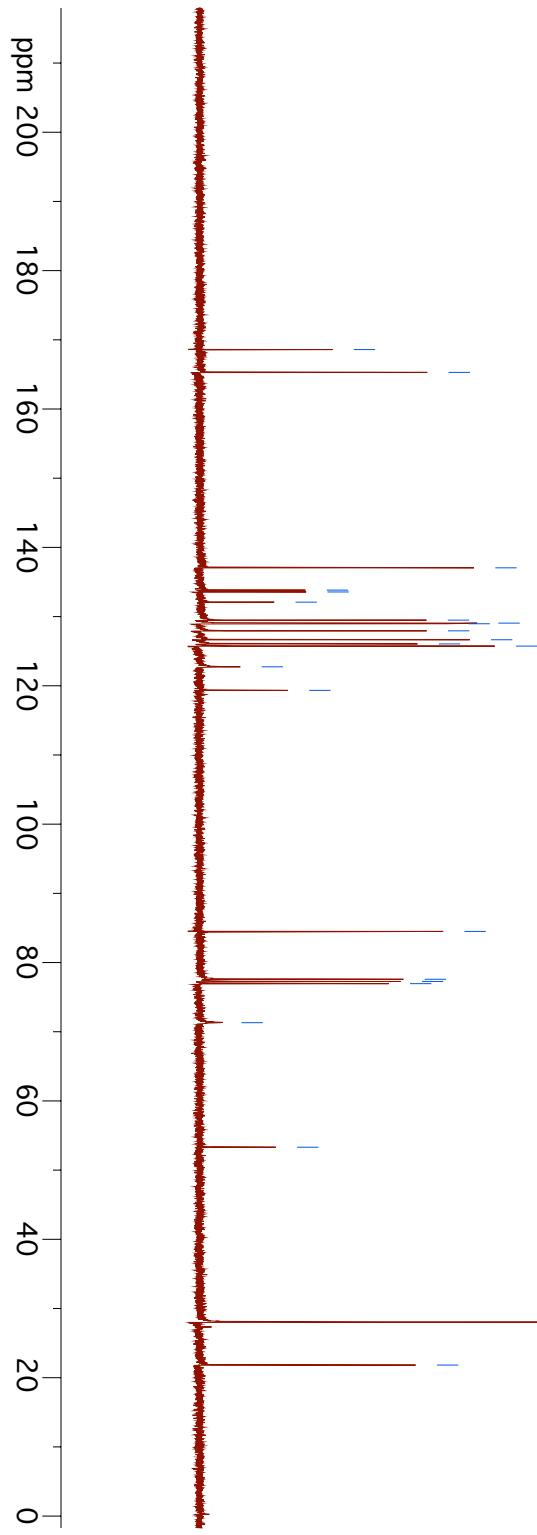




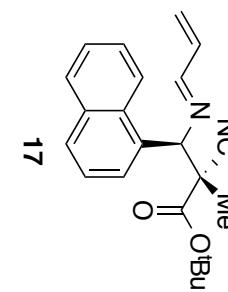


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7.560
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7.543
7.520
7.503
7.260
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5.637
5.573

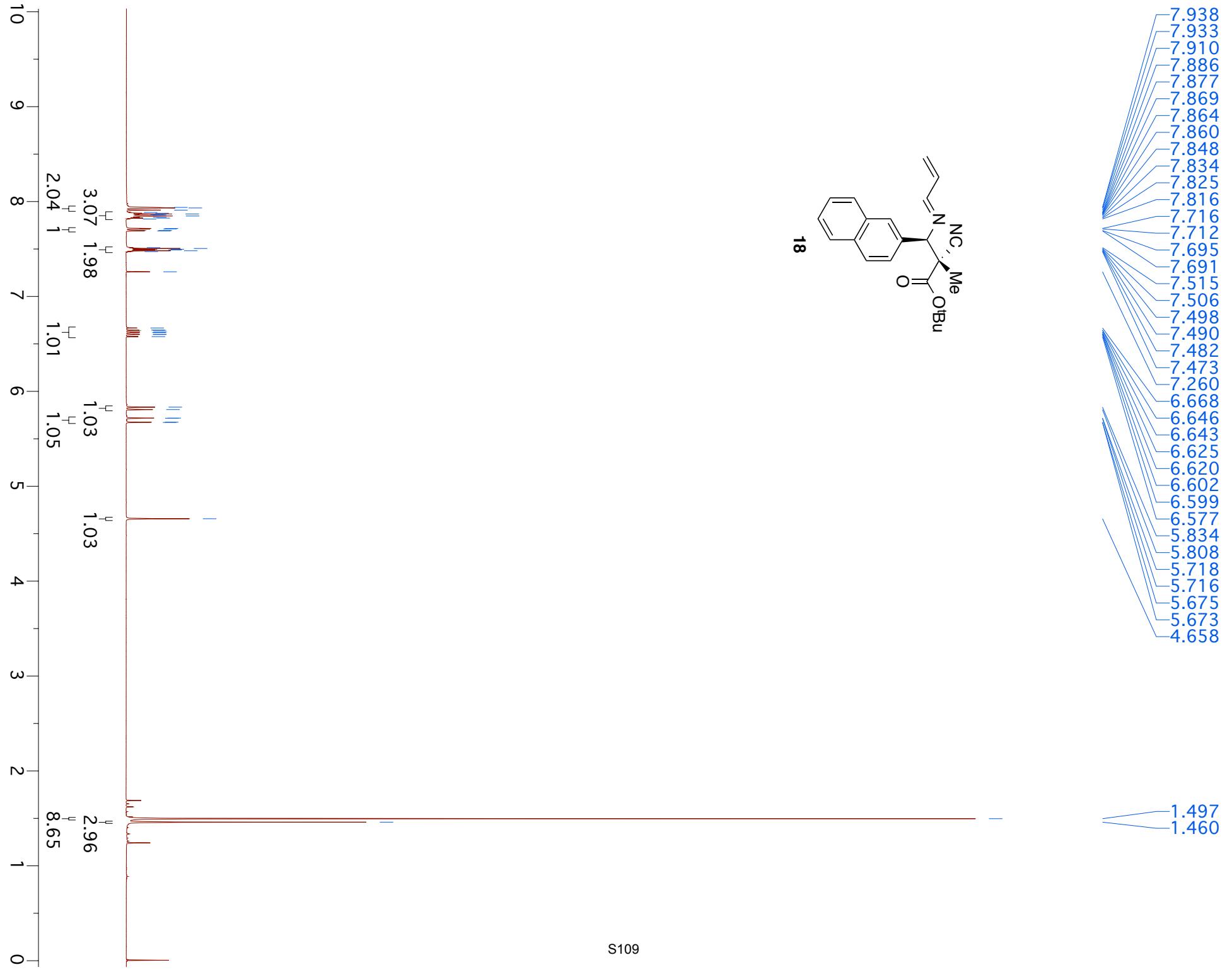
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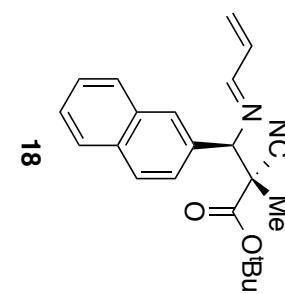
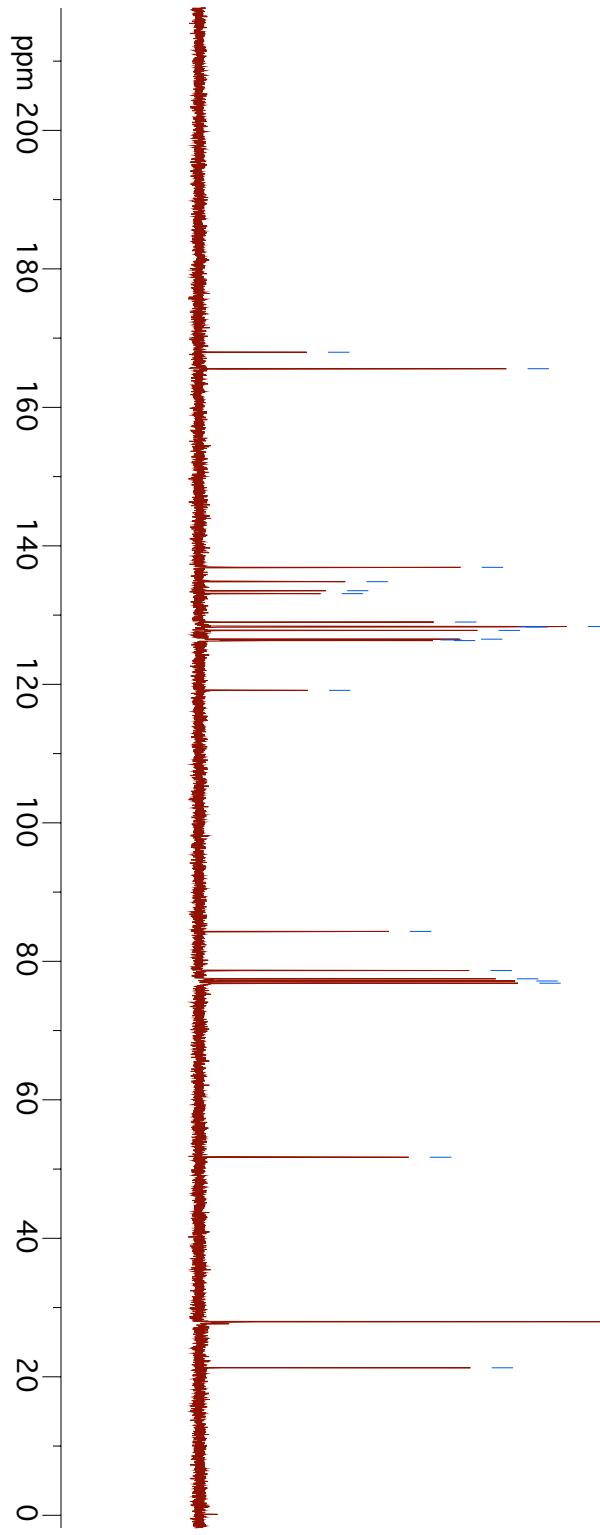


S108



- 168.590
- 165.291
- 137.048
- 133.825
- 133.559
- 132.085
- 129.485
- 129.055
- 128.964
- 128.964
- 127.941
- 126.651
- 126.052
- 125.734
- 122.741
- 119.334
- 84.499
- 77.586
- 77.268
- 76.950
- 71.309
- 53.311
- 28.048
- 21.825





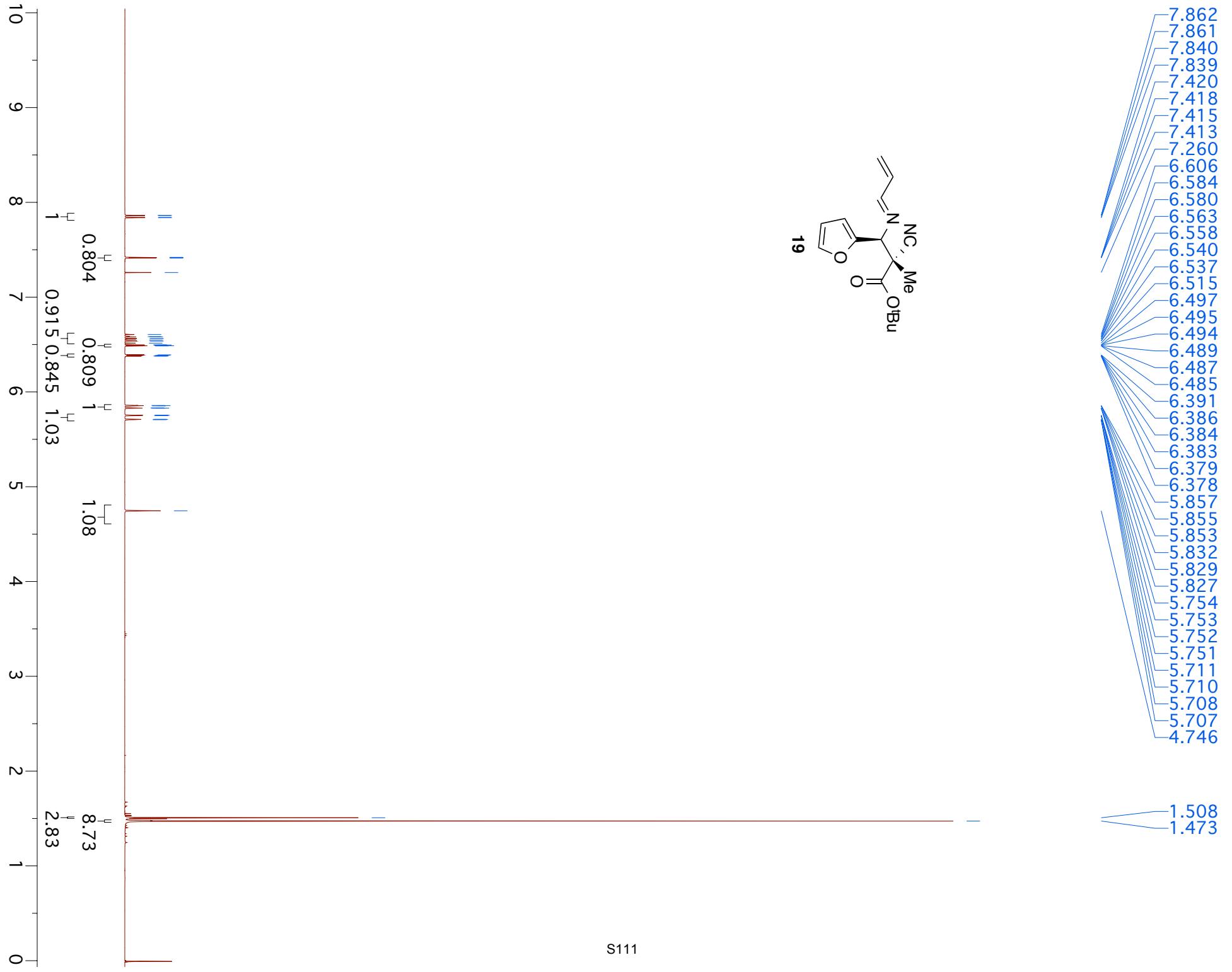
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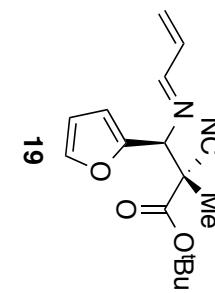
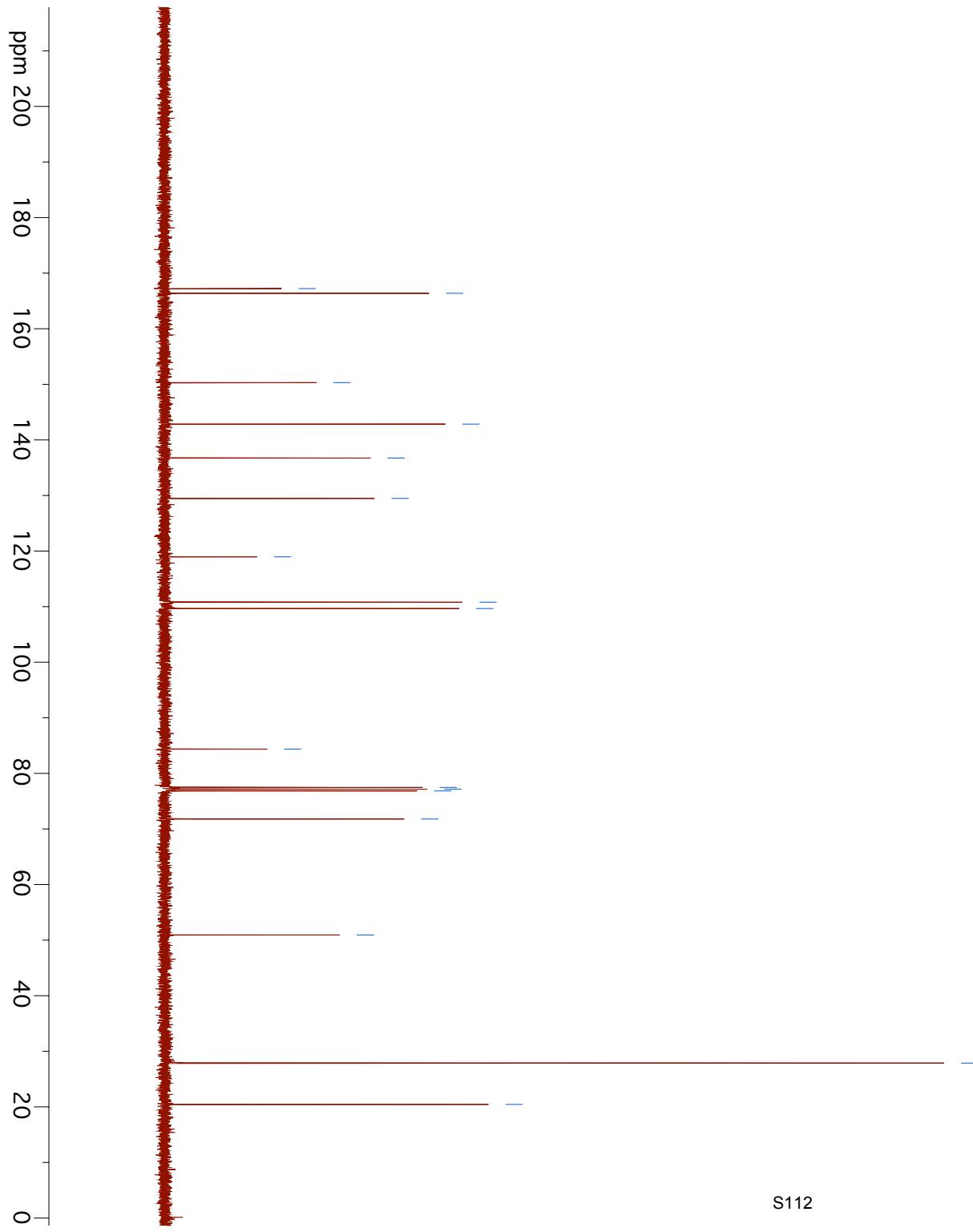
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119.132

84.319
78.670
77.478
77.160
76.842

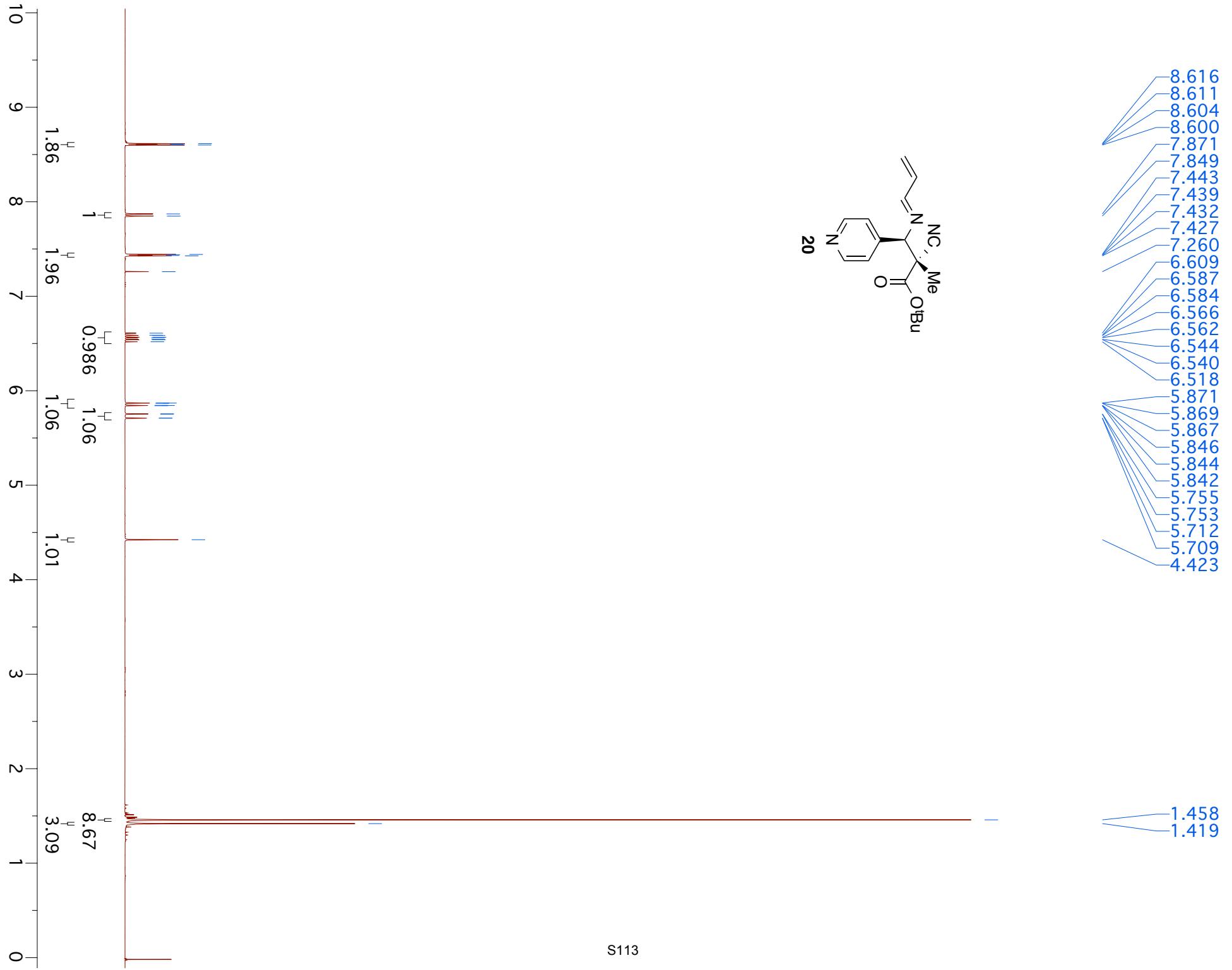
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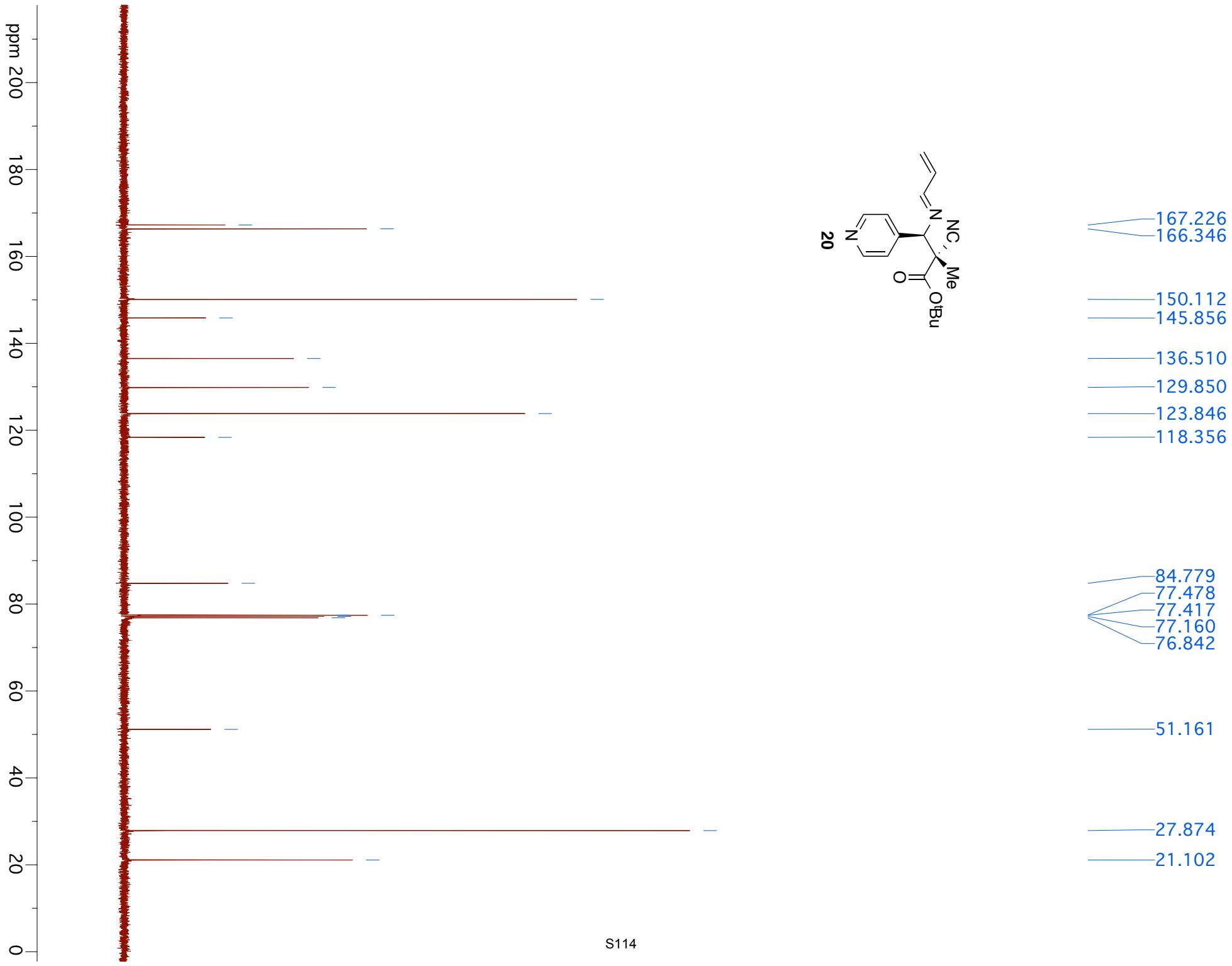
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21.300

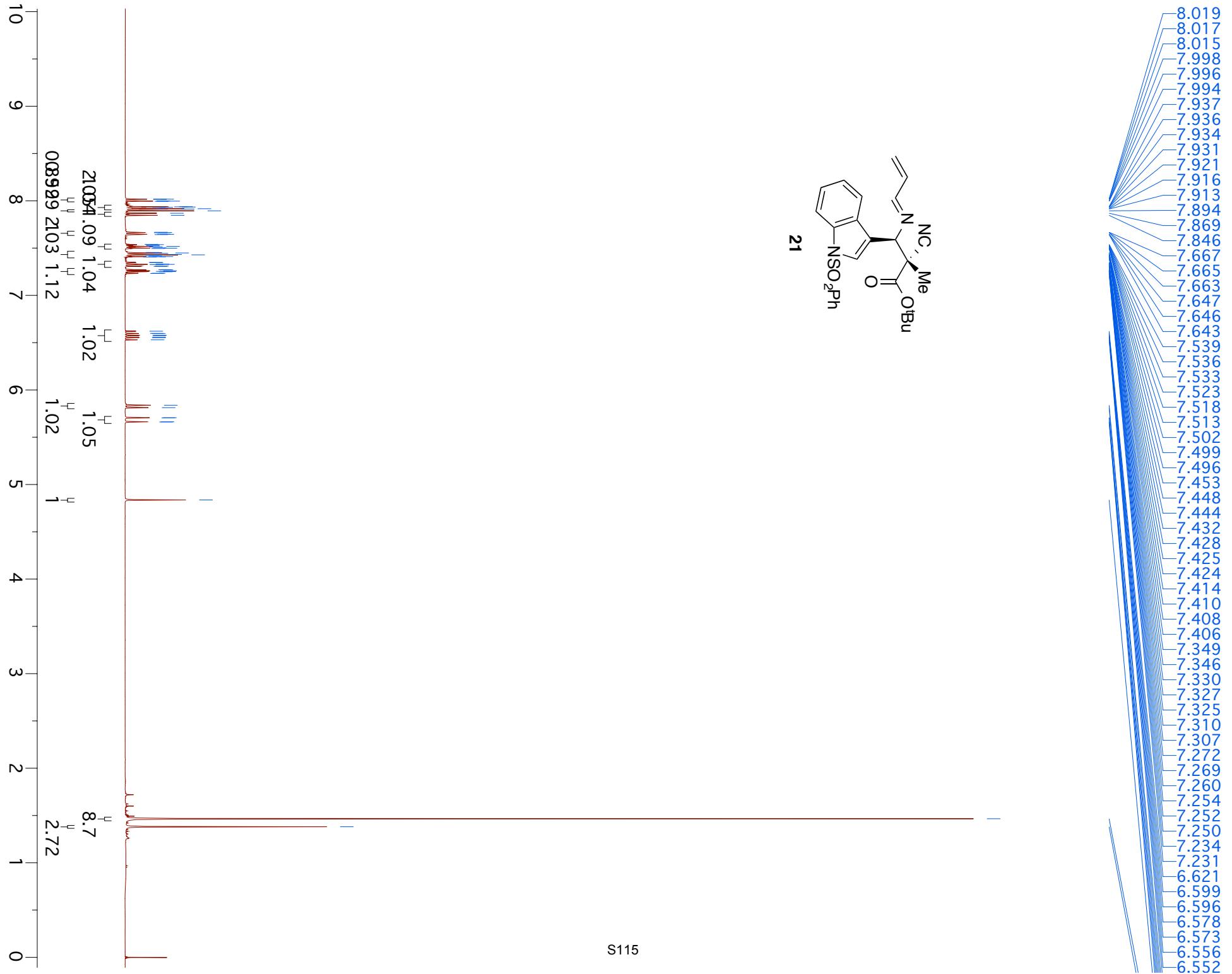


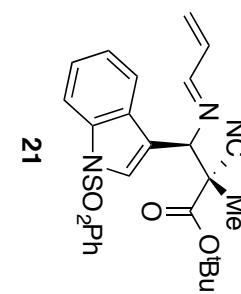
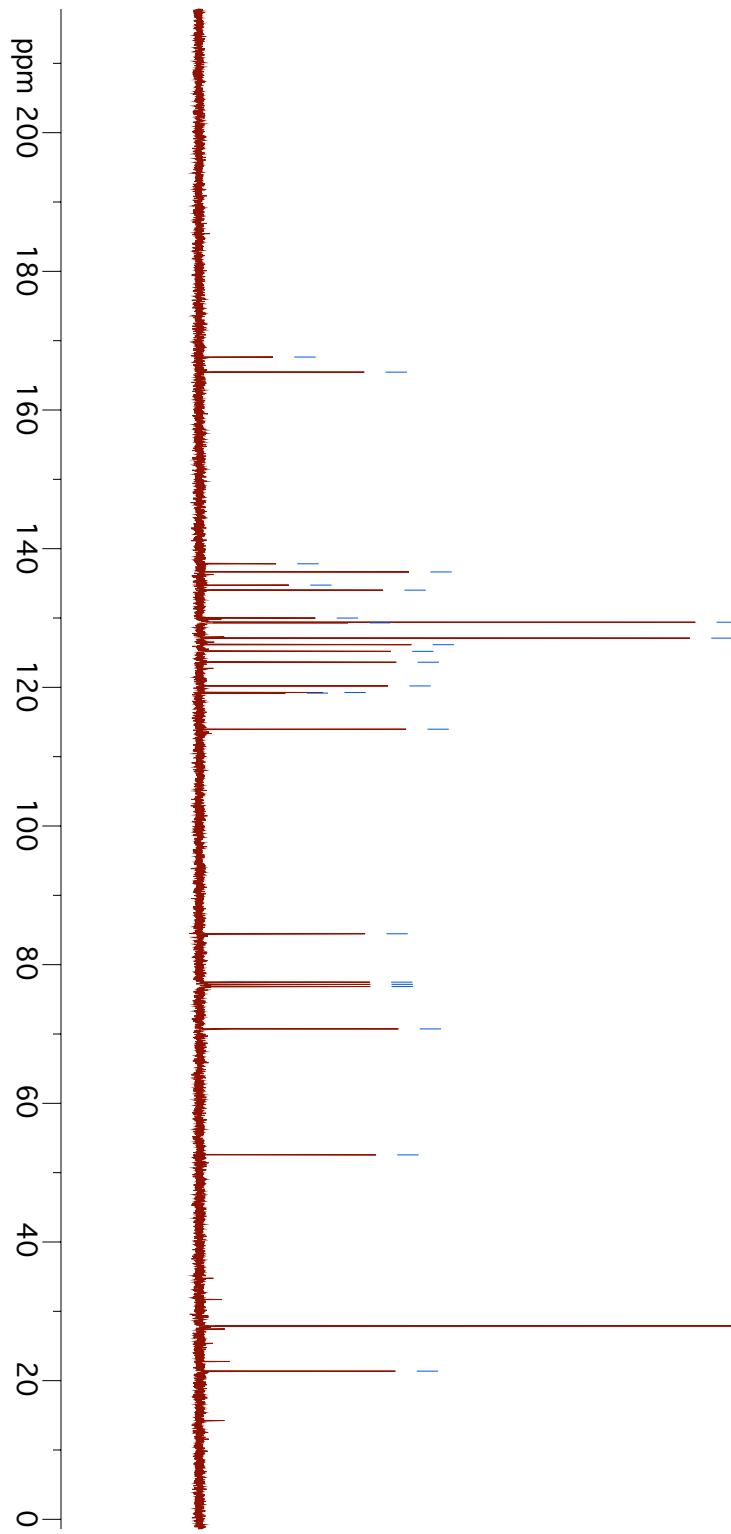


S112

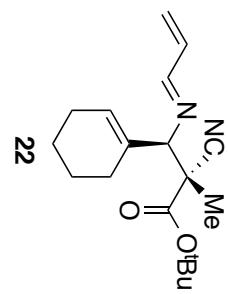
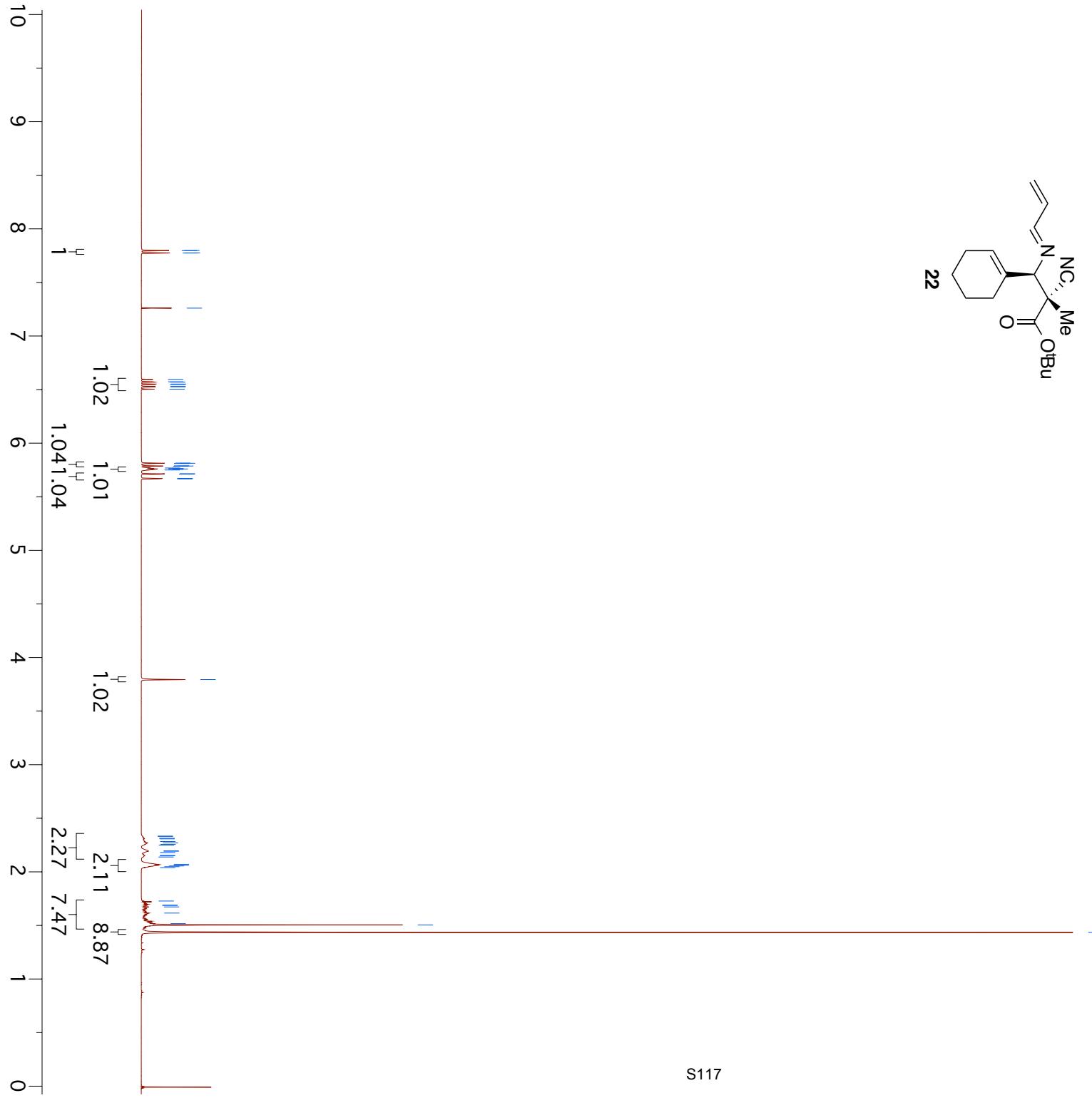




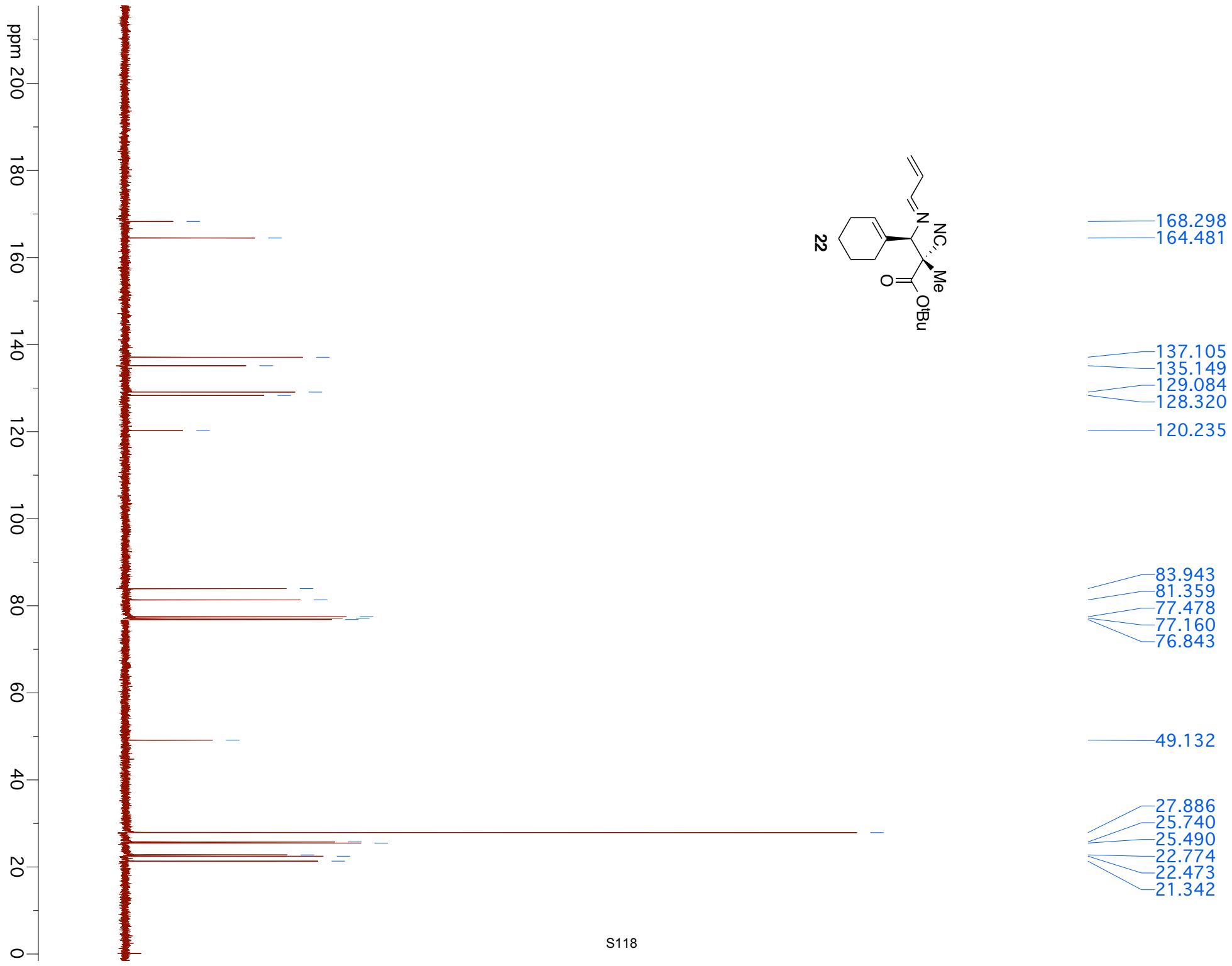


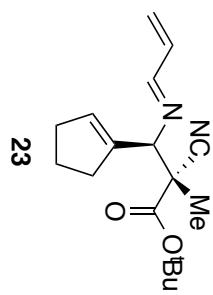
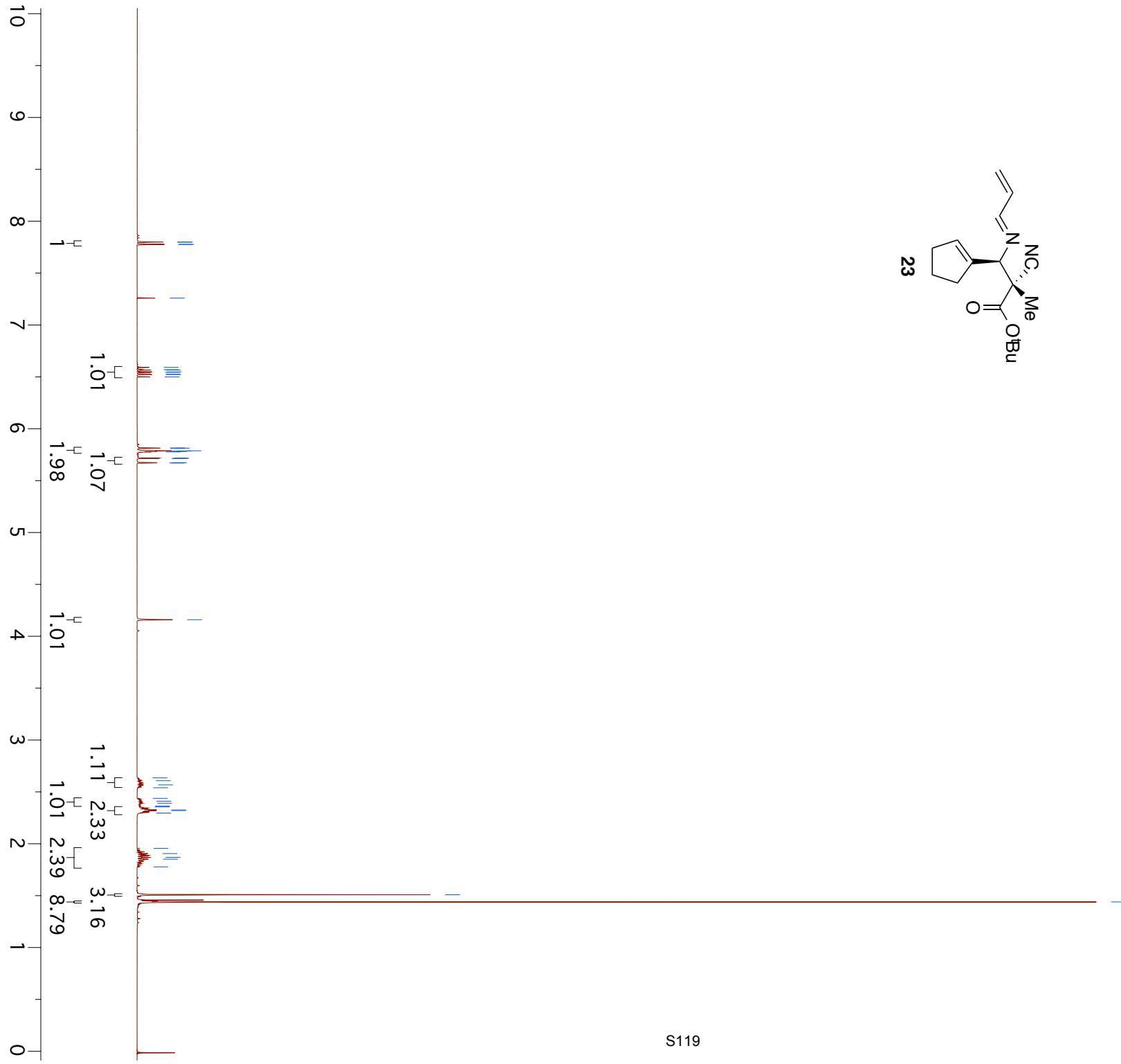


167.638
165.460
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136.642
134.746
134.017
129.992
129.393
129.299
127.095
126.147
125.193
123.623
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113.963
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77.478
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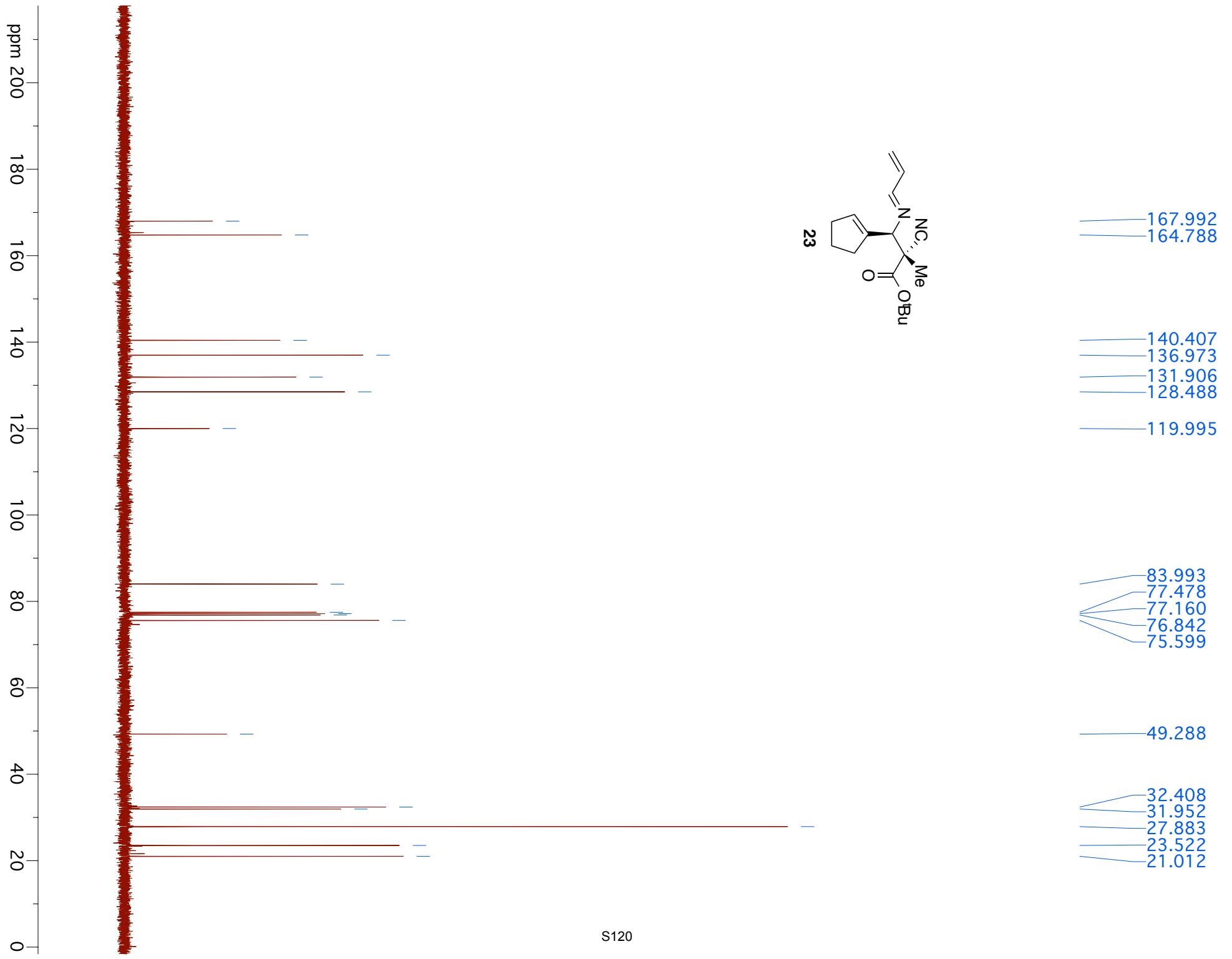


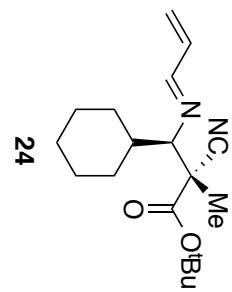
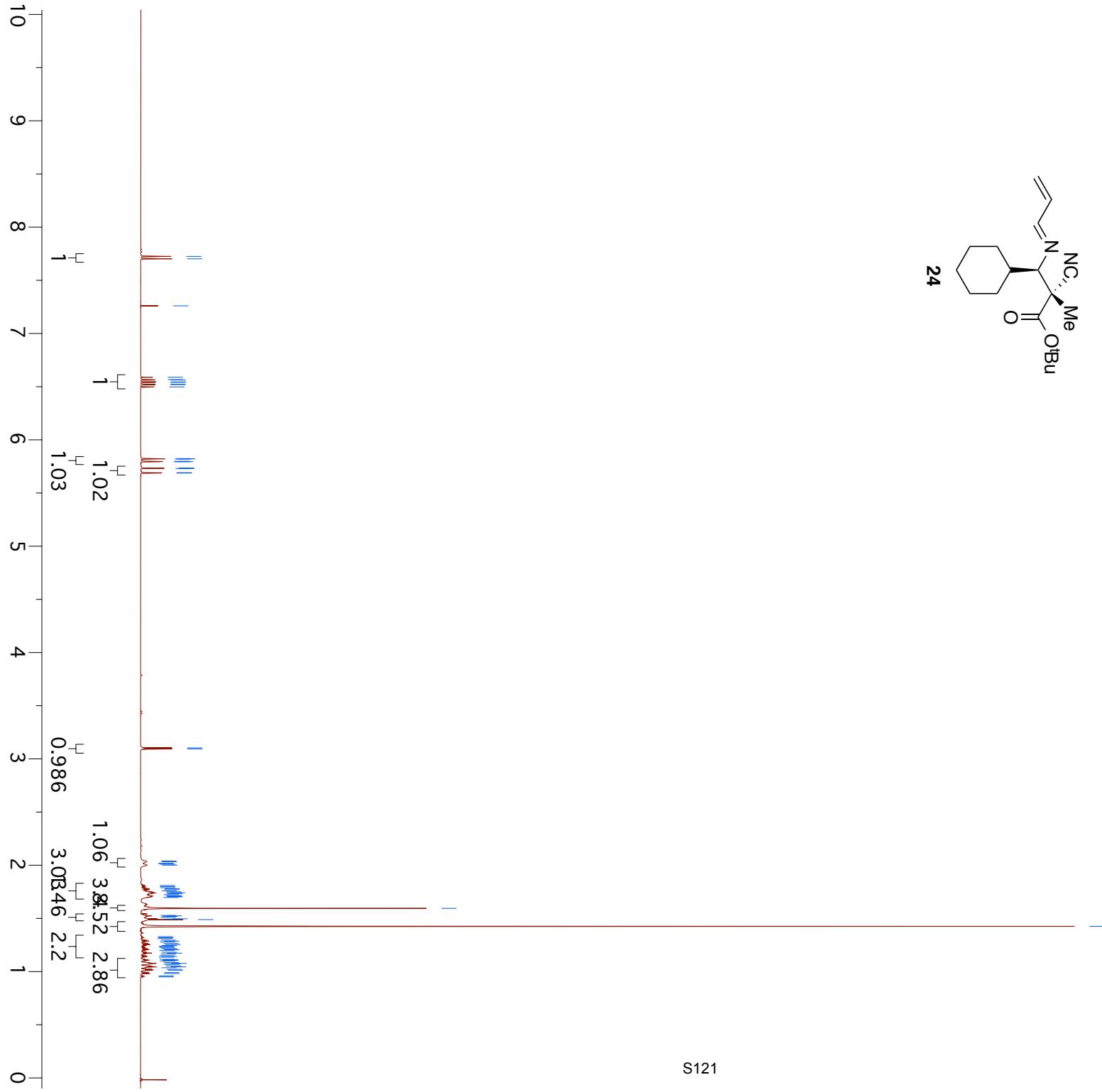
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1.435





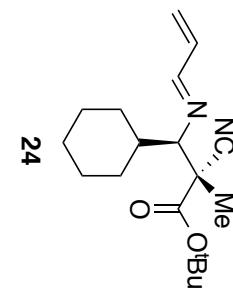
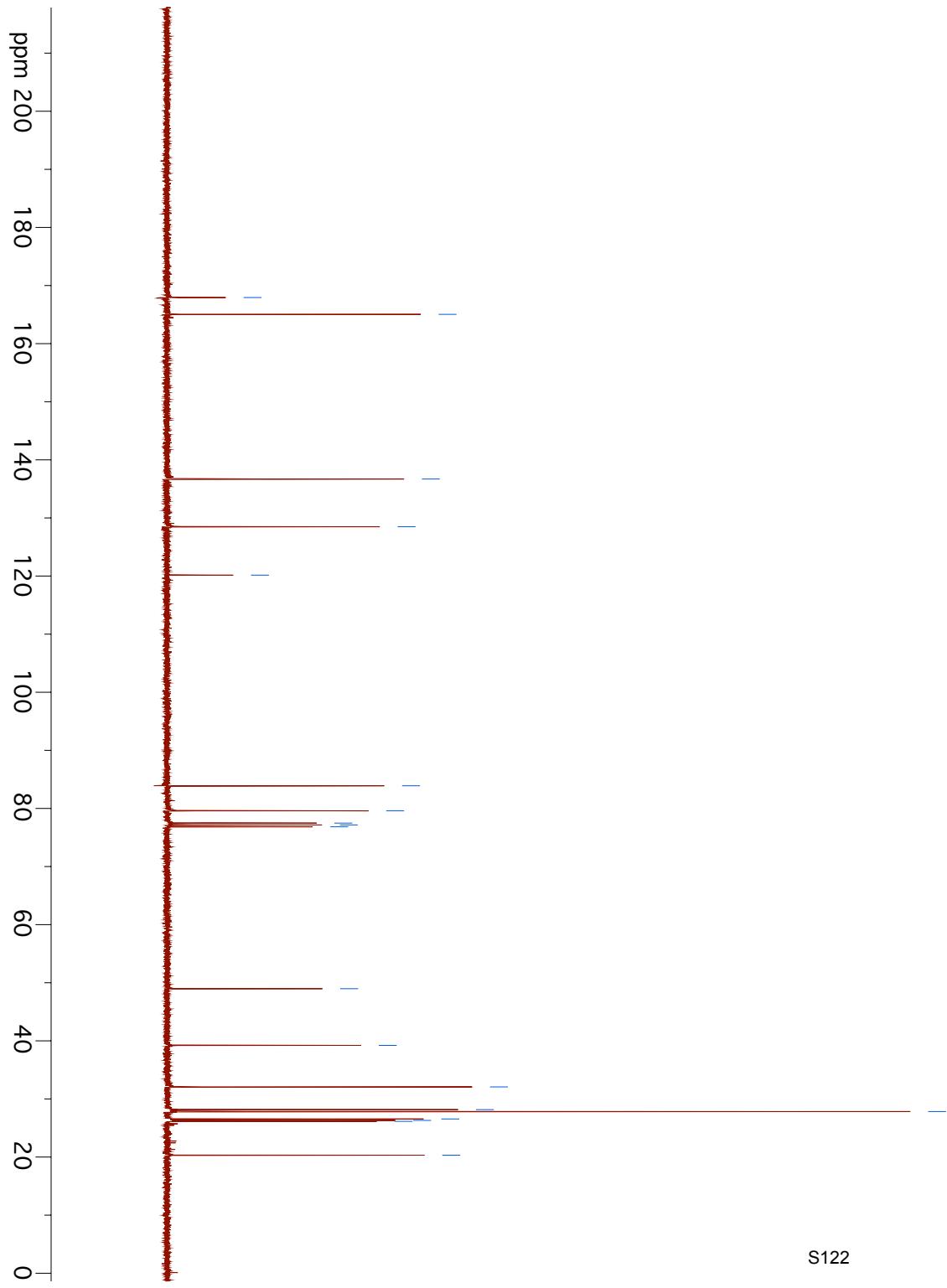
S119



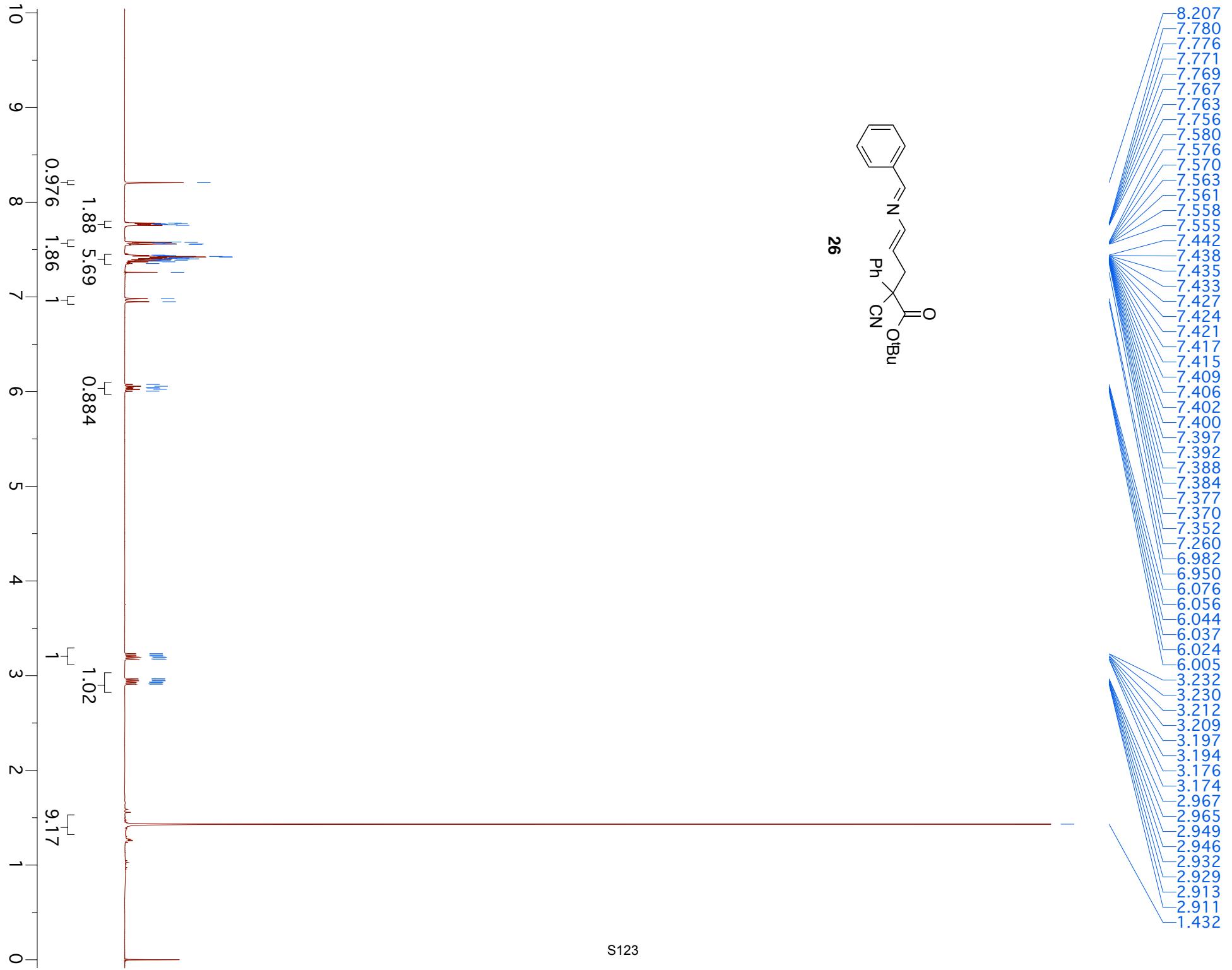


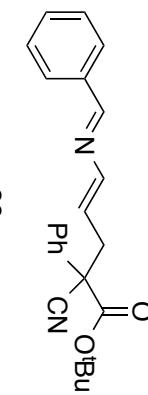
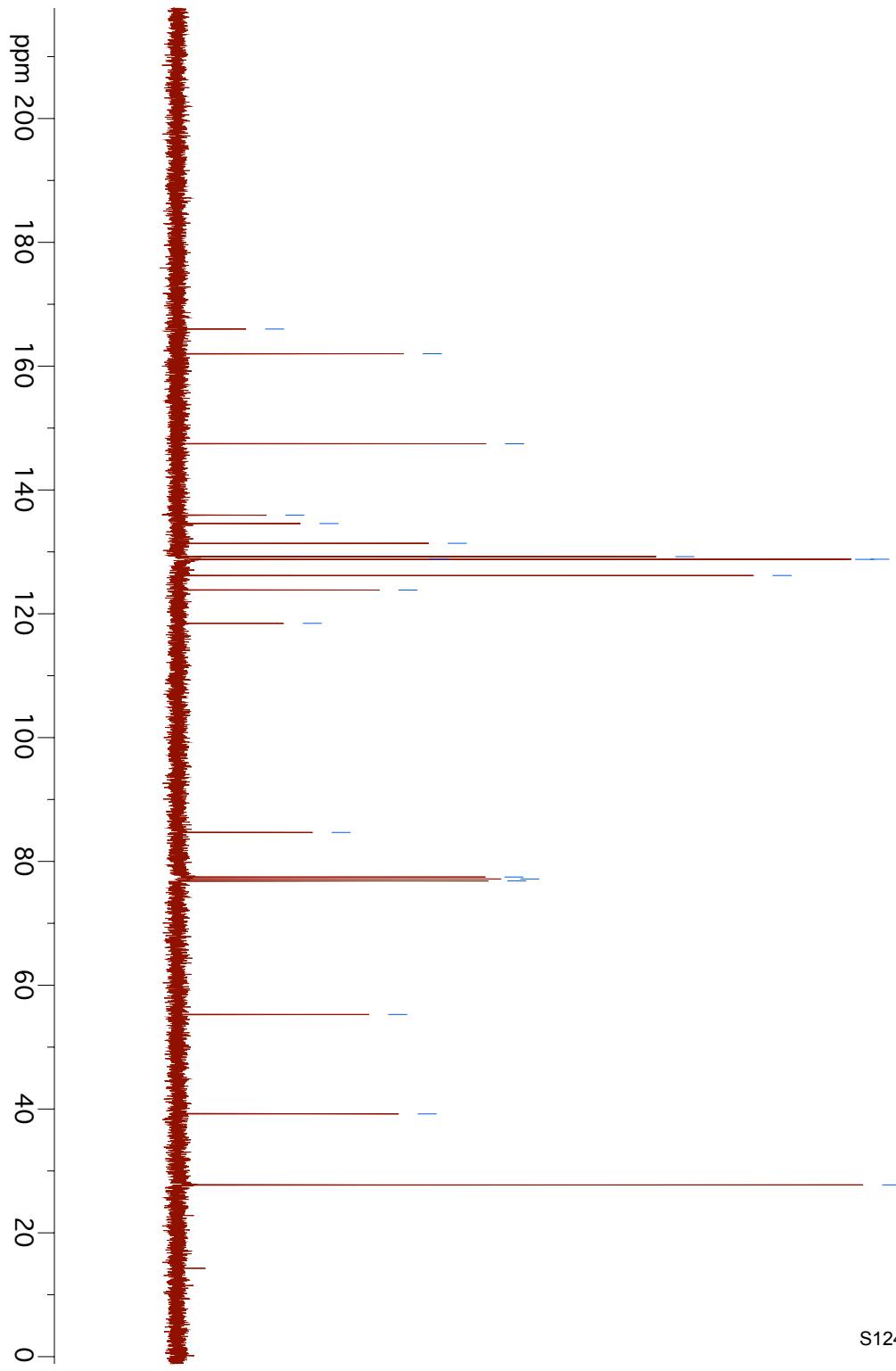
S121

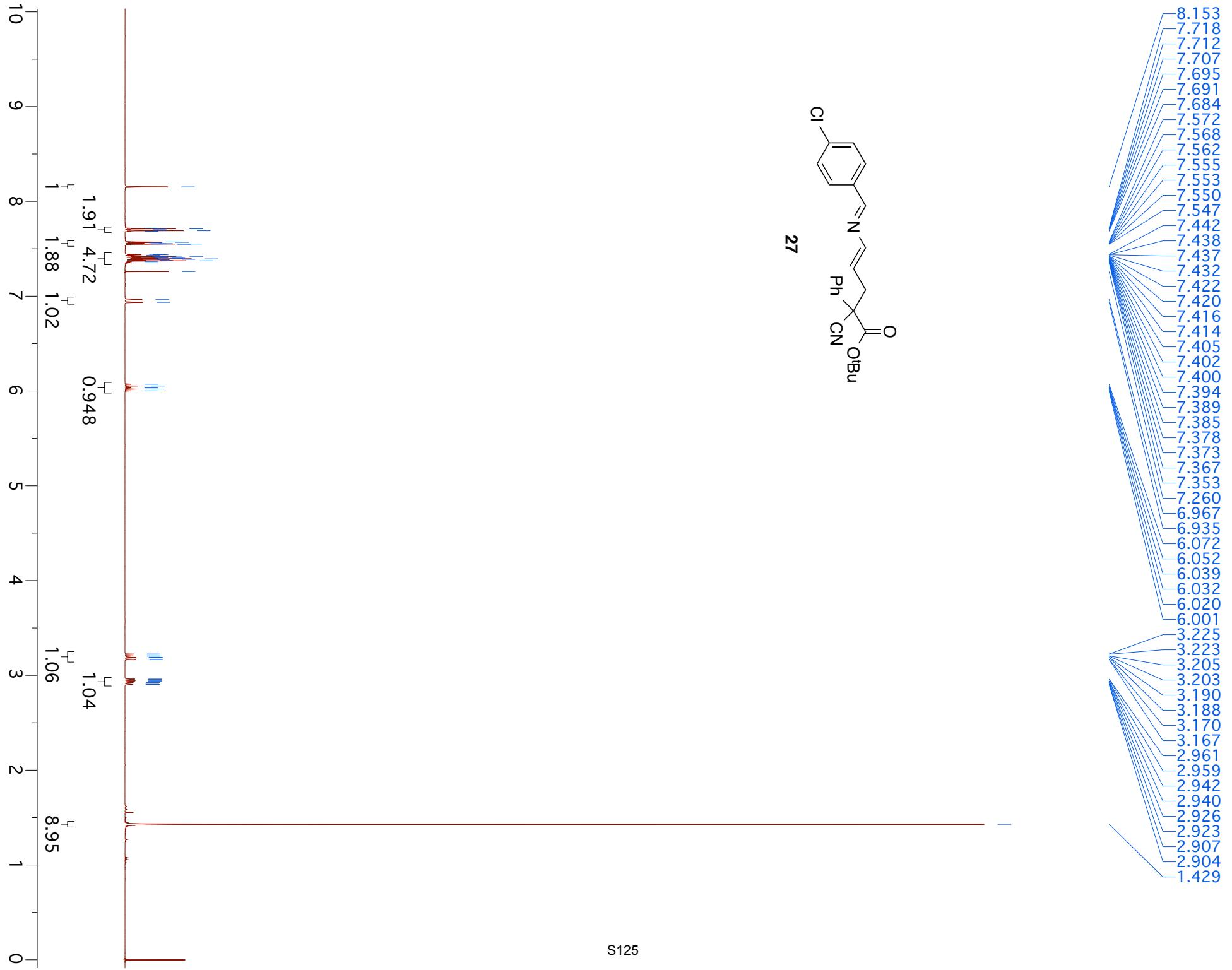
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2.033
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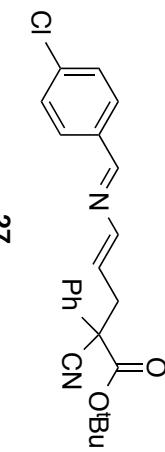
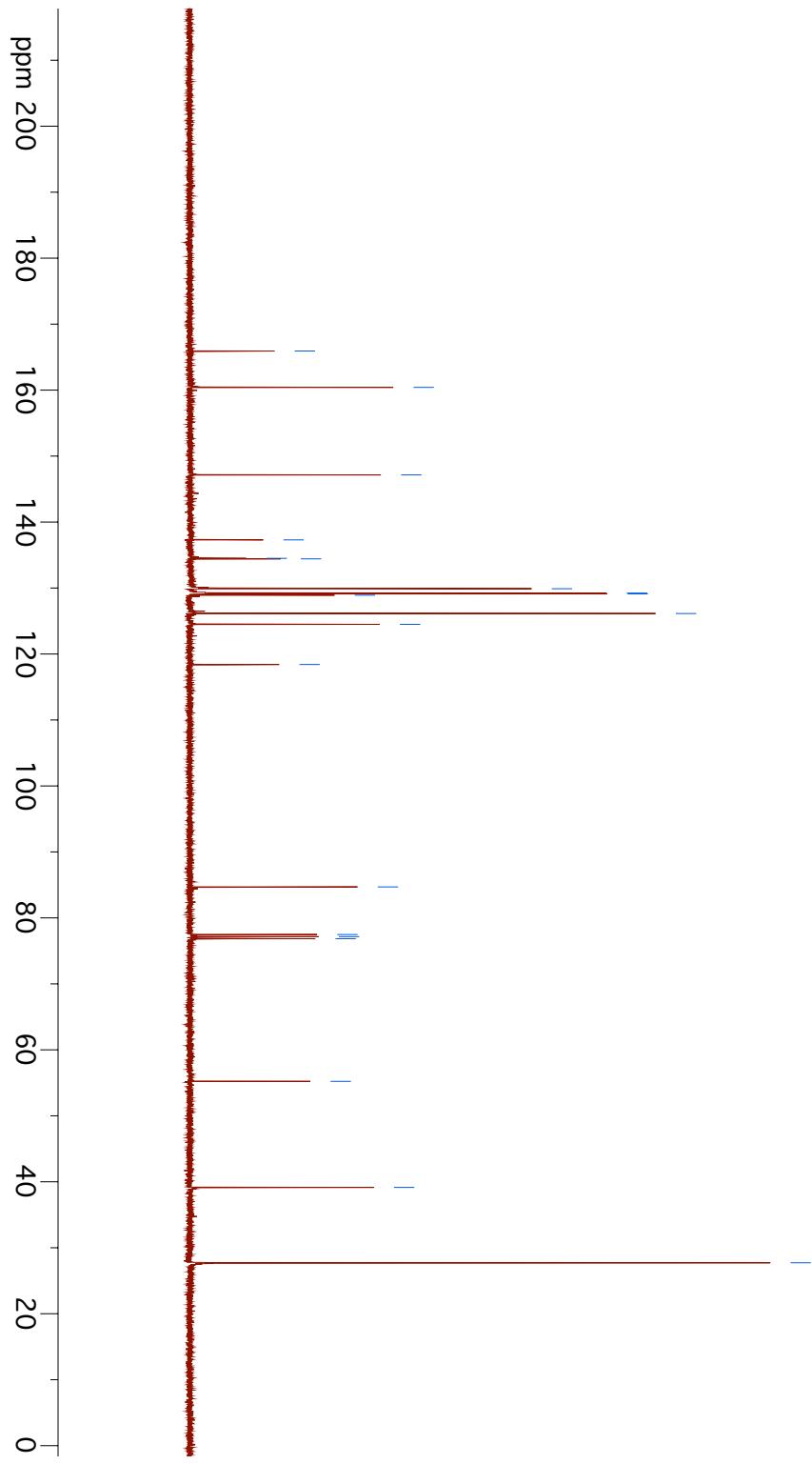
S122

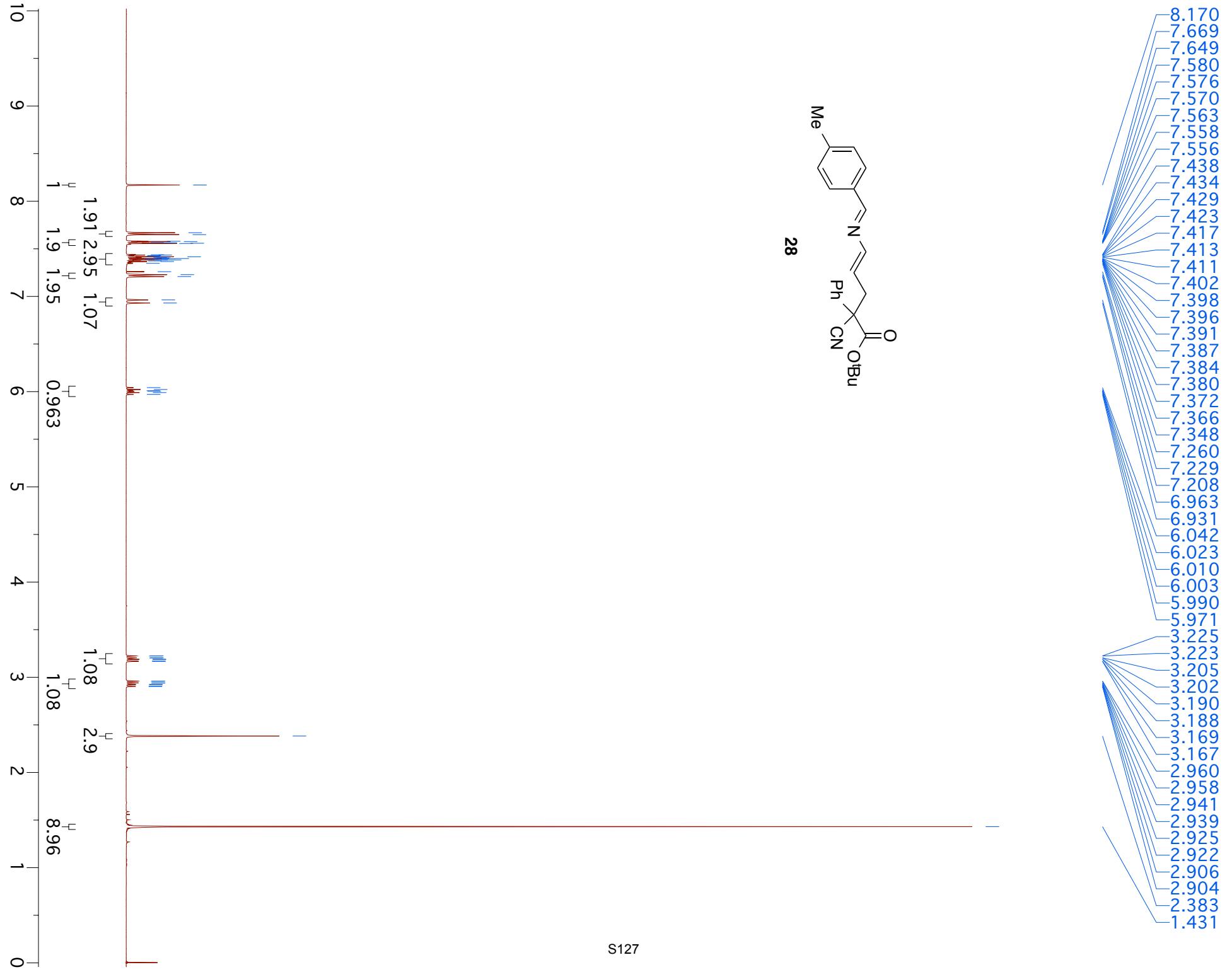




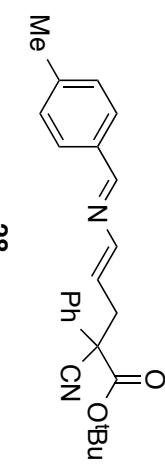
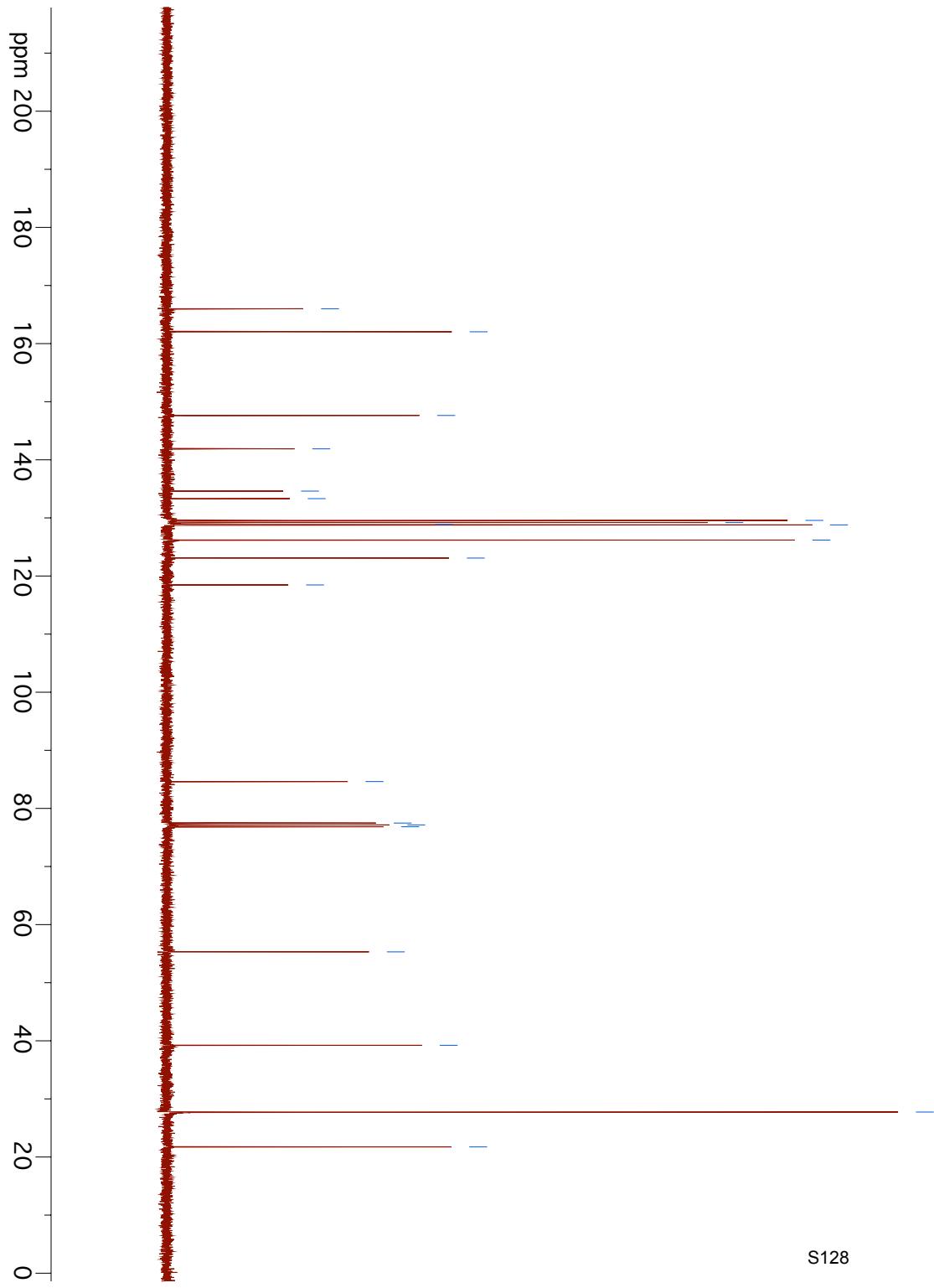


S125

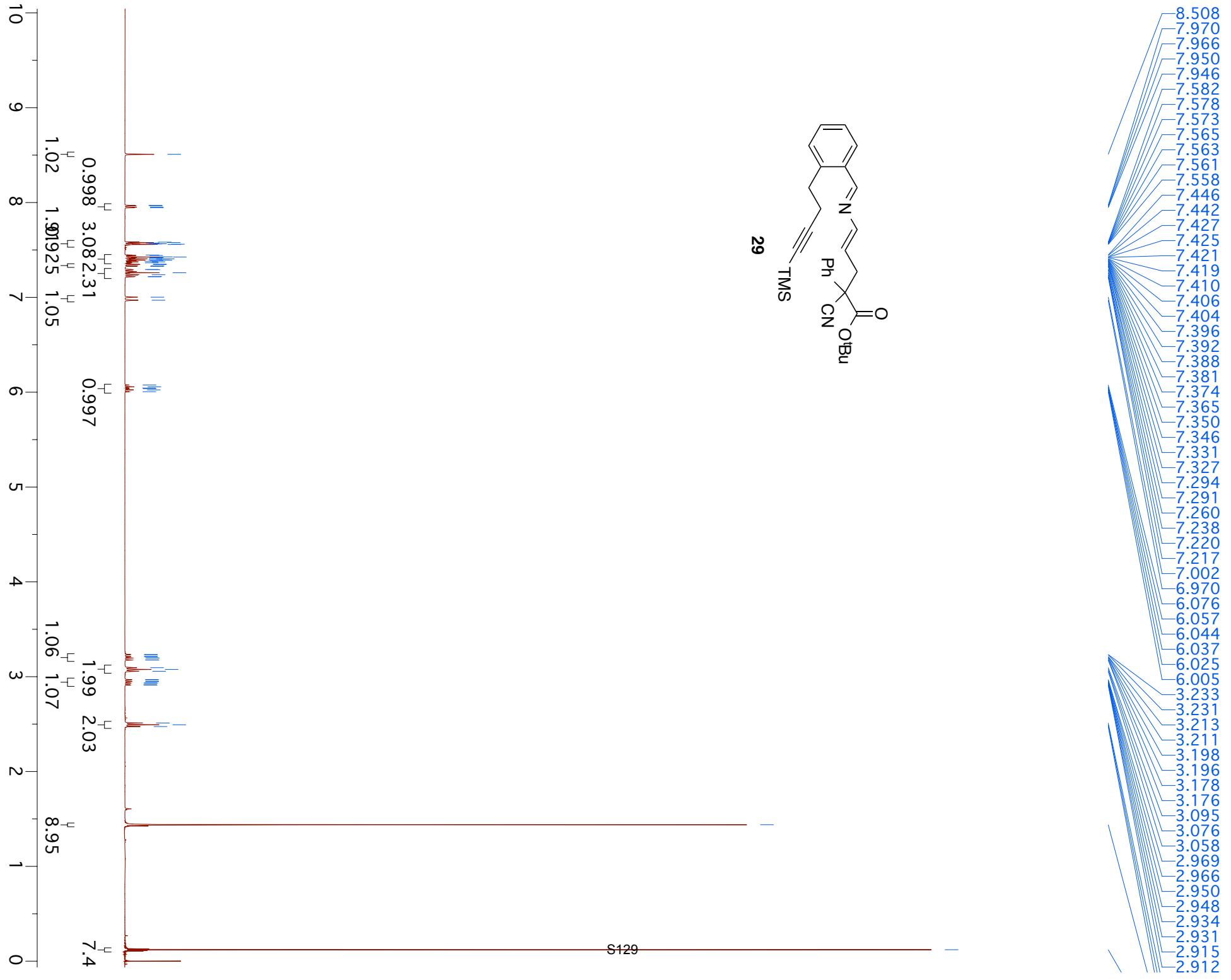


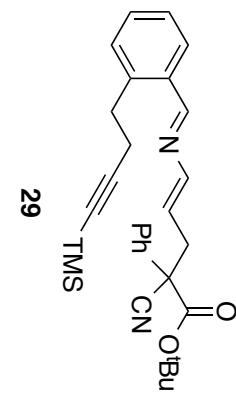
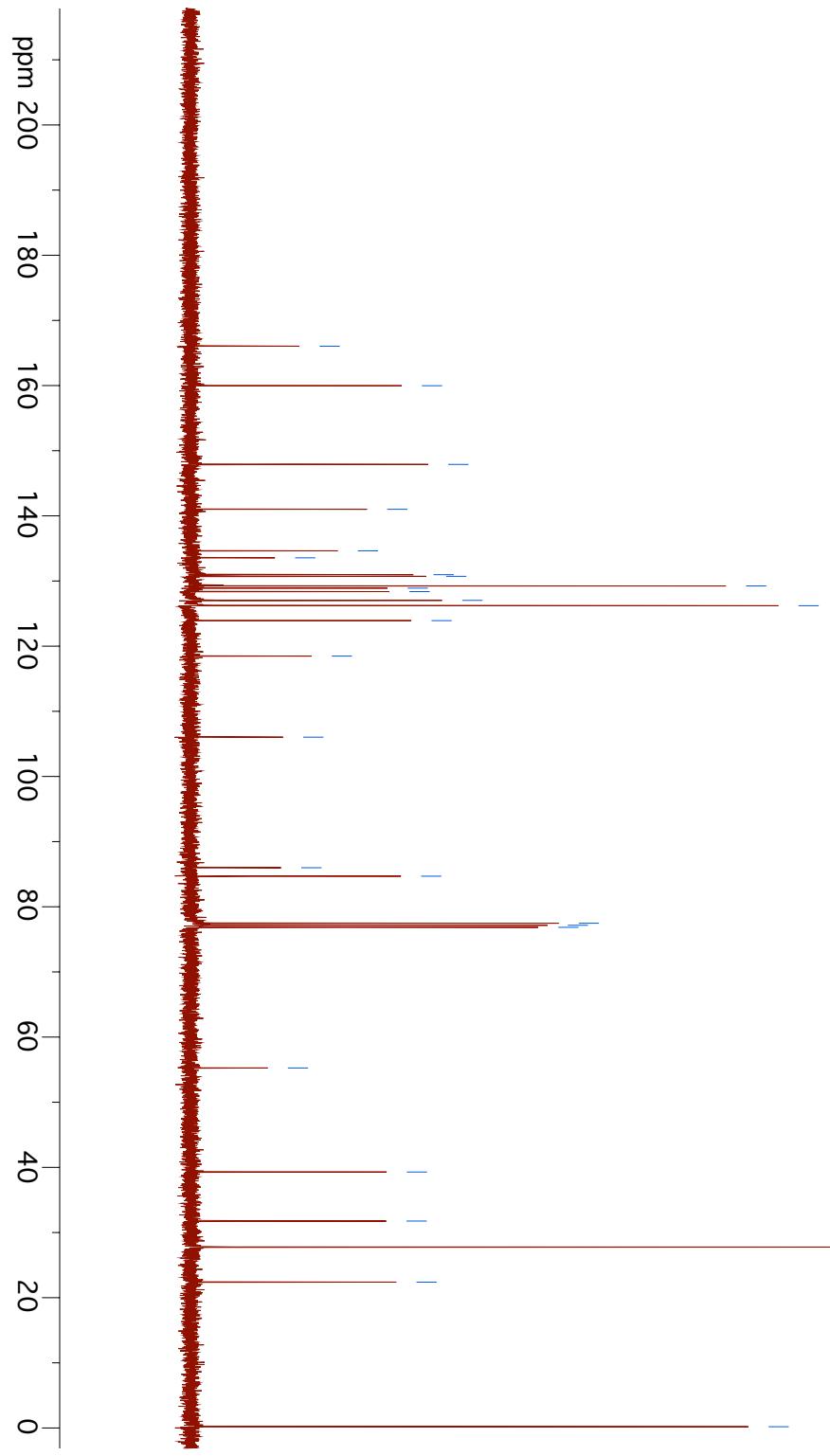


S127

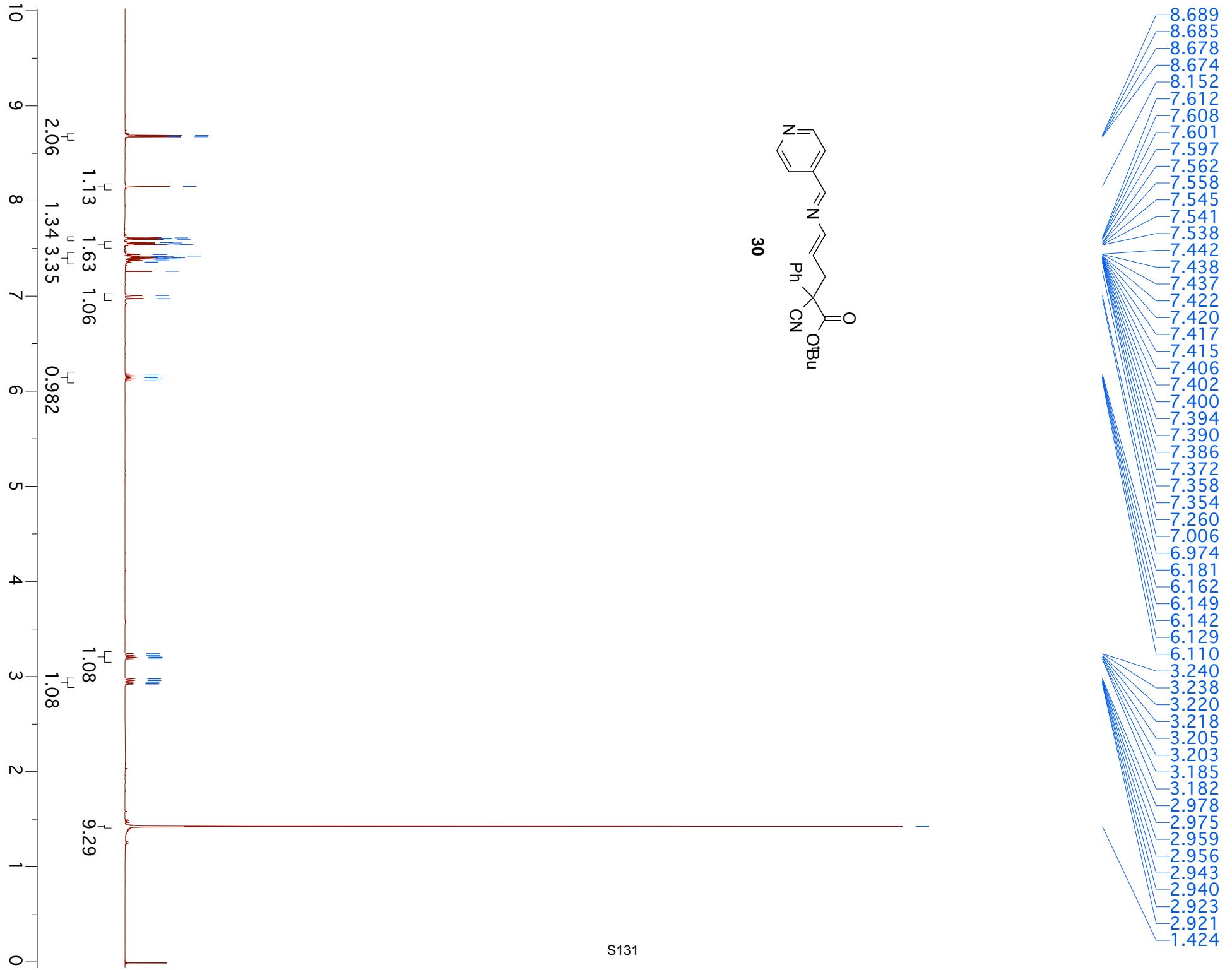


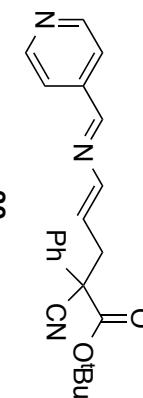
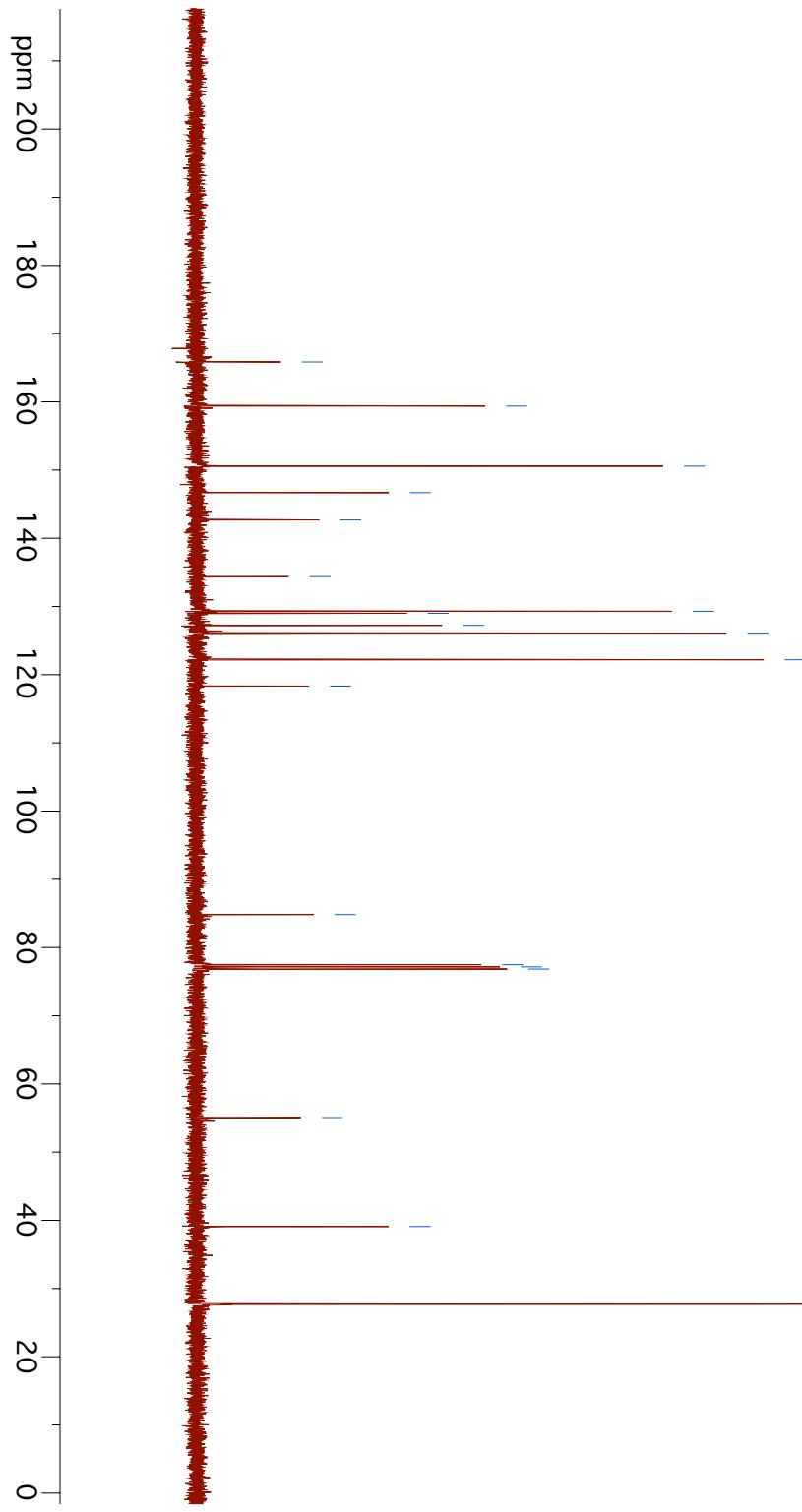
S128



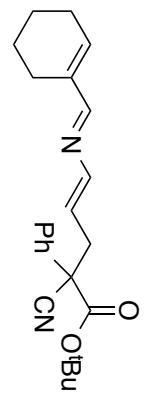
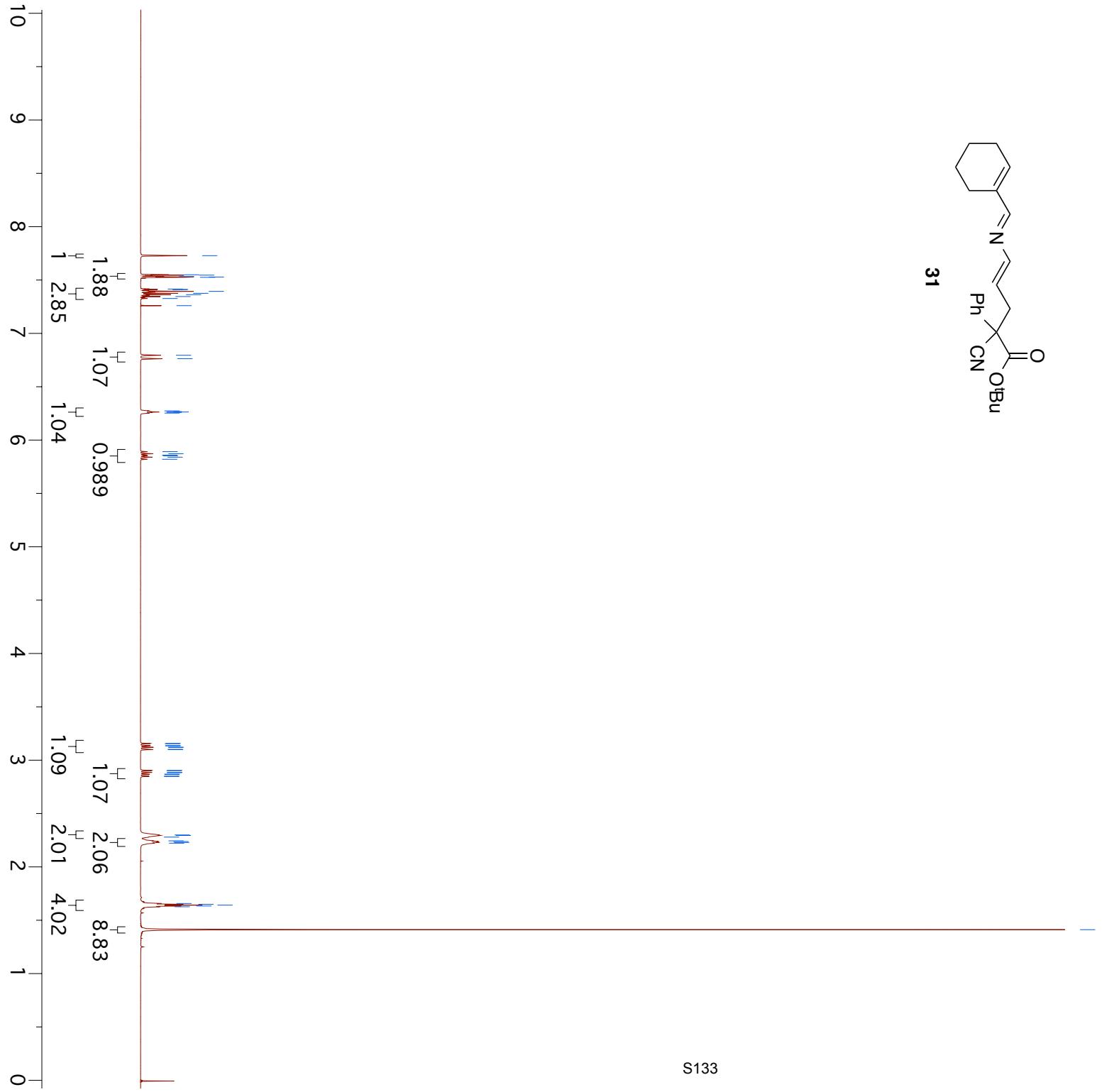


S130

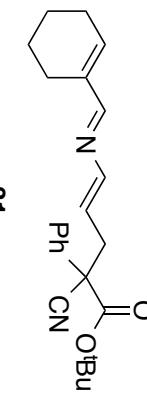
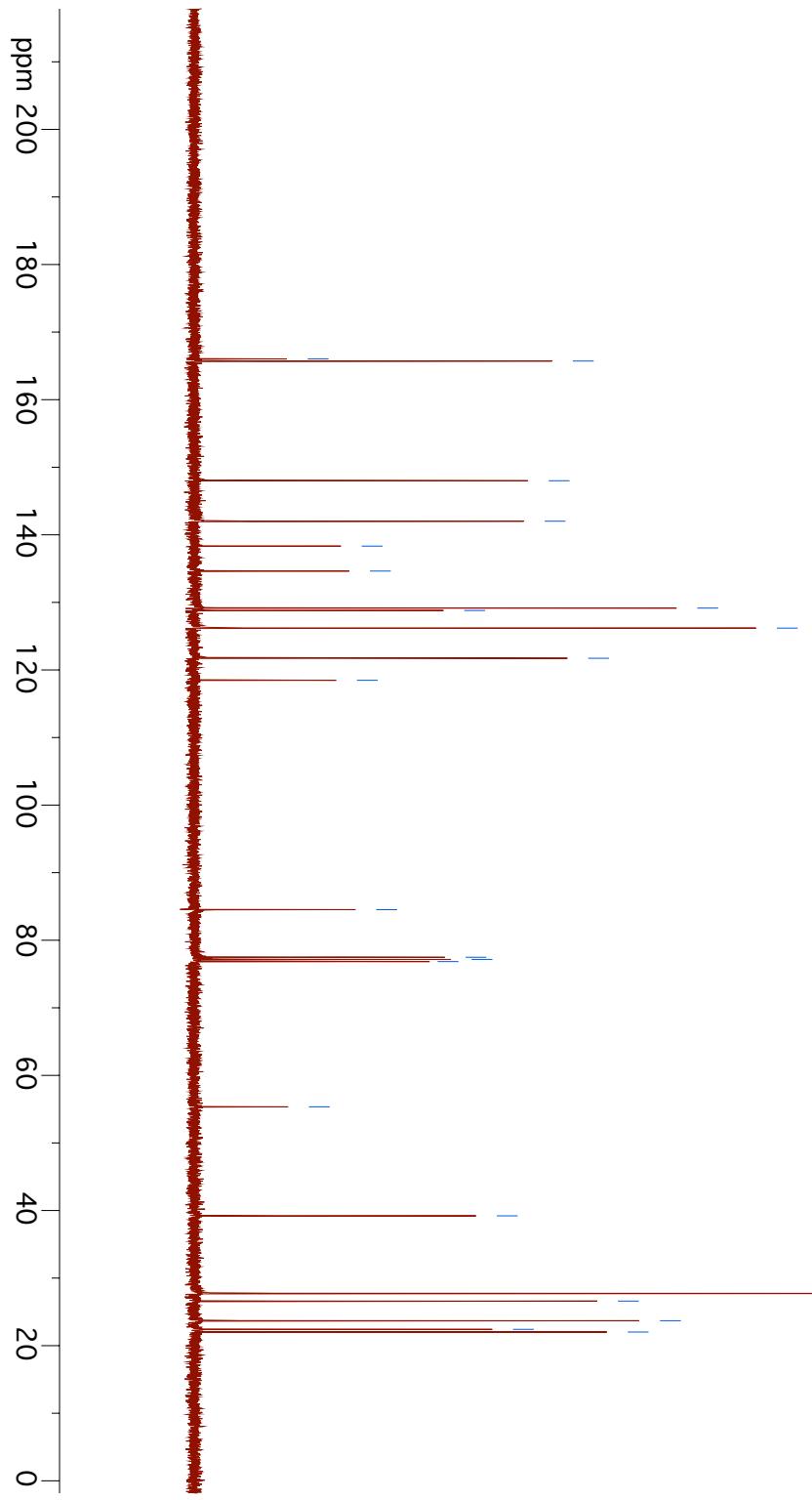


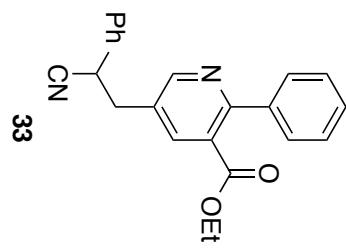
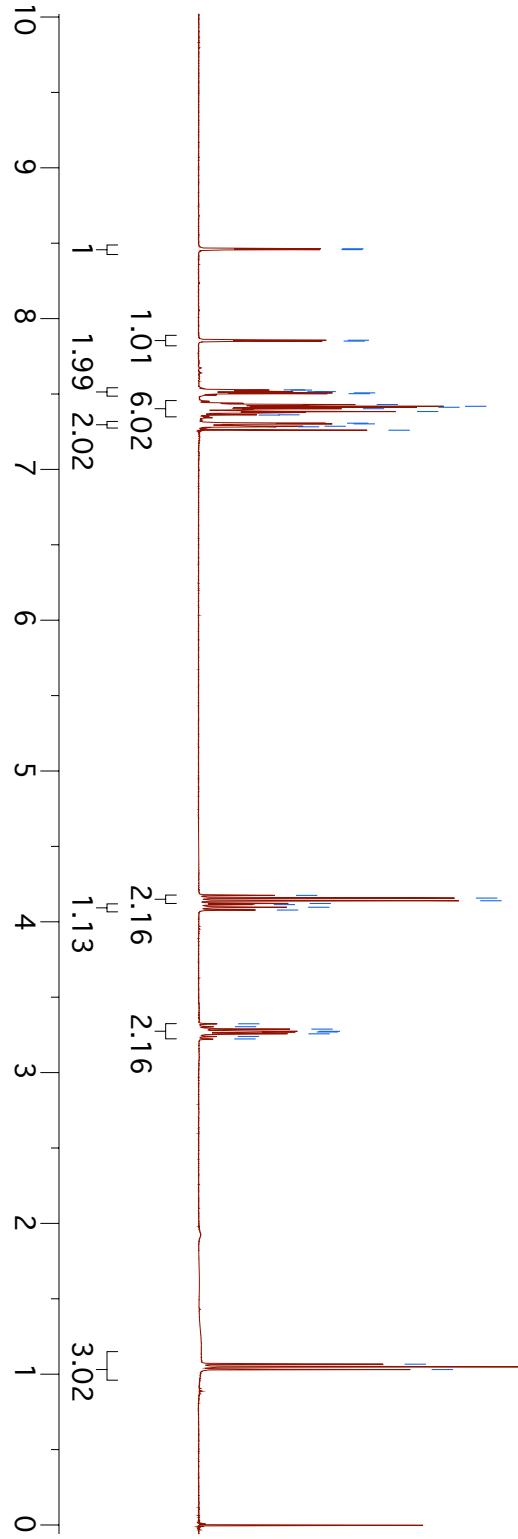


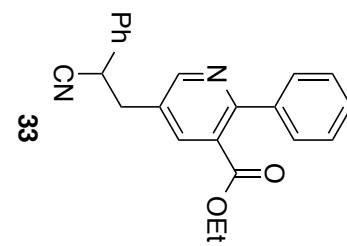
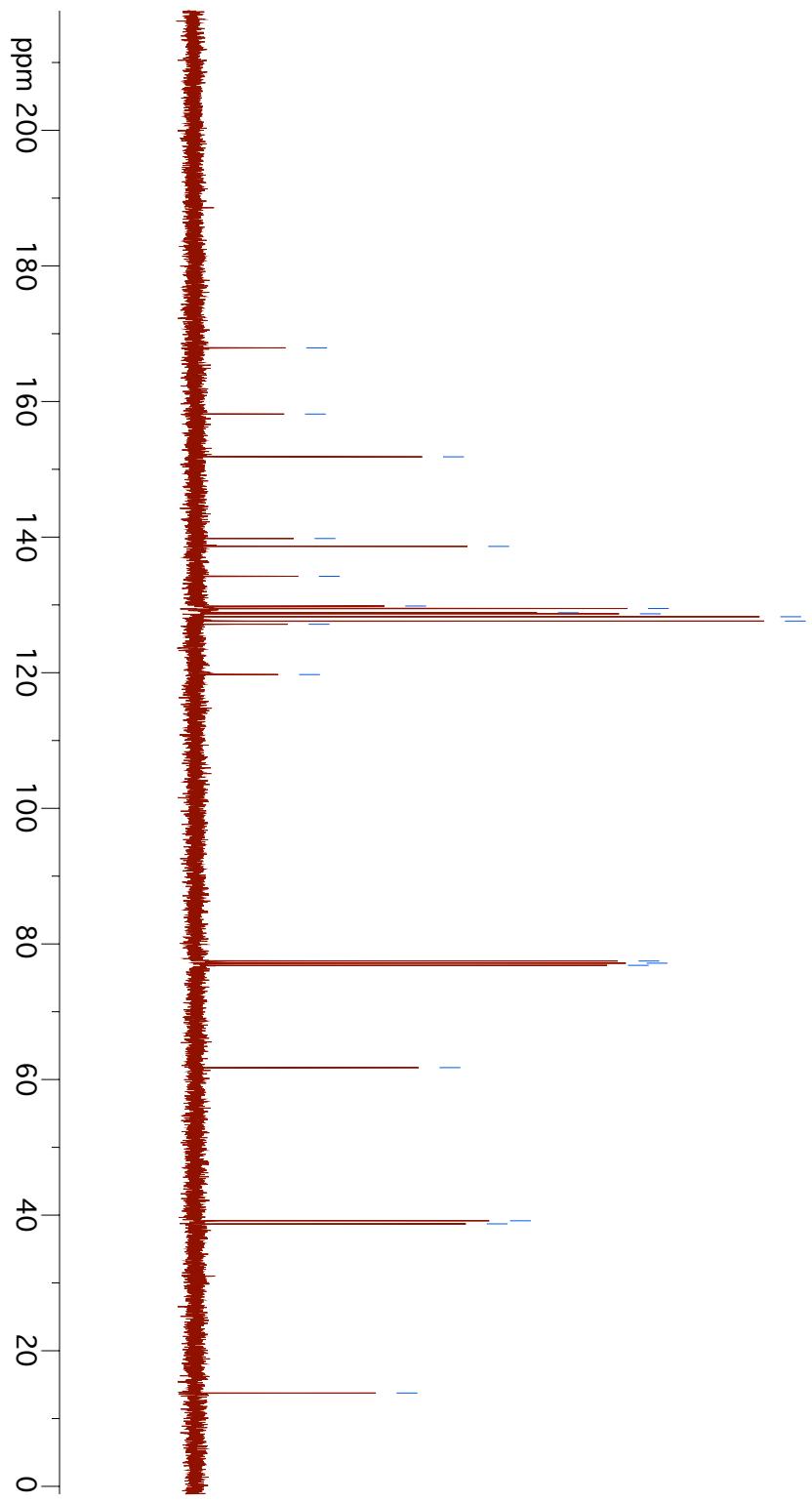
- 165.841
159.380
150.568
146.681
142.683
134.373
129.291
128.995
127.229
126.092
122.188
118.320
- 84.826
77.478
77.160
76.842
- 55.071
- 39.091
- 27.716



S133







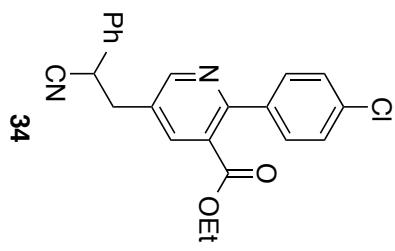
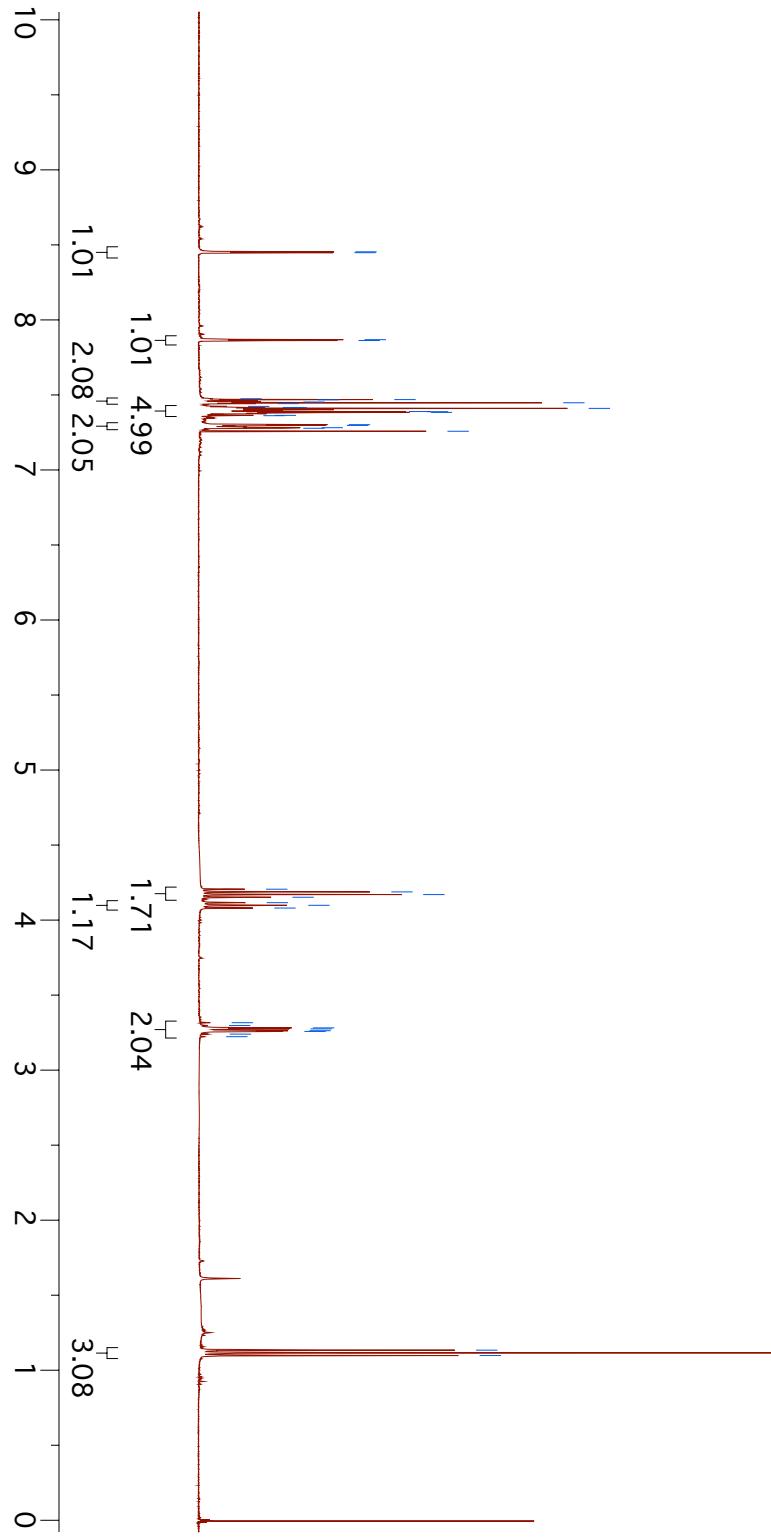
- 167.916
- 158.148
- 151.841
- 139.792
- 138.630
- 134.225
- 129.835
- 129.465
- 128.847
- 128.687
- 128.258
- 127.621
- 127.150
- 119.725

- 77.478
- 77.160
- 76.842

- 61.759

- 39.170
- 38.714

- 13.764



S137

8.454
8.448
7.868
7.863
7.474
7.469
7.468
7.453
7.448
7.442
7.424
7.416
7.415
7.410
7.389
7.388
7.384
7.364
7.362
7.302
7.297
7.282
7.278
7.258

4.206
4.188
4.170
4.152
4.116
4.099
4.080
3.316
3.297
3.282
3.275
3.263
3.258
3.240
3.223

1.134
1.116
1.098

