

Identification of sulfonamide-tethered N-((triazol-4-yl)methyl)isatin derivatives as inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease

Mai H. ElNaggar^a, Abdullah A. Elgazar^a, Ghada Ragab^a, Shimaa M. Hamed^b, Zainab M. Elsayed^b, Mohamed K. El-Ashrey^c, Amira Abood^{d,e}, Mahmoud A. El Hassab^f, Ahmed M. Soliman^f, Ramadan A. El-Domany^f, Farid A. Badria^g, Claudiu T. Supuran^h, Wagdy M. Eldehnaⁱ

^a*Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kafrelsheikh University, Kafrelsheikh, P.O. Box 33516, Egypt*

^b*Scientific Research and Innovation Support Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kafrelsheikh University, Kafrelsheikh, Egypt*

^c*Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University, Kasr Elini St., Cairo, 11562, Egypt*

^d*Chemistry of Natural and microbial products, National Research center, Egypt*

^e*Department of Bioscience, University of Kent, UK*

^f*Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, King Salman International University (KSIU), South Sinai 46612, Egypt*

^g*Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kafrelsheikh University, Kafrelsheikh, P.O. Box 33516, Egypt*

^h*Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt*

ⁱ*Department of NEUROFARBA, Section of Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Sciences, University of Florence, Polo Scientifico, Via U. Schiff 6, 50019, Sesto Fiorentino, Firenze, Italy*

^j*Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kafrelsheikh University, Kafrelsheikh, P.O. Box 33516, Egypt*

^k*School of Biotechnology, Badr University in Cairo, Badr City 11829, Egypt*

MTT Cytotoxicity Assay towards VERO-E6 Cells

To assess the half maximal cytotoxic concentration (CC50), stock solutions of the test compound **6b** were prepared in 10 % DMSO in ddH₂O and diluted further to the working solutions with DMEM. The cytotoxic activity of the extracts was tested in VERO-E6 cells by using the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) method with minor modifications. Briefly, the cells were seeded in 96 well-plates (100 µl/well at a density of 3×10⁵ cells/ml) and incubated for 24 h at 37 °C in 5%CO₂. After 24 h, cells were treated with various concentrations of the tested compound **6b** in triplicates. 24 h later, the supernatant was discarded, and cell monolayers were washed with sterile 1x phosphate buffer saline (PBS) 3 times and MTT solution (20 µl of 5 mg/ml stock solution) was add to each well and incubated at 37 °C for 4 h followed by medium aspiration. In each well, the formed formazan crystals were dissolved with 200 µl of acidified isopropanol (0.04 M HCl in absolute isopropanol = 0.073 ml HCL in 50 ml isopropanol). Absorbance of formazan solutions was measured at λ max 540 nm with 620 nm as a reference wavelength using a multi-well plate reader. The percentage of cytotoxicity compared to the untreated cells was determined with the following equation.

The plot of % cytotoxicity versus sample concentration was used to calculate the concentration which exhibited 50% cytotoxicity (CC50).

$$\% \text{ cytotoxicity} = ((\text{absorbance of cells without treatment} - \text{absorbance of cells with treatment}) / (\text{absorbance of cells without treatment}) \times 100)$$

Cell-Based SARS-CoV-2 Inhibitory Assay

In 96-well tissue culture plates, 2.4×10⁴ viral cells were distributed in each well and incubated overnight at a humidified 37°C incubator under 5%CO₂ condition. The cell monolayers were then washed once with 1x PBS and subjected to virus adsorption (hCoV-19/Egypt/NRC-03/2020 (Accession Number on GSAID: EPI_ISL_430820)) for 1 h at room temperature (RT). The cell monolayers were further overlaid with 100µl of DMEM containing varying concentrations of the test compound **6b**. Following incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂ incubator for 72 h, the cells were fixed with 100 µl of 4% paraformaldehyde for 20 min and stained with 0.1% crystal violet in distilled water for 15 min at RT. The crystal violet dye was then dissolved using 100 µl absolute methanol per well and the optical density of the color is measured at 570 nm using Anthos Zenyth 200rt plate reader (Anthos Labtec Instruments, Heerhugowaard, Netherlands). The IC₅₀ of the compound is that required to reduce the virus-induced cytopathic effect (CPE) by 50%, relative to the virus control.

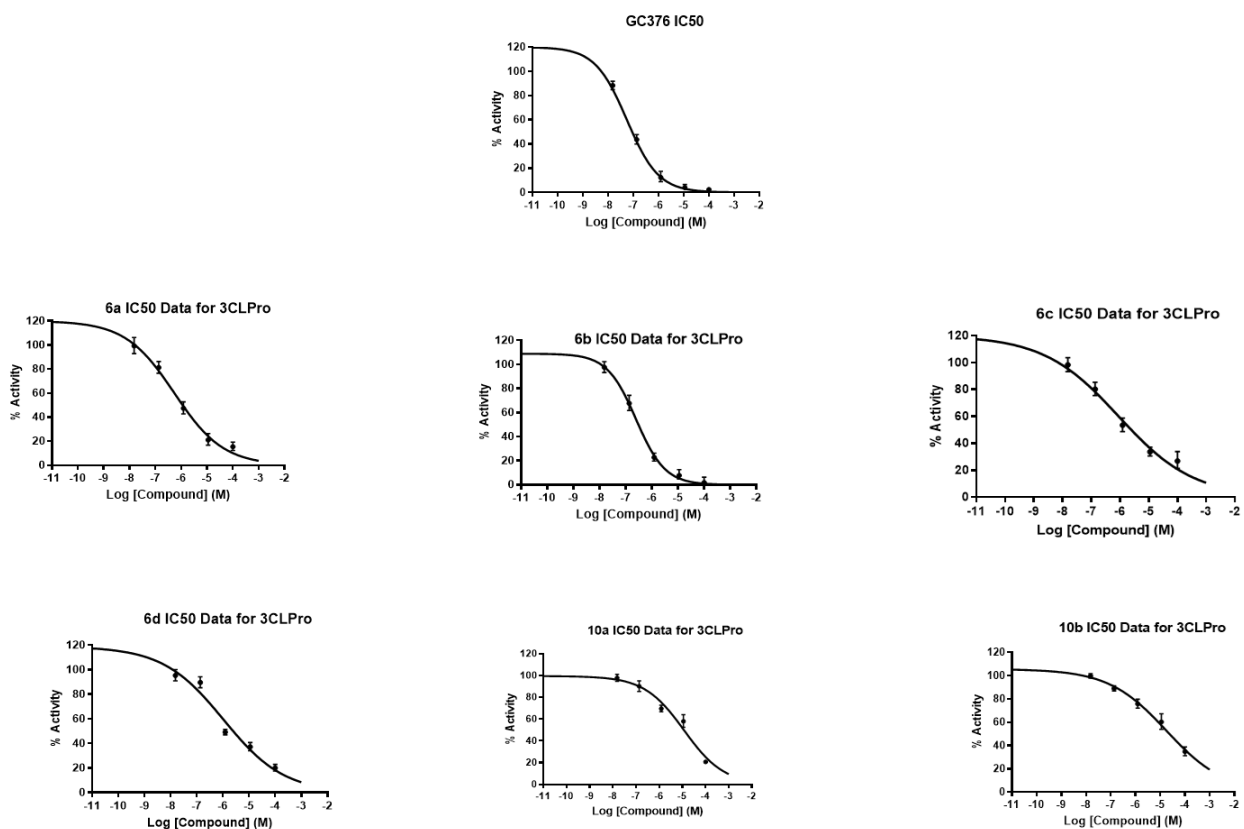


Figure S1. Curve fittings for Mpro enzyme inhibition assay against the main protease enzyme (Mpro) of SARS-COV2 showing the IC₅₀ for GC376 and the investigated triazoloisatins (**6a-d** and **10a-b**)

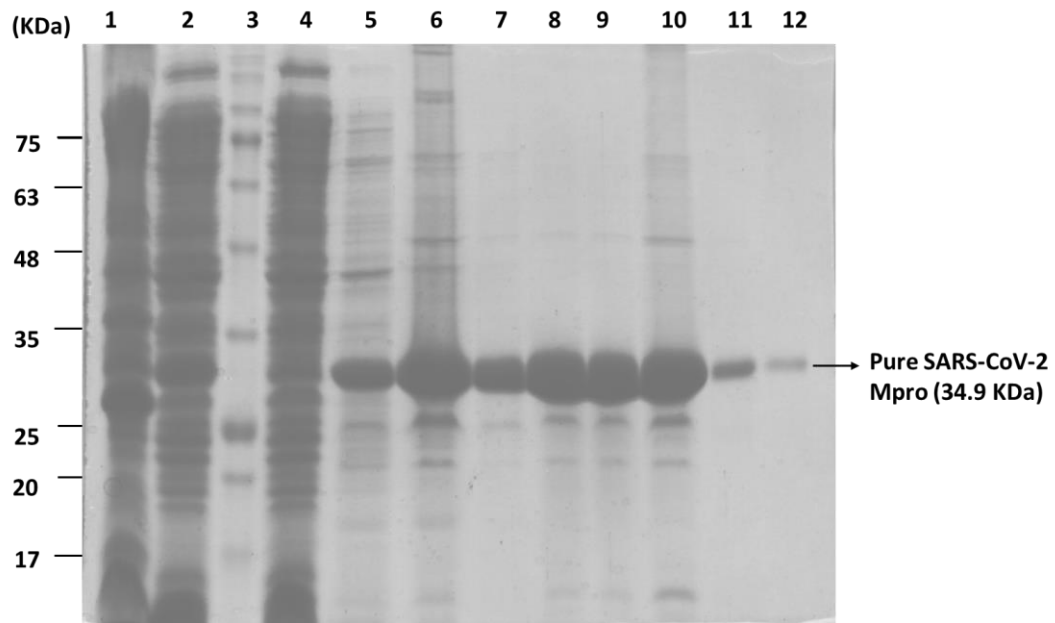
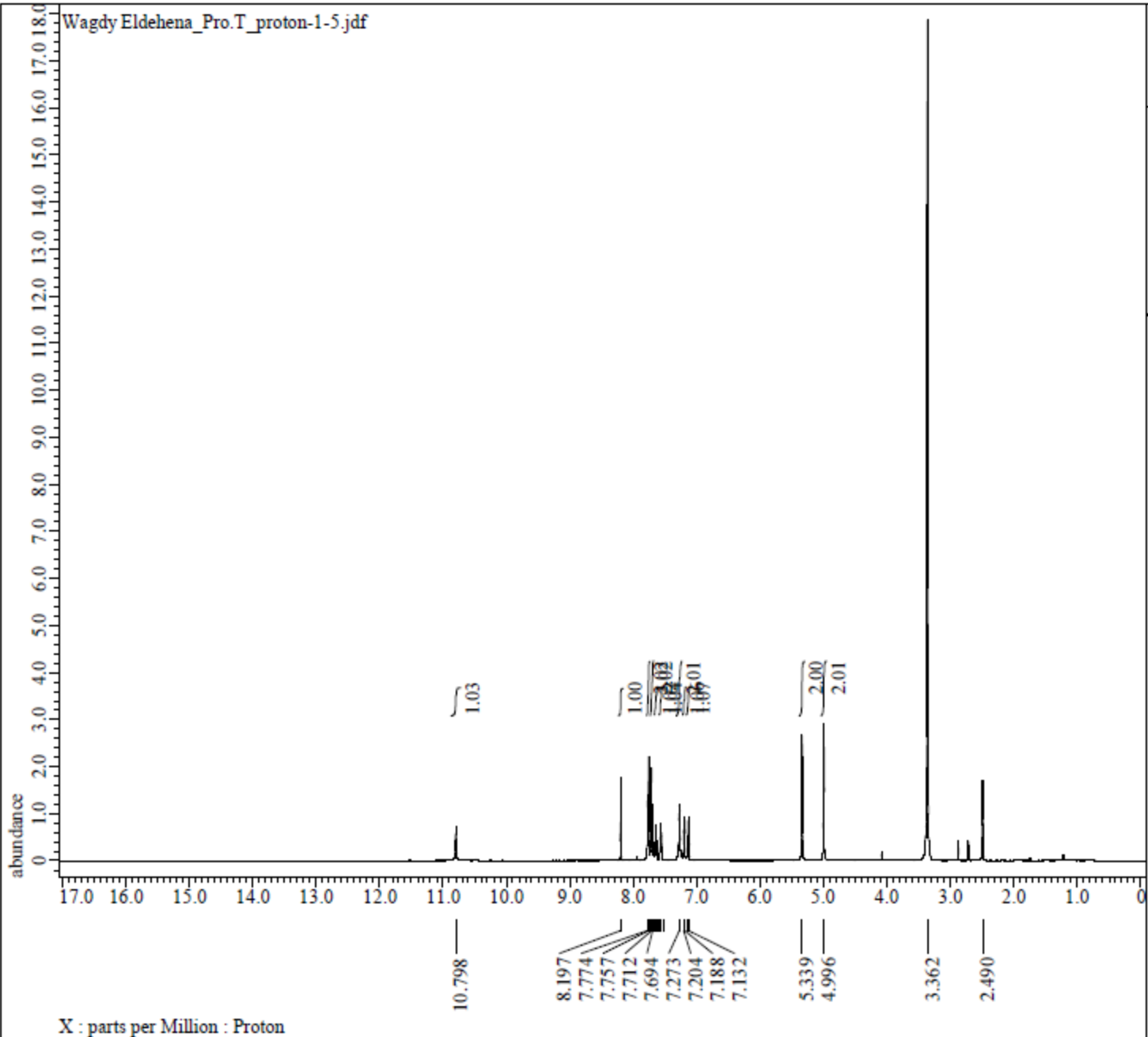
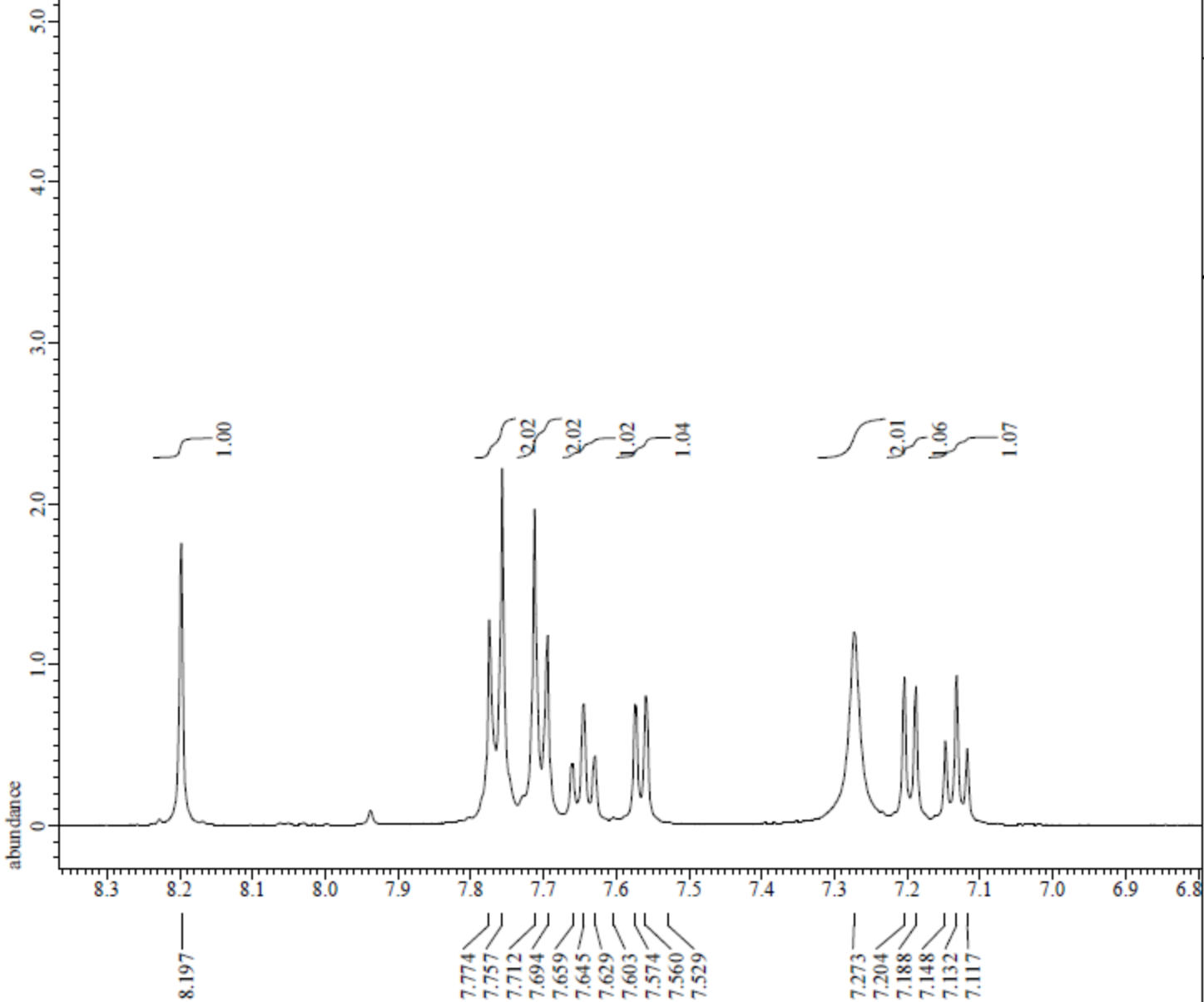


Figure S2. SDS-PAGE analysis for purification of SARS-CoV-2 Mpro. lane1: insoluble fraction of cell lysate; lane 2: soluble fraction of cell lysate; lane 3, protein molecular mass marker; lane 4: flow through of the soluble fraction of the cell lysate; lane 5: fraction obtained using the wash buffer, lanes 6-12: fractions containing Mpro protein eluted using the elution buffer.

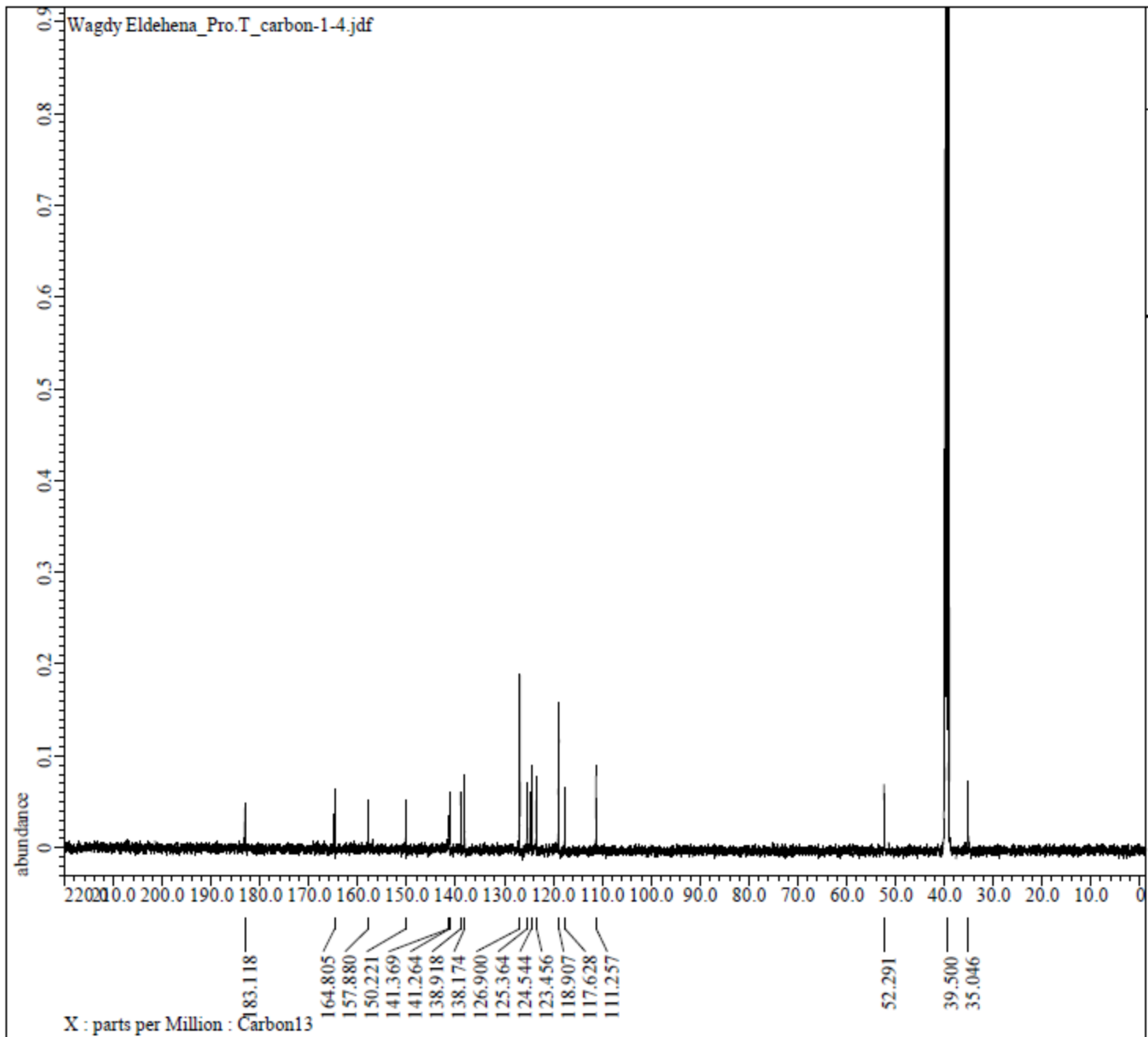


X : parts per Million : Proton

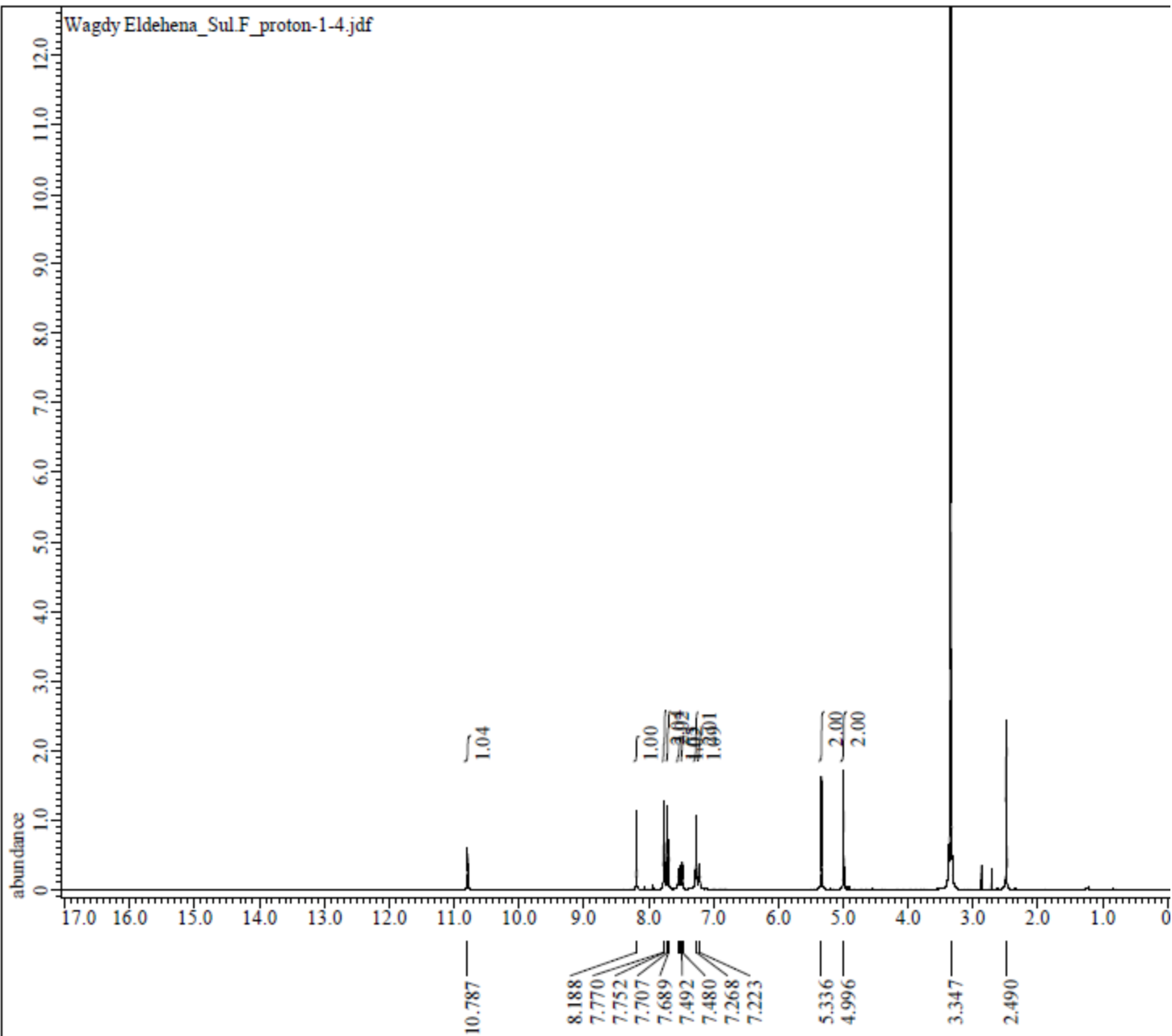
Wagdy Eldehena_Pro.T_proton-1-5.jdf



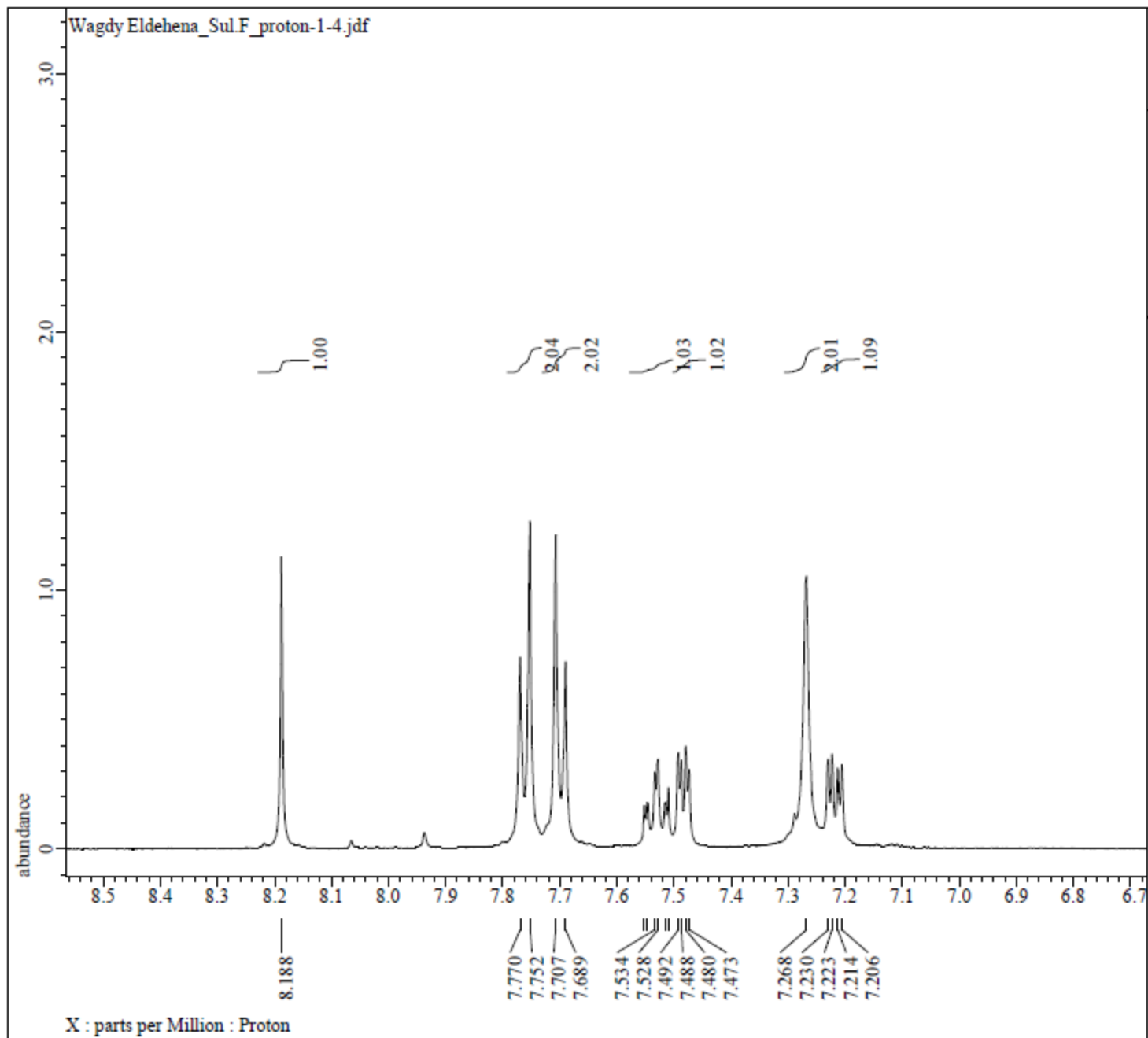
X : parts per Million : Proton



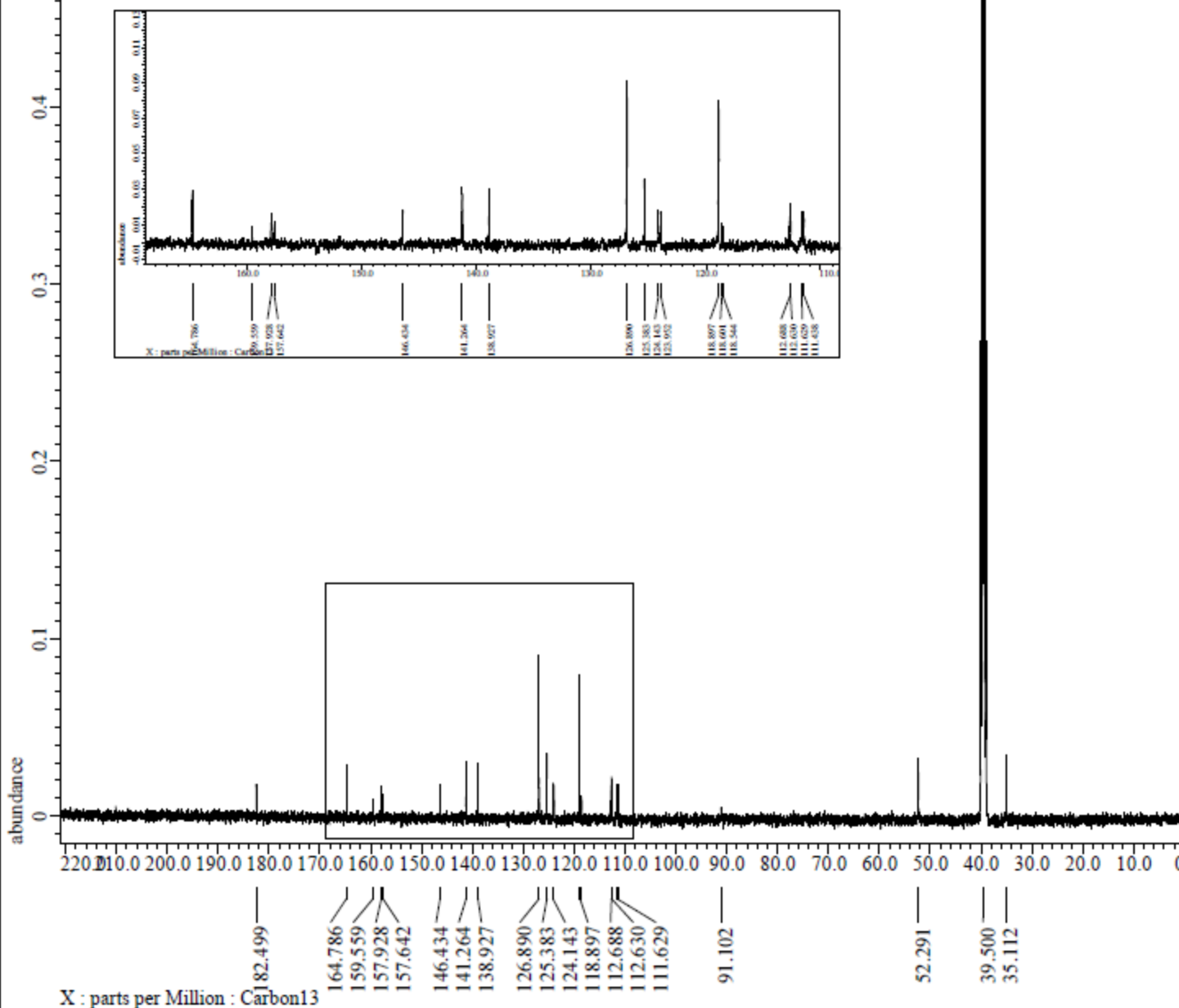
Wagdy Eldehena_Sul.F_proton-1-4.jdf

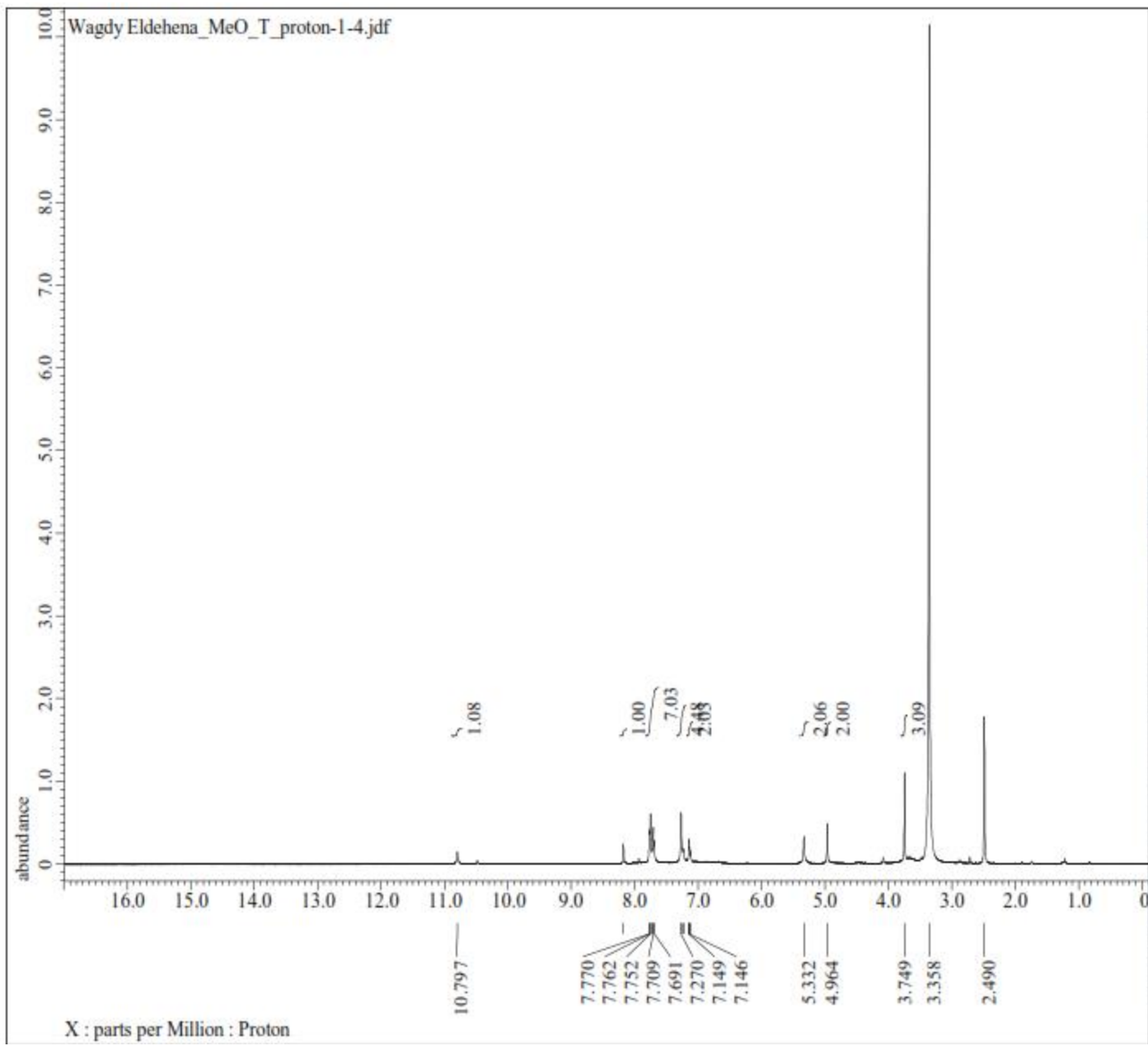


X : parts per Million : Proton



Wagdy Eldehena_Sul.F_carbon-2-4.jdf





```

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----
dc balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm
Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_T_proton-1

```

```

Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_T_pro
Author       = delta
Experiment    = proton.jxp
Sample Id    = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_T
Solvent      = DMSO-D6
Creation Time = 31-DEC-2022 14:53:42
Revision Time = 31-DEC-2022 16:05:06
Current Time  = 31-DEC-2022 16:05:10

```

```

Comment      = single pulse
Data Format   = 1D COMPLEX
Dim Size     = 13107
Dim Title    = Proton
Dim Units    = [ppm]
Dimensions   = X
Site         = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer = DELTA2_NMR

```

```

Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
X Acq Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X Domain       = 1H
X Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X Points       = 16384
X Prescans     = 1
X Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X Sweep Clipped = 10.50420168[kHz]
IFr_Domain     = Proton
Irr_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri_Domain     = Proton
Tri_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total_Scans    = 40

```

```

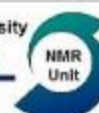
Relaxation Delay = 5[s]
Recvr Gain       = 46
Temp Set         = 21.1[dc]
X 90_Width       = 12.28[us]
X Acq Time       = 1.24780544[s]
X Angle          = 45[deg]
X Atn            = 2.5[db]
X Pulse          = 6.14[us]
IFr_Mode         = Off
Tri_Mode         = Off

```



Mansoura University

JEOL
ECA-500 II



```

----- PROCESSING PARAMETERS -----
dc balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm

```

Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_T_prot

```

Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_T_j
Author        = delta
Experiment     = proton.jxp
Sample Id     = Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_T
Solvent       = DMSO-D6
Creation Time  = 31-DEC-2022 17:12:33
Revision Time  = 31-DEC-2022 16:09:41
Current Time   = 31-DEC-2022 16:09:48

```

```

Comment       = single pulse
Data Format    = 1D COMPLEX
Dim Size      = 13107
Dim Title     = Proton
Dim Units     = [ppm]
Dimensions    = X
Site          = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer  = DELTA2_NMR

```

```

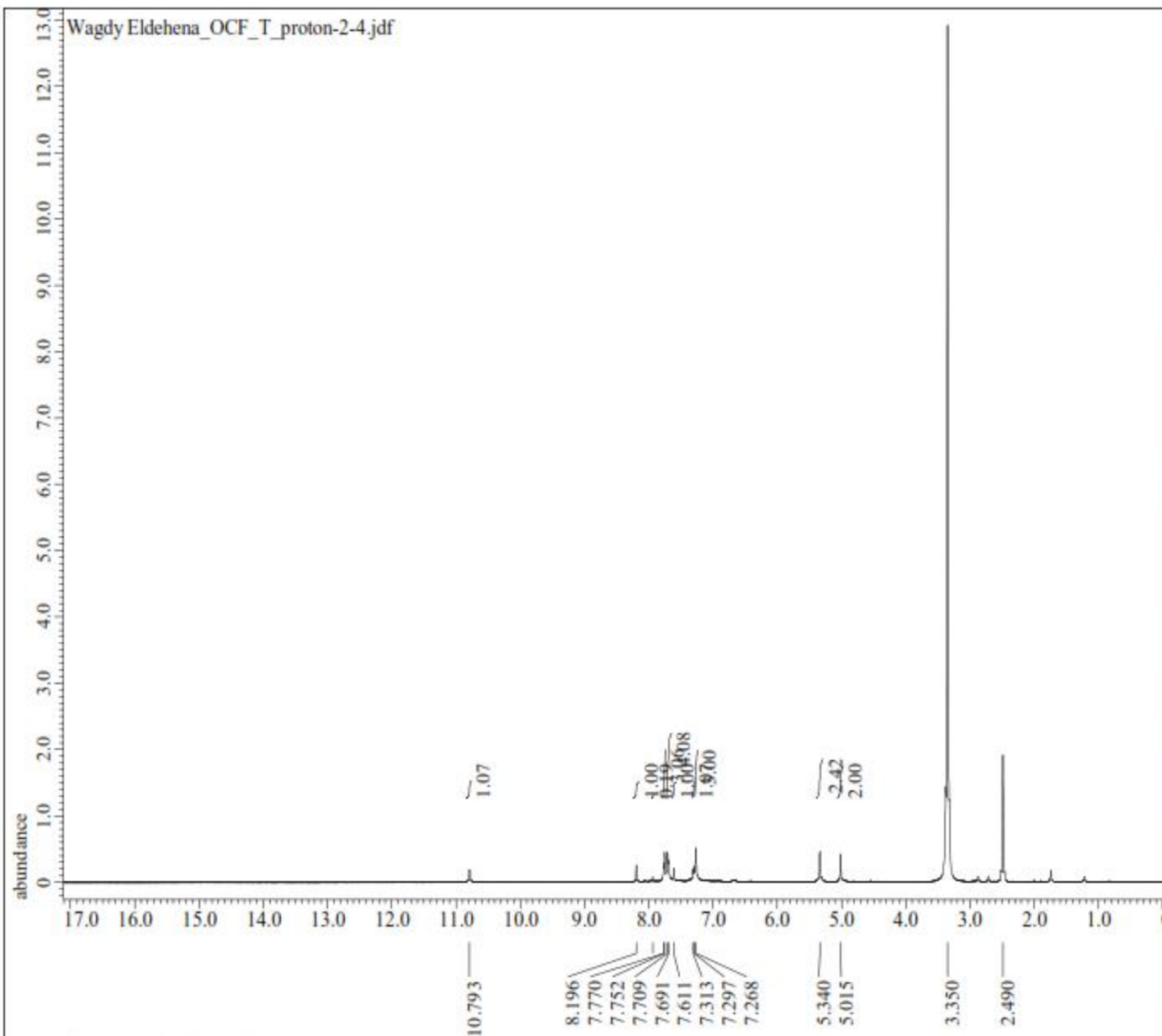
Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MH
X_Acq_Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X_Domain       = 1H
X_Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X_Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X_Points       = 16384
X_Prescans     = 1
X_Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X_Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clip   = 10.50420168[kHz]
Irr_Domain     = Proton
Irr_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri_Domain     = Proton
Tri_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total_Scans    = 40

```

```

Relaxation_Delay = 5[s]
Recvr Gain       = 48
Temp_Get         = 21.7[dc]
X_90_Width       = 12.28[us]
X_Acq_Time       = 1.24780544[s]
X_Angle          = 45[deg]
X_Atn            = 2.5[db]
X_Pulse          = 6.14[us]
Irr_Mode         = off
Tri_Mode         = off

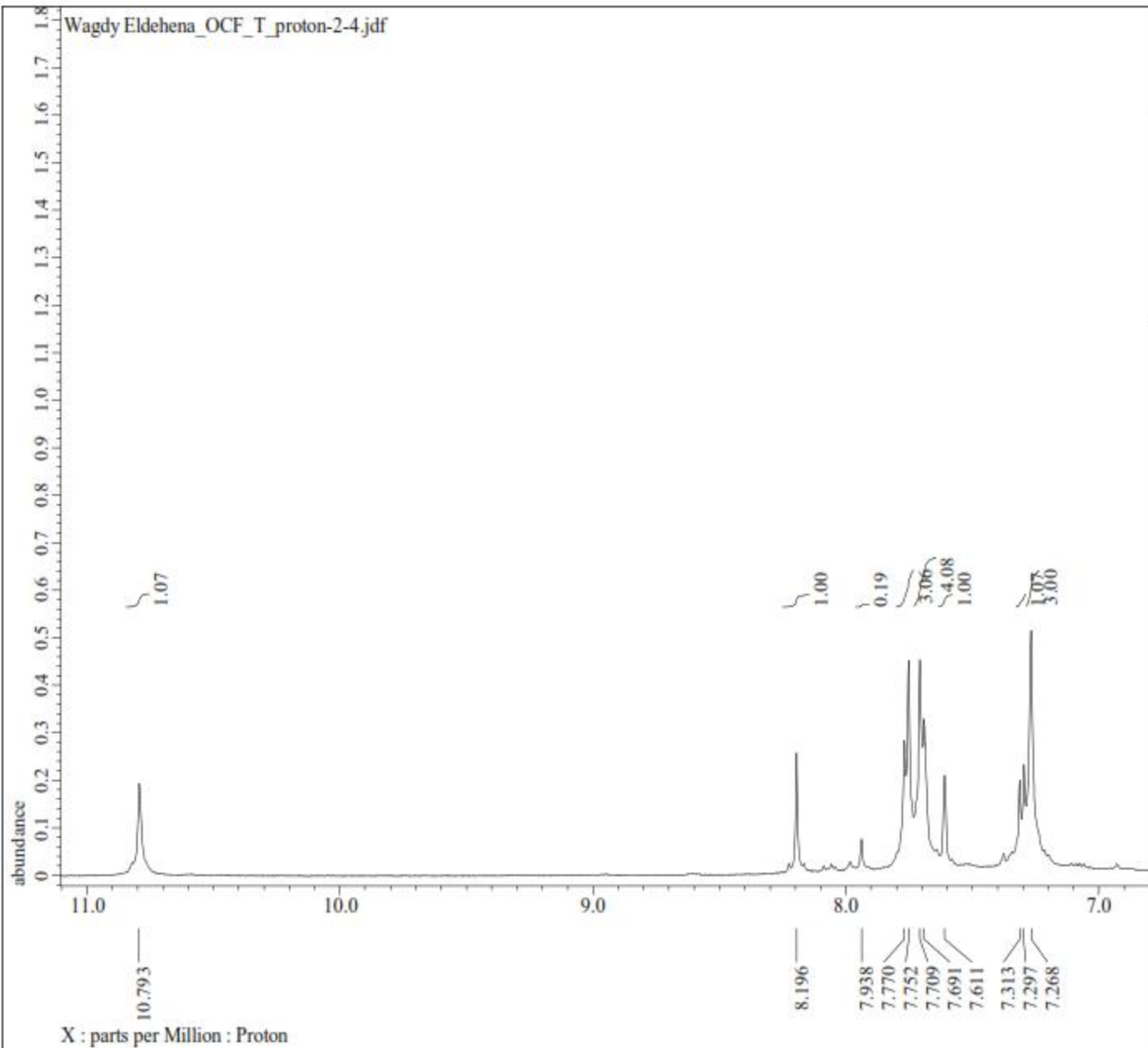
```



X : parts per Million : Proton



Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_T_proton-2-4.jdf



X : parts per Million : Proton

----- PROCESSING PARAMETERS -----
 dc balance (0, FALSE)
 seXp (0.2[Hz], 0.0[s])
 trapezoid (0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%])
 zerofill (1)
 fft (1, TRUE, TRUE)
 machinephase
 ppm
 Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_T_prot

Filename = Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_1
 Author = delta
 Experiment = proton.jxp
 Sample Id = Wagdy Eldehena_OCF_1
 Solvent = DMSO-D6
 Creation Time = 31-DEC-2022 17:12:31
 Revision Time = 31-DEC-2022 16:10:31
 Current Time = 31-DEC-2022 16:10:35

Comment = single pulse
 Data Format = 1D COMPLEX
 Din Size = 13107
 Din Title = Proton
 Din Units = [ppm]
 Dimensions = X
 Site = JNM-ECA500II
 Spectrometer = DELTA2 NMR

Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[M])
 X Acq_Duration = 1.24780544[s]
 X Domain = 1H
 X Freq = 500.15991521[MHz]
 X Offset = 7.0[ppm]
 X Points = 16384
 X Prescans = 1
 X Resolution = 0.80140699[Hz]
 X Sweep = 13.1302521[kHz]
 X Sweep Clipped = 10.50420168[kHz]
 IFR_Domain = Proton
 Irr_Freq = 500.15991521[MHz]
 Irr_Offset = 5.0[ppm]
 Tri_Domain = Proton
 Tri_Freq = 500.15991521[MHz]
 Tri_Offset = 5.0[ppm]
 Clipped = FALSE
 Scans = 40
 Total_Scans = 40

Relaxation Delay = 5[s]
 Recvr Gain = 48
 Temp_Get = 21.7[deg]
 X 90_Width = 12.28[us]
 X Acq Time = 1.24780544[s]
 X Angle = 45[deg]
 X Atn = 2.5[db]
 X Pulse = 6.14[us]
 IFR_Mode = off
 Tri_Mode = off

Wagdy Eldehena_H_proton-2-4.jdf



Mansoura University
JEOL
ECA-500 II



---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----

```
dc balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm
```

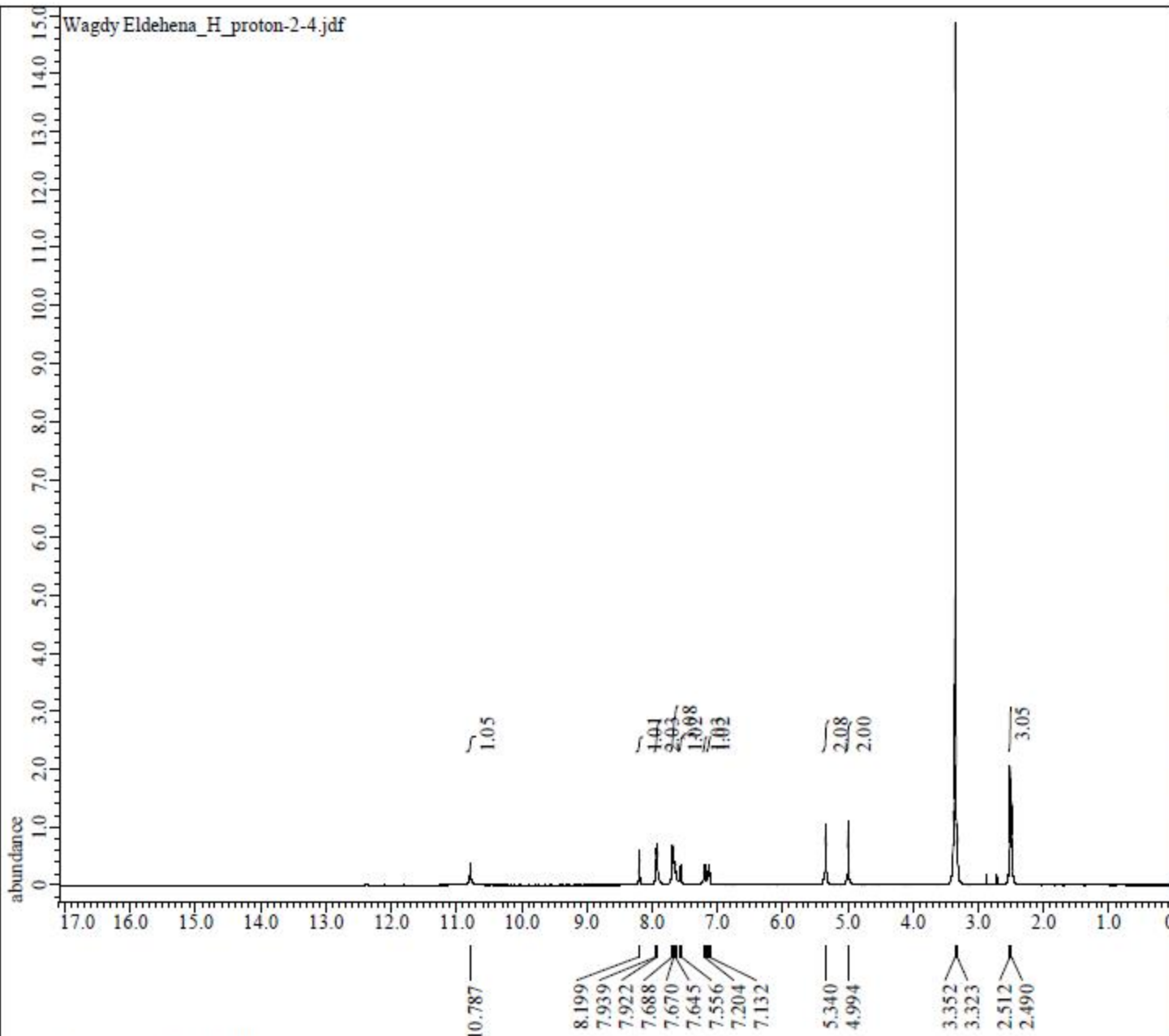
Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_H_proton-2-1

```
Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_H_proto
Author        = delta
Experiment    = proton.jxp
Sample Id     = Wagdy Eldehena_H
Solvent       = DMSO-D6
Creation Time = 31-DEC-2022 17:36:13
Revision Time = 31-DEC-2022 16:35:01
Current_Time  = 31-DEC-2022 16:35:07
```

```
Comment       = single pulse
Data Format    = 1D COMPLEX
Dim Size      = 13107
Dim Title     = Proton
Dim Units     = [ppm]
Dimensions    = X
Site          = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer  = DELTA2_NMR
```

```
Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
X_Acq_Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X_Domain       = 1H
X_Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X_Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X_Points       = 16384
X_Prescans     = 1
X_Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X_Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clippped = 10.50420168[kHz]
Irr_Domain     = Proton
Irr_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri_Domain     = Proton
Tri_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total_Scans    = 40
```

```
Relaxation_Delay = 5[s]
Recvr_Gain       = 46
Temp_Get         = 21.8[dc]
X_90_Width       = 12.28[us]
X_Acq_Time       = 1.24780544[s]
X_Angle          = 45[deg]
X_Atn            = 2.5[db]
X_Pulse          = 6.14[us]
Irr_Mode         = Off
Tri_Mode         = Off
```



X : parts per Million : Proton

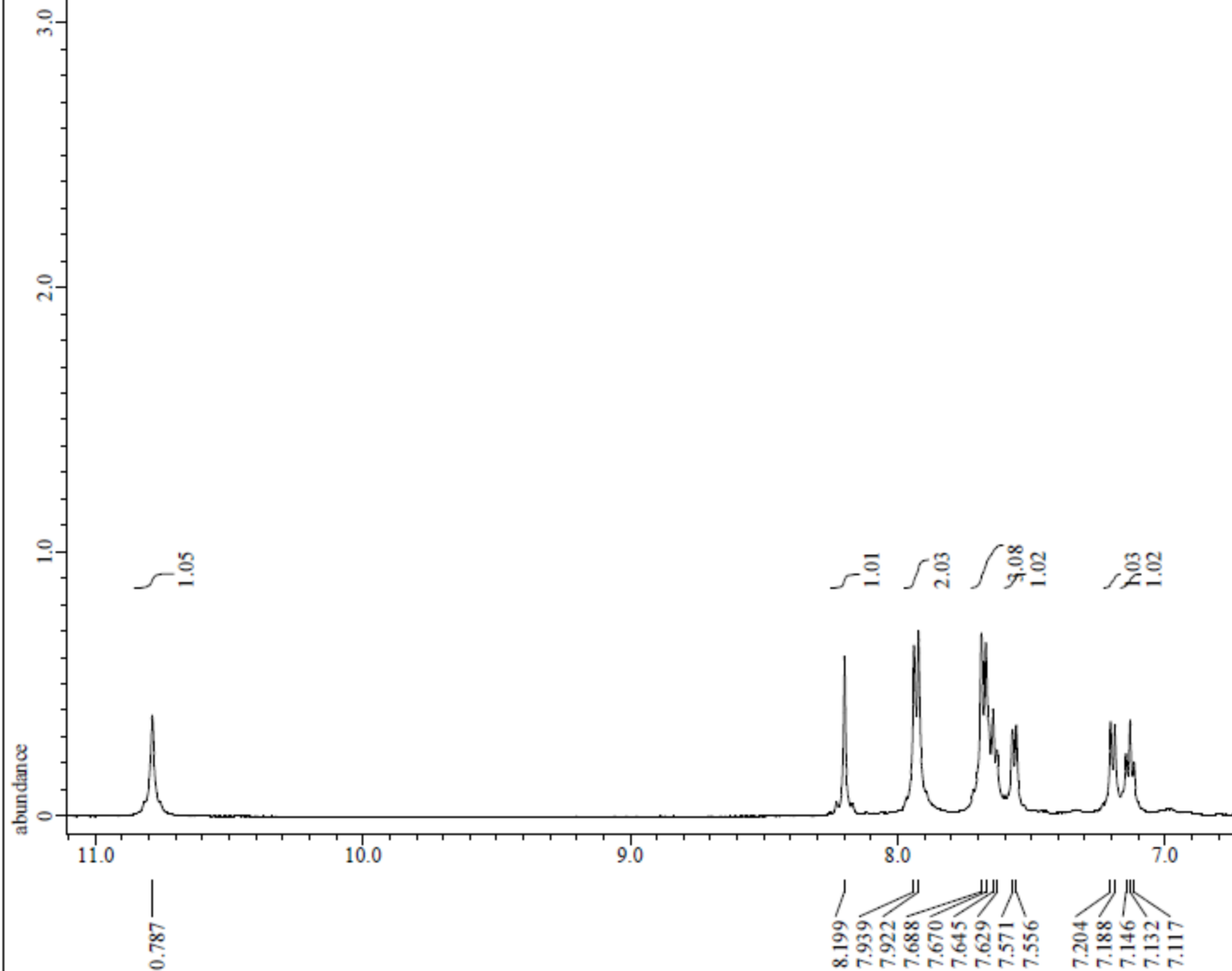


```

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----
dc_balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinphase
ppm

```

Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_H_proton-2-1.



X : parts per Million : Proton

```

Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_H_proton
Author        = delta
Experiment    = proton.jxp
Sample Id     = Wagdy Eldehena_H
Solvent       = DMSO-D6
Creation Time = 31-DEC-2022 17:36:13
Revision Time = 31-DEC-2022 16:35:37
Current Time  = 31-DEC-2022 16:35:48

```

```

Comment       = single pulse
Data Format    = 1D COMPLEX
Dim Size      = 13107
Dim Title     = Proton
Dim Units     = [ppm]
Dimensions    = X
Site          = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer  = DELTA2_NMR

```

```

Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
X_Acq_Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X_Domain       = 1H
X_Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X_Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X_Points       = 16384
X_Prescans     = 1
X_Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X_Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clip   = 10.50420168[kHz]
Irr_Domain     = Proton
Irr_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri_Domain     = Proton
Tri_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total_Scans    = 40

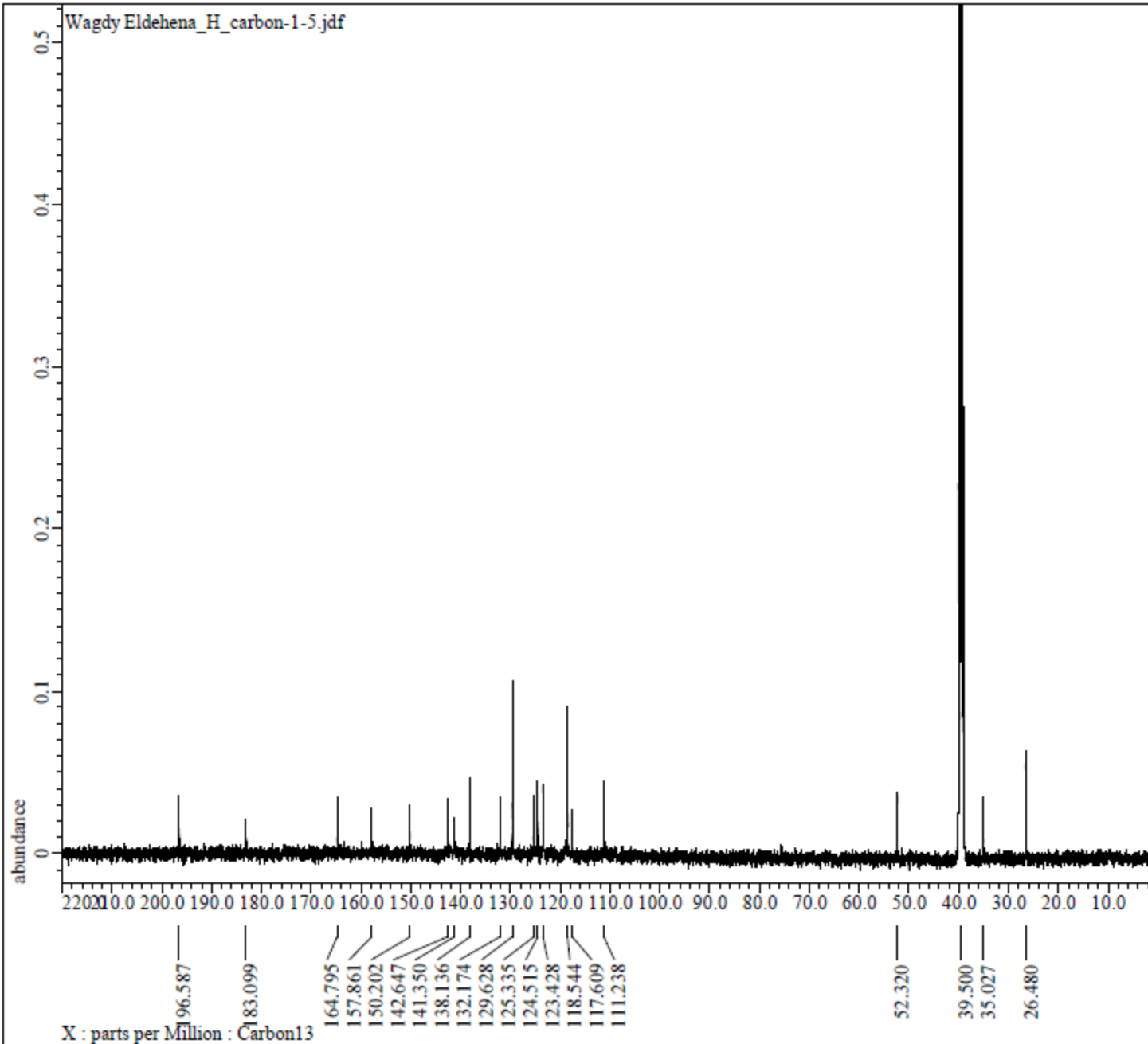
```

```

Relaxation_Delay = 5[s]
Recvr Gain       = 46
Temp_Get         = 21.8[degC]
X_90_Width      = 12.28[us]
X_Acq_Time      = 1.24780544[s]
X_Angle         = 45[deg]
X_Atn           = 2.5[dB]
X_Pulse         = 6.14[us]
Irr_Mode        = Off
Tri_Mode        = Off

```

Wagdy Eldehena_H_carbon-1-5.jdf



Mansoura University
JEOL
ECA-500 II



----- PROCESSING PARAMETERS -----
 dc_balance(0, FALSE)
 secp(2.0[Hz], 0.0[s])
 trapezoid(0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%])
 zerofill(1)
 fft(1, TRUE, TRUE)
 machinphase
 ppm
 phase(0, 57.02761, 74.07393[%])
 Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_H_carbon-1-1

Filename = Wagdy Eldehena_H_carbon-1-1
 Author = delta
 Experiment = carbon.jxp
 Sample_Id = Wagdy Eldehena_H
 Solvent = DMSO-D6
 Creation_Time = 11-JAN-2023 15:14:01
 Revision_Time = 12-JAN-2023 11:49:41
 Current_Time = 12-JAN-2023 11:49:59

Comment = single pulse decoupled
 Data_Format = 1D COMPLEX
 Dim_Size = 26214
 Dim_Title = Carbon13
 Dim_Units = [ppm]
 Dimensions = X
 Site = JNM-ECA500II
 Spectrometer = DELTA2 NMR

Field_Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
 X_Acq_Duration = 0.83361792[s]
 X_Domain = 13C
 X_Freq = 125.76529768[MHz]
 X_Offset = 100[ppm]
 X_Points = 32768
 X_Prescans = 4
 X_Resolution = 1.19959034[Hz]
 X_Sweep = 39.3081761[kHz]
 X_Sweep_Clipped = 31.44654088[kHz]
 Irr_Domain = Proton
 Irr_Freq = 500.15991521[MHz]
 Irr_Offset = 5.0[ppm]
 Clipped = FALSE
 Scans = 1024
 Total_Scans = 1024

Relaxation_Delay = 2[s]
 Recvr_Gain = 60
 Temp_Get = 21.9[degC]
 X_90_Width = 48[us]
 X_Acq_Time = 0.83361792[s]
 X_Angle = 30[deg]
 X_Atn = 10[dB]
 X_Pulse = 16[us]
 Irr_Atn_Dec = 19.992[dB]
 Irr_Atn_No = 19.992[dB]
 Irr_Noise = WALTZ
 Irr_Pwidth = 92[us]
 Decoupling = TRUE

Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_proton-2-4.jdf



Mansoura University
JEOL
ECA-500 II



```

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----
dc balance ( 0, FALSE )
seXp ( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid ( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill ( 1 )
fft ( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm
    
```

Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_proton-2-1

```

Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_prot
Author       = delta
Experiment    = proton.jxp
Sample Id    = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO
Solvent      = DMSO-D6
Creation Time = 31-DEC-2022 15:35:26
Revision Time = 31-DEC-2022 15:43:23
Current Time  = 31-DEC-2022 15:43:30
    
```

```

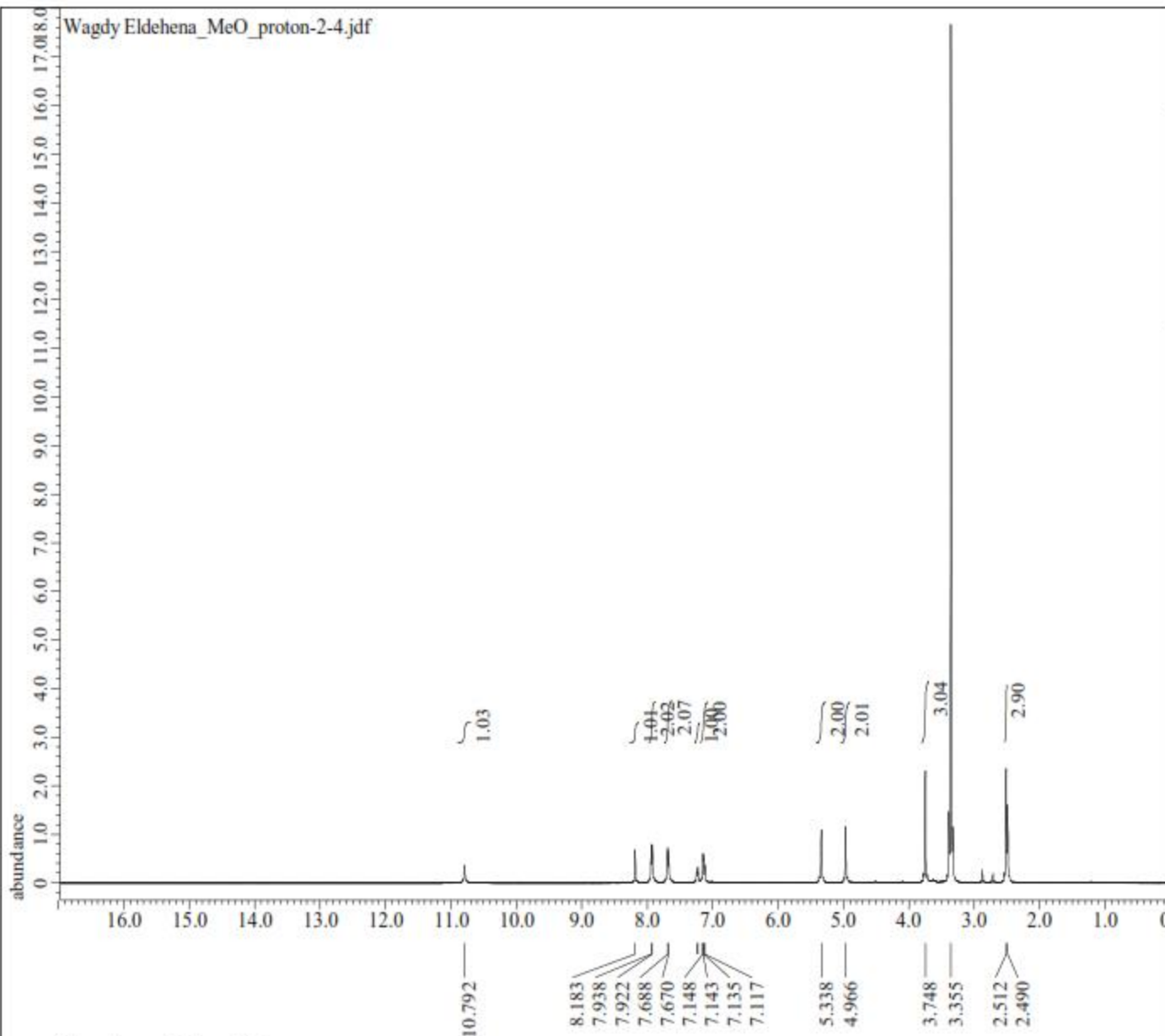
Comment      = single pulse
Data Format   = 1D COMPLEX
Dim Size     = 13107
Dim Title    = Proton
Dim Units    = [ppm]
Dimensions   = X
Site         = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer = DELTA2_NMR
    
```

```

Field Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
X Acq Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X Domain       = 1H
X Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X Points       = 16384
X Prescans     = 1
X Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X Sweep Clipped = 10.50420168[kHz]
iFr Domain     = Proton
Irr Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri Domain     = Proton
Tri Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total Scans    = 40
    
```

```

Relaxation Delay = 5[s]
Recvr Gain       = 46
Temp Get         = 21.5[dc]
X 90 Width       = 12.28[us]
X Acq Time       = 1.24780544[s]
X Angle          = 45[deg]
X Atn            = 2.5[db]
X Pulse          = 6.14[us]
iFr Mode         = Off
Tri_Mode         = Off
    
```



X : parts per Million : Proton



---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----

```

dc_balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm
  
```

Derived from: Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_proton-2-

```

Filename      = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO_prot
Author        = delta
Experiment    = proton.jxp
Sample_Id     = Wagdy Eldehena_MeO
Solvent       = DMSO-D6
Creation_Time = 31-DEC-2022 15:35:26
Revision_Time = 31-DEC-2022 15:44:52
Current_Time  = 31-DEC-2022 15:44:56
  
```

```

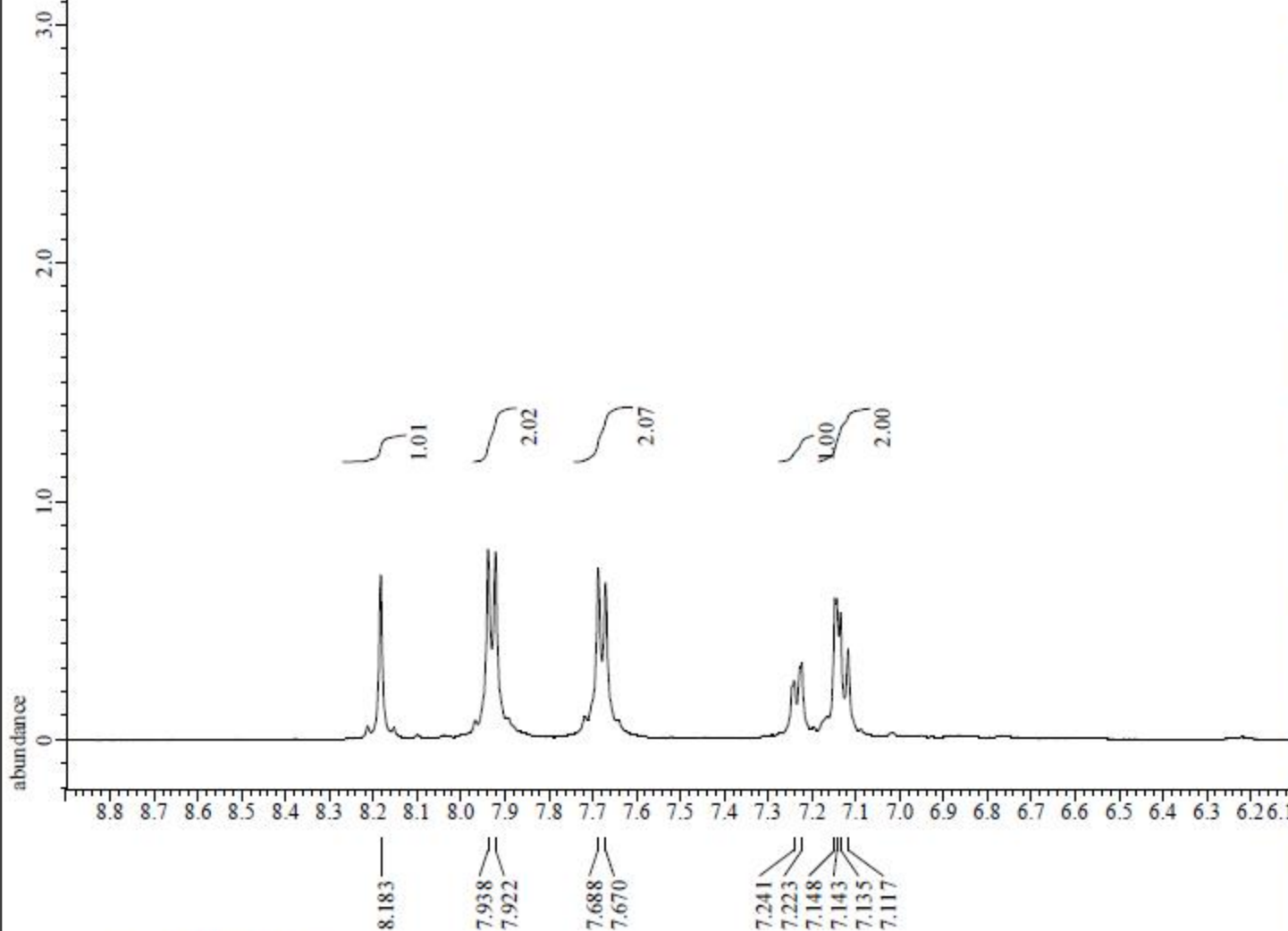
Comment       = single_pulse
Data_Format   = 1D COMPLEX
Dim_Size      = 13107
Dim_Title     = Proton
Dim_Units     = [ppm]
Dimensions    = X
Site          = JNM-ECA500II
Spectrometer  = DELTA2_NMR
  
```

```

Field_Strength = 11.7473579[T] (500[MHz])
X_Acq_Duration = 1.24780544[s]
X_Domain       = 1H
X_Freq         = 500.15991521[MHz]
X_Offset       = 7.0[ppm]
X_Points       = 16384
X_Prescans     = 1
X_Resolution   = 0.80140699[Hz]
X_Sweep        = 13.1302521[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clippped = 10.50420168[kHz]
Irr_Domain     = Proton
Irr_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Tri_Domain     = Proton
Tri_Freq       = 500.15991521[MHz]
Tri_Offset     = 5.0[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 40
Total_Scans    = 40
  
```

```

Relaxation_Delay = 5[s]
Recvr_Gain       = 46
Temp_Get         = 21.5[dc]
X_90_Width       = 12.28[us]
X_Acq_Time       = 1.24780544[s]
X_Angle          = 45[deg]
X_Atn            = 2.5[db]
X_Pulse          = 6.14[us]
Irr_Mode         = Off
Tri_Mode         = Off
  
```



X : parts per Million : Proton