

Supporting Information

for

An Efficient Total Synthesis of (-)-Huperzine A

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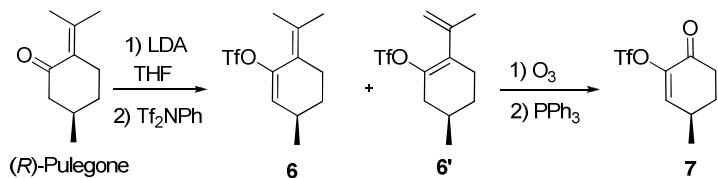
1. General Information

All non-aqueous reactions were run under a positive pressure of nitrogen. Anhydrous solvents were obtained using standard drying techniques. Commercial grade reagents were used without further purification unless stated otherwise. Flash chromatography was performed on 300-400 mesh silica gel with the indicated solvent systems. ^1H NMR were recorded on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer and chemical shifts are reported in ppm down field from TMS, using TMS (0.00 ppm) or residual CDCl_3 (7.26 ppm) as an internal standard. Data are reported as: (s = singlet, br = broad, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet; J = coupling constant in Hz, integration.). ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 (100 MHz) spectrometer, using proton decoupling unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm down field from TMS, using the central resonance of CDCl_3 (77.00 ppm) as the internal standard. HRMS were recorded by using either FTMS-7 or IonSpec 4.7 spectrometers.

2. Experimental Procedures and Spectral Data

*t*Bu-XPhos and 2-hydroxy-6-methylpyridine were purchased from Aldrich. (+)-(*R*)-Pulegone (92% purity) was purchased from Acros. $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$ was purchased from Alfa. Tf_2NPh ^[1], H_2NBoc ^[2] and bromide **5** ^[3,4] were prepared as described in literature.

Compound 7



To a solution of diisopropylamine (15.4 mL, 110 mmol) in THF (150 mL) was added *n*-butyllithium (2.5M in hexanes, 44 mL, 110 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at the temperature for 10 min before cooling down to -78 °C. (*R*)-Pulegone (16.5 g, 100 mmol, 92% purity) in THF (100 mL) was added dropwise over 20 min, and the solution was stirred for 30 min at -78 °C. Tf_2NPh (39.3 g, 110 mmol) in THF (200 mL) was added over 20 min, and then the mixture

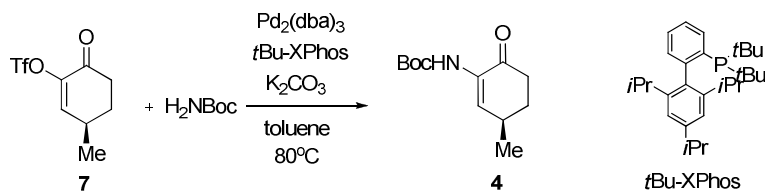
was allowed to warm to room temperature. A saturated solution of NH_4Cl was added and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 for three times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 before the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residual was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (Hexane) to give an inseparable mixture of **6** and **6'** (ca. 6 : 1) as a colorless oil (27.3 g).

The mixture was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (1440 mL) and MeOH (360 mL) before cooling down to -78°C . The mixture was subjected to ozone until the solution color became blue. The mixture was then flushed with O_2 gas for 10 min; following this, PPh_3 (37.8 g, 144 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 4 h. The mixture was then concentrated to a thick oil, which was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (Hexane / EtOAc = 10 / 1) to give **7** (17.9 g) as a colorless oil in 69% yield from (*R*)-pulegone.

For **6**: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.58 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (m, 2H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.28 (m, 1H), 1.08 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.0, 131.5, 125.8, 123.3, 118.5 (q, J = 321 Hz), 31.0, 30.9, 27.6, 22.9, 22.4, 20.8; **LRMS** (EI): 284 (M^+).

For **7**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28} +44.8$ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.75 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.70 (dt, J_1 = 17.1 Hz, J_2 = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (ddd, J_1 = 17.1 Hz, J_2 = 12.3 Hz, J_3 = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.26 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 189.6, 144.2, 143.8, 118.6 (q, J = 319 Hz), 36.4, 31.3, 30.0, 19.9; **IR** (thin film): 2969, 2879, 1708, 1459, 1211, 1142, 1012, 905, 820, 606 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 281 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$); **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$): 281.0066, found: 281.0063.

Compound 4

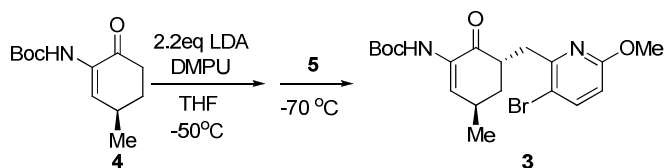


K_2CO_3 (15.0 g, 109 mmol) and *tert*-butylcarbamate (6.11 g, 51.2 mmol) were added to an oven-dried

flask charged with Pd₂(dba)₃ (995 mg, 1.09 mmol) and *t*Bu-XPhos (2.40 g, 5.65 mmol) under Ar. The flask was flushed with Ar and a solution of triflate **7** (11.2 g, 43.5 mmol) in toluene (220 mL) was added and the reaction was heated at 80 °C for 9 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into a saturated solution of aq. NH₄Cl and was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ for three times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ before the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified via flash chromatography on silica gel (Hexane / EtOAc = 60 / 1) to give ketone **4** (8.92 g, 91%) as a colorless oil.

[α]_D²⁶ +22.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.60 (dt, *J*₁ = 17.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (ddd, *J*₁ = 17.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 13.0 Hz, *J*₃ = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.9, 152.9, 132.9, 131.6, 80.3, 36.0, 30.6, 30.5, 28.3, 21.3; IR (thin film): 3401, 2975, 1725, 1677, 1510, 1351, 1231, 1158, 997, 870 cm⁻¹; LRMS (ESI): 248 (M+Na)⁺; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₉NNaO₃ (M+Na)⁺: 248.1257, found: 248.1266.

Compound 3

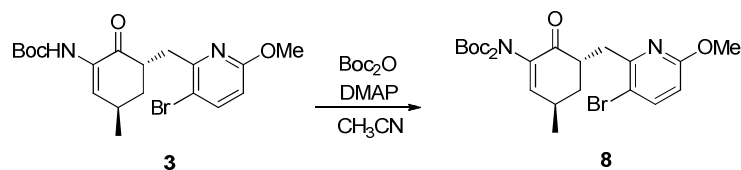


To a solution of diisopropylamine (20.0 mL, 142 mmol) in THF (100 mL) was added *n*-butyllithium (2.5M in hexanes, 57 mL, 142 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at the temperature for 10 min before cooling down to -50 °C. ketone **4** (12.8 g, 56.9 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was added dropwise over 10 min followed by adding DMPU (18.3 g, 142 mmol), and the solution was stirred for 20 min at -50 °C. Then the yellow mixture was cooled down to -70 °C and bromopyridine **5** (24.0g, 85.4 mmol) in THF (40 mL) was added over 10 min during which the reaction turned red. After addition, the mixture was stirred at -70 °C over 18 hours and the color turned back to yellow. It was then quenched with a saturated aq. solution of NH₄Cl (50 mL). The resulting mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash

chromatography (Hexane / EtOAc = 20 / 1) to afford carbamate **3** (18.1 g) in 75% yield (83% brsm) as a thick oil, along with recovered ketone **4** (1.27 g).

$[\alpha]_D^{25} +22.5$ ($c = 0.6$, CHCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.63 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.49 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.31 (m, 2H), 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.87 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.19 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.5, 162.3, 154.2, 153.0, 142.4, 131.8, 130.8, 112.3, 110.3, 80.3, 53.5, 41.4, 36.5, 33.9, 28.3, 27.4, 20.0; **IR** (thin film): 3400, 2976, 1726, 1673, 1575, 1506, 1462, 1367, 1297, 1230, 1159, 880, 822, 758, 620 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 447 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{BrN}_2\text{NaO}_4$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 447.0890, found: 447.0883.

Compound 8

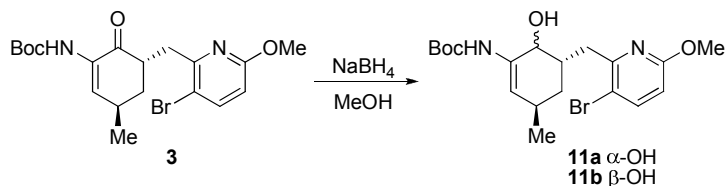


To a solution of carbamate **3** (1.35 g, 3.18 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (13 mL) was added 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP) (39 mg, 0.32 mmol) followed by di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (1.53 g, 7.02 mmol). The yellow solution was stirred under Ar at RT for 36 h. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, then diethyl ether (150 mL) and water (100 mL) was added to the resultant residue. The organic layer was removed and the aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether for three times. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified via flash chromatography on silica gel (Hexane / EtOAc = 10 / 1) to give enone **8** (1.44 g, 86%) as a colorless thick oil, along with recovered carbamate **3** (182 mg, 14%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.64 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.36 (m, 2H), 2.94 (m, 2H), 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 18H), 1.20 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.2, 162.4, 154.5, 150.9, 149.7, 142.5, 135.3, 112.3, 110.3, 82.6, 53.5, 42.3, 36.0, 33.8, 28.6, 27.9, 18.7; **IR** (thin film): 2977, 2932, 1797, 1757, 1693, 1576, 1460, 1368, 1276, 1156, 1115, 892, 854, 778, 736 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 547 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$; **HRMS**

(ESI): calcd for $C_{24}H_{33}BrN_2NaO_6$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 547.1414, found: 547.1433.

Compound 11a and 11b (Data in red corresponding to a parallel set of experiments)



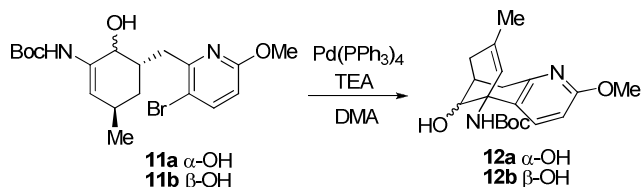
To a solution of carbamate **3** (418 mg, 0.983 mmol) (3.81 g, 8.96 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) (40 mL) was added $NaBH_4$ (38 mg, 1.0 mmol) (338 mg, 8.96 mmol) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at the temperature for 10 min before quenched with saturated aq NH_4Cl (20 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layers were combined and dried over sodium sulfate. The dried solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product **11a** and **11b** (420 mg) (3.82 g) were found to be unstable towards purification by flash-column chromatography, so they were used for next step without further purification.

Analytically pure sample of the alcohol **11a** and **11b** were obtained by preparative thin layer chromatography.

For **11a**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.68 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.98 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J_1 = 14.3 Hz, J_2 = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J_1 = 14.3 Hz, J_2 = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (m, 2H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.04 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 162.4, 156.2, 153.4, 143.2, 132.6, 116.6, 112.1, 110.5, 79.8, 67.3, 53.9, 37.9, 35.1, 32.1, 28.4, 28.0, 20.9; LRMS (ESI): 449 ($M+Na$)⁺; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{19}H_{27}N_2O_4BrNa$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 449.1046, found: 449.1041.

For **11b**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 5.75 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 1H), 4.03 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.94 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (m, 2H), 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.05 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 162.4, 156.0, 153.7, 142.8, 133.1, 116.1, 112.3, 110.2, 80.0, 71.0, 53.8, 39.7, 37.4, 32.7, 28.4, 27.6, 21.6; LRMS (ESI): 449 ($M+Na$)⁺; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{19}H_{27}N_2O_4BrNa$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 449.1046, found: 449.1049.

Compound 12a and 12b (Data in red corresponding to a parallel set of experiments)



To a solution of **11a** and **11b** (420 mg, 0.983 mmol) (**3.82 g, 8.96 mmol**) (assuming quantitative yield in the preceeding step) in DMA (200 mL) (**1800 mL**) was added $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$ (114 mg, 0.0983 mmol) (**1.03 g, 0.896 mmol**) and TEA (544 μL , 3.93 mmol) (**4.90 mL, 35.8 mmol**). The flask was flushed with Ar. Then the solution was heated at 130°C for 3 hours. After cooled to room temperature, the DMA was removed using vacuum distillation and the residual was diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane for three times. After dried over sodium sulfate the solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product **12a** and **12b** were used directly in the following step.

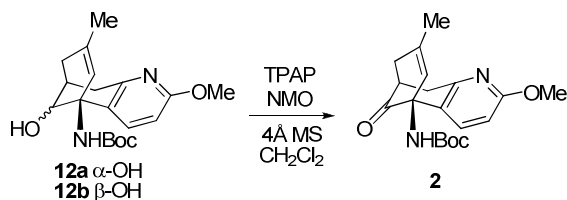
Analytically pure sample of the product **12a** and **12b** were obtained by flash-column chromatography.

For **12a**: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.36 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.35 (br, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 4.22 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.46 (dd, $J_1 = 18.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.65 (m, 1H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.02 (d, $J = 18.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.1, 157.1, 155.5, 134.6, 134.2, 127.6, 126.2, 107.3, 81.0, 74.3, 59.9, 53.4, 39.2, 36.3, 32.9, 28.3, 22.6; **IR** (thin film): 3320, 2975, 2924, 1687, 1593, 1474, 1288, 1161, 1095, 982, 879, 820, 755 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 347 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$: 347.1965, found: 347.1967.

For **12b**: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 4.64 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, $J_1 = 18.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (d, $J = 18.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.71 (m, 1H), 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.47 (br, 1H), 1.84 (d, $J = 18.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.1, 154.9, 152.8, 135.8, 134.2, 129.8, 124.9, 107.8, 80.2, 69.1, 58.7, 53.4, 40.3, 34.6, 32.4, 28.3, 23.0; **IR** (thin film): 3385, 2975, 2925, 1701, 1596, 1475, 1367, 1311, 1252, 1164, 1067, 1037, 824, 756 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 347 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd

for $C_{19}H_{27}N_2O_4$ (M+H)⁺: 347.1965, found: 347.1970.

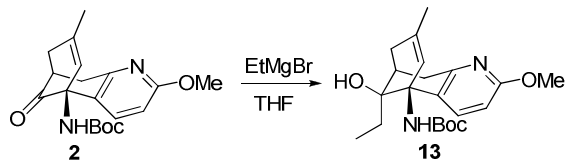
Compound 2 (Data in red corresponding to a parallel set of experiments)



To a solution of unpurified **12a** and **12b** (0.983 mmol, assuming quantitative yield in the preceding step) (8.96 mmol) in dichloromethane (7 mL) (50 mL) was added NMO (173 mg, 1.47 mmol) (1.57 g, 13.4 mmol), TPAP (35 mg, 0.10 mmol) (315mg, 0.896 mmol), 4Å molecular sieve (50 mg) (200 mg) under Ar. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours before concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane / EtOAc = 8 / 1) to afford ketone **2** (213 mg, 63% from **3**) (1.88 g, 61% from **3**) as a white solid.

$[\alpha]_D^{27} +126.3$ ($c = 1.4$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.01 (br, 1H), 5.59 (br, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.50 (dd, $J_1 = 18.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (m, 2H), 2.85 (dd, $J_1 = 18.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 206.2, 162.7, 155.3, 151.2, 135.9, 134.7, 129.6, 127.1, 109.0, 79.9, 61.4, 53.4, 43.2, 42.1, 41.0, 28.3, 22.2; IR (thin film): 3425, 2970, 1735, 1709, 1596, 1476, 1348, 1311, 1248, 1166, 1031, 836, 768, cm^{-1} ; LRMS (ESI): 345 (M+H)⁺; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{19}H_{25}N_2O_4$ (M+H)⁺: 345.1809, found: 345.1822.

Compound 13

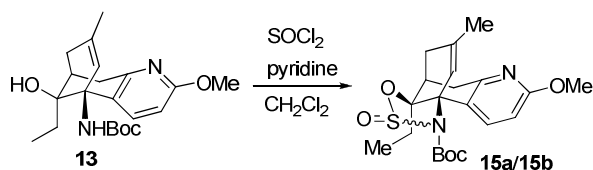


A solution of **2** (320 mg, 0.930 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added to a solution of EtMgBr (2.0 mL, 1.0 M in THF) slowly over 2.5 h at $-25^\circ C$. After addition, the mixture was stirred at this temperature

for 2 h before quenched with saturated aq NH_4Cl (10 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layers were combined and dried over sodium sulfate. The dried solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane / EtOAc = 15 / 1) to afford alcohol **13** (258 mg, 74%, dr = 7/1) as a white solid, and a mixture of **12a** and **12b** (63 mg, 20%).

For **13**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{26}$ -14.5 (c = 1.4, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.52 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.27 (br, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, J_1 = 19.0 Hz, J_2 = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (m, 2H), 2.58 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.38 (m, 1H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.9, 156.9, 154.0, 134.1, 133.6, 130.4, 127.6, 107.7, 80.6, 75.8, 62.1, 53.4, 39.7, 37.2, 33.6, 28.4, 26.3, 22.8, 7.4; IR (thin film): 3285, 2976, 2935, 1683, 1597, 1578, 1529, 1476, 1425, 1365, 1309, 1285, 1254, 1169, 1090, 1041, 987, 916, 825, 667, 623 cm^{-1} ; LRMS (ESI): 397 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_4$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 397.2098, found: 397.2115.

Compound 15a and 15b



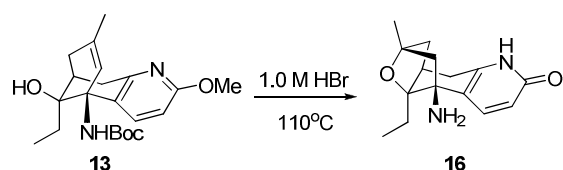
Pyridine (194 μL , 2.41 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **13** (45 mg, 0.12 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL), followed by adding SOCl_2 (43 μL , 0.59 mmol). Then the solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, before quenched by water (10 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layers were combined and dried over sodium sulfate. The dried solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane / EtOAc = 50 / 1) to afford imides **15a** and **15b** (47 mg, 92%) as a mixture in 3/1 ratio.

For **15a**: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.24 (q, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.53 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.91 (dd, J_1 = 17.4 Hz, J_2 = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 9H), 1.09 (m, 1H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.1 Hz,

3H); **LRMS** (ESI): 421 (M+H)⁺; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₂₁H₂₉N₂O₅S₁ (M+H)⁺: 421.1792, found: 421.1795.

For **15b**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (dd, *J*₁ = 17.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 9H), 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.09 (m, 1H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); **LRMS** (ESI): 421 (M+H)⁺; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₂₁H₂₉N₂O₅S₁ (M+H)⁺: 421.1792, found: 421.1795

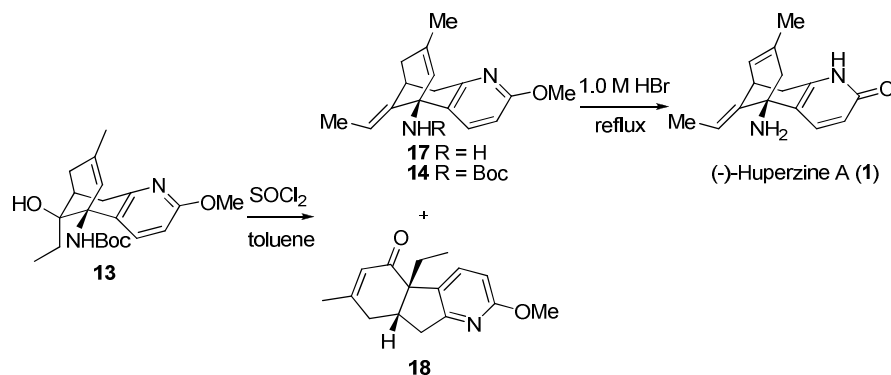
Compound 16



Alcohol **13** (36 mg, 0.096 mmol) was dissolved in 1.0 M HBr (1 mL), and was refluxed for 10 h. After cooling down to room temperature, a solution of saturated aq NaHCO₃ was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane for 3 times. After dried over sodium sulfate, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residual was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc / MeOH = 10 / 1) to afford **16** (25 mg, 100%) as a white solid.

[α]_D²⁸ -84.3 (*c* = 0.4, CHCl₃); **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (m, 2H), 2.65 (m, 1H), 2.00 (td, *J*₁ = 11.9 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.86 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.32 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.2, 141.5, 139.6, 120.8, 117.8, 86.6, 81.1, 61.5, 58.4, 43.0, 35.7, 28.1, 21.0, 20.9, 8.1; **IR** (thin film): 3371, 3284, 3129, 2968, 1660, 1623, 1556, 1463, 1385, 1335, 1255, 1182, 1129, 965, 943, 835, 754, 674, 625, 605, 521 cm⁻¹; **LRMS** (ESI): 261 (M+H)⁺; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₂₁N₂O₂ (M+H)⁺: 261.1598, found: 261.1598.

(-)-Huperzina A (1)



Alcohol **13** (62 mg, 0.17 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (3 mL), and SOCl_2 (36 μL , 0.50 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 36 h before quenched with saturated aq NaHCO_3 (10 mL). The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layers were combined and dried over sodium sulfate. The dried solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The mixture of crude product **14**, **17** and **18** was used directly in the following step. (An analytically pure sample of the product **17** and **18** was obtained by flash-column chromatography.)

The residual was dissolved in 1.0 M HBr (1 mL) and refluxed at 110°C for 10 h. After cooling down to room temperature, a solution of saturated aq NaHCO_3 was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane for 3 times. After dried over sodium sulfate, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residual was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc / MeOH = 10 / 1) to afford **1** (23 mg, 57% from **13**) as a white solid.

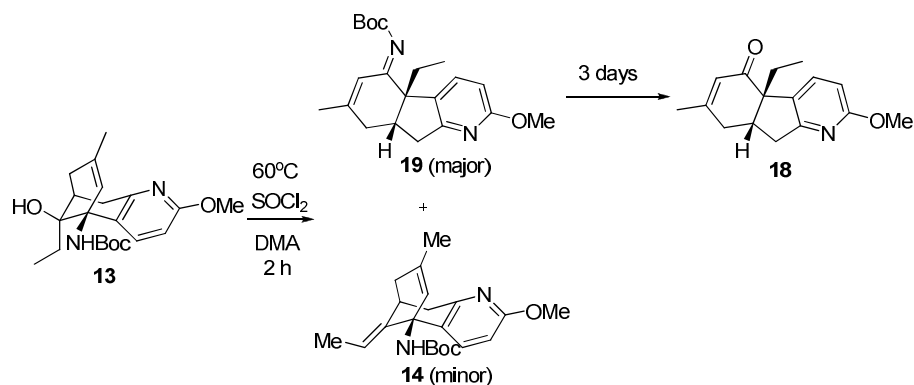
For **17**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28}$ 108.8 ($c = 0.6$, CHCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.84 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.49 (q, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.58 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, $J_1 = 18.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.83 (d, $J = 18.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, $J_1 = 17.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.73 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.0, 154.7, 143.5, 133.9, 133.8, 133.6, 132.7, 110.3, 107.1, 55.2, 53.3, 41.6, 41.5, 29.4, 22.6, 12.2; **IR** (thin film): 3373, 2931, 2857, 1593, 1577, 1472, 1423, 1308, 1246, 1191, 1123, 1034, 923, 904, 825, 774, 732, 656 cm^{-1} ; **LRMS** (ESI): 257 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$; **HRMS** (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$: 257.1648, found: 257.1637.

For **18**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27}$ -47.3 ($c = 0.4$, CHCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 1H), 3.14 (dd, $J_1 = 17.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, $J_1 =$

17.0 Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.50 (dd, $J_1 = 16.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.07 (m, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.9, 166.5, 161.6, 141.9, 138.1, 130.2, 124.1, 109.7, 62.1, 53.9, 43.1, 39.7, 34.0, 30.2, 16.7, 9.3; IR (thin film): 2963, 2917, 2849, 1667, 1594, 1574, 1479, 1416, 1349, 1325, 1267, 1095, 944, 870, 836, 792 cm^{-1} ; LRMS (ESI): 280 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^{+}$; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_1\text{Na}_1\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^{+}$: 280.1308, found: 280.1302.

For huperzine A (**1**): $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28}$ -144 ($c = 1.10$, CHCl_3), lit. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$ -150 ($c = 0.12$, CHCl_3)^[5]; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 13.0 (br s, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.49 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.41 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.61 (m, 1H), 2.89 (dd, $J_1 = 16.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, $J_1 = 16.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.13 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.2, 142.9, 142.5, 140.3, 134.2, 124.3, 122.8, 117.2, 111.3, 54.3, 49.2, 35.4, 32.9, 22.6, 12.3; IR (thin film): 2927, 1656, 1614, 1554, 1459, 1378, 1305, 1120, 932, 834, 754, 662, 520 cm^{-1} ; LRMS (ESI): 243 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^{+}$; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^{+}$: 243.1492, found: 243.1483.

Compound 19

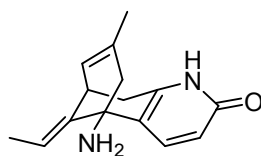


Alcohol **13** (18 mg, 0.048 mmol) was dissolved in DMA (1 mL), and SOCl_2 (14 μL , 0.19 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 2 h followed by stirred at RT for 3 days before being quenched with saturated aq NaHCO_3 (10 mL). The mixture was diluted with EtOAc, and washed with water for 3 times, then the organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate. The dried solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane / EtOAc = 30 / 1) to afford enone **18** (6.3 mg, 51%) as a white solid (55% as determined by

crude ^1H NMR). [If the reaction was heated for 2 h and then quenched, compound **19** could be isolated, which is highly liable to hydrolysis to give **18** even in CDCl_3 .]

For **19**: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.93 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, $J_1 = 15.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, $J_1 = 15.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) (mixed with minor amount of **19**): δ 169.3, 165.3, 161.9, 159.0, 141.1, 137.9, 129.2, 122.9, 108.8, 81.5, 61.6, 53.7, 42.9, 40.8, 36.0, 32.1, 28.1, 16.7, 9.3; LRMS (ESI): 357 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$;

Comparison of NMR Data of Synthetic and Natural (-)-Huperzine A (**1**)



(-)-Huperzine A (**1**)

	¹ H NMR Synthetic 1 (400 MHz, CDCl ₃)	¹ H NMR Natural 1 [*] (100 MHz, CDCl ₃)	¹³ C NMR Synthetic 1 (100 MHz, CDCl ₃)	¹³ C NMR Natural 1 [*] (22.63 MHz, CDCl ₃)
1	13.00 (br s, 1H)	13.20 (bs, 1H)	165.2	165.5
2	7.90 (d, <i>J</i> = 9.4 Hz, 1H)	7.84 (d, <i>J</i> = 9 Hz, 1H)	142.9	143.3
3	6.41 (d, <i>J</i> = 9.4 Hz, 1H)	6.38 (d, <i>J</i> = 9 Hz, 1H)	142.5	142.6
4	5.49 (q, <i>J</i> = 6.8 Hz, 1H)	5.46 (q, <i>J</i> = 7 Hz, 1H)	140.3	140.2
5	5.41 (d, <i>J</i> = 4.6 Hz, 1H)	5.38 (d, <i>J</i> = 5 Hz, 1H)	134.2	134.1
6	3.61 (m, 1H)	3.56 (m, 1H)	124.3	124.4
7	2.89 (dd, <i>J</i> ₁ = 16.9 Hz, <i>J</i> ₂ = 5.1 Hz, 1H)	2.76 (AB of ABX, <i>J</i> ₁ = 16 Hz, <i>J</i> ₂ = 3 Hz, <i>J</i> ₃ ≈ 0 Hz, 2H)	122.8	123.0
8	2.74 (dd, <i>J</i> ₁ = 16.9 Hz, <i>J</i> ₂ = 1.3 Hz, 1H)		117.2	117.0
9	2.13 (m, 2H)	2.12 (s, 2H)	111.3	111.2
10	1.68 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.8 Hz, 3H)	1.62 (d, <i>J</i> = 7 Hz, 3H)	54.3	54.4
11	1.55 (s, 3H)	1.46 (s, 3H)	49.2	49.3
12			35.4	35.2
13			32.9	33.0
14			22.6	22.6
15			12.3	12.3

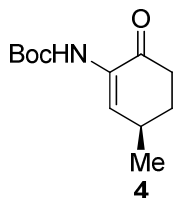
^{*} Data for natural (-)-huperzine A (**1**) were obtained from the following reference: J.-S. Liu, Y.-L. Zhu, C.-M. Yu, Y.-Z. Zhou, Y.-T. Han, F.-W. Wu, B.-F. Qi, *Can J. Chem.* **1986**, *64*, 837.

3. References

- [1] J. B. Hendrickson, R. Bergeron, *Tetrahedron Letters* **1973**, *14*, 4607.
- [2] Y. Tsuzuki, K. Chiba, K. Mizuno, K. Tomita, K. Suzuki, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2001**, *12*, 2989.
- [3] A. Haudrechy, C. Chassaing, C. Richeb, Y. Langlois, *Tetrahedron* **2000**, *56*, 3181.
- [4] S. A. Kelly, Y. Foricher, J. Mann, J. M. Bentley, *Org.Biomol.Chem.* **2003**, *1*, 2865.
- [5] F. Yamada, A. P. Kozikowski, E. R. Reddy, Y. P. Pang, J. H. Miller, M. McKinney, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1991, **113**, 4695.

4. Chiral HPLC Chromatogram

HPLC trace of racemic ketone 4

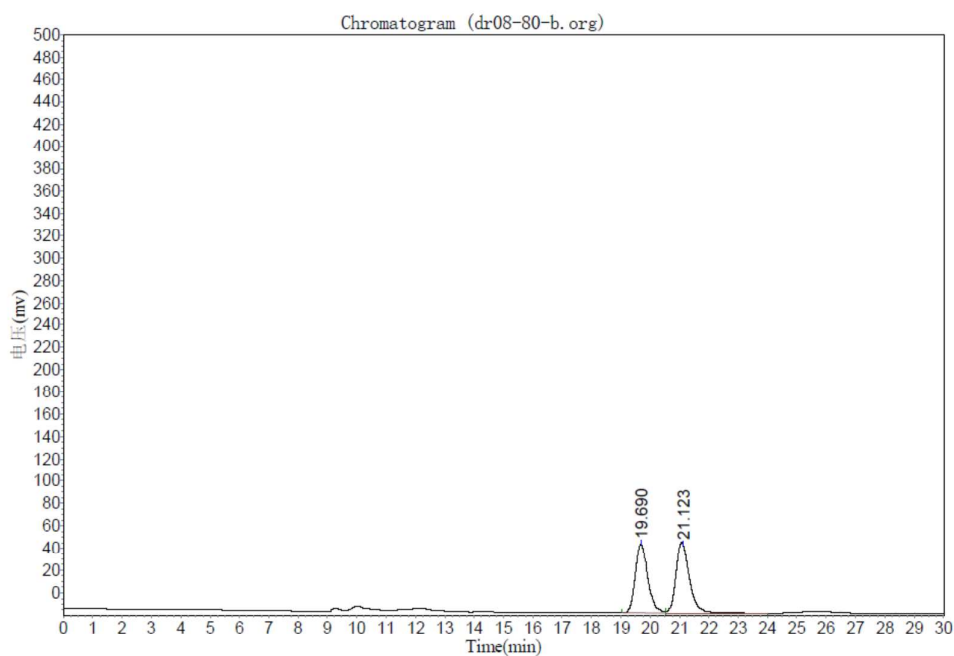


rac ketone 4

Company: sioc
Date/Time: 2012-02-08, 16:29:17
Data File: D:\dr\buchwald product\dr08-80-b.org
Method File: D:\HJT\Method\HJT AD-H 90-10 1.0 214.mtd

Analyst: dr
Date/Time: 2012-06-26, 8:48:34
Quantification: Area/Area%

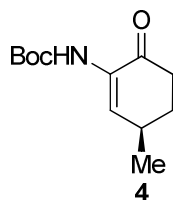
Sample Description:
AD-H, hex/iPrOH = 99/1, 224nm, 0.3mL/min



Results

Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		19.690	61462.746	1803928.500	47.4318
2		21.123	62722.906	1999278.875	52.5682
Total			124185.652	3803207.375	100.0000

HPLC trace of enantioenriched ketone 4



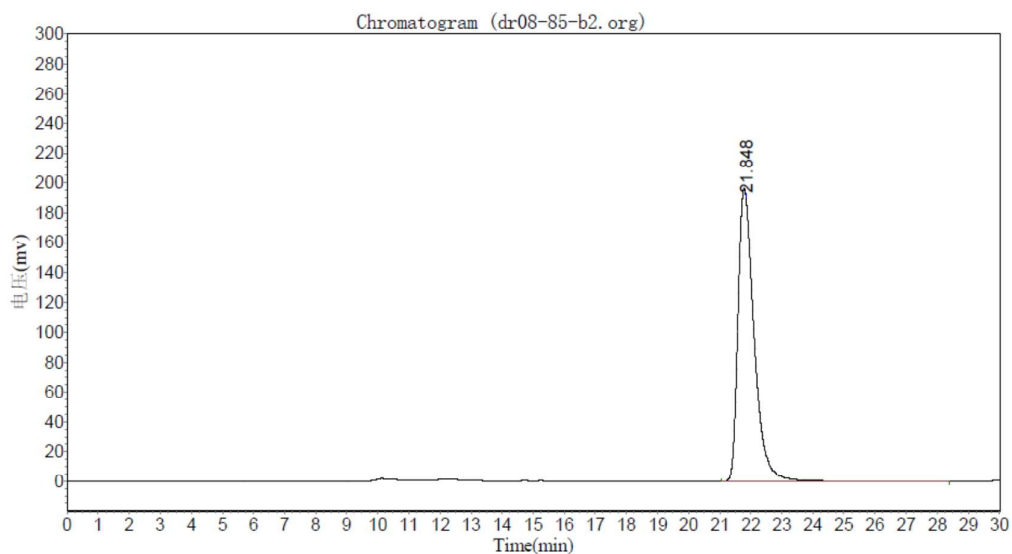
ketone 4

Company: sioc
 Date/Time: 2012-02-11, 18:56:02
 Data File: D:\dr\buchwald product\dr08-85-b2.org
 Method File: D:\HZT\Method\HZT AD-H 90-10 1.0 214.mtd

Analyst: dr
 Date/Time: 2012-06-26, 8:58:21
 Quantification: Area/Area%

Type of Instrument: LC Gradient: High Pressure Detector: UV

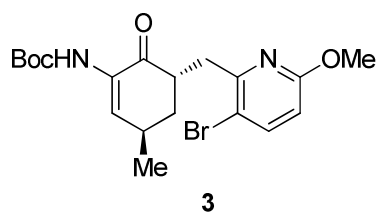
Sample Description:
 AD-H ; hex/iPrOH = 99/1, 224nm, 0.3ml/min



Results

Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		21.848	194337.938	7161515.500	100.0000
Total			194337.938	7161515.500	100.0000

HPLC trace of racemic carbamate 3

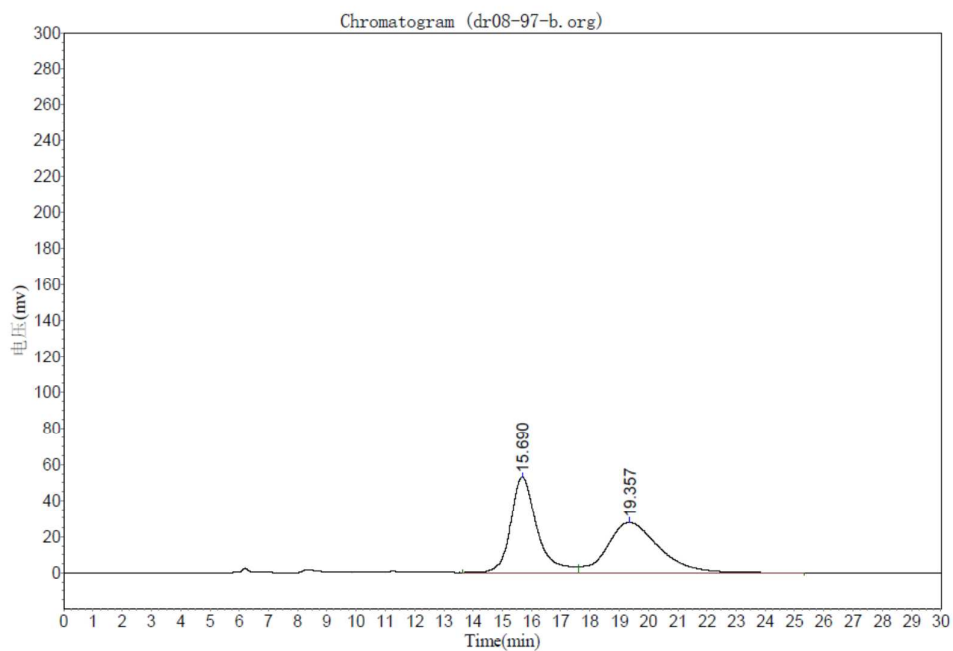


rac carbamate 3

Company: sioc
 Date/Time: 2012-03-26, 18:28:08
 Data File: D:\dr\alkylation\dr08-97-b.org
 Method File: D:\HJT\Method\HJT AD-H 90-10 1.0 214.mtd

Analyst: dr
 Date/Time: 2012-06-25, 19:45:14
 Quantification: Area/Area%

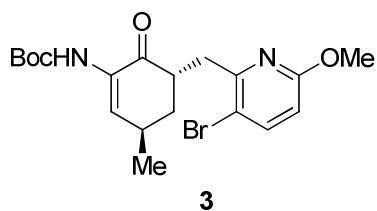
Sample Description:
 AS-H, hex/iPrOH = 99/1, 214nm, 0.5mL/min



Results

Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		15.690	52728.965	3287989.000	49.2557
2		19.357	27640.625	3387352.750	50.7443
Total			80369.590	6675341.750	100.0000

HPLC trace of enantioenriched carbamate **3**

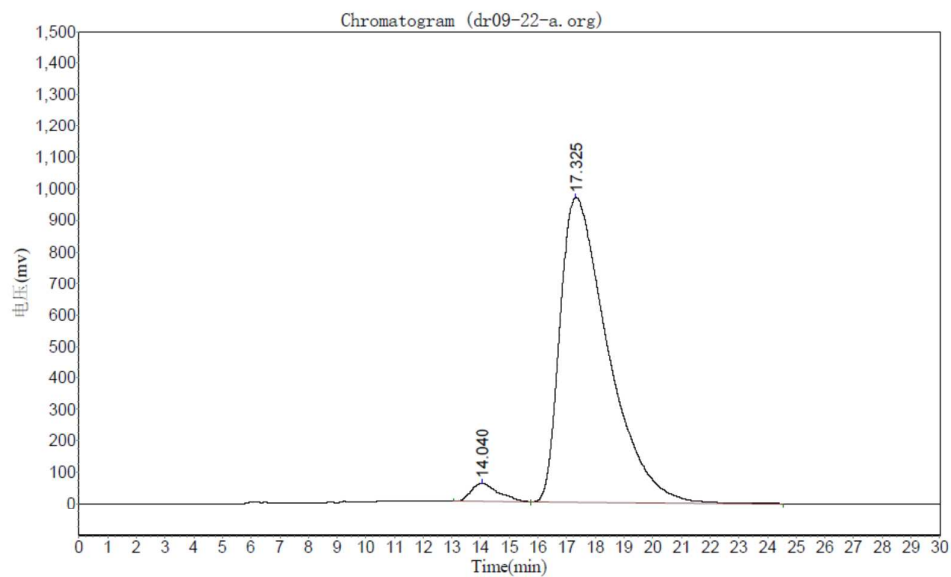


carbamate **3**

Date/Time: 2012-03-28, 9:54:18 Analyst: dr
 Data File: D:\dr\alkylation\dr09-22-a.org Date/Time: 2012-06-25, 19:42:16
 Method File: D:\HJT\Method\HJT AD-H 90-10 1.0 214.mtd Quantification: Area/Area%

Type of Instrument: LC Gradient: High Pressure Detector: UV

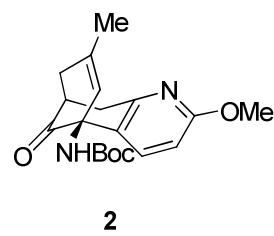
Sample Description:
 AS-H; n-Hexane/iPrOH = 99/1; 0.5mL/min; 214nm



Results

Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		14.040	55588.602	3632341.250	3.1517
2		17.325	968168.188	111618200.000	96.8483
Total			1023756.789	115250541.250	100.0000

HPLC trace of racemic ketone 2

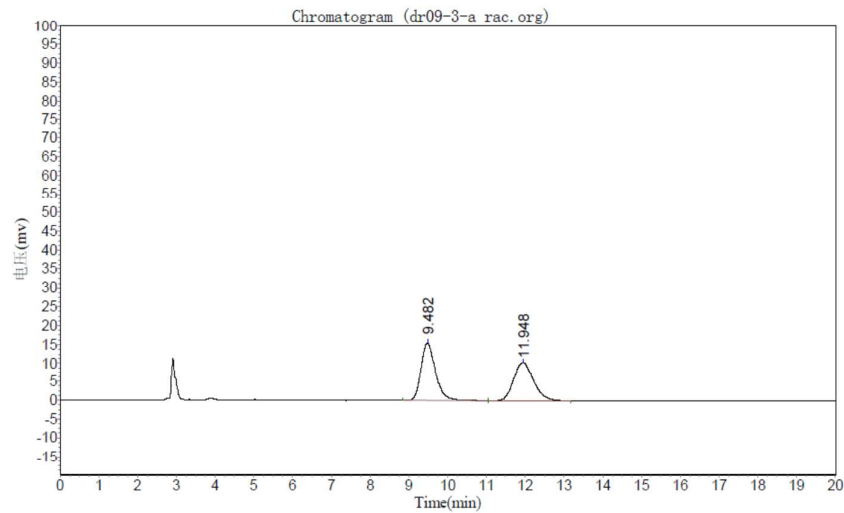


rac ketone 2

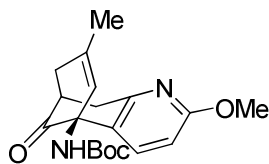
Date/Time: 2012-03-03, 22:09:15 Analyst: dr
Data File: D:\dr\Ley\dr09-3-a rac.org Date/Time: 2012-05-29, 16:51:19
Method File: D:\HJT\Method\HJT AD-H 99-1 1.0 254.mtd Quantification: Area/Area%

Type of Instrument: LC Gradient: High Pressure Detector: UV

Sample Description:
OD-H; n-Hexane/iPrOH = 95/5; 1.0mL/min; 214nm



Results					
Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		9.482	15504.228	400533.094	52.3916
2		11.948	10316.484	363965.813	47.6084
Total			25820.712	764498.906	100.0000

HPLC trace of enantioenriched ketone **2**

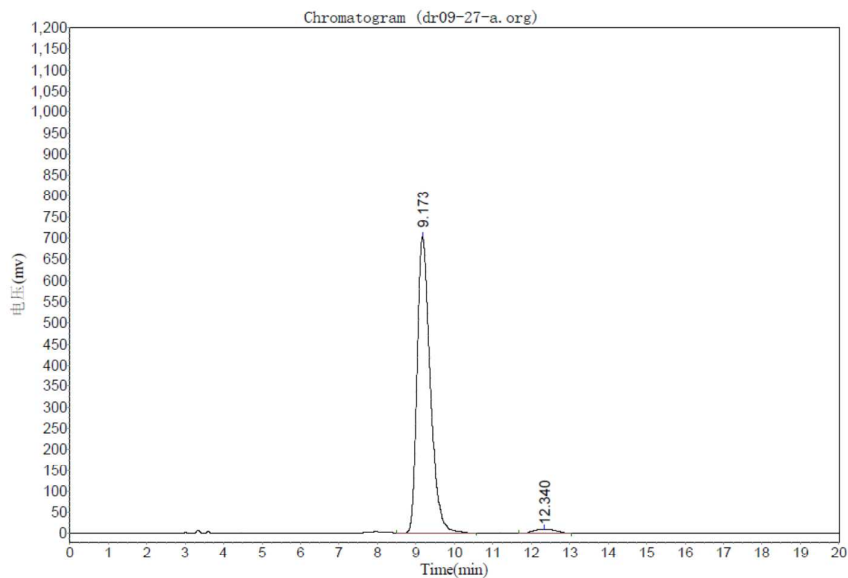
2

ketone 2

```
Company: sioc
Date/Time: 2012-4-5, 19:04:28
Data File: D:\dr\Ley\dr09-27-a.org
Method File: D:\HJT\Method\HJT AD-H 99-1 1.0 254.mtd
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Analyst: dr
Date/Time: 2012-5-29, 16:59:53
Quantification: Area/Area%

Sample Description:
OD-H, Hex/iPrOH = 95/5, 214nm, 1.0mL/min



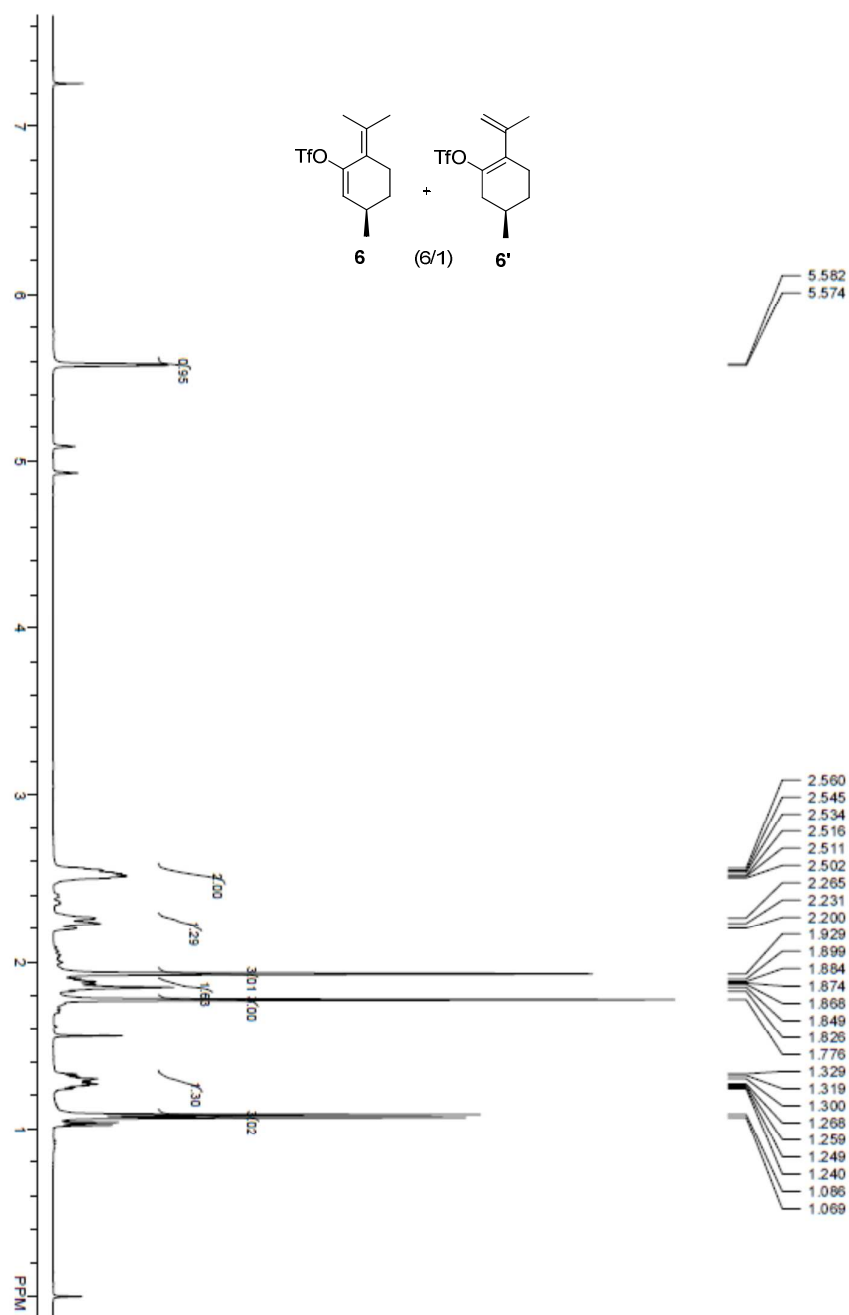
Results

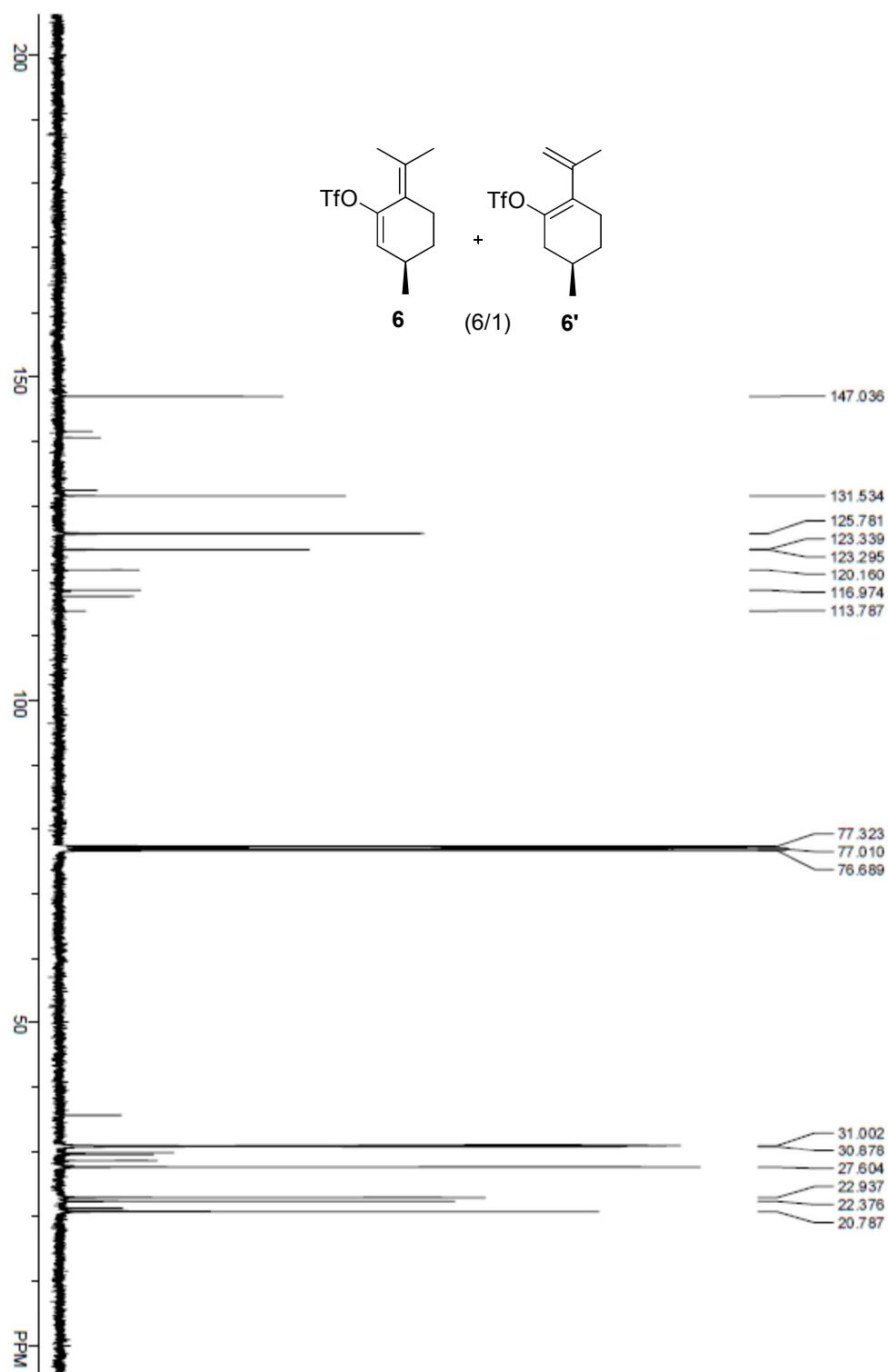
Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.
1		9.173	702447.875	16578014.000	97.9118
2		12.340	9875.574	353569.156	2.0882
Total			712323.449	16931583.156	100.0000

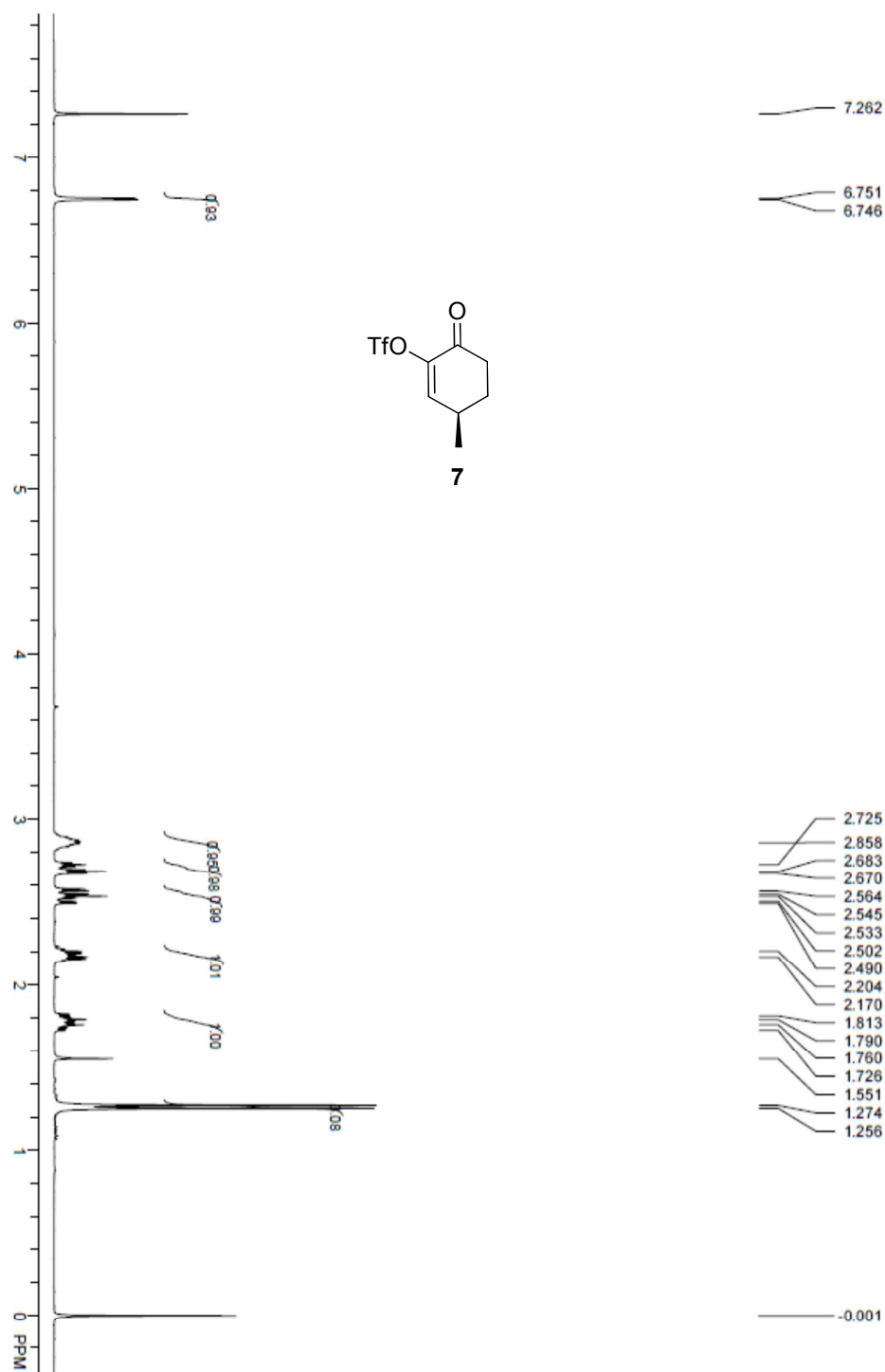
System Evaluation

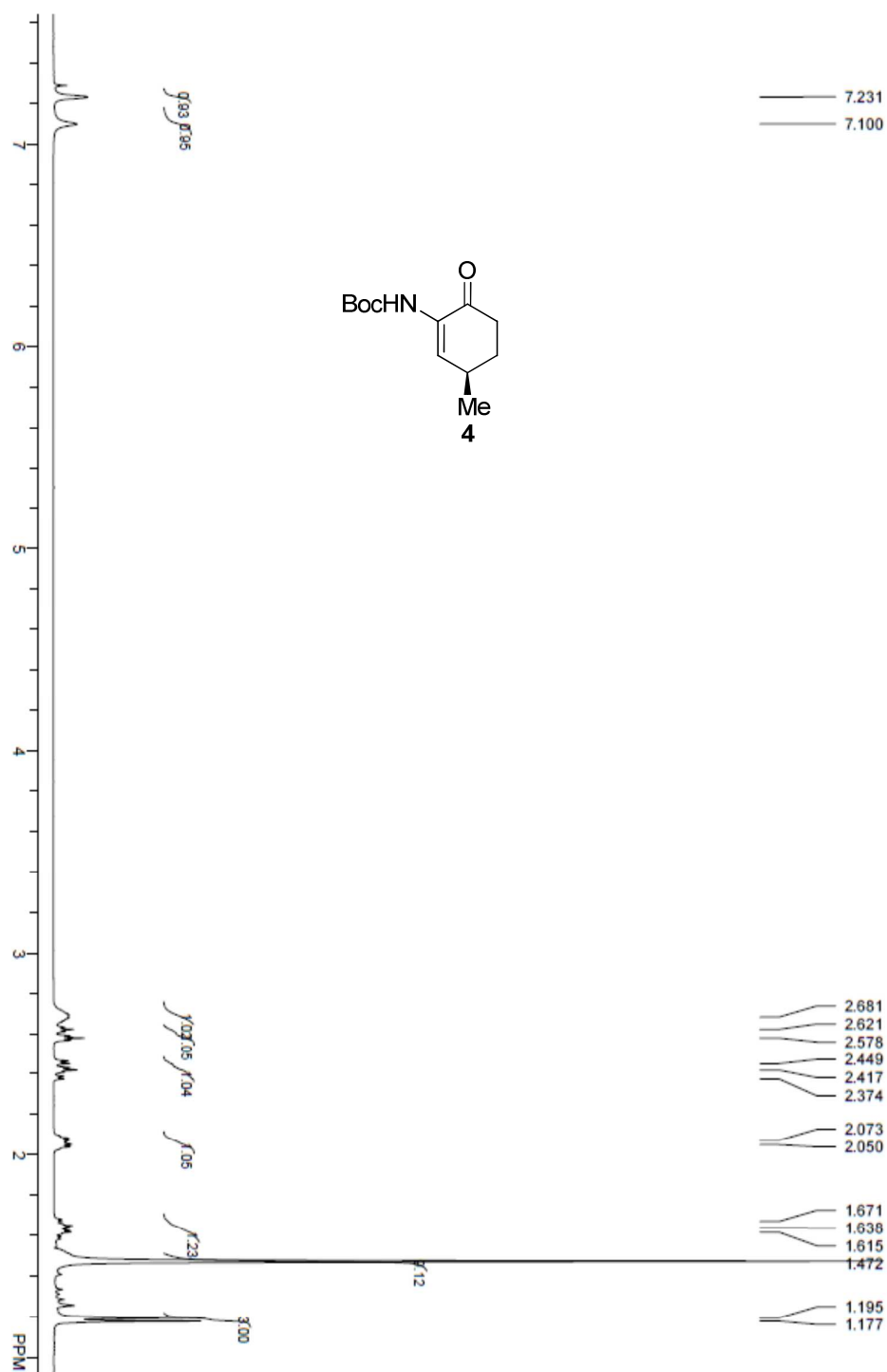
Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret. Time	Half-Peak Width	Theoretical levels	Resolution	Tail Factor	Asymmetry
1		9.173	0.360	3603.692	0.000	1.378	1.643
2		12.340	0.582	2503.511	3.381	1.162	1.255

5. NMR Spectra

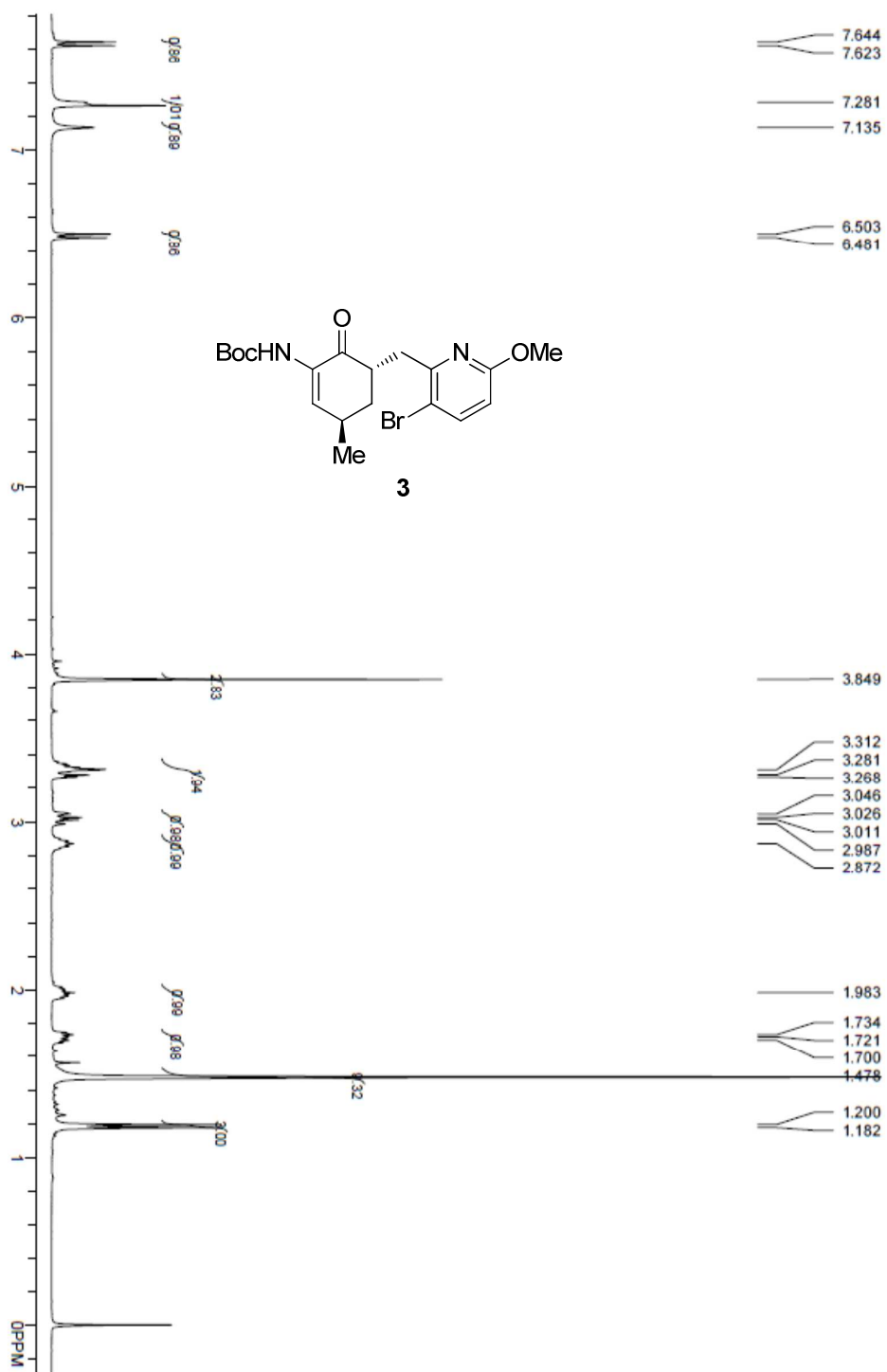


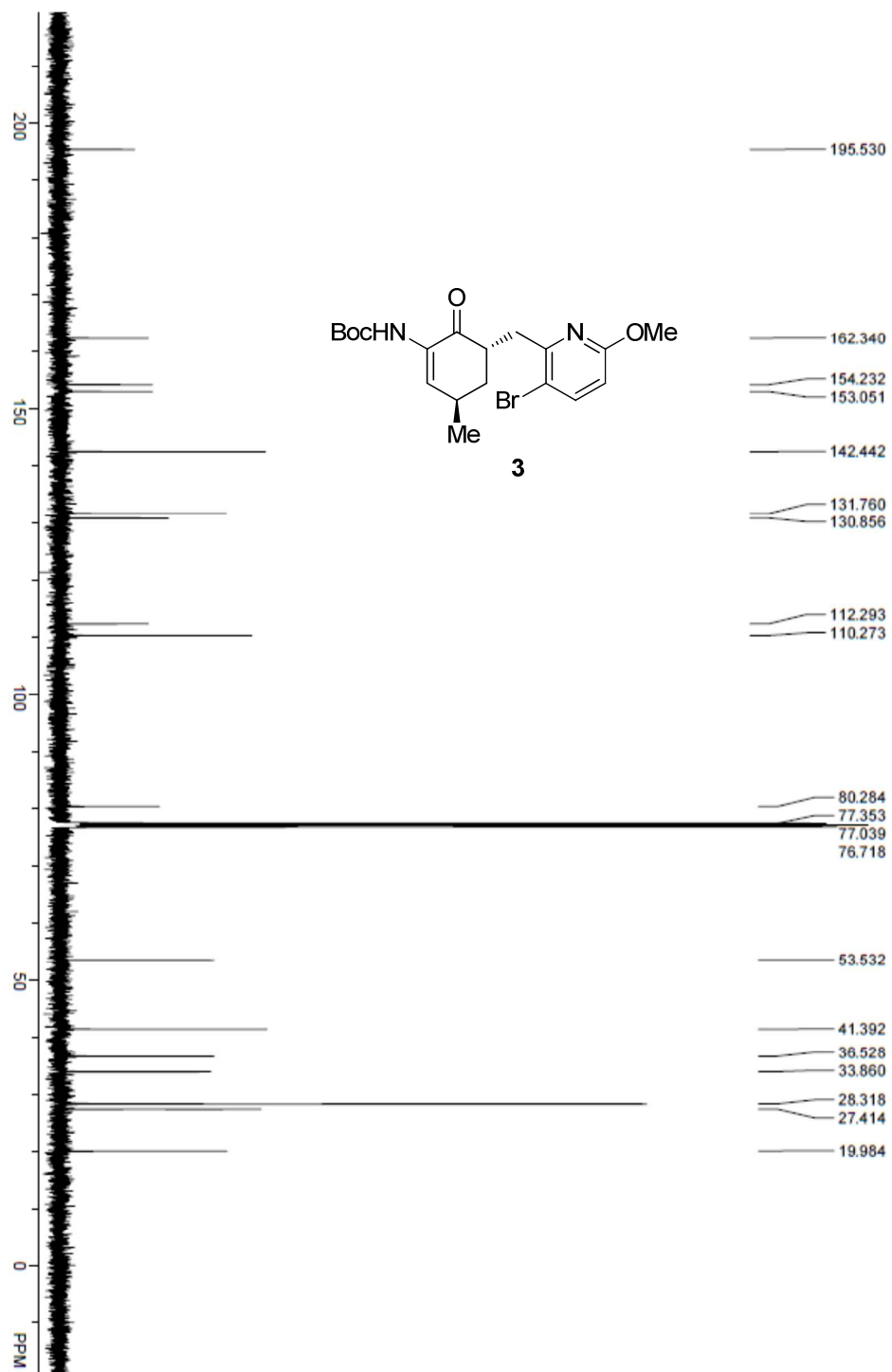


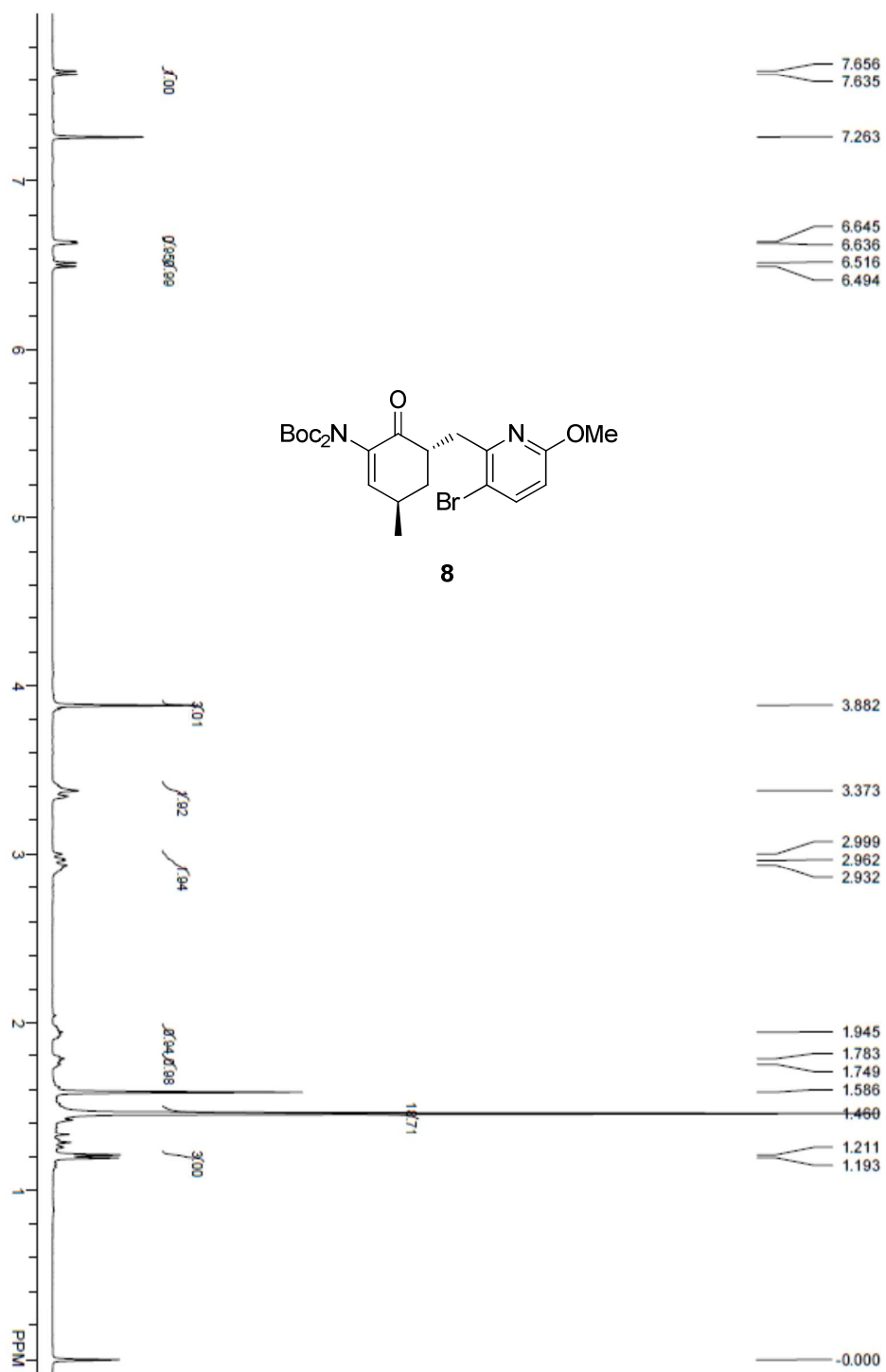


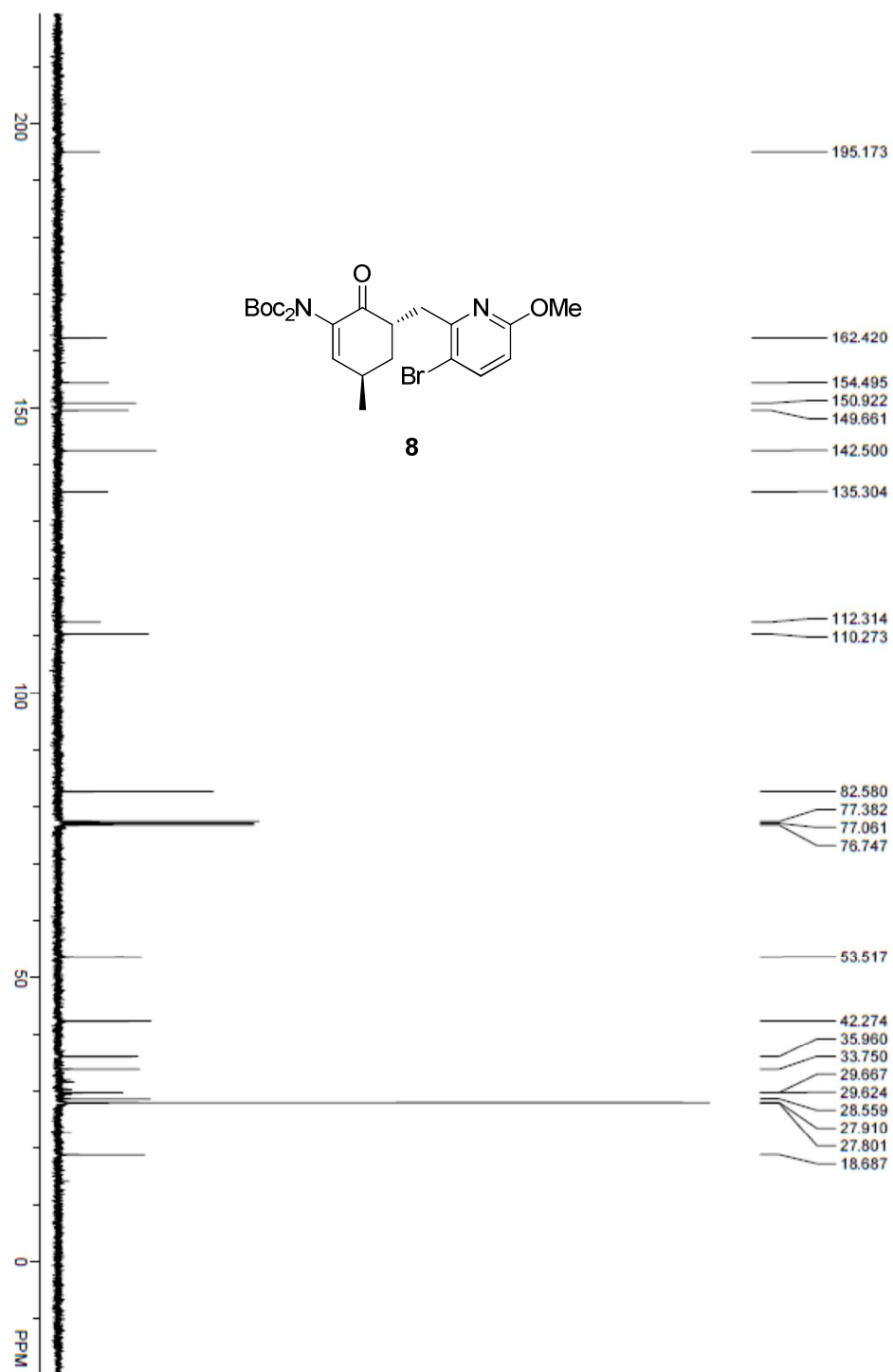


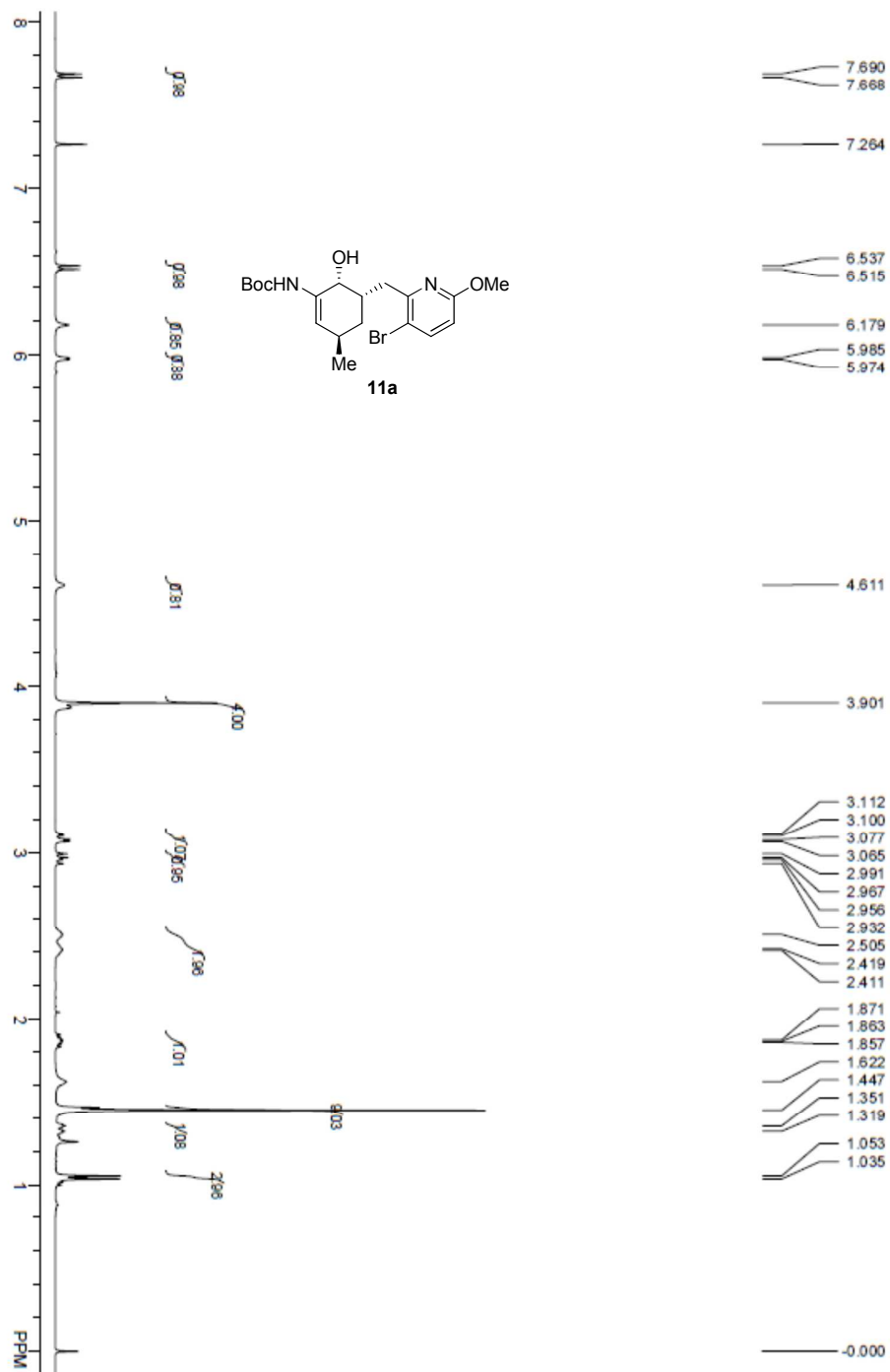


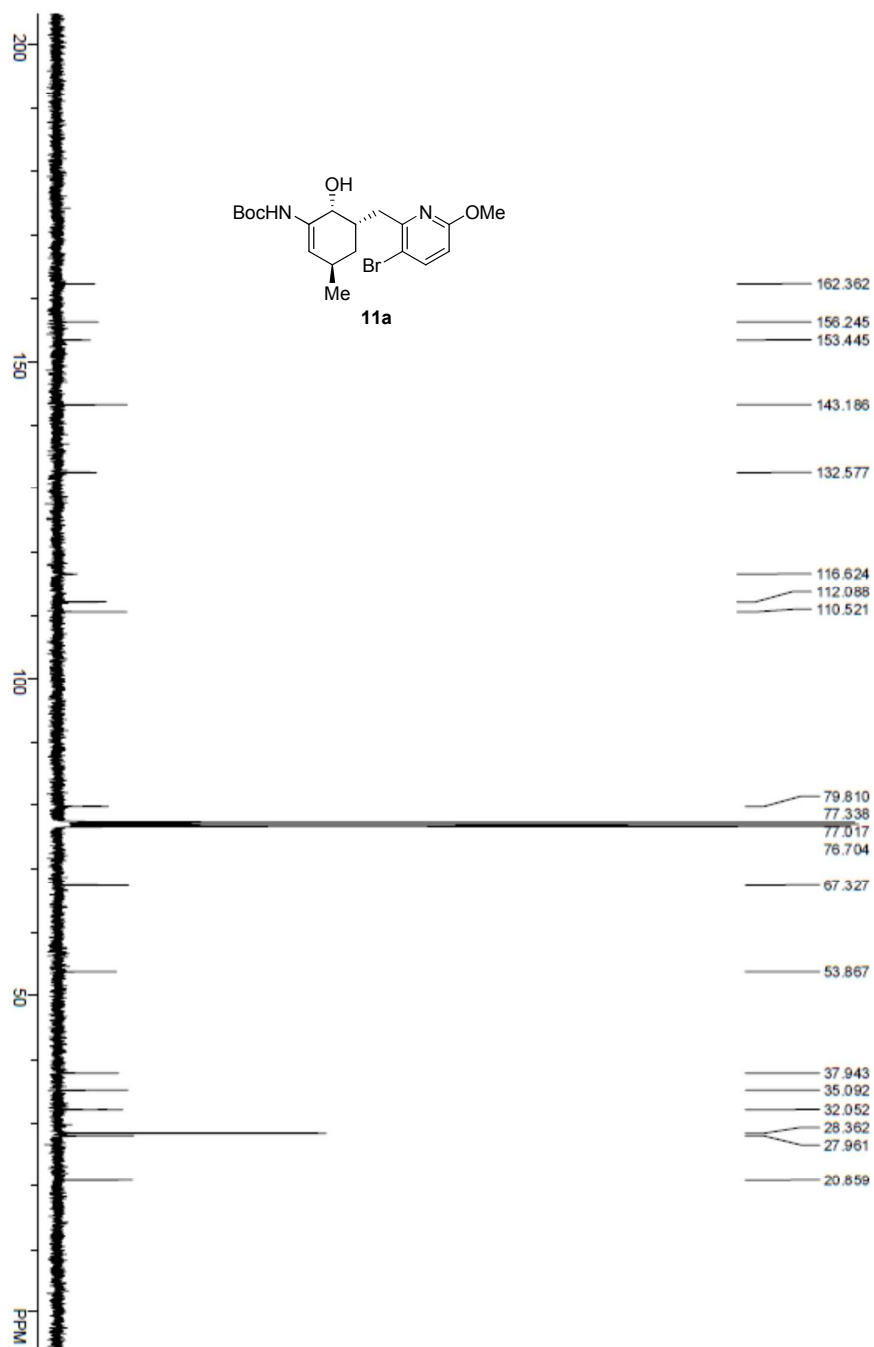


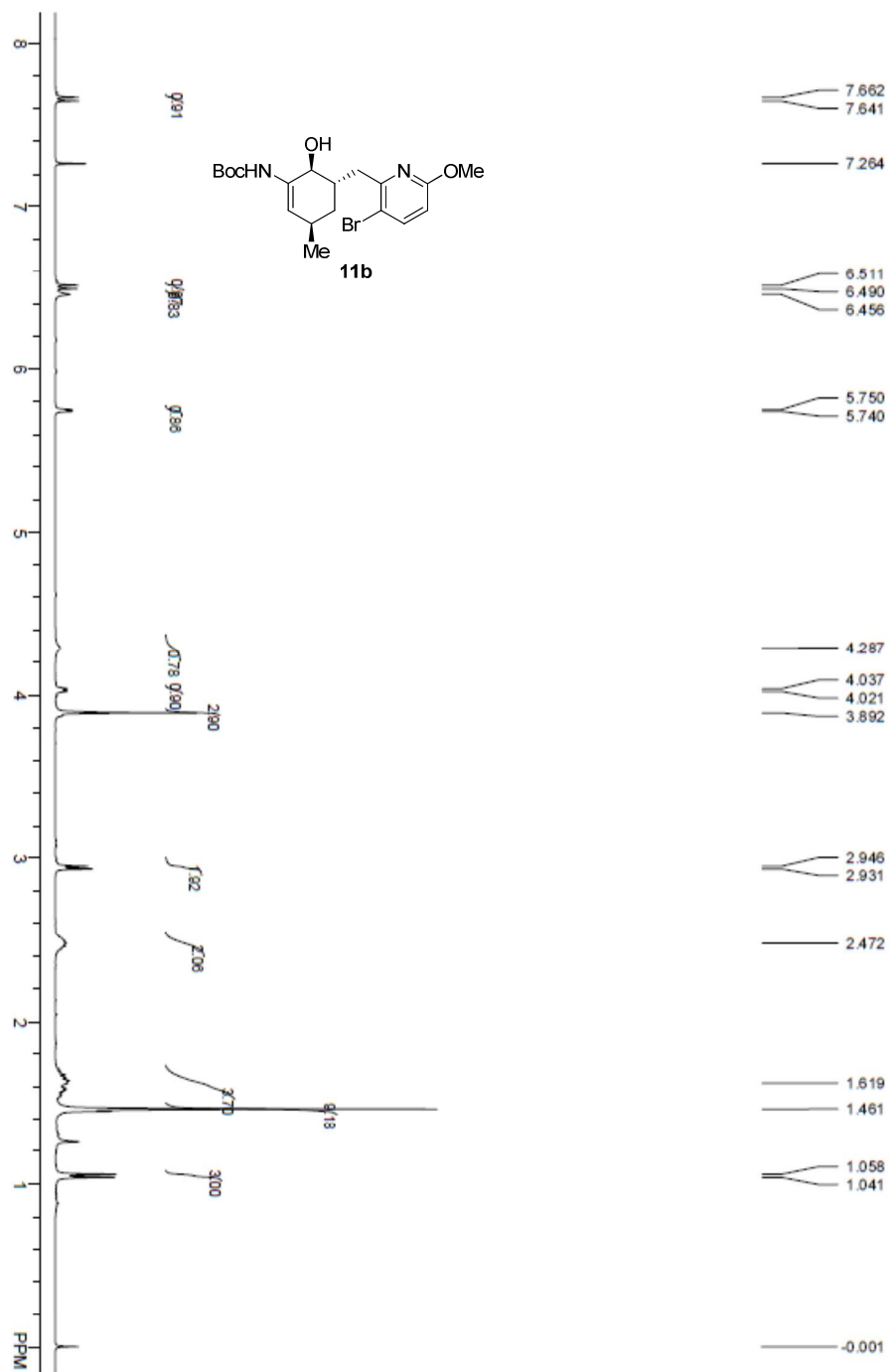


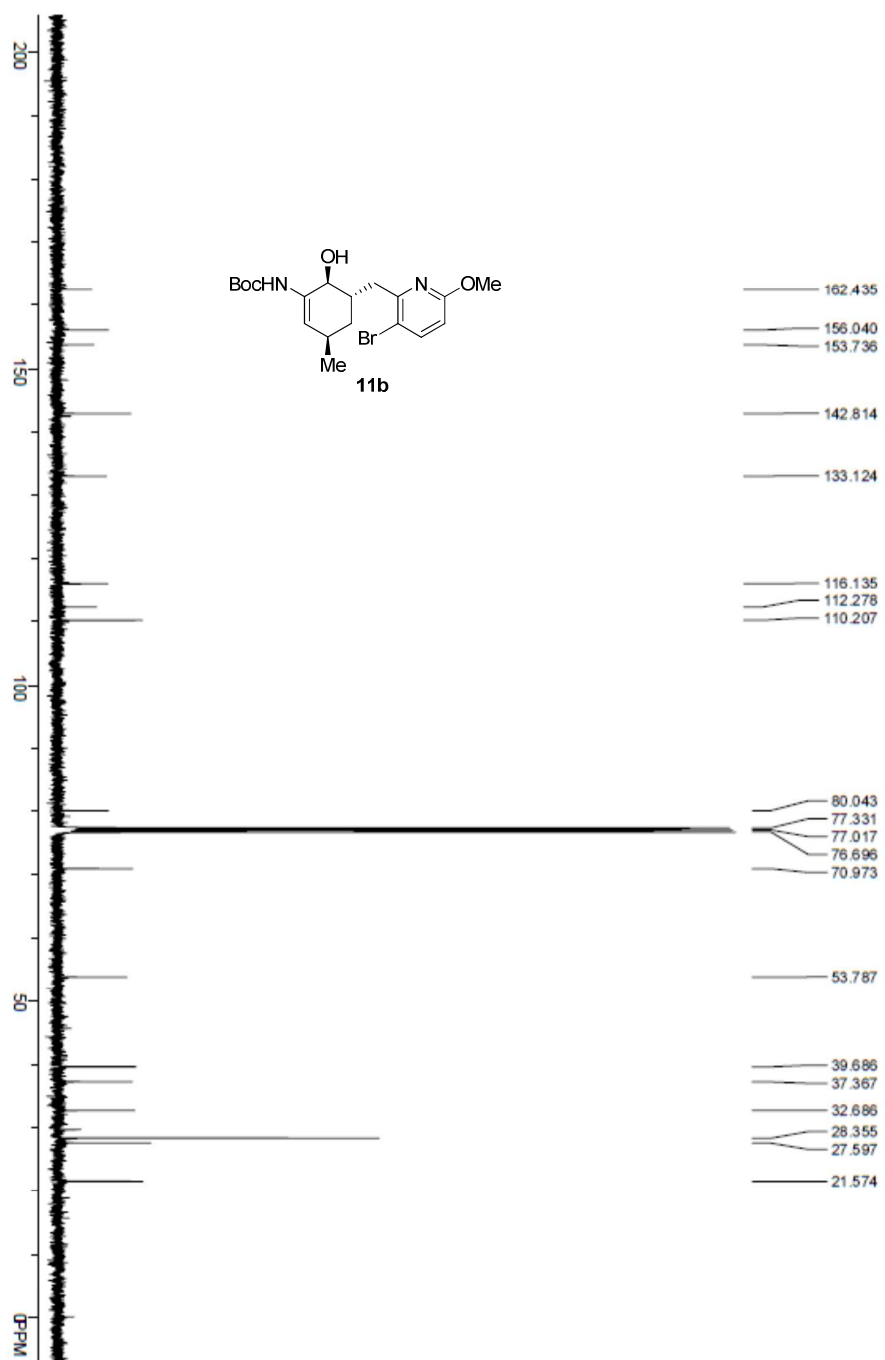


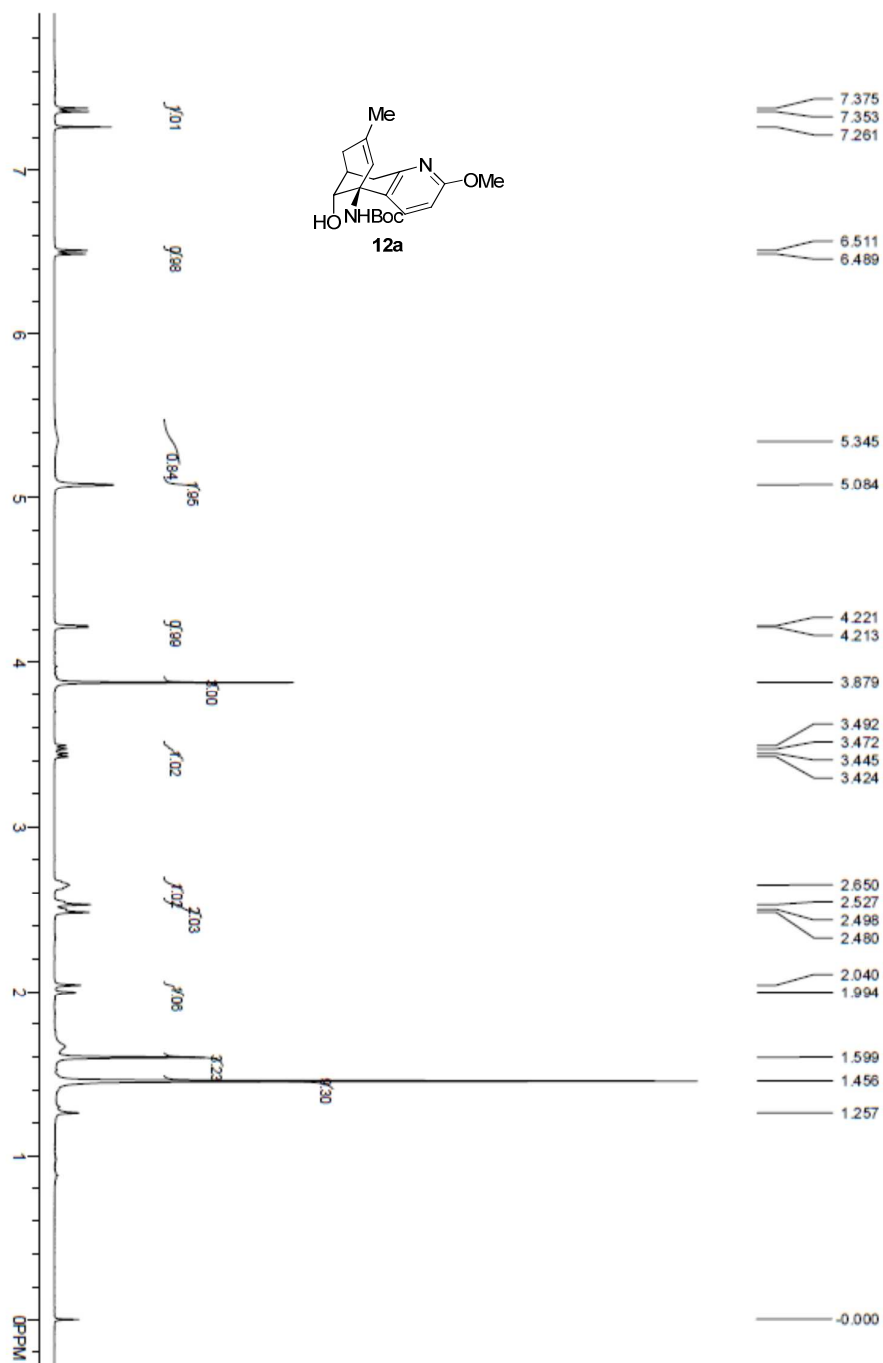


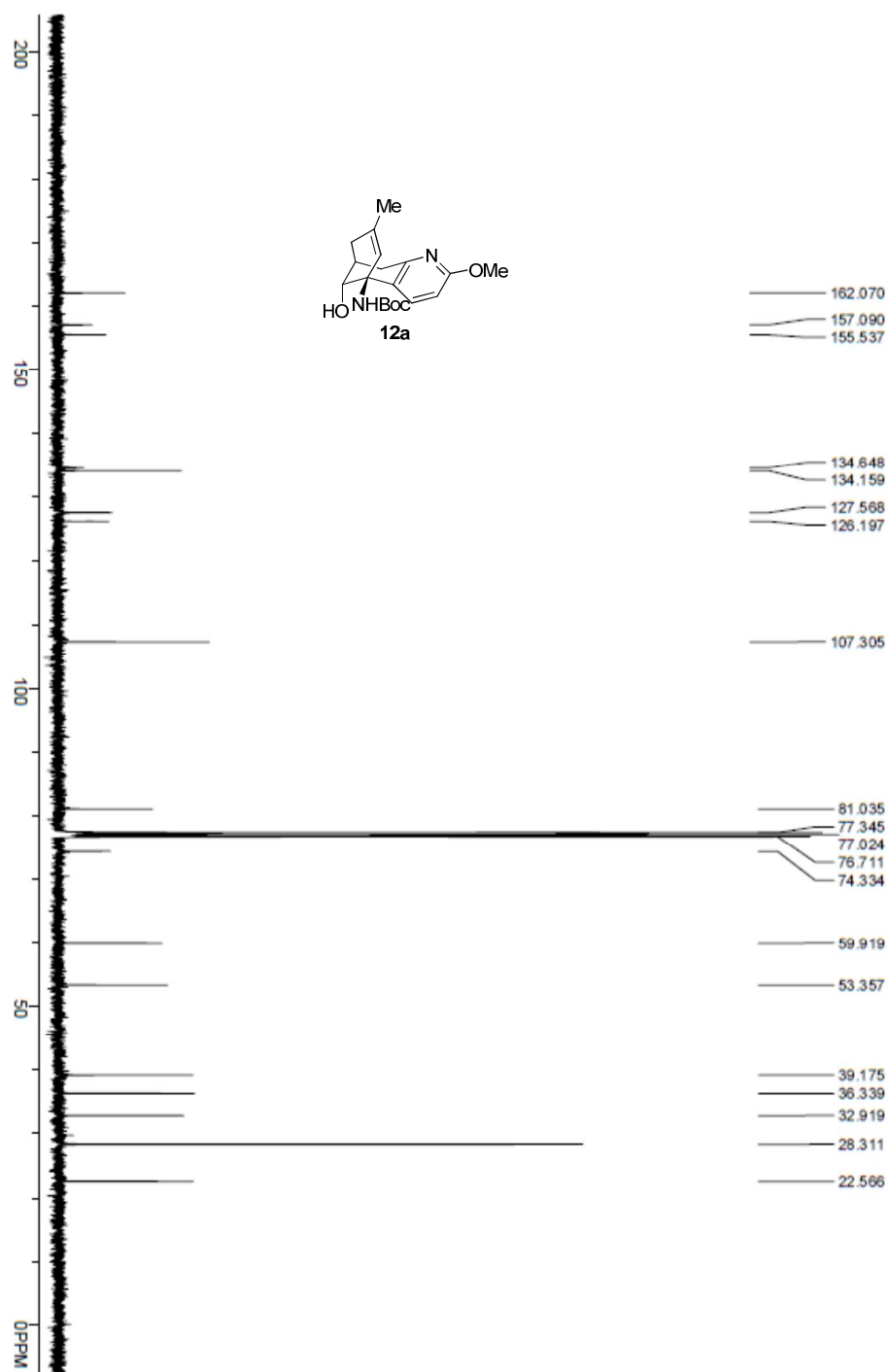


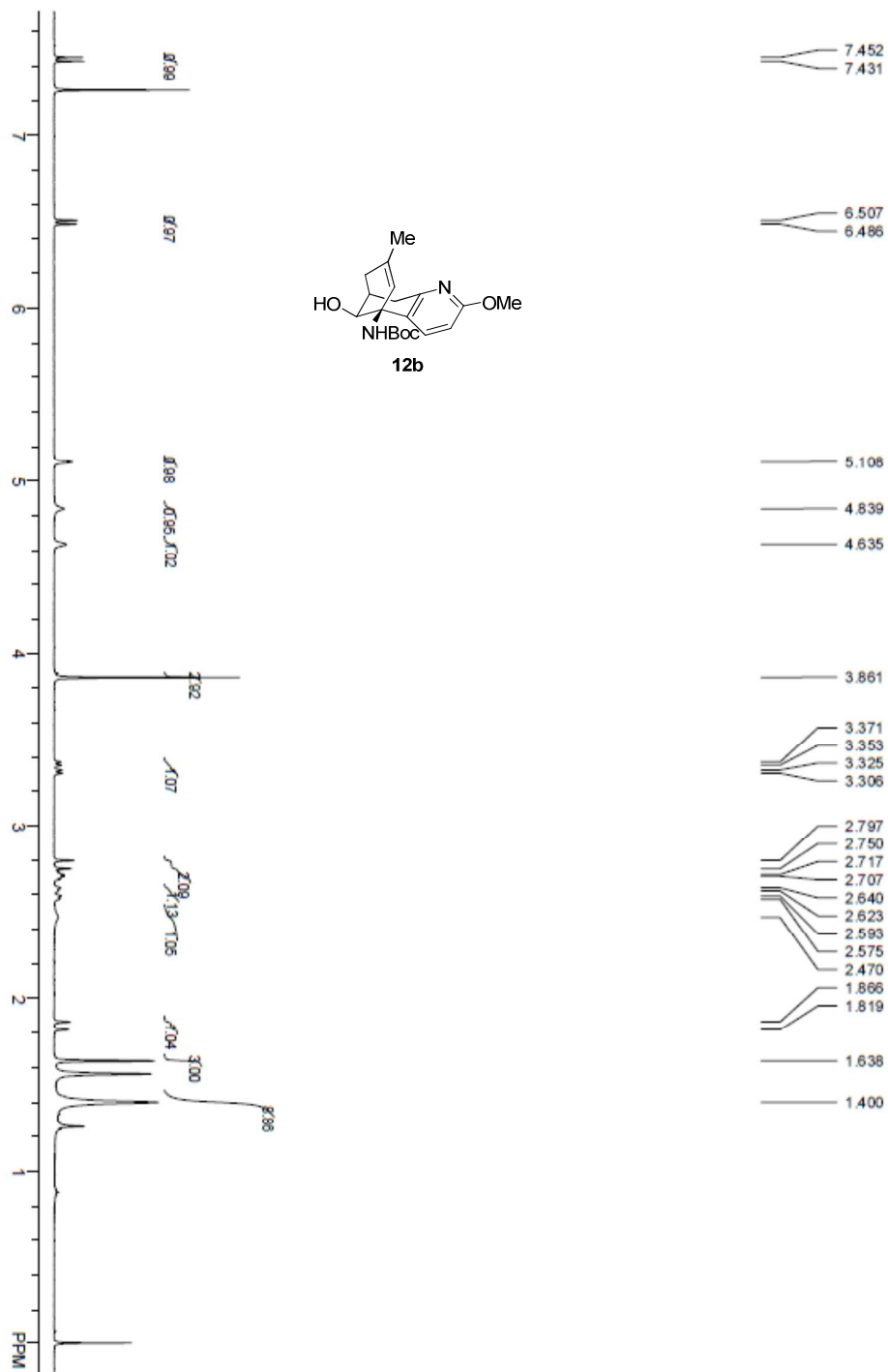


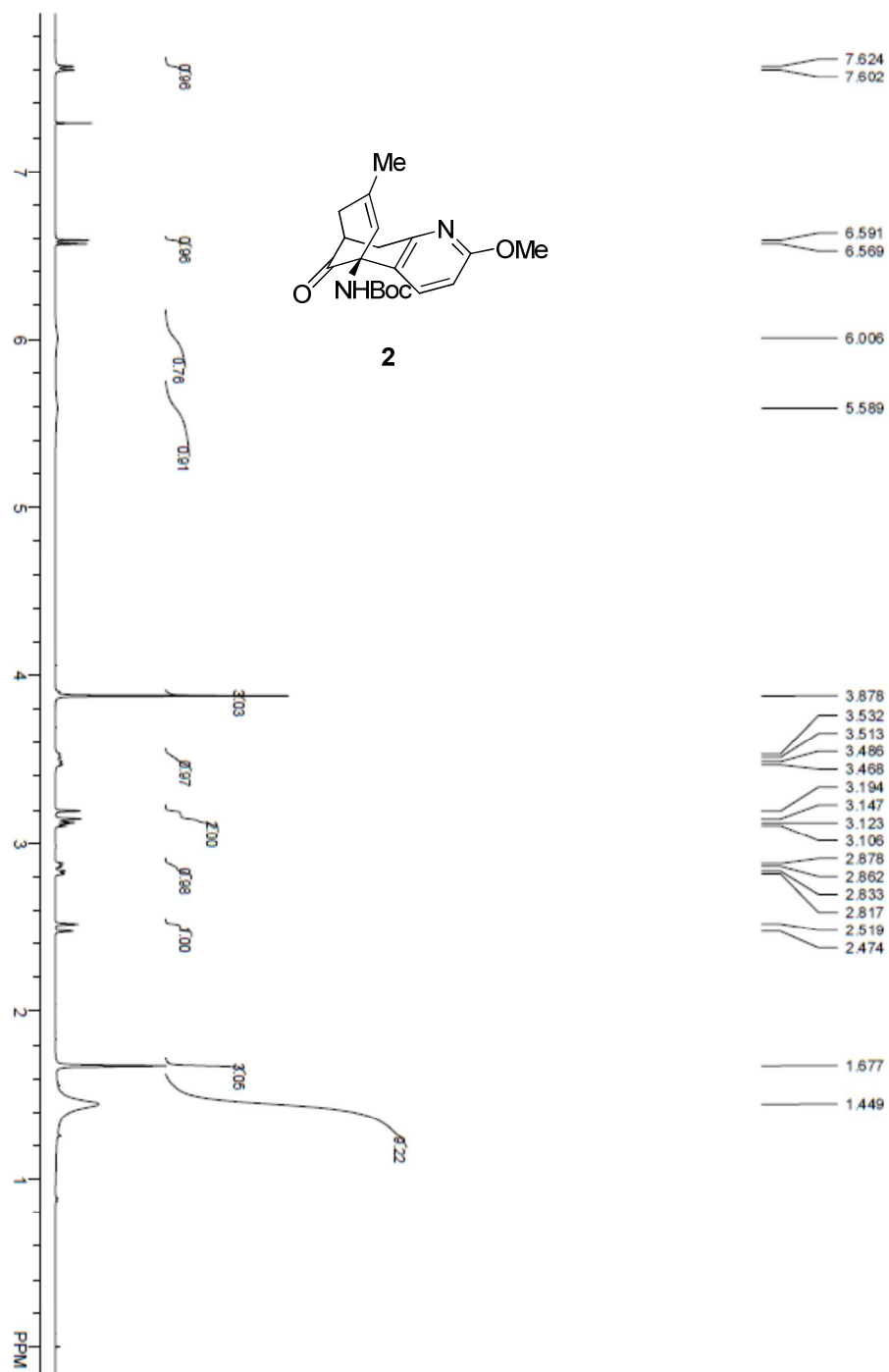


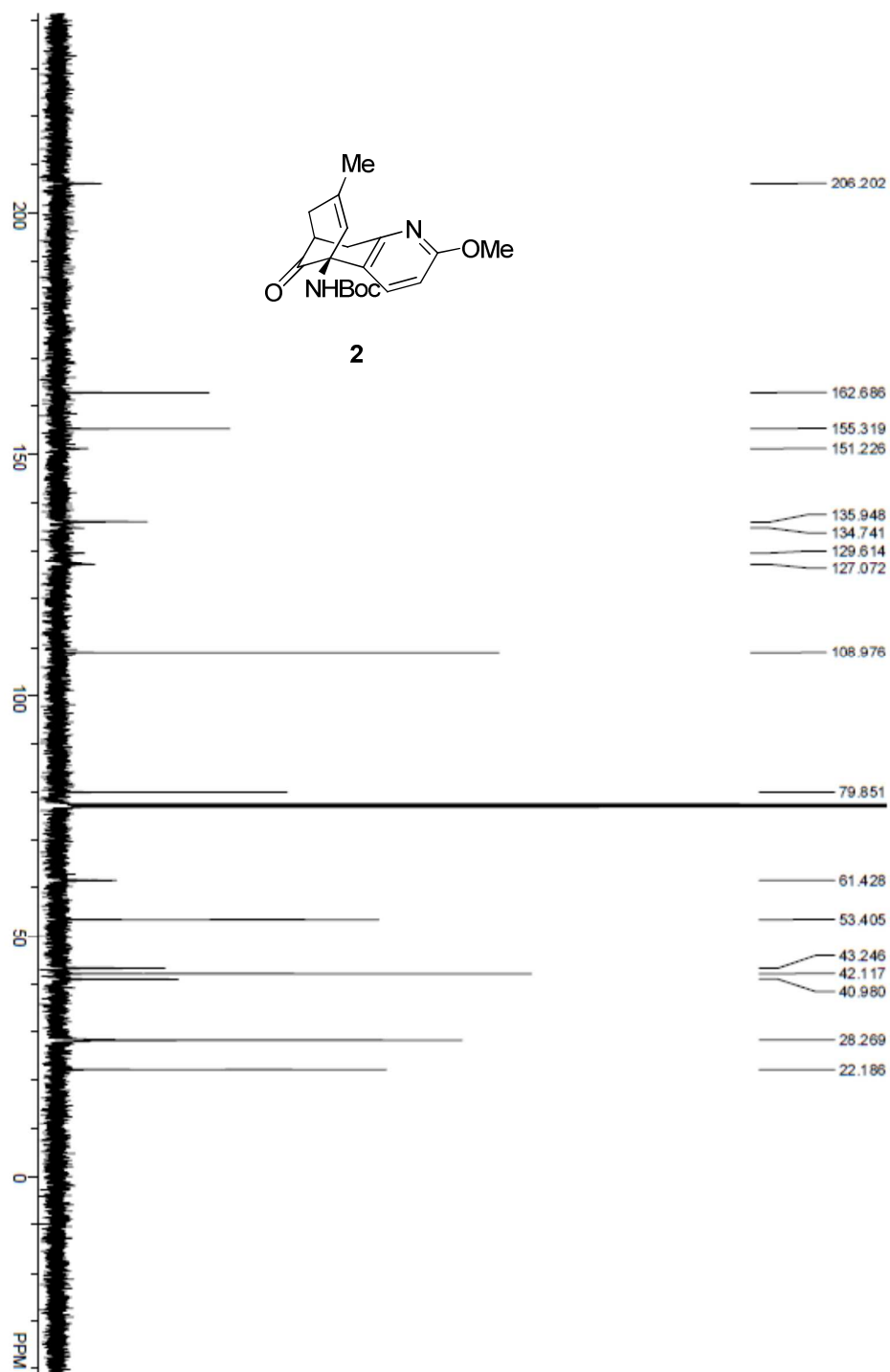


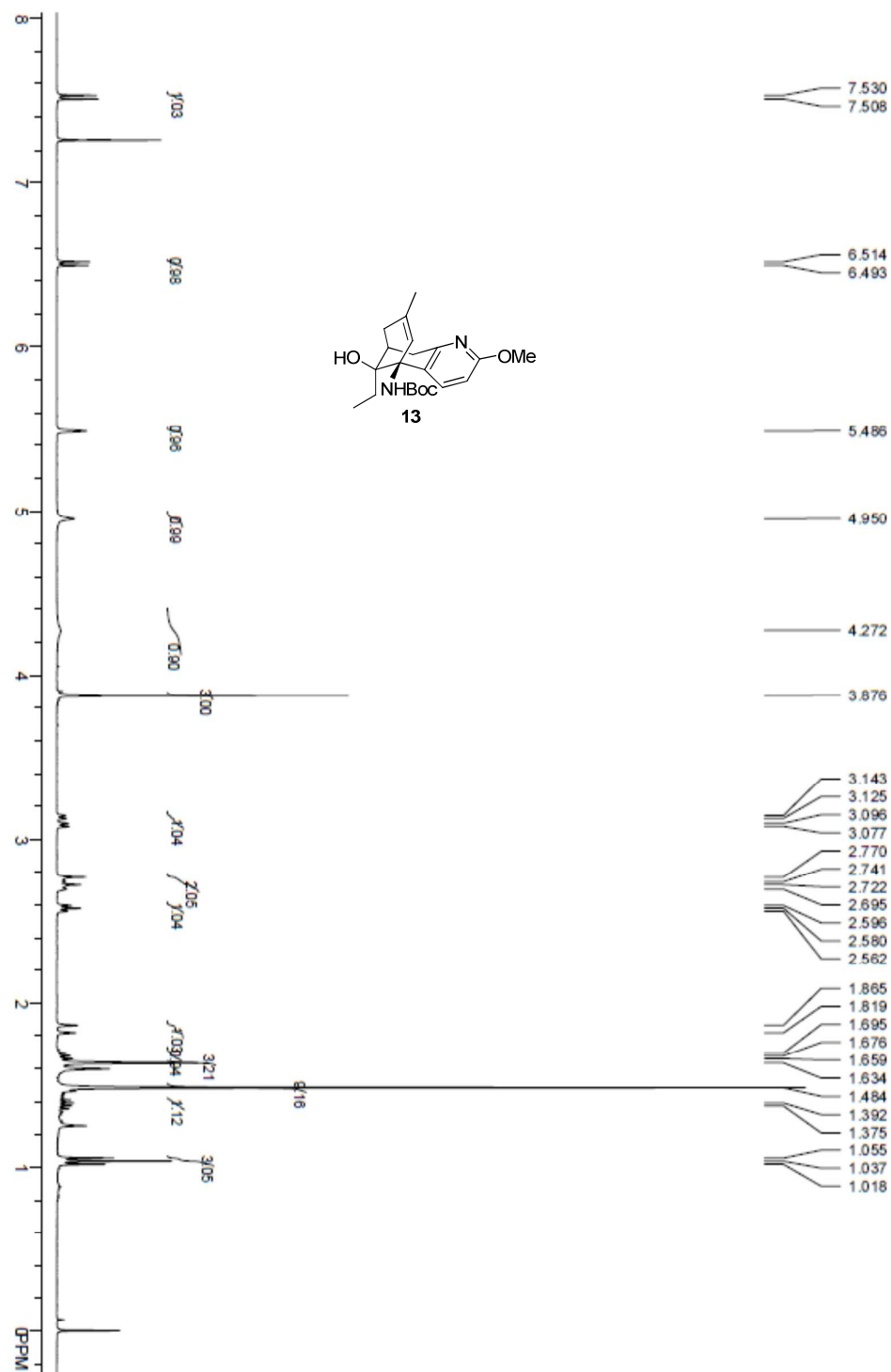


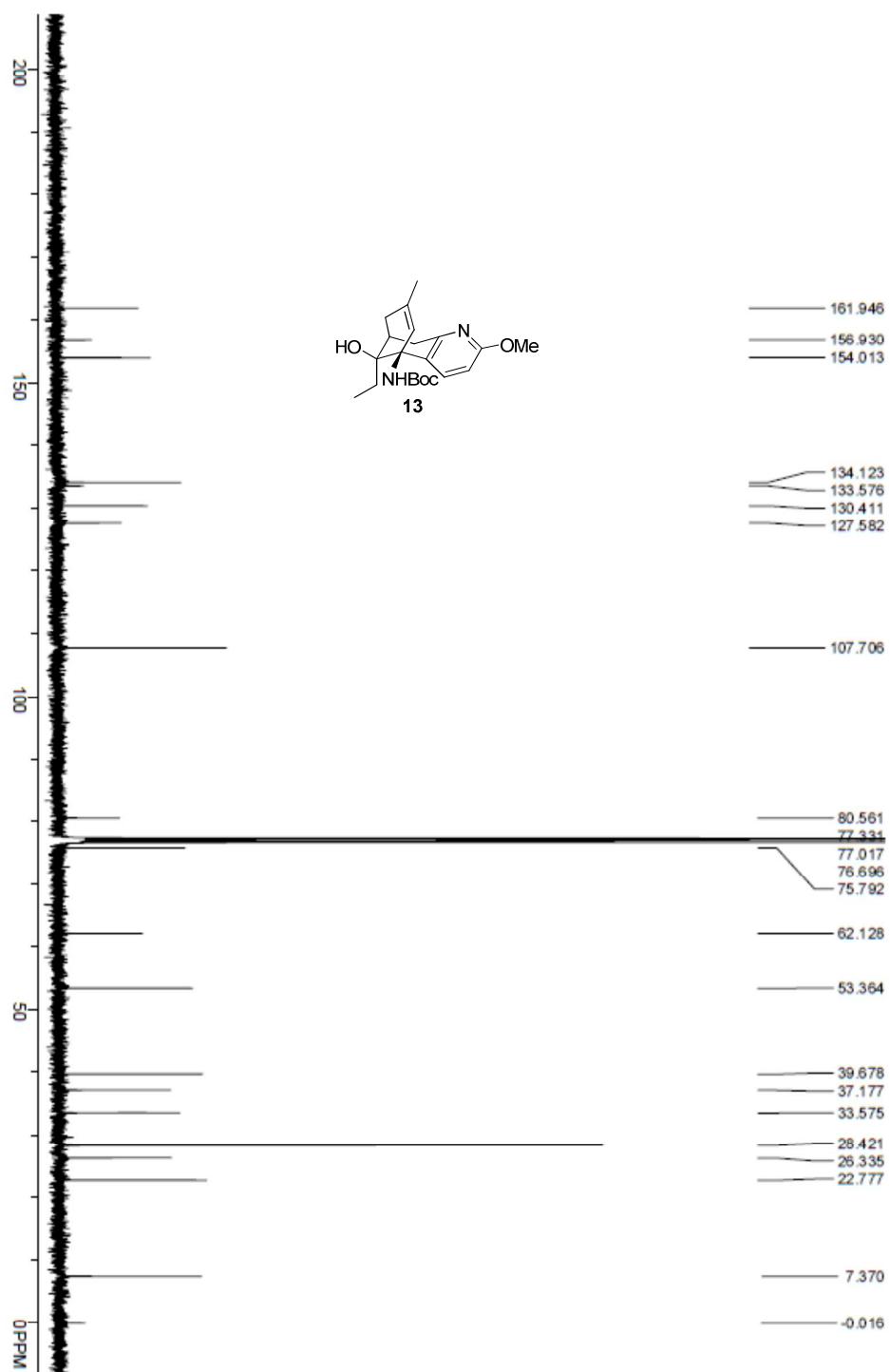




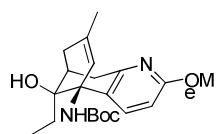




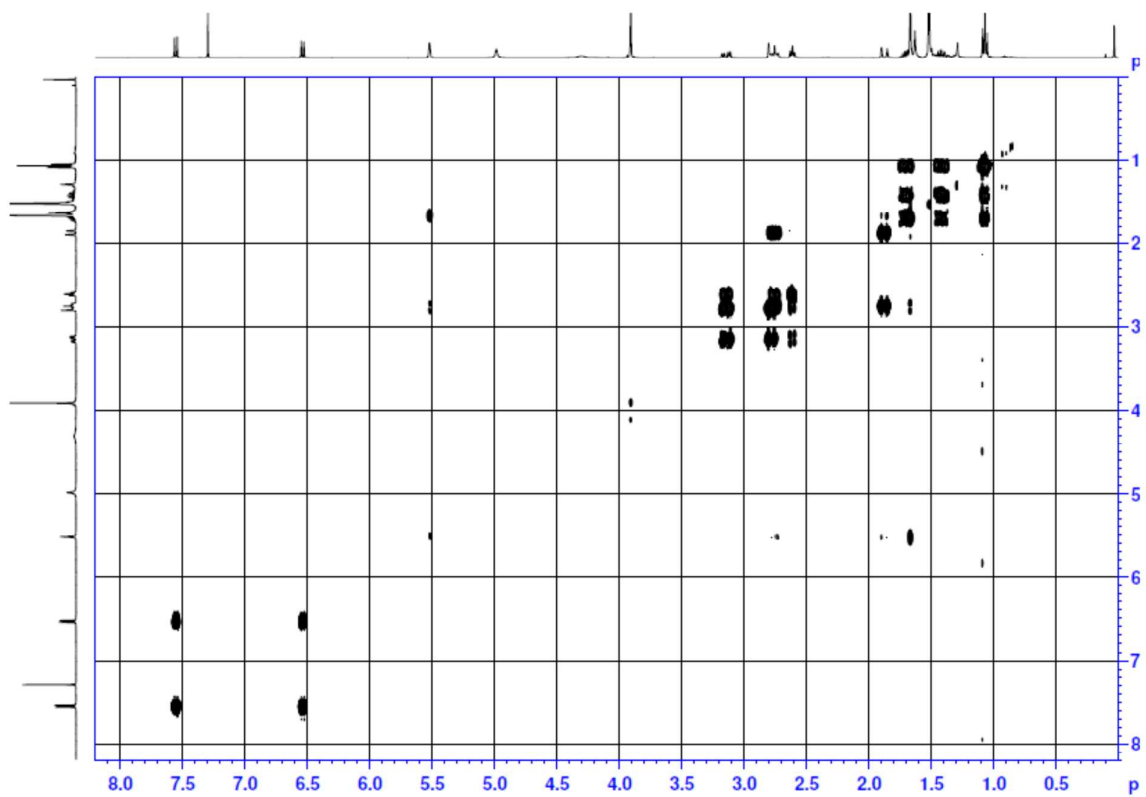




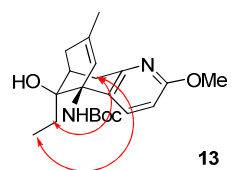
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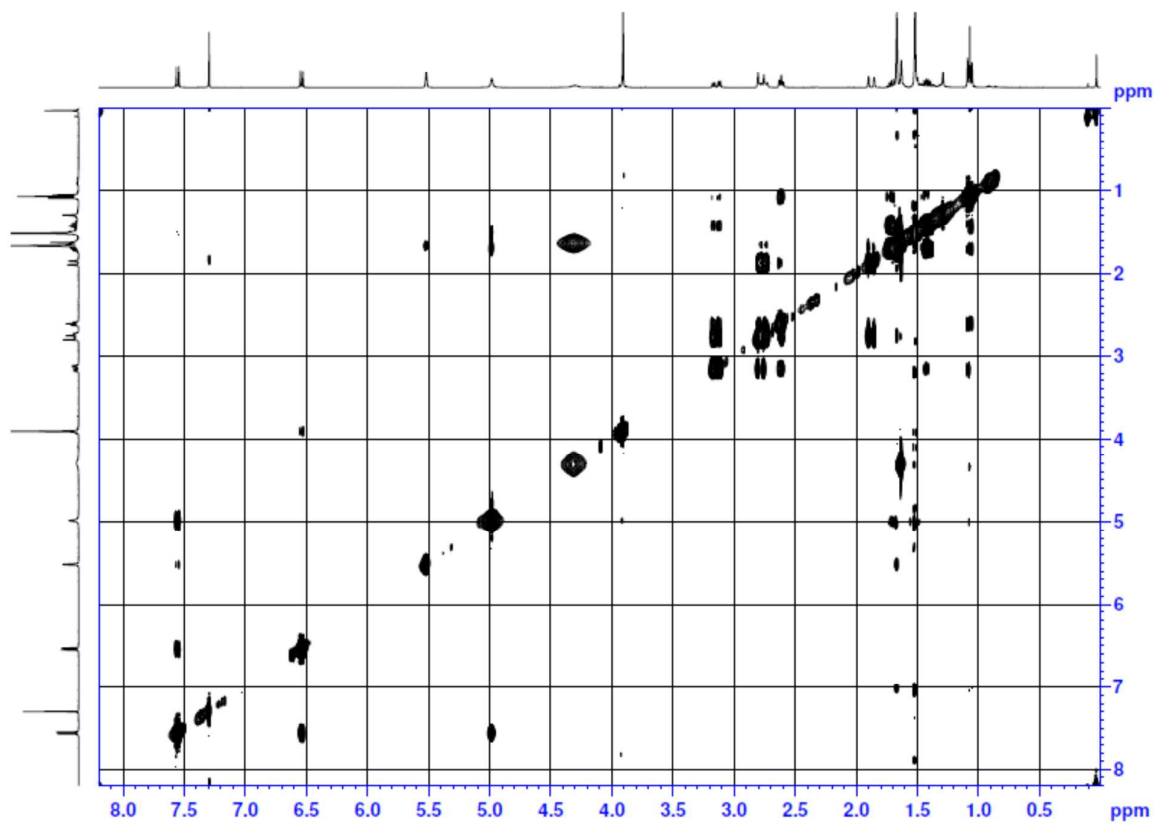
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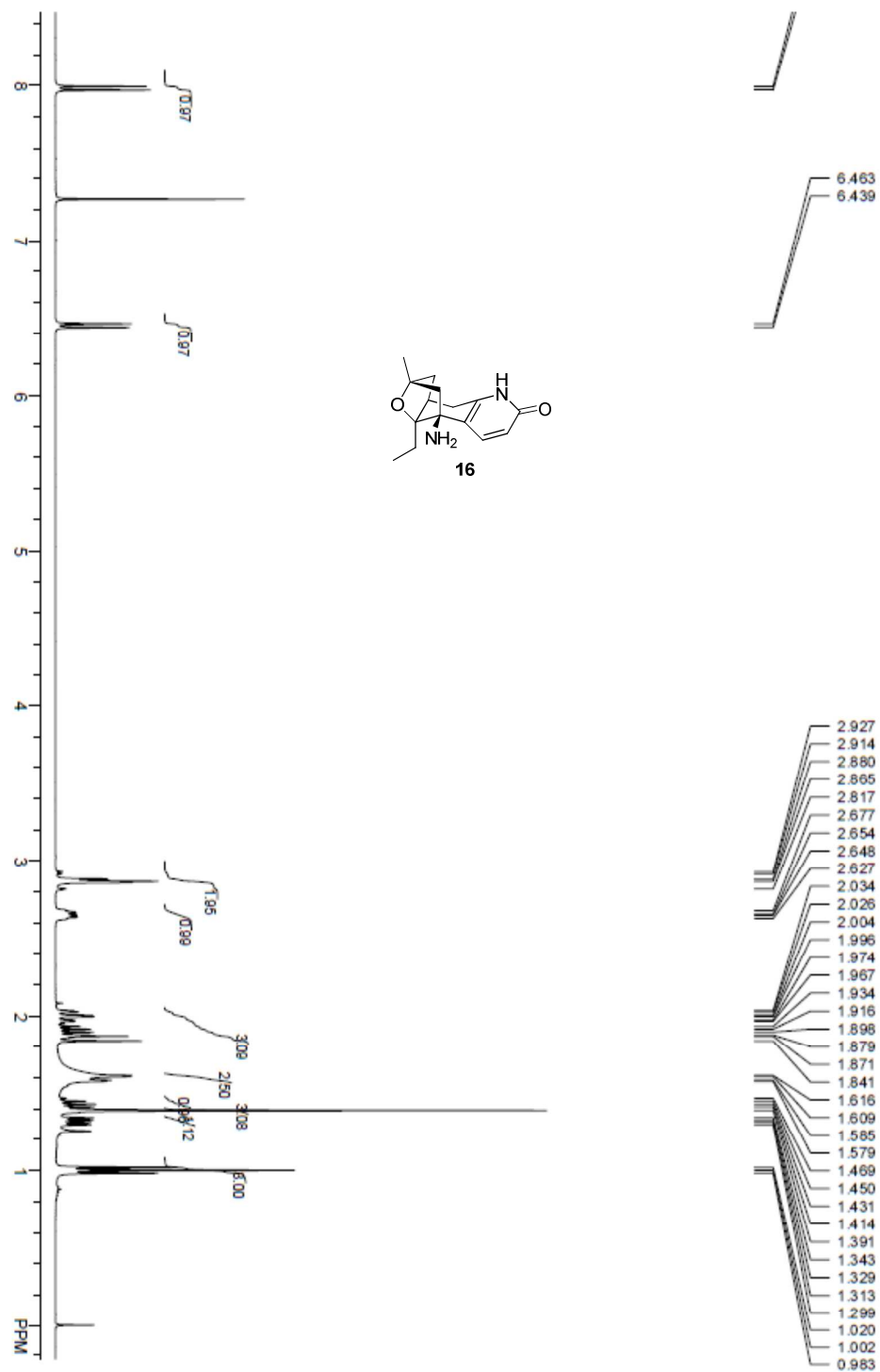


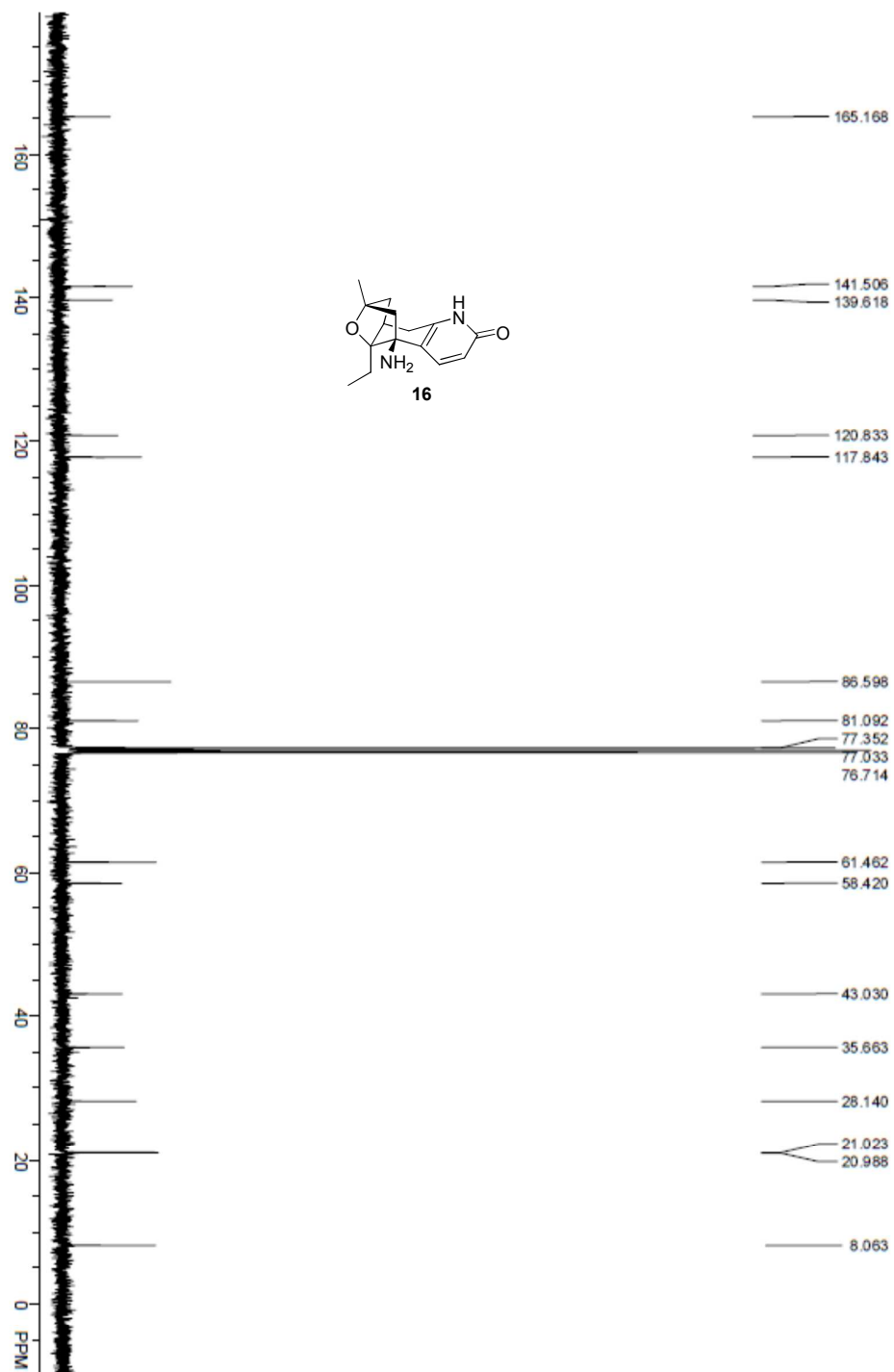
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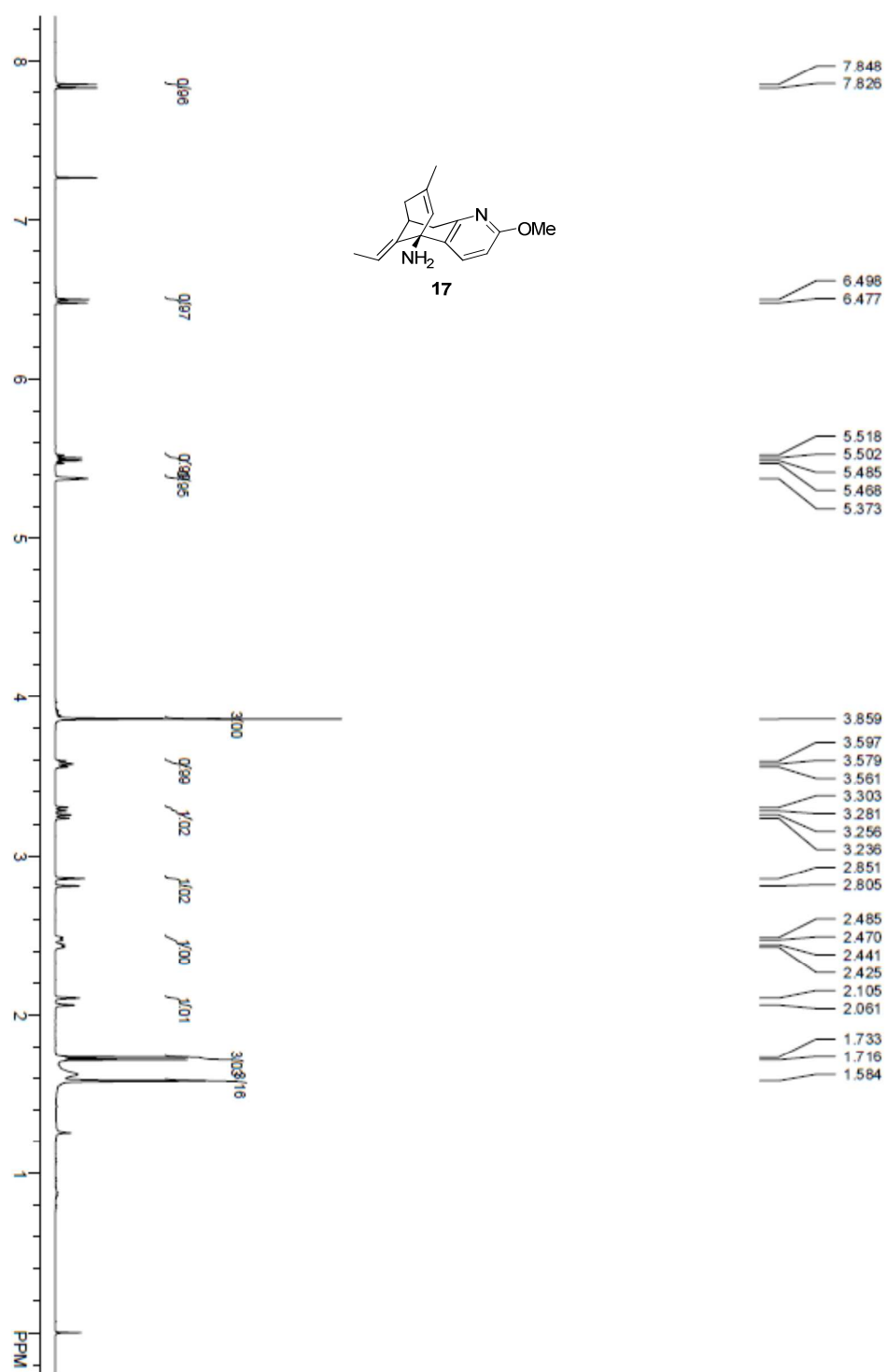
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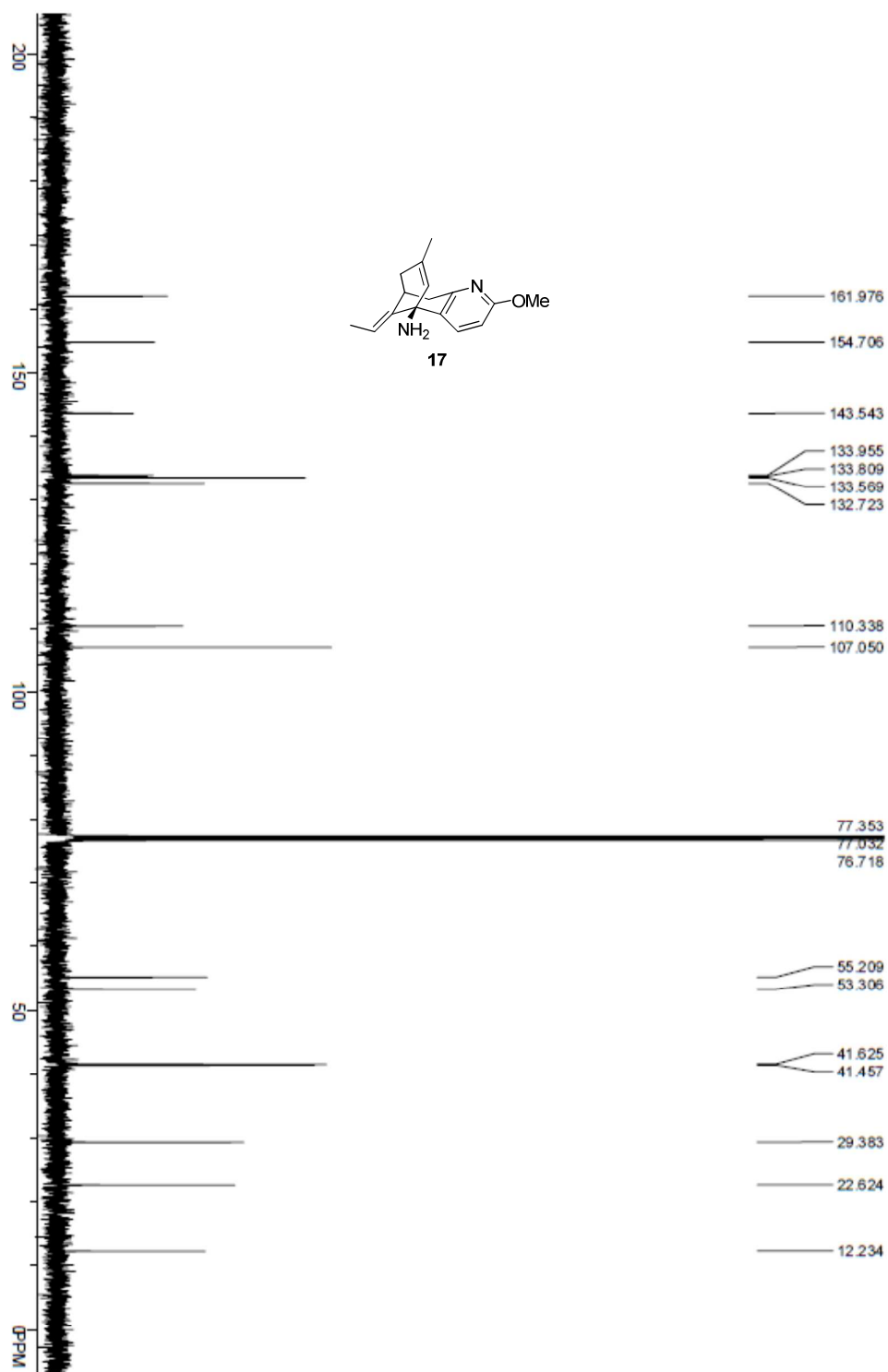


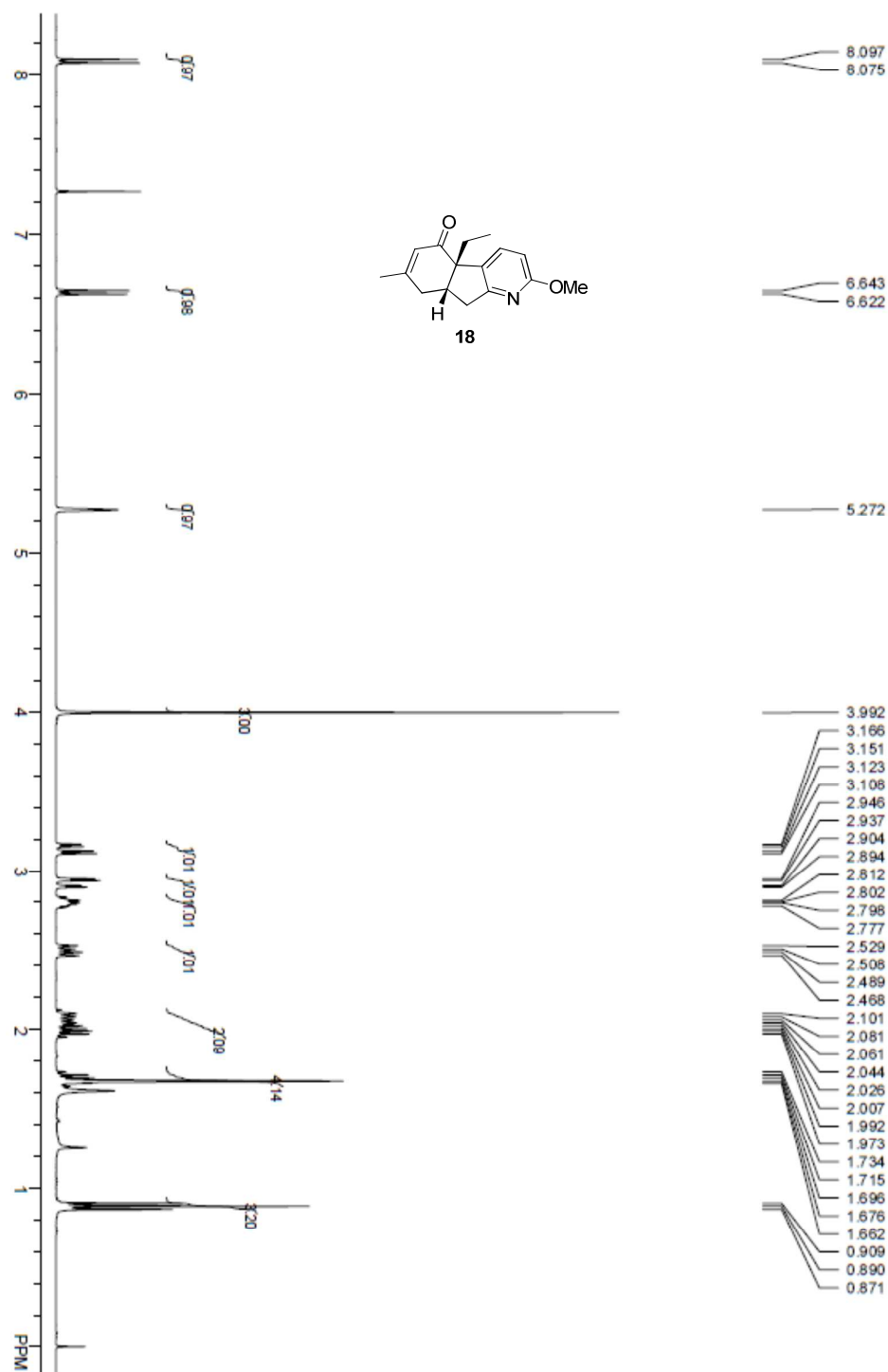


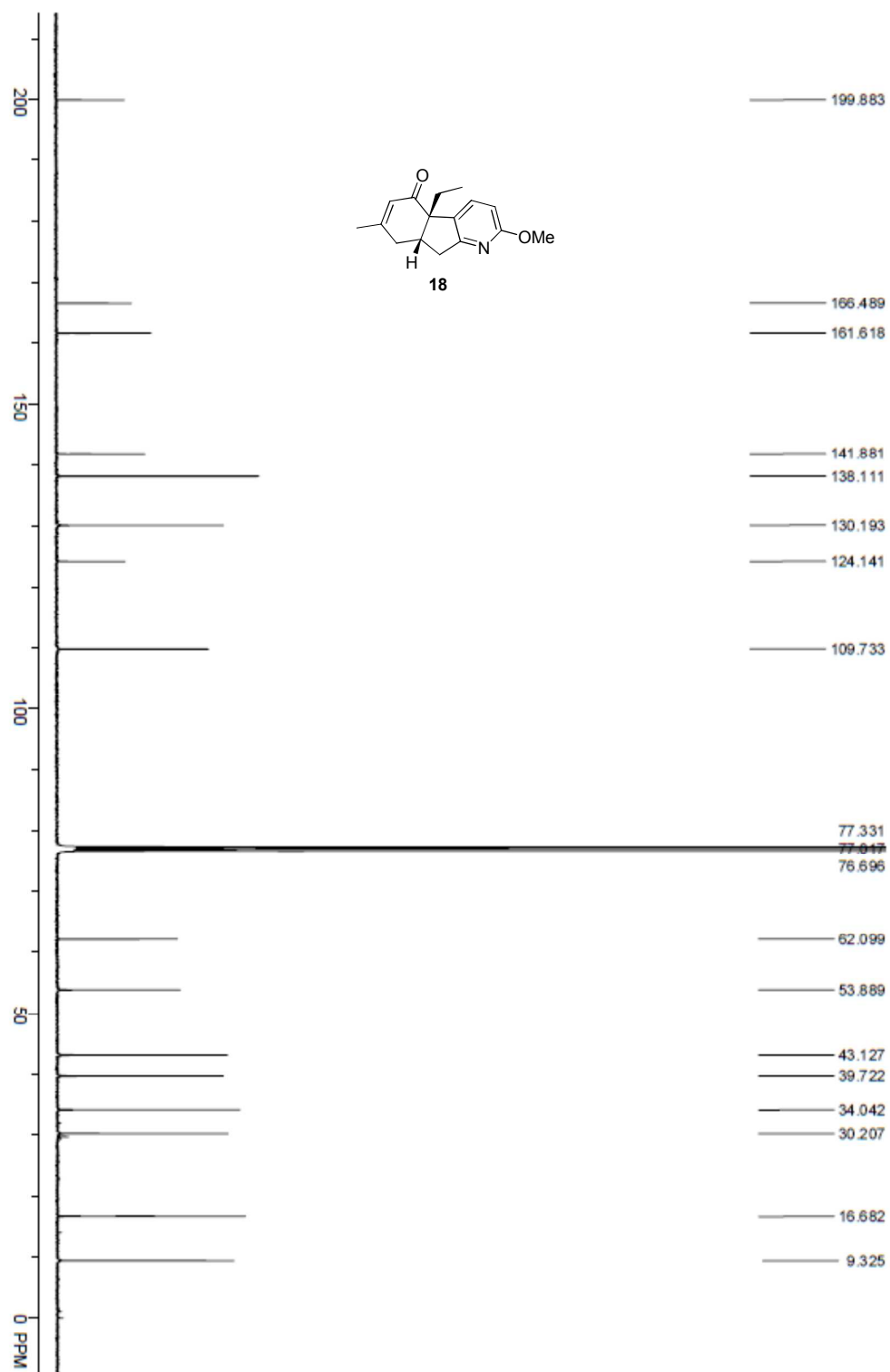


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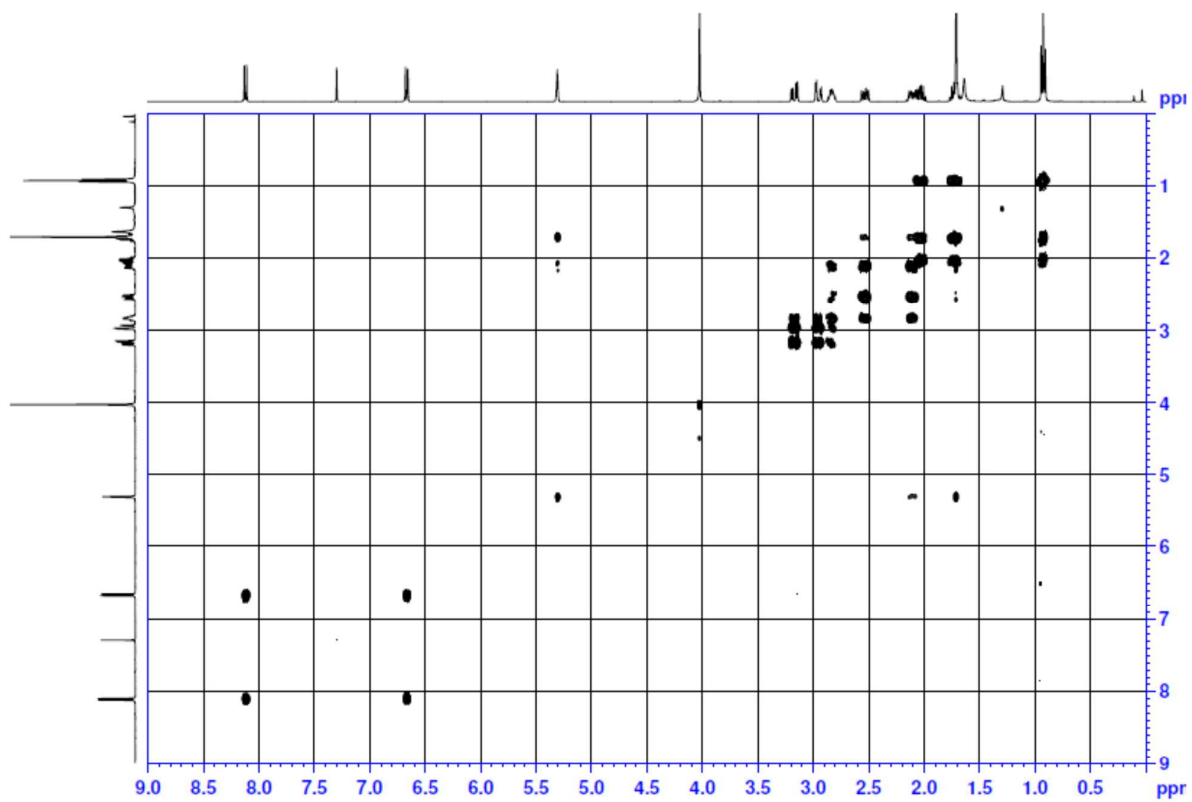
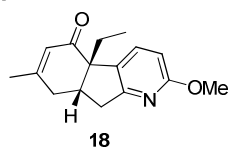




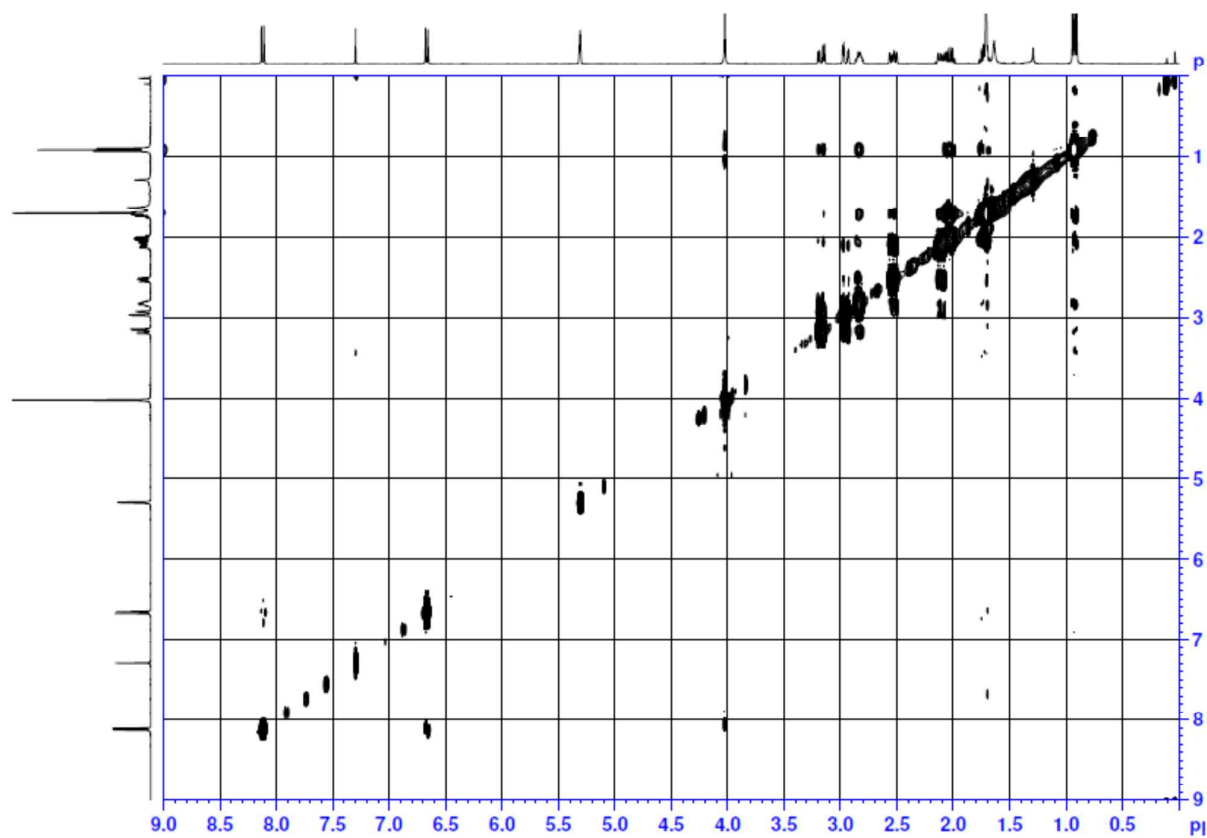
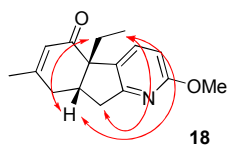


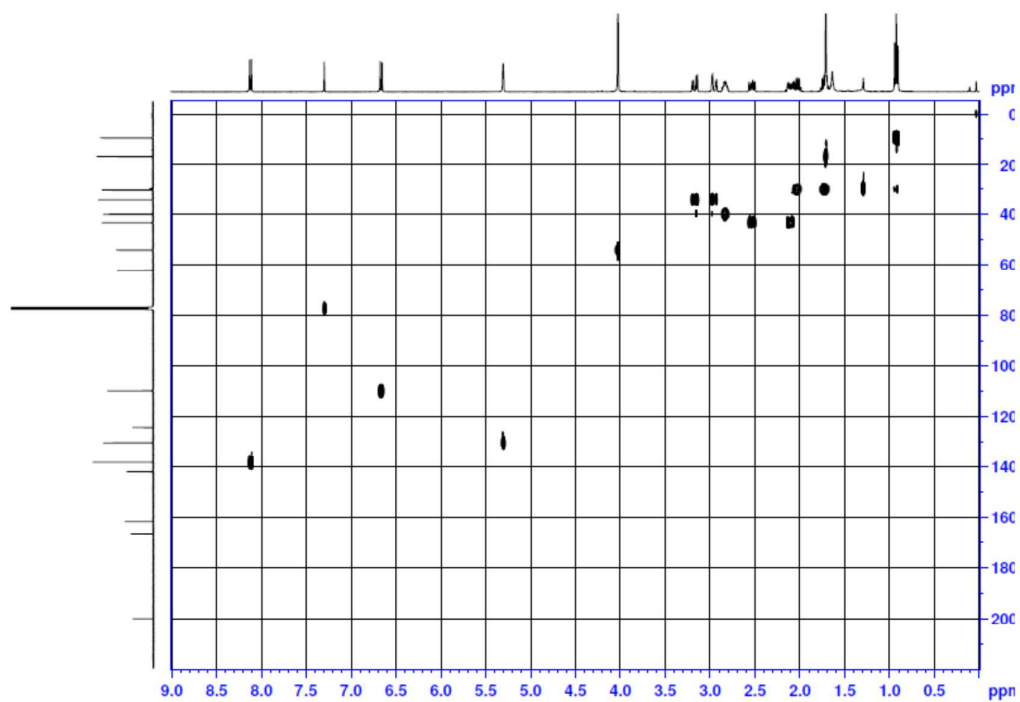
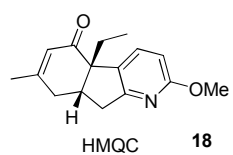


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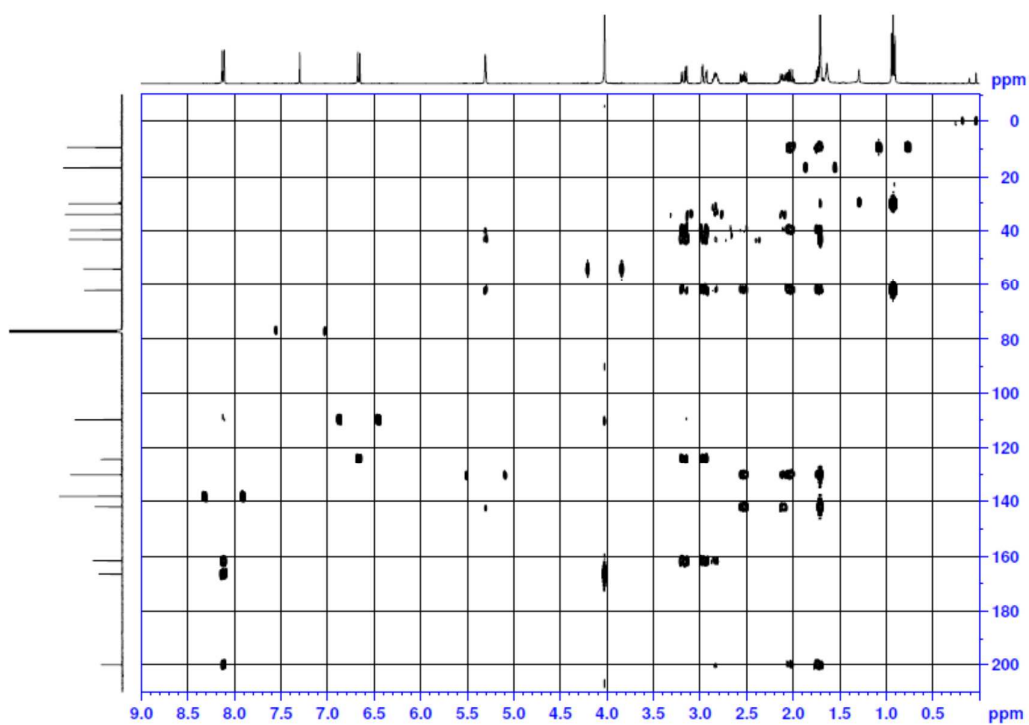
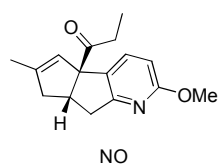
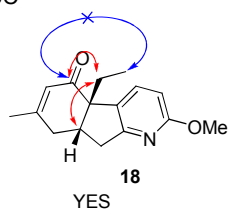


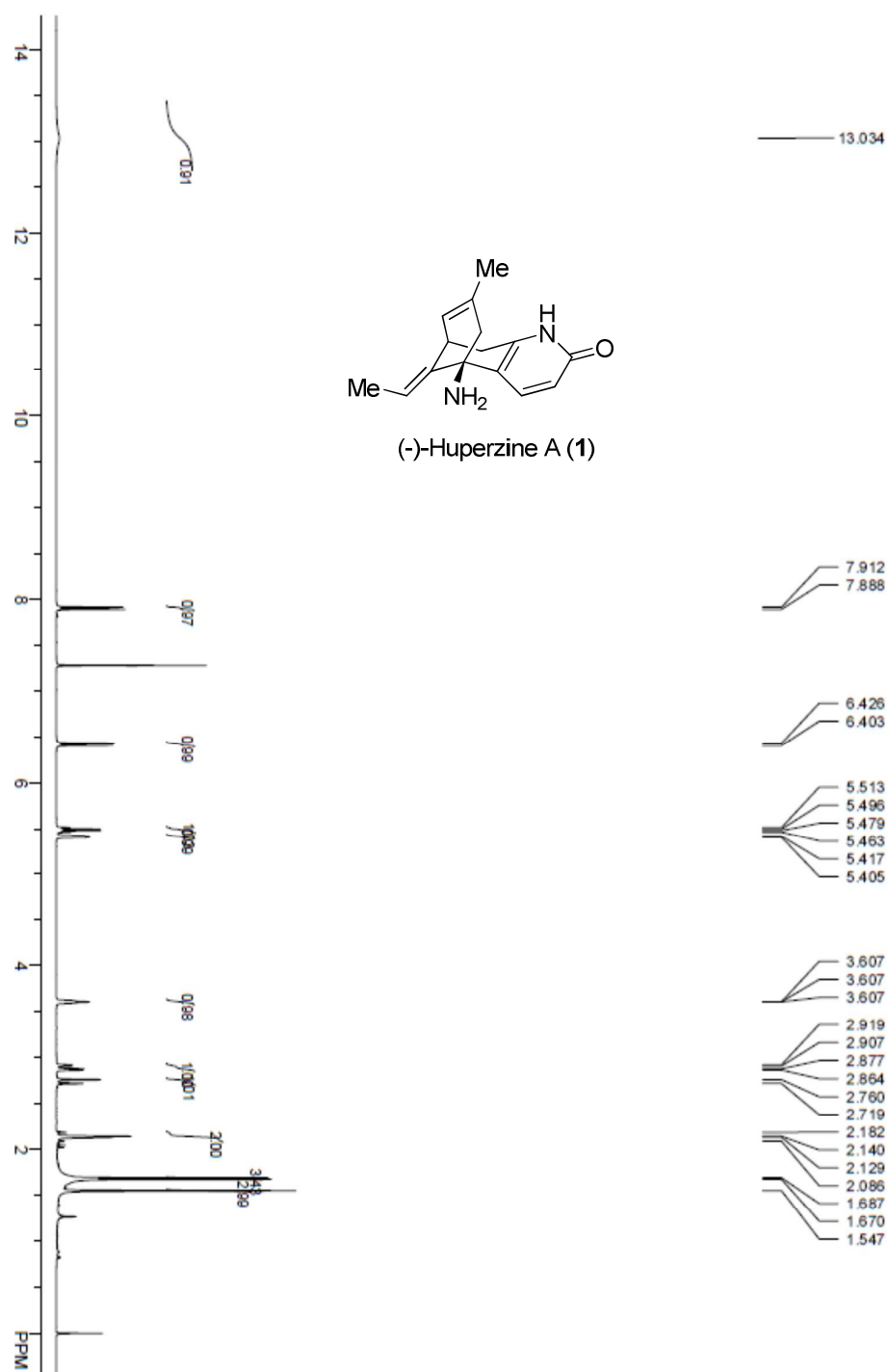
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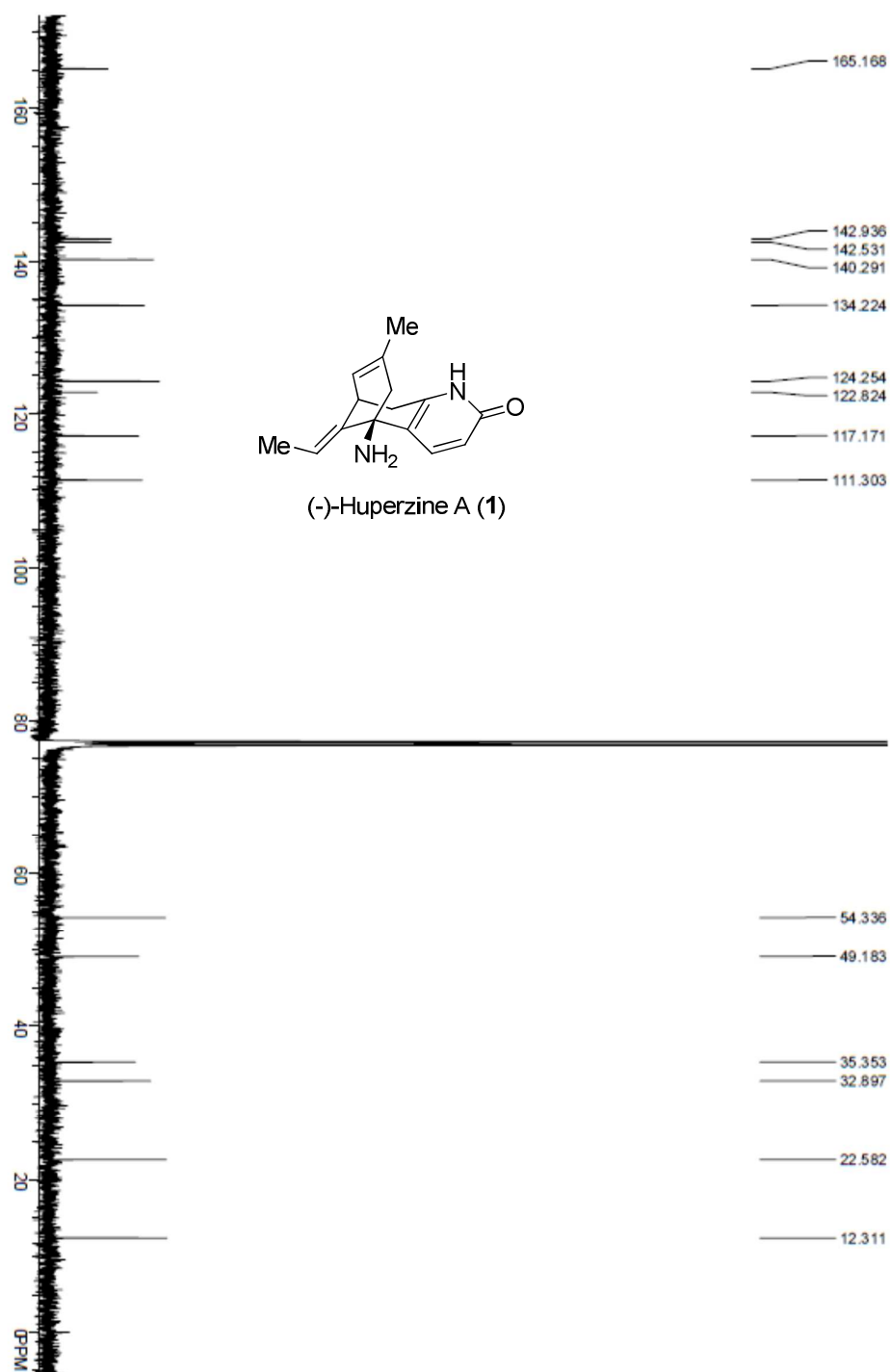


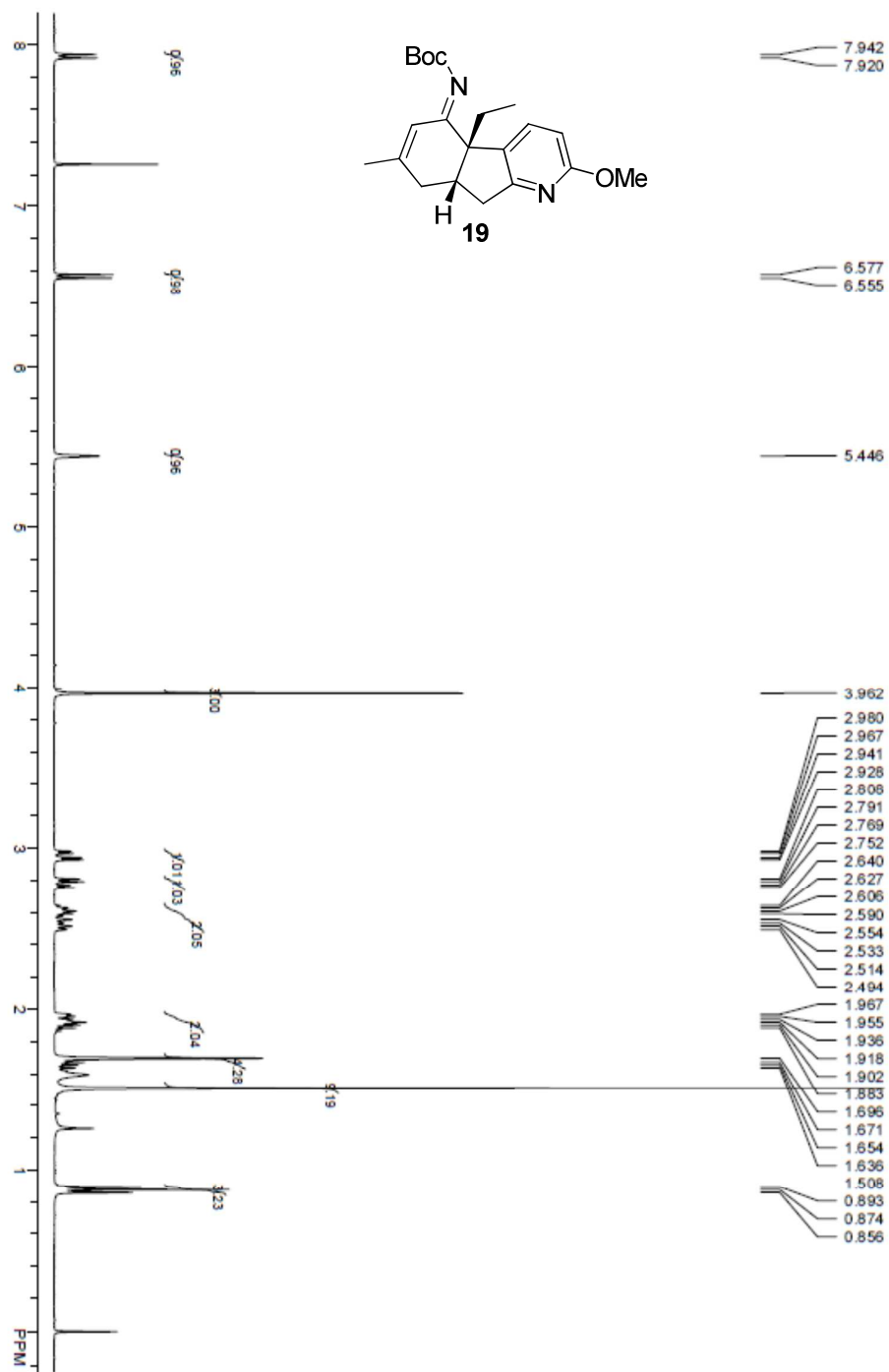


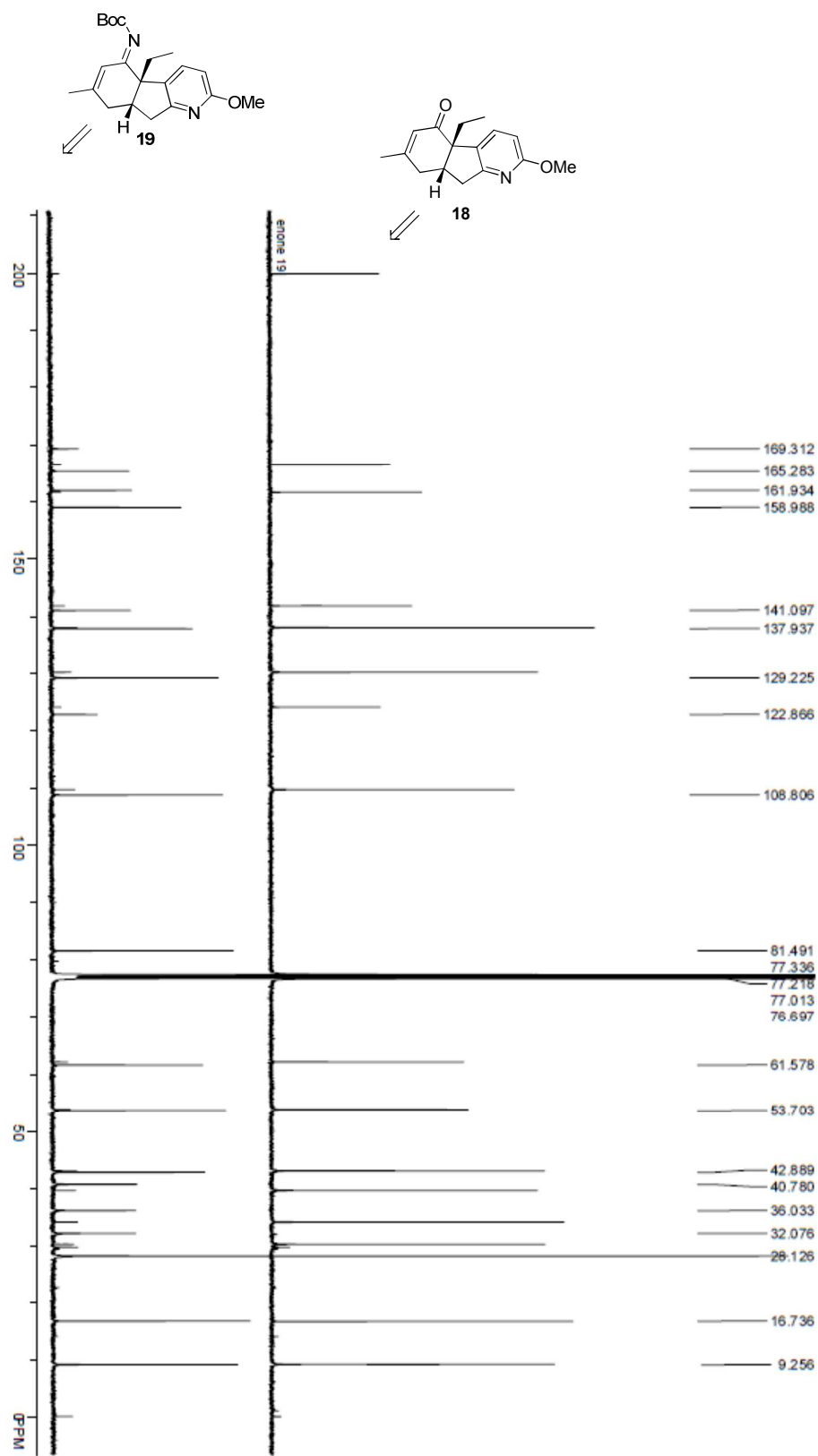
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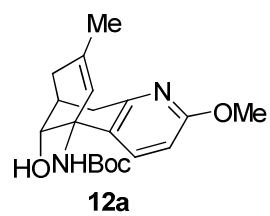
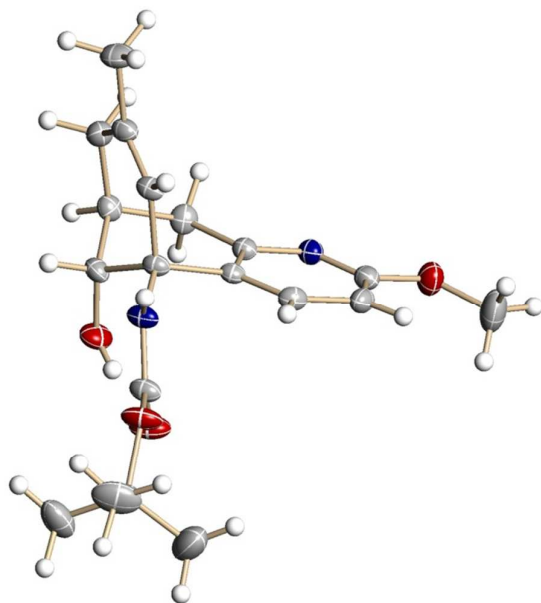




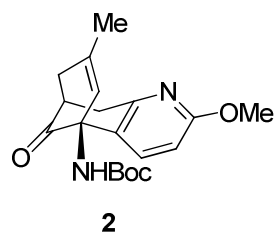
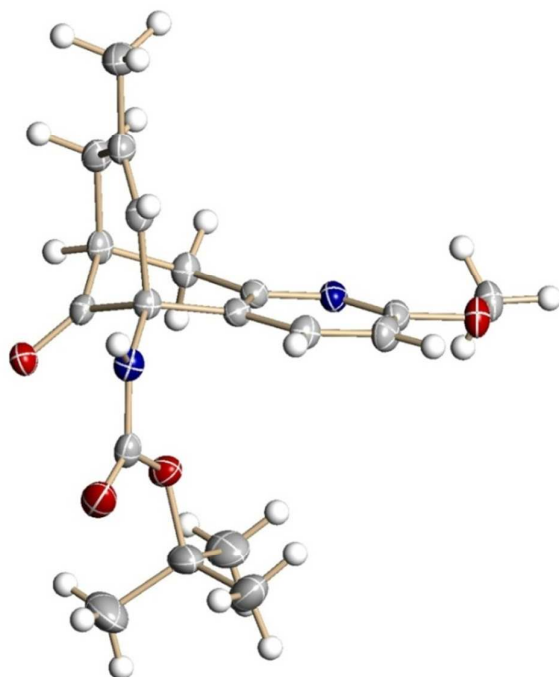


6. X-ray Structures

Compound 12a



Compound 2



Compound 13

