

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Evaluation of the new protocol to enzymatic dynamic kinetic resolution of 3-hydroxy-3-(aryl)propanoic acids

Dominik Koszelewski, Małgorzata Zysk, Daniel Paprocki, Anna Brodzka, Anna Żądło, Ryszard Ostaszewski*

Experimental

All the chemicals were obtained from commercial sources. The solvents were of analytical grade. Amano lipase PS-C I from *Pseudomonas cepacia* (immobilized on ceramic) and Amano lipase AK from *Pseudomonas fluorescens* were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Novozym 435 was purchased from Novo Nordisk. Goose liver was converted to the acetone powder (GLAP) by the method of Connors *et al.*¹ NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-D₆ with TMS as an internal standard using 200 and 400 MHz spectrometers. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ scale) and the coupling constants (*J*) are given in hertz (Hz). The HPLC analyses were performed on Chiralcel OD-H, Chiralcel OB, and Chiralcel IA-H chiral columns. (\varnothing 4.6 mm x 250 mm, from Diacel Chemical Ind., Ltd) equipped with a pre-column (\varnothing 4 mm x 10 mm, 5 μ m) using an LC-6A Varian ProStar apparatus with UV Varian ProStar 330 detector and Chromatopac C-R6A analyser. The mobile phase was hexane/isopropanol and the flow rate 1 mL/min, λ =254 nm. Melting points are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured in 1-dm cell of 1 mL capacity using Jasco DIP-360 polarimeter operating at 589 nm. The elemental analyses were performed on CHN Perkin-Elmer 240 apparatus. All the reactions were monitored by TLC on Merck silica gel Plates 60 F₂₅₄. Column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel 60/230–400 mesh. Enzymatic reactions were performed in a vortex mixture (Heidolph Promax 1020) equipped with incubator (Heidolph Inkubator 1000).

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate

Sodium borohydride (NaBH₄) (208 mg, 5.05 mmol) was added to ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropionate (1.11 g, 5.05 mmol) in ethanol (30 mL) at 0 °C. After 3 hours, reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (30 mL) and the separated aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). Ester was obtained with 77% yield (0.85 g) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (br s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.05 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 43.3, 55.2, 60.7, 69.7, 113.9, 126.8, 134.8, 159.0, 172.3. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.² HPLC: Chiralcel OB; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): *t*_R (S) = 14.86, *t*_R (R) = 25.78.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid

General procedure A: Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (0.4 g, 1.78 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (1 mL), aqueous solution of NaOH (1N, 10 mL) was added and stirred vigorously for 3 hours at ambient temperature. Ethanol was removed under reduced pressure. Aqueous phase was first washed with ethyl acetate (3x30 mL), acidified with conc. hydrochloric acid to pH 2, and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x30 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by crystallization from ethyl ether/hexanes (98% yield, 0.34 g); mp 81–83 °C (Lit 78–82 °C³); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.70–2.85 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 5.15 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 43.3, 55.6, 114.3, 127.3, 134.6, 177.2. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.³

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate

Ethyl 3-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate (2.4 g, 12.5 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (30 mL), sodium borohydride (425 mg, 12.5 mmol) was added portion wise at 0 °C. After the completion of the reaction (TLC, approx. 3 hours) the pH was adjusted to 6.0 with 5% hydrochloric acid (HCl). The ethanol was evaporated in vacuum and the mixture was extracted with DCM (3x50 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes) to yield ester with 85% (2.06 g) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.26 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (br s, 1H), 4.17 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.41 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.4, 43.6, 61.1, 70.6, 125.9, 128.1, 128.8, 142.8, 172.7. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.² HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): *t*_R (S) = 8.67, *t*_R (R) = 11.27.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoic acid

¹Connors, W. M.; Pihl, A.; Dounce, A. L.; Stotz, E. *J. Biol. Chem.* **1950**, 184, 29.

²Cozzi, P. G.; Benfatti, F.; Capdevila, M. G.; Mignogna, A. *Chem. Commun.* **2008**, 3317–3318.

³Downey, C. W.; Johnson, M. W.; Lawrence, D. H.; Fleisher, A. S.; Tracy, K. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 75, 5351–5354.

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 99% yield (290 mg) as a white crystals; mp 90-92 °C (Lit 89-90 °C³); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.70 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 43.7, 70.1, 125.8, 127.1, 128.1, 143.8, 172.4. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.³

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propanoate

General procedure B: Triethylamine (0.56 mL, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added to a stirred mixture of 2-fluorobenzaldehyde (421 μL, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv.), malonic acid half ethyl ester (582 mg, 4.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) (10 mL). This mixture was stirred for 20 hours at 80 °C. Volatile compounds were removed under vacuum. The residue was diluted in ether/dichloromethane (1:1, 40 mL), washed with aqueous saturated sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃), then with HCl (1 N). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuum, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes) to yield ester with 69% (586 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.642 (dd, 16.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, 16.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (br s, 1H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.33 (dd, 8.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.95 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 41.8, 60.9, 64.5, 115.1, 115.3, 124.3, 124.4, 127.2, 127.3, 129.0, 129.1, 129.3, 158.2, 160.6, 172.3. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature;⁴ Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃FO₃: C 62.26, H 6.17; Found: C 62.31, H 6.08; MS (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃FO₃Na [M+Na]⁺, 235.07, Found 235.10; HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R (S) = 6.60, t_R (R) = 9.01.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 96% yield (344 mg) as a white crystals; mp 70-71 °C (Lit 68.85 °C⁵); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.75-2.82 (m, 2H), 5.38-5.45 (m, 1H), 6.99-7.49 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.0, 64.8, 115.4, 115.8, 124.6, 127.4, 129.2, 129.4, 129.5, 129.7, 157.2, 162.1, 177.3; Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₉H₉FO₃: C 58.70, H 4.93; Found: C 58.47, H 5.07; MS (ESI): Calcd. for C₉H₉FO₃ [M-H]⁻, 183.04, Found 183.0.

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-bromophenyl)propanoate

Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-bromophenyl)propanoate was obtained according to **General procedure B** with 72% yield (786 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.28 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (br s, 1H), 4.21 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.44 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 41.4, 60.3, 69.2, 121.4, 127.3, 127.8, 129.0, 132.6, 141.4, 172.4. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature⁴; MS (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃BrO₃Na [M+Na]⁺, 294.9, Found 295.0; HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R = 7.77, t_R = 14.56.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-bromophenyl)propanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(2-bromophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 93% yield (278 mg) as a white crystals; mp 90-91 °C (Lit. 89 °C (diethyl ether/hexane)⁶); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.62 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (br s, 1H), 7.11-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.64 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 41.7, 69.4, 121.7, 127.5, 128.2, 129.6, 133.0, 141.3, 177.5; MS (ESI): Calcd. for C₉H₈BrO₃ [M-H]⁻, 242.9, Found 242.9.

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-hydroxypropanoate

Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-cyanophenyl)propanoate was obtained according to **General procedure B** with 75% yield (658 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (br s, 1H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, 12 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, 12 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 42.9, 61.1, 69.5, 111.5, 118.6, 126.3, 132.3, 147.8, 171.9. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature⁷; HPLC: Chiralcel OB; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R = 14.89, t_R = 16.66.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-hydroxypropanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(4-cyanophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 93% yield (278 mg) as a white crystals; mp 101-102 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.50 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 5.00 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 44.0, 68.9, 109.7, 118.8, 126.8, 132.0, 150.6, 171.8. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.⁸

⁴ Ayil, A. I.; Condom, R.; Wade, T. N.; Guedj, R. *J. Fluorine Chem.* **1979**, *14*, 437-454.

⁵ Leclercq, M.; Collet, A.; Jacques, J. *Tetrahedron* **1976**, *32*, 821-828.

⁶ Collet, A. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* **1972**, 3857.

⁷ Fernandez-Ibanez, M. A.; Macia, B.; Minnaard, A. J.; Feringa, B. L., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 1317-1319.

⁸ Zhu, D.; Ankati, H.; Mukherjee, C.; Yang, V.; Biehler, E. R.; Hua, L. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 2560-2563.

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate

To malonic acid monoethyl ester (90mg, 0.66 mmol) in acetonitrile (0.4 mL) was added the aldehyde (100mg, 0.66mmol) and then stirred at 80 °C for 15 h (under nitrogen). Reaction mixture was concentrated. The residue was dissolved in a mixture of diethyl ether/DCM (1/1), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, hydrochloric acid (1N), then dried over magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄). The organic phase was concentrated. The residue (120 mg) was separated by chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexanes). Product was obtained with 76% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.27 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 2.72-2.78 (m, 2H), 3.66 (br s, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 42.9, 61.2, 69.3, 123.7, 126.4, 147.4, 149.6, 171.9. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.⁹HPLC: Chiralcel IA; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R (S) = 14.65, t_R (R) = 16.00.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 92% yield (292 mg) as a white crystals; mp 121-123 °C (Lit 119-122 °C³); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.51-2.75 (m, 2H), 3.28 (br s, 1H), 5.05 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 12.1 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 44.4, 69.1, 123.7, 127.5, 147.0, 153.2, 172.2. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.⁸

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)propanoate

Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)propanoate was obtained according to **General procedure B** with 69% yield (784 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (t, 3H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.62 (dd, *J* = 20.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 20.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (br s, 1H), 4.34 (q, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.77 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.47-8.49 (m, 1H), 8.83 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 41.9, 61.4, 65.9, 120.0, 127.7, 130.2, 144.6, 147.2, 171.8; Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₇: C 46.48, H 4.26, N 9.86; Found: C 46.52, H 4.19, N 9.75; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₇Na [M+Na]⁺, 307.0542, Found 307.0550; HPLC: Chiralcel AI; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R = 24.49, t_R = 29.07.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)propanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 98% yield (468 mg) as a semisolid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.50 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (br s, 1H), 5.54 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (br s, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56-8.59 (m, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 12.35 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 43.9, 65.9, 120.3, 128.3, 131.3, 147.2, 147.4, 148.0, 172.3; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₇N₂O₇[M-H]⁻, 255.0261, Found 255.0253.

Synthesis of ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)propanoate

Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)propanoate was obtained according to **General procedure B** with 78% yield (803 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.27 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (br s, 1H), 4.20 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.63 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.94 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.4, 42.6, 61.5, 65.9, 111.9, 112.5, 121.2, 121.6, 130.4, 130.5, 172.6; Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂NO₅F: C 51.37, H 4.70, N 5.45; Found: C 51.15, H 4.82, N 5.37; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂NO₅NaF [M+Na]⁺, 280.0597, Found 280.0599; HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R = 10.91, t_R = 13.73.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 94% yield (306 mg) as a semisolid; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.61 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70-5.76 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.92 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.9, 69.9, 115.5, 127.6, 140.0, 163.5, 172.2; Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₉H₇FNO₅: C 47.17, H 3.52, N 6.11; Found: C 46.82, H 3.78, N 5.96; MS (ESI): Calcd. for C₉H₇FNO₅ [M-H]⁻, 228.03, Found 228.0.

Synthesis of ethyl 3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanoate

Ethyl *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanoate was obtained according to **General procedure B** with 72% yield (885 mg) as a colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (t, 3H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.62 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (br s, 1H), 4.24 (q, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 42.1, 61.3, 65.9, 121.8, 121.9, 129.5, 130.1, 131.4, 141.9, 172.0; Elemental Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₂F₃NO₅: C 46.91, H 3.94, N 4.56; Found: C 47.02, H 3.90, N 4.33; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd. for C₁₂H₁₂F₃NO₅Na [M+Na]⁺, 330.0565, Found 330.0559; HPLC: Chiralcel OB; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R = 8.41, t_R = 10.64.

Synthesis of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanoic acid.

⁹Salvi, N. A; Chattopadhyay, S. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2006**, *14*, 4918-4922.

rac-3-Hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanoic acid was obtained according to **General procedure A** with 89% yield (275 mg) as a semisolid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.57 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (br s, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 12.3 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 43.6, 65.5, 130.6, 148.0, 171.9; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd. for C₁₀H₇F₃NO₅ [M-Na]⁺, 278.0275, Found 278.0276.

Enzymatic kinetic resolution of *rac*-3-hydroxy-3-(aryl)propanoic acids

To the solution of acid **1a-h** (0.1 mmol) in organic solvent (2 mL), triethylorthoobenzoate (2 equiv.) and enzyme (native 5 mg or immobilized 10 mg) were added in 5mL screwed vial. The reaction mixture was stirred for 72 hours at 40°C in a vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). After cooling crude product was isolated and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). The ¹H NMR data were in accordance with those recorded for racemates; (*R*)-(+)-**2a**: [α]_D²⁰ = +21.5 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 60% *ee*), Lit (*R*) enantiomer: [α]_D²⁰ = +28.8 (c 1.0, CHCl₃);¹⁰(*R*)-(+)-**2b**: [α]_D²⁰ = +40.2 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 63% *ee*), Lit (*R*) enantiomer: [α]_D²⁰ = +48.9 (c 0.89, CHCl₃);¹¹ (*R*)-(+)-**2c**: [α]_D²⁰ = +34.6 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 68% *ee*), Lit (*S*) enantiomer: [α]_D²⁰ = -49.7 (c 2.71, CHCl₃);⁹ (+)-**2g**: [α]_D²⁰ = +25.2 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 83% *ee*); (+)-**2h**: [α]_D²⁰ = +16.3 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 52% *ee*); (+)-**2i**: [α]_D²⁰ = +12.8 (c 1.00 CHCl₃, 62% *ee*).

Synthesis (dynamic kinetic resolution) of ethyl (*S*)-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate and ethyl (*R*)-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate

To the solution of acid (0.1 mmol) in organic solvent (2 mL), triethylorthoobenzoate (2 equiv.), enzyme (native 5 mg or immobilized 10 mg) and metal catalyst (10 mol%) were added in 5mL vial. The reaction mixture was stirred for 72 hours at 40°C in vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). After cooling, crude product was isolated and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). The ¹H NMR data were in accordance with those recorded for racemates; (*S*)-(-)-**2f**: [α]_D²⁰ = -59.5 (c 1.5, CHCl₃); Lit (*R*) enantiomer: [α]_D²⁰ = +23.1 (c 1.0, CHCl₃).¹²

Racemization of ethyl (*S*)-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate ((*S*)-**2a**)

To the solution of ester (*S*)-**2a** (0.1 mmol) in TBME (2 mL) were added (see Table 4 in main Text); triethylorthoobenzoate (2 mmol), enzyme (native 5 mg or immobilized 10 mg) and metal catalyst (10 mol%) were added in 5mL vial. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 hours at 40°C in vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). After cooling, crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes) and analysed on HPLC: Chiralcel IA; hexane/isopropanol (9:1), retention time of the racemic compound (in min): t_R (*S*) = 14.65, t_R (*R*) = 16.00.

Synthesis ethyl (*S*)-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate- preparative scale

To the solution of acid **1a** (212 mg, 1 mmol) in TBME (20 mL), triethylorthoobenzoate (2 mmol), Amano AK (50 mg) and rhodium(II) acetate (10 mol%) was stirred for 72 hours at 40°C in vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). Enzyme and catalyst were separated by filtration and washed with ethyl acetate. Combined organic phases were evaporated in vacuum and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). Product (*S*)-**2a** was obtained with 94% yield (225 mg) as a yellow oil.

Synthesis ethyl (*R*)-3-hydroxy-3-(2,4-nitrophenyl)propanoate- preparative scale

To the solution of acid **1c** (200 mg, 0.8mmol) in organic solvent (20 mL), triethylorthoobenzoate (2 mmol), Novozyme 435 (90 mg) and rhodium(II) acetate (10 mol%) was stirred for 72 hours at 40°C in vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). Enzyme and catalyst were separated by filtration and washed with ethyl acetate. Combined organic phases were evaporated in vacuum and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). Product (*S*)-**2c** was obtained with 98% yield (228 mg) as a yellow oil.

Synthesis ethyl (*R*)-3-hydroxy-3-(phenyl)propanoate- preparative scale

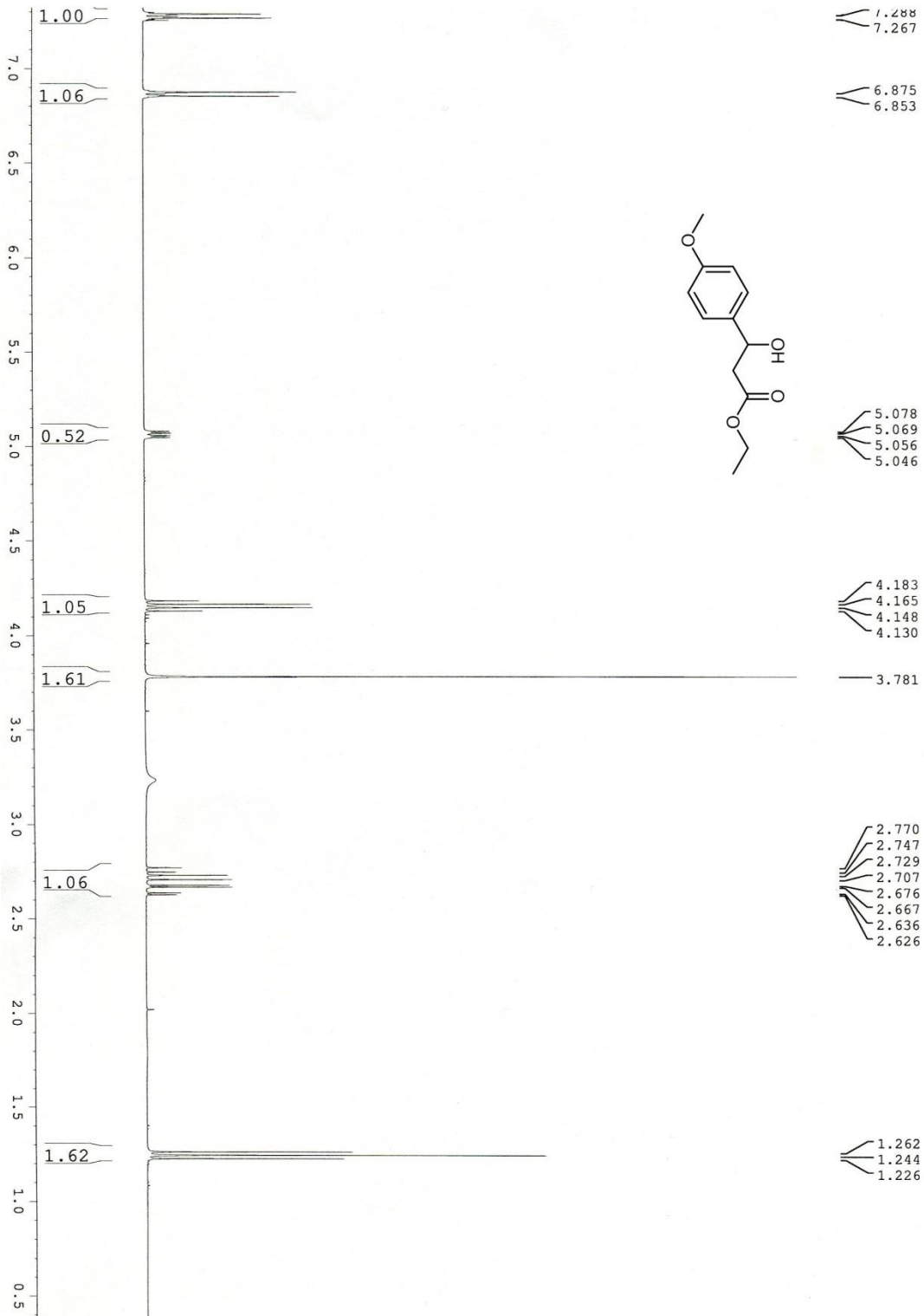
To the solution of acid **1i** (200 mg, 1.2mmol) in organic solvent (20 mL), triethylorthoobenzoate (2 mmol), Novozyme 435 (100 mg) and rhodium(II) acetate (10 mol%) was stirred for 72 hours at 40°C in vortex mixture (HeidolphPromax 1020) equipped with incubator (HeidolphInkubator 1000). Enzyme and catalyst were separated by filtration and washed with ethyl acetate. Combined organic phases were evaporated in vacuum and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes). Product (*S*)-**2i** was obtained with 98% yield (246 mg) as a colourless oil.

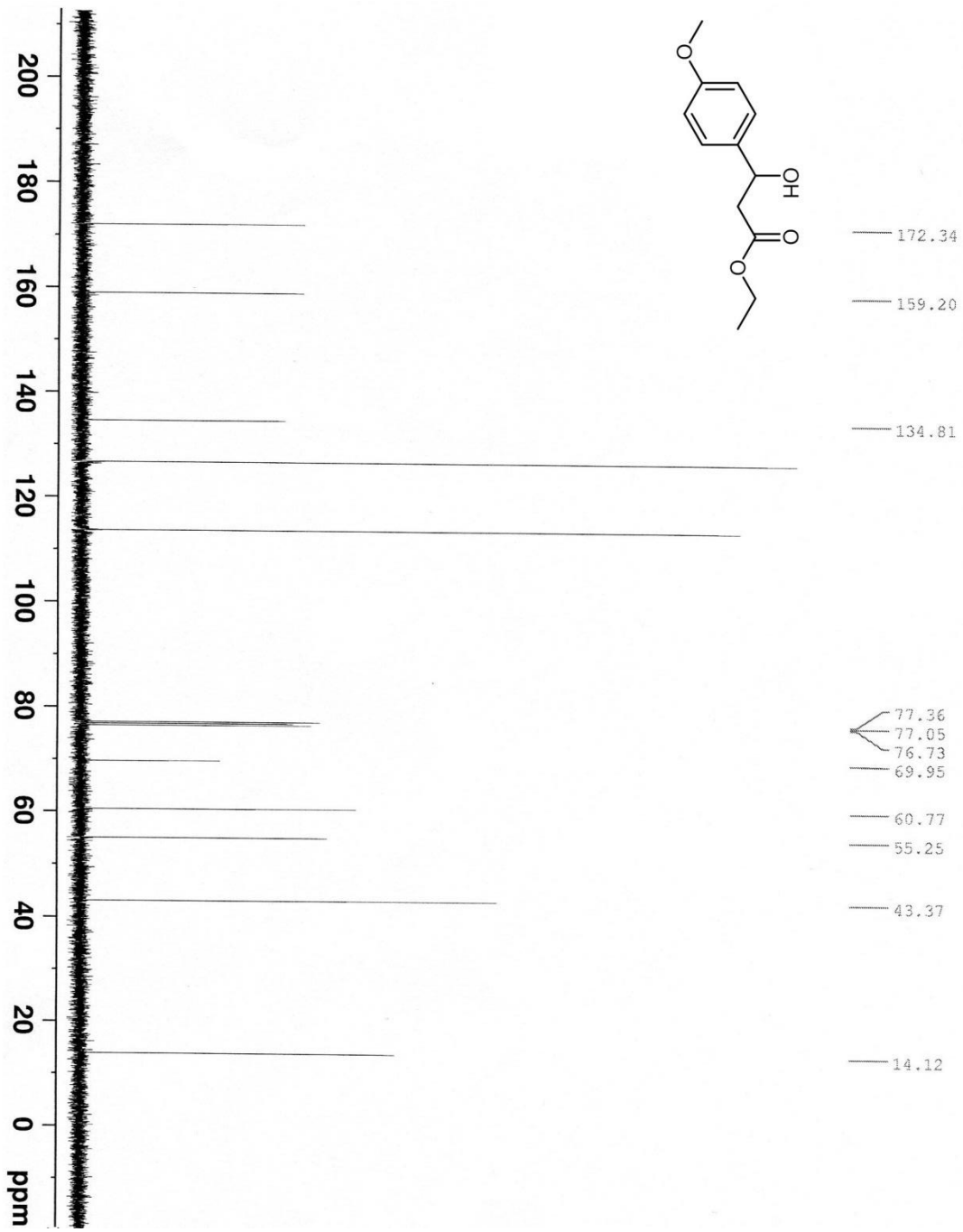
¹⁰Brem, J.; Naghi, M.; Tosa, M. -I.; Boros, Z.; Poppe, L.; Irimie, F, -D.; Paizs, C. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2011**, *22*, 1672-1679.

¹¹Kitanosono, T.; Xu, P.; Kobayashi, S. *Chem. Asian J.* **2014**, *9*, 179-188.

¹²Xu, Ch.; Yuan, Ch. *Tetrahedron* **2005**, *61*, 2169-2186.

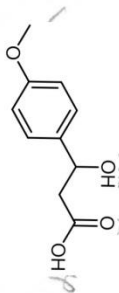
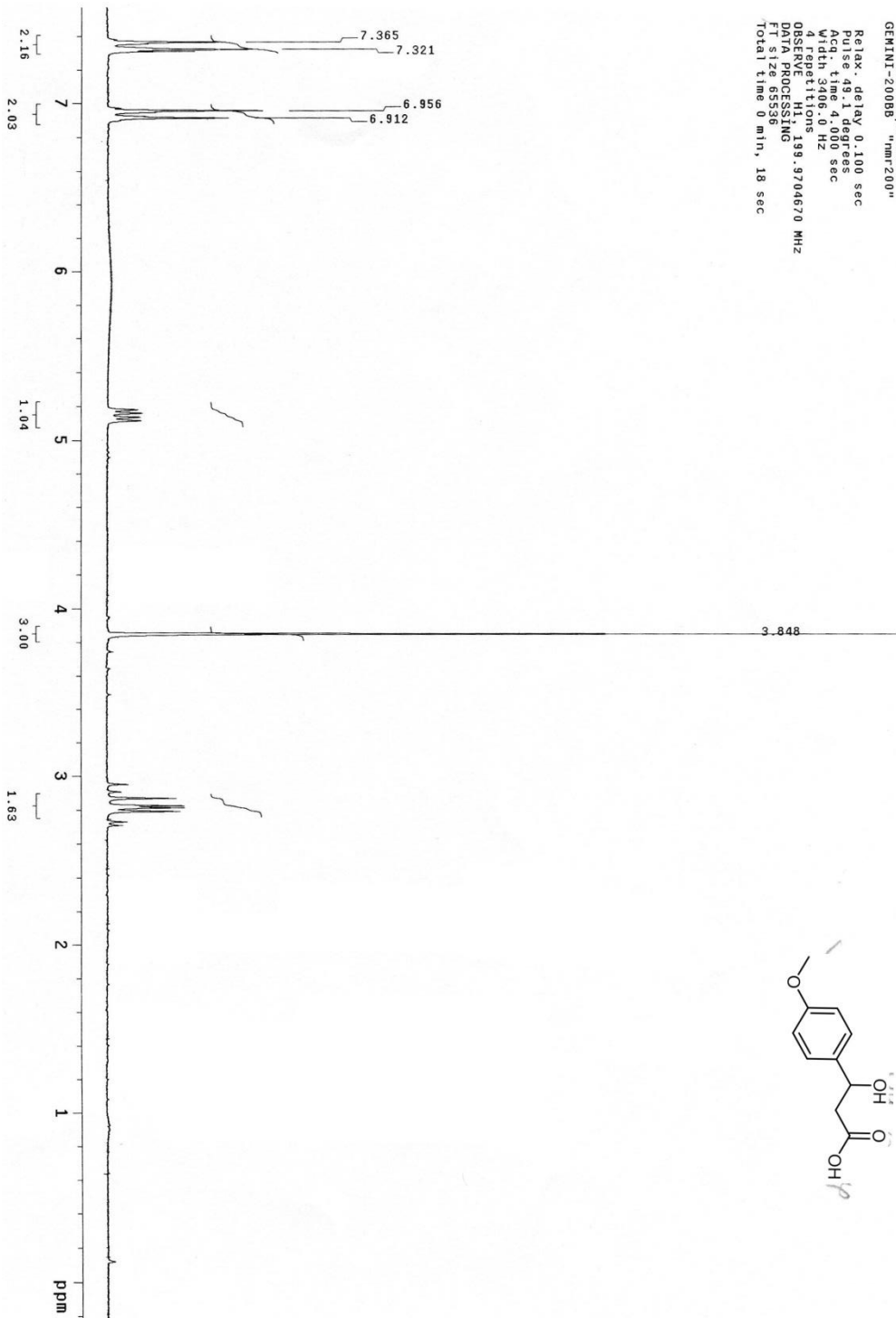
- ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for 1a-i and 2a-i:

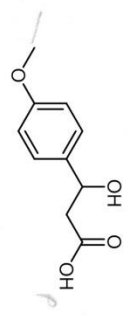




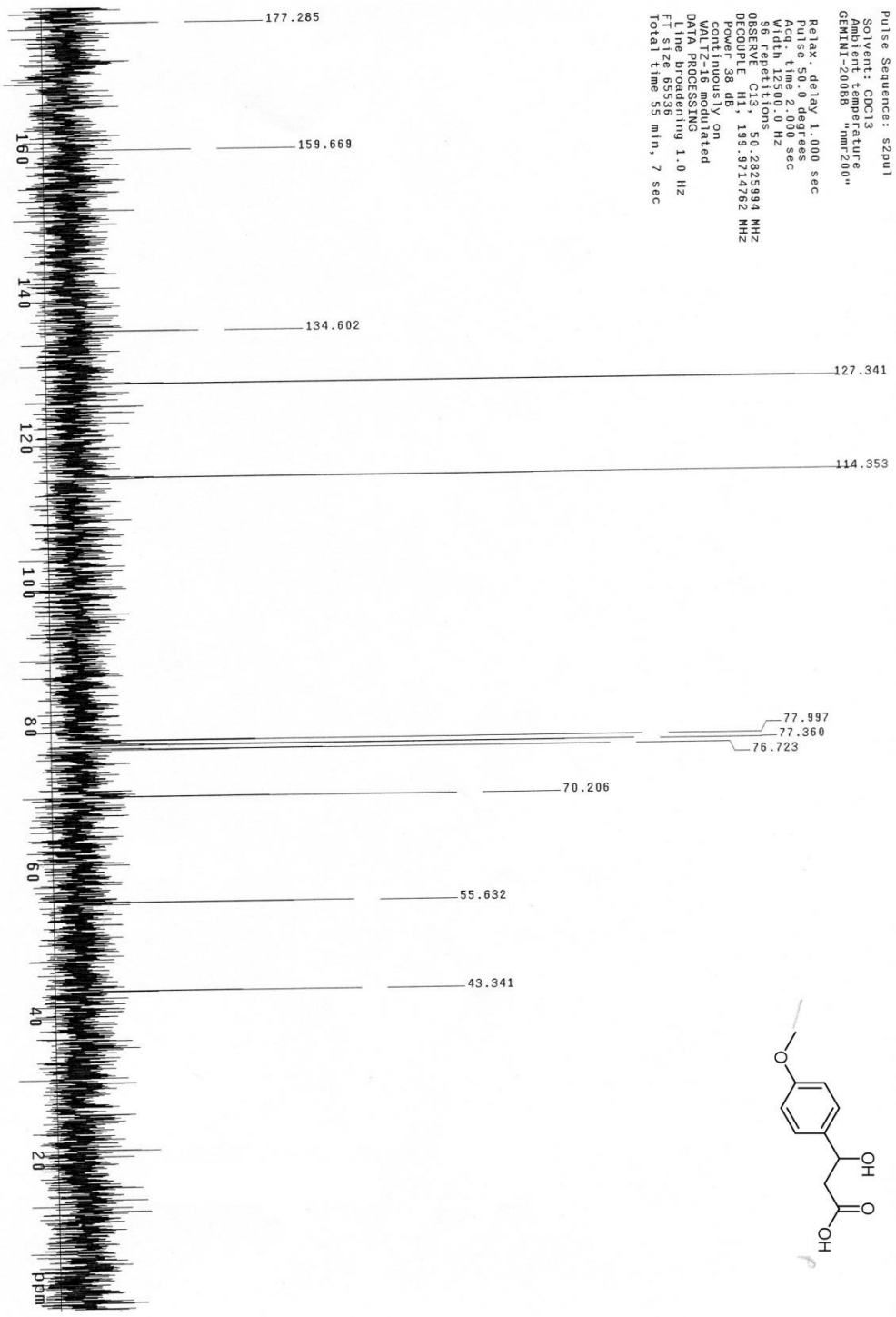
Relax. delay 0.100 sec
Pulse 49.1 degrees
Acq. time 4.000 sec
Width 398.0 Hz
Observer HI
DATA PROCESSING
FT size 65536
Total time 0 min, 18 sec

Ambient temperature
GEMINI-200BB "nmr200"

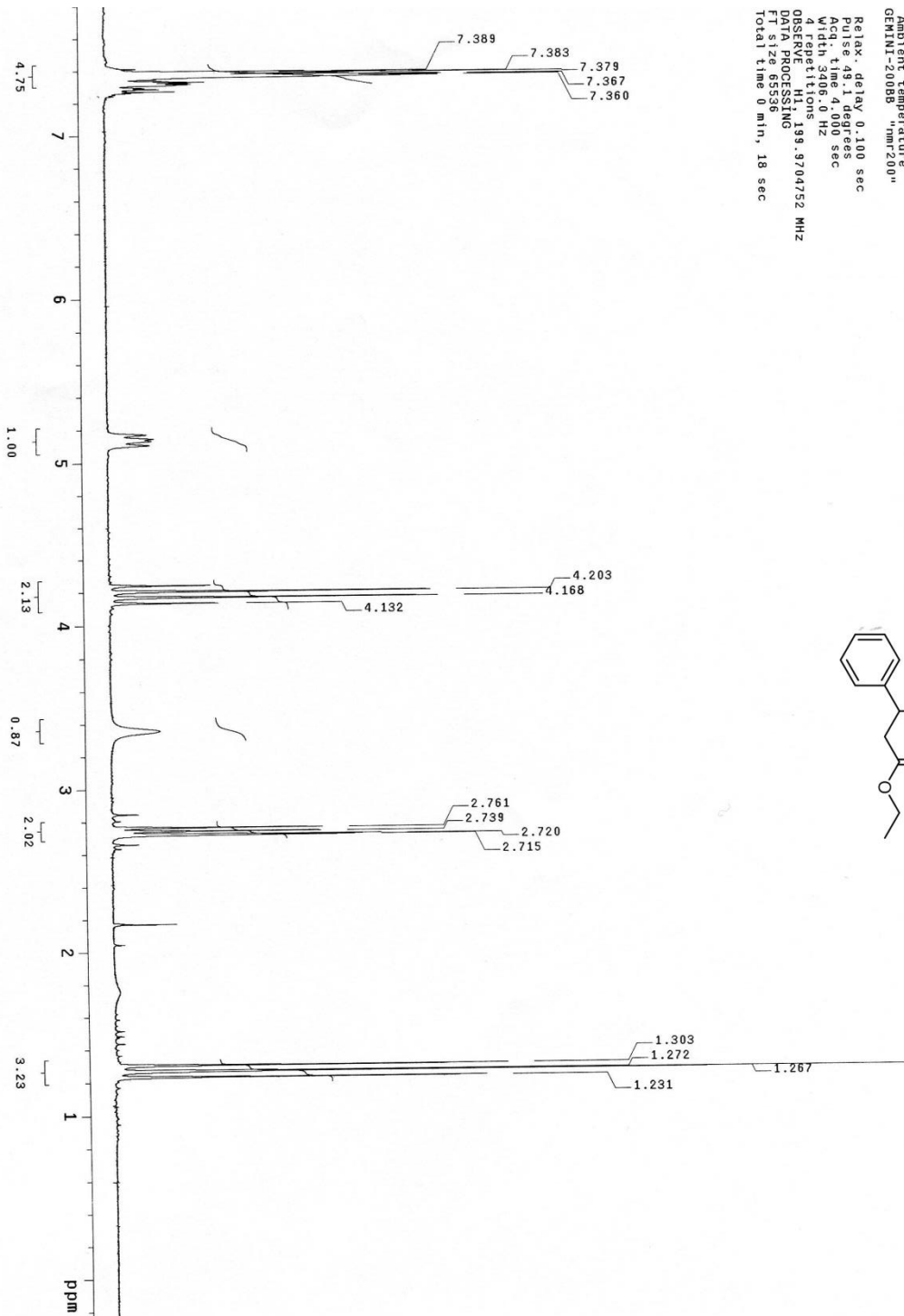
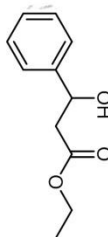


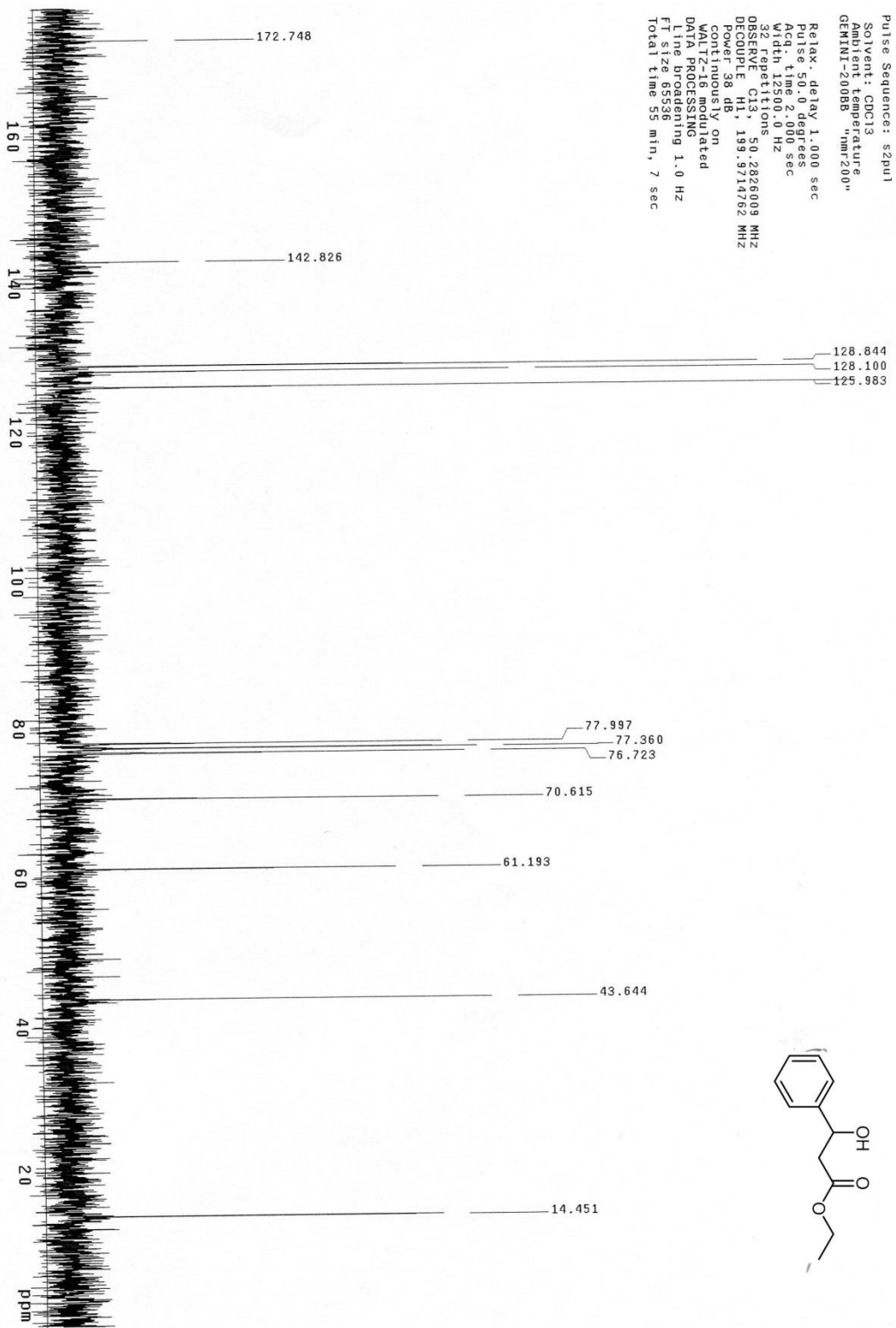


13C OBSERVE
 Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Ambient temperature
 GEMINI-20088 "nmr200"
 Relax. delay 1.000 sec
 Pulse 50.0 degrees
 Acq. time 2.000 sec
 Width 12500.0 Hz
 OBSERVE C13
 DECOUPLE H1, 199.9714782 MHz
 Power 38 db
 Continuously on
 WALTZ-16 modulated
 DATA PROCESSING
 FT size 65536
 Total time 55 min, 7 sec

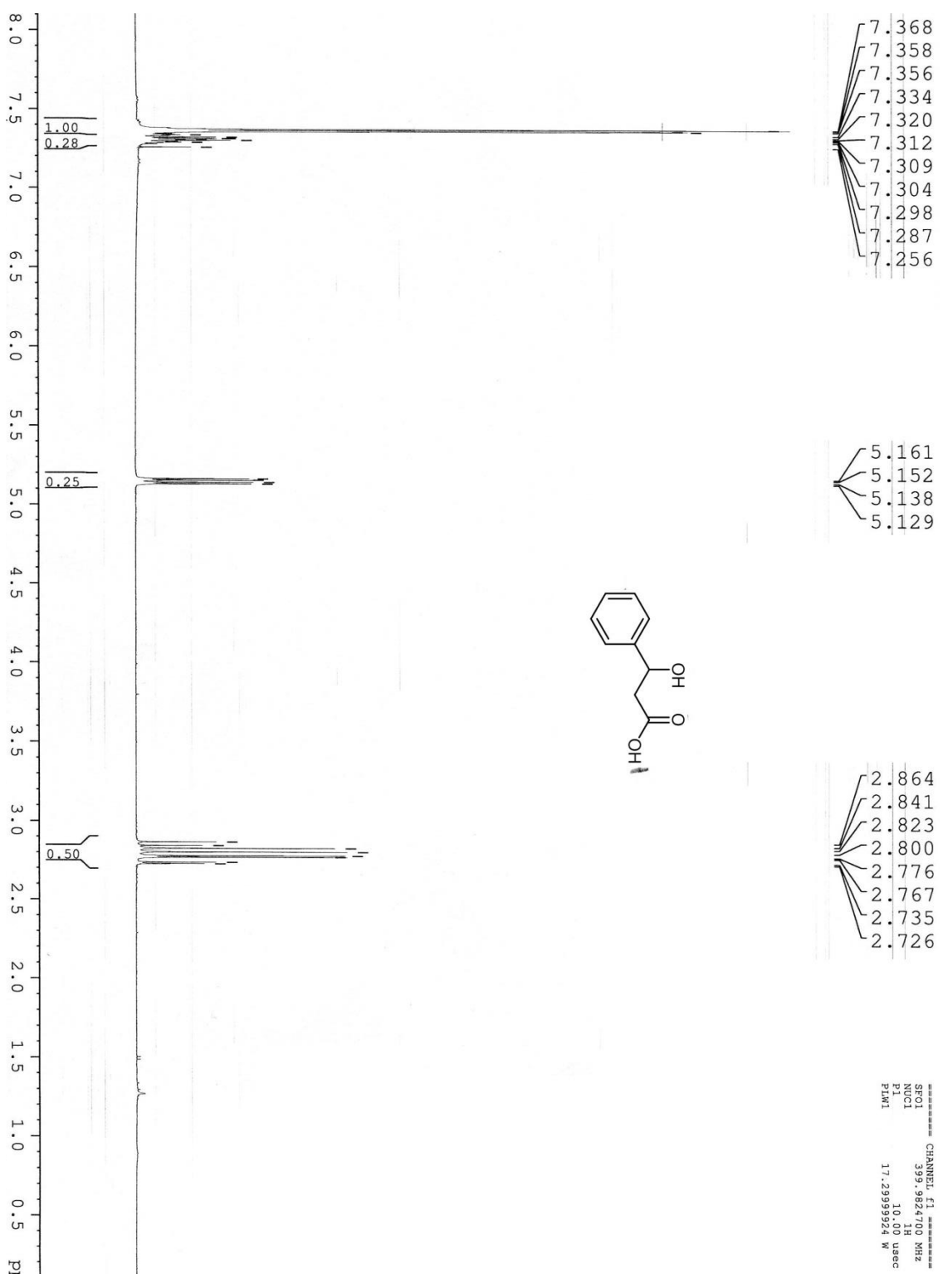


Pulse Sequence: szpu1
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Ambient temperature
 GEMINI-20088 "nmr200"
 Relax: delay 0.100 sec
 Pulse 49.1 degrees
 Acq. time 4.000 sec
 4 scans
 4100 Hz
 OBSERVE H1 199.9704752 MHz
 DATA PROCESSING
 FT size 65536
 Total time 0 min, 18 sec

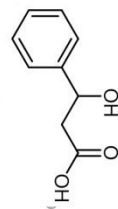
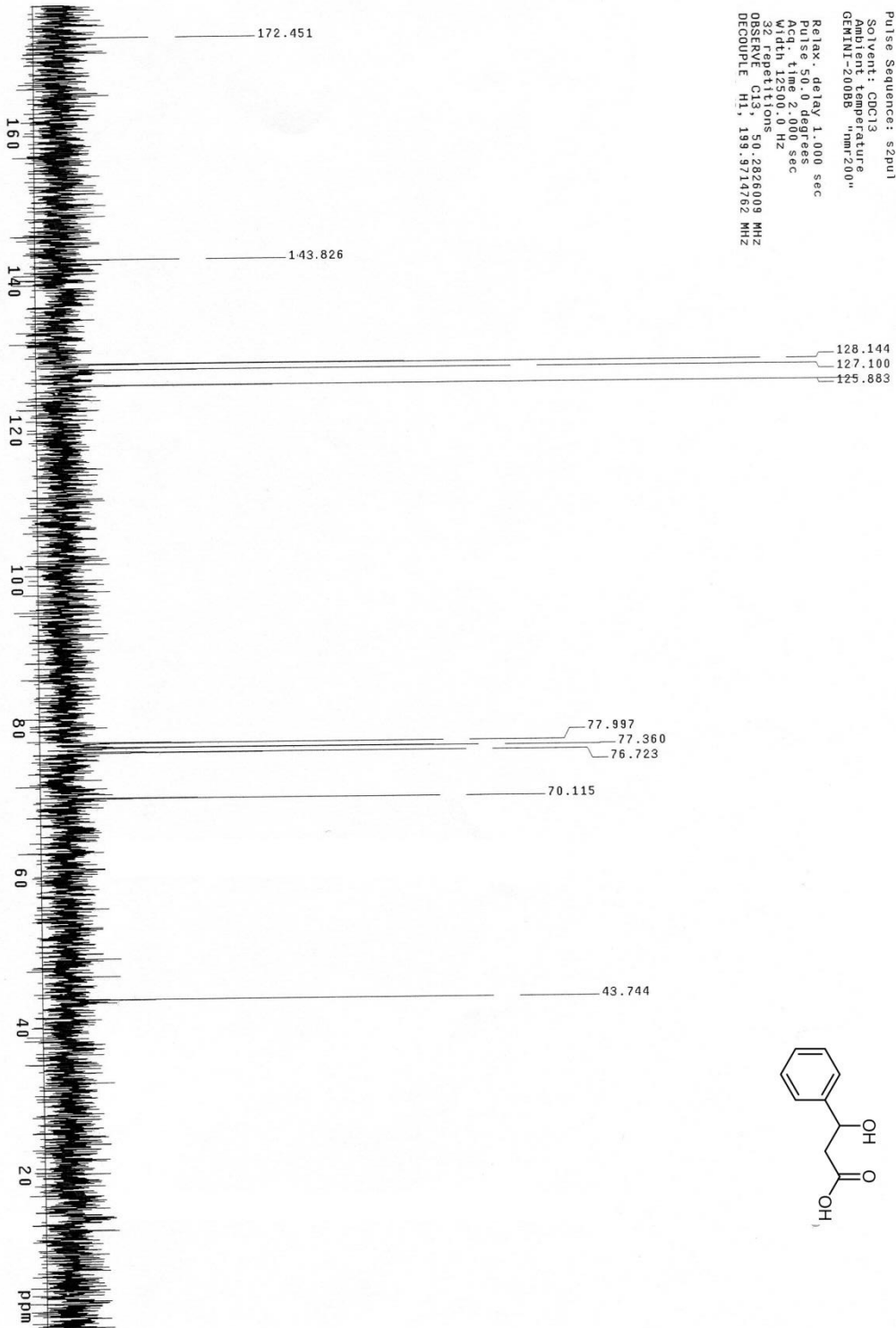




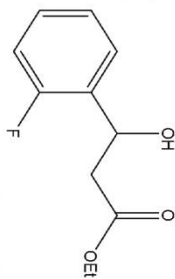
Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Ambient temperature
 GEMINI-200BB "nmr200"
 Relax. delay 1.000 sec
 Pulse 50.0 degrees
 Acq. time 2.000 sec
 Width 12500.0 Hz
 32 repetitions
 OBSERVE C13, 50.2826009 MHz
 DECOUPLE H1, 199.9714762 MHz
 Power 38 dB
 CONTINUOUSLY ON
 NOT INDEPENDENTLY TUNABLE
 DATA PROCESSING
 Line broadening 1.0 Hz
 FT size 65536
 Total time 59 min, 7 sec



***** CHANNEL F1 *****
 SFO1 399.9824700 MHz
 NUC1 1H
 P1 10.00 usec
 PLW1 17.2999924 W



7.5
7.0
6.5
6.0
5.5
5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
ppm



- 7.108
- 7.092
- 7.089
- 7.073
- 7.070
- 6.975
- 6.972
- 6.955
- 6.952
- 6.949
- 6.946
- 6.928
- 6.925

- 5.356
- 5.348
- 5.334
- 5.325

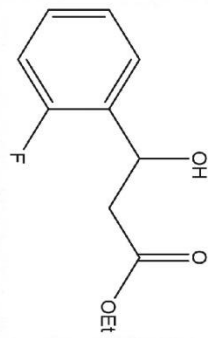
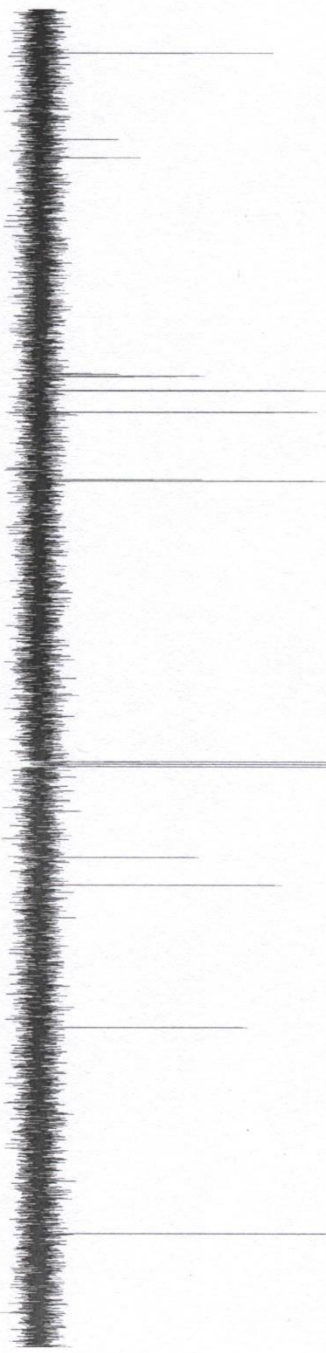
- 4.144
- 4.126
- 4.108
- 4.091

- 3.392

- 2.756
- 2.747
- 2.715
- 2.706
- 2.676
- 2.654
- 2.635
- 2.612

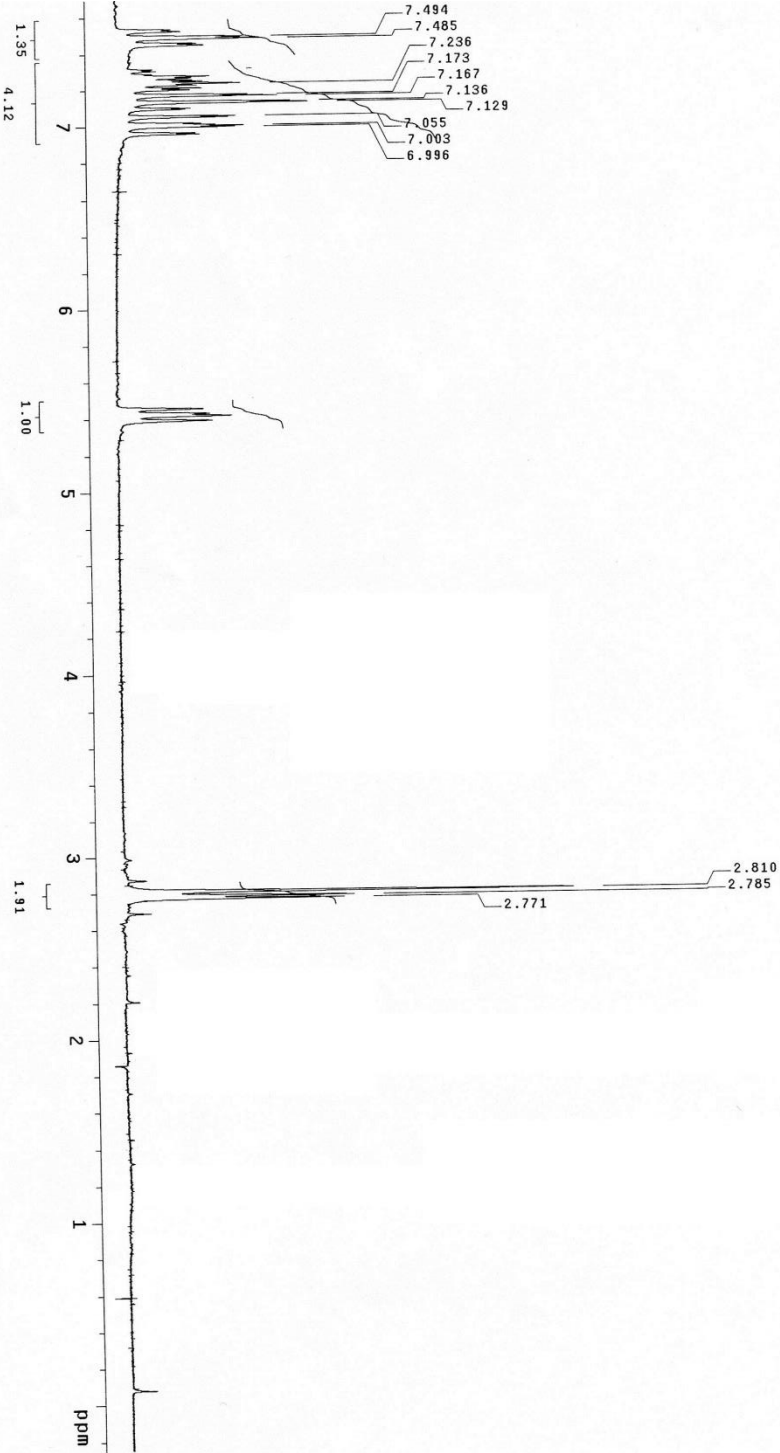
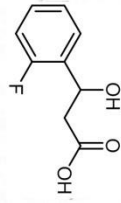
- 1.210
- 1.192
- 1.174

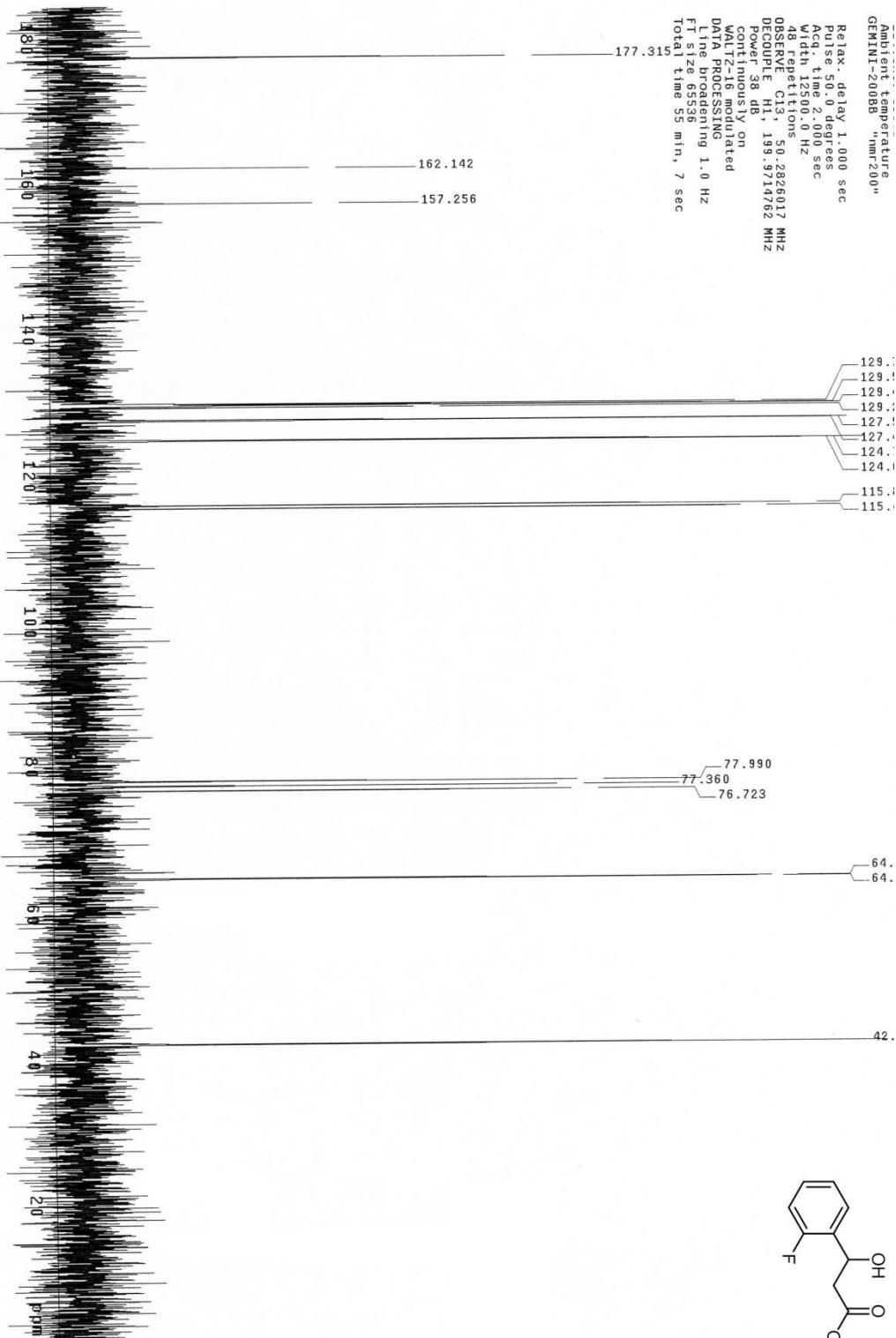
170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 ppm



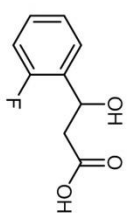
- 172.39
- 160.69
- 158.25
- 129.39
- 129.16
- 129.07
- 127.24
- 127.20
- 124.36
- 124.32
- 115.33
- 115.12
- 64.62
- 64.59
- 60.92
- 41.87
- 41.86
- 14.10

Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
Solvent: CDCl3
Ambient temperature
CEMINT-20088 "nm/200"
Relax. delay 0.100 sec
Pulse 49.1 degrees
Acq. time 4.092 sec
4 repetitions
OBSERVE H1, 199.9704780 MHz
DATA PROCESSING
FT size 65536
Total time 0 min, 18 sec

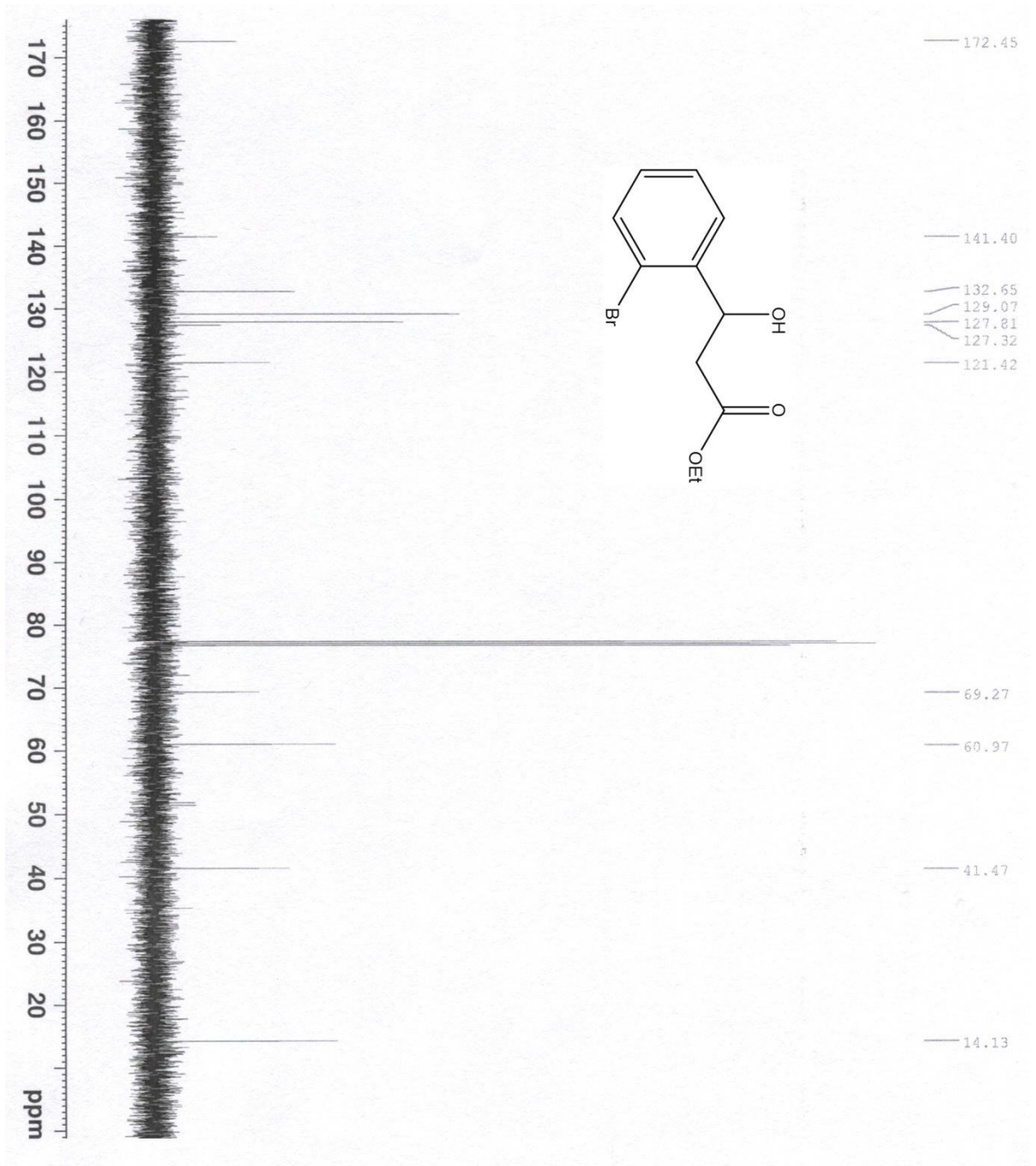




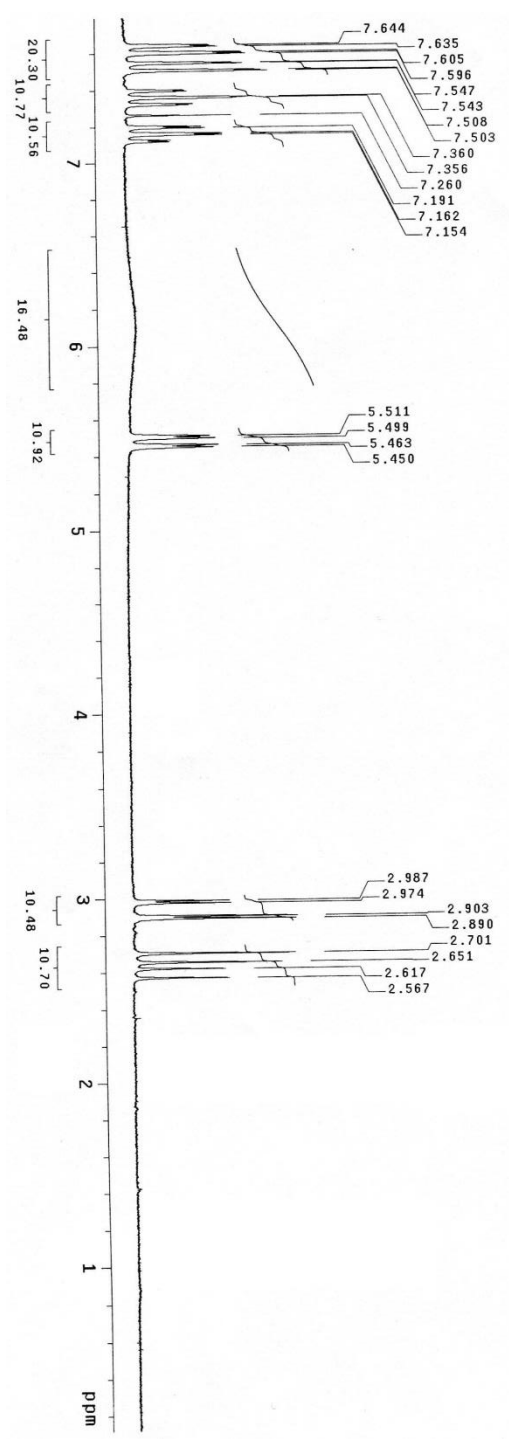
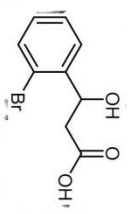
Ambient temperature
GEMINI-200BB "nmr200"
Relax. delay 1.000 sec
Pulse 50.0 degrees
Acq. time 2.000 sec
Mtdh 12300.0 Hz
M Freq 125000.0 Hz
ORSERVE C13 50.2826017 MHZ
DECUPLE H1 199.9714762 MHZ
Power 38 db
continously on
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 65536
Total time 55 min, 7 sec



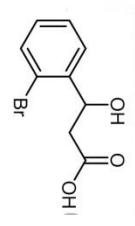
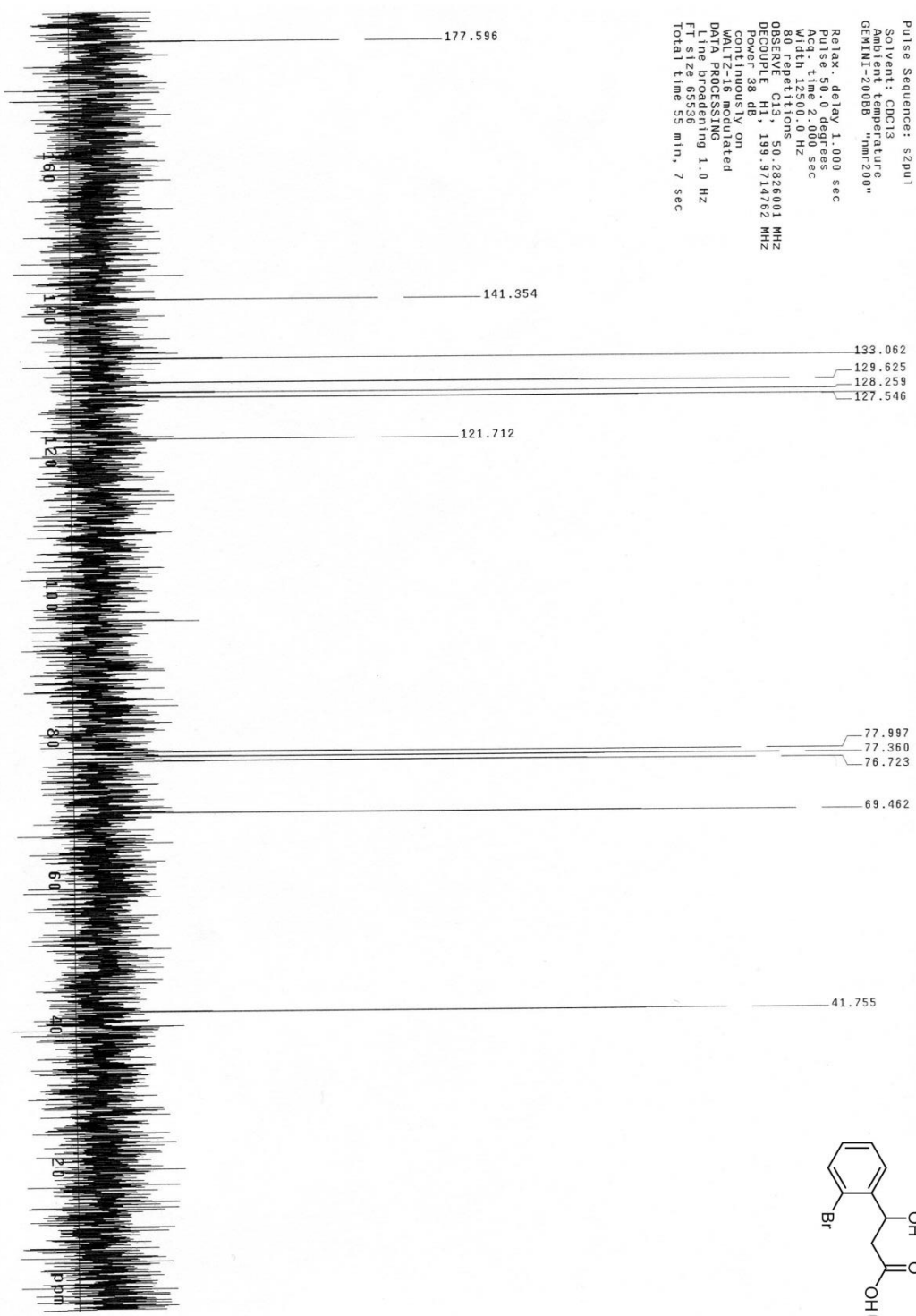


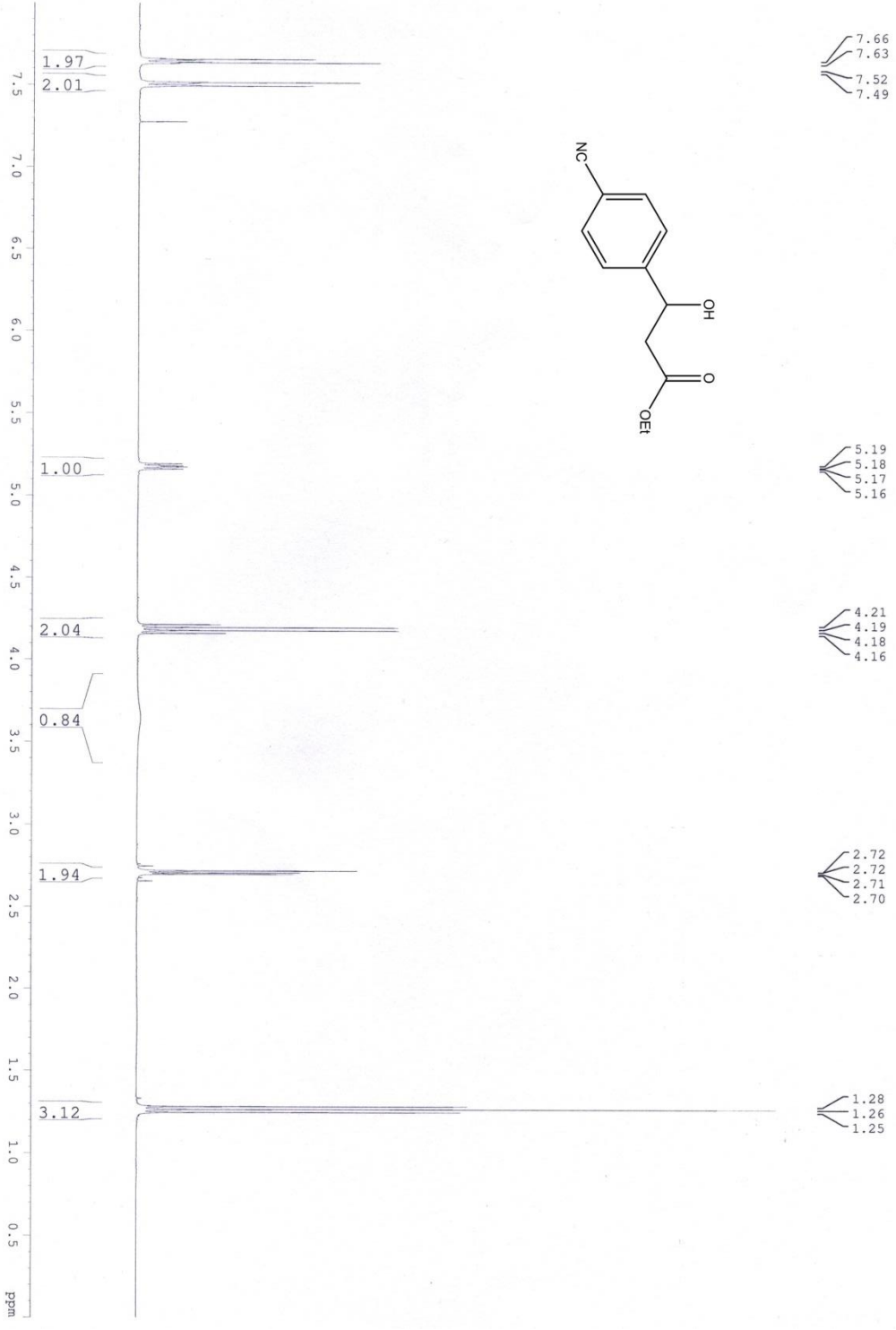


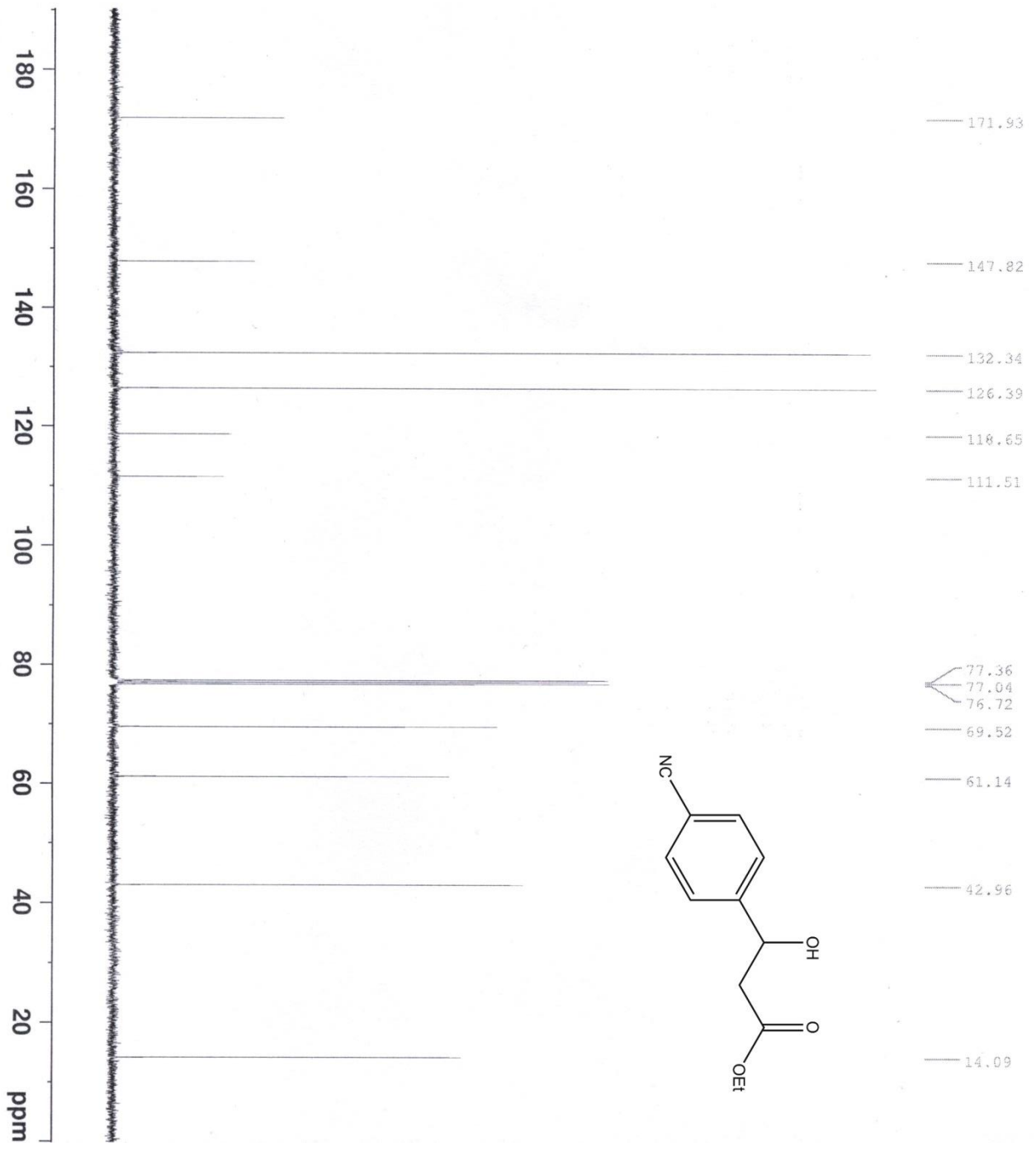
Pulse Sequence: s2pul
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Acquisition Temperature: 200.00
 GEMINAL: 20088
 Relax. delay 0.100 sec
 Pulse: 49.1 degrees
 Acq. time 4.000 sec
 Width 3406.0 Hz
 4 repetitions 199.9704770 MHz
 DSSK PROCESSING
 FT size 65536
 Total time 0 min, 18 sec

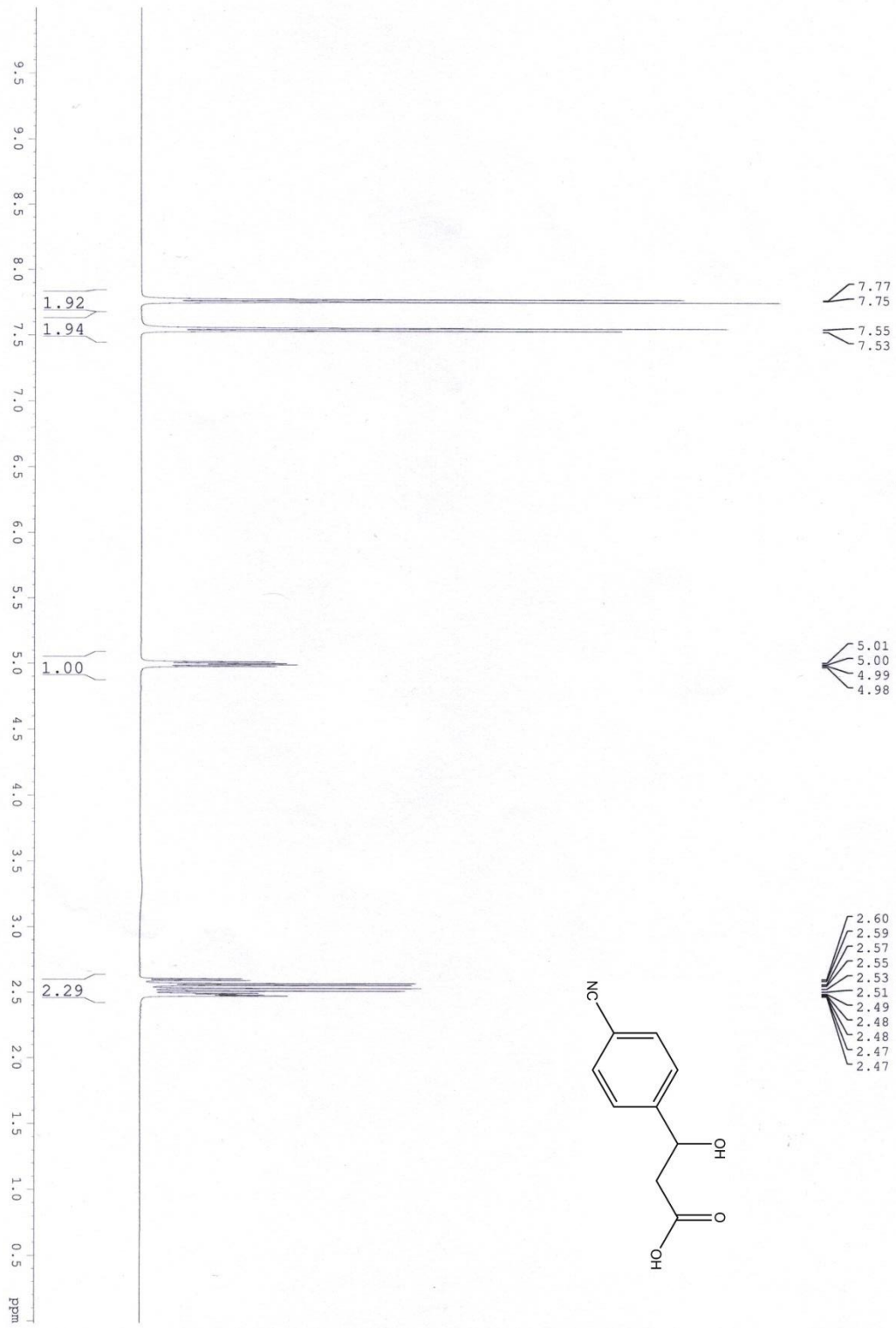


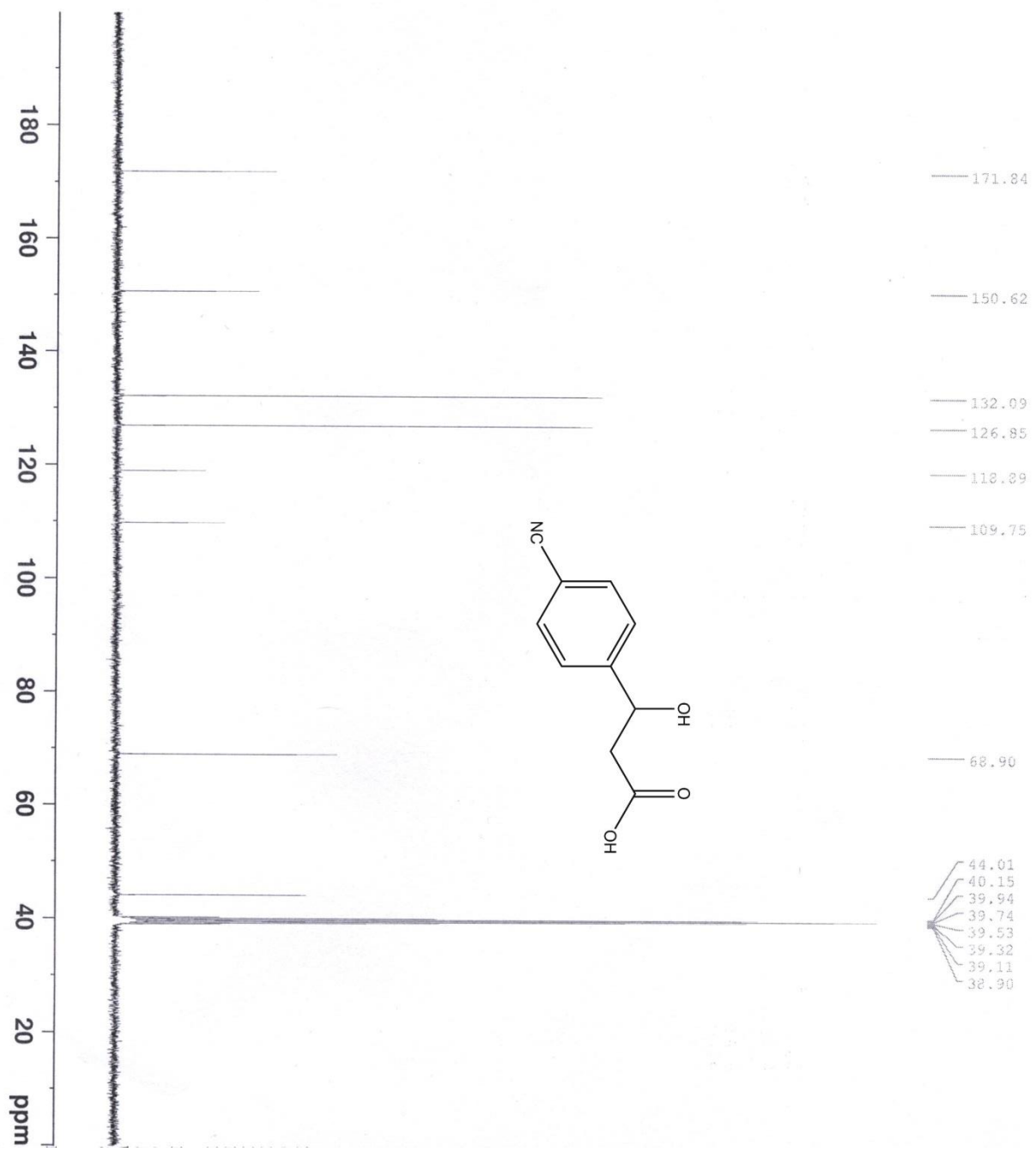
Pulse Sequence: szpul
Solvent: CDCl3
Ambient Temperature
GEMINI-20088 "mm200"
Relax. delay 1.000 sec
Pulse program: zgpg30
Acq time 2.000 sec
Width 12500.0 Hz
80 repetitions
OBSERVE C13, 50.2826001 MHz
DECUPLE H1, 199.9714782 MHz
Power 38.00 dB
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 65536
Total time 55 min, 7 sec

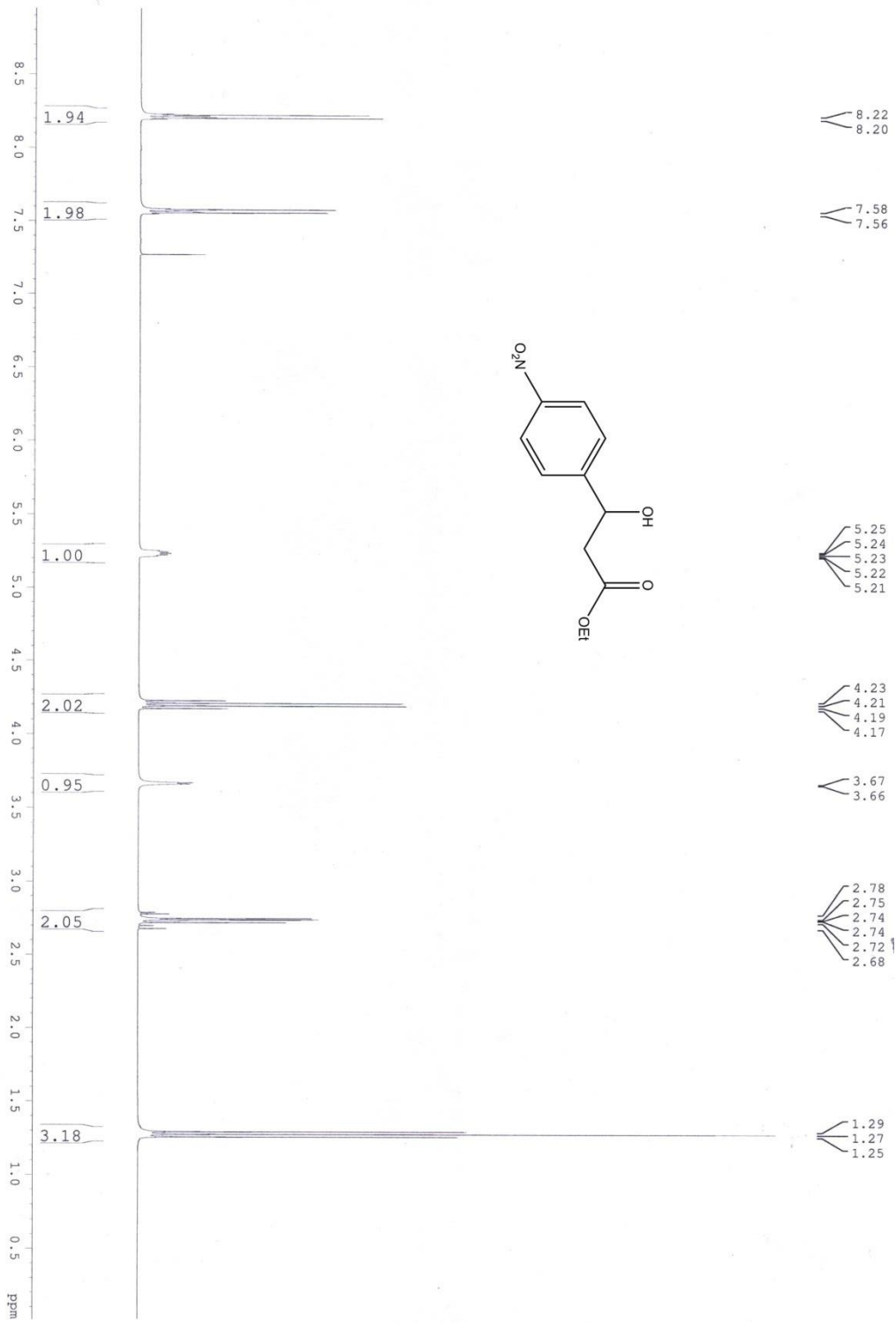


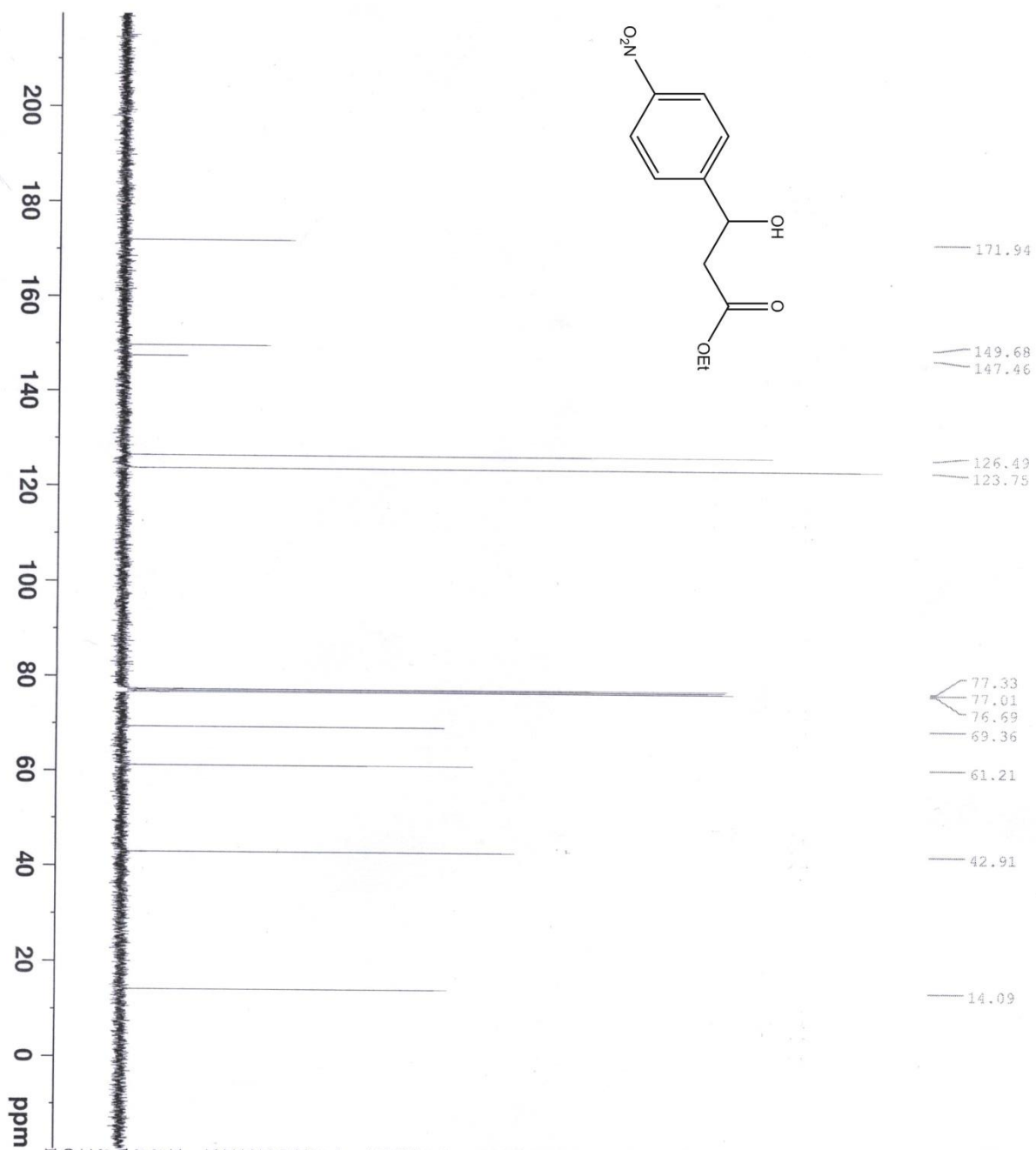




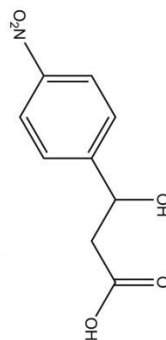








13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
ppm

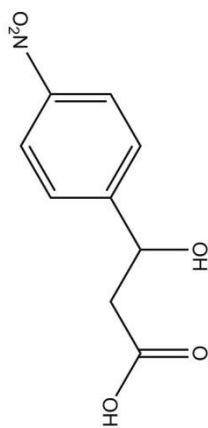
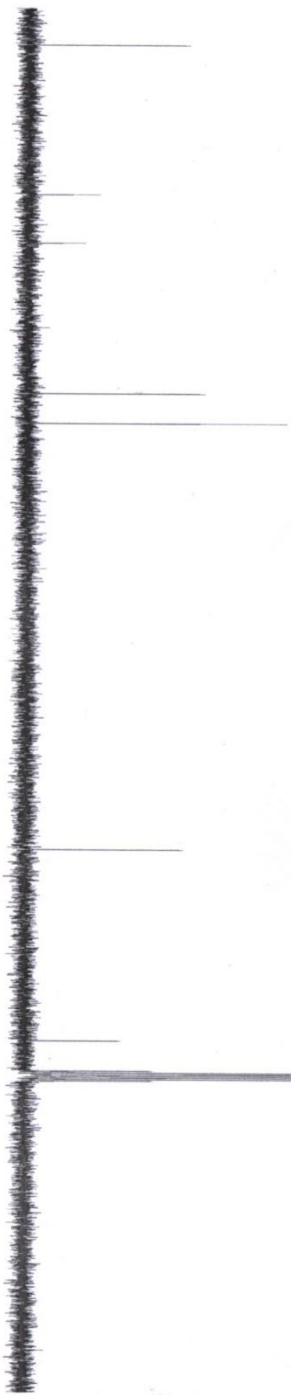


8.179
8.157
7.637
7.615

5.070
5.057
5.049
5.036

3.289
2.632
2.619
2.594
2.581
2.552
2.531
2.514
2.493
2.489
2.484
2.480
2.475
2.471

170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 ppm



172.24

153.22

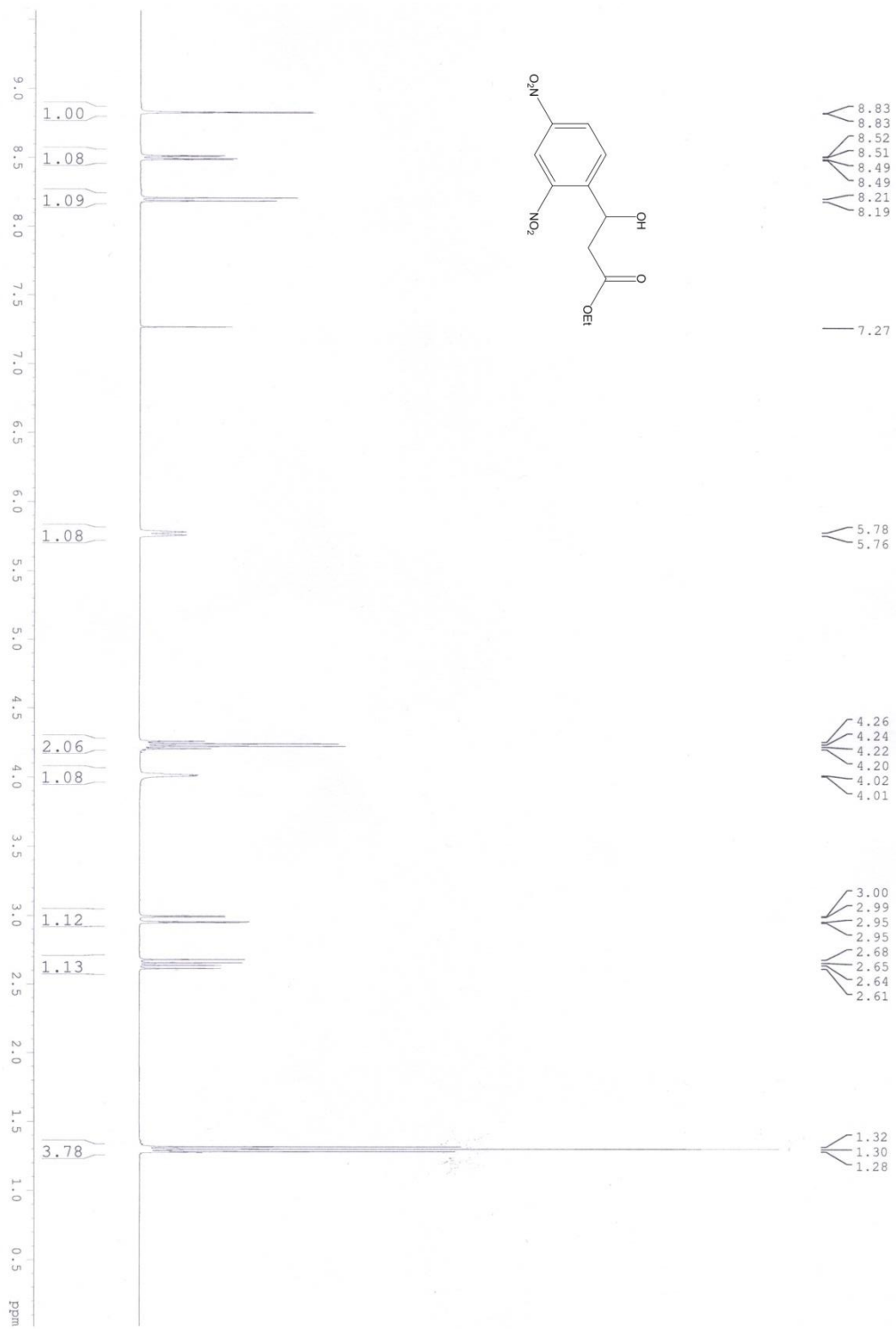
147.03

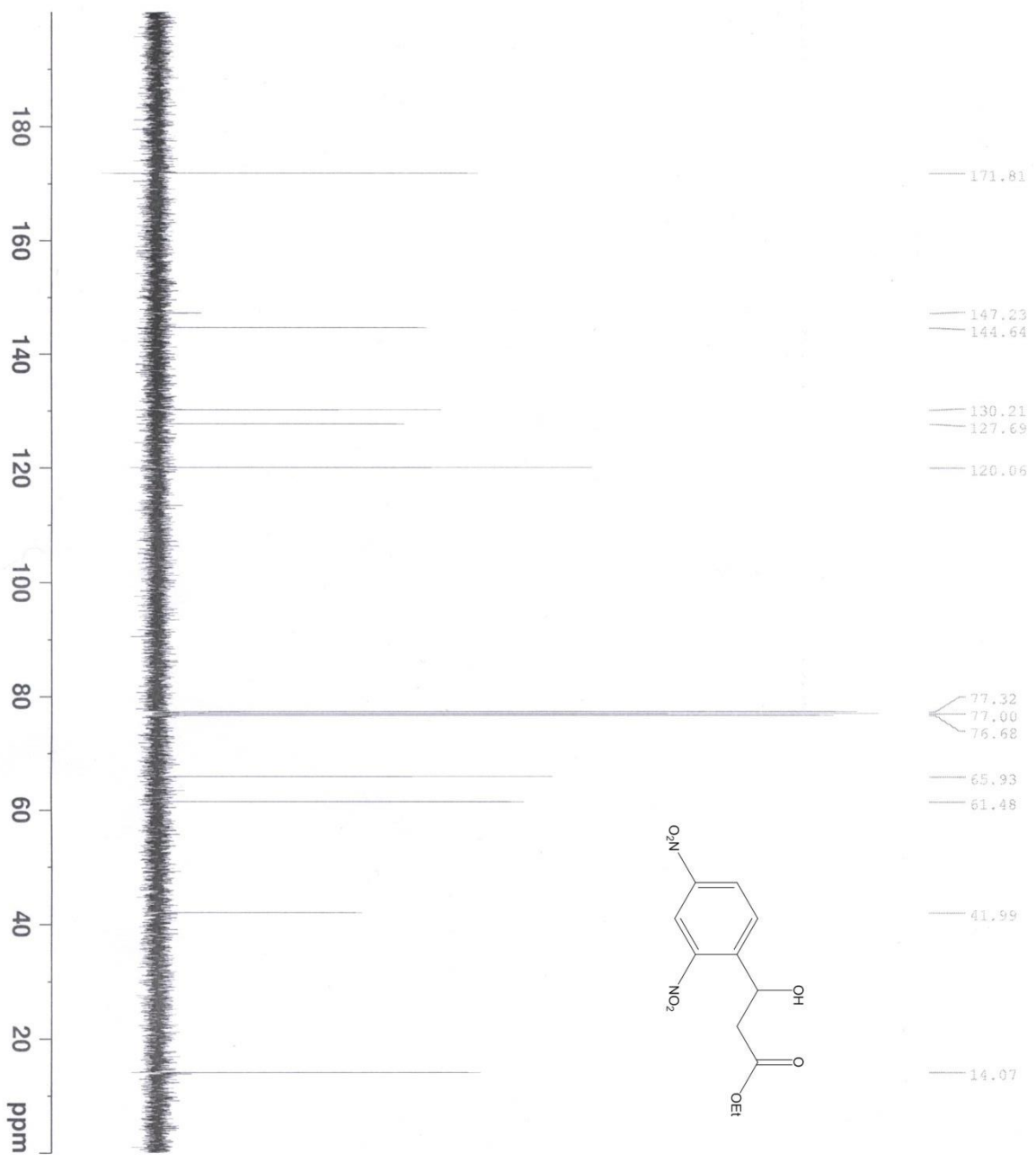
127.56

123.74

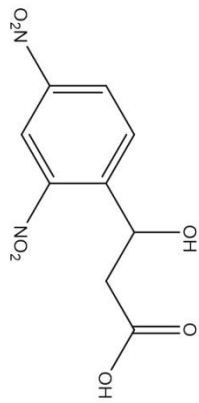
69.17

44.48





13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
ppm



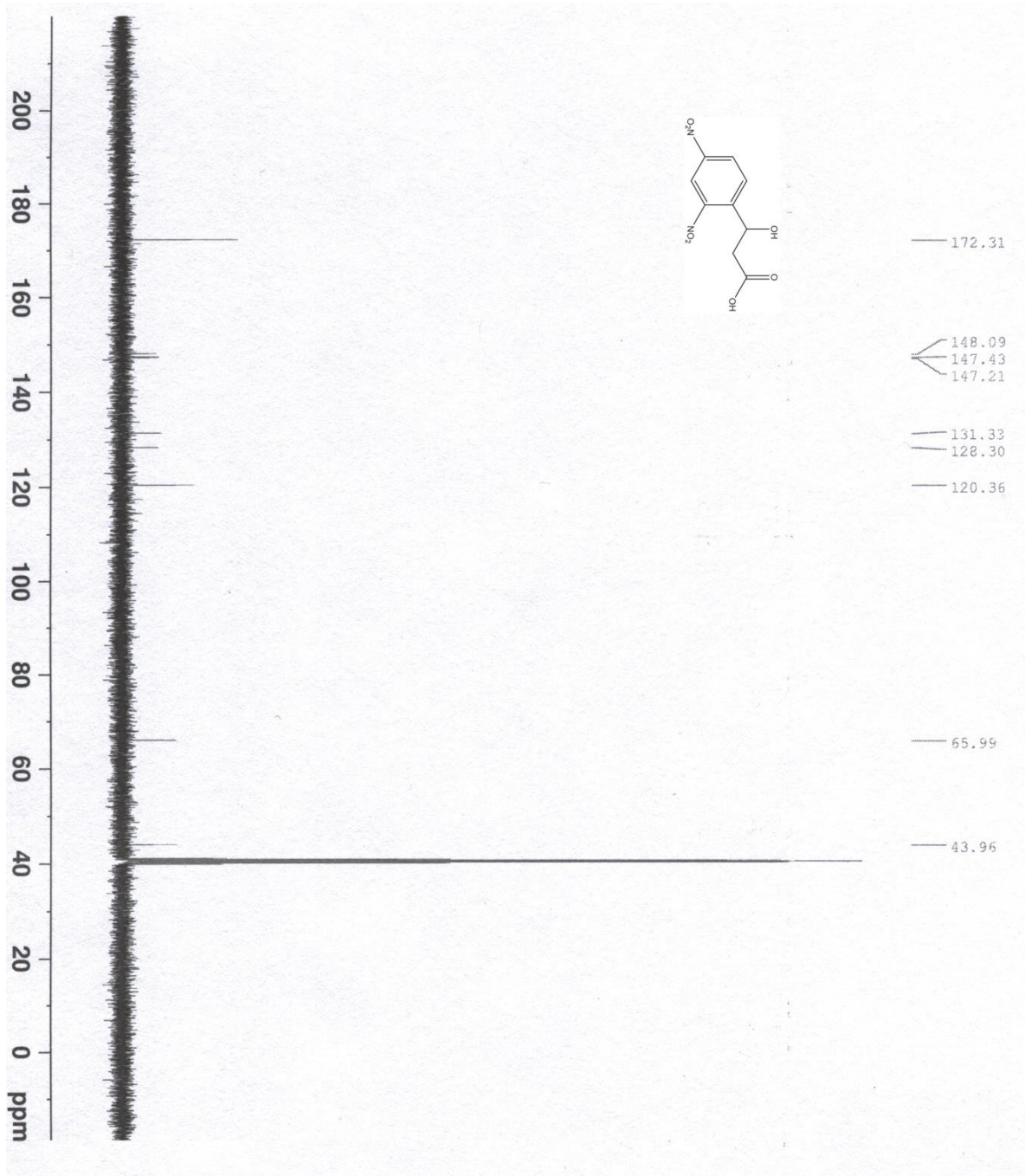
12.355

- 8.739
- 8.734
- 8.591
- 8.585
- 8.569
- 8.563
- 8.154
- 8.132

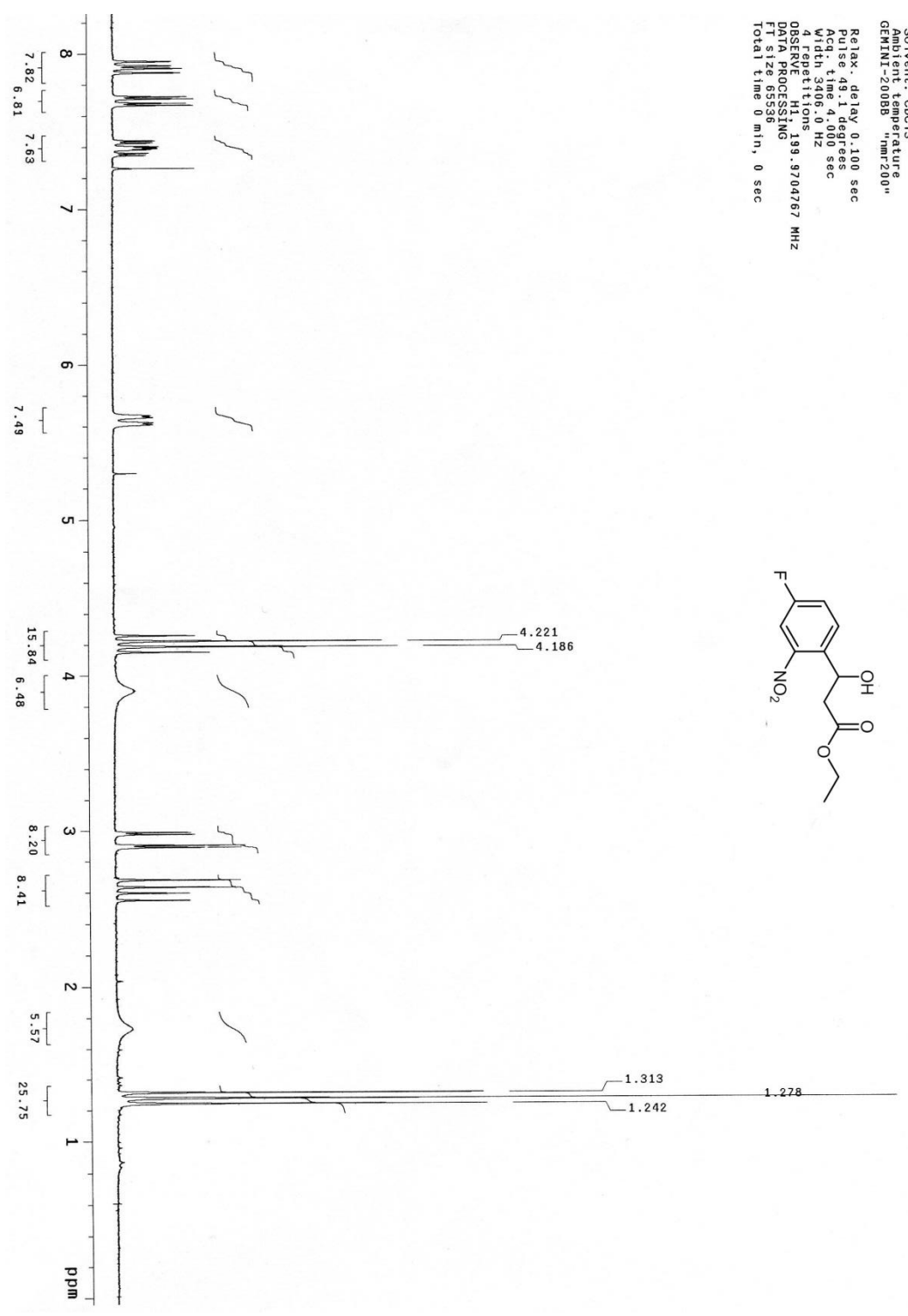
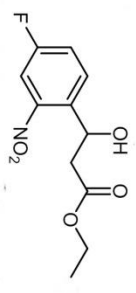
6.084

- 5.565
- 5.556
- 5.543
- 5.534

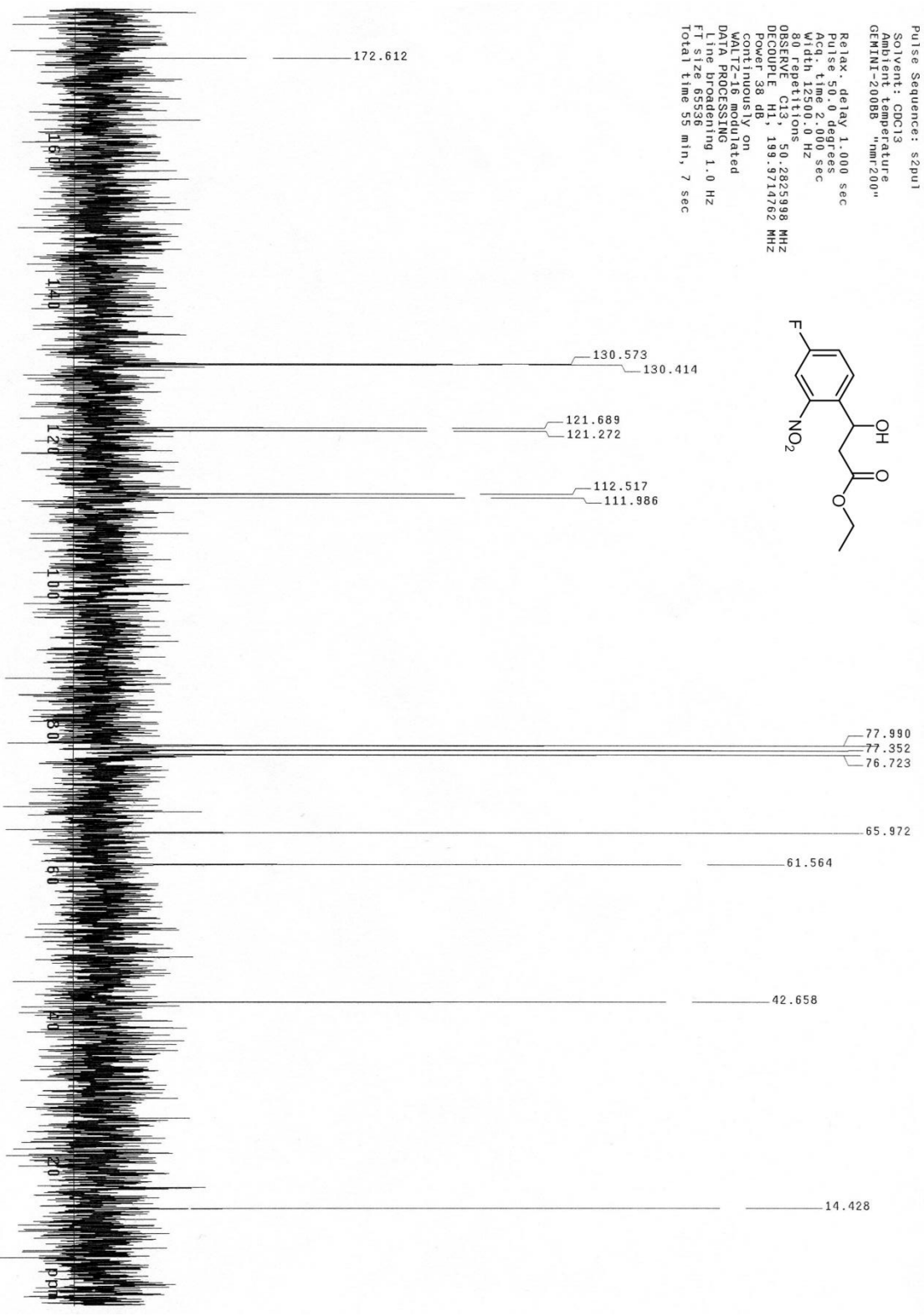
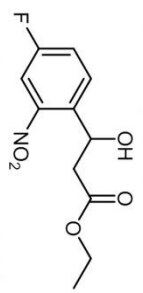
- 2.769
- 2.760
- 2.730
- 2.721
- 2.605
- 2.583
- 2.566
- 2.549
- 2.544
- 2.540
- 2.535
- 2.531



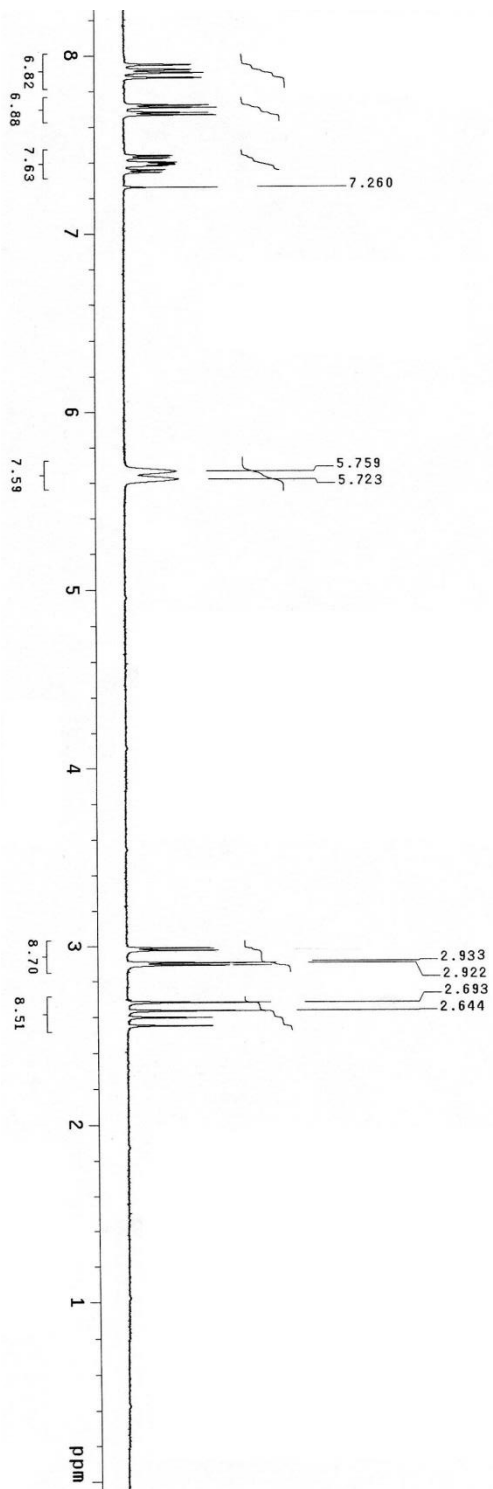
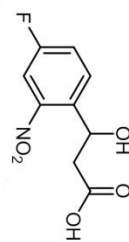
Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Ambient Temperature
 GEMINI-200BB "nmr200"
 Relax. delay 0.100 sec
 Pulse. delay 0.100 sec
 Acq. time 4.000 sec
 Width 3406.0 Hz
 4 repetitions
 OBSERVE H1, 199.9704767 MHz
 DATA PROCESSING
 File size 358
 Total time 0 min, 0 sec



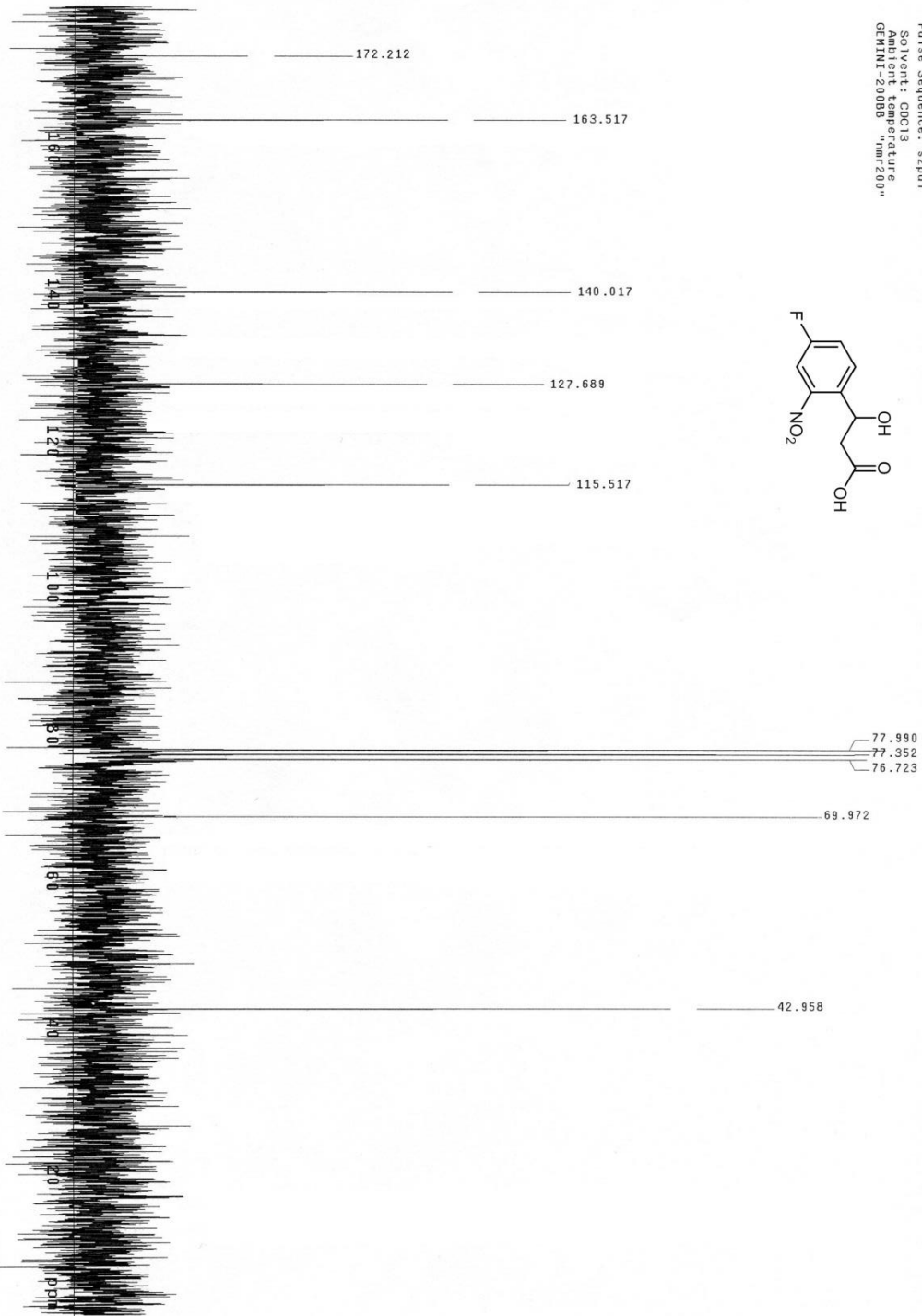
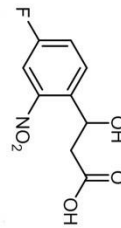
Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
 Solvent: CDCl3
 Ambient temperature
 GEMINI-20088 "nmr200"
 Relax delay 1.000 sec
 Pulse program gprsg
 Acq time 2.000 sec
 Width 12500.0 Hz
 80 repetitions
 OBSERVE C13, 50.282598 MHz
 DECOUPLE H1, 199.9714762 MHz
 Power 38 dB
 continuously on
 WALTZ-16 modulated
 DATA PROCESSING
 Line broadening 1.0 Hz
 Size 65536
 Total time 55 min, 7 sec



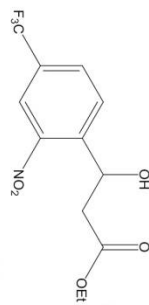
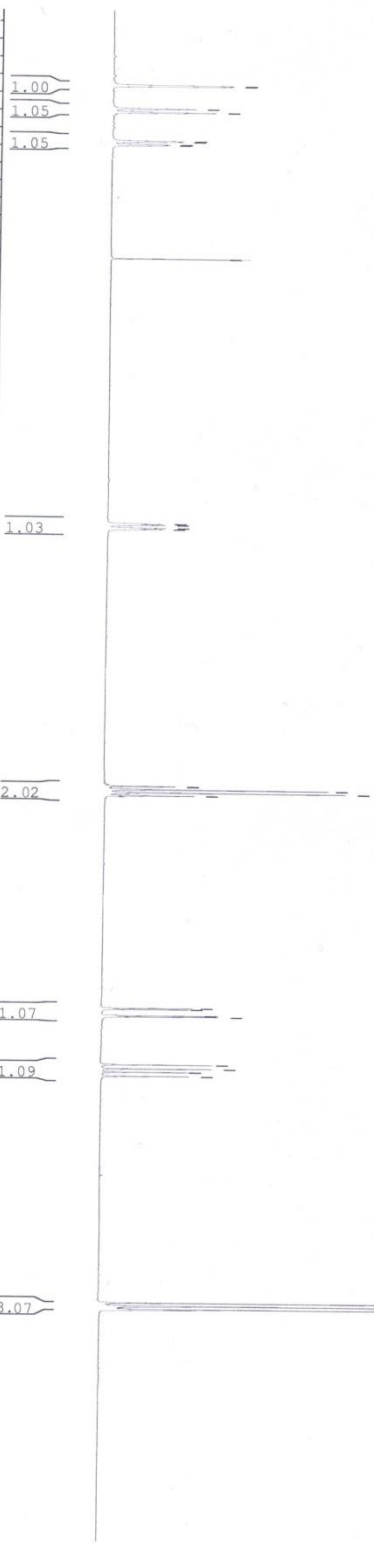
Pulse Sequence: s2pu1
Solvent: CDCl3
Ambient temperature
GEMINI-20088 "nmr200"



Pulse Sequence: s2pul
Solvent: CDCl3
Ambient Temperature
CEMINTI-2008B "nmr200"



8.5
8.0
7.5
7.0
6.5
6.0
5.5
5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
ppm



8.241
8.239
8.110
8.089
7.928
7.923
7.907
7.903
7.256

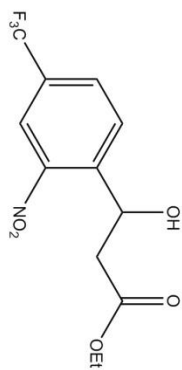
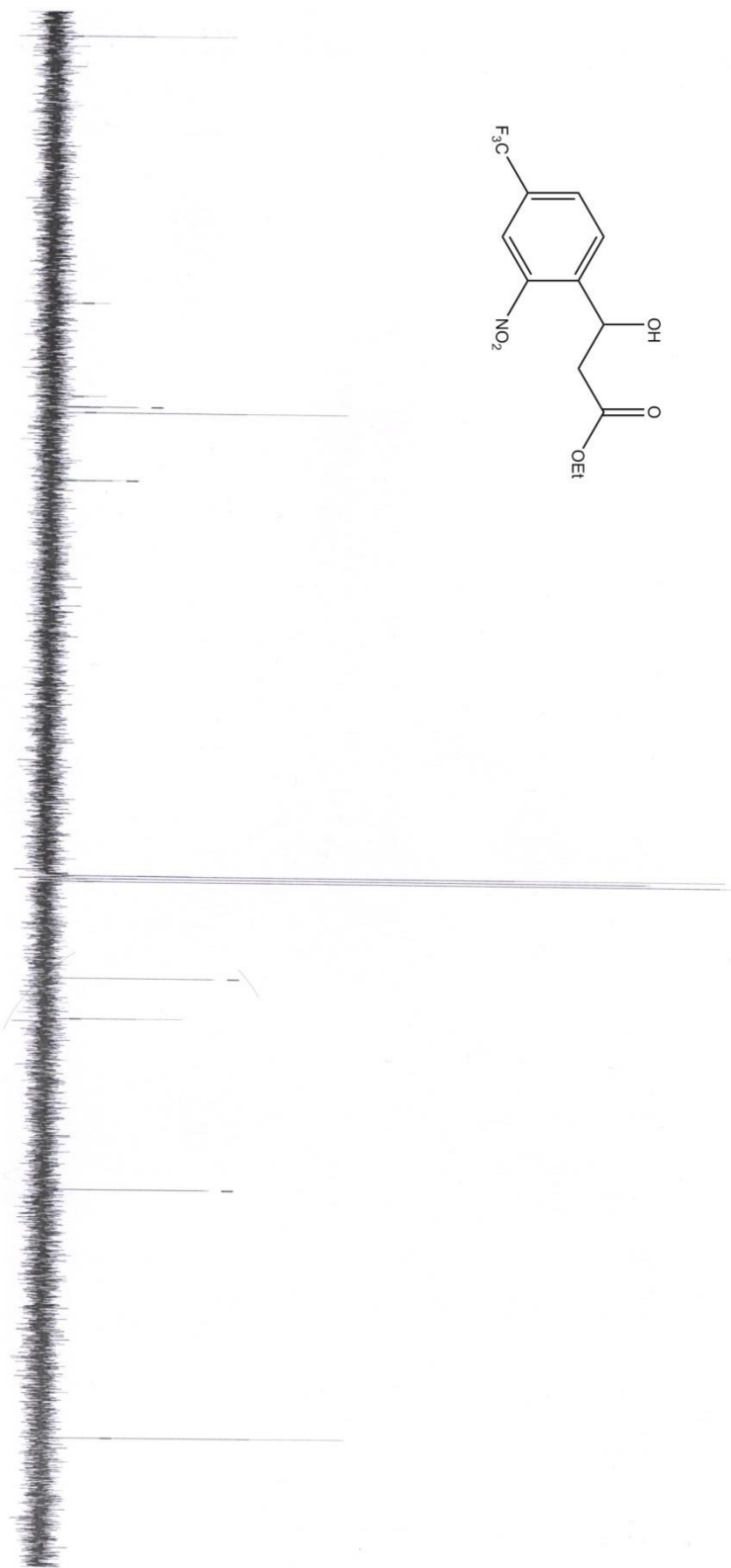
5.741
5.734
5.717
5.711

4.245
4.227
4.209
4.191

2.987
2.980
2.945
2.938
2.666
2.643
2.624
2.601

1.303
1.285
1.267

170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
ppm



— 172.030

— 141.941

— 131.373

— 130.169

— 129.542

— 121.883

— 121.840

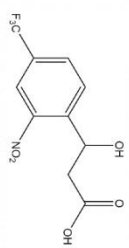
— 65.866

— 61.347

— 42.102

— 14.085

12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
ppm

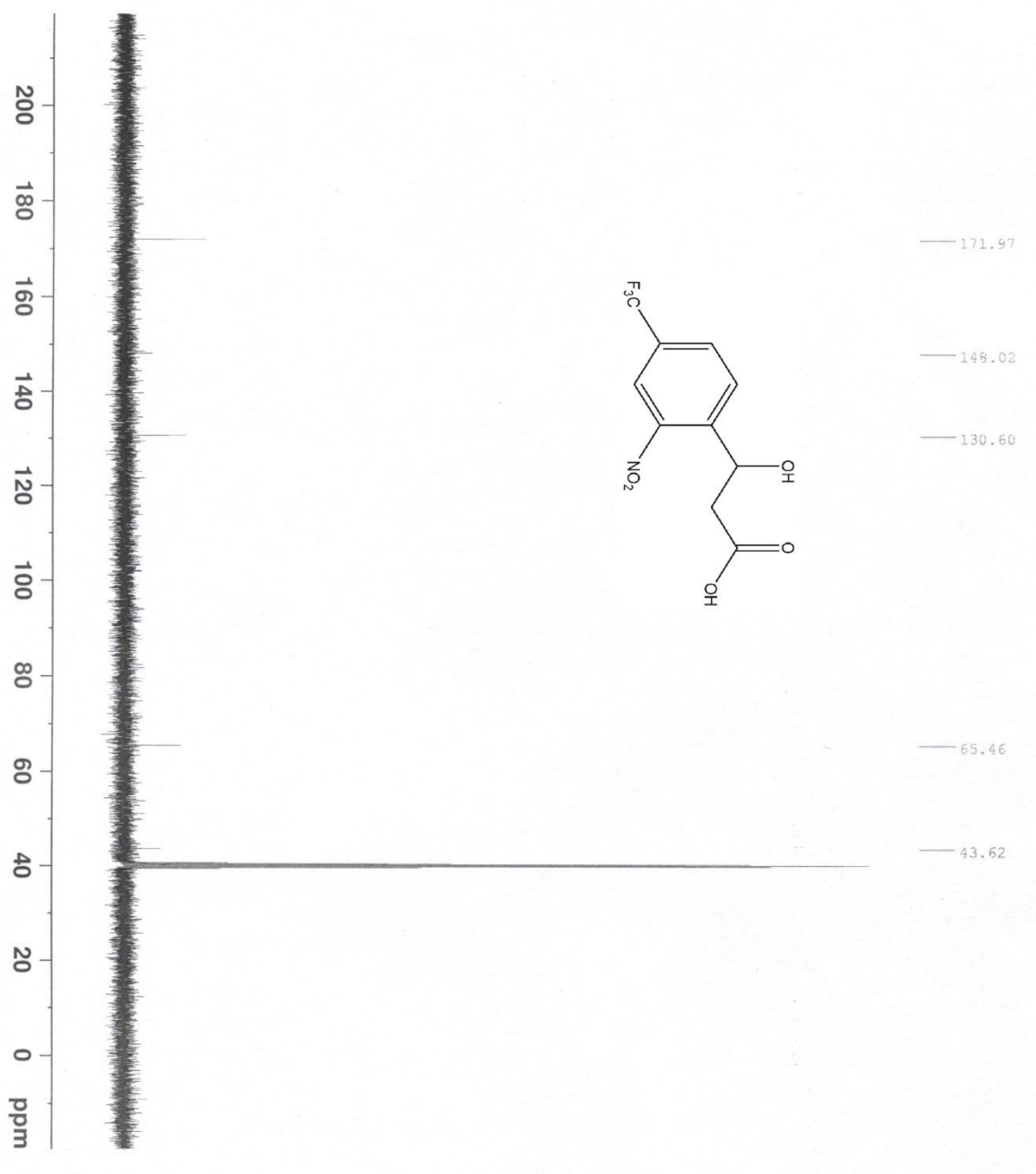


12.345

8.336
8.333
8.171
8.167
8.151
8.146
8.102
8.082

5.985
5.517
5.509
5.495
5.487

2.760
2.751
2.721
2.711
2.602
2.580
2.563
2.540



- HPLC tracers for racemic and enantiomerically enriched esters 2a-i:

