

Supporting Information

Photolabile ROMP Gels Using *ortho*-Nitrobenzyl Functionalized Crosslinkers

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1. General Considerations

All synthetic manipulations were performed under standard air-free conditions under an atmosphere of argon gas with magnetic stirring unless otherwise mentioned. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel (230-400 mesh) as the stationary phase. NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance III 500 or Bruker DPX-300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported relative to residual protonated solvent (7.26 ppm for CHCl₃). All reactants and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Dry THF, dry DCM, and dry diethyl ether were obtained from an Innovative Technologies PureSolv 400 solvent purifier.

All solution optical spectra were acquired of samples in quartz cuvettes (NSG Precision Cells). Electronic absorbance spectra were acquired with a Varian Cary-100 instrument in double-beam mode using a solvent-containing cuvette for background subtraction spectra. Fluorescence emission spectra were obtained by using either a PTI Quantum Master 4 equipped with a 75 W Xe lamp, or Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer equipped with a Xe pulse lamp pulsed at 80 Hz, peak power equivalent to 75 kW. Rheological data was obtained on ARES G2 rheometer.

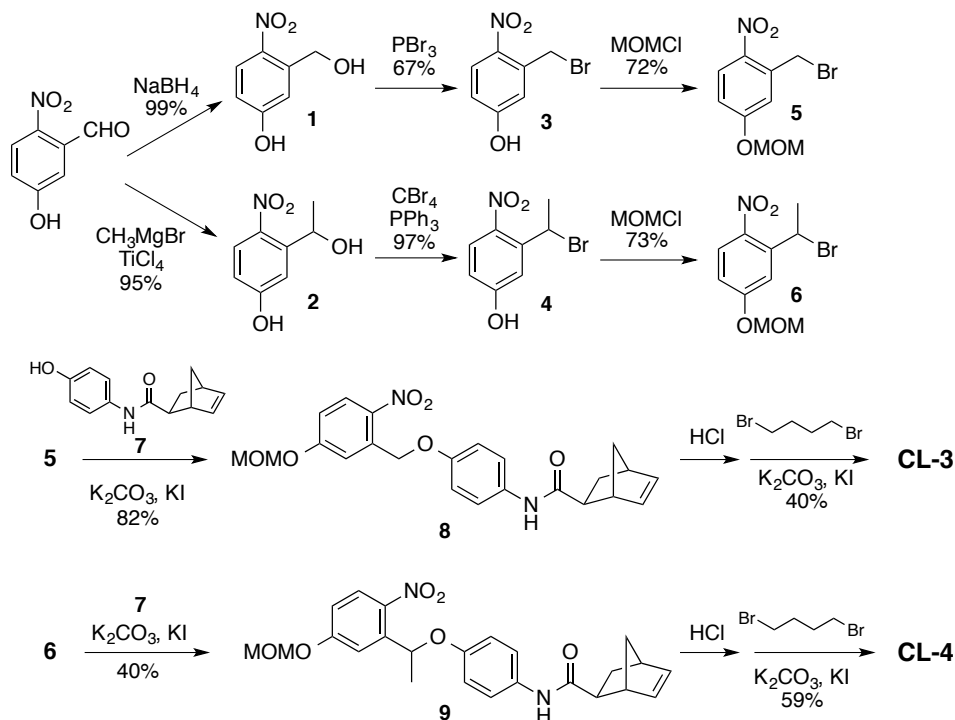
Irradiation of gels for storage modulus measurements were performed with a blak-ray B-100A high intensity UV lamp (100 Watt, 365nm, power density at sample = 9 mW/cm²) at fixed positions in the light path. Irradiations of gels in all other experiments were performed with a 200W Hg/Xe lamp (Newport-Oriel) equipped with a condensing lens, recirculating water filter, manual shutter, and FSQ-BG40 blue bandpass filter (Newport Corporation) at fixed positions in the light path. The power density at the sample was 25 mW/cm².

2. Materials:

5-hydroxy-2-nitrobenzaldehyde, methylmagnesium bromide solution (3.0 M in diethyl ether), N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), chloromethyl methyl ether (MOMCl), phosphorus tribromide (PBr₃), sodium sulfate anhydrous, tetrabromomethane (CBr₄), exo-5-norbornenecarboxylic acid, 4-aminophenol, Grubbs 2nd generation ruthenium carbenecatalyst, potassium iodide (KI), N,N-Diisopropylethylamine (i-Pr₂NEt), 2-(Methylamino)ethanol, 1,4-dibromobutane and dry N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), dry triethylamine (TEA), triphenylphosphine (PPh₃), methacryloyl chloride, and poly(ethylene glycol)methyl ether methacrylate (Average Mn 300) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) and sodium borohydride (NaBH₄) were purchased from Acros Organics. Titanium (IV) tetrachloride (TiCl₄) was purchased from Fluka. 4-Chloro-7-nitrobenzofurazan (NBDCI) and benzene was purchased from Alfa Aesar. Magnesium sulfate anhydrous (MgSO₄), sodium chloride (NaCl), hydrochloric acid (concentrated HCl), ammonium chloride (NH₄Cl) and potassium carbonate were purchased from Fisher Scientific. NMR solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories.

3. Synthetic Procedures

CL-1, CL-2, inert CL, M1 and M3 were synthesized according to our previously published study on photoreactive ROMP gels.¹



5-hydroxy-2-nitrobenzenemethanol **1**. To a 50mL three neck round bottom flask was added NaBH₄ (0.23g, 6.1 mmol) and methanol, stirred. A methanol solution of 2-nitro-5-hydroxybenzylaldehyde (0.50 g, 3.0 mmol) was added dropwise into the flask at 0 °C. (Attention: the mixture may react violently due to the presence of the phenol group) The reaction mixture was then allowed to warm up to ambient temperature and stirred for 2 hours. The reaction was then poured into H₂O. The pH of the solution was adjusted to around 6 by 0.1M HCl. The solution was then extracted with diethyl ether three times, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated using a rotary evaporator to yield **1** as a light brown solid with no further purification. Yield: 0.50 g (99%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 8.09 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.26 (dd, J=1, 1.5Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J=9, 3Hz, 1H), 4.94 (s, 2 H).

5-hydroxy- α -methyl-2-nitrobenzenemethanol **2**. Dry diethyl ether (100 mL) was cooled to -78 °C in a 250 mL three neck flask. TiCl₄ (4.7g, 0.025 mol) was added into the flask dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C and yielded yellow precipitation. 3M solution of MeMgBr in ether (8.3ml, 0.025mol) was added dropwise into the flask and the mixture turned to an orange color. The reaction was stirred for 30 minutes and the temperature of the mixture was allowed to slowly increase to around -30 °C. Then, 2-nitro-5-hydroxybenzylaldehyde (1.7 g, 0.010 mol) was added into the flask very slowly. (Attention: the mixture may react violently due to the presence of the phenol group) The

reaction was stirred at around -30 °C for 3 hours, and then poured into water, extracted with ethyl acetate three times, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated using a rotary evaporator to yield **2** as a yellow solid with no further purification. Yield: 1.7 g (95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 7.95 (d, J= 9 Hz, 1 H), 7.25 (d, J=3, 1 H), 6.76 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 5.47 (q, J=6 Hz, 1 H), 1.44 (d, J=6 Hz, 3 H).

5-hydroxy-2-nitrobenzyl bromide **3**. To a 50 mL three neck round bottom flask was added **1** (0.26 g, 0.0015 mol) and 10 mL dry DMF. PBr₃ (1.0 g, 3.7 mmol) was added dropwise into the flask at -78 °C. The reaction was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was poured into water, extracted by ethyl acetate 3 times, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (1:1 v:v) as the eluent to yield **3** as a yellow solid. Yield: 0.24 g (67%). ¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃): 8.10 (d, 9 Hz, 1 H), 7.00 (d, 2.5 Hz), 6.87 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 5.87 (s, 1 H), 4.84 (s, 2 H).

5-hydroxy- α -methyl-2-nitrobenzyl alcohol **4**. A two neck flask was charged with **2** (0.33 g, 1.8 mmol), CBr₄ (1.0 g, 3.0 mol), PPh₃ (0.79 g, 3.0 mmol) and 25 mL dry THF. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered, concentrated with a rotary evaporator and purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (1.5:1 v:v) as the eluent to yield **4** as a light brown solid. Yield: 0.43 g (97%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 7.94 (d, 9 Hz, 1 H), 7.25(d, J=3Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 5.46 (q, J=6.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.43 (d, J= 6.5 Hz, 3 H).

5-methoxymethyl-2-nitrobenzyl bromide **5**. To a stirred mixture of **3** (1.0 g, 4.3 mmol) in 50 mL CH₂Cl₂ were added MOMCl (5 equiv) at 0 °C, then i-Pr₂NEt (3.0 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. After slow addition of saturated NH₄Cl at 0 °C, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ 3 times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (2.5:1 v:v) to afford **5** as a light yellow solid. Yield: 1.0 g (84%). ¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃): 8.14 (d, J=9.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, J=3 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 5.27 (s, 2 H), 5.01 (s, 2 H), 3.48-3.50 (m, 3 H)

5-methoxymethyl - α -methyl-2-nitrobenzyl bromide **6**. To a stirred mixture of **4** (0.43g, 1.8 mmol) in 20ml CH₂Cl₂ were added MOMCl (5 equiv) at 0 °C, then i-Pr₂NEt (3 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. After slow addition of saturated NH₄Cl at 0 °C, the mixture was extracted with DCM 3 times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (5:2 v:v) to afford **6** as a light yellow solid. Yield: 0.37 g (73%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.97 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.49 (d, J=2.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.05 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 5.88 (q, J=6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.24-5.30 (m, 2 H), 3.50 (s, 3 H), 1.88 (d, J=6.5, 3 H).

7. Exo-5-norbornenecarboxylic (1.4 g, 0.010 mol), 4-aminophenol (1.3 g, 0.012 mol), DMAP (0.20 g, 0.0016 mol) and 100 mL dry THF were added into a 250 mL three neck round bottom flask. DCC (2.5g, 0.012 mol) in dry THF was added dropwise into the flask at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* and redissolved in ethyl acetate, washed by HCl solution (pH around 3), brine, and water. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated with a rotary evaporator, and the crude product was further purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (2:1) as the eluent. Pink solid obtained was recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. After filtration **7** was obtained as white crystals. Yield: 0.62 g (27%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 7.31 (q, J=2.5, 7 Hz, 2 H), 6.72 (q, J=2.5, 7 Hz, 2 H), 6.18-6.19 (m, 2 H), 2.95 (d, J=1.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.92 (s, 1 H), 2.25-2.29 (m, 1 H), 1.93-1.97 (m, 1 H), 1.76 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.33-1.39 (m, 2 H).

8. A 25 mL three neck round bottom flask was charged with **5** (0.14 g, 0.51 mmol), **7** (0.12 g, 0.52 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol), KI (0.016 g, 0.10 mmol) and 2 mL dry DMF. The reaction was stirred at 40 °C overnight, diluted with brine, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ 3 times. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (2:1 v:v) as the eluent to yield **8** as a yellow solid. Yield: 0.18 g (82%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.23 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.51 (d, J=3 Hz, 1 H), 7.46 (q, J=2, 7 Hz, 2 H), 7.11 (s, 1 H), 7.07 (q, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 1 H), 6.97 (q, J=2.5, 7 Hz, 2 H), 6.15-6.19 (m, 2 H), 5.48 (s, 2 H), 5.25 (s, 2 H), 3.48 (s, 3 H), 3.05 (s, 1 H), 2.97 (s, 1 H), 2.11-2.17 (m, 1 H), 2.00-2.06 (m, 1 H), 1.78 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.38-1.43 (m, 2 H)

9. A 25ml three neck round bottom flask was charged with **6** (0.11 g, 0.38 mmol), **7** (0.070 g, 0.31 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.083 g, 0.60 mmol), KI (0.010 g, 0.060 mmol) and 2 mL dry DMF. The reaction was stirred at 40 °C overnight, diluted with brine, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ 3 times. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (2:1 v:v) as the eluent to yield **9** as a yellow solid. Yield: 0.068g (82%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.08 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, J=2.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (s, 1 H), 7.20 (s, 1 H), 6.99 (dd, J=2.7, 9 Hz, 1 H), 6.74 (dd, J=2.1, 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.12-6.16 (m, 1 H), 6.05-6.12 (m, 2H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 3.43 (s, 3 H), 2.98 (s, 1 H), 2.92 (s, 1 H), 2.06-2.12 (m, 1 H), 1.93-2.03 (m, 1 H), 1.73 (d, J=8.1, 1 H), 1.67 (d, J=6.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.30-1.40 (m, 2 H).

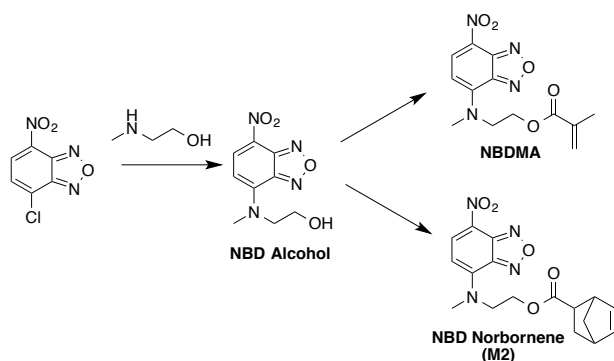
CL-3. To a stirred solution of **8** (0.77 g, 1.8 mmol) in 12 mL THF was added 2 mL concentrated HCl. The reaction was kept at ambient temperature overnight, diluted with brine, extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (5:2 v:v) to yield **PreCL-3** as a yellow solid. Yield: 0.67 g (97%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 8.16 (d, J=18 Hz, 1 H), 7.43-7.48 (m, 2 H), 7.22 (d, J=5, 1 H), 6.93-6.98 (m, 2 H), 6.83 (dd, J=5, 18 Hz, 1 H), 6.18-6.20 (m, 2 H), 5.45 (s, 1 H), 2.90-2.97 (m, 2 H),

2.25-2.31 (m, 1 H), 1.92-1.99 (m, 1 H), 1.76 (d, J=16, 1 H), 1.31-1.40 (m, 2 H).

PreCL-3 (0.67 g, 1.8 mmol), 1,4-dibromobutane (0.18 g, 0.83 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.35 g, 2.5 mmol), KI (0.020 g, 0.12 mmol) and 5 mL dry DMF were added into a 25 mL three neck round bottom flask. The reaction was stirred at 50 °C over 3 days, diluted with brine, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ 3 times. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using CH₂Cl₂/ethyl acetate (10:1 v:v) as eluent to yield **CL-3** as a light yellow solid. Yield: 0.27 g (40%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-d₈): 8.90 (s, 1 H), 8.19 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.53-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.37 (d, J=2.5, 1 H), 6.99 (dd, J=2.5, 9 Hz, 2 H), 6.89-6.93 (m, 2 H), 6.10-6.15 (m, 2 H), 5.45 (s, 2 H), 4.16 (s, 2 H), 3.57 (s, 2 H), 2.92 (s, 1 H), 2.86 (s, 1 H), 2.11-2.17 (m, 1 H), 2.00-2.06 (m, 1 H), 1.97 (s, 2 H), 1.83 (d, J=8, 1 H), 1.72 (s, 2 H), 1.20-1.30 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, THF-d₈): 173.7, 164.5, 155.0, 141.0, 139.2, 138.5, 137.0, 135.2, 128.5, 121.4, 115.7, 114.5, 113.9, 69.2, 68.3, 48.7, 46.8, 45.9, 42.7, 31.0, 26.6. HRMS calculated for C₄₆H₄₆N₄O₁₀ (M + Na)⁺: 837.3106; found: 837.3097.

CL-4. To a stirred solution of **9** (0.060 g, 0.14 mmol) in 1 mL THF was added 0.17 mL concentrated HCl. The reaction was stirred under ambient temperature overnight, diluted with brine, extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (2:1 v:v) to yield **PreCL-4** as a yellow solid. Yield: 0.056 g (96%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): 8.06 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 2 H), 7.09 (d, 3 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (dd, J=3, 9 Hz, 1 H), 6.71-6.76 (m, 2 H), 6.15-6.19 (m, 2 H), 6.05 (q, J=6.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.90-2.94 (m, 2 H), 2.22-2.27 (m, 1 H), 1.89-1.95 (m, 1 H), 1.74 (s, 1 H), 1.72 (s, 1 H), 1.64 (d, J=6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.28-1.38 (m, 2 H)

PreCL-4 (0.056 g, 0.14 mmol), 1,4-dibromobutane (0.014 g, 0.065 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.027 g, 0.20 mmol), KI (0.0030 mg, 0.018 mmol) and 0.8 mL dry DMF were added into a 5 mL three neck round bottom flask. The reaction was stirred at 50 °C over 3 days, diluted with brine, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ 3 times. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using CH₂Cl₂/hexanes/ethyl acetate (20:2:1 v:v:v) as eluent to yield **CL-4** as a light yellow solid. Yield: 0.036 g (67%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.11 (dd, J=2, 9 Hz, 1 H), 7.27-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 1 H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 1 H), 6.77-6.82 (m, 1 H), 6.69-6.75 (m, 2 H), 6.14-6.19 (m, 1 H), 6.06-6.13 (m, 2 H), 3.95-4.07 (m, 2 H), 2.98 (s, 1 H), 2.93 (s, 1 H), 2.06-2.13 (m, 1 H), 1.93-2.01 (m, 1 H), 1.92 (s, 2 H), 1.73 (d, J=8 Hz, 1 H), 1.66 (d, J=6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.31-1.40 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 173.9, 163.6, 153.9, 143.0, 140.2, 138.6, 136.0, 128.0, 121.8, 115.9, 113.6, 112.5, 71.9, 68.1, 47.4, 46.4, 45.7, 41.7, 30.7, 25.6, 23.5. HRMS calculated for C₄₈H₅₁N₄O₁₀ (M+H)⁺: 843.3600; found: 843.3616.



NBD alcohol was synthesized following published methods.²

NBD-Norbornene M2: **NBD alcohol** (0.16 g, 0.67 mmol), *exo*-5-norbornene carboxylic acid (0.10 g, 0.72 mmol), DCC (0.17 g, 0.83 mmol), DMAP (0.017 g, 0.14 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL dry CH₂Cl₂ in a 25 mL three neck round bottom flask. The reaction was stirred at ambient temperature overnight and then diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with water 3 times, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate (3:1 v:v) as eluent, followed by recrystallization in ethanol to yield **M2** as an orange solid. Yield: 0.13 g (54%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.47 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 6.19 (d, J=9 Hz, 1 H), 6.09-6.12 (m, 1 H), 6.01-6.04 (m, 1 H), 4.42-4.49 (m, 4 H), 3.48 (s, 3 H), 2.87 (d, J=1.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.05-2.09 (m, 1 H), 1.72-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.34-1.38 (m, 1 H), 1.24-1.32 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.9, 145.3, 144.7, 144.6, 138.2, 135.4, 135.1, 123.5, 101.7, 61.7, 54.2, 46.5, 46.3, 43.0, 41.9, 41.6, 30.3.

NBDMA: **NBD alcohol** (0.29 g, 0.0012 mol), freshly distilled methacryloyl chloride (0.20 g, 0.0019 mol) and dry pyridine (0.15 g, 0.0019 mol) were dissolved in 15 mL dry CH₂Cl₂ in a 50 mL three neck round bottom flask. The reaction was stirred at ambient temperature overnight and then quenched by addition of water. The mixture was washed with CH₂Cl₂ for 3 times, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography using CH₂Cl₂ as eluent to yield **NBDMA** as an orange solid. Yield: 0.22 g (60%). NMR results are in consistence with previous publications.³

Poly (poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether methacrylate-co-NBDMA) (**PEGNBD**). Poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether methacrylate (0.50 g), NBDMA (0.025 g, 5% equiv by weight), AIBN (5.0 mg, 1% equiv by weight) and DMF (5 mL) were added into a 25 mL round bottom flask. The mixture was purged with argon for 20 min, and then warmed to 60 °C and stirred overnight. The cooled mixture was precipitated into copious hexane/ether mixture (1:1 v:v), centrifuged, and crude product was collected by decanting. The crude product was redissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, precipitated into hexane, and centrifuged. After decanting the remaining sticky liquid was dried in vacuum oven for 3 days to yield an orange gum-like liquid. Yield: 0.26 g (50%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.45-8.65 (broad), 6.28-6.50 (broad), 4.4-4.7 (broad), 3.9-4.4 (broad), . Mn 35367, Mw 60760, PDI 1.72.

General conditions for gelation.

Organogels.

A solution of Grubbs 2nd generation catalyst (2.4 mg) in 0.20 mL CH₂Cl₂ was added into a 20 mL vial charged with 0.20 mL of a DMF solution of monomers (40mg) and the crosslinker. The vial was swirled and gelation was observed in no more than 30 seconds. All gels were purified using Soxhlet extraction with CH₂Cl₂ over two days and dried in vacuum. In each irradiation experiment in which 2 mg of xerogel was used, the form factor of the gels was a thin sheet of thickness of approximately 1 mm.

Trapping of water soluble polymer into the hydrogel.

Grubbs 2nd generation catalyst (1.8 mg) was added into a 20 mL vial charged with 0.30 mL CH₂Cl₂ solution of **M3** (50 mg), **CL-4** (2.7 mg) and **PEGNBD** (1.0 mg). The vial was swirled and gelation was observed in about 20 minutes. All gels were purified using Soxhlet extraction with CH₂Cl₂ over two days and dried in vacuum.

4. Other Experimental Details

Rheological measurements.

Each set of measurements started with swelling 8.0 mg gel in benzene in a vial for at least 1 hr before measurement. All gel in the vial was transferred onto the rheometer and rheological data was measured. After one data point was obtained, all substance from the sample holder of the rheometer was collected into a quartz cuvette. Gel in the cuvette was either (1) irradiated for a certain amount of time with a blak-ray B-100A high intensity UV lamp, or (2) kept in the dark for certain amount of time in control experiments. Then all the substance in the cuvette was transferred back onto the rheometer to collect another data point. All experiments were performed at ambient temperature. Gel was immersed throughout the experiments and extra benzene was added if there was not enough benzene covering the gel.

Photodegradation experiments monitored by visual inspection or fluorescence spectroscopy.

Each set of experiments started with immersing about 2.0 mg of organogel in about 3 mL benzene in a quartz cuvette equipped with a small magnetic stir bar. The gel was swollen for at least 30 minutes, then the sample in the cuvette was irradiated by UV with the micro stir bar stirring at about 100 rpm. After a certain amount of time, the cuvette was left in the dark with no disturbance to allow the gel to settle to the bottom of the cuvette, after which emission spectra of the liquid portion of the sample was collected using excitation at 465nm. If further irradiation was needed, the cuvette containing the sample was irradiated again and another spectra was obtained following a similar procedure. Cuvettes were always located at the same position relative to the UV lamp. In control experiments, all conditions were the same other than that the samples were kept in the dark.

Photorelease of guest from the hydrogel

Each set of experiments started with immersing about 1.0 mg of hydrogel that had trapped fluorescent polymer guest in about 3 mL water in a quartz cuvette equipped with a small

magnetic stir bar. Other conditions are the same as in photodegradation experiments monitored by visual inspection or fluorescence spectroscopy.

5. Additional Figures

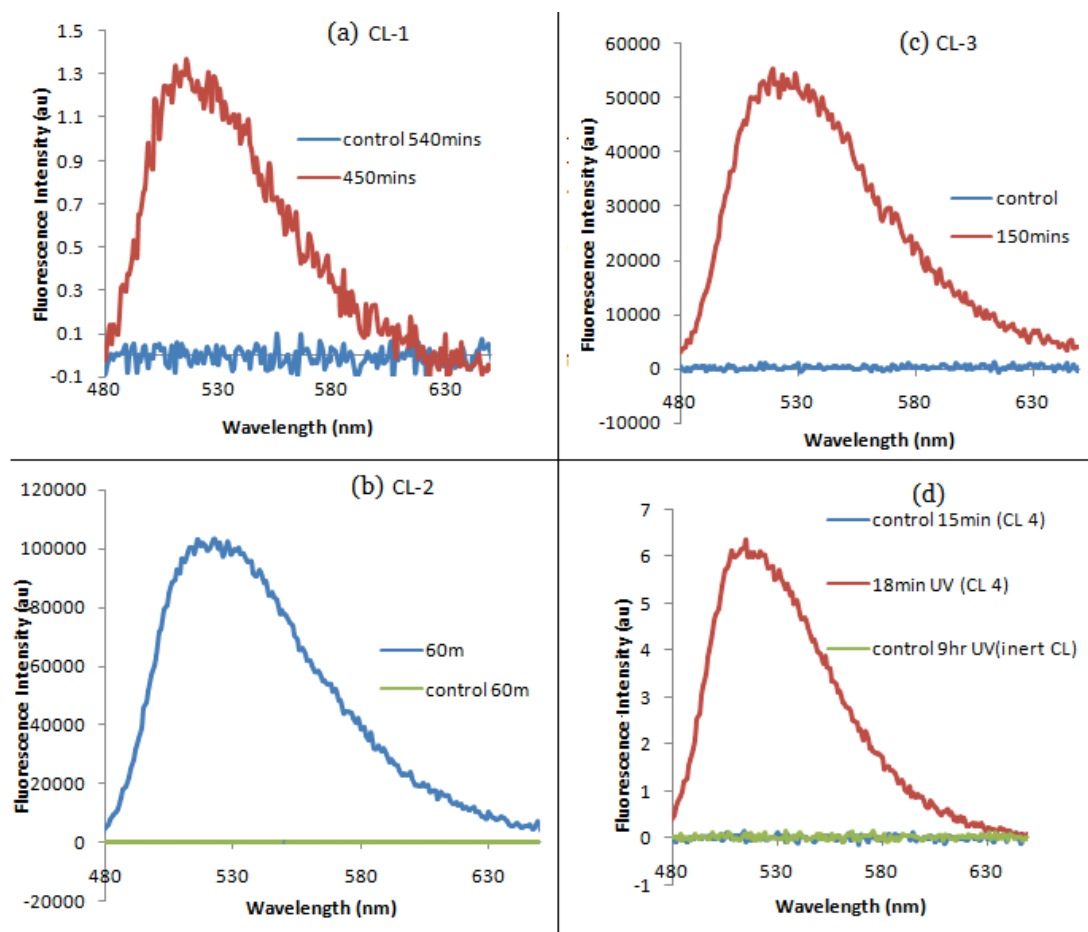
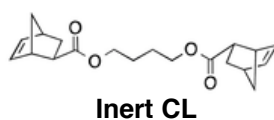


Figure S1. Control experiments of the dissolution of fluorescent polymer chains. (a) & (d) were obtained with Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer. (b) & (c) were obtained with PTI Quantum Master 4 Fluorescence Spectrophotometer. (a) Red line: fluorescence emission of the photodegraded gel (with **CL-1**) solution irradiated for 450mins; blue line: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-1**) sample in the dark after 540mins. (b) Blue curve: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-2**) solution irradiated for 450mins; cyan curve: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-2**) sample in the dark after 540mins. (c) Red curve: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-3**) solution irradiated for 150mins; blue line: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-1**) sample in the dark after 150mins. (d) Red curve: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-4**) solution irradiated for 18mins; blue curve: fluorescence emission of the gel (with **CL-4**) solution in the dark for 15mins; cyan curve: fluorescence of the control gel (with **inert CL**) solution irradiated for 9 hrs.



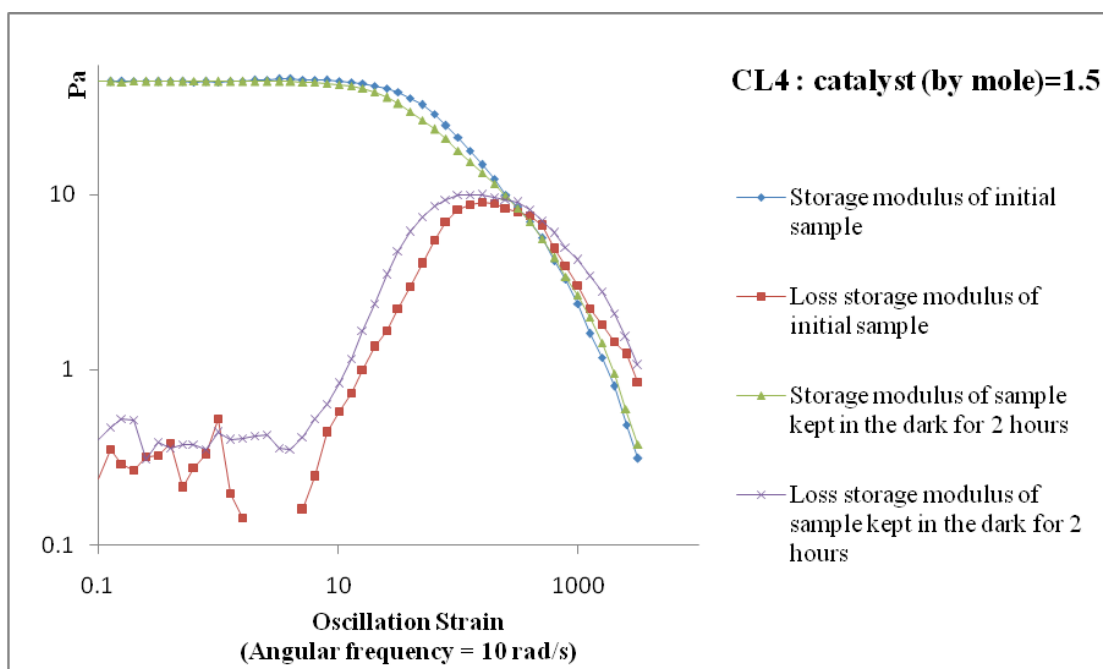
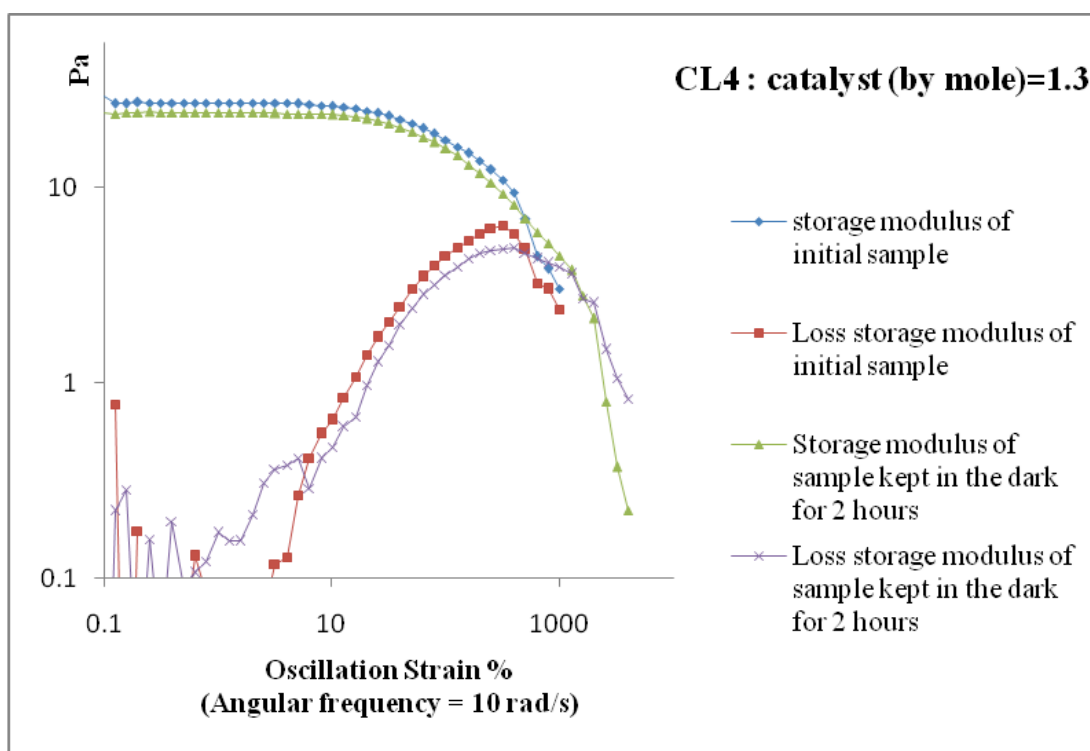


Figure S2. Rheology experiments of unirradiated gels. Dynamic storage modulus (G') and loss modulus (G'') versus strain for the gels.

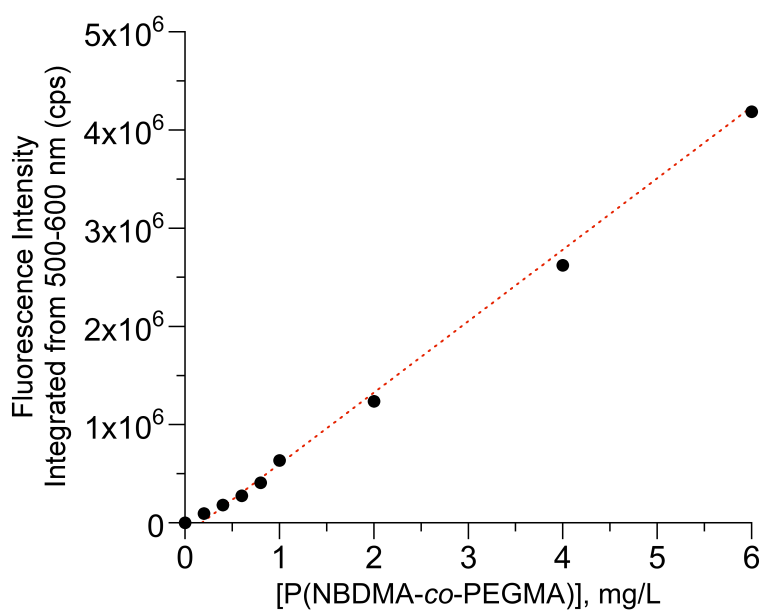
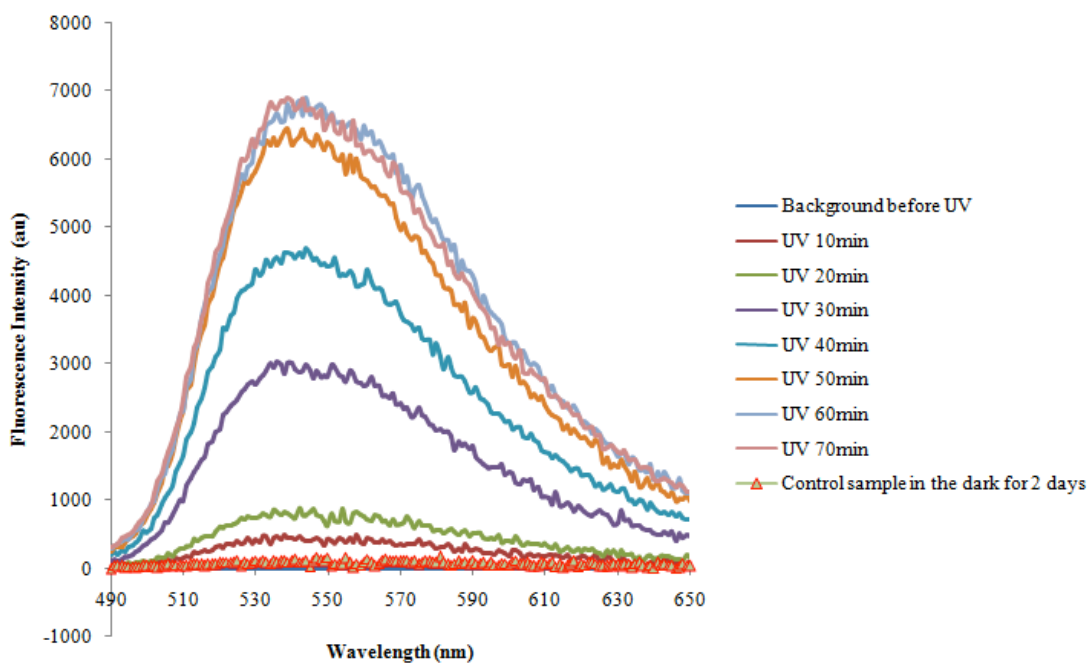


Figure S3. UV-induced release of fluorescent NBD-labeled methacrylic polymer **PEGMA** from hydrogel prepared with hydrophilic monomer **M3** and crosslinker **CL-4**. According to the linear calibration curve, the final concentration of released fluorescent polymer was 0.9 mg/L.

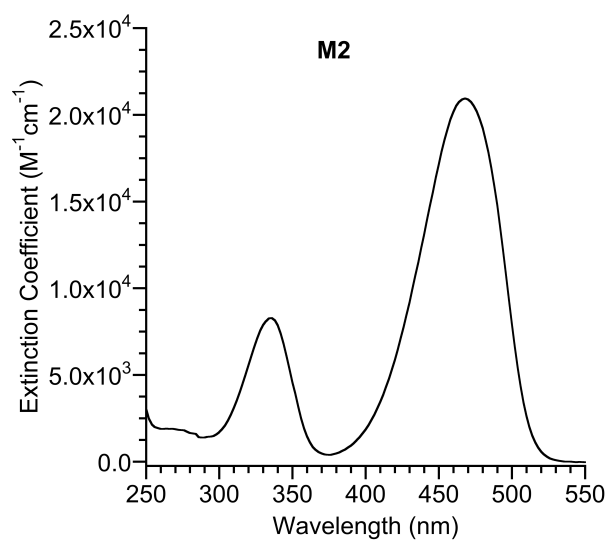
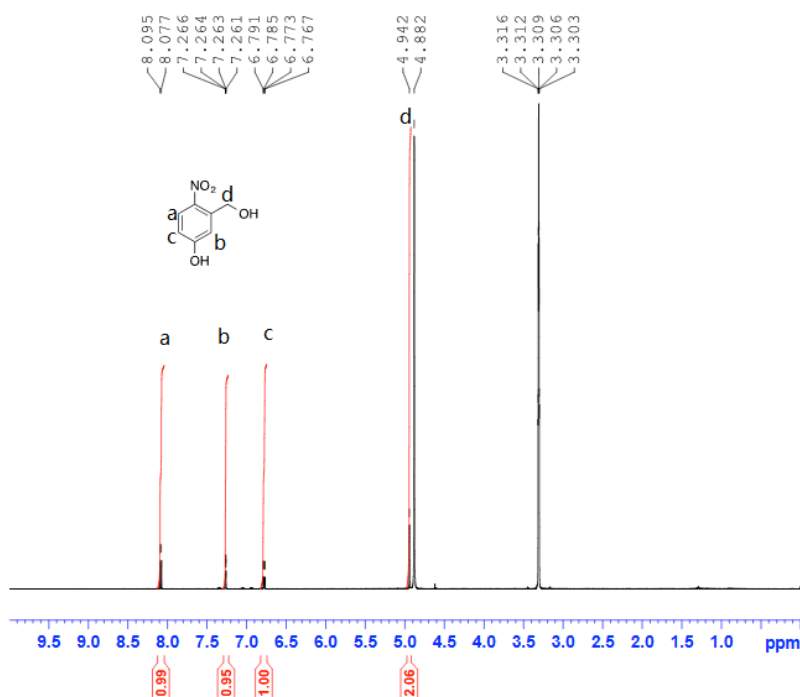


Figure S4. Absorbance spectrum of fluorescent monomer **M2**.

6. NMR Spectra

1



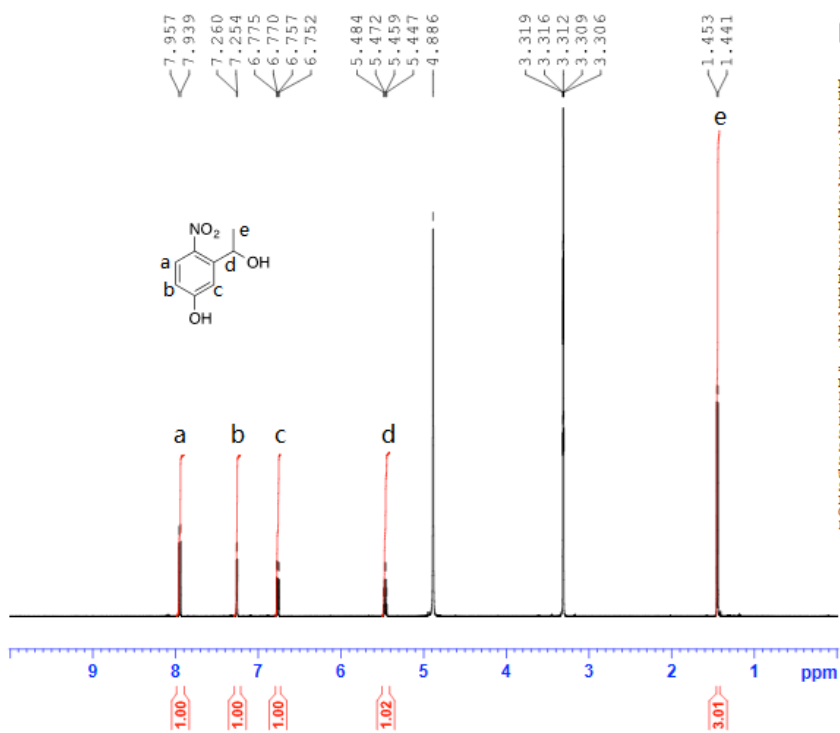
```

NAME          xhu02-003
EXPNO        1
PROCNO       1
Date_        20140711
Time         14.51
INSTRUM      spect
PROBHD       5 mm PABBO BB-
FULPROG      zg30
TD           65536
SOLVENT      MeOD
NS           32
DS           2
SWH          10000.000 Hz
FIDRES       0.152888 Hz
AQ           3.2768500 sec
RG           203
DW           50.000 usec
DE           6.50 usec
TE           294.6 K
D1           1.50000000 sec
TDO          1
    
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1         1H
P1           20.00 usec
PL1          1.00 dB
PL1W        17.7578959 W
SFO1        500.1318364 MHz
SI           65536
SF           500.1300113 MHz
WDW          EM
SSB          0
LB           0.30 Hz
GB           0
PC           1.00
    
```

2



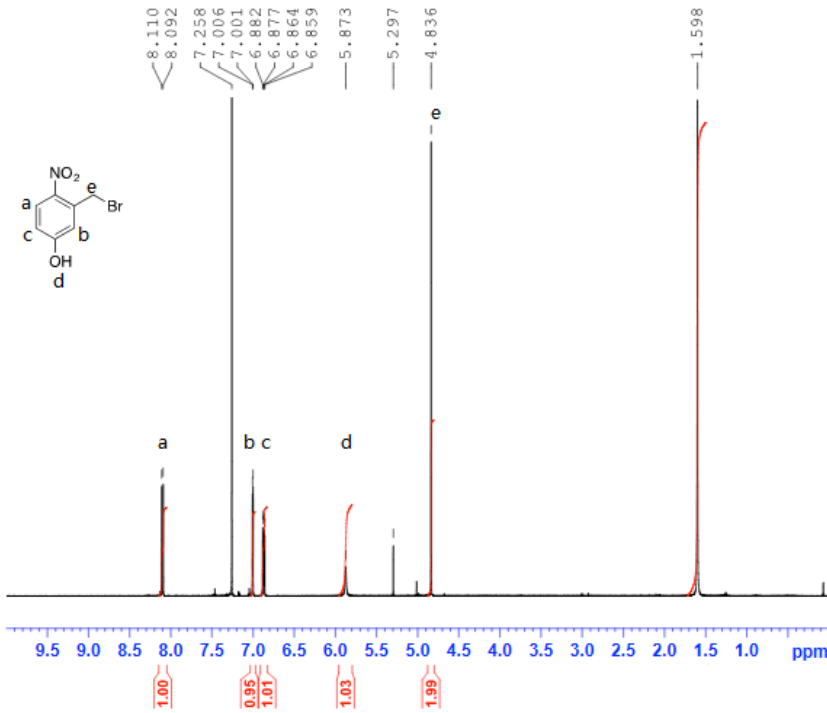
```

NAME          xhu02-004
EXPNO        1
PROCNO       1
Date_        20140711
Time         14.59
INSTRUM      spect
PROBHD       5 mm PABBO BB-
FULPROG      zg30
TD           65536
SOLVENT      MeOD
NS           32
DS           2
SWH          10000.000 Hz
FIDRES       0.152588 Hz
AQ           3.2768500 sec
RG           203
DW           50.000 usec
DE           6.50 usec
TE           294.5 K
D1           1.50000000 sec
TDO          1
    
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1         1H
P1           20.00 usec
PL1          1.00 dB
PL1W        17.7578959 W
SFO1        500.1318364 MHz
SI           65536
SF           500.1300097 MHz
WDW          EM
SSB          0
LB           0.30 Hz
GB           0
PC           1.00
    
```

3

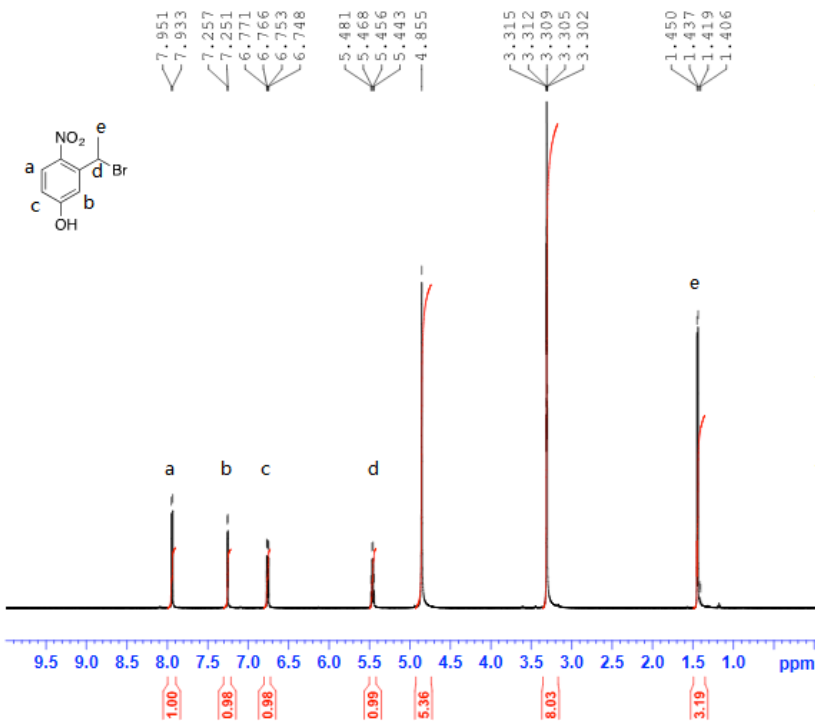


```

NAME      xhu02-007
EXPNO     1
PROCNO    1
Date_     20140714
Time      17.22
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         16
DS         2
SHH        10000.000 Hz
FIDRES     0.152585 Hz
AQ         3.2768500 sec
RG         203
DW         50.000 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         300.0 K
D1         2.00000000 sec
TDO        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      1H
P1        20.00 usec
PL1       1.00 dB
PL1W      17.75783339 W
SFO1      500.1318364 MHz
SI         65536
SF         500.1300143 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         0.0 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.00
  
```

4

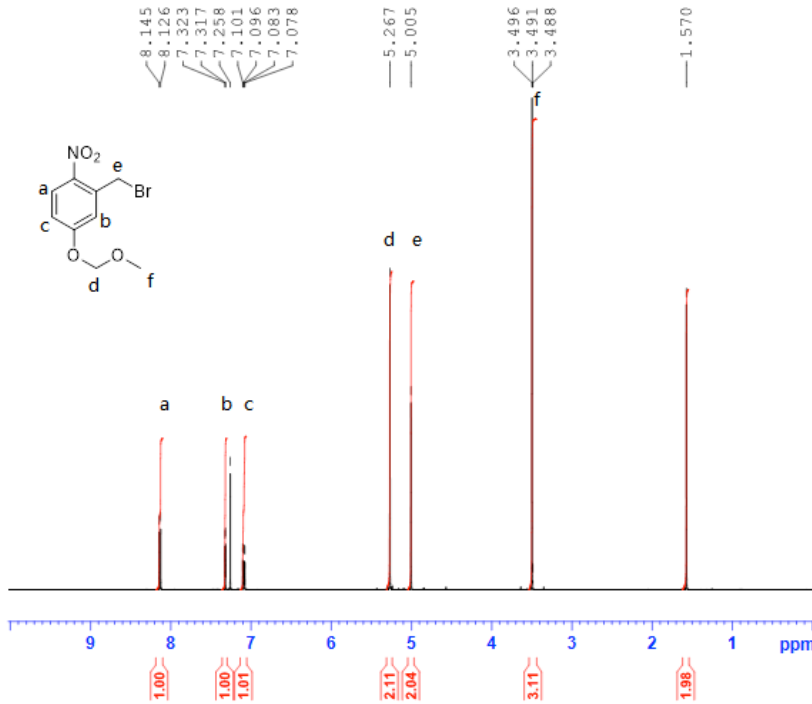


```

NAME      xhu02-029
EXPNO     1
PROCNO    1
Date_     20140819
Time      11.14
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   MeOD
NS         16
DS         2
SHH        10000.000 Hz
FIDRES     0.152585 Hz
AQ         3.2768500 sec
RG         203
DW         50.000 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         297.2 K
D1         2.00000000 sec
TDO        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      1H
P1        20.00 usec
PL1       1.00 dB
PL1W      17.75783339 W
SFO1      500.1318364 MHz
SI         65536
SF         500.1300115 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         0.0 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.00
  
```

5



BRUKER

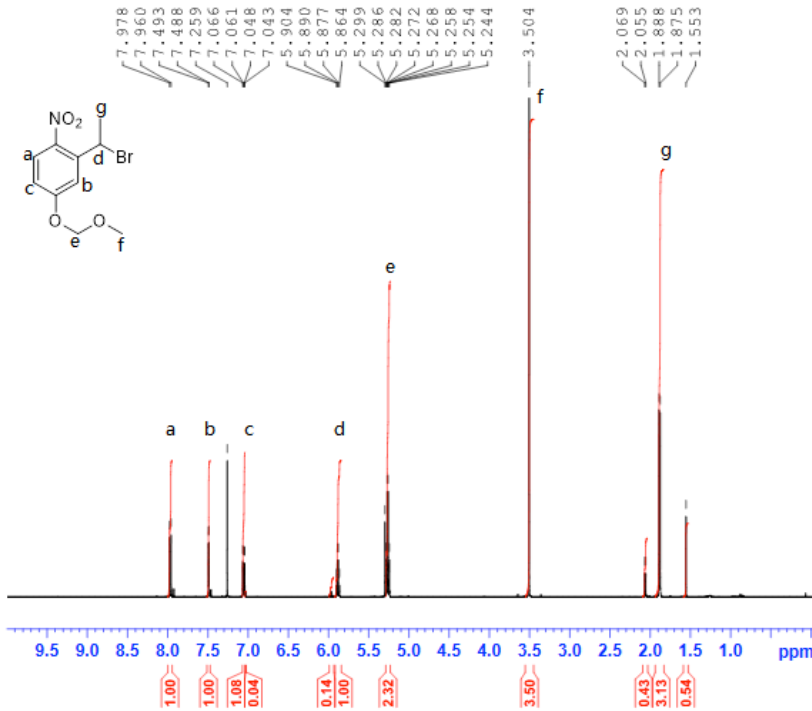
```

NAME      xhu02-044
EXPNO    1
PROCNO   1
Date_    20140902
Time     19.35
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
FULPROG  zg30
TD       65536
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS       16
DS       2
SWH      10000.000 Hz
FIDRES   0.152558 Hz
AQ       3.2768500 sec
RG       203
DW       50.000 usec
DE       6.50 usec
TE       295.3 K
D1       2.00000000 sec
TDO      1
  
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1     1H
P1       20.00 usec
PL1      1.00 dB
PL1W     17.75783539 W
SFO1     500.1313964 MHz
SI       65536
SF       500.1300143 MHz
WDW      EM
SSB      0
LB       0.30 Hz
GB       0
PC       1.00
  
```

6



BRUKER

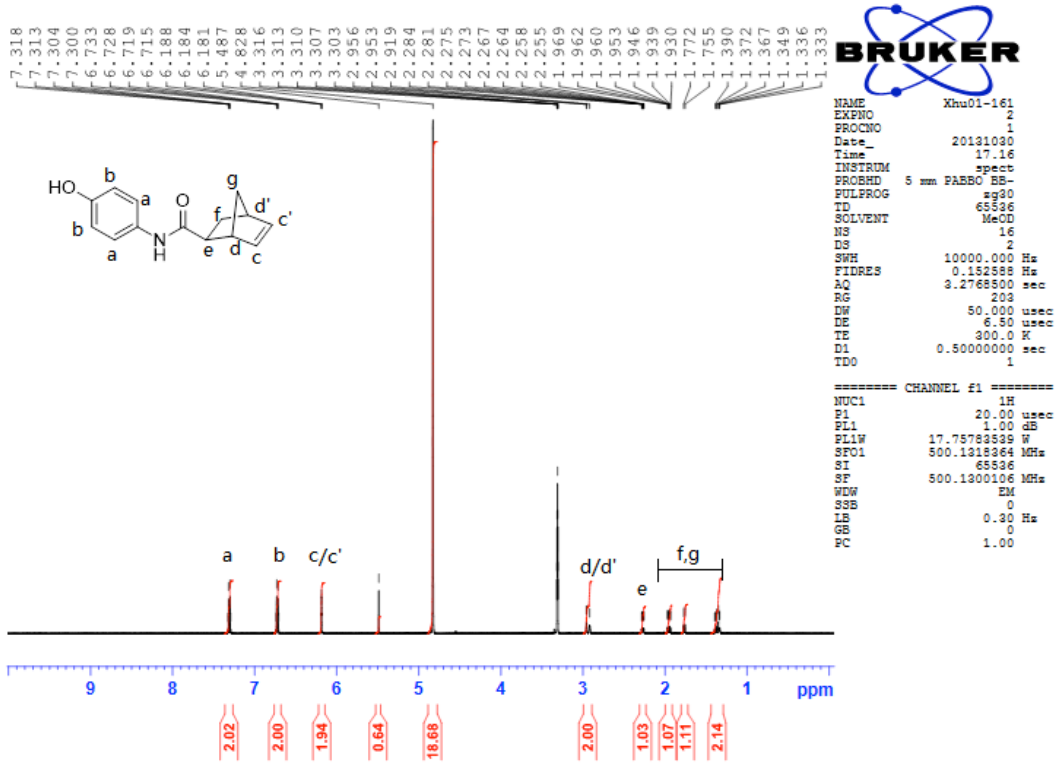
```

NAME      xhu01-216
EXPNO    1
PROCNO   1
Date_    20140211
Time     13.35
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
FULPROG  zg30
TD       65536
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS       32
DS       2
SWH      10000.000 Hz
FIDRES   0.152558 Hz
AQ       3.2768500 sec
RG       203
DW       50.000 usec
DE       6.50 usec
TE       292.6 K
D1       2.00000000 sec
TDO      1
  
```

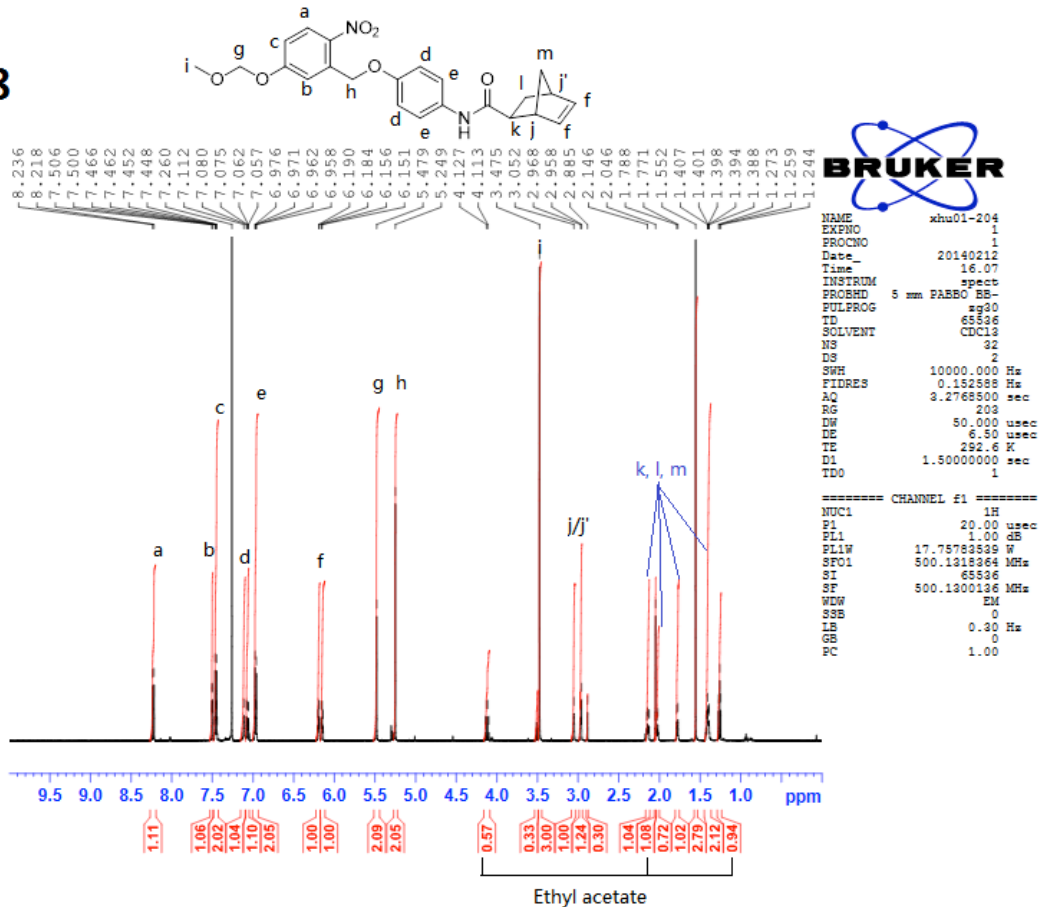
```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1     1H
P1       20.00 usec
PL1      1.00 dB
PL1W     17.75783539 W
SFO1     500.1313964 MHz
SI       65536
SF       500.1300139 MHz
WDW      EM
SSB      0
LB       0.30 Hz
GB       0
PC       1.00
  
```

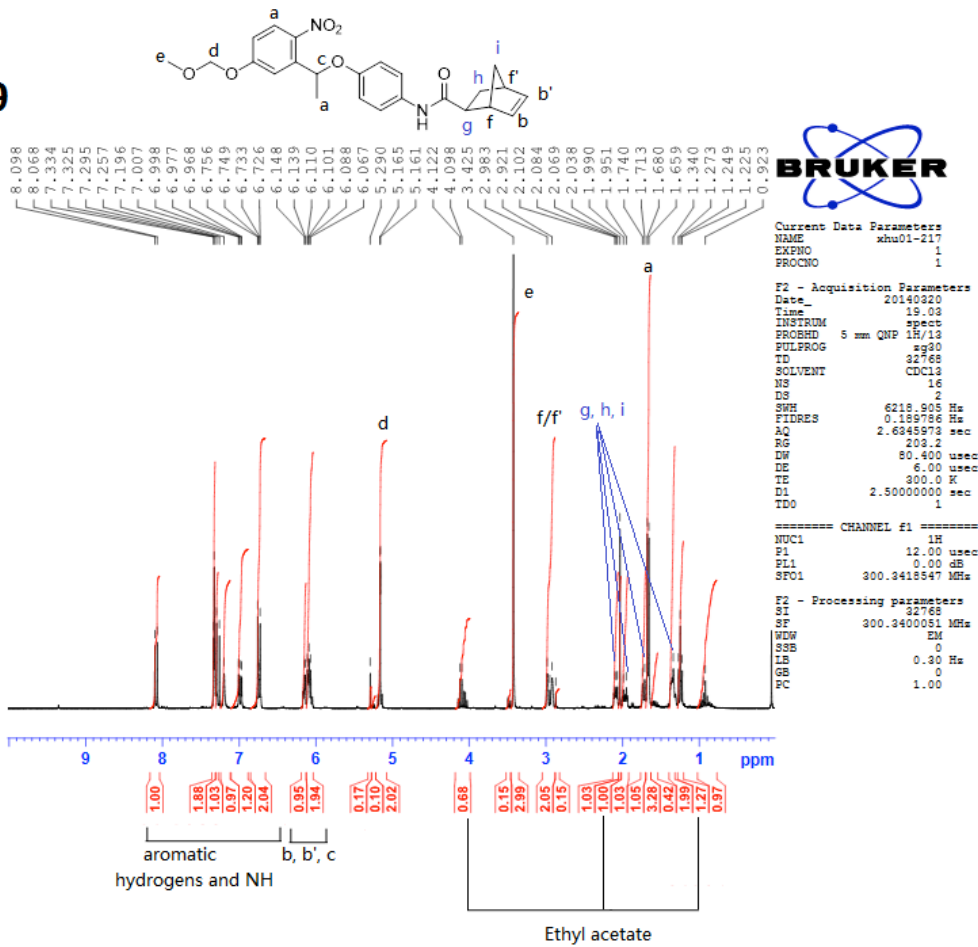
7



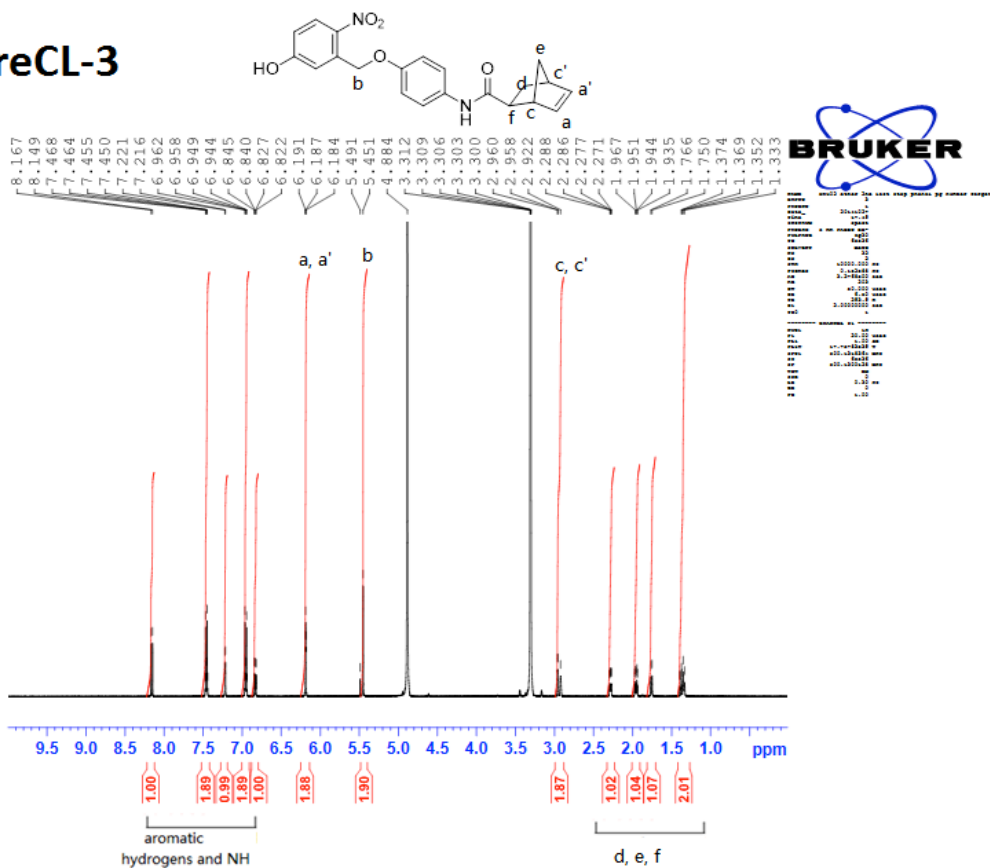
8



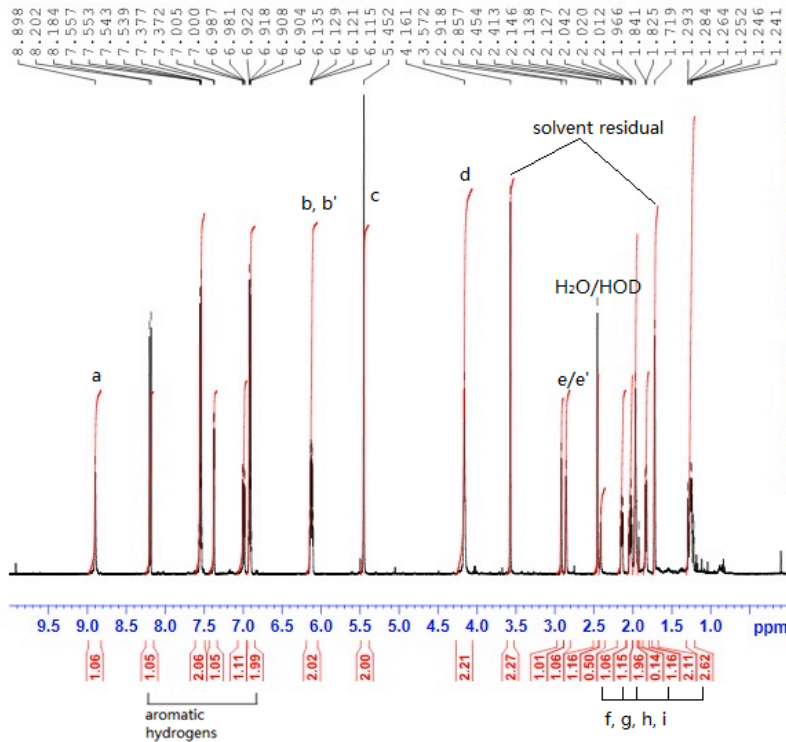
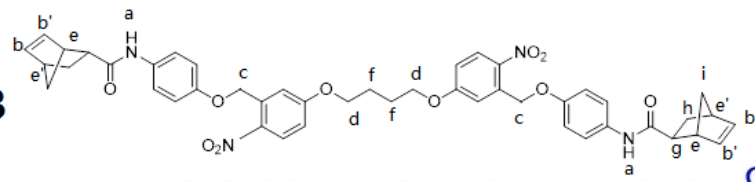
9



PreCL-3



CL-3



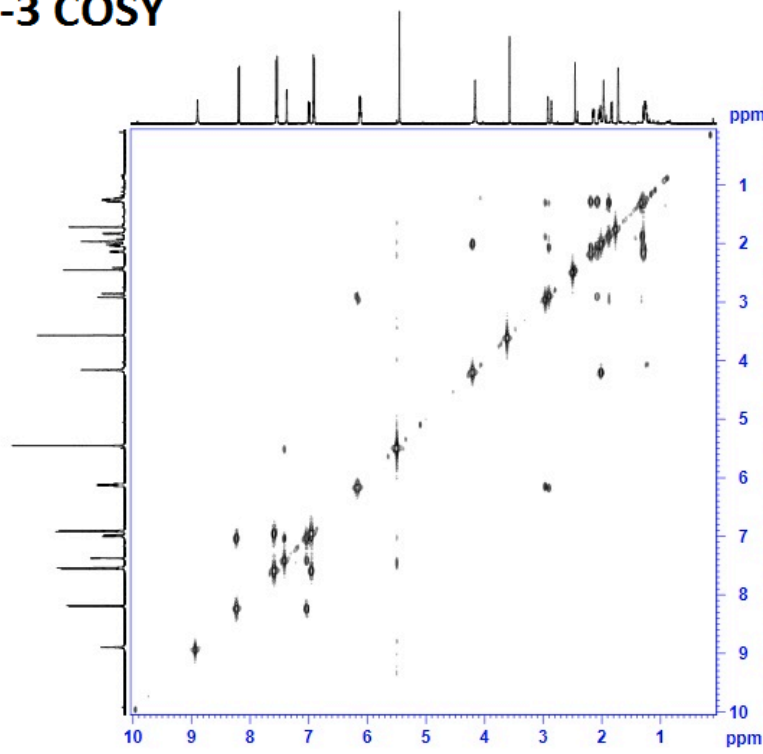
BRUKER

```

NAME      xhu02 CL3 for paper
EXPNO     1
PROCNO    1
Date_     20150218
Time      17.19
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   THF
NS         16
DS         2
SWH        10000.000 Hz
FIDRES     0.152568 Hz
AQ         3.2768500 sec
RG         203
DW         50.000 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         297.3 K
D1         5.00000000 sec
TDO        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       1H
P1         20.00 usec
PL1        1.00 dB
PL1W       17.75783539 W
SFO1       500.1318264 MHz
SI         65536
SF         500.1300235 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         0.30 Hz
GB         0
FC         1.00
    
```

CL-3 COSY



BRUKER

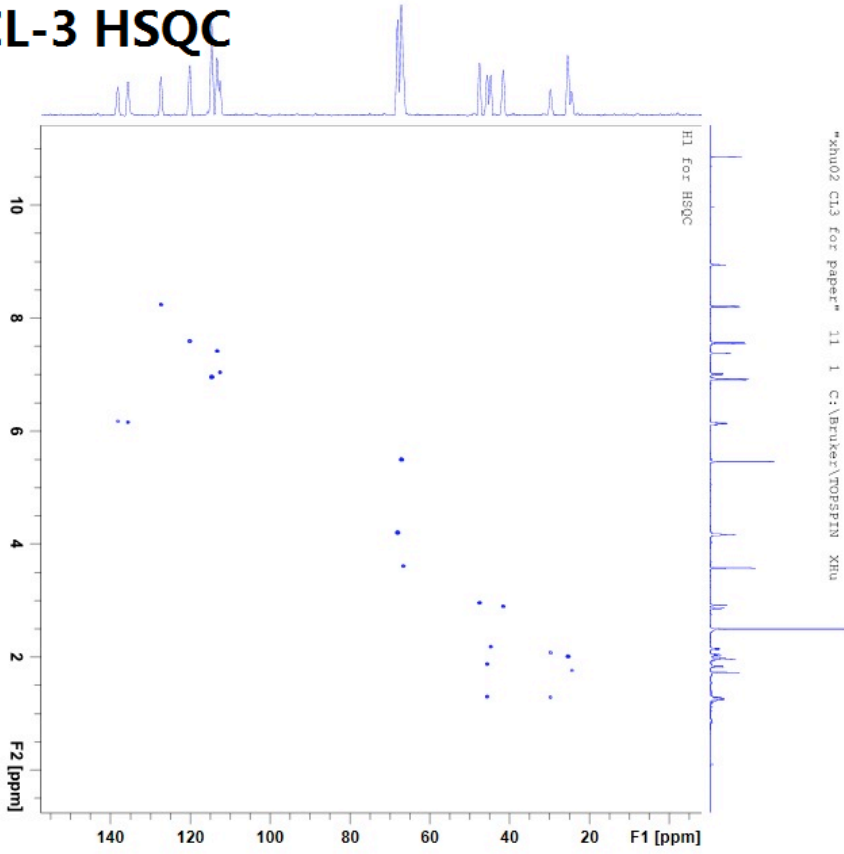
```

NAME      xhu02 CL3 for paper
EXPNO     6
PROCNO    1
Date_     20150218
Time      9.53
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   csgaqzgpg
TD         2048
SOLVENT   THF
NS         1
DS         8
SWH        5514.708 Hz
FIDRES     2.892728 Hz
AQ         0.1857853 sec
RG         203
DW         90.667 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         298.2 K
D1         0.00000300 sec
D2         5.00000000 sec
D12        0.00000400 sec
D16        0.00020000 sec
D18        0.00018160 sec
IMO        0

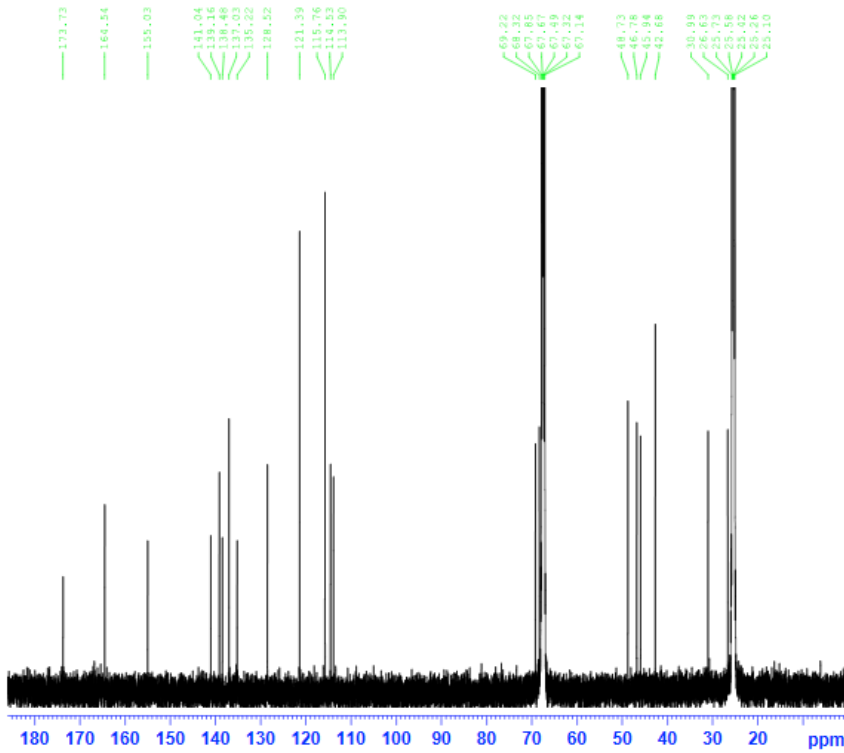
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       1H
FO         20.00 usec
PL1        1.00 dB
PL1W       17.75783539 W
SFO1       500.1327781 MHz

===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
CPHASE1    SINE.100
CP21       10.00 s
SF21       1000.00 usec
NS21       1
DS21       8
TD21       128
SFO21      500.1328 MHz
FIDRES21   43.020374 Hz
SW21       11.010 ppm
FM21       128
SI21       1024
SF21       500.1300000 MHz
WDW21      SINE
SSB21      0
LB21       0.00 Hz
GB21       0
FC21       1.00
SI21       1024
MC22       QF
SF22       500.1300000 MHz
WDW22      SINE
SSB22      0
LB22       0.00 Hz
GB22       0
    
```

CL-3 HSQC



CL-3 C13



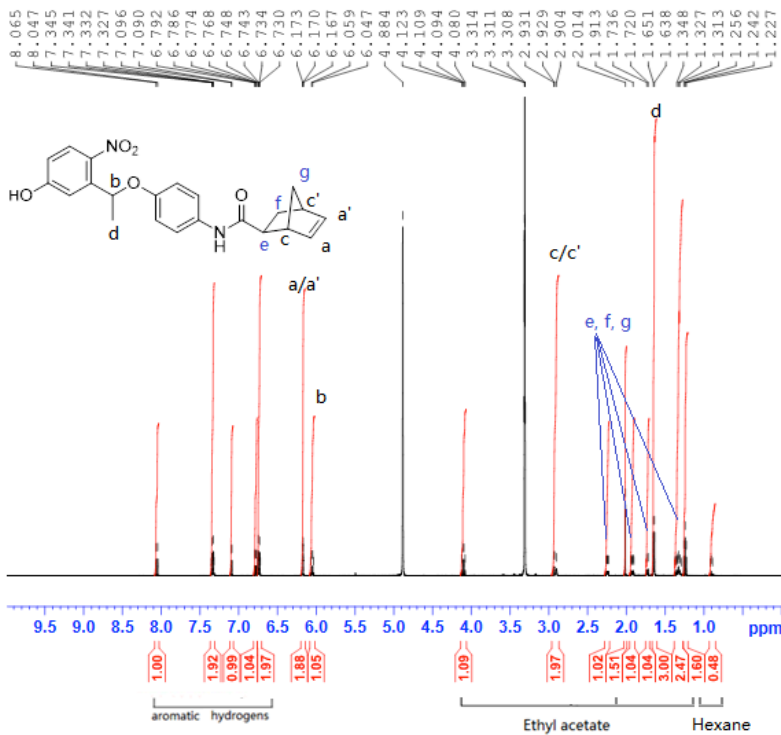
```

NAME      xhu02 CL3 for paper
EXPNO     2
PROCNO    1
Date_     20150219
Time      4.50
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO ES-
PULPROG   zgpg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   THF
NS         3600
DS         4
SWH        29761.904 Hz
FIDRES     0.454131 Hz
AQ         1.1010548 sec
RG         203
DW         16.800 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         297.5 K
D1         10.0000000 sec
D11        0.03000000 sec
TDO        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       13C
P1         9.50 usec
PL1        0.00 dB
PL1W       89.92553711 W
SFO1       125.7703643 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
CPDPRG2   waltz16
NUC2       1H
PCPD2     80.00 usec
PL2        1.00 dB
PL12      13.04 dB
PL13      16.80 dB
PL2W      17.75783539 W
PL12W     1.11017132 W
PL13W     0.46707872 W
SFO2       500.1320005 MHz
SI         65536
SF         125.7576527 MHz
WDW        EM
SGB        0
LB         1.00 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.40
    
```

Pre CL-4

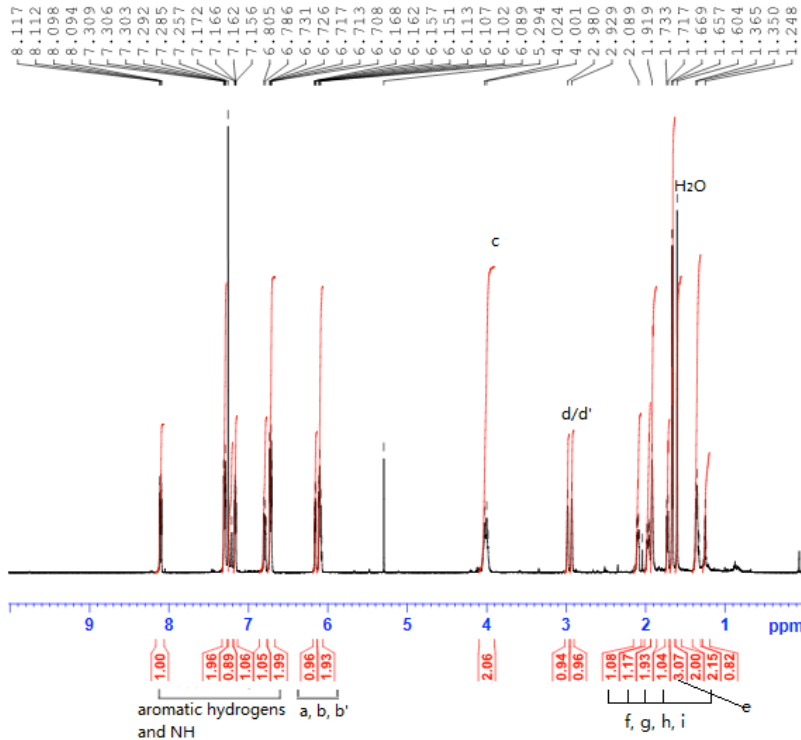


```

NAME      xhu02-057
EXPNO    2
PROCNO   1
Date_    20141015
Time     14.11
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG  zg30
TD       65536
SOLVENT  MeOD
NS       22
DS       2
SWH      10000.000 Hz
FIDRES   0.152568 Hz
AQ       3.2768500 sec
RG       203
DW       50.000 usec
DE       6.50 usec
TE       294.2 K
D1       1.50000000 sec
TDO      1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1     1H
P1       20.00 usec
PL1     1.00 dB
PL1W    17.7578393 Hz
SFO1    500.1318364 MHz
SI       65536
SF       500.1300105 MHz
WDW      EM
SSB      0
LB       0.30 Hz
GB       0
PC       1.00
    
```

CL-4

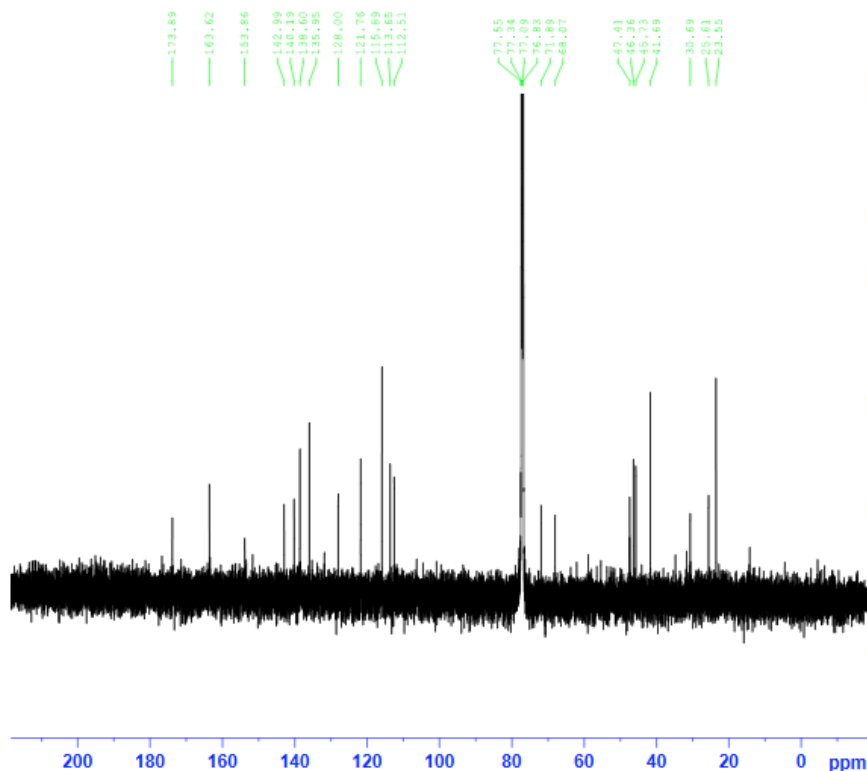


```

NAME      xhu02-046
EXPNO    2
PROCNO   1
Date_    20140829
Time     17.06
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG  zg30
TD       65536
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS       16
DS       2
SWH      10000.000 Hz
FIDRES   0.152568 Hz
AQ       3.2768500 sec
RG       203
DW       50.000 usec
DE       6.50 usec
TE       294.2 K
D1       2.00000000 sec
TDO      1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1     1H
P1       20.00 usec
PL1     1.00 dB
PL1W    17.7578393 Hz
SFO1    500.1318364 MHz
SI       65536
SF       500.1300148 MHz
WDW      EM
SSB      0
LB       0.30 Hz
GB       0
PC       1.00
    
```

CL-4 C13



```

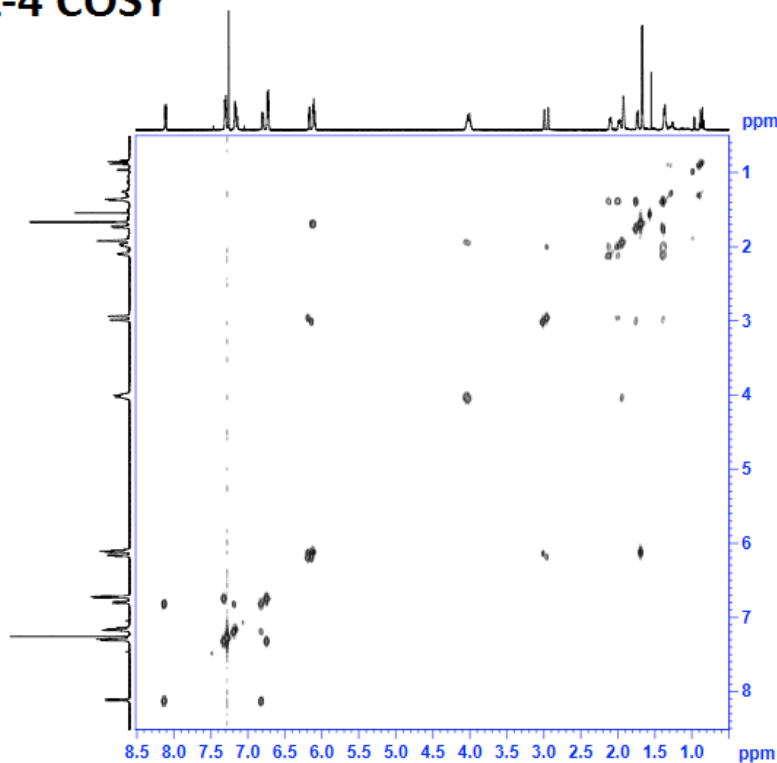
NAME      xhu02 CL4 for paper
EXPNO    10
PROCNO    1
Date_    20150223
Time     6.51
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG  zgpg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS        2048
DS        4
SWH       29761.904 Hz
FIDRES   0.454121 Hz
AQ        1.1010548 sec
RG        203
DW        16.800 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        292.0 K
D1        15.0000000 sec
D11       0.03000000 sec
TD0       1
    
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      13C
P1        9.50 usec
PL1       0.00 dB
PL1W     89.92553711 W
SFO1     125.7703643 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
CPDPRG2  waltz16
NUC2      1H
PCPD2    80.00 usec
PL2       1.00 dB
PL12     13.04 dB
PL13     16.80 dB
PL2W    17.75783529 W
PL12W   1.11017132 W
PL13W   0.46707872 W
SFO2    500.1320005 MHz
SI        65536
SF       125.7577802 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        1.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40
    
```

CL-4 COSY



```

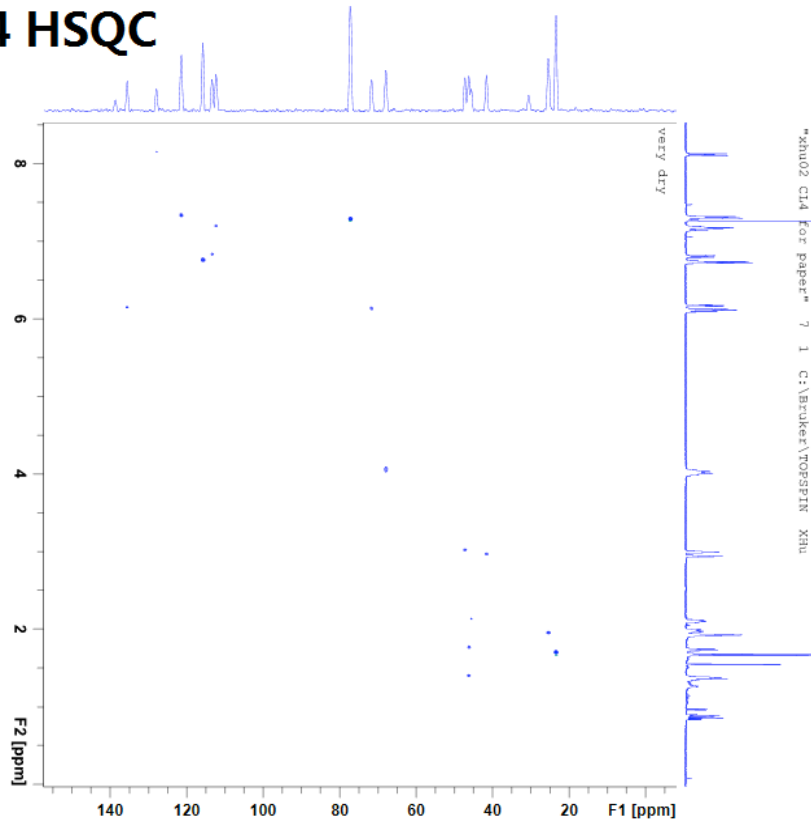
NAME      xhu02 CL4 for paper
EXPNO    2
PROCNO    2
Date_    20150222
Time     20.58
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG  cosyzgpgf
TD        2048
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS        1
DS        1
SWH       4012.843 Hz
FIDRES   1.859388 Hz
AQ        0.2552308 sec
RG        203
DW        124.600 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        292.2 K
D0        0.00000300 sec
D1        10.00000000 sec
D13       0.00000400 sec
D16       0.00020000 sec
IN0       0.00024960 sec
    
```

```

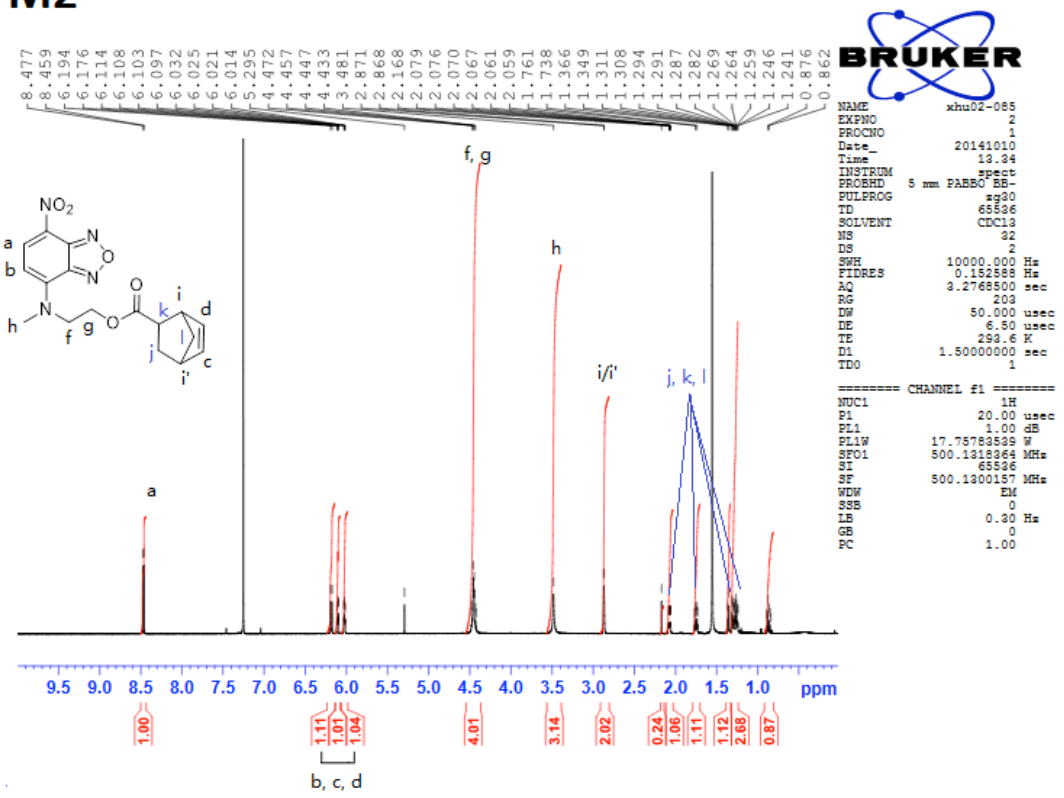
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      1H
PC        20.00 usec
PL        20.00 usec
PL1       1.00 dB
PL1W    17.75783529 W
SFO1     500.1322267 MHz

===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
GPRAM1   SINE,100
GSI1     10.00 t
P16      1000.00 usec
NDO      1
TD        128
SFO1     500.1323 MHz
FIDRES   31.300079 Hz
SW       8.013 ppm
F2MODE   QF
SI        1024
SF       500.1300024 MHz
WDW       SINE
SSB       0
LB        0.00 Hz
PC        1.00
SI        1024
MC2      QF
SF       500.1300015 MHz
WDW       SINE
SSB       0
LB        0.00 Hz
GB        0
    
```

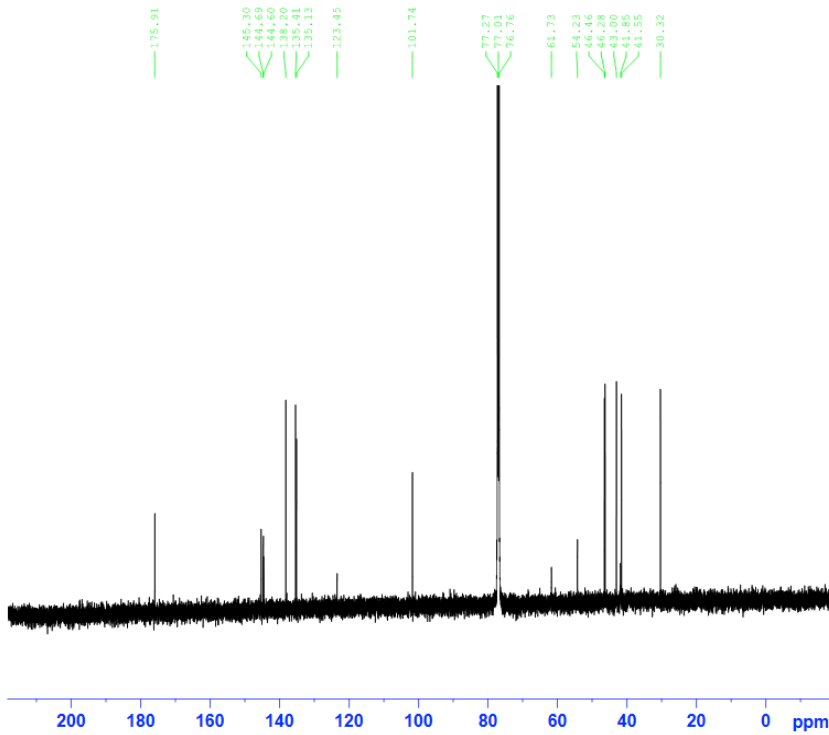
CL-4 HSQC



M2



M2



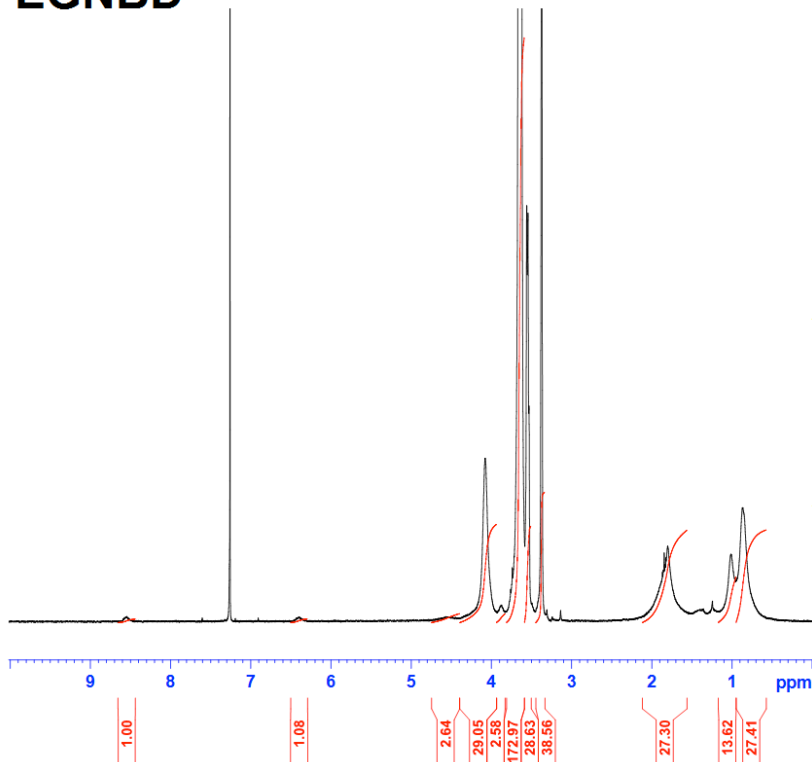
```

NAME      xhu02-085
EXPNO     4
PROCNO    1
Date_     20150403
Time      23.20
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zgpg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         5000
DS         4
SWH       29761.904 Hz
FIDRES    0.454131 Hz
AQ         1.1010548 sec
RG         203
DW         16.800 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         293.1 K
D1         10.00000000 sec
D11        0.03000000 sec
TD0        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       13C
P1         9.50 usec
PL1        0.00 dB
PL1W       99.92553711 W
SFO1       125.7703643 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
CPDPRG2   waltz16
NUC2       1H
PCPD2     80.00 usec
PL2        1.00 dB
PL12       13.04 dB
PL13       16.80 dB
FL12W     17.75763339 W
FL13W     1.110171332 W
PL12W     0.46707872 W
SFO2       500.1320005 MHz
SI         65536
SF         125.7577890 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         1.00 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.40
    
```

PEGNBD



```

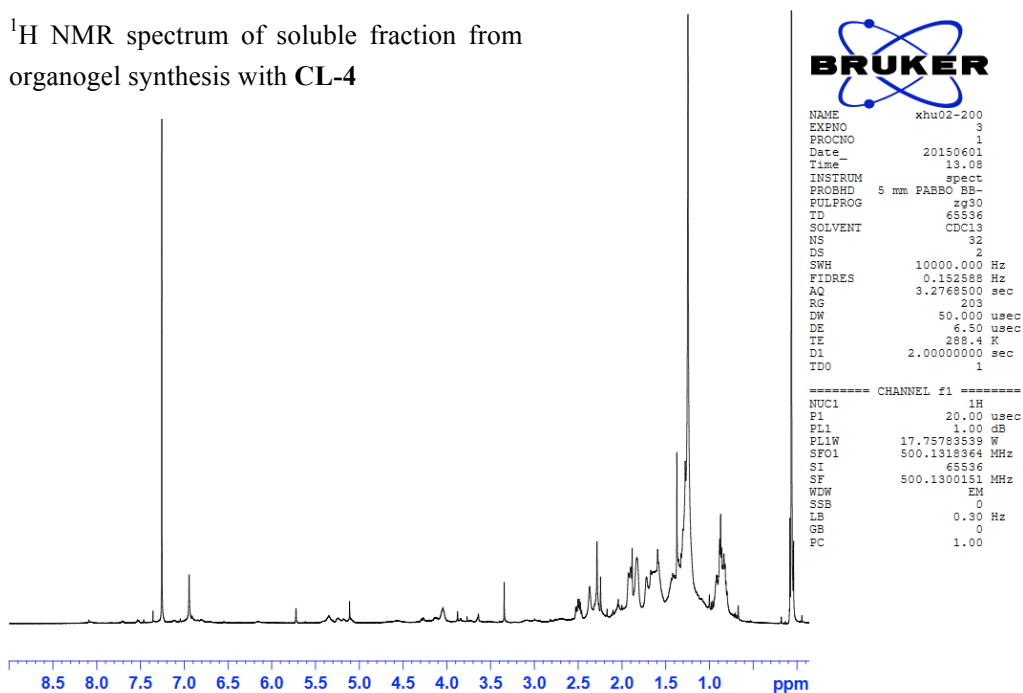
Current Data Parameters
NAME      xhu02-P PEGMA co NBOMA
EXPNO     2
PROCNO    1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_     20150317
Time      17.37
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm QNP 1H/13
PULPROG   zg30
TD         32768
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         16
DS         2
SWH       6219.905 Hz
FIDRES    0.159786 Hz
AQ         2.6345973 sec
RG         322.5
DW         80.400 usec
DE         6.00 usec
TE         300.0 K
D1         0.50000000 sec
TD0        1

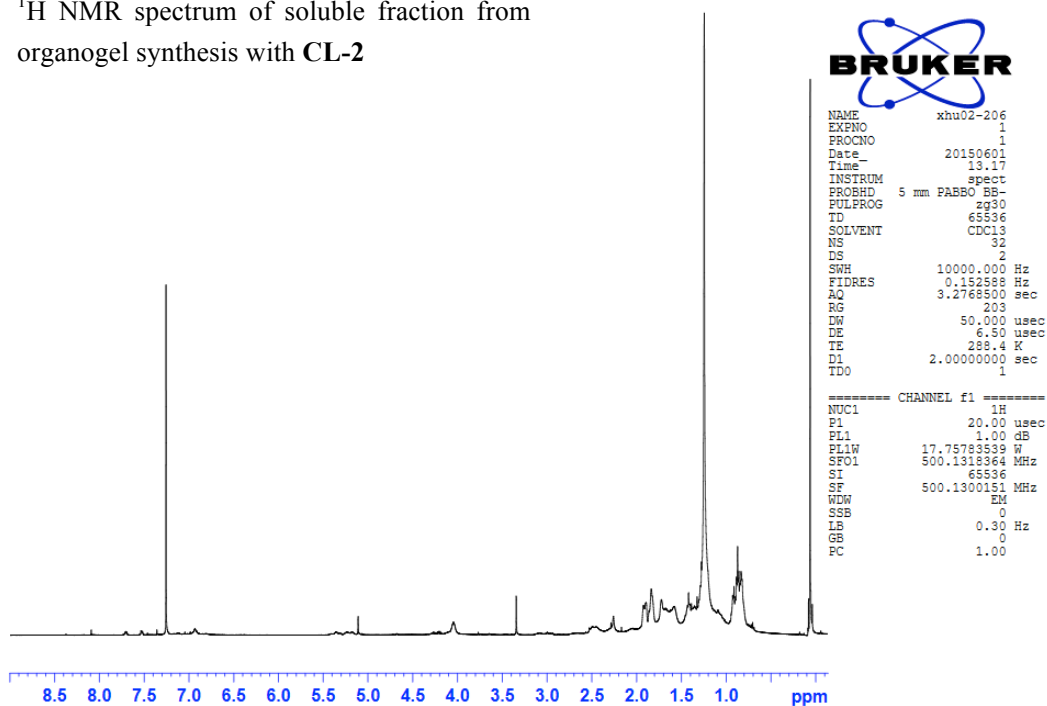
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       1H
P1         12.00 usec
PL1        0.00 dB
SFO1       300.3418547 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
SI         32768
SF         300.3400040 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         0.30 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.00
    
```

^1H NMR spectrum of soluble fraction from organogel synthesis with CL-4



^1H NMR spectrum of soluble fraction from organogel synthesis with CL-2



7. References

- (1) Gumbley, P.; Hu, X.; Lawrence, J. A.; Thomas, S. W. *Macromol. Rapid Commun.* **2013**, *34*, 1838.
- (2) Katzenstein, J. M.; Janes, D. W.; Hocker, H. E.; Chandler, J. K.; Ellison, C. J. *Macromolecules* **2012**, *45*, 1544.
- (3) Chen, B. Y.; Kuo, C. C.; Huang, Y. S.; Lu, S. T.; Liang, F. C.; Jiang, D. H. *Acs Appl Mater Inter* **2015**, *7*, 2797.