

## **Electronic Supporting Information**

### **Chemically cross-linked PDMS as versatile alignment medium for organic compounds**

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## Materials and Methods

**General.** All reagents were used as received from commercial suppliers unless otherwise stated. Reaction progress was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) performed on Macherey Nagel aluminum plates coated with silica gel containing green fluorescence indicator for short wave UV (254nm). Visualization was achieved by UV light (254 nm), saturated aqueous potassium permanganate or 5% ethanolic solution of phosphomolybdic acid and subsequent heating.

**NMR experiments.** All NMR experiments were obtained on Bruker DRX-400, Avance-III HD-400 and Avance-III-600 spectrometers. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are referenced from TMS (0 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR) or residual  $\text{CDCl}_3$  signal (7.27 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and 77.3 in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra). Assignment of NMR spectra of (+)-isopinocampheol and  $\beta$ -(-)-cariophyllene was performed using standard 1D- and 2D-NMR techniques (including H2BC)<sup>[1]</sup>. Diastereotopic protons of  $\beta$ -(-)-cariophyllene were assigned using  $^3\text{J}$ -couplings analysis obtained from DQF-COSY experiment. The PDMS was analyzed using 1D and 2D  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR (1D-inept, 1D-ig,  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{29}\text{Si}$  HMBC). Decomposition of PDMS in the presence of (+)-isopinocampheol was investigated by  $^1\text{H}$  DOSY experiment (stimulated echo with bipolar gradients, Bruker pulse sequence library *stebppp1s*)<sup>[2]</sup> performed on Avance-III HD-400 NMR spectrometer equipped with either 5 mm inverse probe with Z-gradient or 5 mm microimaging probe equipped with Diff30L Z-gradient with lock channel and 60 A GREAT amplifier. The RDC data ( $D_{\text{C-H}}$ ) were extracted from CLIP-HSQC,<sup>[3]</sup> scaled  $F_1$ -coupled BIRD-HSQC<sup>[4]</sup> and scaled  $F_1$ -coupled BIRD-HSQC spectra with MQ-evolution<sup>[5]</sup>. These were recorded for isotropic and anisotropic samples and RDCs are calculated according to the formula:

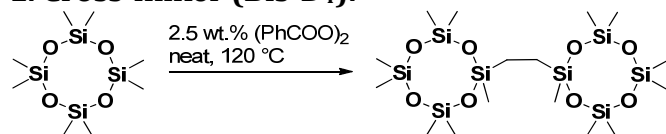
$$^1D_{\text{C-H}} = (^1T_{\text{C-H}}^{\text{aniso}} - ^1J_{\text{C-H}}^{\text{iso}}) / 2$$

For the methyl groups the  $D_{\text{C-C}}$  rather than  $D_{\text{C-H}}$  was used for the spatial structure elucidation. The following equation was applied <sup>[6]</sup>:

$$^1D_{\text{CC}} = ^1D_{\text{CH}_3} (-3\gamma_{\text{C}}/\gamma_{\text{H}})(r_{\text{CH}}^3/r_{\text{CC}}^3)$$

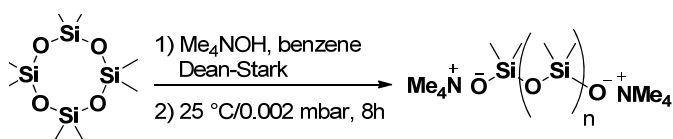
## Preparation of PDMS-sticks.

### 1. Cross-linker (Bis-D<sub>4</sub>).



To moderately stirred neat octamethyltetrasiloxane [D<sub>4</sub> (17.3 g)] at 120 °C freshly re-crystallized (ethanol-water) dry benzoyl peroxide (450 mg) was gradually added (CAUTION! avoid an addition of big chunks/portions; in total it may take about 1 h; the smoother the addition is, the higher is the yield). After completion, the reaction mixture was heated for an additional 30 min, cooled to room temperature and passed through a plug of activated alumina (2.5×3 cm) and washed with petrol ether. After removing of solvents under reduced pressure, D<sub>4</sub> was recovered by distillation in a vacuum of water-jet pump (b.p. 62–64°C/~10 Torr). The residue was purified by multiple Kugelrohr distillations collecting a middle fraction boiling between 100–120 °C/0.01 mbar until the product is free of aromatic contaminations and crystallizes as colorless needles (m.p. 55 °C). Yield: 353 mg. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 K)  $\delta$  = 0.47 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.1–0.08 (m, 18 H, 6 CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.08 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 K)  $\delta$  = 8.2 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.8 (6 CH<sub>3</sub>), -1.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (119.3MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 K)  $\delta$  = -19.15, -19.24, -19.37 ppm.

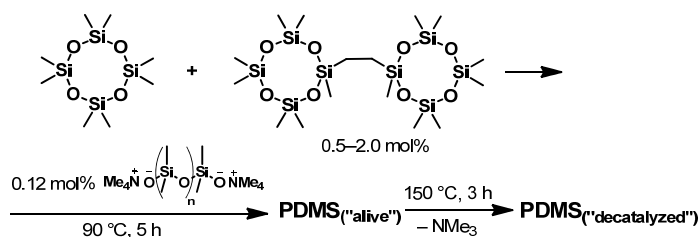
### 2. Polymerization Catalyst.



A mixture of 3.3 mL (11 mmol, 1.1 equivalents) of D<sub>4</sub> and tetramethylammonium hydroxide pentahydrate (1.8 g, 10 mmol) was refluxed in benzene (60 mL) with Dean-Stark trap until the water doesn't separated any more (typically overnight). At this point, the solution should be completely homogeneous. Then, the majority of benzene was distilled off at atmospheric pressure and the rest of volatile material was removed in high vacuum to result in a colorless waxy semisolid. It was transferred in a glove-box and used there without additional purification. The puritiy is estimated to be ~75% from its crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 K)  $\delta$  = 2.79 (s, 24 H, 2 NMe<sub>4</sub>), 0.44 (s, 12 H, 4 CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.36 (s, 24 H, 8 CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

### 3. Polymerization.



A 5-mL round-bottom flask was weighed in a glove-box and a little crumble of the polymerisation catalyst (see above) was stuck to the internal surface of the flask with spatula tip. A PTFE-coated stirring bar followed, the flask was closed with a septum and removed from the glove-box. 4 wt% stock solution (4 wt%=2 mol %) of bis-D<sub>4</sub> in D<sub>4</sub> was diluted with D<sub>4</sub> to reach the required cross-linker concentration (see above 0.5-2 mol%) and added by stirring to the polymerisation catalyst in such amount to adjust the catalysts concentration exactly to 0.12 mol %. After complete homogenization (about 30 min; don't wait any longer if you see it's dissolved, otherwise it might become too viscous for subsequent sampling with the syringe), the polymerizing mixture was withdrawn with syringe and evenly distributed within the array of semi-closed pieces of PTFE tube (ID 3 or 3.2 mm, l~25-30 mm) packed in the Schlenk tube under argon. The Schlenk was carefully (CAUTION! DO IT SLOWLY!) evacuated, purged with argon and placed in an oven pre-heated to 90 °C. To equalize the pressure in the reaction flask one can pierce the septum with a thin needle, or, more correctly, use any kind of "CaCl<sub>2</sub>-tube" packed with activated molecular sieves. After the time required (typically, 5 h), the temperature was raised to 150 °C and polymerization was terminated (decatalysed, removal of NMe<sub>3</sub>) by heating for at least 3 h. Then, the reaction vessel was cooled to room temperature under argon, the tipped ends of the PTFE-tubes were cut with a razor blade and thus prepared PDMS-sticks were pushed out by 2.5-3 mm rod. To protect the surface of the stick, a piece of finger-rolled cotton was placed between rod and stick. The freshly prepared PDMS sticks were dried at ambient temperature *in vacuo* (0.002 mbar) over night.

**Data for swelling of PDMS sticks in THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>.**

**1.2 mol% bis-D<sub>4</sub> in THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>, at 300K.** Start: 10/04/2013, 15:00.

<i>time</i> , h	42h 12/04, 9:23	+72h 15/04, 9:24	+2h 15/04, 11:34	+6h 15/04 17:56	+18h 16/04 12:08	+23h 17/04, 11:02	+47h 19/04 9:53
$\Delta\nu_Q$ , Hz	4.4/3.6	7.0/5.6	7.1/5.7	7.2/5.8	7.5/5.9	7.8/6.2	8.1/6.4

Swelling has been performed at room temperature, measurement performed at 300K at an Avance-III-600 spectrometer.

**1.5 mol% bis-D<sub>4</sub> in THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>, at 263K.** Start: 23/05/2013, 18:00.

<i>time</i> , h	161h 30/05, 11:20	+25h 31/05, 12:27	+26h 01/06, 14:27	+34h 03/06, 00:48	+8h 03/06, 9:05
$\Delta\nu_Q$ , Hz	6.0/4.5	6.5/4.9	6.8/5.2	7.1/5.4	7.2/5.4

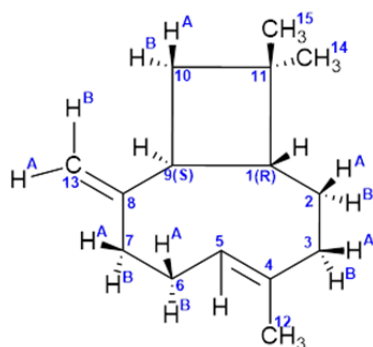
Swelling has been performed at 253K, measurement performed at 263K at an Avance-III-600 spectrometer.

## RDC structure elucidation for $\beta$ -(-)-cariophyllene (BCP) in PDMS gel

### NMR spectral assignment ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ at 279 K) and RDC data

Previously, NMR experimental data<sup>[7]</sup> in  $\text{Me}_2\text{O}-d_6$  or DFT calculated chemical shifts<sup>[8]</sup> were published. Here we provide the full NMR attribution of BCP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , including assignment of diastereotopic protons. For the spatial structure representation one can use the Cartesian coordinates for the three naturally populated conformers provided here below.

For the isotropic sample 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of BCP was dissolved in 0.5 mL of  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Anisotropic measurements were performed for a PDMS gel sample containing 1.3 mol% of cross-linker and solution of 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of BCP in 1 mL of  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . About half of the BCP solution was placed at the bottom of an 5 mm OD NMR tube, then a PDMS stick (length 14 mm) was pushed inside using a rod such that the gel would be in the coil of NMR spectrometer. The rest of BCP/ $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution was added to the top of the PDMS stick (the stick floats in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and needs to be hold covered by the solution by putting a rod on the top of the stick until the stick swells – usually a matter of 1-2 minutes). The anisotropic gel was then equilibrated at 279 K. All NMR measurements for both isotropic and anisotropic samples were performed at 279 K on Avance-III-600 spectrometer.



**Table SI-1.** Assignment and RDCs for  $\alpha\alpha/\beta\alpha$  conformers (isochronous NMR signals) of BCP.

NMR attribution			
C	$\delta_C$ , ppm	H	$\delta_H$ , ppm
C1	53.3	H1	1.68
C2	29.3	H2A	1.51
		H2B	1.44
C3	39.9	H3A	1.91
		H3B	2.08
C4	135.6	-	-
C5	124.2	H5	5.31
C6	28.4	H6A	1.99
		H6B	2.34
C7	34.7	H7A	2.00
		H7B	2.20
C8	154.6	-	-
C9	48.4	H9	2.32
C10	40.2	H10A	1.65
		H10B	1.65
C12	16.3	H12	1.61
C11	33.0	-	-
C13	111.7	H13A	4.82
		H13B	4.94
C14	22.6	H14	0.97
C15	30.0	H15	1.00

Coupling nuclei		$^1D_{\text{exp}}$ , Hz	
		CLIP HSQC	$F_1$ -cpd HSQC (MQ evol.)
C1	H1	3.37±0.10	3.38±0.30
C2	H2A	-0.50±0.30	no
	H2B	3.63±0.20	no
H2A	H2B	-	4.50±0.20
C3	H3A	3.80±0.20	4.04±0.20
C3	H3B	-0.04±0.10	-0.02±0.50
C5	H5	2.91±0.10	2.96±0.10
C6	H6A	1.79±0.30	2.08±0.20
	H6B	0.18±0.30	0.33±0.20
H6A	H6B	-	5.90±0.20
C7	H7A	1.45±0.50	1.86±0.20
	H7B	-0.01±0.30	-0.18±0.80
C9	H9	3.61±0.10	3.66±0.10
C10	H10A	Str. Coupl.	8.47±0.10
	H10B	Str. Coupl.	-4.78±0.10
H10A	H10B	-	5.80±0.10
C12	C4	0.28±0.10	0.28±0.10
C13	H13A	-1.23±0.10	-
	H13B	0.27±0.10	-
C14	C11	0.14±0.10	0.14±0.10
C15	C11	0.16±0.10	0.14±0.10



**Table SI-2.** NMR signals assignment and RDCs of  $\beta\beta$ -conformer of BCP.

NMR attribution			
C	$\delta_C$ , ppm	H	$\delta_H$ , ppm
C1	55.7	H1	1.49
C2	31.3	H2A	1.67
		H2B	1.55
C3	34.7	H3A	1.57
		H3B	2.51
C4	135.1	-	-
C5	124.4	H5	5.26
C6	29.3	H6A	2.42
		H6B	2.11
C7	40.2	H7A	1.9
		H7B	2.42
C8	155.0	-	-
C9	49.3	H9	2.24
C10	42.5	H10A	1.78
		H10B	1.56
C11	32.6	-	-
C12	22.1	H12	1.58
C13	110.8	H13A	4.88
		H13B	4.95
C14	21.9	H14	0.96
C15	29.7	H15	0.97

Coupling nuclei		$^1D_{\text{exp}}$ , Hz	
		CLIP HSQC	$F_1$ -cpd HSQC (MQ evol.)
C1	H1	4.03±0.20	3.83±0.10
C2	H2A	Str. Coupl.	no
C2	C2B	Str. Coupl.	no
C3	H3A	Str. Coupl.	3.24±0.20
C3	H3B	Str. Coupl.	no
C5	H5	2.54±0.20	2.99±0.20
C6	H6A	2.40±0.30	2.72±0.50
C6	H6B	0.70±0.30	0.62±0.50
H6A	H6B	-	3.22±0.05
C7	H7A	overlap	3.61±0.20
C7	H7B	-0.54±0.20	no
C9	H9	3.88±0.30	3.84±0.30
C10	H10A	1.00±0.20	1.17±0.10
C10	H10B	2.75±0.15	2.68±0.10
H10A	H10B	-	3.02±0.15
C12	C4	0.28±0.10	0.27±0.10
C13	H13A	-1.01±0.10	no
C13	H13B	-0.03±0.10	no
C14	C11	0.23±0.10	0.21±0.10
C15	C11	0.12±0.10	0.11±0.10

## Cartesian coordinates for $\beta$ -Caryophyllene conformers

Structural models for the RDC fits were generated computationally by geometry optimization using density functional theory as implemented in ORCA v3.0.1.<sup>[9]</sup> While the previously published studies by Alagona et al.<sup>[8]</sup> give some torsion angles, electronic energies and predicted NMR chemical shifts, no Cartesian coordinates of the conformers are reported.

Starting from a geometry used by Krupp et al.,<sup>[10]</sup> bonds were rotated manually into geometries resembling the  $\alpha\alpha$ ,  $\beta\alpha$ ,  $\beta\beta$  and  $\alpha\beta$  conformers reported by Alagona et al. These starting geometries were subsequently re-optimized at the B3LYP/def2-TZVP<sup>[11]</sup> level of theory. Numerical frequency analysis was performed to confirm the local minimum nature of the respective geometries. Table SI-3 compares the relevant torsion angles and relative conformer populations (derived from Boltzmann weighting) to those reported previously by Alagona et al. The  $\alpha\beta$  geometry is not expected to be populated significantly at room temperature and is not observed in the NMR measurements.

**Table SI-3.** Comparison of DFT-optimized geometries calculated in this work with those reported previously by Alagona et al. (values given in parentheses).

Conformer	C6-C7-C8-C13 torsion (deg.)	C2-C3-C4-C12 torsion (deg.)	$\Delta E$ (kJ/mol) <sup>a</sup>	Boltzmann population (%)
$\alpha\alpha$	87.8 (84.5)	81.9 (82.6)	0.000 (0.000)	47.53 (54.12)
$\beta\alpha$	-82.2 (-81.3)	83.2 (81.1)	0.847 (1.849)	33.77 (25.67)
$\beta\beta$	-97.0 (-91.5)	-128.6 (-126.0)	2.313 (2.443)	18.69 (20.20)
$\alpha\beta$	83.4 (86.4)	-102.2 (-129.5)	21.543 (20.815)	0.01 (0.01)

<sup>a</sup> relative electronic energies. Values given by Alagona et al. in kcal/mol were converted to kJ/mol for comparison.

### $\alpha\alpha$ conformer

C7	-1.73327117181850	-1.77820500473941	-2.29115863301432
C8	-0.55731003654020	-1.25536028276519	-3.09905280774412
C9	-0.33043548619936	0.22638049769772	-3.30908913452871
C5	-1.01520493064994	-0.80056308555655	-0.13342594362439
C6	-1.37350907977576	-2.08575508360322	-0.80721666770035
C1	-0.67300379386680	1.38202548689861	-2.31061657877904
C2	0.35954063456868	1.89821529884217	-1.30488548860629
C3	0.26902823697989	1.25469593142328	0.10668030010963
C4	0.19363029755245	-0.24480974221335	-0.01581853892338
C12	1.50575316548968	-0.95693333492627	-0.20498648187083
C13	0.25583537748238	-2.12315105915667	-3.70450967708168
C10	-1.23073606637242	0.94667597089612	-4.35097506771688
C11	-1.09043124340522	2.26568592374780	-3.54042416913712
H1	-1.59521167634404	1.13598449124328	-1.78046249932595
H9	0.70941687518397	0.35251616517380	-3.62207492603027
C14	0.02966508707956	3.14665721977439	-4.09697789398944
C15	-2.36260151002627	3.08135505366122	-3.33952811931179
H7A	-2.55795173561613	-1.05936843578192	-2.31059531678714
H7B	-2.10735207605629	-2.69400409990509	-2.75579636040319
H5	-1.86892467924200	-0.15539373366167	0.06406458596873
H6B	-0.55759128390755	-2.80900656303050	-0.78221641834107
H6A	-2.23811210252789	-2.55697046102717	-0.33034175491040
H2B	1.36633828609280	1.75463559386485	-1.70837167352474
H2A	0.22989767014925	2.97914911206761	-1.18791667596750
H3B	1.12796257618416	1.57950033778565	0.70219580068061
H3A	-0.62825070344715	1.63065156747542	0.60433027616655
H12A	2.08808382509718	-0.50934784490737	-1.01553498350857
H12B	2.11151887688243	-0.85850243727142	0.70224747443019
H12C	1.39164347639609	-2.01669374630205	-0.42445605154082
H13A	0.08114065745805	-3.19260949411664	-3.66402600804785

H13B	1.11774474526898	-1.79401872273056	-4.27333806834121
H10A	-2.25513101045426	0.56777524018126	-4.33220958094461
H10B	-0.86952419085276	0.94066607902244	-5.38140123703370
H14A	-0.27458886661807	3.58059345468003	-5.05354493989939
H14B	0.26390866421556	3.97312758208381	-3.42148088309094
H14C	0.95043759479750	2.58602479355081	-4.26875235972526
H15A	-2.70080374753930	3.53067735501958	-4.27830869885406
H15B	-2.19881880165773	3.89725364365110	-2.62849350760117
H15C	-3.17269185396099	2.45879633295410	-2.95190129144954

### $\beta\alpha$ conformer

C7	-1.52461282047094	-2.02975048080262	-2.16023003190019
C8	-2.13318237918140	-0.76049396847212	-2.74896824185690
C9	-1.19620787061045	0.31222653833295	-3.27876837923890
C5	-1.04267179737108	-0.66286037097979	-0.14754147954163
C6	-1.45323439049373	-2.02955163605179	-0.60615448085287
C1	-0.86554700359287	1.64677922606555	-2.49121454022774
C2	0.40765351544324	1.83199575167136	-1.65644345055236
C3	0.34011463896438	1.34858906286205	-0.18841816331683
C4	0.18762764064999	-0.14985645088892	-0.13178118159954
C12	1.45327695560262	-0.95542928448273	-0.24777246136025
C13	-3.45986800656598	-0.64110633212671	-2.80329101454161
C10	-1.68102243082437	1.19526711789494	-4.45731095854899
C11	-0.96055249487477	2.43045333371714	-3.85317252371436
H1	-1.73802592254568	1.91135245872689	-1.88646468849265
H9	-0.25011902765376	-0.16450163918916	-3.54894035943800
C14	0.38616046971237	2.68815541496283	-4.53128272642951
C15	-1.77383238372947	3.71867945341134	-3.80238752449361
H7A	-2.09995606986641	-2.89689424770825	-2.49400709267814
H7B	-0.51205840452958	-2.15346514320492	-2.55254429548653
H5	-1.86607235855148	0.03770611501441	-0.04158790094153
H6B	-0.76477337034172	-2.81119767983090	-0.27884010347585
H6A	-2.43664711278228	-2.28120850912685	-0.20241625399864
H2B	1.24842547252312	1.34339031907476	-2.15755430673450
H2A	0.65126112446403	2.90082722056912	-1.64503143196804
H3B	1.24482742055762	1.67916086520926	0.33216384351575
H3A	-0.50818152114691	1.83133351803821	0.30443155460915
H12A	2.13503237546505	-0.69891902106624	0.56934458643617
H12B	1.27239731627166	-2.02900105526426	-0.20572008176145
H12C	1.99109865244997	-0.73829262578594	-1.17680977466344
H13A	-4.10882978000505	-1.42920445433687	-2.43861450090388
H13B	-3.95491509242687	0.23387053658423	-3.20465019616956
H10A	-2.76239647607136	1.32416748774788	-4.45555059670058
H10B	-1.37430119530111	0.87596296891344	-5.45570827120504
H14A	0.22667421018271	3.06698296738460	-5.54486790833736
H14B	0.97509939633999	3.43433933045855	-3.99287819083719
H14C	0.98965487028835	1.78141522974029	-4.60961411462913
H15A	-1.94128903309584	4.11846995124086	-4.80726977750257
H15B	-1.25582184718618	4.49058988234112	-3.22457156296798
H15C	-2.74872826969581	3.55191714935629	-3.33879041749375

### $\beta\beta$ conformer

C7	-1.90773413165683	-1.87863935969646	0.78482927799605
C8	-0.72072985527074	-1.72456936394926	-0.15558075242551
C9	0.50843678015151	-0.99197122392147	0.35667366220537
C5	-2.13187024169230	0.59472749447167	0.88988910394223
C6	-2.90071213546240	-0.68060307705116	0.78389718142791
C1	0.96113647845628	0.43532475545869	-0.15323129729299
C2	0.58429758488965	1.74056711200507	0.55833862497638
C3	-0.70638028792629	2.42750423425233	0.06879988198031
C4	-1.87113839270055	1.46643987908686	-0.08362023890867
C12	-2.56898089628030	1.50563034396381	-1.41536119564006
C13	-0.76301192205143	-2.28519513413909	-1.36417995751579
C10	1.91706976935923	-1.50665212903988	-0.04520177050518
C11	2.45098445028248	-0.05144280900715	-0.05280141924948
H1	0.70529526371138	0.51223497893496	-1.21466287317156
H9	0.44990553514081	-0.95606111562481	1.44710261543425
C14	3.13048119266748	0.29062730188434	1.27626863829126

C15	3.34100478557813	0.33351605120461	-1.22694625002745
H7A	-2.46245579279334	-2.78457326739115	0.52912702903793
H7B	-1.53019510033867	-2.01997479168227	1.80286828935637
H5	-1.55925729067181	0.69265201138371	1.80966684568204
H6B	-3.59727906820112	-0.81099332268111	1.61908624961394
H6A	-3.49010565570971	-0.71183184393555	-0.13248354423082
H2B	1.40590928290888	2.45147012958680	0.41549293214340
H2A	0.52672463254375	1.56762499304100	1.63636011347620
H3B	-0.95548560825055	3.25326634279058	0.74452045079236
H3A	-0.50970913687477	2.89031056030069	-0.90269392984789
H12A	-3.43511599681659	0.84869678803454	-1.47204263636483
H12B	-2.90926405453817	2.52458252905280	-1.62896482866948
H12C	-1.88119023157453	1.23008678641987	-2.22175958241814
H13A	-1.63862845717598	-2.82730753499917	-1.70189851974508
H13B	0.05981168607568	-2.22794581683710	-2.06610376313724
H10A	2.39414412398298	-2.20969733493845	0.64065949905242
H10B	1.92491429062115	-1.94029603564136	-1.04528851706797
H14A	4.08024827122351	-0.24546883440872	1.35478814087805
H14B	3.34653157866459	1.35830303796281	1.36454217284937
H14C	2.51896956771226	0.00249366355966	2.13360825620348
H15A	4.30815121734041	-0.17581405874186	-1.17478340242539
H15B	2.87296742769319	0.06493286226088	-2.17707626545085
H15C	3.53578033698274	1.41080519803033	-1.24283822124495

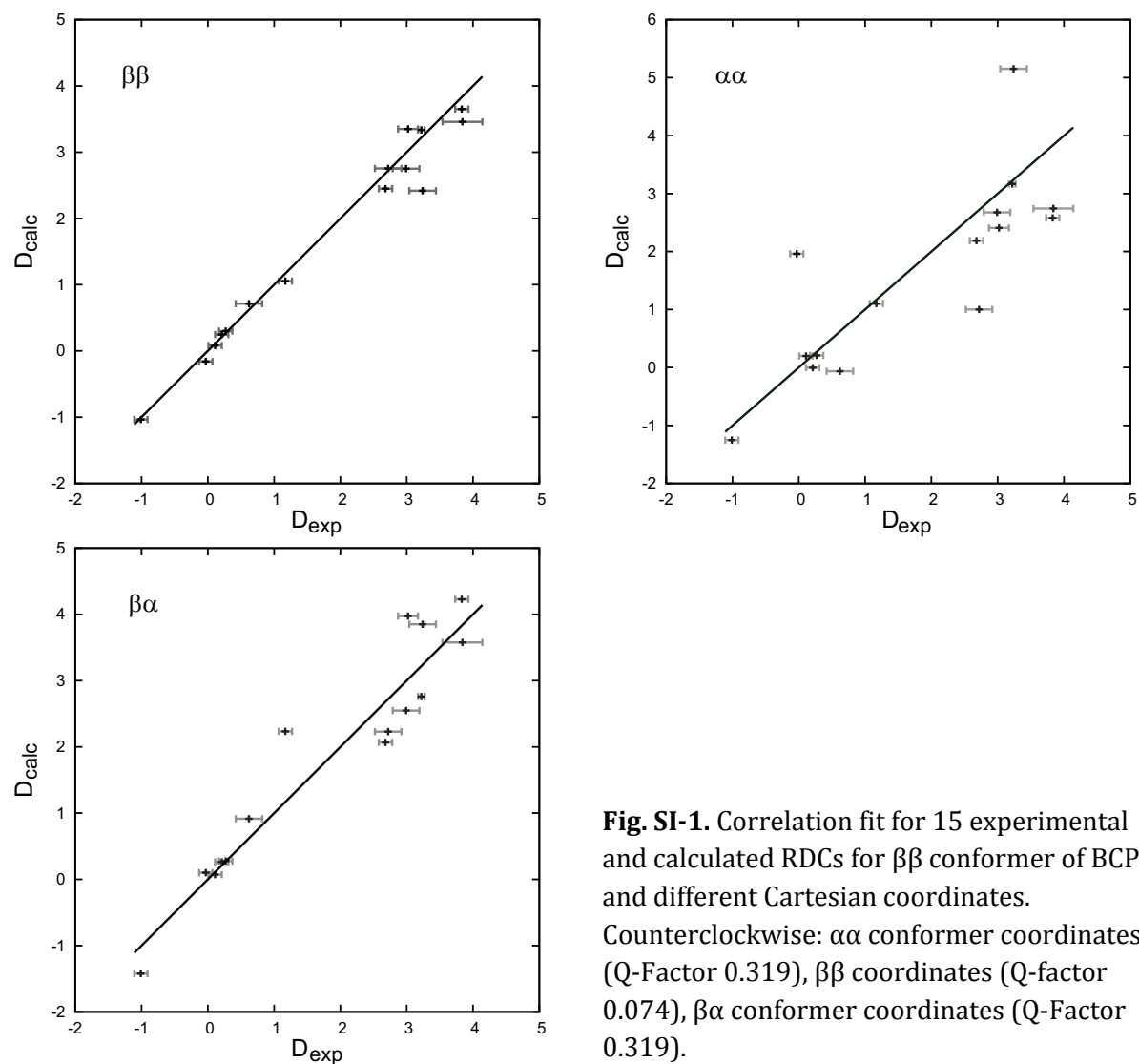
### $\alpha\beta$ conformer

C7	-1.24165530043525	-1.59164319382940	0.53450049421032
C8	-0.14915184898231	-1.06718303334593	1.45179369672242
C9	1.03262051516936	-0.29661589522521	0.89889075283087
C5	-2.02589931643742	0.75771114154802	0.34416992479383
C6	-2.49105787322033	-0.65901878956609	0.49440561046641
C1	1.03792409380851	0.59375199857654	-0.39053433318498
C2	0.73399186080484	2.09980001196412	-0.33256248123430
C3	-0.72959279655122	2.55424200563605	-0.68965117003640
C4	-1.69448035272996	1.39097787605995	-0.78110821529000
C12	-2.05936970317876	0.93136615543871	-2.16612858299628
C13	-0.20864671352927	-1.31300540464589	2.76175646950877
C10	2.19592091700360	-1.10692942619292	0.25786579351957
C11	2.50483350932434	0.10044862011113	-0.67136723526628
H1	0.41101261979259	0.11498945414384	-1.14394937823132
H9	1.44490011292576	0.29519737752746	1.71956579141966
C14	3.60105229361598	0.99501161843945	-0.08783407976320
C15	2.82291489284897	-0.21817938193433	-2.12826500724938
H7A	-0.85789106831644	-1.69938631935445	-0.48288567943931
H7B	-1.55380379920688	-2.58557932091306	0.86475581887322
H5	-1.69524706481880	1.21429527748751	1.27391109300848
H6B	-3.04709394214060	-0.77841254912609	1.42755246641039
H6A	-3.14979931101773	-0.97914974884052	-0.31525871694922
H2B	1.42185409227415	2.61479341970808	-1.00877423610614
H2A	0.98272904191568	2.46649891806594	0.66653244098422
H3B	-1.07033057055589	3.26227995724156	0.06897513972720
H3A	-0.71406400655018	3.10357239350916	-1.63351518125744
H12A	-2.74964712355643	0.08846286689154	-2.16908930437680
H12B	-1.17246962666431	0.64641072915038	-2.74268778908571
H12C	-2.53139057192081	1.75133164851877	-2.71717866375213
H13E	-0.99612149837217	-1.92047744809933	3.19373363023650
H13Z	0.53219610376439	-0.91961993959164	3.44885816913507
H10A	2.98398450452856	-1.44909196481883	0.93182361156144
H10B	1.82189423239930	-1.96372215465022	-0.30680761907381
H14A	4.56129104109809	0.47248083944671	-0.12429959621022
H14B	3.70889160082628	1.91909437860474	-0.66071660357918
H14C	3.41063034796424	1.27066835172966	0.95153864071054
H15A	3.78066387040693	-0.73991816741564	-2.21952127339765
H15B	2.05532846729386	-0.85549241867308	-2.57352593377348
H15C	2.89216837041926	0.69558011642327	-2.72679846386566

## RDC cross-fits:

### $\beta\beta$ -BCP RDCs fitted to Cartesian coordinates of either $\alpha\alpha$ conformer or $\beta\alpha$ conformer

The results show that the RDC data of the  $\beta\beta$  conformer are described the best with the Cartesian coordinates of  $\beta\beta$  conformer (as judged from the lowest quality factor, see the main manuscript text). The cross fitting to the coordinates of other conformers give worse quality factors  $Q$ .

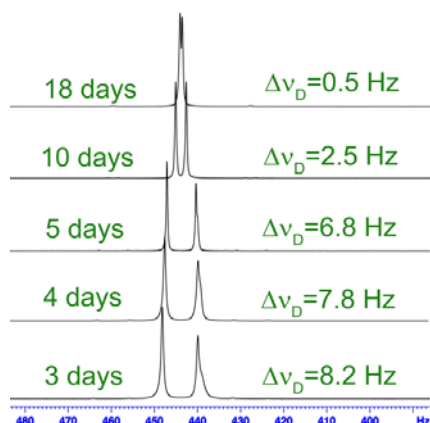


**Fig. SI-1.** Correlation fit for 15 experimental and calculated RDCs for  $\beta\beta$  conformer of BCP and different Cartesian coordinates. Counterclockwise:  $\alpha\alpha$  conformer coordinates (Q-Factor 0.319),  $\beta\beta$  coordinates (Q-factor 0.074),  $\beta\alpha$  conformer coordinates (Q-Factor 0.319).

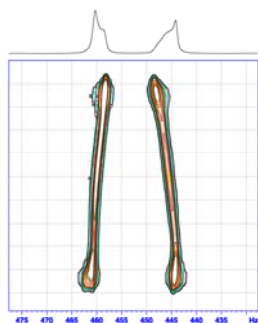
## Anisotropic alignment study of (+)-isopinocampheol and its acetyl ester

Isopinocampheol (IPC) has been traditionally used as a test small molecule for the performance of new alignment media in our and other groups developing RDC methods for small organic molecules. Technically, one can prepare an aligned sample in two ways. First, the gel can be pre-swollen in pure solvent up to its equilibration point, when neither length nor  $\Delta\nu_Q$  of the gel changes anymore. The solution of a small molecule is then applied on the top of a pre-swollen gel and allowed to diffuse. The second option is to achieve simultaneous gel equilibration and analyte diffusion. The latter approach implies that the degree of alignment of a gel in the pure solvent is known.

We prepared samples either by simultaneous gel swelling and diffusion of the small molecule or diffusion of (+)-IPC into pre-swollen PDMS gel being applied in solution on the top of the gel. In both cases degradation of  $\Delta\nu_Q$  was observed, seen in  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectra and images (Fig. SI-2).<sup>[12]</sup> For the sample, in which (+)-IPC diffused from the top of the gel,  $^2\text{H}$  NMR images indicate a  $\Delta\nu_Q$  reduction at the analyte location, propagating together with (+)-IPC diffusion (Fig. SI-3).



**Fig. SI-2.**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz): simultaneous swelling-diffusion of a 1.3 mol% PDMS gel in 8 mg (+)-IPC/1 mL  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution. The analyte diffusion in course of gel swelling is characterized by  $\Delta\nu_Q$  reduction (the value of  $\Delta\nu_Q$  in pure solvent is ca. 23 Hz).



**Fig. SI-3.**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR image (400 MHz) of a gel when (+)-IPC/ $\text{CDCl}_3$  was added on the top of a pre-swollen gel. We observed  $\Delta\nu_Q$  degradation for 1 and 1.3 mol% PDMS gels, commencing with the analyte diffusion (top of the graph corresponds to the top of the NMR tube).

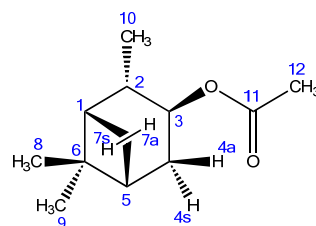
We observed an elongation of the gel in (+)-IPC solution to the values higher than those seen in pure  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . This process was accompanied by gradual reduce of  $\Delta\nu_Q$  until the value of 0 Hz was reached, which is characteristic for isotropic systems. Moreover, a PDMS gel contacted with (+)-IPC for more than one month shortened in length and released viscous liquid, which later on became significantly fluid. The gel could either shrunk or depolymerize in the (+)-IPC solution at the concentrations of 9 mg/mL. The  $^{29}\text{Si}$  1D and 2D NMR examination of the liquid, released from an (+)IPC/PDMS/ $\text{CDCl}_3$  sample, evidences for the polymer chemical degradation: both liquid and an intact gel show a  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR signal of dimethylsiloxanes at -21 ppm (**Fig. SI-6**) A 7-month old sample became completely isotropic.

### Interaction of PDMS with IPC

The chemical degradation of PDMS gel in the fine solutions of (+)-IPC was surprising for us, especially because similar sticks earlier were reported to be successfully applied in a number of studies<sup>[13]</sup> but not for isopinocampheol. A synthesized (+)-IPC-derivative, O-capped with acetyl group, did not prevent the reduction of the  $\Delta\nu_Q$  but degradation seemed to slow down such that we were able to get 10 RDCs (in the range -4...+2 Hz) already after two days of diffusion. The experimental and theoretical RDC values are in agreement with the spatial structure of the molecule (**Table SI-4** and **Fig. SI-4**).

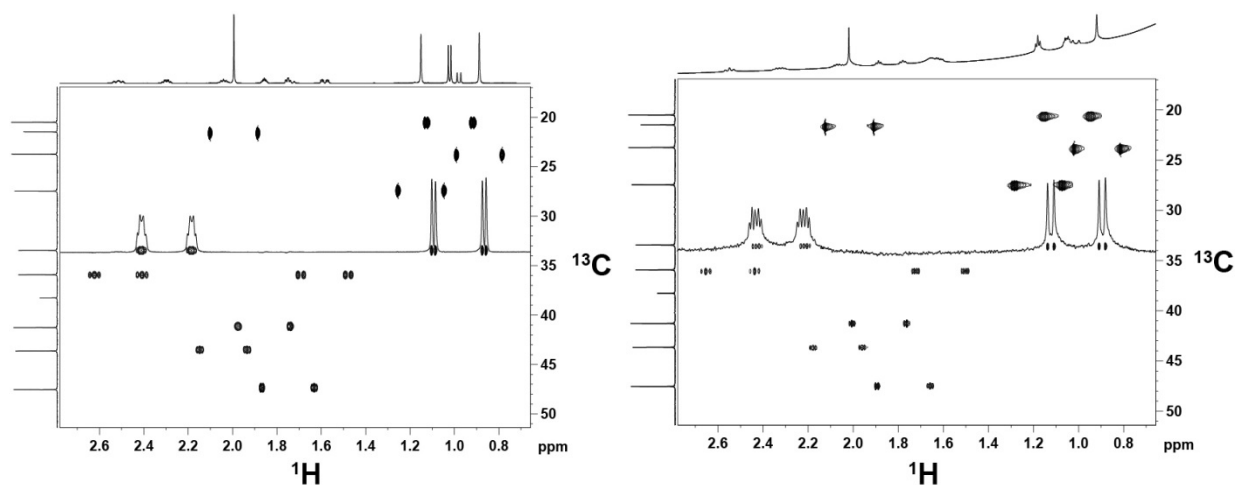
The ability of PDMS to swell differently in solvents is of great concern in the development of micro devices and their components. Alcohols are not reported to be good solvents for PDMS, i.e. do not show high values of volume increase<sup>[14]</sup>. Thus, our results showing the independence of PDMS gel extension from alcohol or ester functionalities of (+)-IPC, on the one hand, coincide well with the general data for the polymer swelling properties. On the other hand, the information on chemical incompatibility of (+)-IPC and PDMS is potentially of big importance for further applications.

**(+)-Isopinocampheol acetate ((+)-IPC-OAc).** 1M solution of (+)-isopinocampheol in pyridine was chilled on an ice bath and 2 eq. of acetic anhydride were added via septum. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 hrs. on the ice-bath and then kept in a fridge until reaction completion. The reaction progress was monitored via TLC. The mixture then was poured on an ice cold HCl solution and the product was extracted in diethyl ether. The combined organic



extractions were washed with 1M HCl, water and brine. The final ether solution was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and the organic solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator providing dark-yellow liquid. Yield: 80%.  $R_f$  (EtOAc-PE, 1:5) 0.6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 K)  $\delta$  = 0.89 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -9, 3H, s), 0.98 (H-7a, 1H, d, 9.9 Hz), 1.02 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -10, 3H, 7.4 Hz), 1.15 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -8, 3H, s), 1.58 (H-4a, 1H, ddd, 14.3x4.2x2.8 Hz), 1.75 (H-1, 1H, dd, 5.9x2.1 Hz), 1.86 (H-5, 1H, m), 1.99 (Ac-12, 3H, s), 2.04 (H-2, 1H, m), 2.30 (H-7s, 1H, m), 2.52 (H-4s, 1H, m), 4.96 (H-3, 1H, m) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 K)  $\delta$  = 20.5 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -10), 21.5 (Ac-12), 23.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -9), 27.5 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -8), 33.4 (C-7), 35.9 (C-4), 38.3 (C-6), 41.3 (C-5), 43.6 (C-2), 47.5 (C-1), 74.1 (C-3), 177.0 (CO-11) ppm.

## RDC structure elucidation for (+)IPC-OAc

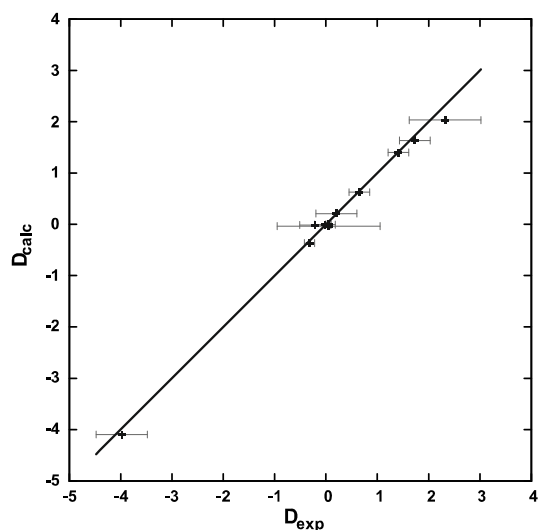


**Fig. SI-4.** Fragments of a CLIP HSQC spectrum (600 MHz) of (+)-IPC-OAc in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and a spectrum of (+)-IPC-OAc recorded in 2.6% PDMS equilibrated in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (right). Selected 1D-slices of the F1-domain corresponding to diastereotopic protons **H7s** and **H7a** reveal high quality of the acquired data for the anisotropic spectrum.

**Table SI-4.** RDC data for IPC-OAc

H atom	C atom	$^1D_{\text{exp}}$ , Hz (CLIP HSQC)
1	1	$0.05 \pm 1.00$
2	2	$1.41 \pm 0.20$
3	3	$-0.21 \pm 0.30$
4s	4	$0.65 \pm 0.20$
4a	4	$1.73 \pm 0.30$
5	5	$2.32 \pm 0.70$
7s	7	$-3.98 \pm 0.50$
7a	7	$-0.02 \pm 0.20$
8*	6	$-0.32 \pm 0.10$
9*	6	$0.05 \pm 0.05$
10*	2	$0.20 \pm 0.40$

\* C atom



**Fig. SI-5.** Correlation between calculated and experimental RDCs for (+)-IPC-OAc (Q-factor 0.108).



## NMR Studies of PDMS-decomposition

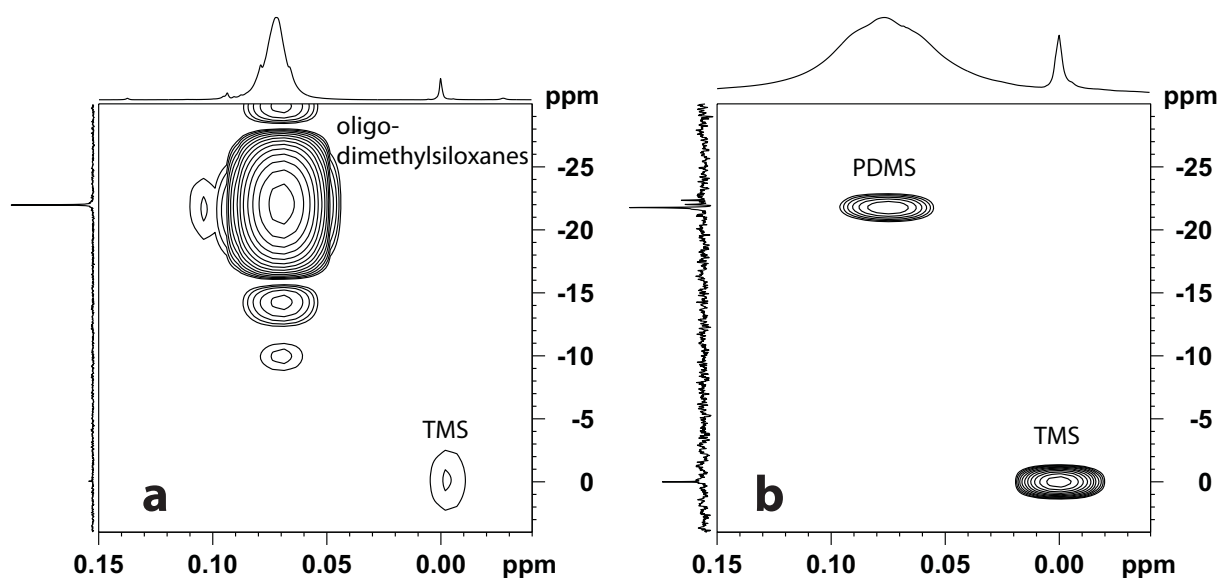


In our experiments on PDMS gels equilibration with (+)-IPC and its acetyl ester we noticed the reduction of the length and decrease of the  $\Delta\nu_Q$  of the alignment medium. The same behavior is true not only for our chemically synthesized PDMS gels but also for a sample prepared by  $\beta$ -irradiation<sup>[10a]</sup>. On the photo (**Figure SI-6**) one can see the first step of visible gel changes, when it starts to be fluid. To probe whether chemical degradation or gel shrinkage took place, we analysed by NMR spectroscopy methods the ‘supernatant’ – the liquid above the gel level.

**Figure SI-6.** Photography of dissolving PDMS gel in IPC/CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution

### <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectroscopy of PDMS and oligodimethylsiloxanes

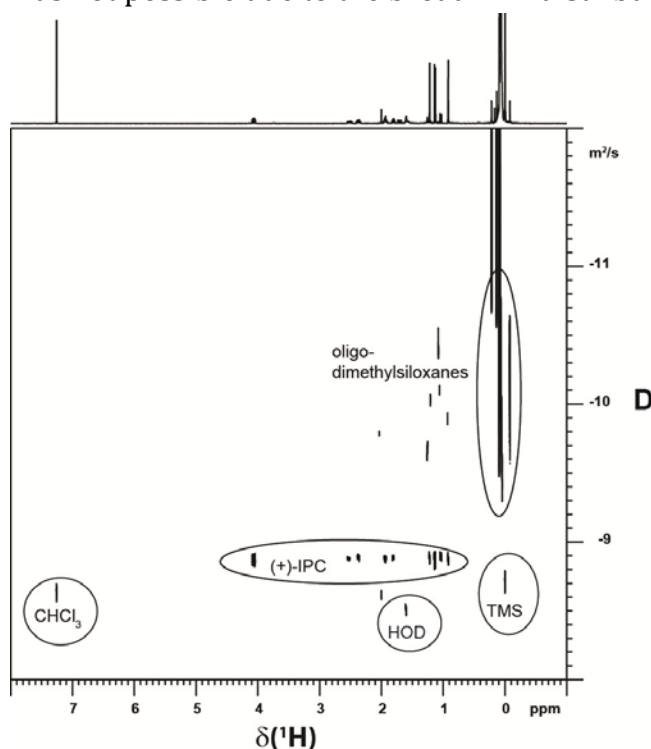
The ‘supernatant’ solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub> was analysed by 1D and 2D <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectroscopy. In (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>29</sup>Si) HMBC spectra of the liquid released from the (+)IPC/PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub> anisotropic system (**Fig. SI-7a**) and spectra of the intact PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub> (**Fig. SI-7b**) one can clearly see that ‘supernatant’ contains dimethylsiloxanes (-22 ppm in <sup>29</sup>Si), i.e. chemical changes occur leading to the loss of the anisotropic properties of the gel. Measurements were performed on Avance-III-600 NMR spectrometer.



**Fig. SI-7.** (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>29</sup>Si) HMBC spectra of the depolymerized PDMS (a) and an intact gel (b).

### DOSY-study of PDMS-decomposition.

A 2D DOSY spectrum (Bruker pulse program *stebppp1s*,  $\Delta = 200\text{ms}$ ,  $\delta = 2\text{ ms}$ , linear gradient 2-95% in 32 incremental steps,  $G_{\text{max}}$  of the probe head in the z-direction is  $50\text{ G cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>[2]</sup> of the 'supernatant' solution of a (1% PDMS gel/(+)-IPC) was obtained at 300 K on Avance-III HD-400 spectrometer (see **Figure SI-8**). The self-diffusion coefficients  $D$  of TMS, (+)-IPC, residual  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and oligodimethylsiloxanes were determined via standard monoexponential fitting analysis in Topspin 3.2. With  $D = 1.93 \cdot 10^{-9}\text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , the experimental value for TMS in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  is lower as compared to the measured at the same temperature previously published<sup>[15]</sup> value of  $2.92 \cdot 10^{-9}\text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , which might be due to the presence of high content of oligomers in the mixture and thus a higher viscosity. For the depolymerized PDMS gel the estimated range of  $D$  is about  $(2.00\text{-}2.76) \cdot 10^{-11}\text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , i.e. two orders lower values than TMS corresponding to much slower diffusion. Unfortunately, the more precise determination of the self-diffusion coefficient, which could allow a determination of the molecular weight of the depolymerisation products, was not possible due to the broad MW distribution of the oligodimethylsiloxanes.



**Fig. SI-8.**  $^1\text{H}$  DOSY experiments confirm the presence of the de-polymerization products in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution.

Thus chemical incompatibility of the PDMS gels and the bicyclic monoterpene (+)-isopinocampheol lead to chemical degradation of the gel, as seen in  $^2\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra and  $^1\text{H}$  DOSY experiments. Esterification of the alcohol functionality allows performing RDC analysis but does not fully prevent degradation of anisotropic properties. The latter cannot be accounted for only by the alcohol functionality of the analyte. The reason for the chemical incompatibility of the polymer gel and the (+)-IPC ester is not yet known.

## Predicting solvent quadrupolar splitting in a swollen gel

We consider a polymer network swollen by a deuterated solvent. Each molecule of solvent diffuses throughout the gel, interacting occasionally with the monomers of the polymer chains. During these encounters, the interactions between the partially aligned monomers of the chains and the solvent bias the orientation of the solvent molecule. The quadrupolar splitting of the solvent can thus be written as:

$$\Delta\nu_Q = \Delta\nu_Q^0 \varepsilon \phi S \quad (1)$$

where  $\phi$  is the chain monomer volume fraction accounting for the probability of a solvent molecule to encounter a chain monomer,  $S$  is the average of the second Legendre polynomial of monomer orientations,  $\Delta\nu_Q^0$  is the quadrupolar splitting of perfectly aligned solvent molecules (for instance  $\Delta\nu_Q^0=168$  kHz<sup>[16]</sup> for CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and  $\varepsilon$  is an efficiency factor accounting for the transfer of orientation between the monomers and the solvent molecules during a solvent-monomer encounter. Equation (1) can be equivalently understood by considering the time average of the second Legendre polynomial of solvent orientations. When the molecule diffuses freely away from the polymer chains, the molecular orientation state is described by an isotropic orientation distribution, and the measure of the second Legendre polynomial is averaged to zero. During a fraction  $\phi$  of the total average time, when the solvent encounters a monomer of the polymer chain, its distribution is biased proportionally to the orientation state of the chain monomers. The efficiency of solvent orientation during this time fraction is a function of the detailed microscopic interactions between the chain monomers and the solvent molecules. Maximal quadrupolar splitting of the solvent  $\Delta\nu_Q = \Delta\nu_Q^0$  would require thus small amounts of solvent  $\phi \cong 1$ , completely aligned chains  $S = 1$  and a perfectly efficient transfer of orientations  $\varepsilon = 1$ . Note that while  $\phi$  and  $S$  are determined by the experimental conditions,  $\varepsilon$  is an intrinsic property of a given solvent/monomer pair. Tabulated values of  $\varepsilon$  for different solvent/monomer pairs would therefore allow predicting the expected quadrupolar splitting for experiments performed under controlled swelling and stretching conditions. In the following we first review theoretical predictions for  $S$  in stretched polymer gel networks, then provide explicit expectations in the case where gel stretching is caused by swelling in a tube. Finally, we compare our predictions with the data from the experiments discussed in this paper and extract the value of the orientation transfer efficiency for the pair PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

**Orientation of chain monomers in a polymer gel.** We first write (following Sommer & Saalwächter<sup>[17]</sup>) the order parameter of the chain monomers as

$$S = \frac{R^2}{R_0^4} \quad (2)$$

Where  $R$  is the end-to-end distance of a polymer chain of  $N$  monomers connecting two cross-linking points and  $R_0$  the average size of that chain in a given reference polymer solution with the same monomer volume fraction. Note that the average value of  $N$  is

related to the crosslinking molar fraction  $X_{CR}$  by  $N = 2/(z X_{CR})$  where  $z$  is the crosslinker functionality. In our case where  $z = 4$  one has  $N = 1/(2 X_{CR})$ .

We have, respectively for the ideal chain and for Flory excluded volume conditions

$$S_{id} = \frac{1}{N} \phi^{-2/3} \quad \text{and} \quad S_F = \frac{1}{N} \phi^{-1/6} \quad (3)$$

When the gel swells isotropically in an excess of solvent the prediction for the equilibrium volume fraction is

$$\phi_{id}^{eq} = N^{-3/8} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_F^{eq} = N^{-3/5} \quad (4)$$

so that

$$S_{id}^{eq} = (\phi_{id}^{eq})^2 \quad \text{and} \quad S_F^{eq} = (\phi_{id}^{eq})^{3/2} \quad (5)$$

A molecule of solvent diffusing in a polymer gel probes many chain orientations during the NMR typical times ( $10^{-6}$  s), resulting in a vanishing average for the order parameter  $S$ . However, if one stretches the gel, a stress-induced anisotropy results that, for the case of uniaxial deformations along the Z-direction ( $R_x, R_y, R_z$ )  $\rightarrow$  ( $R_x \lambda^{-1/2}, R_y \lambda^{-1/2}, R_z \lambda$ ), can be written as

$$S = \frac{R^2}{R_0^4} \left( \lambda^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right) \quad (6)$$

with corresponding values for  $S$  resulting from different solvent conditions (ideal versus good solvent) following from (3) and (5).

**Swelling in a tube.** A typical NMR experiment is performed by inserting a cylindrical piece of a dry gel of diameter  $D_0$  and length  $L_0$  in an NMR tube of internal diameter  $D_T$ . The gel is then exposed to solvent and let swell to a length  $L$ . The polymer volume fraction  $\phi$  is given by

$$\phi = \frac{D_0^2 L_0}{D_T^2 L} . \quad (7)$$

If the cylindrical dry gel had been allowed to swell isotropically in free solvent, it would swell to dimensions

$$D_I = D_0 \phi^{-1/3}$$

$$L_I = L_0 \phi^{-1/3}$$

By measuring the deformation  $\lambda$  with respect to the isotropically swollen state we get

$$\lambda = \frac{L}{L_I} = \frac{L}{L_0} \phi^{1/3} = \left( \frac{D_I}{D_T} \right)^2 = \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^2 \phi^{-2/3} \quad (8)$$

Swelling of a gel in a tube then induces concomitantly a decrease of monomer volume fraction  $\phi$  and an increase in anisotropy.

For a gel swollen in a tube we expect thus (from (1), (3), (6) and (8))

$$\Delta v_Q^{id} = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \frac{1}{N} \phi^{1/3} \left( \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^4 \phi^{-4/3} - \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^2 \phi^{2/3} \right) \quad (9a)$$

for ideal conditions and

$$\Delta v_Q^F = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \frac{1}{N} \phi^{5/6} \left( \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^4 \phi^{-4/3} - \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^2 \phi^{2/3} \right) \quad (9b)$$

for good solvent conditions. When the gel reaches maximum (equilibrium) swelling one gets

$$\Delta v_Q^{id,eq} = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \left( \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^4 N^{-5/8} - \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^2 N^{-11/8} \right) \quad (10a)$$

for ideal swelling and

$$\Delta v_Q^{F,eq} = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \left( \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^4 N^{-7/10} - \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^2 N^{-19/10} \right) \quad (10b)$$

for swelling under excluded volume. Note, that the maximum  $\Delta v$  achievable in a tube is given by

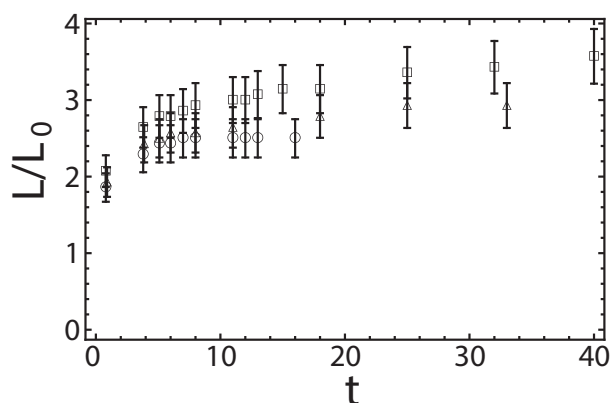
$$\Delta v_Q^{id,eq} = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \frac{6}{11} \left( \frac{5}{11} \right)^{5/6} \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^9 \quad \text{for} \quad N = \left( \frac{11}{5} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^8 \quad (11a)$$

and

$$\Delta v_Q^{F,eq} = \Delta v_Q^0 \varepsilon \left( \frac{D_0}{D_T} \right)^{15/2} \frac{12}{19} \left( \frac{7}{19} \right)^{7/2} \quad \text{for} \quad N = \left( \frac{19}{7} \right)^{5/6} \left( \frac{D_T}{D_0} \right)^5 \quad (11b)$$

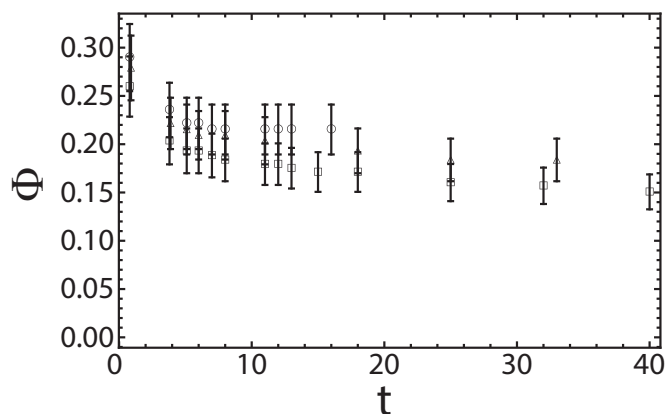
**Comparison with experiments.** PDMS gels of diameter  $D_0=3$  or  $3.2$  mm and length  $L_0=14$  mm with different degrees of cross-linking (0.5, 1.0, 1.3, 1.5 and 2.0 mol% or, equivalently,  $X_{CR} = 0.005, 0.010, 0.013, 0.015$  and  $0.020$  corresponding to  $N=100, 50, 38, 33$  and  $25$ ) were swollen in NMR tubes with internal diameters  $D_T=4.20$  mm for the two most cross-linked samples and  $D_T=4.09$  for the three others. Swelling and equilibration of the gel is relatively fast,  $\Delta v_Q$  reaching stable values after one week for most cases. As the Fig. 1 in the main paper shows, all samples swollen for a period of four days or more exhibit homogeneous  $\Delta v_Q$  in the region captured by the NMR coil. The values of  $\Delta v_Q$  first increase with time, eventually reaching the plateau value of fully equilibrated gels.

We first plot in **Figs. SI-(9-12)** the bare data from PDMS sticks anisotropically swollen in an NMR tube, while one monitors the length of the gels and the values of quadrupolar splitting of  $\text{CDCl}_3$  in  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectra. **Fig. SI-9** plots the increase in relative length  $L/L_0$  of the gel sticks as a function of time. After a period of 20 to 40 days all samples have reached plateau conditions corresponding to maximum relative extensions in the range 2-4, with larger extensions being achieved for gels with smaller crosslinking fractions.



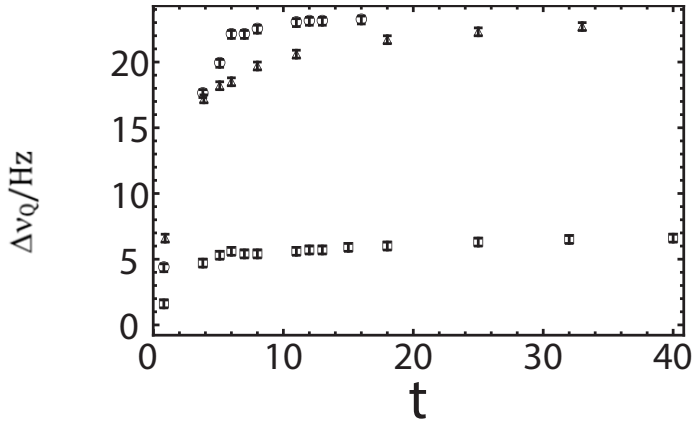
**Fig. SI-9.** Relative length  $L/L_0$  as a function of time  $t$ , in days (0.5 mol% cross-linker - squares, 1.0 mol% - triangles, 1.3 mol% - circles).

For the relative extension values  $L/L_0$  in **Fig. SI-9**, we display in **Fig. SI-10** the corresponding evolution of the monomer volume fraction in the gel, as given by Eq. (7). Under the experimental conditions of this paper, as the gels swell, they span monomer volume fractions from  $\phi = 1$  in the dry state down to  $\phi \cong 0.15$  for the less cross-linked samples in the fully swollen state.



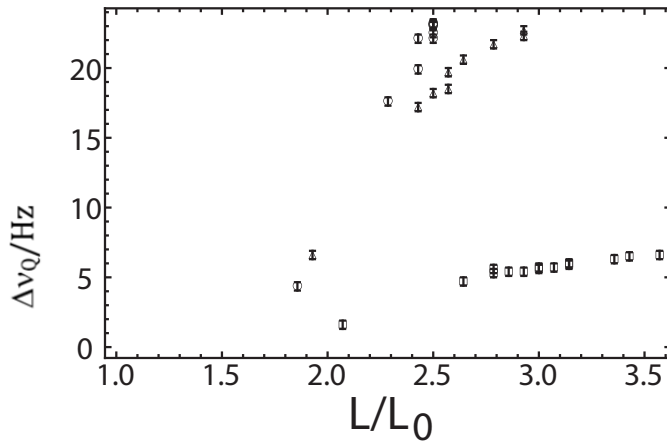
**Fig. SI-10.** Volume fraction  $\phi$  of PDMS in a gel as a function of time  $t$ , in days (0.5 mol% cross-linker - squares, 1.0 mol% - triangles, 1.3 mol% - circles)

**Fig. SI-11** shows the time evolution of the measured values for the quadrupolar splitting  $\Delta\nu_Q$ . Note that the measured quadrupolar splitting values are in the range 5-25 Hz, tens of thousand times smaller than the maximum possible values ( $\Delta\nu_Q^0=168$  kHz) for perfectly aligned  $\text{CDCl}_3$  molecules.



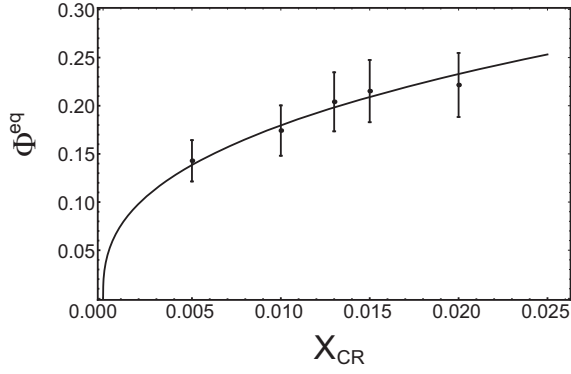
**Fig. SI-11.** Quadrupolar splitting  $\Delta\nu_Q$  in Hz as a function of time  $t$ , in days (0.5 mol% cross-linker - squares, 1.0 mol% - triangles, 1.3 mol% - circles)

We plot also in **Fig. SI-12** the evolution of quadrupolar splitting values  $\Delta\nu_Q$  as a function of relative gel extension. The figure shows well that under these experimental conditions of constrained gel swelling, the measured  $\Delta\nu_Q$  values are not a function of chain stretching alone, since the larger stretching ratios, achieved for less cross-linked gels, do not translate into higher  $\Delta\nu_Q$  values.



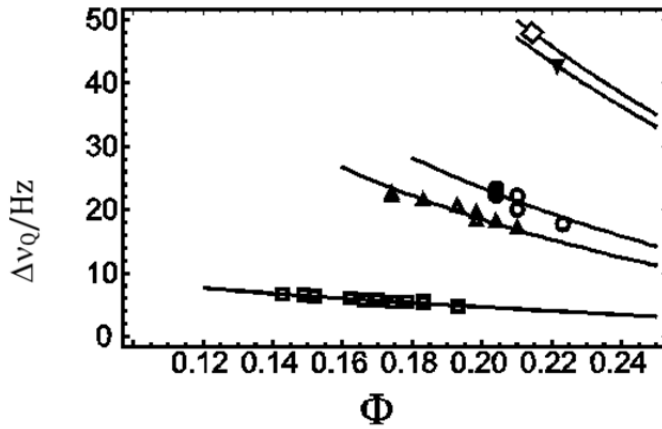
**Fig. SI-12.** Quadrupolar splitting  $\Delta\nu_Q$  in Hz as a function of relative length  $L/L_0$  (0.5 mol% cross-linker - squares, 1.0 mol% - triangles, 1.3 mol% - circles)

We now analyze the bare data in **Figs. SI-(9-12)** according to the prescriptions of the theoretical arguments presented above. We first characterize the prevailing statistical conditions of the chains in the gel network, by plotting the equilibrium swelling fractions  $\phi^{eq}$  in **Fig. SI-13** as a function of the molar cross-link fraction  $X_{CR}$ : we found that they follow the standard Flory-Rehner<sup>[18]</sup> predictions for the swelling of gels in an ideal solvent - see Eq. (4)  $\phi^{eq} \sim X_{CR}^{3/8}$ . This shows that  $N$ , the average size of polymer strands between crosslinking points, spans a value range not large enough for reaching conditions where excluded-volume statistics applies. The larger value  $N=100$  is obtained for the lower  $X_{CR} = 0.005$ , while the larger cross-linking fraction  $X_{CR} = 0.02$  corresponds to  $N=25$ .



**Fig. SI-13.** Equilibrium volume fraction  $\phi^{eq}$  of PDMS in a gel as a function of the molar fraction of the cross-linker  $X_{CR}$ . Note, that the average chain length  $N$  between two cross-linking points is given by  $N = 1/(2 X_{CR})$  and thus varies here between  $N=25$  for  $X_{CR} = 0.02$  and  $N=100$  for  $X_{CR} = 0.005$ . The line is the best power-law fit to the data  $\phi^{eq} = 1.05 X_{CR}^{3/8}$ .

We plot in **Fig. SI-14**  $\Delta v_Q$  as a function of polymer volume fraction for the five different  $X_{CR}$  values available. Interestingly, for samples with  $N=50$  and  $N=38$ , ideal statistics provides the best fit with Eq. (9a), while for the largest  $N$  value, excluded volume statistics applies [19] as described in Eq. (9b). This is consistent with ideal swelling conditions applying throughout most of the explored cross-linking density range, the sample with  $N=100$  being at the crossover between ideal and excluded volume statistics. For the two samples where only equilibrated properties have been measured  $X_{CR} = 0.015$  and  $X_{CR} = 0.020$ , we assumed ideal conditions and extracted the corresponding  $\varepsilon$  values by assuming  $\Delta v_Q^0 = 168$  kHz. Fitted  $\varepsilon$  efficiencies for the five samples range from  $\varepsilon = 5.9 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $\varepsilon = 7.1 \times 10^{-3}$ .



**Fig. SI-14.** Quadrupolar splitting  $\Delta v_Q$  in Hz as a function of the volume fraction  $\phi$ . The lines are best fits according to the Eqs. (9) with  $\Delta v_Q^0 = 168$  kHz, providing  $\varepsilon = 6.5 \pm 0.5 \times 10^{-3}$  ((0.5 mol% cross-linker - squares, 1.0 mol% - triangles, 1.3 mol% - circles), 1.5 mol% - empty squares, 2.0 mol% - filled triangles)

Our results are thus well described by Eq. (1) and the associated  $\phi$  dependent curves of Eqs. (9), confirming the physical picture developed above. In particular, it is clear from our data, that solvent quadrupolar splitting in gels swollen in a tube cannot be understood by gel stretching alone, since larger stretching is achieved for more diluted gels, where the probability of encounters between the solvent and the chain monomers is smaller. Our arguments account for the interplay between these two opposing effects and quantitatively describe the data. The analysis further stresses the importance of  $\varepsilon$ , the efficiency of transfer of the orientation from the monomers to the solvent molecules. This parameter, found here for PDMS and chloroform to be of the order of  $1/150$ , is expected for most systems to be an intrinsic property of a given solvent/monomer pair, but otherwise independent of experimental conditions. Anticipated exceptions are briefly discussed at the end of this section.



A clear picture emerges from our description that accounts for the quadrupolar splitting values observed under these experimental conditions. The reference value for solvent quadrupolar splitting, its maximum attainable value, is of order of a couple of hundred kilohertz. Dilution of the gel to the range of 10% volume fraction reduces this amount to the order of a couple of tens of kilohertz. Monomer orientation order parameters  $S$ , even for gels stretched in the tube by a factor four, do not rise about 0.2, bringing for these experimental conditions the maximum orientation power of the gel network to the range of a few thousand hertz. How much this orientation potential can be transferred to the solvent depends on the microscopic nature of the interactions between the monomers and the solvent during the time length of an encounter. We found here that such transfer is smaller than a percent for the PDMS/ $\text{CDCl}_3$  pair, bringing thus the final observed values to the range of a few tens of hertz.

In practice we expect, as values of the efficiency of orientation transfer will become available for other monomer/solvent pairs, that our approach will provide a widely applicable, quantitative pathway to understand and predict the amount of quadrupolar splitting that one can expect for a given experimental geometry. Indeed, given the efficiency of the gel/solvent pair, the simple knowledge of the gel size and cross-linking ratio will allow predicting quadrupolar splitting values.

Note that our treatment of solvent quadrupolar splitting given by Eq. (1) is similar to others<sup>[20]</sup>, but introduces explicitly the probability of interaction between solvent and chains, given by the dilution factor  $\phi$  in the equation, and identifies  $\varepsilon$  the efficiency for transfer of orientation. A more in-depth study of the validity of Eq. (1), and in particular on its dependence on the order parameter  $S$  of the monomers, is in principle possible by using a combination of deuterated solvents with non-deuterated chains, and deuterated chains with non-deuterated solvents. This might be crucial if, as we anticipate here, there are certain cases where  $\varepsilon$  might be  $S$ -dependent, for instance when the size of the solvent molecule is much larger than the size of the chain monomers, and the resulting interactions between the chain monomer and the solvent lose their local character.

Being able to quantitatively treat quadrupolar splitting in anisotropically swollen gels will not only provide an operational framework for dealing with orientation media in RDC experiments, but will also open a spectrum of new interesting possibilities to study the interactions of gels with different molecules. A particularly relevant example concerns gel swelling in solvent mixtures, say for the sake of clarity, in binary solvent mixtures. Since the value of quadrupolar splitting depends explicitly on the probability of encounter between a given solvent molecule and the chain monomers, the dependence of measured values of quadrupolar splitting  $\Delta\nu_Q$  as a function of  $X$ , the molar ratio of one of the solvents in the mixture, should be very sensitive to phenomena akin to preferential solvation. Thus, we would expect a smooth linear interpolation between two values for  $\Delta\nu_Q$  as a function of  $X$  if the two solvents are equally good for the polymer, while any preferential solvent character will increase its probability of contact with the chains above its average value, promoting markedly non-linear variations of  $\Delta\nu_Q$  with  $X$ .

# NMR spectra

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of BCP/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K

50 ul BCP/0.5 ml CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
<sup>1</sup>H  
 279 K

5.31  
 5.26  
 4.94  
 4.82

2.51  
 2.42  
 2.34  
 2.32  
 2.24  
 2.20  
 2.08  
 2.00  
 1.91  
 1.68  
 1.66  
 1.61  
 1.58  
 1.50  
 1.47  
 1.46  
 1.43  
 1.00  
 0.97

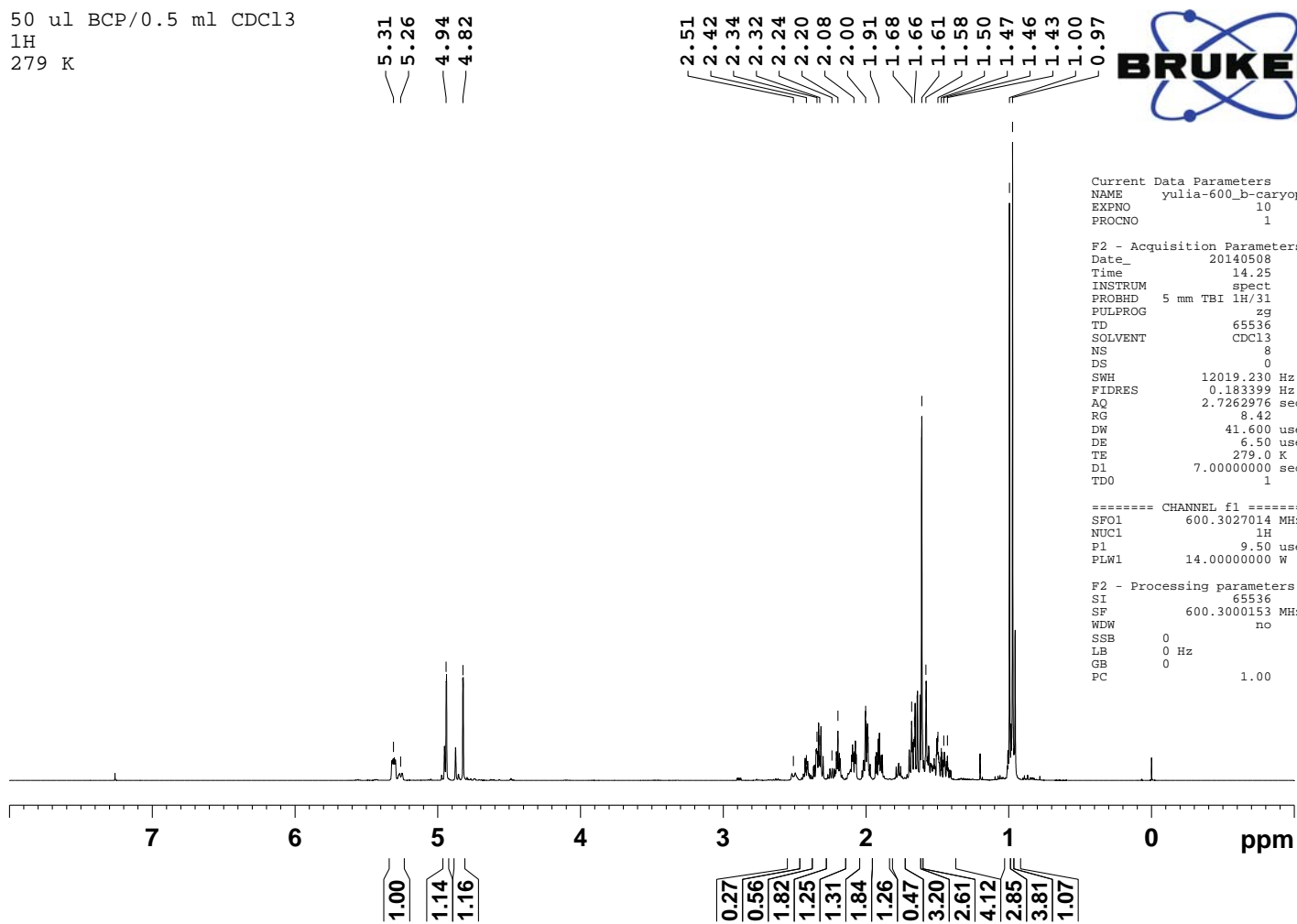


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 PROCNO 1

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 SOLVENT CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
 NS 8  
 DS 0  
 SWH 12019.230 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.183399 Hz  
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 RG 8.42  
 DW 41.600 usec  
 DE 6.50 usec  
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 D1 7.00000000 sec  
 TD0 1

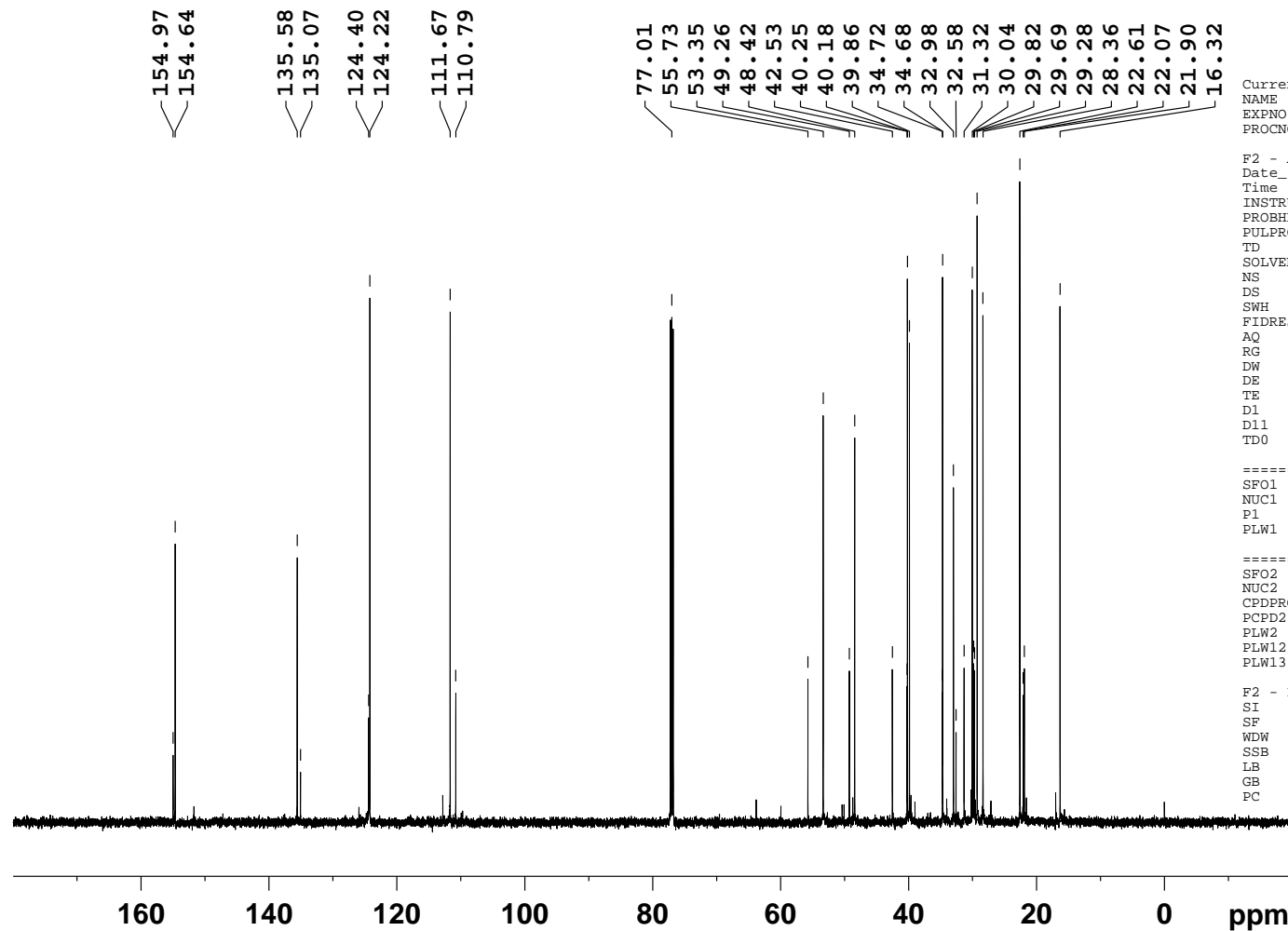
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F2 - Processing parameters  
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 WDW no  
 SSB 0  
 LB 0 Hz  
 GB 0  
 PC 1.00



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of BCP/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K

50 ul BCP/ 0.5 ml CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
13C  
279 K



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PROCNO 1

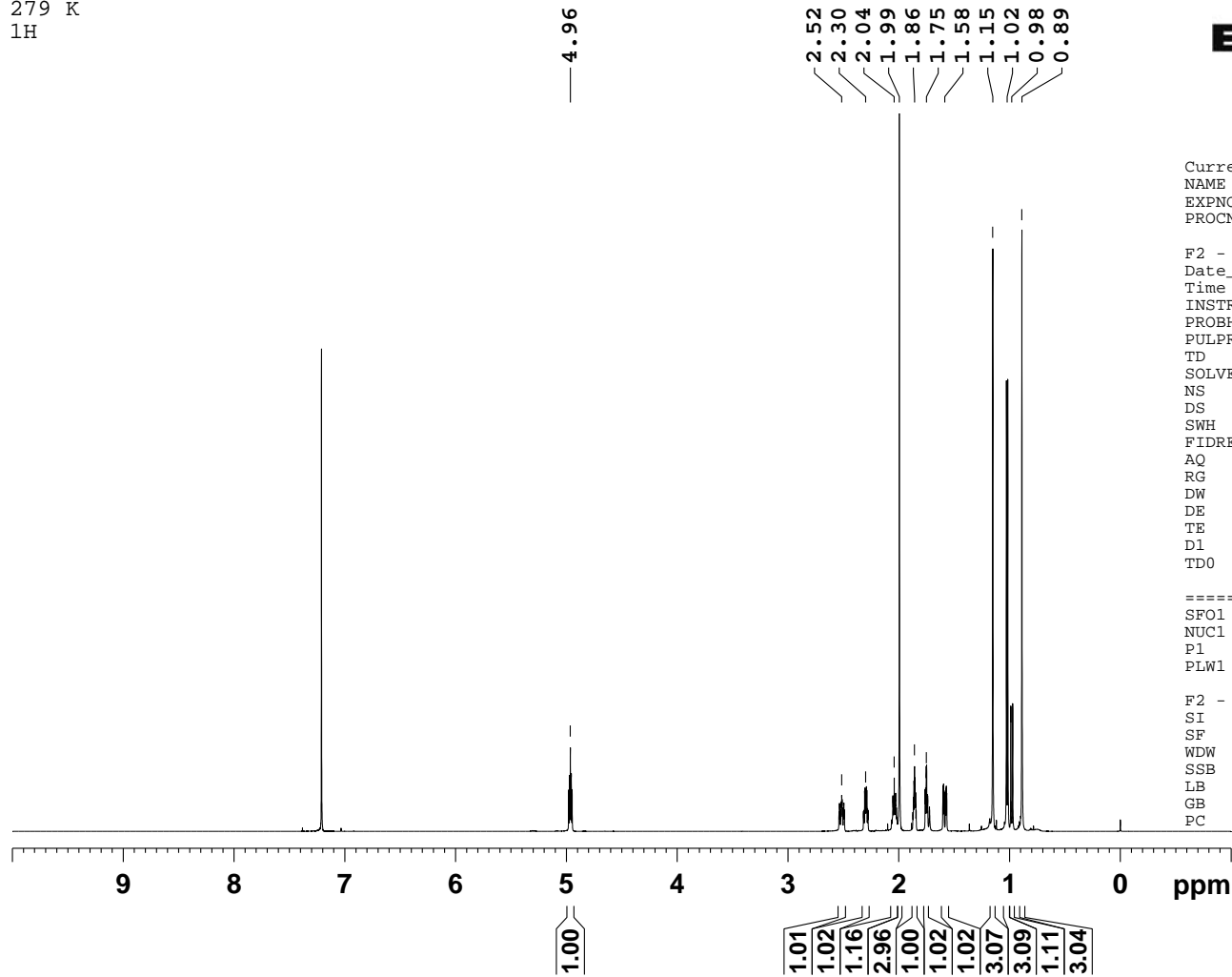
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DS 0  
SWH 36057.691 Hz  
FIDRES 0.550197 Hz  
AQ 0.9087659 sec  
RG 2050  
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DE 6.50 usec  
TE 279.0 K  
D1 2.00000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
TD0 1

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NUC2 1H  
PCPDPRG[2] waltz16  
PCPD2 70.00 usec  
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PLW12 0.20260000 W  
PLW13 0.09927500 W

F2 - Processing parameters  
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WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 1.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of (+)IPC-OAc/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K

IPC-OAc in CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
279 K  
1H



```

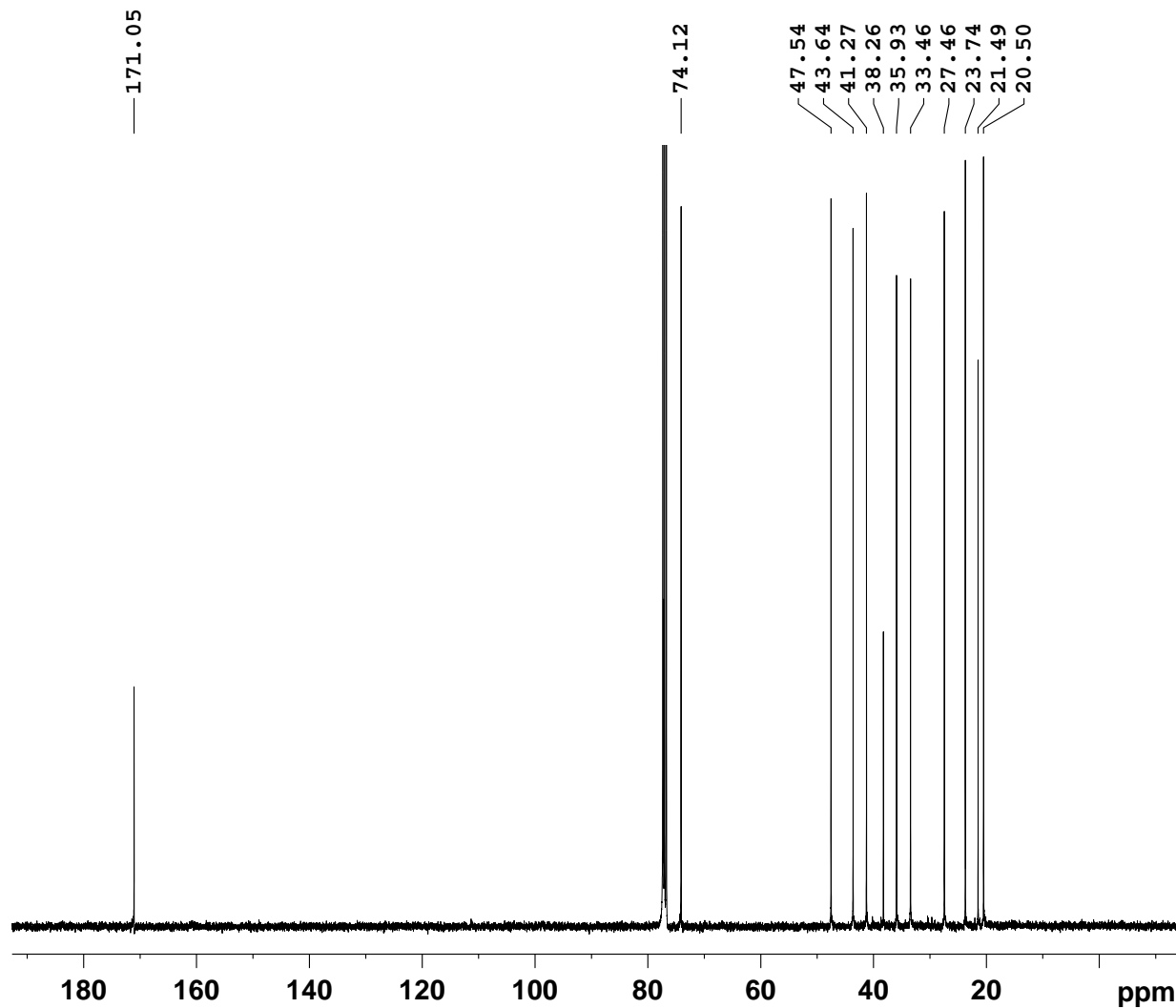
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PROCNO    1

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TD         65536
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         16
DS         0
SWH        12335.526 Hz
FIDRES     0.188225 Hz
AQ         2.6563926 sec
RG         22.7
DW         40.533 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         279.0 K
D1         3.00000000 sec
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<sup>13</sup>C NMR of (+)IPC-OAc/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



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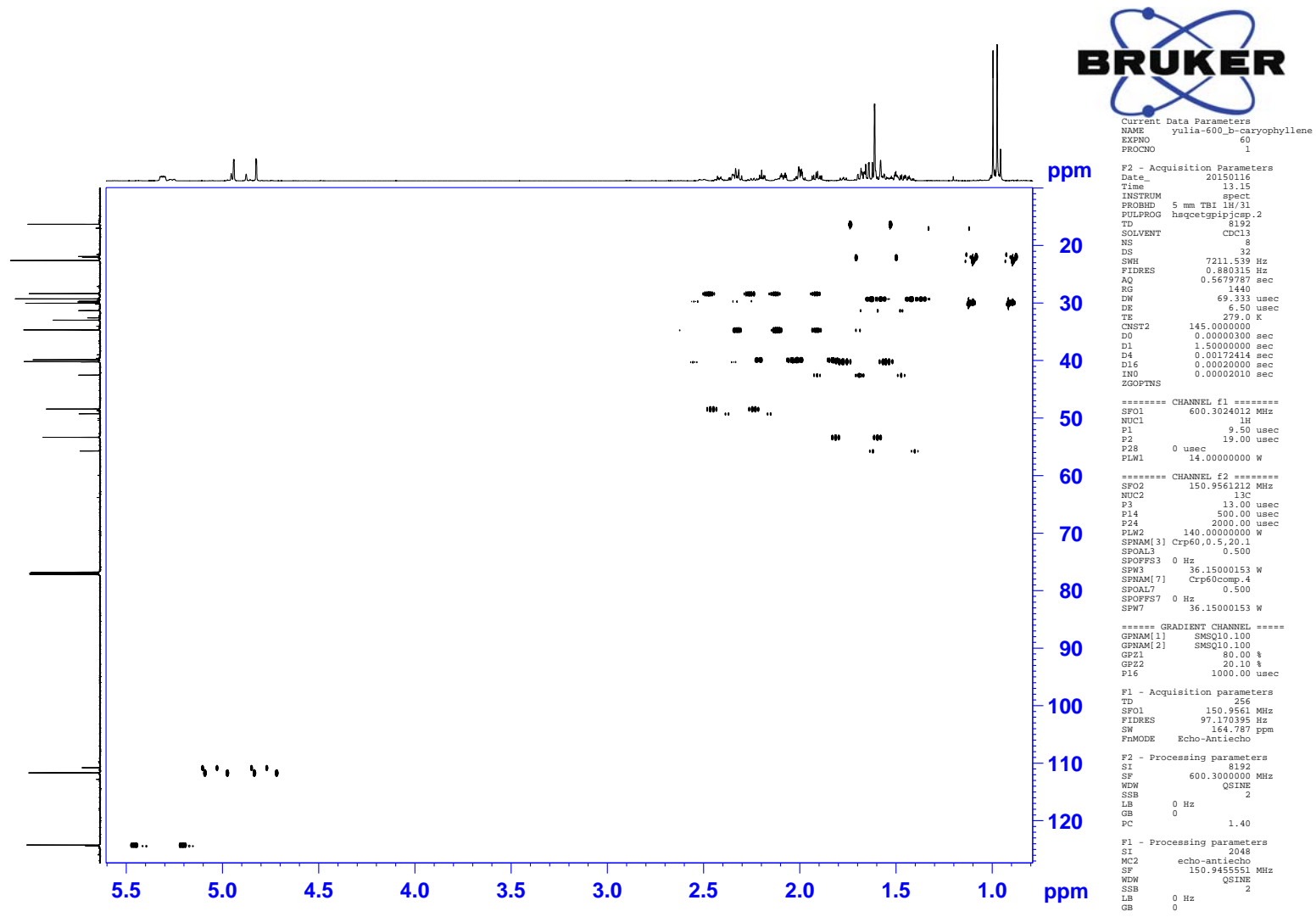
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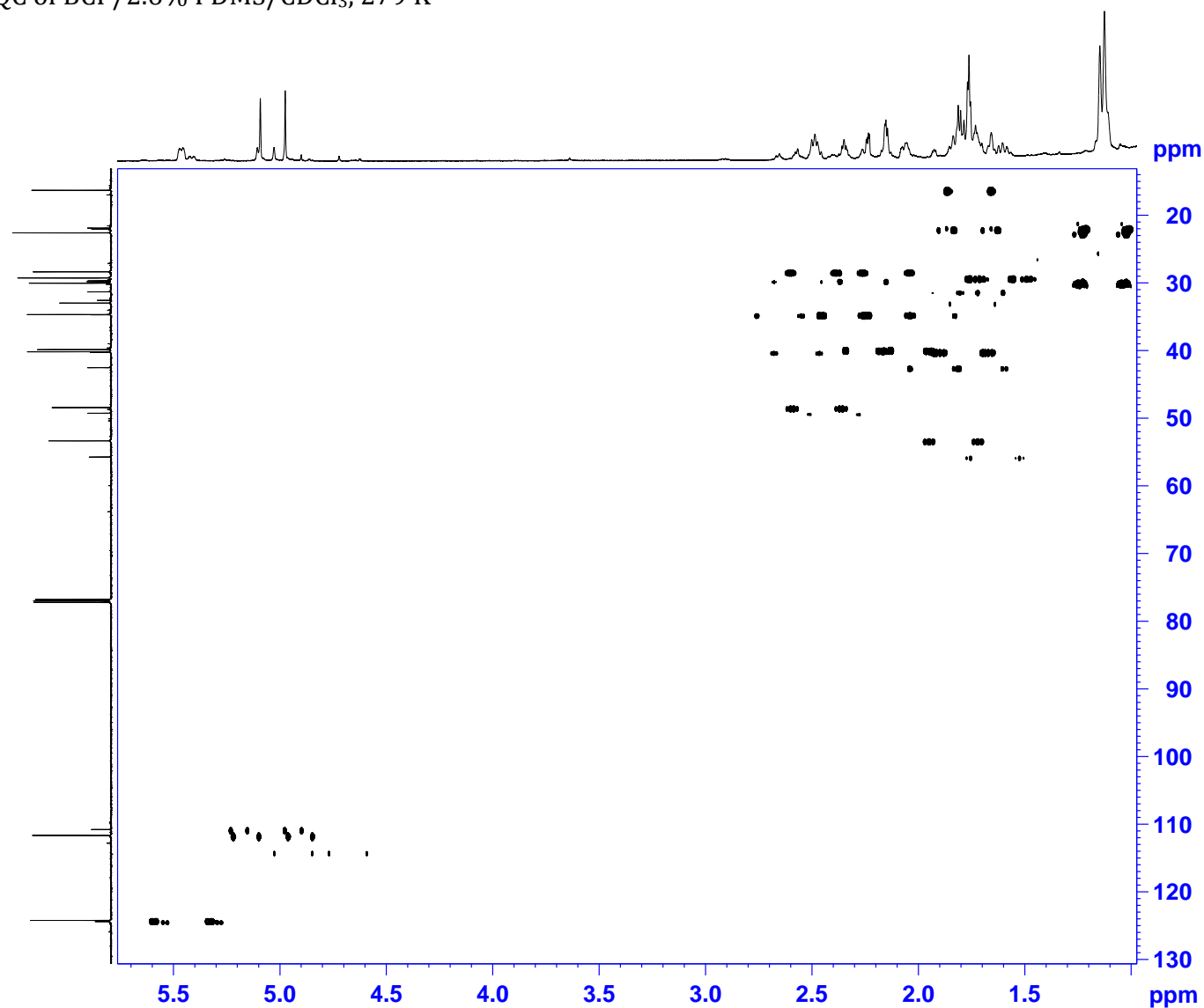
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 WDW EM  
 SSB 0  
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 GB 0  
 PC 1.40

CLIP HSQC of BCP/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



CLIP HSQC of BCP/2.6% PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



```

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PROCNO    1

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AQ         1.002708 sec
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DW         122.400 usec
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TE         279.0 K
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ZGPGPINS

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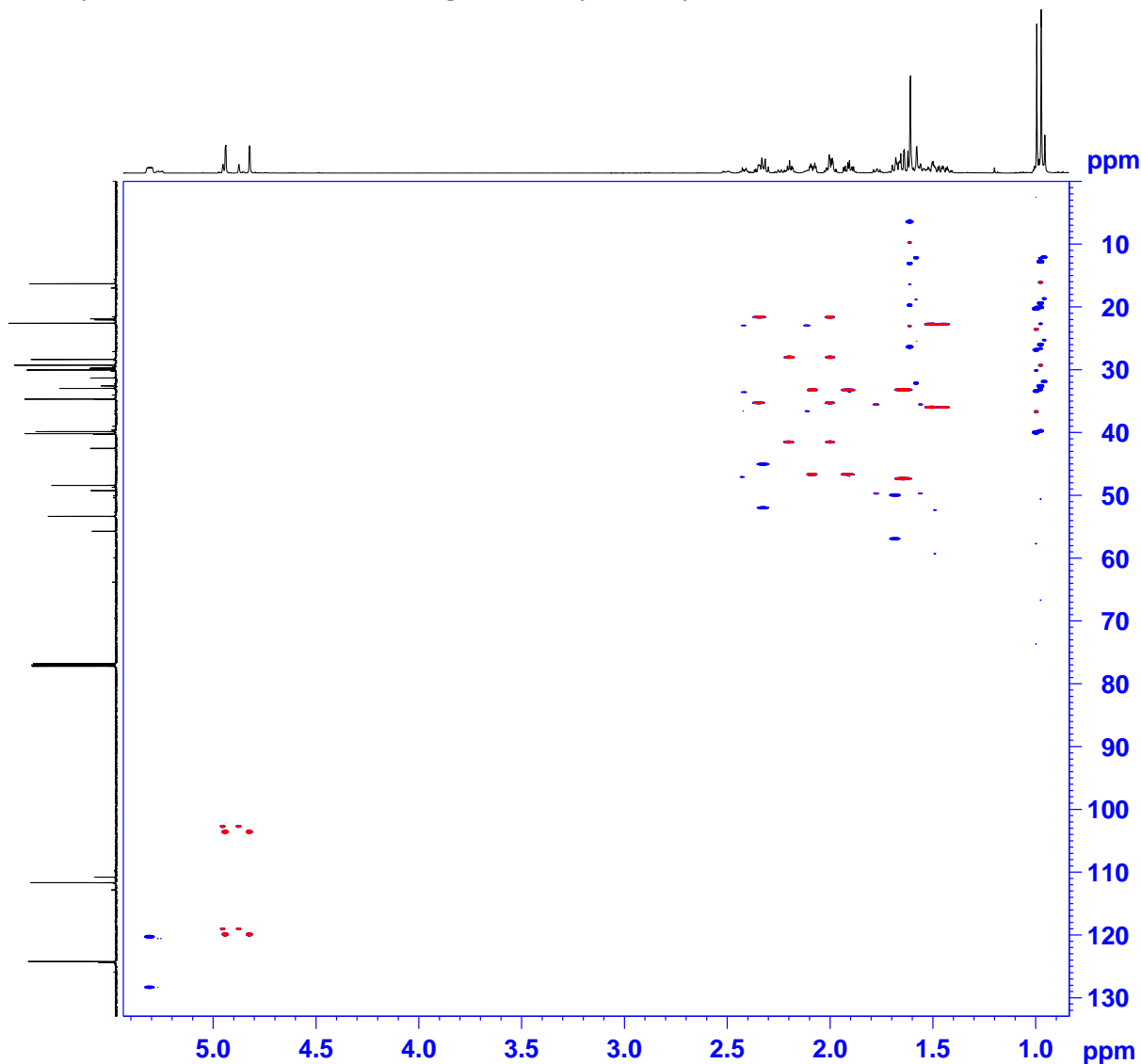
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FMODE     Echo-Antiecho

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F1 - Processing parameters
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$F_1$ -coupled HSQC (BIRD-filtered variant, scaling factor =8) of BCP/ $CDCl_3$ , 279 K



```

Current Data Parameters
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PROCNO    1

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RG        1030
RW        104.000 usec
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TE        279.2 K
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D4        0.00172414 sec
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PLW1      14.00000000 W

***** CHANNEL f2 *****
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CPDPRG2   garp
P3        15.00 usec
P14       500.00 usec
P39       160.00 usec
PCPD2     60.00 usec
PLW2      140.00000000 W
PLW12     6.57219982 W
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SFOFF3    0 Hz
SFOFF4    36.15000153 W
SFOAL4    Bip720,100,10.1
SFOFF4    0 Hz
SFOFF4    59.15000153 W

***** GRADIENT CHANNEL *****
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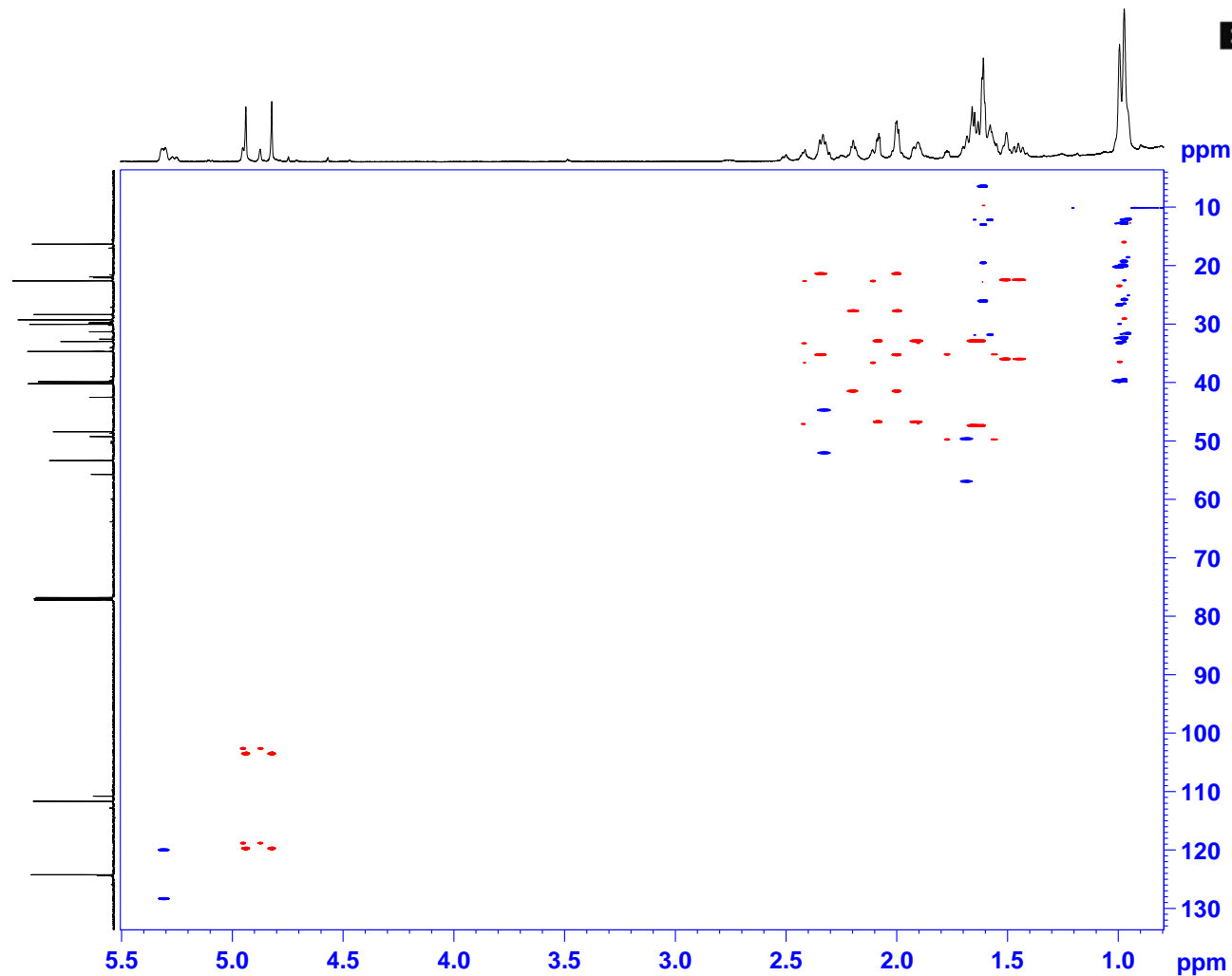
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PnMODE    Echo-Antiecho

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SSB       2
LB        0 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40

F1 - Processing parameters
SI        16384
MC2       echo-antiecho
SF        150.945551 MHz
WDW       QSINE
SSB       2
LB        0 Hz
GB        0
    
```



$F_1$ -coupled HSQC (BIRD-filtered variant, scaling factor =8) of BCP/2.6% PDMS/ $CDCl_3$ , 279 K



```

Current Data Parameters
NAME yulia-600_PDMS_sticks
EXPNO 61
PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_ 20141113
Time 14.53
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm TBI 1H/31
PULPROG hsqcletgpjocp.2
TD 1200
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 10
DS 32
SWH 4807.692 Hz
FIDRES 4.00640 Hz
AQ 0.1248000 sec
RG 1030
RW 104.000 usec
DE 6.50 usec
TE 279.2 K
CNST2 145.0000000
CNST6 8.0000000
D0 0.0000000 sec
D1 2.0000000 sec
D2 0.00344828 sec
D4 0.00172414 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec
D16 0.00000000 sec
D20 0.00000300 sec
IND 0.00001840 sec
INZ0 0.00014720 sec

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SFO1 600.3018009 MHz
NUC1 1H
P1 9.50 usec
P2 19.00 usec
P38 0 usec
PLW1 14.00000000 W

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
SFO2 150.9576307 MHz
NUC2 13C
CYPRG[2] garrp
P3 13.00 usec
P14 500.00 usec
P39 160.00 usec
PCPD2 60.00 usec
PLW2 140.00000000 W
PLW12 6.57219982 W
SPNAM[3] Crp60,0.5,20.1
SFOAL3 0.500
SPOFFS3 0 Hz
SPW3 36.15000153 W
SPNAM[4] Bip720,100.10.1
SFOAL4 0.500
SPOFFS4 0 Hz
SPW4 59.15000153 W

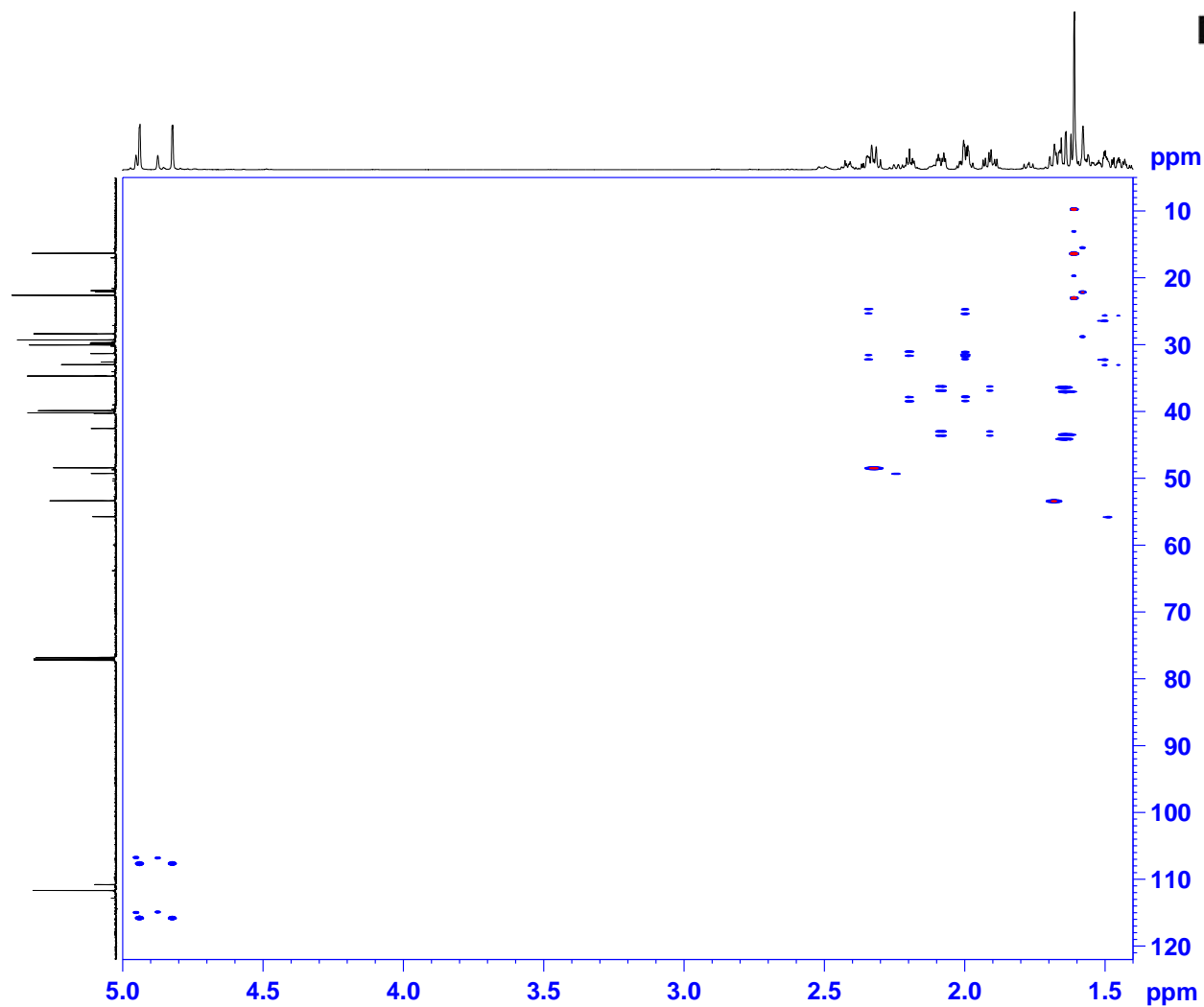
===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
GPNAM[1] SMSQ10.100
GPNAM[2] SMSQ10.100
GPNAM[3] SMSQ10.100
GF21 80.00 %
GF22 20.10 %
GF23 11.00 %
P15 1000.00 usec

F1 - Acquisition parameters
TD 1024
SFO1 150.9576 MHz
FIDRES 26.537024 Hz
SW 180.010 ppm
PRMODE Echo-Antiecho

F2 - Processing parameters
SI 1024
SF 600.2999388 MHz
WDW QSI
SSB 2
LB 0 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.40

F1 - Processing parameters
SI 16384
MC2 echo-antiecho
SF 150.945551 MHz
WDW QSI
SSB 2
LB 0 Hz
GB 0
    
```

F<sub>1</sub>-coupled HSQC with MQ evolution of BCP/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



```

Current Data Parameters
NAME      yulia-600_b-caryophyllene
EXPNO     53
PROCNO    1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_     20141112
Time      21:15
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm TBI 1H/1
PULPROG   hsqcletspjcmgsp
TD        1200
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS        12
DS        32
SWH       4807.692 Hz
FIDRES    4.006410 Hz
AQ        0.1248000 sec
RG        1030
DW        104.000 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        279.0 K
CNST2    145.0000000
CNST16    8.0000000
CNST17    -0.5000000
D0        0.0000000 sec
D1        2.0000000 sec
D2        0.00344628 sec
D4        0.00172414 sec
D11       0.03000000 sec
D16       0.00020000 sec
D20       0.00000000 sec
IN0       0.00001840 sec
IN20      0.00014720 sec

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SFO1      600.3018009 MHz
NUC1      1H
P1        9.50 usec
P2        19.00 usec
PLW1      14.00000000 W

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
SFO2      150.9576307 MHz
NUC2      13C
CPDPRG2   garp
P3        13.00 usec
P14       500.00 usec
P24       2000.00 usec
PCPD2     60.00 usec
PLW2      140.00000000 W
PLW12     6.57219982 W
SPNAM[3]  Crp60_0.5_20.1
SFOAL3    0.500
SFOFFS3   0 Hz
SPW3      36.15000153 W
SPNAM[7]  Crp60comp_4
SFOAL7    0.500
SFOFFS7   0 Hz
SPW7      36.15000153 W

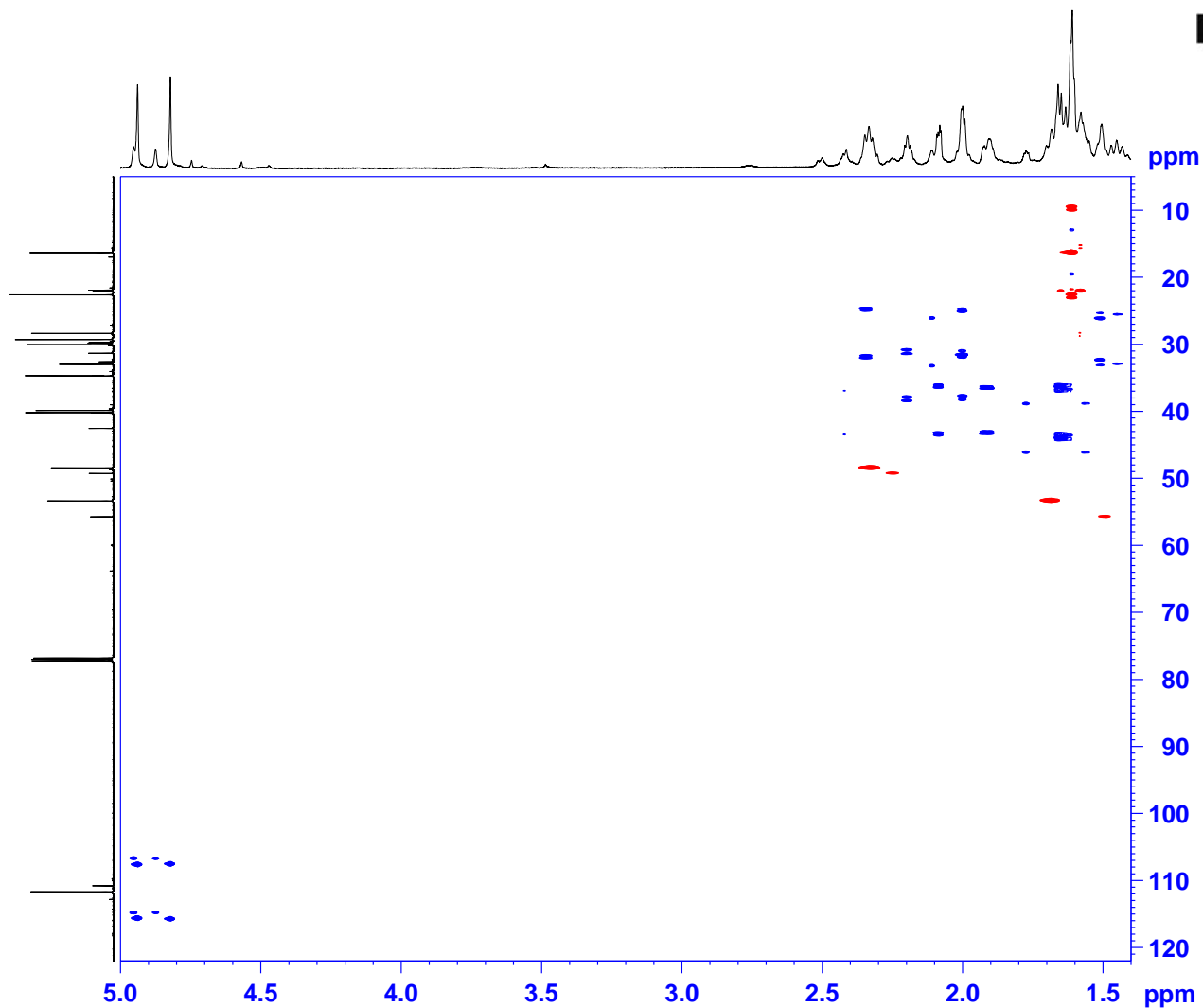
===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
GPRAM[1]  SMSQ10.100
GPRAM[2]  SMSQ10.100
GPRAM[3]  SMSQ10.100
GPRAM[4]  SMSQ10.100
GP21      80.00 %
GP22      40.20 %
GP23      11.00 %
GP24      17.00 %
P16       1000.00 usec

F1 - Acquisition parameters
TD        1024
SFO1      150.9576 MHz
FIDRES    26.537024 Hz
SW        150.010 ppm
F0MODE    Echo-Antiecho

F2 - Processing parameters
SI        1024
SF        600.3000114 MHz
WDW       QSINE
SSB       2
LB        0 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40

F1 - Processing parameters
SI        16384
SF        600.3000114 MHz
WDW       QSINE
SSB       2
LB        0 Hz
GB        0
    
```

F<sub>1</sub>-coupled HSQC with MQ evolution of BCP/2.6% PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



```

Current Data Parameters
NAME      yulia-600_PDMS sticks
EXNO     62
PROCNO   1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_    20141113
Time     21:15
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm TBI 1H/31
PULPROG  hsqc1etqjcmzsp
TD       1200
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS       16
DS       32
SWH      4807.692 Hz
FIDRES   4.006410 Hz
AQ       0.1248000 sec
RG       1010
DW       104.000 usec
DE       6.50 usec
TE       279.1 K
CNST2   145.0000000
CNST16  8.0000000
CNST17  -0.5000000
D0       0.00000300 sec
D1       2.00000000 sec
D2       0.00344828 sec
D4       0.00172414 sec
D11      0.00000000 sec
D16      0.00020000 sec
D20      0.00000300 sec
IN0      0.0001840 sec
IN20     0.00014720 sec

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SF01     600.3018009 MHz
NUC1     1H
P1       9.50 usec
P2       19.00 usec
PLM1     14.0000000 W

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
SF02     150.9576307 MHz
NUC2     13C
CQDPRG12  gmp
P3       13.00 usec
P14      500.00 usec
P24      200.00 usec
PCPD2    60.00 usec
PLM2     140.0000000 W
PLM12    6.57219882 W
SPNAM13  Crp60,0,5,20,1
SFOAL3   0.500
SPOFFS3  0 Hz
SPM3     36.15000153 W
SPNAM17  Crp60comp,4
SFOAL7   0.500
SPOFFS7  0 Hz
SPW7     36.15000153 W

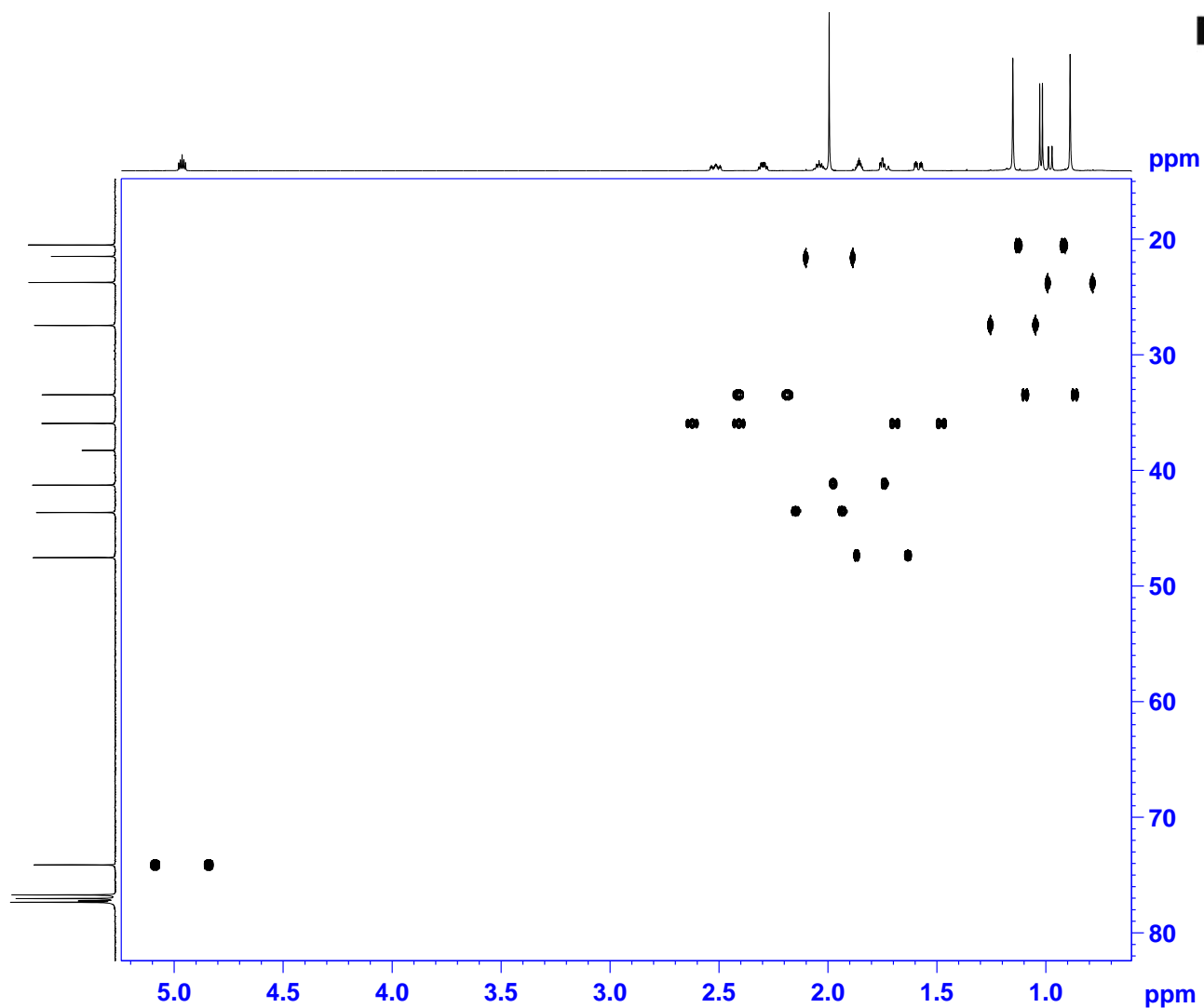
===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
GPNAM11  SMSQ10.100
GPNAM12  SMSQ10.100
GPNAM13  SMSQ10.100
GPNAM14  SMSQ10.100
GPZ1     80.00 %
GPZ2     40.20 %
GPZ3     11.00 %
GPZ4     17.00 %
P16      1000.00 usec

F1 - Acquisition parameters
TD       984
SF01     150.9576 MHz
FIDRES   27.615765 Hz
SW       180.010 ppm
PnMODE   Echo-Antiecho

F2 - Processing parameters
SI       1024
SF       600.2999376 MHz
WDW      QSINE
SSB      2
LB       0 Hz
GB       0
PC       1.40

F1 - Processing parameters
SI       16384
MC2      echo-antiecho
SF       150.9455511 MHz
WDW      QSINE
SSB      2
LB       0 Hz
GB       0
    
```

CLIP HSQC of IPC-OAc/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



```

Current Data Parameters
NAME      yulia-600_IPC-OAc
EXPNO     4
PROCNO    1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_     20140913
Time      19.04
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm TBI 1H/31
PULPROG   hsqcetgpr1p2
TD         8192
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         32
DS         32
SWH        6009.615 Hz
FIDRES     0.733596 Hz
AQ         0.6815744 sec
RG         2050
DW         83.200 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         279.0 K
CNST2     145.000000
D0         0.0000300 sec
D1         1.5000000 sec
D4         0.00172414 sec
D16        0.00020000 sec
IN0        0.00002010 sec
ZGOPTNS

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SFO1      600.3024012 MHz
NUC1       1H
P1         9.50 usec
P2         19.00 usec
P2B        0 usec
PLW1      14.00000000 W

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
SFO2      150.9561212 MHz
NUC2       13C
P3         13.00 usec
P4         500.00 usec
P24        2000.00 usec
PLW2      140.00000000 W
SPNAM[3]  Crp60,0.5,20.1
SPOAL3    0.500
SPOFFS3   0 Hz
SPW3      36.15000153 W
SPNAM[7]  Crp60comp,4
SPOAL7    0.500
SPOFFS7   0 Hz
SPW7      36.15000153 W

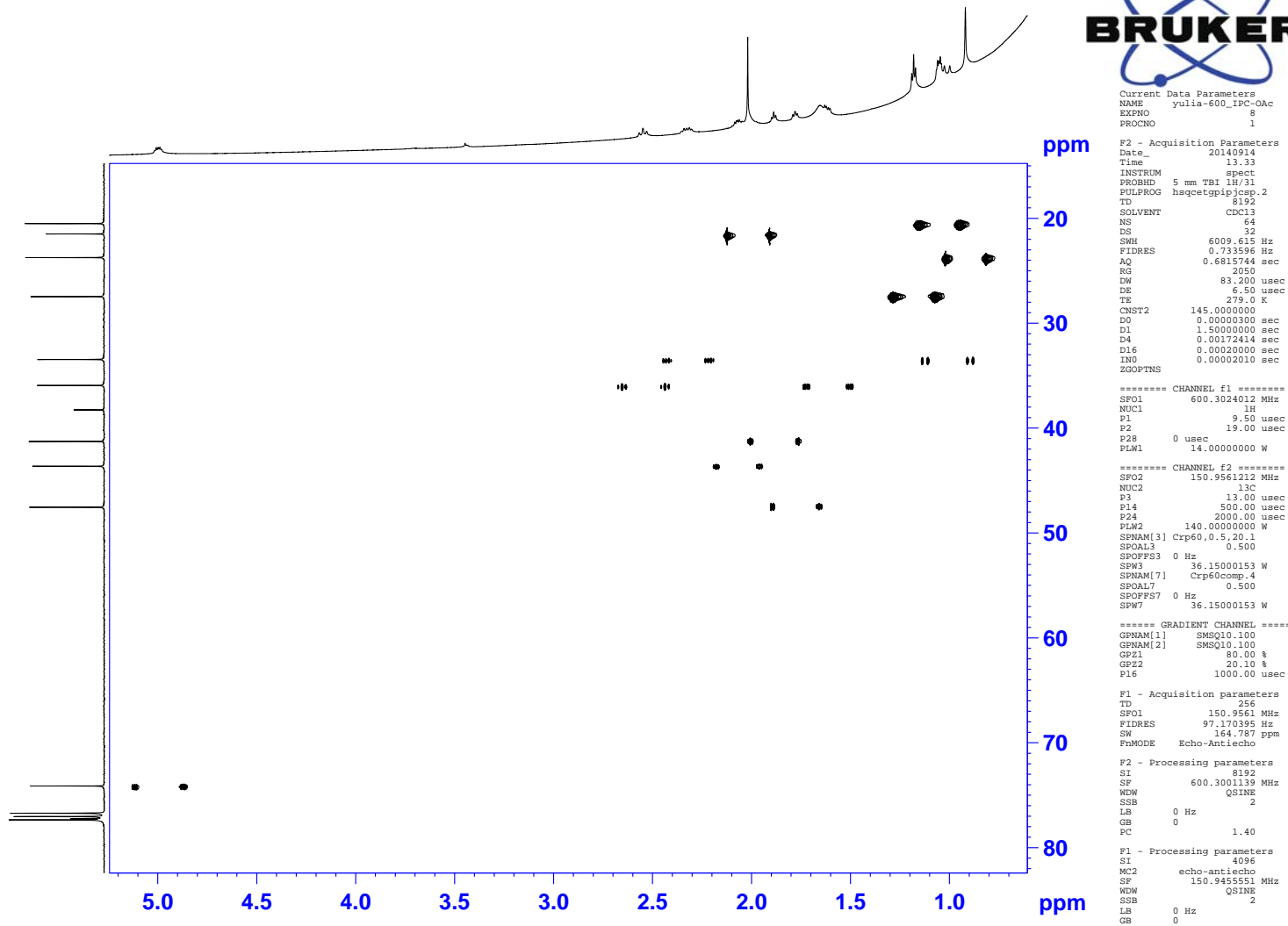
===== GRADIENT CHANNEL =====
GPNAM[1]  SMSQ10.100
GPNAM[2]  SMSQ10.100
GP21      80.00 %
GP22      20.10 %
P16       1000.00 usec

F1 - Acquisition parameters
TD         256
SFO1      150.9561 MHz
FIDRES     97.170395 Hz
SW         164.787 ppm
F1MODE     Echo-Antiecho

F2 - Processing parameters
SI         8192
SF         600.3000423 MHz
WDW        QSINE
SSB        2
LB         0 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.40

F1 - Processing parameters
SI         4096
MC2        echo-antiecho
SF         150.9455551 MHz
WDW        QSINE
SSB        2
LB         0 Hz
GB         0
    
```

CLIP HSQC of IPC-OAc /2.6% PDMS/CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 279 K



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