

# Enantioselective synthesis of $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to $\alpha$ -iminoesters

Shaoquan Lin, Naoya Kumagai,\* and Masakatsu Shibasaki\*

*Institute of Microbial Chemistry (BIKAKEN), Tokyo, Japan*

mshibasa@bikaken.or.jp, nkumagai@bikaken.or.jp

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## 1. General

The enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters was performed in a flame-dried 20 mL glass test tube with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar unless otherwise noted. The flasks or test tubes were fitted with a 3-way glass stopcock and reactions were run under an Ar atmosphere. Air- and moisture-sensitive liquids were transferred via a gas-tight syringe and a stainless-steel needle. All work-up and purification procedures were carried out with reagent-grade solvents under ambient atmosphere.

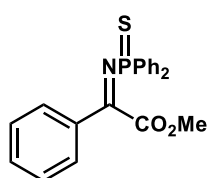
## 2. Instrumentation

Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a HORIBA FT210 Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer. NMR was recorded on Bruker AVANCE III HD400. Chemical shifts for proton are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (TMS in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta$  0.00 ppm;  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ :  $\delta$  1.94 ppm). For  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to NMR solvent ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta$  77.0 ppm;  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ :  $\delta$  118.26 ppm) as an internal reference. For  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to  $\text{OP}(\text{OPh})_3$  ( $\delta$  -17.6035 ppm in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) as an external reference. For  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to  $\text{PhCF}_3$  ( $\delta$  -62.7680 ppm in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) as an external reference. NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shifts, multiplicity (s: singlet, d: doublet, dd: doublet of doublets, t: triplet, q: quartet, m: multiplet, br: broad signal), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. Optical rotation was measured using a 1 mL cell with a 1.0 dm path length on a JASCO polarimeter P-1030. High-resolution mass spectra (ESI TOF (+)) were measured on Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL. HPLC analysis was conducted on a JASCO HPLC system equipped with Daicel chiral-stationary-phase columns ( $\phi$  0.46 cm x 25 cm).

## 3. Materials

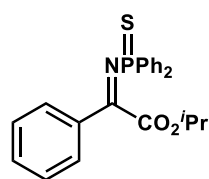
Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. THF, MeCN were purified by passing through a solvent purification system (Glass Contour). MS 4A was purchased from Nacalai Tesque Co. Ltd. and dried by microwave oven three time under reduced pressure. Barton's base and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})(\text{OMe})_2]$  were purchased from Aldrich.  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})(\text{OMe})_2]$  was purchased from TCI Co. Ltd. and used as received (opened and handled in a dry box). Column chromatography was performed with silica gel Merck 60 (230-400 mesh ASTM) or silicagel 60 N (spherical, neutral, 40-50  $\mu\text{m}$ ) from Kanto Chemical Co. Ltd. Preparative TLC plates (1.05744.0001, PLC Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>, 0.5 mm) were purchased from Merck. *N*-thiophosphinoyl ketimines were prepared according to a modified reported procedure.<sup>1</sup> *N*-heterocyclic carbene (NHC) ligands were synthesised by following the reported precedures.<sup>2</sup>

### Methyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-phenylacetate (4b)



Yellow crystal; M. p. 144–145 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1735, 1631, 1591  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06–8.00 (m, 4H), 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.71 (m, 8H), 3.97 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  169.6 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 165.0 (d,  $J$  = 17.1 Hz), 135.6, 134.5, 134.2, 134.0, 133.8, 131.51, 131.48, 131.4, 131.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 52.4;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  52.0; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{NNaPS}$   $m/z$  402.0688  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 402.0680.

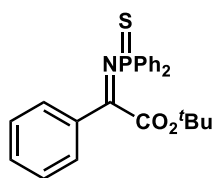
### Isopropyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-phenylacetate (4c)



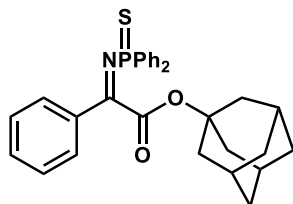
Yellow crystal; M. p. 105–106 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1726, 1631, 1612  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06–8.01 (m, 4H), 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.41 (m, 8H), 5.43–5.34 (m, 1H), 1.39 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  170.0 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz), 164.0 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz), 135.9, 134.8, 134.6, 134.4, 133.6, 131.39, 131.36, 131.28, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 71.2, 21.6;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  51.5; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{NNaPS}$   $m/z$  430.1001  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 430.0997.

1 (a) Jennings, W. B.; Lovely, C. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1988**, 29, 3725; (b) Jennings, W. B.; Lovely, C. J. *Tetrahedron* **1991**, 47, 5561.

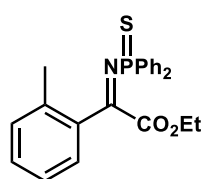
2 (a) Vora, H. U.; Lathrop, S. P.; Reynolds, N. T.; Kerr, M. S.; Read de Alaniz, J.; Rovis, T. *Org. Synth.* **2010**, 87, 350; (b) Zhao, C.; Li, F.; Wang, J. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, 55, 1820.

***tert*-Butyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-phenylacetate (4d)**

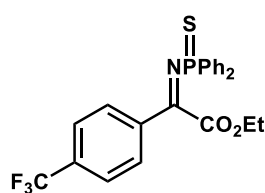
Yellow crystal; M. p. 138–140 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1725, 1682, 1645  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06–8.01 (m, 4H), 7.98–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 8H), 1.60 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  170.0 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz), 163.2 (d,  $J$  = 16.3 Hz), 136.2, 135.2, 135.1, 135.0, 133.3, 131.36, 131.28, 131.25, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 85.6, 28.2;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  50.9; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  444.1158  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 444.1155.

**Adamantan-1-yl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-phenylacetate (4e)**

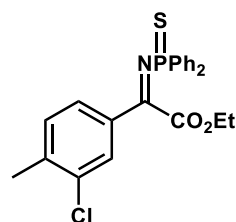
Yellow crystal; M. p. 187–189 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1726, 1639  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06–7.97 (m, 6H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 8H), 2.32 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 6H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.73–1.74 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  169.7 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 163.1 (d,  $J$  = 16.4 Hz), 136.1, 135.2, 135.1, 134.9, 133.3, 131.4, 131.29, 131.28, 131.24, 139.1, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 85.9, 41.5, 36.0, 31.1;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  51.0; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{PS}$   $m/z$  500.1808  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 500.1805.

**Ethyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-(*o*-tolyl)acetate (4f)**

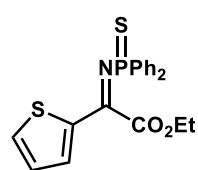
Yellow crystal; M. p. 111–112 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1734, 1644  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.01–7.96 (m, 4H), 7.56 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.36 (m, 7H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 1H), 4.40 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.31 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.4 (d,  $J$  = 10.5 Hz), 164.5 (d,  $J$  = 19.0 Hz), 138.9, 135.4, 134.4, 134.2, 134.0, 132.0, 131.77, 131.51, 131.42, 131.40, 130.2, 128.4, 128.2, 126.0, 62.2, 21.7, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  52.6; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  430.1001  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 430.0993.

**Ethyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetate (4n)**

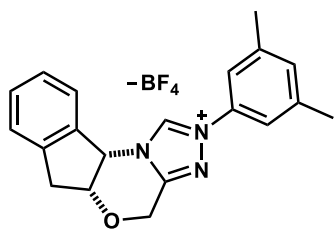
Yellow crystal; M. p. 146–148 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1733, 1638  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.07–7.99 (m, 6H), 7.75 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 6H), 4.48 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  168.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 164.0 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz), 137.4, 137.2, 135.2, 135.0, 134.6, 134.1, 131.69, 131.66, 131.4, 131.3, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 125.90, 125.86, 125.82, 124.8, 122.1, 119.4, 62.6, 13.7;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (375 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -63.2;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  52.9; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NF}_3\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  484.0718  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 484.0716.

**Ethyl 2-(3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)acetate (4p)**

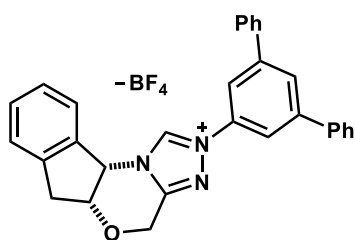
Yellow crystal; M. p. 112–114 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1742, 1639  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.04–7.98 (m, 4H), 7.93 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd,  $J$  = 1.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 6H), 7.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  168.6 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz), 164.2 (d,  $J$  = 16.7 Hz), 142.6, 135.5, 135.3, 134.5, 133.7, 133.5, 131.51, 131.49, 131.38, 131.33, 131.27, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.3, 62.4, 20.5, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  52.2; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{ClNaPS}$   $m/z$  464.0611  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 464.0602.

**Ethyl 2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)imino)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)acetate (4v)**

White crystal; M. p. 114–115 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  1731, 1620  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.04–7.98 (m, 4H), 7.69 (dd,  $J$  = 0.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd,  $J$  = 0.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 6H), 7.16–7.14 (m, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.5 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz), 163.4, 142.3 (d,  $J$  = 25.9 Hz), 136.0, 135.0, 134.9, 134.5, 131.35, 131.32, 131.29, 131.18, 128.8 (d,  $J$  = 1.4 Hz), 128.4, 128.2, 62.5, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  51.1; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}_2$   $m/z$  422.0409  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 422.0407.

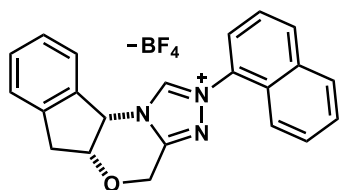
**(5aR,10bS)-2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-5a,10b-dihydro-4H,6H-indeno[2,1-b][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-d][1,4]oxazin-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (L4)**

White solid; M. p. 249–252 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  3421, 3130, 3102, 3055, 3016, 2923, 1621, 1584, 1540, 1483, 1461, 1447, 1427, 1104, 1084, 1006  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  10.28 (s, 1H), 7.62–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 0.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.32 (m, 4H), 5.93 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.17 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.03 (dd,  $J = 0.2, 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.95–4.93 (m, 1H), 3.45 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.45 (d,  $J = 0.6$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  151.1, 141.68, 141.65, 140.3, 136.0, 133.5, 130.6, 128.2, 126.6, 125.5, 119.6, 78.2, 62.6, 60.9, 37.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{ON}_3$   $m/z$  318.1601  $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ , found 318.1602.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  246.0 ( $c$  0.59,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ).

**(5aR,10bS)-2-([1,1':3',1''-Terphenyl]-5'-yl)-5a,10b-dihydro-4H,6H-indeno[2,1-b][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-d][1,4]oxazin-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (L5)**

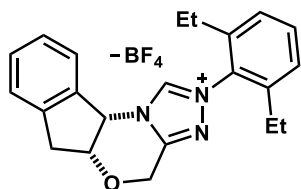
Pale yellow solid; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  3418, 3054, 2931, 1732, 1614, 1593, 1578, 1535, 1499, 1473, 1462, 1438, 1102, 1083, 1063  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  10.47 (s, 1H), 8.16 (t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.85–7.82 (m, 4H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 4H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 5.98 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.22 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.99–4.97 (m, 1H), 3.47 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  151.1, 144.6, 141.6, 140.9, 139.5, 137.0, 135.9, 130.6, 130.0, 129.6, 128.2, 128.1, 126.6, 125.4, 119.3, 78.1, 62.7, 60.8, 37.7;

HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{ON}_3$   $m/z$  442.1914  $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ , found 442.1912.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  212.4 ( $c$  0.76,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ).

**(5aR,10bS)-2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-5a,10b-dihydro-4H,6H-indeno[2,1-b][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-d][1,4]oxazin-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (L6)**

Purple solid; M. p. 224–227 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  3421, 3112, 3077, 3032, 2940, 1600, 1577, 1527, 1514, 1486, 1461, 1427, 1120, 1101, 1084, 1019, 1005  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  10.24 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.16–8.13 (m, 1H), 7.90–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.77–7.69 (m, 3H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 3H), 6.03 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.03–5.01 (m, 1H), 3.51 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  151.5, 143.9, 141.8, 136.1, 135.1, 133.5, 132.1,

130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 126.7, 126.2, 126.1, 125.5, 122.6, 78.3, 62.7, 61.1, 37.9; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ON}_3$   $m/z$  340.1444  $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ , found 340.1446.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  138.5 ( $c$  0.76,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ).

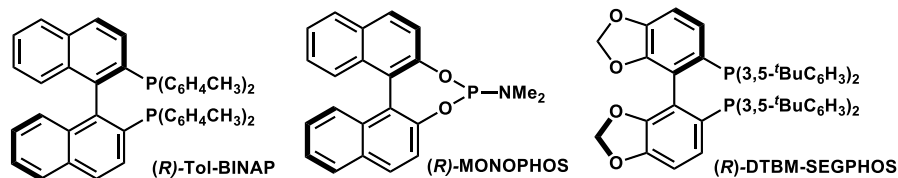
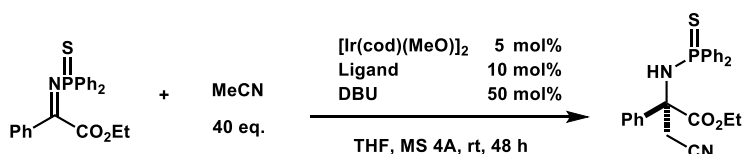
**(5aR,10bS)-2-(2,6-Diethylphenyl)-5a,10b-dihydro-4H,6H-indeno[2,1-b][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-d][1,4]oxazin-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (L7)**

White solid; M. p. 204–206 °C; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  3421, 3124, 3088, 3049, 2973, 2938, 2905, 2880, 1579, 1531, 1485, 1463, 1432, 1105, 1086, 1058, 1001  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  10.11 (s, 1H), 7.63 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 6H), 6.02 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.17 (d,  $J = 16.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.05–5.01 (m, 2H), 3.50 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.42 (brs, 4H), 1.14 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  151.8, 143.9, 142.5, 141.8, 136.5, 133.4, 130.6,

128.44, 128.40, 126.8, 124.5, 78.1, 62.8, 61.1, 38.0, 24.6, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{ON}_3$   $m/z$  346.1914  $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ , found 346.1911.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24}$  89.9 ( $c$  0.55,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ).

## 4. General Procedure and Characterization of the Products

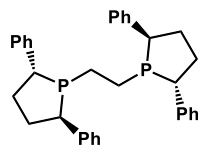
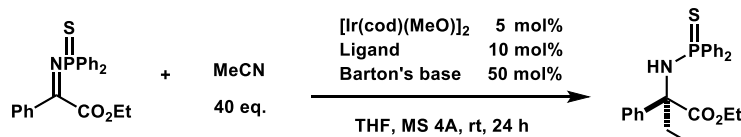
## 4.1. Ligand screening.



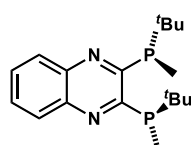
No reaction

No reaction

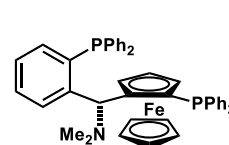
No reaction



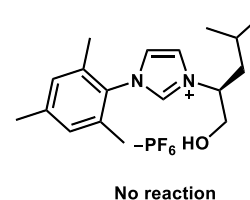
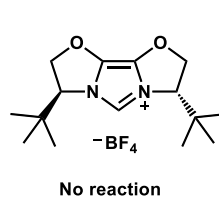
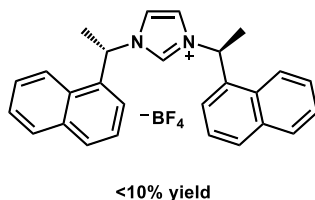
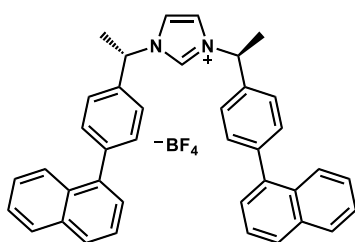
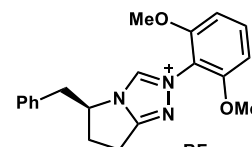
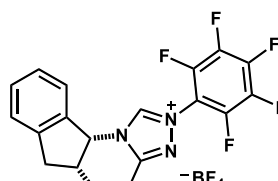
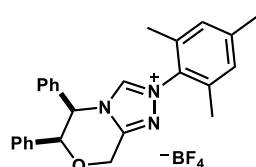
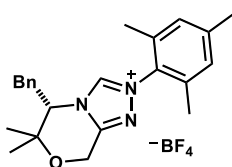
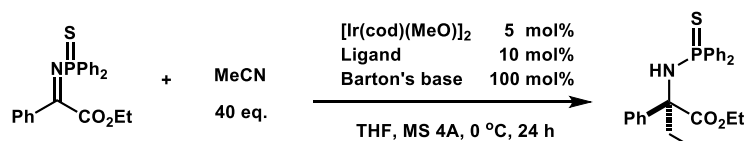
14% yield, 19% ee



trace



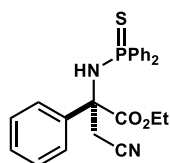
trace

4.2. Catalytic asymmetric Mannich-type reaction of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -butyrolactam to ketimines.

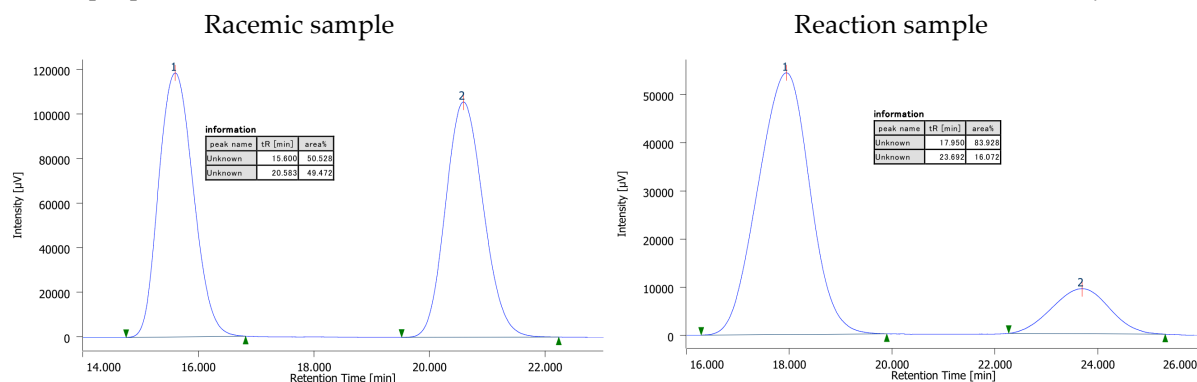
A flame-dried 20 mL test tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and 3-way glass stopcock was charged with [Ir(cod)(OMe)<sub>2</sub>] (3.3 mg, 0.005 mmol), NHC precursor (5.0 mg, 0.01 mmol) and MS 4A (100 mg) under Ar atmosphere and THF (0.5 mL) was added at room temperature, then Barton's base (20.0  $\mu$ L, 0.1 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h and then cooled to -5 °C. Ketimine (0.1 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added via a gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. Then MeCN (210  $\mu$ L, 4 mmol) was added via a

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at  $-5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 d. Reaction was quenched with AcOH (0.2 ml, 1.0 M in THF). Diluted the mixture with EtOAc and passed through a shot pad of silica gel column (eluted with EtOAc). After evaporation, the residue was purified by preparative TLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 4/1) to give the pure product.

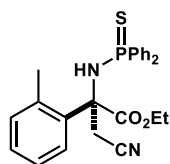
### Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-phenylpropanoate (8a)



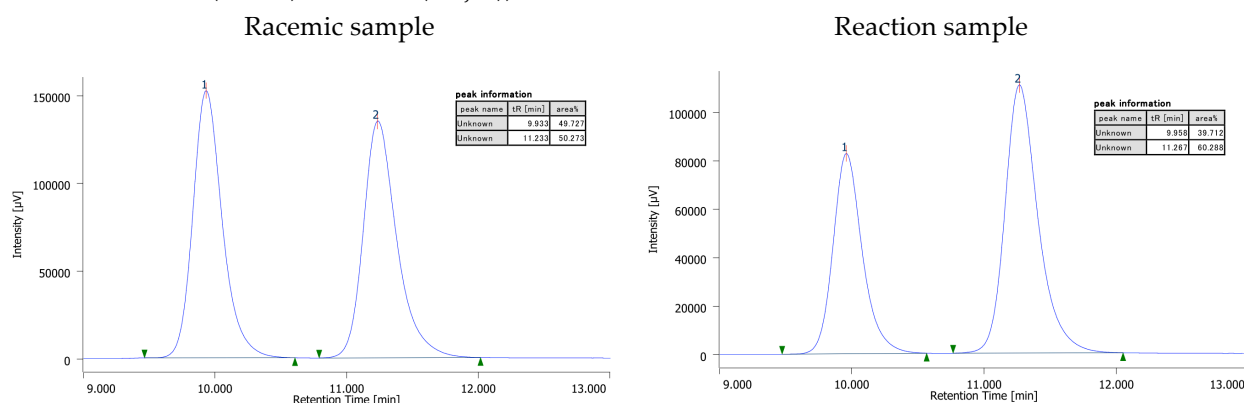
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.94–7.81 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 3H), 4.35–4.28 (m, 1H), 4.23–4.11 (m, 3H), 3.66 (d,  $J = 16.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.18 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 137.6 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz), 136.3, 135.2, 134.5, 133.5, 132.2, 132.0, 131.8 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz), 130.8, 130.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.65, 128.61, 128.4, 128.2, 125.9, 117.0, 65.0, 63.0, 28.1, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.7; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  457.1110  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 457.1105;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -6.3$  ( $c$  0.66,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 68% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 68% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{r}} = 18.0$  min (major), 23.7 min (minor)).

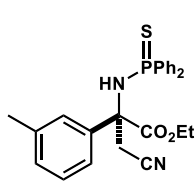


### Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(*o*-tolyl)propanoate (8f)



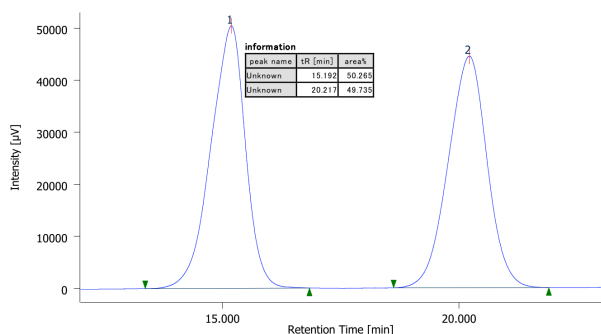
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2246, 1725  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.90–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 5H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 3H), 6.99 (dt,  $J = 0.9, 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.92 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.29–4.37 (m, 1H), 4.23–4.16 (m, 1H), 3.55 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.6 (d,  $J = 11.7$  Hz), 136.9, 136.1, 135.1, 133.0, 132.8 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz), 131.95, 131.93, 131.90, 131.8, 131.72, 131.68, 131.0 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 130.5, 130.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 125.5, 116.8, 64.3 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz), 63.6, 29.1, 20.4, 13.9;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  51.5; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  471.1267  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 471.1260;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} 1.9$  ( $c$  0.75,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 21% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 21% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{r}} = 10.0$  min (minor), 11.3 min (major)).



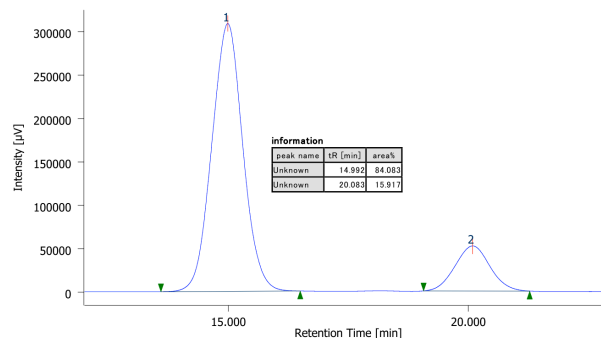
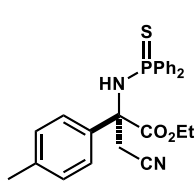
Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters**Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(*m*-tolyl)propanoate (8g)**

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.52–7.39 (m, 6H), 7.19–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.06–7.02 (m, 2H), 4.35–4.27 (m, 1H), 4.23–4.15 (m, 3H), 3.64 (d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J$  = 5.8 Hz), 138.4, 137.3 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz), 136.4, 135.4, 134.5, 133.5, 132.2, 132.0, 131.81, 131.78, 131.75, 130.7, 130.6, 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 126.7, 117.1, 65.0, 63.0, 28.1, 21.5, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  471.1267 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 471.1257;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-7.3$  ( $c$  0.82,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 68% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 68% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{r}}$  = 15.0 min (major), 20.1 min (minor)).

Racemic sample

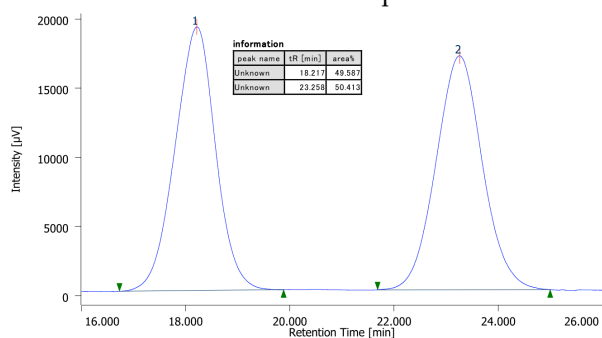


Reaction sample

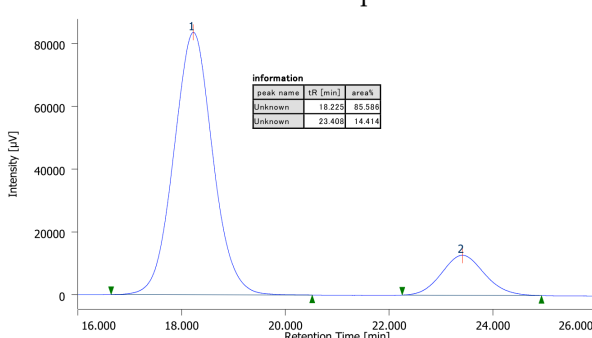
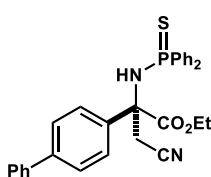
**Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanoate (8h)**

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.93–7.81 (m, 4H), 7.52–7.38 (m, 6H), 7.24–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.34–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.22–4.08 (m, 3H), 3.64 (d,  $J$  = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.8 (d,  $J$  = 5.8 Hz), 138.9, 136.3, 135.3, 134.74, 134.66, 134.5, 133.5, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.8, 130.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 125.8, 117.1, 64.8, 62.9, 28.2, 21.0, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.6; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  471.1267 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 471.1261;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-2.5$  ( $c$  0.69,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 71% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 71% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{r}}$  = 18.2 min (major), 23.4 min (minor)).

Racemic sample

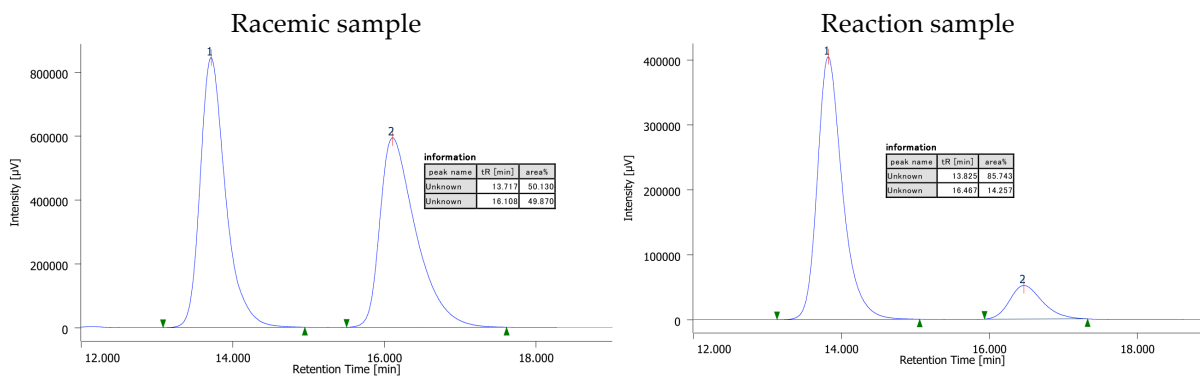


Reaction sample

**Ethyl (R)-2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (8i)**

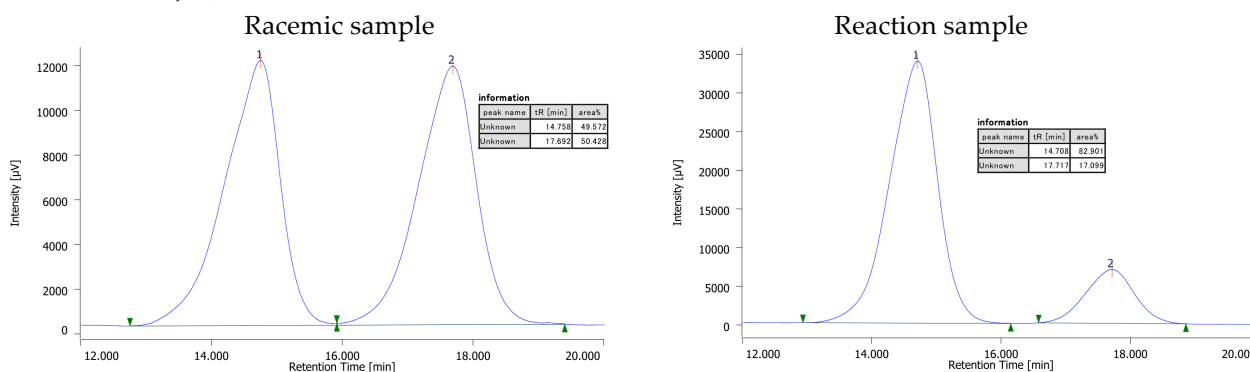
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.91–7.82 (m, 4H), 7.53–7.33 (m, 15H), 4.38–4.18 (m, 4H), 3.68 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz), 141.7, 139.9, 136.3, 136.2, 136.1, 135.2, 134.4, 133.4, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.7, 130.6, 128.79, 128.76, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.1, 127.0, 126.5, 117.0, 64.9, 63.2, 28.0, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  533.1423 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 533.1415;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  7.2 ( $c$  0.93,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 72% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters of the product was determined to be 72% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm x 25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 13.8 min (major), 16.5 min (minor)).



### Ethyl (*R*)-2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (**8j**)

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.91–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.50–7.37 (m, 6H), 7.28–7.21 (m, 4H), 4.36–4.28 (m, 1H), 4.24–4.14 (m, 3H), 3.65 (d,  $J$  = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 9H), 1.20 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.8 (d,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz), 151.9, 136.4, 135.4, 134.4 (d,  $J$  = 3.3 Hz), 134.3, 133.4, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8, 131.78, 131.76, 131.73, 130.7, 130.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 125.7, 125.5, 117.2, 64.8, 63.0, 34.5, 31.1, 28.1, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  513.1736 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 513.1729;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  1.2 ( $c$  0.53,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 66% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 66% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm x 25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 14.7 min (major), 17.7 min (minor)).



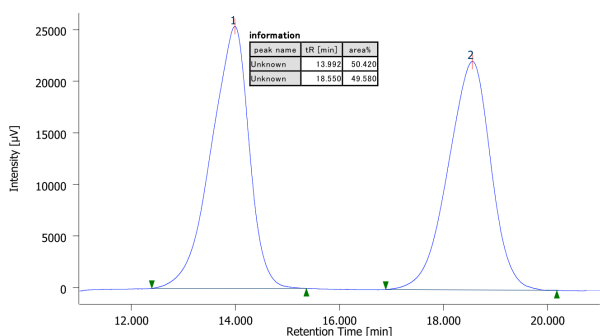
### Ethyl (*R*)-3-cyano-2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (**8k**)

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.90–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 6H), 6.89 (s, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.36–4.28 (m, 1H), 4.23–4.14 (m, 3H), 3.61 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 1.19 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.8 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz), 138.2, 137.1 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz), 136.5, 135.5, 134.5, 133.5, 132.2, 132.0, 131.77, 131.74, 131.7, 130.7, 130.6, 130.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 123.8, 117.2, 64.9, 63.0, 28.1, 21.4, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.2; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  485.1423 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 485.1410;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  -4.9 ( $c$  0.57,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 71% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 71% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm x 25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 14.0 min (major), 18.5 min (minor)).

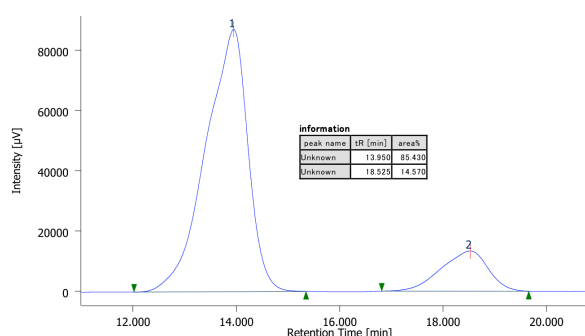
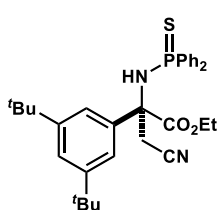


Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

## Racemic sample



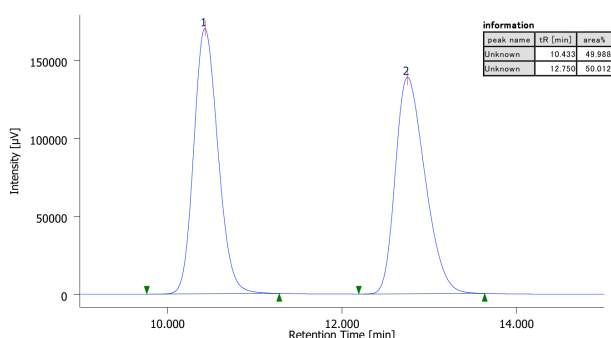
## Reaction sample

Ethyl (*R*)-3-cyano-2-(3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (**8l**)

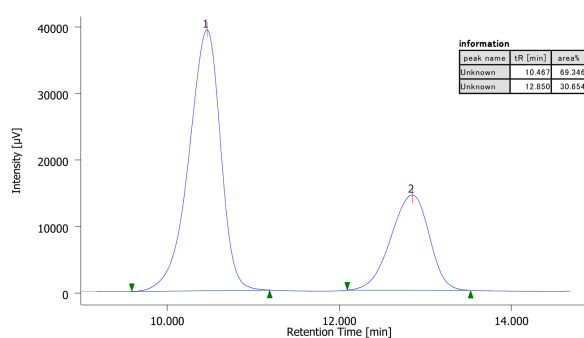
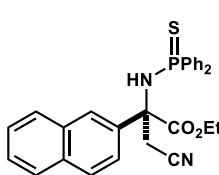
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2254, 1734, 1713  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.27 (m, 3H), 4.34–4.13 (m, 4H), 3.71 (d,  $J = 16.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 18H), 1.15 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.8 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz), 151.1, 136.9 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz), 136.7, 135.6, 134.9, 133.9, 132.0, 131.9, 131.74, 131.71, 131.69, 131.66, 130.8, 130.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 123.0, 120.6, 117.5, 65.7, 62.8, 35.0, 31.3, 28.1, 13.8;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.2; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{PS}$   $m/z$  547.2543  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 547.2537;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} -3.1$

( $c$  1.57,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 39% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 39% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK ID ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 10.5$  min (major), 12.9 min (minor)).

## Racemic sample

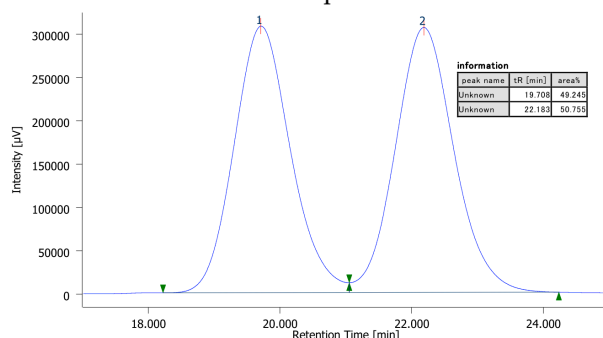


## Reaction sample

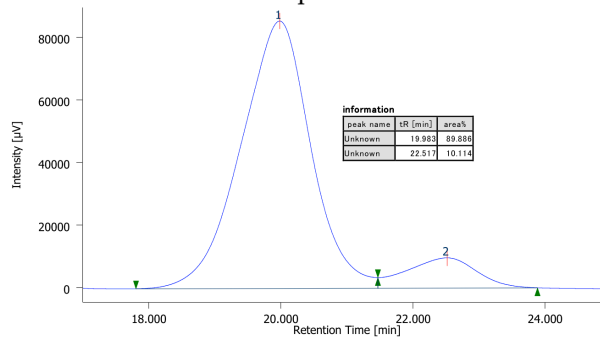
Ethyl (*R*)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate (**8m**)

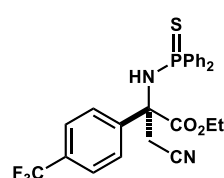
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89–7.78 (m, 5H), 7.75–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 5H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 2H), 4.42–4.29 (m, 3H), 4.23–4.15 (m, 1H), 3.76 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 136.3, 135.3, 134.4 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz), 134.3, 133.3, 133.0, 132.5, 132.0, 131.9, 131.8 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.6 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 130.8, 130.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 126.9, 126.5, 125.8, 123.2, 117.0, 65.1, 63.2, 28.1, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.3; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  507.1267  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 507.1257;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} 3.7$  ( $c$  0.77,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 80% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 80% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 20.0$  min (major), 22.5 min (minor)).

## Racemic sample

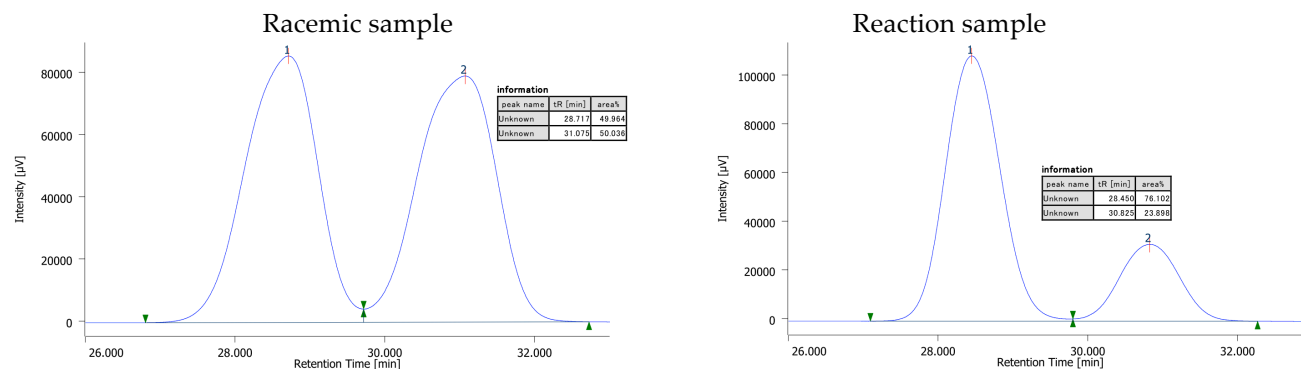
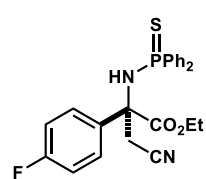


## Reaction sample

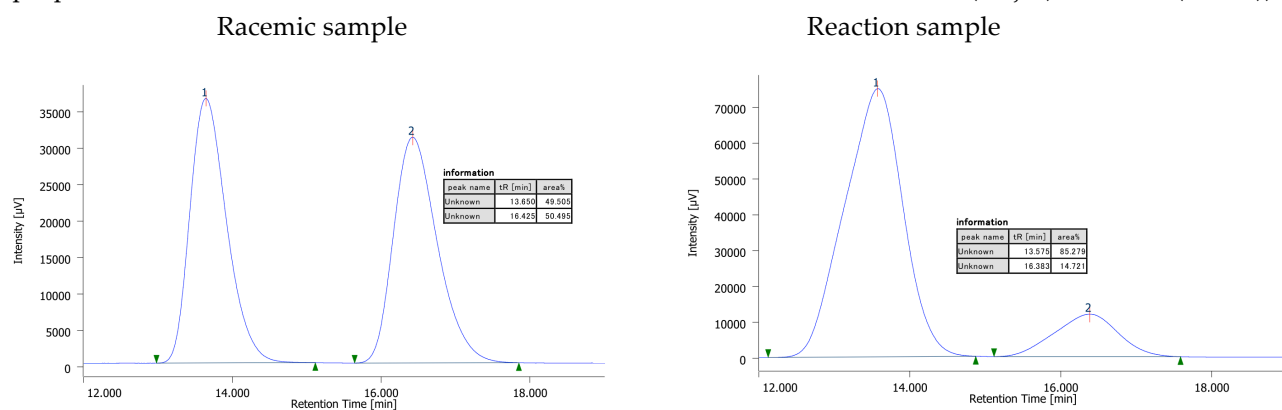
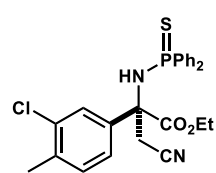


Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters**Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (8n)**

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84–7.75 (m, 4H), 7.54–7.43 (m, 4H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 6H), 4.44–4.30 (m, 3H), 4.25–4.19 (m, 1H), 3.63 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.2 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 140.6, 140.5, 136.0, 135.0, 133.9, 132.9, 132.11, 132.05 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 132.00, 131.9 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.4, 131.1, 130.74, 130.70, 130.6, 130.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 126.9, 125.40, 125.36, 125.32, 125.28, 124.9, 122.2, 119.5, 116.7, 64.8, 63.6, 27.7, 13.7;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (375 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -63.0;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.2; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{F}_3\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  525.0984  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 525.0977;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  -3.1 ( $c$  0.62,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 52% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 52% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK ID ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 28.5$  min (major), 30.8 min (minor)).

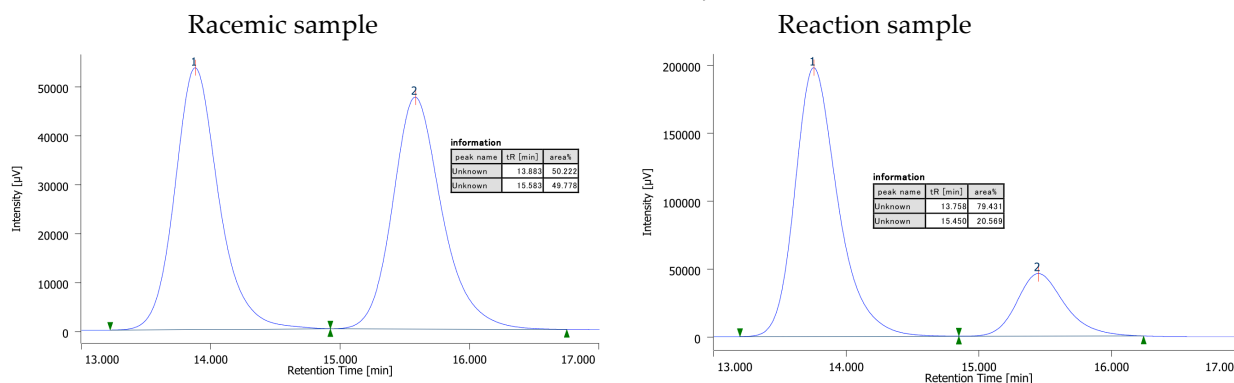
**Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate (8o)**

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.84 (m, 2H), 4.36–4.16 (m, 4H), 3.62 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.19 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.5 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz), 163.8, 161.3, 136.1, 135.1, 134.3, 133.3, 133.12, 133.09, 133.06, 133.03, 132.2, 132.0, 131.93 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.86 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 130.7, 130.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.21, 128.19, 128.13, 116.9, 115.5, 115.3, 64.6, 63.3, 28.1, 13.7;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (375 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.4;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{FNAPS}$   $m/z$  475.1016  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 475.1009;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  -5.5 ( $c$  0.66,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 71% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 71% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 13.6$  min (major), 16.4 min (minor)).

**Ethyl (R)-2-(3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (8p)**

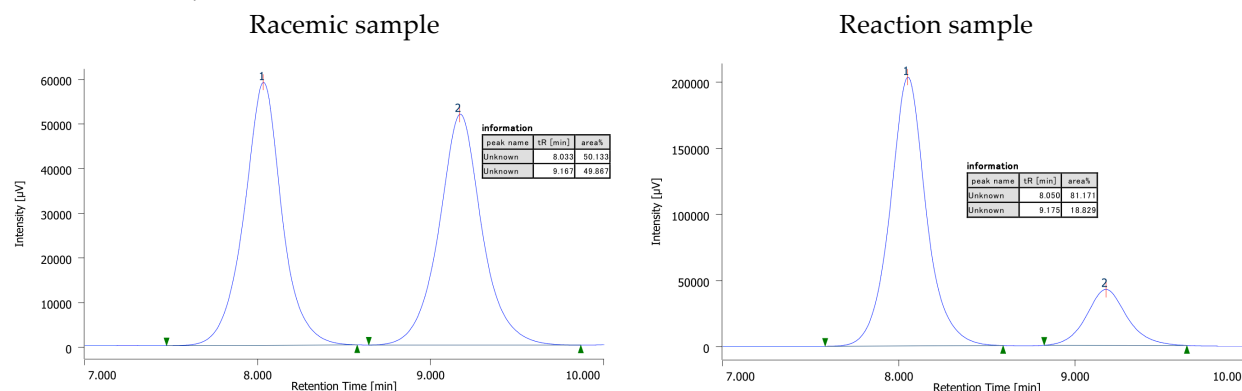
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2252, 1734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.39 (m, 6H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd,  $J = 2.1, 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.37–4.16 (m, 4H), 3.60 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.3 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz), 136.9, 136.42, 136.36, 135.1, 134.6, 134.1, 133.1, 132.1, 132.0, 131.9 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.8 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 130.8, 130.7, 130.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.1, 124.3, 116.8, 64.5,

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters 63.3, 27.9, 19.6, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.3; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{ClNaPS}$   $m/z$  505.0877  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 505.0876;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-3.1$  ( $c$  0.85,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 59% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 59% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/ $n$ -hexane = 1/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}}$  = 13.8 min (major), 15.5 min (minor)).



### Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(4-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl)propanoate (8q)

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.91–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.50–7.41 (m, 4H), 7.40–7.30 (m, 6H), 4.36–4.28 (m, 1H), 4.24–4.16 (m, 3H), 3.65 (d,  $J$  = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.22 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.6 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz), 141.6, 137.7 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 136.3, 135.3, 134.4, 133.6, 133.3, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.7, 130.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 125.2, 117.1, 65.0, 63.1, 28.0, 13.7, -1.3;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.5; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPSSi}$   $m/z$  529.1505  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 529.1488;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  1.9 ( $c$  1.21,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 62% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 62% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/ $n$ -hexane = 1/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}}$  = 8.1 min (major), 9.2 min (minor)).

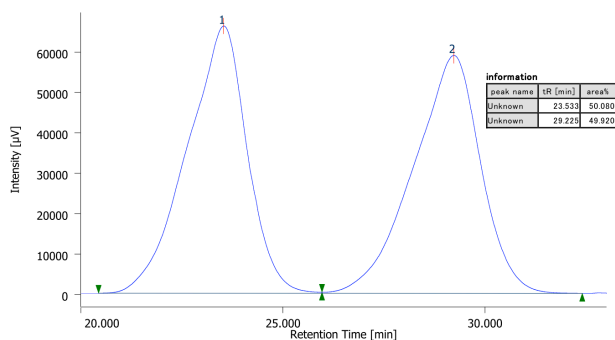


### Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (8r)

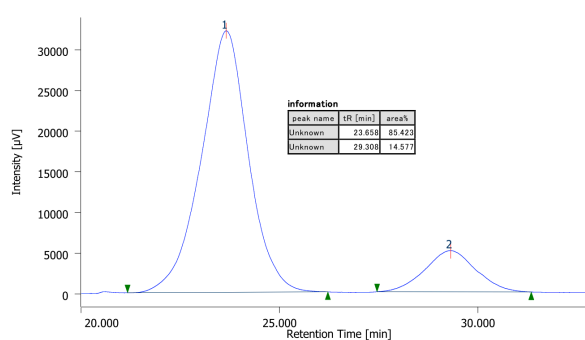
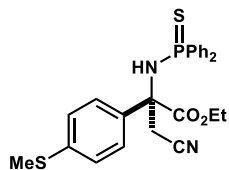
White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.74–6.70 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.22–4.12 (m, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d,  $J$  = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.8 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz), 159.7, 136.3, 135.3, 134.6, 133.5, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.8, 130.6, 129.5, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 117.2, 113.9, 64.6, 63.0, 55.2, 28.2, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  487.1216  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 487.1209;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-1.5$  ( $c$  0.65,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 71% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 71% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/ $n$ -hexane = 1/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}}$  = 23.7 min (major), 29.3 min (minor)).

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

Racemic sample

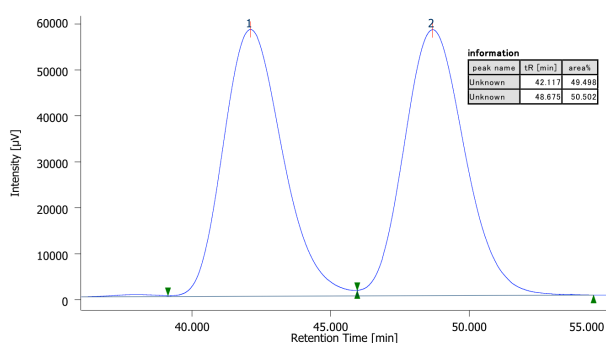


Reaction sample

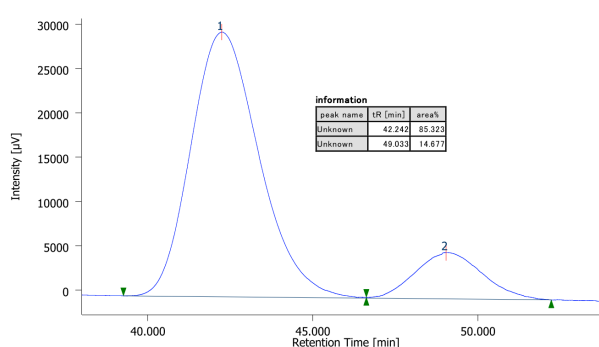
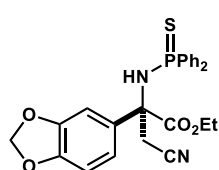
Ethyl (*R*)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)propanoate (**8s**)

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.39 (m, 6H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.05–7.02 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.22–4.14 (m, 3H), 3.63 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.5 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz), 139.9, 136.1, 135.2, 134.4, 133.8, 133.7, 133.4, 132.1, 132.0, 131.8 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 130.7, 130.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 126.5, 125.9, 117.0, 64.7, 63.1, 28.0, 15.2, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}_2$   $m/z$  503.0987 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 503.0983;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  4.9 ( $c$  1.05,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 71% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 71% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 42.2$  min (major), 49.0 min (minor)).

Racemic sample

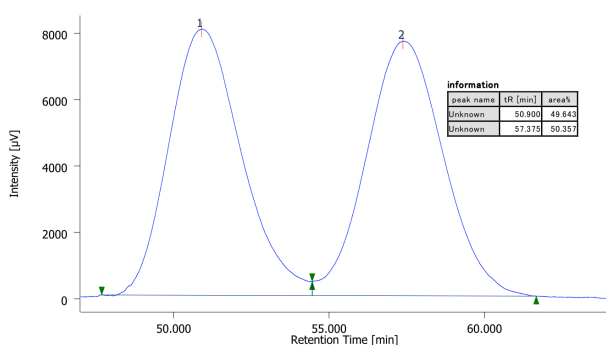


Reaction sample

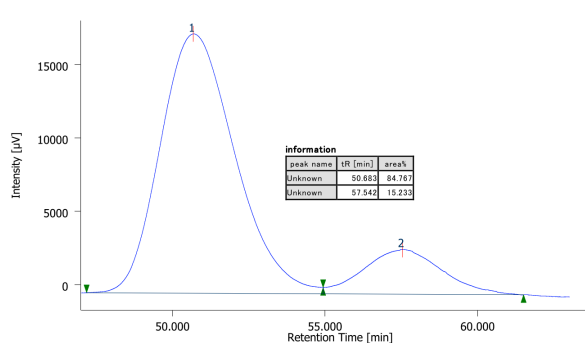
Ethyl (*R*)-2-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (**8t**)

White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2252, 1733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.93–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.49–7.42 (m, 6H), 6.83 (dd,  $J = 2.1, 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dd,  $J = 1.4, 14.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.36–4.28 (m, 1H), 4.24–4.14 (m, 3H), 3.59 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz), 147.9, 147.8, 136.2, 135.1, 134.4, 133.3, 132.2, 132.1, 131.9 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.8 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 131.2, 131.1, 130.7, 130.6, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 119.8, 117.0, 107.9, 106.8, 101.4, 64.8, 63.1, 28.2, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.3; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}_2$   $m/z$  501.1008 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , found 501.1004;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-7.5$  ( $c$  0.84,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 70% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 70% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IC ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 50.7$  min (major), 57.5 min (minor)).

Racemic sample

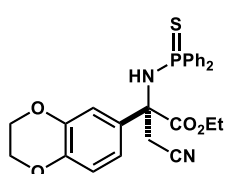


Reaction sample



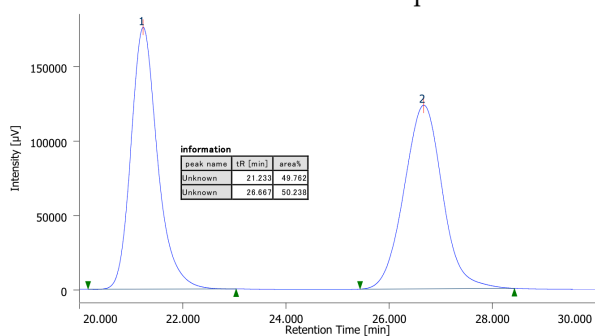
Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

### Ethyl (R)-3-cyano-2-(2,3-dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)propanoate (8u)

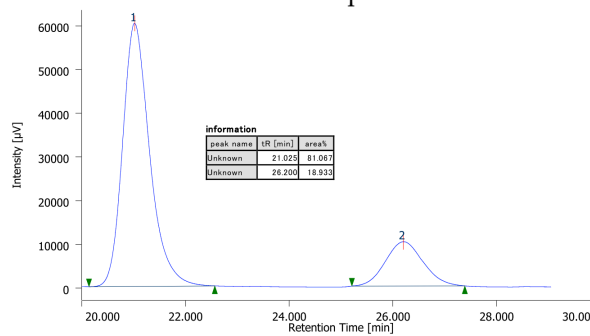


White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2251, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.94–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 6H), 6.85–6.80 (m, 2H), 6.70 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.35–4.27 (m, 1H), 4.23–4.15 (m, 5H), 4.12–4.09 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d,  $J$  = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.7 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz), 143.9, 143.2, 136.3, 135.2, 134.4, 133.4, 132.3, 132.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.73, 130.69, 130.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 119.0, 117.3, 117.1, 115.4, 64.5, 64.24, 64.21, 63.0, 28.2, 13.7;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}$   $m/z$  515.1165  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 515.1156;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-0.3$  ( $c$  1.05,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 62% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 62% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/9, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}}$  = 21.0 min (major), 26.2 min (minor)).

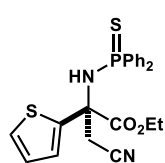
Racemic sample



Reaction sample

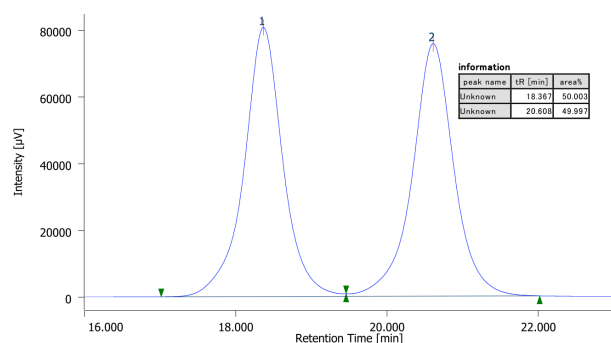


### Ethyl (S)-3-cyano-2-((diphenylphosphorothioyl)amino)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)propanoate (8v)

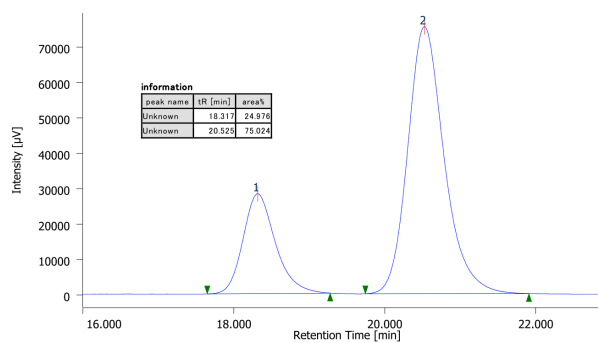


White powder; IR (KBr):  $\nu$  2252, 1734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.95–7.88 (m, 4H), 7.53–7.43 (m, 6H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd,  $J$  = 1.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd,  $J$  = 3.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.29–4.21 (m, 1H), 4.16–4.01 (m, 3H), 3.84 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  170.2 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz), 142.4, 142.3, 135.9, 135.0, 134.8, 134.0, 132.0 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.84 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 131.80, 131.7, 131.1, 131.0, 128.63, 128.59, 128.50, 128.46, 127.2, 126.5, 126.1, 116.8, 63.2, 63.1, 29.4, 13.5;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.3; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2\text{NaPS}_2$   $m/z$  463.0674  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , found 463.0667;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$   $-11.5$  ( $c$  0.69,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 50% ee sample); Enantiomeric excess of the product was determined to be 50% ee by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IA ( $\phi$  0.46 cm  $\times$  25 cm), 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 1/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, detection at 254 nm, 18.3 min (minor),  $t_{\text{R}}$  = 20.5 min (major)).

Racemic sample



Reaction sample



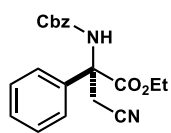
### 4.3. Transformation of the Mannich product.

To a solution of **8a** (400 mg, 0.92 mmol) in a mixture of EtOAc/AcOH (v/v: 4/1), (5 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (35 wt %), (1.0 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with sat.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution after **8a** disappeared on TLC monitoring. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After filtration and concentration under reduced pressure, the crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the desired product in quantitative yield.

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

To a solution of the thus-obtained *N*-phosphinoylamide (41.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) in EtOAc (0.5 mL), 4 N HCl (1.5 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature. After stirring at 60 °C for 2.5 h, the resulting mixture was concentrated, and redissolved in EtOAc (1.5 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 mL) was added and cooled to 0 °C. To the biphasic mixture, NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (420 mg, 5 mmol) and Cbz-Cl (72  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol) were added and was stirred for 4 h. The solution was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (NaSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The reaction mixture was purified by preparative TLC (hexane/acetone = 5/1) to give pure product **11** (22.4 mg, 64% yield).

#### Ethyl (*R*)-2-(((benzyloxy)carbonyl)amino)-3-cyano-2-phenylpropanoate (**11**)



White powder; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\nu$  2257, 1726 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.41–7.26 (m, 10H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 5.16–5.06 (m, 2H); 4.26–4.20 (m, 2H), 3.80–3.70 (m, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  169.6, 154.7, 136.5, 135.8, 129.21, 129.18, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 125.2, 116.6, 67.3, 63.2, 63.1, 25.2, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) Anal. calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na *m/z* 375.1315 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, found 375.1314; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> 1.4 (c 0.88, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, from 65% ee sample).

## 5. Kinetic Experiments

### General procedure for initial rate kinetic experiments

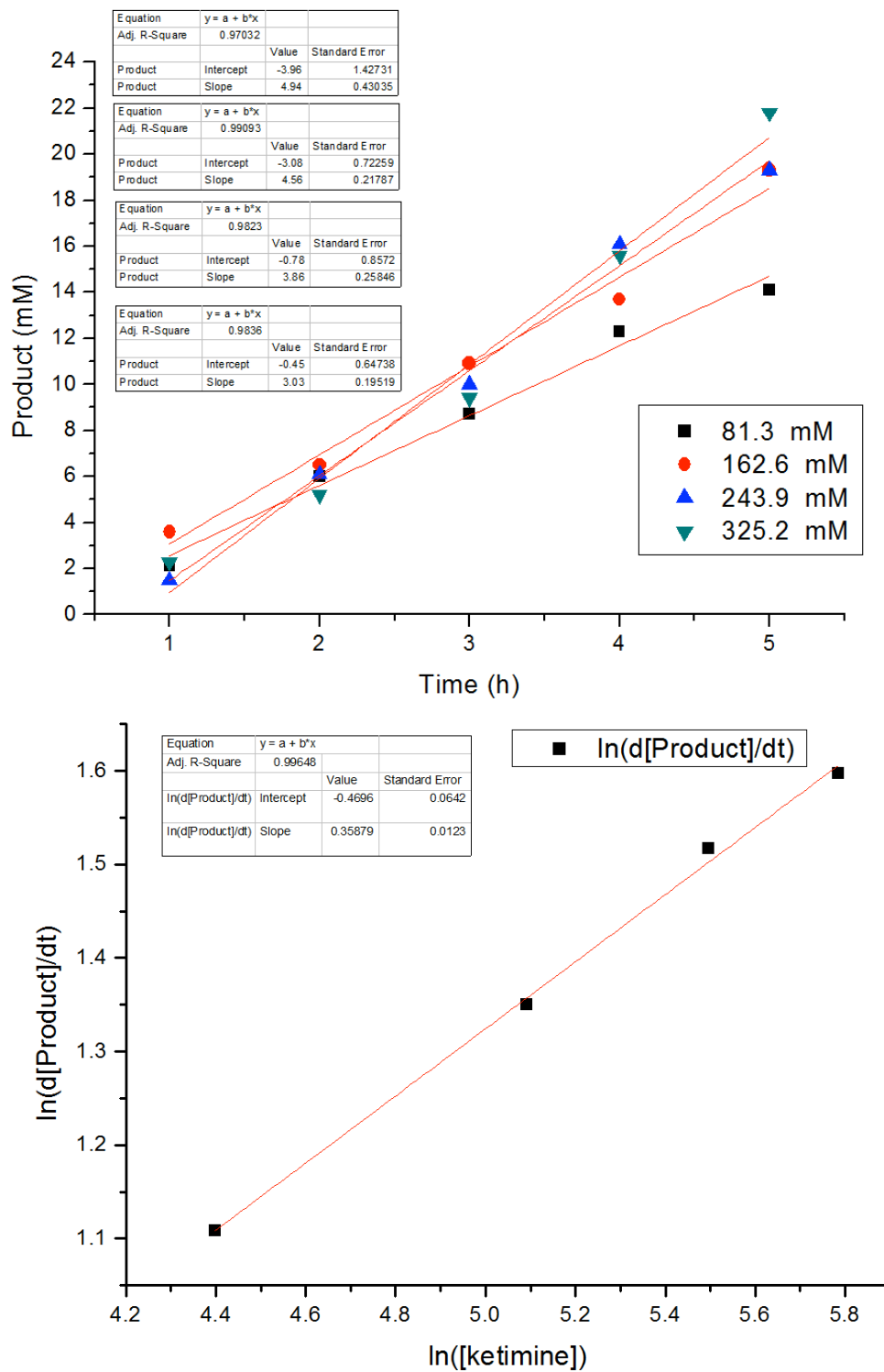
A flame-dried 20 mL test tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and 3-way glass stopcock was charged with [Ir(cod)(OMe)]<sub>2</sub> (3.3 mg, 0.005 mmol), NHC precursor (5.0 mg, 0.01 mmol) under Ar atmosphere and THF (0.5 mL) was added at room temperature, then Barton's base (20.0  $\mu$ L, 0.1 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h and then cooled to 0 °C. Ketimine (0.1 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added via a gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. Then MeCN (210  $\mu$ L, 4 mmol) was added via a gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. Aliquots were taken at 1 h intervals by removing a small amount (ca. 0.1 mL) of the reaction solution and quenched it immediately with AcOH (0.1 mL, 0.1 M in THF), then passing it through a small silica gel plug, eluting with THF. After evaporation, the residue analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy to determine the yield based on the relative integration values of the peaks at 4.47 ppm (for ketimine) and 3.66 ppm (for product).

### 5.1 Determination of the reaction order in ketimine.

The reaction with different concentration of ketimine (0.1 mmol, 0.2 mmol, 0.3 mmol and 0.4 mmol) at 81.3, 162.6, 243.9 and 325.2 mM were performed according to the general procedure described above except for varying the amount of ketimine added, and the results were summarized in the **Table S1** and **Figure S1** below.

**Table S1. Initial rates of varying concentration of ketimine**

[ketimine] (mM)	<i>d</i> [Product]/ <i>dt</i> (mM/h)
81.3	3.03
162.6	3.86
243.9	4.56
325.2	4.94

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoestersFigure S1. (a) Initial rate kinetic experiments for ketimine. (b) Plot of  $\ln(d[\text{Product}]/dt)$  versus  $\ln([\text{ketimine}])$

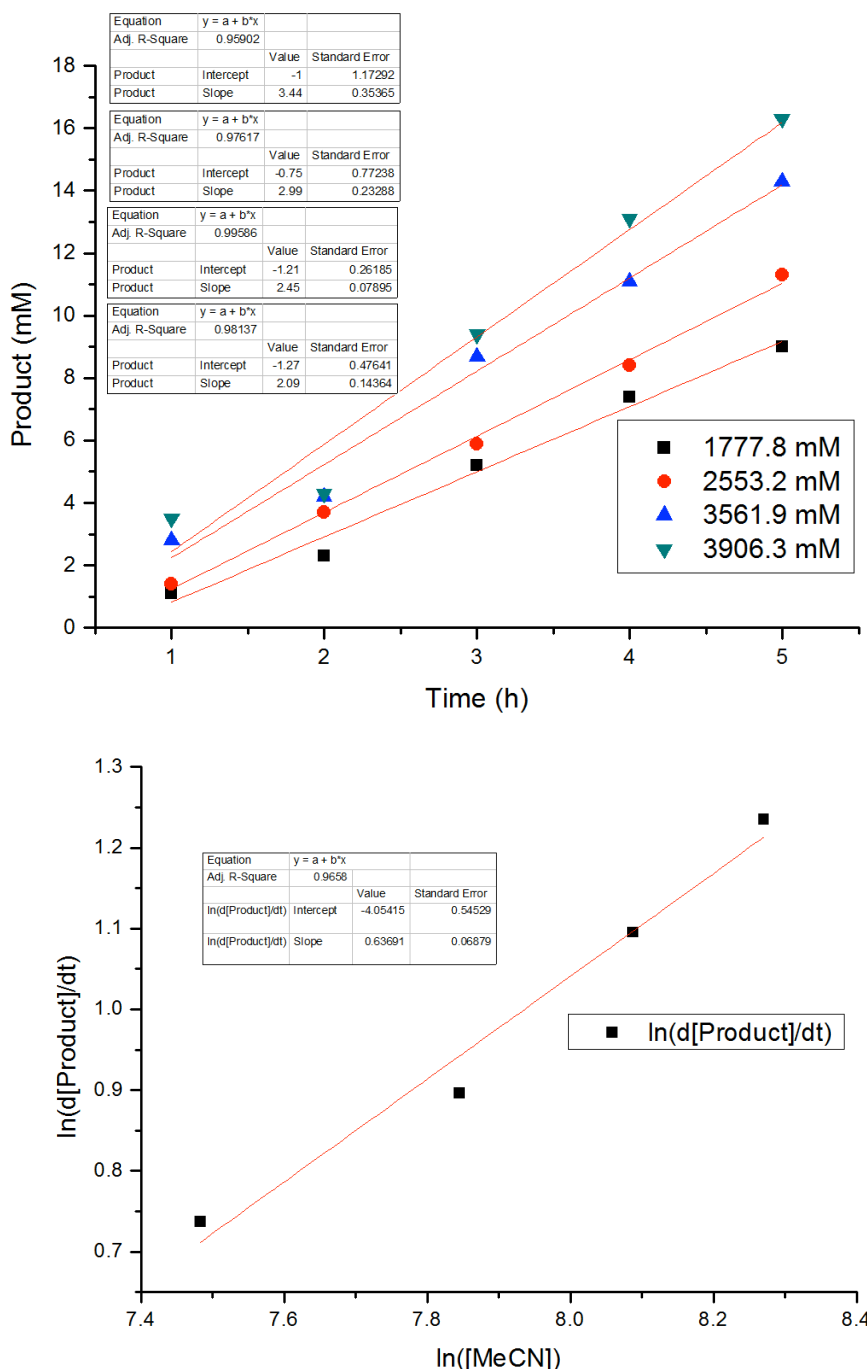
Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

## 5.2 Determination of the reaction order in MeCN.

The reaction with different concentration of MeCN (2 mmol, 3 mmol, 4 mmol and 5 mmol) at 1777.8, 2553.2, 3561.9 and 3906.3 mM were performed according to the general procedure described above except for varying the amount of MeCN added, and the results were summarized in the **Table S2** and **Figure S2** below.

**Table S2. Initial rates of varying concentration of MeCN**

[MeCN] (mM)	$d[\text{Product}]/dt$ (mM/h)
1777.8	2.09
2553.2	2.45
3561.9	2.99
3906.3	3.44



**Figure S2. (a) Initial rate kinetic experiments for MeCN. (b) Plot of  $\ln(d[\text{Product}]/dt)$  versus  $\ln([\text{MeCN}])$**



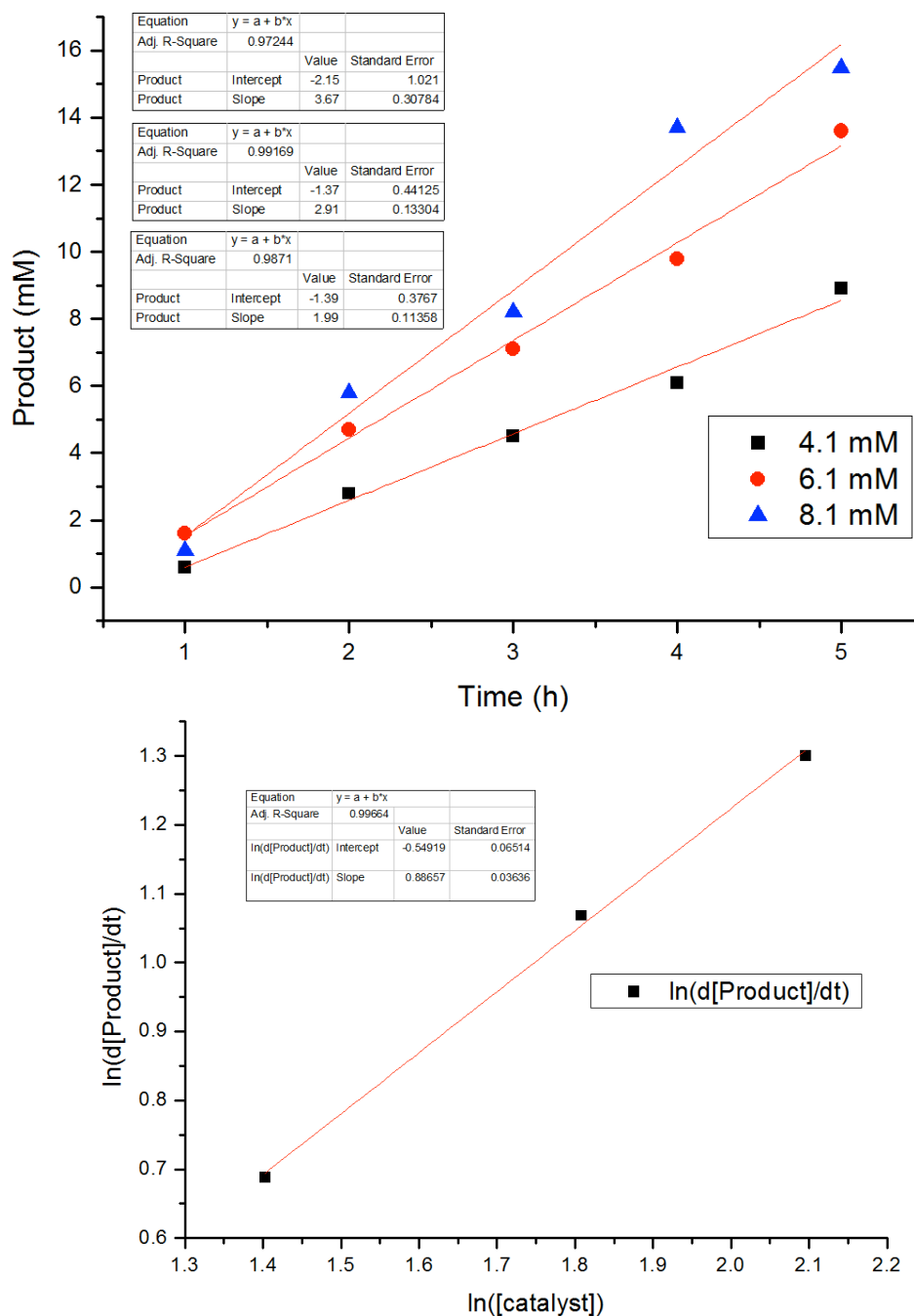
Enantioselective synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids via direct catalytic asymmetric addition of acetonitrile to  $\alpha$ -iminoesters

### 5.3 Determination of the reaction order in catalyst.

The reaction with different concentration of catalyst (5 mol%, 7.5 mol% and 10 mol%) at 4.1, 6.1 and 8.1 mM were performed according to the general procedure described above except for varying the amount of catalyst added, and the results were summarized in the **Table S3** and **Figure S3** below.

**Table S3. Initial rates of varying concentration of catalyst**

[Catalyst] (mM)	$d[\text{Product}]/dt$ (mM/h)
4.1	1.99
6.1	2.91
8.1	3.67



**Figure S3. (a) Initial rate kinetic experiments for catalyst. (b) Plot of  $\ln(d[\text{Product}]/dt)$  versus  $\ln([\text{catalyst}])$**

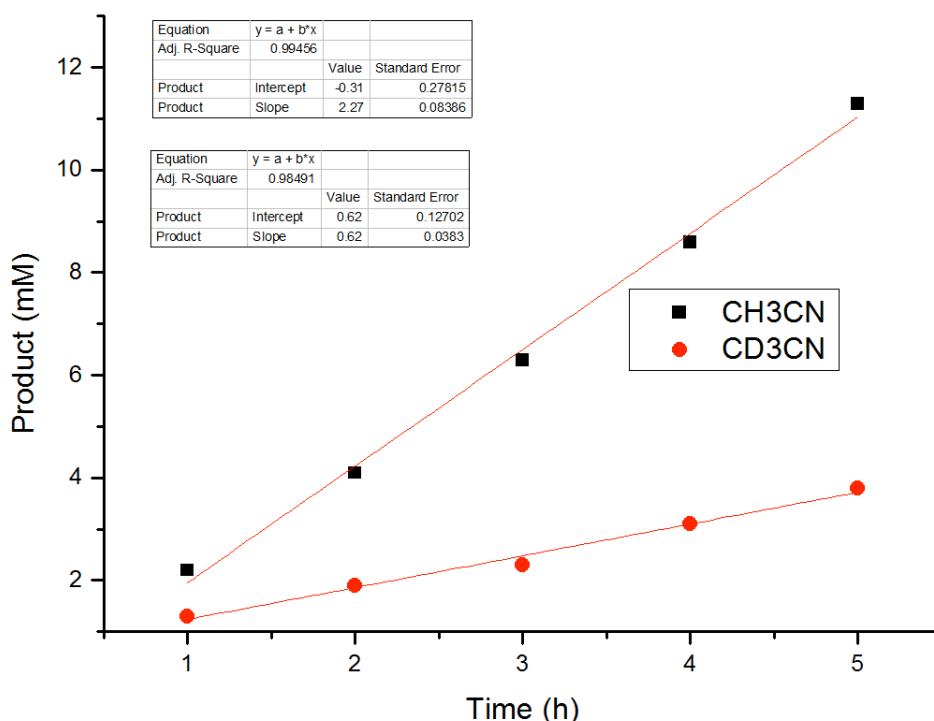
## 6. Kinetic Isotope Effects

A flame-dried 20 mL test tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and 3-way glass stopcock was charged with  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})(\text{OMe})_2]$  (3.3 mg, 0.005 mmol), NHC precursor (5.0 mg, 0.01 mmol) under Ar atmosphere and THF (0.5 mL) was added at room temperature, then Barton's base (20.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.1 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h and then cooled to 0  $^\circ\text{C}$ . *para-F* Substituted ketimine (0.1 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added via a gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. Then MeCN (210  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4 mmol) was added via a gas-tight syringe with a stainless steel needle under an Ar atmosphere. Aliquots were taken at 1 h intervals by removing a small amount (ca. 0.1 mL) of the reaction solution and quenched it immediately with AcOH (0.1 mL, 0.1 M in THF), then passing it through a small silica gel plug, eluting with THF. After evaporation, the residue analyzed by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy to determine the yield based on the relative integration values of the peaks at  $-103.5$  ppm (for ketimine) and  $-112.4$  (for product).

The reaction with  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  was performed independently under the identical reaction condition. The results were summarized in the **Table S4** and **Figure S4** below. Based on the slopes in **Figure S4**, the value of kinetic isotope effect was calculated to be  $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = 2.27/0.62 = 3.7$ , suggesting the presence of primary kinetic isotope effects.

**Table S4.** Comparison of initial rates of  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$

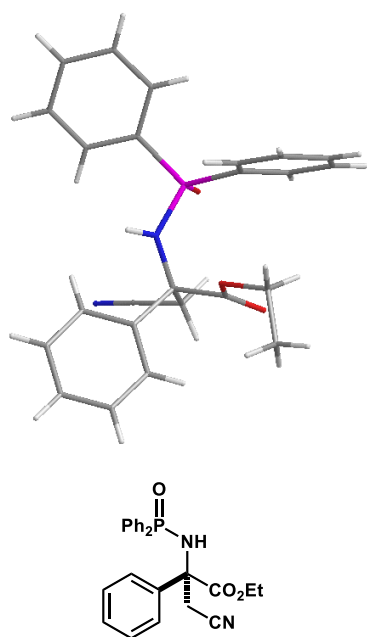
Time (h)	[Product] (mM)/ $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	[Product] (mM)/ $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$
1h	2.2	1.3
2h	4.1	1.9
3h	6.3	2.3
4h	8.6	3.1
5h	11.3	3.8



**Figure S4.** Initial rate kinetic experiments for  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$

## 7. Determination of Absolute Configuration

To **8a** (after enrichment by chiral stationary phase HPLC) in a mixture of EtOAc/AcOH (v/v: 4/1), (5 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (35 wt %), (1.0 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution after **8a** disappeared on TLC at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and concentration under reduced pressure, the obtained crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford **S1**. **S1** in Et<sub>2</sub>O was left at room temperature to grow a single crystal. Single-crystal X-ray data were collected on a Rigaku R-Axis RAPID II imaging plate area detector with graphite-monochromated Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation. Data collection was conducted at 93 K. All structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full matrix least-squares against  $F^2$  with all reflections. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined using the riding model. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S1 and Table S1. The absolute and relative configuration of **S1** was determined to be as depicted below by Flack parameter.<sup>3</sup> CCDC 1498698 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **S1**.

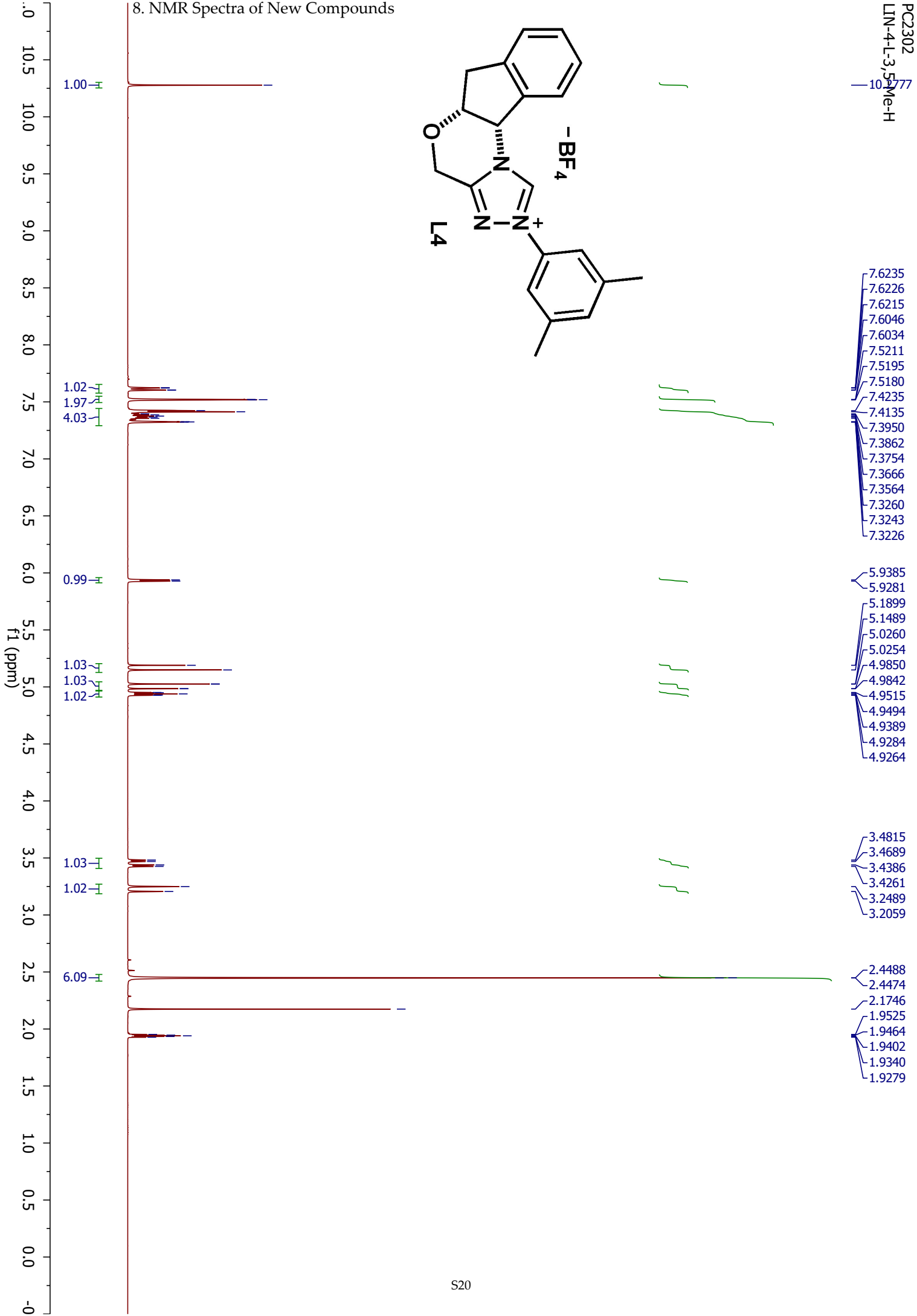
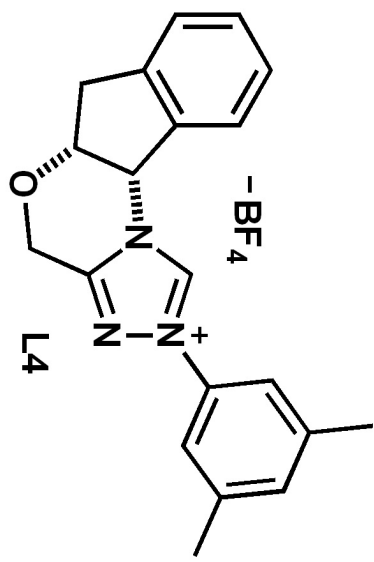


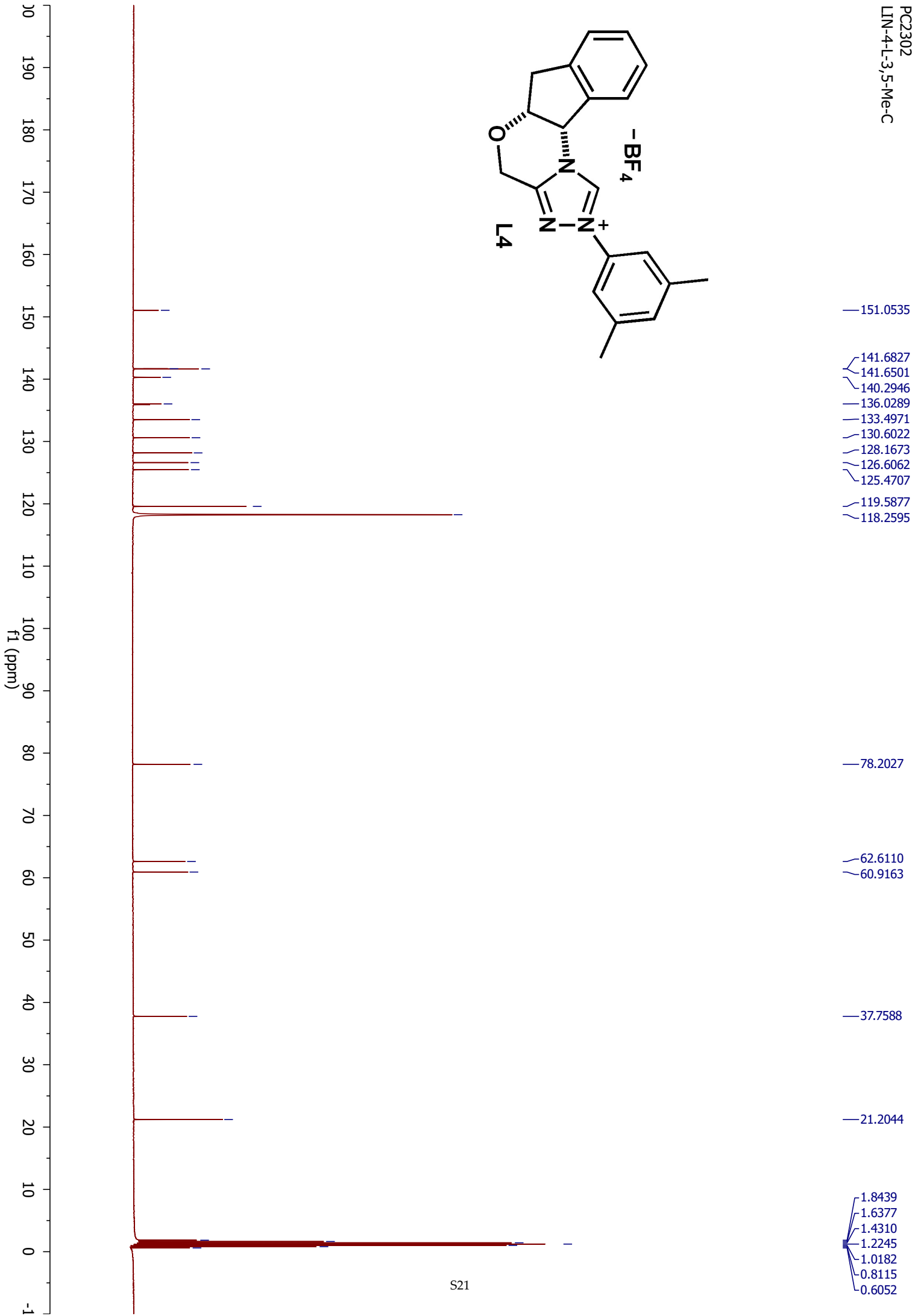
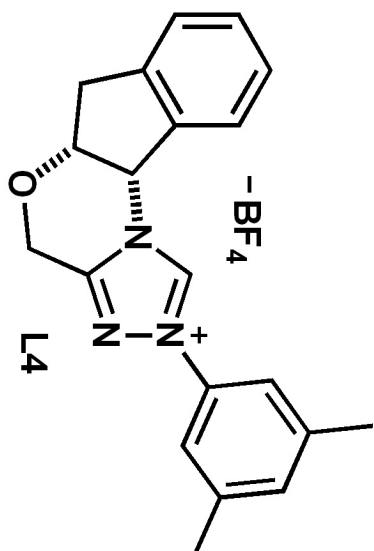
**Figure S1.** The structure of **S1** in the solid state. Color code: White: hydrogen; gray: carbon; blue: nitrogen; red: oxygen; purple: phosphorus.

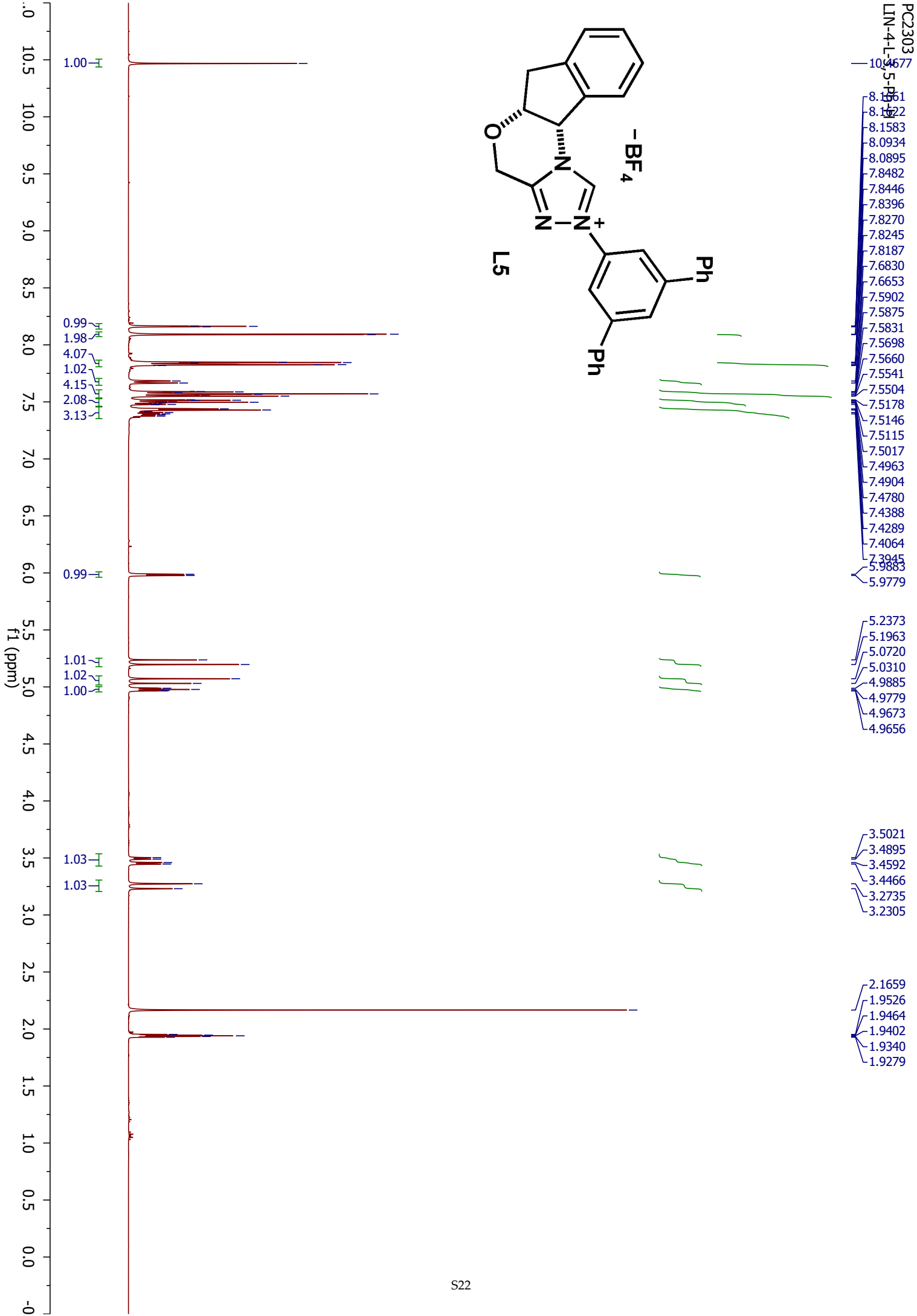
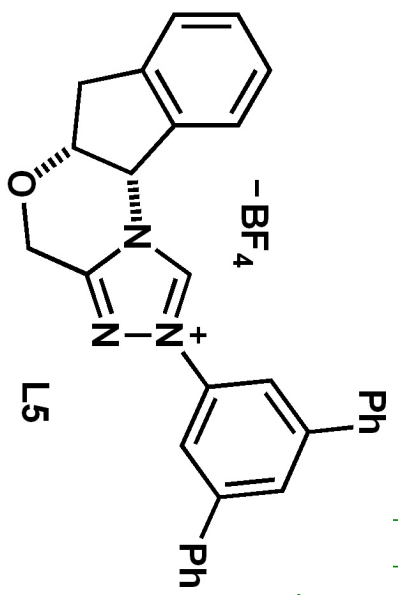
**Table S1.** Selected Crystallographic Data of **S1**

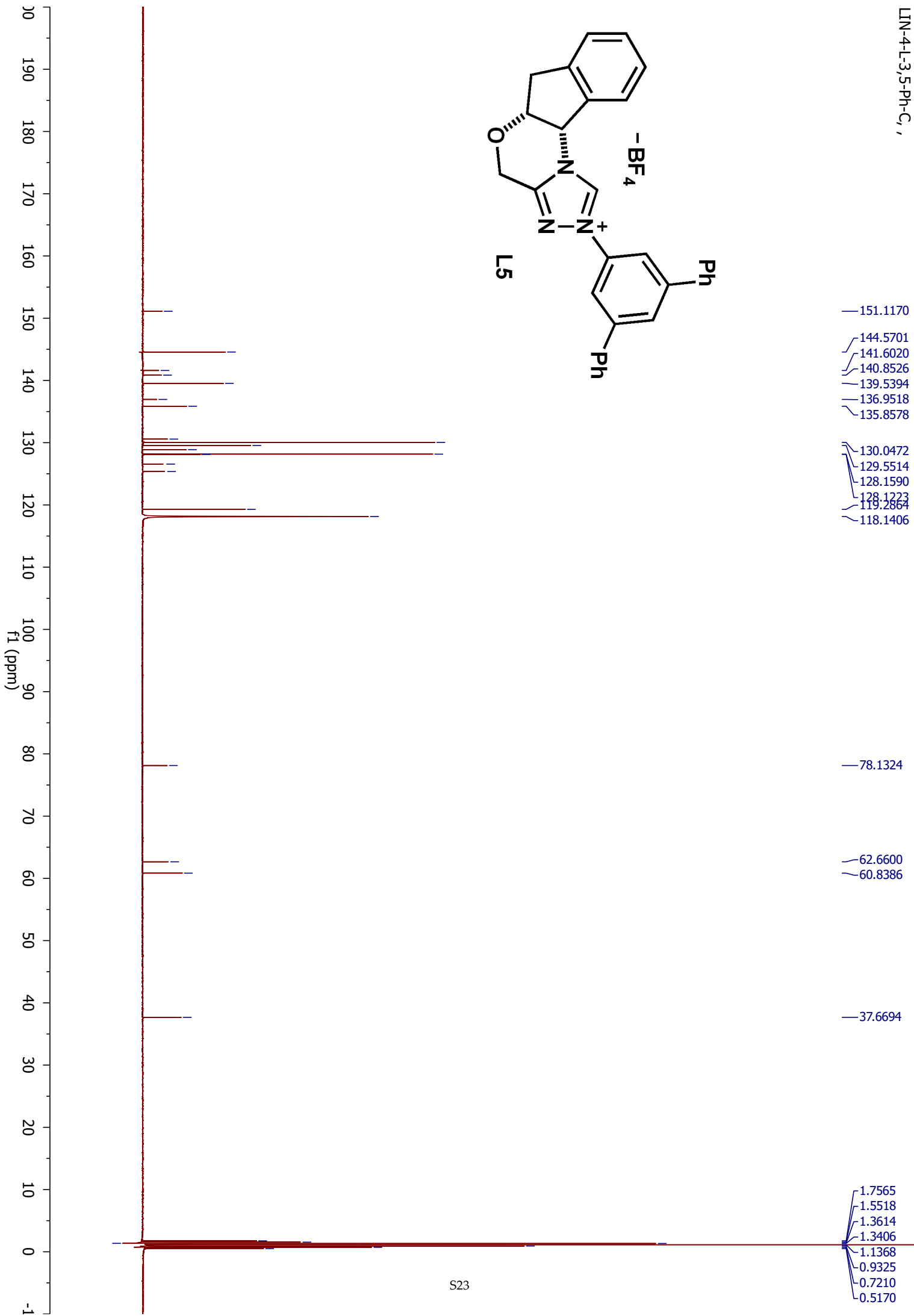
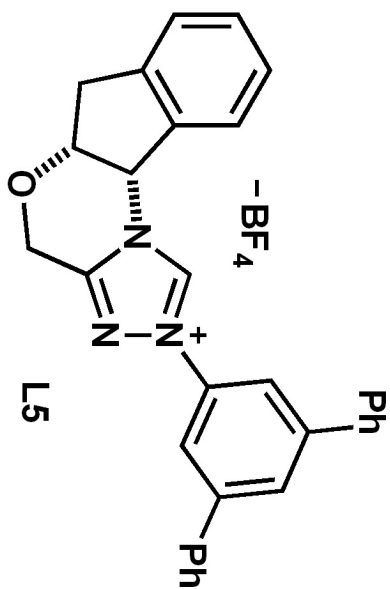
	<b>S1</b>
molecular formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P
formula weight	418.43
crystal color, habit	colorless, needle
crystal system	orthorhombic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> (#19)
cell constants:	
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.03760(18)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.6437(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	18.2329(3)
$\alpha$ (deg)	90.0000
$\beta$ (deg)	90.0000
$\gamma$ (deg)	90.0000
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2130.97(7)
<i>Z</i>	4
$\rho_{\text{calcd.}}$ (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.304
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub>	0.0653
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub>	0.1523
<i>F</i> (000)	880.00
Flack parameter	0.012(13)

The relative and absolute configurations of other products were deduced by analogy.

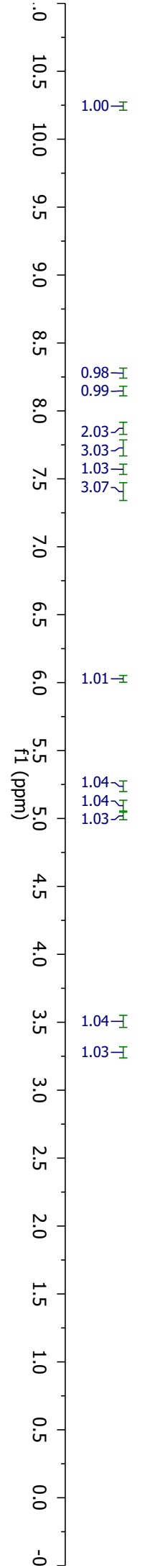
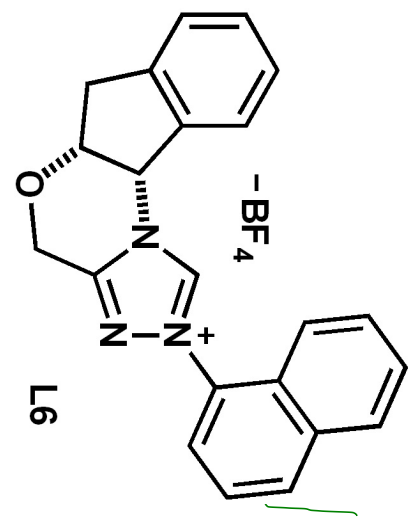




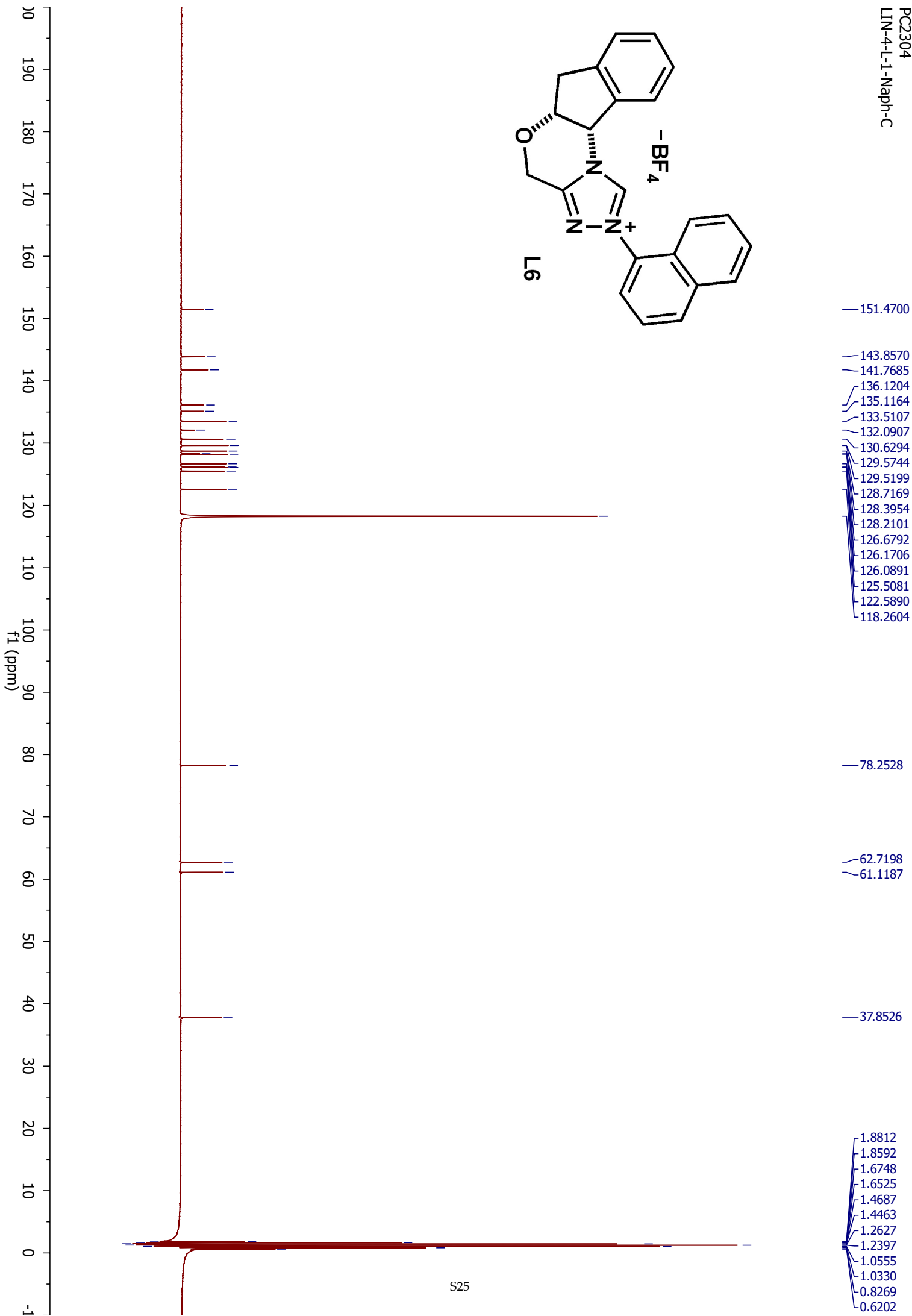
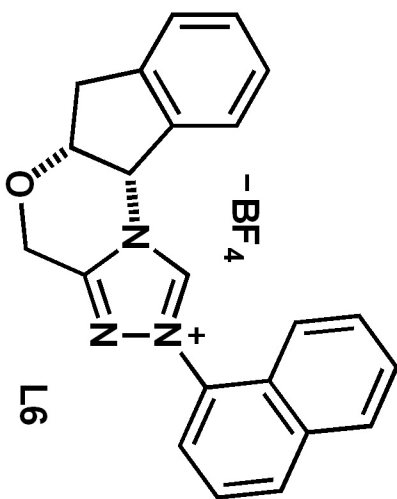


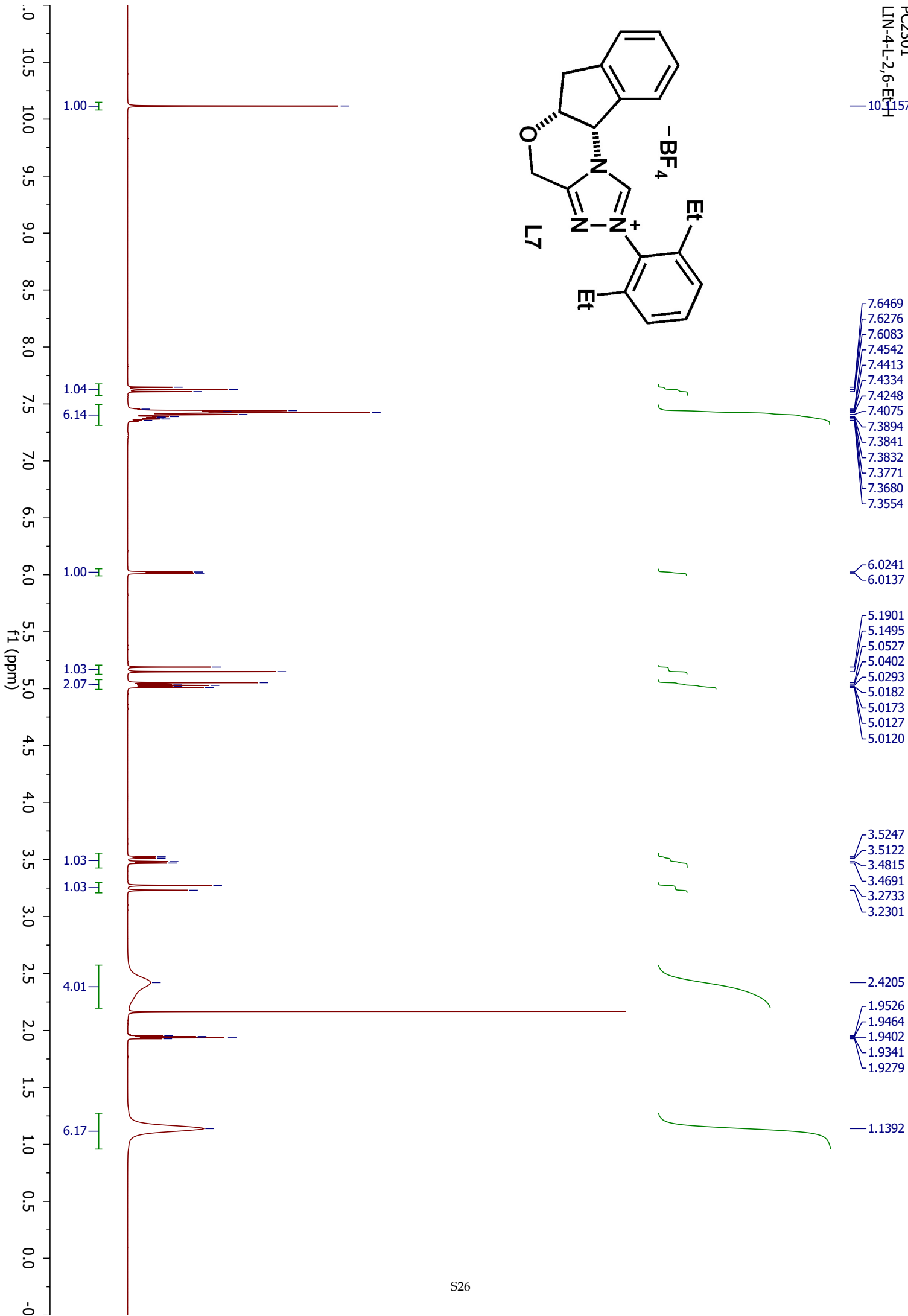
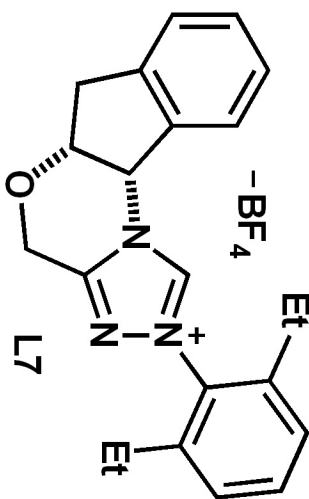


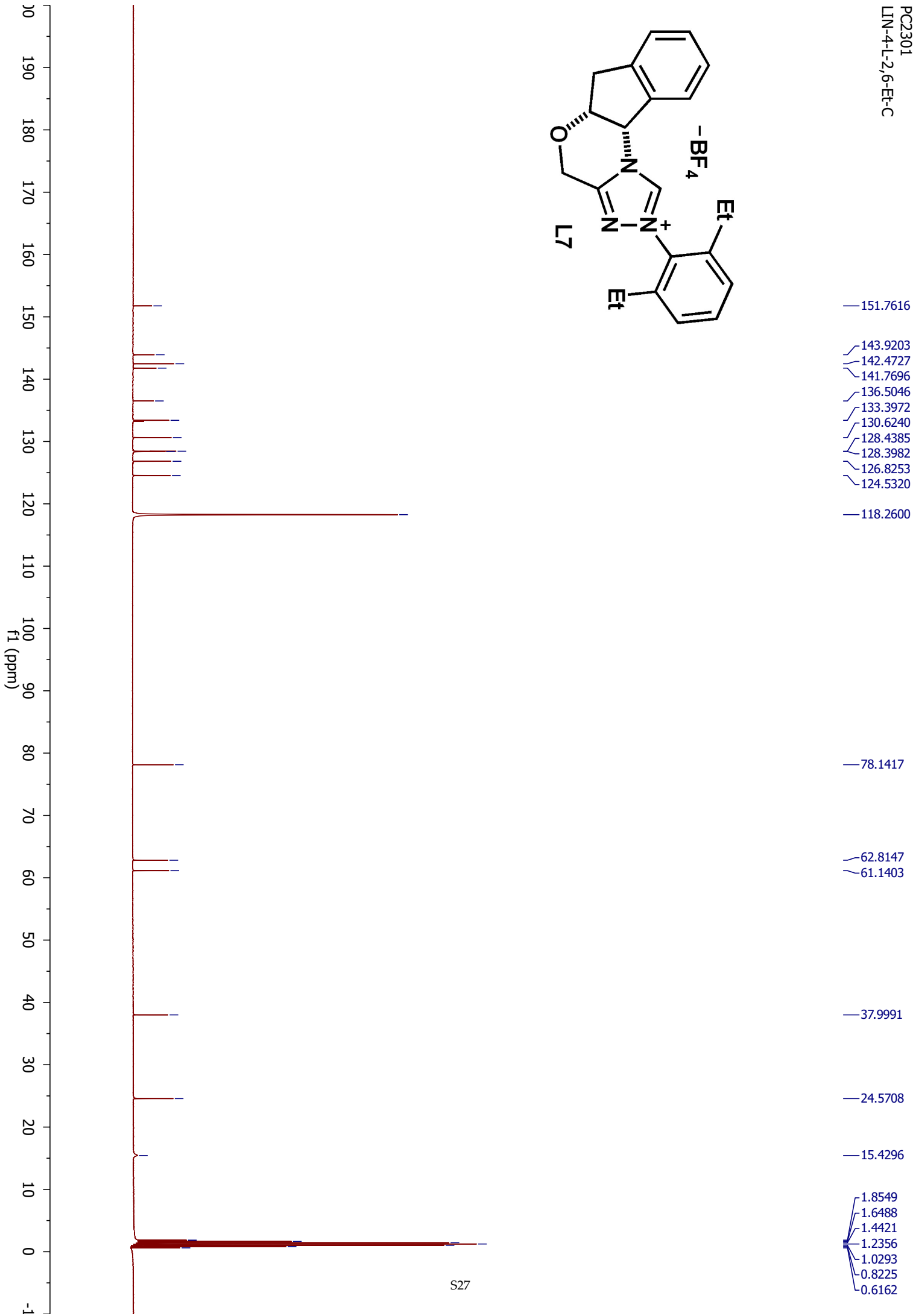
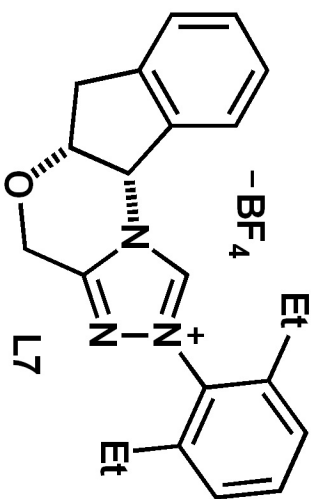
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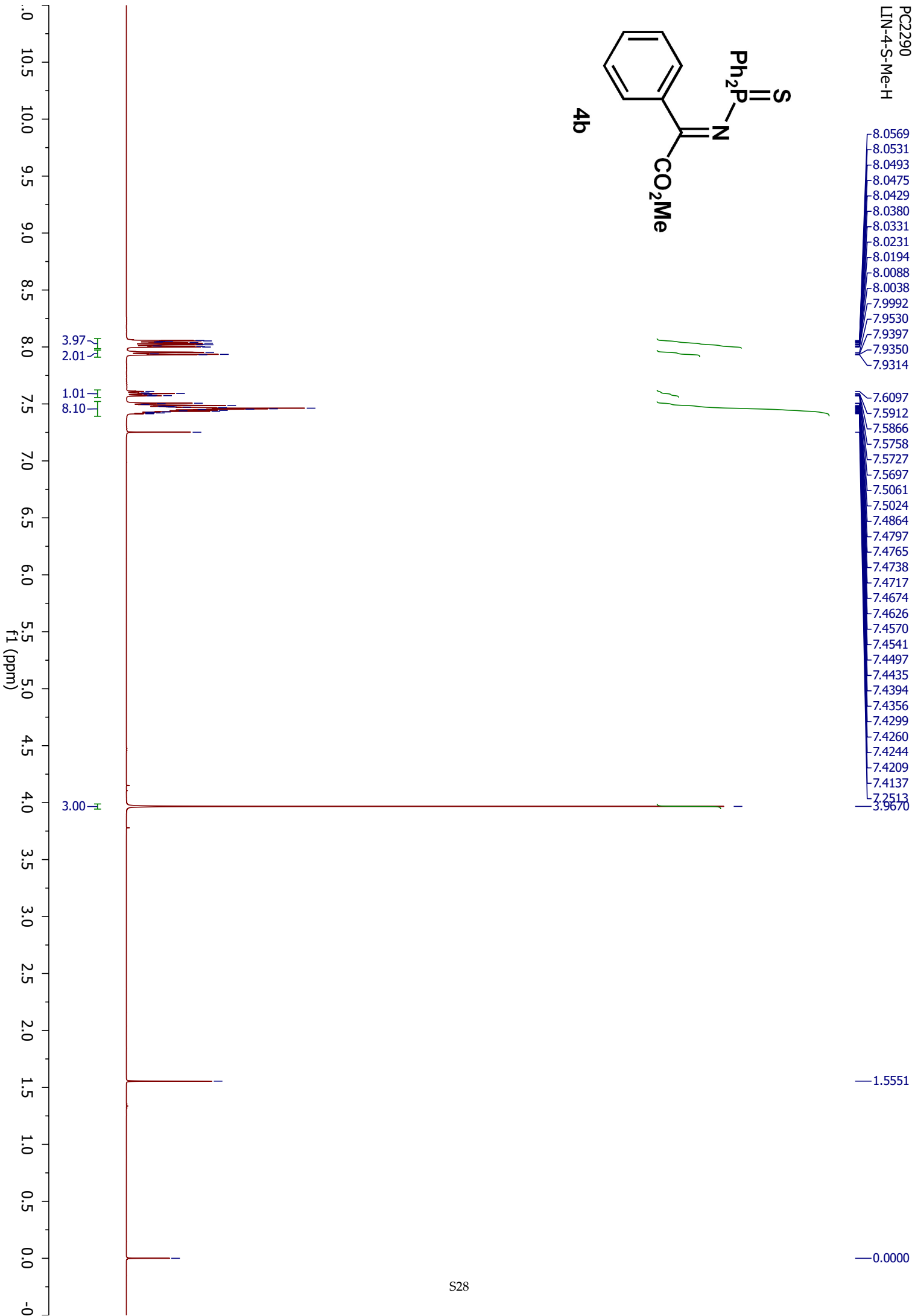
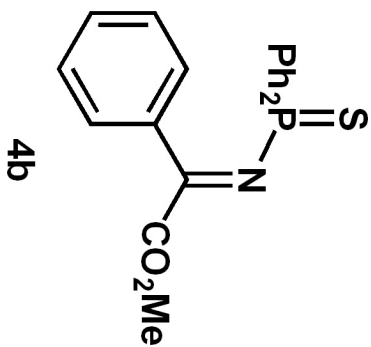


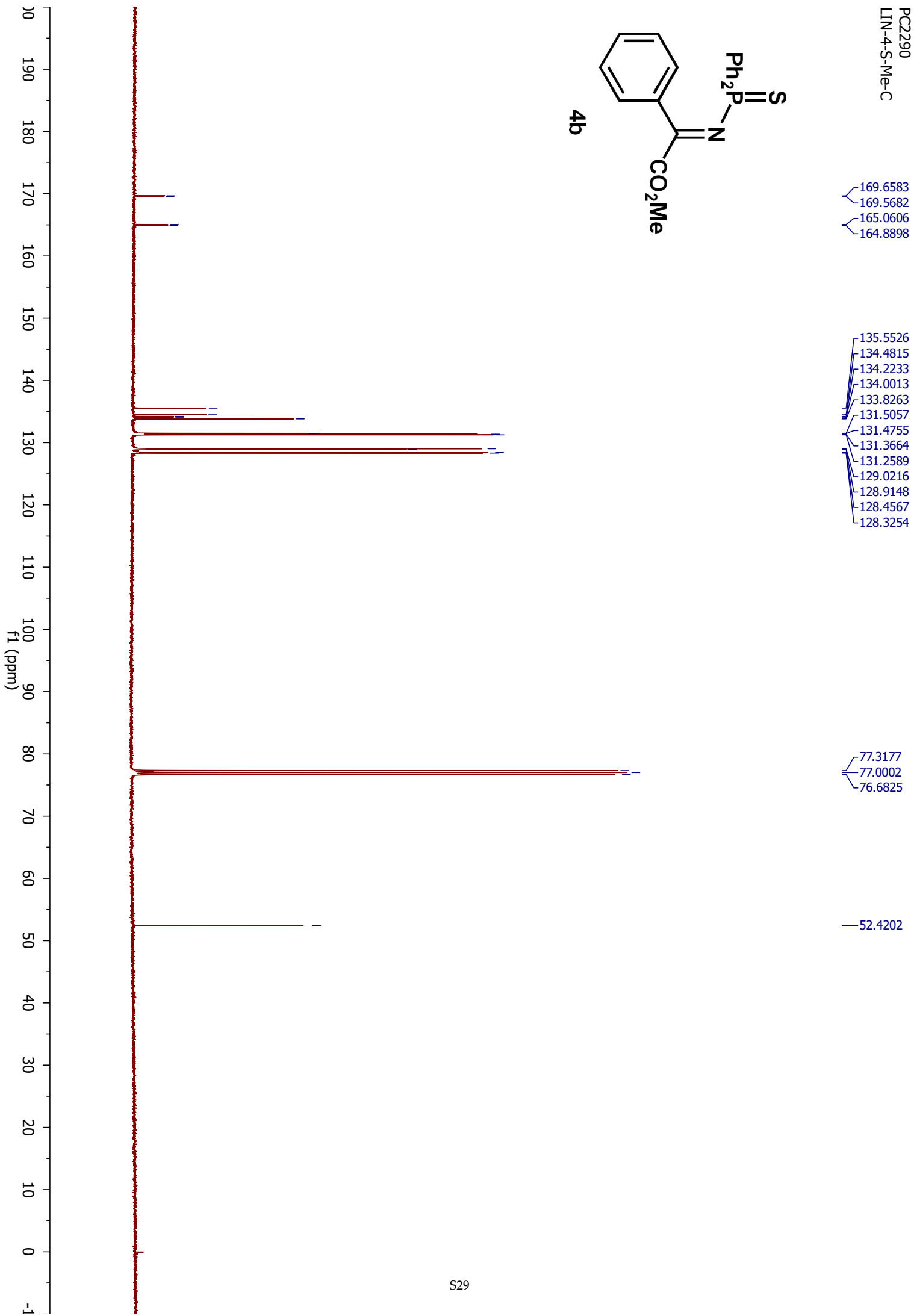
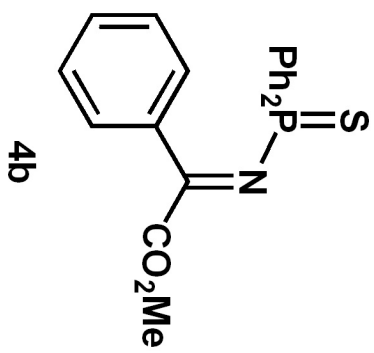


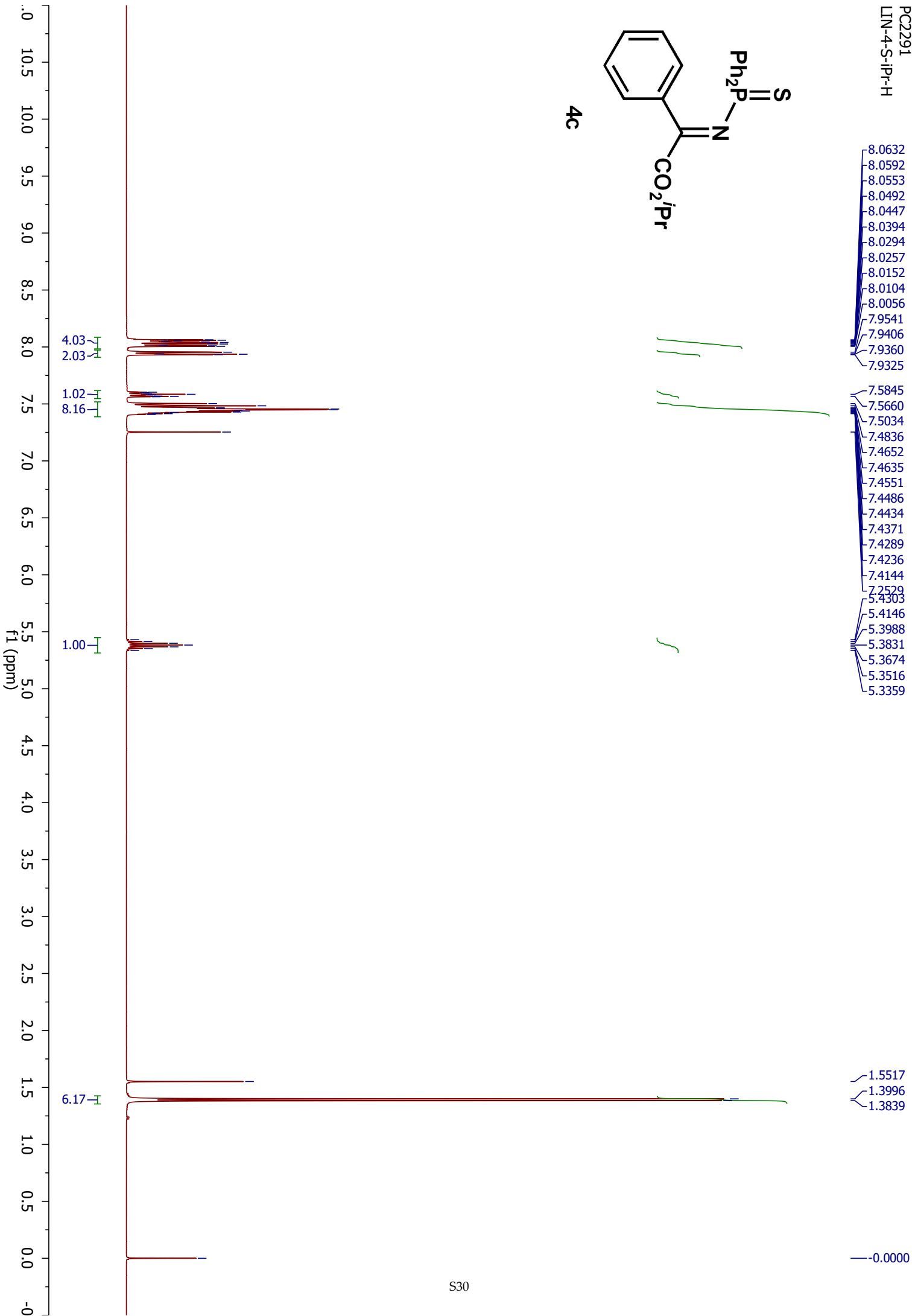
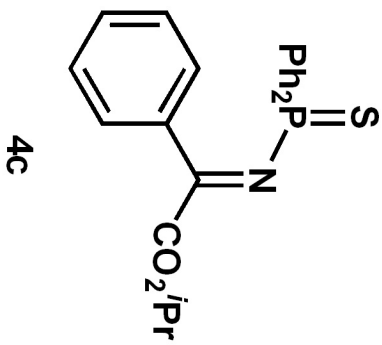


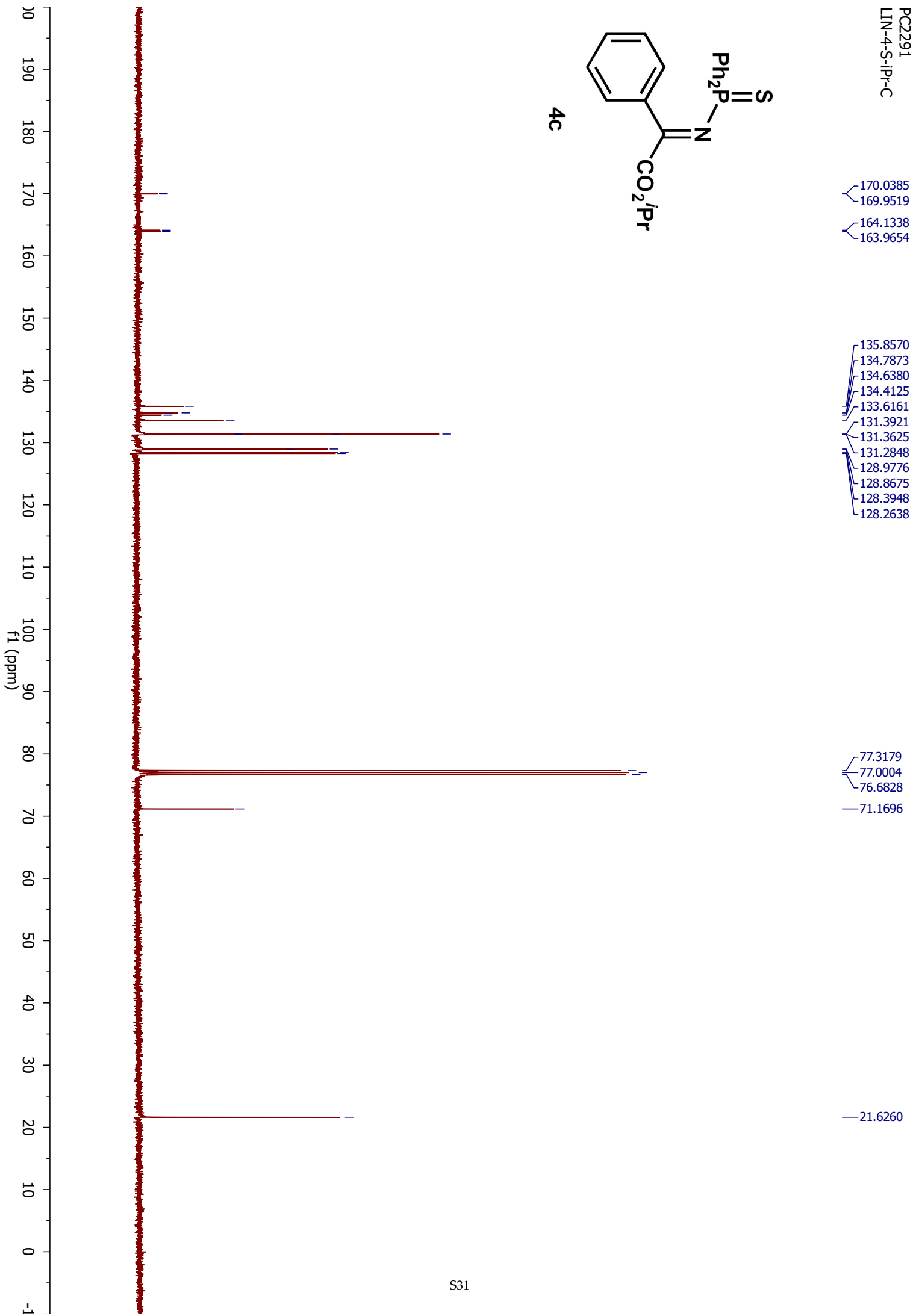
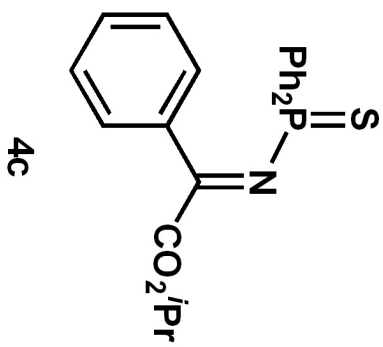


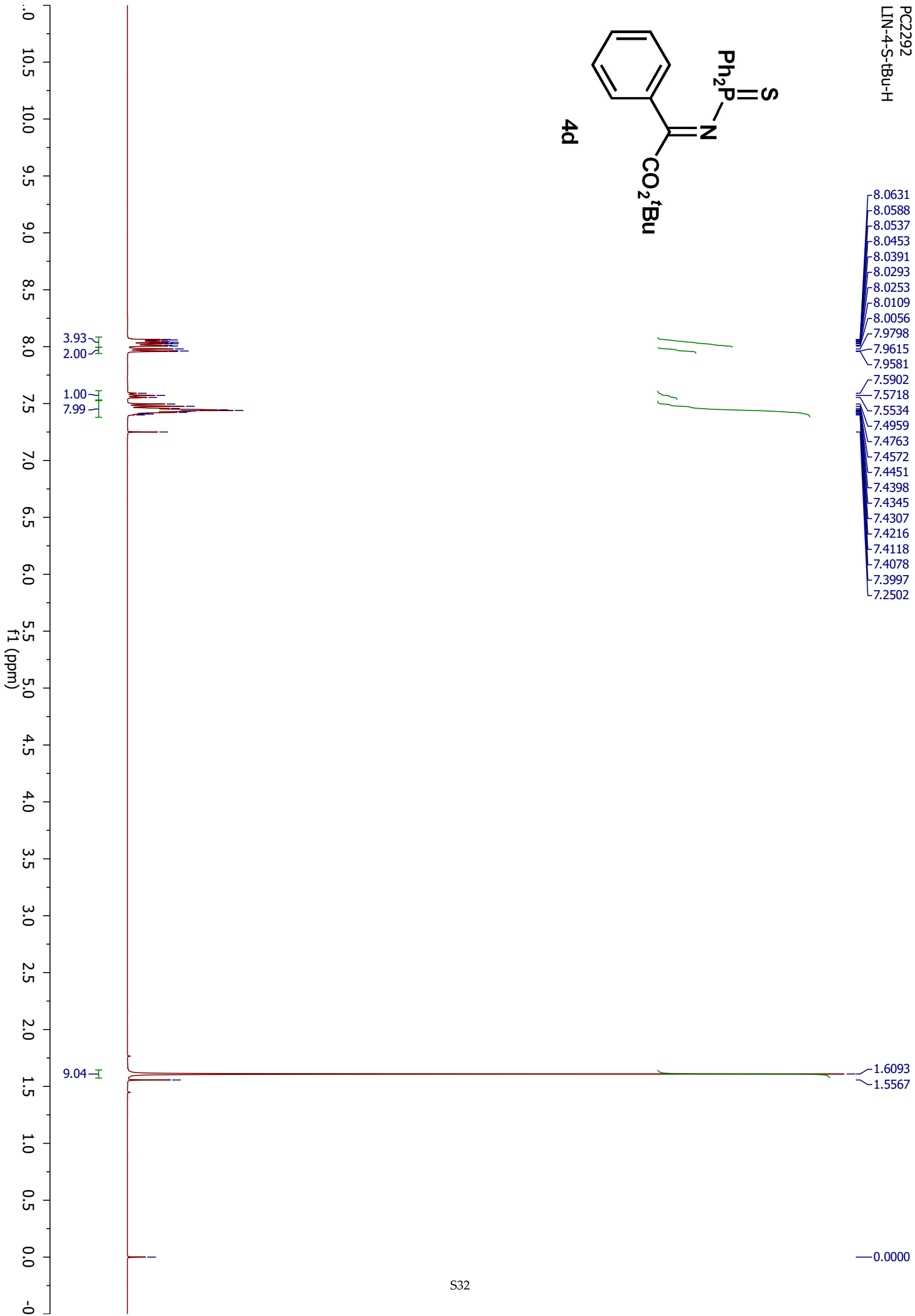
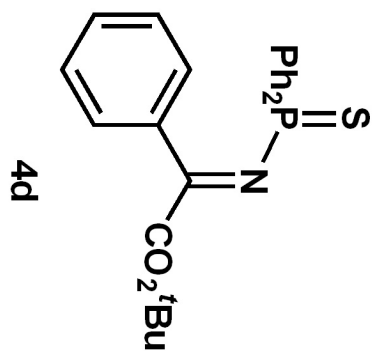




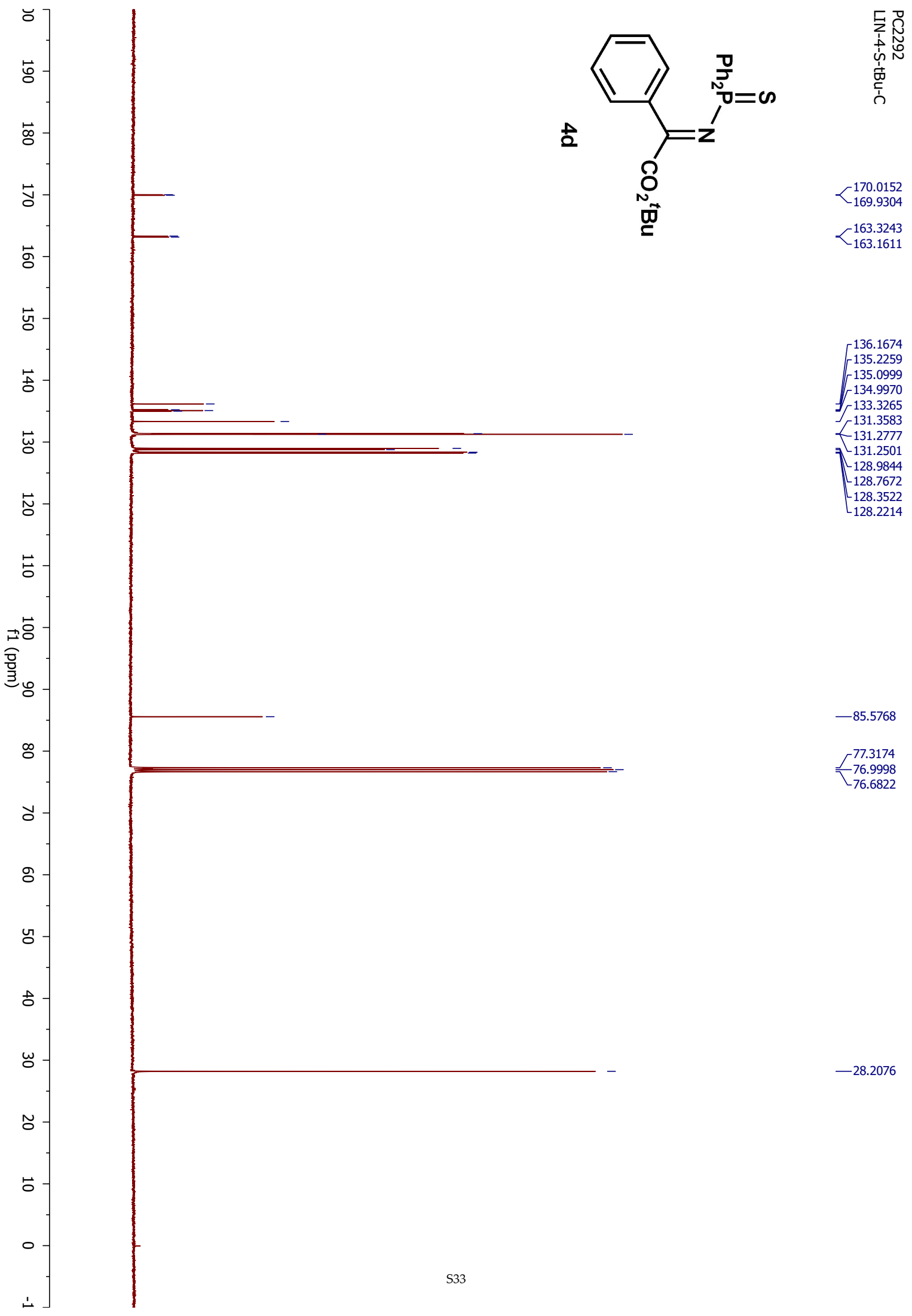
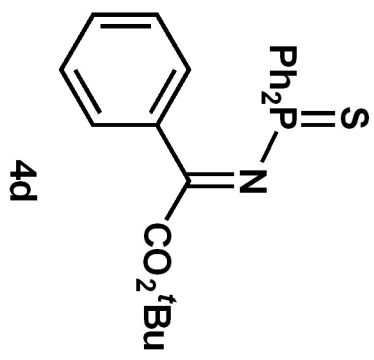




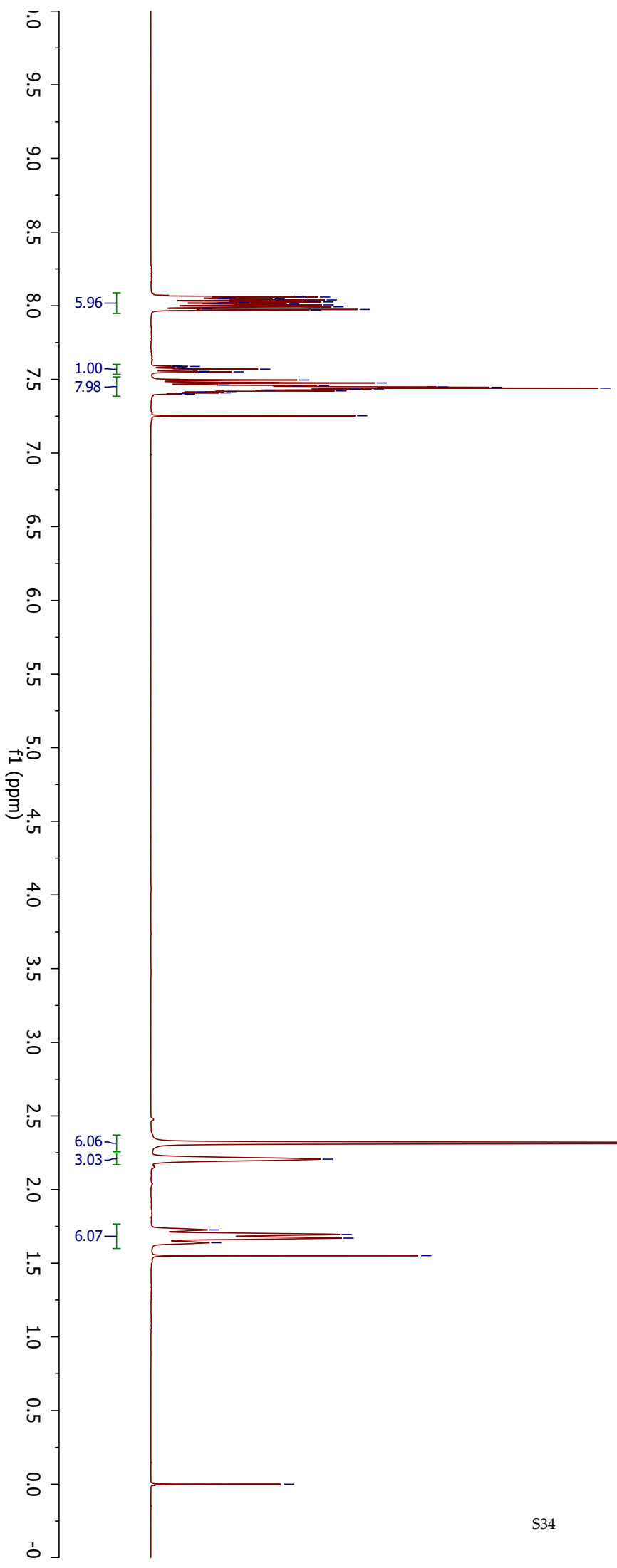
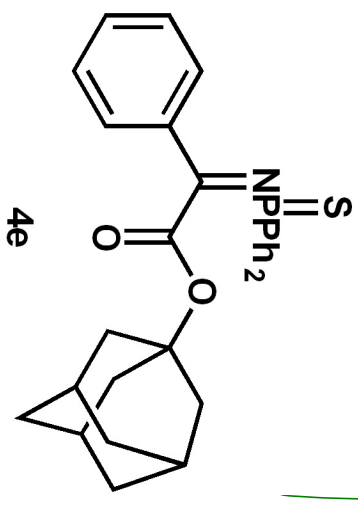






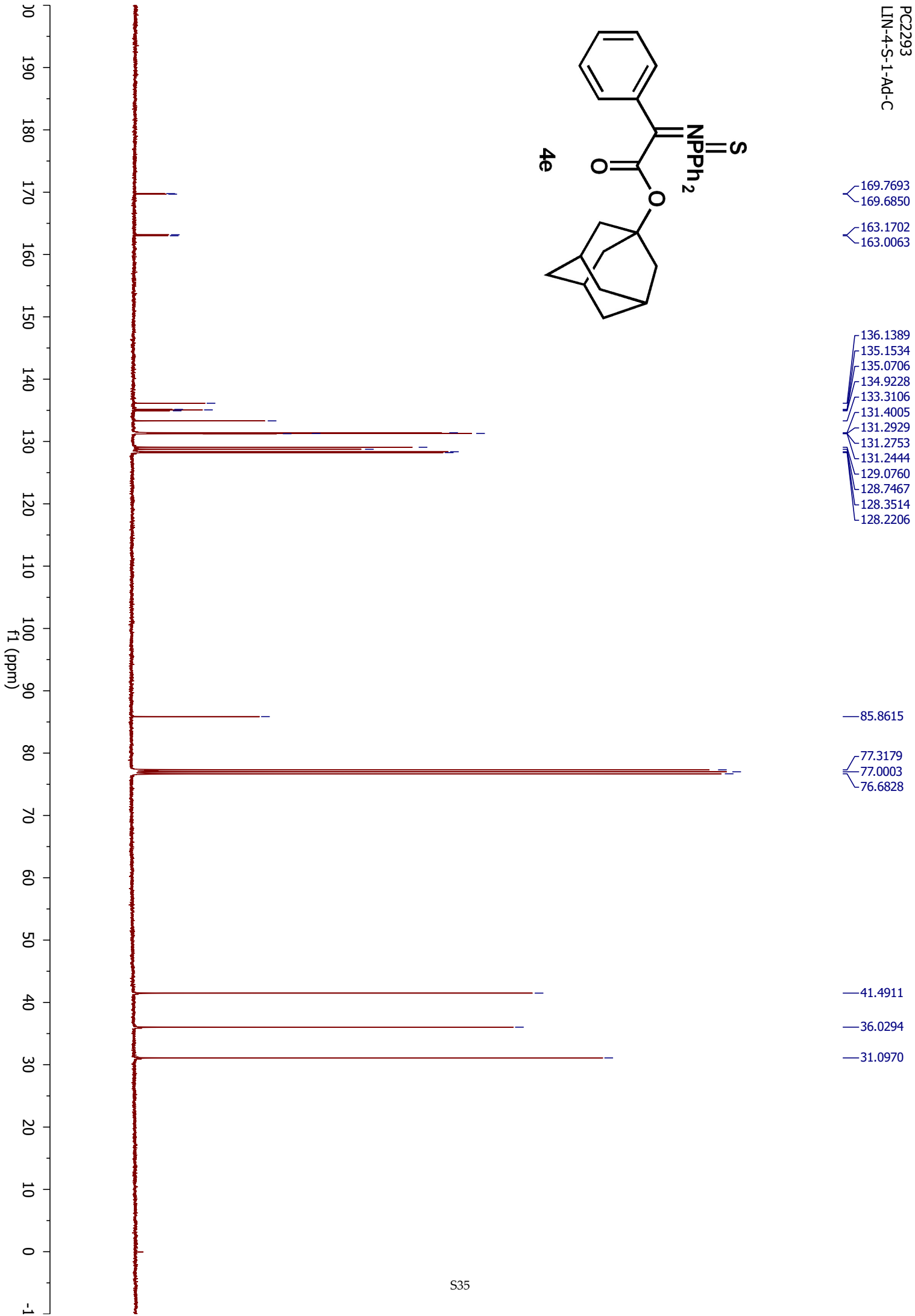
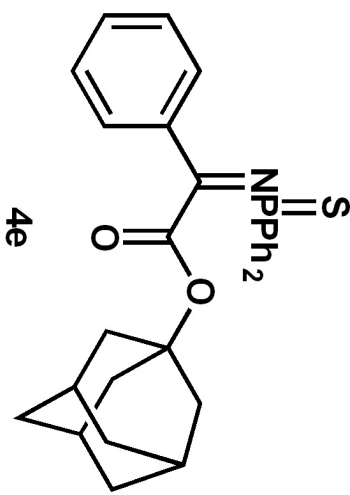


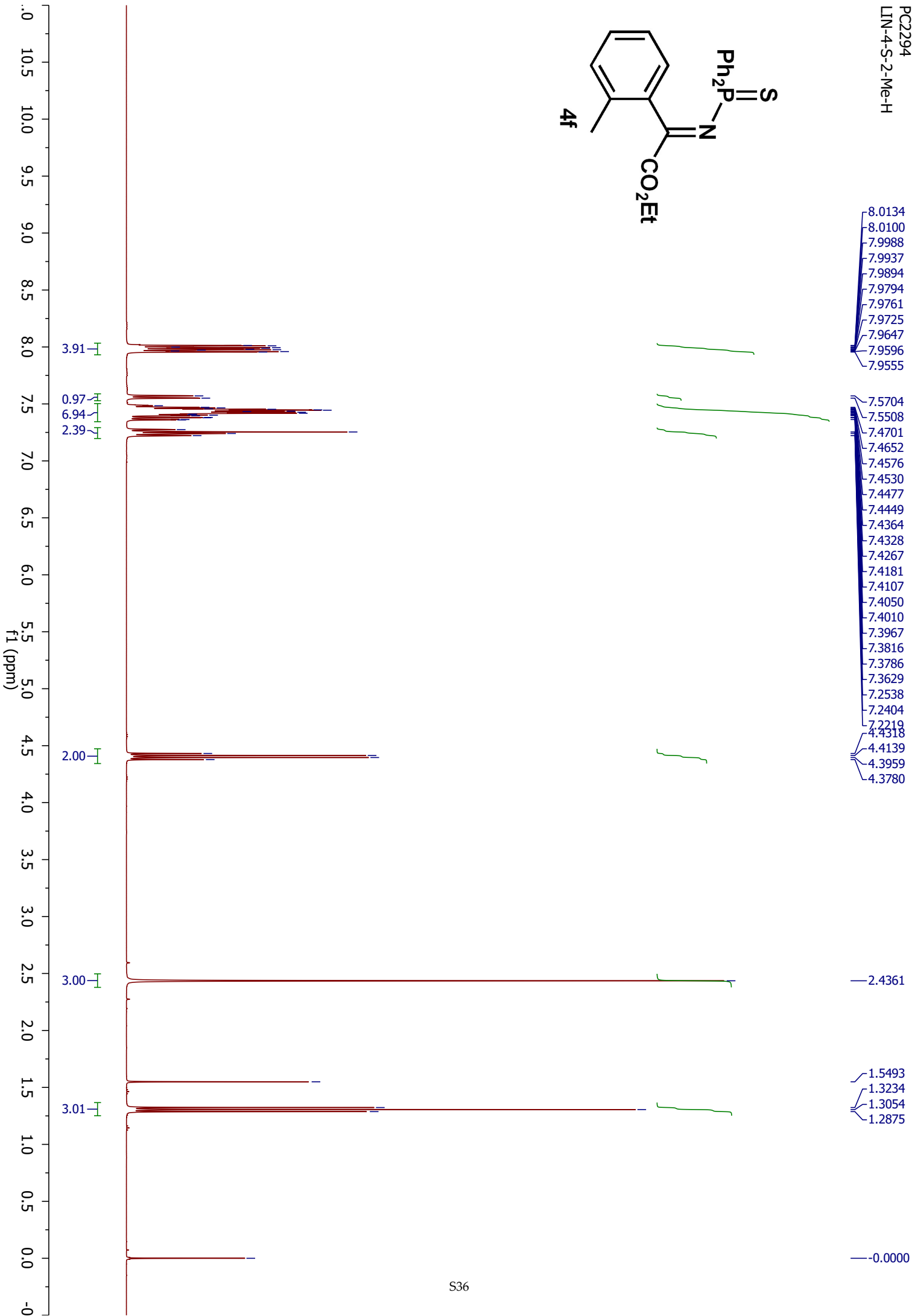
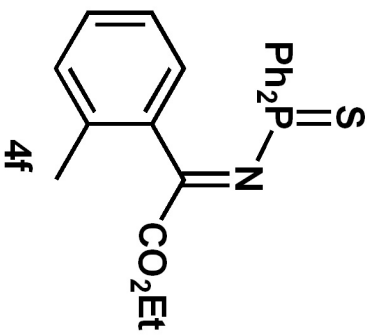
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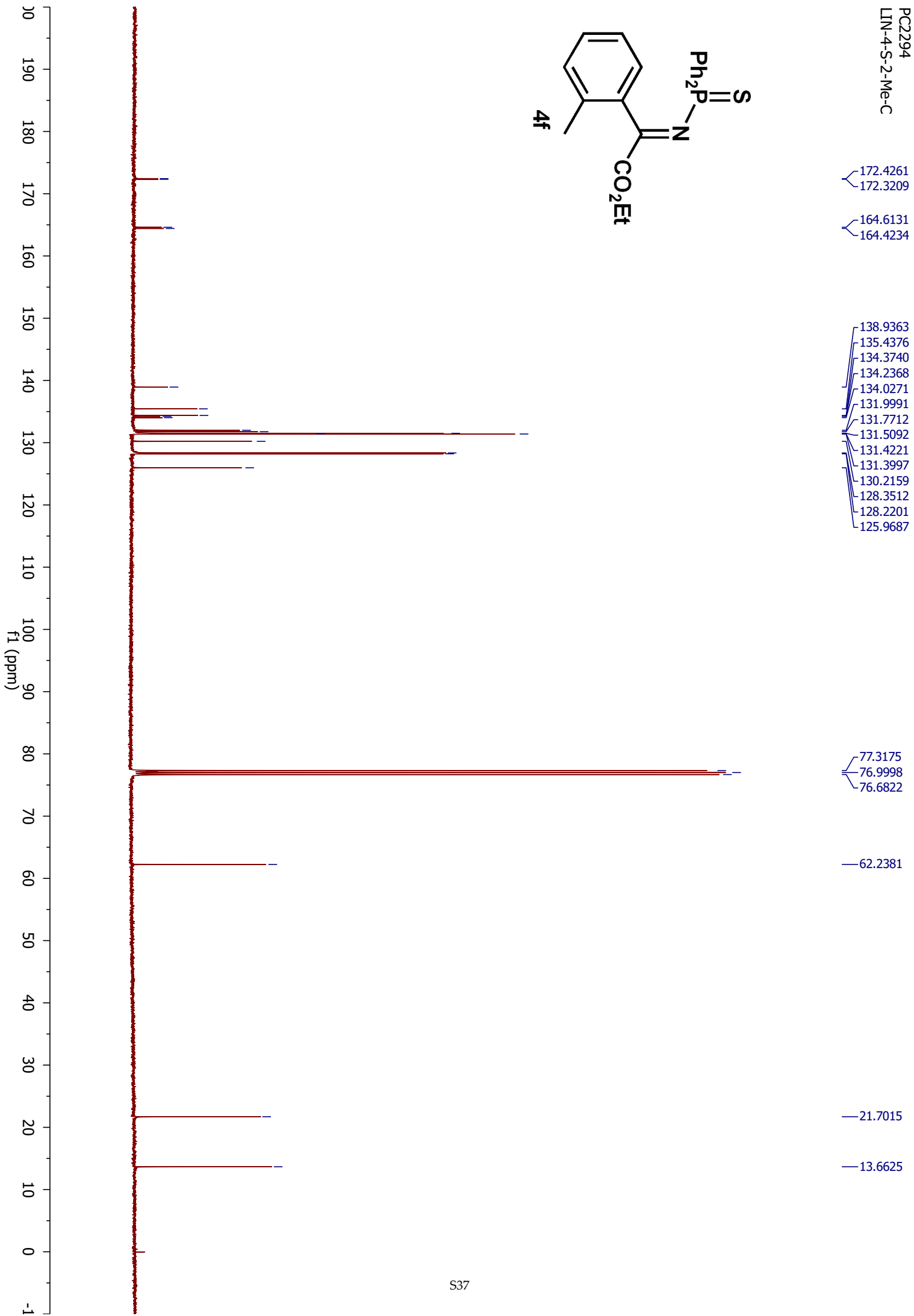
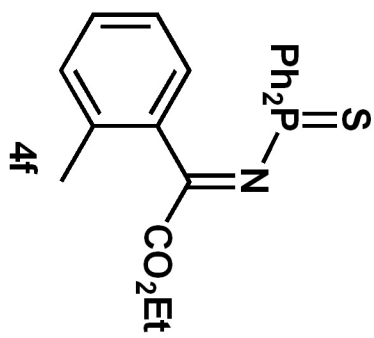


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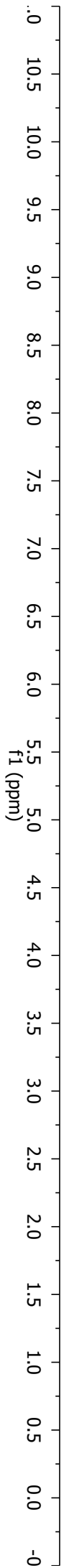
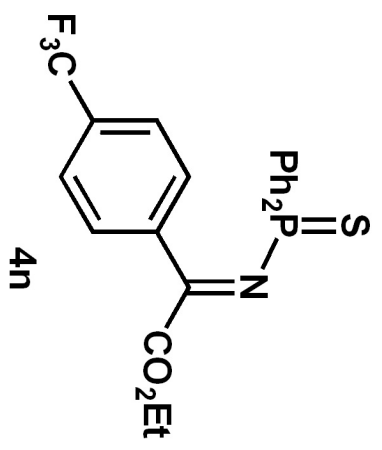


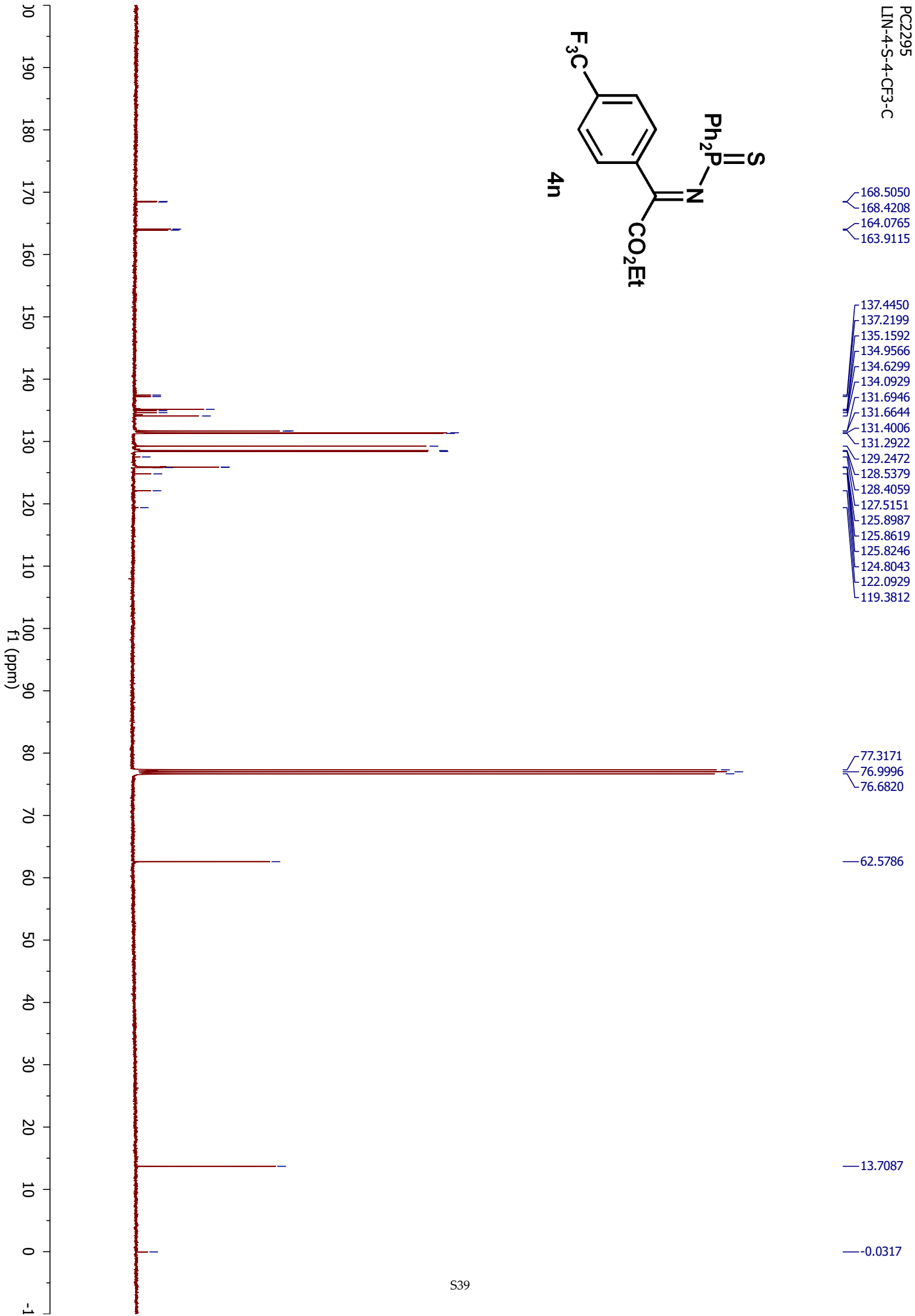
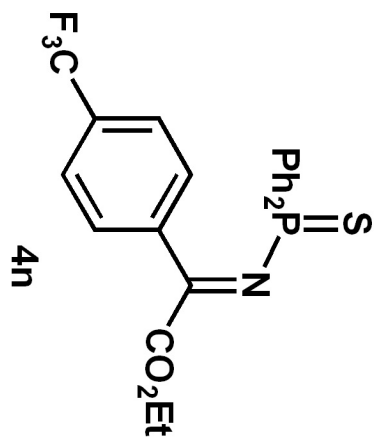
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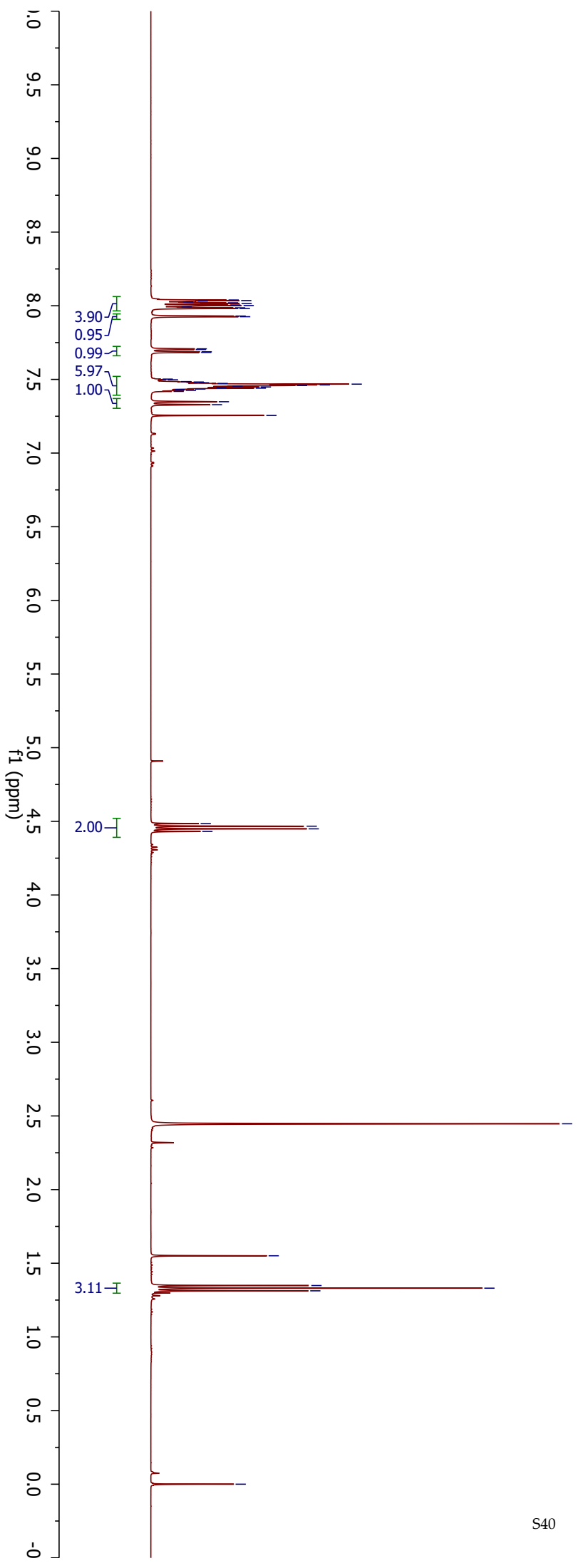
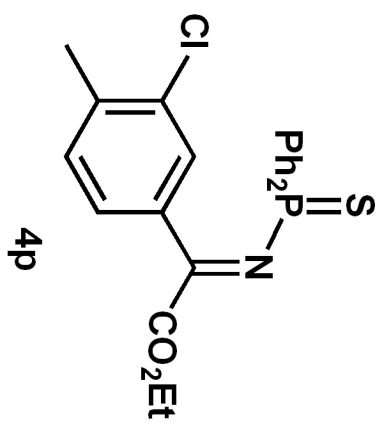
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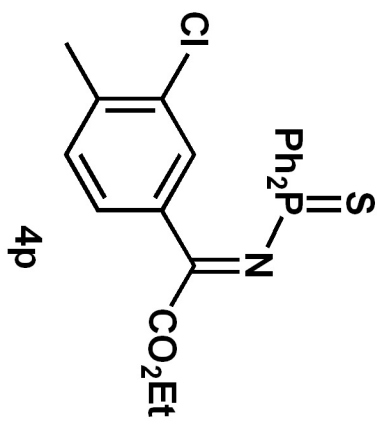
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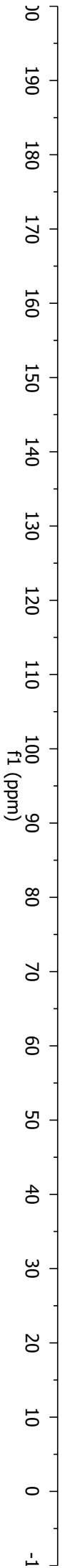
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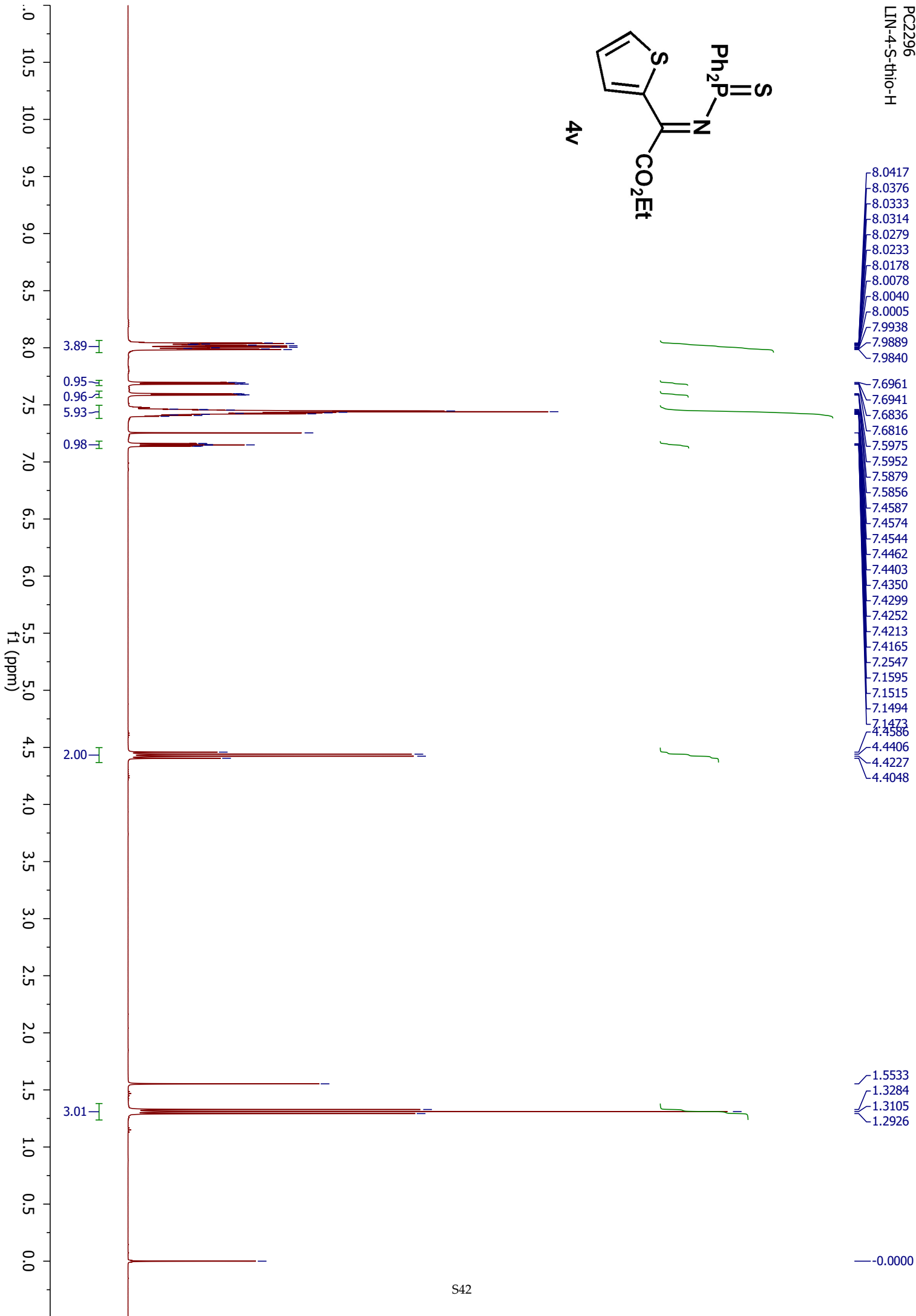
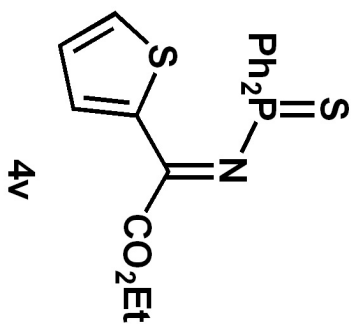
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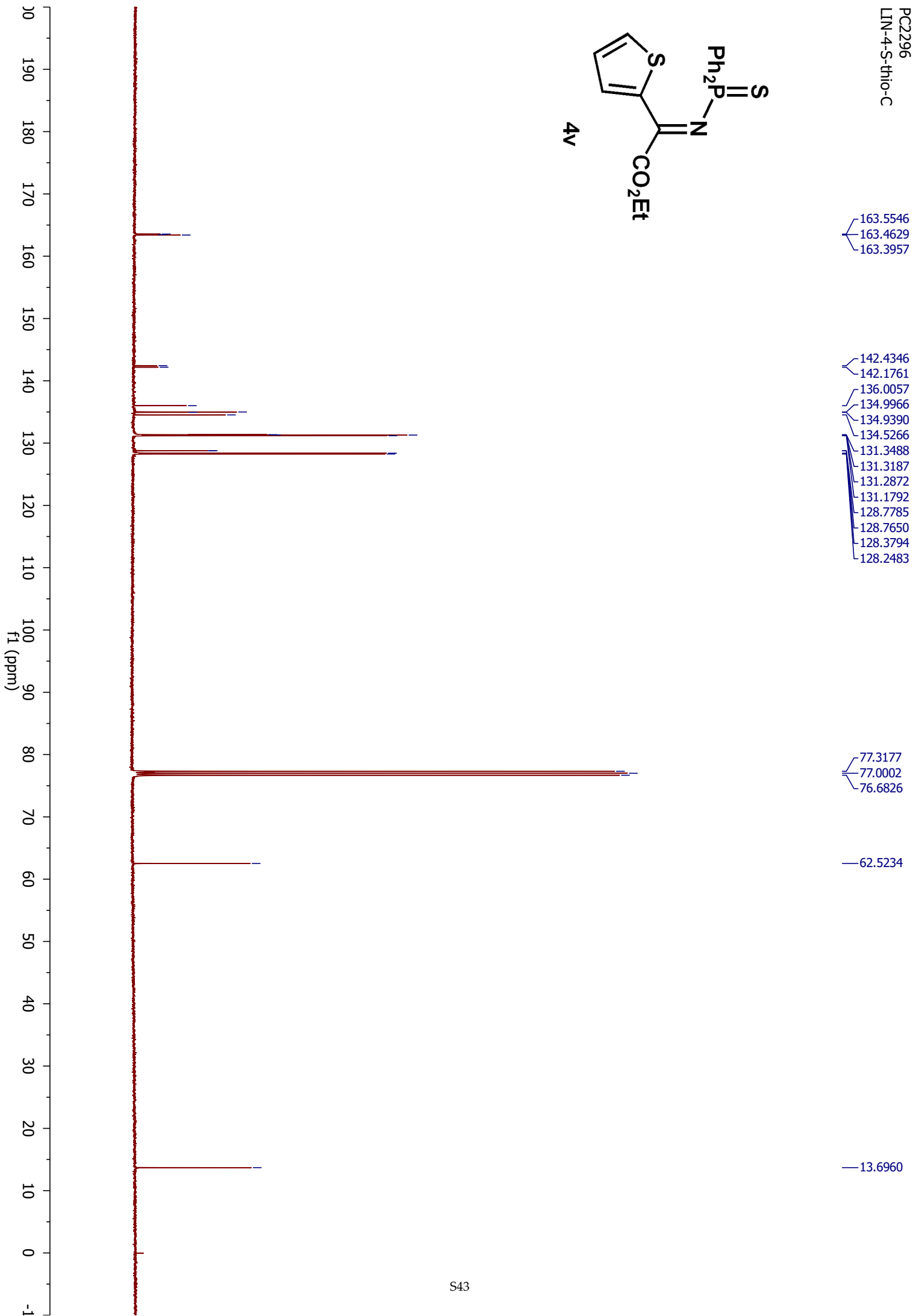
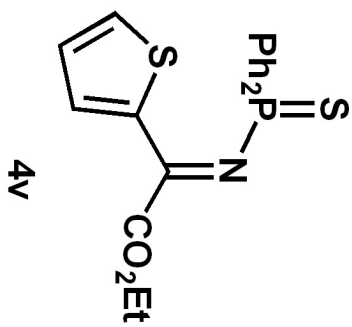
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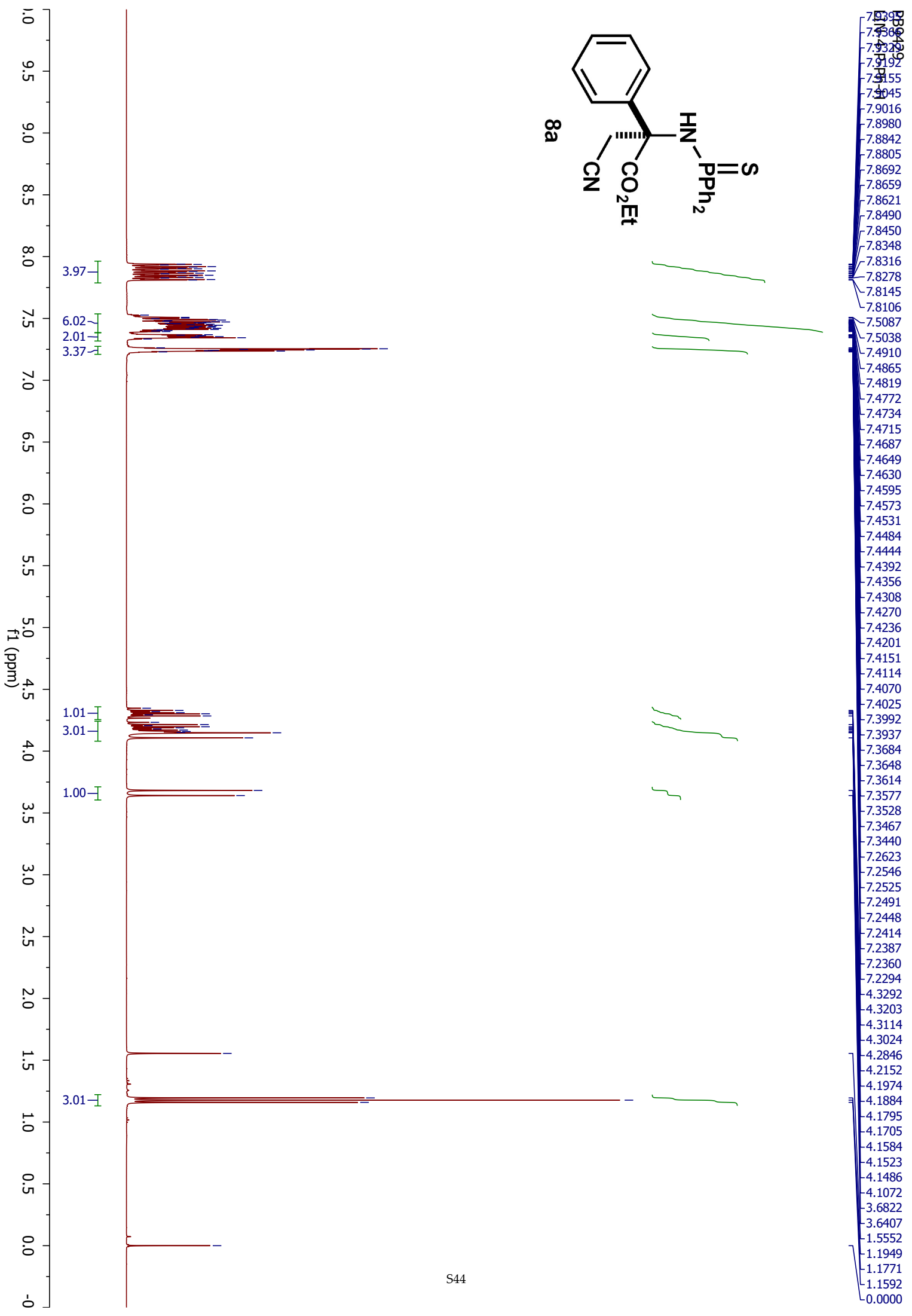
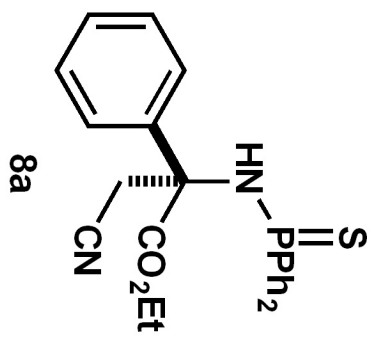
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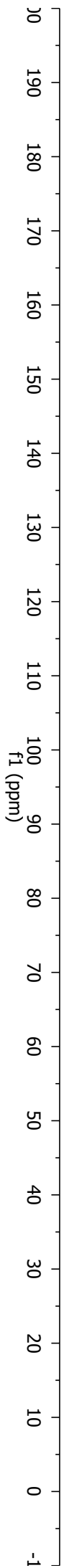
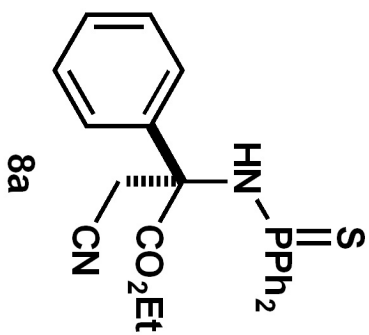
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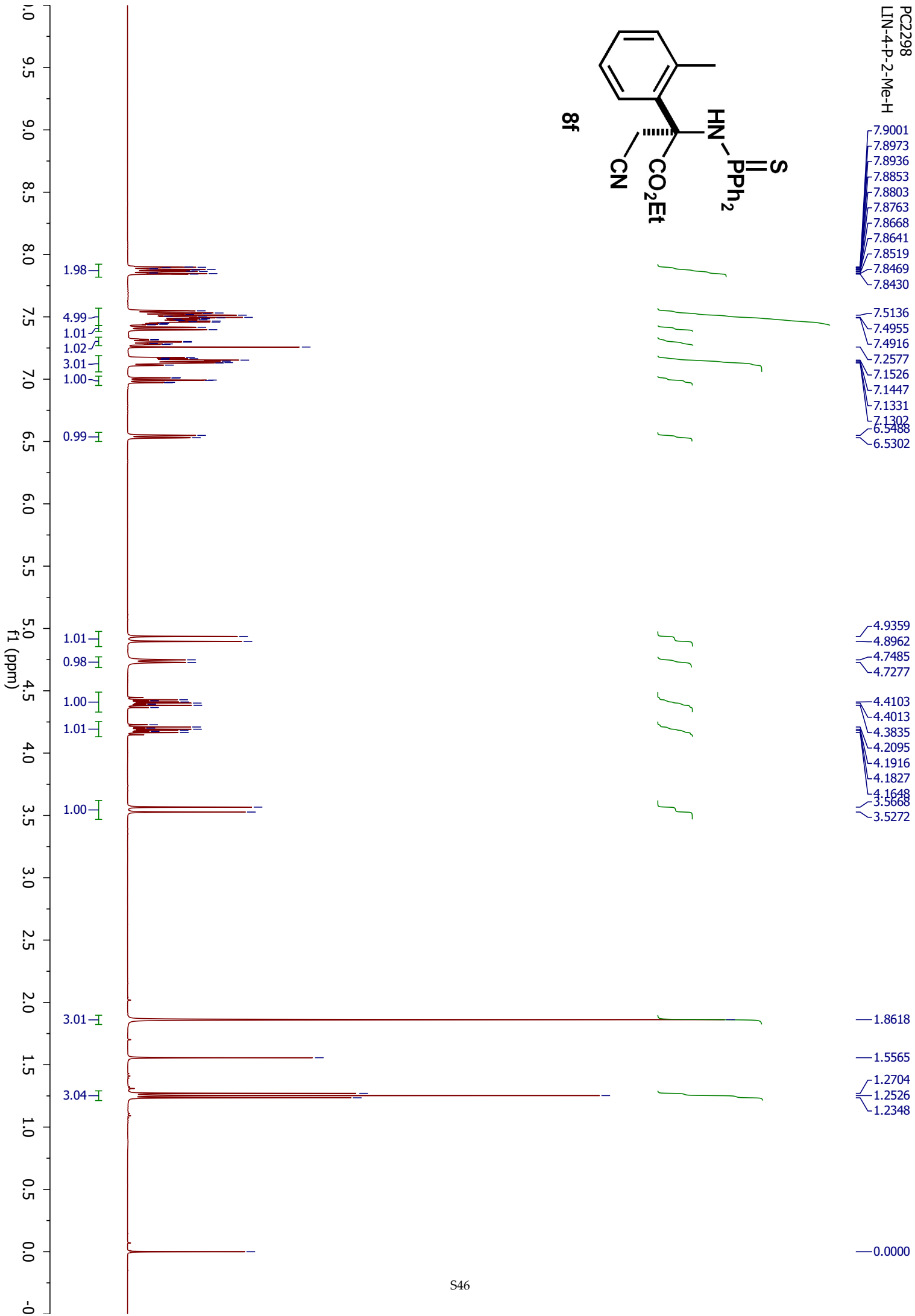
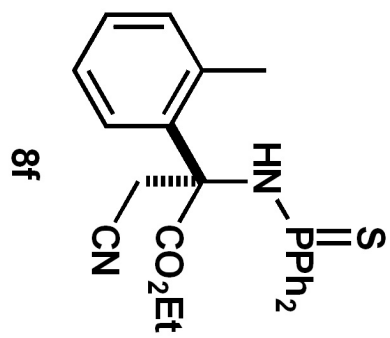
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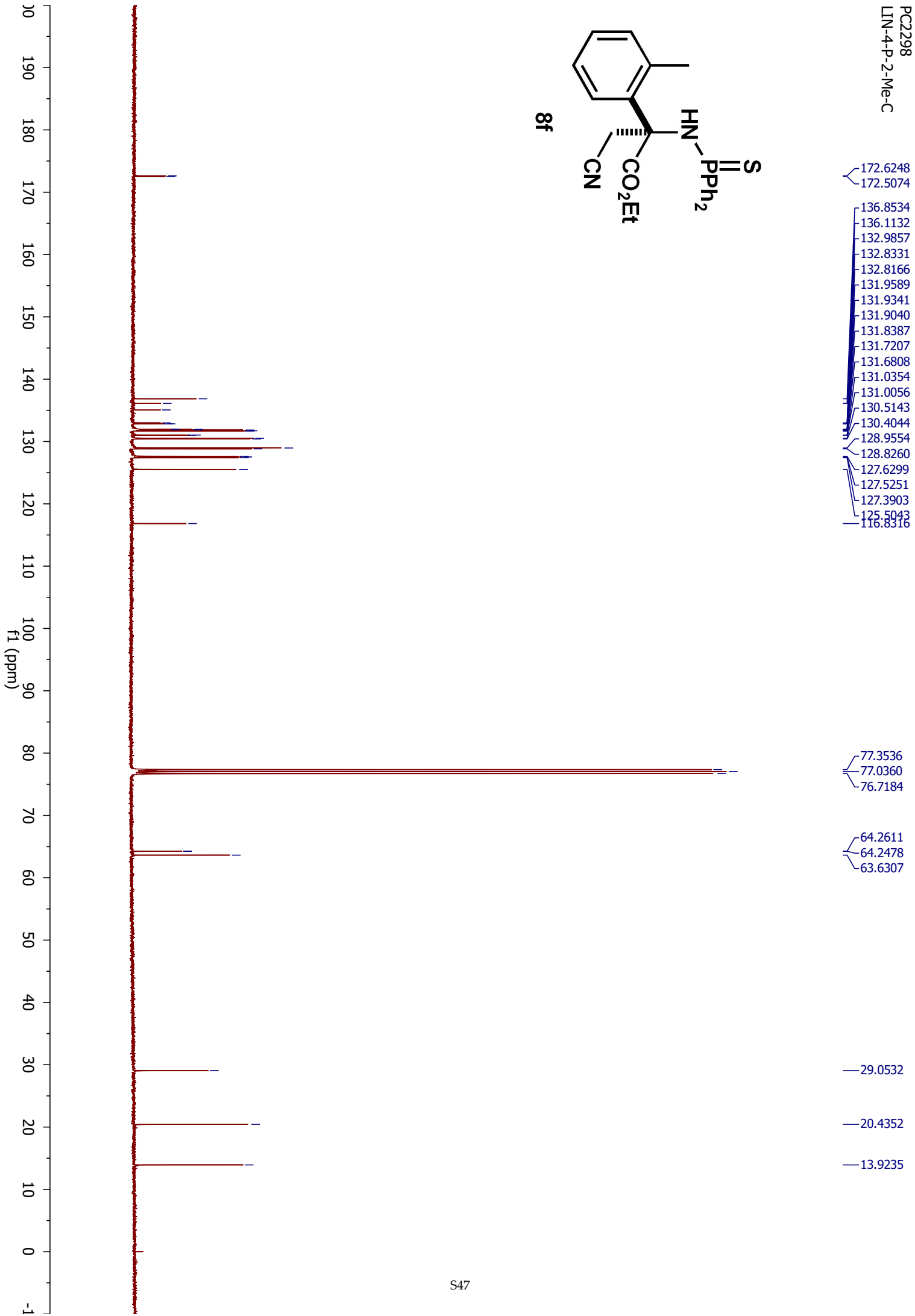
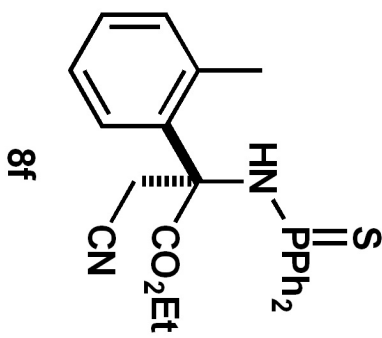
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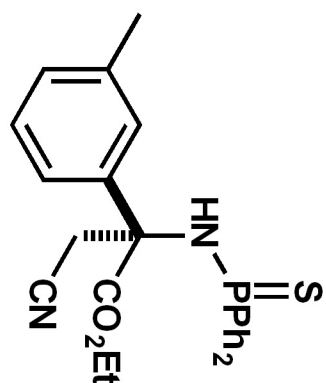
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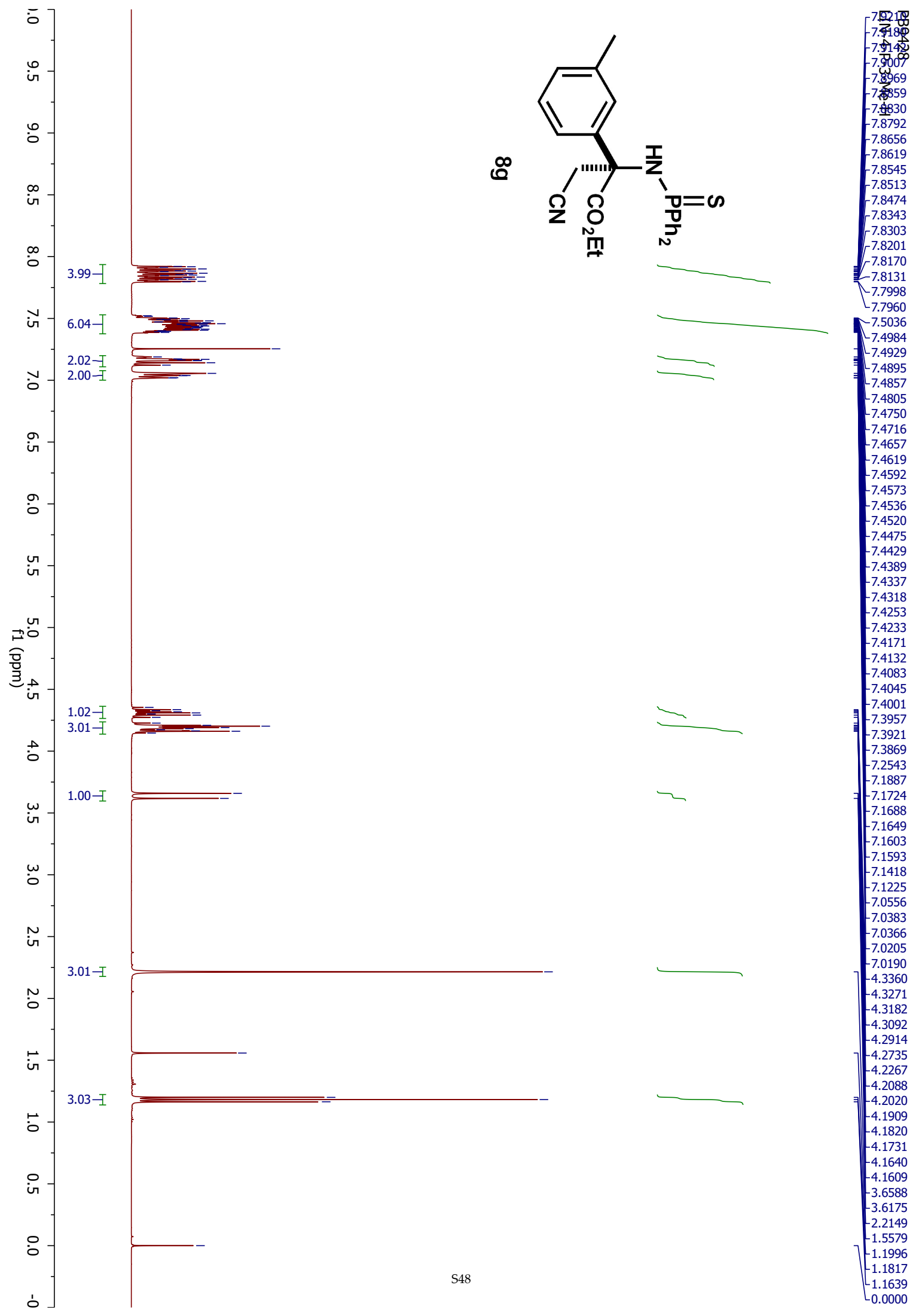








8g





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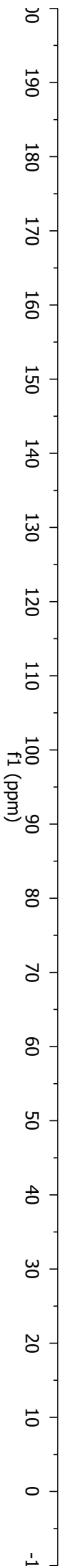
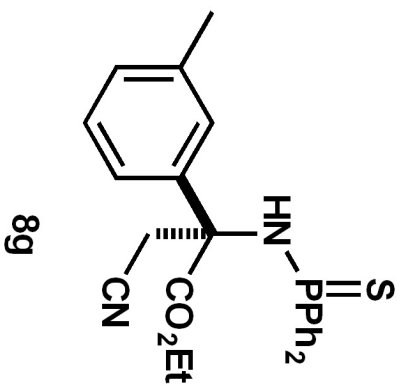
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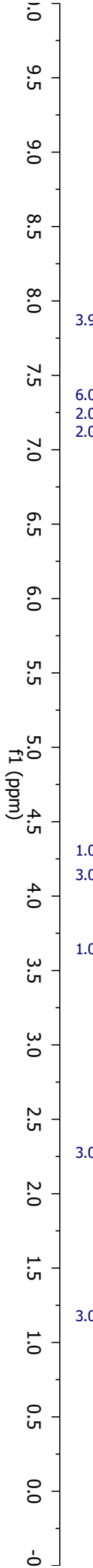
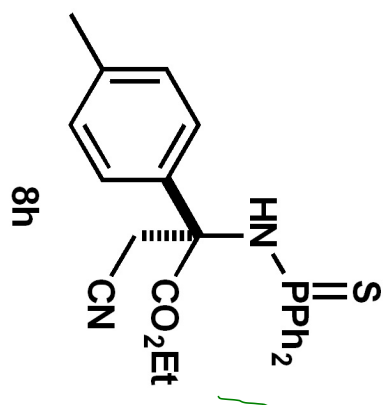
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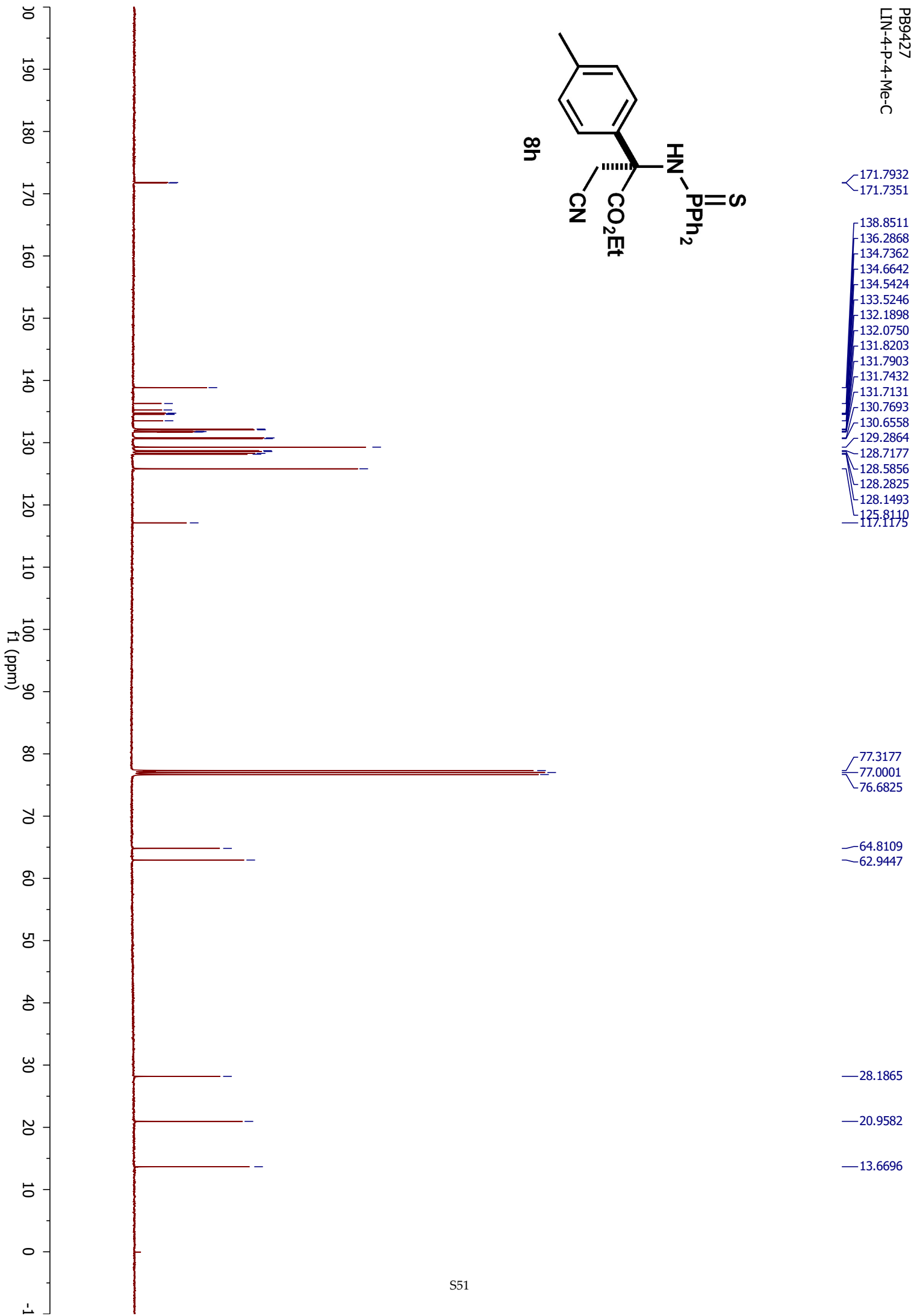
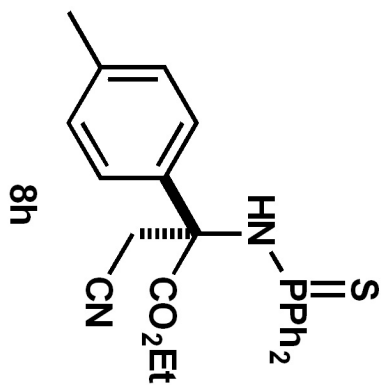
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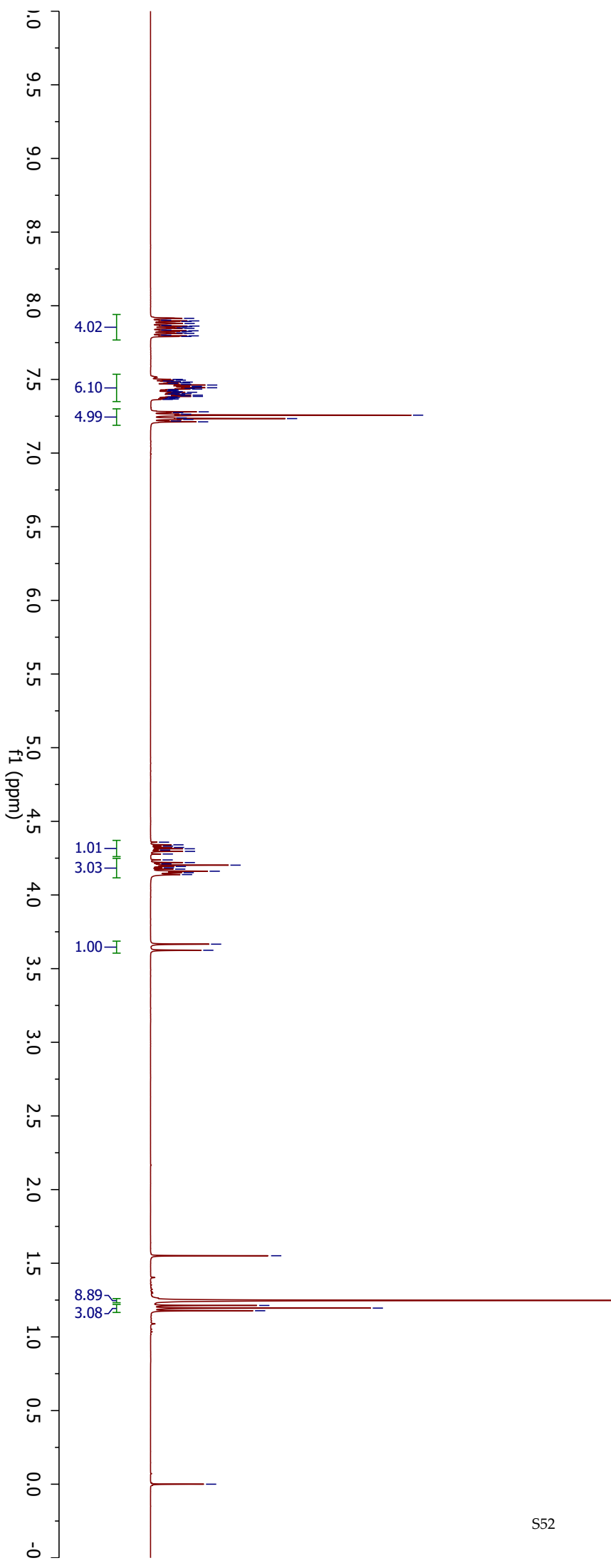
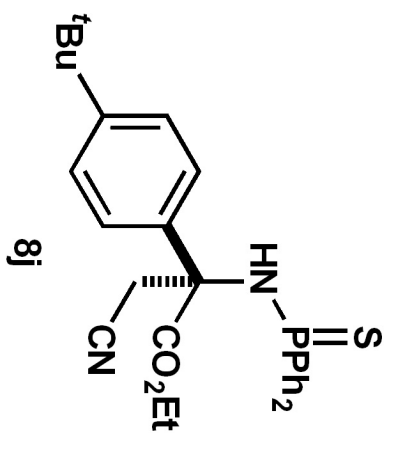


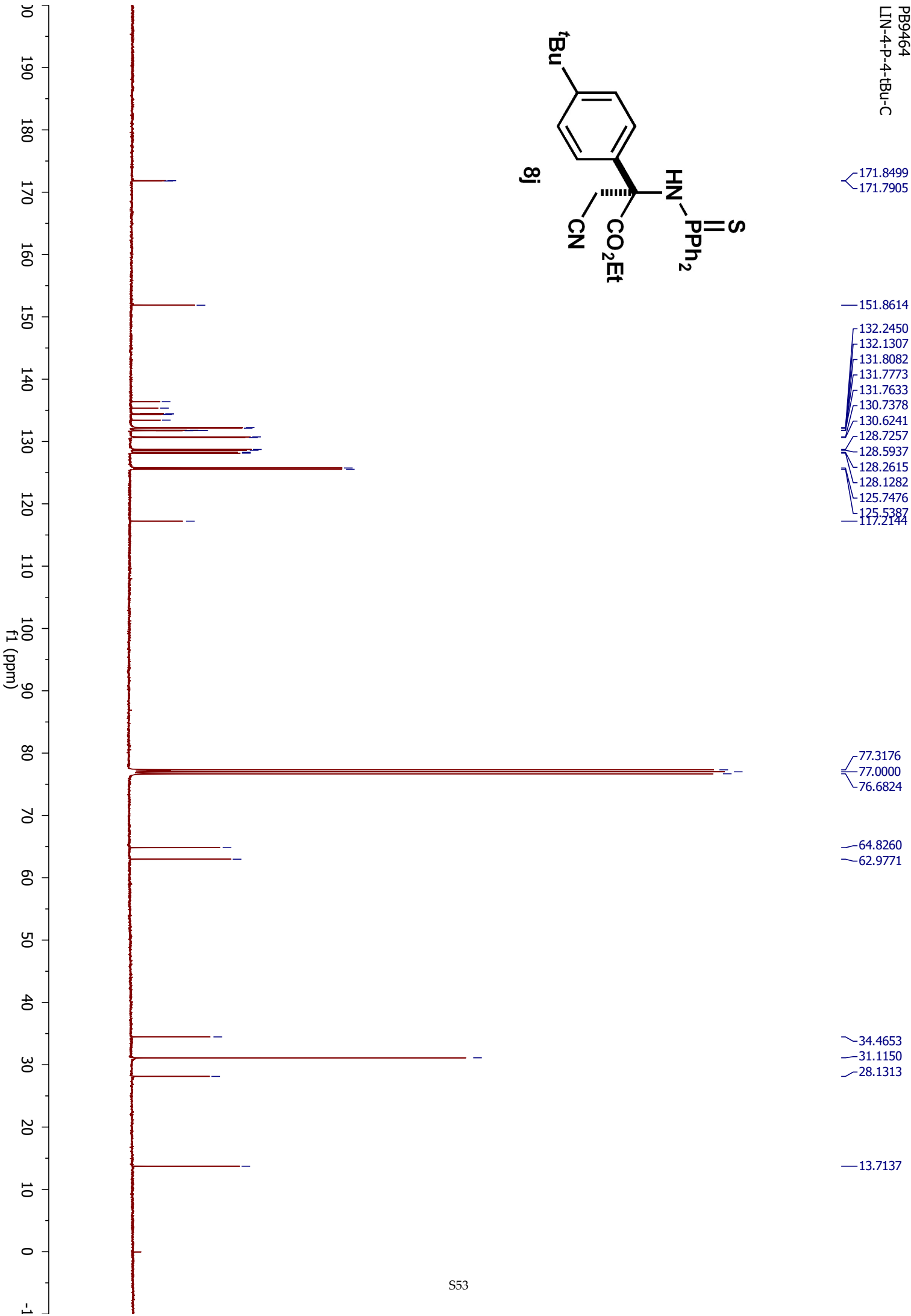
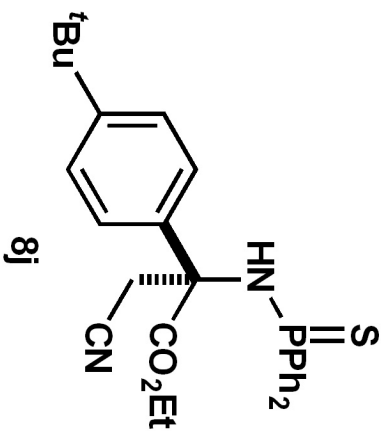
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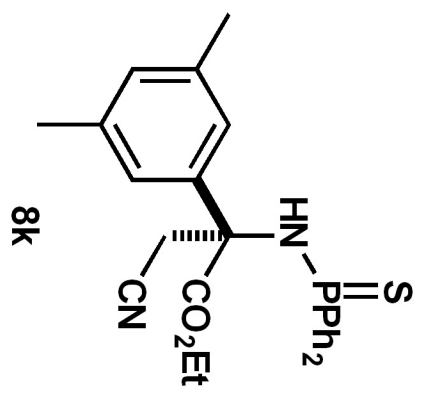


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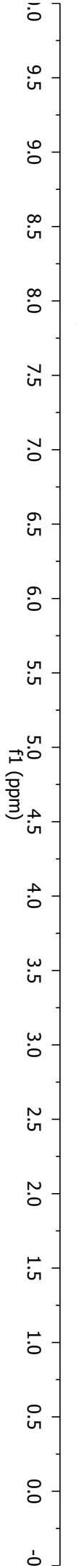


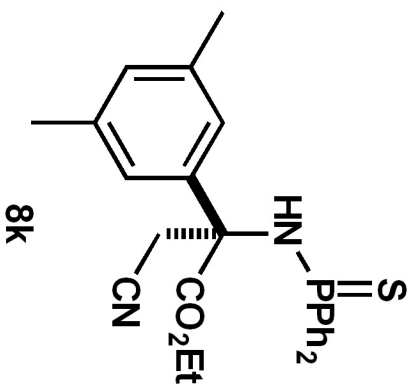


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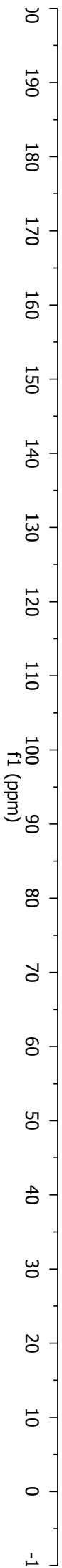
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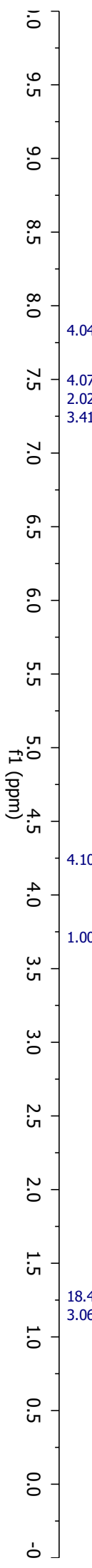
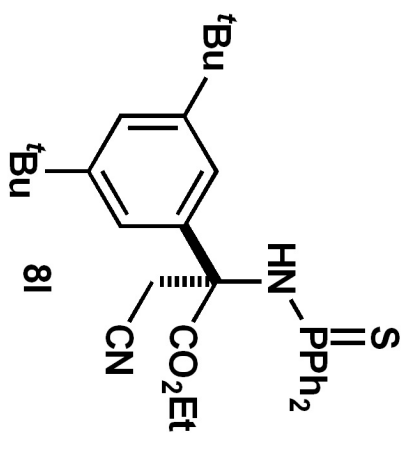
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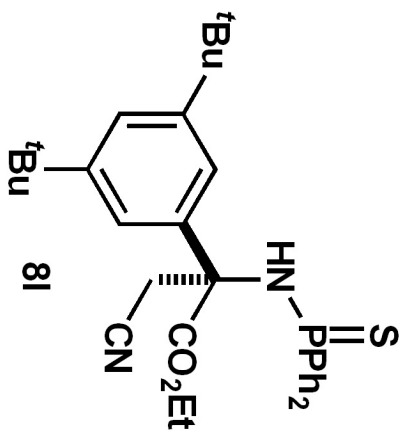
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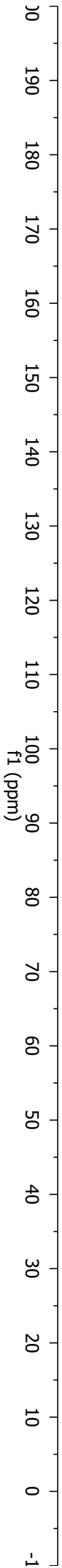
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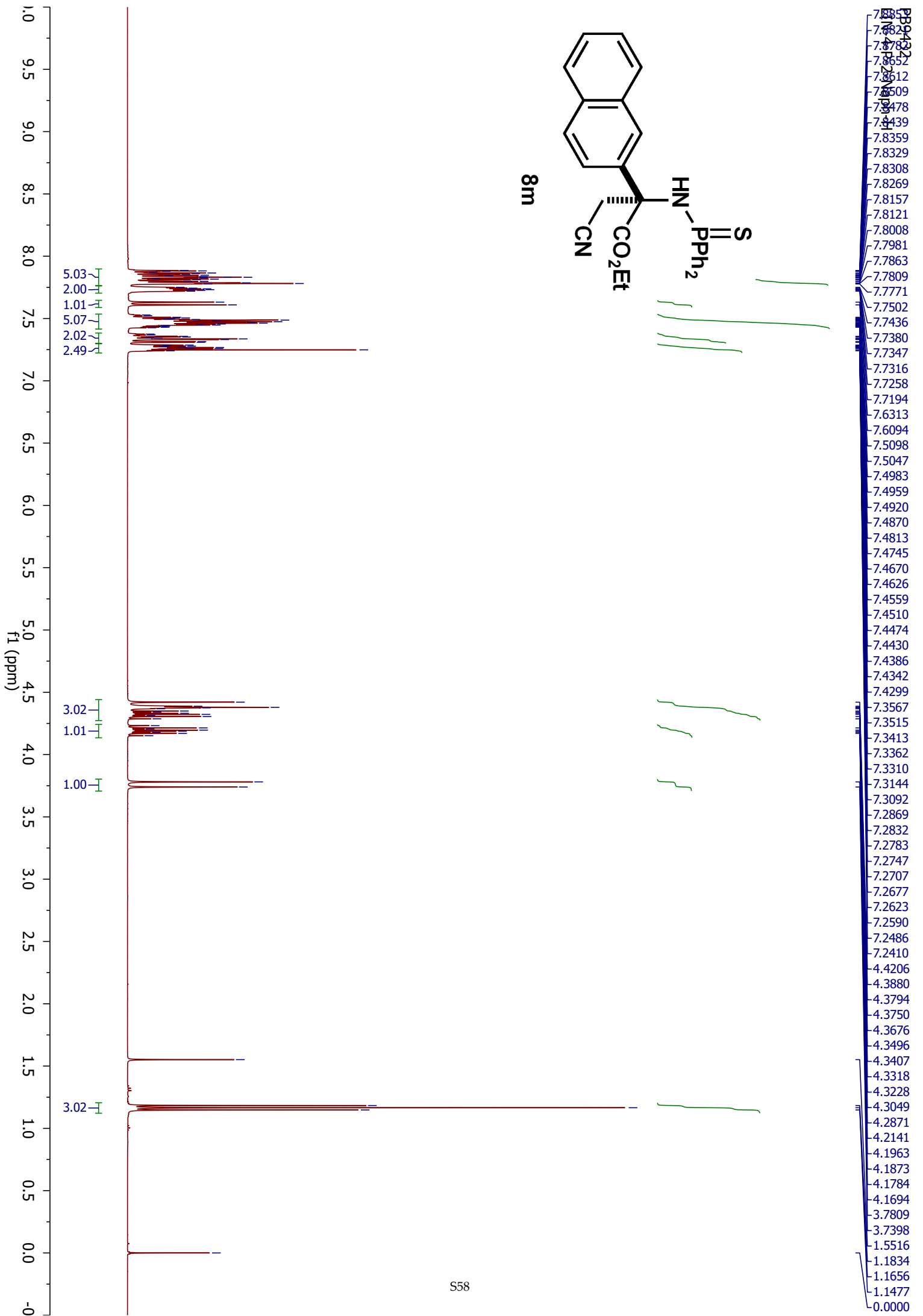
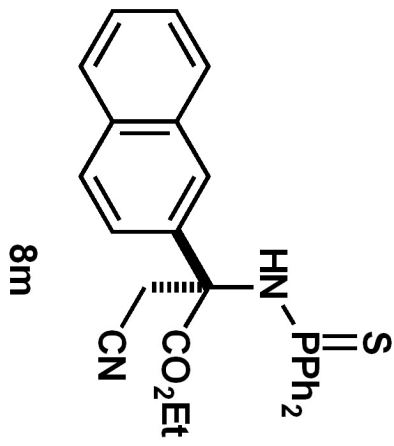
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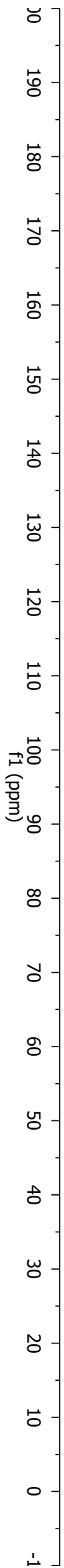
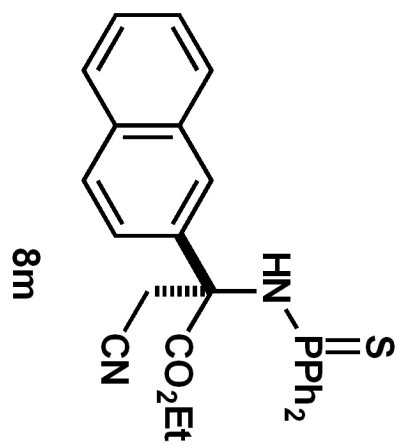
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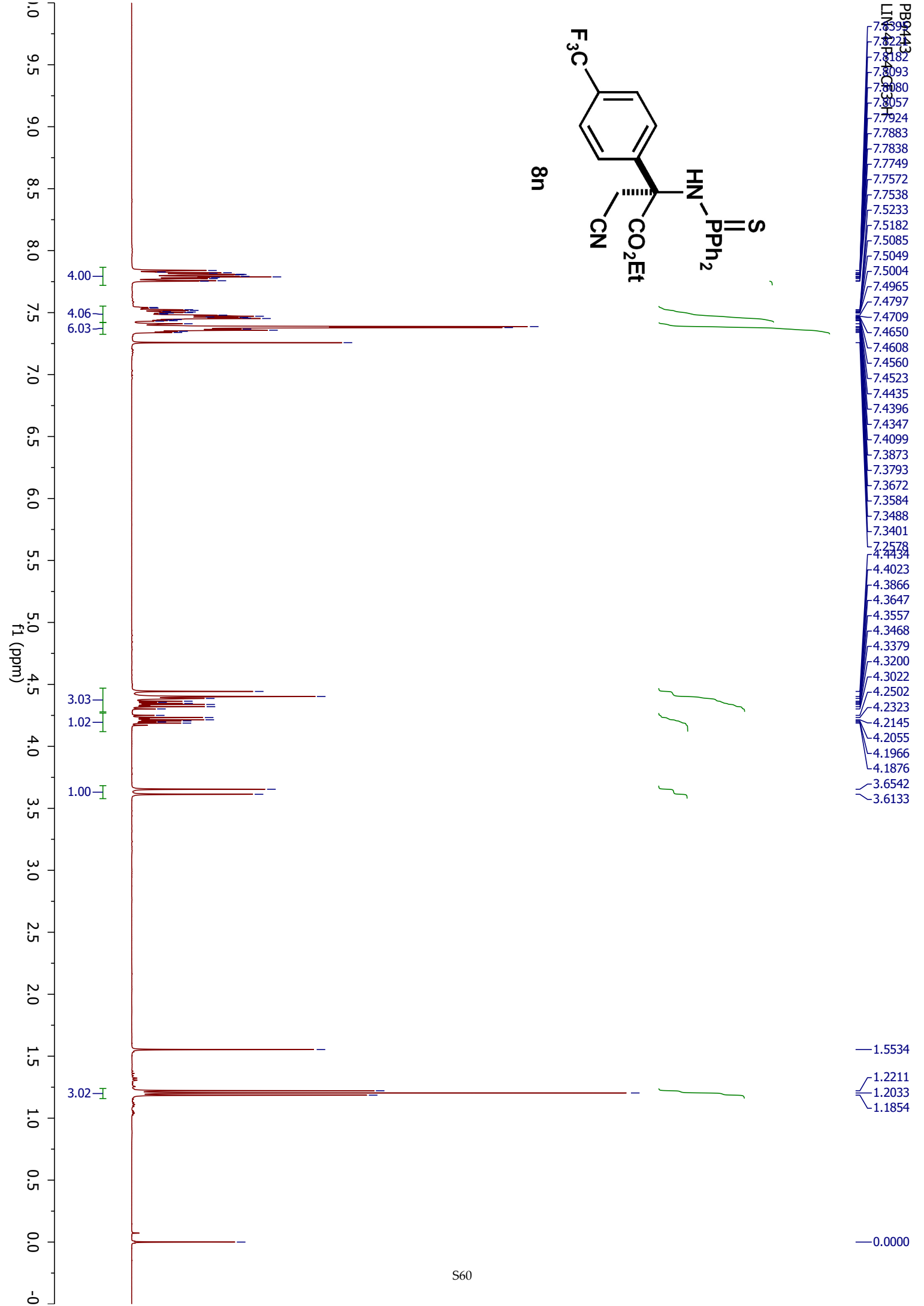
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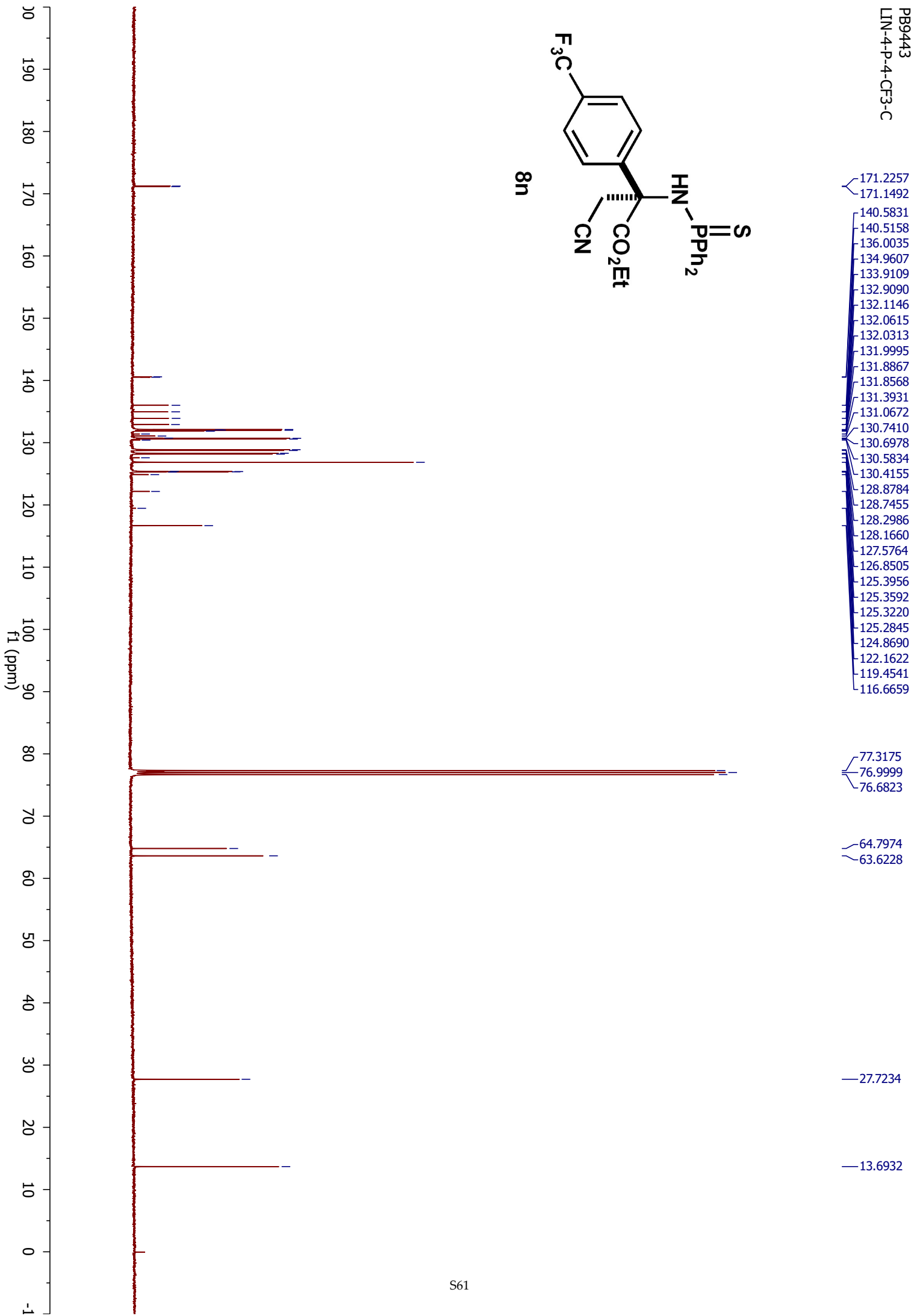
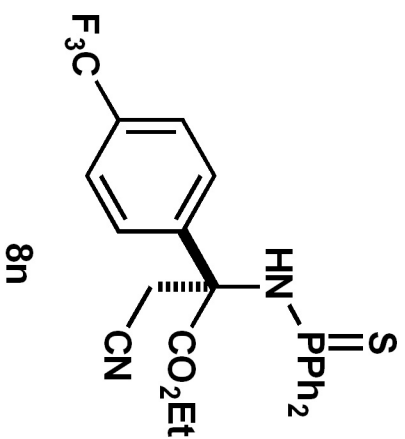
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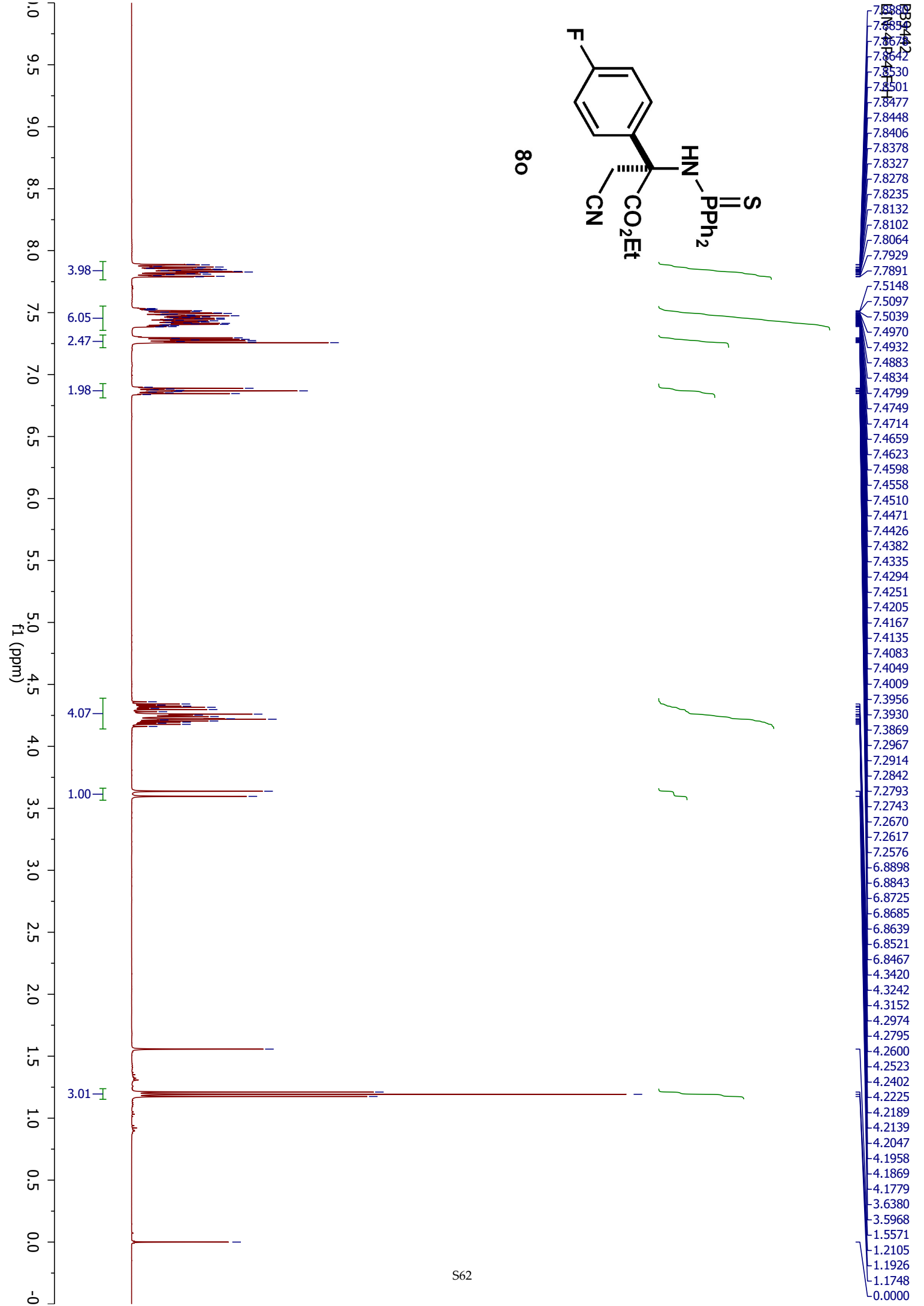
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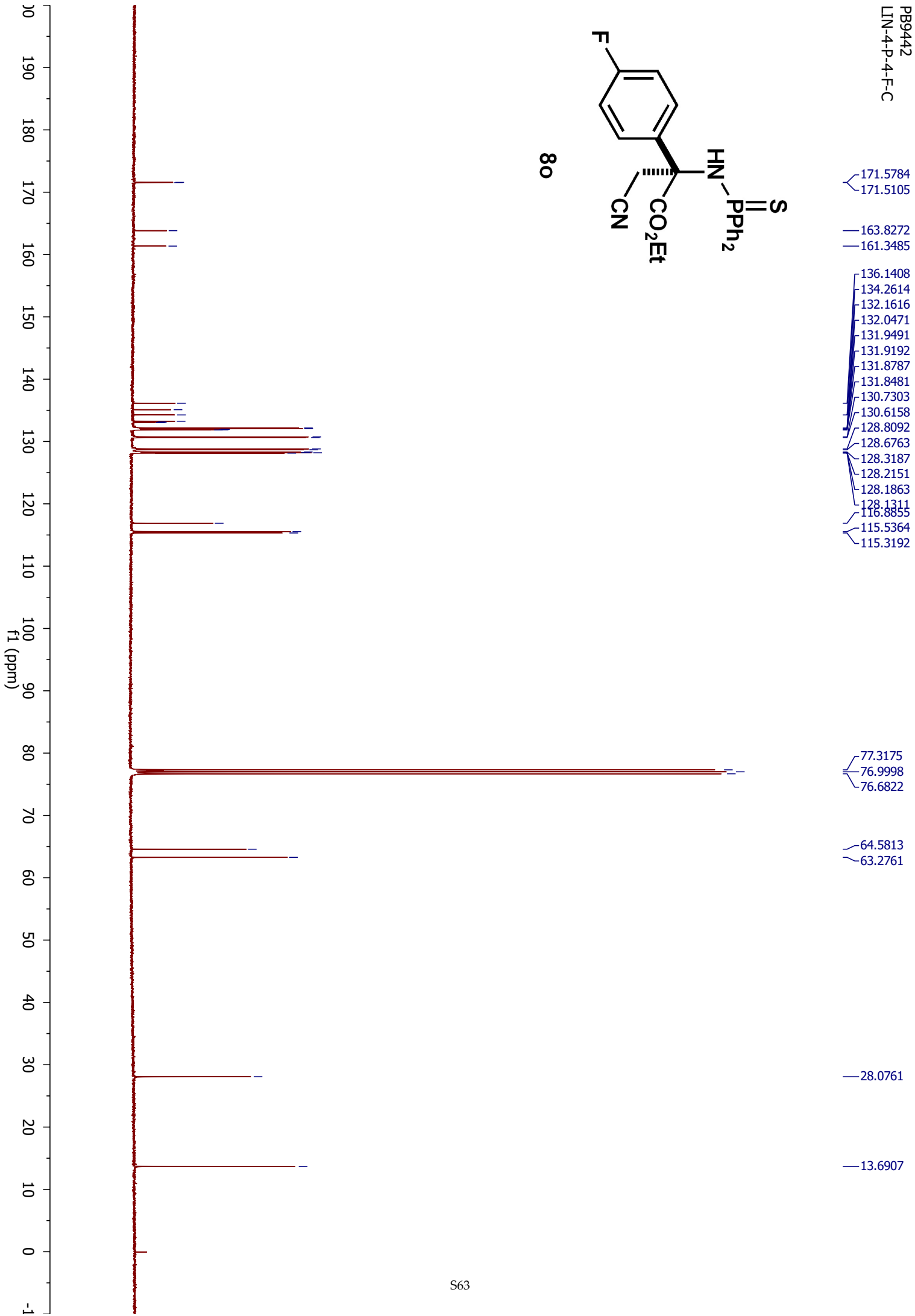
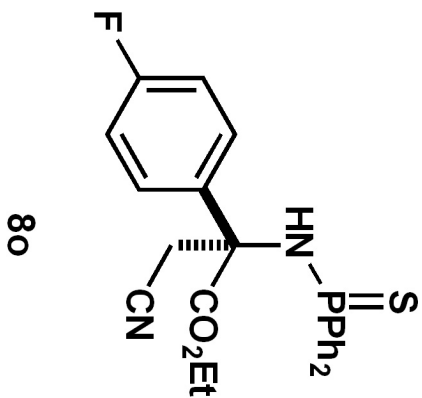
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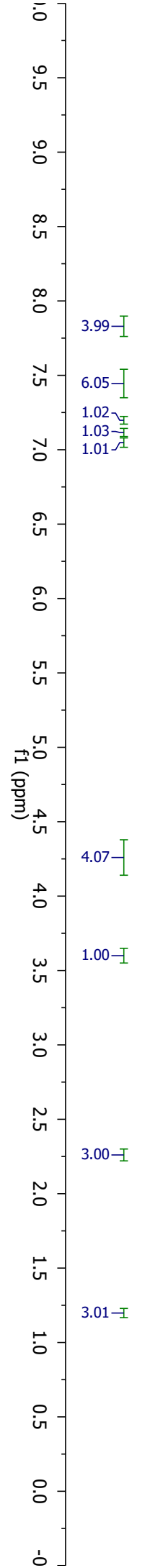
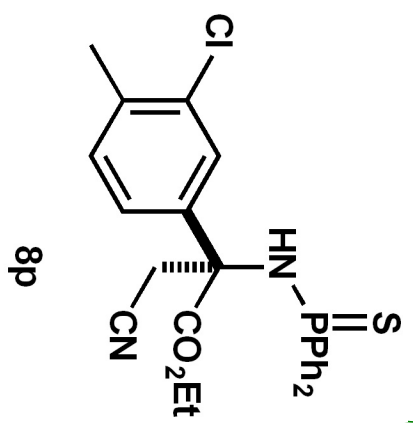




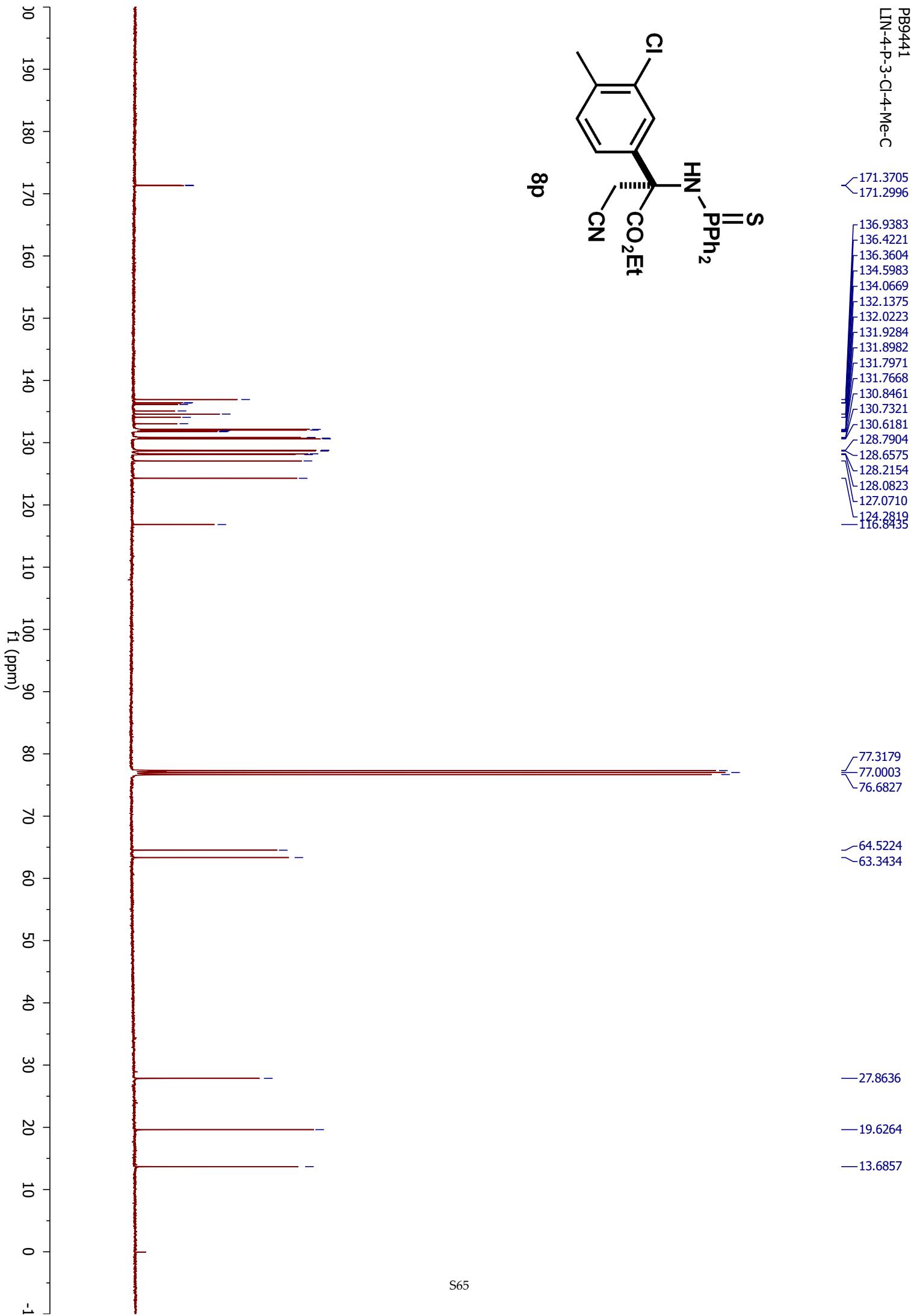
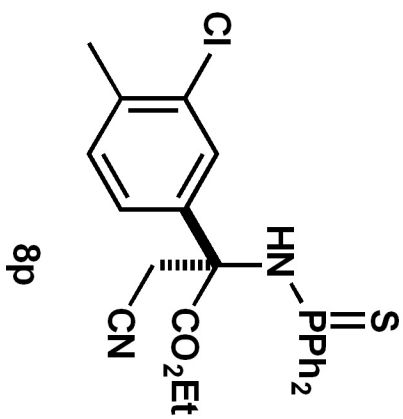




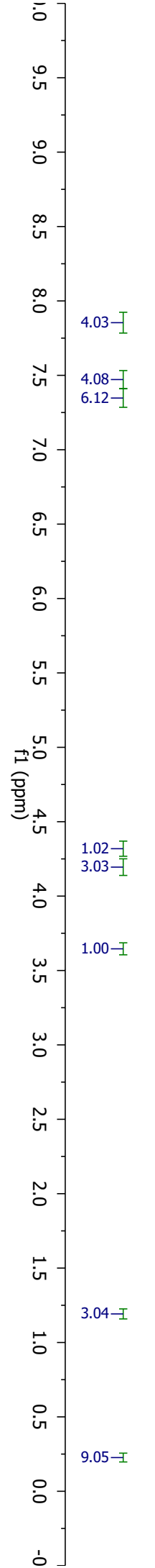
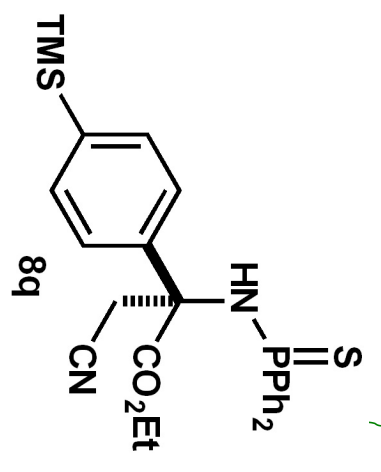
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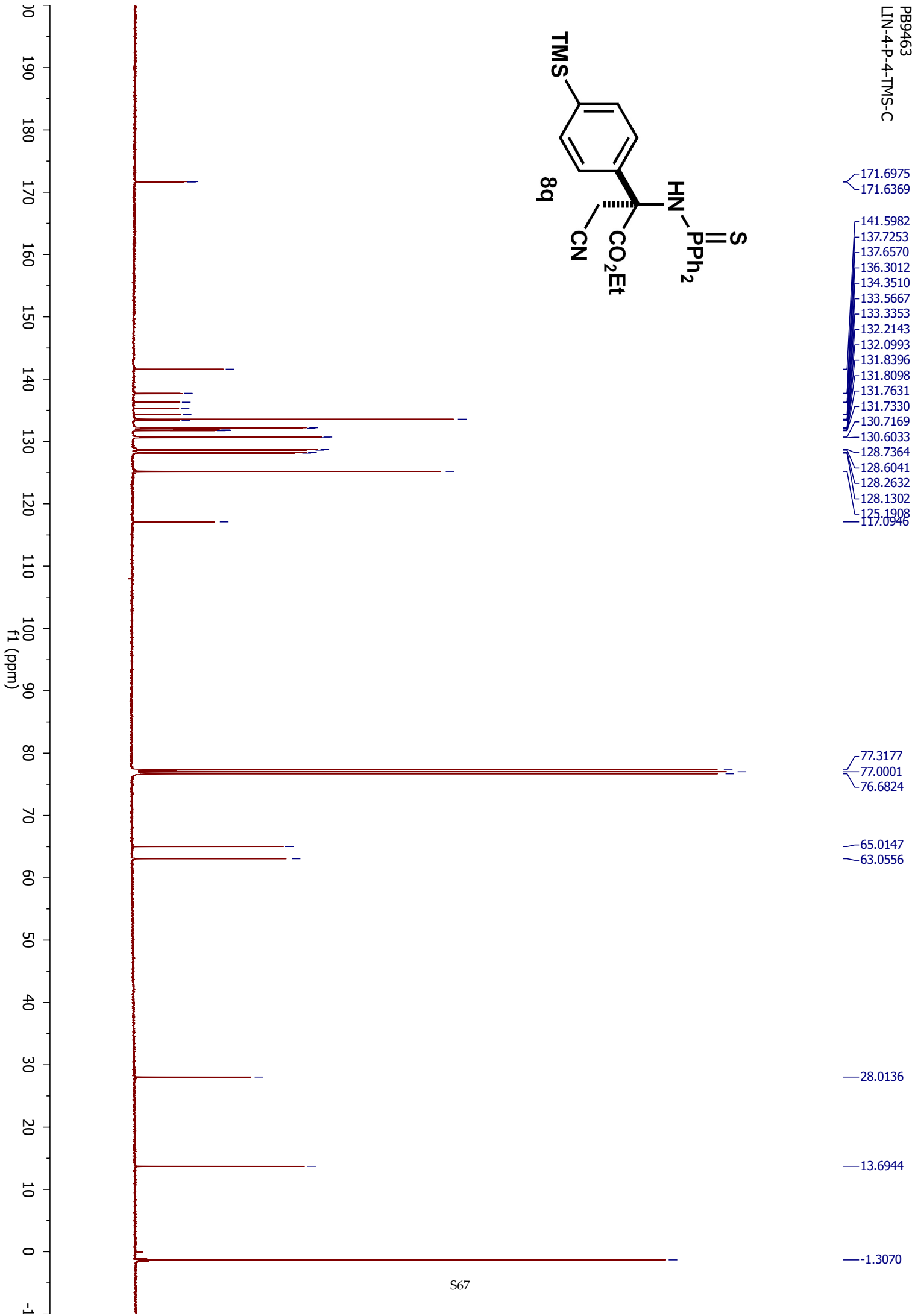
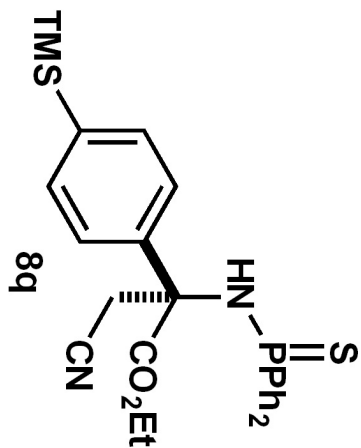


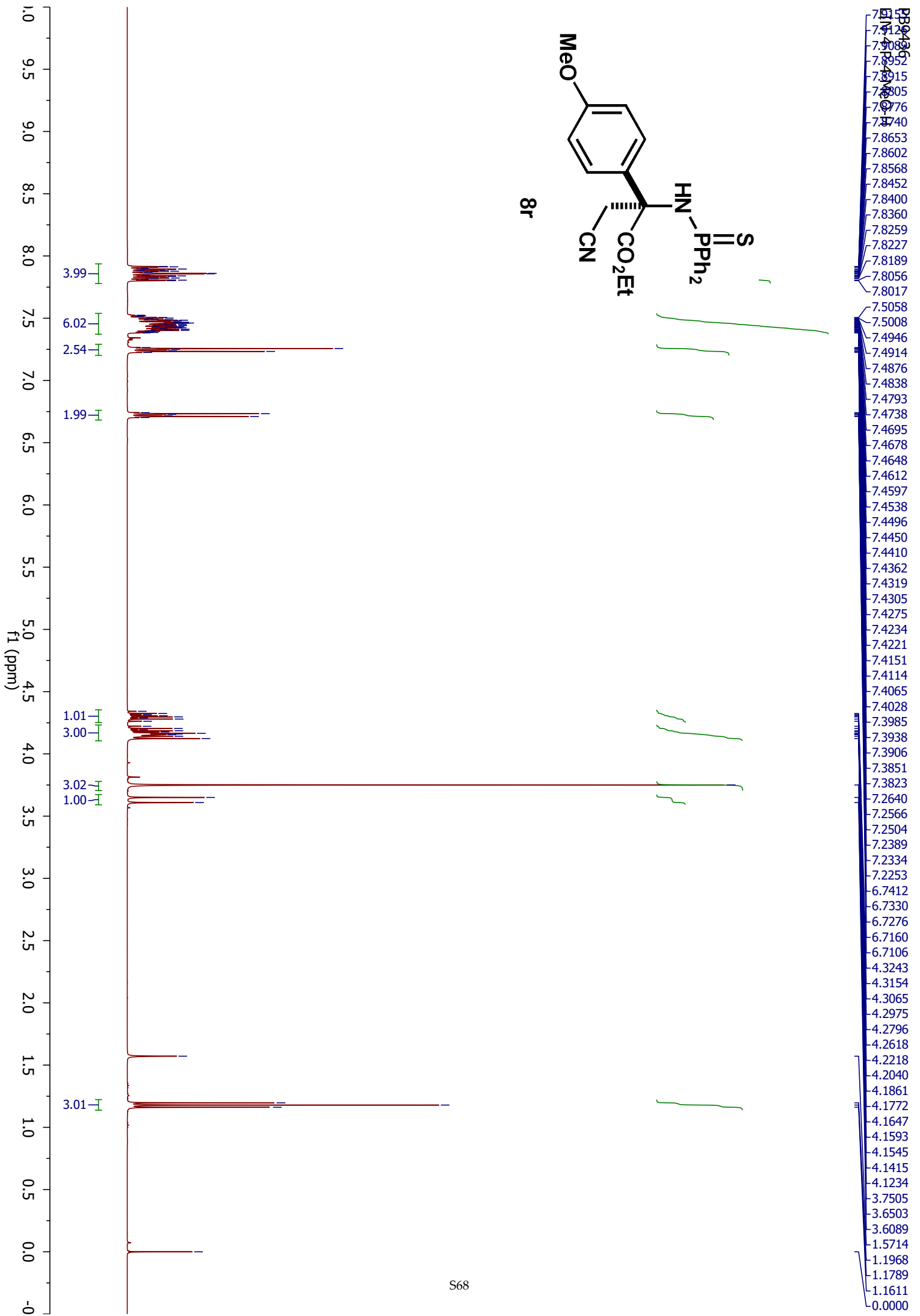
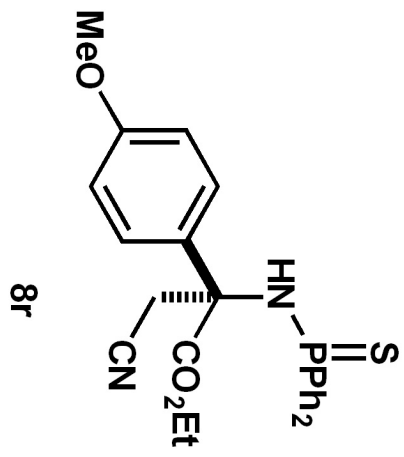


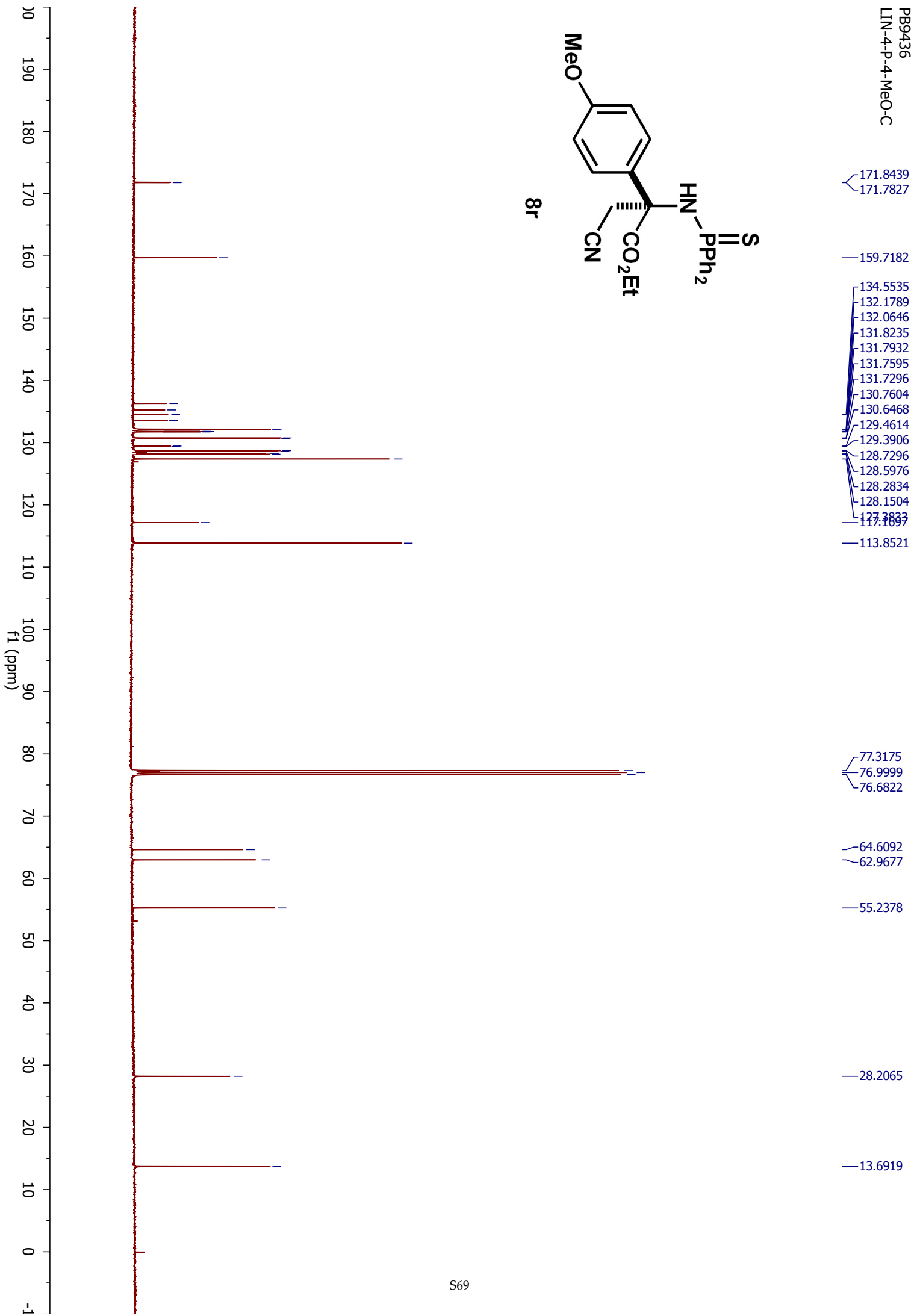
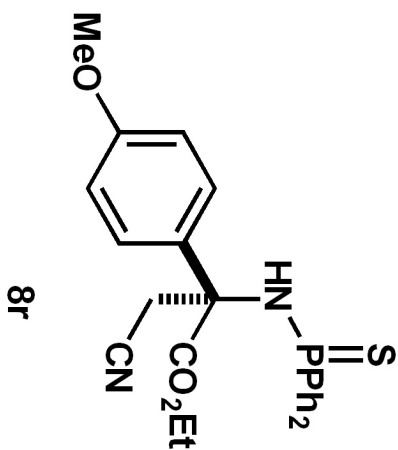


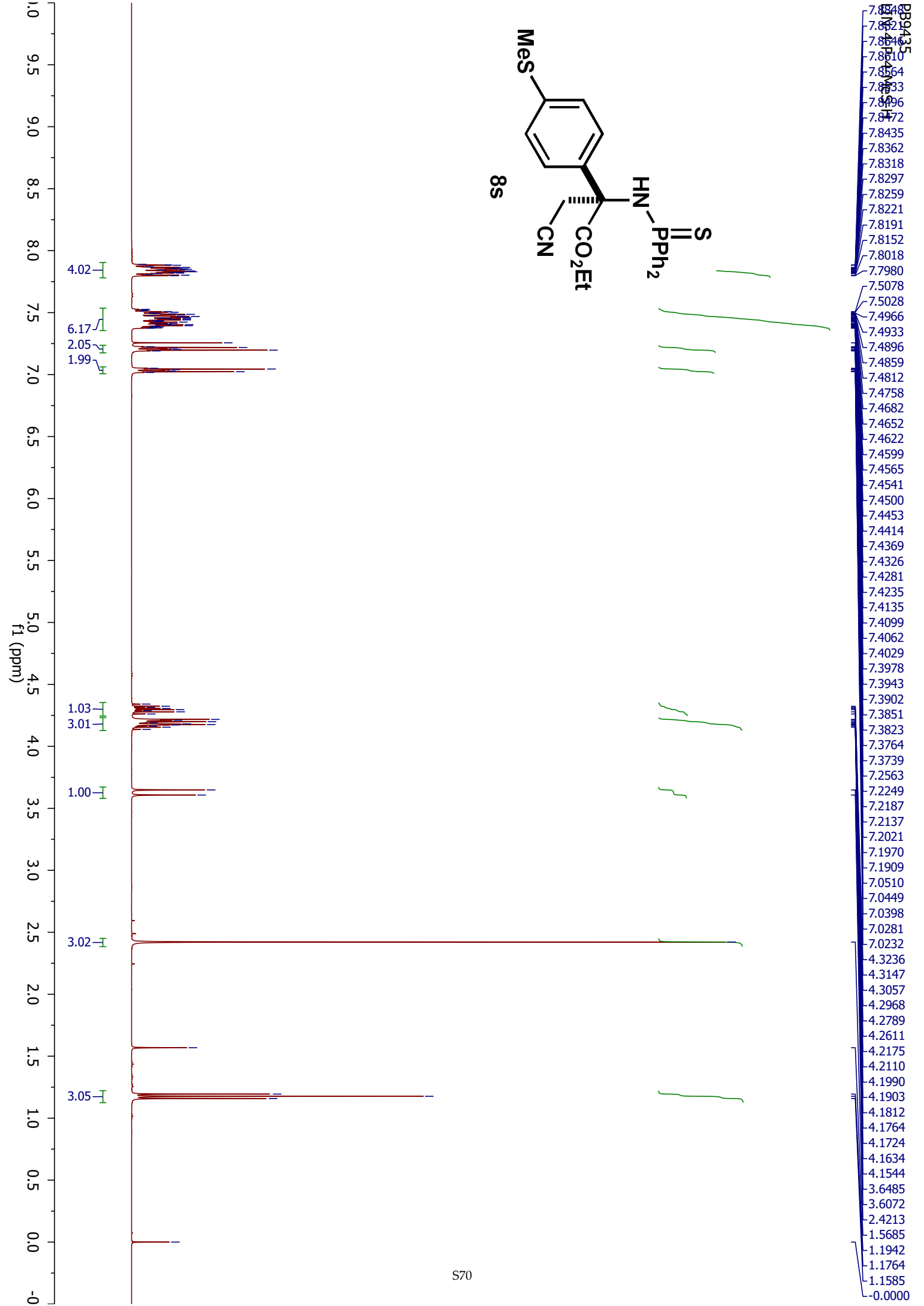
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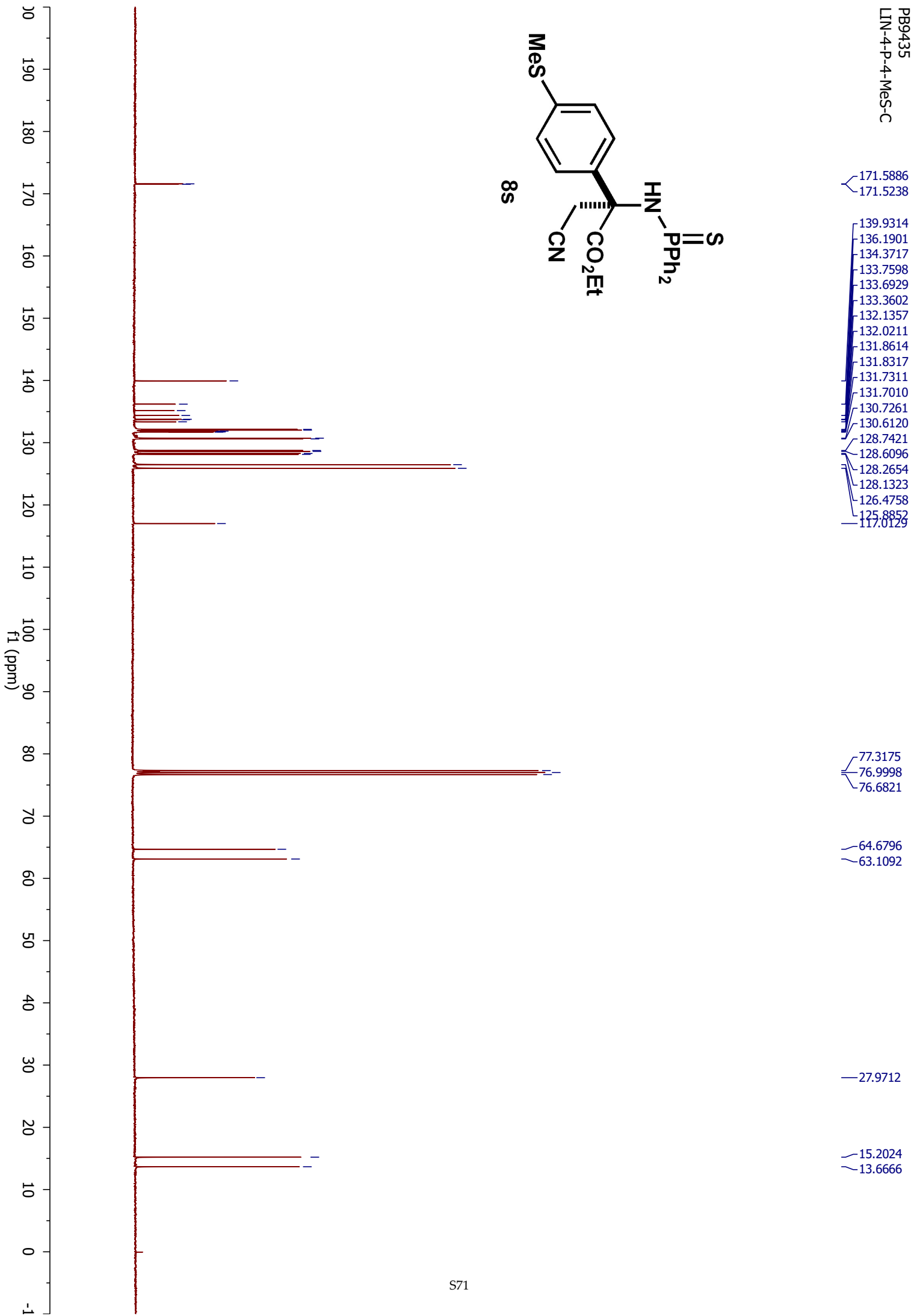
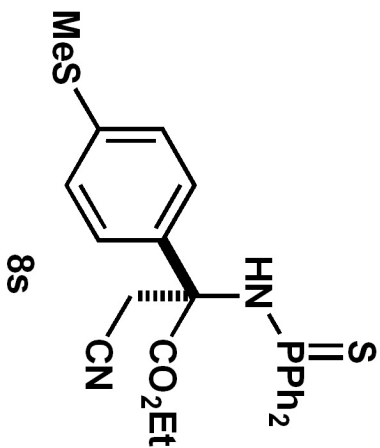


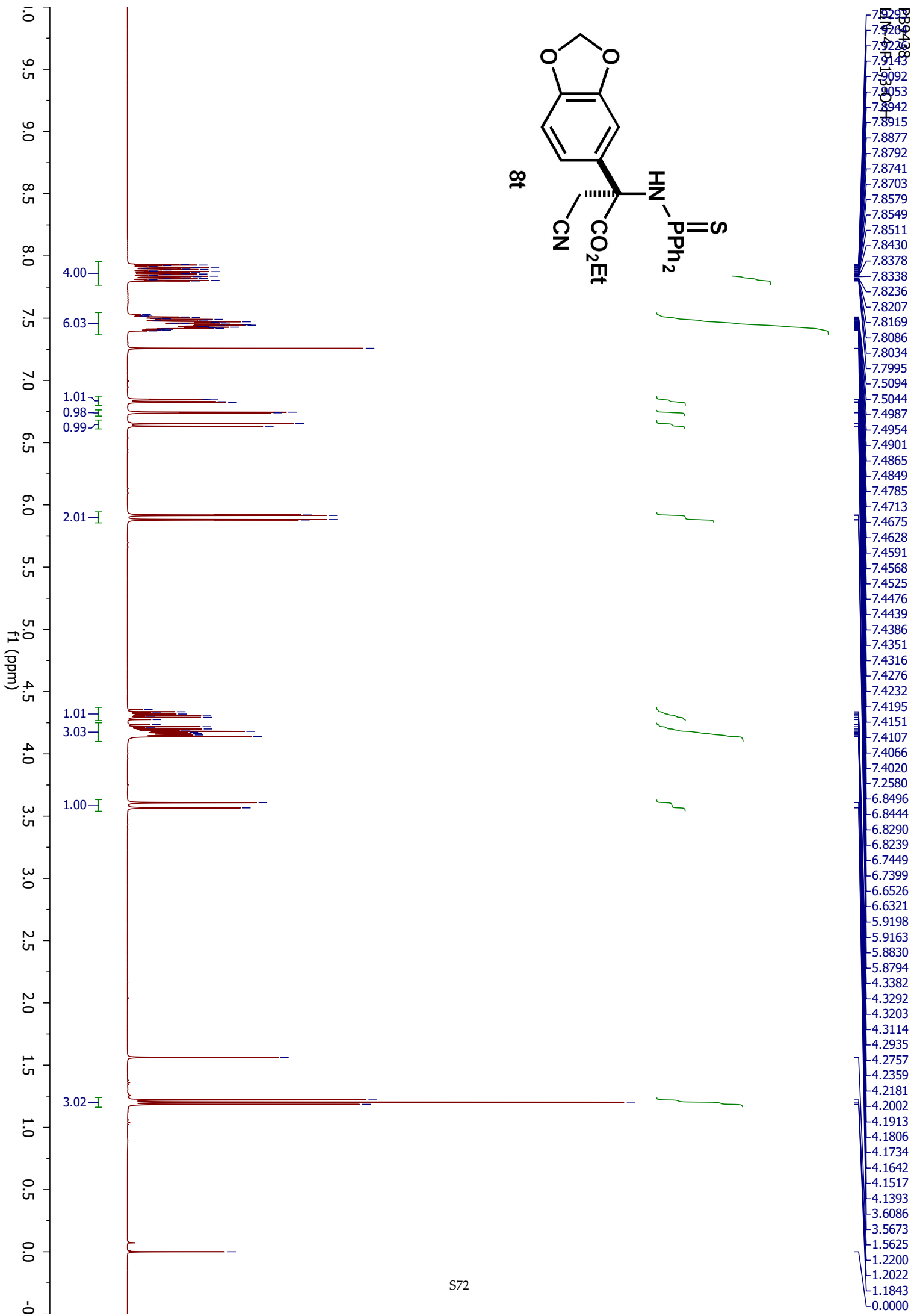
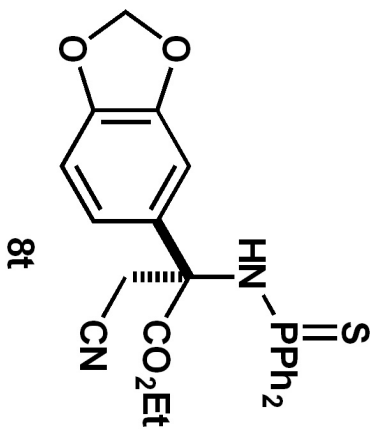




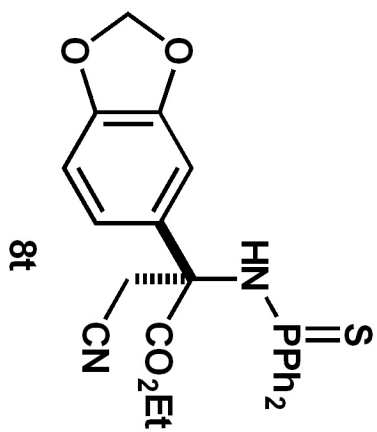












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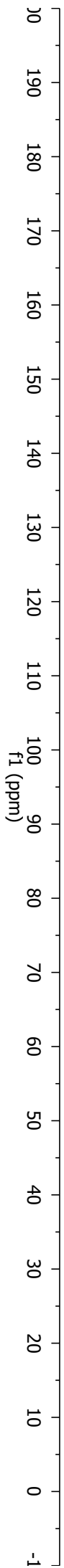
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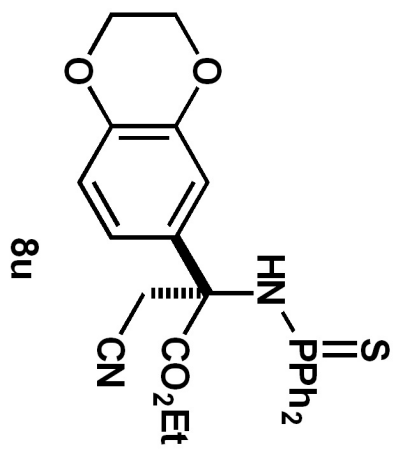
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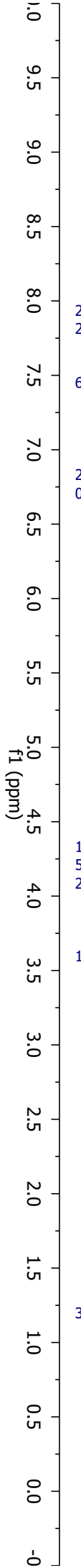
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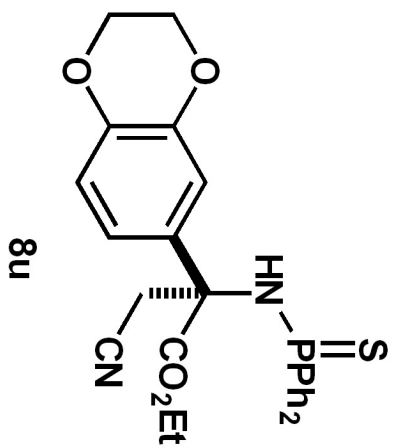


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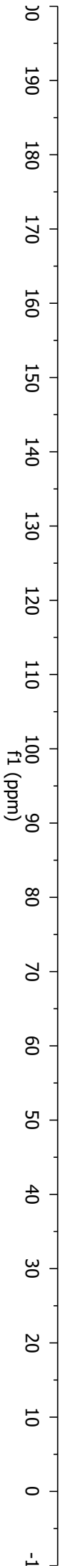
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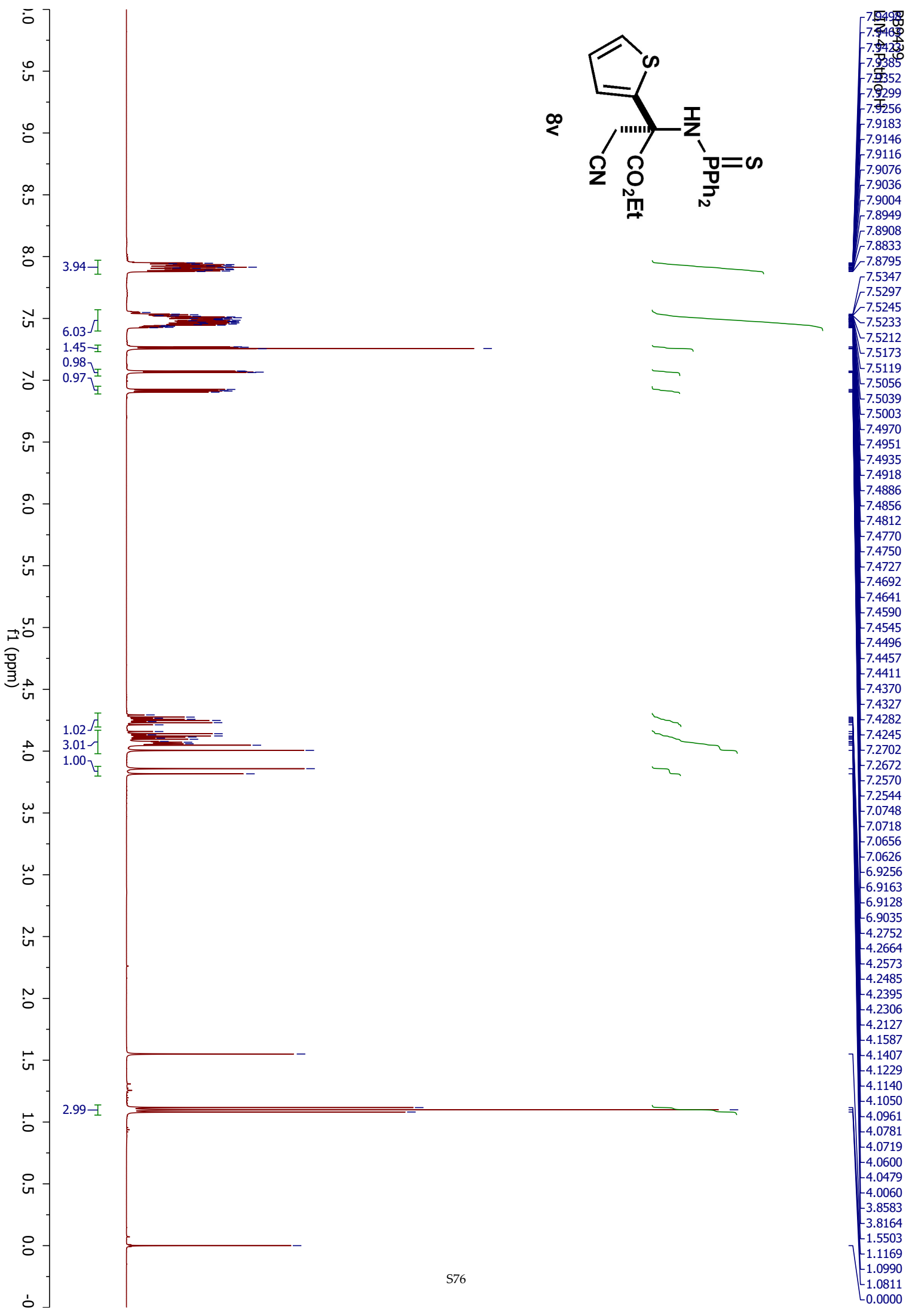
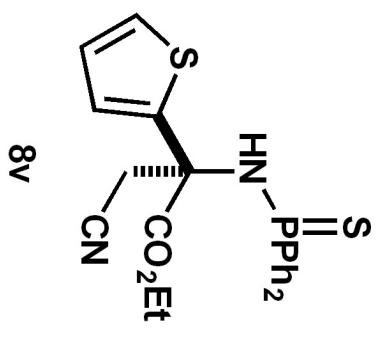
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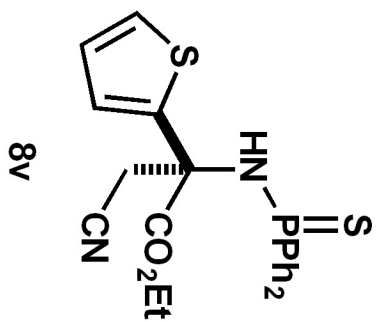
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