

## Supporting Information

### Bioinspired Total Synthesis of Tetrahydrofuran Lignans by Tandem Nucleophilic Addition/Redox Isomerization/Oxidative Coupling and Cycloetherification Reactions as Keysteps

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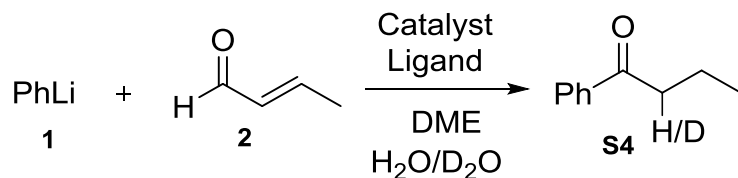
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## 1. Supplementary results and rationalization

### 1.1 Catalyst screening for isomerization of alkoxides

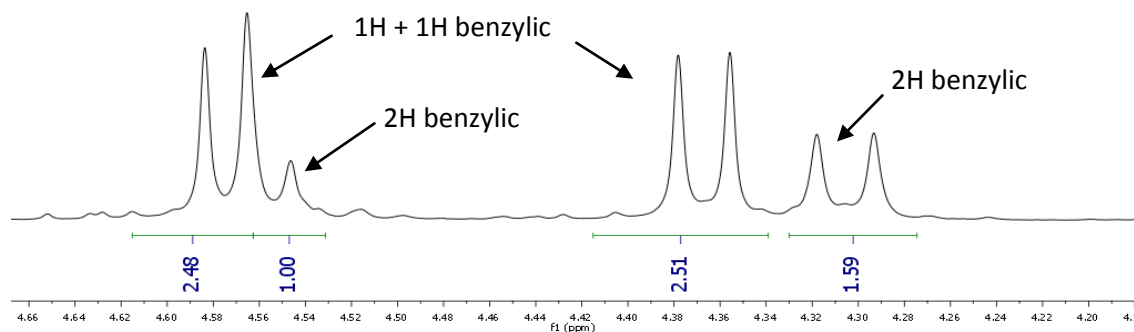
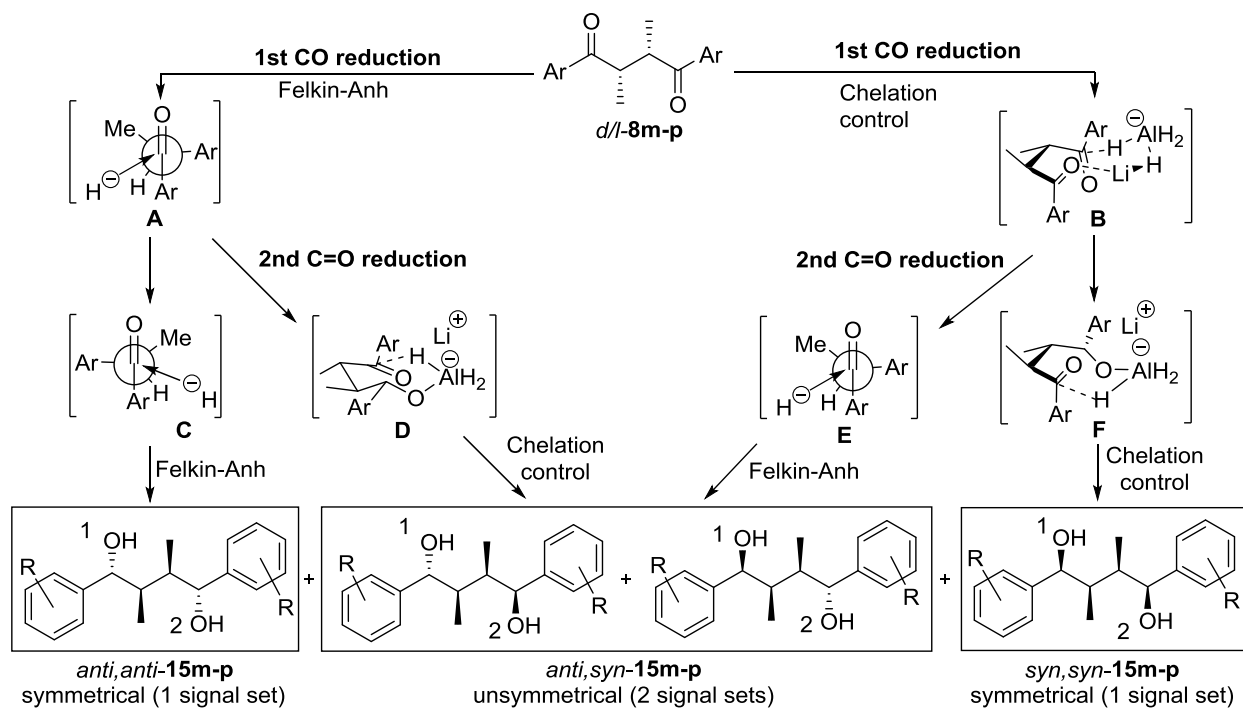
**Table S1:** Catalyst screening for isomerization of alkoxides.<sup>a,b</sup>



| entry | Catalyst   | Ligand (mol%)                            | T (°C) | t (h) | S4 (%) |
|-------|--|--|--------|-------|--------|
| 1     | Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>   | -  | 85     | 6     | 0      |
| 2     | [Ru( <i>p</i> -cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> | P(OEt) <sub>3</sub> (4)                  | 55     | 4     | 71     |
| 3     | [Ru( <i>p</i> -cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> | P(OEt) <sub>3</sub> (4)                  | 85     | 4     | 99     |
| 4     | [Ru( <i>p</i> -cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> | P(OMe) <sub>3</sub> (2)                  | 85     | 0.25  | 99     |
| 5     | [Ru( <i>p</i> -cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> | 1:1 P(OMe) <sub>3</sub> (5) <sup>c</sup> | 25     | 3     | 60     |
| 6     | RuCl( $\eta^5$ -3-phenylindenyl)(PPh <sub>3</sub> )  | -  | 25     | 48    | 0      |
| 7     | [Ru( <i>p</i> -cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> | ( <i>S</i> )-Tol-BINAP (2)               | 85     | 0.5   | 90     |

<sup>a</sup> Phenyllithium **1** (0.72 mL, 1.3 mmol) was added to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde **2** (91 mg, 1.3 mmol) in DME (8 mL) at -5 °C. After 15 min, the respective catalyst (2 mol%) was added followed by the ligand. The mixture was subsequently heated with stirring for the specified time. After quenching, the crude mixture was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. <sup>b</sup> Dodecane (20 mol%) used as internal standard to monitor the progress of reactions by GC. <sup>c</sup> 5 mol% of catalyst was used.

## 1.2 Reduction of 1,4-diketones **8** by LiAlH<sub>4</sub>



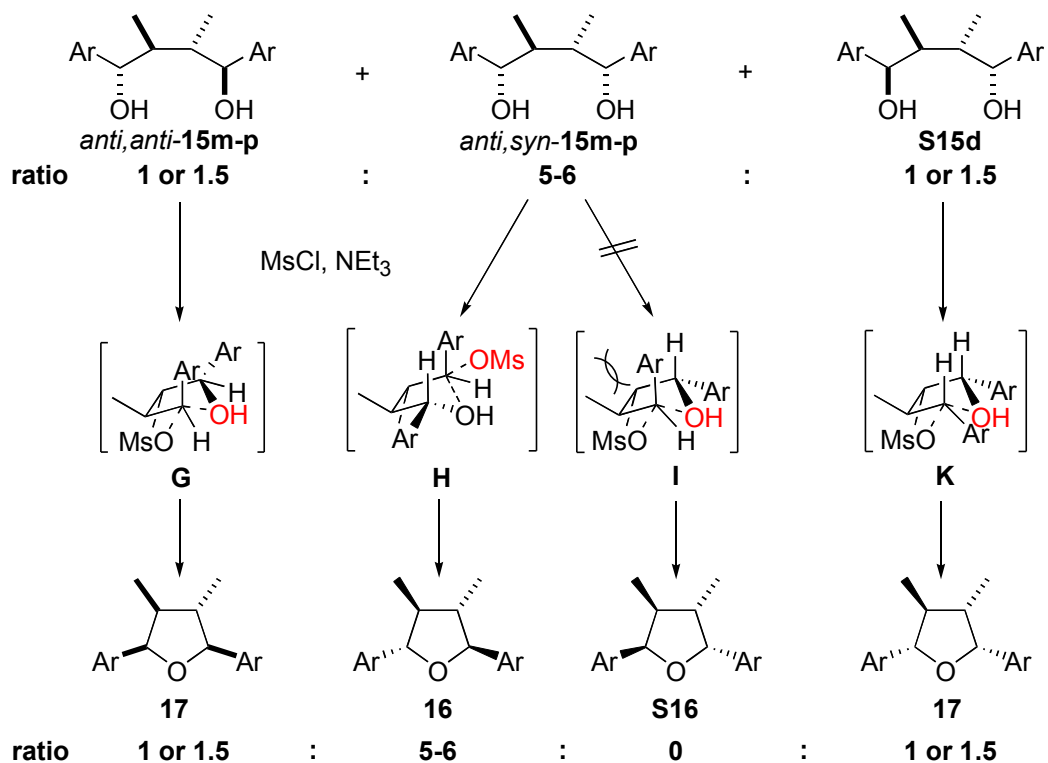
**Scheme S1.** LiAlH<sub>4</sub> reduction of 1,4-diketones **8m-p**.

Reduction of 1,4-diketones **8m-p** provided three diol diastereomers **15m-p** in similar 1 : 5-6 : 1.5 ratios (Scheme S1). The major isomer is clearly unsymmetrical *anti,syn-15m-p*. The configuration of minor *anti,anti-15m-p* and *syn,syn-15m-p* could not be established unequivocally, but since the proportion of both is similar, it is of negligible consequence for the rationalization of the results. The outcome can be explained by sequential reduction of the two carbonyl groups according to the Felkin-Anh and/or chelation control models. The minor

symmetrical diols *anti,anti*-**15m-p** are most likely formed according to the Felkin-Ahn model via transition states **A** and **C**. Similarly, the formation of the other minor *syn,syn*-**15m-p** isomers can be explained by two consecutive chelation-controlled reduction steps via transition states **B** and **F**. Along the same lines the major unsymmetrical diol *anti,syn*-**15m-p** may form by consecutive reduction according to the Felkin-Ahn via **A** and subsequent intramolecular chelation-controlled reduction via **D**. Alternatively the two reductive processes may also proceed initially via **B** and subsequently via **E**.

### 1.3 Formation of lignans from 1,4-diols

The diastereomeric ratio of diols **15m-p** was not replicated in the formation of tetrahydrofurans **16** and **17** using  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ . Using the crude mixture of three diastereomers gave only two tetrahydrofuran lignans **16** and **17** with more than 8:1 selectivity. This can be explained by invoking cycloetherification via a largely stereoconvergent  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$  mechanism (See Scheme 6).



**Scheme S2.** Rationalization of the formation of lignans **16** and **17** using mesyl chloride.

The diastereoselectivity of the cycloetherification is much lower using alcohol activation by mesylation and subsequent cyclization (See Scheme 4). The ratio of products is more in accord with an S<sub>N</sub>2 mechanism (Scheme S2). Under these conditions, both *anti,anti*-**15m-p** and *syn,syn*-**15** should form the minor unsymmetrical tetrahydrofuran lignans **17a-e** via transition states **G** and **K**, respectively. Unsymmetrical *anti,syn*-**15m-p** can in principle cyclize via the diastereomeric transition states **H** and **I**. However, only formation of lignans *all-trans*-**16** were observed as the products and not a trace of the alternative lignan **S16** was detected. Similarly as in the BF<sub>3</sub>•OEt<sub>2</sub>-mediated cycloetherification, the *syn*-oriented hydroxy group is apparently faster mesylated than the *anti*-oriented and the subsequent cyclization can thus only proceed via transition state **H**. Moreover, transition state **I** is geometrically also much more unfavorable because of the *cis*-orientation of both of the aryl and methyl groups. Thus, only two diastereomers of tetrahydrofuran lignans **16** and **17** result with approximately 2:1 diastereoselectivity from the 1.5 : 5-6 : 1 diastereomeric mixtures of diols **15m-p** under S<sub>N</sub>2 conditions.

## 2. Experimental part and analytical data

### 2.1 General Information

All reactions were conducted in flame or oven dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere. DME, THF and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were dried following standard methods under an argon atmosphere. TLC plates POLYGRAM SIL G/UV254 (Macherey-Nagel) were used for monitoring reactions. Flash column chromatographic separations were performed at silica gel 60 (Fluka, 230-400 mesh). IR spectra were taken on a Bruker ALPHA FT-IR spectrometer as neat samples using an ATR device. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded, unless otherwise noted, in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on Bruker Avance 500 and 400 at 500.0 and 400.1 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H NMR or 125.7 and 100.6 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C NMR, respectively. EI mass spectra were recorded on Waters GCT Premier spectrometer at 70 eV. ESI mass spectra were obtained on Thermo Fisher Scientific LCQ Fleet spectrometer, sample concentration approx. 1 µg/mL, spray voltage pos. mode: 3.3 kV. HRMS spectra were measured on Waters Q-ToF micro spectrometer, resolution: 100000. Combustion analyses were performed at the Microanalytical Laboratories of the IOCB ASCR Prague.

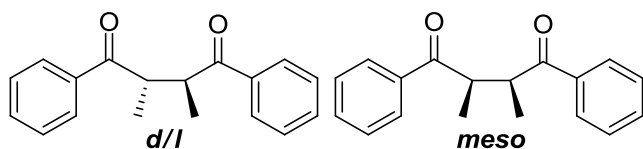
### 2.2 Tandem nucleophilic addition/redox isomerization/oxidative coupling

**General procedure using PhLi:** Phenyllithium **1a** (0.72 mL, 1.3 mmol, 1.8M in dibutyl ether) was added dropwise to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde **2** (1.3 mmol) in DME (8 mL) at -5 °C under an argon atmosphere. After stirring for 15 min, (*p*-cymene)ruthenium dichloride dimer (16 mg, 0.026 mmol, 2 mol%) was added. The flask was removed from the cooling bath, P(OMe)<sub>3</sub> (0.003 mL, 0.026 mmol, 2 mol%) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. The homogeneous solution was heated at a temperature of 86 °C in an oil bath until conversion of the allylic alkoxide **3** to ketone enolate **4** was complete as monitored by TLC or GC, typically 10-15 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C and ferrocenium hexafluorophosphate **7** (331 mg, 1 mmol) was added in small portions with vigorous stirring. Further **7** (ca. 165 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added until the reaction mixture became blue-green. Stirring was continued for 20 min. The reaction was quenched by a few drops of water, filtered through a pad of silica gel, which was washed thoroughly with diethyl ether. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum, the crude product was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by flash

column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 1:1). Ferrocene eluted first followed by some biphenyl, present in PhLi, phenones and products **8**, respectively.

**General procedure using lithium-halogen exchange:** *tert*-BuLi (1.53 mL, 2.6 mmol, 1.7M in pentane) was added to a stirred solution of the aryl halide (1.3 mmol) in DME (8 mL) at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  under an argon atmosphere. After 35 min, the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde **2** (1.3 mmol) was added at once. After stirring at the same temperature for 15 min, (*p*-cymene)ruthenium dichloride dimer (16 mg, 0.026 mmol, 2 mol%) was added. The flask was removed from the cooling bath, P(OMe)<sub>3</sub> (0.003 mL, 0.026 mmol, 2 mol%) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. The homogeneous solution was heated at a temperature of  $86\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in an oil bath until conversion of the allylic alkoxide **3** to ketone enolate **4** was complete as monitored by TLC or GC, typically 10-20 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and ferrocenium hexafluorophosphate **7** (331 mg, 1 mmol) was added in small portions with vigorous stirring. Further **7** (ca. 165 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added until the reaction mixture became blue-green. Stirring was continued for 20 min. The reaction was quenched by a few drops of water, filtered through a pad of silica gel, which was washed thoroughly with diethyl ether. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum, the crude product was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 1:1). Ferrocene eluted first followed by phenones and products **8**, respectively.

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Dimethyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-dimethyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8a**):**

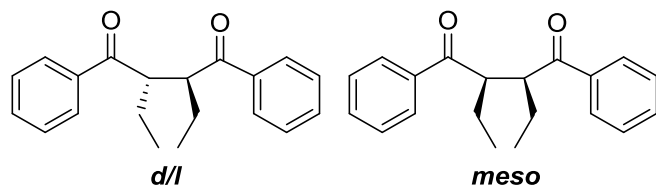


Separable 6.5:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 108 mg (62%). -  $R_f = 0.39$ , hexane/EtOAc 9:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3069$  (w); 2983 (w); 2944 (w); 2887 (w); 1679 (s); 1601 (w); 1584 (w); 1452 (m); 1378 (w); 1334 (w); 1284 (w); 1211 (s); 1184 (w); 1163 (w); 1108 (w); 1004 (w); 970 (s); 849 (w); 795 (w); 774 (w); 738 (s); 702 (w); 660 (m); 632 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 289 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100), 267 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 39). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2^+$ : 267.1379; found: 267.1379.

***d/l*-8a:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.00 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 1.6$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.56-7.52 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.48-7.43 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 4.02-3.93 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 1.29 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  204.3 (s,  $\text{ArC}=\text{O}$ ); 136.2 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 133.0 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.7 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.5 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 43.7 (d,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 15.6 (q,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ).

***meso*-8a:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.3$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.52-7.48 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 4.09-4.01 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.9 (s,  $\text{ArC}=\text{O}$ ); 137.0 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 133.5 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.9 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.6 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 43.4 (d,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 17.6 (q,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Diethyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-diethyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (8b):<sup>1</sup>**



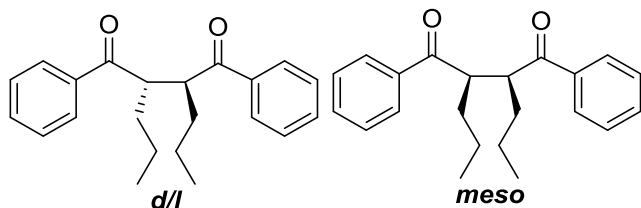
Inseparable 6:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 180 mg (94%). -  $R_f = 0.46$ , hexane/EtOAc 9:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3070$  (w); 2975 (w); 2944 (w); 2886 (w); 1677 (s); 1601 (w); 1584 (w); 1463 (w); 1451 (m); 1390 (w); 1355 (w); 1258 (w); 1233 (w); 1207 (m); 1183 (w); 1162 (w); 1118 (w); 1076 (w); 1005 (m); 985 (w); 933 (w); 832 (w); 778 (w); 701 (s); 659 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 611 ( $2\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 24), 317 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100), 295 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 28). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$ : 317.1512; found: 317.1512.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8b:** m.p. 72-73 °C (mixture). -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.07 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.2$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 7.97 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.2$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.63-7.58 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 7.56-7.48 (m, 6H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ , *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 7.47-7.42 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 4.10-4.05 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_2$ ); 4.05-4.00 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_2^\#$ ); 1.90-1.77 (m, 4H,  $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 1.73-1.63 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 1.53-1.43 (m, 2H,  $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 0.83 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 0.70 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  204.5 (s,  $\text{ArC}=\text{O}^\#$ ); 204.4 (s,  $\text{ArC}=\text{O}$ ); 138.7 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 137.7 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 133.5 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ ); 132.9 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.9 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ ); 128.6 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.5 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ , *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ );



49.2 (d,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 46.8 (d,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 25.6 (t,  $\text{CH}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 22.3 (t,  $\text{CH}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 11.9 (q,  $\text{CHCH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3^\#$ ); 10.5 (q,  $\text{CHCH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$ ).  $^\#$  Resonances of *meso*-8b.

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Diphenyl-2,3-dipropylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-diphenyl-2,3-dipropylbutane-1,4-dione (8c):**

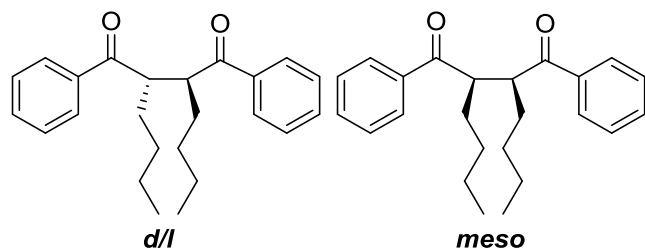


Inseparable 7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a viscous liquid. Yield 145 mg (69%). -  $R_f$  = 0.35, hexane/EtOAc 19:1. - IR:  $\nu$  = 2959 (w); 2932 (w); 2873 (w); 1672 (m); 1596 (w); 1579 (w); 1447 (w); 1379 (w); 1344 (w); 1243 (w); 1211 (w); 1179 (w); 1002 (w); 987 (w); 907 (m); 728 (s); 706 (s); 686 (w); 647 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 667 ( $2\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 30), 345 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100), 323 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 72). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$ : 345.1825; found: 345.1825.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8c:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.07 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 7.95 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.62-7.58 (m, 2H, *para*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H, *para*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.46-7.41 (m, 8H, *meta*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}$ , *meta*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 4.08-4.01 (m, 4H,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2$ ,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2^\#$ ); 1.81-1.65 (m, 8H,  $\text{CHCH}_2$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_2^\#$ ); 1.34-1.21 (m, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 1.19-1.06 (m, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 0.84 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$ ); 0.67 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3^\#$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  204.64 (s,  $\text{Ar}\underline{\text{C}}=\text{O}$ ); 204.61 (s,  $\text{Ar}\underline{\text{C}}=\text{O}^\#$ ); 138.8 (s,  $\underline{\text{C}}_{\text{ArCO}}^\#$ ); 137.9 (s,  $\underline{\text{C}}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 133.4 (d, *para*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ ); 132.9 (d, *para*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.9 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ ); 128.6 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.5 (d, *meta*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ , *meta*- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}^\#$ ); 48.3 (d,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2\text{CH}_2^\#$ ); 47.1 (d,  $\underline{\text{C}}\text{HCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ); 34.9 (t,  $\text{CH}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_2^\#$ ); 32.1 (t,  $\text{CH}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_2$ ); 20.9 (t,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3^\#$ ); 19.9 (t,  $\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 14.5 (q,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$ ); 14.2 (q,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3^\#$ ).

$^\#$  Resonances of *meso*-8c.

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Dibutyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-dibutyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (8d):**

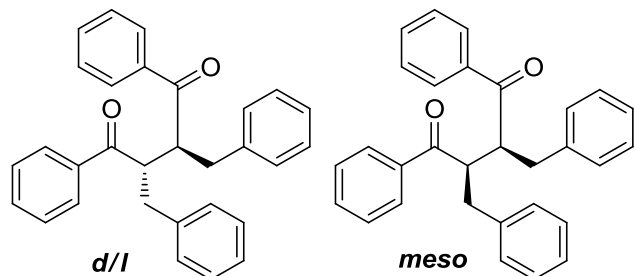


Partially separable 7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 139 mg (61%). -  $R_f$  = 0.65, hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu$  = 2965 (w); 2940 (w); 2869 (w); 1679 (s); 1601 (w); 1584 (w); 1452 (m); 1382 (w); 1285 (w); 1210 (m); 1183 (w); 1162 (w); 1078 (w); 1027 (w); 1005 (w); 938 (w); 846 (w); 791 (w); 756 (w); 707 (s); 689 (s); 660 (w); 619 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 723 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 5), 373 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 351 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 47). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 373.2138; found: 373.2138.

***d/l*-8d:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.95 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.45-7.42 (m, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 4.07-4.01 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>); 1.83-1.72 (m, 4H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>); 1.29-1.18 (m, 6H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.16-1.05 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.81 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  204.6 (s, ArC=O); 137.6 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 132.9 (d, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 128.6 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 128.50 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 46.7 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 29.3 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 28.5 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 23.1 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 13.9 (q, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

***meso*-8d:** m.p. 96-97 °C. - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.05 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.62-7.59 (m, 2H, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.53-7.49 (m, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 4.06-3.99 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>); 1.73-1.61 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>); 1.42-1.19 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>); 1.12-0.96 (m, 8H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.65 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  204.7 (s, ArC=O); 138.7 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 133.4 (d, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 128.9 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 128.54 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 48.4 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 32.4 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 29.7 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 22.8 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 13.8 (q, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Dibenzyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-dibenzyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8e**):<sup>2</sup>**

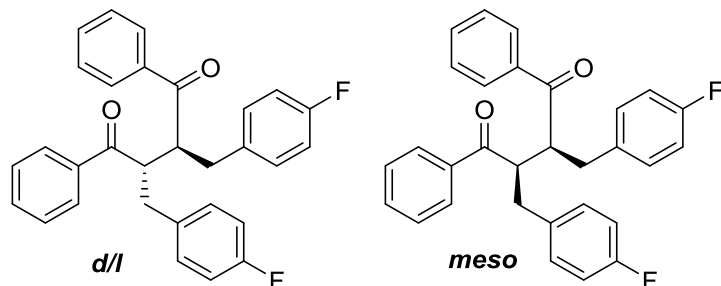


Separable 7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 177 mg (65%). -  $R_f = 0.31$ , hexane/EtOAc 7:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3071$  (w); 3036 (w); 2934 (w); 1676 (s); 1601 (w); 1585 (w); 1499 (w); 1451 (m); 1339 (w); 1235 (m); 1208 (w); 1183 (w); 1079 (w); 1032 (w); 1006 (w); 972 (w); 939 (w); 749 (s); 698 (s); 687 (s); 635 (w); 600 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 859 ( $2\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 32), 441 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100), 419 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 54). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$ : 441.1825; found: 441.1824.

***d/l*-8e**: m.p. 124-126 °C. -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.66-7.62 (m, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.26-7.22 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.17-7.12 (m, 4H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 7.10-7.05 (m, 6H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 4.23-4.19 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 3.23-3.12 (m, 4H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.3 (s,  $\text{PhC}=\text{O}$ ); 138.6 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 137.5 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 132.8 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 129.1 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.38 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.3 (d,  $2\times\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 126.4 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 50.1 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 35.7 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

***meso*-8e**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.70 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 1.3$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.34-7.30 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.09-7.04 (m, 5H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 7.03-6.99 (m, 5H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 4.35-4.28 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 2.95 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 9.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 2.81 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 3.3$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.7 (s,  $\text{PhC}=\text{O}$ ); 138.50 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 138.46 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 133.2 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 129.2 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.5 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.42 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.36 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 126.5 (d,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 50.7 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 38.1 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Bis(4-fluorobenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-bis(4-fluorobenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8f**):**

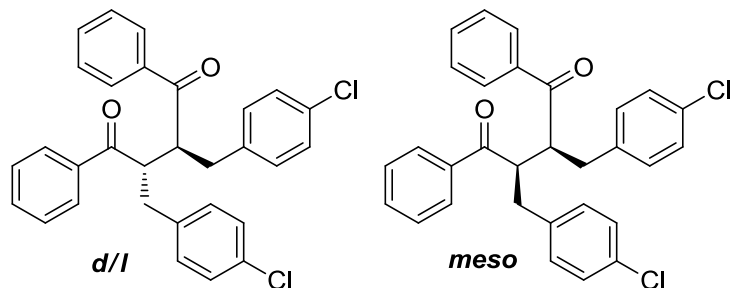


Separable 7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 154 mg (52%). -  $R_f = 0.47$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3073$  (w); 2939 (w); 1679 (s); 1603 (m); 1585 (w); 1514 (s); 1452 (m); 1377 (w); 1359 (w); 1225 (s); 1162 (m); 1099 (w); 1017 (w); 1006 (w); 919 (w); 882 (m); 716 (m); 689 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 931 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 4), 477 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 455 ( $M+H^+$ , 7). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{30}H_{24}F_2O_2Na^+$ : 477.1636; found: 477.1636.

***d/l*-8f**: m.p. 135-136 °C. -  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.64 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H, *para*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 7.00 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 5.5$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 6.82 (t,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 4.18-4.12 (m, 2H,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ); 3.21-3.11 (m, 4H,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ). -  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.1 (s,  $PhC=O$ ); 161.60 (s (d,  $J_{FC} = 244.6$  Hz), *para*- $C_{Ar-F}$ ); 137.4 (s,  $C_{ArCO}$ ); 134.2 (s (d,  $J_{FC} = 3.3$  Hz),  $C_{Ar-F}$ ); 133.1 (d, *para*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 130.6 (d (d,  $J_{FC} = 7.9$  Hz), *ortho*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 128.5 (d, *ortho*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 128.3 (d, *meta*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 115.3 (d (d,  $J_{FC} = 21.3$  Hz), *meta*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 50.0 (d,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ); 34.7 (t,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ).

***meso*-8f**:  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H, *para*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 6.92 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 5.5$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 6.74 (t,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 4.38-4.18 (m, 2H,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ); 2.90 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 9.8$  Hz, 2H,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ); 2.75 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 2.4$  Hz, 2H,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ). -  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.6 (s,  $PhC=O$ ); 161.58 (s (d,  $J_{FC} = 244.7$  Hz), *para*- $C_{Ar-F}$ ); 138.2 (s,  $C_{ArCO}$ ); 134.0 (s (d,  $J_{FC} = 3.2$  Hz),  $C_{Ar-F}$ ); 133.5 (d, *para*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 130.7 (d (d,  $J_{FC} = 7.9$  Hz), *ortho*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 128.7 (d, *ortho*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 128.4 (d, *meta*- $CH_{ArCO}$ ); 115.2 (d (d,  $J_{FC} = 21.3$  Hz), *meta*- $CH_{Ar-F}$ ); 50.6 (d,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ); 37.4 (t,  $PhCOCHCH_2$ ).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Bis(4-chlorobenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-bis(4-chlorobenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8g**):**

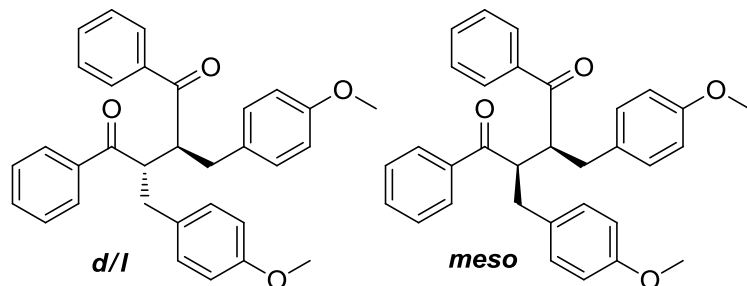


Partially separable 7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 235 mg (74%). -  $R_f = 0.54$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3071$  (w); 2934 (w); 2860 (w); 1678 (s); 1601 (w); 1584 (w); 1514 (s); 1496 (s); 1451 (m); 1413 (w); 1357 (w); 1271 (w); 1235 (m); 1211 (m); 1183 (w); 1096 (m); 1018 (w); 973 (w); 914 (w); 835 (w); 801 (m); 733 (m); 707 (s); 688 (s); 669 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 513/511/509 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 13/68/100), 489/487 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 20/28). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2^+$ : 487.1226; found: 487.1227.

***d/l*-8g**: m.p. 143-144 °C. -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.65 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.1$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.50-7.46 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.35-7.31 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.11 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 4.16-4.10 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 3.19-3.09 (m, 4H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  202.6 (s,  $\text{PhC=O}$ ); 137.2 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 137.1 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 133.2 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 132.40 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 130.5 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 128.6 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$  and *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 128.4 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 49.9 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 34.4 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

***meso*-8g**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.3$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.53-7.49 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.39-7.33 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.02 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 4.30-4.23 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 2.91 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 9.8$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 2.74 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 2.7$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.3 (s,  $\text{PhC=O}$ ); 138.1 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 136.8 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 133.6 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 132.41 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 130.6 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 128.7 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 128.5 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 128.4 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar-Cl}}$ ); 50.3 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 37.5 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Bis(4-methoxybenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8h**):**

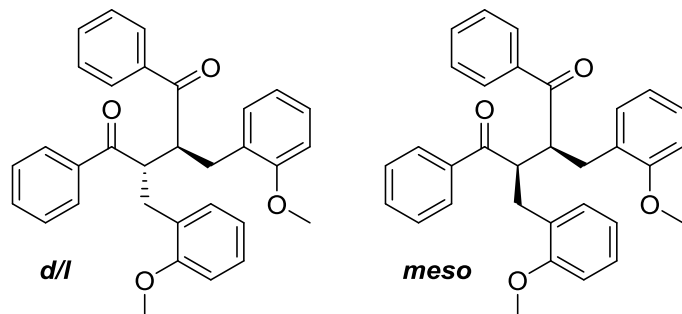


Separable 4:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 193 mg (62%). -  $R_f = 0.28$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3014$  (w); 2942 (w); 2844 (w); 1676 (s); 1616 (w); 1601 (w); 1585 (w); 1515 (s); 1451 (m); 1355 (w); 1304 (w); 1249 (s); 1181 (s); 1111 (w); 1037 (w); 1006 (m); 943 (w); 919 (w); 824 (w); 757 (w); 711 (m); 689 (m); 635 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 979 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 14), 501 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 479 ( $M+H^+$ , 24). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{32}H_{31}O_4^+$ : 479.2217; found: 479.2219.

***d/l*-8h**: m.p. 97-98 °C. -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.65 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.2$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.33-7.27 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.68 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 4.18-4.11 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 3.70 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.18 (m, 4H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.7 (s,  $\text{PhC=O}$ ); 158.3 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArOMe}}$ ); 137.7 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 132.8 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 130.62 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 130.25 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.44 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$  and *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 113.9 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 55.4 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 50.2 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 34.9 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

***meso*-8h**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.71 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.3$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.60 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 4.30-4.23 (m, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 3.66 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 2.89 (dd,  $J = 13.4, 9.8$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 2.74 (dd,  $J = 13.4, 3.2$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  203.8 (s,  $\text{PhC=O}$ ); 158.2 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArOMe}}$ ); 138.5 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 133.1 (d, *para*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 130.57 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 130.24 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 128.5 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 128.45 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{ArCO}}$ ); 113.8 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 55.3 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 50.7 (d,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ); 37.2 (t,  $\text{PhCOCHCH}_2$ ).

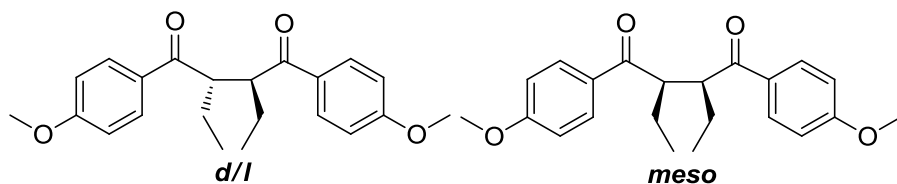
**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-Bis(2-methoxybenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-2,3-bis(2-methoxybenzyl)-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**8i**):**



Inseparable 2.7:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 159 mg (51%). -  $R_f = 0.25$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3072$  (w); 2946 (w); 2844 (w); 1677 (w); 1603 (w); 1497 (s); 1468 (m); 1452 (m); 1340 (w); 1292 (w); 1245 (s); 1214 (m); 1182 (m); 1114 (m); 1054 (w); 1031 (w); 941 (w); 913 (w); 848 (w); 753 (s); 731 (s); 703 (s); 689 (m); 618 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 979 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 13), 501 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 479 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 34). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 501.2036; found: 501.2036.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8i:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.72 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.2$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.63 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.2$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.40-7.35 (m, 2H, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.34-7.28 (m, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.25-7.20 (m, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.19-7.14 (m, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.05-7.01 (m, 6H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.94-6.90 (m, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.89-6.85 (m, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.70 (dt,  $J = 7.4, 1.1$  Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.64-6.59 (m, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 4.47-4.38 (m, 4H, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub>, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.64 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.62 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.30 (dd,  $J = 13.0, 3.2$  Hz, 2H, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub>); 2.74 (m, 6H, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub>, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  204.5 (s, PhC=O); 203.1 (s, PhC=O<sup>#</sup>); 157.5 (s, C<sub>ArOMe</sub>); 157.3 (s, C<sub>ArOMe</sub><sup>#</sup>); 138.6 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 138.1 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 132.7 (d, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 132.4 (d, *para*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 131.4 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 131.3 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 128.3 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 128.7 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 128.0 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 127.83 (d, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 127.79 (d, *para*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 127.3 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 127.2 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 120.31 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 120.27 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 109.95 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar(o-OMe)</sub>); 109.92 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar(o-OMe)</sub><sup>#</sup>); 55.0 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 54.9 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 48.6 (d, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub>); 48.3 (d, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>); 32.8 (t, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>); 31.9 (t, PhCOCHCH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>#</sup> Resonances of *meso*-8i.

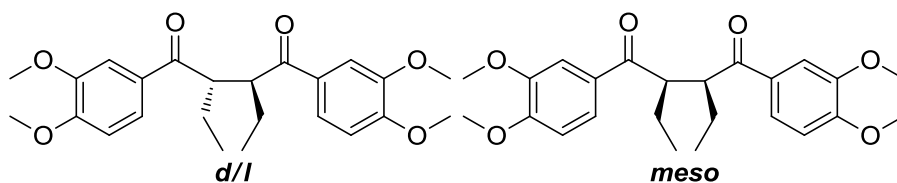
**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diethylbutane-1,4-dione (**8k**):**



Partially separable 5:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a viscous liquid. Yield 143 mg (62%). -  $R_f = 0.32$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2975$  (w); 2943 (w); 2885 (w); 2850 (w); 1669 (m); 1602 (s); 1579 (w); 1514 (m); 1464 (w); 1424 (w); 1388 (w); 1356 (w); 1312 (w); 1260 (s); 1236 (m); 1213 (w); 1172 (s); 1121 (w); 1033 (m); 986 (w); 849 (w); 796 (w); 755 (w); 696 (w); 669 (w); 636 (w); 610 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 731 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 22), 377 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 355 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 33). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 377.1723; found: 377.1723.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8k:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.06 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.94 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.96 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.90 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 4H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 4.00-3.95 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.95-3.90 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.86 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.82 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.86-1.74 (m, 4H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.73-1.69 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 1.42-1.37 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 0.81 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.67 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  203.0 (s, ArC=O<sup>#</sup>); 202.9 (s, ArC=O); 163.9 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 163.4 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 132.0 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>, C<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 130.9 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 130.8 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 114.0 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 113.9 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 55.6 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 55.5 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 49.1 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 46.8 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 25.7 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 22.7 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 12.0 (q, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 10.8 (q, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>#</sup> Resonances of *meso*-8k.

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-diethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-diethylbutane-1,4-dione (**8l**):**



Partially separable 3:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 192 mg (71%). -  $R_f = 0.45$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2973$  (w); 2943 (w); 2884 (w); 2849

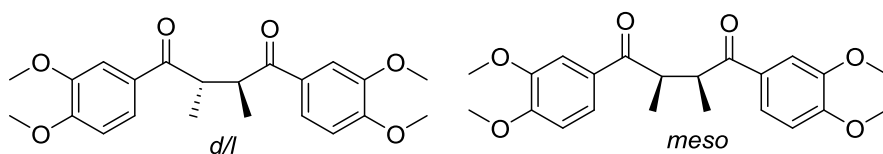


(w); 1663 (m); 1598 (m); 1588 (m); 1517 (s); 1464 (m); 1421 (m); 1387 (m); 1346 (w); 1263 (s); 1196 (w); 1155 (s); 1135 (m); 1025 (m); 889 (w); 805 (w); 759 (m); 669 (w); 623 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 851 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 19), 437 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 415 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 46). - HRMS (+EI) Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 415.2115; found: 415.2115.

***d/l*-8l**: m.p. 109-110 °C. - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.69 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.44 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 4.00-3.91 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.93 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.88 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.90-1.74 (m, 4H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.83 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  209.9 (s, ArC=O); 153.3 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 149.1 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 131.0 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 123.3 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.7 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.18 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 56.17 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.0 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 49.0 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 23.0 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 11.0 (q, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

***meso*-8l**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.75 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.9 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 3.96 (s, 12H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.96-3.87 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.71-1.59 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.46-1.37 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.68 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  203.0 (s, ArC=O); 153.8 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 149.3 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 132.2 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 123.6 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.3 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.22 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 56.21 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.1 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 49.1 (d, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 25.8 (t, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 12.1 (q, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*-1,4-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (8m):**<sup>3</sup>

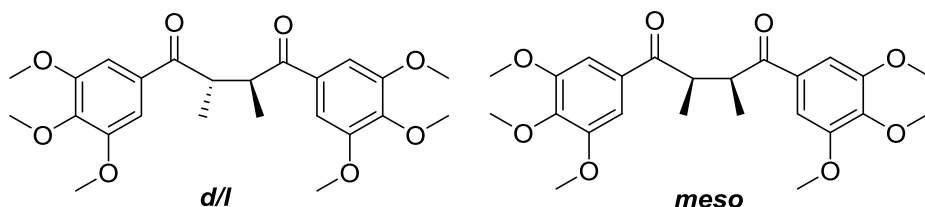


Partially separable 3:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 151 mg (60%). - R<sub>f</sub> = 0.25, hexane/EtOAc 2:1. - IR:  $\nu$  = 3086 (w); 3037 (w); 2972 (w); 2943 (w); 2882 (w); 2851 (w); 1662 (m); 1598 (m); 1587 (m); 1518 (m); 1466 (m); 1446 (w); 1420 (m); 1310 (m); 1262 (s); 1246 (s); 1224 (w); 1192 (w); 1154 (s); 1080 (w); 1024 (s); 996 (w); 891 (m); 863 (w); 817 (w); 809 (w); 760 (m); 751 (m); 730 (w); 670 (w); 621 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 795 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 37), 409 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 387 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 32). - HRMS (+EI) Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 387.1802; found: 387.1803.

***d/l*-8m**: m.p. 190-191 °C. - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.48 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 3.93 (s+m, 8H, OCH<sub>3</sub>, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.88 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 203.1 (s, ArC=O); 153.3 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 149.1 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 129.3 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 123.2 (d, *ortho*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.8 (d, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.2 (d, *ortho*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 56.17 (q, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.0 (q, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 43.3 (d, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 16.1 (q, CHCH<sub>3</sub>).

***meso*-8m**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 7.60 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 3.97 (s+m, 14H, OCH<sub>3</sub>, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 202.6 (s, ArC=O); 153.8 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 149.4 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 130.3 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 123.8 (d, *ortho*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.7 (d, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 110.3 (d, *ortho*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 56.3 (q, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.19 (q, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 43.1 (d, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 17.8 (q, CHCH<sub>3</sub>).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (8n):<sup>4</sup>**



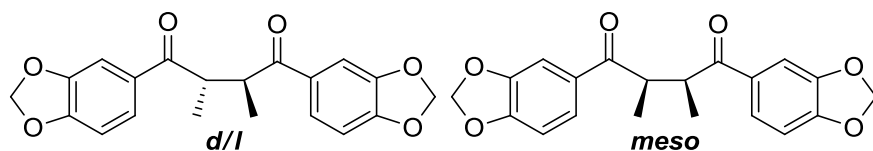
Partially separable 3:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 198 mg (68%). - R<sub>f</sub> = 0.46, hexane/EtOAc 7:3. - IR: ν = 2924 (w); 2853 (w); 1775 (w); 1708 (w); 1670 (m); 1581 (m); 1503 (w); 1457 (m); 1413 (m); 1339 (m); 1231 (w); 1183 (w); 1154 (m); 1125 (s); 998 (w); 865 (w); 759 (w) cm<sup>-1</sup>. - MS (+ESI) *m/z* (%): 915 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 6), 469 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 447 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 40). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>+</sup>: 447.2013; found: 447.2013.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8n**: m.p. 172-173 °C (for *d/l*). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.28 (s, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.23 (s, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 3.92 (s+m, 14H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.90 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.88 (s+m, 14H, OCH<sub>3</sub>, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.87 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 203.2 (s, ArC=O); 202.5 (s, ArC=O<sup>#</sup>); 153.3 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 153.2 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 143.1 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 142.8 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>);

132.1 (s,  $\underline{C}_{Ar}^{\#}$ ); 131.3 (s,  $\underline{C}_{Ar}$ ); 106.2 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 106.1 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}^{\#}$ ); 61.0 (q, *para*- $\underline{C}_{Ar}O\underline{CH}_3^{\#}$ ); 60.9 (q, *para*- $\underline{C}_{Ar}O\underline{CH}_3$ ); 56.5 (q, *meta*- $\underline{C}_{Ar}O\underline{CH}_3^{\#}$ ); 56.4 (q, *meta*- $\underline{C}_{Ar}O\underline{CH}_3$ ); 43.6 (d,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ); 43.2 (d,  $\underline{CHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 17.7 (q,  $\underline{CHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 15.9 (q,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ).

<sup>#</sup> Resonances of *meso*-**8n**.

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-bis(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (**8o**):<sup>5</sup>**

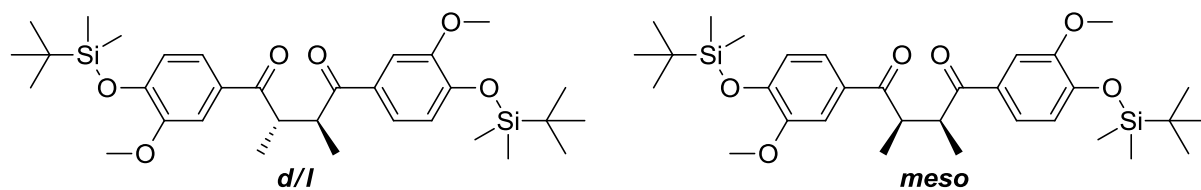


Separable 3:1 mixture of *d/l:meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 150 mg (65%). -  $R_f = 0.67$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2978$  (w); 2934 (w); 2864 (w); 1722 (s); 1674 (w); 1610 (w); 1509 (m); 1493 (m); 1445 (s); 1378 (w); 1358 (w); 1327 (w); 1250 (s); 1117 (w); 1093 (w); 1041 (s); 981 (w); 936 (w); 886 (w); 814 (w); 754 (w); 723 (w); 652 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 731 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 44), 377 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 95), 355 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 377.0995; found: 377.0996.

***d/l*-**8o****: m.p. 193-194 °C. - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.63 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.4$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 7.44 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 6.02 (s, 4H, O $\underline{CH}_2$ O); 3.88-3.79 (m, 2H,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ); 1.27 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  202.5 (s, ArC=O); 151.8 (s, *para*- $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 148.3 (s, *meta*- $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 131.0 (s,  $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 124.8 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 108.5 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 108.0 (d, *meta*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 101.9 (t, O $\underline{CH}_2$ O); 43.7 (d,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ); 16.0 (q,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ).

***meso*-**8o****: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.68 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.7$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 7.52 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*- $\underline{CH}_{ArCO}$ ); 6.06 (s, 4H, O $\underline{CH}_2$ O); 3.95-3.86 (m, 2H,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ); 1.08 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 6H,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  202.0 (s, ArC=O); 152.2 (s, *para*- $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 148.6 (s, *meta*- $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 131.9 (s,  $\underline{C}_{ArCO}$ ); 125.0 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 108.3 (d, *ortho*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 108.1 (d, *meta*- $\underline{CH}_{Ar}$ ); 102.1 (t, O $\underline{CH}_2$ O); 43.4 (d,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ); 17.8 (q,  $\underline{CHCH}_3$ ).

**(2*S*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-Bis(4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-(methoxy)phenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione and (2*R*\*,3*S*\*)-1,4-bis(4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-(methoxy)phenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (**8p**):**



Separable 4.5:1 mixture of *d/l*:*meso* diastereomers as a colorless crystalline solid. Yield 157 mg (41%). -  $R_f = 0.70$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2967$  (w); 2940 (w); 2893 (w); 2867 (w); 1673 (m); 1596 (m); 1514 (s); 1468 (m); 1420 (m); 1396 (w); 1366 (w); 1288 (s); 1256 (s); 1200 (w); 1164 (s); 1137 (w); 1123 (w); 1041 (w); 919 (m); 861 (m); 842 (s); 826 (s); 808 (s); 785 (s); 706 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 1195 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 18), 609 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 587 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 48). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>51</sub>O<sub>6</sub>NaSi<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 609.3038; found: 609.3034.

***d/l*- and *meso*-8p:** m.p. 90-91 °C (for *d/l*). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.63 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.9$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.58-7.55 (m, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 7.43 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 4.02-3.94 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.94-3.89 (m, 2H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.88 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.81 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 1.00 (s, 18H, SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 0.99 (s, 18H, SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); 0.19 (s, 12H, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>); 0.18 (s, 6H, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>); 0.17 (s, 6H, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  203.2 (s, ArC=O); 202.8 (s, ArC=O<sup>#</sup>); 151.3 (s, *meta*-C<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 151.1 (s, *meta*-C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 150.5 (s, *para*-C<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 150.0 (s, *para*-C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 131.1 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 130.2 (s, C<sub>ArCO</sub>); 123.0 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 122.9 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 120.45 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub><sup>#</sup>); 120.41 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>ArCO</sub>); 111.8 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArOMe</sub>); 111.5 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>ArOMe</sub><sup>#</sup>); 55.6 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 55.5 (q, C<sub>Ar</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 43.4 (d, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 43.1 (d, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 25.78 (q, SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); 25.77 (q, SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 18.6 (s, SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and SiC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 17.9 (q, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 16.1 (q, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); -4.39 (q, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>); -4.43 (q, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>#</sup>). <sup>#</sup> Resonances of *meso*-8p.

### 2.3 Total synthesis of tetrahydrofuran lignans

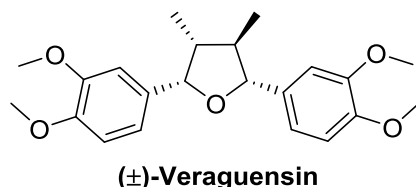
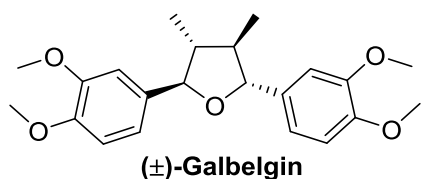
**Method A:** Lithium aluminum hydride (65  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.13 mmol, 2M in THF) was added to a stirred solution of **8m** (0.129 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. After 30 min, the reaction was quenched by a drop of water, diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered through a pad of celite, which was washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum to give crude diol. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (63  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.516 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the crude diol in DCM (2 mL) at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  under an argon atmosphere. After stirring at the same temperature for 20 min. the reaction mixture was quenched with water and diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The layers were separated and the aqueous was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic fractions were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The crude product was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 3:1).

**Note:** For cyclization of **8m** and **8n**  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$  (63  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.516 mmol); for **8o** and **8p**:  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$  (24  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.193 mmol).

**Method B:** Lithium aluminum hydride (65  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.13 mmol, 2M in THF) was added to a stirred solution of **8m** (0.129 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. After 30 min, the reaction was quenched by a drop of water, diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered through a pad of celite, which was washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum to give crude diol. Triethylamine (38  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.28 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the crude diol in DCM (2 mL) at  $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  under an argon atmosphere. After stirring at the same temperature for 5 min, methanesulfonyl chloride (15  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.19 mmol) was added. After stirring at the same temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with water and diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The layers were separated and the aqueous was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic fractions were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The crude product was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 3:1).

**Note:** Methanesulfonyl chloride was added at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the experiment performed to compare results with method A at low temperature.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-2,5-Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (16a) and (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-2,5-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (17a):<sup>6</sup>**

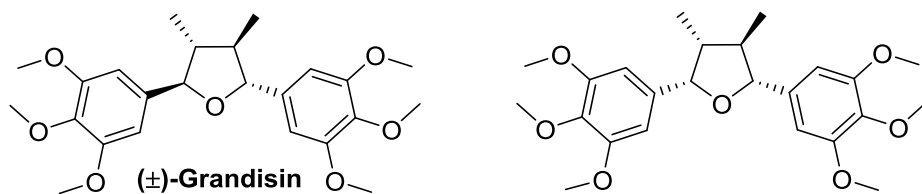


Method A: Inseparable 10:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a viscous liquid. Yield 28 mg (57%). Method B: Inseparable 2:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a viscous liquid. Yield 38 mg (78%). -  $R_f = 0.80$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3007$  (w); 2965 (m); 2918 (w); 2844 (w); 1598 (w); 1563 (w); 1520 (s); 1462 (m); 1423 (w); 1379 (w); 1343 (w); 1267 (s); 1239 (s); 1165 (m); 1143 (m); 1110 (w); 1031 (s); 864 (w); 812 (w); 766 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 767 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 19), 395 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 373 ( $M+H^+$ , 10). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{29}O_5^+$ : 373.2009; found: 373.2011.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-16a and (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17a:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.07 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 7.04 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.9$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 6.97 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 6.92 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.9$  Hz, 3H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ , *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 6.91-6.87 (m, 3H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ , *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ , *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 5.14 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 4.66 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 4.43 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 3.91 (s, 9H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 3.89 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 3.87 (s, 9H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 3.86 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 2.30-2.17 (m, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 1.85-1.74 (m, 3H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 0.66 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CHCH}_3^{\#}$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  149.1 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 149.0 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 148.59 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 148.57 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 148.5 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 148.0 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 134.9 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 133.8 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 133.5 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 119.2 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 118.65 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 118.62 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 111.1 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 110.9 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 110.7 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 110.4 (d, *ortho*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 110.0 (d, *ortho*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 109.2 (d, *ortho*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}^{\#}$ ); 88.3 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 87.2 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 83.0 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 55.93 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 55.91 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 55.88 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 55.86 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 55.81 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 51.0 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 47.9 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 46.0 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 15.1 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 15.0 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3^{\#}$ ); 13.9 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ).

<sup>#</sup> Resonances of (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17a.

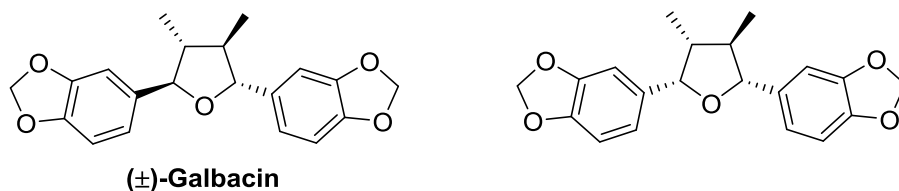
**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-2,5-Bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (16b) and (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-2,5-bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (17b):<sup>7</sup>**



Method A: Inseparable 8:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 19.5 mg (40%). Method B: Inseparable 3:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 33.5 mg (69%). -  $R_f = 0.52$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2966$  (w); 2943 (w); 2848 (w); 1595 (m); 1510 (w); 1461 (m); 1422 (m); 1380 (w); 1356 (w); 1332 (m); 1235 (s); 1187 (w); 1125 (s); 1051 (w); 1010 (s); 915 (w); 861 (w); 827 (w); 788 (w); 731 (m); 671 (w); 648 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 887 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 5), 471 (M+K<sup>+</sup>, 8), 455 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 455.2040; found: 455.2039.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-16b and (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.76 (s, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 6.62 (s, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.56 (s, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 5.12 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 4.65 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 2H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 4.43 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.89 (s, 12H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.88 (s, 9H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 3.84 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.83 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 2.31-2.21 (m, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 1.85-1.73 (m, 3H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 1.12 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 0.70 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  153.40 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 153.38 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 153.0 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 138.1 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 137.5 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub> and *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 136.8 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup> and C<sub>Ar</sub>); 136.7 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 104.2 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 103.6 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub><sup>#</sup>); 103.1 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 88.6 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 87.5 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 83.4 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 60.99 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 60.96 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 60.94 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.3 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.2 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 56.1 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 51.2 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 47.9 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 46.2 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 15.5 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 15.0 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub><sup>#</sup>); 14.1 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>#</sup> Resonances of (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17b.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-2,5-Bis(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (16c)**  
**and (2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-2,5-bis(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (17c):**<sup>8</sup>



Method A: Partially separable 8:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 30 mg (62%). Method B: Partially separable 2:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 34 mg (70%). -  $R_f = 0.34$ , hexane/EtOAc 9:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2967$  (w); 2904 (w); 2784 (w); 1508 (m); 1492 (s); 1447 (s); 1384 (w); 1319 (w); 1248 (s); 1196 (w); 1130 (w); 1104 (w); 1040 (s); 937 (m); 895 (w); 868 (w); 811 (m); 720 (w); 666 (w); 620 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 703 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 7), 363 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 341 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 24). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>: 341.1383; found: 341.1384.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*R*\*)-16c:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.91 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.83 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.6$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 5.94 (s, 4H, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 4.59 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.80-1.69 (m, 2H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.02 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 6H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  147.93 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 147.1 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 136.6 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 119.9 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 108.1 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 106.8 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 101.07 (t, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 88.4 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 51.2 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 14.0 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>).

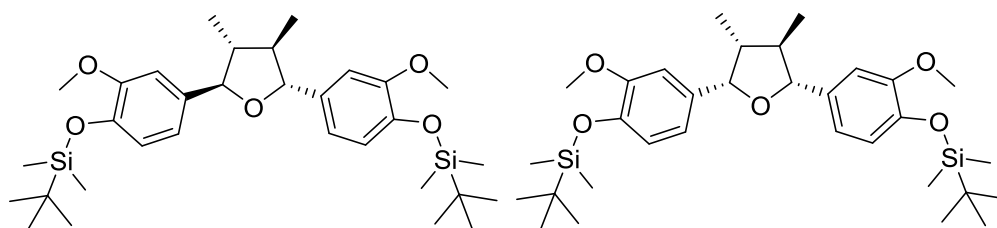
**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17c:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.01 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.93-6.91 (m, 1H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.86-6.76 (m, 4H, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 5.97 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 5.96 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 5.08 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 4.32 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.25-2.15 (m, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.80-1.65 (m, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 0.66 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  147.90 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 147.6 (s, *meta*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 147.2 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 146.7 (s, *para*-C<sub>Ar</sub>); 135.1 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 134.7 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>); 120.3 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 120.2 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 108.2 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 107.9 (d, *meta*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 107.7 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 107.0 (d, *ortho*-CH<sub>Ar</sub>); 101.11 (t, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 101.01 (t, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 87.5 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 83.0 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 48.8 (d,



OCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 46.1 (d, OCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 15.4 (q, OCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 15.1 (q, OCHCH<sub>3</sub>). - Minor **17c** was assigned from the mixture of **16c** and **17c**.

**Method C:** Lithium aluminum hydride (46  $\mu$ L, 0.094 mmol, 2M in THF) was added to a stirred solution of **8p** (50 mg, 0.085 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. After 30 min, the reaction was quenched by a drop of water, diluted with ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of celite, which was washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum to give crude diol. Diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (DIAD) (18.3  $\mu$ L, 0.093 mmol) was added to a mixture of crude diols **15p** and triphenylphosphine (25 mg) in THF (2 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere and the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. After stirring for 1 h, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 5:1) to give 30.5 mg (62%) of **16d** and **17d** in 2:1 ratio.

**(2R\*,3R\*,4R\*,5R\*)-2,5-Bis(4-((tert)-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyltetrahydrofuran (16d) and (2R\*,3R\*,4R\*,5S\*)-2,5-bis(4-((tert)-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyl tetrahydrofuran (17d):**



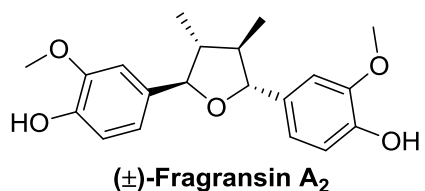
Method A: Separable 10:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 27 mg (55%). Method B: Separable 3:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 16 mg (32%). Method C: Separable 2:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 30.5 mg (62%). -  $R_f = 0.84$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2965$  (w); 2939 (w); 2902 (w); 2866 (w); 1611 (w); 1516 (s); 1468 (w); 1421 (w); 1380 (w); 1365 (w); 1283 (s); 1258 (m); 1237 (m); 1197 (w); 1165 (w); 1126 (w); 1042 (w); 918 (s); 881 (w); 842 (s); 822 (m); 807 (m); 784 (s); 708 (w); 668 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 1167 (2M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 3), 595 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100), 573 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 7). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 595.3245; found: 595.3245.

**(2R\*,3R\*,4R\*,5R\*)-16d:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.93-6.92 (m, 2H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.82-6.81 (m, 4H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ , *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 4.63 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 3.83 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 1.86-1.73 (m, 2H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 0.99 (s, 18H,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 0.14 (s, 6H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); 0.13 (s, 6H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.1 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 144.6 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 136.0 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 120.7 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 118.9 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 110.20 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 88.6 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 55.65 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 51.1 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 25.9 (q,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 18.6 (s,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 14.0 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); -4.52 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ).

**(2R\*,3R\*,4R\*,5S\*)-17d:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.03 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.94 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.9$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.85 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.81 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.77 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.8$  Hz, 1H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 5.11 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 4.39 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 3.82 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.77 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 2.27-2.17 (m, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 1.83-1.73 (m, 1H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 1.00 (s, 9H,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 0.99 (s, 9H,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 0.63 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ); 0.16 (s, 6H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); 0.14 (s, 3H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); 0.13 (s, 3H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.0 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 150.7 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 144.7 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 144.0 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 135.0 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 134.4 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 120.8 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 120.5 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 119.5 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 119.0 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 111.3 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 111.0 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 87.5 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 83.3 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 55.64 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 55.56 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 47.8 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 46.1 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 25.9 (q,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 18.6 (s,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 15.1 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 15.0 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); -4.46 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); -4.47 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); -4.52 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); -4.55 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ).

**Procedure for formation of 16e:** Tetrabutylammonium fluoride (0.14 mL, 0.14 mmol, 1M in THF) was added to a stirred solution of **16d** (20 mg, 0.035 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. After 5 min, the reaction was quenched by saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution, the layers were separated and the aqueous was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic fractions were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give the crude product, which was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 100:1, gradient to 1:1).

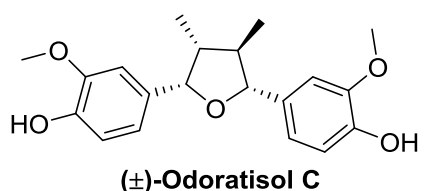
**(±)-Fragransin A<sub>2</sub> (16e):**



Colorless viscous liquid. Yield 12 mg (98%). -  $R_f = 0.45$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 3436$  (w); 2967 (w); 2934 (m); 2863 (w); 1611 (w); 1519 (s); 1467 (m); 1437 (m); 1380 (w); 1333 (w); 1273 (s); 1240 (s); 1210 (m); 1162 (m); 1123 (m); 1102 (w); 1036 (s); 961 (w); 890 (w); 866 (w); 818 (m); 756 (s); 668 (w); 631 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 711 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 65), 367 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 345 ( $M+H^+$ , 25). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{20}H_{25}O_5^+$ : 345.1696; found: 345.1697.

**(2R\*,3R\*,4R\*,5R\*)-16e:** -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.95 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 6.86 (d,  $J = 8.2, 1.6$  Hz, 2H, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 5.57 (s, 2H,  $\text{ArOH}$ ); 4.63 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 3.91 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 1.81-1.72 (m, 2H,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  146.7 (s, *meta*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 145.2 (s, *para*- $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 134.5 (s,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 119.5 (d, *meta*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 114.1 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 108.6 (d, *ortho*- $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ); 88.5 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 56.1 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 51.2 (d,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ); 14.0 (q,  $\text{OCHCHCH}_3$ ).

**(±)-Odoratisol C (17e):**

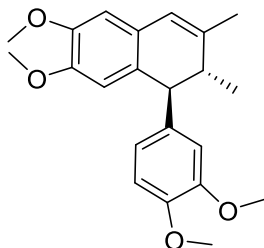


Colorless viscous liquid. Yield 6 mg (99%). -  $R_f = 0.23$ , hexane/EtOAc 7:3. - IR:  $\nu = 3423$  (w); 3017 (w); 2968 (w); 2939 (w); 2881 (w); 1610 (w); 1519 (s); 1457 (m); 1436 (m); 1379 (w); 1349 (w); 1271 (s); 1239 (s); 1210 (s); 1163 (m); 1144 (m); 1123 (m); 1109 (w); 1035 (s); 945 (w); 860 (w); 821 (w); 787 (w); 752 (s); 688 (w); 668 (w); 633 (w); 615 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)

$m/z$  (%): 711 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 83), 367 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 345 ( $M+H^+$ , 55). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{20}H_{25}O_5^+$ : 345.1696; found: 345.1697.

**(2*R*\*,3*R*\*,4*R*\*,5*S*\*)-17e**: -  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.04 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 1H, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.99 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.8$  Hz, 1H, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.93 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H, *meta-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, *meta-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.85 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 6.82 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.7$  Hz, 1H, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 5.61 (s, 1H, ArOH); 5.55 (s, 1H, ArOH); 5.11 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 4.40 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.24 (ddq,  $J = 9.5, 8.8, 7.0$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.78 (tq,  $J = 9.4, 6.5$  Hz, 1H, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>); 0.66 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>). -  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  146.6 (s, *meta-C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 146.3 (s, *meta-C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 145.3 (s, *para-C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 144.7 (s, *para-C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 133.3 (s, *C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 132.9 (s, *C*<sub>Ar</sub>); 120.0 (d, *meta-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 119.4 (d, *meta-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 114.3 (d, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 114.0 (d, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 109.8 (d, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 109.5 (d, *ortho-CH*<sub>Ar</sub>); 87.5 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 83.3 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 56.01 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 55.98 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>); 47.9 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 46.1 (d, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 15.14 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>); 15.10 (q, OCHCHCH<sub>3</sub>).

**(7'*S*\*,8'*R*\*)-4,5,3',4'-Tetramethoxy-2,7'-cyclo lignan-7-ene (18a)**:

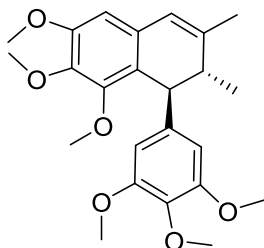


Method A: Inseparable 10:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 6 mg (14%). Method B: Inseparable >20:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 4.7 mg (11%). -  $R_f = 0.66$ , hexane/EtOAc 5:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2965$  (w); 2933 (m); 2862 (w); 1515 (s); 1468 (m); 1421 (w); 1363 (w); 1343 (w); 1263 (s); 1236 (s); 1190 (w); 1144 (m); 1125 (w); 1099 (w); 1030 (m); 916 (w); 872 (w); 812 (w); 765 (w); 733 (w)  $cm^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 731 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 60), 377 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 355 ( $M+H^+$ , 10). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{26}O_4Na^+$ : 377.1723; found: 377.1724.

**(7'*S*\*,8'*R*\*)-18a**:  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.71 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H, H-5'); 6.66 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H, H-2'); 6.62 (s, 1H, H-6); 6.552 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 2.0, 0.5$  Hz, 1H, H-6'); 6.550 (s, 1H, H-3);

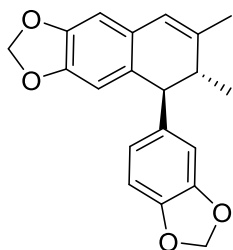
6.14 (q,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 1H, H-7); 3.91 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 3.89 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.84 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 3.82 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.79 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.78 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.68 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H, H-7'); 2.39 (dq,  $J = 7.0, 3.3$  Hz, 1H, H-8'); 1.80 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 3H, H-9); 1.08 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H-9'). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  148.8 (s, C-5); 148.7 (s, C-4); 147.7 (s, C-3'); 147.4 (s, C-4'); 138.9 (s, C-2); 138.2 (s, C-1'); 127.4 (s, C-1); 127.2 (s, C-8); 121.2 (d, C-7); 121.1 (d, C-7 $^\#$ ); 119.7 (d, C-6'); 113.0 (d, C-3); 111.7 (d, C-2' $^\#$ ); 111.1 (d, C-2'); 111.0 (d, C-5'); 110.9 (d, C-5' $^\#$ ); 109.1 (d, C-6); 56.09 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 56.07 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 56.05 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 56.03 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 55.96 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 55.94 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 55.92 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 55.90 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3^\#$ ); 51.0 (d, C-7'); 42.1 (d, C-8'); 22.3 (q, C-9); 18.8 (q, C-9').  $^\#$ Detectable resonances of minor diastereomer.

**(7'S\*,8'R\*)-3,4,5,3',4',5'-Hexamethoxy-2,7'-cyclo lignan-7-ene (18b):**



Method B: Inseparable 20:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 3.7 mg (8%). -  $R_f = 0.66$ , hexane/EtOAc 1:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2965$  (w); 2935 (m); 2862 (w); 1593 (w); 1495 (w); 1461 (m); 1412 (w); 1363 (w); 1348 (w); 1290 (w); 1236 (m); 1196 (w); 1129 (s); 1104 (m); 1039 (w); 1010 (w); 981 (w); 950 (w); 927 (w); 863 (w); 826 (w); 727 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 851 ( $2\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 14), 437 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100), 415 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 21), 247 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{OMe})_3$ , 21). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6\text{Na}^+$ : 437.1934; found: 437.1936. **(7'S\*,8'R\*)-18b:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.44 (s, 1H, H-6); 6.34 (s, 2H, H-2', H-6'); 6.11 (dq,  $J = 1.5, 0.4$  Hz, 1H, H-7); 4.07 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 1H, H-7'); 3.87 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.84 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.78 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.74 (s, 6H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.61 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 2.38 (dq,  $J = 7.1, 1.3$  Hz, 1H, H-8'); 1.81 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 3H, H-9); 1.09 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H, H-9'). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  152.8 (s, C-3', C-5'); 152.2 (s, C-3); 152.1 (s, C-5); 141.5 (s, C-4); 141.1 (s, C-4' and C-1'); 136.2 (s, C-2); 130.1 (s, C-8); 121.1 (d, C-7); 120.5 (s, C-1); 105.1 (d, C-6); 104.5 (d, C-2', C-6'); 60.99 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 60.97 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 60.92 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 56.07 (q,  $2\times\text{OCH}_3$ ); 56.05 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 44.5 (d, C-7'); 41.9 (d, C-8'); 22.5 (q, C-9); 19.3 (q, C-9').

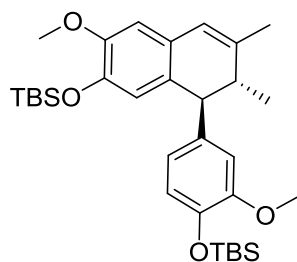
**(7'S\*,8'R\*)-4,5:3',4'-Bis(methylenedioxy)-2,7'-cyclo lignan-7-ene (18c):**



Method A: Inseparable 20:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 6.5 mg (14%). Method B: Inseparable 11:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 6 mg (13%). -  $R_f = 0.50$ , hexane/EtOAc 10:1. - IR:  $\nu = 2968$  (w); 2906 (w); 1506 (m); 1486 (s); 1462 (w); 1443 (w); 1369 (w); 1288 (m); 1252 (s); 1219 (m); 1108 (w); 1041 (s); 940 (m); 874 (w); 796 (w); 733 (w); 642 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 323 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100), 201 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+ - \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OCH}_2\text{O})$ , 12). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4^+$ : 323.1277; found: 323.1276.

**(7'S\*,8'R\*)-18c:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.67 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.6$  Hz, 1H, H-5'); 6.57 (s, 1H, H-6); 6.56 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 1H, H-2'); 6.54 (ddd,  $J = 7.8, 1.8, 0.6$  Hz, 1H, H-6'); 6.50 (s, 1H, H-3); 6.16 (dq,  $J = 1.4, 0.3$  Hz, 1H, H-7<sup>#</sup>); 6.09 (q,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-7); 5.89-5.87 (m, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ ); 3.93 (bs, 1H, H-7<sup>#</sup>); 3.63 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, H-7'); 2.34 (dq,  $J = 7.0, 3.2$  Hz, 1H, H-8'); 1.80 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 3H, H-9<sup>#</sup>); 1.79 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 3H, H-9); 1.10 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H, H-9<sup>#</sup>); 1.06 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H-9'). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  147.6 (s, C-5); 146.4 (s, C-4); 146.1 (s, C-3'); 145.9 (s, C-4'); 139.5 (s, C-2); 138.8 (s, C-1'); 128.7 (s, C-1); 128.3 (s, C-8); 121.6 (d, C-7); 121.3 (d, C-7<sup>#</sup>); 120.6 (d, C-6'); 120.2 (d, C-6<sup>#</sup>); 110.0 (d, C-3); 108.2 (d, C-2'); 108.1 (d, C-5'); 106.6 (d, C-6<sup>#</sup>); 106.2 (d, C-6); 100.9 (t,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ ); 100.8 (t,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ ); 51.4 (d, C-7'); 44.3 (d, C-7<sup>#</sup>); 41.9 (d, C-8'); 41.6 (d, C-8<sup>#</sup>); 22.7 (q, C-9<sup>#</sup>); 22.3 (q, C-9); 19.5 (q, C-9<sup>#</sup>); 18.8 (q, C-9'). <sup>#</sup>Detectable resonances of the minor diastereomer.

**(7'S\*,8'R\*)-4,4'-Bis(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-5,3'-dimethoxy-2,7'-cyclo lignan-7-ene (18d):**



Method A: Inseparable >20:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 6.5 mg (14%). Method B: Inseparable >20:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 19 mg (40%). Method C: Inseparable 2:1 mixture of two diastereomers as a colorless viscous liquid. Yield 1 mg (2%). -  $R_f = 0.80$ , hexane/EtOAc 7:3. - IR:  $\nu = 2964$  (w); 2939 (w); 2906 (w); 2866 (w); 1609 (w); 1578 (w); 1511 (s); 1469 (w); 1410 (w); 1323 (w); 1287 (m); 1254 (s); 1230 (m); 1197 (w); 1156 (w); 1127 (w); 1099 (w); 1038 (w); 906 (s); 870 (w); 839 (s); 824 (m); 809 (m); 782 (s); 710 (w); 672 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . - MS (+ESI)  $m/z$  (%): 1131 ( $2M+Na^+$ , 17), 577 ( $M+Na^+$ , 100), 555 ( $M+H^+$ , 10). - HRMS (+ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{32}H_{50}O_4Si_2Na^+$ : 577.3139; found: 577.3140.

**(7'S\*,8'R\*)-18d:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.69 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, H-5'); 6.57 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H, H-2'); 6.56 (s, 1H, H-6); 6.50 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 2.1$  Hz, 1H, H-6'); 6.45 (s, 1H, H-3); 6.12 (s, 1H, H-7); 3.79 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.69 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 3.59 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H, H-7'); 2.45-2.39 (m, 1H, H-8'); 1.80 (dd,  $J = 1.5, 0.6$  Hz, 3H, H-9); 1.04 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H-9'); 0.97 (s, 9H,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 0.93 (s, 9H,  $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 0.12 (s, 6H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); 0.08 (s, 3H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); 0.07 (s, 3H,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ). -  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  150.6 (s, C-5); 149.6 (s, C-3'); 143.4 (s, C-4'); 143.2 (s, C-4); 139.1 (s, C-1' and C-2); 128.3 (s, C-8); 128.2 (s, C-1); 122.2 (d, C-3); 121.6 (d, C-7); 120.5 (d, C-5'); 120.3 (d, C-6'); 112.0 (d, C-2'); 109.7 (d, C-6); 55.8 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 55.5 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ); 50.9 (d, C-7'); 41.5 (d, C-8'); 25.9 (q,  $2x\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 22.2 (q, C-9); 18.6 (s,  $2x\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); 18.5 (q, C-9'); -4.44 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); -4.48 (q,  $2x\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ); -4.50 (q,  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ).

## 2.4 X-Ray crystallographic data

Crystallographic data for all compounds were collected on a Bruker D8 VENTURE Kappa Duo PHOTON100 by  $\mu$ S micro-focus sealed tube  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  1.54178 Å at a temperature of 150(2) K. The structures were solved by direct methods (XP)<sup>9</sup> and refined by full matrix least squares based on  $F^2$  (SHELXL2014).<sup>10</sup> The hydrogen atoms on carbons were fixed into idealized positions (riding model) and assigned temperature factors either  $H_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{pivot atom})$  or  $H_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5 U_{\text{eq}}$  for methyl moiety.

**Table S2:** X-Ray crystallographic data of *meso-8d*, *meso-8e*, and *meso-8f*.

| Compound   | <i>meso-8d</i>                         | <i>meso-8e</i>                         | <i>meso-8f</i>                                   |
|--|--|--|--|
| CCDC   | 1538562                                | 1538563                                | 1538564  |
| Formula  | $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2$ | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2$ | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$ |
| M.w.   | 350.48                                 | 418.51                                 | 454.49   |
| Crystal system   | Monoclinic                             | Triclinic                              | Triclinic  |
| Space group [No.]  | $P 2_1/c$ (No 14)                      | $P\bar{1}$ (No 2)                      | $P\bar{1}$ (No 2)                                |
| $a$ [Å]  | 14.8423 (4)                            | 8.2432 (2)                             | 8.2454 (2)                                       |
| $b$ [Å]  | 16.4382 (5)                            | 10.4558 (3)                            | 10.3667 (3)                                      |
| $c$ [Å]  | 12.5460 (4)                            | 13.9905 (4)                            | 14.2973 (4)                                      |
| $\alpha$ [°]   |  | 89.460 (1)                             | 90.201 (1)                                       |
| $\beta$ [°]  | 97.066 (1)                             | 73.266 (1)                             | 104.558 (1)                                      |
| $\gamma$ [°]   |  | 88.810 (1)                             | 90.585 (1)                                       |
| $Z$  | 6                                      | 2                                      | 2  |
| $V$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]                                      | 3037.73 (16)                           | 1154.51 (5)                            | 1182.78 (6)                                      |
| $D_x$ [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]                                | 1.150                                  | 1.3204                                 | 1.276  |
| Crystal colour   | colorless                              | colorless                              | colorless  |
| Crystal size [mm]  | $0.23 \times 0.15 \times 0.15$         | $0.25 \times 0.23 \times 0.12$         | $0.36 \times 0.23 \times 0.21$                   |
| Crystal shape  | Prism                                  | Prism                                  | Prism  |
| $\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]                                  | 0.55                                   | 0.57                                   | 0.73   |
| $\theta_{\text{max}}$ [°]                                  | 72.3                                   | 72.4                                   | 72.2   |
| Measured reflections                                       | 37226                                  | 18313                                  | 20215  |
| Independent diffractions ( $R_{\text{int}}$ <sup>a</sup> ) | 5982 (0.054)                           | 4541 (0.026)                           | 4622 (0.025)                                     |
| Observed diffract. [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]                    | 4778                                   | 3867                                   | 4131   |
| $T_{\text{min}}, T_{\text{max}}$                           | 0.83, 0.92                             | 0.86, 0.93                             | 0.77, 0.86                                       |
| No. of parameters  | 356                                    | 290                                    | 307  |
| $R^c$ for [ $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ ]                         | 0.045                                  | 0.036                                  | 0.037  |
| $wR^c$ for all data  | 0.108                                  | 0.101                                  | 0.093  |
| GOF <sup>d</sup>   | 1.03                                   | 1.03                                   | 1.04   |
| Residual electron density [e/Å <sup>3</sup> ]              | 0.50, -0.22                            | 0.24, -0.17                            | 0.20, -0.18                                      |

<sup>a</sup>  $R_{\text{int}} = \frac{\sum |F_o^2 - F_{o,\text{mean}}^2|}{\sum F_o^2}$ , <sup>b</sup>  $R(F) = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|}$ , <sup>c</sup>  $wR(F^2) = \frac{[\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)]^{1/2}}{[\sum w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}}$ , Weighting scheme:  $w = [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (w_1P)^2 + w_2P]^2$ , where  $P = \frac{1}{3}[\max(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2]$ ; <sup>d</sup>  $\text{GOF} = \frac{[\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)]^{1/2}}{[N_{\text{diffs}} - N_{\text{params}}]^{1/2}}$



**Table S2:** X-Ray crystallographic data of *d/l-8g* and *meso-8g*.

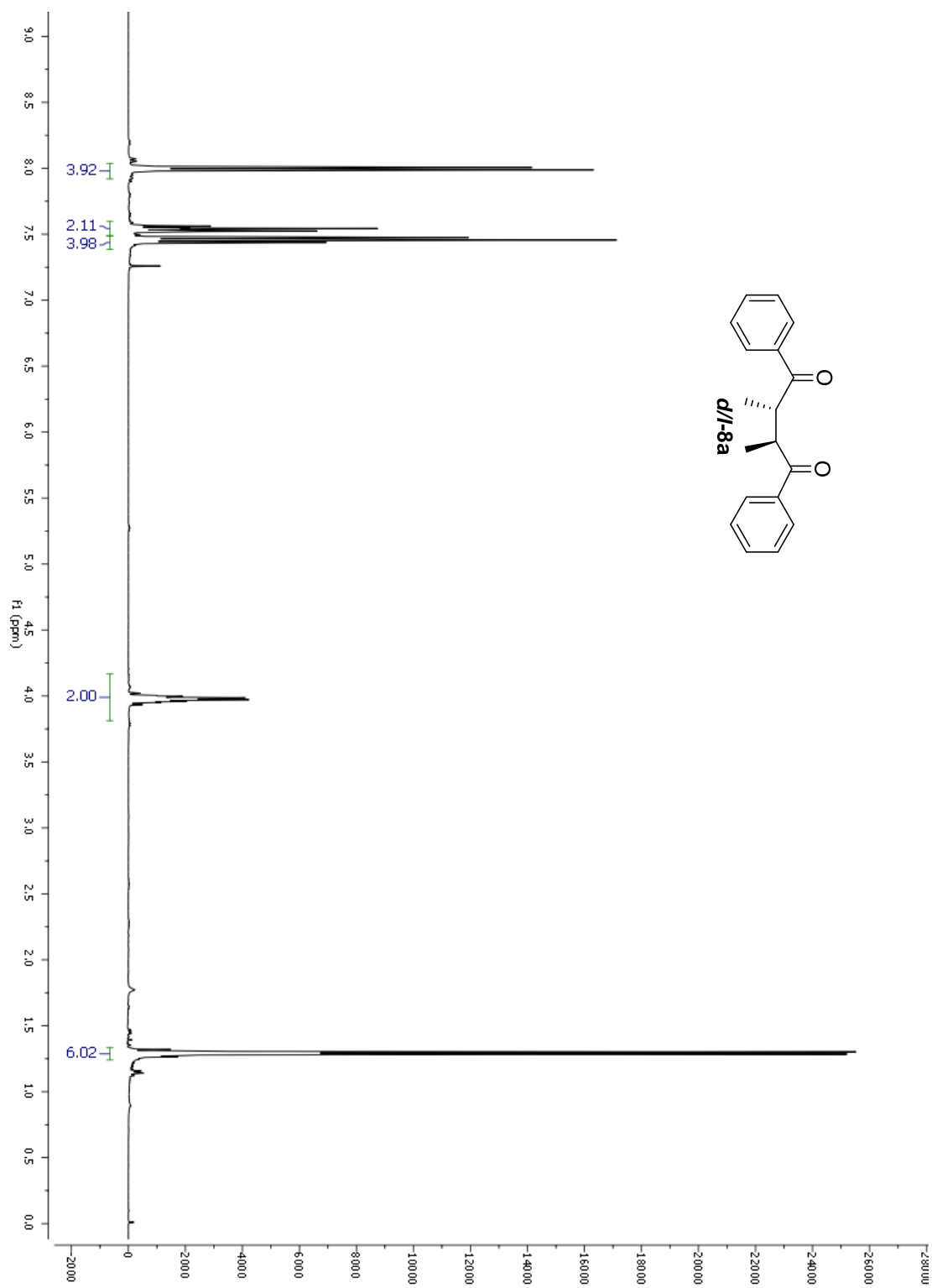
| Compound  | <i>d/l-8g</i>  | <i>meso-8g</i>   |
|---|--|--|
| CCDC  | 1484494  | 1484493  |
| Formula   | C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>24</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>24</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> |
| M.w.  | 487.39   | 487.39   |
| Crystal system  | Triclinic  | Monoclinic   |
| Space group [No.]   | <i>P</i> <sup>-</sup> 1 (No 2)                                 | <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (No 14)                     |
| <i>a</i> [Å]  | 6.1640 (3)   | 15.2712 (5)  |
| <i>b</i> [Å]  | 8.8470 (4)   | 11.6024 (4)  |
| <i>c</i> [Å]  | 12.0067 (5)  | 14.6920 (5)  |
| α [°]   | 106.131 (1)  |  |
| β [°]   | 92.963 (1)   | 107.143 (1)  |
| γ [°]   | 101.467 (1)  |  |
| Z   | 1  | 4  |
| <i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]  | 612.44 (5)   | 2487.51 (15)   |
| D <sub>x</sub> [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]                              | 1.321  | 1.301  |
| Crystal colour  | colorless  | colorless  |
| Crystal size [mm]   | 0.15 × 0.12 × 0.12   | 0.19 × 0.07 × 0.03   |
| Crystal shape   | Plate  | Bar  |
| μ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]   | 2.58   | 2.54   |
| θ <sub>max</sub> [°]  | 72.2   | 72.3   |
| Measured reflections  | 17890  | 31092  |
| Independent diffractions ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> <sup>a</sup> ) | 2394 (0.023)   | 4889 (0.045)   |
| Observed diffract. [I>2σ(I)]                                      | 2327   | 3984   |
| T <sub>min</sub> , T <sub>max</sub>                               | 0.695, 0.754   | 0.649, 0.923   |
| No. of parameters   | 155  | 307  |
| <i>R</i> <sup>c</sup> for [F <sup>2</sup> > 2σ(F <sup>2</sup> )]  | 0.030  | 0.037  |
| w <i>R</i> <sup>c</sup> for all data                              | 0.078  | 0.091  |
| GOF <sup>d</sup>  | 1.05   | 1.02   |
| Residual electron density [e/Å <sup>3</sup> ]                     | 0.21, -0.23  | 0.21, -0.53  |

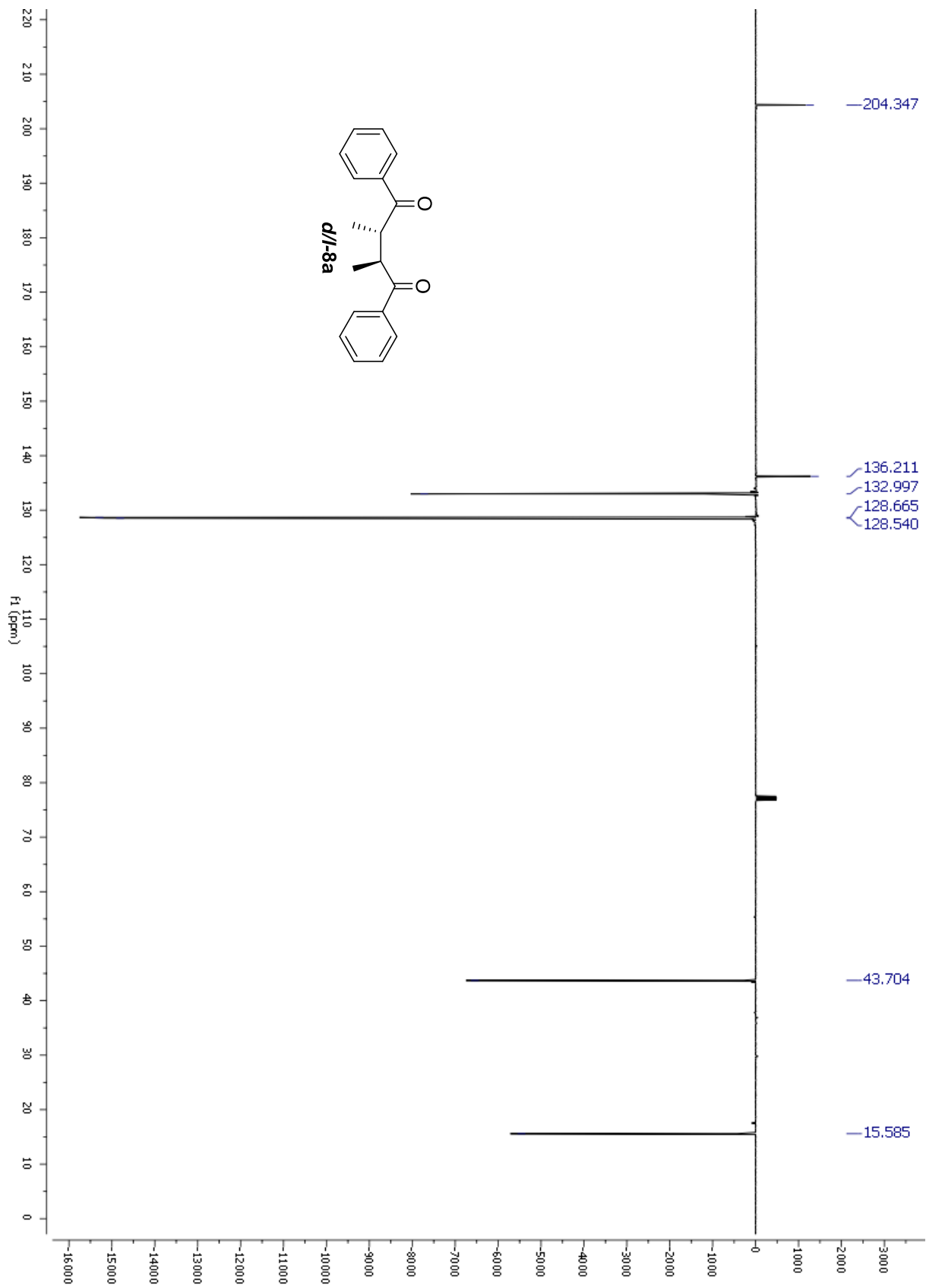
<sup>a</sup>  $R_{\text{int}} = \frac{\sum |F_o^2 - F_{o,\text{mean}}^2|}{\sum F_o^2}$ , <sup>b</sup>  $R(F) = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|}$ , <sup>c</sup>  $wR(F^2) = \frac{[\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)]^{1/2}}{[\sum w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}}$ , Weighting scheme:  $w = [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (w_1P)^2 + w_2P]^{-1}$ , where  $P = \frac{1}{3}[\max(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2]$ ; <sup>d</sup>  $\text{GOF} = \frac{[\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)]^{1/2}}{(N_{\text{diffs}} - N_{\text{params}})^{1/2}}$

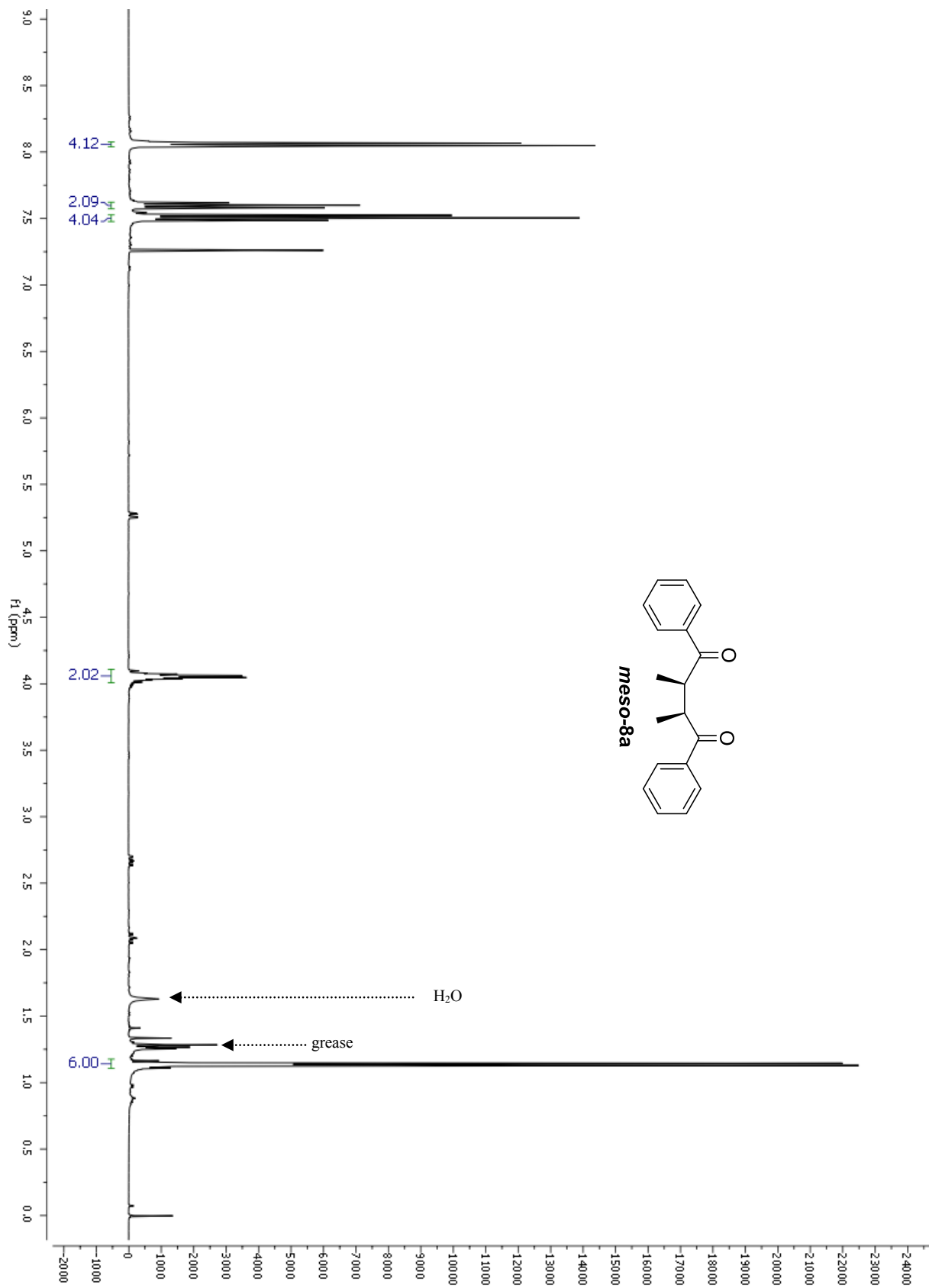
### 3. References

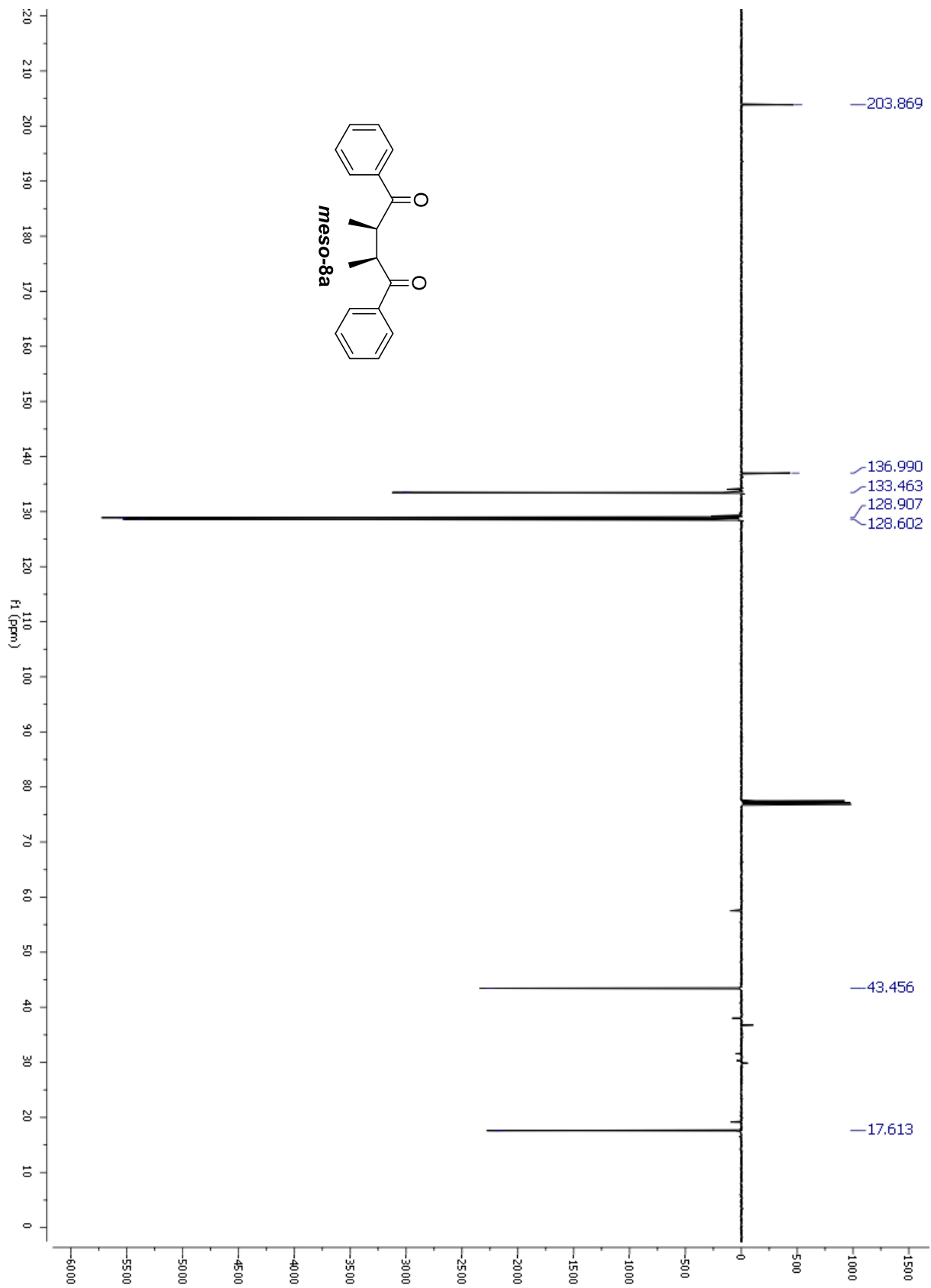
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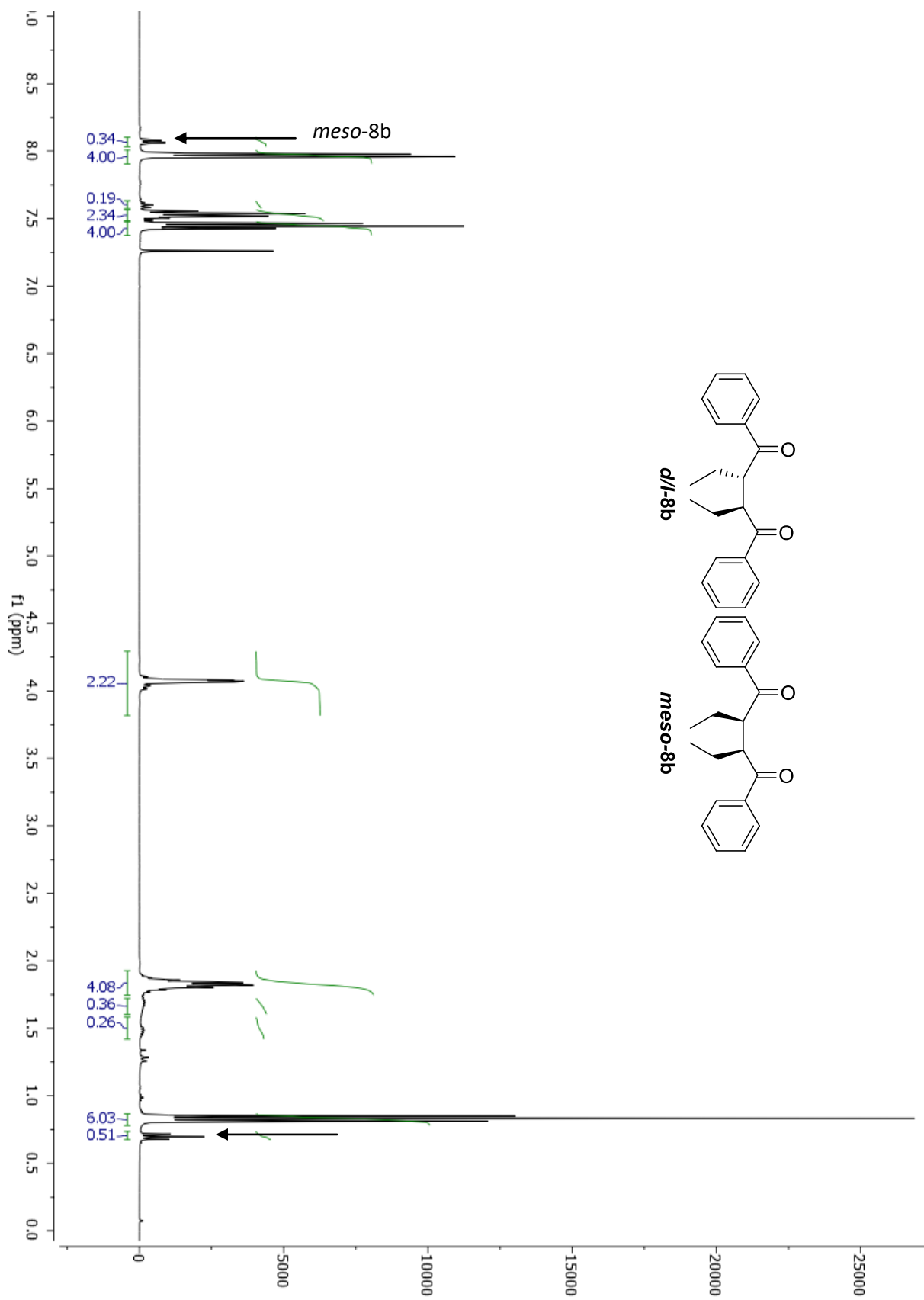
#### 4. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of all compounds

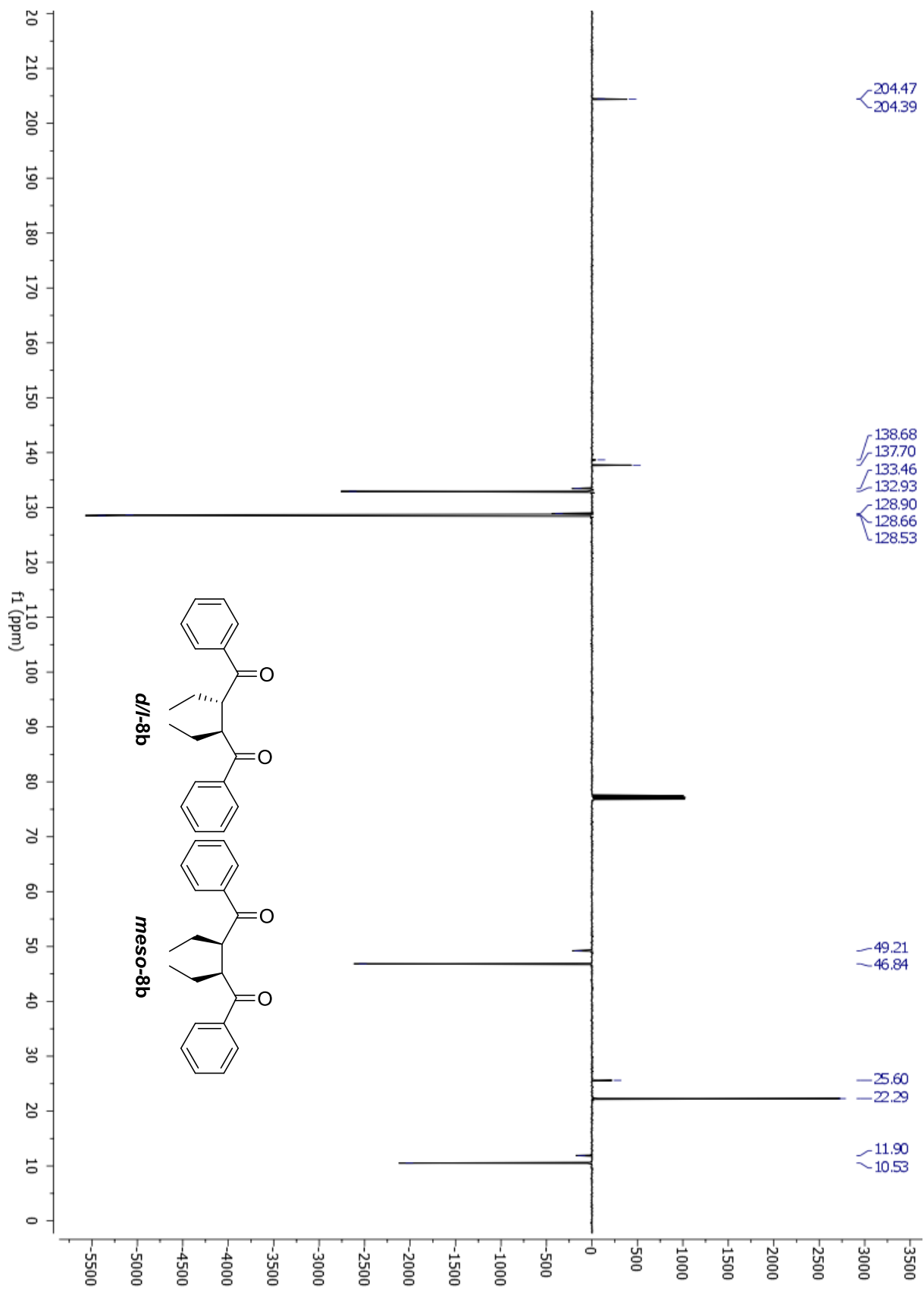




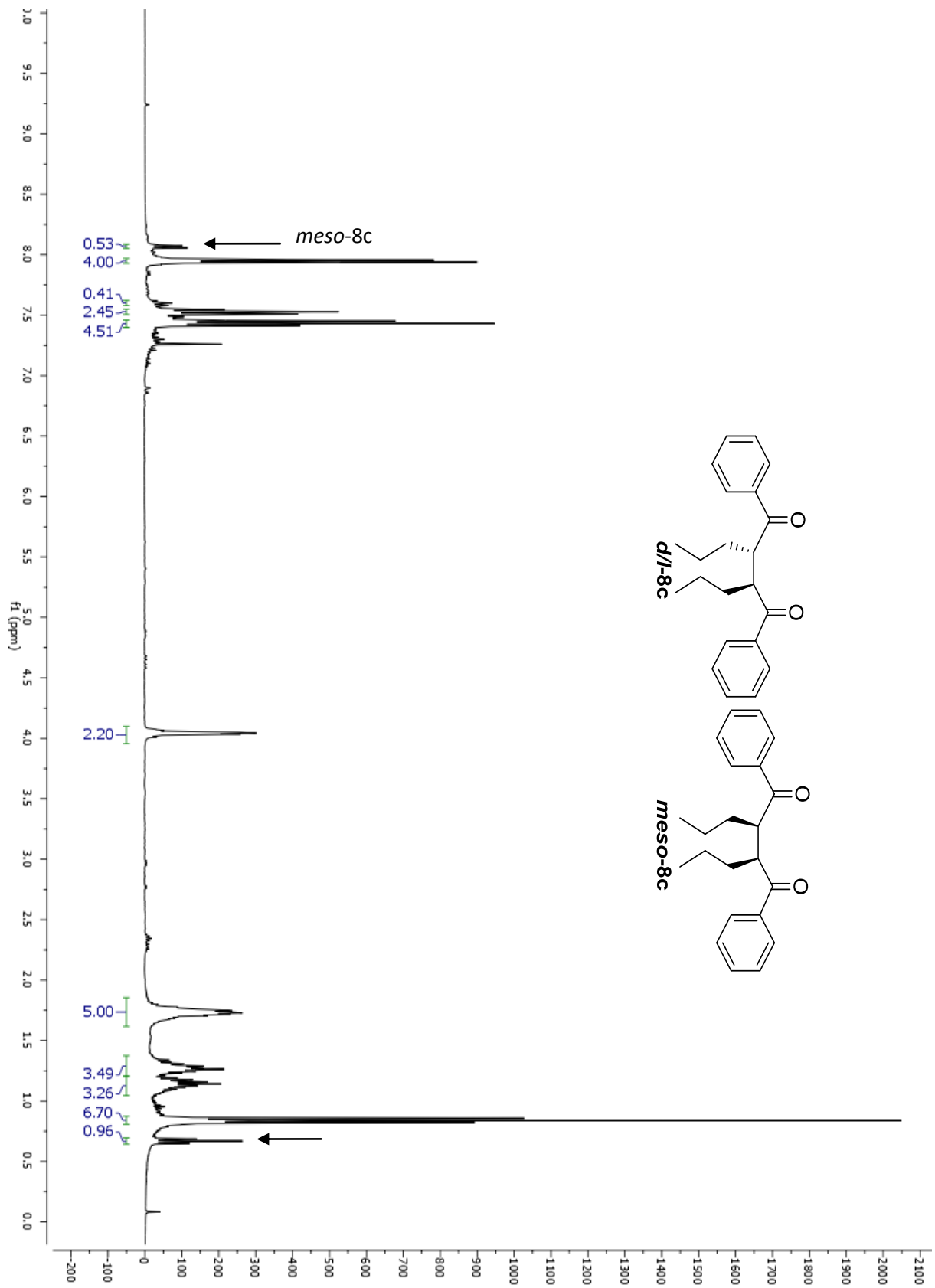


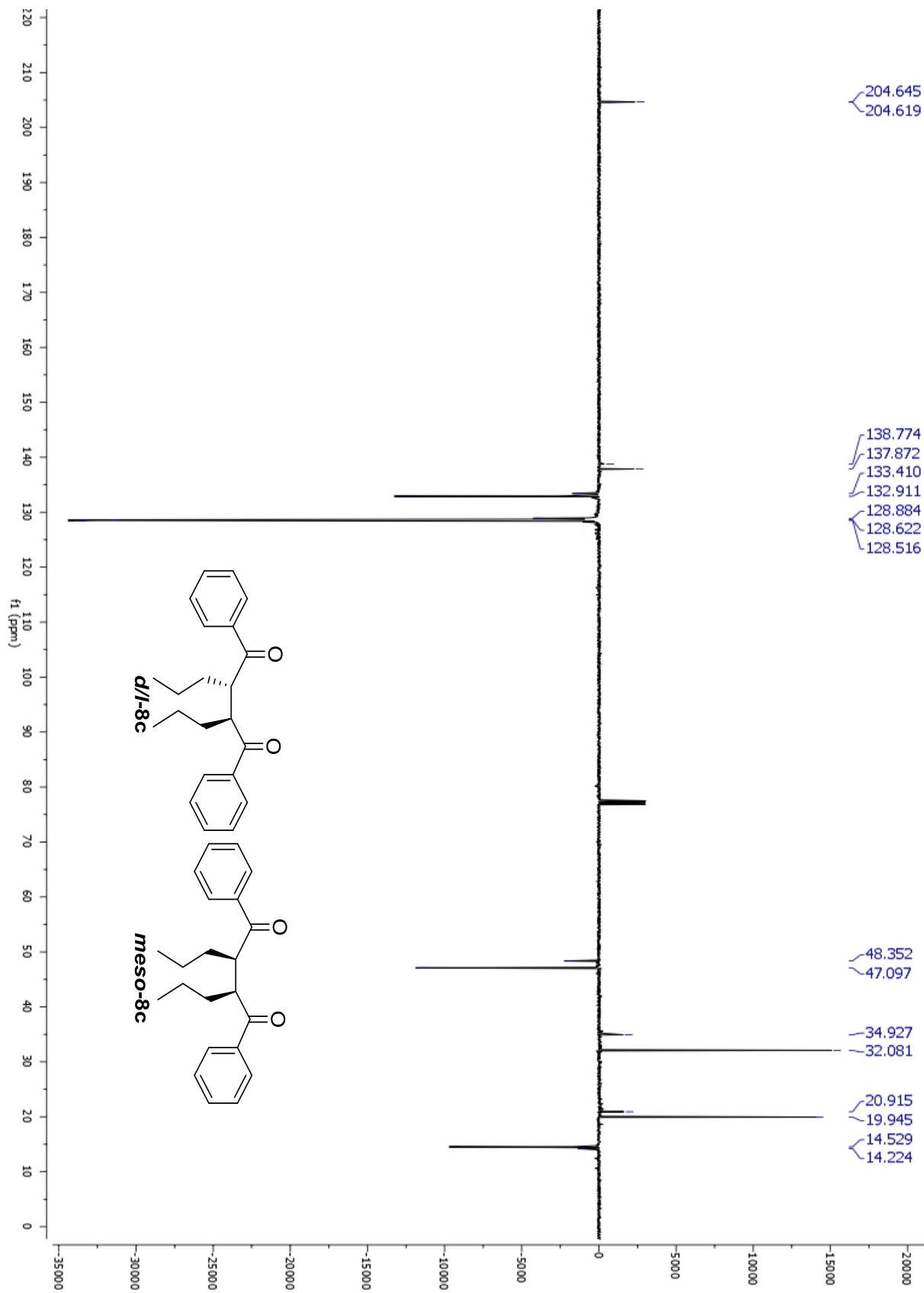


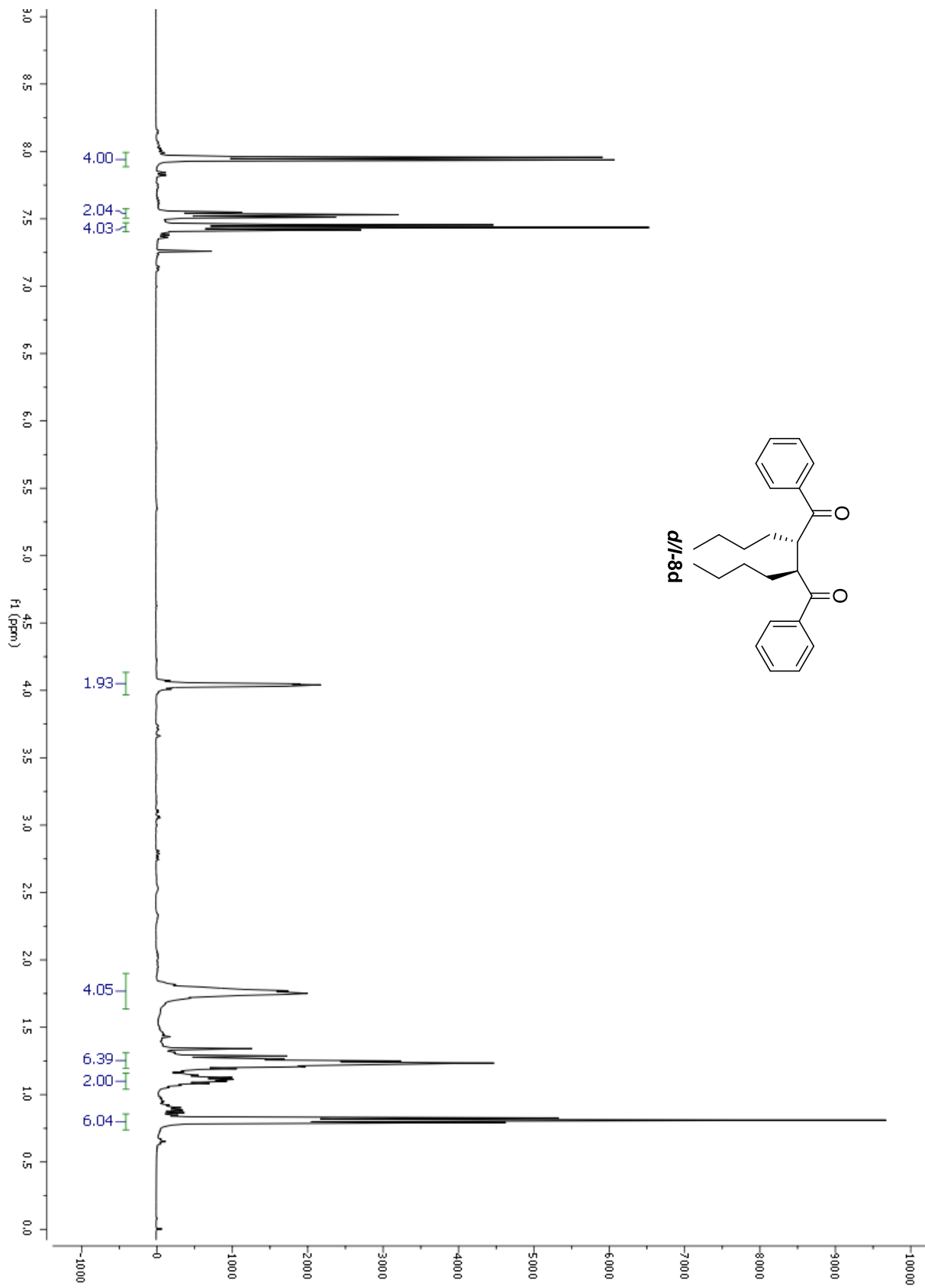


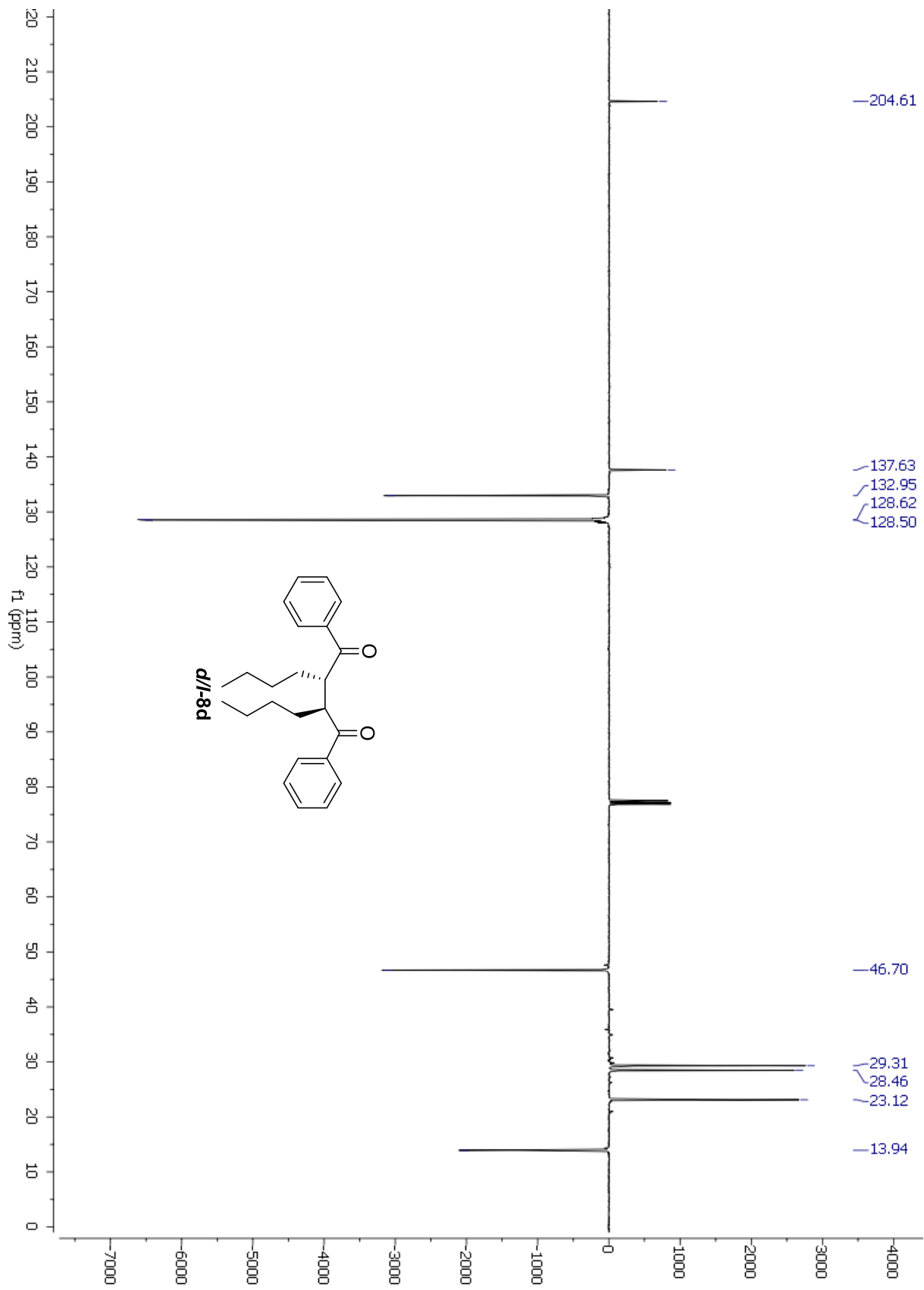


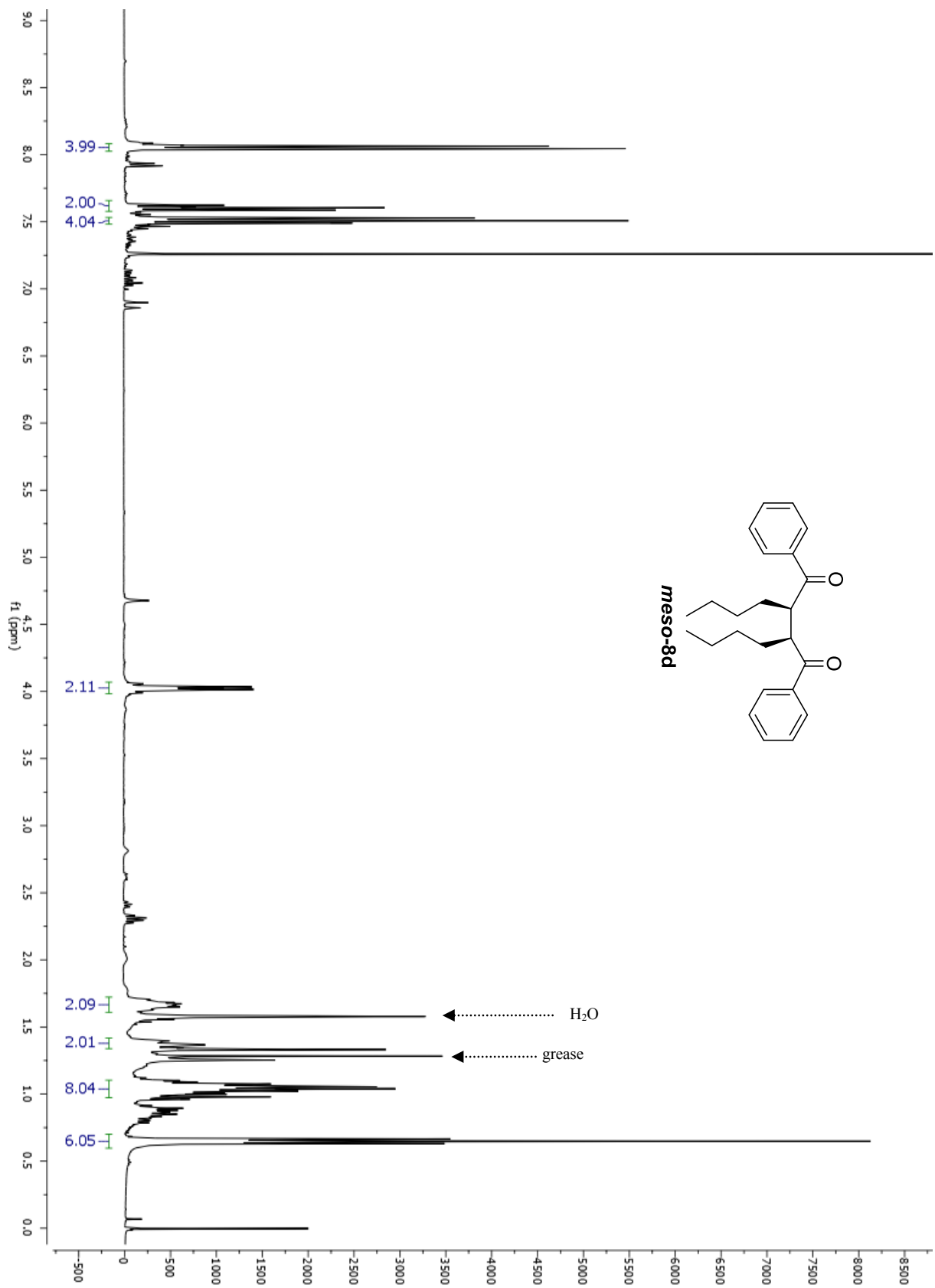


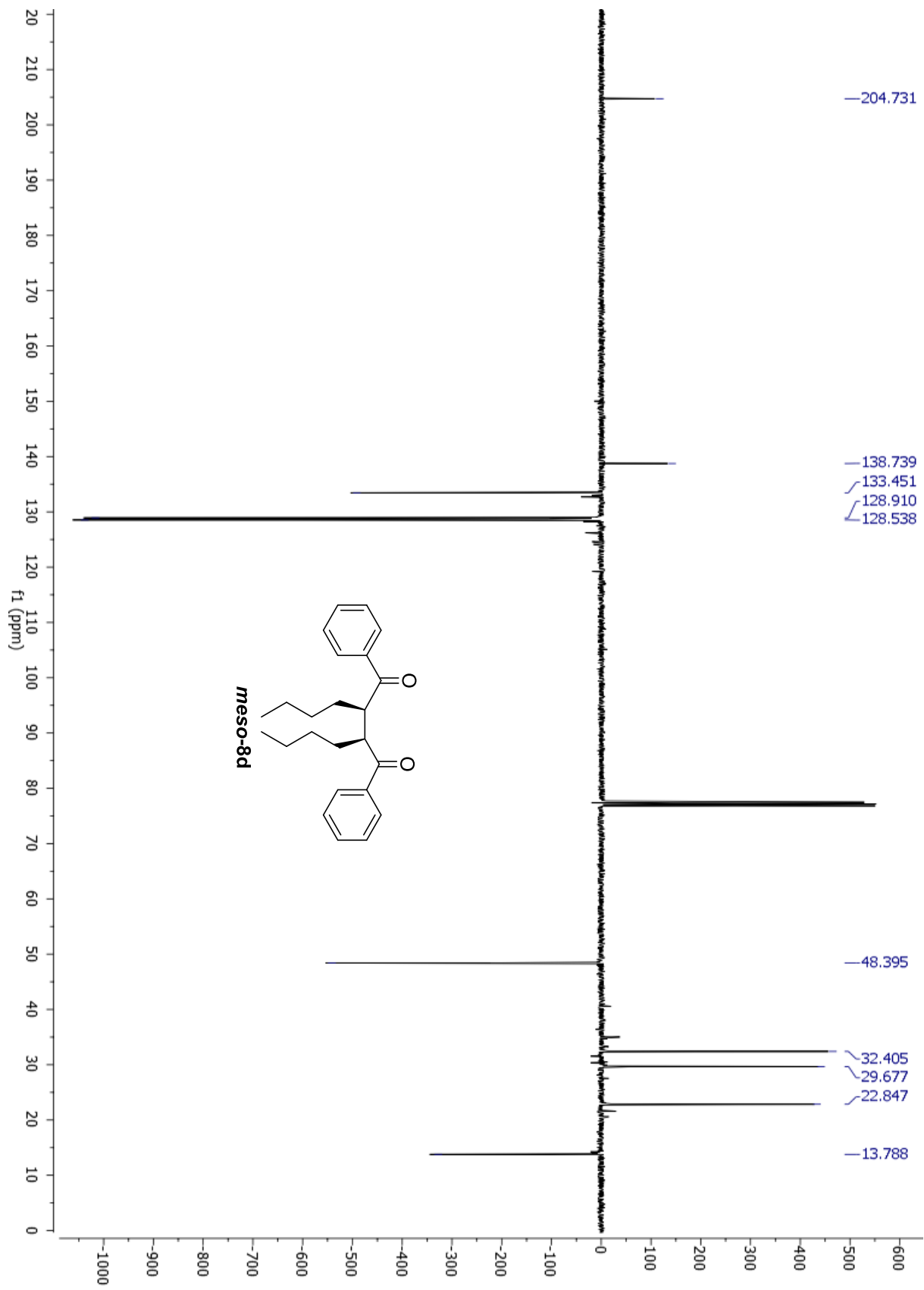


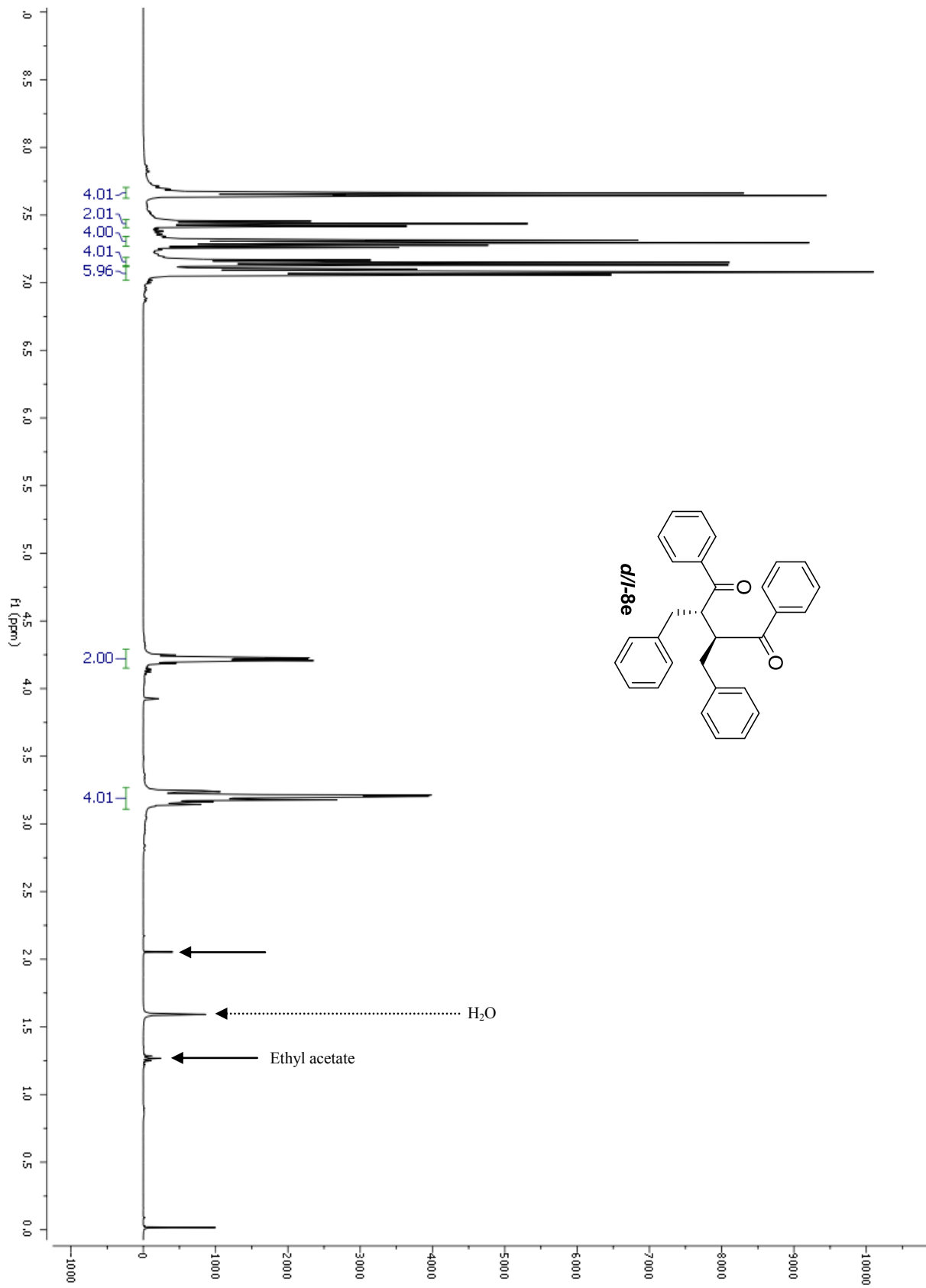


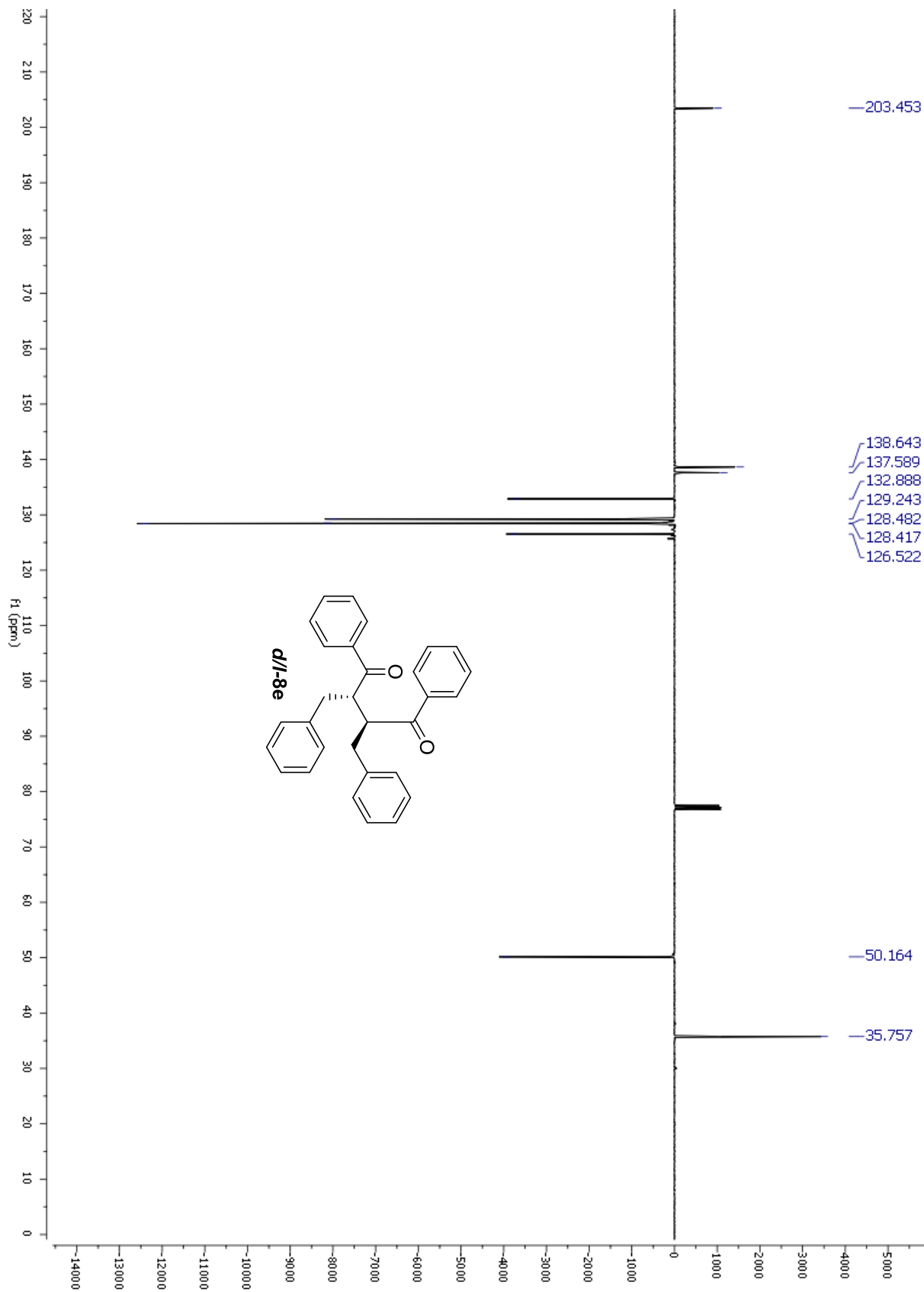




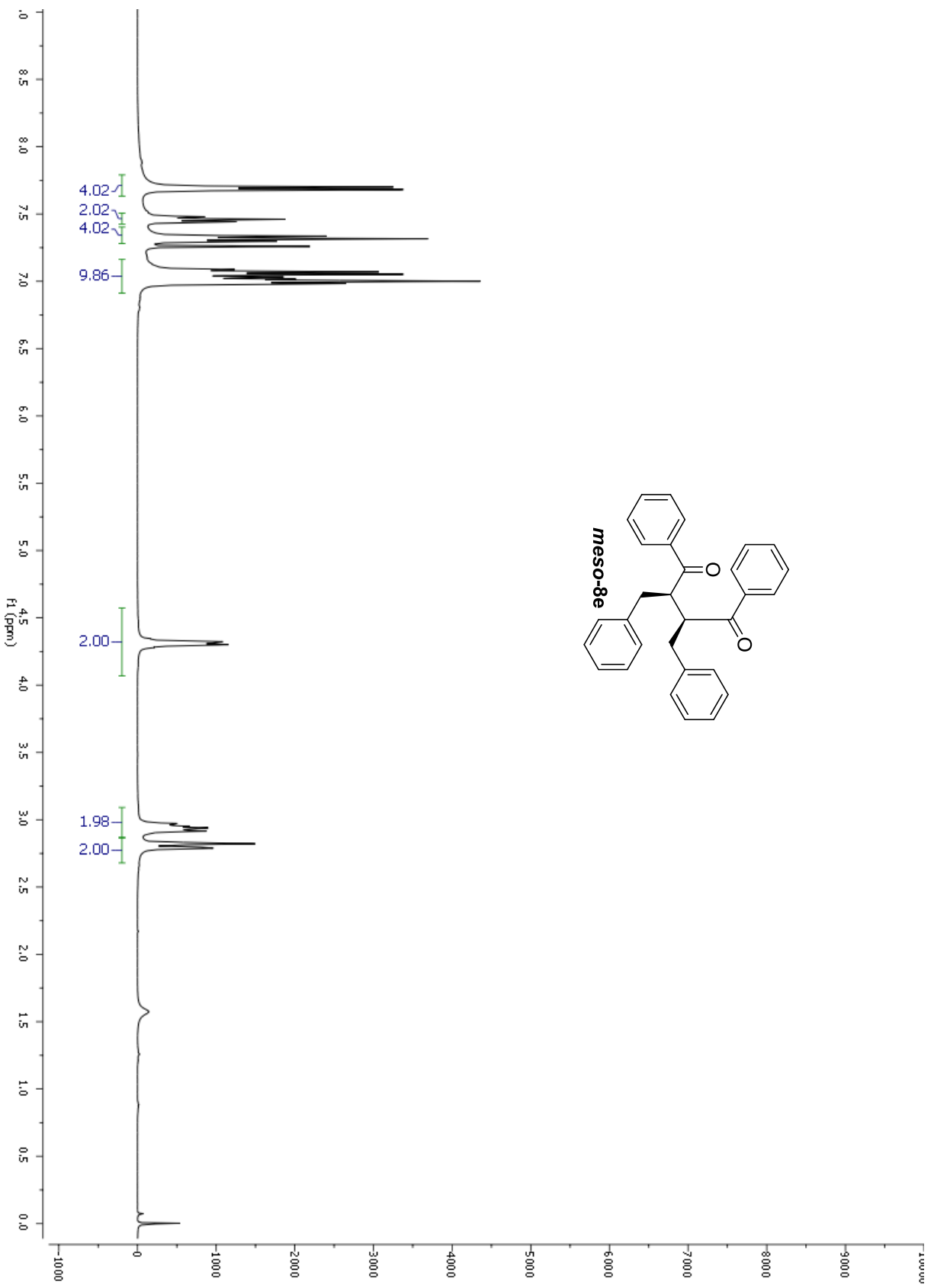
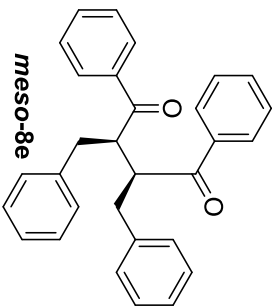


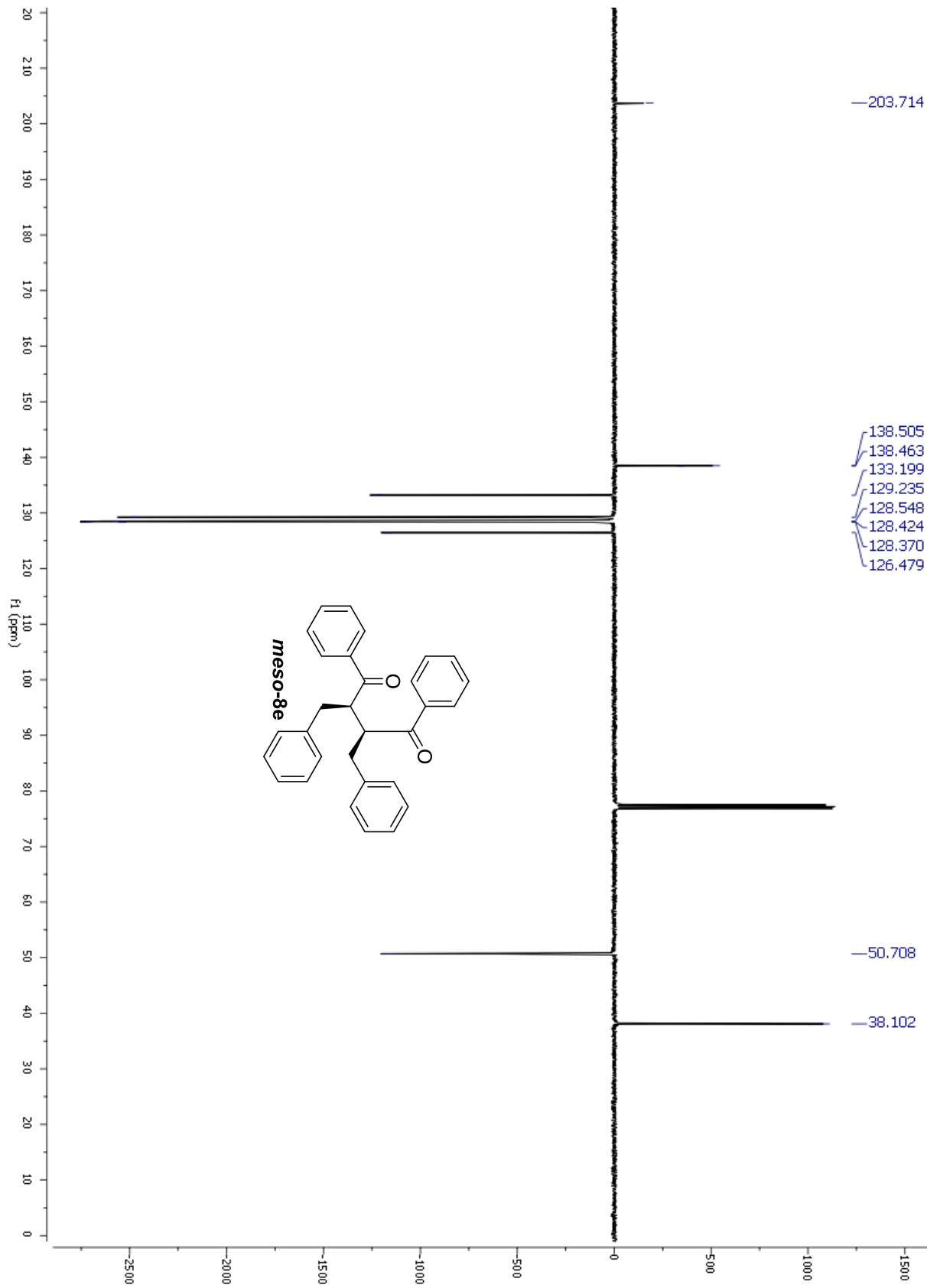


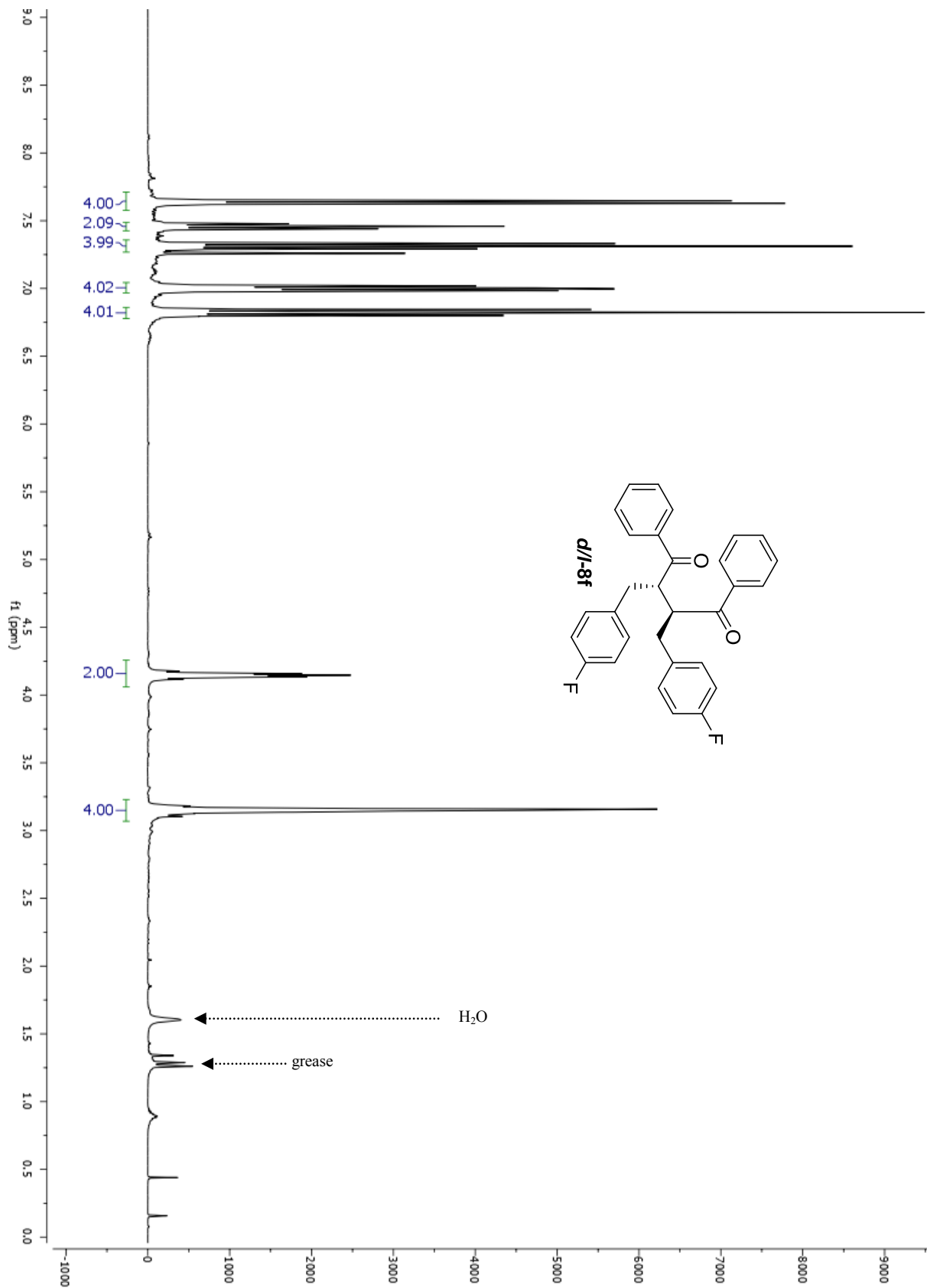


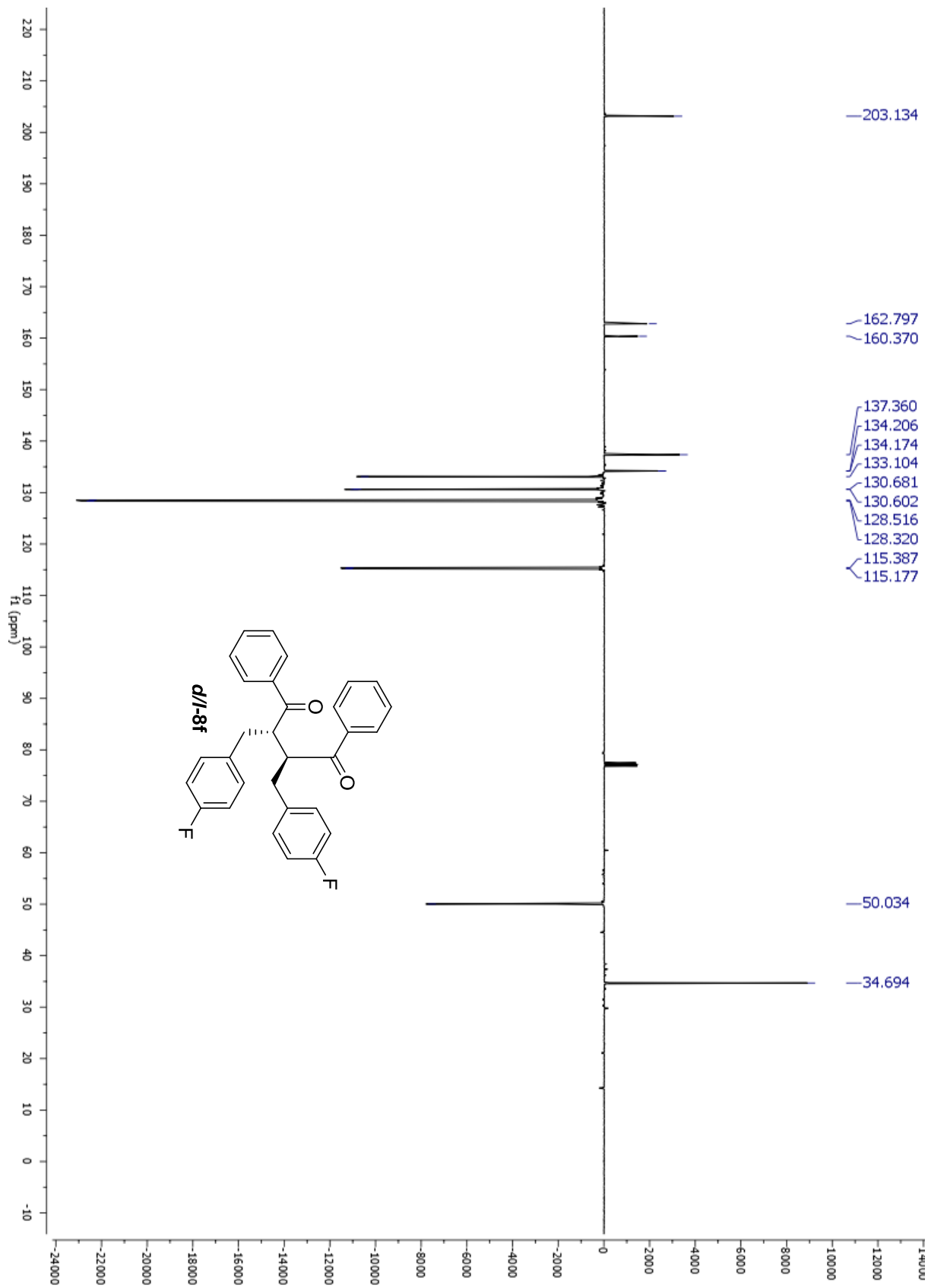


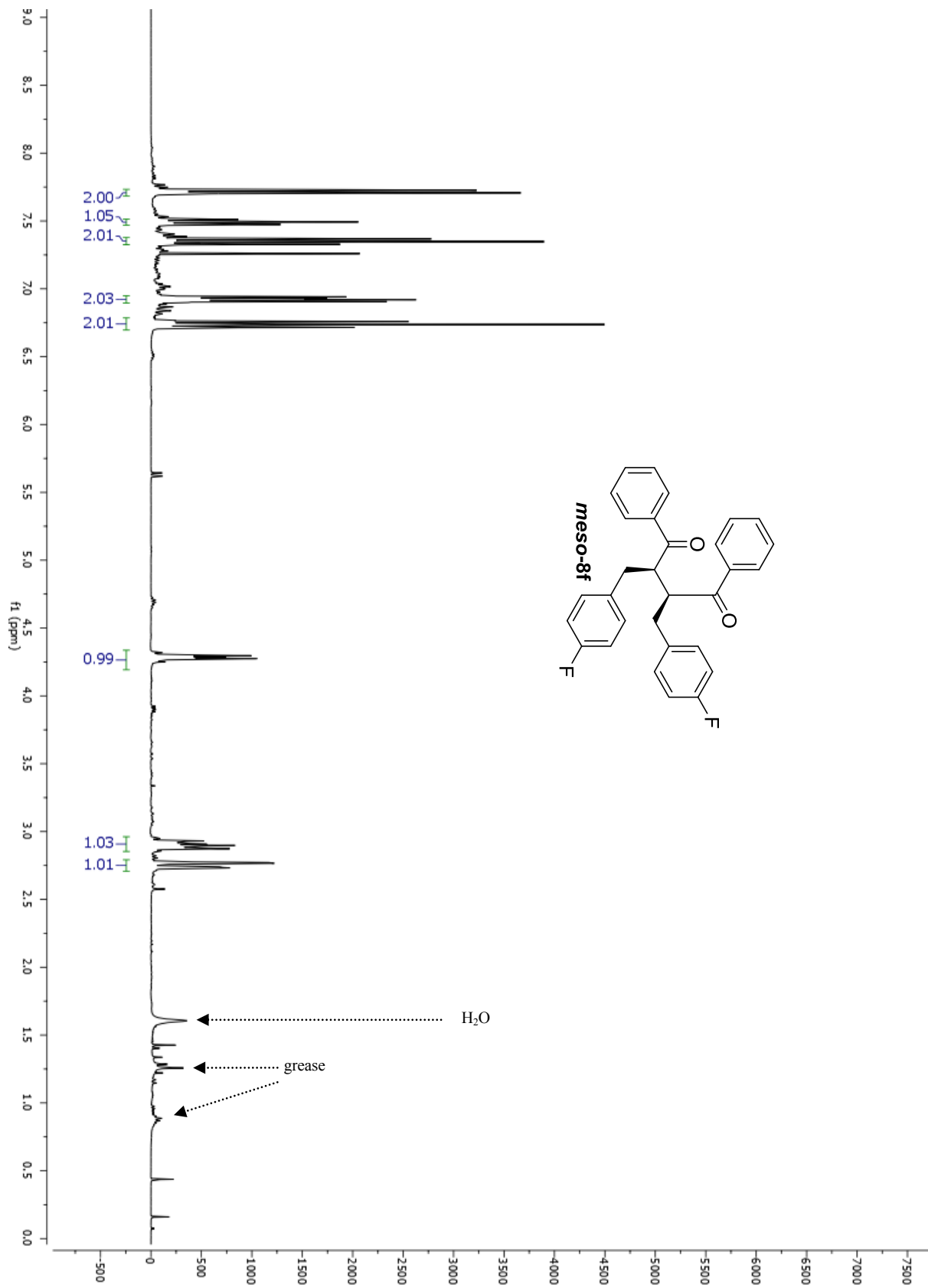


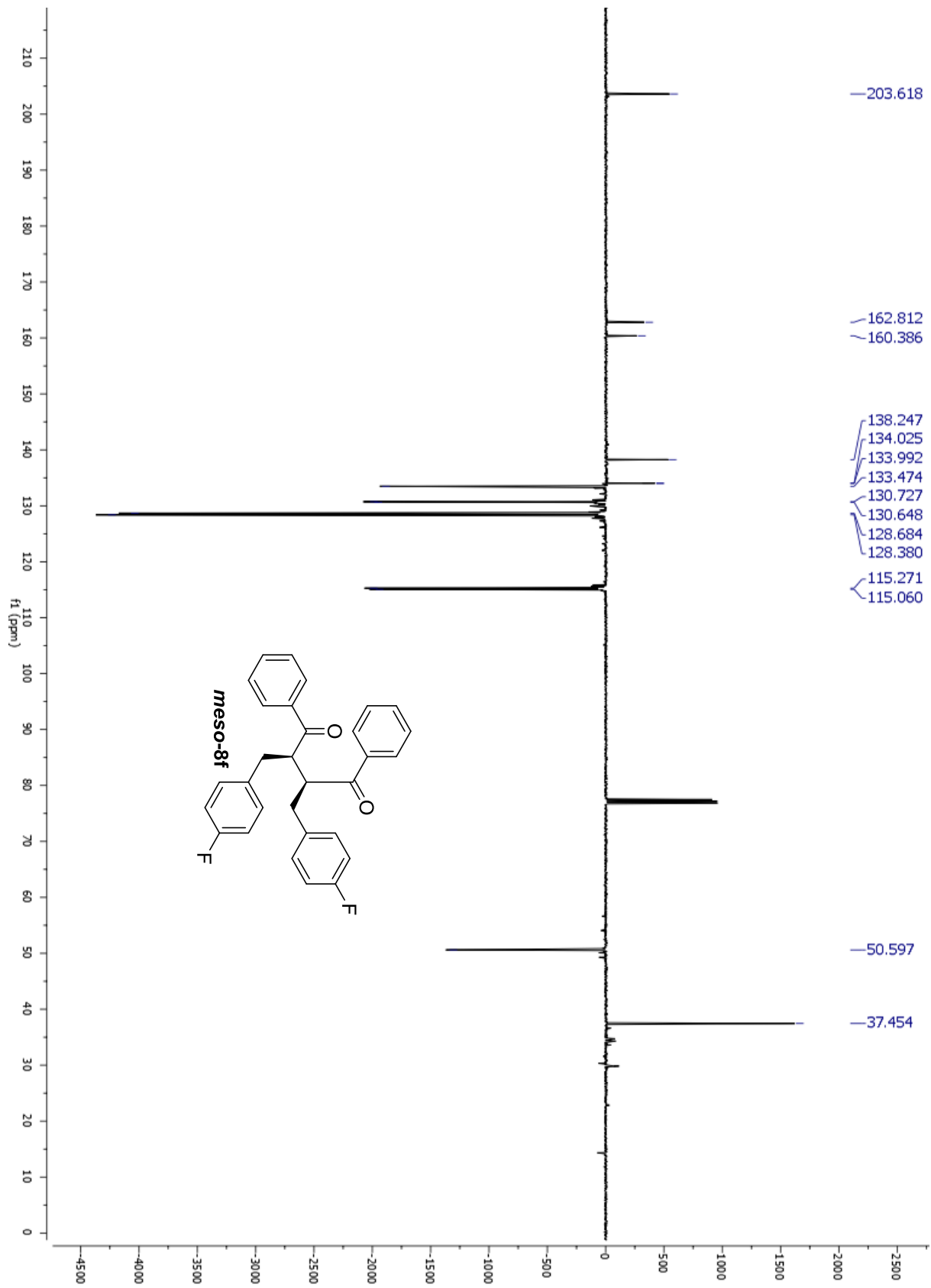


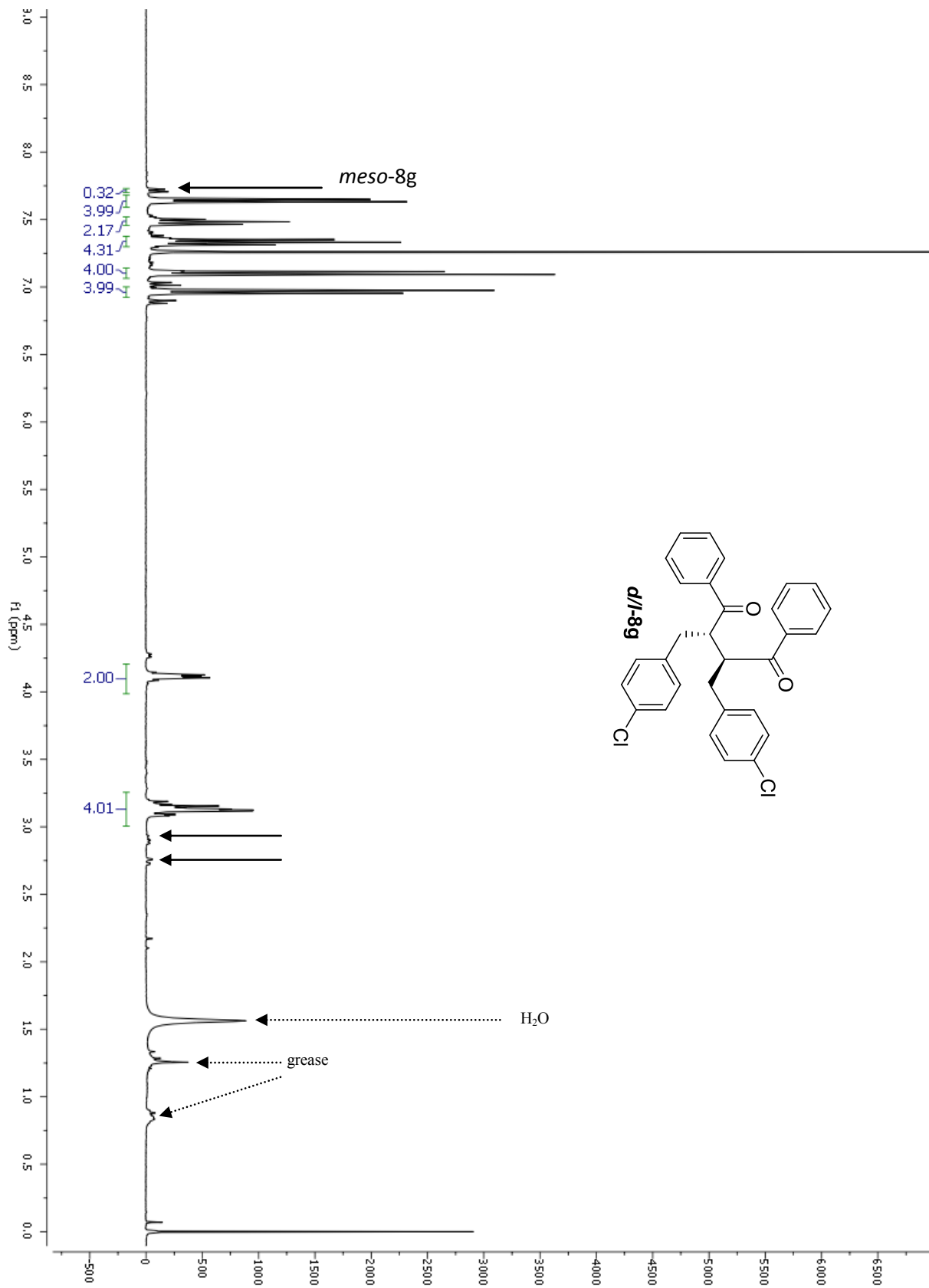


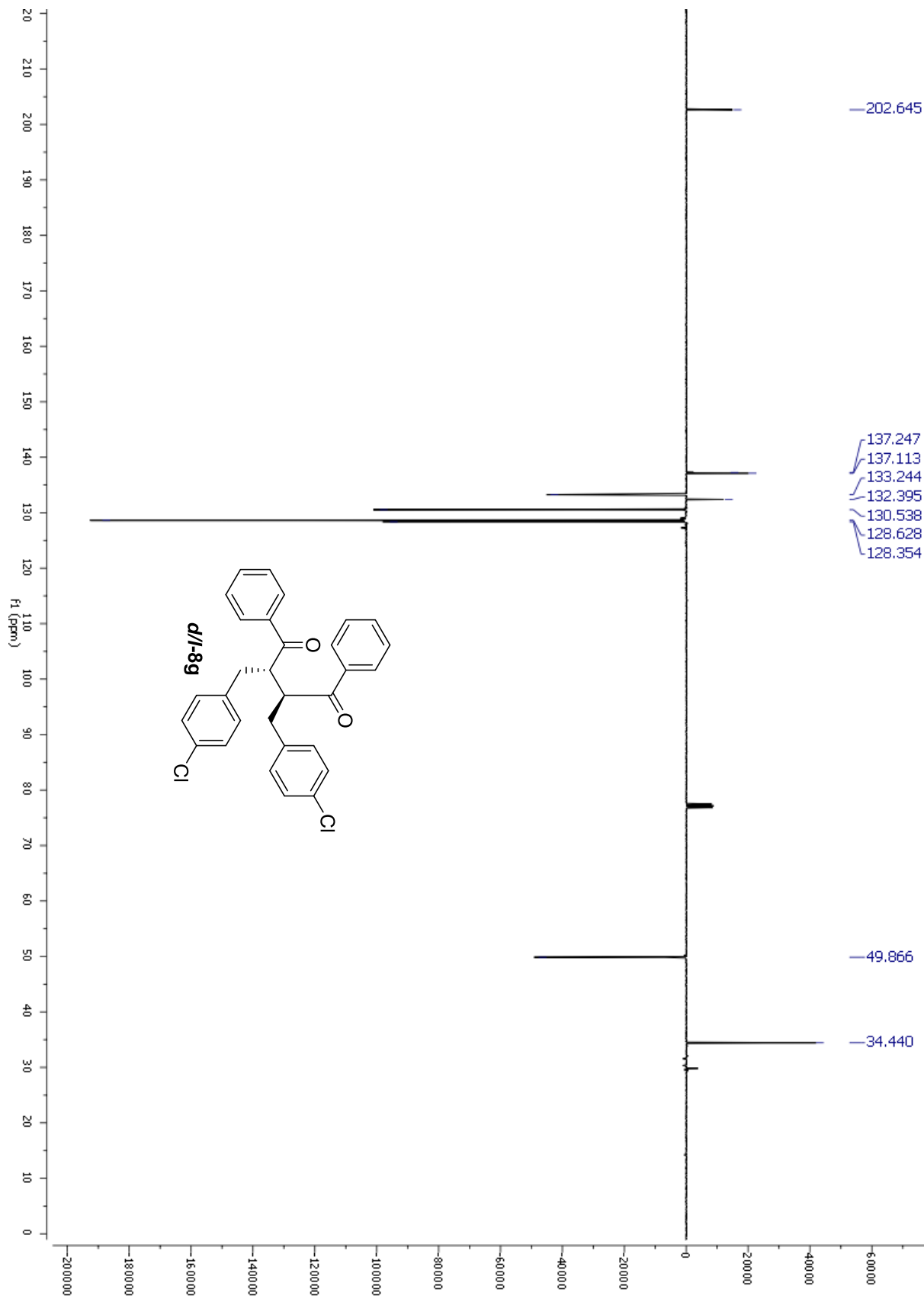




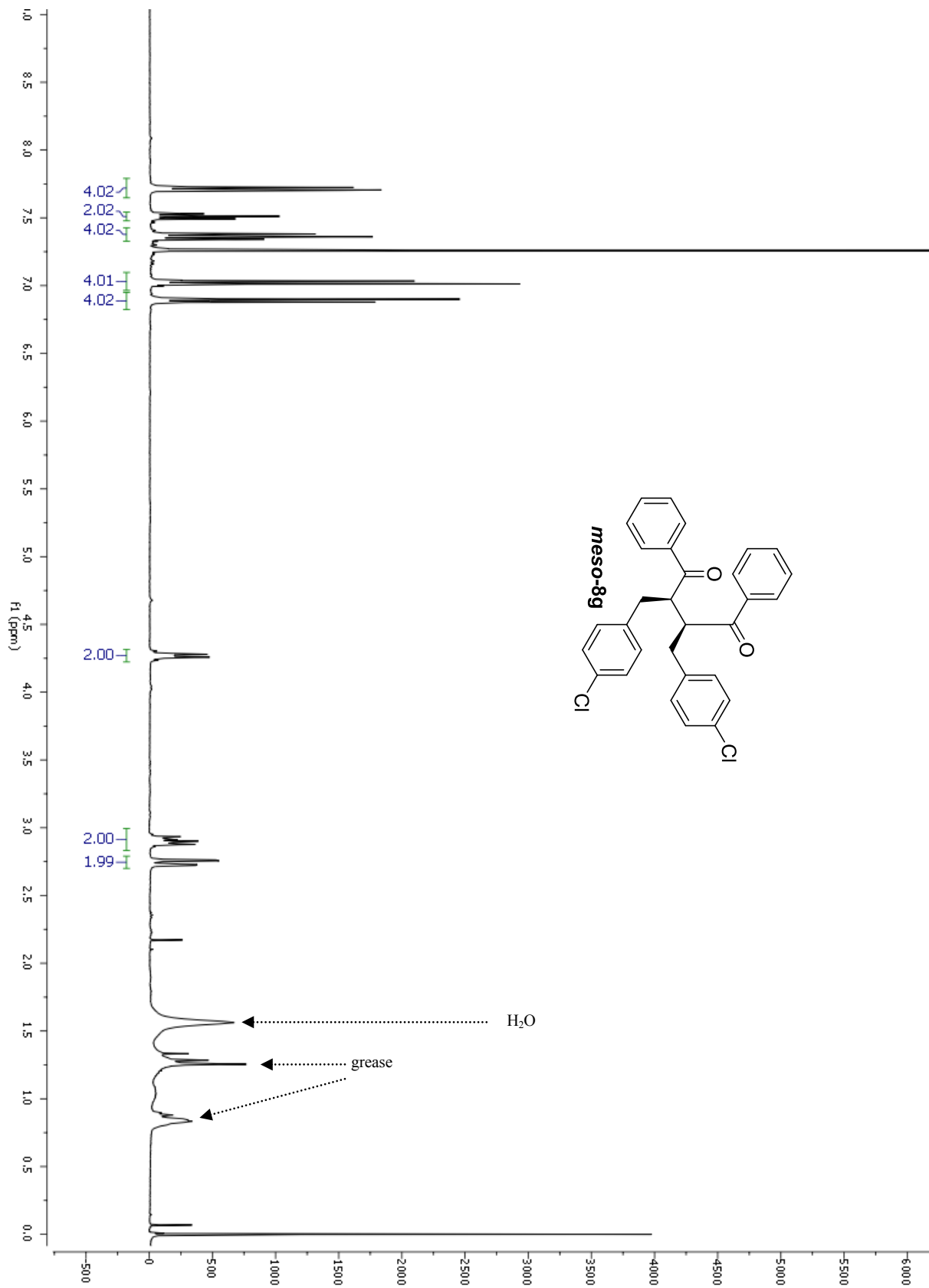


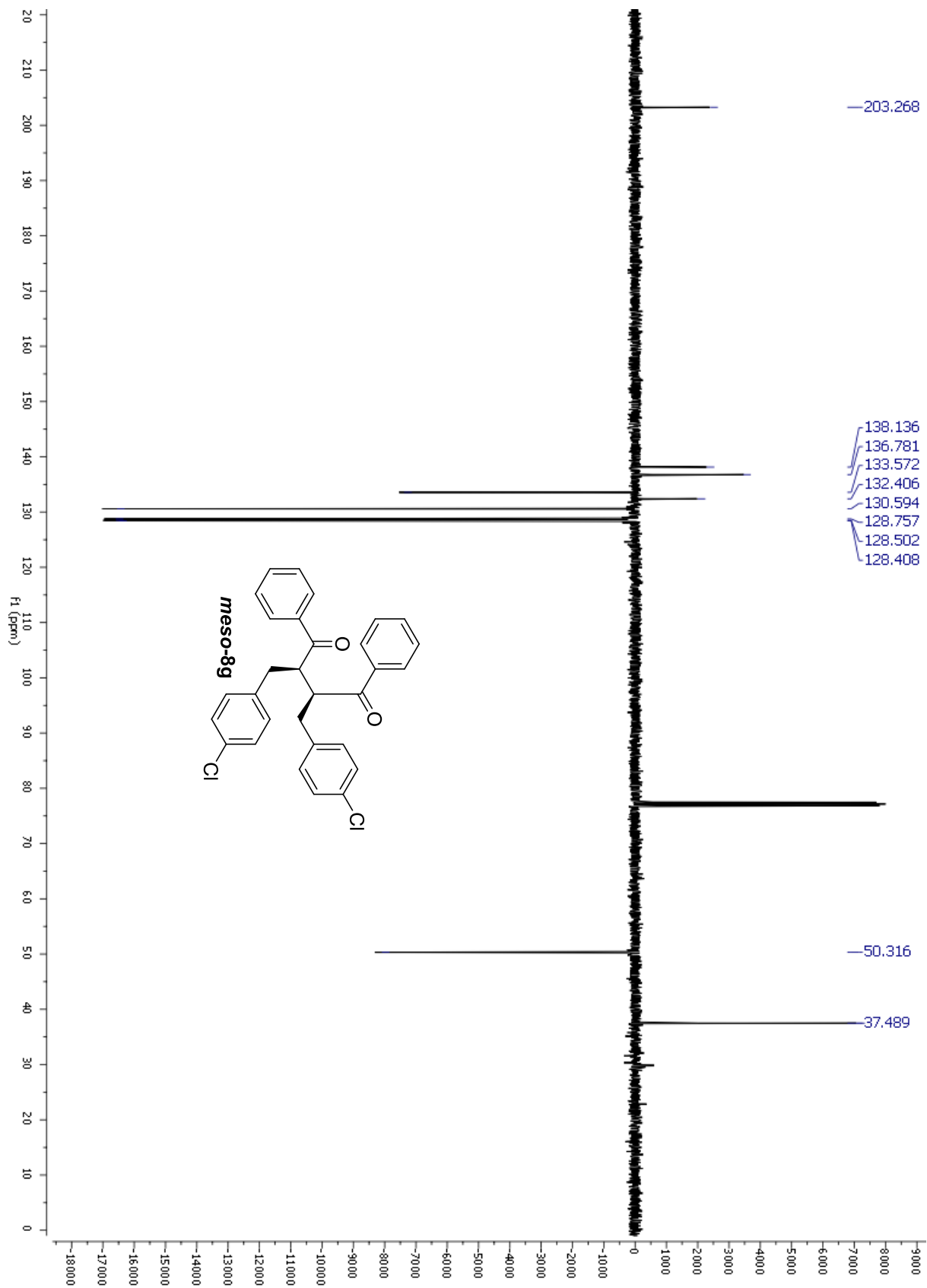


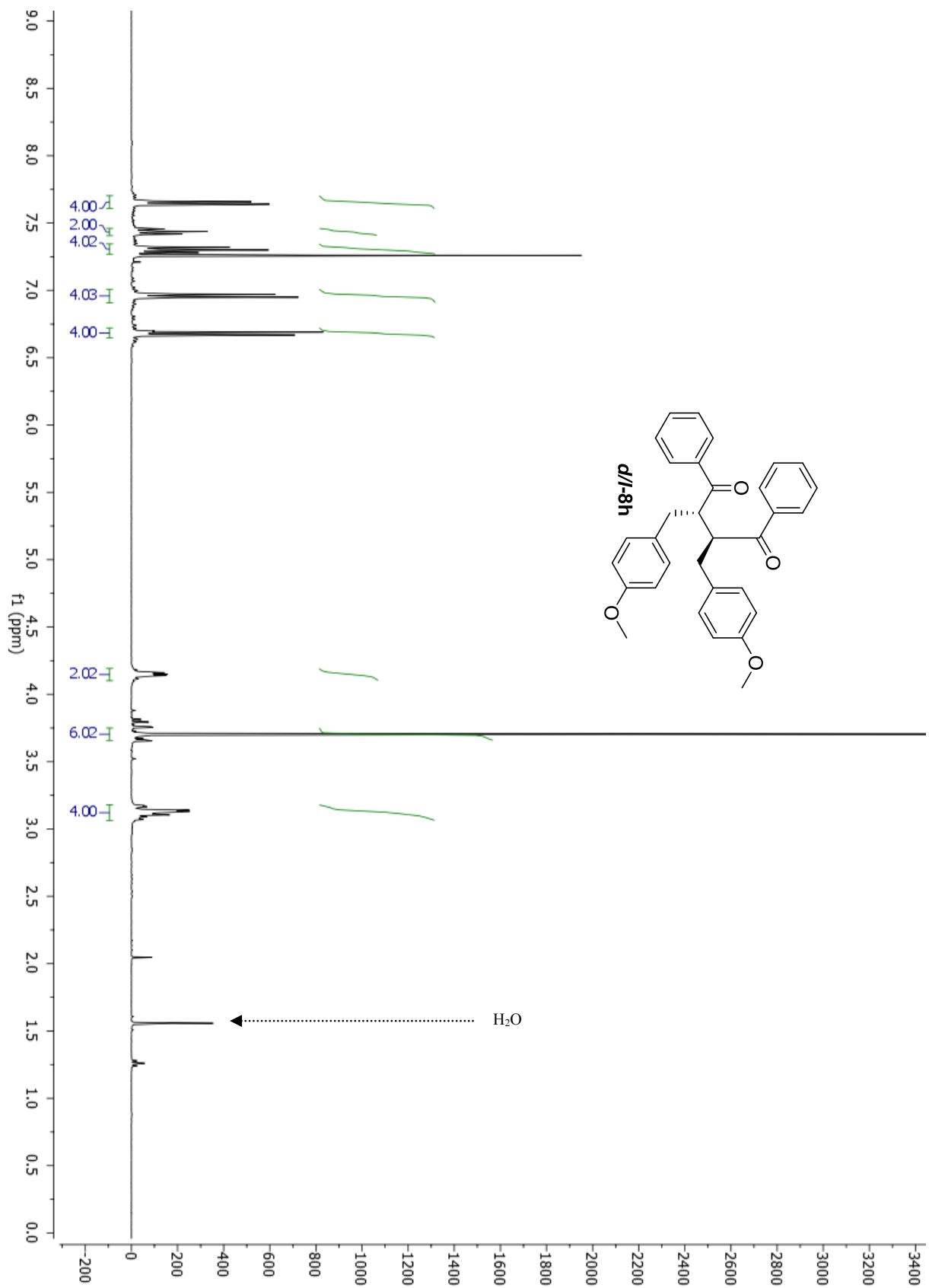


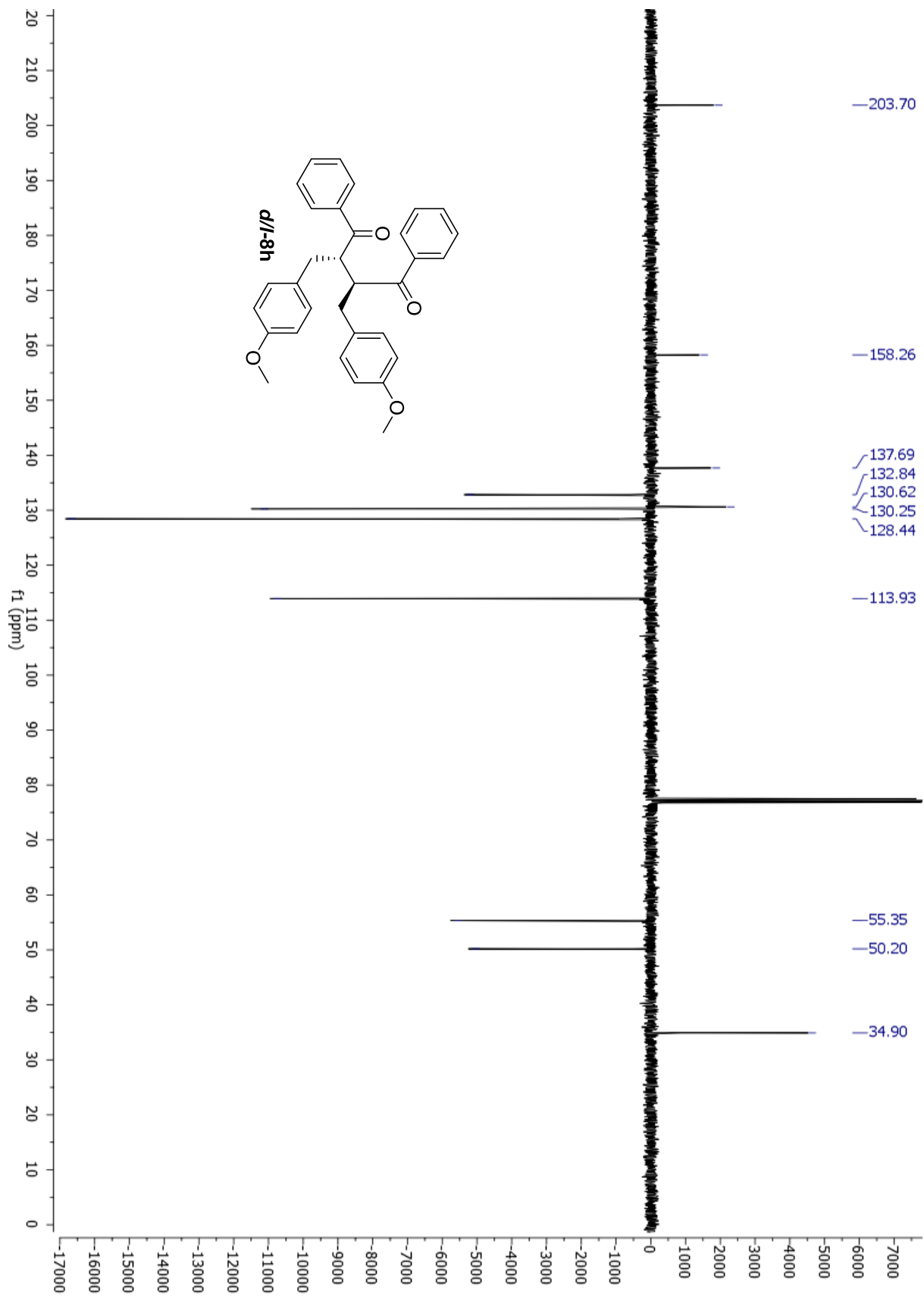


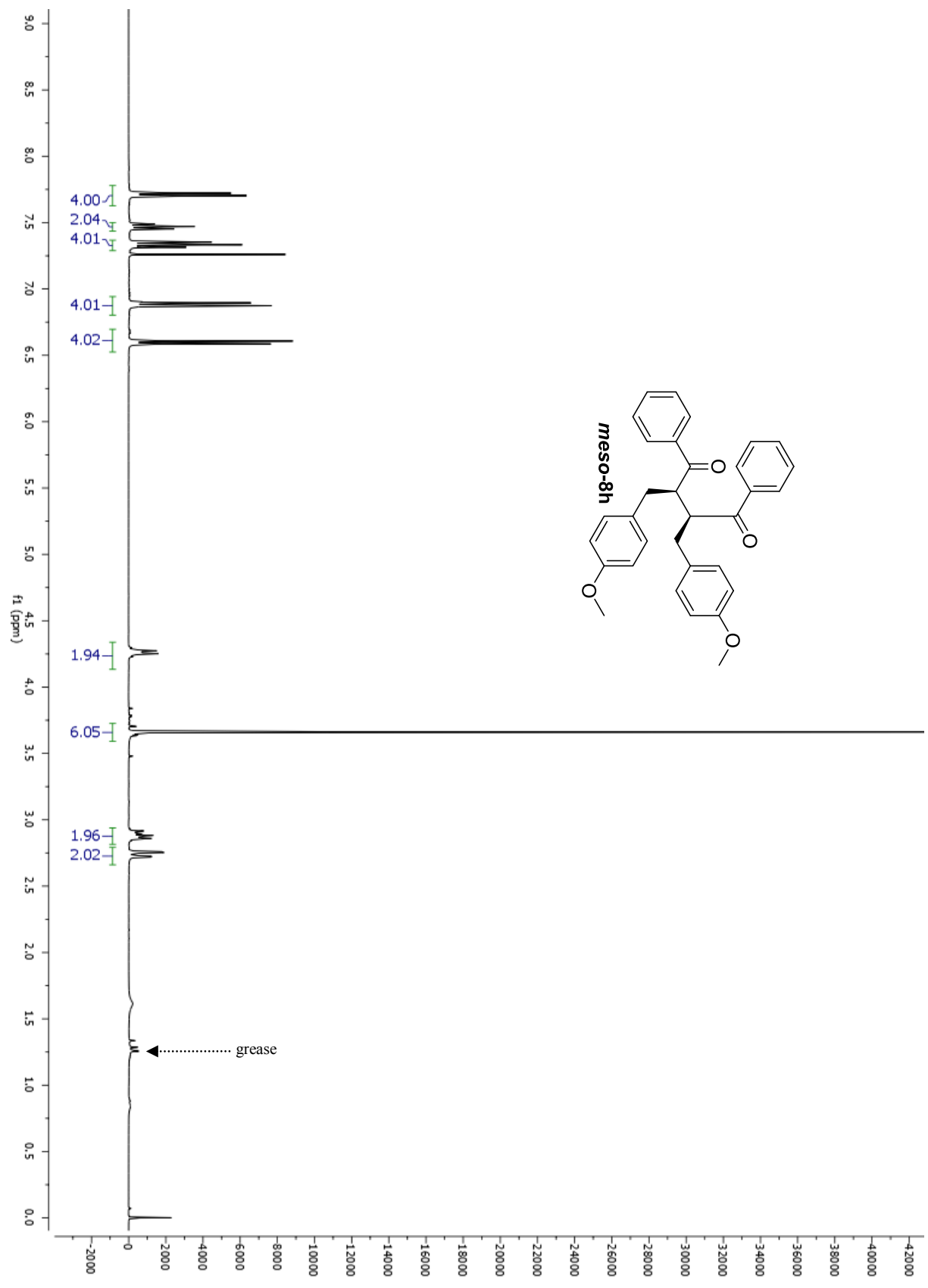
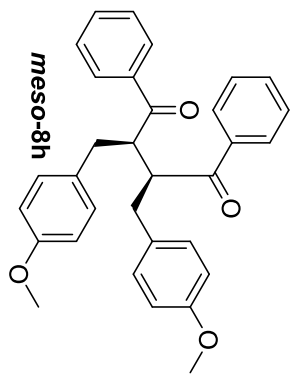


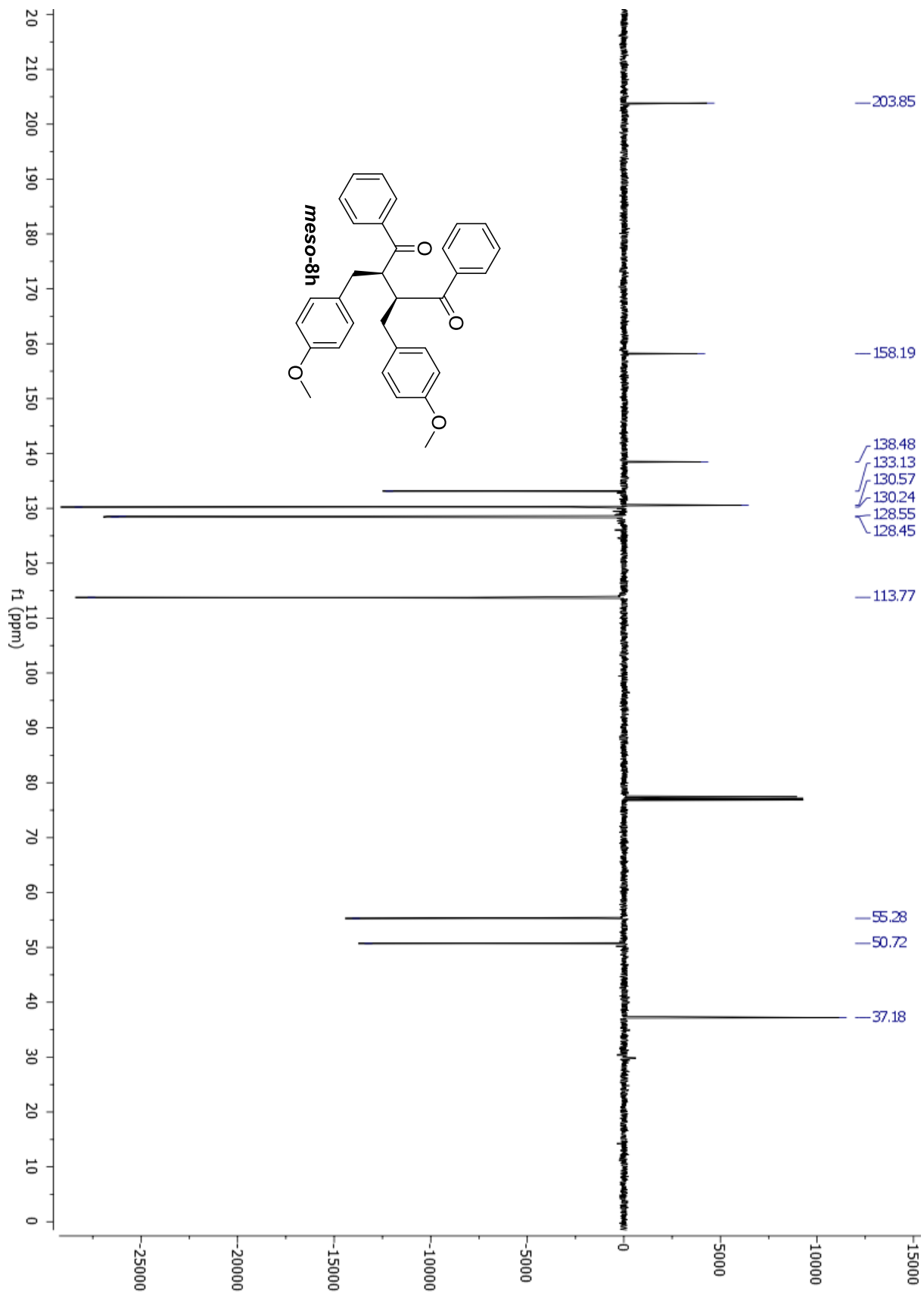


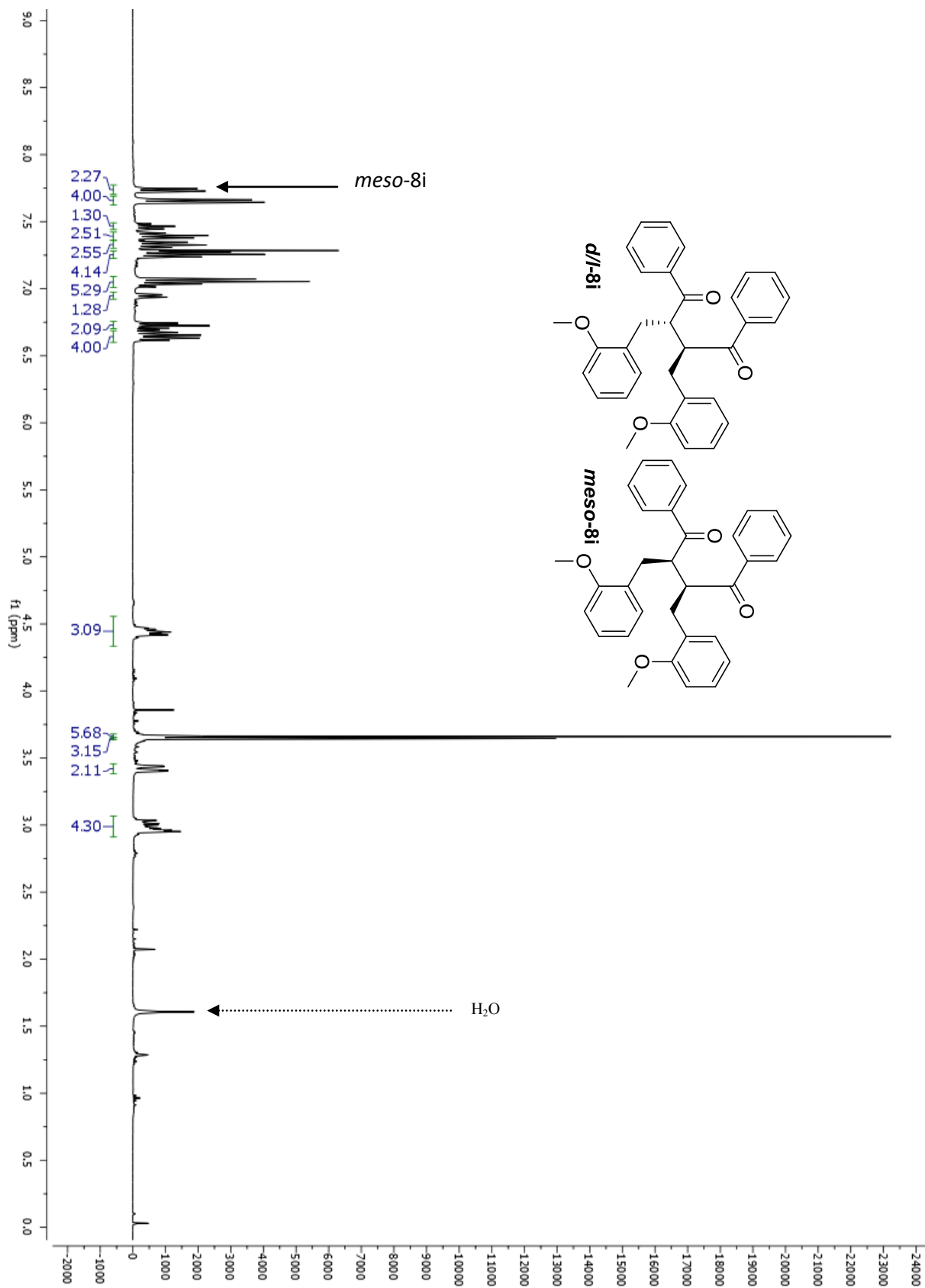


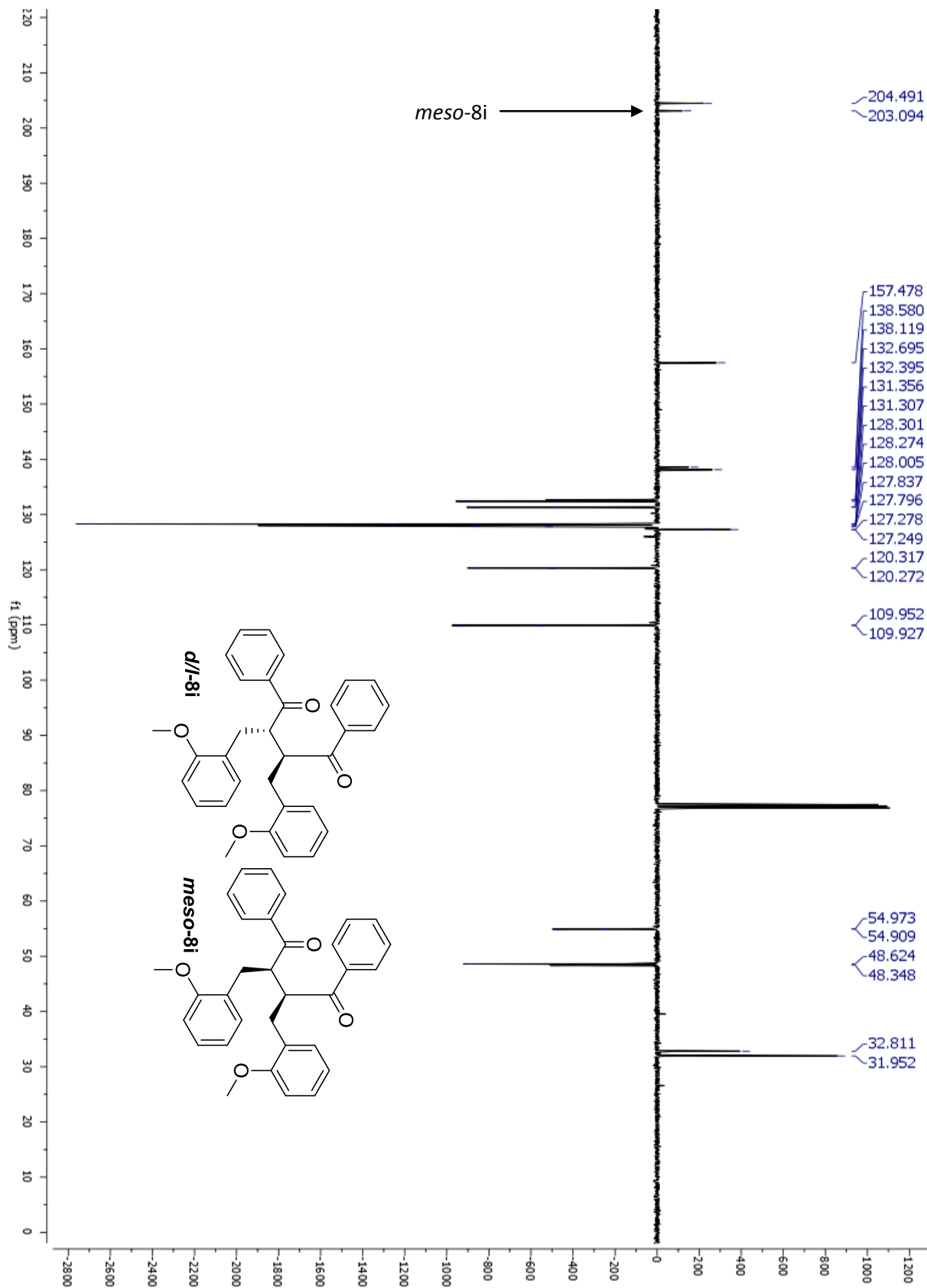




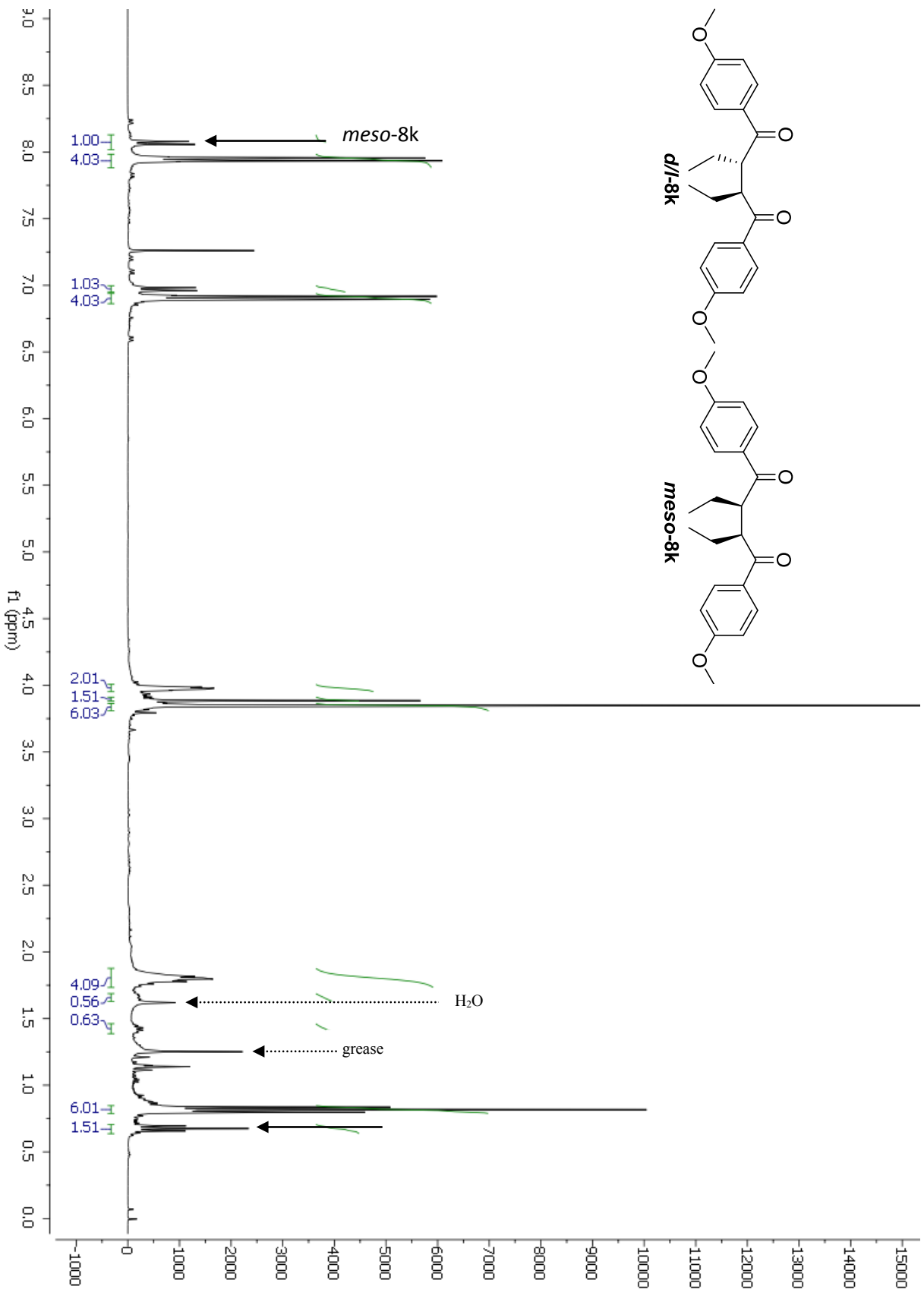


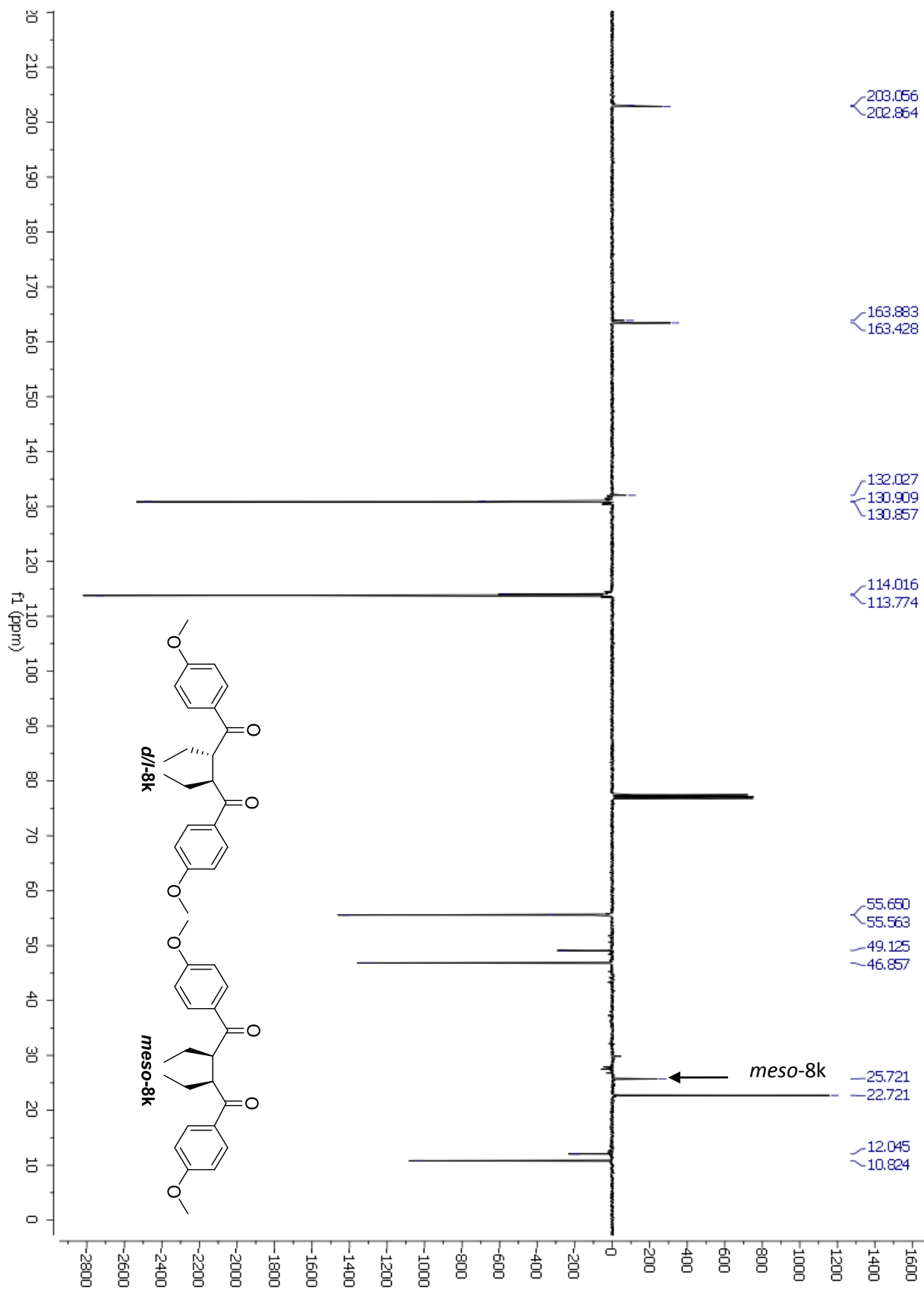


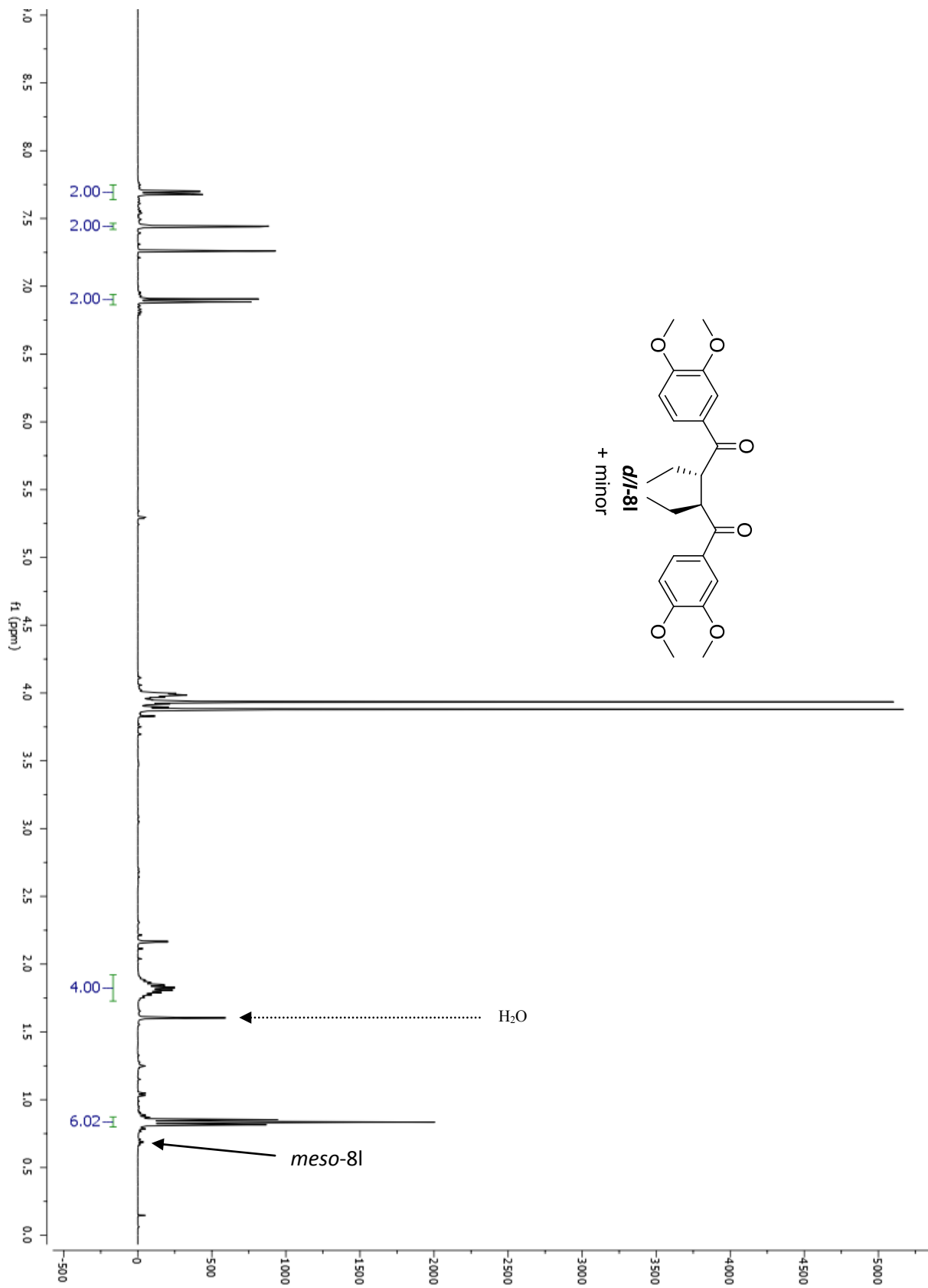


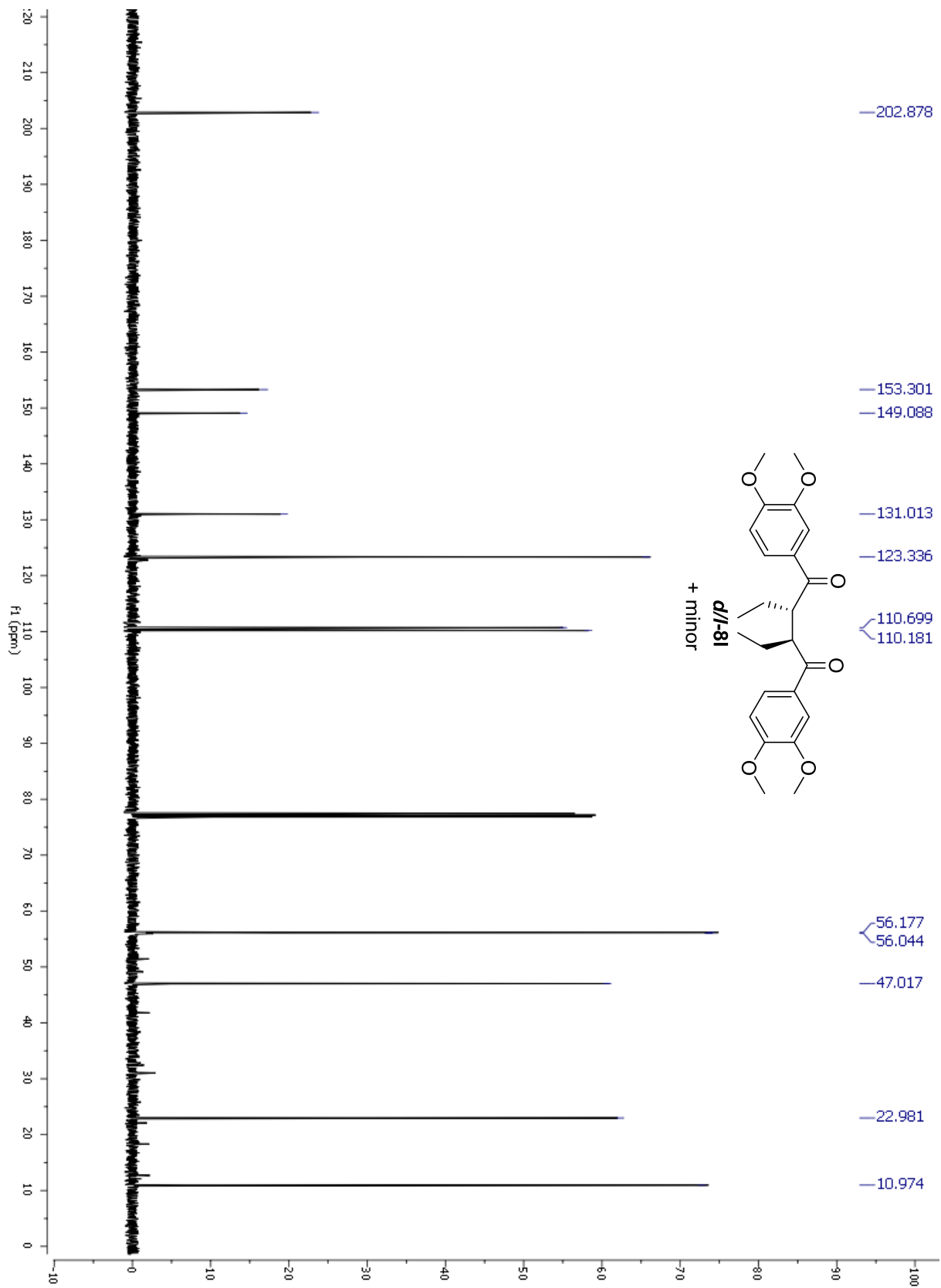


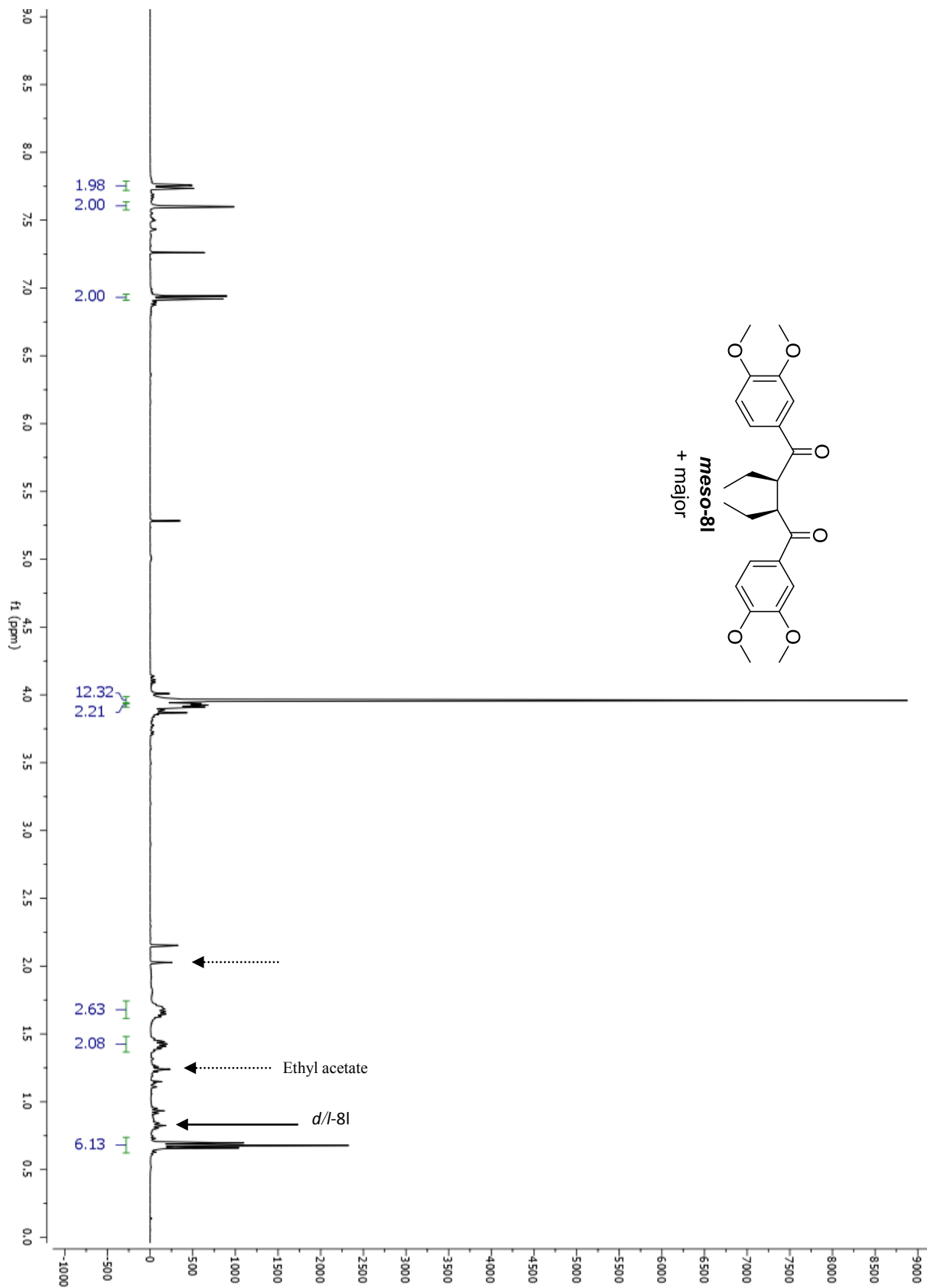


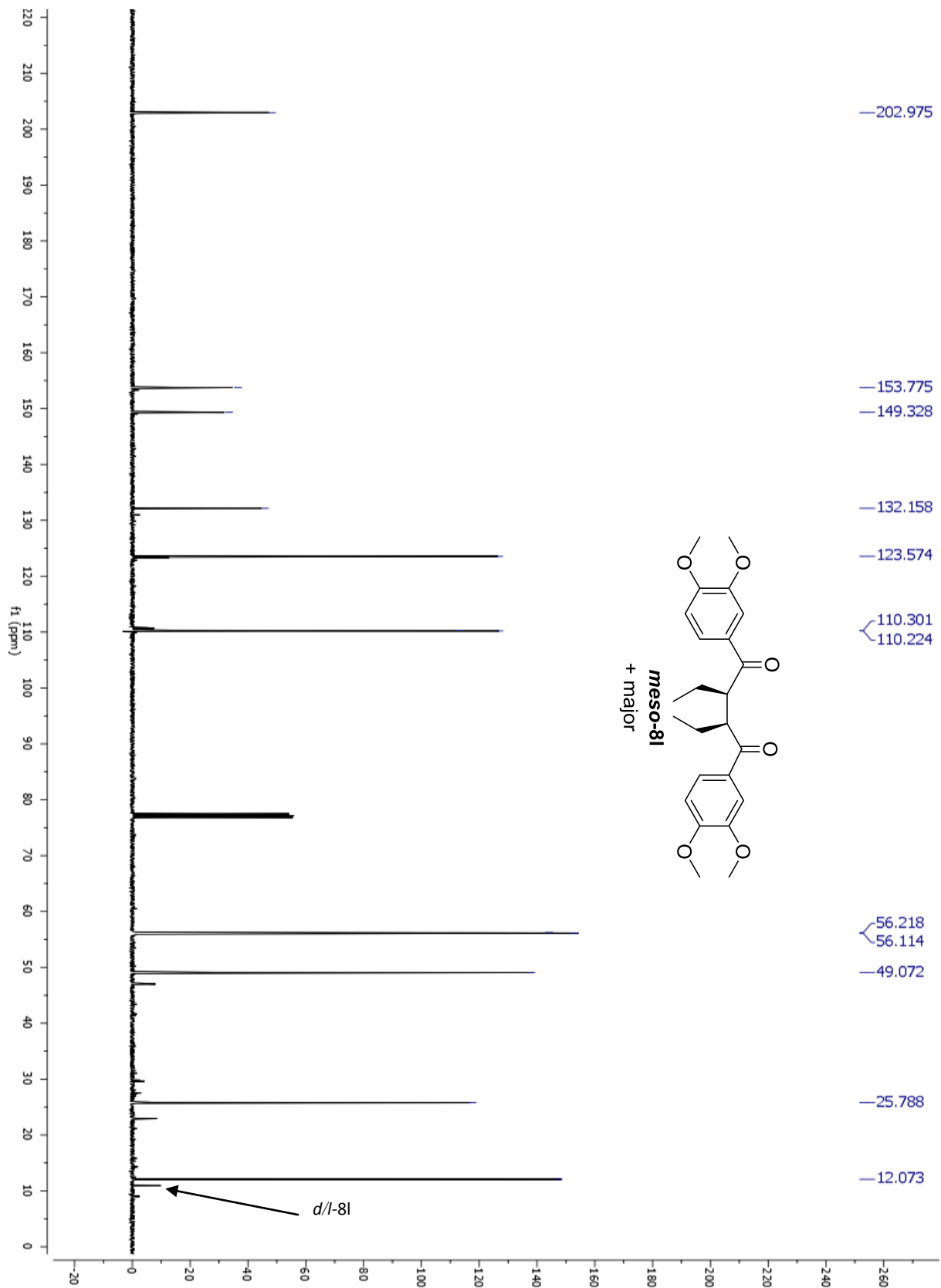


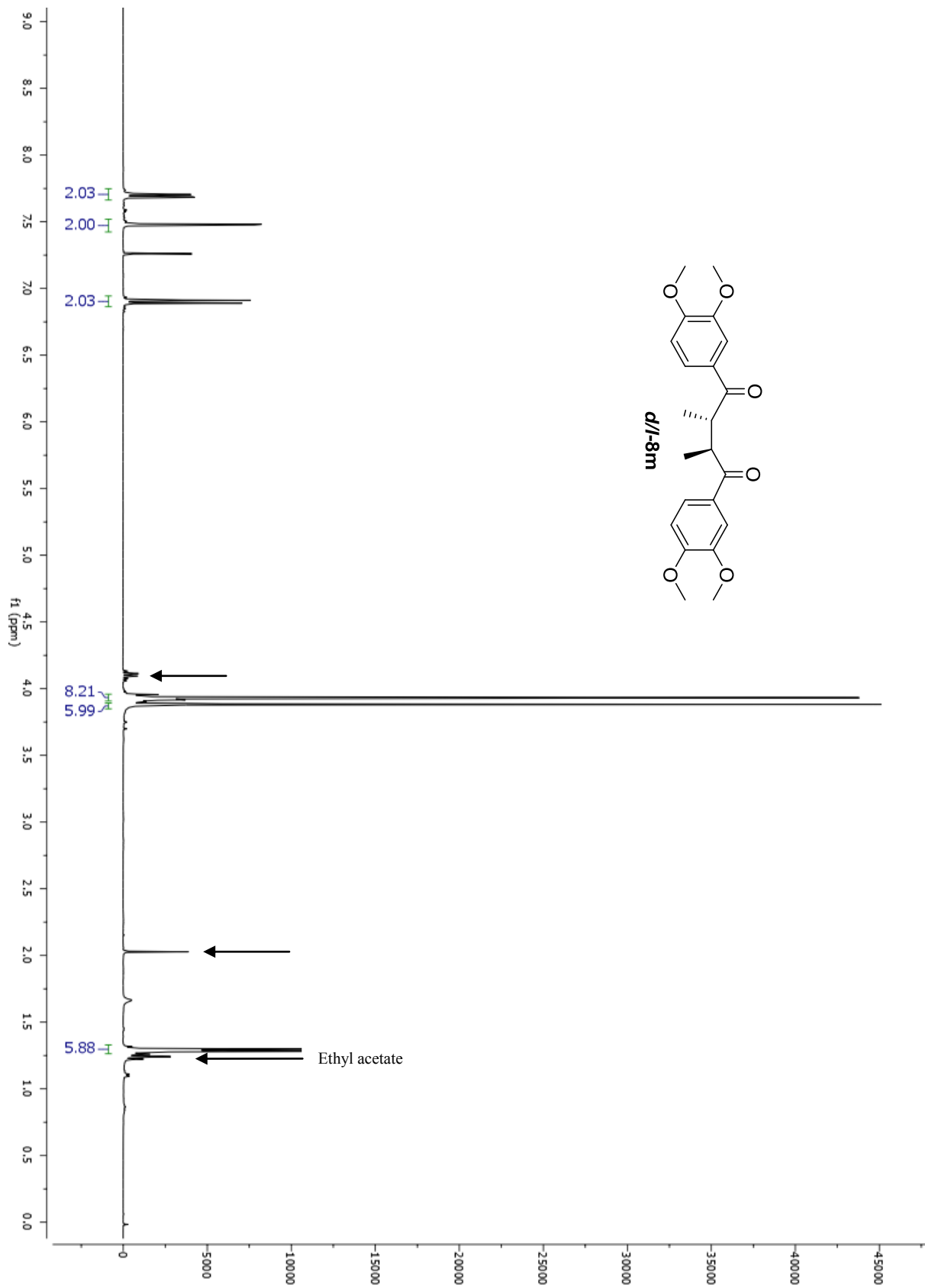


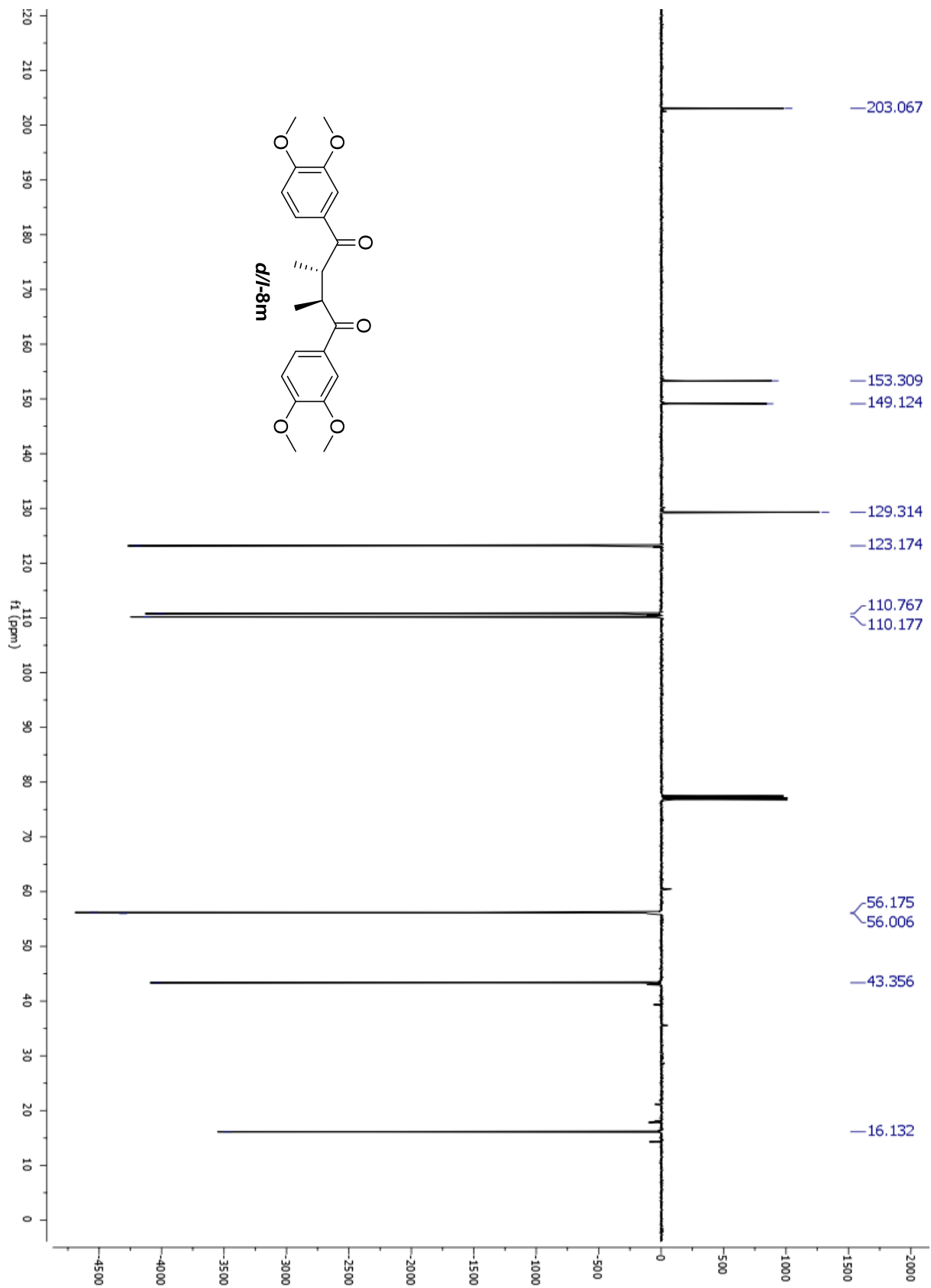




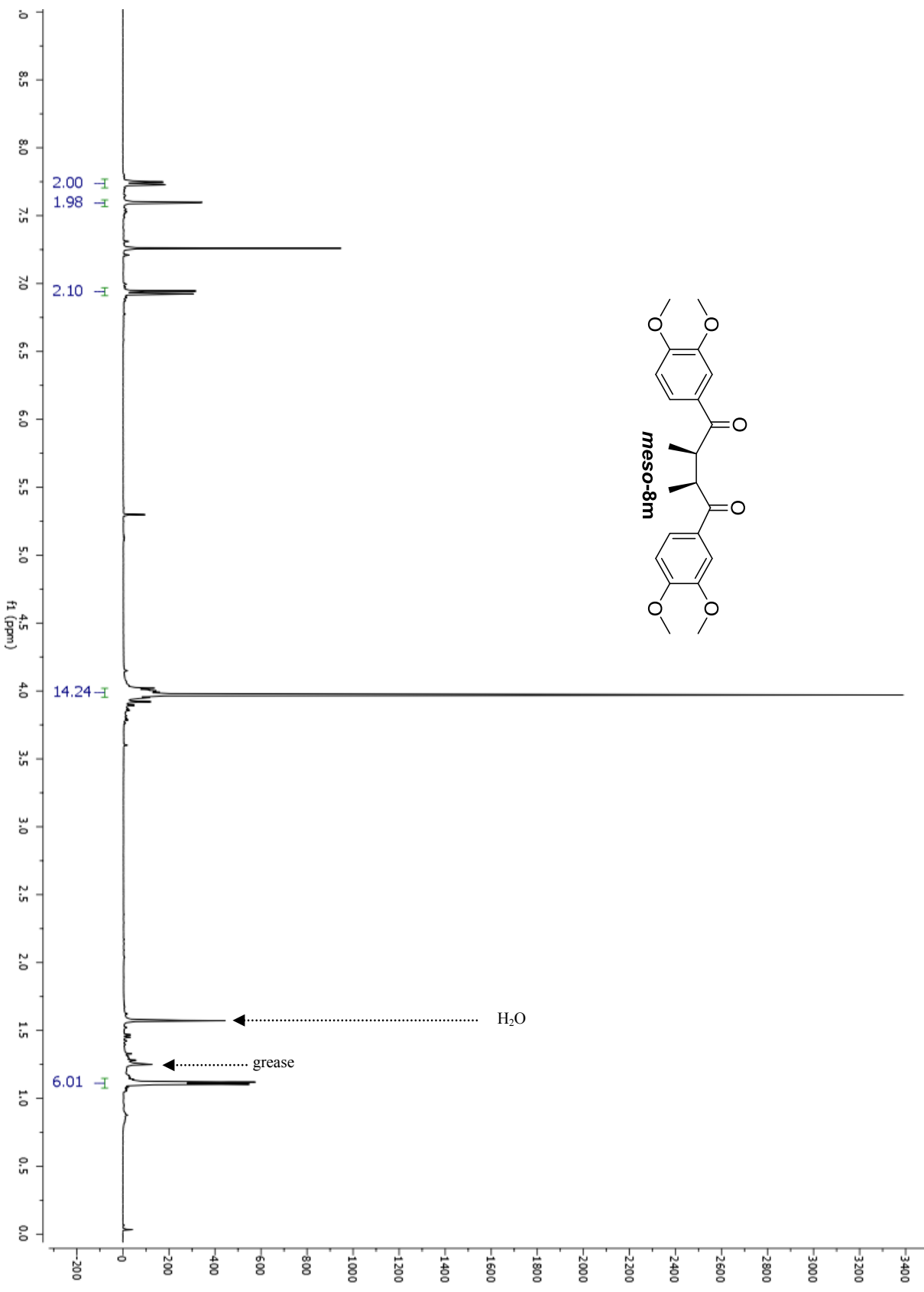
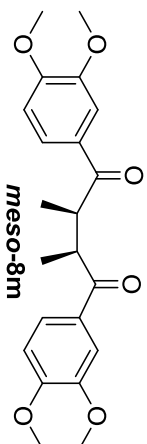


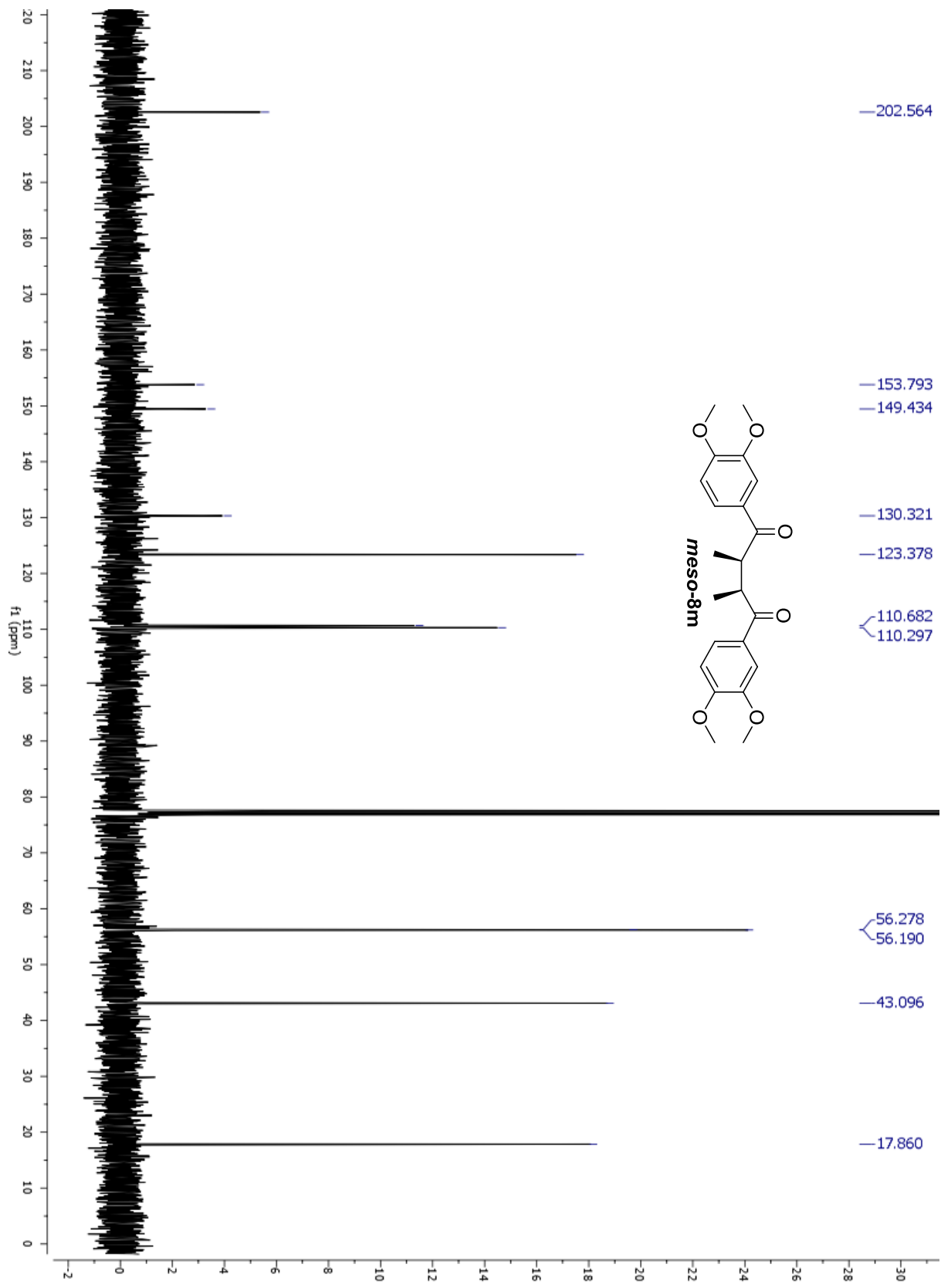


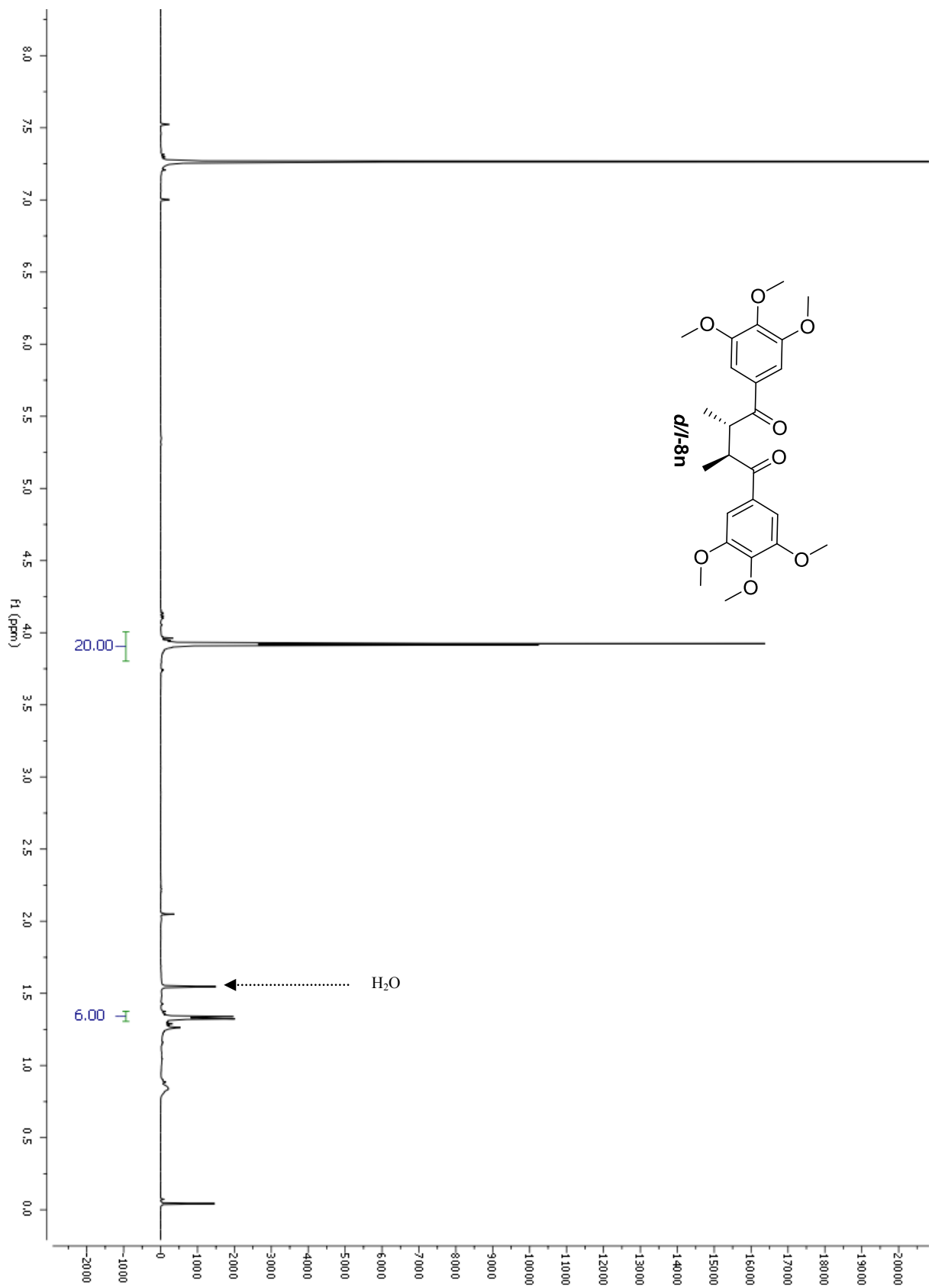


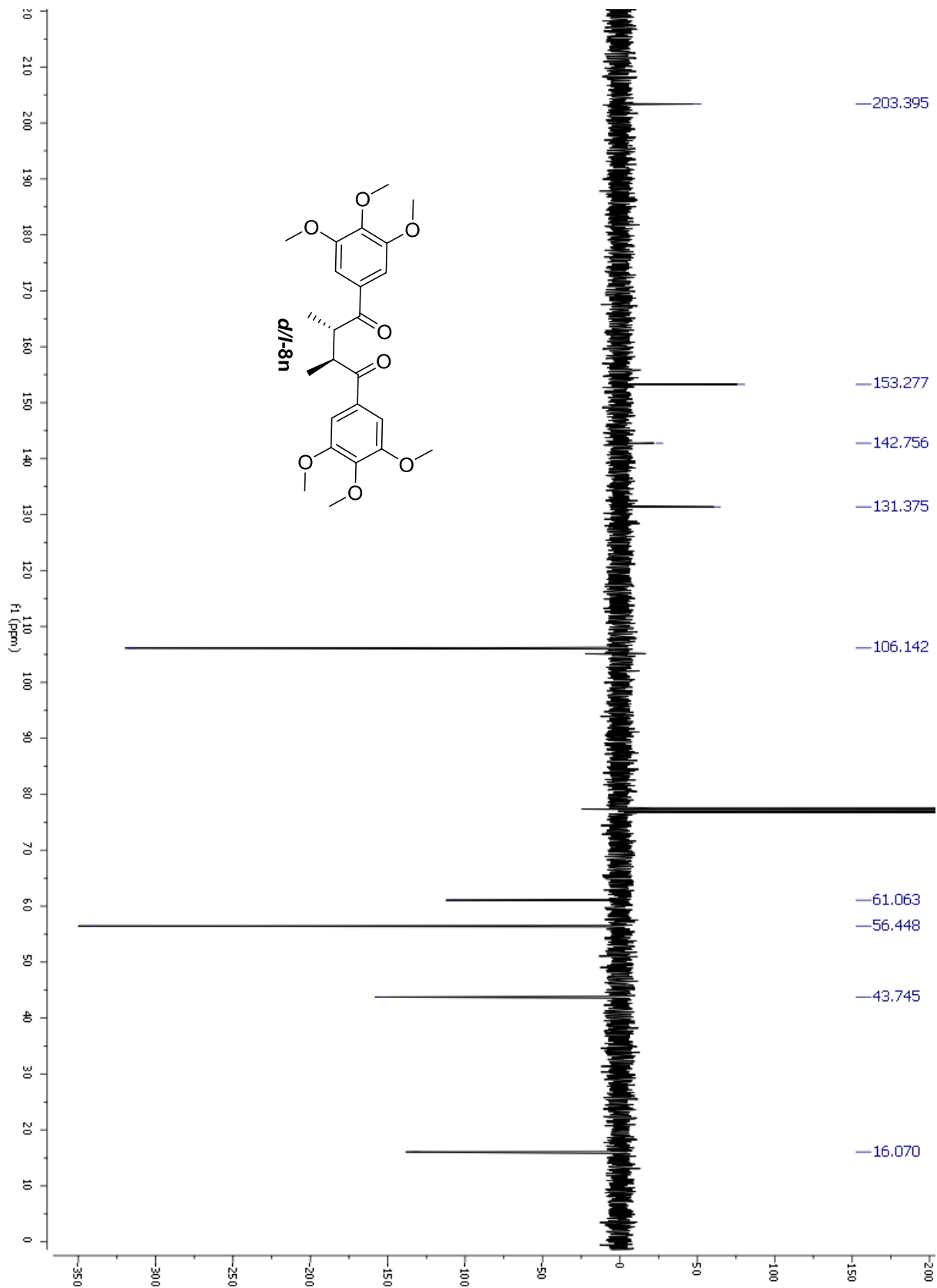


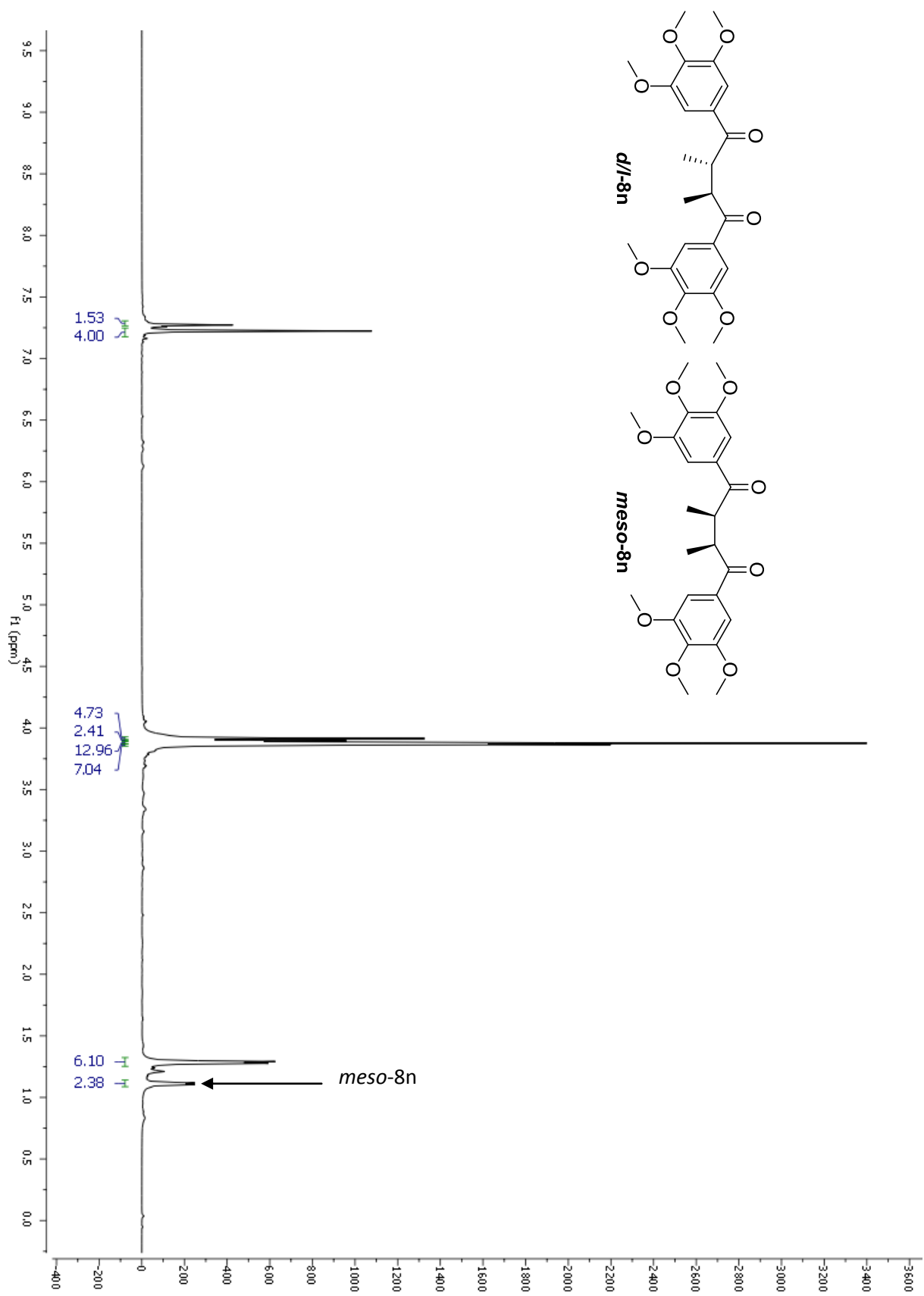


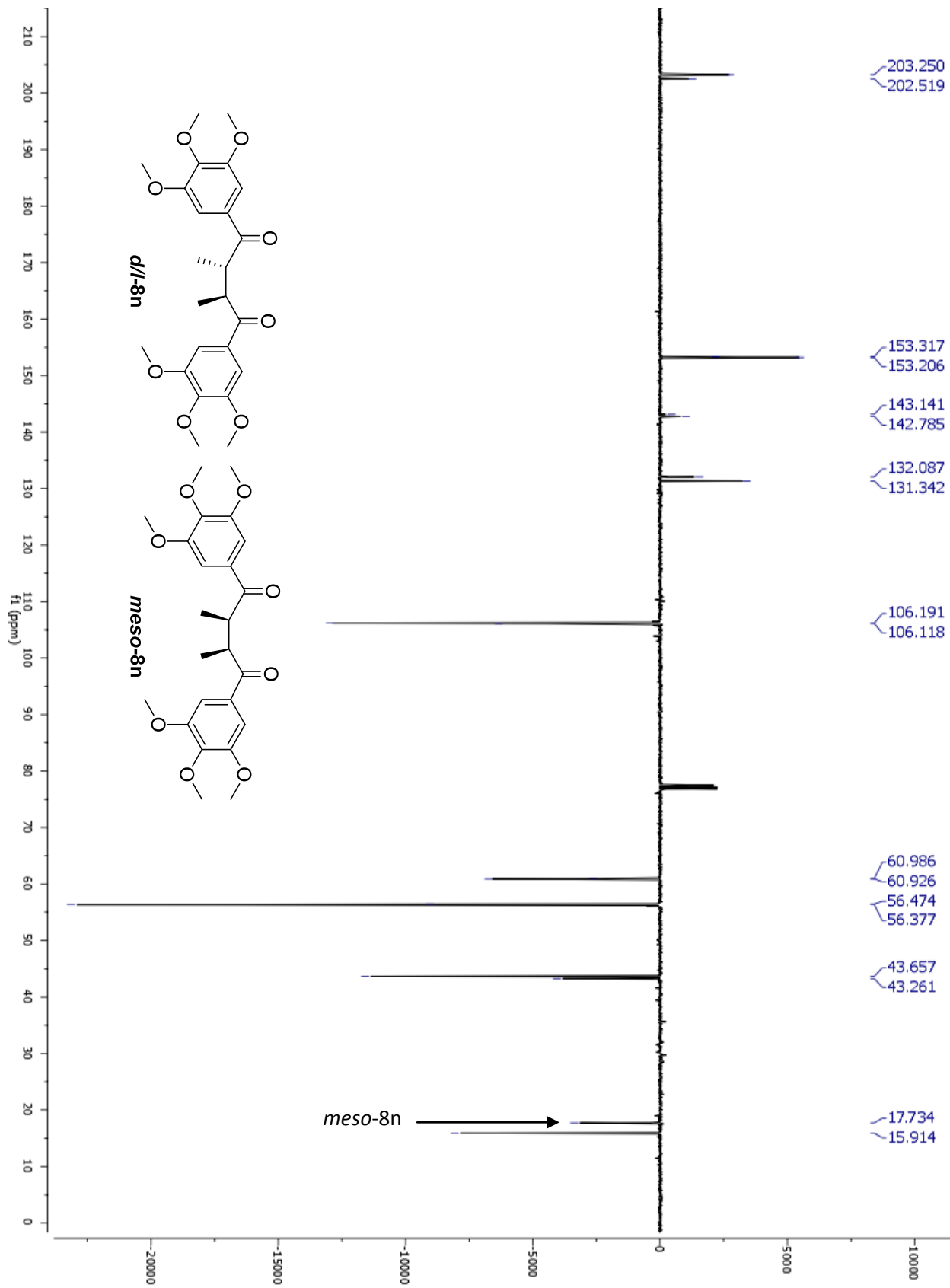


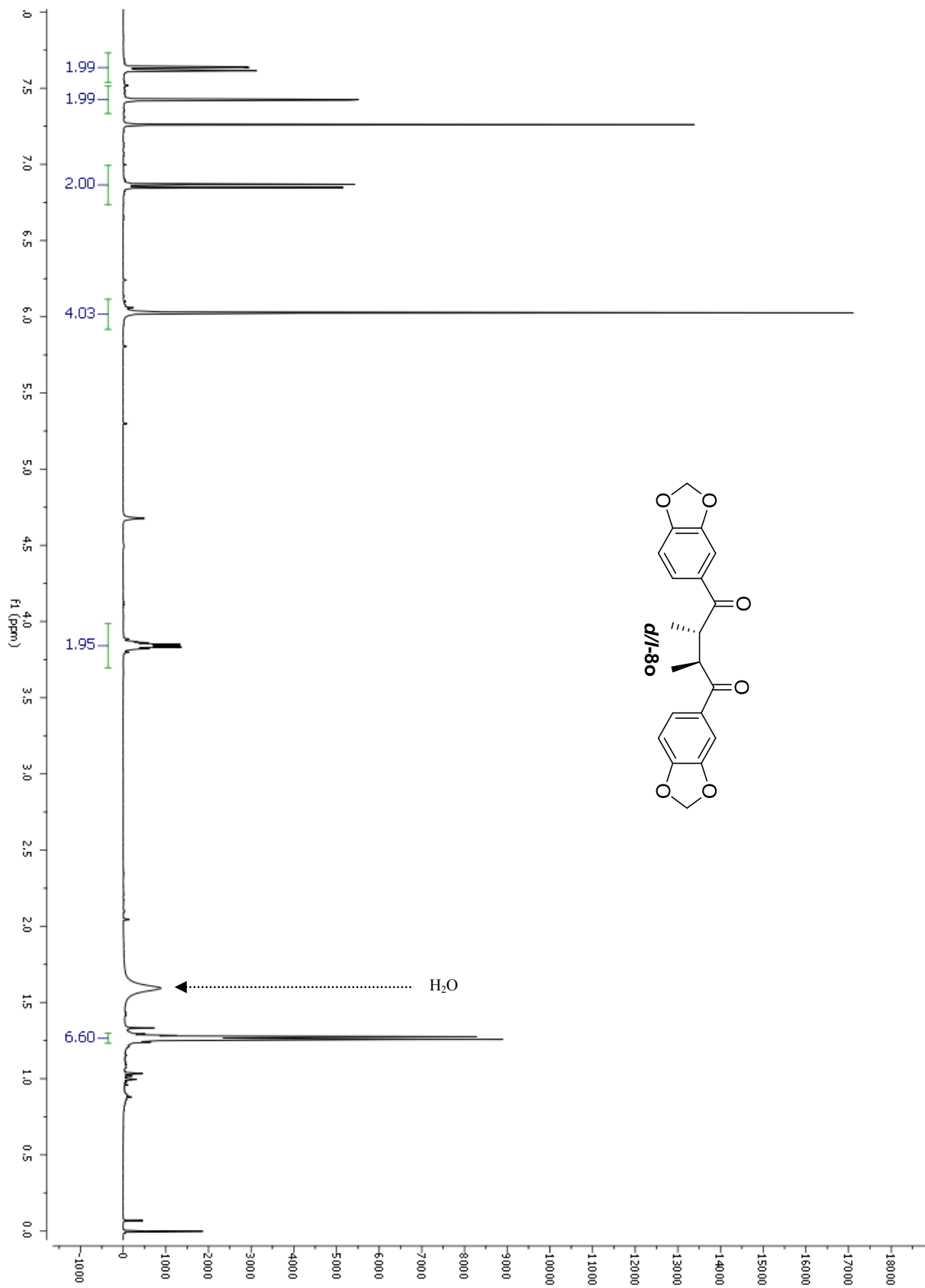


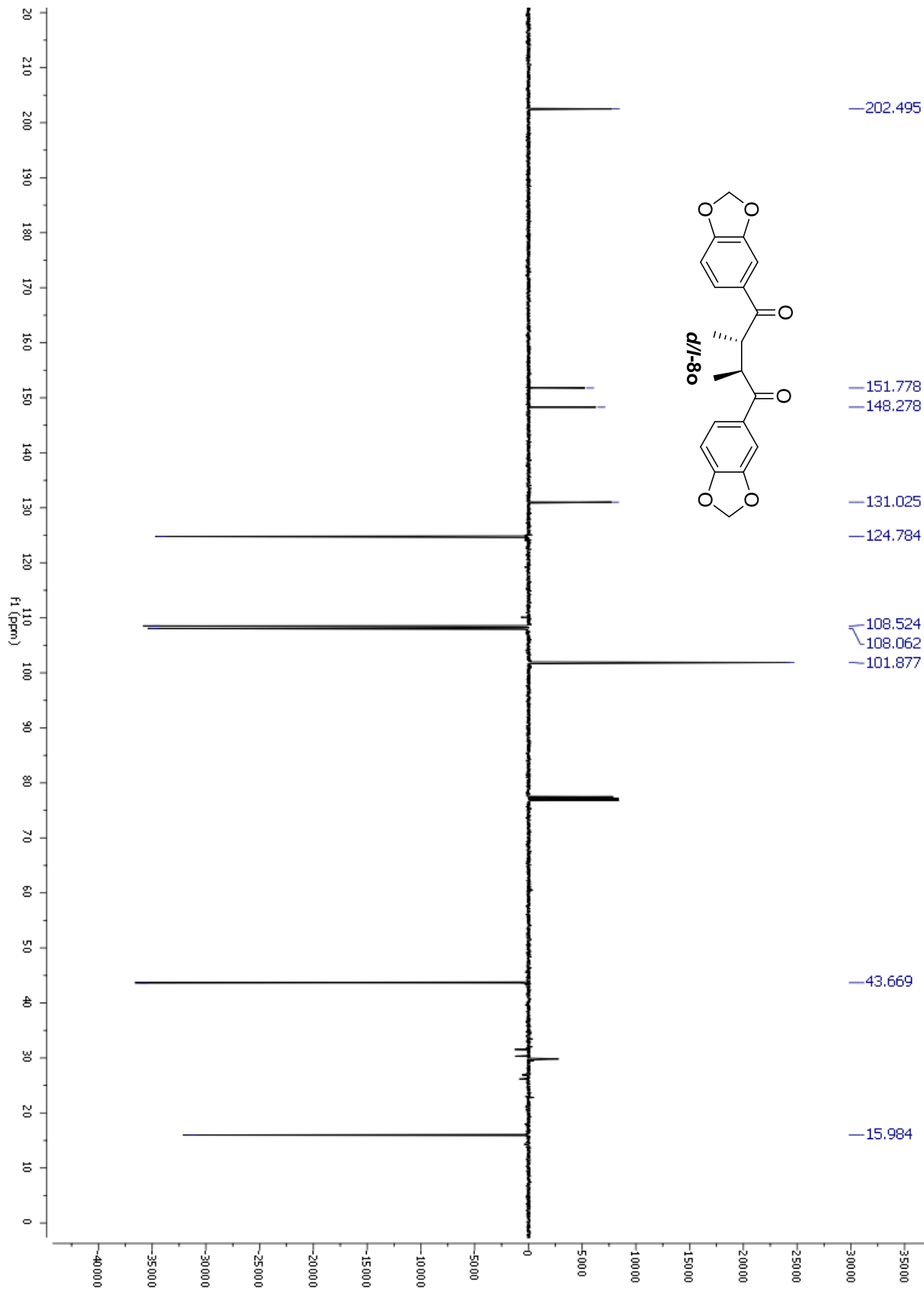




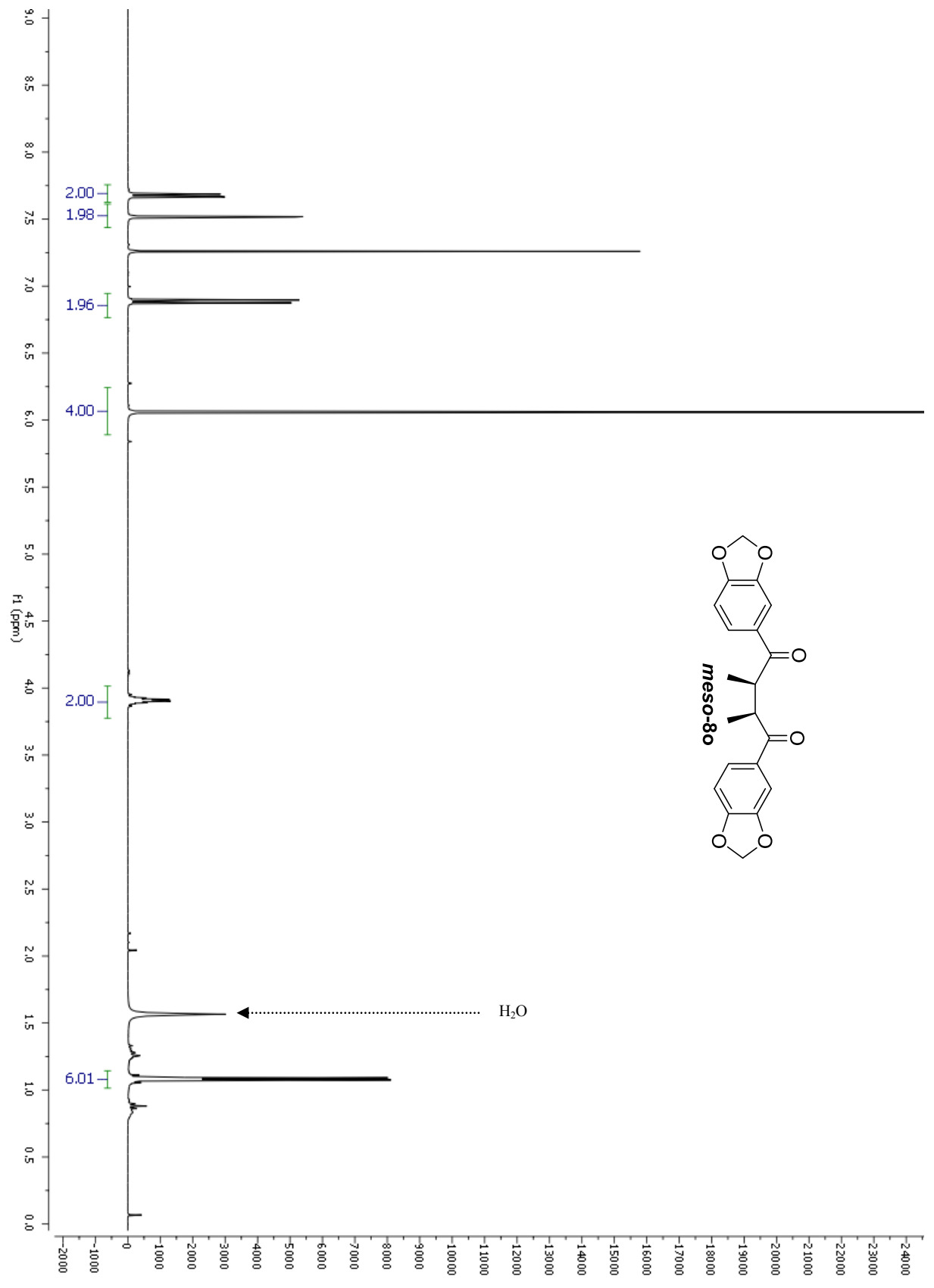
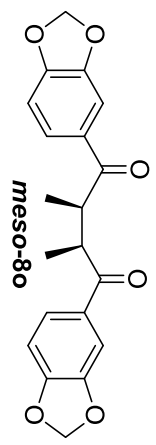


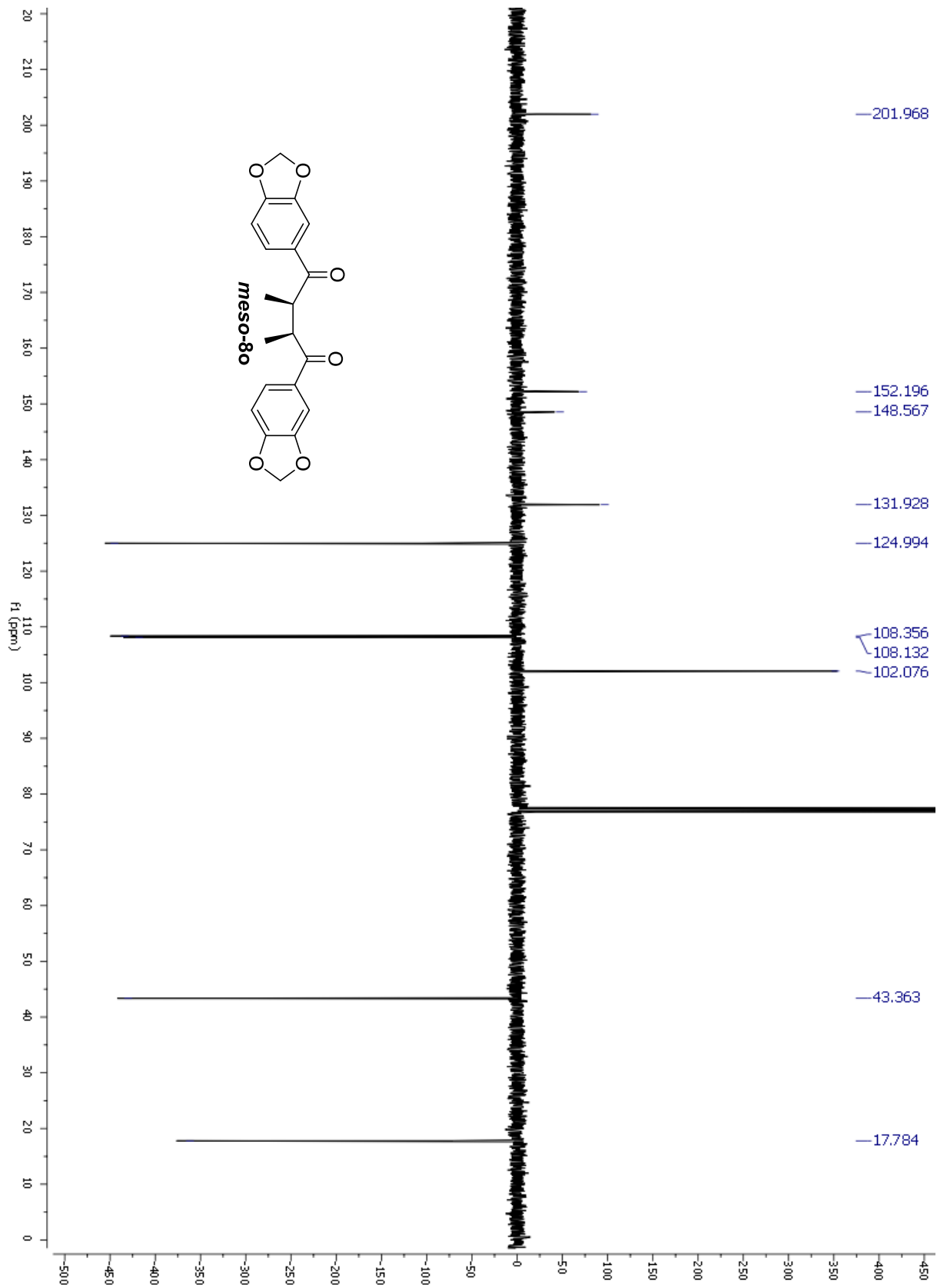


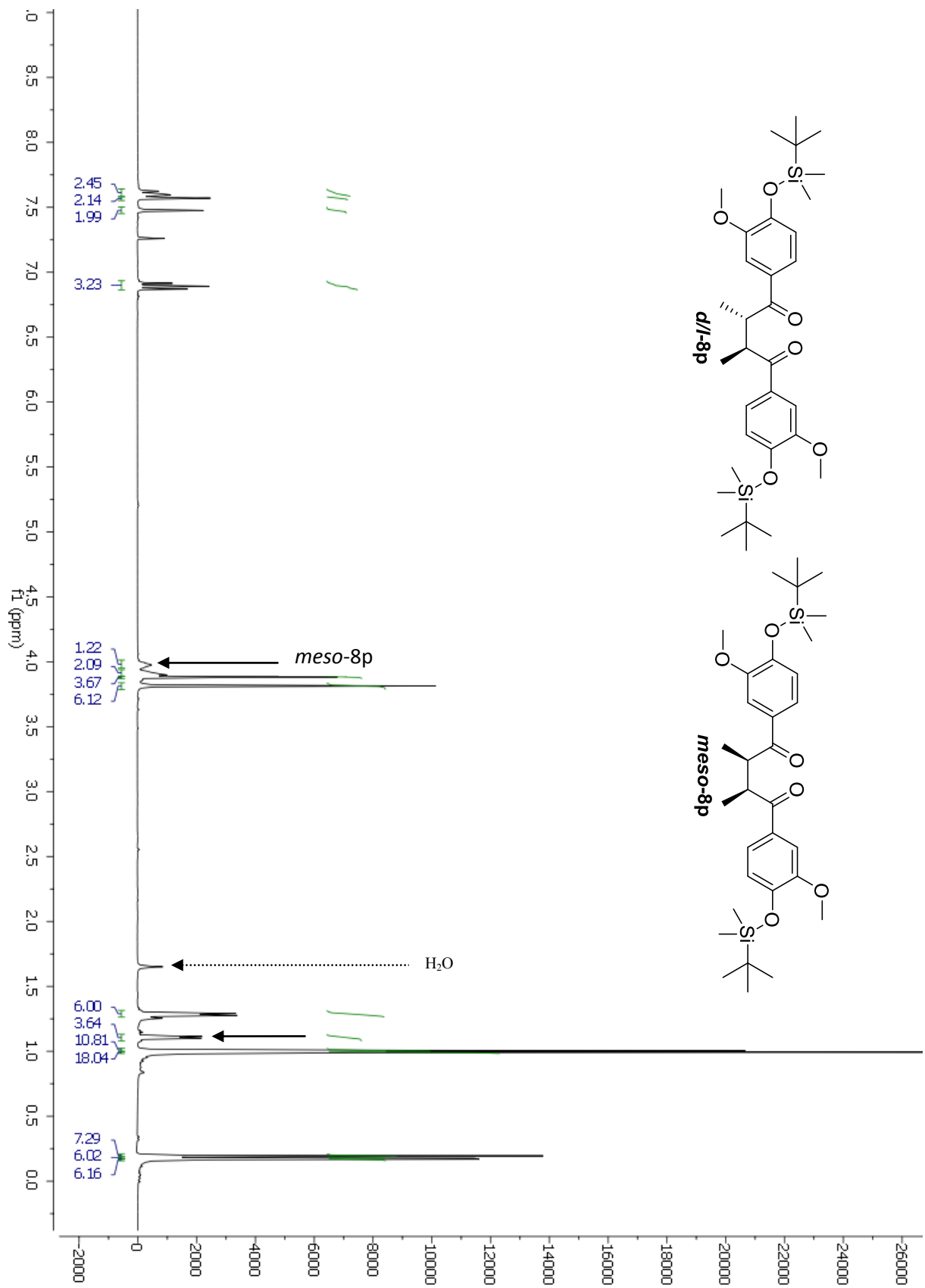


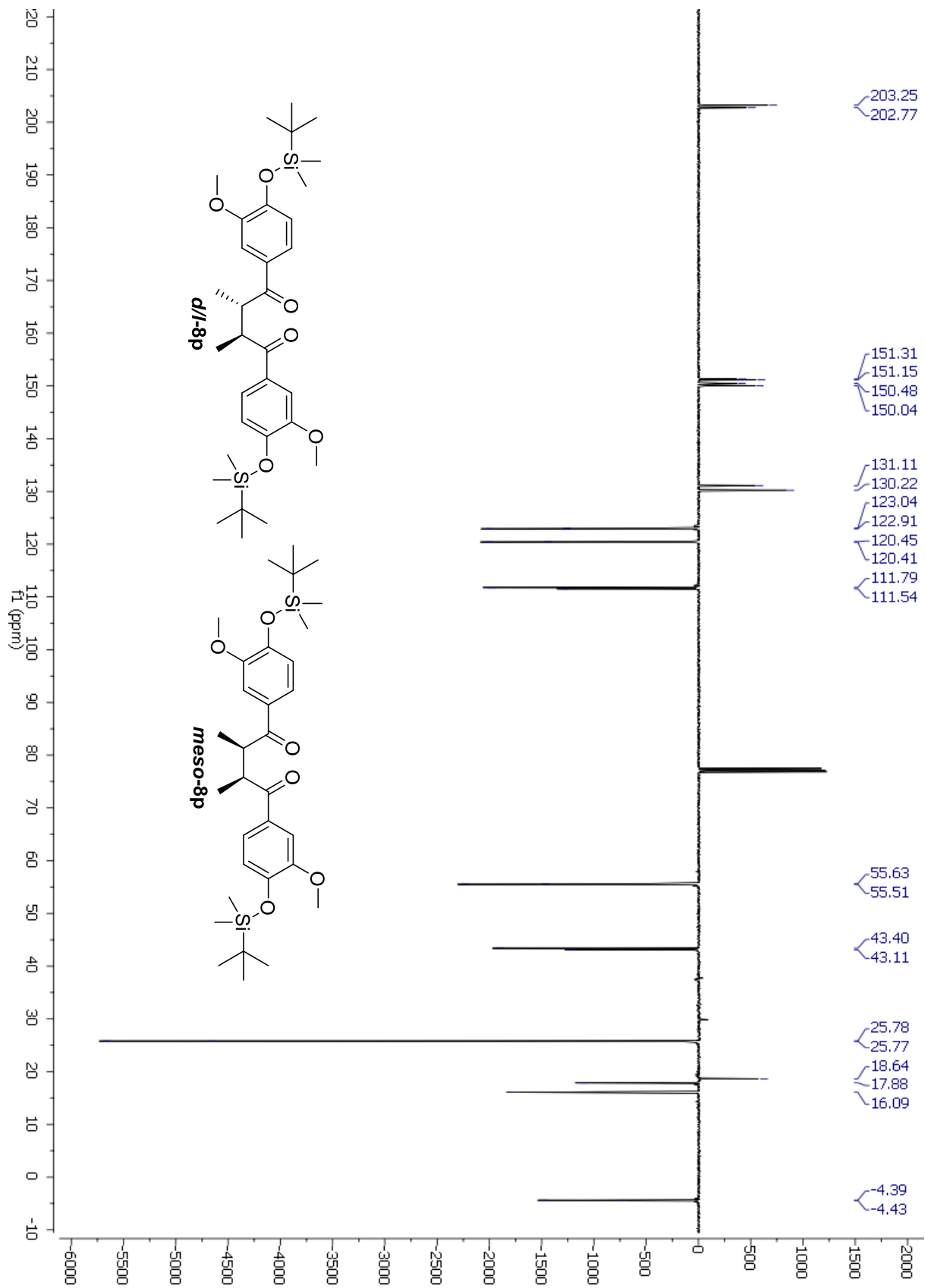




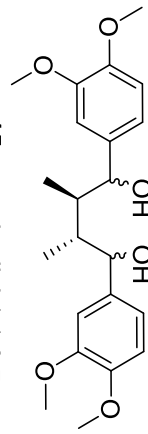




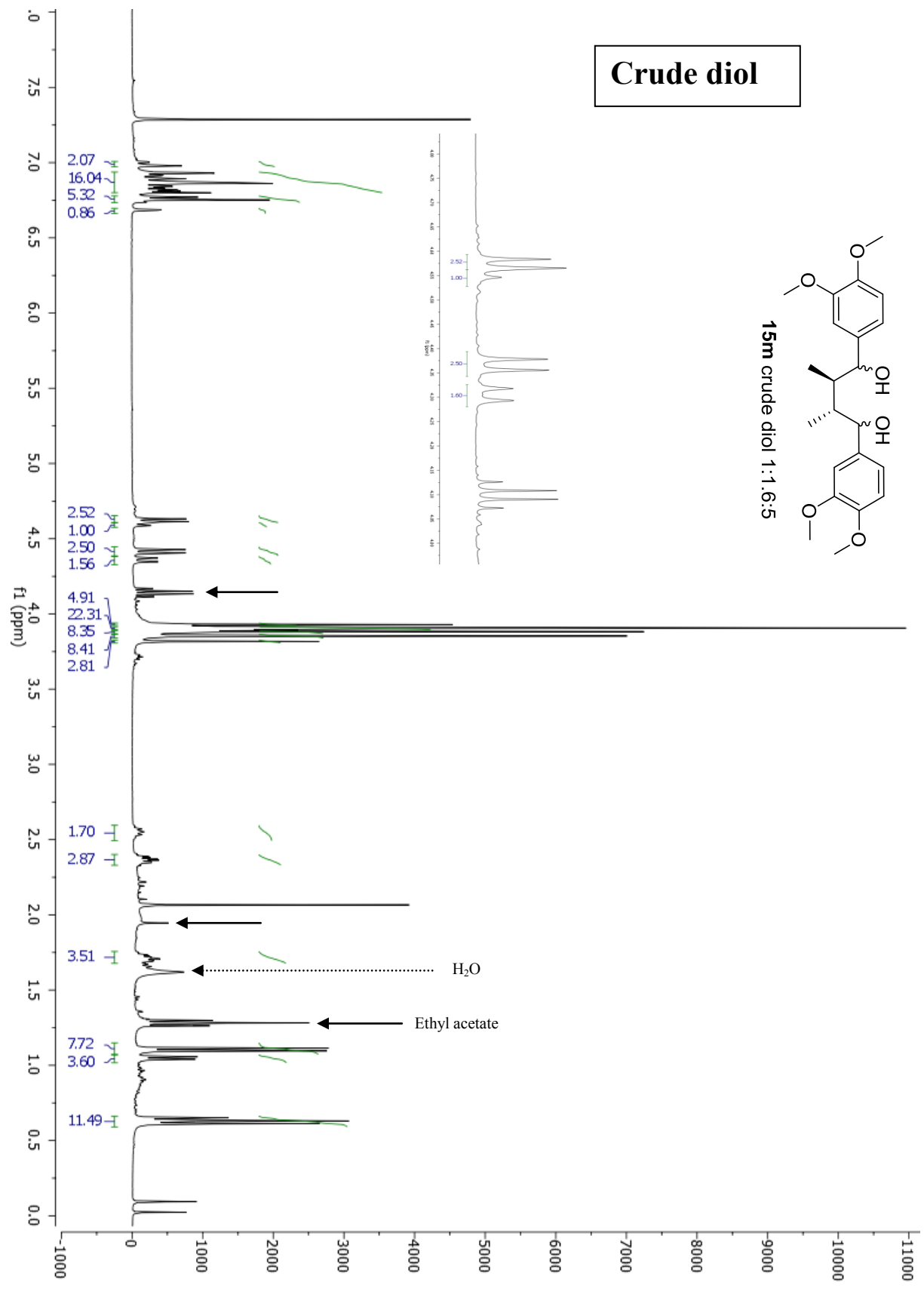




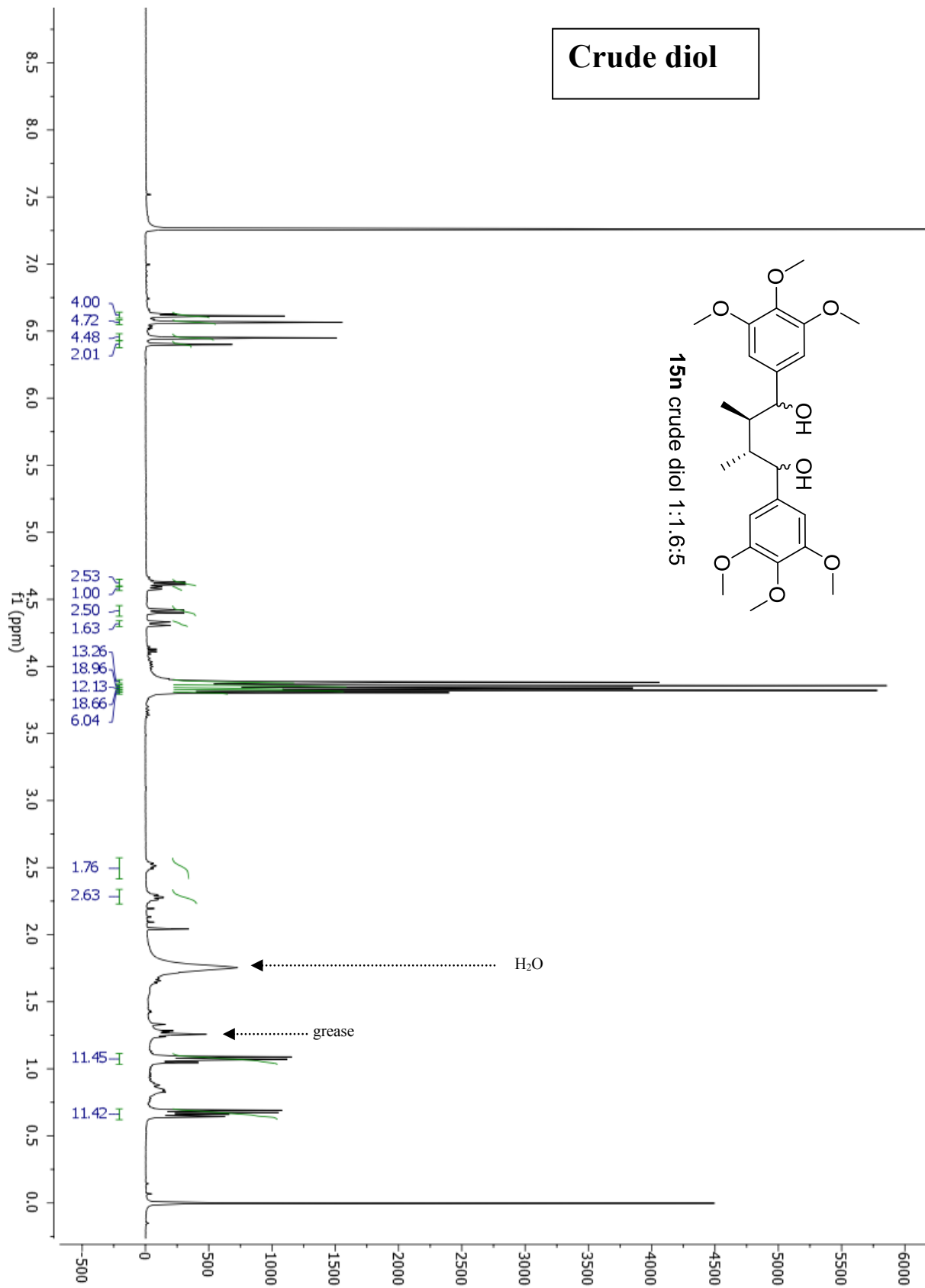
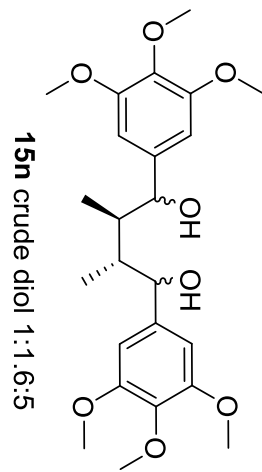
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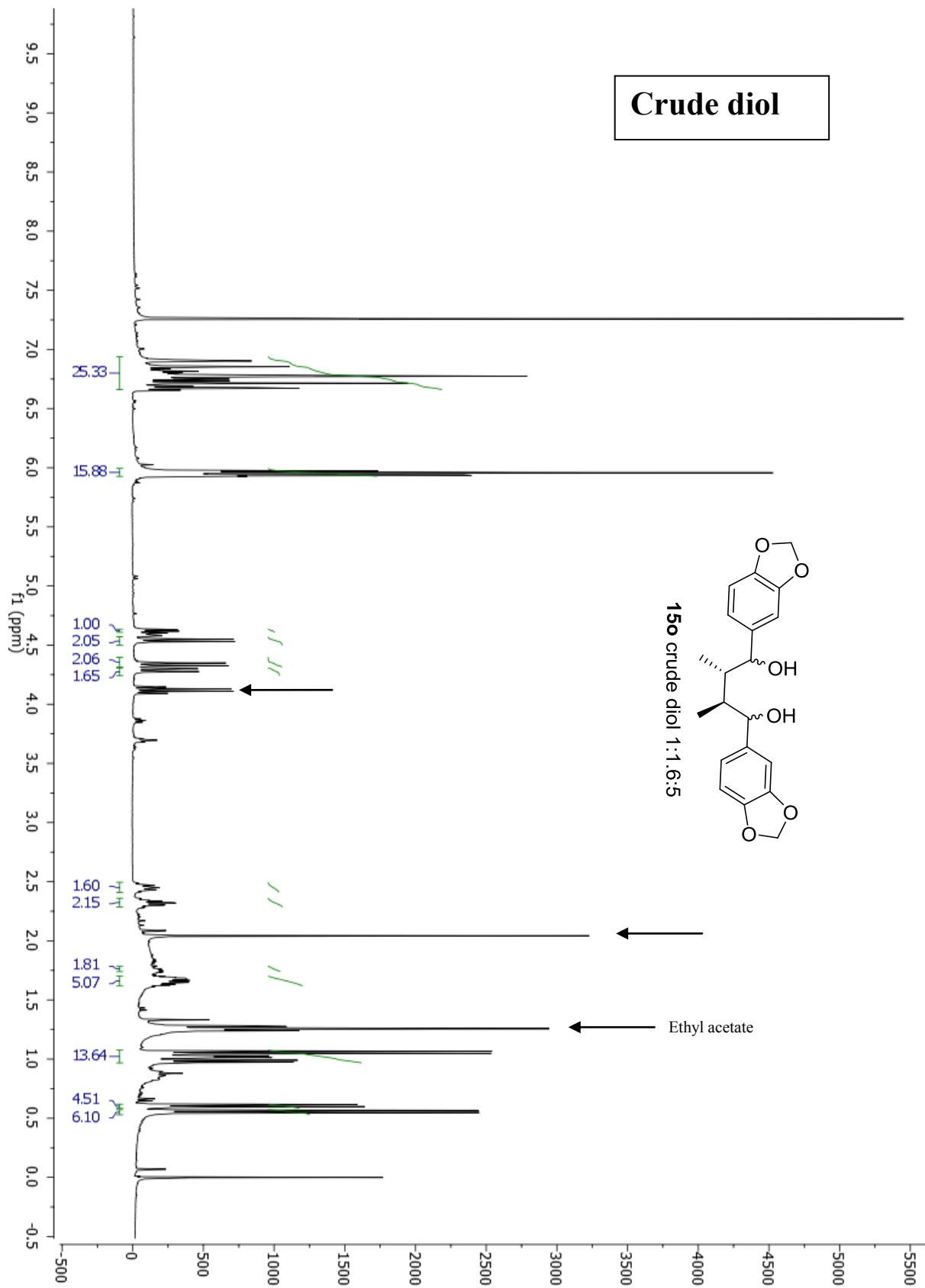
15m crude diol 1:1.6:5



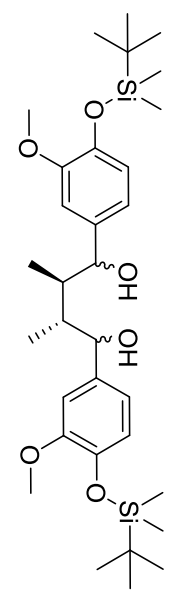
# Crude diol



**Crude diol**



# Crude diol



15p crude diol 1:1.6:5

