

## Supporting Information

# ***E*-Selective N-Heterocyclic Carbene-Catalyzed Reaction of Aldehydes and Butadienoates: Effect of Water and Chloroform as the Proton Shuttle**

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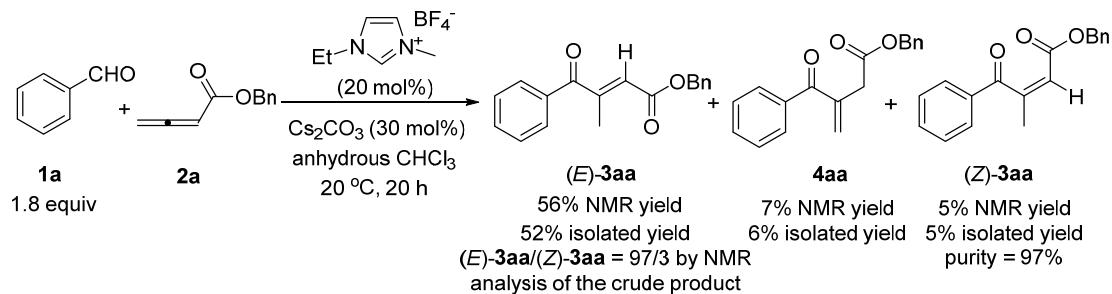
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**General information:**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AM 300 MHz spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin–Elmer 983G instrument. Elemental analyses were measured with a Carlo-Erba EA1110 elementary analysis instrument. Mass spectrometry was performed with an HP 5989A system. High-resolution mass spectrometry was determined with a Finnigan MAT 8430 or Bruker APEXIII instrument. 1-Ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate was purchased from Aladdin.  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  was purchased from Energy Chemical. Commercial  $\text{CHCl}_3$  was purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd and used as received. Anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  were distilled from  $\text{CaH}_2$  under  $\text{N}_2$  before use. Anhydrous THF was distilled from Na wire using benzophenone as indicator under  $\text{N}_2$  before use. All liquid aldehydes were freshly distilled before use. Unless otherwise indicated, chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers. The commercial petroleum ether (bp. 60~90 °C) was redistilled to collect the fraction of bp. in the range of 60~90 °C.

Allenoates **2a~2c** were prepared according to reported literatures.<sup>1</sup>

1. Preparation of authentic products: benzyl 3-methyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-3aa) (mdk-11-058-1), benzyl 3-methylene-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (4aa) (mdk-11-058-2), and benzyl 3-methyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2(*Z*)-enoate ((*Z*)-3aa) (mdk-11-058-3)



To a dry Schlenk flask was added  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0978 g, 0.3 mmol) in a glove box. Then 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0405 g, 0.2 mmol) and anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL) were added sequentially under  $\text{N}_2$ . The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, **1a** (0.1912 g, 1.8 mmol),  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1749 g, 1 mmol), and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL) were added sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 20 h, the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC. Filtration through a short column of silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate (20 mL × 3)), evaporation, and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1 (450 mL × 5)) afforded **(E)-3aa** (0.1456 g, 52%), **4aa** (0.0163 g, 6%), and **(Z)-3aa** (0.0140 g, 5%, purity = 97%) (the ratio of **(E)-3aa**/**(Z)-3aa** was 92/8 and 7% of **4aa** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column).

**(E)-3aa**, the less polar isomer, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.60-7.51 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.39-7.26 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20

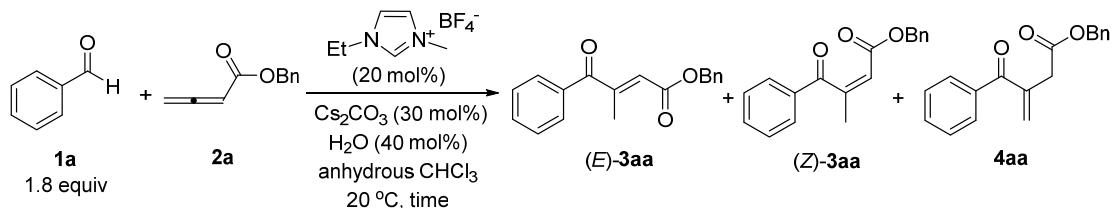
(q,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.20 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.6, 165.4, 152.4, 135.6, 135.4, 133.0, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 124.9, 66.4, 15.5; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3064, 3034, 2955, 1723, 1663, 1596, 1579, 1498, 1448, 1381, 1352, 1316, 1267, 1190, 1138, 1075, 1037, 1023, 1002; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 280 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1.90), 91 (100); HRMS calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 280.1099, found: 280.1098.

**4aa**, the second polar isomer, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.82-7.74 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58-7.49 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.37-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.99 (s, 1H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.78 (s, 1H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.12 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.61 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.9, 170.7, 141.1, 137.2, 135.5, 132.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.25, 128.16, 66.8, 38.1; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3064, 3033, 2957, 1737, 1658, 1598, 1577, 1498, 1448, 1425, 1398, 1378, 1322, 1259, 1217, 1163, 1077, 1028; MS (ESI) m/z (%) 303 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 281 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 281.1172, found: 281.1175.

**(Z)-3aa**, the more polar isomer, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.92-7.83 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.54 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.50-7.40 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.31-7.24 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.19-7.10 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.06 (q,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, =CH), 4.97 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.14 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.1, 164.5, 155.6, 135.2, 134.3, 133.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 119.2, 66.5, 21.8; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3064, 3033, 2950, 1716, 1675, 1644, 1598, 1584, 1498, 1450, 1379, 1350, 1310, 1264, 1232, 1196, 1173, 1129, 1026, 1002; MS (ESI) m/z (%) 303 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 281 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 281.1172, found: 281.1179.

## 2. Mechanistic studies

### (1) The reaction profile as monitored by $^1\text{H}$ NMR analysis (mdk-11-103)



To a dry Schlenk flask was added Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0977 g, 0.3 mmol) in a glove box.

Then 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0406 g, 0.2 mmol) and anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL) were added sequentially under N<sub>2</sub>. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, 1a (0.1906 g, 1.8 mmol), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), 2a (0.1740 g, 1 mmol), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2 μL, d = 1 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (42 μL, internal standard) were added sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. Then each time 0.2 mL of reaction mixture was taken by a syringe and submitted to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis at 0.5 h, 1 h, 1.5 h, 2 h, 2.5 h, 3 h, 3.5 h, 4 h, 5 h, 6 h, 7 h, 8 h, 9 h, and 19 h.

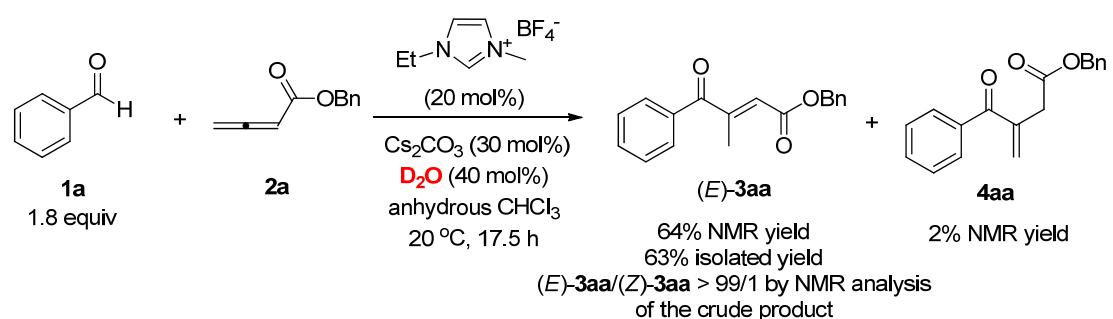
Table S1. The reaction profile

Entry	time (h)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)			Recovery of <b>2a</b> <sup>a</sup> (%)
		( <i>E</i> )- <b>3aa</b>	( <i>Z</i> )- <b>3aa</b>	<b>4aa</b>	
1	0.5	12	0	0	67
2	1	23	0	0	54
3	1.5	32	0	0	43
4	2	39	0	0	36
5	2.5	44	0	0	28
6	3	48	0	0	24
7	3.5	51	0	0	19
8	4	55	0	0	16
9	5	58	0	0	12
10	6	60	0	0	9
11	7	62	0	0	7
12	8	61	0	0.5	6
13	9	62	0	1	4
14	19	63	0.1	2	1

<sup>a</sup> Determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene as the internal standard.

## (2) Isotopic labeling experiments

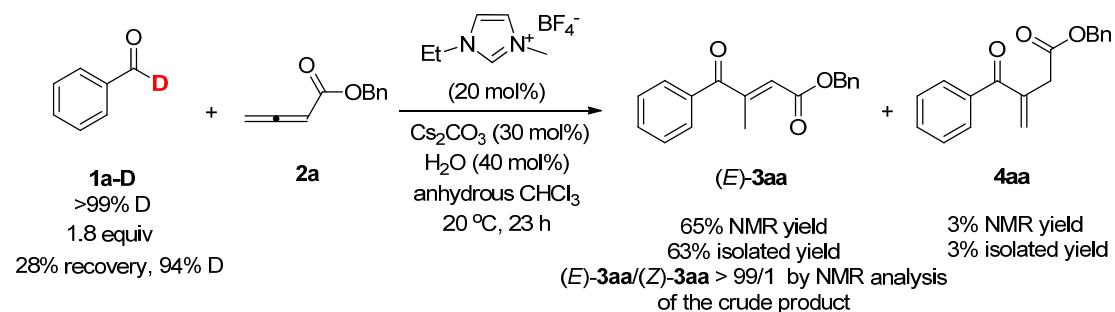
### (2.1) The reaction of **1a** and **2a** using D<sub>2</sub>O instead of H<sub>2</sub>O (mdk-11-079)



**Typical Procedure I:** To a dry Schlenk flask was added Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0980 g, 0.3 mmol) in a glove box. Then 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0408 g,

0.2 mmol) and anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL) were added sequentially under N<sub>2</sub>. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, **1a** (0.1914 g, 1.8 mmol), anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1745 g, 1 mmol), anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and D<sub>2</sub>O (7.2 μL, d = 1.107 g/mL, 0.0080 g, 0.4 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 17.5 h, the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC. Filtration through a short column of silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate (20 mL × 3)), evaporation, and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL) to 20/1 (420 mL)) afforded (*E*)-**3aa** (0.1780 g, 63%) (The ratio of (*E*)-**3aa**/*(Z)*-**3aa** was >99/1 and 2% of **4aa** was detected by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.81-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.7, 165.5, 152.5, 135.7, 135.4, 133.1, 129.6, 128.53, 128.48, 128.3, 124.9, 66.4, 15.5.

**(2.2)** The reaction of **1a-D** and **2a** in anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (mdk-11-086)



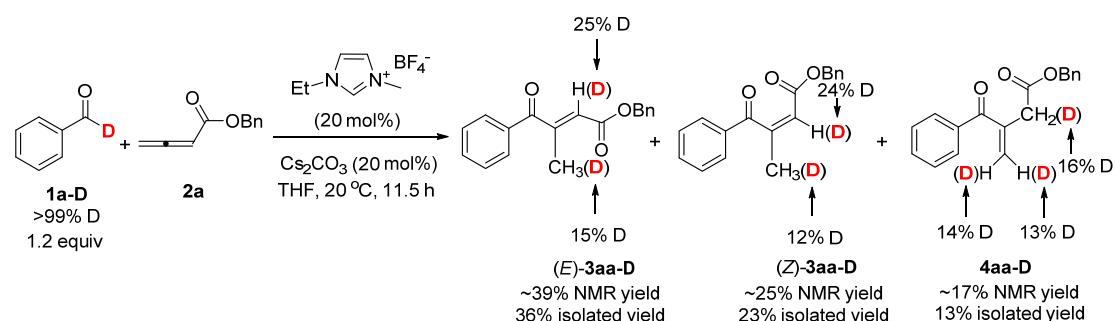
Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0980 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0408 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), **1a-D**<sup>2</sup> (0.1927 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1743 g,

1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (7.2  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $d = 1.000 \text{ g/mL}$ , 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 23 h afforded (*E*)-**3aa** (0.1776 g, 63%) and **4aa** (0.0081 g, 3%) (petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 30/1 (450 mL  $\times$  3) to 20/1 (200 mL)) (The ratio of (*E*)-**3aa**/*(Z)*-**3aa** was  $>99/1$  and 3% of **4aa** was detected by NMR analysis of the crude product).

**(E)-3aa**, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.52 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.26 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20 (q,  $J = 1.4 \text{ Hz}$ , 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.44 (d,  $J = 1.5 \text{ Hz}$ , 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.7, 165.5, 152.5, 135.7, 135.4, 133.1, 129.6, 128.53, 128.45, 128.3, 124.9, 66.4, 15.5.

**4aa**, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58-7.50 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.46-7.38 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.36-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.99 (s, 1H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.78 (s, 1H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.12 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.61 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.9, 170.7, 141.2, 137.2, 135.5, 132.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.5, 128.31, 128.26, 128.2, 66.8, 38.1.

### (2.3) The reaction of **1a-D** and **2a** in anhydrous THF (mdk-11-107)



To a dry Schlenk flask was added  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0262 g, 0.08 mmol) in a glove box. Then 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0160 g, 0.08 mmol) and THF

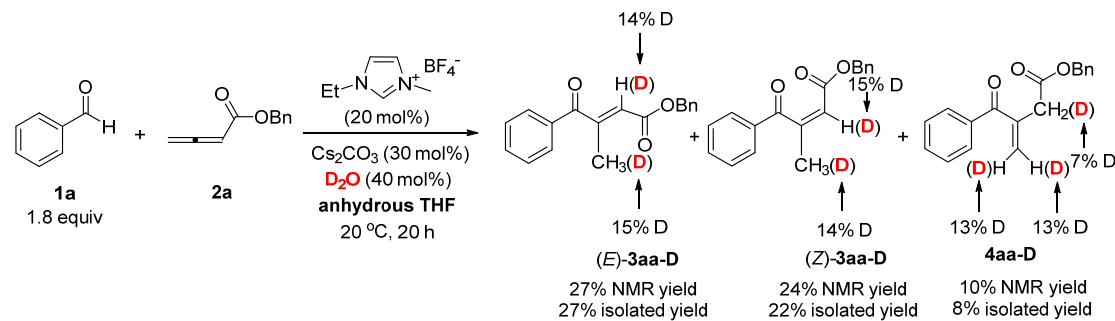
(2 mL) were added sequentially under N<sub>2</sub>. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, **1a-D** (0.0516 g, 0.48 mmol), THF (1 mL), **2a** (0.0694 g, 0.4 mmol), and THF (1 mL) were added sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 11.5 h, the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC. Filtration through a short column of silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate (15 mL × 3)), evaporation, and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl ether = 40/1 (400 mL × 3) to 30/1 (400 mL) to 20/1 (400 mL)) afforded (*E*)-**3aa-D** (0.0409 g, 36%), **4aa-D** (0.0142 g, 13%), and (*Z*)-**3aa-D** (0.0260 g, 23%) (The ratio of *E/Z* was ~61/39 and ~17% of **4aa-D** was detected by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column).

**(E)-3aa-D**, the least isomer, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.82-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.51-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.41-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for (*E*)-**3aa**: δ 6.23-6.17 (m, 0.75H, =CH), 2.49-2.35 (m, 1.61H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**4aa-D**, the second polar isomer, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.81-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58-7.49 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.46-7.38 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.38-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.12 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **4aa**: δ 6.01-5.95 (m, 0.87H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.79-5.74 (m, 0.86H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.64-3.55 (m, 1.68H, CH<sub>2</sub>); IR (neat) ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3063, 3033, 2950, 1716, 1675, 1642, 1598, 1583, 1498, 1449, 1379, 1350, 1316, 1262, 1195, 1172, 1128, 1026, 1002; MS (ESI) *m/z* (%) 303 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 281 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 281.1172, found: 281.1175. For detailed MS and HRMS spectra, please see attached copies.

**(Z)-3aa-D**, the most polar isomer, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91-7.82 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.39 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.32-7.21 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.19-7.09 (m, 2H, ArH), 4.96 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); the following signals are discernible for **(Z)-3aa**:  $\delta$  6.09-6.03 (m, 0.76H, =CH), 2.18-2.08 (m, 2.64H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ); IR (neat)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3088, 3064, 3033, 2955, 1737, 1658, 1598, 1498, 1447, 1400, 1378, 1321, 1259, 1215, 1163, 1077, 1028; MS (ESI)  $m/z$  (%) 303 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ), 281 ( $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ); HRMS calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ): 281.1172, found: 281.1172. For detailed MS and HRMS spectra, please see attached copies.

**(2.4)** The reaction of **1a** and **2a** using  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  instead of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in anhydrous THF (hx-16-162)



Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0980 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0398 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous THF (5 mL), benzaldehyde **1a** (0.1910 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous THF (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1745 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous THF (2.5 mL), and  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (7.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.107 g/mL, 0.0079 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 20 h afforded **(E)-3aa-D** (0.0756 g, 27%), **4aa-D** (0.0224 g, 8%), and **(Z)-3aa-D** (0.0616 g, 22%) (The ratio of *E*/*Z* was ~53/47 and ~10% of **4aa-D** was detected by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column) after chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether (60-90 °C)/ethyl

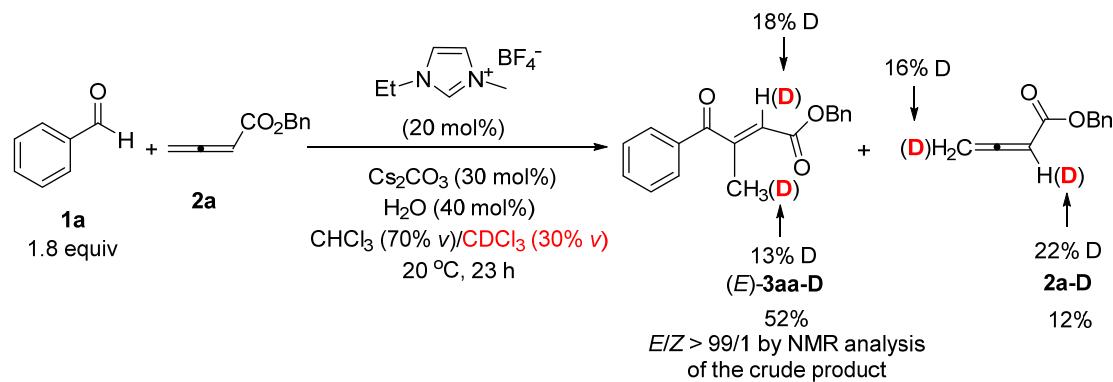
ether = 40/1 (1500 mL) to 30/1 (500 mL) to 10/1 (300 mL)).

**(E)-3aa-D**, the least polar isomer, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.84-7.73 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.50-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.21 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); the following signals is discernible for **(E)-3aa**:  $\delta$  6.24-6.15 (m, 0.86H, =CH), 2.49-2.35 (m, 2.55H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**4aa-D**, the second polar isomer, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58-7.49 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.46-7.37 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.37-7.26 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.12 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); the following signals is discernible for **4aa**:  $\delta$  6.03-5.95 (m, 0.87H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.82-5.73 (m, 0.87H, one proton from =CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.64-3.55 (m, 1.86H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

**(Z)-3aa-D**, the most polar isomer, liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92-7.85 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.63-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.38 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.35-7.23 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.19-7.09 (m, 2H, ArH), 4.96 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); the following signals is discernible for **(Z)-3aa**:  $\delta$  6.12-6.01 (m, 0.85H, =CH), 2.18-2.08 (m, 2.57H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**(2.5)** The reaction of **1a** and **2a** in a mixed anhydrous solvent of  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (70%  $v$ )/ $\text{CDCl}_3$  (30%  $v$ ). (hx-16-144)



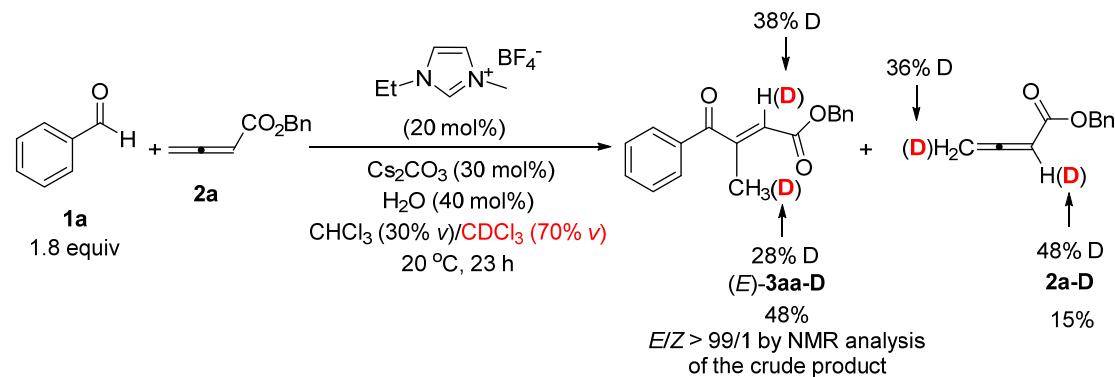
Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0490 g, 0.15 mmol),

1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0197 g, 0.10 mmol), benzaldehyde **1a** (0.0961 g, 0.9 mmol), **2a** (0.0869 g, 0.5 mmol), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.6  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) in a mixed anhydrous solvent of CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.5 mL)/CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5 mL) at 20 °C for 23 h afforded **2a-D** (0.0101 g, 12%) and **(E)-3aa-D** (0.0735 g, 52%) (petroleum ether (60-90 °C)/ethyl acetate = 50/1 (500 mL)) (the ratio of *E/Z* was >99/1 by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column).

**2a-D**, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.43-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.20 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **2a**:  $\delta$  5.72-5.65 (m, 0.78H, =CH), 5.27-5.21 (m, 1.68H, =CH<sub>2</sub>).

**(E)-3aa-D**, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62-7.52 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **(E)-3aa**:  $\delta$  6.25-6.15 (m, 0.82H, =CH), 2.49-2.36 (m, 2.62H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**(2.6)** The reaction of **1a** and **2a** in a mixed anhydrous solvent of CHCl<sub>3</sub> (30% *v*)/CDCl<sub>3</sub> (70% *v*). (hx-16-145)



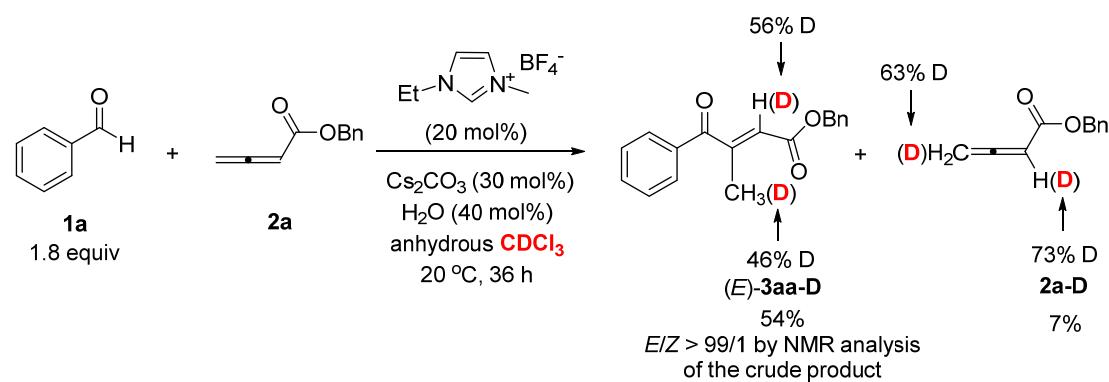
Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0492 g, 0.15 mmol),

1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0196 g, 0.10 mmol), benzaldehyde **1a** (0.0959 g, 0.9 mmol), **2a** (0.0868 g, 0.5 mmol), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.6  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) in a mixed anhydrous solvent of CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5 mL)/CDCl<sub>3</sub> (3.5 mL) at 20 °C for 23 h afforded **2a-D** (0.0134 g, 15%) and **(E)-3aa-D** (0.0680 g, 48%) (petroleum ether (60-90 °C)/ethyl acetate = 50/1 (500 mL)) (the ratio of *E/Z* was >99/1 by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column).

**2a-D**, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.20 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **2a**:  $\delta$  5.72-5.65 (m, 0.52H, =CH), 5.27-5.21 (m, 1.29H, =CH<sub>2</sub>).

**(E)-3aa-D**, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62-7.51 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **(E)-3aa**:  $\delta$  6.23-6.16 (m, 0.62H, =CH), 2.48-2.36 (m, 2.16H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**(2.7) The reaction of **1a** and **2a** in anhydrous CDCl<sub>3</sub>. (mdk-11-089)**



Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0390 g, 0.12 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0164 g, 0.08 mmol)/anhydrous

CDCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL), benzaldehyde **1a** (0.0759 g, 0.72 mmol)/anhydrous CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), **2a** (0.0698 g, 0.4 mmol)/anhydrous CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (2.9  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0029 g, 0.16 mmol) at 20 °C for 36 h afforded **2a-D** (0.0048 g, 7%) and *(E)-3aa-D* (0.0611 g, 54%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1 (400 mL  $\times$  2)) (the ratio of *E/Z* was >99/1 by NMR analysis of the crude product) (in the order of polarity in silica gel column).

**2a-D**, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.43-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.20 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for **2a**:  $\delta$  5.72-5.67 (m, 0.27H, =CH), 5.27-5.21 (m, 0.74H, =CH<sub>2</sub>); IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3090, 3066, 3033, 2955, 2892, 2308, 2263, 2215, 1927, 1722, 1715, 1587, 1498, 1456, 1386, 1379, 1356, 1318, 1294, 1258, 1216, 1173, 1081, 1016; MS (ESI) *m/z* (%) 200 ([M(D<sub>3</sub>) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 199 ([M(D<sub>2</sub>) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 198 ([M(D) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 197 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 178 ([M(D<sub>3</sub>) + H]<sup>+</sup>), 177 ([M(D<sub>2</sub>) + H]<sup>+</sup>), 176 ([M(D) + H]<sup>+</sup>), 175 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>D<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M(D)<sub>3</sub> + H]<sup>+</sup>): 178.0942, found: 178.0935, C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>D<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M(D)<sub>2</sub> + H]<sup>+</sup>): 177.0879, found: 177.0876, C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>DO<sub>2</sub> ([M(D) + H]<sup>+</sup>): 176.0816, found: 176.0811, C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 175.0754, found: 175.0754.

*(E)-3aa-D*, liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82-7.71 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.40 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); the following signals is discernible for *(E)-3aa*:  $\delta$  6.23-6.16 (m, 0.44H, =CH), 2.47-2.36 (m, 1.61H, CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3064, 3034, 2954, 1722, 1662, 1597, 1580, 1498, 1448, 1377, 1352, 1318, 1265, 1231, 1180, 1025, 1002; MS (ESI) *m/z* (%) 307 ([M(D<sub>4</sub>) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 306 ([M(D<sub>3</sub>) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 305 ([M(D<sub>2</sub>) + Na]<sup>+</sup>), 304 ([M(D) + Na]<sup>+</sup>),

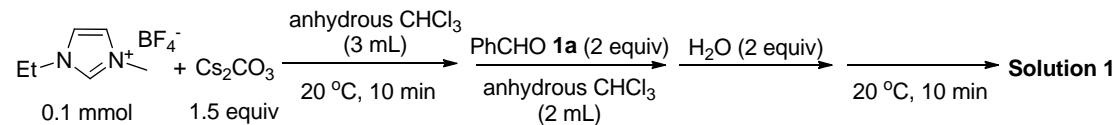
303 ( $[M + Na]^+$ ), 302 ( $[M(D_4) + NH_4]^+$ ), 301 ( $[M(D_3) + NH_4]^+$ ), 300 ( $[M(D_2) + NH_4]^+$ ), 299 ( $[M(D) + NH_4]^+$ ), 298 ( $[M + NH_4]^+$ ), 285 ( $[M(D_4) + H]^+$ ), 284 ( $[M(D_3) + H]^+$ ), 283 ( $[M(D_2) + H]^+$ ), 282 ( $[M(D) + H]^+$ ), 281 ( $[M + H]^+$ ); HRMS calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{13}D_4O_3$  ( $[M(D)_4 + H]^+$ ): 285.1423, found: 285.1418,  $C_{18}H_{14}D_3O_3$  ( $[M(D)_3 + H]^+$ ): 284.1361, found: 284.1361,  $C_{18}H_{15}D_2O_3$  ( $[M(D)_2 + H]^+$ ): 283.1298, found: 283.1294,  $C_{18}H_{16}DO_3$  ( $[M(D) + H]^+$ ): 282.1235, found: 282.1237,  $C_{18}H_{17}O_3$  ( $[M + H]^+$ ): 281.1172, found: 281.1175.

### (3) SAESI-MS experiments

SAESI-MS spectra were recorded on a Finnigan TSQ (Thermo Finnigan, Quantum Access TM) triple-quadrupole mass spectrometer equipped with a home-made SAESI ion source in positive mode. The basic SAESI conditions were: vacuum,  $2.8 \times 10^{-6}$  torr; spray voltage, 3000 V; capillary temperature, 275°C; sheath gas pressure of two sprayers, 2 arb. units; the collision energy of CID, 25 eV. Data acquisition and analysis were done with the Xcalibur (version 2.0, Thermoquest Finnigan) software package.

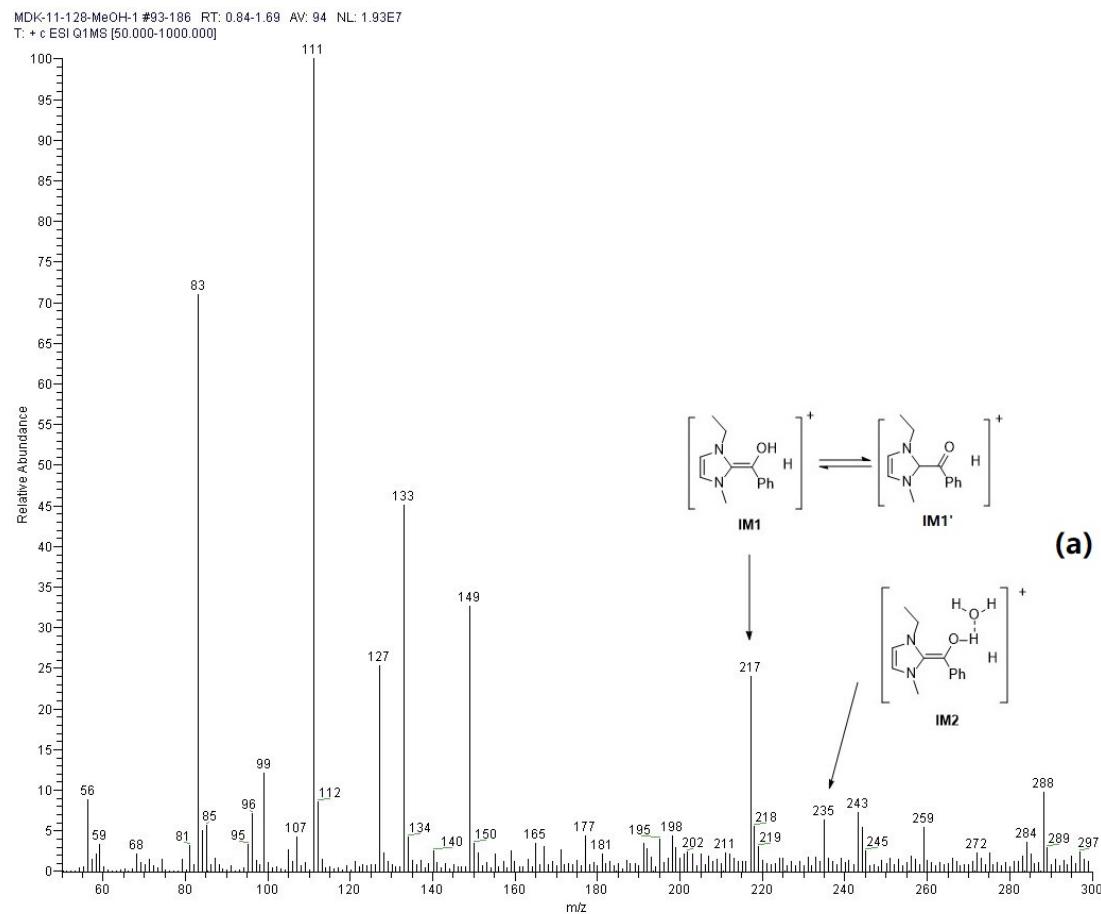
The reaction solutions were injected by a 500- $\mu$ L air-tight syringe with a speed at 5  $\mu$ L/min to SAESI-MS. The assisted solvent of MeOH or anhydrous acetonitrile was injected by another 500- $\mu$ L air-tight syringe with a speed at 5  $\mu$ L/min to SAESI-MS.

#### (3.1) SAESI-MS experiments in anhydrous $CHCl_3$ after 10 min (mdk-11-128)

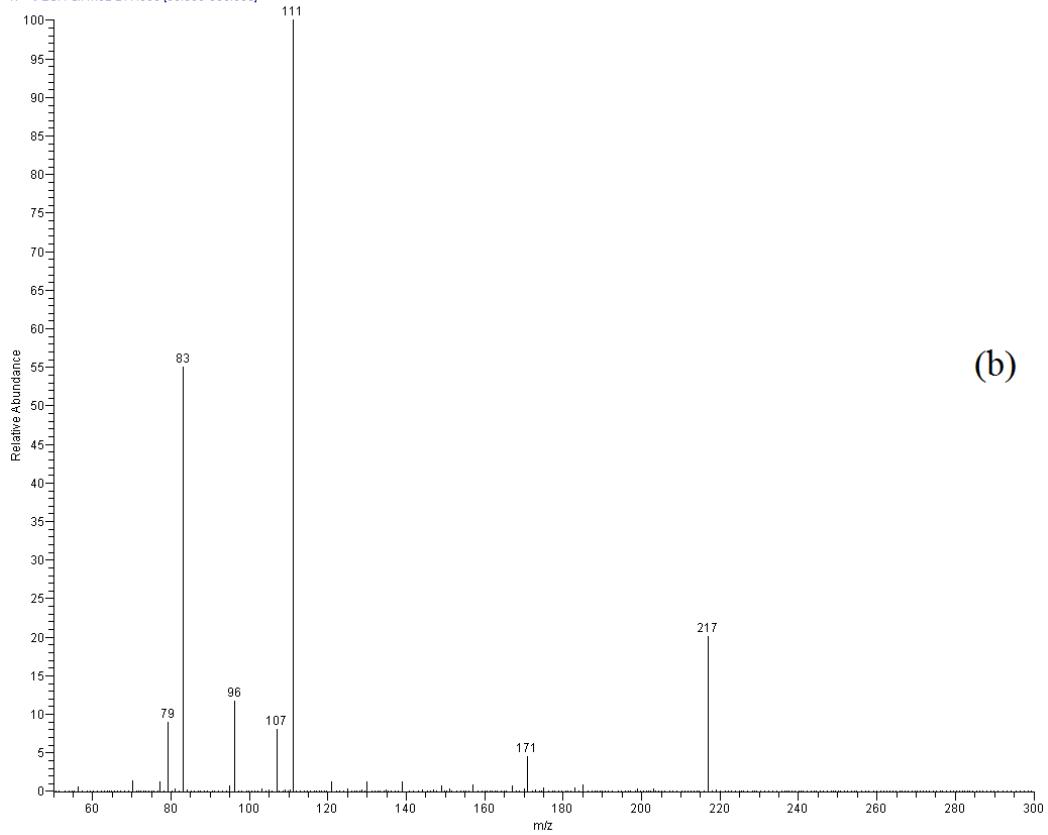


**Typical Procedure II:** To a dry Schlenk tube was added  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.0490 g, 0.15 mmol) in a glove box. Then 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0203 g,

0.1 mmol) and anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) were added sequentially under Ar atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, **1a** (20.3 µL, d = 1.044 g/mL, 0.0212 g, 0.2 mmol), anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.6 µL, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C. After 10 min, the reaction **solution 1** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.



MDK-11-128-MeOH-1 #413-478 RT: 3.81-4.42 AV: 66 NL: 2.97E6  
T: + c ESI Full ms2 217.000 [50.000-300.000]



(b)

MDK-11-128-MeOH-1 #259-334 RT: 2.37-3.07 AV: 76 NL: 2.69E4  
T: + c ESI Full ms2 235.000 [50.000-300.000]

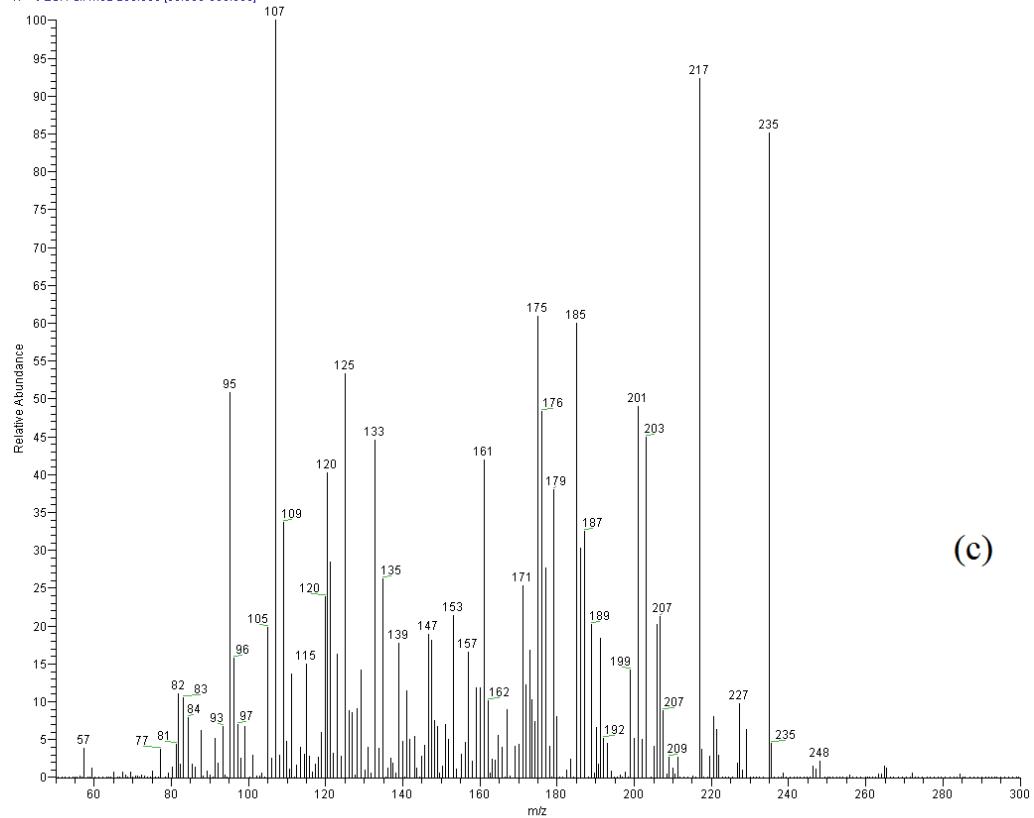
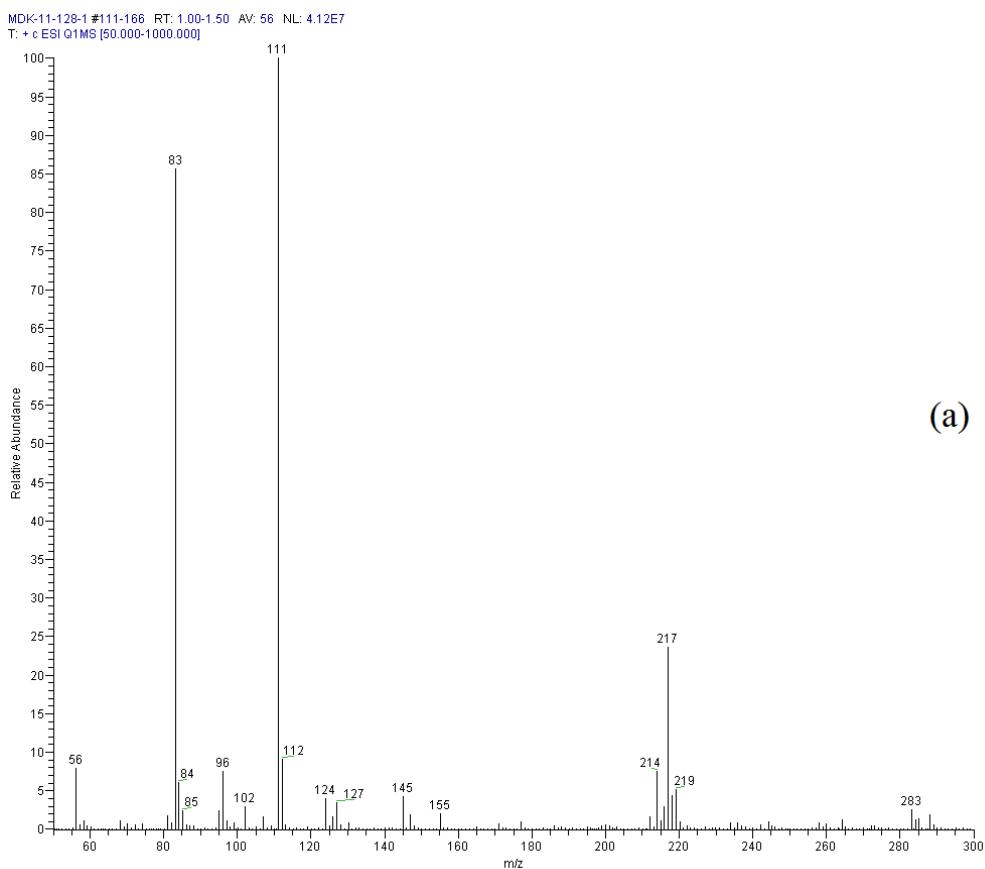


Figure S1. (a) SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 1** using MeOH as the assisted solvent. (b) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  217. (c) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  235.

**Table S2. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S1**

$m/z$	Intensity
217	4620347.8
218	1059949.9
235	1220695.5



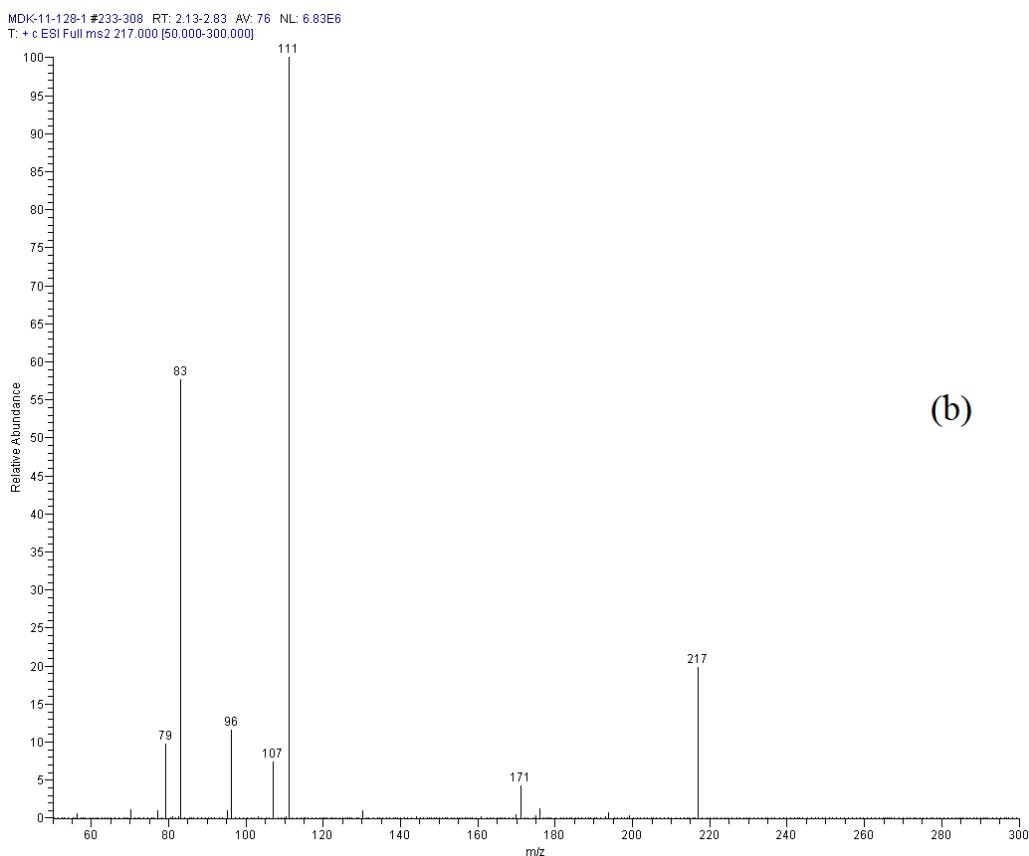
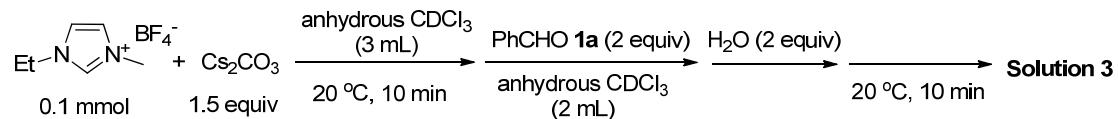


Figure S2. (a) SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 1** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent. (b) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  217.

**Table S3. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S2**

$m/z$	Intensity
217	9740060.5
218	1782792.5
219	2152750.9

**(3.2) SAESI-MS experiments in  $CDCl_3$  after 10 min (mdk-11-121)**



Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.0486 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0202 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous  $CDCl_3$  (3 mL), **1a** (0.0213 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $CDCl_3$  (2 mL), and  $H_2O$  (3.6  $\mu$ L,

$d = 1.000$  g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20 °C for 10 min afforded **solution 3**. Then the reaction **solution 3** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

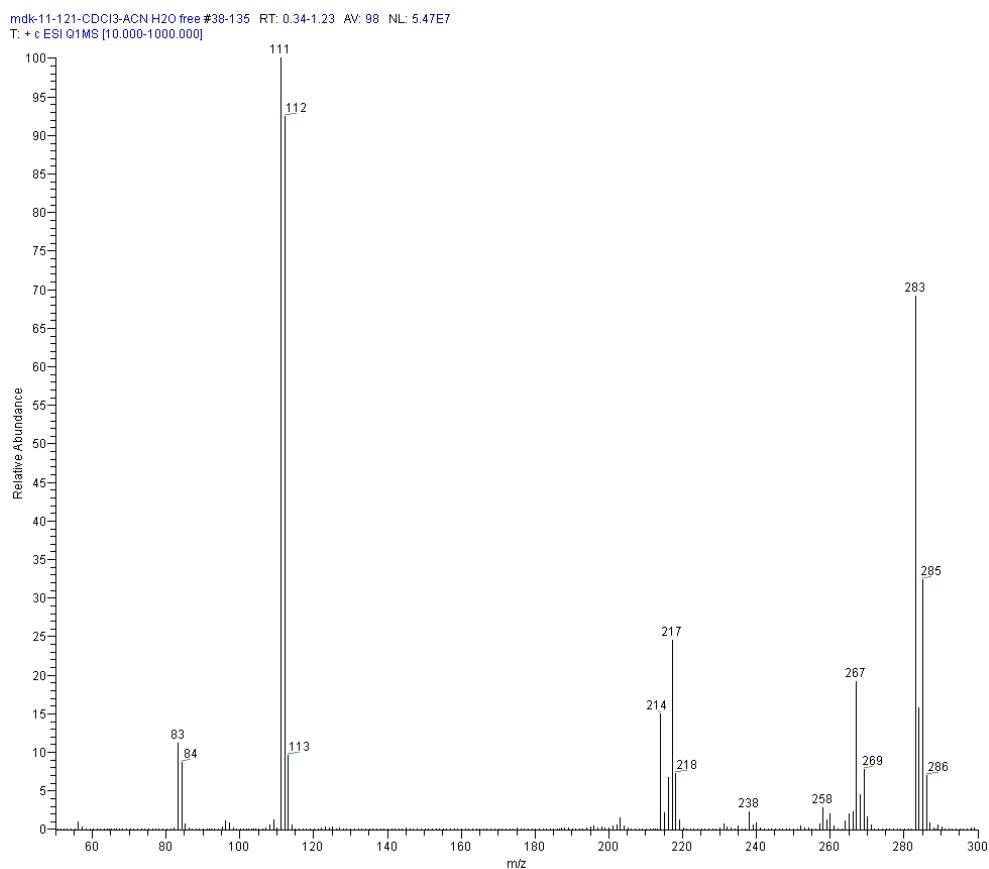
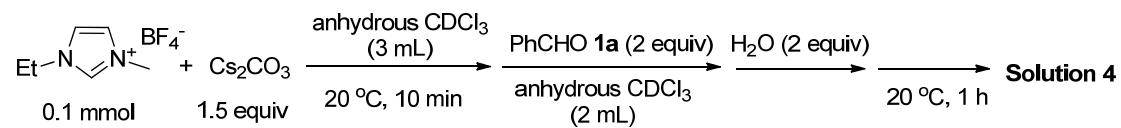


Figure S3. (a) SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 3** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent.

**Table S4. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S3**

<i>m/z</i>	Intensity
217	13404158.6
218	3948675.6

### (3.3) SAESI-MS experiments in CDCl<sub>3</sub> after 1 h (mdk-11-123)



Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0490 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0202 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous

CDCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL), **1a** (0.0210 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CDCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.6  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20 °C for 1 h afforded **solution 4**. Then the reaction **solution 4** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

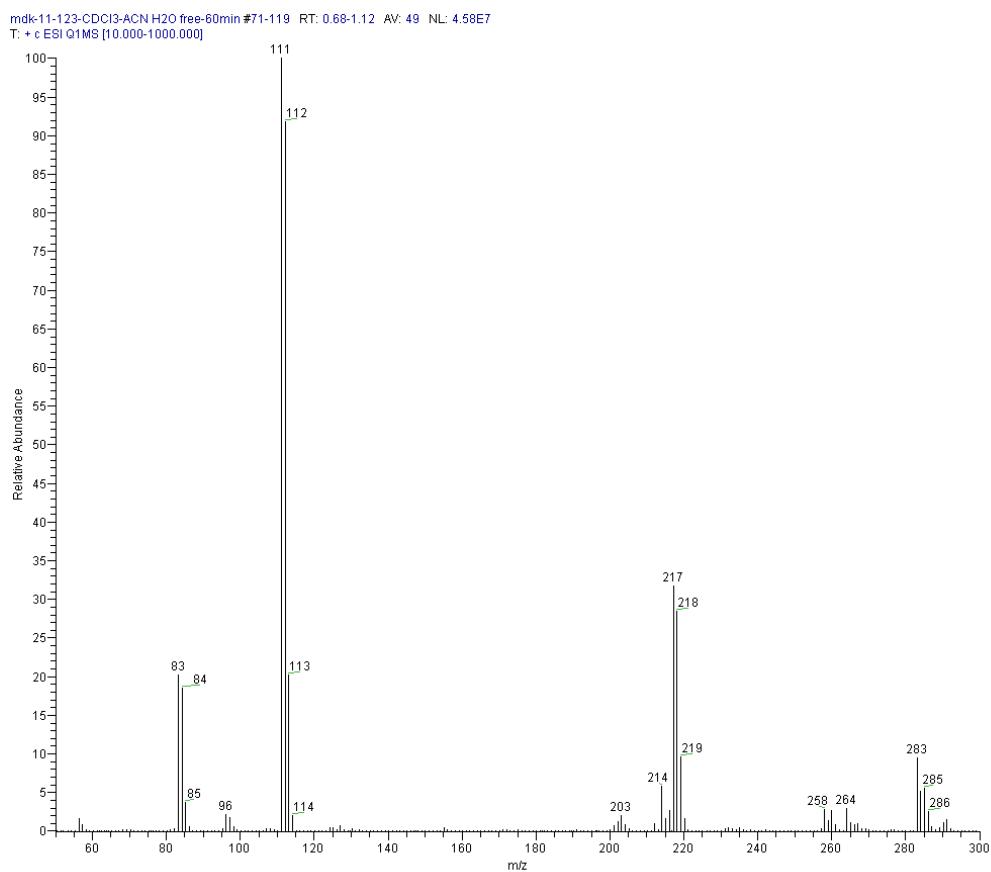
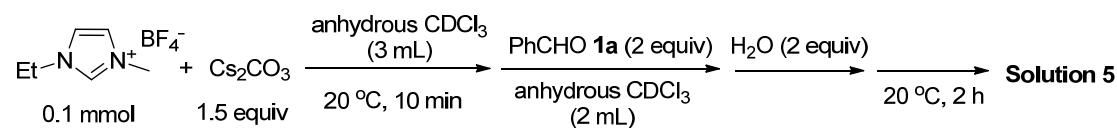


Figure S4. SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 4** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent.

**Table S5. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S4**

<i>m/z</i>	Intensity
217	14555928.5
218	13012113.7
219	4381850.3

**(3.4) SAESI-MS experiments in CDCl<sub>3</sub> after 2 h (mdk-11-124)**



Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0485 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0203 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (3 mL), **1a** (20.3  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $d = 1.044 \text{ g/mL}$ , 0.0212 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (2 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.6  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $d = 1.000 \text{ g/mL}$ , 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 h afforded **solution 5**. Then the reaction **solution 5** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

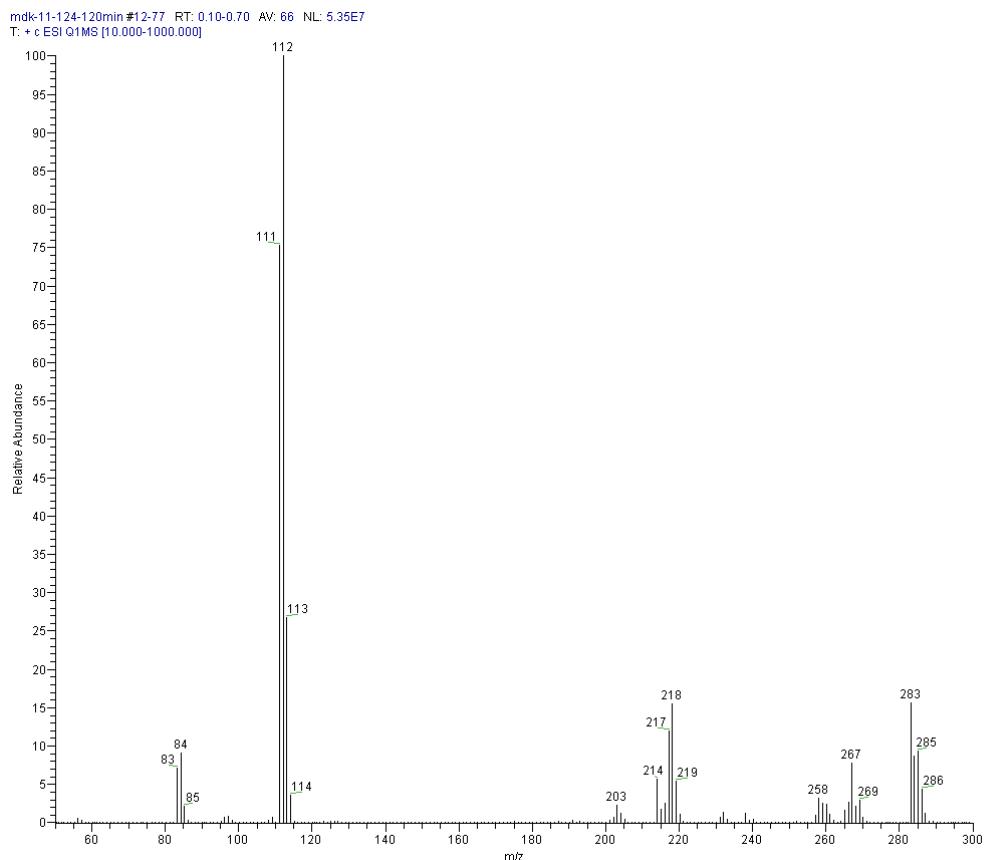
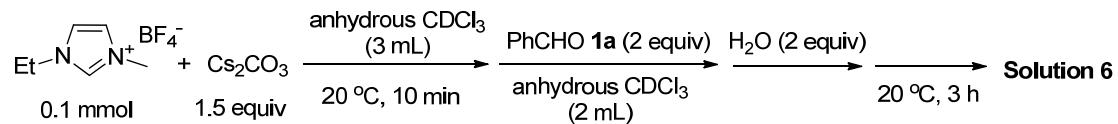


Figure S5. SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 5** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent.

**Table S6. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S5**

$m/z$	Intensity
217	6390120.8
218	8300253.3
219	2914590.8

**(3.5) SAESI-MS experiments in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  after 3 h (mdk-11-125)**



Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0492 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0203 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (3 mL), **1a** (20.3  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $d = 1.044 \text{ g/mL}$ , 0.0212 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (2 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.6  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $d = 1.000 \text{ g/mL}$ , 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h afforded **solution 6**. Then the reaction **solution 6** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

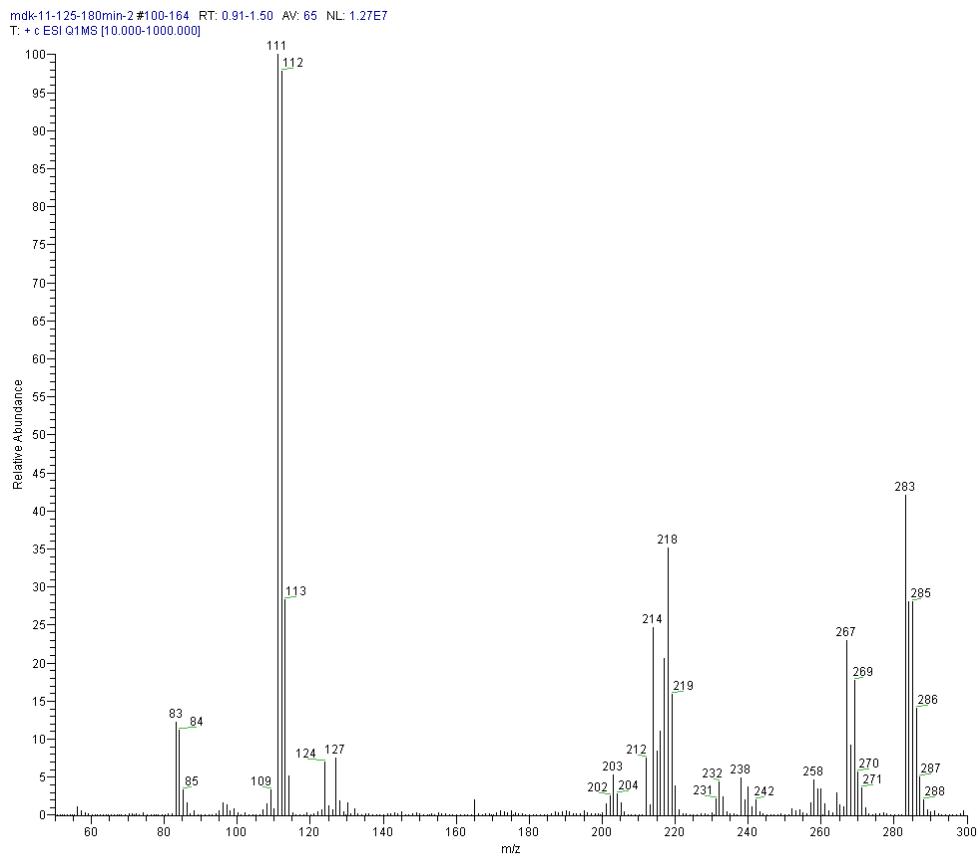
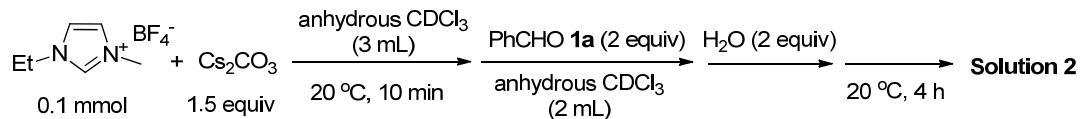


Figure S6. SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 6** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent.

**Table S7. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S6**

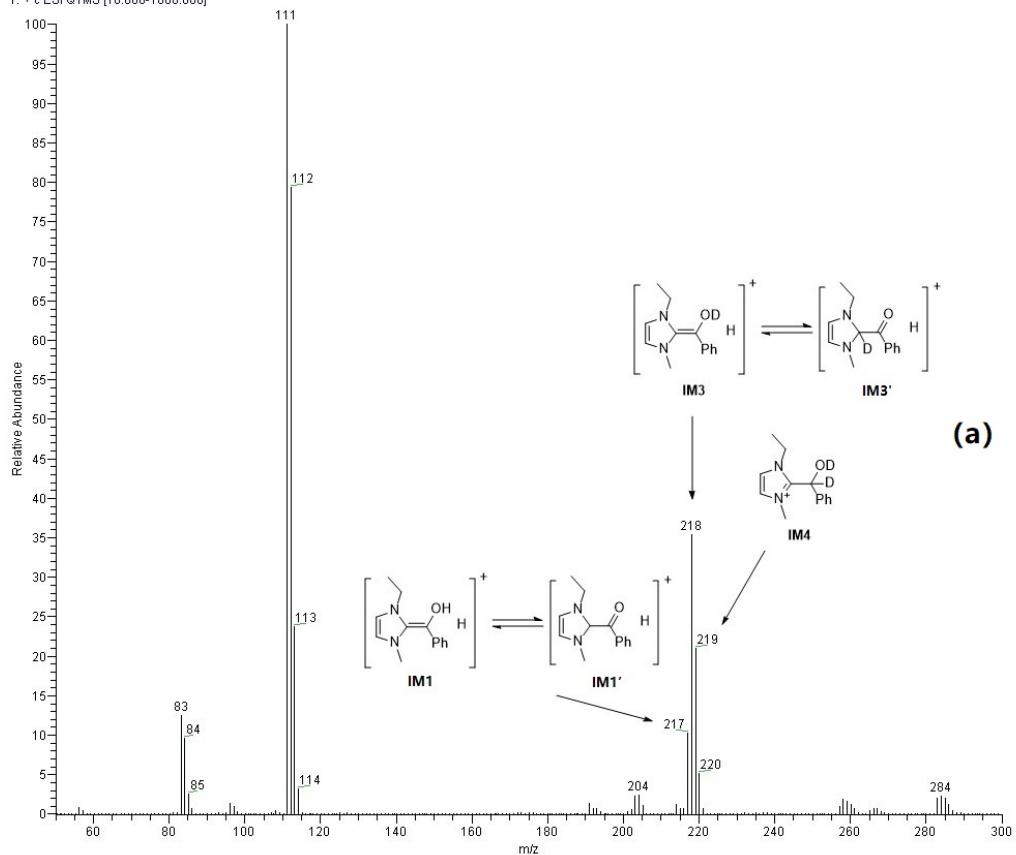
<i>m/z</i>	Intensity
217	2627898.1
218	4468922.0
219	2015608.7

**(3.6) SAESI-MS experiments in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  after 4 h (mdk-11-126)**

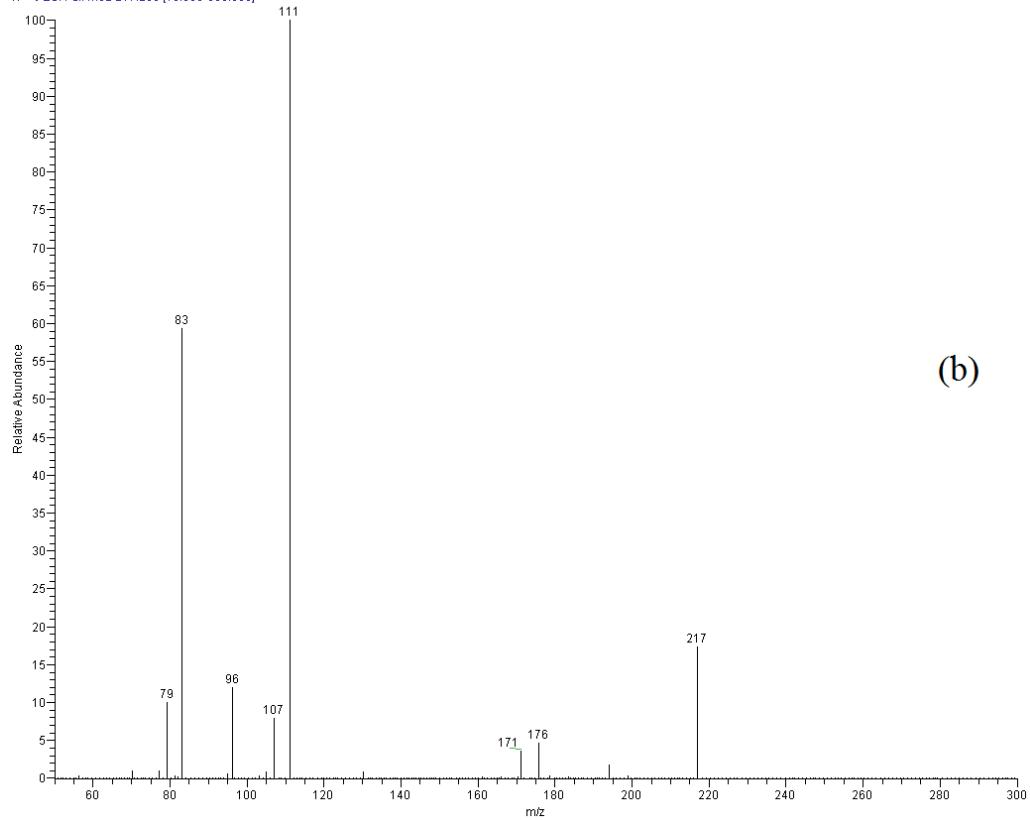


Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0491 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0203 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (3 mL), **1a** (20.3  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.044 g/mL, 0.0212 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (2 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.6  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h afforded **solution 2**. Then the reaction **solution 2** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

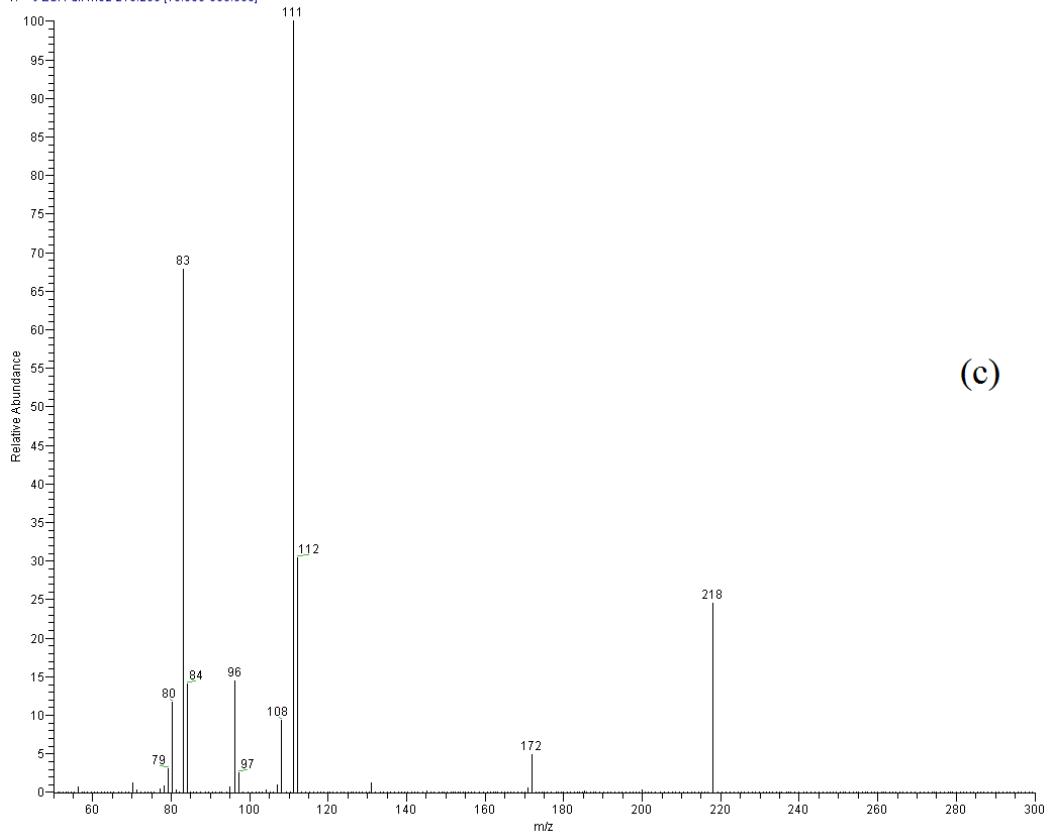
mdk-11-126-240min #45-142 RT: 0.41-1.30 AV: 98 NL: 4.34E7  
T: + c ESI Q1MS [10.000-1000.000]



mdk-11-126-240min #192-231 RT: 1.76-2.13 AV: 40 NL: 1.29E6  
T: + c ESI Full ms2 217.200 [10.000-300.000]

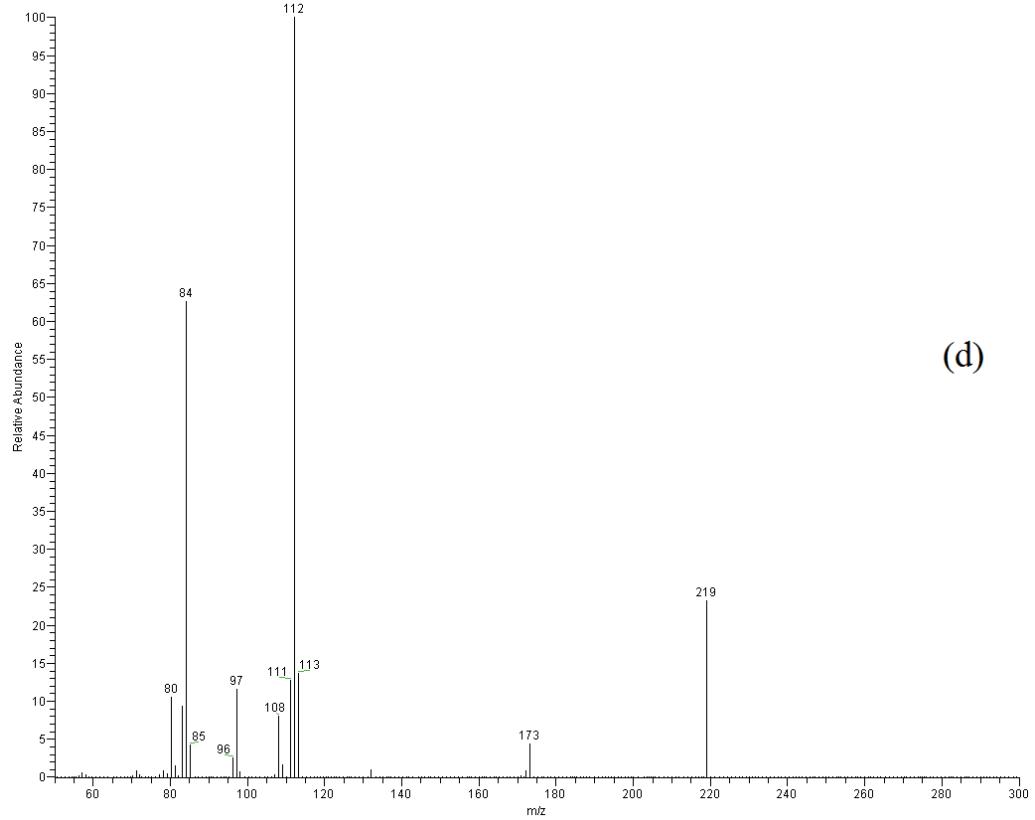


mdk-11-126-240min #277-346 RT: 2.56-3.21 AV: 70 NL: 3.63E6  
T: + c ESI Full ms2 218.200 [10.000-300.000]



(c)

mdk-11-126-240min-2 #29-61 RT: 0.26-0.56 AV: 33 NL: 2.04E6  
T: + c ESI Full ms2 219.200 [10.000-300.000]



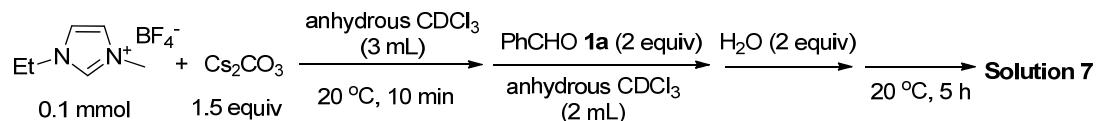
(d)

Figure S7. (a) SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 2** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent. (b) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  217. (c) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  218. (d) The SAESI-MS/MS spectra of the ion at  $m/z$  219.

**Table S8. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S7**

$m/z$	Intensity
217	4462860.3
218	15348270.8
219	9134749.2

**(3.7) SAESI-MS experiments in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  after 5 h (mdk-11-127)**



Following **Typical Procedure II**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0485 g, 0.15 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0202 g, 0.1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (3 mL), **1a** (20.3  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.044 g/mL, 0.0212 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (2 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.6  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0036 g, 0.2 mmol) at 20  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 h afforded **solution 7**. Then the reaction **solution 7** was submitted to SAESI-MS analysis.

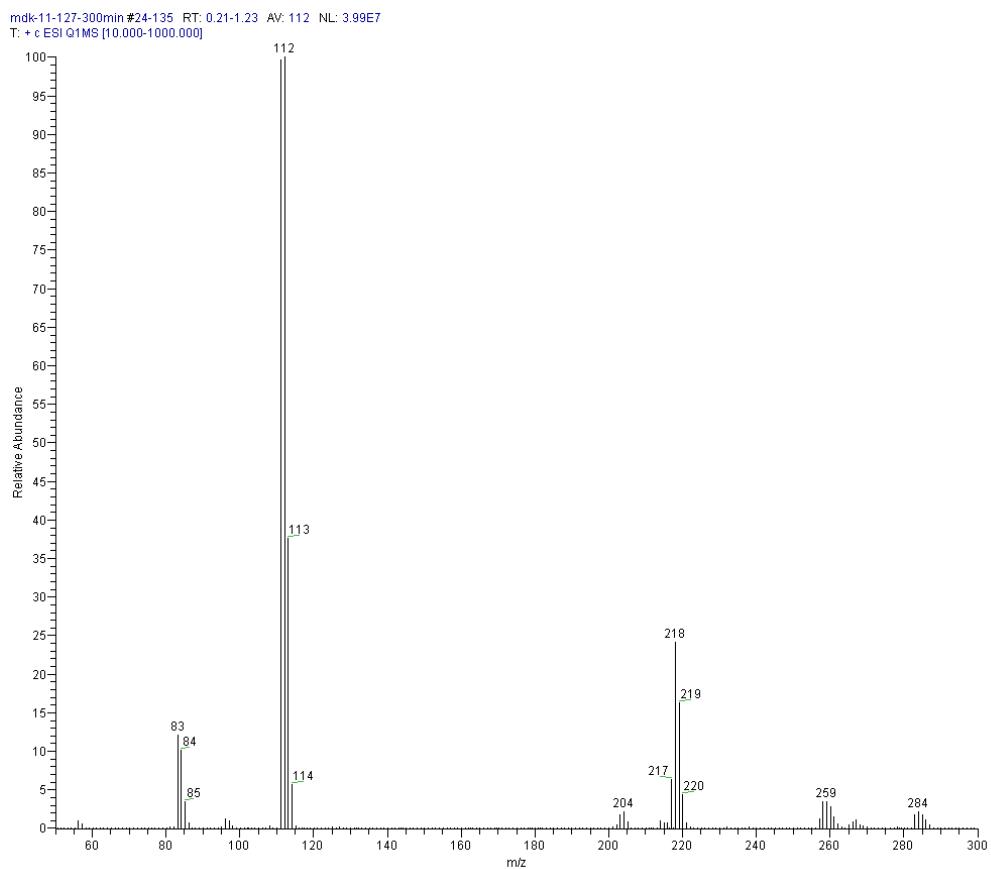


Figure S8. SAESI-MS spectrum of the reaction **solution 7** using anhydrous acetonitrile as the assisted solvent.

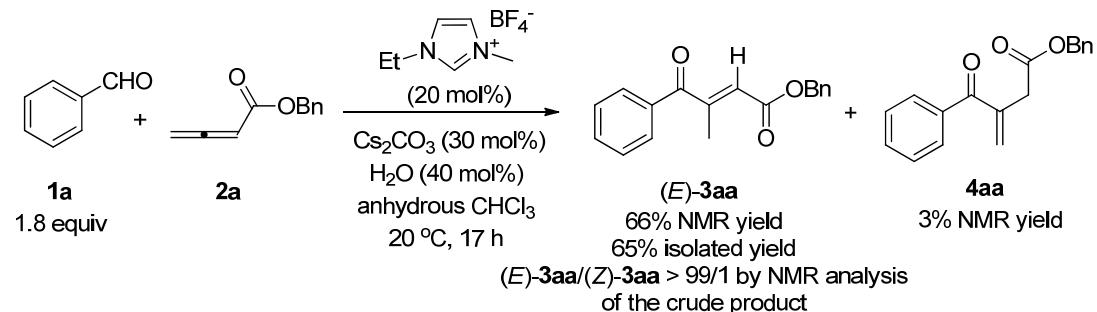
**Table S9. Signal intensities of the target ions in Figure S8**

<i>m/z</i>	Intensity
217	2550729.0
218	9619641.8
219	6516477.7

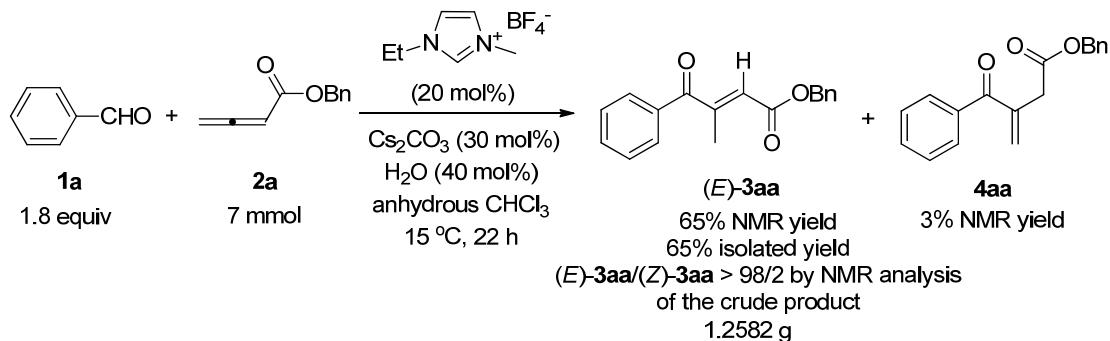
### 3. Highly stereoselective preparation of (*E*)-4-oxo-2-butenoates (*E*)-3aa-*(E*)-3la

The following compounds were prepared according to **Typical Procedure I**.

**(1) Benzyl 3-methyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-3aa) (mdk-10-189-1, mdk-11-082)**



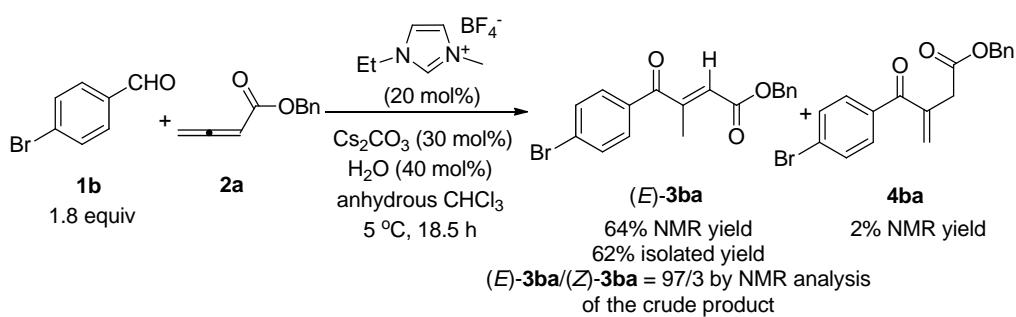
Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0976 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0404 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), **1a** (0.1917 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1741 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 17 h afforded (*E*)-**3aa** (0.1812 g, 65%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL) to 30/1 (400 mL) to 20/1 (300 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3aa**/*(Z*)-**3aa** was > 99/1 and 3% of **4aa** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.81-7.74 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.54 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.8, 165.5, 152.5, 135.7, 135.4, 133.1, 129.7, 128.55, 128.49, 128.3, 125.0, 66.4, 15.5.



**Gram scale reaction:** Following **Typical Procedure I**, the reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.6849 g, 2.1 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.2826 g, 1.4 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (35 mL), benzaldehyde **1a** (1.3373 g, 12.6 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (17.5 mL), **2a** (1.2193 g, 7 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (17.5 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (50.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0505 g, 2.8 mmol) at 15  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 22 h afforded **(E)-3aa** (1.2582 g, 64%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL  $\times$  3) to 30/1 (420 mL)) (the ratio of **(E)-3aa/(Z)-3aa** was  $>99/1$  and 3% of **4aa** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81-7.74 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61-7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.29 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20 (q,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.44 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.8, 165.5, 152.5, 135.7, 135.5, 133.1, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 125.0, 66.5, 15.6.

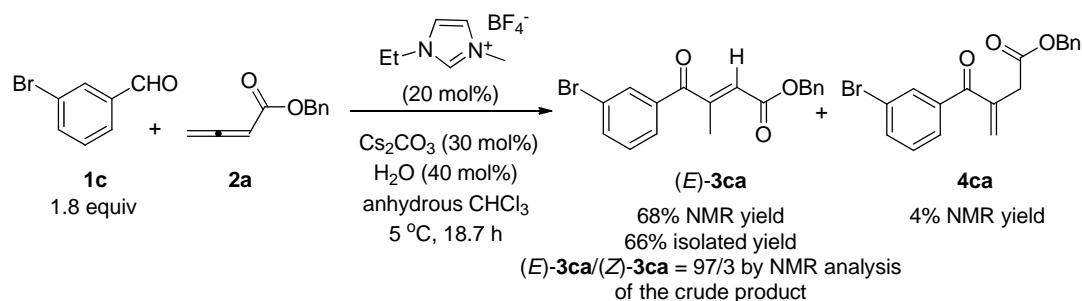
**(2)      Benzyl      4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate      ((E)-3ba)**

**(mdk-11-006)**



The reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0982 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0403 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL), 4-bromobenzaldehyde **1b** (0.3399 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1738 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (7.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 5 °C for 18.5 h afforded (*E*)-**3ba** (0.2227 g, 62%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1 (400 mL) to 20/1 (300 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ba**/*(Z)*-**3ba** was 97/3 and 2% of **4ba** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.69-7.55 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.42-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.17 (q,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.42 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.6, 165.3, 151.9, 135.3, 134.4, 131.8, 131.1, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 125.3, 66.5, 15.4; IR (neat)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3065, 3033, 2954, 1723, 1667, 1584, 1567, 1497, 1481, 1455, 1396, 1384, 1351, 1304, 1263, 1190, 1137, 1110, 1069, 1028, 1010; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 360 ( $\text{M}^+(\text{Br}^{81})$ , 0.61), 358( $\text{M}^+(\text{Br}^{79})$ , 0.60), 91 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrO}_3$ : C, 60.18, H, 4.21; Found: C, 60.13; H, 4.31.

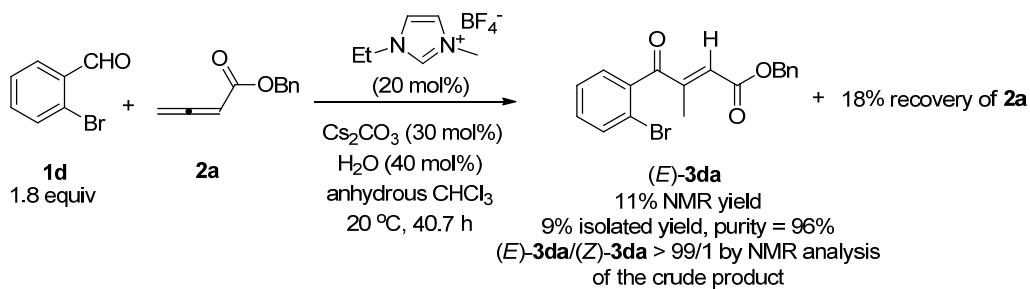
**(3) Benzyl 4-(3-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-**3ca**) (mdk-11-035-1)**



The reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0978 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium

tetrafluoroborate (0.0399 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), 3-bromobenzaldehyde **1c** (0.3334 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1735 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 5 °C for 18.7 h afforded (*E*)-**3ca** (0.2368 g, 66%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL) to 20/1 (420 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ca**/*(Z)*-**3ca** was 97/3 and 4% of **4ca** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.90 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.73-7.63 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.43-7.28 (m, 6H, ArH), 6.20 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.3, 165.3, 151.7, 137.7, 135.9, 135.3, 132.3, 130.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 125.8, 122.8, 66.6, 15.4; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3089, 3065, 3033, 2954, 2889, 1723, 1667, 1639, 1587, 1565, 1498, 1455, 1418, 1382, 1352, 1256, 1190, 1139, 1069, 1029; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 360 (M<sup>+</sup>(<sup>81</sup>Br), 0.69), 358 (M<sup>+</sup>(<sup>79</sup>Br), 0.70), 91 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub>: C, 60.18, H, 4.21; Found: C, 60.08; H, 4.37.

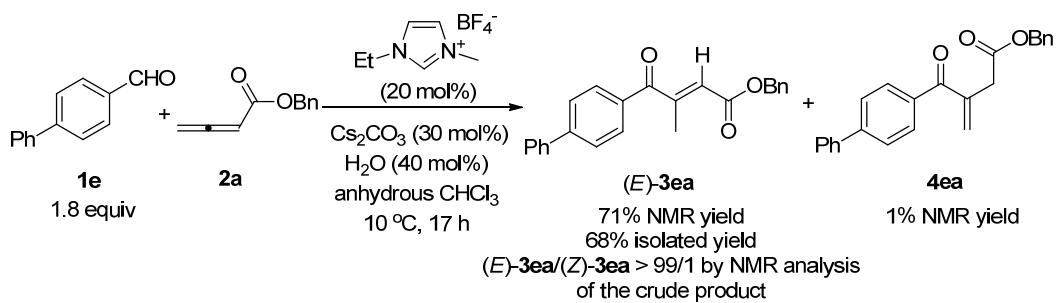
**(4) Benzyl 4-(2-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-**3da**) (mdk-11-036)**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0975 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0406 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL),

**2-bromobenzaldehyde 1d** (0.3334 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1746 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 40.7 h afforded (*E*)-**3da** (0.0332 g, 9%, purity = 96%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL  $\times$  2)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3da**/*(Z)*-**3da** was > 99/1 and 18% recovery of **2a** was obtained by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62-7.55 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.45-7.24 (m, 8H, ArH), 6.20 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.18 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.41 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.1, 165.6, 150.9, 139.8, 135.2, 133.2, 131.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 128.54, 158.52, 127.3, 119.5, 66.8, 13.4; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3065, 3033, 2955, 1723, 1675, 1640, 1587, 1561, 1497, 1465, 1456, 1430, 1378, 1351, 1281, 1246, 1191, 1145, 1135, 1080, 1056, 1026; MS (ESI) *m/z* (%) 378 (M(<sup>81</sup>Br)+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), 376 (M(<sup>79</sup>Br)+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), 361 (M(<sup>81</sup>Br)+H<sup>+</sup>), 359 (M(<sup>79</sup>Br)+H<sup>+</sup>); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> [M(<sup>79</sup>Br)+H<sup>+</sup>]: 359.0277, found: 359.0280.

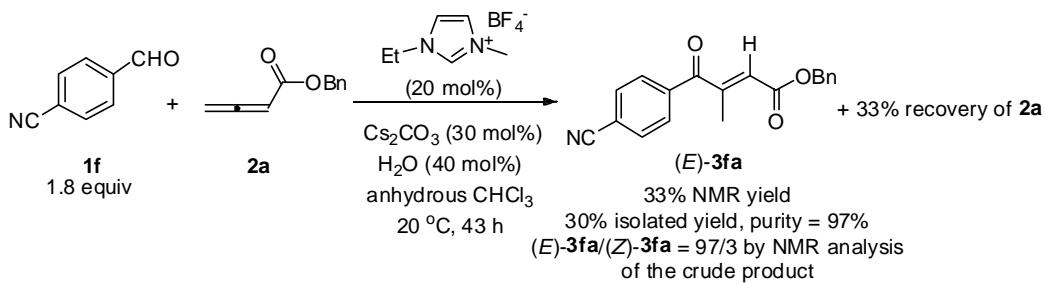
(5) **Benzyl 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-3ea)**  
**(mdk-11-057)**



The reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0976 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0402 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL), 4-phenylbenzaldehyde **1e** (0.3345 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), **2a**

(0.1748 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 10 °C for 17 h afforded (*E*)-**3ea** (0.2427 g, 68%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (440 mL  $\times$  2) to 20/1 (420 mL  $\times$  2)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ea**/*(Z)*-**3ea** was  $> 99/1$  and 1% of **4ea** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a solid: m. p. 64~66 °C (*n*-hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92-7.83 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.72-7.65 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.65-7.58 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.52-7.29 (m, 8H, ArH), 6.24 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.22 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.47 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.3, 165.5, 152.7, 145.9, 139.6, 135.5, 134.3, 130.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.22, 127.16, 124.6, 66.5, 15.7; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3063, 3032, 2954, 2890, 1951, 1723, 1660, 1602, 1558, 1498, 1486, 1455, 1449, 1404, 1381, 1351, 1312, 1266, 1189, 1137, 1077, 1030, 1007; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 356 (M<sup>+</sup>, 19.71), 91 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 80.88, H, 5.66; Found: C, 80.59; H, 5.64.

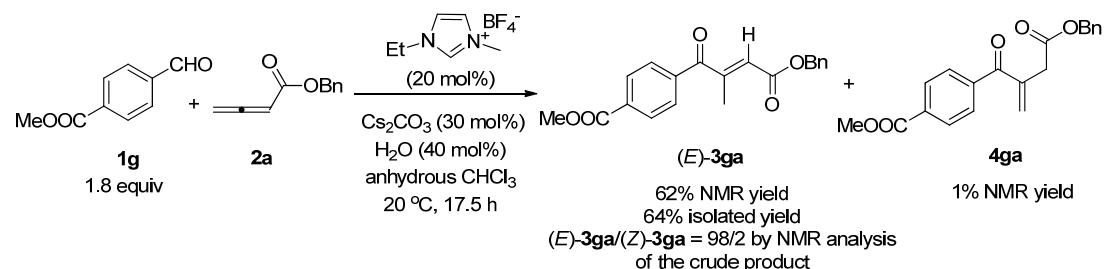
**(6) Benzyl 4-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-**3fa**)  
((zwl-cf-1-127))**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0978 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0401 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), 4-cyanobenzaldehyde **1f** (0.2408 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1741 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g,

0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 43 h afforded (*E*)-**3fa** (0.0946 g, 30%, purity = 97%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (1.6 L) to 20/1 (800 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3fa**/*(Z*)-**3fa** was 97/3 and 33% recovery of **2a** was obtained by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.87-7.80 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.80-7.71 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.42-7.30 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.20 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.22 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.43 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.2, 165.1, 150.9, 139.5, 135.2, 132.3, 129.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.1, 117.7, 116.2, 66.7, 15.0; IR (neat) ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3091, 3065, 3035, 2956, 2231, 1723, 1668, 1639, 1606, 1587, 1564, 1498, 1455, 1404, 1383, 1353, 1310, 1290, 1264, 1192, 1138, 1115, 1081, 1029, 1017, 1002; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 305 (M<sup>+</sup>, 0.48), 91 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 74.74, H, 4.95; Found: C, 74.61; H, 5.03.

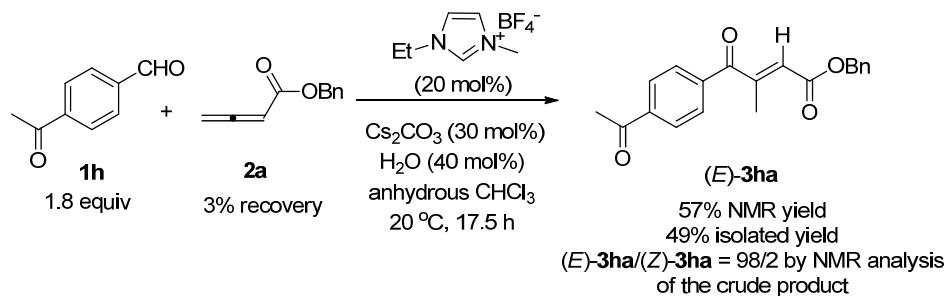
**(7) Benzyl 4-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-**3ga**) (mdk-10-184)**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0978 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0406 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), methyl 4-formylbenzoate **1g** (0.3016 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1738 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2 μL, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 17.5 h afforded (*E*)-**3ga** (0.2170 g, 64%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1 (420 mL × 2 + 300 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ga**/*(Z*)-**3ga** was 98/2 and 1%

of **4ga** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a solid; m.p. 68~70 °C (*n*-hexane/DCM); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.16-8.08 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.84-7.75 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.22 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.2, 166.0, 165.3, 151.6, 139.5, 135.3, 133.7, 129.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 126.4, 66.6, 52.4, 15.1; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3065, 3034, 3004, 1727, 1667, 1639, 1587, 1571, 1500, 1455, 1436, 1406, 1382, 1353, 1282, 1265, 1191, 1139, 1107, 1029, 1017; MS (70 eV, EI) *m/z* (%) 338 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1.60), 232 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 70.99, H, 5.36; Found: C, 70.88; H, 5.44.

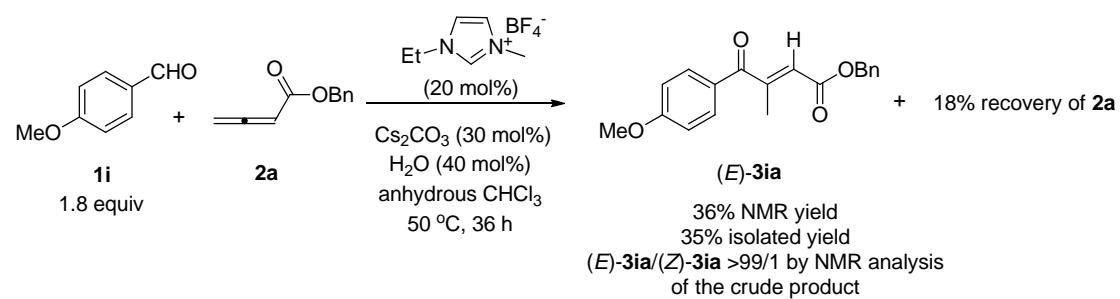
**(8)      Benzyl      4-(4-acetylphenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate      ((*E*)-**3ha**)**  
**(mdk-11-043)**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0979 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0407 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), 4-acetylbenzaldehyde **1h** (0.2664 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1747 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2 μL, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 17.5 h afforded (E)-**3ha** (DCM (300 mL), afforded pure (E)-**3ha** (0.0238 g) and impure (E)-**3ha** (0.1108 g), the impure part was recrystallized in *n*-hexane/DCM, afforded pure (E)-**3ha** (0.1024 g), the mother liquid

was evaporated and recrystallized in *n*-hexane/DCM again, afforded pure (*E*)-**3ha** (0.0319 g), combined weight: 0.0238 g + 0.1024 g + 0.0319 g = 0.1581 g, 49% (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ha**/*(Z*)-**3ha** was 98/2 by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a solid; m.p. 83~85 °C (*n*-hexane/DCM): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.07-7.98 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.86-7.79 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.42-7.29 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.22 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.65 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.2, 197.1, 165.3, 151.6, 139.9, 139.5, 135.3, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 126.5, 66.6, 26.8, 15.1; IR (KBr)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3092, 3066, 3037, 3011, 2935, 2879, 1720, 1683, 1656, 1637, 1499, 1452, 1403, 1389, 1353, 1306, 1272, 1261, 1249, 1200, 1158, 1142, 1118, 1074, 1040, 1030, 1000; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 322 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1.27), 91 (100); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 74.52, H, 5.63; Found: C, 74.12; H, 5.89.

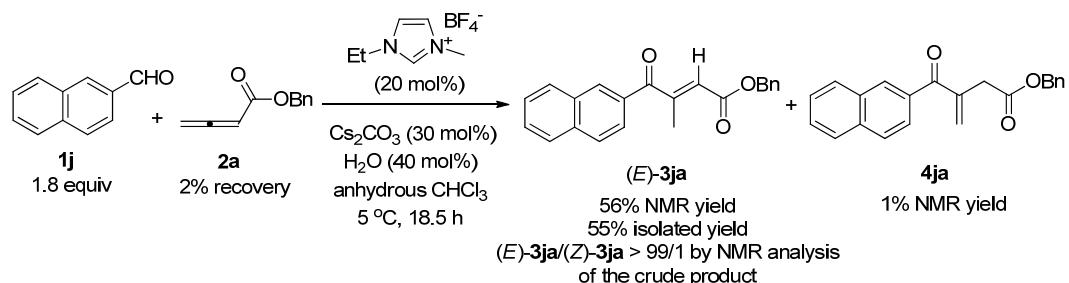
**(9) Benzyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-**3ia**) (mdk-11-096)**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0976 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0403 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), 4-methoxybenzaldehyde **1i** (0.2455 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1742 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2 μL, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 50 °C for 36 h afforded (*E*)-**3ia** (0.1081 g, 35%) (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1 (420 mL + 300 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ia**/*(Z*)-**3ia** was >99/1 and 18% recovery of **2a** was obtained by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86-7.77 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.42-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.97-6.90 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.13 (q,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.21 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.87 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.43 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.4, 165.6, 163.8, 153.4, 135.6, 132.2, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 123.0, 113.8, 66.3, 55.5, 16.0; IR (neat)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3065, 3034, 3008, 2956, 2840, 1722, 1657, 1652, 1599, 1574, 1508, 1456, 1442, 1421, 1381, 1351, 1313, 1258, 1192, 1136, 1027; MS (70 ev, EI)  $m/z$  (%) 310 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 9.53), 135 (100); HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ): 310.1205, found: 310.1202.

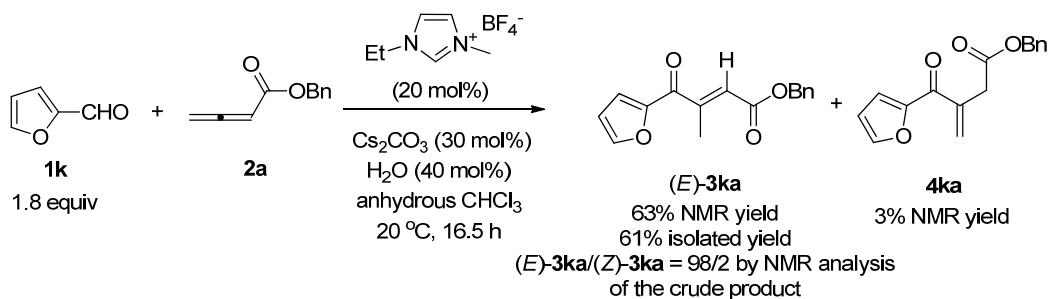
(10) **Benzyl 3-methyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate ((*E*)-3ja)**  
**(mdk-11-049)**



The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0975 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0400 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), 2-naphthaldehyde **1j** (0.2866 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1746 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 5 °C for 18.5 h afforded (*E*)-**3ja** (0.1810 g, 55%) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1 (400 mL  $\times$  3)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ja**/*(Z)*-**3ja** was >99/1 and 1% of **4ja** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,

$\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27 (d,  $J$  = 0.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.96-7.82 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.64-7.50 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.41-7.27 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.26 (q,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.22 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.51 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.7, 165.6, 152.9, 135.5, 135.4, 132.9, 132.1, 131.8, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 126.9, 124.9, 124.6, 66.5, 15.8; IR (neat)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3060, 3034, 2954, 1722, 1659, 1626, 1596, 1498, 1465, 1456, 1436, 1383, 1352, 1283, 1233, 1202, 1183, 1140, 1117, 1028; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 330 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 6.49), 91 (100); HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ): 330.1256, found: 330.1256.

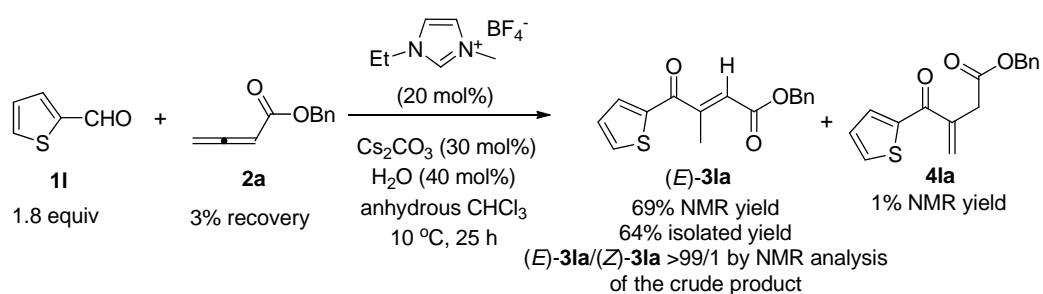
**(11)      Benzyl      4-(furan-2-yl)-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2(*E*)-enoate      ((*E*)-3ka) (mdk-11-071-1)**



The reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0978 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0400 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL), furan-2-carbaldehyde **1k** (0.1728 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1736 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (7.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 16.5 h afforded (*E*)-**3ka** (0.1631 g, 61%) ((petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1 (450 mL  $\times$  2) to 20/1 (420 mL) to 10/1 (400 mL + 330 mL)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3ka**/(*Z*)-**3ka** was 98/2 and 3% of **4ka** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.70-7.65 (m, 1H,

ArH), 7.44-7.29 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.21 (dd,  $J_1$  = 3.6 Hz,  $J_2$  = 0.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.56 (dd,  $J_1$  = 3.6 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.49 (q,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.23 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 183.8, 165.4, 151.5, 150.8, 147.9, 135.4, 128.5, 128.3, 124.3, 121.0, 112.3, 66.5, 15.2; IR (neat) ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3134, 3091, 3065, 3034, 2955, 1722, 1651, 1561, 1498, 1463, 1385, 1352, 1294, 1285, 1201, 1143, 1083, 1039, 1027; MS (70 ev, EI) m/z (%) 270 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1.03), 91 (100); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 270.0892, found: 270.0894.

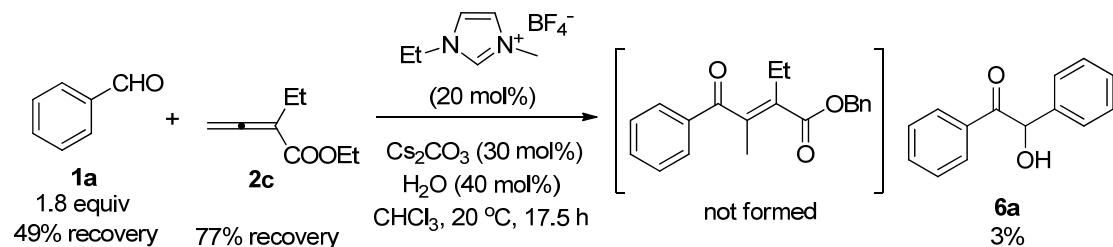
(12)      **Benzyl 3-methyl-4-oxo-4-(thiophen-2-yl)but-2(*E*)-enoate**      ((*E*)-3la)  
(mdk-11-076)



The reaction of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.0975 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0403 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL), thiophene-2-carbaldehyde **1l** (0.2025 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), **2a** (0.1740 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2.5 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (7.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 10  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 25 h afforded (*E*)-**3la** (0.1828 g, 64%) ((petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1 (400 mL  $\times$  2)) (the ratio of (*E*)-**3la**/*(Z)*-**3la** was >99/1 and 1% of **4la** was formed by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71 (dd,  $J_1$  = 5.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.64 (dd,  $J_1$  = 3.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.43-7.29 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.13 (dd,  $J_1$  = 5.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 4.1 Hz,

1H, ArH), 6.36 (q,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, =CH), 5.22 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  189.3, 165.4, 152.5, 141.9, 135.4, 135.3, 134.8, 128.5, 128.31, 128.28, 128.1, 123.4, 66.4, 15.7; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3091, 3033, 2953, 1722, 1636, 1513, 1498, 1455, 1412, 1383, 1356, 1278, 1189, 1134, 1081, 1055, 1025; MS (70 ev, EI)  $m/z$  (%) 286 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1.82), 91 (100); HRMS calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>): 286.0664, found: 286.0666.

**(13) 2-Hydroxy-1,2-diphenylethanone (6a) (mdk-11-102)**

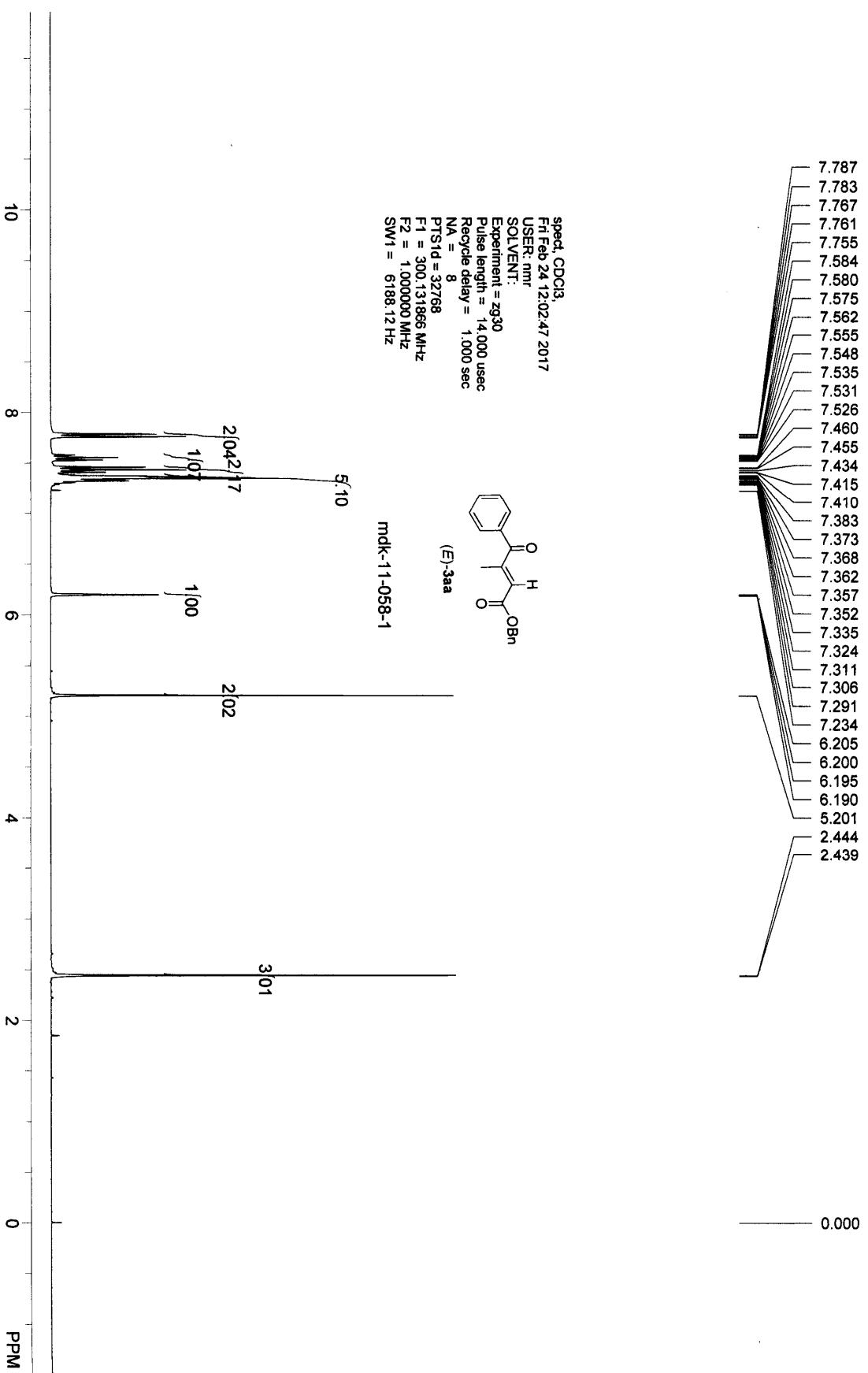


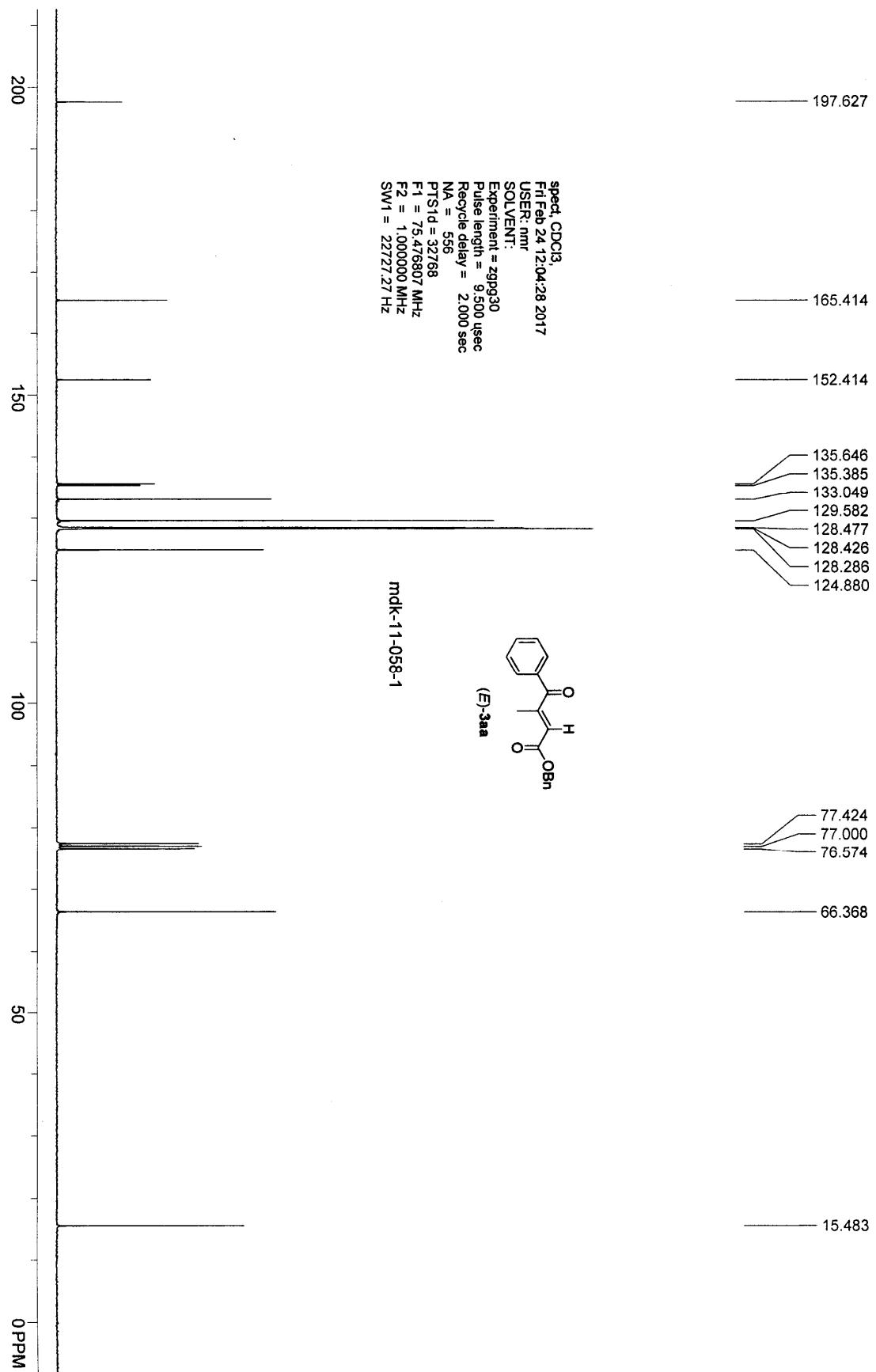
The reaction of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.0975 g, 0.3 mmol), 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (0.0401 g, 0.2 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL), benzaldehyde **1a** (0.1906 g, 1.8 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), **2c** (0.1405 g, 1 mmol)/anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (7.2  $\mu$ L, d = 1.000 g/mL, 0.0072 g, 0.4 mmol) at 20 °C for 17.5 h afforded **6a**<sup>1</sup> (0.0063 g, 3%) ((petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6/1 (420 mL)) (49% recovery of **1a** and 77% recovery of **2c** were obtained by NMR analysis of the crude product) as a solid; m.p. 129~131 °C (*n*-hexane/DCM) (lit.<sup>1a</sup> 132~133 °C): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.96-7.86 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58-7.47 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.44-7.22 (m, 7H, ArH), 5.96 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.57 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 1H, OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.9, 139.0, 133.9, 133.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 127.8, 76.2; IR (neat)  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3416, 3381, 3084, 3060, 3029, 2933, 1679, 1596, 1577, 1561, 1491, 1450, 1389, 1343, 1318, 1307, 1263, 1207, 1180, 1093, 1069, 1028, 1004; MS

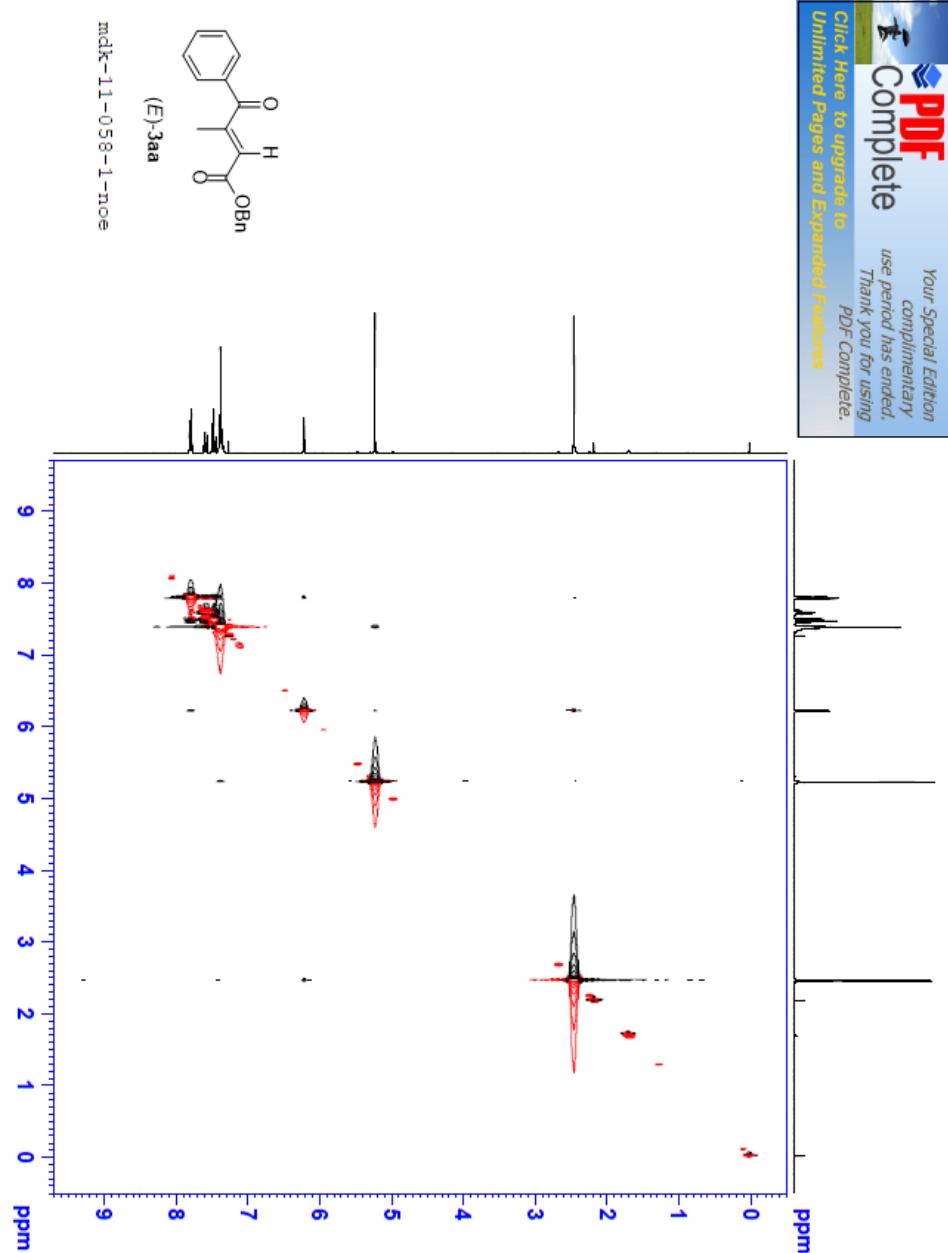
(EI)  $m/z$  (%) 212 ( $M^+$ , 1.01), 105 (100).

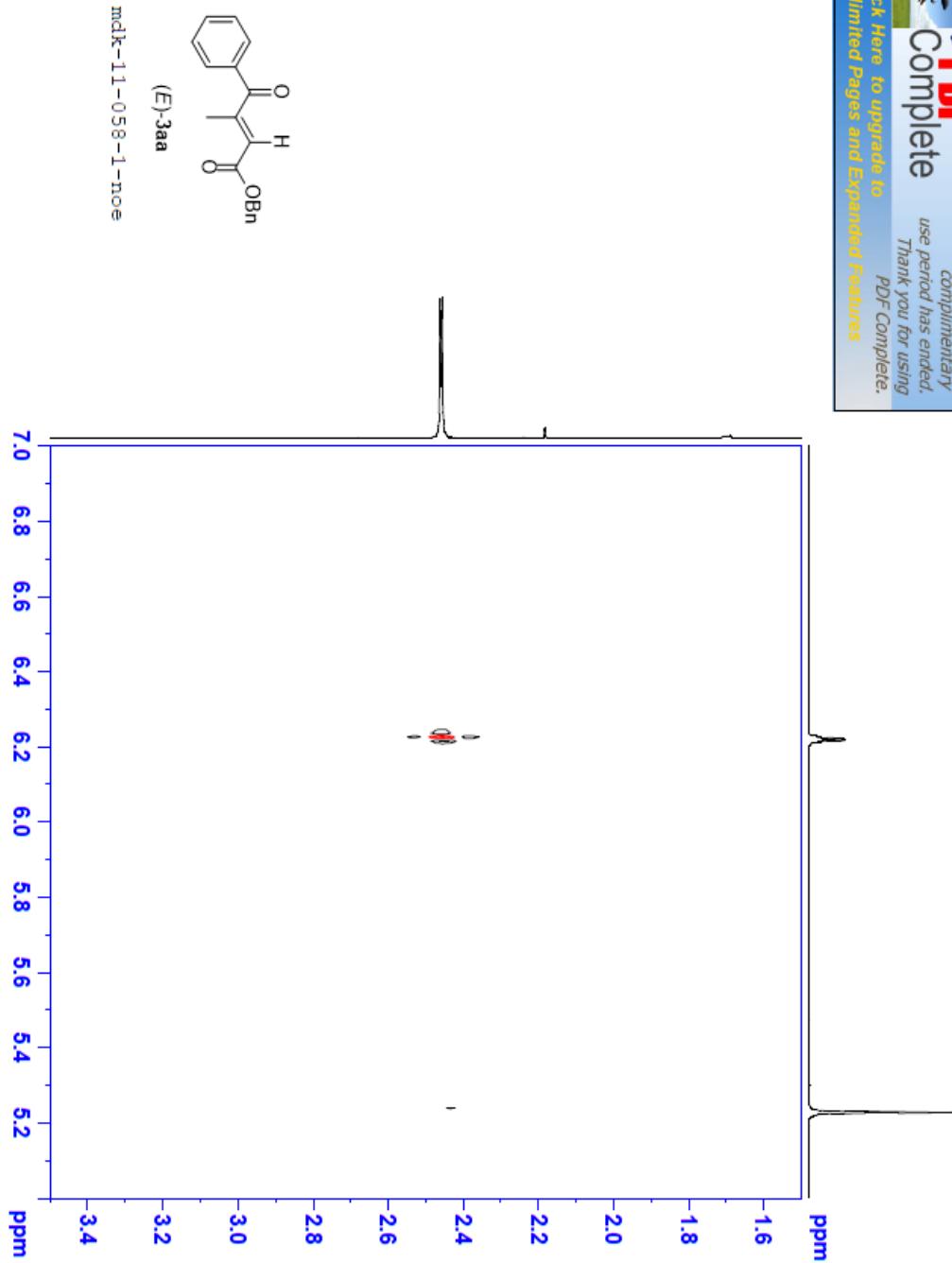
**References:**

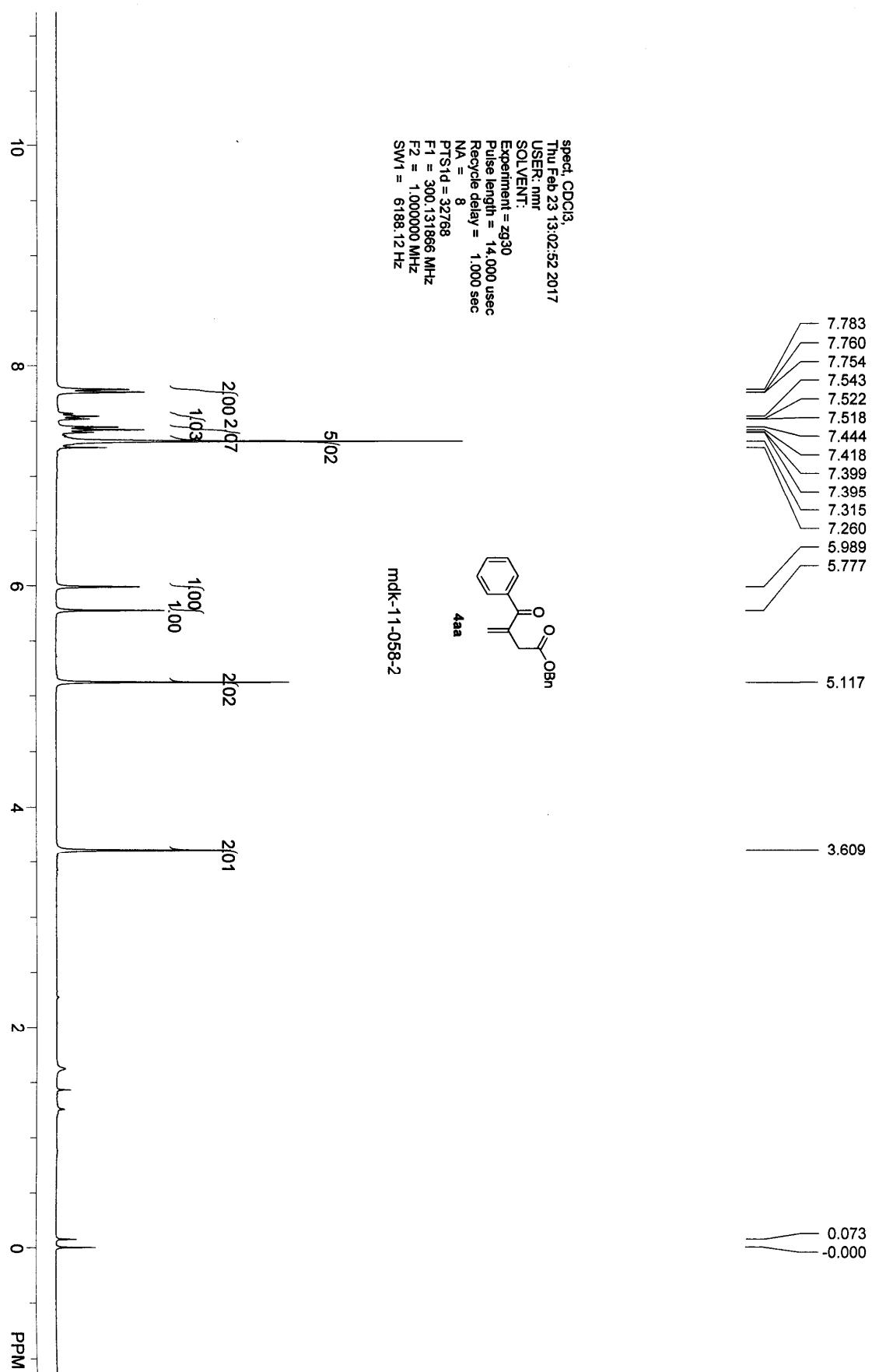
- (1) L. Rout, A. M. Harned, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2009, **15**, 12926.
- (2) H. Yuan, W. Yoo, H. Miyamura, S. Kobayashi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 13970.

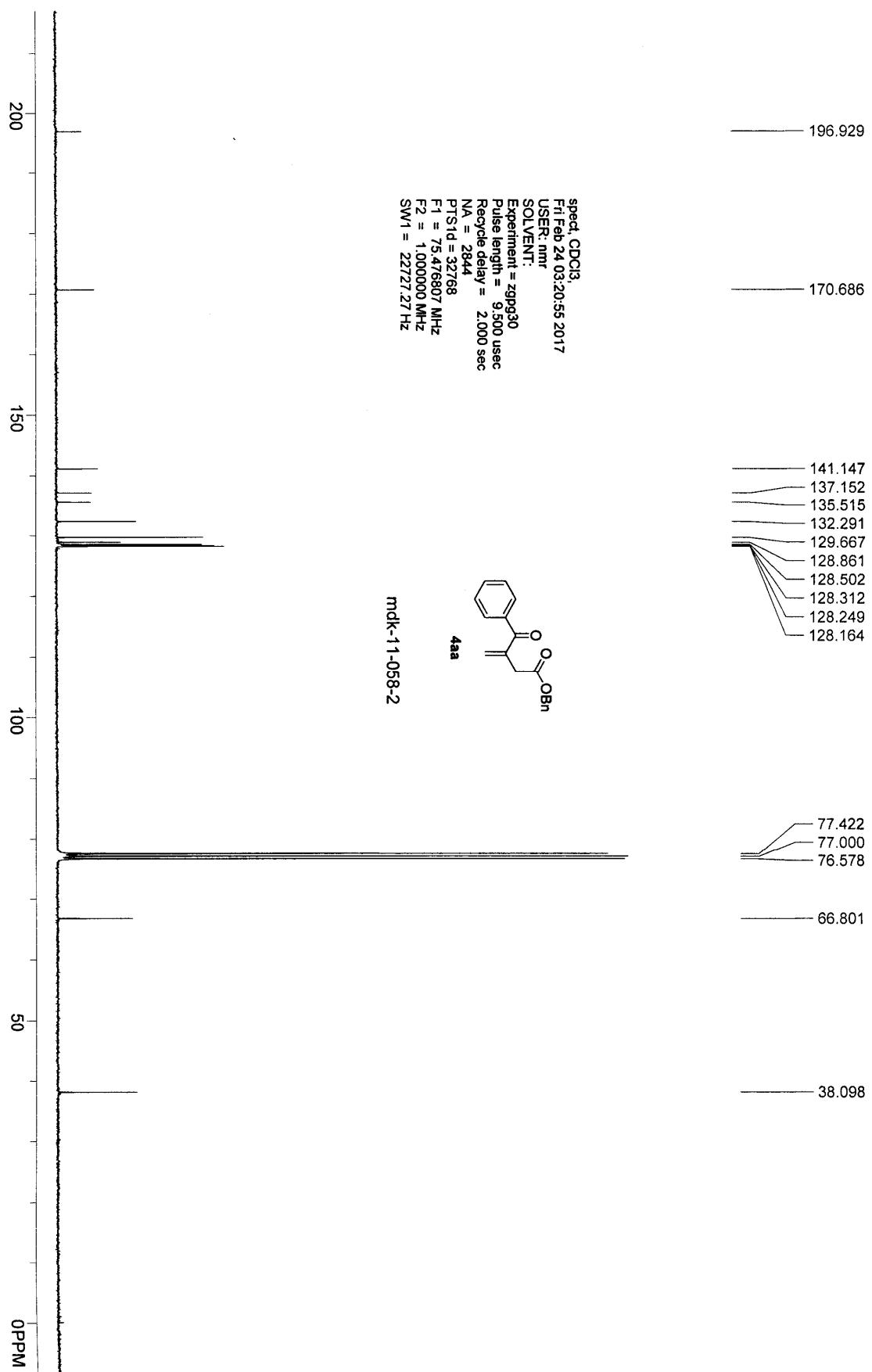


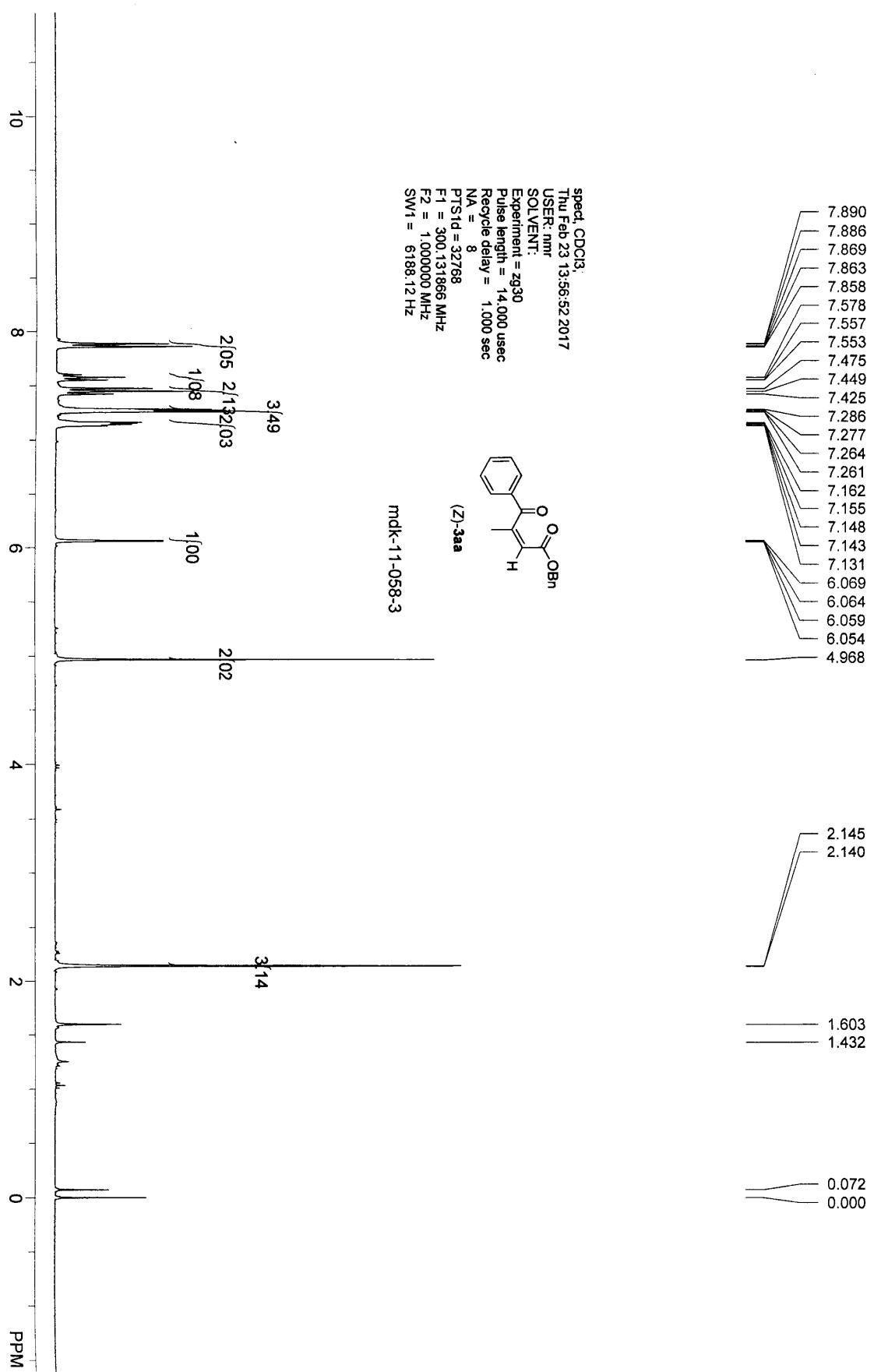


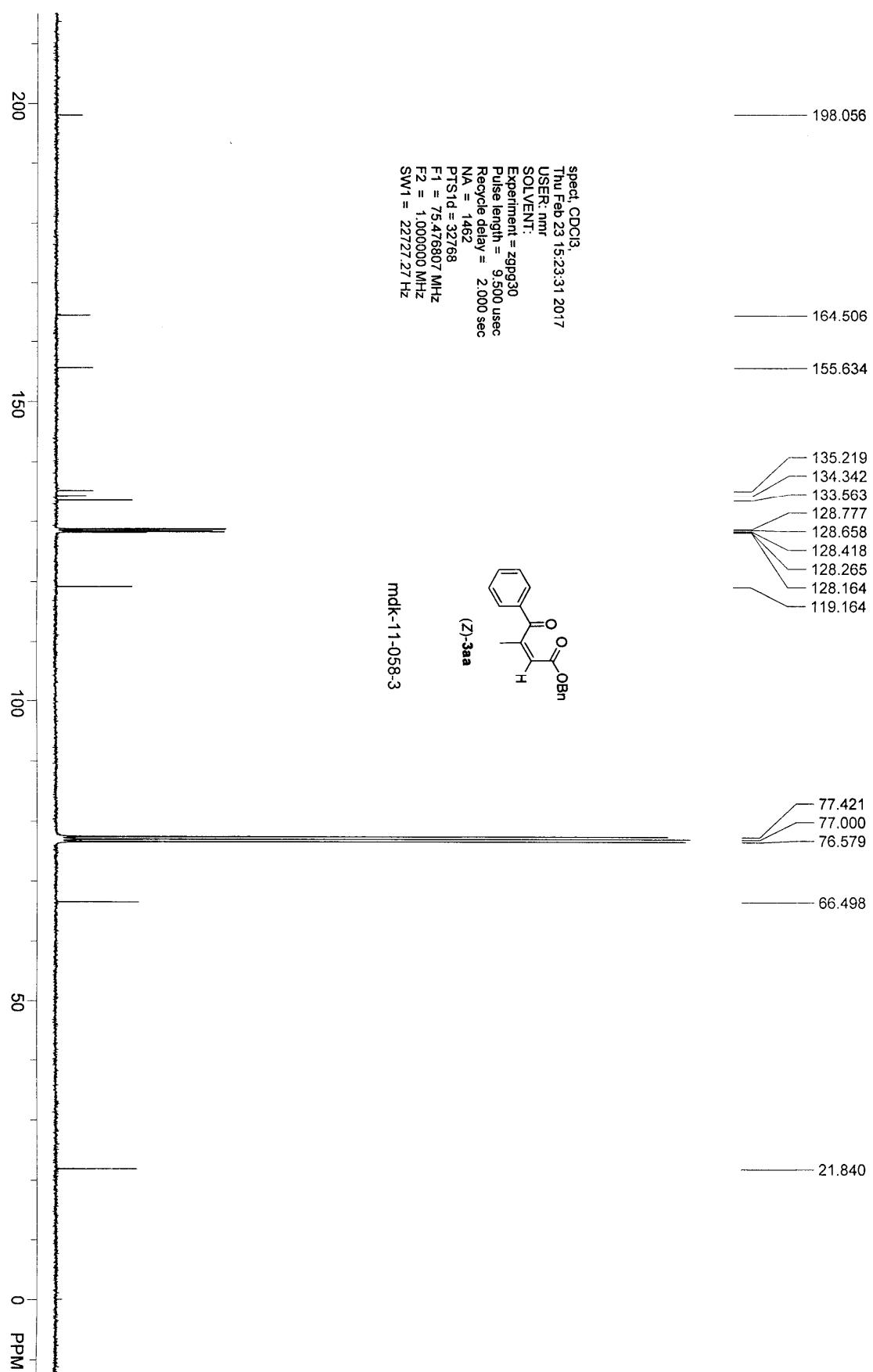


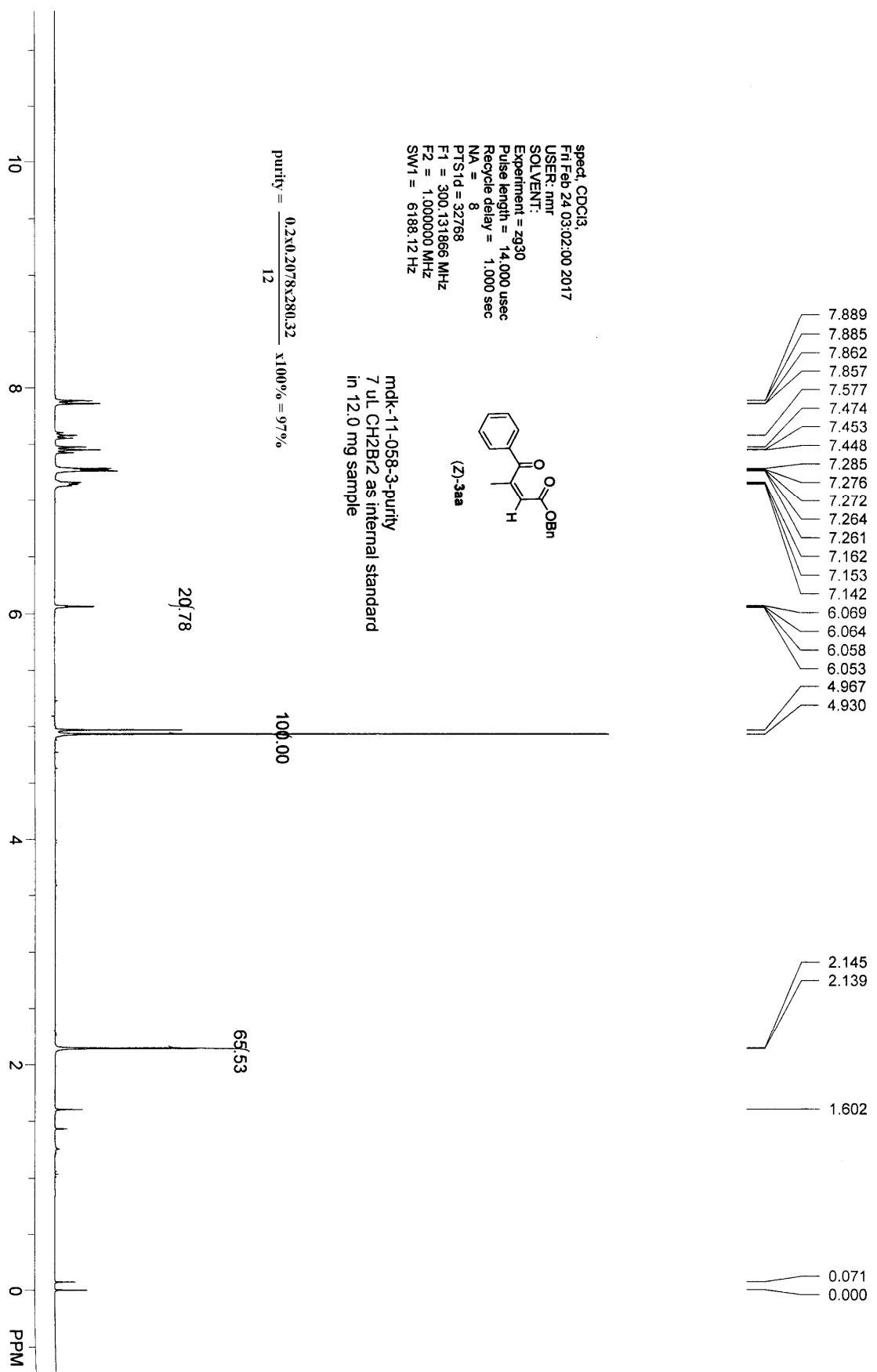


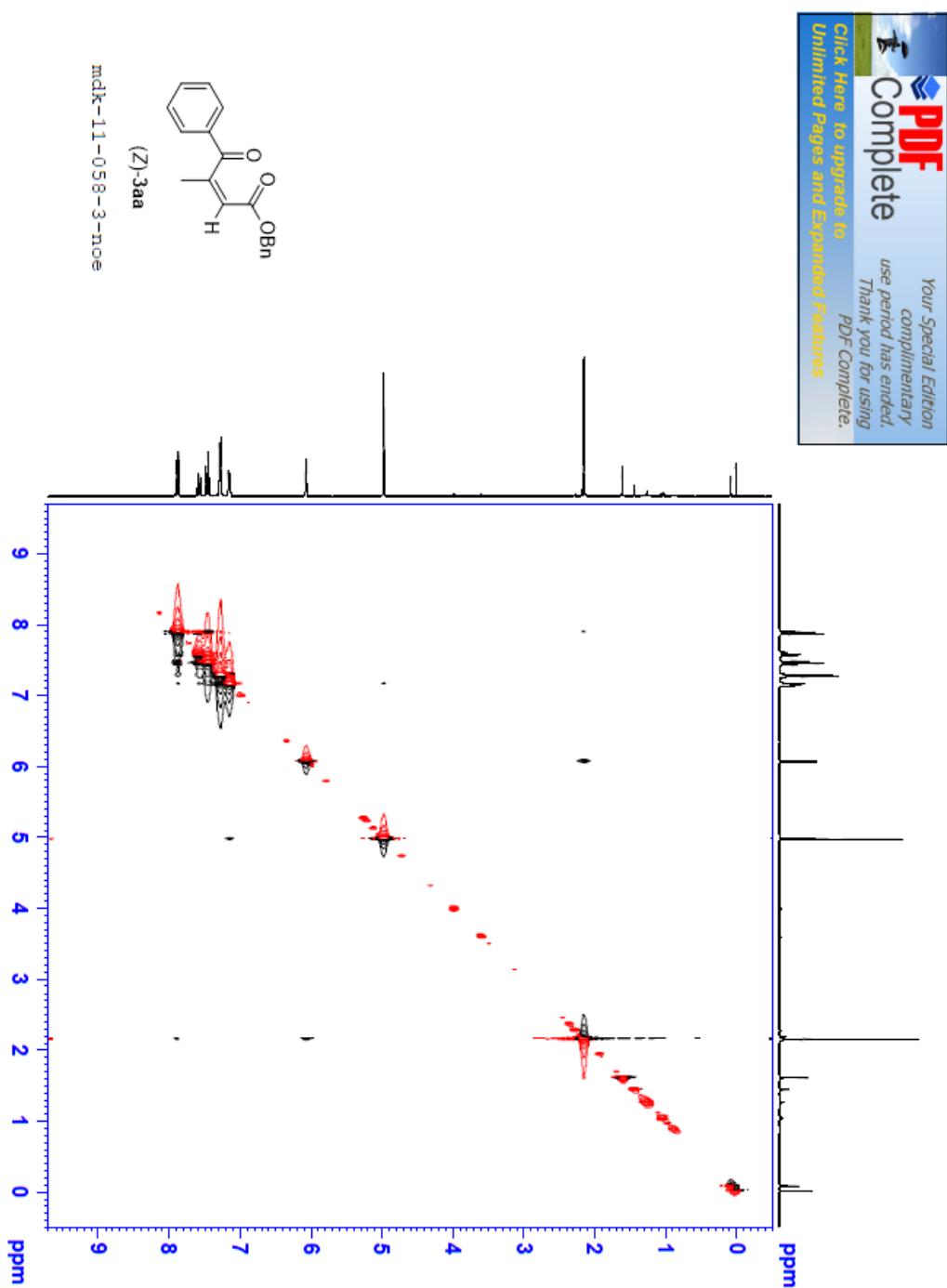


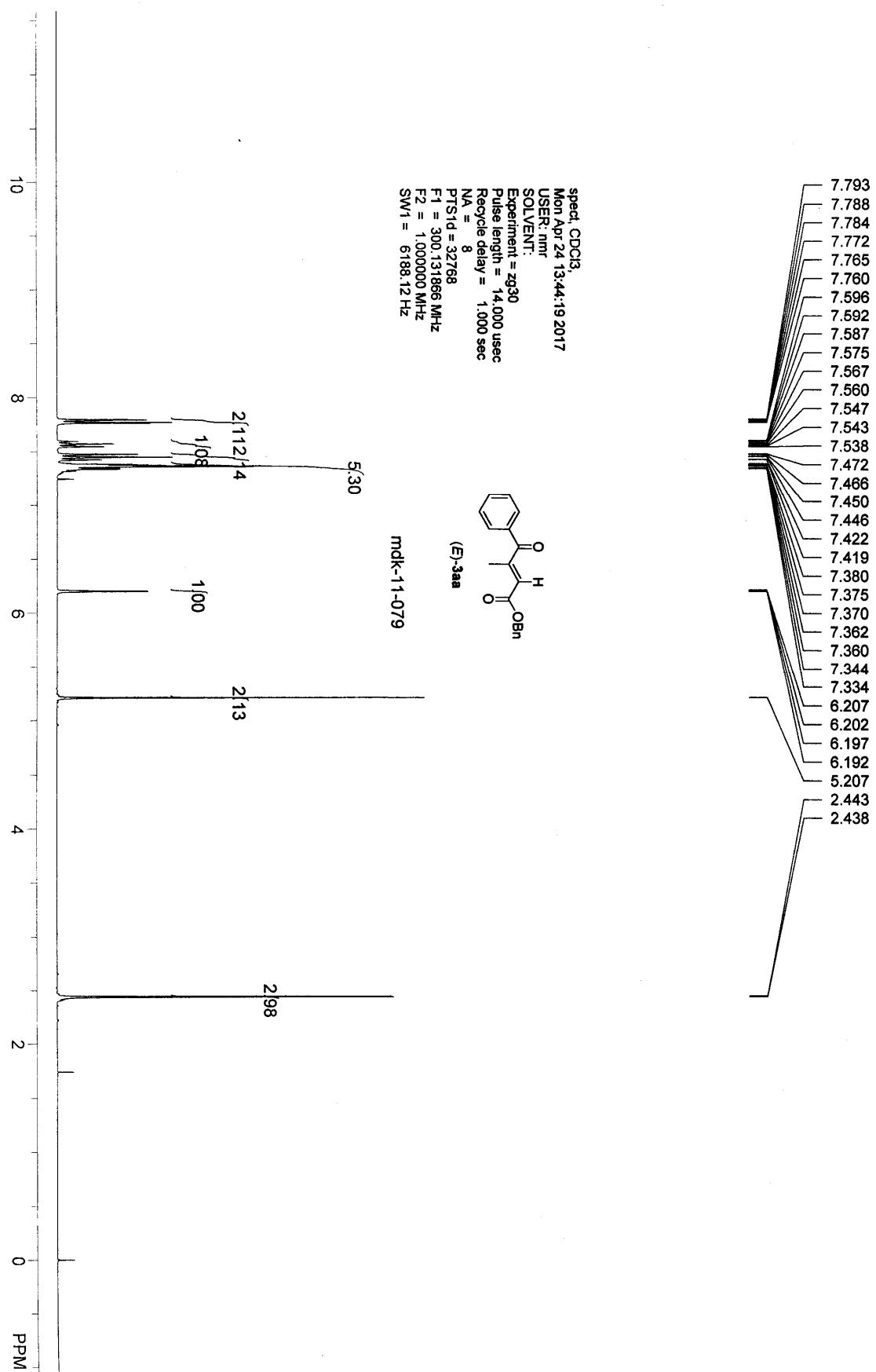


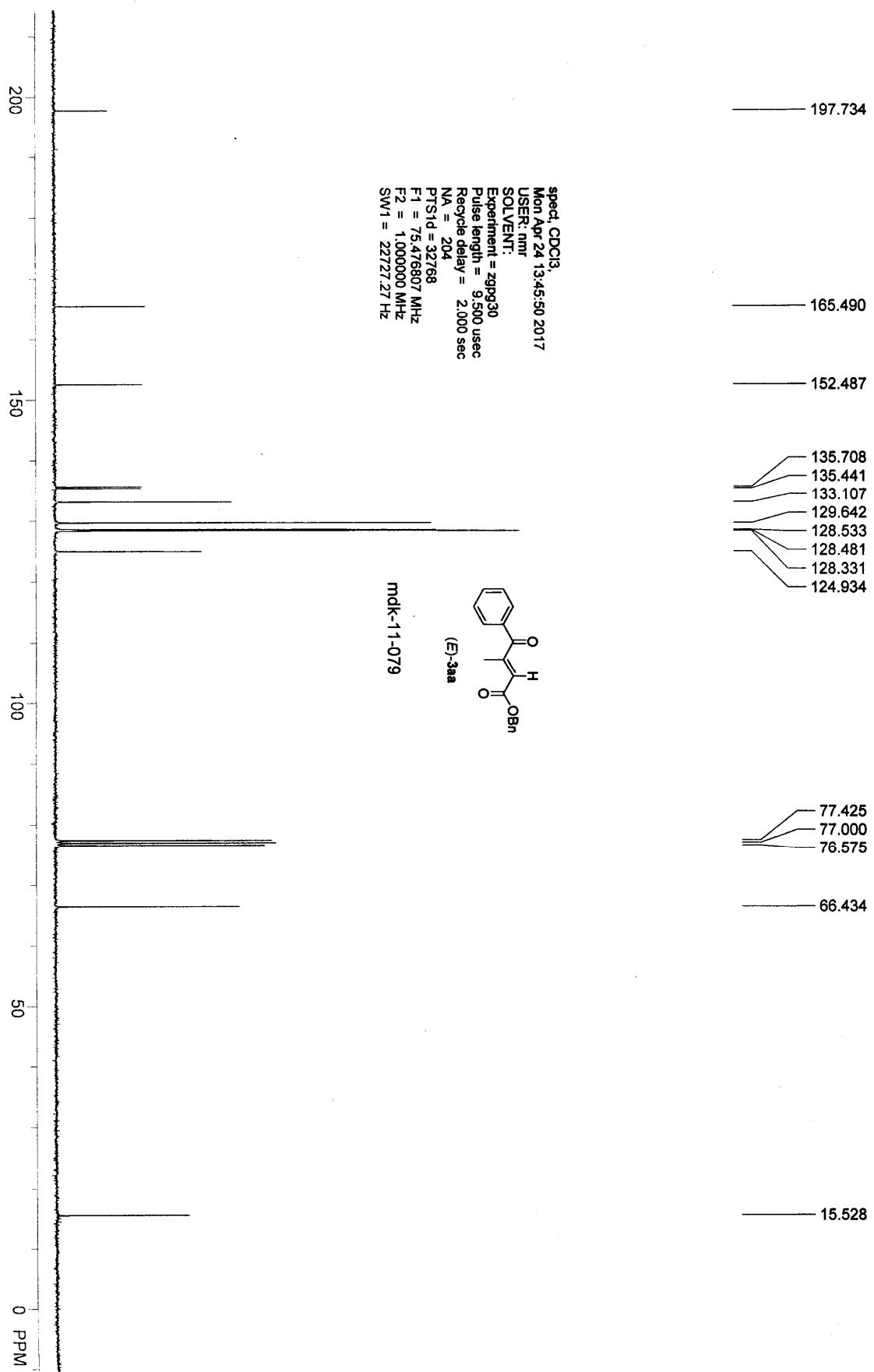


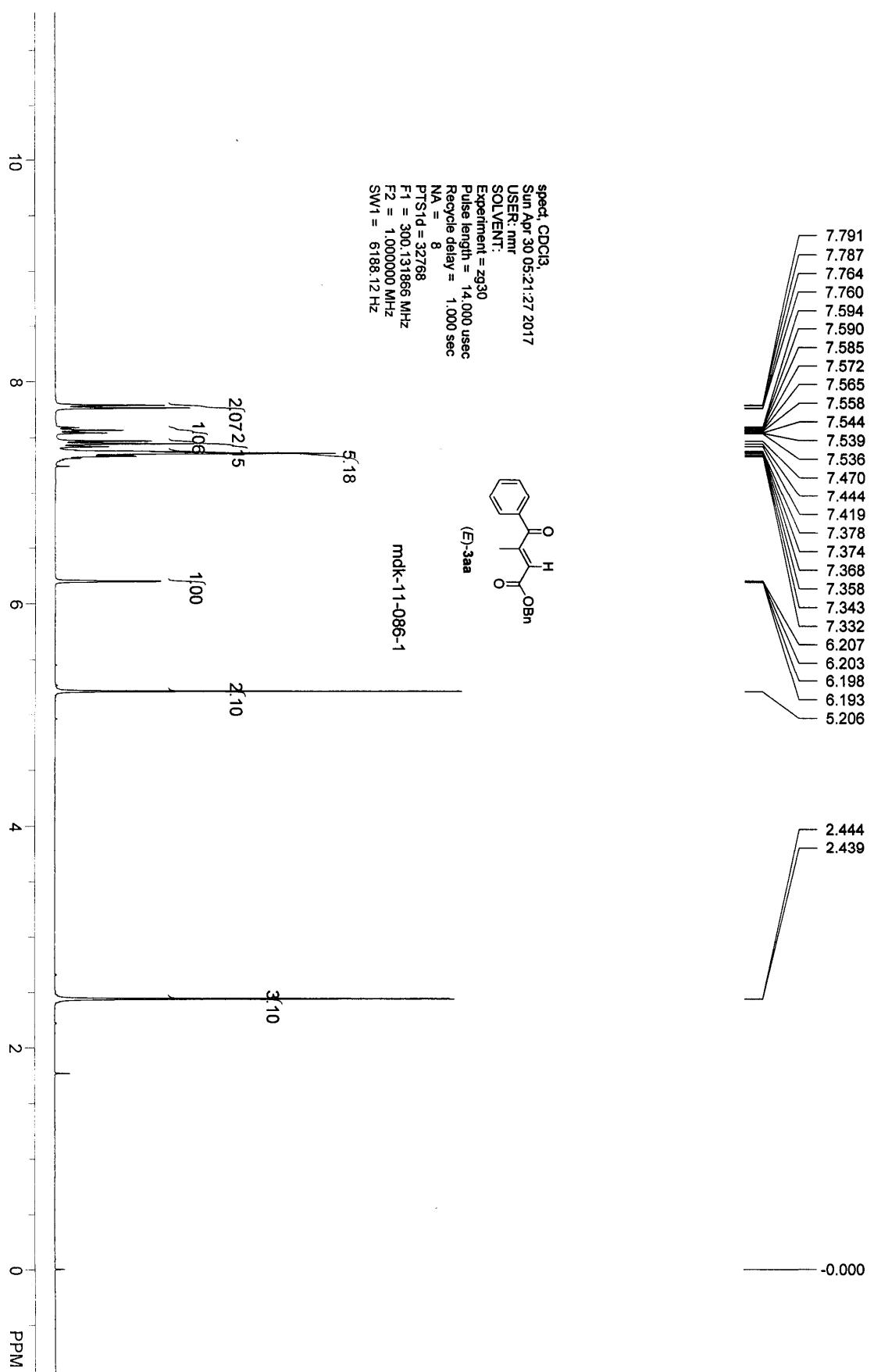


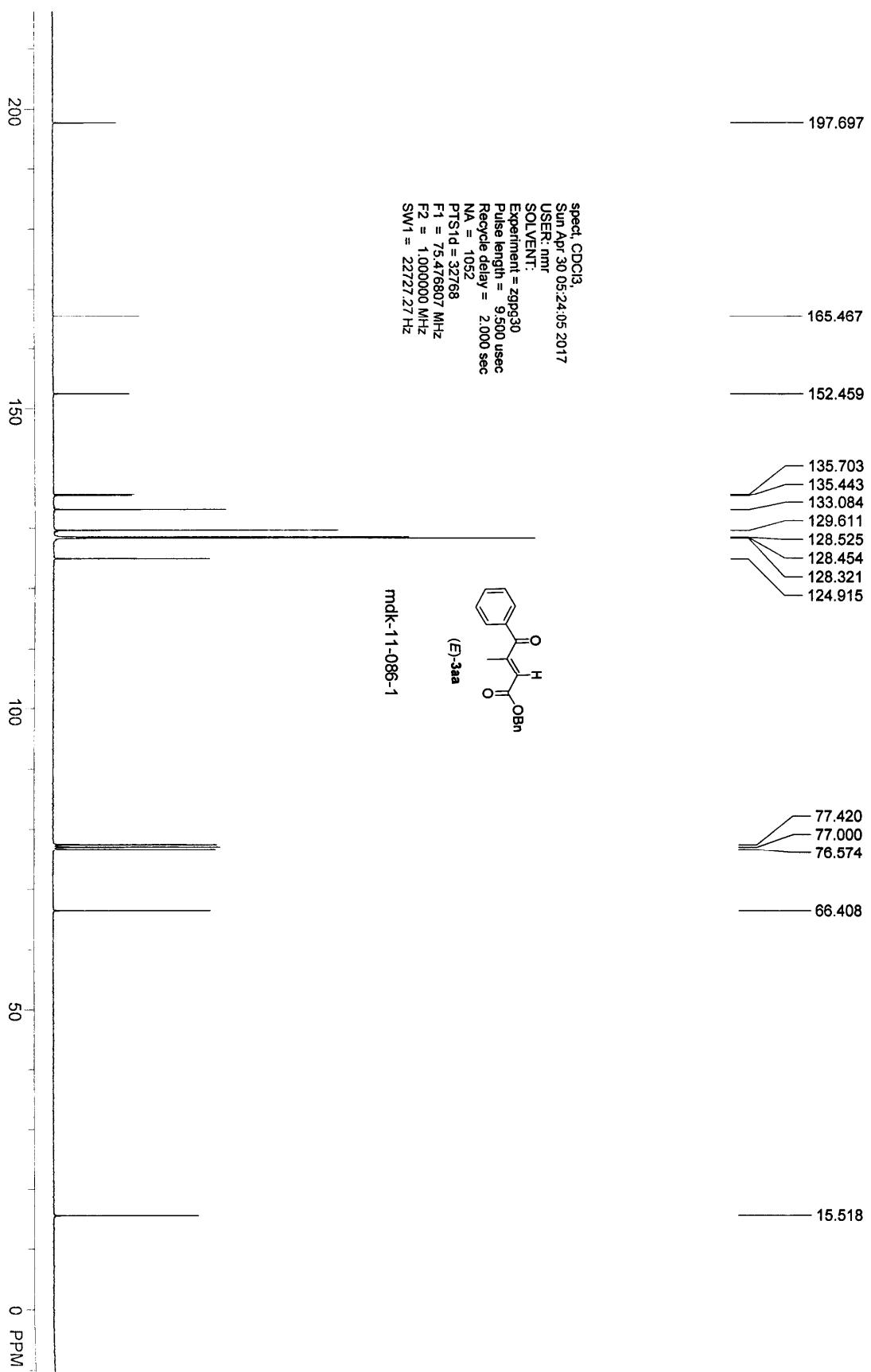


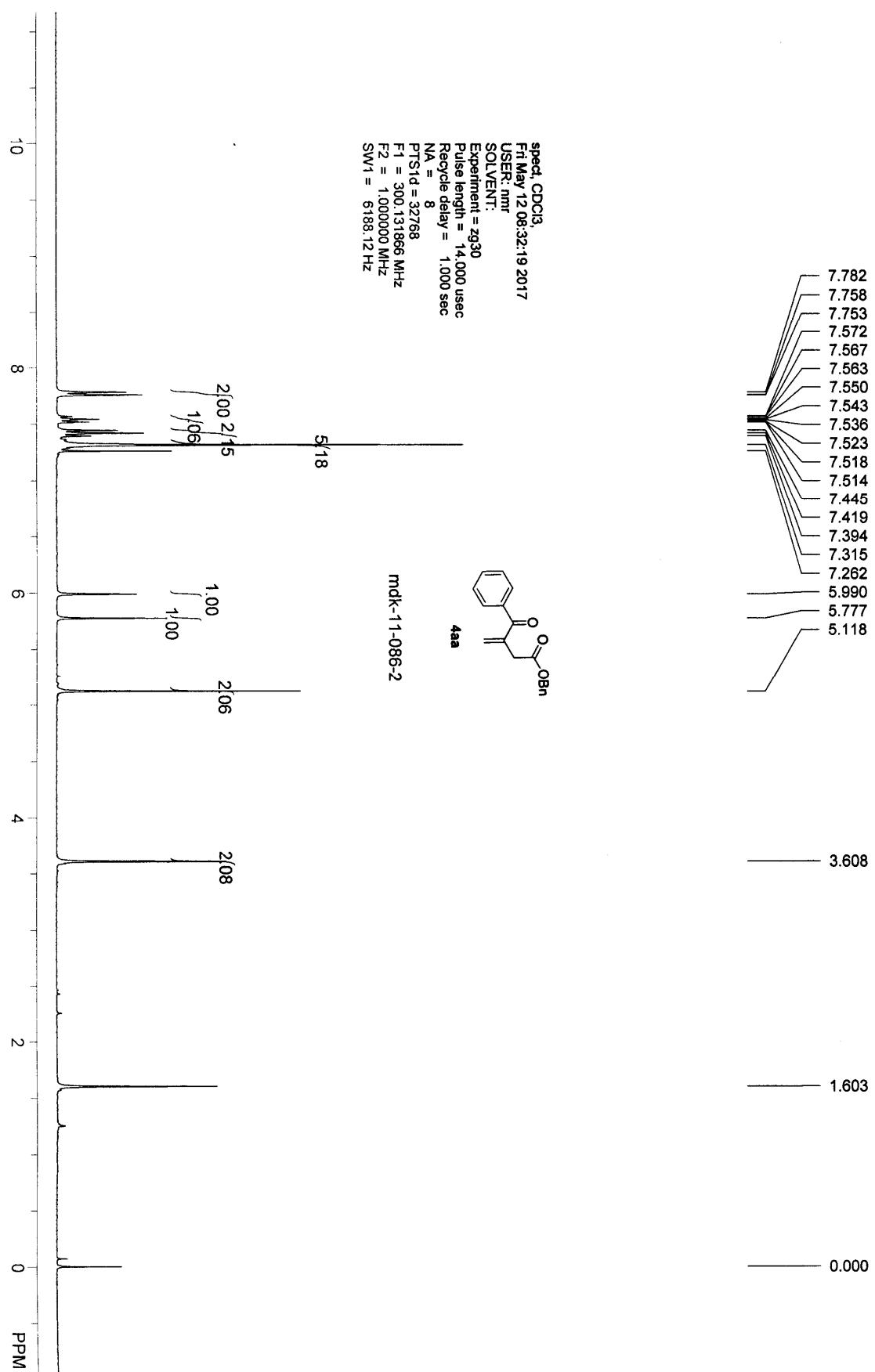


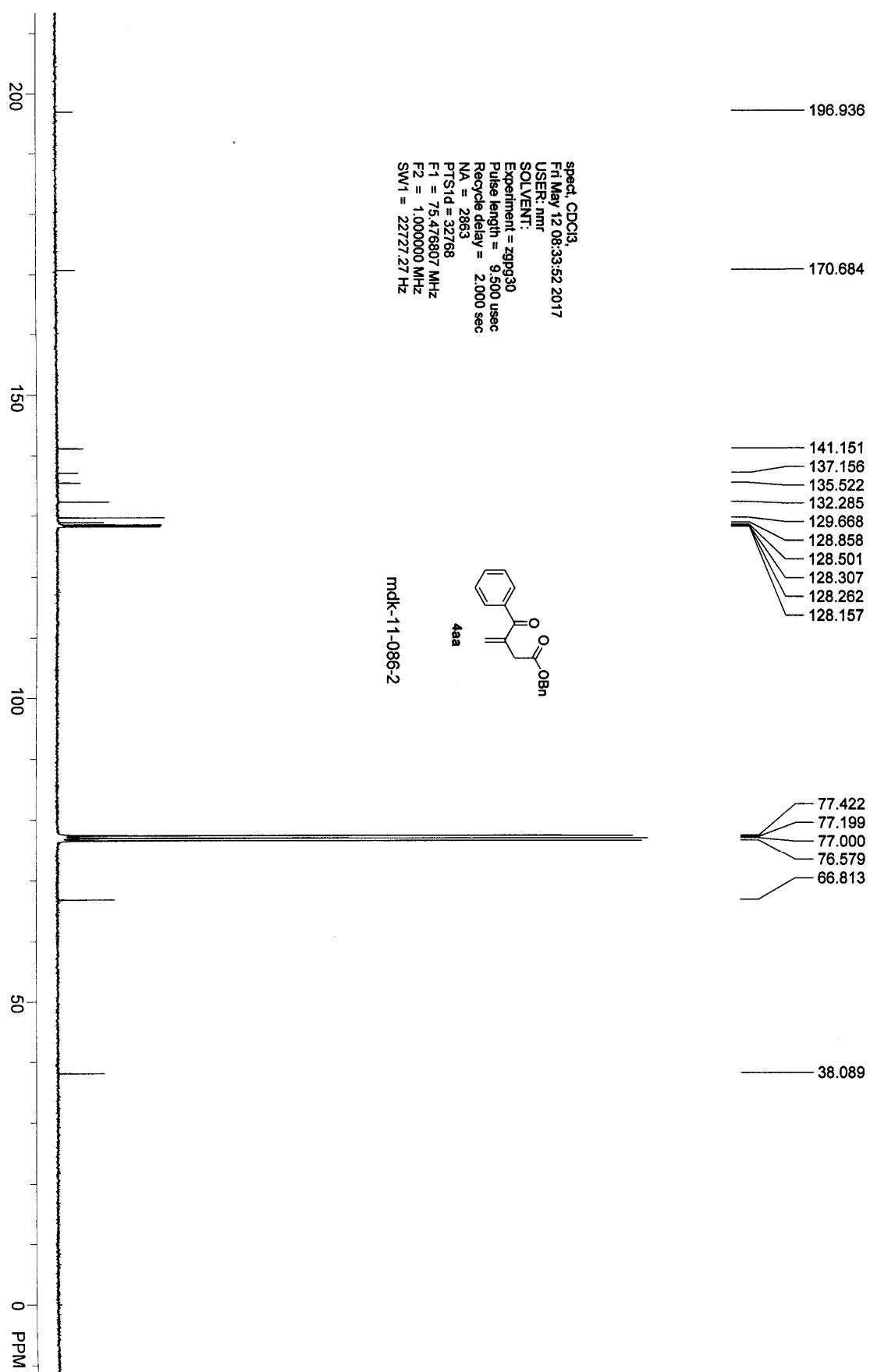


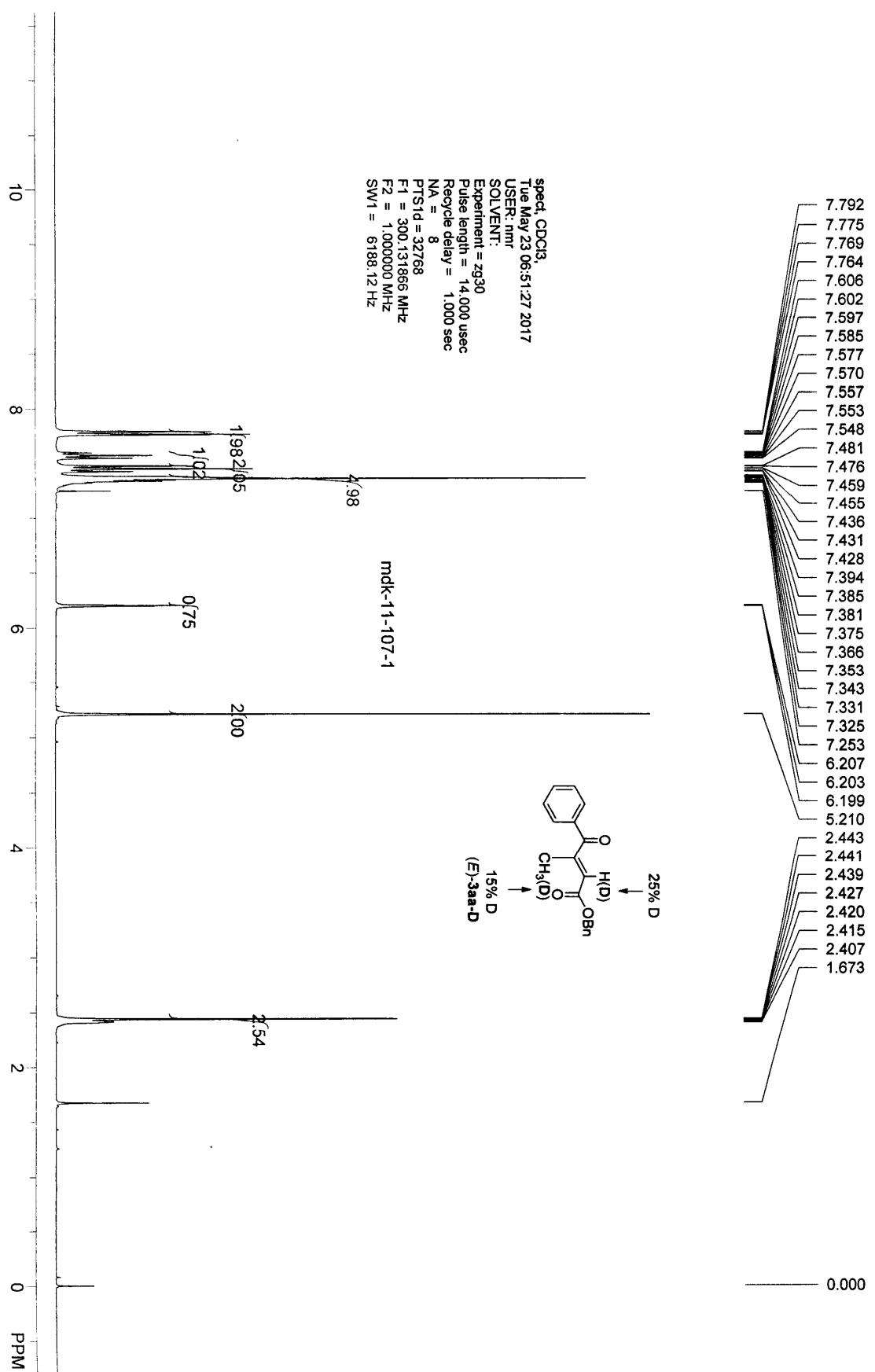


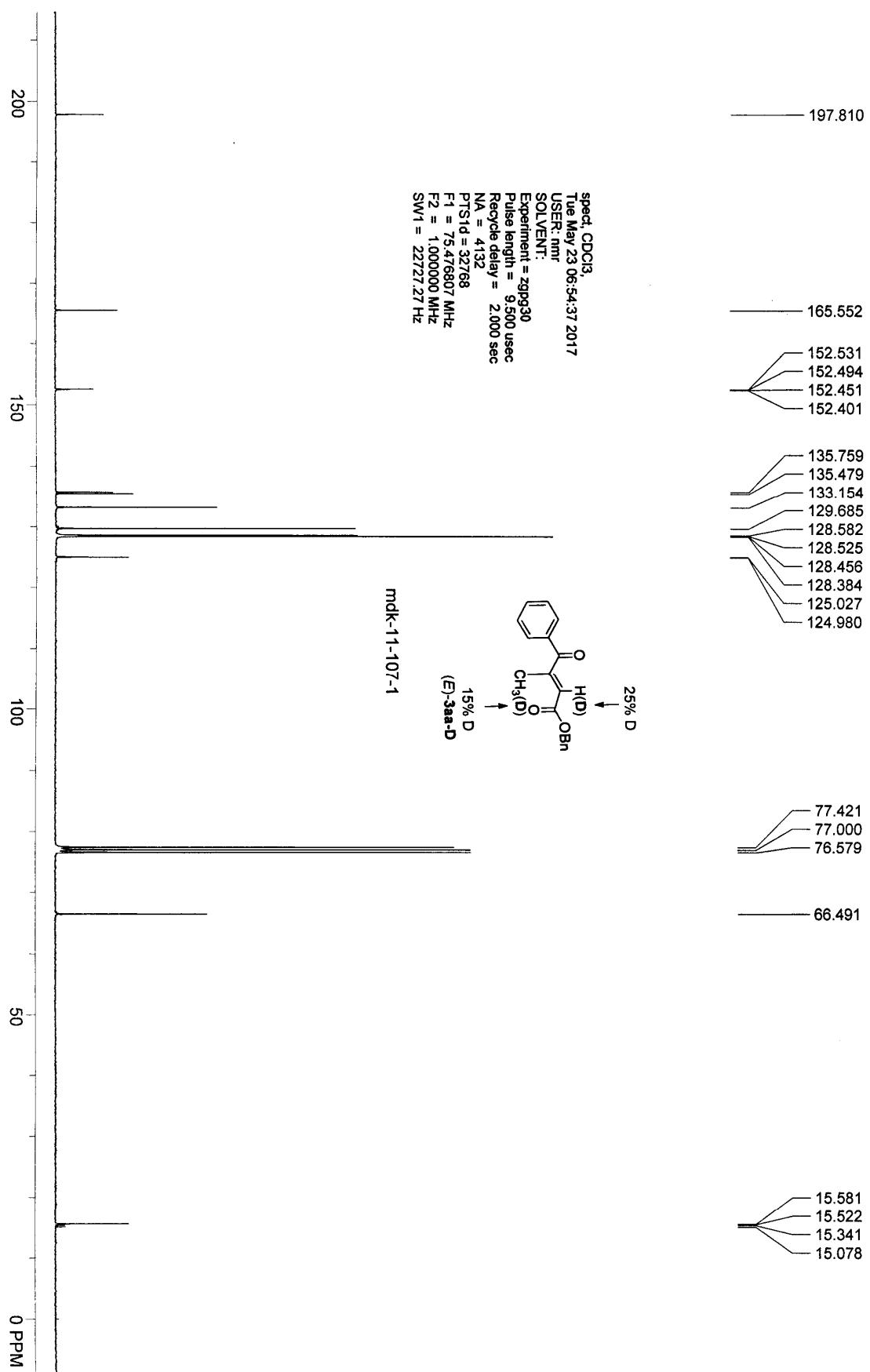


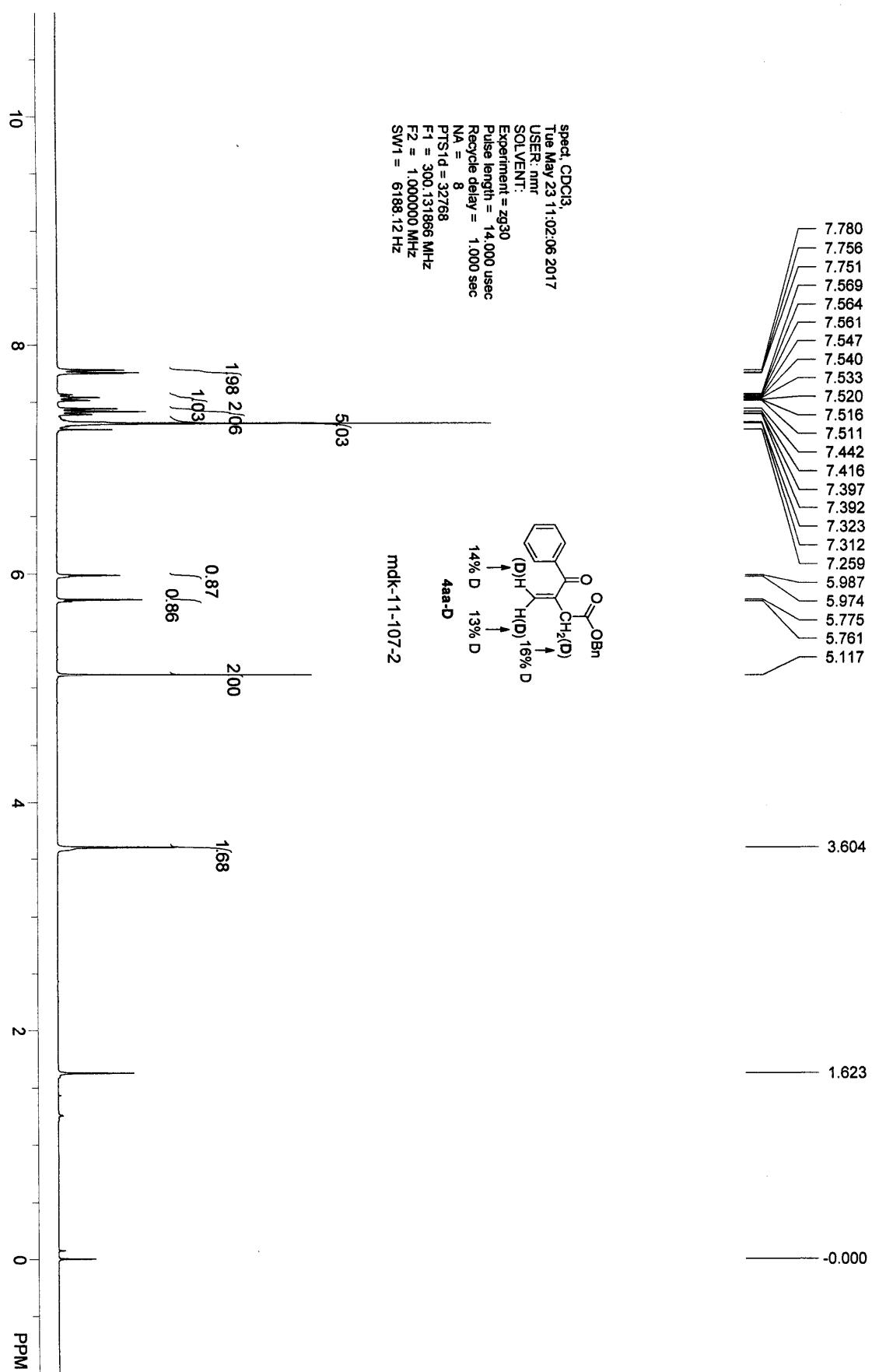


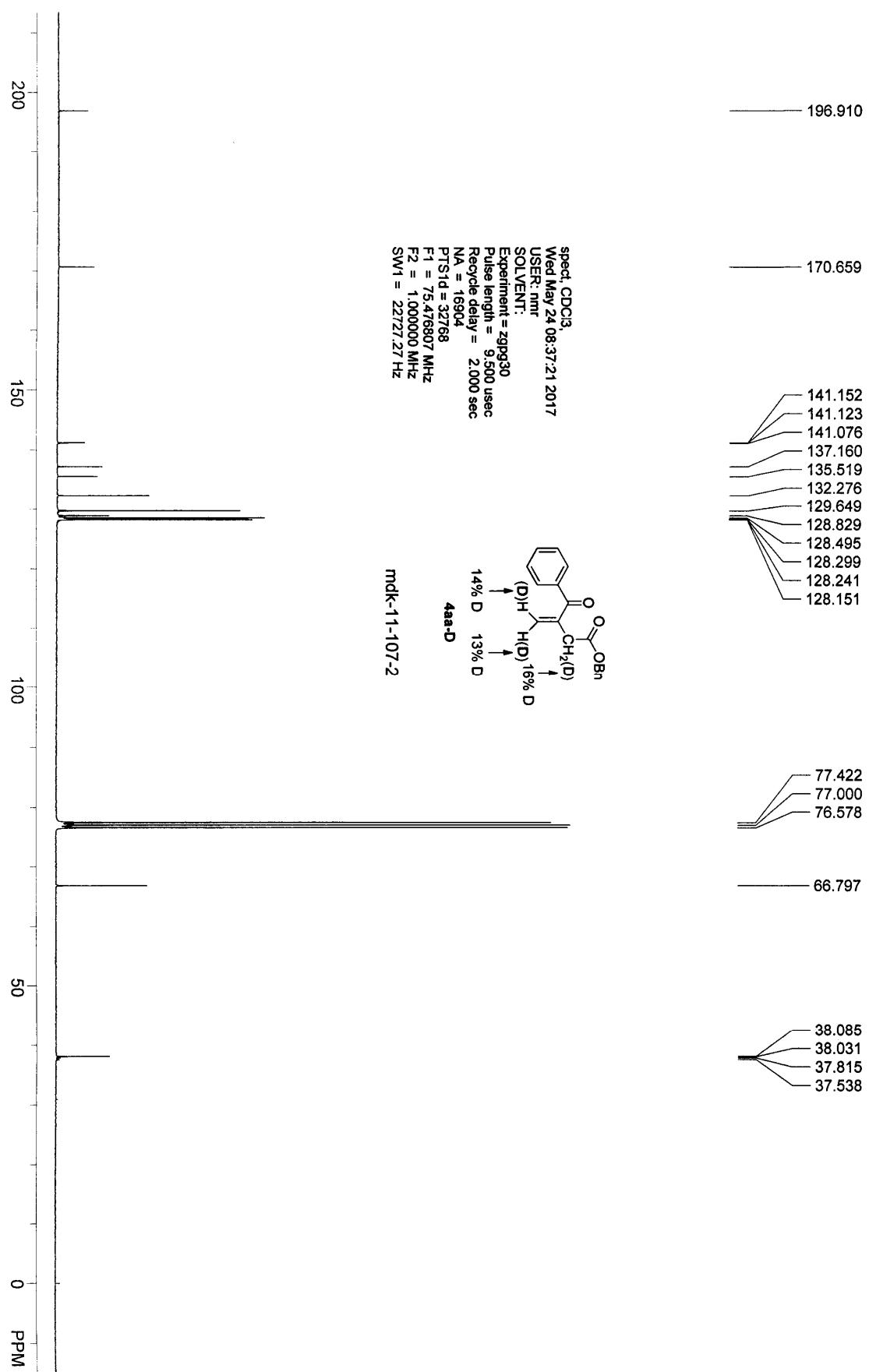








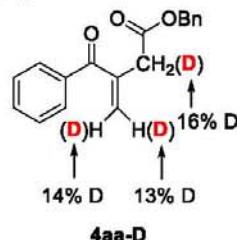






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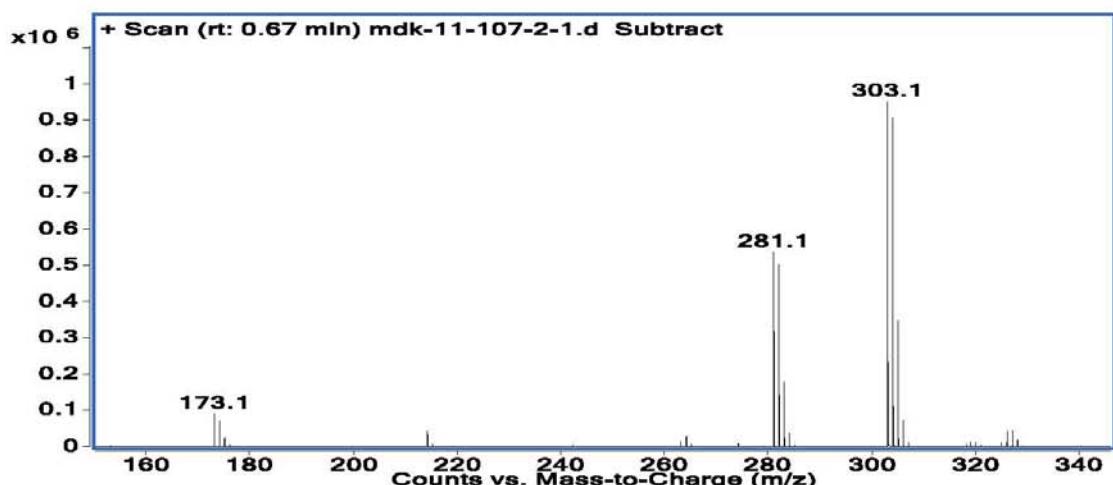
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Operator: Wang, Jiawei

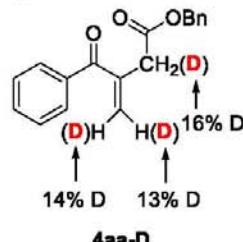
Date: 2018/05/22

### Operation Mode: ESI-Positive



Instrument: Agilent UHD Accurate Mass Q-TOF LC-MS

Sample Serial Number: mdk-11-107-2



**4aa-D**

Operator: Wang, Jiawei

Date: 2018/05/22

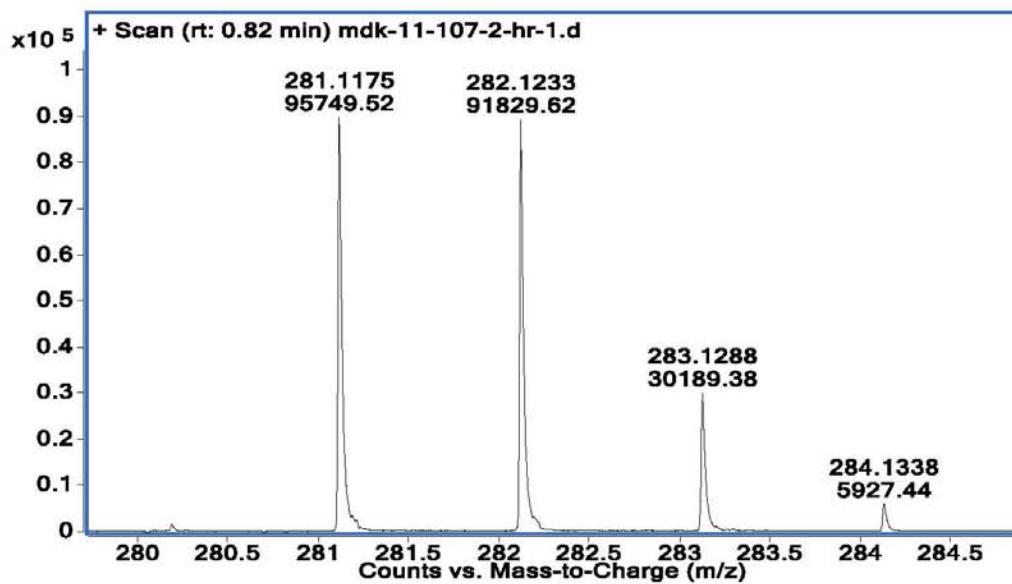
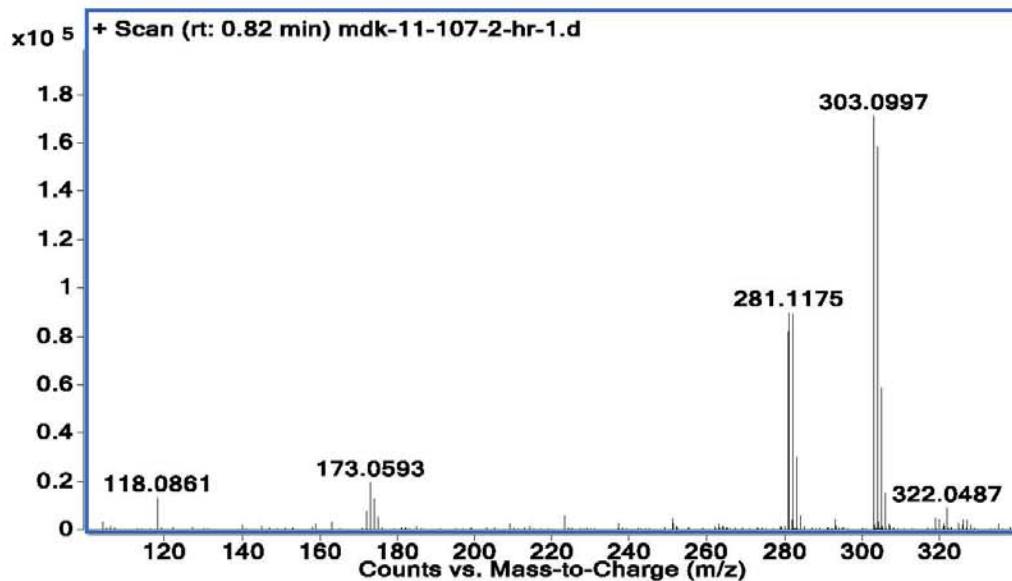
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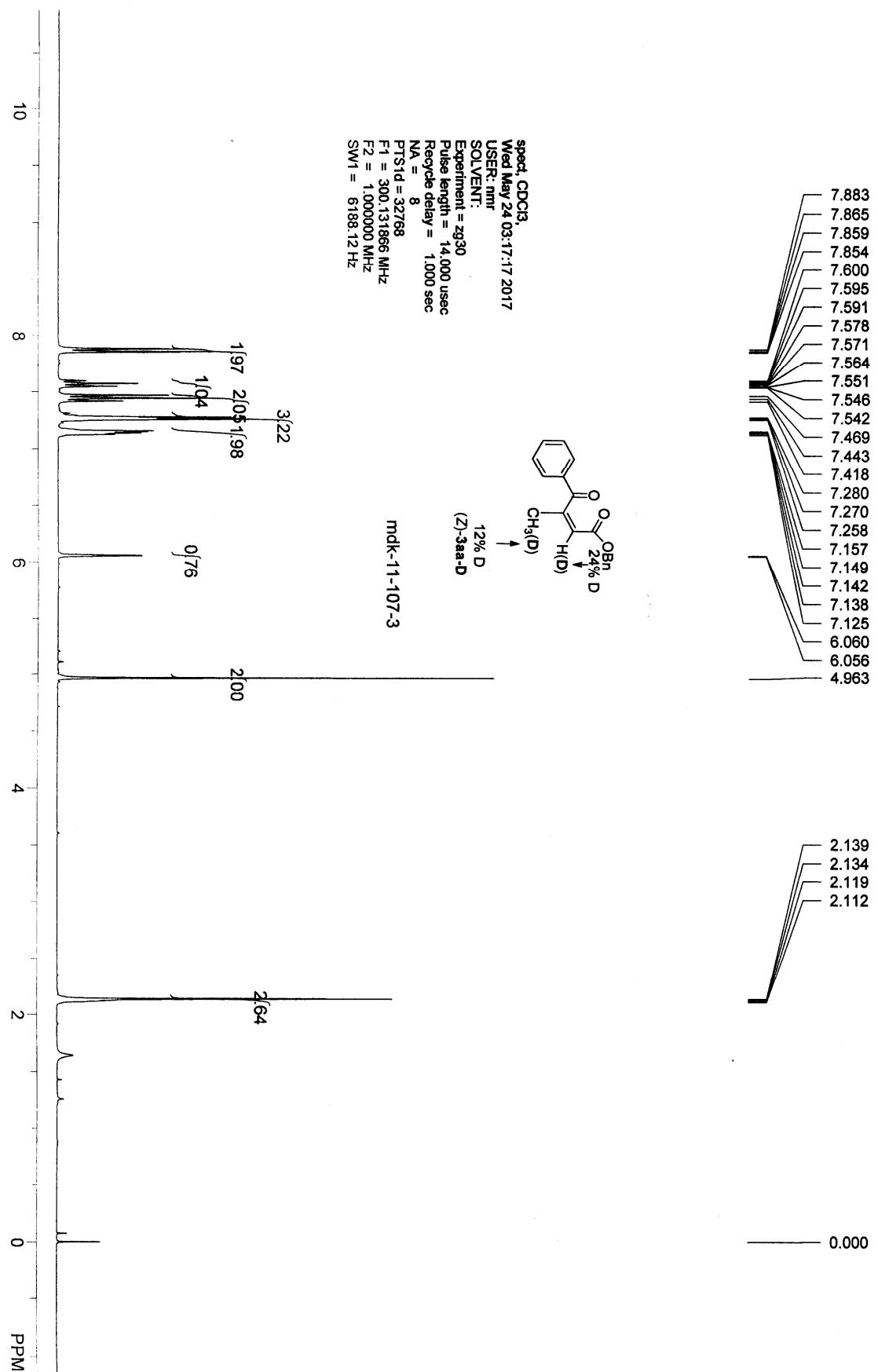
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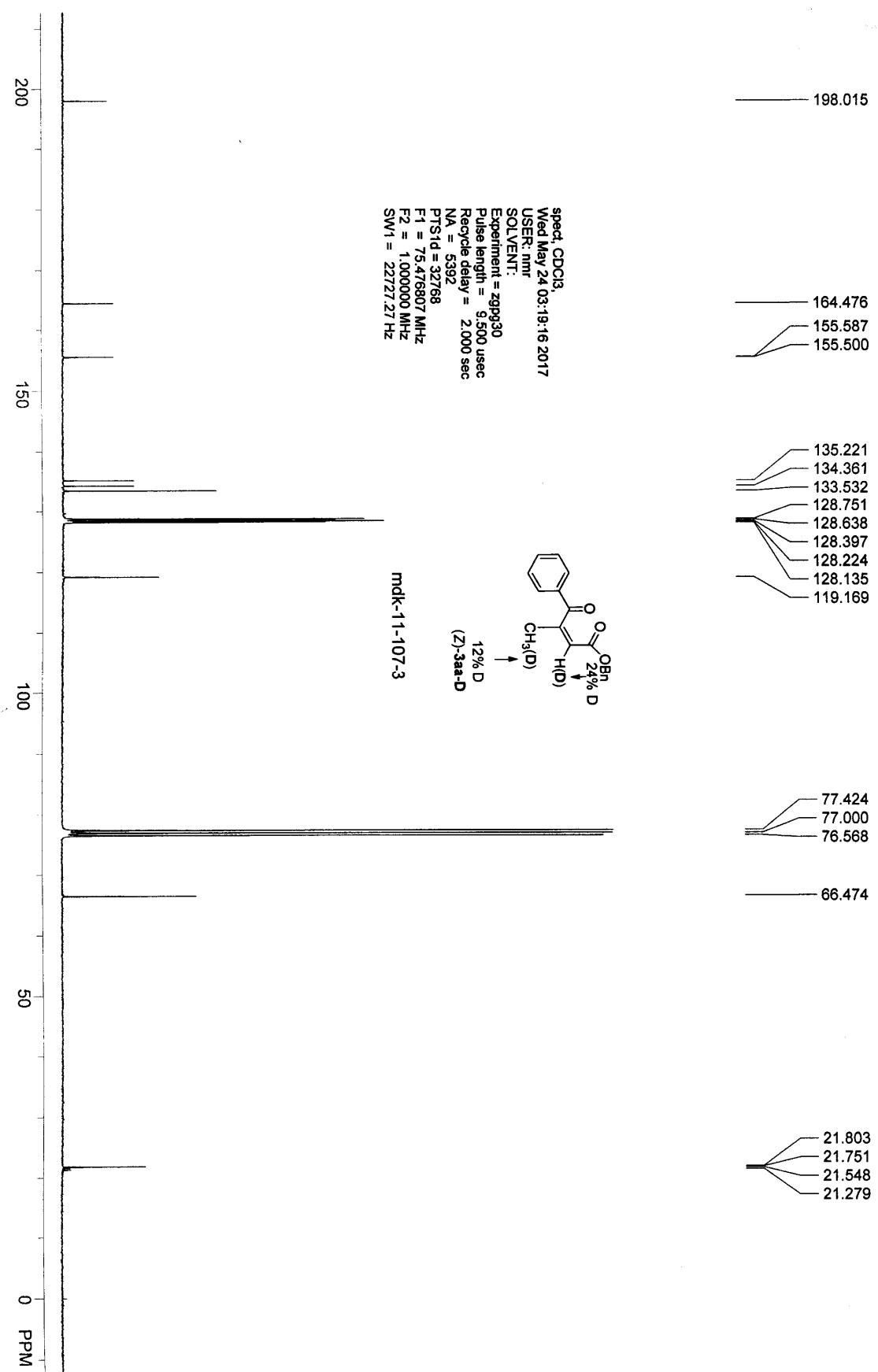
C: 0-80; H: 0-100; O: 0-10; Na: 0-1; D: 0-5

Formula (M)	m/z	m/z (Calc)	Diff (ppm)	DBE
C18 H17 O3	281.1175	281.1172	-0.99	10.5



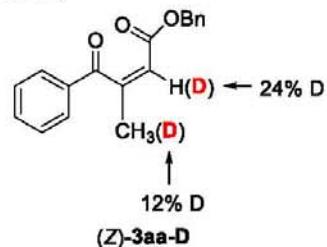
Reference ions:  $m/z$  118.0861 (calc. 118.0863<sup>+</sup>);  $m/z$  322.0487 (calc. 322.0481)





Instrument: Agilent UHD Accurate Mass Q-TOF LC-MS

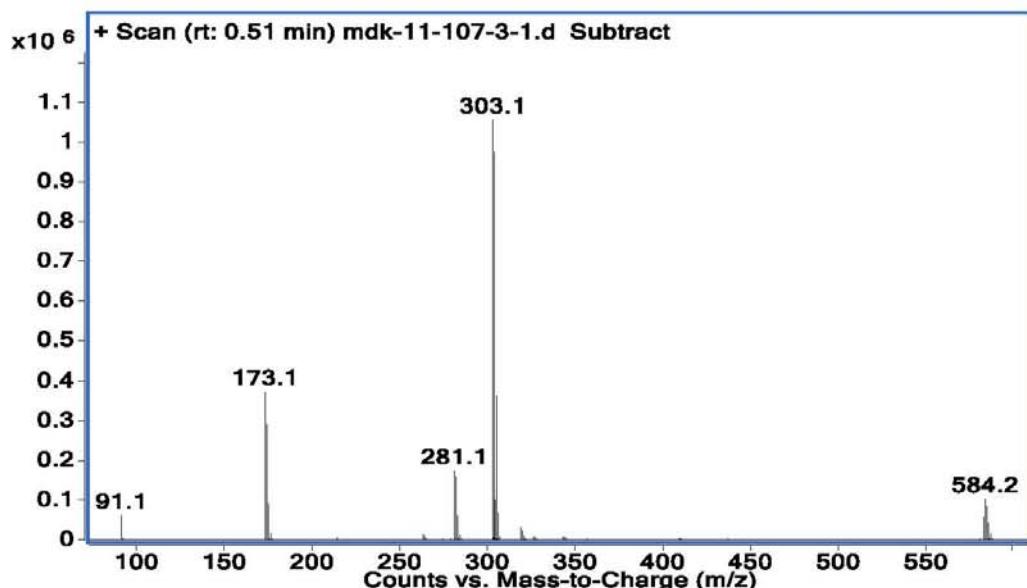
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Operator: Wang, Jiawei

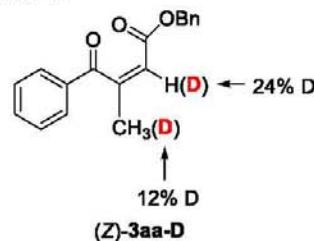
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Operation Mode: ESI-Positive



Instrument: Agilent UHD Accurate Mass Q-TOF LC-MS

Sample Serial Number: mdk-11-107-3



Operator: Wang, Jiawei

Date: 2018/05/22

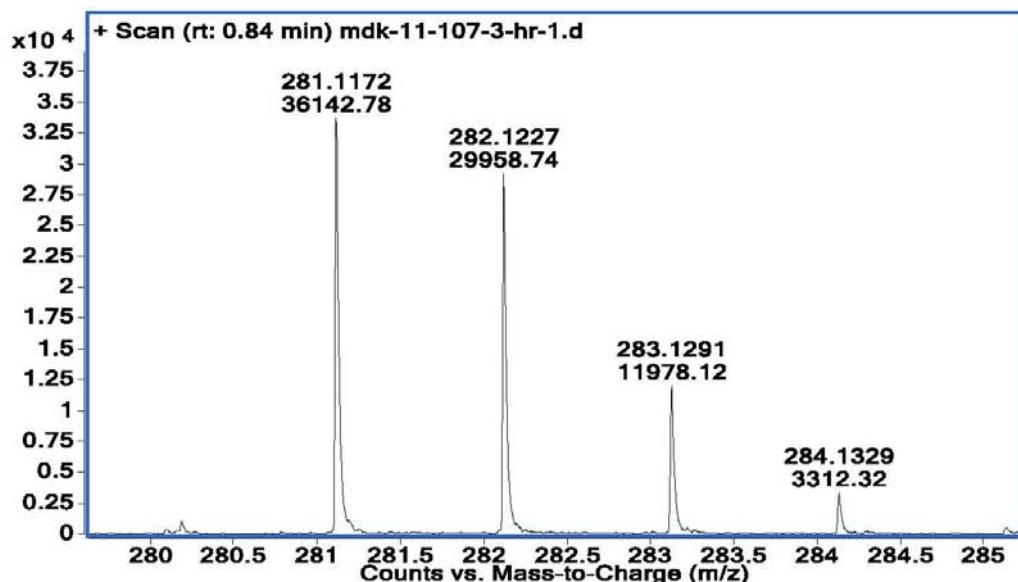
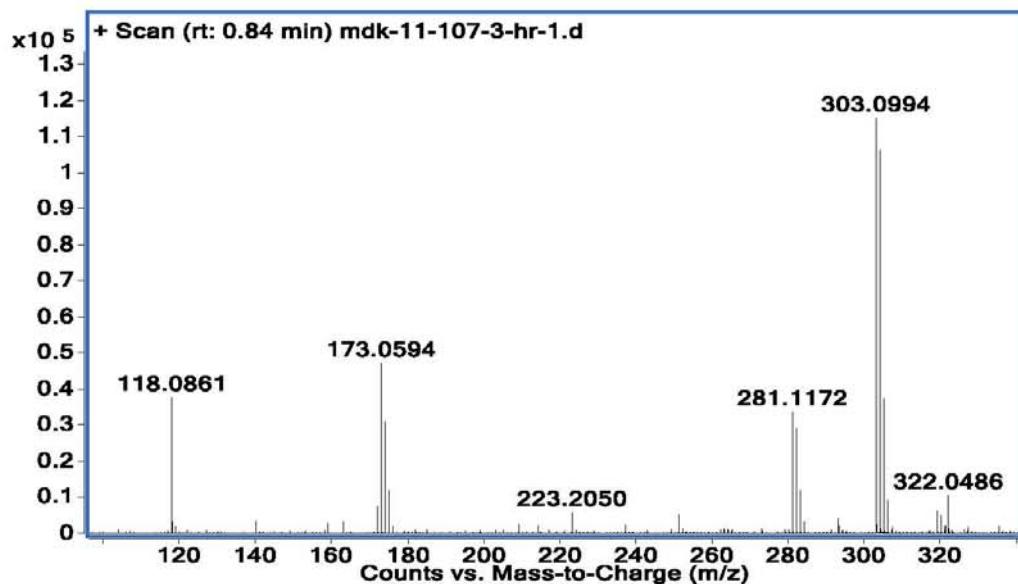
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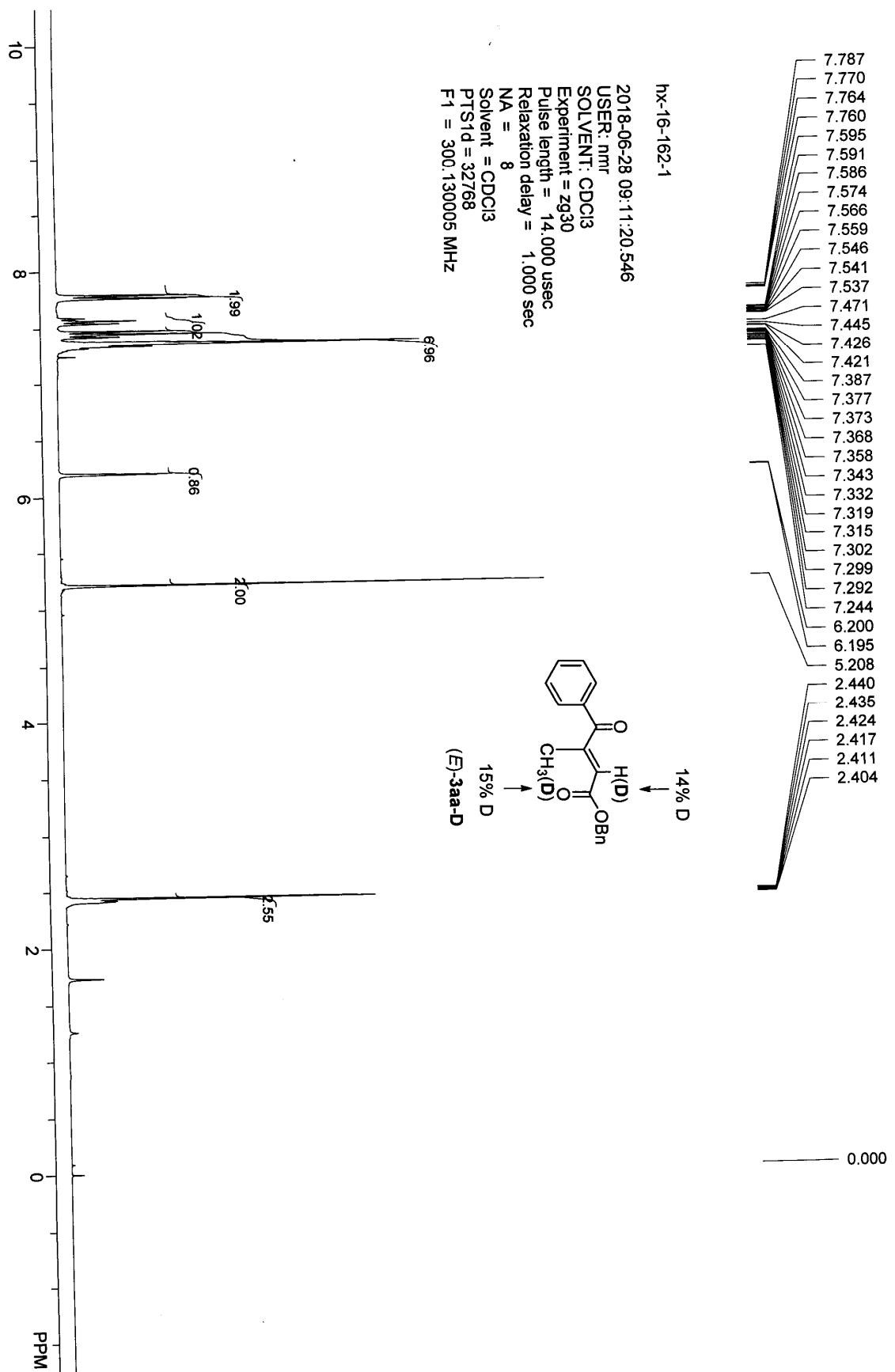
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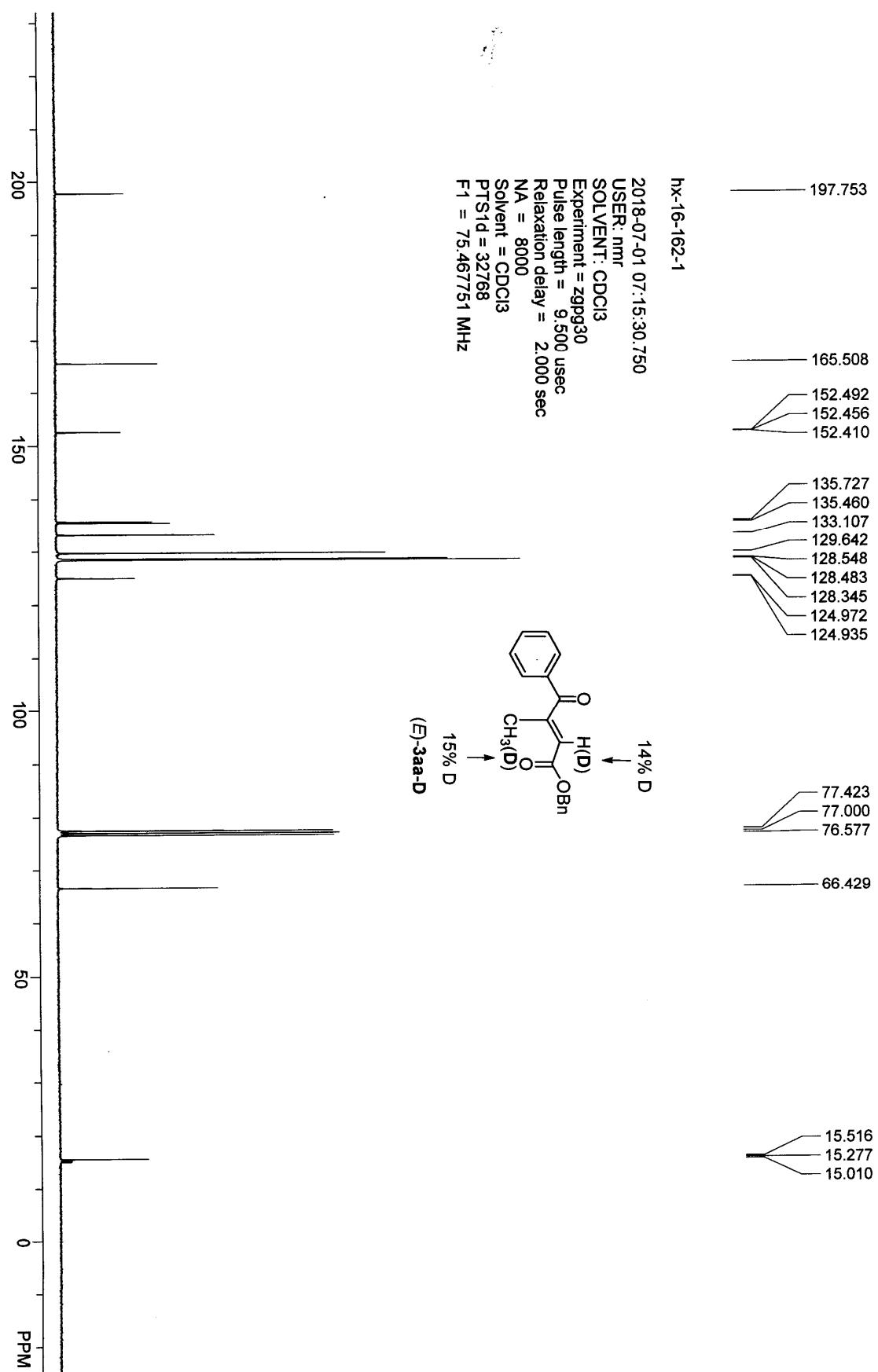
C: 0-80; H: 0-100; O: 0-10; Na: 0-1; D: 0-5

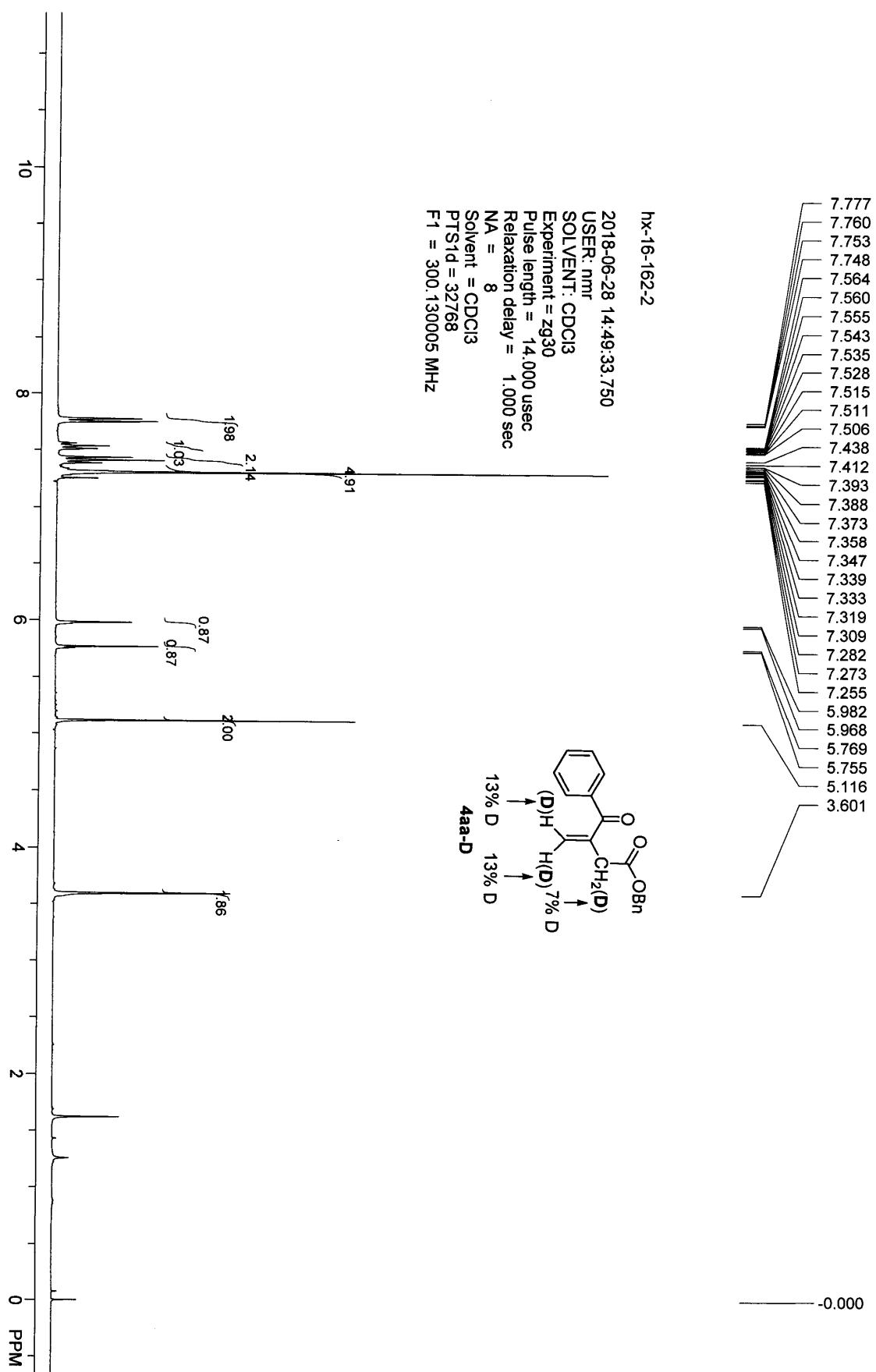
	Formula (M)	m/z	m/z (Calc)	Diff (ppm)	DBE
►	C18 H17 O3	281.1172	281.1172	0.07	10.5
	C11 H13 D4 O8	281.1172	281.1169	-1.06	3.5
	C9 H18 D2 Na O8	281.1172	281.1176	1.4	-0.5
	C9 H16 D3 Na O8	281.1172	281.116	-4.11	0
	C11 H15 D3 O8	281.1172	281.1184	4.44	3

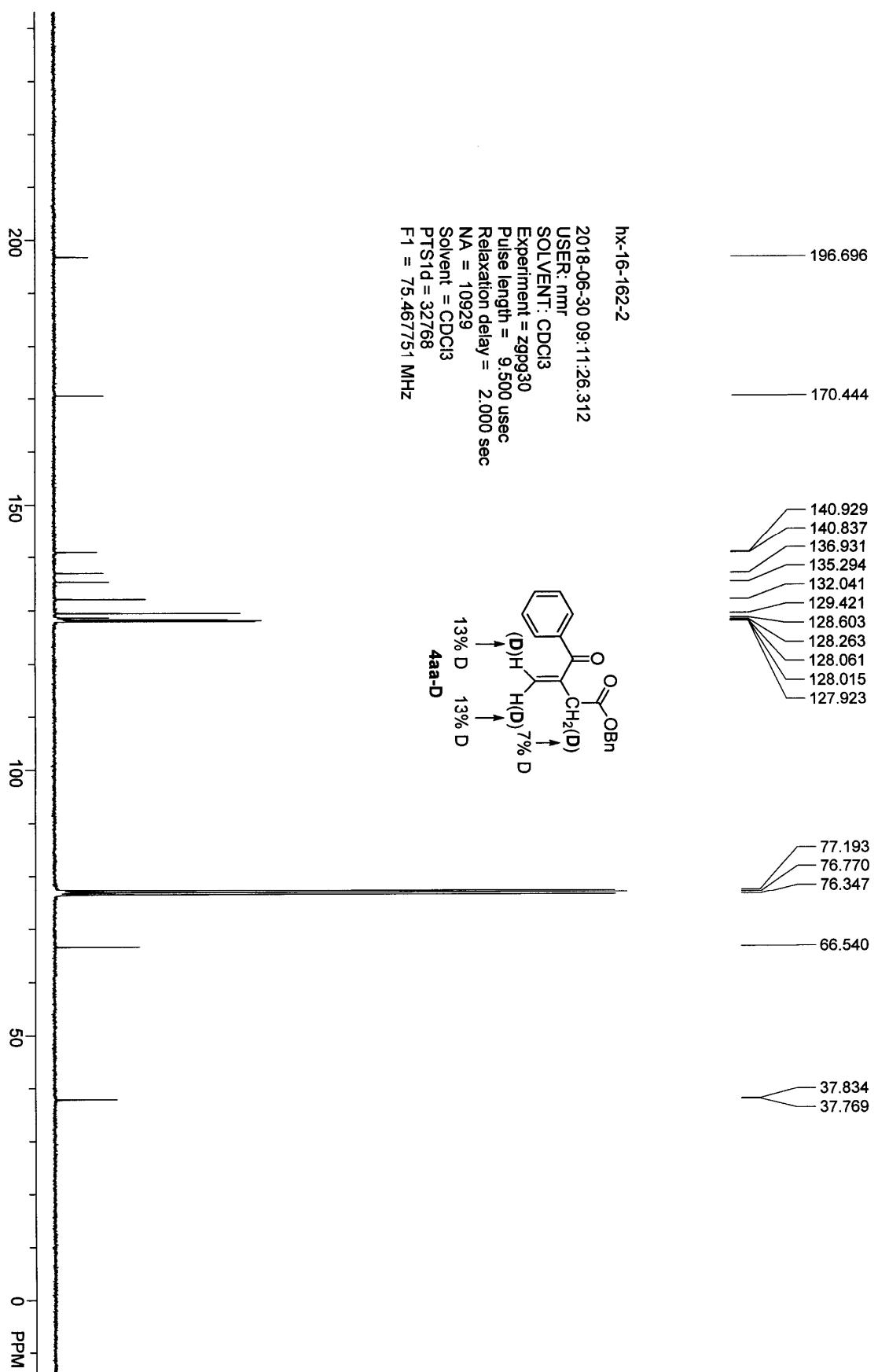


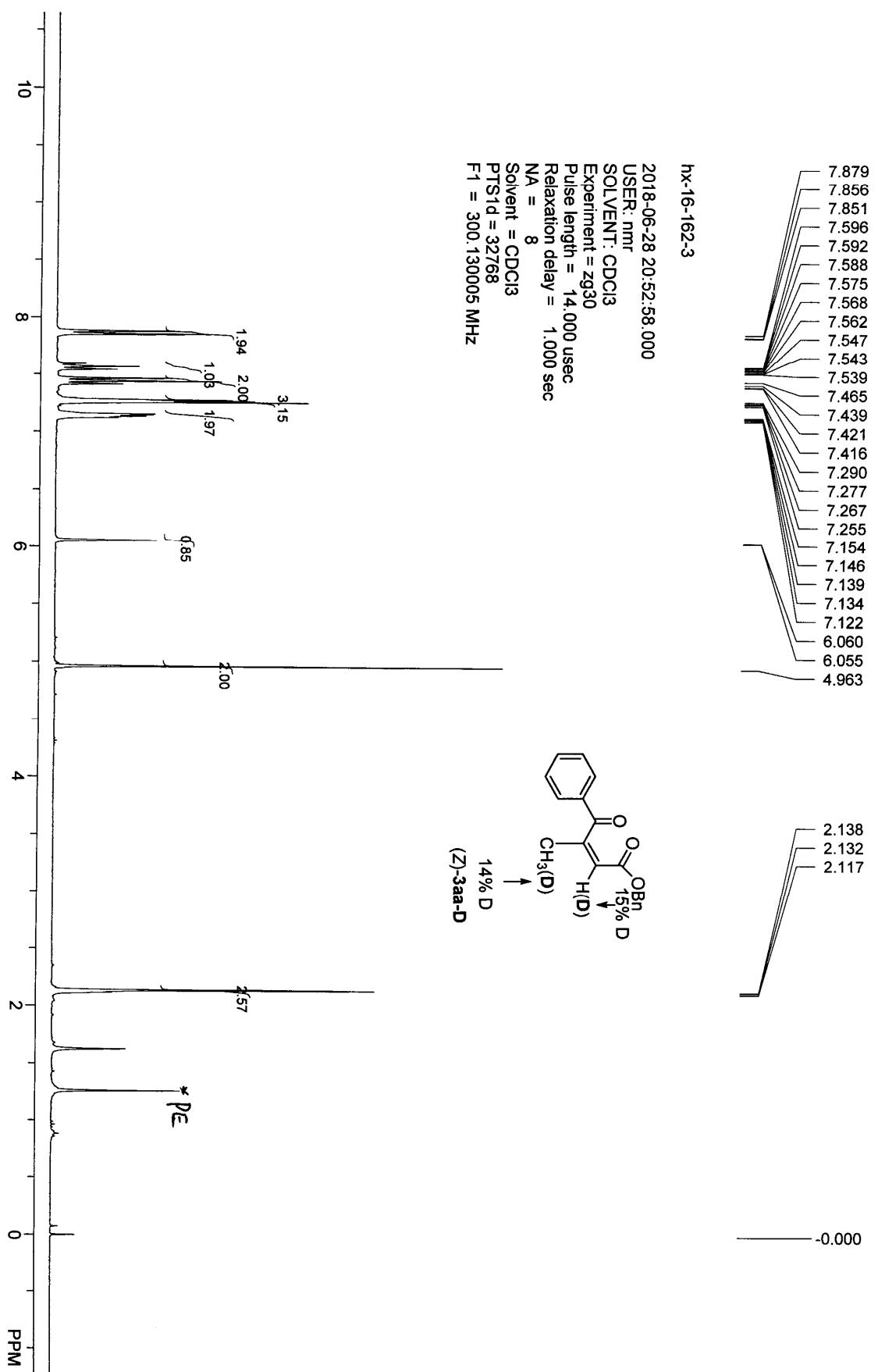
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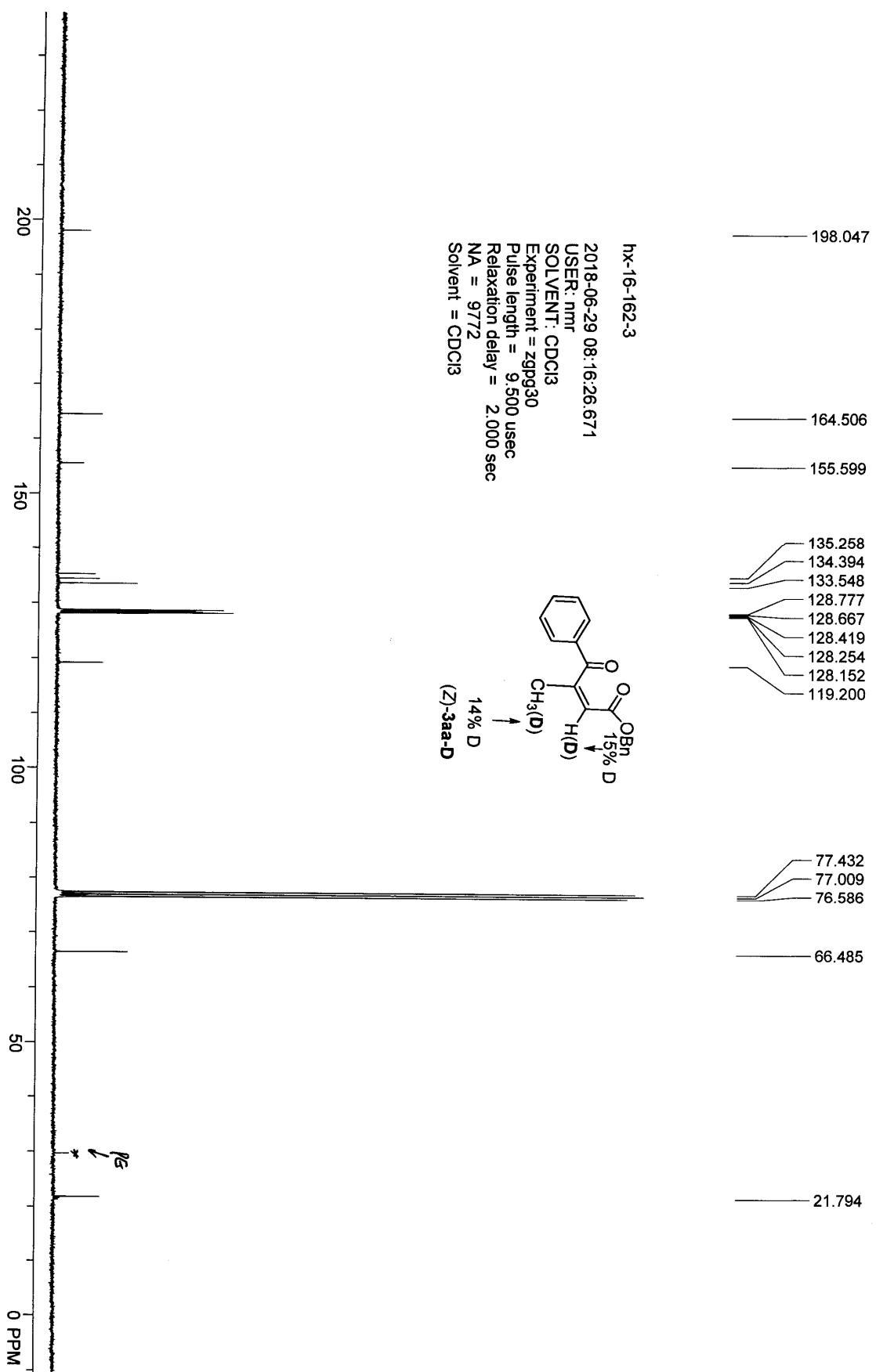


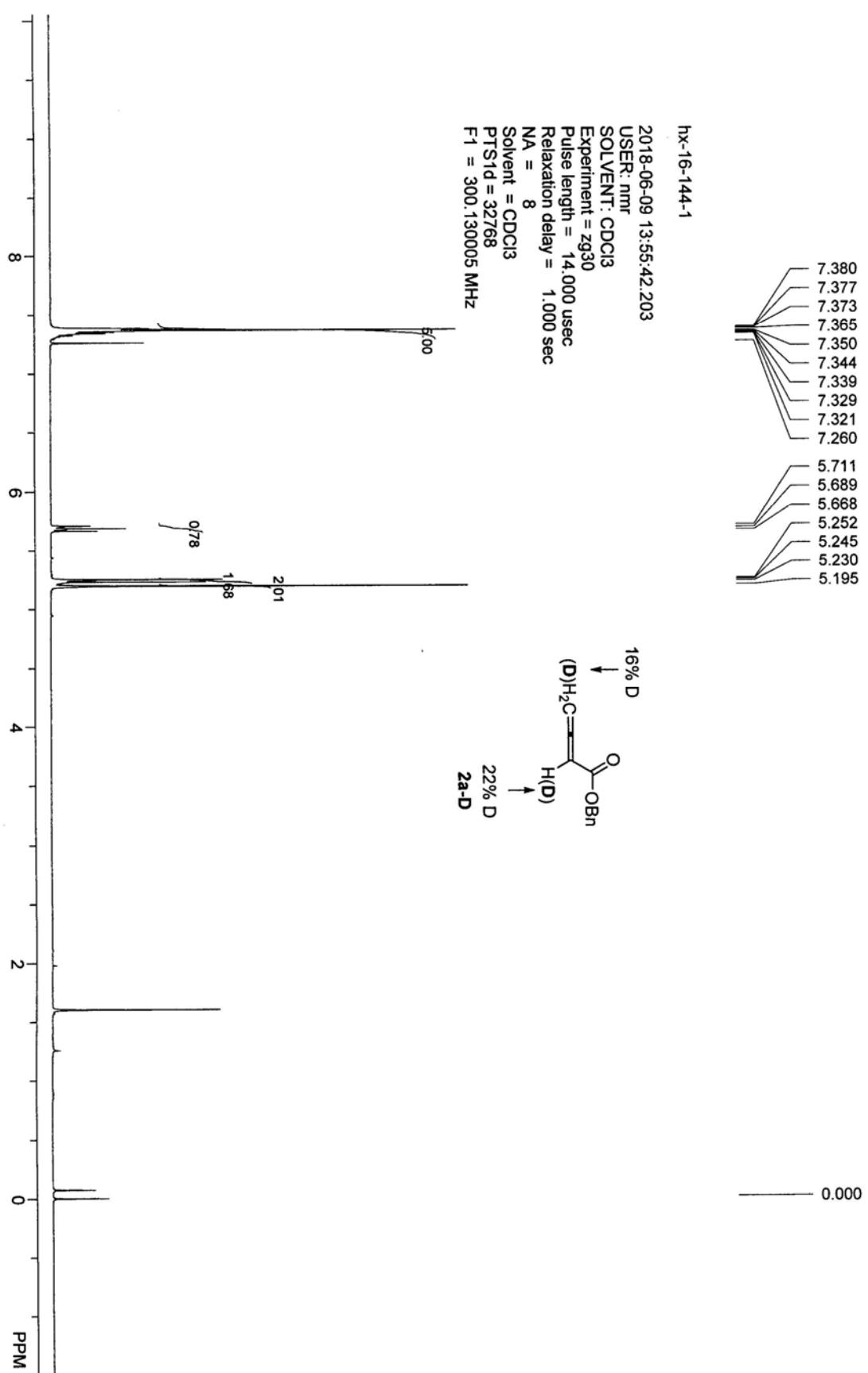


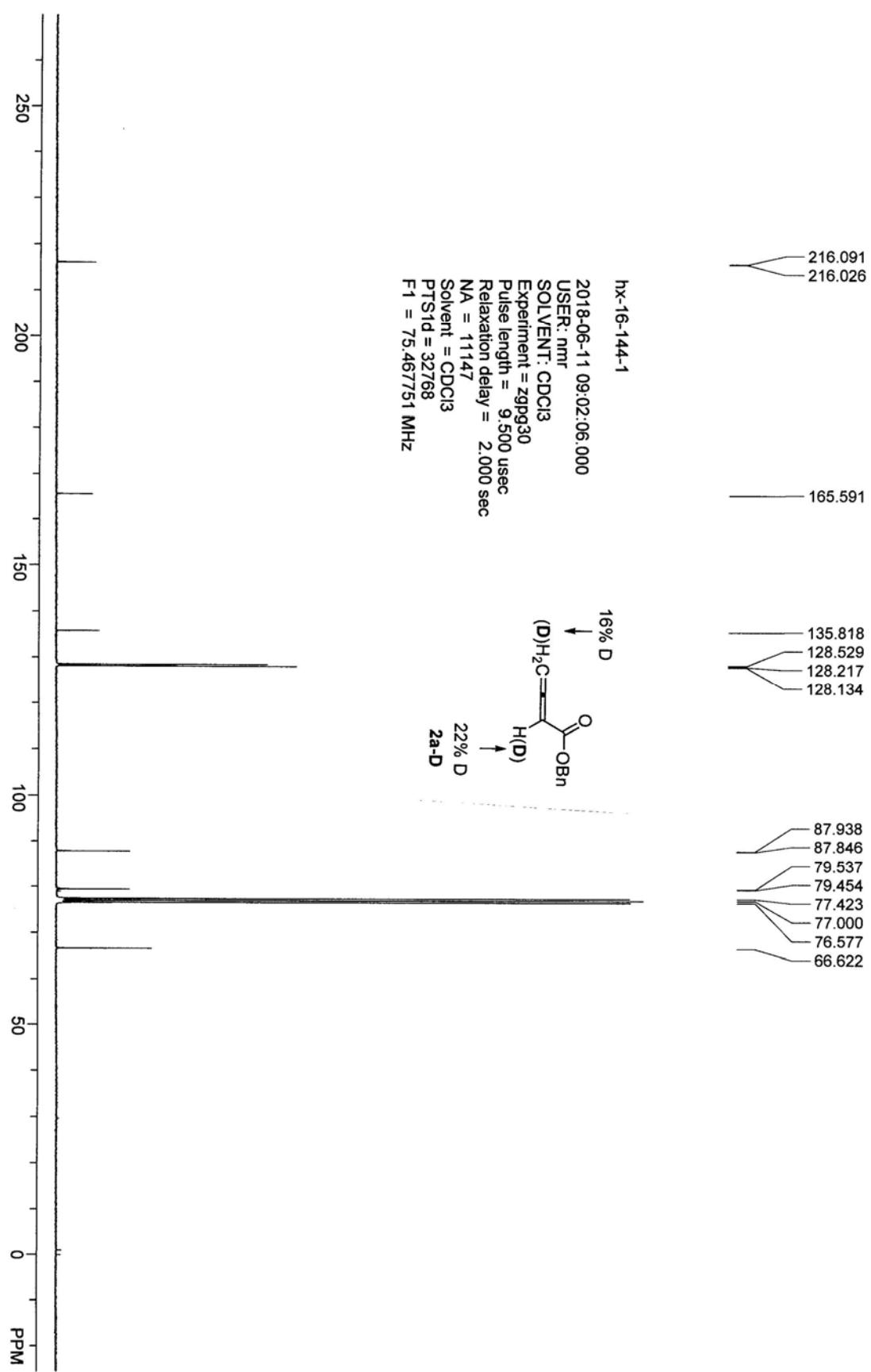


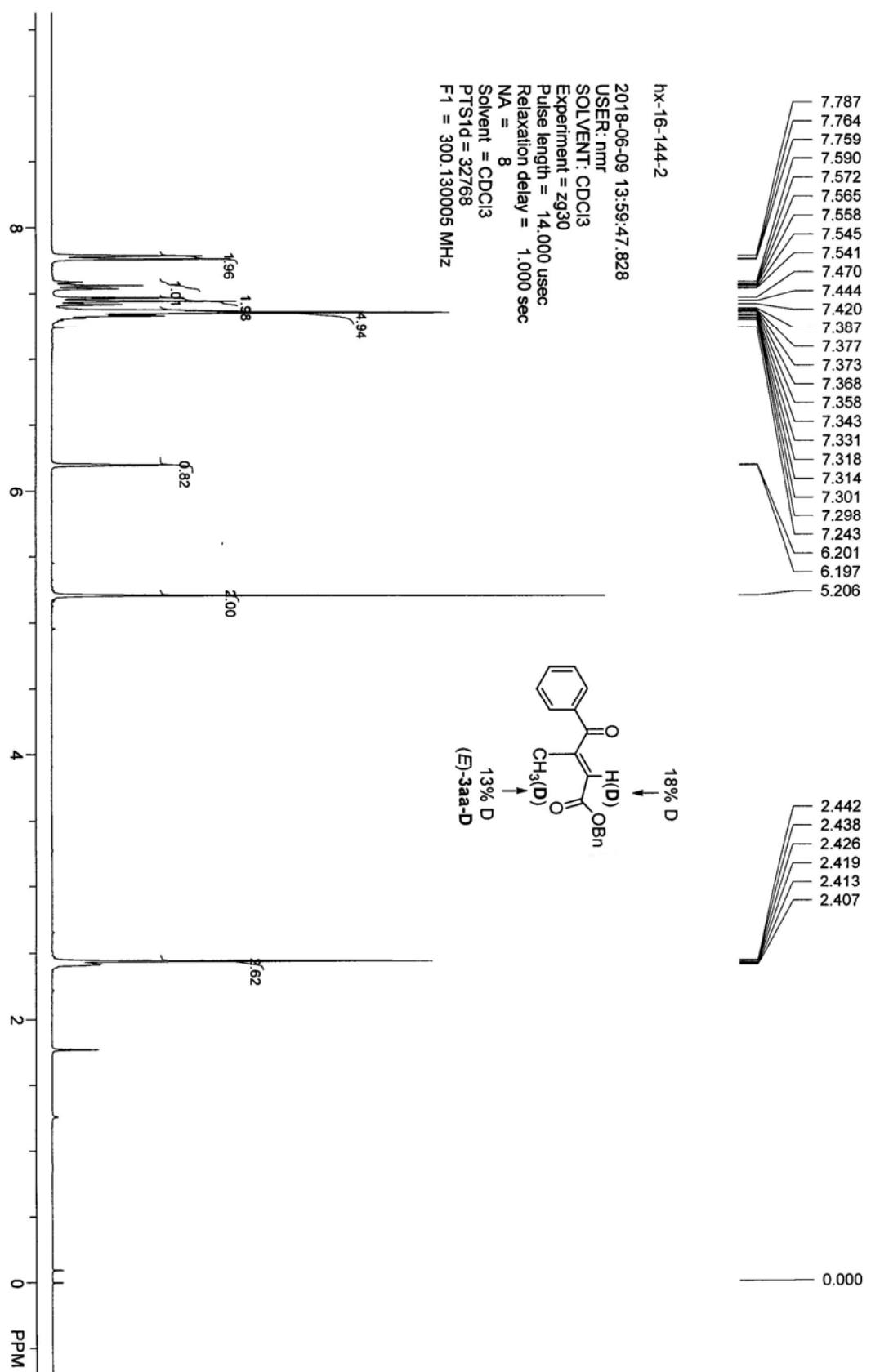


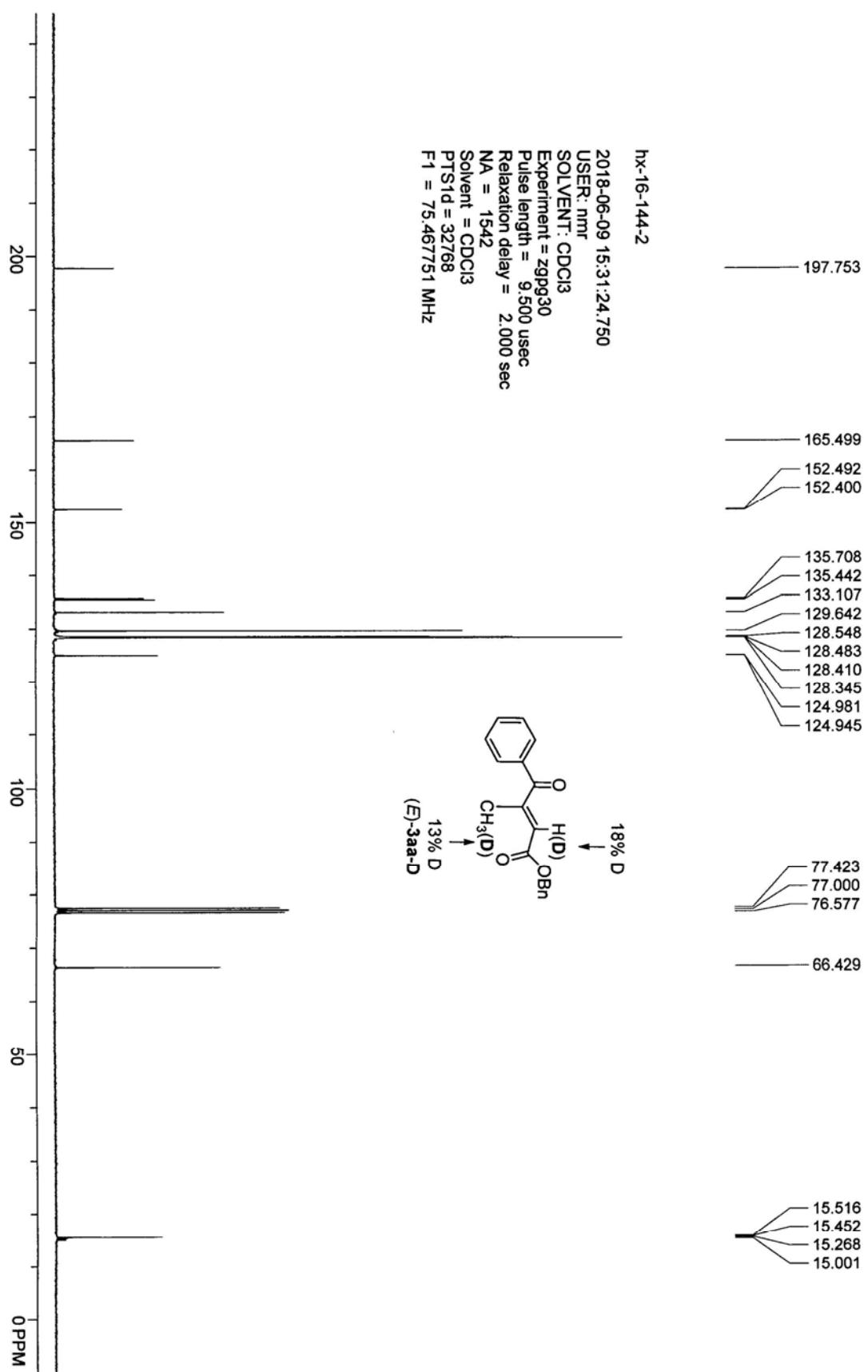












7.381  
7.377  
7.374  
7.366  
7.350  
7.346  
7.339  
7.330  
7.322  
7.312  
7.259  
  
5.712  
5.704  
5.690  
5.683  
5.668  
5.253  
5.246  
5.231  
5.220  
5.213  
5.195

hx-16-145-1

2018-06-09 17:04:40.156

USER: nmr

SOLVENT: CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Experiment = zg30

Pulse length = 14.000 usec

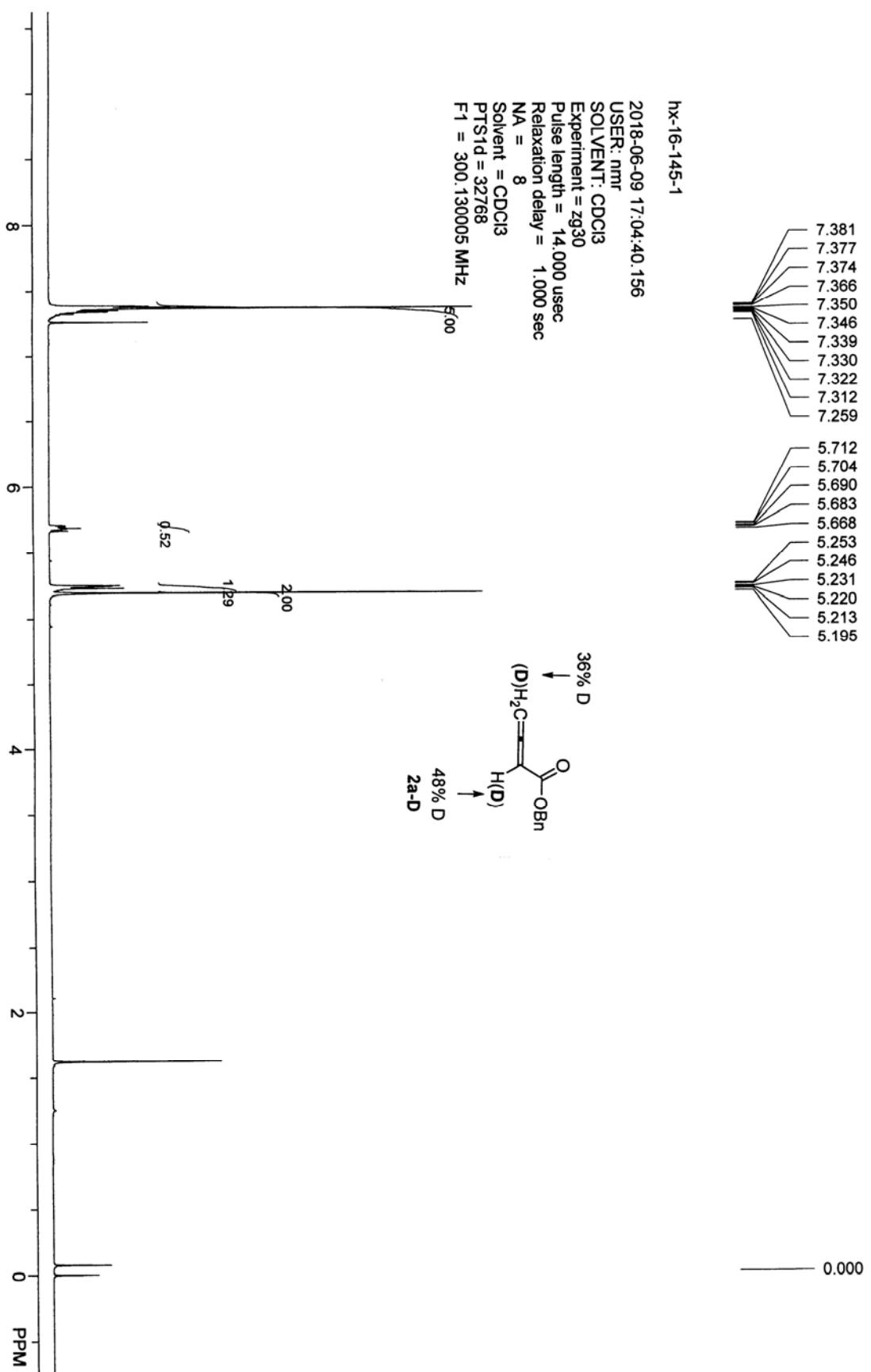
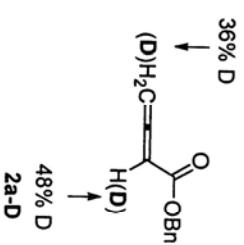
Relaxation delay = 1.000 sec

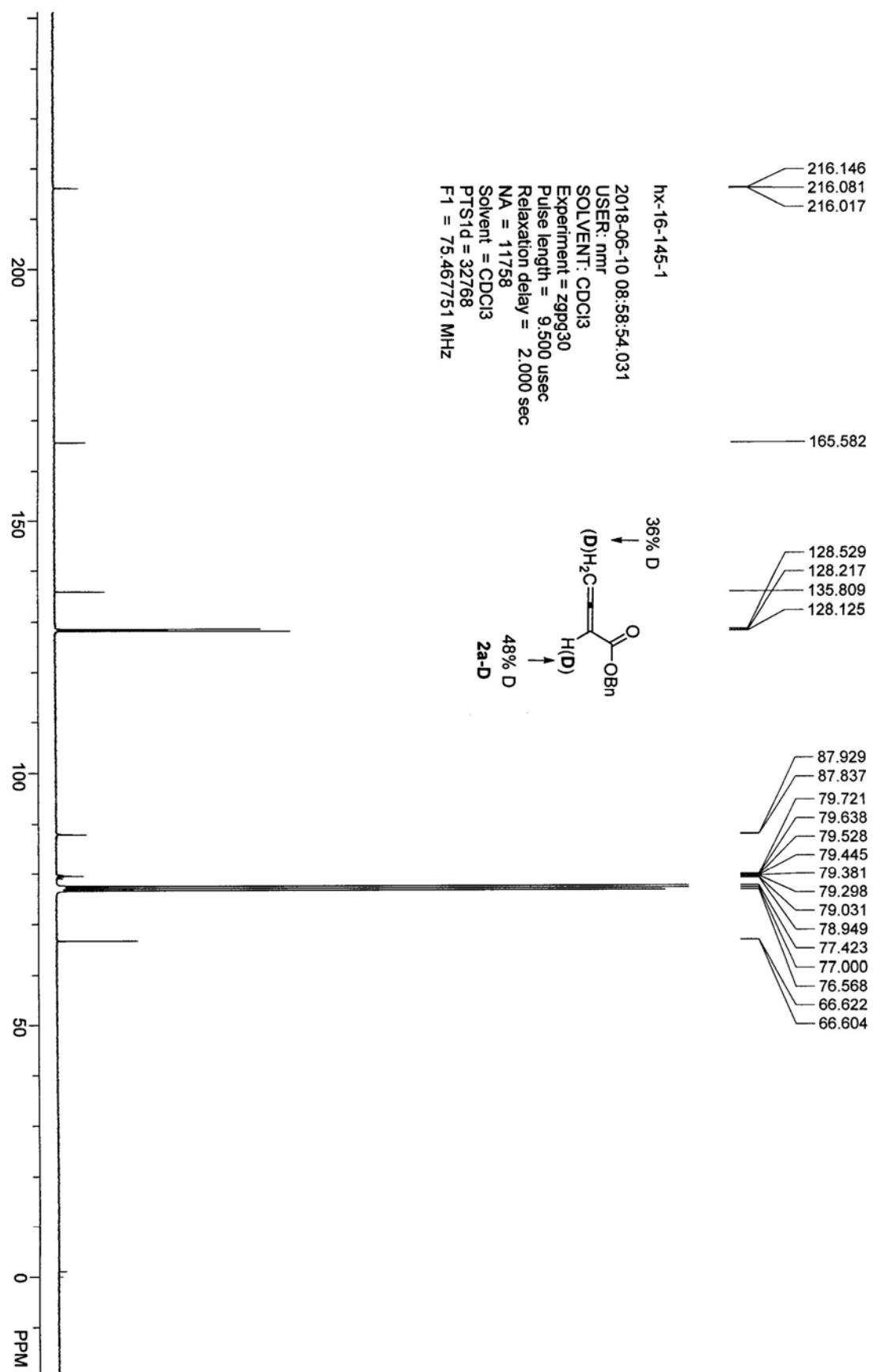
NA = 8

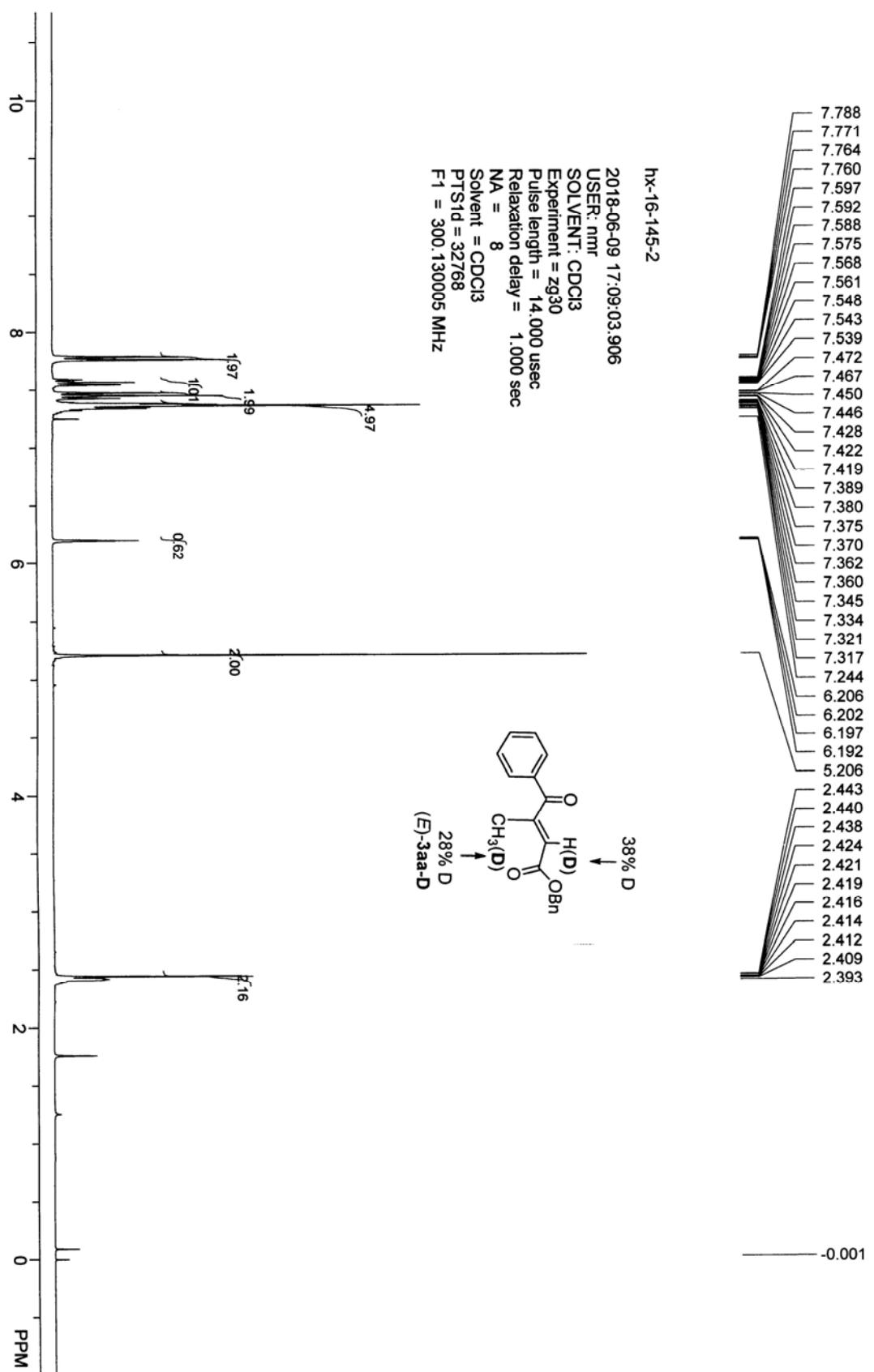
Solvent = CDCl<sub>3</sub>

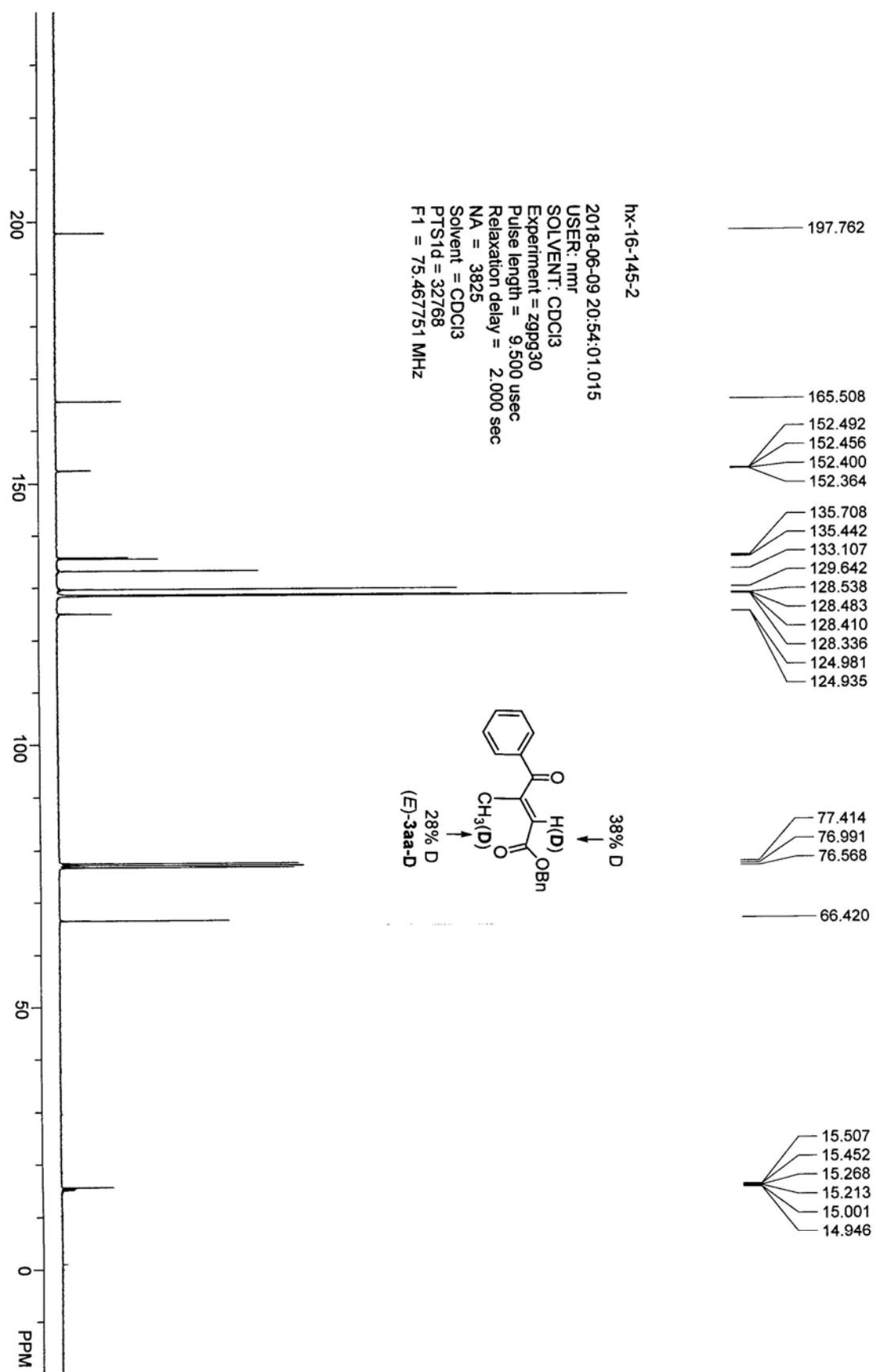
PTS1d = 32768

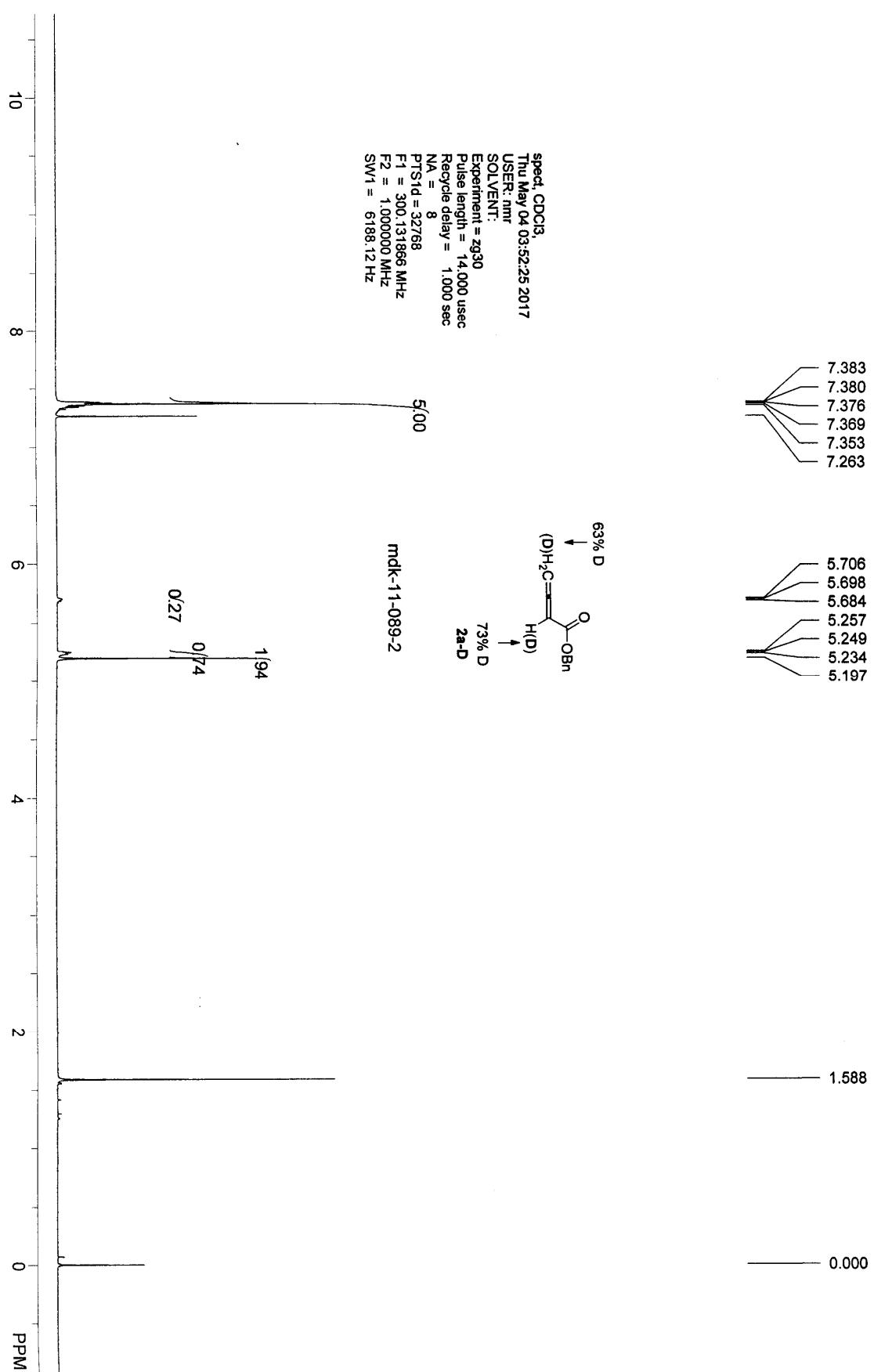
F1 = 300.130005 MHz

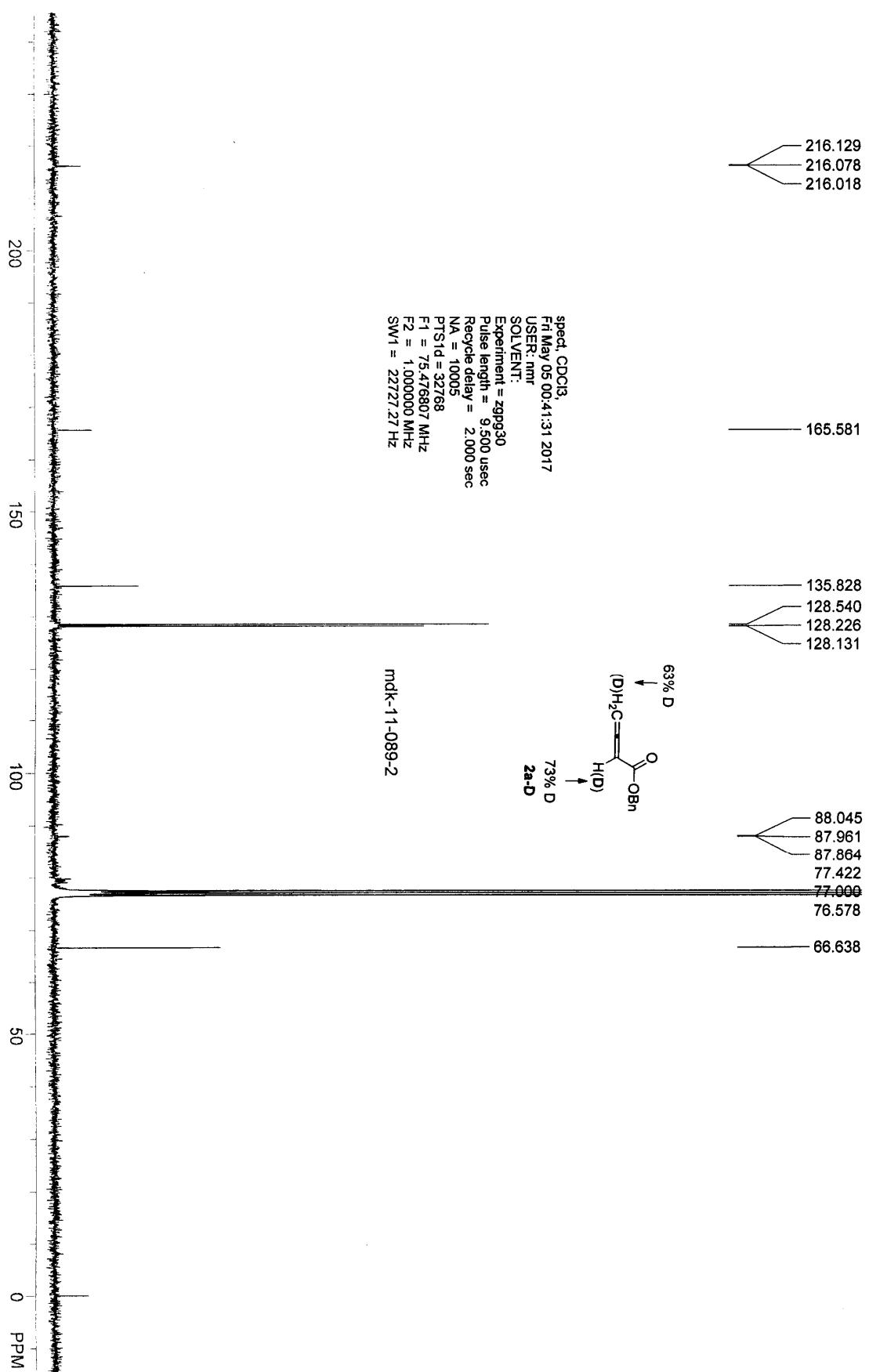


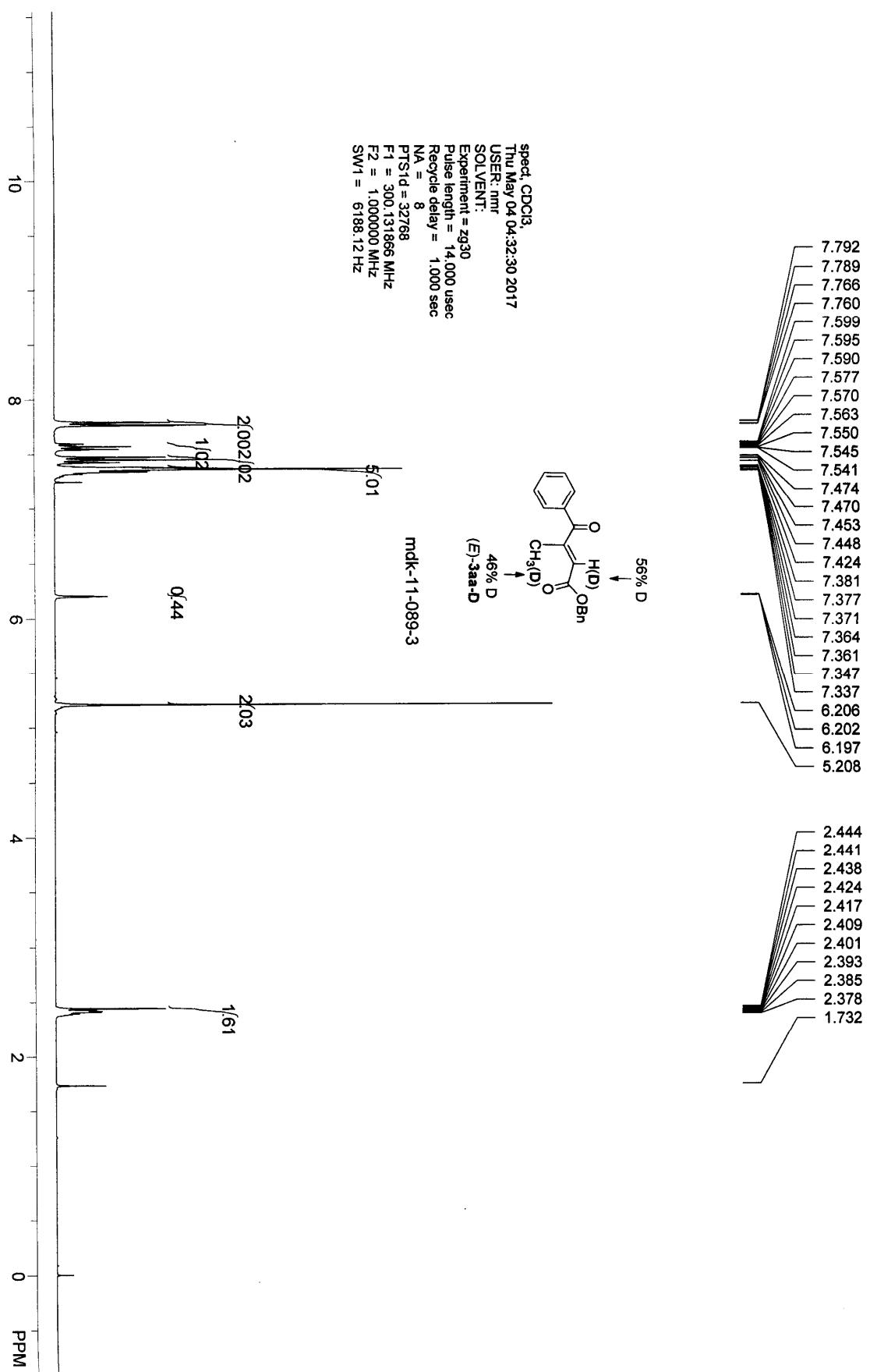


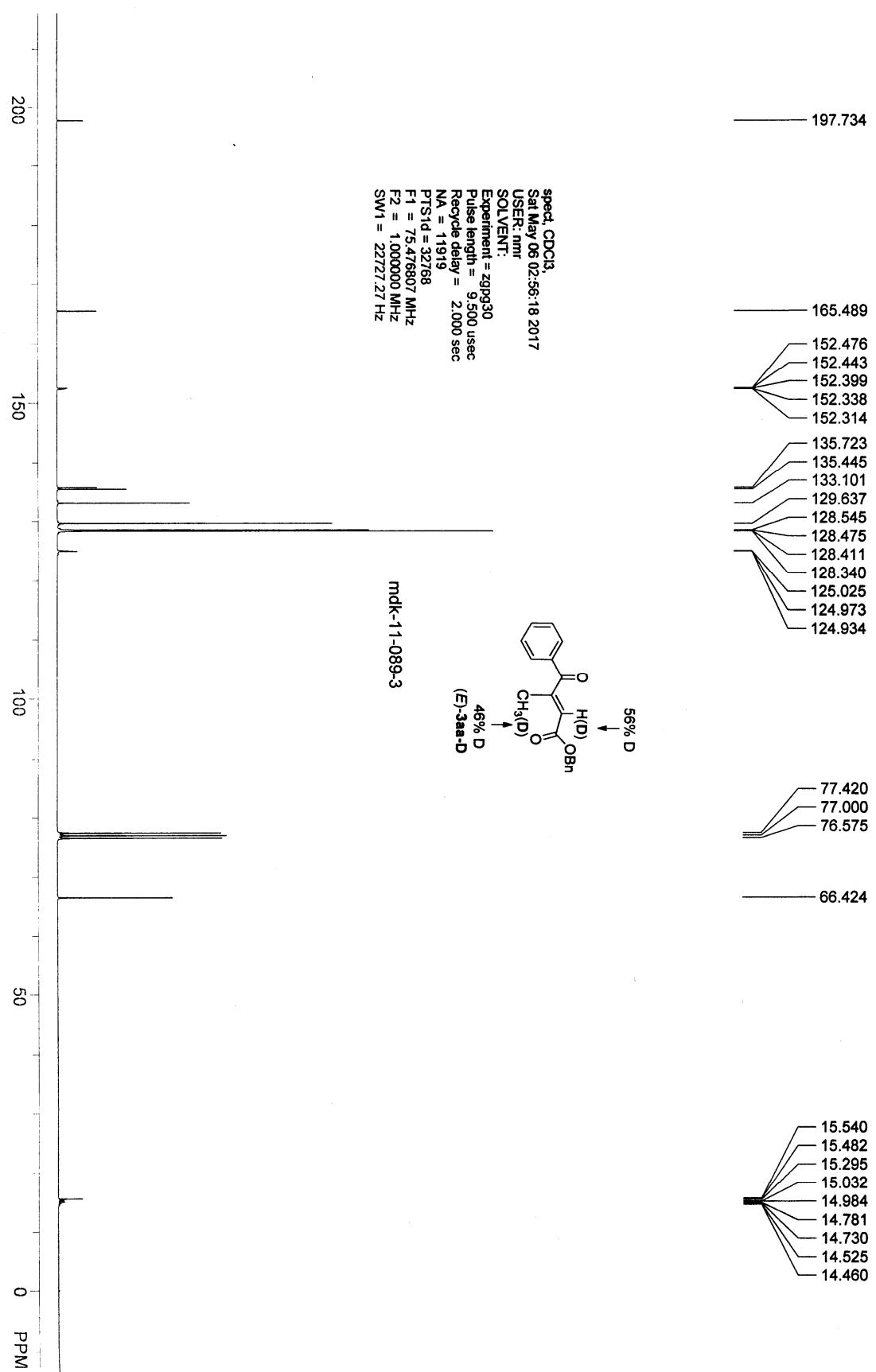


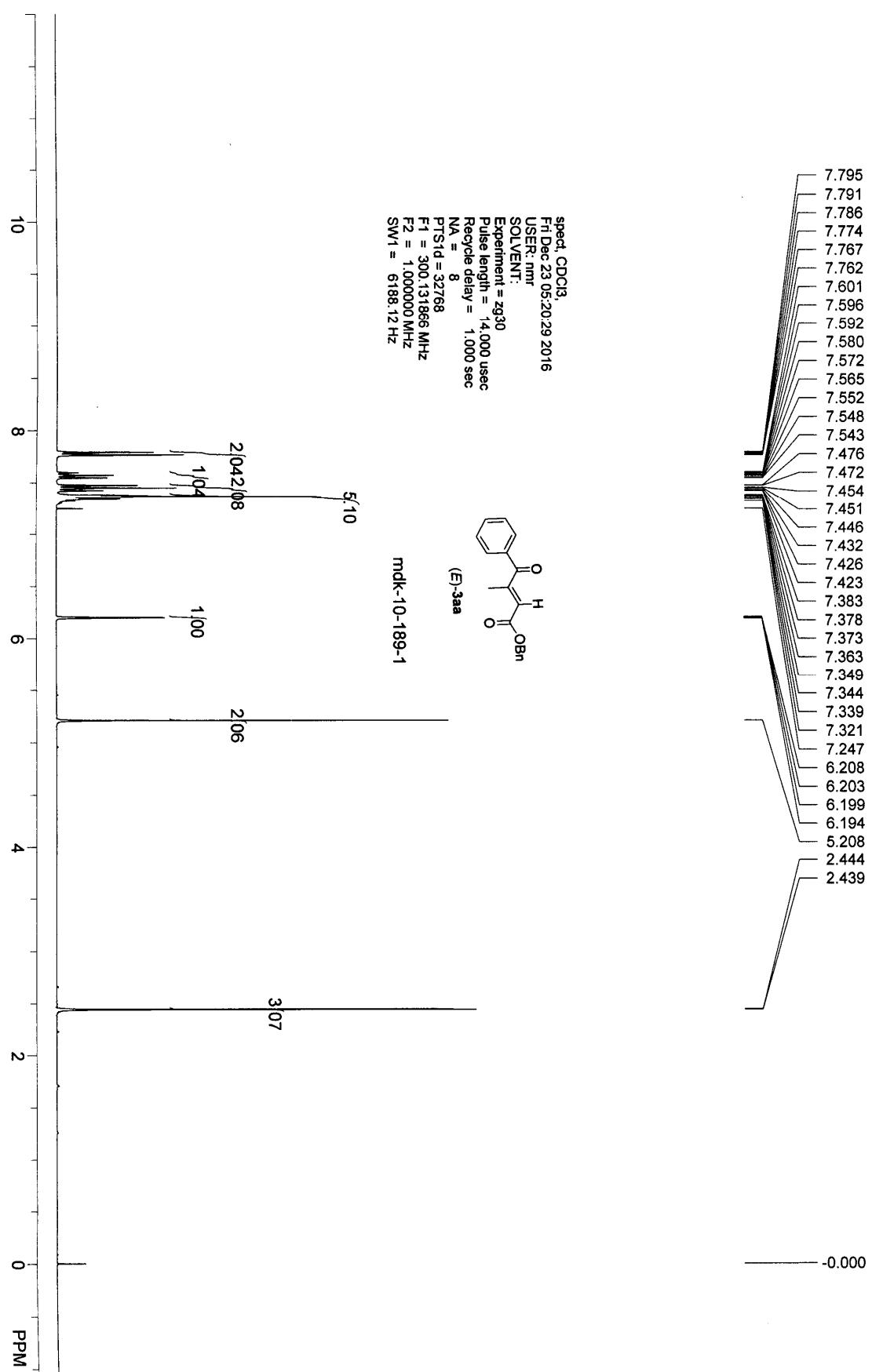


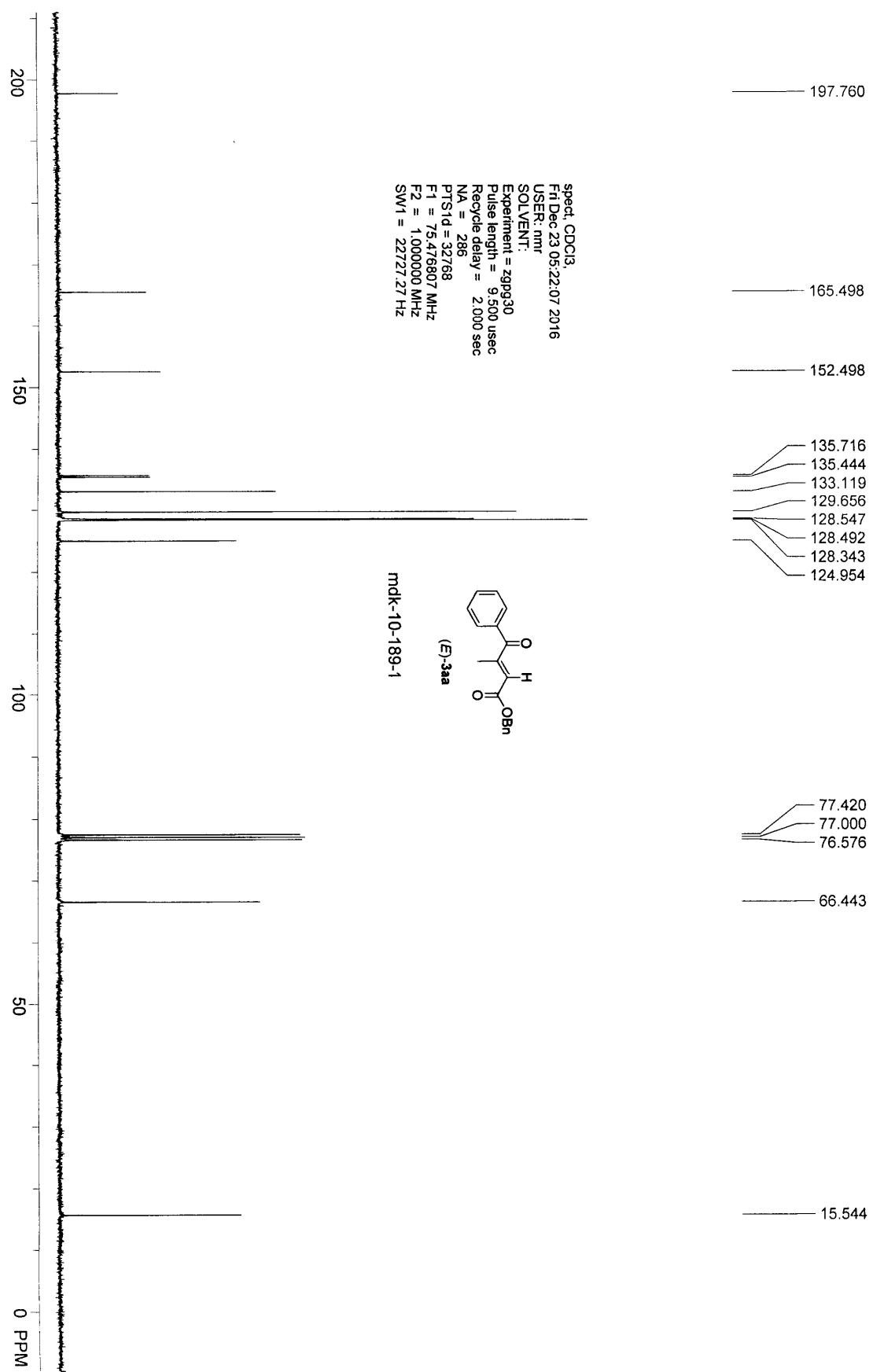


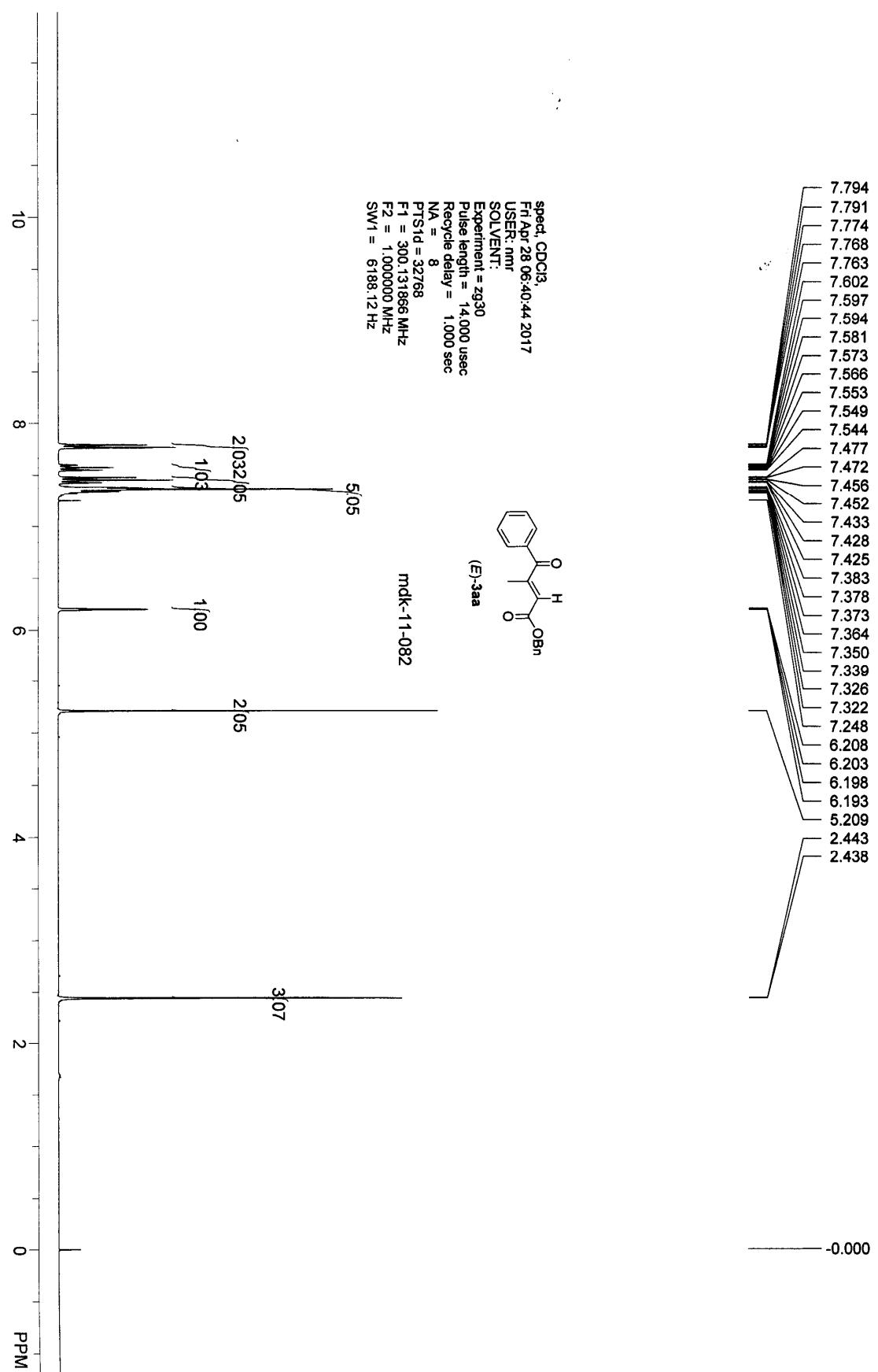


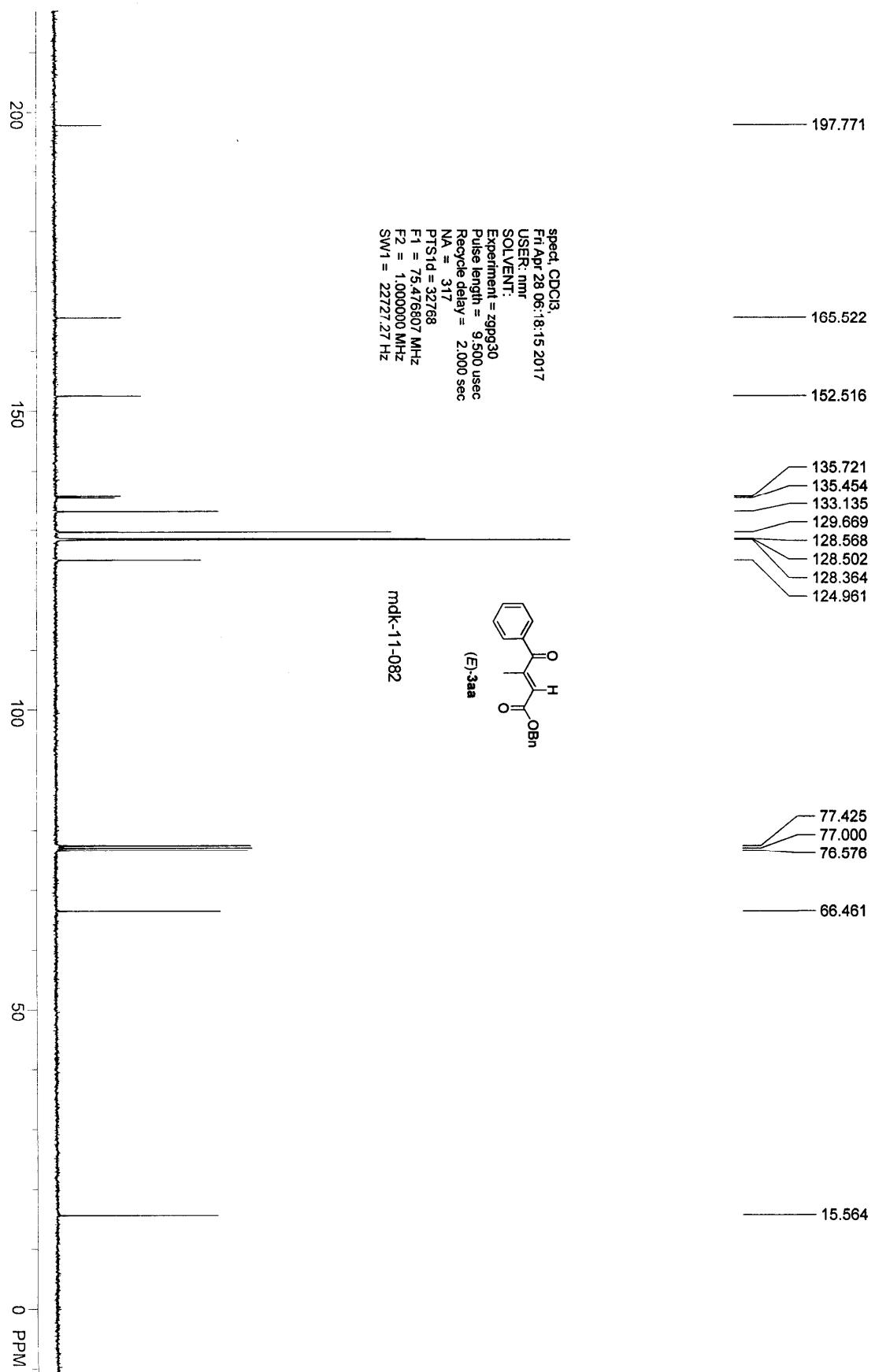


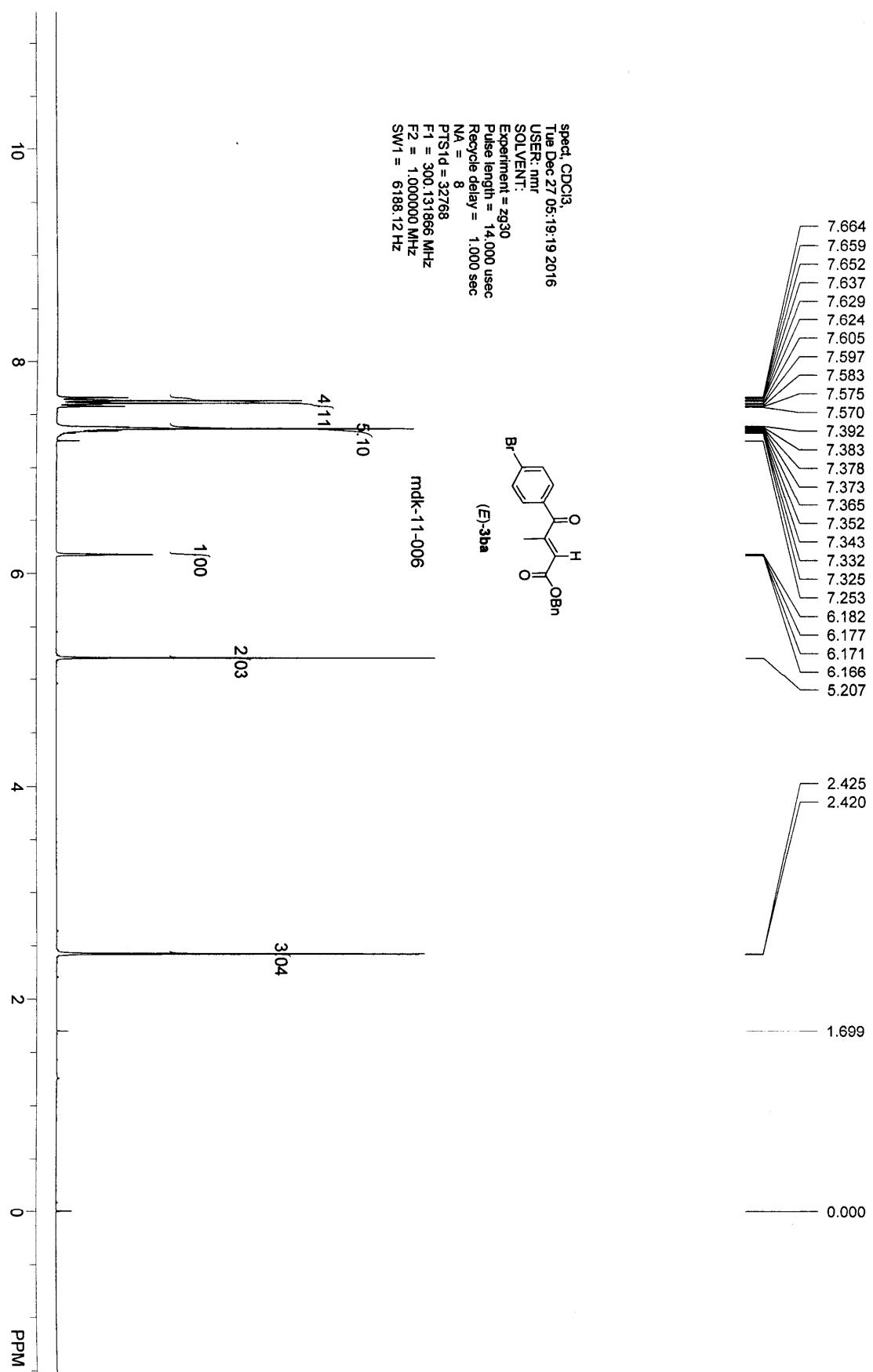


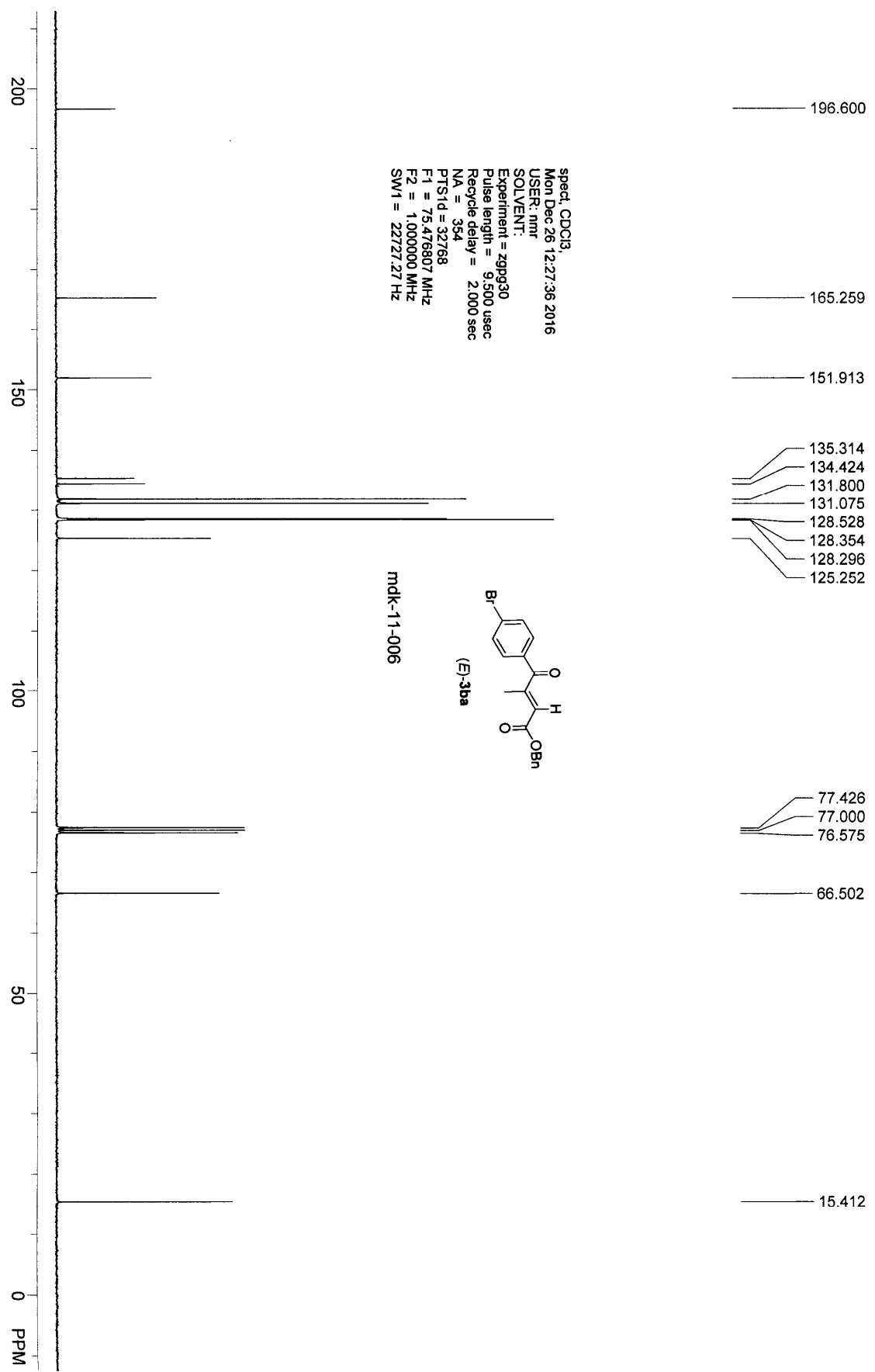


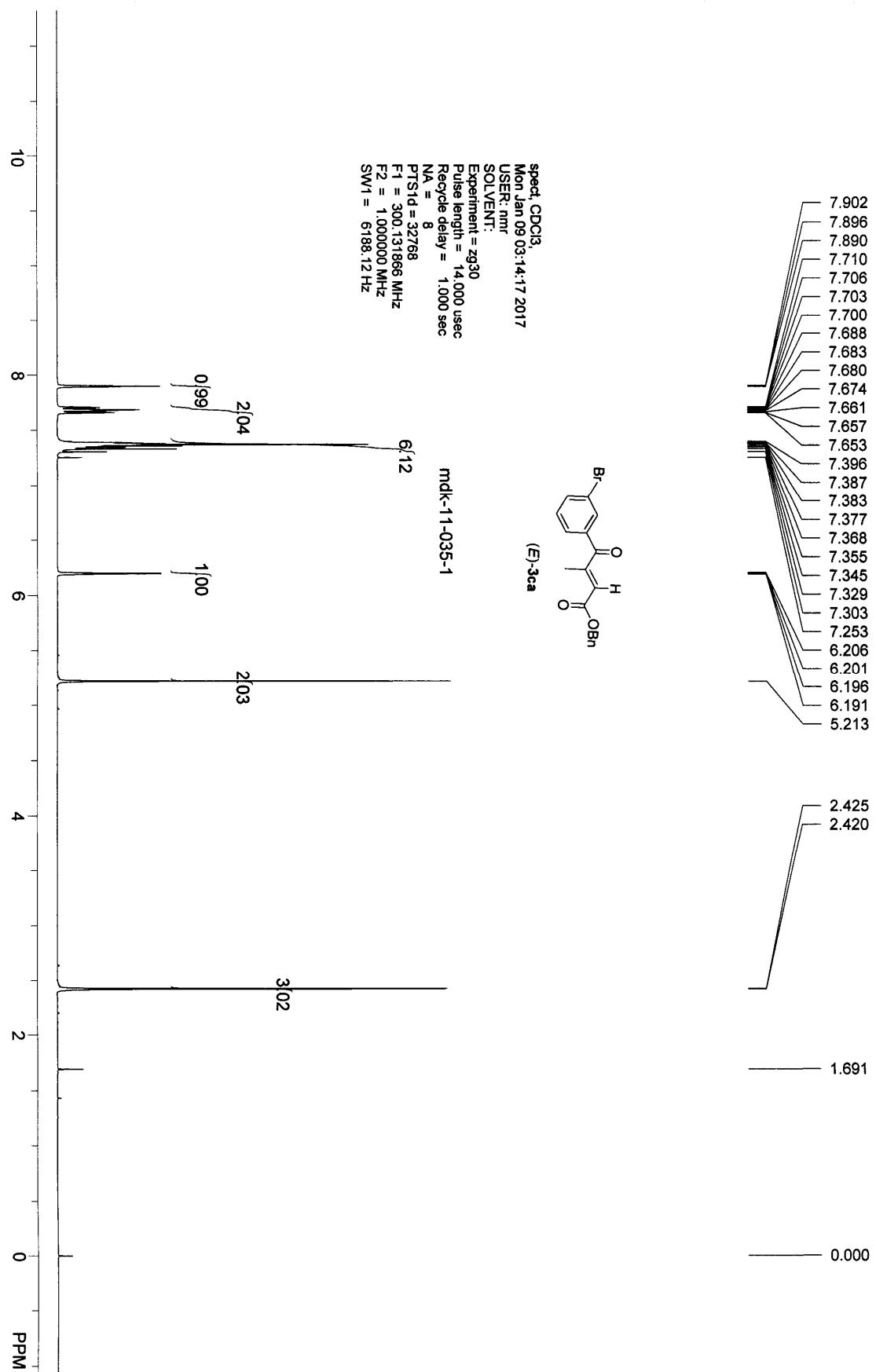


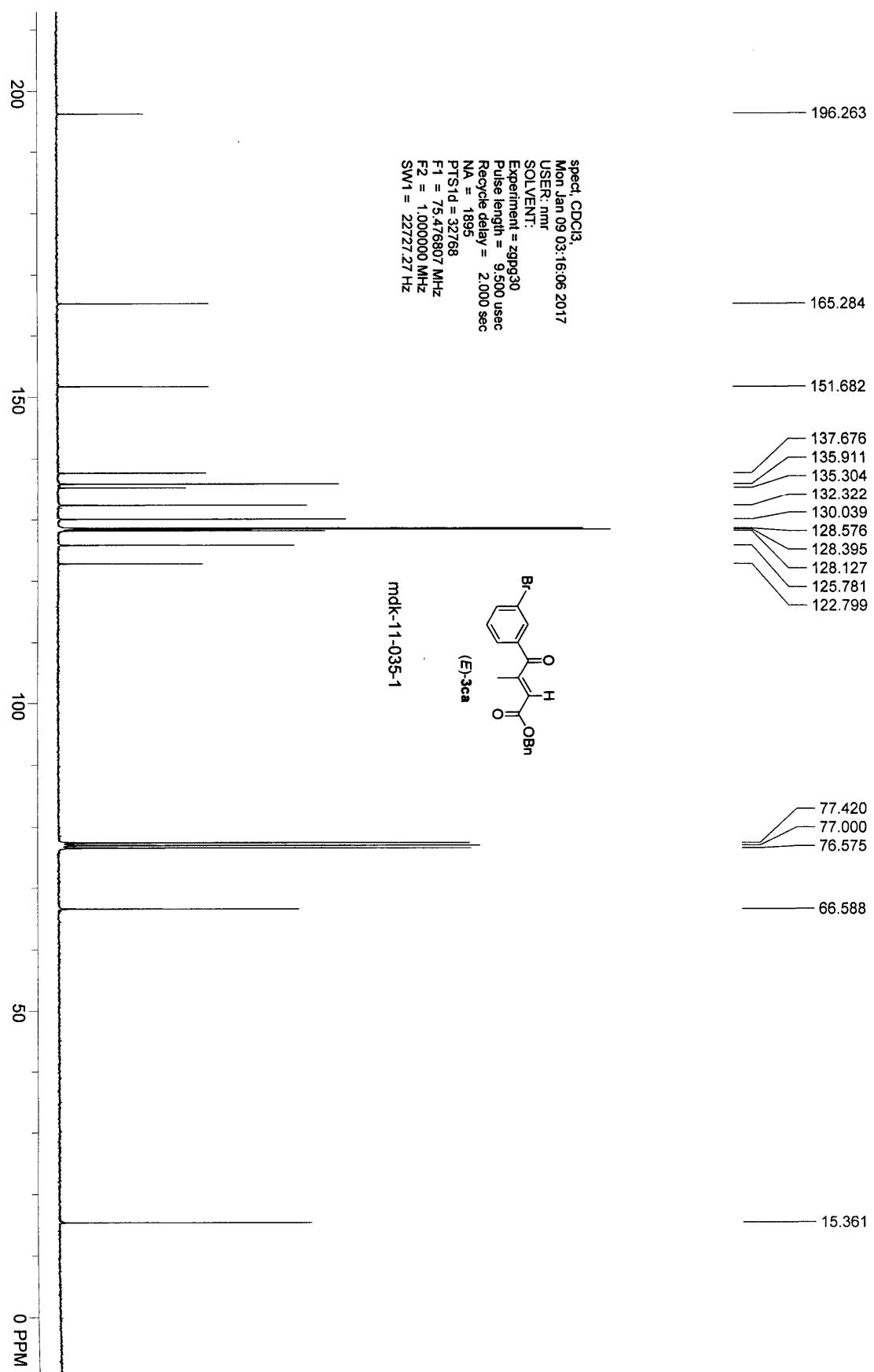


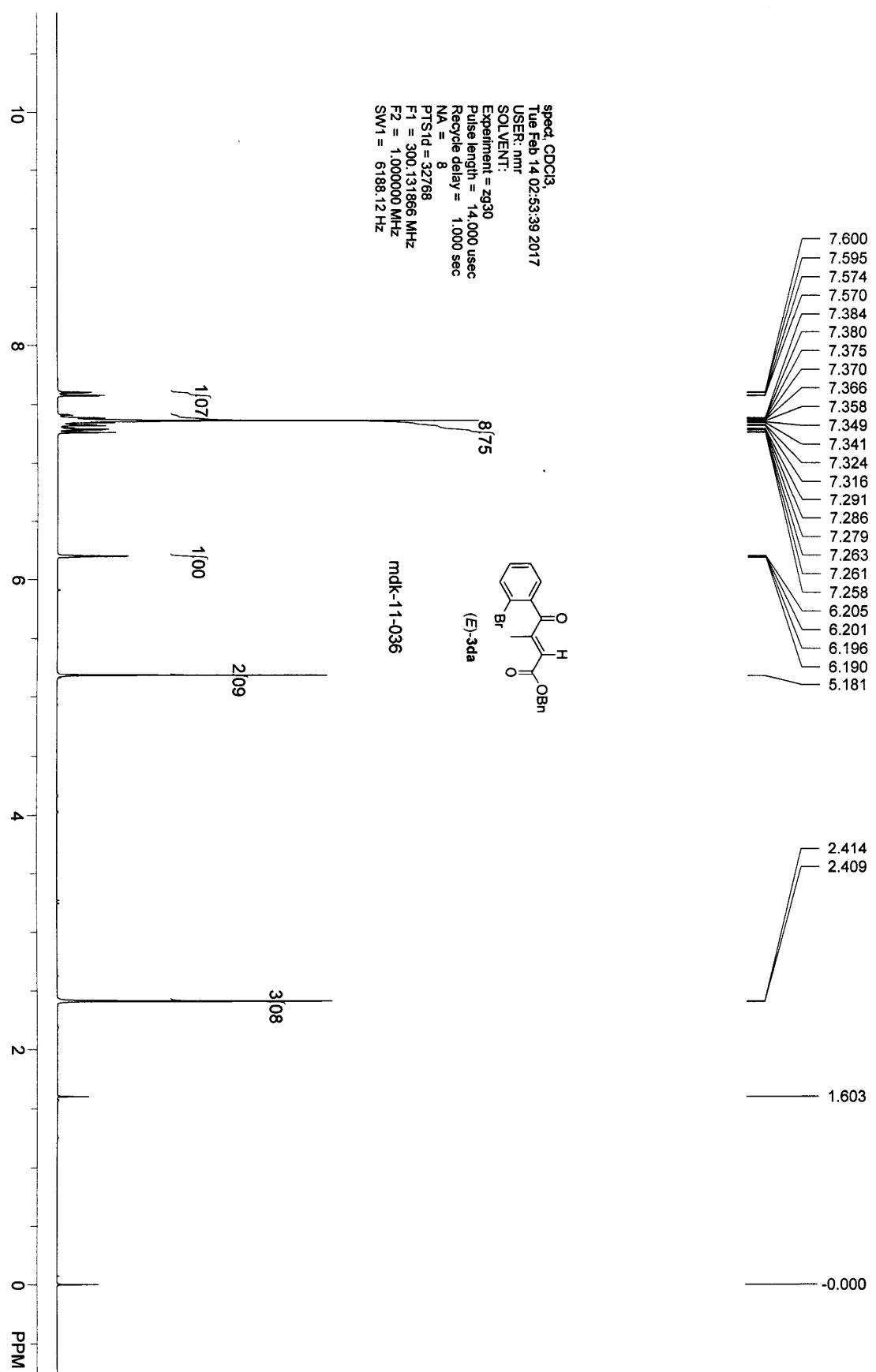


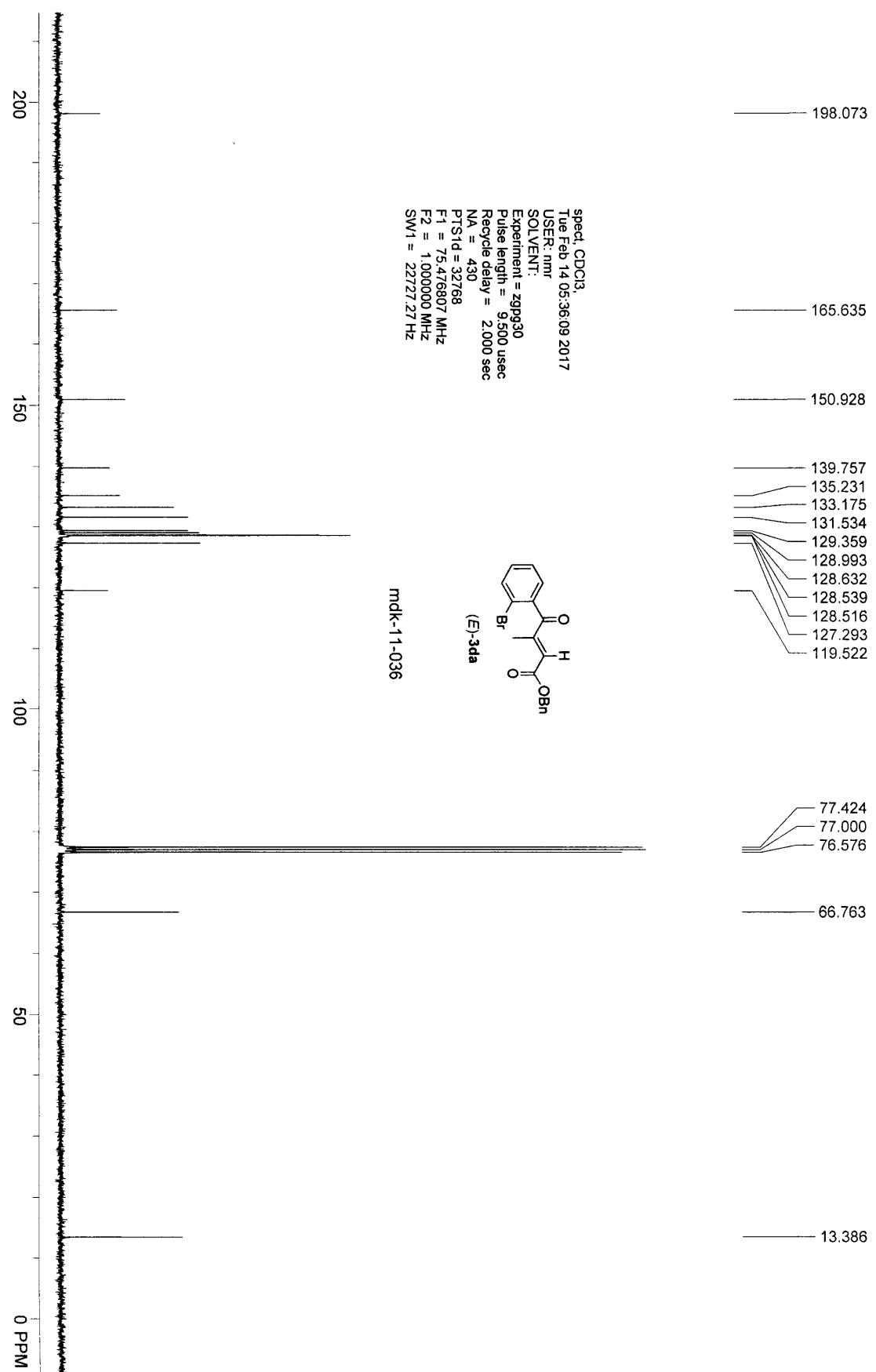


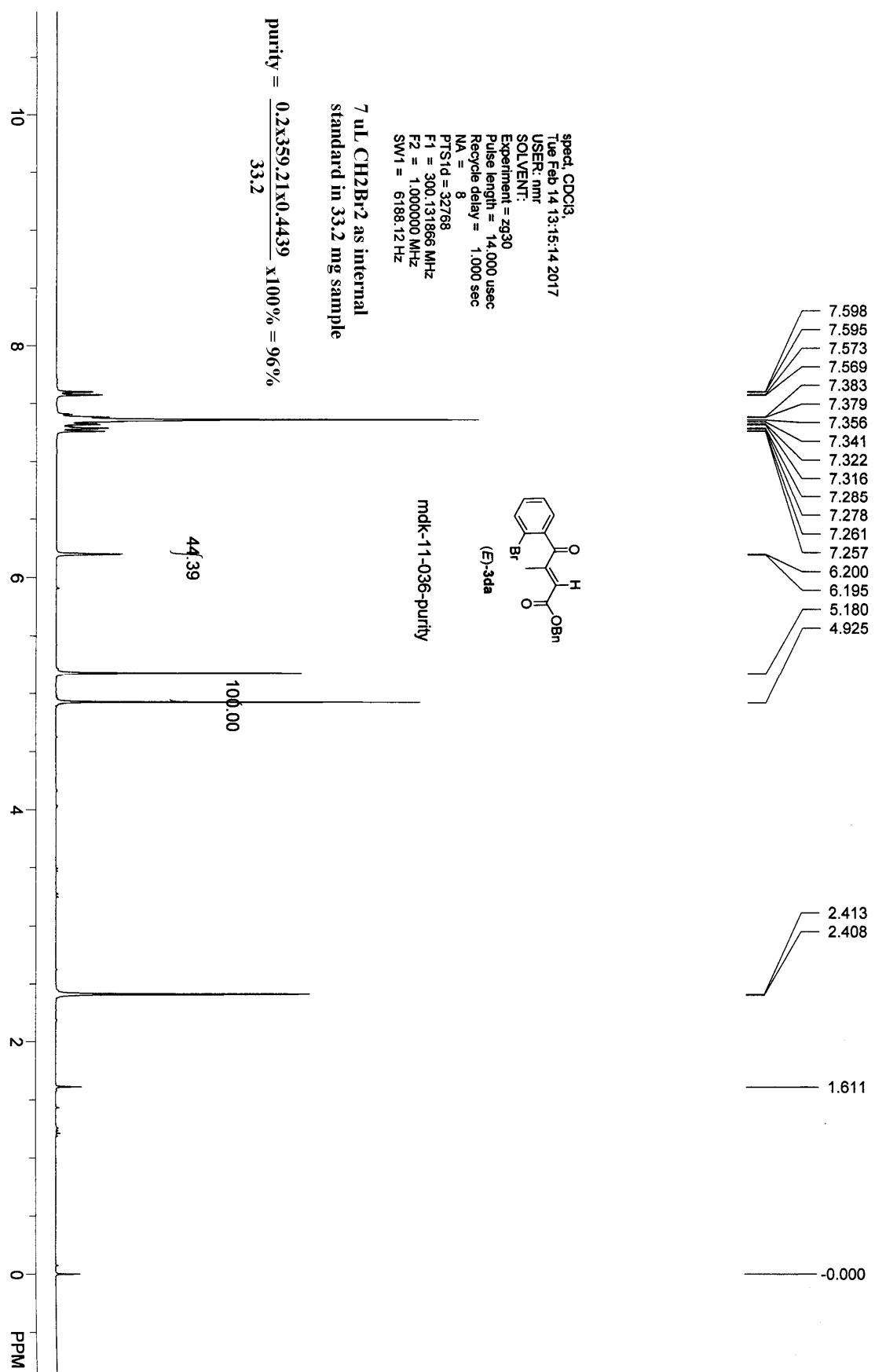


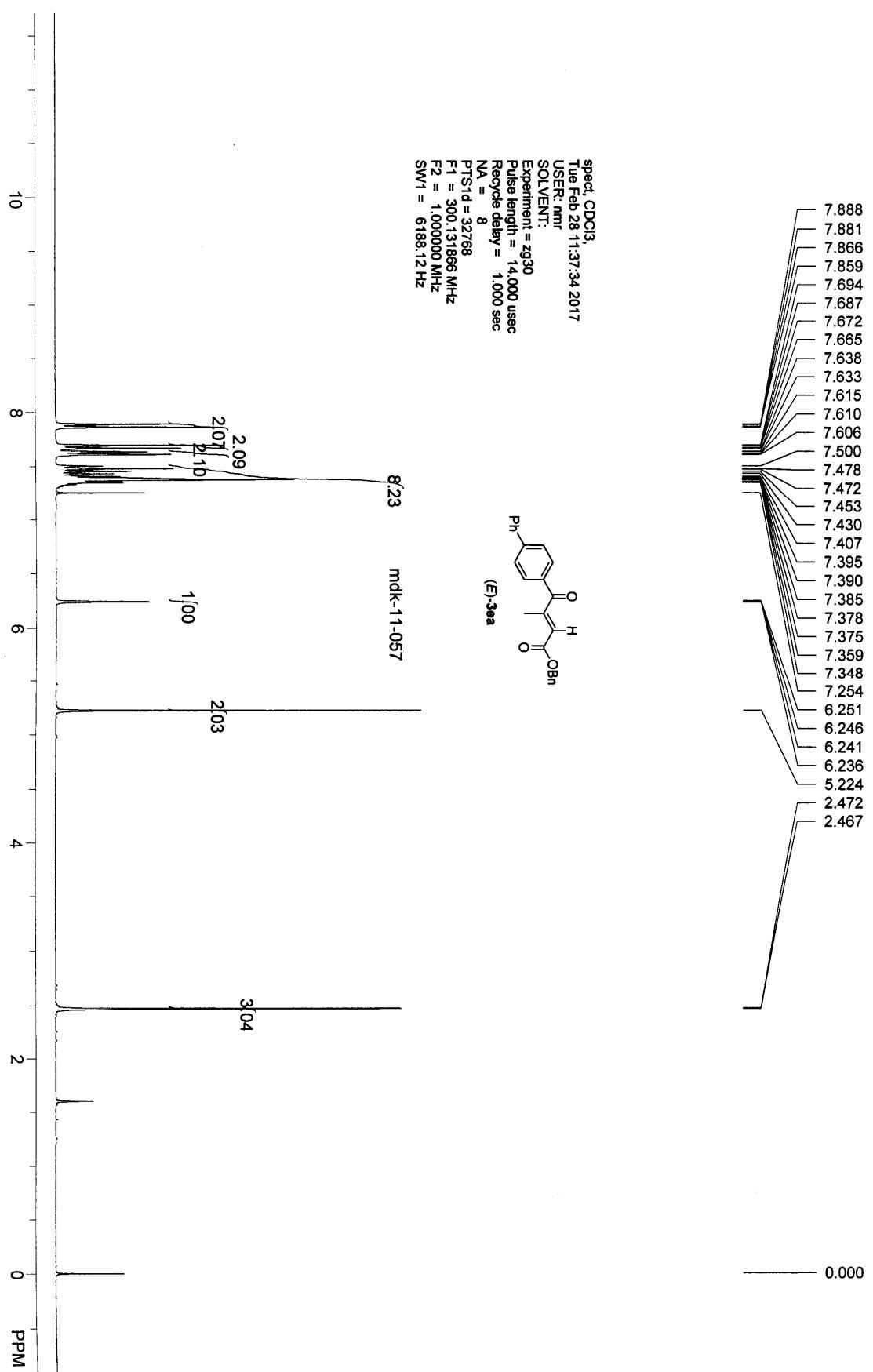


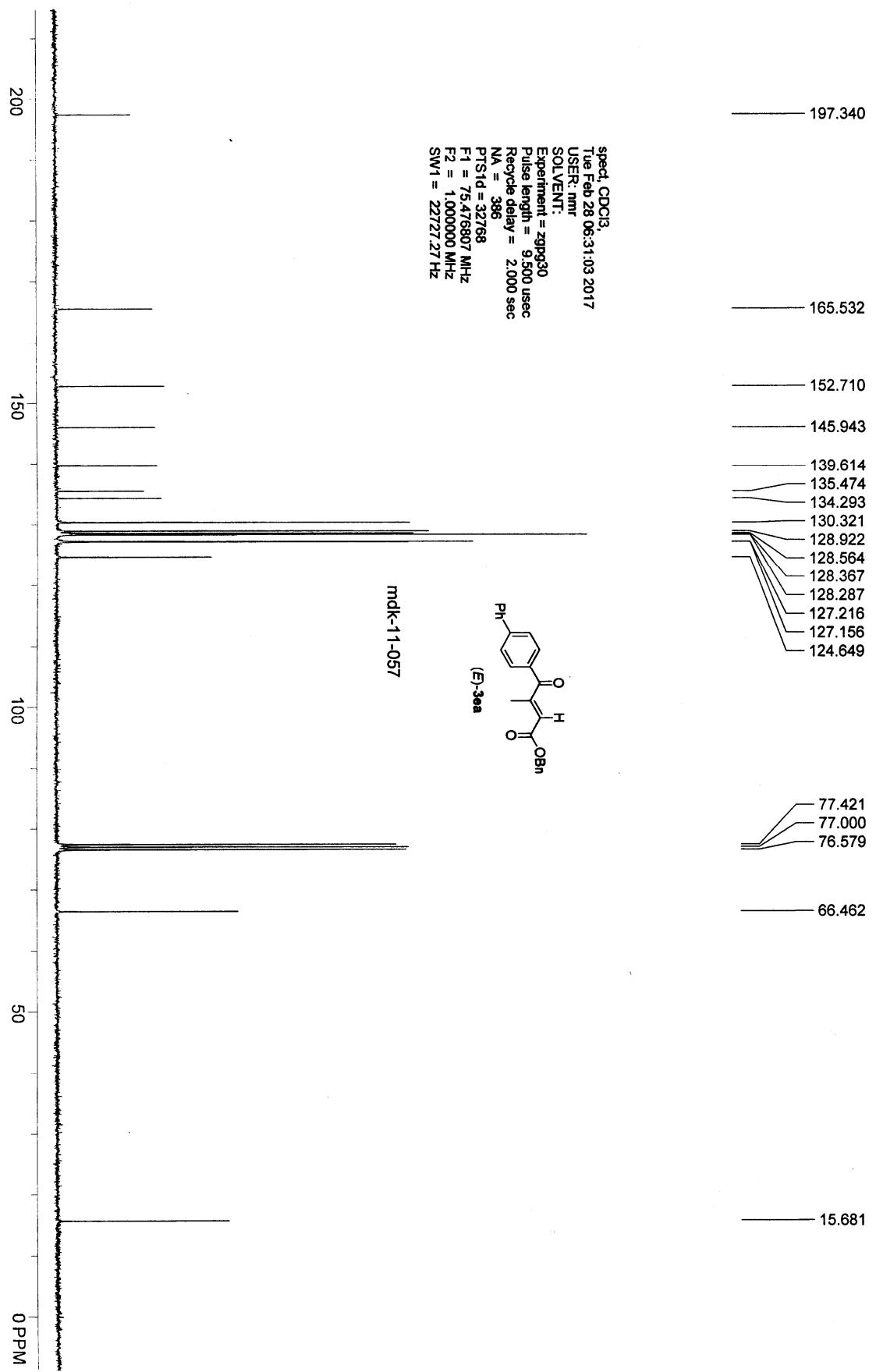


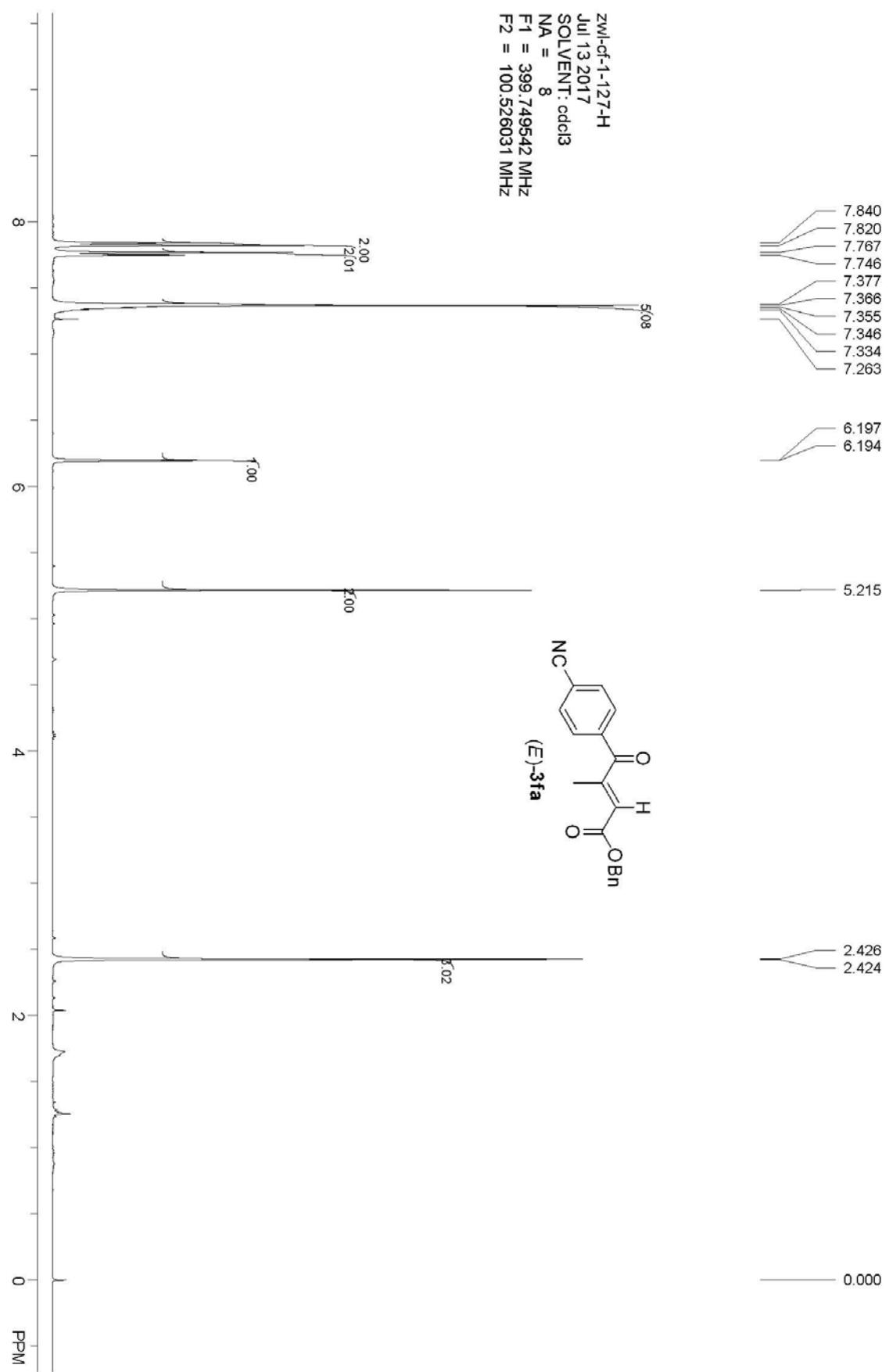


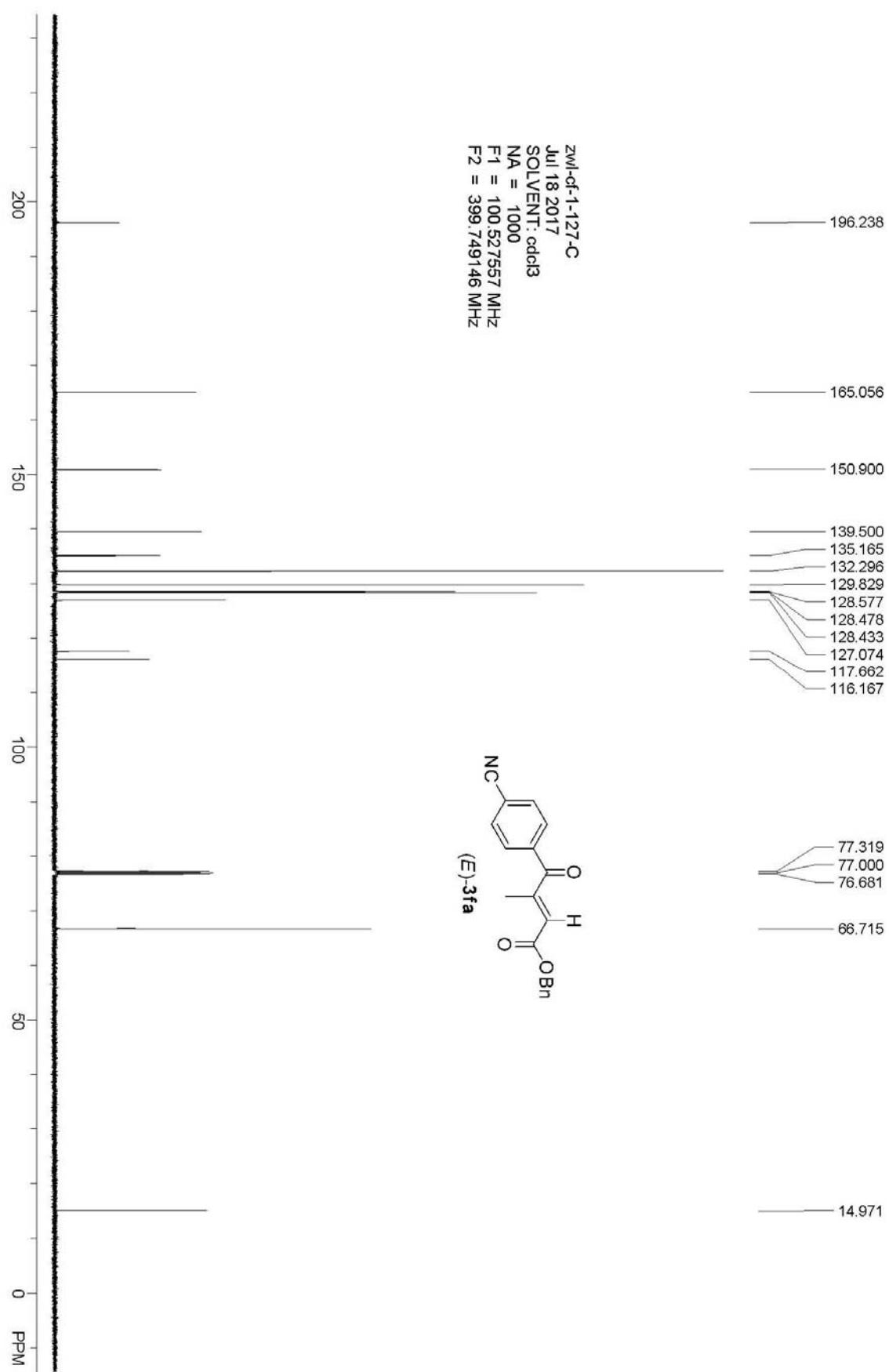




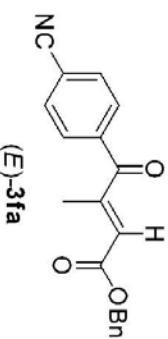








zwl-cf-1-127-purity  
Jul 14 2017  
SOLVENT: *cdcl*3  
NA = 4  
F1 = 399.749542 MHz  
F2 = 100.526031 MHz



dibromomethane (7.0  $\mu$ L, 0.1 mmol) as the  
internal standard in 59.8 mg product

