

## Supplemental Information (SI)

### Photolysis of cell-permeant caged inositol pyrophosphates controls oscillations of cytosolic calcium in a $\beta$ -cell line

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## Abbreviations

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| APS                             | Ammonium persulfate                                   |
| BSTFA                           | <i>N,O</i> -Bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide     |
| CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | Dichloromethane                                       |
| DBU                             | 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene                    |
| DMEM                            | Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium                    |
| DMF                             | Dimethylformamide                                     |
| DMSO                            | Dimethyl sulfoxide                                    |
| DTT                             | Dithiothreitol  |
| EDTA                            | Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid                       |
| Et <sub>2</sub> O               | Diethyl ether   |
| ETT                             | 5-(Ethylthio)-1 <i>H</i> -tetrazole                   |
| FBS                             | Fetal bovine serum                                    |
| HEPES                           | 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid    |
| LT-ELSD                         | Low temperature evaporative light scattering detector |
| MeOH                            | Methanol  |
| <i>m</i> CPBA                   | <i>meta</i> -Chloroperoxybenzoic acid                 |
| MPLC                            | Medium pressure liquid chromatography                 |
| PA                              | Perchloric acid                                       |
| PBS                             | Phosphate-buffered saline                             |
| Pip                             | Piperidine  |
| RP-HPLC                         | Reverse phase high-performance liquid chromatography  |
| TBA                             | Tetrabutylammonium                                    |
| TEAA                            | Triethylammonium acetate                              |
| TEMED                           | Tetramethylethylenediamine                            |
| TFA                             | Trifluoroacetic acid                                  |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>                | Titanium dioxide                                      |
| TLC                             | Thin layer chromatography                             |

## Methods & Analyses

### A) Biological methods & analyses

**General.** Chemicals and solvents were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO & Germany), Alfa Aesar (Karlsruhe, Germany), Grüssing (Filsum, Germany), PAN biotech (Aidenbach, Germany) and Roth (Karlsruhe, Germany) unless stated otherwise; gradient-grade FBS and DMEM were obtained from Gibco (Carlsbad, Ca, U.S. & Germany).

**Tissue culture.** Insulin-secreting MIN6  $\beta$ -cells<sup>1</sup> were cultured at 37 °C in an 8 % high humidity CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. MIN6 cells were grown in DMEM containing 4.5 g/L glucose, supplemented with 15 % FBS and 70  $\mu$ M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol. MIN6 cells were plated onto 8-well LabTek microscope dishes (155411 Thermo Scientific) to form pseudoislets.

**Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE).** PAGE was carried out on a Hoefer SE660 Tall Standard Dual Cooled Vertical Unit. The PAGE procedure was conducted according to the general procedure as described by Losito *et al.*<sup>2</sup> Buffers and solutions for gel electrophoresis were prepared as follows:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 10 $\times$ Tris/Borate/EDTA (TBE) buffer, pH 8.3 | 0.89 M Tris-HCl, 0.89 M boric acid,<br>20 mM EDTA                     |
| 1 $\times$ Orange G dye, pH 7.0                   | 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA,<br>30% (w/v) glycerol, 0.1% (w/v) Orange G |
| Staining solution                                 | 0.1% (w/v) toluidine blue, 20% (w/v) MeOH,<br>2% (w/v) glycerol       |
| De-staining solution                              | 20% (w/v) MeOH, 2% (w/v) glycerol                                     |

During pre-run and run, the lower buffer chamber was filled with 6 L of pre-chilled 1  $\times$  TBE buffer (4 °C) and the buffer was stirred. A recirculating cooler was used for chilling the buffer. Sample loading was performed with gel-loading pipet tips. Poly-P<sub>25</sub>, InsP<sub>6</sub>, 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> and DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> were used as references.

Electrophoretic separation of 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> and its analogues:

1. The gel sandwich was assembled using glass plates ( $24 \times 18$  cm) and spacers (1 cm wide, 1.0 mm thick).
2. Gel preparation ( $\sim 40$  mL/gel): 35.8 % (w/v) acrylamide:bis-acrylamide 19:1 (33.9 mL, 3030 Roth), 10.0 % (v/v)  $10 \times$  TBE buffer (3.8 mL) and 0.05 % (w/v) ammonium persulfate (APS) (200  $\mu$ L of 10 % APS in milli-Q  $H_2O$ ) were stirred for 2 min at  $0^\circ C$ . 0.05 % (v/v) TEMED (20  $\mu$ L) was added and the solution was stirred for 1 min. The mixture was poured between the pre-casted glass-plates and a 15 lane comb was inserted. The solution was allowed to polymerize for 25-30 min at room temperature.
3. After polymerization, gels were pre-run at  $4^\circ C$  in  $1 \times$  TBE buffer for 30 min at 300 V.
4. Samples and references (0.09 mM Poly- $P_{25}$ , 0.11 mM  $InsP_6$ , 0.06 mM 5-PP- $InsP_5$ , 0.06 mM 1-PP- $InsP_5$ , 0.07 mM DEACM 5-PP- $InsP_5$ , 0.07 mM DEACM 1-PP- $InsP_5$ ; milli-Q  $H_2O$  as solvent, 22  $\mu$ L volume per control sample) were prepared.  $1 \times$  Orange G dye (5-7  $\mu$ L) was added to all samples and references (= control samples) prior to loading onto the gel.
5. Wells were washed with  $1 \times$  TBE buffer by using a syringe and needle to remove any precipitates and non-polymerized gel debris. The gel was then loaded leaving 2-3 wells empty on each side.
6. Gels were run at  $4^\circ C$  in  $1 \times$  TBE buffer for 20 h at 500 V.
7. After the run, the gel apparatus was disassembled. One glass plate was removed leaving the gel on the other glass plate.
8. Workup: Gels were stained for 30 min with staining solution and then de-stained for 2 h. The de-staining solution was replaced 2-3 times during the entire procedure.
9. Finally, the gels were scanned with a photo scanner.

### Cellular uptake and AB cleavage.

For cell viability assays, a microplate reader (TECAN SPARK 10M) was used and measurements were performed in PBS. Viability was checked by adding trypan blue (0.4 % in PBS) to the cell suspension. For *in vitro* and *in cellulo* studies, 5 mM stock solutions of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (C<sub>122</sub>H<sub>144</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>49</sub>P<sub>7</sub>, Mol. mass 2653.28), (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (C<sub>122</sub>H<sub>144</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>49</sub>P<sub>7</sub>, Mol. mass 2653.28) and (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (C<sub>124</sub>H<sub>141</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>49</sub>P<sub>7</sub>, Mol. mass 2688.29) in DMSO were prepared and stored at –20 °C. UV irradiation of biological assays was performed with an UV lamp (Herolab, UV-6 S/L) or an arc lamp (Newport, OPS-A1000). For perchloric acid (PA) extraction of mammalian cells, TiO<sub>2</sub> beads (Titansphere, 5 µm, 5020-75000 GL Sciences) were used as described by Wilson *et al.*<sup>3,4</sup> The extraction steps until elution were performed at 4 °C and perchloric acid (PA) solution was applied in 1 M concentration.

#### Cellular uptake into MIN6 cells:

1. For *in cellulo* experiments, MIN6 cells ( $2\text{--}3 \times 10^6$  cells) were seeded and media was added. Cells were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C in a 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.
2. (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM X-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (X = 1,3,5) was added (final concentration: 30 µM) and distributed equally. Cells were incubated for 24 h as indicated in step 1.
3. If uncaging was desired, the lid of the culture dish was removed and the sample was irradiated with a UV lamp (30 min at room temperature,  $\lambda = 365$  nm, minimum distance between lamp and sample) or an arc lamp (5 min on ice,  $\lambda = 400$  nm, 1000 W, 20 cm distance between lamp and sample).
4. Cells were detached using Trypsin-EDTA. Trypsin activity was quenched and cells were centrifuged (5 min, 200 g).
5. The supernatant was discarded and cells were washed with PBS. The suspension was centrifuged (5 min, 200 g) and the liquid was discarded. The washing step was repeated. The pellet was stored at –20 °C or processed immediately.

6. TiO<sub>2</sub> beads (4-5 mg per sample) were washed with milli-Q H<sub>2</sub>O (500 µL) and centrifuged (1 min, 3500 g, 4 °C). The washing step was repeated with PA (500 µL). Beads were then re-suspended in PA (500 µL).
7. The cell pellet was suspended in PA (500 µL) and incubated on ice for 10 min under frequent vortexing.
8. The suspension was centrifuged (5 min, 17000 g, 4 °C), the pellet was discarded and the supernatant was added to the TiO<sub>2</sub> beads. The sample was rotated for 20 min at 4 °C.
9. The beads were pelleted by centrifugation (1 min, 3500 g, 4 °C) and washed twice with PA (500 µL).
10. Phosphorylated compounds were eluted by the addition of 10 % NH<sub>4</sub>OH (200 µL), followed by rotation for 5 min. The sample was centrifuged and the supernatant was collected.
11. The elution step was repeated and the supernatants were combined.
12. Samples were evaporated under reduced pressure and at 30 °C until a final volume (< 30 µL) was reached. 1 × Orange G dye (5-7 µL) was added to each samples and the samples were loaded on a polyacrylamide gel as described before.
13. Beads were washed for three times with milli-Q H<sub>2</sub>O (500 µL) before storage at 4 °C; the beads are reusable for the same cell line.

#### AB cleavage in MIN6 cell extracts:

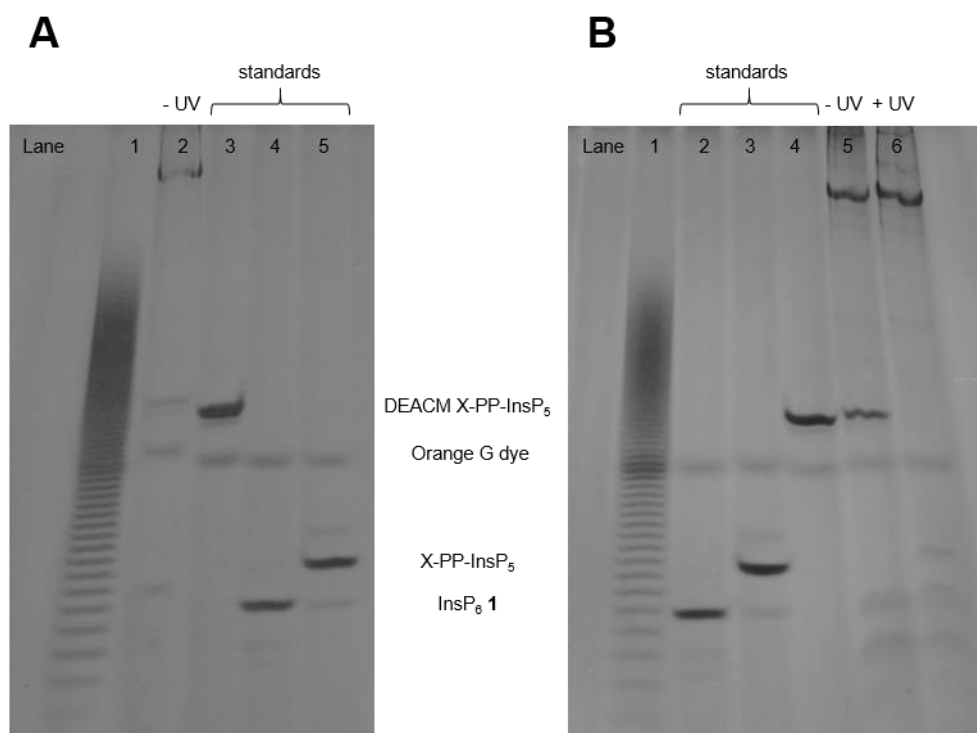
1. For *in vitro* experiments, MIN6 cells were grown to 80-90% confluence.
2. Cells were collected by adding Trypsin-EDTA. The cell suspension was centrifuged (5 min, 200 g) and the supernatant was discarded.
3. Cells were placed on ice and washed with PBS. The suspension was centrifuged (5 min, 200 g, 4 °C) and the supernatant was discarded. The washing step was repeated.
4. Cells were counted and cell viability was determined.
5. Lysis buffer (EPX-99999-000 ThermoFisher, 1 mL/5 × 10<sup>7</sup> cells) and protease inhibitor cocktail (P8340 Sigma-Aldrich, 10 µL/mL lysis buffer) were added to the pellet.

6. Homogenization was performed (20 times) by using a tissue homogenizer (Wheaton Dounce tissue grinder, 1 mL, tight pestle). To ensure complete cell lysis, three freeze and thaw cycles were successively implemented.
7. The homogenate was centrifuged (20 min, 17000 g, 4 °C).
8. The supernatant was transferred into a new centrifuge tube and step 7 was repeated.
9. Supernatants were stored on ice and the protein concentration was measured (41.9 mg/mL) with a nanophotometer (Implen Nanophotometer N60)
10. Reaction mixtures were prepared as follows. The reaction buffer (200 mM HEPES, 60 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 M NaCl, 10 mM DTT, pH 8.8) was freshly prepared and the final concentration of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM X-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (X = 1,3,5) in every reaction mixture was 0.33 mM.

| Reaction mixture                                      | Amounts [μL] |
|---|--------------|
| Reaction buffer                                       | 3            |
| Cell extract  | 20           |
| milli-Q H <sub>2</sub> O                              | 5            |
| 5 mM (AB) <sub>10</sub> -DEACM X-PP-InsP <sub>5</sub> | 2            |

14. All reaction mixtures were incubated (37 °C, 900 rpm) for 10 min.
11. If uncaging was desired, the mixtures were irradiated with an arc lamp (on ice,  $\lambda = 400$  nm, 1000 W, 20 cm distance between lamp and sample) for the respective time intervals
12. The reaction mixtures were quenched by the addition of EDTA (1 μL, 0.5 M, pH 8.0), followed by incubation on ice for 5 min.
13. Inositol pyrophosphates were extracted from the reaction mixtures using TiO<sub>2</sub> beads.
14. TiO<sub>2</sub> beads (4-5 mg per sample) were washed with milli-Q H<sub>2</sub>O (500 μL) and centrifuged (1 min, 3500 g). The washing step was repeated with PA (500 μL). Beads were then re-suspended in PA (500 μL).
15. The bead suspensions were added to the reaction mixtures and vortexed briefly.
16. Samples were rotated for 20 min and at 4 °C.

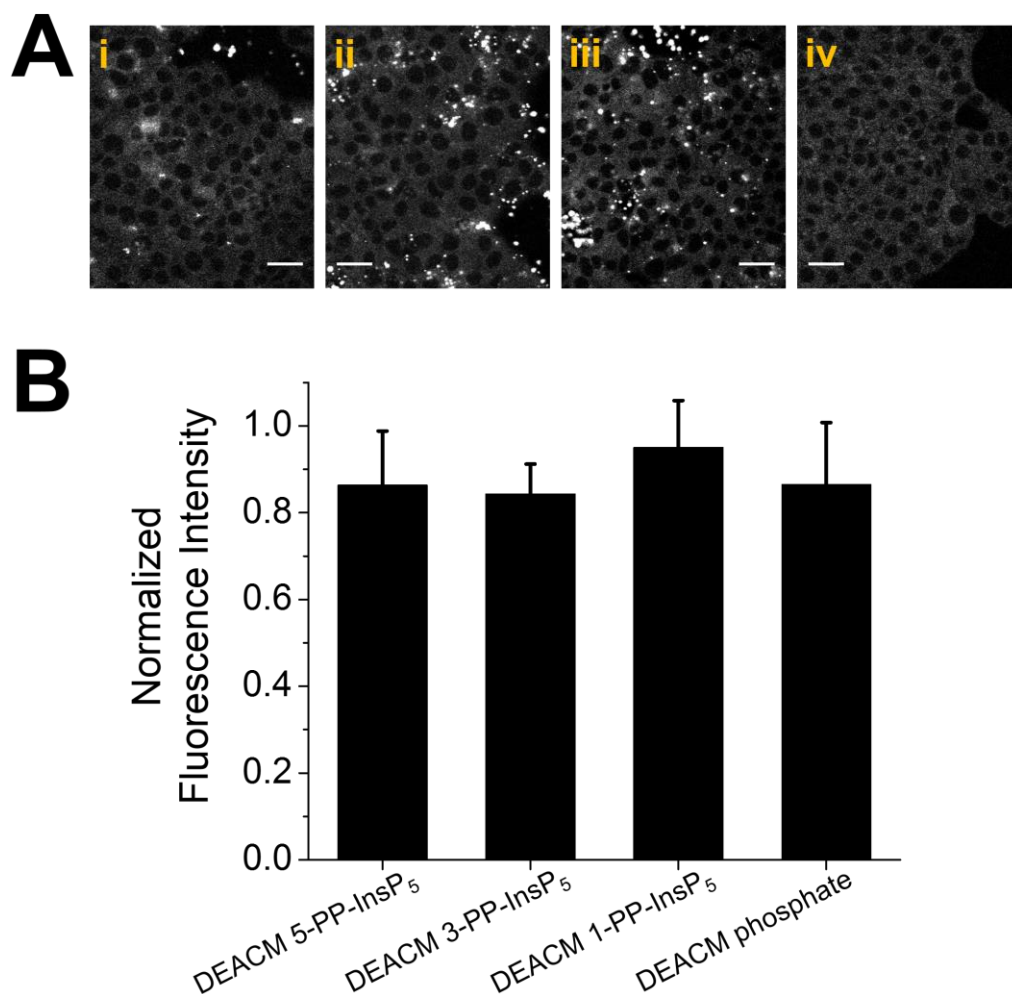
17. Beads were pelleted (1 min, 3500 g, 4 °C) and supernatants were discarded.
18. Beads were washed with PA (500  $\mu$ L) and centrifuged (1 min, 3500 g, 4 °C). Supernatants were discarded and washing was repeated.
19. Phosphorylated compounds were eluted by the addition of 10 %  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  (200  $\mu$ L), followed by brief vortexing and rotation for 5 min. Samples were centrifuged and supernatants were collected.
20. The elution step was repeated and the supernatants were combined.
21. The samples were evaporated under reduced pressure and at 30 °C until a final volume (< 30  $\mu$ L) was reached. 1  $\times$  Orange G dye (5  $\mu$ L) was added to the samples and they were loaded on a polyacrylamide gel as described before.



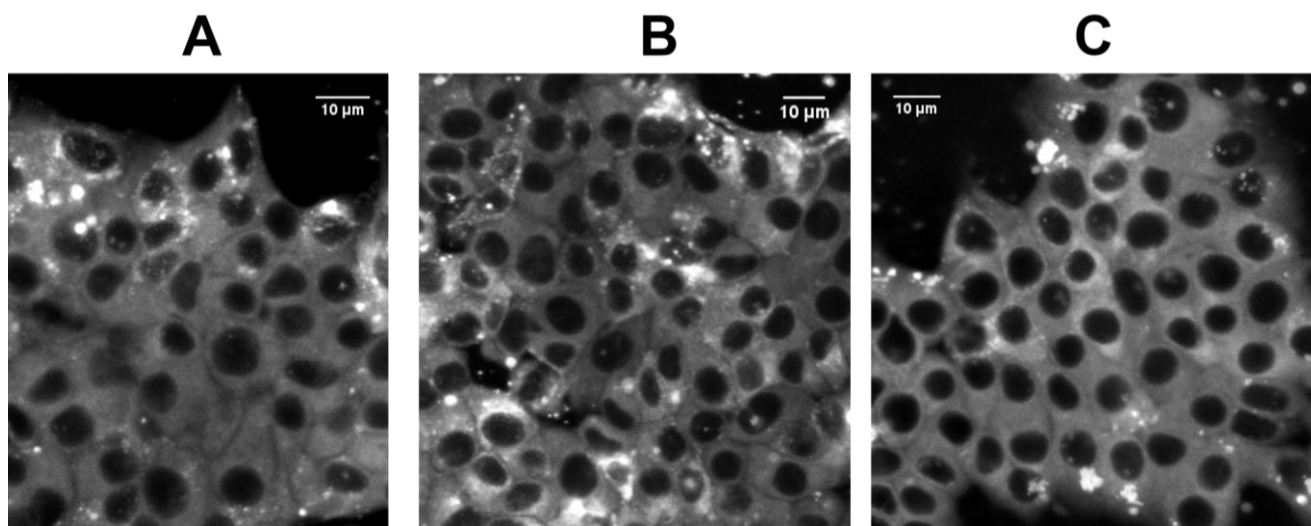
**Figure S1: PAGE analysis of (A) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> and (B) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> isolated from living MIN6 cells. (A)** Lane 1: Poly-P<sub>25</sub> standard. Lane 2: 30  $\mu$ M (AB)<sub>10</sub> DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, 24 h. Lane 3: DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (control). Lane 4: InsP<sub>6</sub> (control). Lane 5: 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (control). **(B)** Lane 1: Poly-P<sub>25</sub> standard. Lane 2: InsP<sub>6</sub> (control). Lane 3: 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (control). Lane 4: DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (control). Lane 5: 30  $\mu$ M (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, 24 h. Lane 6: 30  $\mu$ M (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, 24 h, UV irradiation.

**Confocal laser scanning microscopy.** Imaging was performed on a FluoView1200 (Olympus IX83) confocal laser scanning microscope at 37 °C (incubator box made by EMBL), using Olympus 60x Plan-APON (NA 1.4, oil) or 20x UPLS APO (NA 0.75, air) objectives and FluoView software, version 4.2. The images were acquired with a Hamamatsu C9100-50 EM CCD camera. The green channel was imaged using a 488 nm laser line (120 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, 2.5%) and a 525/50 emission mirror. The red channel was imaged using a 559 nm laser (120 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, 2.0%) and a 643/50 emission filter. Images were acquired in 4 s intervals (frame time: 3.9 s). A pulsed 375 nm laser (10 MHz) was applied for uncaging experiments in the entire field of view for 8 frames (3.2 s/frame). The dual scanner set up allowed for simultaneous laser stimulation and confocal imaging. This permitted capturing of cellular responses that occur during or immediately after laser stimulation. To test changes in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> at the single cell level, MIN6 cells, grown to 70 % confluence in pseudo-islets were incubated with an acetoxymethyl ester of the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-indicator Fluo-4 (Life Technologies, Eugene, OR), 5 µM in DMEM (1 g/L glucose) for 20 min at 37 °C. Imaging was performed in standard HEPES buffer (in mM: 115 NaCl, 1.2 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and 20 HEPES, pH 7.4). All imaging experiments were conducted at 11 mM glucose, if not stated otherwise.

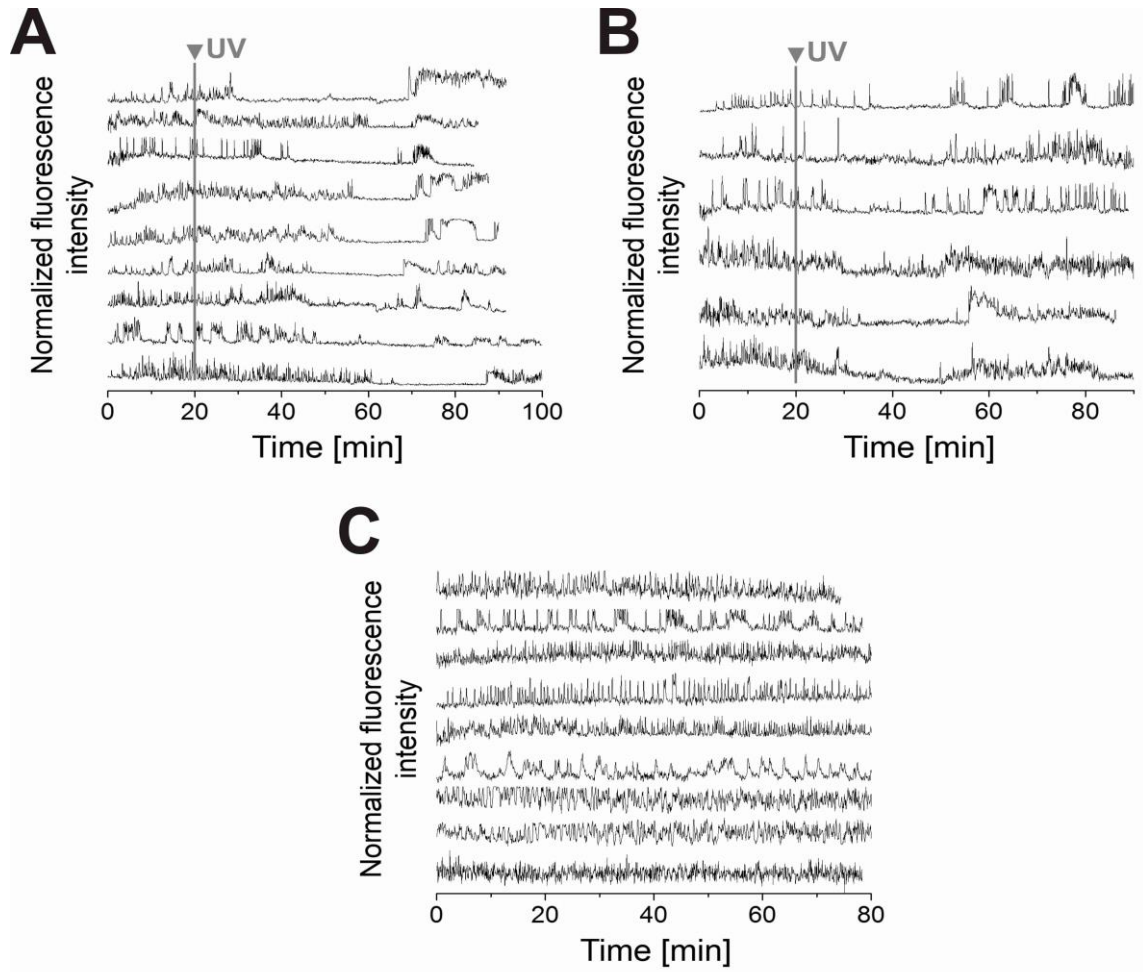
**Data analysis.** Fluorescence intensities were extracted from individual cells as a function of time using Fiji<sup>5</sup> and expressed relative to the maximum detected fluorescence intensity after subtraction of background (F/F<sub>0</sub>). Representative cells within the field of view were averaged to generate Ca<sup>2+</sup> traces or to determine the number of detected high-intensity Ca<sup>2+</sup> events within every 60 s interval. The height of each [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> event was determined relative to the highest detected peak in each trace as a criterion to group Ca<sup>2+</sup> transients into high-intensity (≥ 60% of highest peak) and low-intensity (< 60% of highest peak) events.



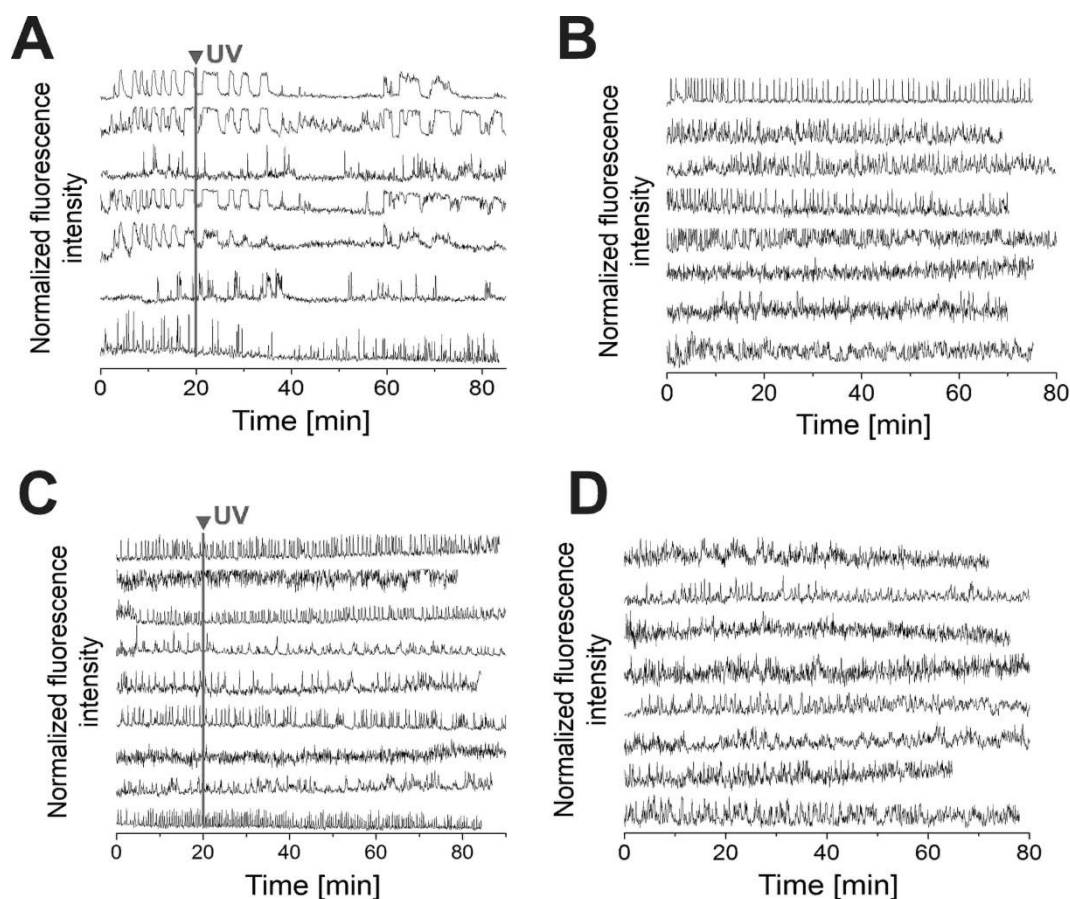
**Figure S2. Monitoring the cellular uptake of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM X-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> into live MIN6 cells.** Representative confocal laser scanning microscopy images (A) and microscopy-based quantification of compound loading in 200 MIN6 cells (B). (i) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, (ii) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, (iii) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> and (iv) (AB)<sub>2</sub>-DEACM-phosphate were applied on MIN6 cells for 4 h in 10  $\mu$ M final concentration. The normalized fluorescence intensity was then obtained for the DEACM caged compounds without AB groups. Scale bars, 20  $\mu$ m.



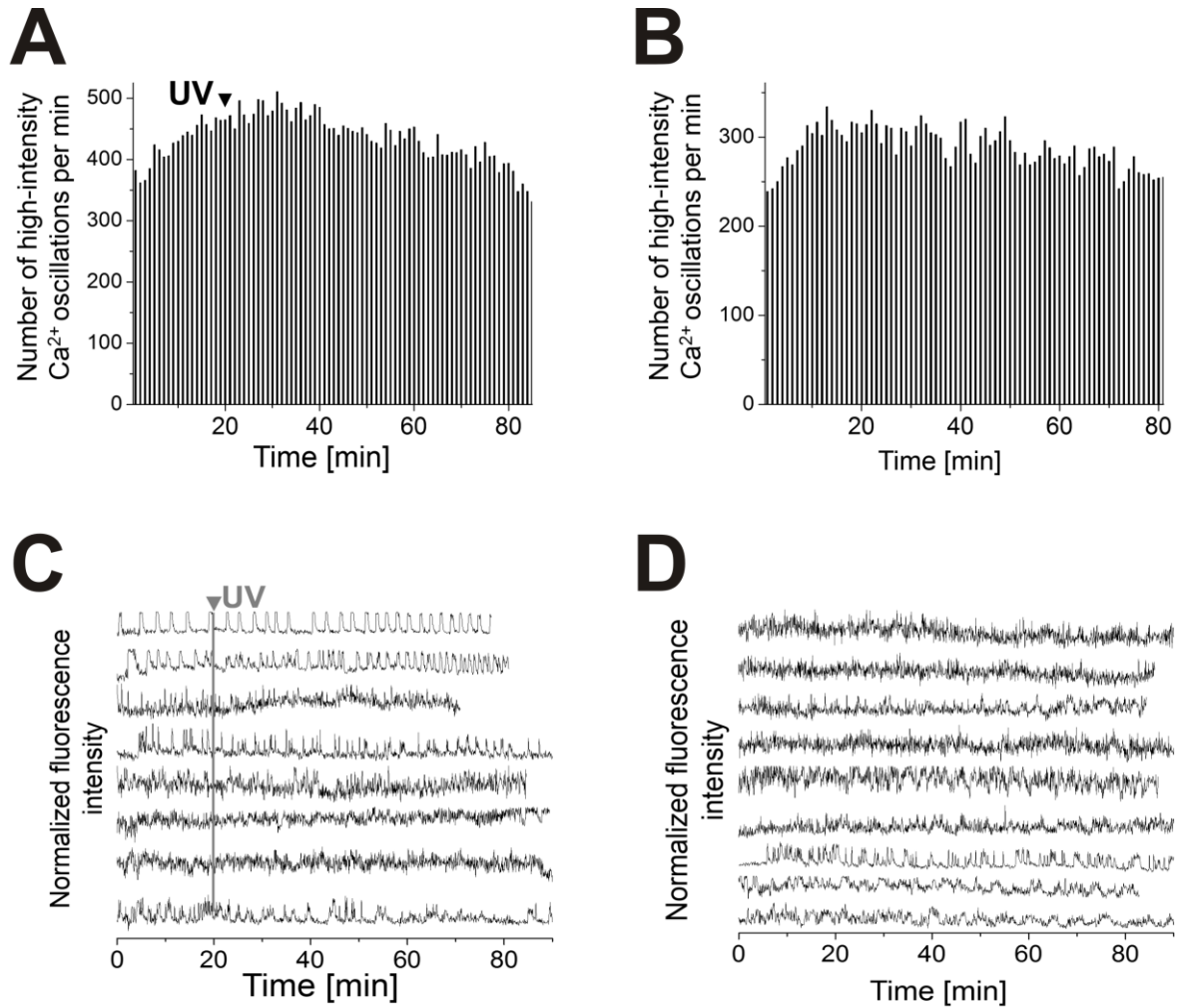
**Figure S3. Z-stack analysis of the sub-cellular localization of DEACM X-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> in live MIN6 cells.** Presented (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM X-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> were incubated (10 μM final concentration) on live MIN6 cells for 4 h in advance of imaging to allow for the complete removal of AB-groups. Z-stack analysis revealed homogenous distribution of DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (**A**), DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (**B**) and DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> (**C**) within internal membranes of live MIN6 cells. No probe was observed in nuclei. Stacks were acquired using an Olympus Plan-APON 60× (NA1.4, oil) objective, 20 slices, average intensity Z-projection. Scale bars, 10 μm.



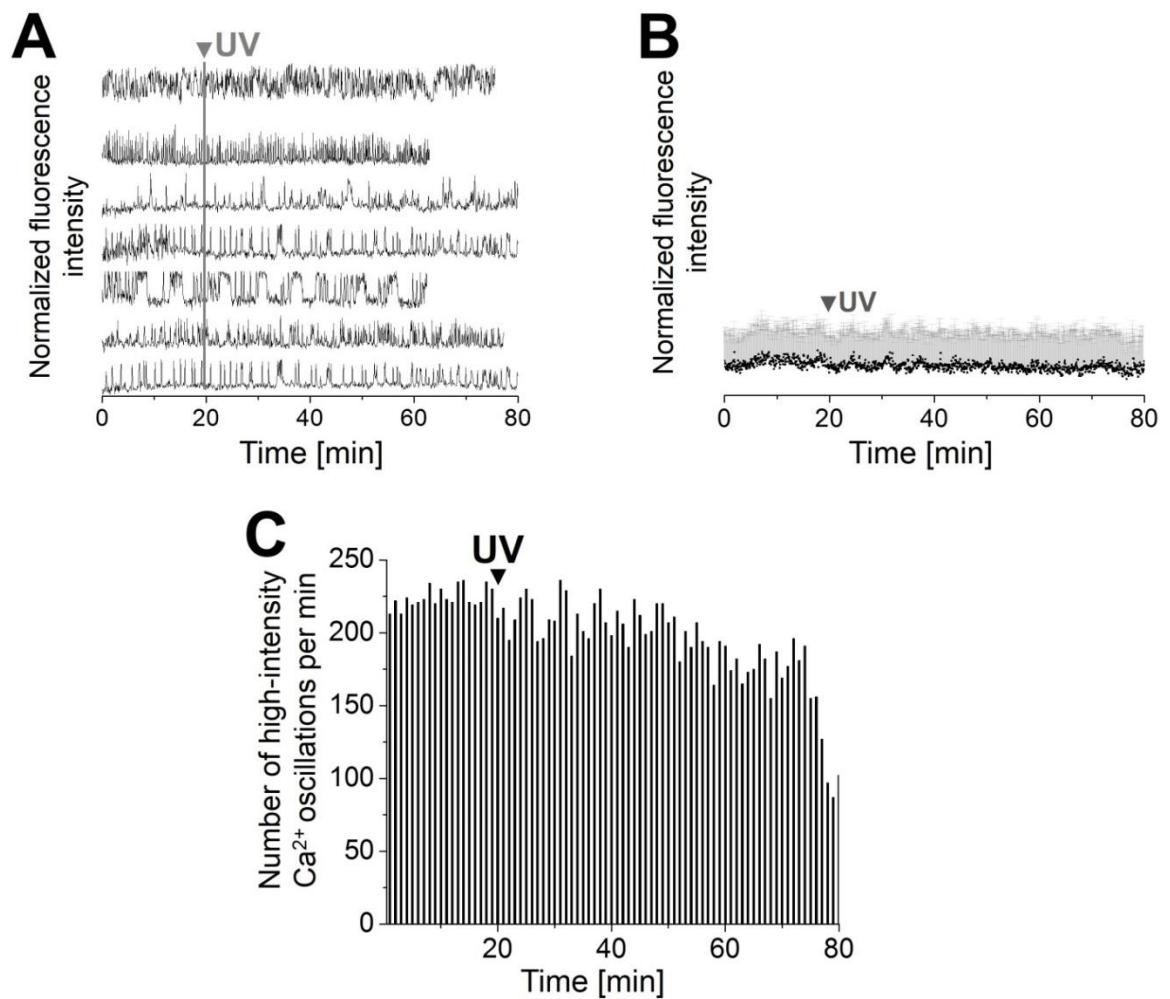
**Figure S4. Photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> in MIN6 cells. (A-D)** Representative, exemplary single Ca<sup>2+</sup> traces from MIN6 cells, stained with the Ca<sup>2+</sup> indicator Fluo-4. **(A)** Photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, cell population I; **(B)** photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, cell population II. [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> oscillations of MIN6 cells transiently stopped upon photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> to spontaneously recover. **(C)** (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 5-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, -UV control. MIN6 cells were loaded with respective compounds (10 μM) for 4 h before imaging to allow for the enzymatic removal of AB groups. Imaging was conducted at 11 mM glucose. Photolysis: λ = 375 nm, 10 frames, and 3.2 s frame time (indicated as: UV).



**Figure S5. Photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> and (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> in MIN6 cells.** (A-D) Representative, exemplary single Ca<sup>2+</sup> traces from MIN6 cells, stained with the Ca<sup>2+</sup> indicator Fluo-4. (A) Photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>. [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> oscillations of MIN6 cells transiently stopped upon photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub> to spontaneously recover. (B) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 3-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, -UV control; (C) photolysis of (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>; (D) (AB)<sub>10</sub>-DEACM 1-PP-InsP<sub>5</sub>, -UV control. MIN6 cells were loaded with respective compounds (10 μM) for 4 h before imaging to allow for the enzymatic removal of AB groups. Imaging was conducted at 11 mM glucose. Photolysis: λ = 375 nm, 10 frames, 3.2 s frame time (indicated as: UV).



**Figure S6. Photolysis of DEACM-(AB)<sub>2</sub>-phosphate in live MIN6 cells.** (A+B) Number of detected high-intensity  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  events within every 60 s interval. (C+D) Representative, exemplary single  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  traces from MIN6 cells, stained with the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator Fluo-4.  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  oscillations of DEACM-(AB)<sub>2</sub>-phosphate-loaded MIN6 cells remained unchanged after photolysis of DEACM-(AB)<sub>2</sub>-phosphate (A+C) and in the -UV control (B+D). MIN6 cells were loaded with respective compounds (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 4 h before imaging to allow for the enzymatic removal of AB groups. Imaging was conducted at 11 mM glucose. Photolysis:  $\lambda = 375 \text{ nm}$ , 10 frames, 3.2 s frame time (indicated as: UV).



**Figure S7. (A-C) UV illumination does not change the activity of vehicle-treated MIN6 cells. (A + B)** Representative single (A) and averaged (B)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  traces from MIN6 cells, recorded with the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator Fluo-4. **(C)** Number of detected high-intensity  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  events within every 60 s interval. MIN6 cells were loaded with DMSO for 4 h before imaging. Imaging was conducted at 11 mM glucose. Photolysis:  $\lambda = 375$  nm, 10 frames, 3.2 s frame time (indicated as: UV).

## B) Synthetic methods & analyses

### General remarks

**Reactions** were carried out using oven-dried glassware under an atmosphere of dry N<sub>2</sub> and magnetically stirred, unless noted otherwise. Air- and moisture-sensitive liquids and solutions were transferred via syringe or stainless steel cannula.

**Reagents** were purchased from commercial suppliers (Acros, Aldrich, Fluka, TCI, ChemGenes Corp.) and used without further purification, unless noted otherwise.

**Solvents** were obtained in analytical grade and used as received for coupling reactions, extractions, chromatography and precipitation.

**Dry solvents** for reactions were purified by filtration and dried by passage over activated anhydrous neutral A-2 alumina (MBraun solvent purification system) under an atmosphere of dry N<sub>2</sub>.

**Deuterated solvents** for NMR and reactions were obtained from Armar Chemicals, Switzerland and euriso-top, Germany, in the indicated purity grade and used as received for NMR spectroscopy.

**Thin layer chromatography** was carried out using Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates, visualized with UV light or developed either with phosphormolybdic acid solution or with potassium permanganate stain followed by heating.

**Flash chromatography** was performed using Fluka silica gel 60 (230-400 Mesh) at a pressure of ca. 0.3 bar.

**Lyophilizations** were done with Christ Freeze Dryer Alpha 1-4 LDplus and Christ Freeze Dryer Alpha 1-2 LDplus.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra** were recorded on Bruker 300 MHz spectrometers, Bruker 400 MHz and Bruker 500 MHz spectrometers in the indicated deuterated solvent. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ, ppm), multiplicity (s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad signal), coupling constant(s) (*J*, Hz), integration. All signals were

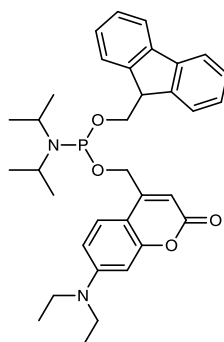
referenced to the internal solvent signal as standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  7.26;  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\delta$  4.79;  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ,  $\delta$  3.31;  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\delta$  1.93).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectra were recorded with  $^1\text{H}$ -decoupling on Bruker 101 MHz, Bruker 126 MHz (with cryoprobe) and Bruker 126 MHz (without cryoprobe) spectrometers at 298 K in the indicated deuterated solvent. All signals were referenced to the internal solvent signal as standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  77.2;  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ,  $\delta$  49.0;  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\delta$  1.32).

$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectra and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR spectra were recorded with  $^1\text{H}$ -decoupling or  $^1\text{H}$  coupling, respectively, on Bruker 202 MHz and Bruker 122 MHz spectrometers in the indicated deuterated solvent. All signals were referenced to an internal standard (PPP).

**Mass spectra** were recorded by the Mass spectrometry service of University of Zurich and University of Freiburg on Finnigan MAT 95 MS, Bruker Esquire LC MS, Bruker maXis QToF HRMS, Finnigan TSQ 700 MS and Thermo Scientific EXACTIVE spectrometer with Orbitrap analyzer.

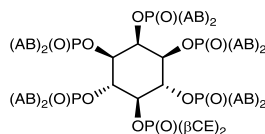
**Synthesis of (9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl ((7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2H-chromen-4-yl)methyl) diisopropylphosphoramidite**



The compound was synthesized as described before starting from 1-((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetraisopropylphosphanediamine and (7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2H-chromen-4-yl)methanol (DEACM-OH).

The analytical data were identical with the literature.<sup>6</sup>

## Synthesis of 6

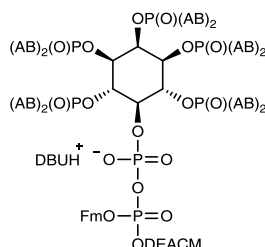


The compound was synthesized as described before in five steps starting from *myo*-inositol. The Analytical data were identical with the literature.<sup>7</sup>

## General procedure 1 (GP-1): Synthesis of *meso*-phosphoanhydrides

1.00 eq. hexakisphosphate (**6**) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL), 4.00 eq. DBU was added followed by addition of 4.00 eq. BSTFA. The solution was stirred 15 minutes at room temperature. Reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the deprotection a mixture of 4.00 eq. MeOH and 4.0 eq. TFA were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for 10 min and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was taken up in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL), 2.00 eq. of (9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl ((7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-4-yl)methyl) diisopropylphosphoramidite and 2.00 eq. 1*H*-tetrazole (0.45 M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) were further added. This solution was stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature and then cooled down to 0 °C. Progress of the reaction was monitored by <sup>31</sup>P NMR. After completion of the reaction, oxidation was achieved by slow (!) addition of 2.0 eq. *m*CPBA (70% moistened with water). The reaction mixture was precipitated with Et<sub>2</sub>O and pure product was obtained and dried *in vacuo*.

## Synthesis of 7



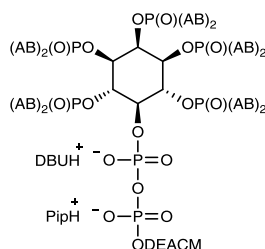
Product **7** was synthesized according to the general procedure GP-1. 50 mg (22 μmol, 1.0 eq.) hexaphosphate **6**, 13.5 μL (13.7 mg, 88 μmol, 4.0 eq.) of DBU, 23.8 μL (22.8 mg, 88 μmol, 4.0 eq.) BSTFA, 24.0 μL MeOH and 6.96 μL (10.4 mg, 88 μmol, 4.0 eq.) TFA, 22.8 mg (44 μmol, 2.0 eq.) ((7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-4-yl)methyl)

diisopropylphosphoramidite, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  (44  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 eq) 1*H*-tetrazole (0.45 M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) 15.0 mg (44  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 eq.) *m*CPBA (70% moistened with water). Isolated yield: 72% (44.0 mg, 15.8  $\mu\text{mol}$ ).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  10.93 (DBU), 7.75-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.29-7.17 (m, 27H), 6.79-6.91 (m, 20H), 5.19-5.03 (m, 24H), 4.53-4.13 (m, 6H), 3.40-3.34 (DBU), 2.68 (DBU), 2.28 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 30H), 2.06 (DBU), 1.86 (DBU), 1.61 (DBU), 1.29-1.18 (DBU);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  169.2, 166.2, 162.2, 161.9, 156.0, 150.7-150.6 (m), 144.3, 143.6, 143.3, 143.2, 141.34, 141.25, 141.18, 133.8-133.1 (m), 129.2, 128.1, 127.9-127.1 (m), 126.9, 125.3, 125.2, 124.7-121.6 (m), 119.8, 108.7, 105.6, 105.5, 97.4, 75.4, 73.8, 69.5, 69.3, 69.2, 64.6, 60.4, 54.4, 53.5, 48.5, 47.9, 44.71, 44.65, 38.1, 32.4, 28.9, 26.6, 25.9, 23.8, 21.1, 19.3, 18.9, 14.2, 12.4;  **$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  0.34 (br s, 2P) ,  $-0.48$  (s, 2P) ,  $-1.62$  (br s, 1P),  $-9.80$  (d,  $J = 12.6$  Hz, 1P),  $-11.79$  (d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz, 1P);  **$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.42 (br s, 2P),  $-0.47$  (br s, 2P),  $-1.60$  (br s, 1P),  $-9.80$  (br s, 1P),  $-11.83$  (d,  $J = 11.0$  Hz, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{124}\text{H}_{123}\text{NO}_{49}\text{P}_7$ : 2627.5405, found: 2627.5356.

*Note:* for HRMS, M corresponds to “all protonated” form.

## Synthesis of 8



25 mg (8.99  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 eq.) **7** was dissolved in DMF (1 mL) and 1.1  $\mu\text{L}$  piperidine (10.79  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.2 eq.) was added. The solution was stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature. After completion of the deprotection, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the product was precipitated with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL). The precipitate was centrifuged and separated by decantation of the solvent. The precipitate was once more dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  and crystallized by addition of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . Isolated yield: 62% (15 mg, 5.58 mmol)

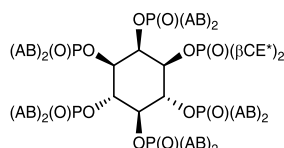
*Note:* an alternate purification by MPLC (C4 column,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{TEAA}$  eluent) reduces the yield to 32%.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.36 (DBU), 8.72 (piperidine), 8.03 (DBU), 7.29-7.21 (m, 24H), 6.92-6.90 (m, 20H), 5.19-5.03 (m, 22H), 3.47-3.31 (DBU/piperidine), 2.97 (DBU/piperidine), 2.89 (DBU/piperidine), 2.72 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 4H), 2.27 (t, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 30H), 2.18 (piperidine), 1.88 (br s, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 6H), 1.64-1.15 (DBU/piperidine); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 206.9, 169.4, 169.22, 169.16, 166.2, 162.6, 162.5, 162.4, 162.1, 161.9, 159.4, 156.0, 155.9, 150.69, 150.66, 150.61, 150.55, 150.50, 150.44, 150.38, 149.9, 133.5, 133.2, 133.1, 132.7, 129.3, 129.23, 129.20, 129.18, 128.7, 128.5, 121.7, 121.66, 121.63, 121.59, 121.3, 121.1, 121.0, 119.7, 118.8, 118.2, 116.3, 115.9, 108.7, 107.8, 106.3, 106.2, 105.52, 105.45, 105.36, 97.43, 97.36, 69.3, 54.3, 53.4, 48.6, 44.6, 44.3, 38.0, 36.5, 32.3, 31.4, 30.9, 28.9, 26.7, 23.9, 22.6, 22.5, 21.1, 19.4, 12.4; **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR** (202 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.14 (br s, 3P), -0.62 (br s, 2P), -10.06 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1P), -11.21 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1P); **<sup>31</sup>P-NMR** (202 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.14 (m, 3P), -0.62 (m, 2P), -10.02 (m, 1P), -11.12 (m, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI) [M-H]<sup>-</sup> calcd. for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>113</sub>NO<sub>49</sub>P<sub>7</sub>: 2449.4623, found: 2449.4560.

## General procedure 2 (GP-2): Synthesis of asymmetric hexaphosphates

1.0 eq. of diastereopure inositol monophosphate **10** (or *dias-10*) and 10.0 eq. of acyloxybenzyl phosphoramidite were coevaporated twice with dry acetonitrile (2 mL). Afterwards, the residue was dissolved in dry DMF (5 mL). To this solution 10.0 eq. of 5-(Ethylthio)-1*H*-tetrazole (ETT) was added. Progress of the reaction was monitored by <sup>31</sup>P-NMR. After completion of the reaction (~ 1 h 15 min), oxidation was achieved by slow (!) addition of 10.0 eq. *m*CPBA (77% moistened with water) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was concentrated in *vacuo*. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (Ethyl acetate/Toluene 4:1) to obtain pure **11** (or *dias-11*) as a white semi-solid.

## Synthesis of 11

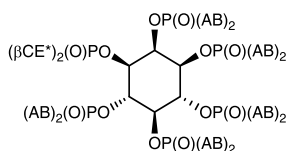


Compound **11** was synthesized according to the general procedure GP-2.

144.0 mg (0.278 mmol, 1.0 eq.) diastereopure inositol monophosphate **10**, 1.28 g (2.780 mmol, 10.0 eq.) acyloxybenzyl phosphoramidite, 361.9 mg (2.780 mmol, 10.0 eq.) ETT, 623.0 mg (2.78 mmol, 10.0 eq.) *m*CPBA (77% moistened with water). Isolated yield: 51% (340.0 mg, 0.142 mmol).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37-7.12 (m, 30H), 7.05-6.89 (m, 20H), 5.87-5.73 (m, 1H), 5.73-5.64 (m, 1H), 5.22-4.52 (m, 26H), 3.18-3.01 (m, 2H), 3.00-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.23-2.20 (m, 30H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 170.42, 170.39, 152.0, 151.99, 151.94, 151.89, 151.86, 138.24, 138.19, 134.79, 134.77, 134.72, 134.68, 134.65, 134.62, 134.56, 134.51, 134.48, 134.45, 134.42, 130.40, 130.35, 130.28, 130.26, 130.24, 130.20, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 127.6, 127.0, 122.99, 122.96, 122.92, 122.86, 122.83, 118.3, 117.5, 117.2, 77.0, 76.9, 76.25, 76.20, 75.8, 74.5, 74.0, 70.4, 70.3, 70.24, 70.19, 70.13, 70.0, 69.95, 69.87, 60.9, 27.71, 27.66, 27.3, 27.2, 21.2; **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR** (162 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>) δ -0.74 (s, 1P), -0.85 (s, 1P), -0.90 (s, 1P), -1.54 (s, 1P), -2.94 (s, 1P), -4.54 (s, 1P); **<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (162 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>) δ -0.82 (tt, *J* = 17.8, 9.6 Hz, 3P), -1.57 (dt, *J* = 16.5, 8.3 Hz, 1P), -2.94 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1P), -4.54 (q, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>114</sub>H<sub>112</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>44</sub>P<sub>6</sub>: 2422.4945, found: 2422.4939.

## Synthesis of *dias*-11



Compound *dias*-**11** was synthesized and isolated according to the general procedure GP-2.

114.0 mg (0.219 mmol, 1.0 eq.) diastereopure inositol monophosphate *dias*-**10**, 1.01 g (2.19 mmol, 10.0 eq.) acyloxybenzyl phosphoramidite, 285.0 mg (2.19 mmol, 10.0 eq.) ETT, 490.8 mg (2.19 mmol, 10.0 eq.) *m*CPBA (77% moistened with water). Isolated yield: 48% (253.3 mg, 0.105 mmol).

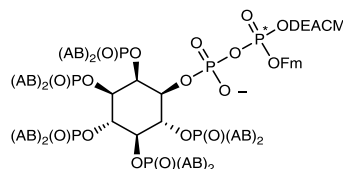
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 7.44-6.90 (m, 50H), 5.80-5.75 (m, 1H), 5.60-5.56 (m, 1H), 5.15-4.87 (m, 22H), 4.80-4.76 (m, 3H), 4.65 (q, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.18-3.04 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.76 (m, 2H), 2.26-2.22 (m, 30H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 172.9, 170.99-

170.92 (m), 152.53-152.50 (m), 138.2 (d), 138.1 (d), 134.6-134.4 (m), 130.8-130.5 (m), 130.3, 130.1, 129.8, 127.9, 127.4, 123.2-122.9, 118.1, 117.4, 77.9 (d), 77.3 (d), 76.3, 74.7, 74.4, 70.9-70.6 (m), 61.5, 27.4 (m), 20.9, 14.5;  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  – 1.00 (s, 1P), – 1.29 (s, 1P), – 1.55 (s, 1P), – 1.96 (s, 1P), – 2.97 (s, 1P), – 4.34 (s, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{114}\text{H}_{112}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_{44}\text{P}_6$ : 2422.4945, found: 2422.4939.

### General procedure 1' (GP-1'): Synthesis of asymmetric phosphoanhydrides

The general procedure GP-1 was slightly modified, ETT (2.0 eq.) was used as an activator instead of 1*H*-tetrazole. For work up, after precipitation by  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , the dark red viscous oil was reprecipitated from a mixture of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . This final reddish-yellow compound contained a crude mixture of two diastereomers (formation of phosphoanhydride generates a new stereogenic center at the phosphorus, marked as \*), which was subjected to the subsequent steps without further purification.

### Synthesis of 12

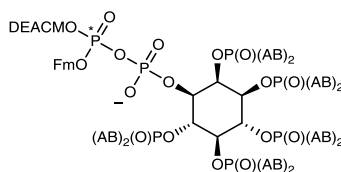


Compound **12** was synthesized according to the general procedure GP-1'.

165.0 mg (0.069 mmol, 1.0 eq.) hexaphosphate **11**, 41.0  $\mu\text{L}$  (0.276 mmol, 4.0 eq.) dry DBU, 73.5  $\mu\text{L}$  (0.276 mmol, 4.0 eq.) BSTFA, 21.0  $\mu\text{L}$  (0.276 mmol, 4.0 eq.) TFA, 69.4  $\mu\text{L}$  MeOH, 79.1 mg (0.138 mmol, 2.0 eq.) ((7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-4-yl)methyl) diisopropylphosphoramidite, 19.0 mg (0.138 mmol, 2.0 eq.) ETT, 30.9 mg (0.138 mmol, 2.0 eq.) *m*CPBA (77% moistened with water). Crude product: 235.0 mg.

$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (122 MHz, Acetonitrile- $d_3$ )  $\delta$  – 0.72 (s, 1P), – 0.89 (s, 1P), – 1.09 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 1P), – 1.39 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 1P), – 2.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1P), – 11.92 (dd,  $J$  = 24.0, 15.1 Hz, 1P), – 13.83 (dd,  $J$  = 15.6, 5.5 Hz, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{124}\text{H}_{123}\text{NO}_{49}\text{P}_7$ : 2627.5366, found 2627.5354.

## Synthesis of *dias*-12



Compound *dias*-12 was synthesized according to the general procedure GP-1'.

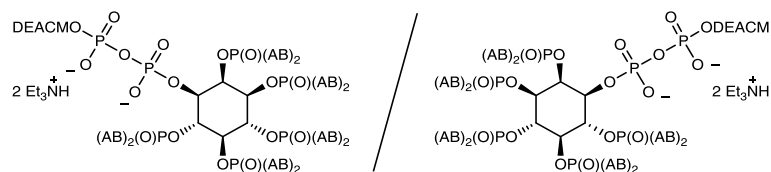
68.0 mg (0.028 mmol, 1.0 eq.) hexaphosphate *dias*-11, 16.9  $\mu$ L (0.113 mmol, 4.0 eq.) dry DBU, 30.3  $\mu$ L (0.113 mmol, 4.0 eq.) BSTFA, 8.65  $\mu$ L (0.113 mmol, 4.0 eq.) TFA, 28.6  $\mu$ L MeOH, 32.6 mg (0.057 mmol, 2.0 eq.) ((7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromen-4-yl)methyl) diisopropylphosphoramidite, 7.8 mg (0.057 mmol, 2.0 eq.) ETT, 12.8 mg (0.057 mmol, 2.0 eq.) *m*CPBA (77% moistened with water). Crude product: 100.0 mg.

$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}\text{NMR}$  (202 MHz, Acetonitrile- $d_3$ )  $\delta$  - 0.77 (s, 1P), - 0.95 (d,  $J$  = 4.94 Hz, 1P) , - 1.13 (d,  $J$  = 4.9 Hz, 1P), - 1.49 (s, 1P), - 2.91 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1P), - 11.62 (dd,  $J$  = 37.3, 16.5 Hz, 1P), - 12.27 (d,  $J$  = 16.2 Hz, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{124}\text{H}_{123}\text{NO}_{49}\text{P}_7$ : 2627.5366, found: 2627.5354.

### General procedure 3 (GP-3): Deprotection of the Fm group

1.0 eq. of **12** (or *dias*-12) was dissolved in DMF and 1.2 eq. of piperidine was added. The solution was stirred for 4 minutes at room temperature. The crude product was then precipitated by addition of excess  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The precipitate was centrifuged and separated by decantation of solvent. The crude dark brown viscous oil was then purified on a KNAUER AZURA preparative RP-HPLC (Mobile phase:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  gradient with isocratic 10 mM TEAA buffer) equipped with a Hypersil GOLD C4 Column (5  $\mu$ , 21.2 x 250 mm) and coupled to a SEDERE SEDEX (model LC) LT-ELSD detector.

## Synthesis of **13** and *ent*-**13**



Products **13** and *ent*-**13** were synthesized according to the general procedure GP-3.

100.0 mg (35.95  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) *dias*-**12**, 2.5 mL DMF, 4.3  $\mu$ L piperidine (43.14  $\mu$ mol, 1.2 eq.). Isolated yield *ent*-**13**: 25% (4 steps; 18.8 mg, 7.09  $\mu$ mol).

118.0 mg (42.43  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) **12**, 2.5 mL DMF, 5.0  $\mu$ L (50.92  $\mu$ mol, 1.2 eq.) piperidine. Isolated yield **13**: 23% (4 steps; 21.0 mg, 7.91  $\mu$ mol).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (500 MHz, Acetonitrile- $d_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49-6.86 (m, 43H), 6.41-6.14 (m, 1H), 5.42-4.85 (m, 28H), 2.89 (q,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 16H), 2.21-2.19 (m, 30H), 1.09 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 24H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ )  $\delta$  173.7, 170.42-170.38 (m), 162.7, 157.1, 154.83, 154.77, 151.9, 151.81-151.78 (m), 151.6, 151.5, 135.6 (d), 135.3-135.2 (m), 134.9-134.7, 130.5, 130.4-130.1 (m), 129.4, 126.6, 123.7, 122.8-122.3 (m), 118.3, 109.5, 107.1, 106.2, 97.9, 78.5, 76.8, 76.3, 74.8, 72.1, 70.3-69.7 (m), 64.3 (d), 53.4, 46.3, 45.2, 30.9, 21.7, 21.2, 12.8, 9.3, 8.1;  **$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (202 MHz, Acetonitrile- $d_3$ )  $\delta$  - 0.72 (s, 1P), - 0.96 (s, 1P), - 1.07 (s, 1P), - 1.50 (s, 1P), - 3.16 (s, 1P), - 11.11 (d,  $J$  = 15.1 Hz, 1P), - 11.78 (d,  $J$  = 15.2 Hz, 1P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M} - 2\text{H}]^{2-}$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{110}\text{H}_{112}\text{NO}_{49}\text{P}_7$ : 1224.2255, found: 1224.2255. The analytical data obtained for **13**, *ent*-**13** were identical in all respects (besides minor concentration dependent shifts in the NMR spectra), except for the inverted optical rotations.

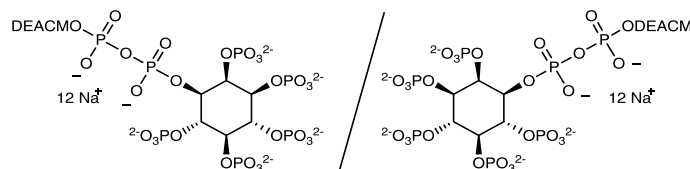
$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = + 11.5 (**13**, C 0.600,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = - 12.0 (*ent*-**13**, C 0.083,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

### General procedure 4 (GP-4): Global deprotection

AB-protected photocaged **13** (or *ent*-**13**) was dissolved in DMF and piperidine (33%) was added. The solution was stirred for 90 minutes at room temperature. After completion of the deprotection, the product was precipitated by addition of excess  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The precipitate was centrifuged and the collected solid was redissolved in MeOH; NaI was added into this solution to exchange the piperidinium counter ions. After 30 minutes of stirring at room

temperature, sodium salt of the final compound was precipitated from the solution, which was further centrifuged, washed with additional MeOH and finally collected as yellow solids.

### Synthesis of **14** and *ent*-**14**



Products **14** and *ent*-**14** were synthesized according to the general procedure GP-4.

18.0 mg (6.78  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) **13**, 1.5 mL DMF, 0.75 mL piperidine, 1.0 mL MeOH, 15.5 mg NaI. Isolated yield: 62% (5.2 mg, 4.22  $\mu$ mol).

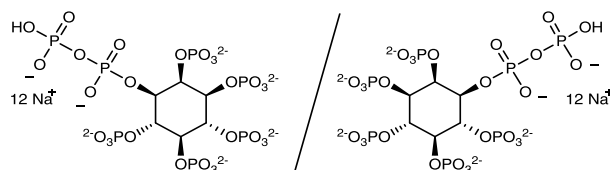
9.0 mg (3.39  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) *ent*-**13**, 0.8 mL DMF, 0.4 mL piperidine, 0.5 mL MeOH, 7.8 mg NaI. Isolated yield: 62% (2.6 mg, 2.11  $\mu$ mol)

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$  7.97-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.56 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.73 (m, 1H), 6.62-6.27 (m, 1H), 5.32 (d,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.22 ( $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (p,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (dt,  $J$  = 18.9, 10.5 Hz, 3H), 3.93-3.84 (m, 1H), 3.72-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.39 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.06 (dt,  $J$  = 25.0, 7.0 Hz, 6H);  **$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (122 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$  2.54 (s, 1P), 1.13-0.69 (m, 4P), - 10.54 (br s, 2P); **HRMS** (ESI)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_{29}\text{P}_7$ : 967.9307, found: 967.9315.

### General procedure 5 (GP-5): Photo-uncaging

Photocaged **14** (or *ent*-**14**) were dissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and taken into a quartz tube which was placed inside a Rayonet photoreactor. The solution was then irradiated at 366 nm for 10 minutes. Afterwards, the tube was taken out and put it on a gentle vortex for 2 minutes. Afterwards, the tube was put back inside the reactor and this cycle was continued for 3 more times. The progress of the reaction was monitored by HPLC traces. After completion of the photo-uncaging, products were precipitated by addition of MeOH, which was then centrifuged and further washed with additional MeOH. The final products were collected as white solids.

## Synthesis of **3** and *ent*-**3**



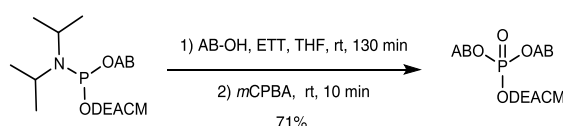
Compounds **3** and *ent*-**3** were synthesized according to the general procedure GP-5.

5.0 mg (4.05  $\mu$ mol) **14**, 0.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O. Isolated yield: 80% (3.18 mg, 3.24  $\mu$ mol).

3.0 mg (2.43  $\mu$ mol) *ent*-**14**, 0.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O. Isolated yield: 80% (1.90 mg, 1.94  $\mu$ mol).

The analytical data for **3** and *ent*-**3** were identical with the literature.<sup>8</sup>

## Synthesis of phosphate triester **15** (negative control)



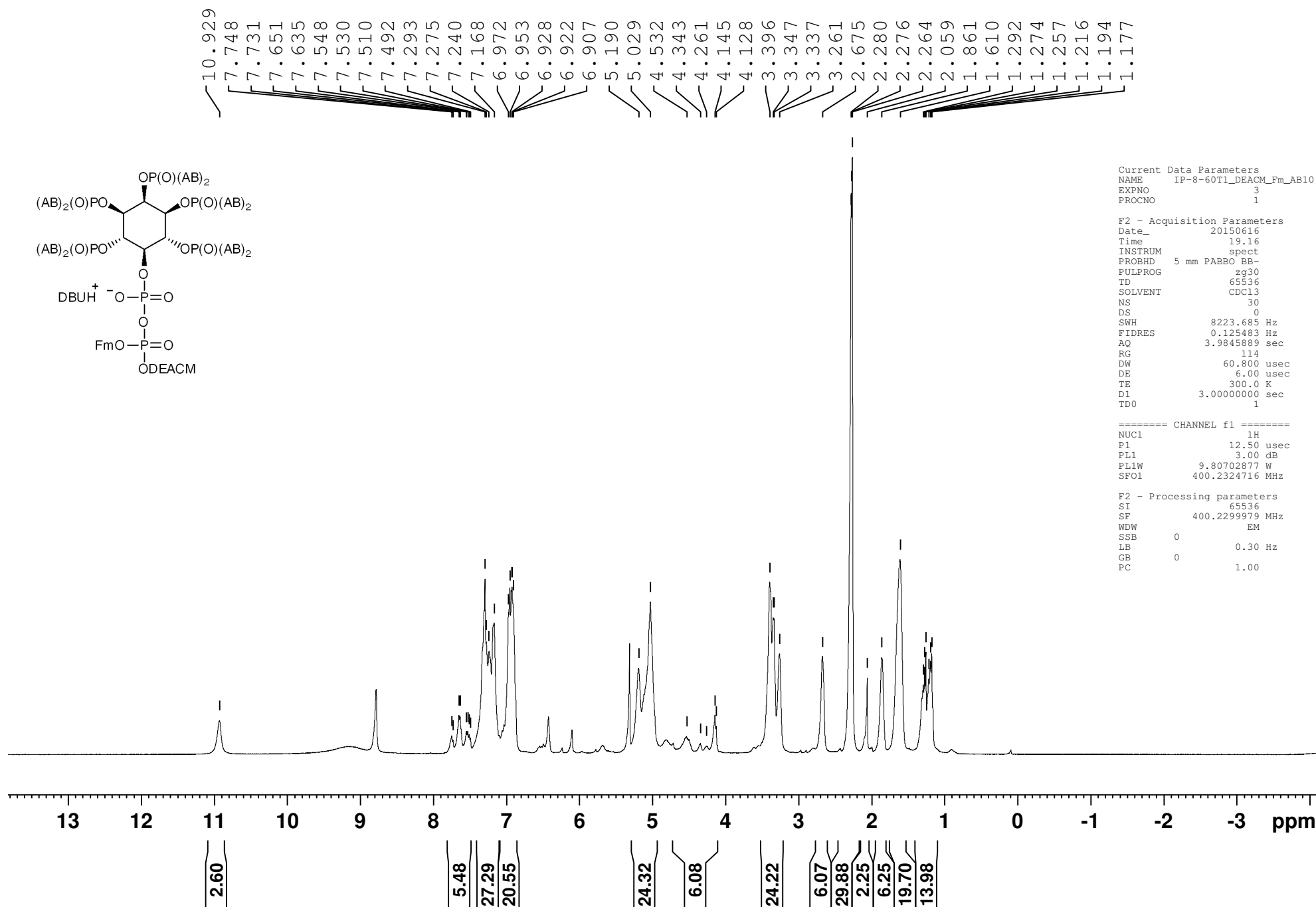
Bis(diisopropyl)(AB)(DEACM) P-amidite (27.0 mg, 50.0  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) was coevaporated with dry MeCN (2.0 mL) and dissolved in dry THF (1.0 mL). AB-OH (13.0 mg, 78.3  $\mu$ mol, 1.6 eq.) and ETT (0.77 M, 130  $\mu$ L, 100  $\mu$ mol, 2.0 eq.) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 105 min more ETT (0.77 M, 65  $\mu$ L, 50.0  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) was added and after further 25 min *m*CPBA (77%, 13.5 mg, 60.0  $\mu$ mol, 1.5 eq.) was added. After another 10 min the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, from Et<sub>2</sub>O to Et<sub>2</sub>O/MeOH 20:1) to obtain the desired (AB)<sub>2</sub>(DEACM) phosphate triester **15** (22.0 mg, 35.3  $\mu$ mol, 71%) as yellow sticky wax.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (t, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.08 – 5.02 (m, 6H), 3.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 169.3, 161.8, 156.3, 151.0, 150.8, 149.0 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 133.0 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 129.4, 124.4, 122.0, 108.8, 106.7, 105.6, 97.9, 69.3 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 64.7 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 44.8, 21.2, 12.5; <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = -1.0; HRMS (ESI) [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>34</sub>NNaO<sub>10</sub>P: 646.1813, found: 646.1805.

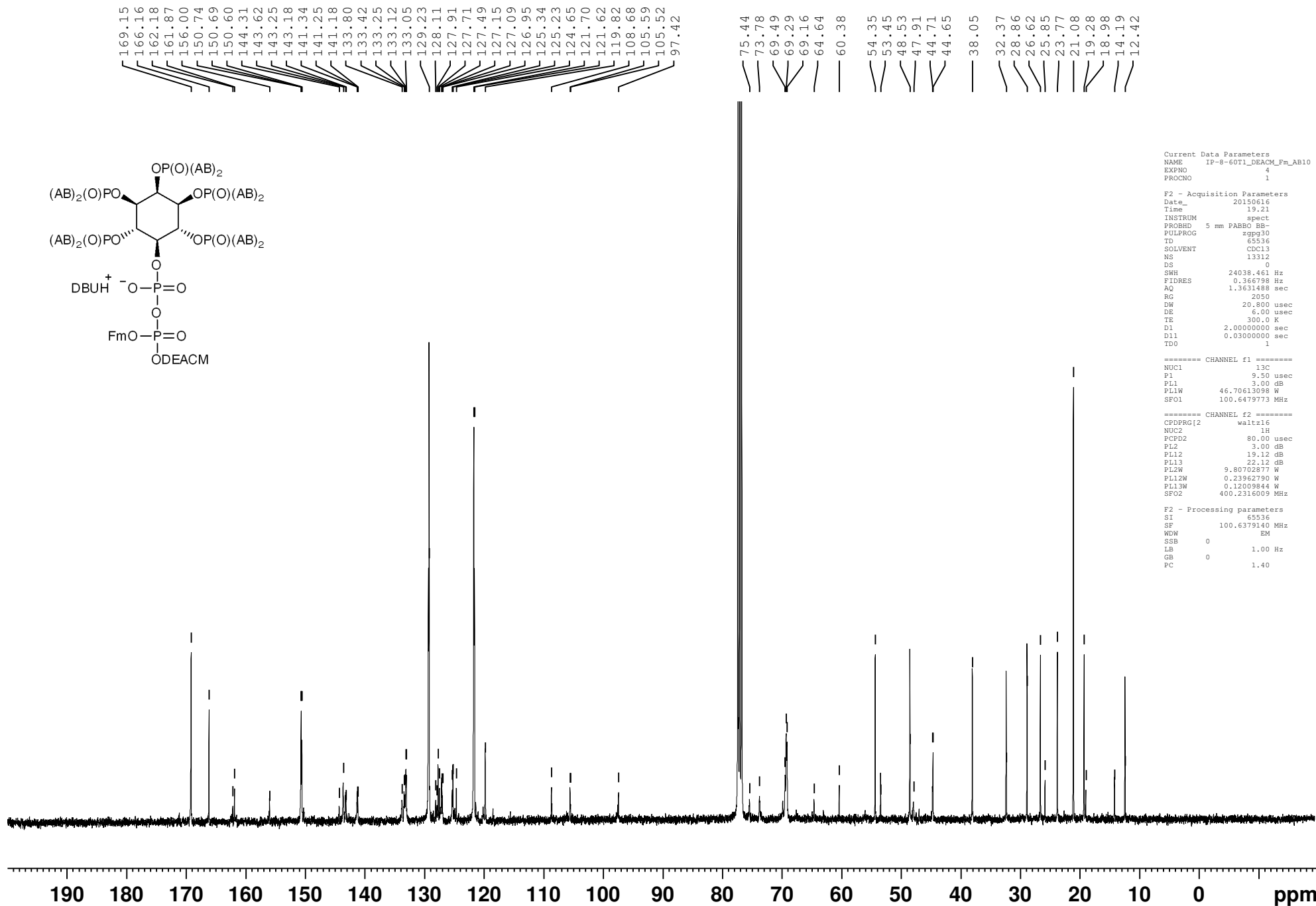
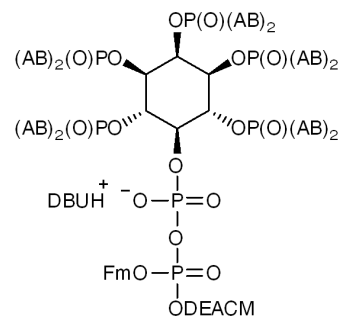
## References

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5. Schindelin, J. *et al.* Fiji: an open-source platform for biological-image analysis. *Nat Methods* **9**(7), 676–682 (2012).
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# Compound 7, 1H



# Compound 7, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}



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PROCNO 1

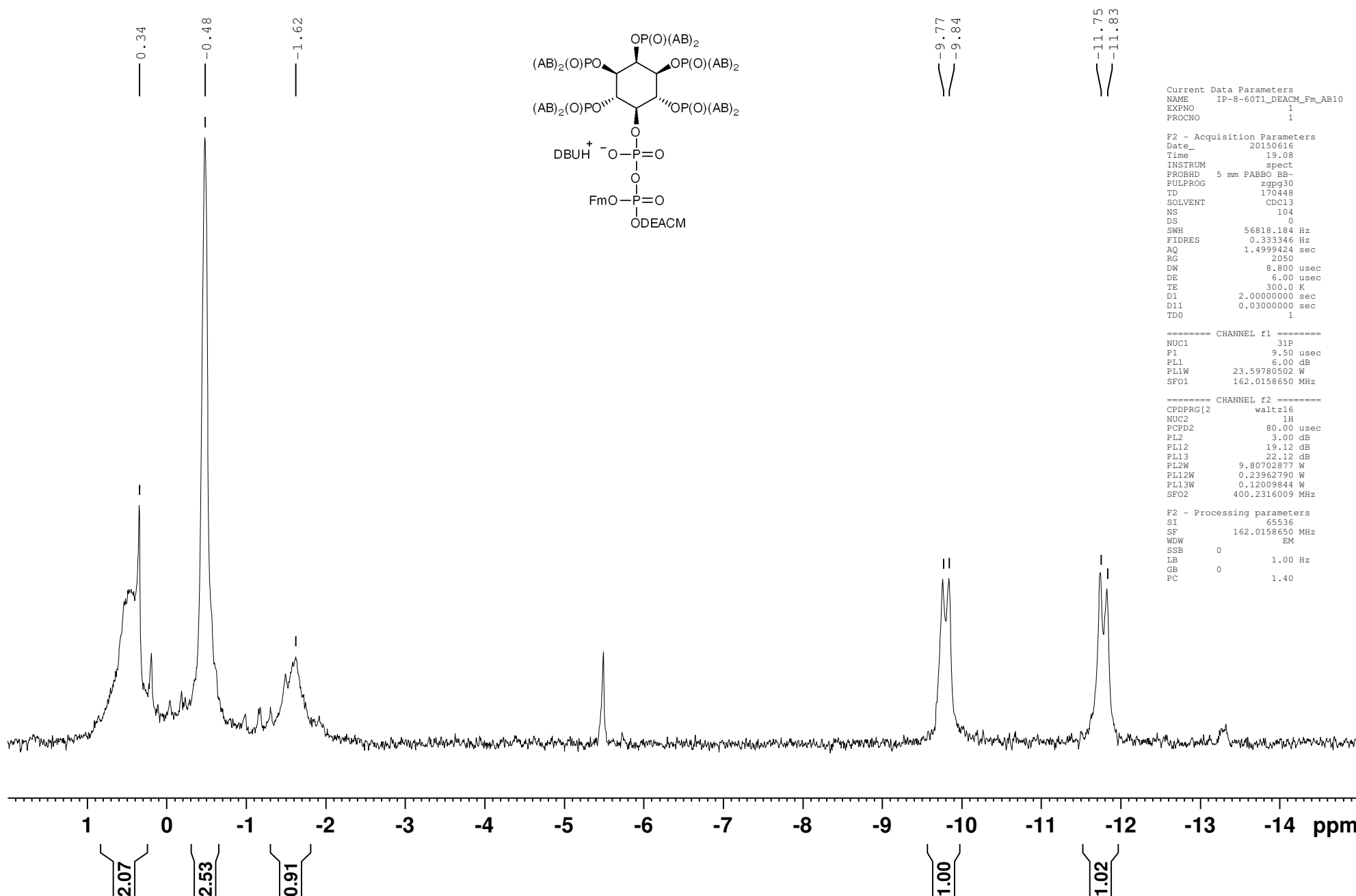
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SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 13312  
DS 0  
SWH 24038.461 Hz  
FIDRES 0.366798 Hz  
AQ 1.3631488 sec  
RG 2050  
DW 20.800 usec  
DE 6.00 usec  
TE 300.0 K  
D1 2.00000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
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P1 9.50 usec  
PL1 3.00 dB  
PL1W 46.70613098 W  
SF01 100.6479773 MHz

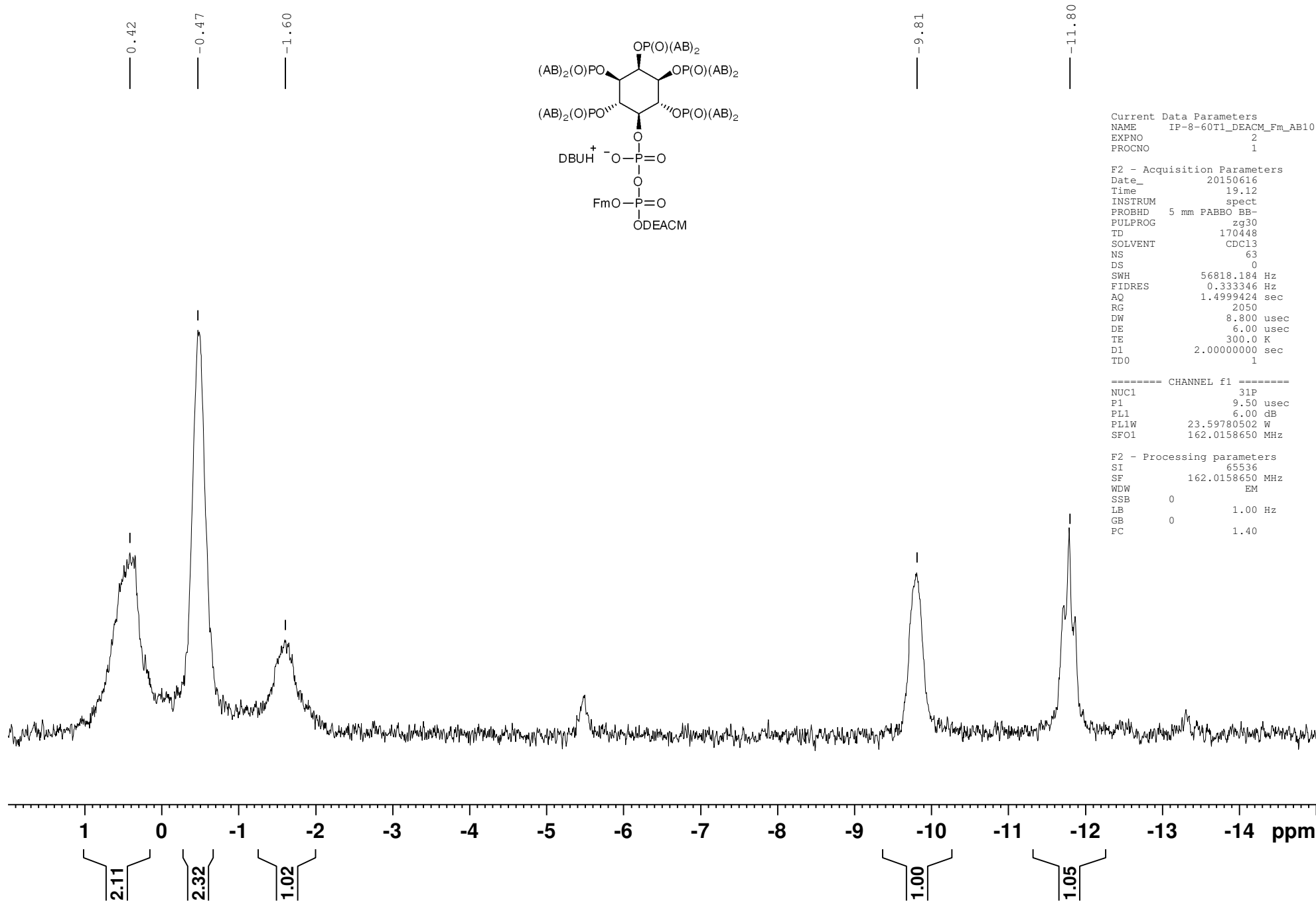
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PL2 3.00 dB  
PL12 19.12 dB  
PL13 22.12 dB  
PL2W 9.80702877 W  
PL12W 0.23962790 W  
PL13W 0.12009844 W  
SF02 400.2316009 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters  
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WDW EM  
SSB 0  
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GB 0  
PC 1.40

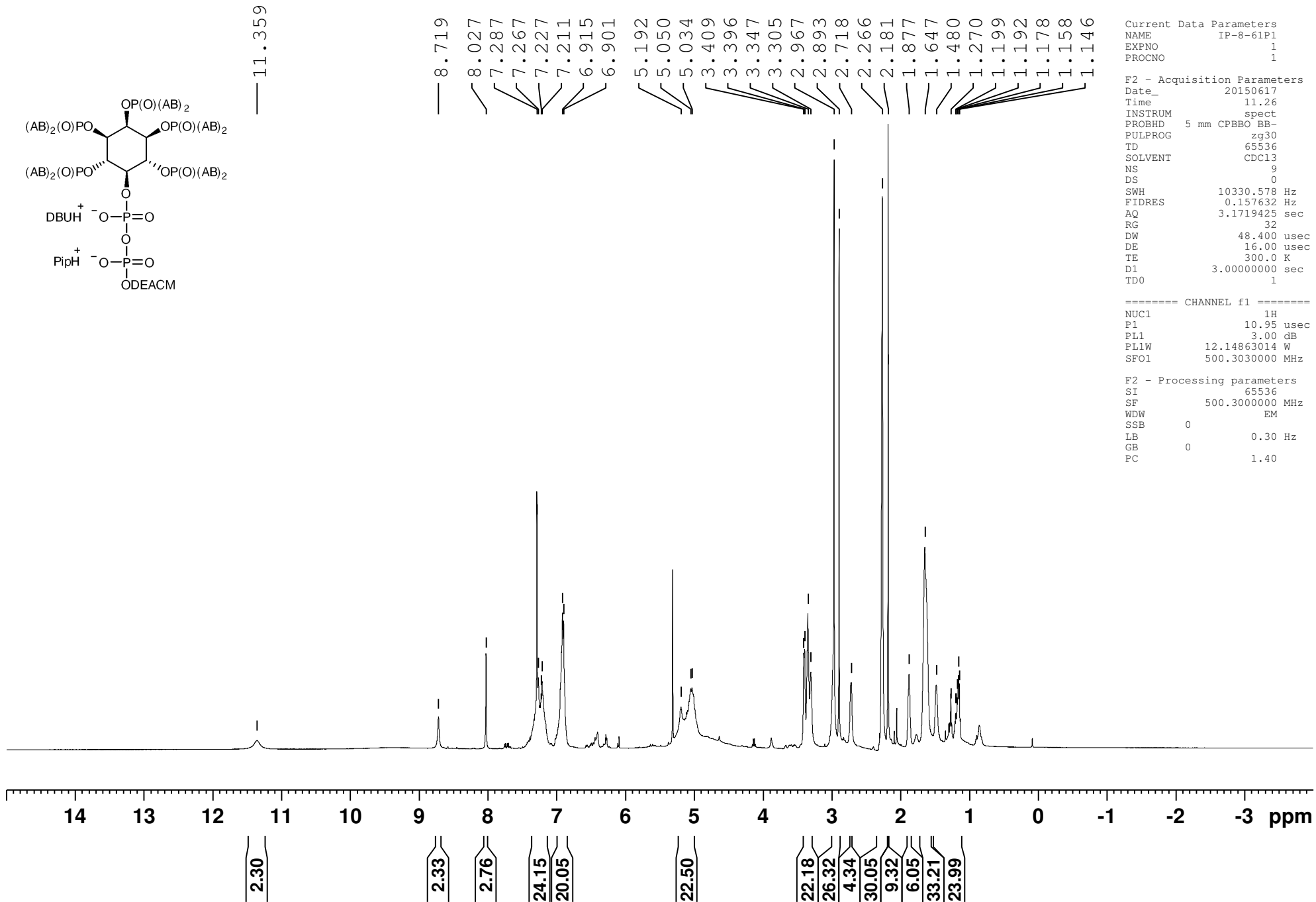
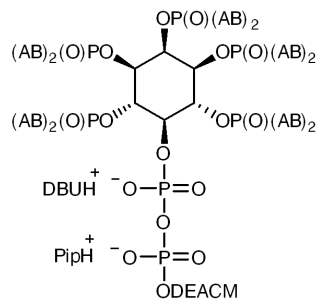
# Compound 7, 31P{1H}



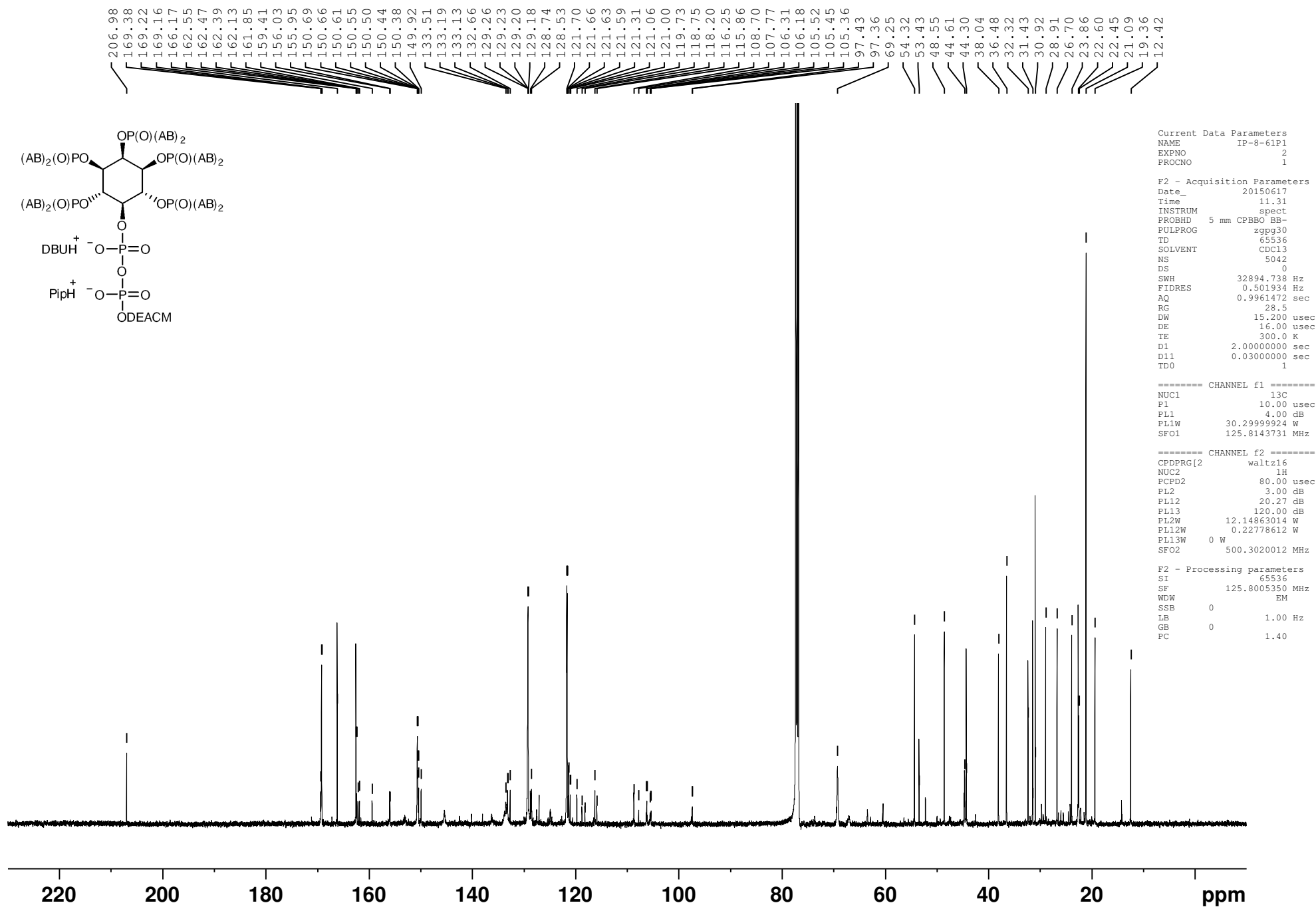
### Compound 7, $^{31}\text{P}$



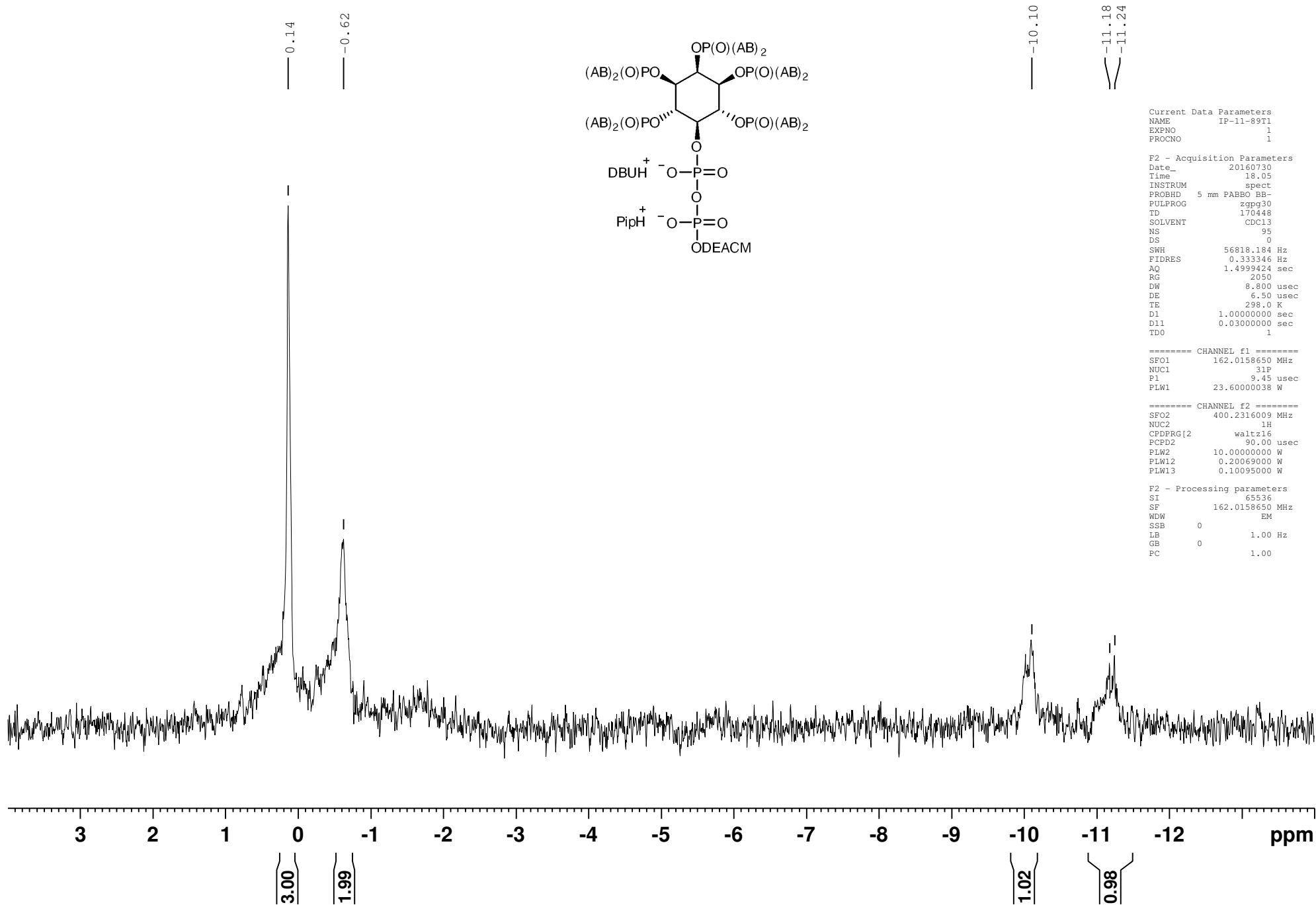
### Compound 8, <sup>1</sup>H



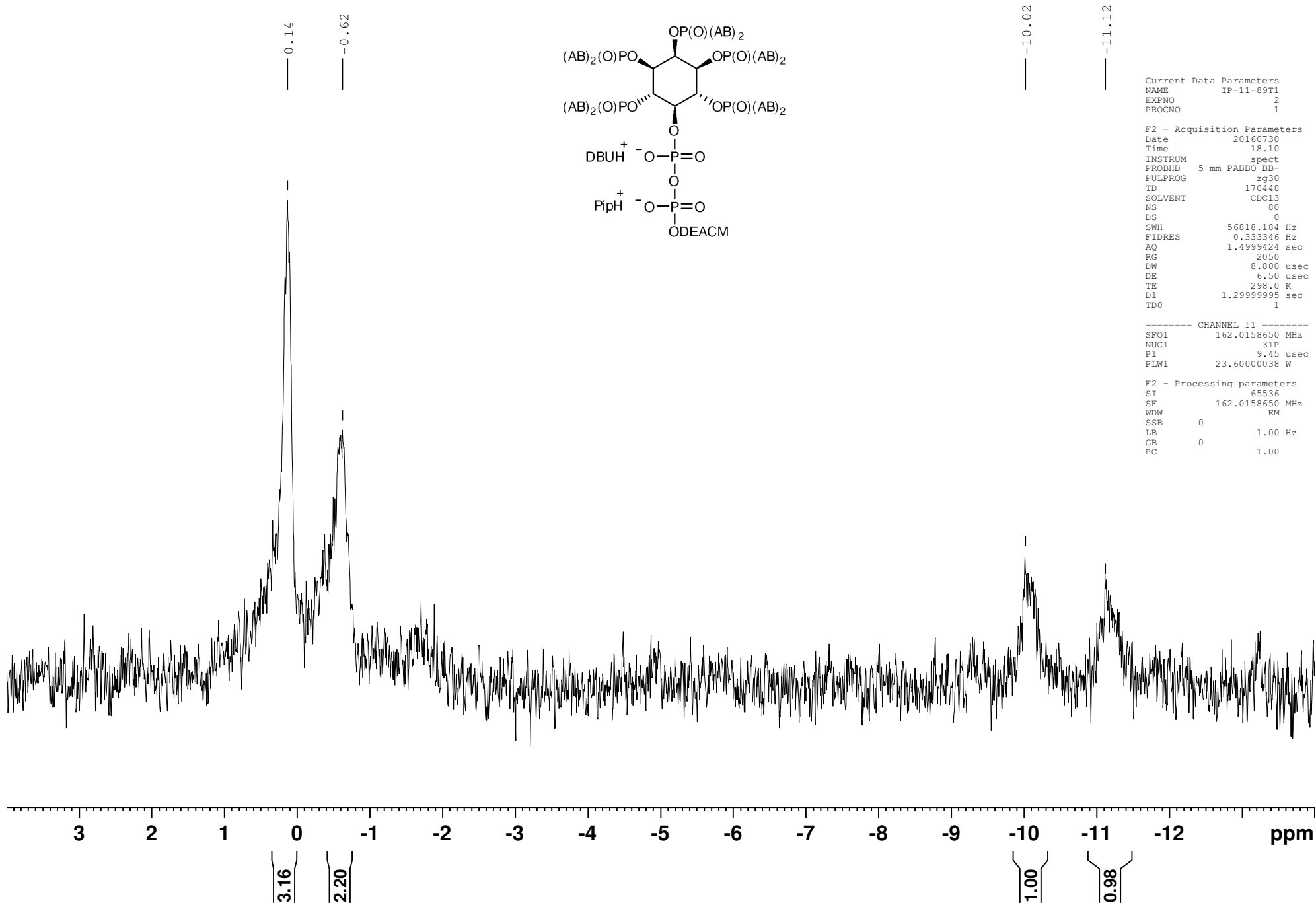
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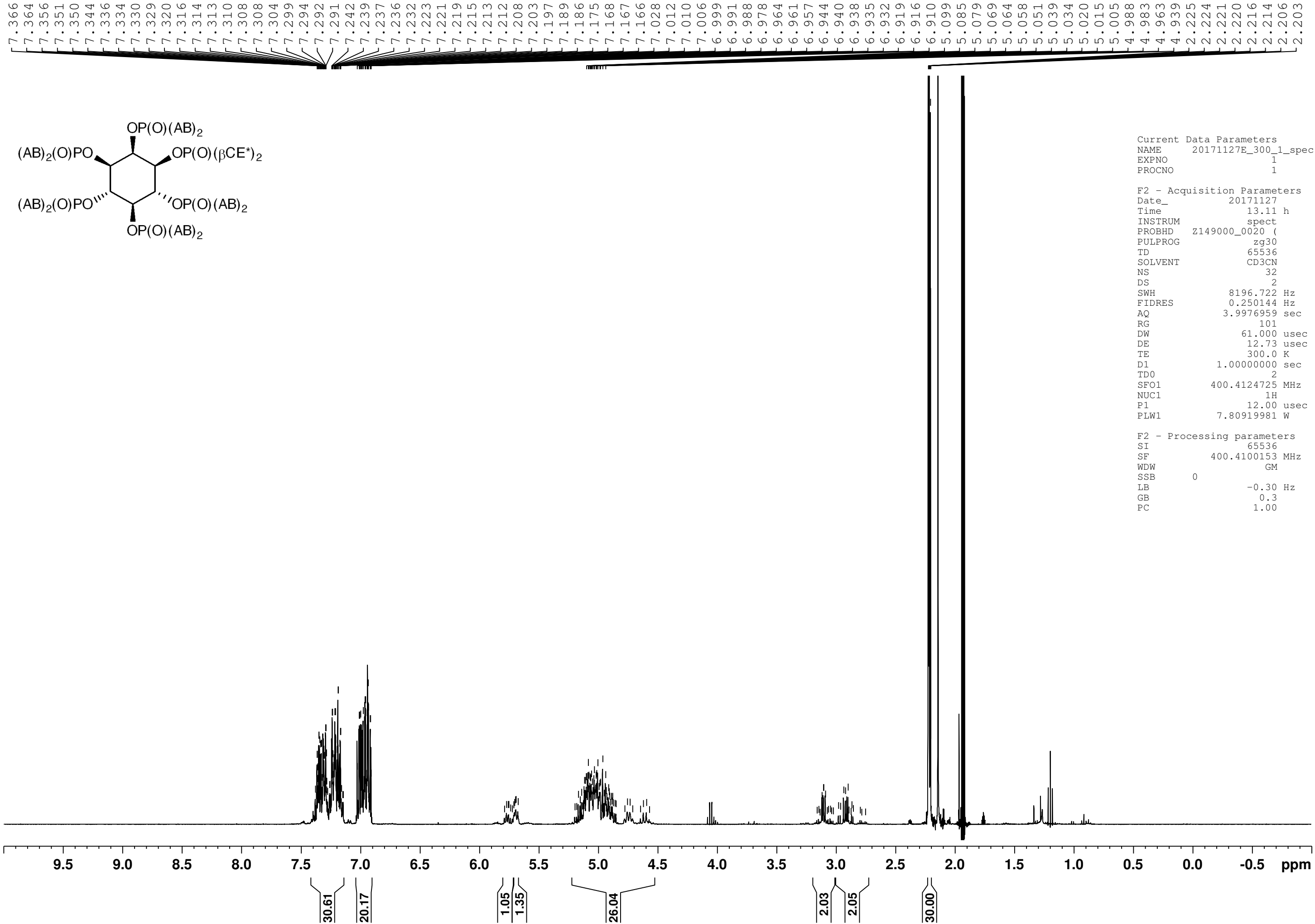
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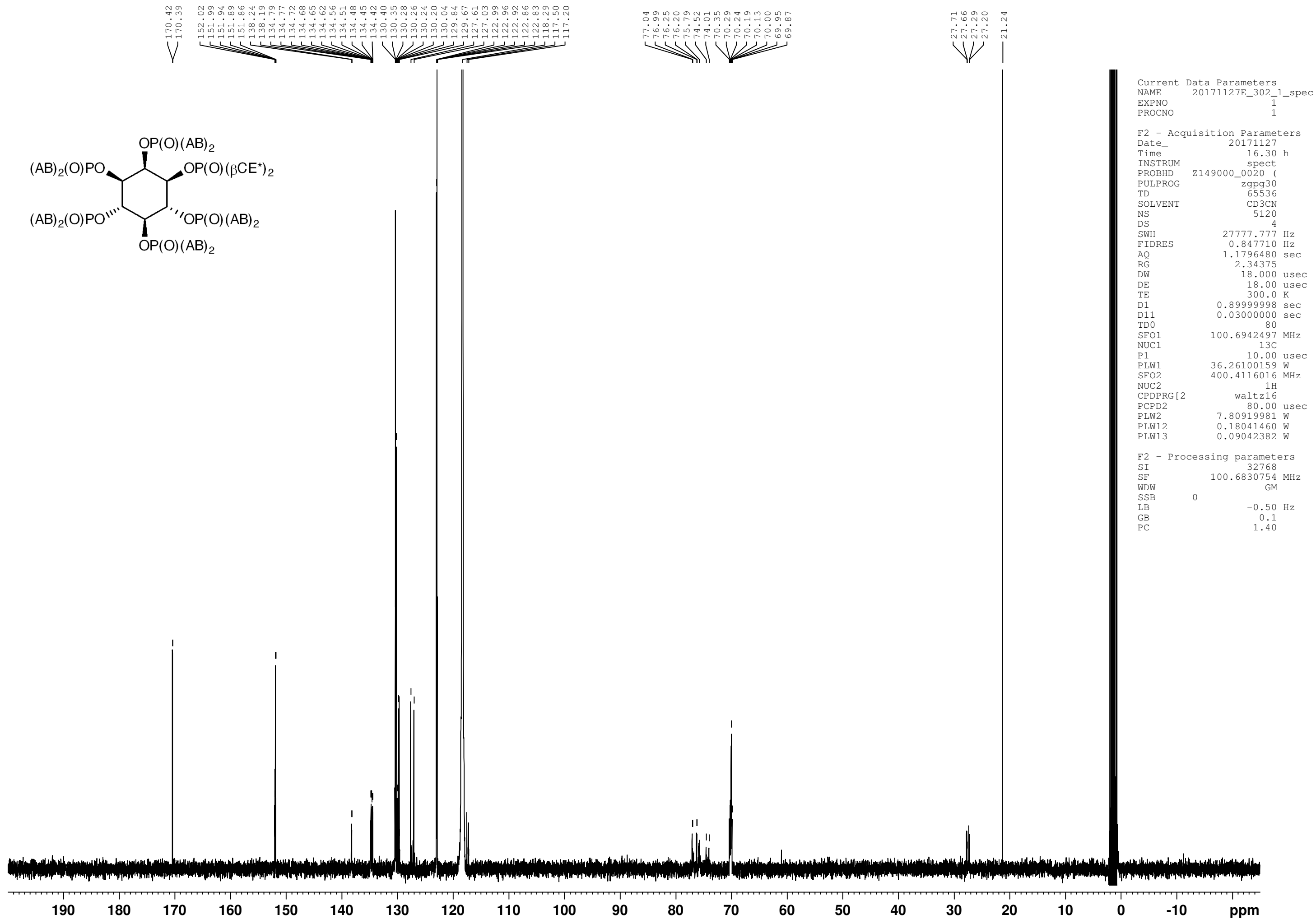
Compound 8,  $^{31}\text{P}$



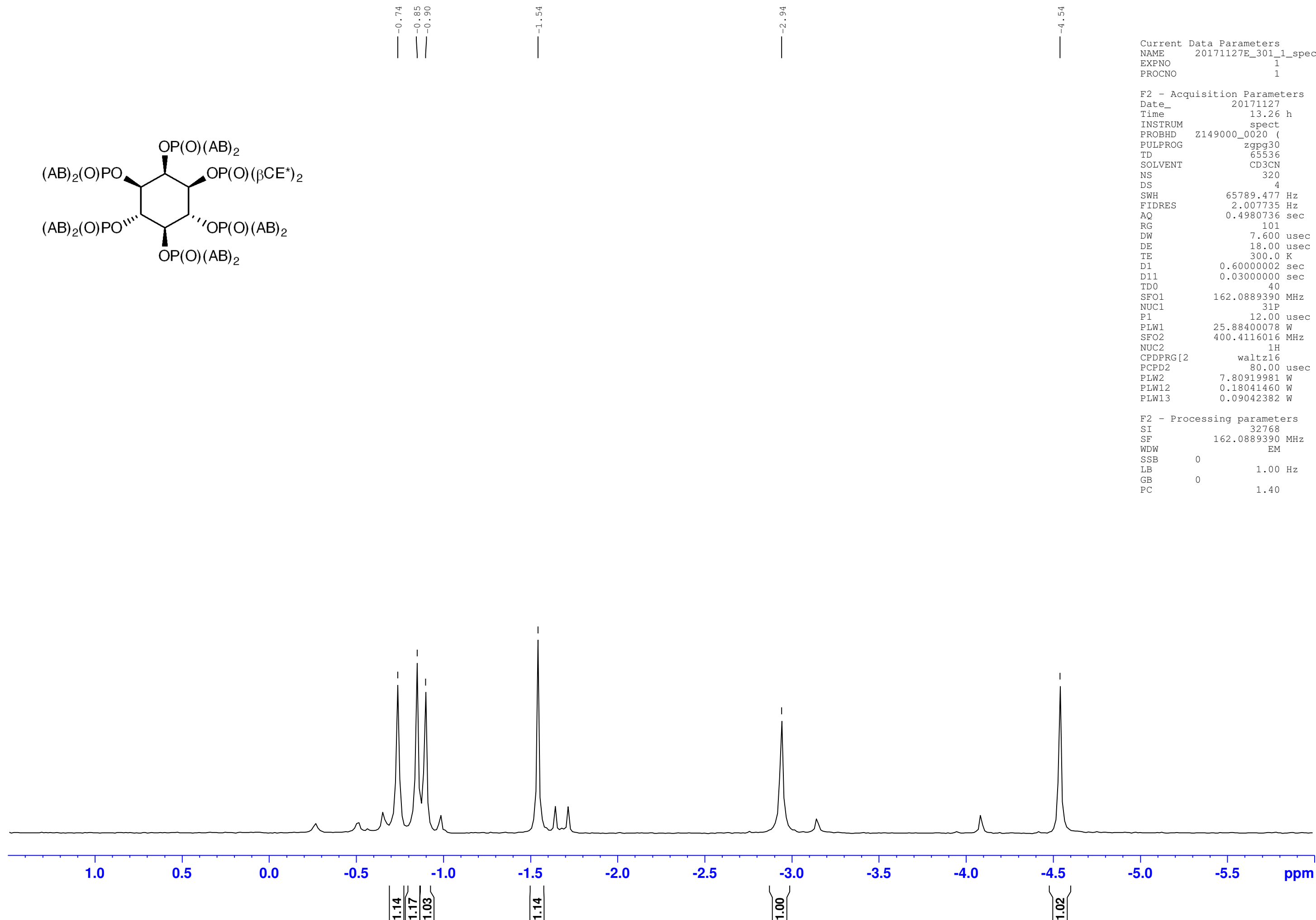
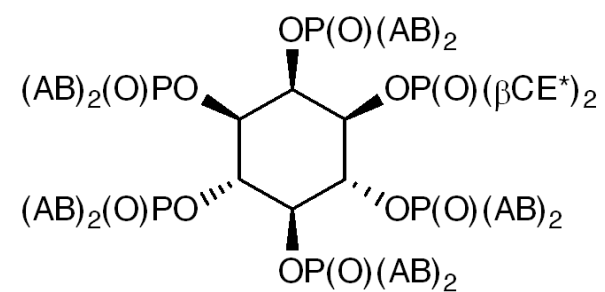
Compound 11, 1H



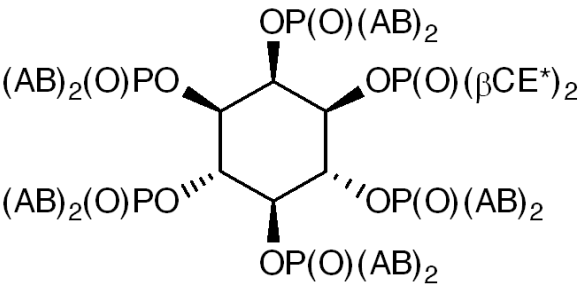
Compound 11, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}



Compound 11,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$



Compound 11, 31P



-0.66  
-0.71  
-0.77  
-0.82  
-0.87  
-0.92  
-0.98

-1.47  
-1.52  
-1.57  
-1.62  
-1.67

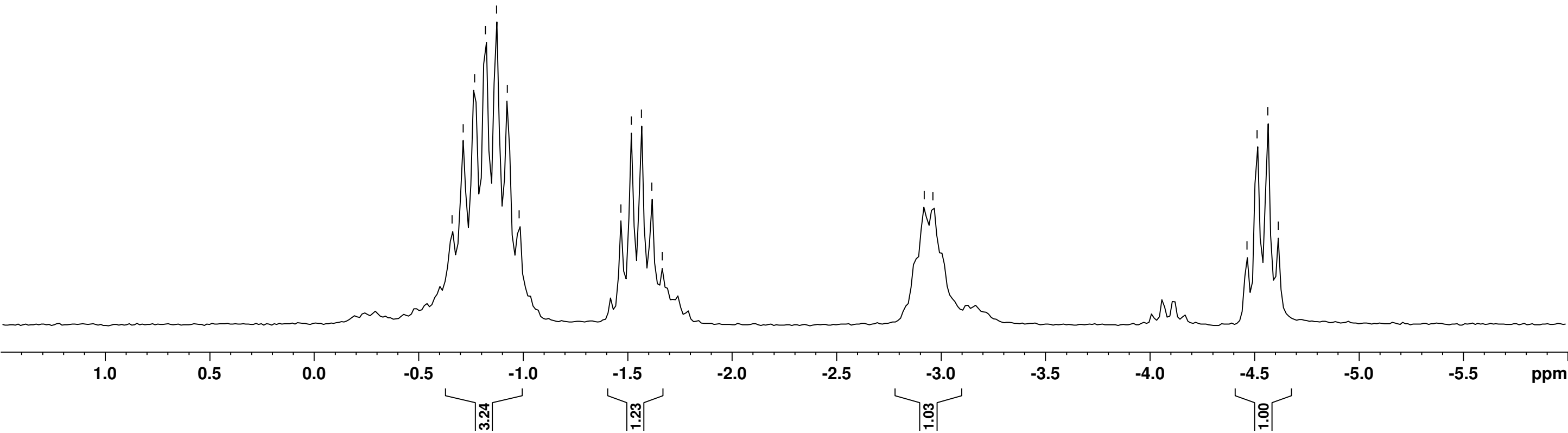
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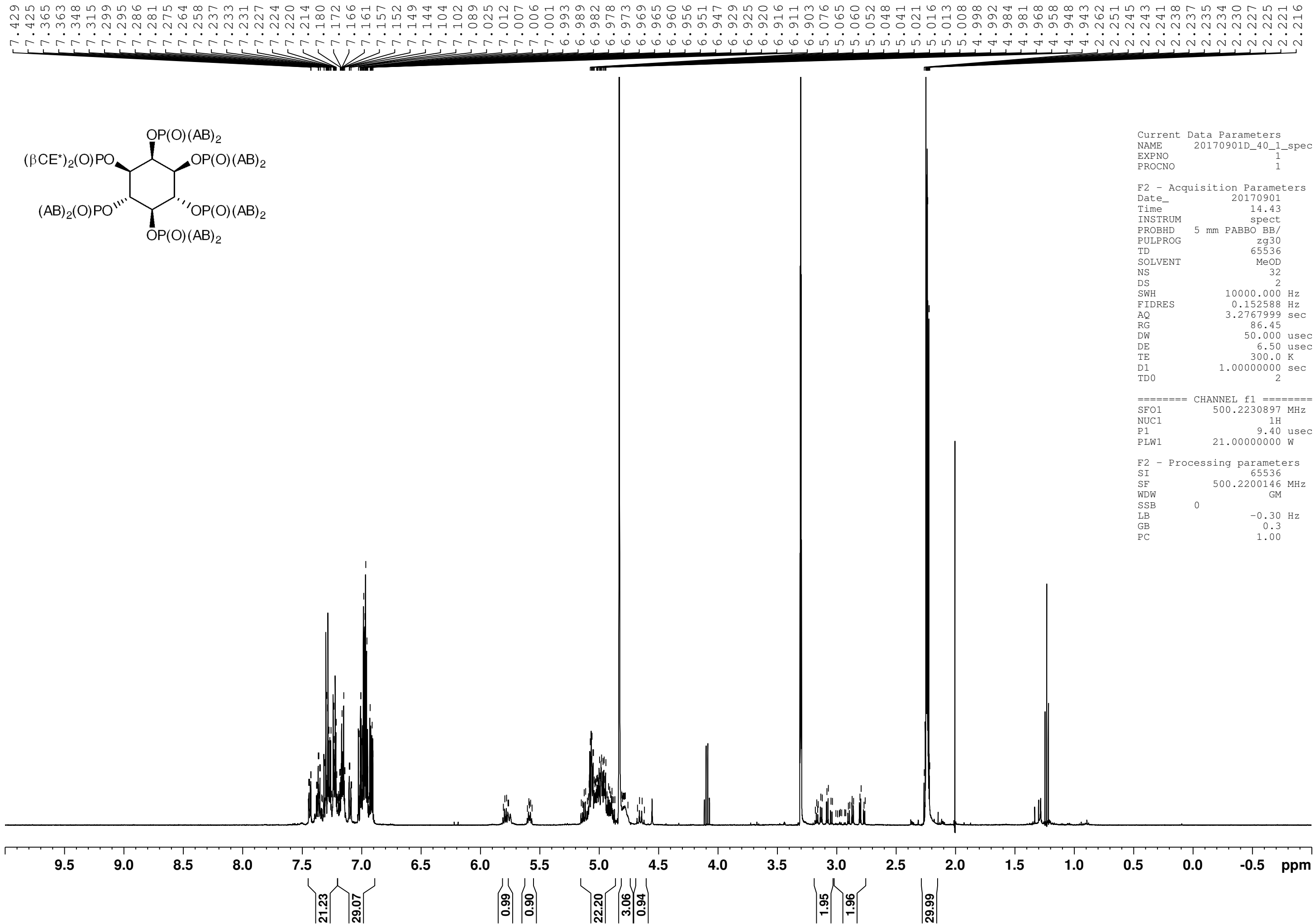
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EXPNO 1  
PROCNO 1

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PULPROG zg30  
TD 65536  
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NS 1280  
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FIDRES 2.007735 Hz  
AQ 0.4980736 sec  
RG 101  
DW 7.600 usec  
DE 18.00 usec  
TE 300.0 K  
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PLW1 25.88400078 W

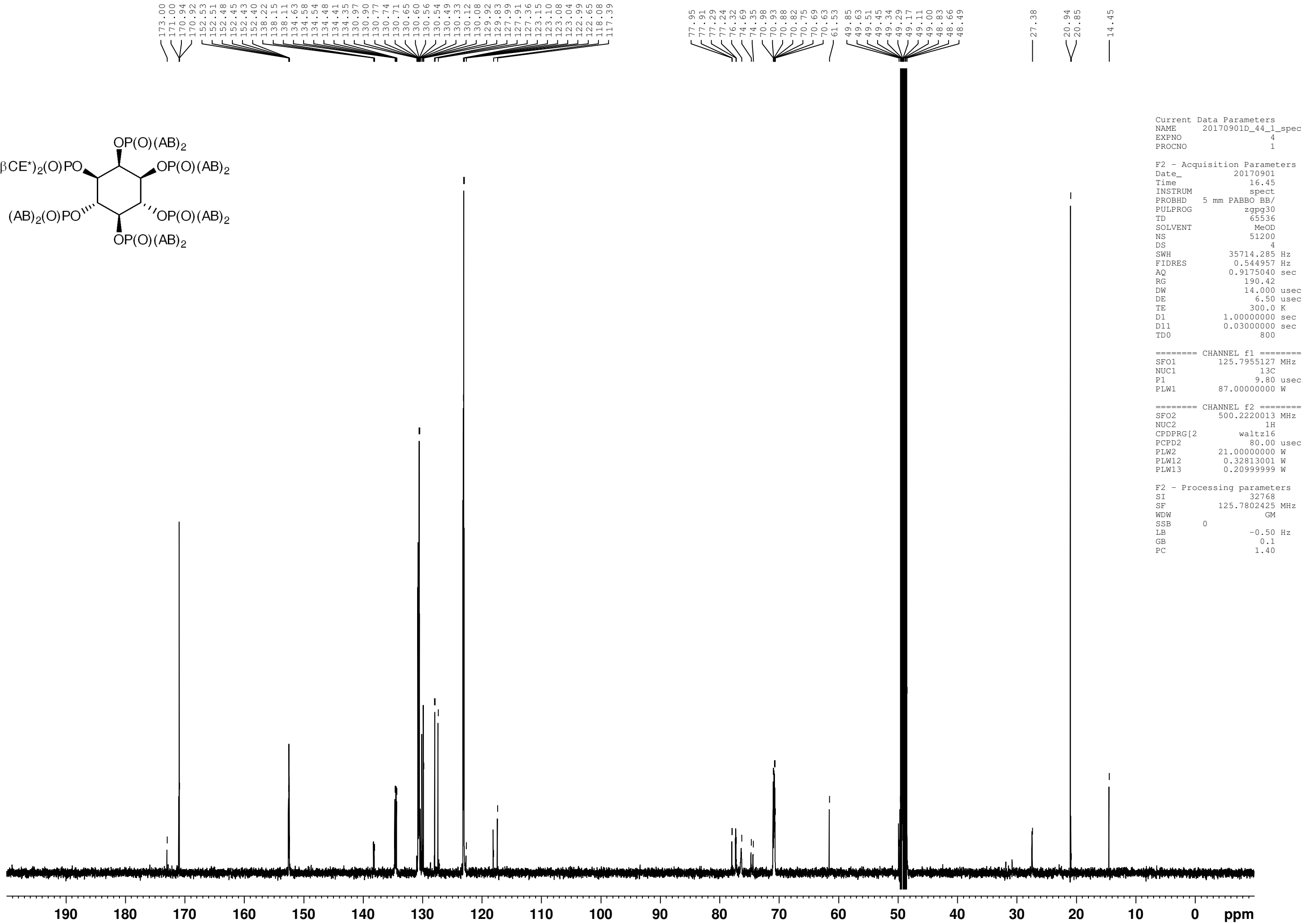
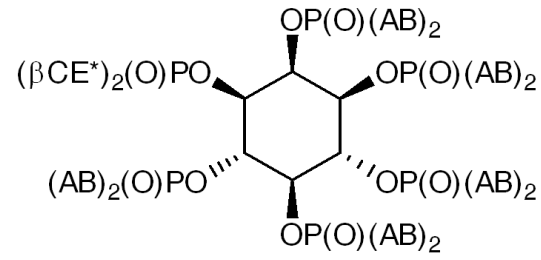
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SF 162.0889390 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 1.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40



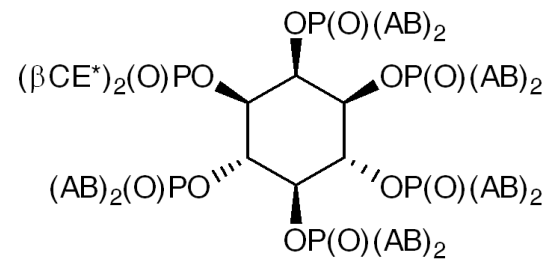
Compound dias-11, 1H



Compound dias-11,  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$



Compound dias-11,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$



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Current Data Parameters
NAME      20170901D_42_1_spec
EXPNO      1
PROCNO     1
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```

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
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Time           14.55
INSTRUM        spect
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PULPROG        zgpg30
TD             65536
SOLVENT         MeOD
NS              320
DS              4
SWH            81521.742 Hz
FIDRES         1.243923 Hz
AQ             0.4019541 sec
RG             190.42
DW             6.133 usec
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TD0            20

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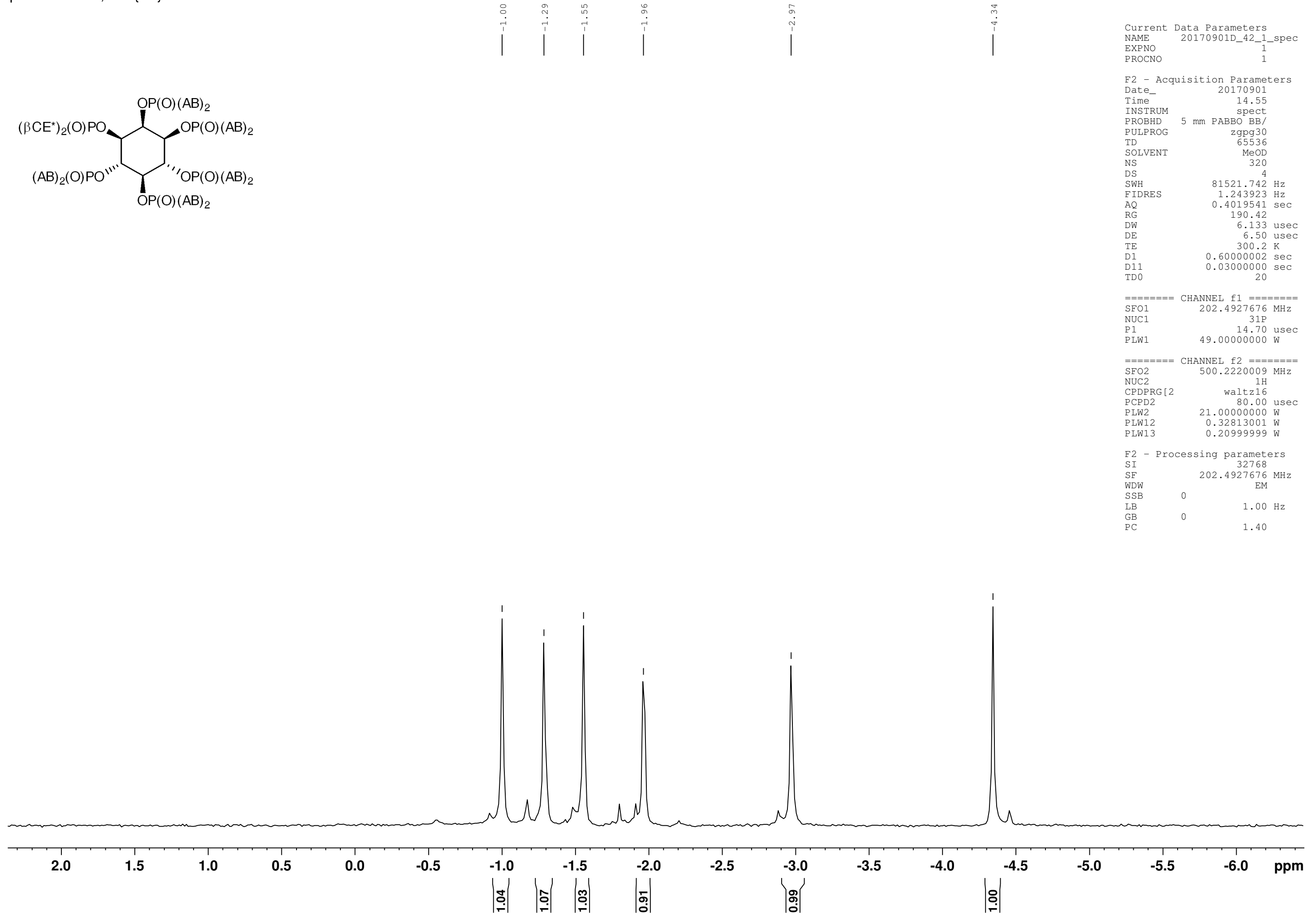
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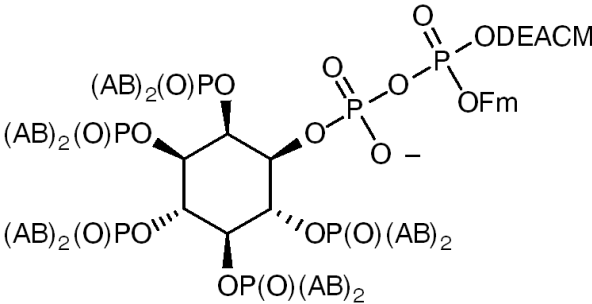
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Compound 12, 31P{1H}



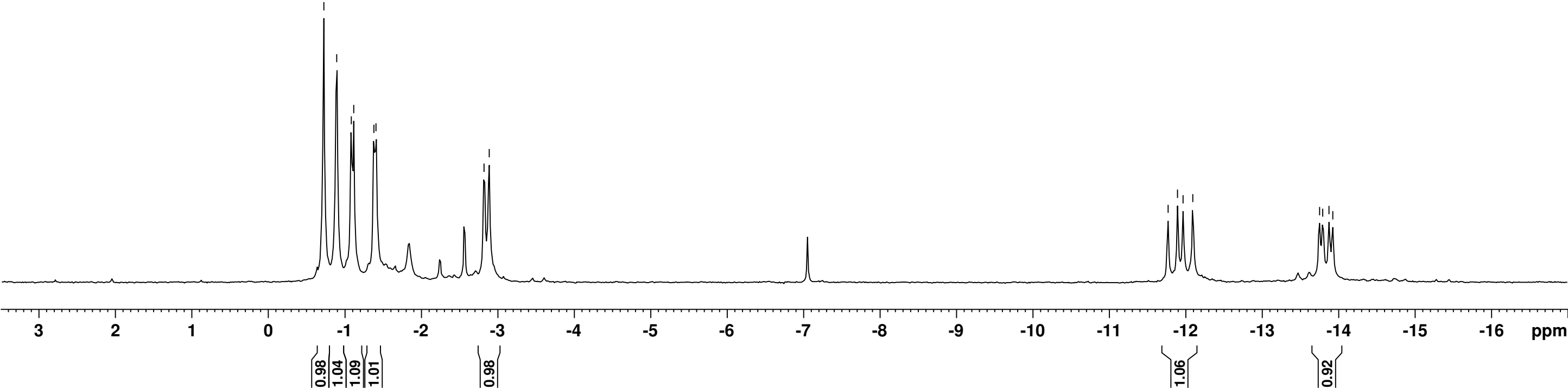
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PROCNO 1

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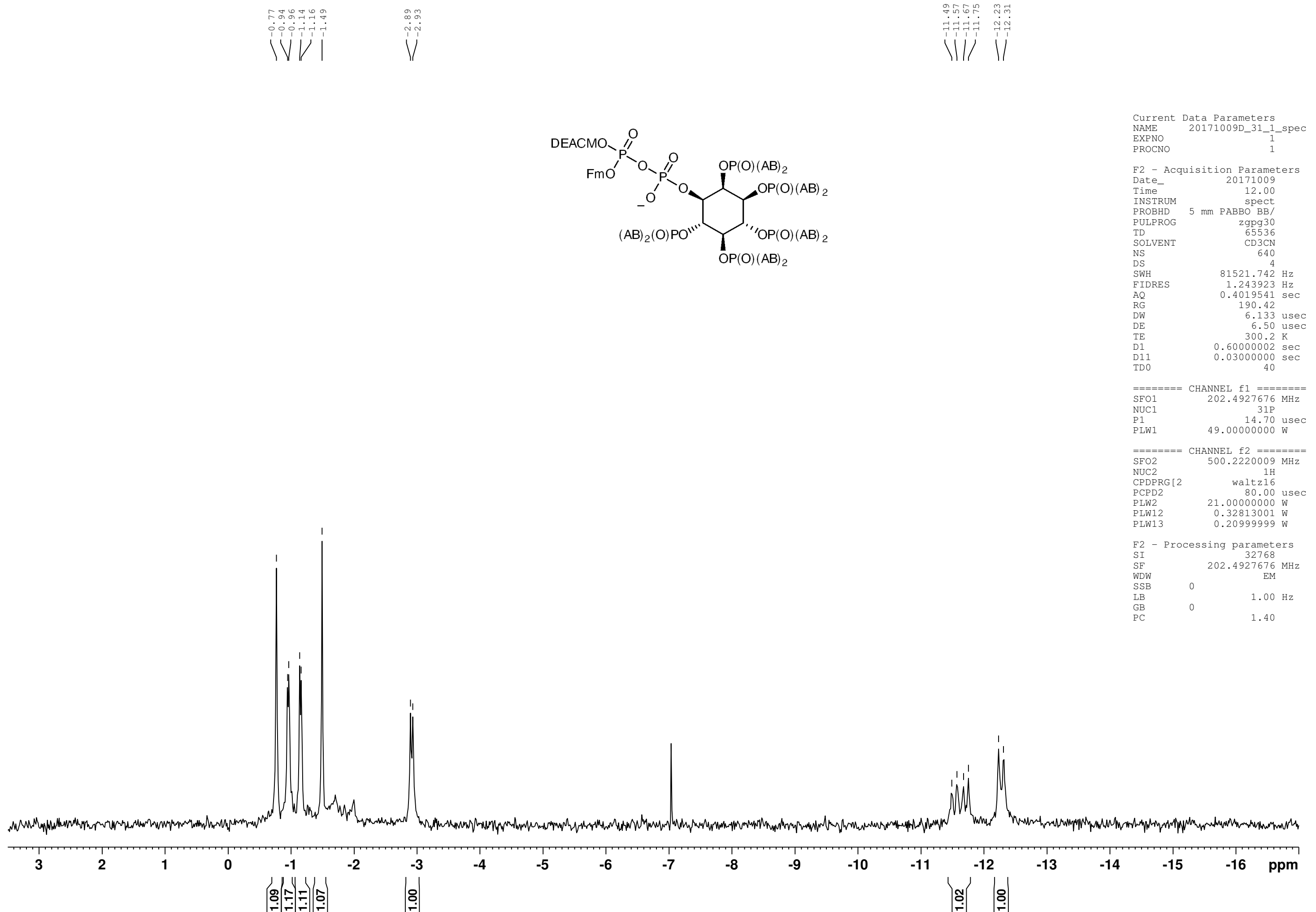
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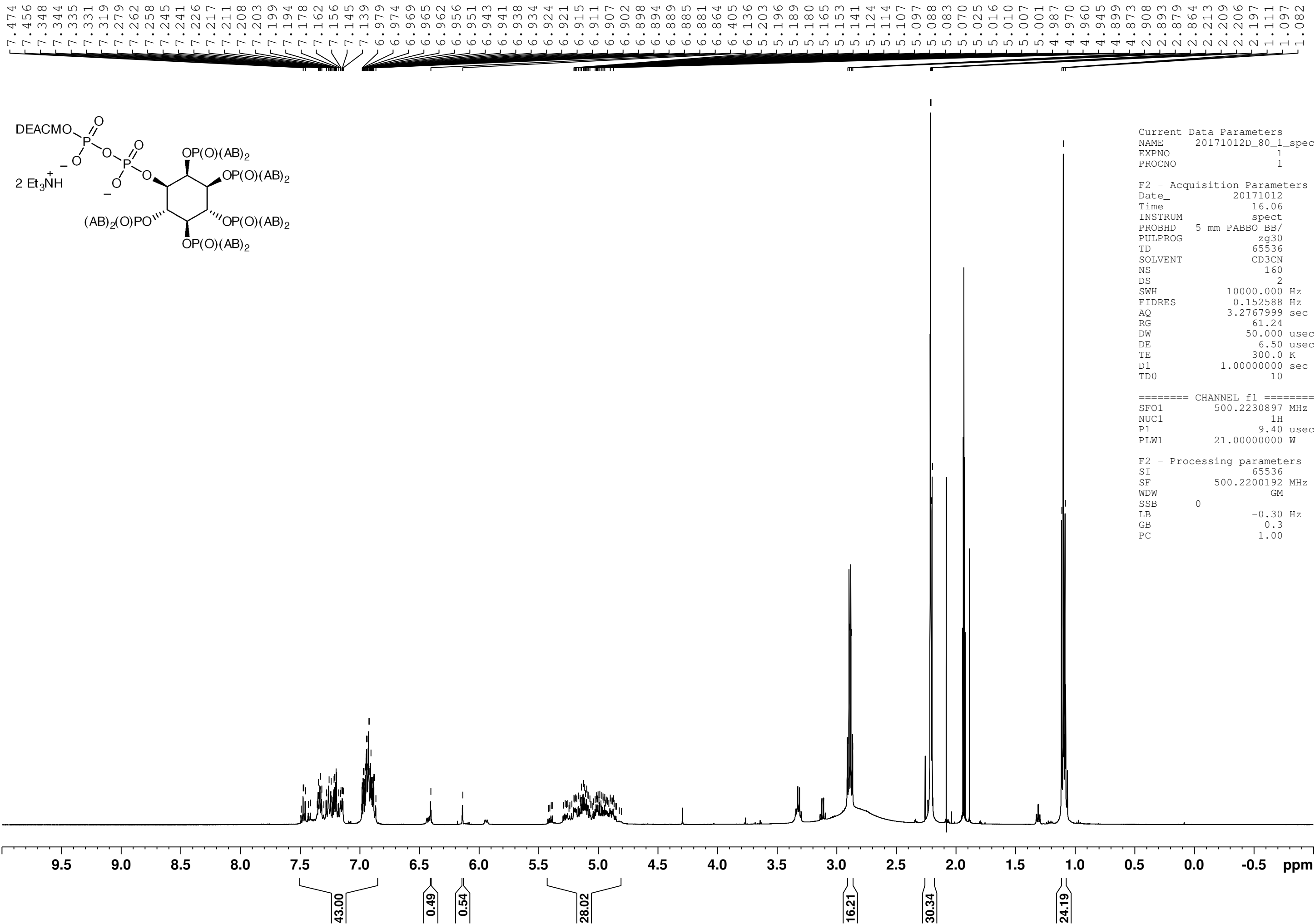
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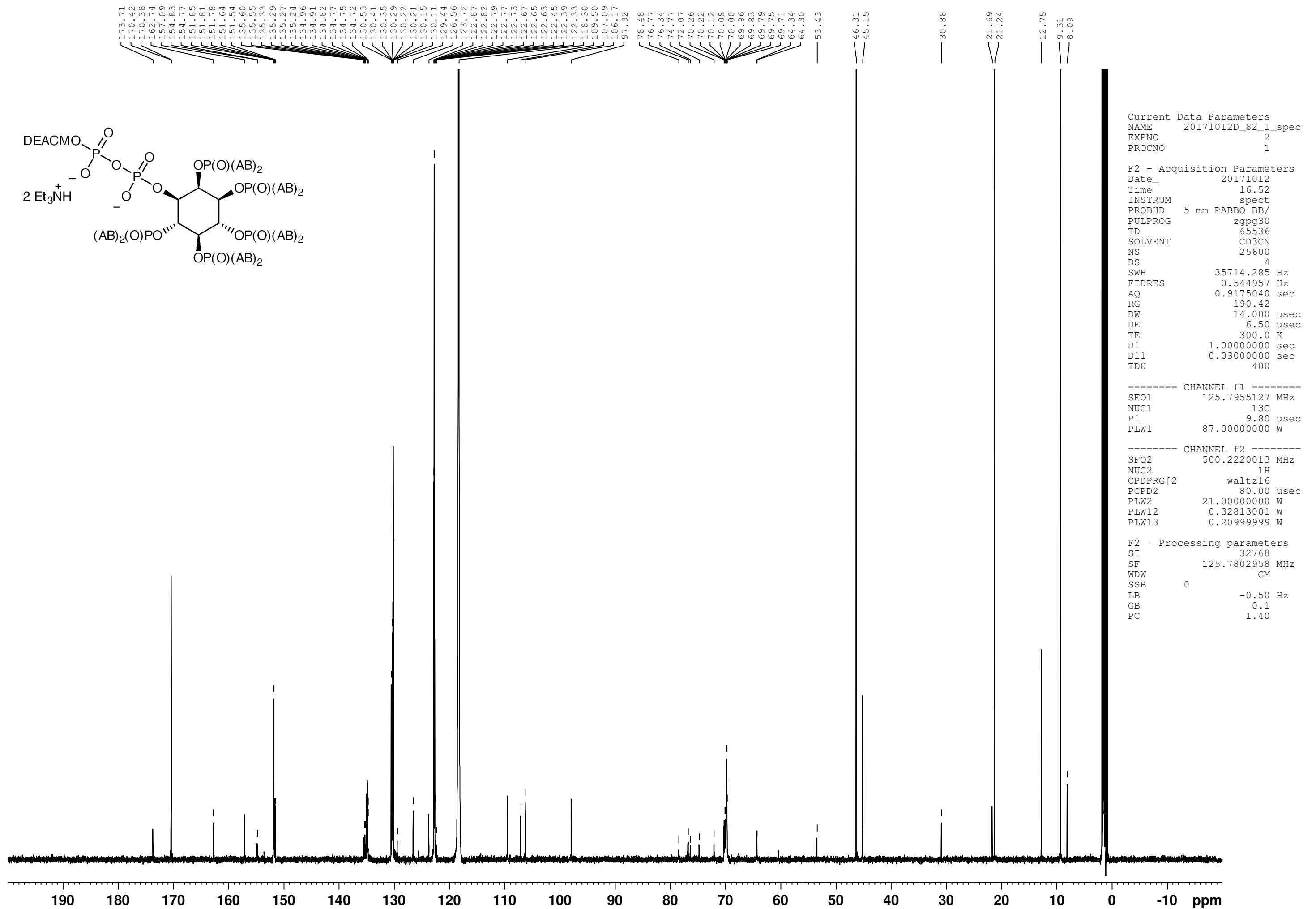


Compound dias-12,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$

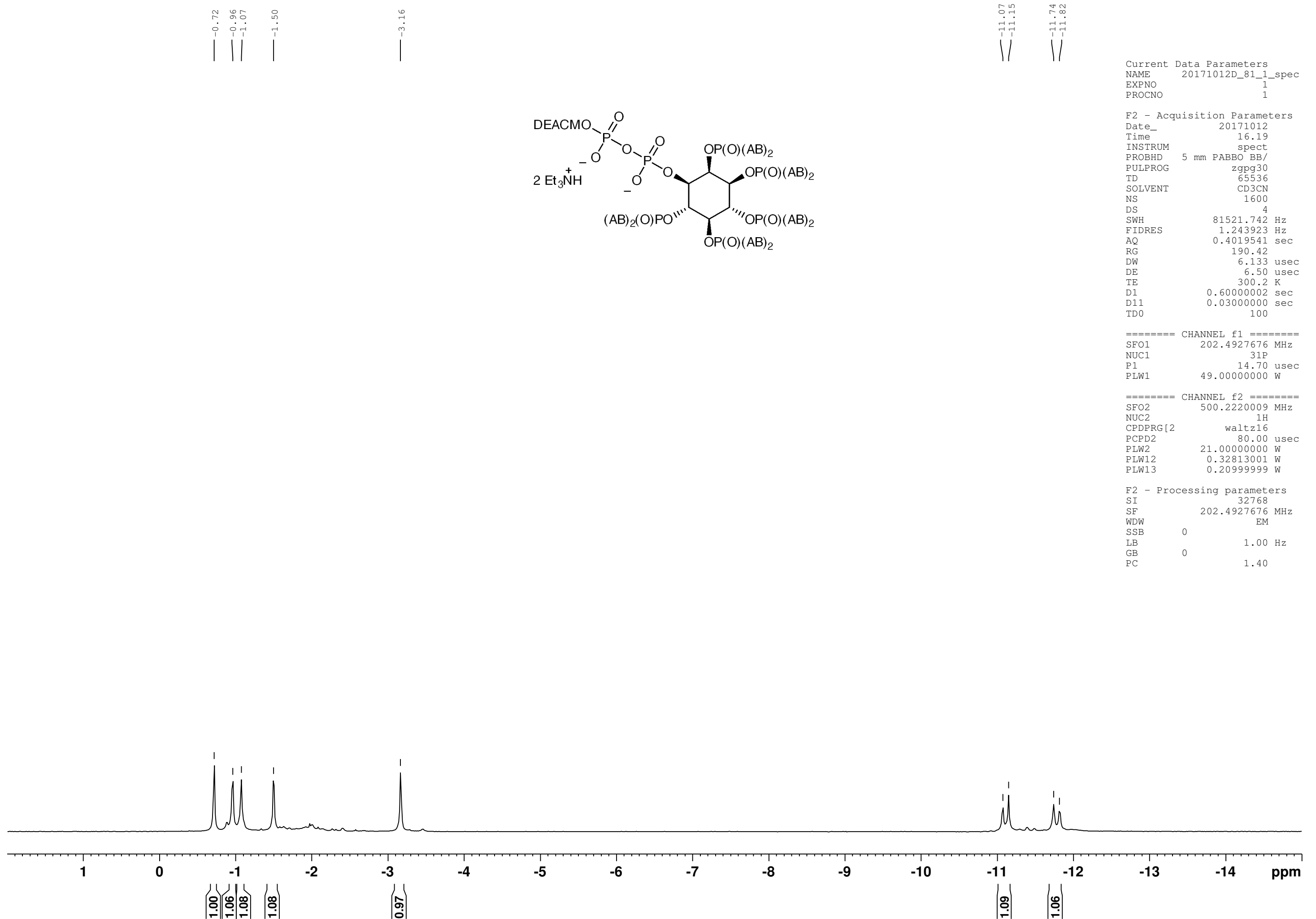


### Compound ent-13, 1H



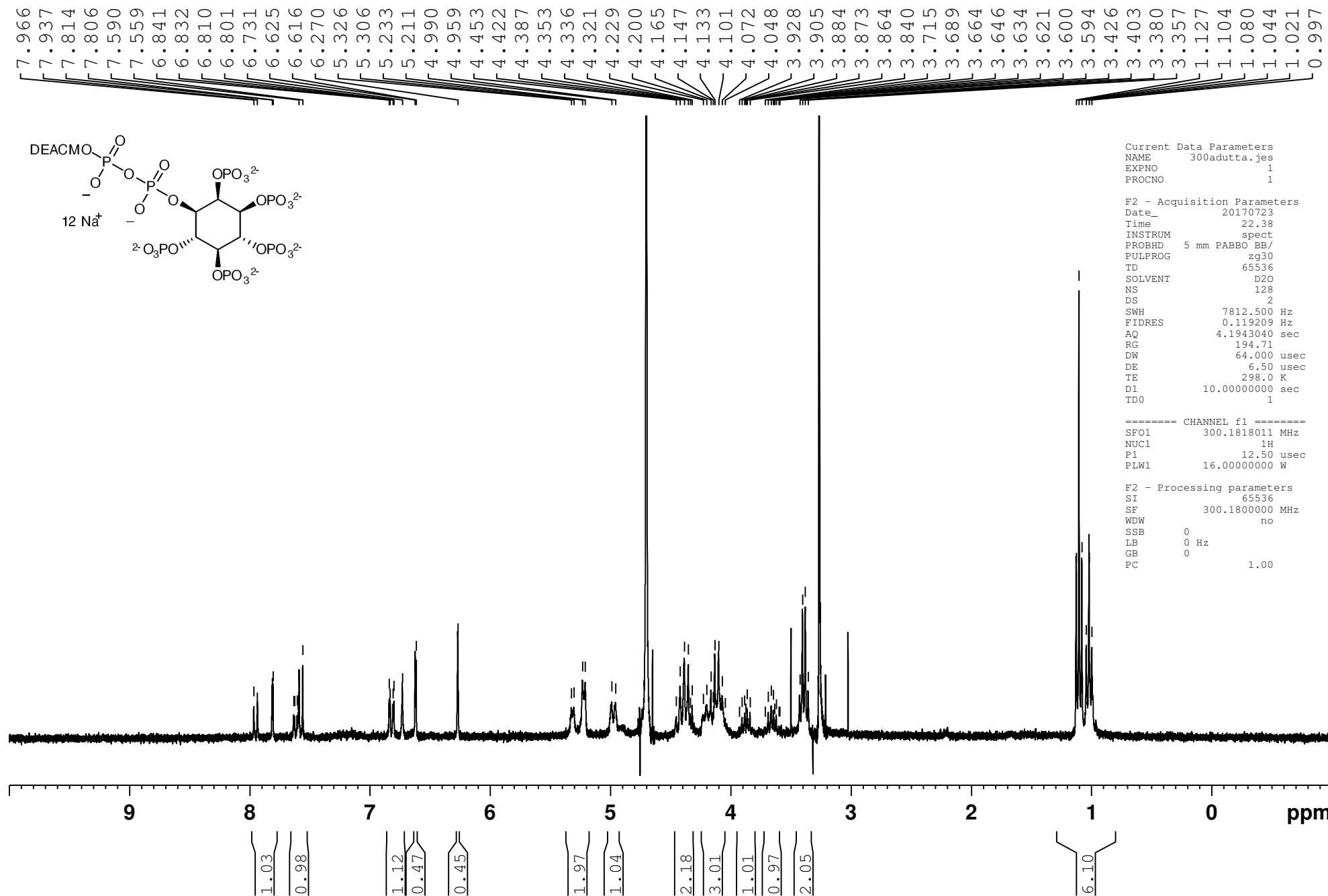


Compound ent-13,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$

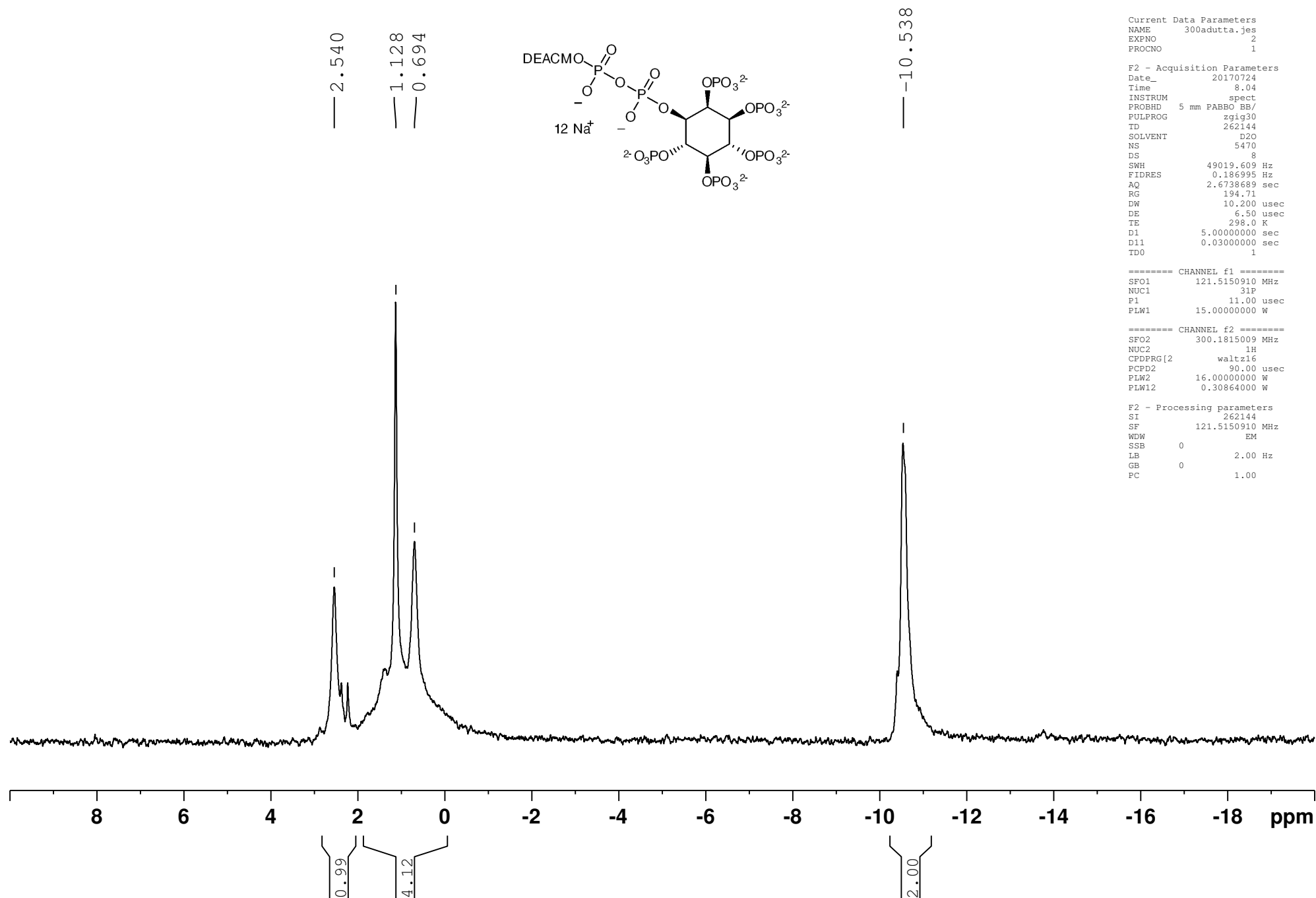




Compound ent-14, 1H

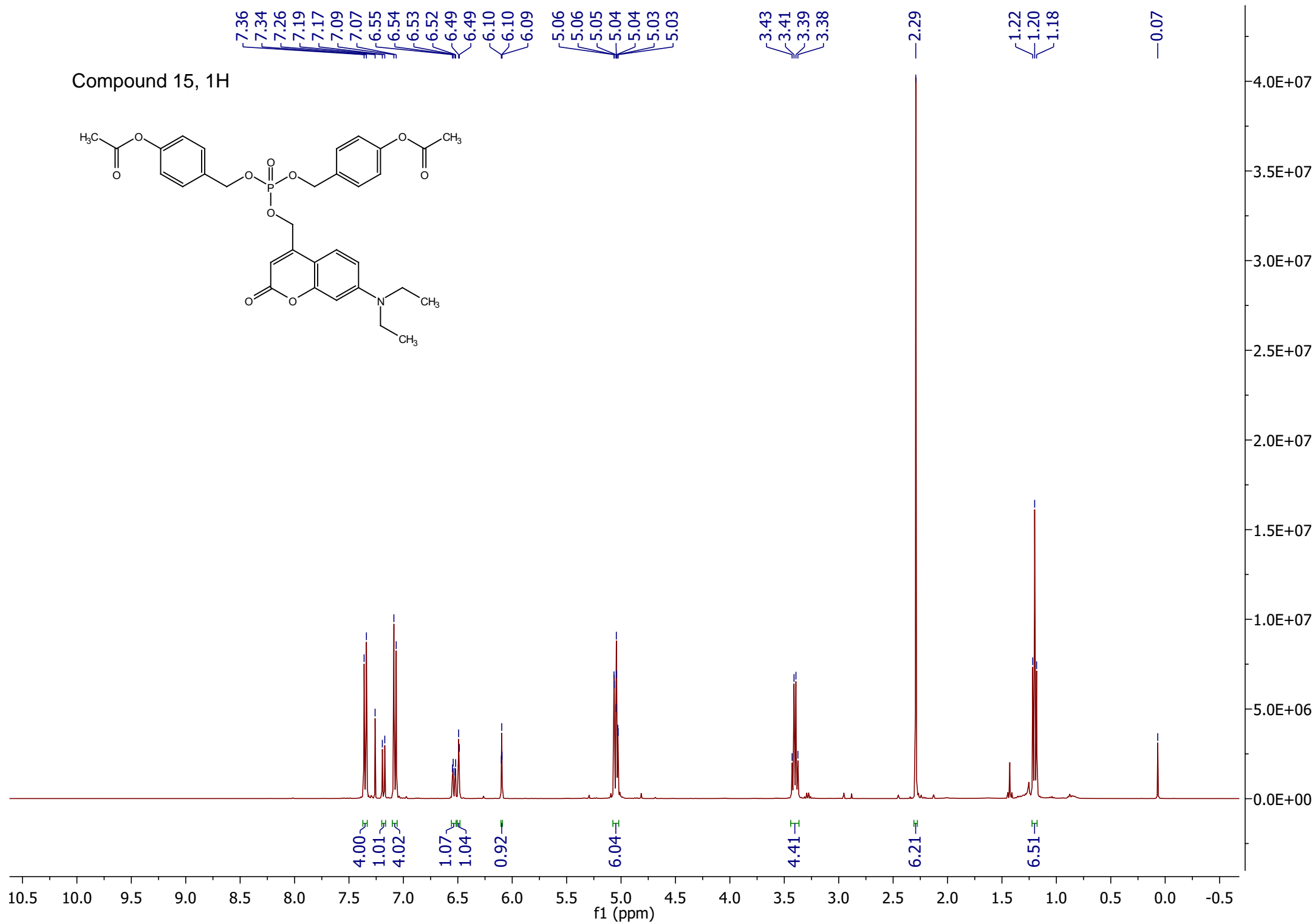
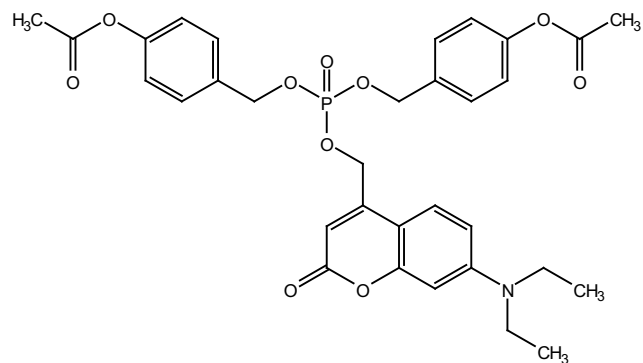


Compound ent-14,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$

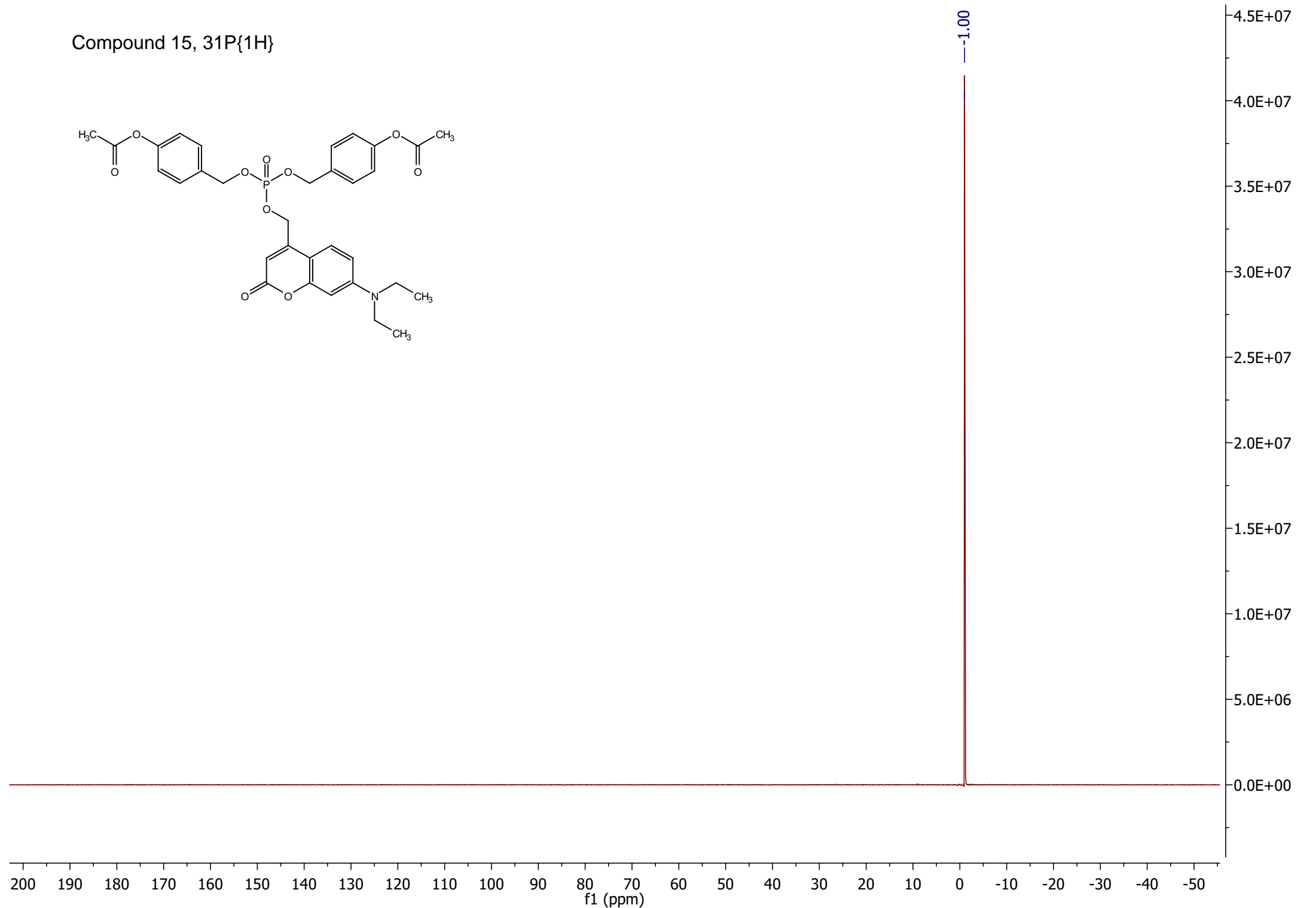
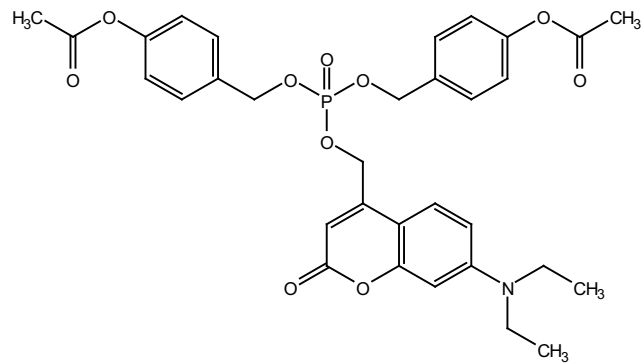




Compound 15, <sup>1</sup>H



Compound 15, 31P{1H}



Compound 15,  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$

