Supporting Information Dry and Wet Prolines for Asymmetric Organic-Solvent-Free Aldehyde-Aldehyde and Aldehyde-Ketone Aldol Reactions

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Typical procedure for the solvent-free cross-aldol reaction between two aldehydes catalyzed by proline

To a mixture of *o*-chlorobenzaldehyde (45 μ L, 0.4 mmol) and L-proline (5 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added propanal (144 μ L, 2.0 mmol) successively at 0 °C. After stirring the reaction mixture for 48 hours at that temperature, the reaction mixture was cooled at 0 °C and MeOH (1 mL) and NaBH₄ (76 mg, 2.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with pH 7.0 phosphate buffer solution and the organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate three times and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by preparative thin layer chromatography (ethyl acetate) gave (1*R*, 2*R*)-1-(*o*-chlorophenyl)-2-methylpropane-1,3 -diol (72 mg, 0.36 mmol) in 90% yield as the diastereomeric mixture (*anti* : *syn* = 12.9 : 1). Enantiometric excess of *anti* aldol was 96%ee.

(1R, 2R)-1-(o-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol (1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.81 (3H, t, *J*= 7.2 Hz), 2.02-2.05 (1H, m), 2.80 (1H, br s), 3.30 (1H, br s), 3.61-3.70 (2H, m), 5.05 (1H, d, *J*= 6.8 Hz), 7.14 (1H, t, *J*= 7.6 Hz), 7.22-7.27 (2H, m), 7.50 (1H, d, *J*= 7.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 13.7, 40.7, 67.1, 76.1, 127.2, 128.1, 128.7, 129.4, 132.5,

TC NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): o 13.7, 40.7, 67.1, 76.1, 127.2, 128.1, 128.7, 129.4, 132.5 140.9;

IR (neat): v 3357, 2966, 2932, 1572, 1471, 1438, 1034, 754, 703 cm⁻¹;

HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [C₁₀H₁₃ClO₂Na]: 223.0504, found: 223.0496;

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (100:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ =254 nm), 1.2 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 15.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 17.2 min, after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.

(1R, 2R)-1-(p-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol (2)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.71 (3H, d, *J*= 7.2 Hz), 1.95-2.06 (1H, m), 2.15-2.32 (2H, m), 4.59 (1H, d, *J*= 7.6 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, *J*= 8.0 Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, *J*= 8.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 13.7, 41.6, 67.6, 79.8, 125.3, 127.0, 130.2, 147.3; IR (neat): v 3349, 2884, 1619, 1419, 1326, 1164, 1126, 1068, 1017, 841 cm⁻¹; HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [C₁₁H₁₃F₃O₂Na]: 257.0760, found: 257.0764;

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (80:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 254 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 39.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 52.8 min, after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.

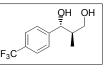
(1R, 2R)-1-Phenyl-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol¹(3)

was known compound.

Enantiometric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (30:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 230 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 27.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 38.6 min, after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.

The absolute stereochemistry of the aldol **3** was determined by the chiral HPLC analysis by comparing the retention time of the present aldol product with that synthesized by L-proline in DMF by MacMillan's





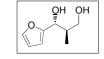
OH

procedure¹.

(1R,2R)-1-(Furan-2-yl)-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol²(4)

was known compound.

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (100:1 hexane:2-propanol), 0.5 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 42.4 min, minor enantiomer tr = 47.8 min, after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.



The absolute stereochemistry of the aldols 1, 2, 4 were assumed by the chiral HPLC analysis by comparing the retention time of the present aldol product with that synthesized by L-proline in DMF by MacMillan's procedure¹.

4,4-Dimethoxy-2-benzylbutane-1,3-diol (diastereomeric mixture (anti : syn = 3.3 : 1)) (5)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.07-2.17 (0.77H, m), 2.45-2.48 (0.23H, m), 2.67 (0.23H, d, *J*= 2.4 Hz), 2.72 (0.77H, d, *J*= 3.2 Hz), 2.80-2.92 (3H, m), 3.34 (2.31H, s), 3.40 (0.69H, s), 3.45 (2.31H, s), 3.49 (0.69H, s), 3.62-3.73 (2H, m), 3.90 (0.77H, dt, *J*= 11.6, 3.2 Hz), 3.95 (0.23H, dt, *J*= 2.4, 6.8 Hz), 4.41 (0.23H, d, *J*= 6.8 Hz), 4.49 (0.77H, d, *J*= 6.8 Hz), 7.22-7.36 (5H, m);

MeO OMe Ph

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 31.7, 35.6, 42.6, 43.6, 54.8, 55.1, 55.3, 55.5, 62.8, 64.3, 73.4, 73.7, 105.2, 105.6, 126.4, 126.5, 128.8, 129.6, 140.6, 141.1;

IR (neat): v 3423, 3061, 3027, 2936, 2832, 2360, 1496, 1454, 1193, 1133, 1064, 971, 746, 701 cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [$C_{13}H_{20}O_4Na$]: 263.1254, found: 263.1248;

Enantiomeric excess of major *anti* isomer was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak IA column (50:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 254 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 21.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 19.6 min after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.

Typical procedure of cross-aldol reaction between dimethoxyacetaldehyde and another aldehyde catalyzed by proline in the presence of water

To a mixture of 60 wt% aqueous solution of dimethoxyacetaldehyde (60 μ L, 0.4 mmol), L-proline (9 mg, 0.08 mmol) and was added 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-5-one (238 μ L, 2.0 mmol) successively at room temperature. After stirring the reaction mixture for 16 hours at that temperature. The reaction was quenched with pH 7.0 phosphate buffer solution and the organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate three times and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by silicagel column chromatography (ethyl acetate:hexane=1:5 ~ 1:1) gave (4*R*, 1'*R*)-4-(1'-hydroxy-2',2'-dimethoxyethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-5-one (44 mg, 0.19 mmol) in 47% yield.

(2R, 1'R)-2-(1'-Hydroxy-2',2'-dimethoxyethyl)-cyclohexan-1-one (6)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.61-1.82 (3H, m), 1.85-1.91 (1H, m), 2.03-2.12 (2H, m), 2.28-2.39 (2H, m), 2.65-2.70 (1H, m), 3.17 (1H, d, *J*= 7.6 Hz), 3.39 (3H, s), 3.43 (3H, s), 3.58-3.62 (1H, m), 4.47 (1H, d, *J*= 5.6 Hz);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.9, 27.8, 31.4, 42.9, 51.4, 54.4, 55.6, 73.0, 105.5, 214.8;

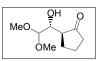
IR (neat): v 3499, 2937, 2864, 2833, 1704, 1450, 1191, 1123, 1078, 972 cm⁻¹;

HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [C₁₀H₁₈O₄Na]: 225.1097, found: 225.1089;

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (100:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 254 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 7.3 min, minor enantiomer tr = 6.8 min, after conversion to the monobenzoyl ester.

(2R, 1'R)-2-(1'-Hydroxy-2',2'-dimethoxyethyl)-cyclopentan-1-one (7)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.73-1.81 (1H, m), 1.87-1.94 (1H, m), 2.01-2.09 (1H, m), 2.11-2.22 (2H, m), 2.28-2.36 (1H, m), 2.40-2.44 (1H, m), 3.02 (1H, d, *J*= 1.6 Hz), 3.46 (3H, s), 3.47 (3H, s), 3.76-3.78 (1H, m), 4.61 (1H, d, *J*= 4.4 Hz);



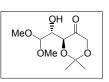


¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.1, 26.9, 39.2, 49.2, 54.9, 56.1, 72.9, 105.0, 221.3; IR (neat): v 3460, 2960, 2833, 1734, 1454, 1404, 1193, 1127, 1060, 969 cm⁻¹; HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [C₉H₁₆O₄Na]: 211.0941, found: 211.0932; Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (30:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ =240 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 15.4 min, minor enantiomer tr = 17.8 min.

(4R, 1'R)-4-(1'-Hydroxy-2',2'-dimethoxyethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-5-one³ (8)

was known compound.

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (30:1 hexane:2-propanol), 1 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 19.3 min, minor enantiomer tr = 27.5 min, after conversion to the 3,5-dinitrobenzoyl ester.



The absolute stereochemistry of the aldol 8 was determined by the chiral HPLC

analysis by comparing the retention time of the 3,5-dinitrobenzoyl ester of the present aldol product with that synthesized by L-proline in DMF by Barbas's procedure³.

The absolute stereochemistry of the aldols 5, 6, 7 were assumed by the chiral HPLC analysis by comparing the retention time of the 3,5-dinitrobenzoyl ester of the present aldols product with that synthesized by L-proline in DMF by Barbas's procedure³.

Typical procedure of cross-aldol reaction between aldehyde and ketone catalyzed by proline in the presence of water

To a mixture of *o*-chlorobenzaldehyde (45 μ L, 0.4 mmol), L-proline (14 mg, 0.12 mmol) and water (22 μ L, 1.2 mmol) was added cyclohexanone (123 μ L, 1.2 mmol) successively at room temperature. After stirring the reaction mixture for 72 hours at that temperature, the reaction was quenched with pH 7.0 phosphate buffer solution and the organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate three times and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by preparative thin layer chromatography (ethyl acetate) gave (2*S*, 1'*R*)-2-(hydroxy-*o*-chlorophenylmethyl) cyclohexan-1-one (67 mg, 0.28 mmol) in 70% yield as the diastereomeric mixture (*anti* : *syn* = 12.5 : 1). Enantiometric excess of *anti* aldol was 97%ee.

(2S, 1'R)-2-(Hydroxy-o-chlorophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one⁴

was known compound.

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (100:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 220 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 14.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 16.5 min.

(2S, 1'R)-2-(Hydroxy-o-chlorophenylmethyl)cyclopentan-1-one

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.64-1.78 (3H, m), 1.93-2.07 (1H, m), 2.22-2.35 (1H, m), 2.36-2.52 (2H, m), 4.47 (1H, d, *J*= 1.2 Hz), 5.29 (1H, br d, *J*= 9.3 Hz), 7.15-7.23 (1H, m), 7.26-7.36 (2H, m), 7.52 (1H, m);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 20.5, 26.4, 38.7, 55.6, 70.4, 127.4, 128.4, 128.9, 129.3, 132.5, 139.2, 222.8;

IR (neat): v 3447, 2965, 1735, 1695, 1440, 1402, 1156, 1024, 749 cm⁻¹;

HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for $[C_{12}H_{13}ClO_2Na]$: 247.0604, found: 247.0506; Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (100:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ =

220 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 28.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 37.8 min.





(2S, 1'R)-2-(Hydroxy-p-nitrophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one⁵

was known compound.

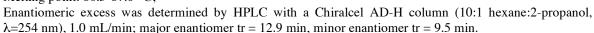
Melting point: 98.0-98.5 °C;

Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (10:1 hexane:2-propanol, λ = 254 nm), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 10.3 min, minor enantiomer tr = 12.3 min.

(2S, 1'R)-2-(Hydroxy-p-trifluoromethylphenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one⁶

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.24-1.37 (1H, m), 1.48-1.70 (3H, m), 1.77-1.82 (1H, m), 2.09 (1H, ddd, *J*= 3.2, 6.0, 12.8 Hz), 2.34 (1H, ddt, *J*= 0.8, 6.0, 13.6 Hz), 2.44-2.50 (1H, m), 2.54-2.61 (1H, m), 3.99 (1H, br s), 4.83 (1H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz), 7.42 (2H, d, *J*= 8.0 Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, *J*= 8.0 Hz);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.7, 27.7, 30.7, 42.7, 57.2, 74.3, 123.2, 125.3, 127.4, 130.1, 144.9, 215.2; IR (KBr): v 3752, 3361, 2948, 2910, 1700, 1328, 1170, 1138, 1109, 845 cm⁻¹; HRMS(FAB): [M+Na] calcd for [C₁₄H₁₅F₃O₂Na]: 295.0916, found: 295.0907; [α]_D²² –35.2 (*c* 1.00, MeOH), >99% ee for *anti*; Melting point: 86.5-87.0 °C;



The absolute stereochemistry of the aldols 9, 10, 11, 12 were assumed by the chiral HPLC analysis by comparing the retention time of the present aldol products with that synthesized by Barbas's procedure⁷.

Procedure of cross-aldol reaction catalyzed by proline in the presence of water without using any organic solvent (in the case of aldol product was oil)

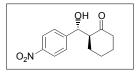
To a mixture of *o*-chlorobenzaldehyde (7.9 mL, 70 mmol), L-proline (2.42 g, 21 mmol) and water (3.8 mL) was added cyclopentanone (30.9 mL, 350 mmol) successively at room temperature. After stirring the reaction mixture for 25 hours at that temperature, water (40 mL) and brine (20 mL) were added to the reaction mixture, which was sirred for 10 minutes. After removal of aqueous phase, bulb to bulb distillation of the organic residue at 140 °C under 0.8 mmHg gave (2*S*, 1'*R*)-2-(hydroxy-*o*-chlorophenylmethyl)cyclopentan-1-one (11.7 g, 52.1 mmol) in 75% yield as the diastereomeric mixture (*anti* : *syn* = 1.7 : 1). Enantiomeric excess of *anti* aldol was >99% ee.

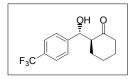
Procedure of cross-aldol reaction catalyzed by proline in the presence of water without using any organic solvent (in the case of aldol product was crystal)

To a mixture of *p*-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (8.6 mL, 57.4 mmol), L-proline (1.98 g, 17.2 mmol) and water (3.1 mL) was added cyclohexanone (29.6 mL, 287 mmol) successively at room temperature. After stirring the reaction mixture for 96 hours at that temperature, organic phase was washed with water (50 mL) three times to remove proline and the organic phase was concentrated in vacuo. Purification by recrystallization from cyclohexane (57.6 mL) gave (2*S*, 1'*R*)-2-[hydroxy-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)methyl]cyclohexan-1-one (11.4 g, 41.8 mmol) in 73% yield (*anti* : *syn* = >20 : 1). Enantiomeric excess of *anti* aldol was >99%ee.

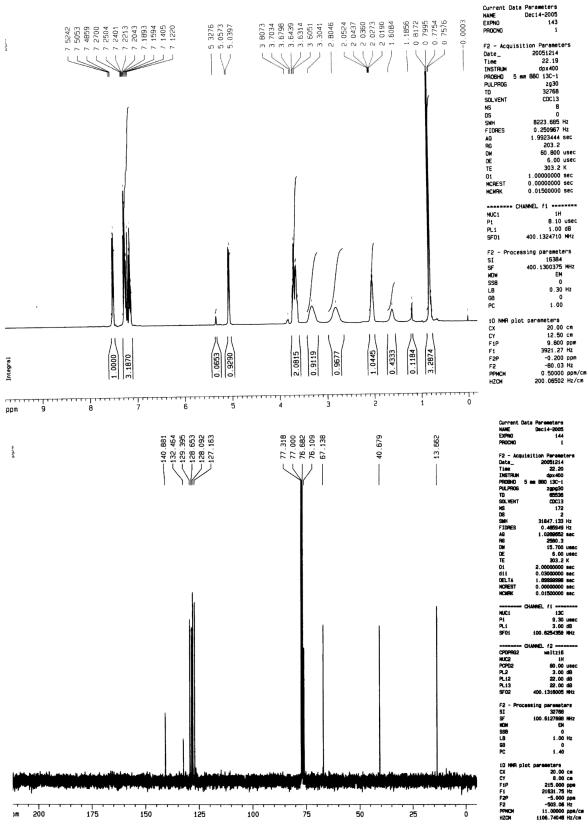
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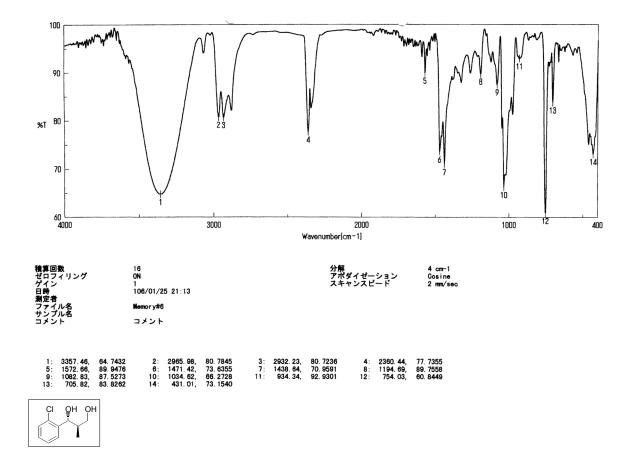
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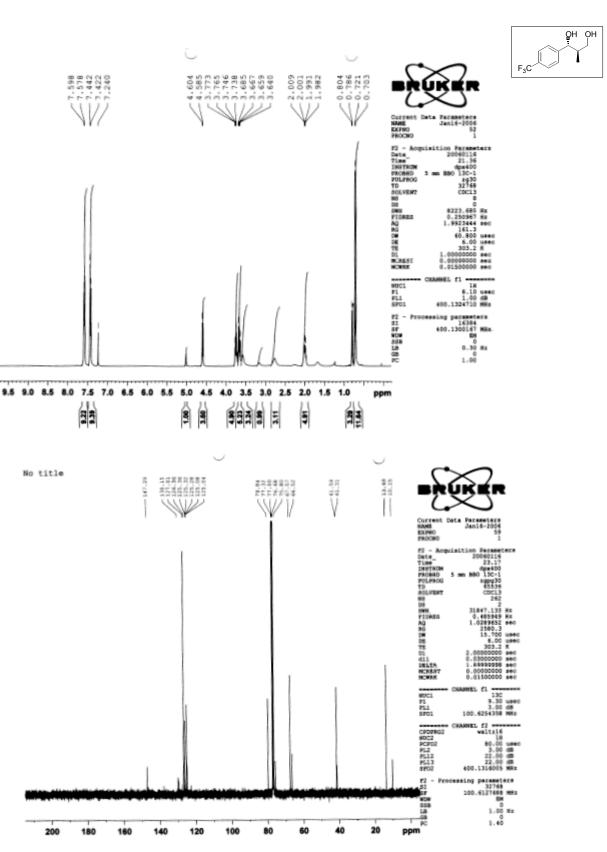


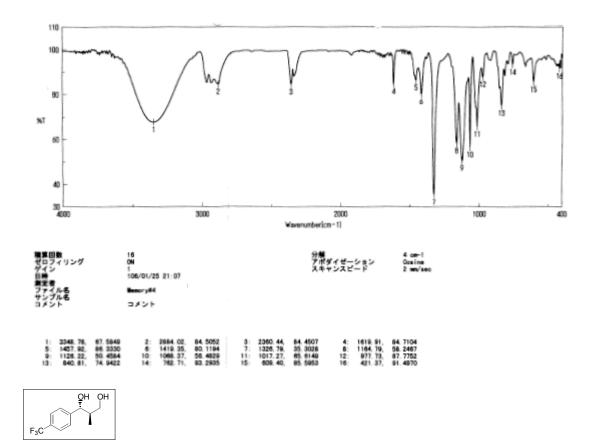


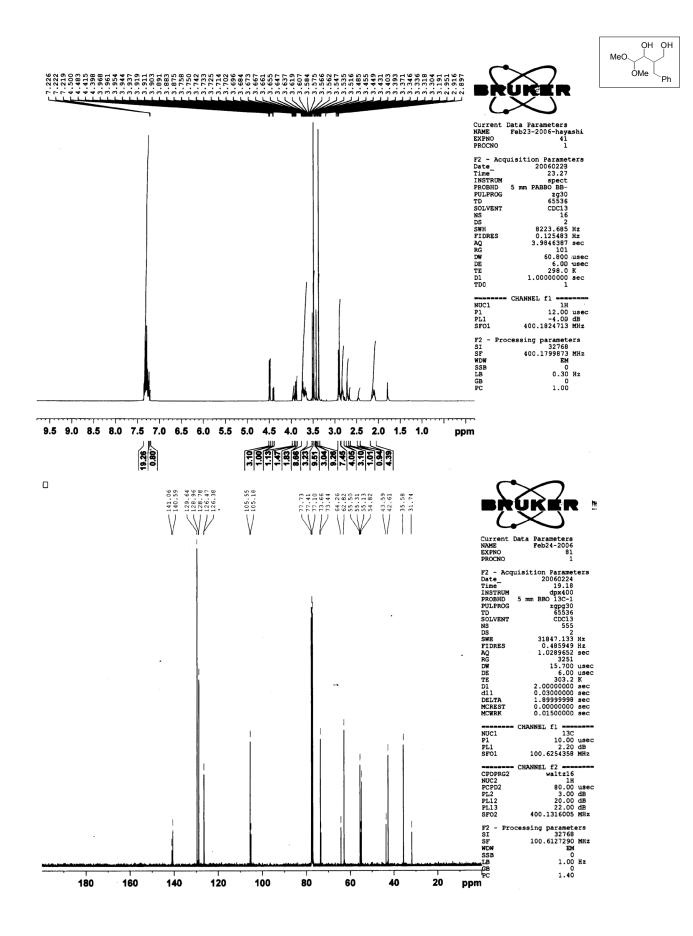


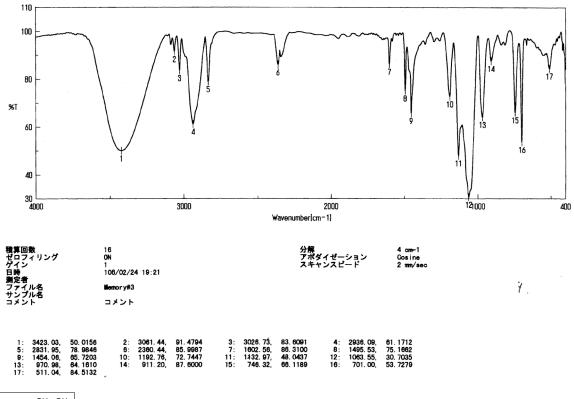




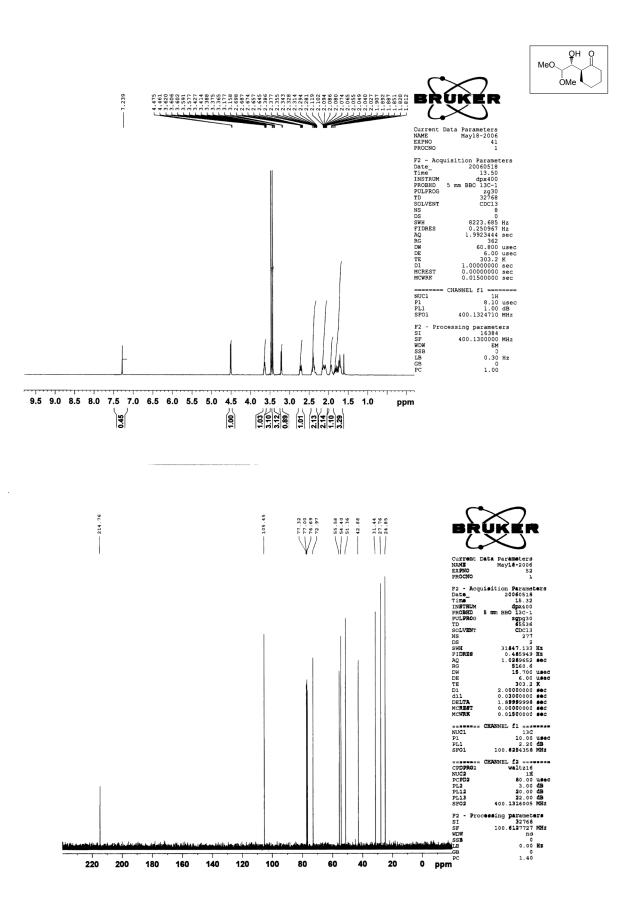












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