

Supplementary Information (ESI)

Enantiopure Imidazolinium-Dithiocarboxylates as Highly Selective Novel Organocatalysts

Oksana Sereda,^a Amélie Blanrue^a and René Wilhelm^{*a}

^aInstitute of Organic Chemistry, Clausthal University of Technology, Leibnizstr. 6, 38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany

rene.wilhelm@tu-clausthal.de

General Experimental.

All reactions, except otherwise indicated, were carried out in dried glassware under nitrogen. Toluene was dried over sodium. Tetrahydrofuran was dried over sodium/benzophenone. Dichloromethane was dried over CaH₂. Diamine for zwitterion **3**,¹ salts for the zwitterions **1**,² **2**,³ and salt analogue of zwitterion **3** (4S,5S)-1,3-dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-3*H*-imidazol-1-ium tetrafluoroborate⁴ were prepared according to the literature. Imines⁵ and ketenes⁶ (Table 2, Entries 1-10) were prepared according to the literature. All other chemicals were purchased and used without further purification. Flash column chromatography (FCC) was performed on Sorbisil C-60. The reactions were monitored by TLC with Merck Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates. Elemental analysis was carried out by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the Institut für Pharmazeutische Chemie der Technischen Universität Braunschweig. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 FTIR instrument. NMR spectra were performed at ambient temperature on Bruker AMX 400 and Bruker AC 200F and, if not otherwise stated, measured in CDCl₃ with tetramethylsilan as an internal standard. Mass spectroscopy (EI) was conducted on Hewlett-Packard 5989B at 70 eV. Electron spray mass spectra (ESI) were recorded on MS LC/MSD 1100 MSD Hewlett-Packard (at 0 or 30 eV). HRMS were recorded on Bruker Daltonik Tesla-Fourier Transform-Ion Cyclotron Resonance Massspectrometer mit Electrospray-Ionisierung by Dr. Dräger at the Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Hannover. Melting points were taken on a Dr. Tottoli apparatus from BÜCHI and are uncorrected. HPLC analysis was carried out using a Daicel CHIRALPACK AD-H column with a Waters 510 Pump system, an ISCO Model UA-5 UV/vis Detector (254 nm) and a Waters 410 Differential Refractometer. 1 mg of sample was completely dissolved in a mixture of 1.5 mL *i*PrOH/hexane. It is well known that pure enantiomers and racemates can have different solubility in one way or the other. In case of an 87% *ee* sample (Table 1, Entry 5), when not all compound was dissolved an *ee* of 69% *ee* was measured.

(4S,5S)-1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium-2-dithiocarboxylate (3)

(1*S*,2*S*)-*N,N'*-Dimethyl-1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diamine¹ (1.19 g, 4.95 mmol) and *N,N*-dimethyl-formamide dimethylacetal (4.13 mL, 29.7 mmol, 6 eq.) were slowly distilled at 100 °C for 5 d until an oily solid was left in the flask. Dry xylene (3.5 mL) and CS₂ (2.8 mL, 46.3 mmol, 9 eq.) were added. After refluxing for 4 h at 140 °C the formed red precipitate was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and columned with CH₂Cl₂ to give a red solid (1.1 g, 3.37 mmol, 68%). mp = 205 °C. [α]_D²⁰ = -200 (*c* = 1.03, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz): δ = 3.07 (s, 6 H), 4.74 (s, 2 H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 6 H), 7.49-7.55 (m, 4 H). ¹³C-NMR (50 MHz): δ = 32.08, 73.90, 126.89, 129.93, 130.01, 136.29, 167.12, 225.82. IR (KBr) ν/cm⁻¹: 1592, 1576, 1454, 1072, 698. MS (EI): m/z = 326 [M]⁺, 180, 165. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈N₂S₂: C 66.22; H 5.56; N 8.58. Found: C 66.09; H 5.62; N 8.72.

General procedure for the formation of dithiocarboxylate zwitterions 1, 2 and 4

Procedure A. To the generated carbene from the imidazolinium salt and 1 eq. KO*t*Bu in THF after 30 min, an excess of CS₂ was added. The mixture was stirring at rt for 30 min or more. The crude product was purified on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂.

Procedure B. To the mixture of imidazolinium salt and 5-7 eq. CS₂ in THF, 1.5 eq. KHMDS (0.5 M in toluene) were quickly added at rt. After the completion of the reaction in 15-30 min, the reaction mixture was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl_(aq). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phases were combined and dried (Na₂SO₄), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified on silica gel with 30% ethyl acetate in petrol ether.

1,3-Bis((R)-1-phenylethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium-2-dithiocarboxylate (1)

From 1,3-bis-(1(*R*)-phenyl-ethyl)-4,5-dihydro-3*H*imidazol-1-ium tetrafluoroborate² (1.1 g, 3 mmol), KO*t*Bu (337 mg, 3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and CS₂ (0.9 ml, 15 mmol, 5 eq.) in THF (2 mL) according to procedure A. The product was purified by column chromatography with CH₂Cl₂ to give a red solid (371 mg, 1 mmol, 43%). mp = 201 °C. [α]_D²⁰ = +172 (*c* = 0.94, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz): δ = 1.69 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 6 H), 3.12-3.34 (m, 2 H), 3.45-3.7 (m, 2 H), 5.51 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 7.33-7.44 (m, 6 H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 4 H). ¹³C-NMR (50 MHz): δ = 15.63, 41.42, 54.34, 127.84, 128.68, 129.0, 137.10, 165.70, 226.33. IR (KBr) ν/cm⁻¹: 2972, 1570, 1290, 1062, 698. MS (EI): m/z = 353 [M]⁺, 249, 147, 105, 91, 77. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂S₂: C 67.76; H 6.25; N 7.90. Found: C 67.80; H 6.23; N 7.93.

1,3-Bis((1*R*,2*S*,4*R*)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium-2-dithiocarboxylate (2)

From 1,3-bis((1*R*,4*R*)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl)-imidazolinium tetrafluoroborate³ (300 mg, 0.70 mmol), CS₂ (0.216 mL, 3.5 mmol, 5 eq.) and KOtBu (84 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.1 eq) in THF (6 ml) according to procedure A to give a red solid (220 mg, 0.53 mmol, 74%). mp = 246 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -48$ (*c* = 0.48, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz): δ = 0.87 (s, 6 H), 0.95 (s, 6 H), 1.03 (s, 6 H), 1.12-1.31 (m, 4 H), 1.42-1.57 (m, 4 H), 1.64-1.75 (m, 4 H), 1.85-1.99 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.91 (m, 4 H), 4.31 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): δ = 11.86, 21.36, 21.50, 26.05, 32.78, 38.65, 44.20, 45.99, 46.61, 49.72, 64.41, 170.59, 229.03. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 2958, 2930, 1551, 1285, 1044. MS (EI): m/z = 418 [M]⁺, 403, 385, 282, 167, 166, 137, 95. HRMS: found [M]⁺ 418.1649. C₂₄H₃₈N₂S₂ requires 418.2472.

(4*R*,5*R*)-1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium-2-dithiocarboxylate (4)

From (4*R*,5*R*)-1,3-dimethyl-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium tetrafluoroborate (115 mg, 0.24 mmol), CS₂ (0.073 mL, 1.2 mmol, 5 eq.) and KHMDS (0.728 ml, 0.36 mmol, 1.5 eq.) in THF (5 ml) according to procedure B to give a red solid (61 mg, 0.13 mmol, 54 %) yield. mp = 143 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +113$ (*c* = 0.7, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): δ = 3.04 (s, 6 H), 4.77 (s, 2 H), 7.55 (s, 2 H), 7.65-7.78 (m, 6 H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): δ = 29.68, 72.92, 123.37 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 123.81 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 127.07 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 129.77, 131.04, 132.42 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 136.81, 167.01, 224.34. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 3449, 2925, 2854, 2361, 1735, 1571, 1451, 1320, 1270, 1159, 1122, 1061, 1013, 808, 709. MS (EI): m/z = 463 [M+H]⁺, 316, 248, 180, 72. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆F₆N₂S₂: C 51.94; H 3.49; N 6.06%. Found: C 52.32; H 3.76; N 6.14%.

(4*R*,5*R*)-1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium tetrafluoroborate was prepared from (1*R*,2*R*)-N¹,N²-dimethyl-1,2-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (518 mg, 1.38 mmol), ammonium tetrafluoroborate (144 mg, 1.38 mmol, 1 eq.), and triethyl orthoformate (0.26 ml, 1.55 mmol, 1.13 eq.) after heating at 120°C for 5 h, resulting in a white solid (588 mg, 1.24 mmol, 90%). mp = 153 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +142$ (*c* = 0.68, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): δ = 3.16 (s, 6 H), 5.02 (s, 2 H), 7.53 (s, 2 H), 7.66-7.76 (m, 6 H), 8.68 (s, 1 H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): δ = 35.52, 75.13, 123.39 (q, *J* = 270.9 Hz), 124.60 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 127.24 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 130.96,

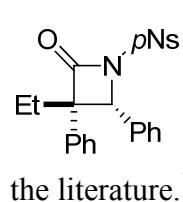
131.06, 132.20 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 134.71, 160.80. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 3423, 3097, 2957, 1658, 1456, 1419, 1331, 1273, 1224, 1172, 1126, 1076, 807, 705, 674, 602. MS (ESI): m/z = 387 [M]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇BF₁₀N₂: C 48.13; H 3.61; N 5.91. Found: C 48.32; H 3.70; N 5.91.

(4S,5S)-1,3-dimethyl-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-iium-2-carbodithioate (*ent*-4)

Synthesized from (4S,5S)-1,3-dimethyl-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-iium tetrafluoroborate in analogy to **4**. Analytical data were consistent with **4**.

General Experimental for the Staudinger reaction. An imine (0.1 mmol), a ketene (0.25 mmol) and a zwitterion (10 mol%) were dissolved in dry toluene (1.5 ml) and left to stir for 16 h. After total conversion the reaction mixture was applied to column chromatography on silica gel (eluent 1:8 diethyl ether/petrol ether) and the two diastereomers were isolated, if not otherwise stated, as white solids (yields: 96-99%).

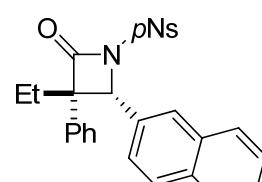
(R)-3-ethyl-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3,4-diphenylazetidin-2-one (Table 1, Entry 5)

 From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (29 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (43.3 mg, 99 %, *trans* : *cis* 1 : 5.4). Analytical data are consistent with the literature.⁷

trans-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +116$ ($c = 0.37$, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 65% ee, R_t 19.53 min. (major), 31.18 min. (minor).

cis-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -75.4$ ($c = 0.41$, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 87% ee, R_t 18.78 min. (minor), 21.04 min. (major).

(R)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2. Entry 1.)

 From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (34 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (47.4 g, 97 %, *trans* : *cis* 1 : 6).

trans-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 155-157 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +145.45$ ($c = 0.11$, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 30% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 62% ee, R_t 13.43

min. (major), 55.40 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz): $\delta = 0.56$ (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 1.31-1.40 (m, 1 H), 1.74-1.83 (m, 1 H), 5.42 (s, 1 H), 7.30-7.41 (m, 6 H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 2 H), 7.73-7.77 (m, 2 H), 7.87-7.91 (m, 2 H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 8.34 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz): $\delta = 8.60, 27.03, 29.69, 68.21, 69.98, 124.21, 124.44, 126.15, 126.70, 126.94, 127.00, 127.88, 127.90, 128.04, 128.67, 129.08, 129.10, 130.85, 132.86, 133.40, 137.27, 143.86, 150.85, 168.41$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1783 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 508.8 [M + Na] $^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C 66.65; H 4.56; N 5.76%. Found: C 66.71; H 4.43; N 5.70%.

cis-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 179 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -124.36$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 92% ee, R_t 25.43 min. (major), 29.01 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.99$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.17-2.36 (m, 2 H), 5.33 (s, 1 H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1 H), 6.89-7.01 (m, 5 H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.41-7.50 (m, 3 H), 7.57-7.69 (m, 2 H), 7.86 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2 H), 8.12 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.19, 32.84, 69.28, 69.96, 124.15, 124.47, 126.60, 126.87, 127.06, 127.32, 127.66, 127.72, 128.22, 128.59, 128.80, 130.92, 132.46, 132.98, 134.31, 144.17, 150.59, 167.61$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1788 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 995.0 [2M + Na] $^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C 66.65; H 4.56; N 5.76%. Found: C 66.78; H 4.55; N 5.83%.

(*R*)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-ethyl-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 2)

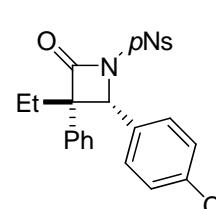
From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (32.5 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (45.5 mg, 97 %, *trans* : *cis* 1 : 3).

trans-Isomer (columned with 5% diethyl ether in petrol ether): white crystals, mp = 163 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +4.8$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 48% ee, R_t 18.78 min. (major), 52.77 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.59$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 1.25-1.43 (m, 1 H), 1.62-1.80 (m, 1 H), 5.17 (s, 1 H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 2 H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 5 H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2 H), 8.14 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.36 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 8.55, 27.01, 68.00, 69.11, 124.51, 125.95, 128.12, 128.35, 129.01, 129.10, 129.14, 132.16, 135.13, 136.91, 143.52, 150.96, 168.19$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1789 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 493.0 [M + Na] $^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C 58.66; H 4.07; N 5.93%. Found: C 58.79; H 3.95; N 5.92%.

cis-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 134 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -69.2$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 90% ee, R_t 18.78 min. (minor), 21.47

min. (major). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.90$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.16 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 5.11 (s, 1 H), 6.72 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.83-6.87 (m, 2 H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.05-7.12 (m, 2 H), 8.02 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2 H), 8.33 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.13$, 32.15, 68.20, 70.31, 124.43, 127.04, 127.59, 128.39, 128.87, 129.17, 132.41, 133.94, 134.78, 144.06, 150.86, 167.49. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1792 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 493.1 [M + Na]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₁₉ClN₂O₅S: C 58.66; H 4.07; N 5.93%. Found: C 58.80; H 4.09; N 6.05%.

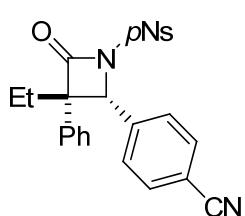
(R)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 3)

 From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (35.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (48 mg, 96 %, *trans* : *cis* 1 : 6.5).

trans-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 158-159 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +56.1$ ($c = 0.76$, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 83% *ee*, R_t 14.65 min. (major), 34.42 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.61$ (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 1.23-1.42 (m, 1 H), 1.60-1.78 (m, 1 H), 5.22 (s, 1 H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 2 H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 8.16 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.38 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 8.57$, 27.02, 68.17, 69.09, 124.57, 125.89, 125.98, 127.40, 128.25, 129.04, 129.23, 136.68, 137.79, 143.33, 151.02, 168.02. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1783 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 527.0 [M + Na]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂O₅S: C 57.14; H 3.80; N 5.55%. Found: C 56.98; H 3.85; N 5.41%.

cis-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 131 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -76.6$ ($c = 0.5$ g/100 ml; CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 11.5% iPrOH/hexane, 0.4 ml/min.): 95% *ee*, R_t 34.64 min. (minor), 36.50 min. (major). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.91$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.17 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 5.16 (s, 1 H), 6.81-6.81 (m, 2 H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.10-7.30 (m, 3 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.37 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.35 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.13$, 31.91, 68.01, 70.72, 124.50, 125.03, 125.11, 125.18, 126.96, 127.73, 128.13, 128.43, 128.89, 133.62, 138.01, 143.87, 150.93, 167.35. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1796 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 526.8 [M + Na]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂O₅S: C 57.14; H 3.80; N 5.55%. Found: C 56.87; H 3.85; N 5.39%.

(R)-4-(3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-4-oxo-3-phenylazetidin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Table 2, Entry 4)

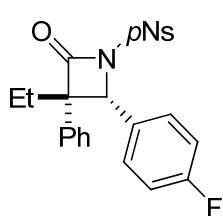


From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (31.5 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (46 g, 99.9 %; *trans* : *cis* 1 : 2.7).

trans-Isomer (columned with 10% ethyl acetate in petrol ether): white crystals, mp = 168 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +60.0$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 74% *ee*, R_t 28.64 min. (major), 62.88 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.61$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 1.22-1.42 (m, 1 H), 1.56-1.76 (m, 1 H), 5.18 (s, 1 H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 8.16 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.38 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 8.57, 27.00, 68.40, 68.97, 113.18, 118.01, 124.61, 125.82, 127.73, 128.37, 129.04, 129.29, 132.63, 136.41, 139.11, 143.14, 151.09, 167.75$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1797 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 381.3, 484.09 [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺, 945.1 [2 $\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$: 484.0943. Found: 484.0941. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C 62.46; H 4.15; N 9.11%. Found: C 62.61; H 4.19; N 9.15%.

cis-Isomer (columned with 15% ethyl acetate in petrol ether): white crystals, mp = 103-104 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -98.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 93% *ee*, R_t 28.08 min. (minor), 34.66 min. (major). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 0.87$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.05-2.25 (m, 2 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 6.80-6.86 (m, 2 H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 3 H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 8.13 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.41 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.11, 31.54, 67.87, 71.12, 112.29, 112.65, 117.99, 124.65, 126.92, 127.94, 128.22, 128.58, 128.95, 131.91, 133.33, 139.52, 143.72, 151.10, 167.20$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1786 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 381.3, 413.2, 441.3, 484.09 [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$: 484.0943. Found: 484.0941. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C 62.46; H 4.15; N 9.11%. Found: C 62.45; H 4.19; N 9.36%.

(R)-3-ethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 5)



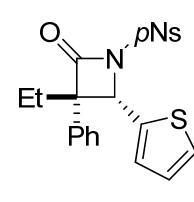
From ketene (40 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (45.3 mg, 99.9 %; *trans* : *cis* 1 : 4.4).

trans-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 79 °C. HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10%

iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 64% *ee*, R_t 18.78 min. (major), 37.98 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): δ = 0.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H), 1.25-1.43 (m, 1 H), 1.63-1.81 (m, 1 H), 5.19 (s, 1 H), 7.09-7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.29-7.39 (m, 5 H), 8.13 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2 H), 8.36 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): δ = 8.53, 27.01, 67.95, 69.13, 115.74, 116.17, 124.49, 125.98, 128.08, 128.72, 128.89, 129.01, 129.12, 129.36, 129.43, 137.02, 143.59, 168.30. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1786 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 477.0 [M + Na]⁺.

cis-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 124 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -71.7$ (c = 0.52, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 96% *ee*, R_t 17.37 min. (minor), 20.07 min. (major). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): δ = 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.16 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 6.72-6.76 (m, 4 H), 6.82-6.87 (m, 2 H), 7.04-7.11 (m, 3 H), 8.01 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 8.33 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): δ = 9.15, 32.18, 68.24, 70.25, 115.01, 115.44, 124.40, 127.08, 127.50, 128.34, 128.86, 129.56, 129.64, 129.73, 134.09, 144.15, 150.84, 160.19, 165.14, 167.57. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1784 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 477.0 [M + Na]⁺.

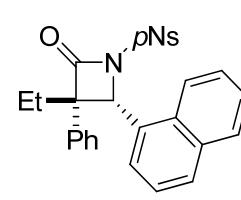
(*R*)-3-ethyl-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 6)

 From ketene (40 μL, 0.27 mmol) and imine (29.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (43.7 mg, 99 %; *trans* : *cis* 1 : 3). Analytical data are consistent with the literature.⁷

trans-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +115$ (c = 0.5, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 65% *ee*, R_t 24.93 min. (major), 34.10 min. (minor).

cis-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -74$ (c = 0.5, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 84% *ee*, R_t 26.10 min. (minor), 29.95 min. (major).

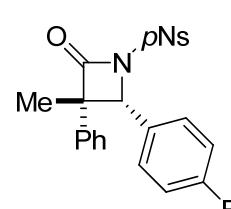
(*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 7)

 From ketene (40 μL, 0.27 mmol) and imine (34 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (46.5 mg, 96%; *trans* : *cis* 1 : 8). Analytical data are consistent with the literature.⁷

trans-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +105$ (c = 0.5, CH₂Cl₂). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 70% *ee*, R_t 19.82 min. (major), 24.01 min. (minor).

cis-Isomer: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -202$ ($c = 0.52$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 83% *ee*, R_t 16.35 min. (major), 64.74 min. (minor).

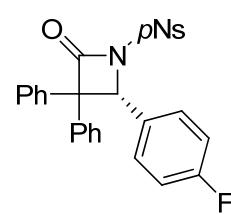
(R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one
(Table 2, Entry 8)



From ketene (36 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (43.5 g, 99 %; *trans* : *cis* 1 : 3).
trans-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 59 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +72$ ($c = 0.4$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 56% *ee*, R_t 29.60 min. (major), 48.48 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 1.18$ (s, 3 H), 5.23 (s, 1 H), 7.08-7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.27-7.36 (m, 5 H), 8.16 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2 H), 8.38 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz): $\delta = 19.77, 29.70, 63.97, 69.26, 115.94, 116.16, 124.56, 125.19, 128.19, 128.57, 128.65, 129.03, 129.30, 139.11, 143.64, 150.96, 168.81$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1795 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 377, 463.08 [M + Na]⁺, 487.06. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$: 463.0740. Found: 463.0758.

cis-Isomer: white crystals, mp = 139 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -69$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 11.5% iPrOH/hexane, 0.4 ml/min.): 86% *ee*, R_t 99.61 min. (minor), 103.00 min. (major). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 1.77$ (s, 3 H), 5.09 (s, 1 H), 6.68-6.79 (m, 4 H), 6.85-6.91 (m, 2 H), 7.04-7.11 (m, 3 H), 8.04 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.35 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 24.88, 69.91, 70.20, 115.03, 115.47, 124.46, 126.57, 127.62, 128.48, 128.89, 129.30, 129.47, 129.56, 129.62, 135.38, 143.84, 150.89, 160.19, 165.14, 168.22$. IR (KBr) ν/cm^{-1} : 1794 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 463.1 [M + Na]⁺. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$: 463.0740. Found: 463.0741.

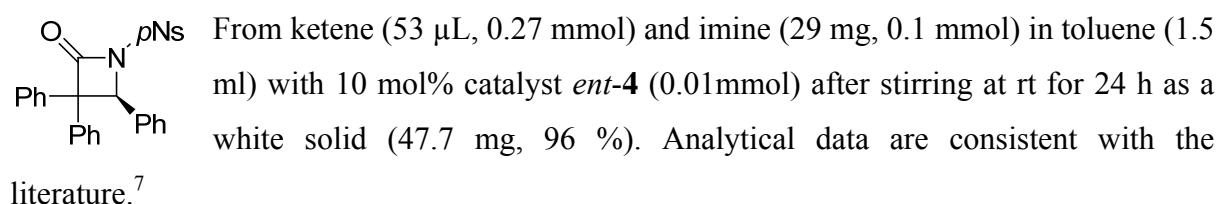
(R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3,3-triphenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 9)



From ketene (53 μL , 0.27 mmol) and imine (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) in toluene (1.5 ml) with 10 mol% catalyst (0.01mmol) after stirring at rt for 16 h as a white solid (47.7 mg, 96 %). White crystals, mp= 121°C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +24$ ($c = 0.53$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 76% *ee*, R_t 27.11 min. (major), 35.46 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 5.84$ (s, 1 H), 6.75-6.96 (t, 6 H), 7.01-7.09. (m, 3 H), 7.28-7.44 (m, 5 H), 8.04 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.30 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 29.69, 68.76, 115.15,$

115.59, 124.43, 126.78, 127.70, 128.28, 128.43, 128.92, 129.14, 129.51, 129.68, 135.24, 138.27, 143.63, 166.53. IR (KBr) ν /cm⁻¹: 1791 (C=O). MS (ESI): m/z = 524.8 [M + Na]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₁₉FN₂O₅S: C 64.53; H 3.81; N 5.57%. Found: C 64.83; H 3.89; N 5.67%.

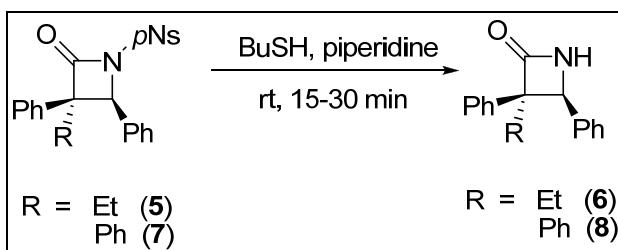
(S)-1-*p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3,3,4-triphenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 10)



$[\alpha]_D^{20} = +19$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 67% ee, R_t 28.70 min. (minor), 56.02 min. (major).

Establishment of the Absolute Configuration

General procedure for deprotection of the β -lactams *cis*-5 (from *ent*-4) and 7



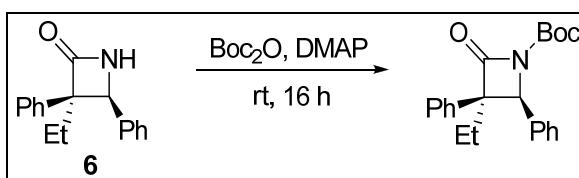
Ns-protected β -lactam (0.06 mmol) and piperidine (0.9 mmol) were dissolved in 0.4 ml *n*-BuSH. The mixture was stirring for 15–30 min to yield deprotected product in 99 % yield. The product was columned on silica gel with 5–12.5% ethyl acetate in petrol ether.

(3*R*,4*S*)-3-Ethyl-3,4-diphenylazetidin-2-one (6). From β -lactam 5 (26 mg, 0.06 mmol) and piperidine (0.09 ml, 0.9 mmol) in *n*-BuSH (0.4 ml) after stirring at rt for 30 min to give a colorless oil (11.9 mg, 0.059 mmol, 99%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +37.8$ ($c = 0.5$, CH_2Cl_2). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 1.05$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.24 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 4.76 (s, 1 H), 6.13 (s, 1 H), 6.98-7.06 (m, 7 H), 7.08-7.13 (m, 3 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.05, 31.35, 63.14, 71.15, 126.43, 127.25, 127.56, 127.76, 127.81, 127.98, 136.77, 137.63, 171.94$.

(S)-3,3,4-Triphenylazetidin-2-one (8). From β -lactam 7 (19 mg, 0.04 mmol) and piperidine (0.06 ml, 0.6 mmol) in *n*-BuSH (0.3 ml) after stirring at rt for 15 min to give a white solid (12 mg, 0.0396 mmol, 99 %). Analytical data were consistent with the literature⁸. [α]_D²⁰ =

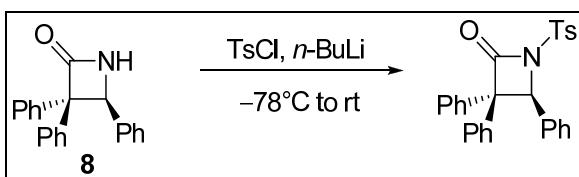
+149.3 ($c = 0.345$, CH_2Cl_2). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 5.51$ (s, 1 H), 6.37 (s, 1 H), 6.98-7.06 (m, 5 H), 7.16 (s, 5 H), 7.29-7.44 (m, 3 H), 7.60-7.66 (m, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 29.69$, 63.61, 126.66, 127.25, 127.34, 127.85, 127.98, 128.12, 128.22, 128.69, 137.01, 137.50, 140.61, 170.31.

Procedure for Boc-protection of β -lactam 6 (from *ent*-4)



The solution of deprotected β -lactam 6 (from *ent*-4) (13.4 mg, 0.052 mmol), DMAP (4.74 mg, 0.039 mmol) and Boc_2O (33.9 mg, 0.1554 mmol) in dry acetonitrile was stirring at rt for 16 h. The product (*3R,4S*)-*tert*-butyl 3-ethyl-2-oxo-3,4-diphenylazetidine-1-carboxylate was purified on silica gel with 12.5% ethyl acetate in petrol ether to give a white solid (9.6 mg, 0.028 mmol, 53%). Analytical data are consistent with the literature.⁹ $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +69.6$ ($c = 0.425$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 2% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 91% *ee*, R_t 9.28 min. (major), 10.68 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 1.01$ (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 1.36 (s, 9 H), 2.25 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 4.95 (s, 1 H), 6.25-7.12 (m, 10 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 9.41$, 27.82, 32.27, 66.32, 68.90, 83.27, 126.74, 127.18, 127.57, 127.84, 127.95, 135.33, 135.85, 169.01.

Procedure for tosylation of β -lactam 8

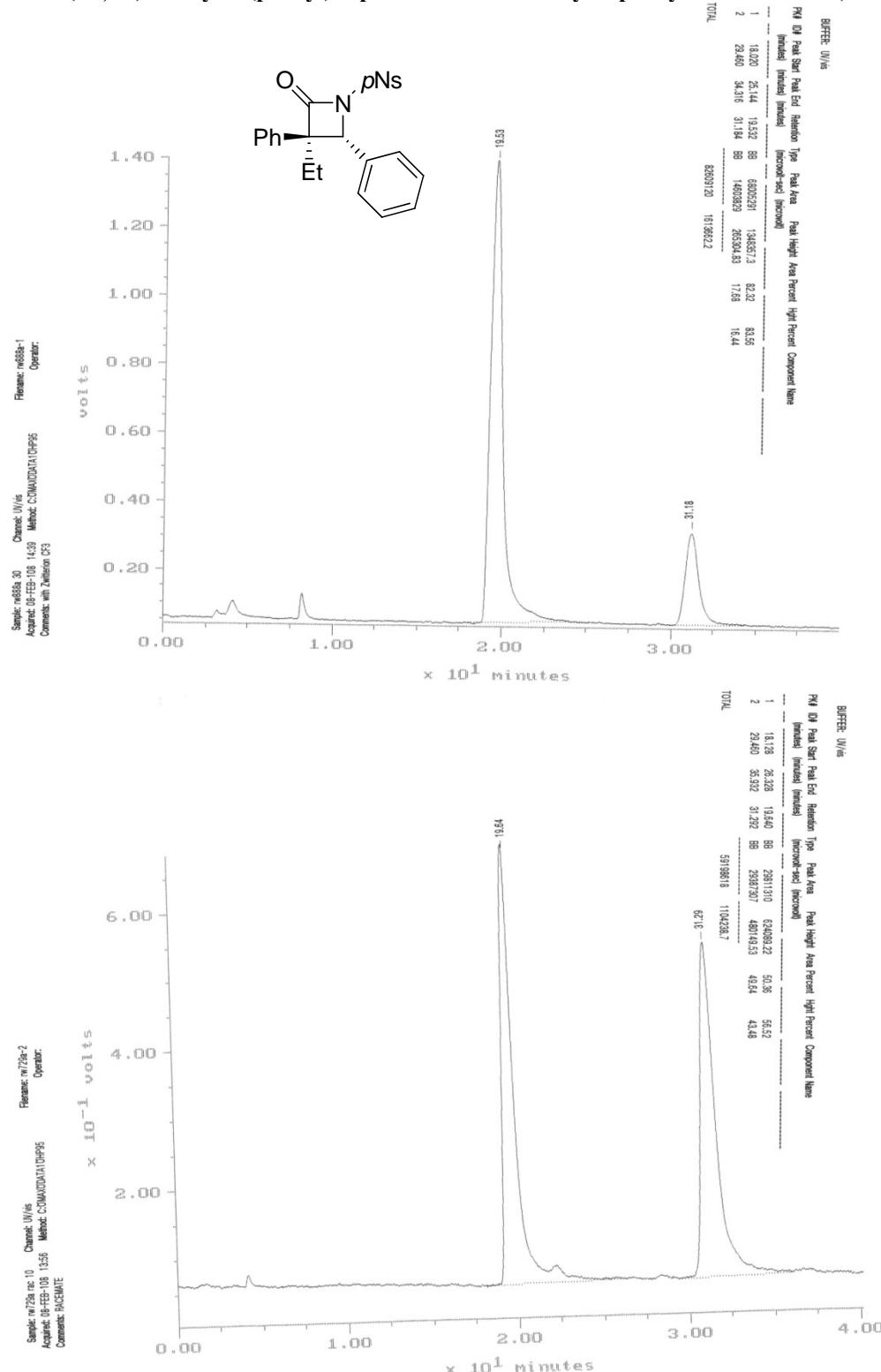


To the solution of deprotected β -lactam 8 (9.3 mg, 0.031 mmol) in THF (1.5 ml), *n*-BuLi (17 μL , 0.0341 mmol, 2M sol. in cyclohexane) was added at -78°C . In 15 min TsCl (7.1 mg, 0.0372 mmol) in dry THF (0.5 ml) followed. The mixture was warmed up to rt left to stir for 15 min. The product was purified on silica gel column with 10% diethyl ether in petrol ether to give (*S*)-3,3,4-triphenyl-1-tosylazetidin-2-one as a white solid (8.7 mg, 0.0303 mmol, 98% in 98%). Analytical data are consistent with the literature.¹⁰ $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +24$ ($c = 0.35$, CH_2Cl_2). HPLC (Chiralpack AD-H, 10% iPrOH/hexane, 1 ml/min.): 85% *ee*, R_t 8.63 min. (major), 15.43 min. (minor). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (200 MHz): $\delta = 2.42$ (s, 3 H), 5.78 (s, 1 H), 6.88-7.14 (m, 10 H), 7.22-7.42 (m, 7 H), 7.73 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (50 MHz): $\delta = 21.69$,

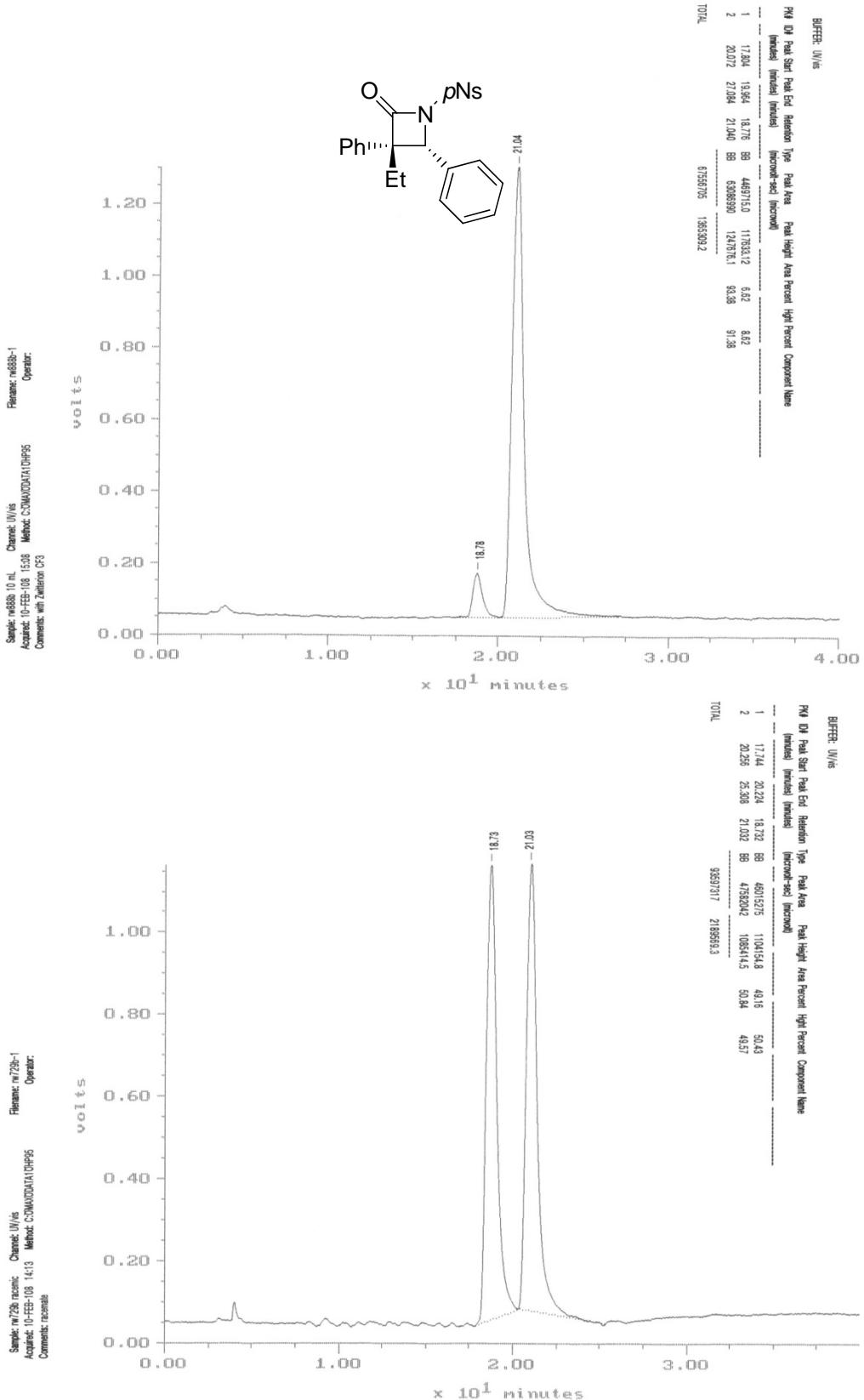
69.25, 72.82, 126.99, 127.19, 127.67, 127.87, 127.99, 128.04, 128.46, 128.90, 129.77, 133.95,
135.41, 135.81, 139.01, 143.31, 166.79.

Spectral and HPLC Data of β -lactams

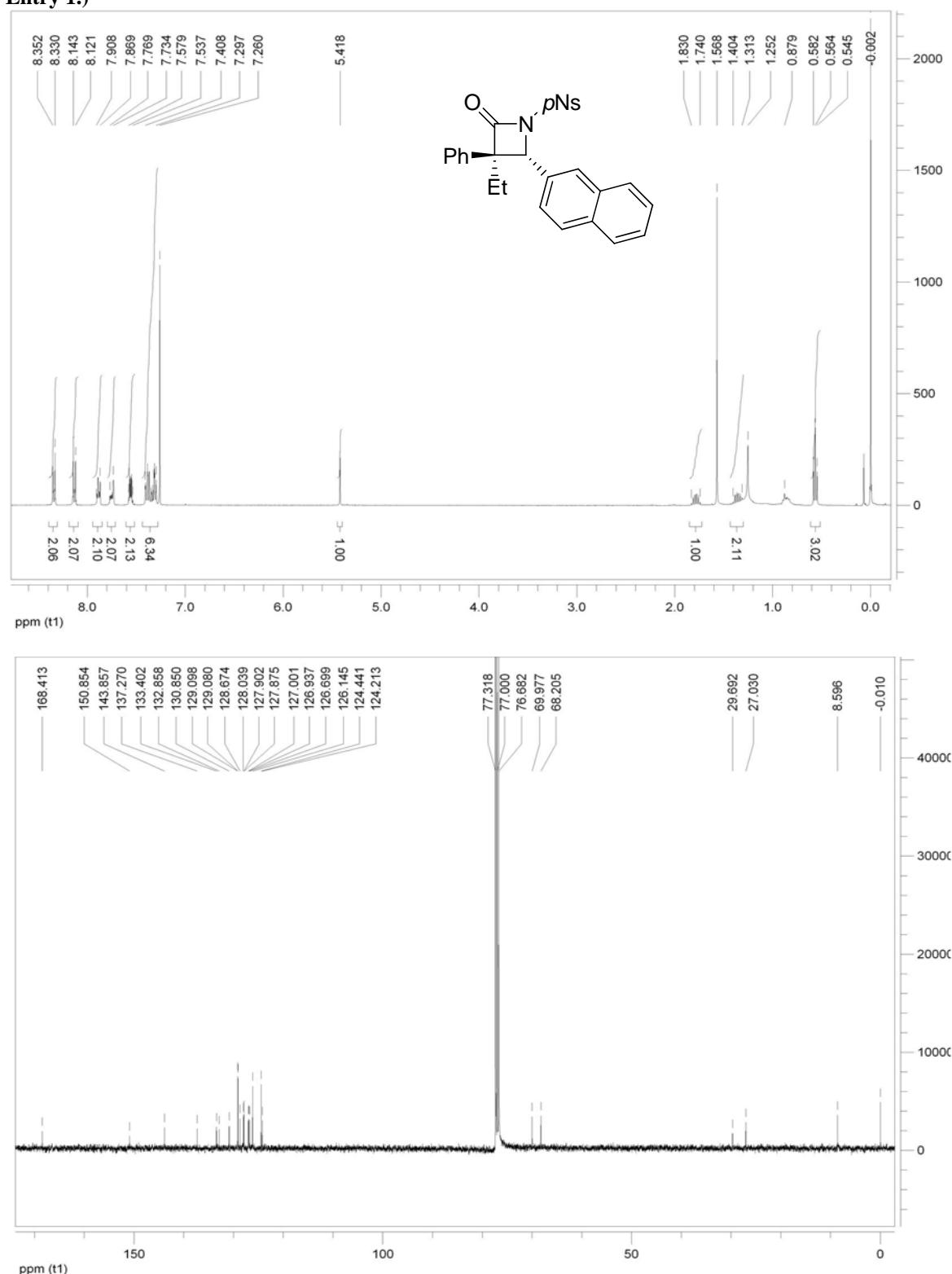
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(phenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 1, Entry 5.)⁷

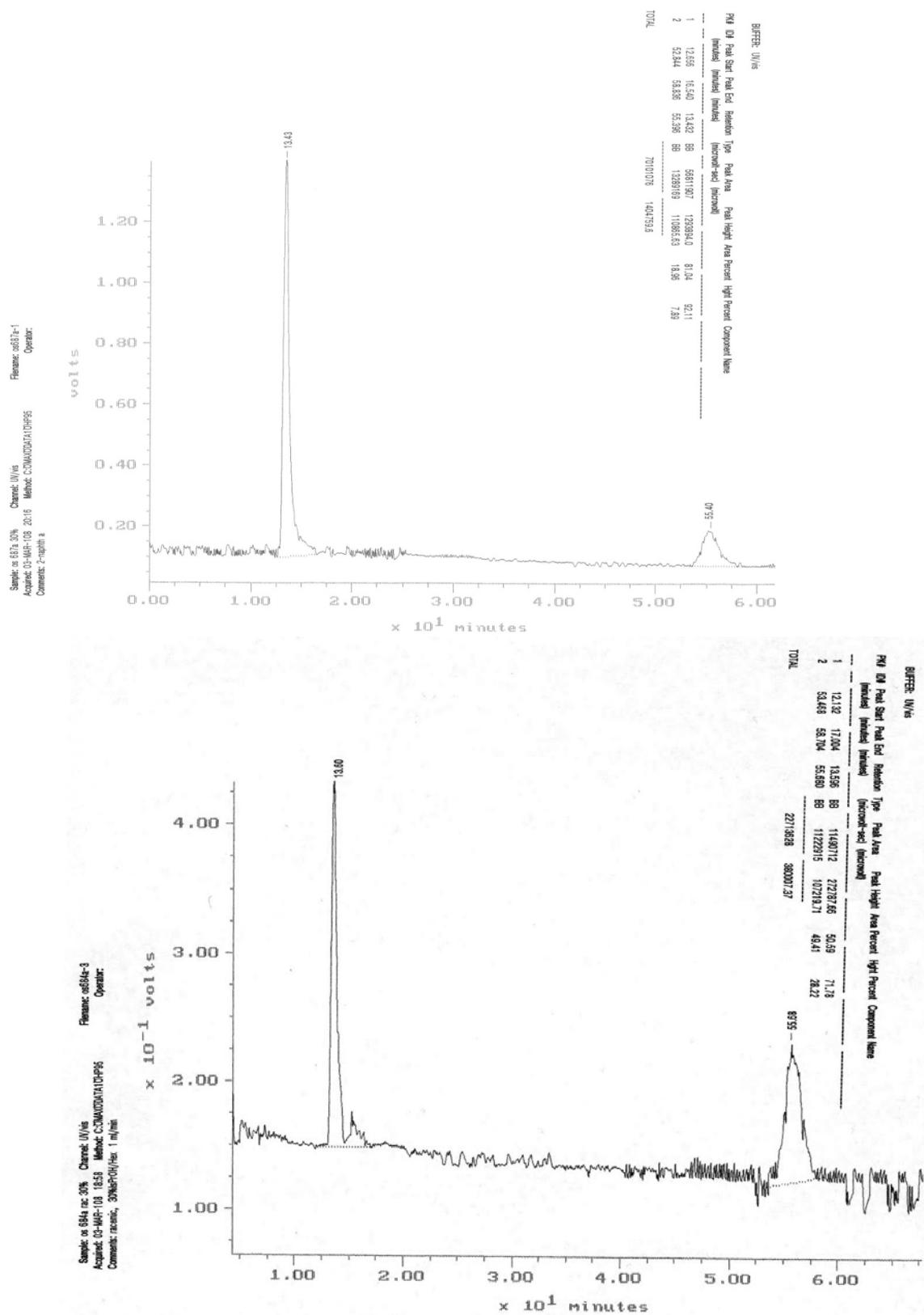


cis-(3S,4R)-3-ethyl-4-(phenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 1, Entry 5.)⁷

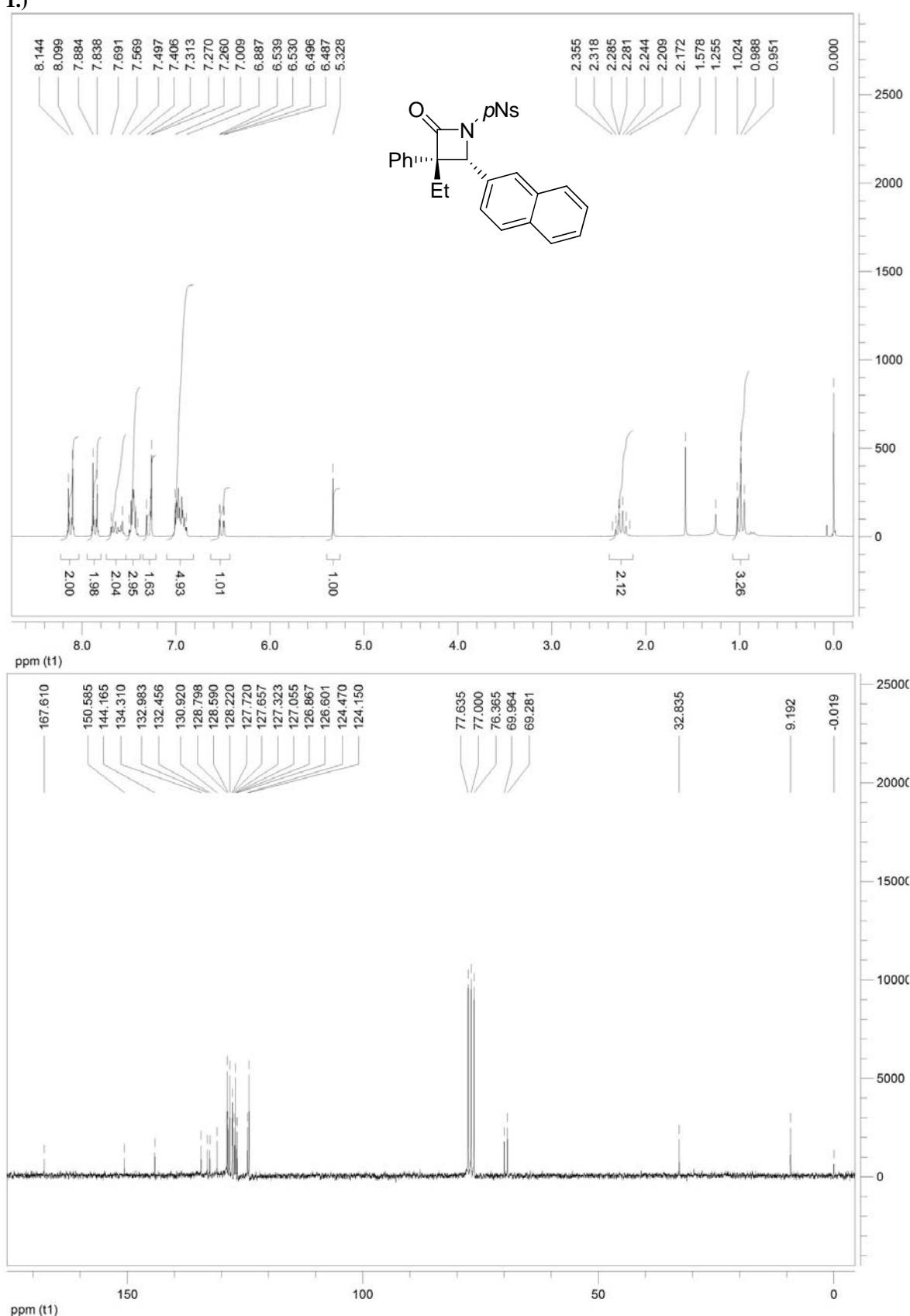


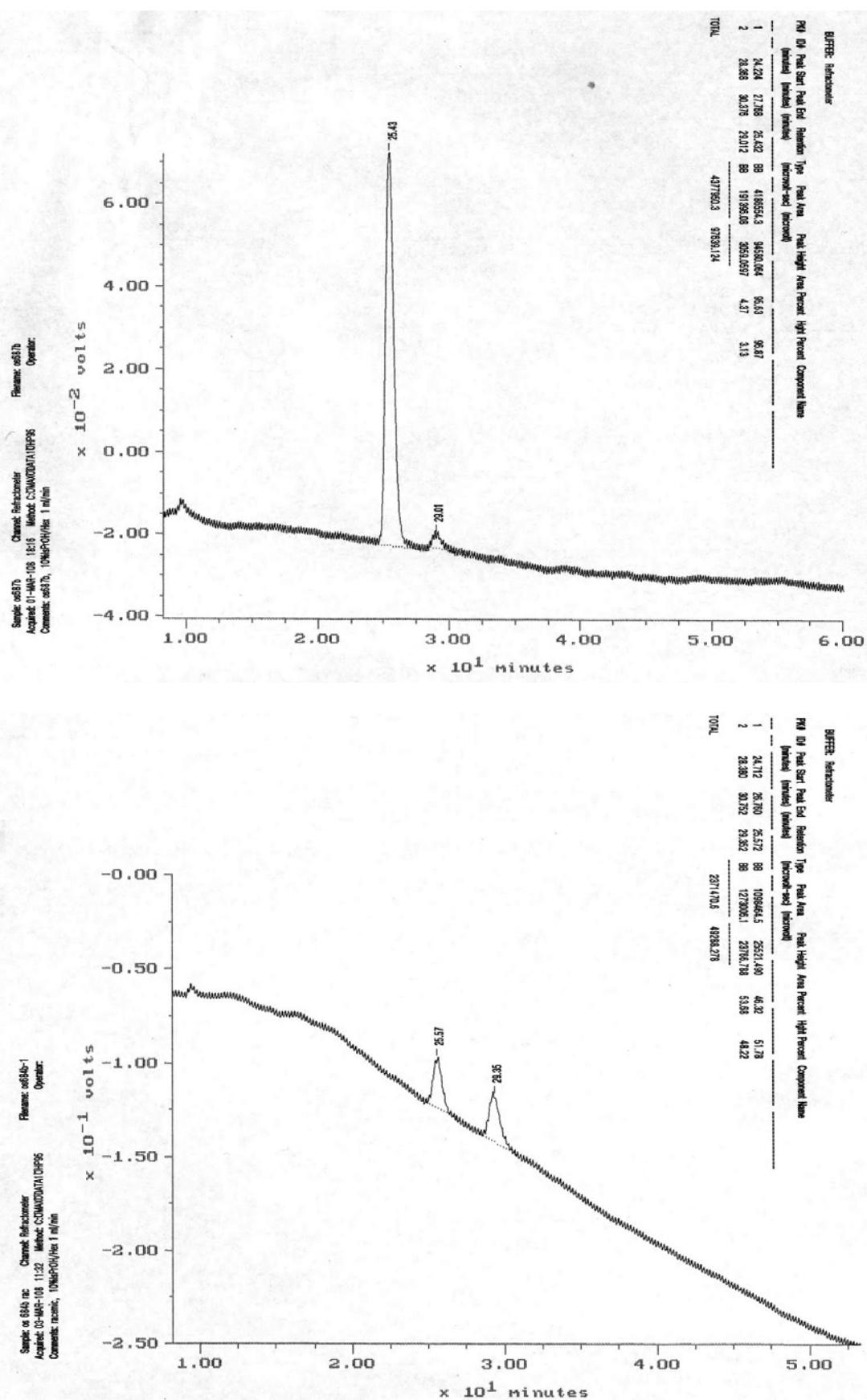
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2. Entry 1.)



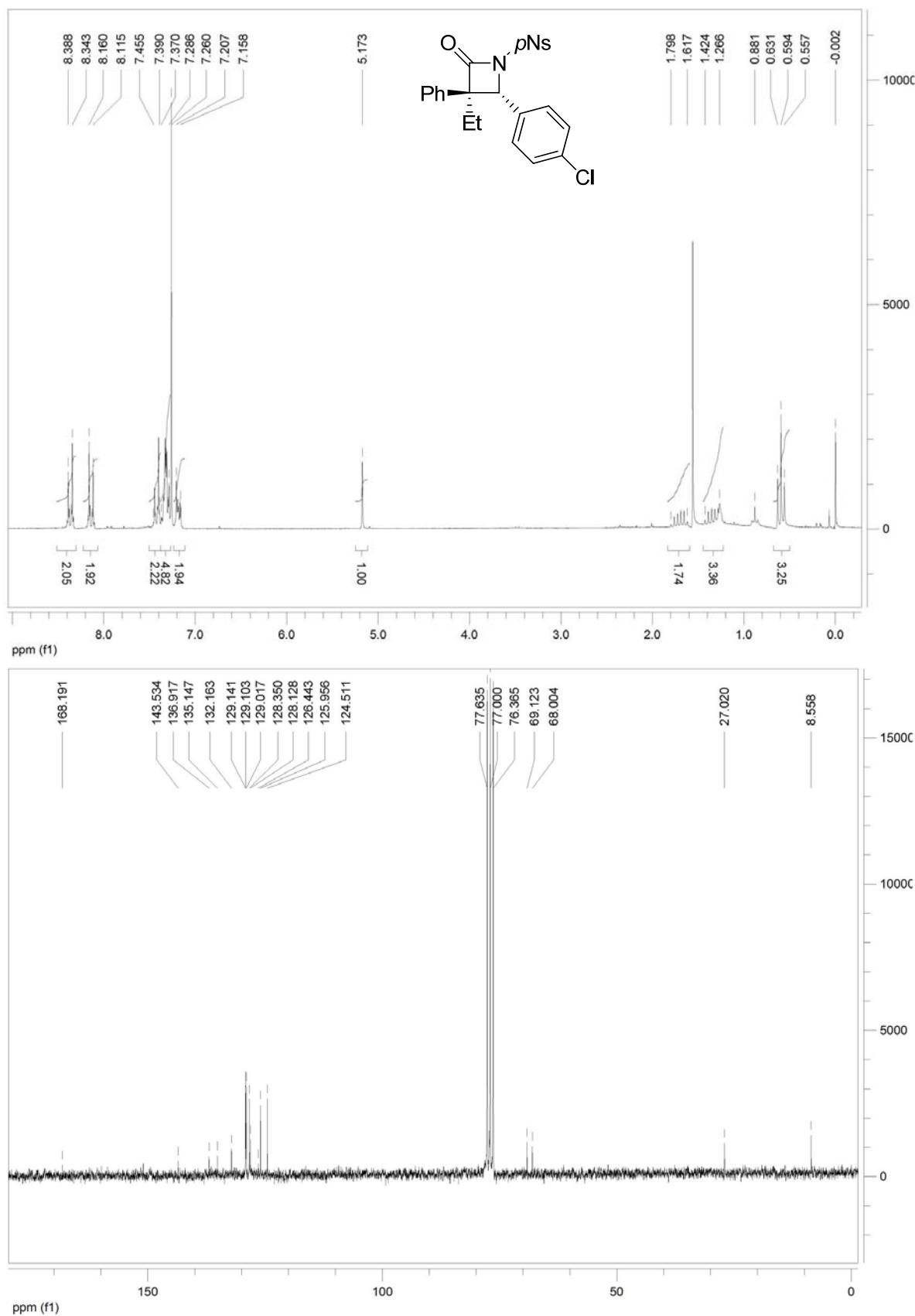


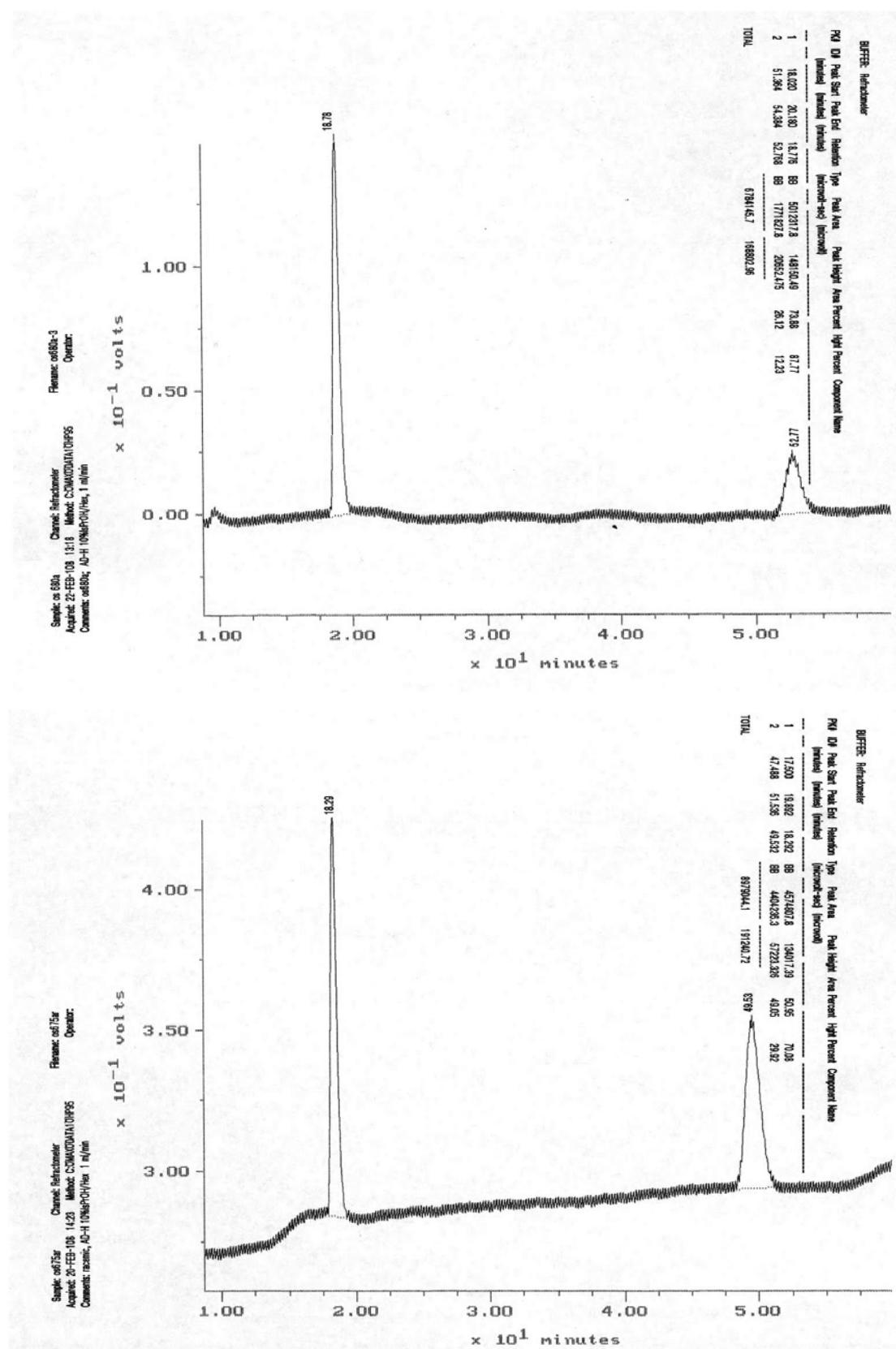
cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 1.)



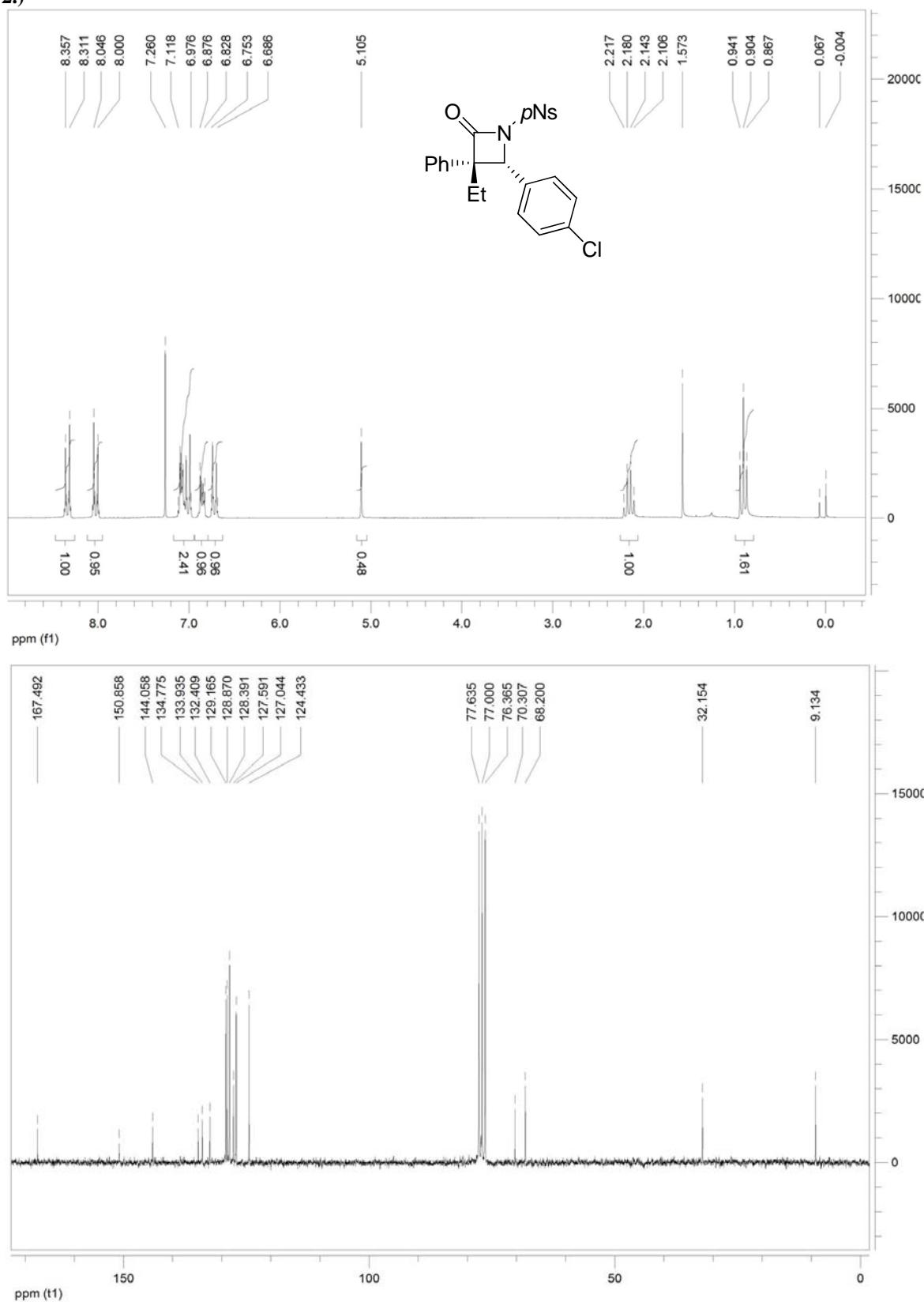


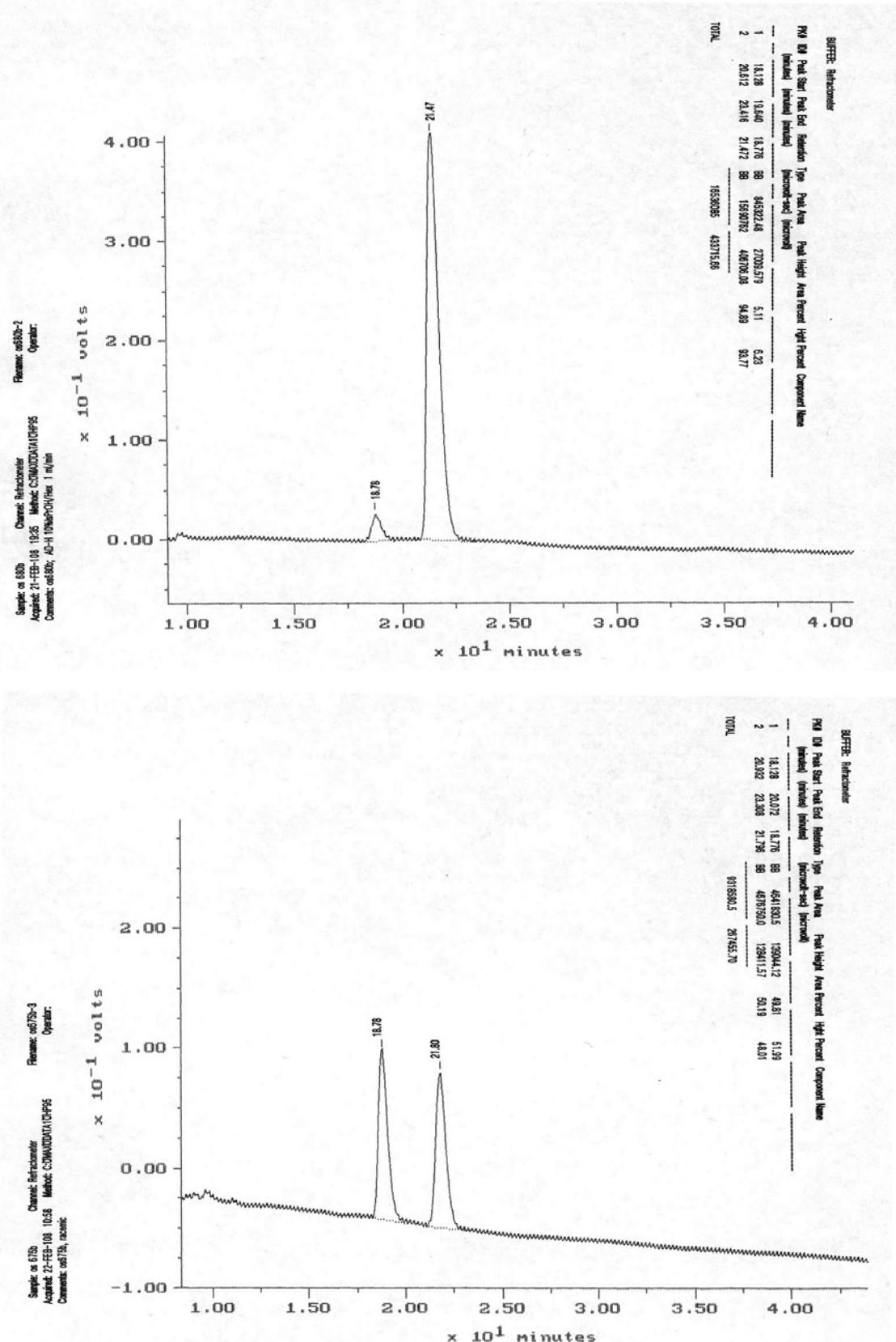
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 2.)



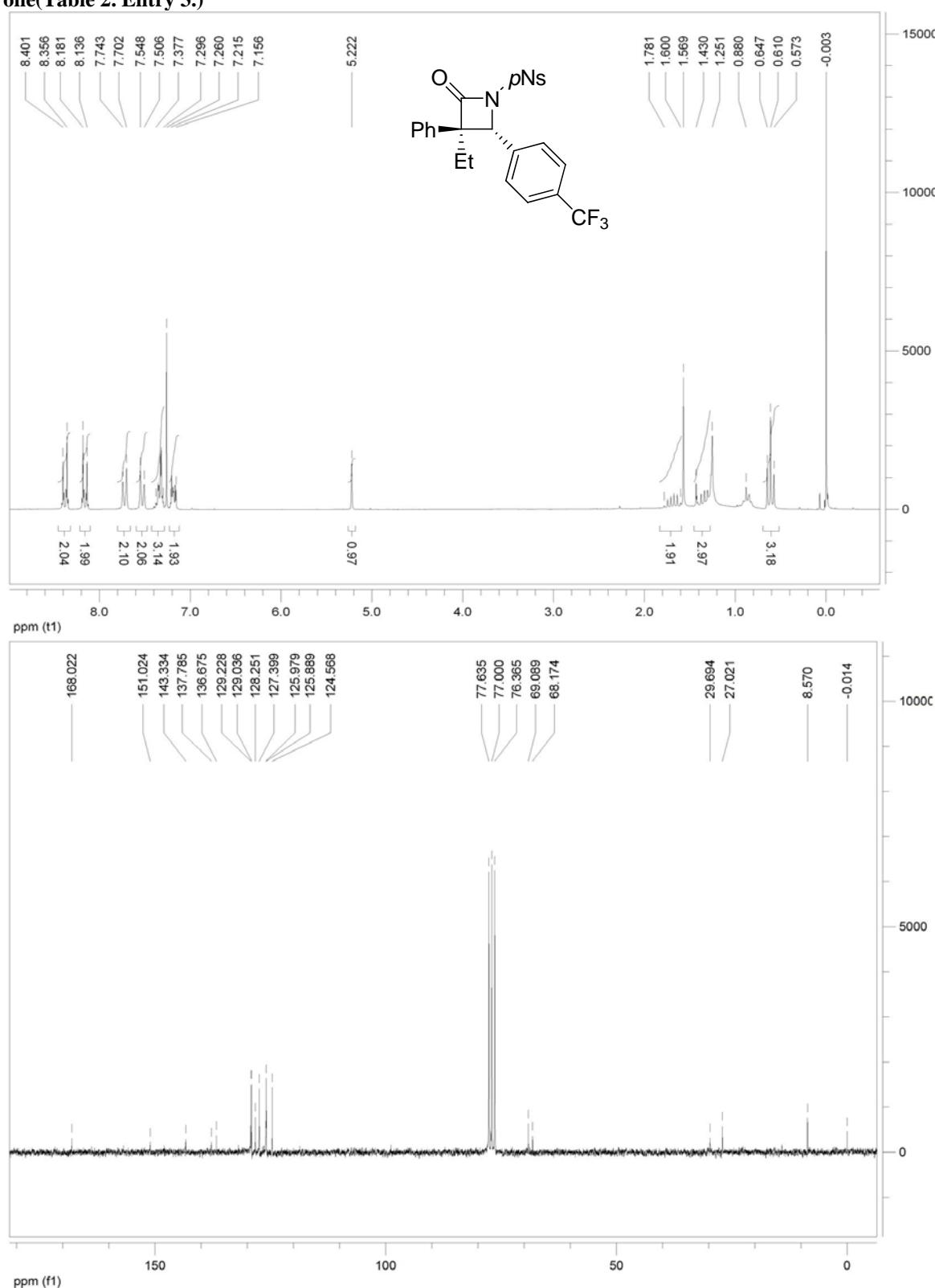


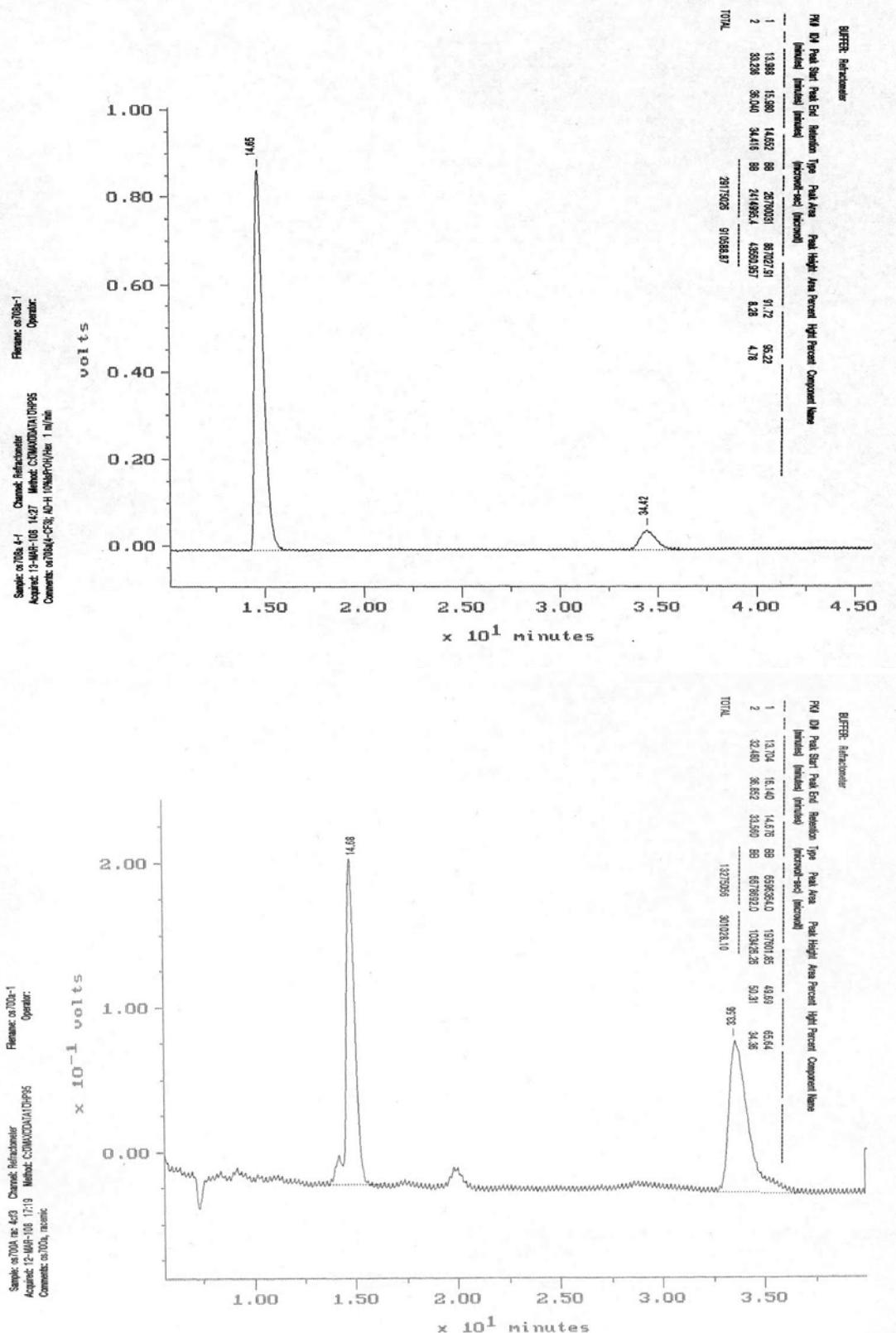
cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 2.)



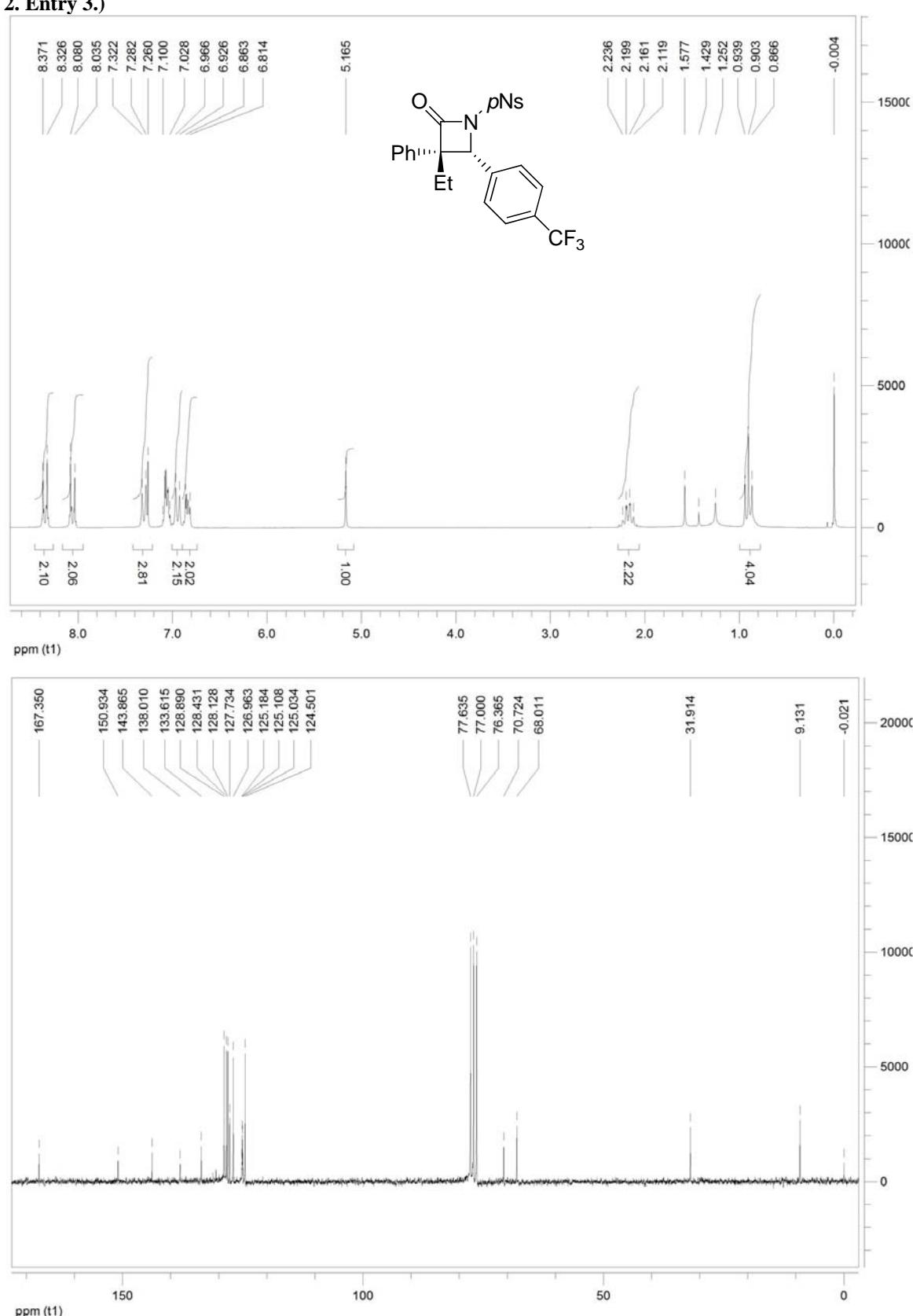


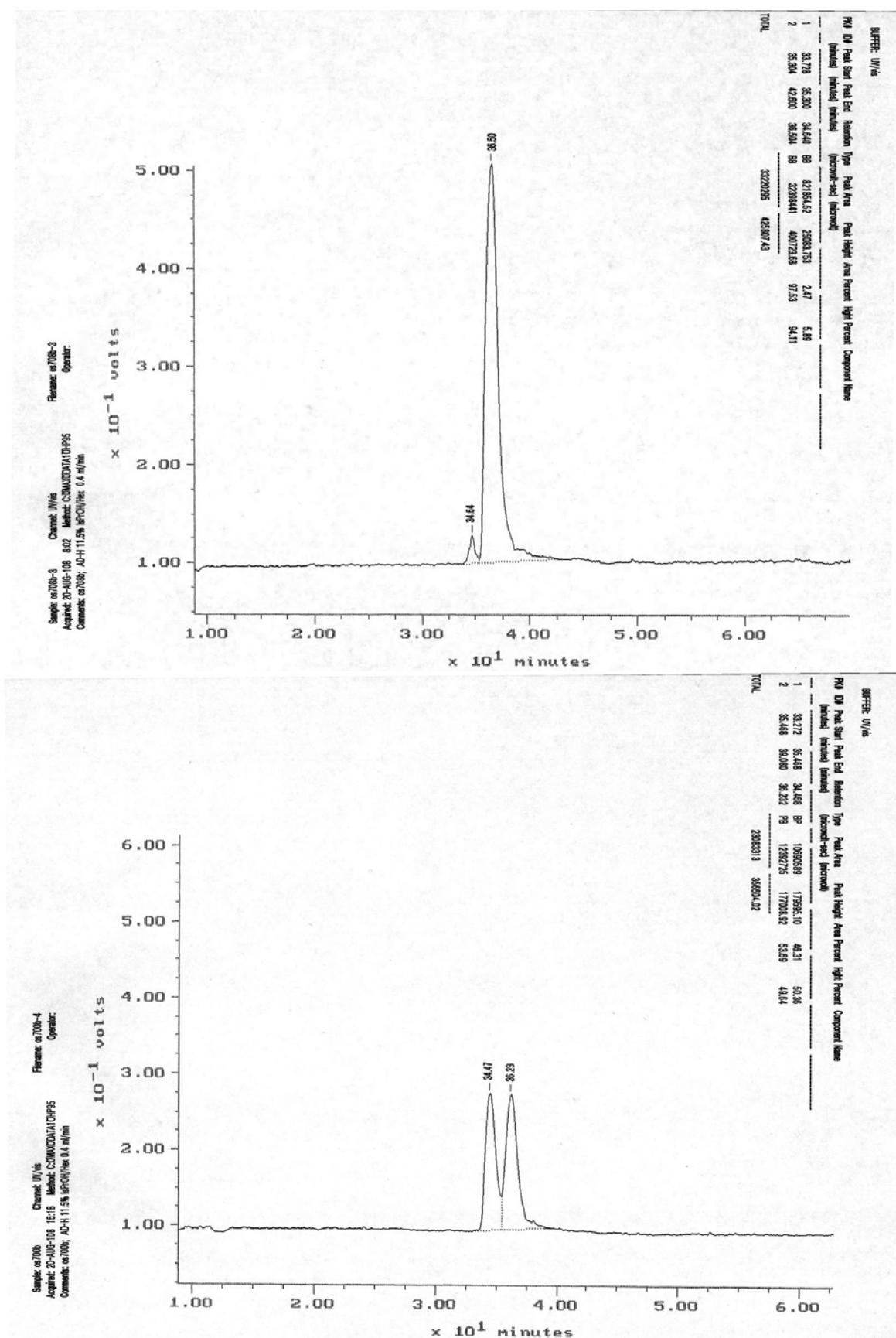
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 3.)



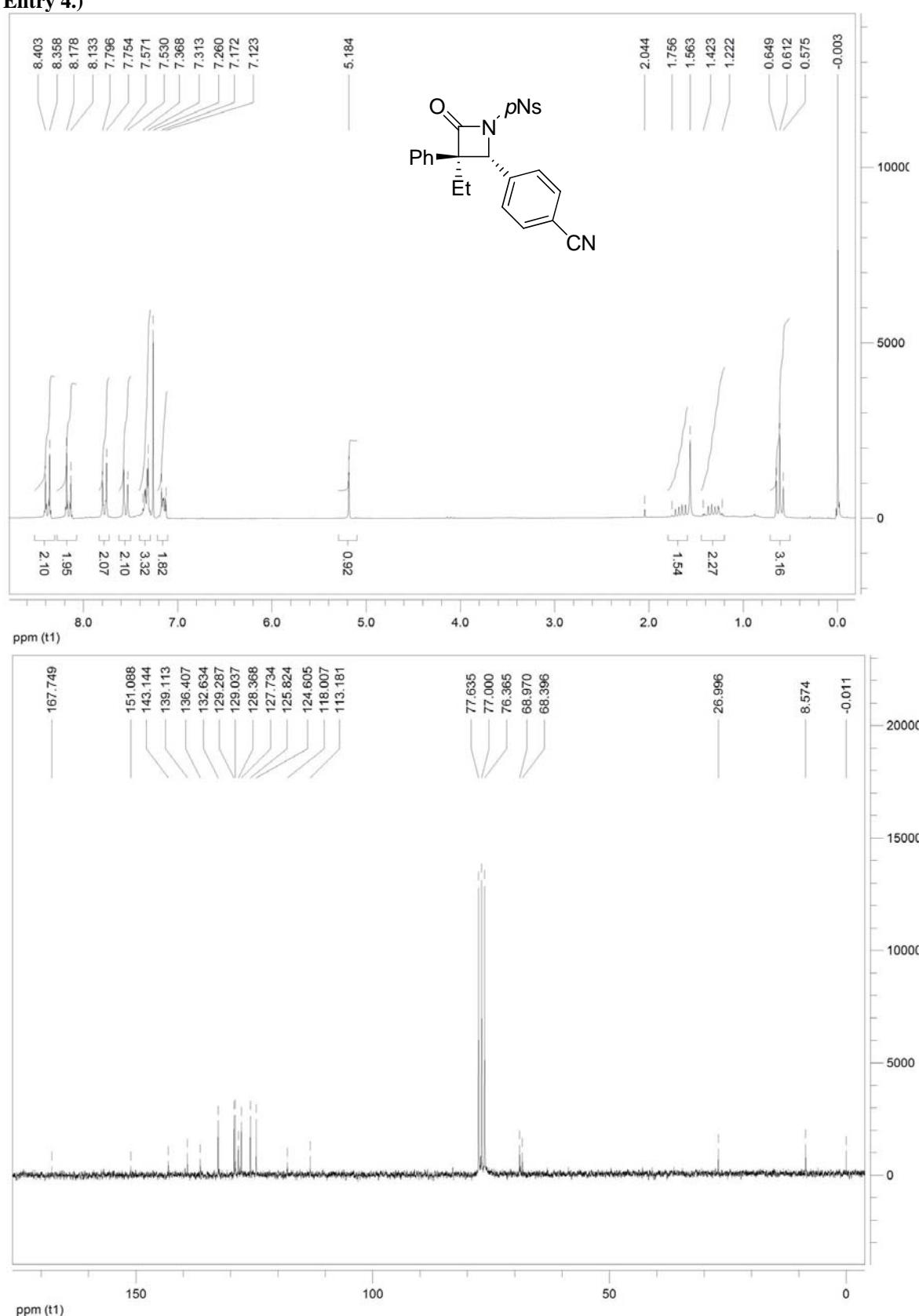


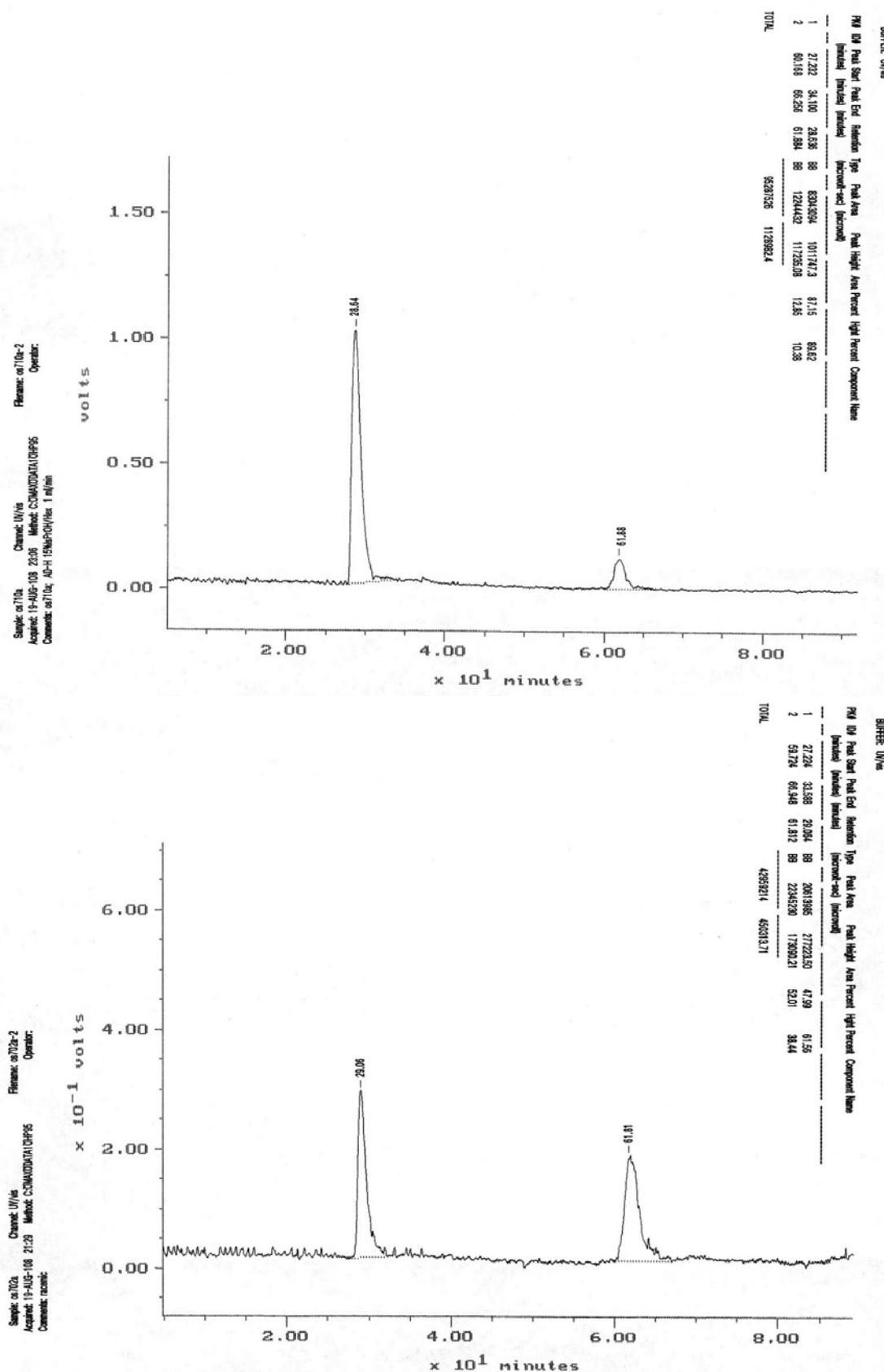
cis-(3S,4R)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 3.)



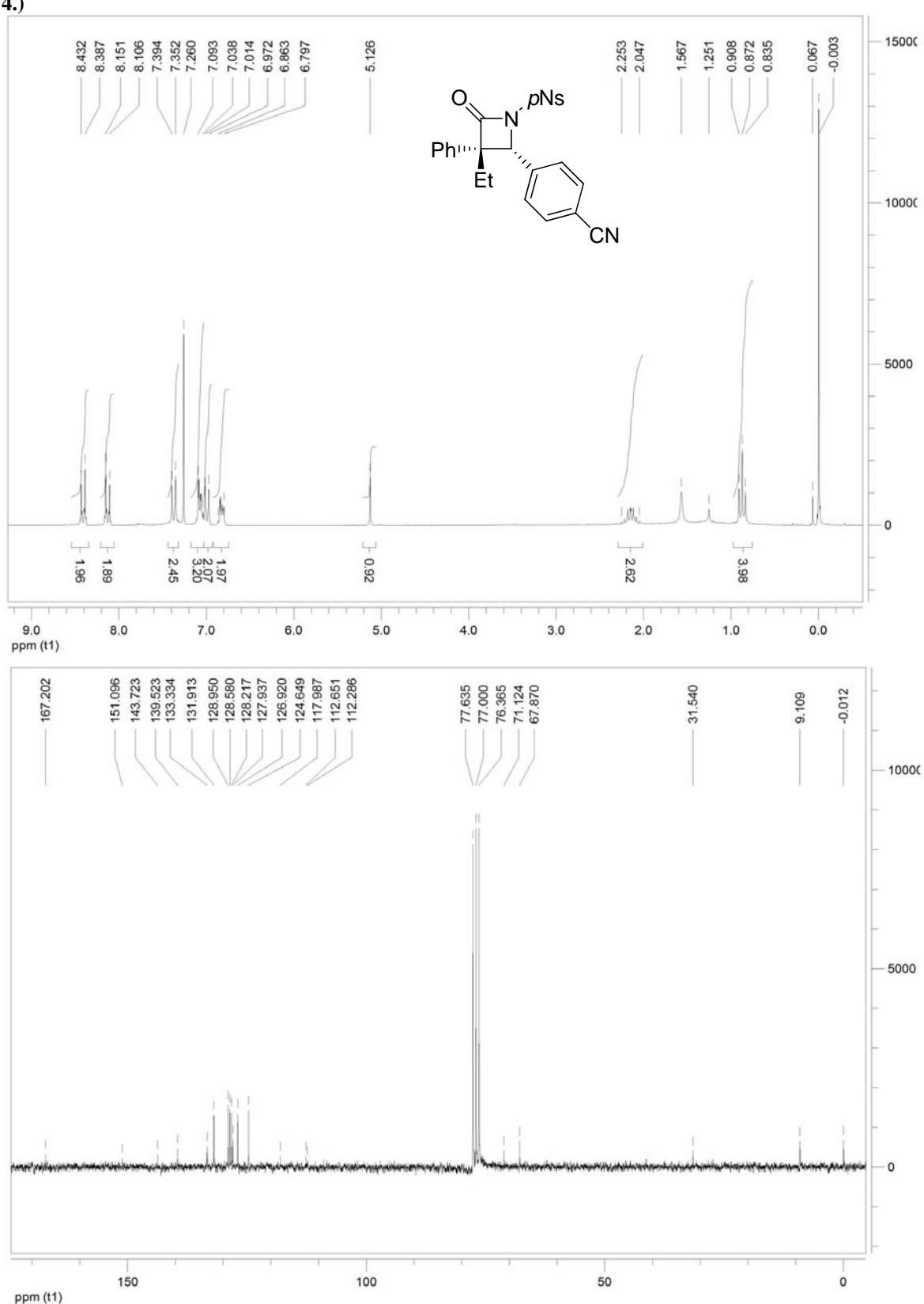


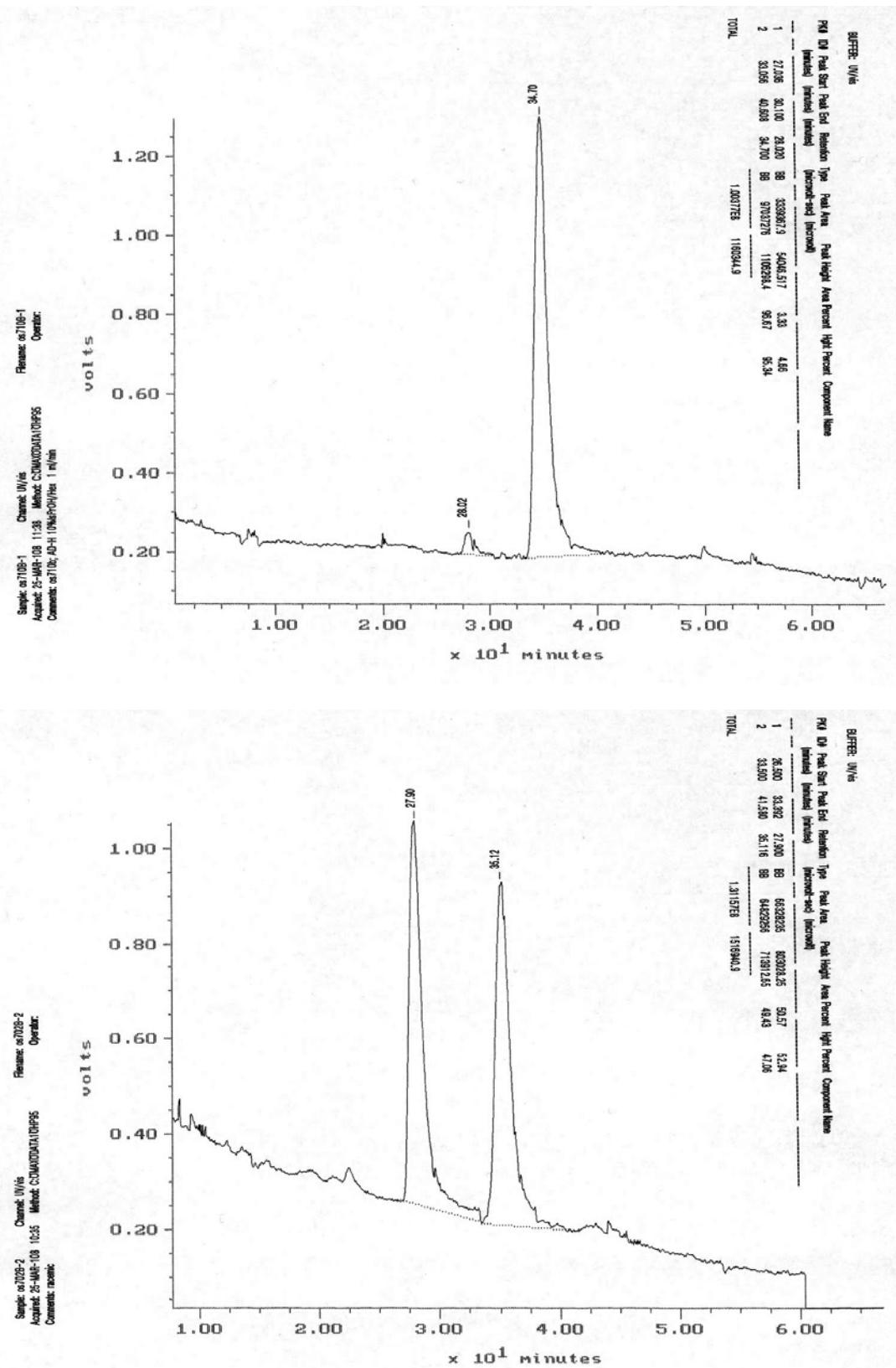
*trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-4-(3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-4-oxo-3-phenylazetidin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Table 2.
Entry 4.)*

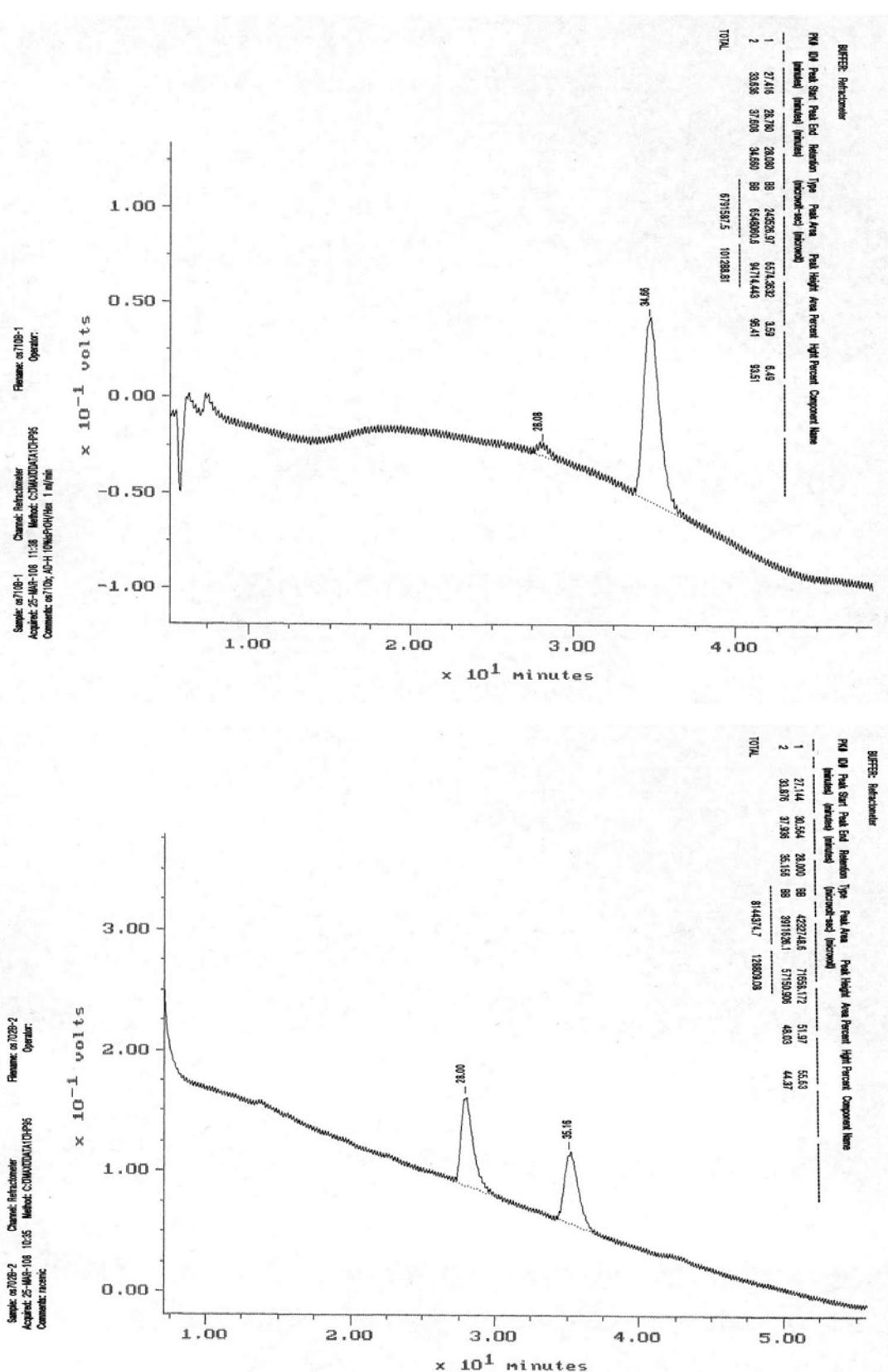




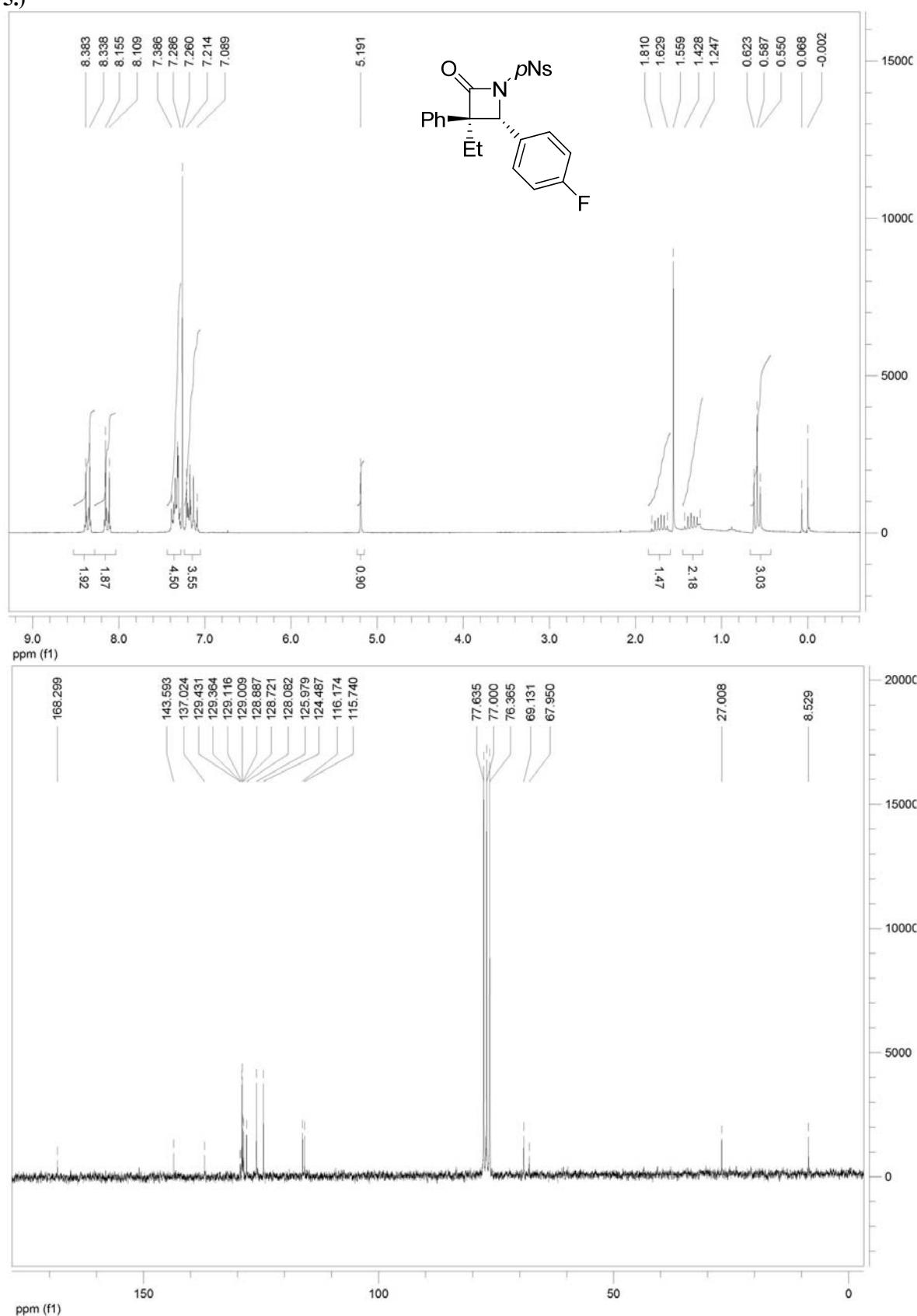
cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-4-(3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-4-oxo-3-phenylazetidin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Table 2, Entry 4.)

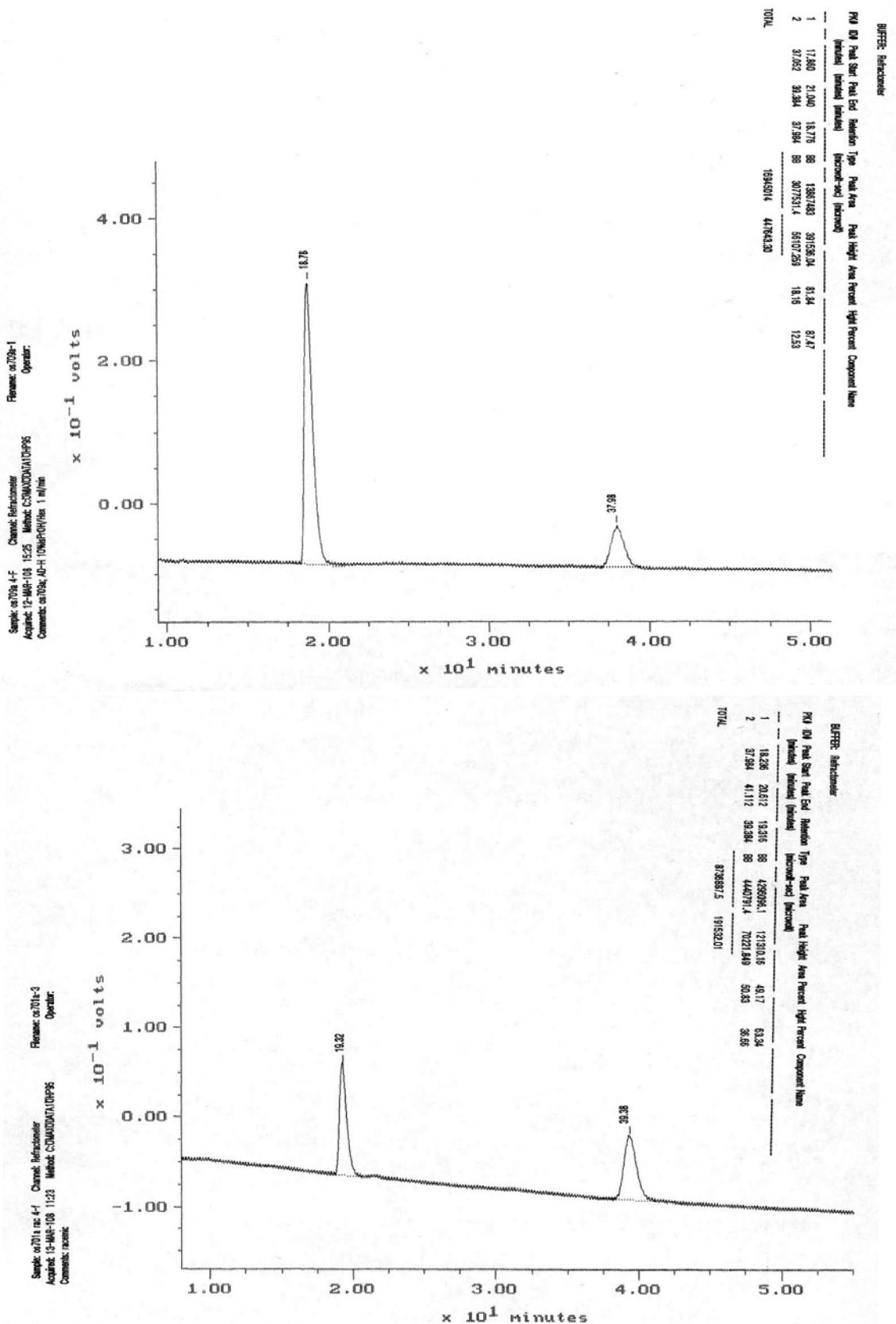




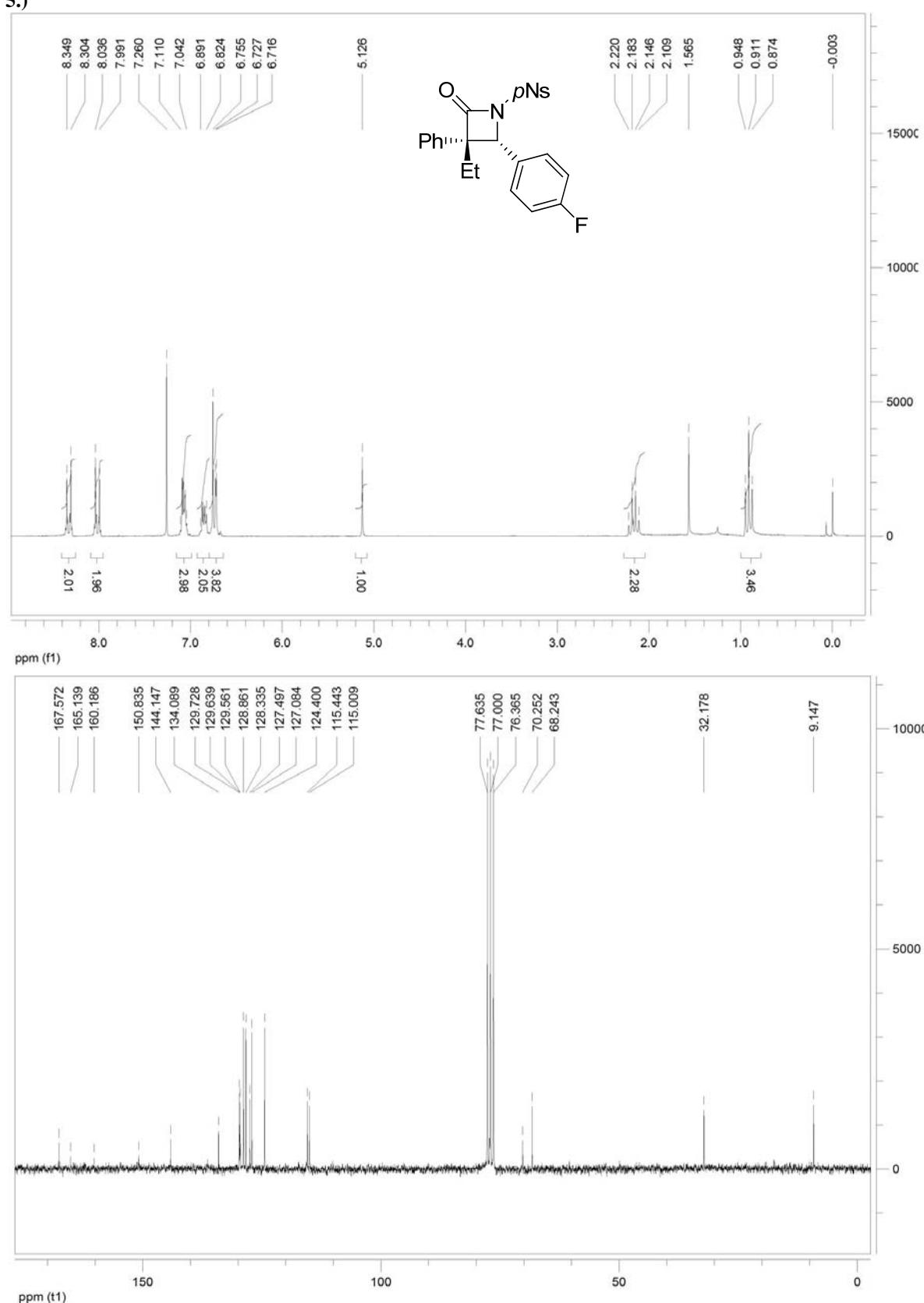


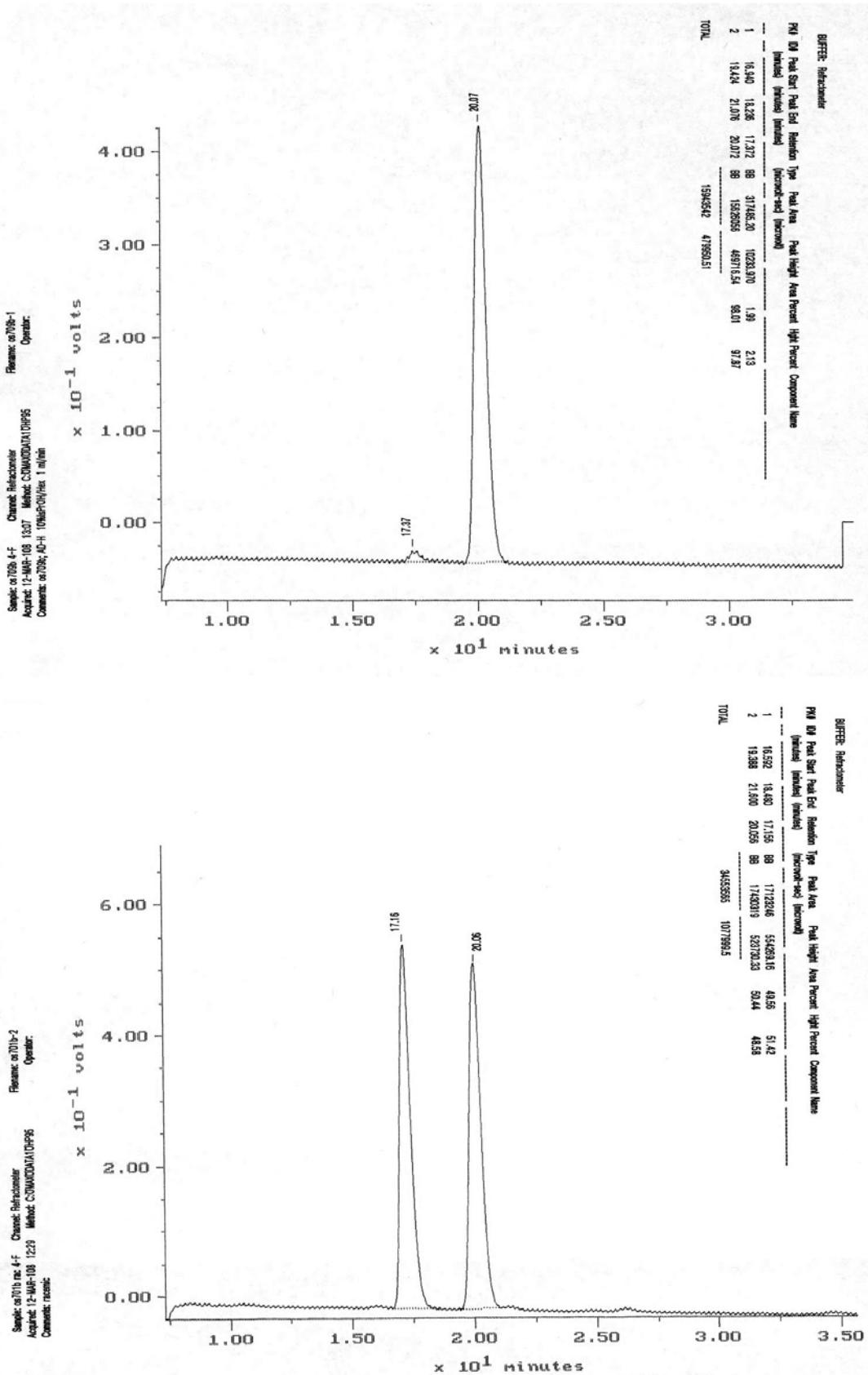
***trans*-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 5.)**



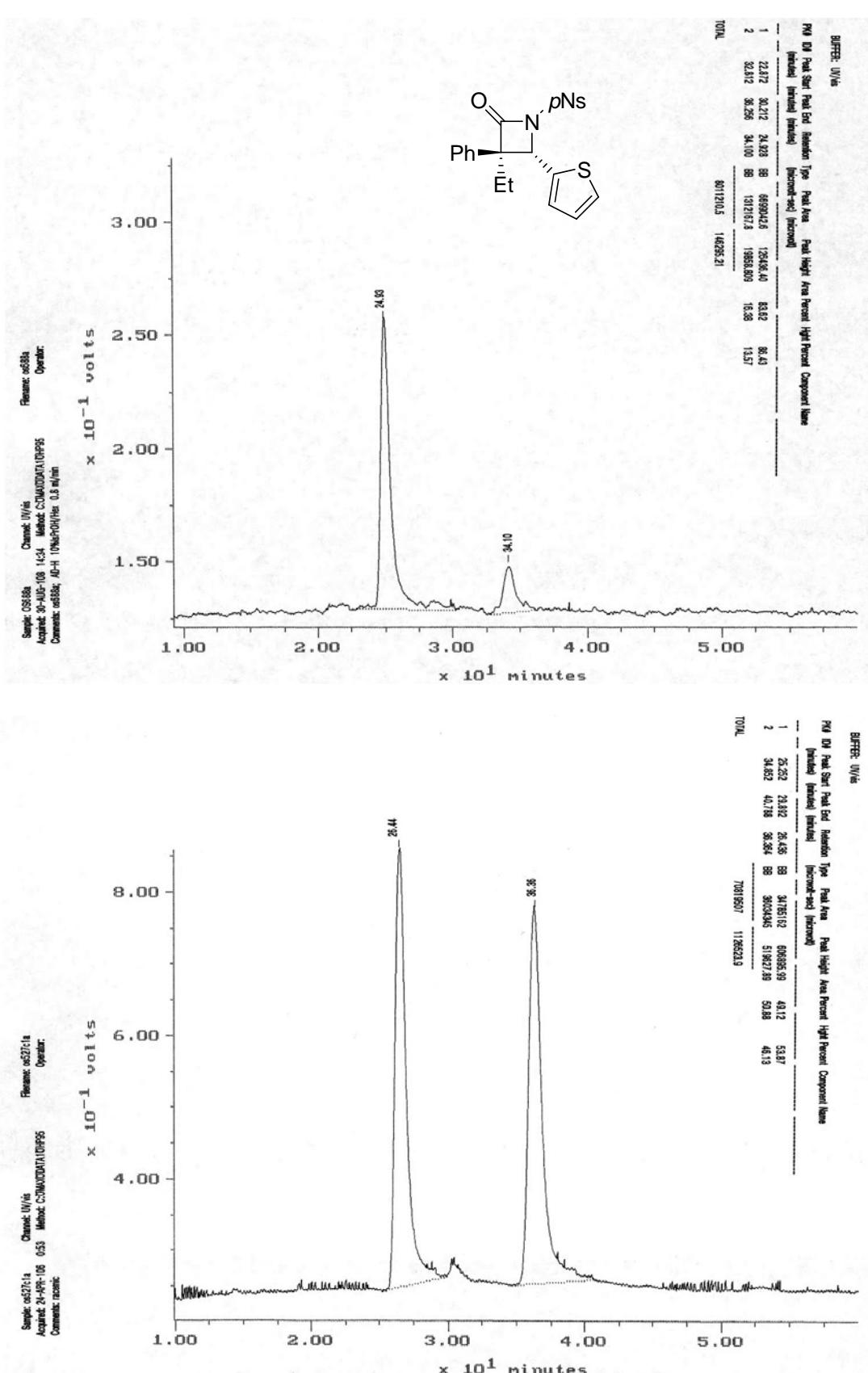


cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 5.)

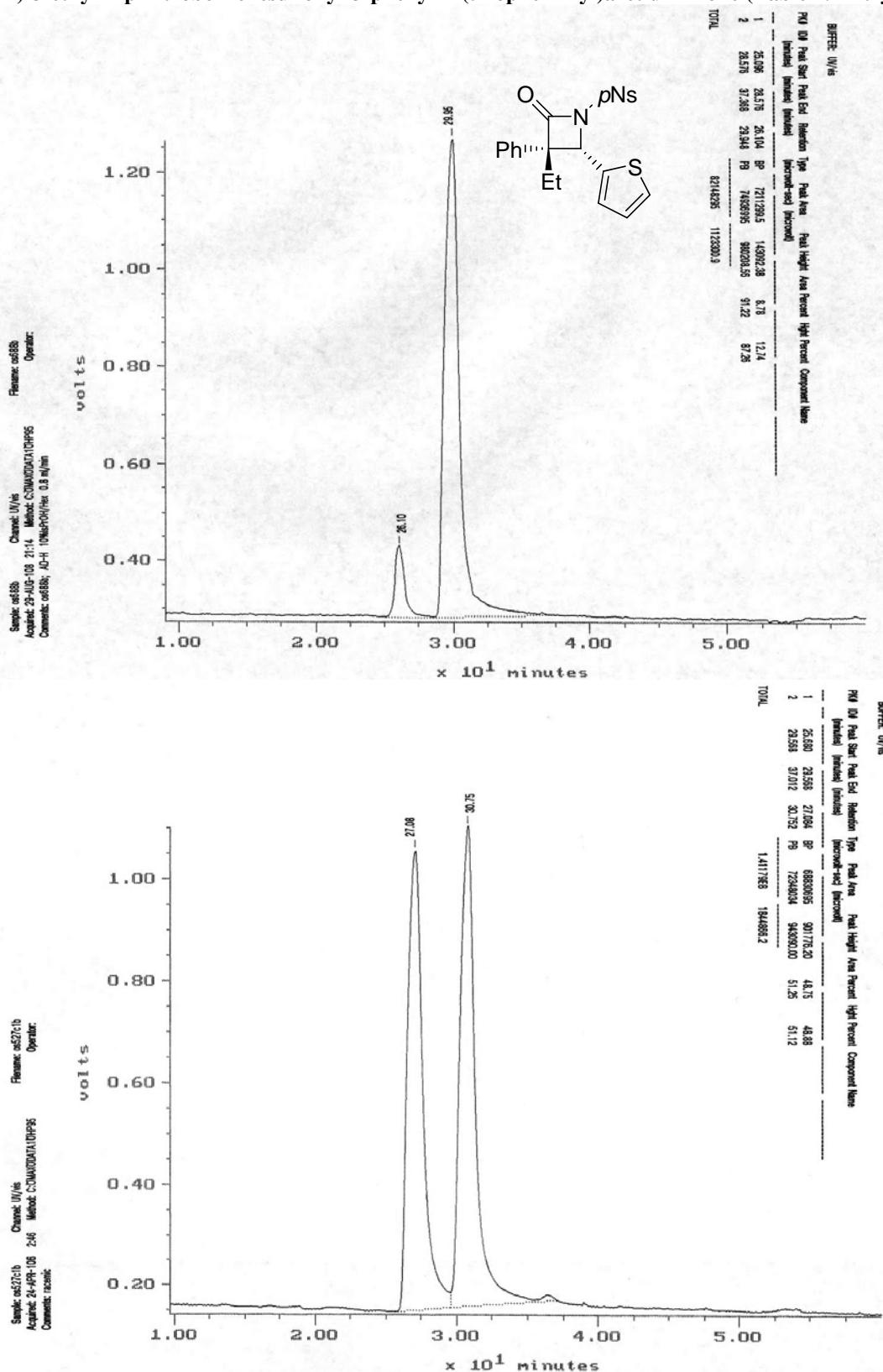




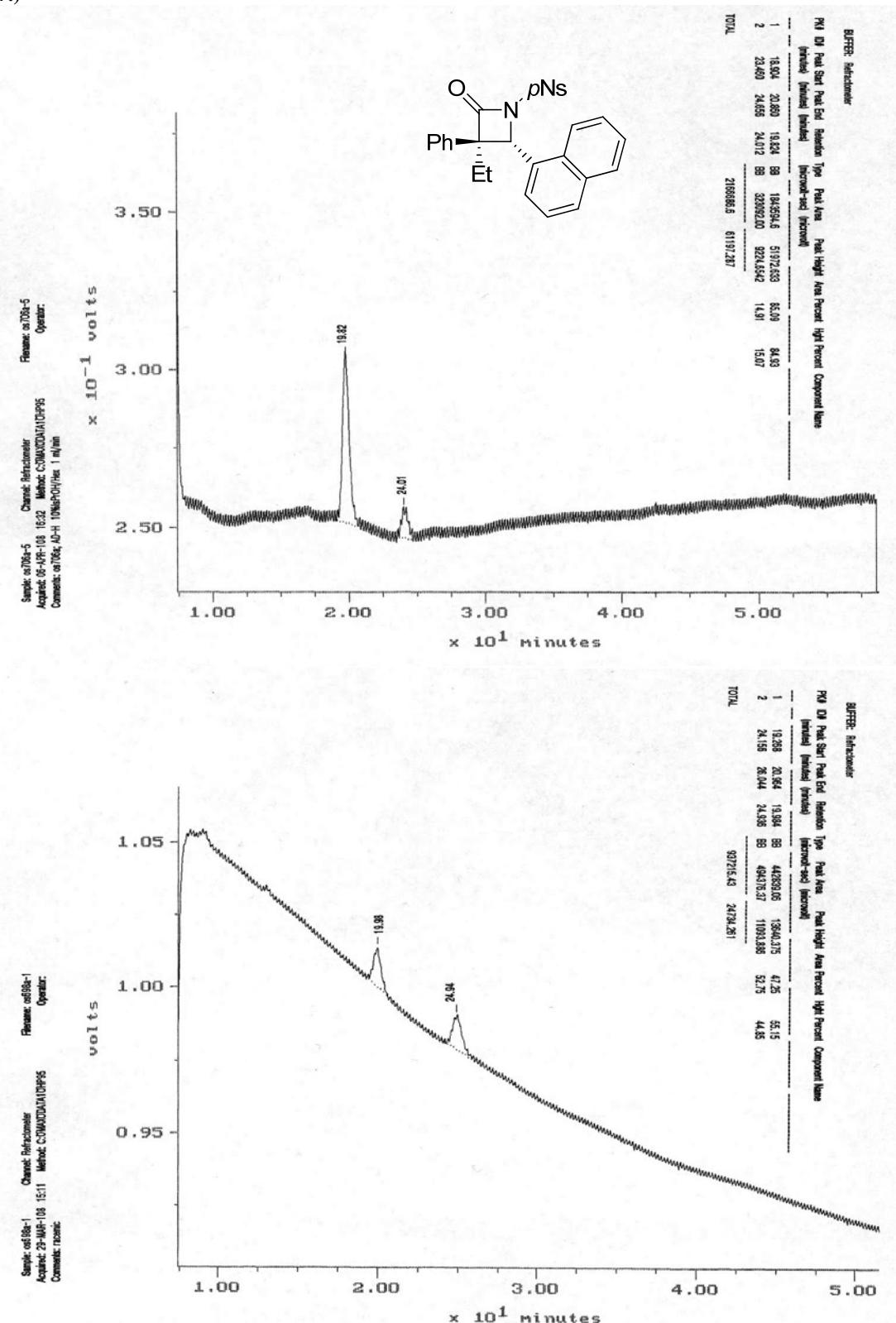
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 6.)⁷



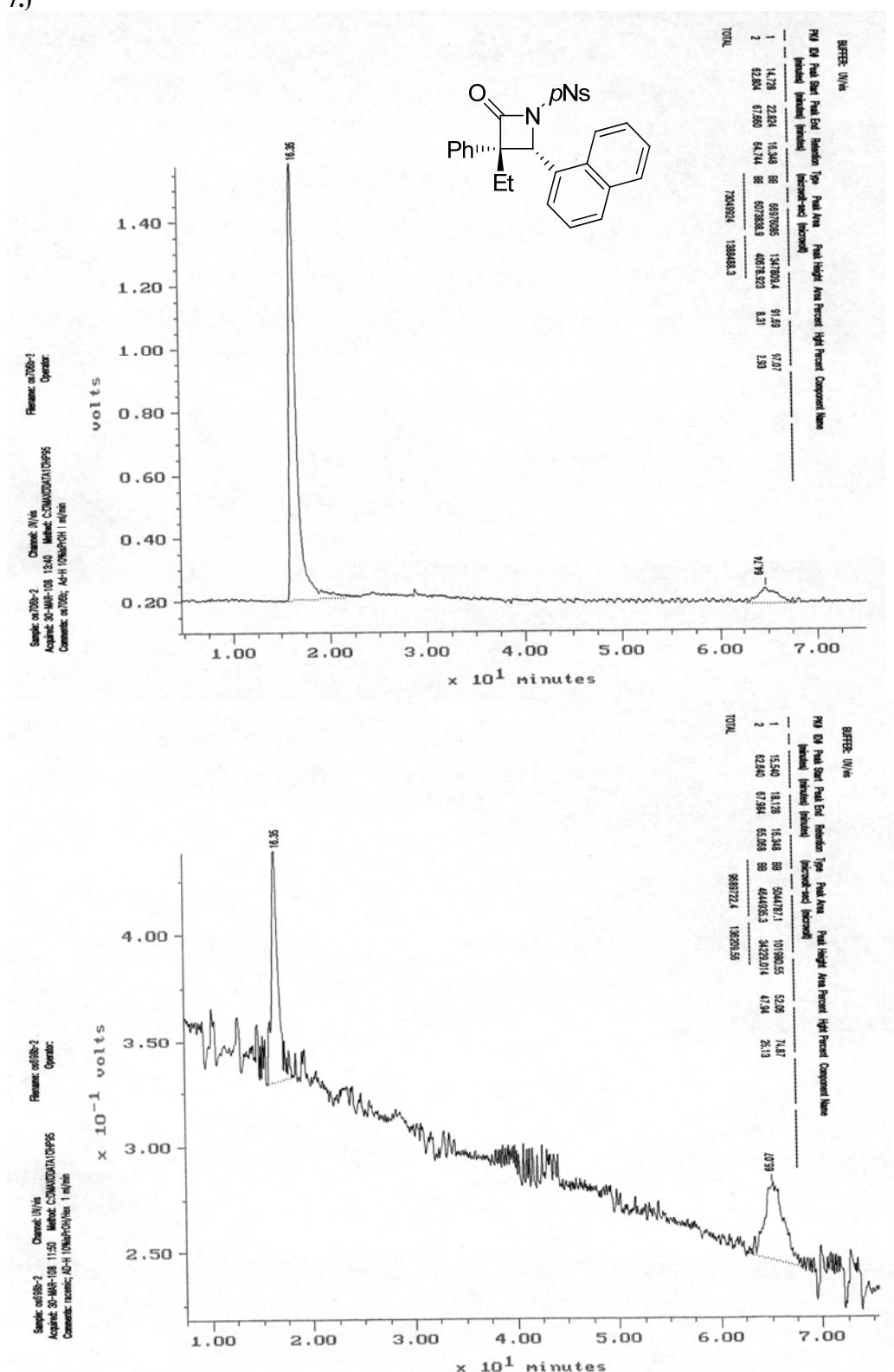
cis-(3S,4R)-3-ethyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)azetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 6)⁷



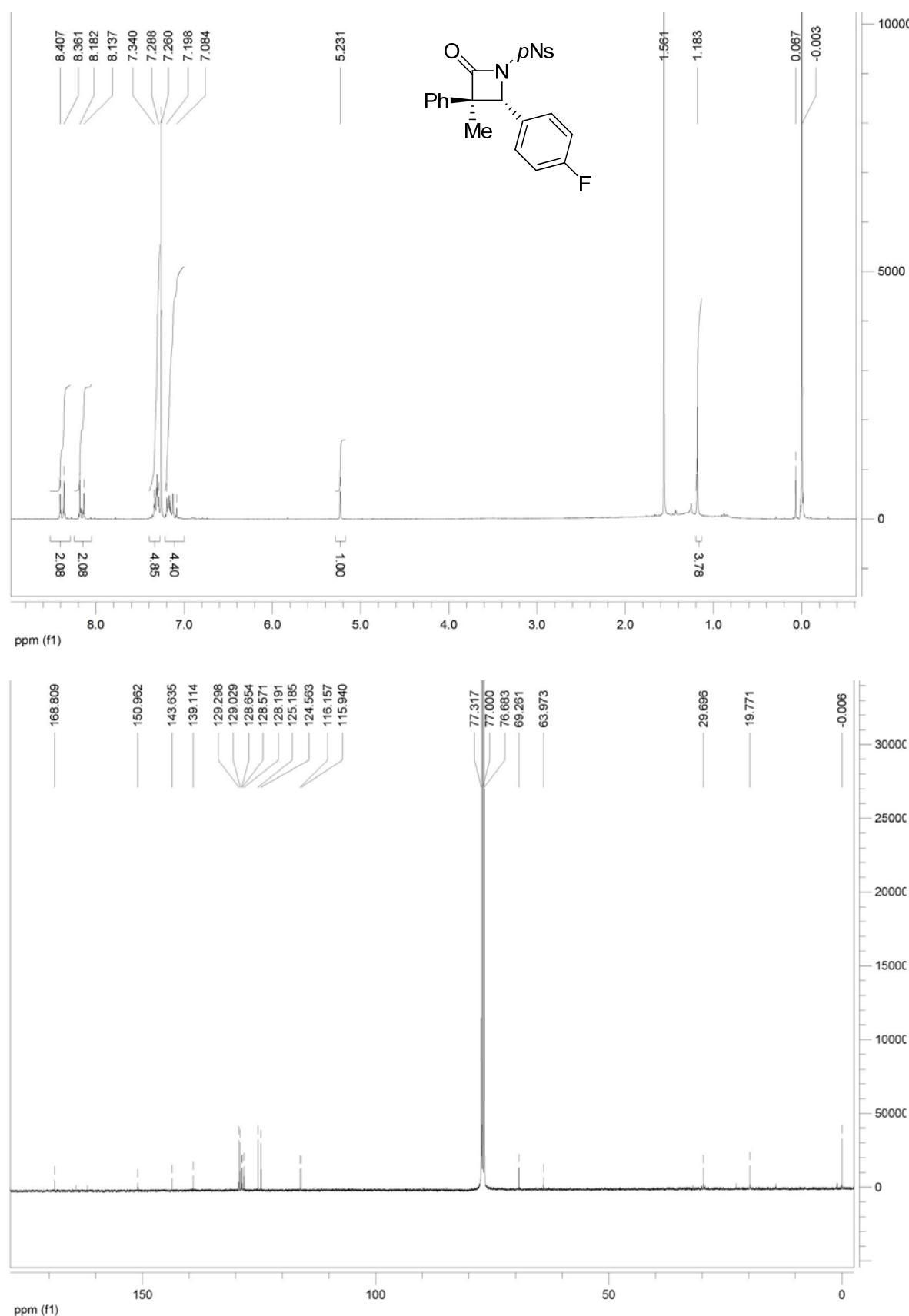
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2.
Entry 7.)⁷

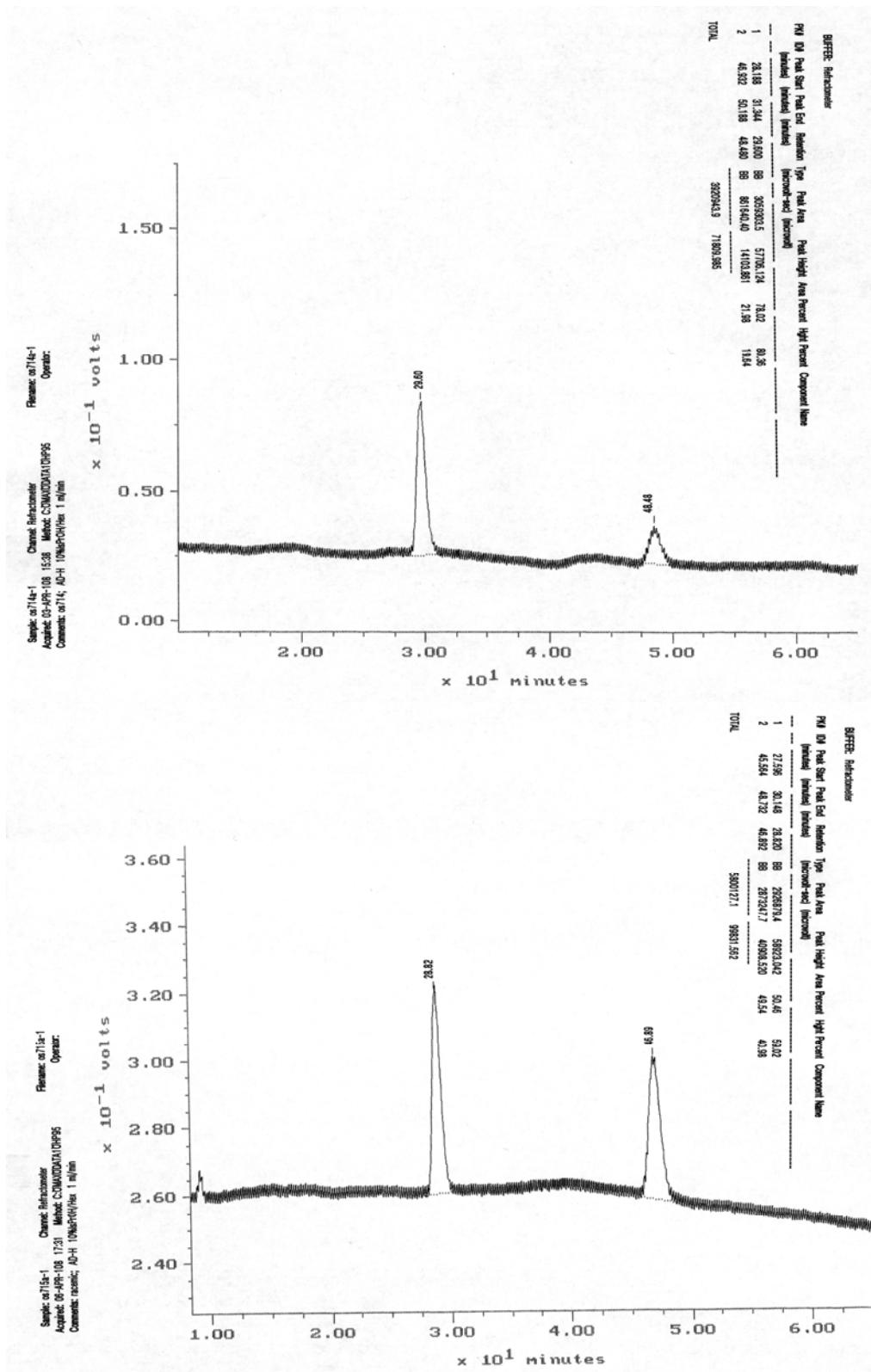


cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-3-ethyl-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 7.)

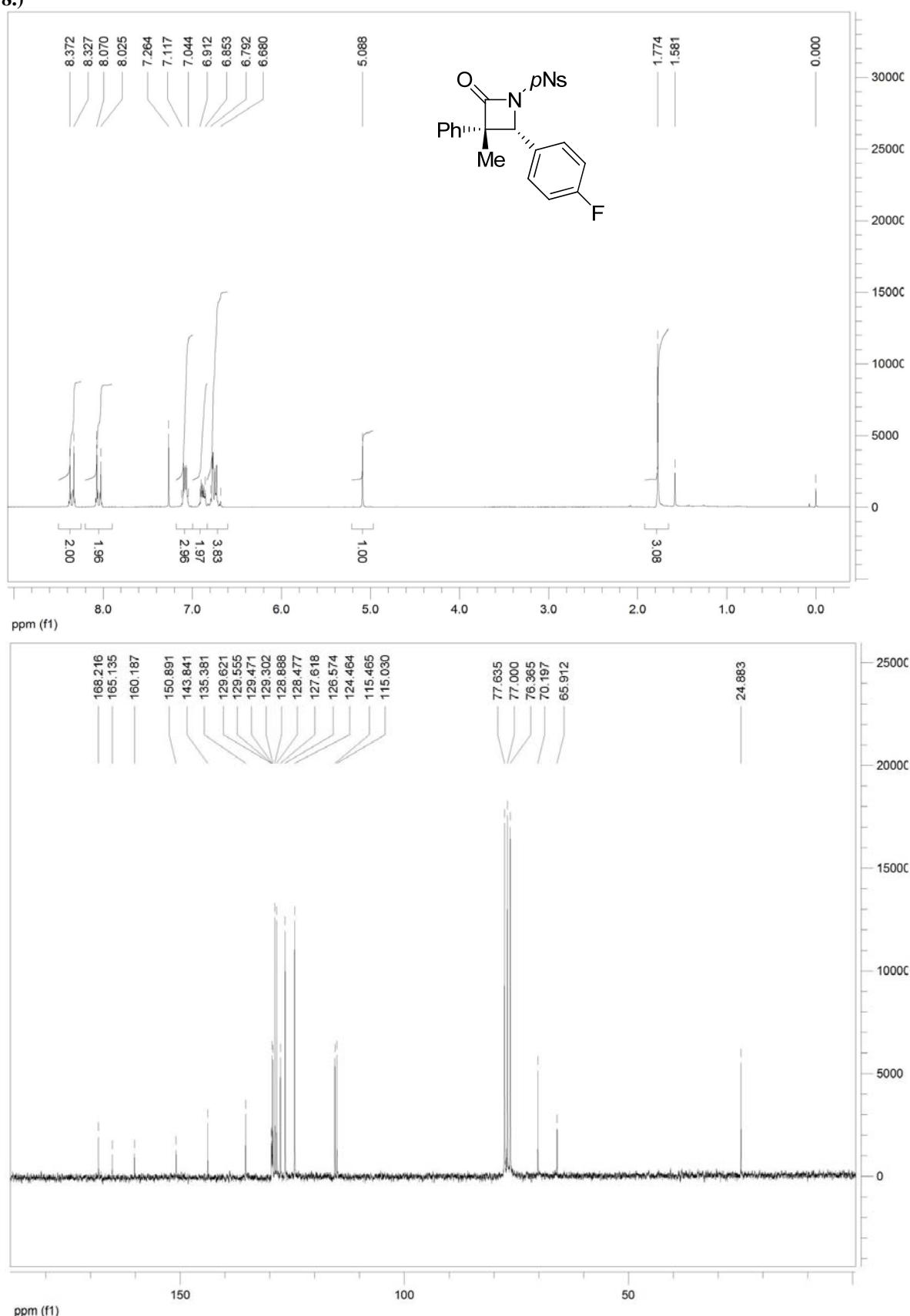


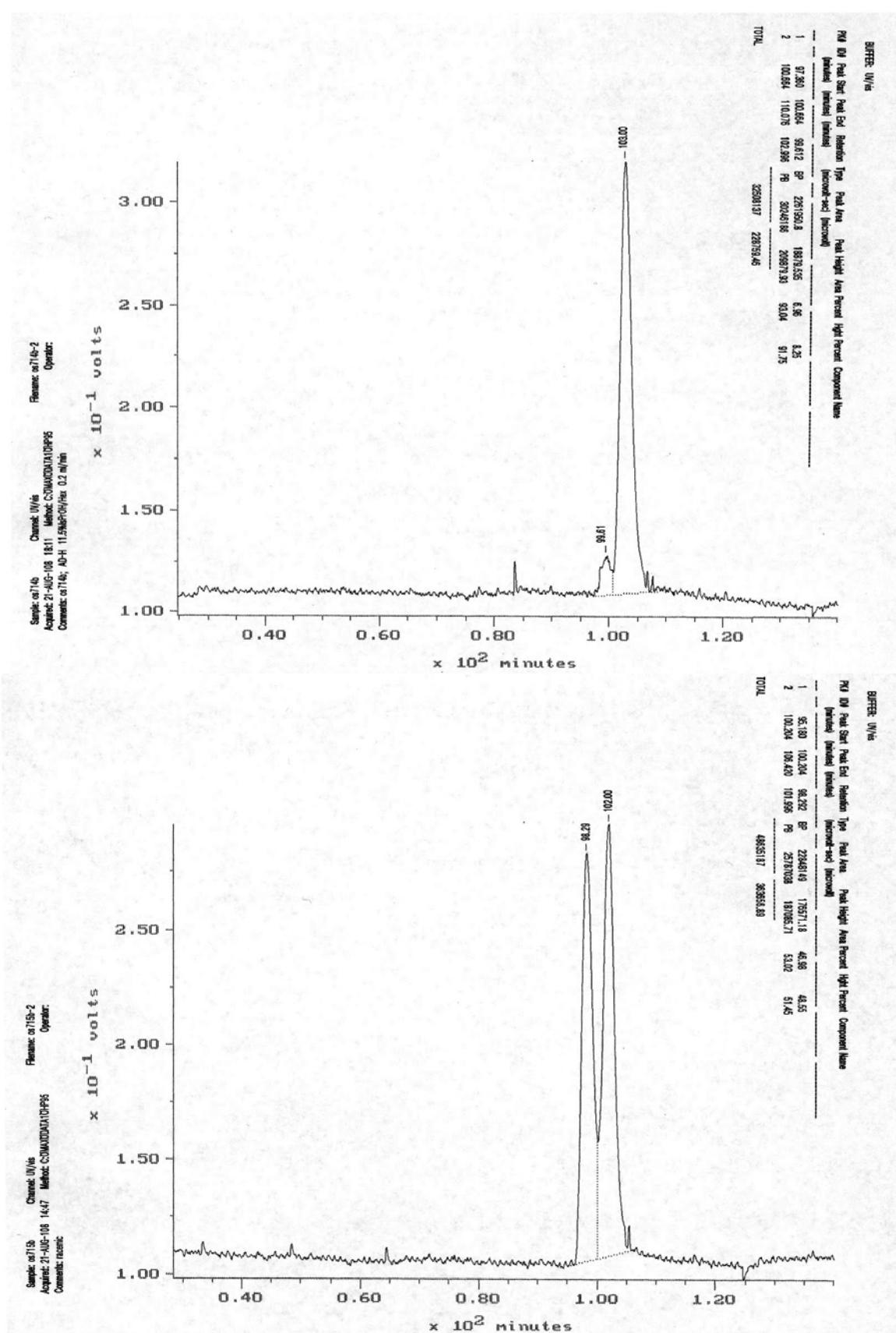
trans-(3*R*,4*R*)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2.
Entry 8.)



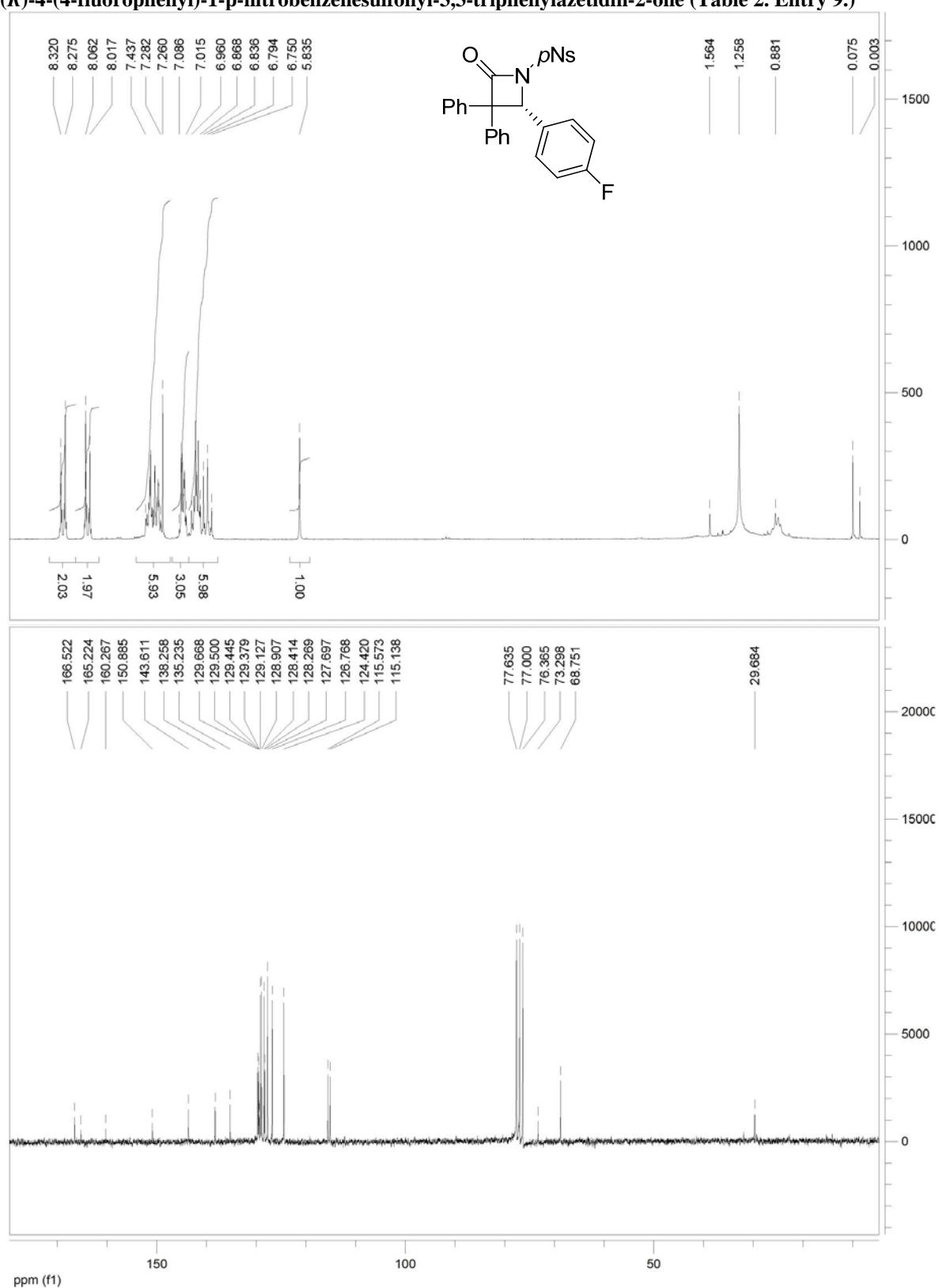


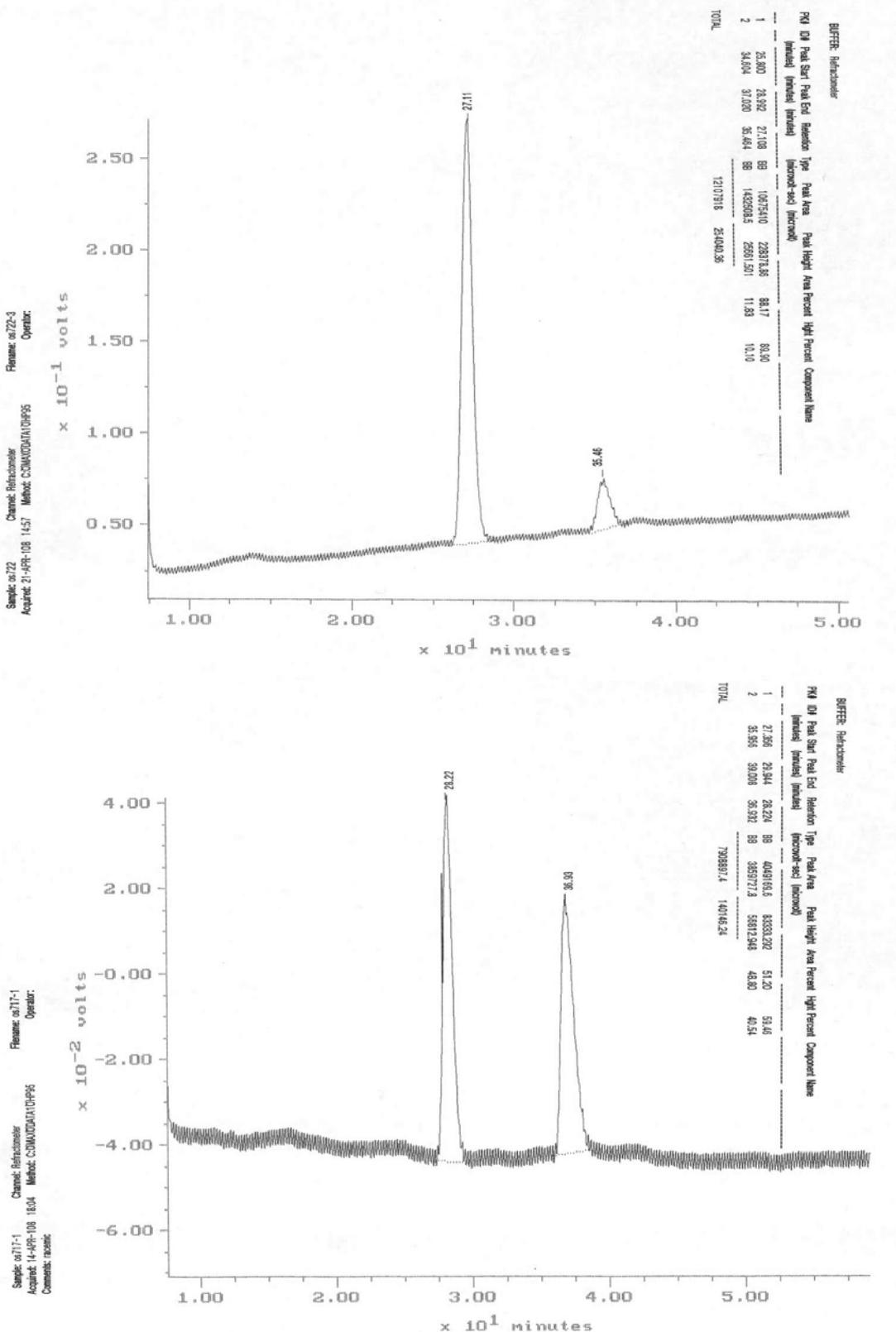
cis-(3*S*,4*R*)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3-phenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 8.)



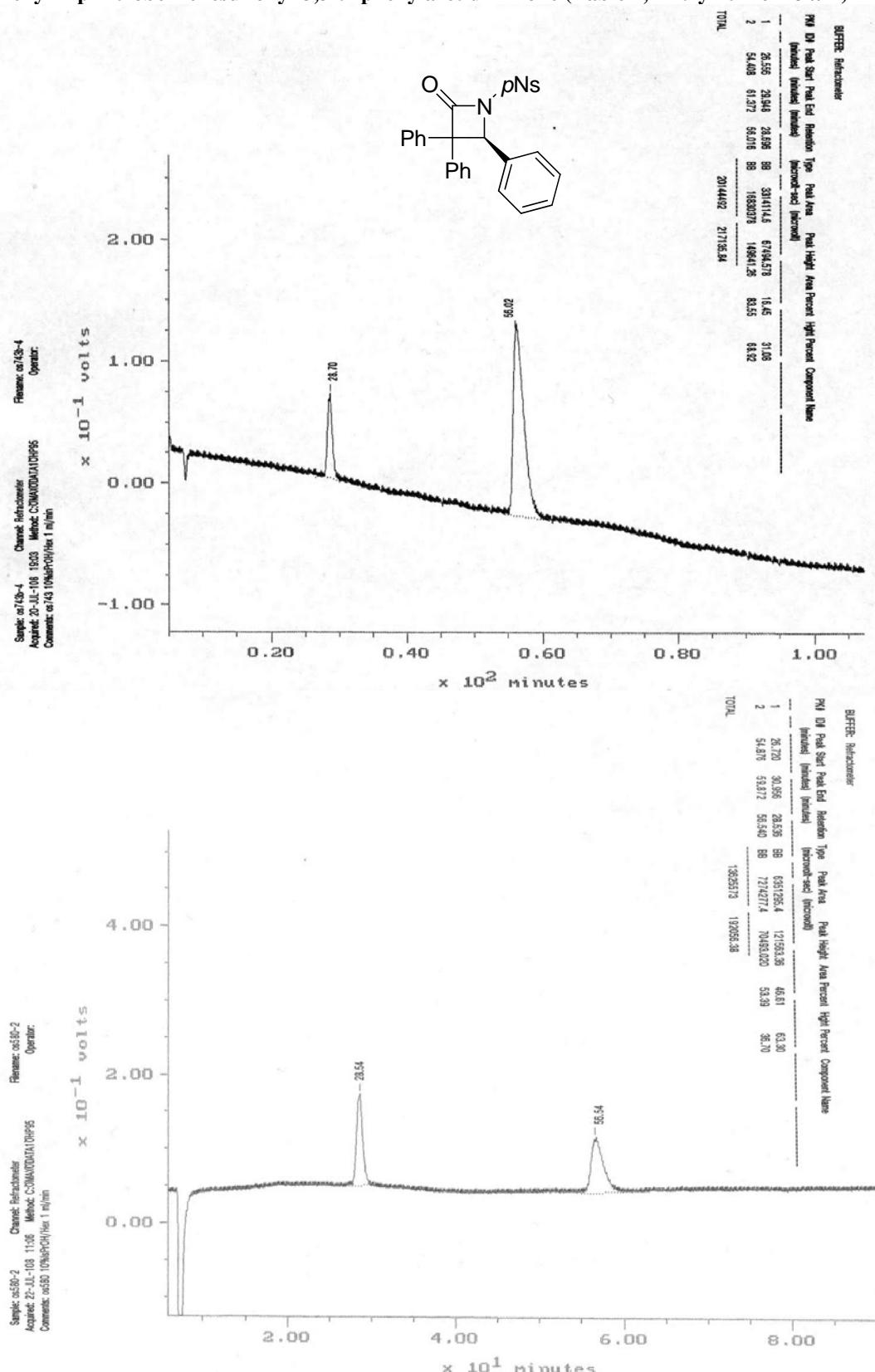


(R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3,3-triphenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 9.)





(S)-4-phenyl-1-p-nitrobenzenesulfonyl-3,3-triphenylazetidin-2-one (Table 2, Entry 10 from *ent*-4)⁷



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