

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

**A new approach to switching of enantioselectivity in NHC–Cu-catalyzed
conjugate addition of alkylzincs to cyclic enones**

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General. All chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and were used as received. Azolium chlorides **3-12** has been prepared according to our previous paper.¹ ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on spectrometers at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively. Flash column chromatography was executed on silica gel 60 (Merck, mesh: 230-400; particle size: 0.040-0.063 nm).

Procedure for preparation of 9. To a flask were added N-benzylbenzimidazole² (4.4 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (15 mL) and α -chloroacetoaminde derived from chloroacetyl chloride and (*S*)-leucinol³ (4 mmol). After stirring the reaction mixture at 110 °C for 16 h, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in methanol, and then activated carbon (ca. 1 g) was added. After 16 h, the activated carbon was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain a solid, which was purified by reprecipitation using ethyl acetate and methanol to afford the corresponding coupling product as a white solid.

1-[2-((*S*)-1-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-pentanylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-3-benzylbenzimidazolium chloride (9**):** ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ 10.7 (s, 1H), 9.20 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.27 (m, 8H), 7.42–7.32 (m, 5H), 5.86 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (br, 1H), 3.97 (br, 1H), 3.65–3.54 (m, 2H), 1.61–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.27–1.24 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: δ 164.6, 143.6, 132.3, 132.2, 130.6, 129.3, 129.2, 127.9, 127.2, 126.9, 114.2, 113.0, 64.3, 51.5, 51.1, 49.8, 39.6, 24.8, 22.7, 22.3. Anal. Calc. for C₂₂H₂₈ClN₃O₂•0.25H₂O: C, 65.01; H, 7.07; N, 10.34. Found: C, 64.67; H, 6.65; N, 10.08%.

General procedure for catalytic asymmetric reaction of cyclic enone with R₂Zn. To a solution of Cu(OTf)₂ (0.06 mmol) in dehydrated THF (9 mL) was added **9** (0.045 mmol). Then, the reaction vessel was cooled at 0 °C, and enone (1 mmol) followed by R₂Zn (3 mmol, 1 mol/L in hexanes for Et₂Zn or in heptane for Bu₂Zn) were added. The color immediately changed from yellow to dark brown. After stirring at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction was quenched with 10% HCl aq. (ca. 5 mL). The resulting mixture was extracted with diisopropyl ether (15 mL x 3) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 9/1). Enantiomeric excess was measured by chiral GLC. The configuration assigned through comparison with GLC data in the literature.

3-Ethylcyclohexanone (2)

Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GLC (Supelco γ -Dex225, 70 °C, N₂ gas, linear velocity of 27.5 cm/s, Rt = 65 min (*S*), 69 min (*R*)).^{4,5}

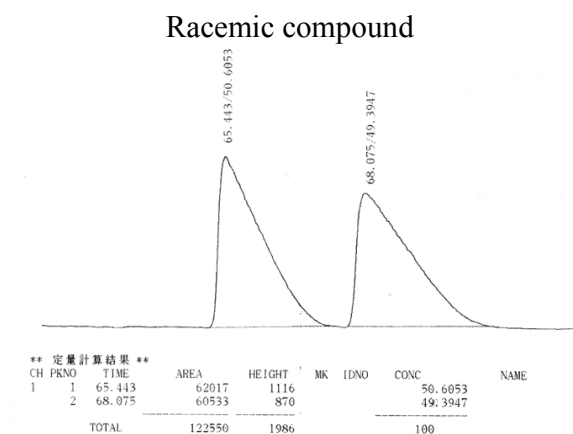


Table 1, Run 10 (*S* : *R* = 90.5 : 9.5)

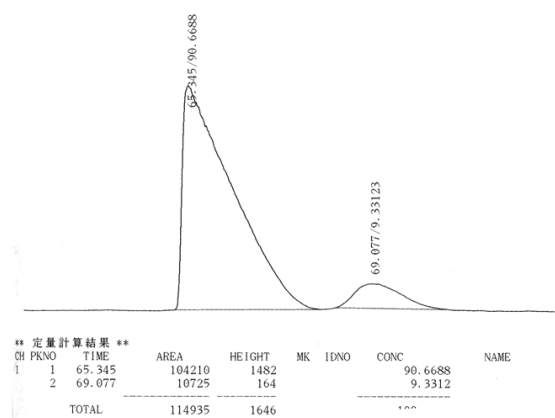
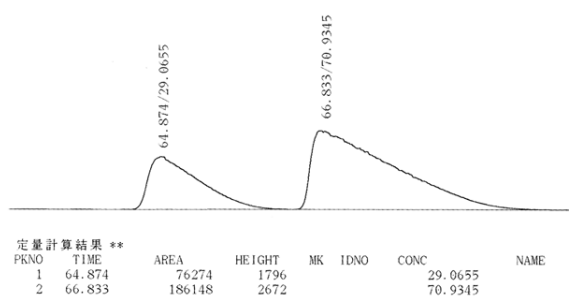


Table 2, Run 7 (*S* : *R* = 29.5 : 70.5)



3-Butylcyclohexanone (13)

Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GLC (Supelco γ -Dex225, 90 °C, N₂ gas, linear velocity of 27.5 cm/s, Rt = 65 min (*S*), 67 min (*R*)).⁵

Racemic compound

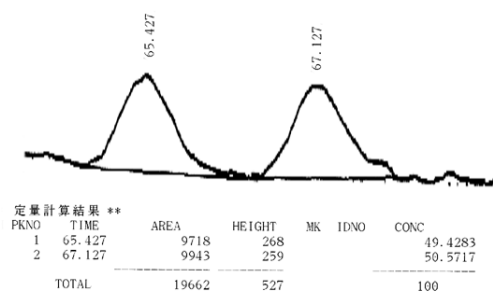


Table 3, Run 1 (*S* : *R* = 92 : 8)

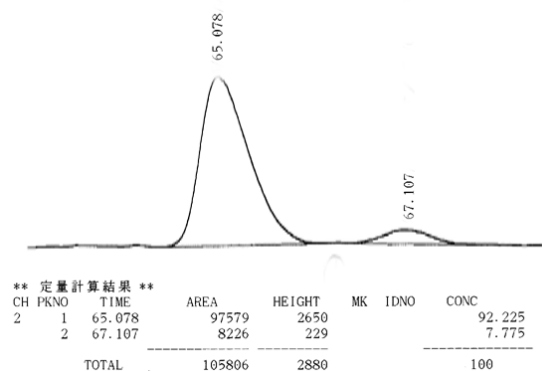
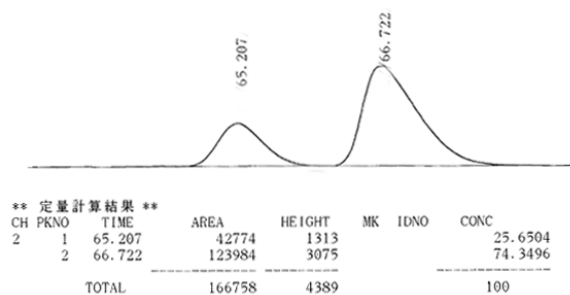


Table 3, Run 2 (*S* : *R* = 26 : 74)



4,4-Dimethyl-3-ethylcyclohexanone

Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GLC (Supelco γ -Dex225, 85 °C, N₂ gas, linear velocity of 27.5 cm/s, Rt = 62 min (*R*), 64 min (*S*)).⁵

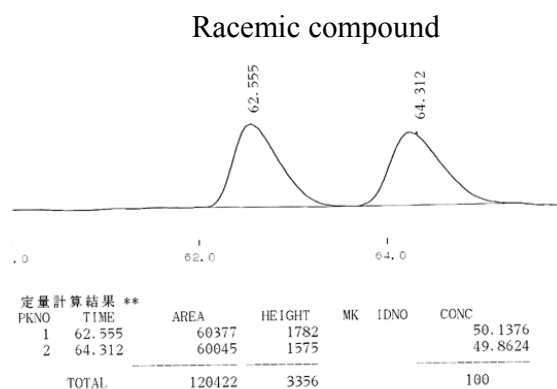


Table 3, Run 3 (*R* : *S* = 86 : 14)

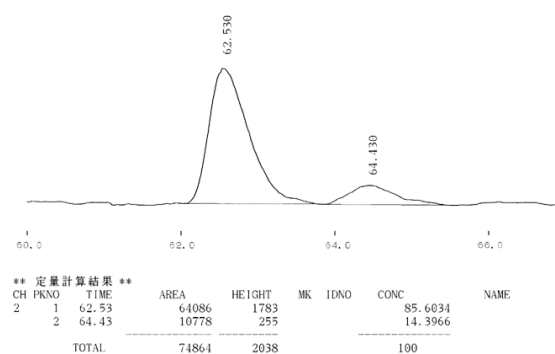
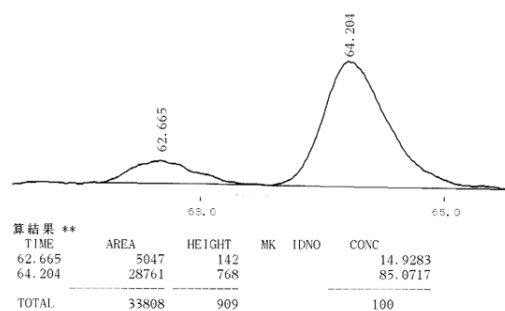


Table 3, Run 4 (*R* : *S* = 15 : 85)



3-Ethylcycloheptanone (16)

Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GLC (Supelco β -Dex225, 80 °C, N₂ gas, linear velocity of 27.5 cm/s, Rt = 63 min (*S*), 69 min (*R*)).⁵

Racemic compound

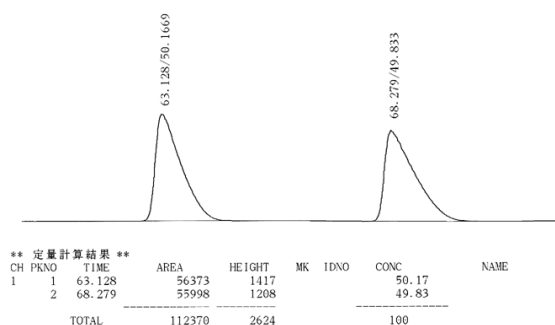


Table 3, Run 5 (*S* : *R* = 92 : 8)

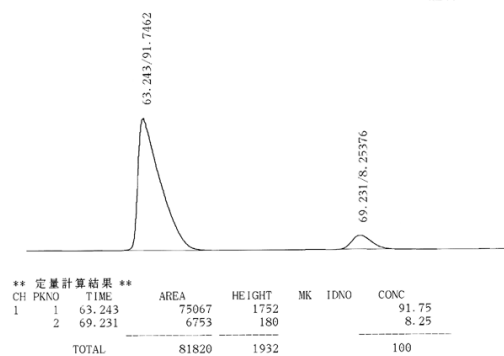
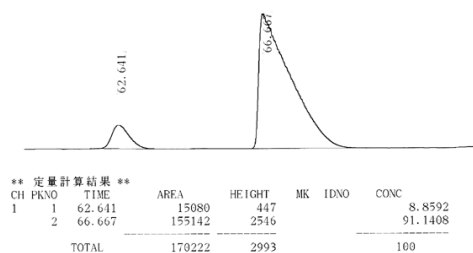


Table 3, Run 6 (*S* : *R* = 9 : 91)



3-Butylcycloheptanone (17)

Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GLC (Agilent J&W Cyclodex-B, 100 °C, N₂ gas, linear velocity of 27.5 cm/s, Rt = 73 min (*S*), 75 min (*R*)).⁶

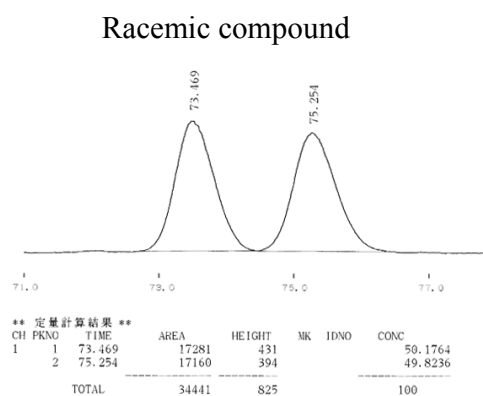


Table 3, Run 7 (*S* : *R* = 88 : 12)

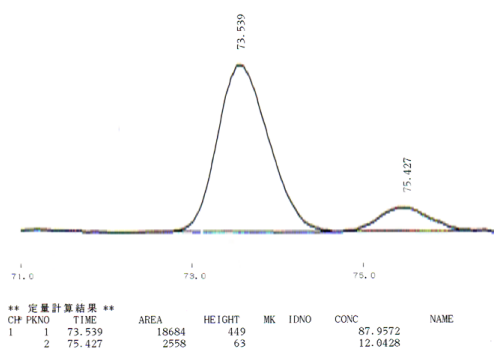
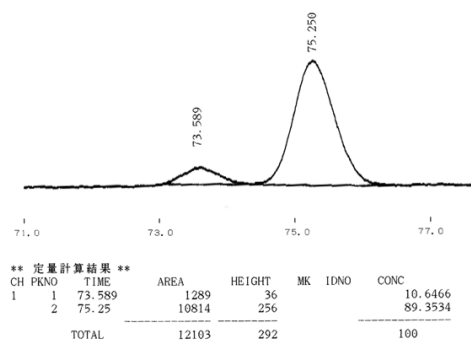


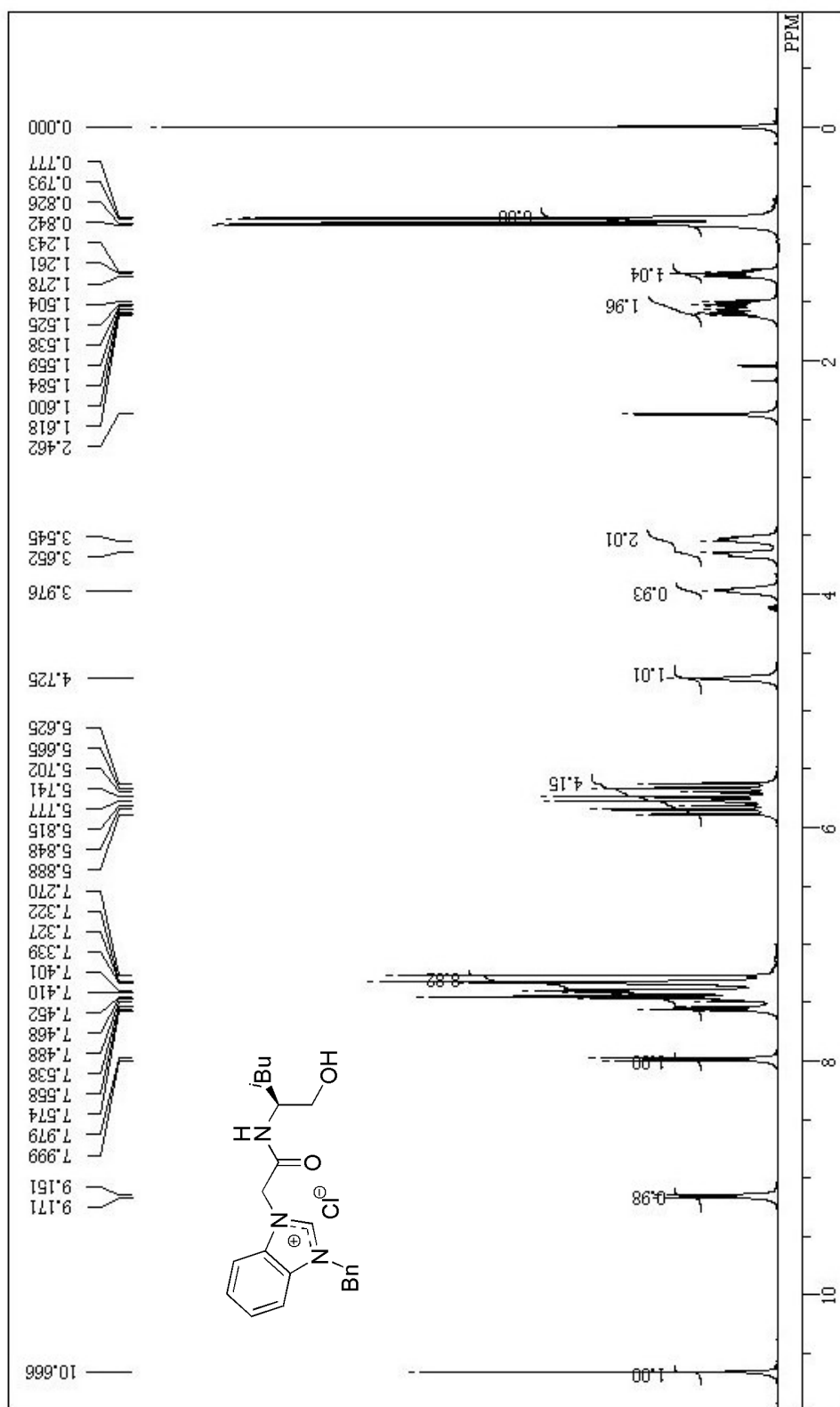
Table 3, Run 8 (*S* : *R* = 11 : 89)



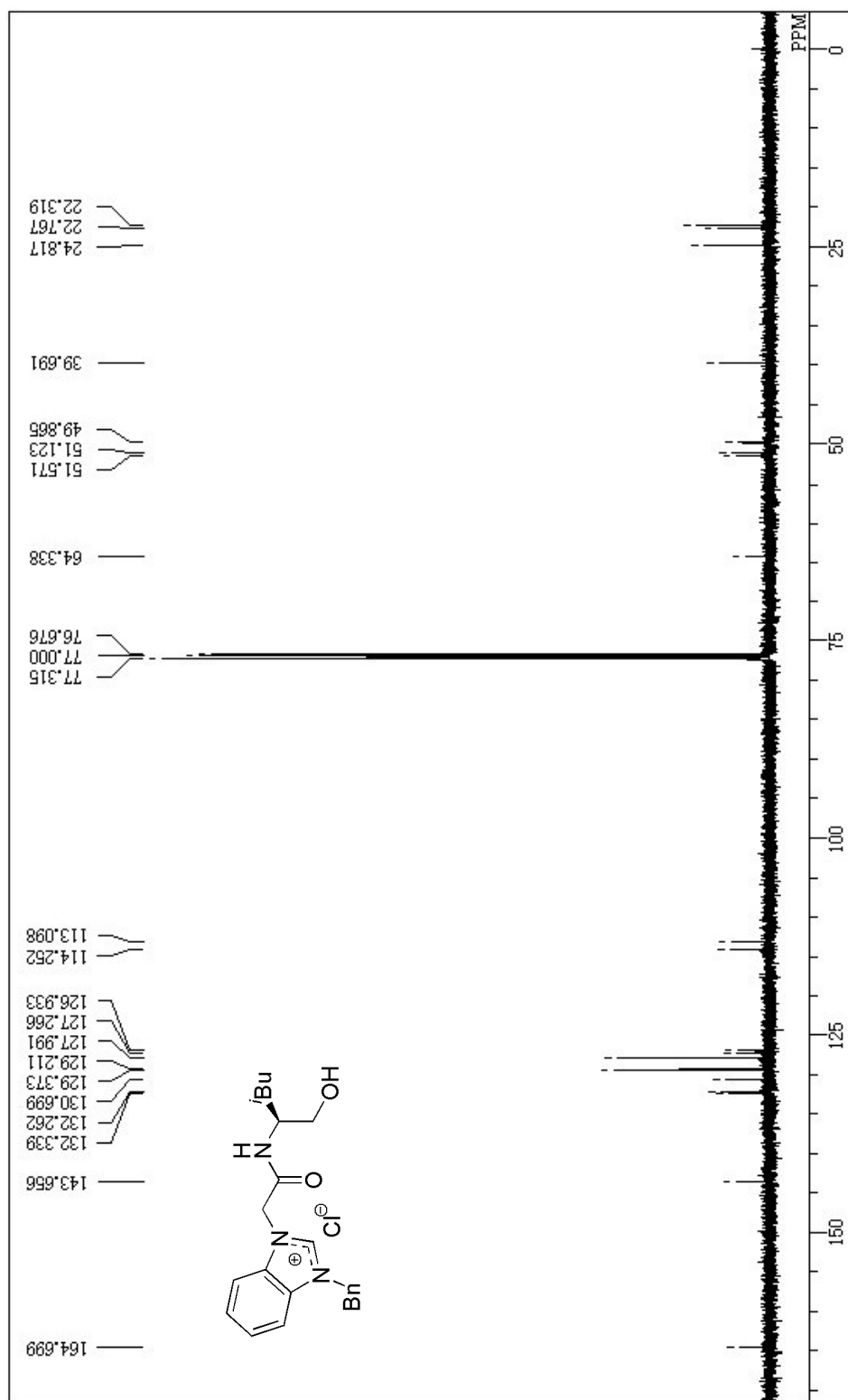
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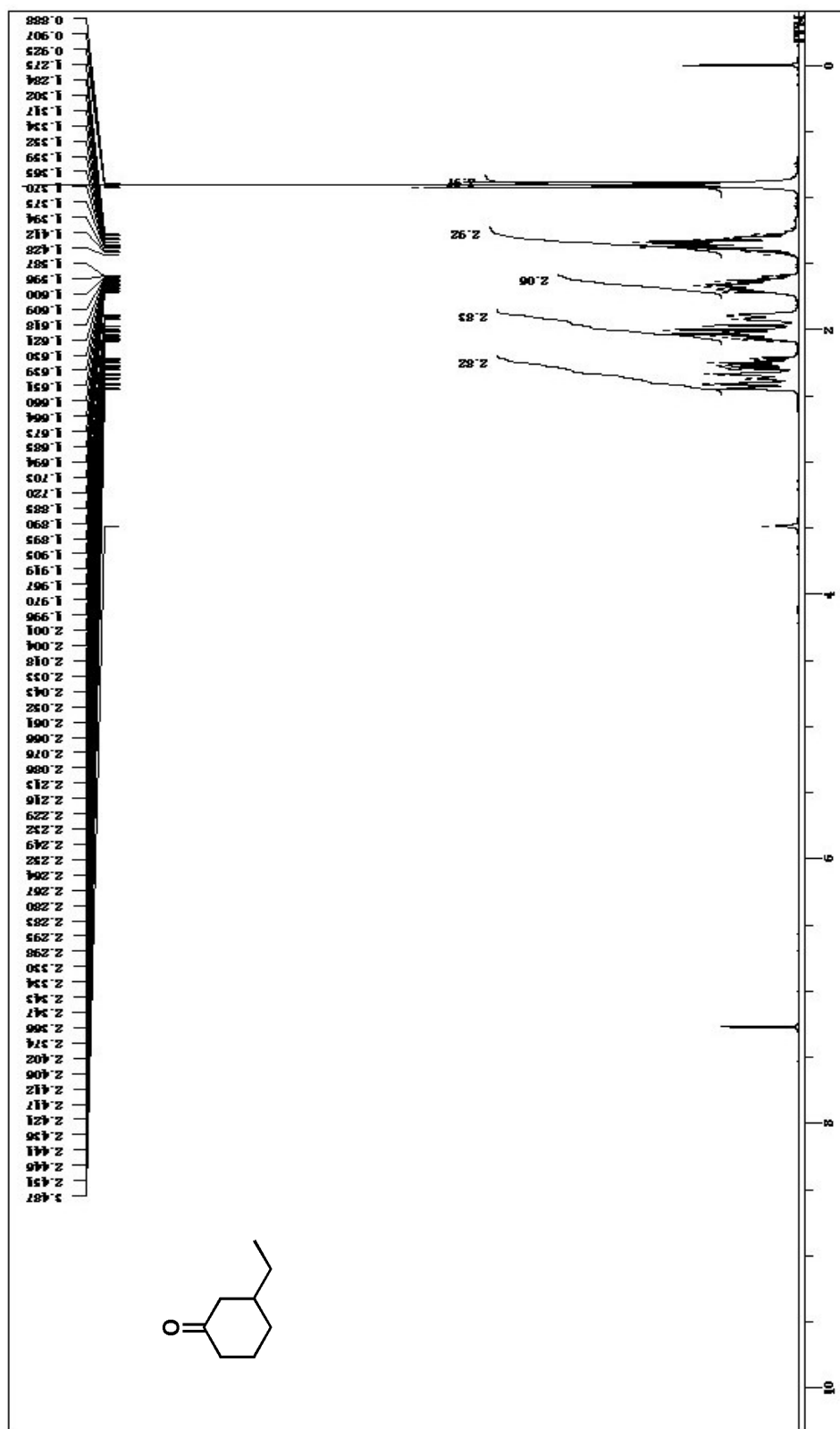
¹H-NMR Spectra for **9**



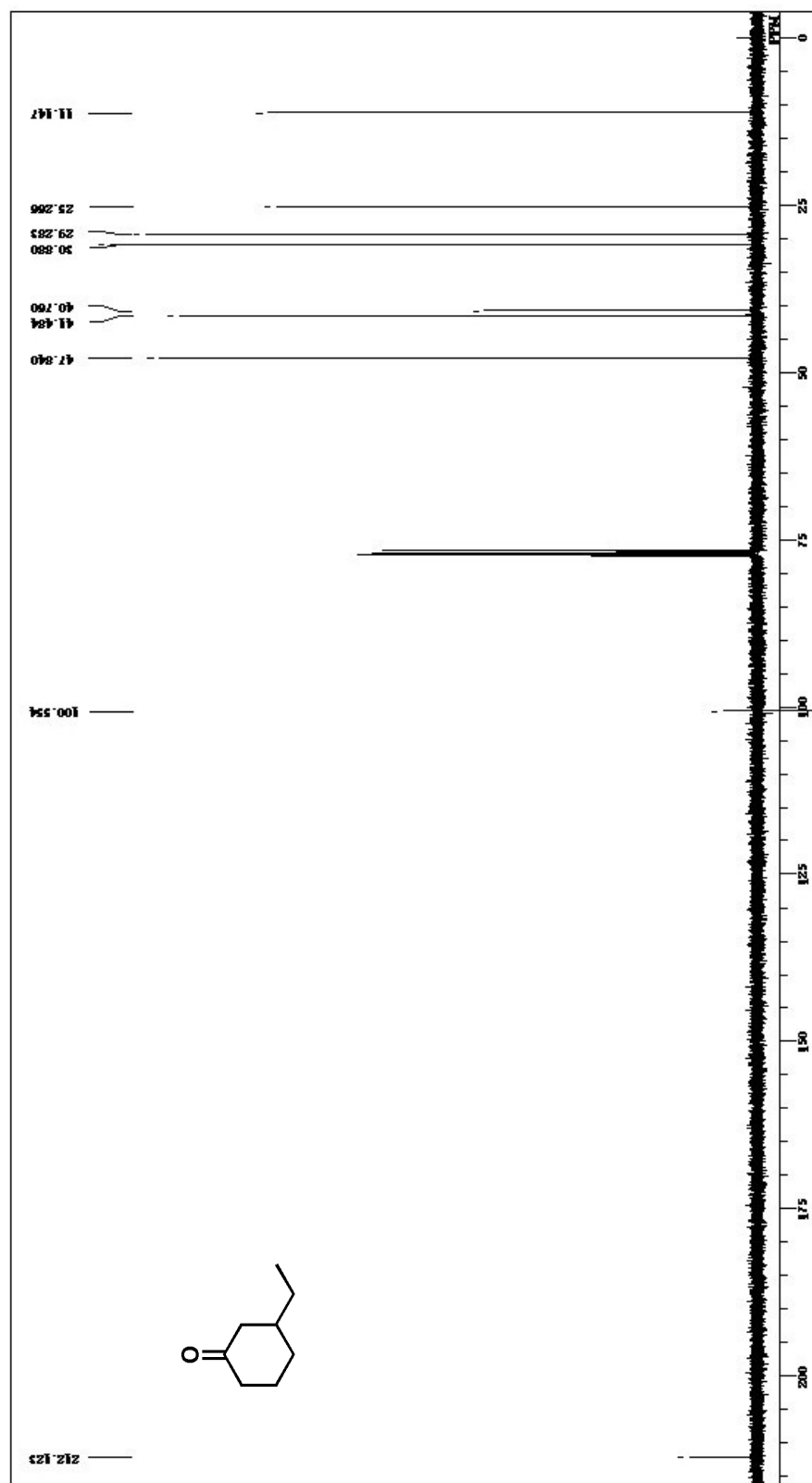
^{13}C -NMR Spectra for **9**



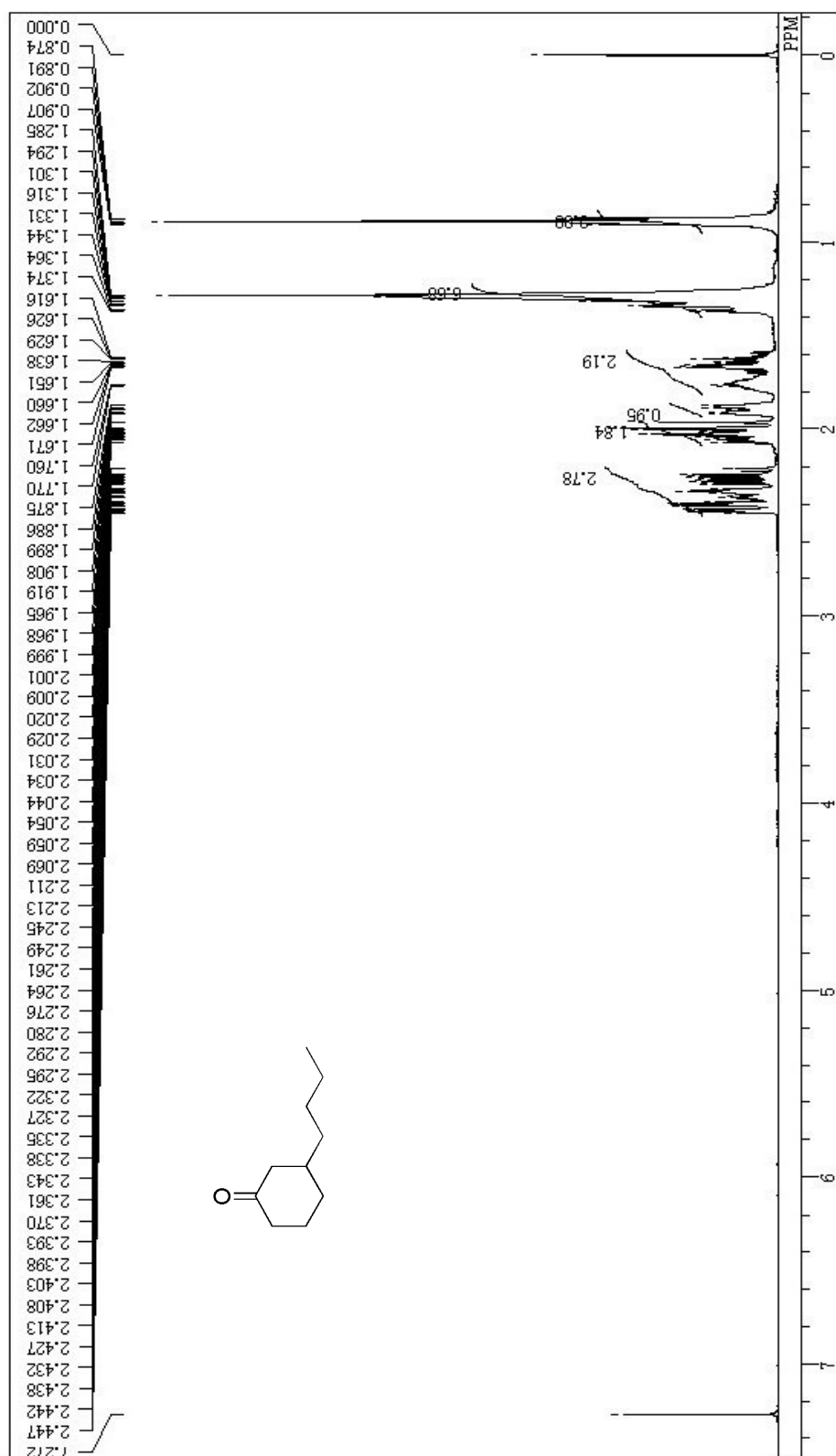
¹H-NMR Spectra for 3-ethylcyclohexanone (**2**)



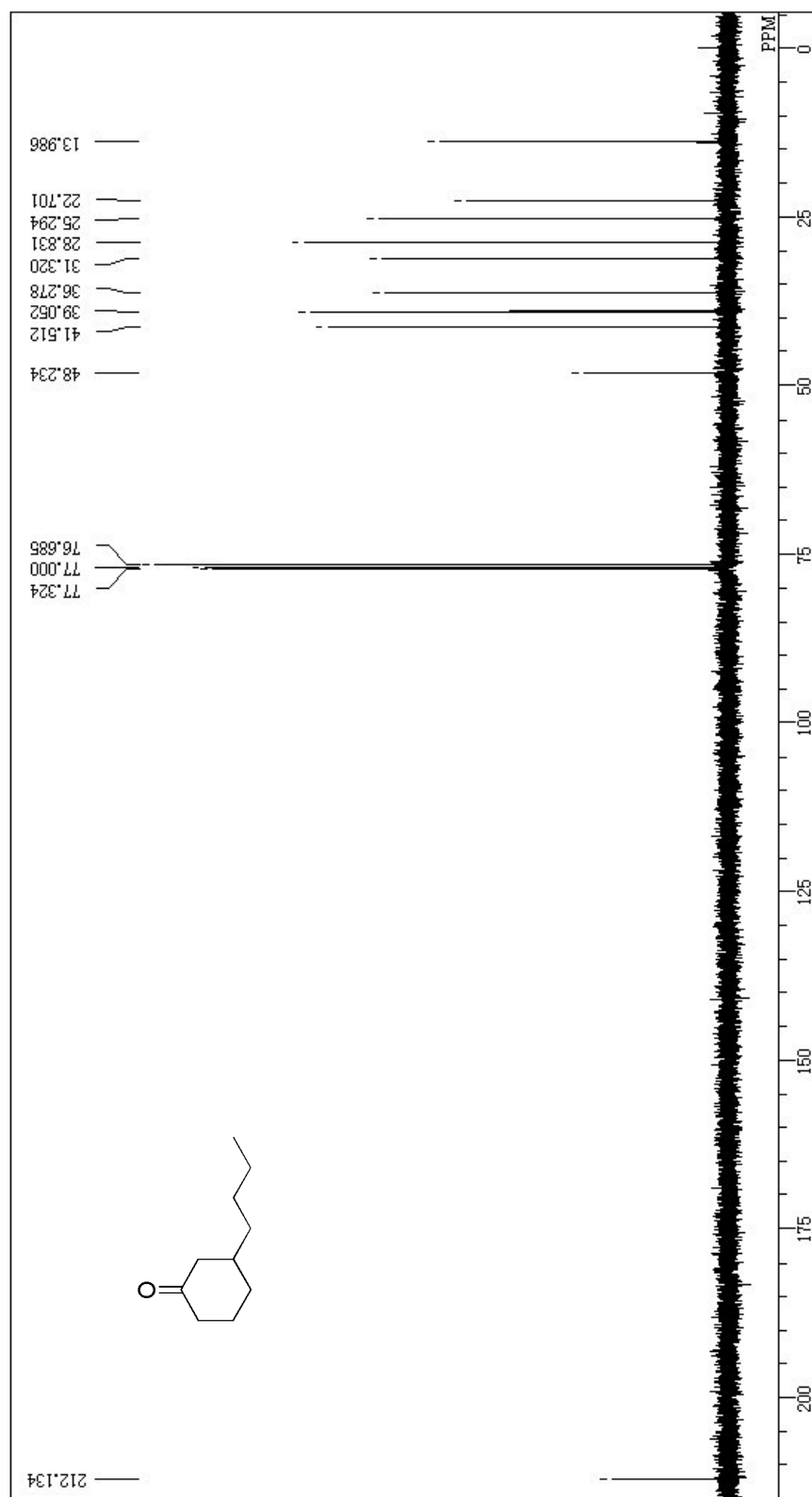
^{13}C -NMR Spectra for 3-ethylcyclohexanone (**2**)



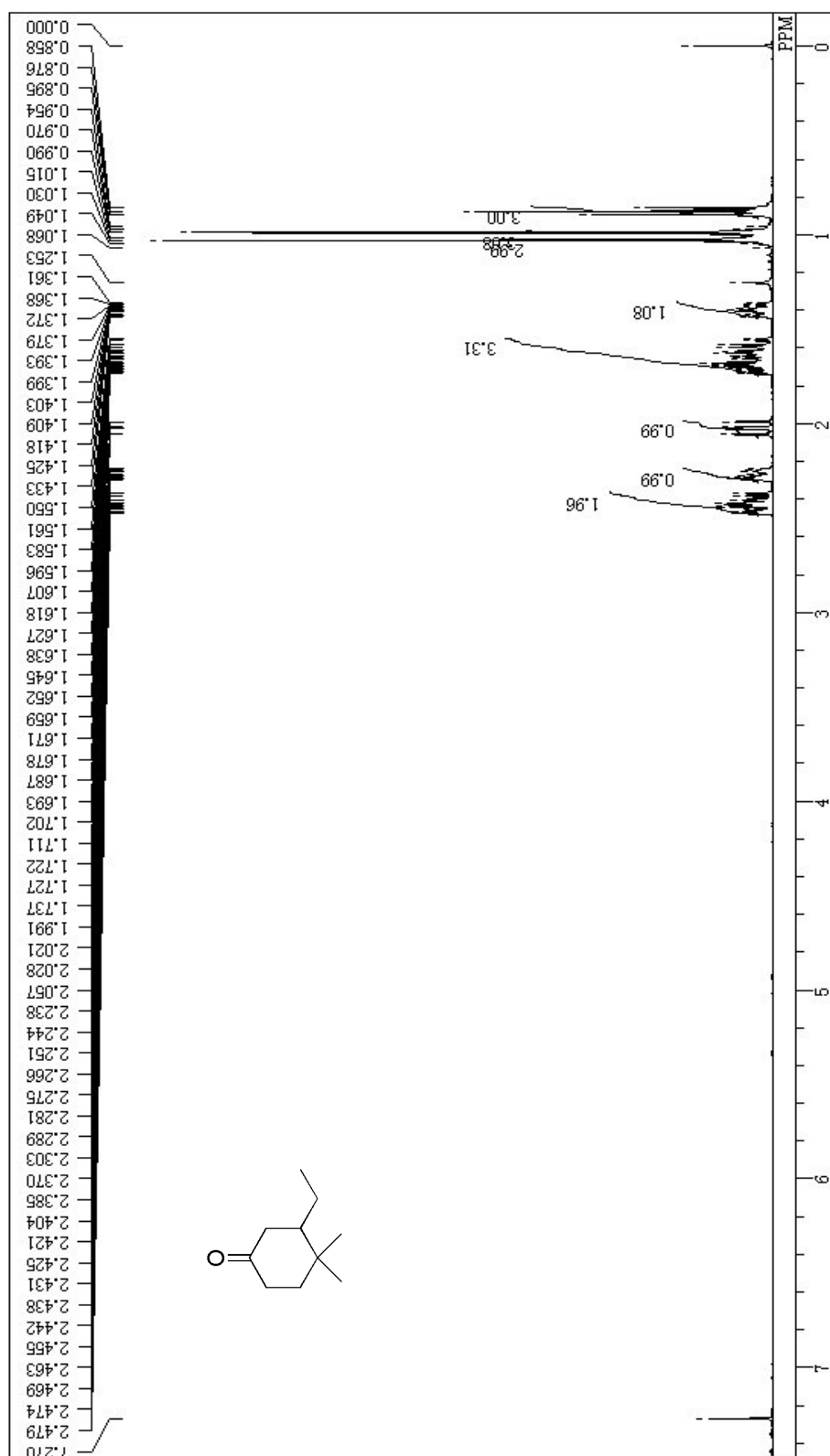
^1H -NMR Spectra for 3-butylcyclohexanone (**13**)



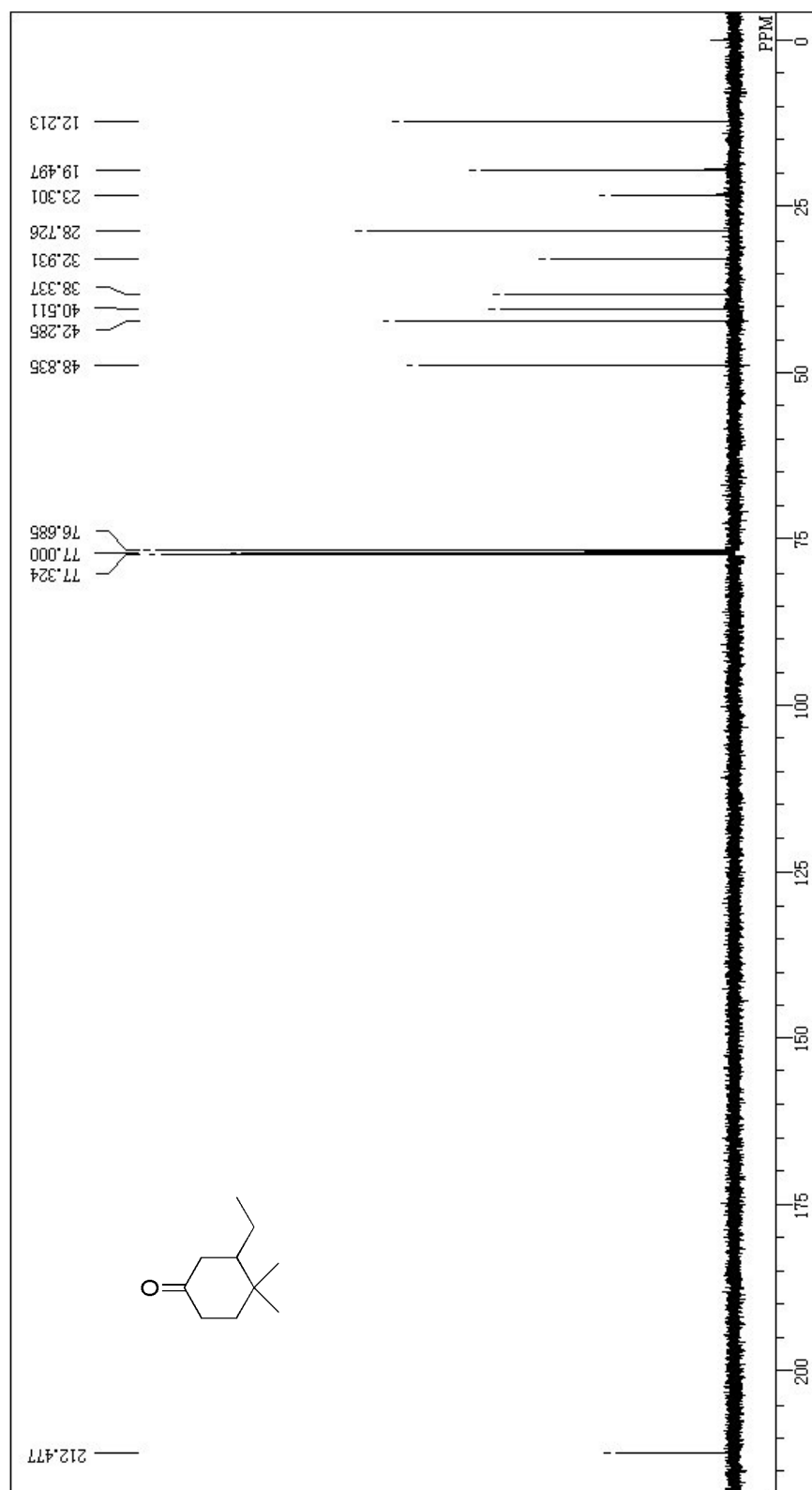
^{13}C -NMR Spectra for 3-butylcyclohexanone (**13**)



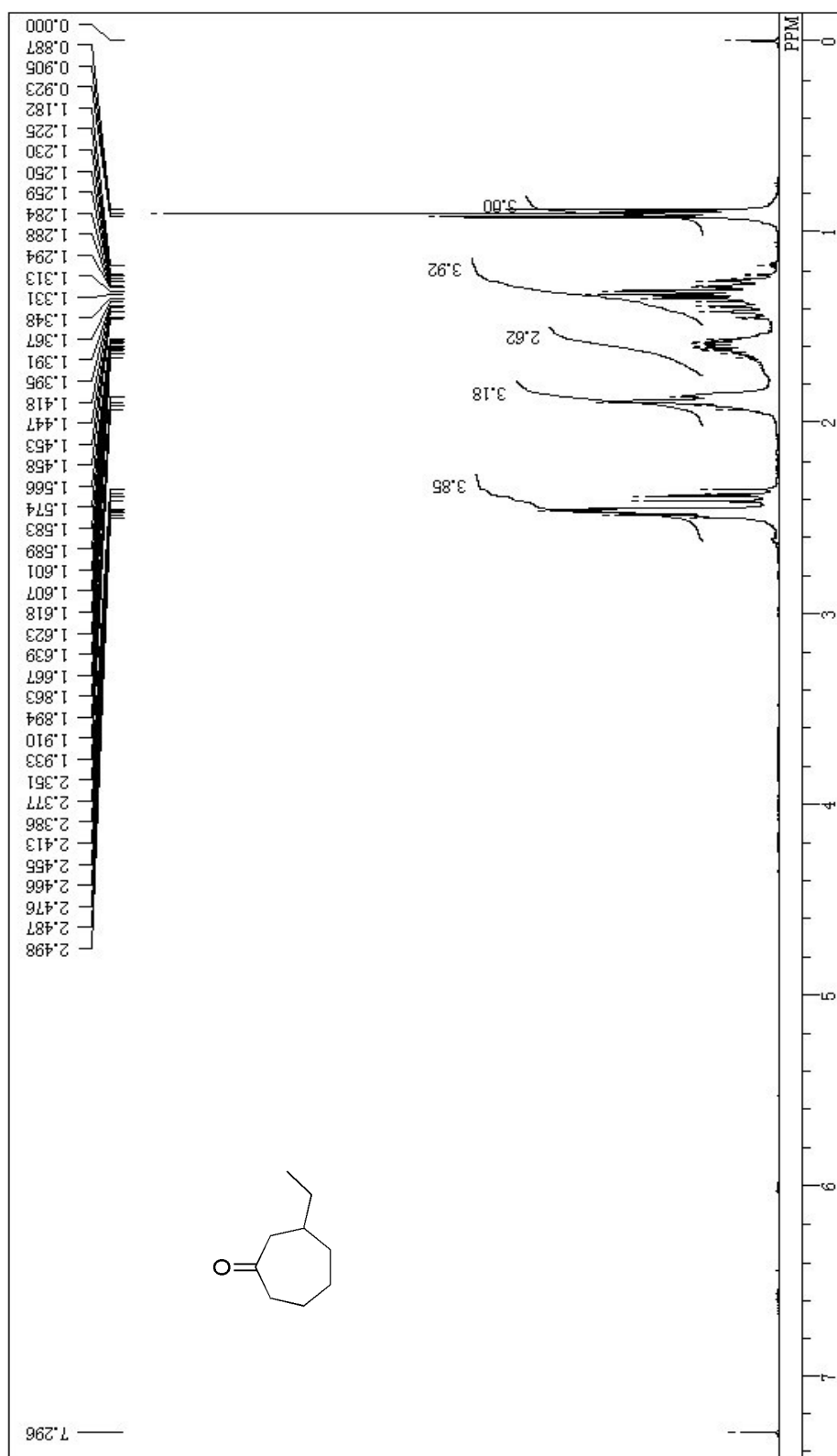
^1H -NMR Spectra for 4,4-dimethyl-3-ethylcyclohexanone



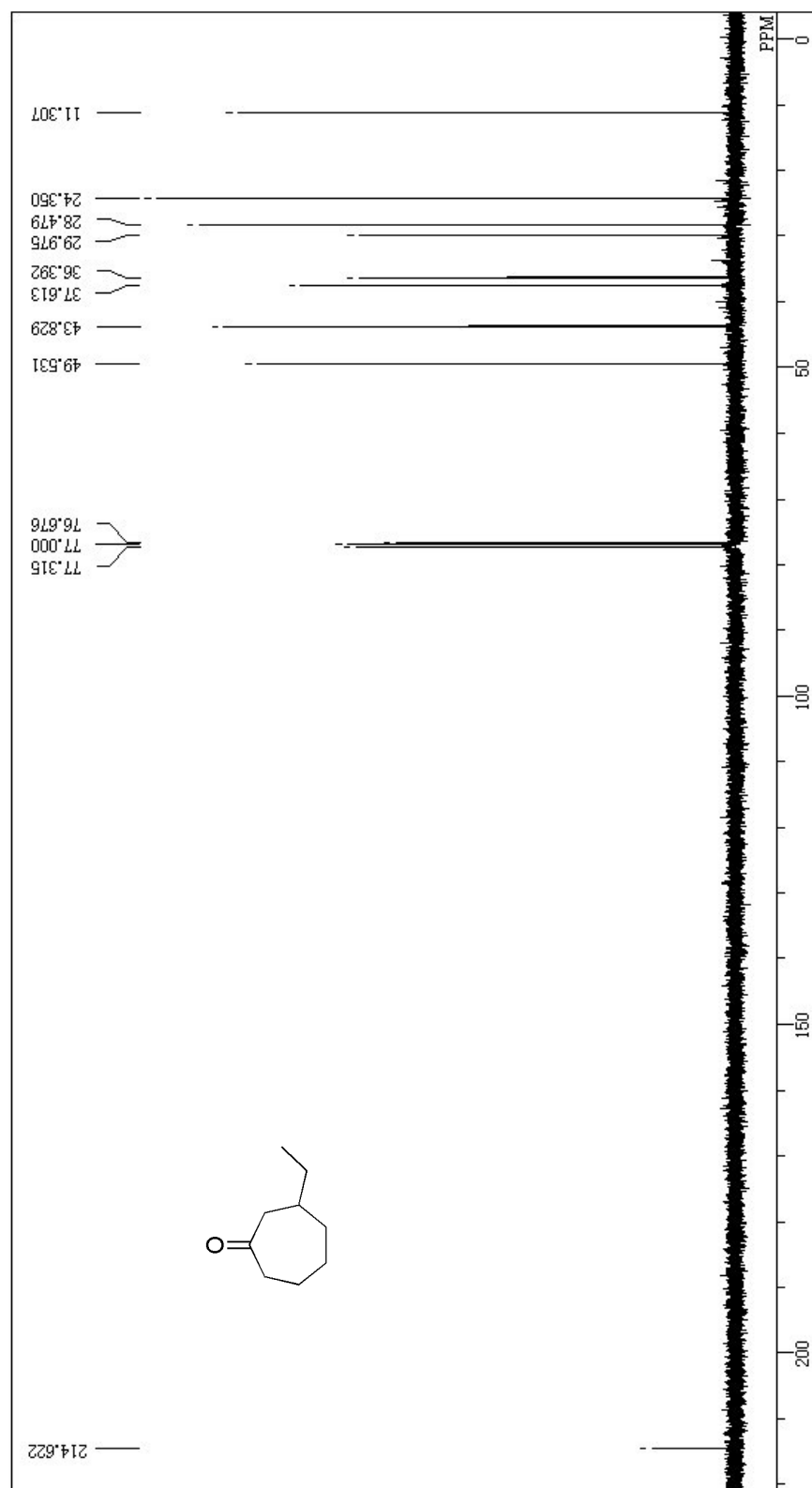
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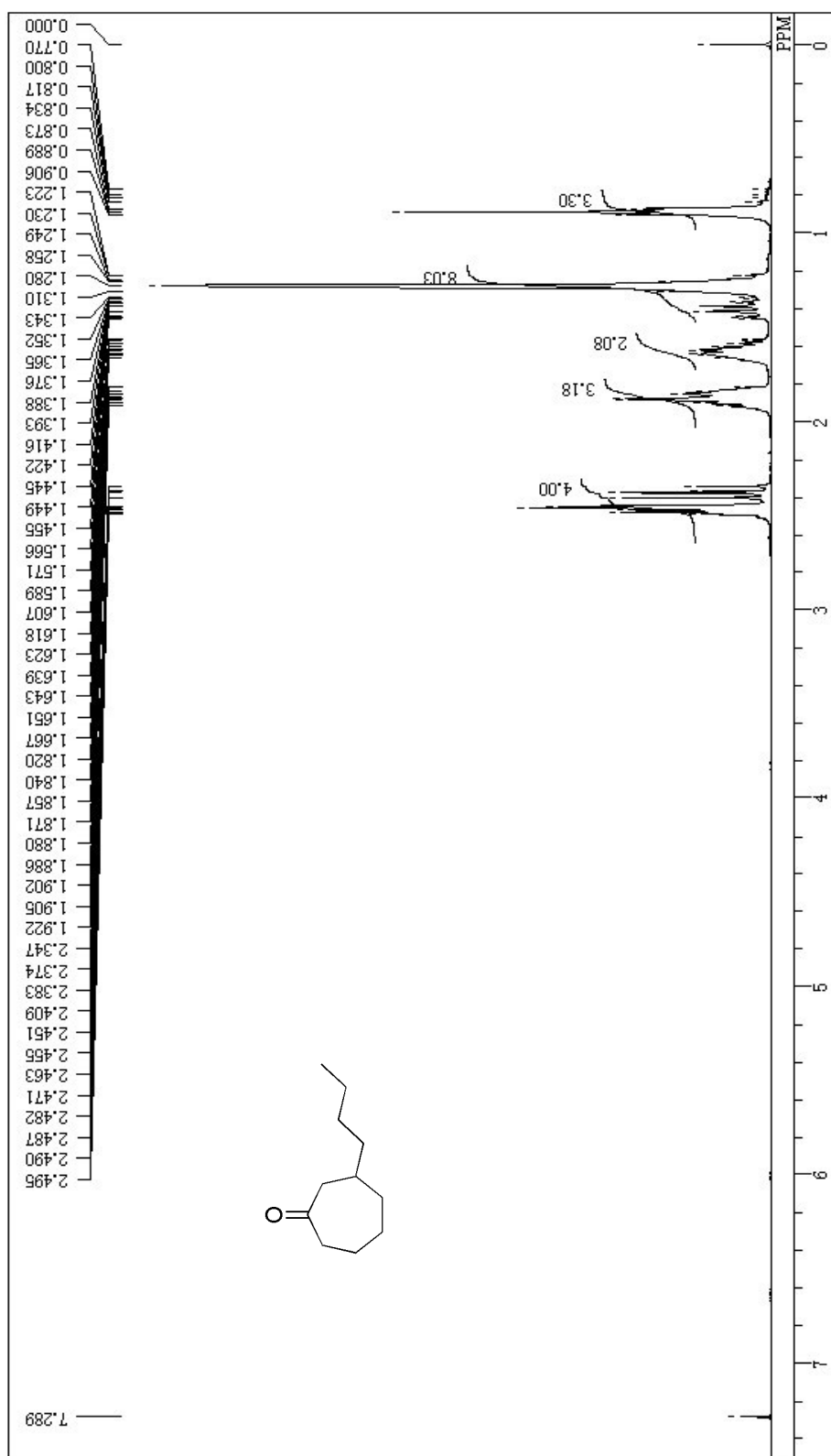
^1H -NMR Spectra for 3-ethylcycloheptanone (**16**)



^{13}C -NMR Spectra for 3-ethylcycloheptanone (**16**)



^1H -NMR Spectra for 3-butylcycloheptanone (17)



^{13}C -NMR Spectra for 3-butylcycloheptanone (**17**)

