

## Supporting Information

### Efficient and chemoselective alkylation of amines/amino acids using alcohols as alkylating reagents under mild conditions

Chu-Pei Xu,<sup>a</sup> Zhen-Hua Xiao<sup>a</sup>, Bi-Qin Zhuo<sup>a</sup>, Yu-Huang Wang<sup>a</sup> and Pei-Qiang  
Huang<sup>\*a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Department of Chemistry and Key Laboratory for Chemical Biology of Fujian  
Province, College of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen,  
Fujian 361005, China;* <sup>b</sup> *The State Key Laboratory of Elemento-Organic Chemistry,  
Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, China*

*Fax: 86-592-2186400; E-mail: [pqhuang@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:pqhuang@xmu.edu.cn)*

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## General Methods

Melting points were uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured with Perkin-Elmer 341 automatic polarimeter. Infrared spectra were measured using KBr pellet techniques.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra were acquired at 400 or 500 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  were acquired at 100 or 125 MHz. Mass spectra were recorded by a Bruker Dalton ESquire 3000 plus liquid chromatography-mass spectrum (direct injection). Silica gel (300-400 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography. The alcohols used are analytically pure grade.

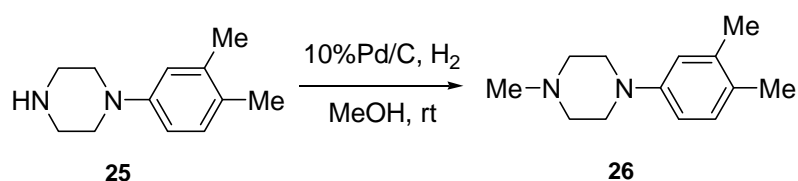
### General procedure for the alkylation of amines with alcohol.

After vacuume to remove air from the reaction tube, the stirred mixture of the amines/amino acids (0.1 mmol), 10% Pd/C (100 mg, 0.094 mmol) or 20% Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg, 0.114 mmol) in an alcohol (5 mL) was hydrogenated under 1 atm of hydrogen (balloon) at room temperature. The reaction was vigorously stirred. When the reaction was judged to be complete by TLC monitoring, the mixture was filtered using a filter paper under a reduced pressure, and the filtrate was washed with the corresponding alcohol (5 mL) and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure (about 80% of the solvent could be recovered by distillation). The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, if necessary. Yield and time are indicated in Table 1 and Table 2.

### Procedure for the recovery and recycle of 10%Pd/C.

The catalyst (10%Pd/C) was recovered by filtration through a filter paper under reduced pressue, and reused following the general procedure. This procedure was repeated four times with the results indicated in Table 3. **Caution:** upon washing of 10%Pd/C, this catalyst might burned spontaneously when expose to air, and precautions should be taken (avoiding the excessively dryness of Pd/C during the vacuum filtration).

**Table 1.** *N*-Alkylation reaction of amine with recycled catalyst or solvent.

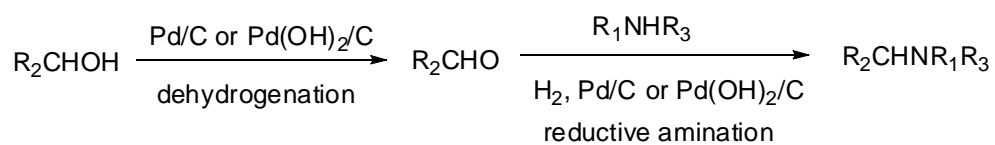


Entry	Cycle	T (h)	Yield (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
1 <sup>[a]</sup>	1	14	73
2 <sup>[a]</sup>	2	19	86
3 <sup>[a]</sup>	3	21	71
4 <sup>[a]</sup>	4	24	79
5 <sup>[b]</sup>	1	16	70

<sup>[a]</sup> Reaction with recycled catalyst.

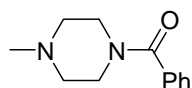
<sup>[b]</sup> Reaction with recycled solvent.

<sup>[c]</sup> Isolated yield.



**Scheme 1.** A plausible mechanism for the *N*-alkylation of an amine with an alcohol.

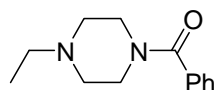
#### (4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**2a**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-benzoylpiperazine (**1**) (0.1 mmol, 19 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **2a**<sup>[3]</sup> as a colorless oil (17.3 mg, 85%).

By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 12.6 mg of **2a** was obtained (yield: 62%). IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 2936, 2850, 2786, 1632, 1424, 1296, 1271, 1168, 1141, 1128, 1019, 1004 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.35 (br s, 2H), 2.48 (br s, 2H), 3.44 (br s, 2H), 3.79 (br s, 2H), 7.28-7.42 (s, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 42.0, 46.0, 47.5, 55.0(2C), 127.0, 128.4, 129.6, 135.8, 170.3; MS (ESI): *m/z* 205.1 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100).

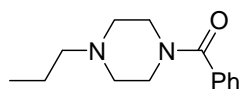
#### (4-Ethylpiperazin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**2b**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-benzoylpiperazine (**1**) (0.1 mmol, 19 mg) in EtOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **2b**<sup>[4]</sup> as a colorless oil (19.4 mg, 89%).

By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 16.1 mg of **2b** was obtained (yield: 74%). IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 2970, 2924, 2805, 1632, 1577, 1427, 1290, 1260, 1165, 1119, 1013, cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.38 (br s, 2H), 2.43 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (br s, 2H), 3.43 (br s, 2H), 3.79 (br s, 2H), 7.36-7.40 (s, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 11.8, 42.2, 47.7, 52.2, 52.4, 53.0, 127.0, 128.4, 129.6, 135.8, 170.2; MS (ESI): *m/z* 219.1 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100).

#### Phenyl(4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methanone (**2c**)

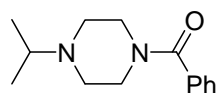


Following the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-benzoylpiperazine (**1**) (0.1 mmol, 19 mg) in *n*-PrOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **2c**<sup>[5]</sup> as a

colorless oil (17.6 mg, 76%).

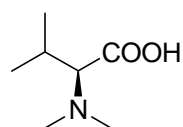
By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 21.3 mg of **2c** was obtained (yield: 92%). IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 2964, 2921, 2866, 2805, 2765, 1632, 1427, 1372, 1293, 1278, 1159, 1015, 1001 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.91 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H), 1.51 (tq apparent sextet,  $J = 7.7, 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.33 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.38 (br s, 2H), 2.52 (br s, 2H), 3.44 (br s, 2H), 3.50 (br s, 2H), 7.39 (s, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 11.8, 19.9, 42.2, 47.7, 52.9, 53.4, 60.5, 127.0, 128.4, 129.6, 136.0, 170.2; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  233.1 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100).

#### (4-Isopropylpiperazin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**2d**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction was performed starting from *N*-benzoylpiperazine (**1**) (0.1 mmol, 19 mg), *i*-PrOH (5 mL) and 10% Pd/C (100 mg). The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–CH<sub>3</sub>OH (60:1), gave **2d**<sup>[6]</sup> as a colorless oil (14.8 mg, 64%). IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 2969, 2924, 2853, 2811, 1631, 1576, 1424, 1283, 1262, 1177, 1012 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H), 2.45 (br s, 2H), 2.58 (br s, 2H), 2.72 (h,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.42 (br s, 2H), 3.79 (br s, 2H), 7.38 (s, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 18.3, 42.3, 48.0, 48.3, 49.0, 54.6, 127.0, 128.4, 129.5, 135.9, 170.1; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  233.1 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100).

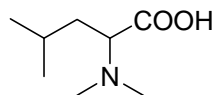
#### (*S*)-2-(Dimethylamino)-3-methylbutanoic acid (**Dov**, **3**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction of L-valine (**15**) (0.1 mmol, 11.7 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **3** as a white solid (13.5 mg, 93%).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +45.4$  ( $c$  0.80, H<sub>2</sub>O) {lit.<sup>[13]</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{14} +40.6$  ( $c$  2, H<sub>2</sub>O)}; M.p. 154-156 °C (EtOH/CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>) (lit.<sup>[13]</sup> 154 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3436, 2961, 2765, 1604, 1461, 1421, 1372, 1351 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$ : 0.96 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz,

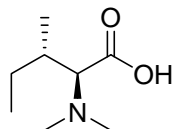
3H), 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 2.29-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.89 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 6H), 3.43 (d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 15.8, 19.3, 26.0, 40.0, 43.0, 76.1, 171.6; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  146.0 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

**(*R/S*)-2-(Dimethylamino)-4-methylpentanoic acid (4)**



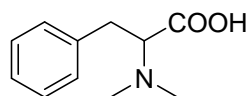
Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-leucine (**13**) (0.1 mmol, 13.1 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **4** as a white solid (13.6 mg, 94%). M.p. 192-194 °C (EtOH) (lit.<sup>[12]</sup> 194 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3436, 2960, 2869, 1625, 1472, 1378, 1341, 1323, 1146, 1119  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 0.95-1.01 (t, 6H), 1.60-1.80 (m, 3H), 2.90 (br s, 6H), 3.58 (dd,  $J = 9.7, 4.1$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 20.7, 22.7, 25.1, 36.8, 40.1, 42.3, 70.3, 173.5; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  160.1 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

**(2*S*,3*S*)-2-(Dimethylamino)-3-methylpentanoic acid (2*S*,3*S*)-*N,N*-diMe-Ile) (5)**



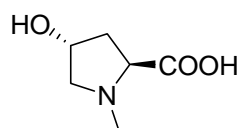
Following the general procedure, the reaction of L-isoleucine (**16**) (0.1 mmol, 13.1 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **5** as a white solid (14.5 mg, 91%).  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +53.3$  ( $c$  1.13,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) {lit.<sup>[14]</sup>  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +48$  ( $c$  1,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )}; M.p. 174-175 °C ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ) (lit.<sup>[14]</sup> 173-174 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3433, 2970, 2869, 1622, 1470, 1385, 1311, 1144, 1064  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 0.93-1.02 (m, 6H), 1.28-1.41 (m, 1H), 1.48-1.61 (m, 1H), 2.03-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.88 (s, 3H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 11.2, 13.1, 26.6, 32.7, 39.7, 43.5, 74.9, 171.7; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  160.0 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

**(*R/S*)-2-(Dimethylamino)-3-phenylpropanoic acid (6)**



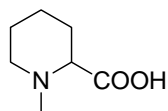
Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-phenylalanine (**14**) (0.1 mmol, 16.5 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **6** as a white solid (17.8 mg, 92%). M.p. 229-230 °C (MeOH) (lit.<sup>[13]</sup> 228 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3430, 3031, 2921, 1616, 1418, 1378, 1348, 1335, 1287, 1177, 1144, 1089, 1025  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 2.94 (br s, 6H), 3.13 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 5.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 34.0, 41.5, 42.4, 72.2, 127.5, 129.0, 129.2, 135.4, 172.2; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  194.0 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

#### (2*S*,4*R*)-4-Hydroxy-1-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (**7**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction of (2*S*,4*R*)-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (**11**) (0.1 mmol, 13.1 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **7** as a white solid (12.6 mg, 87%).  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -90.0$  ( $c$  0.13,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) {lit.<sup>[15]</sup>  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -95.0$  ( $c$  0.1,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ )}; M.p. 238-240 °C (MeOH) (lit.<sup>[16]</sup> 237-241 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3418, 1625, 1403, 1339, 1208, 1071  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 2.20-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.55 (m, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.21 (d,  $J = 13.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.97 (dd,  $J = 13.0, 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (dd,  $J = 11.0, 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.62-4.67 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 38.3, 43.2, 62.7, 69.5, 70.1, 172.9; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  145.9 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

#### (*R/S*)-1-Methylpiperidine-2-carboxylic acid (**8**)

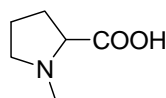


Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (**12**) (0.1 mmol, 12.9 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **8** as a white solid (12.9 mg, 90%).

By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 13.4 mg of **8** was obtained (yield: 94%). M.p. 208-209 °C (EtOH) (lit.<sup>[10]</sup> 208-210 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3401, 3026, 2959,

2933, 2860, 1614, 1393, 1354, 1322, 1284, 1114  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 1.53-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.87-2.03 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 3.04-3.13 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.58 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 16.9, 21.0, 22.6, 28.0, 42.4, 54.5, 69.0, 174.1; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  144.1 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ , 100).

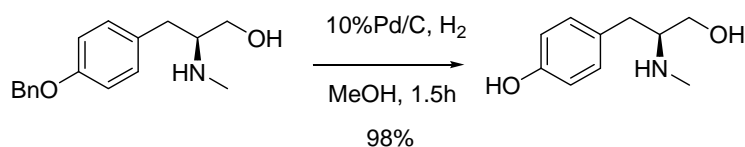
**(*R/S*)-1-Methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (10)**



Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-proline (**9**) (0.1 mmol, 11.5 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **10** as a white solid (11.5 mg, 89%).

By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 10.7 mg of **10** was obtained (yield: 83%). M.p. 168-169 °C (EtOH) (lit.<sup>[8]</sup> 168-170 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3430, 3064, 2857, 1628, 1473, 1455, 1400, 1321  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 2.00-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.65 (m, 1H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.18-3.28 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.97-4.04 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$ : 22.8, 28.8, 40.8, 56.5, 70.5, 173.3; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  152.0 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ , 100).

**(*S*)-4-(3-Hydroxy-2-(methylamino)propyl)phenol (17)**

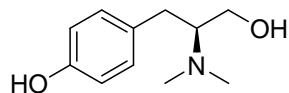


To a mixture of (*S*)-3-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-2-(methylamino)propan-1-ol<sup>[17]</sup> (68 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (20 mg) was added MeOH (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature under an atmosphere of  $\text{H}_2$  for 1.5 hours. The mixture was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give **17** (44.5 mg, 98%) as a white solid.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +11.2$  ( $c$  0.5, MeOH); M.p. 152-153 °C (MeOH). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3430, 3305, 3143, 2912, 1616, 1592, 1519, 1467, 1443, 1363, 1269, 1238, 1107, 1065, 1031  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$ : 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.51 (dd,  $J = 15.1, 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.59-2.67 (m, 2H), 3.34 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$ :



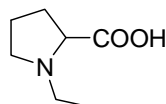
33.8, 36.9, 63.0, 64.1, 116.4, 130.5, 131.2, 157.1; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  182.0 ( $M+H^+$ , 100).  
Anal. Calcd for  $C_{10}H_{15}NO_2$ : C, 66.27; H, 8.34; N, 7.73. Found: C, 66.62; H, 8.58; N, 7.38.

**(S)-4-(2-(Dimethylamino)-3-hydroxypropyl)phenol (18)**



Following the general procedure, the reaction of (S)-4-(3-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)propyl)phenol (**17**) (0.1 mmol, 18.1 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **18** as a white solid (14 mg, 72%).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +7.3$  ( $c$  0.55, MeOH); M.p. 153-155 °C (MeOH). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$ : 3168, 2933, 2869, 2835, 2799, 1613, 1589, 1516, 1461, 1384, 1275, 1247, 1235, 1165, 1061, 1037, 1010  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_3OD$ )  $\delta$ : 2.37 (s, 6H), 2.43 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.68-2.82 (m, 2H), 3.49 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.68-6.74 (m, 2H), 6.99-7.04 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CD_3OD$ )  $\delta$ : 32.1, 41.4, 61.2, 68.9, 116.3, 131.0, 131.8, 156.8; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  196.0 ( $M+H^+$ , 100).

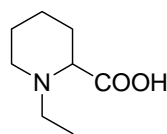
**1-Ethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (19)**



Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-proline (**9**) (0.1 mmol, 11.5 mg) in EtOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **19** as a white solid (12.2 mg, 85%).

By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 10.7 mg of **19** was obtained (yield: 75%). M.p. 168-169 °C ( $CHCl_3$ ) (lit.<sup>[9]</sup> 170 °C). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$ : 3433, 3055, 2985, 2881, 1628, 1461, 1400, 1327, 1235, 1171, 1043  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_3OD$ )  $\delta$ : 1.34 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.88-2.02 (m, 1H), 2.04-2.19 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.50 (m, 1H), 3.05-3.14 (m, 1H), 3.15-3.26 (m, 1H), 3.27-3.38 (m, 1H), 3.69-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.83-3.90 (m, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CD_3OD$ )  $\delta$ : 11.3, 24.4, 30.3, 51.6, 55.5, 70.1, 173.3; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  144.1 ( $M+H^+$ , 100).

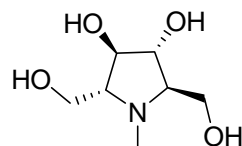
### 1-Ethylpiperidine-2-carboxylic acid (**20**)



Following the general procedure, the reaction of ( $\pm$ )-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (**12**) (0.1 mmol, 12.9 mg) in EtOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **20**<sup>[11]</sup> as a white solid (13.5 mg, 86%).

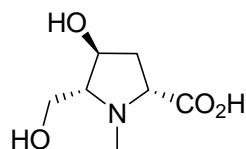
By using 20%Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (80 mg) as the catalyst, 15.1 mg of **20** was obtained (yield: 96%). M.p. 200-201 °C (EtOH). IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3427, 2975, 2940, 2927, 2863, 1617, 1457, 1377, 1322, 1274, 1175, 1085, 1018 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$ : 1.34 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H), 1.50-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.63-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.91-2.00 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.26 (m, 1H), 2.90-3.01 (m, 1H), 3.06-3.18 (m, 1H), 3.26-3.37 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.59-3.67 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$ : 8.6, 21.1, 22.3, 27.9, 50.6, 51.3, 67.6, 174.4; MS (ESI):  $m/z$  180.1 (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100).

### (2*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5*R*)-2,5-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-3,4-diol (**22**)



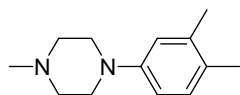
To 4.2 mg of 10% Pd/C was added a solution of compound (2*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5*R*)-**21** (14.0 mg, 0.032 mmol) in 2 mL of dry methanol. The mixture was stirred under 1 atm of hydrogen for two days at rt and then filtered through filter paper under reduced pressure. After concentration under reduced pressure, the resulting residue afforded compound **22** (5.0 mg, 89%).  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -8.0$  ( $c$  0.4, H<sub>2</sub>O) [lit.<sup>[19]</sup>  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -8.5$  ( $c$  1.0, H<sub>2</sub>O)]; IR (film):  $\nu_{\max}$  : 3350, 2922, 1423, 1252, 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  : 2.59 (s, 3H), 3.03~3.10 (m, 2H), 3.85 (dd,  $J = 1.4, 4.6$  Hz, 4H), 4.00 (td,  $J = 2.8, 4.6$  Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  : 37.8, 61.6, 72.5, 80.0; MS (ESI)  $m/z$  178 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100).

### (2*R*,4*S*,5*R*)-1-Methyl-4-hydroxy-5-hydroxymethyl pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (**24**)



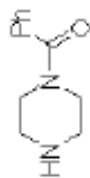
To 50 mg of 20% Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C was added a solution of compound (2*R*,4*S*,5*R*)-**23** (16 mg, 0.047 mmol) in 5 mL of MeOH. The mixture was hydrogenated under 1 atm hydrogen pressure and stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The mixture was filtered through celite and the filtrate was evaporated in *vacuo* to afford **24** (8.1 mg, 99%) as a colorless oil.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +55.2$  (*c* 0.63, MeOH), IR (film): 1024, 1093, 1334, 1383, 1629, 3317 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  2.40 (ddd, *J* = 5.4, 8.5, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (ddd, *J* = 5.4, 8.5, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 9.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  36.5, 42.4, 56.7, 69.9, 70.2, 76.3, 172.7; MS (ESI): 198 *m/z* (M+Na<sup>+</sup>, 100). ESI-HRMS: calcd for [C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>]: 176.0923; found: 176.0937.

### 1-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)-4-methylpiperazine (**26**)

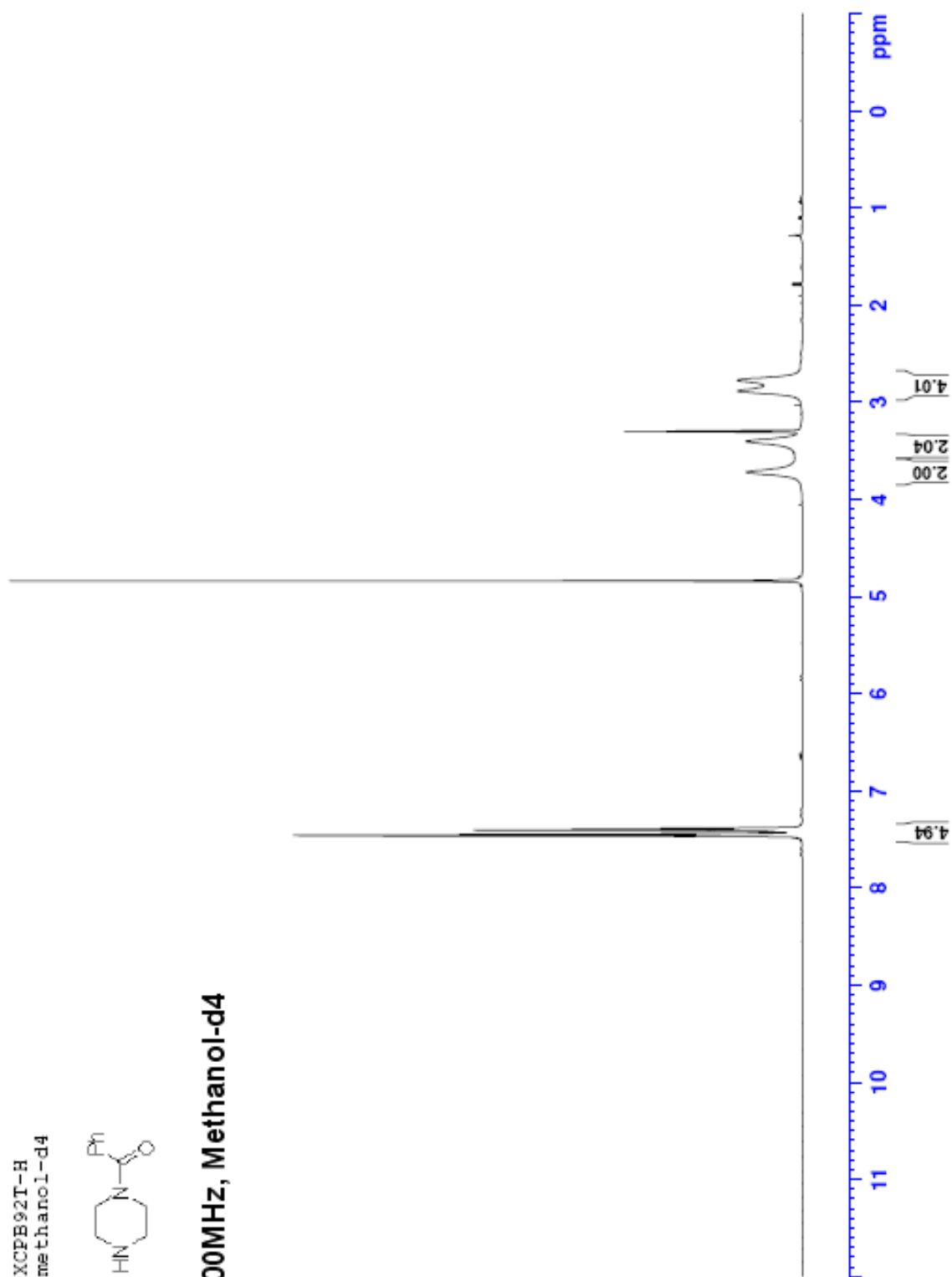


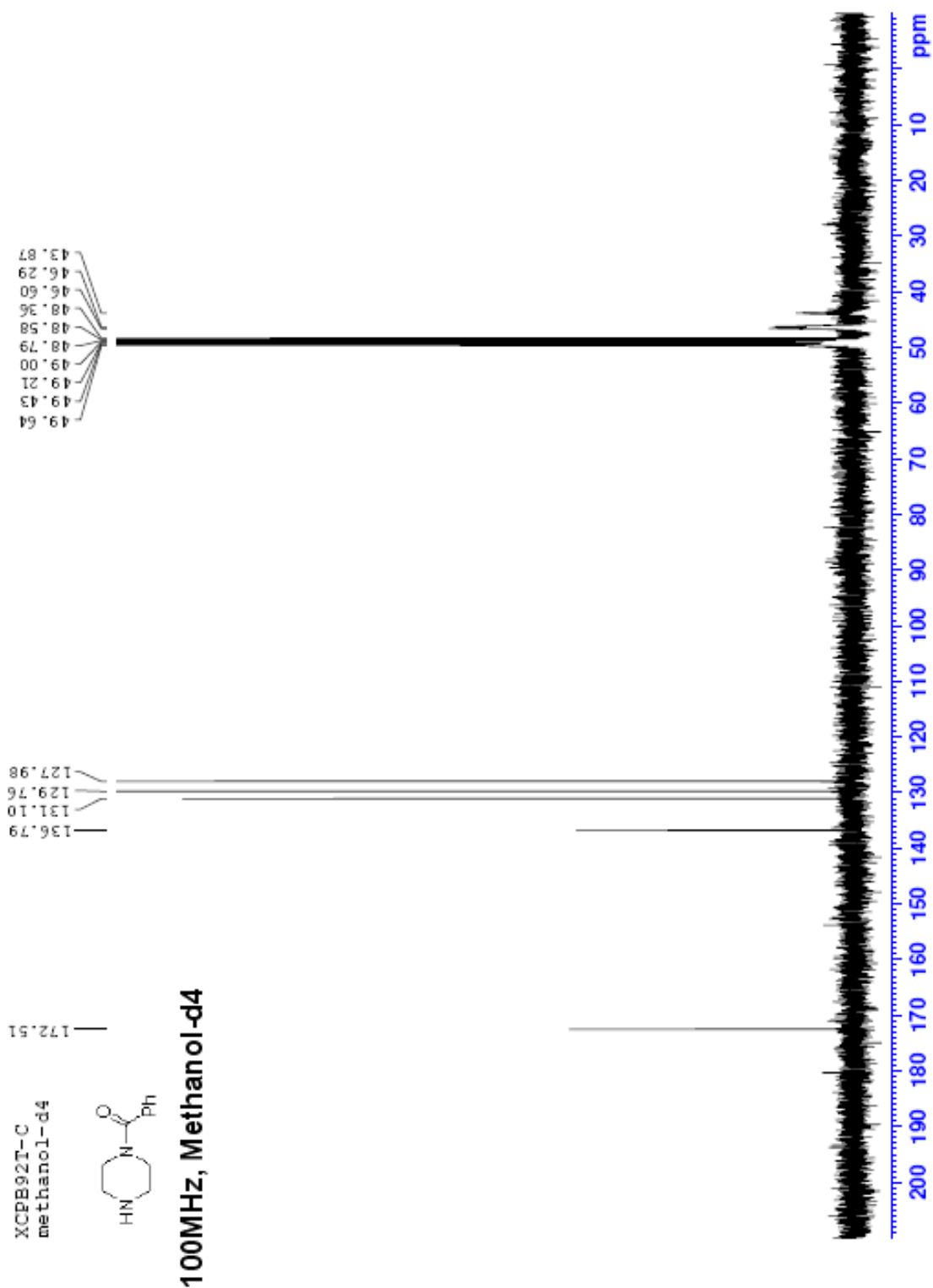
Following the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)piperazine (**25**) (0.1 mmol, 19 mg) in MeOH (5 mL) and in the presence of 10% Pd/C (100 mg) gave **26** as a yellow oil (14.9 mg, 73%). IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 2967, 2936, 2793, 1622, 1507, 1449, 1375, 1293, 1244, 1153, 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H), 3.17 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 18.7, 20.1, 46.1, 49.7, 55.2, 113.8, 118.1, 128.0, 130.2, 137.1, 149.6; MS (ESI): *m/z* 205.1 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 100). ESI-HRMS: calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>]: 205.1705; found: 205.1696.

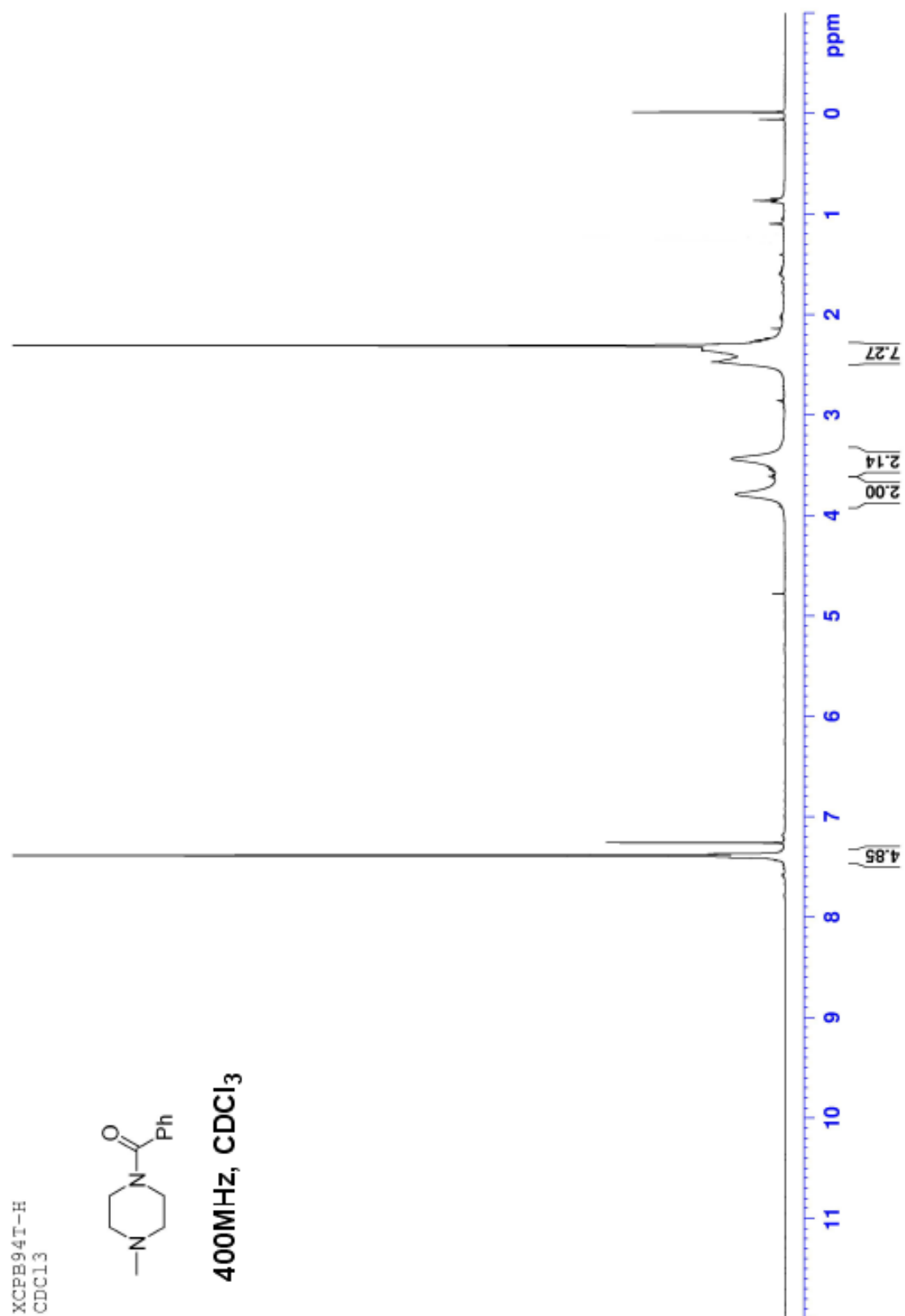
XCPB92T-H  
methanol-d4

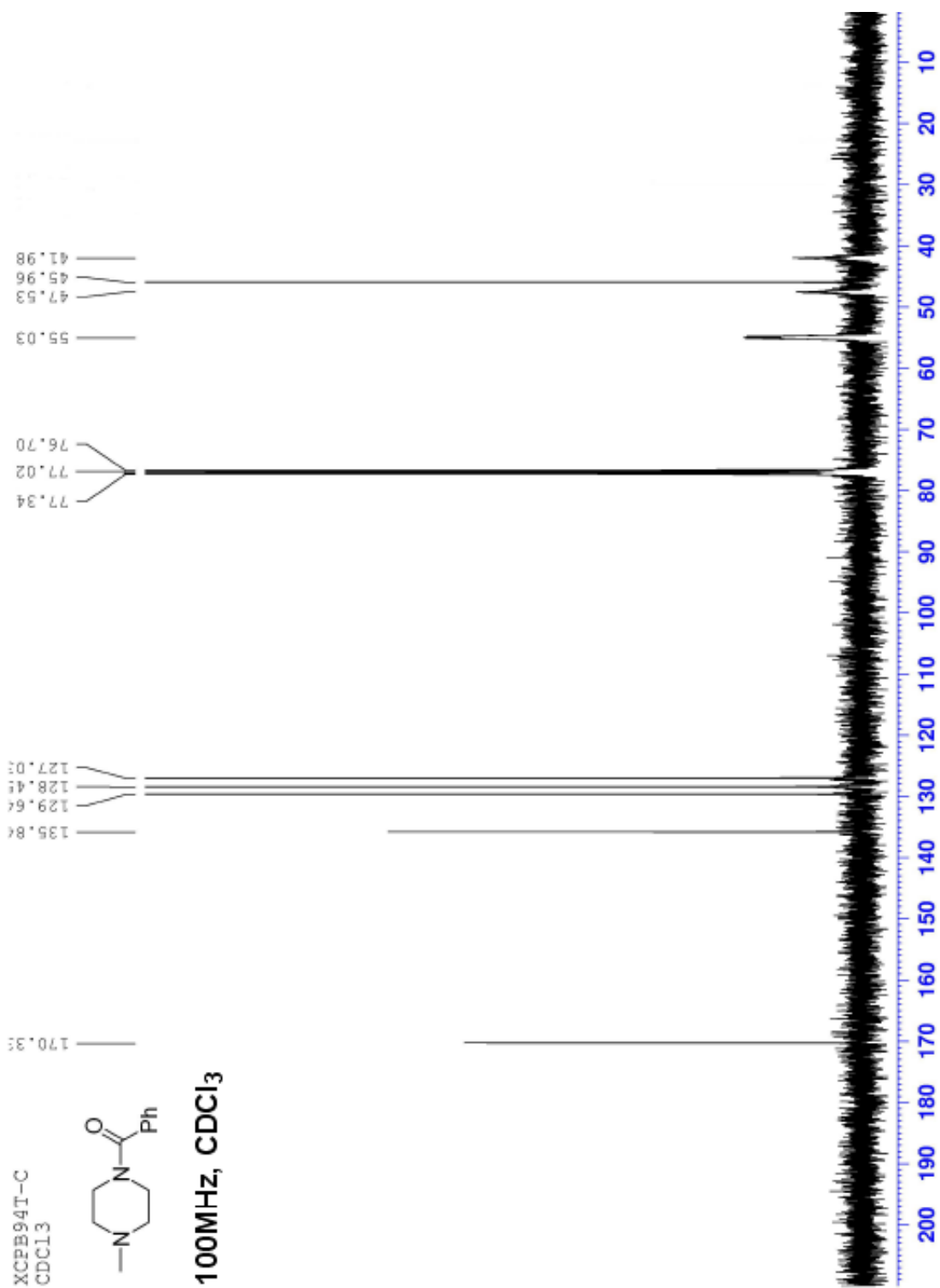


### 400MHz, Methanol-d4

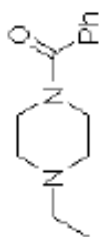




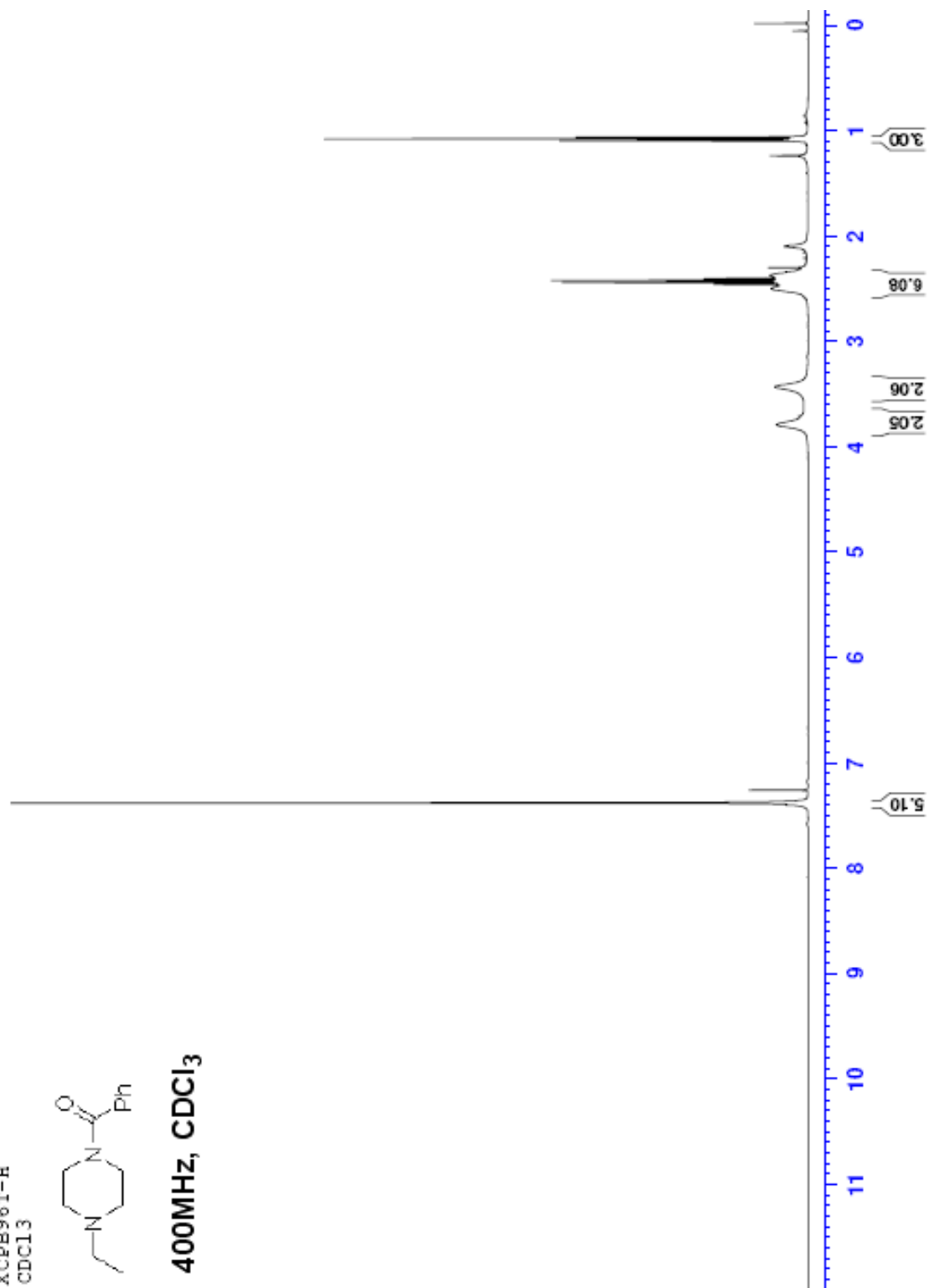




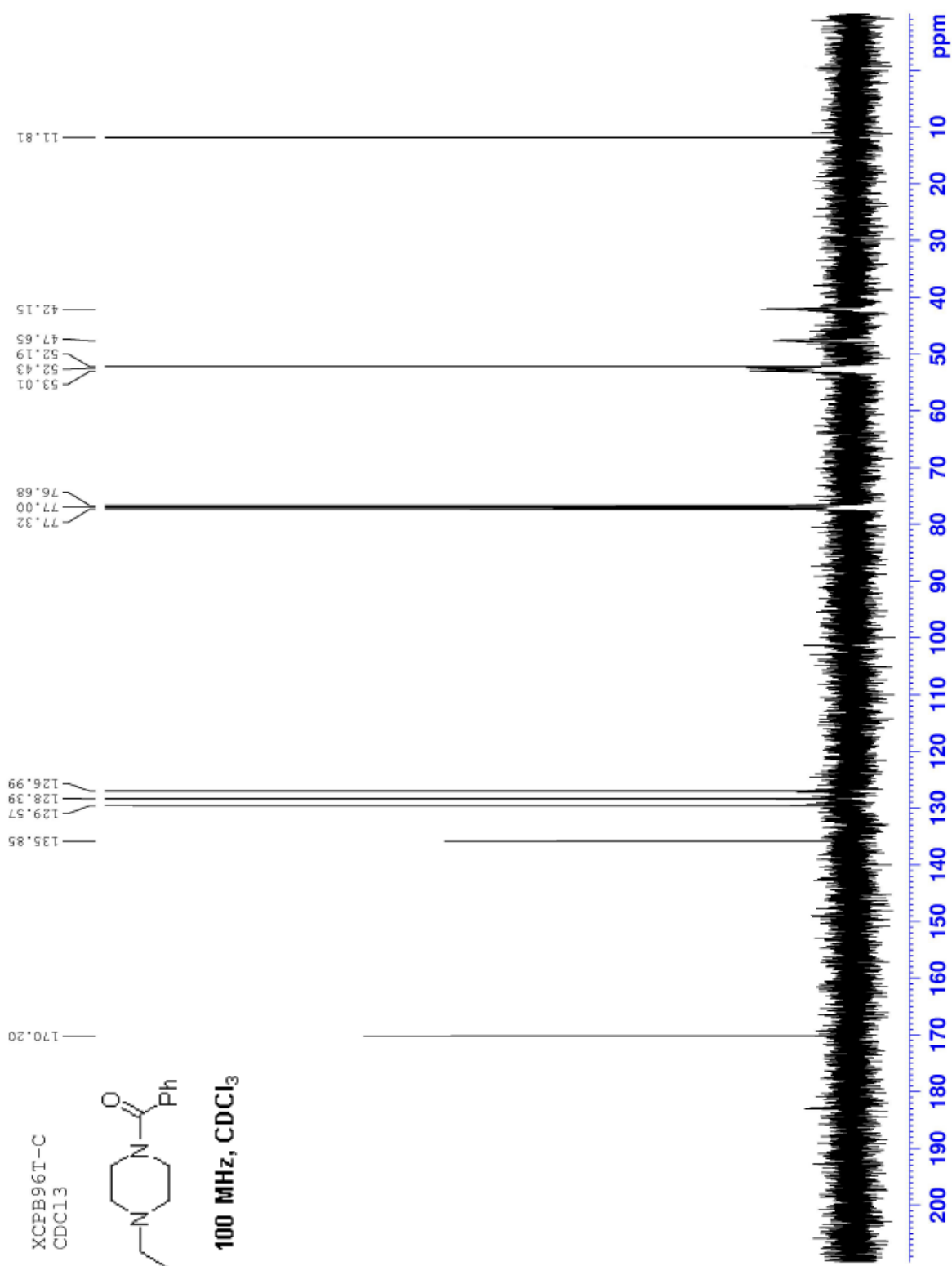
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CDCl<sub>3</sub>

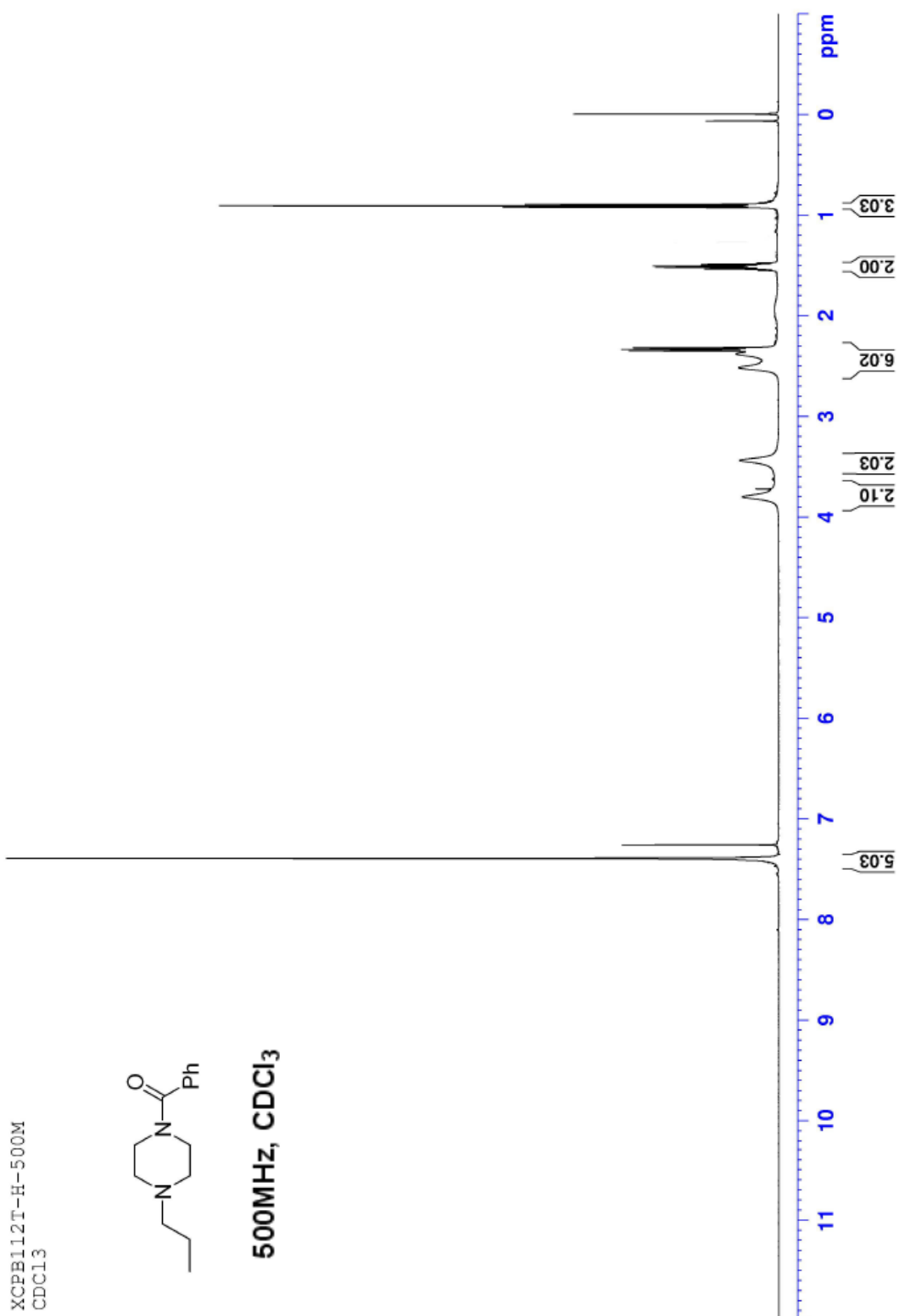


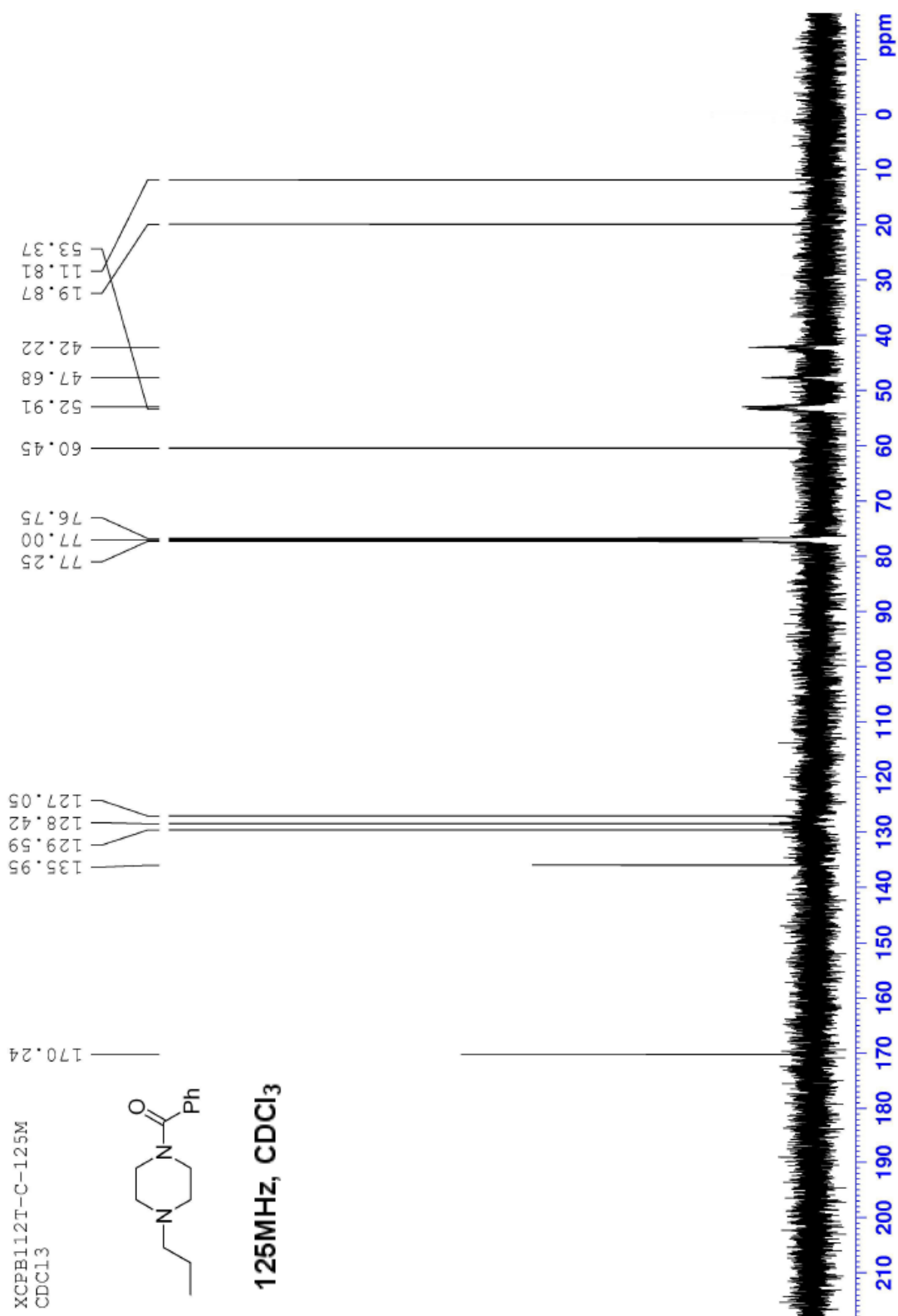
400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>



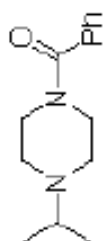




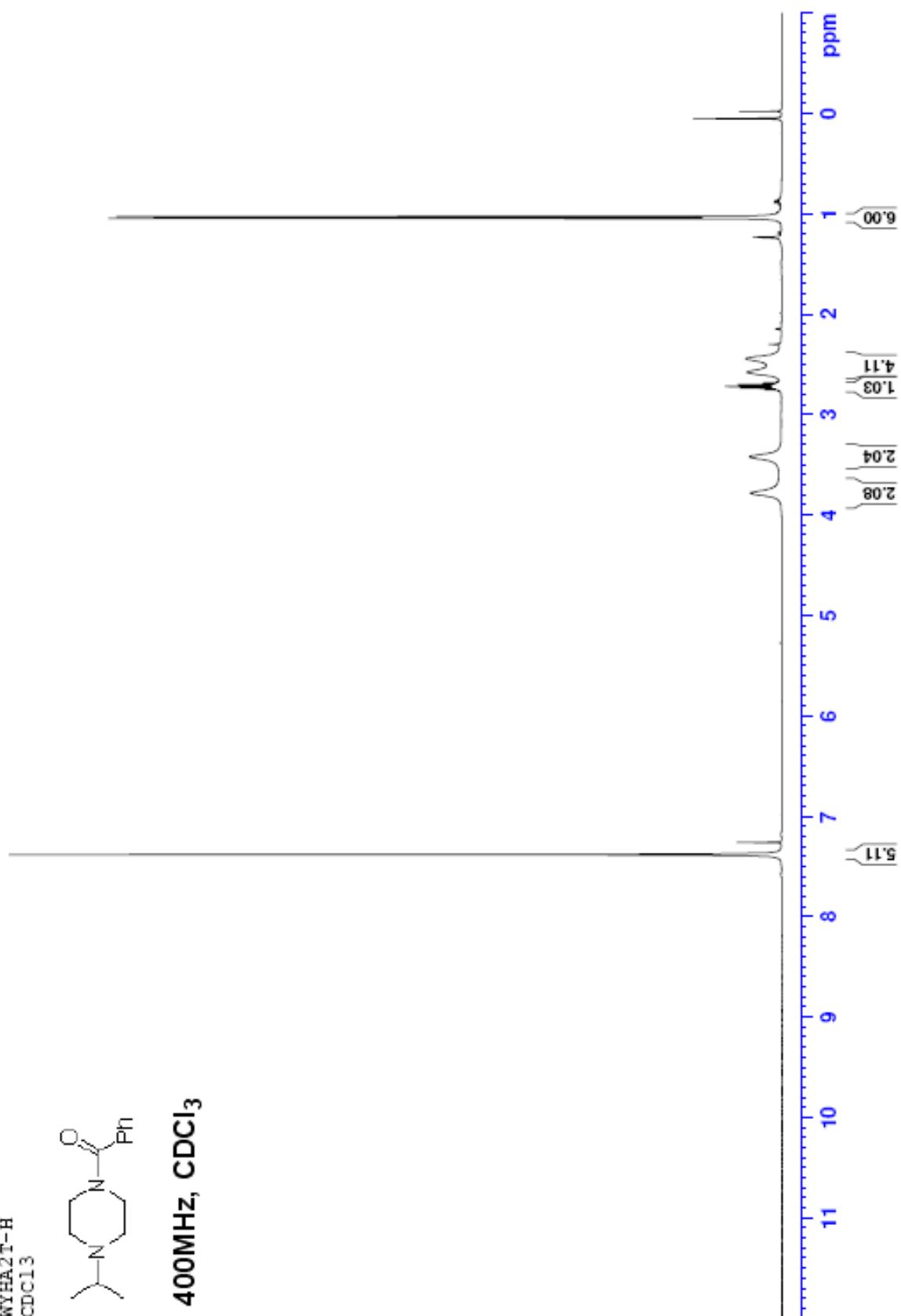


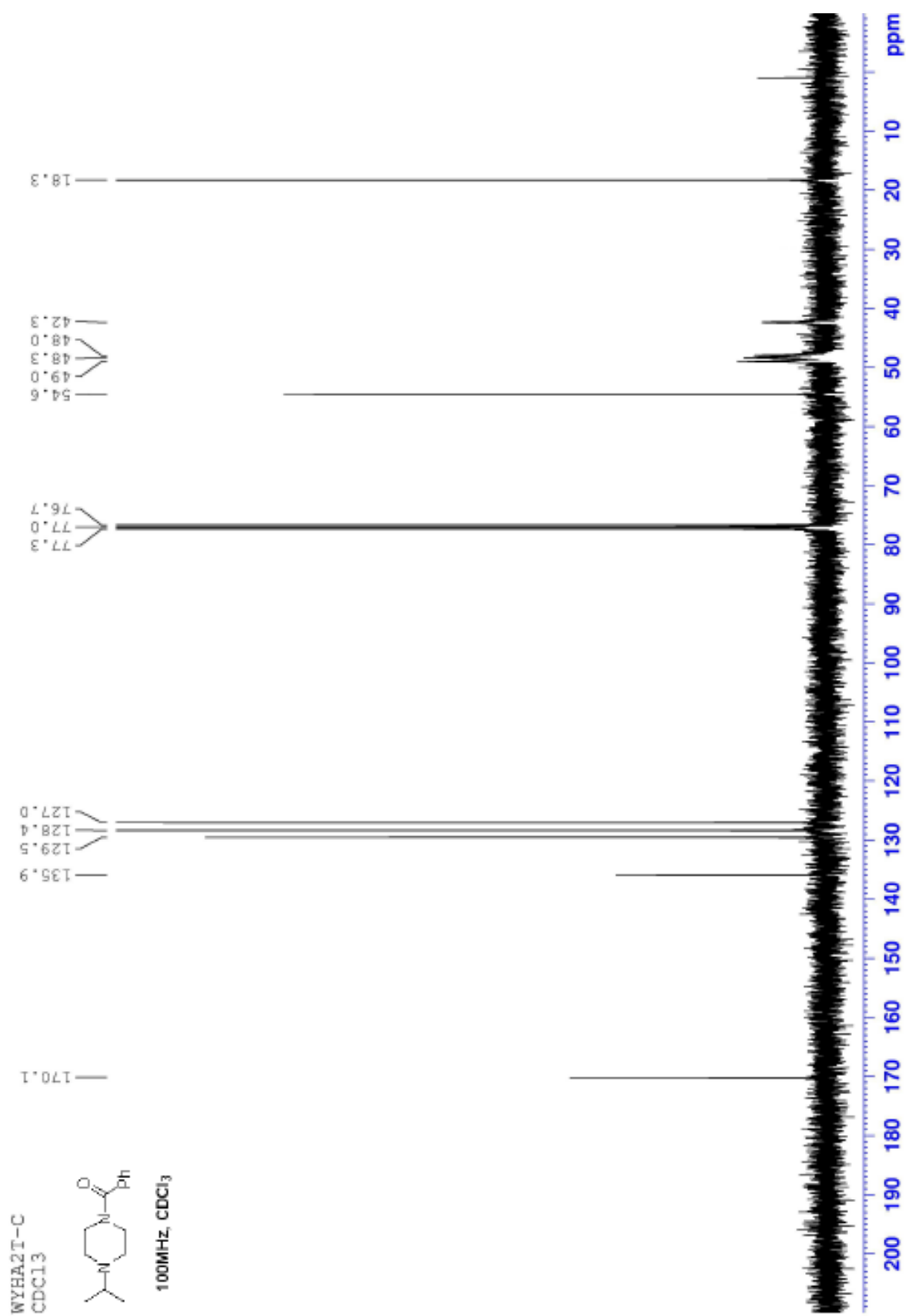


WYHA2T-H  
CDCl<sub>3</sub>

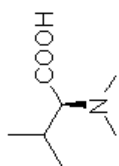


400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>

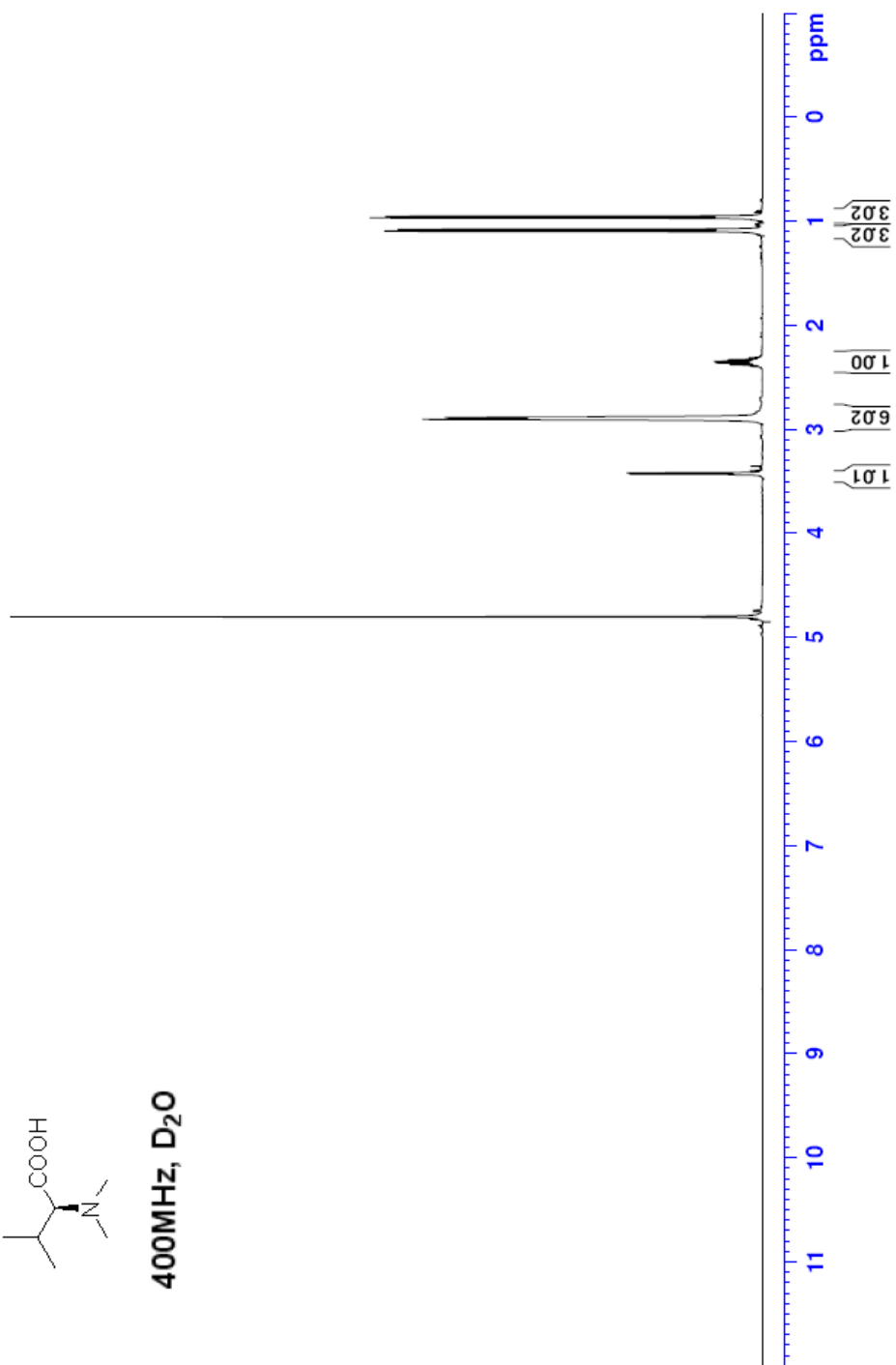


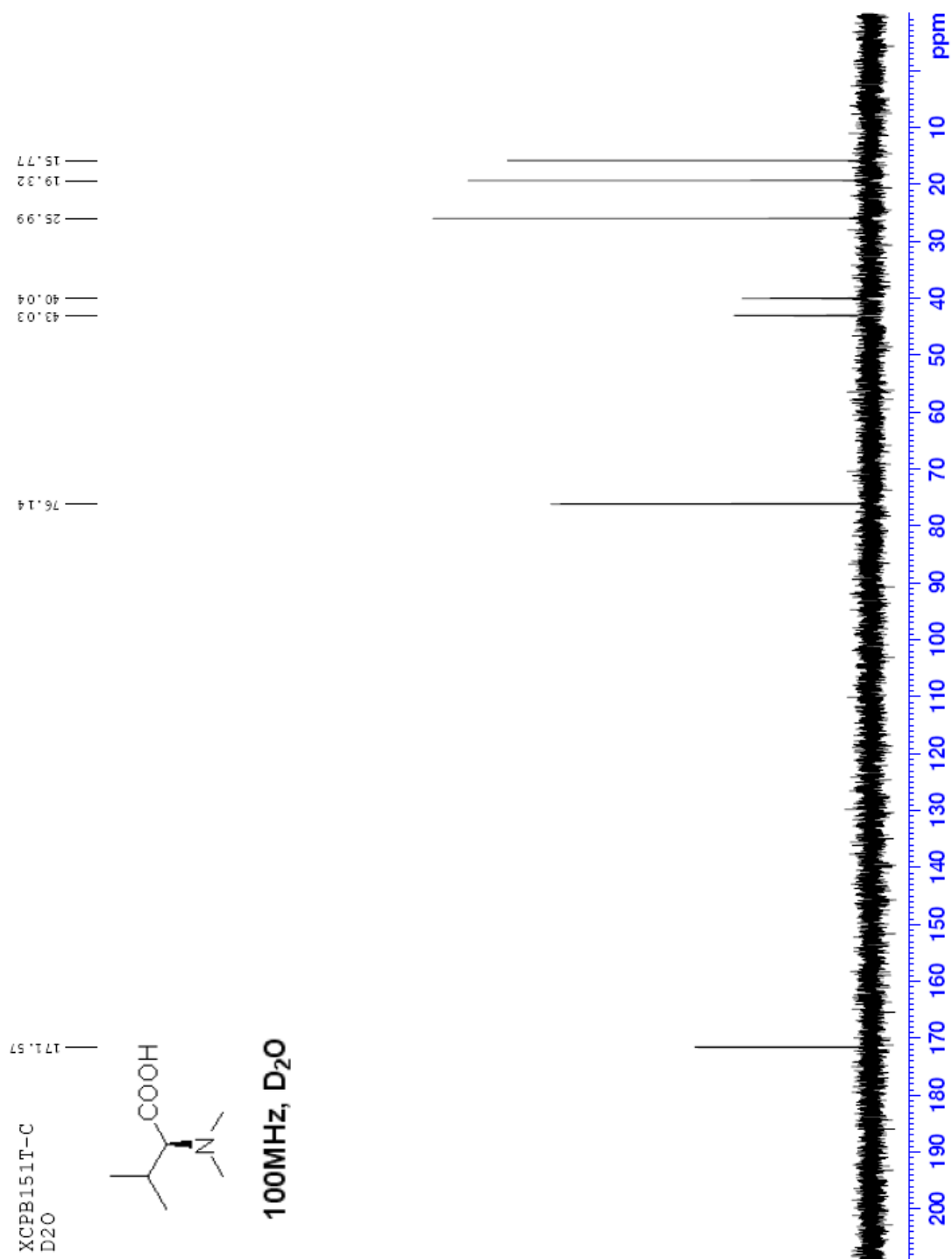


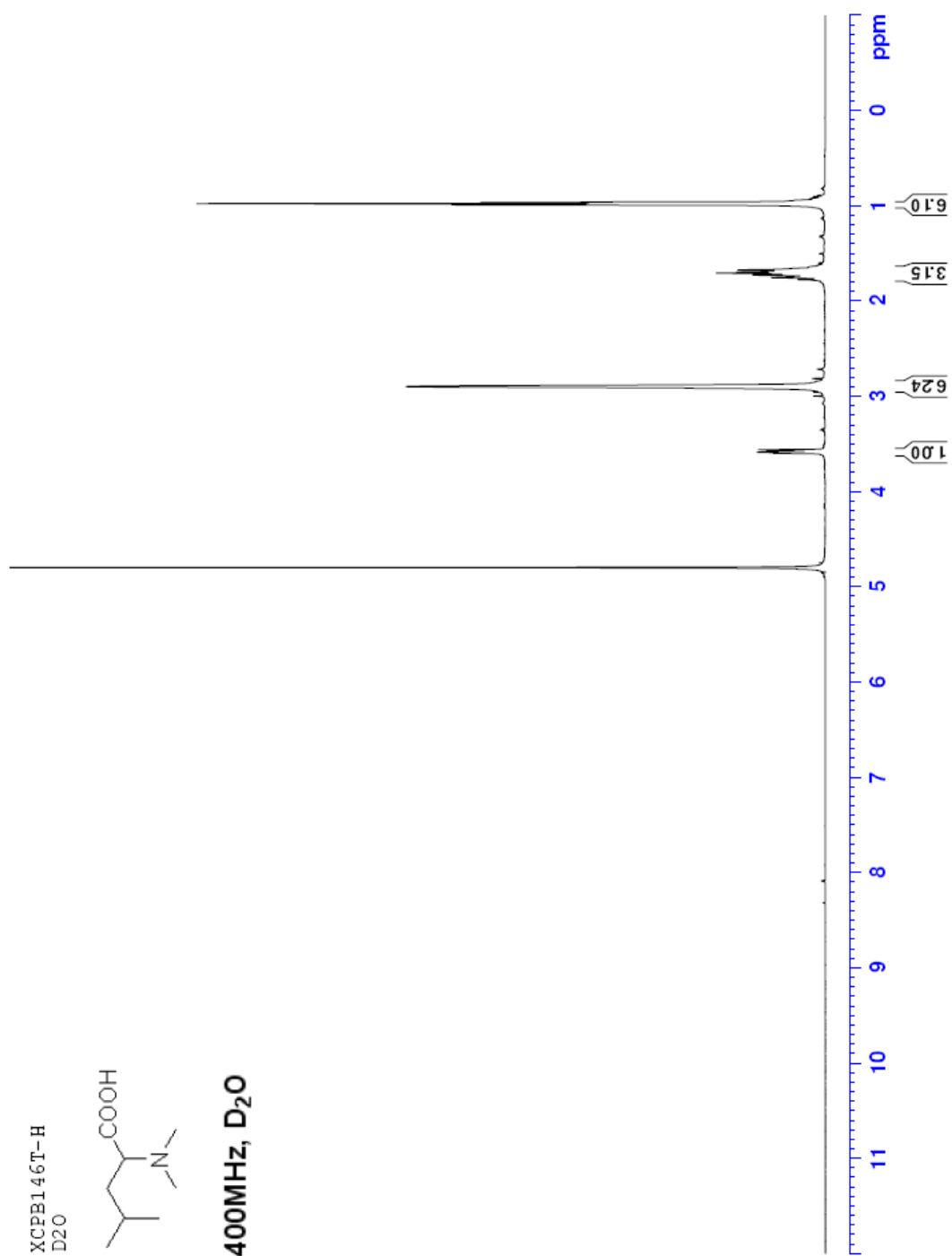
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D2O



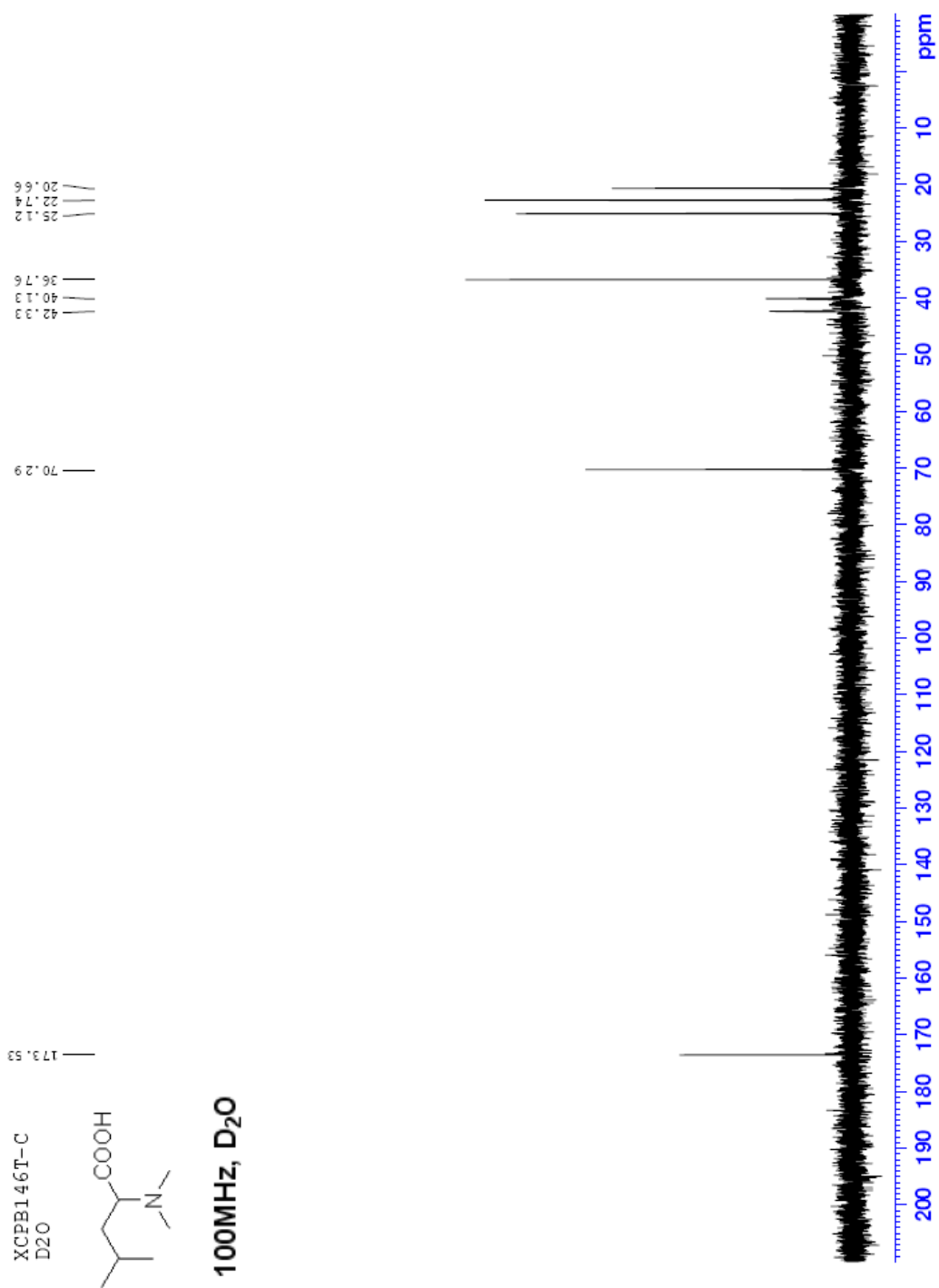
400MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O

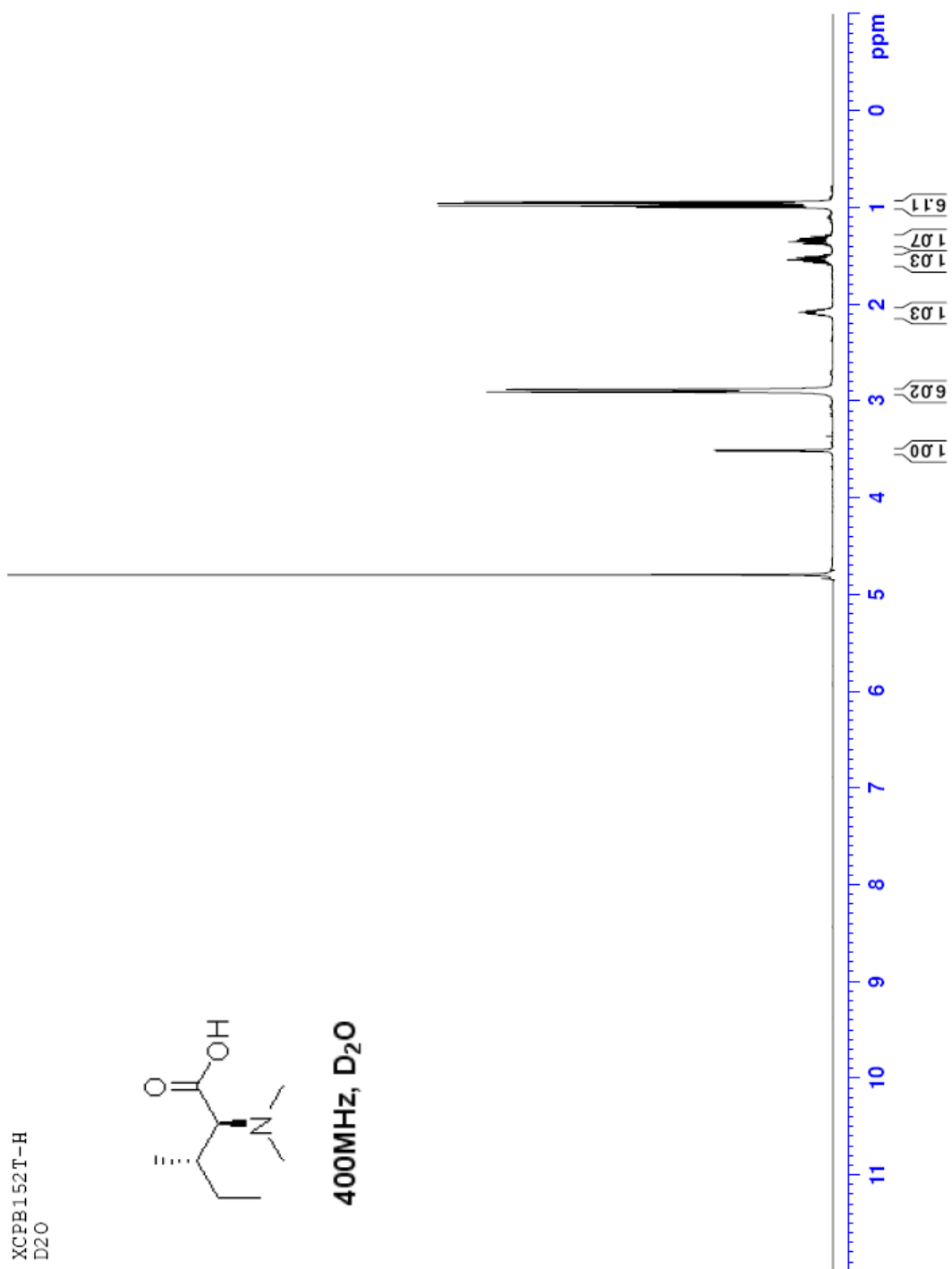


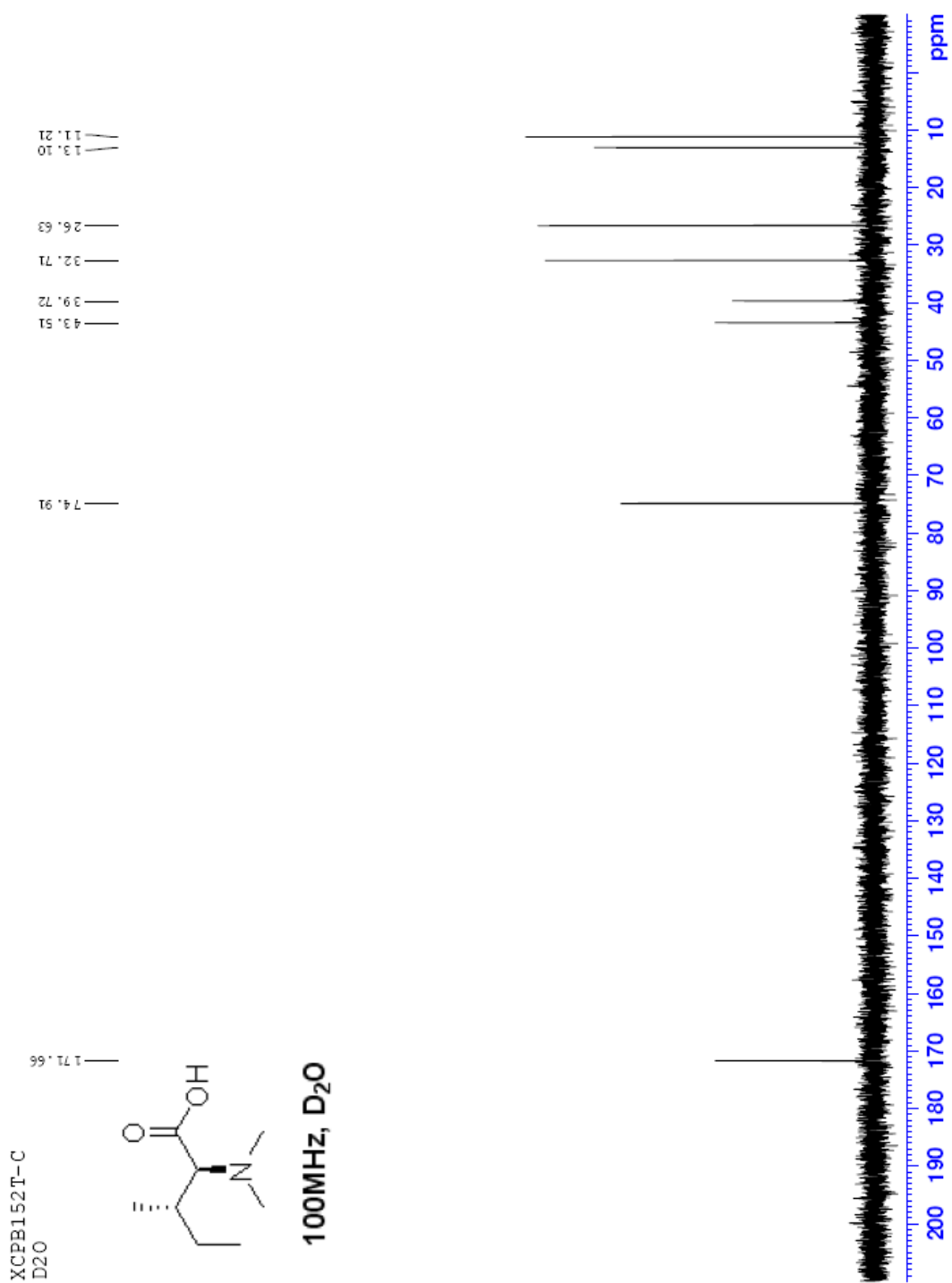




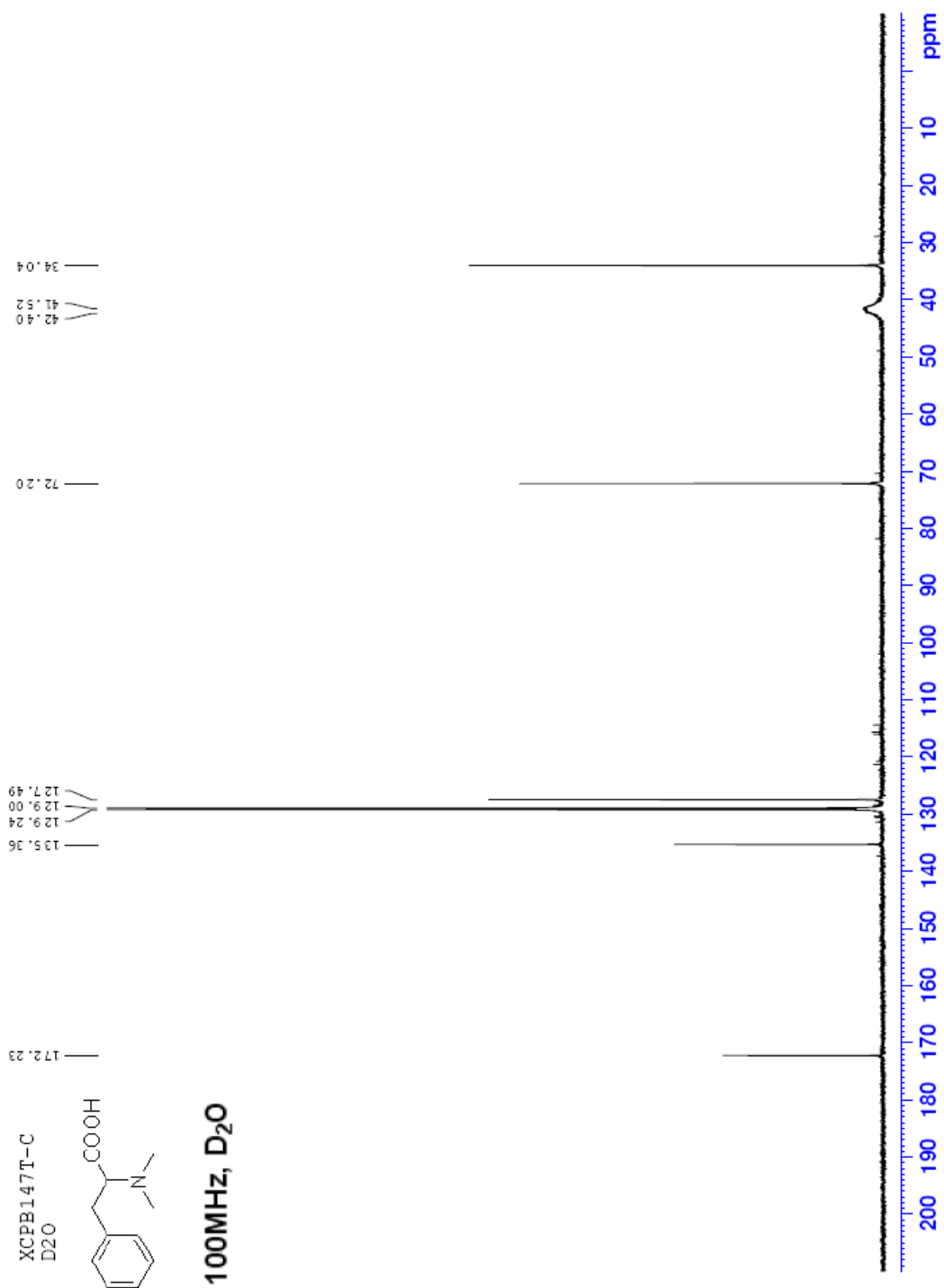


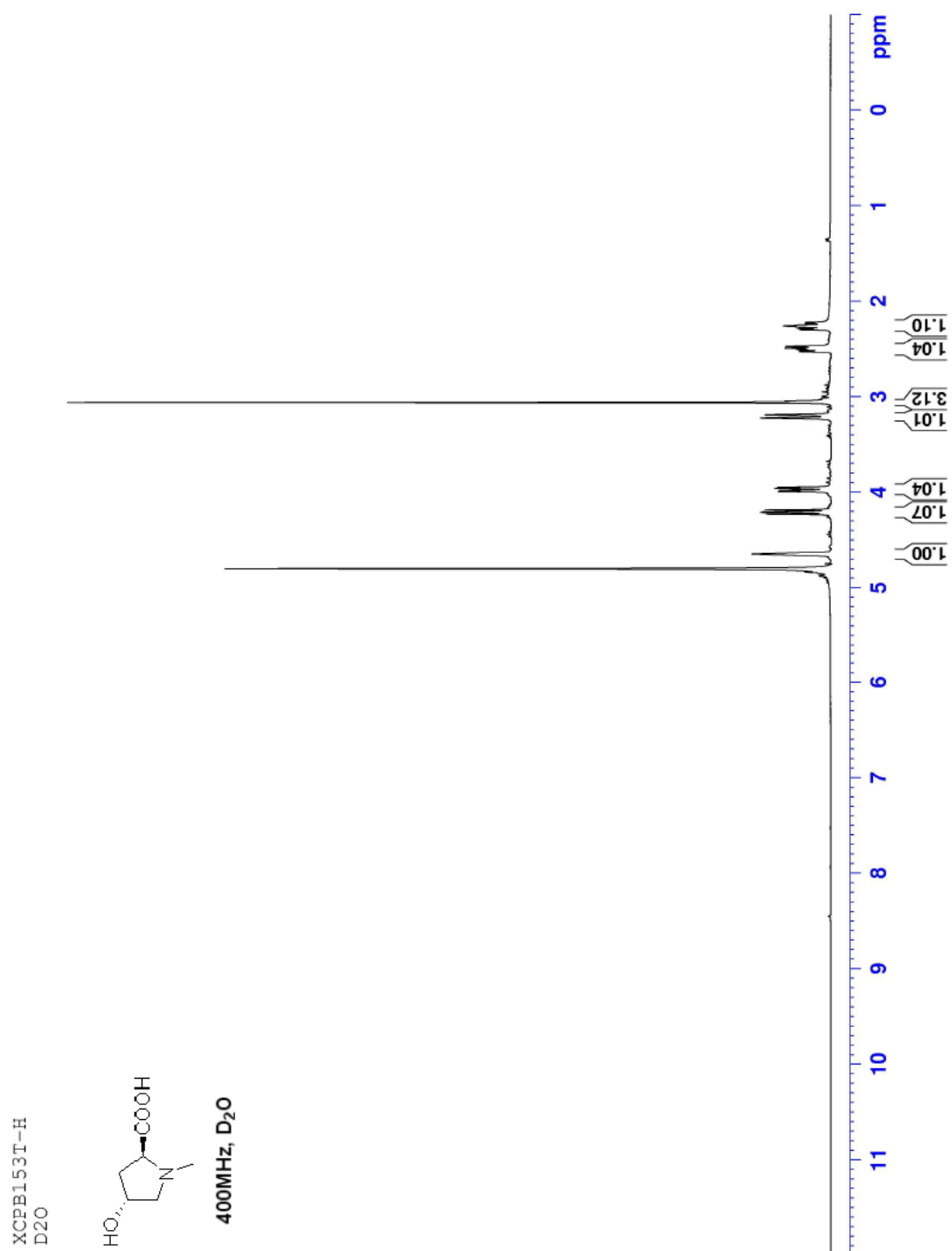


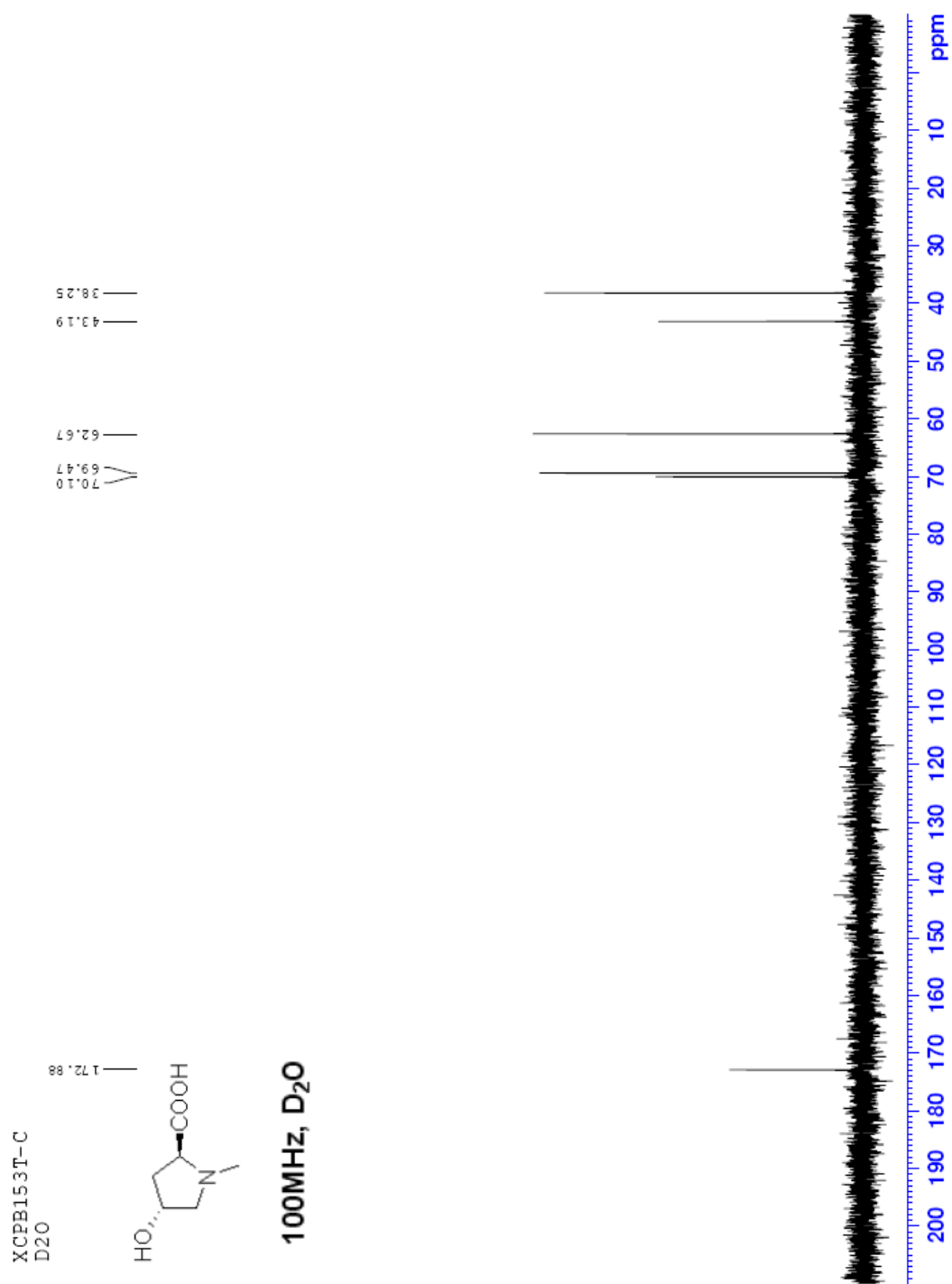


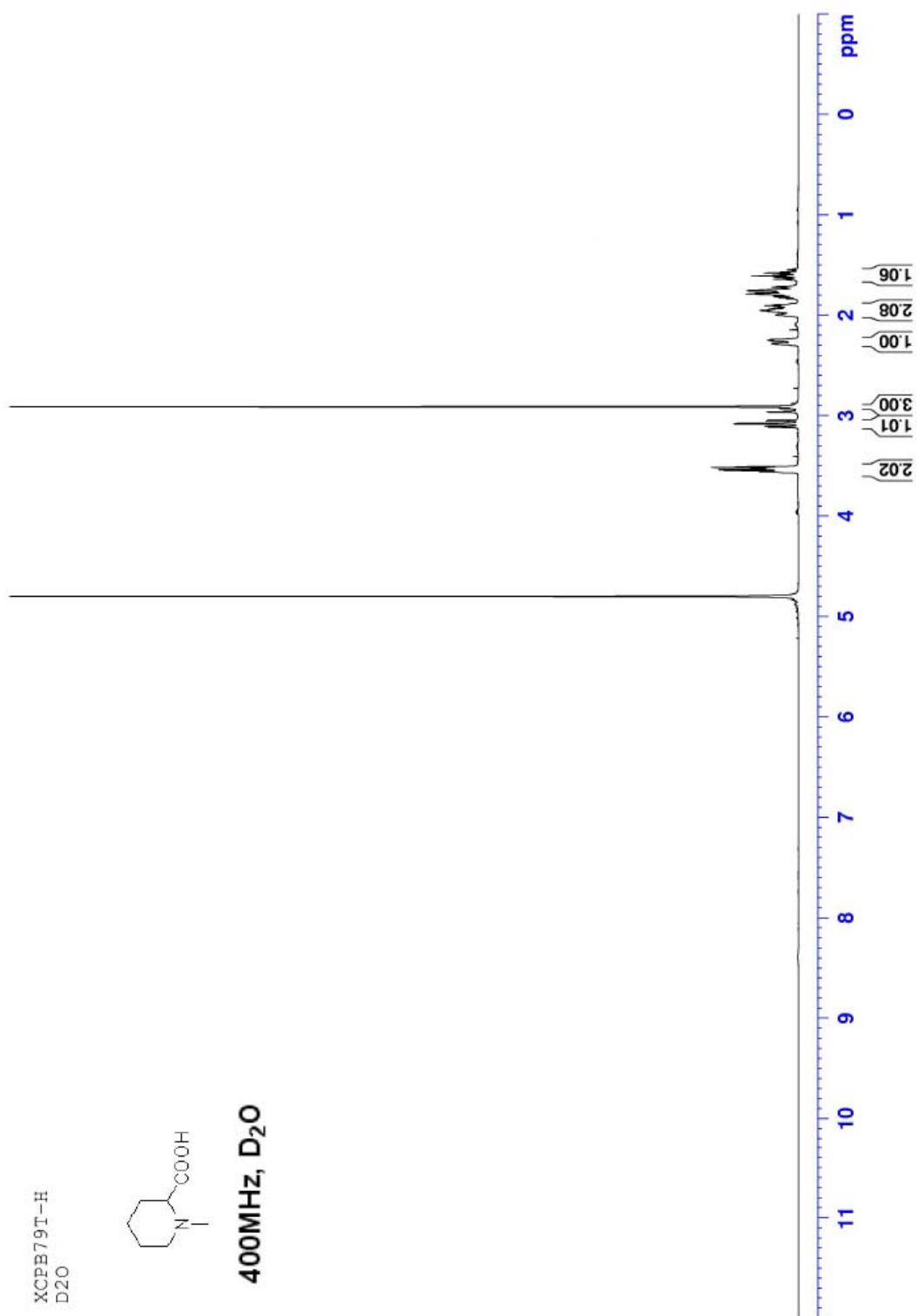




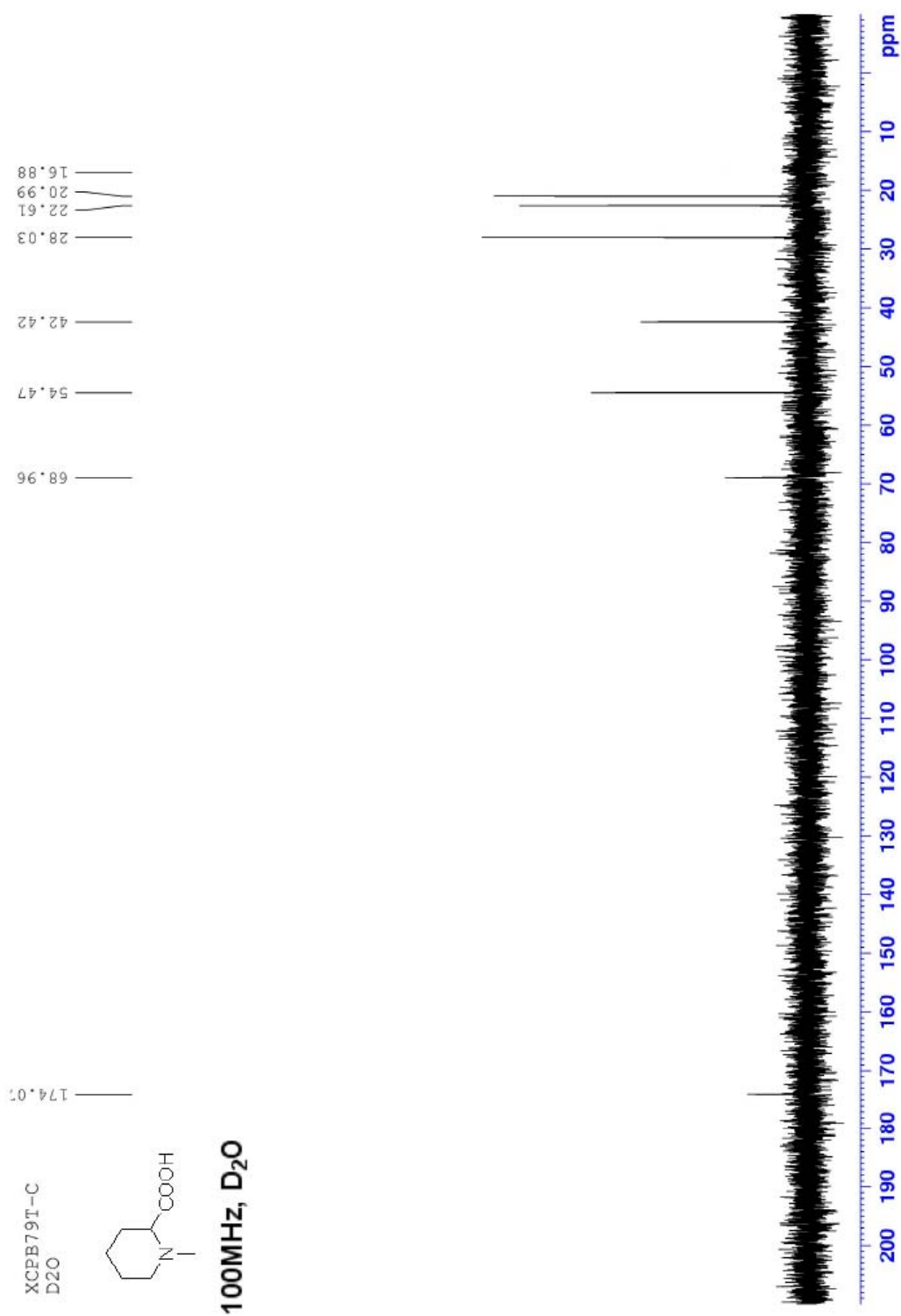


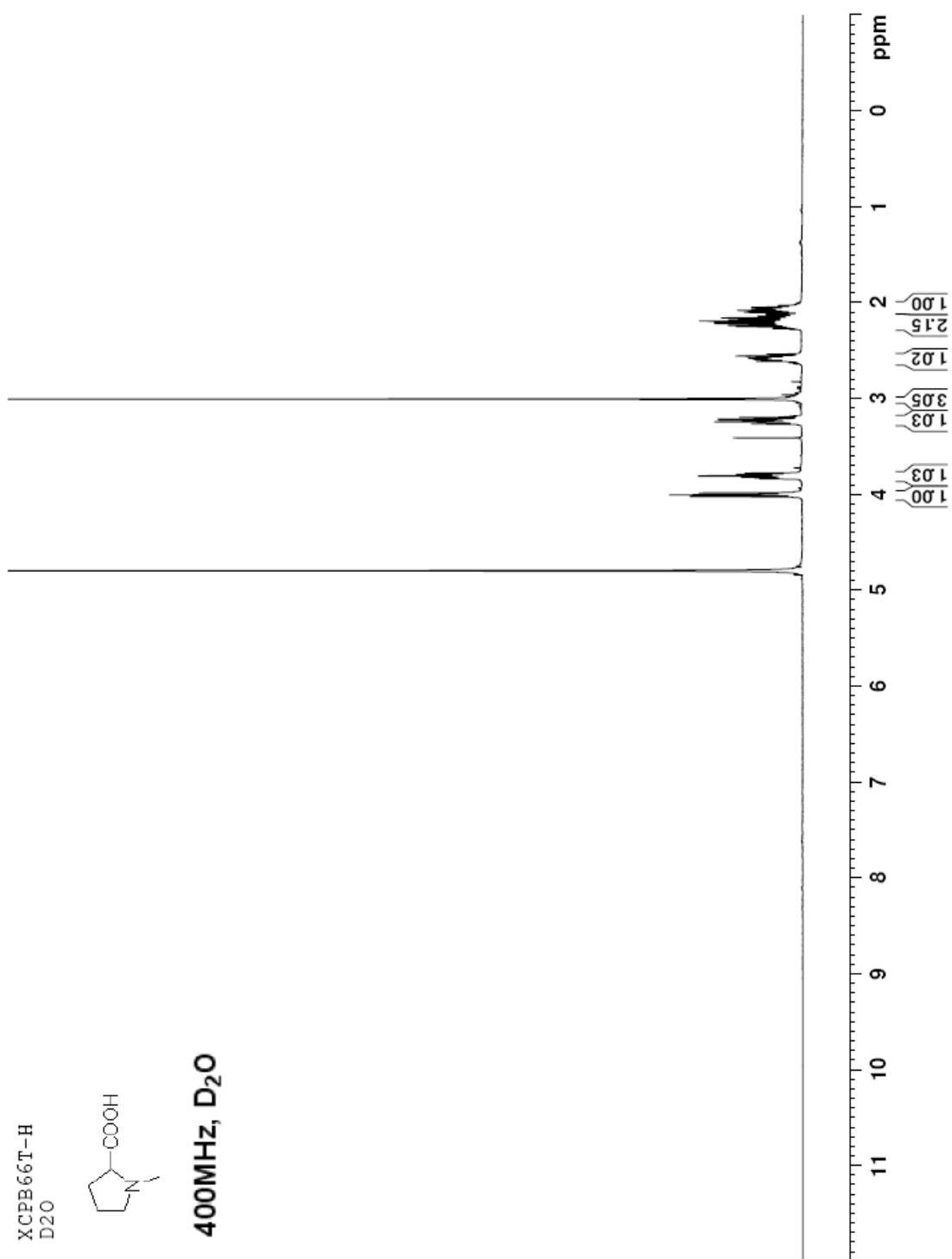


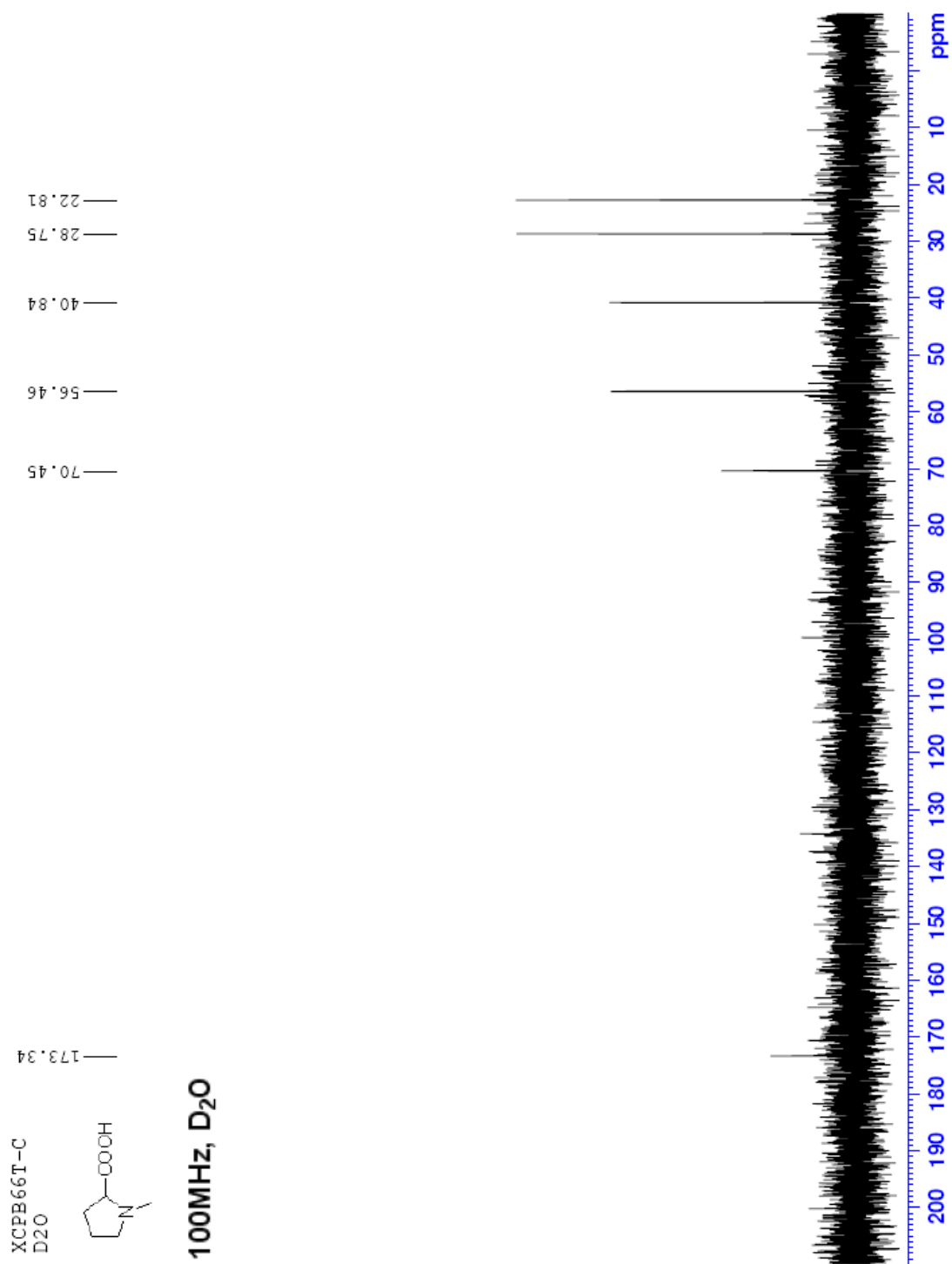




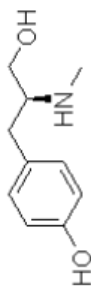




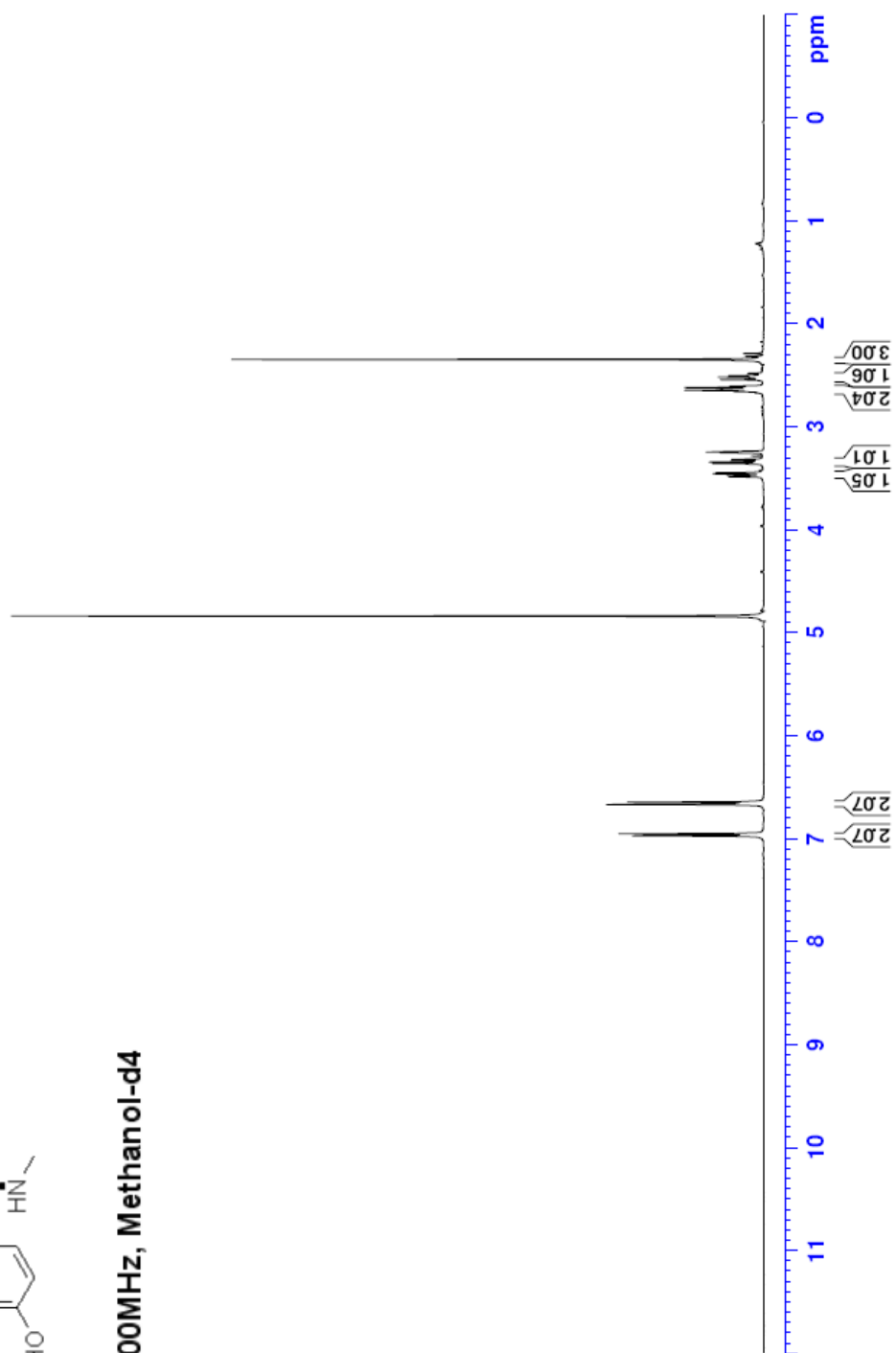


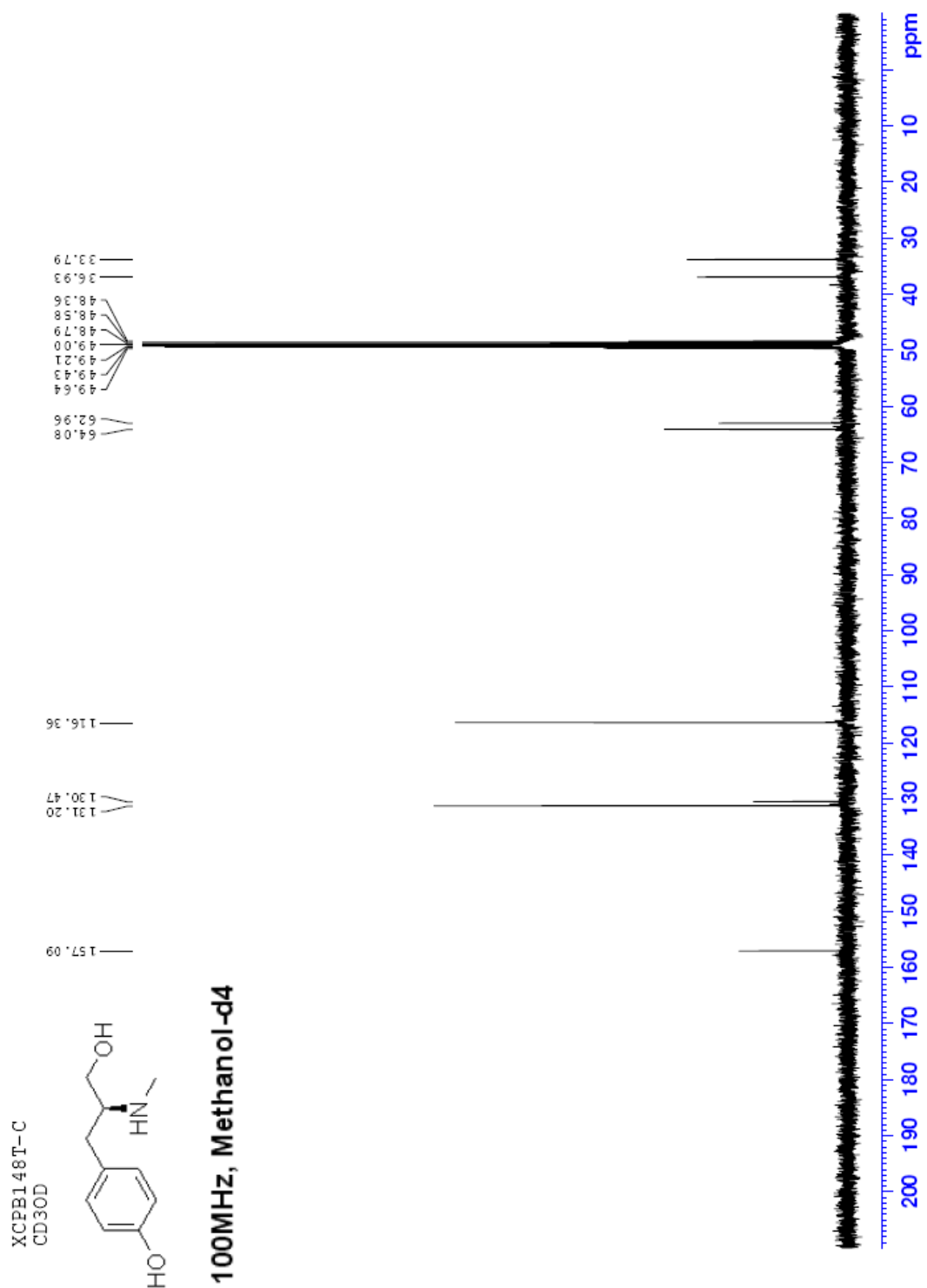


XCPB148T-H  
CD3OD



**400MHz, Methanol-d4**

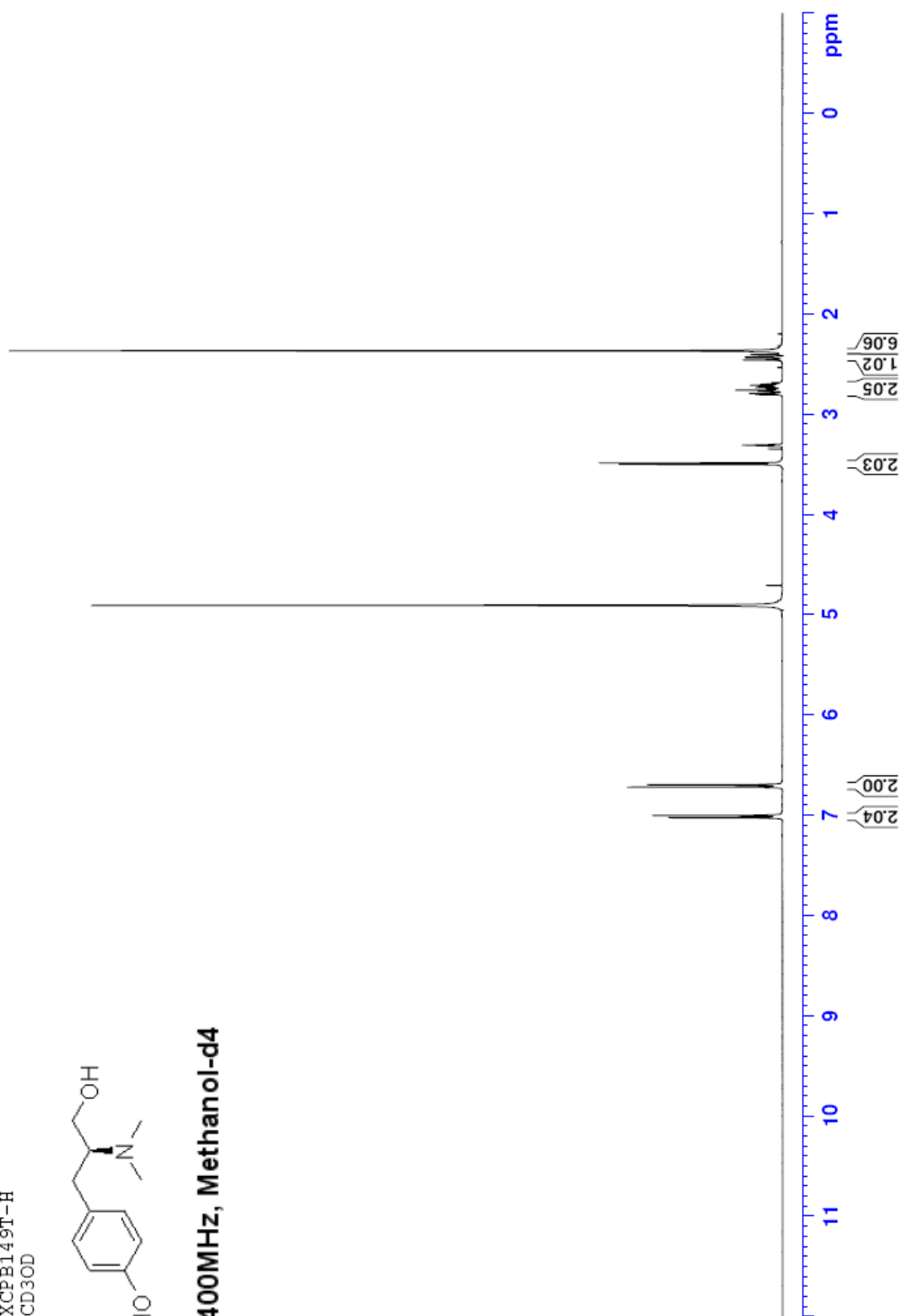


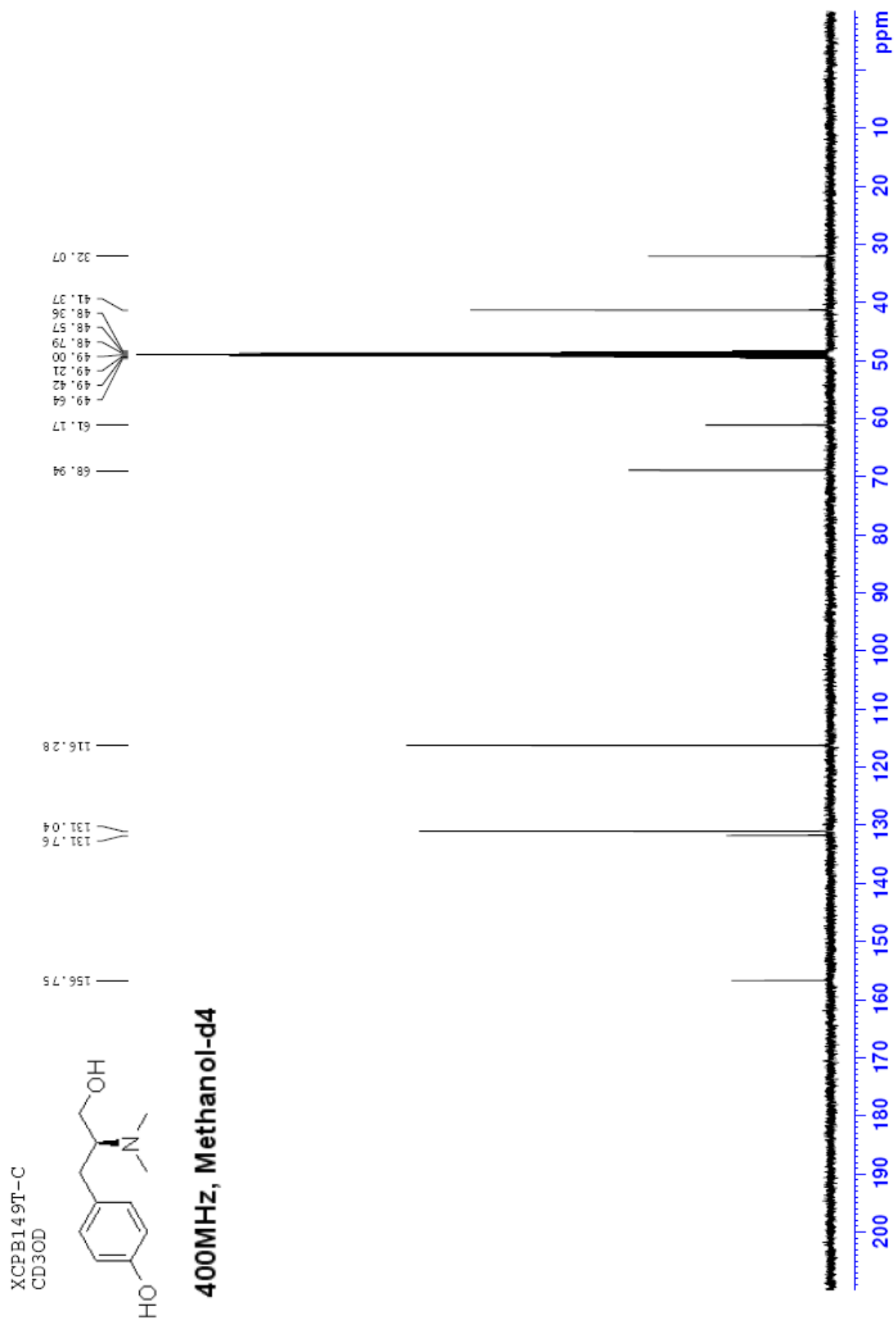


XCPB149T-H  
CD3OD

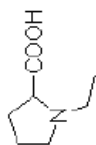


400MHz, Methanol-d4

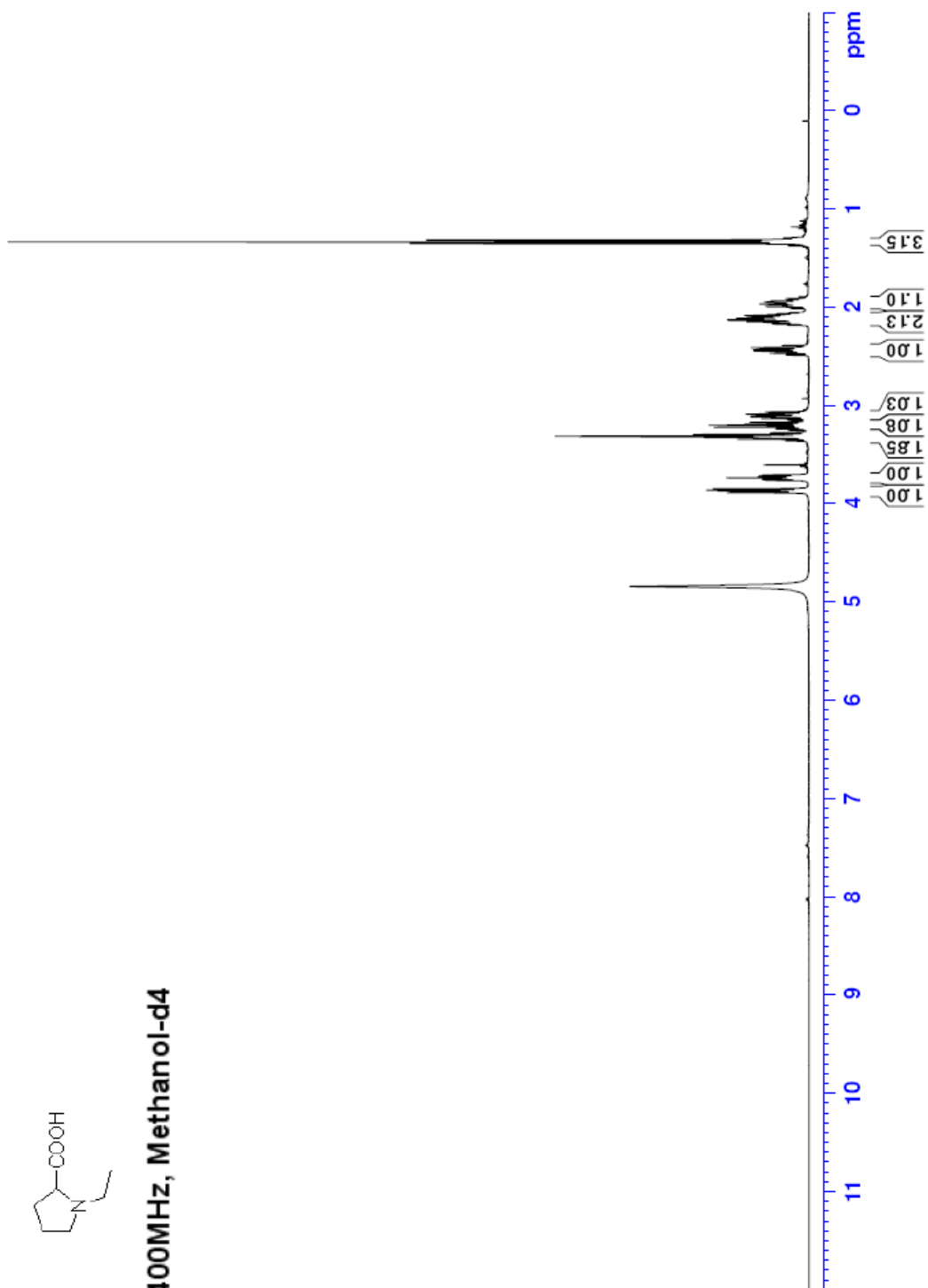




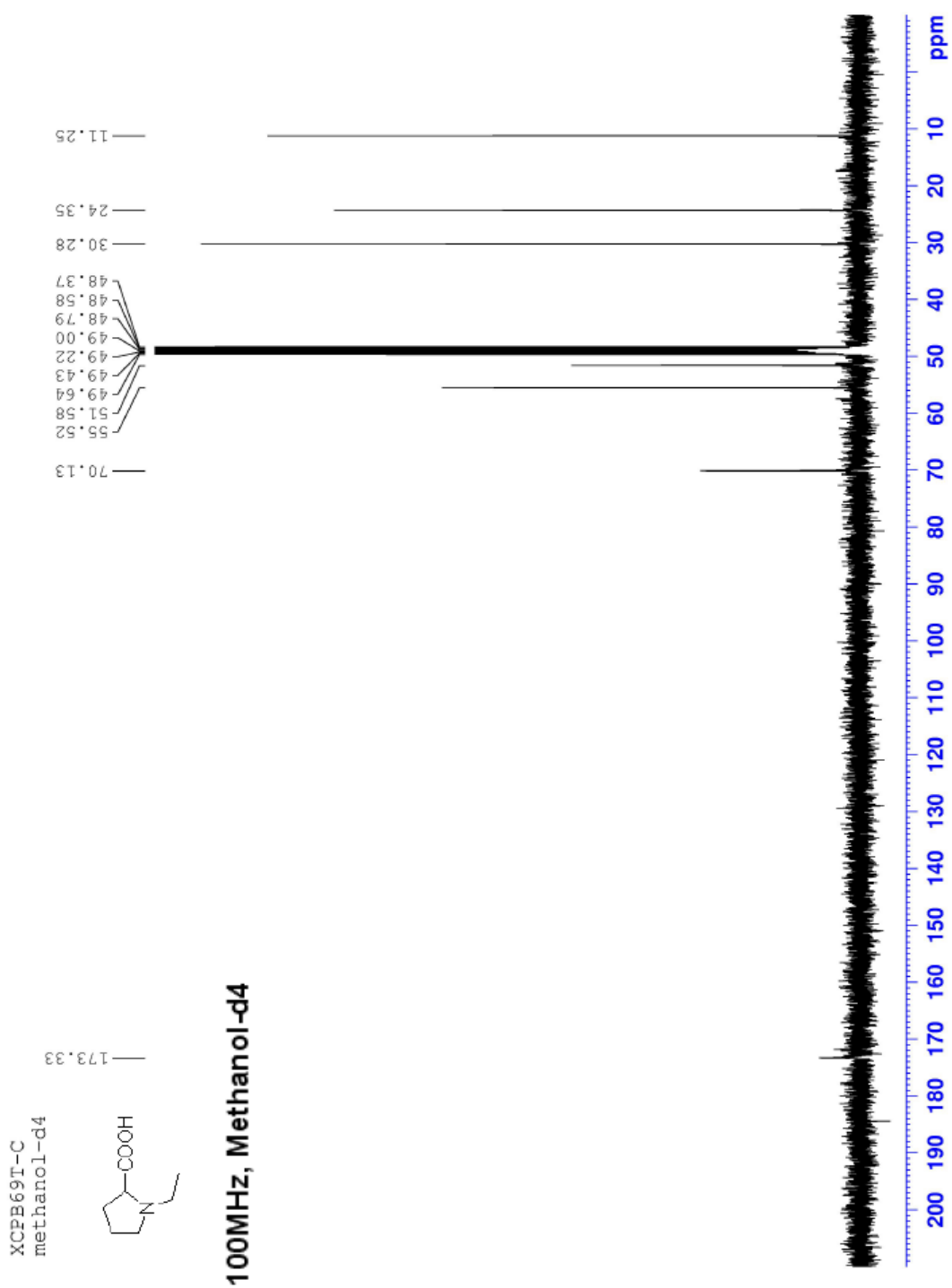
XCPB69T-H  
methanol-d4



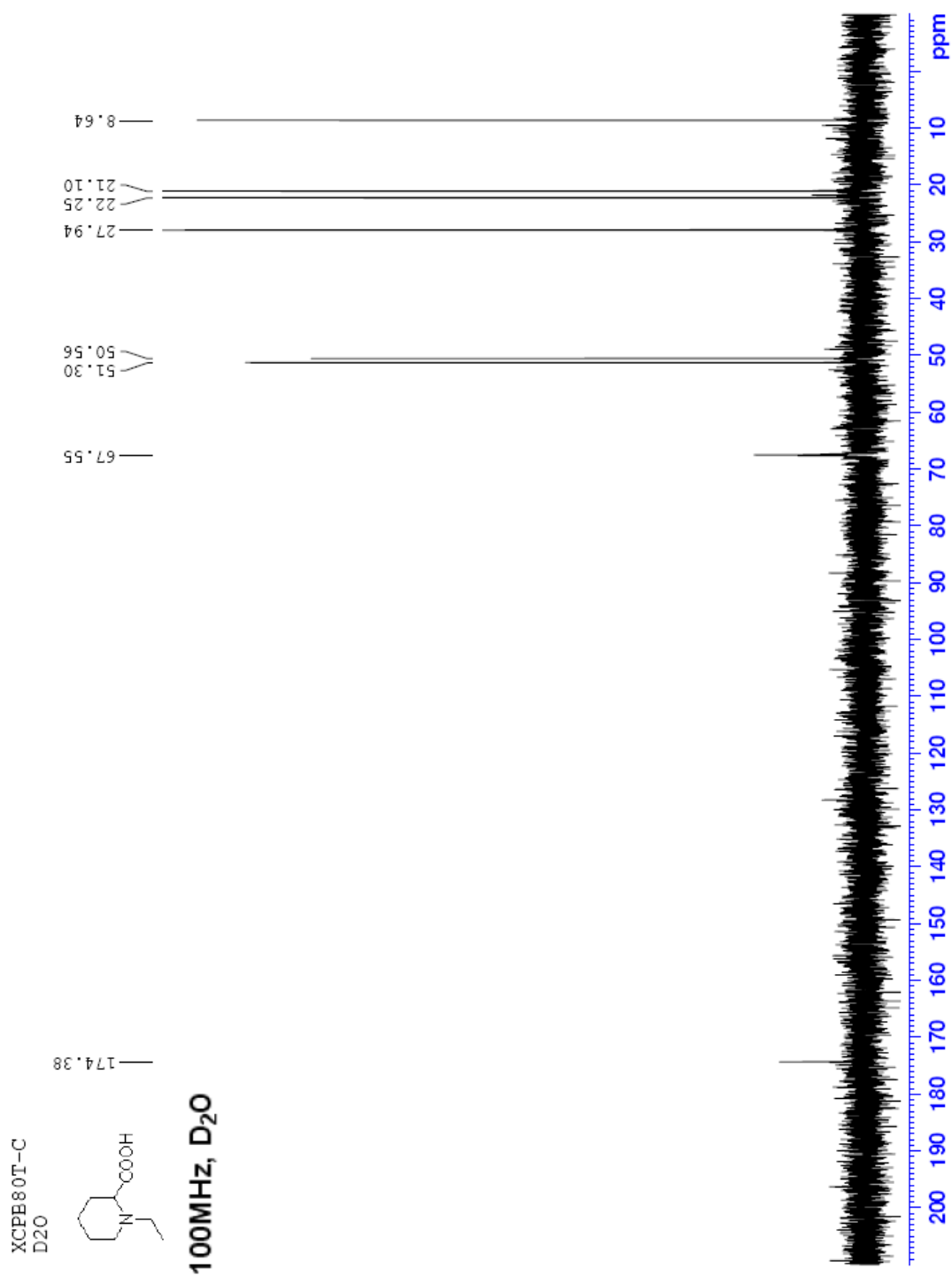
**400MHz, Methanol-d4**

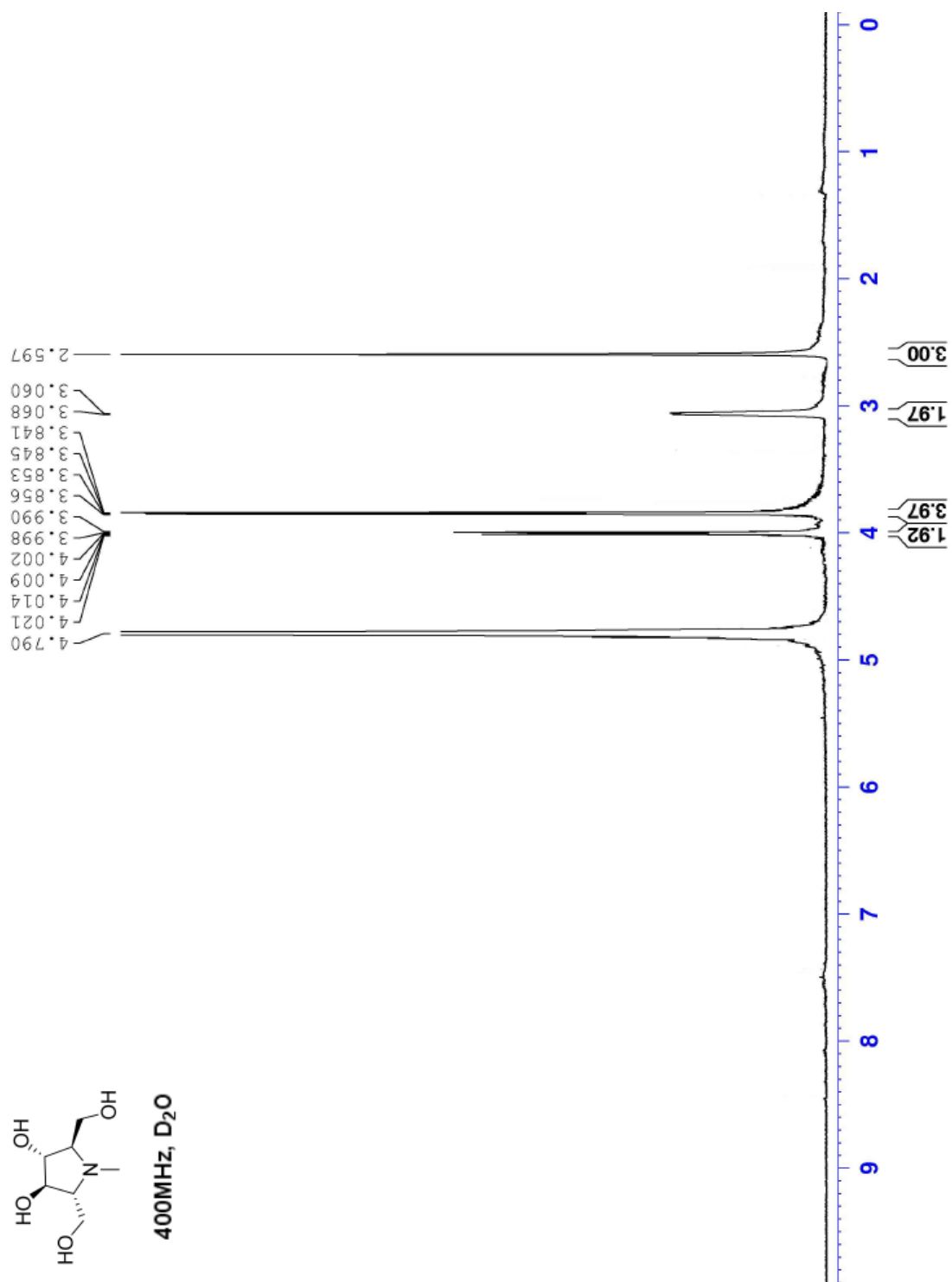


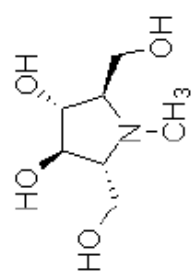




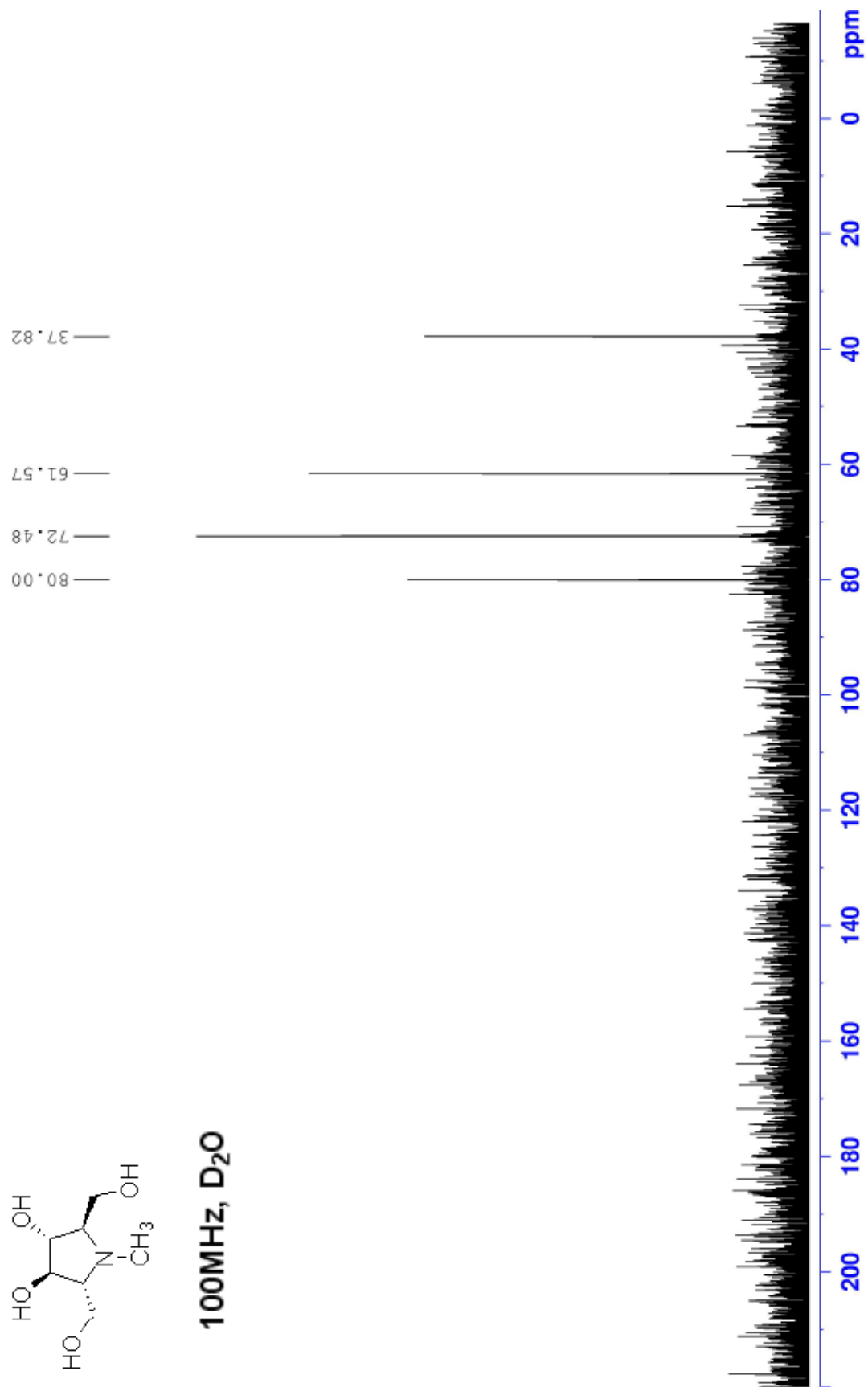


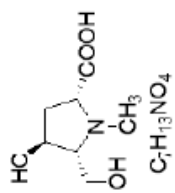




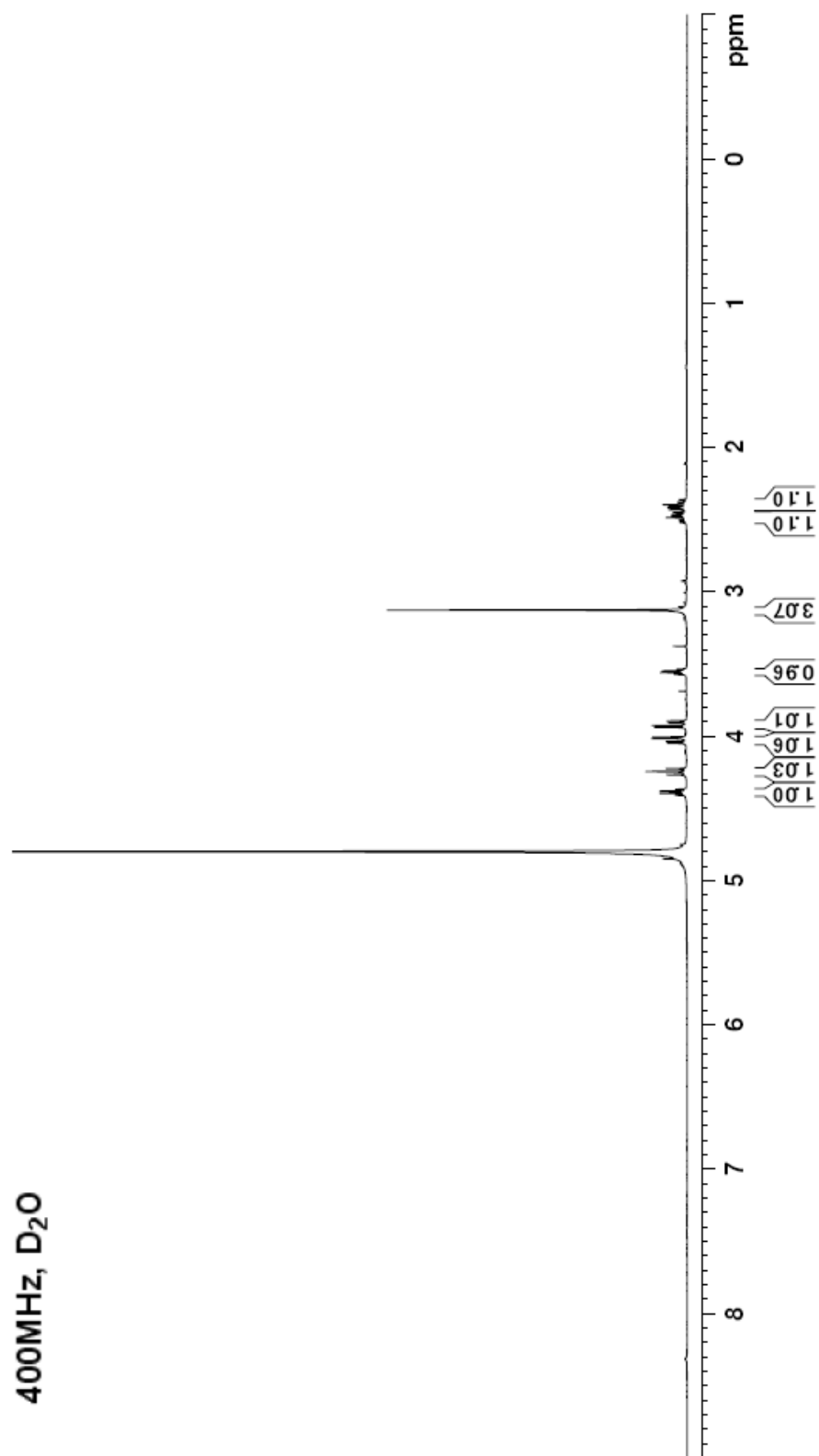


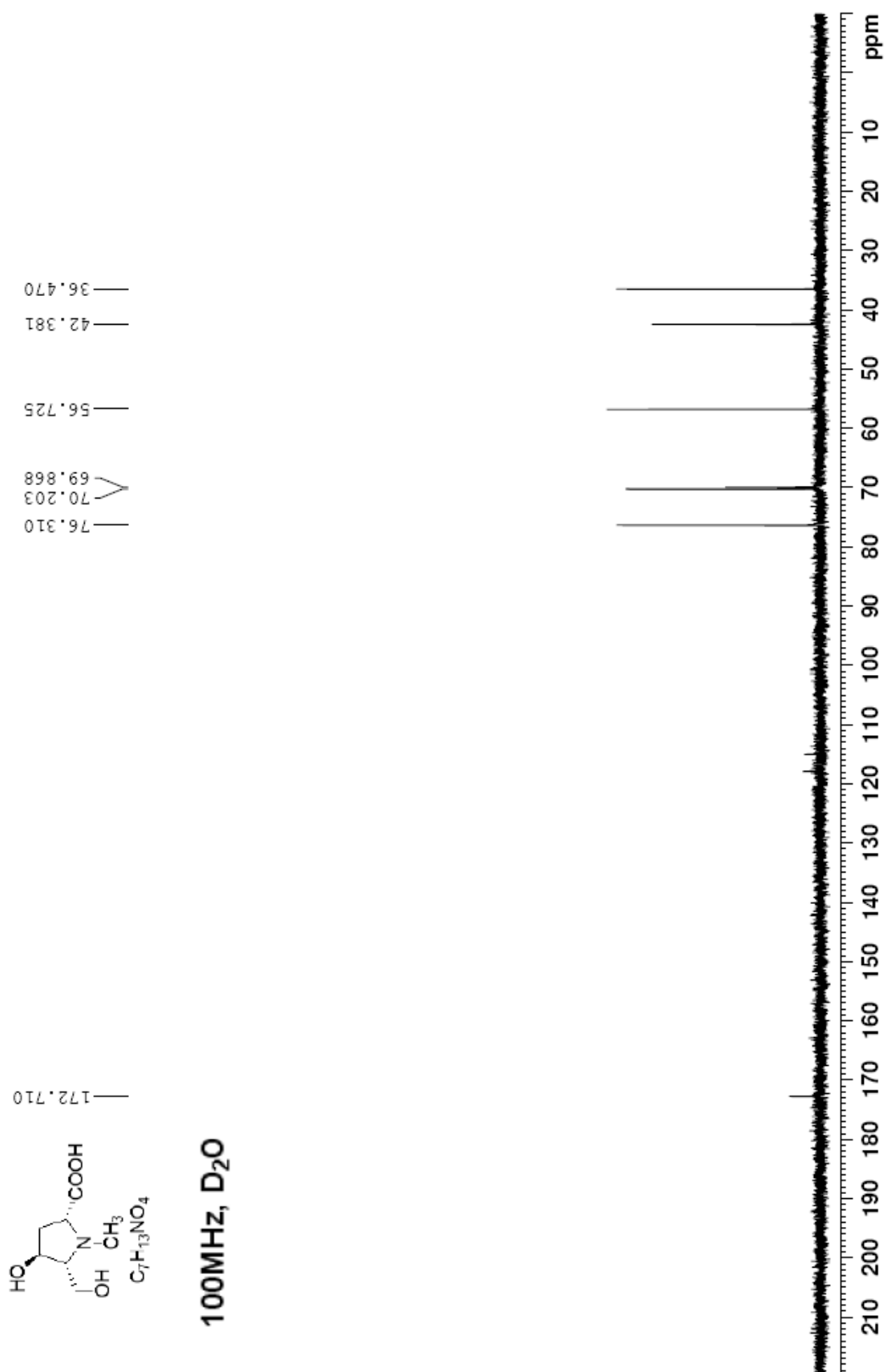
**100MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O**





400MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O











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