

Electronic Supplementary Information

Enabling Wittig reaction on site-specific protein modification

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General information

All chemicals were purchased as reagent grade and used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Reactions involving moisture-sensitive components were performed in oven-dried glassware. Petroleum ether and ethyl acetate were fractionally distilled. Reactions were monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on Merck silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (0.25 mm), visualized by ultraviolet light. Further visualization was possible by staining with ninhydrin. Purifications by flash column chromatography were performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh).

Hexapeptide (Ser-Leu-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Gln, **4a**) and pentapeptide (Ser-Val-Thr-Arg-Ala, **5a**) were purchased from GL Biochem (Shanghai) Ltd, and used as obtained. IL-8 (8-79) was commercially available from Genscript. Myoglobin (M 1882) from horse heart and PLP (pyridoxal-5-phosphate) were purchased from Sigma and used without further purification.

¹H NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker AVANCE III 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained with proton decoupling on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 (100 MHz) spectrometer and were reported in ppm with residual solvent for internal standard. Data were reported as follows: chemical shift on the δ scale (using either TMS or residual proton solvent as internal standard), multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant(s) in hertz, and integration. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker APEX IV FT-MS (7.0 T) or Waters Xevo G2 Q-TOF mass spectrometer, using ESI with MeOH:H₂O (1:1) as the carrier solvent. Nominal and exact m/z values were reported in Daltons. Optical rotations were measured on Rudolph Research and Analytical Autopol III Automatic Polarimetre with a halogen lamp at 589 nm with a path length

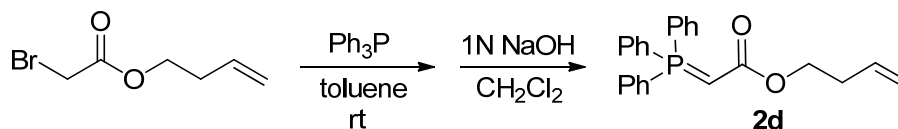
of 1 dm. Concentration was symbolized as c and was calculated as grams per milliliters (g/100 mL) whereas the solvent was specified in parentheses (c , solvent).

Peptide analyst was analyzed by electrospray ionization MS (ESI-MS) in positive ion mode on LCQ (ThermoFisher, San Jose, CA, USA) equipped with Agilent 1100 HPLC using a Agilent ZORBAX Eclipse XDB-C18 (5 μ , ID 4.6 mm \times 250 mm) column. The flow rate was 1.0 mL/min using a gradient from 90% Solvent A (99.9 % H₂O, 0.1 % formic acid) to 90% Solvent B (99.9 % acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid) within 25 min. 16.7% of the eluent was introduced to the mass spectrometer. High purity nitrogen (99.9%) and helium (99.99%) were used for MS analysis.

Protein Purification and Mass Spectrometry. Mass spectrometry was carried out using a Q-Tof Micro mass spectrometer equipped with a Waters Z-type electrospray ionization source (Waters, Manchester, UK). Sample was diluted to about 10 pmol/ μ L and introduced to MS with syringe pump at a flow rate of 500 nL/min. Acquisition mass range was typically m/z 500-2000. Data were recorded and processed using OpenLynx™ software and MaxEnt1 option (Waters, Manchester, UK). Calibration of the 500-2000 m/z scale was achieved by a multi-point calibration using selected fragment ions that resulted from the CID of Glu-fibrinopeptide B (+2 ion, m/z 785.8, Sigma-Aldrich, US)

Chemical synthesis

Ylides **2a**,¹ **2b**,² **2c**,³ **2e**,⁴ **2f**,⁵ **2h**,⁶ and the protected dipeptide **1**⁷ were prepared according to the method described in the related references. Ylide **2g** was commercially available.



Scheme 1: Synthetic scheme for **2d**

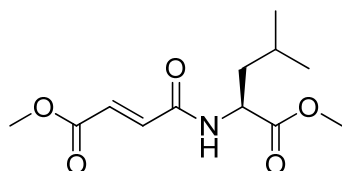
3'-Butenyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)-acetate (**2d**)

To a solution of but-3-en-1-yl 2-bromoacetate⁸ (193.0 mg, 1 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added Ph_3P (162.0 mg, 1 mmol). After stirring for 12 h, solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in H_2O (10 mL). The aqueous layer was neutralized by 1N NaOH until pH = 8 and extracted by CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) for 3 times. The combined organic layer was washed by brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield product **2d** (160.0 mg, 43% yield) as red oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70-7.42 (m, 15H), 5.65 (br, 1H), 4.98-4.89 (m, 2H), 3.97 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (br, 1H), 2.16 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.09, 135.47, 133.10, 133.00, 132.19, 132.09, 131.96, 131.93, 128.80, 128.67, 128.59, 128.47, 115.98, 61.46, 33.91, 30.17 (d, 124 Hz, 1C). HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{P}[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 375.1508, found: 375.1505.

General experimental procedures for Wittig reaction on dipeptide **1**

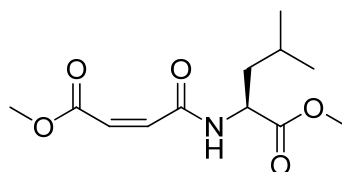
To a solution of the protected peptide **1** (34.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) in H_2O (5 mL) was added NaIO_4 (42.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 eq.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature. After stirring for 0.5 h, ylide (2.0 eq.) and *t*-BuOH (5 mL) were added. The reaction was completed within 1.5 h (monitored by TLC). The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and diluted with H_2O

(10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (30mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography to give the desired product.



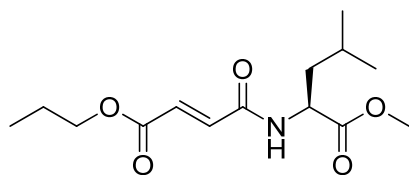
(*S,E*)-2-(4-Methoxy-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3a-1)

Colorless oil (5.0 mg, 19% yield). R_f = 0.41 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.04 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (br, 1H), 4.74 (td, J = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.58 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.31, 166.14, 163.38, 136.18, 130.51, 52.53, 52.29, 51.10, 41.60, 24.94, 22.79, 21.96. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₂H₂₀NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 258.1336, found: 258.1338. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ -42.1 (c = 1.47 g/100 mL, CH₃OH).



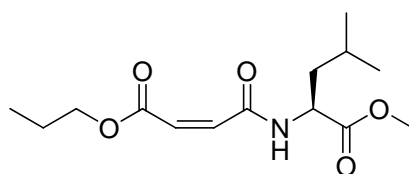
(*S,Z*)-2-(4-Methoxy-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3a-2)

Colorless oil (15.0 mg, 58% yield). R_f = 0.19 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.68 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.68-4.62 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.76-1.63 (m, 3H), 0.97 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.14, 166.60, 163.66, 137.73, 125.72, 52.54, 52.29, 51.25, 41.24, 24.90, 22.78, 22.00. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₂H₂₀NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 258.1336, found: 258.1337. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ -28.8 (c = 0.93 g/100 mL, CH₃OH).



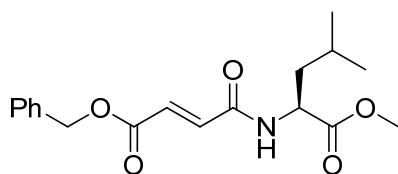
(*S,E*)-2-(4-Oxo-4-propoxybut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3b-1)

Colorless oil (5.0 mg, 18% yield). R_f = 0.56 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.95 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (td, J = 8.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.55 (m, 5H), 0.99–0.94 (m, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.25, 165.66, 163.43, 135.76, 131.12, 66.91, 52.54, 51.11, 41.73, 24.97, 22.81, 22.02, 21.98, 10.40. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 286.1649, found: 286.1652. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –33.5 (c = 0.87 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



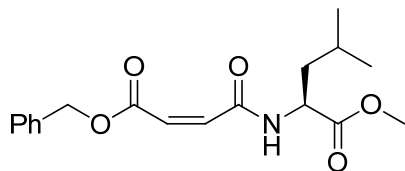
(*S,Z*)-2-(4-Oxo-4-propoxybut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3b-2)

Colorless oil (16.0 mg, 56% yield). R_f = 0.30 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (td, J = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.76–1.63 (m, 6H), 0.99–0.94 (m, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.14, 166.33, 163.64, 137.95, 126.08, 67.32, 52.26, 51.31, 41.24, 24.93, 22.80, 22.03, 21.80, 10.33. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 286.1649, found: 286.1645. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –25.5 (c = 2.0 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



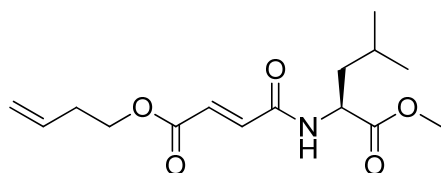
(*S,E*)-2-(4-(Benzyloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3c-1)

Colorless oil (10.0 mg, 30% yield). R_f = 0.41 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.34 (m, 5H), 6.96 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 4.73 (td, J = 8.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.73–1.55 (m, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.24, 165.33, 163.28, 136.24, 135.41, 130.75, 128.70, 128.53, 128.34, 67.06, 52.55, 51.10, 41.70, 24.95, 22.80, 22.01. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 334.1649, found: 334.1651. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –32.4 (c = 0.93 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



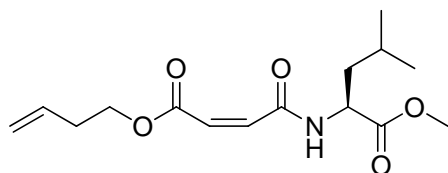
(*S,Z*)-2-(4-(Benzyloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3c-2)

Colorless oil (20.0 mg, 60% yield). R_f = 0.22 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.35 (m, 5H), 6.34 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 4.64 (td, J = 8.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.62 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.13, 165.97, 163.60, 138.23, 134.97, 128.72, 128.66, 128.51, 125.72, 67.47, 52.31, 51.30, 41.28, 24.93, 22.82, 22.05. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 334.1649, found: 334.1643. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –28.9 (c = 2.27 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



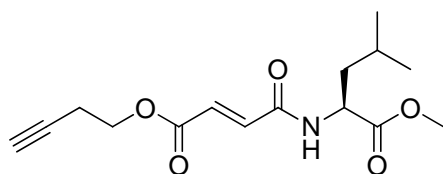
(*S,E*)-2-(4-(But-3-en-1-yloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3d-1)

Colorless oil (9.0 mg, 30% yield). R_f = 0.52 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.95 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.16–5.08 (m, 2H), 4.74 (td, J = 8.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.47–2.41 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.57 (m, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.26, 165.53, 163.38, 135.94, 133.66, 130.91, 117.61, 64.34, 52.54, 51.10, 41.70, 32.99, 24.96, 22.81, 22.01. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 298.1649, found: 298.1651. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –29.7 (c = 0.93 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(*S,Z*)-2-(4-(But-3-en-1-yloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3d-2)

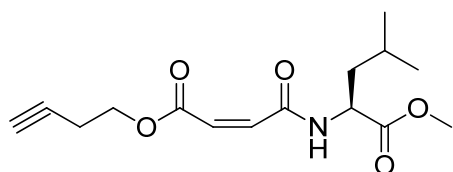
Colorless oil (16.0 mg, 54% yield). R_f = 0.33 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.77 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.16–5.09 (m, 2H), 4.64 (td, J = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.47–2.42 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.65 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.12, 166.16, 163.60, 137.92, 133.47, 125.94, 117.66, 64.70, 52.26, 51.28, 41.24, 32.78, 24.91, 22.79, 22.02. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 298.1649, found: 298.1654. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –27.0 (c = 1.87 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(*S,E*)-2-(4-(But-3-yn-1-yloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester

(3e-1)

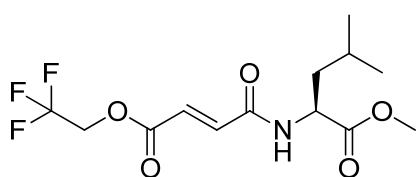
Colorless oil (7.0 mg, 24% yield). R_f = 0.52 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.98 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (td, J = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.59 (td, J = 6.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 2.02 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.74–1.56 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.19, 165.18, 163.20, 136.29, 130.59, 79.73, 70.25, 62.91, 52.58, 51.14, 41.78, 24.99, 22.81, 22.05, 19.01. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 296.1493, found: 296.1492. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –30.7 (c = 1.07 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(S,Z)-2-(4-(But-3-yn-1-yloxy)-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester

(3e-2)

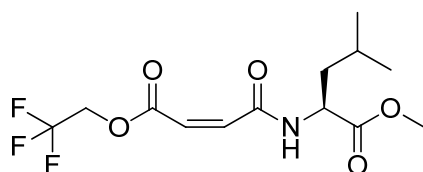
Colorless oil (18.0 mg, 61% yield). R_f = 0.30 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.53 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (td, J = 8.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.60 (td, J = 6.8, 2.7 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (br, 1H), 1.75–1.63 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.14, 165.86, 163.54, 138.21, 125.58, 79.55, 70.34, 63.23, 52.33, 51.30, 41.33, 24.95, 22.82, 22.07, 18.84. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 296.1493, found: 296.1500. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –26.3 (c = 2.33 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(*S,E*)-2-(4-Oxo-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)but-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester

(3f-1)

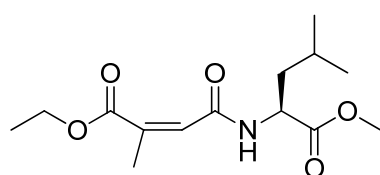
Colorless oil (12.0 mg, 38% yield). $R_f = 0.48$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.05 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.75 (td, $J = 8.4, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.58 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.57 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.11, 163.73, 162.66, 137.84, 129.01, 60.92 (q, $J = 36$ Hz, 1C), 52.62, 51.24, 41.83, 25.02, 22.80, 22.07. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{F}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 326.1210, found: 326.1220. $[\alpha]_D^{21} -26.6$ ($c = 0.67$ g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(*S,Z*)-2-(4-Oxo-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)but-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester

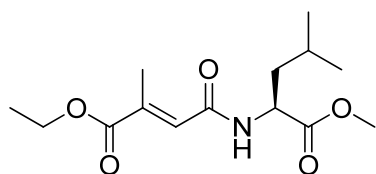
(3f-2)

Colorless oil (17.0 mg, 54% yield). $R_f = 0.26$ (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, $J = 12.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.70–4.65 (m, 1H), 4.62–4.53 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.74–1.60 (m, 3H), 0.96 (br, 3H), 0.96 (br, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.12, 164.27, 163.29, 138.51, 124.31, 61.08 (q, $J = 36$ Hz, 1C), 52.41, 51.20, 41.53, 24.92, 22.76, 22.08. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{F}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 326.1210, found: 326.1218. $[\alpha]_D^{21} -22.2$ ($c = 0.6$ g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



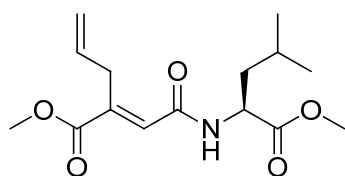
(*S,Z*)-2-(4-Ethoxy-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3g-1)

Colorless oil (15.0 mg, 53% yield). R_f = 0.52 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.82 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (td, J = 8.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.27 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 2.27–1.53 (m, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.45, 167.51, 165.21, 140.55, 128.97, 61.51, 52.43, 50.69, 41.62, 24.95, 22.80, 21.97, 14.18, 13.97. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 286.1649, found: 286.1637. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –37.3 (c = 1.93 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).



(*S,E*)-2-(4-Ethoxy-3-methyl-4-oxobut-2-enamido)-4-methylpentanoic acid methyl ester (3g-2)

Colorless oil (4.0 mg, 14% yield). R_f = 0.19 (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate, 2/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.50 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (q, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (td, J = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.32–4.24 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.04 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.70–1.54 (m, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.45, 168.98, 164.12, 140.68, 125.76, 61.53, 52.36, 50.82, 41.83, 24.92, 22.81, 22.20, 20.86, 14.04. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 308.1474, found: 308.1476. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –25.5 (c = 0.2 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).

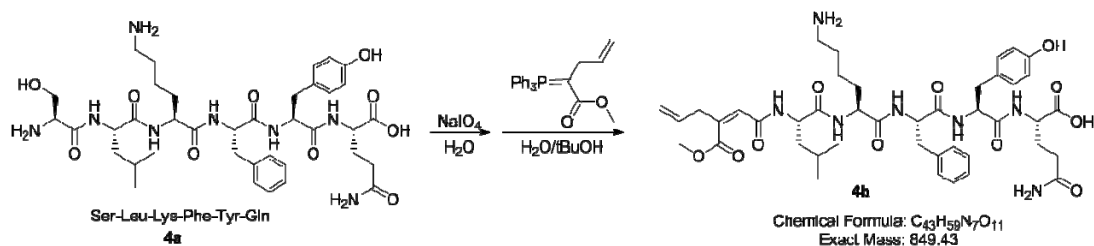


(*S,E*)-2-(2-((1-Methoxy-4-methyl-1-oxopentan-2-yl)amino)-2-oxoethylidene)pent-4-enoic acid methyl ester (3h**)**

Colorless oil (20.0 mg, 67% yield). R_f = 0.35 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 3/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (ddt, J = 16.4, 10.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.13–5.04 (m, 2H), 4.78 (td, J = 8.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.72–1.54 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.54, 167.60, 164.98, 141.28, 135.30, 130.60, 116.66, 52.83, 52.75, 51.04, 41.84, 31.85, 25.24, 23.06, 22.28. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 298.1654, found: 298.1647. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –39.8 (c = 1.33 g/100 mL, CH_3OH).

Modification of peptides by Wittig reaction

To a solution of peptide **4a** or **5a** (10 mM) in H_2O (0.5 mL) was added NaIO_4 (2.1 mg, 10 mM, 2.0 eq.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 0.5 h, ylide **2h** (5.6 mg, 15 mM, 3.0 eq.) and *t*-BuOH (0.5 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred at 37 °C. The reaction was finished within 0.5 h which was followed by LC-MS/MS analysis.



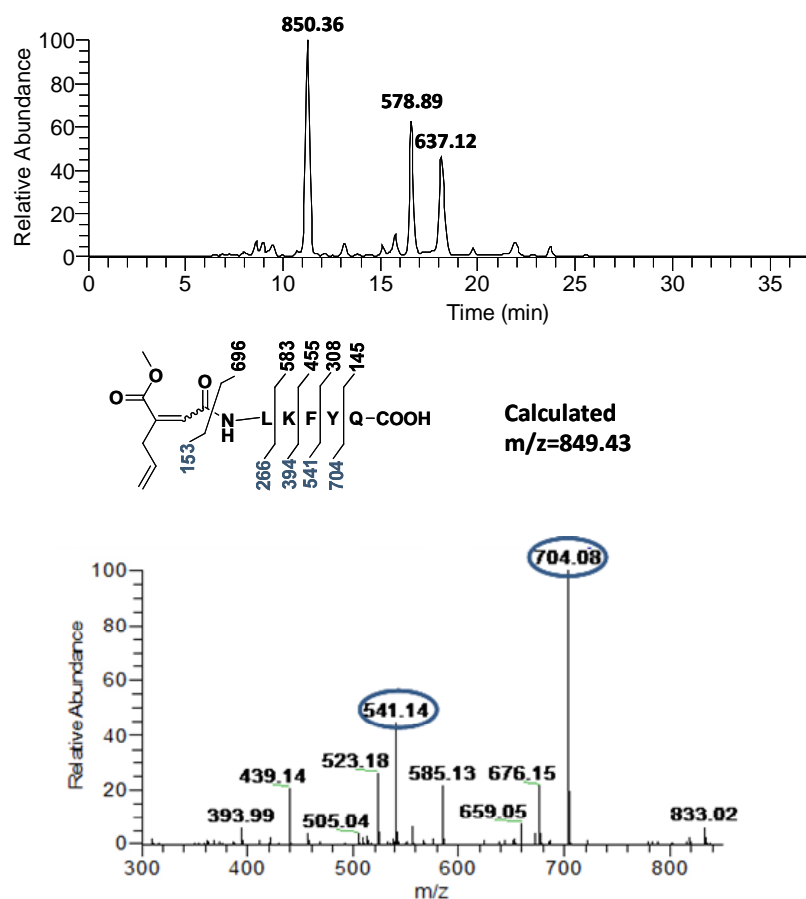
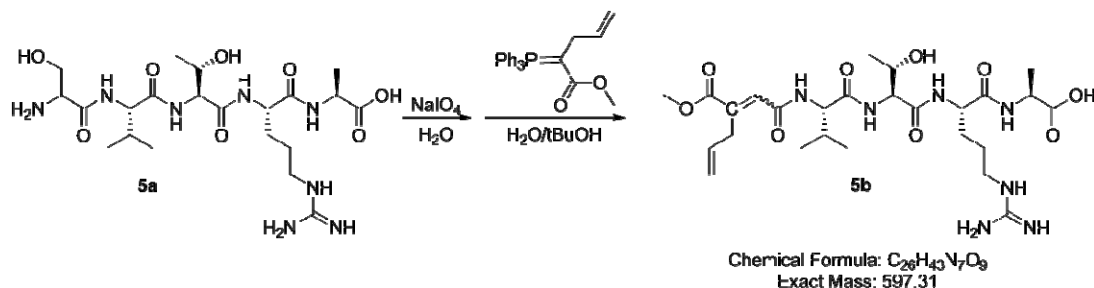


Figure S1: Modification of peptide **4a**. **a)** BPI chromatogram for modified peptide **4b**. The peak of $[M+H]^+$ for **4b** was 850.36. The other two peaks at 578.89 and 637.12 which were present in the functionalizations of both **4a** and **5a**, were not generated by peptides. **b)** The MS/MS spectra for the peak at 850.36. The peaks marked in blue were the identical fragmentation patterns that were consistent with modified peptide **4b**.



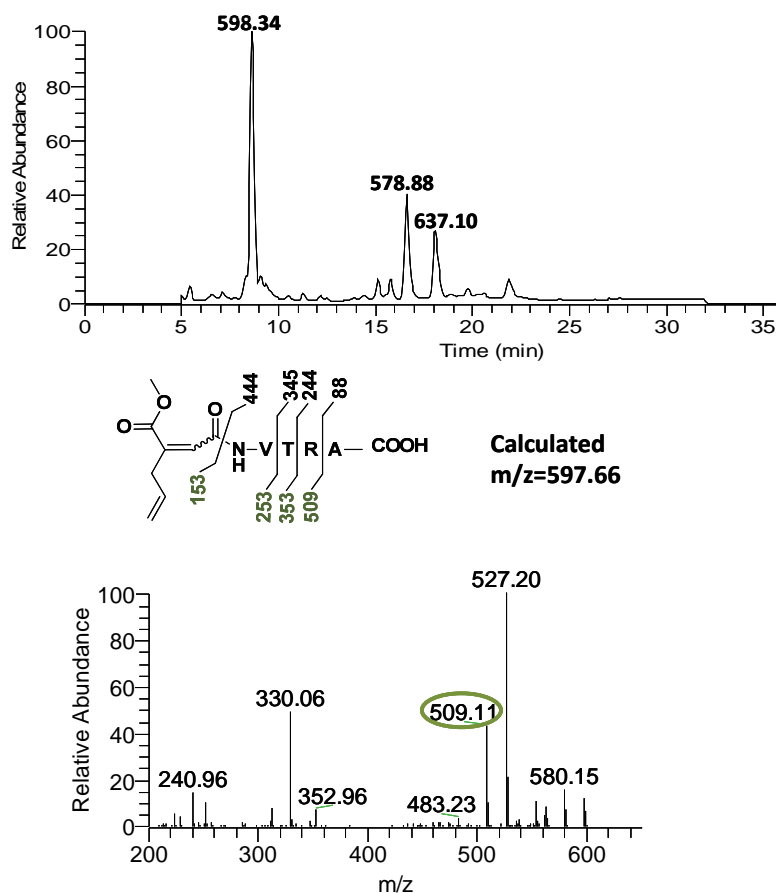


Figure S2: Modification of peptide **5a**. **a)** BPI chromatogram for modified peptide **5b**. The peak of $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for **5b** was 589.34. **b)** The MS/MS spectra for the peak at 589.34. The peak marked in green was the identical fragmentation pattern that was consistent with modified peptide **5b**.

Modification of IL-8 (8-79) by Wittig reaction

To a solution of IL-8 (5.0 μg , 0.60 nmol) in H_2O (16 μL) was added NaIO_4 (1.2 nmol, 0.25 μg). The mixture was allowed to take place at room temperature for 0.5 h, and ylide **2h** (30 nmol, 11.0 μg , 50 eq.) and *t*-BuOH (4 μL) was added. The mixture was incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 0.5 h which was followed by MALDI-TOF analysis.

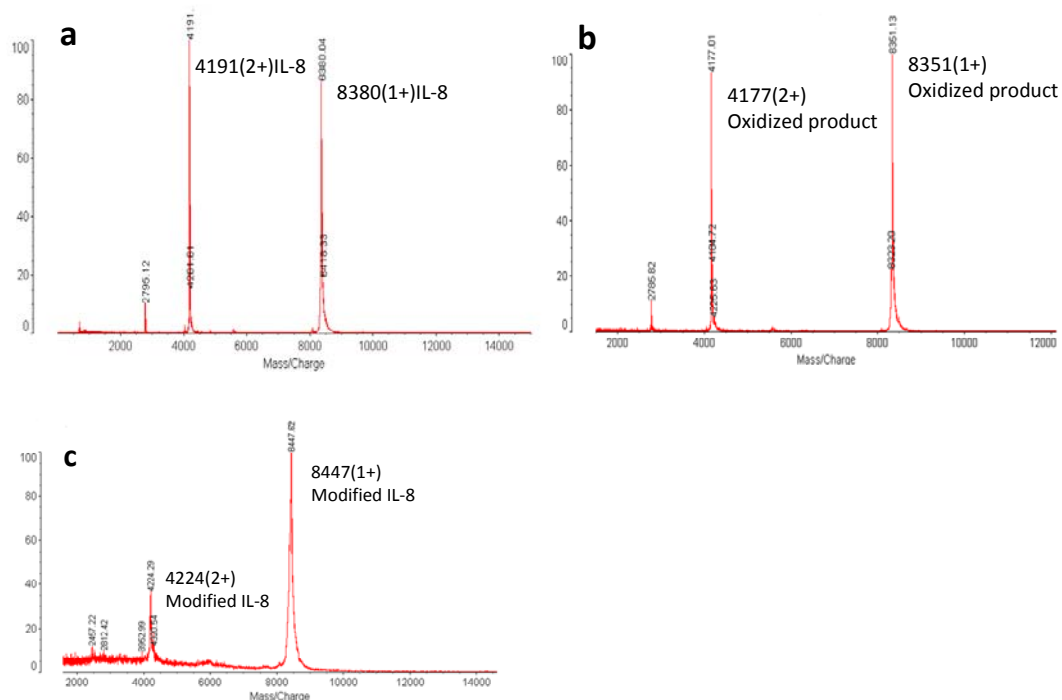
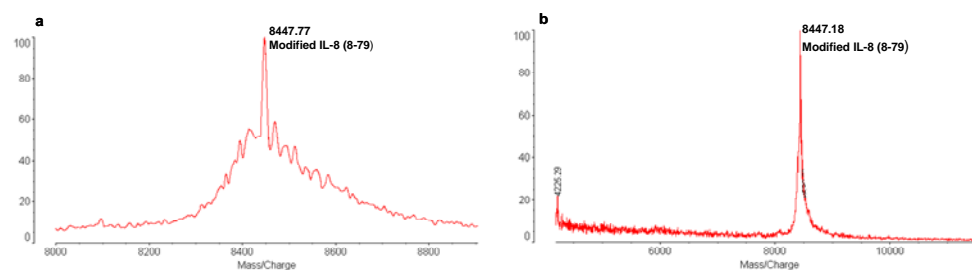


Figure S3: MALDI-TOF analysis of IL-8 modification through Wittig reaction: (a) unmodified IL-8; (b) the oxidized product of IL-8; (c) modified IL-8 by Wittig reaction.

Solvent Studies. The oxidized IL-8 (8-79) (5.0 μ g, 0.60 nmol) containing aldehyde at N-terminus was treated with ylide **2h** (30 nmol, 11.0 μ g, 50eq.), different solvent systems were screened. After proper mixing, the mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 1.5 h followed by MALDI-TOF analysis. The reaction proceeded very well at neutral and basic conditions, and yielded the similar result. However, if the reaction was performed at acidic conditions, no reaction occurred.



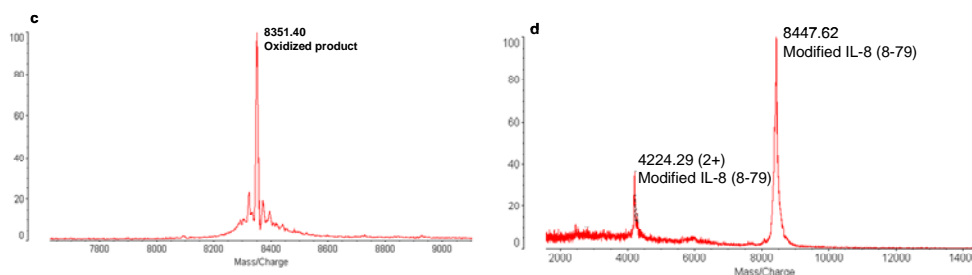


Figure S4. MALDI-TOF analysis of IL-8 modification through Wittig reaction at a) phosphate buffer pH = 7.4; b) phosphate buffer pH = 8, or glycine buffer/NaOH pH = 9, or glycine buffer/NaOH pH = 10; c) phosphate buffer pH < 6; d) H₂O.

Modification of myoglobin by Wittig reaction

To a solution of myoglobin (120 μ L of 250 μ M solution in 25 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 6.5) and phosphate buffer (180 μ L, 25 mM, pH 6.5) in a 1.6 mL eppendorf tube was added a solution of pyridoxal 5'-phosphate (PLP) (300 μ L of 20 mM solution in 2 mM phosphate buffer, pH adjusted to 6.5 with 1M NaOH). After brief agitation for proper mixing, the mixture was incubated at 37 $^{\circ}$ C without further agitation for 18 h. The PLP was removed from the reaction mixture via spin concentration (Microcon® centrifugal filter 10,000MWCO (Millipore, MA)) eluting with water. A aliquot of this purified protein (25 μ L, 60 μ M) was diluted with H₂O (50 μ L), ylide **2h** (28 μ g, 50 eq.) and *t*-BuOH (25 μ L) were added. The mixture was allowed to stand at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 0.5 h without agitation. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (400 μ L), and small molecules were removed via spin concentration (Microcon® centrifugal filter 10,000MWCO (Millipore, MA)). The residue was analyzed by ESI-MS.

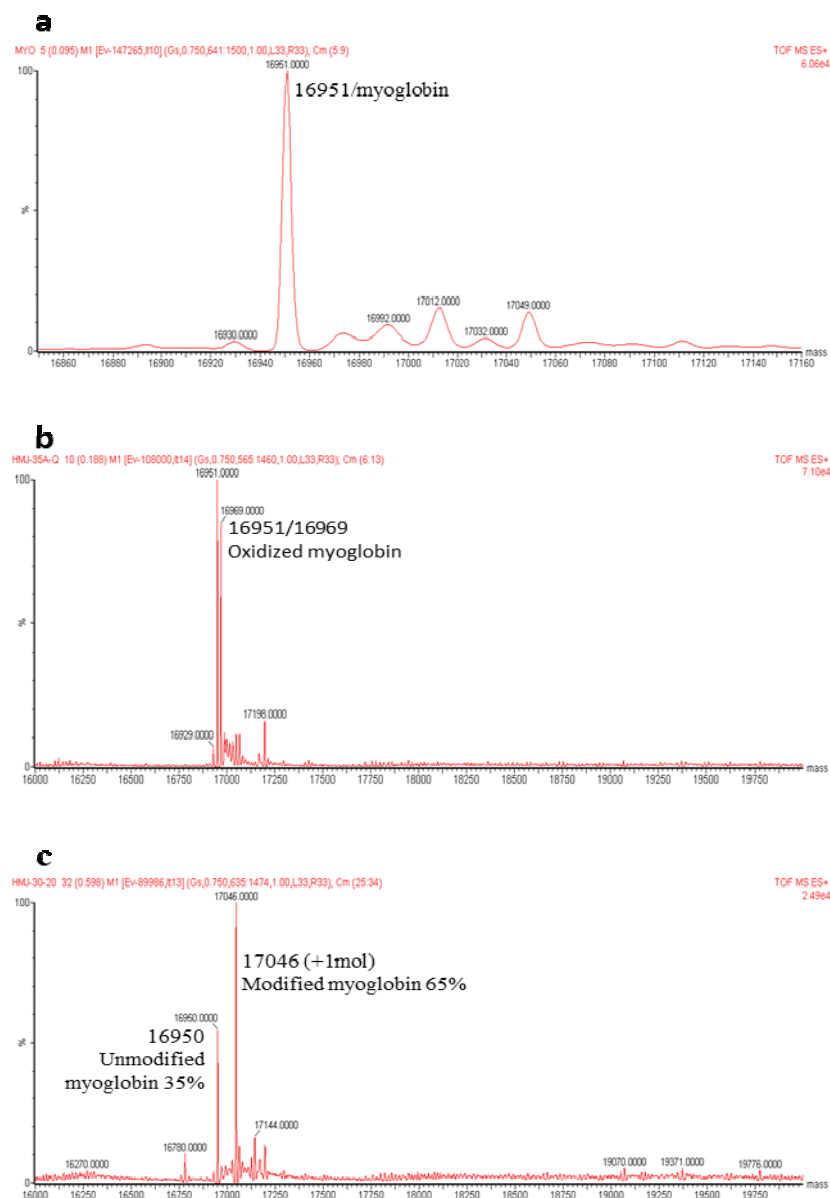


Figure S5: ESI-MS analysis of a) myoglobin; b) myoglobin after oxidation; c) myoglobin after modification by Wittig reaction.

Procedure for Trypsin Digestion of Myoglobin

Tryptic digest was performed by incubating the concentrated protein (20 μ g, 40 μ L) with DTT (10 mM, 10 μ L in 200 mM NH_4HCO_3) at 56 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min. Then, the residue was added iodoacetamide (20 mM) to alkylate for 1h at room temperature. The mixture was added trypsin solution (1 μ g) (Roche). The resulting solution was briefly vortexed, and then incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$

overnight. The peptide fragments were analyzed by MALDI-TOF-TOF (Brukerultraflex).

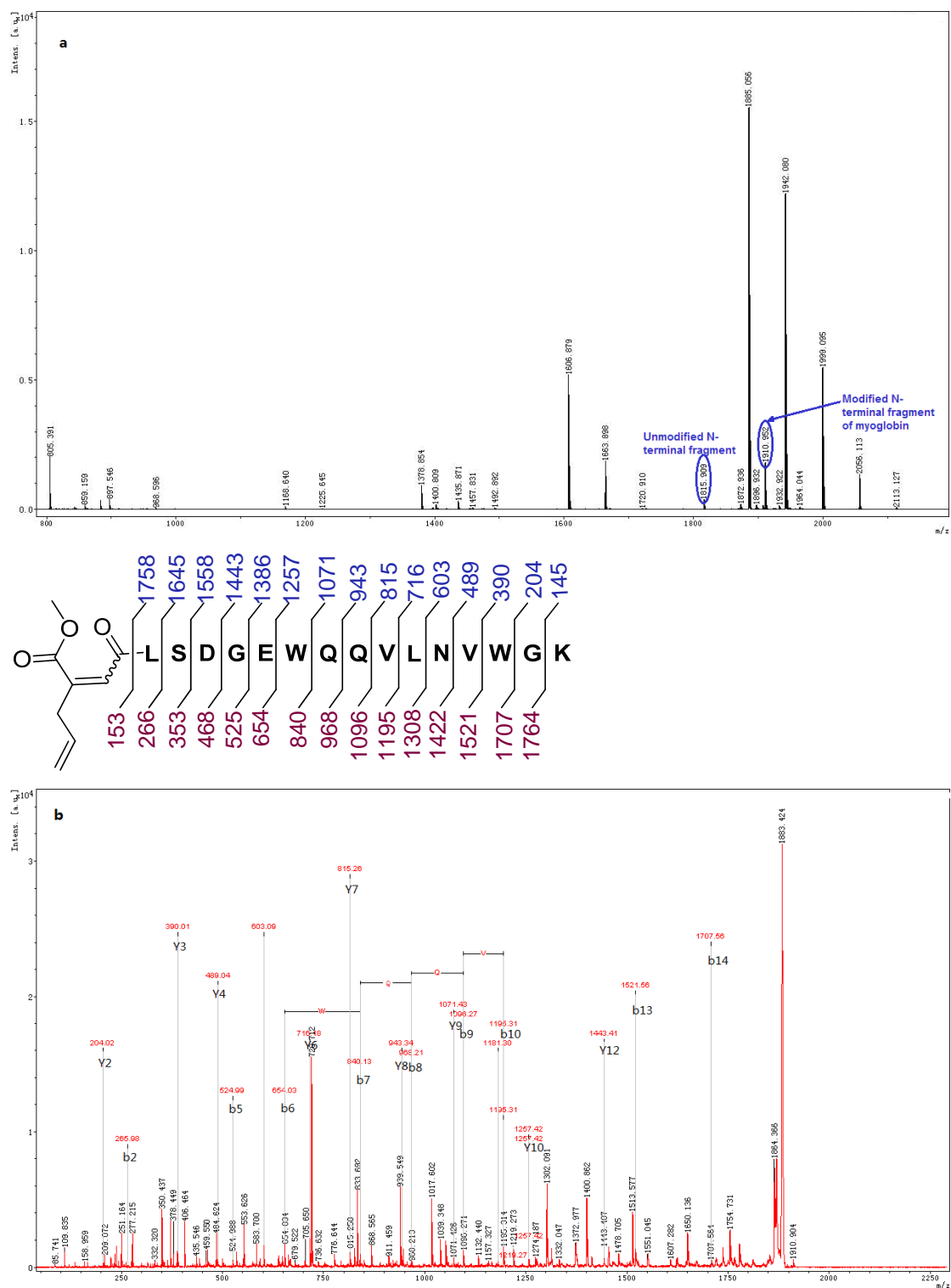


Figure S6: MALDI-TOF-TOF analysis of trypsin digestion of myoglobin. a) MALDI-TOF

analysis of trypsin digest of myoglobin: the N-terminal fragment of unmodified myoglobin

(residues 1-16) GLSDGEWQQVLNVWGK (expected mass = 1814.9, observed mass = 1815.9);

the N-terminal peptide of modified myoglobin by Wittig reaction (residues 1-16) (expected mass = 1910.2, observed mass = 1910.9). b) MALDI-TOF-TOF analysis of Wittig reaction modified N-terminal fragment (residues 1-16).

UV-Vis Spectroscopy. The myoglobin modified by Wittig reaction was analyzed by UV-Vis spectra. The strong absorbance at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 410$ nm revealed that the heme moiety bound to myoglobin. The UV-Vis spectra obtained from the modified and unmodified samples were in good agreement with each other.

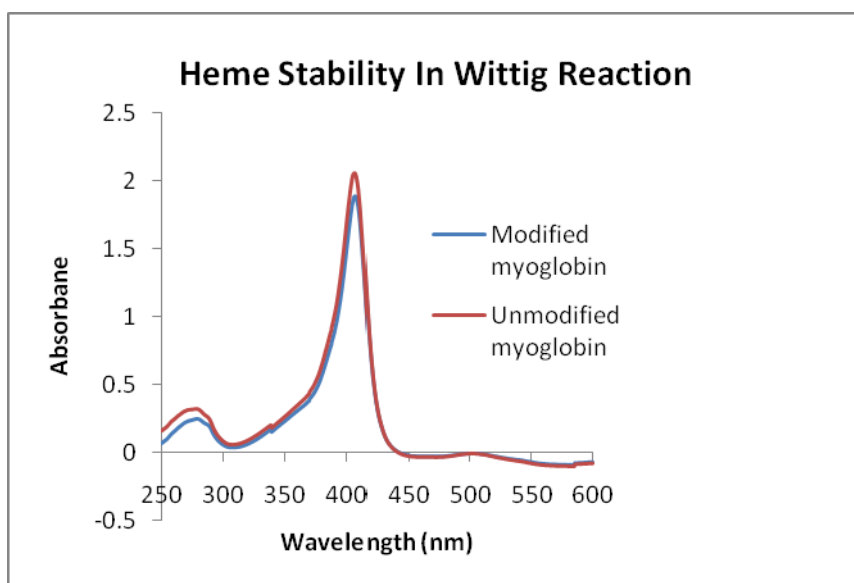


Figure S7: The UV-Vis spectra of the myoglobin before and after modification

Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy. A solution of myoglobin sample (15 μM) in H_2O (100 μL) was detected. Circular dichroism spectra were recorded with Pistar π -180 from Applied Photophysics Ltd spectrophotometer. Sample solutions were placed in quartz cell, and the average of three scans from 190 to 260 nm was reported. The ellipticity values were plotted against wavelength using Pro-Data Pistar software. The ultraviolet CD spectrum presented by the modified myoglobin demonstrated that the secondary structure of the modified protein was undamaged through the functionlization of Wittig reaction.

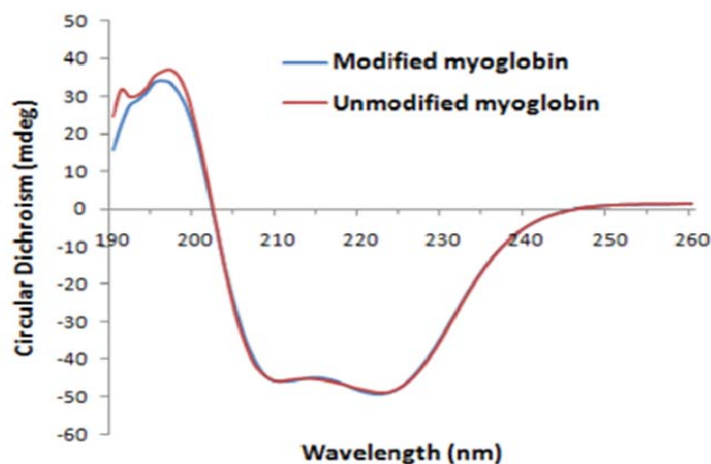


Figure S8: The CD spectra of the myoglobin before and after modification

Evaluation of the function of modified myoglobin for storing and releasing oxygen

The modified myoglobin by Wittig reaction and a control sample of myoglobin were dissolved in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (100 μ L, pH 7.4), making the concentration of proteins to be 80 μ M. The visible spectra (450 nm-700 nm) of two samples were analyzed directly (Figure S9a). Sodium hydrosulfite (1.14 M, 20 μ L) was added to the solution. After brief agitation, the mixture was incubated at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 20 min. The visible spectrum of the residue was analyzed (Figure S9b). The spectrum showed that the modified myoglobin could release oxygen at reductive conditions. Small molecules were removed via spin concentration (Microcon[®] centrifugal filter 10,000MWCO (Millipore, MA)), and the visible spectrum was analyzed (Figure S9c), which indicated that modified myoglobin could store oxygen in the presence of oxygen. The identical traces demonstrated that the function of myoglobin was not influenced after the modification by Wittig reaction. The color changes were also collected at each case, providing a good evidence for the conclusion.

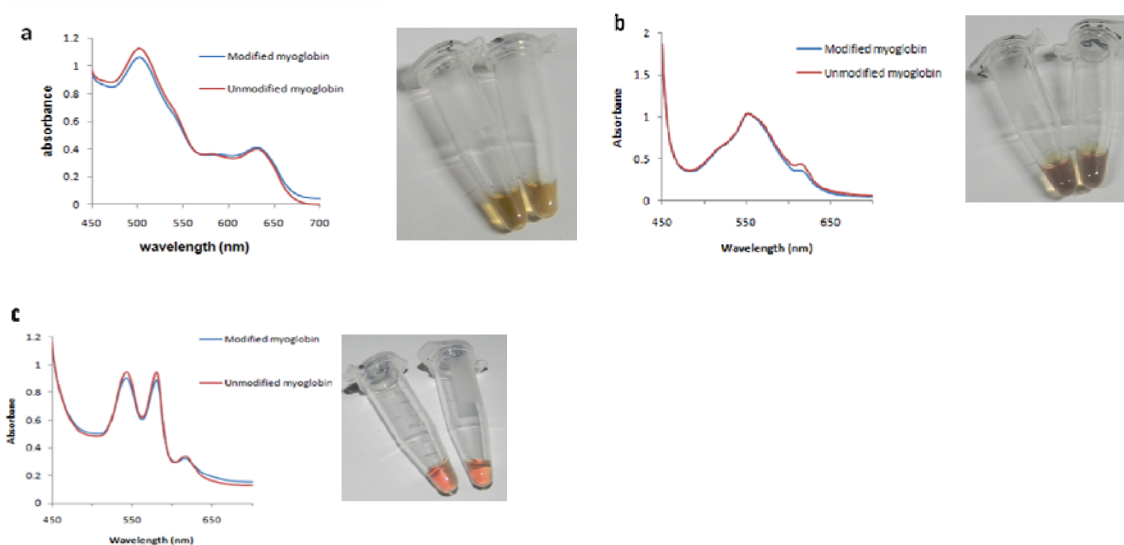


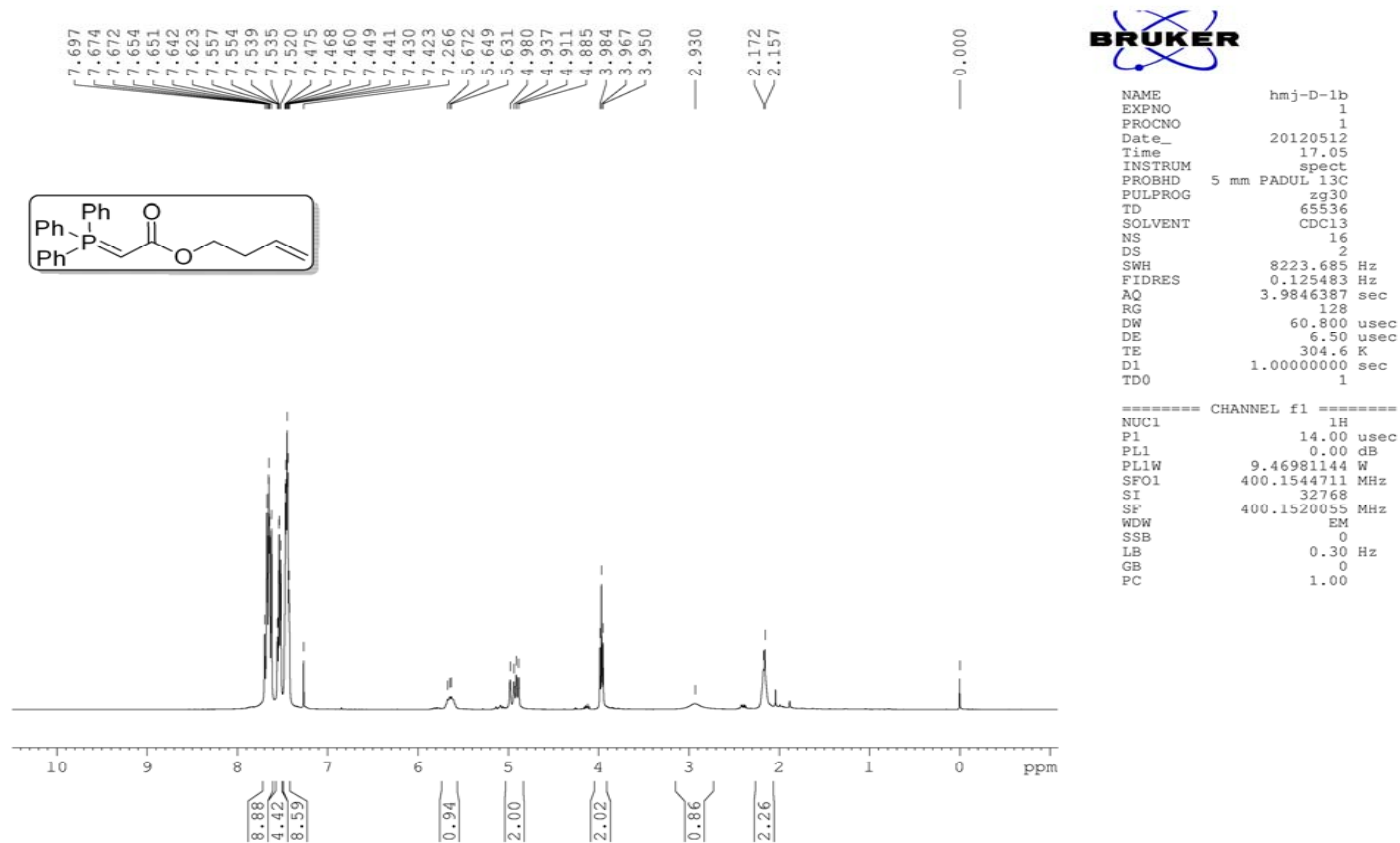
Figure S9: UV-Vis spectra and the color changes of a) myoglobin and modified myoglobin; (b) releasing and (c) storing oxygen function of the modified and unmodified myoglobin.

References

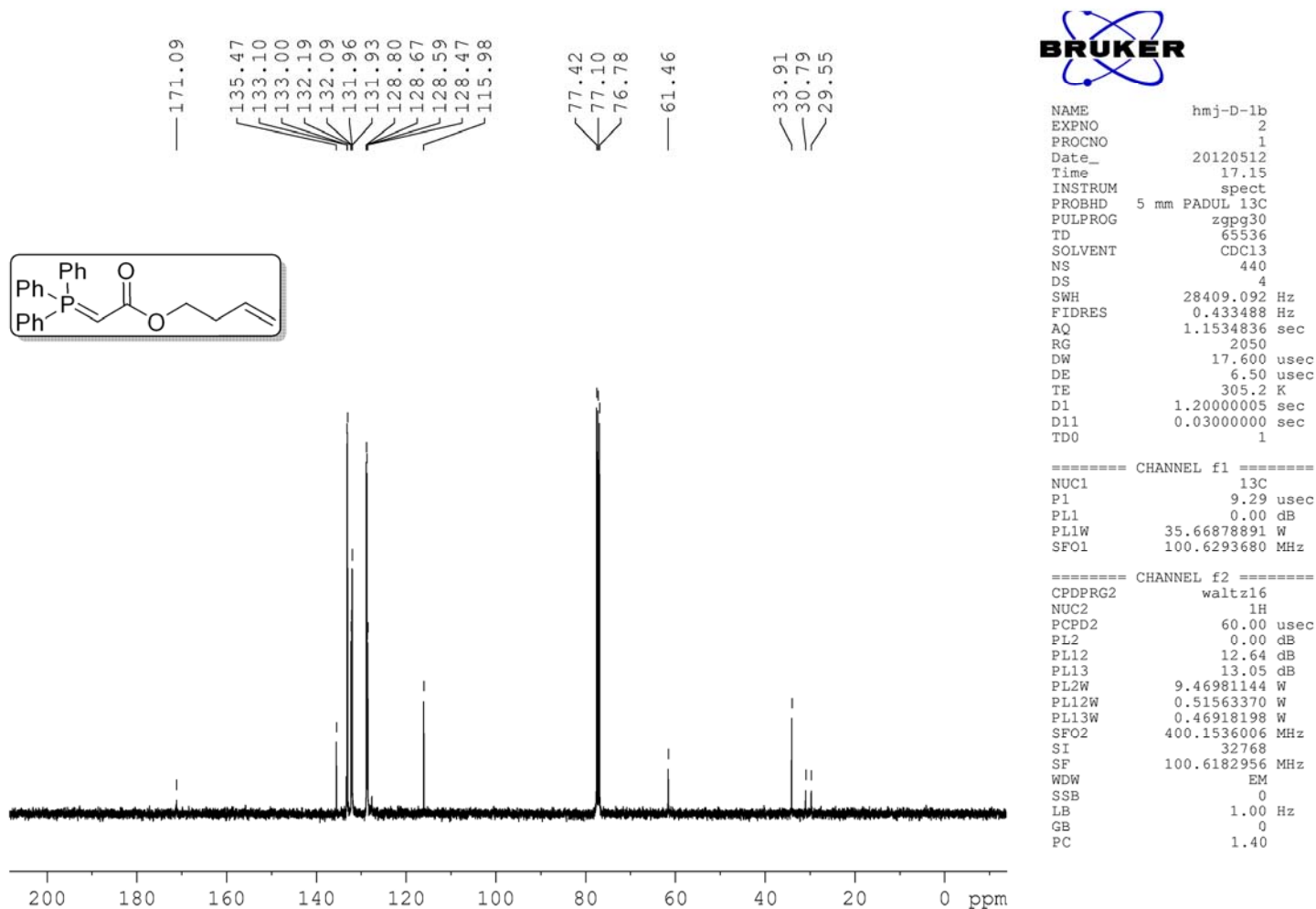
1. Werkhoven, T. M.; van Nispen, R.; Lugtenburg, J. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, 2909-2914.
2. Duan, S. W.; Lu, H. H.; Zhang, F. G.; Xuan, J.; Chen, J. R.; Xiao, W. J. *Synthesis* **2011**, 1847-1852.
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4. Yamazaki, S.; Yamada, K.; Yamamoto, K. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2004**, *2*, 257-264.
5. (a) Schmidt-Leithoff, J.; Brückner, R. *Synlett.* **2006**, 2641-2645; (b) Zhu, X. F.; Henry, C. E.; Wang, J.; Dudding, T.; Kwon, O., *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 1387-1390.
6. Amonkar, C. P.; Tilve, S. G. Parameswaran, P. S., *Synthesis*, **2005**, 2341-2344.
7. (a) Alam, J.; Keller, T. H.; Loh, T. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 9546-9548; (b) Johnson, T. B.; Coward, J. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1987**, *52*, 1771-1779.
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¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds

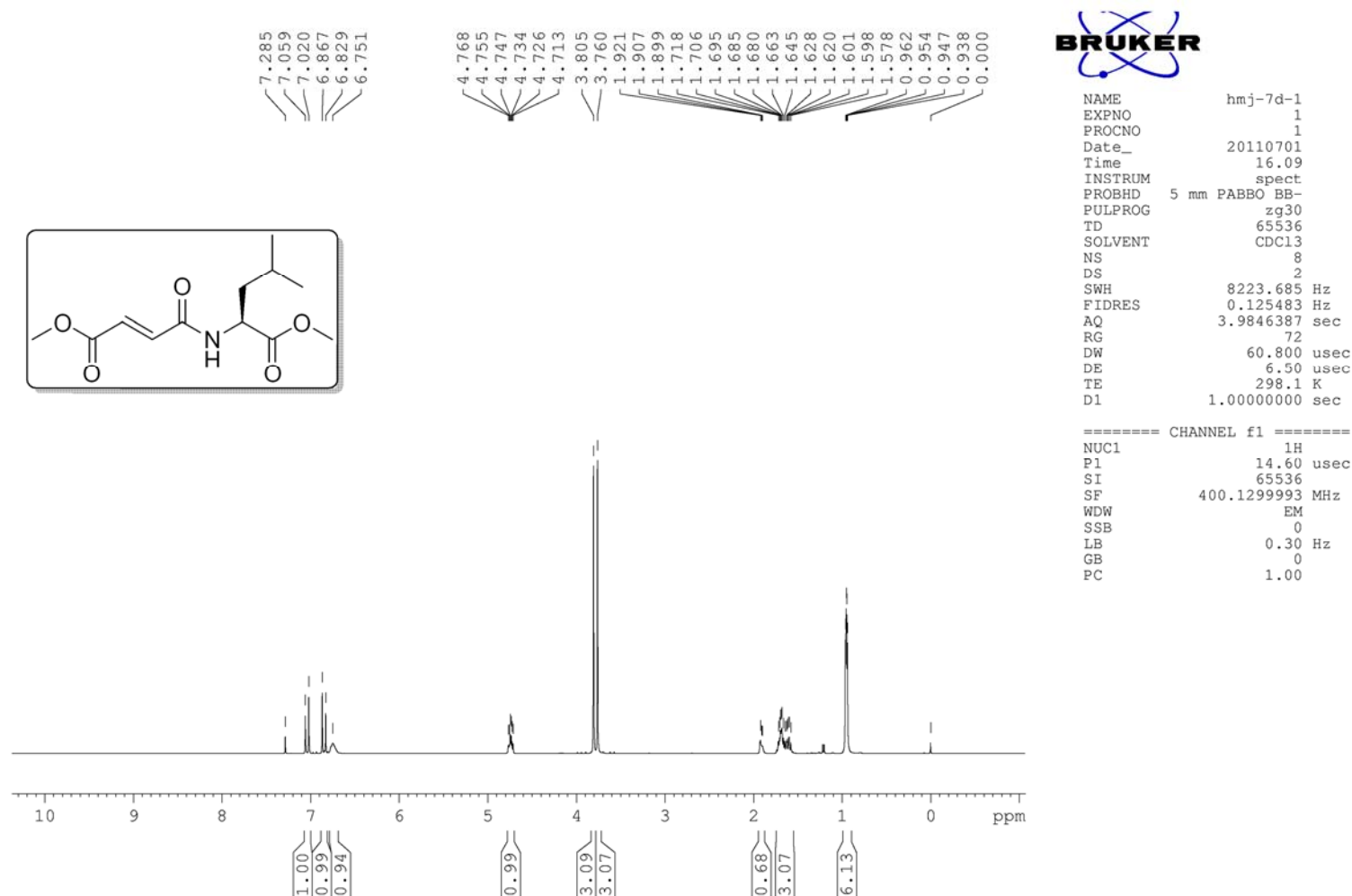
¹H NMR of 2d



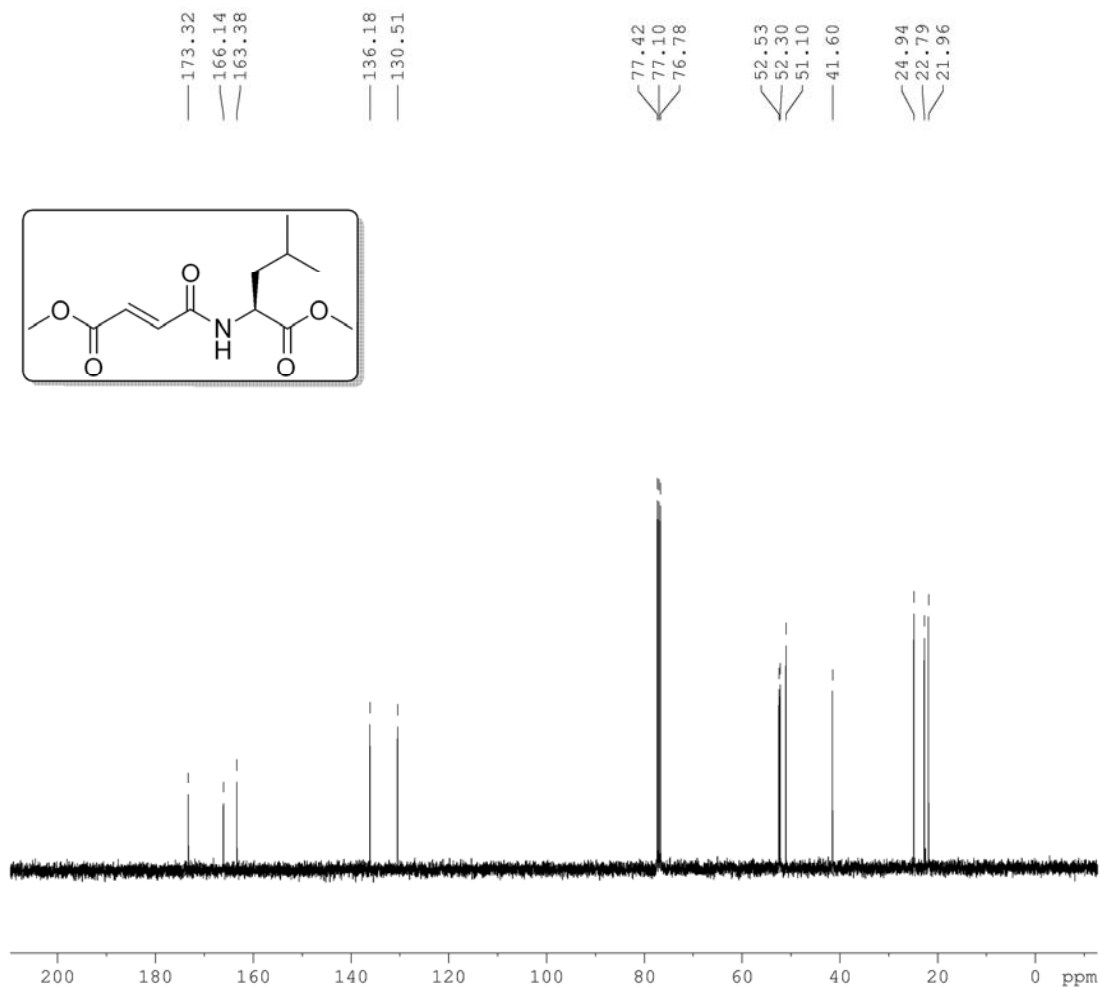
¹³C NMR of **2d**



¹H NMR of **3a-1**



^{13}C NMR of **3a-1**



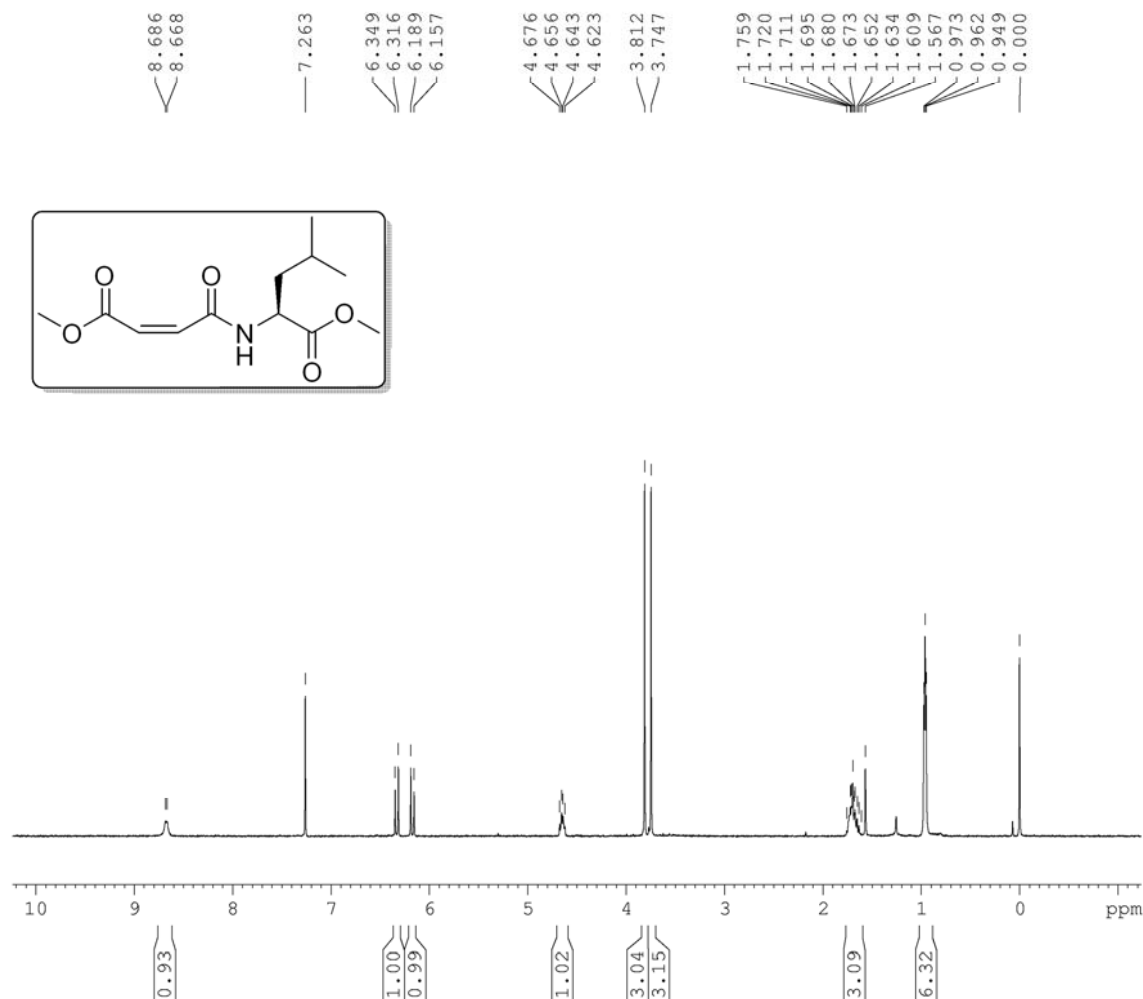
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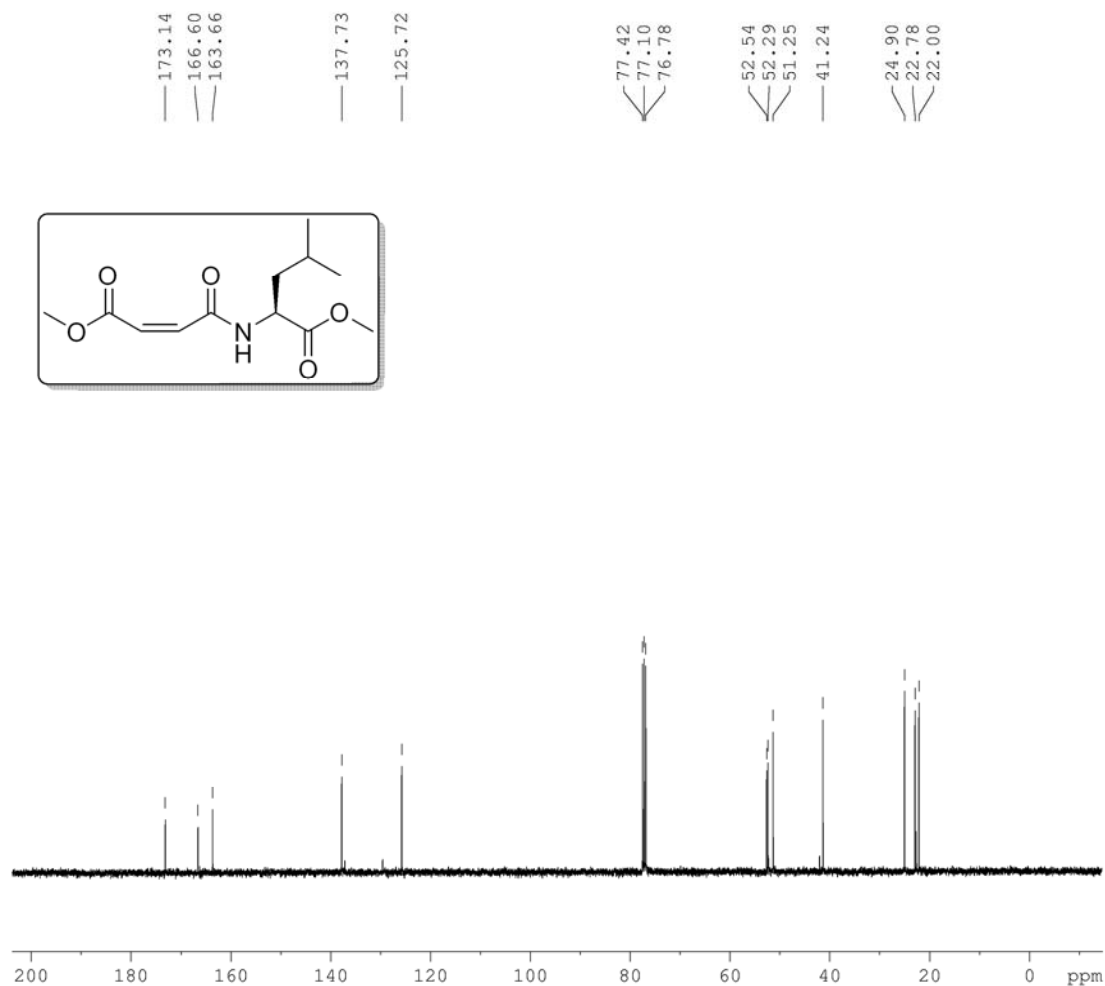


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¹³C NMR of **3a-2**



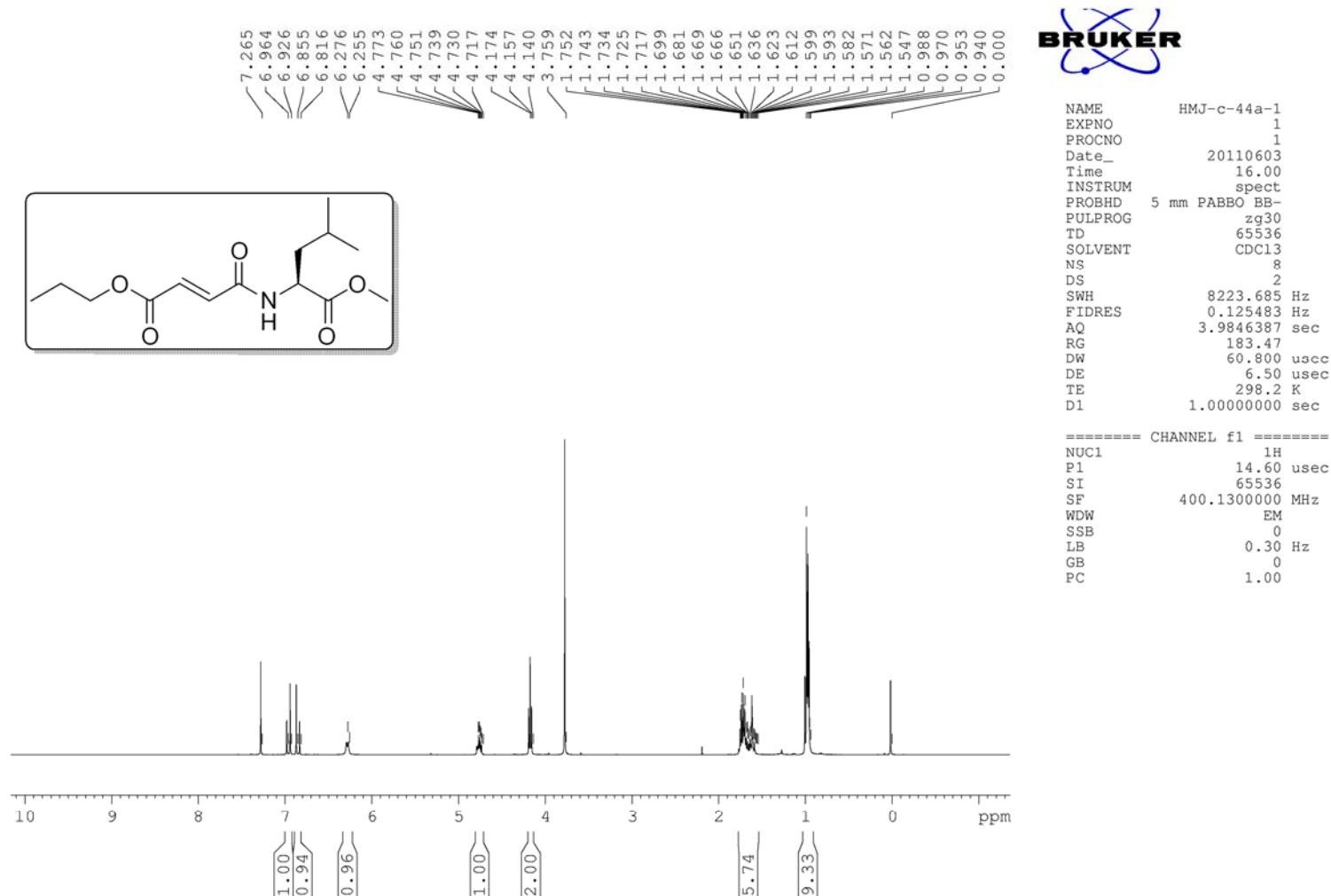
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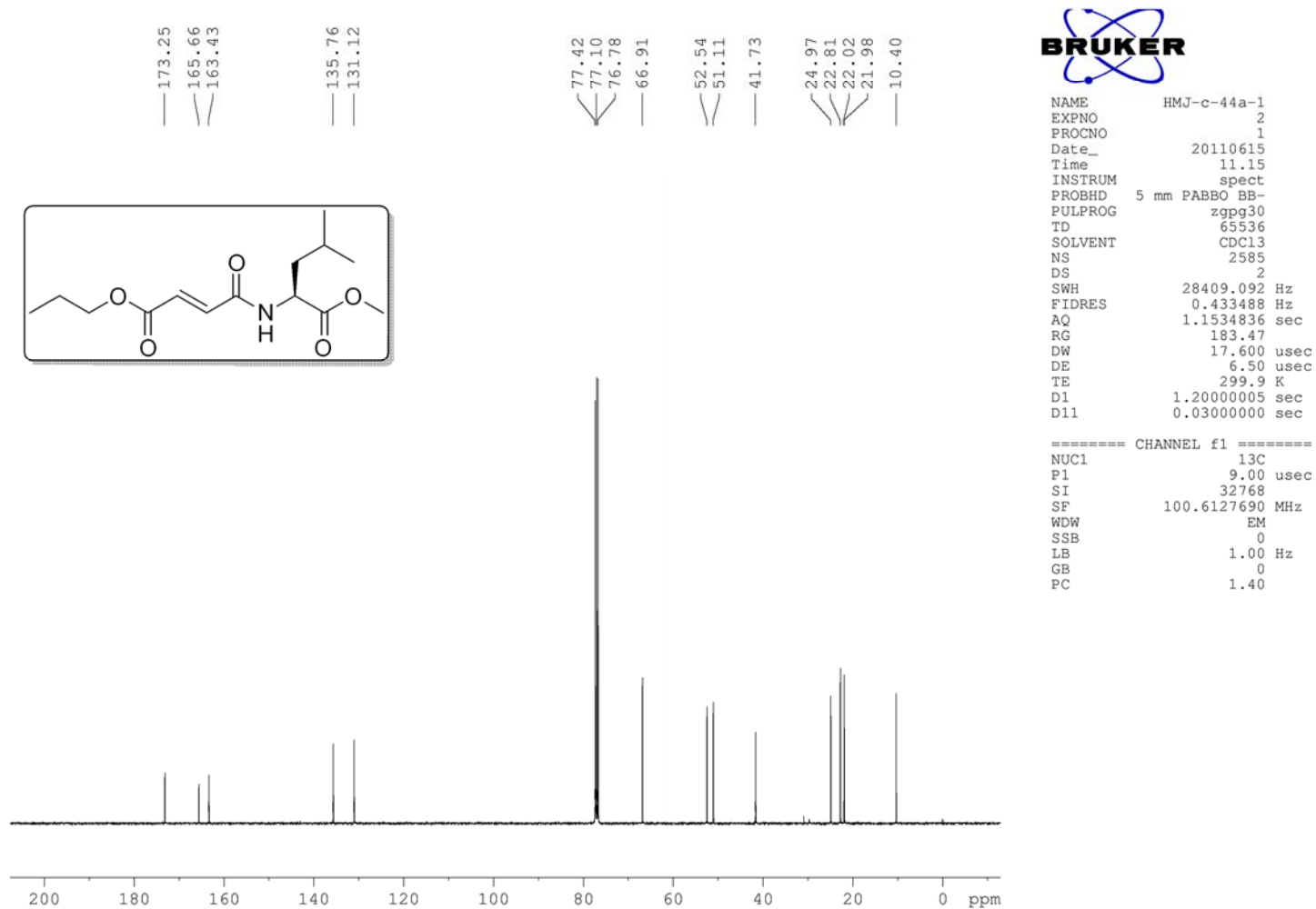
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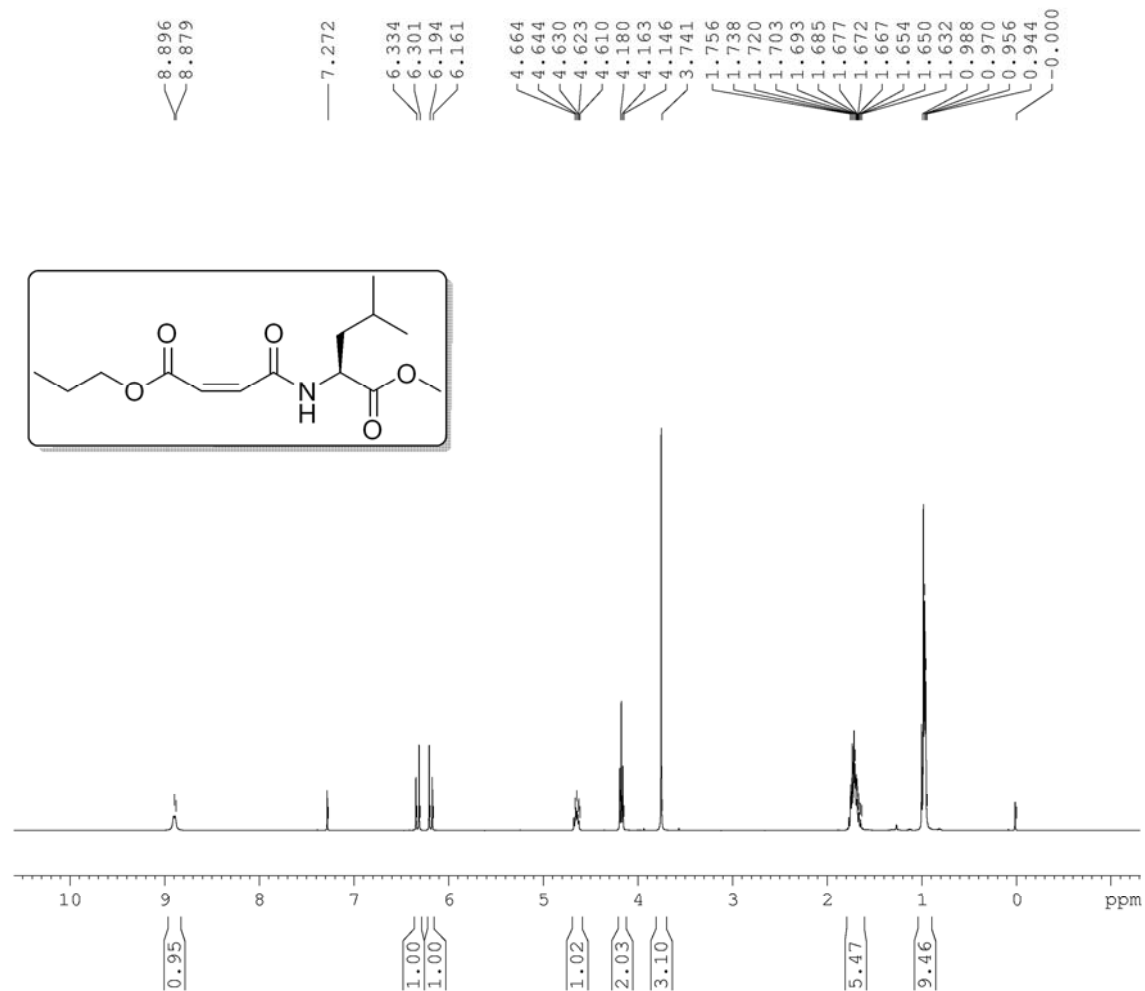
¹H NMR of **3b-1**



^{13}C NMR of **3b-1**



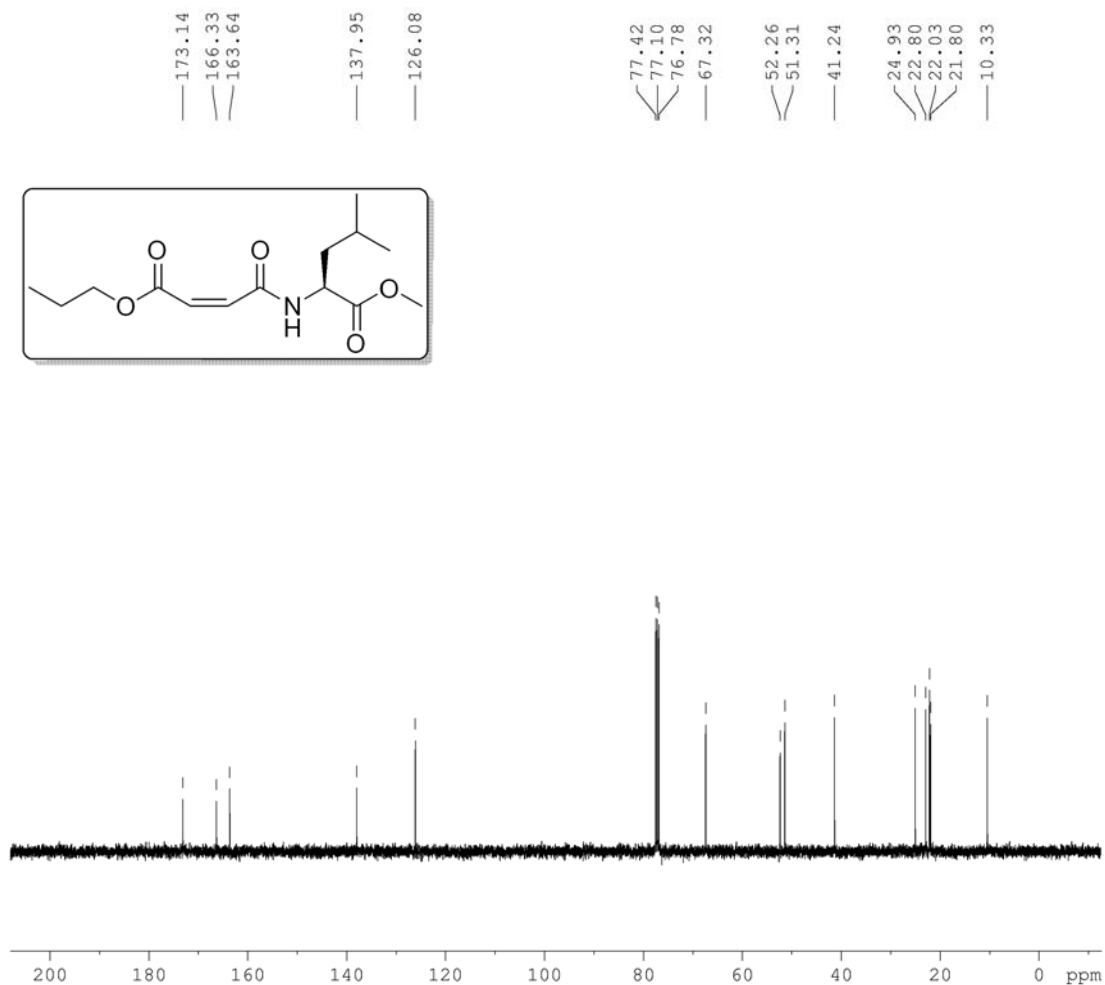
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^{13}C NMR of **3b-2**



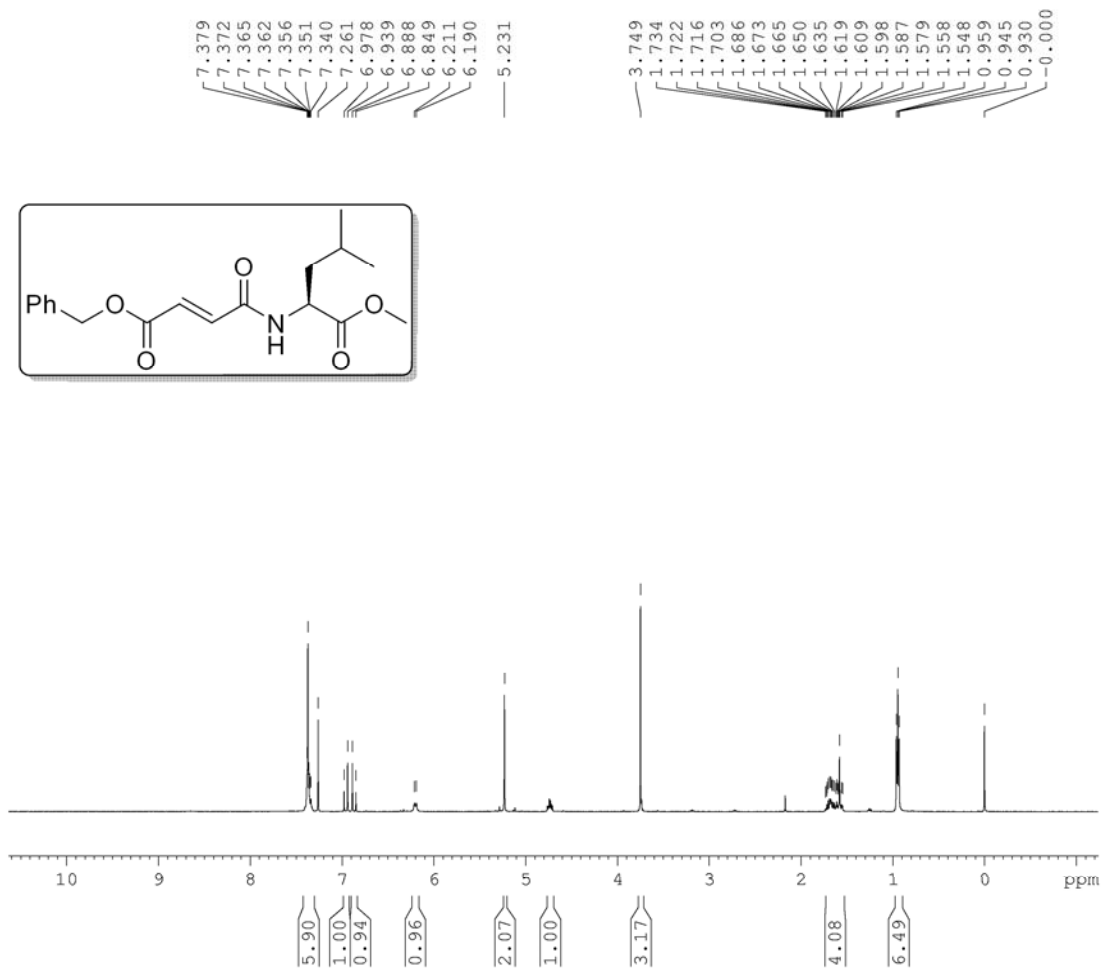
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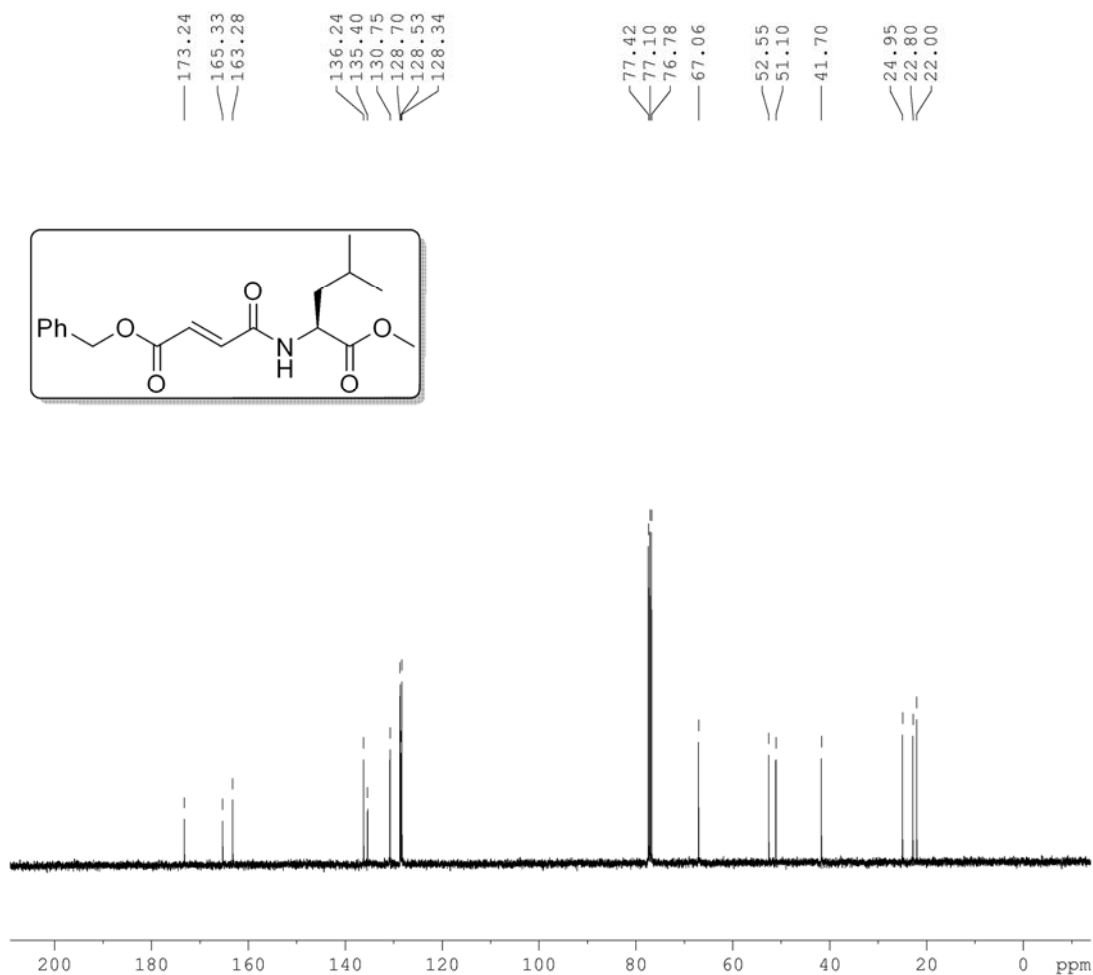
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^{13}C NMR of **3c-1**



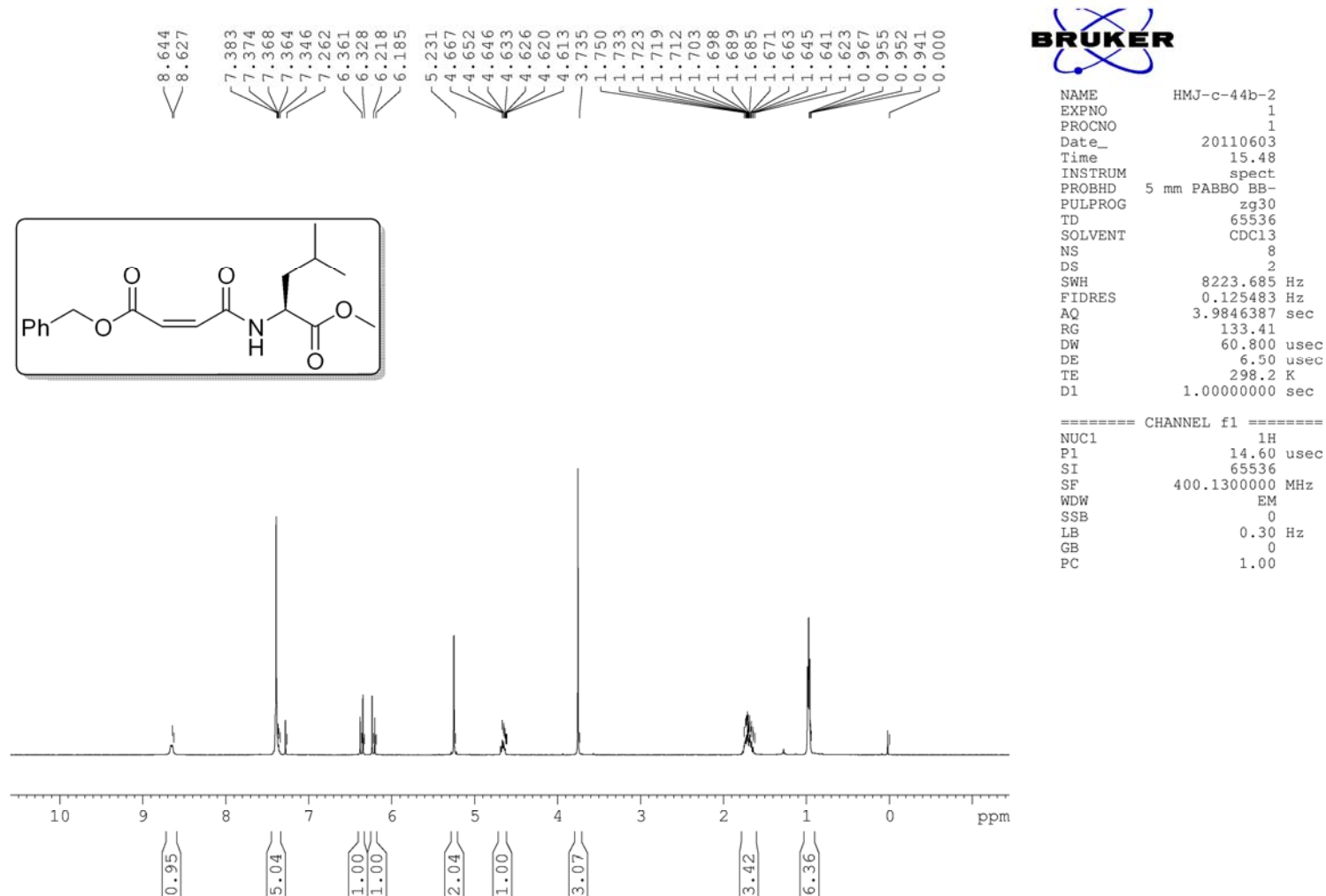
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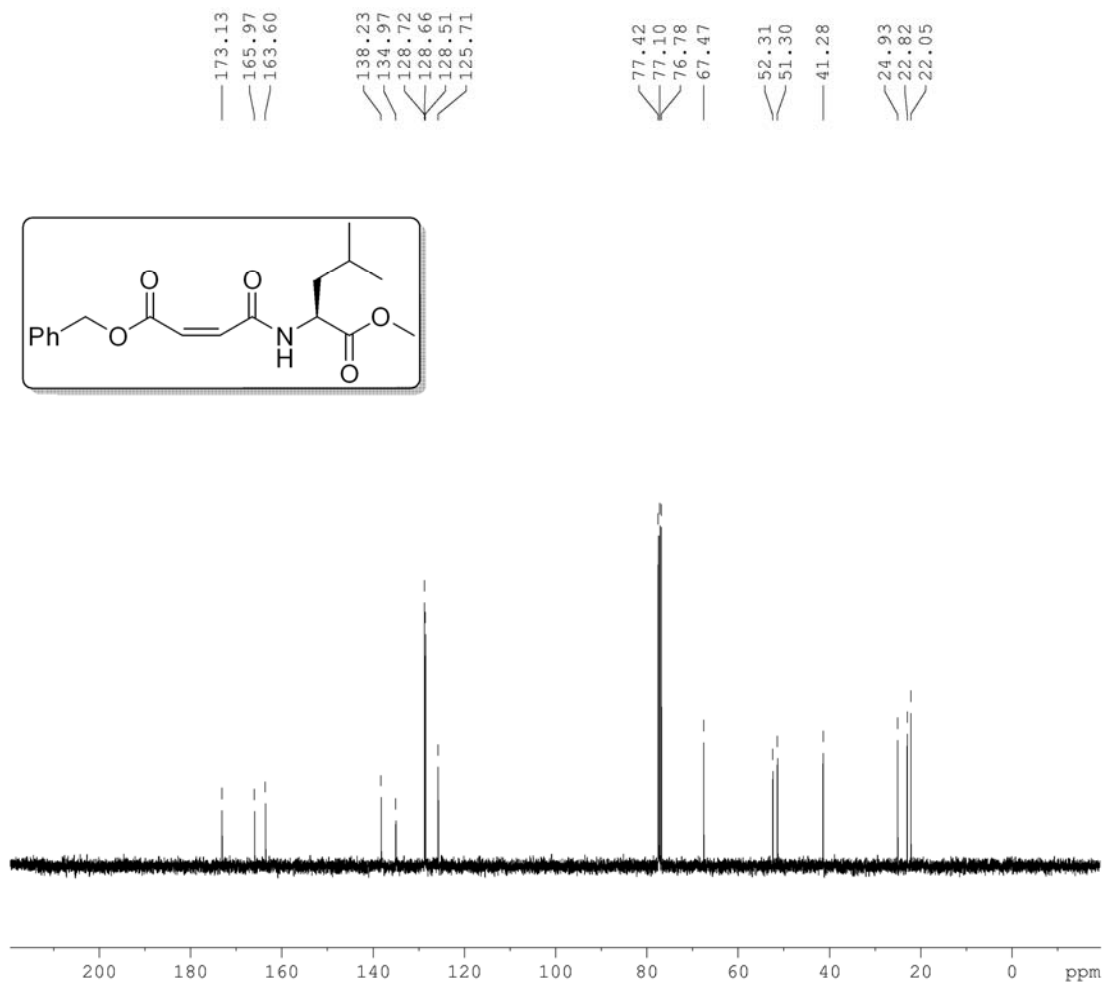
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¹H NMR of **3c-2**



^{13}C NMR of **3c-2**



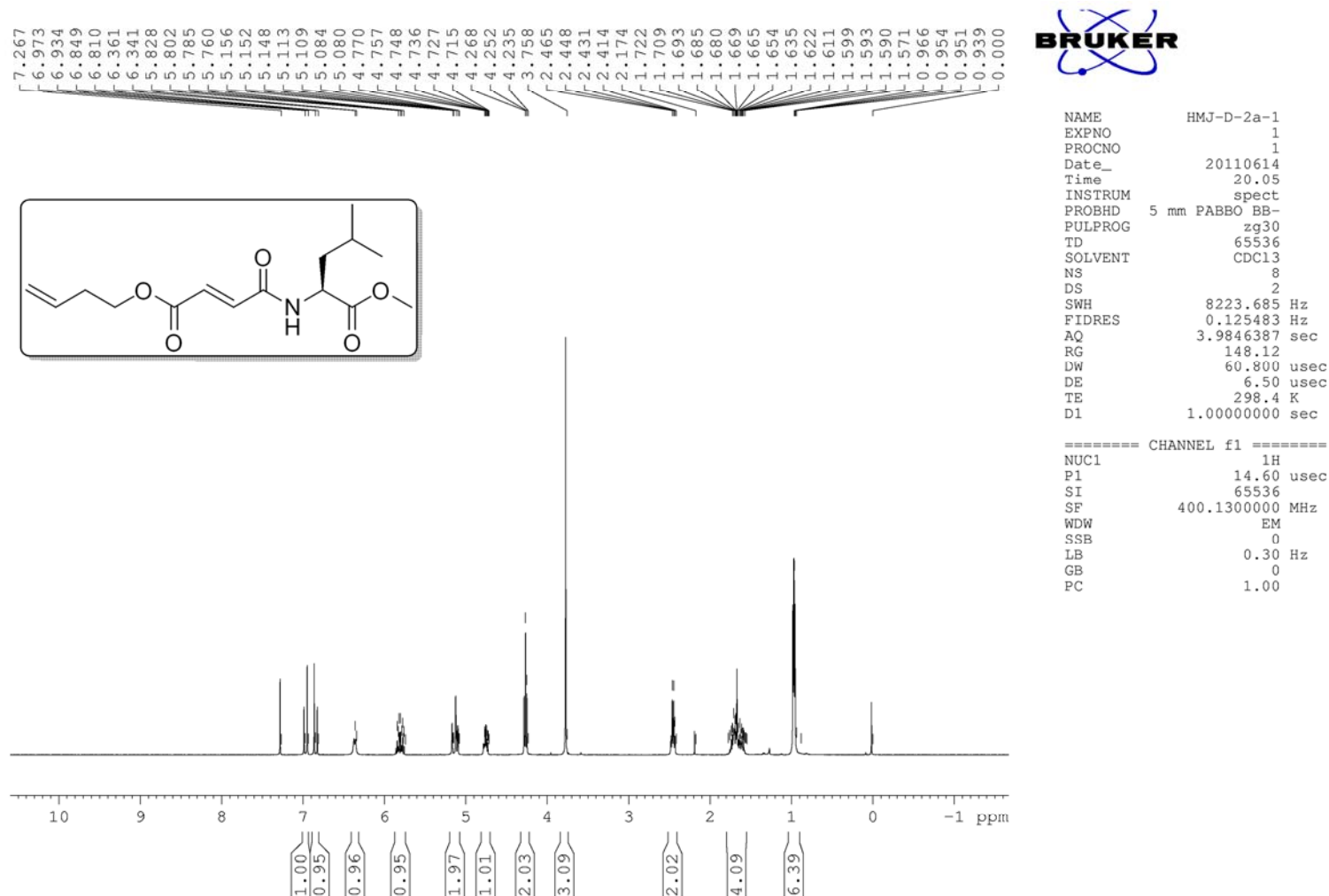
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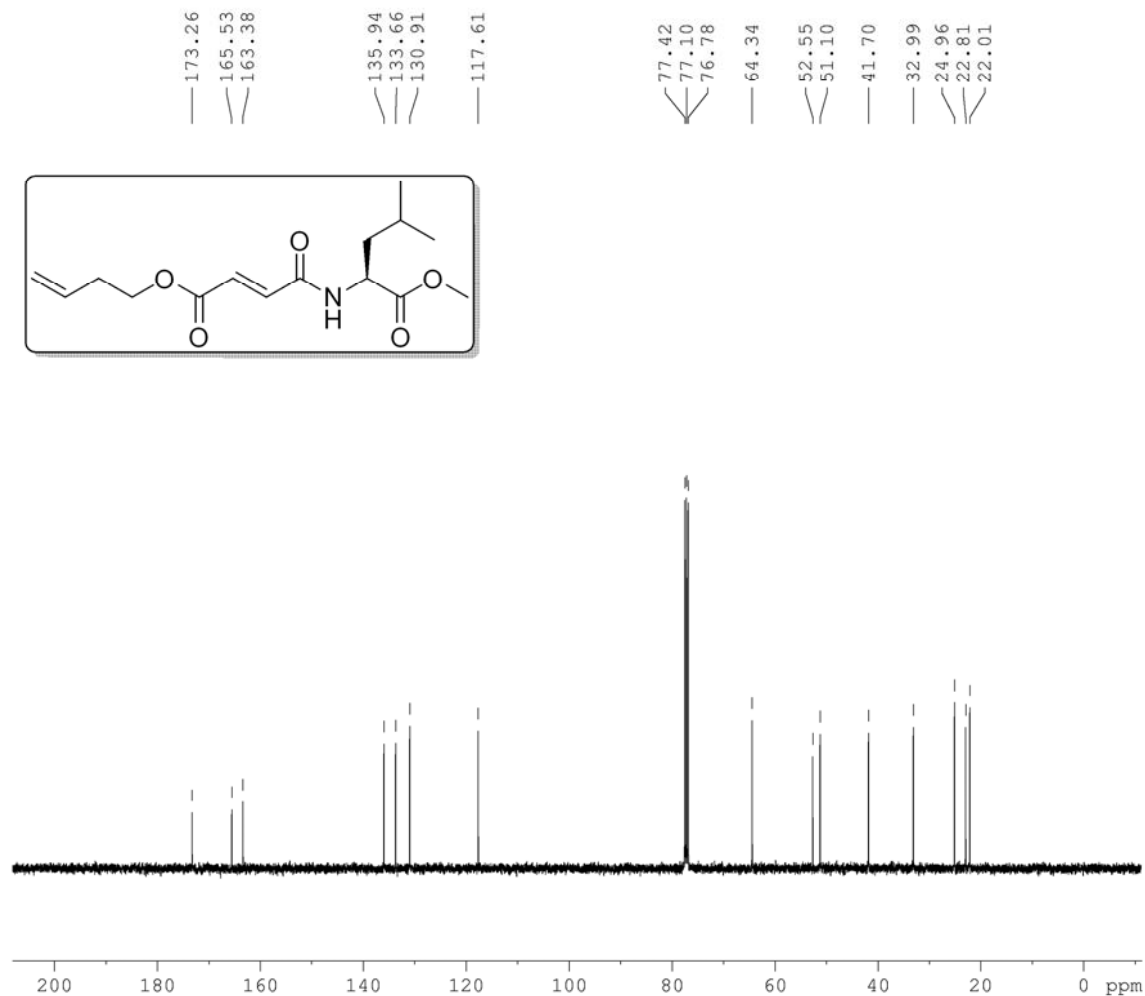
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¹H NMR of **3d-1**



¹³C NMR of **3d-1**



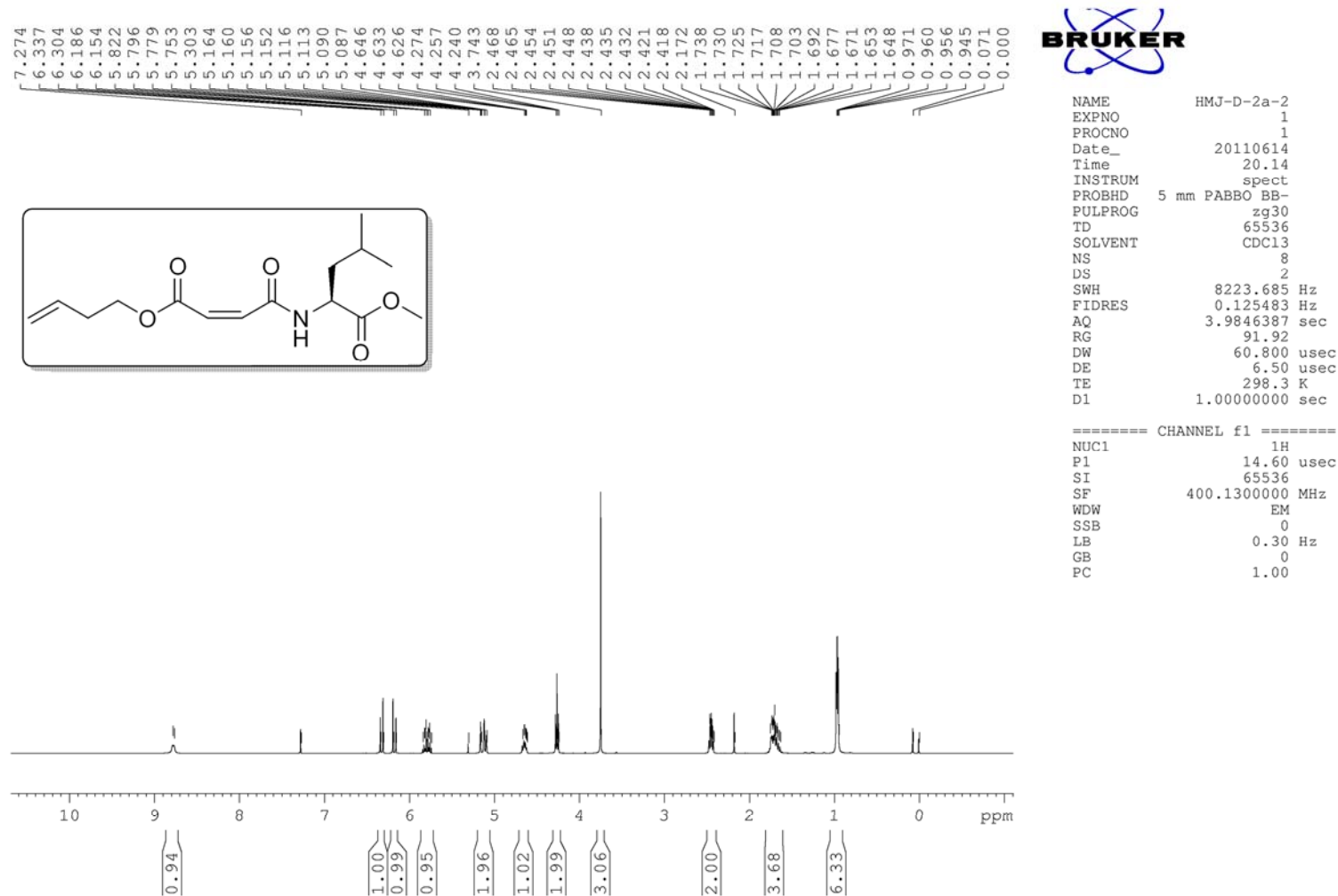
```

NAME      HMJ-D-2a-1
EXPNO     2
PROCNO    1
Date_     20110617
Time      11.08
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zgpg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT   CDC13
NS        198
DS        4
SWH       28409.092 Hz
FIDRES    0.433488 Hz
AQ        1.1534836 sec
RG        183.47
DW        17.600 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        300.2 K
D1        1.20000005 sec
D11       0.03000000 sec
    
```

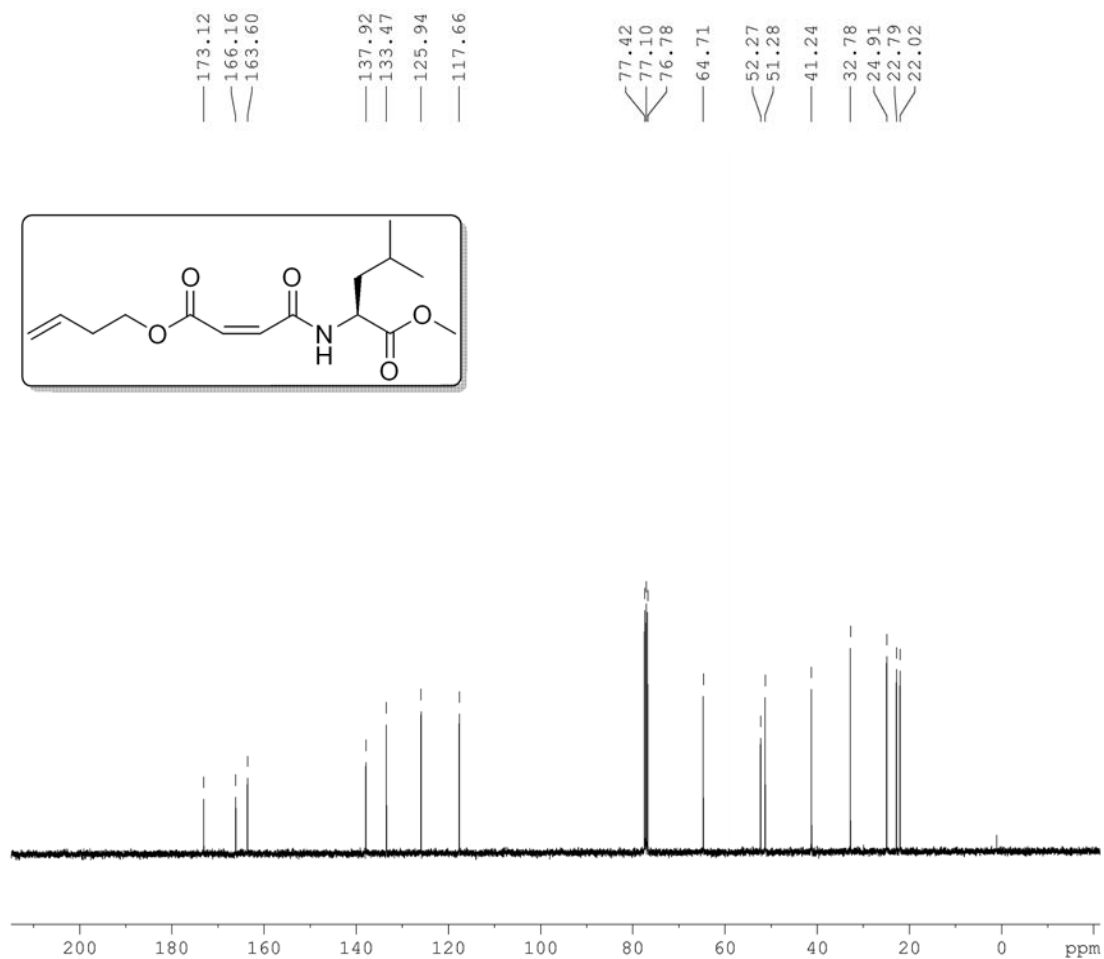
```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      13C
P1        9.00 usec
SI        32768
SF        100.6127615 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        1.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40
    
```

¹H NMR of **3d-2**

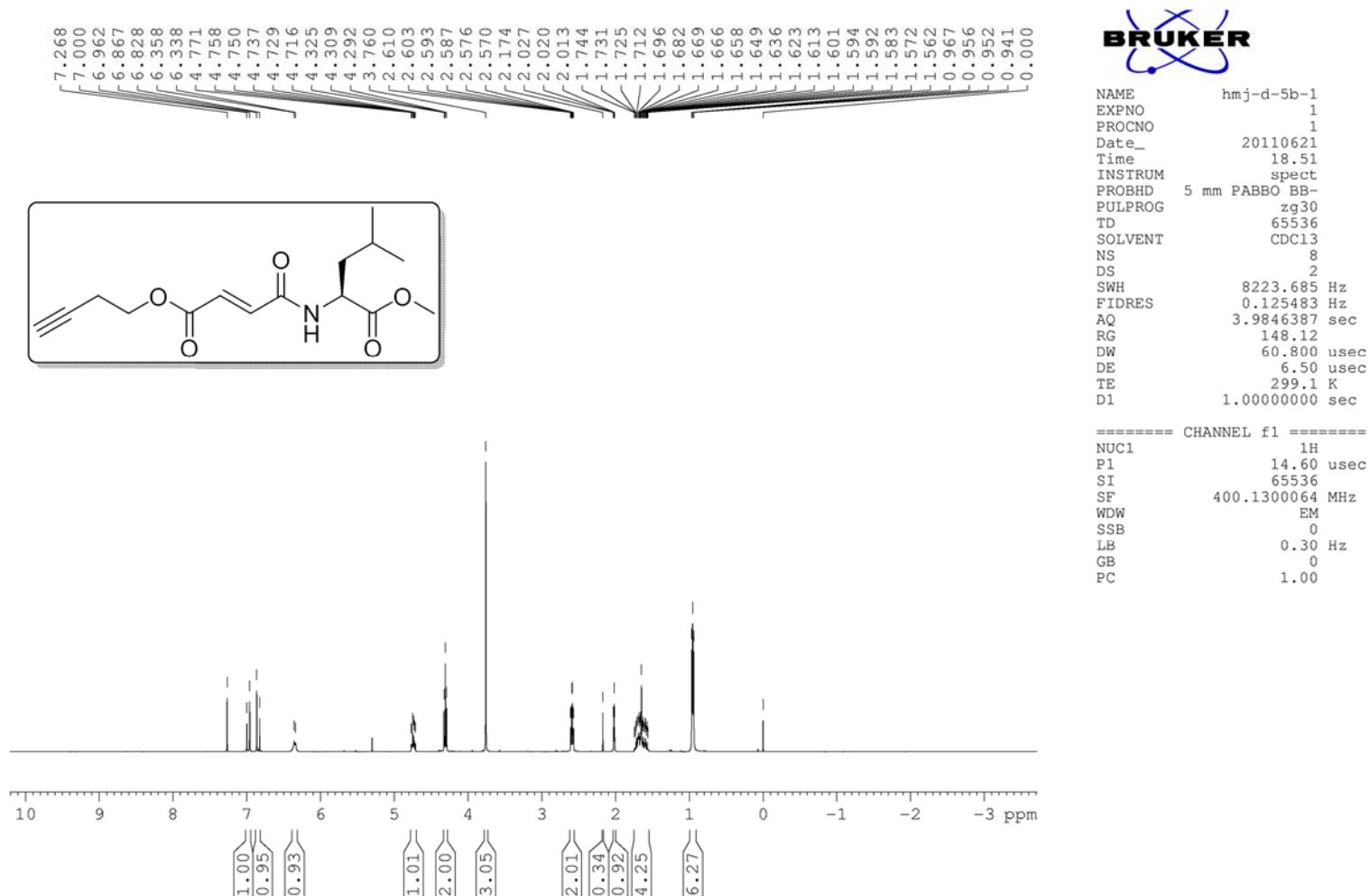


¹³C NMR of **3d-2**

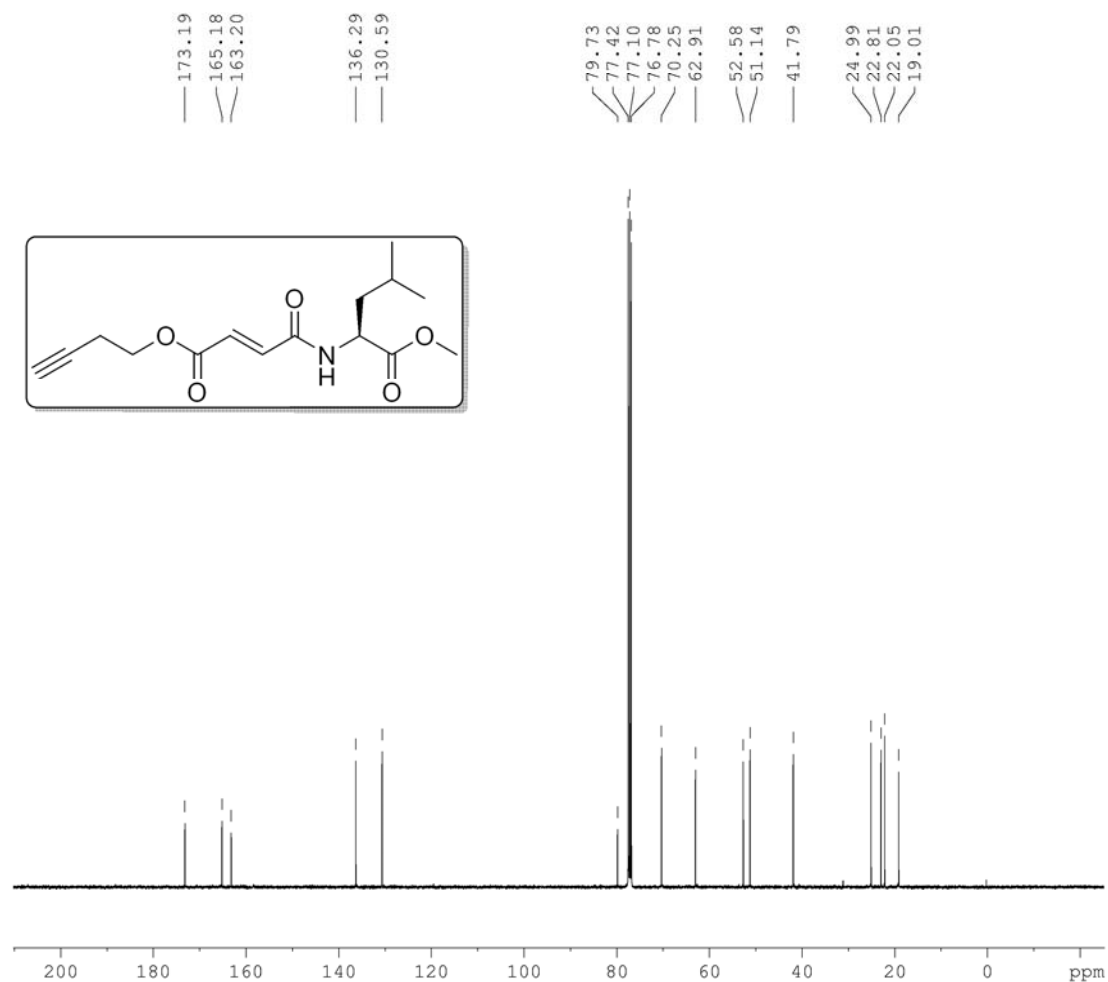


NAME HMJ-D-2a-2
EXPNO 2
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20110620
Time 11.10
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG zgpg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 140
DS 2
SWH 28409.092 Hz
FIDRES 0.433488 Hz
AQ 1.1534836 sec
RG 183.47
DW 17.600 usec
DE 6.50 usec
TE 300.4 K
D1 1.20000005 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec

¹H NMR of **3e-1**



¹³C NMR of **3e-1**



```
NAME      hmj-d-5b-1
EXPNO     2
PROCNO    1
Date_     20110622
Time      11.10
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zgpg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT   CDC13
NS        4384
DS        2
SWH       28409.092 Hz
FIDRES    0.433488 Hz
AQ        1.1534836 sec
RG        183.47
DW        17.600 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        300.3 K
D1        1.20000005 sec
D11       0.03000000 sec
```

```
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      13C
P1        9.00 usec
SI        32768
SF        100.6127601 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        1.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40
```

¹H NMR of **3e-2**



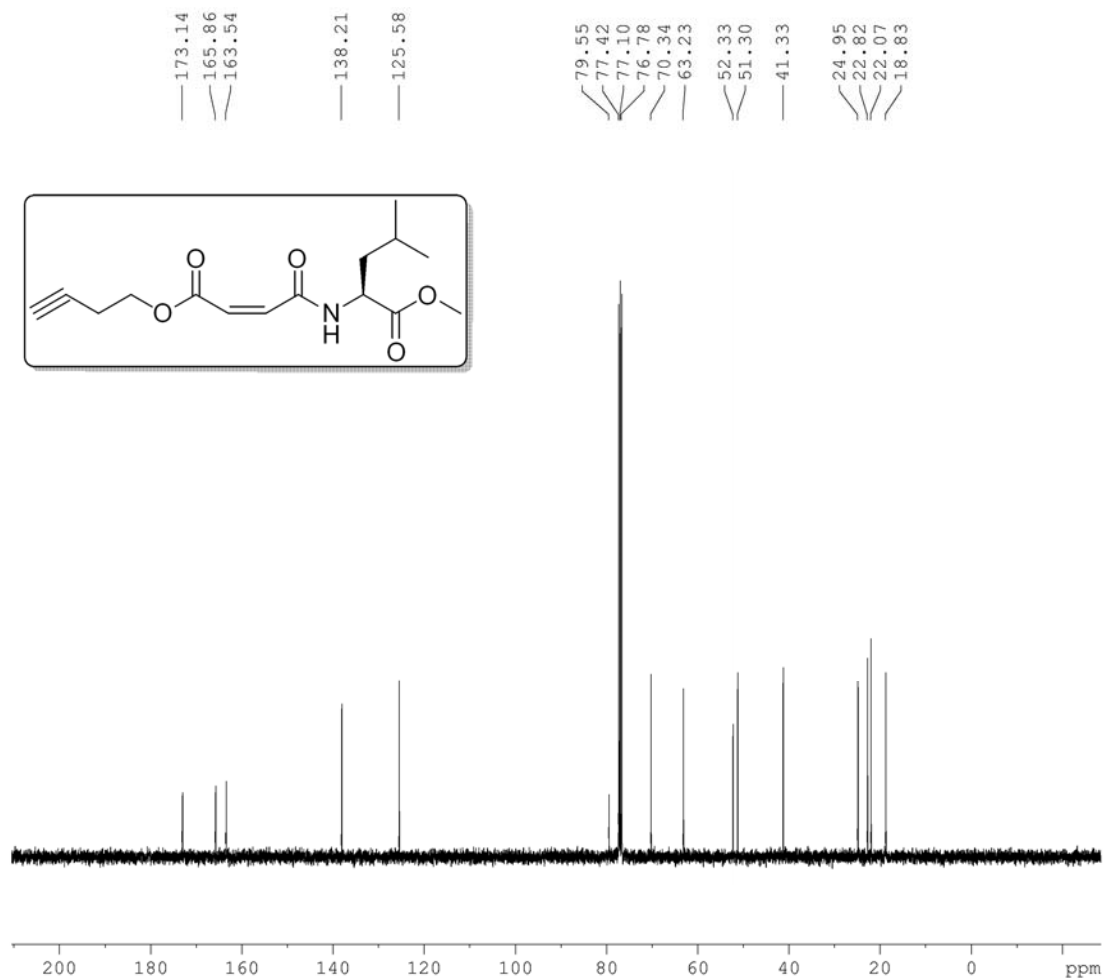
```

NAME      HMJ-D-5b-2
EXPNO     1
PROCNO    1
Date_     20110620
Time      21.52
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG   zg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT   CDC13
NS         8
DS         2
SWH        8223.685 Hz
FIDRES     0.125483 Hz
AQ         3.9846387 sec
RG         112.54
DW         60.800 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         673.1 K
D1         1.00000000 sec
  
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      1H
P1        14.00 usec
SI        65536
SF        400.1300048 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        0.30 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.00
  
```

^{13}C NMR of **3e-2**



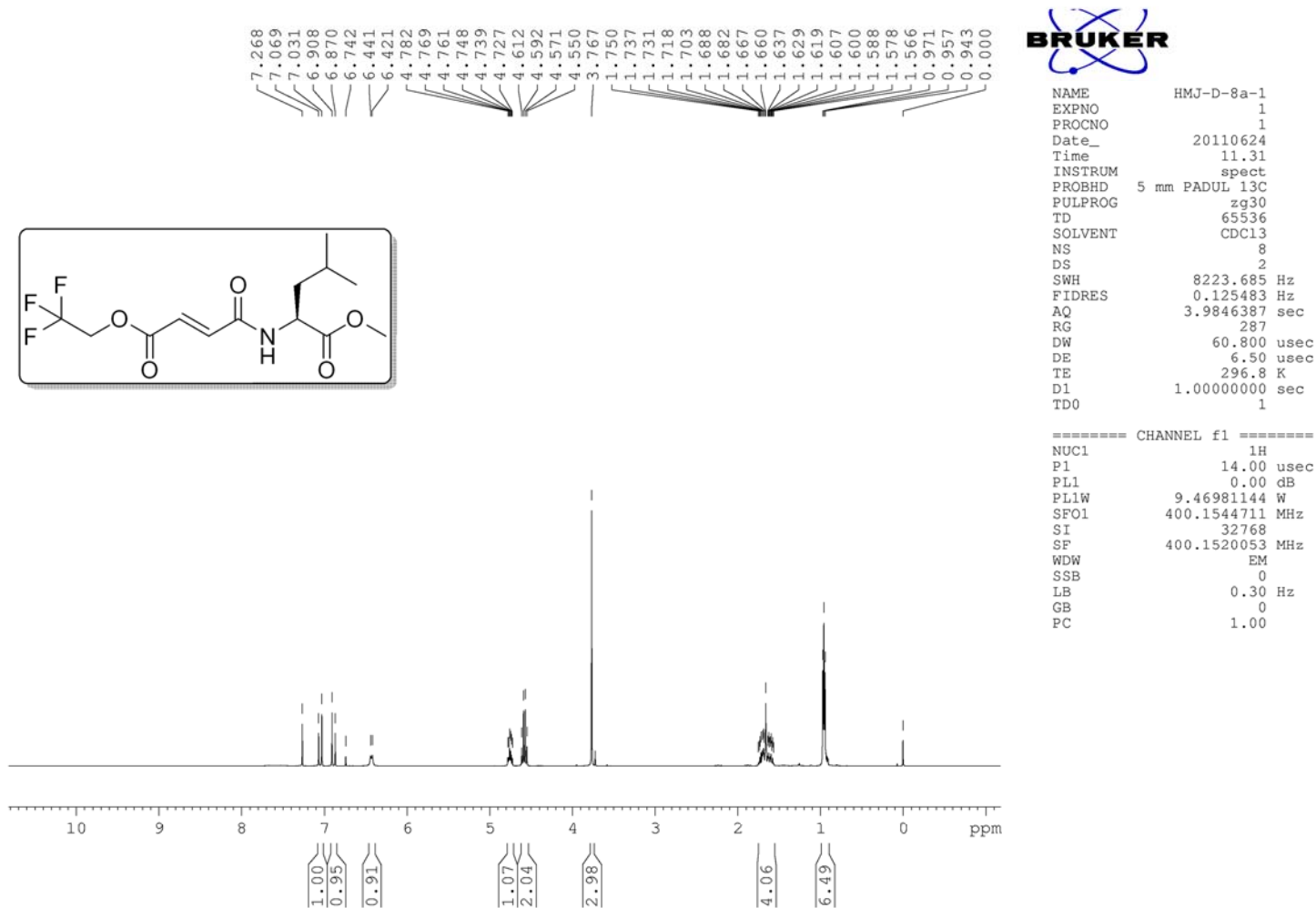
```

NAME          HMJ-D-5b-2
EXPNO          2
PROCNO         1
Date_          20110621
Time            18.58
INSTRUM        spect
PROBHD         5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG        zgpg30
TD             65536
SOLVENT        CDCl3
NS             117
DS             2
SWH            28409.092 Hz
FIDRES         0.433488 Hz
AQ            1.1534836 sec
RG            183.47
DW            17.600 usec
DE             6.50 usec
TE            300.6 K
D1            1.20000005 sec
D11           0.03000000 sec
  
```

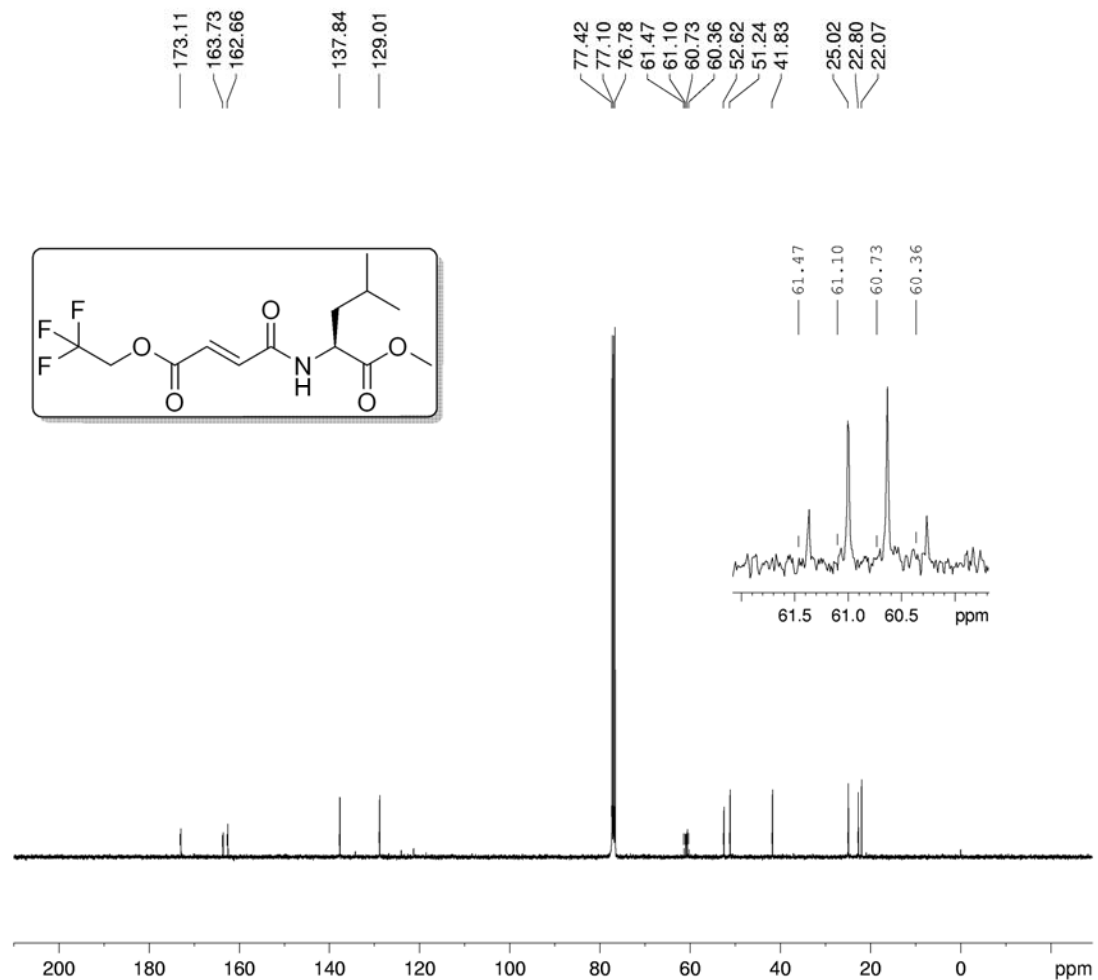
```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1           13C
P1             9.00 usec
SI            32768
SF           100.6127690 MHz
WDW            EM
SSB            0
LB             1.00 Hz
GB            0
PC             1.40
  
```

¹H NMR of **3f-1**



¹³C NMR of **3f-1**



```

NAME          HMJ-D-7a-1
EXPNO         22
PROCNO        1
Date_         20120320
Time          18.26
INSTRUM       spect
PROBHD        5 mm PADUL 13C
PULPROG       zgpg30
TD            65536
SOLVENT       CDC13
NS            3124
DS            4
SWH           28409.092 Hz
FIDRES        0.433488 Hz
AQ            1.1534836 sec
RG            2050
DW            17.600 usec
DE            6.50 usec
TE            307.0 K
D1            1.20000005 sec
D11           0.03000000 sec
TD0           1
  
```

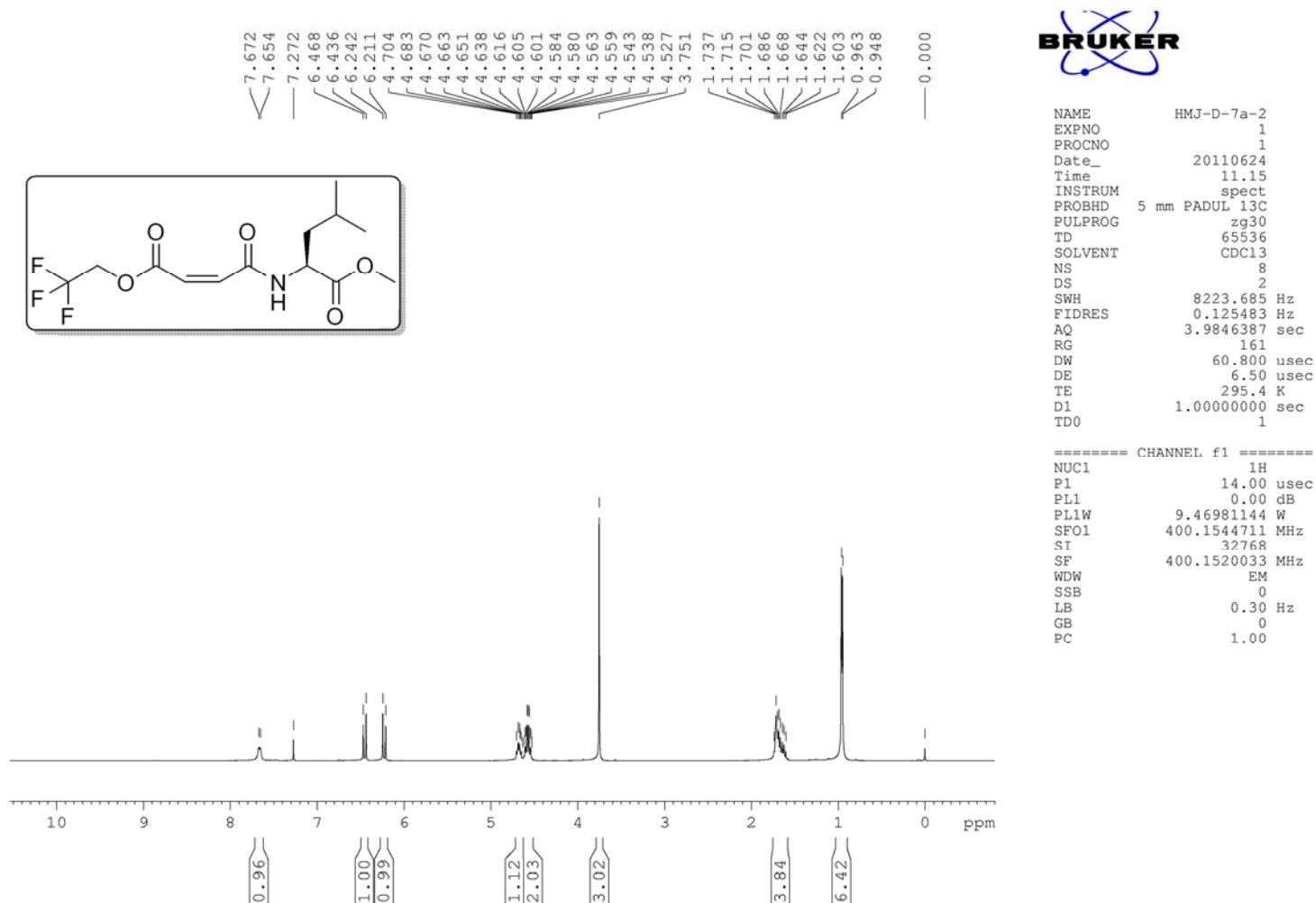
```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1          13C
P1            9.29 usec
PL1           0.00 dB
PL1W          35.66878891 W
SFO1          100.6293680 MHz
  
```

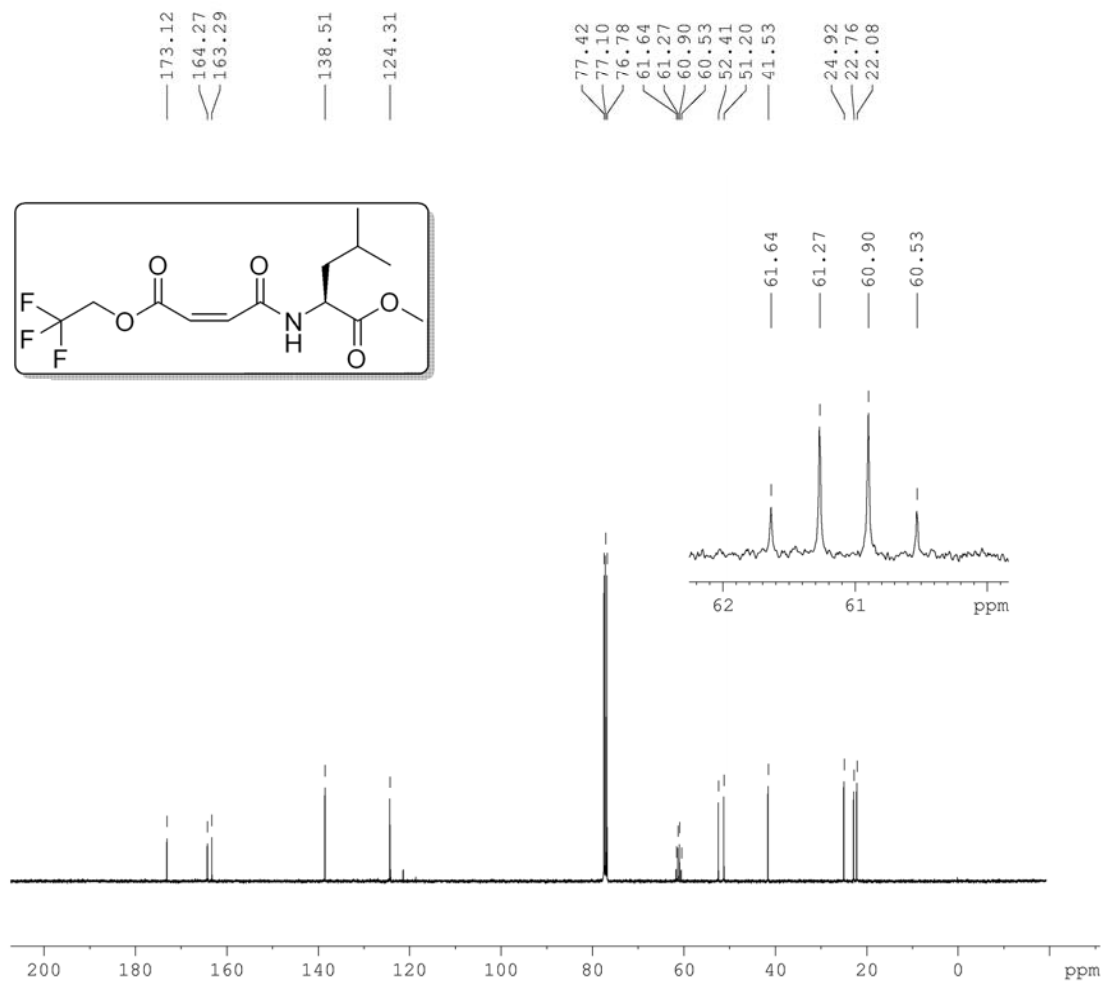
```

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
CPDPRG2       waltz16
NUC2          1H
PCPD2         60.00 usec
PL2           0.00 dB
PL12          12.64 dB
PL13          13.05 dB
PL2W          9.46981144 W
PL12W         0.51563370 W
PL13W         0.46918198 W
SFO2          400.1536006 MHz
SI            32768
SF            100.6183000 MHz
WDW           EM
SSB           0
LB            1.00 Hz
GB            0
PC            1.40
  
```

¹H NMR of **3f-2**



¹³C NMR of **3f-2**

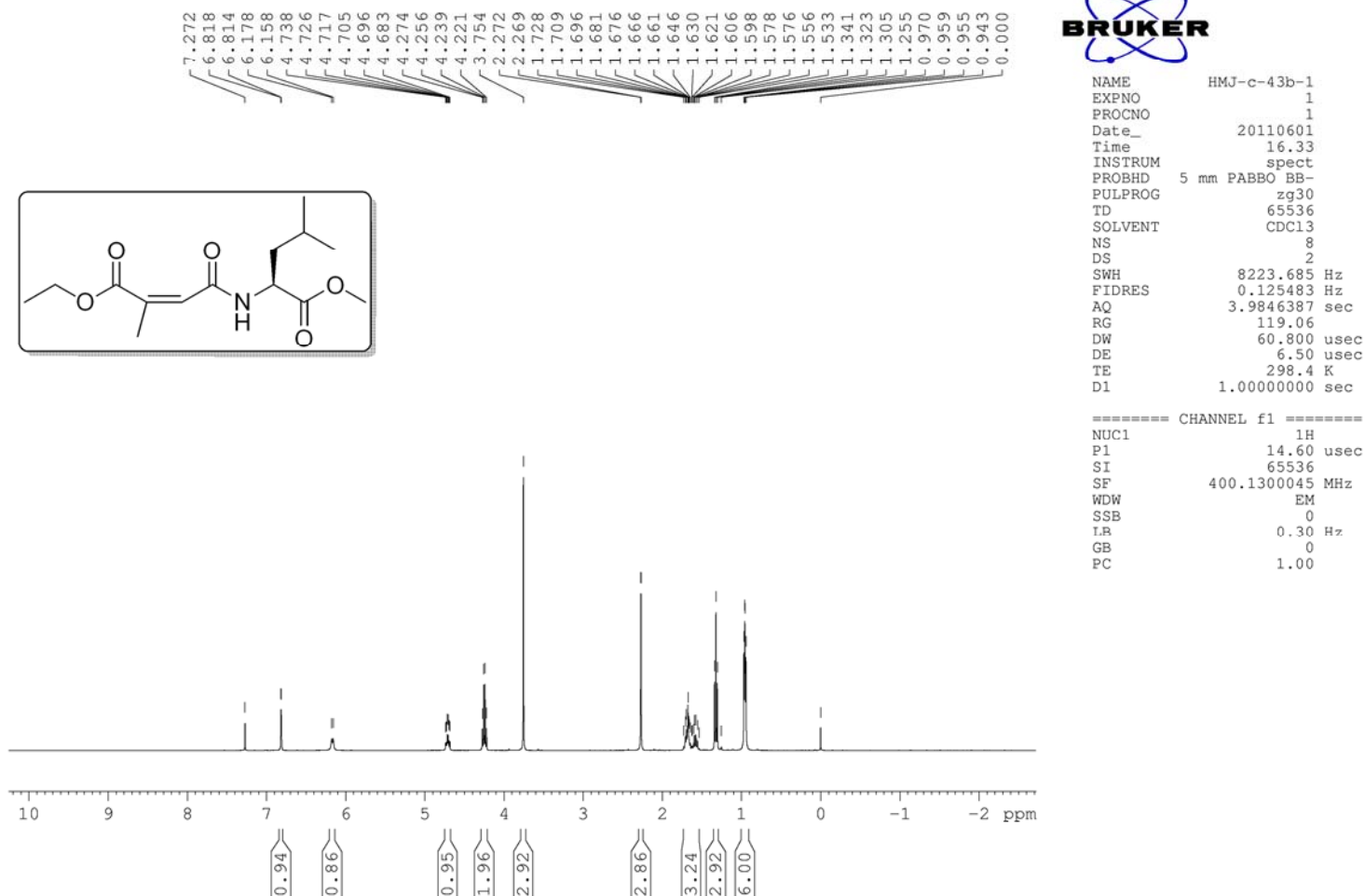


```

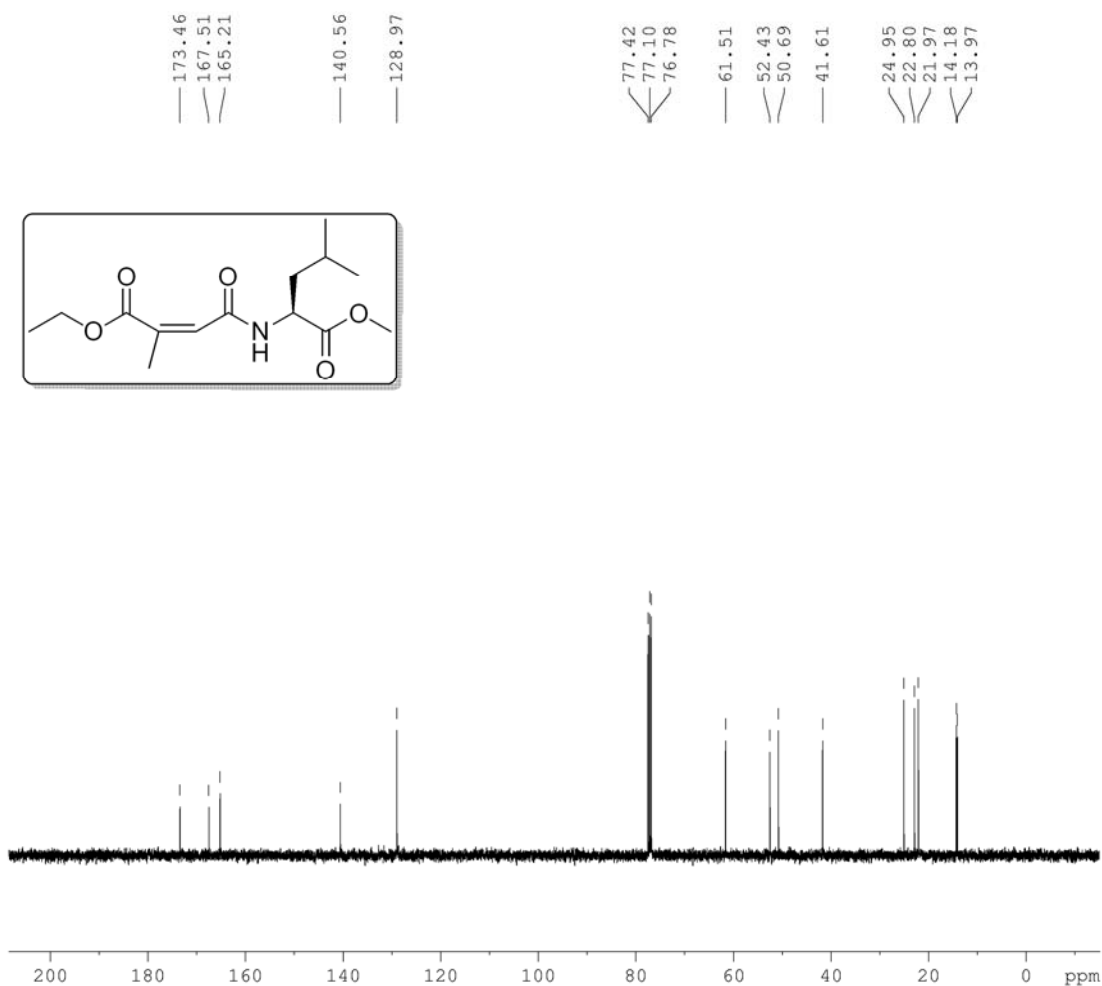
NAME          HMJ-D-7a-2
EXPNO         2
PROCNO        1
Date_         20110624
Time          16.23
INSTRUM       spect
PROBHD        5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG       zgpg30
TD            65536
SOLVENT       CDCl3
NS            825
DS            4
SWH           24038.461 Hz
FIDRES        0.366798 Hz
AQ            1.3631988 sec
RG            161.46
DW            20.800 usec
DE            6.50 usec
TE            673.1 K
D1            2.00000000 sec
D11           0.03000000 sec

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1          13C
P1            9.00 usec
SI            32768
SF            100.6127603 MHz
WDW           EM
SSB           0
LB            1.00 Hz
GB            0
PC            1.40
    
```

¹H NMR of **3g-1**



¹³C NMR of **3g-1**



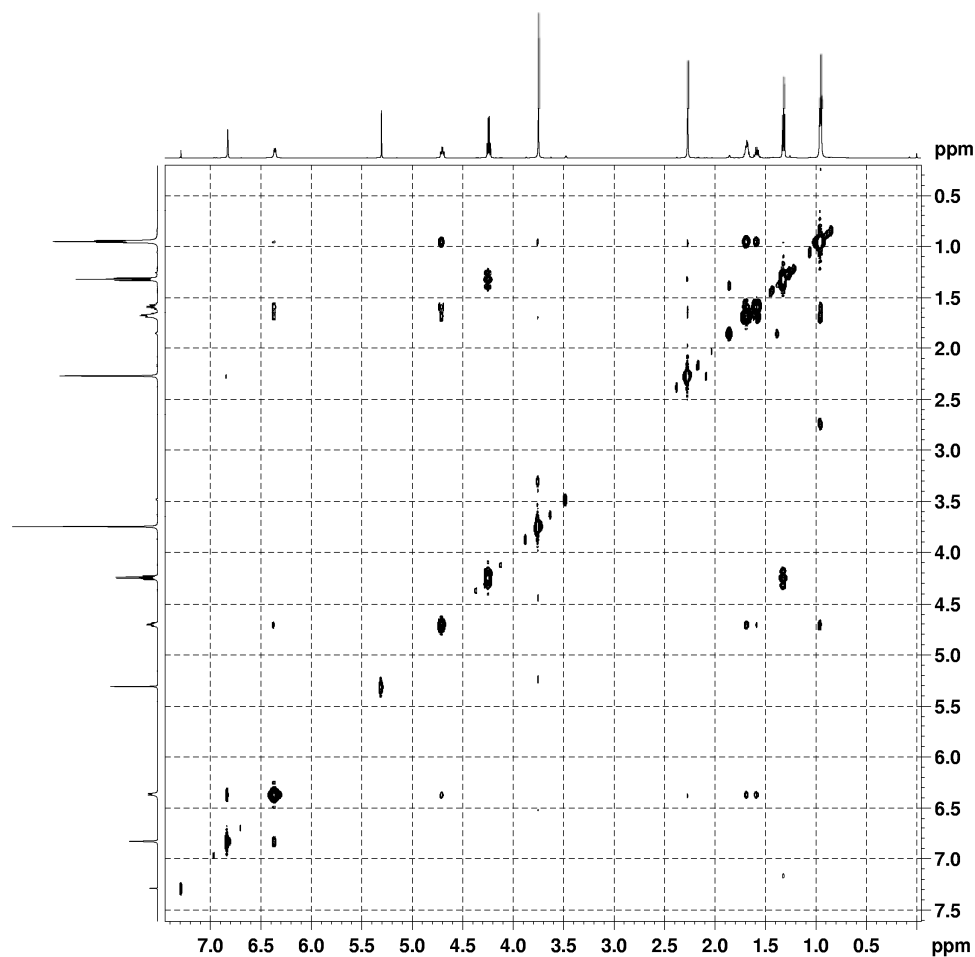
```

NAME          HMJ-c-46a-1
EXPNO          2
PROCNO         1
Date_         20110610
Time          17.51
INSTRUM        spect
PROBHD         5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG        zgpg30
TD             65536
SOLVENT        CDCl3
NS             40
DS             2
SWH            24038.461 Hz
FIDRES         0.366798 Hz
AQ             1.3631988 sec
RG             183.47
DW             20.800 usec
DE             6.50 usec
TE             300.5 K
D1             1.00000000 sec
D11            0.03000000 sec
  
```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1            13C
P1              9.00 usec
SI             32768
SF            100.6127630 MHz
WDW             EM
SSB             0
LB             1.00 Hz
GB             0
PC             1.40
  
```

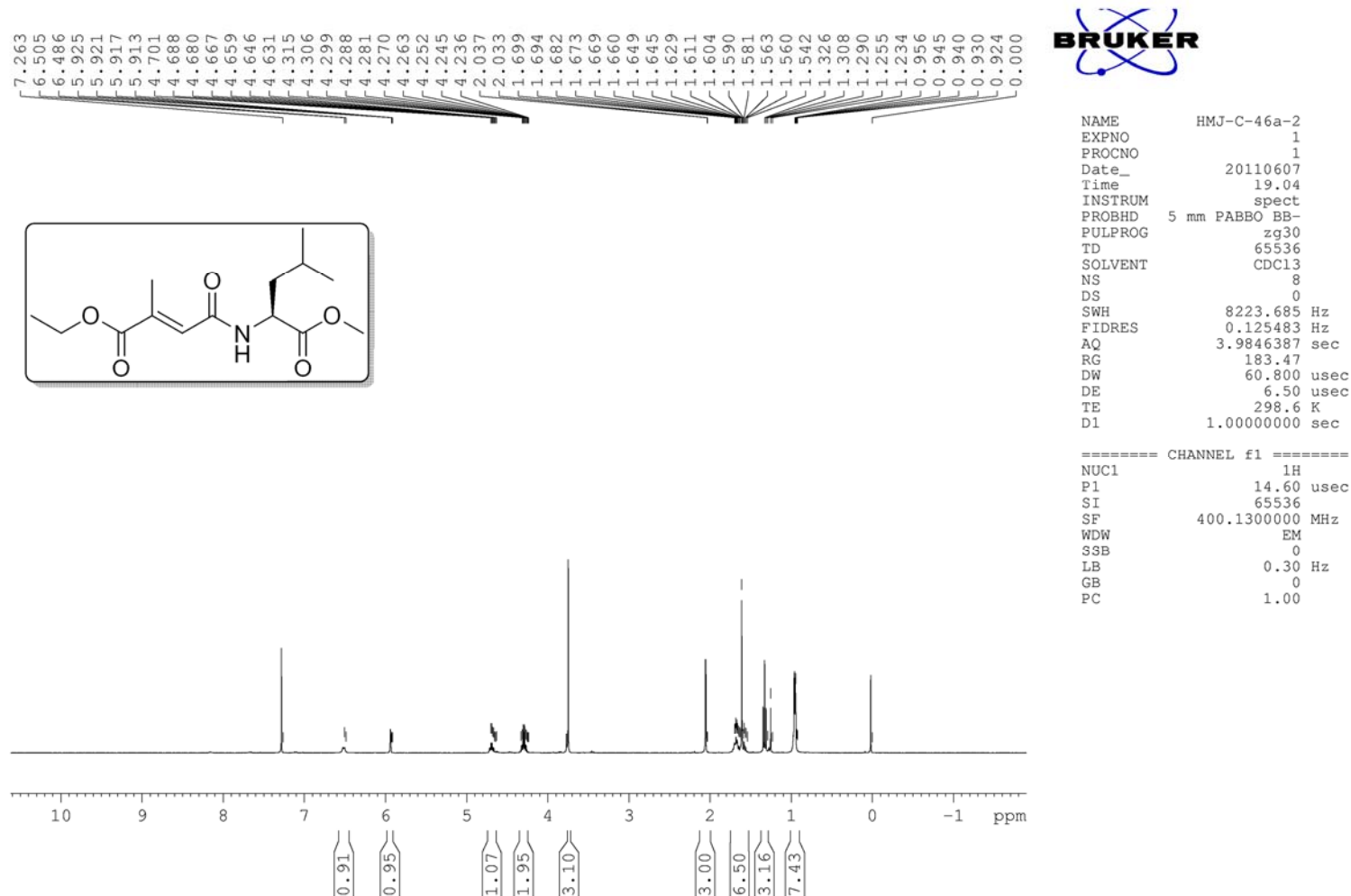
NOESY of 3g-1



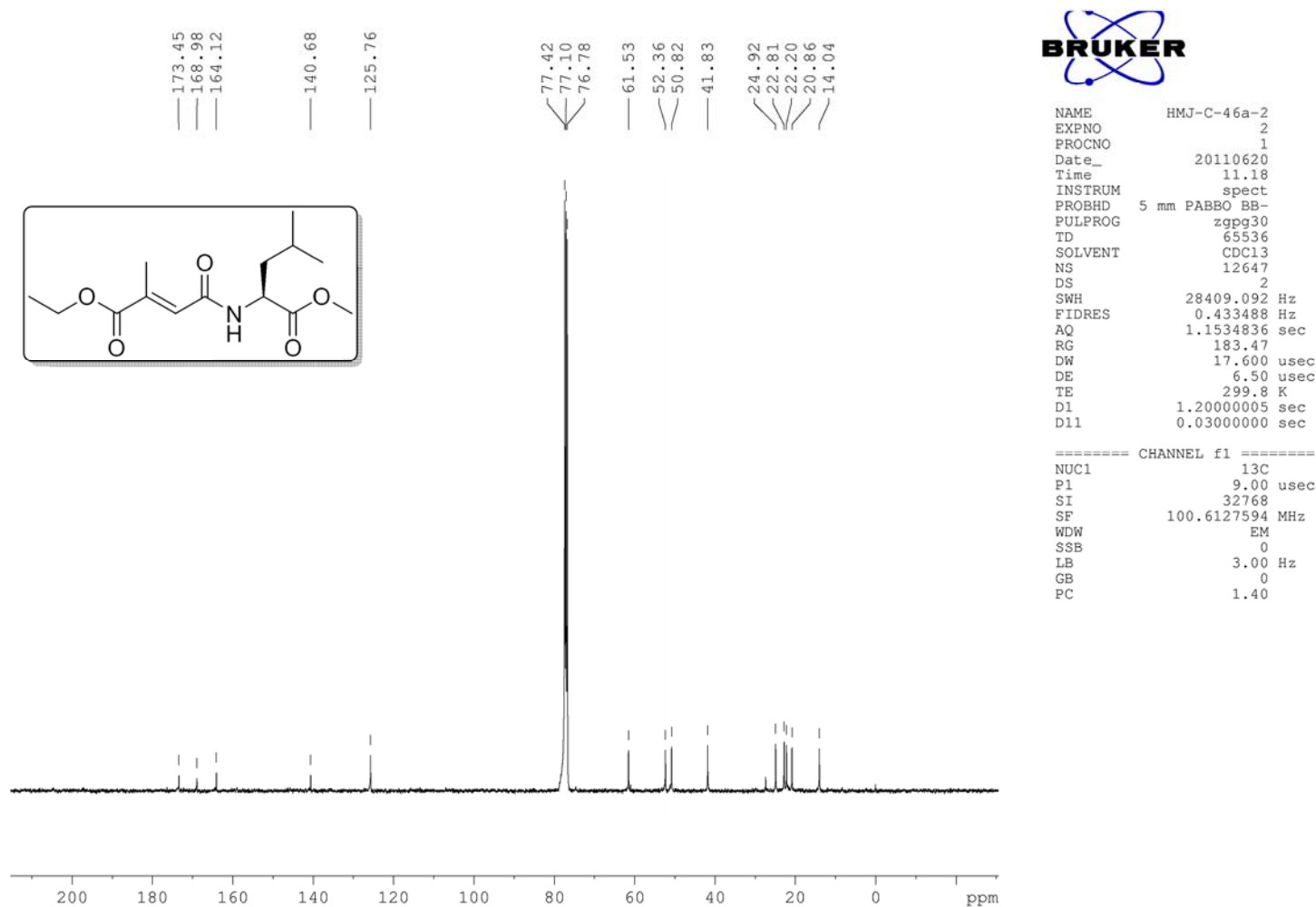
```
NAME      HMJ-c-43b-1
EXPNO     2
PROCNO    1
Date_     20120508
Time      17.10
INSTRUM   spect
PROBHD    5 mm CPTCI 1H-
PULPROG   noesygpphph
TD        2048
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS        16
DS        32
SWH       5376.344 Hz
FIDRES    2.625168 Hz
AQ        0.1905140 sec
RG        32
DW        93.000 usec
DE        10.00 usec
TE        300.4 K
D0        0.00007479 sec
D1        2.00000000 sec
D8        0.69999999 sec
D11       0.03000000 sec
D12       0.00002000 sec
D16       0.00002000 sec
IN0       0.00018600 sec
```

```
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1      1H
P1        14.30 usec
P2        28.60 usec
P17       2500.00 usec
ND0       1
TD        256
SFO1      600.1322 MHz
FIDRES    21.001366 Hz
SW        8.959 ppm
FnMODE    States-TPPI
SI        2048
SF        600.1299967 MHz
WDW       QSINE
SSB       2
LB        0.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.00
SI        1024
MC2       States-TPPI
SF        600.1299966 MHz
WDW       QSINE
SSB       2
LB        0.00 Hz
```

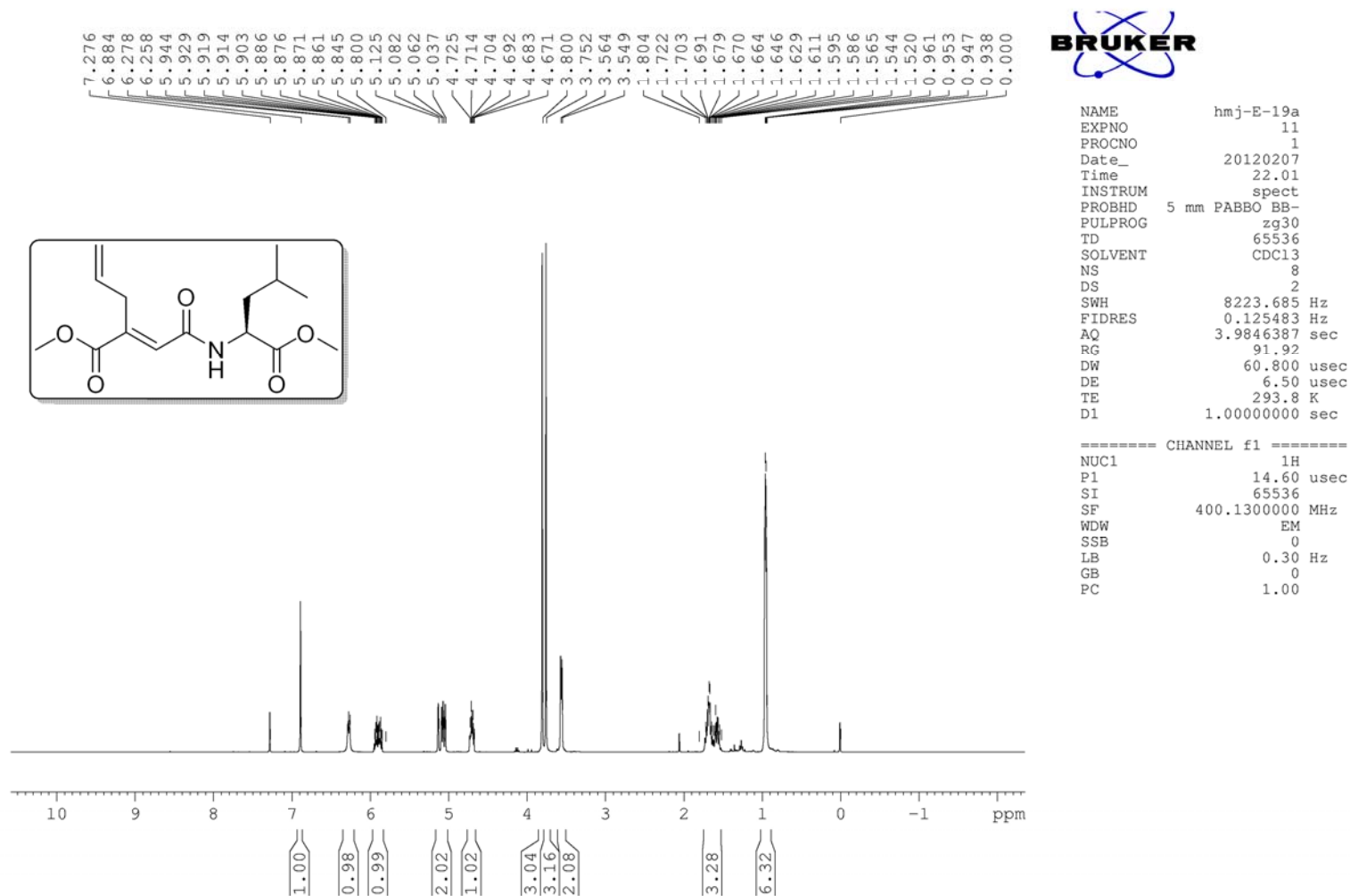
¹H NMR of 3g-2



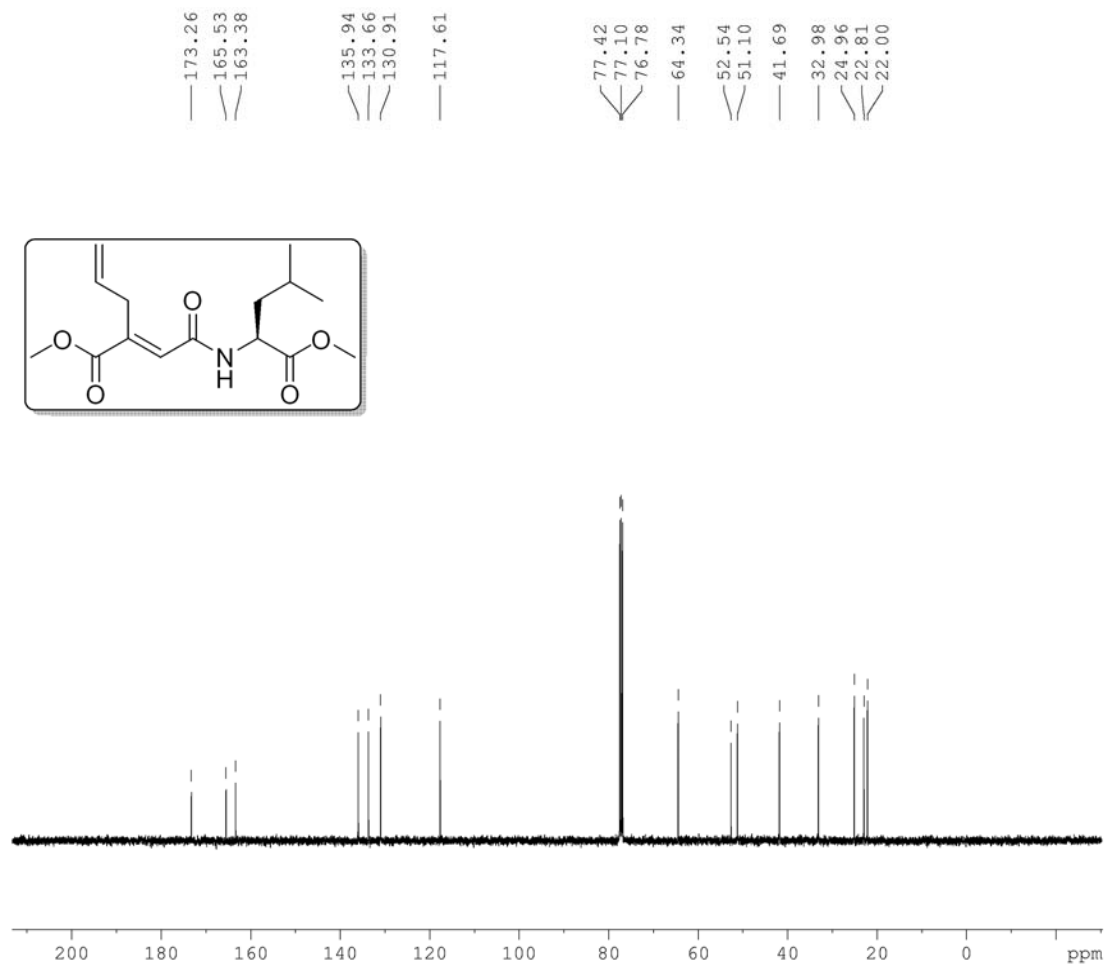
¹³C NMR of **3g-2**



¹H NMR of **3h**



^{13}C NMR of **3h**



```
NAME          HMJ-D-2a-1
EXPNO         2
PROCNO        1
Date_         20110617
Time          11.08
INSTRUM       spect
PROBHD        5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG       zgpg30
TD            65536
SOLVENT       CDCl3
NS            198
DS            4
SWH           28409.092 Hz
FIDRES        0.433488 Hz
AQ            1.1534836 sec
RG            183.47
DW            17.600 usec
DE            6.50 usec
TE            300.2 K
D1            1.20000005 sec
D11           0.03000000 sec
```

```
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1          13C
P1            9.00 usec
SI            32768
SF            100.6127616 MHz
WDW           EM
SSB           0
LB            1.00 Hz
GB            0
PC            1.40
```

NOESY of **3h**

