

Sterically demanding imidazolinium salts through the activation and cyclization of formamides

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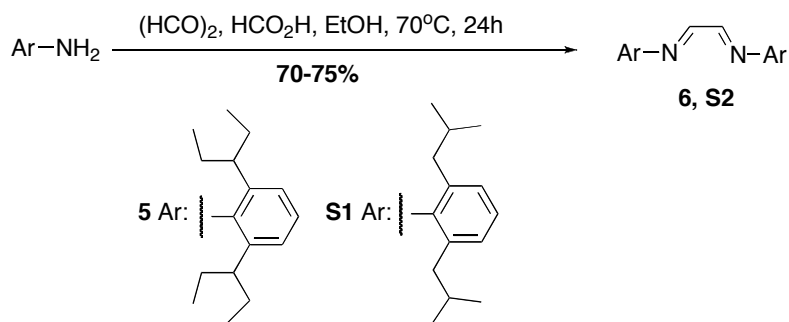
General experimental

All air sensitive reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon using Schlenk techniques. Glovebox manipulations were performed in an MBraun Unilab glove-box under an atmosphere of dry argon. All solvents were purchased from either Fischer Scientific or Sigma Aldrich. CDCl_3 was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. THF and Et_2O were dried under argon over sodium-benzophenone; toluene and dichloromethane were dried under argon over CaH_2 . All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and were used without further purification, unless indicated otherwise. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Whattman 60 F254 glass plates and were visualized using UV light (254 nm). Sonication was performed using a Fisher Bioblock Scientific Sonicator operating at 35 kHz. Column chromatography purifications were carried out using the flash technique on Silicycle silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) or using a Biotage Isolera™ version 1.2.1. Gas chromatography was performed on Agilent (formerly Varian) Series GC/MS/MS 4000 System. Microwave reactions were conducted in a Biotage Initiator microwave operating at 2.45 GHz, with a maximal power setting of 400 W. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 600, 400 and 300 MHz AV spectrometers. The chemical shifts (δ) for ^1H spectra are given in ppm and are referenced to the residual proton signal of the deuterated solvent. The chemical shifts (δ) for ^{13}C spectra are referenced relative to the signal from the carbon of the deuterated solvent. ^{13}C JMOD spectra represent a positive set of peaks (indicated by (+)) for quaternary carbons as well as carbon atoms attached to an even number of protons and a negative set of peaks (indicated by (-)) for carbon atoms attached to an odd number of protons. Abbreviations used to define multiplicities are as follows: s = singlet; d = doublet; t =

triplet; q = quartet; p = pentet, sept = septet, m = multiplet; br = broad. Elemental analyses were performed by Chemisar Laboratories, Inc. in Guelph, Ontario. HRMS analyses were performed by the McMaster Regional Centre for Mass Spectrometry in Hamilton, Ontario and by the Queen's Mass Spectrometry Facility at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Melting points were acquired using a Fisher-Johns melting point apparatus. Optical rotations were determined at 589 nm (sodium D line) by using a Perkin-Elmer 341 MC digital polarimeter with a 10 cm cell (c given in g per 100 mL) and $[\alpha]_D$ values are given in $10^{-1} \text{ deg cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$.

Synthetic procedures

All glassware was flame dried and cooled under argon before use. Standard Schlenk techniques were employed for air sensitive reagents. Anilines **5** and **S1** were donated by Total Synthesis Ltd. Acetic formic anhydride was prepared according to literature procedures.¹ Compound **20**, was prepared according to literature procedures using the acetic formic anhydride formylation procedure.² Compound **S5**, was prepared according to literature procedures.³



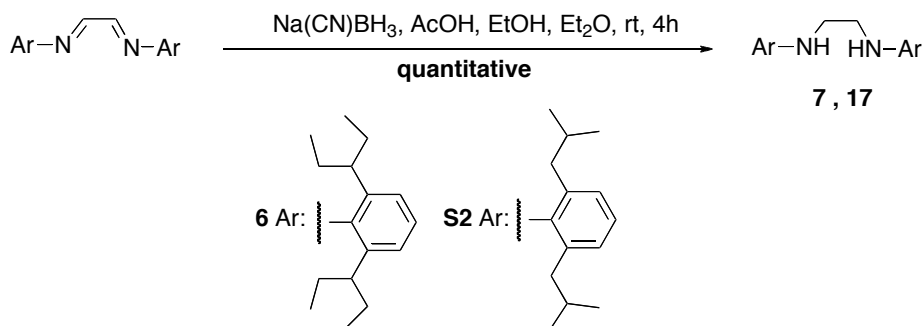
General procedure for the preparation of bis imines 6 and S2: A round bottom flask containing a stir bar was charged with the corresponding aniline (1 equiv.), EtOH (1 M in aniline) and glyoxal in H₂O 40% w/w (0.5 equiv.) producing a bright-yellow solution.

Formic acid (0.12 equiv.) was added, the flask was fitted with a reflux condensor and the reaction was heated at 70°C for 24 h. At this time the reaction was brown and contained a dark-orange solid. After cooling to rt and removing the solvent *in vacuo*, methanol (1 mL per mmol aniline) was added to the resulting thick oil/crystals and the solution was again concentrated *in vacuo*. The procedure was repeated once more and the solid material was sonicated in solution of methanol and water 10:1) (0.5 mL of solution per mmol aniline) solution until bright-yellow crystals could be isolated. The crystals were collected in a medium porosity fritted funnel and washed with a small amount of cold methanol and then dried under vacuum.

(*E*)-N-((*E*)-2-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenylimino)ethylidene)-2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)benzenamine (6): Using the general procedure aniline **5** (10.7 mmol, 2.5 g) provided compound **6** as yellow needles (1.98 g, 75%). M.p. = 57-60°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04 (s, 2H), 7.25-7.05 (m, 6H), 2.52 (p, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 1.80-1.45 (m, 16H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 24H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.9, 150.9, 133.8, 124.8, 123.9, 42.5, 28.9, 12.2. HRMS *m/e* calcd. for C₃₄H₅₂N₂ (M⁺) 488.4122, found 488.4131.

(*E*)-N-((*E*)-2-(2,6-diisobutylphenylimino)ethylidene)-2,6-diisobutylbenzenamine (S2): Using the general procedure aniline **S1** (2.5 mmol, 510 mg) provided compound **S2** as yellow needles (376 mg, 70%). M.p. = 76-78°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (s, 2H), 7.07 (m, 6H), 2.41 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 8H), 1.82 (sept, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 24H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.4, 150.0, 129.7, 128.3, 124.1, 40.9,

29.0, 22.6. Anal. Calcd. For C₃₀H₄₄N₂: C, 83.28; H, 10.25; N, 6.47. Found: C, 83.58; H, 10.52; N, 6.49.



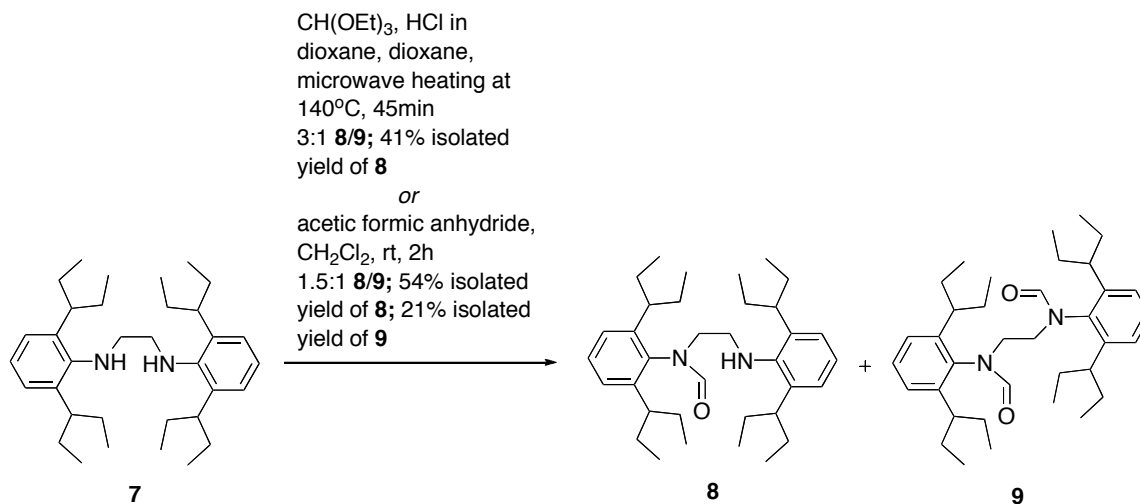
General procedure for preparation of bis-amines 7 and 17: To a round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar was added bis-imine (1 equiv.), and Na(CN)BH₃ (2 Equiv.) after which the flask was fitted with a reflux condensor. EtOH (0.07 M in bis-imine), Et₂O (0.14 M in bis-imine), and AcOH (0.7 M in bis-imine) were then added, producing a nearly clear, yellow solution. After stirring at room temperature for 4 h, the yellow color abated. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was then dissolved in DCM (20 mL / mmol bis-imine) and then transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed successively with equal volumes of 1 M NaOH_(aq), water, and saturated NaCl_(aq) after which it was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the bis-amine as a pale yellow oil and required no further purification.

N-(2-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenylamino)ethyl)-2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)benzenamine (7):

Using the general procedure, 1.50 g of bis-imine **6** provided 1.51 g (>99%) of **7** as a pale-yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.08 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 3.32 (br, 2H), 3.03 (s, 4H), 2.95 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.85-1.65 (m, 8H), 1.65-1.45

(m, 8H), 0.83 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 24H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.4, 140.2, 123.9, 123.6, 52.0, 41.9, 29.6, 12.3. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{56}\text{N}_2$ (M^+) 492.4443, found 492.4436.

N-(2-(2,6-diisobutylphenylamino)ethyl)-2,6-diisobutylbenzenamine (17): Using the general procedure, 0.38 g of **S2** produced 0.38 g (>99%) of **17** as a pale-yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.10 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.01 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.43 (br, 2H), 3.22 (s, 4H), 2.65 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 8H), 2.06 (m, 4H), 1.03 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 24H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.9, 134.7, 128.5, 122.3, 50.7, 41.0, 29.5, 22.7. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{N}_2$ (M^+) 436.3817, found 436.3805.



N-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenyl)-N-(2-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenylamino)ethyl)

formamide (8): *Orthoformate procedure:* To a microwave vial equipped with a stir bar, was added a solution of **7** (0.51 mmol, 250 mg) in dioxane (670 μL), HC(OEt)_3 (0.51 mmol, 86 μL) and 4 M HCl in dioxane (0.31 mmol, 76 μL). The reaction was heated at

140°C for 45 min using microwave irradiation. After cooling to rt, the solution was diluted with an equal volume of CH₂Cl₂, loaded onto silica and flashed.

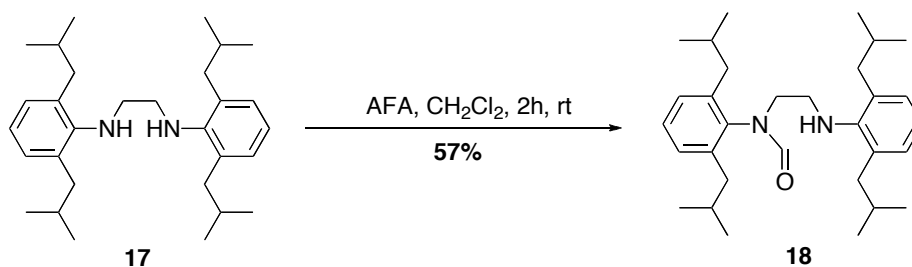
Compound **8** (109 mg, 41%) (*R*_f = 0.3 in 1:9 Et₂O/pentane) was collected as a beige solid. M.p = 61-63°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.55 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.60 (8H), 1.60-1.35 (8H), 0.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 0.78-0.65 (18H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.5, 145.9, 145.0, 140.0, 138.8, 129.1, 124.7, 123.9, 123.6, 49.5, 48.9, 42.1, 41.7, 29.5, 29.0, 12.3, 12.1. HRMS *m/e* calcd. for C₃₅H₅₆N₂O (M⁺) 520.4381, found 520.4393.

Acetic Formic Anhydride (AFA) procedure: A round bottom flask with a stir bar was charged with **7** (2.84 mmol, 1.47 g), CH₂Cl₂ (7.2 mL) and acetic formic anhydride (4.36 mmol, 320 μL). The reaction was stirred under argon for 2 h at rt and then transferred to a separatory funnel, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL), and washed successively with saturated NaHCO_{3(aq)} (50 mL), water (50 mL), and saturated NaCl_(aq), after which it was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (gradient: 1:9 Et₂O/pentane to 1:5 Et₂O/pentane).

Compound **8** (796 mg, 54%) was collected as a beige solid with spectra identical to those reported above.

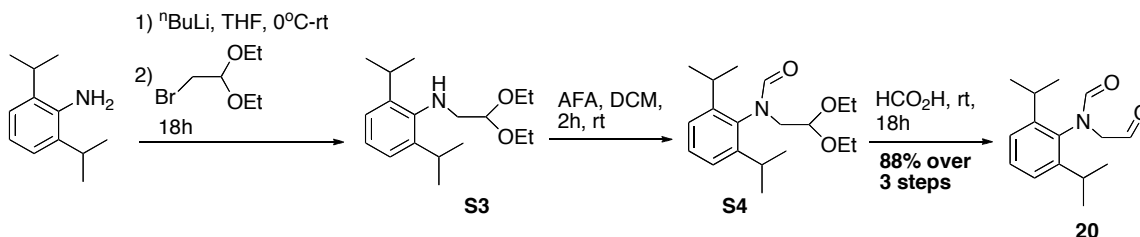
N-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenyl)-N-(2-(N-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenyl)-N-(formyl)ethyl)formamide (9): Using the AFA procedure 330 mg (21%) of compound **9** were collected

as a beige solid ($R_f = 0.4$ in 1:5 Et₂O/pentane). M.p. = 210-214°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (s, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H), 3.90 (s, 4H), 2.50 (p, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.75-1.6 (12H), 1.50-1.35 (4H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 12H), 0.71 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.3, 145.0, 138.7, 129.1, 124.8, 45.5, 42.4, 29.3, 28.8, 12.4, 12.2. HRMS m/e calcd. for C₃₆H₅₆N₂O₂ (M⁺) 548.4342, found 548.4329.

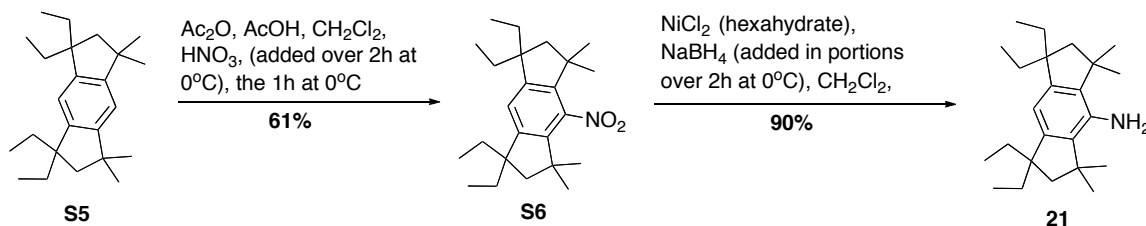


N-(2,6-diisobutylphenyl)-N-(2-(2,6-diisobutylphenylamino)ethyl)formamide (18):

Using the AFA procedure, 380 mg of **17** provided 229 mg of **18** (57%) as a beige solid ($R_f = 0.3$ in 1:9 Et₂O/pentane). M.p. 49-52°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.85 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.42 (m, 8H), 1.90 (m, 4H), 0.94 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H), 0.91-0.85 (18H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.4, 145.8, 140.4, 138.4, 133.3, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 121.5, 48.5, 47.5, 41.1, 40.2, 29.4, 28.9, 22.6, 22.5. HRMS m/e calcd. for C₃₁H₄₈N₂O (M⁺) 464.3767, found 464.3779.



N-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-N-(2-oxoethyl)formamide (20): Prepared according to literature procedure.³ Spectral data of the light brown solid were identical to reported values. M.p. $65\text{--}72^\circ\text{C}$ (reported M.p. $83\text{--}84^\circ\text{C}$).



1,1,7,7-Tetraethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydro-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-4-nitro-s-indacene

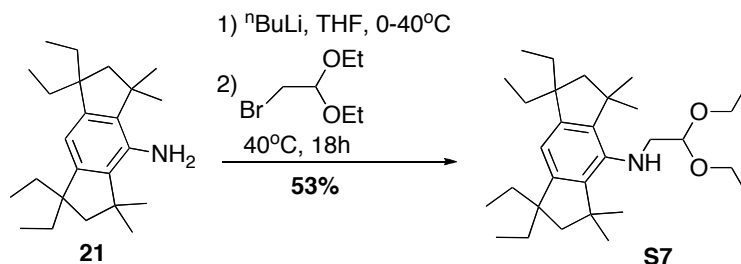
(EMindNO₂) (S6): To a mixture of 1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydro-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-s-indacene (EMindH (S5)),³ 24.5 g, 75 mmol), 1,2-dichloromethane (300 mL), acetic anhydride (200 mL), and acetic acid (150 mL) was added fuming nitric acid (30 mL) at 0°C over a period of 2 h. The mixture was stirred for an additional hour at 0°C , and then water (300 mL) and dichloromethane (200 mL) were added. The organic layer was separated, and washed successively with water ($200\text{ mL} \times 3$), aqueous sodium carbonate (200 mL), and brine (200 mL). After drying over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, the crude material was filtered and evaporated. The residue was washed with hexane (100 mL) to afford EMindNO₂ as a colorless solid (first crop, 15.0 g, 54%).

Evaporation of the rinse solution and washing of the resulting solid with hexane (70 mL)

afforded a second crop of crystals as a colorless solid (second crop, 1.84 g, 7%). M.p. 120 °C (sublimation), ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.78 (s, 1H), 1.91 (s, 4H), 1.71–1.54 (m, 8H), 1.32 (s, 12H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.0, 145.4, 138.8, 121.5, 53.0, 48.5, 43.0, 32.4, 30.0, 9.0; HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{37}\text{NO}_2$: 371.2824. Found: 371.2829.

4-Amino-1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydro-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-s-indacene

(EMindNH₂) (21): To a vigorously stirred mixture of EMindNO₂ (S6) (16.0 g, 43.1 mmol), CH_2Cl_2 (250 mL), MeOH (125 mL), and nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (2.04 g, 8.6 mmol) was added sodium borohydride (7.50 g, 198 mmol) portionwise over a period of 2 h at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for an additional hour and then filtered through a plug of Celite[®]. The organic layer was separated, and washed successively with water (100 mL \times 2) and brine, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was loaded atop a short silica gel column and flashed using dichloromethane:hexane (1:3, v/v) as eluent affording the pure EMindNH₂ (13.2 g, 38.5 mmol, 90 %) as a colorless solid. M.p. 92–93 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.62 (br, 2H, NH₂), 1.86 (s, 4H), 1.65–1.49 (m, 8H), 1.44 (s, 12H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.0, 138.9, 133.3, 109.9, 53.1, 48.9, 42.1, 33.0, 29.4, 9.2. HRMS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}$: 341.3083. Found: 341.3091. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}$: C, 84.39; H, 11.51; N, 4.10. Found: C, 84.14; H, 11.67; N, 4.01.



N-(2,2-diethoxyethyl)-1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydros-

indacen-4-amine (S7): A round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar and fitted with a

reflux condenser was charged with the EMind aniline (**21**) (3.5 mmol, 1.2 g) and THF

(0.5M). $^n\text{BuLi}$ in hexanes (3.9 mmol, 3.4 mL based on 1.15 M titre value) was added

drop-wise to the reaction during which the yellow solution slightly intensifies. After

stirred for 2h at room temperature and the 1h at 40°C bromoacetaldehyde diethyl acetal

(3.9 mmol, 590 μL) was added quickly and the mixture was stirred at 40°C for 18h. The

solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue redissolved in DCM (~5

mL/mmol aniline) and then it was washed with an equal volume of saturated NaHCO_3

(aq). The aqueous layer was back extracted twice with about half the volume of DCM and

the combined organic layers were washed successively with an equal volume of water,

and saturated $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$. After drying over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 the mixture was

concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified using flash chromatography. Due to

the very similar R_f values of the product and the EMind aniline up to 3 columns were

required to obtain analytically pure material. Compound **S7** (848 mg, 53%) (99.5:0.5

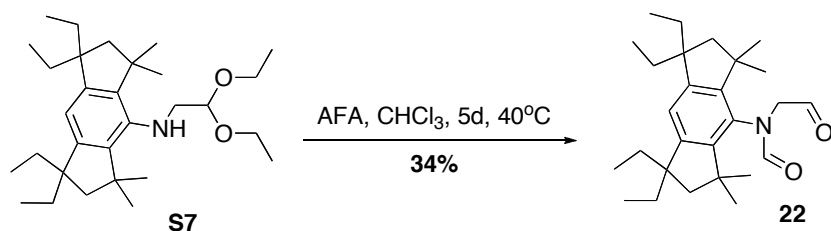
hexanes/ EtOAc , $R_f = 0.2$) was collected as a thick orange oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz,

CDCl_3): δ 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.71 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (m, 2H), 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.18 (d, $J =$

6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (s, 4H), 1.70-1.50 (8H), 1.47 (s, 12H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 0.79 (t,

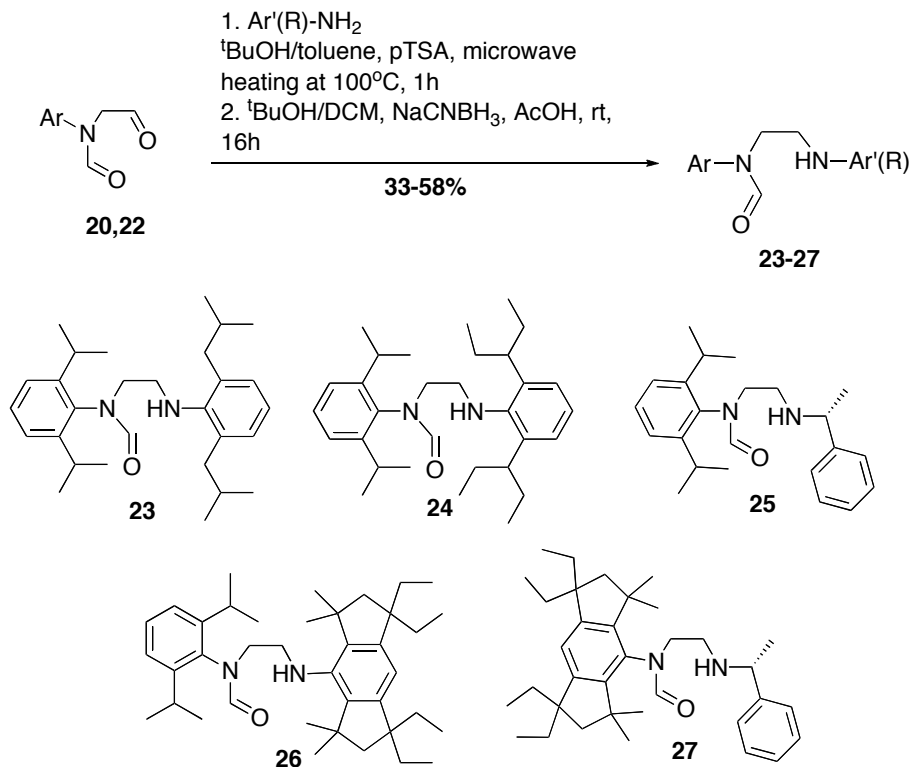
$J = 7.2$ Hz, 12H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.6, 143.2, 142.7, 114.9, 103.3,

63.1, 55.1, 53.8, 48.3, 43.1, 32.7, 31.3, 15.5, 9.1. HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{30}H_{52}NO_2$ ($M+H^+$) 458.4002, found 458.3998.



N-(2-oxoethyl)-N-(1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydros-

indacen-4-yl)formamide (25): A round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar and fitted with a reflux condenser was charged with **S7** (0.87 mmol, 400 mg) and $CHCl_3$ (0.1M). AFA (5.22 mmol, 380 μ L) was added and the reaction heated at 40°C for 5 days after which it was diluted with DCM (~5 mL/mmol aniline) and washed carefully with enough of a saturated $NaHCO_3$ (aq) to adjust the pH of the aqueous layer to approximately 8. The aqueous layer was back extracted twice with about half the volume of DCM and the combined organic layers were washed with an equal volume of water and saturated $NaCl$ (aq). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified using flash chromatography providing **22** (122 mg, 34%) (93:7 hexanes/EtOAc, R_f = 0.3) as a white solid. M.p. = 134-137°C. 1H -NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 1.89 (m, 4H), 1.75-1.45 (8H), 1.37 (s, 6H), 1.32 (s, 6H), 0.85 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 6H), 0.76 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.4, 166.0, 151.0, 147.8, 133.1, 121.6, 59.3, 53.3, 48.3, 43.5, 33.0, 31.8, 31.6, 31.2, 9.1, 8.9. HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{27}H_{41}NO_2$ (M^+) 648.3573, found 648.3557



General procedure for preparation of unsymmetric formamides 23-27: A microwave vial was charged with **20** or **22** (1 equiv.), pTSA•H₂O (0.1 equiv.) and the corresponding amine or aniline (1 equiv.) and then purged with argon. The vial was then charged with ^tBuOH/toluene, 10:1 (0.25 M in **20** or **22**), after which it was flushed with argon and quickly sealed. The vial was heated briefly with a heat gun and stirred as it cooled to rt to dissolve all the solids after which it was heated at 100°C for 1 h using microwave irradiation whereupon a clear orange solution was observed. After being cooled to rt the reaction was probed by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy to ensure imine formation. The solution was transferred to a round bottom flask and Na(CN)BH₃ (1 equiv.) was added followed by CH₂Cl₂ (0.15 M) and AcOH (1.5 M). The cloudy light-orange reaction was stirred at rt for 16 h and then concentrated to dryness *in vacuo*. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and 1 M NaOH_(aq) (30 mL of each per mmol of aldehyde). Prior to layer

separation the pH of the aqueous layer was verified to be 12. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with half the volume of CH₂Cl₂. The pooled organic layers were washed with water, and saturated NaCl_(aq) solution, after which they were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography.

***N*-(2-(2,6-diisobutylphenylamino)ethyl)-*N*-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)formamide (23):**

Using the general procedure, **20** (1.1 mmol, 272 mg) was reacted with 2,6-diisobutylaniline (1.1 mmol, 226 mg) to give 140 mg (33%) of **23** as a yellow solid. (*R*_f = 0.3 in 93:7 hexanes/EtOAc). M.p. = 118-122°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (br, 1H), 3.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (sept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.89 (sept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 12H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8, 147.6, 145.6, 135.3, 133.4, 129.5, 128.4, 124.5, 121.7, 48.6, 47.4, 41.1, 28.9, 28.2, 25.4, 23.5, 22.6. HRMS *m/e* calcd. for C₂₉H₄₄N₂O (M⁺) 436.3454, found 436.3461.

***N*-(2-(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenylamino)ethyl)-*N*-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)formamide (24):**

Using the general procedure, **20** (2.42 mmol, 600 mg) was reacted with 2,6-di(3-pentyl)aniline (2.42 mmol, 566 mg) to give 647 mg (58%) of **24** as an off white solid. (*R*_f = 0.3 in 93:7 hexanes/EtOAc). M.p. = 95-99°C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (br, 1H), 3.10-2.90 (4H), 2.77 (m, 2H), 1.66

(m, 4H), 1.49 (m, 4H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.16 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.71 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7, 147.5, 146.1, 139.8, 135.1, 129.4, 124.4, 123.9, 123.6, 48.5, 48.1, 41.8, 29.5, 28.1, 25.4, 23.4, 12.0. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{48}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ (M^+) 464.3767, found 464.3782.

(R)-N-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-N-(2-(1-phenylethylamino)ethyl)formamide (25):

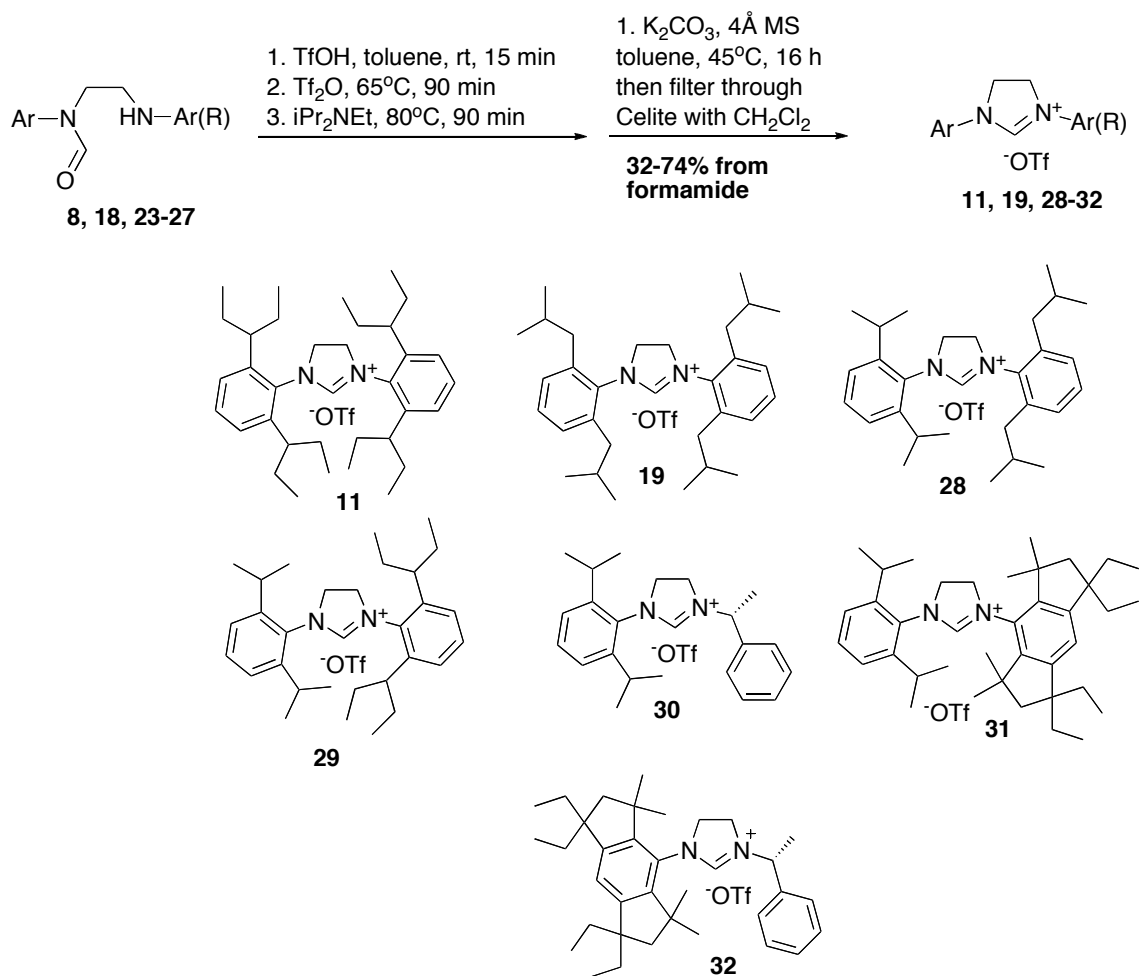
Using the general procedure, **20** (2.0 mmol, 495 mg) was reacted with (R)-(+)- α -methylbenzylamine (2.0 mmol, 248 mg, 260 μL) to give 401 mg (57%) of **25** as a yellow solid. ($R_f = 0.4$ in 2:1 hexanes/EtOAc). M.p. = 62-66°C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.15 (8H), 3.85-3.70 (2H), 3.58 (m, 1H), 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.67 (m, 2H), 1.35 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.20-1.05 (12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.6 (-), 147.5 (2 overlapping signals (+)), 145.2 (+), 135.5 (+), 129.3 (-), 128.4 (-), 126.9 (-), 126.5 (-), 124.3 (-), 58.3 (-), 48.0 (+), 44.9 (+), 28.1 (-), 28.0 (-), 25.4 (-), 25.3 (-), 24.1 (-), 23.4 (2 overlapping signals (-)). HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 353.2587, found 353.2587. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +38.6$ ($c = 3.56$, CH_2Cl_2)

N-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-N-(2-(1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-

hexahydros-indacen-4-ylamino)ethyl)formamide (26): Using the general procedure, **22** (1.43 mmol, 355 mg) was reacted with the EMind aniline (1.43 mmol, 489 mg) to give 281 mg (34%) of **26** as an off white solid. ($R_f = 0.3$ in 93:7 hexanes/EtOAc). M.p. = 104-106°C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 3.83 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.24 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.00 (sept, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.79 (br, 1H), 1.80 (s, 4H), 1.70-1.45 (8H), 1.38 (s, 12H), 1.24 (d, $J = 6.6$

Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 12H) ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.5, 149.7, 147.6, 143.4, 142.6, 135.6, 129.4, 124.4, 115.3, 53.5, 49.8, 48.5, 48.3, 43.1, 32.7, 31.4, 28.3, 25.4, 23.4, 9.0. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{60}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 572.4784, found 572.4772.

(*R*)-*N*-(2-(1-phenylethylamino)ethyl)-*N*-(1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydros-indacen-4-yl)formamide (27): Using the general procedure, **22** (0.38 mmol, 158 mg) was reacted with (*R*)-(+)- α -methylbenzylamine (0.38 mmol, 50 mg, 53 μL) to give 83 mg (42%) of **27** as a pale yellow solid. ($R_f = 0.3$ in 4:1 hexanes/EtOAc). M.p. = 88-90°C. ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.10 (5H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.80-3.65 (2H), 3.58 (m, 1H), 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.66 (m, 1H), 1.81 (s, 2H), 1.78 (s, 1H), 1.76 (s, 1H), 1.72-1.40 (8H), 1.35-1.15 (12H), 0.85-0.65 (12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.1, 150.4, 150.3, 147.7, 147.6, 145.2, 132.9, 128.3, 126.8, 126.5, 120.8, 58.1, 52.9, 52.7, 50.1, 48.1, 48.0, 44.4, 43.5 (2 overlapping signals), 33.0, 32.9, 32.4, 32.1, 31.7, 31.5, 30.5, 24.2, 9.0, 8.9 (2 overlapping signals). HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ (M) $^+$ 516.4080, found 516.4069. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +26.8$ ($c = 0.83$, CH_2Cl_2)



General procedure for preparation of imidazolinium triflate salts 11,19, 28-32: To a round bottom flask was added the corresponding formamide (1 equiv.), freshly distilled toluene (0.037 M), and TfOH (1 equiv.) whereupon the yellow colour of the solution intensified. After stirring at rt for 15 min, Tf₂O (1 equiv.) was added and the reaction stirred at 65°C for 90 min, during which the colour darkened to brown. Upon addition of DIPEA (3 equiv.) white fumes were observed and the colour gradually changed to red. The reaction was heated at 80°C for 90 min and then cooled to rt during which time a small amount of a red oil began to form at the bottom of the flask. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and pentane was added to the reddish brown microcrystalline material.

The suspension was sonicated for 30 seconds, inducing the formation of a flaky solid that was amenable to filtration. The solid was filtered on a medium porosity filter funnel and washed with pentane. The light-brown solid consisted of a mixture of the imidazolinium and Huniginium triflate salts. This mixture was transferred to another round bottom flask where K_2CO_3 (1:1 w/w), crushed hot 4Å molecular sieves (1:1 w/w), and freshly distilled toluene (3 mL/100 mg of solids) were added. The mixture was heated at 45°C for 16 h, cooled to rt, filtered through Celite and washed with methylene chloride. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting solid was triturated once with a minimal amount of Et_2O . After decantation or filtration the imidazolinium salt was obtained in pure form.

1,3-Bis(2,6-di(pentan-3-yl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium

trifluoromethanesulfonate (11): Using the general procedure, formamide **8** (0.6 mmol, 310 mg) produced **11** (247 mg, 64%) as an off white solid. M.p. = decomposes at >258°C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.53 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 4.62 (s, 4H), 2.52 (p, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.90-1.80 (8H), 1.80-1.55 (8H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 12H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 157.5 (-), 143.3 (+), 132.2 (+), 131.5 (-), 125.6 (-), (q, 120.7 (+), J = 319 Hz), 55.4 (+), 43.4 (-), 29.1 (+), 12.4 (-), 12.1 (-). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{36}H_{55}F_3N_2O_3S$: C 66.23, H 8.49, N 4.29. Found: C 66.46, H 8.42, N 4.65.

1,3-Bis(2,6-diisobutylphenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfonate

(19): Using the general procedure, formamide **18** (0.3 mmol, 140 mg) produced **19** (125 mg, 65%) as a light-brown solid. M.p. = 238-244°C. 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.95

(s, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 4.58 (s, 4H), 2.54 (m, 8H), 2.03 (sept, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 4H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 24H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.8, 138.8, 132.1, 130.6, 128.4, (q, 120.7, $J = 319$), 53.7, 40.0, 29.2, 22.8, 22.5. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_2$ (M-OTf) $^+$ 447.3739, found 447.3734.

1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-3-(2,6-diisobutylphenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium

trifluoromethanesulfonate (28): Using the general procedure, formamide **23** (0.32 mmol, 140 mg) produced **28** (102 mg, 57%) as a light-brown solid. M.p. = decomposes at $>291^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.60 (s, 4H), 2.99 (sept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.54 (m, 4H), 1.93 (sept, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.38 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.28 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.98 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.5, 146.0, 138.8, 132.1, 131.6, 130.5, 129.0, 125.1, (q, 120.7, $J = 319$), 54.5, 53.6, 40.4, 29.4, 29.1, 25.0, 24.2, 22.8, 22.4. HRMS m/e calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{43}\text{N}_2$ (M-OTf) $^+$ 419.3426, found 419.3441.

1-(2,6-di-(3-pentyl)phenyl)-3-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium

trifluoromethanesulfonate (29): Using the general procedure, formamide **24** (0.65 mmol, 300 mg) produced **29** (284 mg, 74%) as a light-brown solid. M.p. = $230\text{--}234^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.55–7.45 (2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.62 (m, 4H), 3.00 (sept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.51 (p, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.90–1.50 (8H), 1.39 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.28 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.9, 146.0, 143.4,

132.4, 131.6, 131.4, 128.8, 125.5, 125.2, (q, 120.7, $J = 319$), 55.0, 54.6, 43.5, 29.5, 29.1, 28.8, 24.7, 24.4, 12.4, 12.2. . HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{31}H_{47}N_2$ (M-OTf) $^+$ 447.3739, found 447.3746.

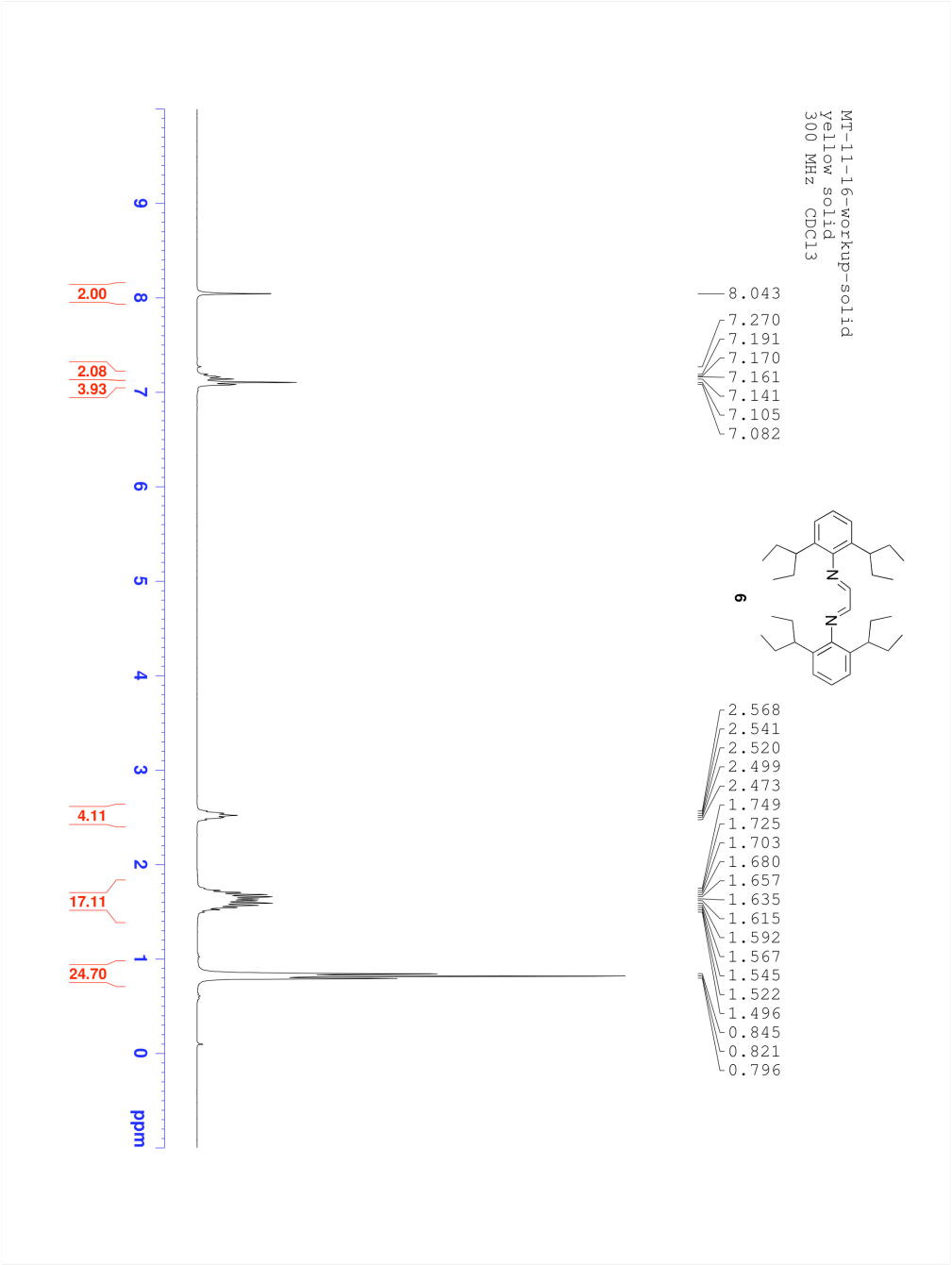
1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-3-(R)-1-phenylethyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium

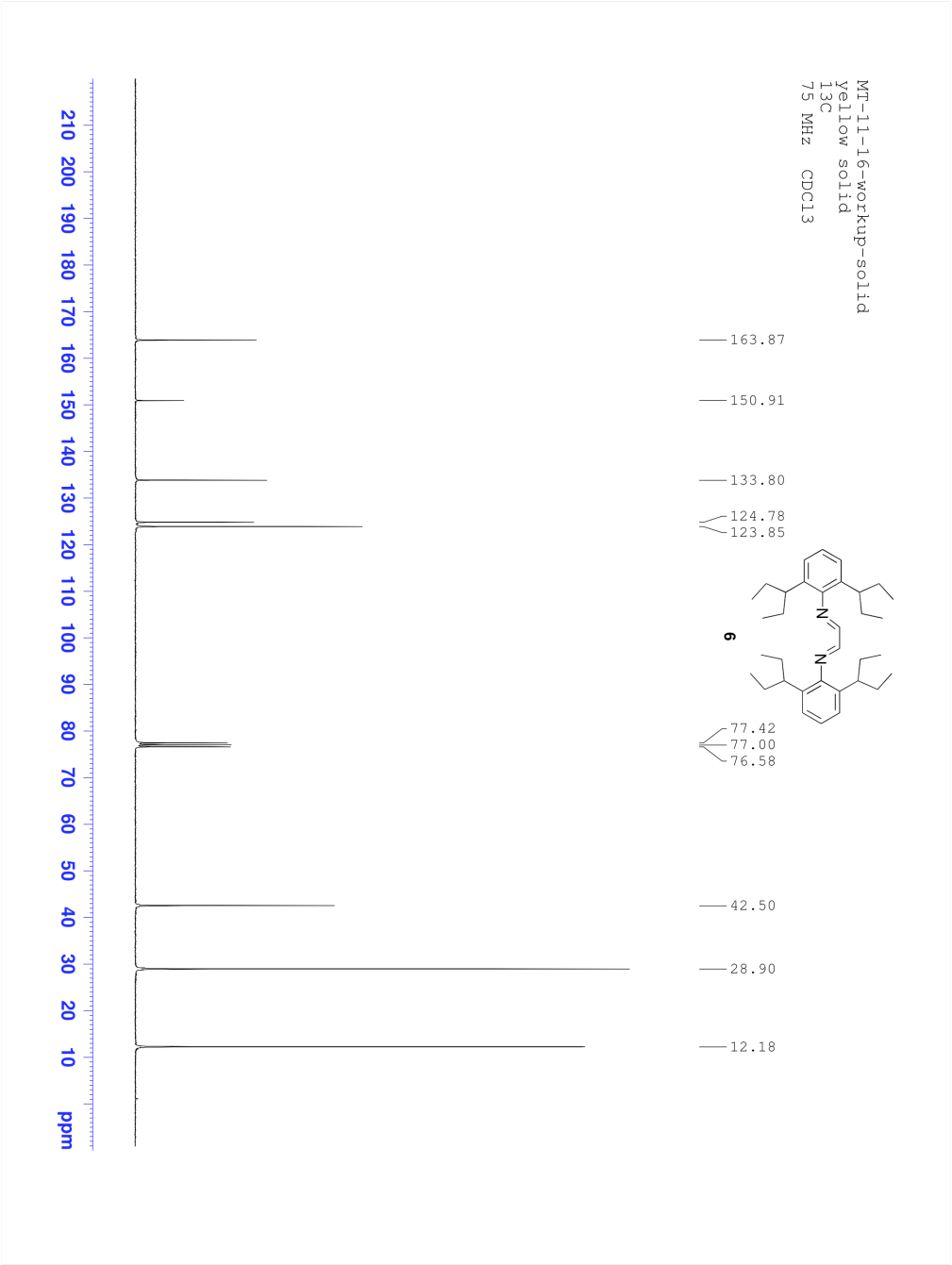
trifluoromethanesulfonate (30): Using the general procedure, formamide **25** (1.49 mmol, 527 mg) produced **30** as a light-brown solid (369 mg, 52%). M.p. = 62-68°C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.25 (6H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.32 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.10 (4H), 2.87 (sept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (sept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.77 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 1.30-1.10 (12H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 157.0 (-), 146.5 (+), 146.4 (+), 137.1 (+), 131.0 (-), 129.9 (+), 129.4 (-), 129.3 (-), 127.0 (-), 124.8 (-), (q, 120.7 (+), $J = 319$ Hz), 57.9 (-), 53.3 (+), 46.7 (+), 28.7 (-), 28.6 (-), 24.7 (-), 24.6 (-), 24.0 (-), 23.9 (-), 18.4 (-). HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{23}H_{31}N_2$ (M-OTf) $^+$ 335.2487, found 335.2479. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +50.0$ ($c = 0.50$, CH_2Cl_2)

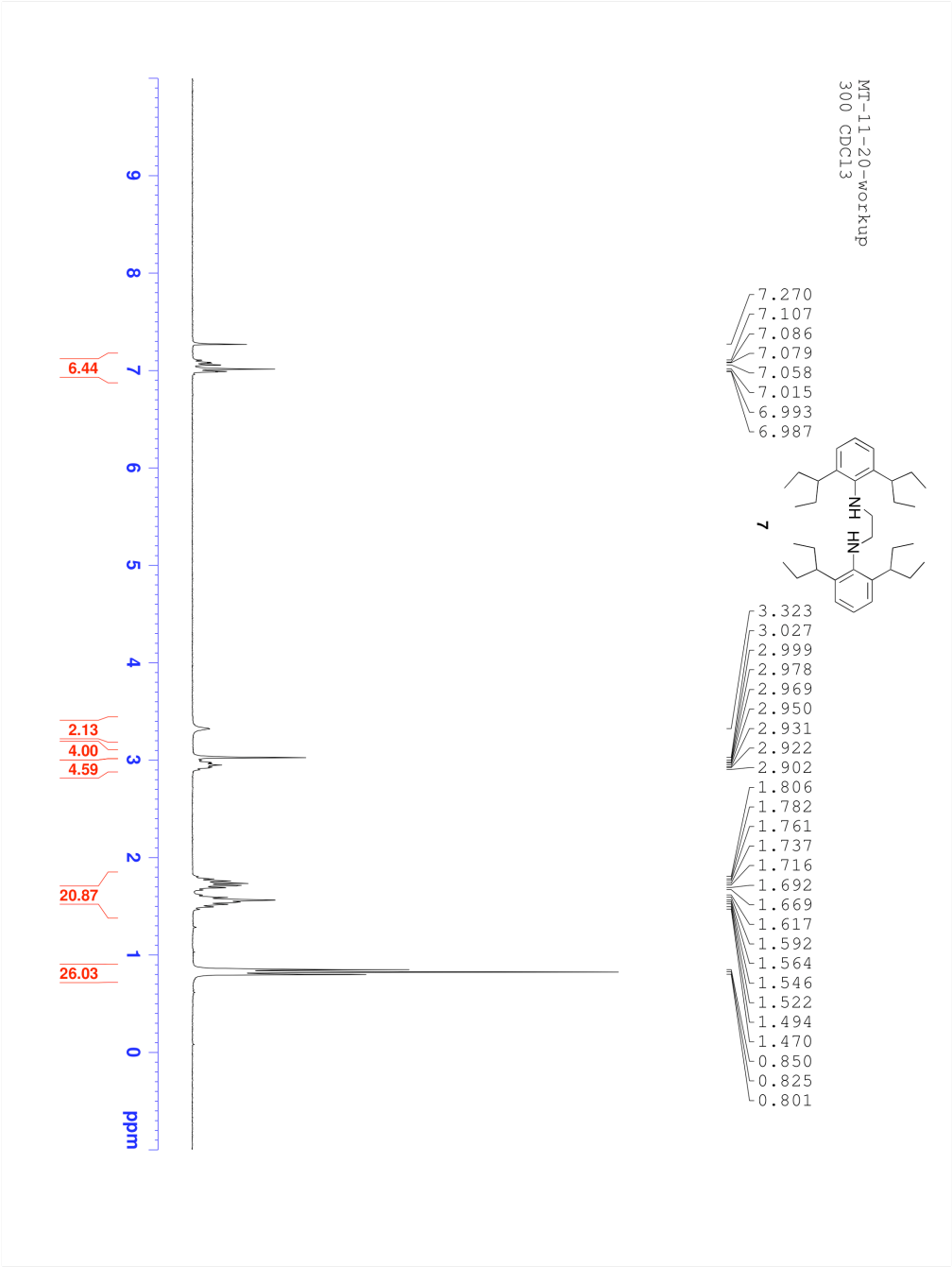
1-(1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydros-indacen-4-yl)-3-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfonate (31): Using the general procedure, formamide **26** (0.49 mmol, 280 mg) produced **31** as a light brown solid (248 mg, 72%). M.p. = 274-278°C; 1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_2Cl_2): δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.78 (t, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.50 (t, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.08 (sept, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.01 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.95 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.50 (14H), 1.40 (s, 6H), 1.38 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H), 1.27 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_2Cl_2):

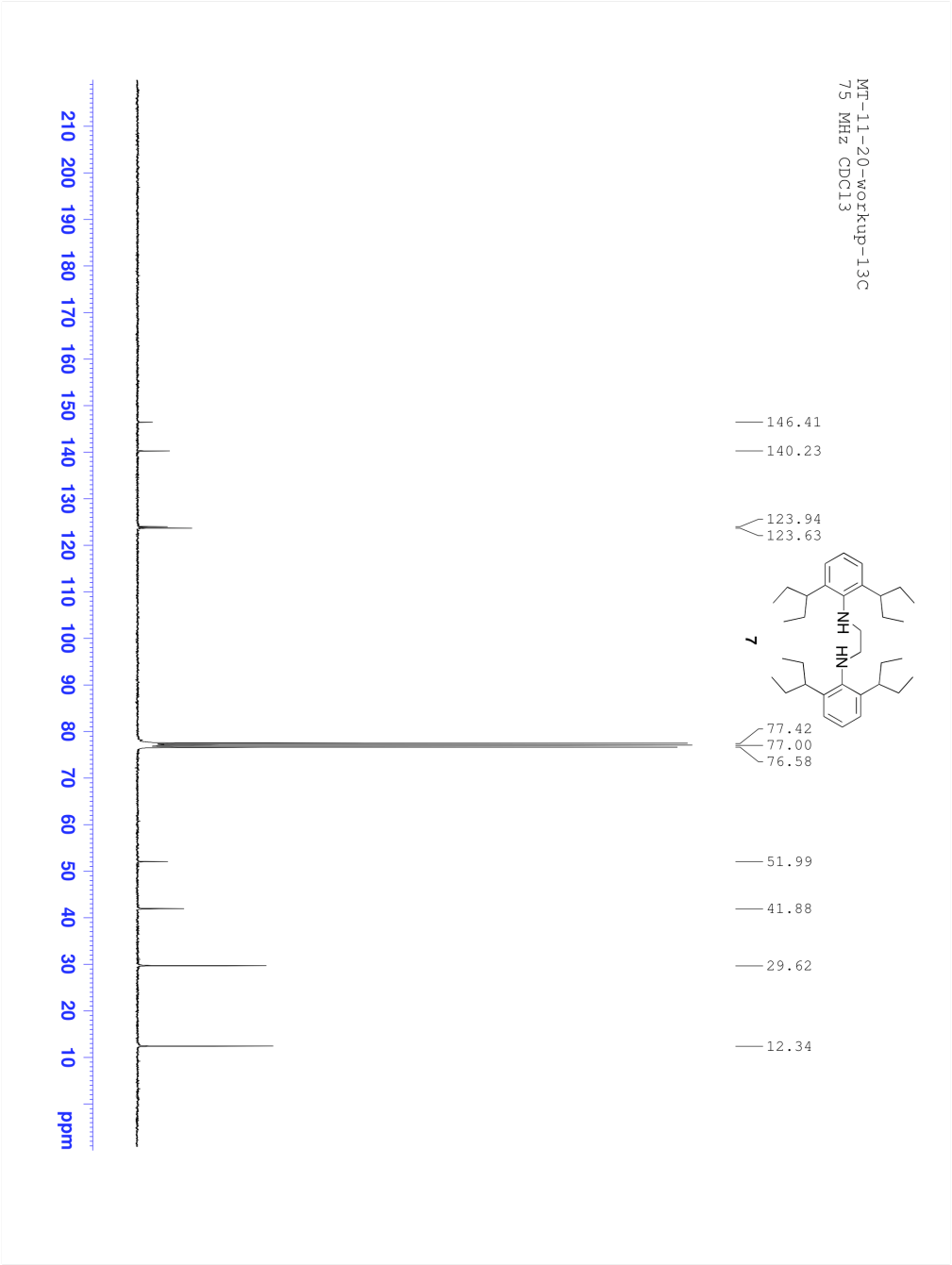
δ 159.0 (-), 152.7 (+), 146.8 (+), 146.6 (+), 132.1 (-), 129.2 (+), 127.7 (+), 125.8 (-), 123.7 (-), (q, 121.3 (+), J = 320 Hz), 56.3 (+), 54.5 (+), 52.6 (+), 49.1 (+), 44.2 (+), 33.2 (+), 33.0 (-), 32.6 (+), 31.5 (-), 29.5 (-), 24.9 (-), 24.6 (-), 9.2 (-), 9.11 (-). HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{39}H_{59}N_2$ (M-OTf)⁺ 555.4669, found 555.4687.

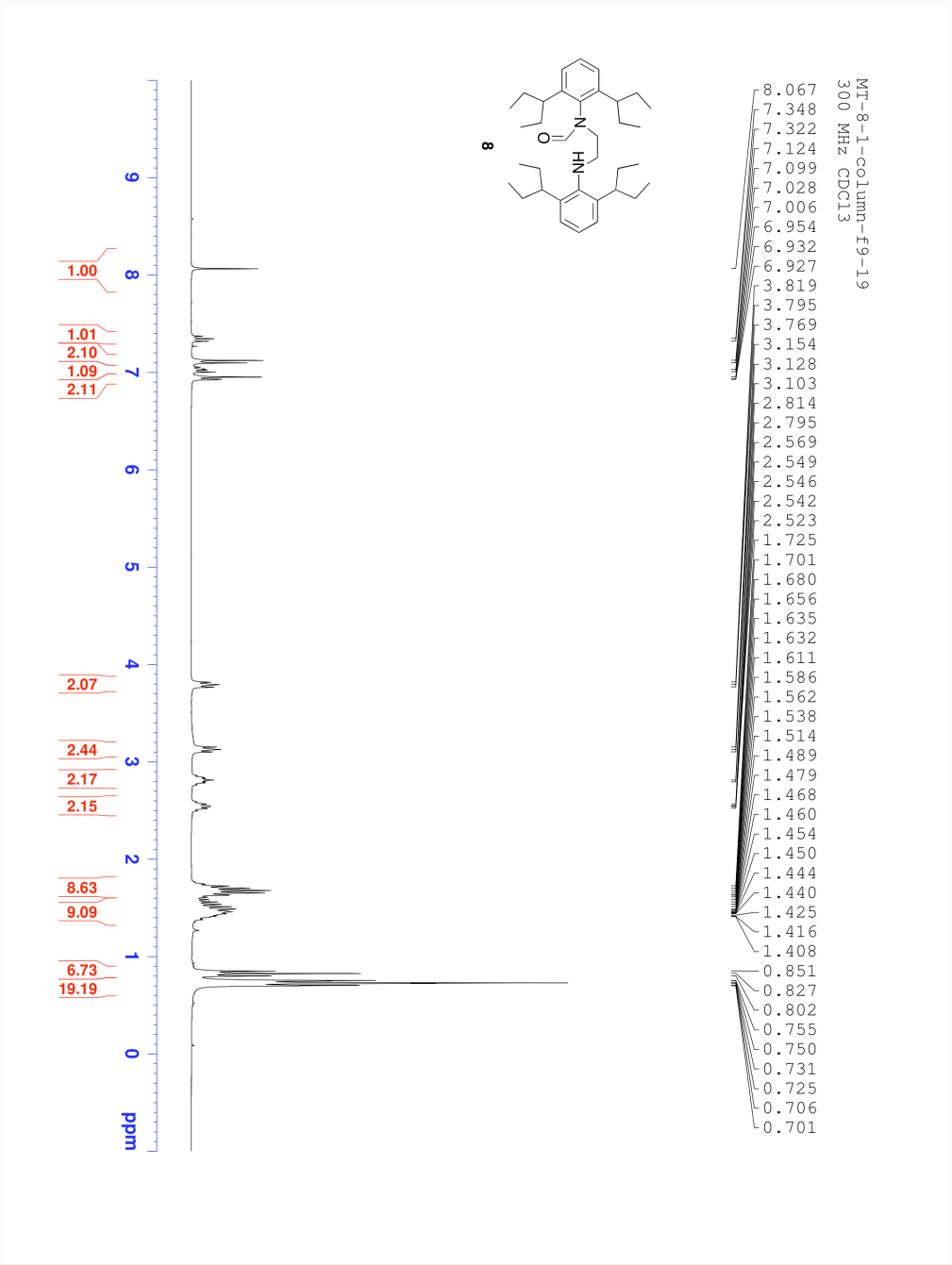
1-(1,1,7,7-tetraethyl-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydros-indacen-4-yl)-3-(R)-(1-phenylethyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfonate (32): Using the general procedure, formamide **27** (0.43 mmol, 222 mg) produced **32** as a pale yellow solid (86 mg, 32%). M.p. = 65-72°C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.30 (5H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 5.46 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.45-4.25 (m, 2H), 4.16 (m, 1H), 3.96 (dd, J = 21.9, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (s, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.70-1.45 (m, 8H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 6H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 0.80-0.74 (12H); ¹H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.9 (-), 151.5 (+), 146.7 (+), 146.6 (+), 136.3 (+), 129.3 (-), 129.2 (-), 127.7 (+), 127.2 (-), 122.7 (-), (q, 120.6 (+), J = 319 Hz), 57.4 (-), 54.2 (+), 52.8 (+), 48.3 ((+), two overlapping signals), 45.8 (+), 43.4 ((+), two overlapping signals), 32.2 (+), 32.0 (+), 31.9 (+), 31.8 (-), 31.6 (-), 31.4 (-), 18.0 (-), 8.9 (-), 8.8 (-). HRMS m/e calcd. for $C_{36}H_{51}F_3N_2O_3S$ (M)⁺ 648.3573, found 648.3557. $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ 0 degrees (c = 0.78, CH₂Cl₂).

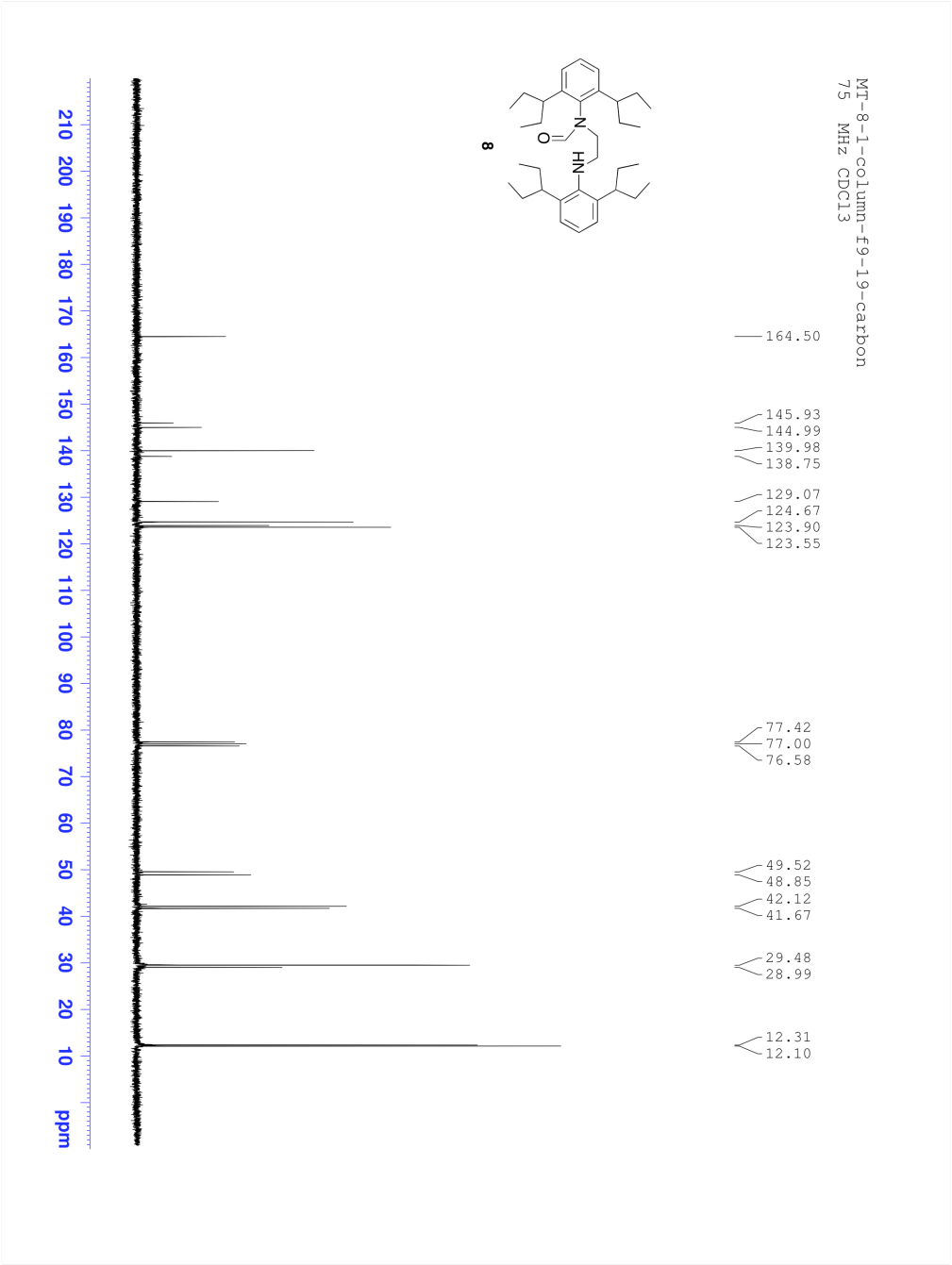


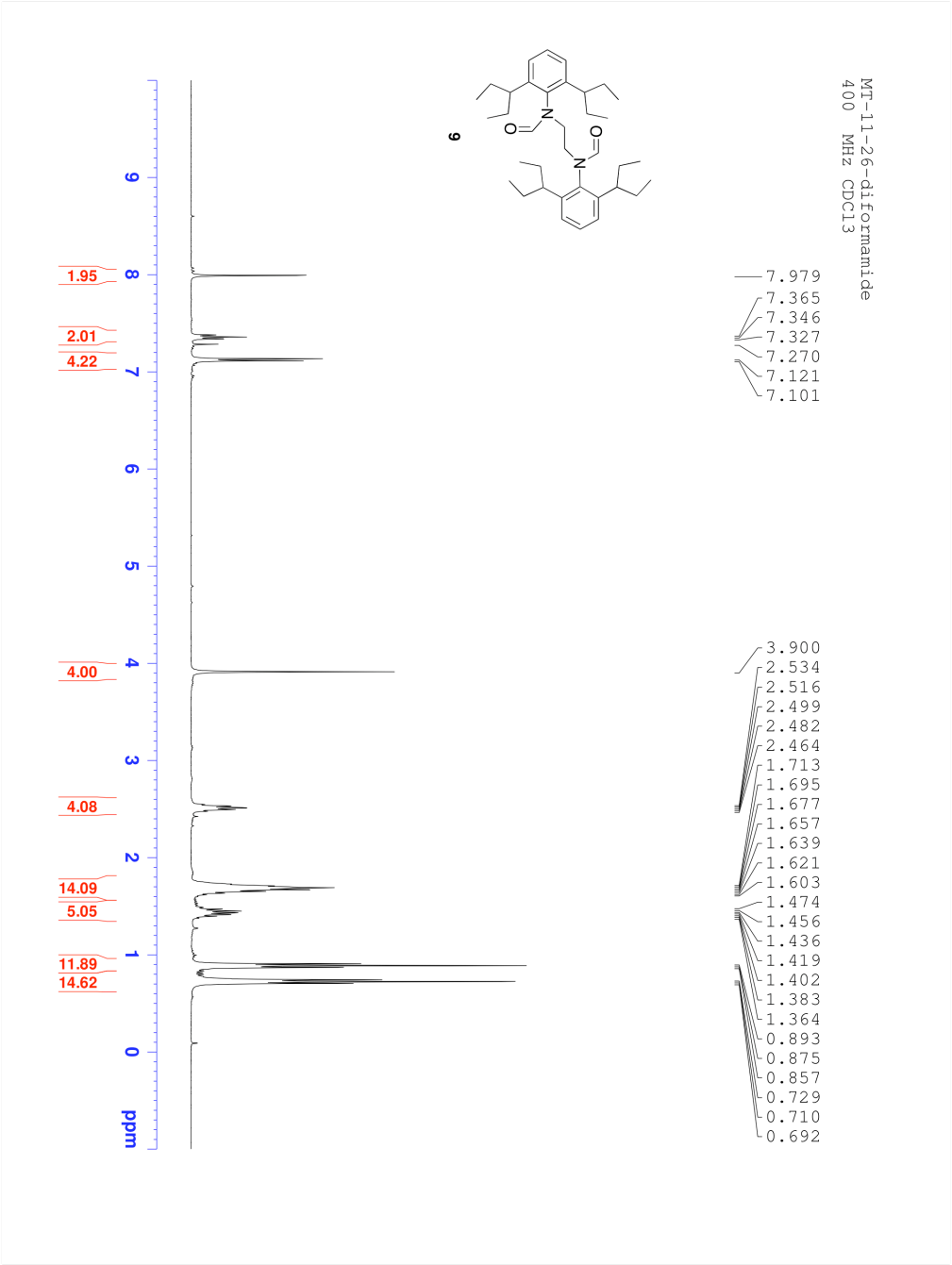


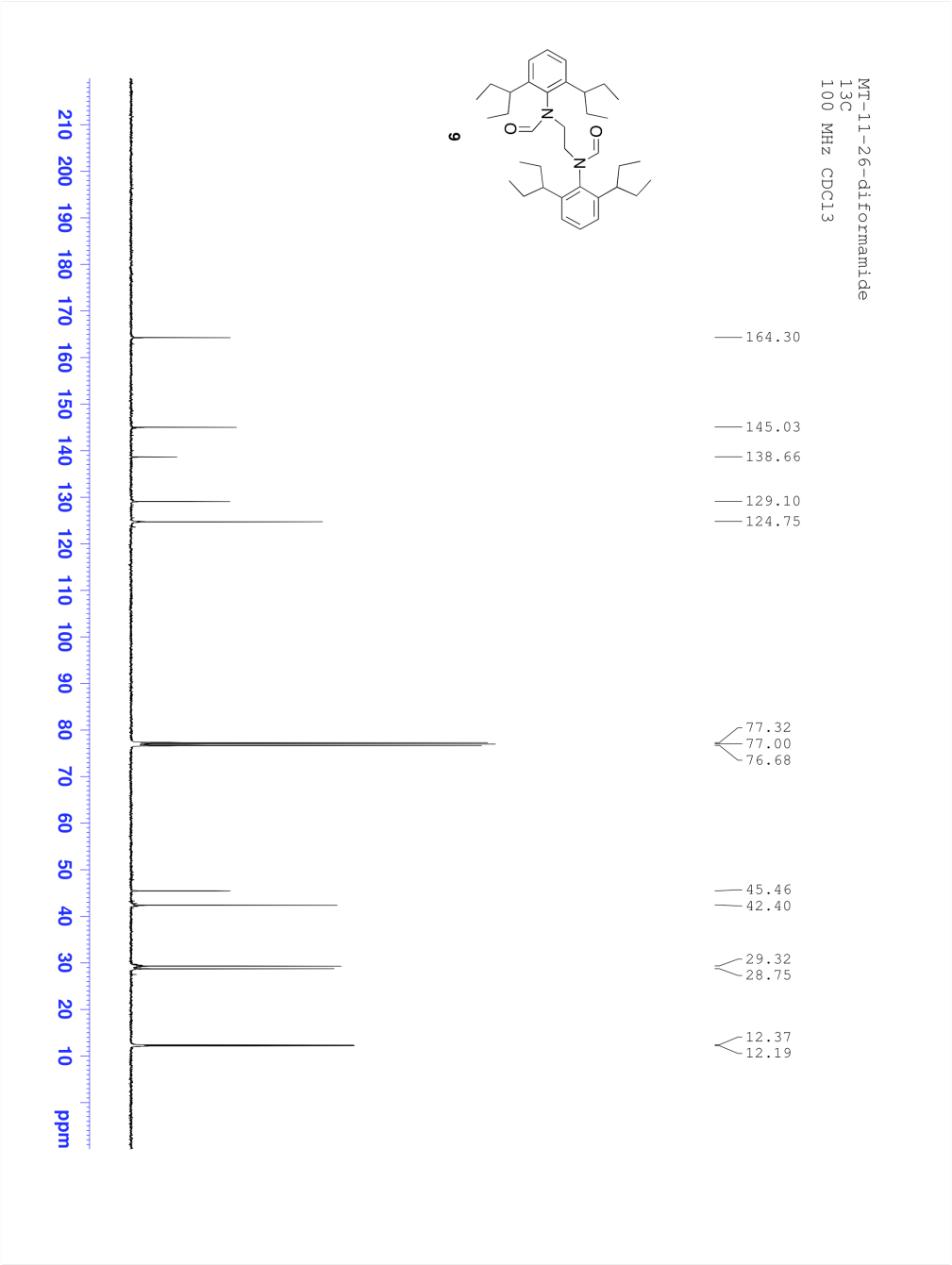


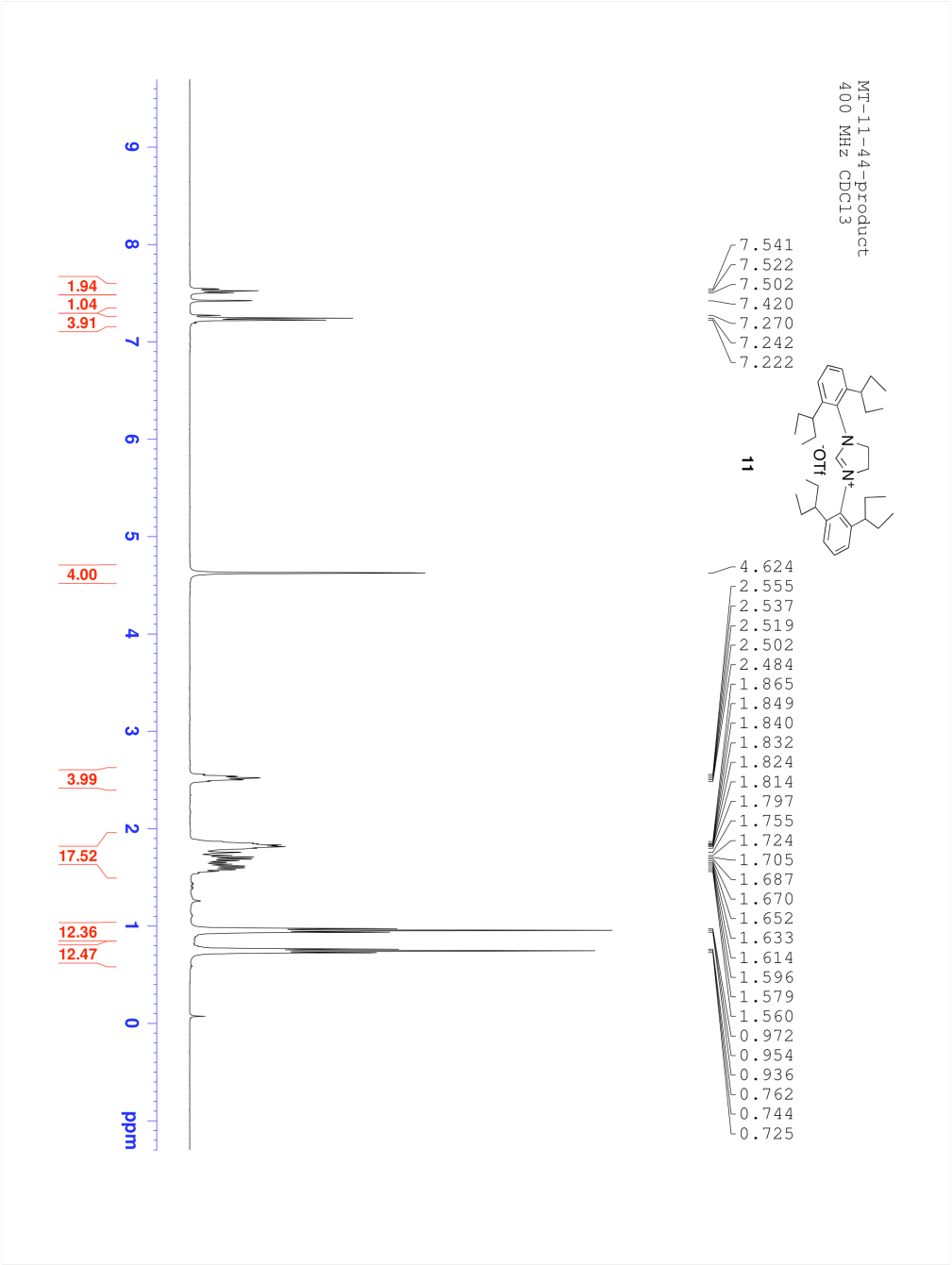


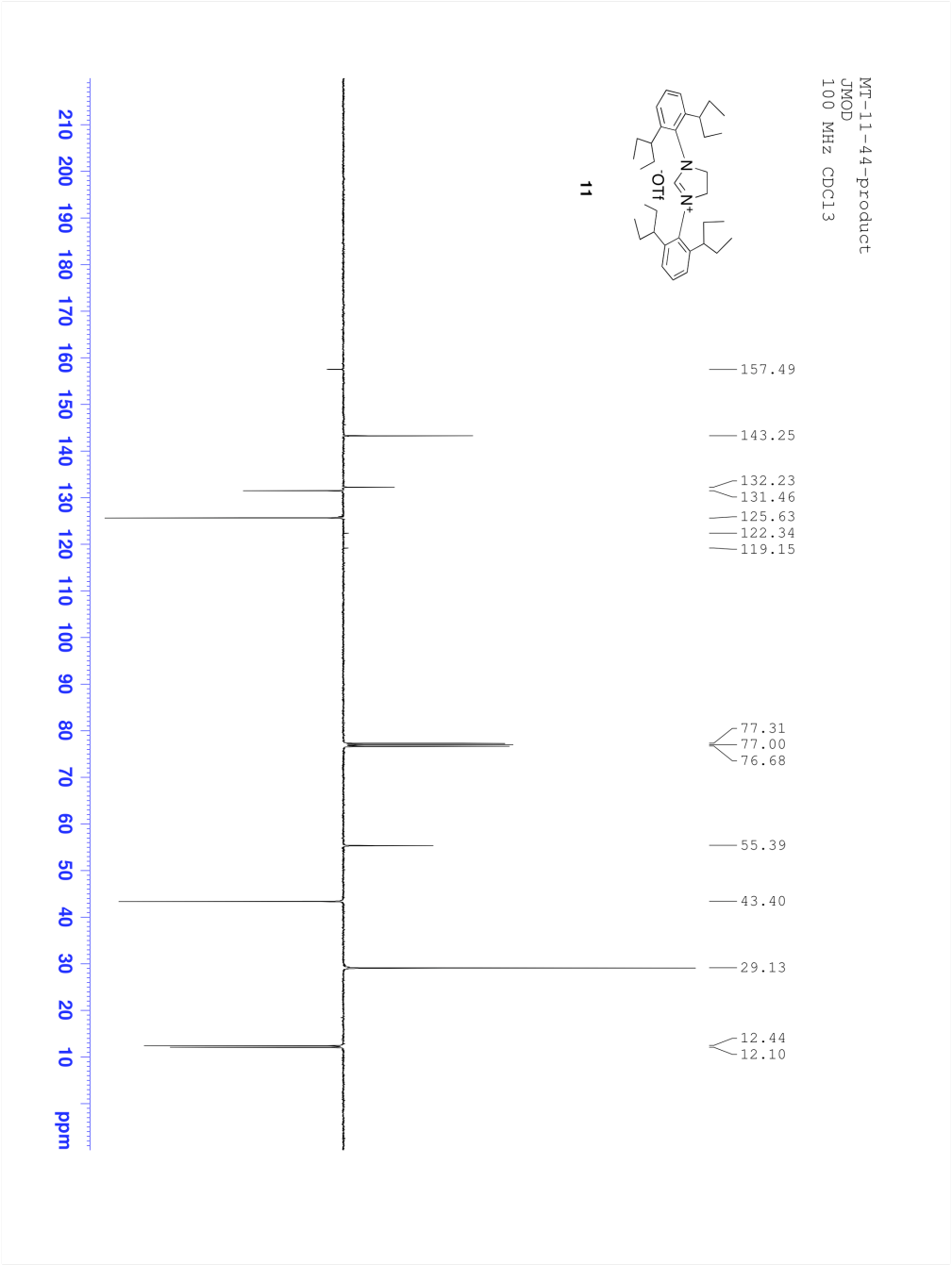


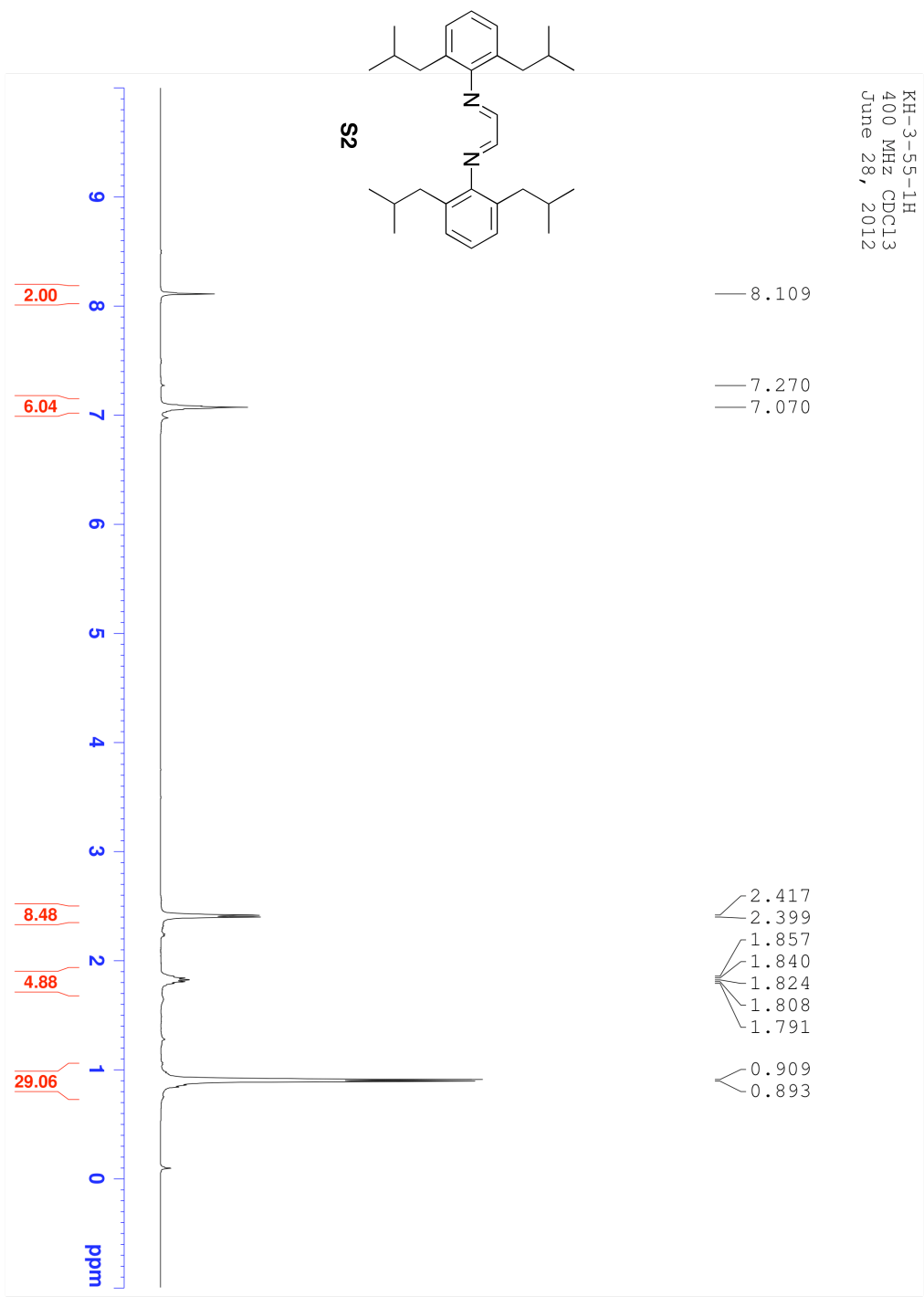


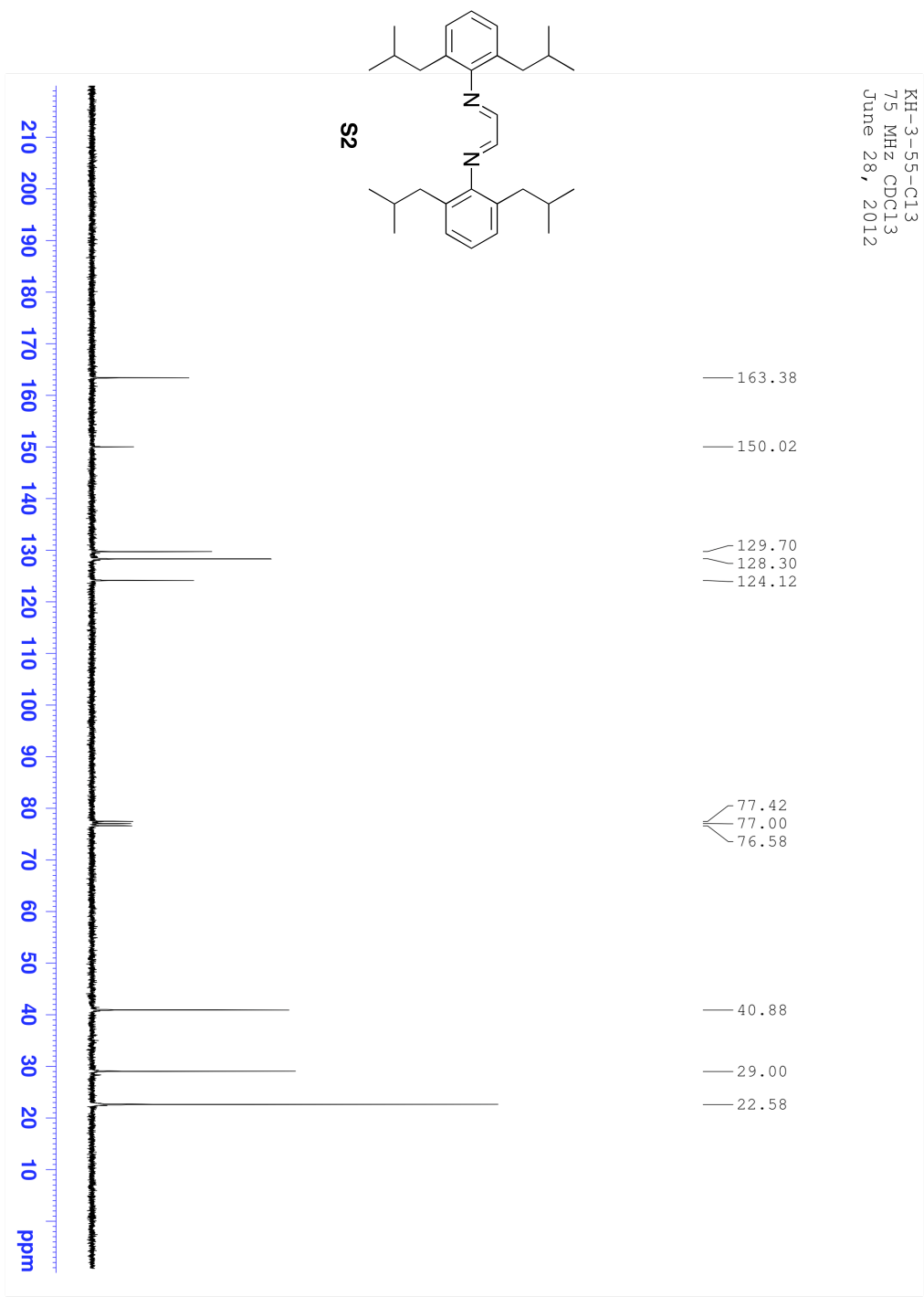


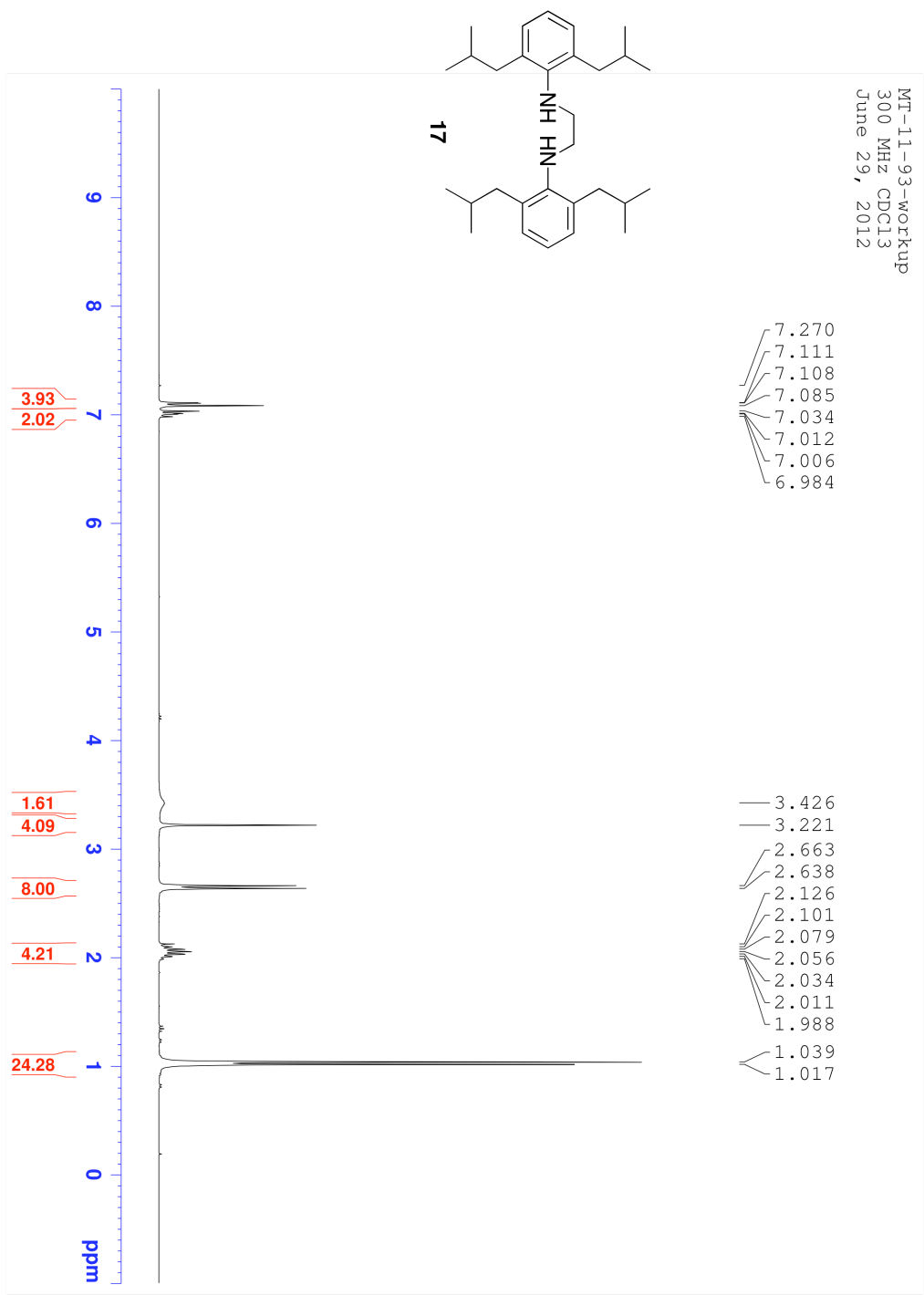


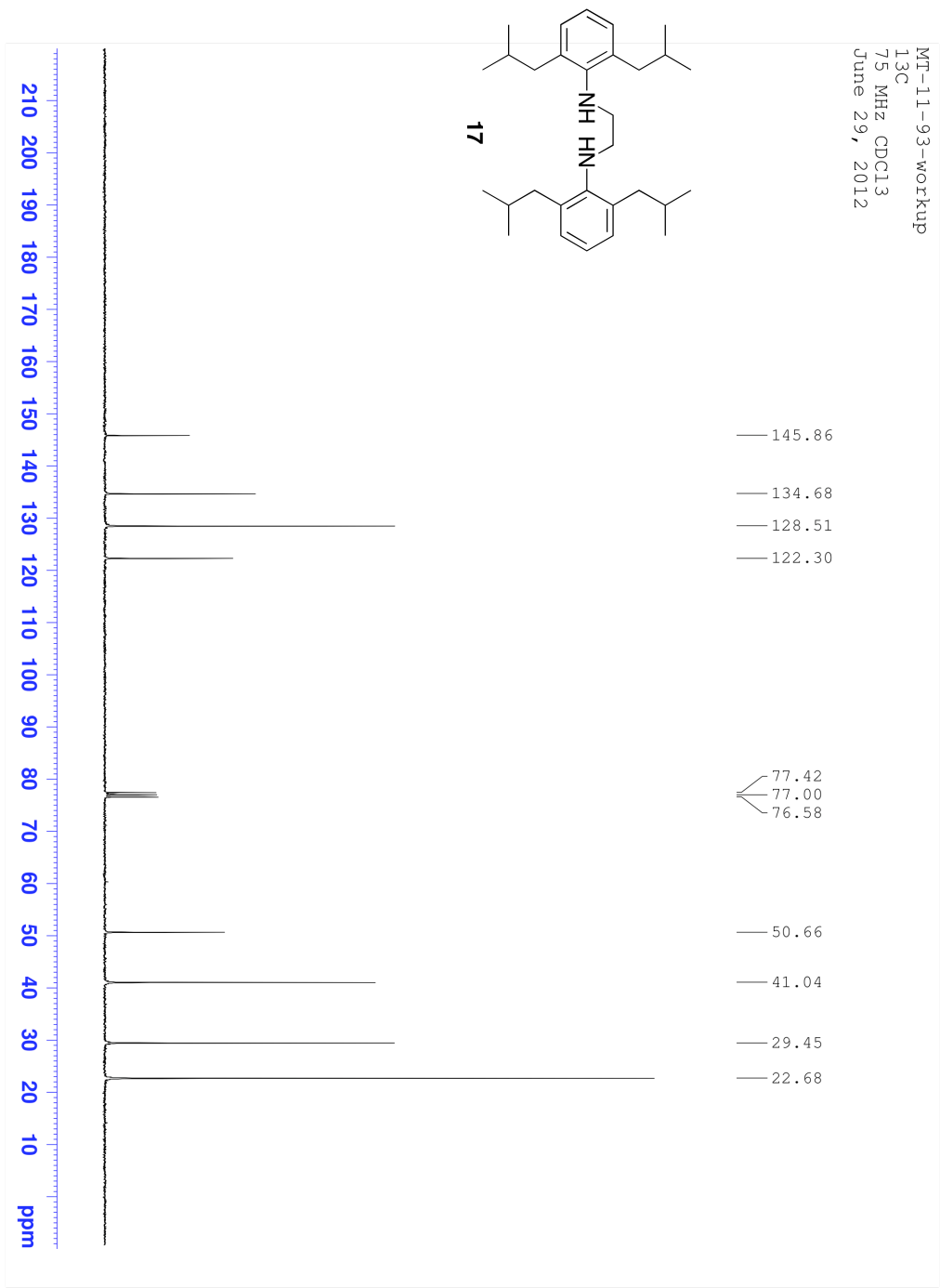


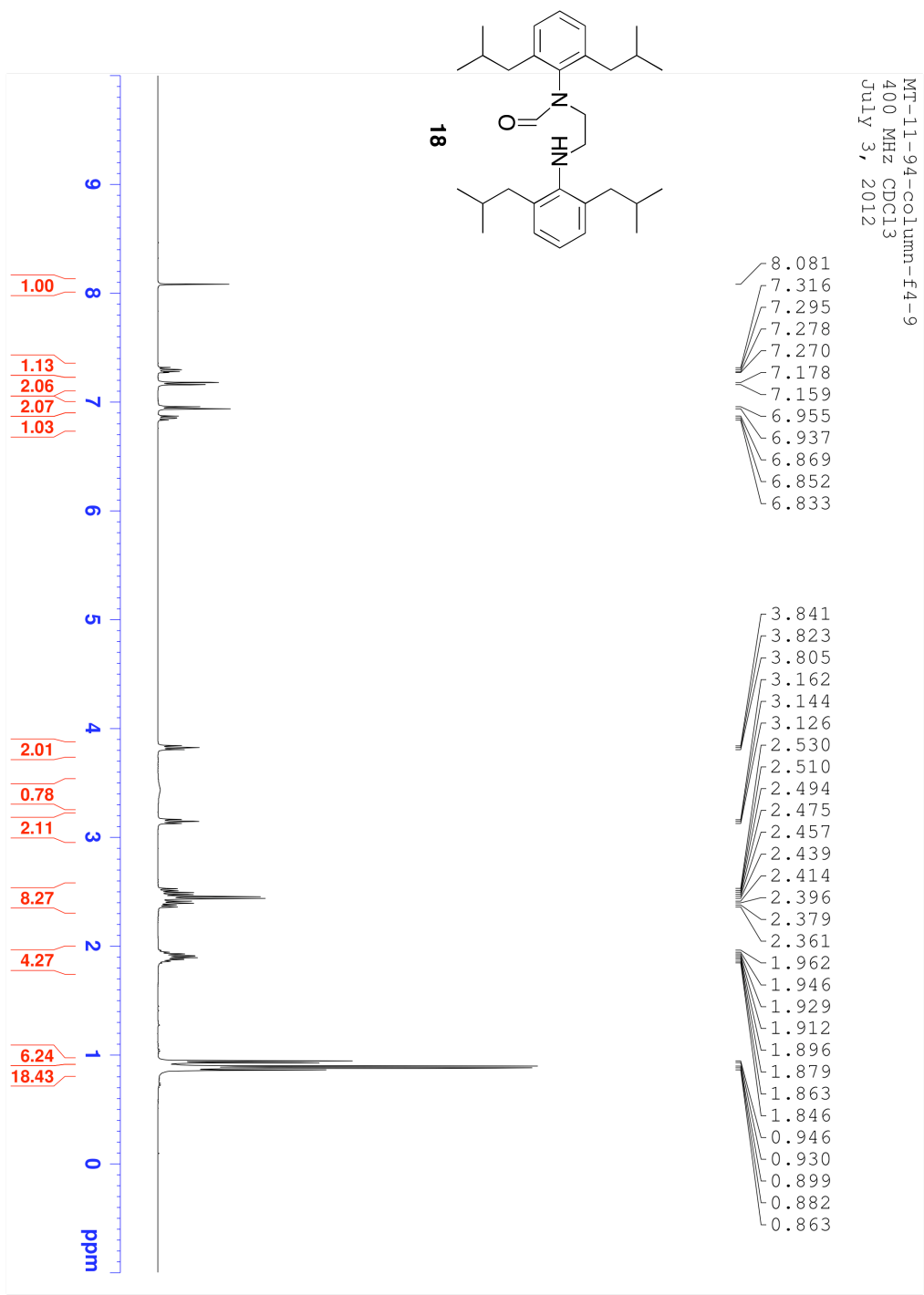


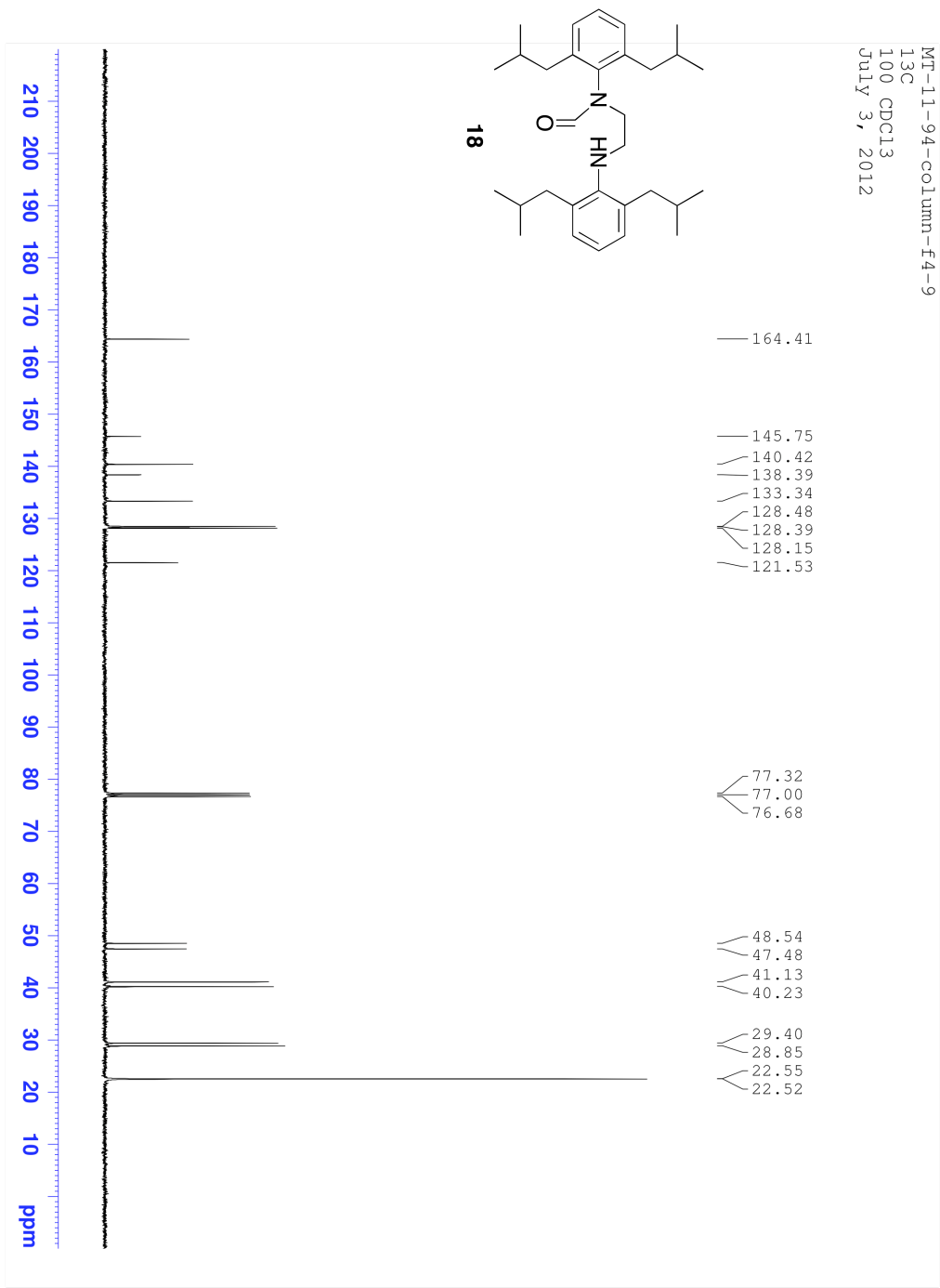


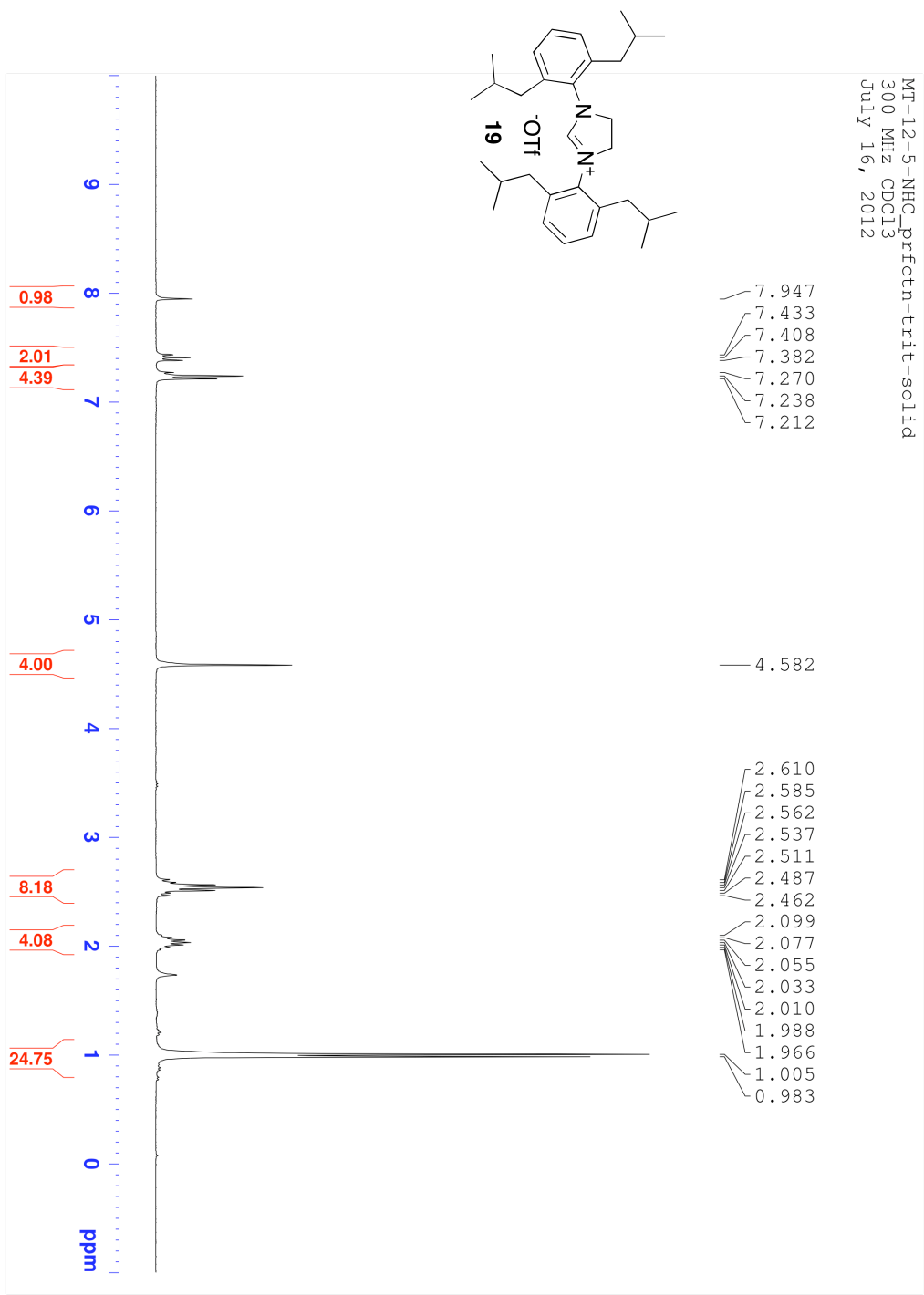


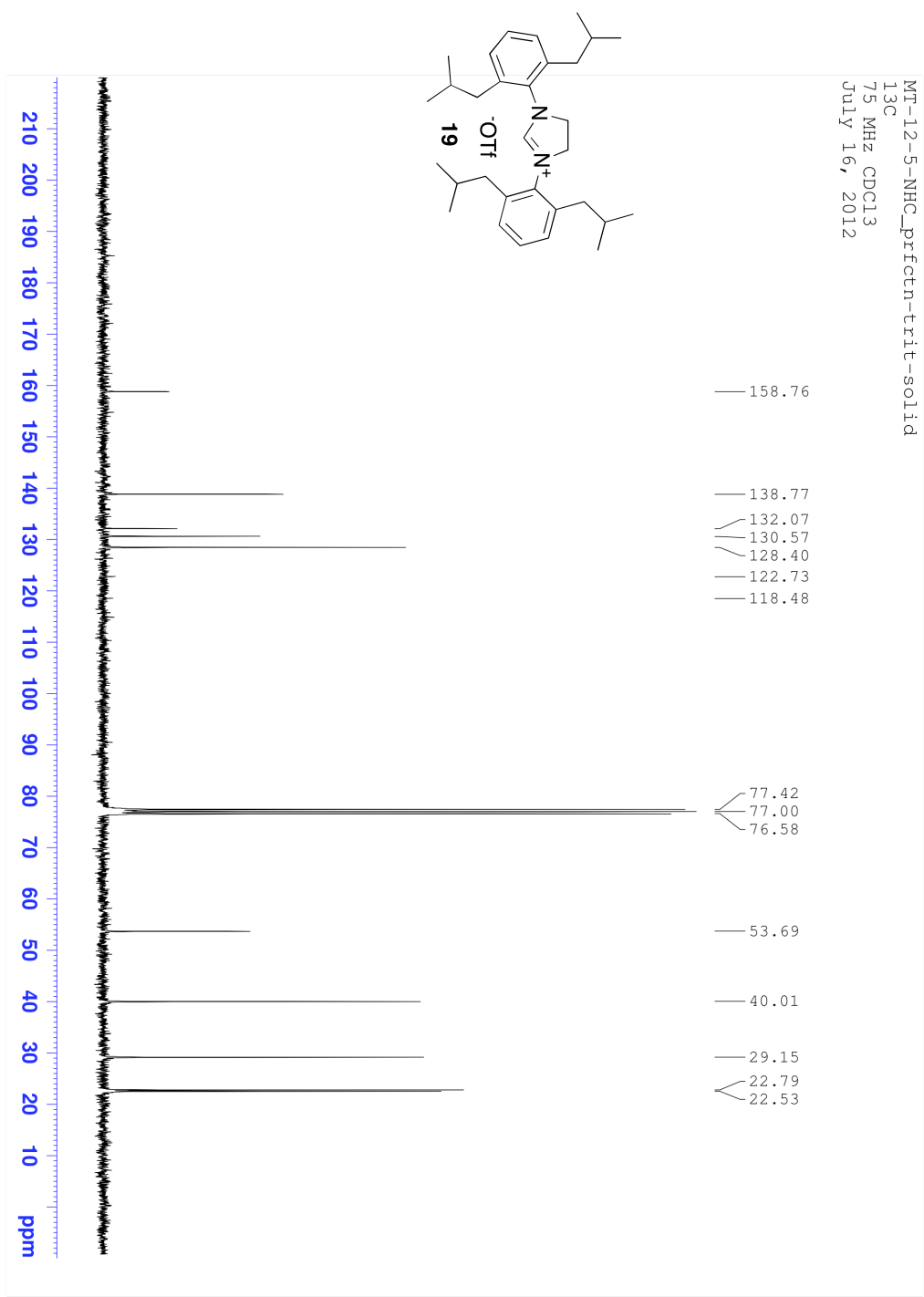


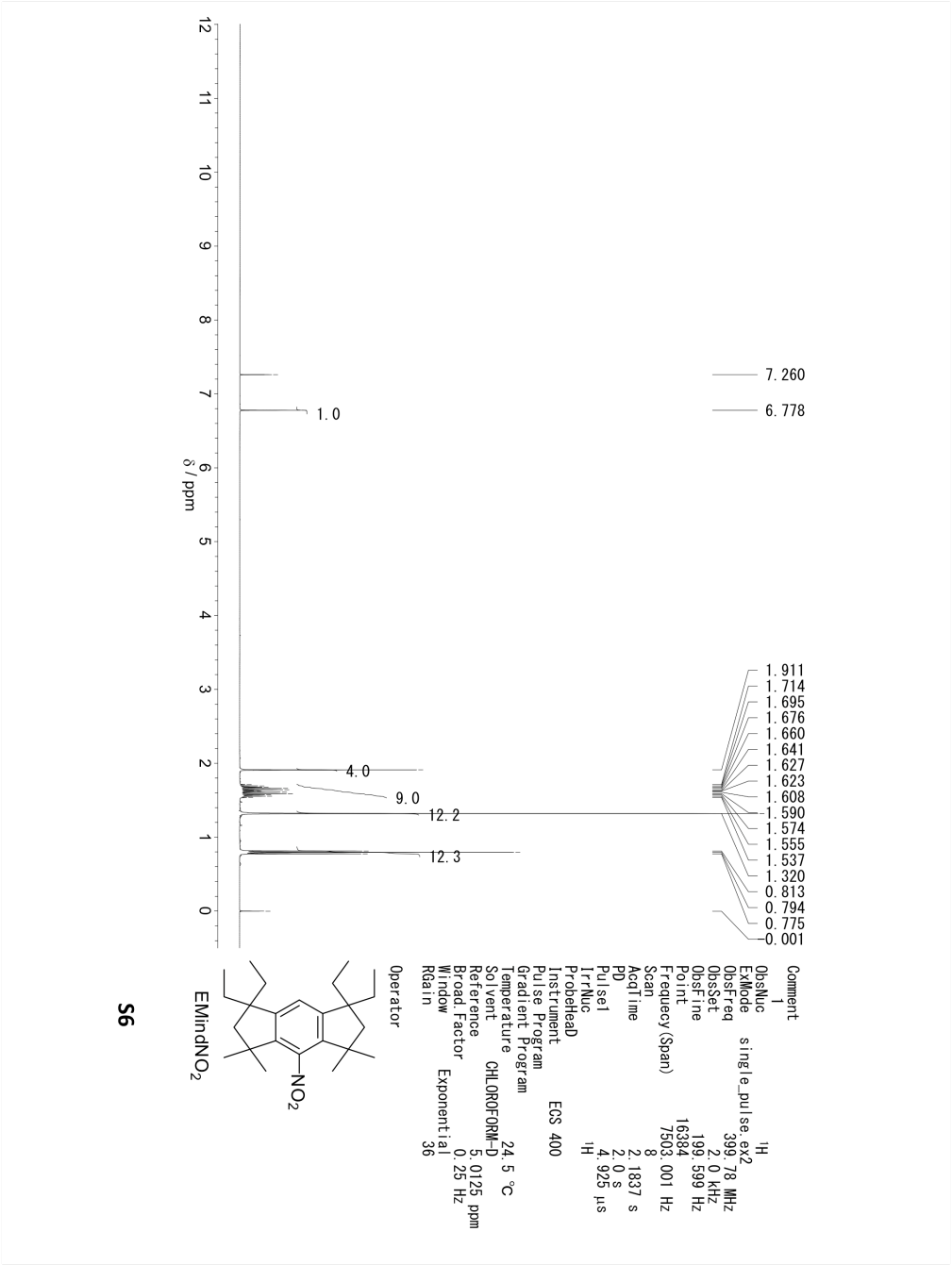


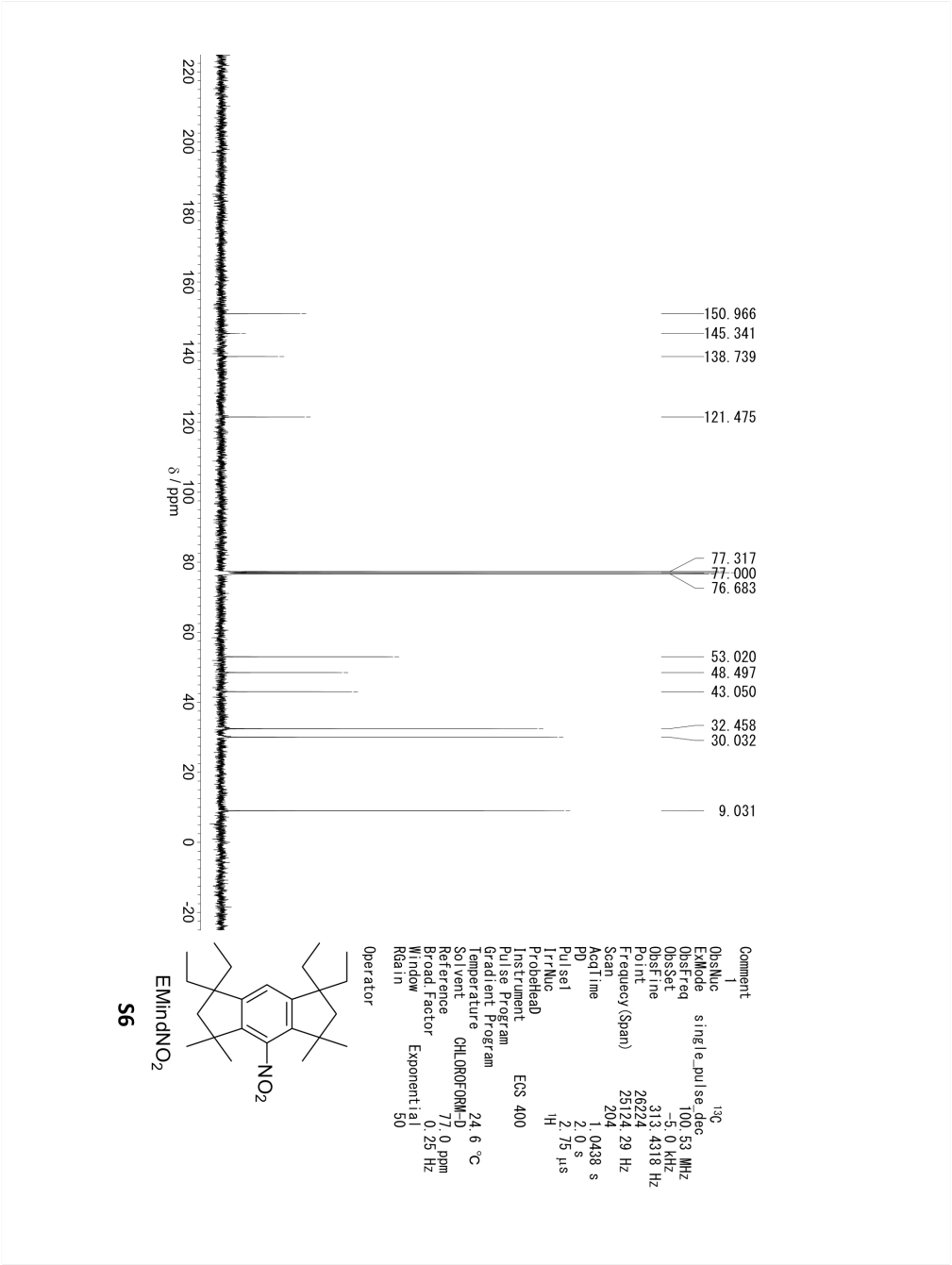


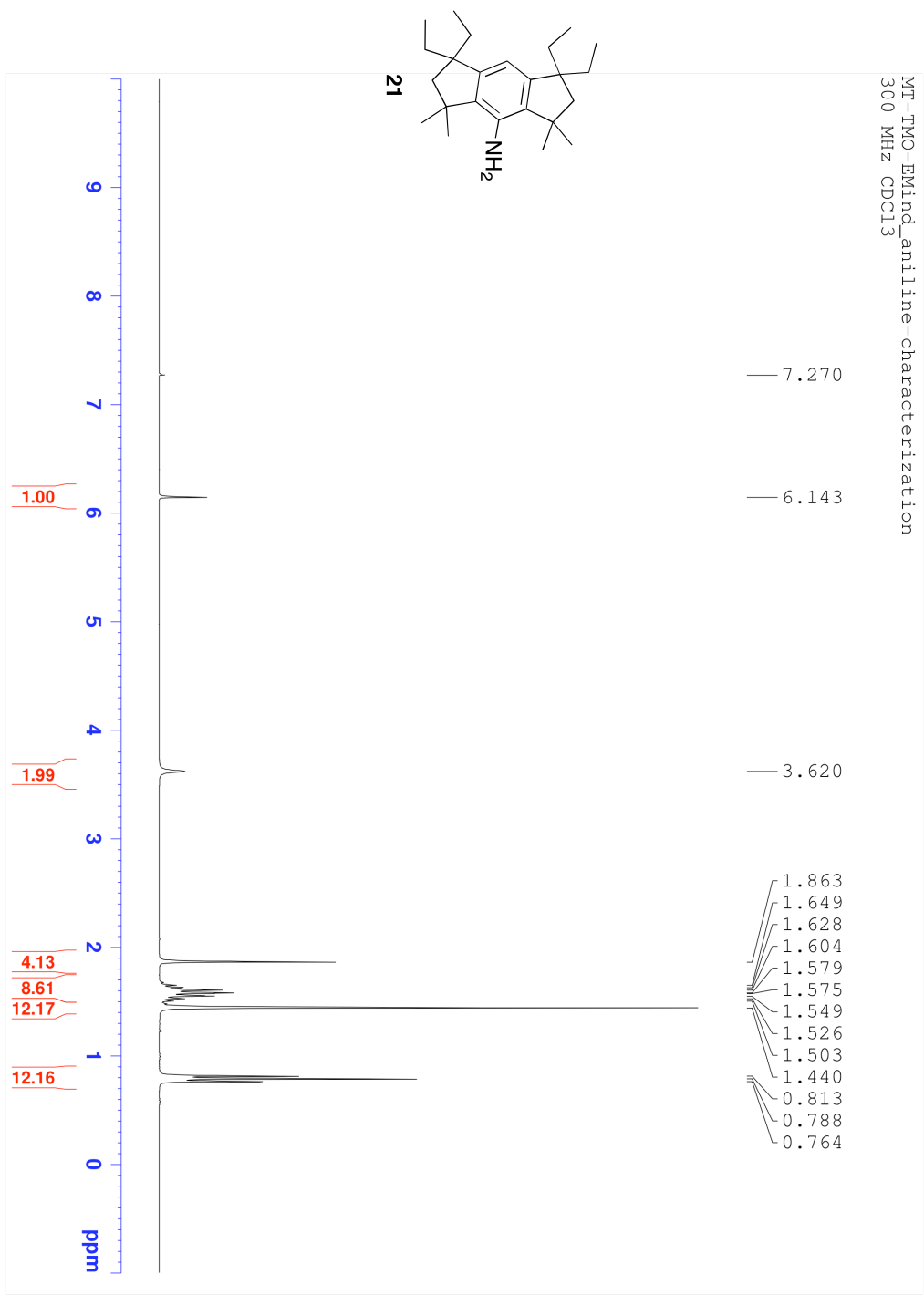


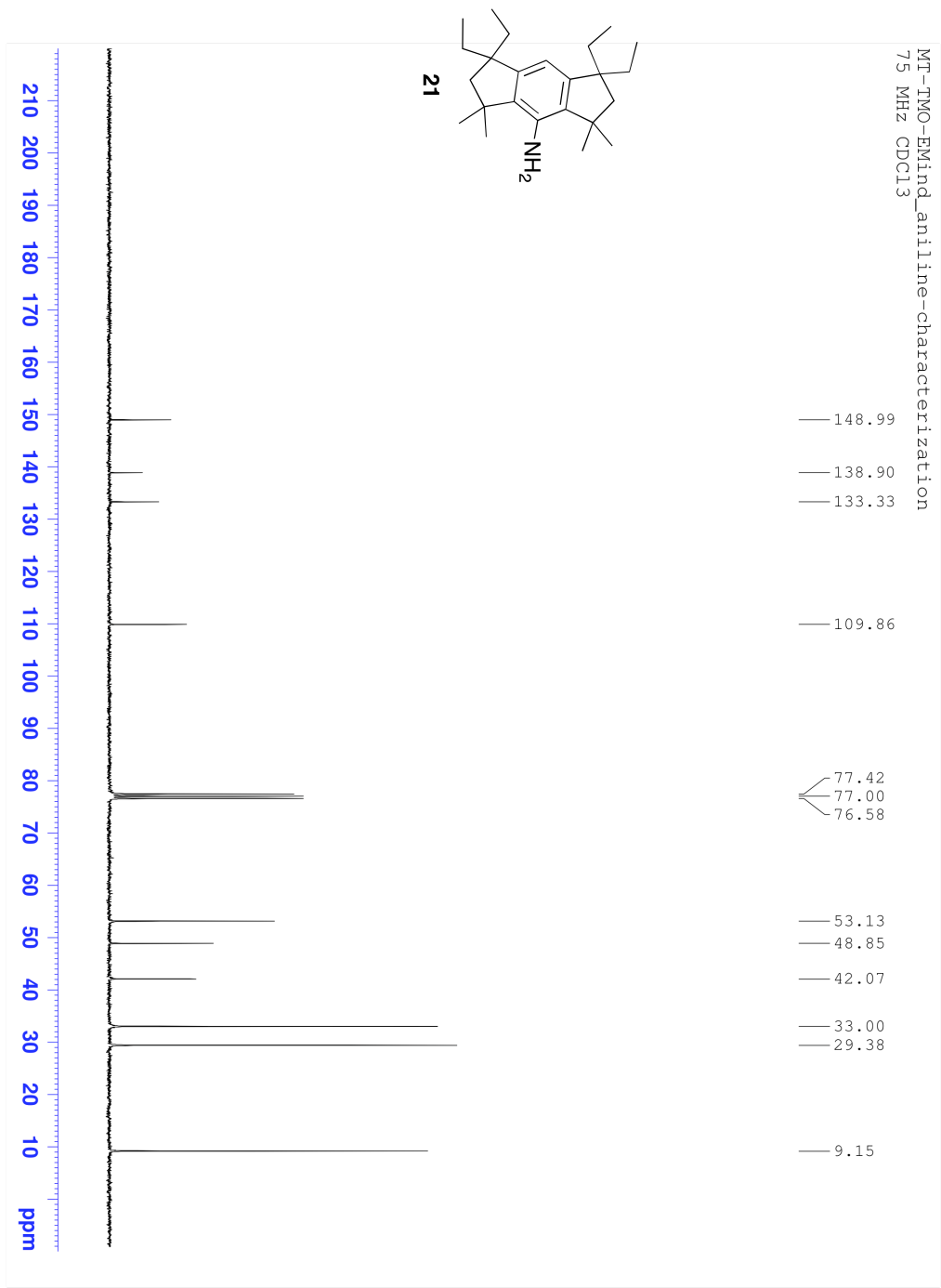


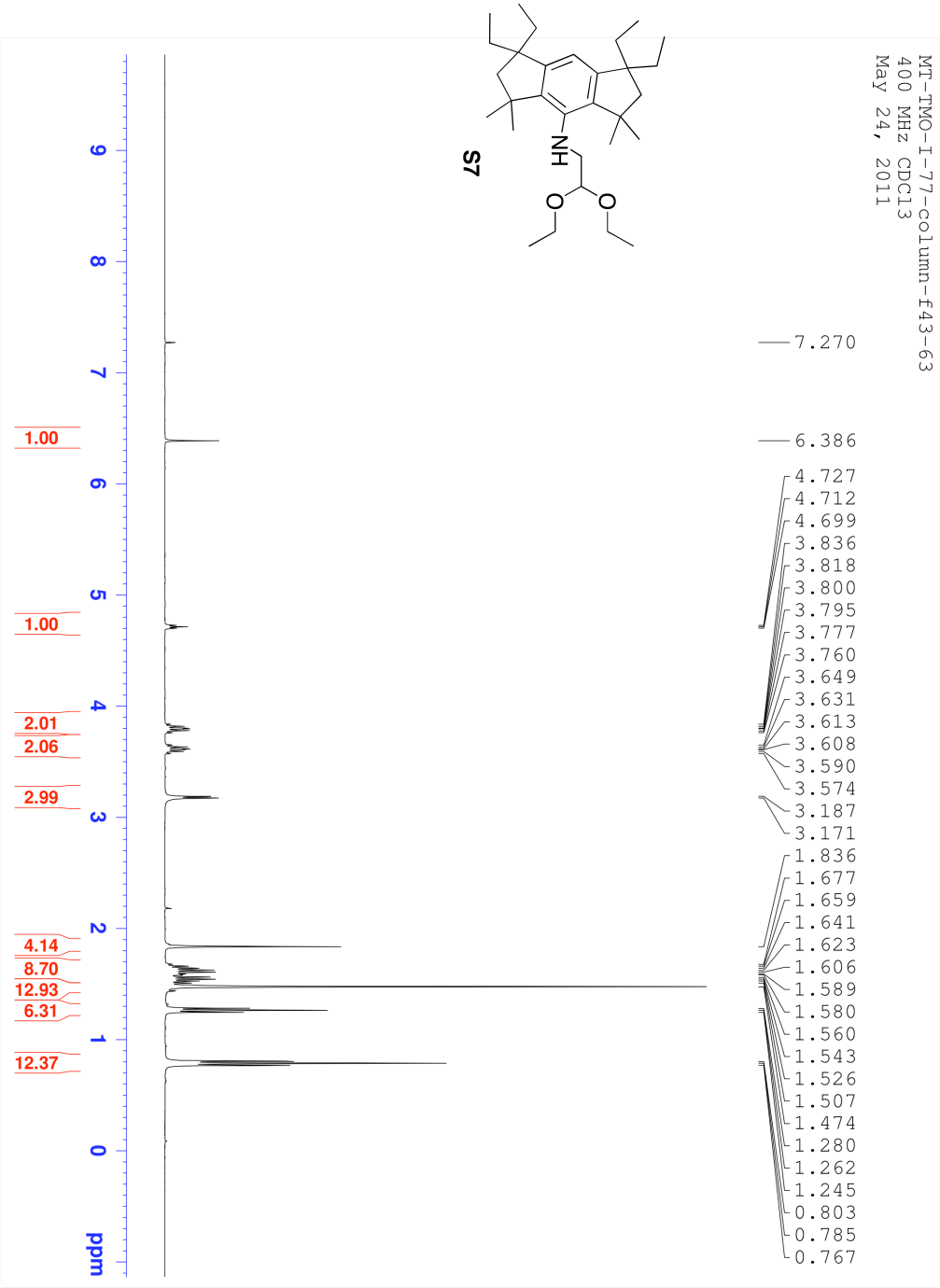


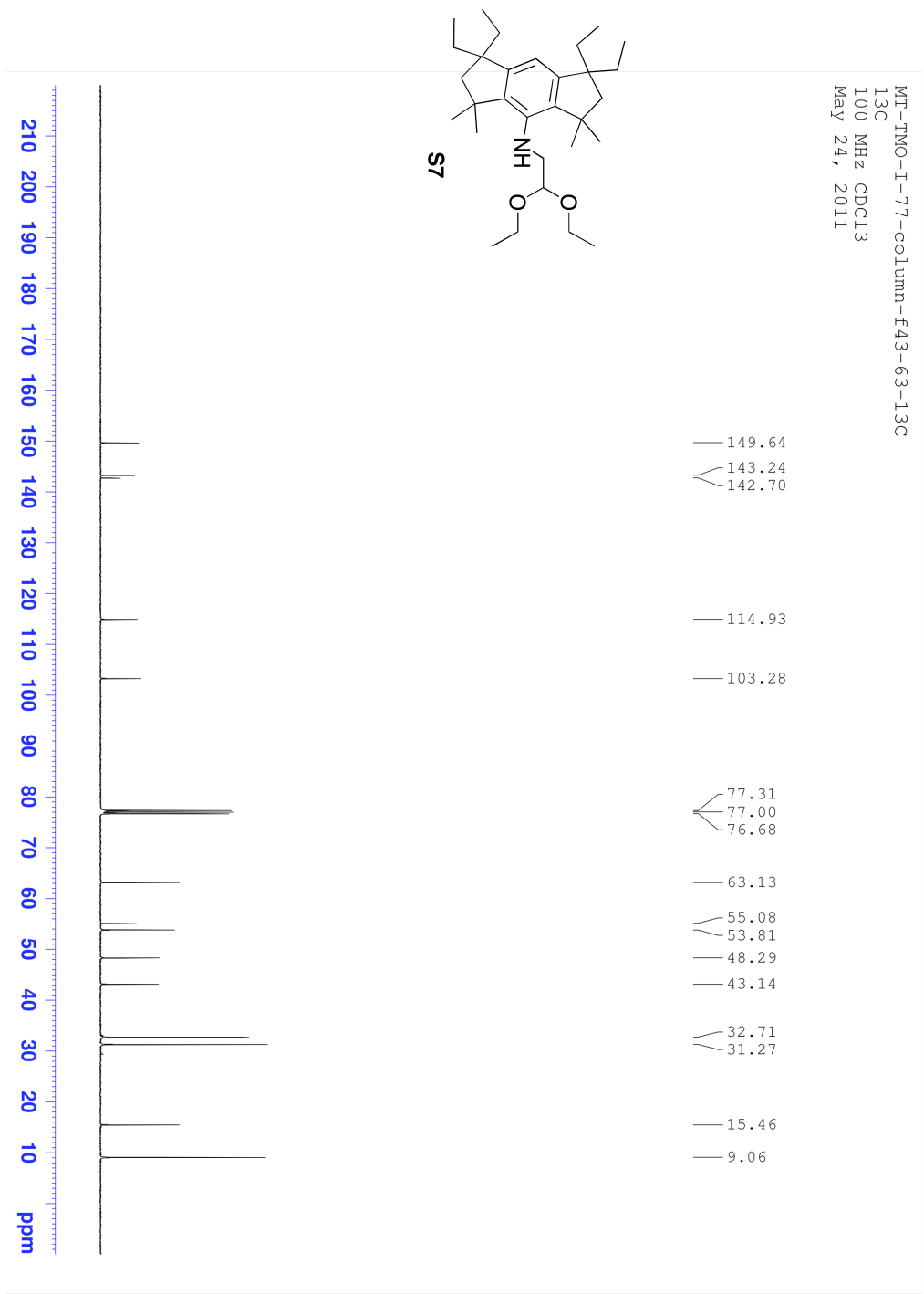


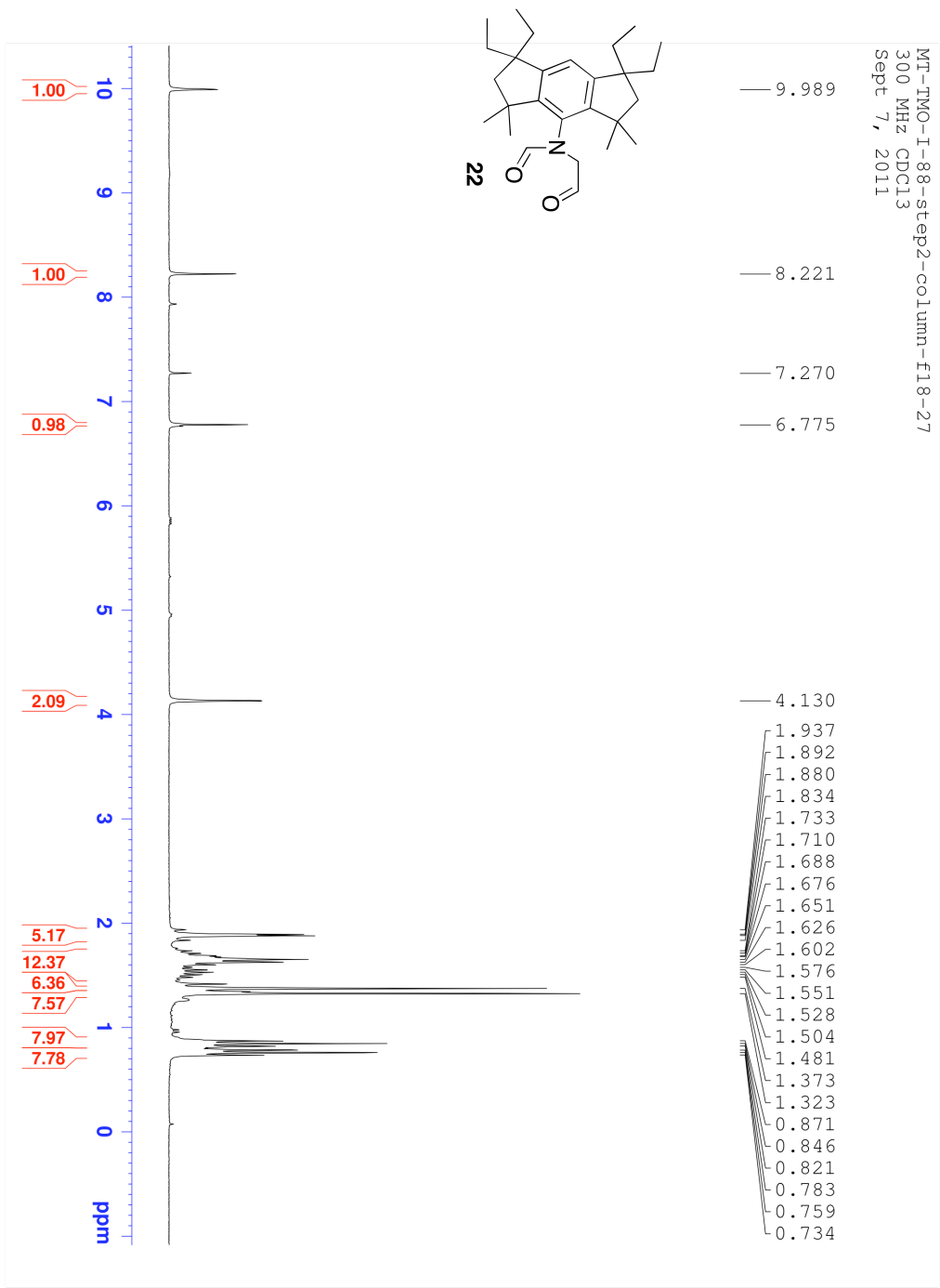


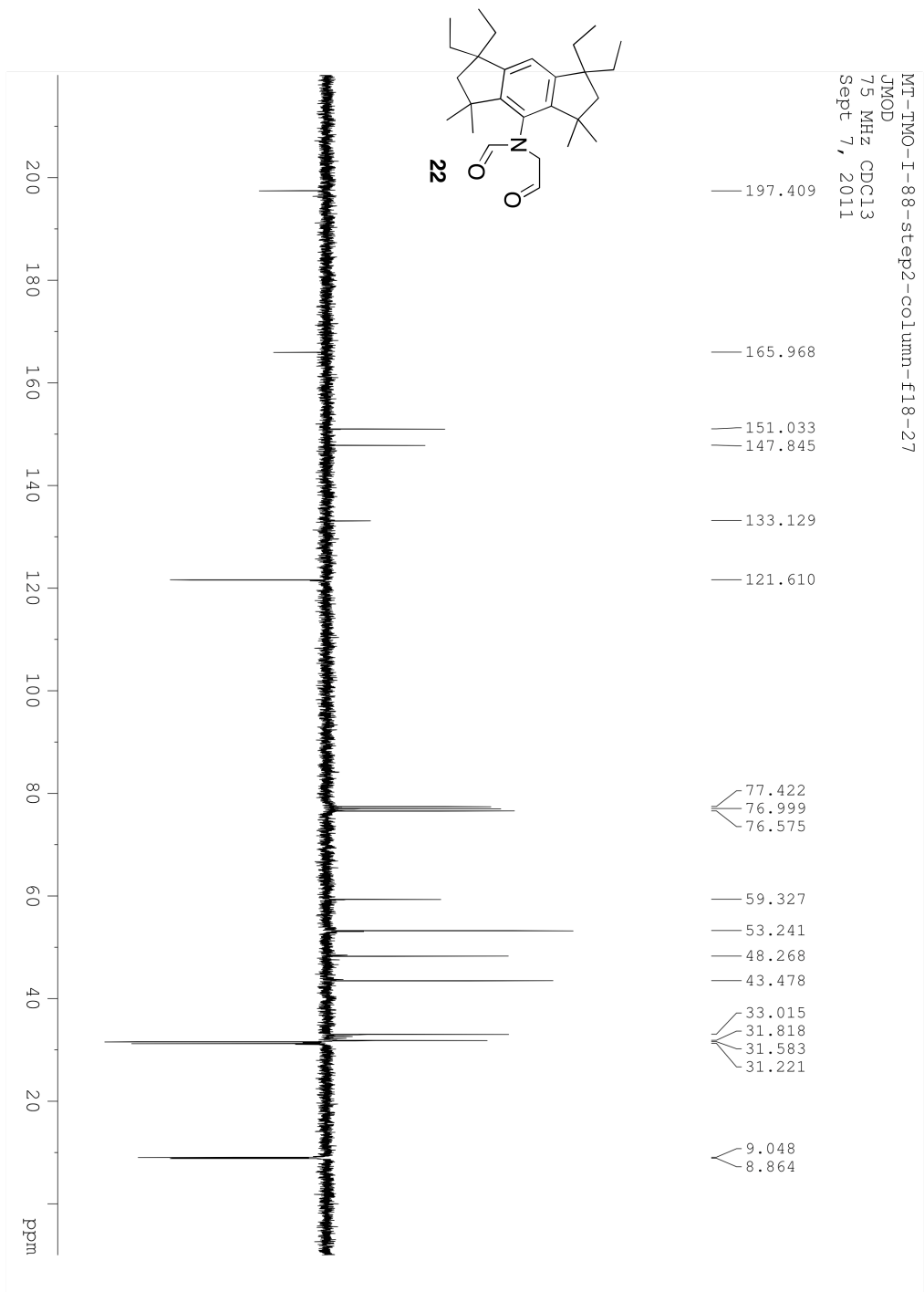


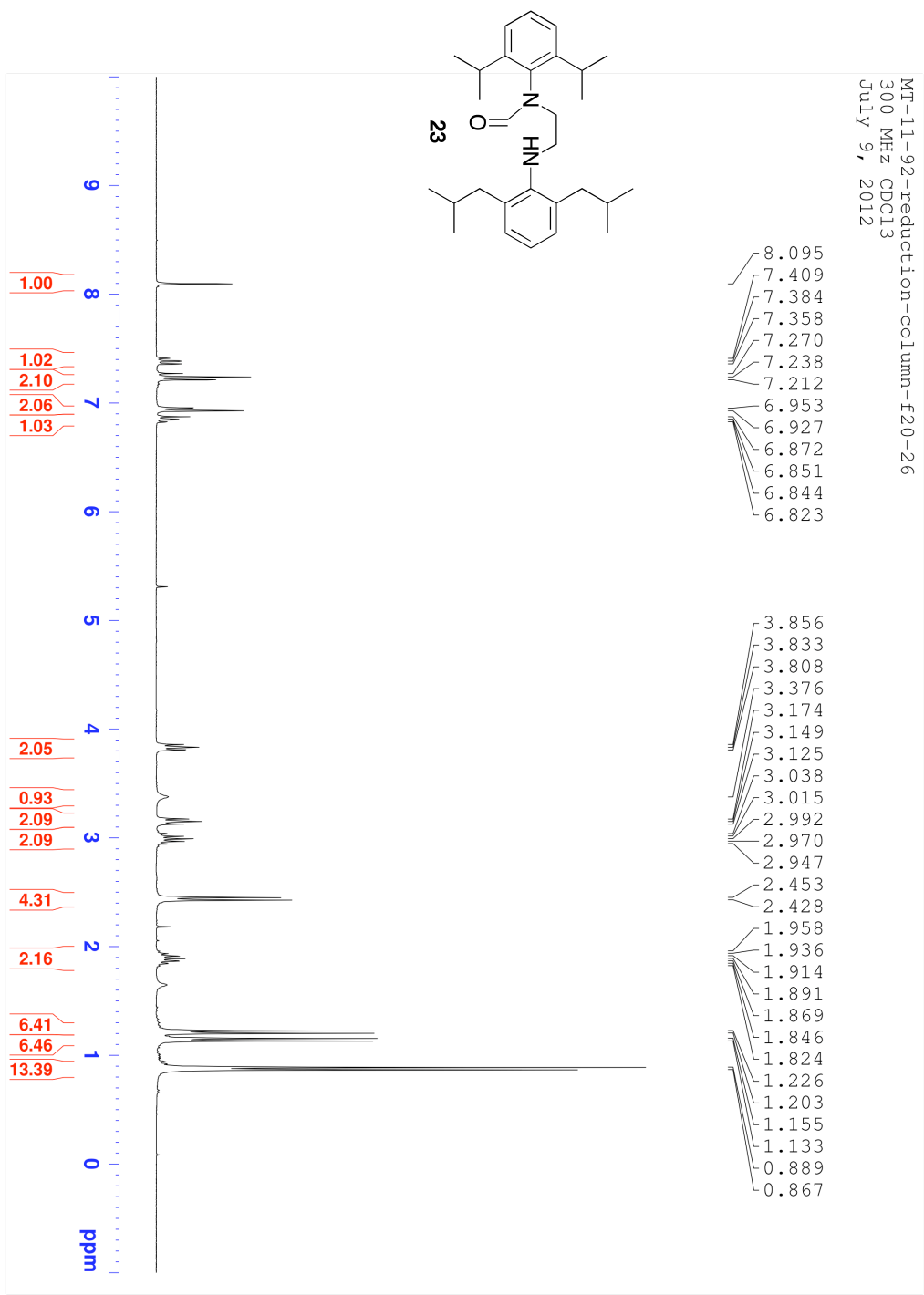


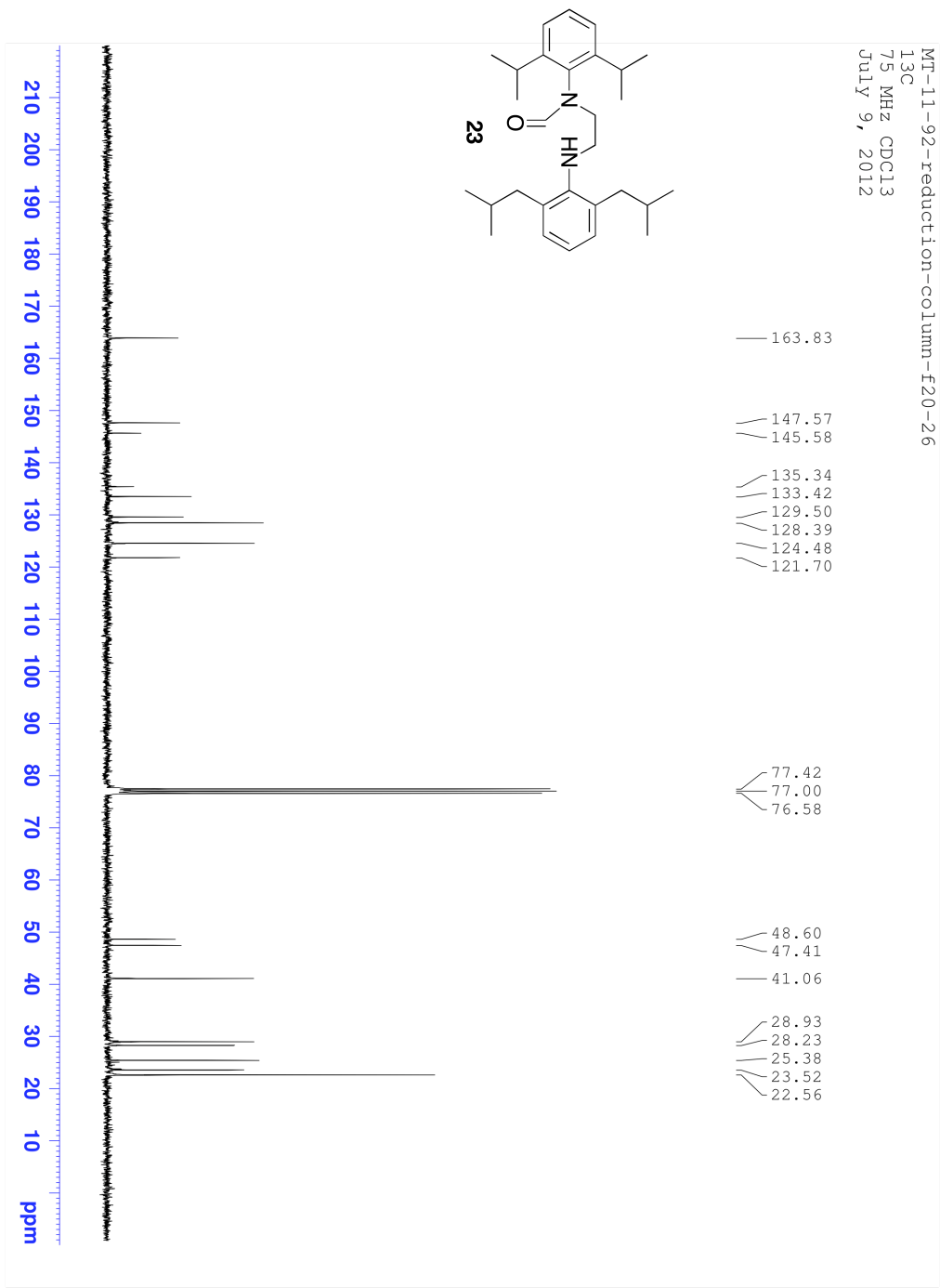


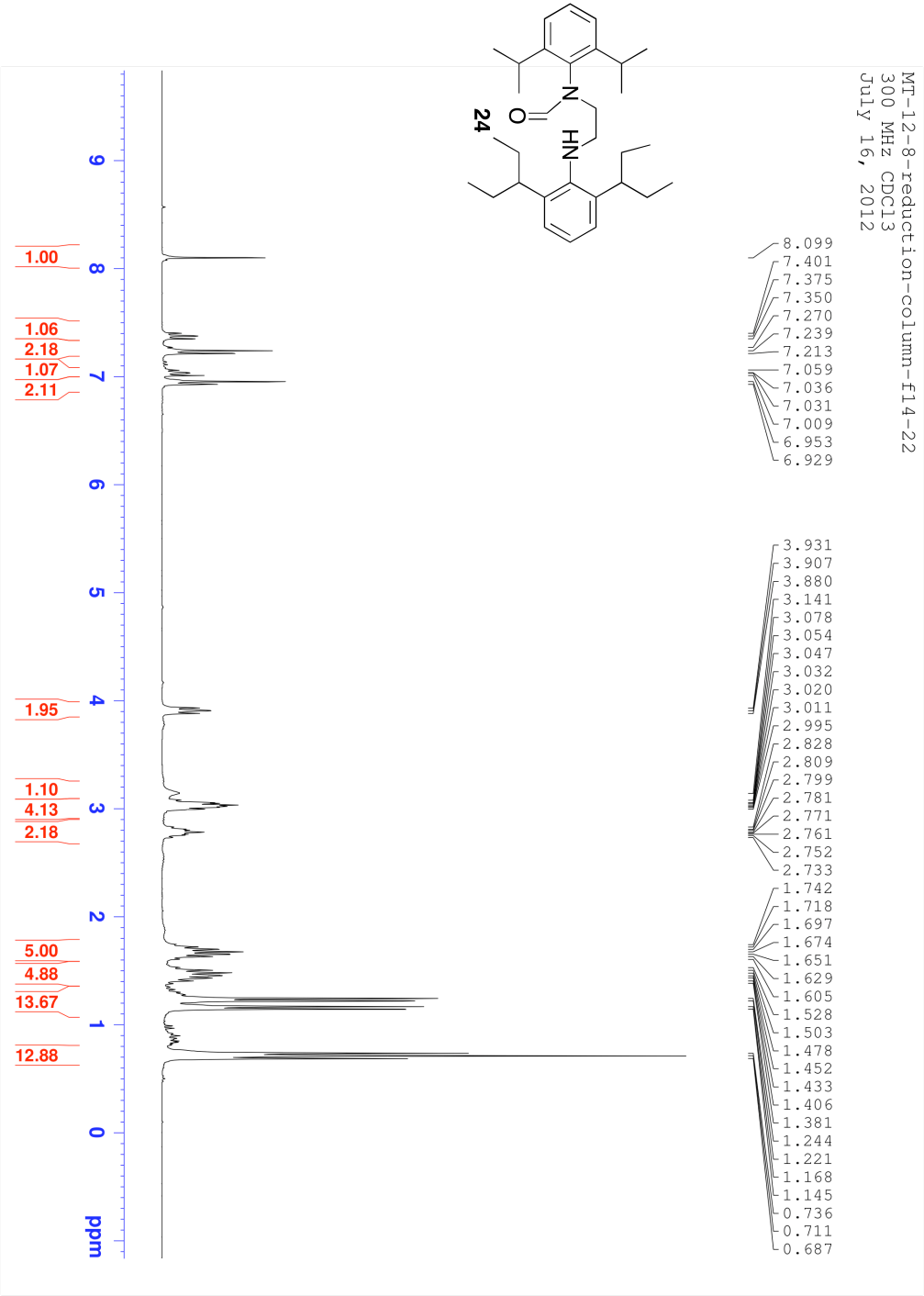


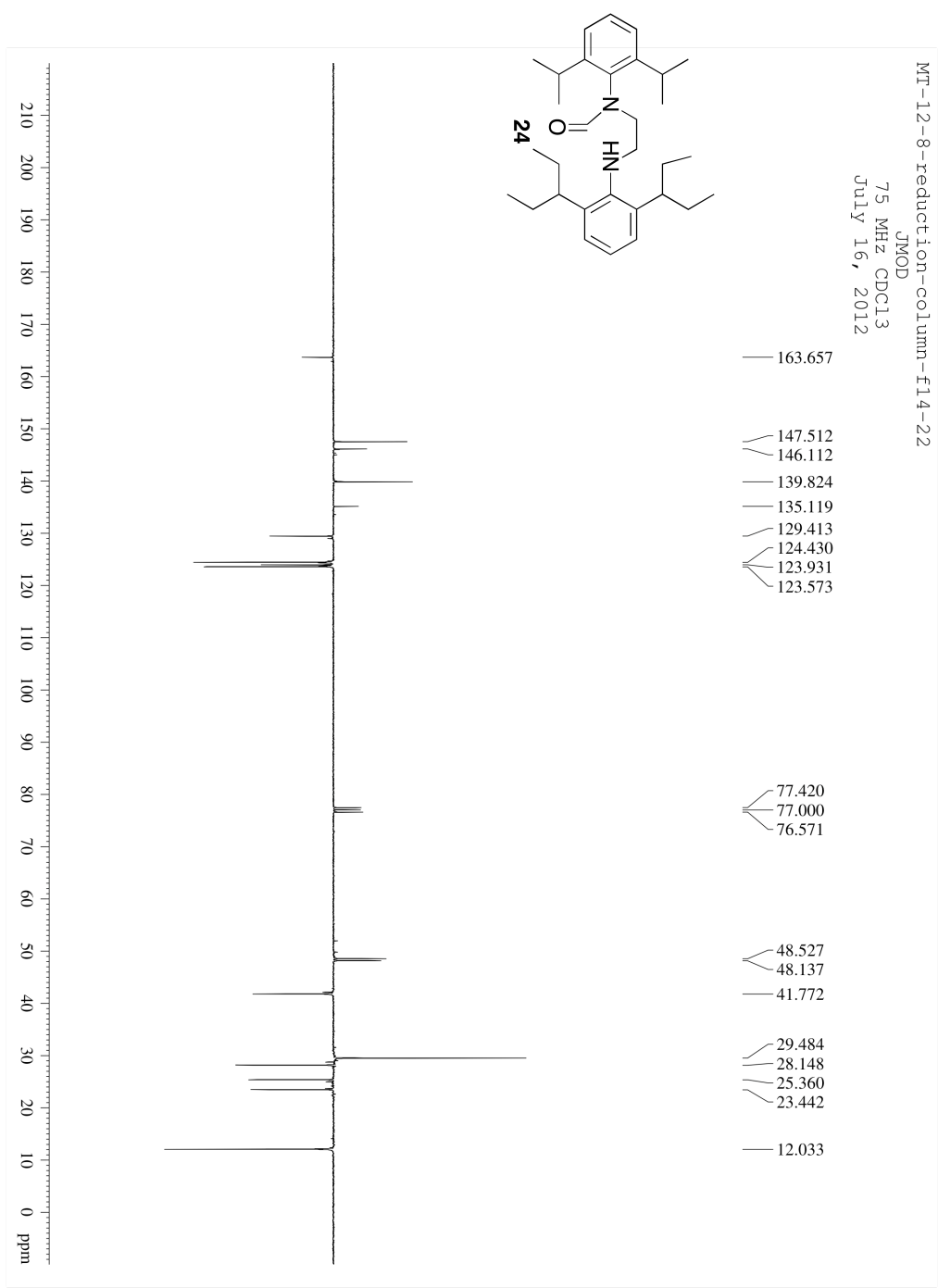


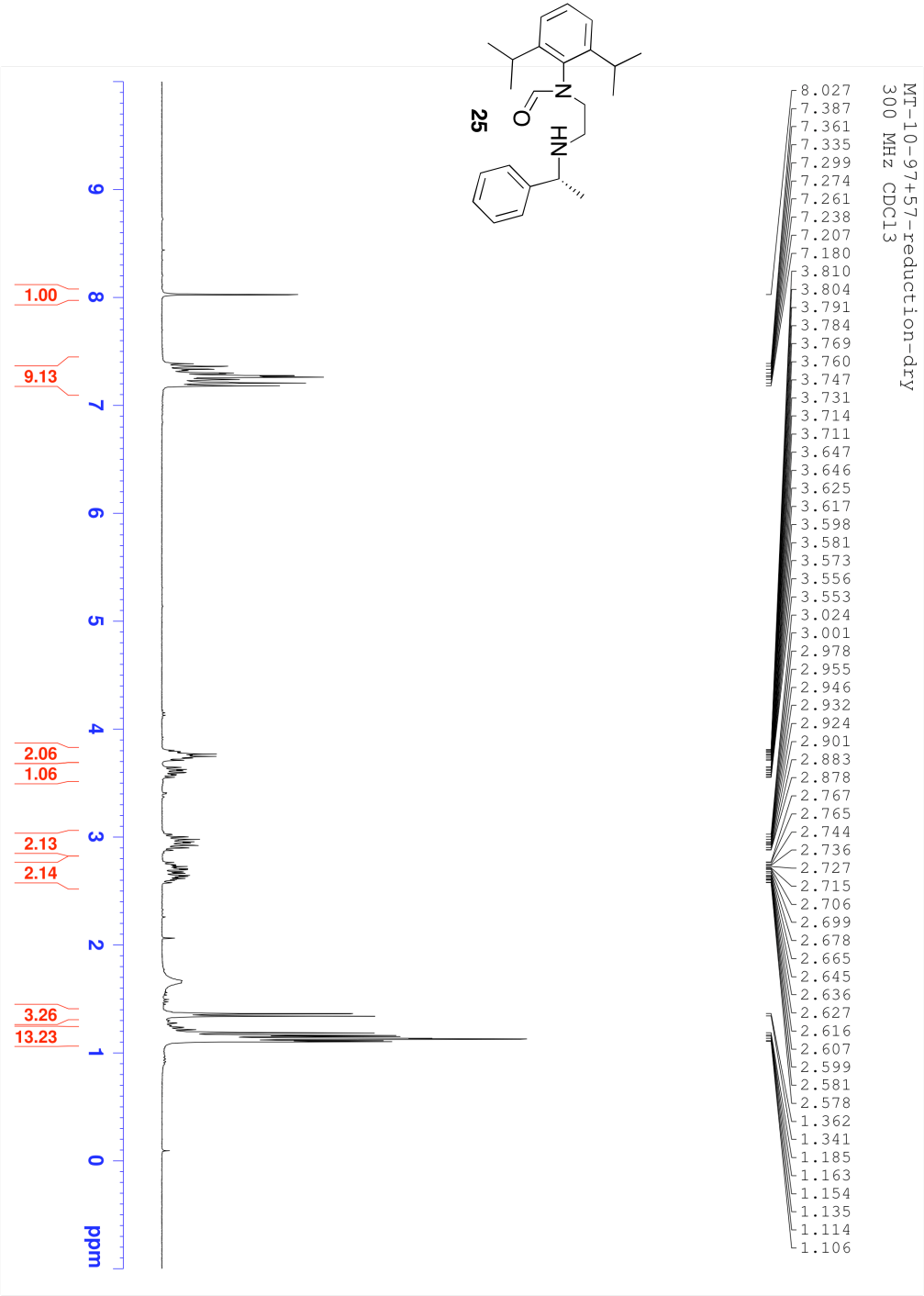


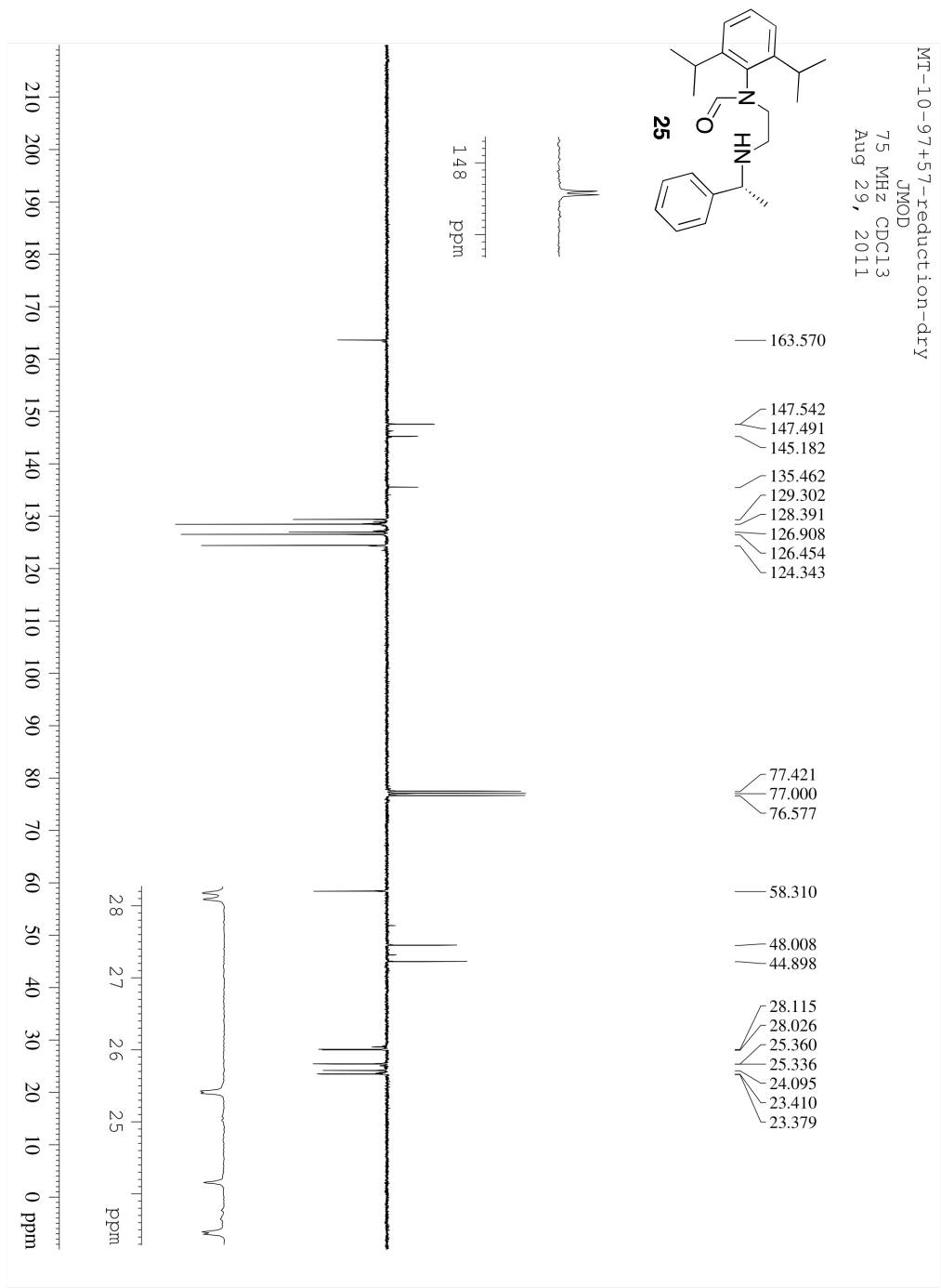


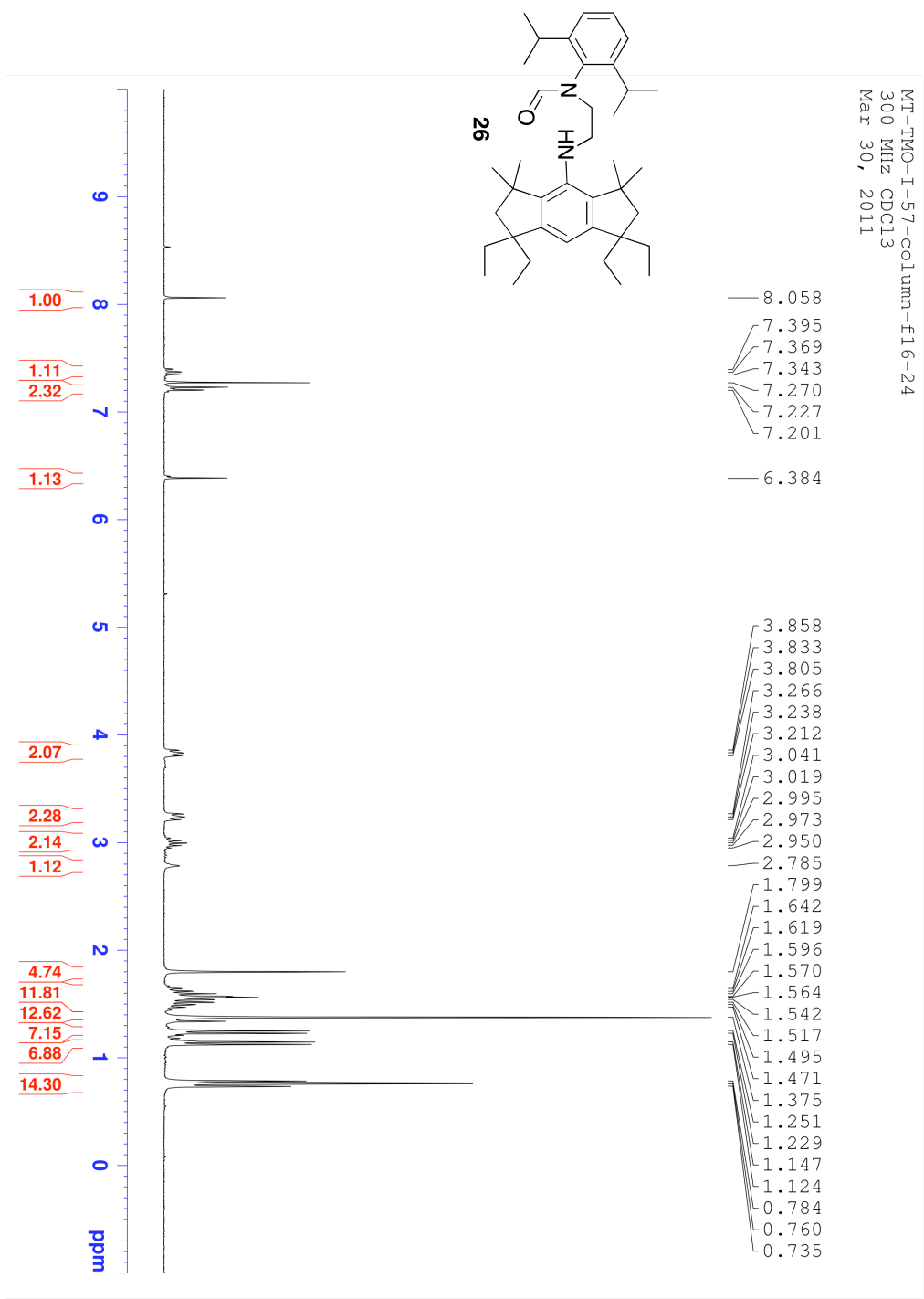


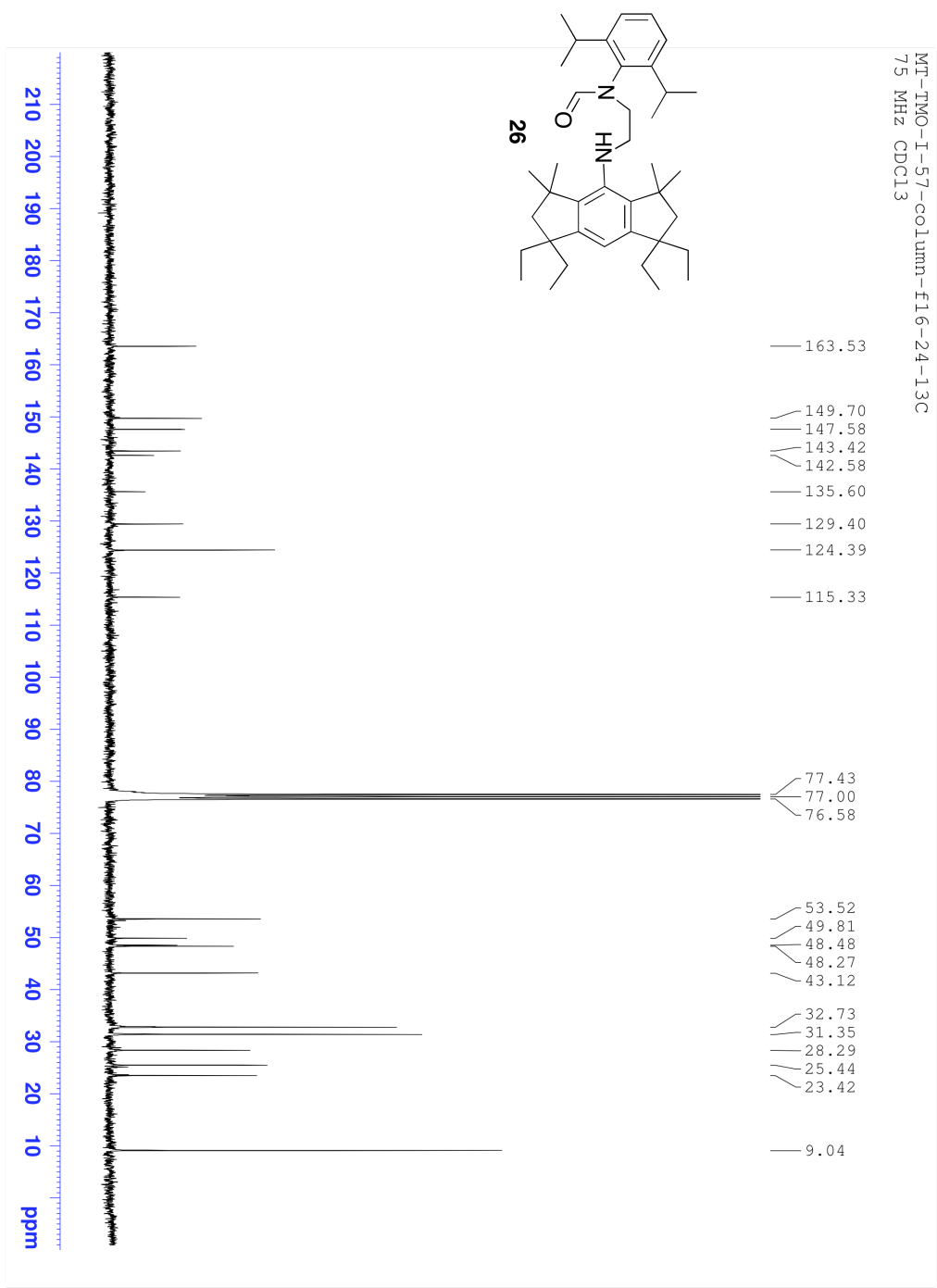


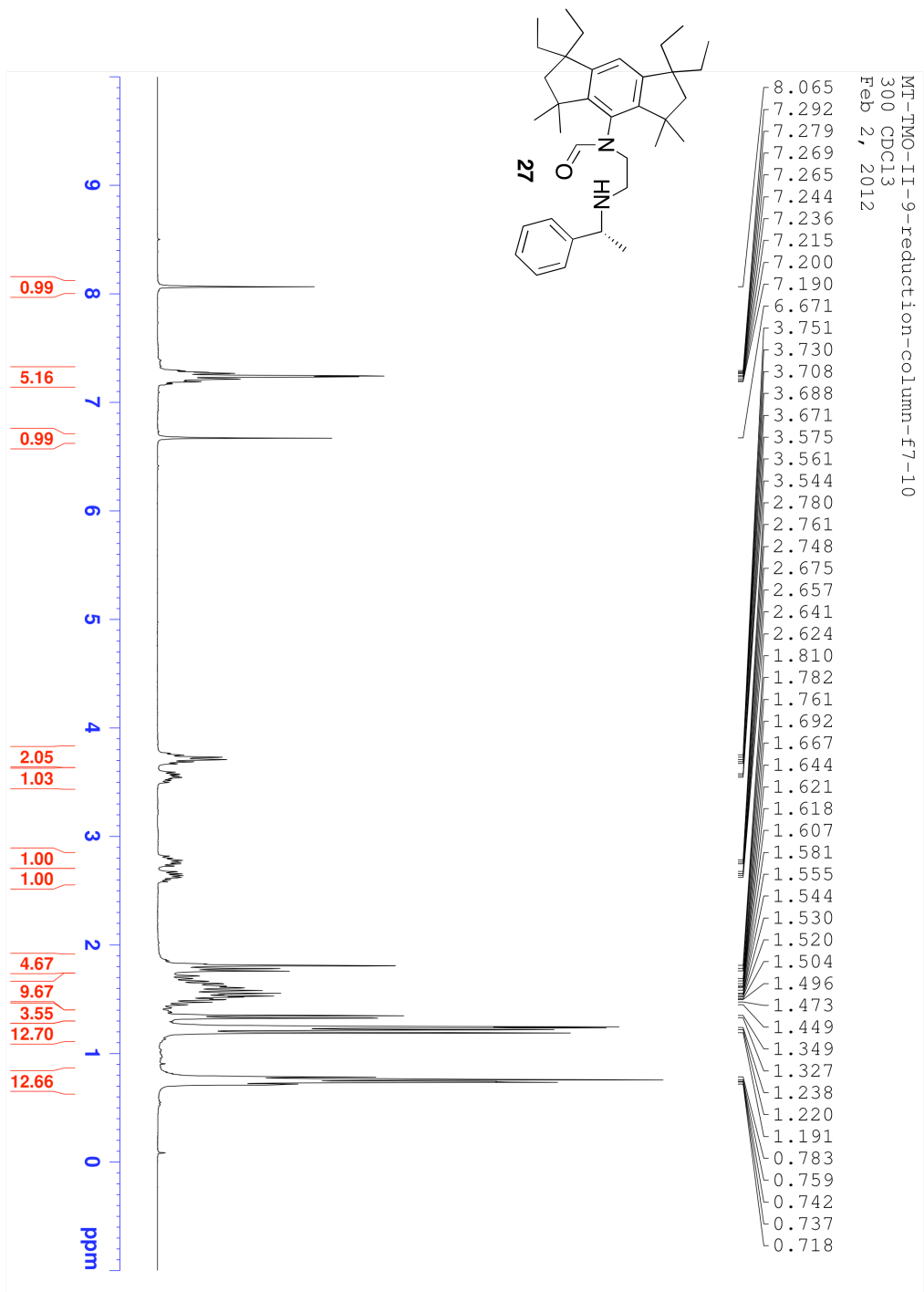


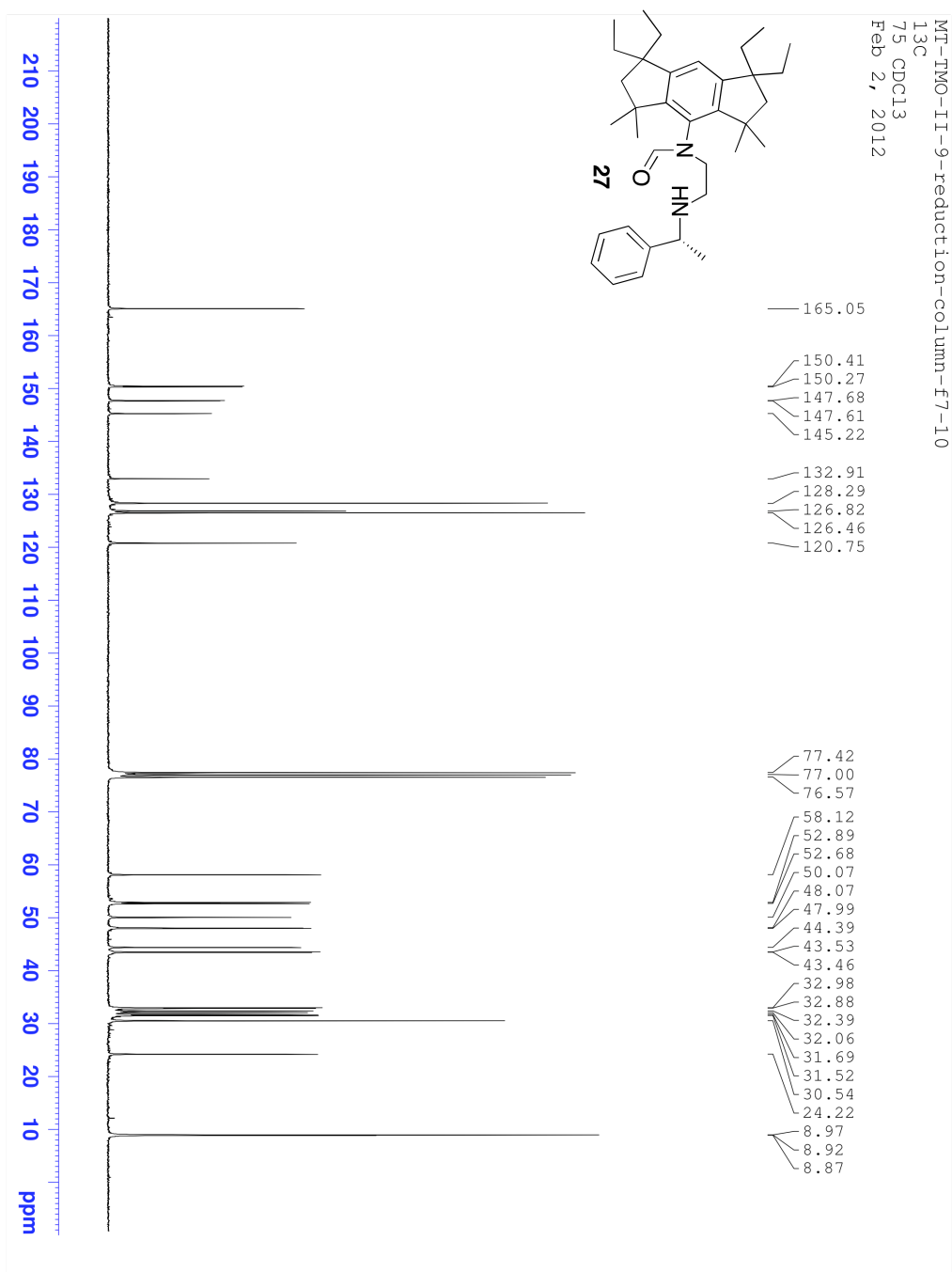


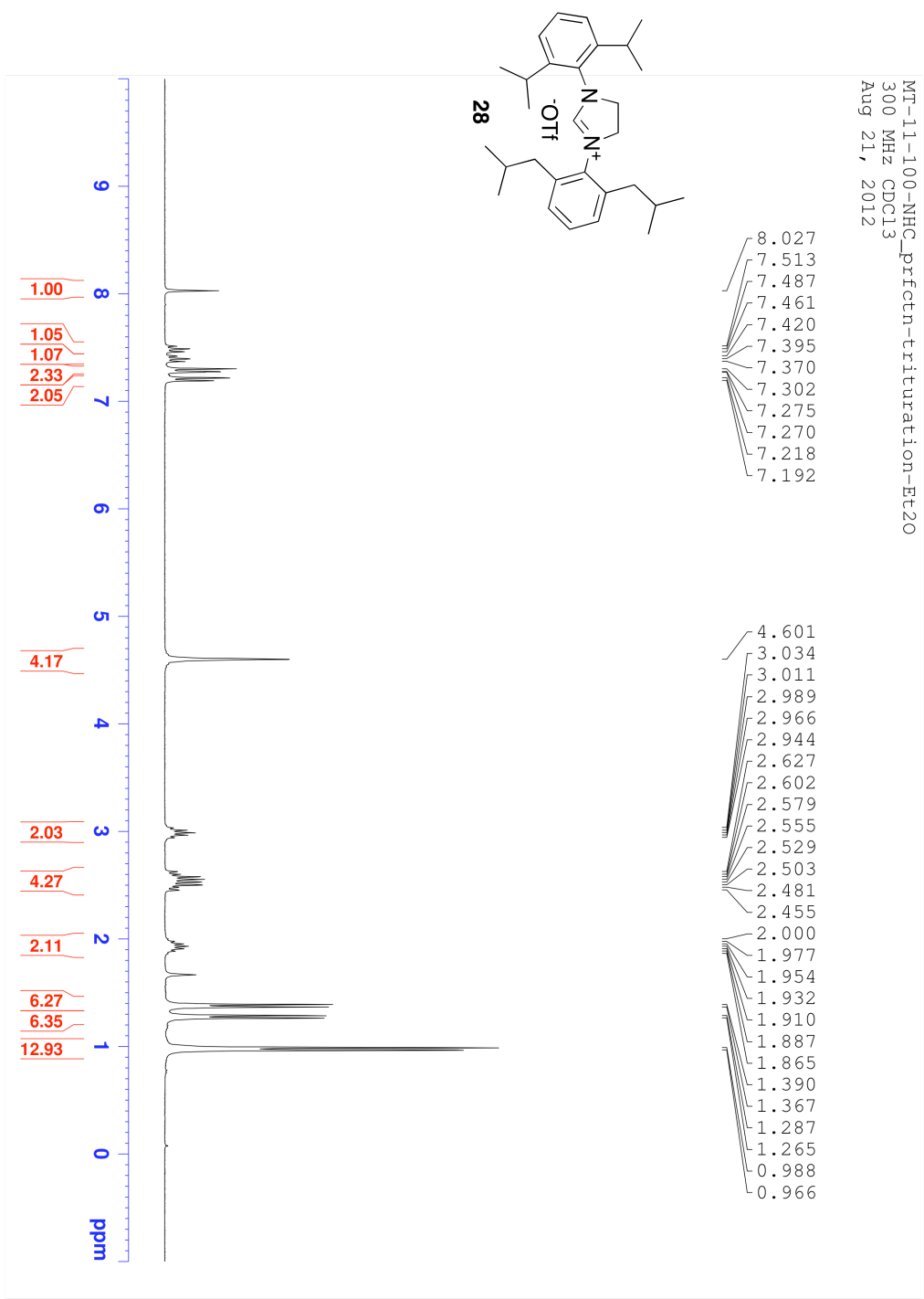


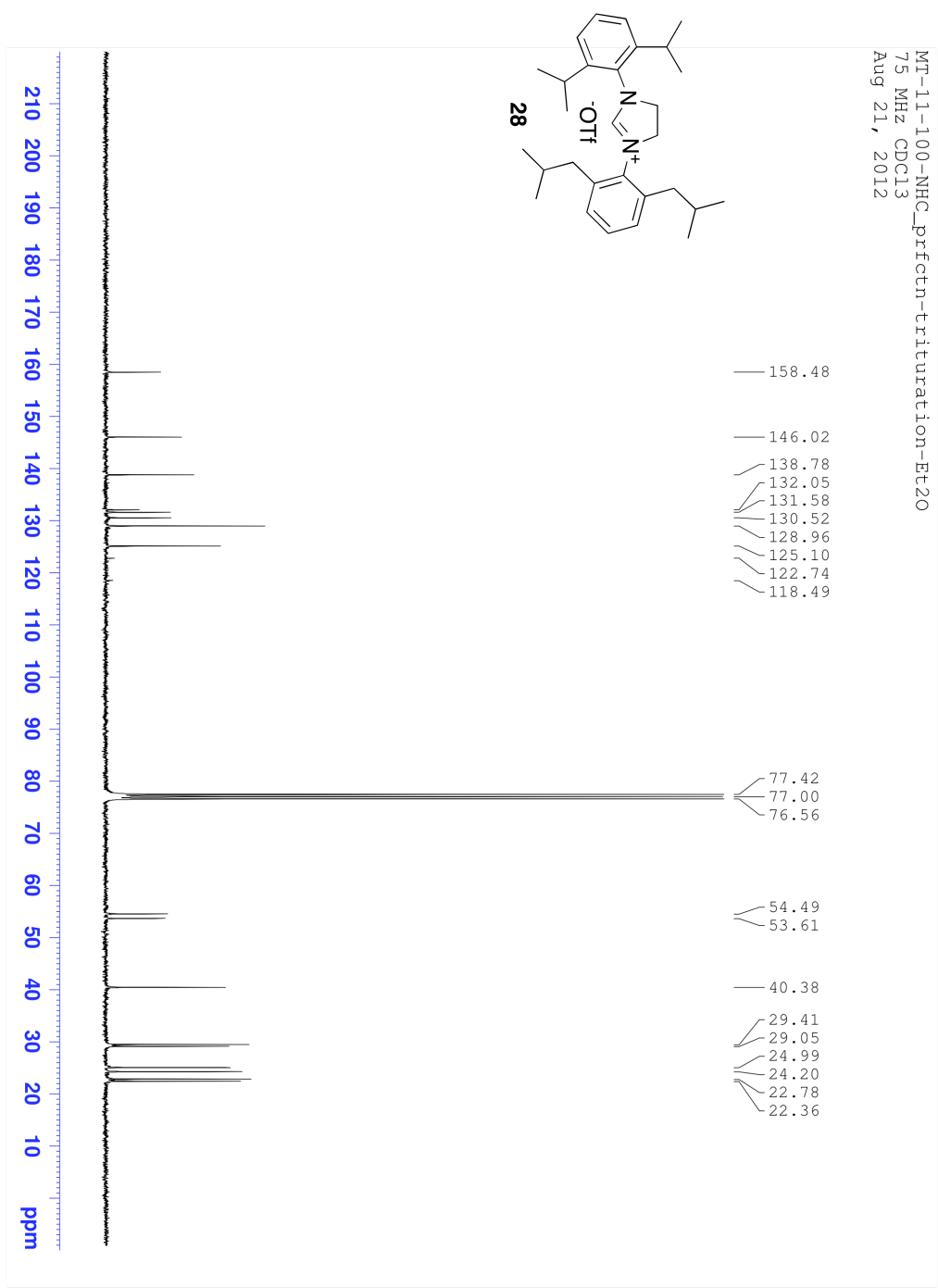


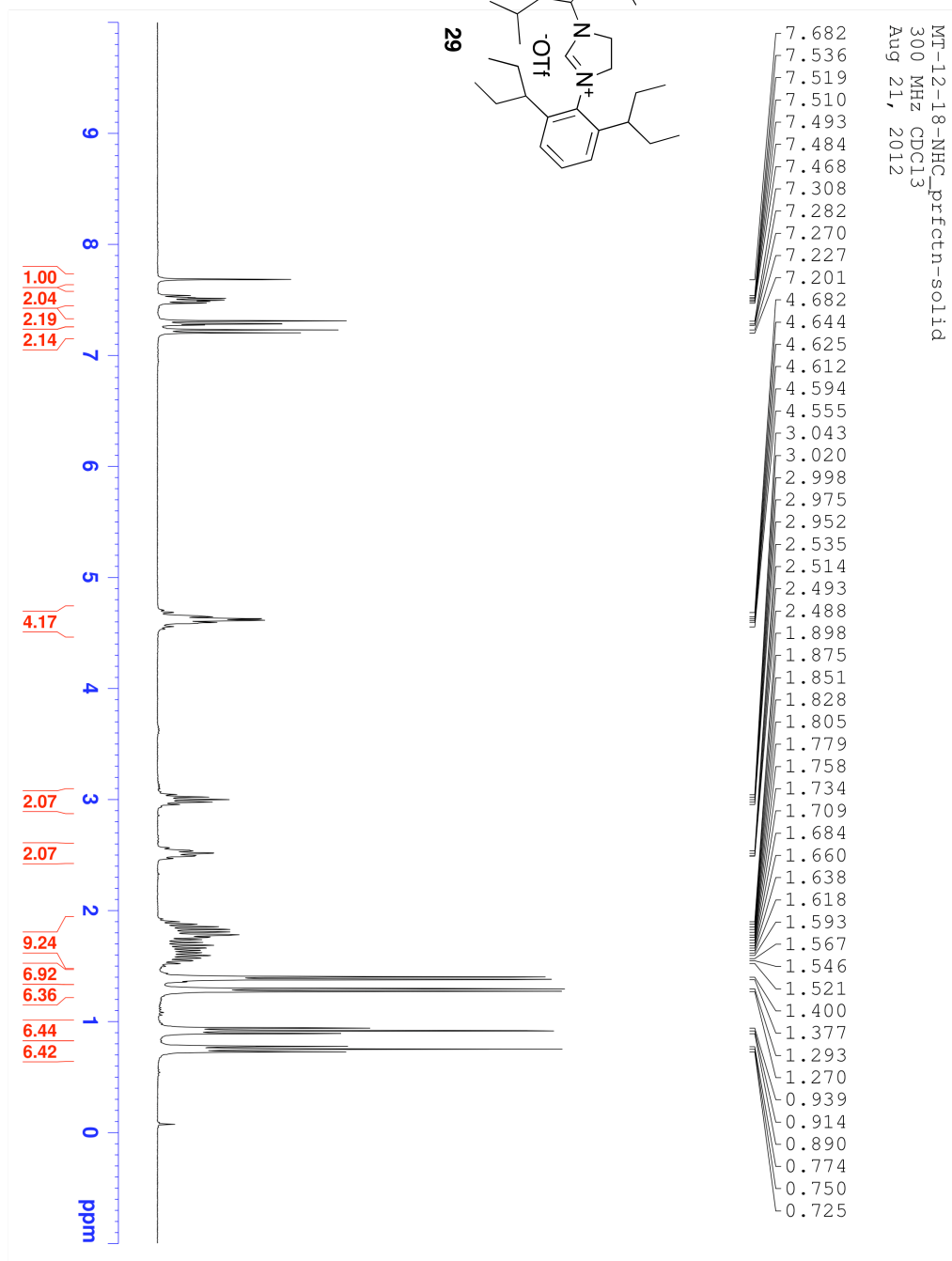


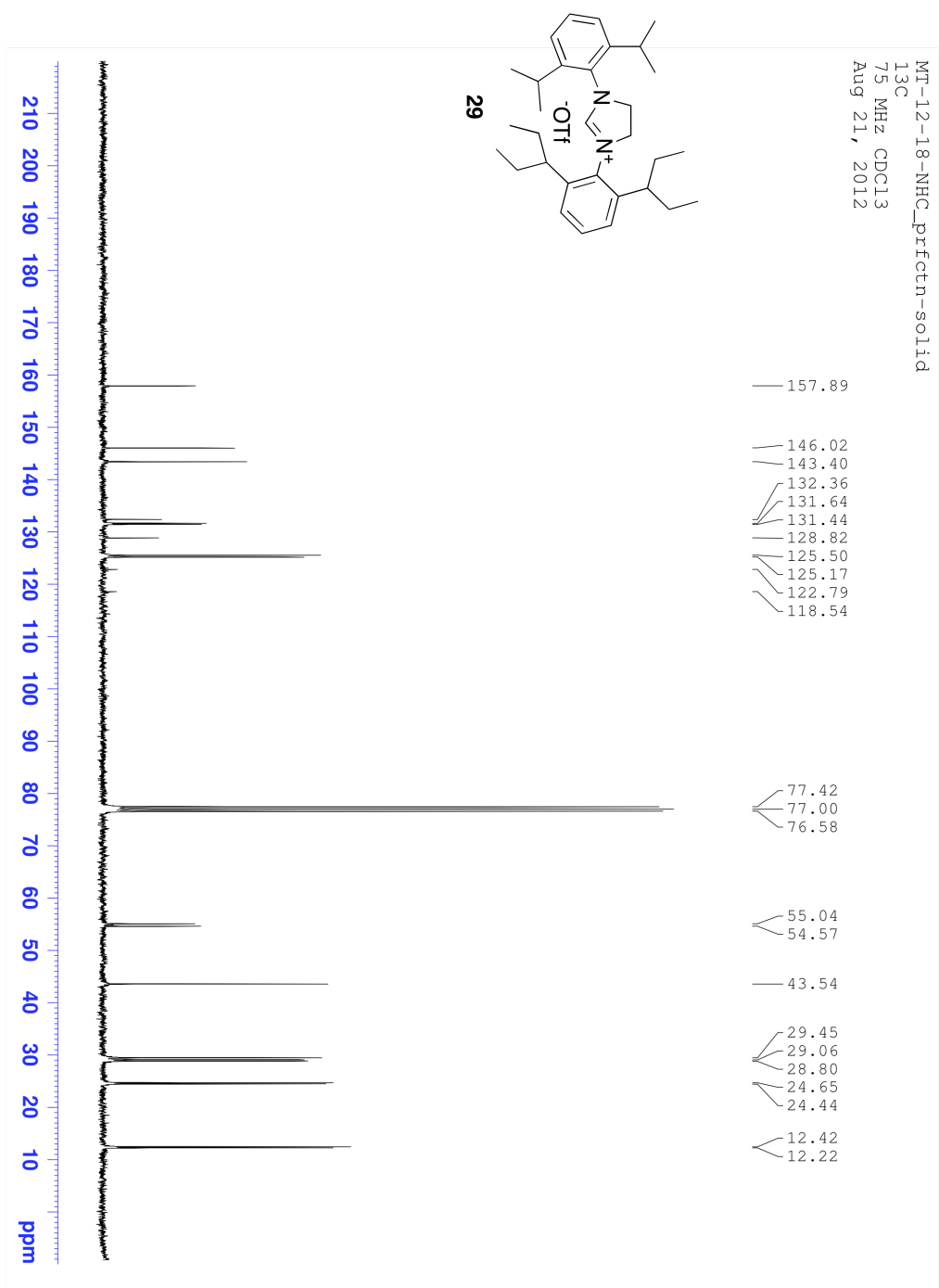


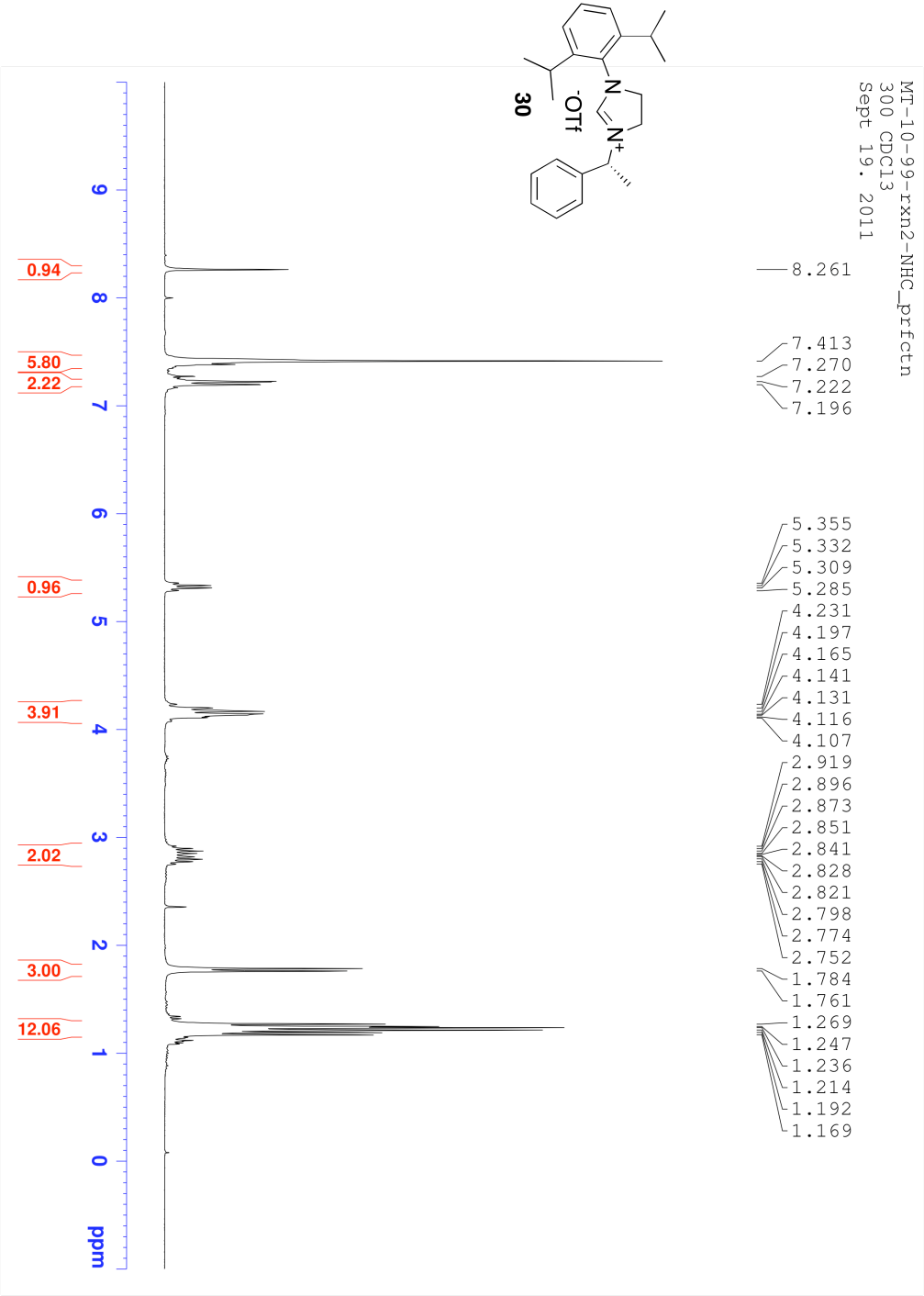


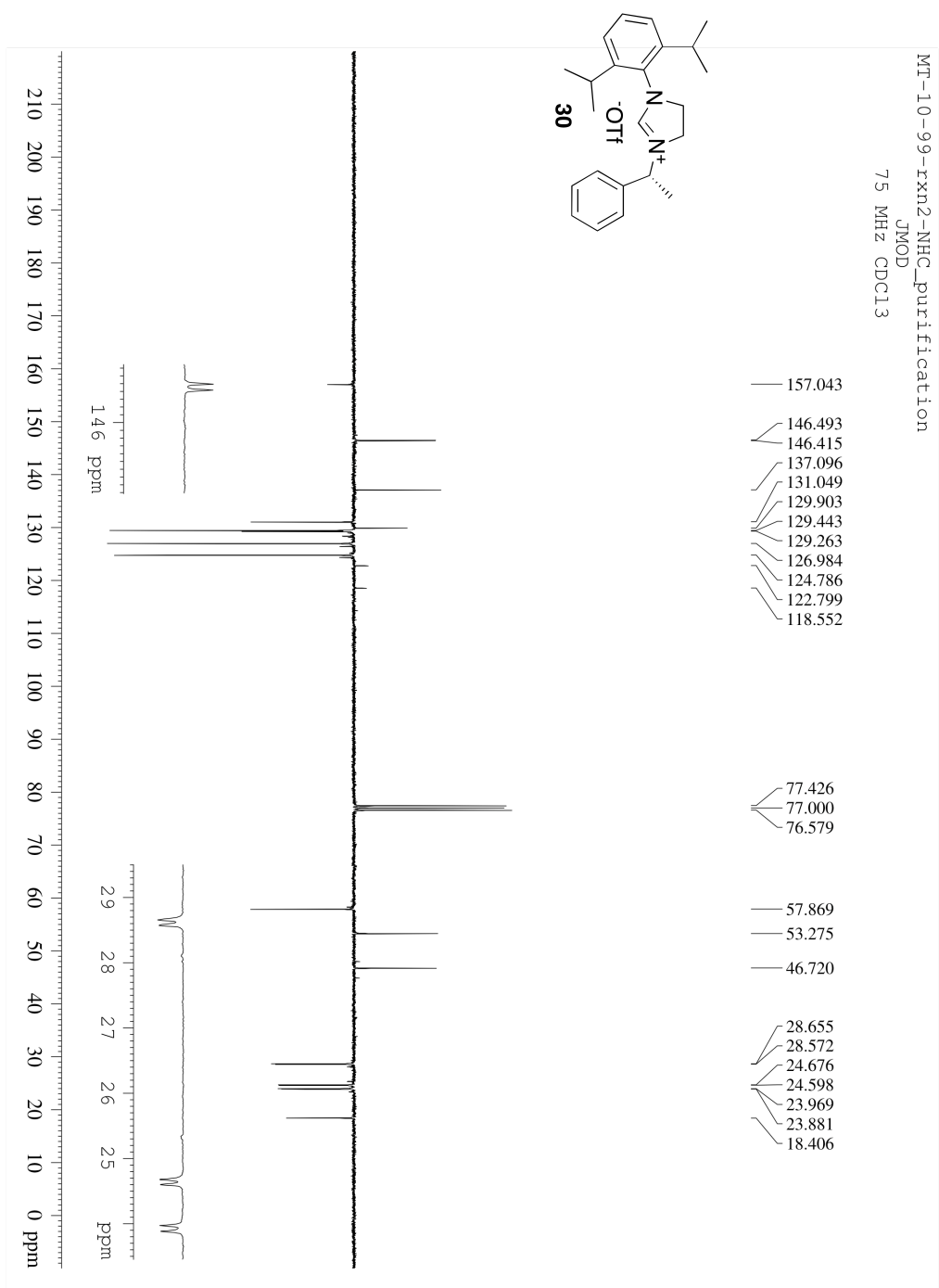


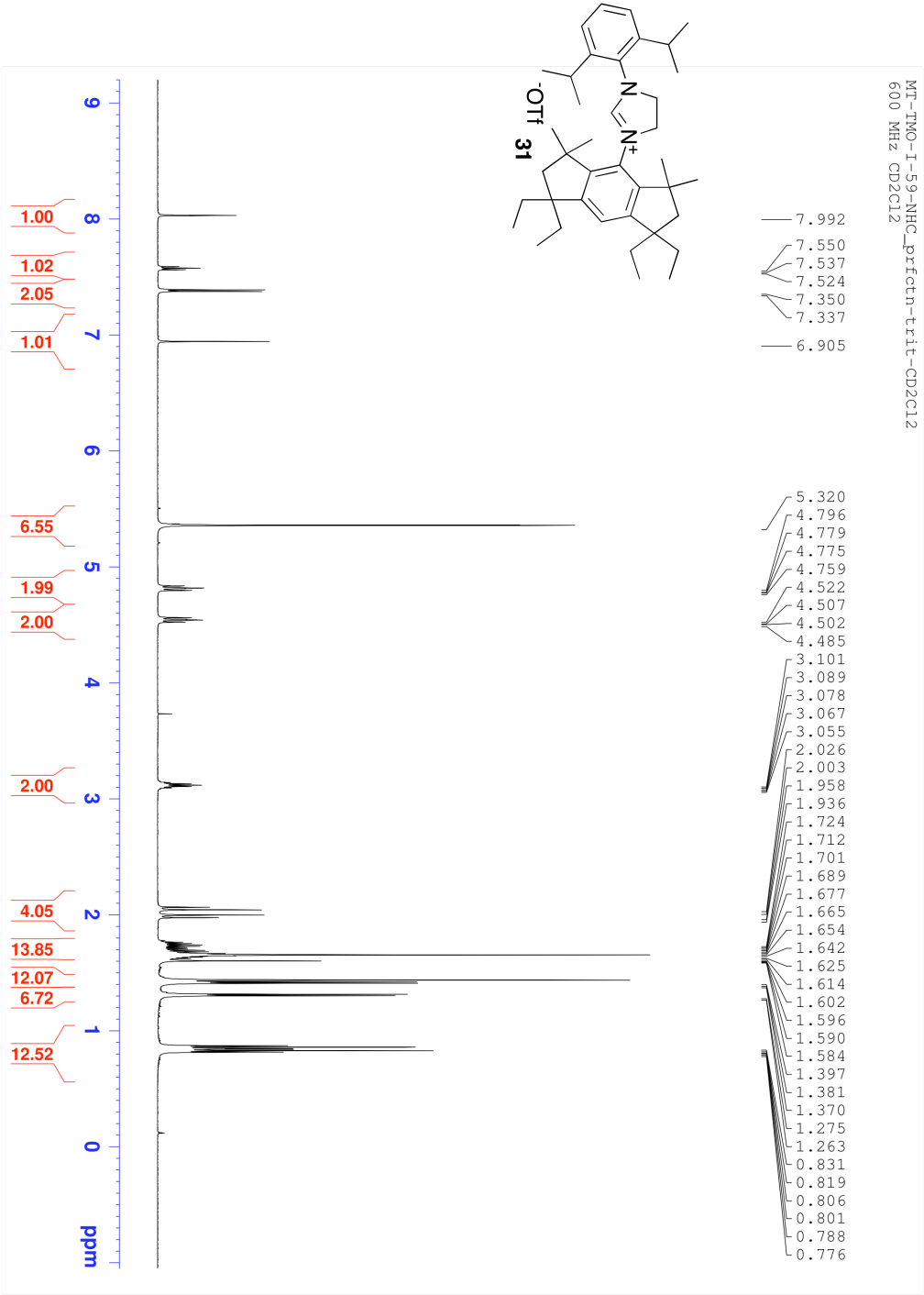


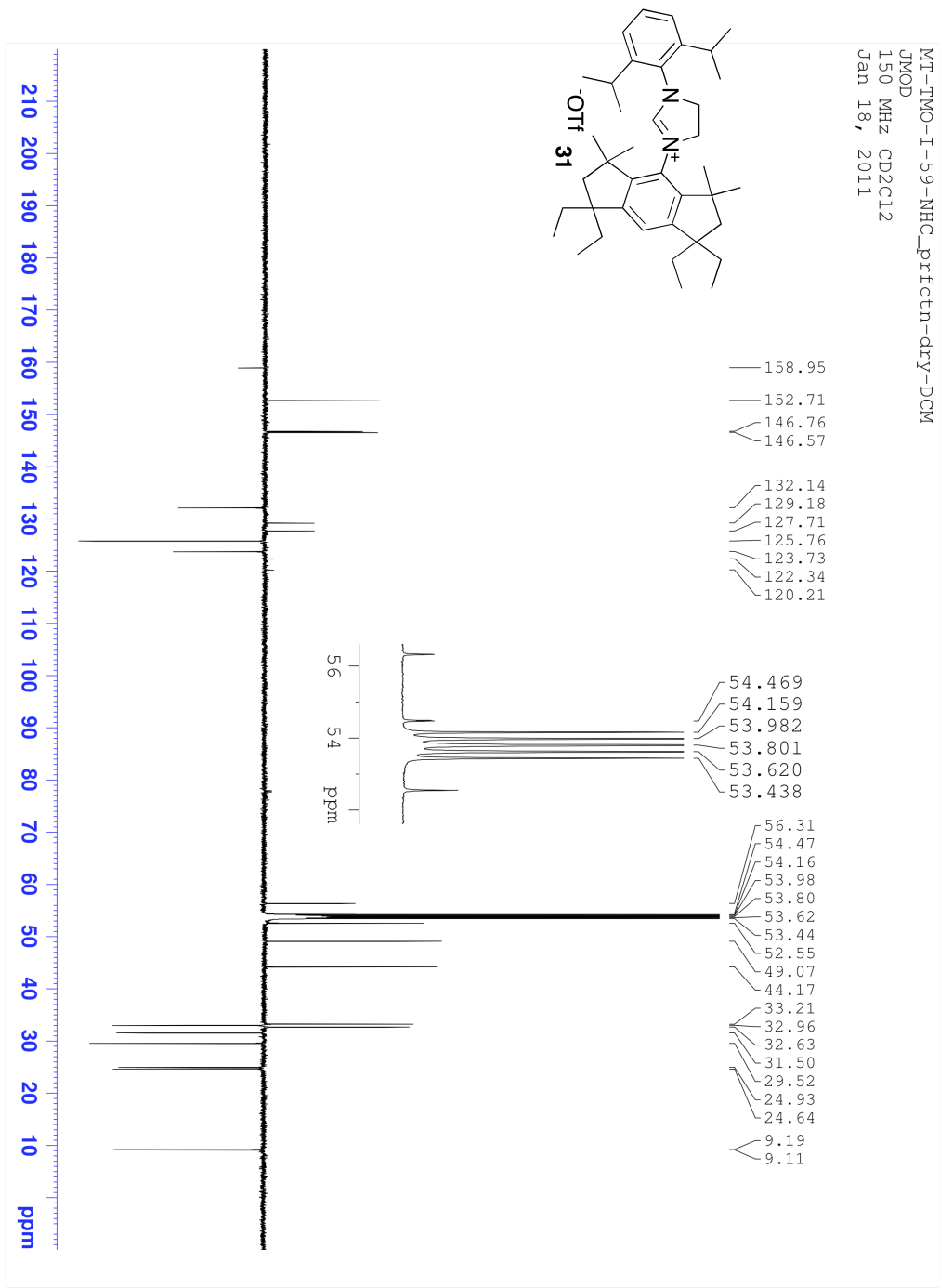


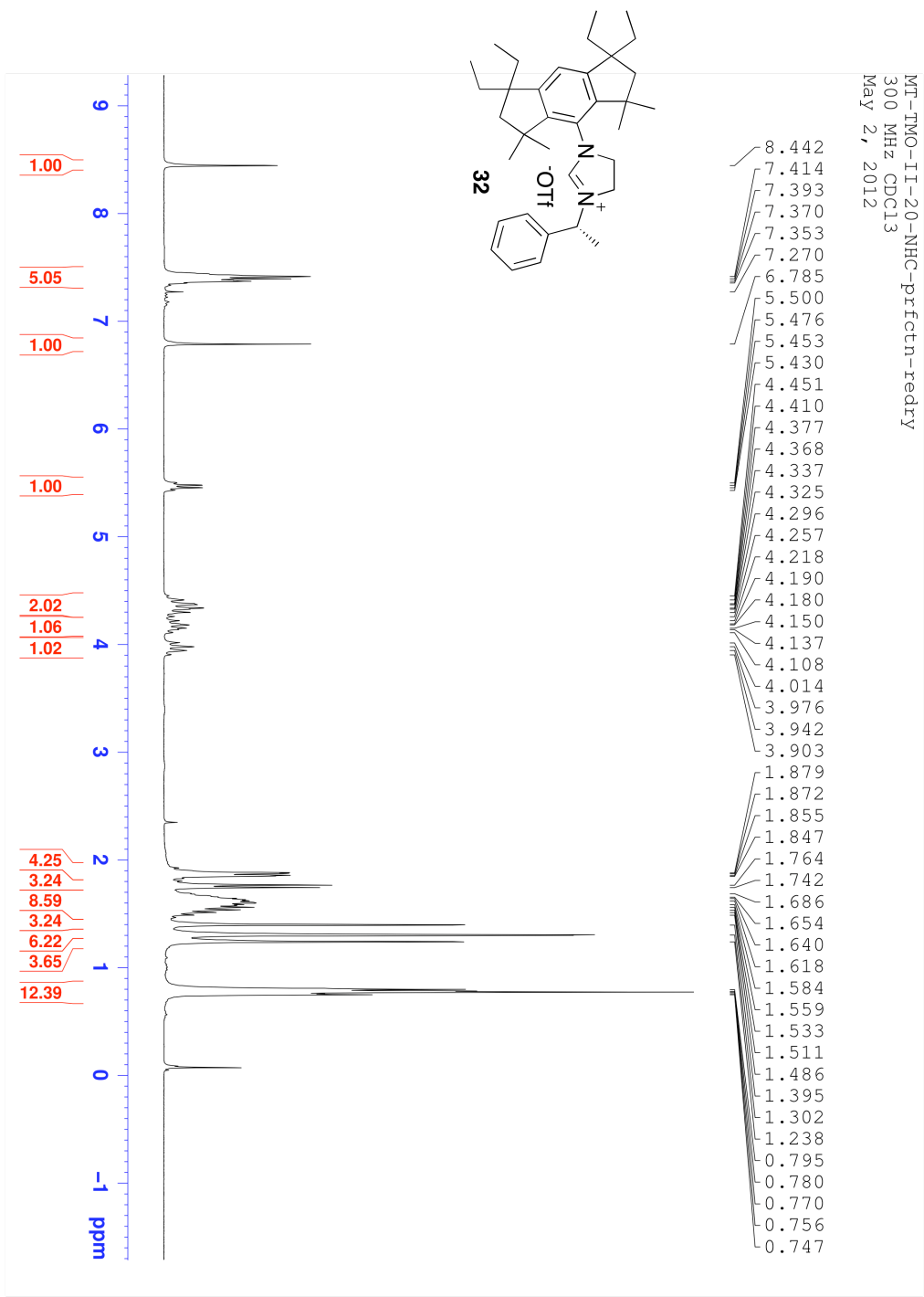


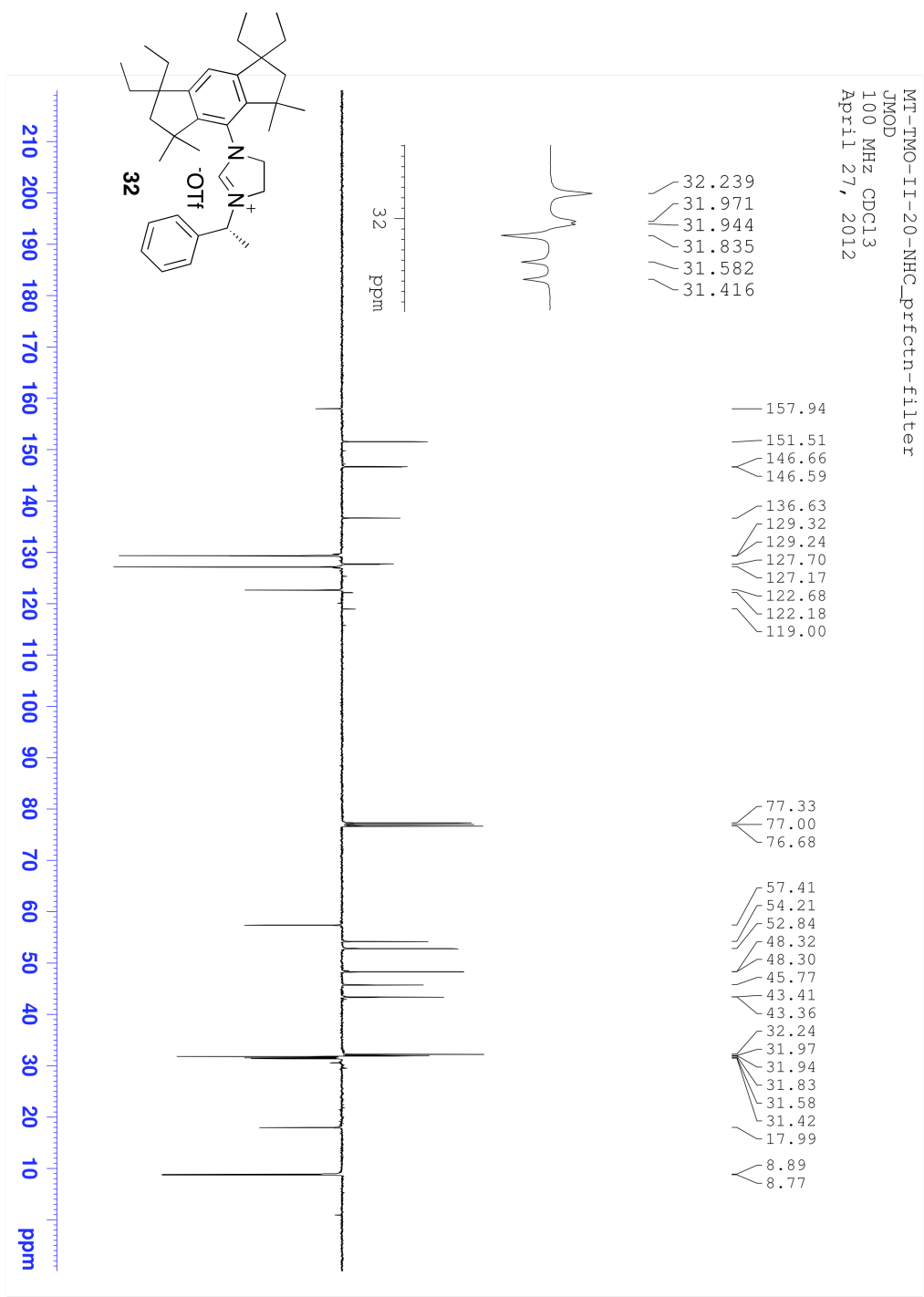












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