

Supporting Information

for

Metal-free synthesis of unsymmetric bis(thioesters)

Małgorzata Bołt,^a Aleksandra Mermela,^a Kamil Hanek^a and Patrycja Żak^{a,*}

^a *Department of Organometallic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Umultowska 89b, 61-614 Poznan, Poland*

CONTENTS:

1.	General methods and chemicals	S-2
2.	Unsymmetric thioesterification of α,β -unsaturated aldehydes with dithiols	S-2
3.	General procedure for the synthesis of bis(thioesters)	S-3
4.	Analytical data of isolated products	S-3
5.	NMR spectra of isolated products	S-6
6.	References	S-23

1. General methods and chemicals

All syntheses and catalytic tests were carried out under dry argon, using standard Schlenk-line and vacuum techniques. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CD_2Cl_2 or CDCl_3 on a Varian 400 operating at 402.6 and 101.2 MHz, respectively. GC-MS analyses were performed on a Varian Saturn 2100T equipped with a DB-1 capillary column (30 m in length and 0.25 mm in internal diameter) and an ion trap detector. Mass spectroscopic analyses were performed using Synapt G2-S HDMS (Waters) mass spectrometer equipped with the Electrospray ion source and quadrupole-Time-of-flight mass analyzer with the resolving power FWHM 38000 using methanol as a solvent. The Capillary Voltage was set to 4.5 kV, the sampling was set 40 and the source temperature was 120°C. In the ESI-MS spectra sodiated and potassiated ions were observed as the most abundant ions. Additionally protonated ion were present in some spectra with different intensities. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted on plates coated with a 250 μm thick silica gel layer and column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (70–230 mesh).

NHC carbene precursor was prepared according to literature procedures.¹ All the other reagents were commercially available and used as received. The solvents were dried over CaH_2 prior to use and stored over 4Å molecular sieves under argon. Dichloromethane was additionally passed through an alumina column and degassed by repeated freeze-pump-thaw cycles.

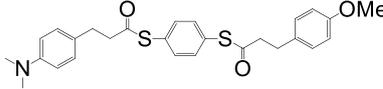
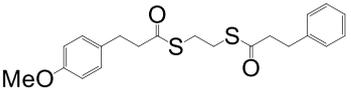
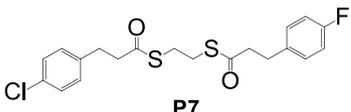
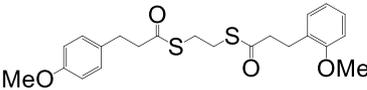
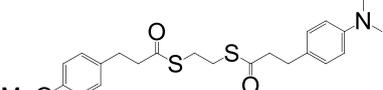
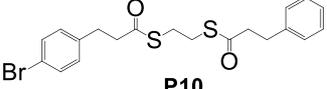
2. Unsymmetric thioesterification of α,β -unsaturated aldehydes with dithiols

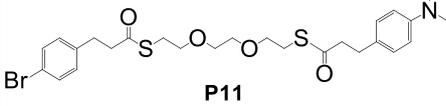
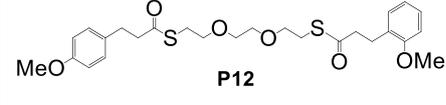
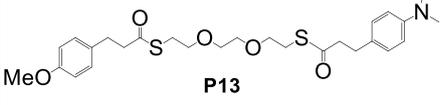
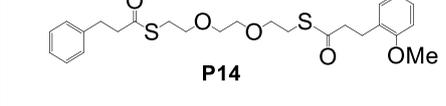
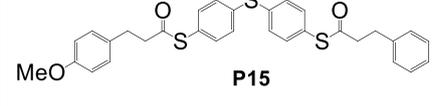
Method 1

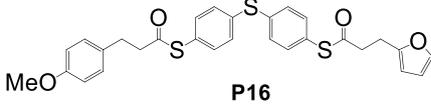
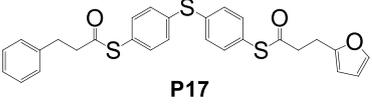
An oven-dried 5 mL glass reactor equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with NHC carbene **NHC-1** (149.6 mg, 1.59×10^{-4} mol) in the glovebox. Then acetone (0.5 mL), dithiol **T**₁₋₄ (7.94×10^{-4} mol), aldehyde **A** (7.94×10^{-4} mol), aldehyde **B** (7.94×10^{-4} mol) and internal standard (decane or dodecane, 20 μL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 24h. Reaction course was monitored by GC-MS.

Method 2

An oven-dried 5 mL glass reactor equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged under argon with NHC carbene precursor **NHC** (155.3 mg, 1.59×10^{-4} mol), KHMDs (38.0 mg, 1.91×10^{-4} mol) and acetone (0.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT and after 30 minutes dithiol **T**₁₋₄ (7.94×10^{-4} mol), aldehyde **A** (7.94×10^{-4} mol), aldehyde **B** (7.94×10^{-4} mol) and internal standard (decane or dodecane, 20 μL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 24h. Reaction course was monitored by GC-MS.

 <p style="text-align: center;">P5</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.90 (s, 6H, NCH ₃), 2.91-2.97 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.68 (d, 2H, J _{HH} = 8.7 Hz, Ph), 6.84 (d, 2H, J _{HH} = 8.7 Hz, Ph), 7.07 (d, 2H, J _{HH} = 8.7 Hz, Ph), 7.13 (d, 2H, J _{HH} = 8.7 Hz, Ph), 7.42 (br s, 4H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 30.81 (br s, CH ₂), 40.87 (NCH ₃), 45.86 (CH ₂), 46.13 (CH ₂), 55.50 (OCH ₃), 113.12, 114.17, 129.23, 129.75, 132.24, 135.19, 135.22, 149.82, 158.60, 196.23 (CO), 196.37 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 502 [M ⁺ +Na].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P6</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.80-2.90 (m, 6H, CH ₂), 2.93-2.96 (m, 2H, CH ₂), 3.01 (s, 4H, SCH ₂), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.78-6.82 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.07-7.10 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.17-7.21 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.24-7.30 (m, 2H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 29.05 (CH ₂), 29.09 (CH ₂), 30.76 (CH ₂), 31.57 (CH ₂), 46.70 (CH ₂), 46.01 (CH ₂), 55.49 (OCH ₃), 114.10, 126.60, 128.28, 128.64, 128.73, 128.78, 129.58, 132.40, 140.49, 158.51, 197.99 (CO), 198.08 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 429 [M ⁺ +K].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P7</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.82-2.86 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 2.91-2.96 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.00 (s, 4H, SCH ₂), 6.92-7.01 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.11-7.17 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.23-7.26 (m, 2H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 20.09 (CH ₂), 30.76 (CH ₂), 30.87 (CH ₂), 45.39 (CH ₂), 45.66 (CH ₂), 111.35, 115.56, 128.84, 130.16, 130.23, 132.26, 136.24 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 139.07, 160.62, 163.04, 197.74 (CO), 197.83 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 433 [M ⁺ +Na].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P8</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.80-2.85 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 2.88-2.95 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.00 (s, 4H, SCH ₂), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.79-6.86 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.07-7.11 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.16-7.21 (m, 1H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 26.85 (CH ₂), 29.07 (CH ₂), 30.77 (CH ₂), 33.16 (CH ₂), 44.06 (CH ₂), 46.01 (CH ₂), 55.49 (br s, OCH ₃), 110.56, 114.12, 120.65, 128.01, 128.58, 129.58, 130.21, 132.40, 157.85, 158.83, 198.06 (CO), 198.34 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 457 [M ⁺ +K].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P9</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.78-2.86 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 2.89 (s, 6H, NCH ₃), 3.00-3.02 (m, 4H, SCH ₂), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.64-6.67 (m, 2H, Ph), 6.83-6.88 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.02-7.04 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.09-7.13 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.17-7.21 (m, 1H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 26.86 (CH ₂), 29.09 (CH ₂), 30.75 (CH ₂), 40.86 (NCH ₃), 44.07 (CH ₂), 46.27 (CH ₂), 55.50 (OCH ₃), 110.55, 113.08, 120.64, 128.01, 128.17, 128.59, 129.15, 130.21, 149.76, 157.85, 198.25 (CO), 198.35 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 433 [M ⁺ +H].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P10</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.83-2.98 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 2.99-3.05 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 7.06-7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.25-7.42 (m, 4H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 29.07 (CH ₂), 30.90 (CH ₂), 31.55 (CH ₂), 45.29 (CH ₂), 45.68 (CH ₂), 120.29, 120.60, 128.63, 128.77, 130.54, 131.79, 139.55, 140.47, 197.69 (CO), 197.94 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 477 [M ⁺ +K].

 <p style="text-align: center;">P11</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.50-2.87, 3.03-3.12 (m, 12H, CH ₂), 2.91 (s, 6H, NCH ₃), 3.50-3.60 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 6.69-6.76 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.00-7.17 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.33-7.56 (m, 2H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 24.79 (CH ₂), 29.08 (CH ₂), 29.18 (CH ₂), 30.96 (CH ₂), 31.15 (CH ₂), 41.43 (NCH ₃), 45.46 (CH ₂), 46.33 (CH ₂), 70.23 (CH ₂ O), 70.71 (CH ₂ O), 113.83, 120.43, 129.42, 130.73, 131.95, 139.82, 149.38, 198.21 (CO), 198.70 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 569 [M ⁺ +H].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P12</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.82-2.96 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 3.04-3.10 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.53-3.59 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.80-6.88 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.08-7.13 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.16-7.22 (m, 1H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 26.84 (CH ₂), 28.81 (CH ₂), 28.88 (CH ₂), 30.77 (CH ₂), 44.04 (CH ₂), 45.96 (CH ₂), 55.42 (br s, OCH ₃), 70.00 (CH ₂ O), 70.06 (CH ₂ O), 70.50 (CH ₂ O), 110.50, 114.06, 120.60, 127.95, 128.59, 129.54, 130.15, 132.42, 157.79, 158.45, 198.31 (CO), 198.60 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 529 [M ⁺ +Na].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P13</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.78-2.89 (m, 6H, CH ₂), 2.90 (s, 6H, NCH ₃), 3.06-3.10 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.50-3.63 (m, 10H, CH ₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.67-6.70 (m, 1H, Ph), 6.82-6.84 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.02-7.09 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.10-7.14 (m, 3H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 26.86 (CH ₂), 28.89 (CH ₂), 30.75 (CH ₂), 30.78 (CH ₂), 40.93 (NCH ₃), 45.98 (CH ₂), 46.21 (CH ₂), 55.43 (OCH ₃), 70.01 (CH ₂ O), 70.04 (CH ₂ O), 70.51 (CH ₂ O), 113.18, 114.07, 129.15, 129.55, 129.58, 132.44, 158.46, 198.34 (CO), 198.51 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 520 [M ⁺ +H].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P14</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.82-2.89 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 2.91-2.98 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.04-3.08 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.52-3.57 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.82-6.87 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.08-7.12 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.16-7.21 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.25-7.29 (m, 2H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 26.86 (CH ₂), 26.83 (CH ₂), 28.92 (CH ₂), 31.60 (CH ₂), 44.03 (CH ₂), 45.67 (CH ₂), 55.47 (OCH ₃), 70.01 (CH ₂ O), 70.08 (CH ₂ O), 70.53 (CH ₂ O), 110.52, 120.61, 126.56, 127.96, 128.62, 128.75, 130.17, 140.54, 157.82, 198.24 (CO), 198.62 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): 499 [M ⁺ +Na].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P15</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃ , ppm): 2.91-2.94 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 2.94-3.03 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.81-6.84 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.10-7.13 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.17-7.23 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.26-7.33 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.36-7.39 (m, 3H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl ₃ , ppm): 30.80 (CH ₂), 31.60 (CH ₂), 45.43 (CH ₂), 45.75 (CH ₂), 55.51 (OCH ₃), 114.15, 126.69, 127.36, 127.42, 128.69, 128.83, 129.64, 130.54, 131.70, 132.26, 133.06, 135.45, 135.55, 137.26, 137.33, 140.35, 158.59, 196.47 (CO), 196.55 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 567 [M ⁺ +Na].

 <p style="text-align: center;">P16</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.89-2.98 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 2.99-3.07 (m, 4H, CH ₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH ₃), 6.07 (dd, 1H, J _{HH} = 3.2, 0.7 Hz, CH from furan), 6.30 (dd, 1H, J _{HH} = 3.2, 1.9 Hz, CH from furan), 6.79-6.88 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.10-7.16 (m, 2H, Ph and furane), 7.30-7.40 (m, 8H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 23.97 (CH ₂), 30.78 (CH ₂), 42.08 (CH ₂), 45.73 (CH ₂), 55.50 (OCH ₃), 105.98, 110.59, 114.14, 127.17, 127.41, 129.63, 131.68, 131.71, 132.24, 135.54, 137.27, 141.70, 153.88, 158.58, 196.06 (CO), 196.51 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 557 [M ⁺ +Na].
 <p style="text-align: center;">P17</p>	¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 2.98-3.03 (m, 8H, CH ₂), 6.07 (dd, 1H, J _{HH} = 3.2, 0.7 Hz, CH from furan), 6.31 (dd, 1H, J _{HH} = 3.2, 1.9 Hz, CH from furan), 7.21-7.23 (m, 2H, Ph and furane), 7.27-7.43 (m, 12H, Ph); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CD ₂ Cl ₂ , ppm): 23.98 (CH ₂), 31.59 (CH ₂), 42.09 (CH ₂), 45.42 (CH ₂), 105.99, 110.59, 126.70, 127.21 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 127.38 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 128.69, 128.83, 131.71, 135.55, 137.29 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 137.37 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 140.33, 141.71, 153.88, 196.06 (CO), 196.43 (CO); MS (ESI ⁺): m/z 527 [M ⁺ +Na].

5. NMR spectra of isolated products

Product P1

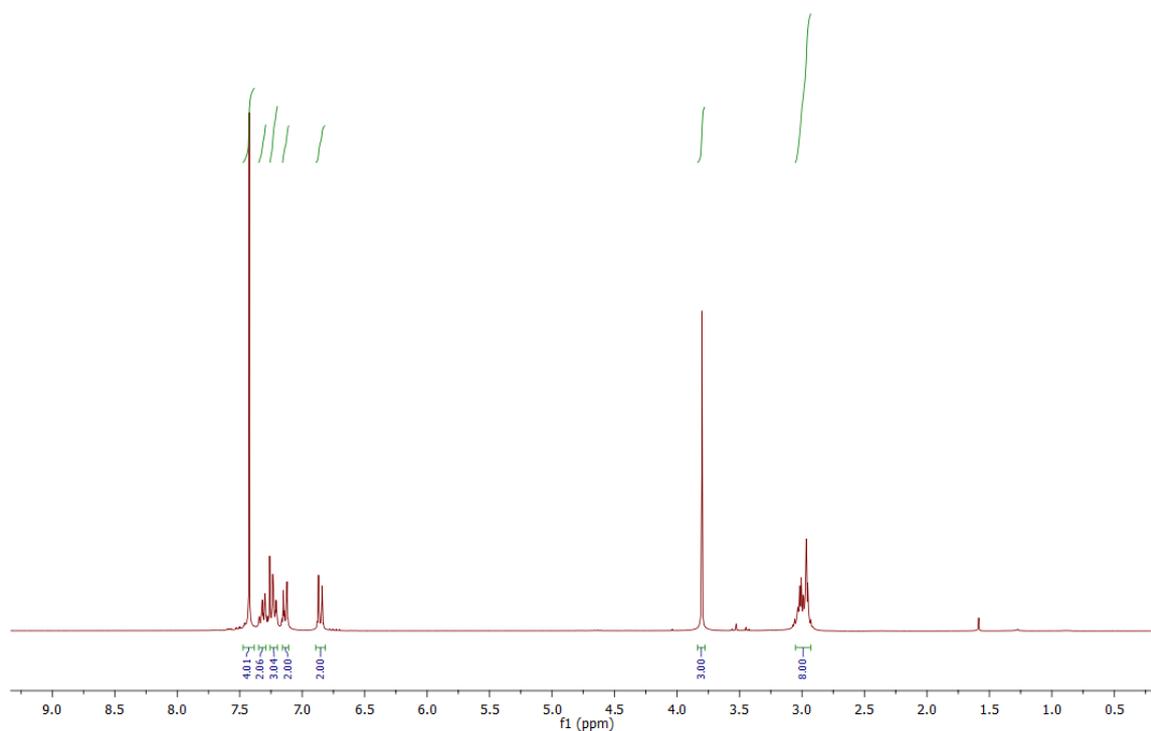


Figure 1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **P1**

Product P1

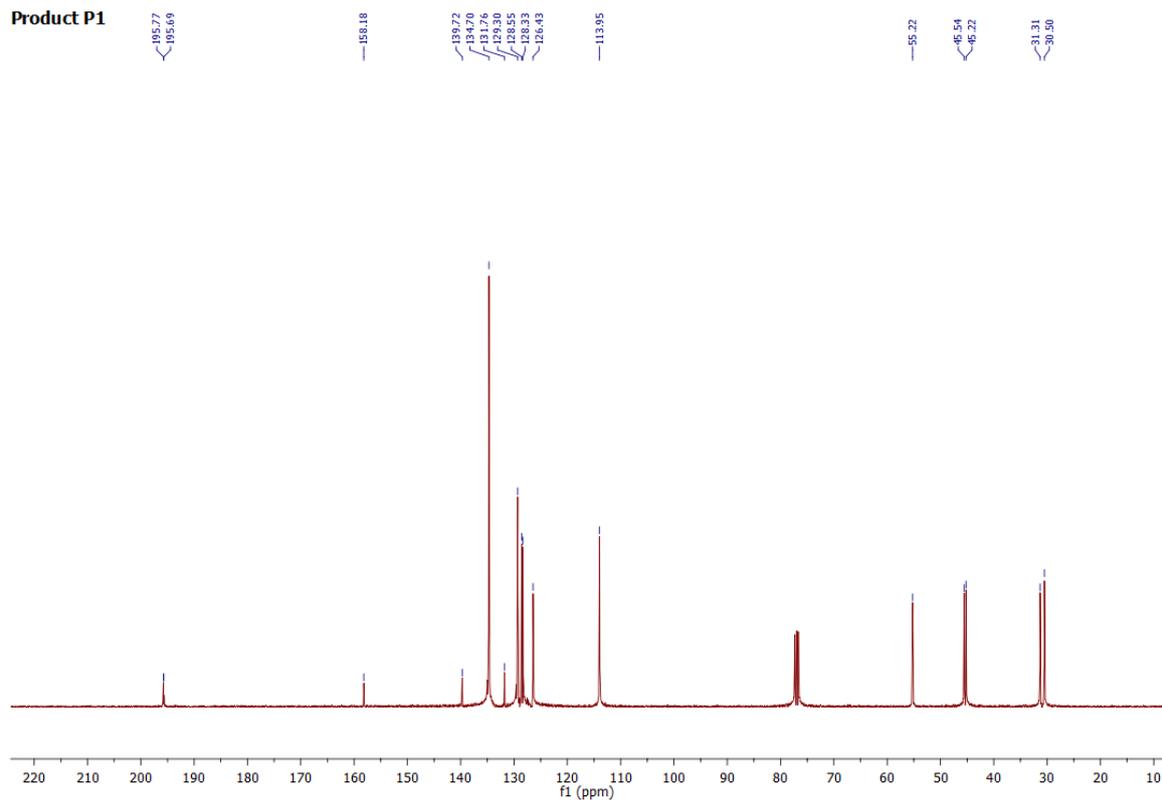


Figure 2. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) of P1

Product P2

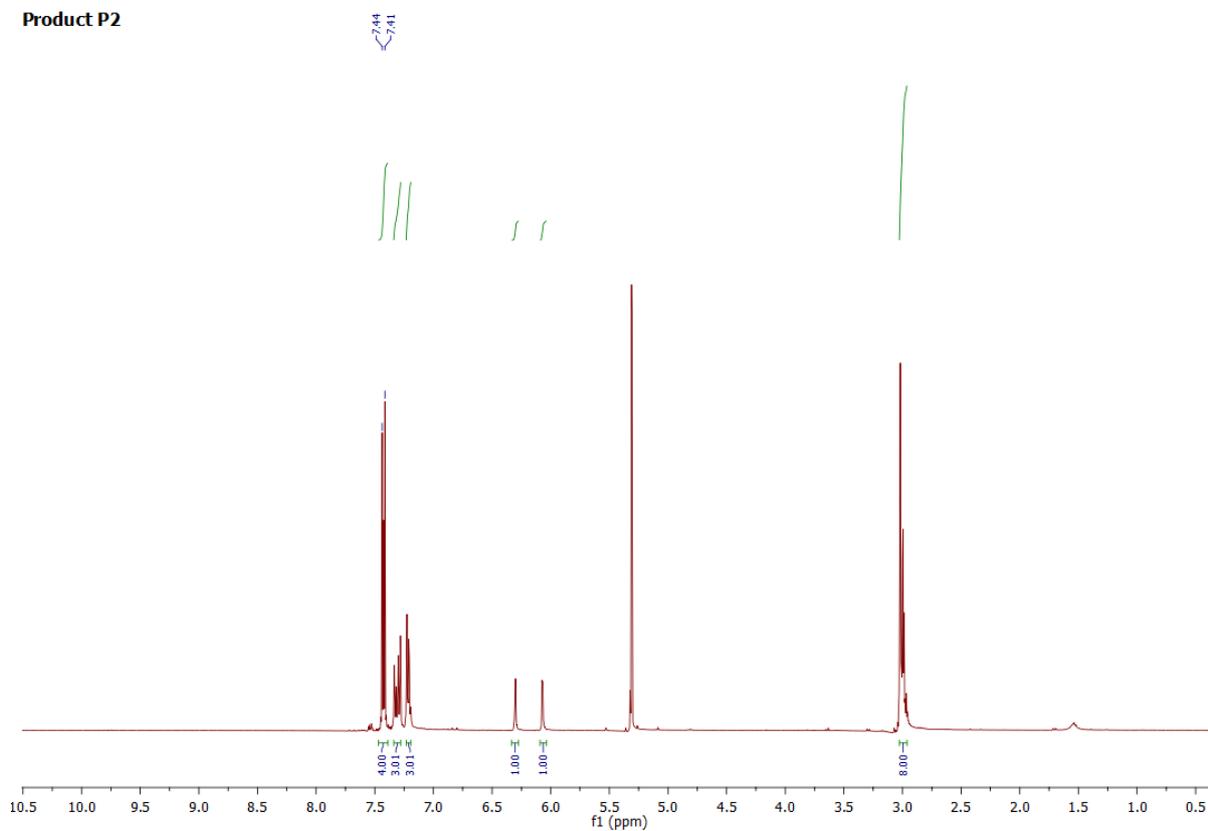


Figure 3. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of P2

Product P2

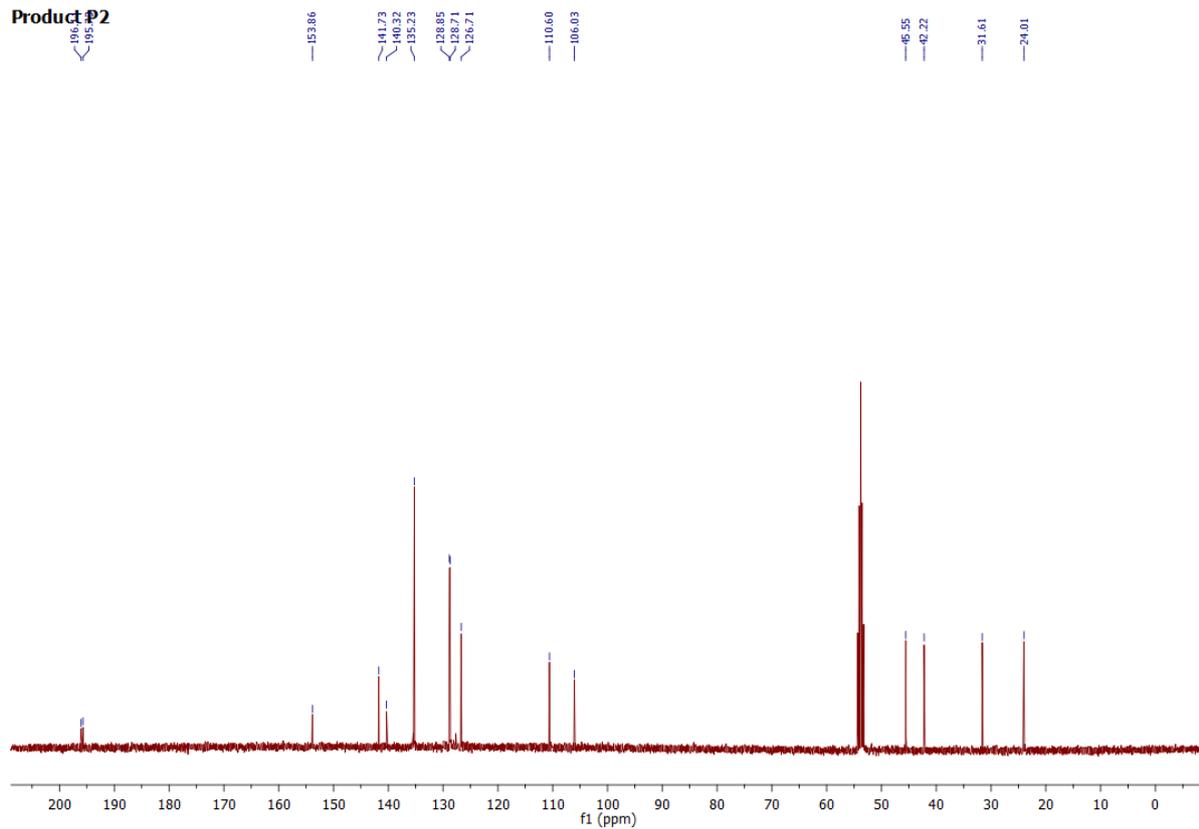


Figure 4. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P2

Product P3

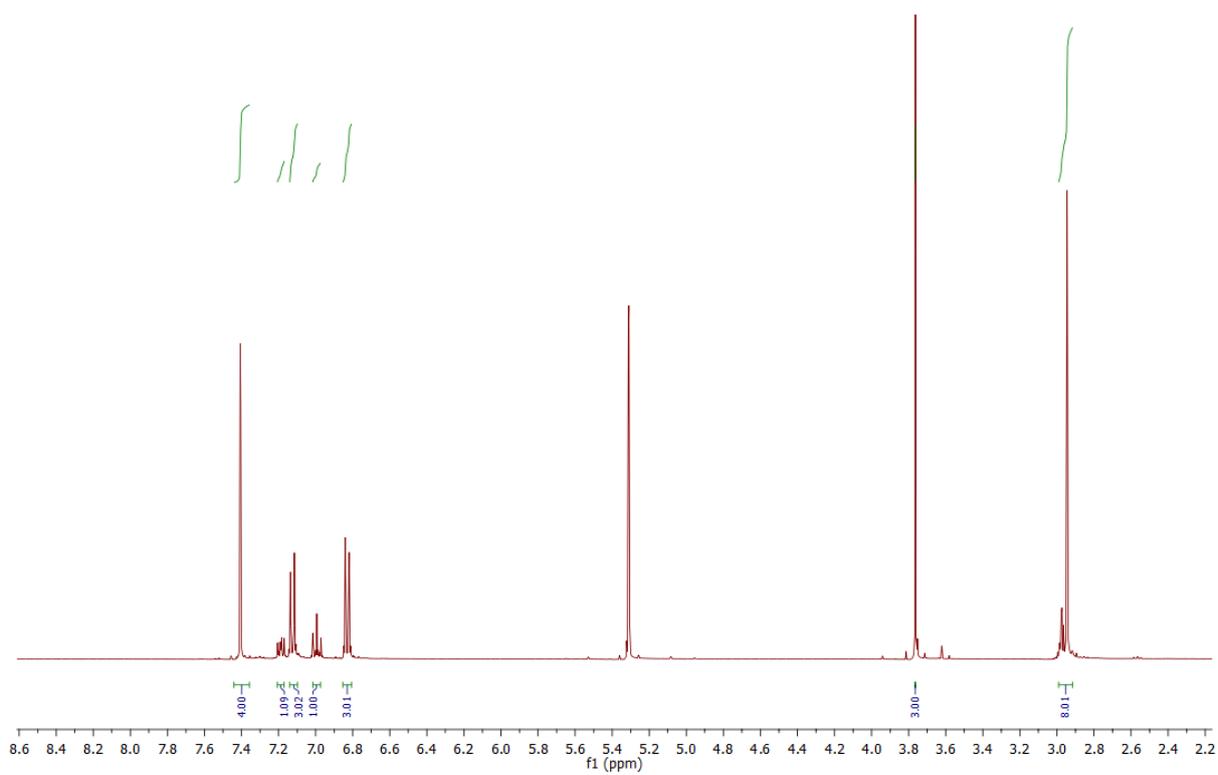


Figure 5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P3

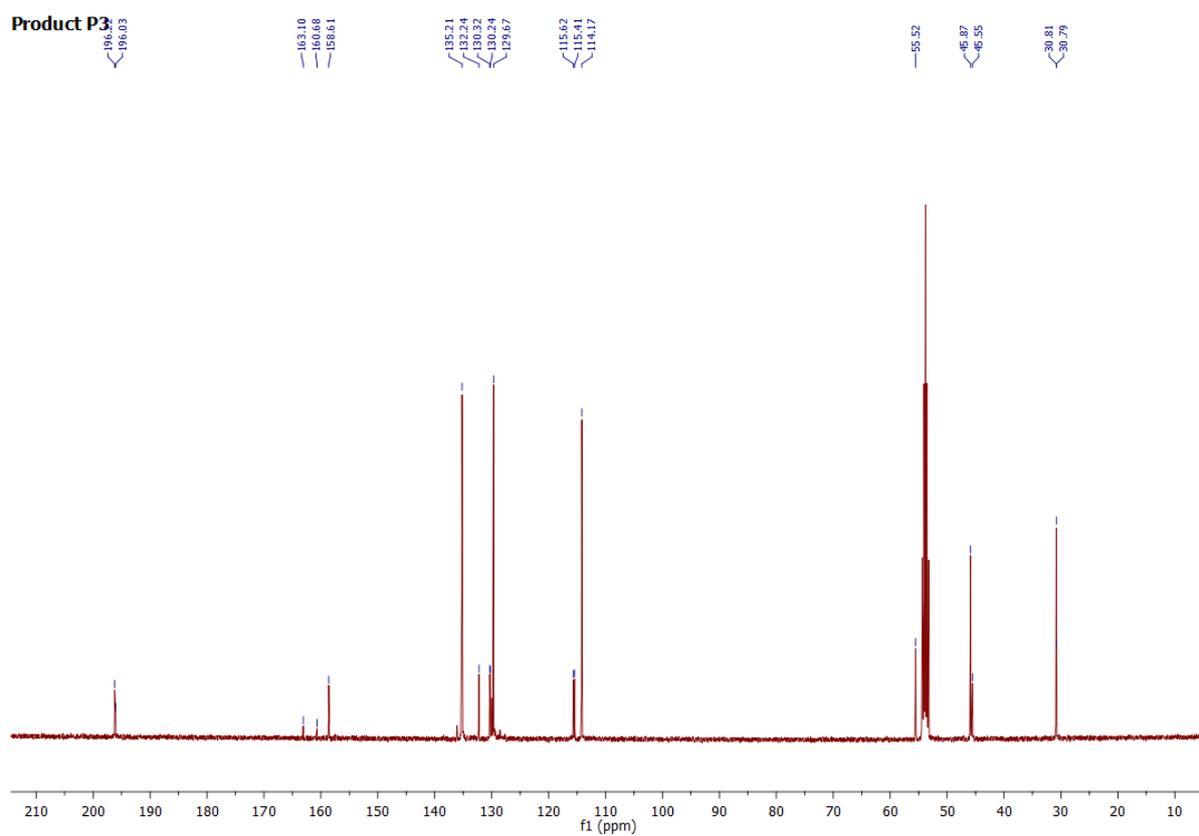


Figure 6. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P3**

Product P4

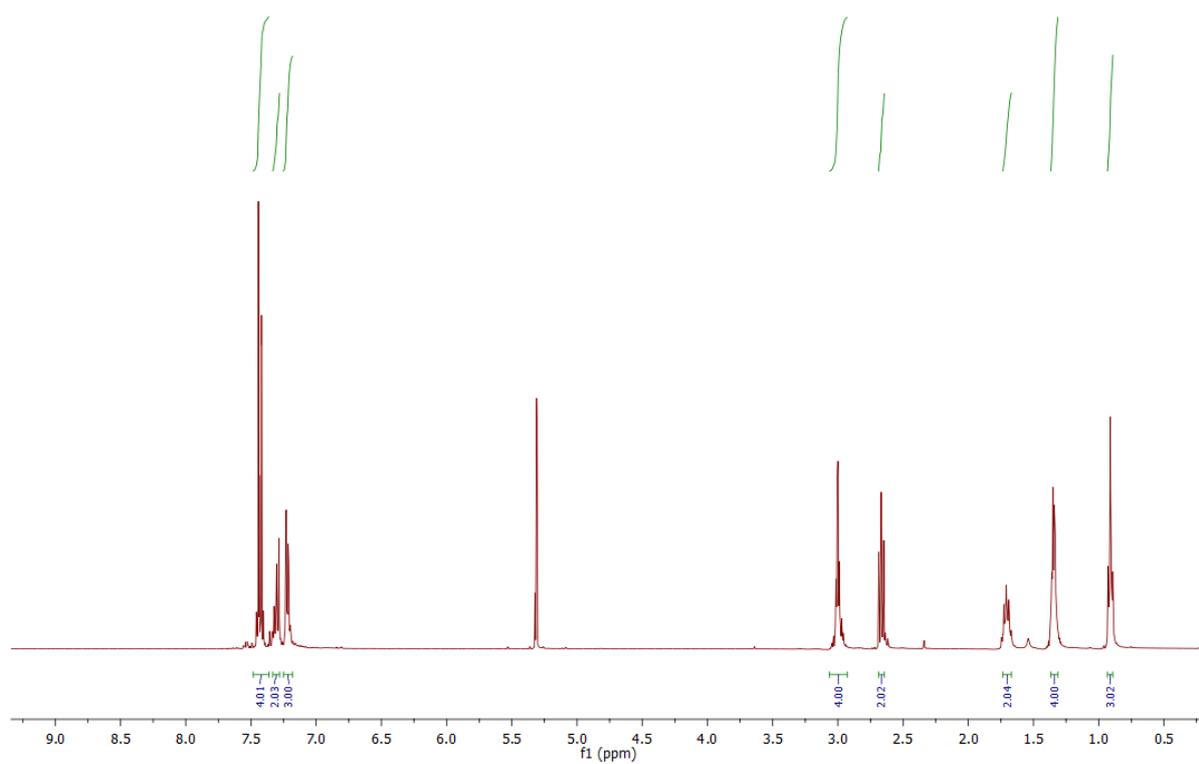


Figure 7. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P4**

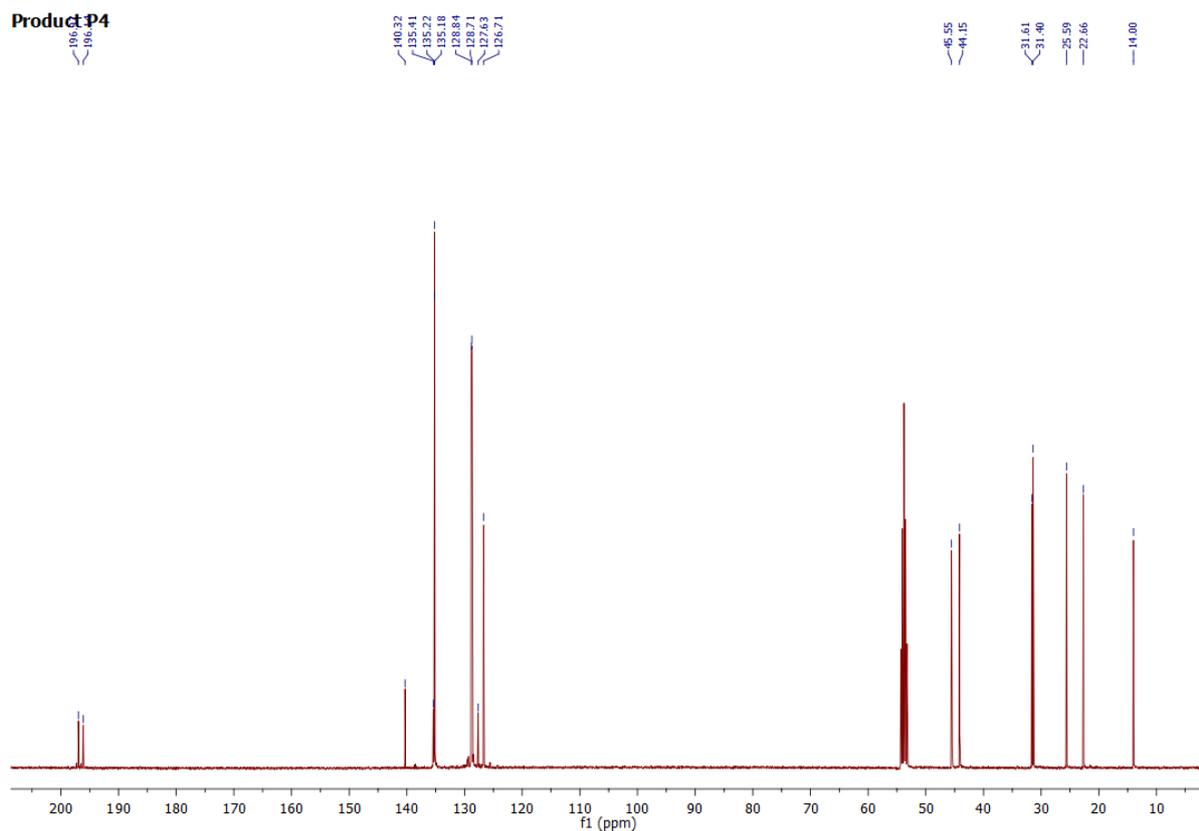


Figure 8. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P4**

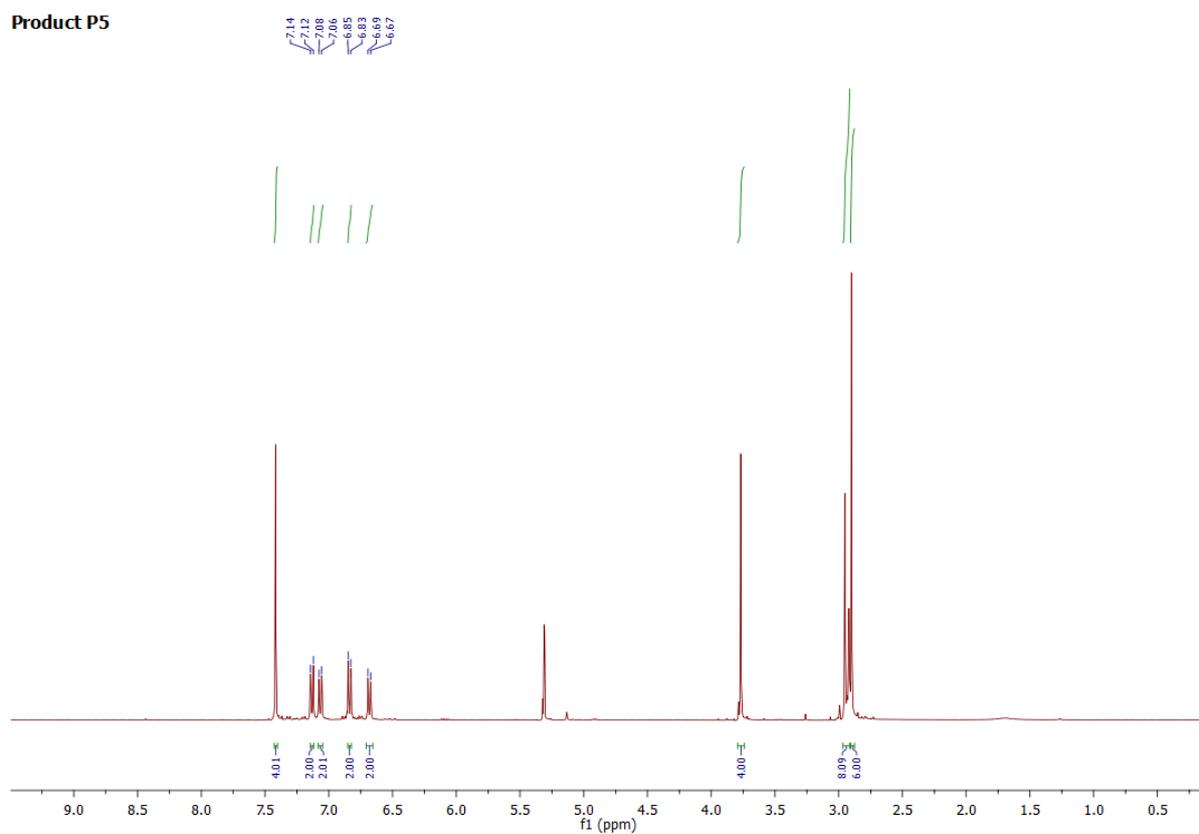


Figure 9. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P5**

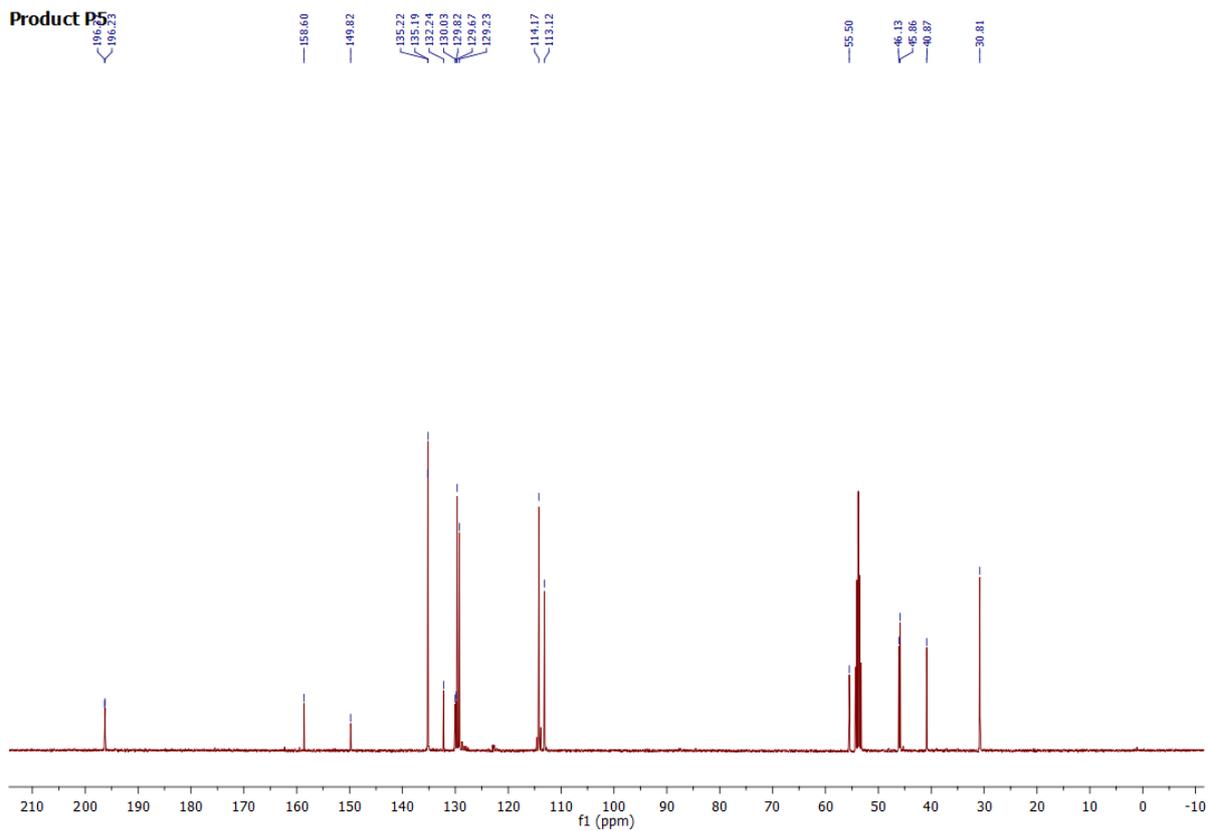


Figure 10. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P5**

Product P6

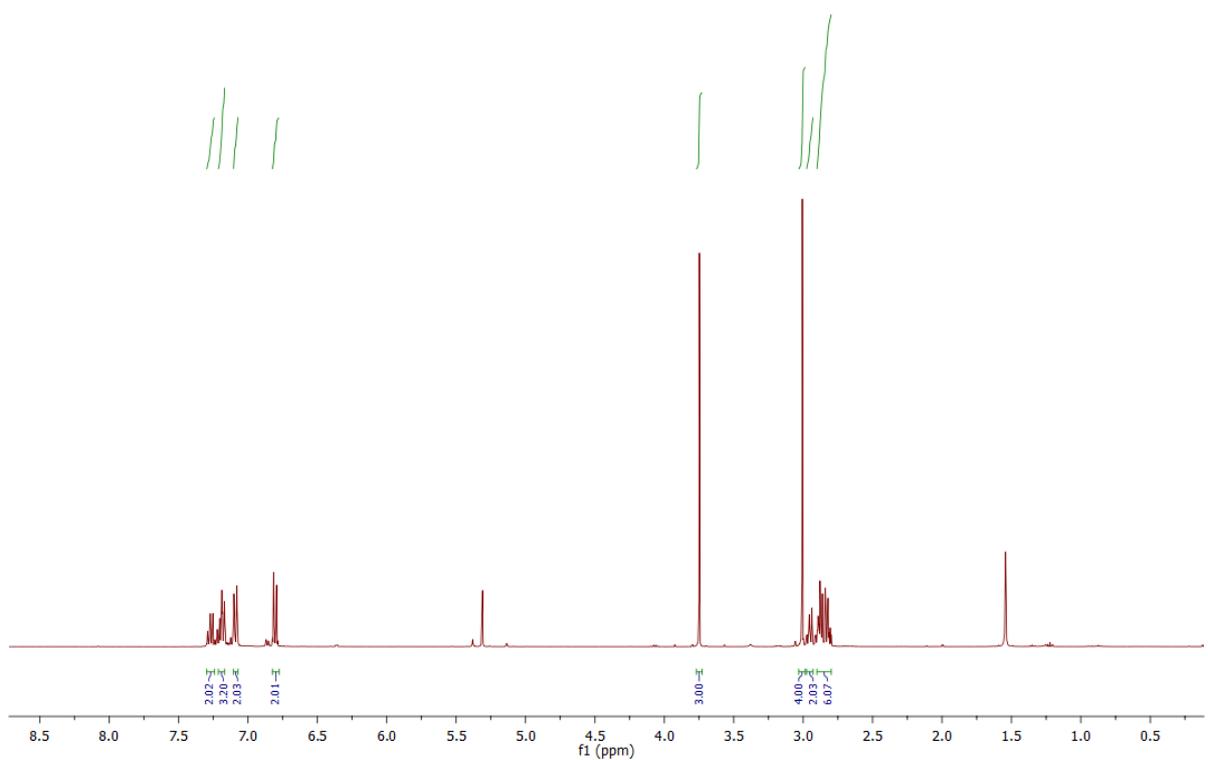


Figure 11. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P6**. Signal at 1.50 ppm derives from water from CD_2Cl_2 .

Product P6

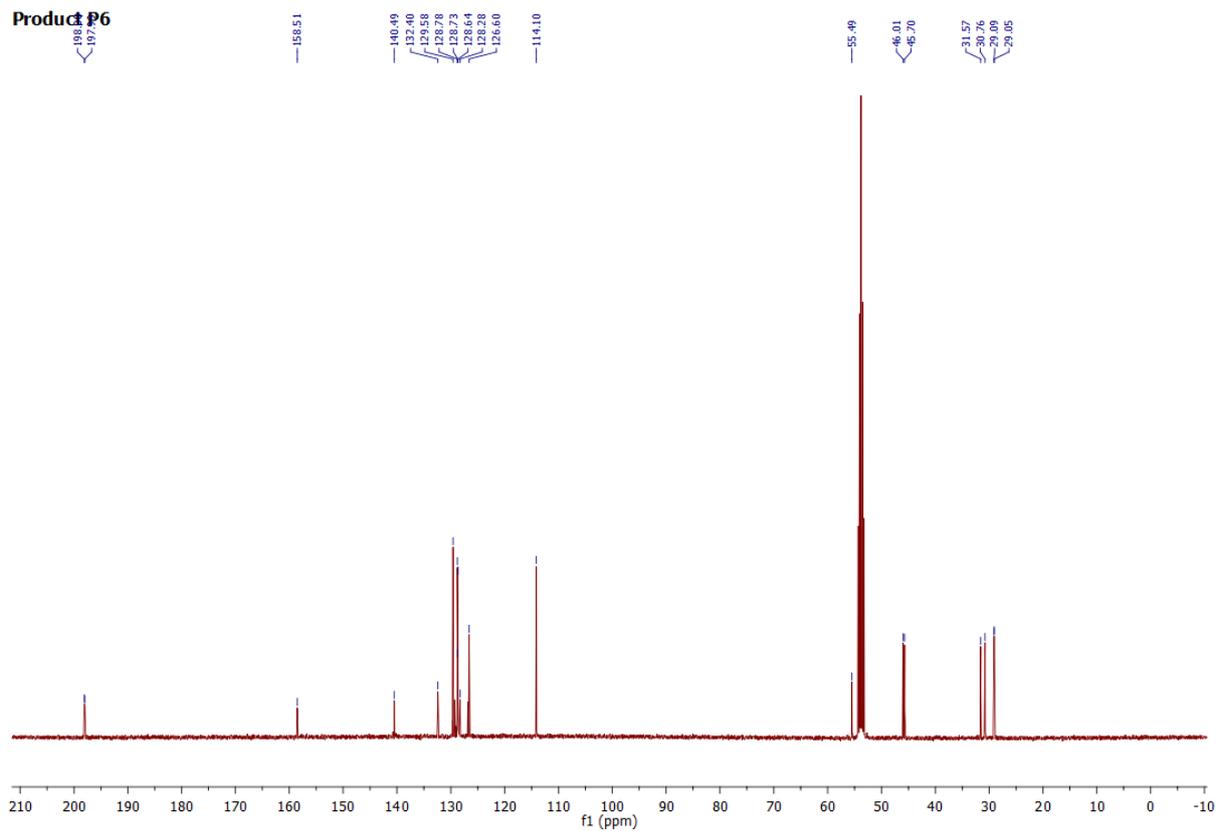


Figure 12. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P6**

Product P7

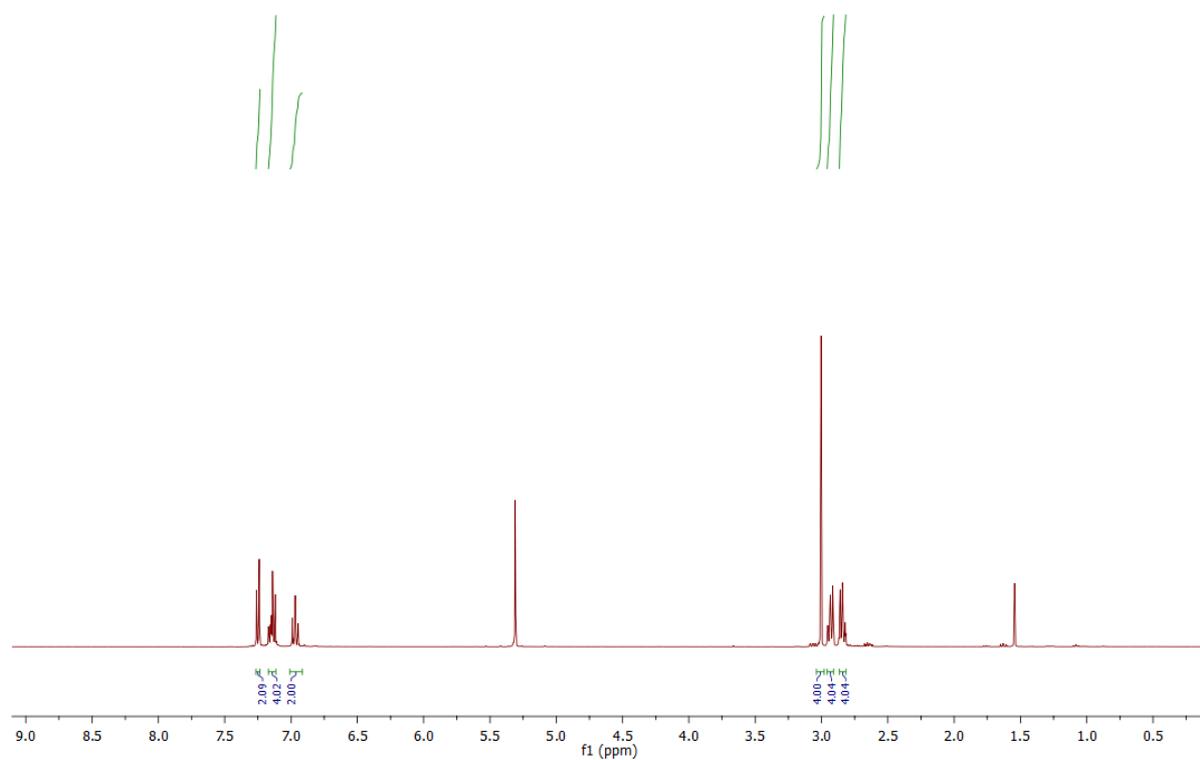


Figure 13. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P7**

Product P7

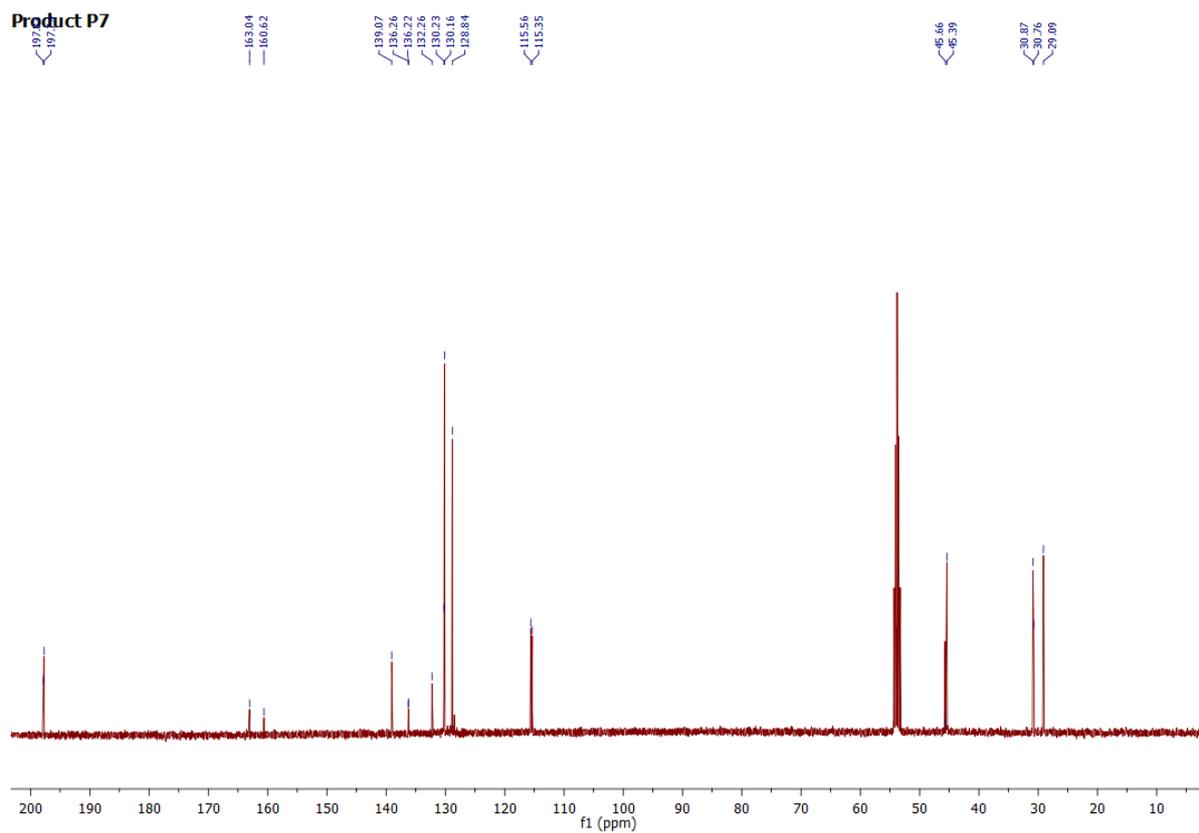


Figure 14. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P7

Product P8

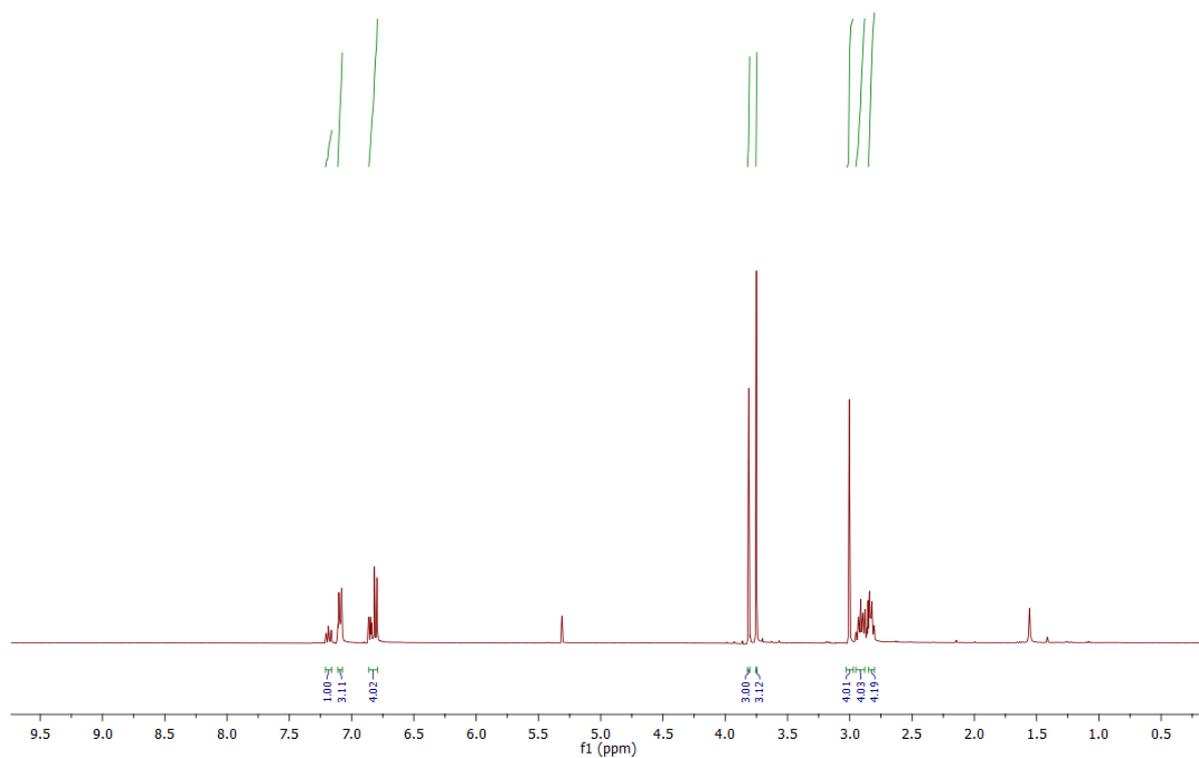


Figure 15. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P8. Signal at 1.50 ppm derives from water from CD₂Cl₂.

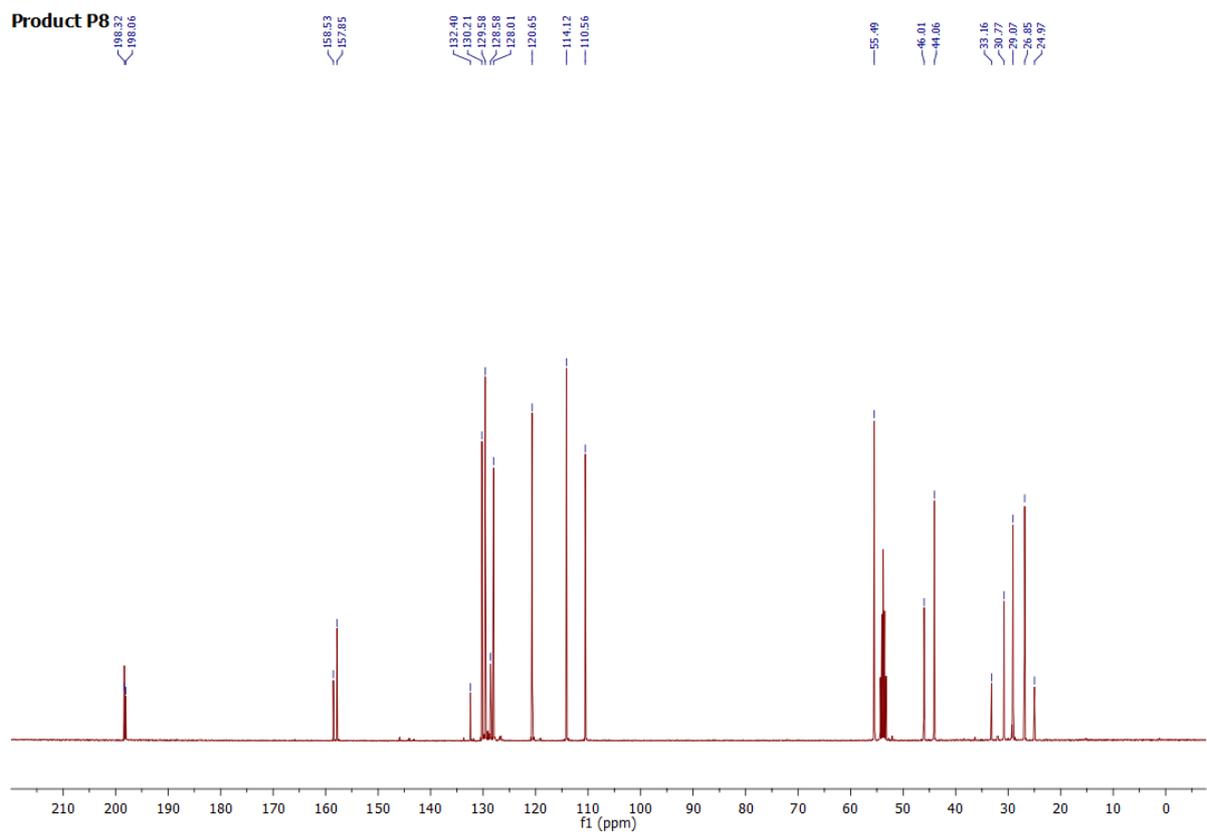


Figure 16. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P8**

Product P9

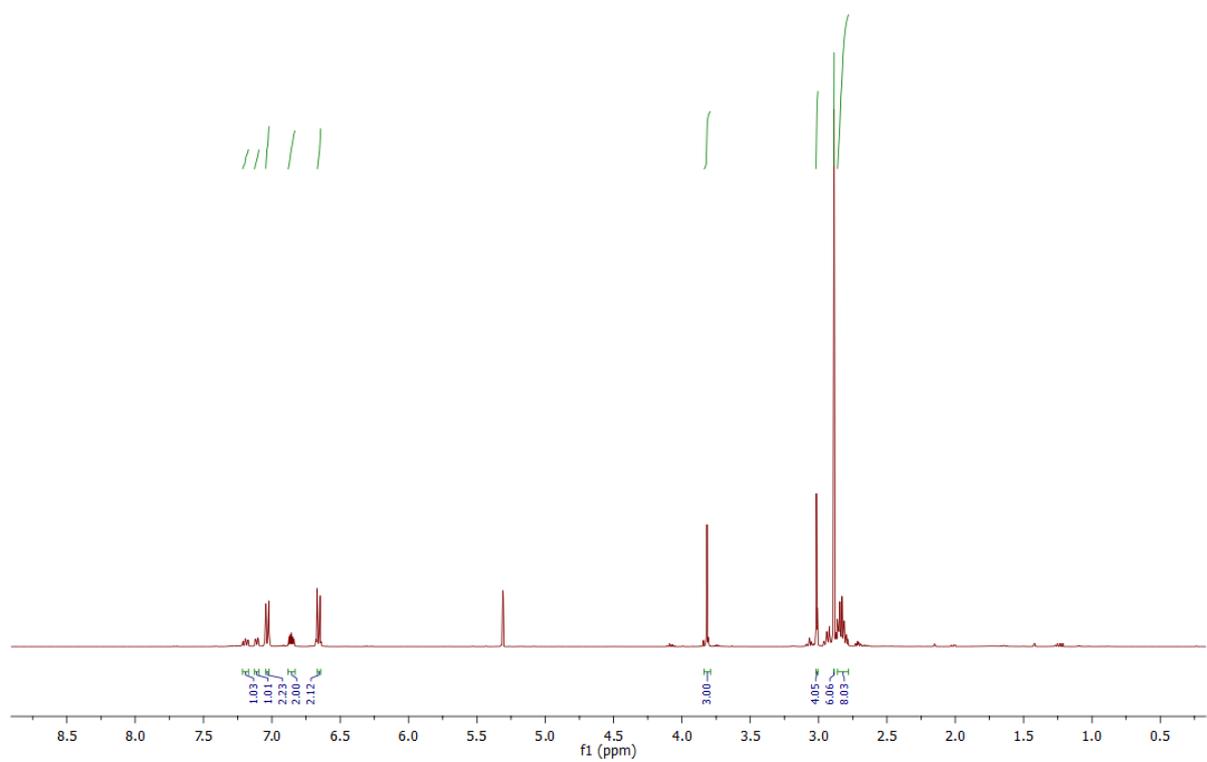


Figure 17. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P9**

Product P9

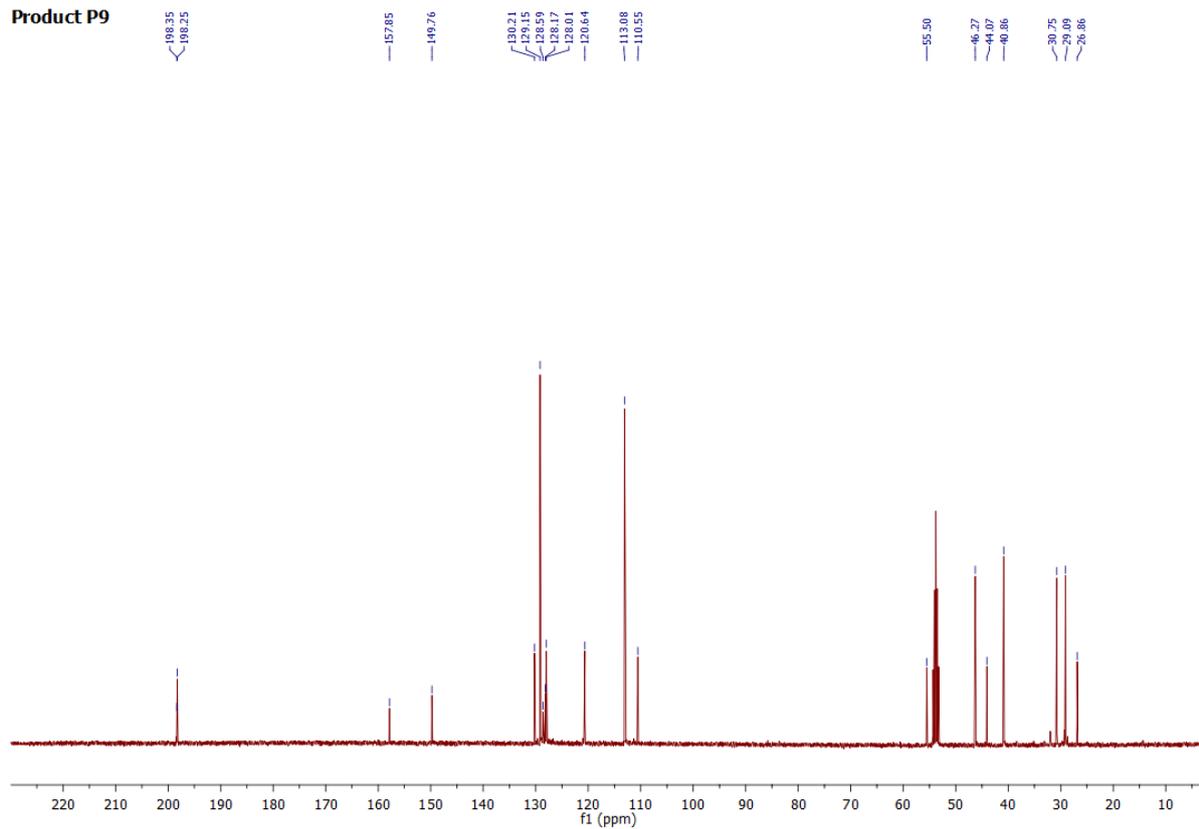


Figure 18. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P9

Product P10

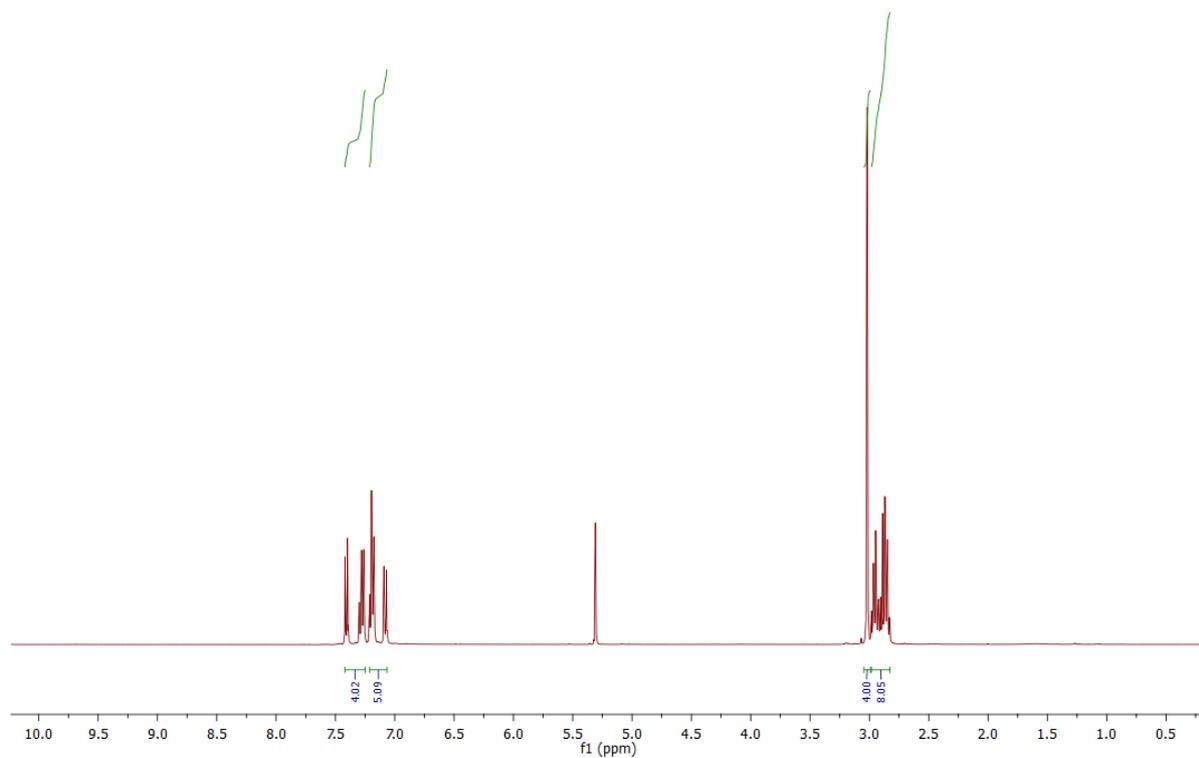


Figure 19. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P10

Product P10

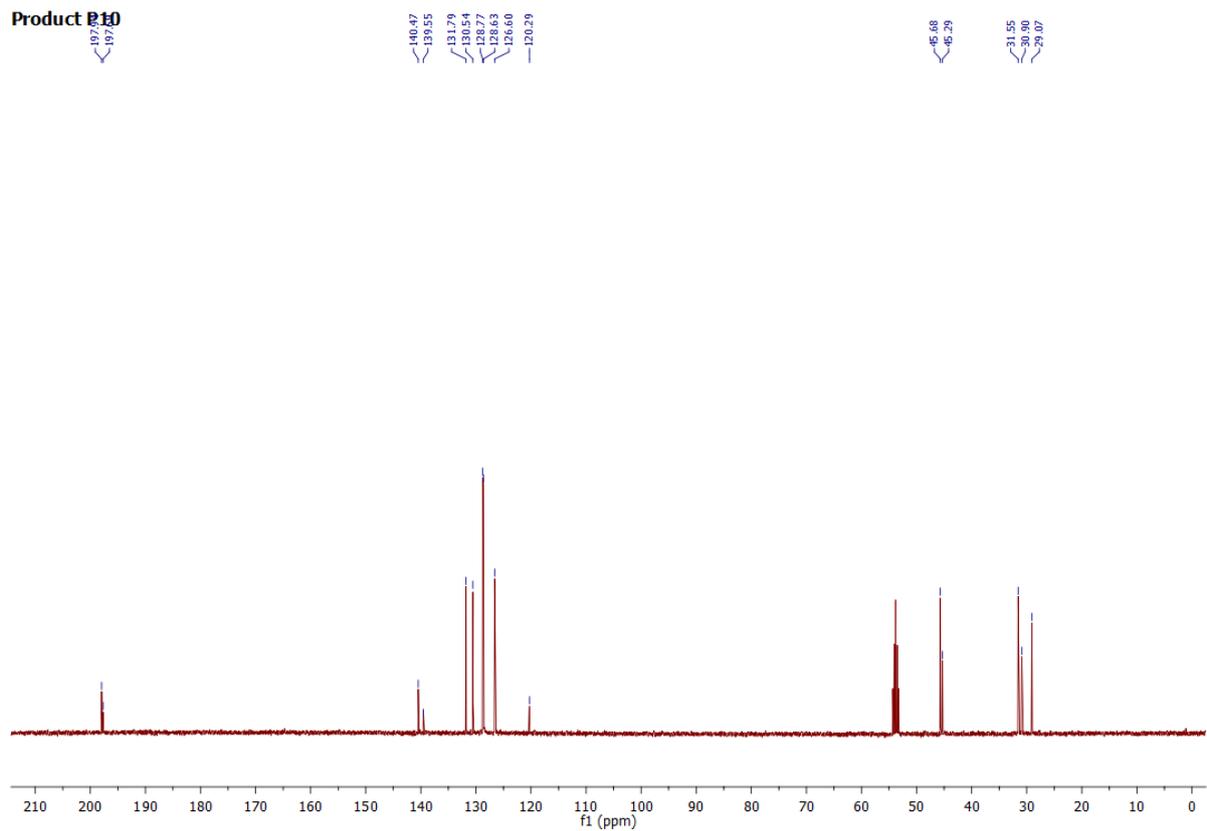


Figure 20. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P10

Product P11

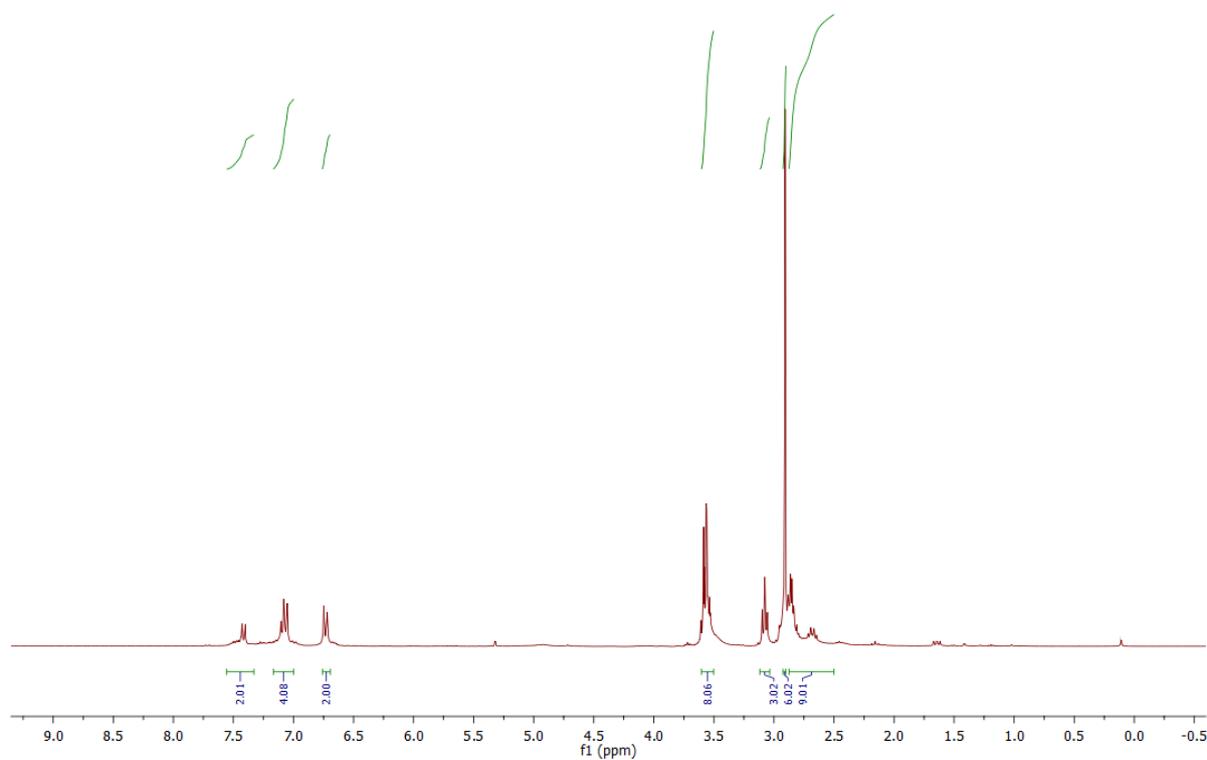


Figure 21. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P11

Product P11

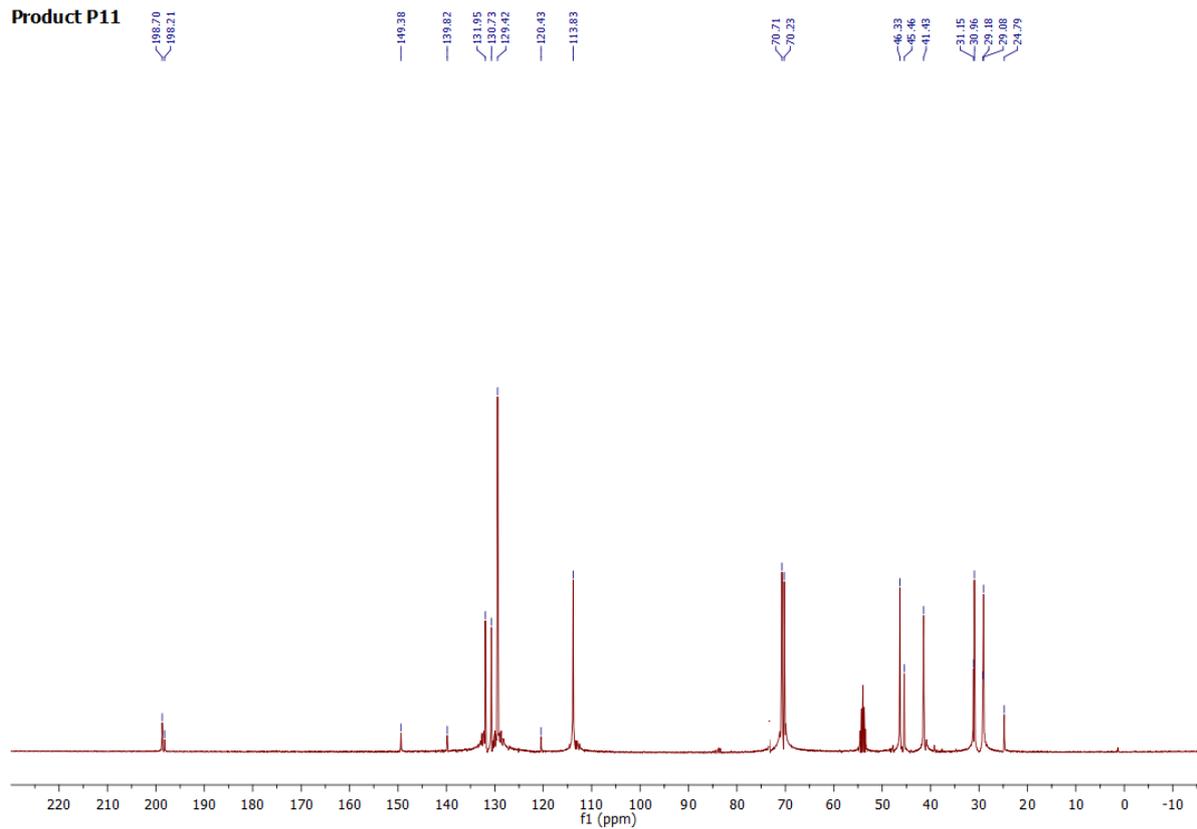


Figure 22. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P11

Product P12

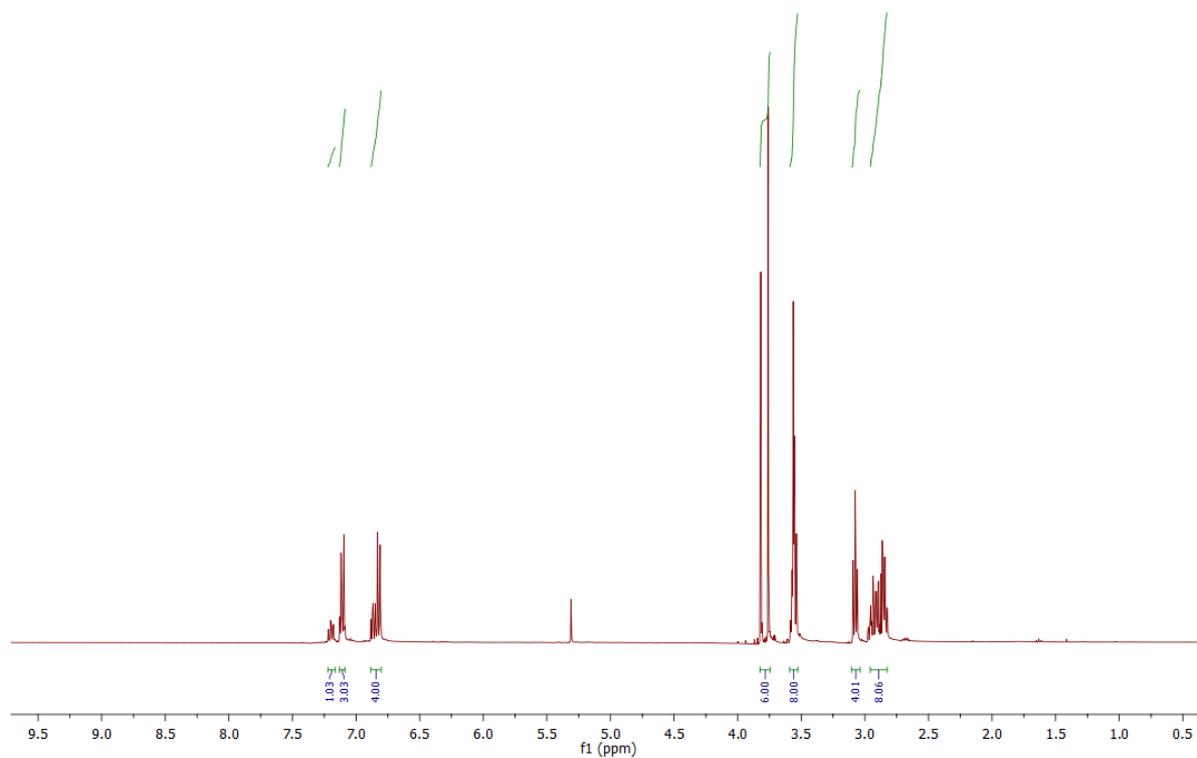


Figure 23. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P12

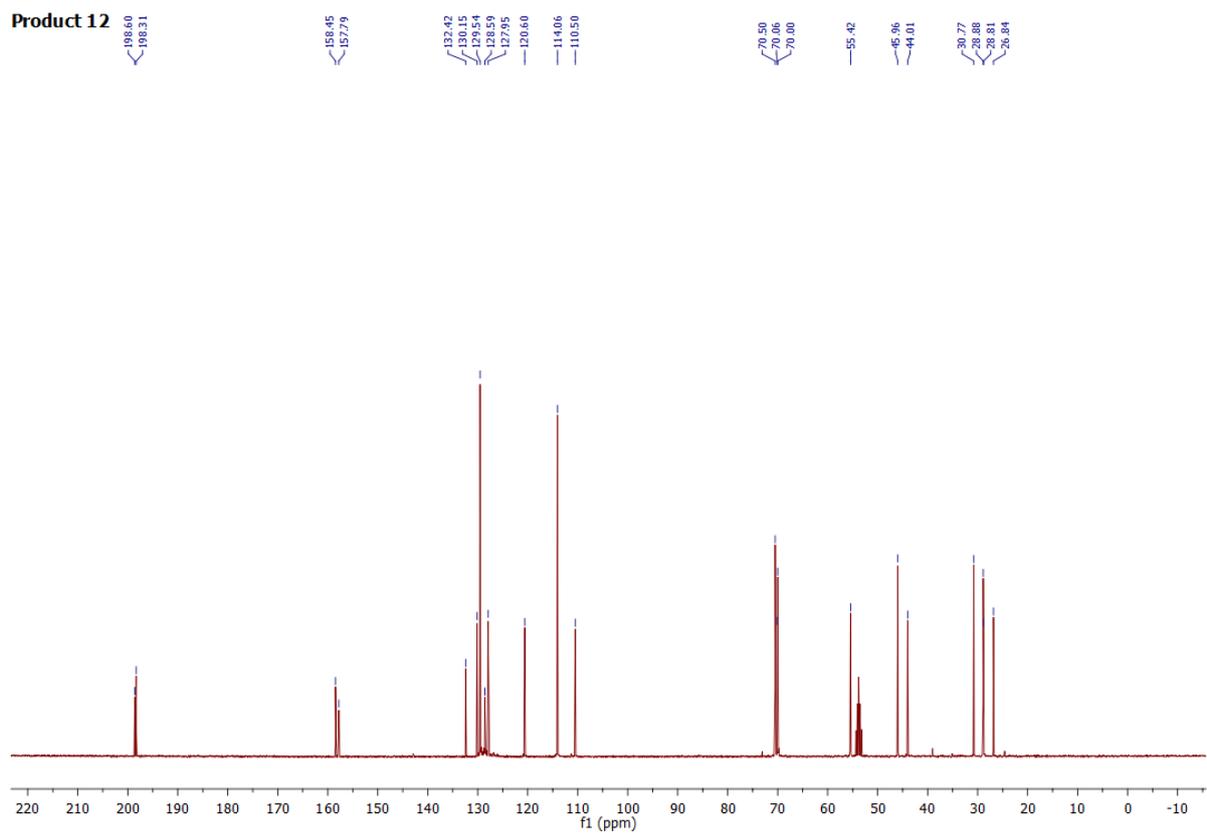


Figure 24. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P12**

Product P13

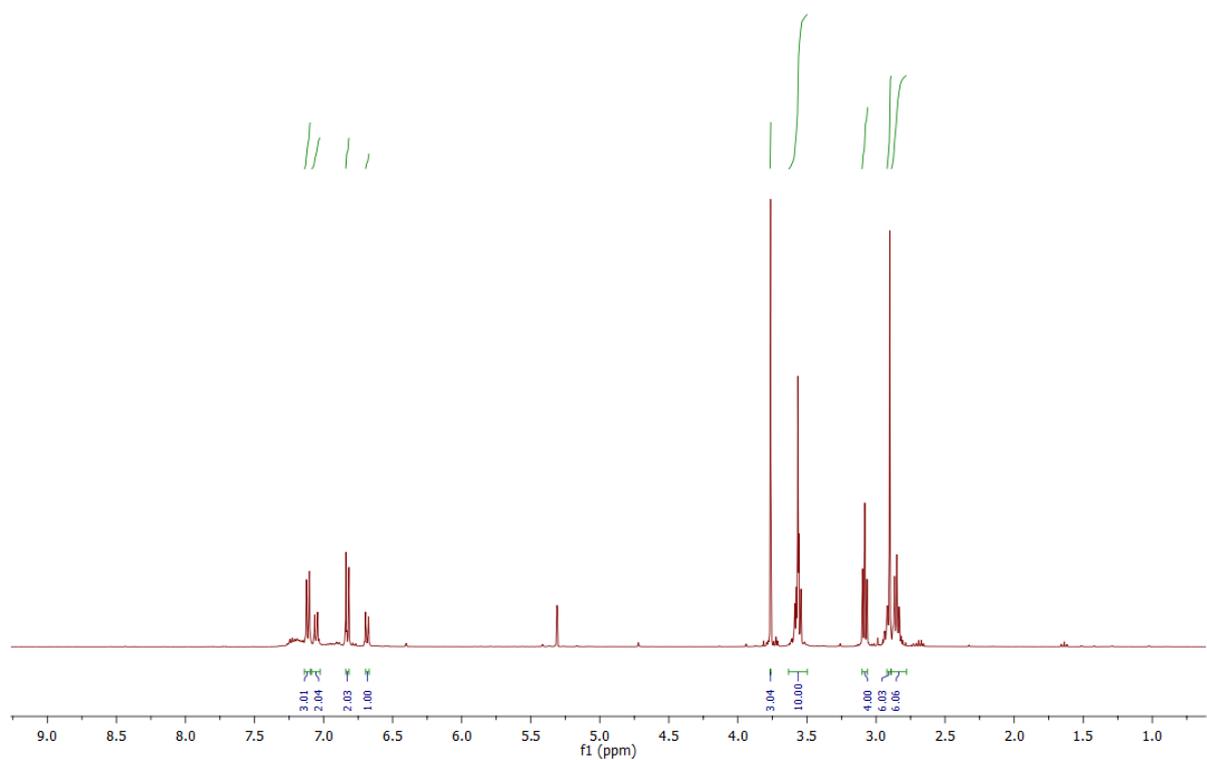


Figure 25. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P13**

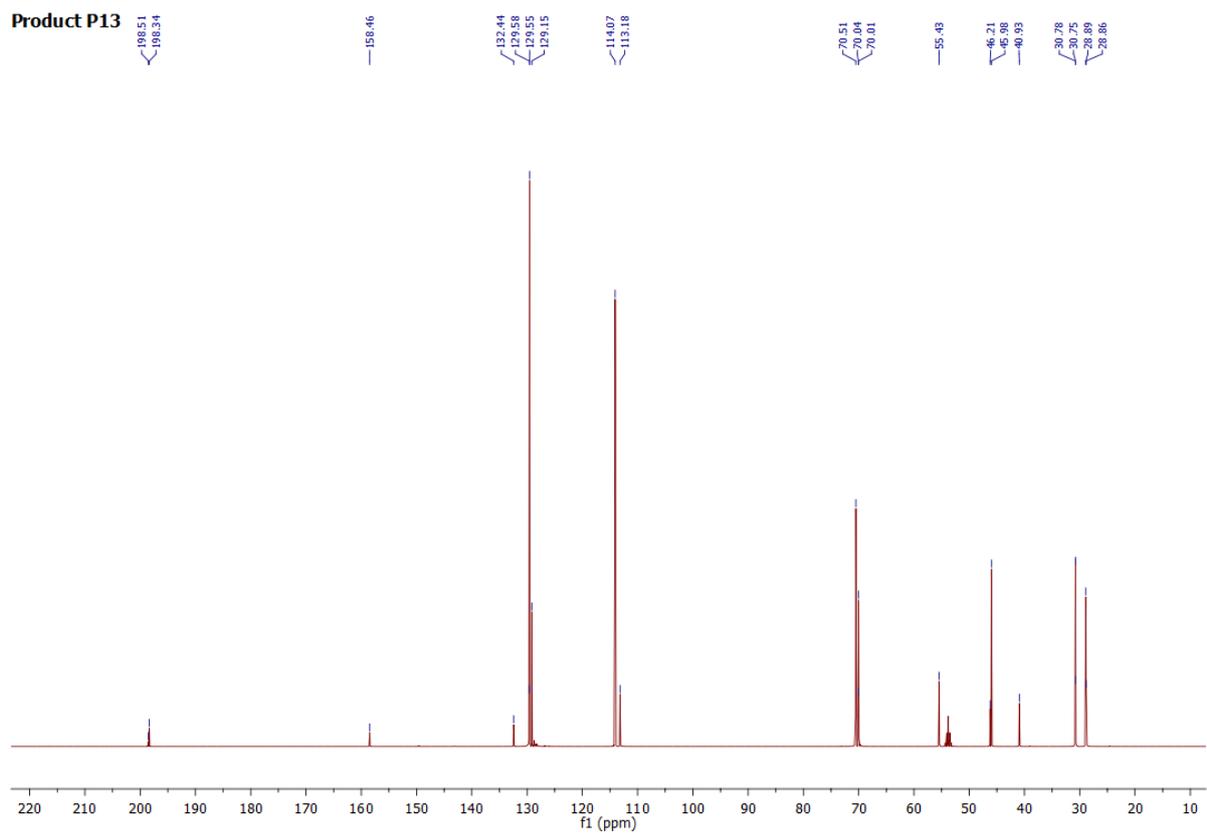


Figure 26. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P13**

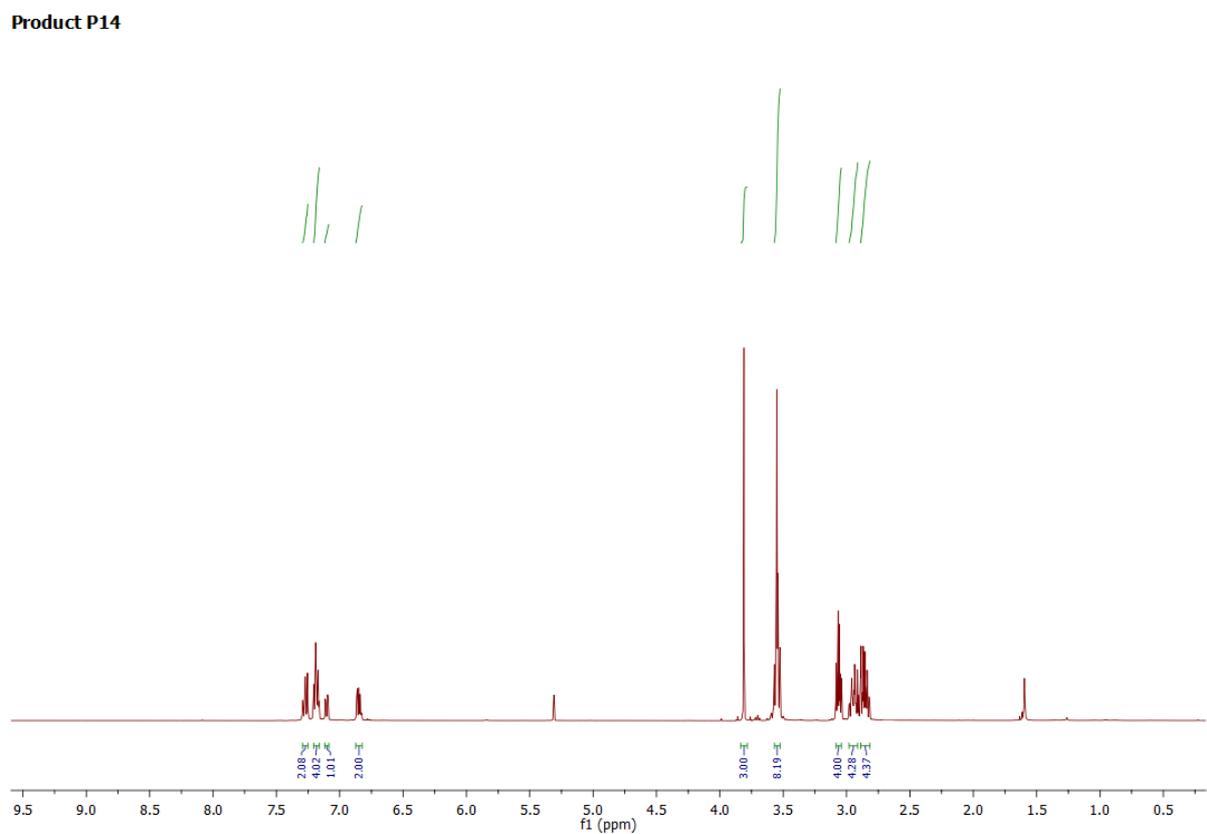


Figure 27. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P14**

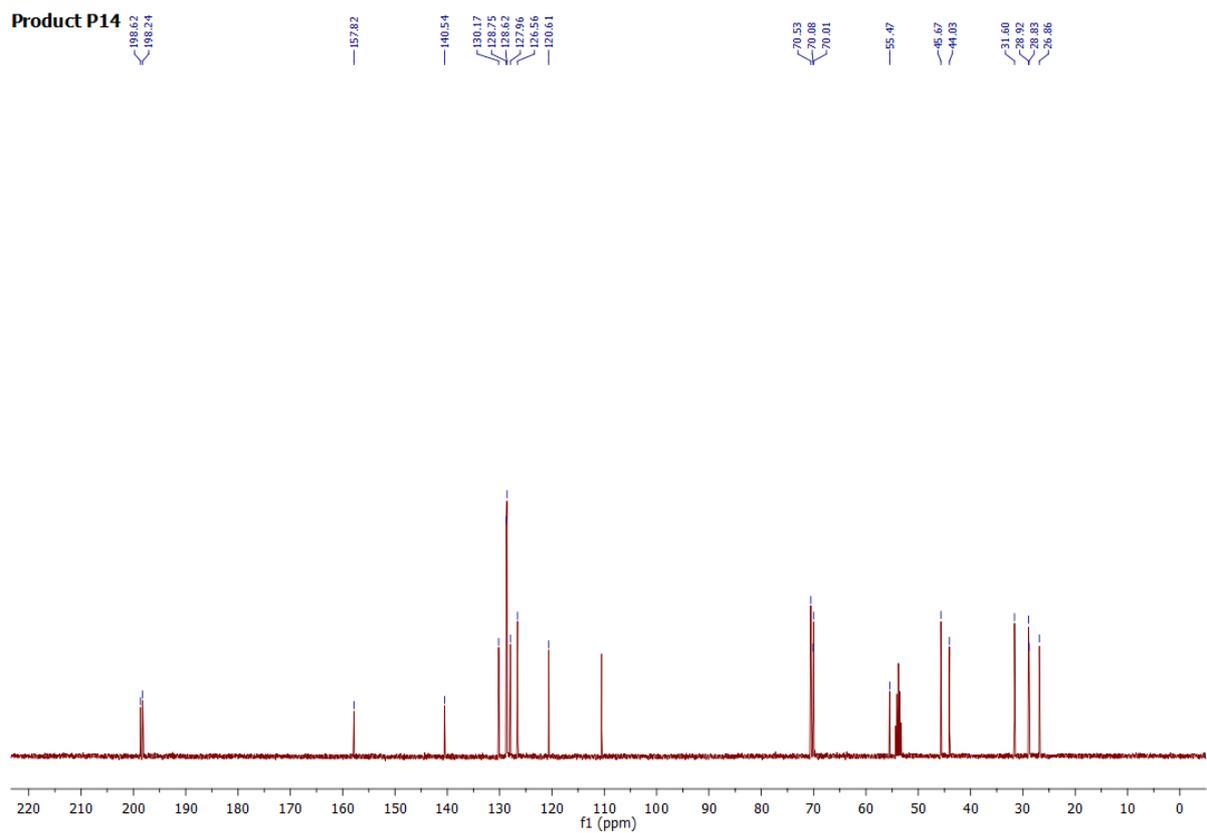


Figure 28. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P14**

Product P15

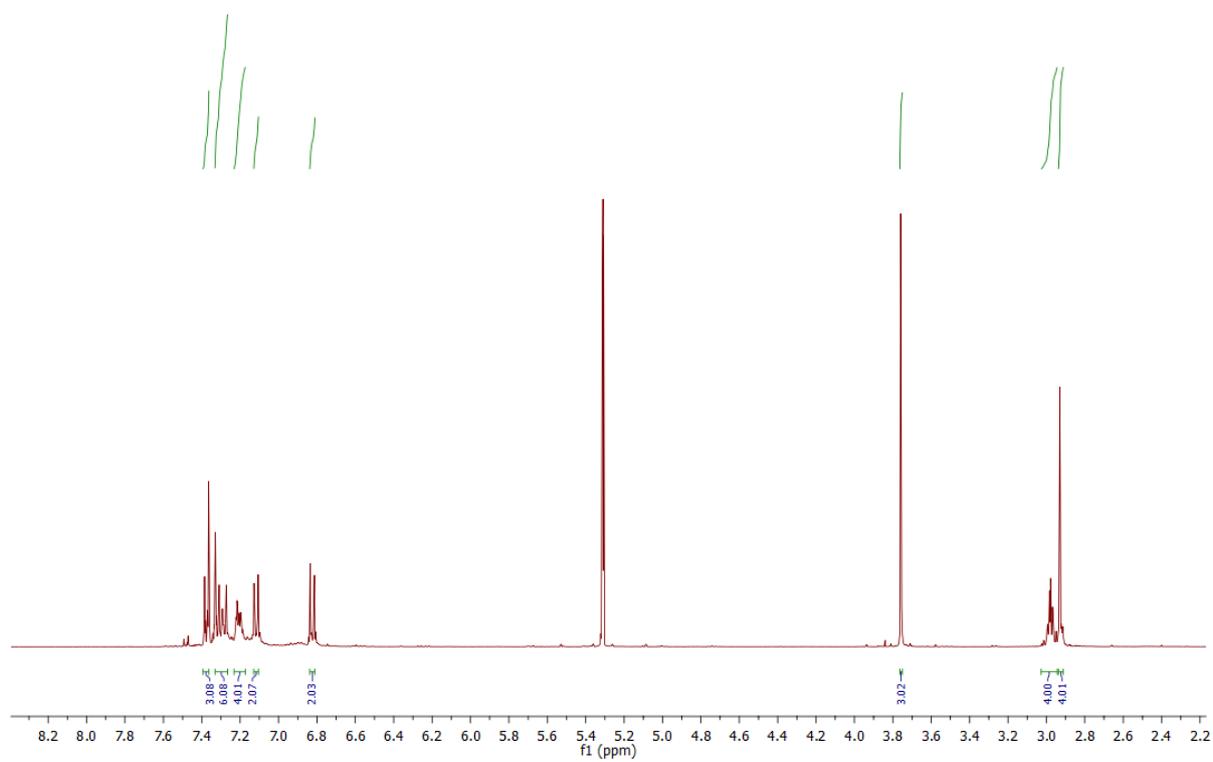


Figure 29. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P15**

Product P15

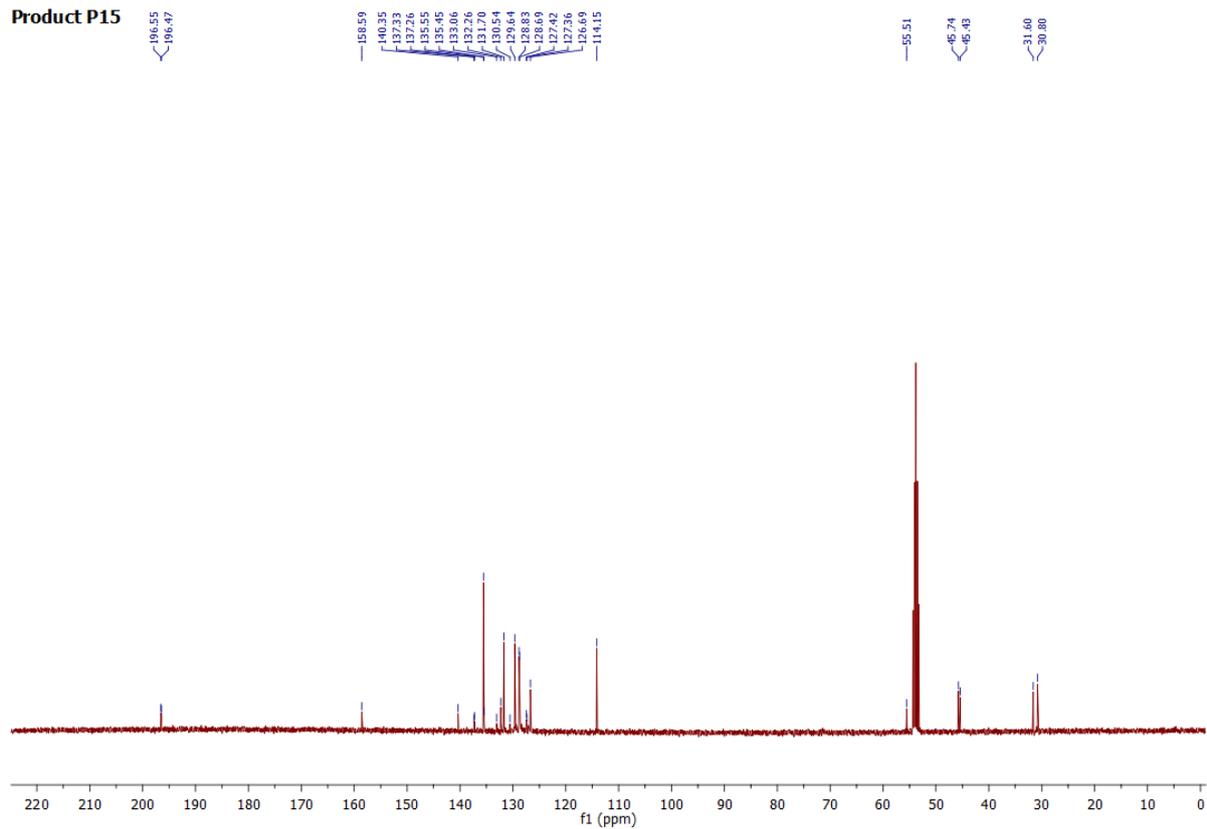


Figure 30. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P15

Product P16

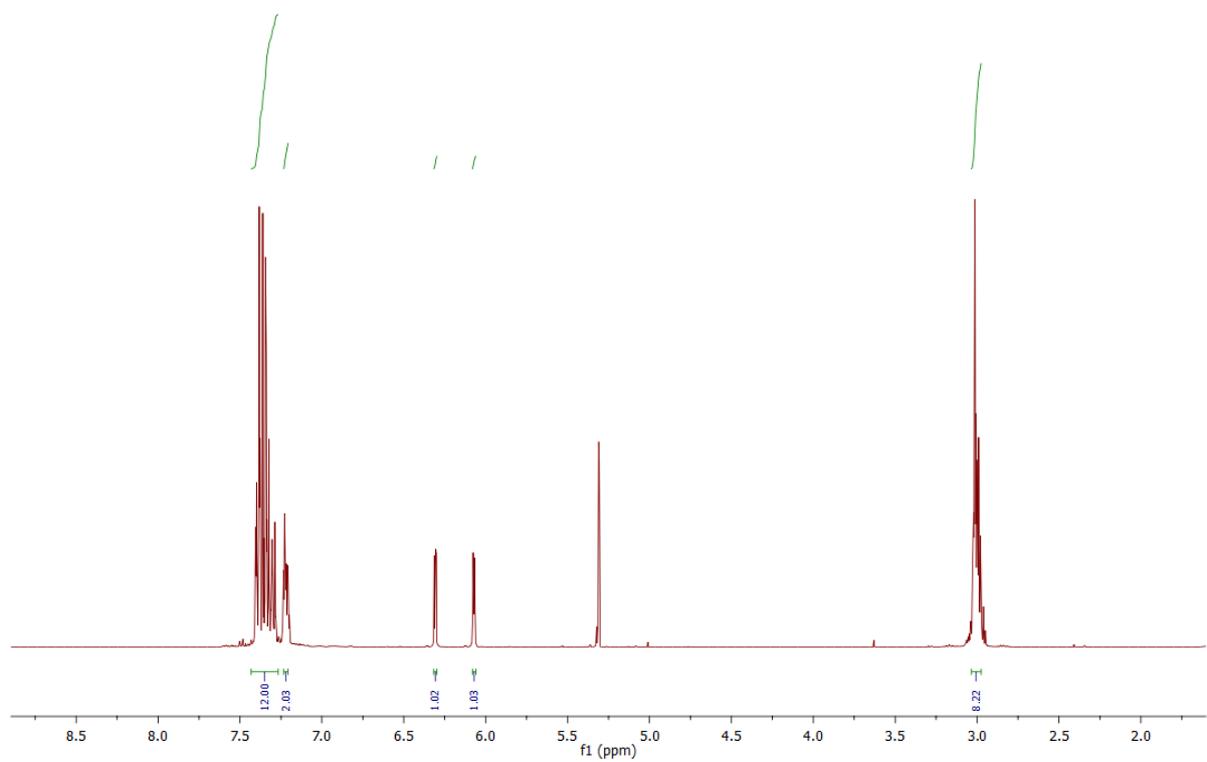


Figure 31. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of P16

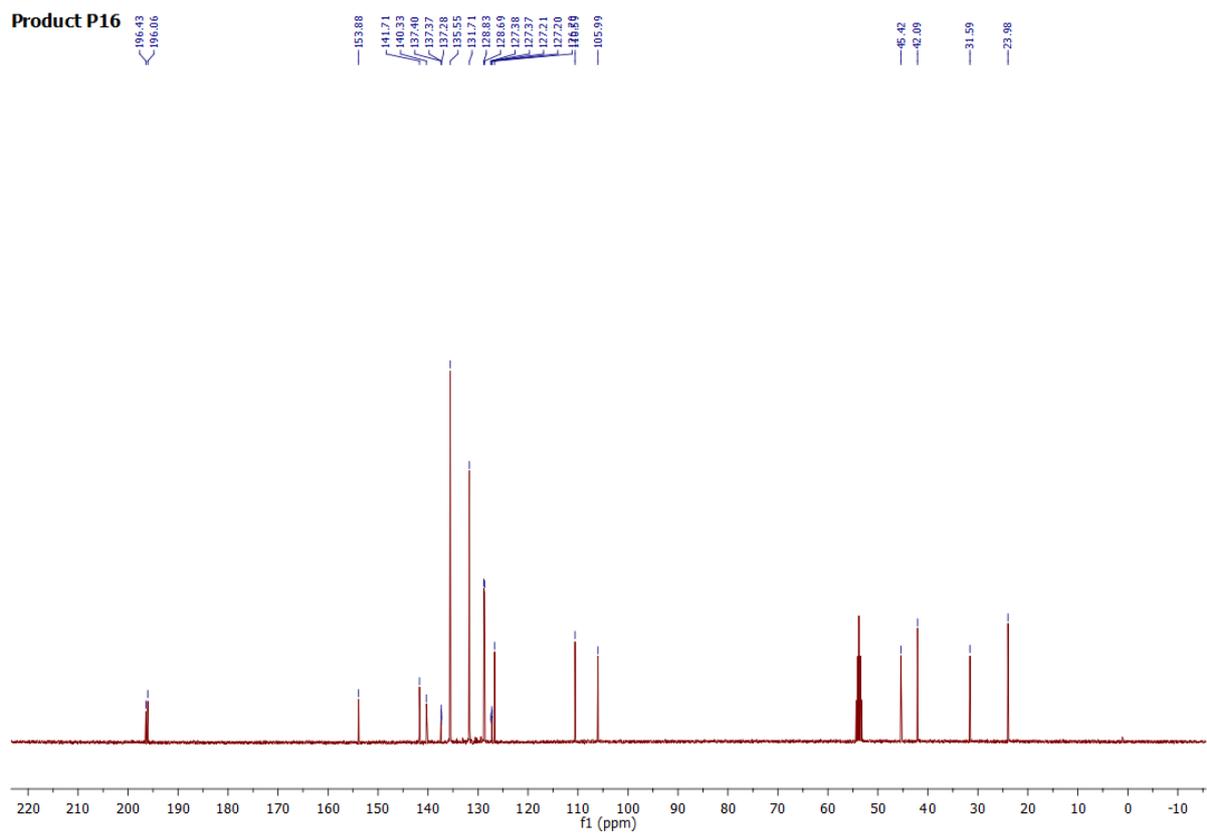


Figure 32. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P16**

Product P17

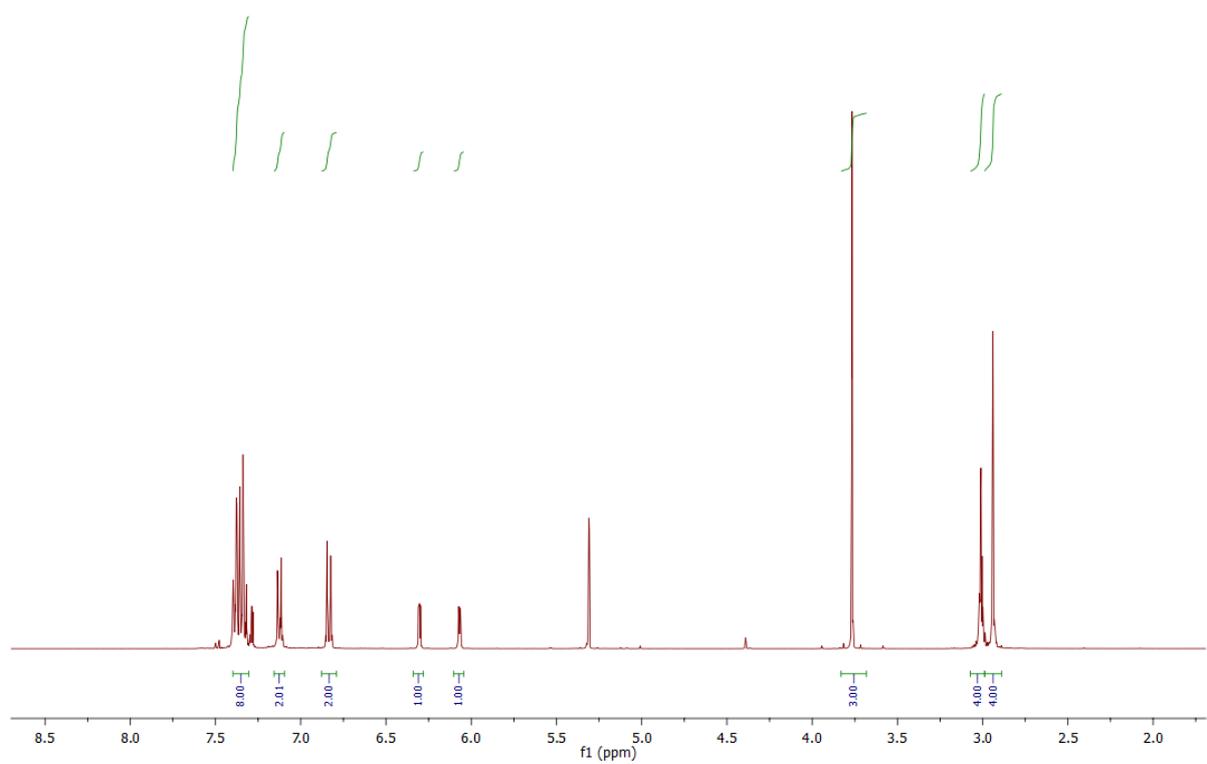


Figure 35. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P17**

Product P17

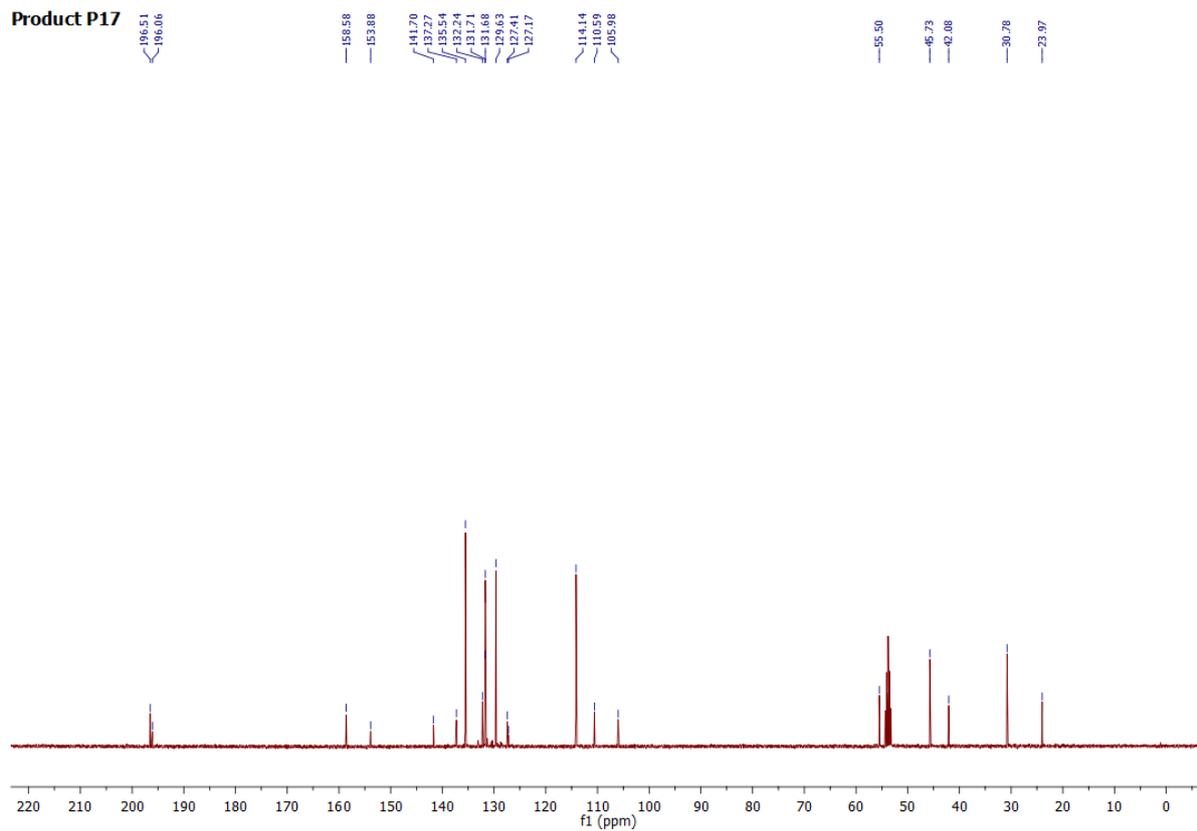


Figure 36. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **P17**

6. References

- ¹ M. Hans, J. Lorkowski, A. Demonceau, L. Delaude, *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.*, 2015, **11**, 2318–2325.