

***Layered Lanthanum Nickelates Reimagined: La₂NiO₄ as a
Cooperative Acid–Base Catalyst for Efficient C–C Bond
Formation in Water***

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Supporting Information

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1. General experimental

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECZ-500R or ECZ-400R spectrometer. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as the internal standard ($\delta = 0$) for ^1H NMR, CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.0$) was used as the internal standard for ^{13}C NMR, and benzotrifluoride ($\delta = -63.72$) was used as the internal standard for ^{19}F NMR. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a SHIMADZU IRSpirit spectrometer. Data are represented as frequency of absorption (cm^{-1}). X-ray diffraction (XRD) was recorded using MiniFlex 300/600 spectrometer in the Bragg angle range of 3 - 60° . High Resolution Mass Spectra (HRMS) were recorded using a JEOL JMS-T100TD (DART) spectrometer. Melting points were obtained using YAZAWA micro melting point BY-1 apparatus. STEM/EDS or TEM images were obtained using a JEOL JEM-2100F instrument. Ammonia-probed temperature-programed desorption measurement was conducted on a BELCAT-II of MicrotracBEL. Prior to NH_3 -TPD measurements, La_2NiO_4 (46.4 mg) was pretreated at 500°C for 1 h under a flow of helium. The sample was then cooled to 100°C and exposed to a 5% NH_3/He gas mixture for 30 min. Subsequently, the temperature was increased at a heating rate of $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ under a helium atmosphere, and the NH_3 -TPD spectrum was recorded. Centrifugation was performed using a KOKUSAN H-36 centrifuge. Preparative thin-layer chromatography (PTLC) was carried out using Wakogel B-5F from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. Deionized water from a MILLIPORE MilliQ machine (Gradient A 10) was used as solvent without further treatment. All organic solvents used were commercially available dry solvents, which were distilled appropriately under an argon atmosphere or were stored over molecular sieves prior to use. All reagents used as additives were either distilled or recrystallized before use.

2. Catalyst Preparation

Preparation of La_2NiO_4 , $\text{La}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_7$, $\text{La}_4\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_{10}$ ^[1]

In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, $\text{La}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (3.00 g, 6.93 mmol) and $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.50, 0.67, and 0.75 equiv, respectively) were dissolved in 10 mL of deionized water. Citric acid (2.99 g, 15.6 mmol) and ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA; 3.00 g, 10.4 mmol) were then added, followed by the dropwise addition of 28% aqueous ammonia until the pH reached 7, under continuous stirring. The resulting solution was heated at 100 °C to evaporate water, yielding a gel that was transferred to a crucible and dried overnight in a muffle furnace at 100 °C. Upon further heating at 350 °C for 6 hours, the foam-like gel underwent self-ignition. The resulting solid was finely ground and subsequently calcined at 1100 °C (2 °C/min ramp rate) for 9 hours (La_2NiO_4) and for 30 hours ($\text{La}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{La}_4\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_{10}$).

ICP result

La_2NiO_4 : La 0.0049 mol/g, Ni 0.0023 mol/g

$\text{La}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_7$: La 0.0047 mol/g, Ni 0.0029 mol/g

$\text{La}_4\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_{10}$: La 0.0046 mol/g, Ni 0.0032 mol/g

Preparation of LaNiO_3 ^[2]

In a 100 mL round-bottom flask, $\text{La}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2.17 g, 5.0 mmol) and $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1.45 g, 5.0 mmol) were dissolved in 50 mL of deionized water and allowed to be stirred for 1 hour. Citric acid (5.76 g, 30 mmol) and ethylene glycol (1.86 g, 30 mmol) were then added, followed by further stirring for 3 hours at 90 °C. The resulting solution was heated at 100 °C to evaporate water, yielding a gel that was transferred to a crucible and dried overnight in a muffle furnace at 110 °C for 24 hours. The resulting foam-like gel was finely ground and subsequently calcined at 400 °C (2 °C/min ramp rate) for 2 hours, followed by calcination at 800 °C for another 5 hours.

ICP result

LaNiO_3 : La 0.0038 mol/g, Ni 0.0036 mol/g

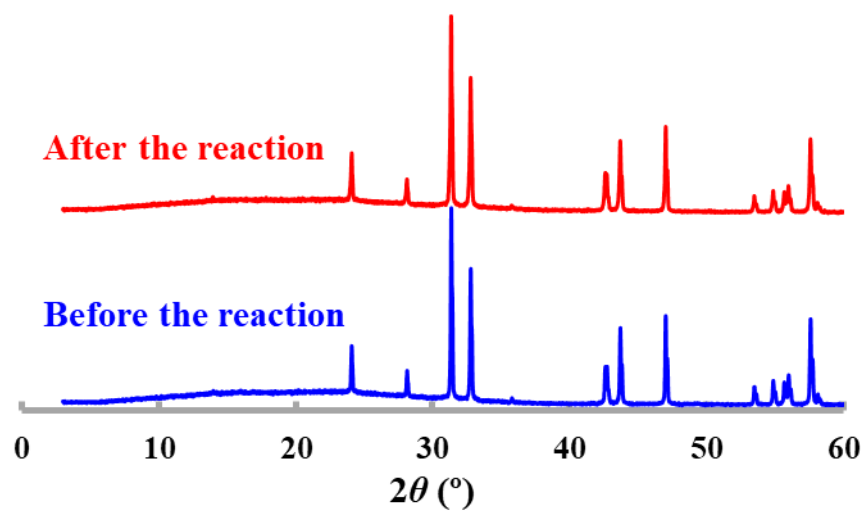


Figure S1. XRD patterns of La_2NiO_4 before and after the reaction.

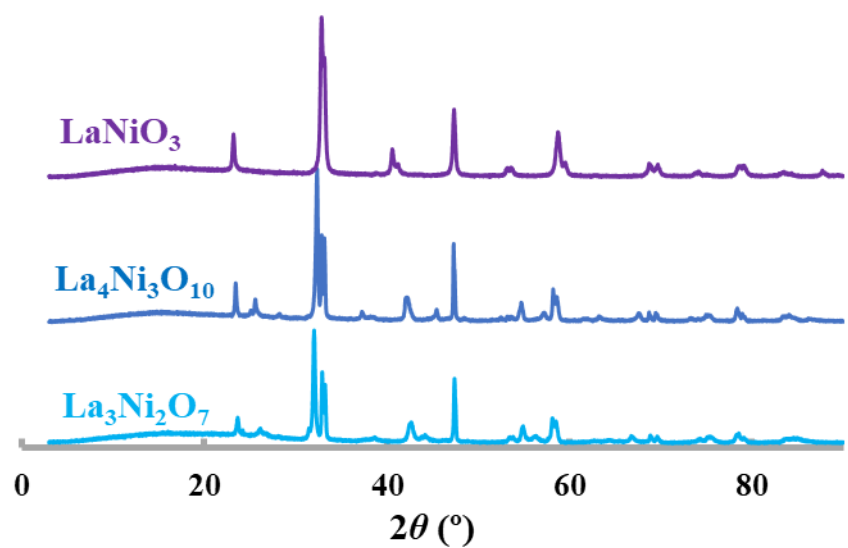


Figure S2. XRD patterns of $\text{La}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{O}_7$, $\text{La}_4\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_{10}$ and LaNiO_3 .

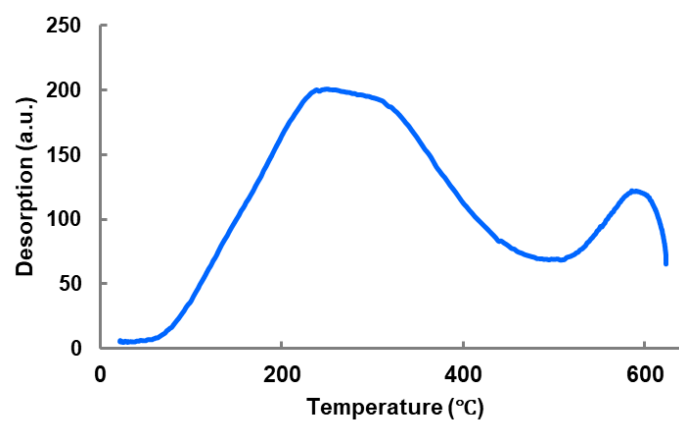
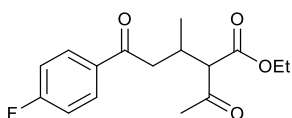


Figure S3. NH_3 -TPD profile

3. Typical procedure for carbon-carbon bond formation

In a 2 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, La_2NiO_4 (La: 0.012 mmol), previously stored under anaerobic conditions, was introduced under an inert atmosphere inside a glove box. Subsequently, (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (118.2 mg, 0.72 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (78.1 mg, 0.60 mmol), and degassed deionized water (1.0 mL) were added. The vial was purged with argon and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in a water bath maintained at 40 °C. After 1 hour, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 1 M aqueous HCl (1.0 mL). The product was extracted with dichloromethane (3×10 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Following filtration, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was analyzed by ^1H NMR using dibromomethane as an internal standard. The residue was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (n -hexane/EtOAc = 4:1), affording the desired compound.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate^[3] (mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.02 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.21+4.21 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.60+3.54 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.21+3.16 (dd, J = 16.4, 3.8 Hz, 16.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.02-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.84+2.81 (dd, J = 16.5, 7.5 Hz, 16.4, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.28+1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05+1.03 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 202.7, 197.1, 197.1, 168.9, 168.8, 165.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.8 Hz), 165.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.8 Hz), 133.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.4 Hz), 133.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 130.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.6 Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.2 Hz), 115.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.7 Hz), 115.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.7 Hz), 64.2, 63.8, 61.2, 61.1, 42.6, 42.3, 29.5, 29.5, 29.2, 28.9, 17.8, 17.3, 13.9.

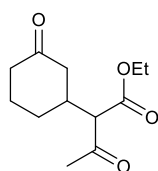
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -106.2, -106.3.

Modified procedure for low-reactive substrates

In a 2 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, La_2NiO_4 (La: 0.030 mmol), previously stored under anaerobic conditions, was introduced inside a glove box. Subsequently, 1,10-phenanthroline monohydrate (7.14 mg, 0.036 mmol), (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (118.2 mg, 0.72 mmol), diethyl malonate (96.1 mg, 0.60

mmol), and degassed ultrapure water (1.0 mL) were added. The vial was then purged with argon, and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in a water bath maintained at 40 °C. After 4 hours, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 1 M aqueous HCl (1.0 mL). The product was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Following filtration, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was analyzed by ¹H NMR using dibromomethane as an internal standard. The residue was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (ⁿhexane/EtOAc = 4:1), affording the desired compound.

Ethyl 3-oxo-2-(3-oxocyclohexyl)butanoate^[4]
(mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

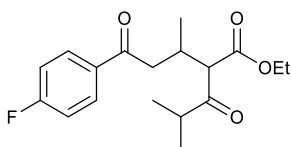
¹H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.22+4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.64-2.54 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.25+2.23 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.38 (m, 1H), 1.29+1.29+1.28+1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 209.4, 209.3, 201.5, 201.4, 168.1, 167.9, 64.9, 64.5, 61.5, 61.4, 45.2, 44.8, 40.9, 40.8, 37.5, 29.4, 28.8, 28.3, 24.4, 24.4, 13.9, 13.9.

4. Analytical data

When the product is a diastereomeric mixture, two diastereomers cannot be distinguished further in NMR spectra and some of the peaks overlap.

Ethyl 5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-2-isobutyryl-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate (mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

IR (dichloromethane solution) ν = 2970, 2162, 1736, 1713, 1600 cm^{-1} .

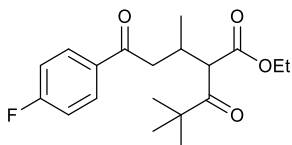
^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.05-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 2H), 4.22-4.15 (m, 2H), 3.82+3.80 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25+3.19 (dd, J = 16.0, 3.7 Hz, 16.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H) 2.96-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.85-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.84-2.76 (m, 1H), 1.26+1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.08 (m, 6H), 1.04+1.02 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 208.9, 208.8, 197.5, 197.5, 168.9, 168.7, 165.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.8 Hz), 165.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.3 Hz), 133.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 133.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.2 Hz), 115.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.2 Hz), 115.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.2 Hz), 61.4, 61.3, 61.2, 43.0, 42.4, 41.3, 41.1, 29.6, 29.3, 18.3, 18.2, 18.0, 18.0, 17.9, 17.3, 14.0.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -106.2, -106.3.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{FO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 323.1659; found 323.1665.

Ethyl 2-(3-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)-4,4-dimethyl-3-oxopentanoate^[3] (mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

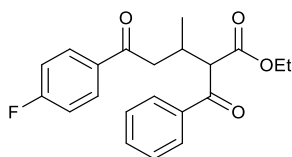
^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.05-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 2H), 4.20-4.13 (m, 2H), 4.07-4.02 (m, 1H), 3.31+3.16 (dd, J = 16.2, 3.2 Hz, 15.9, 4.2 Hz), 2.97-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.85+2.84+2.73+2.72 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.8 Hz, 16.4, 8.4 Hz, 15.8, 8.5 Hz, 15.8, 8.5 Hz), 1.28-1.22 (m, 3H), 1.20+1.19+1.18+1.18 (s, 9H), 1.07-0.99 (m, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 209.7, 209.4, 197.4, 197.3, 168.8, 168.6, 166.8, 165.6

(d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 254.8$ Hz), 165.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 254.3$ Hz), 133.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 133.1 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 130.8 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), 130.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.6$ Hz), 115.5 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.7$), $J_{\text{C-F}} = (J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.2)$, 61.2, 61.1, 57.4, 57.1, 45.5, 43.3, 42.0, 30.6, 30.5, 26.0, 26.0, 18.6, 17.0, 13.9.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -106.3, -106.5$.

Ethyl 2-benzoyl-5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate^[3]
(mixture of diastereomers)



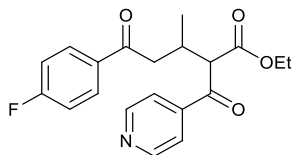
Colorless oil

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.09$ -7.99 (m, 4H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 2H), 4.55+4.52 ($J = 7.3$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.09 (m, 2H), 3.33 (dd, $J = 16.2, 3.7$ Hz, 16.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.09 (m, 1H), 2.92+2.81 (dd, $J = 16.2, 9.1$ Hz, 16.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.17+1.15 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.12+1.08 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6.9 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 197.6, 197.5, 194.9, 194.8, 169.1, 168.9, 165.7$ ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 254.8$ Hz), 165.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 254.8$ Hz), 136.6, 136.4, 133.6, 133.6, 133.3 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 133.2 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 130.8 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), 130.8 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 115.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.2$ Hz), 115.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.7$ Hz), 61.3, 61.2, 58.4, 58.3, 43.1, 42.4, 30.2, 29.8, 18.2, 17.1, 13.9, 13.9.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -106.2, -106.3$.

Ethyl 5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-2-isonicotinoyl-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate
(mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

IR (methanol solution) $\nu = 2941, 1733, 1684, 1225$ cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.84$ (td, $J = 4.3, 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.04-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.14 (td, $J = 8.6, 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.57+4.50 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.11 (m, 2H), 3.34+3.33 (dd, $J = 16.9, 6.4$ Hz, 16.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.07 (m, 1H), 2.95+2.92 (dd, $J = 16.6, 8.2$ Hz, 16.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.17+1.15 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 7.4 Hz, 3H),

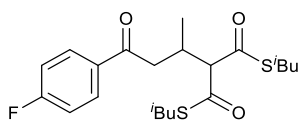
1.14+1.11 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6.8 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 197.4, 197.1, 194.6, 194.6, 168.4, 168.3, 165.8$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 255.3$ Hz), 165.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 254.8$ Hz), $151.0, 142.5, 142.2, 133.2$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 1.4$ Hz), 133.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 1.4$ Hz), 130.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), $121.2, 121.1, 115.7$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.2$ Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.6$ Hz), $61.7, 61.5, 58.3, 58.0, 42.7, 42.1, 29.8, 29.2, 18.2, 17.1, 13.9$.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -105.9, -106.1$.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{FNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 358.1455; found 358.1451.

***S,S*-Diisobutyl 2-(4-(4'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutan-2-yl)propanebis(thioate)**



Colorless oil

IR (dichloromethane solution) $\nu = 2926, 1682, 1597, 983$ cm^{-1} .

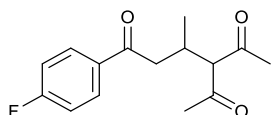
^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.00\text{--}7.97$ (m, 2H), $7.15\text{--}7.11$ (m, 2H), 3.96 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, $J = 16.0, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), $3.09\text{--}3.05$ (m, 1H), $2.91\text{--}2.80$ (m, 4H), 2.76 (dd, $J = 16.1, 9.3$ Hz, 1H), $1.88\text{--}1.76$ (m, 2H), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.95 (s, 6H), 0.94 (s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 196.8, 193.5, 193.1, 165.7$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 255.0$ Hz), 133.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$ Hz), 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.4$ Hz), 115.6 (d, $J = 22.0$ Hz), $73.4, 42.3, 37.7, 37.7, 31.7, 28.5, 28.5, 21.6, 21.6, 17.5$.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -106.1$.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{FO}_3\text{S}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 413.16204; found 413.16271.

4-Acetyl-1-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-methylhexane-1,5-dione



Colorless oil

IR (dichloromethane solution) $\nu = 2921, 1697, 1507, 1358, 834$ cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.01\text{--}7.98$ (m, 2H), $7.16\text{--}7.12$ (m, 2H), 3.83 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.02 (m, 2H), 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

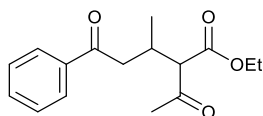
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 204.3, 203.9, 197.0, 165.7$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 255.3$ Hz), 133.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 130.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.6$ Hz), 115.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.7$ Hz), $73.4, 42.4, 30.2, 29.7, 29.6, 17.7$.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -106.0$.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{FO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 265.1240; found 265.1241.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-methyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpentanoate^[3]

(mixture of diastereomers)



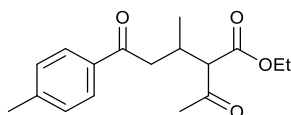
Colorless oil

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.99\text{--}7.95$ (m, 2H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 2H), 4.21+4.20+4.20+4.20 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.63+3.56 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.22+3.17 (dd, $J = 16.4$, 3.3 Hz, 16.5, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.93–2.84 (m, 1H), 2.27+2.26 (s, 3H), 1.27+1.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.06+1.04 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 202.8$, 202.8, 198.8, 198.7, 168.9, 168.8, 136.8, 136.7, 133.0, 133.0, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 64.3, 63.9, 61.2, 61.1, 42.6, 42.4, 29.5, 29.5, 29.2, 28.9, 17.9, 17.3, 13.9.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-methyl-5-oxo-5-(*p*-tolyl)pentanoate

(mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

IR (dichloromethane solution) $\nu = 2965$, 1731, 1674, 1357, 1151, 805 cm^{-1} .

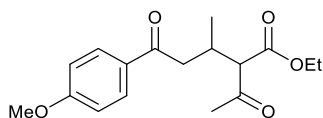
^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.87$ (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 2H), 4.20+4.20+4.20+4.20 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.62+3.55 (d, $J = 7.3$, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.20–3.11 (m, 1H), 2.99–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.86+2.83 (dd, $J = 16.1$, 9.0 Hz, 16.4, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.26+2.26 (s, 3H), 1.27+1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05+1.02 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 202.9$, 198.5, 198.4, 169.0, 168.9, 143.8, 143.8, 134.4, 134.3, 129.2, 128.2, 128.1, 64.5, 64.0, 61.2, 61.1, 42.5, 42.3, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.0, 21.5, 17.9, 17.4, 14.0.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 291.15963; found 291.15960.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-5-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate^[3]

(mixture of diastereomers)

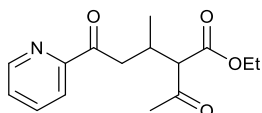


Colorless oil

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.99-7.94 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.21+4.20 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.62+3.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.16+3.11 (dd, J = 16.0, 3.7 Hz, 16.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.02-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.81+2.79 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.8 Hz, 16.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.27+2.26 (s, 3H), 1.27+1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.05+1.02 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6.9 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 202.9, 202.9, 197.3, 197.3, 169.0, 168.9, 163.4, 163.4, 130.3, 130.3, 129.9, 129.8, 113.6, 64.5, 64.0, 61.2, 61.1, 55.3, 42.3, 42.1, 29.5, 29.5, 29.1, 17.9, 17.3, 14.0.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-methyl-5-oxo-5-(pyridin-2-yl)pentanoate
(mixture of diastereomers)



Pale yellow oil

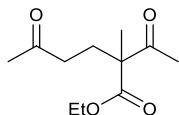
IR (dichloromethane solution) ν = 2933, 1740, 1690, 1362, 1154 cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.67 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (m, 1H), 4.20 (m, 2H), 3.60+3.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.34-3.30 (m, 1.4H), 3.19 (dd, J = 17.4, 7.5 Hz, 0.6H), 3.08-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.27+1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.06+1.04 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 203.1, 202.9, 169.0, 169.0, 153.3, 153.2, 148.8, 136.8, 136.8, 127.1, 127.1, 121.7, 121.6, 64.8, 64.6, 61.2, 61.2, 41.9, 41.7, 29.4, 29.2, 29.0, 28.8, 18.1, 17.5, 14.0, 14.0.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 278.13923 ; found 278.13936.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-2-methyl-5-oxohexanoate^[5]



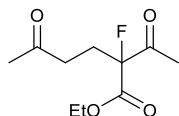
Colorless oil

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 4.20 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.45-2.40 (m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.16-2.00 (m, 2H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 202.2, 205.2, 172.4, 61.2, 58.4, 38.4, 29.7, 28.2, 26.0,

19.1, 13.8.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-2-fluoro-5-oxohexanoate^[6]



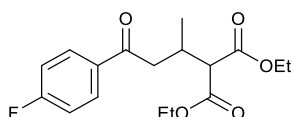
Colorless oil

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.28 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.47-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.31 (d, J_{C-F} = 4.4 Hz), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 206.1, 201.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 28.1 Hz), 165.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 25.7 Hz), 99.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 197.1 Hz), 62.7, 36.5 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.3 Hz), 29.7, 27.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.1 Hz), 25.4, 13.9.

¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -167.6.

Ethyl 2-acetyl-5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopentanoate^[3]



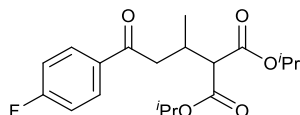
Colorless oil

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.05-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.14 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.25-4.19 (m, 4H), 3.48 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 16.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 16.3, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.30-1.25 (m, 6H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.0, 168.5, 168.4, 165.6 (d, J_{C-F} = 254.7 Hz), 133.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.0 Hz), 130.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 9.4 Hz), 115.5 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.7 Hz), 61.2, 56.3, 42.5, 29.4, 17.6, 13.9, 13.9.

¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -106.3.

Diisopropyl 2-(4-(4'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutan-2-yl)malonate



Colorless oil

IR (dichloromethane solution) ν = 2982, 1720, 1682, 1100 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.06-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 5.10+5.08 (sep, J = 6.3 Hz, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, J = 16.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.96-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 16.0, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.28-1.24 (m, 12H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz,

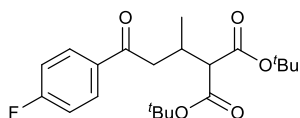
3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.3, 168.2, 168.1, 165.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.7 Hz), 133.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.0 Hz), 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.4 Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.7 Hz), 68.9, 56.8, 42.7, 29.4, 21.7, 21.6, 21.6, 17.6.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -106.3.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{FO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 353.17643; found 353.17454.

Di-tert-butyl 2-(4-(4'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutan-2-yl)malonate



White solid: m.p. 84-85 °C

IR (dichloromethane solution) ν = 2936, 1718, 1684, 1600, 1135, 805 cm^{-1} .

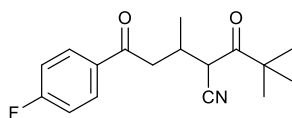
^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.06-8.03 (m, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.29 (dd, J = 15.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.85 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.79 (m, 1H), 1.49+1.47 (s, 18H), 1.07 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.3, 167.9, 167.9, 165.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.3 Hz), 133.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9), 130.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.6), 115.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.7), 81.5, 81.5, 58.4, 42.8, 29.3, 27.8, 27.8, 17.5.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -106.5.

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{FO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 381.20773; found 381.20908.

5-(4'-Fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxo-2-pivaloylpentanenitrile (mixture of diastereomers)



White Solid: m.p. 59-61 °C.

IR (dichloromethane solution) ν = 2928, 2244, 1684, 1600, 837 cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (399 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.03-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.35 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 0.6H), 4.11 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 0.4H), 3.43 (dd, J = 17.5, 3.8 Hz, 0.4H), 3.19 (dd, J = 18.1, 8.2 Hz, 0.6H), 3.05-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.95-2.83 (m, 1H), 1.30+1.26 (s, 9H), 1.20+1.16 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 3H).

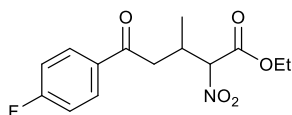
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 205.6, 205.5, 196.5, 196.2, 165.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 255.8 Hz), 165.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 255.3 Hz), 133.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 132.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 1.4 Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 1.4 Hz), 116.4, 116.2, 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.2 Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.2 Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.2 Hz).

$f_F = 21.7$ Hz), 45.6, 45.5, 42.8, 42.5, 42.4, 41.1, 29.8, 29.3, 26.2, 25.9, 19.0, 16.5.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -105.2, -105.8$

HRMS (DART) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{FNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 290.15563; found 290.15478.

Ethyl 5-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-2-nitro-5-oxopentanoate^[3]
(mixture of diastereomers)



Colorless oil

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.01\text{--}7.98$ (m, 2H), 7.16–7.12 (m 2H), 5.39+5.33 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.32–4.27 (m, 2H), 3.29–3.23 (m, 2H), 3.11–3.03 (m, 1H), 1.30+1.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.20+1.19 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 195.8, 195.7, 165.9$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 255.6$ Hz), 165.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 255.6$ Hz), 163.7, 132.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$ Hz), 132.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$ Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.4$ Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.4$ Hz), 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.0$ Hz), 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.0$ Hz), 91.1, 90.8, 62.9, 62.9, 40.7, 40.6, 30.5, 30.5, 16.3, 16.1, 13.8, 13.8.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -105.5, -105.6$.

5. Gram-scale experiment

In a 6 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, La_2NiO_4 (La: 0.1 mmol), previously stored under anaerobic conditions, was introduced under an inert atmosphere inside a glove box. Subsequently, (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (984.7 mg, 6.0 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (650.8 mg, 5.0 mmol), and degassed deionized water (4.0 mL) were added. The vial was purged with argon and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in a water bath maintained at 40 °C. After 1 hour, the mixture was centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 5 minutes, resulting in separation into a solid phase, an organic layer (lower), and an aqueous layer (upper). The upper aqueous layer was carefully removed using a pipette. Ethanol (4.0 mL) was then added to the remaining mixture, followed by centrifugation at 3,500 rpm for 5 minutes. The supernatant was collected, taking care not to disturb the solid catalyst. This ethanol washing step was repeated three times. Subsequently, n -hexane was added to wash the catalyst, and the mixture was centrifuged again at 3,500 rpm for 5 minutes. The resulting supernatant was collected, and the remaining solid catalyst was dried under vacuum. All ethanol and n -hexane extracts were combined and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (n -hexane/EtOAc = 4:1), affording the desired compound (1.4010 g, 95%). The XRD pattern of the catalyst after the reaction is shown in Figure S1.



Figure S4. Appearance of the reaction. The starting material is immiscible with water.

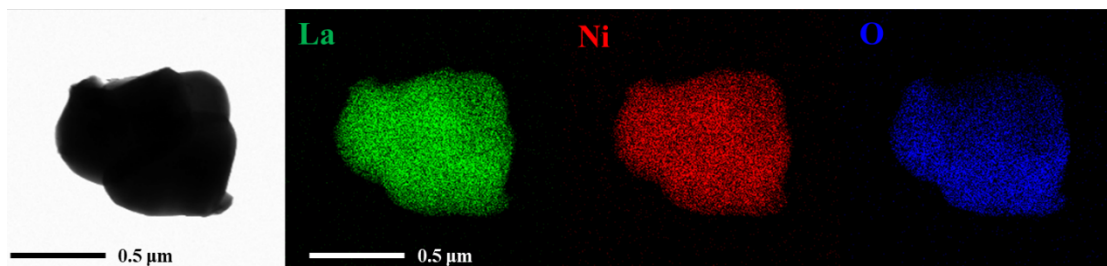


Figure S5. STEM image of the catalyst before the reaction.

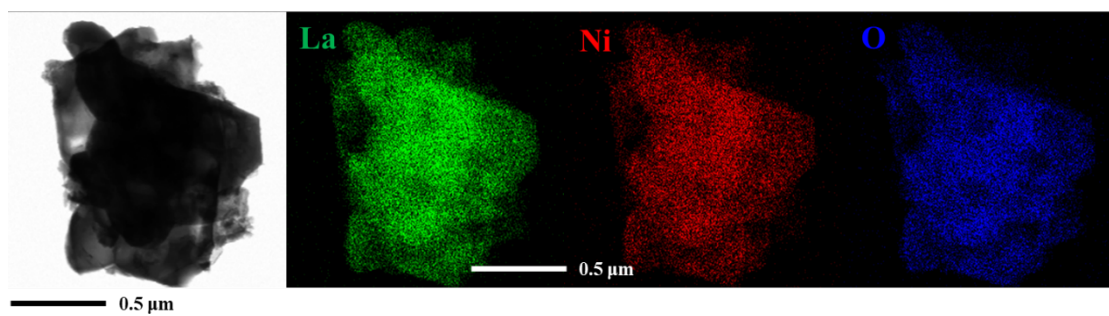


Figure S6. STEM image of the catalyst after the reaction.

6. Hot filtration test and reuse experiments

Hot filtration test

After completing the reaction with La_2NiO_4 (La: 0.012 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (78.1 mg, 0.60 mmol), and (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (118.2 mg, 0.72 mmol), the mixture was filtered through a PTFE syringe filter to remove the solid catalyst. The filtrate was extracted with *n*-hexane in the same vial until no organic compounds were detectable by TLC. Subsequently, an additional portion of ethyl acetoacetate (78.1 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (118.2 mg, 0.72 mmol) were introduced into the remaining aqueous layer. The reaction and work-up were repeated under identical conditions, and the crude product was analyzed by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. The analysis confirmed that no further reaction had occurred, underscoring the absence of catalytic activity in the aqueous phase.

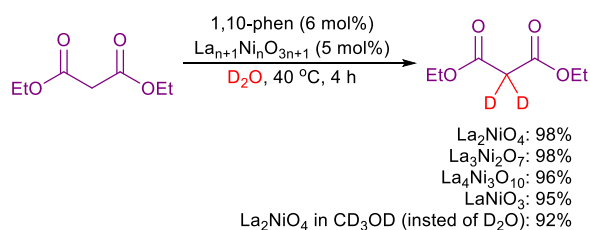
Reuse experiments

In a 6 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, La_2NiO_4 (La: 0.06 mmol) was introduced under an inert atmosphere inside a glove box. Subsequently, (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-en-1-one (118.2 mg, 0.60 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (78.1 mg, 0.72 mmol), and water (1.0 mL) were added. The vial was purged with argon, and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in a water bath maintained at 40 °C. After 30 minutes, *n*-hexane was added to the vial, which was then vigorously shaken. The mixture was centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 5 minutes, resulting in separation into a solid phase, an upper organic layer, and a lower aqueous layer. The organic layer was carefully collected using a pipette, ensuring that the solid catalyst remained undisturbed. This extraction process was repeated four times, after which the remaining aqueous phase and solid catalyst were used for the subsequent run. The combined organic extracts were concentrated under reduced pressure and dried in vacuo. The yield was determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using CH_2Br_2 as an internal standard.

1st run: 91% yield, 2nd run: >99% yield, 3rd run: >99% yield

7. Deuterium-labeling experiment

In a 2 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, the mixed metal oxide catalyst (La: 0.030 mmol), previously stored under anaerobic conditions, was introduced inside a glove box. Subsequently, 1,10-phenanthroline monohydrate (7.14 mg, 0.036 mmol), diethyl malonate (96.1 mg, 0.60 mmol), and degassed deuterium oxide (D_2O , 1.0 mL) were added. The vial was purged with argon, and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in a water bath maintained at 40 °C. After 4 hours, $CDCl_3$ (0.5 mL) was added directly to the vial, and the mixture was vigorously shaken. The aqueous layer was carefully removed using a pipette. The remaining organic layer was passed through a PTFE syringe filter to remove the solid catalyst, and the filtrate was transferred to an NMR tube. The extent of deuterium incorporation was determined by 1H NMR analysis.

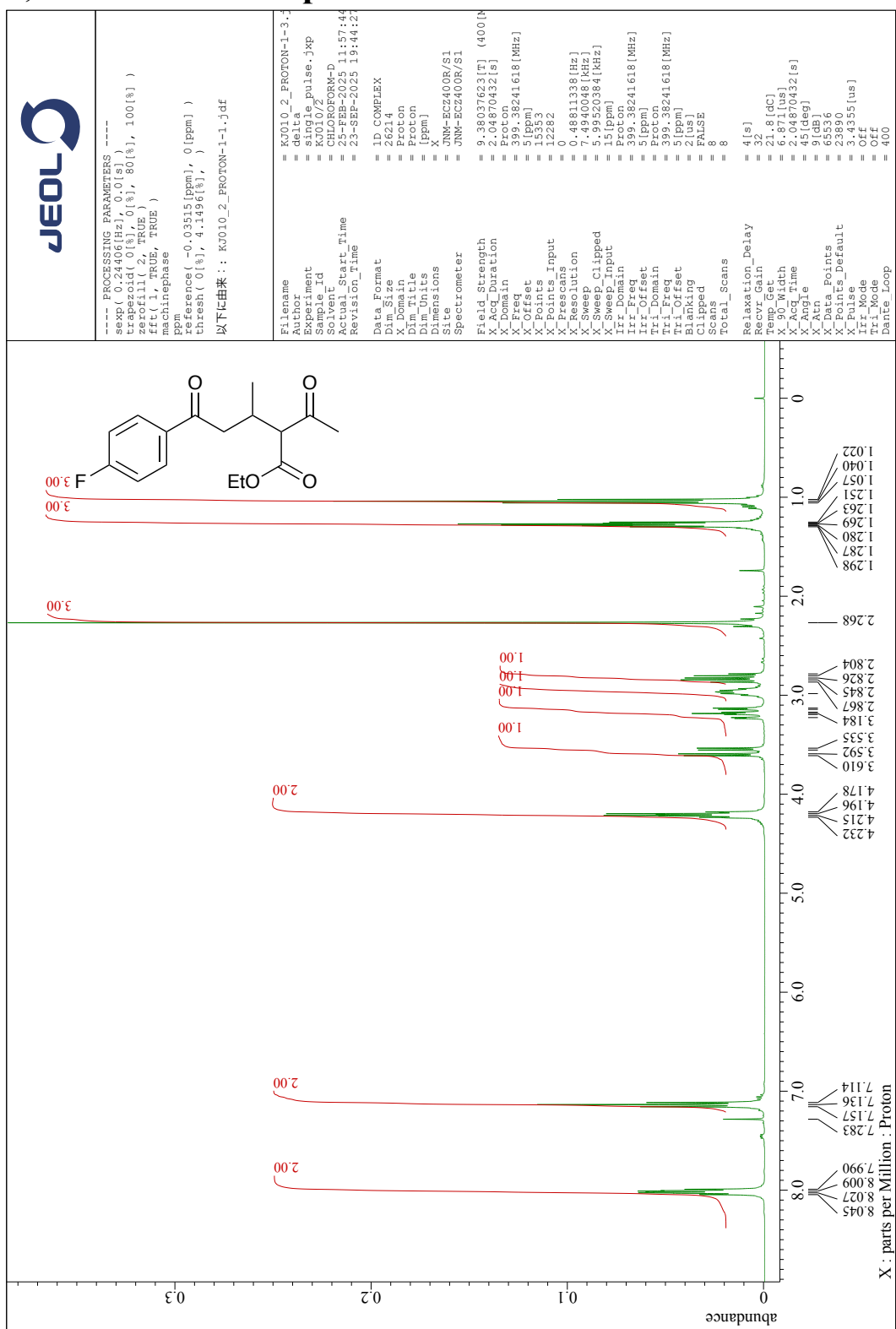


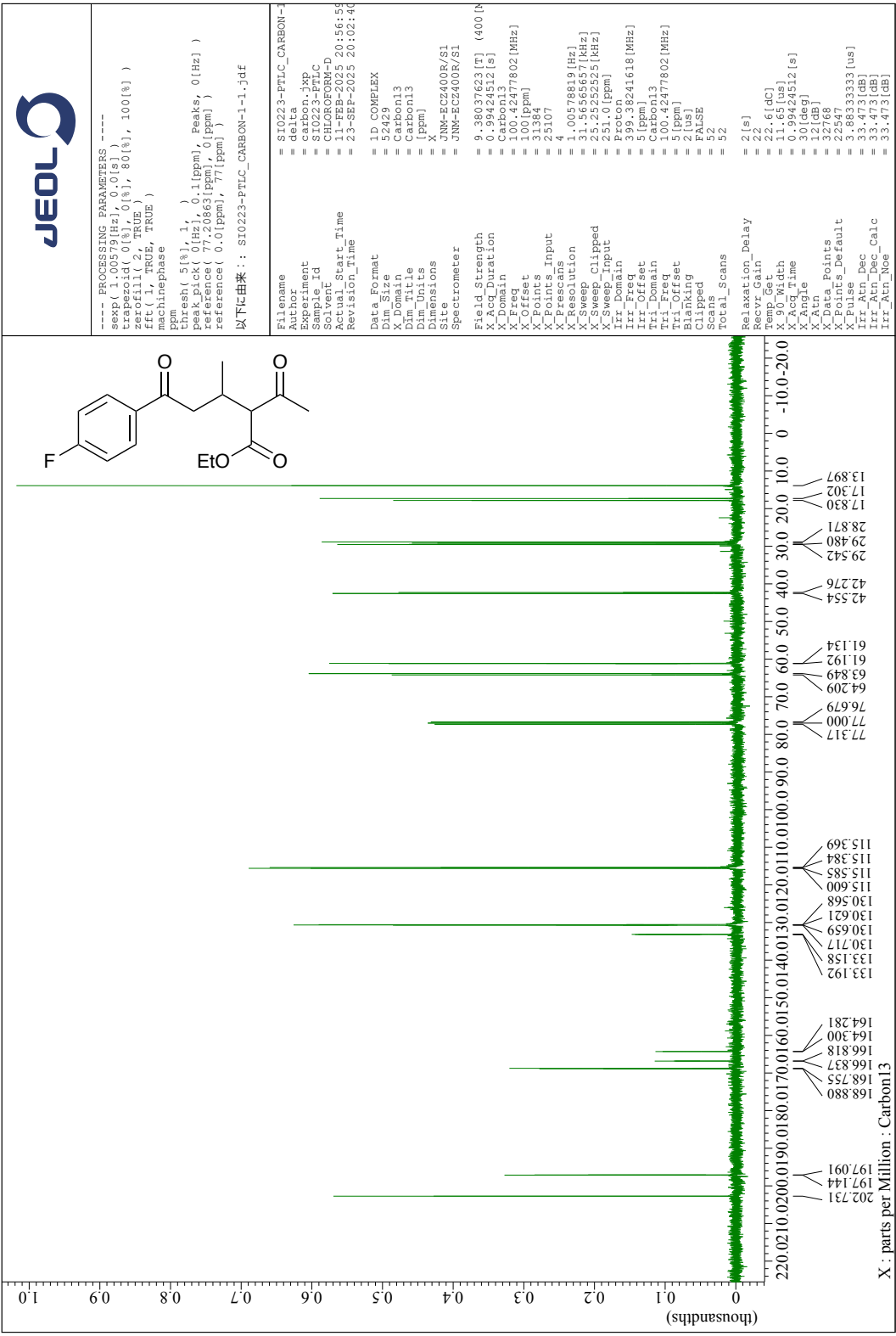
Scheme S1. Deuterium-labeling experiment.

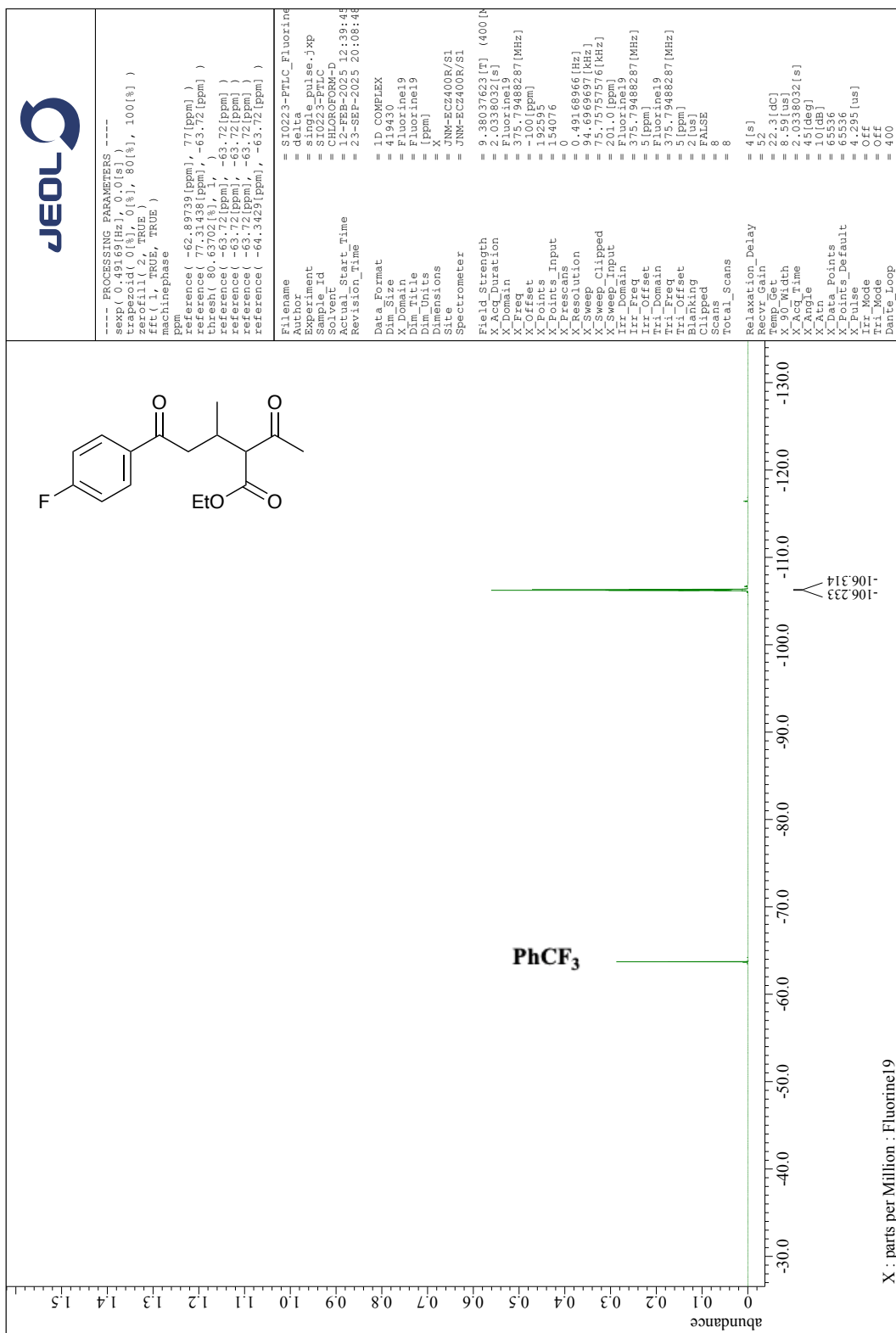
8. Reference

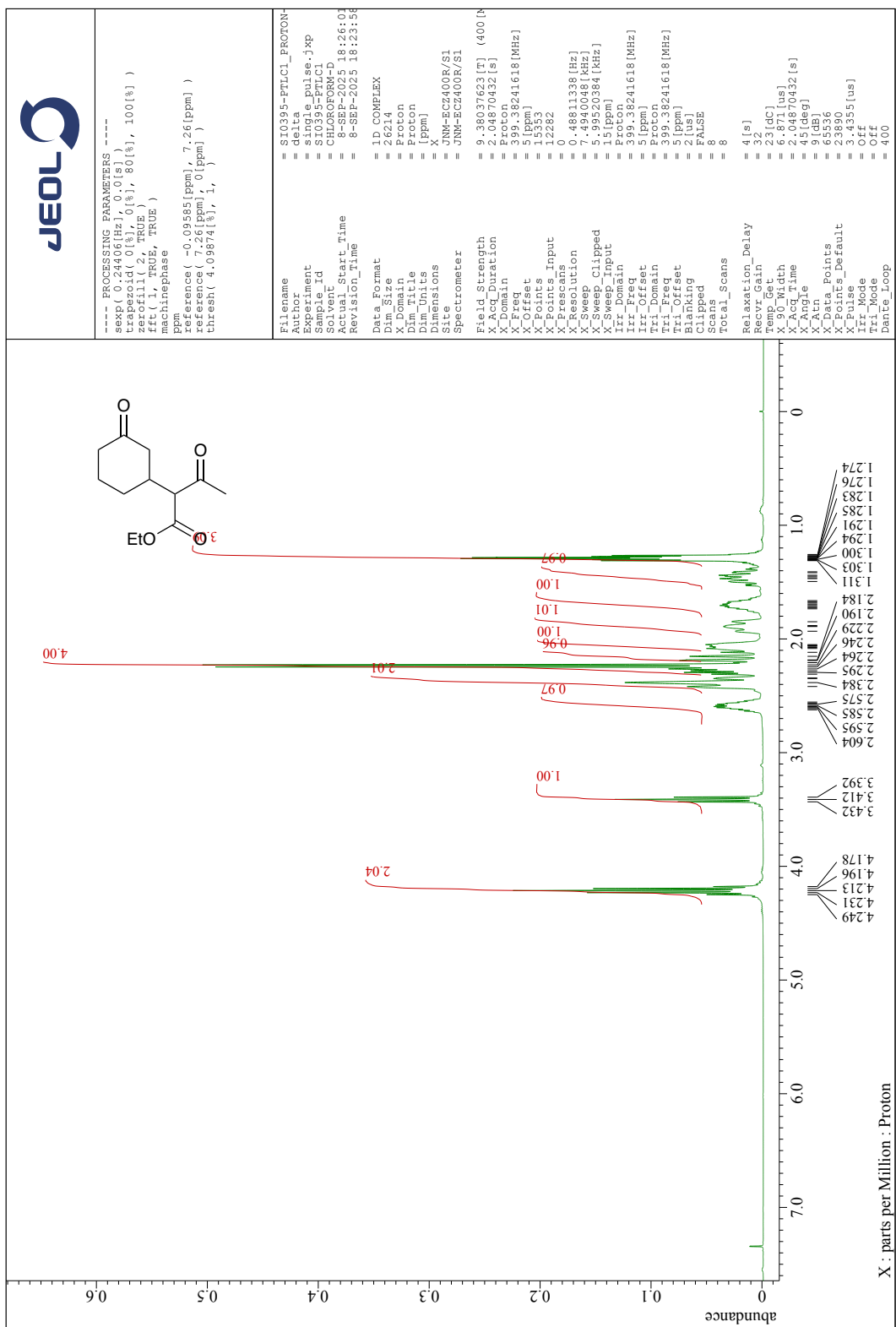
- [1] J. Song, D. Ning, B. Boukamp, J. Bassat and H. J. M. Bouwmeester, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2020, **8**, 22206–22221.
- [2] E. Yang and D. J. Moon, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**, 112885–112898.
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- [5] J. Christoffers, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans.*, 1997, **1**, 3141–3150.
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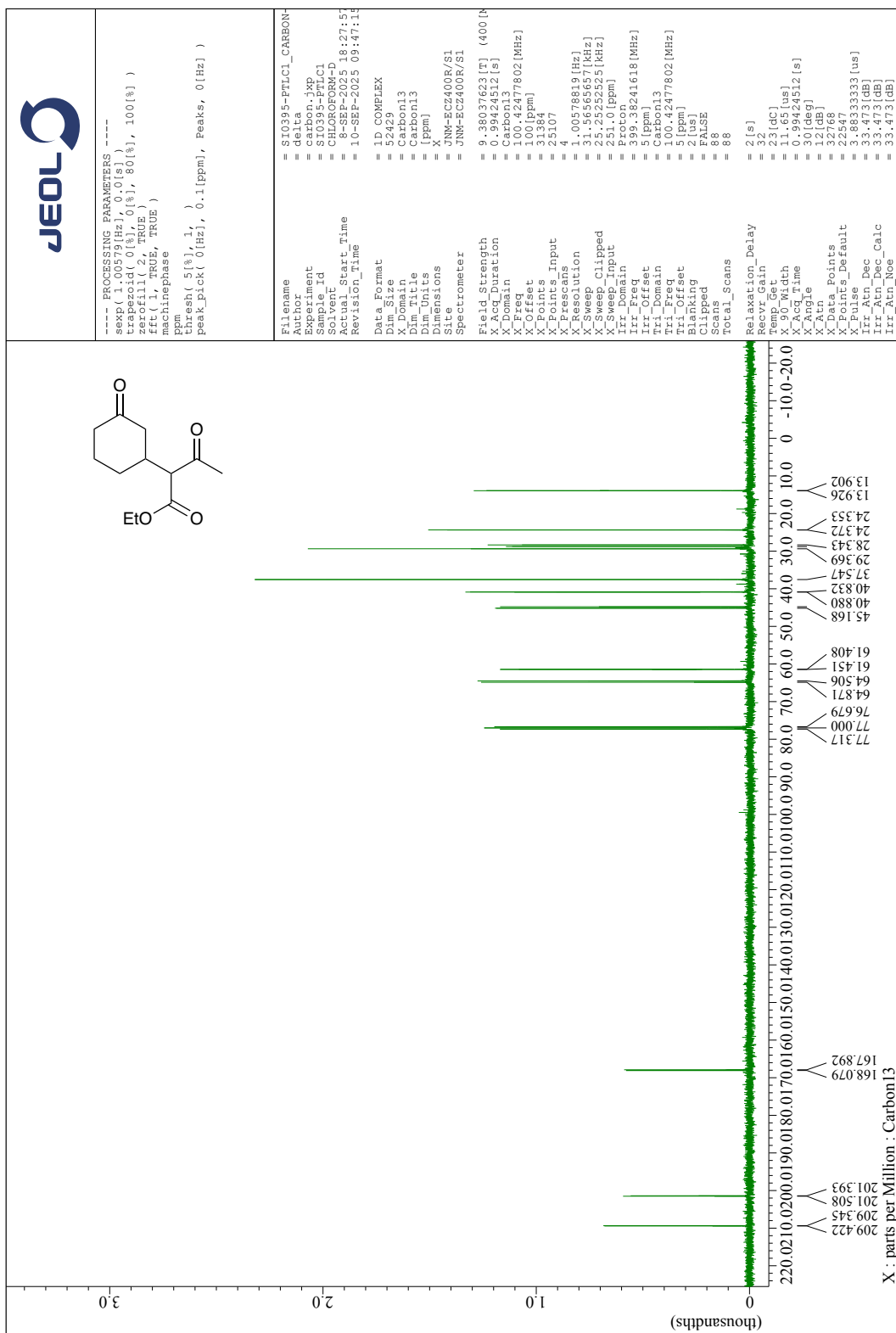
9. ^1H , ^{13}C & ^{19}F NMR spectra

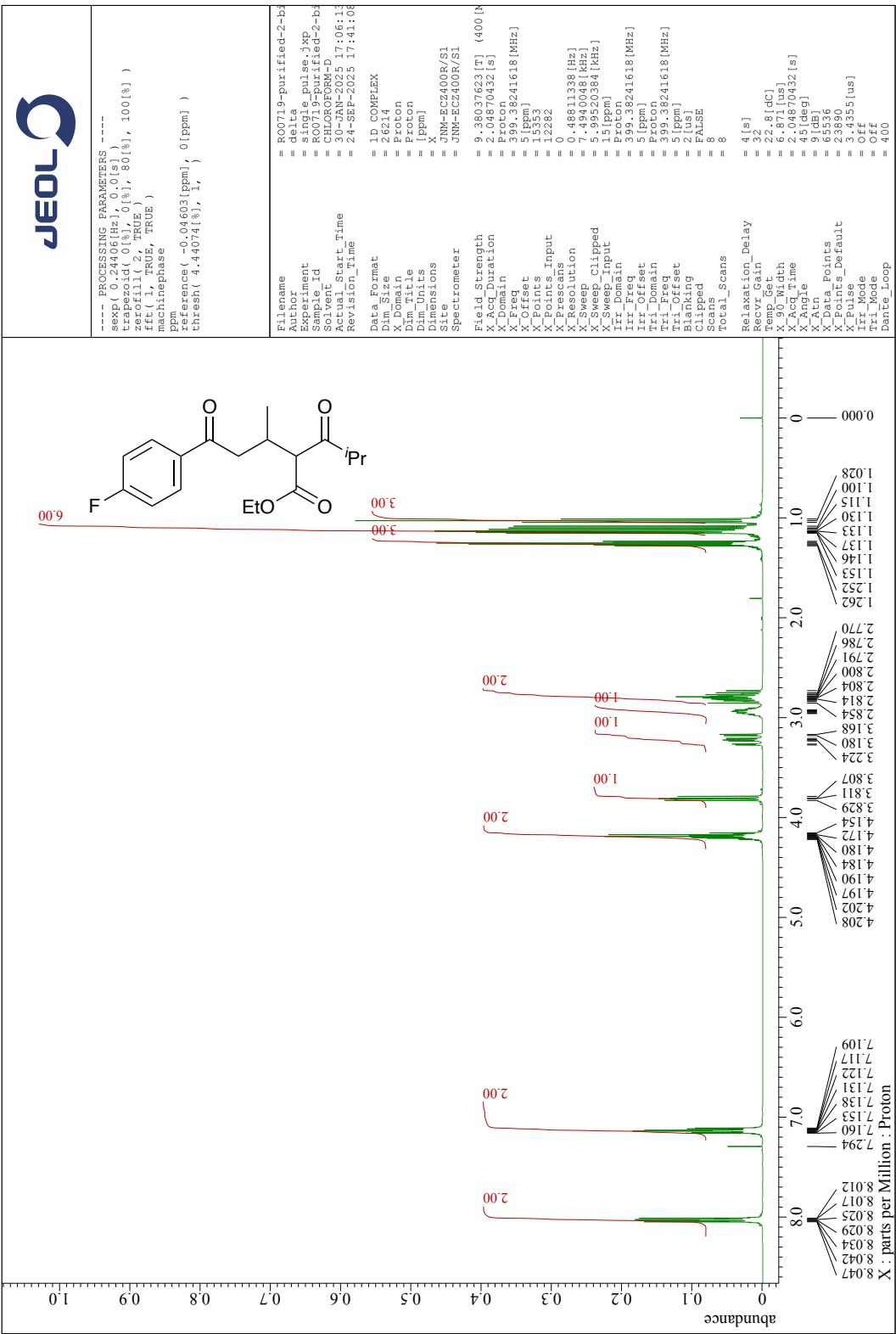


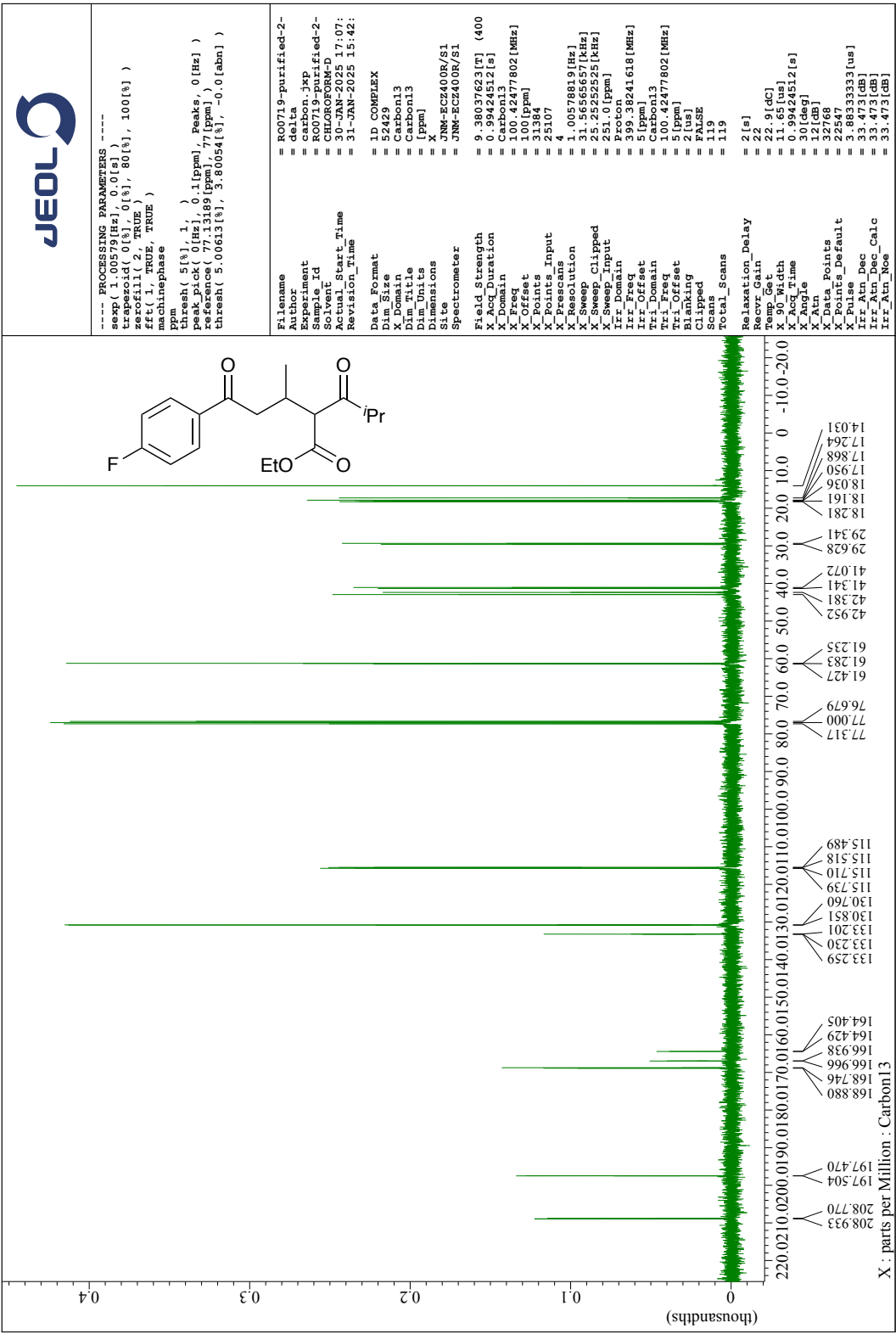


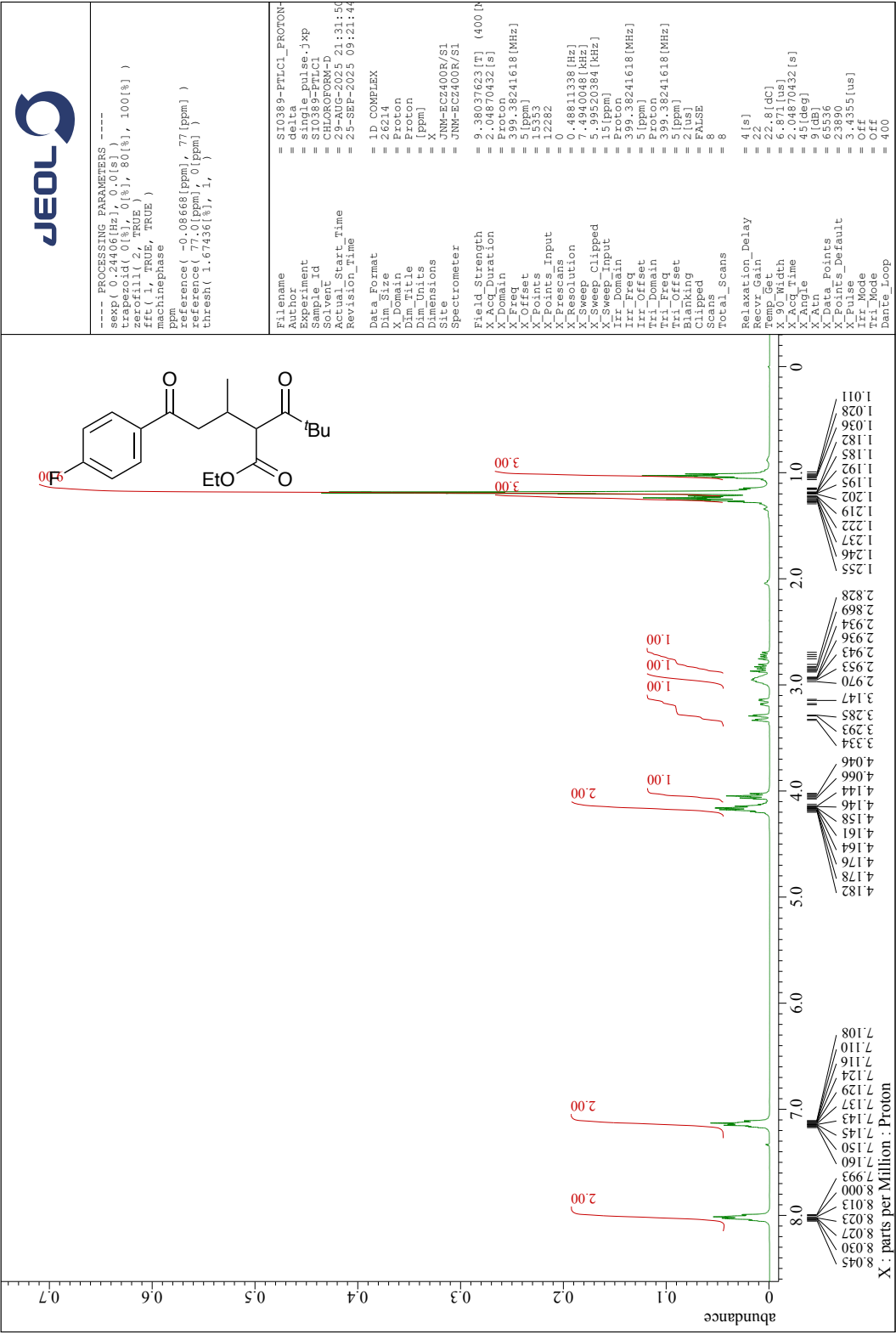


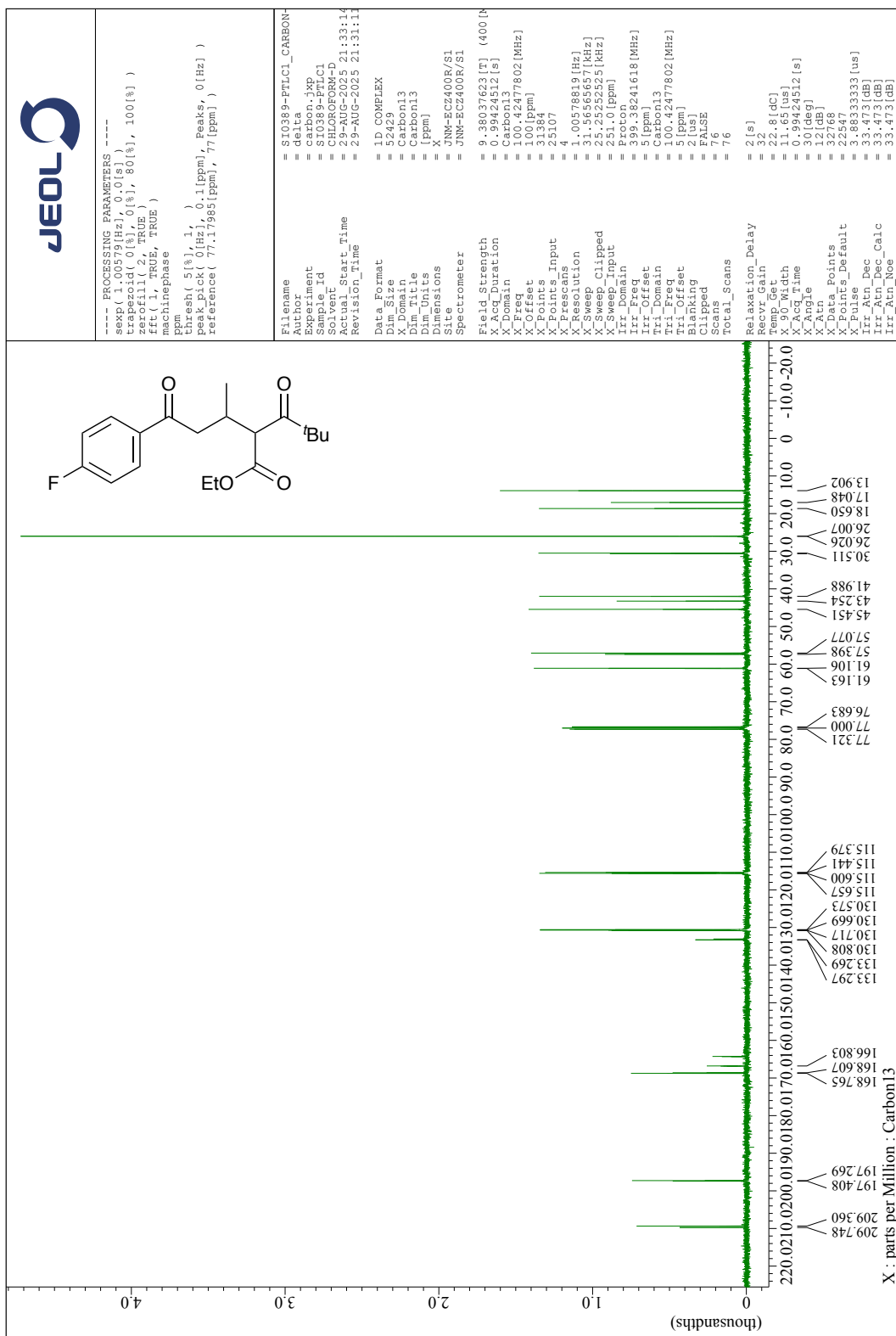


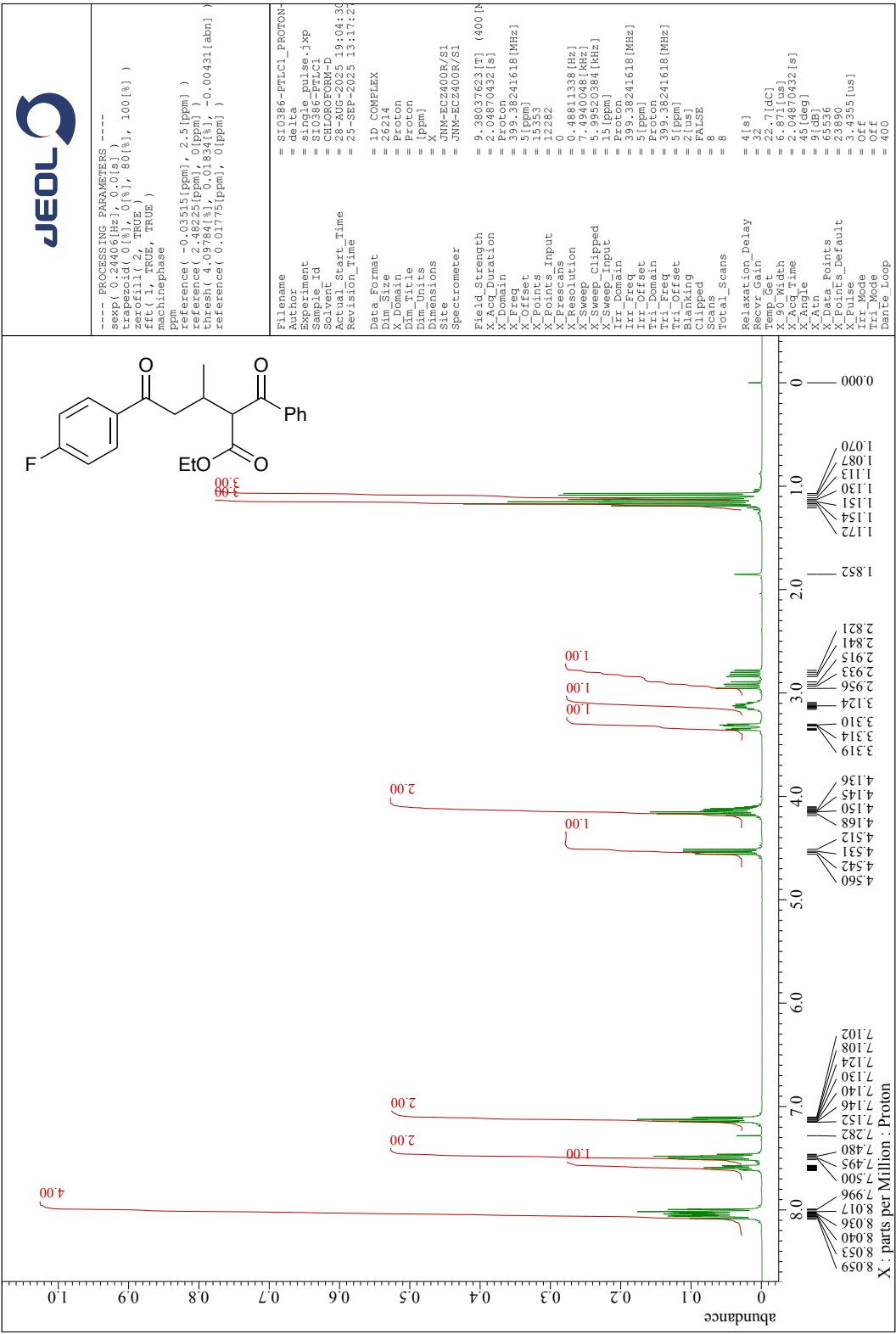


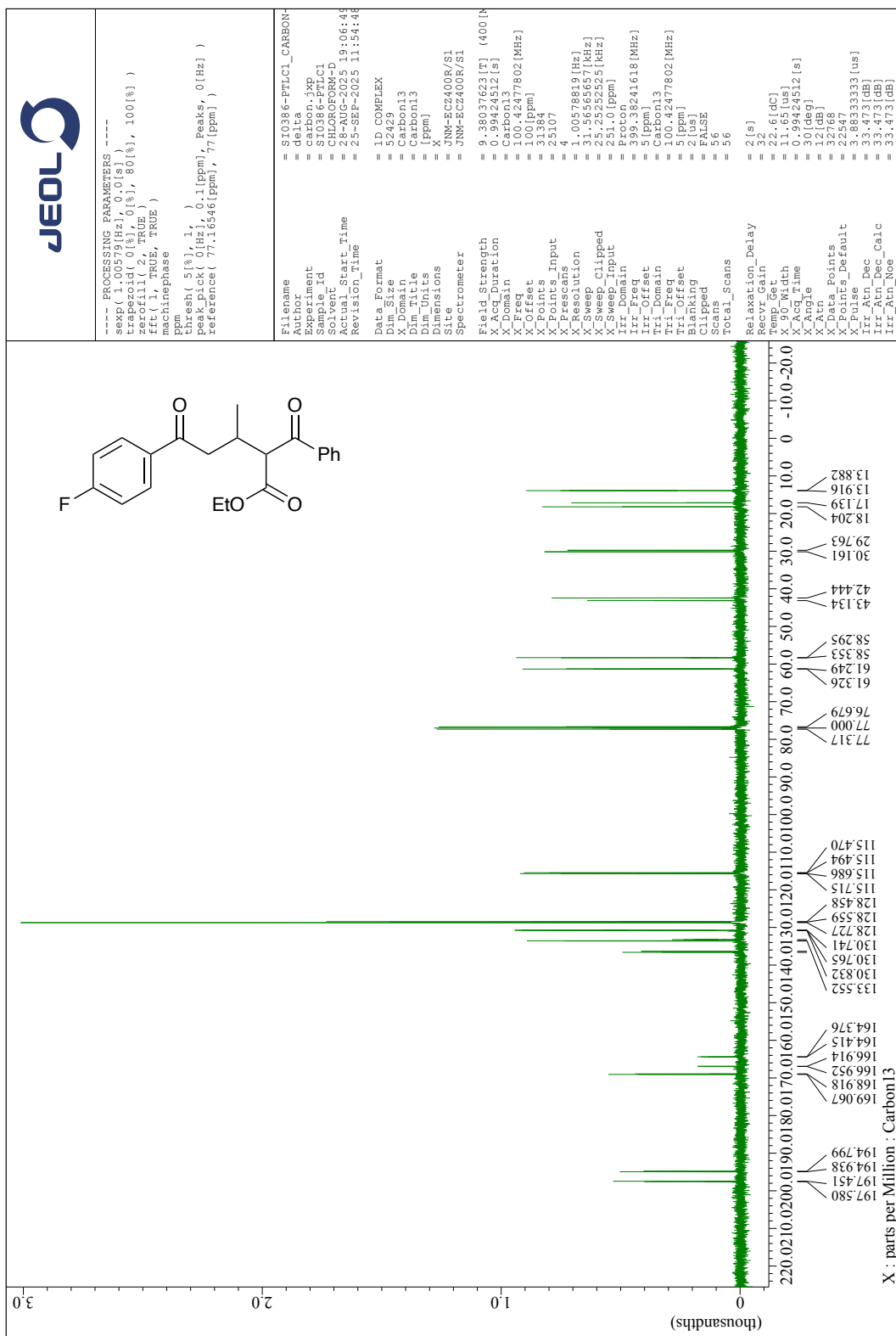


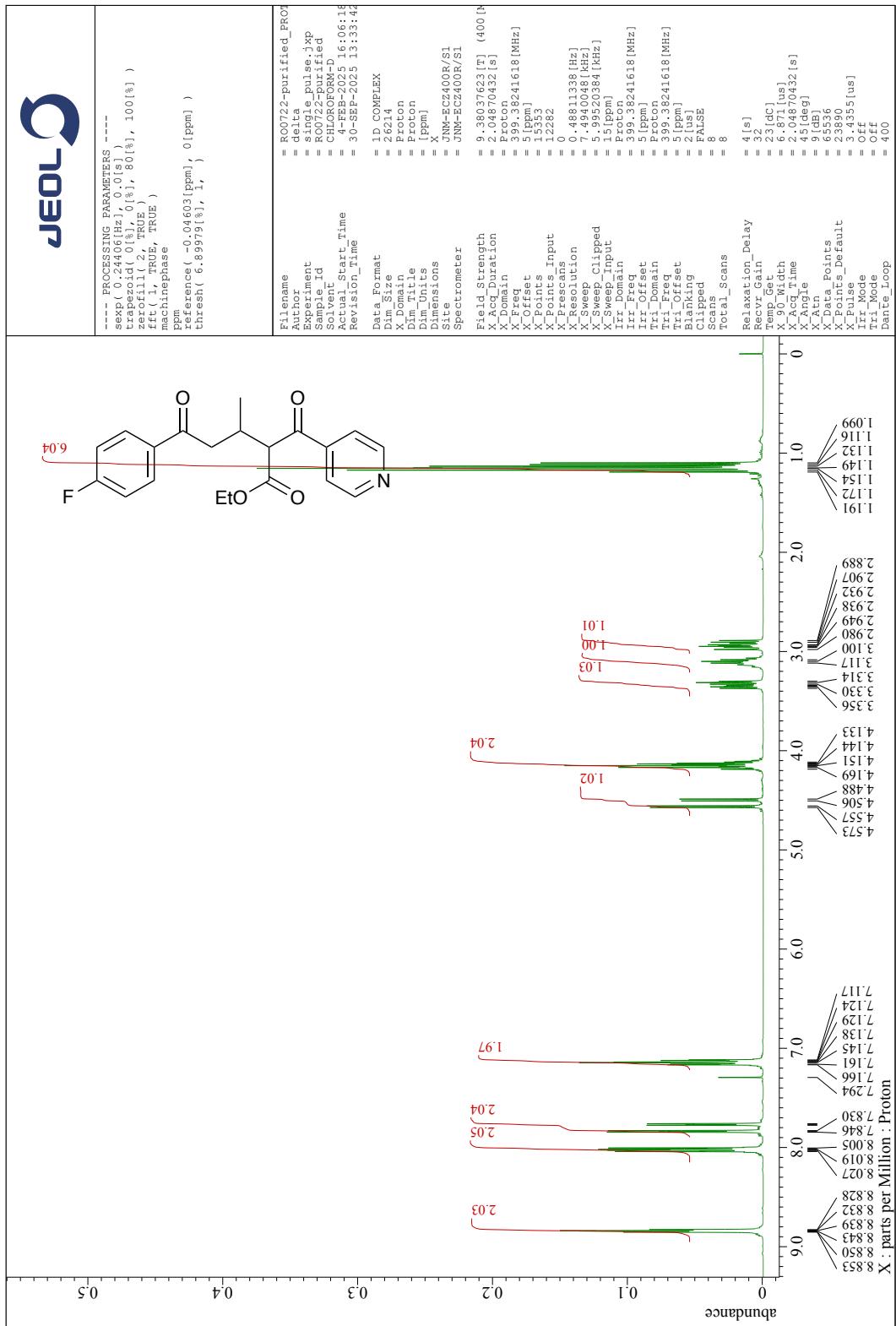


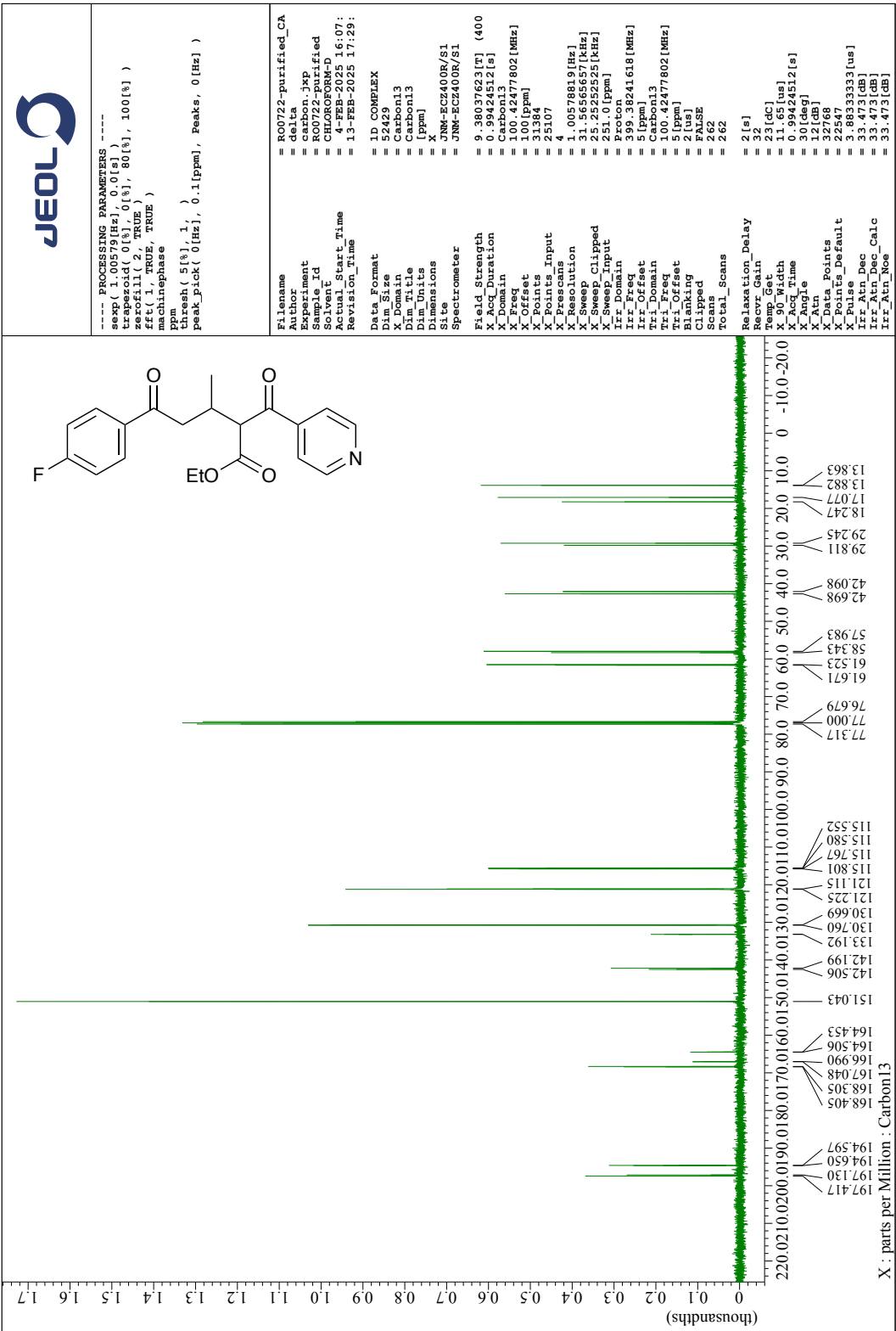


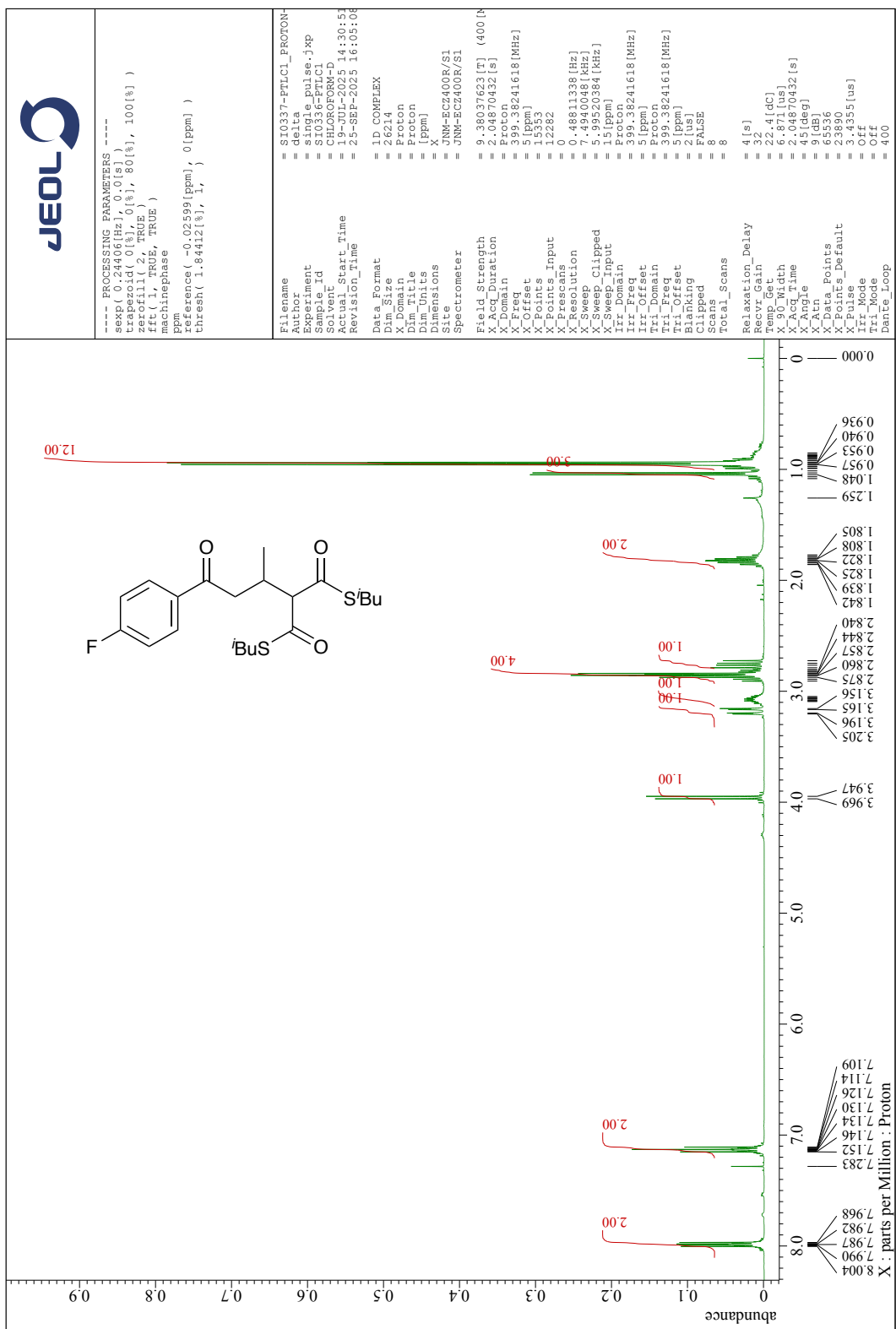


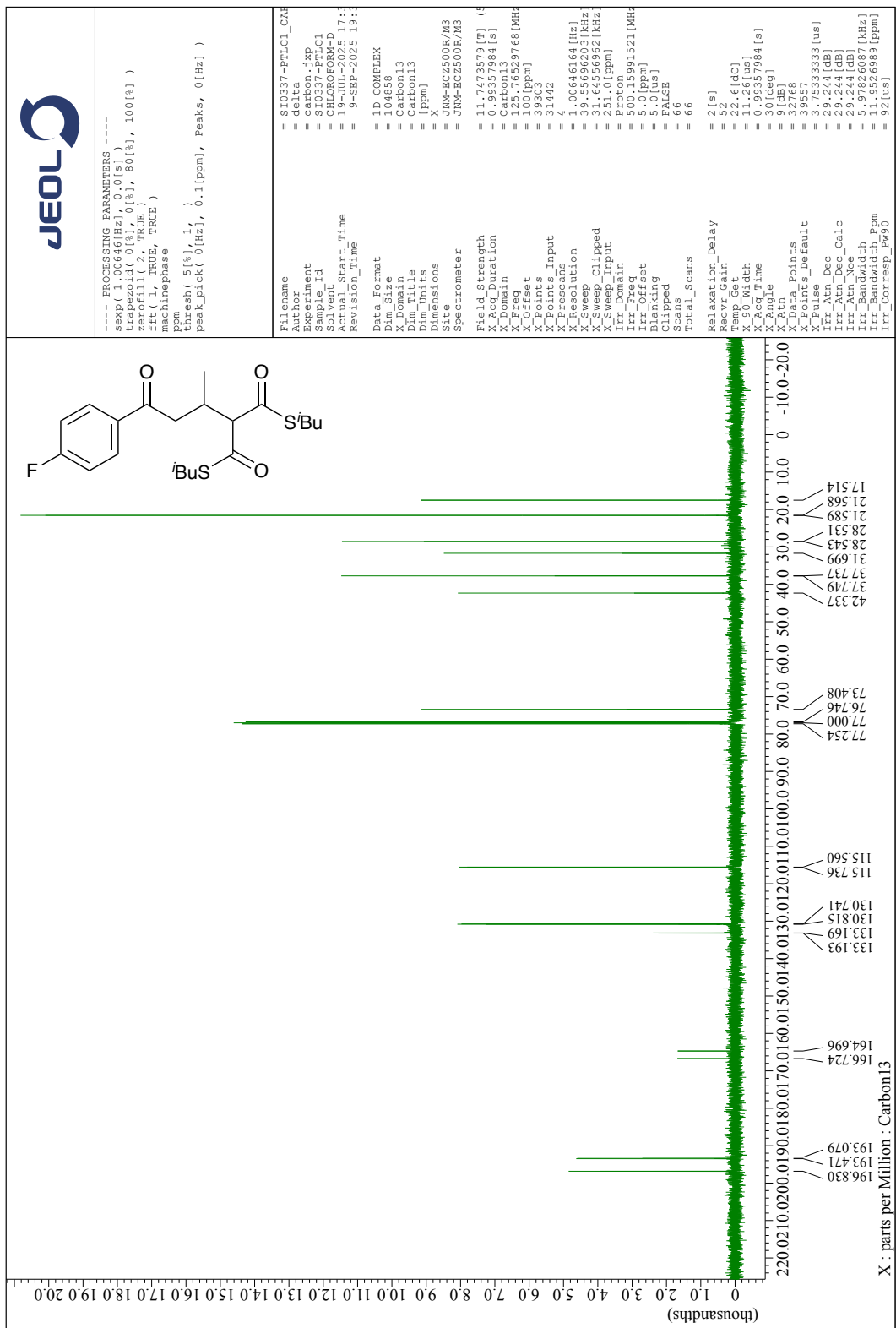


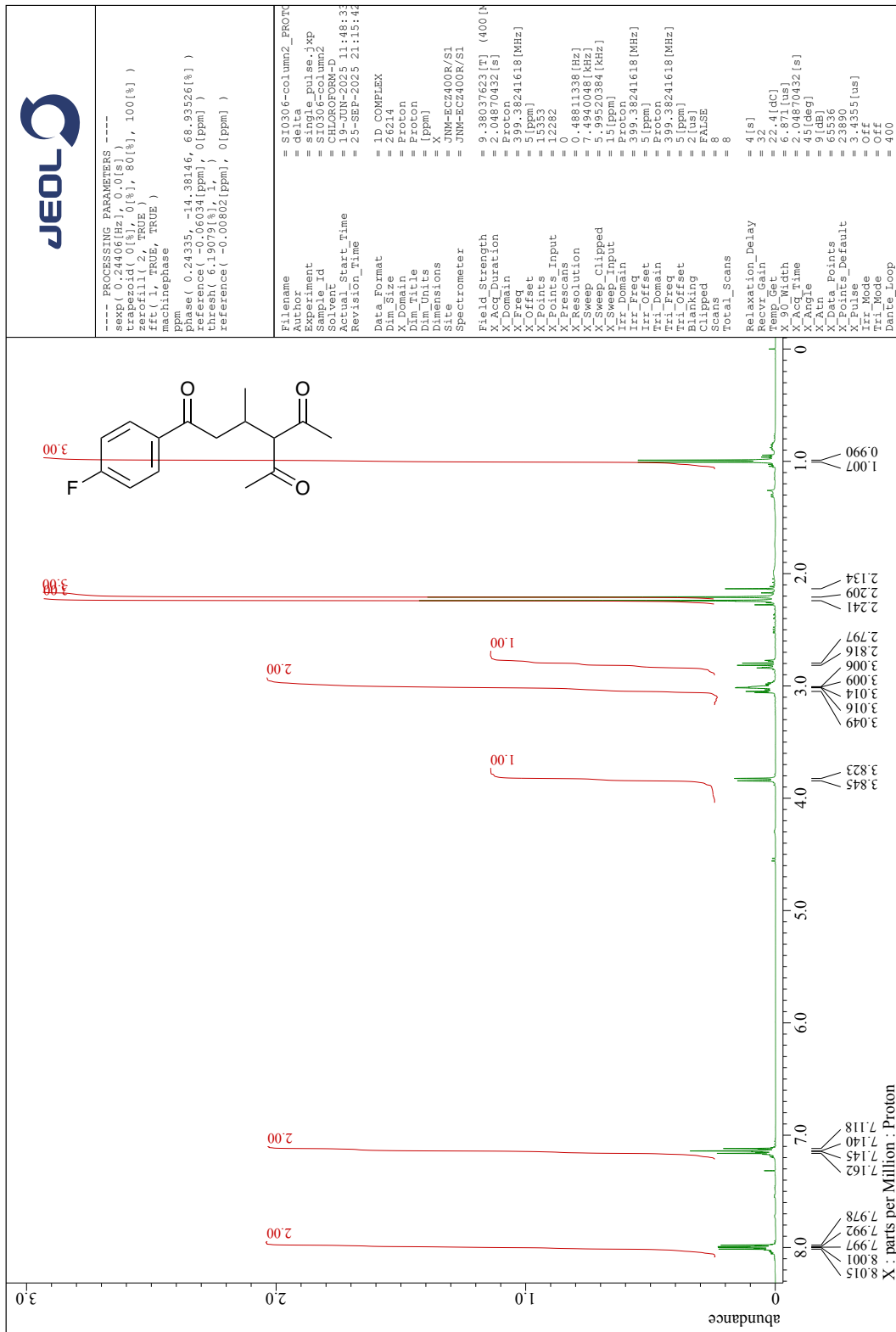


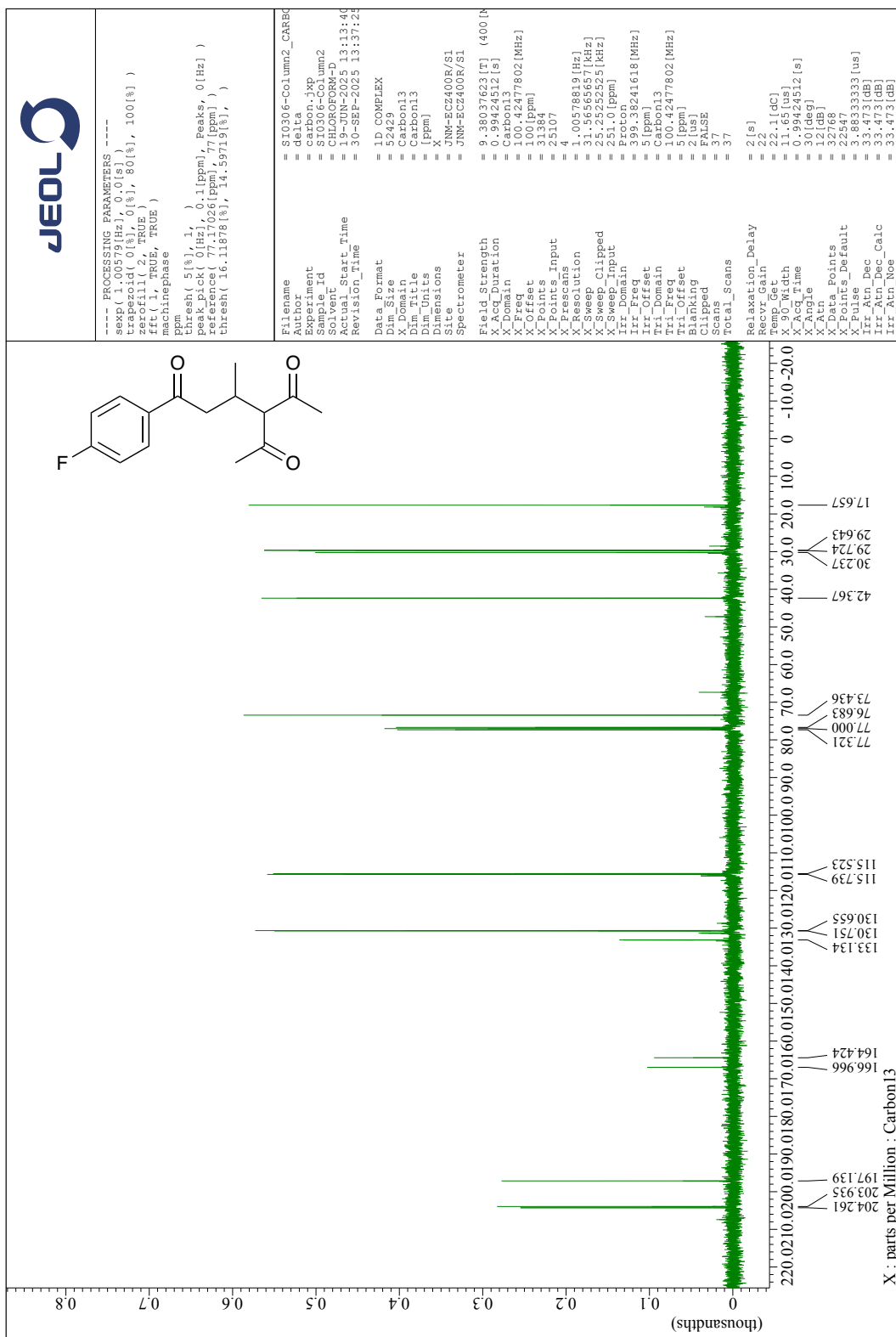


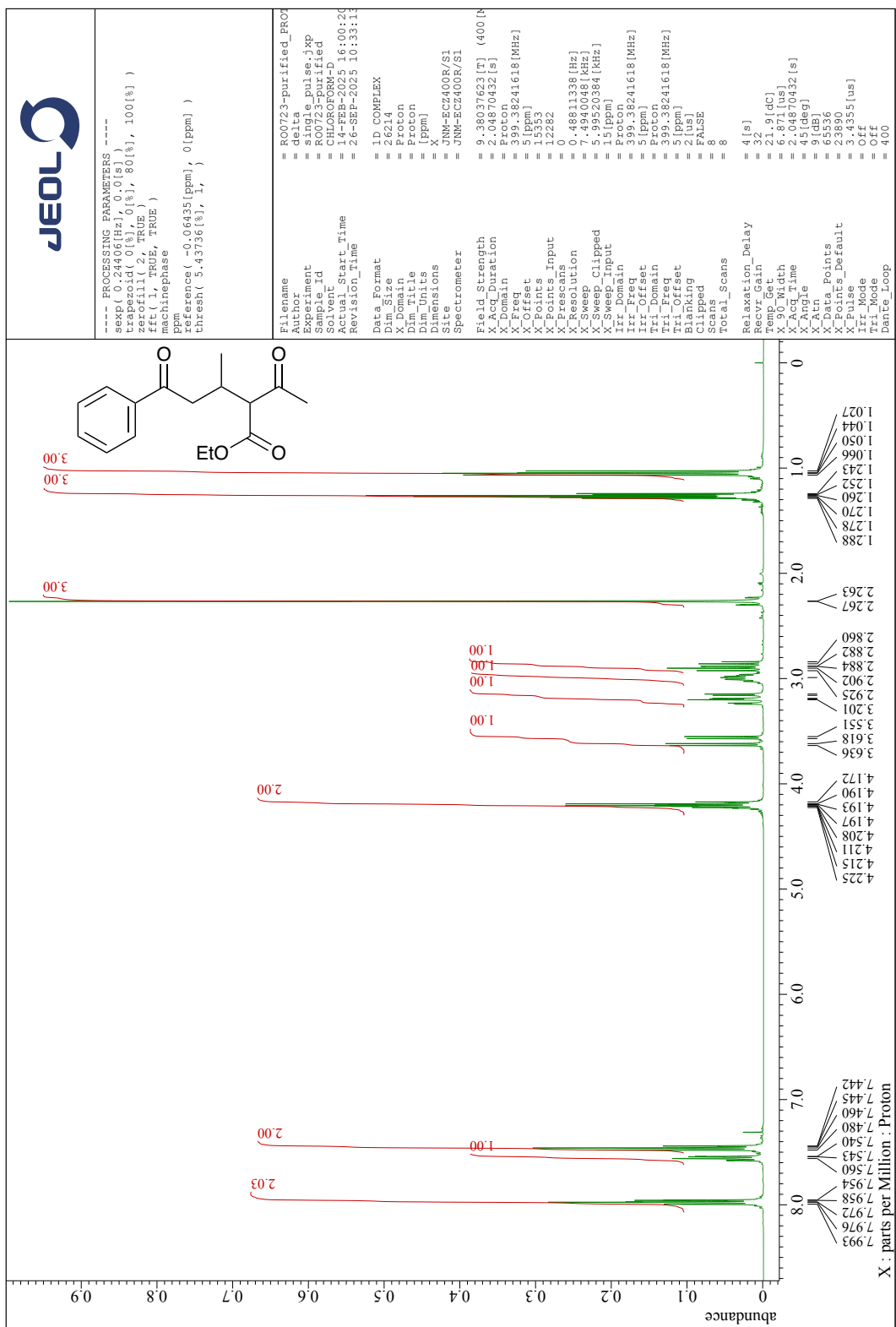


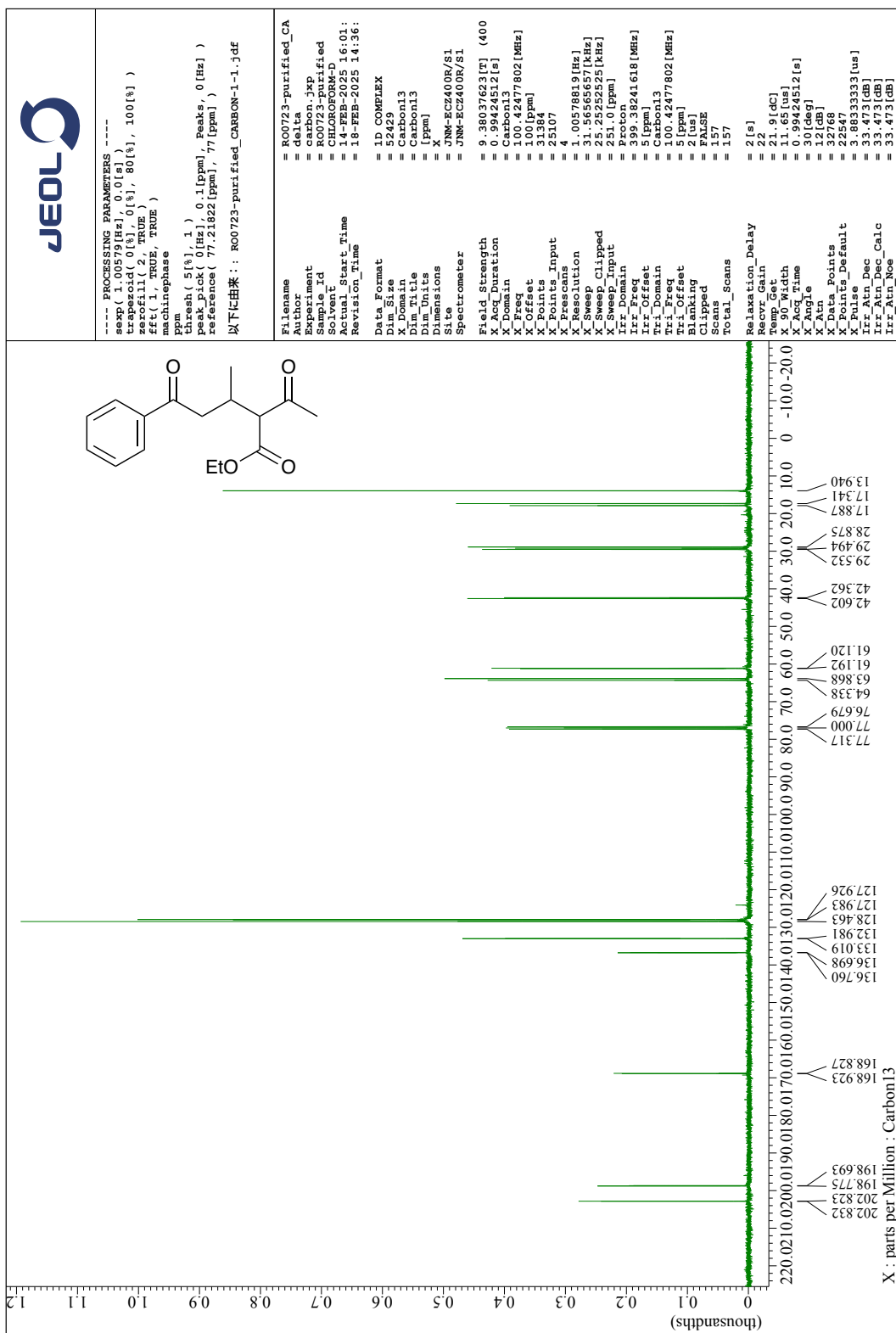


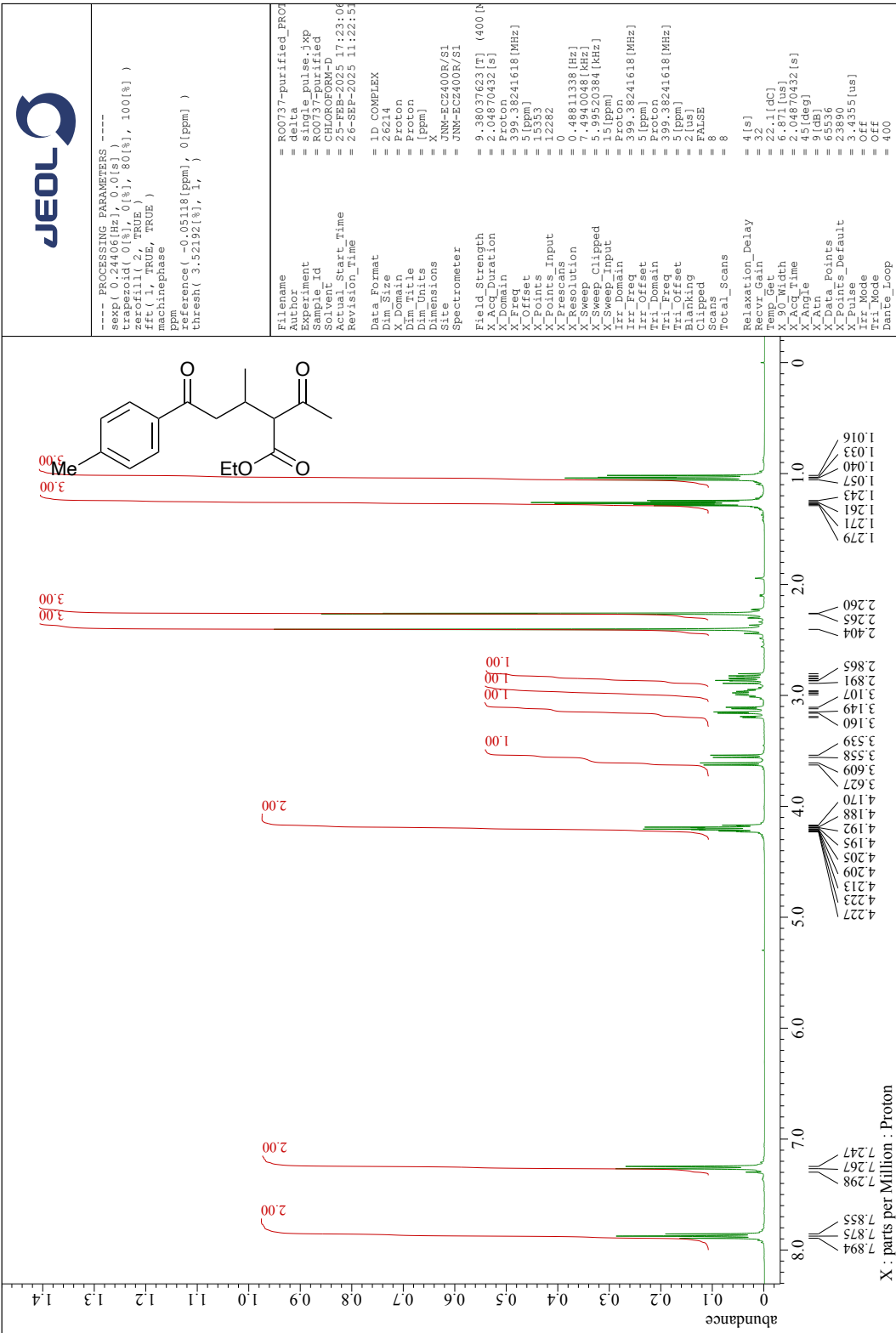


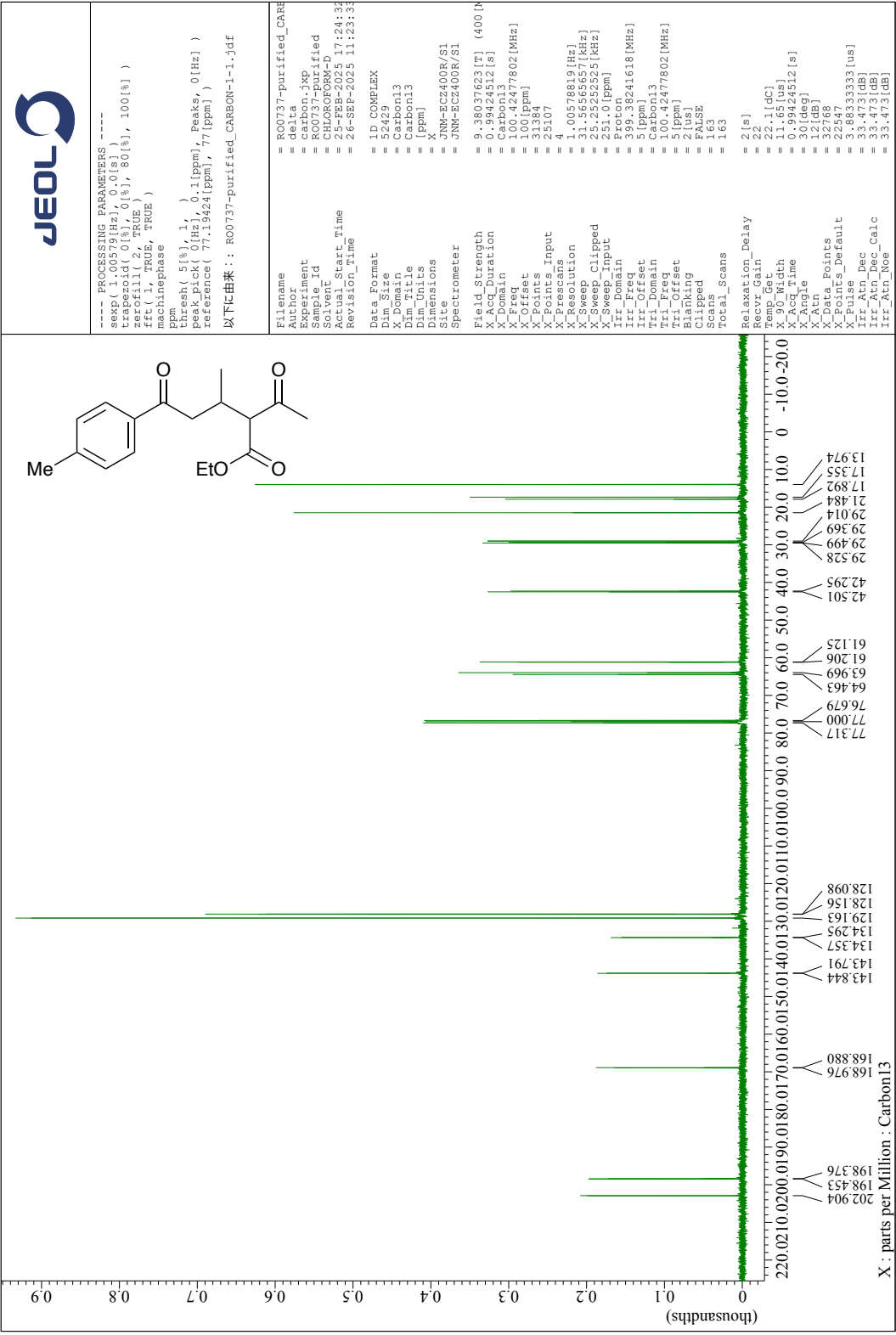


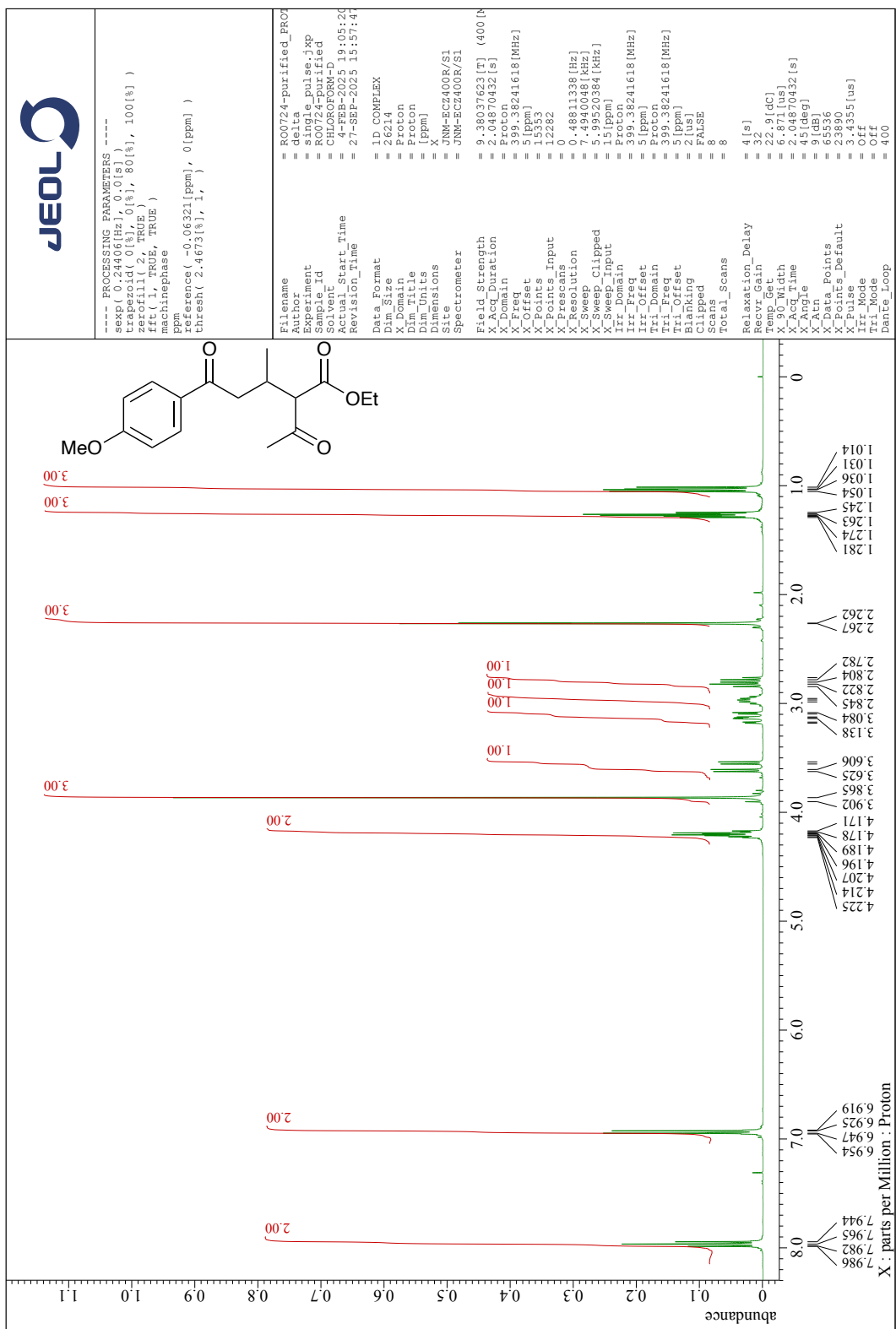


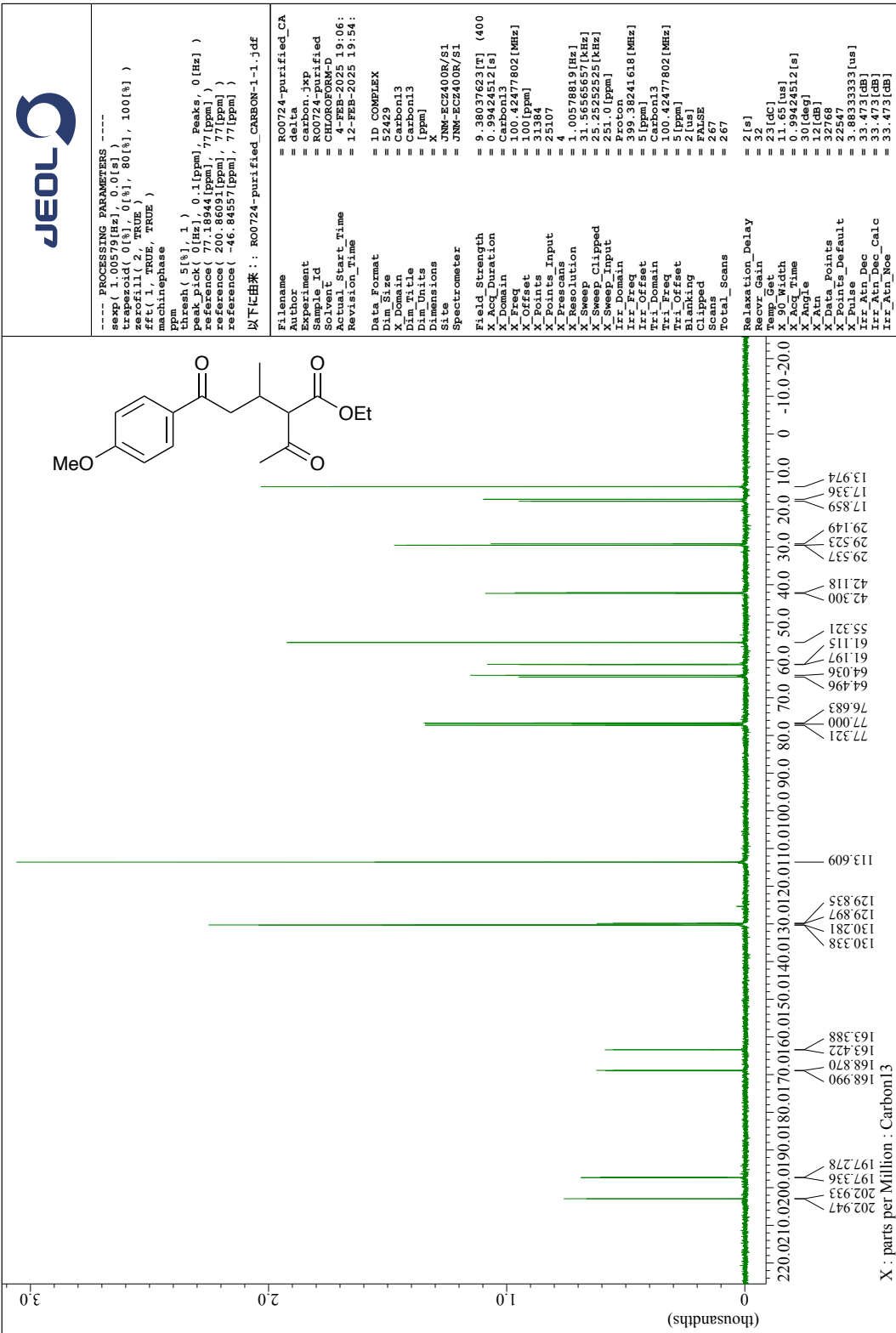


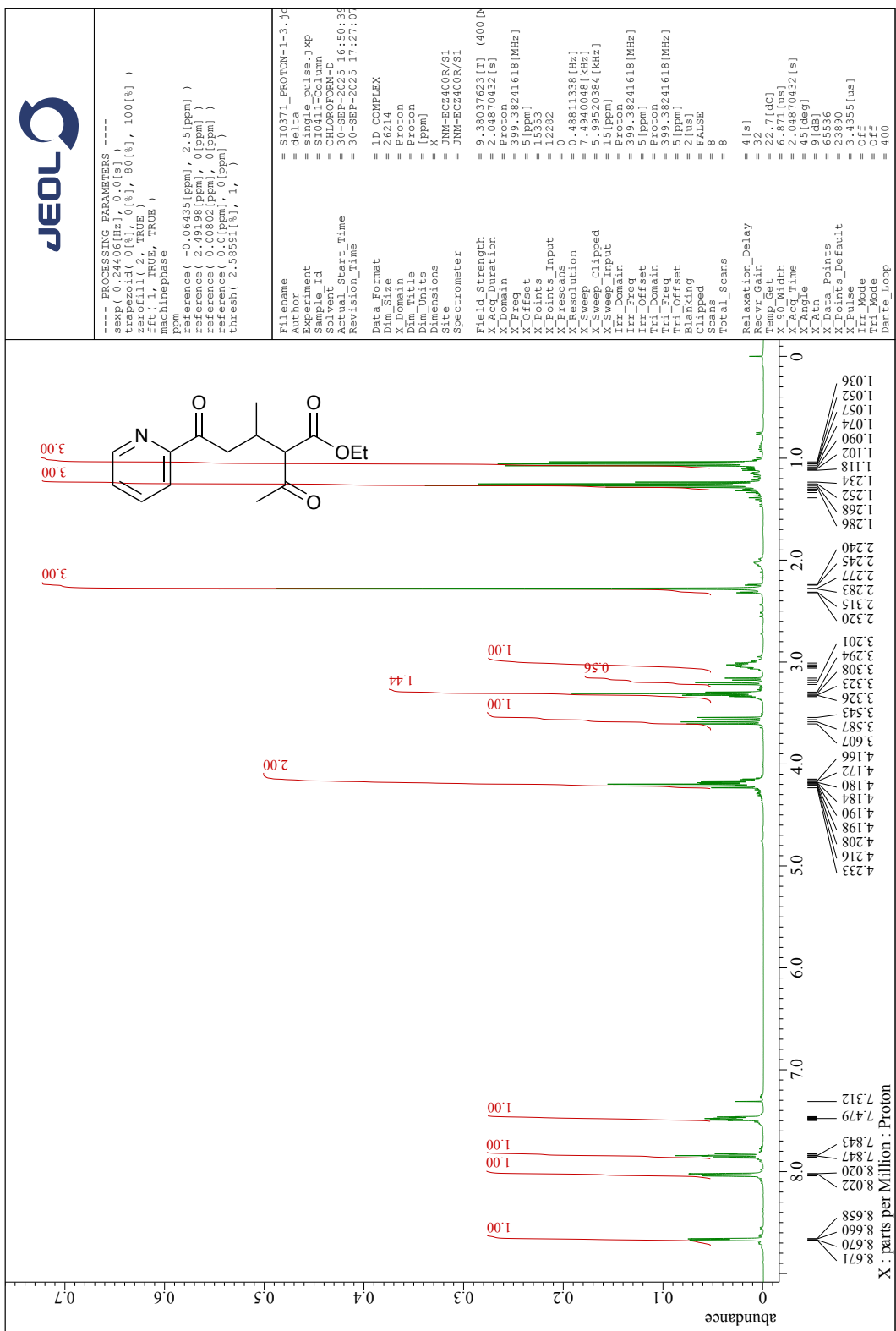


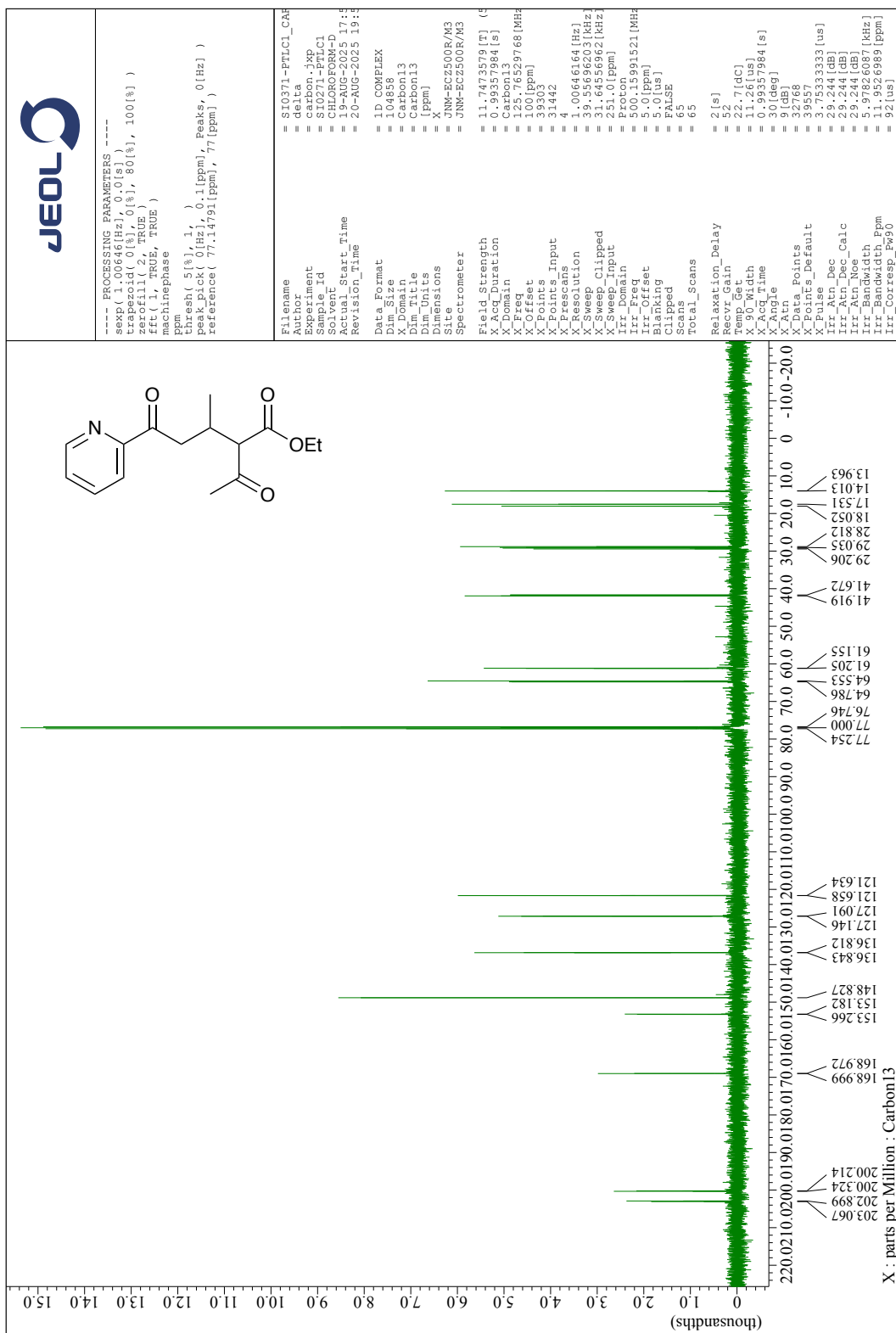


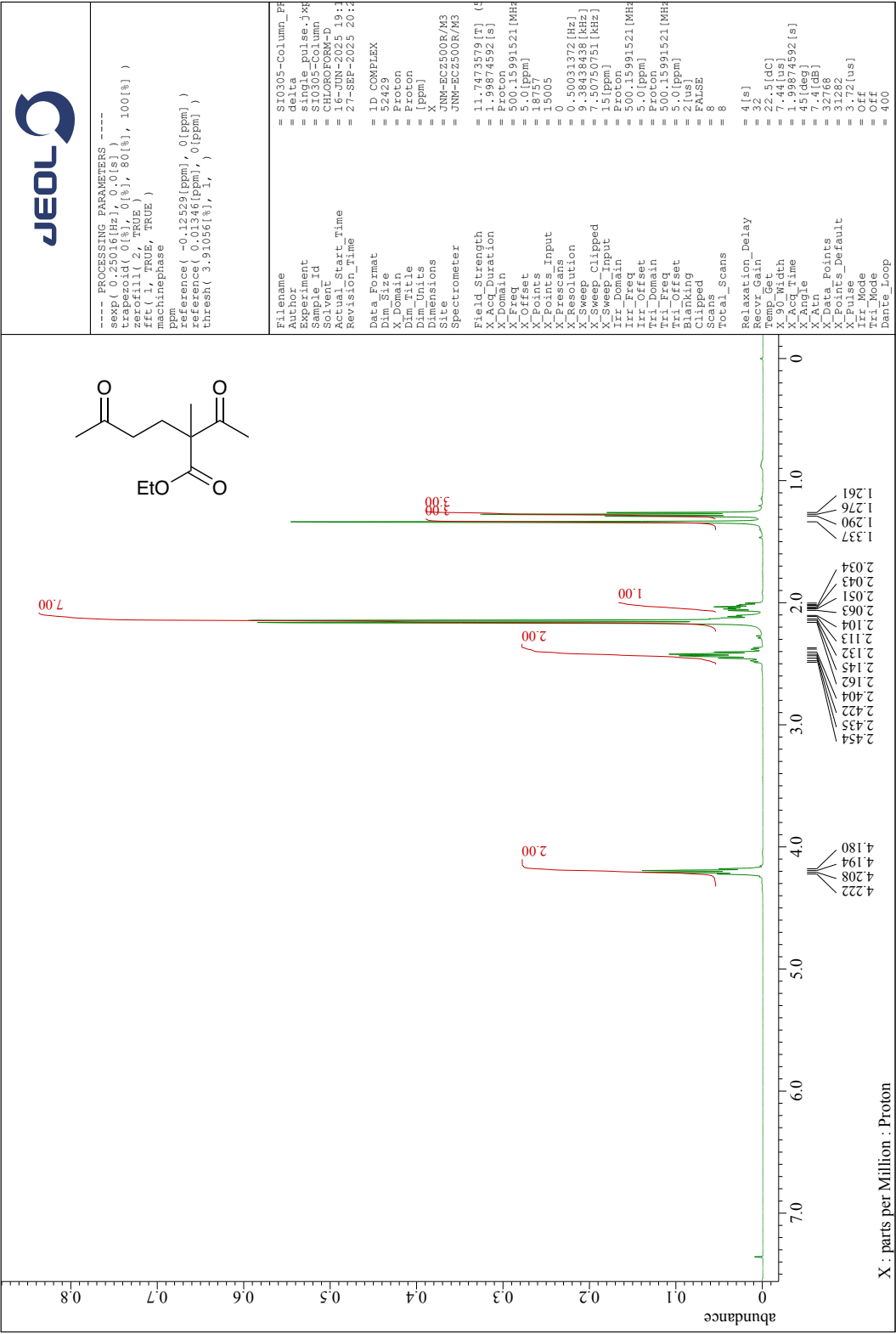


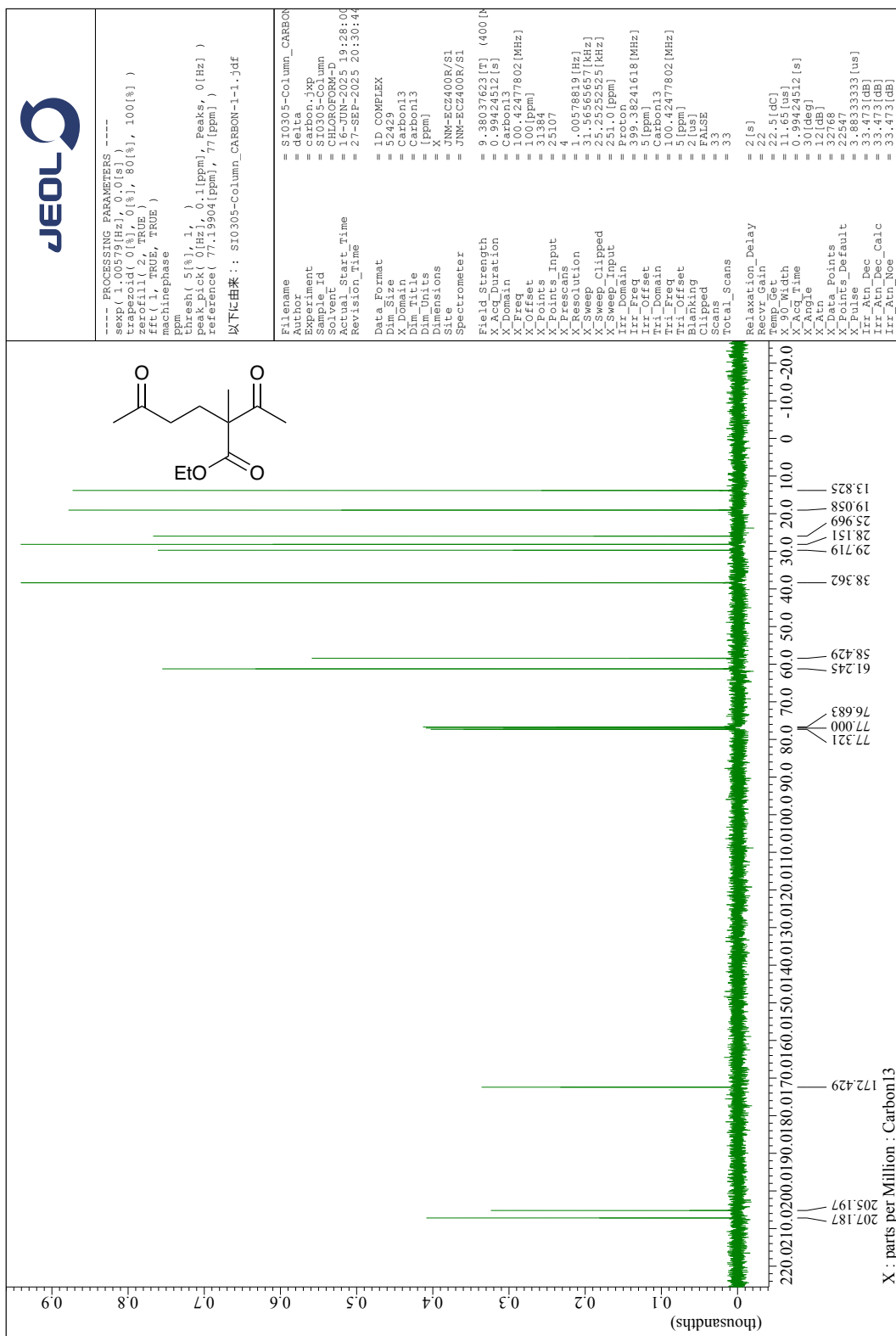


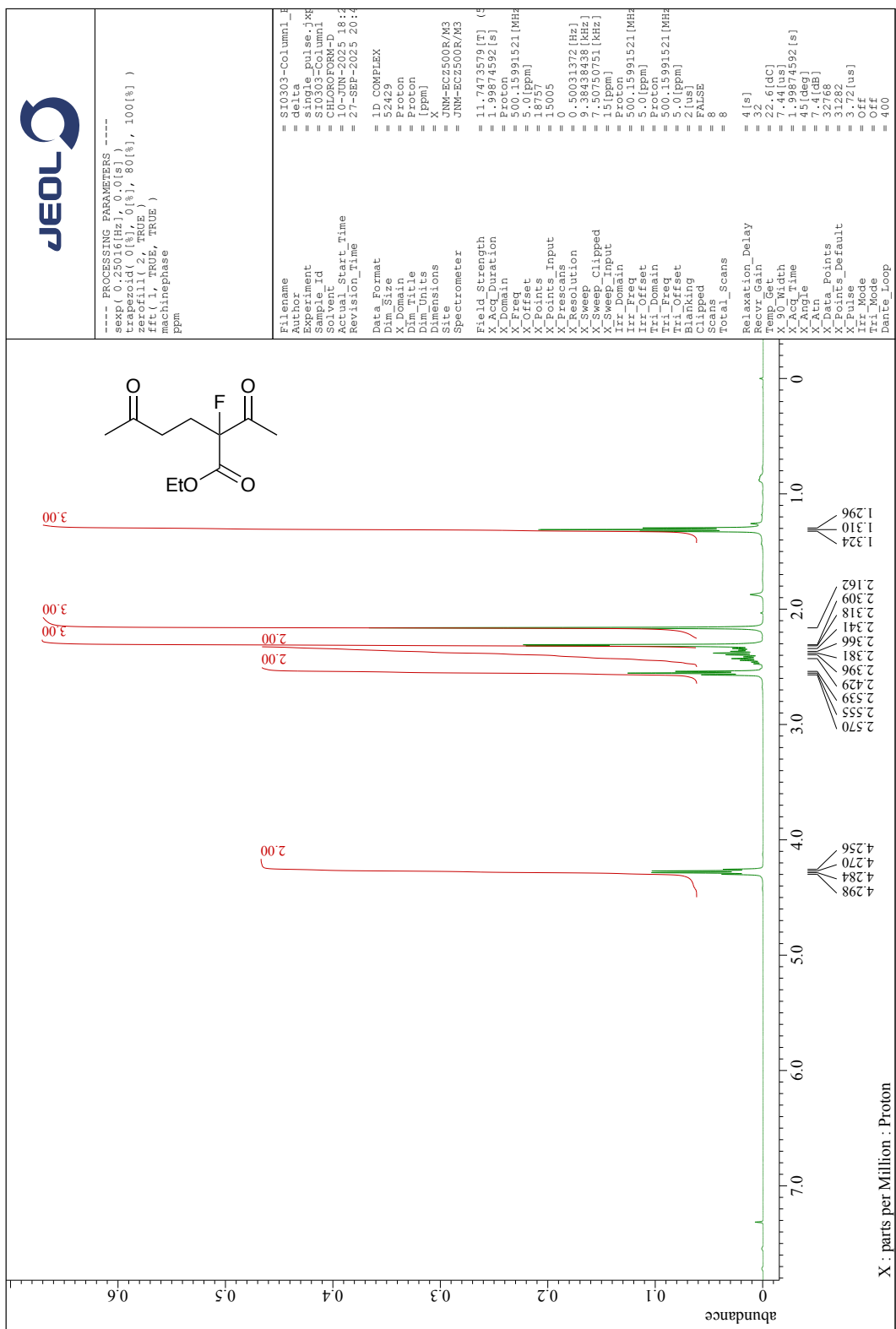


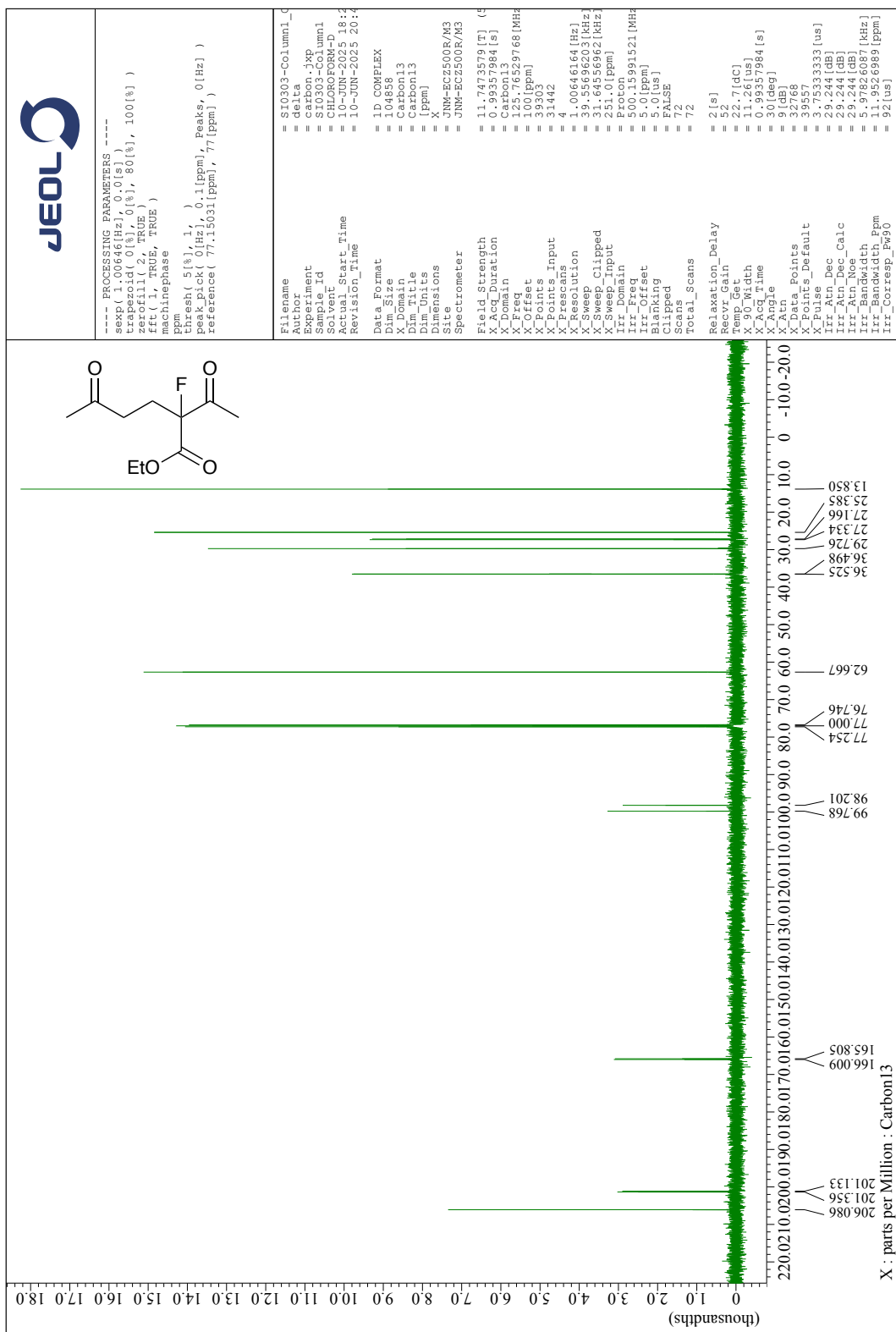












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