

Synthesis of bisenarsan; an organoarsenic metabolite from streptomycetes

Supporting information

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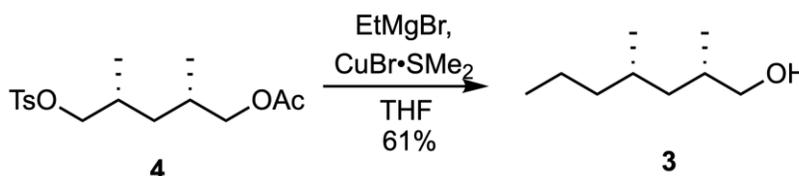
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Experimental procedures

General methods

All solvents and reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and TCI Europe and used without further purification. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel type SiliaFlash P60 (230 – 400 mesh). The eluent composition is stated as v/v. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{31}P NMR spectra were recorded on an Agilent 400 NMR spectrometer at 400, 100.59 and 161.9 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shifts (δ), multiplicity, coupling constant J (Hz), and integration value. Normal phase chiral HPLC analysis was performed on a Shimadzu LC-20 series equipped with a photodiode array detector. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL with electrospray ionization (ESI) in positive or negative mode using DCM as a solvent unless stated otherwise.

Synthesis of **3**



To a stirred suspension of copper(I) bromide-dimethyl sulfide complex (1.13 g, 5.50 mmol, 0.5 eq.) in 80 ml of THF at 0 °C was added 1 M ethylmagnesium bromide solution in THF (41 ml, 41 mmol, 4 eq.) dropwise. To the obtained mixture, a solution of tosylate **4**^[1] (3.40 g, 10.3 mmol, 1 eq.) in 20 mL of THF was added dropwise. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature overnight, cooled back to 0 °C and quenched with approximately 50 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The obtained mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and extracted with Et₂O (3 × 50 mL). The extracts were combined, washed with brine (~50 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford crude **3**. Purification by flash column chromatography (10% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.3) provided **3** (913 mg, 61%) as a colourless oil.

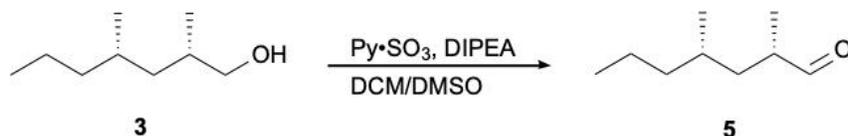
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.51 (dd, J = 10.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, J = 10.5, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.56 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.42 – 1.15 (m, 4H), 1.09 – 0.97 (m, 1H), 0.97 – 0.81 (m, 10H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 77.5, 77.2, 76.8, 68.5, 41.2, 39.1, 33.2, 29.9, 20.4, 20.1, 17.4, 14.5.
[α]₅₈₉²⁰ = -12.1° (c = 1.0, CHCl₃).

An HRMS could not be obtained due to poor ionisation of the compound.

The analytical data is in agreement with previous reports^[2]

Synthesis of 5



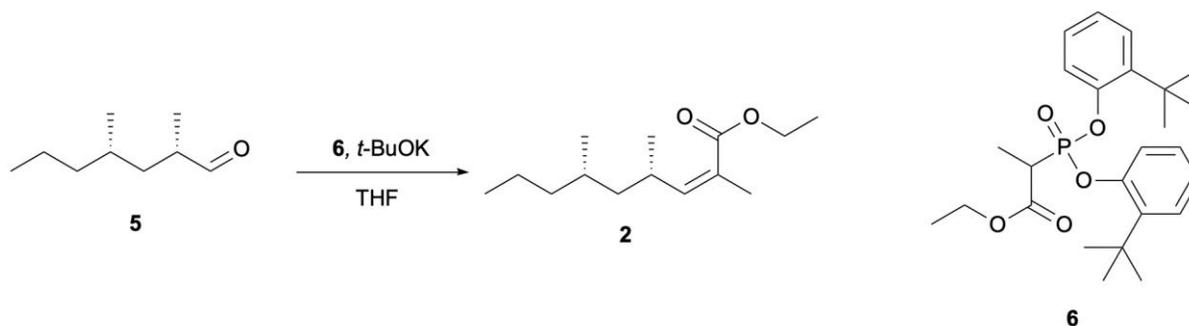
Sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (455 mg, 2.86 mmol, 4 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous DMSO (7 ml) and the obtained solution was stirred at rt for 15 min. In a separate flask, DIPEA (0.75 mL, 4.28 mmol, 6 eq.) was added to a solution of alcohol **3** (103 mg, 0.714 mmol, 1 eq.) in a mixture of anhydrous DCM (13 mL) and DMSO (7 mL). The Py·SO₃ solution was then added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 45 min. A saturated solution of NH₄Cl (20 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and the layers were separated. The aqueous solution was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 40 mL), the organic extracts were combined, washed with 1 M pH 7 phosphate buffer (2 x 30 mL), followed by brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford crude **3**. The crude was dissolved in 95 : 5 pentane/Et₂O mixture and passed through a column of silica (~10 g). The eluent was evaporated to yield **5** (96 mg, 94%) as a colourless oil which was used immediately in the next step.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.58 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (hd, J = 7.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.76 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.40 – 1.19 (m, 4H), 1.18 – 1.03 (m, 5H), 0.96 – 0.81 (m, 7H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.7, 44.3, 39.1, 38.4, 30.3, 20.0, 19.9, 14.4, 14.3.

An HRMS could not be obtained due to poor ionisation of the compound.

Synthesis of 2



To a solution of the known phosphonate **6**^[3] (132 mg, 0.296 mmol, 1.3 eq.) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) at 0 °C was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (32 mg, 0.285 mmol, 1.25 eq.) in one portion. After stirring for 15 min at this temperature, the obtained solution was added dropwise to a solution of the aldehyde **5** (32 mg, 0.228 mmol, 1 eq.) in THF (1 mL) at –78 °C. The stirred reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature overnight, quenched by adding saturated NH₄Cl solution (~1 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvent. The residue was then diluted with water (~2 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 ml). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The

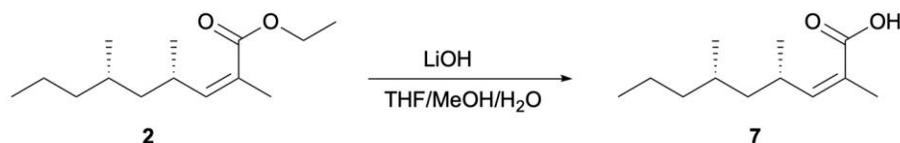
residue was purified by flash column chromatography (2% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.5) to provide **2** (48 mg, 93%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.59 (dq, J = 10.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.31 – 3.16 (m, 1H), 1.88 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.38 – 1.16 (m, 8H), 1.14 – 1.02 (m, 2H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 148.6, 125.9, 60.2, 45.3, 40.02, 31.2, 30.6, 21.4, 21.0, 20.2, 19.7, 14.5, 14.4.

HRMS calcd. for [C₁₄H₂₆O₂H]⁺ 227.2006, found 227.2005.

Synthesis of **7** by hydrolysis of **2**



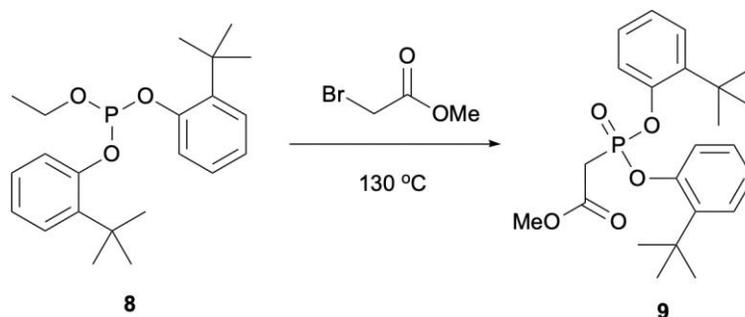
To a solution of ester **2** (30 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1 eq.) in a mixture of THF (1 mL), methanol (1 mL) and water (1 mL) was added lithium hydroxide (32 mg, 1.33 mmol, 10 eq.) and the obtained mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 6 d. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvents, acidified to pH 1 with 2 M aqueous HCl and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 mL). The extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (10% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.3) to provide **7** (19 mg, 72%) as a white waxy solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.79 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 1.90 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.41 – 1.15 (m, 5H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.82 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 152.8, 124.9, 45.3, 40.0, 31.4, 30.8, 21.3, 20.8, 20.1, 19.7, 14.5.

HRMS calcd. for [C₁₂H₂₁O₂]⁻ 197.1547, found 197.1546.

Synthesis of **9**



Ando reagent **9** was synthesised according to a modified procedure by Kwan *et al.*^[4]. A mixture of the known phosphite **8**^[5] (5.26 g, 14.0 mmol, 1 eq.) and methyl bromoacetate (4.30 g, 28.1 mmol, 2 eq.) was stirred at 130 °C for 3 d. The flask was then cooled down to room temperature

and heptane (~20 ml) and water (~20 ml) were added. The obtained mixture was stirred vigorously for 10 min, inducing crystallization of **9**. The solid was isolated by filtration and washed with cold heptane. The organic layer of the filtrate was separated from the aqueous layer, concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (15% EtOAc in heptane, Rf ~0.3) to obtain a second crop of **9**. The crops were combined to yield **9** (5.43 g, 92%) as white crystals.

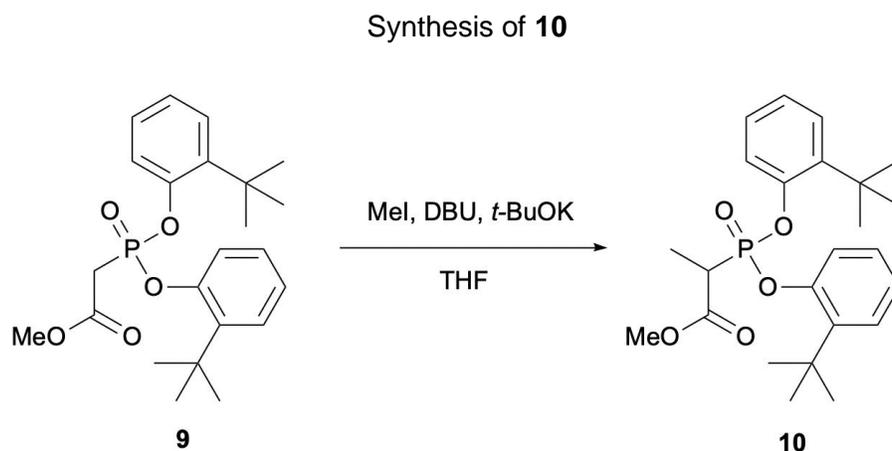
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (dt, $J = 8.1, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dt, $J = 7.7, 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, $J = 21.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.37 (s, 18H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.0 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 150.1 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 139.3 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 127.8, 127.5, 124.8, 119.7 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 52.9 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 35.4 (d, $J = 138.3$ Hz), 34.8, 30.1.

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.64.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_5\text{P}]\text{H}^+$ 419.1982, found 419.1982.

The analytical data is in agreement with previous reports^[2]



The methylation reaction was performed according to the procedure developed by Bressin *et al.*^[3]. To a stirred solution of phosphonate **9** (1.50 g, 3.58 mmol, 1 eq.) in anhydrous THF (4 ml) at 0 °C was added iodomethane (0.223 mL, 3.58 mmol, 1 eq.) in one portion. Potassium tert-butoxide (400 mg, 3.58 mmol, 1 eq.) was added to the solution in small portions at the same temperature. The ice bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The obtained off-white slurry was cooled down to 0 °C again and DBU was added (0.535 ml, 3.58 mmol, 1 eq.), followed by iodomethane (0.223 ml, 3.58 mmol, 1 eq.), both dropwise. The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h, after which it was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution (10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The oily residue was crystallized from heptane to obtain **10** (836 mg, 54%) as white crystals.

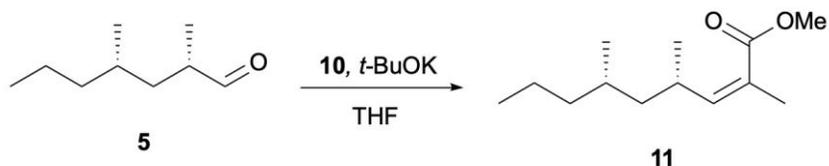
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (dt, $J = 8.1, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dt, $J = 8.1, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dq, $J = 7.8, 1.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.50 (dq, $J = 24.2, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.70 (dd, $J = 19.6, 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 1.32 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz), 150.8 (dd, $J = 20.9, 9.0$ Hz), 139.0 (dd, $J = 8.2, 4.0$ Hz), 127.7, 127.4 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 124.5, 119.7 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 52.7 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 40.9 (d, $J = 142.2$ Hz), 34.8, 30.1 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz), 12.1 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.65.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_5\text{PNa}]^+$ 455.1958, found 455.1955.

Synthesis of **11**



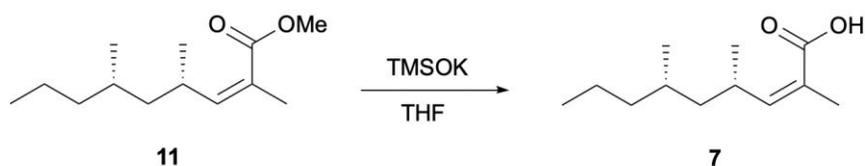
To a solution of phosphonate **10** (206 mg, 0.430 mmol, 1.3 eq.) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) at 0 °C was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (43 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in one portion. After stirring for 15 min at the same temperature, the obtained solution was added dropwise to a solution of aldehyde **5** (47 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1 eq.) in THF (1 mL) at -78 °C. The stirred reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature overnight, quenched by adding saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution (~1 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvent. The residue was then diluted with water (~2 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 2 mL). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (2% Et_2O in pentane, R_f ~0.5) to provide **11** (35 mg, 50%) as a colourless oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.61 (dq, $J = 10.1, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.32 – 3.16 (m, 1H), 1.88 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.39 – 1.15 (m, 6H), 1.13 – 1.00 (m, 2H), 0.95 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9, 149.4, 125.5, 51.3, 45.3, 40.0, 31.2, 30.6, 21.4, 21.0, 20.1, 19.7, 14.5.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{H}]^+$ 213.1849, found 213.1848.

Synthesis of **7** by demethylation of **11**

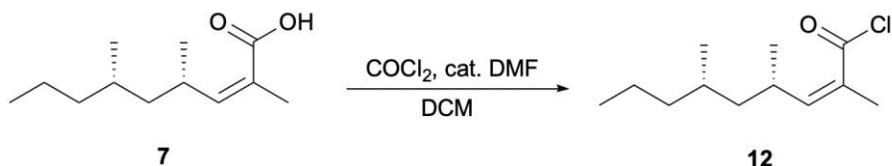


Ester **11** (30 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (1.5 mL) and 2 M potassium trimethylsilanolate solution in THF (0.425 mL, 0.848 mmol, 6 eq.) was added to the solution. The obtained mixture was brought to reflux for 4 h, after which it was allowed to cool to room temperature. The solution was acidified to pH 1 with 2 M HCl_{aq}, concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 2 ml). The extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (10% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.3) to obtain **7** (23 mg, 82%) as a white waxy solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.79 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 1.90 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.41 – 1.15 (m, 5H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.82 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 152.8, 124.9, 45.3, 40.0, 31.4, 30.8, 21.3, 20.8, 20.1, 19.7, 14.5.

HRMS calcd. for [C₁₂H₂₁O₂]⁻ 197.1547, found 197.1546.

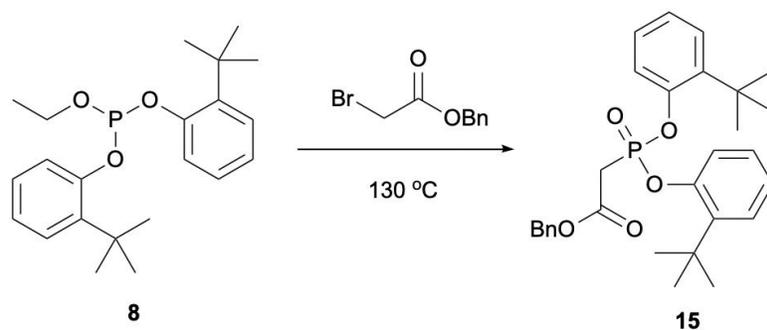
Synthesis of **12**



Carboxylic acid **7** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (2 mL) and 50 μL of a 0.1 M stock solution of DMF (5 μmol, 0.05 eq.) in DCM was added to the obtained solution. To the reaction mixture was added oxalyl chloride (18 μL, 0.21 mmol, 2 eq.) and the solution was allowed to stir for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the obtained brown residue was directly used in the next step.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.74 (dq, J = 10.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.09 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.38 – 1.15 (m, 6H), 1.15 – 1.02 (m, 2H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

Synthesis of **15**



Ando reagent **15** was synthesised according to a modified procedure by Stephens *et al.*^[6]. A stirred mixture of phosphite **8**^[5] (10.60 g, 28.3 mmol, 1.66 eq.) and benzyl bromoacetate (2.7 mL, 17 mmol, 1 eq.) was heated to 130 °C for 3 d. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in heptane, R_f ~0.2) to yield phosphonate **15** (5.91 g, 70%) as a colourless oil.

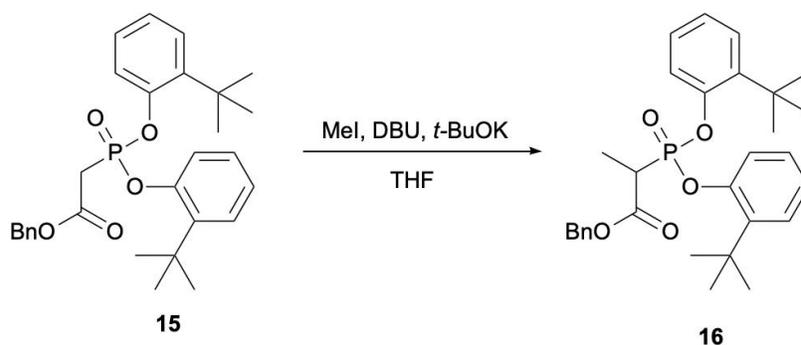
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.14 (td, J = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 3.41 (d, J = 21.7 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 18H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 150.1 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 139.3 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 135.0, 128.6 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 128.5, 127.8, 127.6, 124.8, 119.8 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 67.8, 35.7 (d, J = 138.4 Hz), 34.8, 30.2.

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.52.

HRMS calcd. for [C₂₉H₃₅O₅PH⁺]⁺ 495.2295, found 495.2294.

Synthesis of **16**



The methylation of **15** was performed according to the procedure developed by Bressin *et al.*^[3]. To a stirred solution of phosphonate **15** (2.00 g, 4.04 mmol, 1 eq.) in anhydrous THF (4 mL) at 0 °C was added iodomethane (0.252 ml, 4.04 mmol, 1 eq.) in one portion. Potassium tert-butoxide (450 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 eq.) was added to the solution in small portions at the same temperature. The ice bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The obtained off-white slurry was cooled down to 0 °C again and DBU was added (0.600 ml, 4.01 mmol, 1 eq.), followed by iodomethane (0.252 mL, 4.04 mmol, 1 eq.), both dropwise. The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h, after which it was quenched by addition of

saturated NH_4Cl solution (10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 ml), the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield **16** (1.674 g, 81%) as a white solid.

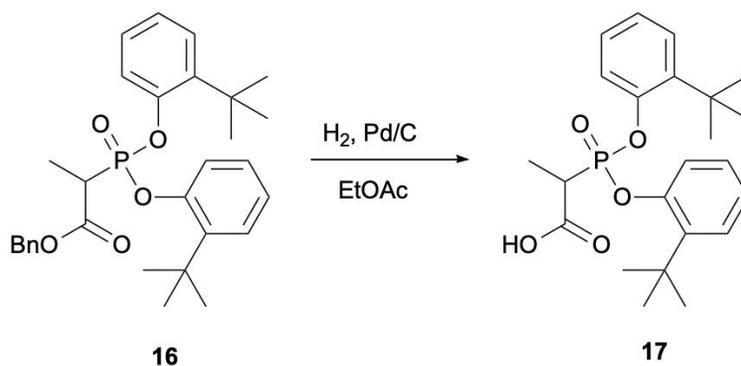
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dt, $J = 7.6, 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 5.18 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dq, $J = 24.1, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.71 (dd, $J = 19.5, 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 1.27 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.4 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz), 150.8 (dd, $J = 25.2, 9.2$ Hz), 139.0 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 135.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 127.5 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 124.5 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz), 119.9 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 119.6 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 67.7, 41.2 (d, $J = 138.6$ Hz), 34.8, 30.1 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz), 12.1 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.47.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_5\text{PH}]^+$ 509.2451, found 509.2455.

Synthesis of **17**



A round-bottom flask was charged with phosphonate **16** (1.21 g, 2.37 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (118 mg), after which it was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen thrice. Dry ethyl acetate (25 mL) was added to the flask and a hydrogen balloon was attached. The flask was evacuated and back-filled with hydrogen, after which the reaction mixture was allowed to stir under a hydrogen atmosphere for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite[®] and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield **17** (984 mg, 100%) as a white solid.

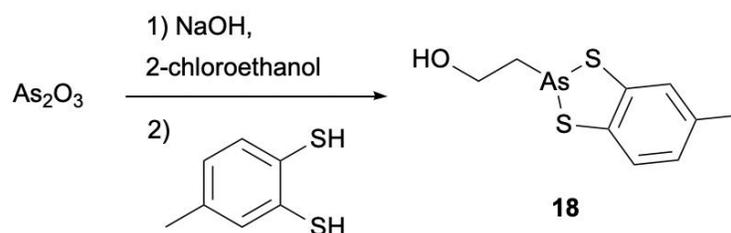
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dt, $J = 7.7, 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 6.90 (br. s, 1H), 3.52 (dq, $J = 24.4, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 (dd, $J = 19.5, 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (s, 18H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.1 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 150.6 (dd, $J = 9.2, 4.9$ Hz), 139.1 (dd, $J = 8.1, 5.6$ Hz), 127.8 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 127.5, 124.7 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 119.8 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.0$ Hz), 40.7 (d, $J = 138.0$ Hz), 34.8 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 30.2 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz), 11.9 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.84.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_5\text{PNa}]^+$ 441.1801, found 441.1804.

Synthesis of **18**



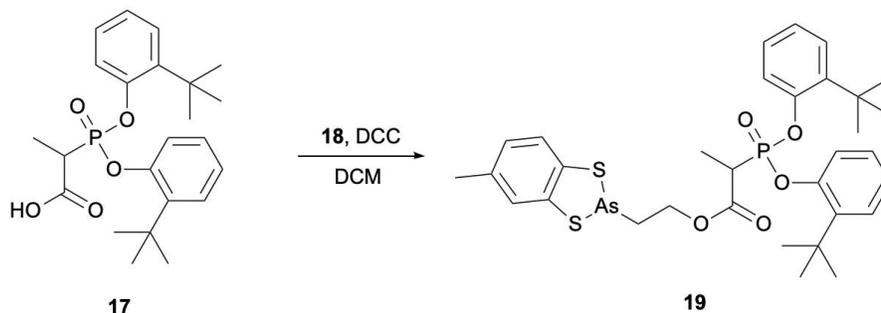
A solution of sodium hydroxide (2.40 g, 51 mmol, 10 eq.) in water (3 mL) was prepared in a 20 mL vial. Arsenic trioxide (1.00 g, 5.06 mmol, 1 eq.) was added to the solution and the mixture was stirred until no As_2O_3 was left undissolved (heating, sonication and vortexing were employed). The mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and 2-chloroethanol (1.00 mL, 15.1 mmol, 3 eq.) was added dropwise. The vial was covered with parafilm and the mixture was stirred overnight, allowing it to warm to room temperature. The obtained yellow suspension was transferred to a 50 mL round-bottom flask and concentrated hydrochloric acid (4.2 mL, 51 mmol, 10 eq.) was added to it dropwise (exotherm!). The obtained white suspension was concentrated *in vacuo* and coevaporated with ~25 mL of isopropanol to give a white solid residue. The residue was suspended in ~20 mL of methanol and filtered into a 250 mL round-bottom flask. The white solid was washed with methanol (3 x 15 mL). To the stirred filtrate containing (2-hydroxyethyl)arsonic acid was added a solution of toluene-3,4-dithiol (3.95 g, 25.3 mmol, 5 eq.) in methanol (~10 ml) under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The obtained green suspension was filtered, the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (20% Et_2O in pentane, R_f ~0.2) to yield **18** (1.84 g, 66%) as a green oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.0, 136.4, 135.8, 128.0, 127.1, 126.7, 59.3, 37.7, 20.8.

HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{AsOS}_2]^-$ 272.9395, found 272.9397.

Synthesis of **19**



Carboxylic acid **17** (1.29 g, 3.08 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in dry DCM (15 mL), and to the obtained solution were subsequently added solutions of the alcohol **18** (1.01 g, 3.70 mmol, 1.2

eq.) and DCC (763 mg, 3.70 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in DCM (4 and 7 mL, respectively). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight, the obtained suspension was filtered, the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography (20% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.2) to yield **19** (1.40 g, 67%) as an off-white solid.

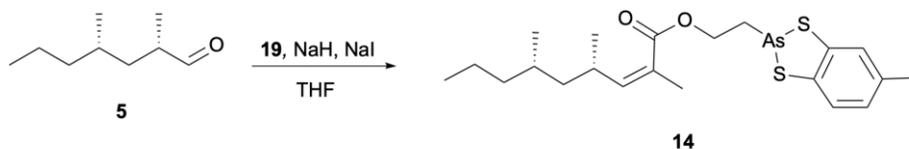
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (tt, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.11 (tt, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (tt, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (dt, J = 11.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dt, J = 11.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dq, J = 24.1, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.18 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.69 (dd, J = 19.4, 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 1.30 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.5 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 150.8 (dd, J = 25.5, 9.1 Hz), 139.8, 138.9 (dd, J = 8.1, 6.5 Hz), 136.2 (d, J = 4.4 Hz), 135.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 127.0, 126.8, 124.6, 119.7 (d, J = 20.3 Hz), 62.5, 41.2 (d, J = 138.6 Hz), 34.8, 33.1, 30.2 (d, J = 4.2 Hz), 20.8, 12.1 (d, J = 6.2 Hz).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.25.

HRMS calcd. for [C₃₂H₃₉AsO₅PS₂]⁻ 673.1198, found 673.1203.

Synthesis of **14**

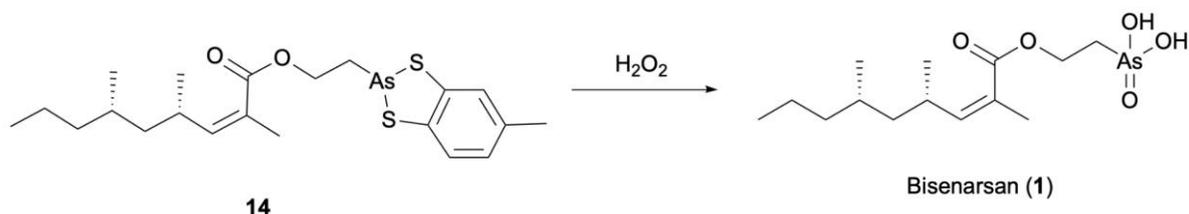


The Ando olefination reaction was performed according to a modified procedure by Pihko *et al.*^[7]. To a round-bottom flask were added a 60% suspension of sodium hydride in paraffin oil (29 mg, 0.73 mmol, 1.15 eq.), sodium iodide (95 mg, 0.63 mmol, 1 eq.) and pentane (2 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. The flask was swirled and pentane was removed with a syringe, after which the washing step was repeated with 2 mL of fresh pentane. Anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added to the flask and the mixture was cooled to -15 °C. A solution of the phosphonate **19** (512 mg, 0.759 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction flask and the mixture was allowed to stir for 15 min at that temperature. The mixture was then cooled to -78 °C and a solution of the aldehyde **5** (90 mg, 0.63 mmol, 1 eq.) in THF (0.5 mL) was added to the flask and the stirring was continued overnight, allowing the reaction mixture to warm up to room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched by adding saturated NH₄Cl solution (~5 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvent. The residue was then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 mL). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (2% Et₂O in pentane, R_f ~0.5) to obtain **14** (174 mg, 61%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (dq, J = 10.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.34 – 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.89 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.39 – 1.15 (m, 6H), 1.14 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

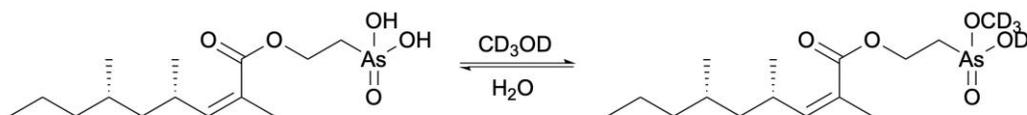
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.3, 150.4, 139.8, 136.3, 135.8, 128.0, 127.1, 126.7, 125.2, 60.7, 45.3, 40.0, 33.8, 31.3, 30.7, 21.4, 21.0, 20.8, 20.2, 19.8, 14.5.
 HRMS calcd. for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{31}\text{AsO}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}]^+$ 477.0874, found 477.0870.

Synthesis of 1



Ester **14** (56 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in acetonitrile (2 ml) and 30% aqueous hydrogen peroxide (60 μL , 62 mmol, 5 eq.) was added to the obtained solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h, after which it was loaded directly onto a silica column. Flash column chromatography (100% CH_3CN \rightarrow 10% water in CH_3CN , R_f \sim 0.2 in 10% water in CH_3CN) yielded a residue that was dissolved in DCM. The solution was filtered through a 0.2 μm PTFE syringe filter and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield Bisenarsan **1** (37 mg, 85%) as a white solid.

Analytical data is in agreement with values reported for natural bisenarsan. Similarly to natural bisenarsan, additional signals were observed in the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra when CD_3OD was used as the solvent. When the ^1H NMR spectrum was recorded in CD_2Cl_2 , no additional signals were observed. The additional signals are assumed to arise from the rapid esterification reaction between bisenarsan and CD_3OD ^[8]:



The formation of mono- and bis-(trideutero)methyl esters in CD_3OD solution is also confirmed by HRMS (see below). Since the degree of esterification is dependent on the age of the sample, the splitting pattern and the chemical shift of signals corresponding to the alkene proton and (2-hydroxyethyl)arsonic acid moiety show a certain degree of variability. Moreover, the chemical shift of the protons α - to the arsonic acid is heavily dependent on the degree of protonation of the acid. This effect has been encountered before by Hoshino *et al.*^[9] during their synthesis of (2-hydroxyethyl)arsonic acid. Using CD_2Cl_2 as a solvent leads to consistent spectra, but CD_3OD was used for most of the analyses for the purpose of comparison with the natural isolate.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 6.55 (br. s, 2H), 5.68 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 – 4.15 (m, 2H), 3.62 – 3.09 (m, 1H), 2.75 (s, 2H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.60 – 1.16 (m, 6H), 1.15 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

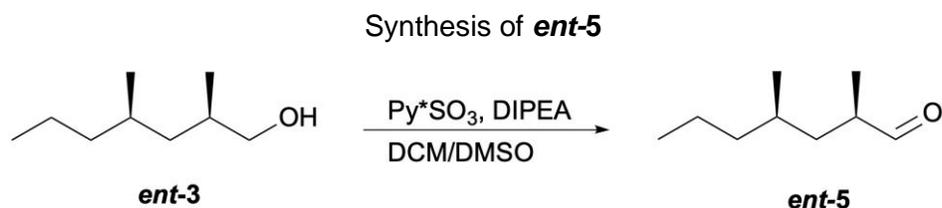
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 5.77 – 5.67 (m, 1H), 4.51 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (m, 1H), 2.98 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.42 – 1.18 (m, 6H), 1.17 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.52 (dd, $J = 10.5, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, $J = 10.5, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.80 – 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.42 – 1.17 (m, 4H), 1.10 – 0.99 (m, 1H), 0.98 – 0.84 (m, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 68.6, 41.2, 39.1, 33.3, 29.9, 20.5, 20.1, 17.4, 14.5.

$[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +13.3^\circ$ ($c = 0.53$, CHCl_3).

An HRMS could not be obtained due to poor ionisation of the compound.

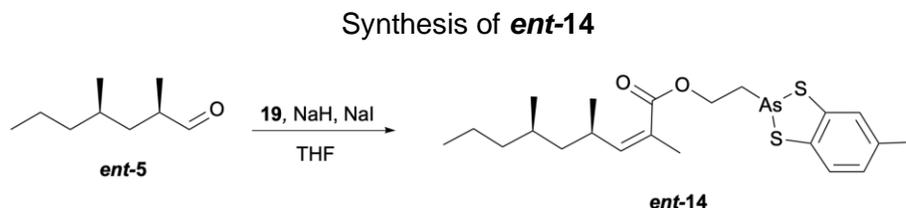


Sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (221 mg, 1.39 mmol, 4 eq.) was dissolved in anhydrous DMSO (3 mL) and the obtained solution was stirred at rt for 15 min. In a separate flask, DIPEA (0.362 mL, 2.08 mmol, 6 eq.) was added to a solution of the alcohol **ent-3** (50 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1 eq.) in a mixture of anhydrous DCM (6 mL) and DMSO (3 mL). The $\text{Py}\cdot\text{SO}_3$ solution was then added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 45 min. A saturated solution of NH_4Cl (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and the layers were separated. The aqueous solution was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 20 mL), the organic extracts were combined, washed with 1 M pH 7 phosphate buffer (2 x 15 ml), followed by brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford crude **ent-5**. This was dissolved in a 95 : 5 pentane/ Et_2O mixture and passed through a column of silica (~10 g). The eluent was evaporated to yield **ent-5** (43 mg, 87%) as a colourless oil which was used immediately in the next step.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.58 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (hd, $J = 7.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.75 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.44 (m, 1H), 1.41 – 1.19 (m, 3H), 1.17 – 1.10 (m, 1H), 1.07 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 – 0.82 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.7, 44.3, 39.1, 38.4, 30.3, 20.0, 20.0, 14.4, 14.3.

An HRMS could not be obtained due to poor ionisation of the compound.



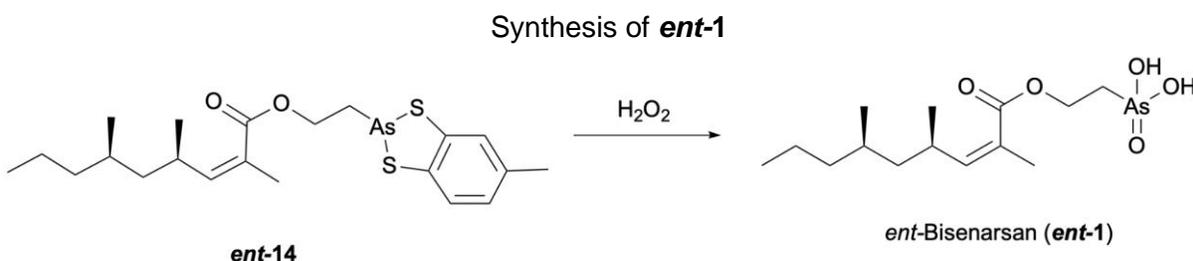
The Ando olefination reaction was performed according to a modified procedure by Pihko *et al.*^[7]. To a round-bottom flask were added a 60% suspension of sodium hydride in paraffin oil (16 mg, 0.40 mmol, 1.2 eq.), sodium iodide (53 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1 eq.) and pentane (2 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The flask was swirled and pentane was removed with a syringe, after which the washing step was repeated with 2 mL of fresh pentane. Anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added to the flask and the mixture was cooled to -15 °C. A solution of phosphonate **19** (308 mg, 0.457 mmol,

1.2 eq.) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction flask and the mixture was allowed to stir for 15 min at the same temperature. The mixture was then cooled to -78 °C and a solution of the aldehyde **ent-5** (50 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1 eq.) in THF (0.5 mL) was added to the flask and the stirring was continued overnight, allowing the reaction mixture to warm up to room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched by adding saturated NH₄Cl solution (~5 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvent. The residue was then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 ml). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (2% Et₂O in pentane, rf ~0.5) to provide **ent-14** (91 mg, 57%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7, 1H), 5.66 (dq, J = 10.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.34 – 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.89 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.39 – 1.15 (m, 3H), 1.14 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 150.4, 139.8, 136.3, 135.8, 128.0, 127.2, 126.7, 125.2, 60.7, 45.3, 40.0, 33.8, 31.3, 30.7, 21.4, 21.1, 20.8, 20.2, 19.8, 14.5.

HRMS calcd. for [C₂₁H₃₁O₂S₂AsH]⁺ 455.1054, found 455.1010.



Ester **ent-14** (47 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in acetonitrile (2 mL) and 30% aqueous hydrogen peroxide (50 μL, 0.51 mmol, 5 eq.) was added to the obtained solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h, after which it was loaded directly onto a silica column. Flash column chromatography (100% CH₃CN → 10% water in CH₃CN, R_f ~0.2 in 10% water in CH₃CN) yielded a residue that was dissolved in DCM. The solution was filtered through a 0.2 μm PTFE syringe filter and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield *ent*-bisenarsan **ent-1** (24 mg, 67%) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 5.93 (br. s, 2H), 5.67 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 4.61 – 4.36 (m, 2H), 3.37 – 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.83 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.39 – 1.16 (m, 7H), 1.13 – 1.00 (m, 2H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

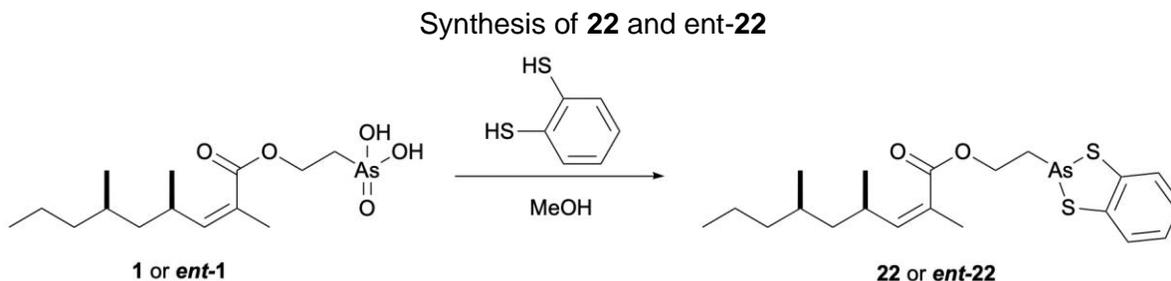
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 5.71 (ddq, J = 20.0, 10.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (dt, J = 12.5, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.42 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 2.98 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (dd, J = 5.8, 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.40 – 1.17 (m, 3H), 1.15 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.96 (dd, J = 6.6, 2.9 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 168.8, 168.4, 152.0, 151.0, 126.8, 126.3, 59.2, 58.2, 46.3, 46.2, 41.14, 41.11, 32.5, 32.13, 32.11, 31.80, 31.78, 21.5, 21.4, 21.1, 20.91, 20.85, 20.0, 14.7.

HRMS calcd. for [C₁₄H₂₇AsO₅H]⁺ 351.1147, found 351.1150.

[α]₅₈₉²⁰ = +15.8° (c = 0.50, CH₂Cl₂).

Determination of absolute stereochemistry



To a solution of **1** or *ent-1* (50 μg , 143 nmol, 1 eq.) in methanol (100 μl) was added from a stock solution benzene-1,2-dithiol (102 μg , 714 nmol, 5 eq.) in methanol (10 μl) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in heptane (~ 1 mL), the obtained solution was filtered through a 0.2 μm PTFE syringe filter and used for chiral HPLC without further purification.

The chiral HPLC analysis of **22** and *ent-22* was performed using a Shimadzu LC-20 series with a photodiode array detector, Chiralpak AD-H column, n-heptane/*i*-PrOH: 99.5 : 0.5 as mobile phase, flow rate of 1 mL/min and UV detection at 228 nm. The results are presented in Figures S1-S4. The enantiomeric purity of the synthesized Bisenarsan enantiomers could also be determined using its functionalisation as **22** and *ent-22* by integrating the corresponding peaks in the chromatogram (e.r. = 98:2 for **22** and 95:5 for *ent-22*). The chromatograms, along with the peak tables are presented in Figures S2 and S3.

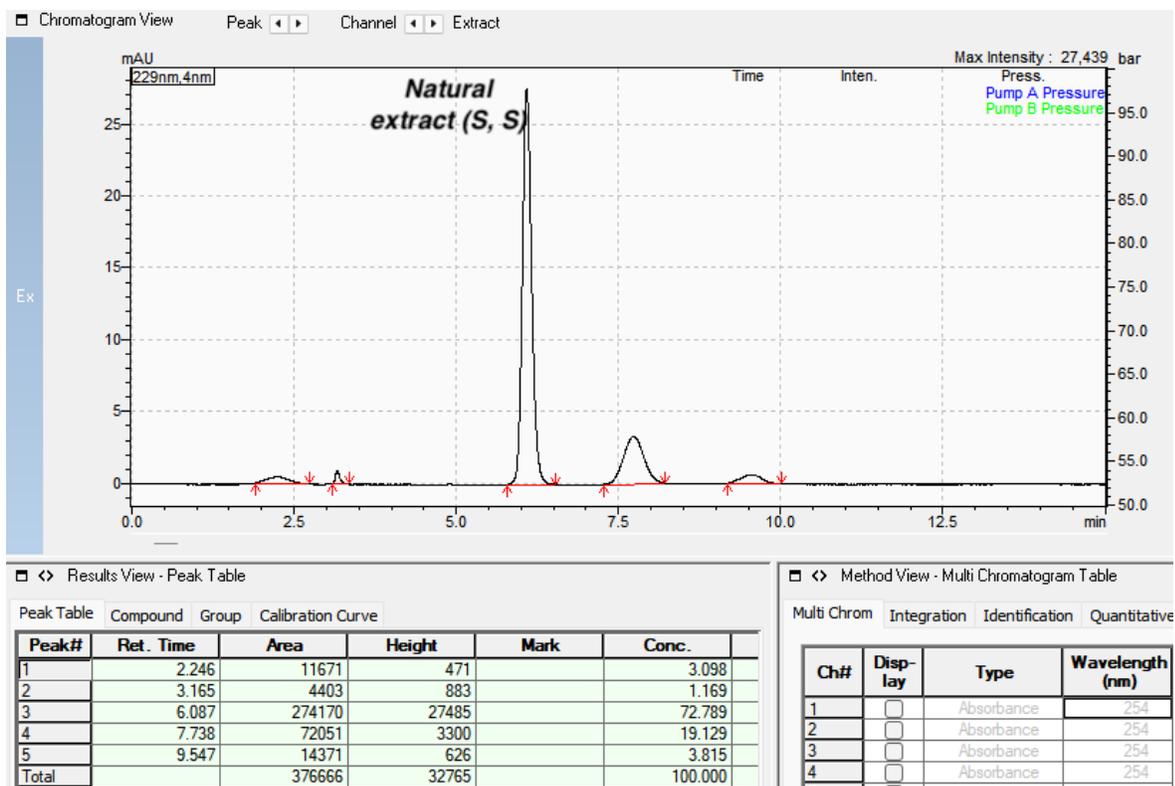


Figure S1. The chromatogram of **22** derived from natural bisenarsan

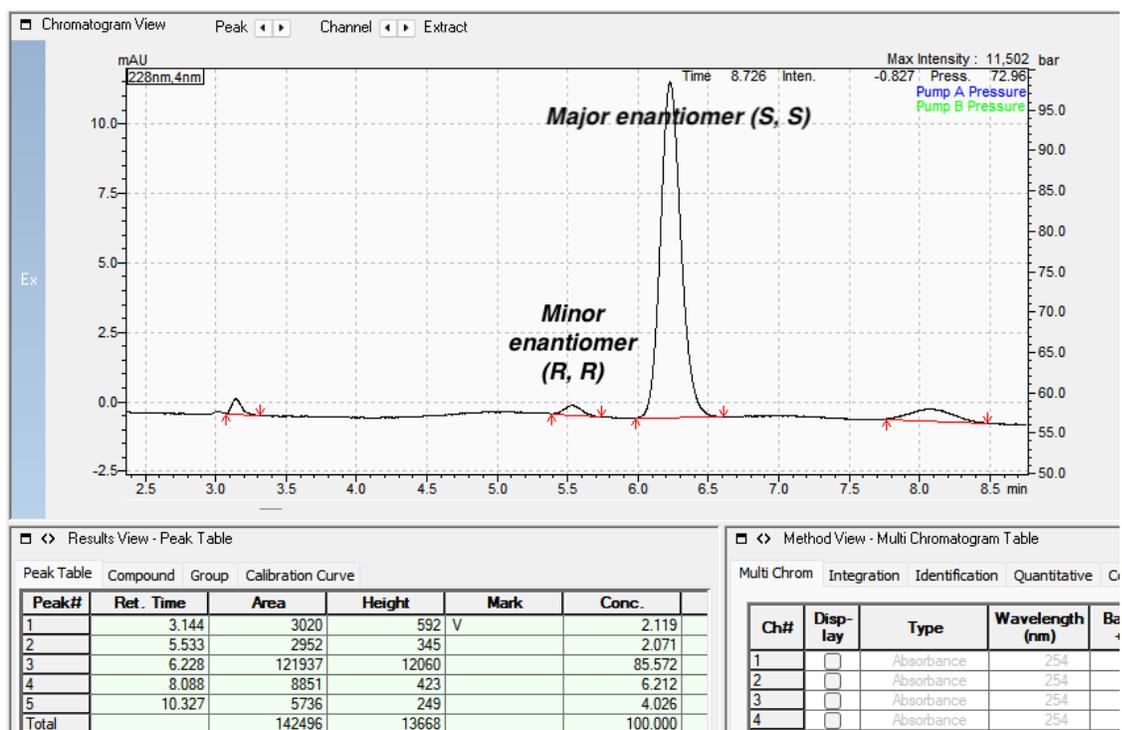


Figure S2. Determination of enantiomeric purity of synthetic **22**

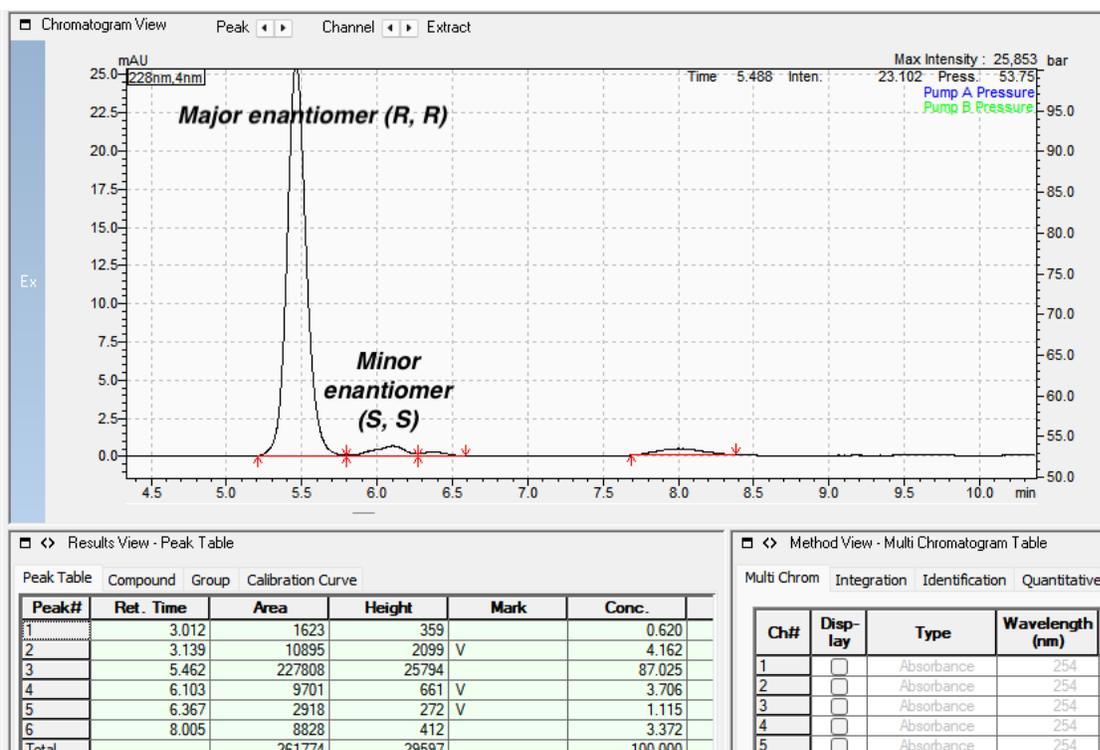


Figure S3. Determination of enantiomeric purity of synthetic **ent-22**

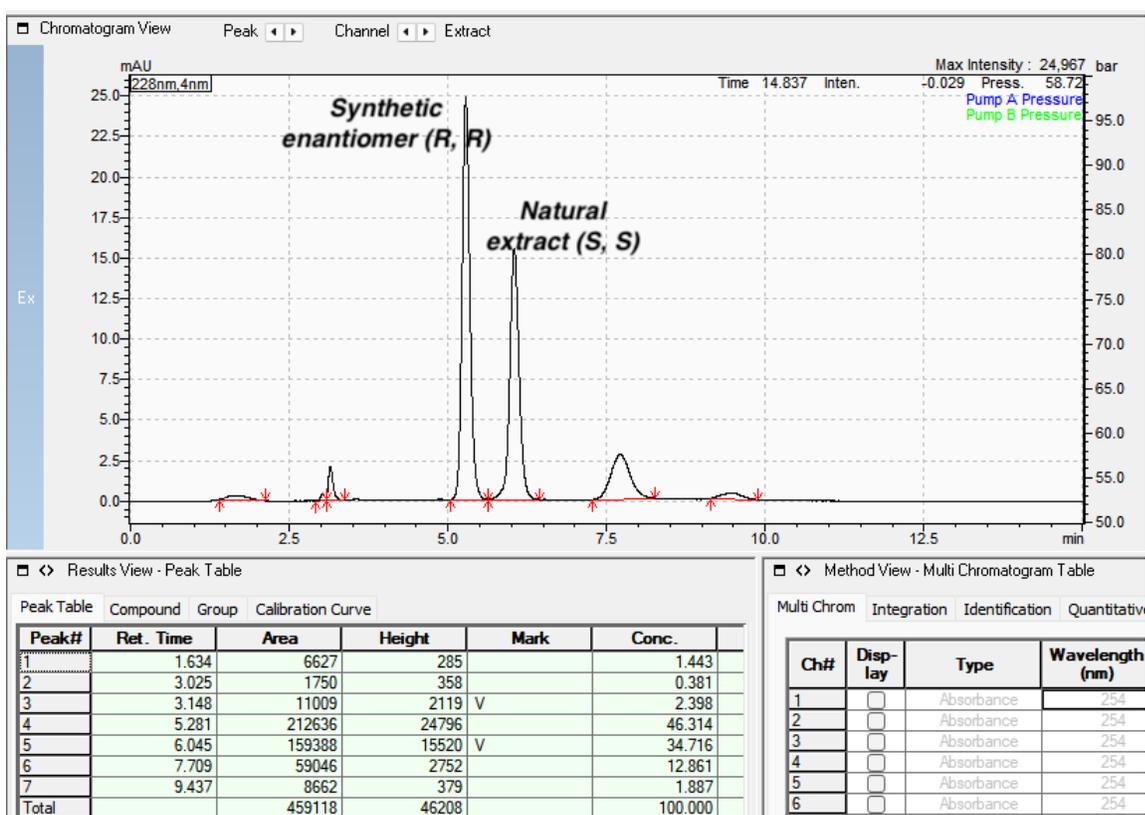
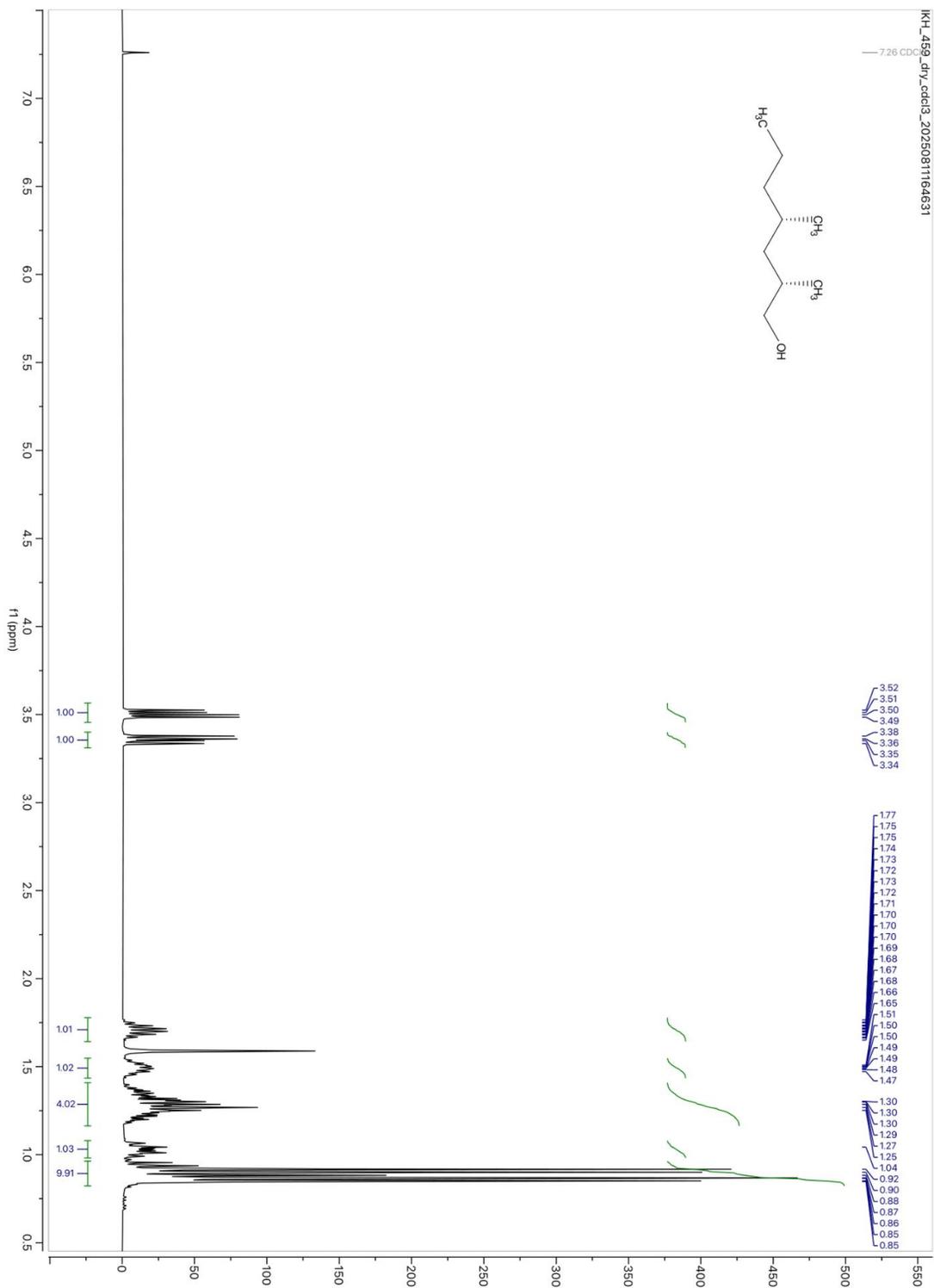
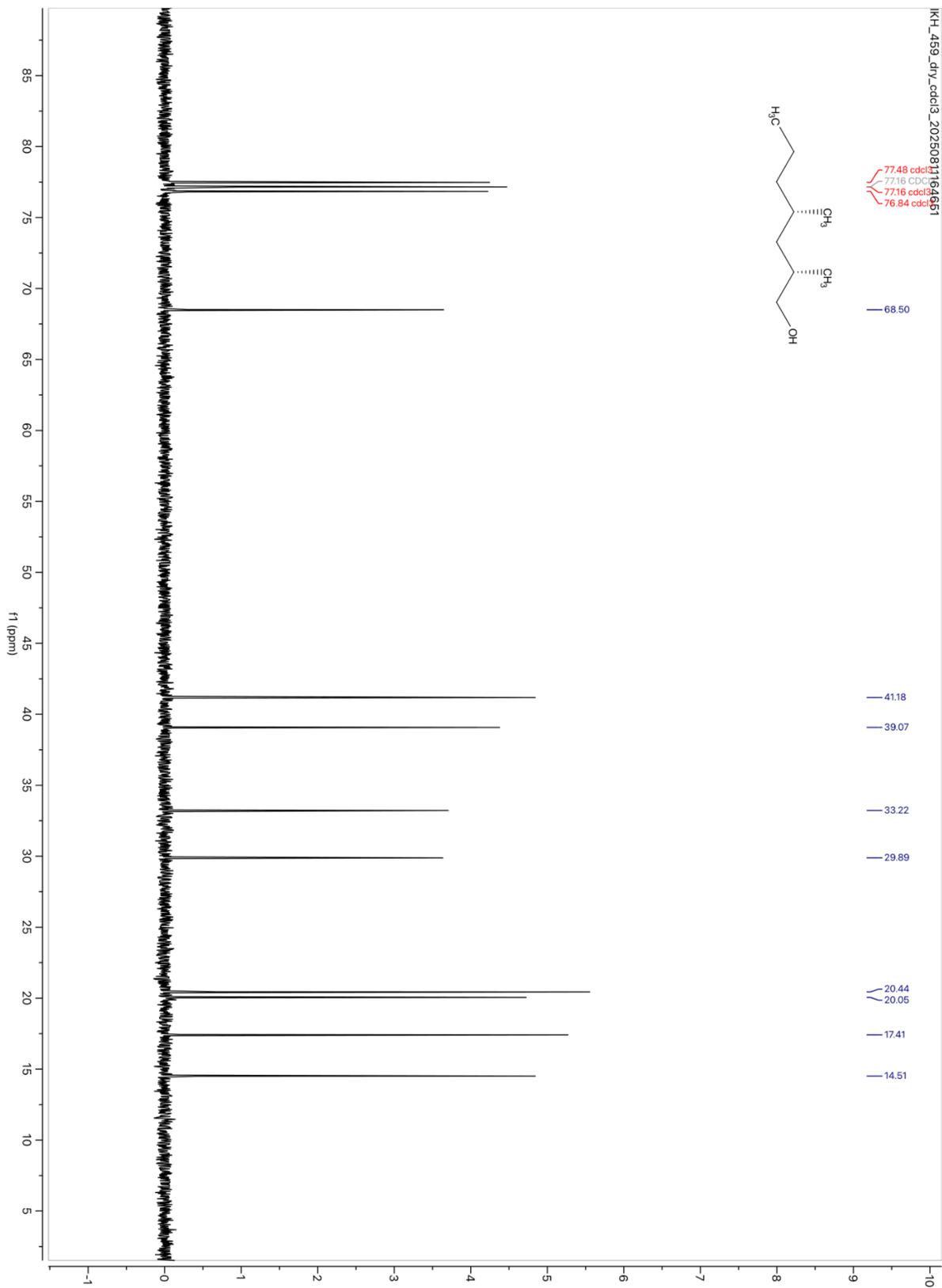
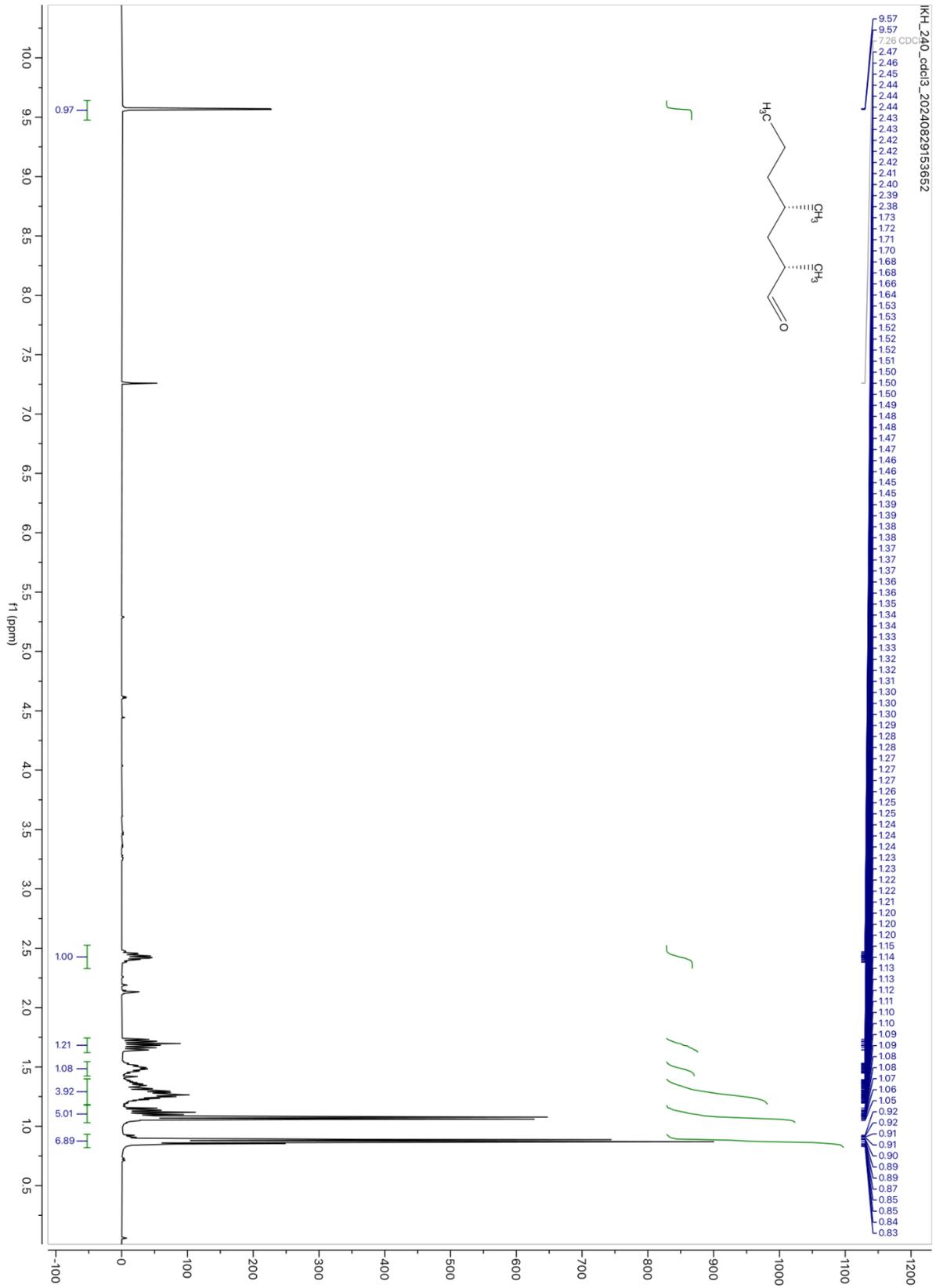


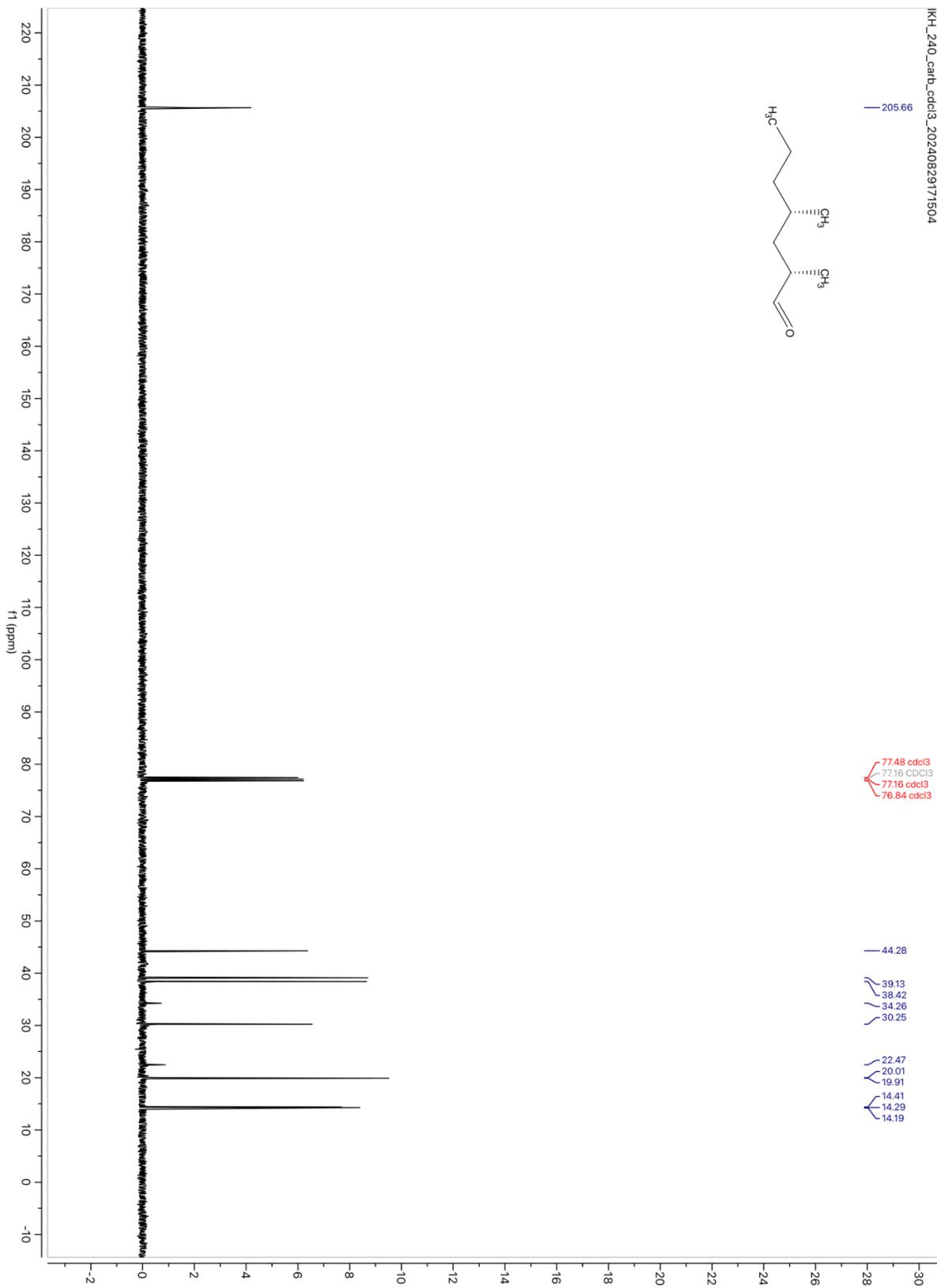
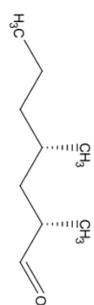
Figure S4. Comparison of **22** derived from natural bisenarsan and synthetic **ent-22**

NMR spectra

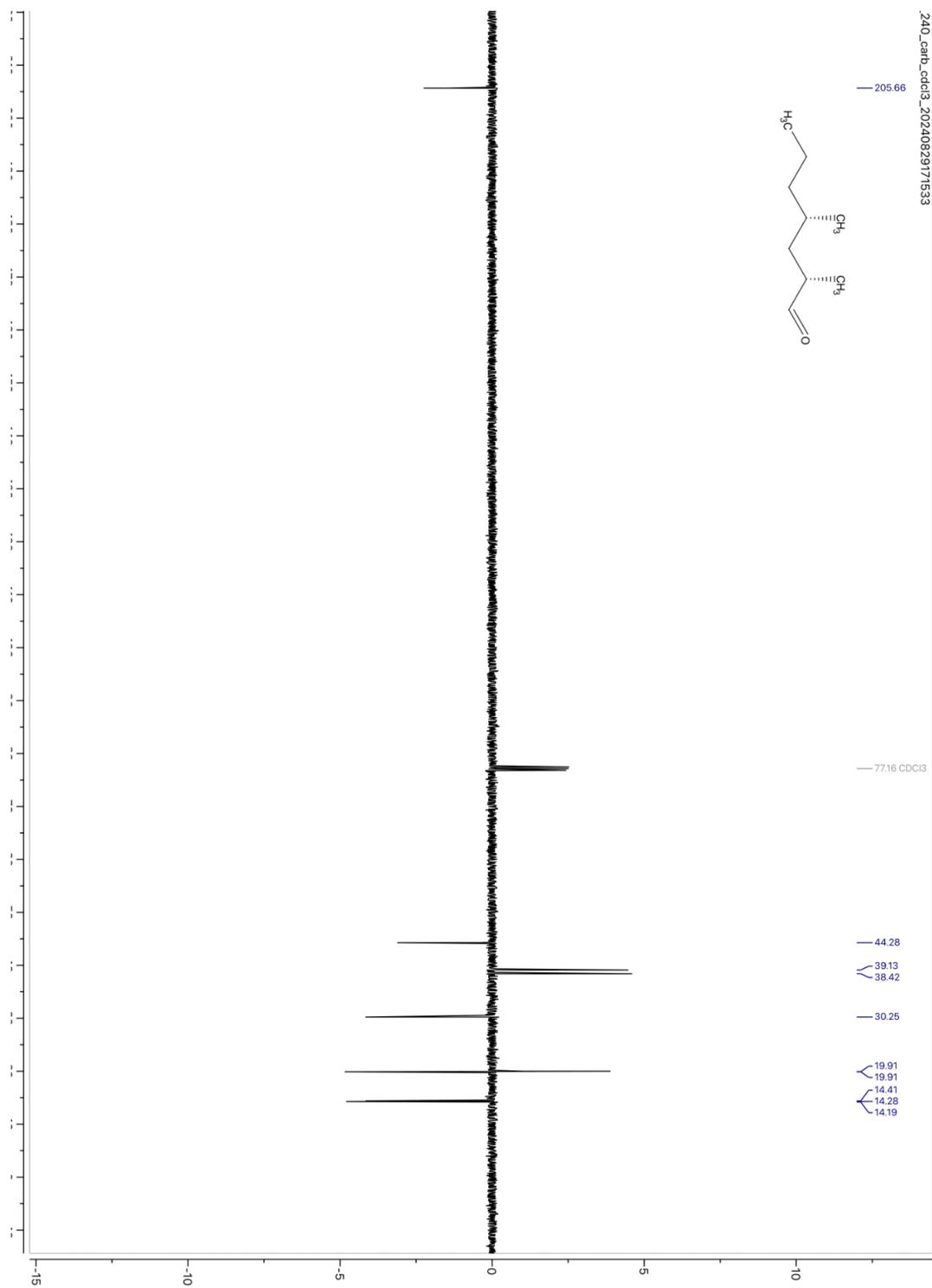


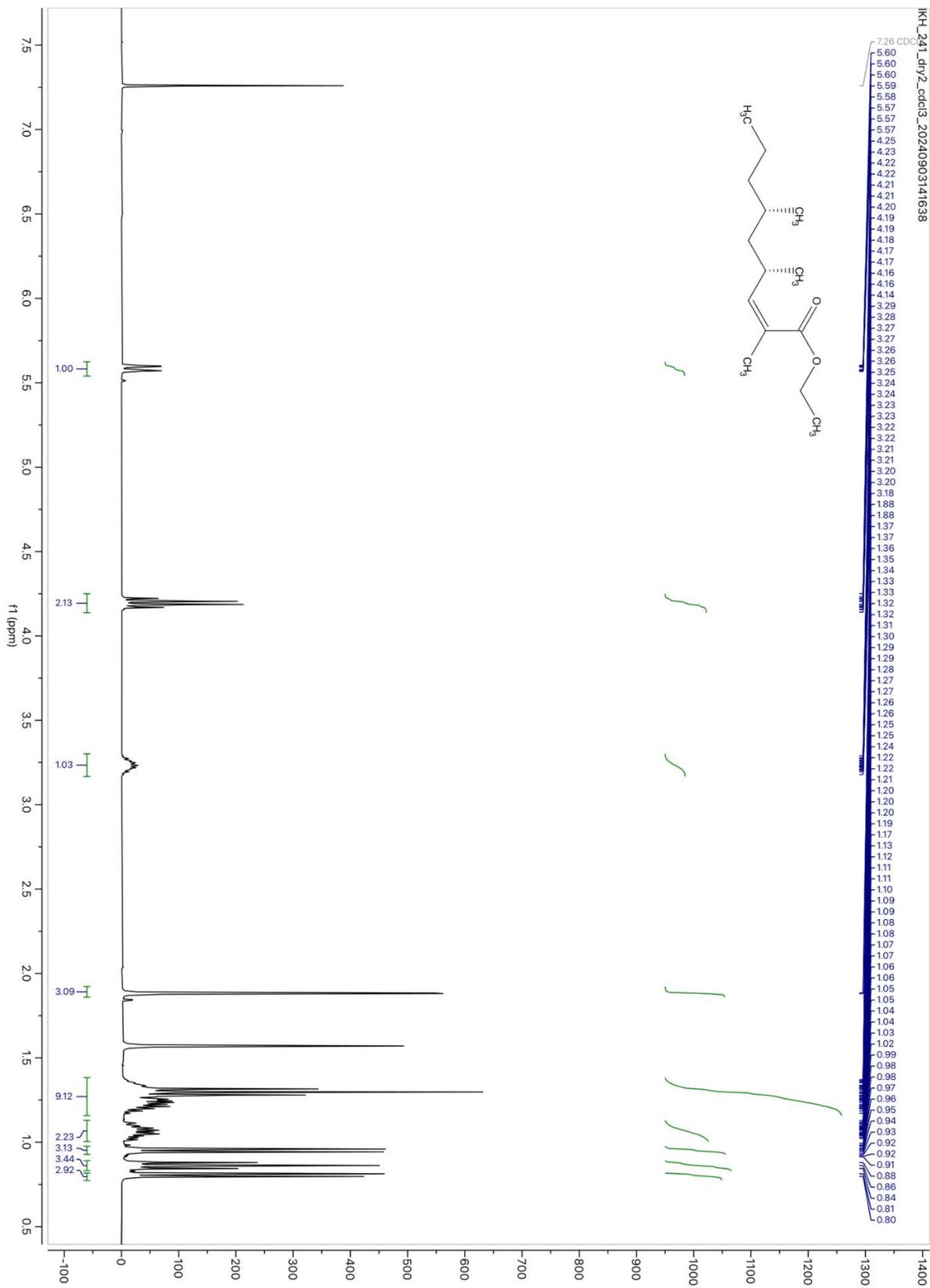




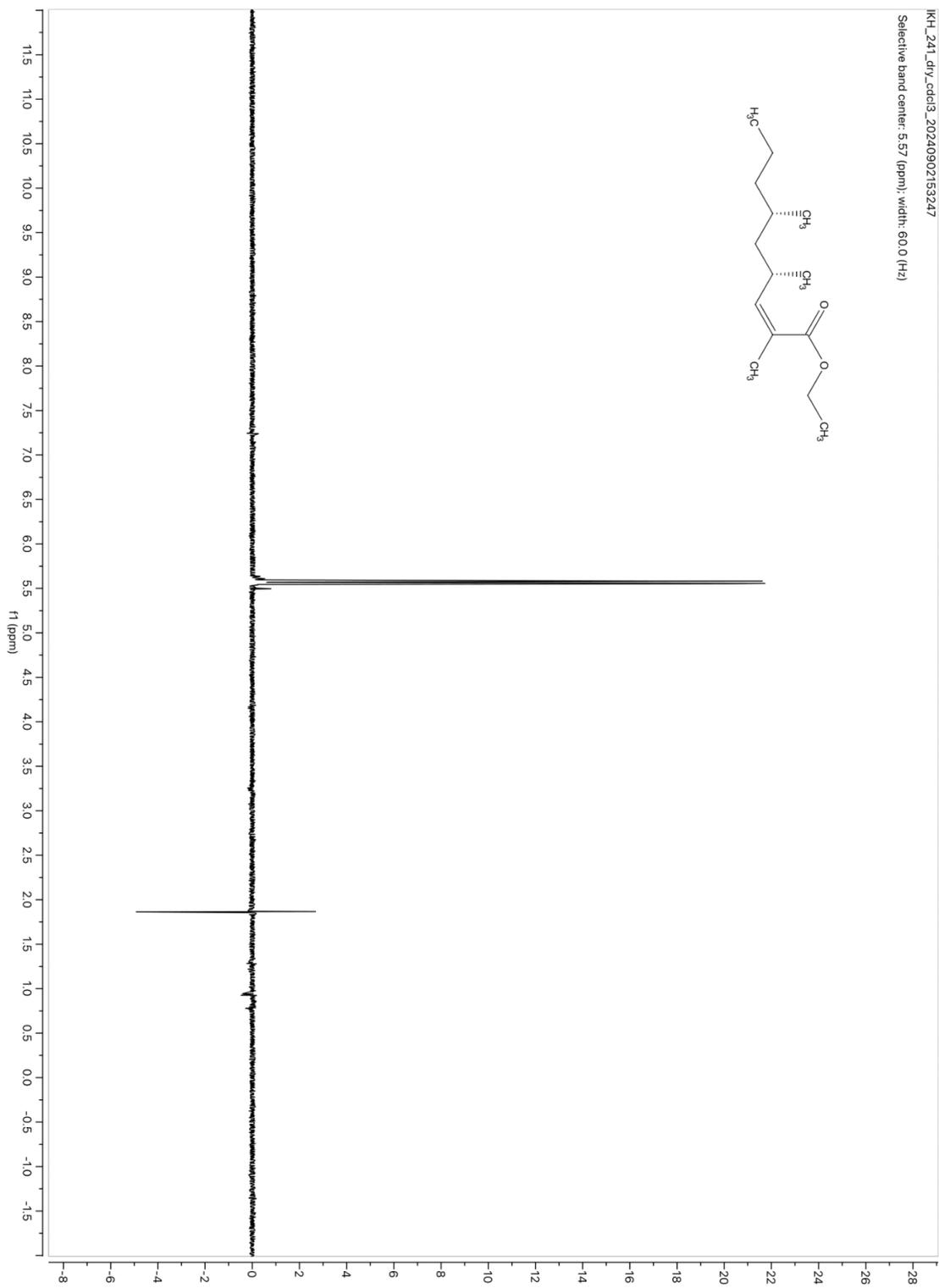


APT spectrum of **5**



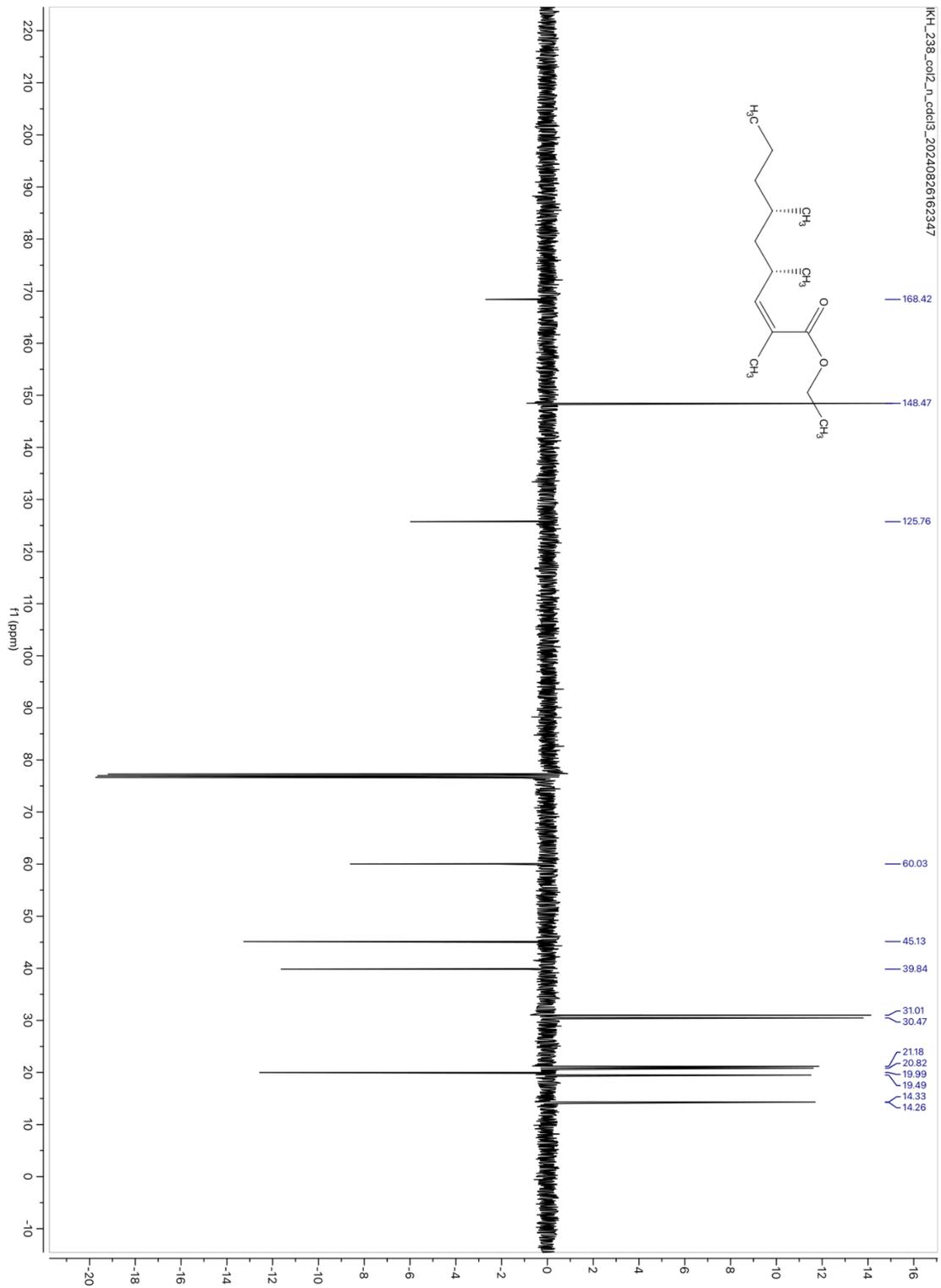


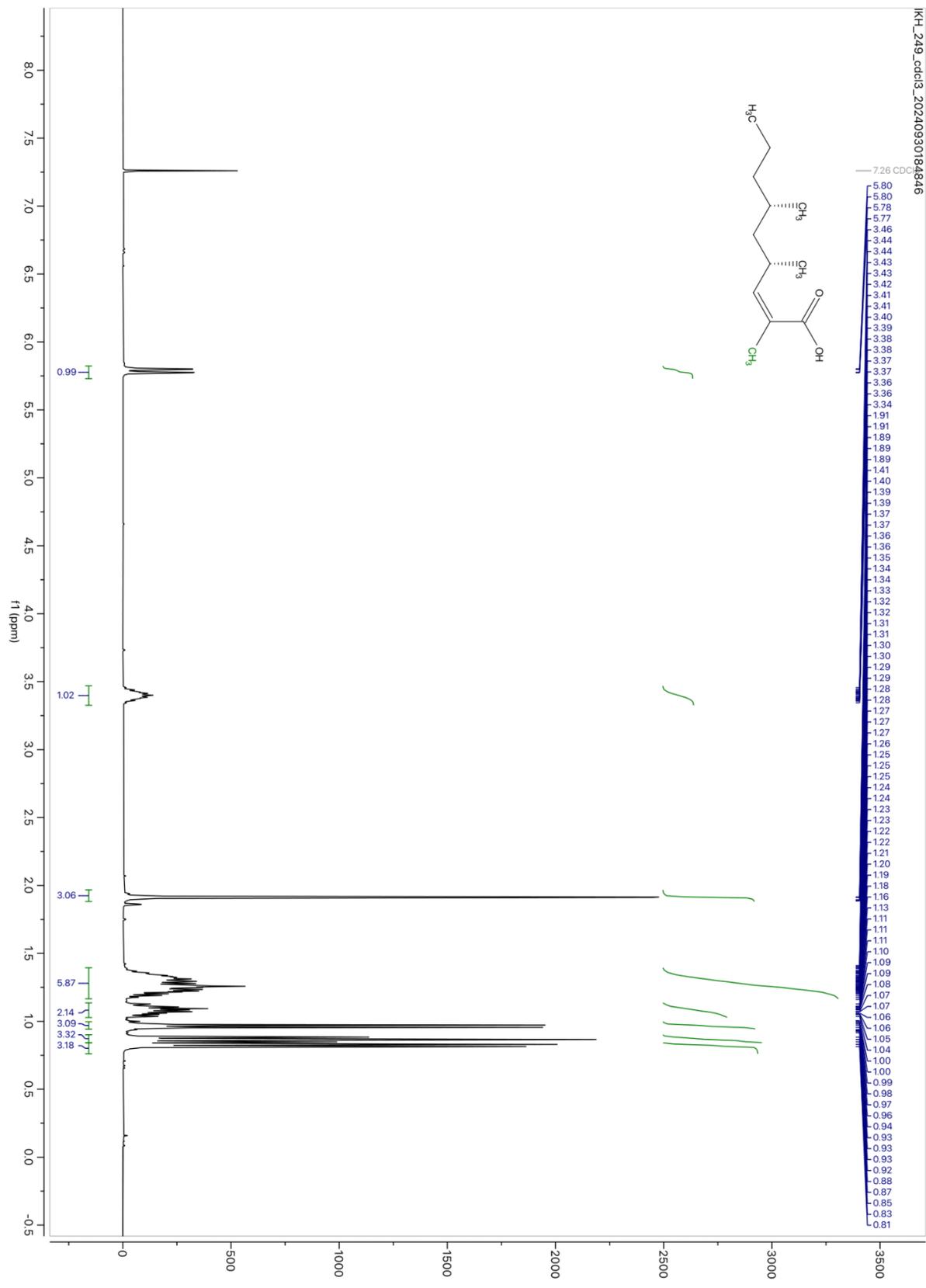
1D NOESY spectrum of **2**

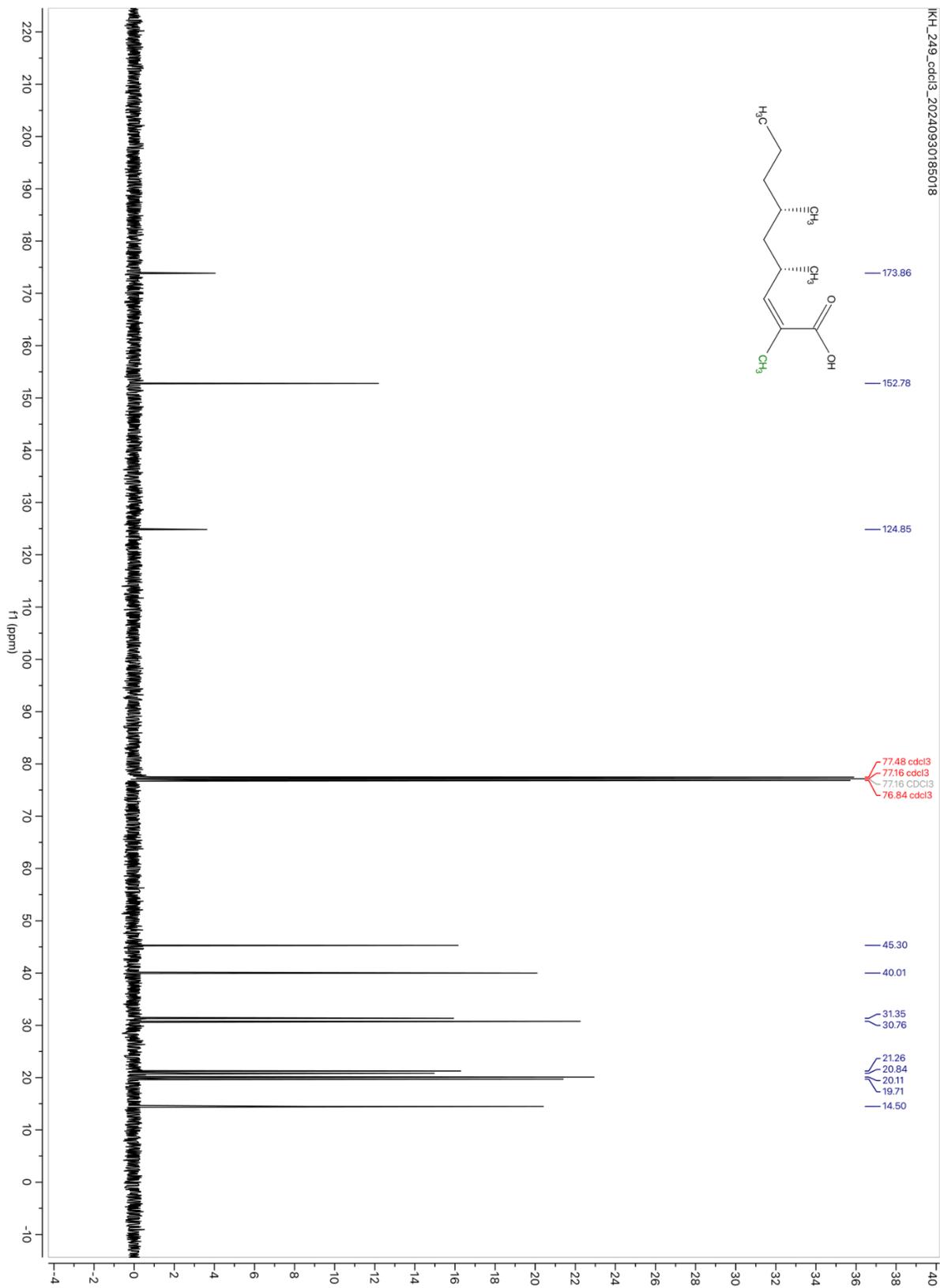


KH_241_dry_cd13_20240902153247
Selective band center: 5.57 (ppm); width: 60.0 (Hz)

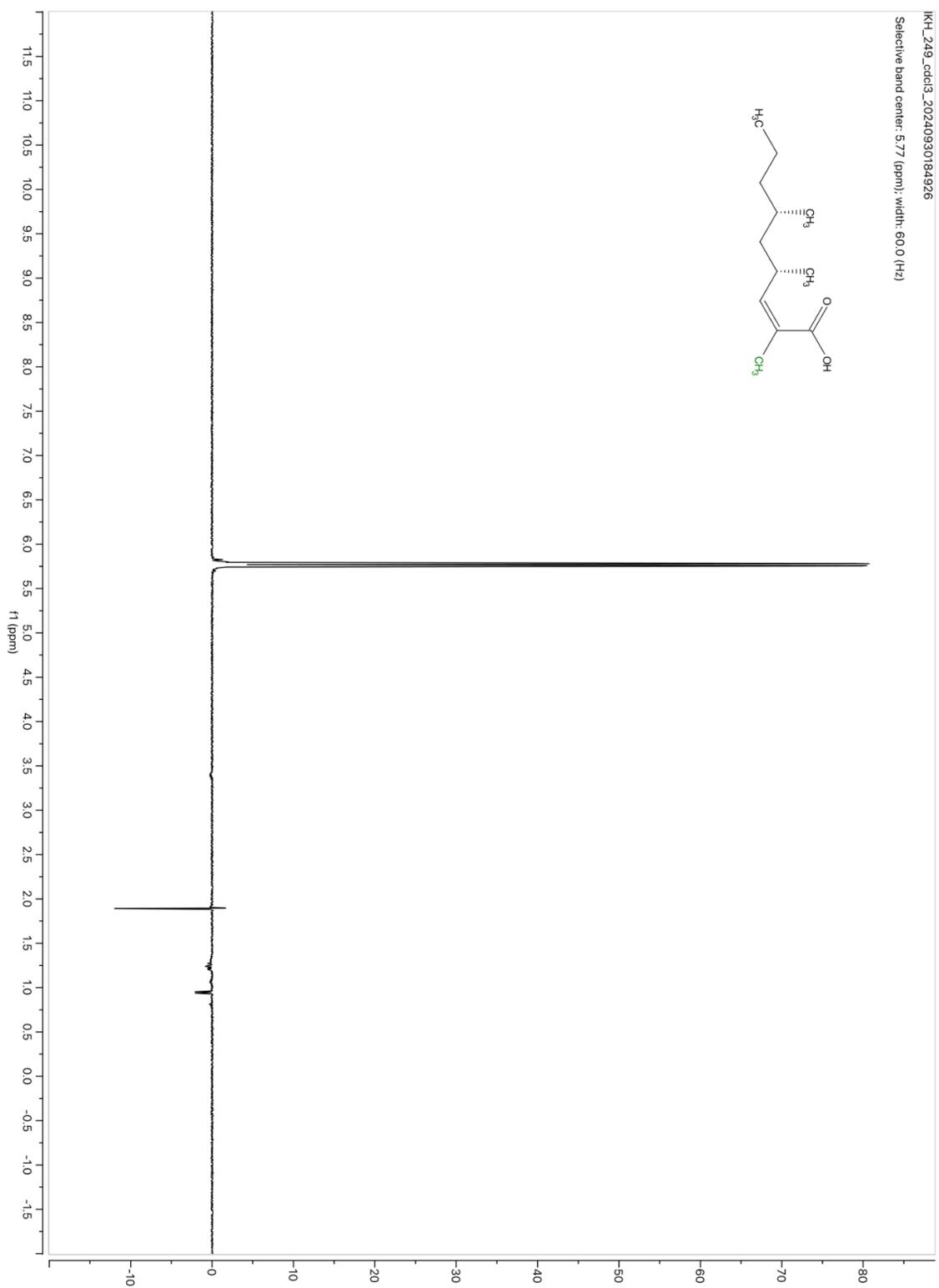
APT spectrum of **2**

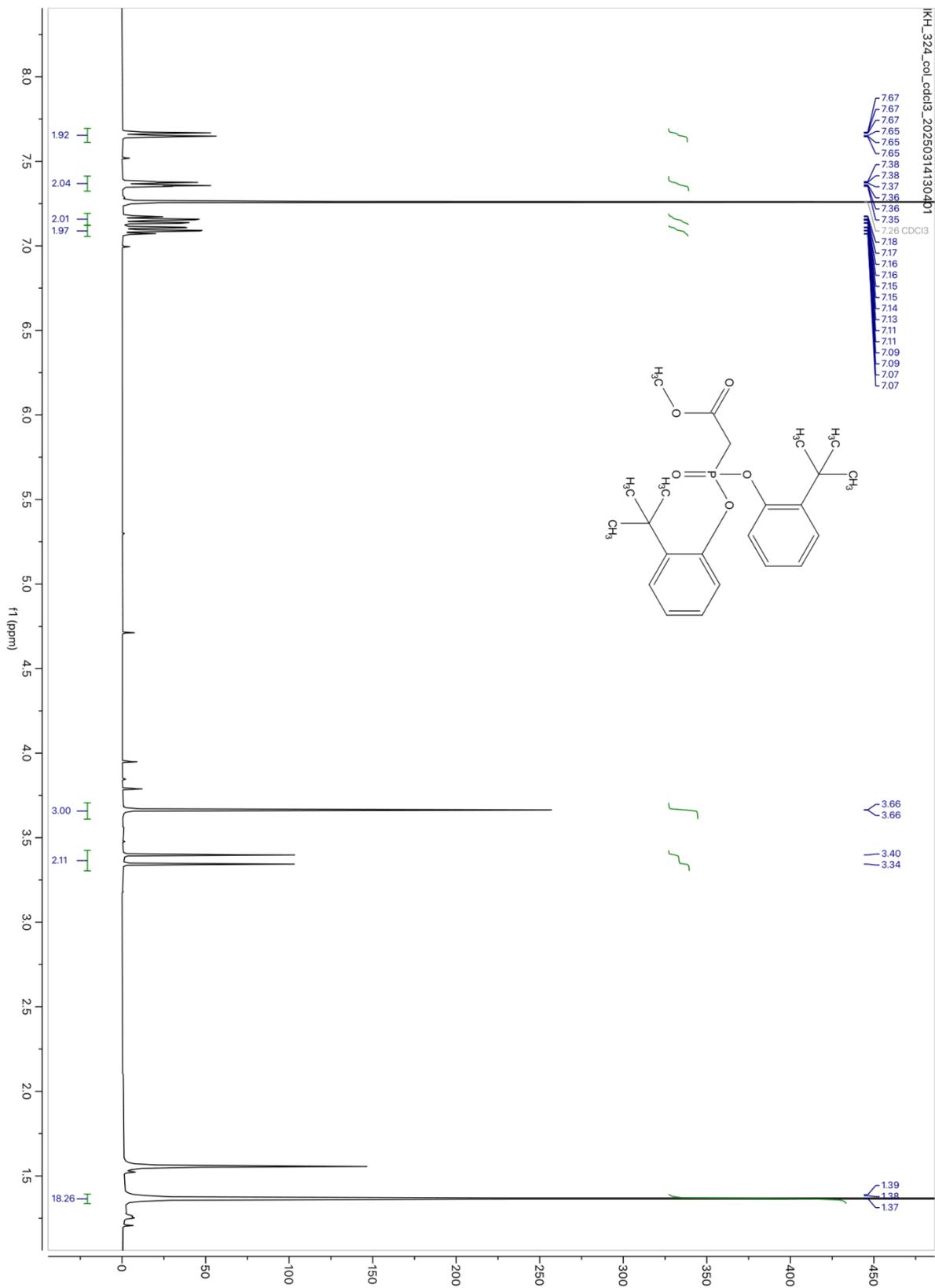


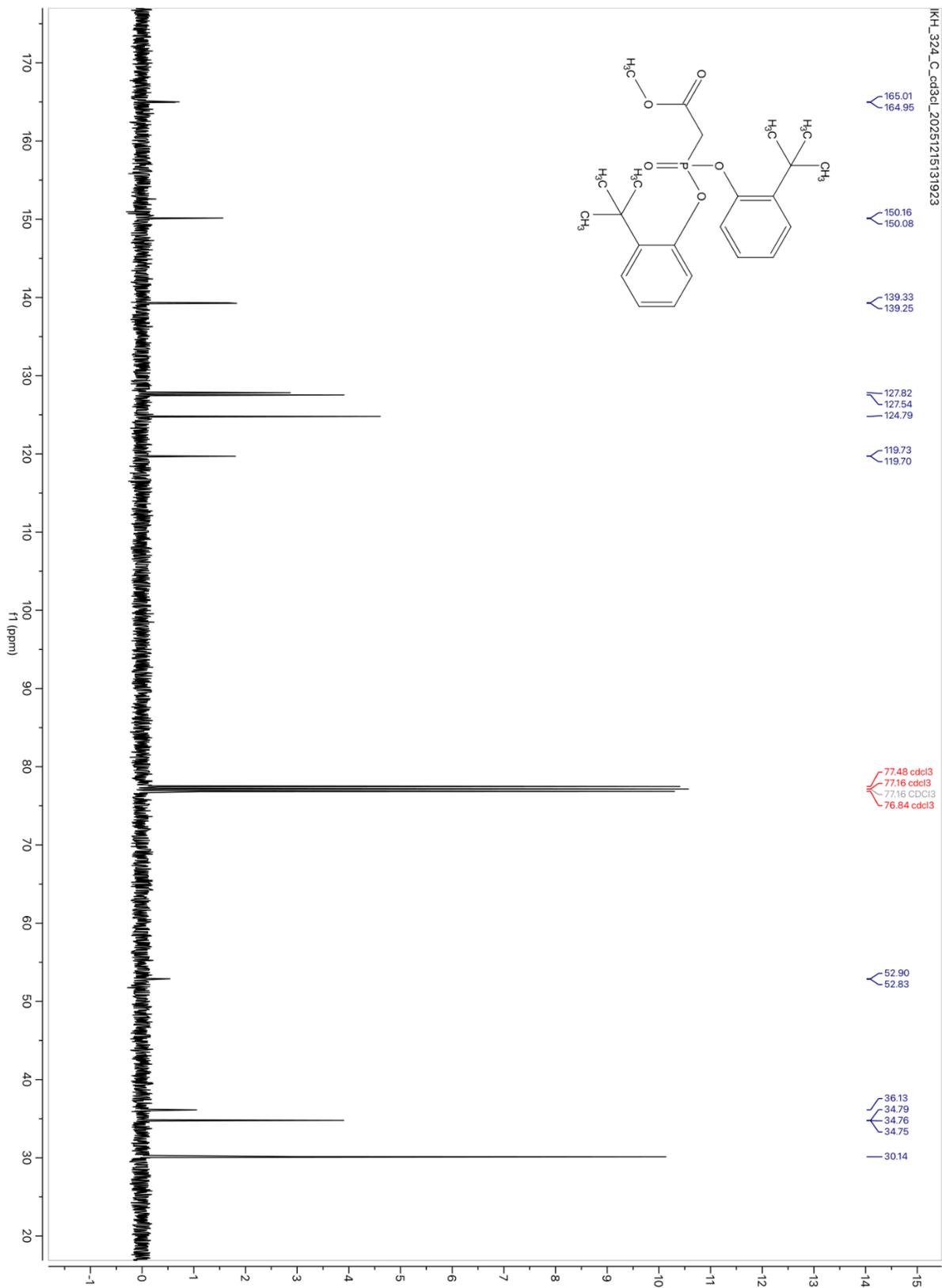


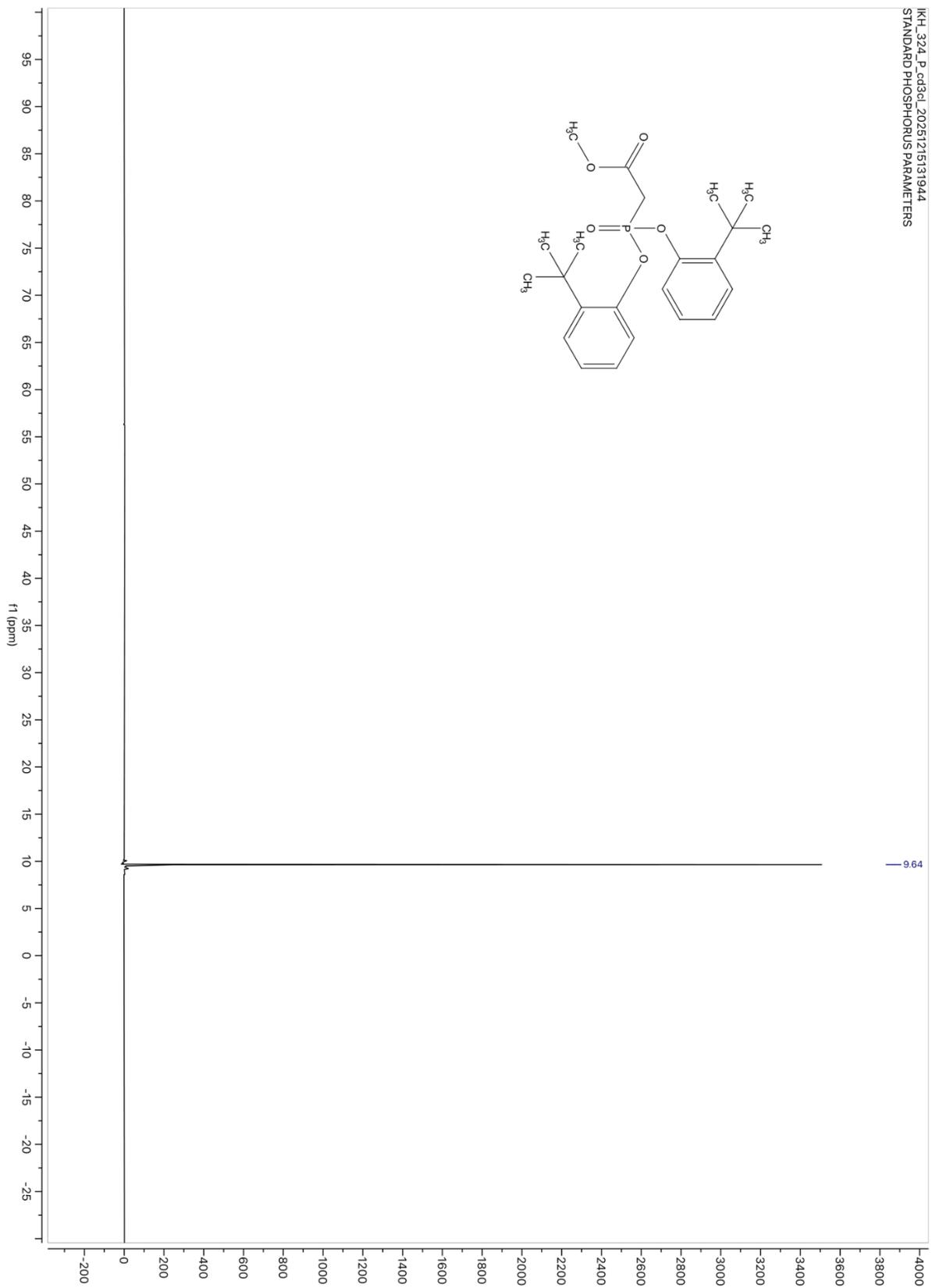
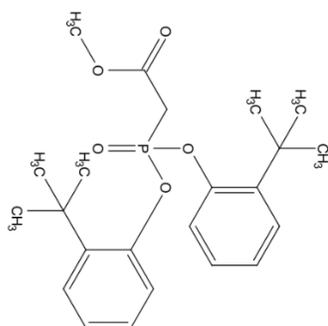


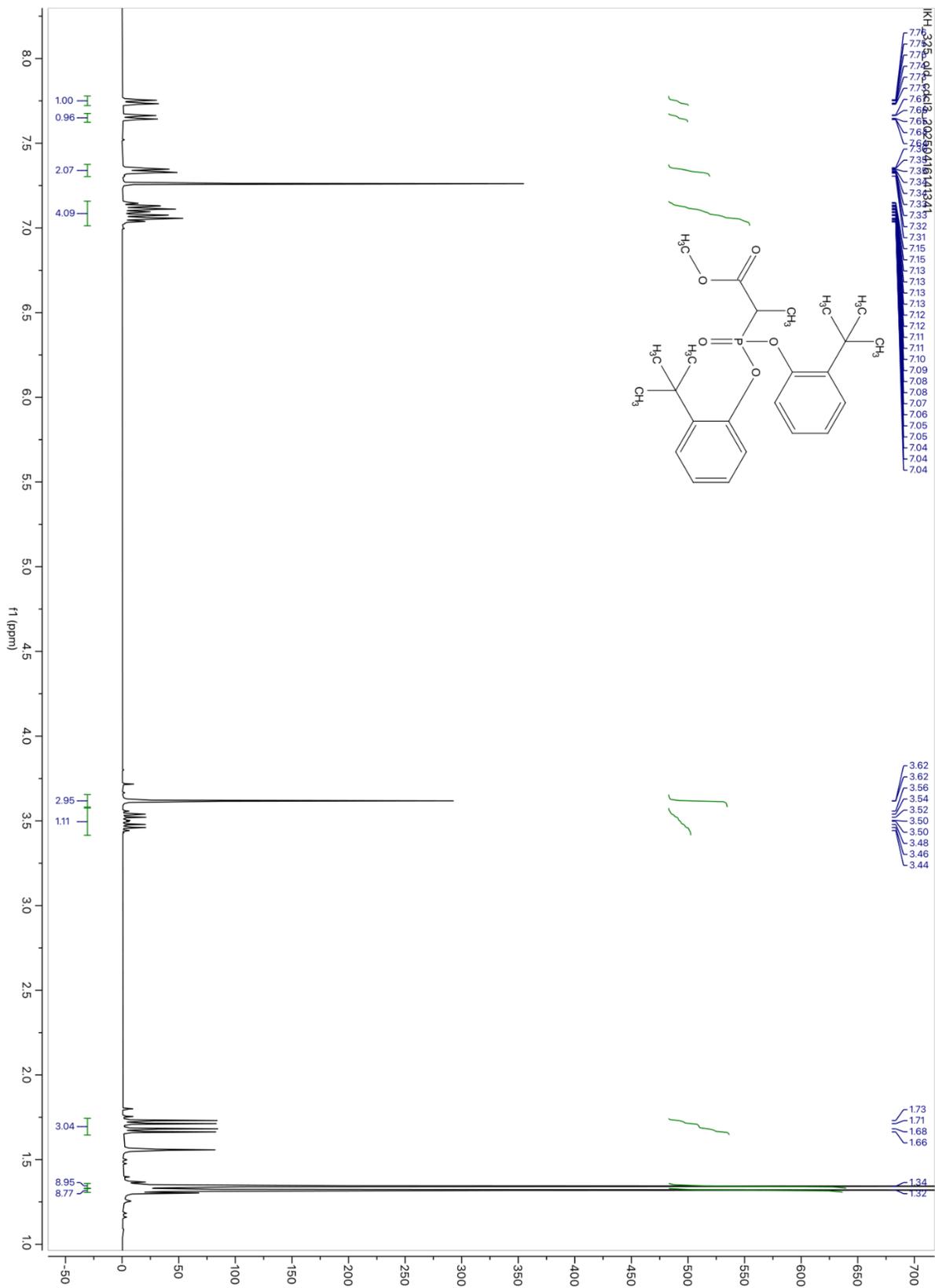
1D NOESY spectrum of **7**

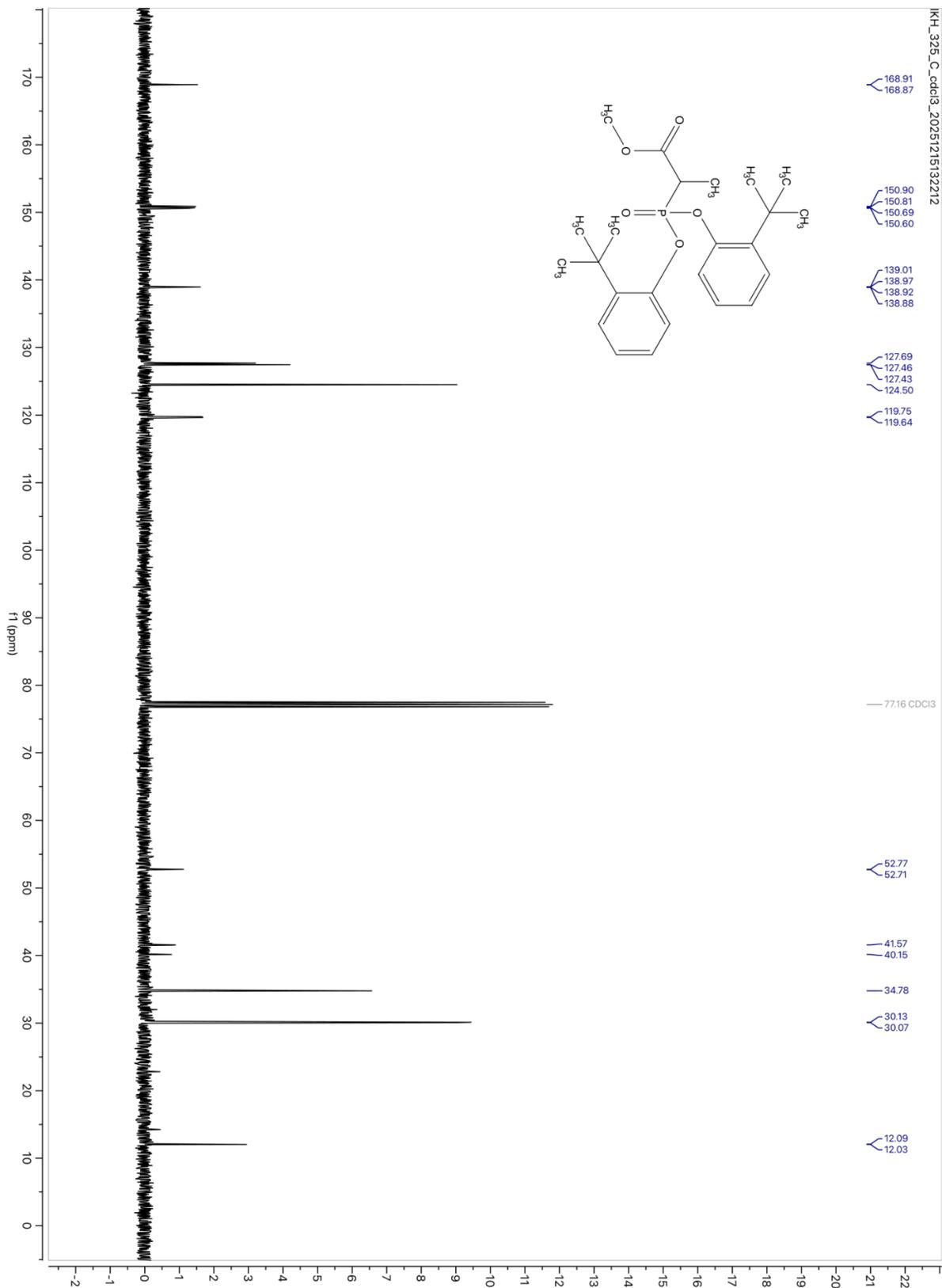


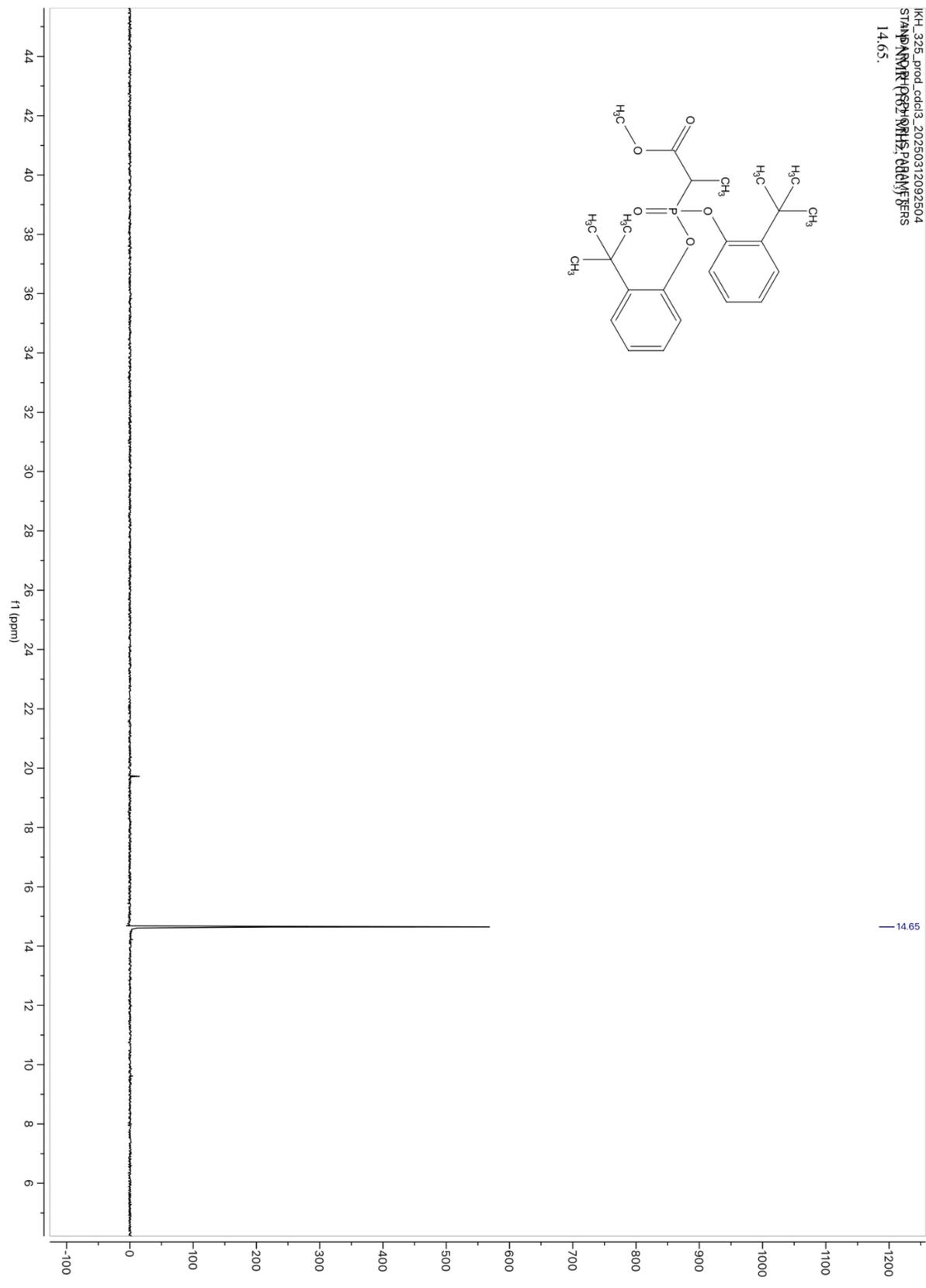
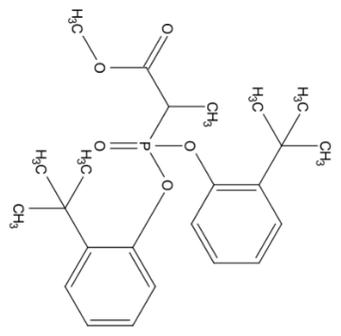


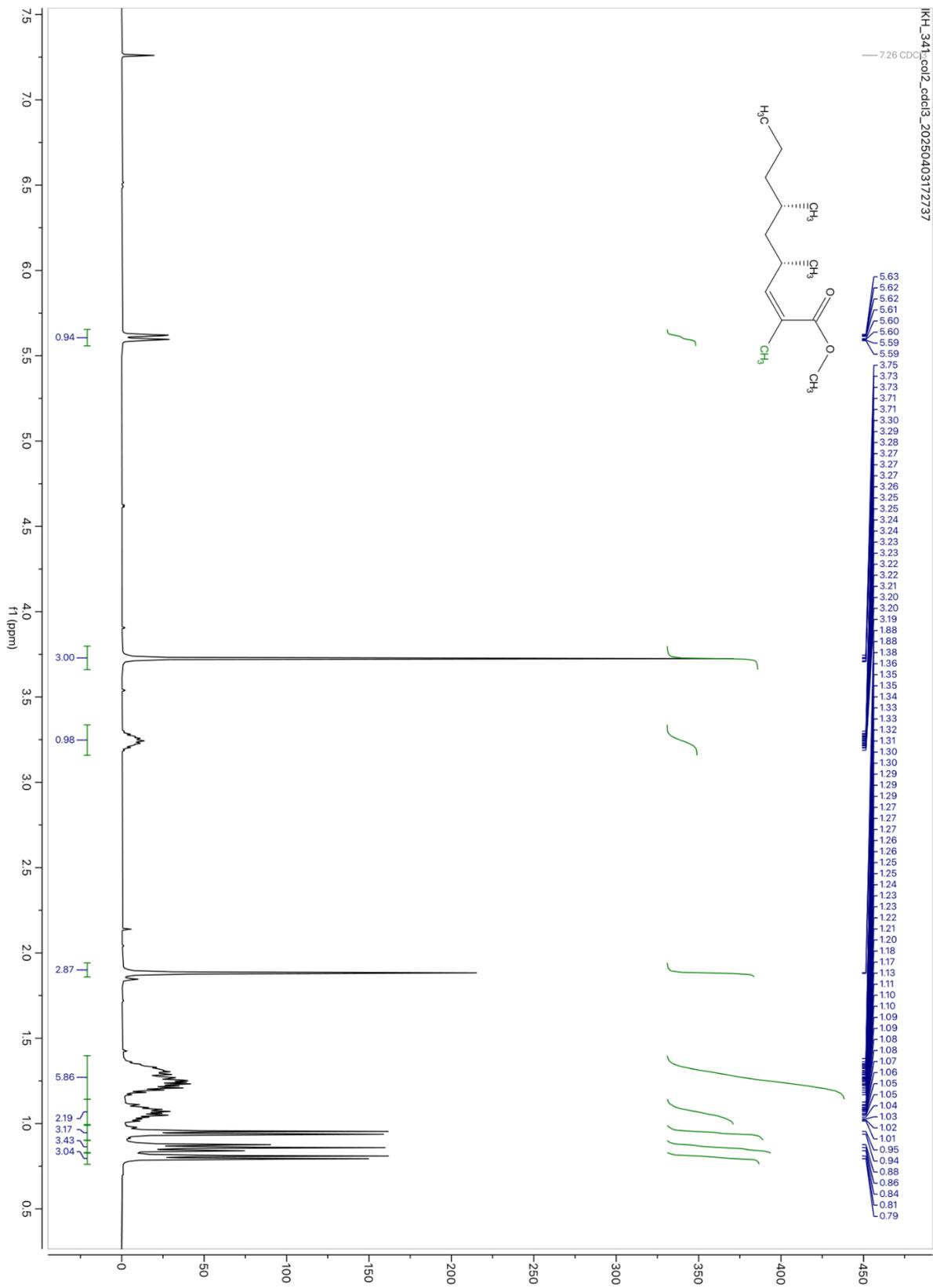




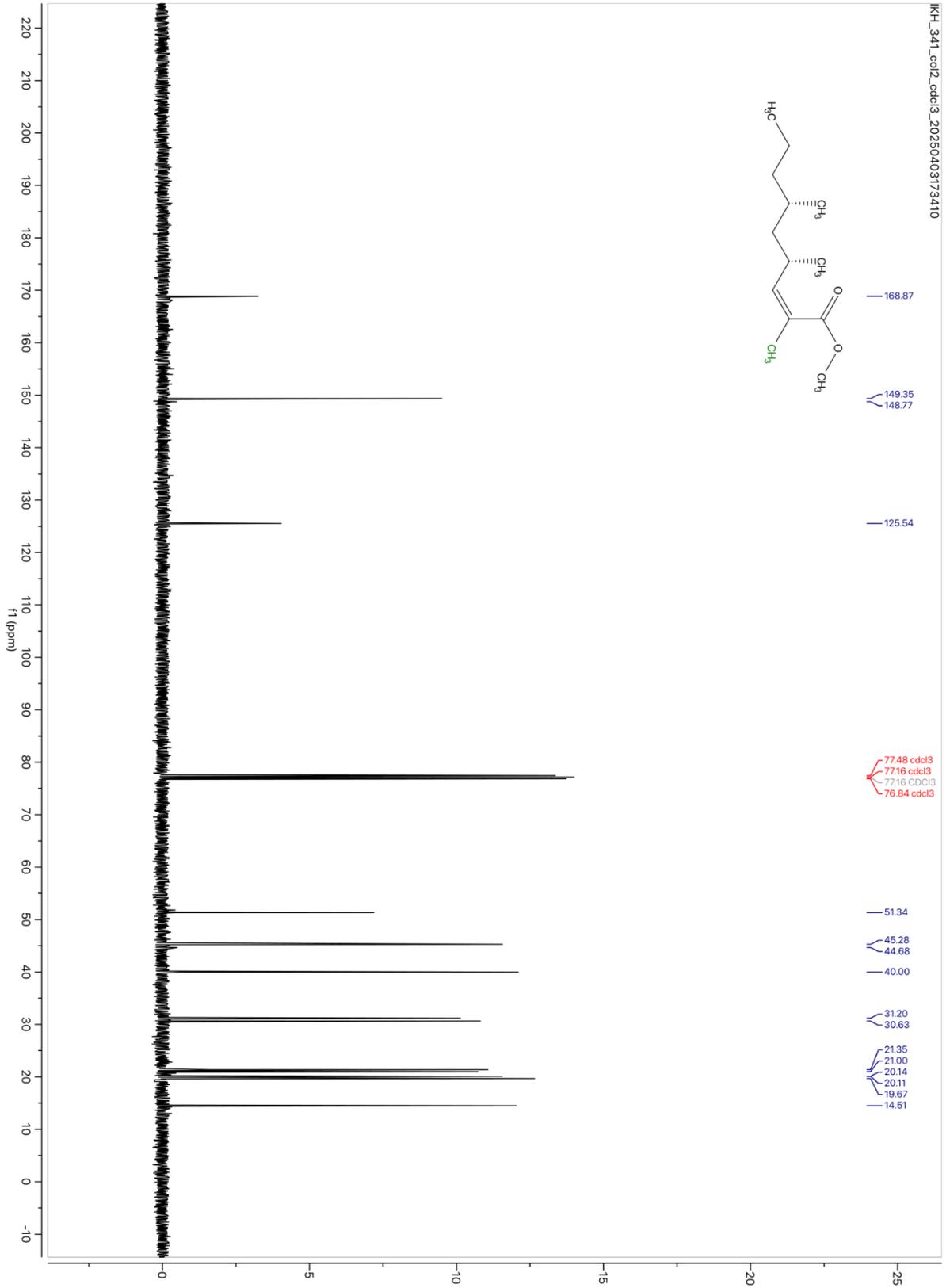




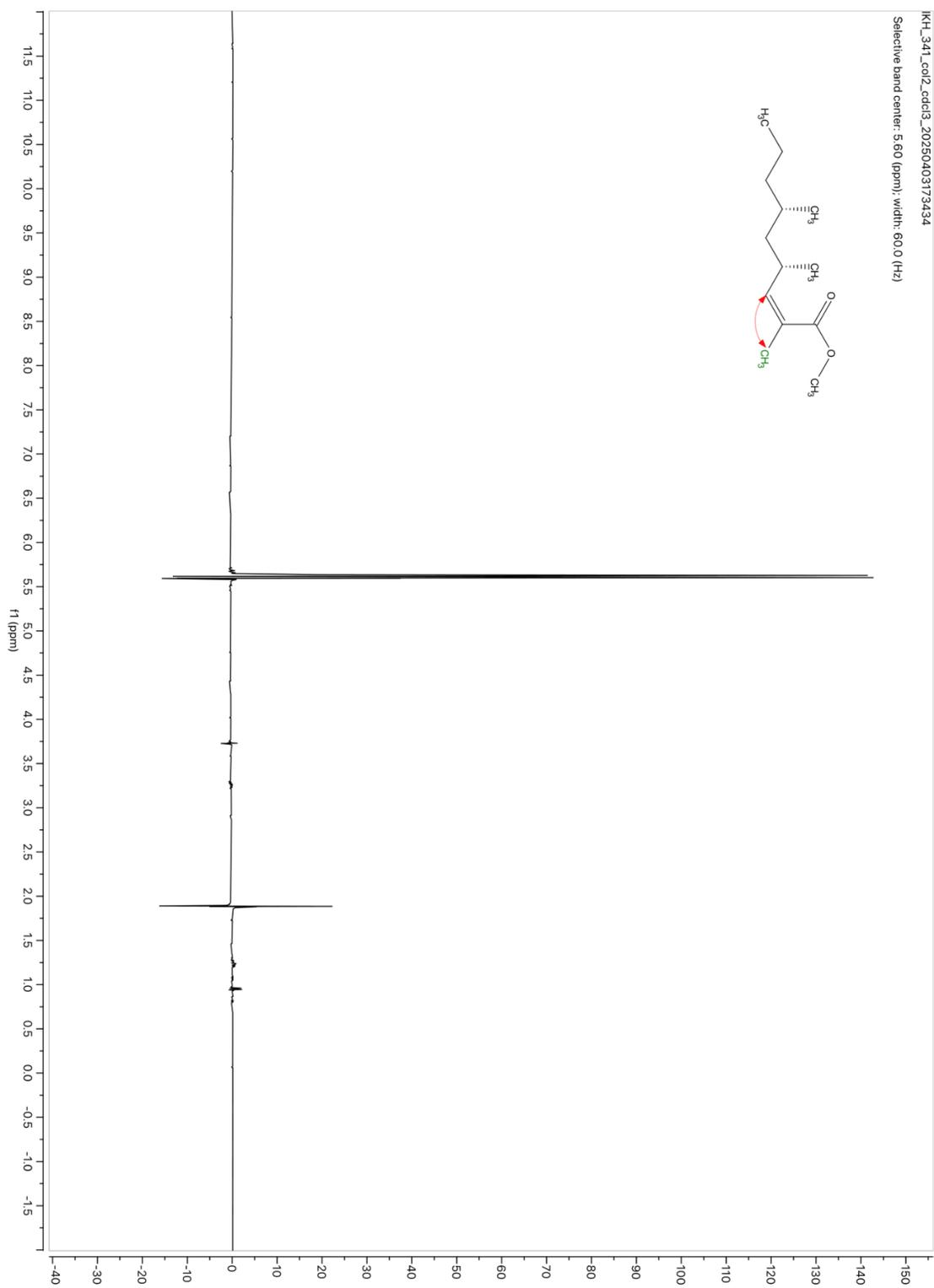




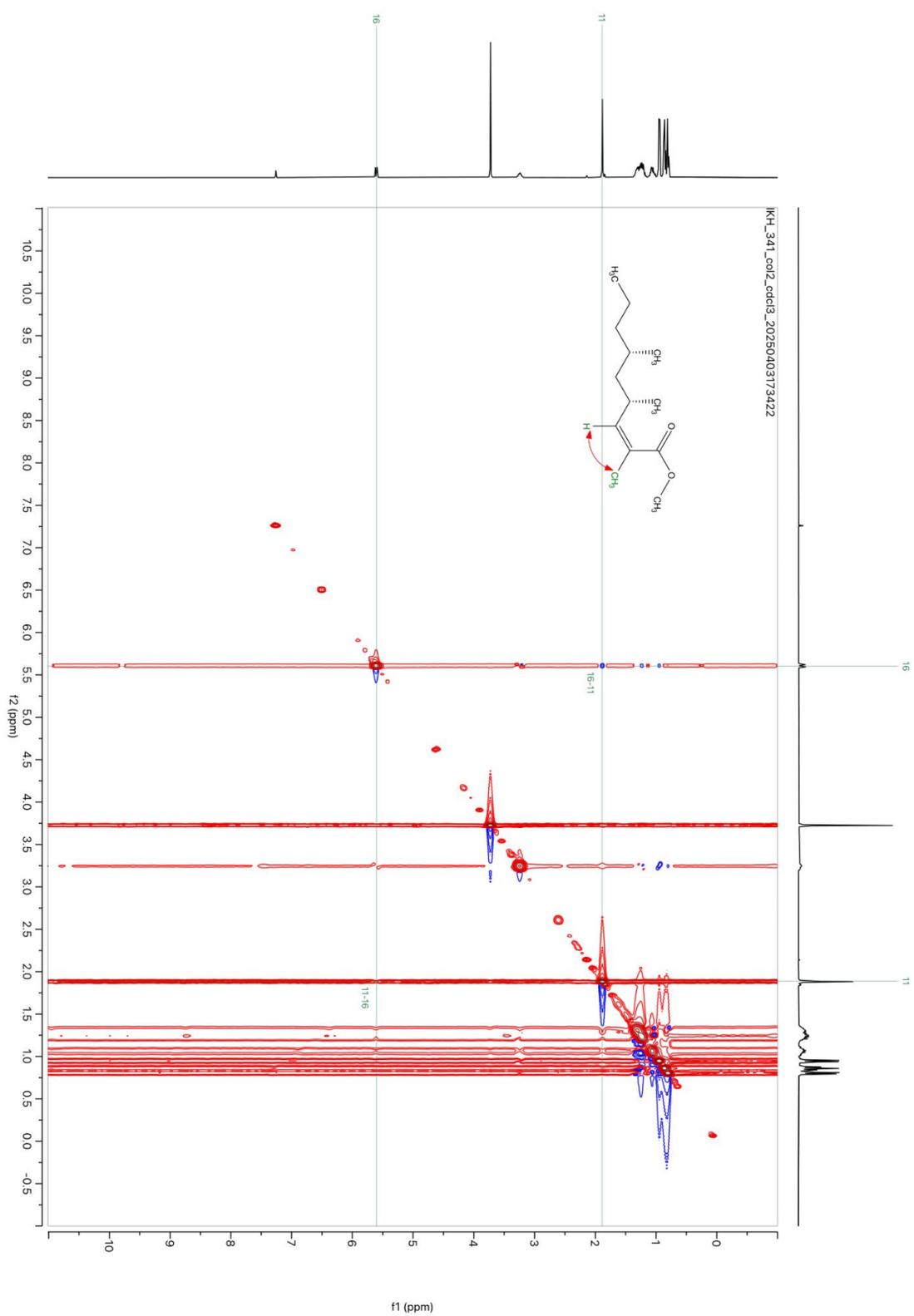
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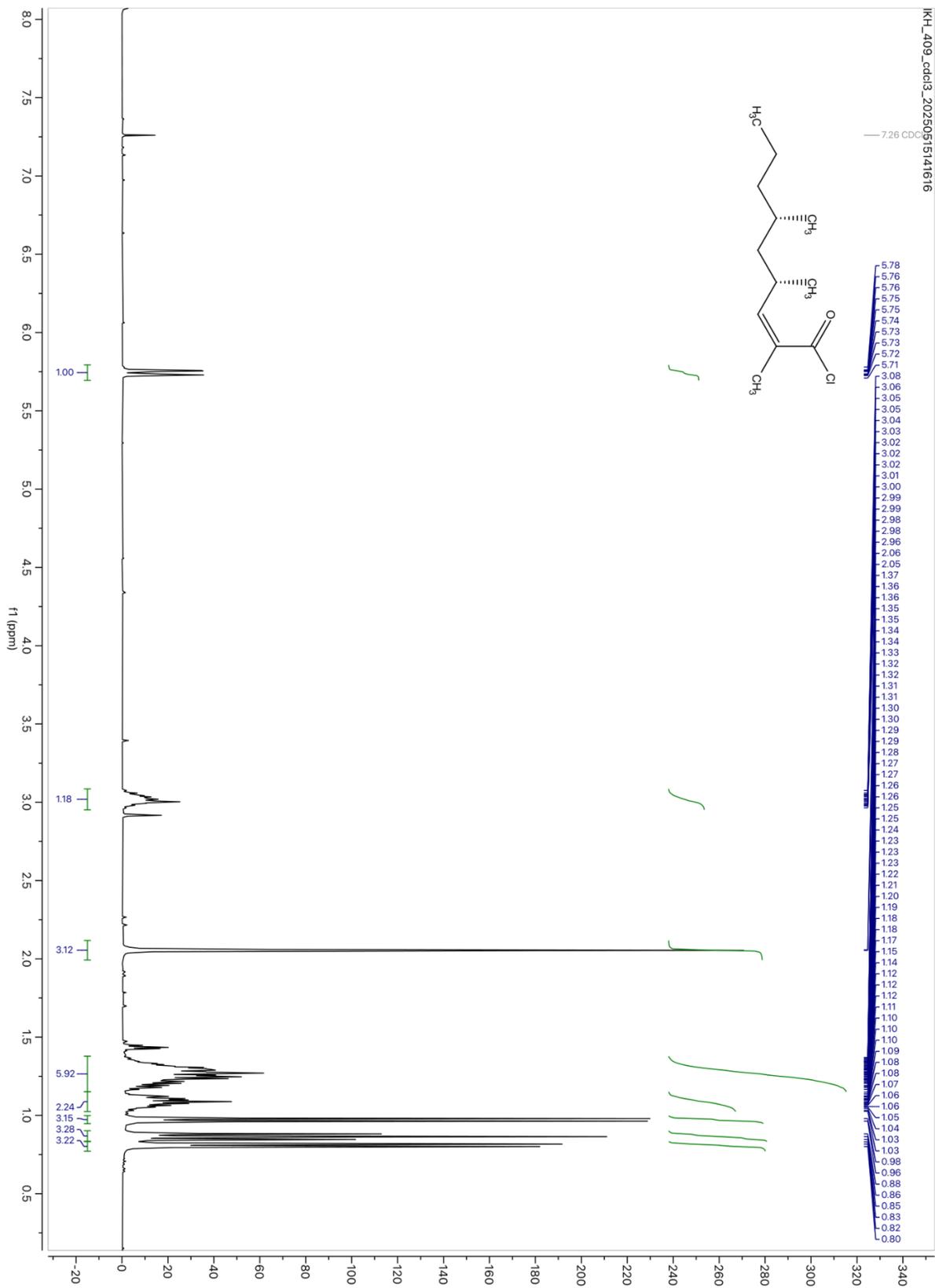


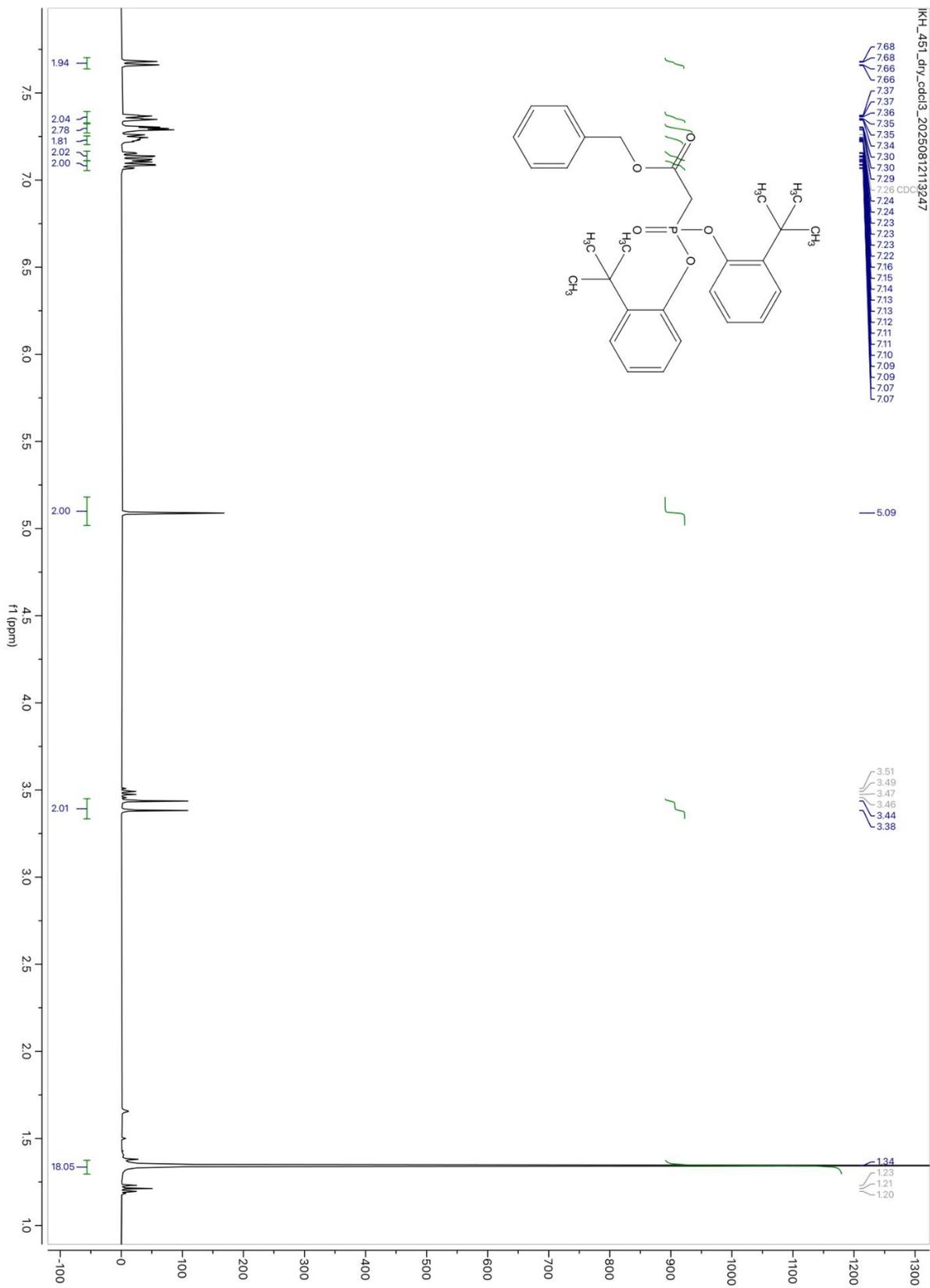
1D NOESY spectrum of 11

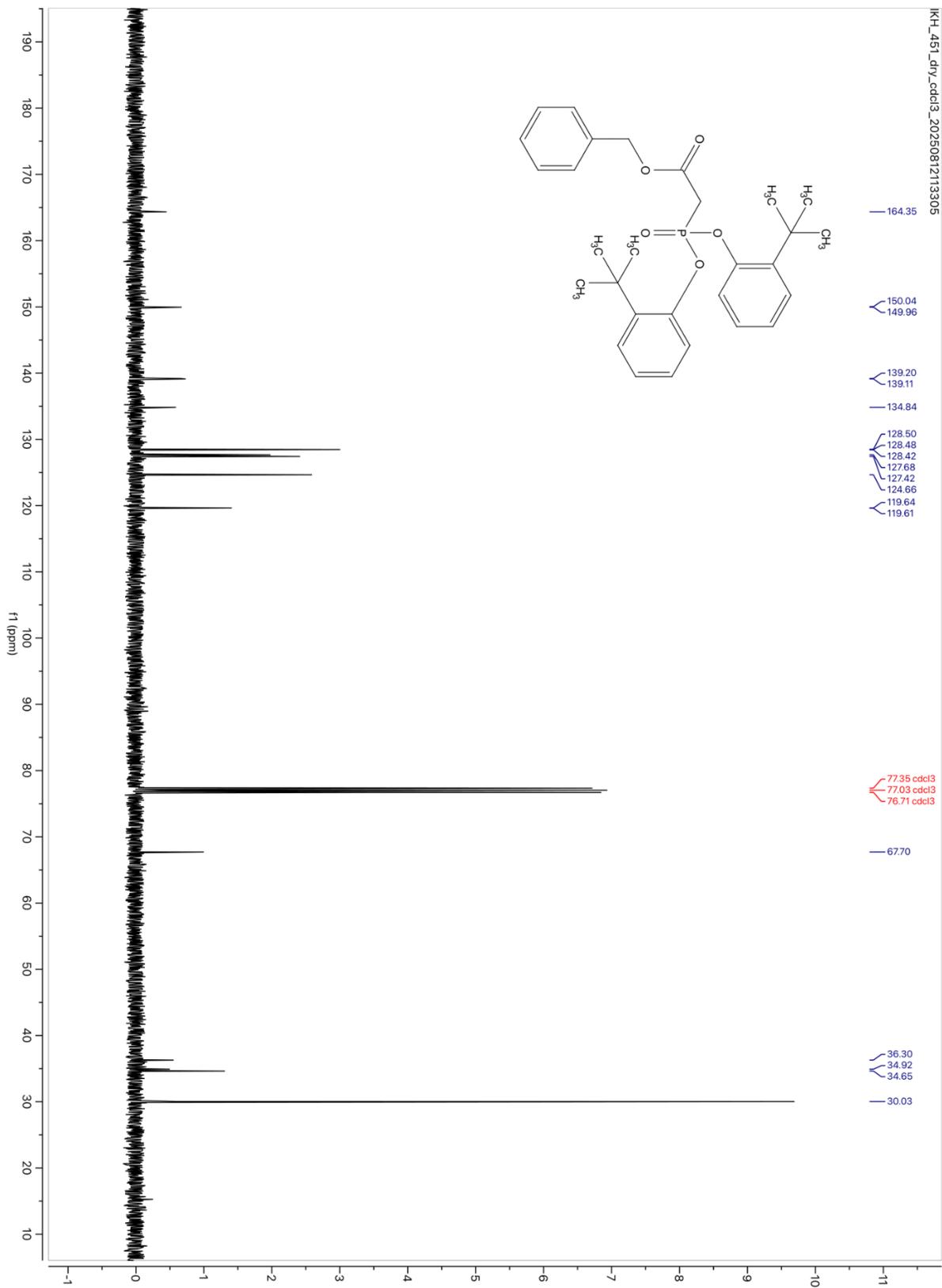


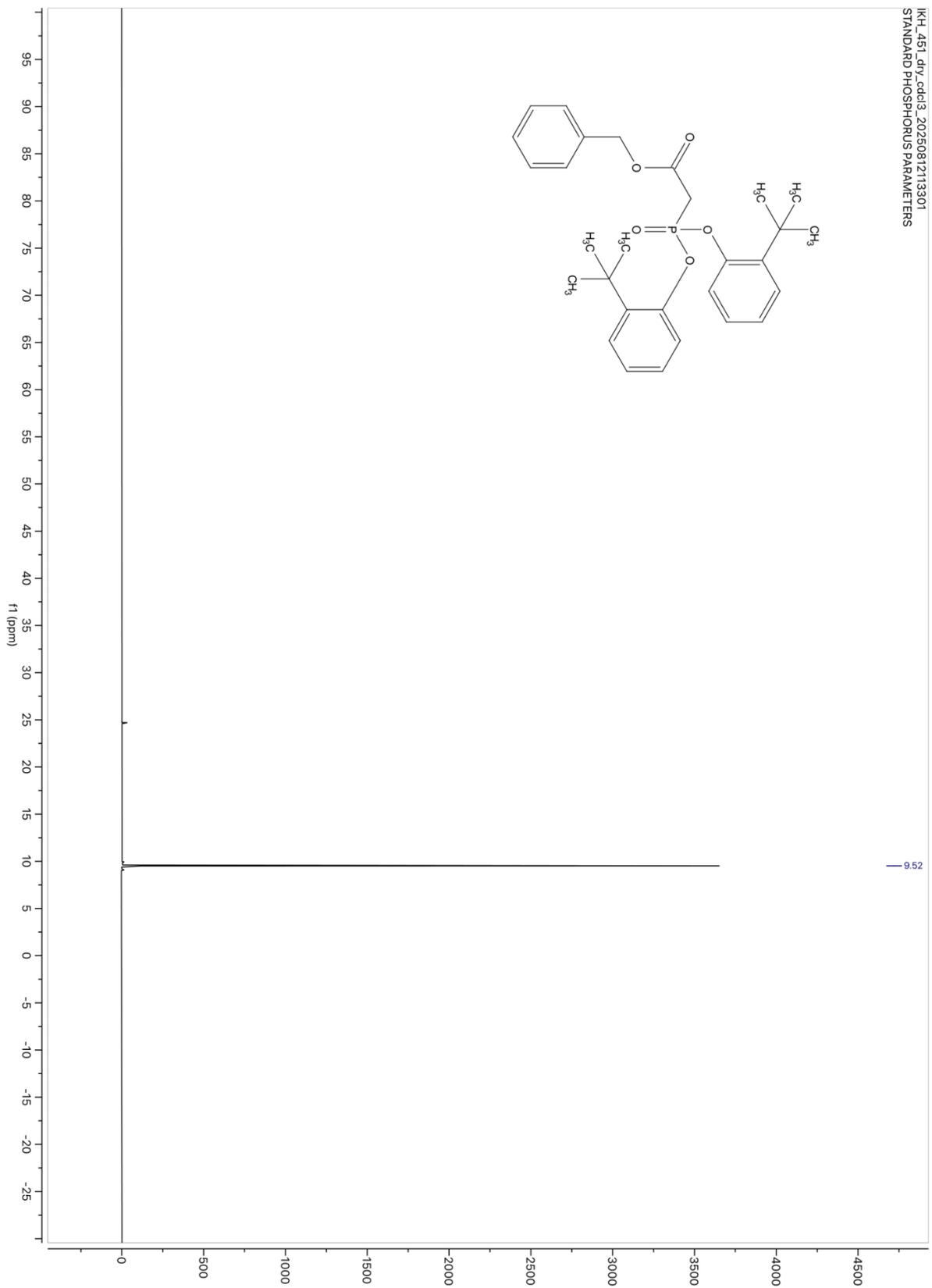
2D NOESY spectrum of 11

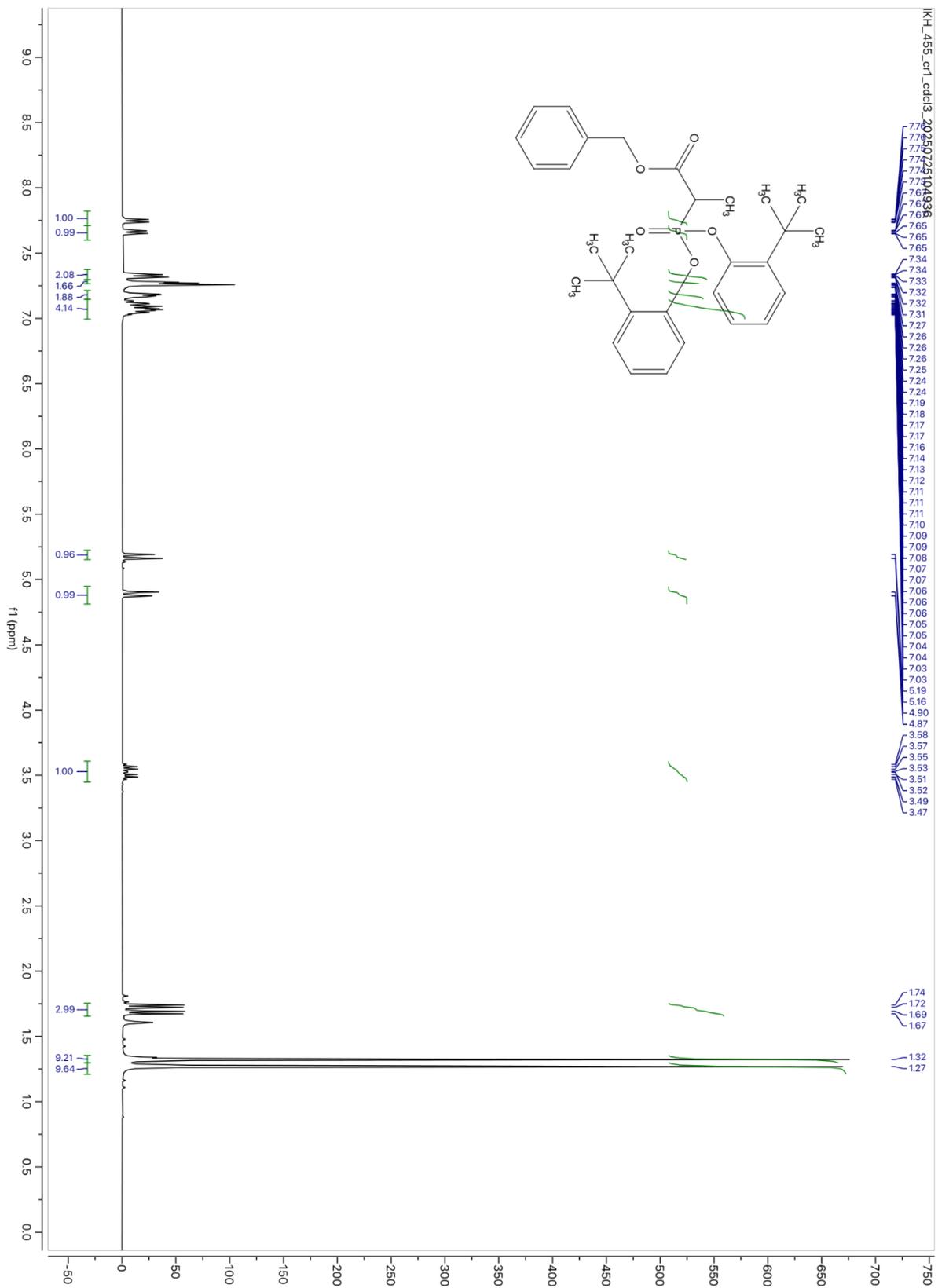


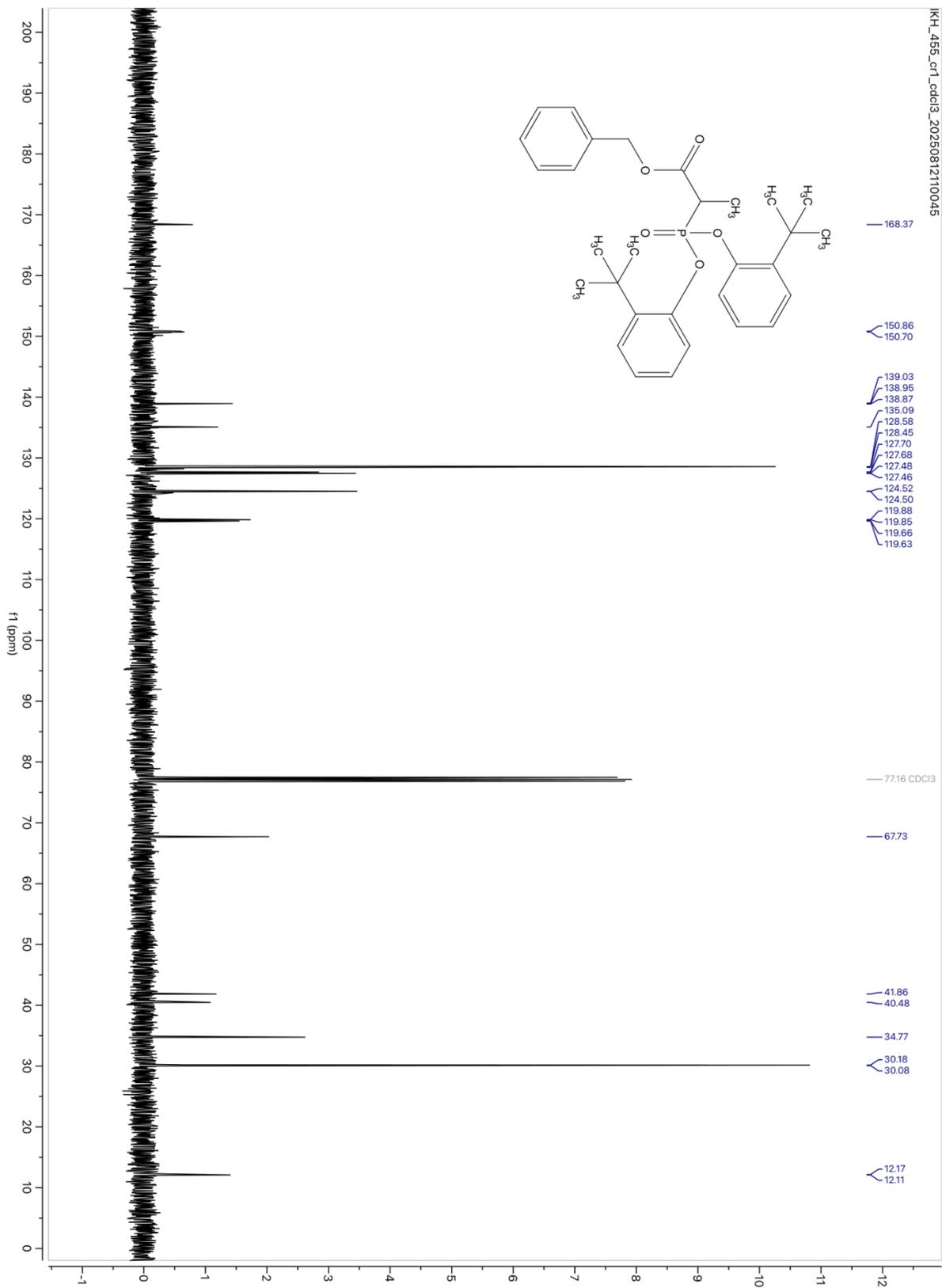


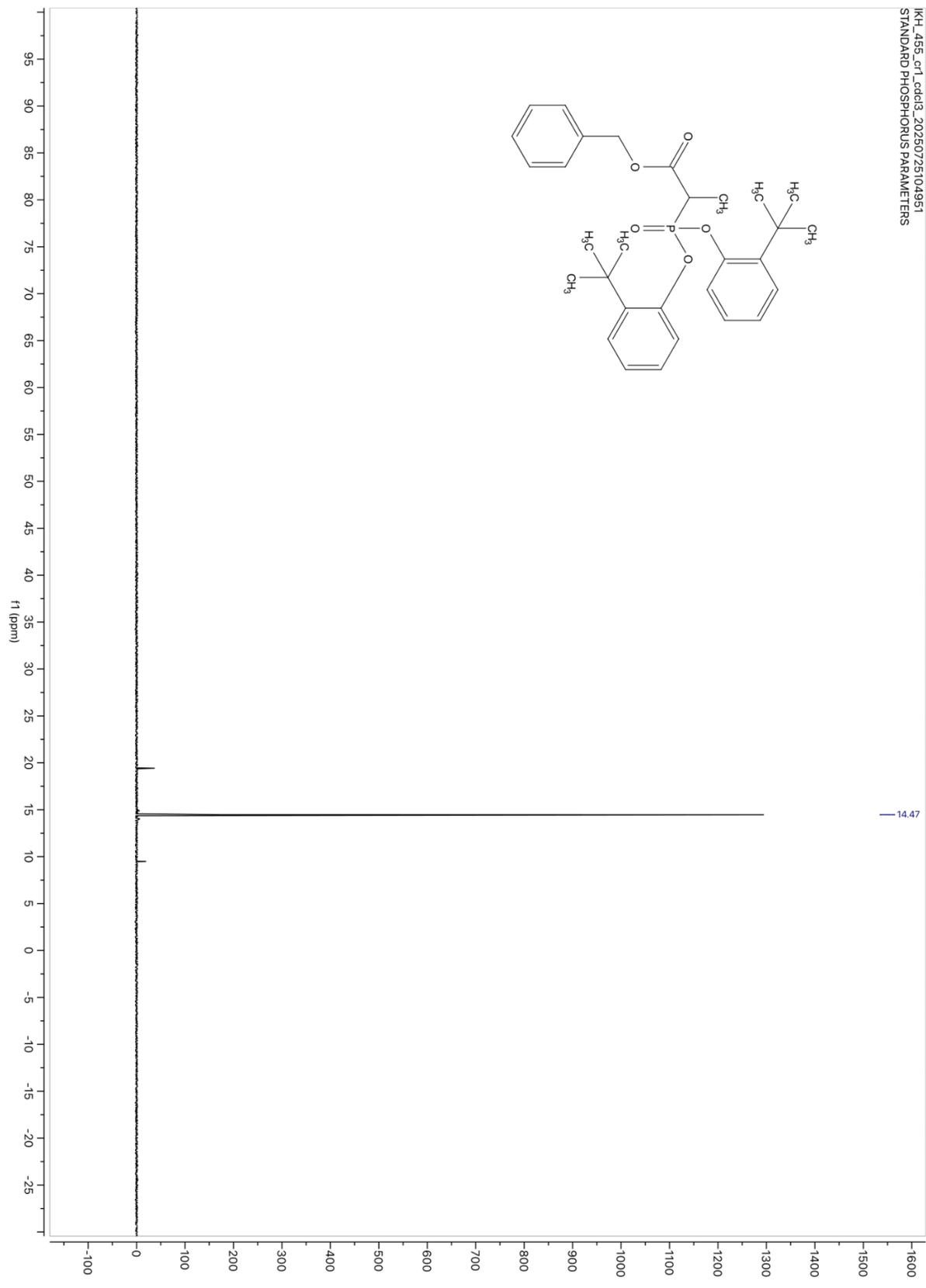
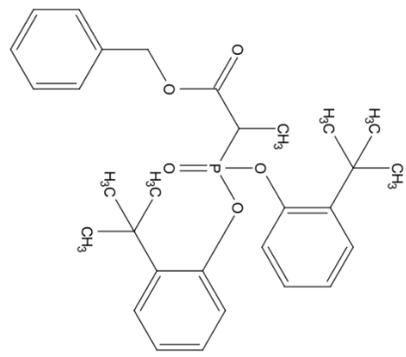


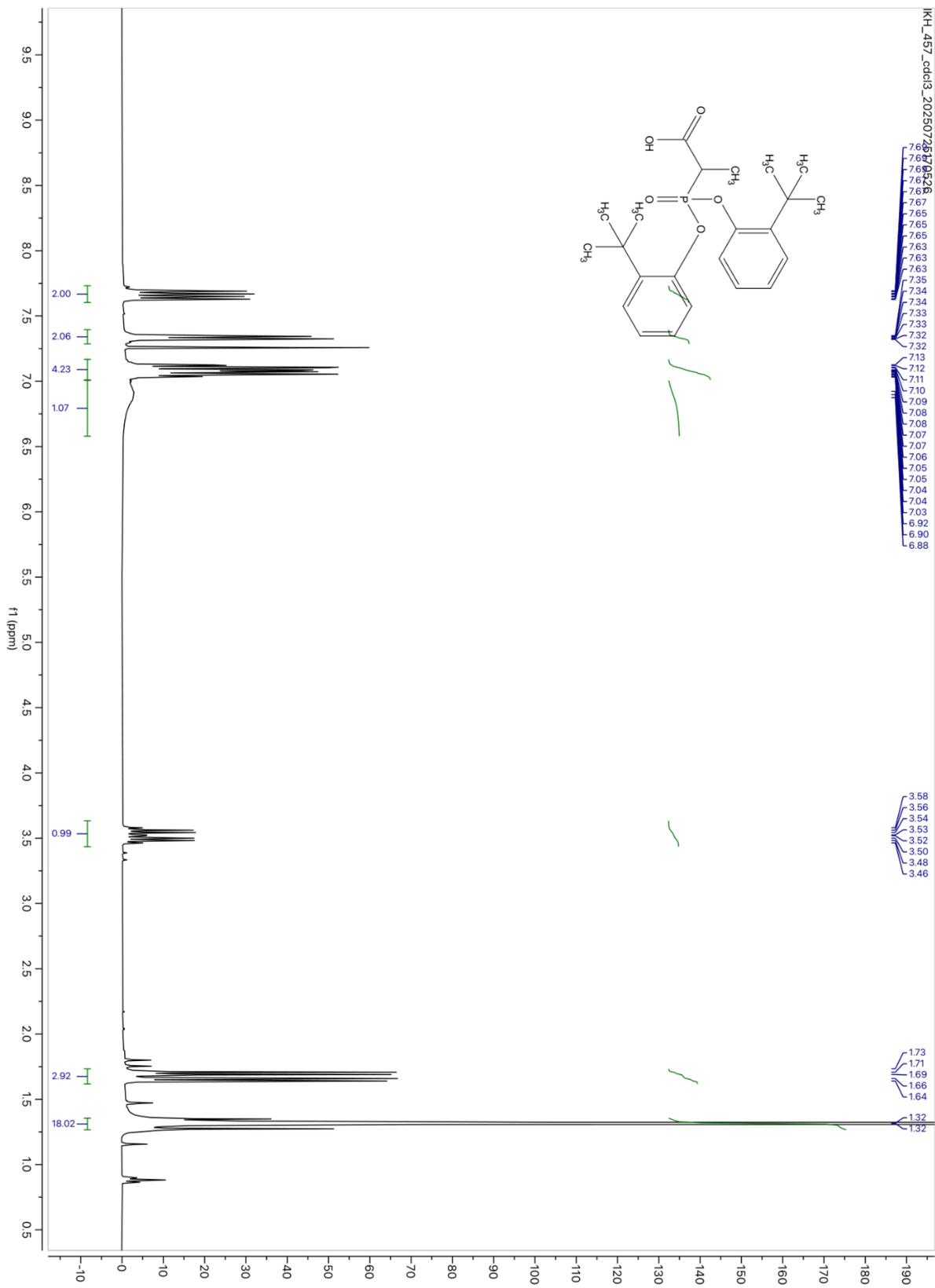


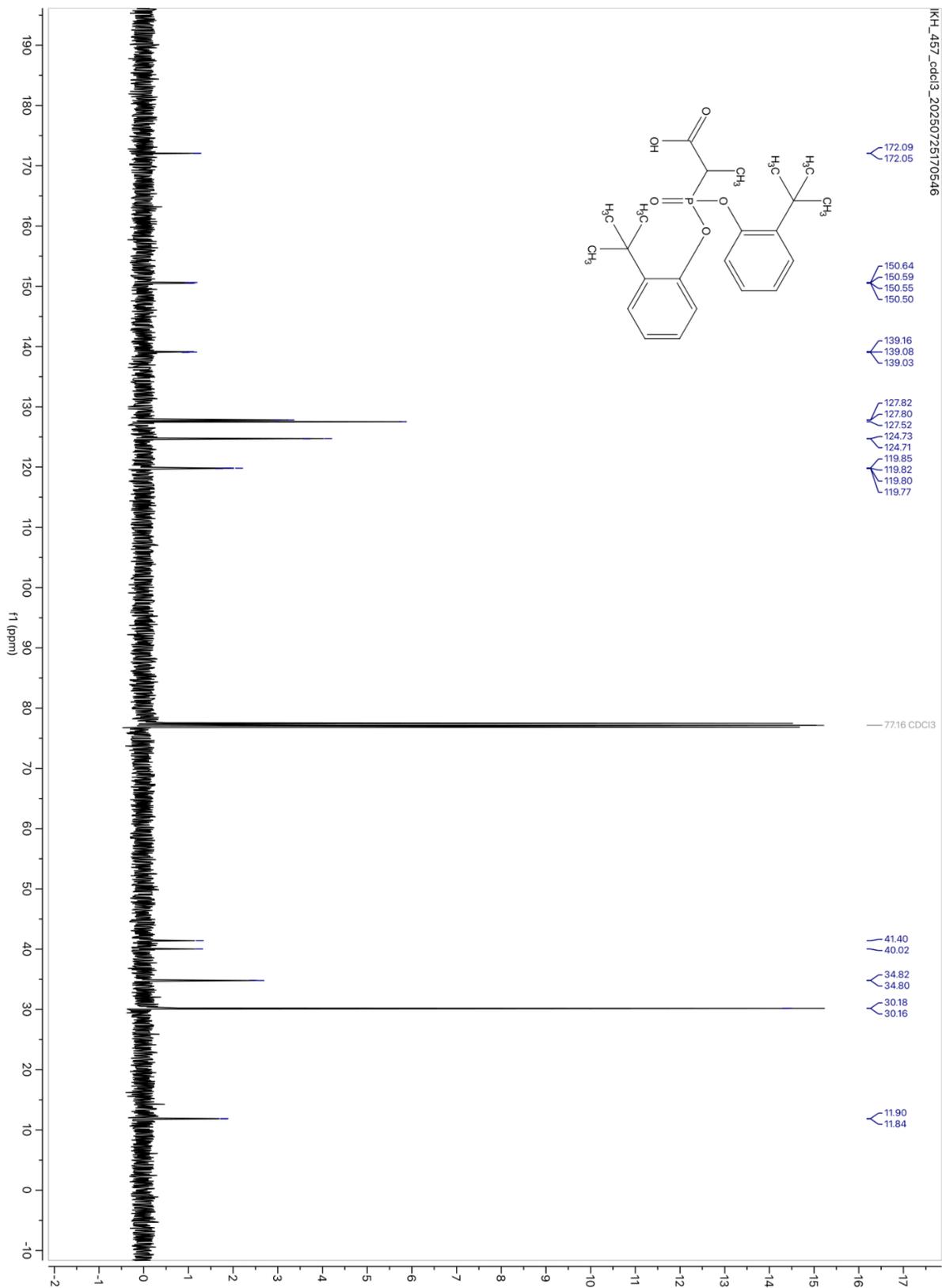


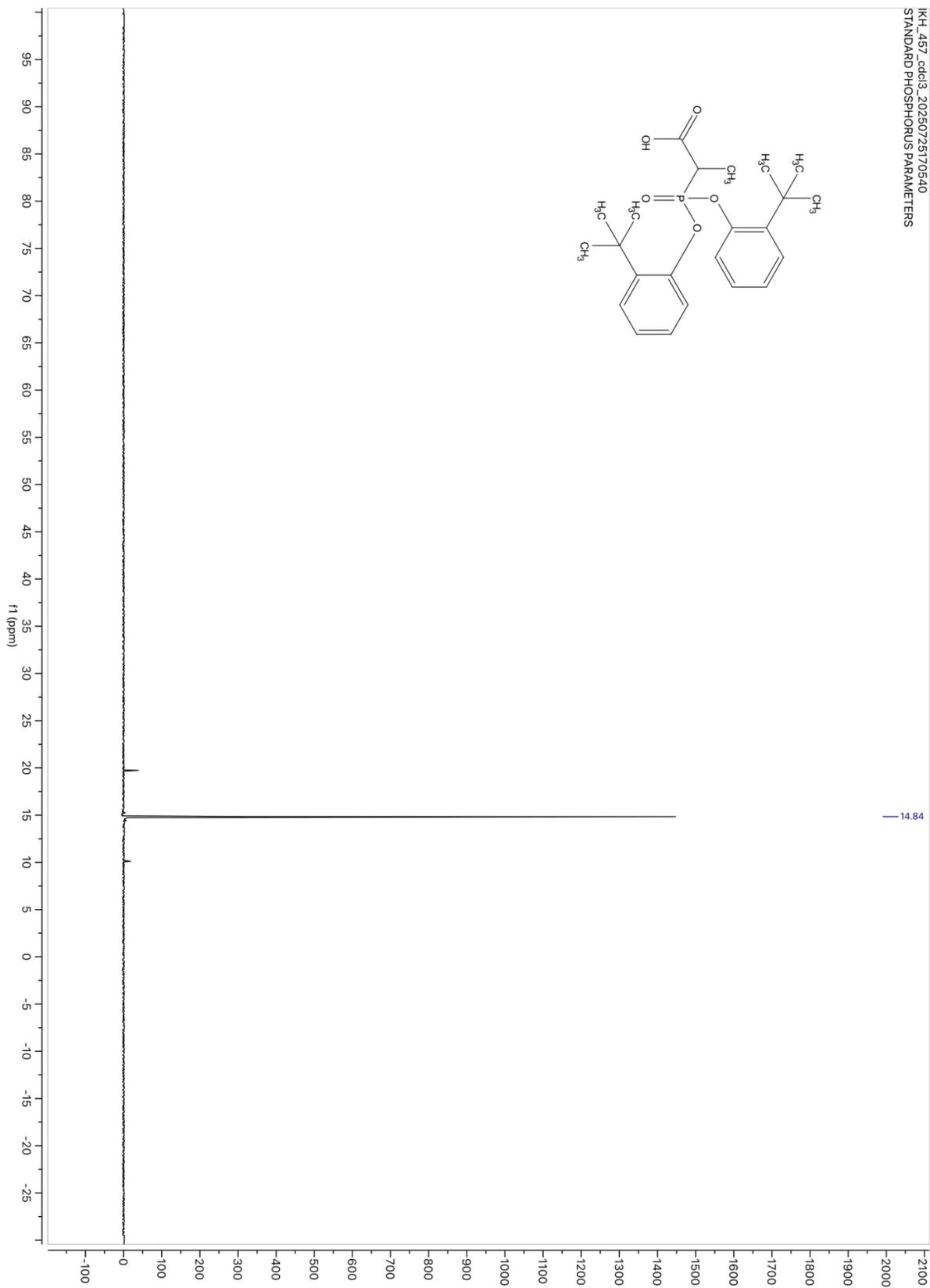
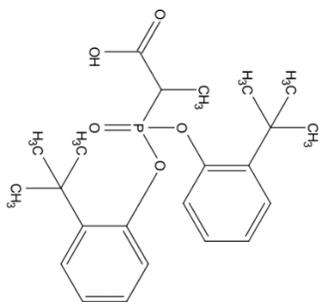


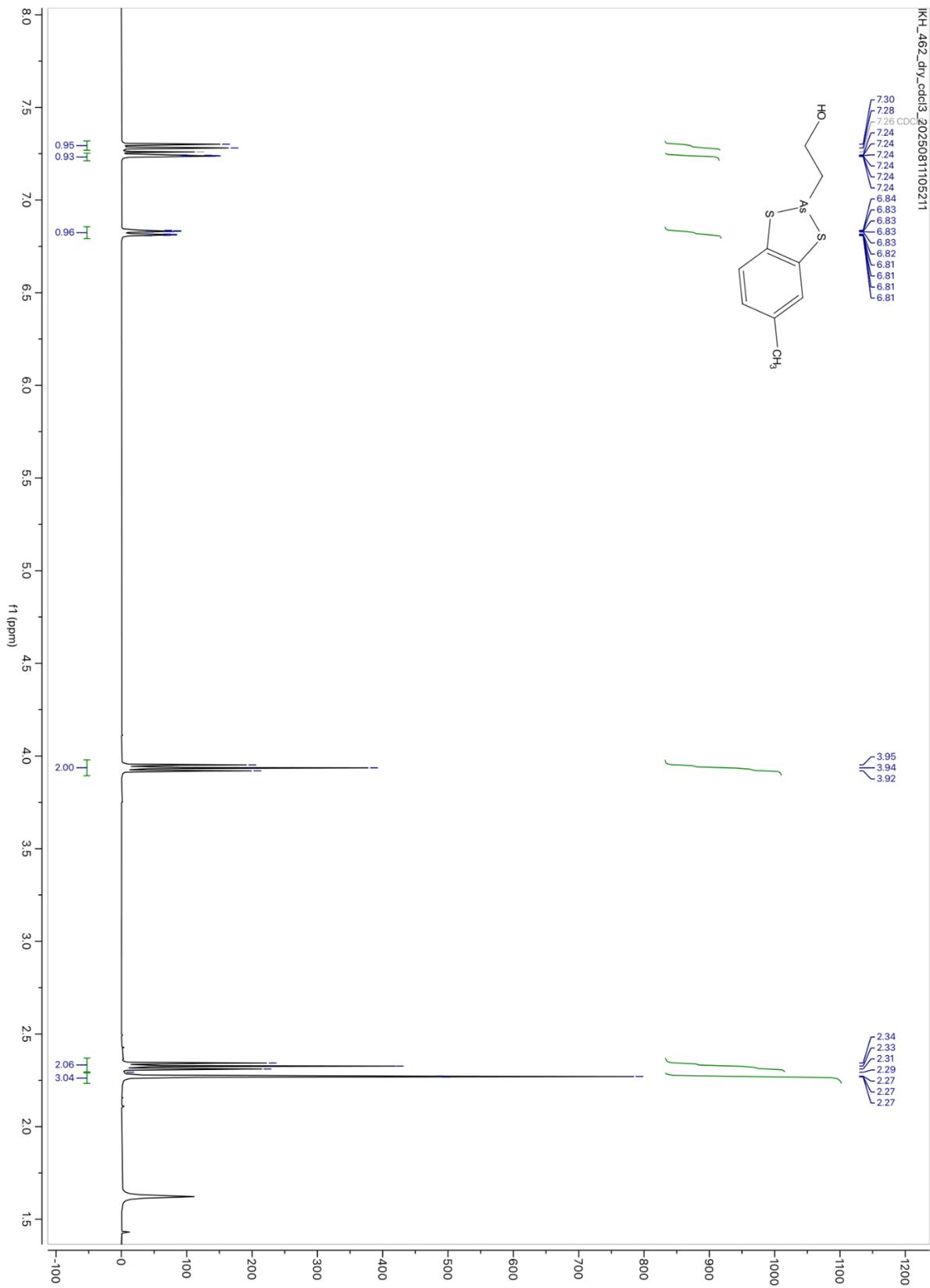


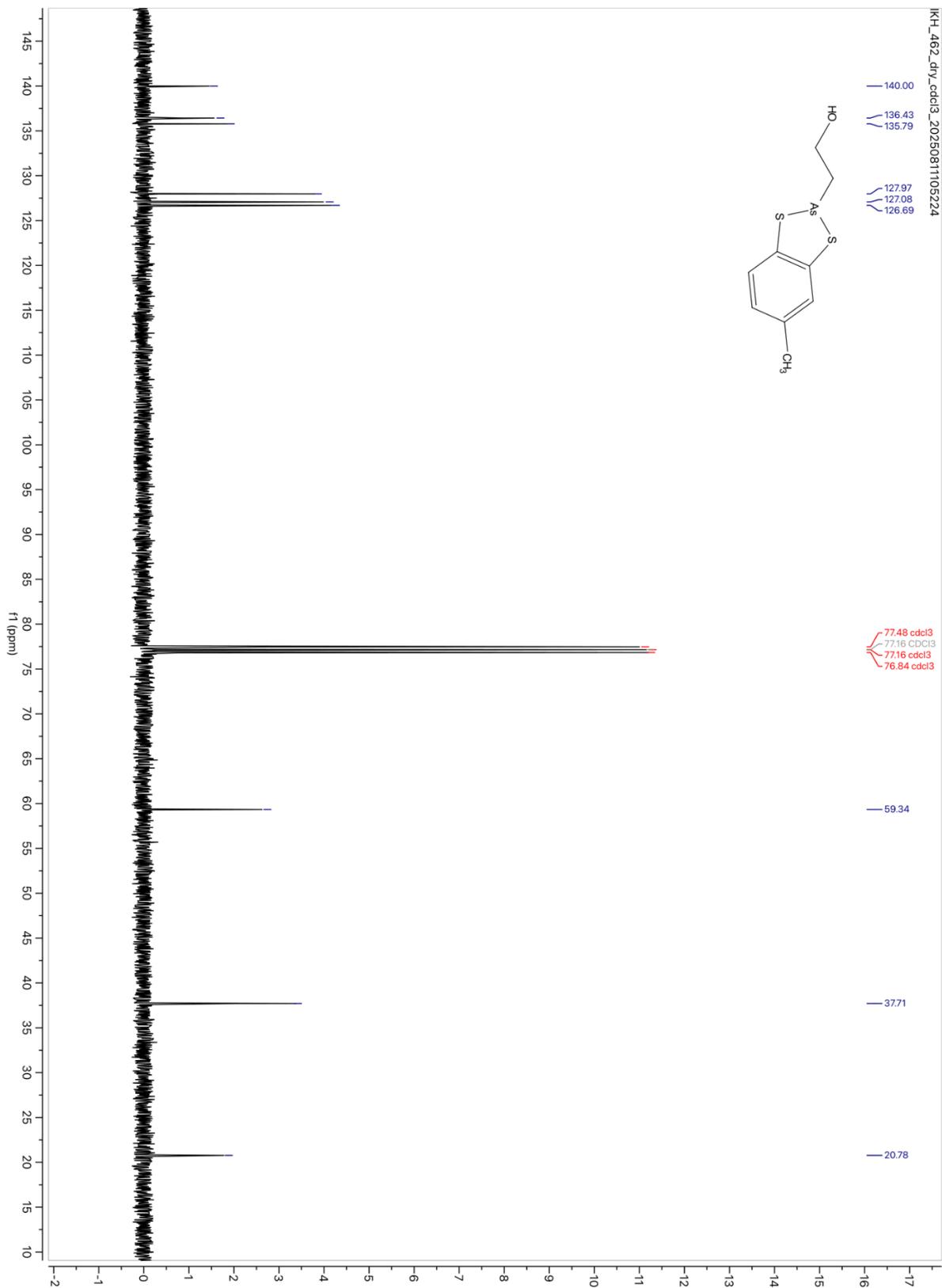


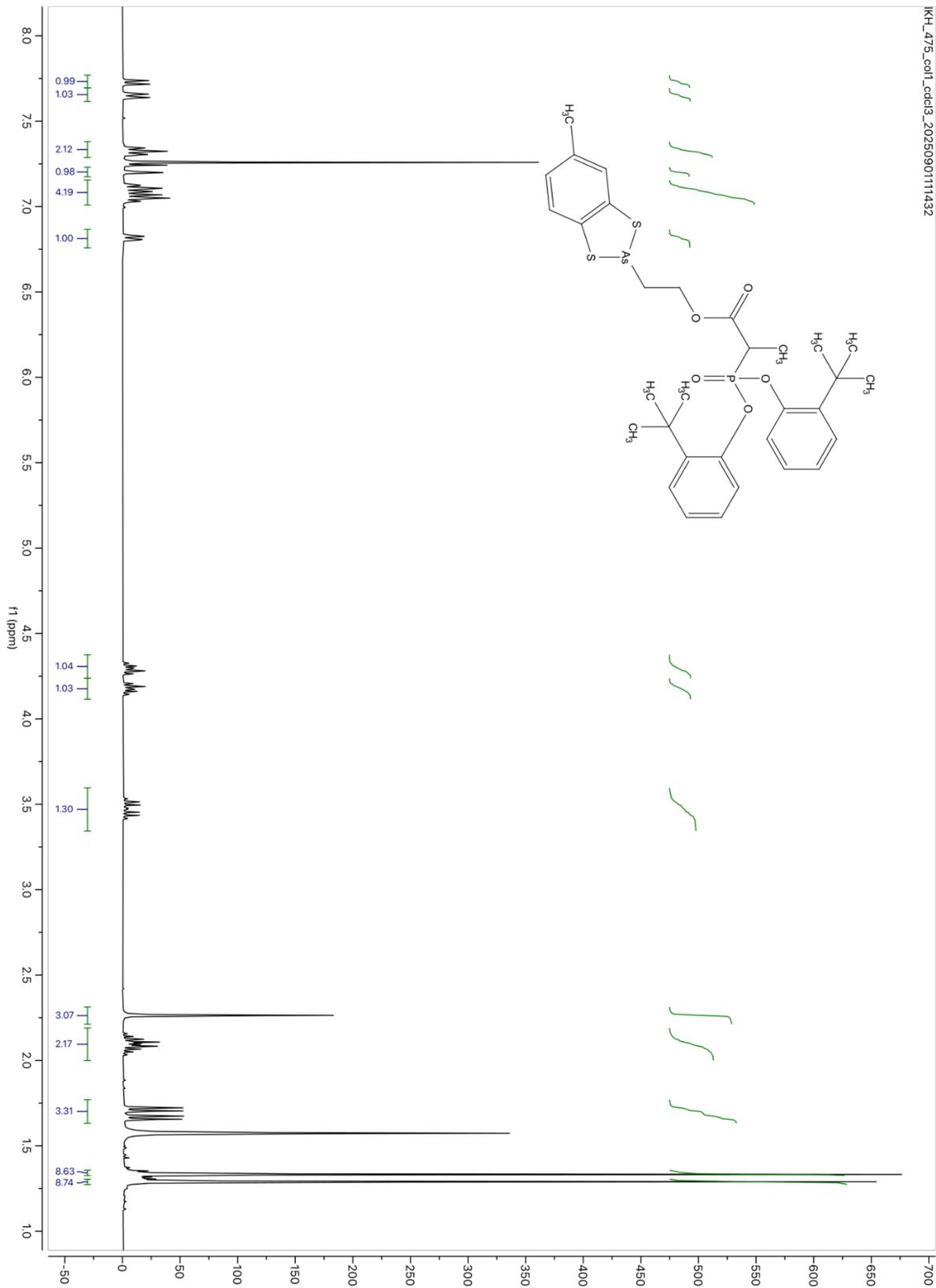


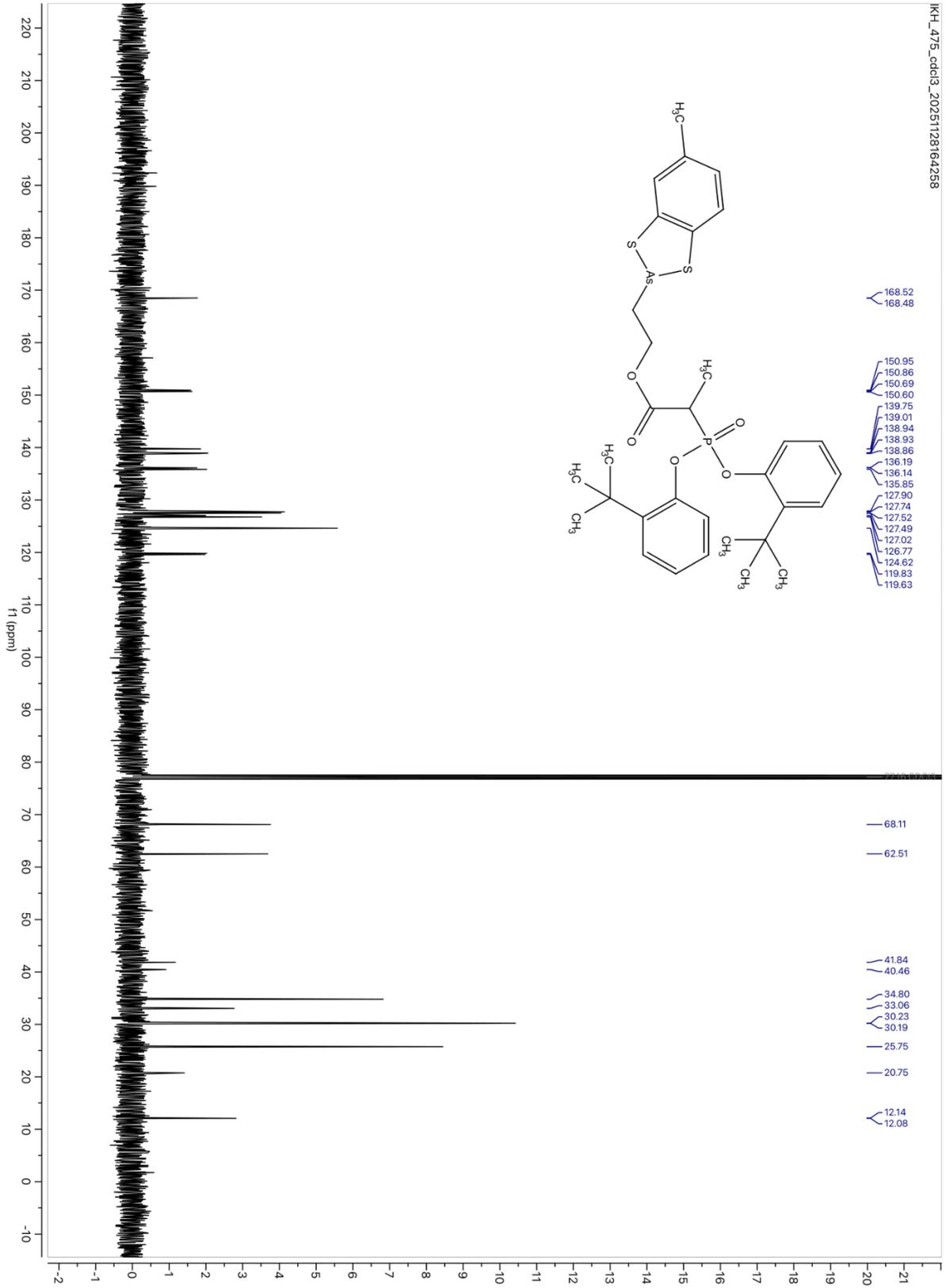


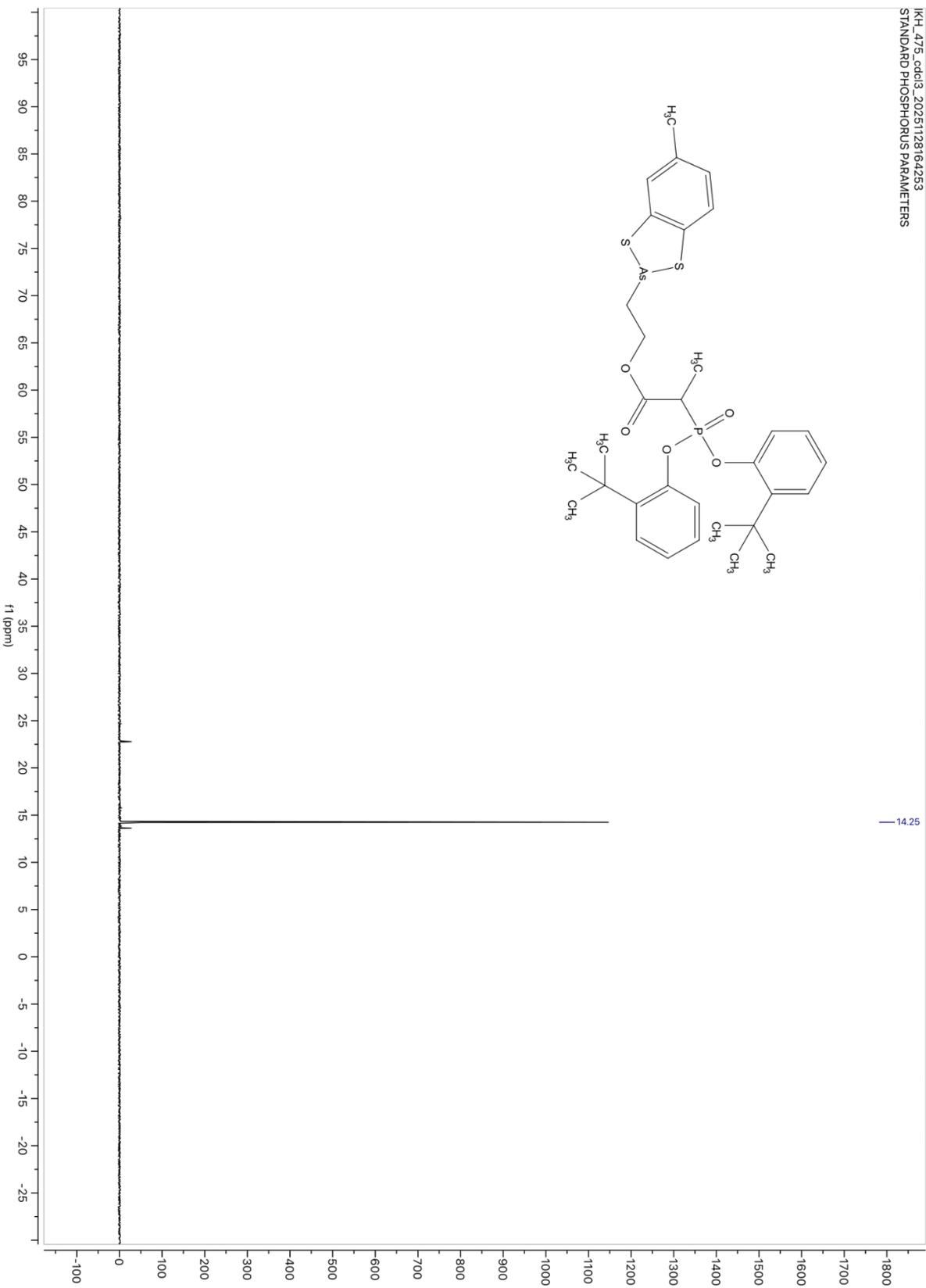
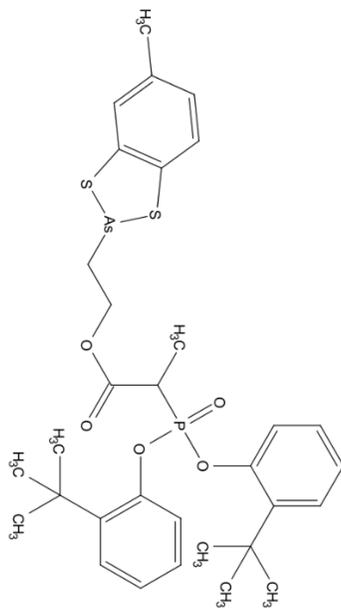


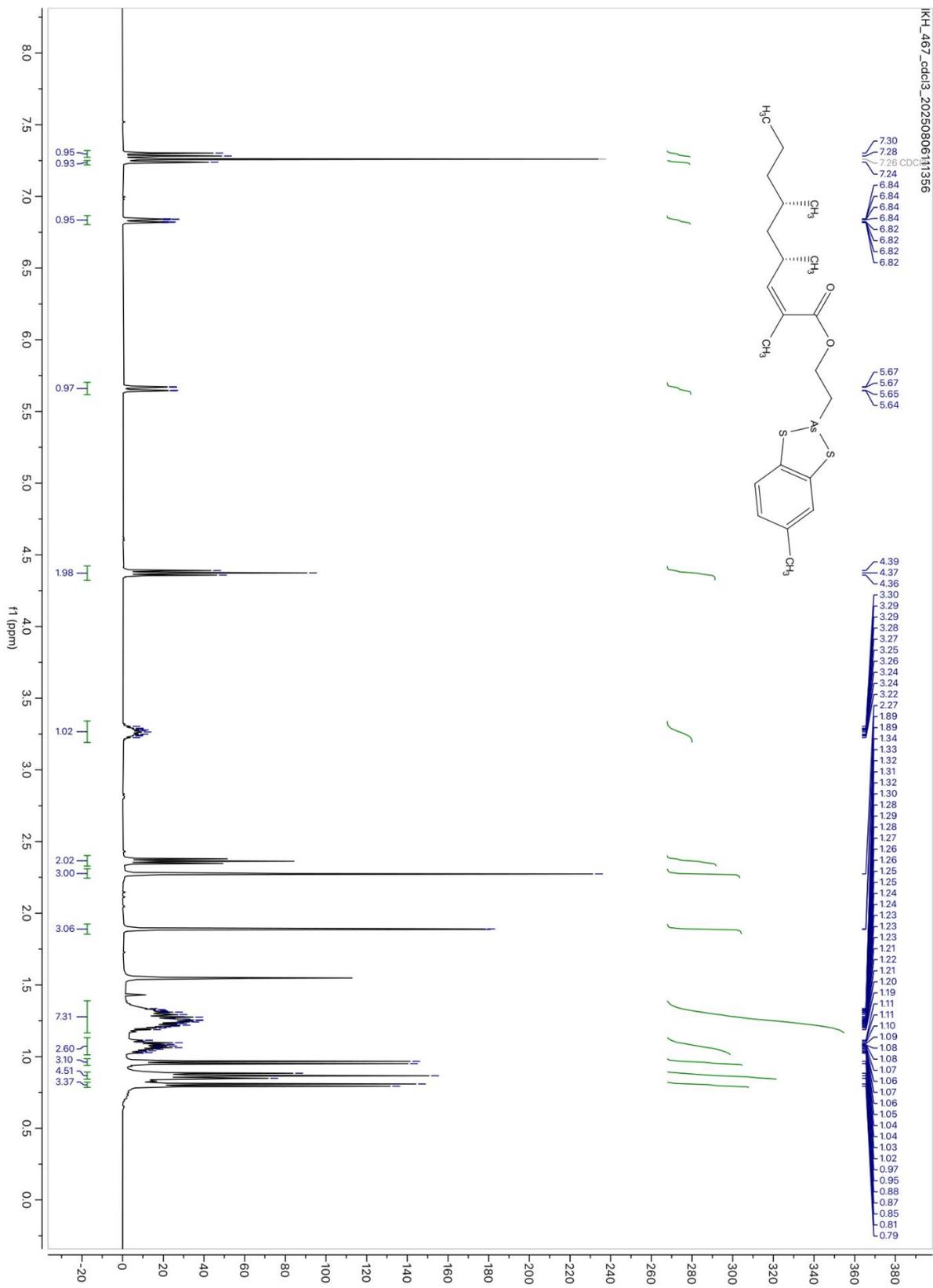




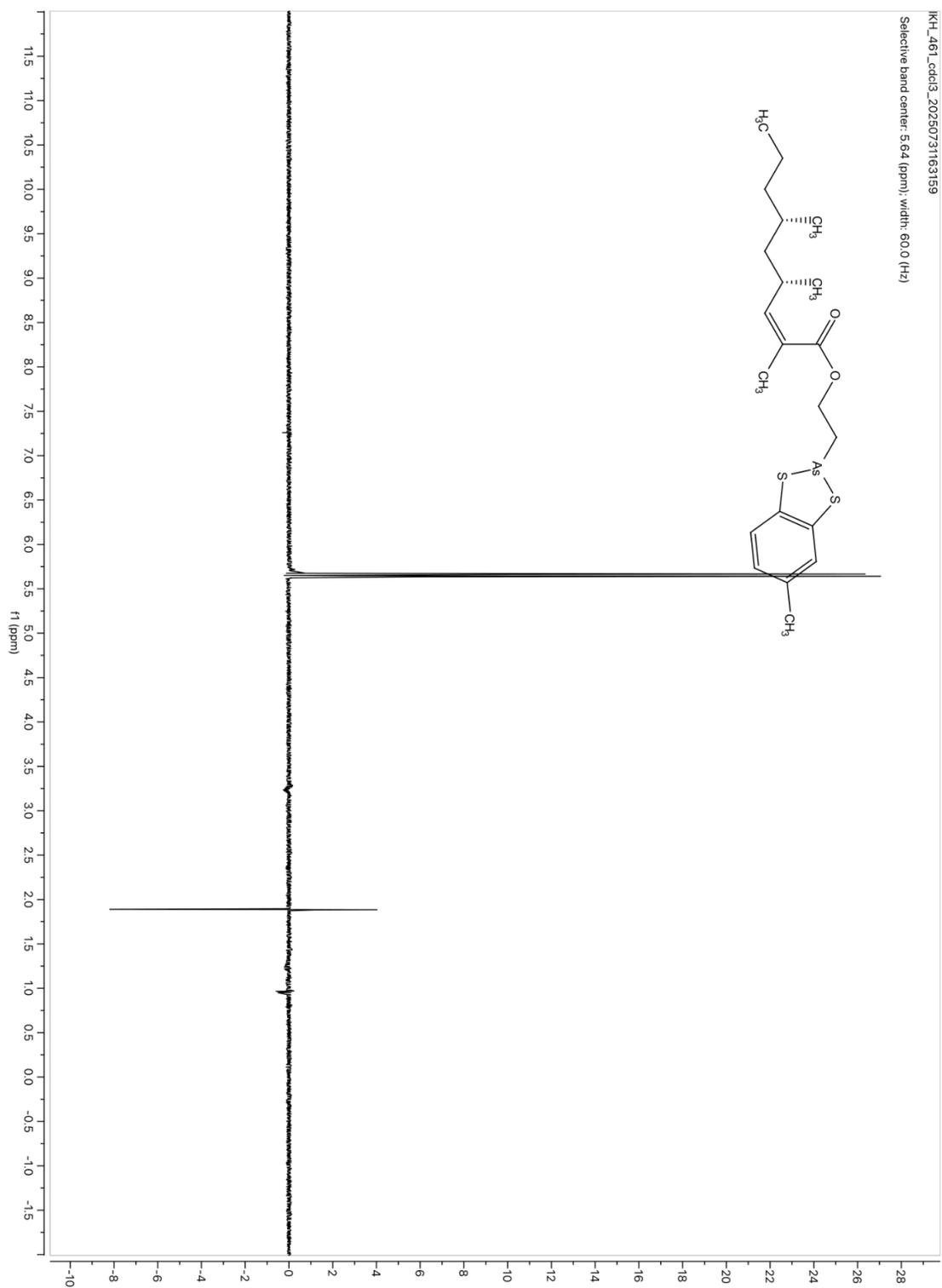




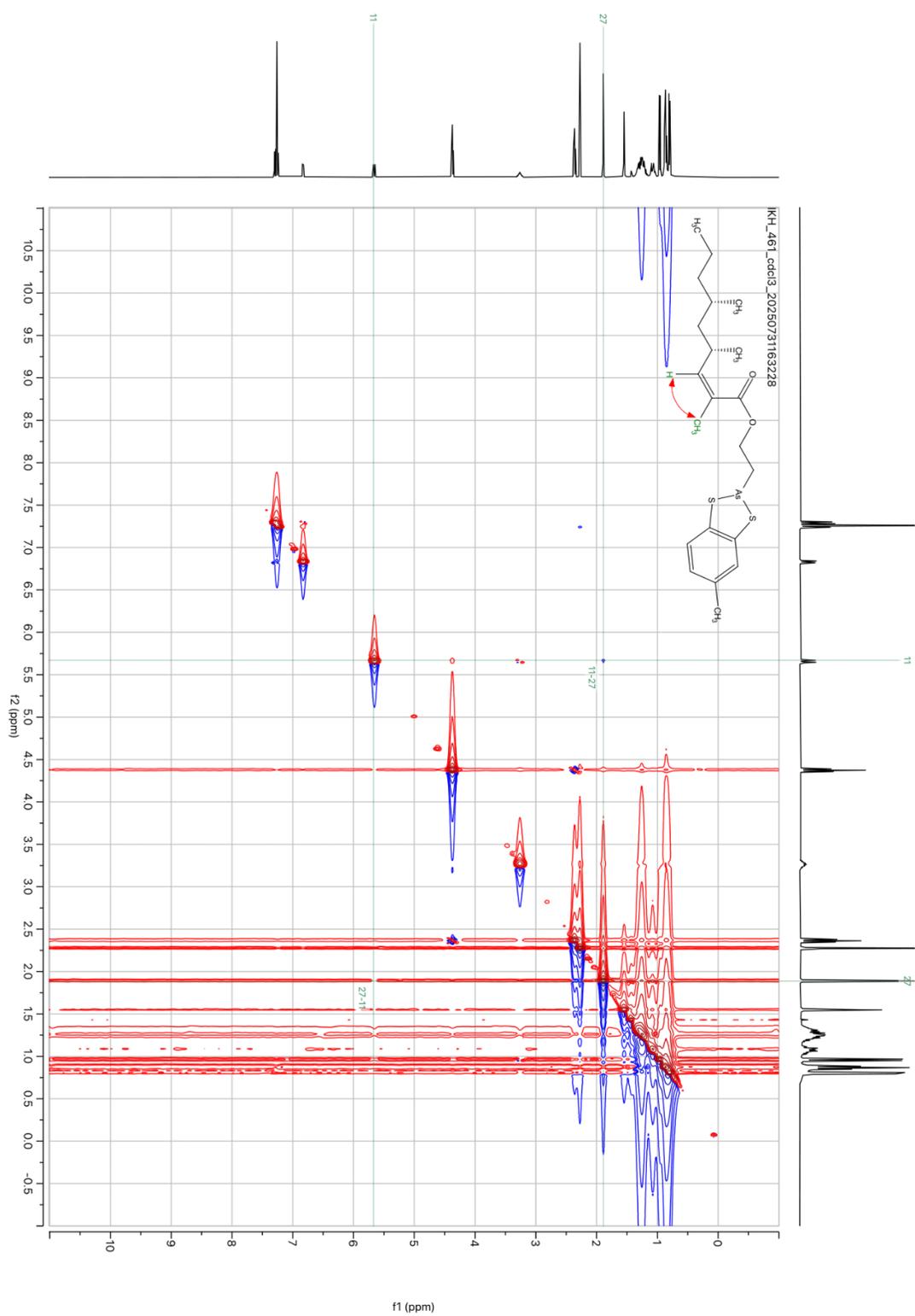




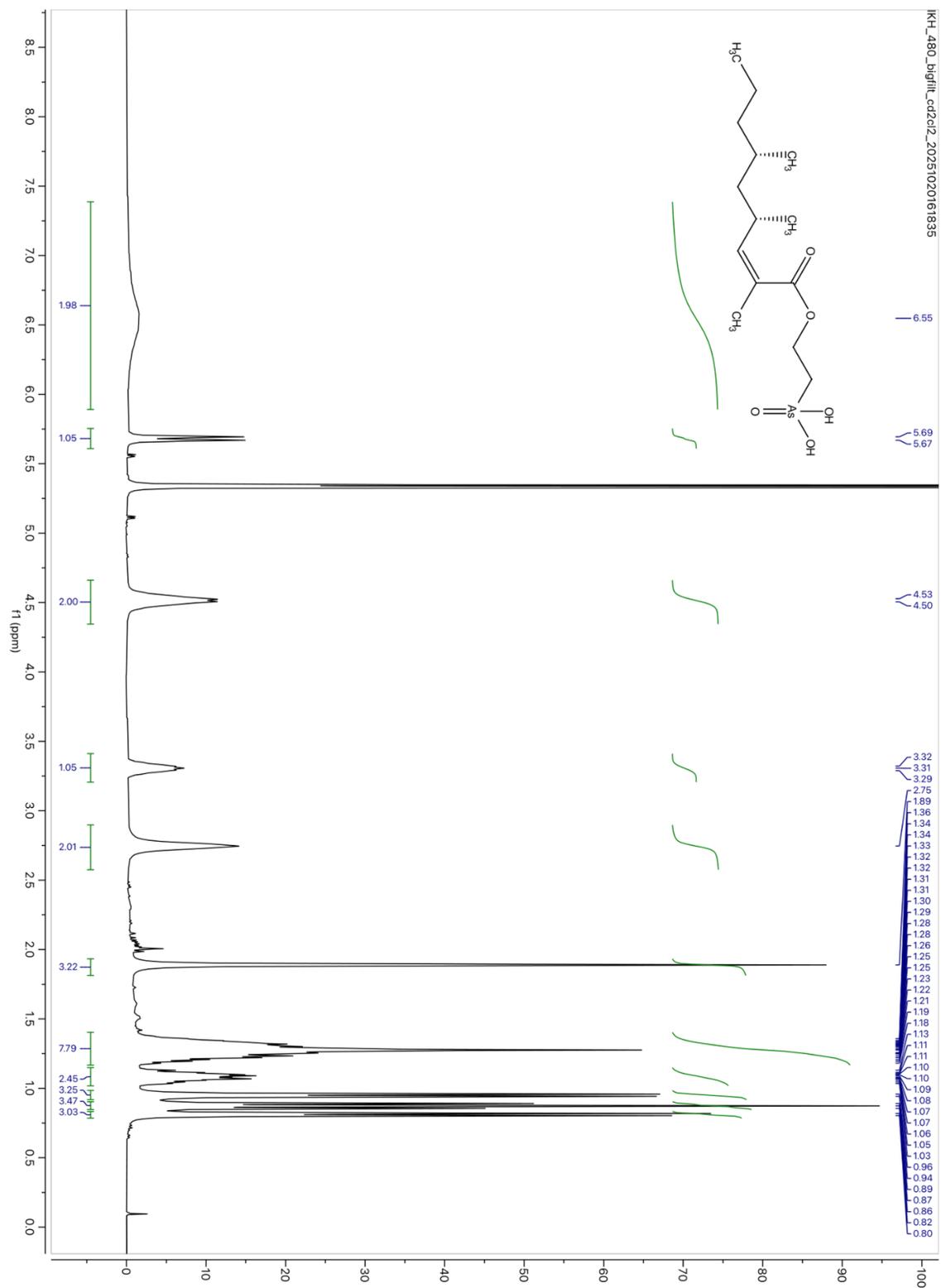
1D NOESY spectrum of 14



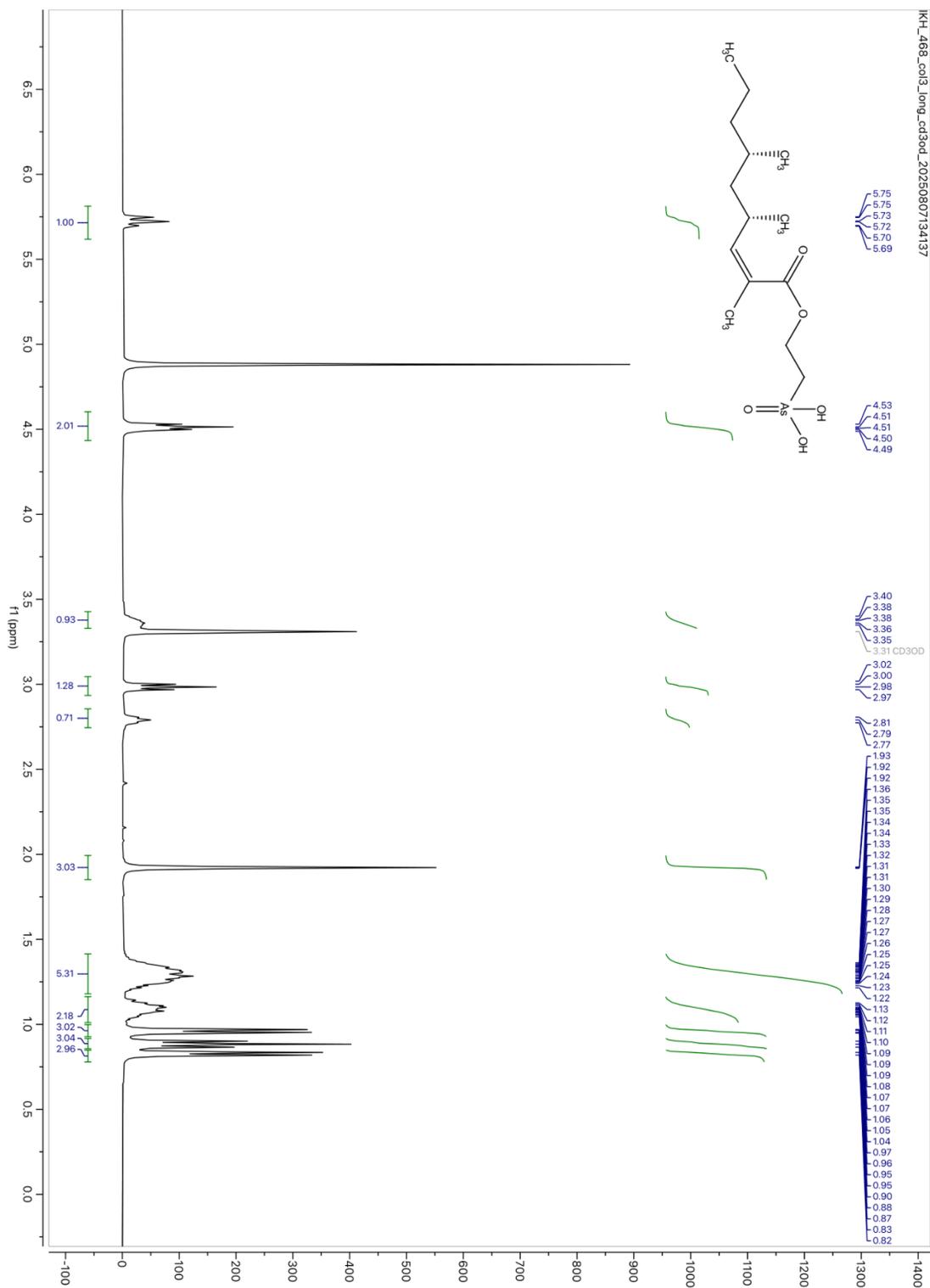
2D NOESY spectrum of 14



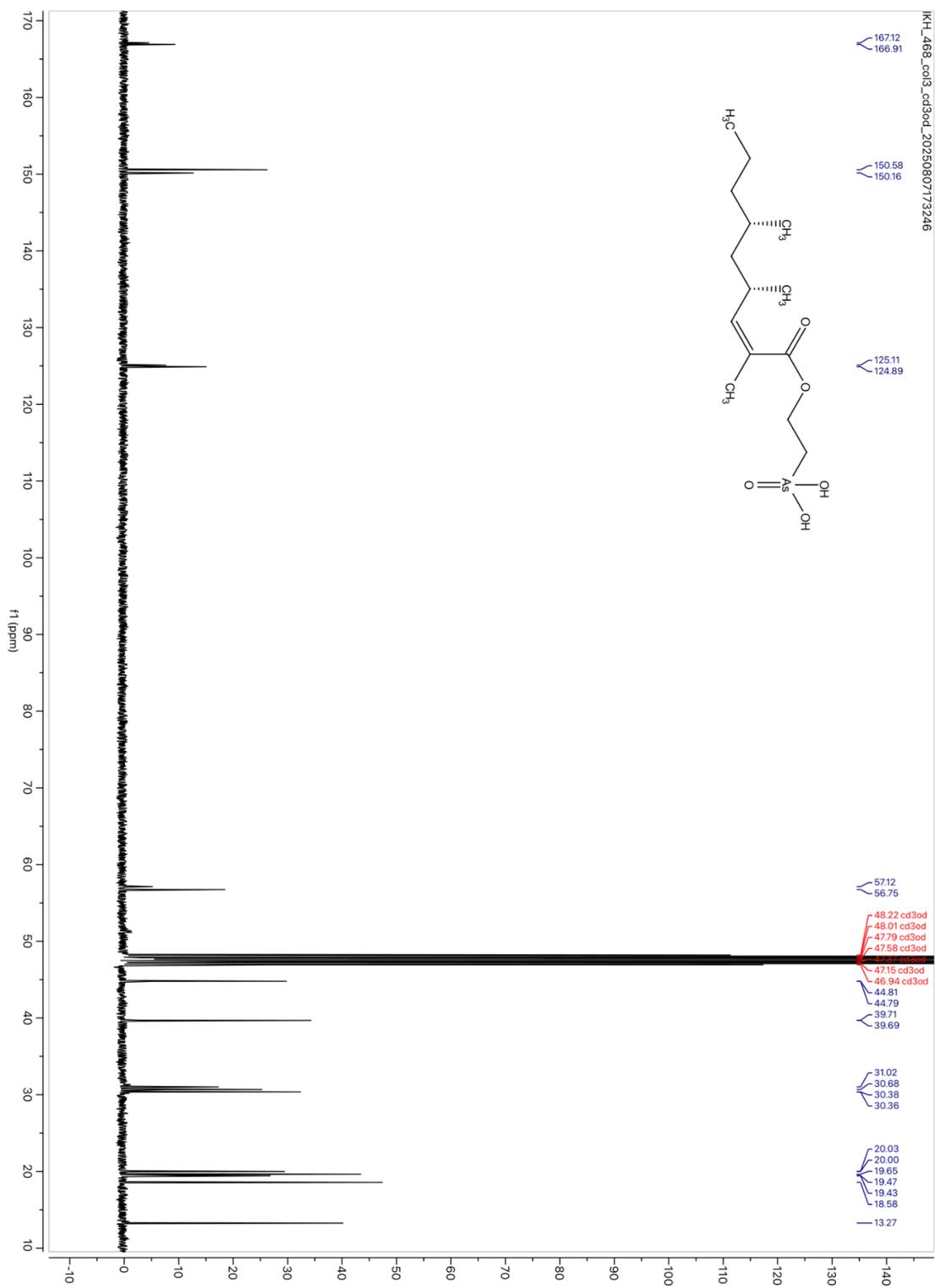
¹H NMR spectrum of **1** in CD₂Cl₂



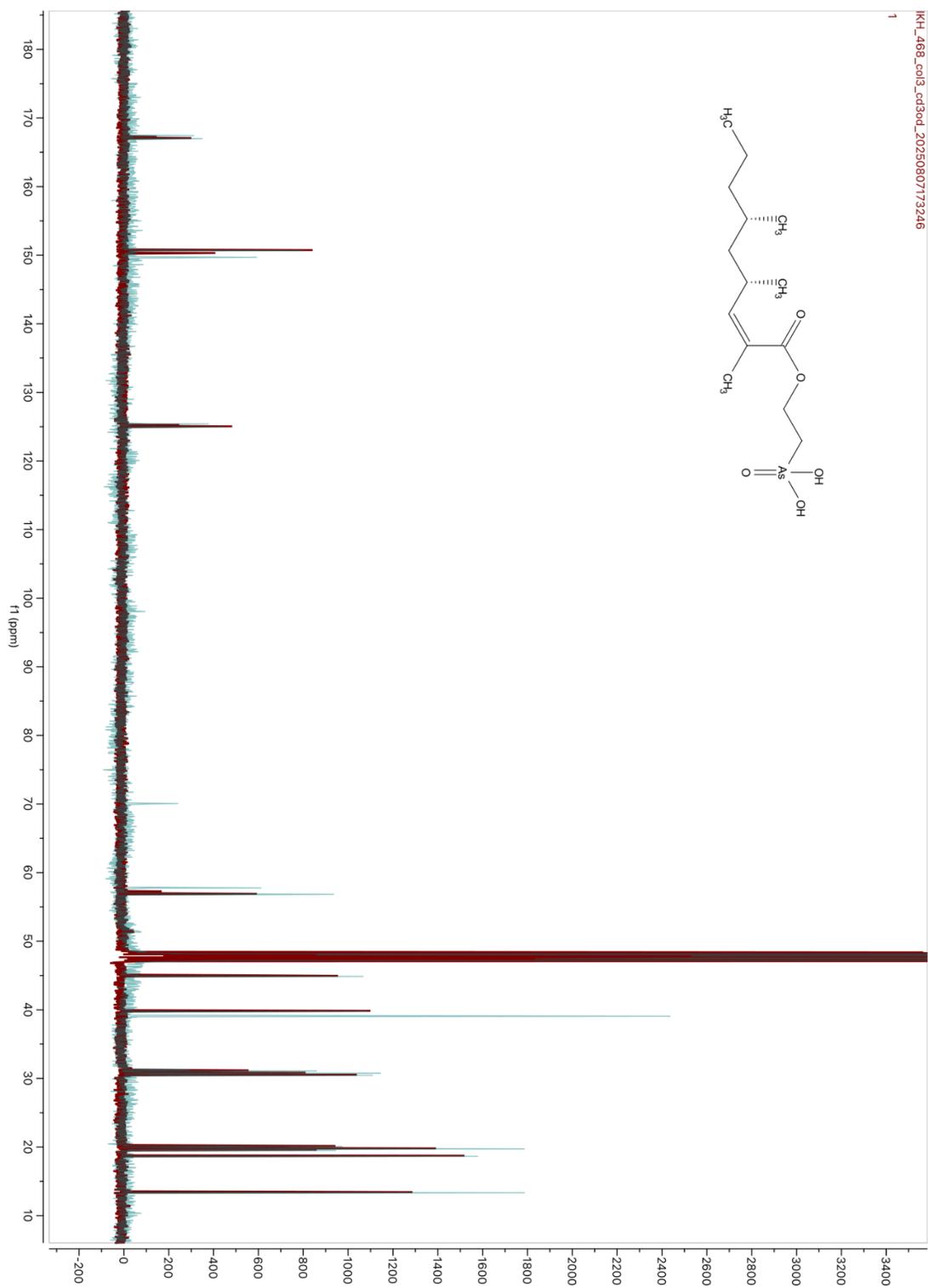
¹H NMR spectrum of 1 in CD₃OD



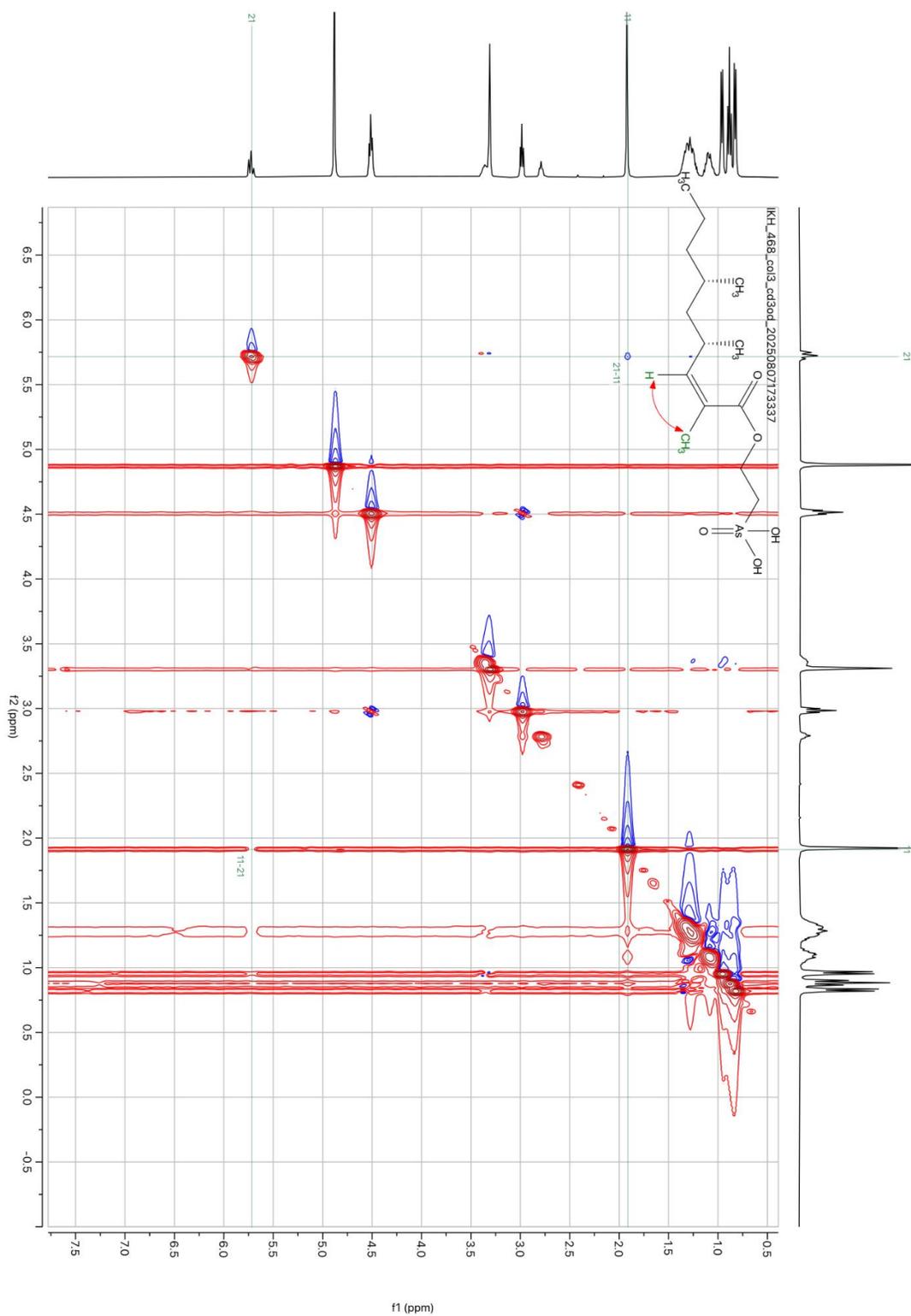
^{13}C NMR spectrum of synthetic **1** in CD_3OD



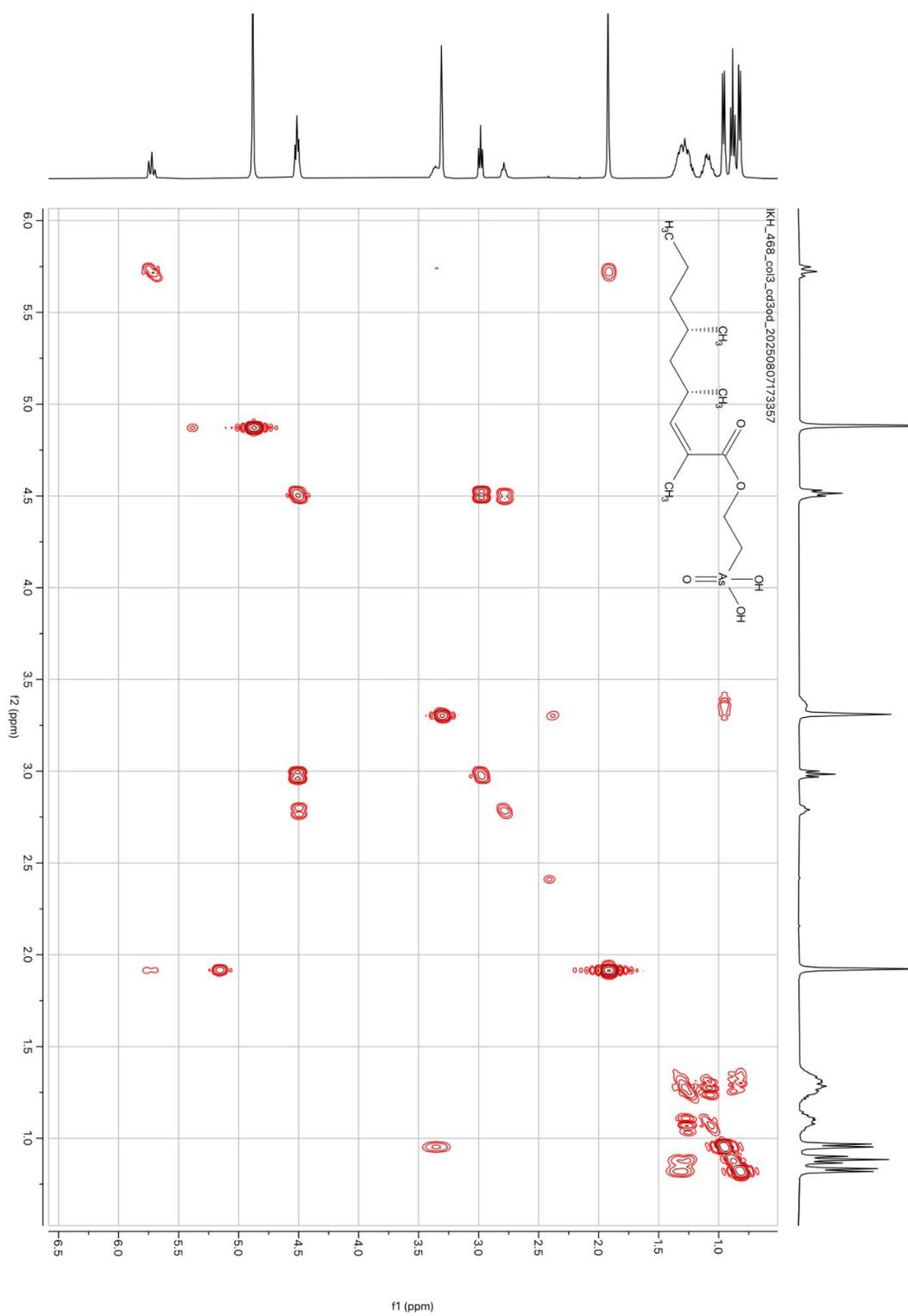
Overlaid ^{13}C NMR spectra of synthetic (maroon) and natural (cyan) **1** in CD_3OD



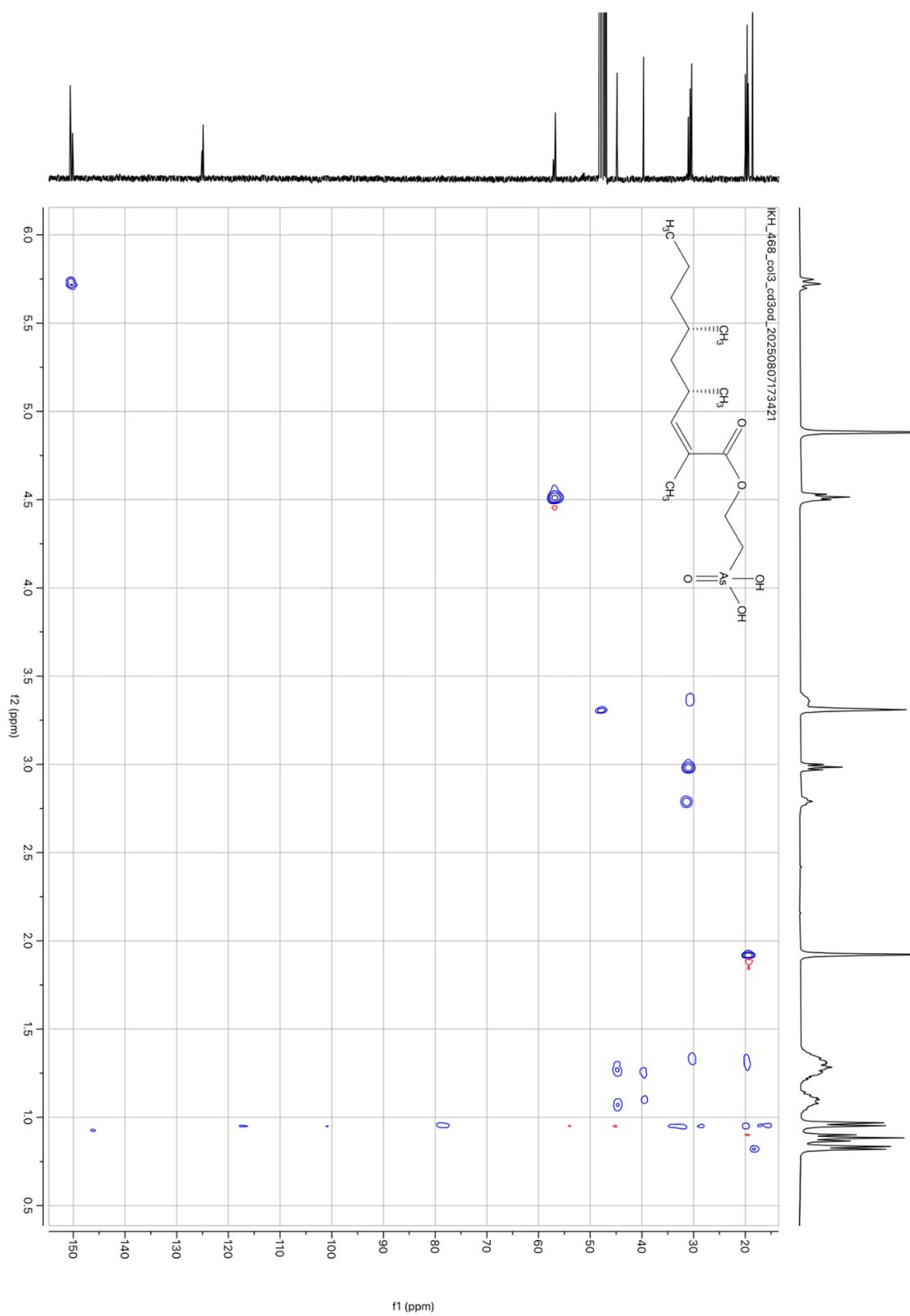
2D NOESY spectrum of synthetic **1** in CD₃OD

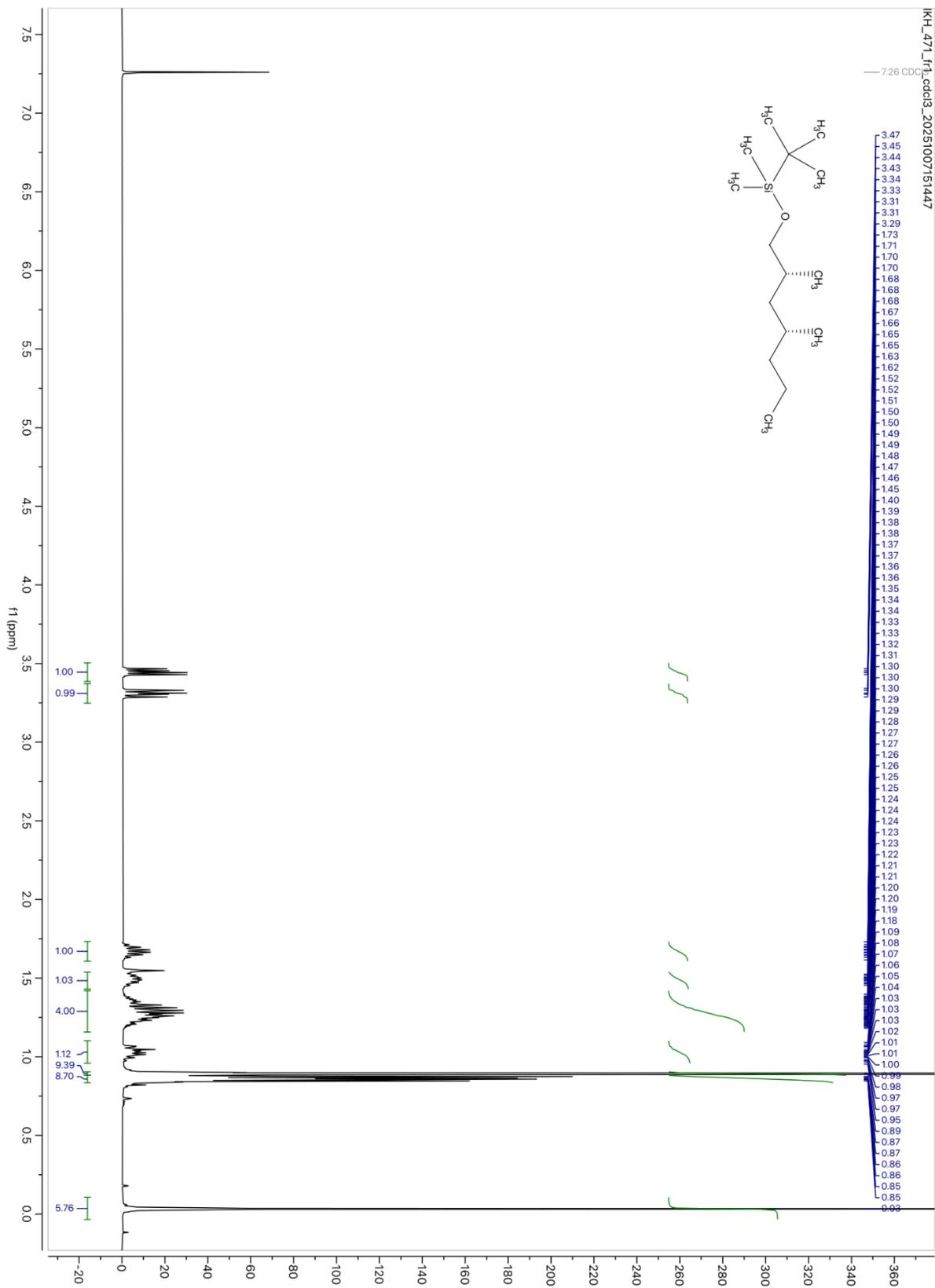


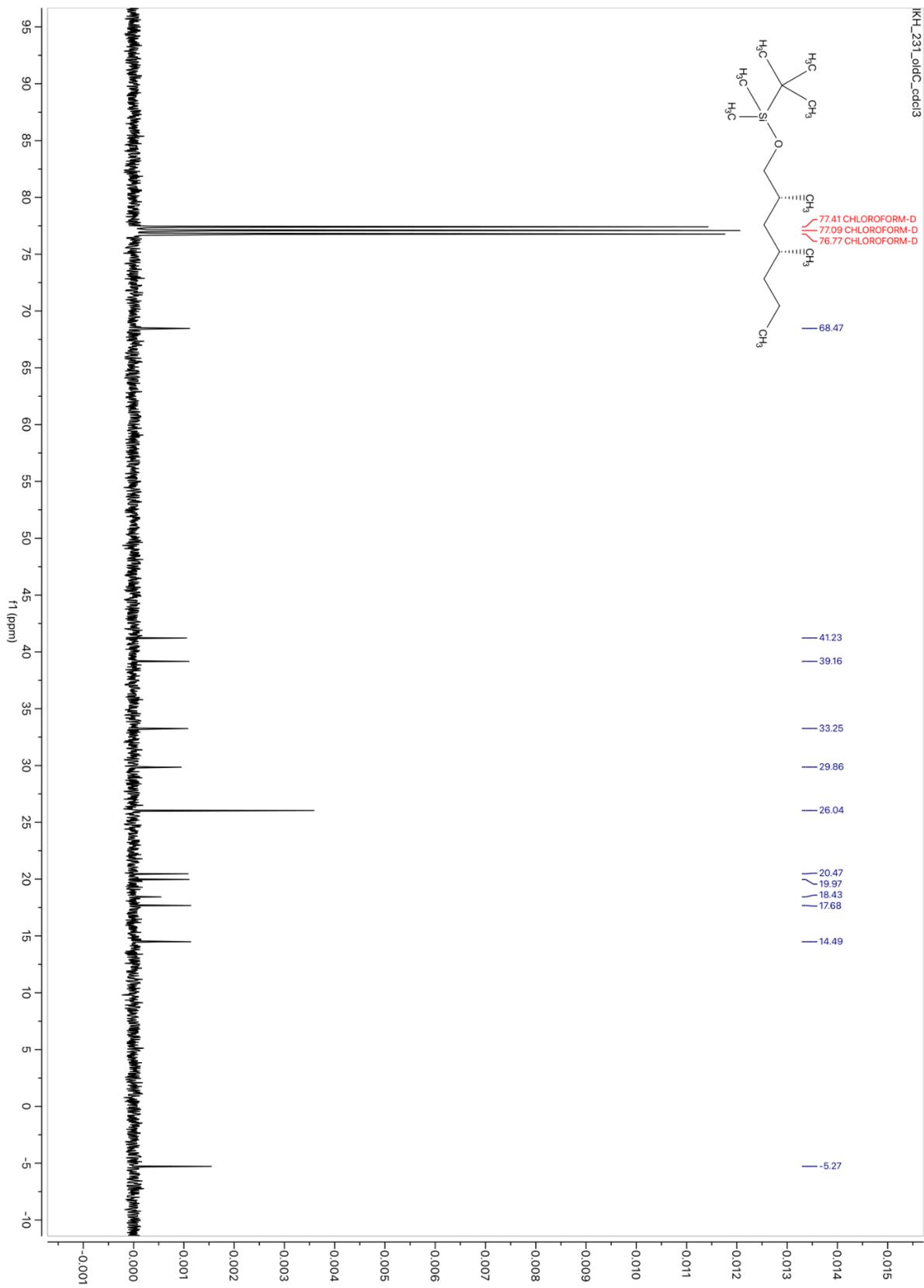
COSY spectrum of synthetic 1 in CD₃OD

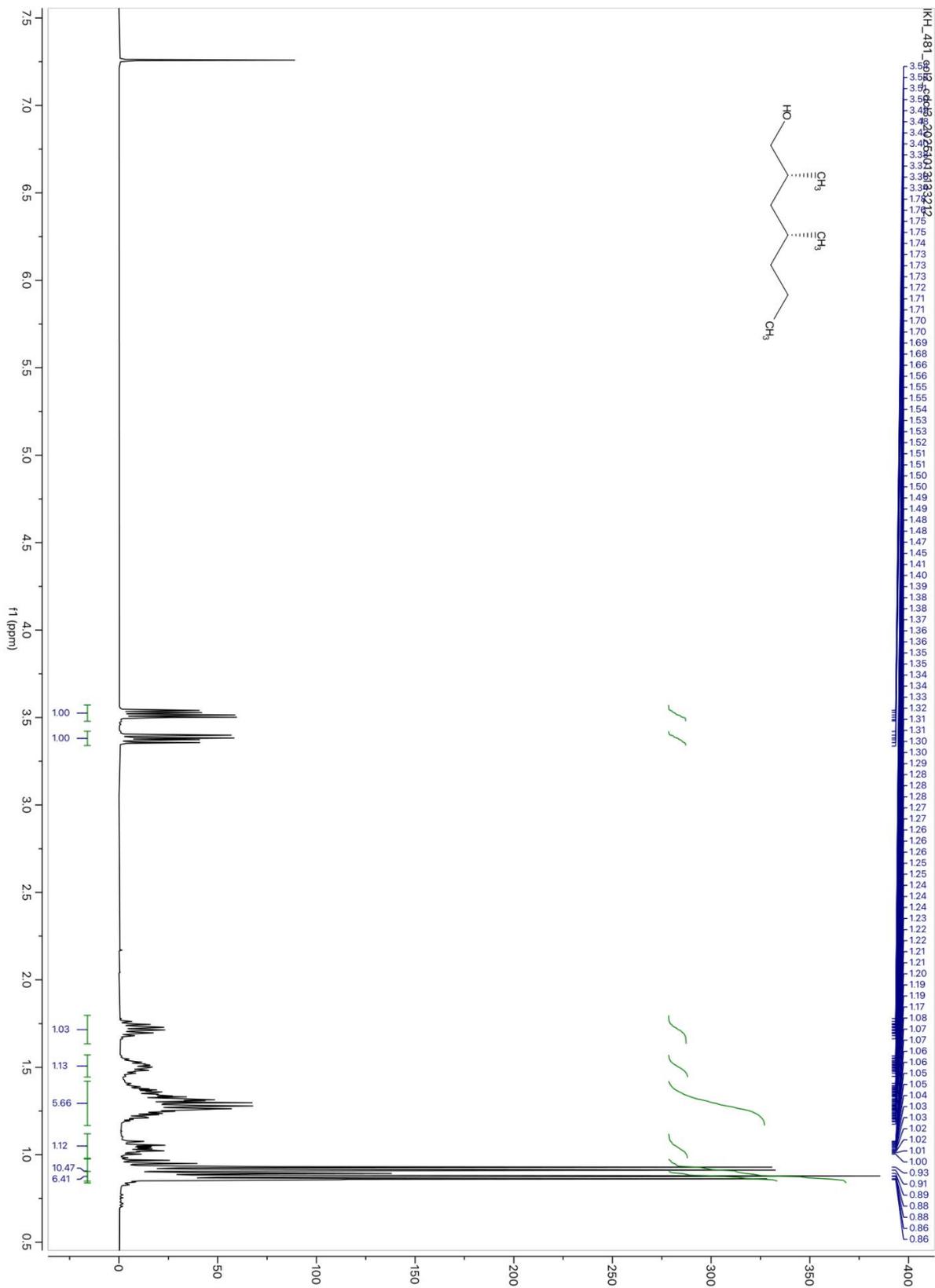


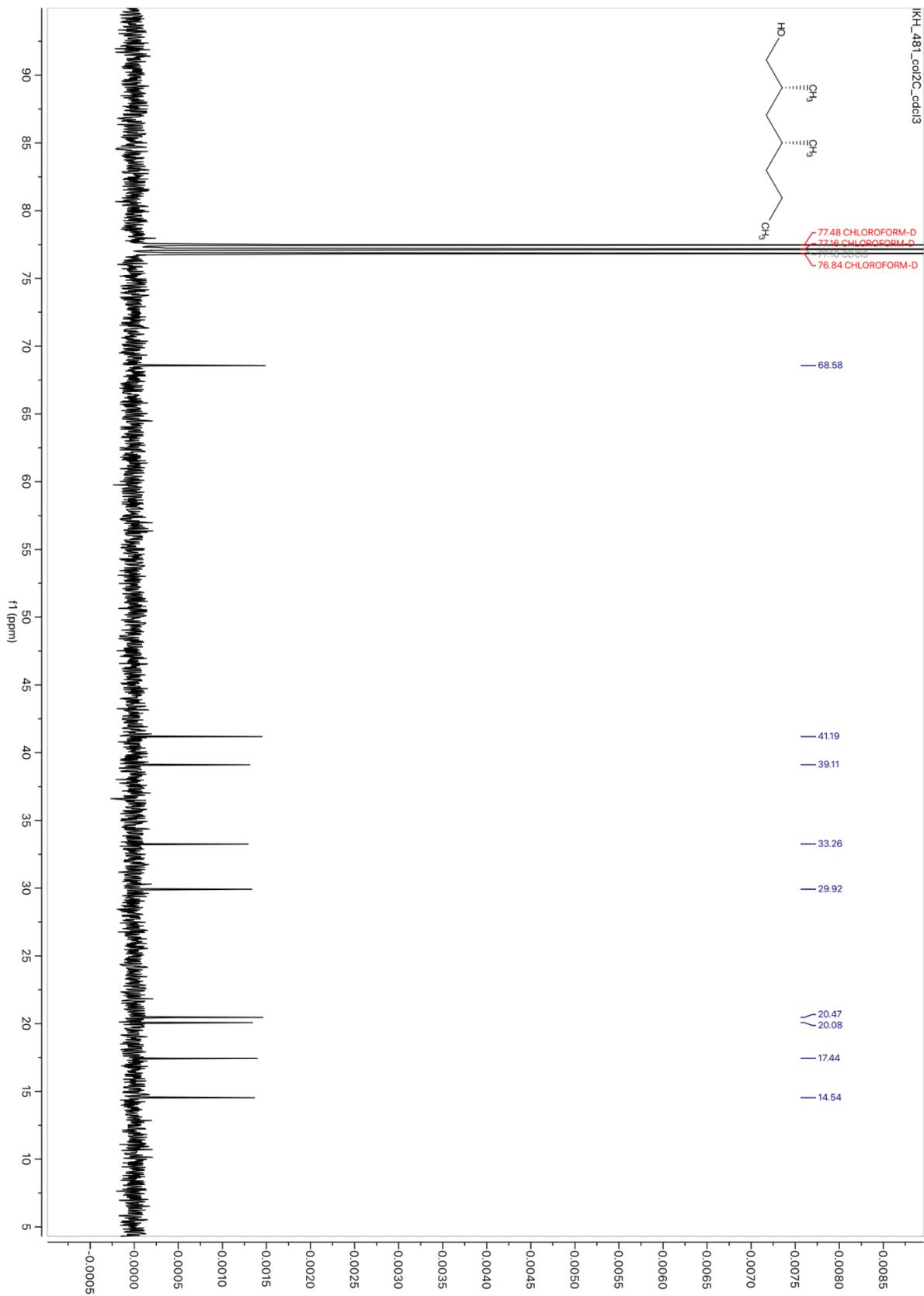
HSQC spectrum of synthetic 1 in CD₃OD

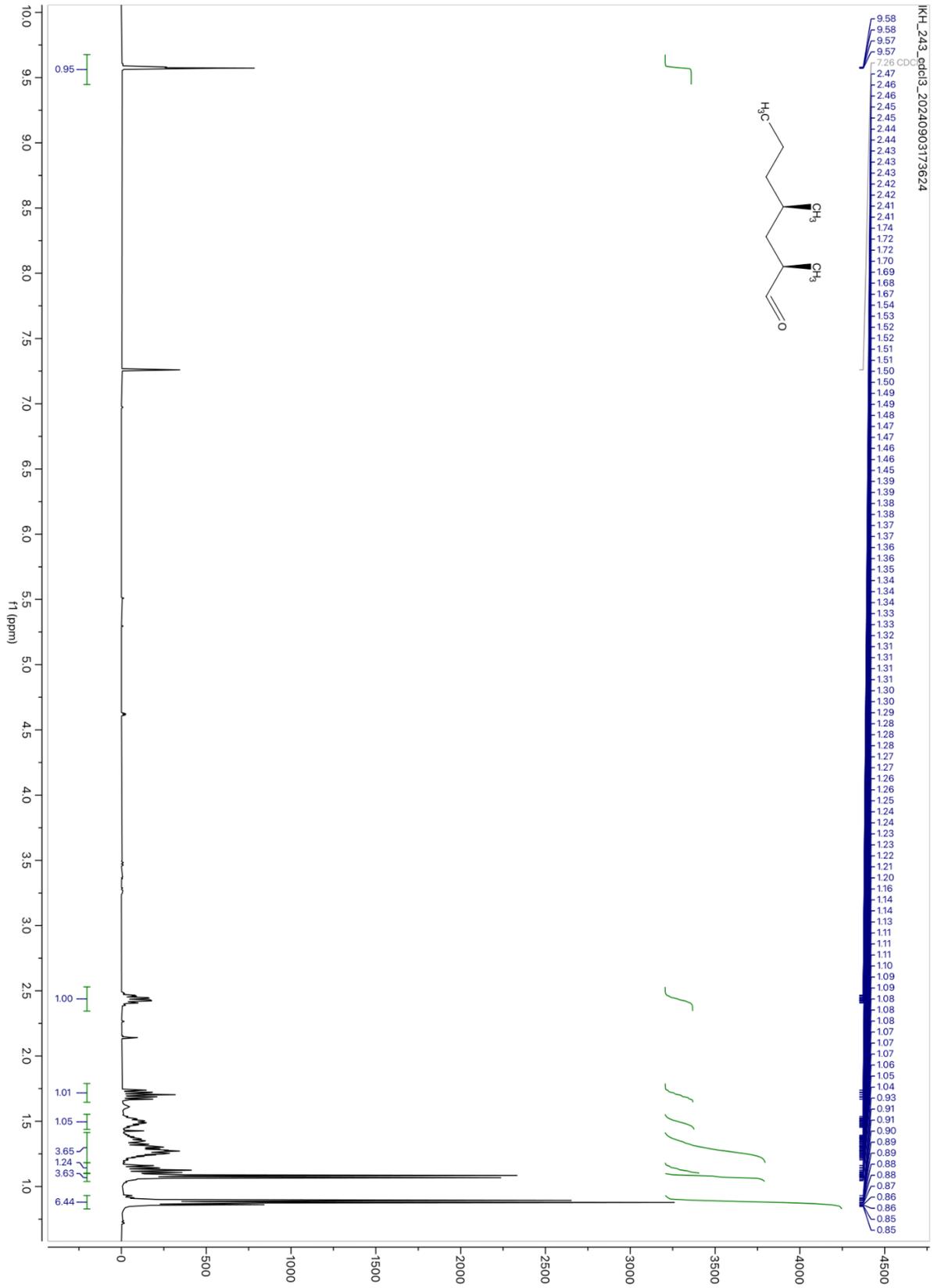


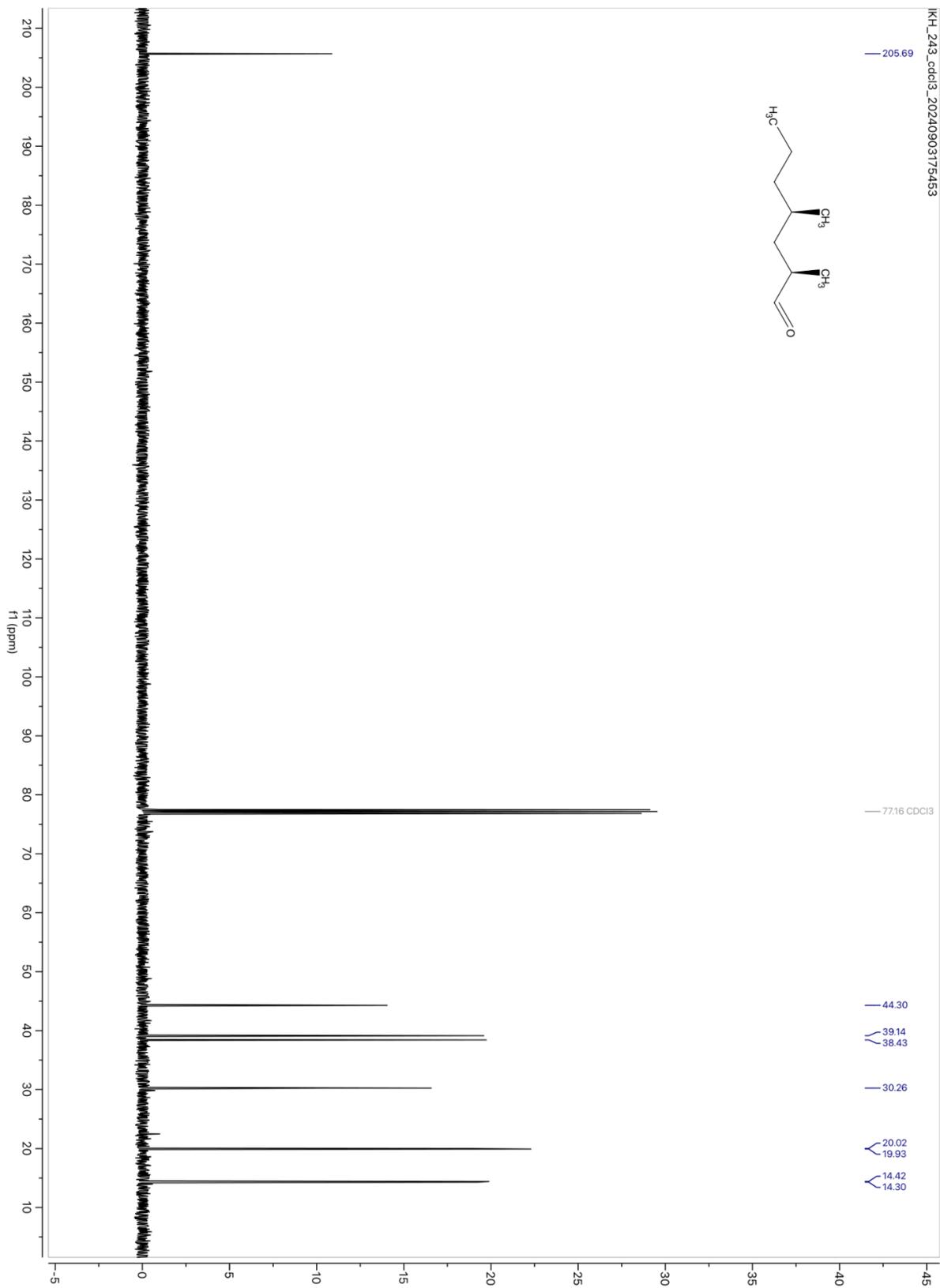




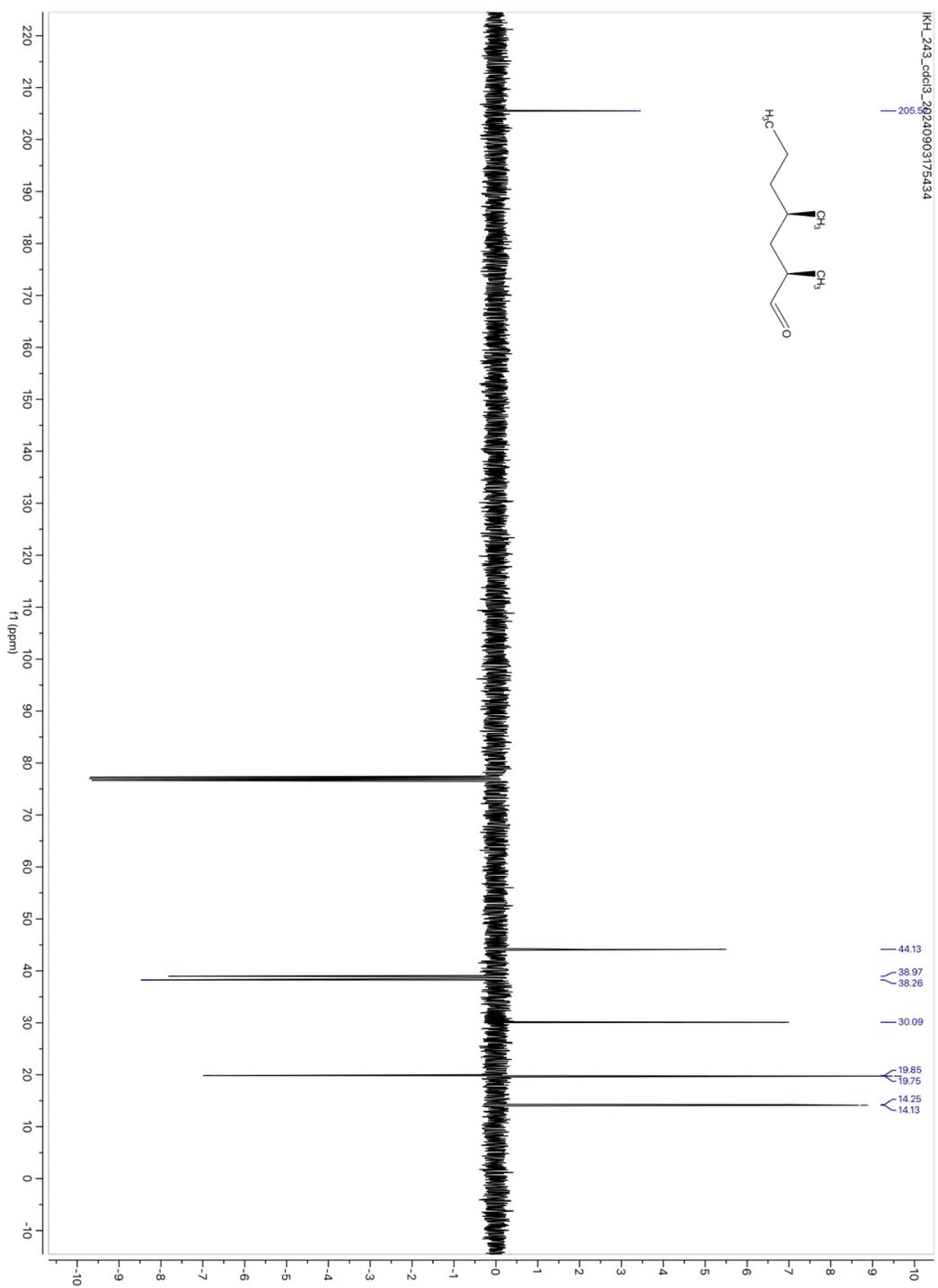


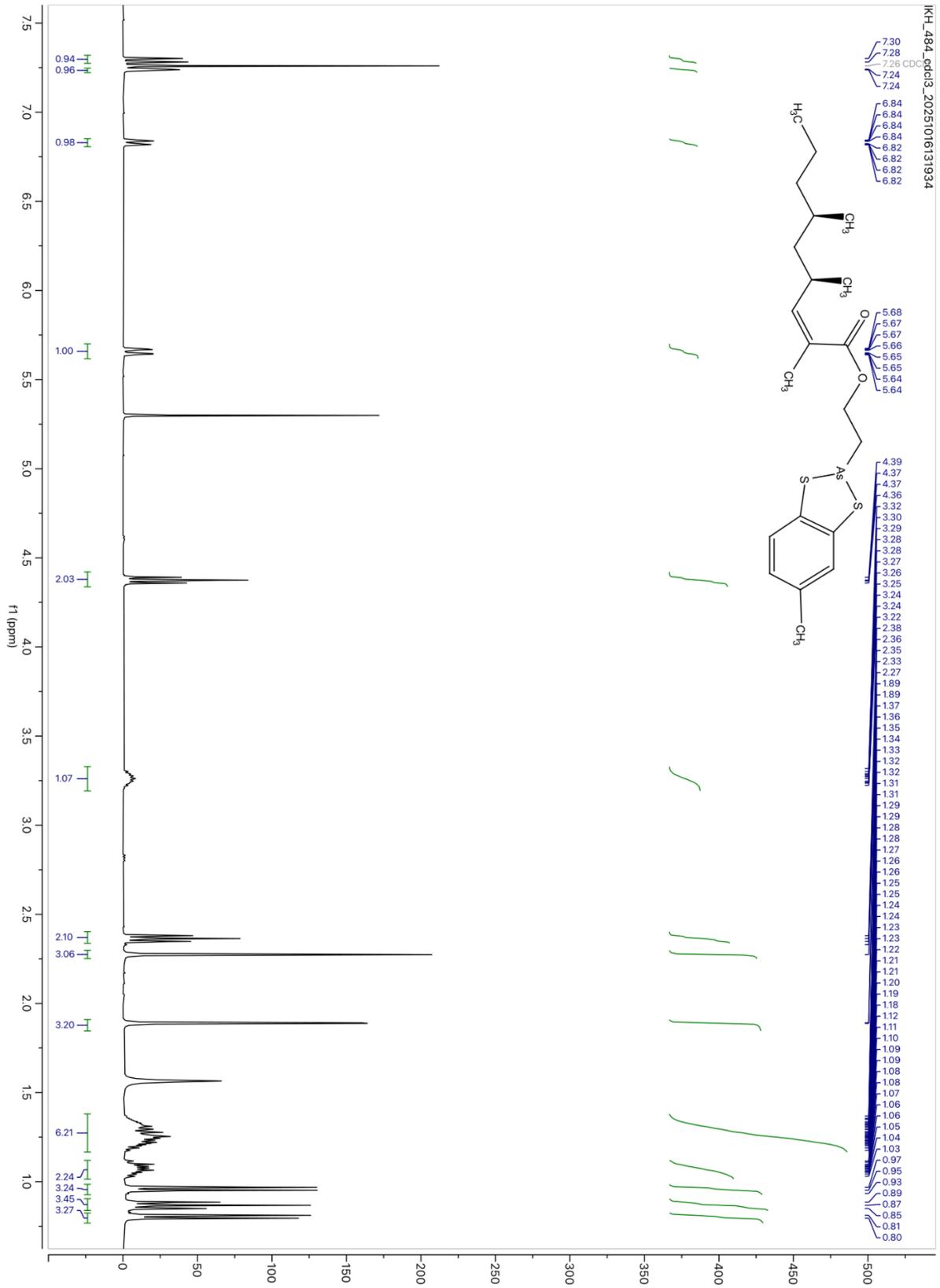




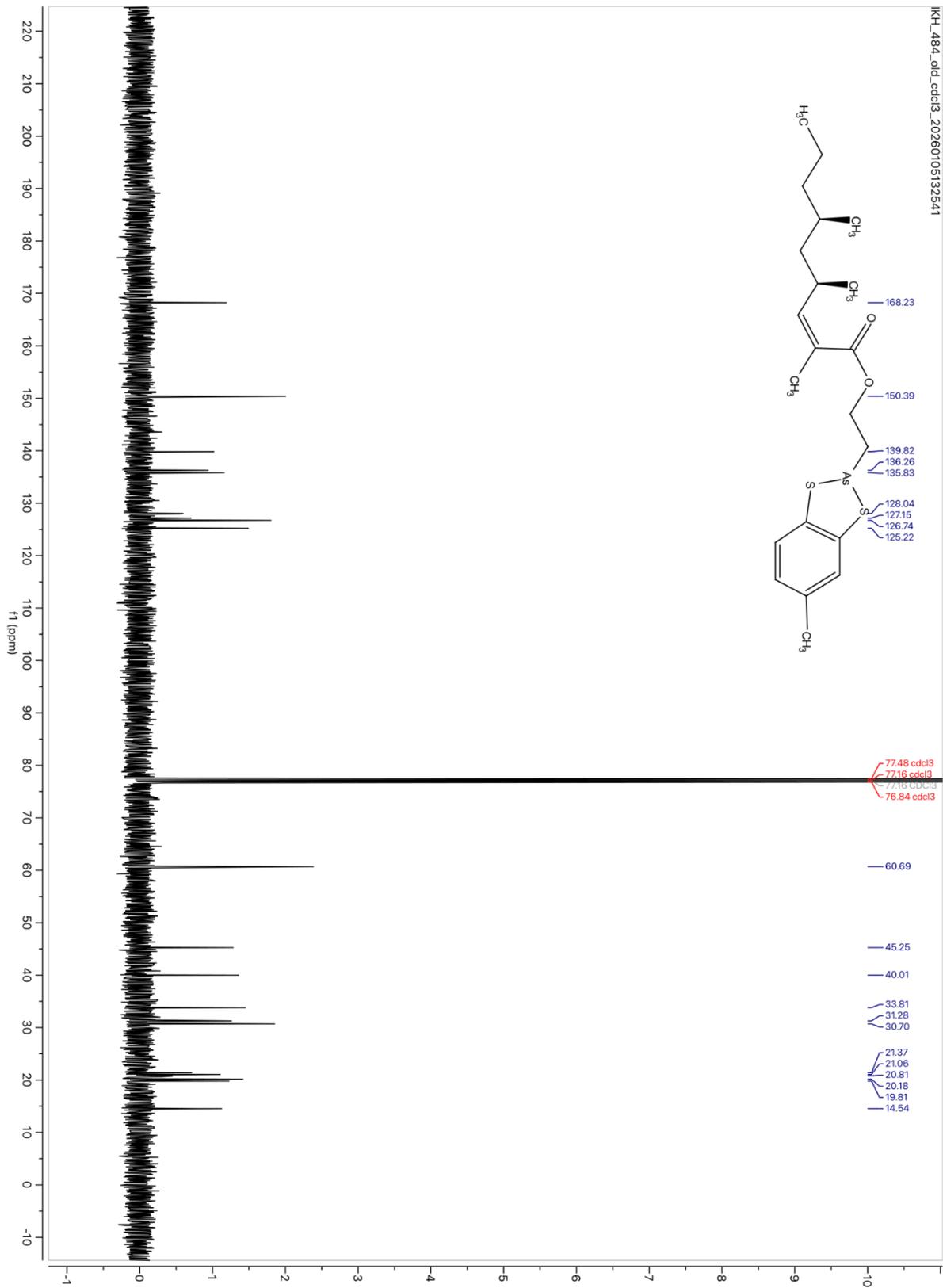


APT spectrum of ent-5

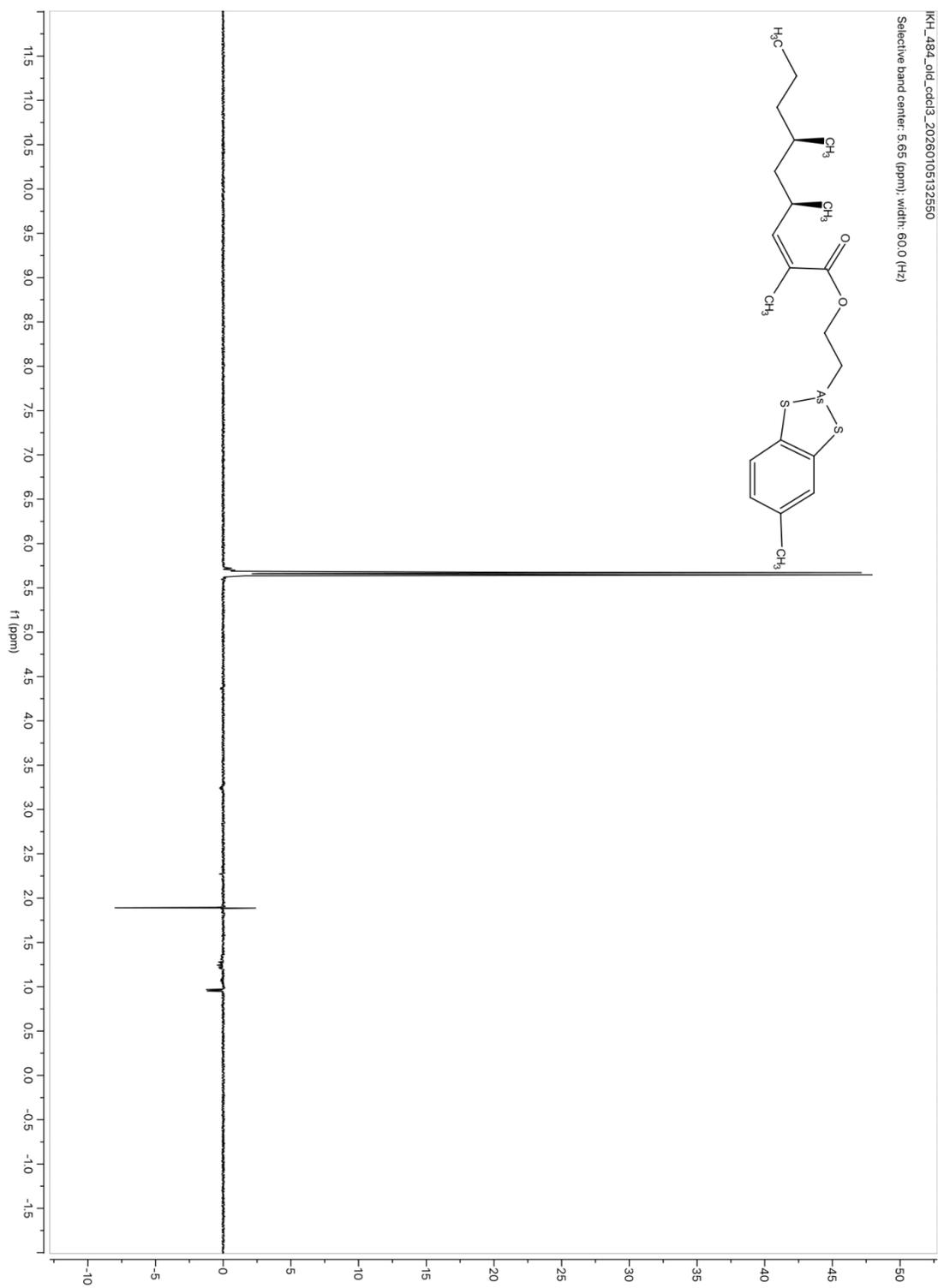




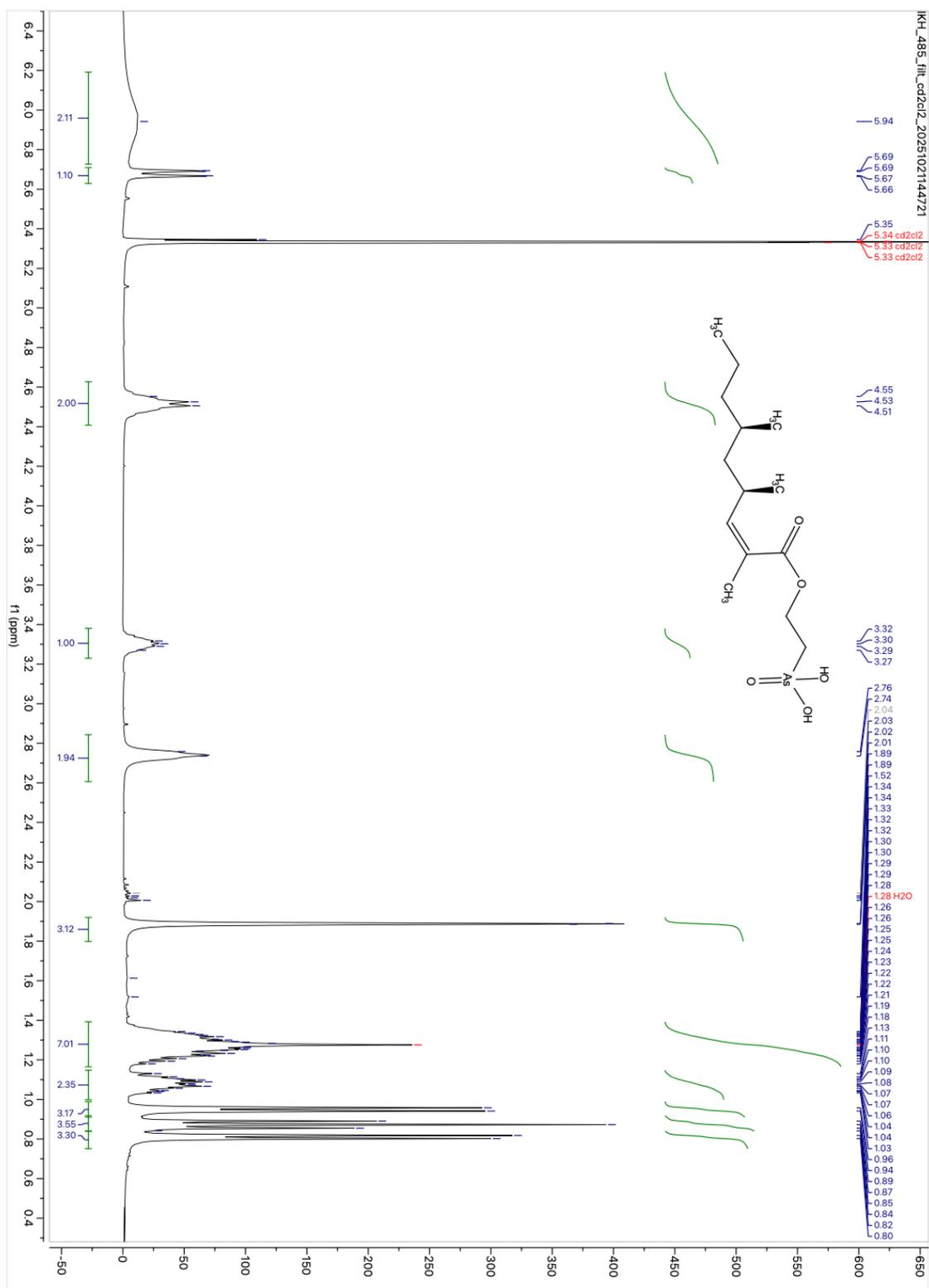
KH_484_old_cdcl3_20260105132541



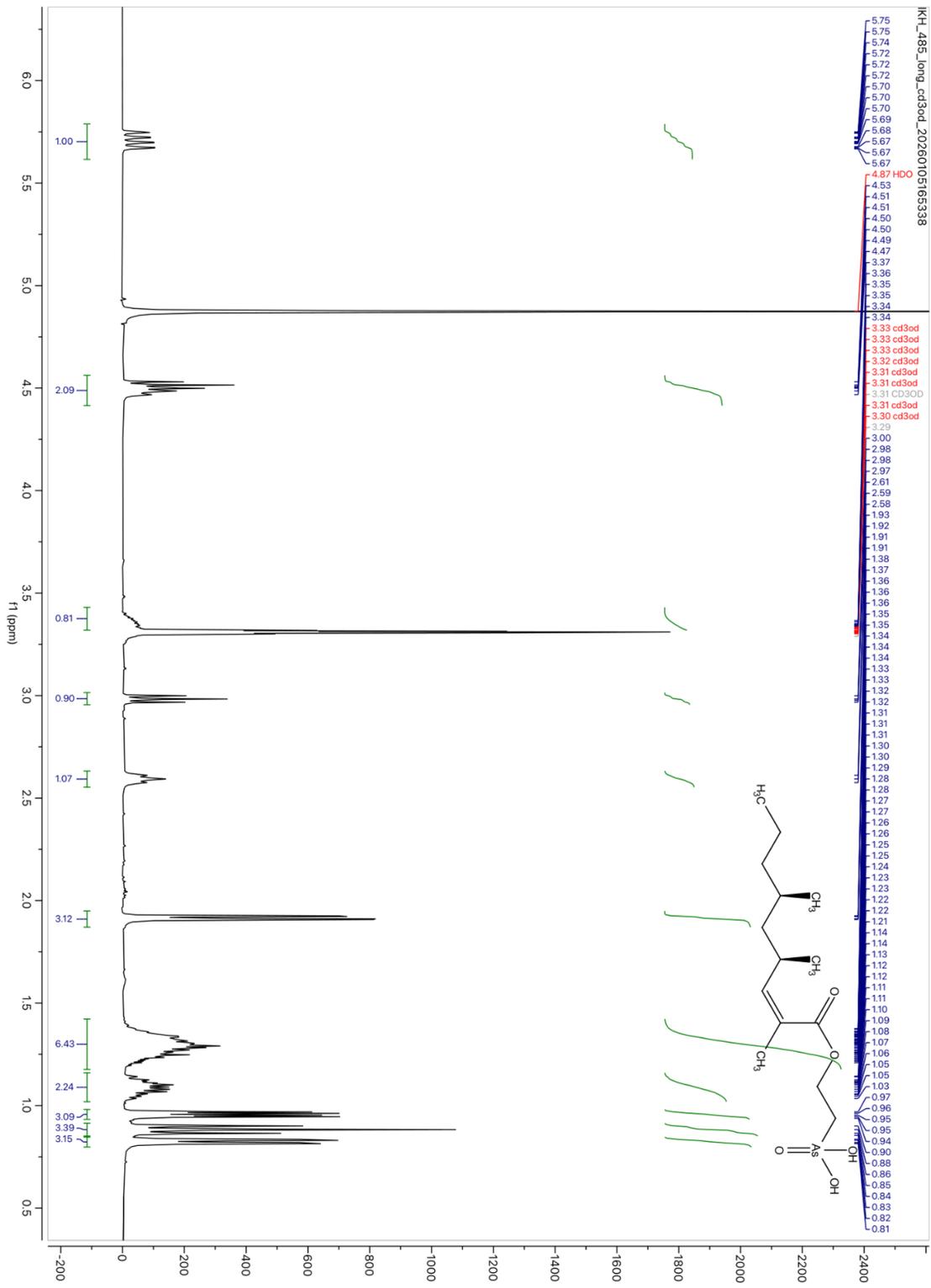
1D NOESY spectrum of ent-14



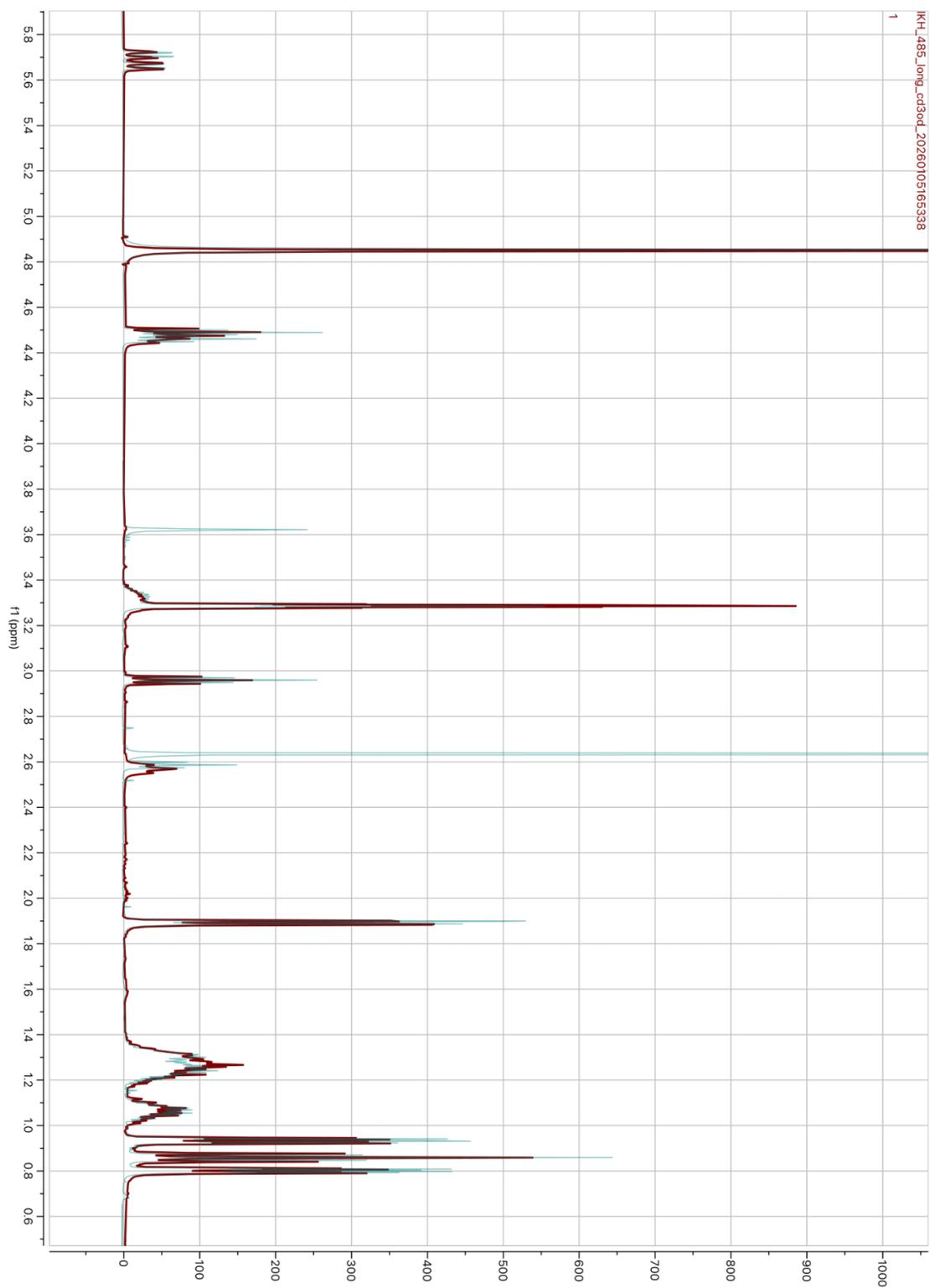
¹H NMR spectrum of **ent-1** in CD₂Cl₂



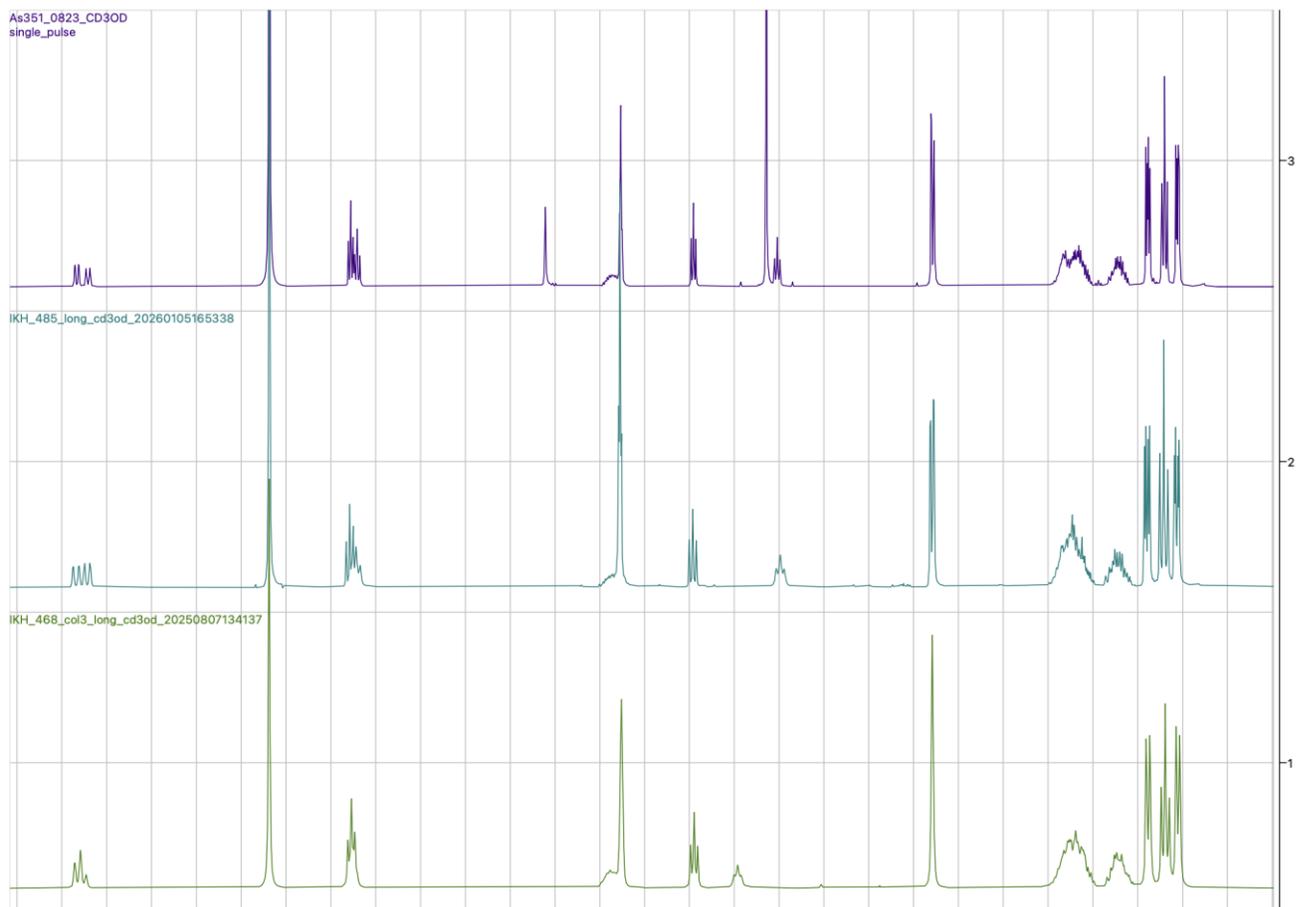
¹H NMR spectrum of **ent-1** in CD₃OD

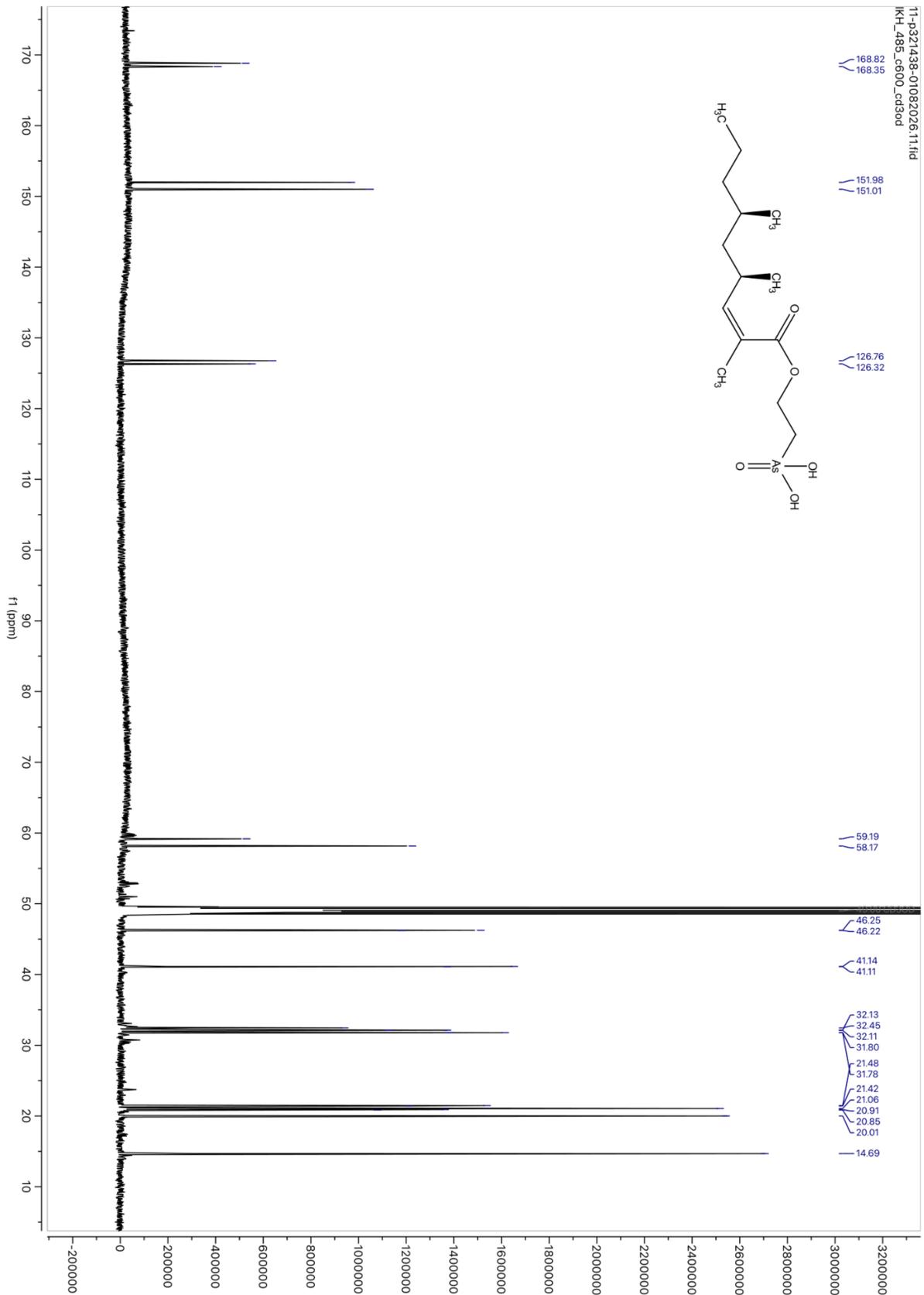


Overlaid ^1H NMR spectra of synthetic **ent-1** (maroon) and natural **1** (cyan) in CD_3OD

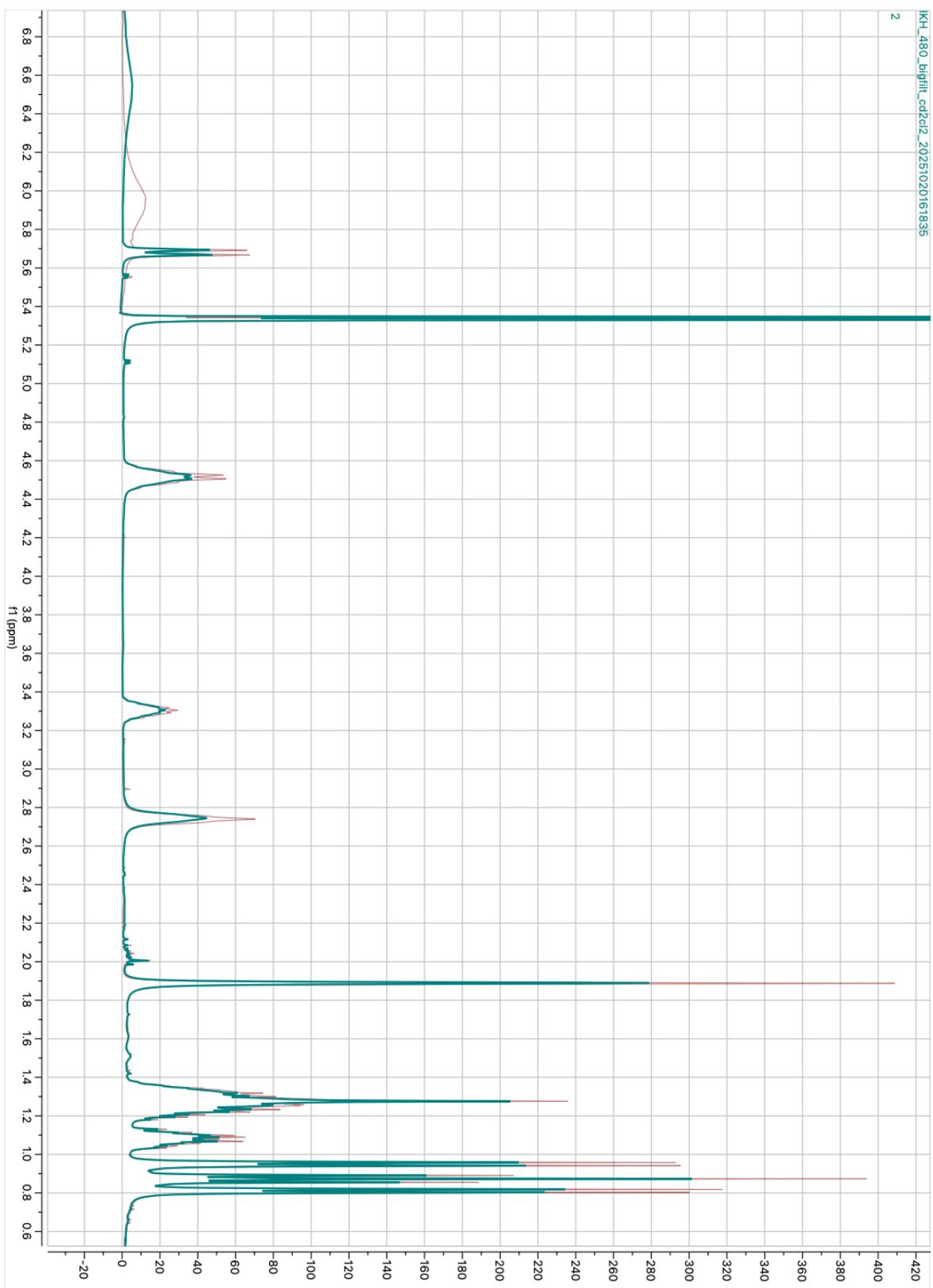


Overlaid ^1H NMR spectra of synthetic **1** (bottom), synthetic **ent-1** (middle) and natural **1** (top) in CD_3OD

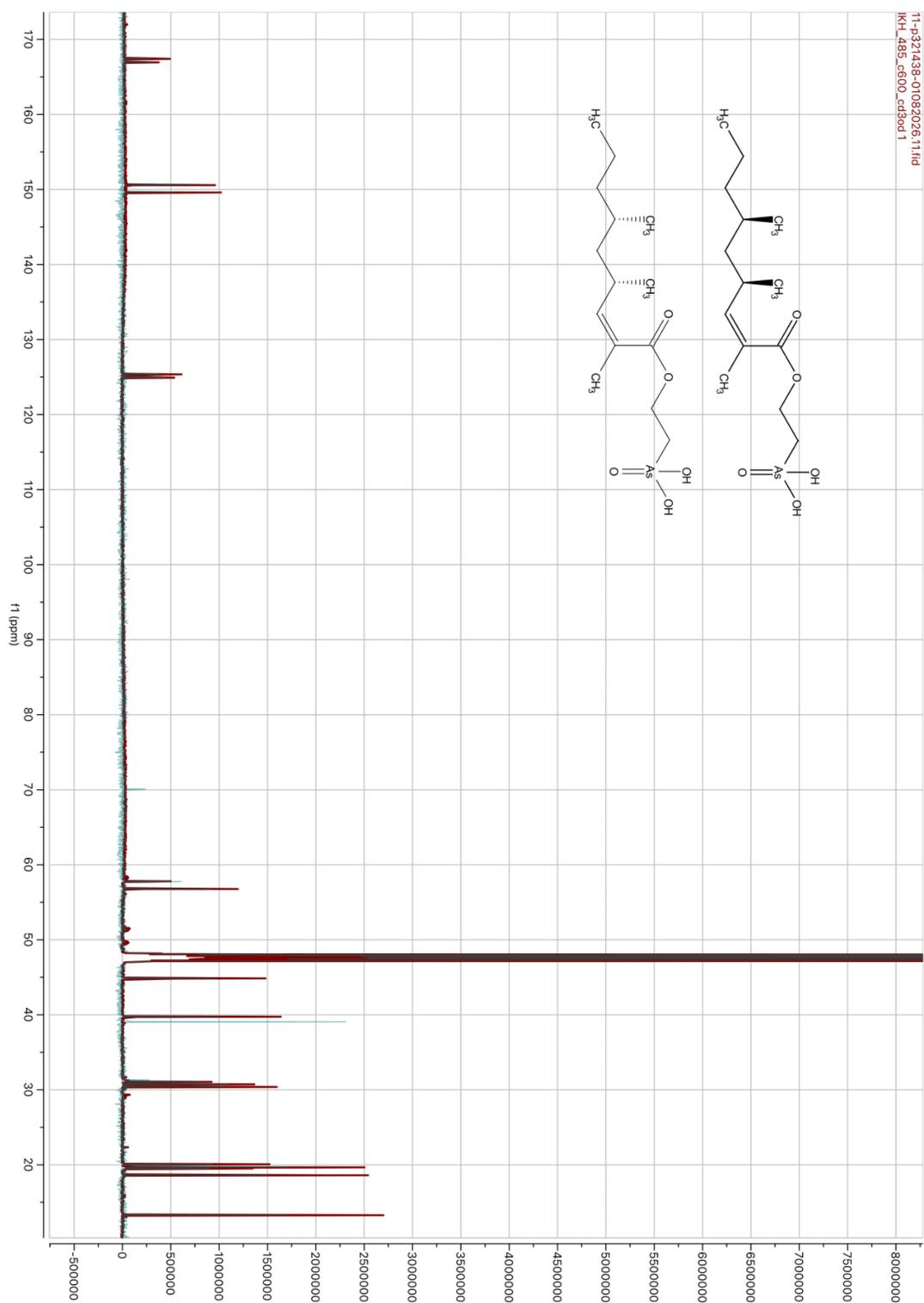




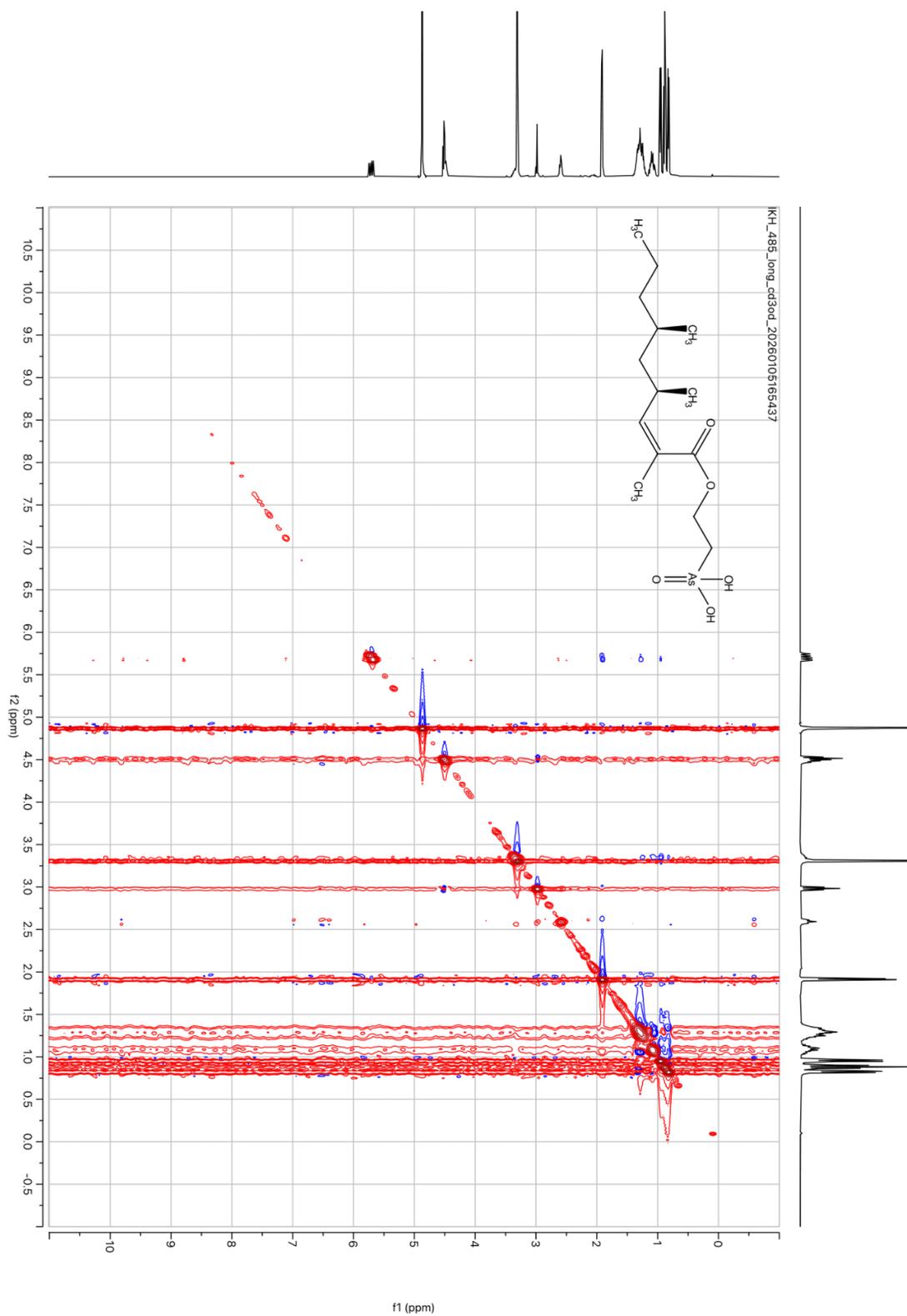
Overlaid ^1H NMR spectra of synthetic **ent-1** (maroon) and synthetic **1** (cyan) in CD_2Cl_2



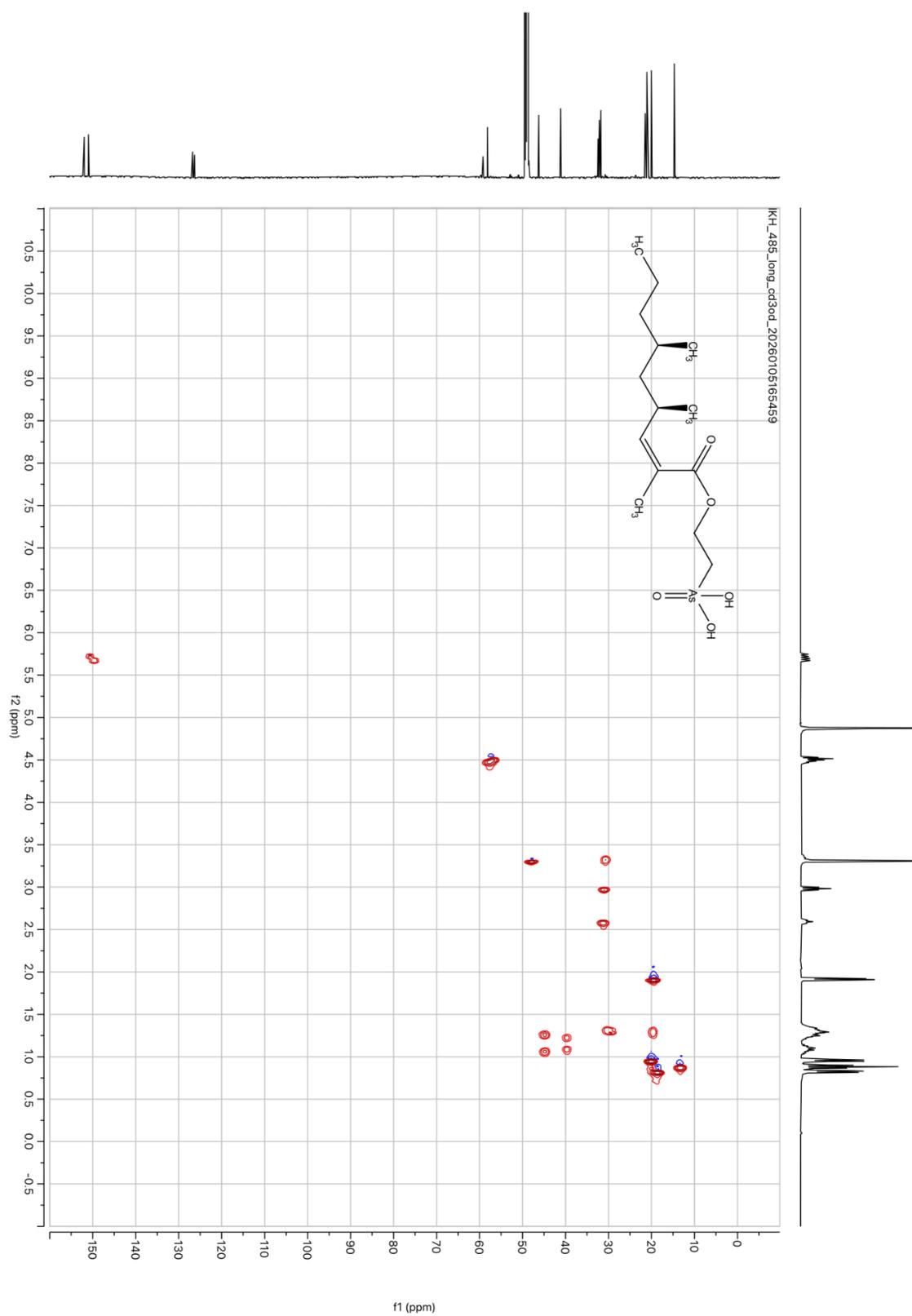
Overlaid ^{13}C NMR spectra of synthetic **ent-1** (maroon) and natural **1** (cyan) in CD_3OD



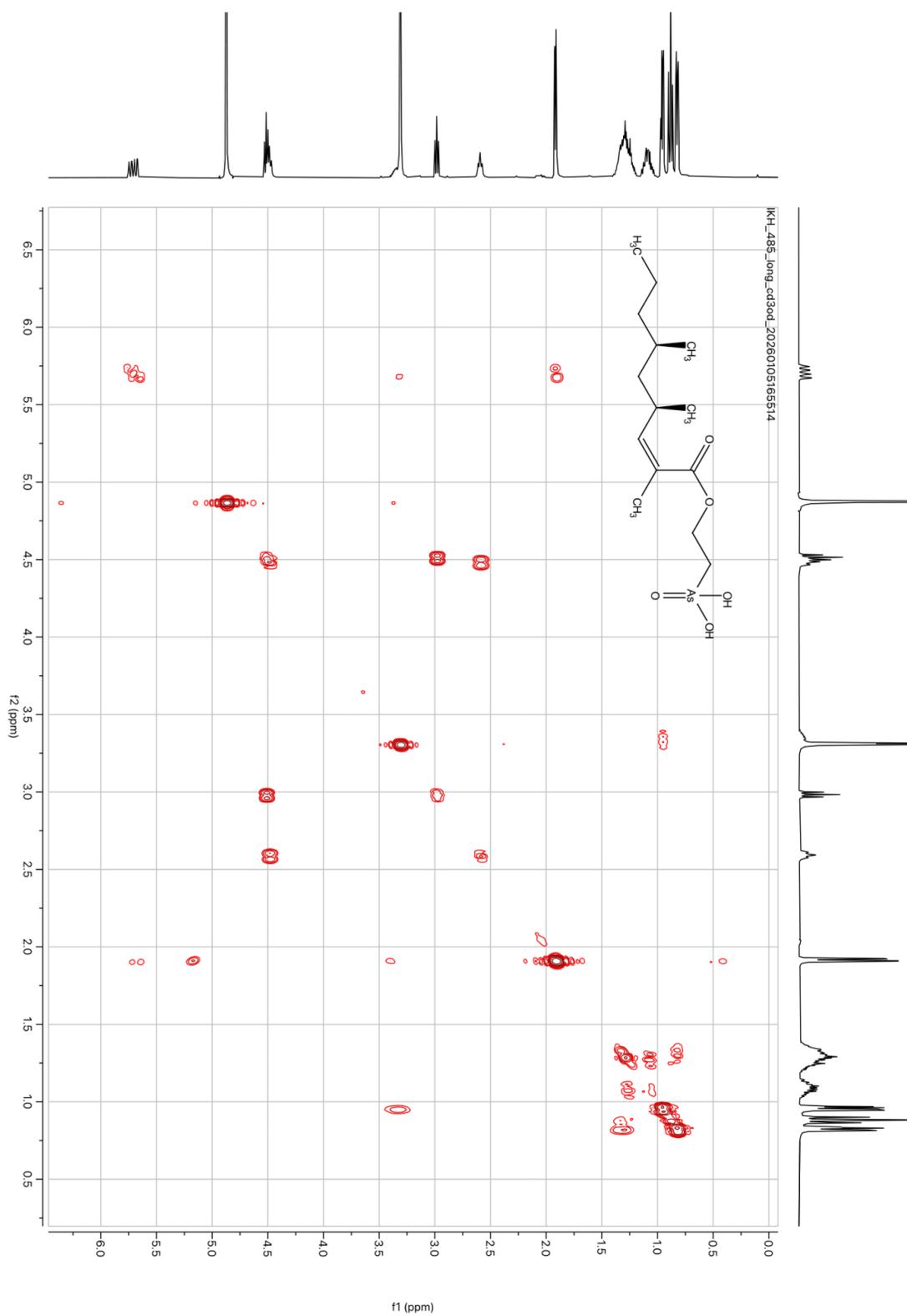
2D NOESY spectrum of **ent-1** in CD₃OD



HSQC spectrum of **ent-1** in CD₃OD



COSY spectrum of **ent-1** in CD₃OD



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