Supporting Information

Targeting Cytotoxicity and Tubulin Polymerization by Metal-Carbene Complexes on a Purine Tautomer Platform

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Materials:

6-Chloropurine was purchased from SRL, benzyl bromide from Avra Synthesis, potassium carbonate from Rankem and silver oxide was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. O-methoxy hydroxylamine hydrochloride and dimethyl acetamide (DMA) were purchased from Spectrochem. Dimethyl sufoxide (DMSO), triethyl amine and sodium bicarbonate were purchased from Merck. Mercuric acetate and butanol were purchased from SD-fine. Dulbecco Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM), Cell culture dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), 3- (4, 5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT), Kanamycin sulfate, Trypsin-EDTA solution, Sodium Chloride, Potassium Chloride, ATP, GTP, Curcumin and fetal bovine serum were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. 2-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)

piperazin-1-yl] ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) was purchased from Himedia. Penicillin-Streptomycin was purchased from Invitrogen. Anti-alpha Tubulin antibody and Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG H&L (Cy3.5 \circledast) preadsorbed were purchased from Abcam. All compounds were used without further purification. Tubulin was isolated and purified from goat brain in our lab. A549 (adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells) cell line and MCF-7 (human breast cancer cell line) were purchased from NCCS, Pune (India) and cultured in Dulbecco Modified Eagle medium (DMEM) containing 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ atmosphere in our lab.

Experimental

General:

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL-JNM LAMBDA 400 model operating at 500 and 125 MHz, respectively. Analysis of ¹H and ¹³C NMR of final product was done by JEOL ECX-500 model operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz respectively. HRMS was recorded at IIT Kanpur, India, on Waters, Q-Tof Premier Micromass HAB 213 mass spectrometer using capillary voltage 2.6-3.2 kV.

Synthesis of N7, N9-dibenzyl-N⁶-methoxyadenine (1): Ligand **1** was synthesized in three steps starting from 6-chloropurine by the following procedure (Scheme 1). Compound **i** and **ii** were synthesized following previously described method.¹



Scheme 1: Synthesis of N7, N9-dibenzyl-N⁶-methoxyadenine (1)

N9-benzyl-N⁶-methoxyadenine (ii) (1 g, 3.92 mmol) was suspended in dimethyl acetamide (DMA) (15 mL). To this reaction mixture, benzyl bromide (2.33 mL, 19.6 mmol) was then added dropwise. After complete addition, reaction was heated at 50 °C under nitrogen atmosphere and was monitored by TLC. After 12 h, TLC showed completion of the reaction. Heating was stopped and reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. It was then slowly poured over cold ethyl acetate and the obtained white solid was separated. The solvent was decanted and solid was dried in high *vaccuo*. Pure compound was then isolated as a pale white solid. Yield: 1.0 g (2.34 mmol, 60%). HRMS: [L]⁺ (C₂₀H₂₀N₅O): 346.1667 (calcd: 346.1662). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CD₃OD, 25 °C, TMS) δ (ppm) 3.90 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 5.45 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.63 (s, 2H, CH₂) 7.37-7.41 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 7.76 (s, 1H, C2-H), 9.26 (s, 1H, C8-H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm) 48.86, 52.97, 61.53, 111.33, 128.01, 128.40, 128.54, 128.90, 128.92, 128.96, 133.70, 133.87, 136.37, 136.71, 141.35, 148.62.

Crystals of **1** were obtained by slow evaporation of its methanolic solution. Refinement data suggests that **1** crystallizes as its bromide salt in a triclinic unit cell system with P-I space group (Figure S1). The crystal structure refinement parameters and selected bond lengths and bond angles are given in Table S1 and S2, respectively.

Synthesis of silver carbene complex, 1A: Ligand **1** (50 mg, 0.117 mmol) and silver oxide (17 mg, 0.073 mmol) were suspended in 1:1 DCM: acetonitrile (12 mL) solvent system and stirred in dark under nitrogen atmosphere for 16 h at 25 °C. The reaction mixture was then filtered through a celite bed and the filterate was concentrated under high *vaccuo* affording a yellow powder. Yield: 40 mg (0.045 mmol, 77.7%). HRMS: $[L_2Ag]^+$ (C₄₀H₃₈AgN₁₀O₂): 797.2230 (Calcd.: 797.2219), $[L]^+$ (C₂₀H₂₀N₅O): 346.1375 (Calcd.: 346.1662). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CD₃OD, 25 °C, TMS) δ (ppm) 3.80 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 5.36 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.65 (s, 2H, CH₂) 7.35-7.43 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 7.68 (s, 1H, C2-H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d₆-DMSO, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm) 47.70, 52.04, 60.90, 108.51, 128.57, 128.81, 128.89, 128.95, 129.27, 129.35, 133.59, 135.76, 136.38, 145.07, 156.58, 178.52.

Synthesis of mercury carbene complex, 1B: Ligand 1 (50 mg, 0.117 mmol) and mercuric acetate (46 mg, 0.144 mmol) were suspended in DCM (10 mL) and stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at 25 °C for 24 h. Reaction mixture was then concentrated under high *vaccuo*

affording a pale yellow powder. Yield: 40 mg (0.038 mmol, 65%). HRMS: $[L_2HgBr_2 + H]^+$ (C₄₀H₃₉Br₂HgN₁₀O₂): 1051.11 (Calcd: 1051.1330), $[L_2HgBr]^+$ (C₄₀H₃₈BrHgN₁₀O₂): 971.21 (Calcd: 971.2068), $[LHgBr]^+$ (C₂₀H₁₉BrHgN₅O): 626.0489 (Calcd.: 626.0479), $[L_2Hg]^{2+/2}$ (C₂₀H₁₉Hg_{0.5}N₅O): 446.1507 (Calcd.: 446.1442) and $[L]^+$ (C₂₀H₂₀N₅O): 346.1647 (Calcd.: 346.1662). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, d₆-DMSO, 25 °C, TMS) δ (ppm) 3.30 (merged with d₆-DMSO, 3H, O-CH₃), 5.54 (s, 2H, CH₂), 5.72 (s, 2H, CH₂) 7.20-7.23 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 7.71 (s, 1H, C2-H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d₆-DMSO, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm) 49.51, 53.94, 61.45, 112.02, 127.88, 127.93, 128.36, 128.46, 128.98, 129.13, 136.19, 136.78, 140.38, 144.47, 156.40, 175.80.

Methods:

Cytotoxicity study:

Inhibition of cancer cells (adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cell line (A549 cell line) and breast cancer cell line (MCF-7 cell line)) proliferation were evaluated by 3-(4, 5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) reduction.² Both A549 and MCF-7 cells were seeded at a density of 10000 cells per well in a 96-well plate separately for 18-24 h prior to their treatment with compounds and curcumin. Cell lines were then treated with various concentrations of curcumin (control) and the compounds (stock concentration was 10 mg/mL in cell culture DMSO) in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum for 24 h in different 96-well plate. Following the termination of experiment, cells were washed and assayed for viability using MTT. Results were expressed as percent viability = [A550 (treated cells)-background/A550 (untreated cells)-background] x 100.

Study of change in the cellular morphology after the compounds' treatment:

Change in cellular morphologies of A549 and MCF-7 cells after the compounds and curcumin treatment were evaluated by following method. Both A549 and MCF-7 cells were seeded at a density of 50000 cells per well in a 6-well plate separately for 18-24 h. Both the cell lines were then treated with 40 μ M concentration of each compound as well as curcumin (stock concentration was 10 mg/mL in cell culture DMSO) in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum for 24 h in different 6-well plate. Following the termination of the experiment, cells were observed in the inverted microscope (Model Nikon Eclipse Ti-U) in DIC mode.

Study the effect of 1, 1A, 1B and curcumin on the microtubule network of A549 and MCF-7 cell lines:

Change in the microtubule network of a lung cancer cell line (A549 cell line) and breast cancer cell line (MCF-7 cell line) after compounds' treatment was studied by following method.³ Both A549 and MCF-7 cells were seeded at a density of 5000 cells per cover glass bottom dish in 5 cover glass bottom dish for each cell line for 18-24 h. After washing, the cells were treated with 40 µM concentration of each compound as well as curcumin (stock concentration was 10 mg/mL in cell culture DMSO) in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum for 24 h in different cover glass bottom dish keeping one dish as a control for each case. The cells were washed with 1X Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS) and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde solution. These fixed cells were then treated with primary antibody (Anti-alpha Tubulin (1:300)) for 1 h followed by secondary antibody (Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG H&L (1:500)) treatment for 1 h. Finally the cells were treated with 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) at a concentration of 3 µM for 30 minutes. Following the termination of the experiment, the cells were washed with 1X PBS and observed in the inverted microscope (Model Nikon Eclipse Ti-U) in DIC mode.

Tubulin Polymerization Assay:

Turbidity experiment was carried out with 20 μ M tubulin and 40 μ M of 1, 1A, 1B and curcumin. For this experiment, 100 μ L of 20 μ M tubulin solution in Brinkley Reassembly Buffer 80 (BRB 80) containing 2 mM ATP and 4 mM GTP used as a control. 10% dimethyl sulfoxide was used for initiating the polymerization.⁴ All the components were mixed in ice, kept for 5 minutes and injected into 37 °C heated quartz cuvettes and the polymerization of tubulin was performed at 37 °C and the turbidity was measured by measuring absorbance at 350 nm monitored at 0.1 min intervals in the UV Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-2401PC). Now inhibition of tubulin polymerization was assessed using 50 μ M of 1, 1A, 1B and curcumin.

Docking Simulation:

Autodock-Vina version 1.1.2 was used for docking simulation.⁵ 29x30x28 affinity grids were centered on the receptor (1sa02) at 79.52, 69.51 and 4.77 of X, Y, Z axis respectively.

Density Functional Theoretical (DFT) Studies:

Geometry optimizations were carried out for both silver carbene complex, **1A** and mercury carbene complex, **1B** using Gaussian 09 package.⁶

Figures:



Figure S1: ORTEP diagram of **1** showing asymmetric unit of the cell at 50% probability level (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity).



Figure S2: ¹H NMR spectra for **1** (CD₃OD), **1A** (CD₃OD) and **1B** (d₆-DMSO) illustrating the disappearance of peak corresponding to C8-H in **1A** and **1B**. (*: residual solvent)



Figure S3: ¹³C NMR spectra for 1 (CD₃OD), **1A** (d₆-DMSO) and **1B** (d₆-DMSO) demonstrating the shifting of peak corresponding to C8 in **1A** and **1B**. (*: residual solvent)

(Note: Orginal ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are provided in the last)







Figures S4: HRMS of (a) 1; (b) 1A and (c) 1B.



Figure S5: Morphological changes of A549 and MCF7 cells after treatment with conjugates for 24 h. Upper panel: (a) Untreated A549 cells; (b) with 1; (c) with 1A; (d) with 1B. Lower panel: (e) Untreated MCF7 cells; (f) with 1; (g) with 1A; (h) with 1B. Scale bar corresponds to 100 μm.



Figure S6: Morphologies of the A549 (a, b) and MCF7 (c, d) cells after treatment with curcumin (control) for 24 h. Scale bar corresponds to 100 µm for a, c and 20 µm for b, d.



Figure S7: Changes in microtubule networks in (a) A549 and (b) MCF7 cells after treatment with curcumin (control) for 24 h. Scale bar corresponds to $20 \mu m$.

Tables:

Table S1:	Crystal	structure refinement	parameters for 1

Identification code	Ligand 1	
Empirical formula	$C_{20}H_{20}BrN_5O$	
Mr	426.32	
crystal system	Triclinic	
space group	P -1	
a(Å)	7.283(2)	
b(Å)	11.074(3)	
c(Å)	13.183(4)	
α (deg)	107.84(4)	
β (deg)	98.89(2)	
γ (deg)	105.76(3)	
Volume (Å ³⁾	940.7(3)	
Z	2	

<i>Dx</i> (Mg m ⁻³)	1.505	
F(000)	436	
μ (mm ⁻¹)	2.205	
θ range for data collection(deg)	4.11-25.02	
Limiting indices	-8<=h<=8, -13<=k<=11,	
	-15<=l<=12	
Reflections collected	4788	
unique reflections	3245	
R(int)	0.0237	
Completeness to θ	= 25.02, 97.3	
T _{max} / T _{min}	0.6923/ 0.6545	
Data / restraints / parameters	3245 / 0 / 245	
GOF on F^2	0.649	
R1 and R2 [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	0.0484, 0.1346	
R1 and R2 (all data)	0.0557, 0.1584	
Largest diff. peak and hole(e.A ⁻³)	0.846 and -0.684	

 Table S2: Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Bond Angles (°) for 1, DFT optimized silver carbene complex, 1A and mercury carbene complex, 1B.

Bond Lengths (Å)			
N9-C8 1.338			
N7-C8	1.329		
Bond Angles (°)			
N7-C8-N9 108.9			

Ι	ligand,	1

Silver Carbene Complex, 1A

Bond Lengths (Å)			
Ag-C8 2.137			
N9-C8	1.362		
N7-C8	1.363		
Bond Angles (°)			
C8-Ag-C8'	178.63		
N7-C8-N9	105.77		

Mercury Carbene Complex, 1B

Bond Lengths (Å)			
Ag-C8 2.250			
N9-C8	1.358		
N7-C8	1.359		
Bond Angles (°)			
C8-Ag-C8' 170.62			
N7-C8-N9	107.19		

 Table S3: Coordinates of DFT optimized structure of 1A:

Н	-3.24055	-4.17326	1.74577
С	-2.76292	-3.97408	0.79113
С	-3.11542	-2.83607	0.06536
С	-1.80985	-4.86363	0.28713

C	-2.50898	-2.56611	-1.16891
Н	-3.86952	-2.16004	0.45852
С	-1.20793	-4.60623	-0.94539
Н	-1.54415	-5.75339	0.84965
С	-2.92669	-1.37797	-2.01258
С	-1.55181	-3.45898	-1.66590
Н	-0.47391	-5.29713	-1.34974
Н	-2.19342	-1.19718	-2.80262
Н	-3.89437	-1.56555	-2.48542
Н	-1.08364	-3.26515	-2.62807
C	-4.28477	0.53206	-1.03621
C	-2.05720	0.57672	-0.69117
C	-5.64897	0.25956	-1.40827
С	-3.99344	1.67226	-0.32362
N	-2.62453	1.67836	-0.12601
N	-6.05220	-0.77482	-2.07192
С	-1.90565	2.74135	0.61066
0	-7.44749	-0.69711	-2.25215
C	-6.10149	2.37574	-0.24703
Н	-2.48538	3.65431	0.45641
Н	-0.93512	2.86315	0.12715
C	-1.74088	2.45207	2.08848

C	-0.48902	2.09058	2.59906
С	-2.83135	2.56619	2.96282
Н	-8.97440	-1.71888	-3.07632
Н	-7.67648	-2.76248	-2.41906
Н	-7.42798	-1.88885	-3.96200
C	-0.32807	1.83601	3.96316
Н	0.36725	2.02672	1.93232
С	-2.67058	2.30964	4.32391
Н	-3.80089	2.86490	2.57375
C	-1.41894	1.94315	4.82648
Н	0.64755	1.55581	4.34797
Н	-3.51896	2.40598	4.99507
Н	-1.29441	1.75222	5.88836
N	-3.08455	-0.12341	-1.25010
Н	0.47402	5.29720	-1.34950
C	1.20812	4.60628	-0.94532
С	1.81038	4.86370	0.28702
C	1.55175	3.45898	-1.66587
C	2.76356	3.97413	0.79080
Н	1.54489	5.75350	0.84958
C	2.50900	2.56607	-1.16910
Н	1.08331	3.26514	-2.62791
Н	3.24146	4.17334	1.74529

C	3.11580	2.83607	0.06498
С	2.92636	1.37785	-2.01282
Н	3.86998	2.16002	0.45797
Н	2.19288	1.19711	-2.80267
Н	3.89395	1.56529	-2.48590
N	3.08425	0.12330	-1.25032
С	4.28449	-0.53211	-1.03638
С	2.05694	-0.57677	-0.69127
C	3.99320	-1.67228	-0.32372
N	2.62430	-1.67837	-0.12605
N	6.05186	0.77468	-2.07230
С	1.90546	-2.74127	0.61080
0	7.44714	0.69695	-2.25261
С	6.10126	-2.37576	-0.24722
Н	2.48502	-3.65430	0.45642
Н	0.93480	-2.86294	0.12751
С	1.74108	-2.45195	2.08865
С	7.89464	1.84335	-2.97321
C	0.48959	-2.08941	2.59939
C	2.83155	-2.56701	2.96287
Н	8.97400	1.71864	-3.07698
Н	7.67625	2.76230	-2.41949
Н	7.42746	1.88873	-3.96243

C	0.32899	-1.83474	3.96351
Н	-0.36669	-2.02481	1.93272
C	2.67113	-2.31039	4.32400
Н	3.80080	-2.86649	2.57367
C	1.41986	-1.94285	4.82671
Н	-0.64635	-1.55372	4.34843
Н	3.51950	-2.40747	4.99506
Н	1.29561	-1.75186	5.88860
Ag	-0.00014	-0.00007	-0.66570
Н	-6.89085	3.06897	0.02981
Н	6.89062	-3.06901	0.02958
С	5.64867	-0.25963	-1.40851
N	4.87309	-2.63116	0.09692
N	-4.87331	2.63114	0.09704
N	6.50668	-1.27778	-0.95016
Н	7.48401	-1.14802	-1.18306
N	-6.50695	1.27772	-0.94993
Н	-7.48429	1.14797	-1.18279

 Table S4: Coordinates of DFT optimized structure of 1B:

Н	2.07188	4.14388	-2.39840
С	1.78926	3.13354	-2.67802
С	2.51914	2.05036	-2.18893

C	0.72076	2.92341	-3.55785
С	2.18466	0.74014	-2.56904
Н	3.36957	2.22530	-1.53544
С	0.37757	1.62451	-3.93598
Η	0.17340	3.77075	-3.95915
С	3.04669	-0.43486	-2.16089
С	1.10381	0.53652	-3.43926
Н	-0.43738	1.45555	-4.63316
Н	2.58797	-1.37945	-2.46810
Н	4.03057	-0.38207	-2.63503
Н	0.85962	-0.47020	-3.77107
С	4.56852	-0.65759	-0.14013
С	2.37402	-0.53379	0.27564
С	5.90608	-0.69879	-0.68039
С	4.39016	-0.77441	1.22061
N	3.02796	-0.69451	1.45217
N	6.20562	-0.58890	-1.93099
С	2.42514	-0.84971	2.80053
0	7.58894	-0.67103	-2.09398
C	6.55372	-0.97371	1.67346
Н	3.25914	-0.74806	3.49797
Н	2.04518	-1.87195	2.87943
C	1.33313	0.15294	3.08301

C	7.93004	-0.56137	-3.48204
С	-0.00959	-0.26050	3.11212
С	1.64426	1.49196	3.36067
Η	9.01761	-0.63415	-3.51430
Н	7.60589	0.40328	-3.88297
Н	7.48164	-1.37859	-4.05421
С	-1.02533	0.65587	3.41747
Н	-0.25417	-1.31078	2.97330
С	0.63015	2.39967	3.66217
Н	2.68134	1.81698	3.36299
С	-0.70549	1.98489	3.68987
Н	-2.05649	0.31992	3.46768
Н	0.88009	3.43070	3.89001
Η	-1.48856	2.69661	3.92598
N	3.31415	-0.51054	-0.70275
Н	1.20487	-4.47133	1.30458
С	0.21218	-4.05130	1.43598
С	-0.42472	-4.12723	2.67473
С	-0.45109	-3.47559	0.34430
C	-1.72307	-3.62241	2.82413
Η	0.07366	-4.59803	3.51646
C	-1.75428	-2.97323	0.48490
Η	0.01953	-3.48788	-0.63720

Н	-2.22719	-3.69976	3.78244
С	-2.38351	-3.04969	1.73826
С	-2.51051	-2.48440	-0.72806
Н	-3.40405	-2.69400	1.85185
Н	-1.93559	-2.66688	-1.64067
Н	-3.46237	-3.01107	-0.82757
N	-2.86394	-1.03763	-0.70886
С	-4.11993	-0.55071	-1.01848
С	-1.98912	-0.00177	-0.61528
С	-4.00935	0.81695	-1.12275
N	-2.68568	1.13595	-0.86889
N	-5.63914	-2.44003	-1.14851
C	-2.14772	2.50968	-1.02244
0	-6.98329	-2.69041	-1.42824
С	-6.14446	1.12985	-1.65047
Н	-2.79104	2.97375	-1.77568
Н	-1.15061	2.41654	-1.45730
C	-2.11737	3.36420	0.22784
C	-7.25337	-4.09519	-1.33680
C	-0.95760	4.09470	0.51501
C	-3.25950	3.55254	1.01907
Н	-8.31464	-4.19652	-1.56609
Н	-7.05081	-4.46129	-0.32618

Н	-6.65681	-4.65020	-2.06650
С	-0.94004	5.01189	1.56869
Н	-0.07574	3.97551	-0.11055
С	-3.23563	4.45654	2.08091
Н	-4.17817	3.02351	0.78446
С	-2.07901	5.19410	2.35369
Н	-0.04319	5.59151	1.76539
Н	-4.12871	4.60642	2.67988
Н	-2.07332	5.91648	3.16416
Hg	0.16066	-0.23305	0.00812
H	7.40302	-1.09778	2.33942
H H	7.40302	-1.09778 1.73996	2.33942
H H C	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200
H H C N	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208 -4.99355	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442 1.70581	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200 -1.43637
H H C N N	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208 -4.99355 5.34974	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442 1.70581 -0.93198	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200 -1.43637 2.17396
H H C N N N	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208 -4.99355 5.34974 -6.37704	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442 1.70581 -0.93198 -0.20957	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200 -1.43637 2.17396 -1.57025
H H C N N H	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208 -4.99355 5.34974 -6.37704 -7.30434	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442 1.70581 -0.93198 -0.20957 -0.58089	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200 -1.43637 2.17396 -1.57025 -1.74773
H H C N N H N	7.40302 -7.00365 -5.40208 -4.99355 5.34974 -6.37704 -7.30434 6.85537	-1.09778 1.73996 -1.17442 1.70581 -0.93198 -0.20957 -0.58089 -0.87249	2.33942 -1.91471 -1.24200 -1.43637 2.17396 -1.57025 -1.74773 0.34906

<u>¹H NMR of 1:</u>



¹H NMR of 1A:



¹H NMR of 1B:



<u>13C NMR of 1:</u>



¹³C NMR of 1A:



<u>13C NMR of 1B:</u>



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