

# Electronic supplementary information (ESI) for

## **1,1'-Binaphthyl-Based Imidazolium Chemosensors for Highly Selective Recognition of Tryptophan in Aqueous Solutions**

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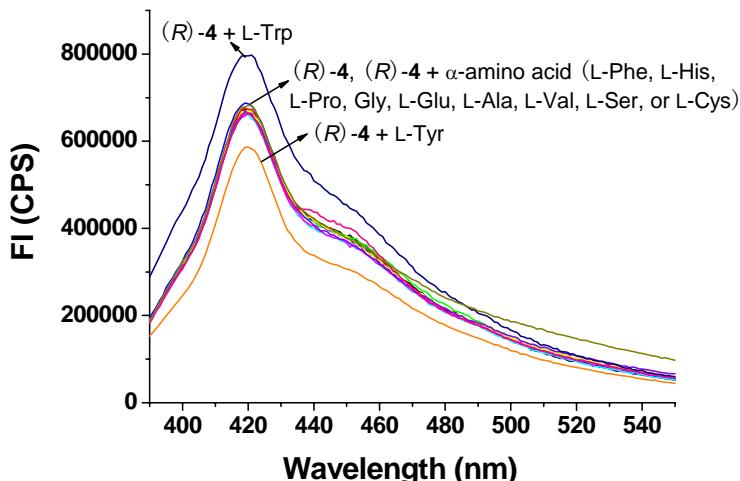
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## I. General remarks of optical spectroscopic studies

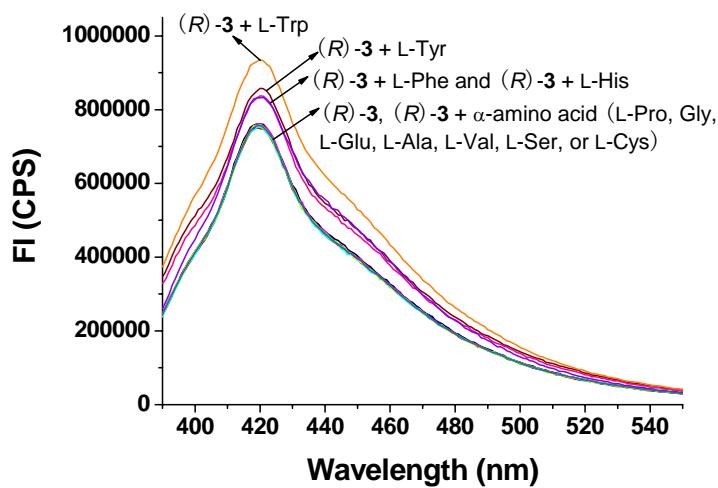
The studies on the binding properties of (*R*)-**1** were carried out in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.4) and the other receptors were performed in CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O system (1:1, 10 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.4). Amino acids were also dissolved in a HEPES buffer solution (10 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.4). Methanol was either HPLC or spectroscopic grade and water was distilled for twice. All solutions were prepared using volumetric syringes, pipettes, and volumetric flasks. The stock solutions of fluorophores and amino acids were freshly prepared and used for each measurement. Each time a 3 mL of receptor was filled in a quartz cell of 1 cm of optical path length, and the stock solution of amino acid was added into a quartz cell dropwise using a micro-syringe. The volume of amino acid stock solution added was less than 100 μL to remain the concentration of receptor unchanged. Absorption spectra were detected on a HITACHI U-2910 absorption spectrophotometer. Fluorescent emission spectra were collected on a Horiba Jobin Yvon-Edison Fluoromax-4 fluorescence spectrometer.

## II. Binding studies of (*R*)-1-5 with $\alpha$ -amino acids

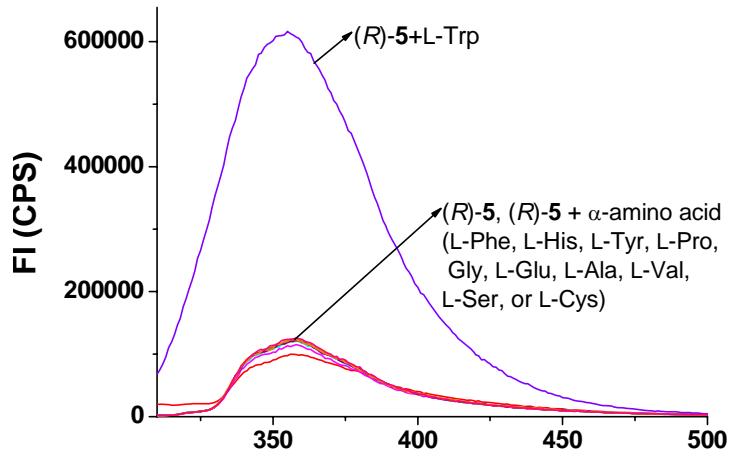
### i). Fluorescence spectra of (*R*)-3, (*R*)-4, and (*R*)-5 with various $\alpha$ -amino acids



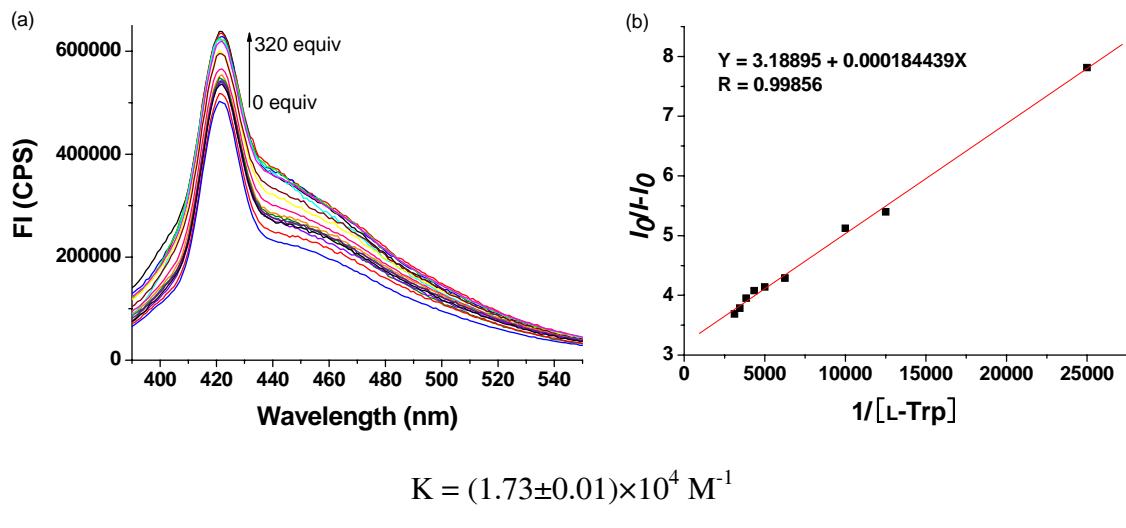
**Fig. S1** Changes in fluorescence intensity of (*R*)-4 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of 200 equiv of various natural amino acids in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) with excitation at 369 nm (excitation and emission slit: 5 nm).



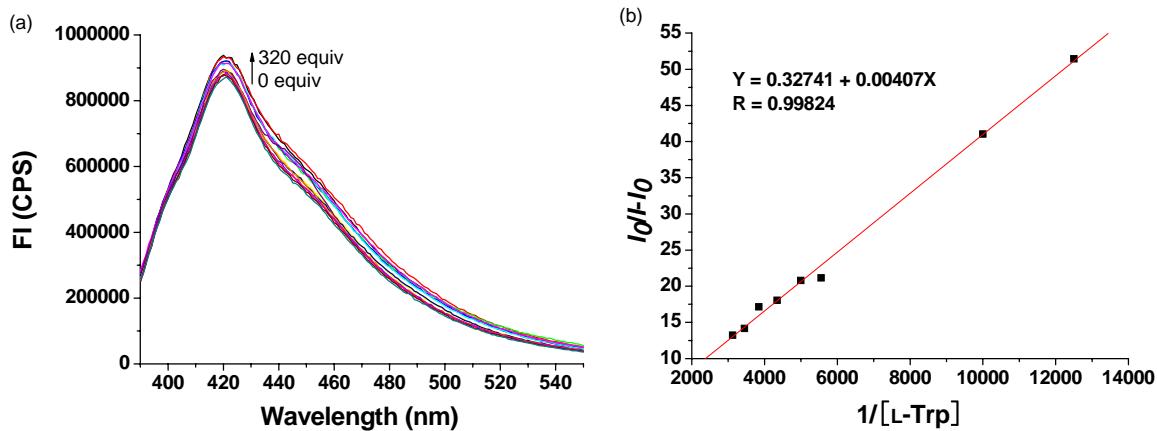
**Fig. S2** Changes in fluorescence intensity of (*R*)-3 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of 200 equiv of various natural amino acids in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) with excitation at 369 nm (excitation and emission slit: 5 nm).



## ii). Binding studies of (R)-1-5 with L-Trp

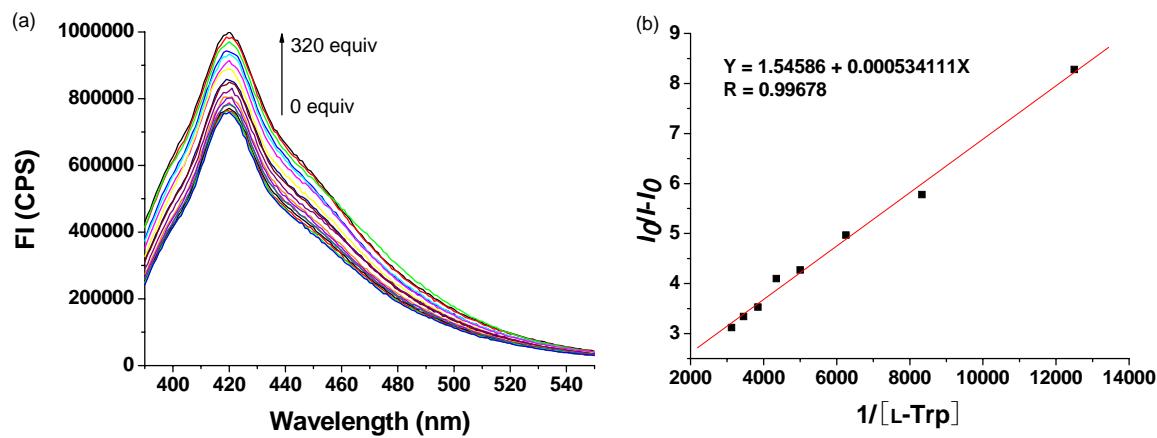


**Fig. S4** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (R)-1 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of L-Trp in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.4) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (R)-1 at 422 nm with L-Trp.



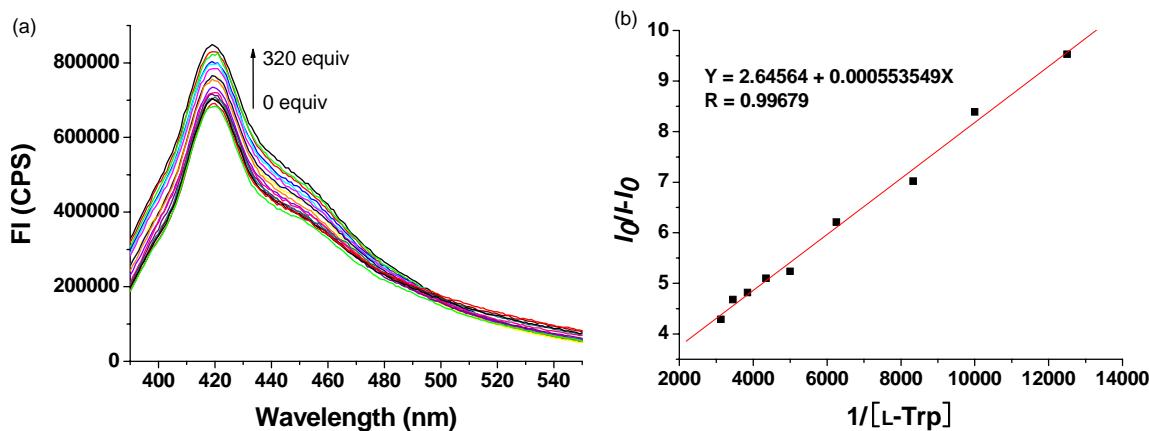
$$K = (8.04 \pm 1.62) \times 10 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S5** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-2 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of L-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-2 at 421 nm with L-Trp.



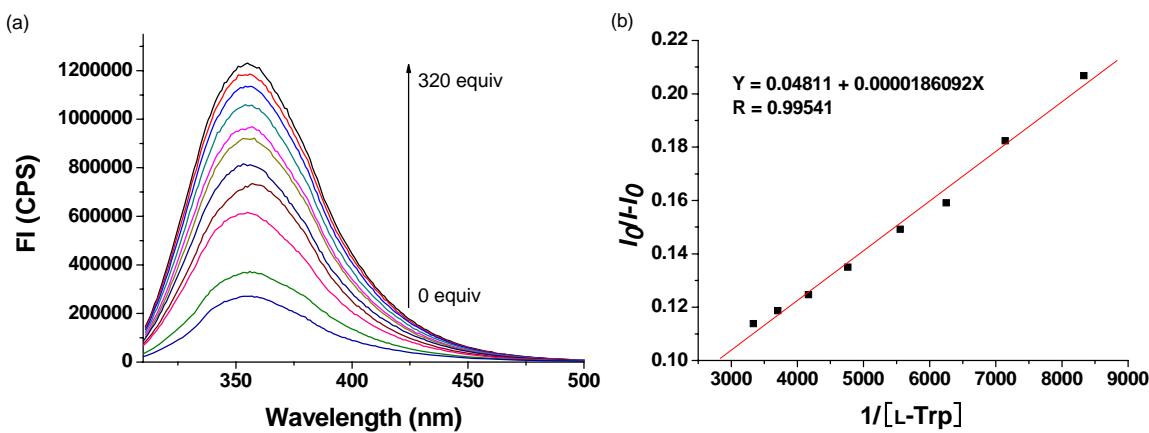
$$K = (2.89 \pm 0.12) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S6** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-3 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of L-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-3 at 420 nm with L-Trp.



$$K = (4.78 \pm 0.07) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

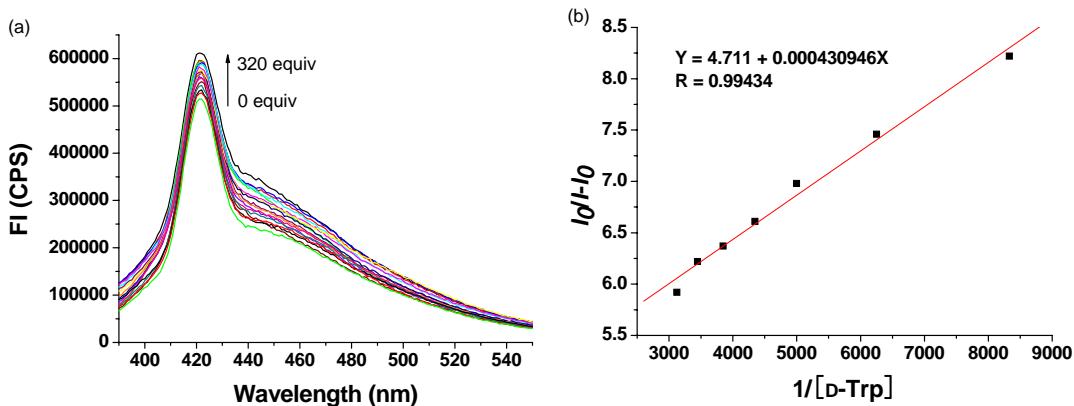
**Fig. S7** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-4 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of L-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4)  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-4 at 420 nm with L-Trp.



$$K = (2.59 \pm 0.12) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

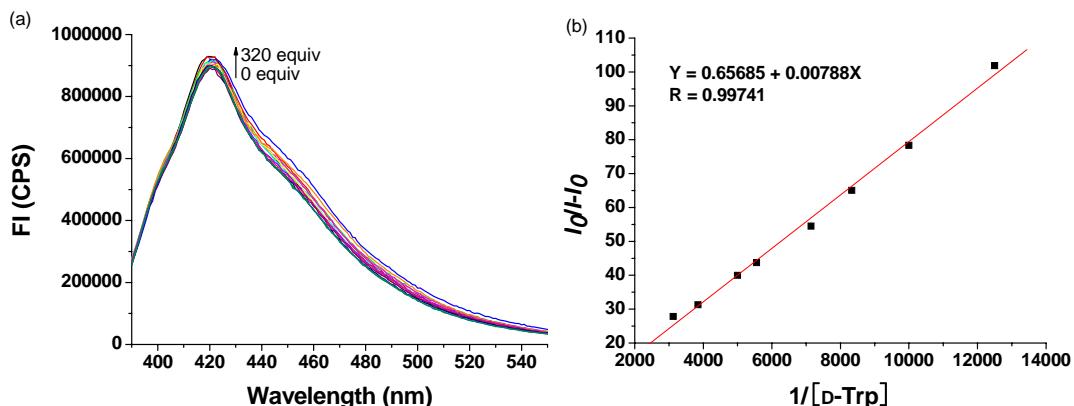
**Fig. S8** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-5 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of L-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4)  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 292$  nm, slits = 1.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-5 at 358 nm with L-Trp.

**iii). Binding studies of (R)-1-5 with D-Trp**



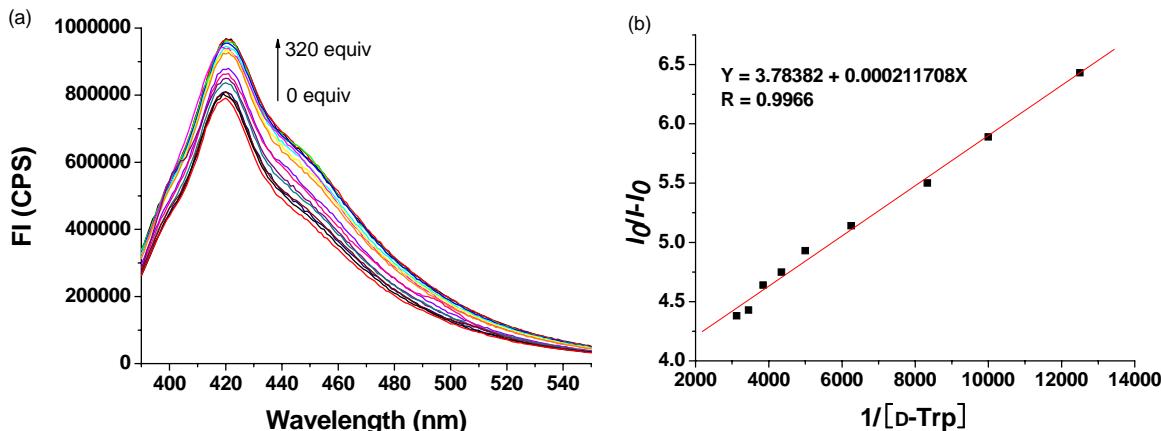
$$K = (1.09 \pm 0.03) \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S9** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-1 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of D-Trp in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.4) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-1 at 422 nm with D-Trp.



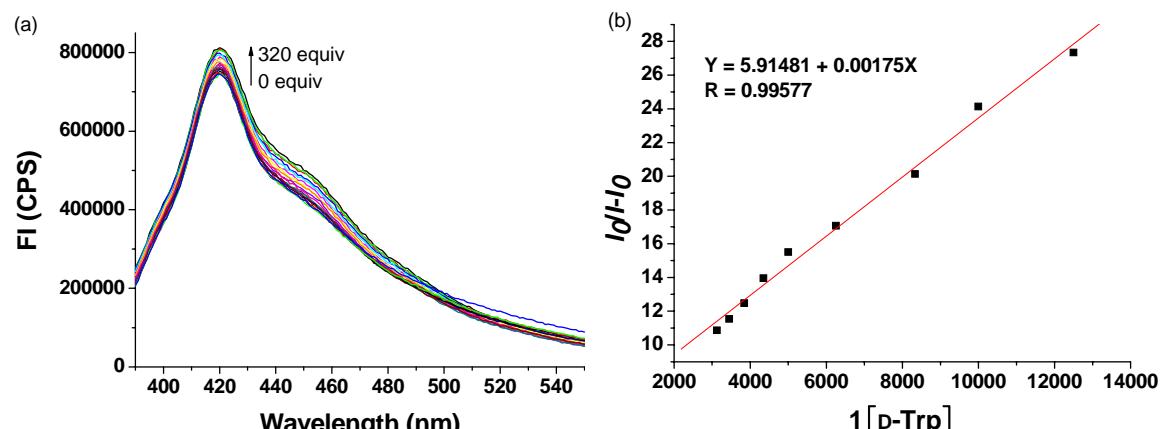
$$K = (8.34 \pm 2.20) \times 10 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S10** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-2 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of D-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4)  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-2 at 421 nm with D-Trp.



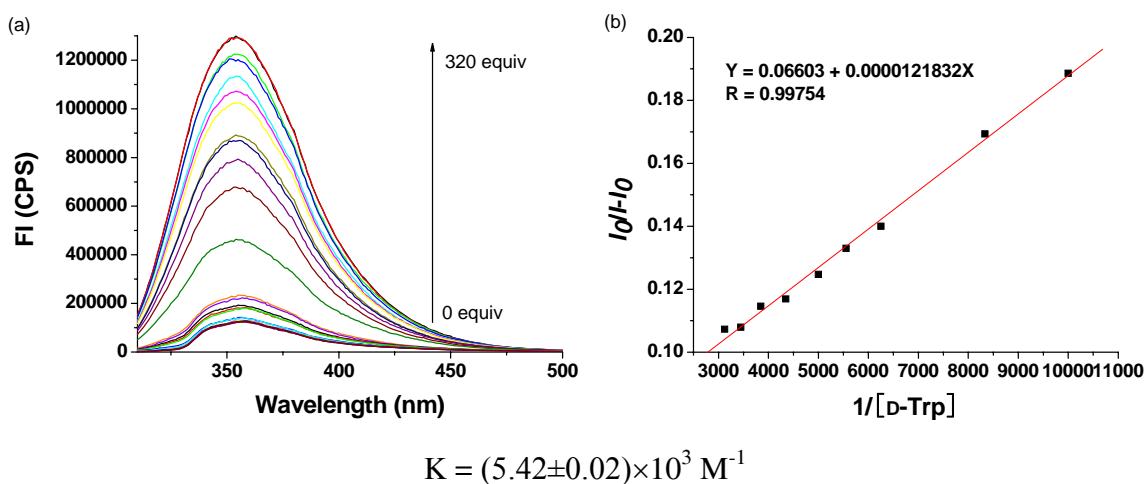
$$K = (1.79 \pm 0.03) \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S11** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-3 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of D-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-3 at 420 nm with D-Trp.



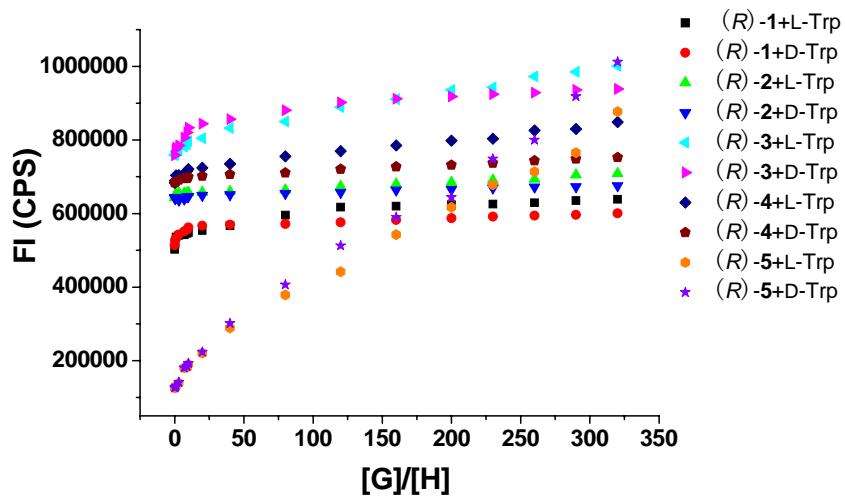
$$K = (3.38 \pm 0.13) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

**Fig. S12** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-4 (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of D-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4) CH<sub>3</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-4 at 420 nm with D-Trp.



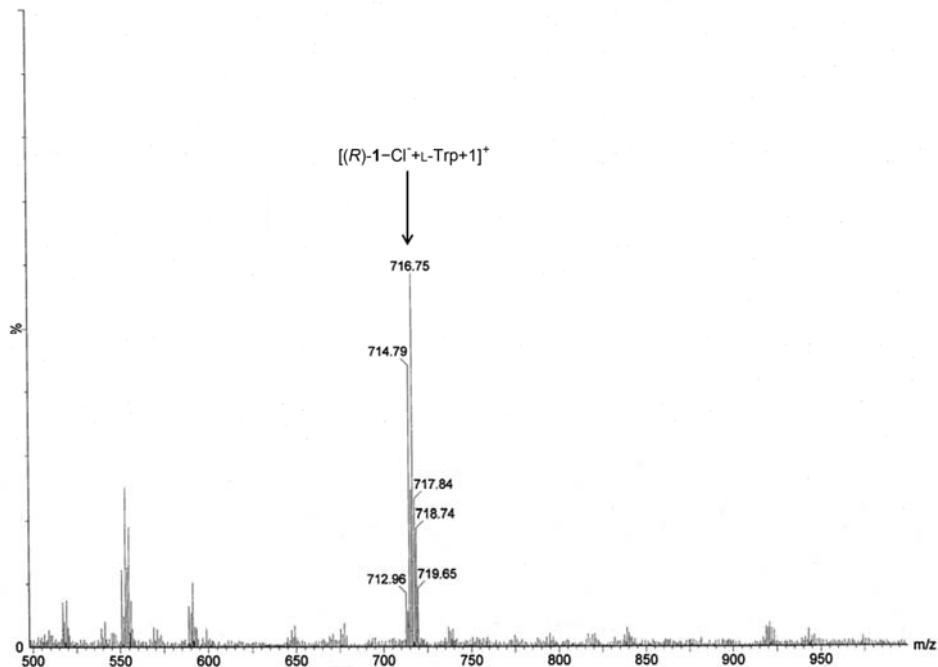
**Fig. S13** (a) Fluorescent titration spectra of (*R*)-**5** (1  $\mu$  M) upon addition of D-Trp in HEPES buffered (10 mM, pH 7.4)  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1, v/v) ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 292$  nm, slits = 1.0 nm). (b) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of emission spectra of (*R*)-**5** at 358 nm with D-Trp.

**iv). Fluorescence intensity changes of (*R*)-1-5 with addition of the two enantiomers of tryptophan**

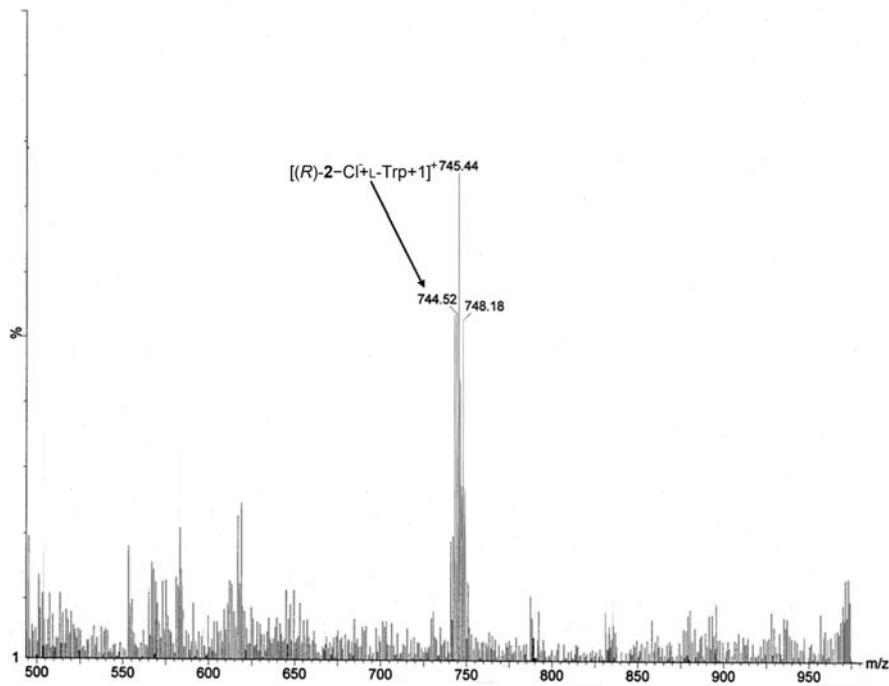


**Fig. S14** Fluorescence intensity changes of receptors (*R*)-1, (*R*)-2, (*R*)-3, (*R*)-4 and (*R*)-5 (1  $\mu$  M) with addition of the two enantiomers of Trp in HEPES buffer solution at pH 7.4. ((*R*)-1, (*R*)-2, (*R*)-3, (*R*)-4:  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 369$  nm, slits = 5.0 nm; (*R*)-5:  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 292$  nm, slits = 1.0 nm)

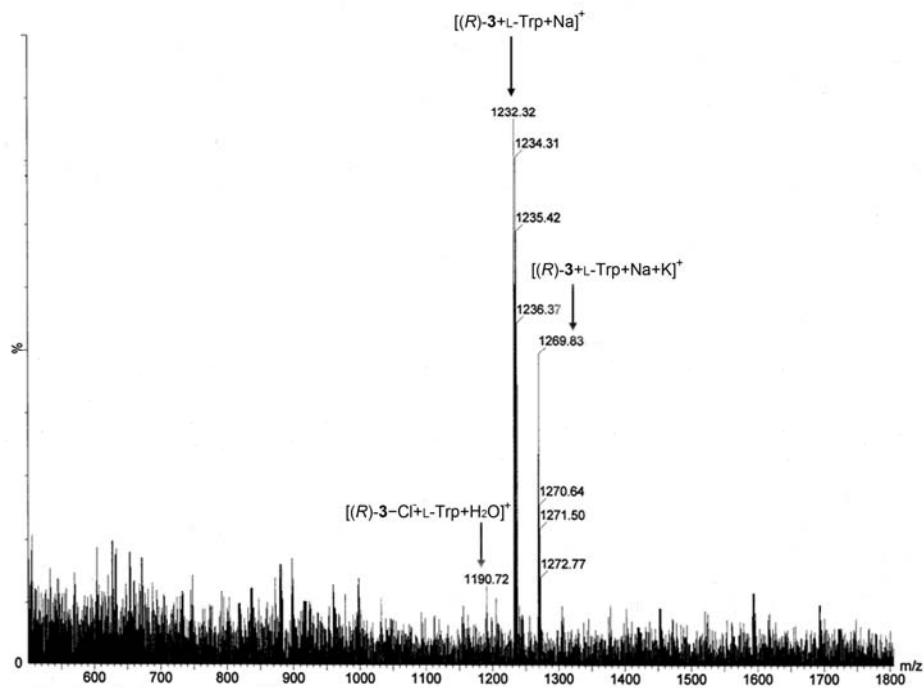
### III. Copies of the ESI-MS spectra of the complexes (*R*)-1-L-Trp, (*R*)-2-L-Trp, (*R*)-3-L-Trp, (*R*)-4-L-Trp and (*R*)-5-L-Trp



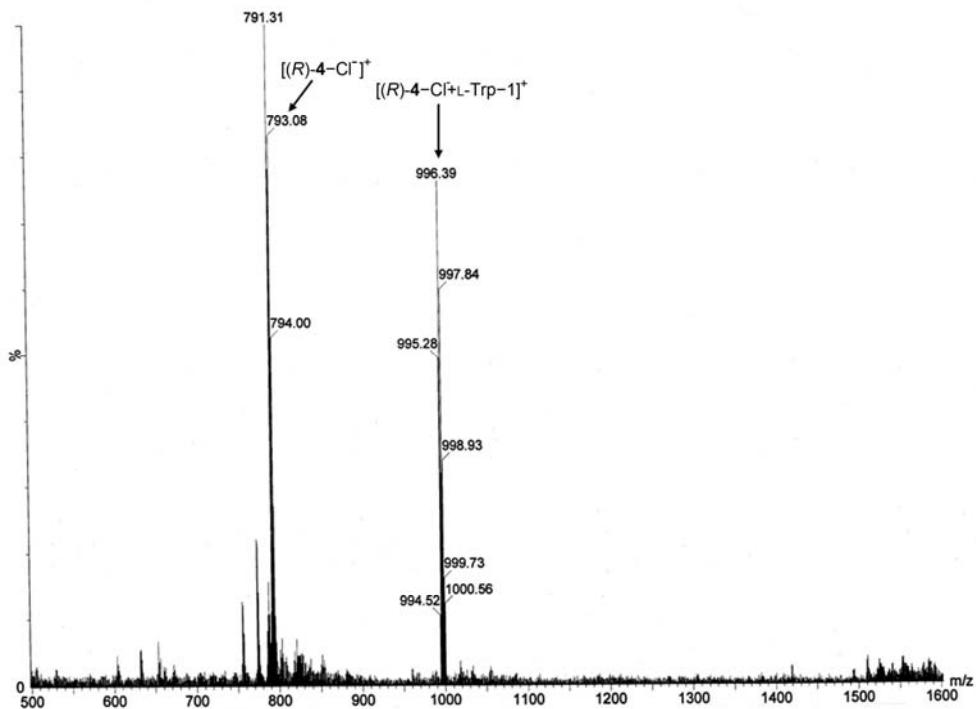
**Fig. S15** The ESI-MS of (*R*)-1-L-Trp complex.



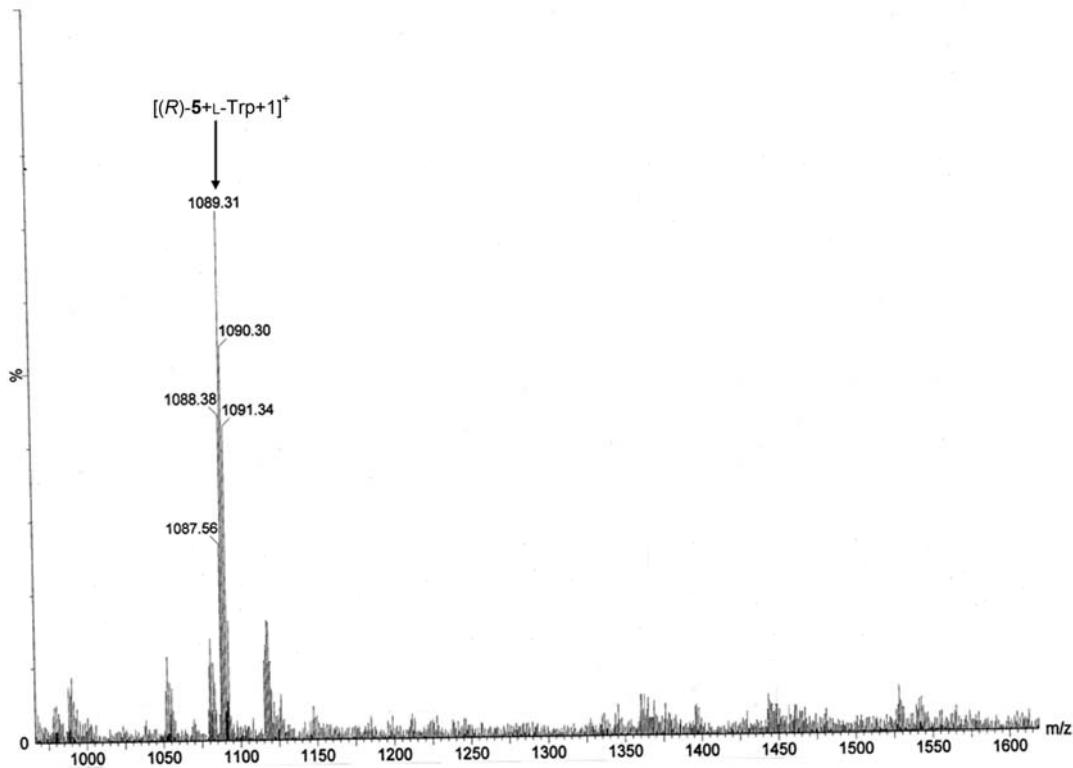
**Fig. S16** The ESI-MS of (*R*)-2-L-Trp complex.



**Fig. S17** The ESI-MS of (R)-3-L-Trp complex.



**Fig. S18** The ESI-MS of (R)-4-L-Trp complex.



**Fig. S19** The ESI-MS of (*R*)-5-L-Trp complex.

## IV. Optimized geometries of (*R*)-1-L-Trp complex and (*R*)-1-D-Trp complex<sup>1</sup>

### i). Standard Orientation of (*R*)-1-L-Trp complex

1	-0.098372	-1.963972	2.828437
1	-2.457734	0.252056	0.474962
6	-2.117220	-1.621060	1.224163
8	-1.697491	-0.435715	0.707671
8	-1.407446	-2.240481	2.020643
6	0.872130	-3.401037	-3.120703
6	1.671843	-4.204914	-2.353889
6	1.199478	-4.769584	-1.150195
6	-0.072881	-4.524303	-0.706218
6	-0.915833	-3.696671	-1.469249
6	-0.436103	-3.155665	-2.669941
1	1.226510	-2.977406	-4.050919
1	2.682079	-4.423074	-2.676331
1	1.856901	-5.413431	-0.581413
1	-0.426944	-4.969919	0.215008
6	-2.285585	-3.236353	-1.313415
7	-1.466457	-2.427023	-3.265632
6	-2.558107	-2.483085	-2.399389
1	-1.321020	-1.623512	-3.926906
1	-3.470942	-1.972011	-2.674371
6	-3.472642	-2.273414	0.772649
6	-3.189132	-3.525433	-0.126822
1	-0.727463	0.279465	-3.657459
8	-1.038672	-0.187898	-4.471224
1	-0.277047	-0.087577	-5.086587
1	-1.152580	-1.335451	5.060223
6	-1.006474	3.938770	-0.745200
6	-1.173008	2.736340	-1.345469
6	-0.119745	1.766190	-1.258017
6	1.001776	1.993095	-0.512431
6	1.166305	3.264441	0.143697
6	0.172802	4.247632	-0.000373
6	2.034026	0.897392	-0.360061
6	3.253714	0.923509	-1.130779
6	4.215150	-0.083214	-0.943919
6	3.943036	-1.135655	-0.014007
6	2.789514	-1.167570	0.690210
6	1.807913	-0.118112	0.532093
1	-1.792301	4.682880	-0.796843
6	-2.509342	2.354280	-1.989452
6	0.342393	5.518578	0.634112
1	4.679080	-1.922678	0.102164
6	2.465673	-2.358439	1.595848
8	0.738770	-0.163509	1.415011
8	-0.313526	0.577567	-1.974350
6	2.317387	3.572556	0.938022

6	3.534856	1.960542	-2.076597
6	5.435545	-0.042426	-1.686882
7	-3.561985	2.250555	-0.943406
6	-4.706936	3.084594	-0.895251
6	-3.471104	1.438592	0.164839
7	-4.581579	1.794487	0.886407
6	-5.343875	2.795612	0.234323
6	-4.980299	1.188823	2.170939
1	-2.427224	1.399934	-2.510983
1	-2.835542	3.111114	-2.704380
1	-4.935050	3.786769	-1.682523
1	-6.255514	3.186893	0.659245
1	-5.152738	1.969939	2.912874
1	-4.179683	0.537243	2.511693
1	-5.891473	0.601046	2.050760
1	0.440991	-0.006545	-1.724189
1	-0.146423	-0.108190	0.950637
6	2.451025	4.783962	1.527532
6	1.445363	5.781107	1.372261
6	5.674577	0.956798	-2.568369
6	4.701001	1.976850	-2.765754
1	-0.433155	6.264026	0.510277
1	3.083147	2.818881	1.057995
1	2.800275	2.739119	-2.229070
1	6.164329	-0.827194	-1.526786
1	3.326589	5.008316	2.124333
1	1.574434	6.743208	1.851608
1	6.600110	0.991054	-3.129046
1	4.905118	2.769485	-3.475445
7	2.109003	-1.970566	2.996423
6	0.845725	-1.804193	3.440274
7	0.919482	-1.396484	4.726175
6	2.277946	-1.288690	5.096458
6	3.007810	-1.638184	4.030704
6	-0.239491	-1.099830	5.604445
1	3.318608	-3.036473	1.658465
1	2.569324	-0.975756	6.088979
1	4.078079	-1.695847	3.890486
1	-0.231305	-0.042791	5.875535
1	-0.177721	-1.711957	6.505404
1	1.608031	-2.916048	1.209991
1	-2.732942	-4.289594	0.497585
1	-4.153969	-3.912498	-0.454986
1	-3.953798	-2.624124	1.689083
7	-4.381279	-1.274803	0.158186
1	-4.068145	-1.119669	-0.811282
1	-5.303152	-1.729579	0.063578

E<sub>zpe</sub> = -2248.115191 (Hartree)

Number of imaginary frequencies = 0

**ii). Standard Orientation of (*R*)-1-D-Trp complex**

1	0.248603	-2.283414	2.559045
1	-2.481721	-0.086441	0.413686
6	-1.848572	-1.906201	0.987306
8	-1.632320	-0.583472	0.719689
8	-1.052688	-2.532646	1.682733
6	1.465468	-2.633382	-3.500117
6	2.339950	-3.469707	-2.861099
6	1.921688	-4.277429	-1.781686
6	0.627791	-4.244553	-1.334520
6	-0.293516	-3.388362	-1.965374
6	0.135486	-2.602072	-3.044874
1	1.781179	-2.020838	-4.334047
1	3.370490	-3.522582	-3.188833
1	2.640722	-4.935351	-1.312184
1	0.316853	-4.873171	-0.509342
6	-1.698552	-3.090648	-1.758549
7	-0.956078	-1.874306	-3.513184
6	-2.038877	-2.178716	-2.693307
1	-0.906283	-1.015829	-4.114689
1	-2.994327	-1.701290	-2.867149
6	-3.087005	-2.630140	0.357081
1	-3.708075	-1.884294	-0.149007
6	-2.597985	-3.679594	-0.686167
1	-0.576233	0.886570	-3.730952
8	-0.788790	0.461883	-4.597260
1	0.000641	0.676751	-5.145038
1	-0.832480	-2.237546	4.861166
6	-1.636811	3.748839	-0.163497
6	-1.567158	2.685549	-0.999679
6	-0.362321	1.907578	-1.029987
6	0.679963	2.164449	-0.185723
6	0.599170	3.288316	0.709174
6	-0.552278	4.094224	0.700749
6	1.878378	1.240278	-0.183562
6	3.053011	1.544643	-0.962836
6	4.151258	0.668887	-0.934637
6	4.066186	-0.525593	-0.151309
6	2.956607	-0.816426	0.564193
6	1.835062	0.093555	0.563926
1	-2.538787	4.347871	-0.122335
6	-2.774131	2.241230	-1.832726
6	-0.625786	5.223140	1.576611
1	4.906393	-1.210189	-0.163691
6	2.820422	-2.162616	1.280811
8	0.805291	-0.247360	1.424253
8	-0.322785	0.871792	-1.970096
6	1.662252	3.627365	1.606476
6	3.147312	2.724358	-1.767590
6	5.318408	0.975225	-1.700525
7	-3.897613	1.824671	-0.951228
6	-5.170710	2.447169	-0.965812

6	-3.798922	0.865392	0.030842
7	-5.042814	0.920476	0.615216
6	-5.883706	1.883778	0.002784
6	-5.471071	0.109338	1.770142
1	-2.501135	1.406800	-2.479873
1	-3.141646	3.055702	-2.459112
1	-5.419327	3.222823	-1.674133
1	-6.895736	2.054320	0.336764
1	-5.992144	0.739835	2.490783
1	-4.590870	-0.316325	2.246888
1	-6.140968	-0.693917	1.456680
1	0.496370	0.360974	-1.767587
1	-0.088798	-0.110662	1.005131
6	1.565422	4.702984	2.422709
6	0.398596	5.520628	2.408926
6	5.376936	2.100431	-2.451056
6	4.266671	2.991290	-2.482361
1	-1.519615	5.834026	1.556582
1	2.549494	3.009381	1.616605
1	2.307438	3.404998	-1.792600
1	6.153215	0.286238	-1.667654
1	2.376529	4.954740	3.094932
1	0.344008	6.376625	3.069490
1	6.260557	2.333347	-3.031544
1	4.328093	3.888315	-3.086677
7	2.440083	-2.055557	2.724898
6	1.175294	-2.131973	3.189262
7	1.222696	-1.959801	4.527878
6	2.564757	-1.756336	4.916033
6	3.311163	-1.812778	3.806444
6	0.051496	-1.974632	5.440342
1	3.760713	-2.715082	1.239958
1	2.835475	-1.597731	5.950210
1	4.377853	-1.713970	3.662068
1	-0.075989	-0.986981	5.886749
1	0.213874	-2.715687	6.224271
1	2.042609	-2.769642	0.809297
1	-2.069175	-4.460963	-0.145559
1	-3.482489	-4.134921	-1.132077
7	-3.811019	-3.337477	1.450929
1	-4.403480	-2.653946	1.947612

E<sub>zpe</sub> = -2248.116016 (Hartree)

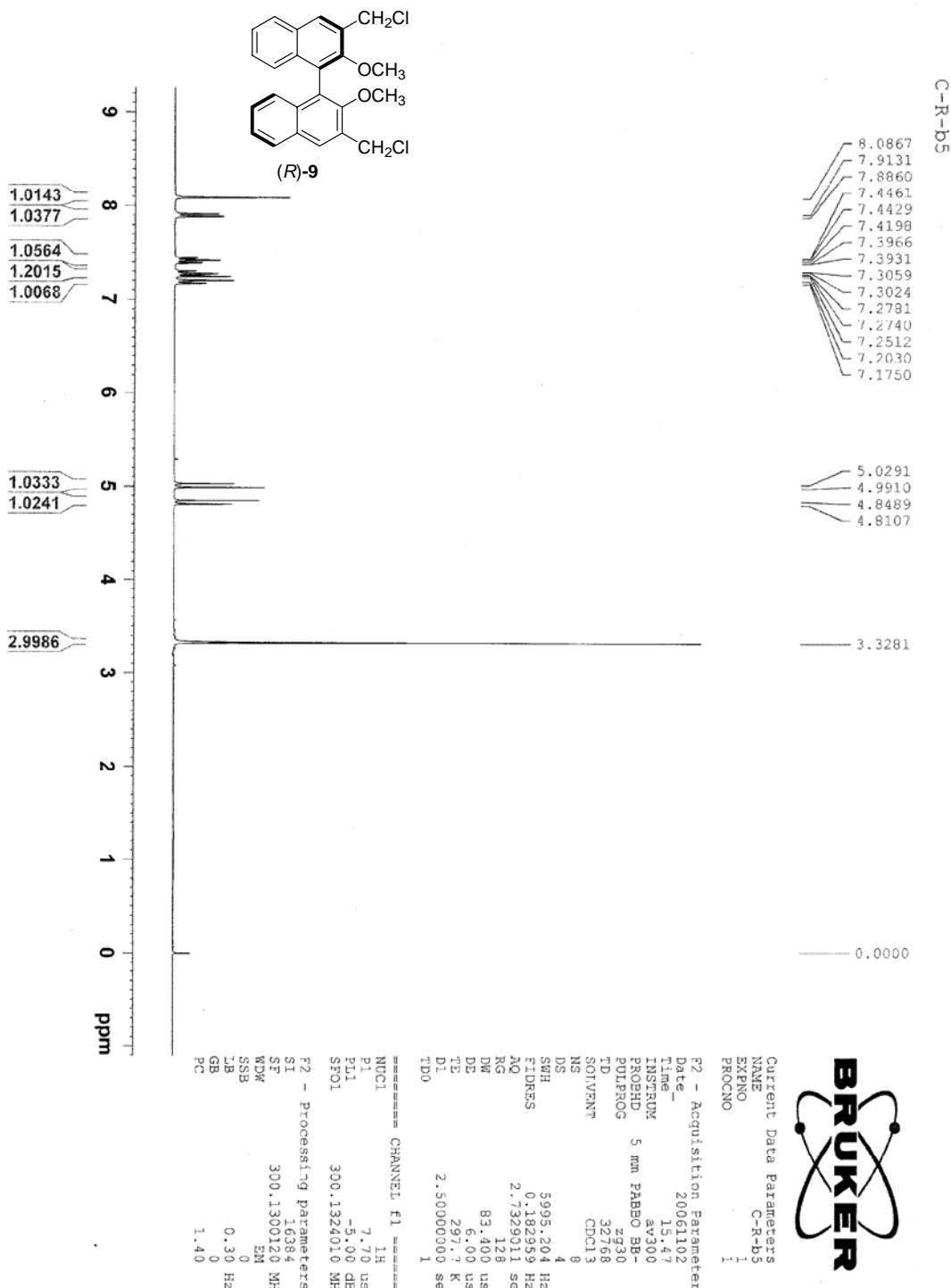
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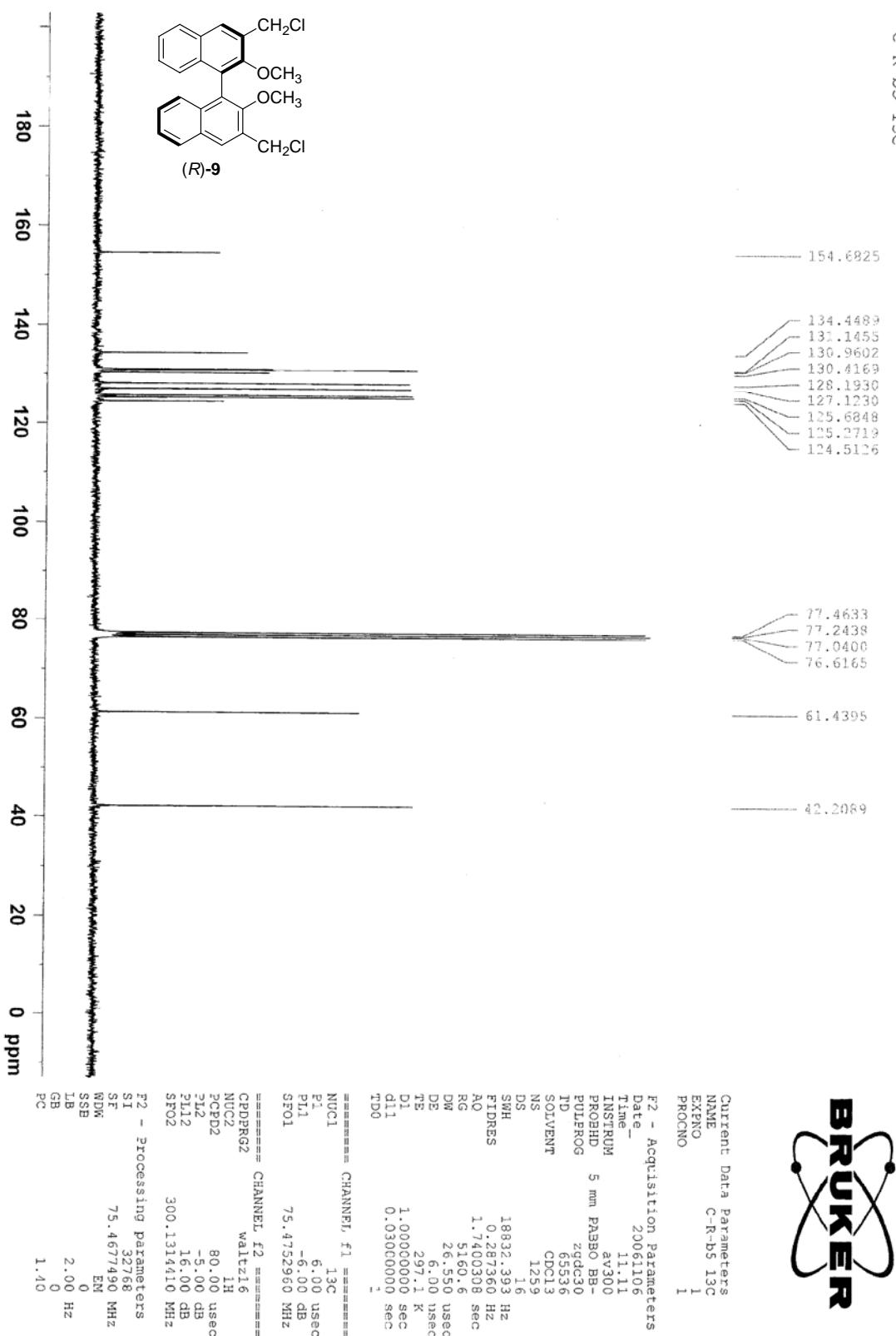
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Tomasi, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, M. Cossi, G. Scalmani, N. Rega, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, M. Klene, X. Li, J. E. Knox, H. P. Hratchian, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, P. Y. Ayala, K. Morokuma, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, V. G. Zakrzewski, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, M. C. Strain, O. Farkas, D. K. Malick, A. D. Rabuck, K. Raghavachari, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, Q. Cui, A. G. Baboul, S. Clifford, J. Cioslowski, B. B. Stefanov, G. Liu, A. Liashenko, P. Piskorz, I. Komaromi, R. L. Martin, D. J. Fox, T. Keith, M. A. Al-Laham, C. Y. Peng, A. Nanayakkara, M. Challacombe, P. M. W. Gill, B. Johnson, W. Chen, M. W. Wong, C. Gonzalez, J. A. Pople, Gaussian 03, B05; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, 2003.

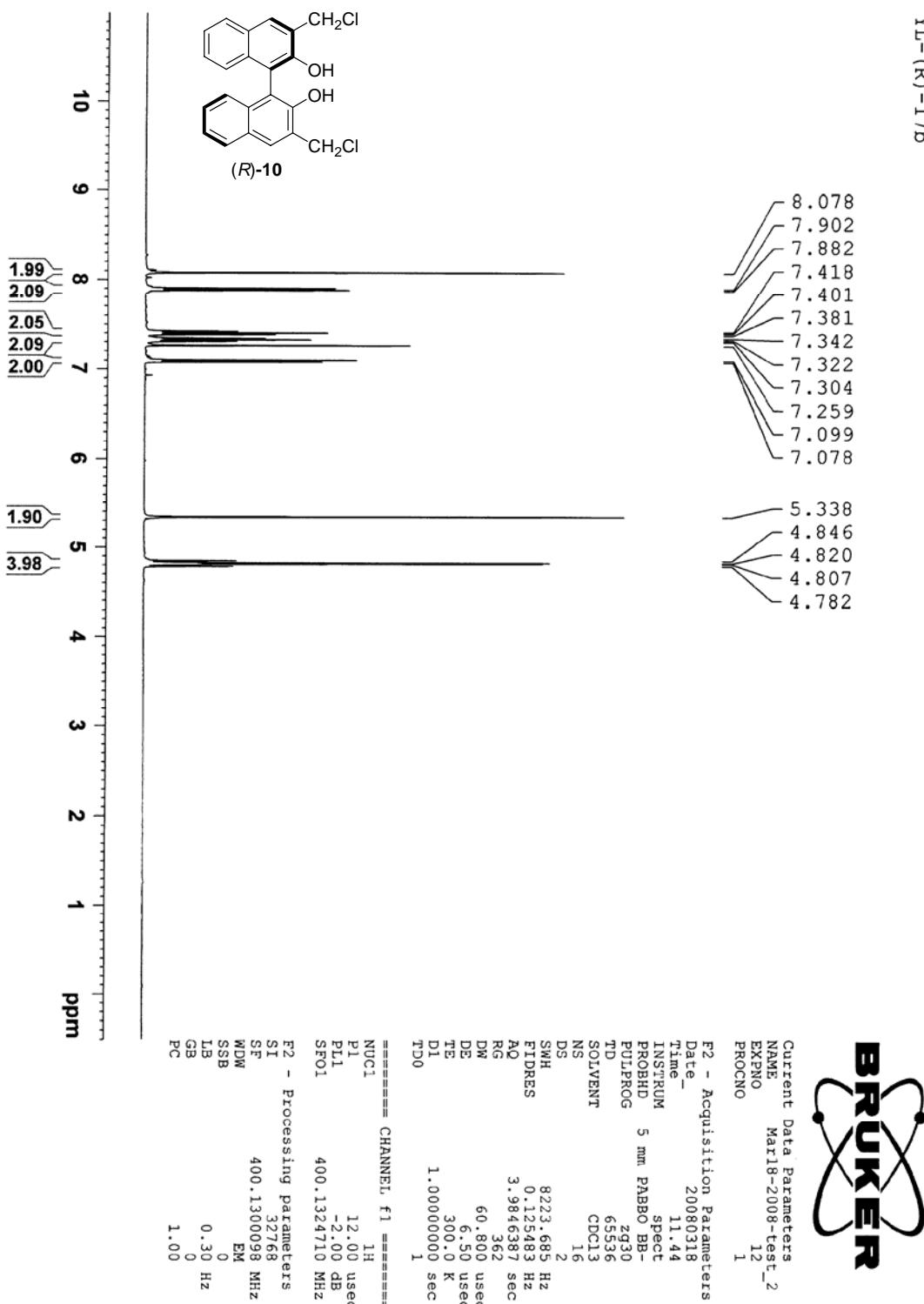
## V. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of (*R*)-1-5, 9, 10, 11 and 16

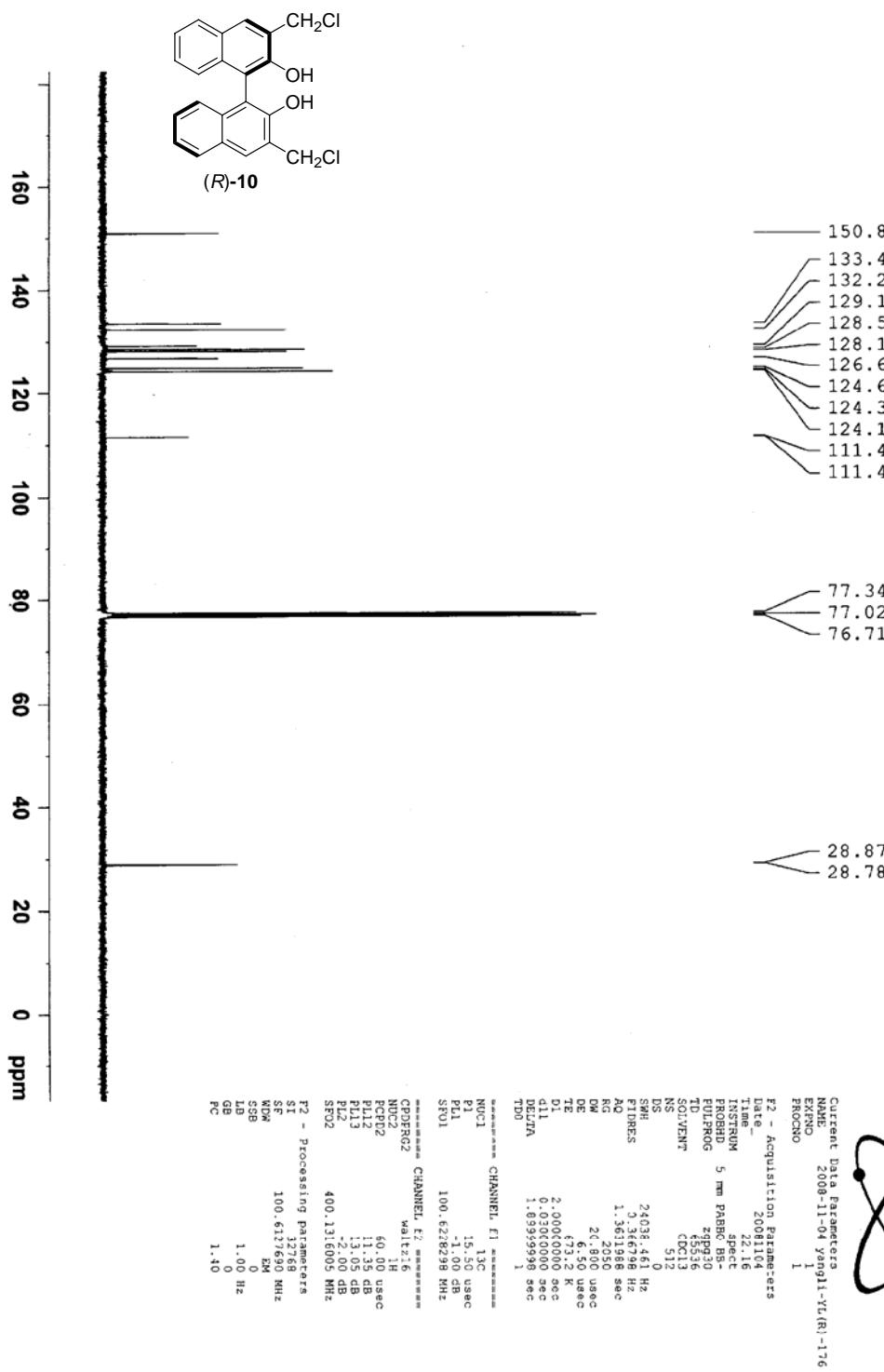


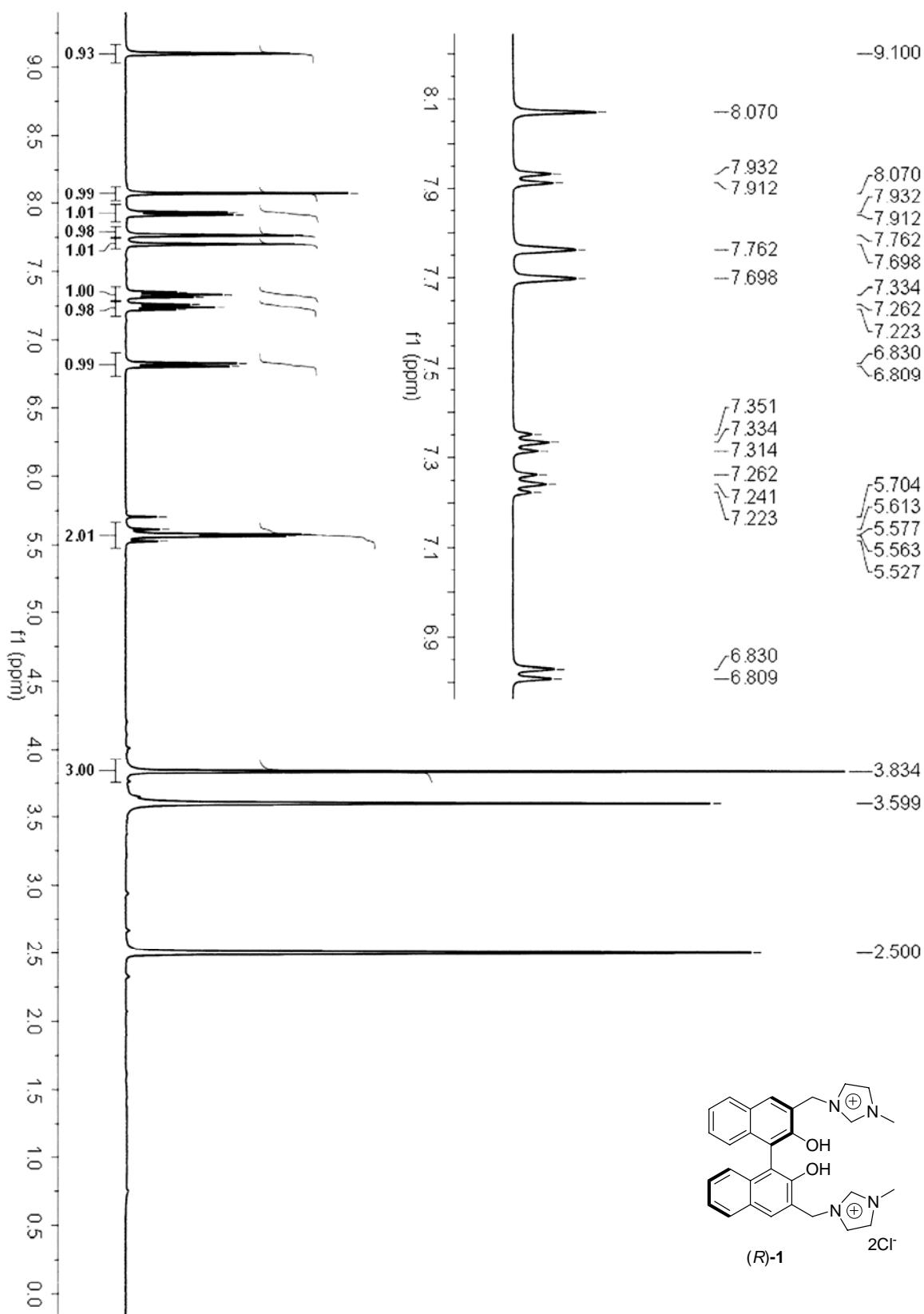
C-R-b5 13C

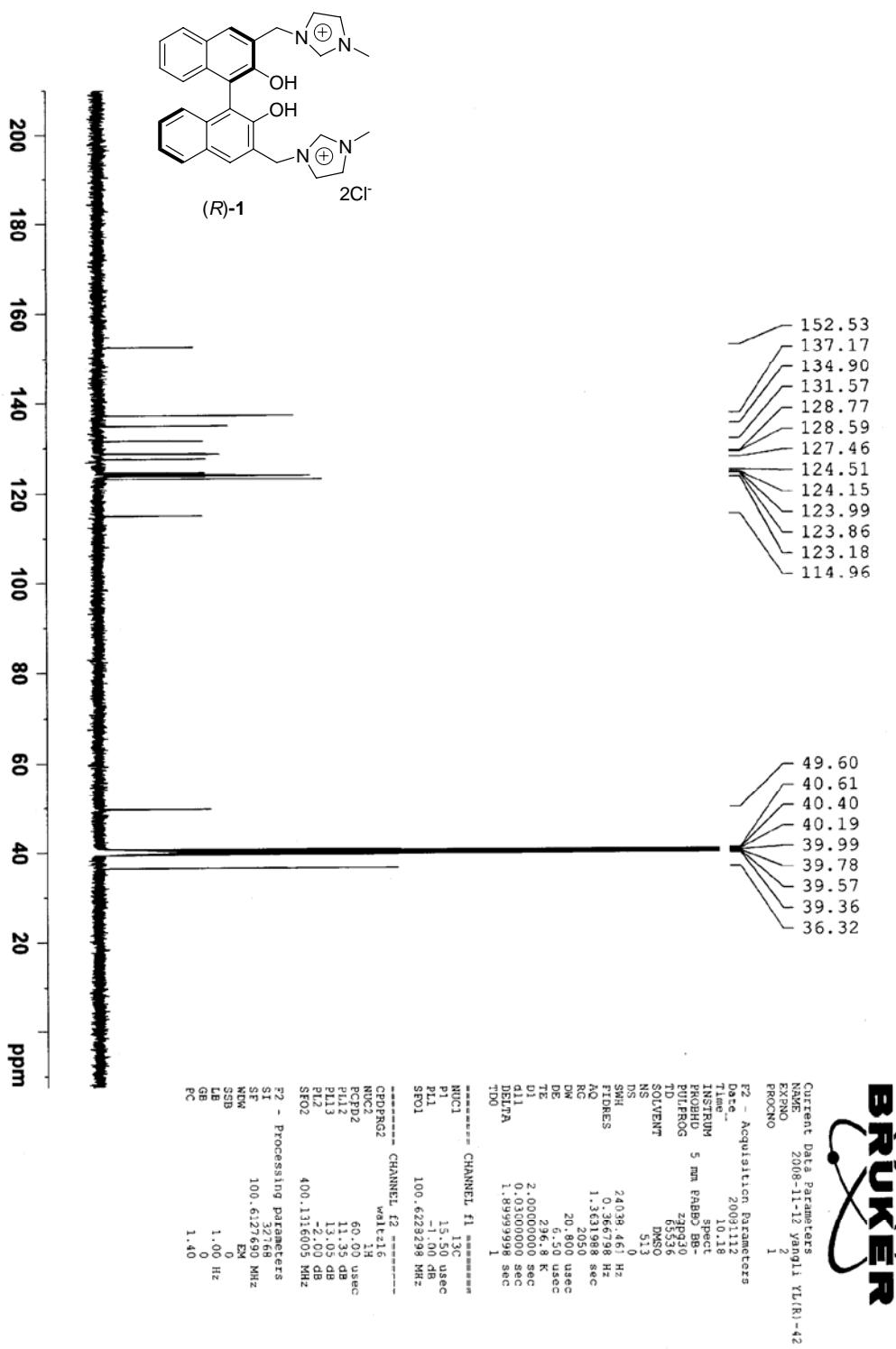


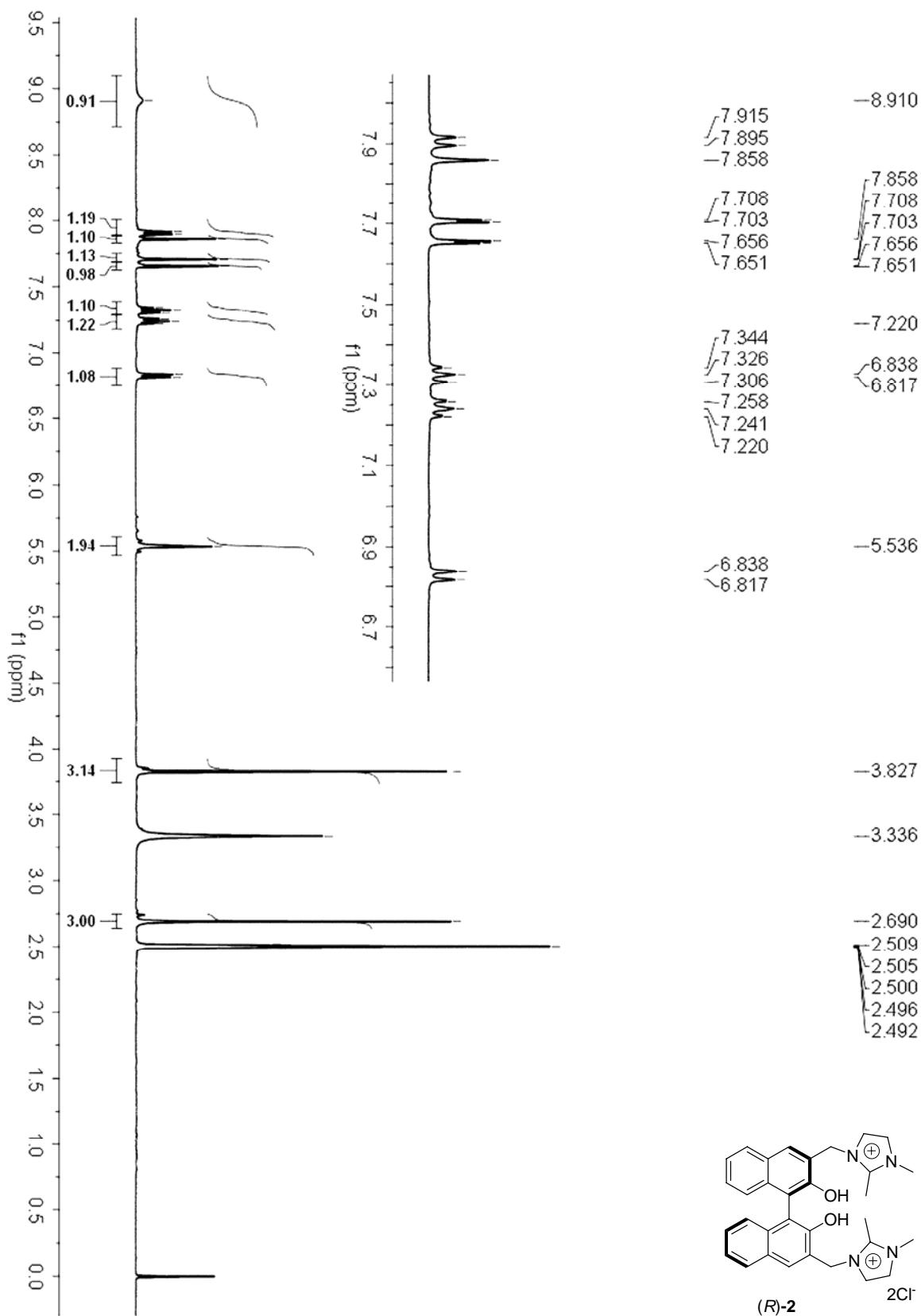
YL-(R)-17b

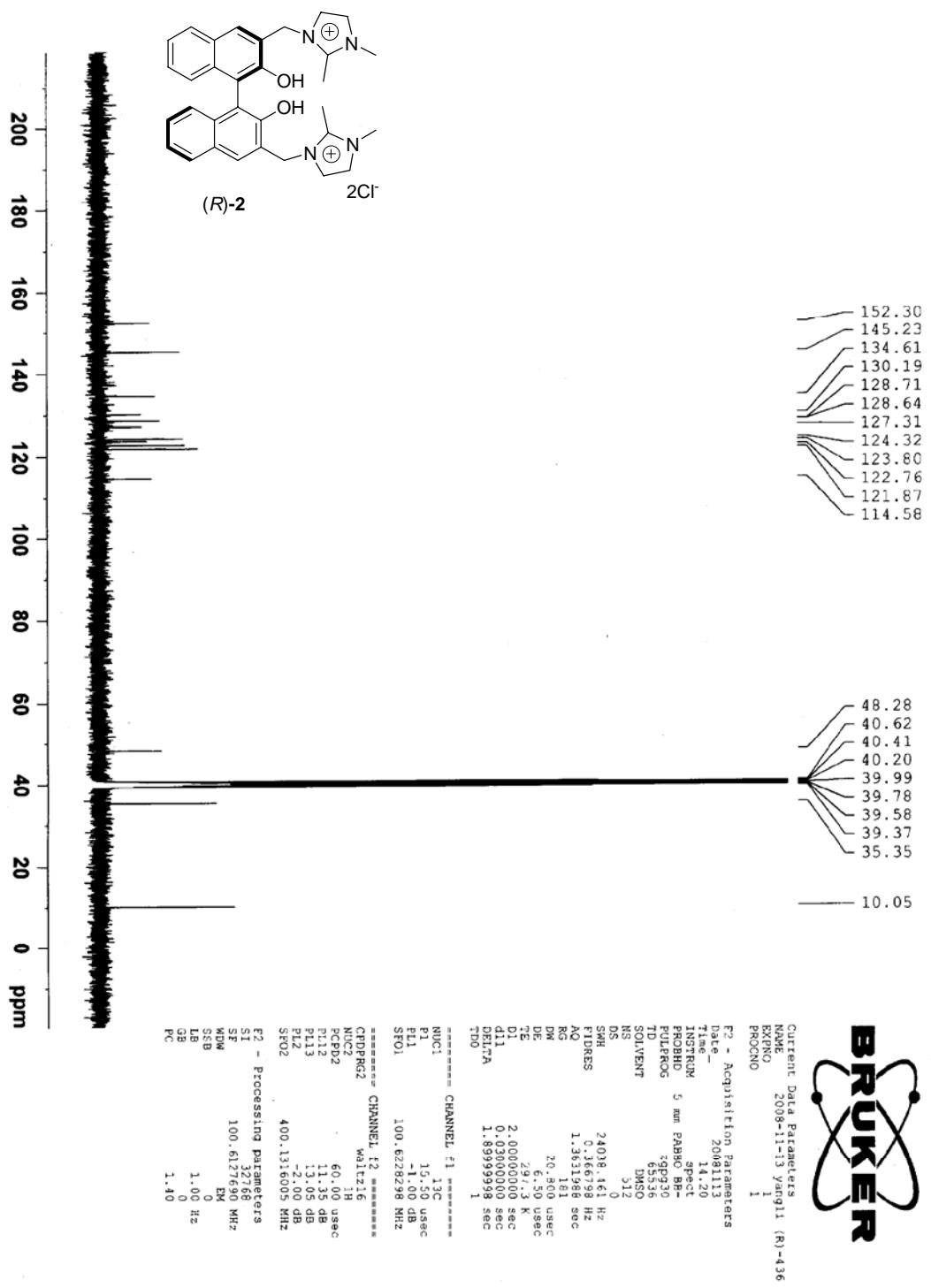








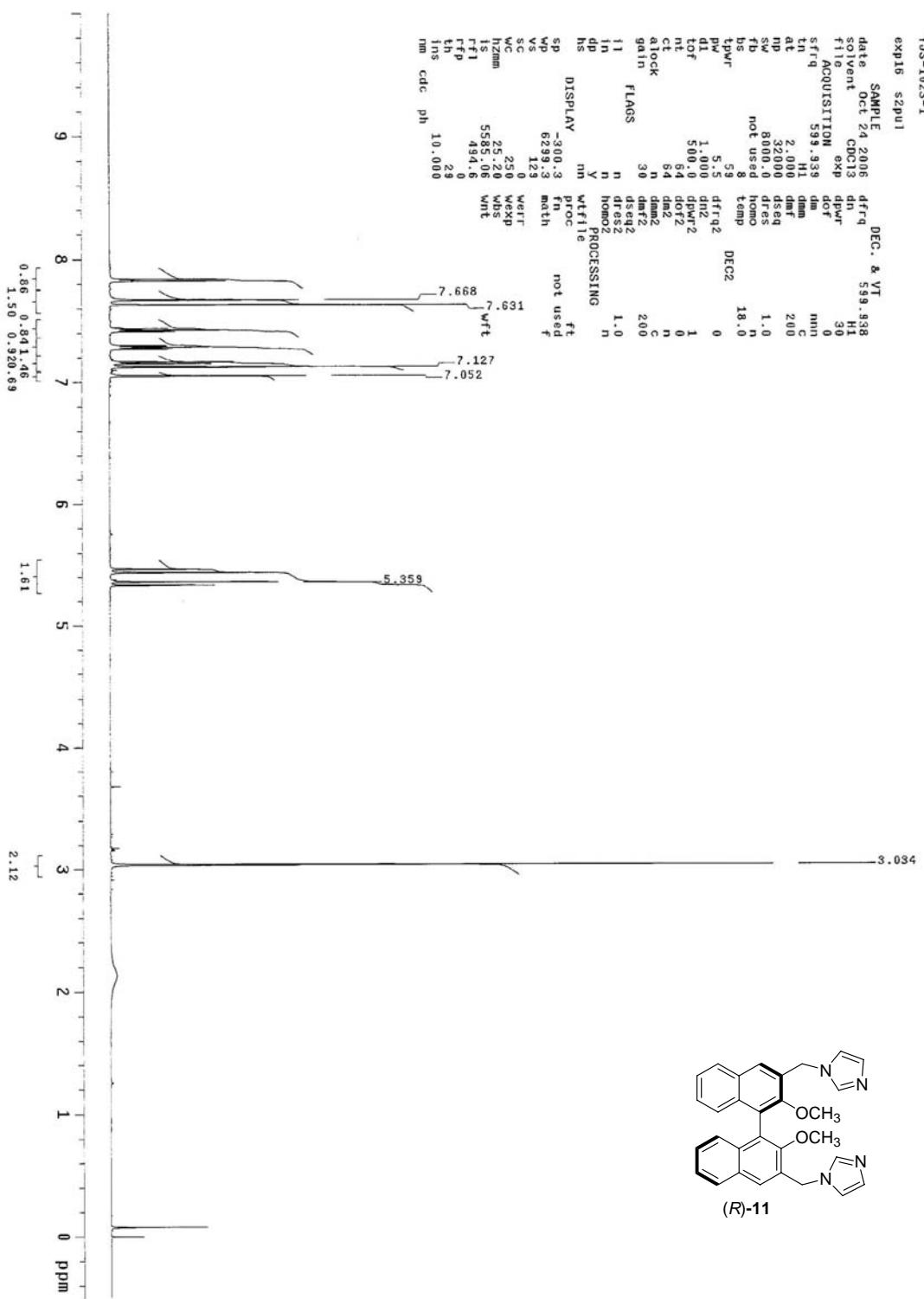


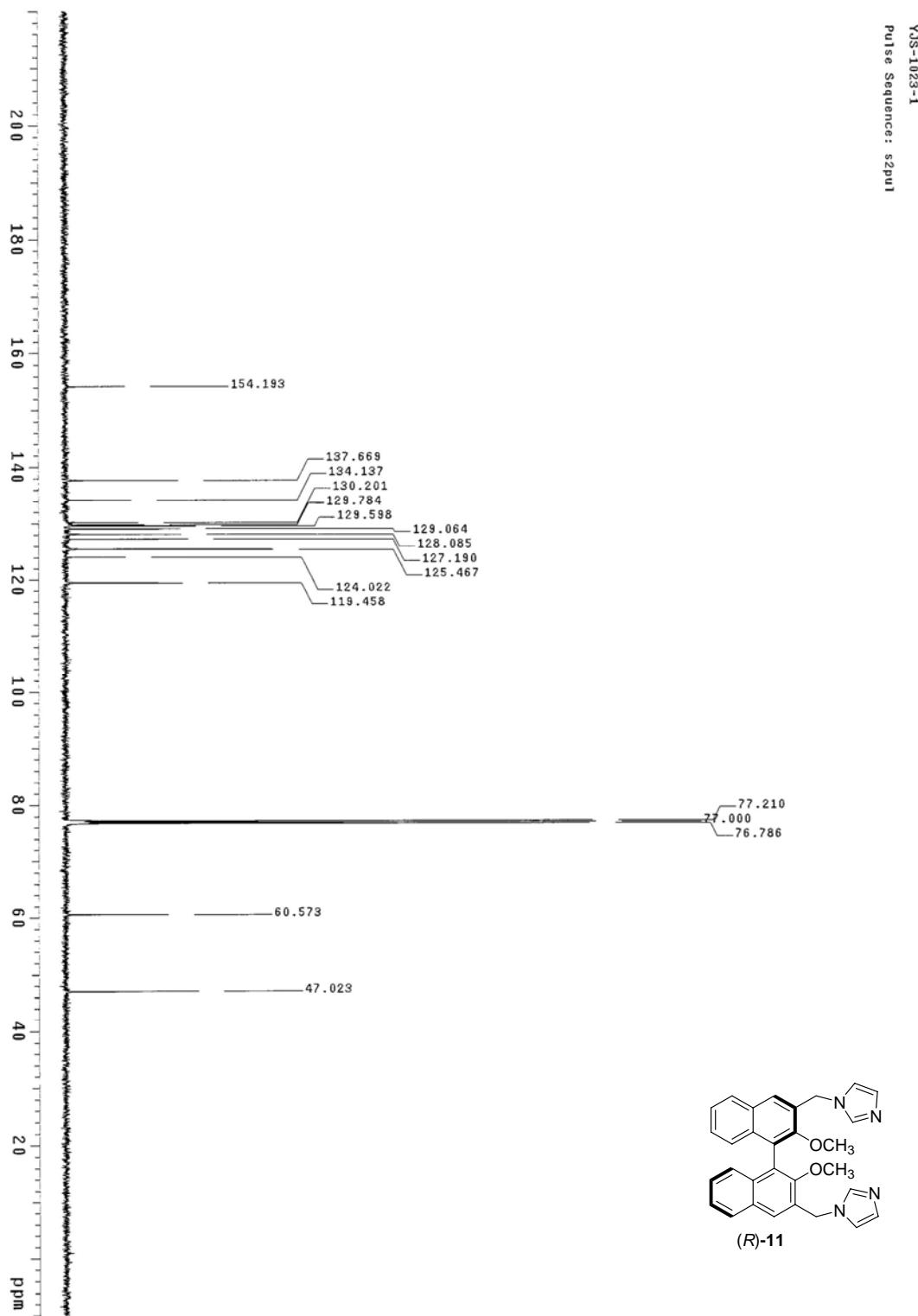


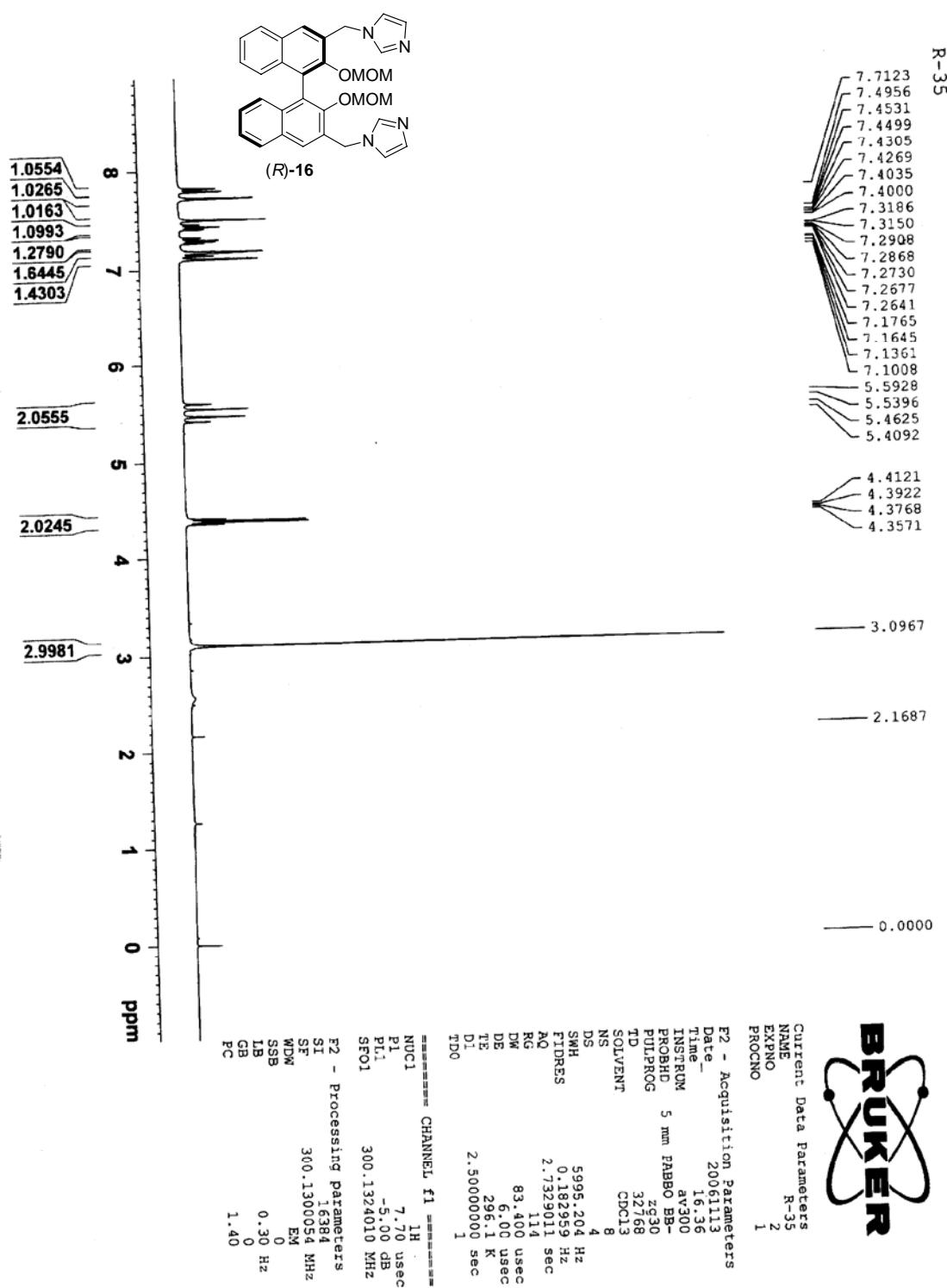
YJS-1023-1

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at			dpr2	0			
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hzmm	25.20		wexp				
ls	555.06		wbs				
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r <sup>f</sup> p	0						
th	2.9						
ins	10.000						
rm							
edc							
ph	10.000						







R-35 13C

