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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**FOR**

**Trichlorosilane-mediated stereoselective synthesis of  $\beta$ -amino esters and their conversion to highly enantiomerically enriched  $\beta$ -lactams.**

Stefania Guizzetti, Maurizio Benaglia,\* Martina Bonsignore, Laura Raimondi

*Dipartimento di Chimica Organica e Industriale – Università' degli Studi di Milano, via Golgi 19, I-20133 Milano, Italy*

and Giuseppe Celentano

*Dipartimento di Scienze Molecolari Applicate ai Biosistemi –  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Golgi 19, 20133, Milano, Italy*

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**1. General.** All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring under nitrogen atmosphere, unless otherwise stated. All commercially available reagents including dry solvents were used as received. Organic extracts were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum using a rotatory evaporator. Nonvolatile materials were dried under high vacuum. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on pre-coated Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates and visualized either by UV or by staining with a solution of cerium sulfate (1g) and ammonium heptamolybdate tetrahydrate (27 g) in water (469 mL) and concentrated sulfuric acid (31 mL). Flash chromatography was performed on Fluka silica gel 60. Proton NMR spectra were recorded on spectrometers operating at 200, 300 or 500 MHz respectively. Proton chemical shifts are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) with the solvent reference relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) employed as the internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$   $\delta = 7.26$  ppm). Carbon chemical shifts are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to TMS with the respective solvent resonance as the internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta = 77.0$  ppm). Optical rotations were obtained on a polarimeter at 589 nm using a 5 mL cell with a length of 1 dm. HPLC for e.e. determination was performed under the conditions reported below. Mass spectra (MS) were performed on a hybrid quadrupole time of flight mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI ion source. Microwave-accelerated reactions were performed in CEM Discover class S instrument.

## **2. Synthesis of $\beta$ -keto esters and *N*-aryl $\beta$ -enamino esters**

To a dried three-necked flask equipped with a dropping funnel, a condenser, and a magnetic stirrer was added NaH (700 mg, 95%, 28 mmol), dimethyl carbonate (1.8 g, 20 mL), and toluene (10 mL).

The mixture was heated to reflux. A solution of ketone (10 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added dropwise from the dropping funnel over 1-2 h. After the addition, the mixture was heated to reflux until the evolution of hydrogen ceased (15-20 min). When the reaction was cooled to room temperature, glacial acetic acid (3 mL) was added dropwise and a heavy, pasty solid appeared.

Ice-water was added until the solid was dissolved completely. The toluene layer was separated, and the water layer was washed with toluene ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The combined toluene solution was washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), then dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After evaporation of the solvent, the mixture was distilled under reduced pressure or subjected chromatography to give the desired.<sup>20</sup>

### ***N*-aryl $\beta$ -enamino esters**

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A mixture of  $\beta$ -keto ester (10 mmol), arylamine (10 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of benzene and refluxed overnight with a Dean Stark apparatus in the presence of molecular sieves (3 Å). After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified on silica flash.

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylacrylate (3):**

Yield: 40% This product was purified with a 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (200MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.69 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.27 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  4.69 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.15-7.38 (m, 10H);  $\delta$  8.91 (br, 1H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 3-phenyl-3-(1-phenylethylamino)acrylate (5):**

Yield: 46% This product was purified with a 98:2 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.51 (d, 3H);  $\delta$  3.74 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.50 (q, 1H);  $\delta$  4.70 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.12-7.40 (m, 10H);  $\delta$  9.20 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylate (7):**

Yield: 81% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.70 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.23 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  4.69 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.15 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.21-7.32 (m, 3H);  $\delta$  7.44 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.64 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  8.90 (br, 1H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 3-(1-phenylethylamino)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylate (9):**

Yield: 81% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.45 (d, 3H);  $\delta$  3.70 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.33 (q, 1H);  $\delta$  4.69 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.15 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.21-7.32 (m, 5H);  $\delta$  7.64 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  9.0 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylimino)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (11):**

Yield: 35% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.68 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  3.82 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.31 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  4.68 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  6.82 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.21-7.31 (m, 7H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(1-phenylethylamino)acrylate (13):**

Yield: 35% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.47 (d, 3H);  $\delta$  3.71 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  3.81 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.49 (q, 1H);  $\delta$  4.63 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  6.82 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.09-7.30 (m, 7H);  $\delta$  8.91 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylimino)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate (15):**

Yield: 45% This product was purified with a 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.7 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.32 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  4.72 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.2-7.3 (m, 5H);  $\delta$  7.45-7.55 (m, 3H);  $\delta$  7.8-7.9 (m, 4H);  $\delta$  9 (br, 1H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3-(1-phenylethylamino)acrylate (17):**

Yield: 45% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): **E:**  $\delta$  1.40 (d, 3H);  $\delta$  3.74 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.00 (q, 1H);  $\delta$  4.68 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  6.83-8.15 (m, 12H);  $\delta$  9.24 (br, 1H).

**Z:**  $\delta$  1.49 (d, 3H);  $\delta$  3.75 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.50 (q, 1H);  $\delta$  4.76 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  6.83-8.15 (m, 12H);  $\delta$  9 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)pent-2-enoate (23)**

Yield: 80% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.11 (t, 3H);  $\delta$  2.22 (q, 2H);  $\delta$  3.61 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.43 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  4.57 (s, 1H);  $\delta$  7.24-7.35 (m, 5H);  $\delta$  8.96 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylimino)-4-phenylbutanoate (25)**

Yield: 80% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.53 (s, 2H); δ 3.66 (s, 3H); δ 4.29 (d, 2H); δ 4.56 (s, 1H); δ 7.19-7.33 (m, 10H); δ 9.0 (br, 1H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 4-phenyl-3-(1-phenylethylimino)butanoate (27)**

Yield: 70% This product was purified with a 99:1 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.40 (d, 3H); δ 3.38 (q, 2H); δ 3.68 (s, 3H); δ 4.48 (m, 2H); δ 7.17-7.40 (m, 10H); δ 9.0 (b, 1H).

**(Z)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-4-methylpent-2-enoate (29)**

Yield: 71% The product was purified by fractional distillation at P = 1 mbar the desired product at about 100 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.11 (d, 6H); δ 2.66 (m, 1H); δ 3.63 (s, 3H); δ 4.45 (d, 2H); δ 4.61 (s, 1H); δ 7.26-7.38 (m, 5H); δ 9.05 (br, 1H).

**(R,Z)-methyl 4-methyl-3-(1-phenylethylamino)pent-2-enoate (31):**

Yield: 80% The product was purified by fractional distillation at P = 1 mbar the desired product at about 100 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.80 (d, 3H); δ 1.12 (d, 3H); δ 1.52 (d, 3H); δ 2.55 (m, 1H); δ 3.66 (s, 3H); δ 4.56 (s, 1H); δ 4.72 (q, 1H); δ 7.23-7.36 (m, 5H); δ 9.15 (br, 1H).

**(Z)-tert-butyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylacrylate (33):**

Yield: 30% This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.55 (s, 9H); δ 4.30 (d, 2H); δ 4.60 (s, 1H); δ 7.15-7.40 (m, 10H); δ 8.80 (br, 1H).

**3. Reduction reaction.** *General procedure:* To a stirred solution of catalyst (0.1-0.01% mol/eq mmol) in the chosen solvent (2 mL), the imine (1 mmol/eq) was added. The mixture was then cooled to the chosen temperature and trichlorosilane (3.5 mmol/eq) was added dropwise by means of a syringe. After stirring at the proper temperature, the reaction was quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL). The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and water (2 mL) and dichloromethane (5 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated and the combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum at room temperature to afford the crude product. If necessary, the amine was purified by flash chromatography.

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylpropanoate (4)<sup>21</sup>**

This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (200MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.65 (dd, 1H); δ 2.80 (dd, 1H); δ 3.53 (d, 1H); δ 3.62 (s, 3H); δ 3.69 (d, 2H); δ 4.12 (m, 1H); δ 7.25-7.36 (m, 10H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD (96:4 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 210 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 13.99 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 25.18 min.

**(R)-methyl 3-phenyl-3-((R)-1-phenylethylamino)propanoate (6)**

This product was purified with a 95:5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): (R,R): δ 1.31 (d, 3H); δ 2.00 (br, 1H); δ 2.53-2.80 (m, 2H); δ 3.50 (q, 1H); δ 3.61 (s, 3H); δ 3.84 (m, 1H); δ 7.18-7.37 (m, 10H).

(R,S): δ 1.35 (d, 3H); δ 2.53-2.80 (m, 2H); δ 3.61 (s, 3H); δ 3.68 (q, 1H); δ 4.21 (m, 1H); δ 7.18-7.37 (m, 10H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.56 (1C); 42.49 (1C), 51.54 (1C), 55.25 (1C); 56.70 (1C), 126.95 (2C), 127.36 (2C), 127.71 (2C), 128.49 (2C), 128.64 (2C), 139.49 (1C); 146.4 (1C); 171.75 (1C).

IR: 3691 cm<sup>-1</sup> (N-H); 1732 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O).

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (8)**

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.01 (br, 1H); δ 2.61 (dd, 1H); δ 2.72 (dd, 1H); δ 3.53 (d, 1H); δ 3.64 (s, 3H); δ 3.64 (d, 1H); δ 4.19 (m, 1H); δ 7.22-7.33 (m, 5H); δ 7.50 (d, 2H); δ 7.62 (d, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 42.44 (1C), 51.28 (1C), 51.73 (1C); 58.41 (1C), 125.63 (2C), 127.17 (2C), 127.90 (2C), 128.02 (2C), 128.59 (1C), 128.15 (1C, quartetto); 129.28 (1C, quartetto?), 139.49 (1C); 146.4 (1C); 171.69 (1C).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD-H (9:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.5 mL/min; λ = 220 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 12.11 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 13.46 min.

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate Metil 3-(α-feniletilammino)-3-(4-trifluorometilfenil)propanoato (10)**

This product was purified with a 98:2 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.28 (d, 3H); δ 2.06 (br, 1H); δ 2.51 (dd, 1H); δ 2.64 (dd, 1H); δ 3.46 (q, 1H); δ 3.67 (s, 3H); δ 3.89 (m, 1H); δ 7.19 (d, 2H); δ 7.22-7.37 (m, 5H); δ 7.63 (d, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.56 (1C); 42.49 (1C), 51.54 (1C), 55.25 (1C); 56.70 (1C), 126.9 (2C), 127.36 (2C), 127.71 (2C), 127.8 (1C, q); 128.49 (2C), 128.54 (1C), 128.73 (1C, q), 144 (1C); 146.2 (1C); 171.75 (1C).

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanoate (12)**

This product was purified with a 97:3 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.28 (d, 3H); δ 2.06 (br, 1H); δ 2.51 (dd, 1H); δ 2.64 (dd, 1H); δ 3.43-3.63 (q, 2H); δ 3.62 (s, 3H); δ 3.85 (s, 3H); δ 4.01 (m, 1H); δ 6.90 (d, 2H); δ 7.26-7.35 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 29.69 (1C); 42.67 (1C), 51.03 (1C), 55.25 (1C); 58.05 (1C), 114.00 (2C), 127.00 (2C), 128.36 (3C), 128.75 (2C), 133.91 (1C); 140.00 (1C); 155.00 (1C), 172.26 (1C).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralpak AD (9:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 230 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 8.74 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 9.28 min.

**(R)-methyl 3-(methoxyphenyl)-3-(2-(2-methylamino)ethylamino)propanoate (14)**

This product was purified with a 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.30 (d, 3H); δ 2.10 (br, 1H); δ 2.55 (dd, 1H); δ 2.67 (dd, 1H); δ 3.52 (q, 1H); δ 3.65 (s, 3H); δ 3.77 (m, 1H); δ 3.85 (s, 3H); δ 6.89 (d, 2H); δ 7.14-7.38 (m, 7H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.91 (1C); 43.01 (1C), 51.46 (1C), 54.89 (1C); 55.09 (1C), 55.93 (1C), 113.93 (2C), 127.17 (2C), 127.93 (3C), 127.99 (2C), 134.25 (1C); 144.83 (1C); 158.93 (1C); 172.07 (1C).

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate (16)**

This product was purified with a 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.0 (br, 1H); δ 2.62 (dd, 1H); δ 2.75 (dd, 1H); δ 3.62 (q, 2H); δ 3.62 (s, 3H); δ 4.3 (m, 1H); δ 7.2 (m, 5H); δ 7.5 (m, 3H); δ 7.84 (m, 4H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralpak AD (9:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 230 nm): t<sub>S</sub> = 9 min, t<sub>R</sub> = 9.8 min.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 42.8 (1C), 51.3 (1C), 51.6 (1C); 60.7 (1C), 126.1 (1C), 126.3 (1C), 126.9 (1C), 127.7 (2C), 127.9 (1C), 128.2 (1C), 128.4 (1C), 128.5 (2C), 129.7 (2C), 133.1 (1C), 133.5 (1C); 139.8 (1C); 140.2 (1C); 172.2 (1C).

[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = + 30.69 (c = 0.216 g/100 mL, EtOH, λ = 589 nm).

**(R)-methyl 3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-((R)-1-phenylethylamino)propanoate (18)**

This product was purified with a 85:15 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.29 (d, 3H); δ 2.10 (br, 1H); δ 2.62 (dd, 1H); δ 2.75 (dd, 1H); δ 3.50 (q, 1H); δ 3.62 (s, 3H); δ 4.00 (m, 1H); δ 7.18-7.70 (m, 9H); δ 7.79-7.85 (m, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.6 (1C), 42.4 (1C), 51.6 (1C), 55.1 (1C); 56.7 (1C), 125.9 (1C), 126.1 (1C), 126.5 (1C), 126.9 (1C), 127.2 (1C), 127.4 (1C), 127.8 (1C), 128.1 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 128.5 (1C), 133.0 (1C), 133.3 (1C); 138.8 (1C); 144 (1C); 171.9 (1C).

**(S)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylpropanoate (24)**

This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.95 (t, 3H); δ 1.40-1.59 (m, 2H); δ 1.64 (br, 1H); δ 2.45 (d, 2H); δ 2.99 (q, 1H); δ 3.68 (s, 3H); δ 3.78 (s, 2H); δ 7.21-7.33 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.91 (1C); 26.76 (1C), 38.62 (1C), 50.92 (1C), 51.5 (1C); 55.49 (1C), 126.9 (1C); 127.33 (1C), 128.81 (2C); 129.05 (1C); 140.44 (1C); 173.07 (1C)

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD (99:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.5 mL/min; λ = 210 nm): t<sub>S</sub> = 12.53 min, t<sub>R</sub> = 16.16 min.

**(S)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-4-phenylbutanoate (26)**

This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.45 (d, 2H); δ 2.75 (dd, 1H); δ 2.9 (dd, 1H); δ 3.35 (m, 1H); δ 3.65 (s, 3H); δ 3.88 (s, 2H); δ 7.10-7.33 (m, 10H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralpak AD (99:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 210 nm): t<sub>S</sub> = 13.90 min, t<sub>R</sub> = 15.47 min.

**(S)-methyl 4-phenyl-3-((R)-1-phenylethylamino)butanoate (28)**

This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): (R,S): δ 1.27 (d, 3H); δ 2.00 (br, 1H); δ 2.23-2.28 (m, 2H); 2.68 (m, 1H); 2.92 (m, 2H); δ 3.59 (s, 3H); δ 4 (q, 1H); δ 7.04-7.33 (m, 10H).

(R,R): δ 1.32 (d, 3H); δ 2.23-2.28 (m, 2H); 2.68 (m, 1H); 2.92 (m, 2H); δ 3.66 (s, 3H); δ 3.85 (q, 1H); δ 7.04-7.33 (m, 10H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.57 (1C), 38.84 (1C), 39.16 (1C), 51.40 (1C), 53.33 (1C); 55.18 (1C), 126.32 (1C); 126.44 (1C), 126.81 (2C); 128.75 (3C); 129.36 (3C); 138.20 (1C); 144.64 (1C); 172.69 (1C).

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-4-methylpentanoate (30)**

This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.95 (t, 6H); δ 1.56 (br, 1H); δ 1.93 (m, 1H); δ 2.39 (dd, 1H); δ 2.49 (dd, 1H); δ 2.94 (m, 1H); δ 3.70 (s, 3H); δ 3.82 (s, 2H); δ 7.26-7.36 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 17.6 (1C), 18.8 (1C), 26.76 (1C), 29.7 (1C), 36 (1C), 51.5 (2C); 59.6 (1C), 125 (1C), 128.3 (2C); 129.0 (2C); 140.1 (1C); 173.6 (1C)

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD (99:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 210 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 9.13 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 9.72 min.

**(R)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-4-phenylpentanoate (32)**

This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): (R,R): δ 0.81 (d, 3H); δ 1.28 (d, 3H) δ 1.92 (m, 1H); δ 2.17 (dd, 1H); δ 2.30 (dd, 1H); δ 2.74 (q, 1H); δ 3.60 (s, 3H); δ 3.85 (m, 1H); δ 7.21-7.32 (m, 5H).

(R,S): δ 0.81 (d, 3H); δ 1.28 (dd, 6H); δ 1.66 (m, 1H); δ 2.35 (dd, 1H); δ 2.45 (dd, 1H); δ 2.65 (q, 1H); δ 3.68 (s, 3H); δ 3.85 (m, 1H); δ 7.21-7.32 (m, 5H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 16.39 (1C), 18.98 (1C), 24.86 (1C), 29.01 (1C), 29.39 (1C), 35.76 (1C), 54.89 (1C), 56.72 (1C), 126.71 (1C), 126.80 (2C); 129.0 (2C); 145.8 (1C); 173.6 (1C)

[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = + 26.1 (c = 0.322 g/100 mL, DCM, λ = 589 nm).

**tert-butyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylpropanoate (34)<sup>23</sup>**

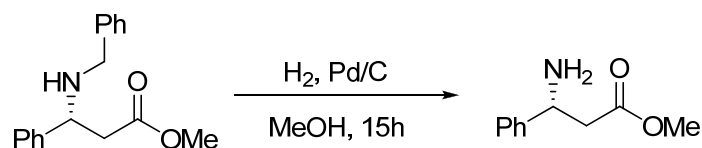
This product was purified with a 95: 5 hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (200MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.35 (s, 9H); δ 2.60 (m, 2H); δ 3.55 (dd, 2H); δ 4.10 (m, 1H); δ 7.27 (m, 10H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD-H (96:4 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 220 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 6.69 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 7.5 min.

#### 4. Hydrogenolysis procedure and Synthesis of azetidin-2-ones.

##### Synthesis of (*R*)-methyl 3-amino-3-phenylpropanoate<sup>24</sup> (19)



A suspension of (*R*)-methyl 3-(benzylamino)-3-phenylpropanoate (**4a**) (0.58 mmol) and Pd/C (10%, 36 mg) in methanol (3.5 mL) were stirred in under hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature for 16 h. The catalyst was removed by filtration through a pad of celite, and the filtrate was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (5:5 hexane/ethyl acetate 100 mL, 4:6 hexane/ethyl acetate 100 mL, 3:7 hexane/ethyl acetate 100 mL mixture as eluent).

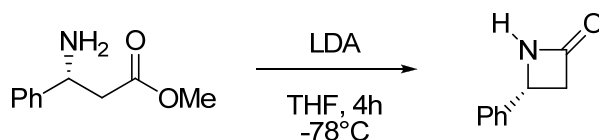
Yield = 98%

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.31 (br, 2H); δ 2.67 (d, 2H); δ 3.66 (s, 3H); δ 4.42 (t, 1H); δ 7.21-7.38 (m, 5H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralcel OD-H (98:2 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; λ = 210 nm): t<sub>R</sub> = 26.04 min, t<sub>S</sub> = 32.44 min

[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = + 10.5 (c = 0.258 g/100 mL, DCM, λ = 589 nm).

##### Synthesis of (*R*)-4-phenylazetidin-2-one<sup>25</sup> (35)



To a solution of LDA (0.676 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at -78°C was added a THF (1 mL) solution of (*R*)-methyl 3-amino-3-phenylpropanoate (**19**). Stirring was continued at -78°C for 16 h after which the reaction was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq, and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and

concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate 100 mL, 5:5 hexane/ethyl acetate 100 mL mixture as eluent).

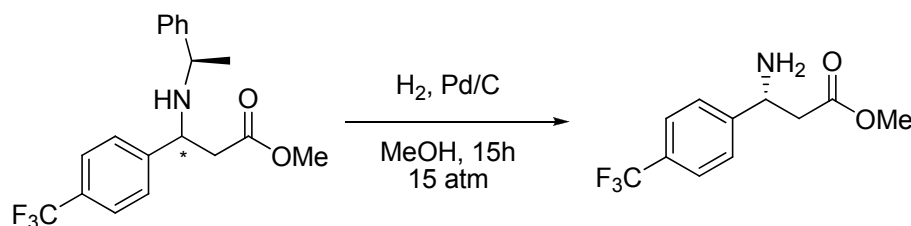
Yield = 84%

$[\alpha]_D^{25} = +106$  ( $c = 0.02$  g/100 mL, EtOH,  $\lambda = 589$  nm).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.87 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  3.44 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  4.71 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  6.30 (br, 1H);  $\delta$  7.30-7.43 (m, 5H).

GLC ( $\beta$ -cyclodextrin column, Isotherm 150°C):  $t_R = 66.0$  min,  $t_S = 74.0$  min

### Synthesis of (*R*)-methyl 3-amino-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (**20**)



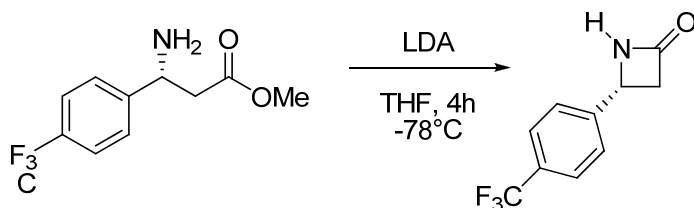
The deprotection of *N*- $\alpha$ -methyl benzyl amine **10a** required more drastic conditions and it was successfully performed by hydrogenating the starting material for 16 hours in methanol with  $\text{Pd/C}$  at 15 atm.

Yield = 98%

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (200MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.43 (br, 2H);  $\delta$  2.72 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  3.68 (s, 3H);  $\delta$  4.52 (t, 1H);  $\delta$  7.51 (d, 2H);  $\delta$  7.60 (d, 2H).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralpak AD (9:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min;  $\lambda = 210$  nm):  $t_S = 9.7$  min,  $t_R = 10.5$  min

### Synthesis of (*R*)-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)azetidin-2-one (**35**)



The synthesis of **36** was identical to that reported for compound **35**.

Yield = 80%

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.87 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  3.44 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  4.81 (dd, 1H);  $\delta$  6.50 (br, 1H);  $\delta$  7.5 (d, 1H);  $\delta$  7.55 (d, 1H).



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$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  47.46 (1C); 49.91 (1C); 125.00 (q, 1C); 126.00 (2C); 126.55 (2C); 130.44 (q, 1C); 144.27 (1C); 167.62 (1C).

$^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -63.46 (1 F).

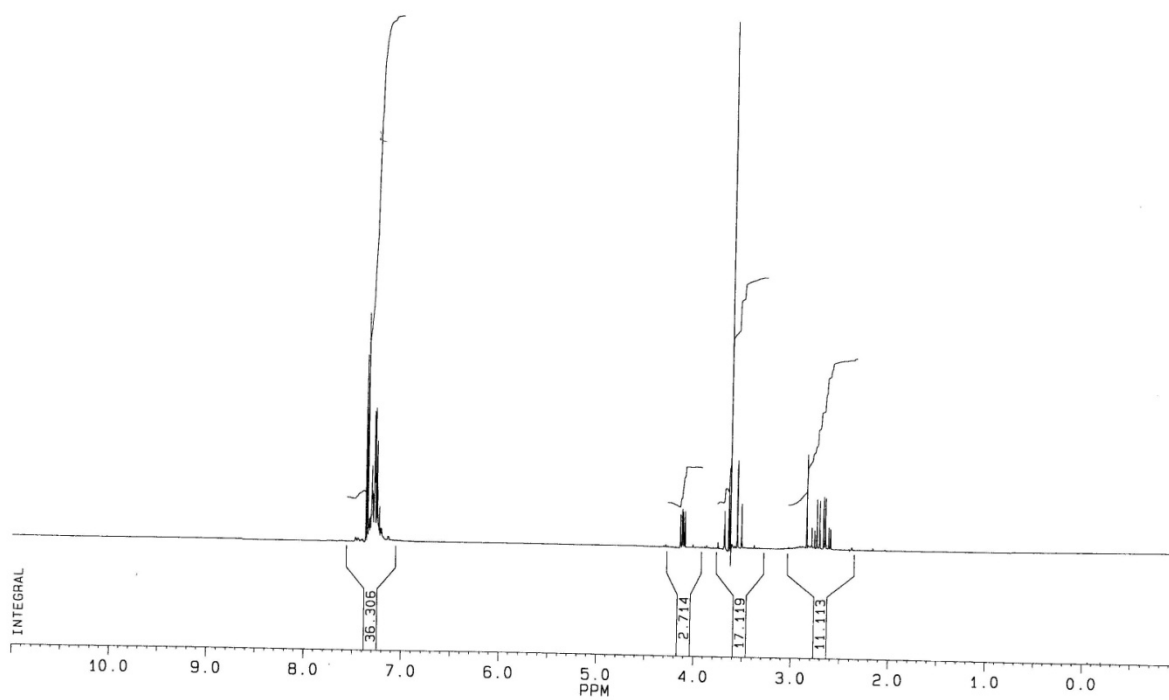
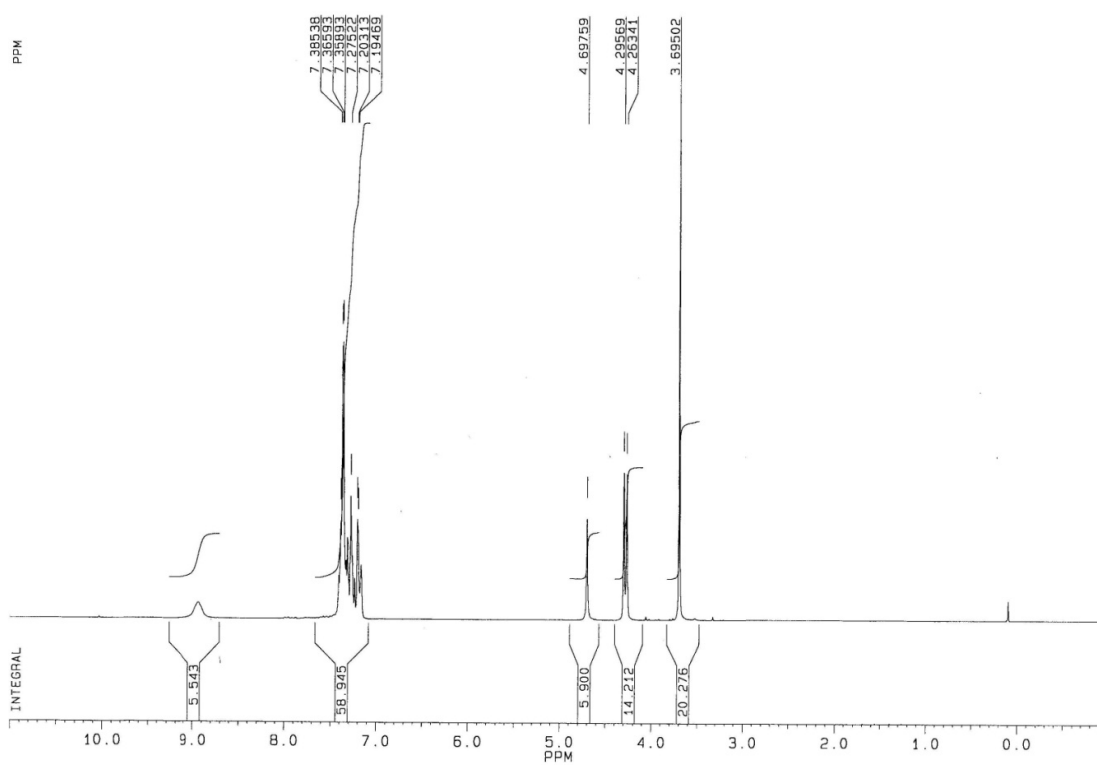
The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on a Chiralpak IB (9:1 hexane/isopropanol; flow rate: 0.8 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 225 nm):  $t_R$  = 16.13 min,  $t_S$  = 20.8.

$[\alpha]_D^{25}$  = + 61 ( $c$  = 0.2 g/100 mL, DCM,  $\lambda$  = 589 nm).

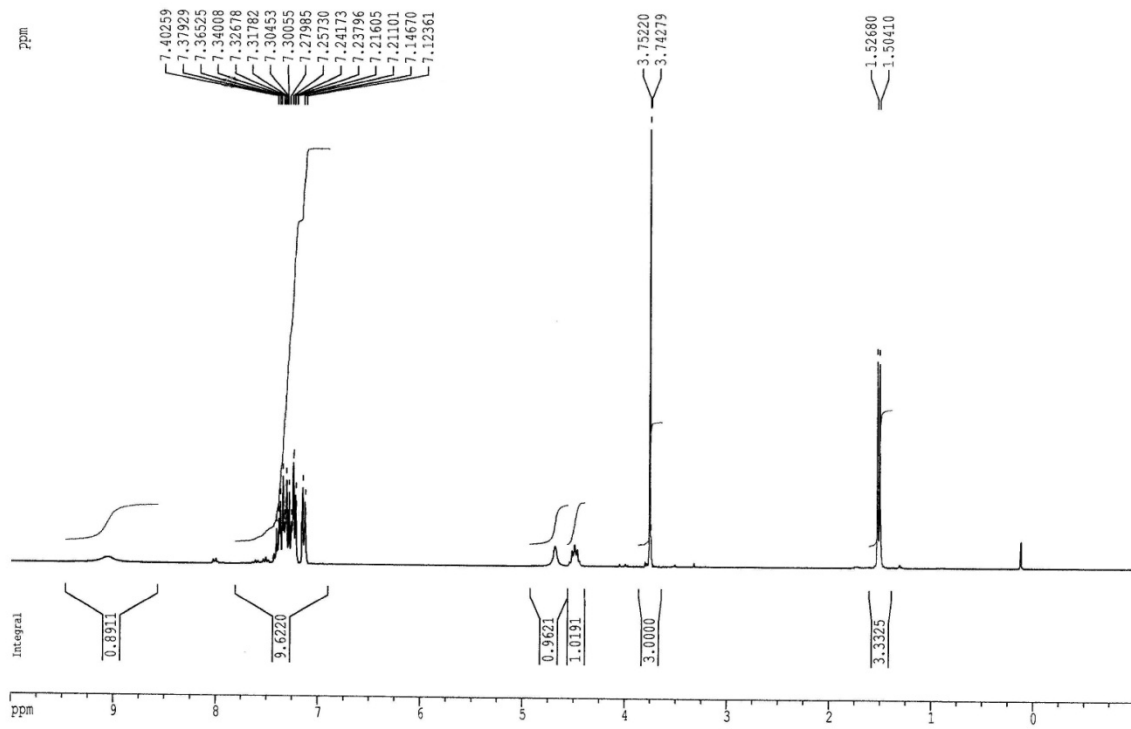
Finally, by following the same synthetic procedure  $\beta$ -amino ester **21**<sup>26</sup> and **22**<sup>27</sup> were reduced by hydrogenation and the corresponding amines were isolated in quantitative yield.

## References

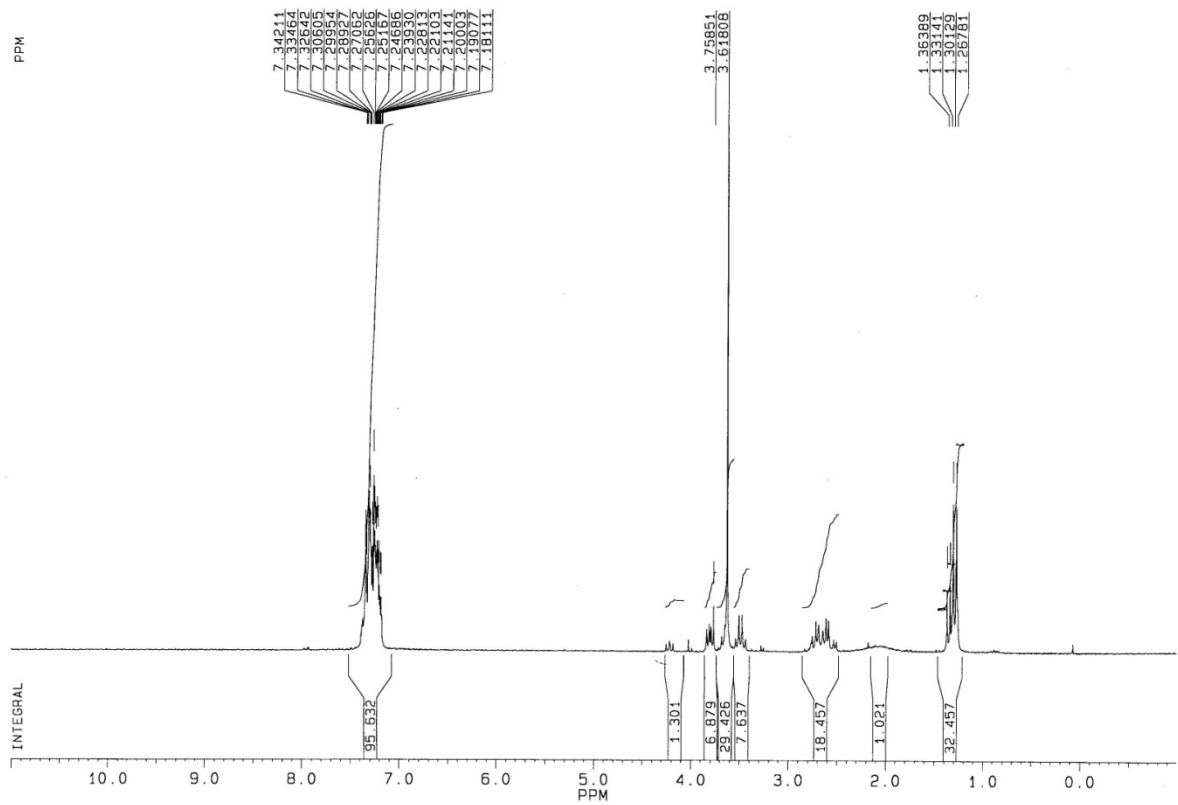
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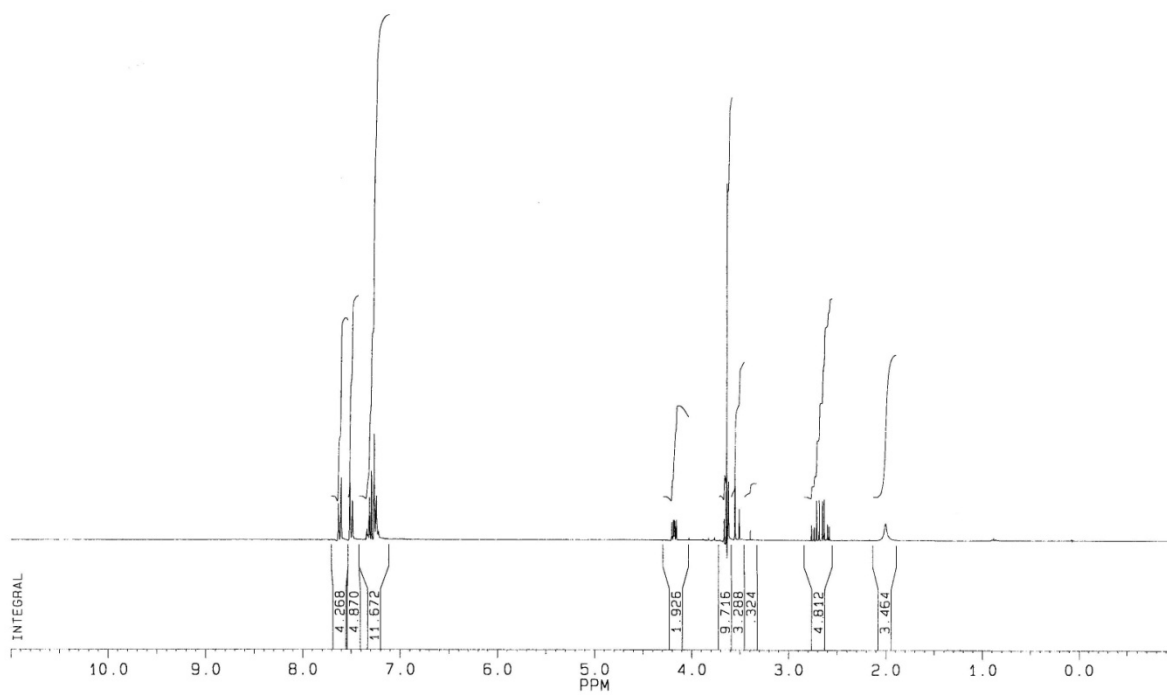
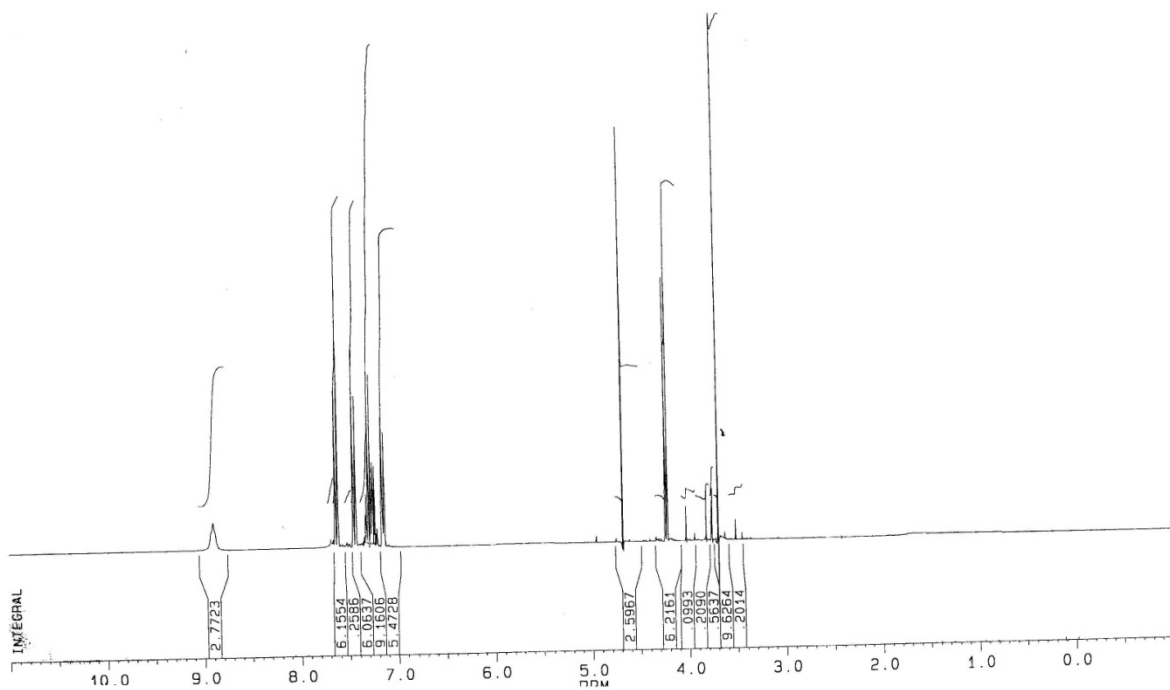


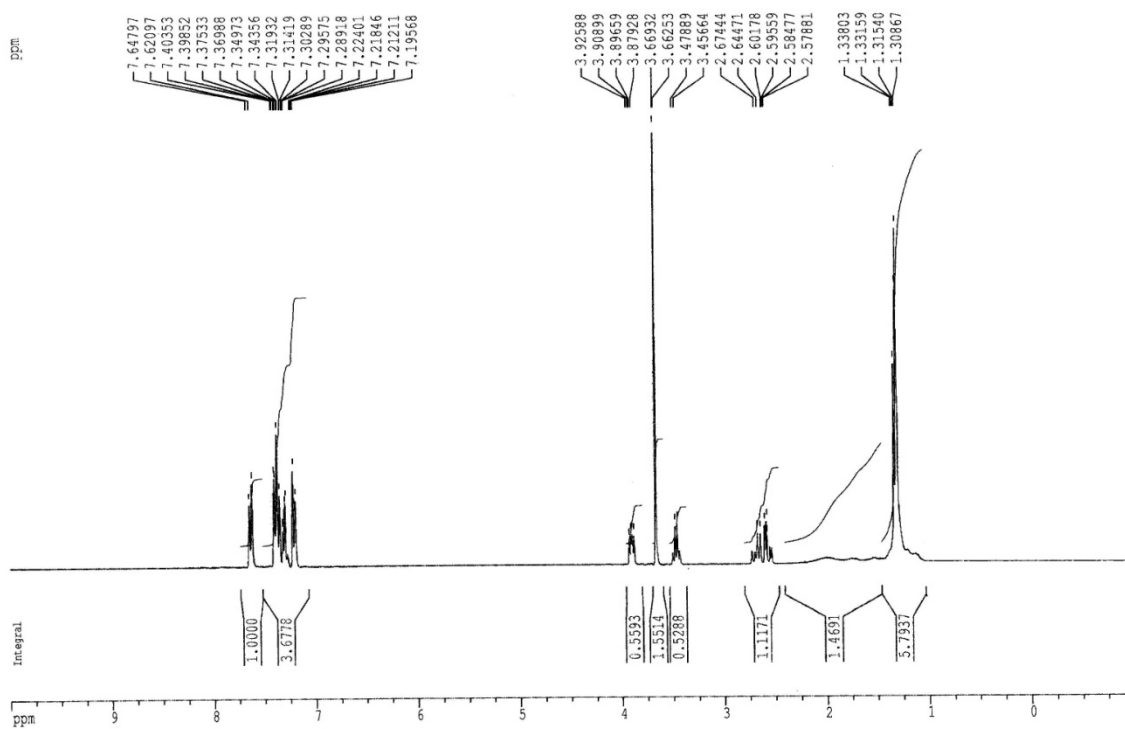
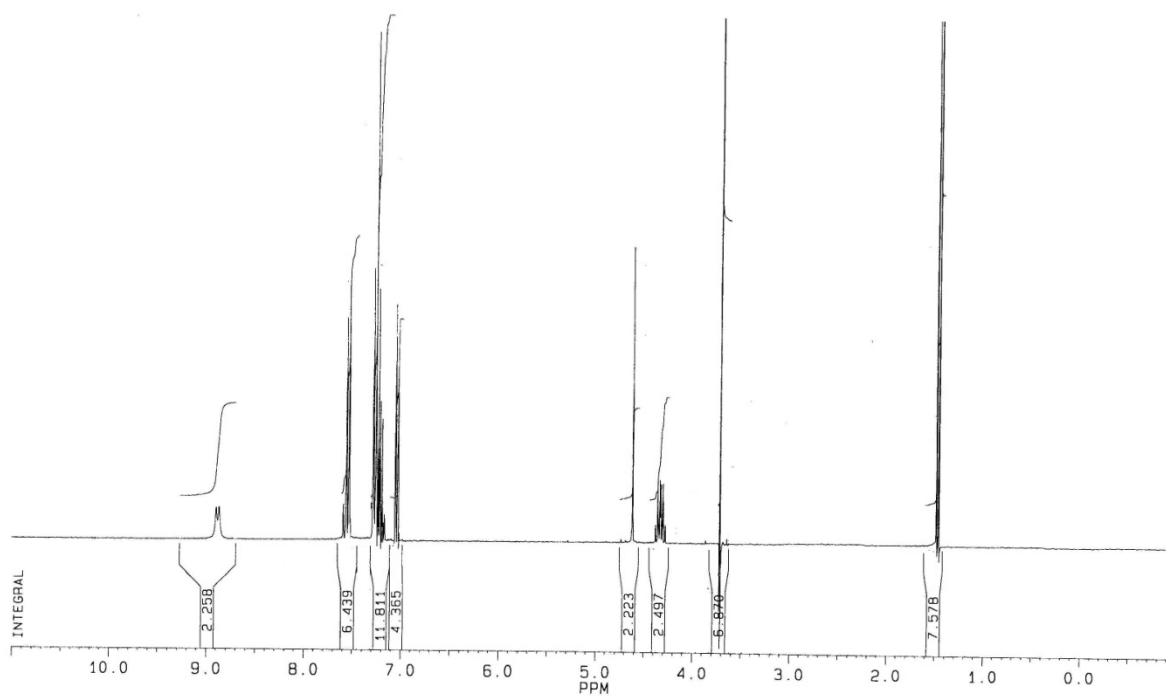
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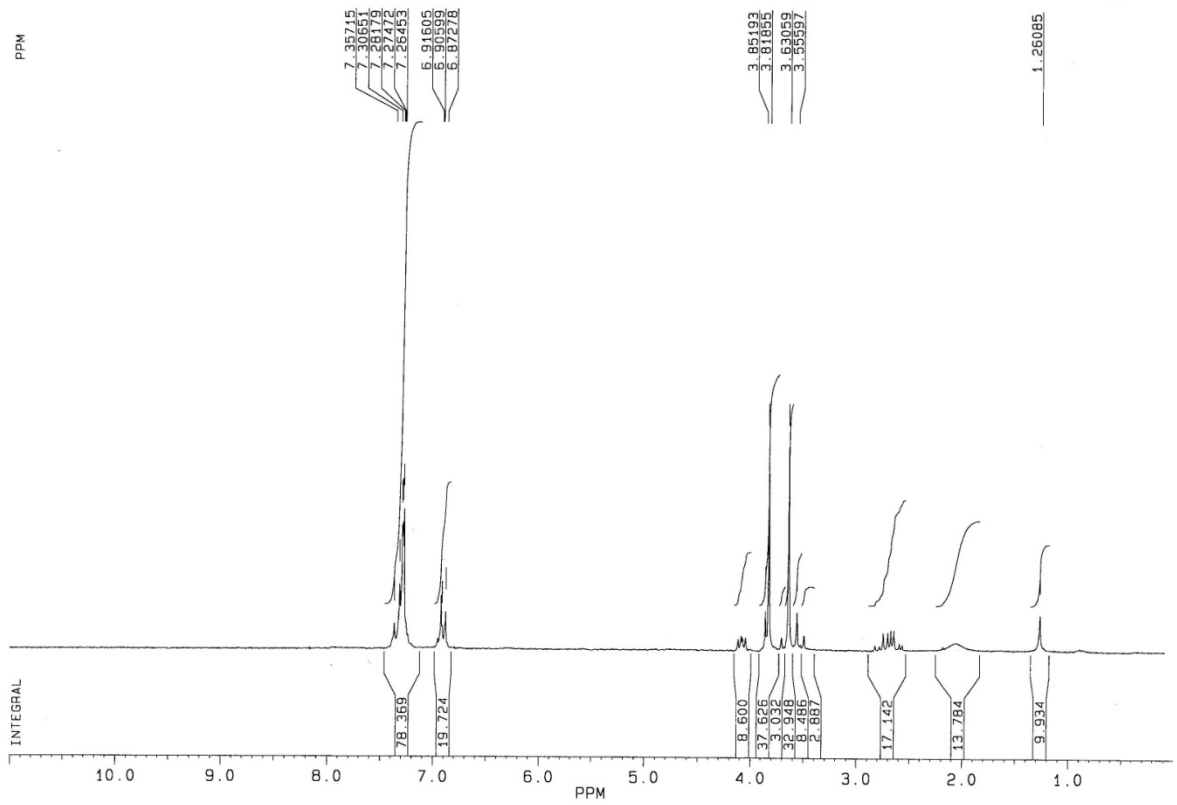
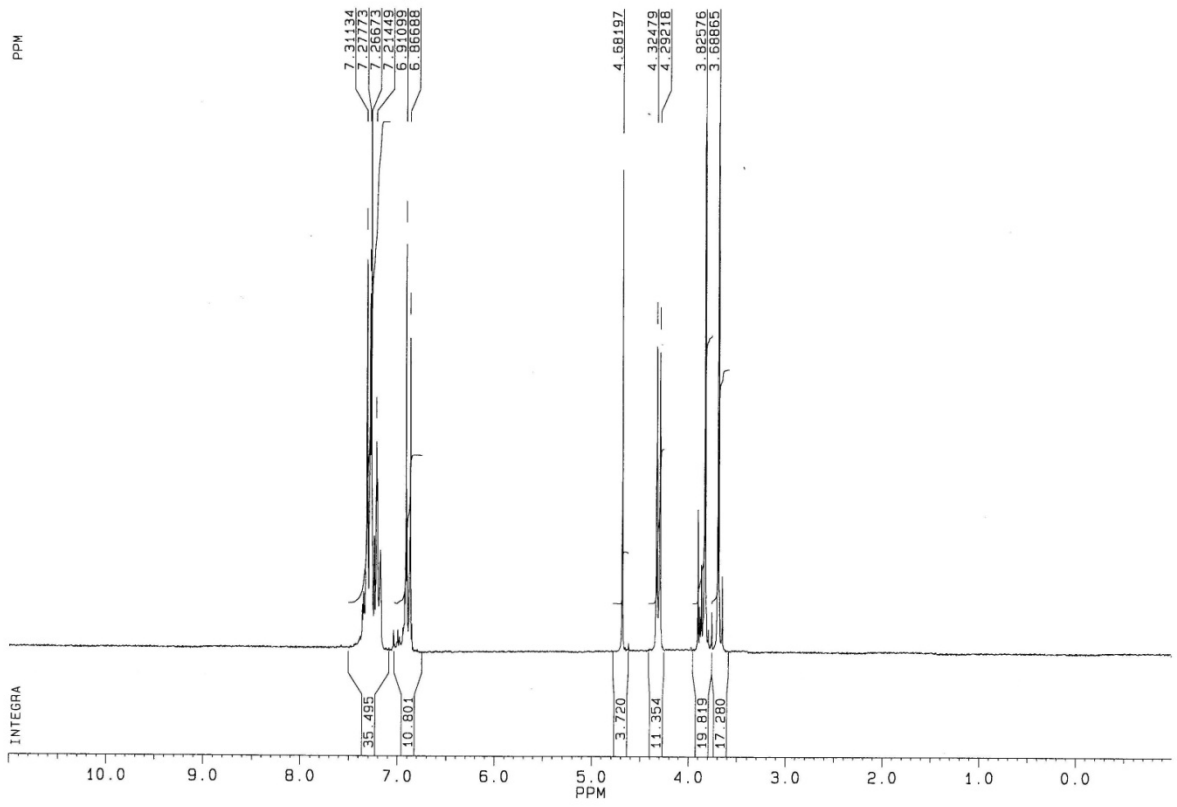


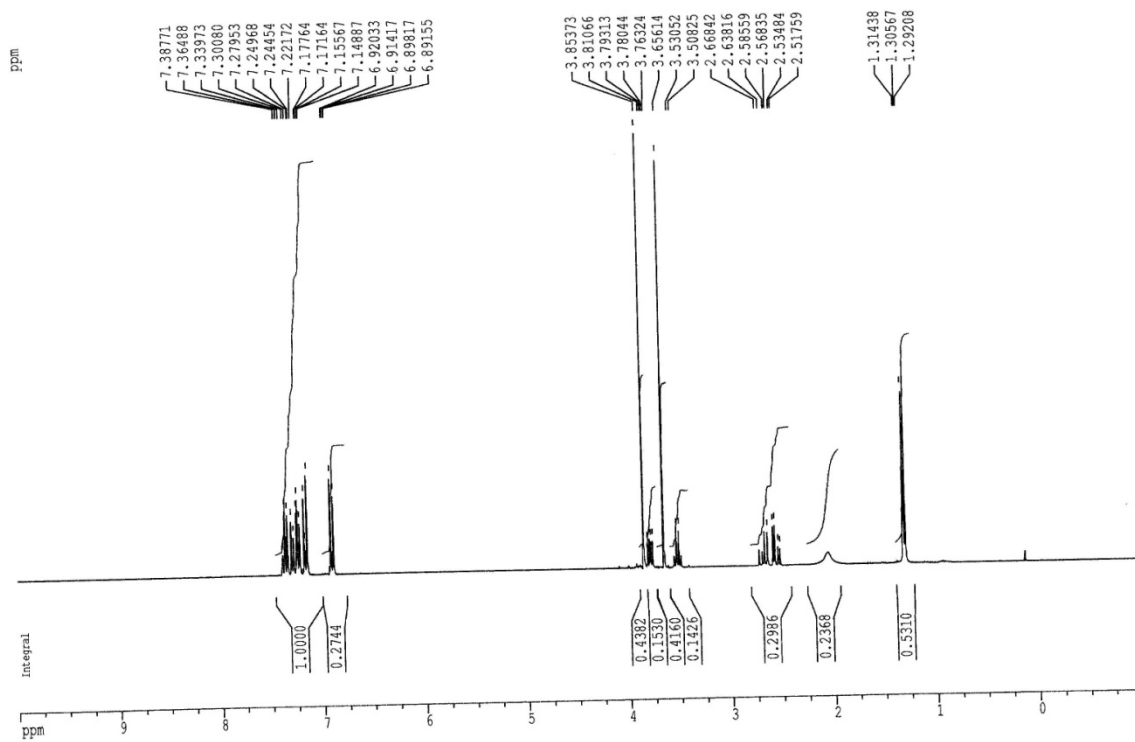
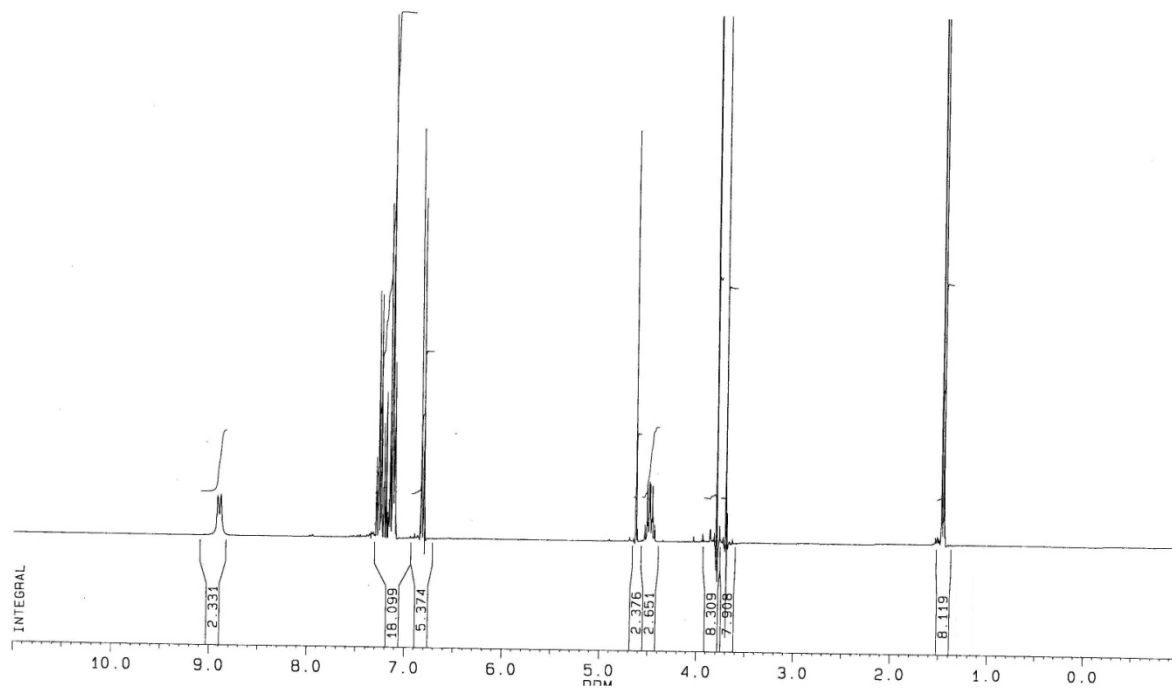
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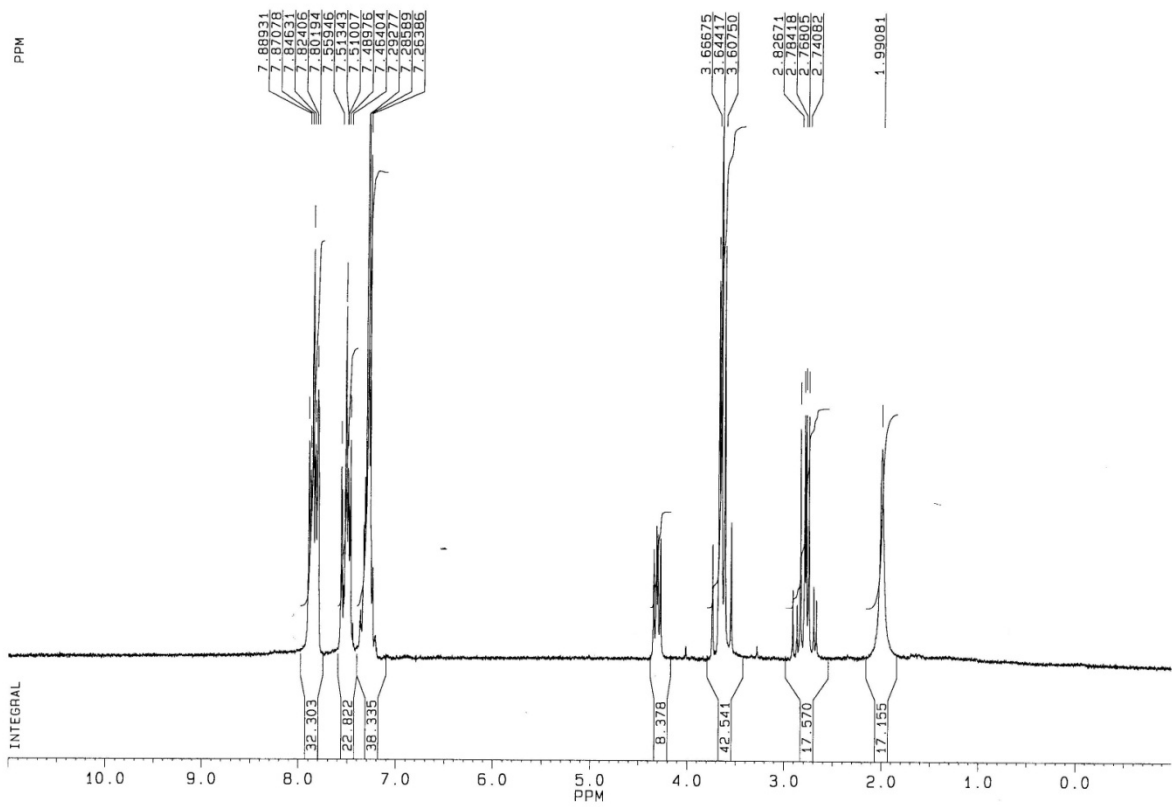
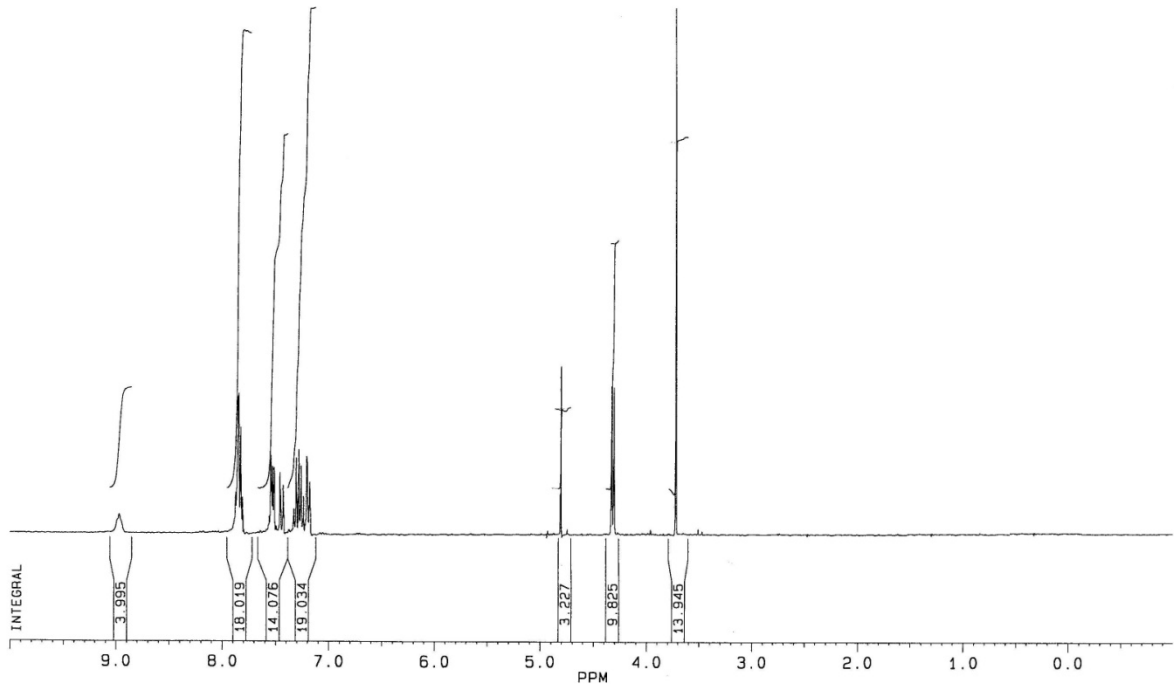




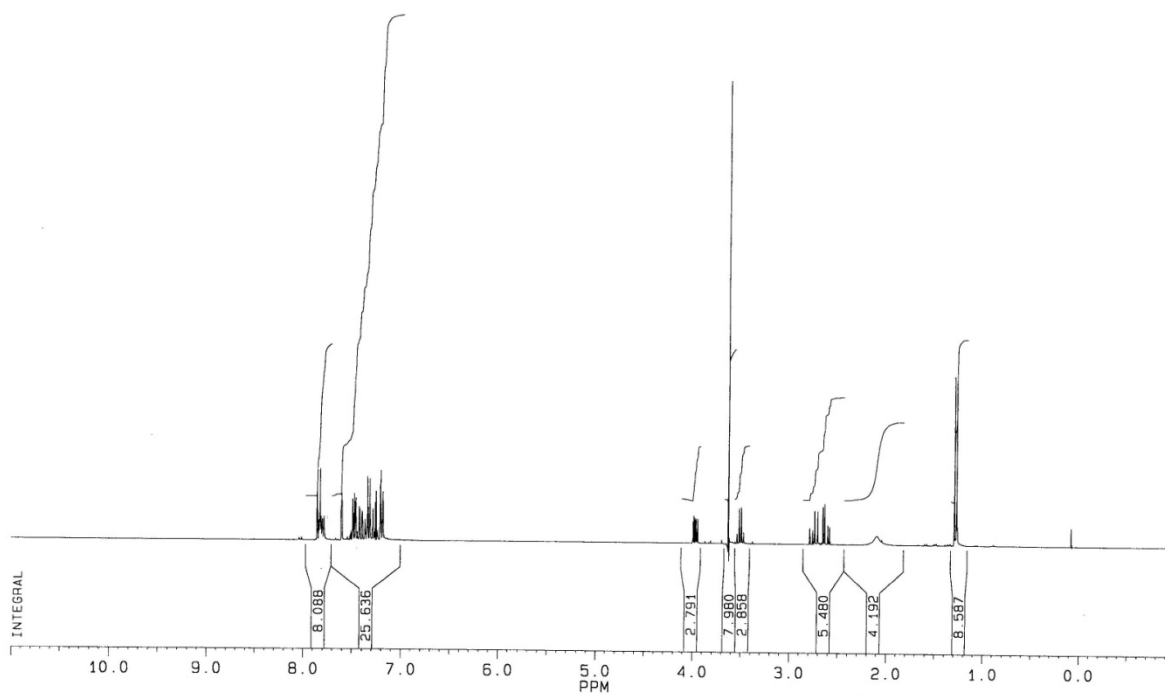
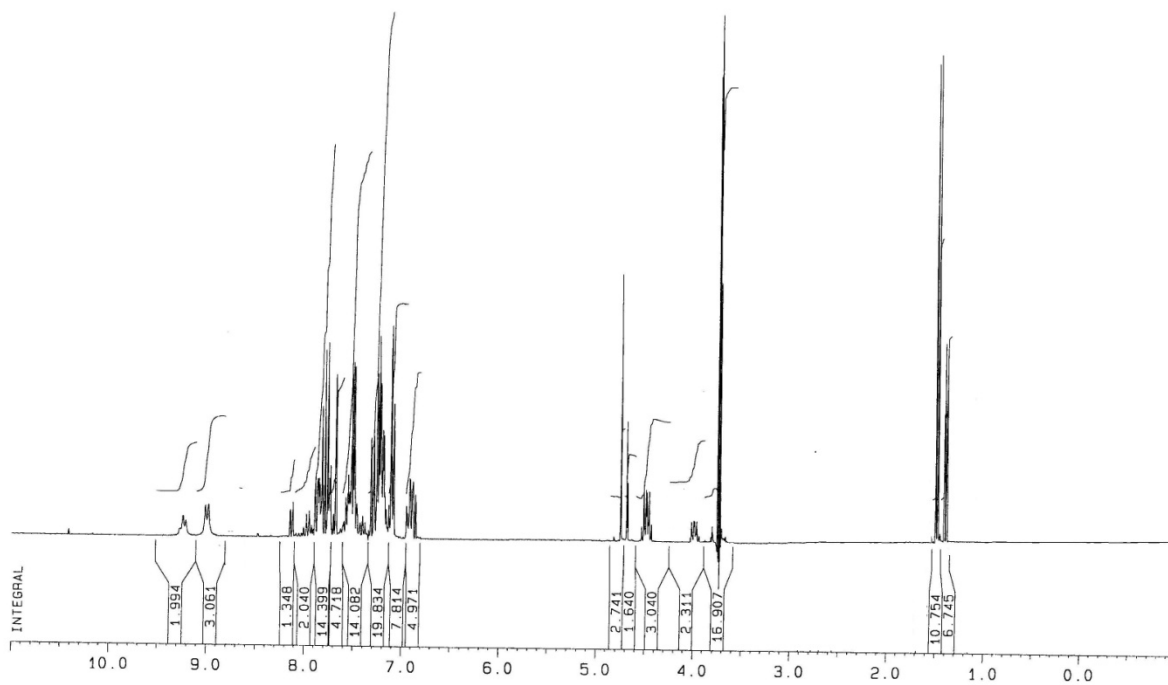


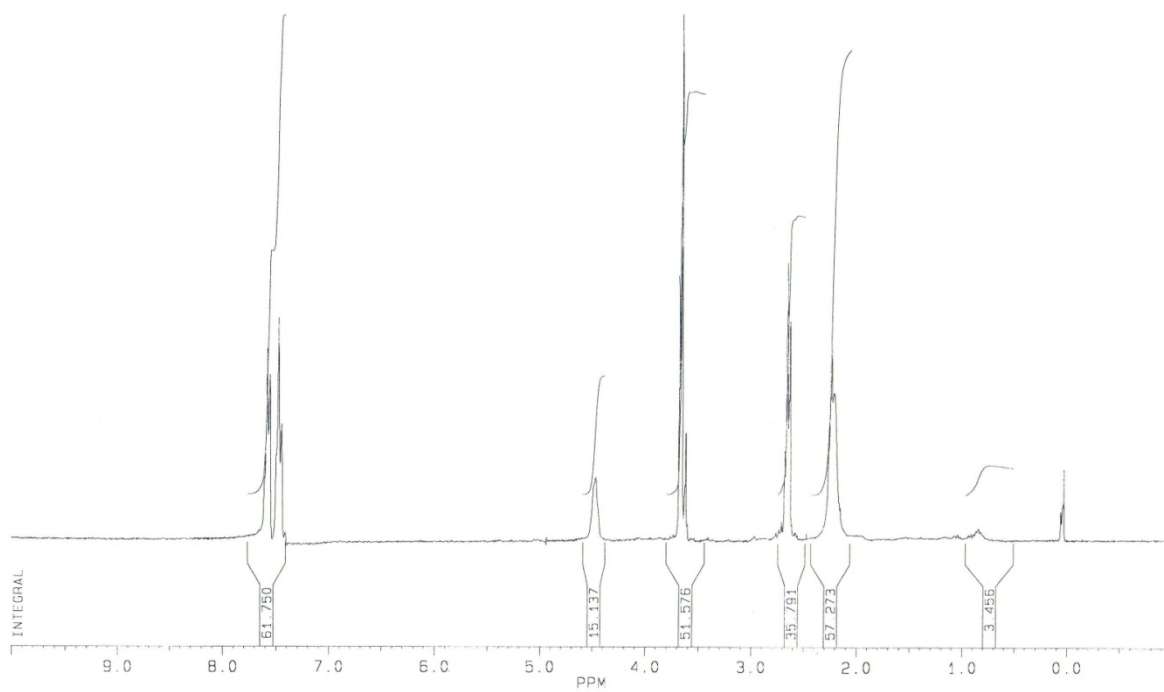
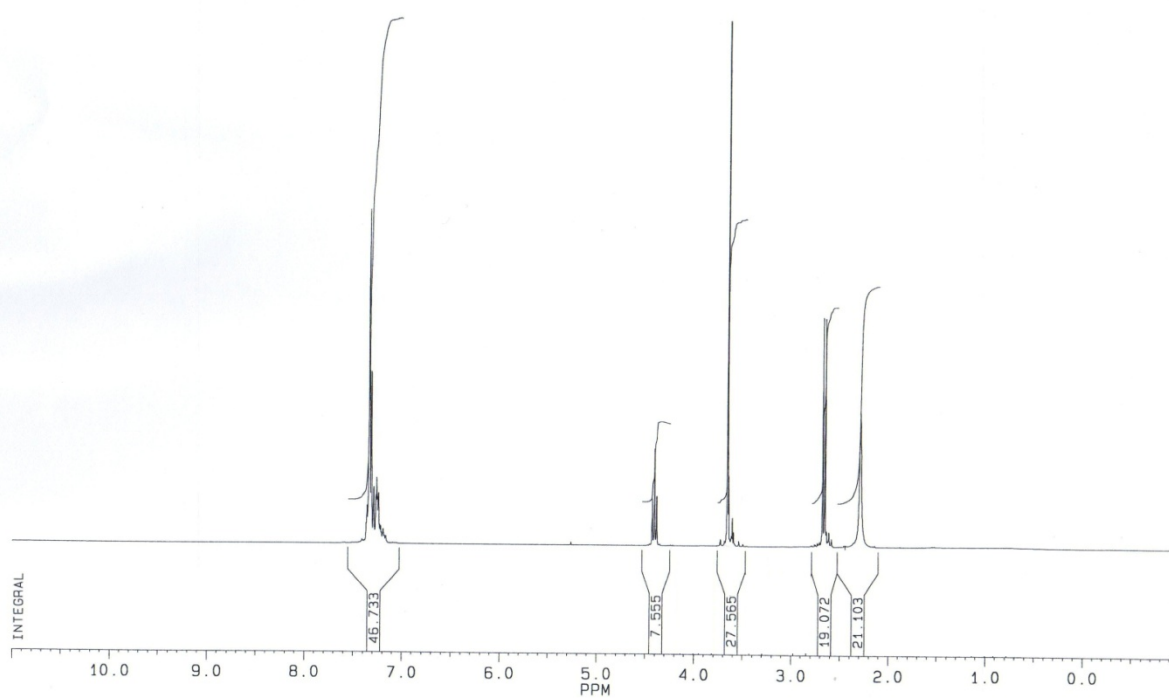


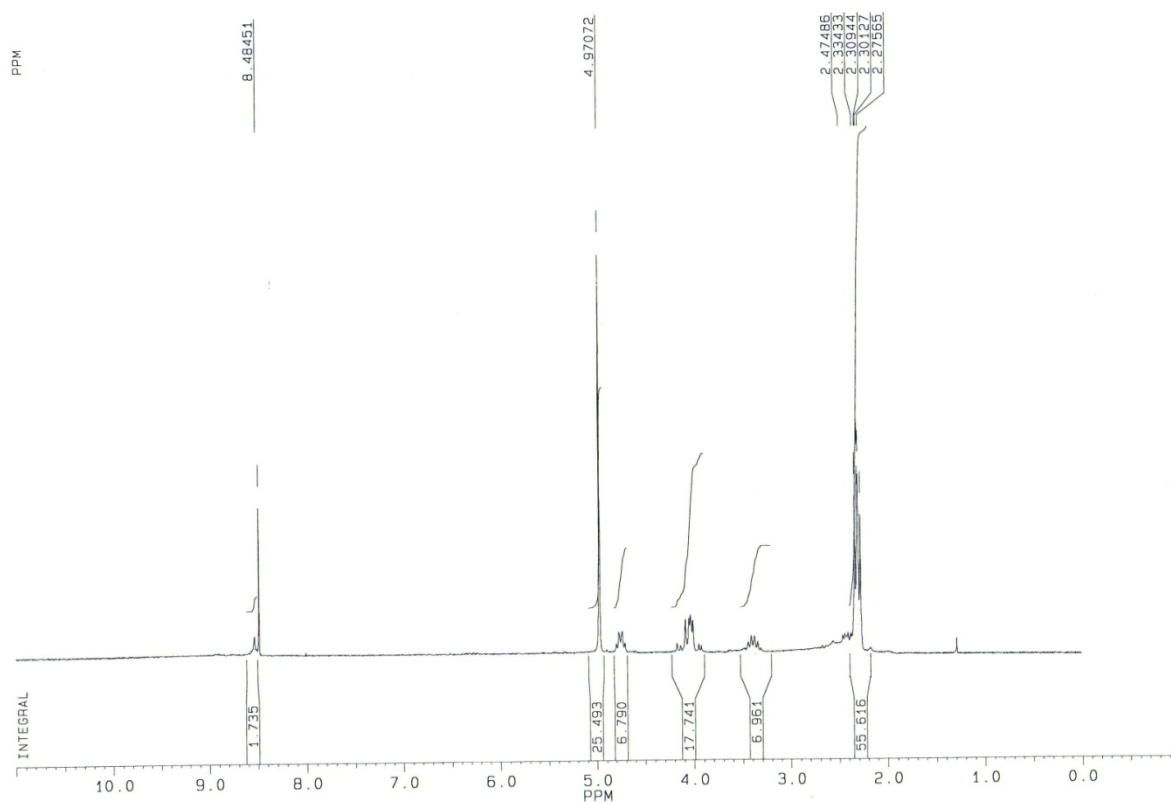
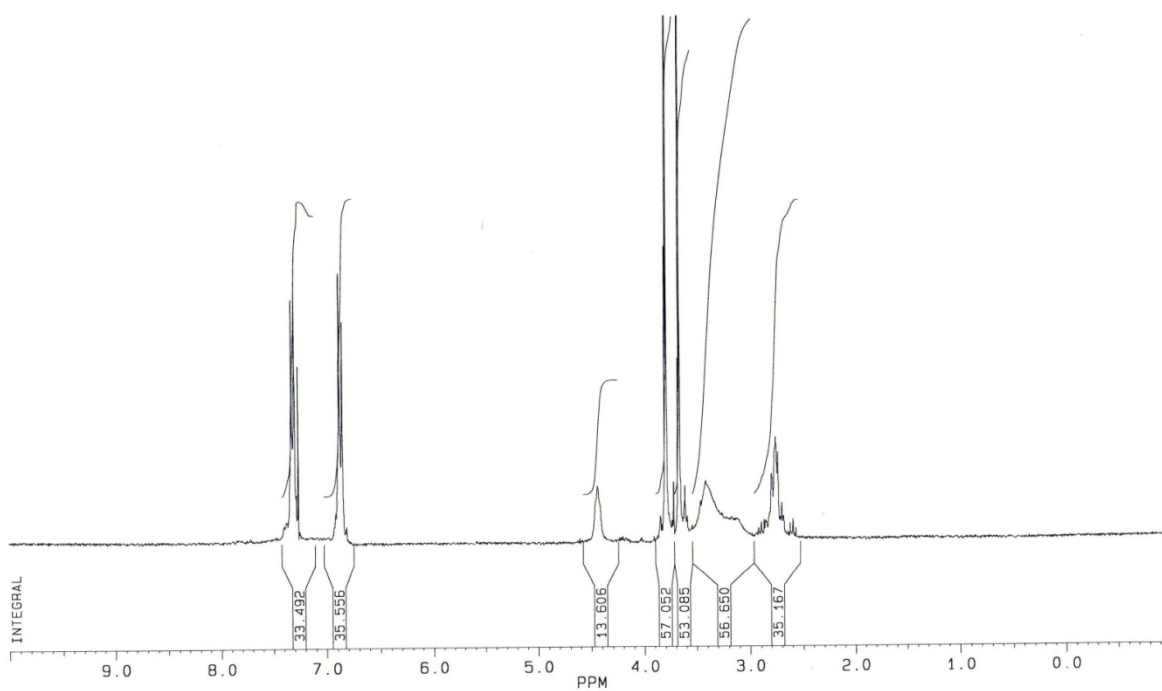


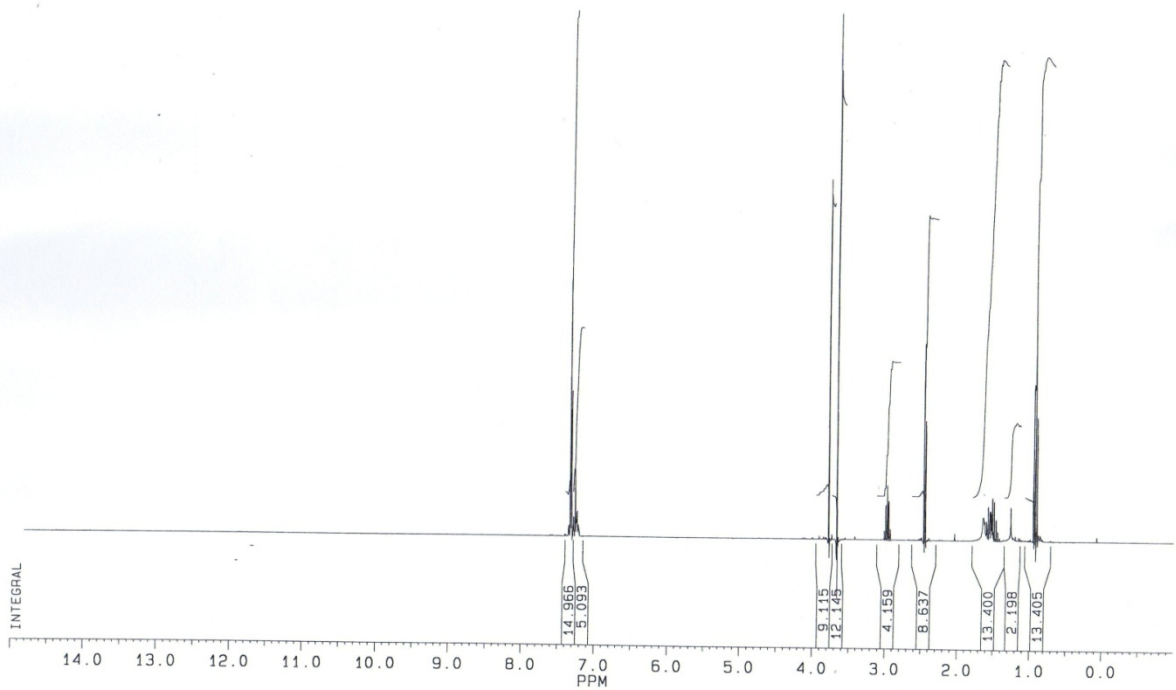
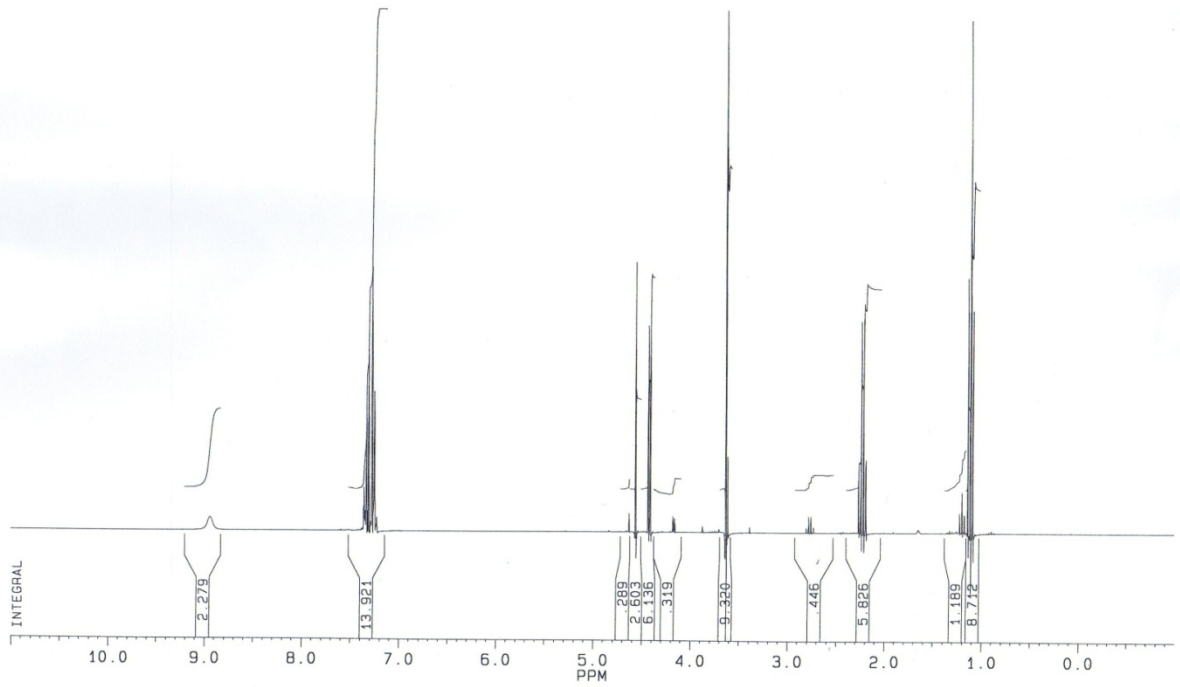


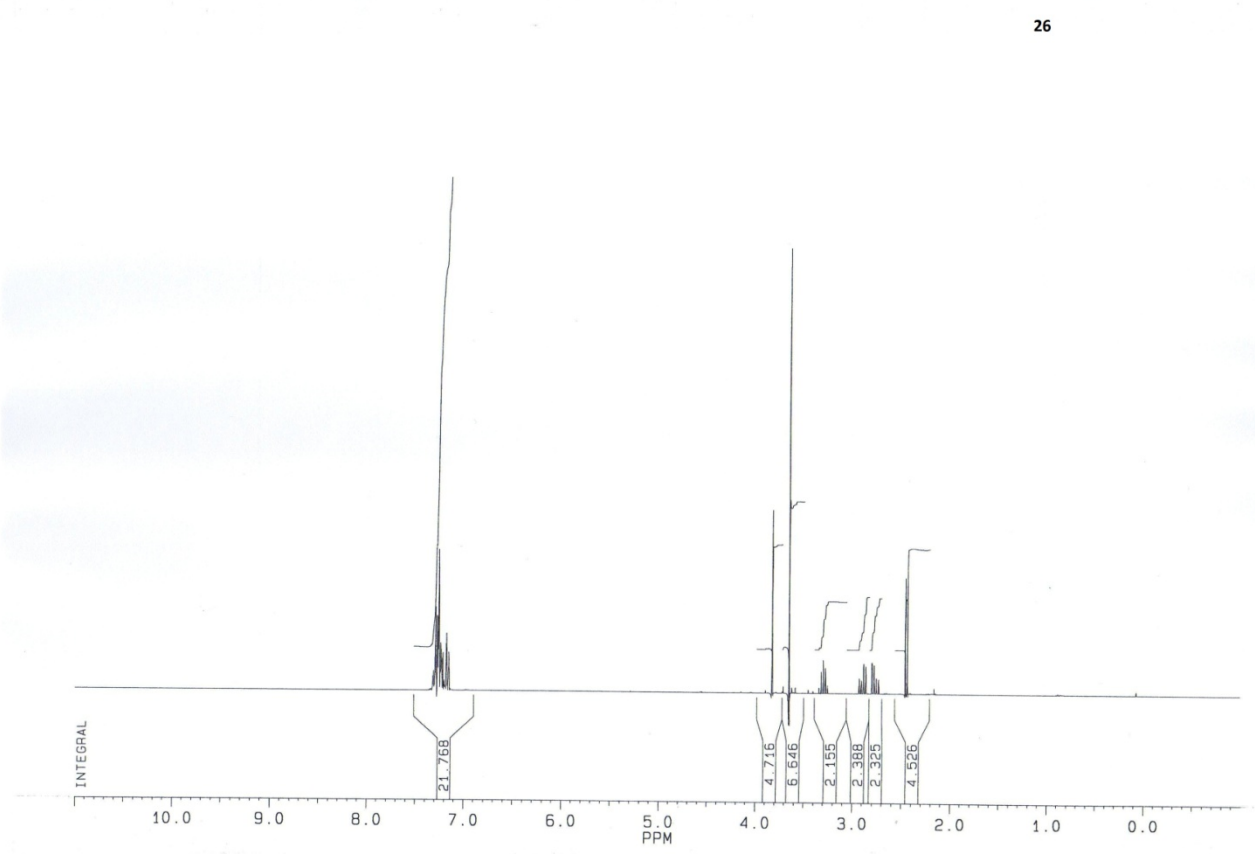
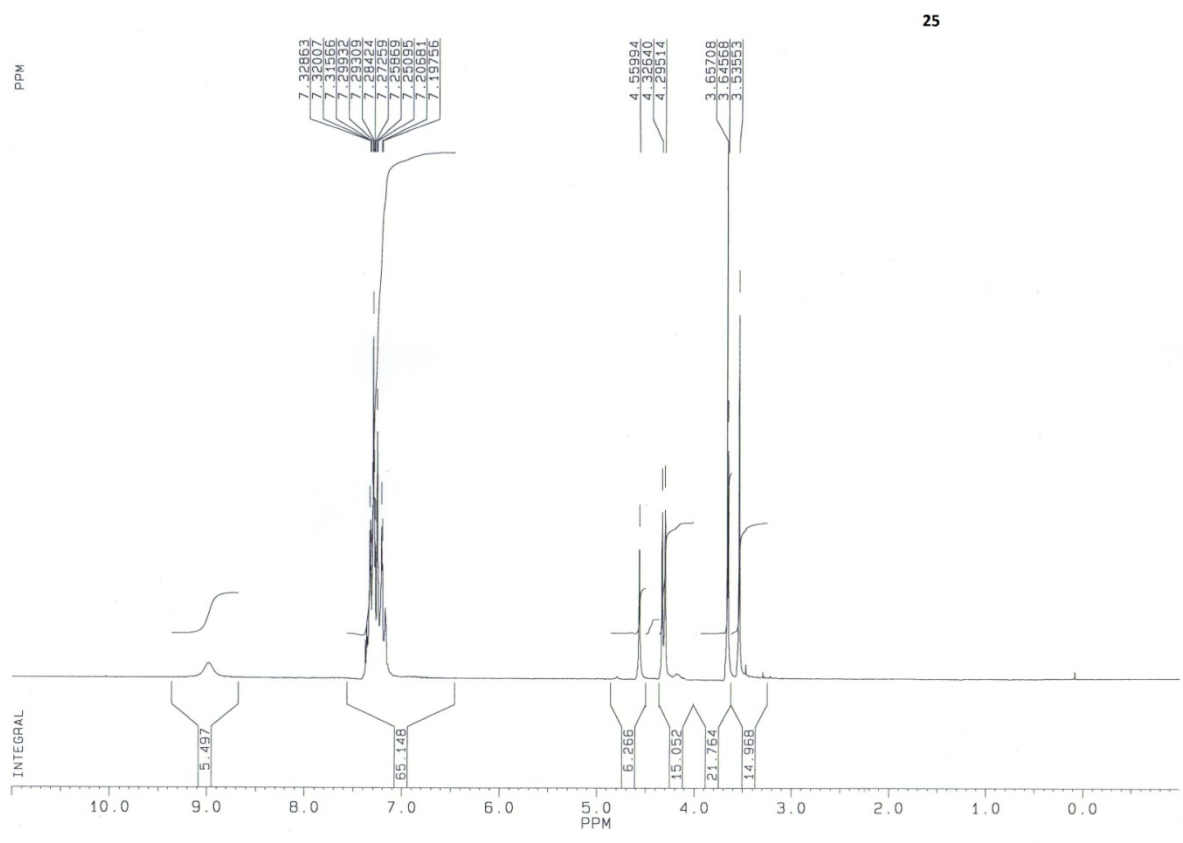


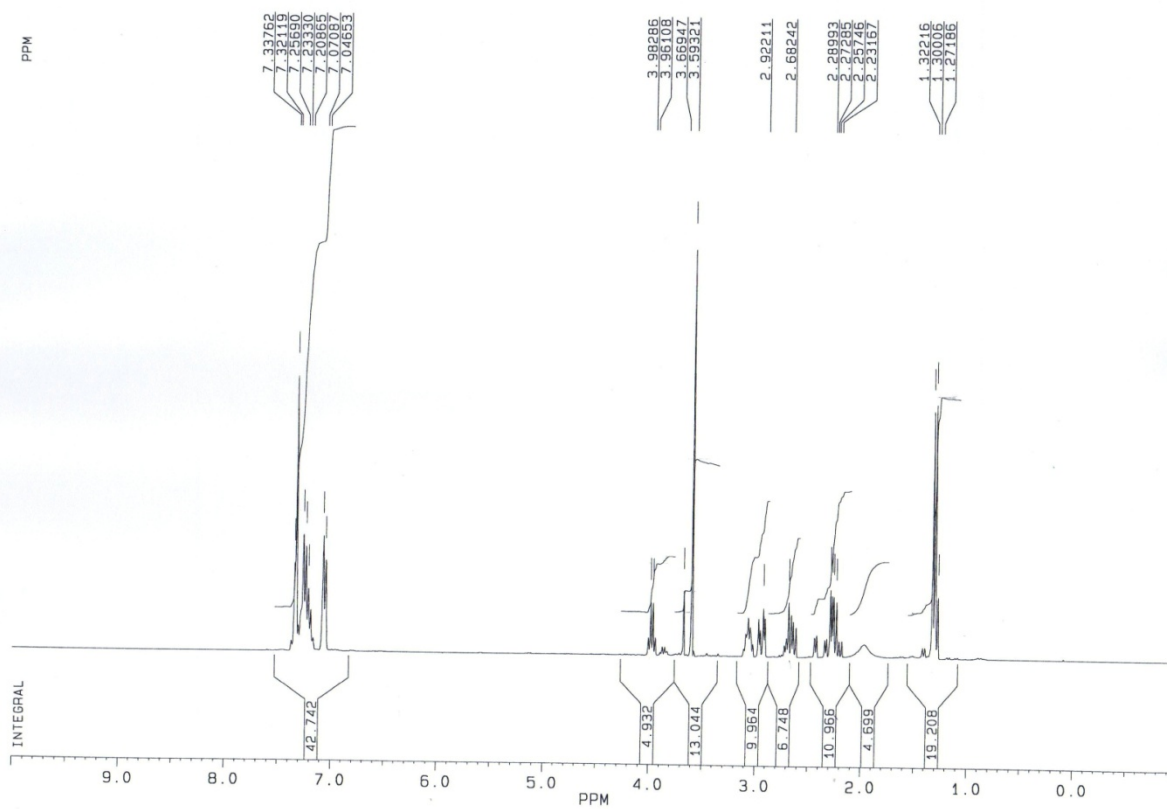
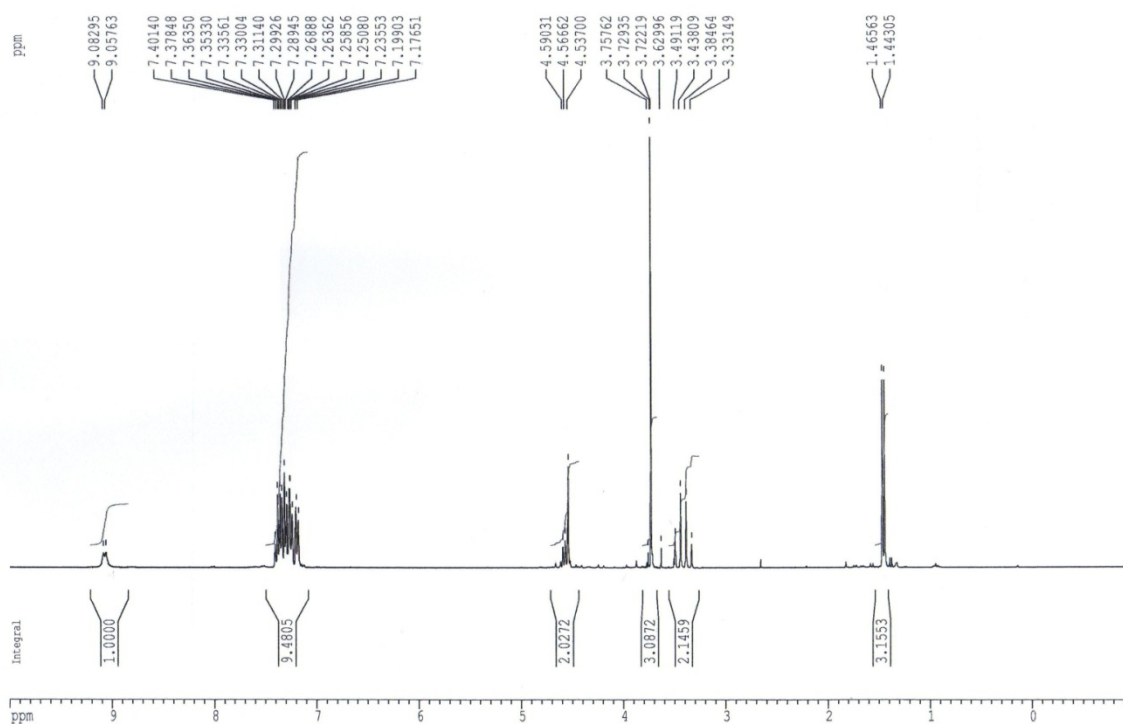


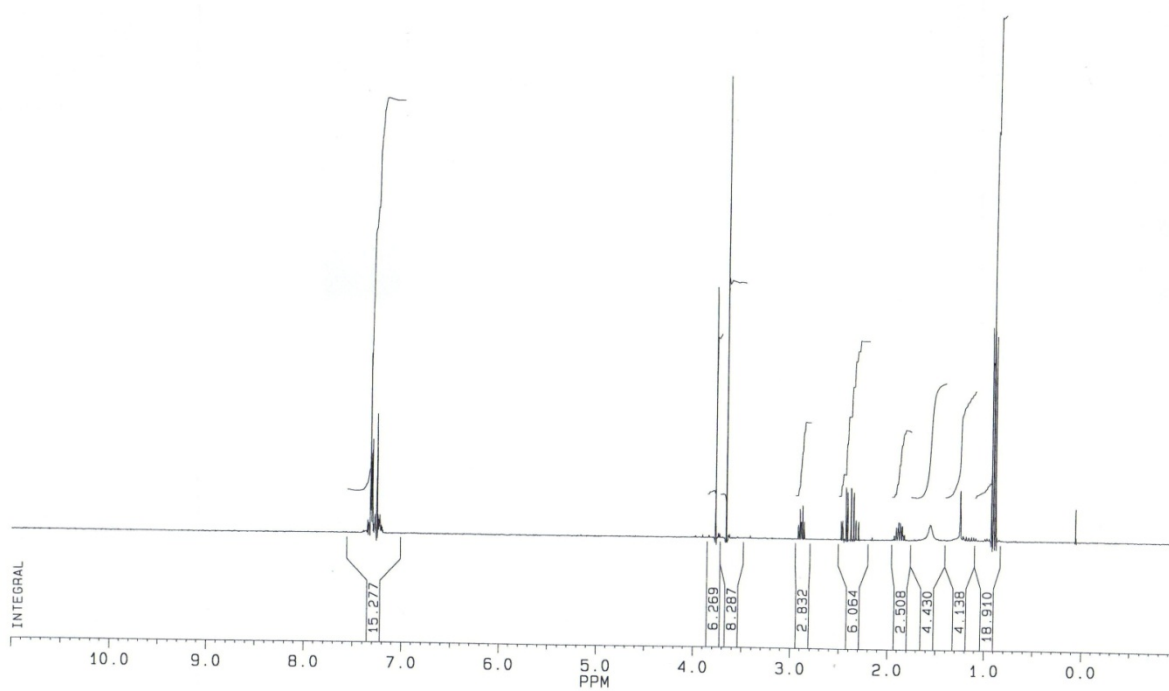
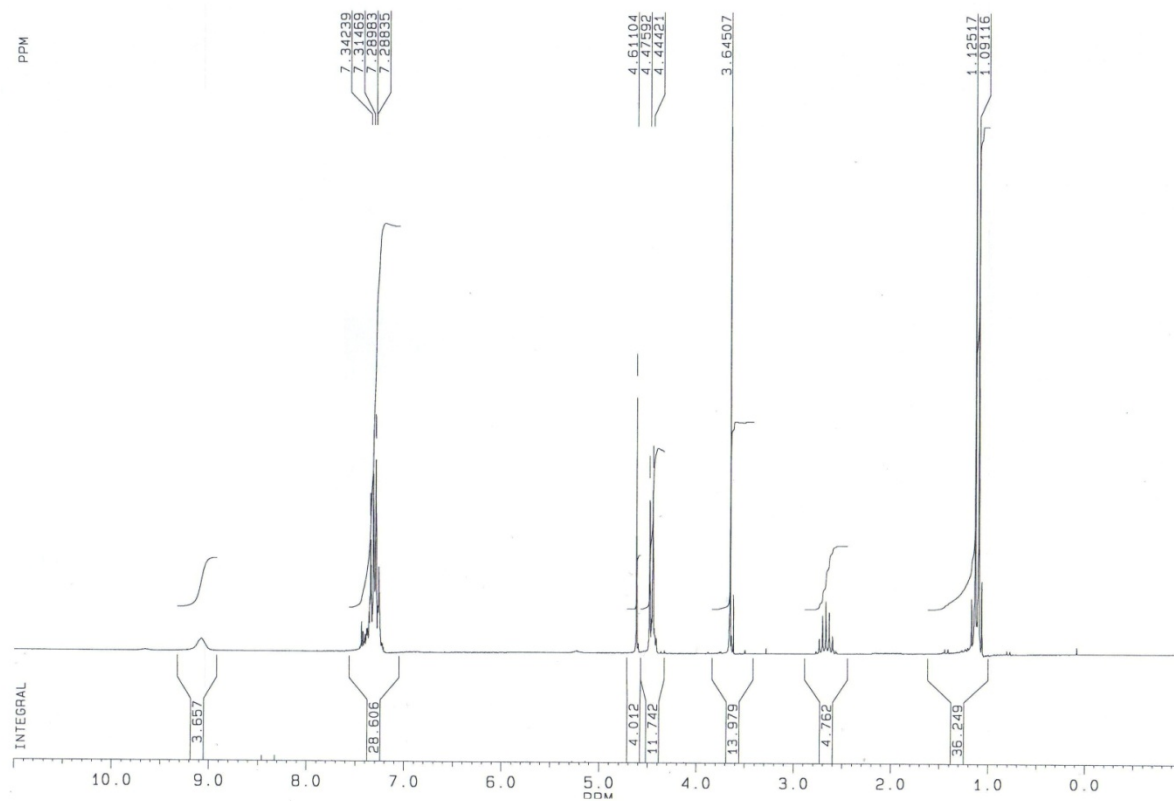


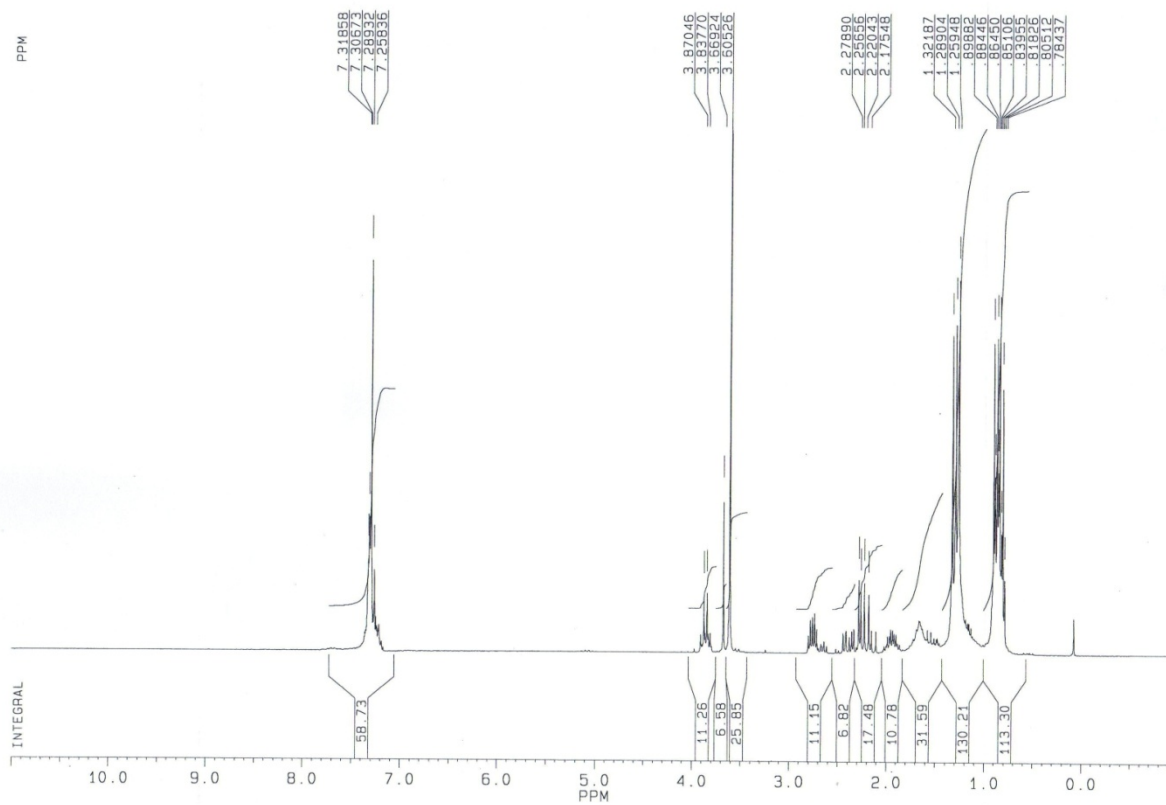
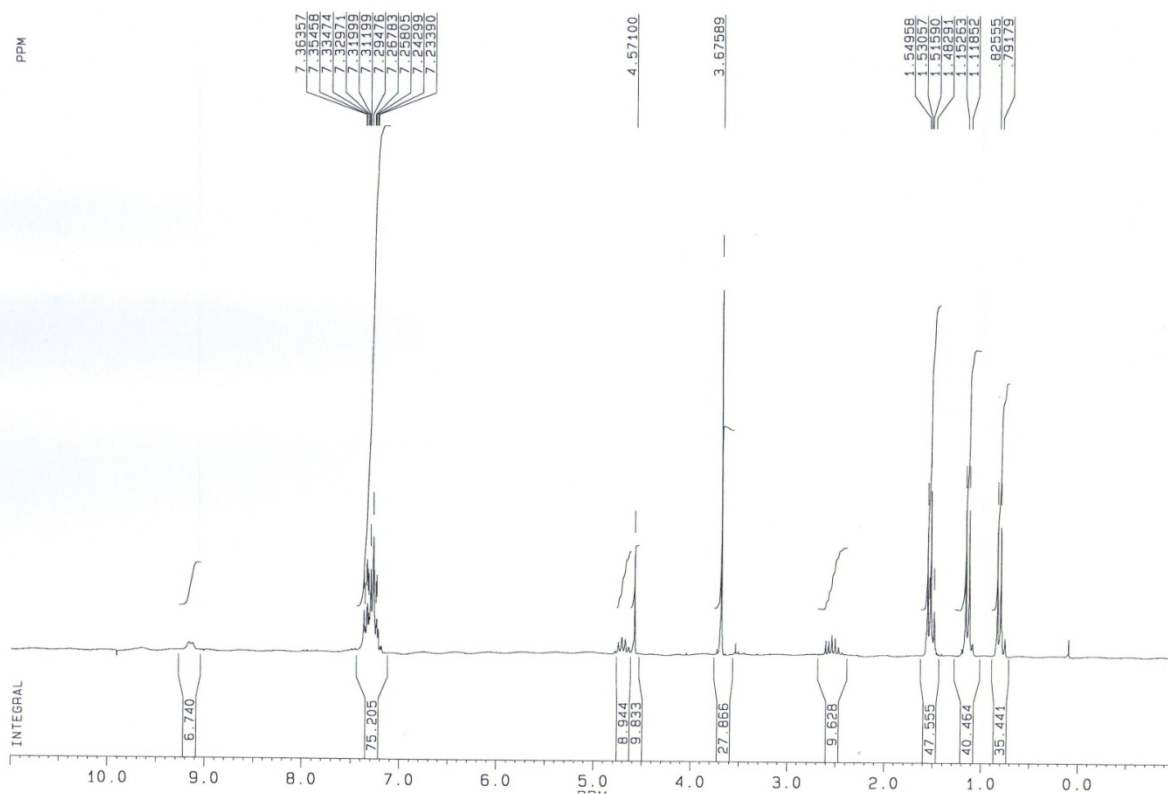




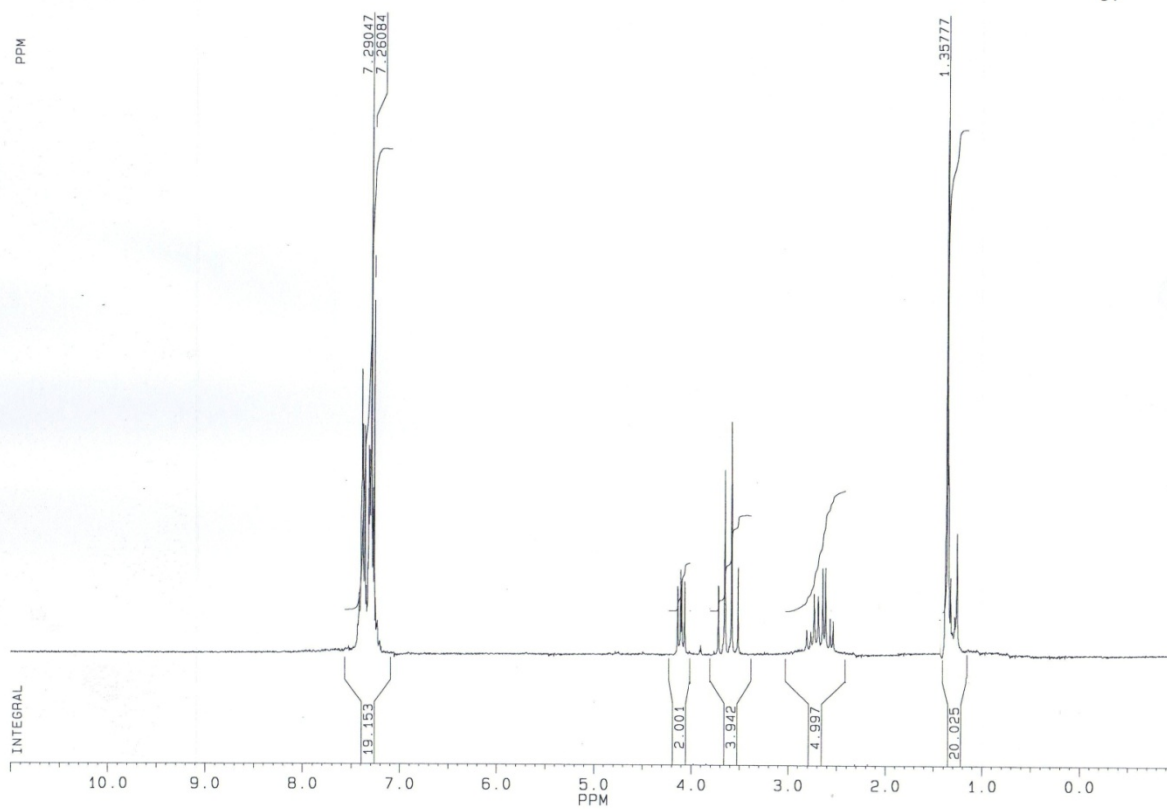
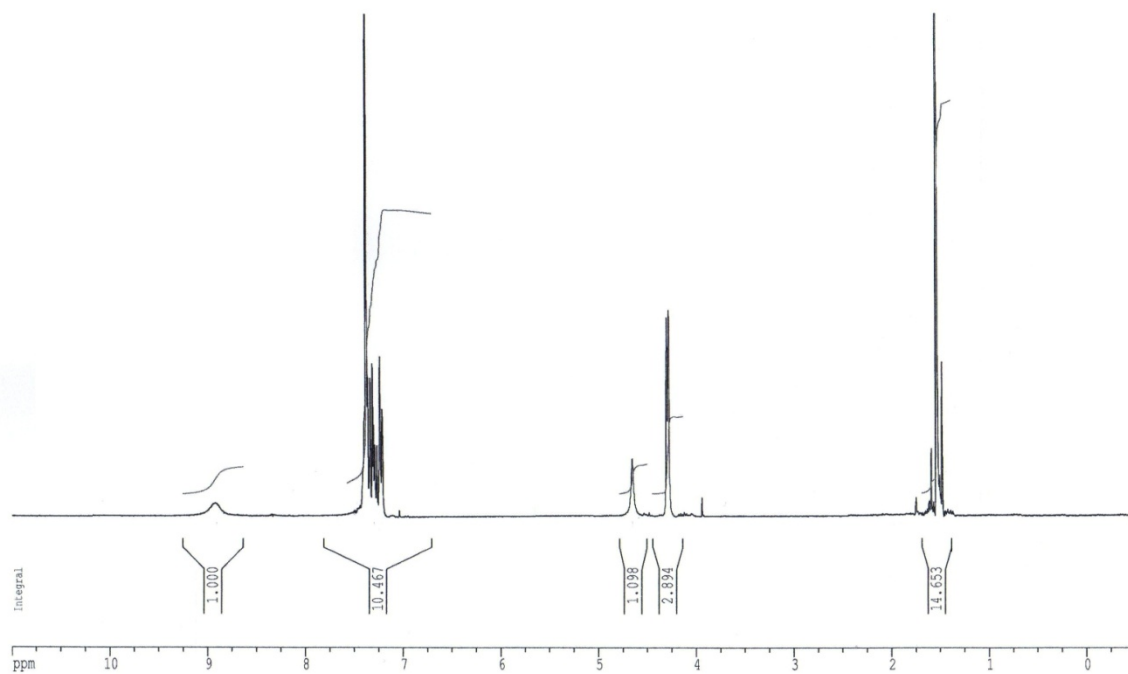


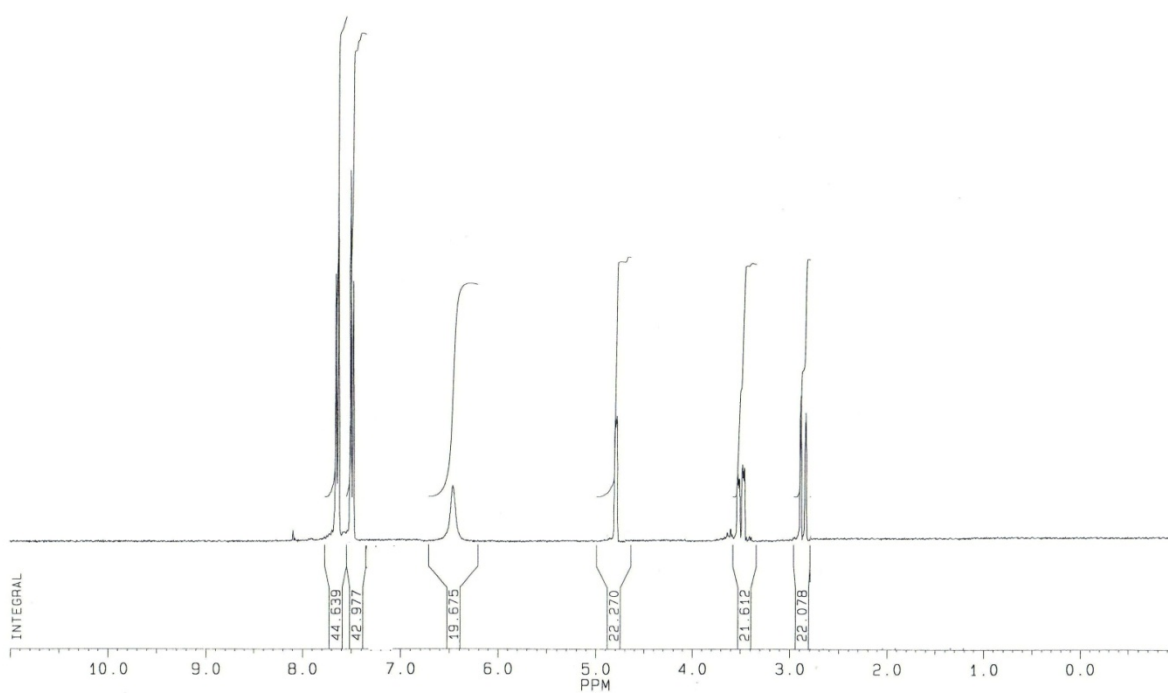
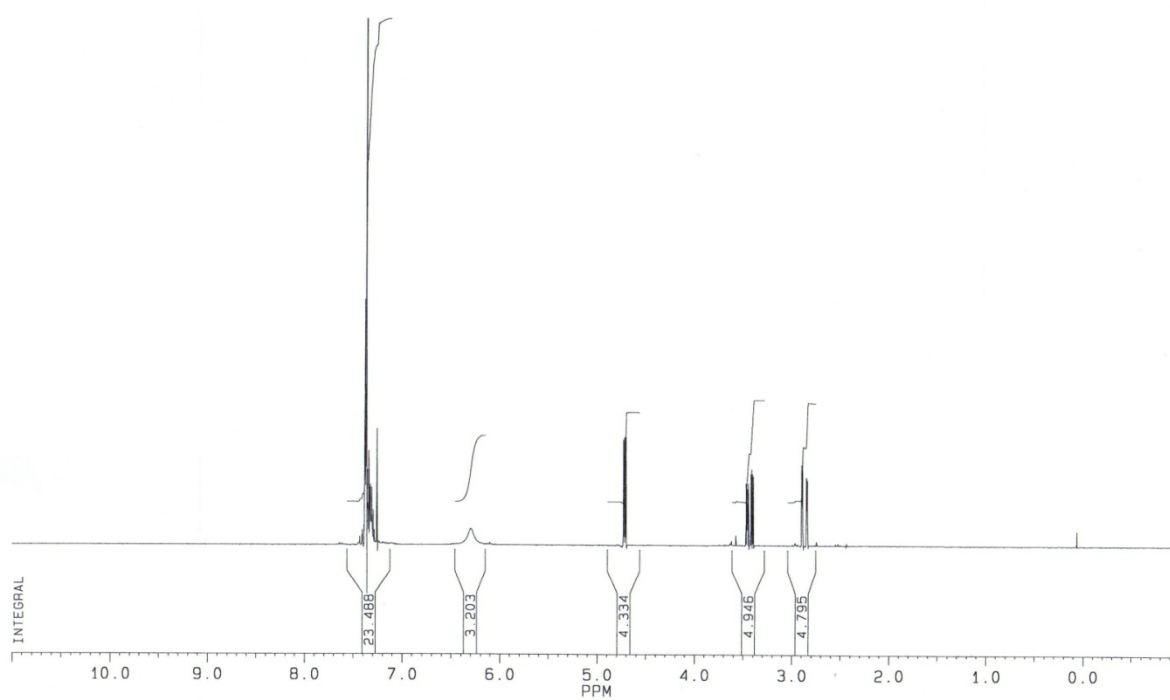


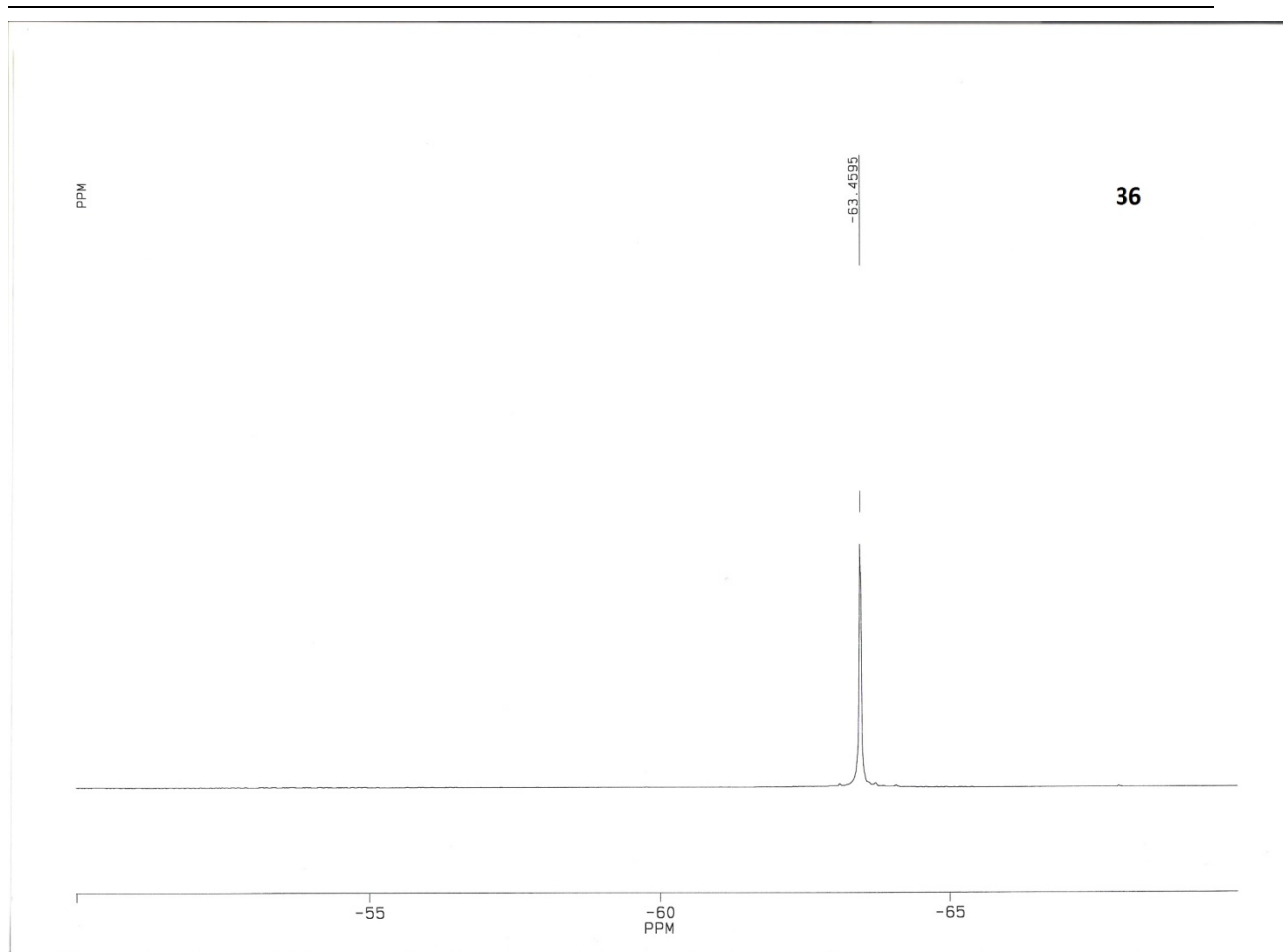


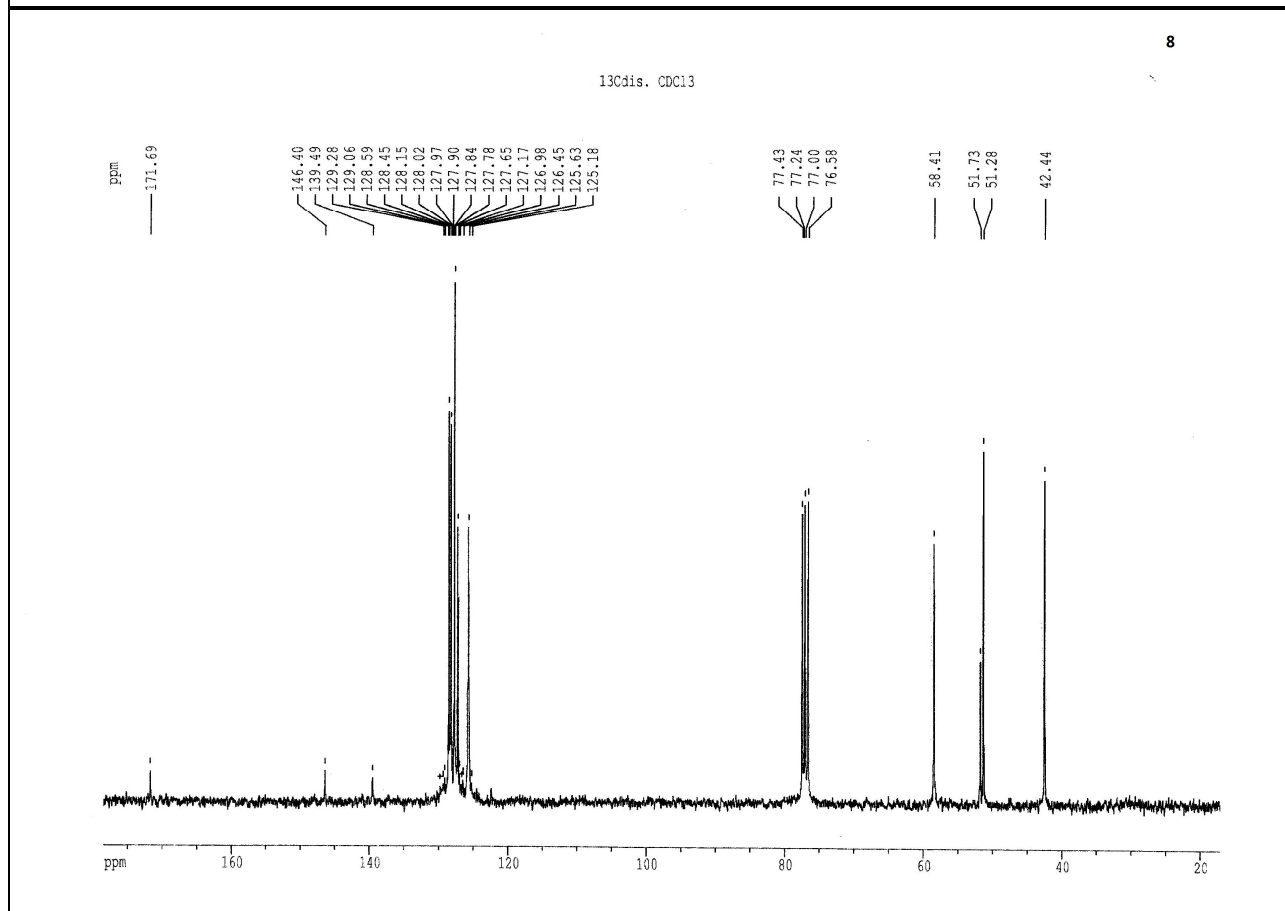
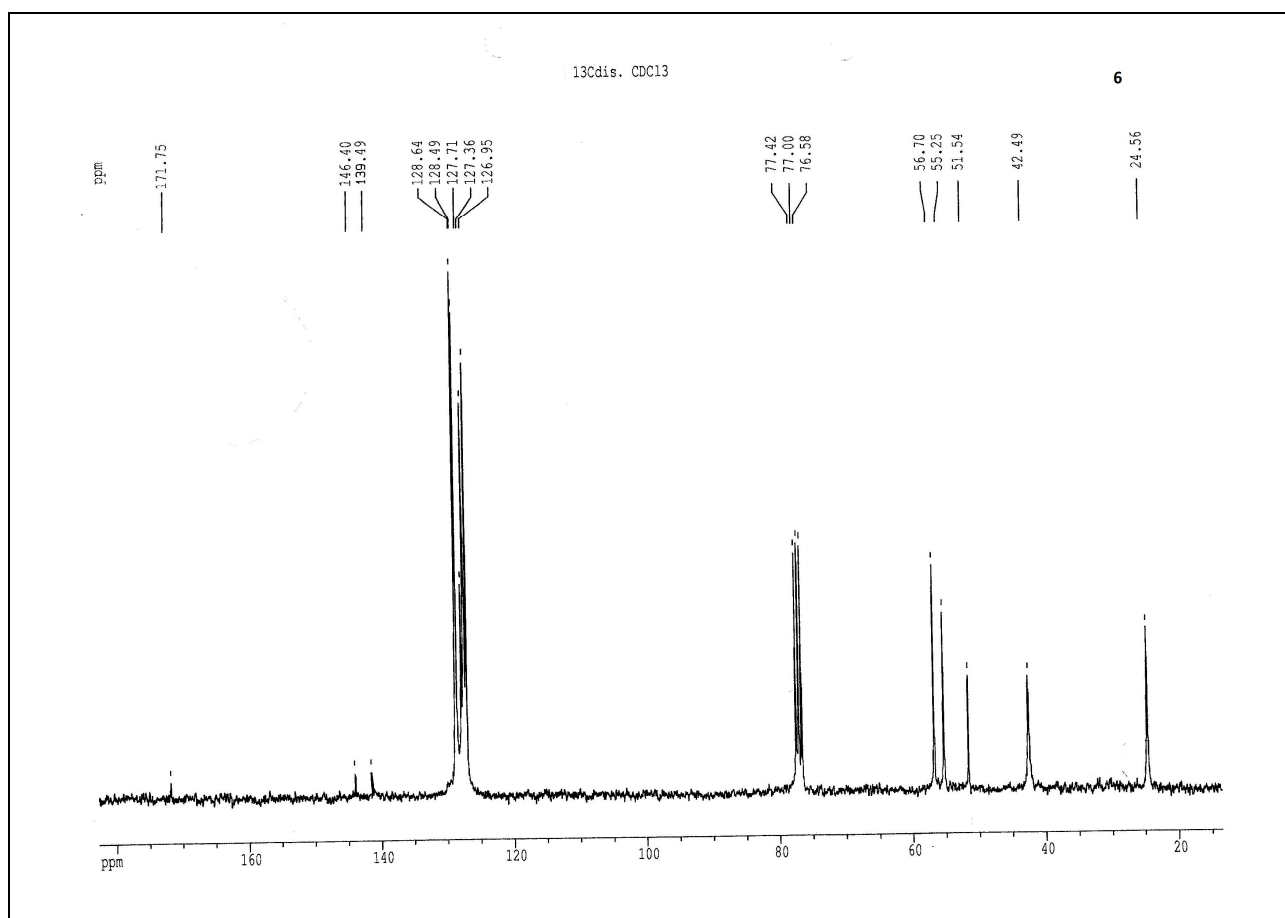


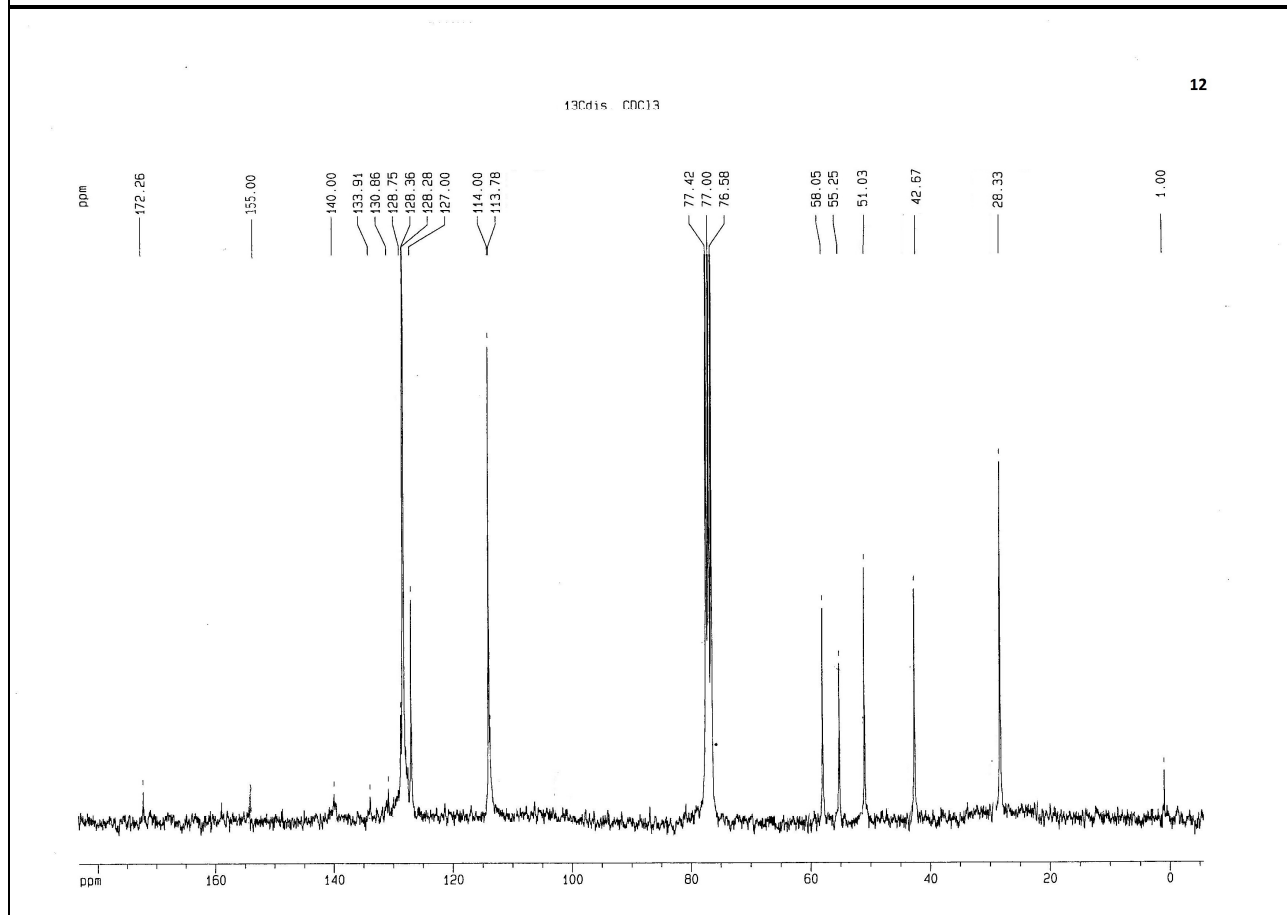
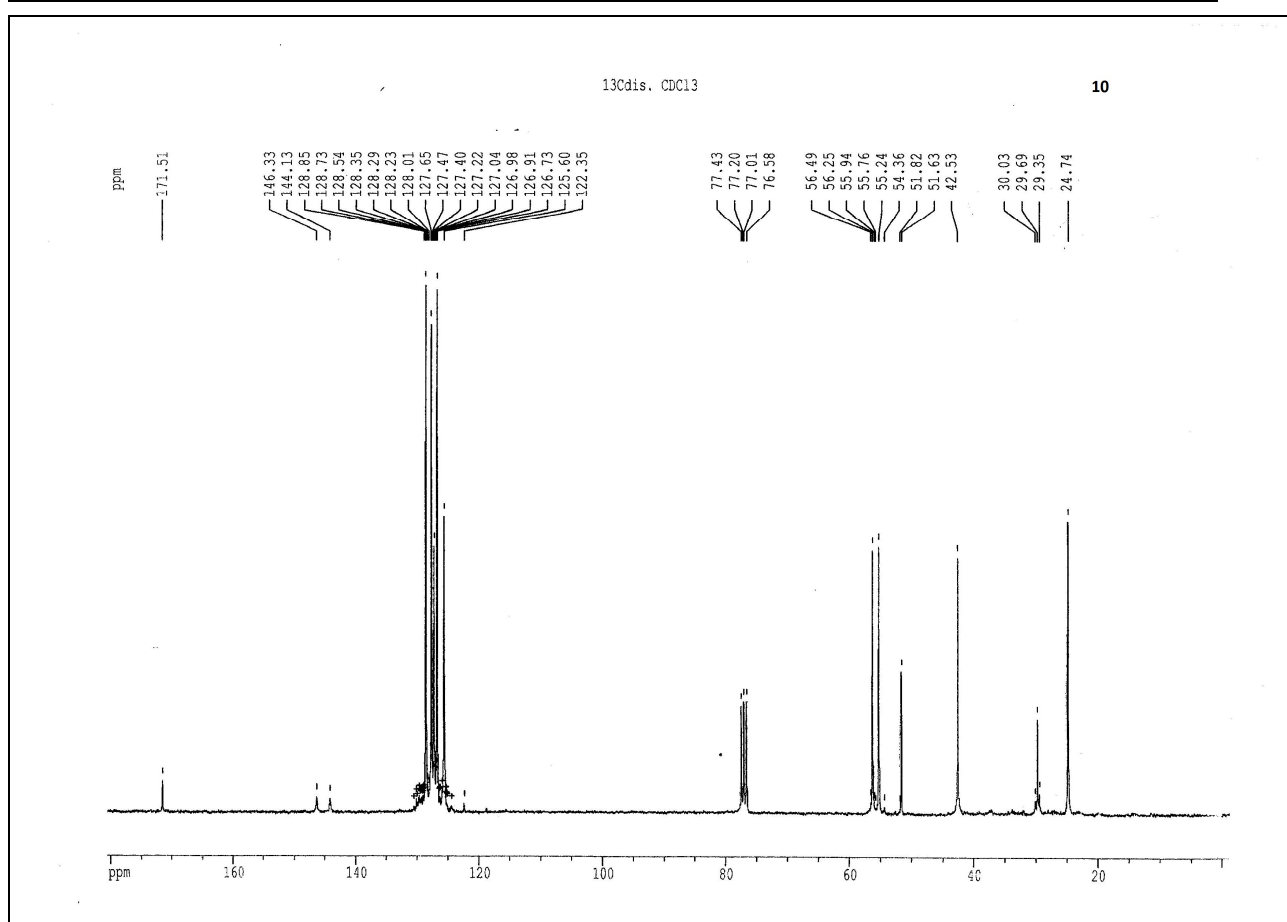


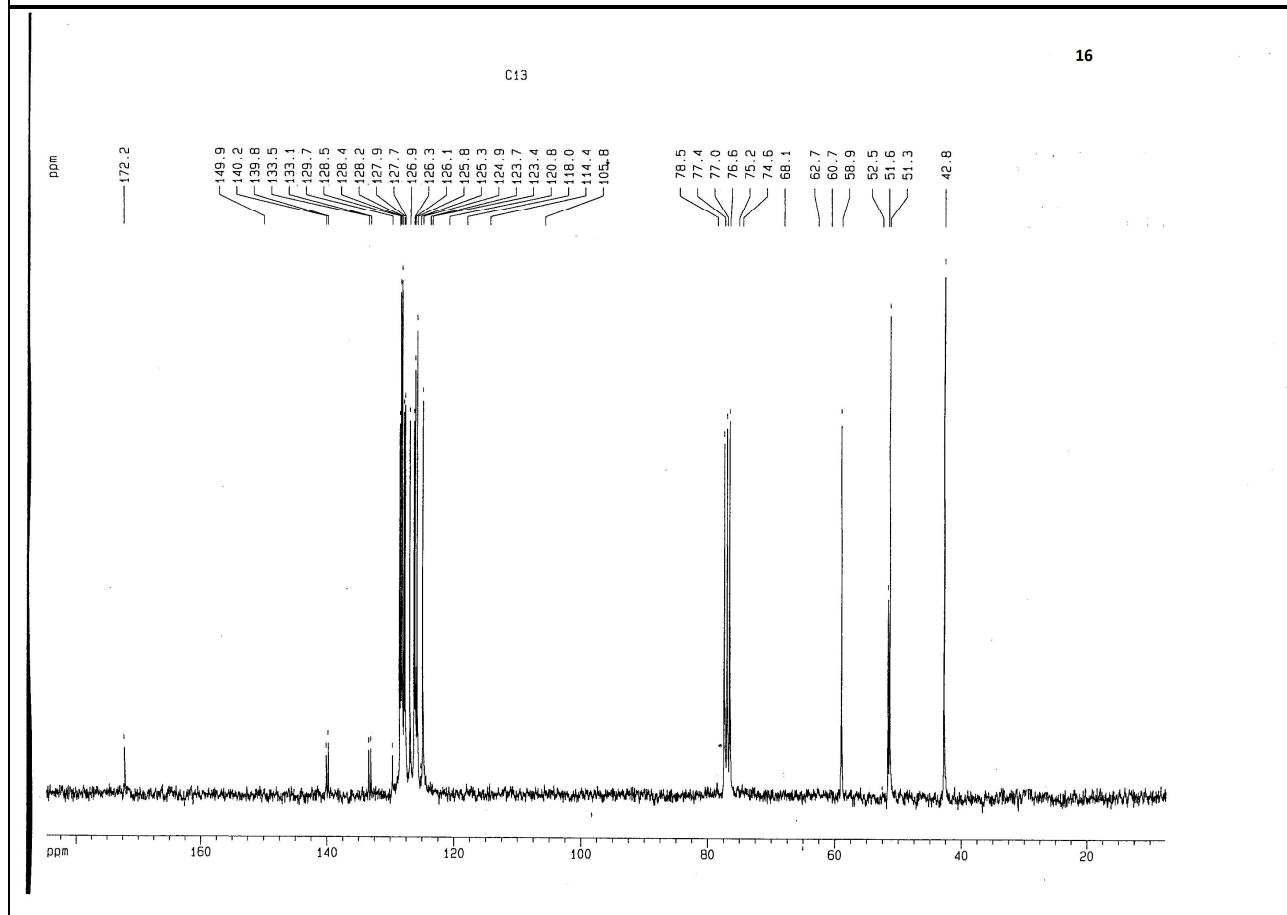
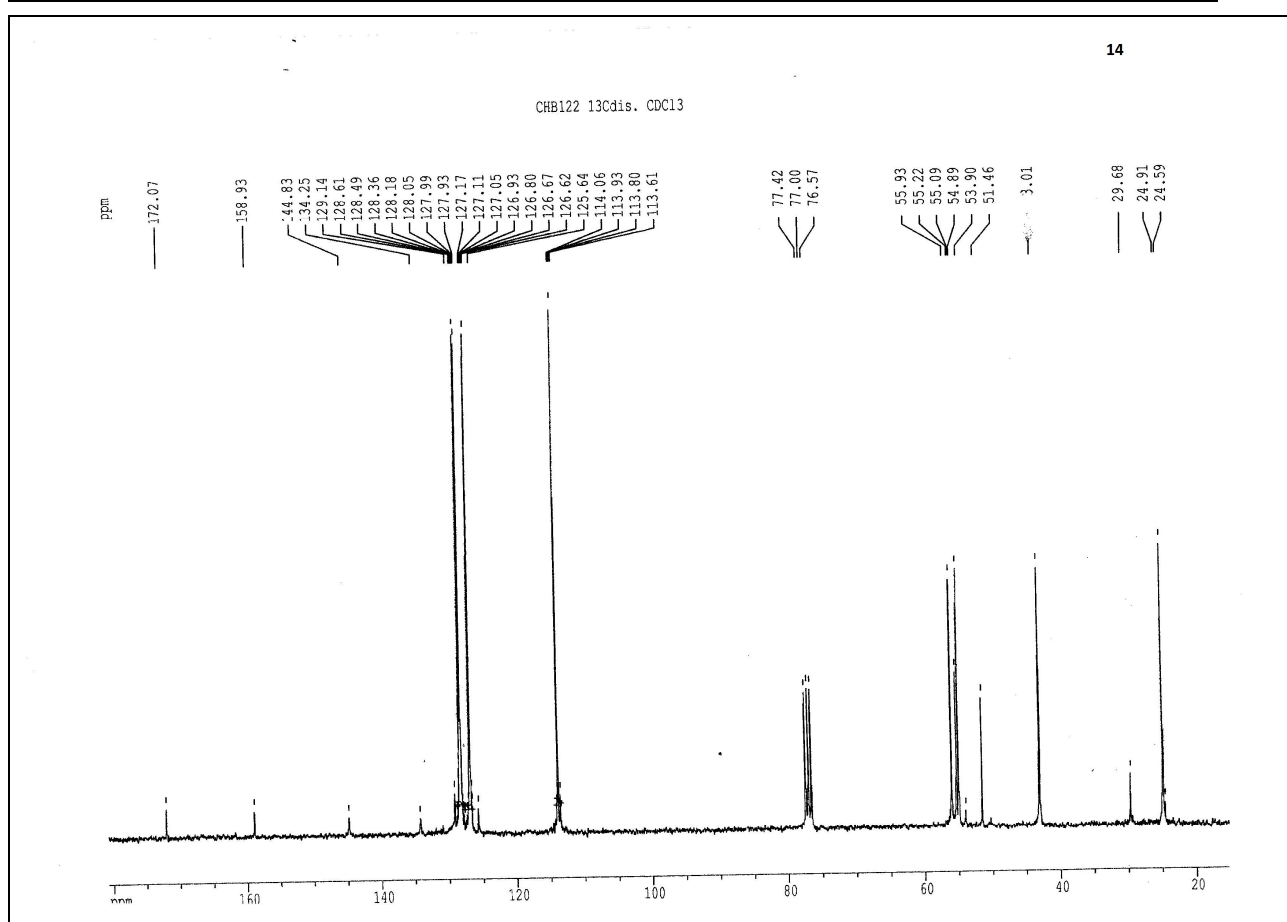


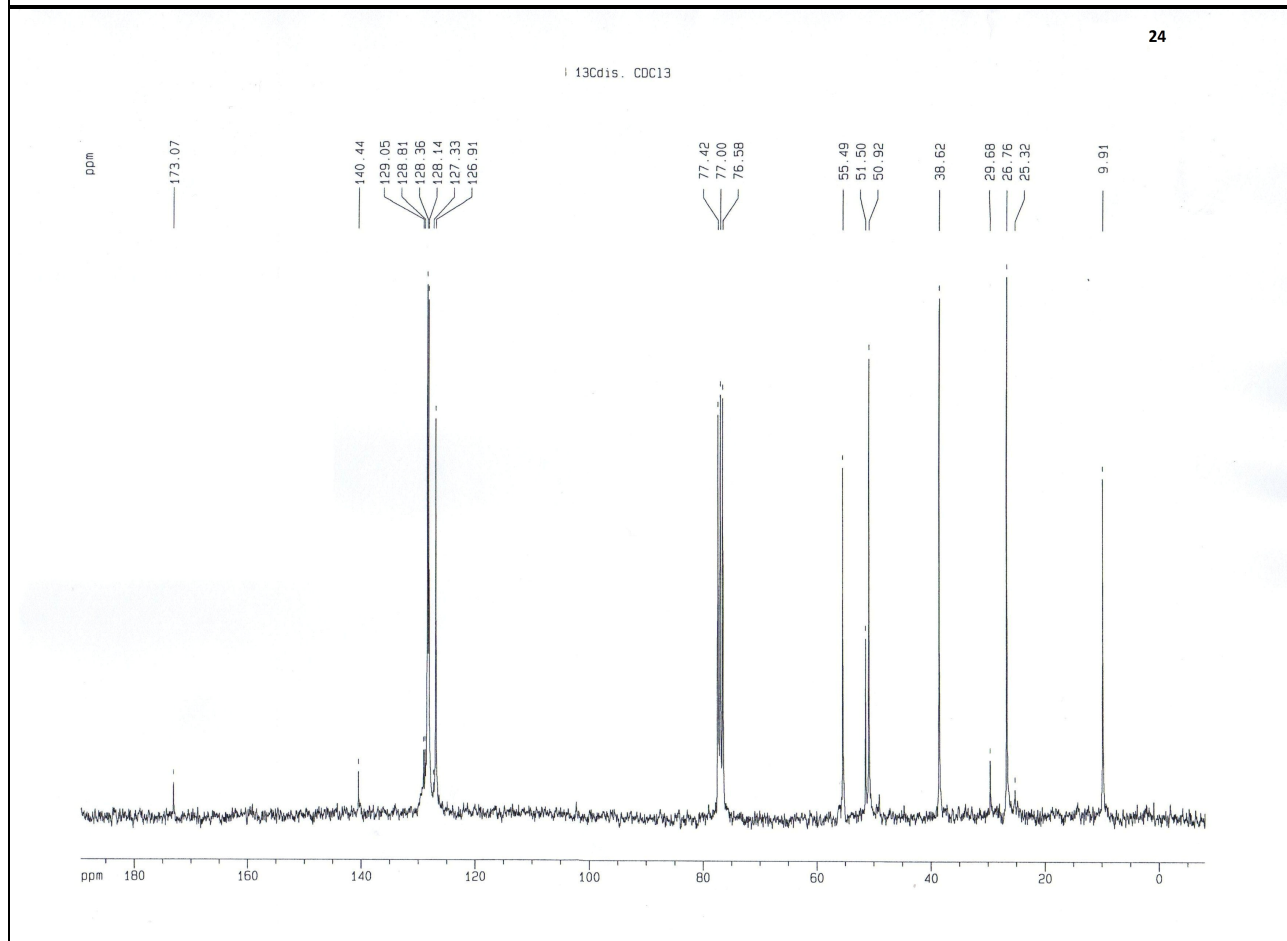
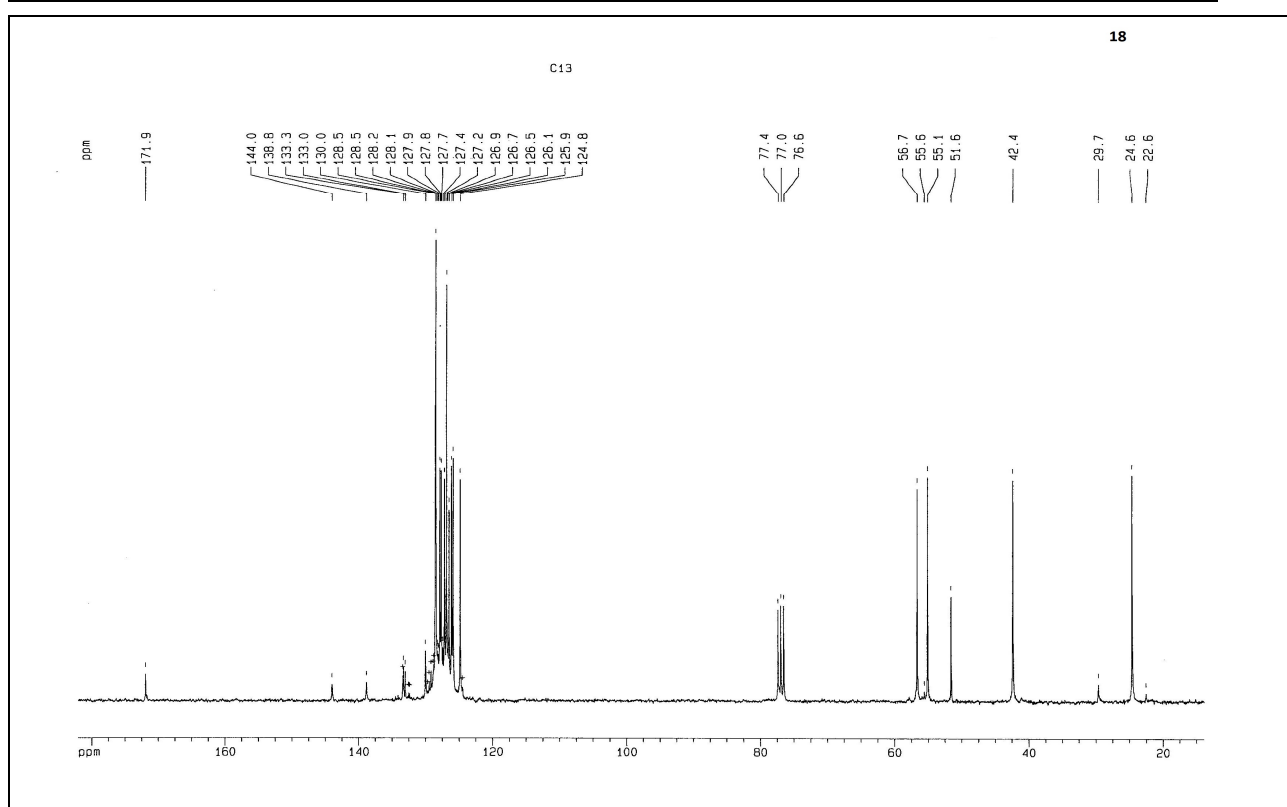


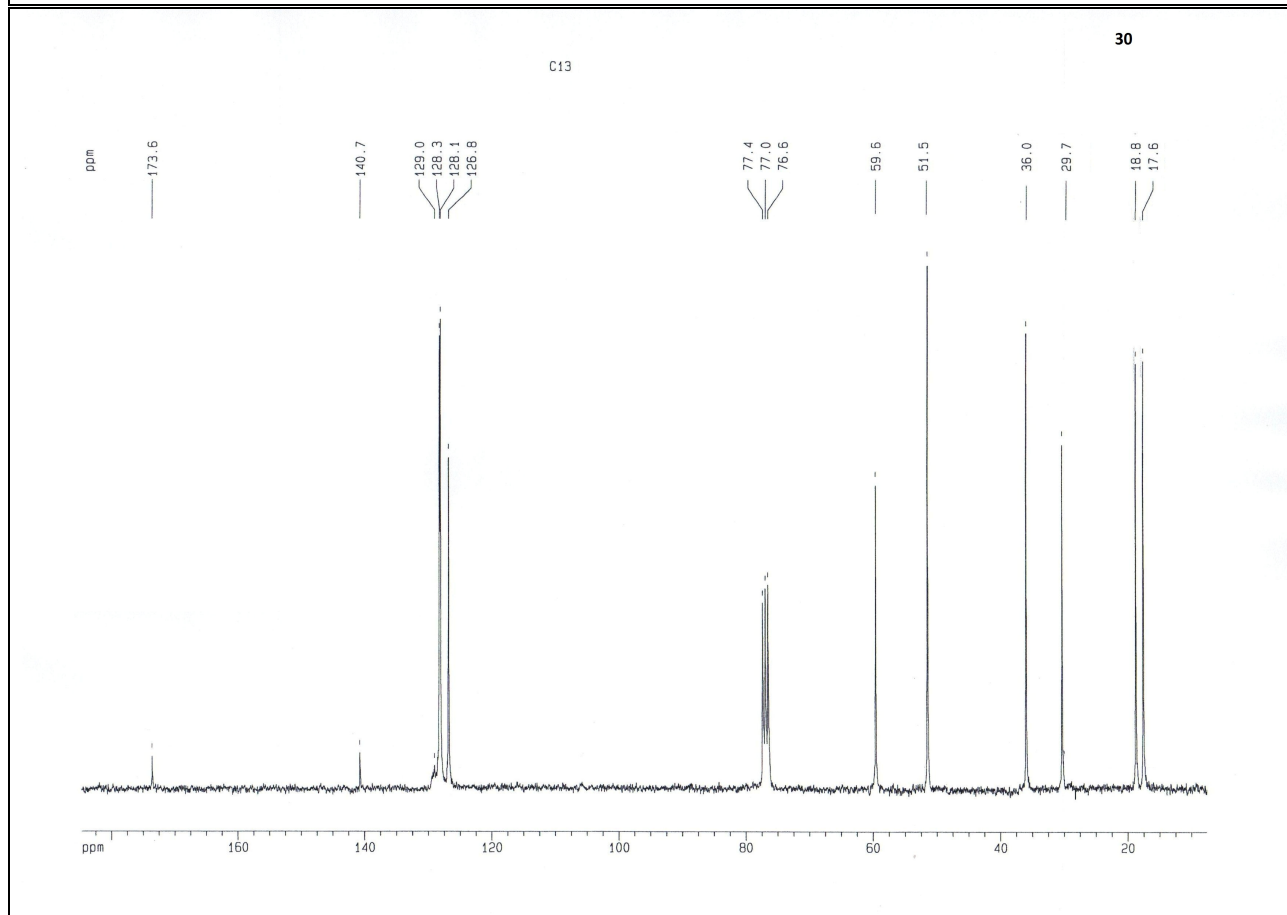
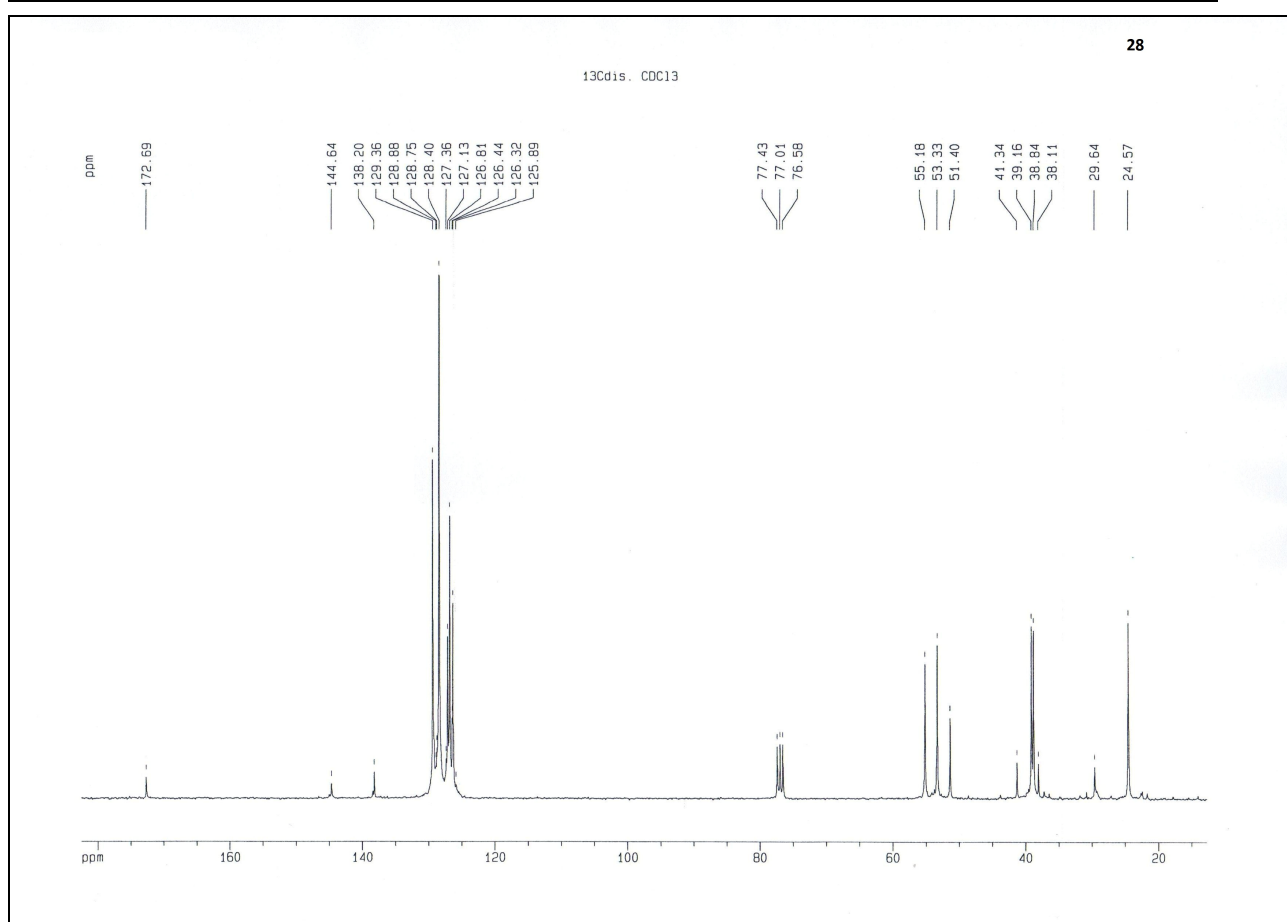




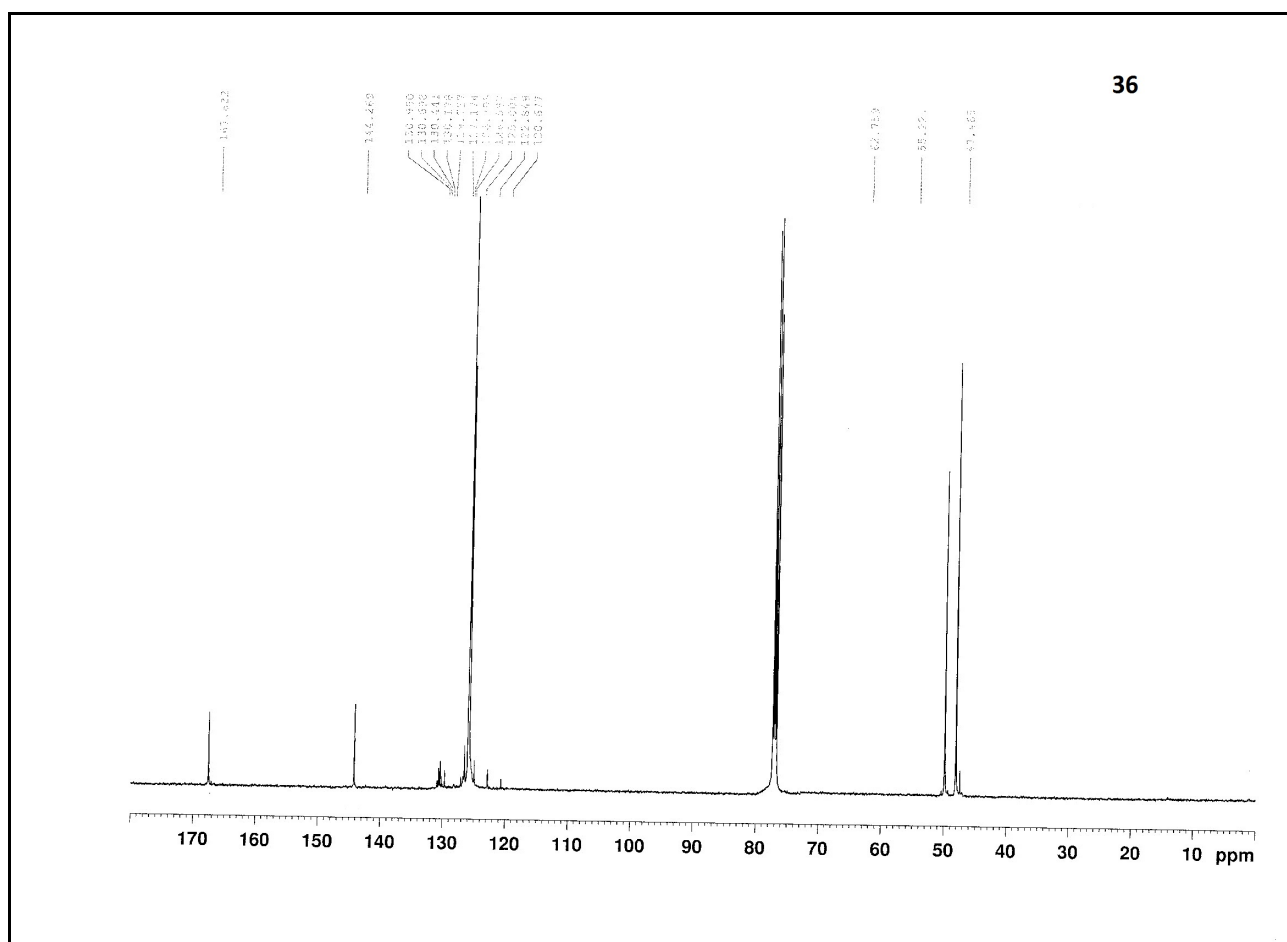
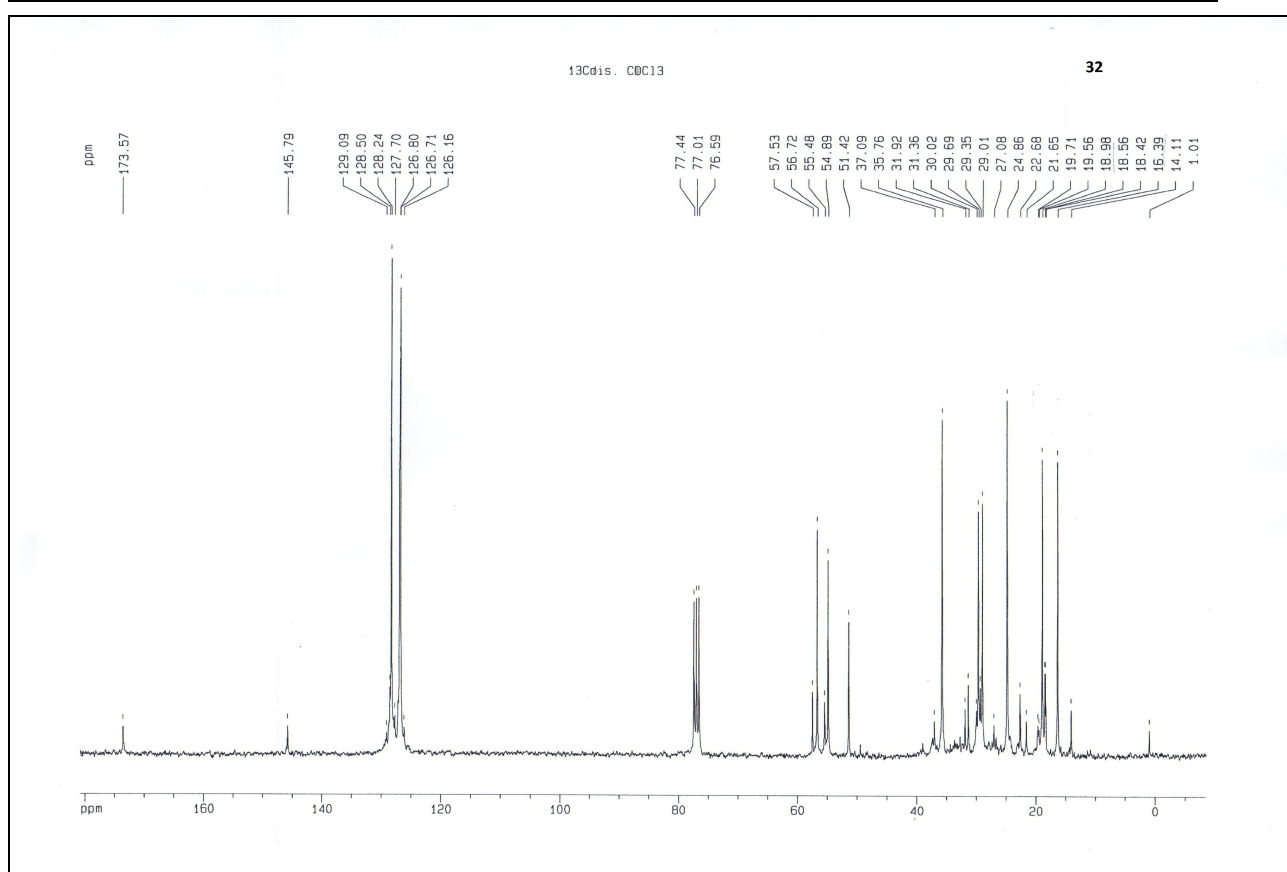


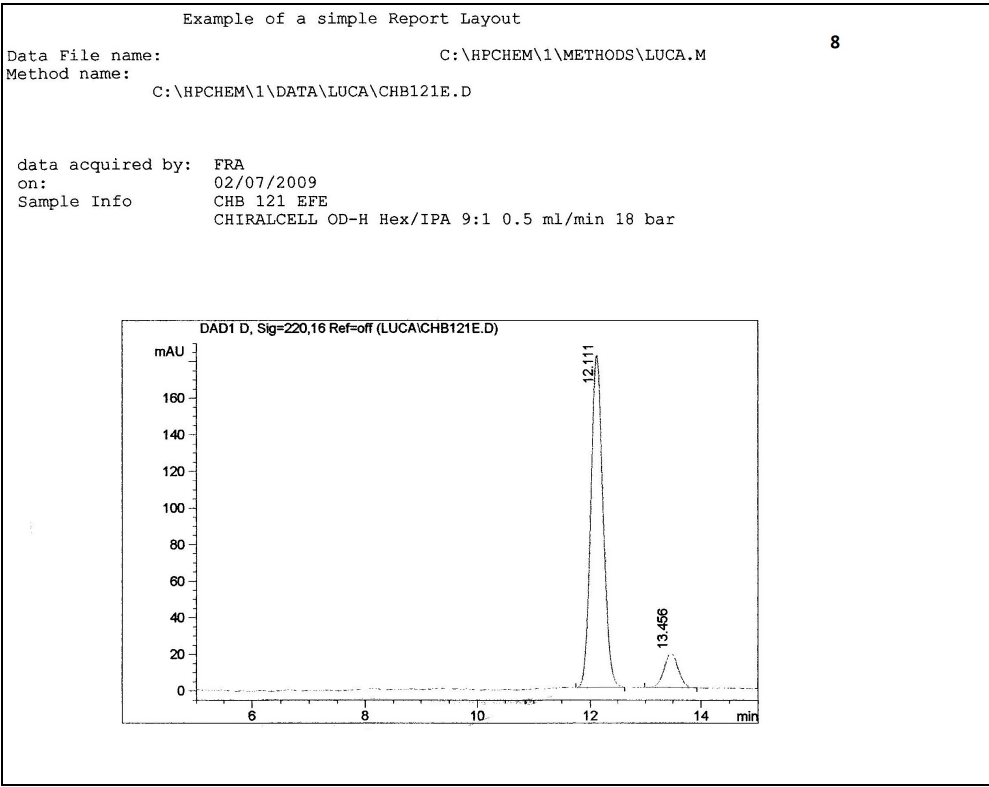
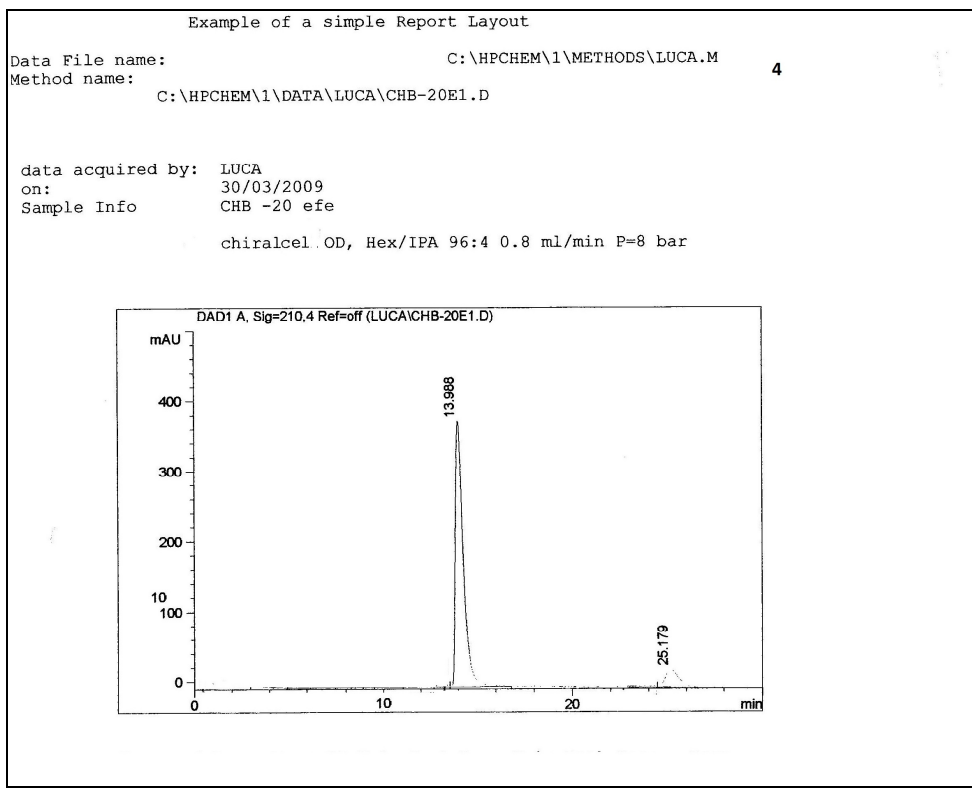








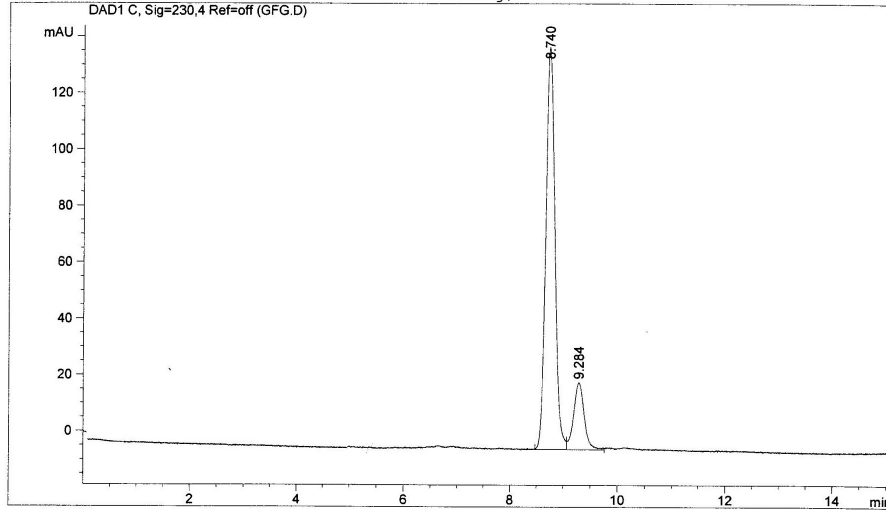




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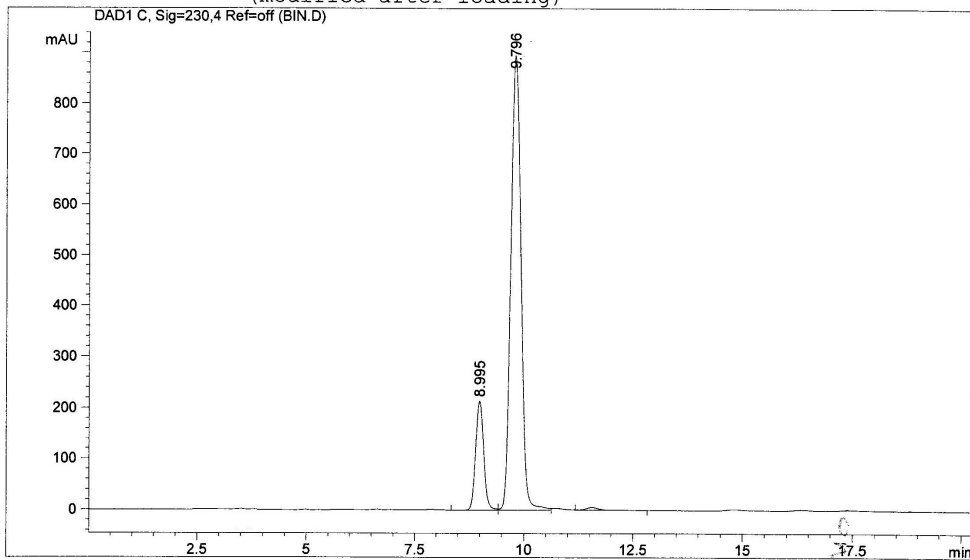
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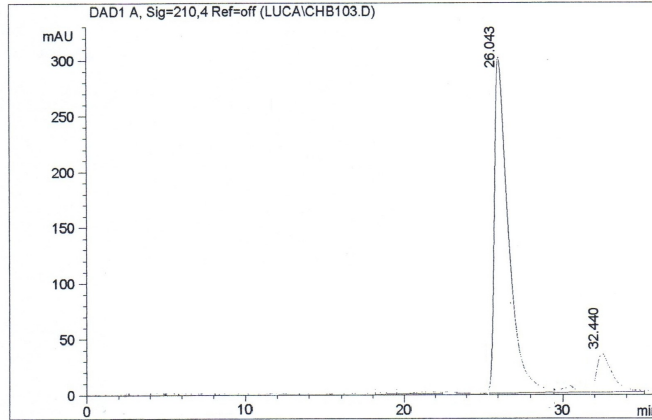


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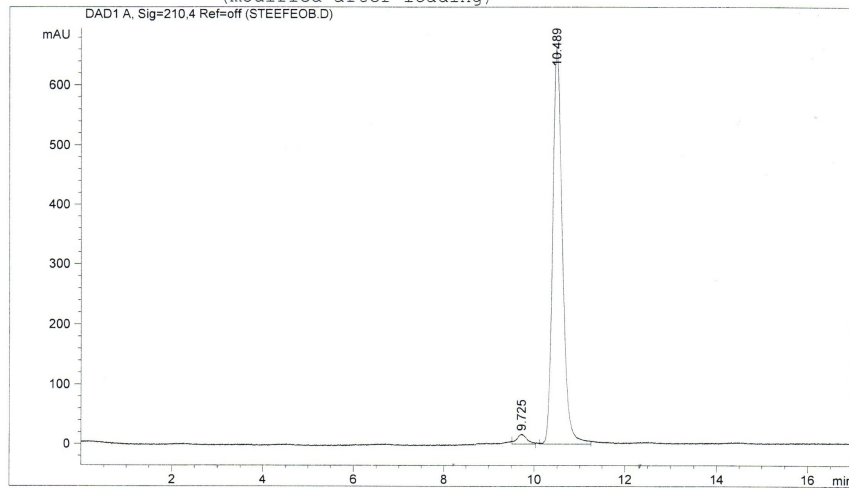
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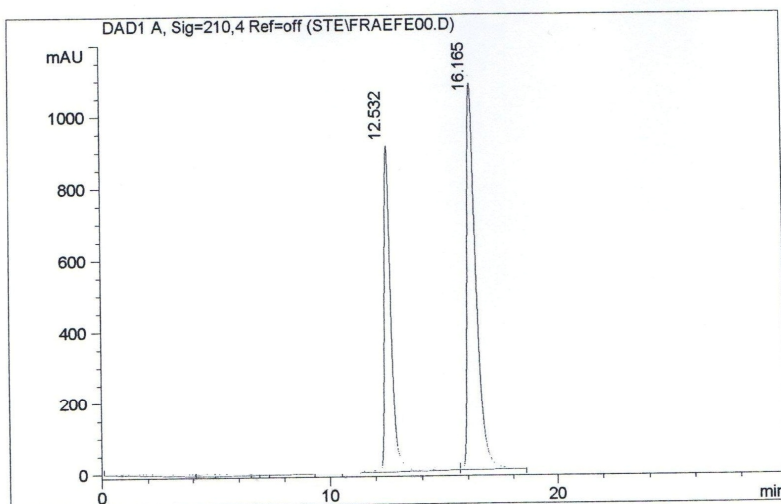
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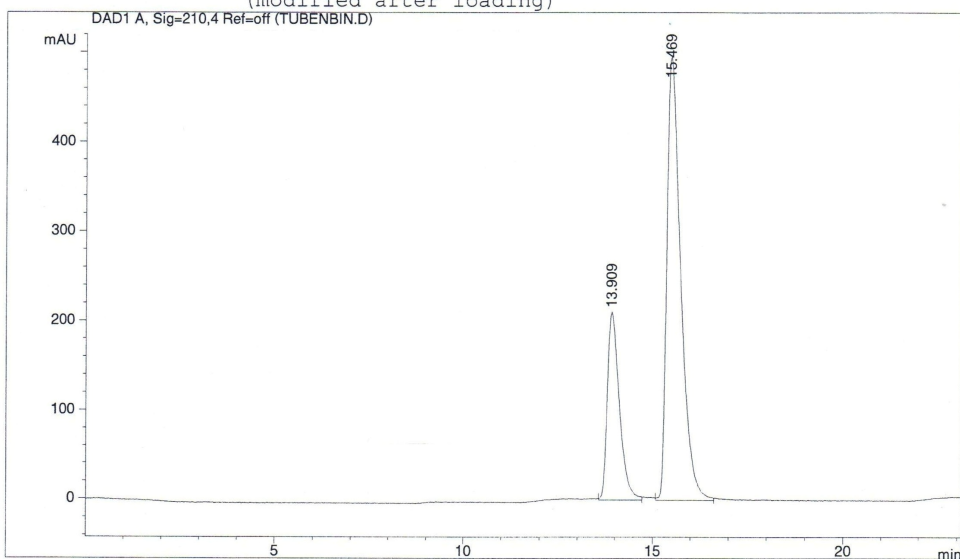
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Vial : 1

26

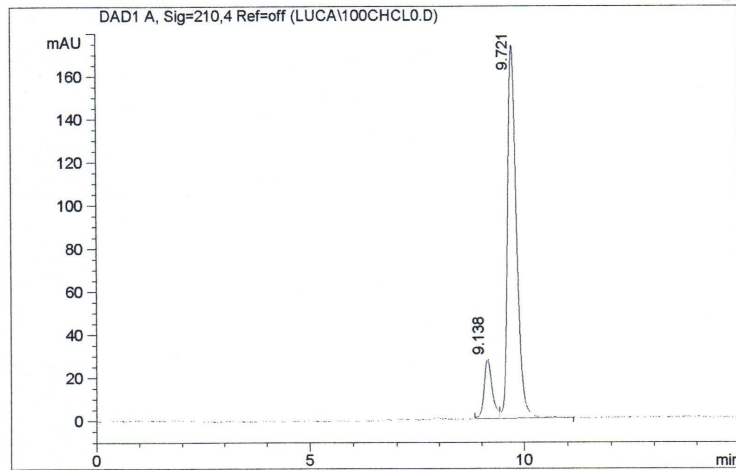


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Method name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\LUCA\100CHCL0.D

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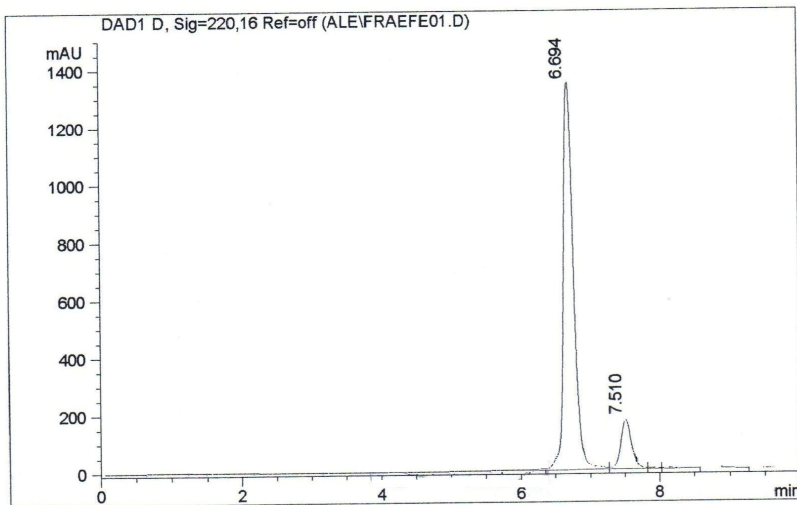
data acquired by: LUCA  
on: 28/05/2009  
Sample Info CHB 100 CHCl3  
HIRALPAK OD-H Hex/IPA 99:1 0.8 ml/min P=27 bar



Data File name: C:\HPCHEM\1\METHODS\LUCA.M  
Method name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\ALE\FRAEFE01.D

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data acquired by: LUCA  
on: 09/04/2009  
Sample Info Fraefe  
chiralpack OD-H, Hex/IPA 96:4 0.8 ml/min P=25bar



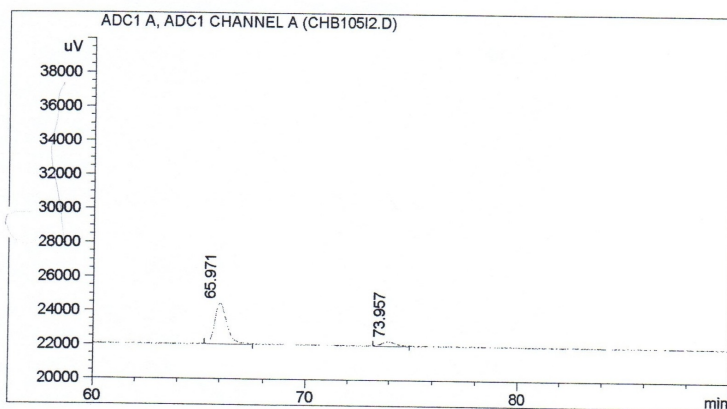
Example of a simple Report Layout

Data File name:  
Method name: C:\HPCHEM\3\METHODS\DEF\_GC.M

C:\HPCHEM\3\DATA\CHB105I2.D

data acquired by: fra  
on: 09/06/2009  
Sample Info chb 105 isoterma  
isoterma 150

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Example of a simple Report Layout

Data File name:  
Method name: C:\HPCHEM\1\METHODS\ALE.M

C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\ALE\BL3.D

data acquired by: Martina  
on: 19/05/2010  
Sample Info bl3  
CHIRALCELIB 9:1 HEX/IPA 0.8 ml/min 27 bar

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