Supporting Information

Synthesis of the Complete Series of Mono Acetates of N-Acetyl-D-Neuraminic Acid

Paul A. Clarke, Nimesh Mistry and Gavin H. Thomas

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General Experimental Details

Melting points were determined using a Stuart SMP3 apparatus. Optical rotations were carried out using a JASCO-DIP370 polarimeter and $[\alpha]_D$ values are given in 10^{-1} deg.cm².g⁻¹. Infra-red absorbances were recorded on a ThermoNicolet Avatar 370 FT-IR spectrometer using NaCl plates. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded on a Jeol ECX-400 or a Jeol ECS-400 spectrometer at ambient temperature; chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (ppm) and were referenced as follows: DMSO-d₆, 2.50 ppm for ¹H NMR; DMSO-d₆, 39.5 ppm for ¹³C NMR. Coupling constants (*J*) are quoted in Hertz. Mass spectrometry was performed by the University of York mass spectrometry service using electron spray ionisation (ESI) techniques. Thin layer chromatography was performed on glass-backed plates coated with Merck Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄. The plates were developed using ultraviolet light and acidic aqueous ceric ammonium molybdate. Liquid chromatography was performed using forced flow (flash column) with the solvent systems indicated. The stationary phase was silica gel 60 (220–240 mesh) supplied by Fluorochem or silica gel Merck TLC grade 11695 supplied by Sigma-Aldrich, unless stated otherwise. CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from calcium hydride; THF was distilled from sodium-benzophenone ketyl; Et₂O was distilled from LiAlH₄; methanol and pyridine were distilled from calcium hydride. All other solvents and reagents were used as received from commercial suppliers.

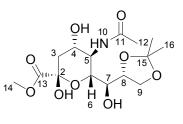
Experimental Procedures and Data for Compounds not Reported in the Main Paper

N-acetyl neuraminic acid methyl ester $(10)^{i}$

A solution of *N*-acetyl neuraminic acid (5.0g 16 mmol) in MeOH (200 mL) stirring at room temperature under a N₂ ¹⁴ O_{13} O_{14} O_{14}

Methyl 5-acetamido, 3,5-dideoxy-8,9-*O*-isopropylidene-Dglycero-β-D-galacto-2-nonulopyranosonate (15)ⁱⁱ

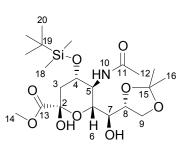
To a solution of *N*-acetyl neuraminic acid methyl ester **10** (250 mg, 0.77 mmol) in anhydrous acetone (200 mL) were added



2,2-dimethoxypropane (96 mg, 0.92 mmol) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (10 mg). The solution was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature under a N₂ atmosphere then treated with Amberlyst A-26 (OH⁻) anion-exchange resin (1.0 g) to remove the acid, and the resin filtered off and washed with acetone. The combined filtrate and washings were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by crystallization from 2-propanol to give **02** as a white solid (198 mg, 71%). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H-10), 6.73 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, O-H2), 4.85 (1H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, O-H4), 4.75 (1H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, O-H7), 3.99 (1H, dt, *J* = 5.5, 6.0 Hz, H-8), 3.91-3.87 (1H, m, H-6), 3.85-3.80 (2H, m, H-4 + H-9), 3.68 (3H, s, H-14), 3.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.5, 9.5 Hz, H-5), 3.52-3.47 (2H, m, H-7 +

H-9), 2.04 (1H, dd, J = 12.5, 5.0 Hz, H-3eq), 1.89 (3H, s, H-12), 1.62 (1H, dd, J = 12.0, 2.0 Hz, H-3ax), 1.27 (3H, s, H-16), 1.23 (3H, s, H-16) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 171.8, 170.0, 107.3, 94.7, 76.0, 71.8, 68.5, 65.3, 65.0, 52.9, 52.2, 40.0, 26.6, 25.8, 22.6 ppm. Other structural data matched that reported in the literatureⁱⁱ

Methyl 5-Acetamido-3,5-dideoxy-8,9-*O*-isopropylidene-4-*Otert*-butyldimethylsilyl-D-glycero-D-galactononulopyranosonate (16)ⁱⁱⁱ



Imidazole (1.05 g, 15.5 mmol) and *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (0.93 g, 6.2 mmol) were added to a solution of **15** (1.12

g, 3.09 mmol) in DMF (20 mL) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* then was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) and H₂O (100 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 100 mL) and the combined organics were washed with brine (300 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated to give a yellow oil. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography using a 0% - 5% MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ gradient to give a white solid (1.21 g, 82%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.91 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H-10), 6.85 (1H, s, O-H2), 4.53 (1H, br s, O-H7), 4.05-4.01 (1H, m, H-4), 3.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, H-8), 3.91-3.84 (2H, m, H-6 + H-5), 3.74 (1H, br d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, H-9), 3.68 (3H, s, H-14), 3.64 (1H, br d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, H-9), 3.49 (1H, br d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-7), 2.04 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.0 Hz, H-3eq), 1.82 (3H, s, H-12), 1.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 1.20 Hz, H-3ax), 1.28 (3H, s, H-16), 1.24 (3H, s, H-16), 0.81 (9H, s, H-20), 0.04 (3H, s, H-18), 0.03 (3H, s, H-18) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 171.8, 170.0, 107.3, 94.7, 76.0, 71.8, 68.5, 65.3, 65.0, 52.9, 52.2, 40.0, 26.6, 25.7, 25.7, 22.6, 17.5, -4.6, -4.8 ppm. Other structural data matched that reported in the literatureⁱⁱⁱ

5-Acetamido-9-*O*-acetyl-3,5-dideoxy-D-glycero-D-galactononulopyranosic acid (2)

A solution of *N*-acetyl neuraminic acid (200 mg 0.65 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) stirring at room temperature under a N_2

atmosphere was treated with trimethyl orthoacetate (81 μ L, 6.5 mmol) followed by *p*-TsOH (20 mg). The mixture was stirred for 18 hours then concentrated *in vacuo* to yield an off-

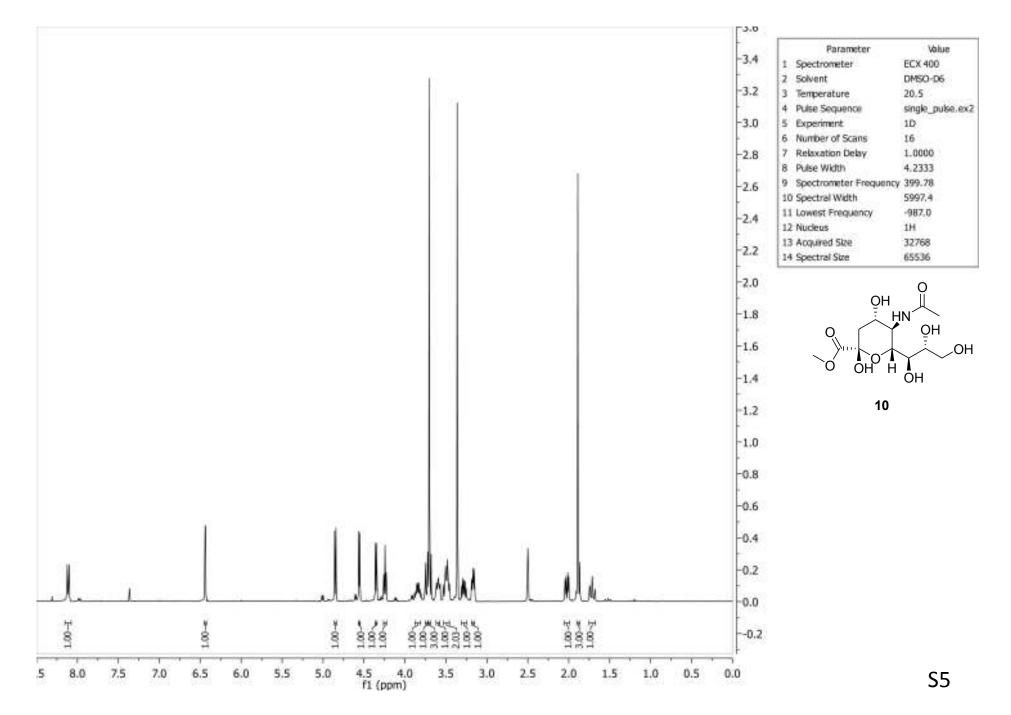
white solid which was purified by flash column chromatography using a 1:3 MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ gradient to give a white solid (143 mg, 63%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.14 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-10), 6.40 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, O-H2), 4.85 (1H, d, J = 6.5 Hz, O-H4), 4.56 (1H, d, J = 5.0 Hz, O-H7), 4.35 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, O-H8), 3.91-3.87 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 8.0 Hz, H-9), 3.85-3.81 (1H, m, H-4), 3.74 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 1.5 Hz, H-6), 3.70 (1H, m, H-9), 3.50 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 10.5, 10.5 Hz, H-5), 3.25-3.21 (1H, m, H-8), 3.16 (1H, br d, J = 5.0 Hz, H-7), 2.03 (1H, dd, J = 13.0, 5.0 Hz, H-3eq), 200 (3H, s, H-15), 1.90 (3H, s, H-12), 1.76-1.69 (1H, m, H-3ax) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6) δ 172.1, 170.4, 170.2, 95.0, 70.2, 69.2, 66.9, 66.7, 65.5, 53.0, 39.9, 22.6, 20.8 ppm. Other structural data matched that reported in the literatureⁱⁱ

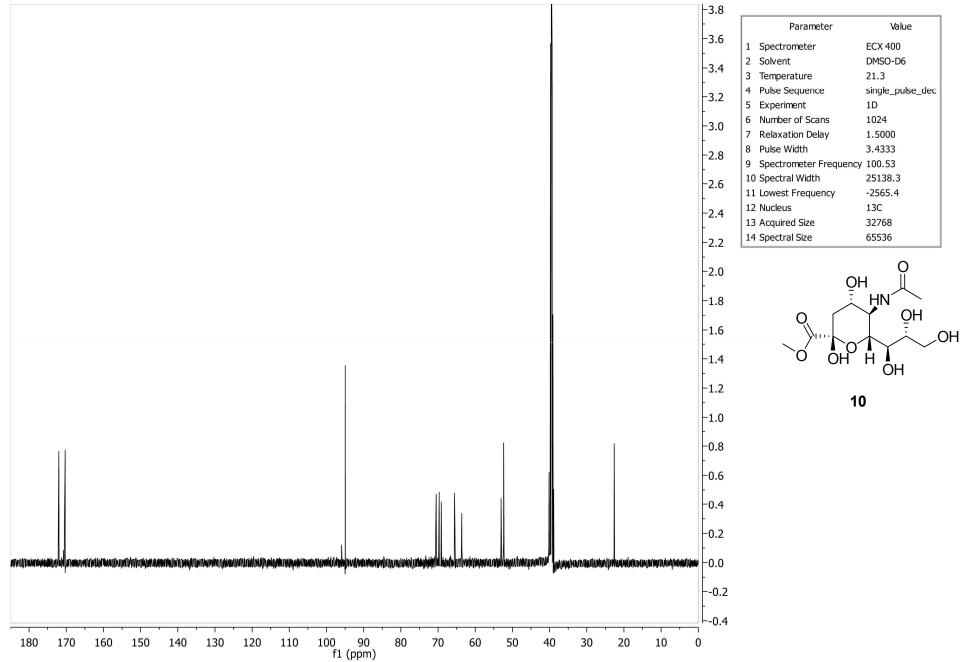
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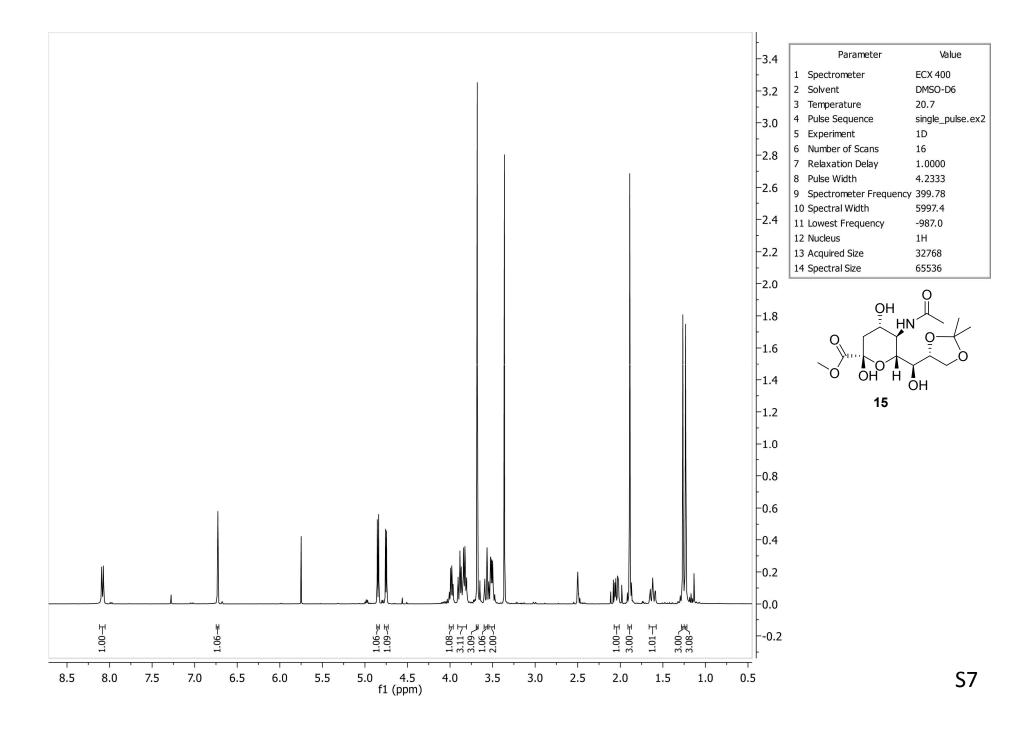
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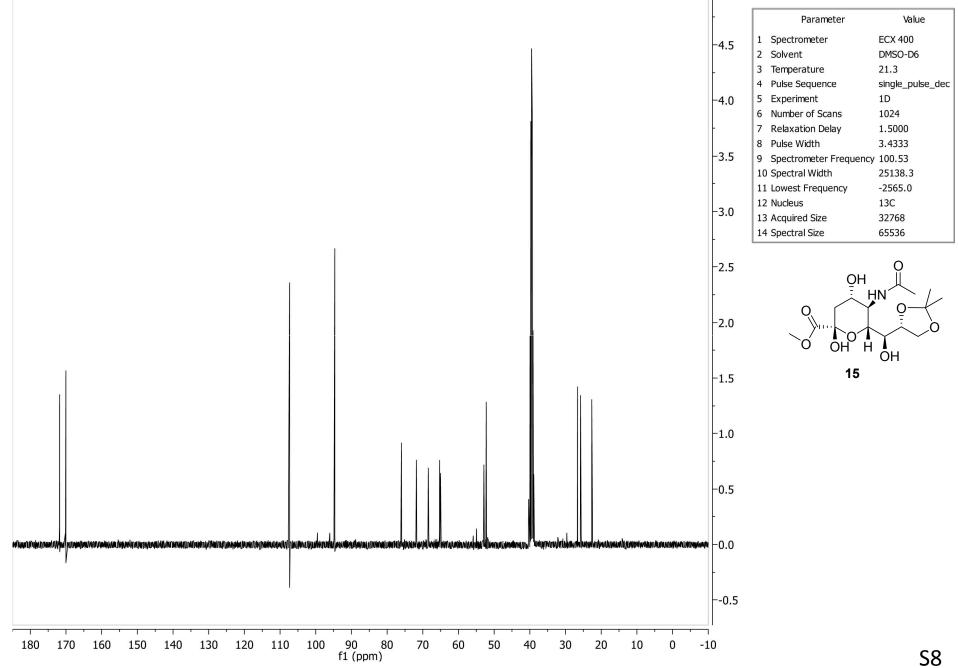
^{II} H. Ogura, K. Furuhata, S. Sato, K. Anazawa, *Carbohydrate Research*, **1987**, *167*, 77.

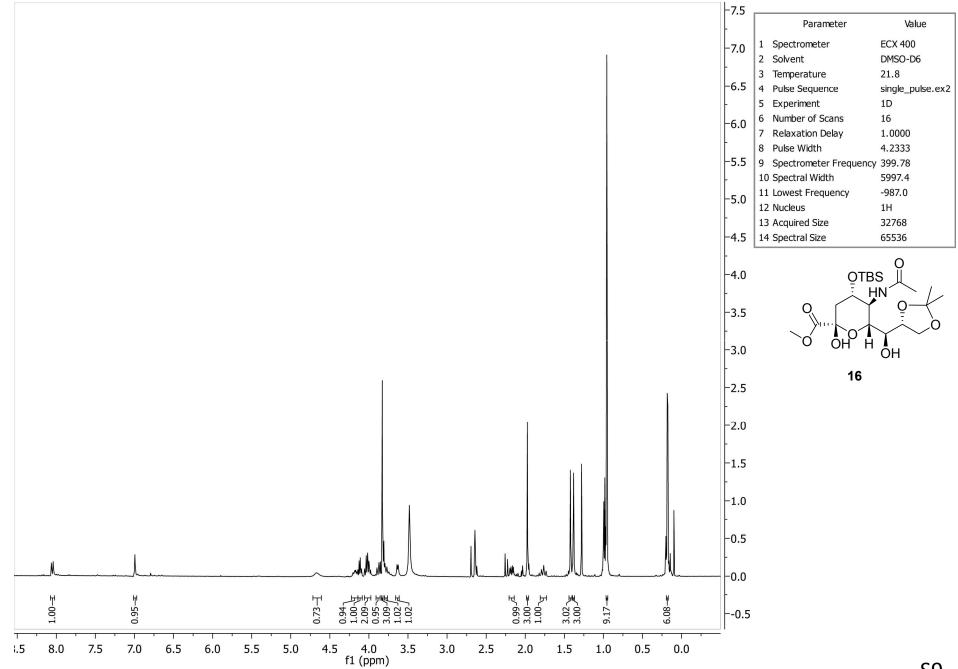
^{III} H. Ogura, K. Furuhata, K. Anazawa, *Chem. Pharm. Bull*, **1988**, *36*, 4976.



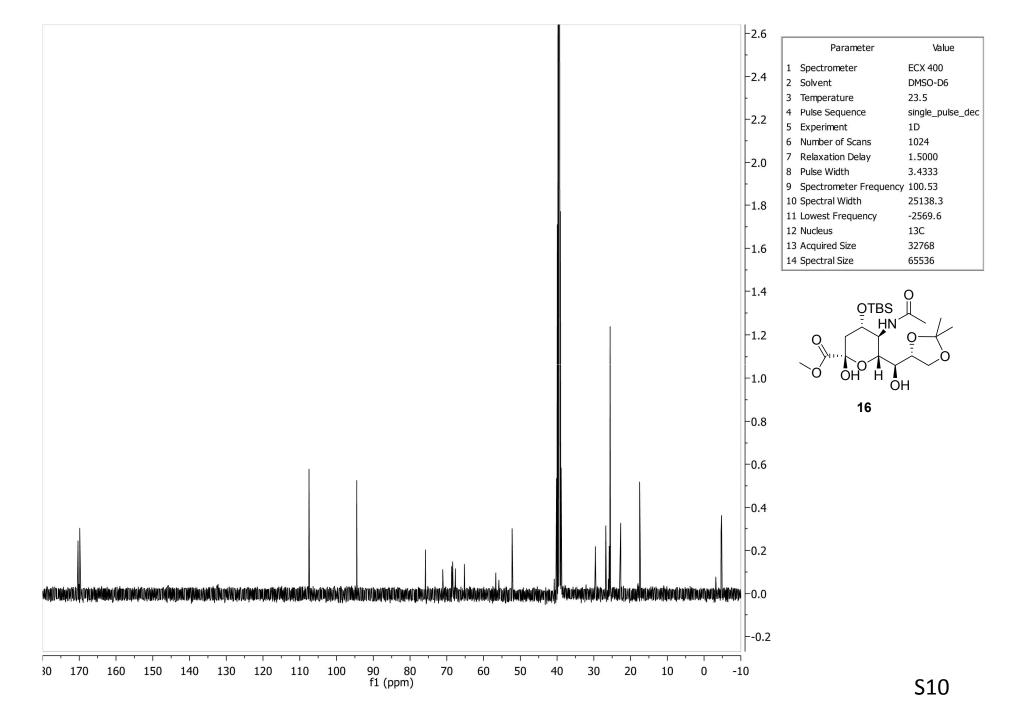


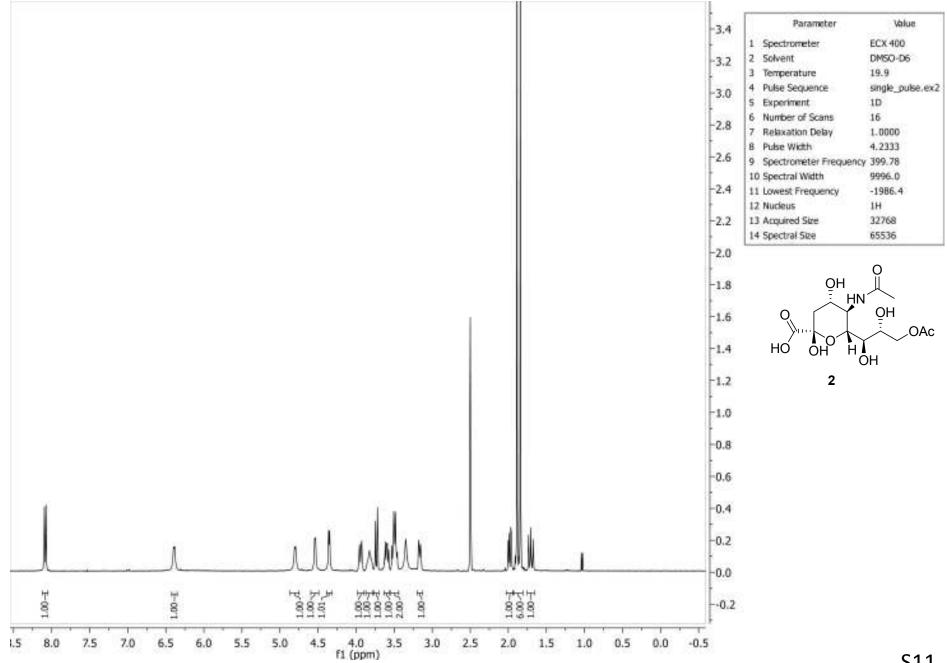




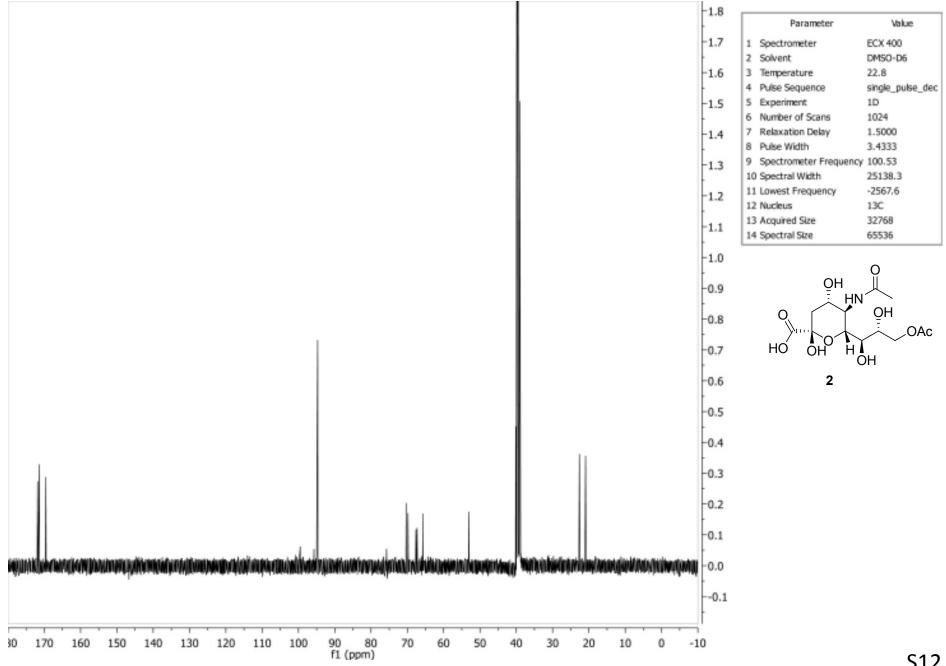


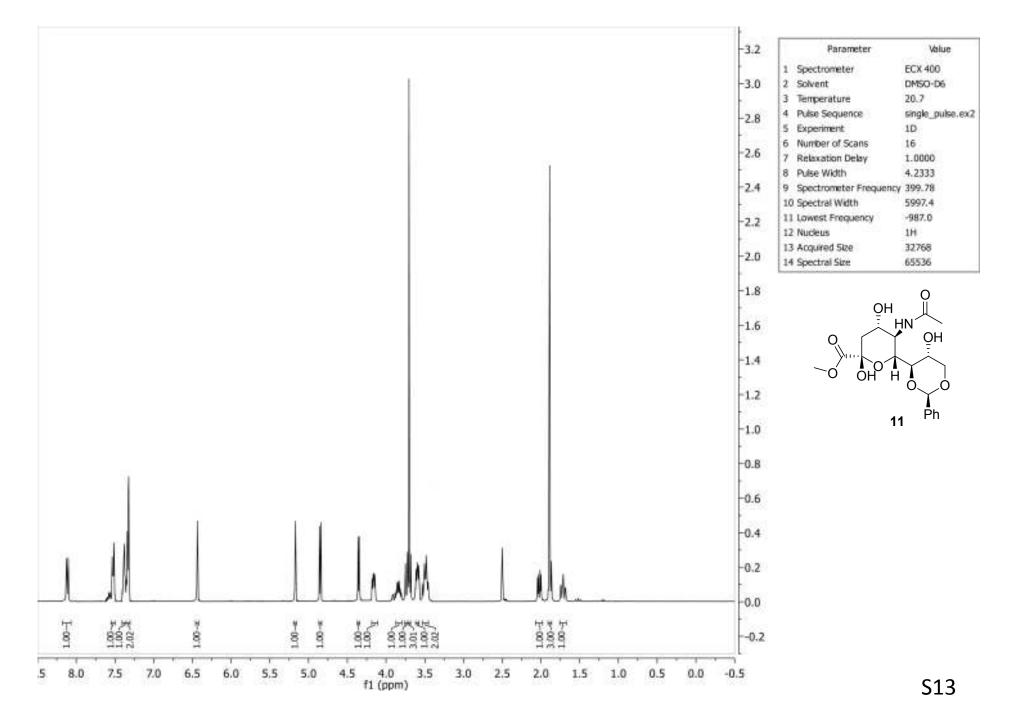
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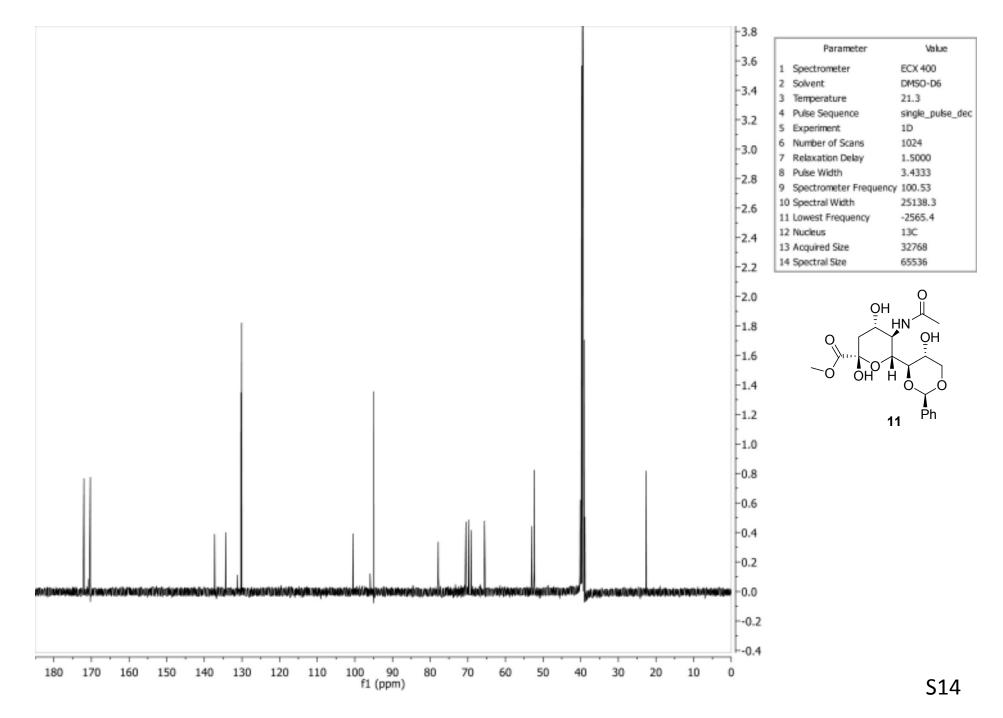


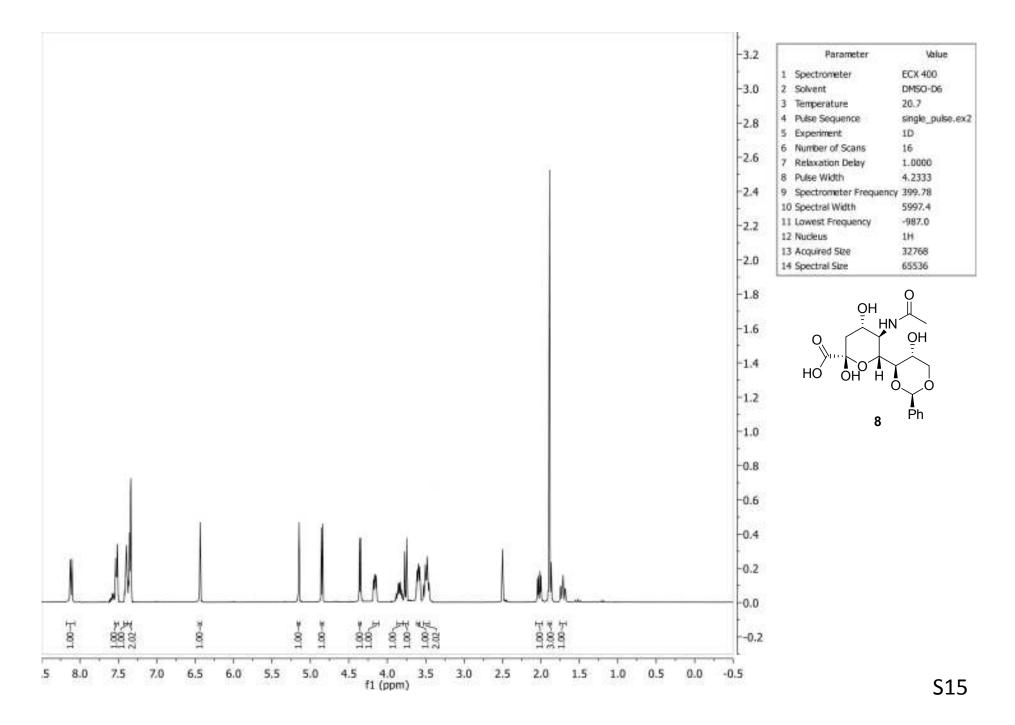


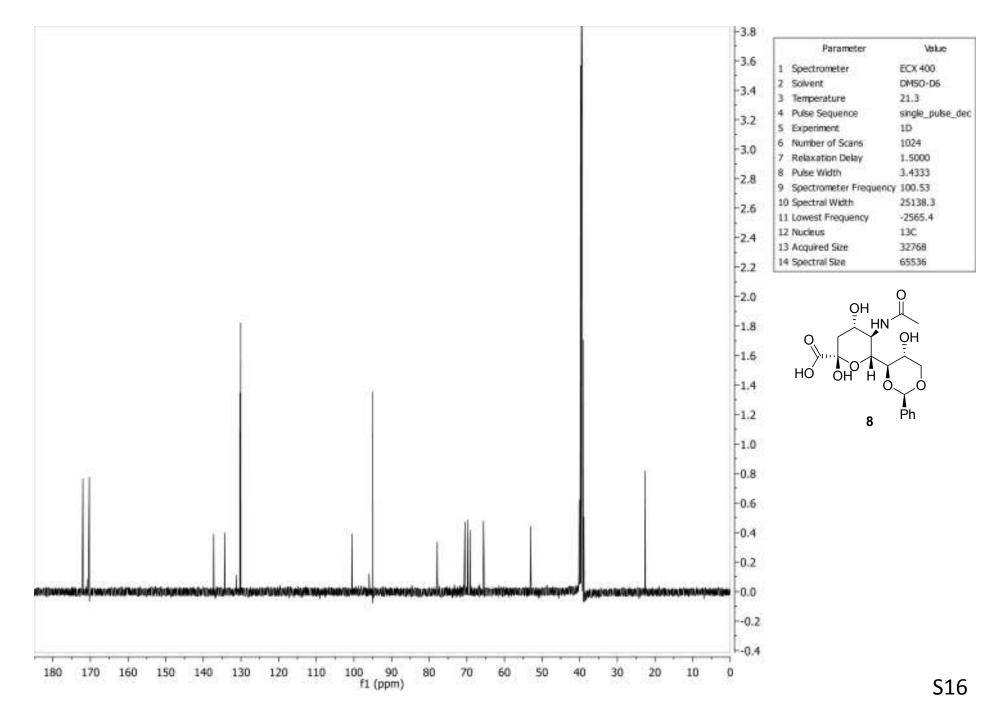
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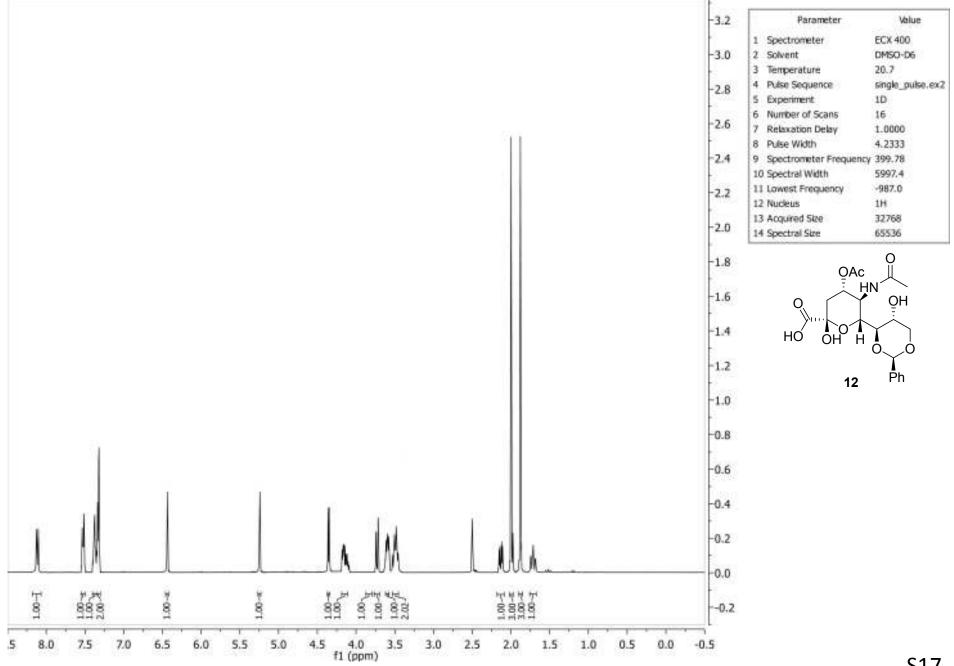


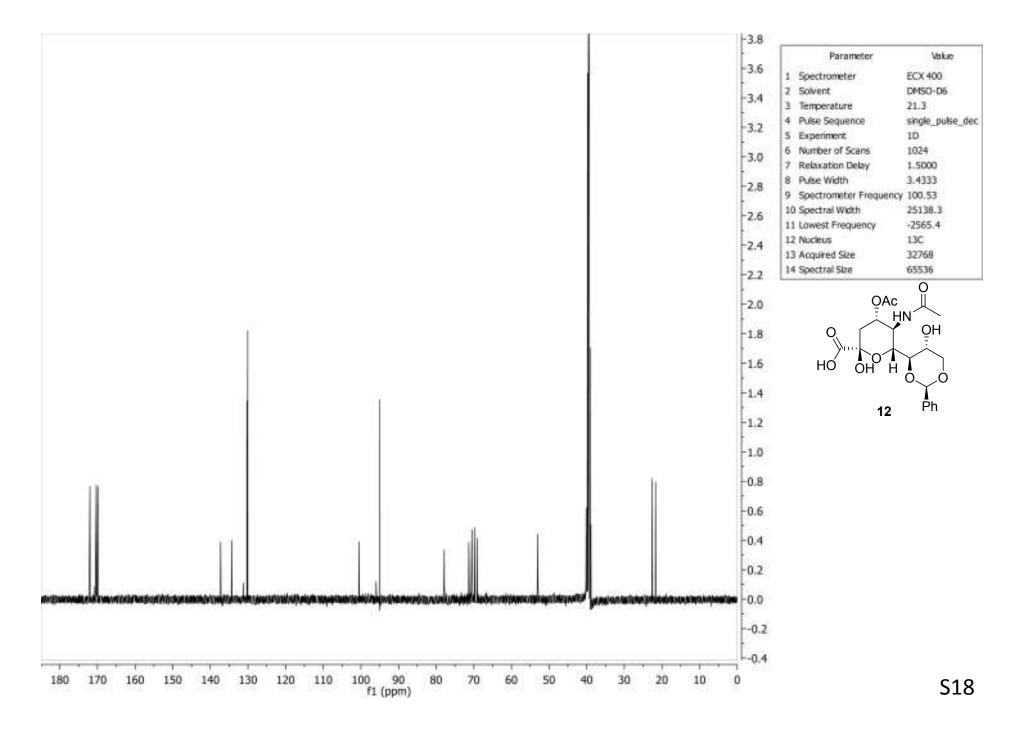


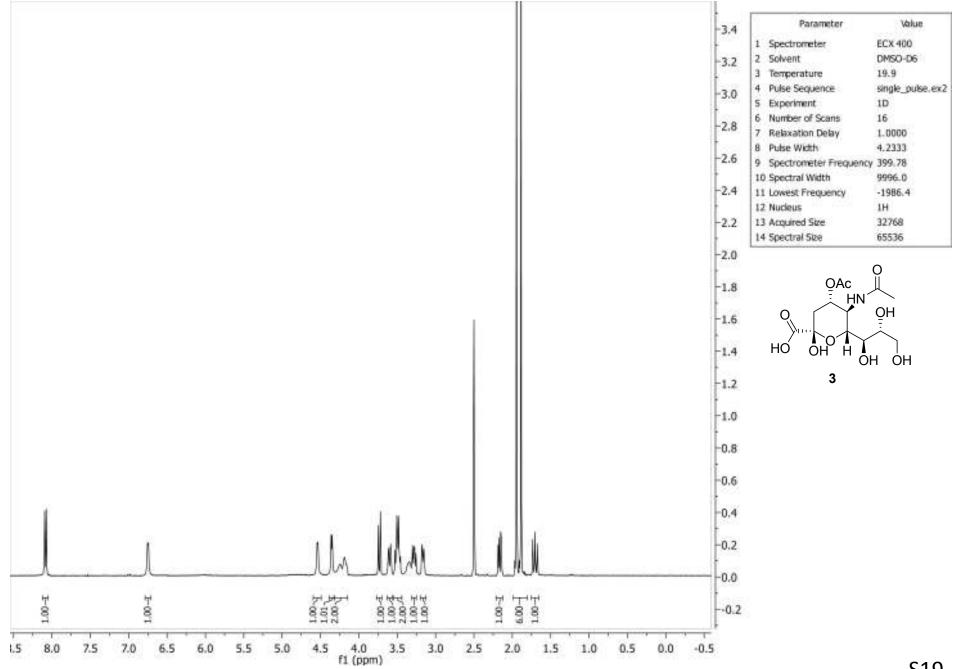


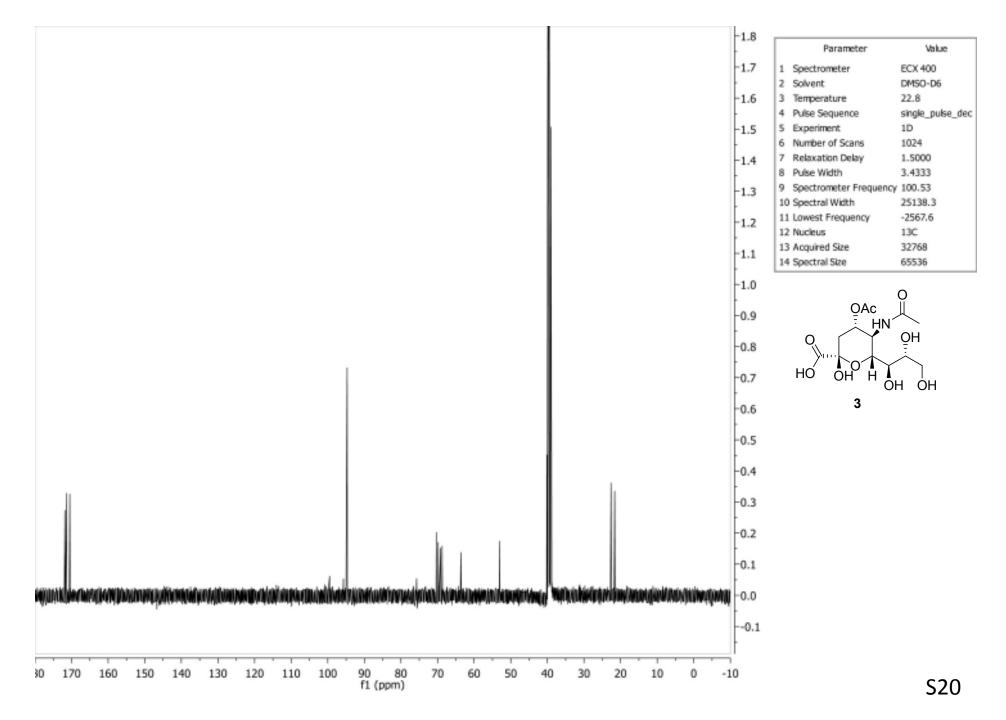


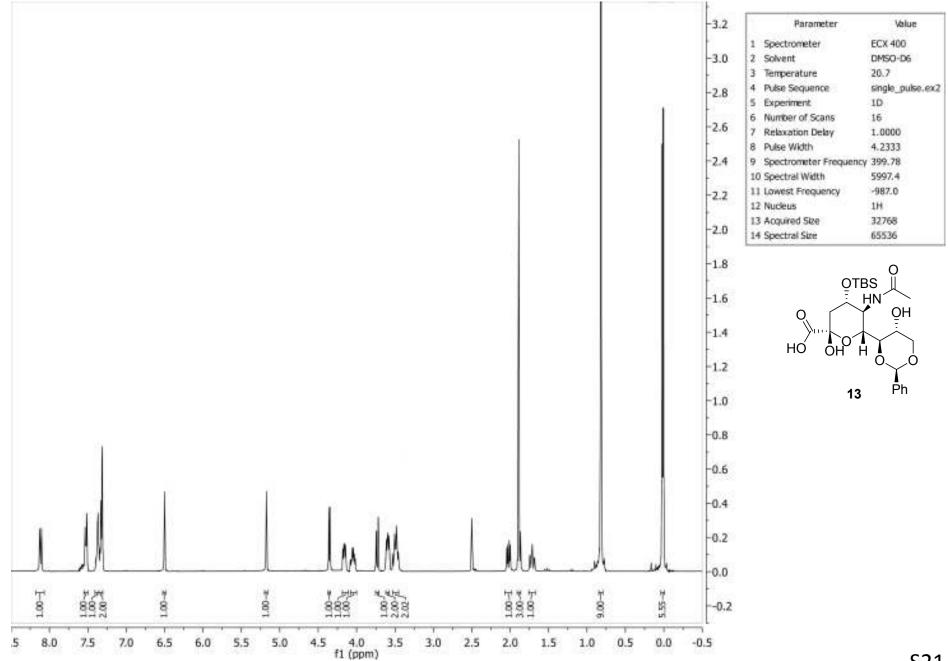


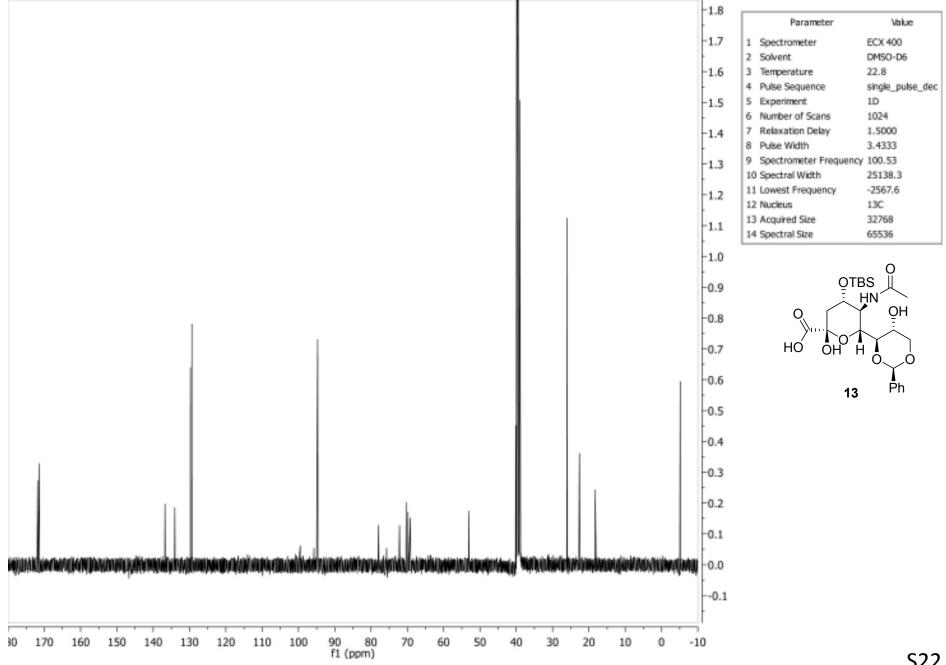


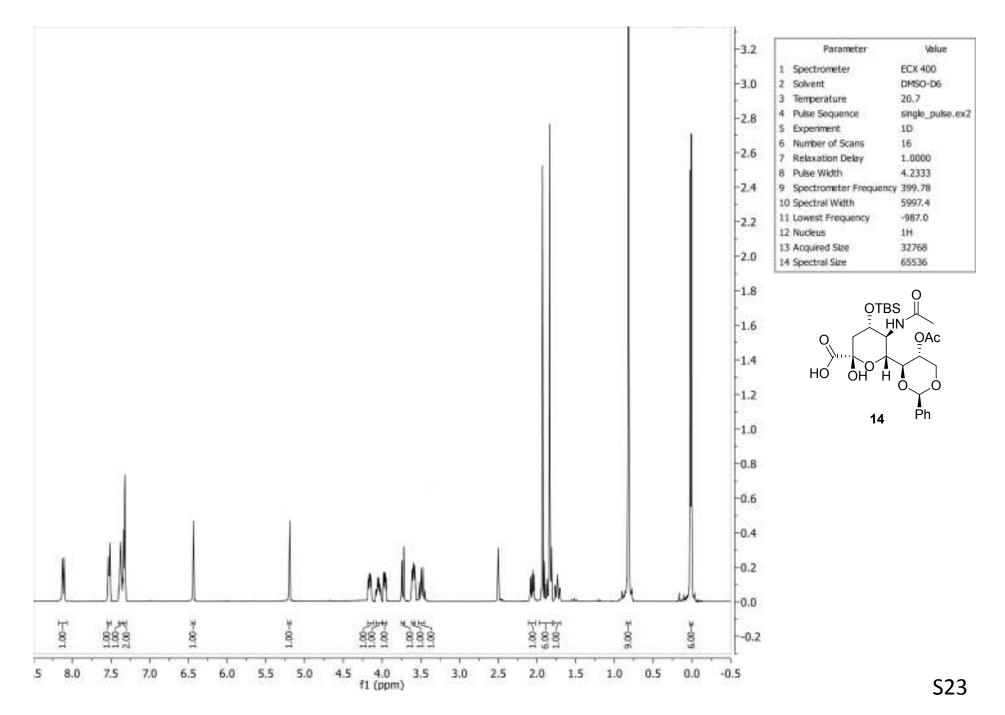


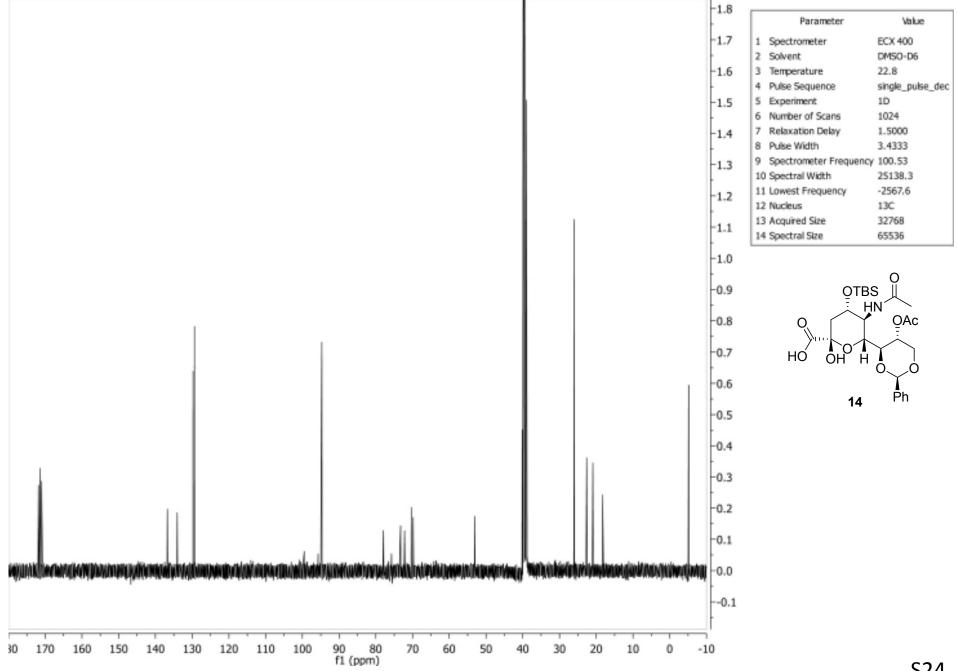


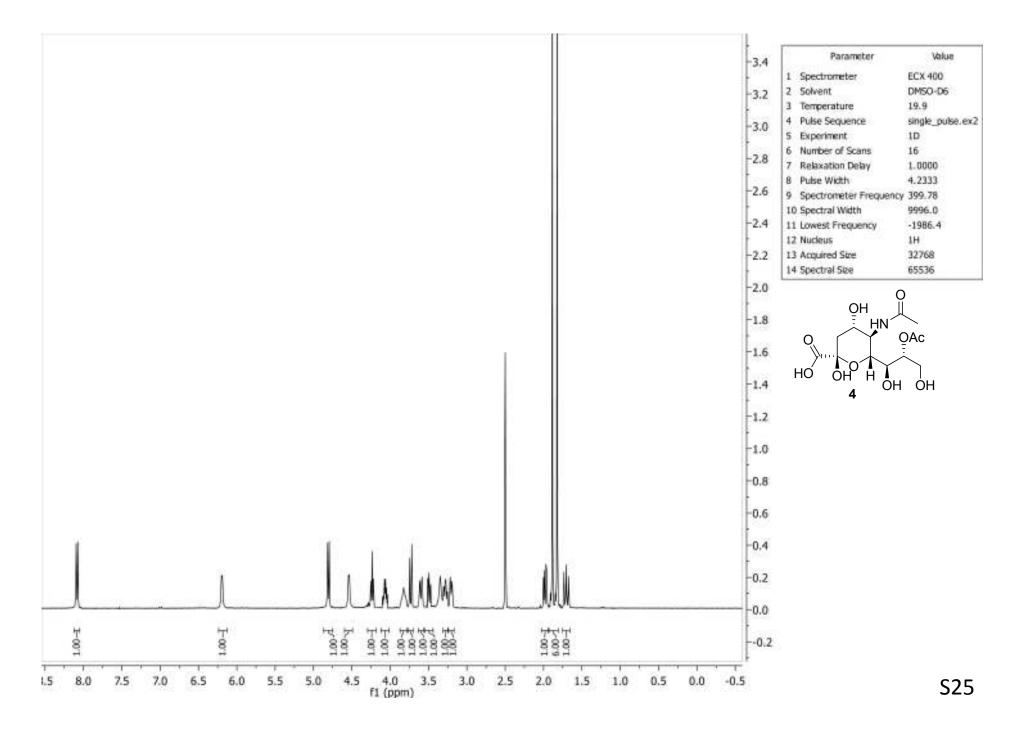


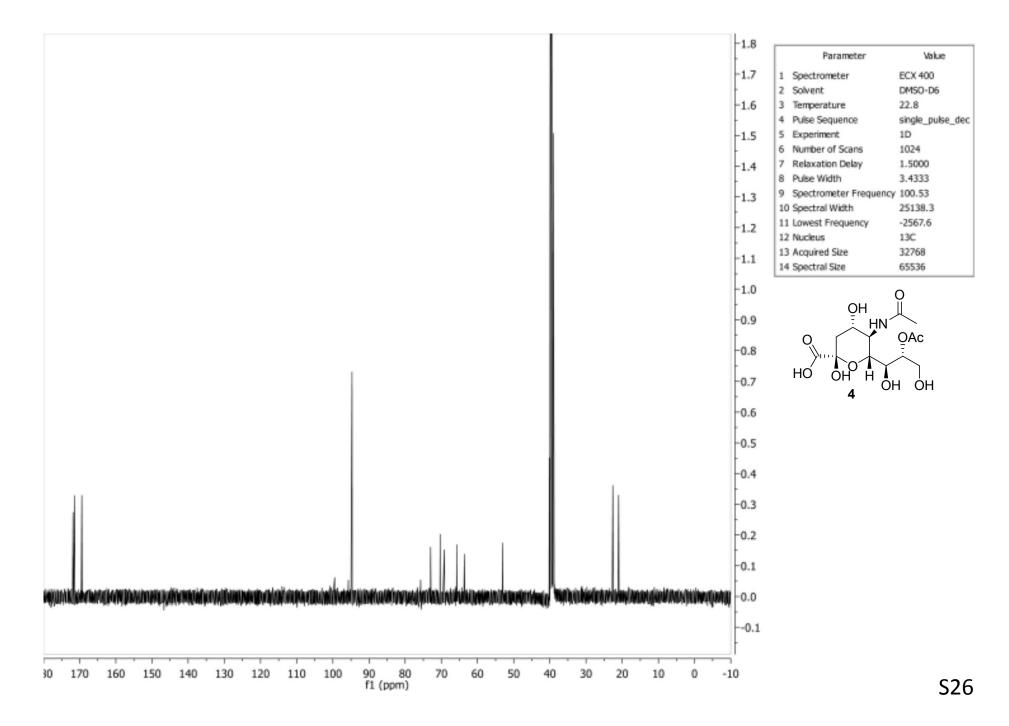


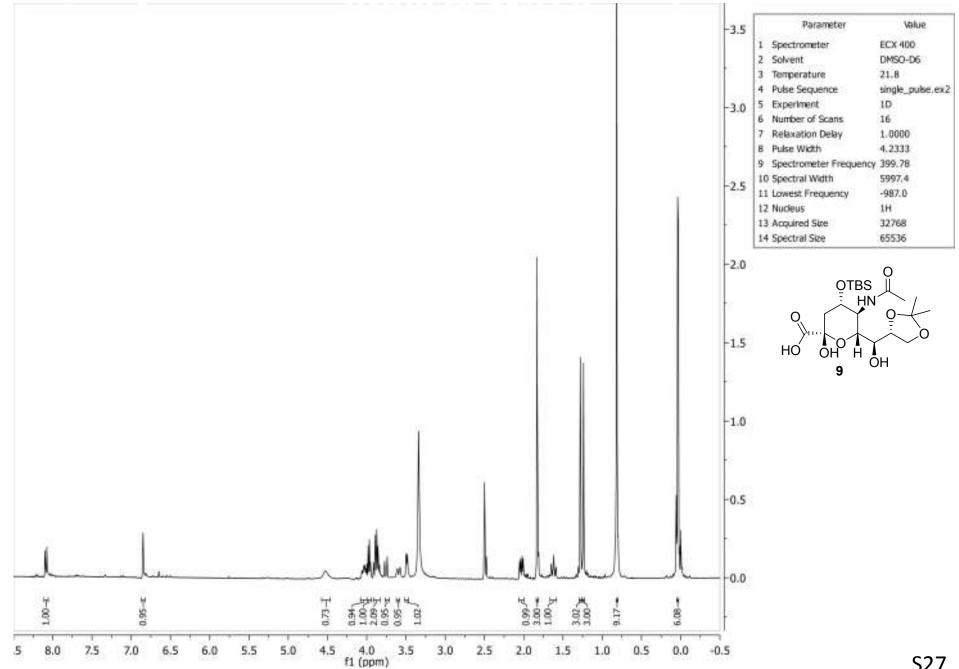


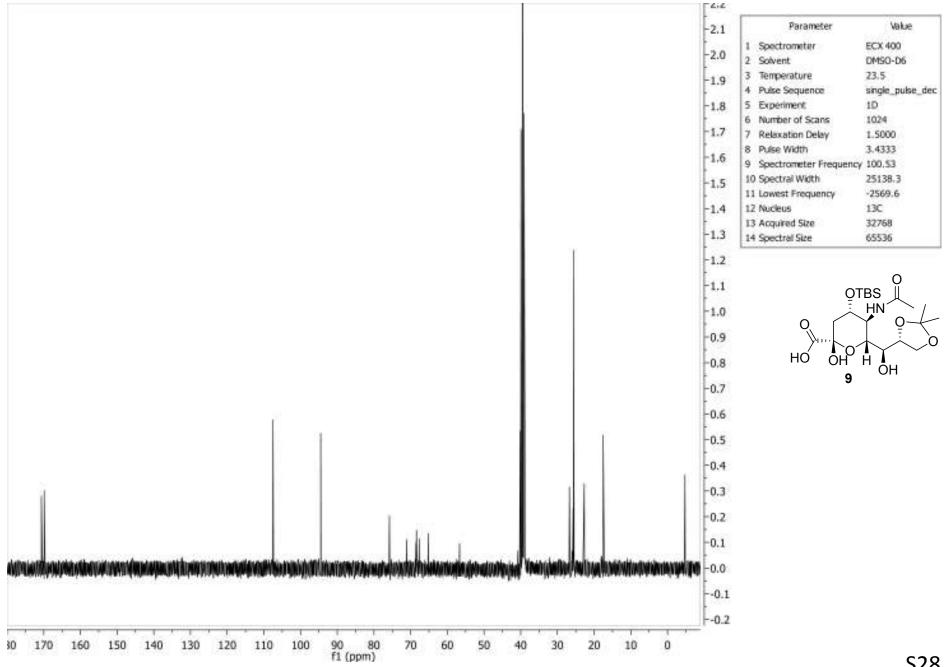












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